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The Centennial.

FARMERS AND THE CENTENNIAL.

THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.

When Emerson wrote the commemorative poem on the battle of Lexington, no more noteworthy lines appeared than these:

"Here's where the embattled FARMERS stood,
And fired the shot heard around the world."

The Revolutionary contest one hundred years ago was largely conducted by farmers, with its illustrious leader, General Washington, better known in those days as the farmer and land surveyor of Virginia. Israel Putnam was an illustrious representative of the Ruralists of the North. Most of the battles of the Revolution were fought by men who left their plows in the furrow, and their business to care for itself, while they perilled all to secure our independence.

It is entirely fitting that in the Centennial Celebration of the results then achieved, the farmers of the United States should be represented in fair proportion to their numbers, wealth, and industrial importance. Besides, one hundred years of Agricultural Progress and Improvement represent advances equal in interest, and not inferior in value and importance to those achieved in thought, science, and mechanism. Many novel and wonderful inventions have been recorded within the last hundred years; but, after all, the improvements which affect the cheaper production of food form the basis on which all progress must ultimately rest. There may be doubt as to the value of almost any class of inventions to mankind, but it will always hold true that "he who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before," is a public benefactor.

The Board of Centennial Commissioners have made ample provision for a full exhibition of Agricultural Progress. The Agricultural Building of the Exhibition, illustrated below, is a magnificent structure, giving ample room for the purpose, and will be not the least thronged portion of the Exhibition grounds. It stands on the east side of Belmont Avenue, in the immediate vicinity of buildings devoted to Horticulture, and the yards for the show of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and other live stock. The building is to be entirely of iron and glass, and consists of a long nave, crossed by three transepts, both nave and transept being composed of Howe truss arches of a gothic form. The nave is 820 feet in length, by 125 feet in width, with a hight of 75 feet from the floor to the point of the arch. The central transept is of the same hight, and has a breadth of 100 feet, the two end transepts being 70 feet high and 80 feet wide.

The four courts inclosed between the nave and transepts, and also the four spaces at the corners of the building, having the nave and end transepts for two of their sides, will be roofed to form valuable spaces for exhibitors. Thus the ground plan of the building will be a parallelogram of 540 by 820 feet, and covering a space of more than ten acres of ground. Present indications are that this vast space will all be needed.

Besides this building devoted to American Agriculture, several countries have signified their intention to erect buildings representing their agricultural interests. Many of these will be attractive specimens of architecture, and will add much to the appearance of the grounds. It is proposed that these buildings shall be located in the vicinity of the Agricultural Building, so that those interested especially in farming can compare the ideas and methods of different countries with the least trouble. The information thus to be obtained will well repay the cost and trouble of a visit to Philadelphia, and we doubt not that hundreds of thousands of farmers in distant portions of our country will make the trip at some time during the coming season. A Centennial Exhibition of our Country's Independence is something that must be attended to now or never.

The Horseman.

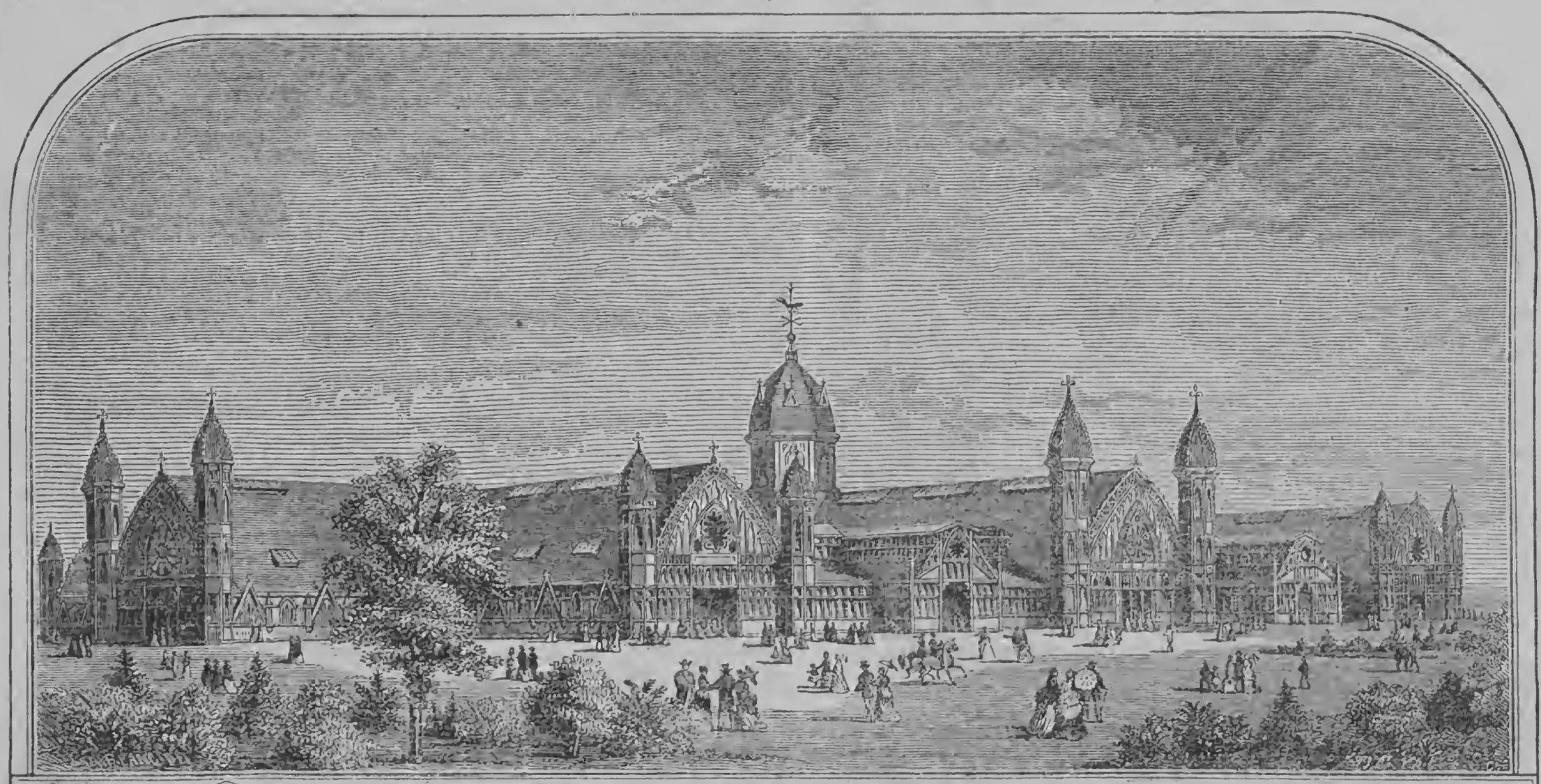
BREAKING COLTS.

An old saying is, "Live and learn," and to-day my son taught me something I had forgotten. I set him to break a colt rising three years old, which, being by a fast trotting horse, has been saved entire. He had never been touched by any one, being as wild as any animal could be. My son, with a man to help, put on a head-stall, with a long rope attached, which they did in a stable after he had been separated from the company he had been lying with all summer. He was then moved about till he discontinued hanging back, which he persisted in doing for nearly two hours, when, as his neck probably began to get tired of the strain and he found by sundry plunges that there was no getting away, he commenced to walk along quietly, and then a collar was first put on, and at intervals, as he cooled off and submitted to be handled all over, harness was put on, so that by dinner time he had drawn a log of wood three-quarters of a mile and back again. He was then put into the stable, where he ate the usual quart of oats he ever had and also a little hay, after which old "John"—a steady, heavy, fine cart horse—was hitched into a stone boat, with the colt at his side, and after one hour's hard walking around a paddock the two were put to a wagon, and they went a distance of two miles to some oat stacks which had been pulled by some steers having broken down the rails, and about half a load of loose oat straw was brought home, and his coltship seemed perfectly quiet and willing to move as guided, so that, instead of waiting to go day by day in training, it was done hour by hour, and judging from his lack of fear and apparent liking to be brushed and cleaned, it is probable he will do half a day's work to-morrow quite as tractably as if he had been in hand days instead of hours. I shall have him work about three days a week, so as to keep him growing and looking in good condition. We worked a filly in the above manner last winter and turned her to grass in the spring. She is now doing regular work and is a very fine animal; but in that instance we took days to do what has been done since morning. I recollect now that years since, when I farmed in England, that although it was a month's job to break a nag, there being regular colt breakers by profession, who got them quiet to ride and with good mouths, yet the cart horse breed of colts had a more summary way of breaking than the one just related, for as horses are worked a good deal there three or four in length, one before the other, the colt was haltered and forcibly pushed to the horses, and two before and one behind started to work, with a man on each side to keep him straight, which, as the horses kept regularly walking on, was not a difficult job. Of course there would be a deal more trouble with some than with others; but after finding there was no escaping, most of the colts would soon become docile, and often there would be one which would walk away from the first and give no trouble, the men walking on each side having, so that the regular driver would be all required to mind him.

Now. 18.—The colt has worked half a day, again going quietly and actually standing instead of a horse hauling corn stalks. He did not sweat, and he would have been shod only the blacksmith was too busy otherwise to do it to-day. Advocates for handling colts from the time they are weaned won't like to read of such dispatch.

A Working Farmer.

For a Cribbing Horse.—Feed with a nose-bag and give hay only from an iron rack. Coating the woodwork in a manger with crude petroleum is also recommended. The bad taste will soon cure the animal of all desire to bite his crib.



1776 AGRICULTURAL BUILDING. 1876

Field Crops.

POTATOES IN MICHIGAN.

B. HOLLOWAY writes from Cass County Michigan to the Country Gentleman about the Potato crop in that State in 1875, and giving his experience with several new varieties.

It is generally believed that there has been produced in this State a larger crop of potatoes than was ever known before. This may be true, and yet, now that the crop is gathered, I find that a large deduction has to be made from the estimate a few weeks ago. This is true with regard to my crop, which, though in the main magnificent, was not so large by one-third as I anticipated. Where the land was rich and lay high, and was thoroughly tended, so that all the warmth from the sun was economized, the yield was wonderful, while in the same field, where the ground was lower, or not so well enriched, or was shaded a part of the day, the crop was comparatively poor.

It seems a little sad that the highest success should appear to some to work ill fortune, as is the case in the production of our immense crop of potatoes. The price, so far, has not been such as to warrant the shipping to any great distance, and many farmers are discouraged with the prospect, and will feed, or have already fed out, the greater portion of their crop. For one, I believe the potatoes we have grown will all be needed before another crop is grown, and at prices that will pay for raising. Among the causes that will produce this result are these:

Farmers will not, as a rule, dig and house as carefully as when the crop is meager. Many will be fed to stock, many will be lost by freezing, and there will be a much greater consumption generally, resulting from their cheapness, and not the least, their unusual excellence. But whether we get pay for the crop we have grown this year or not, all men will not be deterred from growing potatoes, another year, and this leads me to the consideration of the value of some of the new sorts, and of my experience with them.

Compton's Surprise.—This season the Compton was my staple crop, very large; of the best quality, and cooking white and flowry to the center. I think this potato is destined to become a standard root, the more especially as it is one of the best, if not the best keeper we have, cooking flowry and nice until potatoes come again.

Brownell's Beauty.—Of this remarkable potato I raised 2,160 pounds from 20 pounds of seed. There are bushels of them that weigh each from one to two pounds and over, and some as much as three pounds. Even where they grew so large they are seldom otherwise than smooth and fair. This variety well merits the name of Beauty. As to quality, I think it must satisfy all who are content with the Peach Blow, being equal, if not superior to this old favorite, not to speak of its greater productiveness and finer form.

Brownell's Eureka.—As this new sort was sent out last spring at $5 a peck, I invested with some distrust. The result has, however, been most satisfactory. From 15 pounds of seed I grew something over 1,500 pounds of potatoes; and, though I did not count them, I am sure that there are not (counting the very least) as many tubers as there are pounds. Every one that saw them said—"Wonderful! But they will be watery," or "they will be hollow." I had five cooked for dinner, to which more than a dozen sat down, and there was abundance and to spare. No one said—"Give me a potato, please;" but "I will thank you for a piece of potato;" and the verdict was—that they were most excellent. They cooked flowry and dry to the center, without a sign of hollowness.

Carpenter's Seedling.—This has been before the public longer than the preceding, and finds many admirers. The quality, with me, is not quite equal to the Early Rose, as the Early Rose is this year. But the Carpenter is very smooth and handsome, and this year very productive. I raised from 15 pounds of seed 1,800 pounds of potatoes.

Ohio Beauty.—This new sort, sent out by George. W. Campbell of Ohio, I had on trial this season. It produced for me something over 1,500 pounds from the peck of seed. The tubers are of good shape, though not as uniform as Brownell's Beauty. It is as late as the Peach Blow, which may or may not be in its favor. I think it worthy of further trial.

Snowflake.—This, like the above, was sent out last spring at $5 a peck. If I was in the practice of classifying potatoes, as I do fruit, as "amateur," or "market." I should call this an amateur sort. The yield was only about 15 bushels to a peck of seed, or only half that of Carpenter's seedling; but the quality is all that was claimed, boiling or baking as white and fine as the Long Pinkeye in its best estate. And its good shape adds to its popularity.

Ice Cream, Red Jacket and Early Monsees.—The yield of the first of these was about the same as the preceding, and the quality nearly equal, but the shape is less uniform. The second was not so good, though yielding about the same, and the last in addition to lack of quality, is hard to dig. I shall not grow them again, which sufficiently indicates my opinion of their value.

If, as is claimed, these new varieties of the potato have resulted from the stimulus given to cultivators for the production of new sorts, by the failure of the old kinds, the disease, in its results in this country at least, can hardly be looked upon as a misfortune; for in some of these new varieties we have all the excellences of the old, together with certain characteristics of vigor and health that those did not possess. The question may be properly asked—will these new sorts supersede the Peachblow as a market potato? If the yield alone was the test, or yield and quality, there is no doubt but several of the new sorts would become popular as market potatoes at once. The Peachblow is prized not alone for its productiveness, nor yet for its quality, but quite as much, no doubt, because it will withstand rough handling better than most sorts.

I find the finer the quality, the more care is requisite in the storage or transportation. The Brownell's Beauty and Ohio Beauty, being in character something like the Peachblow, will bear transportation about as well. The Compton is more tender, but not so much so as to hinder its shipment by rail. The Eureka is however, more tender than either; and as it grew so large, I had to handle it with a good deal of care in order not to break and mar the tubers seriously. This, however, would not detract from its value for home use, or a near market, where quality would enter more into the estimate of value.

THE COST OF GROWING COTTON.

COL. HARDAWAY of Thomas Co., Georgia, gives the following estimate of the cost of cotton per pound, which we find in the Southern Farmer. He says:

"I give the cost for seven years to wit:—1866, 14.50; 1867, 12.50; 1868, 12.25; 1869, 10.90; 1870, 8.60; 1871, 13.61; 1872, 10.77. The average is 11.88. This includes interest on value of land, repairs, interest on team, taxes, fertilizers, labor of cultivating, picking and packing, but nothing added for personal supervision. The latter would be hard to estimate. This year's crop has not been marketed but will not exceed ten cents.

The Southern Farmer says these estimates do not include cost of superintending, or for borrowed money to make the crop. Adding these the cost of cotton usually exceeds the price received, making the business unprofitable. The Farmer adds:

"We advise all our friends, in the beginning of the new year, to prepare to raise their own meat and bread—to work no more hands or mules than they have the ready means to operate profitably—to work hard and live at home, and grow cotton only as their surplus money crop, and they can scarcely fail to come out far better off than by raising all cotton and buying all their supplies from the more prudent farmers of the Northwest.

LARGE YIELD OF RYE FROM ONE SEED.

DEAR SIR:—A farmer brought into my mill, the other day, a bunch of rye stubble in which I counted one hundred and nine (109) stalks. Did they all come from one kernel of rye? It grew on a piece of new land, sowed to wheat, and there was a little rye in the seed. The wheat killed out. Where the wheat did not kill out there was only now and then a bunch of rye. Some of my customers who have seen this think that there was a rye head from which these bunches came, but this could not be as they had never raised any rye on the farm before and never as a crop.—LUCAS SMITH, *Shortsville, N. Y.*

WE see no reason for doubting that the product was from one grain. It is a large yield, but on new ground well prepared for wheat, and leaving the rye plant standing alone is not beyond a reasonable probability. It shows how large a product can be got from thin seeding if every plant has a fair chance.—EDS.

WHEAT SOWING IN WET SEASONS.

T. C. SCHOLEY of Yorkshire, England, writes in the London Agricultural Gazette of Nov. 20, that much wheat remained unsown in England at that late date on account of the continued wet weather. His plan of sowing wheat is to make it follow potatoes, of which he grows 130 acres yearly. The ground is lightly plowed, the seed sown evenly on the furrows and lightly harrowed in keeping the sowing close up to the plowing. The light plowing enables the farmer to sow on land too wet for ordinary working, and by using a gang plow, the land is less tramped down than when a heavier plow is used.

The Herdsman.

MILCH COWS A LABORATORY.

PROF. WETHERELL writes in relation to this subject as follows:—Having decided on the breed of cows you will keep as one engaged in dairy husbandry, consider every cow a machine to convert forage such as your farm produces into milk. To illustrate. Call the cost of a cow $50, $75 or $100. Take the latter figure. This machine must be kept running day and night, summer and winter, on Sundays as other days. Suppose it takes fifteen pounds of hay a day to run this machine twenty pounds if she be not comfortably housed in cold weather; say from two and a half to three and a half tons of hay a year will serve to keep the machine running. If not thus furnished your machine will stop, or like your clock, it will run down if not wound up, so to speak. The machine cost $100, and will last seven or eight or ten years, more or less, if no accident happen to it. Suppose twenty pounds or its equivalent be required to keep the cow alive, then the owner gets nothing in the way of profit. Give her twenty-five pounds and she gives five pounds of milk, equal to one-half pound of cheese a day. He gives her thirty pounds and gets one pound of cheese a day, or 365 pounds in a year, or that average. Twenty pounds gave him nothing; twenty-five pounds, one-half pound of cheese; thirty pounds or sixty-six and two-thirds pounds of cheese from a ton of hay; thirty-five pounds give one and a-half pounds of cheese, or eighty-five and five-sevenths pounds to a ton of hay; forty pounds give two pounds, or one hundred pounds of cheese to a ton of hay; forty-five pounds give two and a-half pounds of cheese, or one hundred and eleven pounds of cheese from one ton of hay; fifty pounds give three pounds of cheese, or one hundred and twenty pounds to a ton of hay.

On this hypothesis, suggested by another, a ton of hay in excess of the amount necessary to keep up the animal heat and sustain vitality gives 200 pounds of cheese. Thus is it seen that it is desirable to get cows that will yield most over the cost of the keep or the running of the machine. If a cow eats but twenty-five pounds a day it takes a ton of hay to make forty pounds of cheese. Could she eat and assimilate fifty pounds a day a ton would produce 120 pounds of cheese. If a cow eats thirty-three pounds a day or its equivalent of grass it will require four acres, at one and a-half tons per acre, to keep a cow a year, which, according to the present hypothesis, would produce 401½ pounds of cheese a year. A farm of eighty acres would support 20 cows, yielding 8,000 pounds of cheese. Increase the productiveness of the farm one-half, and keep twenty cows that will eat one-half as much again food, and the farmer would then get 21,600 pounds of cheese. If the cheese be worth fifteen cents a pound, a farm of eighty acres, at one and a-half tons per acre, with twenty cows, would give a return of $1,201.50. Increase this by improvement to two and a quarter tons per acre, the twenty cows eating and digesting it, you would have a gross return of $3,240. Thus is it shown that a cow eating six tons of hay or its equivalent a year would produce 400 pounds of cheese per annum, worth $60, while a cow eating and digesting nine tons would produce 1,019 pounds, worth $163.50.

EARLY MATURITY OF A CALF.

THE following is an account of a Grade Durham Calf, which was dropped the first of April, 1875, and raised until it was 5 months and 9 days old, by Mrs. CHAMBERLAIN of Portage, Prairie St., Joseph Co., Ind. It was slaughtered and dressed by C. VINSON of South Bend, Ind., the 10th of September, 1875, and weighed as follows: The 4 quarters of meat weighed 368 pounds; hide 49 do.; rough tallow, 35 do.; making for beef hide and tallow 452 pounds, allowing for the head, feet and other offal 113 do.; would make the live weight, 565 pounds.

The calf ran with the cow for a few days, when it was turned into an orchard pasture containing many sweet apple trees, and the cow turned in with the calf, night and morning so that the calf took nearly and sometimes all of the cow's milk. This, with the sweet apples which fell from the trees, and the pasture in the orchard, constituted all the food the calf received. And yet at the age of 5 months and 9 days its live weight must have been about 565 pounds. The hind and fore quarters were large and fat, and the kidneys plump and handsome. Now had this calf been kept three weeks longer until it was 6 months old, at the same rate of increase, it would have weighed 625 pounds live weight, and have been almost equal to the steer, Uncle Abe, raised by C. S. MARVIN of Orange Co., State of New York, of which a full account is given on Page 250 of the Agricultural Report for 1871, the weight of which was as follows, viz., at birth, 134 pounds; at 6 months of age, 670 do.; at 12 months, 1,036; at 18 months, 1,354; at 24 months, 1,616; at 30 months, 1,830; at 36 months, 2,070., and should have been slaughtered when from 18 to 36 months of age. It was kept until it was 52 months old, when its live weight was 2,530 pounds. For the manner of feeding, and further particulars about its weight at different times, see the report above referred to, page 250.

Both of the above accounts clearly show, the great advantage of early fattening. The beef would be more tender, cost less to make it, and sell for a higher price in market. The stock grower could also turn his capital twice as often, thereby saving g large item of interest.

It would also seem as if sweet apples contained a large amount of fat-forming material, and if so, then why not feed, for fattening purposes, other sweet food, such as sugar beets, sweet corn meal, sweet corn stalks, and the like?

ISAAC ESMAY.

The Apiarian.

THOUGHTS ON WINTERING BEES.

L. F. ABBOTT is contributing a series of articles on bee keeping to the Maine Farmer, which introduce some sensible ideas. The great mortality among bees, of late years, from cold, is much greater than formerly, and Mr. A. suggests that it is caused by the different styles of hive—a subject certainly worthy of consideration by bee keepers. He says:

"A swarm of bees in the moveable comb hive is in an abnormal condition. The instinct of the bees leads them to so construct the combs when left to follow their instinct so that they are a safeguard against the rigors of winter. The bee keeper, for good reasons, says: 'If I let my bees follow their own inclination, and construct the combs to their liking, it frustrates my plans and deprives me of my profits. I will modify, somewhat, the plans nature has instructed them to carry out in this particular of comb-building, and make them subserve my interests *at the risk* of losing at some other point.'

"It is our belief that bees need different treatment in winter in frame hives, from what they do in the old box hive. With combs nearly straight from rear to front, with unfilled space at each end of the frames, the hives are necessarily much colder, and not only that, but the bees cannot cluster so compactly with combs in such shape, and if spread out between four or five straight sheets of comb—the changes in temperature of our winters affect them much more if no method for giving protection is adopted. We claim that bees will winter as well now as they did fifteen years ago, if placed in the same condition as then. Let us consider for a moment the manner in which bees, that are allowed to follow their own instinct, construct their combs. We have had occasion lately to dissect several old box hives, removing the comb and bees in order to obtain the latter for strengthening some of our own swarms. Two or three old swarms had occupied their hives some twelve or fifteen years. All the profit derived from them had been by the increase of swarms; but what is noticeable in such cases, is the curious manner of building the breeding apartment, or, as it may be called, the "living room" for the swarm. The combs in the upper part of the hive are placed in quite regularly, as this is the store-room; but when we come to the brood nest, we find it as dissimilar from straight combs in the modern frame hive as it is possible to conceive.

"Instead of the regular sheets built from side to side, or from corner to corner, as is often the case, we find more or less of them curved. For instance, a sheet commenced at some point (as the back of the hive) is carried parallel to the side till a point about the center of the hive is reached, when it is curved and brought to a right angle with the starting point, and perhaps is completed a little past the center of the hive; and another sheet passes at this point at an angle with the other sheet, and then at the points where these nearly intersect it will be seen there is much more space than if the combs were carried straight and parallel to each other. This arrangement allows the building of quite a number of small sheets of combs in many irregular forms, and the whole protected with the larger sheets, thus giving compactness to the cluster of bees in cold weather, which it is impossible for them to assume in perfectly straight combs. Nor is the ample space afforded by this arrangement all.

"Nearly all these inner combs are pierced with holes from the size to admit a bee to pass readily to an inch in diameter. And thus the interior of this "living apartment" is full of galleries and halls, and all, so to speak, are amply provided with large folding doors, so that neighbors can readily make friendly calls and not be too ceremonious, and have to ring the bell every time. Bees generate much warmth if they can cluster together in large numbers, but spread them out and frequent chilling destroys them."

Dairy Husbandry.

N. Y. STATE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND BOARD OF TRADE.

FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

[Concluded from page 411, last volume.]

THE PRICES FOR 1875.

At the interior markets we commenced selling cheese in April, 1875, at an average of 15c. On the tenth of May it had dropped to 14½c., and during the last of the month there was a further decline from 11½c. to 12c. During June, from 12c. to 13c. were paid, but in July it dropped again to 11½@12½c.; in August, 11¾@12¼c.; in September, 10½@11½c., except during the last week, when 13@14c. was reached on extra lots; in October, 13@14c. paid, and in November 12@13c., the market being very dull and depressed.

You need not be told that these prices have been very unsatisfactory to dairymen, and that on many farms no money has been made. You must have observed, also, that all over the country, and not confined exclusively to dairy sections, an unusual number are offered for sale, and many, I am sorry to say, are advertised under mortgage foreclosures. There are murmurings all through the State that farming has reached a close thing and that there is little or no money in it.

A BAD LOOK—GOOD FARMING THE REMEDY.

Now at first sight this may seem to have a bad look for the future, but if we probe to the bottom of the subject, the way out of the difficulty is not so dark and intricate as many suppose. Farmers have been getting high prices for some years and the effect has been to relax their energies, to pay less attention to the details of farming, to spend more time from home and to indulge in elegant equipages and other kinds of extravagance, expecting the farm to run itself and meet all obligations. Low prices, therefore, pinch sharply and hurt. No: the true way to counteract the influence of low prices is in better farming. Ten to one, those who sell the farm and abandon the business on account of low prices, are making a mistake which they will see more plainly when the remaining part of their surplus accumulations have taken wing and departed, as will be very likely to happen. Is it not better to stand manfully at the helm and try to get the ship back again into deep water?

THE MISTAKES OF DAIRY MANAGEMENT.

One great evil of dairy farming is that dairymen have allowed the annual product of their herds to run too low. The average factory returns will scarcely show an annual yield of 400 pounds of cheese to the cow. In a great many instances it will not go much above 300 pounds. It ought to be at least 550 or 600 pounds, and 600 pounds of cheese at 10c. per pound amounts to the same sum as 400 pounds at 15c. Farmers say that if they can get 15c. per pound for their cheese dairying pays well at 400 pounds to the cow. If this is so, 600 pounds to the cow at this year's rate, would have yielded a very handsome profit. I am not suggesting any imaginary or impracticable figures in the yield of herds. I have for years been able to go about 550 pounds of cheese in my own dairy, and not unfrequently have touched a point above 600 pounds, and this, too, with the common stock of the country; but most of them were bred on the farm and were descended from what is known as the Old Dutch Cow of the Mohawk Valley. These results, however, were obtained only when I gave personal inspection to details and farm management, and when I fell into tenant farming a remarkable shrinkage occurred. I can name dairymen in every County who were accustomed to get better returns from their cows than I did, and hence I feel warranted in giving you the figures I have named. And let me say to you, it makes a very great difference in the profits of dairying whether a cow yields a profit of 400 or 600 pounds, because the gain above a certain point (which must be placed to the account of expenses) can be credited to clean profit. The 200 pounds extra then represents actual savings, and is like so much money placed to your credit in bank.

BUYING FROM DROVES—RAISING STOCK RECOMMENDED.

Dairymen of late years have got into the habit of filling up their herds from droves, and a large share of the arrivals bought are "culls," being the poor milkers from different dairies scattered over the country. We must return again to the good old practice of raising our own cows on the farm. Let the calves be selected only from the best milkers, and in the choosing of males more attention must be paid to the milking habit of the family from which it is descended. There are many thoroughbred animals with long pedigrees that are of no value in the dairy. If they are from very poor milkers they are very likely to transmit that quality to their offspring, and hence they are not infrequently less useful than the scrub that has a good milking parentage from common cows. I have seen some Short-Horns that could not be made to yield sufficient milk for the maintenance of their calves. Such families are admirably adapted to the beef grower, but should not be introduced into the dairy, and the same rule applies to other thoroughbreds.

I am not opposed to the introduction of thoroughbred animals for the dairy, and believe that great improvement can be made in our milking stock through such blood; but we must select from good milking families and not from those which have been cultivated for another purpose.

Some people get the notion that a milking habit is built up and produced by extra feeding. If such were the case, the Short-Horns of all families ought to be the best milkers in the world, for there is no stock that has been pampered more by extra feeding than this breed. The old Ayrshire breeders say that you can injure the milking habit of any breed by the excessive feeding of the young animal, and they make a point that Ayrshire calves intended for good milking cows shall be kept only in a fairly thrifty condition and not made fat, as if intended for slaughter. Some of the best cows I ever owned were when calves, after the first three weeks, raised on whey and a little oil meal, with what grass they could pick from sweet, nutritious pasturage.

POOR COWS EAT UP THE PROFITS.

The number of poor cows scattered throughout the State is simply enormous. I know a dairyman in Herkimer County who turned off the past fall 33 cows at an average of about $15 per head, which in the spring had cost him $50 per head, and he will be obliged to fill up again next spring at perhaps $50 per head. Other dairymen winter over their poor cows on the principle that you might as well keep what you have as to run the risk of getting nothing better by selling and filling up again in the spring. I need not say that all these poor cows do not pay the expense of keep and are a heavy burden to carry year after year; and this is one source of useless expense which eats away the profits on many farms. Dairymen say they can buy cows cheaper than they can raise them; but they will tell you that it is almost impossible to buy a line of good cows. Let any one go about the country picking up good cows, and he will find that the number to be had is remarkably small.

A BARBAROUS PRACTICE—IT CAUSES DISEASE.

Again, the practice of carrying cows over long distances in spring, before they "come in milk," is a most cruel and barbarous practice, which ought not to be tolerated in civilized communities. Consider the fright alone from the cars, the shriek of the engine, the clatter of the wheels, and the shock to the nerves of the poor beasts as the trains dash past each other. But in addition, the animals are often over-crowded, often thrown violently against each other or against the car, starved for want of food, maddened by thirst, forced to stand for long periods upon their feet under the swaying motion of the cars—and some faint idea may be had of the sufferings which this traffic imposes. Is it any wonder that abortion and other diseases come as a penalty, and that all through the dairy region of Central New York the complaint grows more and more serious that our cattle are losing their vigor and are more subject to disease and accident than formerly.

I am firmly persuaded that the terrible scourge which has for some years past been so prevalent in Herkimer and the adjoining counties is due to the causes I have named. The losses have been fearfully heavy from this source on many farms, and if we are to get relief it must be by the old practice of raising stock and caring for it in a proper manner.

SOME OF THE OTHER LEAKS IN DAIRY FARMING.

Again, many of the dairymen have fallen into the habit of purchasing from abroad all the grain needed on the farm, and not unfrequently it is said that fruit and many kinds of vegetables can be purchased cheaper than they can be raised. Farmers will tell you, too, that it is cheaper to buy coal than to cut and draw fuel from the wood lot. Is it any wonder that the cost of living is increased tenfold when farmers purchase from abroad what should be raised on the farm?

Dairying, at present prices, cannot pay for all these outgoes on farms intrusted to hired help and when the proprietor neglects the details of farm management. But good farming and good management does pay, and is the only salvation for low prices and dull times.

Gentlemen, I am not discussing these questions from an imaginary standpoint. I have farmed when cheese was 6c. and butter a shilling a pound, and I bought my farm on credit and paid for it by farming. I know that to make farming pay there must be personal attention, economy and brains put into the business, and so I say the dairyman's horizon is not so dark as many suppose, and we can stem this current of low prices if we will.

DAIRYING DOES NOT RUN THE LAND LIKE GRAIN FARMING.

There is one advantage in dairy farming which is scarcely ever estimated at its true value—the better condition it leaves the land in for grain growing. Those who have had experience in renovating old, badly worn-out grain farms well know that it is an expensive and tedious operation.

There is no crop, perhaps, which exhausts the land so little as pasturage, and if meadows are cut in season and properly manured, with all the manure available on the farm, the land may be kept in good heart for a long number of years, and especially is this the case when the aftermath is allowed to rot on the ground.

In England I saw pastures 200 years old that were yielding full crops of rich and nutritious herbage where cattle would fatten rapidly, thus showing that the land had not deteriorated, at least to any great extent.

Nearly all the old dairy pastures can be improved by boning. In 1855 I boned an old pasture at the rate of about 500 pounds crushed bones to the acre, and the grass seemed to start with new vigor, covering the ground like a mat. Boning is rather expensive in the first outlay, but, as the effects will last for 15 or 20 years, the cost is not so very great after all.

Dairy farming then has this advantage, your land capital can be easily kept unimpaired, or be made to grow better, and all improvements of this kind may be credited like so much cash in bank.

CONDENSED MILK.

You will observe that during the past year a great deal has been said in New York City in regard to securing good milk for city consumption, and efforts have been made to establish a standard for pure milk by means of the lactometer test.

Now, I have not one word to say against the lactometer. It is a useful instrument for determining the specific gravity of fluids, but it is asking too much to require it to detect all the frauds of the milk peddlars.

Milk, as is well known, can be skimmed and watered, or it can be doctored with sugar and salt so that in a lactometer test the adulterated article will mark pure milk on the stem of the instrument. The better way, it seems to me, is for city people to get in the way of using plain condensed milk, and if this trade could be generally inaugurated, good, pure milk might be sent from the most distant part of the State and furnished to consumers at much cheaper rates than those which obtain for the poor, watered and often unhealthy article now sold. The plain condensed milk will keep several days in hot weather. About 75 per cent. of water is eliminated, and hence so much bulk is saved in transportation.

City people will never escape the frauds and abuses to which they are subjected in the milk trade until they get in the habit of using condensed milk and when they can add their own water instead of paying eight or ten cents a quart for it to the milkman.

THE DAIRY AT THE WEST.

I have a word also to say about the West and its adaptation to the dairy. The impression has obtained among dairymen of the East that dairying cannot be successfully carried beyond the Mississippi.

I have taken some pains to examine this question, having crossed the continent twice and have traveled extensively in the far West, and I am convinced that there are broad belts of land in this region where dairying may be made a success.

Many of the native or prairie grasses of the West are exceedingly nutritious and they make a good flavored milk.

One leading requisite for good milk is an abundance of clear, fresh water. In Minnesota and Eastern Nebraska the water and grasses are excellent, and these States expressly, it seems to me, afford a fine opening for the prosecution of Dairy Husbandry at a very small outlay of capital.

MARKETING DAIRY BOARDS OF TRADE.

The recent plan of marketing dairy boards of trade has proved eminently successful, and has been of the greatest advantage to dairymen. The inauguration of this system belongs to our State Dairymen's Association. We were the first to originate and perfect the system, and all the other dairy boards of trade, whether in New York or in other States, have been copied from our plan.

The articles of our Association and the rules governing the Board we had printed in circular form for distribution, so that it is quite easy for any section to establish a market on this system, and it would be well for every dairy county in the State to have its Dairy Board of Trade and sell goods at stated intervals and at one place.

In 1864 I began to report the Little Falls dairy market, and this was the first interior market report that had ever been made in this country. Before that time dairymen were obliged to get their market information from the city papers, and, as a consequence, were not well informed in regard to marketing their product. Now, from the reports of the interior as well as the city markets, dairymen have the means of keeping pretty well informed in regard to supply and demand, and the prices that obtain from time to time.

Gentlemen: We have a number of distinguished speakers who are to address you on a variety of topics. They have given these topics much thought, drawn from practical experience and observation, and it is expected that, after each address, time will be allowed to have the subject matter of the address thoroughly discussed. We want the result of your experience, whether it argees or disagrees with that of the speaker. We cannot all think alike, experiences differ, and conclusions are often drawn from the same experience that are wide apart. It is by comparing and sifting the evidence before us that we are able to arrive at the truth, and this is the duty which especially belongs to the Convention. I hope that no statement or opinion promulgating error will be allowed to pass at this Convention without challenge. Let every theory, or plausible explanation of a theory, be closely scrutinised. It is no offense to criticise here in open convention, if it be done in the proper manner and with the view of getting at facts and principles. Earnest discussion is solicited, but it is to be hoped that it may not become so heated as to degenerate into wrangling and personal recrimination. We do not want any one to leave this Convention with a feeling of bitterness or enmity in his heart caused by offensive or unguarded remarks, and I speak of this more especially, because there seems to be some feeling between those representing whole-milk cheese making and those representing the skimmed milk interest.

A great many bitter things have been said in the papers against the manufacture of oleomargarine cheese, and men have been misrepresented and denounced for simply giving the facts in regard to its manufacture. This course has a tendency to keep back and suppress dairy knowledge. What we want at these Conventions is to get all the information possible concerning every branch of the dairy. If any one has a new idea, has discovered a new principle, or has made an invention by which the business may be improved, let him be induced to come here and make the thing known. We want to know all about it, and to keep well up with the progress that is being made from time to time.

At the American Dairymen's Convention, valuable men have been alienated and driven entirely away from the meetings by allowing papers, filled with personalities, to be read and discussed. I hope we shall not fall into the same error. I know there is great difference of opinion in regard to the influence which skimmed cheese may have on the reputation of American cheese. It is said that the manufacture of skimmed cheese, if of any grade of cheese besides that made from whole milk, must lower the standard of our product abroad, and will, in the end, bring disaster upon our export trade. A larger exportation of inferior cheese may reduce the price in that quality, but, as has been shown in the statement made by my English correspondent, *fine* cheese remains uniform in price and is not affected. How, then, are the whole-milk factories to be injured; and will not fine cheese be the more eagerly sought after?

When I was in England, the leading cheesemongers told me they did not care to deal exclusively in fine cheese, a cheap cheese being needed for poor people who could not afford to purchase the more expensive kinds.

In 1866 the English imported about eighty million pounds of Dutch cheese, which is mostly made from skimmed milk, and they continue to import largely of Dutch cheese. If the creameries can put upon the market a cheaper cheese than the whole-milk factories, are they not doing a grand thing for humanity in affording poor people the means of subsistence within reach of their limited means. Is it wise to stop manufacturing cheese from skimmed milk, and thus make a wanton waste of so much good food, while there are millions of people who are pinched for the necessities of life and cannot afford to purchase dear foods.

There are other features to this question which I do not care to discuss. I am not here to advocate skim cheese making, or exclusive whole-milk cheese making, but I want our dairymen to do that which is the best, not only for themselves but for the interests of humanity.

HOW LONG TO MILK A COW.

There seems to be a prevalent idea that it is not profitable to milk a cow more than eight or nine months, and most dairymen dry off their cows early and let them go dry three to four months. Is this the best practice? We think not. A cow is kept for milk. She should be bred for holding out her milk as long as she can, with due regard for health. It has been proved in the case of thousands of cows that have lived to good old age, that they can be bred to give milk ten months in the year, bear a good, healthy and strong calf and be ready for as good a milking season the next year. We should seek such cows and discard those that persist in drying early, even if they do give a good mess for a short season.

Arboricultural.

LOCUSTS—ROBINIA DISSECTA.

The Locusts are greatly neglected as ornamental trees for lawns because their natural form is not attractive. A maximum of long branches and a minimum of foliage, always conspicuous in natural specimens, and the formidable thorns that invest many of the species seem to indicate hedges and obscure situations as their fitting place. Cutting back the main branches of young trees, however, will convert their nude branches and scanty foliage into a thick, spreading head that, covered in spring and summer with pendulous racemes of white, rose and yellow flowers, is in no way inferior to the habit and leafage of many rarer trees which are valued more highly.

Robinia pseud-acacia inermis is a beautiful thornless species, with narrow leaflets and a naturally round, thick head, well adapted to shrubberies of the larger class and quite pleasing and elegant as isolated specimens upon the lawn. A number of other species and varieties are mentioned in catalogues—e. g., *R Bessoniana, bella rosea, splendens* and *Gleditschia sinensis inermis*, to which we call the attention of those who are studying over selections for spring, as well worthy of consideration.

Robinia dissecta, a branch of which is represented in the engraving which we copy from the *Revue Horticole*, presents an instance of dimorphism as shown in the two distinct forms of leaves. "The origin of this remarkable variety of the common *Robinia* is unknown. It forms a shrub or low tree, the branches and twigs of which are small, short, and very numerous. Its appearance reminds one of trees, the leaves of which have been eaten by caterpillars and have thus been reduced almost to mid-ribs. In this, which may be said to be the normal state of the plant, no flowers are produced; but wherever any branches assume the characteristics which belong to the type—a circumstance which rarely happens—they produce blossoms in abundance, as shown in the illustration."

ROBINIA DISSECTA.

TOO MANY VARIETIES.

The following article from the N. Y. Weekly Sun expresses ideas which those intending to plant fruit of any kind should heed:

"Ninety persons out of every hundred who set out trees for home use or for market indulge in too many varieties. This one fatal error has ruined more fruit growers than all other causes combined. Nurserymen propagate their hundreds and thousands of sorts simply because a majority of their customers do not know what they want and will not take the advice of those who do. The prevailing passion with the novice in fruit culture is to try as many varieties as possible; and we have known men who had "just begun," and with very little capital, to go into a nursery and undertake to make a short purse go a long way by purchasing a tree or two of each variety, instead of acting the wiser part, selecting from a number of trees a few of the very best.

"We have also seen the same thing done in purchasing flowering plants, and our florists try to accommodate their customers; hence the immense number of varieties kept for sale. It is well enough for nurserymen to try all the new sorts, to find out which are the best, as it is part of their business; but the man who cultivates fruit for profit had better confine himself to only a few, and those known to be adapted to his soil and climate. Our pomological, horticultural and agricultural societies are perhaps somewhat at fault in this matter, for they invariably offer the largest premium for the greatest number of varieties, and it is not strange that there should be some strife for the highest prize. The man who only exhibits a dozen varieties of pears by the side of another who spreads out a collection of 200 or 300 appears to be rather 'small potatoes,' although he may be in reality the more extensive cultivator of the two, and deserves more credit for possessing wisdom enough to avoid such indiscriminate planting of second-rate sorts. The great number of varieties certainly make a good show on the exhibition tables, and sound well in print, but this is all that can be said in their favor.

"We have been all through this variety fever, from a thousand pear trees down to a thousand sorts of strawberries; therefore we can speak from experience. If our own was not enough to convince us of the folly of planting too great a number of varieties, that of hundreds of others who have had a similar experience would stand out as a warning against it.

"Now, the novice in fruit culture need not be misled if he will only seek advice from those competent to give it, and none offer a better article in this line than the very men who have cultivated the greatest number of sorts. After a man has become bewildered over the immense number of varieties of fruits frequently exhibited by such pomologists as Ellwanger & Barry, the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, Hovey & Co., Moody & Son, and others noted for their extensive collections, let him attend one session of the American Pomological Society, and he will learn that these very men are careful to warn him to let about nine out of ten of all the sorts they have exhibited severely alone. In other words, as scientific pomologists, they place themselves 'straight on the record;' but in business they are compelled to pamper to the foolish whims of their customers."

BARKING TREES BY RABBITS.

A correspondent of the Weekly Granger says:—"I have a recipe to prevent the foraging of rabbits on young fruit trees. I have practiced it for eighteen years, and I know it to be a specific. I intended to have given it to the public every winter since I proved it by experiment, but somehow I have hitherto failed. I was recently reminded of it by reading a lengthy, troublesome and expensive remedy. Mine is simple and easy. First, catch a rabbit and kill it. I'll guarantee that it will quit its depredations, but its influence is not done yet. Cut it open and take out the bowels, lungs, liver, etc., and rub them on the young trees as high as a rabbit can reach; when you get through with that, cut a piece of the flesh, a quarter for instance, and rub till you get through. One rabbit is sufficient for five hundred trees, and it will last all through the winter. I have rubbed them so in November, and a rabbit will not touch it all through the winter, provided you had no tar or grease previously on them."

Farm Economy.

RECRUITING A RUN-DOWN FARM.

Ansel W. Putnam in New England Farmer gives the following history of a successful attempt to reclaim a worn-out farm:

Twenty-five years ago I was living in the town of Lexington, Mass., and making milk for Boston market. Near me was a large run-down farm. It was afterwards bought by an acquaintance, a Boston man, who had made money by manufacturing chemicals. He bought the farm for the purpose of making milk. He filled his barns full of milk machines, such as are for sale at Brighton, and then bought raw material for the machines to make milk from; he used the refuse to grow more material. About five years ago a mutual acquaintance told me the results as they were given to him by the owner. At that time the farm, stock and tools had cost him $20,000; he sold the previous year $7,500 worth of milk; his expenses were $5,500, leaving $2,000 profit, or ten per cent. interest upon his investment.

I was well acquainted with the farm twenty-five years ago, having bought standing grass sold at auction when the farm was in the care of an administrator. I think its estimated capacity at that time was seven cows, a yoke of oxen and one horse. Four years ago, at the time of the Concord cattle show, I spent a few days in Lexington, and visited the farm. The owner was not there, but I had a good opportunity to see the wonderful changes that had been made—large barns full of first and second crop hay—enough to winter between seventy-five and one-hundred head of stock. I saw a herd of fifty milch cows whose task it was to make fifty cans of milk daily, in as good fall feed as I ever saw, gathering the best of material from which to make it. The men were at work plowing, manuring and re-seeding an old pasture.

Mr. Putnam also tells his own experience on a 20 acre farm bought in the spring of 1874 and badly run.

My agricultural creed is this:—I believe growth and decay of vegetable matter to be nature's method of fertilization; I believe the manure from a ton of hay used in making milk, without any assistance from the grain dealer or druggist, will, if carefully saved and properly applied to the land on which the hay was raised, grow another ton of hay annually and constantly as long as land lasts and grass grows. I believe the manure from two tons of hay or grain not grown upon a farm, but bought and fed on the farm, will, at the end of six years from the time the manure is applied, increase the productive capacity of the farm one ton of hay annually, and by proper care that productiveness can be made to maintain itself to the end of time. I say six years, because it is six years or more before the crops get all there is of good barn manure. I believe the greener the manure the longer it lasts, and the better it is for grass growing. It takes two tons of hay grown off from the farm to equal one grown on it, because, as far as fertilization is concerned, the roots and stubble are about equal to the tops. Having faith in this creed and in my ability to save and apply the manure, I was confident that if for two years I fed upon the farm, in hay and grain, each year, as much more as the farm produced, at the end of six years the productive capacity of the farm would be doubled by those two years of extra feeding; therefore I determined to use the credit of the farm, and feed double. I went to the miller and asked him if he wished to sell me meal on a credit of forty-five days, thereby giving me a chance to make the milk pay for the meal from which it was partly made; he said yes. A stock dealer came to me and said he would like to sell me milch cows. I said, if I buy, it will not be convenient for me to pay for them until I sell some that I am fatting. He replied, "if you buy cows from me, you can pay for them when it is convenient for you to do so." A man came to me and said, "if you want to buy hay, I should like to supply you." I said, if I buy hay, I can't promise to pay for it until I get the money for the milk I make from the grass I grow with the manure I make from your hay. He said, "all right." I engaged ten or twelve tons, and paid him before he cut his next crop of hay.

From the first of April, 1874, to the first of April, 1875, I produced forty thousand quarts of milk. I bought both hay and grain, but I think this twenty acre farm can be made to produce forty thousand quarts of milk annually, feed the horses that do the work and not buy either hay, grain or manure. I am confident that if I continue to make that amount of milk, save and apply the manure, as I am now doing, that in five or six years, or as soon as I begin to get the full benefit of the extra manure I have already made, the farm will give me all I need to make my allowance of milk. That is the point I am working for, the top of the hill I am climbing. I am satisfied that, as I am situated, I can make manure for less than one-half of what I can buy stable manure for.

The Swine-Yard.

PORK AS AN ARTICLE OF FOOD.

If we examine the case from an impartial and unbiased standpoint, and divest all that has been said against pork and porkers from everything that is imaginary or not true, and take the fanaticism, the idiosyncracies and the ignorance of those lecturers and writers, for simply that which they deserve, we shall find, first, that pork is not a contemptible, useless, unwholesome and unsubstantial article of food; and a man who has to do a hard day's work, and has to eat his bread in the sweat of his face, does by no means despise it, but prefers it very often to the choicest beef or mutton. This is but natural, for pork furnishes more almost than anything else, not only of the elements required to support the respiratory process, but also those which are principally needed by the organism of a laboring man to repair the continual organic waste of material, as modified and increased by hard labor. It is true, pork can be too fat, or be too badly served or prepared by the cook to be tasty, even to the palate of a laboring man; but so can beef and mutton, and everything else, as can be found out very easily in certain boarding houses. Neither is pork so very unsubstantial an article of food as some of those writers and lecturers are anxious to make us believe. While the body of almost every other domesticated mammal contains between sixty-six and seventy-five per cent. of water, the body of a fat pig contained, according to analysis made in the Royal Agricultural College at Eldena, in Prussia, only 45.3 per cent., and the remainder, the water-free substance, contained 20.1 per cent. of protein substances, 77.1 per cent. of fat and 3 per cent. of mineral substances. It is true that pork is not so rich in nitrogen as beef for instance, but it is not nitrogen alone that is required in the food.

Pork, of course, is not always of the same quality. Its firmness or softness, and oiliness, respectively, depend, first, upon the breed of the animal, and secondly, upon the kind of food with which the same have been fattened. As a general rule, the small breeds of hogs, but especially the small Chinese and East Indian pigs, and the pigs of Naples and their descendants, have a much softer pork than the larger breeds of England and of Central Europe and their descendants. The so-called improved breeds produce a firm pork, containing a good deal of muscle. The food also causes considerable difference in the quality of the pork. Barley produces the firmest and most solid pork, and oats produce the softest—even softer and more oily than that produced by feeding corn. The fat of hogs fattened with barley becomes fluid at 105.8 deg. F., and the fat of hogs fattened with oats, at 100.4 deg. F. The former, when fluid, stiffens in one hour at a temperature of 89.6 deg. F., and the latter in six hours at a temperature of 75.2 deg. F. Consequently, one who prefers very solid pork must choose a pig of a large breed and must fatten it with barley, and one who desires his pork soft may select a small breed and fatten the same with corn or with oats.

It may be well to remark here that the feeding of much salt (chloride of sodium) is injurious to pigs, and interferes with their growth and with the process of fattening. Investigating further, we shall find, secondly, that pigs are much better than their reputation, and have done, and are doing, much more for mankind than mankind has done or is doing for them. First, there is no domesticated animal that is, as a general rule, so much neglected by its owner, and left to its resources, before it is fattened for the shambles, as a pig, and still there is no other animal that converts its food so soon into food for human beings. Secondly, a pig is an omnivorous animal; that is, can live and thrive on both animal and vegetable substances; is not very particular, and consumes with some relish almost any offal from the table, from the dairy and from the kitchen and garden, which can scarcely be utilized in any other way, with which it eats the grain of the field, the grass and clover of the pasture and the acorns of the forest. Therefore, almost any family can raise and fatten one or two pigs with scarcely any expense whatever. Thirdly, pigs are accused of being dirty and filthy, and fond of wallowing in the mud. This is a calumny, for scarcely any of our domestic animals keeps its stall and its bedding as clean as a pig, provided the latter is not compelled by the carelessness or by the ignorance of its owner to sleep and to deposit its excrements at the same place, but is provided with a good, dry, warm, well-littered and well-ventilated pen to sleep in, and with a yard which it can walk into at its own pleasure. Further, there is no animal that is more fond of being brushed, rubbed, washed and petted, or that enjoys a good bath in clean, fresh and cool water as much as does a pig, especially in the summer, when a daily bath is so essential to the health of the animal. A pig takes a bath in a mud pond only when no other opportunity is left.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Scientific and Useful.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY MACHINE SHOP.

Ed. Rural New-Yorker:—I am aware that an Agricultural Journal does not appear at first sight to be just the place in which to set forth the merits of a Machine Shop; but as quite one-half of our recruits are made up of farmers' sons, and a large percentage of our best mechanics have received their first and many times their best lessons in handicraft while helping to build and repair the farm buildings and implements, I believe a simple explanation of what we are trying to do to advance the standing and standard of the mechanics of the country will find many an interested reader among the farmers' sons and village subscribers of the Rural.

While there may be some question whether the Agricultural Colleges have proved a success or not, there can be no question about their not meeting the expectations of their advocates; and so far have they fallen short of it that many earnest educators have questioned if it were possible to do any better in attempting to teach practical mechanics than it has been in teaching practical agriculture. The general belief was, and still is, with a large majority, that the best method is to teach science or theories in colleges, and the practice in the best establishments of engineering or machine shops. There are some difficulties in carrying out this scheme, and also some objections to it when carried out. The simple operations performed in a machine shop are the measuring of distances, making surfaces flat, edges straight and corners square or at other fixed angles, and the making of holes and cylinders round and in the main parallel or conical, and a joining of parts by a combination of the

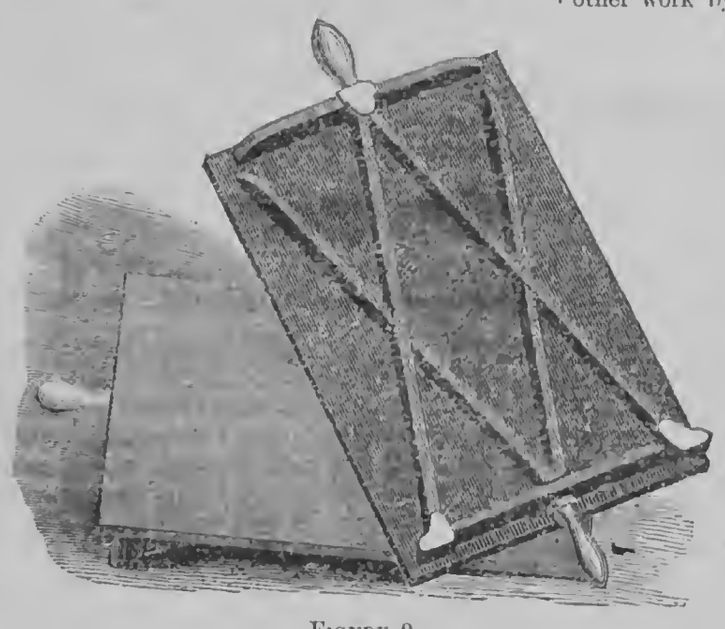


Figure 2

other operations. You can count upon your fingers all the establishments in the country that make a pretense of perfection in any of these operations, then divide that number by two and you will still outnumber those that approach all of them.

In starting this Machine Shop, three years ago, which had been endowed by the Hon. Hiram Sibley, President White strongly opposed the adding of another to the thousand ordinary machine shops already in the country. To avoid this, and to make the shop what I thought it ought to be, viz.,—a place which should have a similar relation to the ordinary shop that the University does to the common school, we have endeavored to give the students experience in the performance of these fundamental operations—using what we suppose to be the best methods and carrying them to as high state of perfection as known at the present time, and in applying them to a limited extent in the construction of original machinery rather than in duplicating ordinary machine tools which can be done more cheaply elsewhere. By the adoption of this plan we have gained in many ways. We have the good will of the best engineering establishments in the country, and they have helped us by donations of photographs of specimens of their manufacture, and in many other respects, while our students become familiar with the ways and machinery of the different makers, and our friendly relations gain for them a passport and often employment in these establishments; whereas a man taught in one of these workshops is liable to be one-sided in his thoughts and looked upon with suspicion if he wishes to gain admission into another.

This statement that there are so few places where they know what straight, flat and round implies, may seem a bold one; but it is the execution of these simple operations that in the main constitutes the difference between the best and the common work, and a knowledge of how the work is accomplished, to any mechanic, even if he has no occasion to use it—and if he knows how, he is much more likely to find a demand for its use than if he does not.

The accompanying figures show some of the tools we have made for our own use and a number of which have been sold to other shops. Fig. 1, a Straight Edge, is made in the form shown, that it may be light and so strong as not to spring by its own weight—for a piece of cast-iron will spring by its own weight the same (and about as much) as a piece of wood. They are planed as true as possible on an iron planer, and afterward scraped with a steel scraper until either two of three will fit together. It is necessary to make

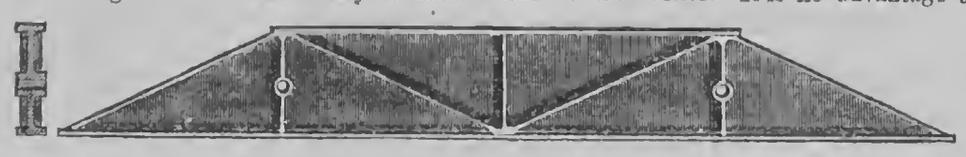


Figure 1.

three, because two might be fitted together perfectly and yet not be straight, one being concave and the other convex; but when either two of three fit in all positions they must all be straight. So perfect do the students make these that when two are placed together before a light not a ray passed between them, while a human hair placed between makes an apparently large opening, and the upper straight edge will swing around upon the hair as easily as a "whirligig" swings upon its post.

The Surface Plates (Fig. 2) are made by the same process, also three are essential to prove their accuracy. So perfect are they made that one glides upon another as freely as ice glides upon ice. The explanation of this is that a film of air remains between the two plates; the upper one floats upon that film of air. If the air is forced out from between the plates, one will lift the other up with it and hold it for a considerable length of time.

The Squares and Angle Plates, shown in the other figures (3 and 4) are made equally perfect. All these tools are used to test the accuracy of other work by covering their faces with a thin film of red paint and rubbing them on the work being tested.

The Measuring Machine, shown in the last figure (5) measures from 0 to 12 inches by the 1-10000 of an inch, and will be readily understood. The screw has a thread 16 to the inch, and the wheel is graduated into 625 parts. It is plain that by turning this wheel one of the divisions that the measuring points must be brought the 1-10000 of an inch nearer together. To give an idea how small a distance the 1-10000 of an inch is, it is only necessary to consider that a hair is from 15 to 30 times that amount. The machine is used principally for making standard gauges, one of which is shown in the machine. It is simply a tool, the lower part ground to a given standard size to gauge or caliper the size of a hole, and the open end ground out to the same size to measure or caliper shafts and any other work. They are made in sizes varying by 1-16th of an inch, from ¼ to 6 inches. With these tools time is saved, a uniform standard of measurements is secured, and the work of one shop will interchange with the work of another.

Ithaca, N. Y., Dec., 1875. John E. Sweet.

AERATING SOILS BY DRAINAGE.

It has always been our practice in making underdrains, especially in heavy soil, to have vent holes at the crossings of permanent fences between fields through which surface water could run more freely into the drain. This however is by no means necessary, and we are not sure that it is advisable. Great care has to be taken in placing stones carefully in these vent-holes and filling up with them to the surface so as to catch and hold straws, weeds and dirt, which might otherwise be washed into and obstruct the drain. Besides, we have always found it hard to tell what is a permanent and what is a temporary fence. As rails and fencing material become scarce, fields are enlarged, division fences pulled down and the land all plowed together. Probably in time most farming land suitable for tillage in the Eastern States will be unfenced. The tendency that way is very decided now, and as a well-laid under drain is something for all time, it is well to provide against all contingencies. So we would not advise filling a drain up with stone to the surface under a fence—not even a roadside or line fence. It is no advantage to the drain any way, and may some time become very inconvenient.

In extremely cold weather there is always a warm current of air rising from these drain chimneys. Heavy banks of snow drifting into the fence will be thawed away over the stone heap through which the warm air rises and the deeper the drain the more continued the current of air rising as warmed by the internal heat of the earth. At other times of the year than winter the action is reversed. As water is drawn off through the drain pipes when the land is flooded in spring and fall, its place is naturally filled by the warmer surface atmosphere. This air gradually cools as it sinks, but it cools only as it imparts its warmth to the earth with which it comes in contact, but never becoming colder than the air. In a thoroughly drained soil the warm summer rains carry down an appreciable amount of heat, but this is slight as compared with the warmth imparted to the soil by heated air. In undrained soils, on the contrary, the tendency is reversed, and the land loses instead of gaining heat. Water evaporating slowly from the surface takes not only its own heat but steals heat from the soil which it touches, making it cold, sour and unproductive. Every farmer knows the difference in quality of the herbage on a drained and undrained soil. Coarse, poor and thin grass will become sweet and nutritious by drainage. We think this effect goes farther than is generally supposed, as any one may believe by seeing how closely grass will be cropped over an underdrain, while a few rods distant on land not reached by the drain but not called wet, the grass will be left untsted. Part of this result is doubtless due to the fertilizing effect of aeration of the soil. The surface atmosphere following the water down to and into the drain parts with most of its fertilizing properties to the earth with which it comes in contact. Hence a good underdrain not only makes available the fertility in the soil, but actually increases the amount. Every drop of water percolating through the soil either from rain or snow, parts with its ammonia on its downward passage, and the air which follows contributes an additional quota. Land that is well drained is constantly being manured—the force of nature operates in behalf of the good farmer who drains his fields. As the undrained soil is constantly losing fertility by exaporation, so the drained is gaining by absorption. It is thought to be a shrewd move if one is able to get without stealing something from your neighbor. The farmer who drains his land and keeps the surface open and dry, is constantly absorbing fertility which his less sensible neighbor allows to go to waste.

The increased warmth of soil secured by underdraining is specially important for gardens, and also for fruits which, like the grape, require the greatest amount of heat to secure their maturity. It is now generally conceded that to dig a deep hole and fill it with rich earth, is the very worst preparation for planting a grape vine. Why? Only because this deep hole is a reservoir for water which, by slow evaporation, chills the earth with which the roots come in contact, while the rich, deep soil tempts grape roots to strike deeper than the heat of our short Northern summers can reach. Some of our most experienced vineyardists now advise shallow planting and keeping the rich soil near the surface, to discourage the roots from striking into the subsoil. The better plan is on all soils not naturally dry to drain thoroughly and leave the roots to go where they choose. We are satisfied that thorough drainage will hasten the ripening of grapes a week or ten days on all heavy soils and insure the ripening of Catawbas and Isabellas when they otherwise prove a failure. The best vineyards are planted on "drift" soil composed of fine particles of earth and rock porous enough to allow free drainage to a great depth. It is only necessary to bring heavy soils artificially to the condition which these hold naturally, to make them equally adapted to vineyard culture.

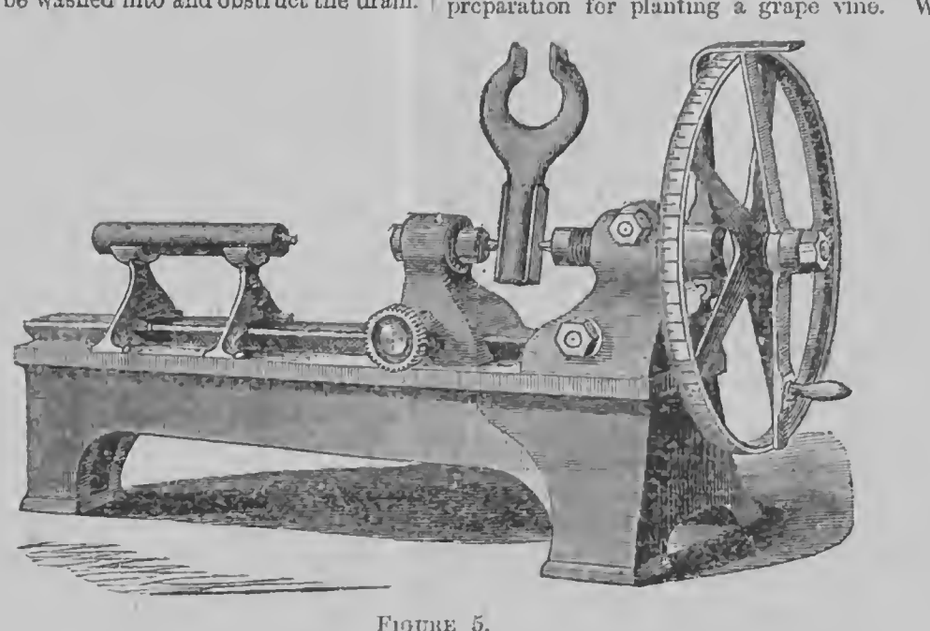


Figure 5.

Industrial Topics.

FARM LETTING IN ENGLAND.

Most of the large farms in England are worked by tenants, and the prices at which lands are let are a good indication of the improvement of farming and the condition of the farming interest. In one case the yearly rental

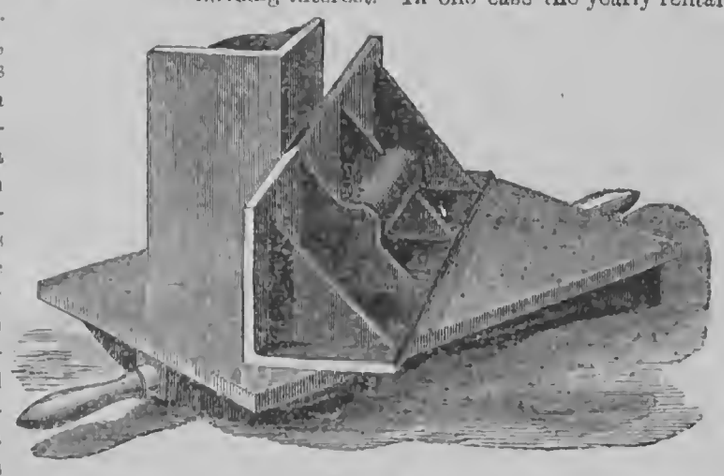


Figure 3.

of a farm of 850 acres was increased from £1,050 to £1,700, or about 70 per cent. The low rent was fixed in 1843, and the tenant spent over £18,000 in draining and improving the farm, on a 21 years' lease. Most of this large sum was of course spent in the earlier years of the lease, and it was reckoned that the improvements had more than paid for themselves, besides enormously increasing the value of the estate to the landlord. What do American farmers who own the land they till think of this? Will it not pay here to underdrain, manure and

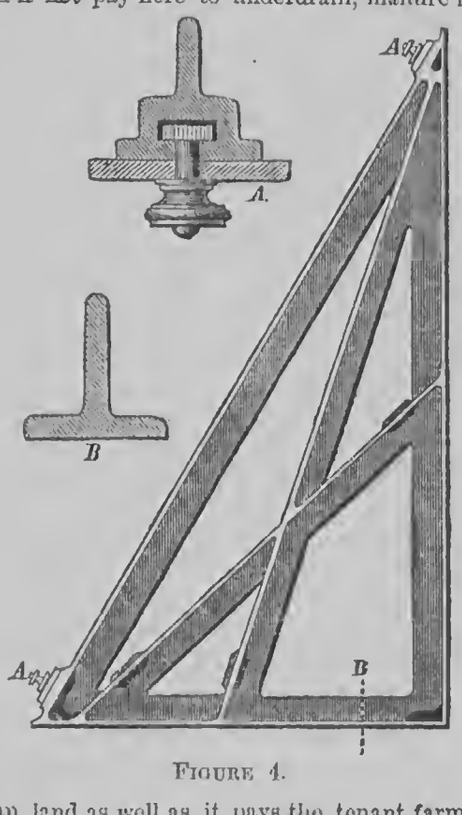


Figure 4.

clean land as well as it pays the tenant farmers of England? Very few improvements would be made here if the farmers were not also owners of the soil. In England a 21 years' lease is deemed sufficient margin for making almost as many improvements as on land held in fee. One of these large tenants who leased a large farm at low rates before an extraordinary rise in prices cleared £100,000 sterling, or half a million dollars, in twenty years. Still longer leases are made, and some of ninety-nine years are yearly falling due. It is also said that some leases for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, made in the time of Alfred the Great, have nearly expired, and the heirs to the property are carefully tracing their genealogies back to claim possession when the lease has closed.

England sends more flour to the West Indies and South America than we, though England is an importer while we are an exporter of wheat. England's policy of free trade encourages the West Indies to export to that country, and of course they buy what they need in return. Fair exchange is no robbery.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

DRIED GRASSES FOR HOUSE ORNAMENTS.

Dec. 15.—The many species of Everlastings, or as the French term them, "Immortelles," serve an admirable purpose for household decorations among those who have not the conveniences for cultivating winter-blooming plants. They look rather stiff and formal, it is true, still it is better to have the niche filled with such than that it should remain unoccupied.

The addition of the plumes of some of the lately-introduced ornamental grasses has afforded an opportunity of making the winter bouquet really better than formerly. Of course the ordinary dried grasses imported by dealers in such articles are colored to suit the fancy of purchasers; but the greater part of this dyed stock is rather overdone in the way of brilliant hues, and we would fain find such peculiar shades of green in nature. But it was not of this well-known commercial stock that I wished to speak, but of the growing demand for the larger-plumed species, such as the Pampas Grass, *Erianthus Ravennæ*, and last, although not least, the common *Phragmites communis* of our salt water marshes. The latter, though seldom seen in cultivation, is a really superb species, the stems growing eight to ten feet high, crowned in autumn with a large, grayish, spreading plume, reminding one more of a bunch of ostrich feathers than of a spike of grass.

The *Erianthus* is of a similar color, but the plumes are one and a half to two feet long and four to five in diameter, forming a long, cylindrical, tapering spike. Those of the Pampas Grass are in size and form like the last, but of a clear, silvery, white color, fairly glistening in the sun or in a brilliantly-lighted room. The *Erianthus* and *Phragmites* are quite hardy in our Northern States, or at most require only slight protection: but the Pampas Grass is not at home in our cool climate: the roots, however, may be preserved in the cellar over winter, or by a very liberal covering when left in the open ground. But our seasons are not quite long enough at the North to insure full development of the flower spikes unless the plants are started under glass in spring, and then planted out as the weather gets warm. Further south this species succeeds remarkably well, giving plumes of great size and brilliancy. It also succeeds in California, and I have seen some plumes produced there which for size and purity of color far exceed anything of the kind ever produced in our climate here.

Now, the suggestion which I wish to make is this:—Why do not some of our Southern gardeners make a specialty of cultivating these ornamental grasses for supplying the constantly-increasing demand for such articles in all of our Northern cities? The dealers in New York City tell me that they cannot obtain a supply of the plumes of these ornamental grasses without importing from abroad, which necessarily enhances the prices considerably above what they might be produced for at home. Of course there are a large number of desirable species of ornamental grasses which one would desire to cultivate in making a specialty of such articles; but there is a good opportunity for some one to engage extensively in the three named. The South is the spot to begin in this kind of grass culture, and the bottom lands along the rivers would probably be preferable to the high and dry.

Speaking of the culture of ornamental grasses at the South reminds me of the fact that

SOUTHERN-GROWN TUBEROSES

are likely to drive others from the market. It is well known to florists that to bring tuberose bulbs to perfection a long and rather hot season is required. In the more Northern States the summer is scarcely long enough to mature the small offsets planted for the purpose of producing blooming bulbs; and even in localities where they do come near enough to enable the propagator to keep them over without decay, it requires two or three seasons to produce a large, blooming bulb from the small offsets with which we usually commence as a starting point. Then again, the bulbs grown in a cool climate are seldom as firm and solid or bloom as freely as those from a warm one; hence the oft-repeated announcement in florists' catalogues of "Genuine Imported Italian Tuberoses." Tuberoses of excellent quality are, however, produced in New Jersey and throughout the Middle States; but even in those States it generally requires two years to produce blooming bulbs, which, of course, necessitates a great deal of labor in handling and room for storing in winter. But in the climate of South Carolina and adjacent regions it is said that large, mature, blooming bulbs are readily produced from the small offsets in one season, and judging from specimens that I have seen which were grown in Georgia, the South has a good prospect of "carrying the market" in the line of tuberoses. They can certainly be produced much cheaper than in the North, and the quality of the bulbs would probably be of superior quality. I do not believe that the Southern people fully realize the advantage they possess in the way of climate, at least for producing many articles which would find a ready market in the Northern States and Europe.

SUGAR BEETS FOR MILCH COWS.

Dec. 16.—I have been experimenting in feeding sugar beets to a favorite milch cow. Before the end of the first week Jonx reported that he was obtaining less milk than before commencing to give the beets, and I advised giving a larger allowance. But all to no good, for at the end of three weeks the shrinkage amounted to at least 50 per cent. We then ceased feeding the beets and gave the cow an equal quantity of yellow-stone turnips. The flow of milk commenced to increase the second day, and now at the end of two weeks is fully up to the original standard when we commenced feeding beets.

I confess to be somewhat puzzled over this sugar beet experiment, for I thought they would prove to be superior to turnips as a milk-producer.

Perhaps some of the readers of the RURAL have had more experience in this beet business than myself and can throw a little light on the question. "Are beets good feed for milch cows?"

Pomological.

THE NORTHERN SPY AS A "KEEPING" APPLE.

THE Northern Spy apple has not obtained that popularity with New England fruit growers to which it is entitled. Many who have essayed to raise it have become disgusted because the trees came into bearing so late, and either cut them down or grafted them to other varieties. But the farmers who have had the patience to allow their trees to come into full bearing have been amply rewarded, and few persons who have once had a supply of the Northern Spy would willingly do without it. It is equally popular as an eating apple and for cooking, and not the least valuable among its many good points are its keeping qualities, in which it fairly rivals the Russet, which, it is popularly supposed, can be kept longer than any other apple. This year the writer of this was fortunate enough to eat, on Monday, July 19, the last apple of several barrels of Northern Spys put into the cellar of a gentleman of South Deerfield, the product of his orchard, and which have had only ordinary care. It would not be true to say that this specimen was as good as it would have been three or four months ago, but it was the best apple by all odds that we ever ate so late in the season. It was not preserved by withering and partly drying up, as is the case with Russets preserved till summer, but was fresh, crisp, juicy, aromatic—a real apple, and not an apology for one. With more Northern Spy trees in our orchards, and a little more attention paid to keeping them, it would be possible to have apples in New England the entire year round. In the cellar above alluded to there are still some Russets, but they have kept longer than the Spys only because they are not so palatable.—*Springfield (Mass.) Union.*

KEEPING APPLES.

A REPORT in the N. Y. Times says: "We have tried many ways for the safe keeping of apples, but we find none better than to put into clean barrels and head them up tightly, so as to exclude all the air and light possible, and store them in cool, dark, dry cellars. The nearer apples can be kept to the freezing point (32 deg. Fahrenheit), the longer and better they will keep. If the mercury in the cellar sinks a few degrees below this point apples well headed up in the barrels will not suffer, as wood is a non-conductor of heat, and the life of the apple aids in resisting cold just as the life of the tree resists the rigors of winter. As the apple is the fruit of this country, and is so conducive to health and comfort, it is worth while to put up a few barrels with special reference to next summer's use. For this purpose select the late-keeping varieties, such as Newtown Pippins Roxbury Russets, or even Northern Spys, and after the barrels are filled shake down among them some plaster (gypsum) till all the interstices are filled. This keeps out the air so effectually that they are virtually canned, and come out the next summer almost as fresh as when picked. We have known Roxbury Russets keep perfectly fresh for two years packed in this manner.

As you eat apples by the winter fireside decide which varieties are best, and prepare to graft wilding trees in the spring. Now is the time to cut grafts. Cover them with sand in the cellar till spring.

Around the Republic.

"DOWN SOUTH."

Diary and Notes of an Ex-Editor Seeking Health.

Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 26.—The fog and dampness continue. Ex-Gov. REED asserts the irregularity of this sort of weather, but he talks hopefully for Florida. Notwithstanding the misrule, the vicious use made of Federal courts by the most reckless of politicians, and notwithstanding all that has been said and done to demoralize the colored population, he regards the future of Florida as likely to be brilliant and satisfactory. If only those whose interests are here would unite, regardless of partisan objects, to promote its material interests and use its resources for the common good of the whole people, there is no State in the Union which would yield surer compensation.

TALKING of the Eastern and Western counties of this State and of their comparative agricultural and horticultural merits, and of their respective attractions to Northern men, I find that Western Florida suffers in reputation from too much color. Those Western counties are represented as being excellent agricultural lands, but the colored population in some of them is equal to the whites numerically, and from that to four times as great. The system of ethics which has been taught these colored citizens by politicians renders it dangerous for white folks to have a cow, pig or fowl loose or astray. They are regarded contraband and unceremoniously confiscated by the colored brethren. This state of things has led to the settlement of the new lands of the Eastern counties, along the St. Johns and Indian rivers, where there is but little colored population. Here is where Northern people are locating, planting orange orchards and developing this land of fogs and flowers.

Nov. 29.—No sunshine yet. Mists and rain. Atmosphere so damp as to render clothing unwearable in the morning until it has been dried by the fire. Couldn't get my boots on this morning until I had dried them, although they had been in a closet out of a room in which there has been a fire daily. The clothes which cover the bed are damp and the air is chill until a pitch pine fire has dried them. Why write these facts? Because they are of importance to invalids and their advisers. This weather may be exceptional, but these exceptions deserve record that they may be taken into account. Had I supposed I should have to endure a fortnight of such discomfort as I have experienced since my arrival here I should have stopped in Northern Georgia and as inland as I could get.

Wednesday, Dec. 1st.—CRANDELL can abide this damp, depressing weather no longer, and, by the advice of a sensible physician here, has to-day sailed for New York. He ought never to have been advised to come hither. I see no reason to believe that this is the place for building up a depleted system. True, it is too soon for me to judge, but I should go to some other country to find "tonic in the air."

Col. CONCUSSION HARDEE said to-day, "I have lived here 30 years, and have seen no such continuous weather as this here at this season of the year."

Well, it is, perhaps, compensation to have made one's advent into this land, coincident with such atmospherical phenomena as the "oldest inhabitant" had never before seen.

Sunday, Dec. 5th.—I note a break in the clouds, and the first appearance of the sun. Imagine the delight of NOAH when the evidence that the flood was subsiding reached him! Imagine our delight that we are no longer to chew and swallow fog: for the wind is blowing from the South and West, and this, the weather-wise Floridian says, is significant of good weather.

Monday, Dec. 6.—We begin to find tonic in the air. The southwest breeze and the sunlight have dispelled the curtains of cloud and mist, and lifted out of a depressed physical and mental condition many an invalid here. It is only just to Florida to say that from what we hear of your experiences North during our cloudy and depressing weather, we ought to be content here. It is with no spirit of fault-finding that I have written what I have, but that your Northern readers may learn that the "Land of Flowers" is not constantly invested with a golden haze, relieved by royal, evergreen foliage, fragrant with ever-blooming flowers and vocal with the songs of birds—an Arcadia which yields unalloyed delights.

Judging by letters received from some of my Northern friends, such is their dream of Florida. Doubtless many come hither expecting to realize such a dream. If they do, they must be sorely disappointed. Nowhere is the law of compensation more rigidly administered. Much will be missed that was enjoyed at home, and something will be gained that was wanting there.

Let no young man come down here without money or a willingness to work at low wages, and work hard. I speak of healthy young men, some of whom have been here since my arrival and have returned whence they came. A company of four to six young mechanics came with us part of the way, bound inland to take up homesteads. With cash enough to live on until they can find work at paying wages, or until they can clear and improve lands and render them productive, there are certainly inducements for settlement here. But let no young man hope to get along here without cash or its equivalent, labor.

Let no young man, in poor health, come hither without money. If his coming is a last resort—if his case is hopeless at home, let him stay there and die there with his friends. If, however, he will come, let him not come alone—without some one to care for him. It is a "cold, cold world:" and while the people here are as sympathetic as anywhere, perhaps, yet no stranger's touch and tenderness are like those of home friends.

Too many come here too late. Every few days I hear of the death of those who would have lived as long, or longer, perhaps, had they staid at home. They come here to die among strangers, away from home friends, and to be carried home in coffins or to be buried here. True, it is not always easy to tell what is the wisest thing to do; but it is too frequently the case that too much is expected of the climate. This is a misfortune to those who cling to it as a last hope. Time is required to work changes that if successful must be radical: but the patient and his friends refuse the required large dose of "the tincture of time," or they have not the income necessary to secure it, and the work is only partially accomplished ere it is overthrown by their impatience or inability to wait. C. D. B.

The Poultry Yard.

WHICH BREED OF POULTRY EATS MOST.

My text will be found on page 348 of the RURAL NEW-YORKER for Nov. 27 in an article with the above heading, in which the writer, instead of answering the question he propounds, tells what "an Ohio poultry *dealer*" did. And then from the result of that gent's experiment, goes on to show that the Houdans are the most profitable fowls and the Leghorns next.

Now this experiment is of but little value, as we are not told at what time of the year it took place, or how long it continued, in fact all we are told is the amount fed and the amount of eggs laid, and the weight of each lot at the close. This trial is also unfair in selection of Brahmas and Cochins, as it is a notorious fact that the Dark Brahmas and Buff Cochins are the poorest layers of their respective kinds. Then again the Brahmas lay much larger eggs than either Houdans or Leghorns.

Besides this, his Brahma pullets were altogether too large and fat for the best results, seven pounds apiece for pullets! Heavy enough for fine cockerels. But the great injustice is in putting all the eggs at the same valuation, for it is well known that the Brahmas lay in the winter, and the others do not, and, with us at least, eggs bring two or three times as much in winter as they do in summer. Here, in the months of Dec., Jan., Feb. and March, eggs range from 25 to 50 cents, averaging, perhaps, 35 cents, while from April to Nov. they hardly average 12½ cents. Now as Leghorns and Houdans lay the bulk of their eggs between these two last named months, if you put their eggs at 15 cents per doz., it is all they will stand; on the other hand, the Brahma's eggs come in thick when "eggs are eggs," and will easily average 25 cents per doz. Saying nothing of the superior size of the Brahmas, we will see how the account stands:

Breed.	cost of feed.	val. of eggs.	val. of meat.	total value.	total profit.
Brahmas.	$9.20	$12.00	$14.00	$26.00	$17.40
Cochins.	10.15	12.33	14.16	26.49	16.34
Houdans.	4.35	9.50	9.10	18.64	14.29
Leghorns.	5.77	10.05	7.30	17.35	12 53

This gives the Brahmas fair play, and all will see how it stands.

But to answer the question at the head of this article. The breed which eats most is the most profitable, as a fowl is only a machine for turning grain into eggs, and the machine which changes the most makes the most profit. A correspondent of the Poultry World (I believe I. K. FELCH) gives the following: "One bushel of corn, or its equivalent in other food, will make nine pounds of live, or seven and one-tenth pounds of dressed poultry, or twelve and one-half pounds of eggs." My experience is in favor of this rule, that it makes no difference what breed you have, if you keep them properly you will get so much, in eggs or meat, for so much corn.

Liberal feeding means liberal profits; scanty feeding scanty profits, neglect means a loss of what you do feed them. As a rule, feed well or kill the flock. This should be the rule, for the results are as sure to follow, as day is to follow sunrise. In this country (North Wis.) the Light Brahma is the fowl, though the White Cochin is a favorite with many. A. M. VAN ARKEN.

Fort Howard, Wis.

Patrons of Husbandry.

MEETINGS OF STATE GRANGES.

DECEMBER is the month when most of the State Granges have their annual sessions, and their meetings rival in interest and importance those of the State Legislatures in January. This is particularly true of some of the Western States, where Granges number hundreds, if not thousands, and represent fully one-half of the adult population of the State. In our brief space, we can only make mention of these sessions with the more important facts developed.

Minnesota.—The State Grange met Dec. 14. About 300 delegates were present, and Master S. E. ADAMS presided. The number of Granges in the State is 546, with 18,000 members. It was voted to co-operate with the Minnesota Centennial Commission in seeing that the State is represented at the Philadelphia Exposition next summer. The new Executive Committee consists of E. R. Perkins, Minnetonka City; E. S. Dart, Owatonna; S. G. Canfield, Canfield; M. R. Sullivan, Rosemount.

Michigan.—State Grange met Dec. 14, Master J. J. WOODMAN presiding, with 200 delegates representing 611 Granges and 34,275 members. The Grange proposes to work some plaster beds and furnish to members at a slight advance over cost price, thus breaking up a monopoly which has been established in this important and necessary fertilizer. The following were elected as Executive Committee: Samuel Long, Kent; E. H. Jeffrey, Ingham; C. G. Luce, Branch.

Illinois.—State Grange met at Champaign, Dec. 14, Master GOLDEN presiding. The constitutional amendments were adopted. The following officers were elected: Master, A. Forsyth, of Isbel, Edgar County; Overseer, John Downen, of Industry, McDonough County; Lecturer, A. Golder, of Rock Falls, Whiteside County. Executive Committee, A. J. Aloxander, Gilman; R. N. Foster, Sterling; R. M. Guy, LeRoy; C. N. Anderson, Champaign.

Louisiana.—State Grange met Dec. 14. Fifty-nine delegates, representing 325 Granges and 17,000 members. The following officers were elected: Master, R. H. Ryland, of West Feliciana Parish; Overseer, E. T. Sellers; Lecturer, R. D. Bridger. Executive Committee: Thos. Rhinehart (holding over), E. H. Fay, long term; A. G. Carter, long term; Hardy Richardson, short term.

Indiana.—State Grange met in Indianapolis, Dec. 14, Master HENLEY JAMES presiding. During the past year the State Agency has handled over $300,000 worth of goods at an expense of 1½ per cent., and to the great advantage of Patrons or purchasers. The Grange Treasurer has now $25,000 surplus. The following officers were elected: Master, Henley James, of Marion; Overseer, Archibald Johnson, of Crawfordsville; Lecturer, B. F. Ham, of Pendleton; Chaplain, Mrs. Paulino Paddock, of Union Co. Executive Committee, Aaron Jones, St. Joseph Co.; W. D. Ward, Howard Co.; Nelson, Pegg, Randolph Co.; R. Mitchell, Gibson Co.; R. C. McWilliams, Parke Co.; A. B. Line, Franklin Co.

Pennsylvania.—State Grange met in Lancaster, Dec. 14, D. B. MANGER, presiding, and 800 delegates representing 630 Granges and 25,000 members. The State business Agent has saved members $20,000, at an expense of $2,700. Grounds have been procured for an Encampment for Patrons of Husbandry at the Centennial Exposition, and more than half the stock has been subscribed. Executive Committee: W. L. Archer, Washington Co.; W. W. Parker, Chester Co.; J. Beaty Henry, Mifflin Co.; Ezra Loomis, Bradford Co.

Iowa.—State Grange met Dec. 14, Master SMEDLEY presiding and delivering the annual address. Officers elected: Master, O. H. P. Buchanan, Henry Co.; Overseer, S. H. Bonham, Clark Co.; Lecturer, Julia A. Garretson, Henry Co.; Secretary, W. L. Carpenter, Blackhawk Co.

The Ohio Patrons have decided to make Lima, Allen Co., a distributing point, and have organized a Joint Stock Co., with $50,000 capital, for buildings and purchase of stores. Another Joint Stock Co. has been formed to establish a supply house in Cleveland, with the following incorporators: D. W. Westcott, Ashtabula; E. F. Ensign, Lake; D. R. Baldwin, Geauga; Joel Foot, Cuyahoga; W. Williamson, Portage; L. L. Sears, Lorain; Herbert Nettleton, Medina; O. P. Laird, Trumbull; M. D. Call Summit; R. P. Wolcott, Trumbull; W. W. Stevens, Ashtabula.

Delaware.—State Grange met at Milford, Dec. 14, JOHN J. ROSE presiding. The annual address will be printed in the Delaware Farmer, edited by Sister DILWORTH of Grange No. 9. The reports of Masters of Granges show the Order to be gaining ground in Delaware, notwithstanding much opposition. The next meeting of the State Grange is to be held at Newark, Del., the home of that good brother and earnest Patron, WM. DEAN.

New Jersey.—State Grange met at Camden, Dec. 14, Master WHITEHEAD presiding. The Secretary's report showed an increase of 840 in the last nine months, making the membership now 4,687. Fourteen Subordinate Granges have been organized in the counties, and there are 96 local organizations.

POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE P. OF H.

DESPITE numerous predictions of failure, the records show that the Patrons of Husbandry organization was never in so prosperous a condition as now. It certainly never exerted wider influence, and there are no signs that its success is to decrease. The producing classes of the country, and especially farmers and their wives, have been emancipated from the necessity for constant and laborious toil by the progress of practical agricultural science, and by the introduction of labor-saving machinery on the farm and in the household. For the first time in the one hundred years during which we have been an independent people, the farmers, planters, and farm laborers of the country have felt themselves prepared to enforce their ideas with regard to important public measures. The Grange, as the chief organized representative of the Farmer, will naturally take the lead in expressing his wishes; and it will do this not by favoring one or the other of the political parties, but by supporting measures and policies which appeal to the good sense of both. Education, temperance, economy in public affairs, the rebuke of extravagance and corruption, and the establishment of strict accountability of all officials to the People, are ideas in which the chief semi-official representative of the American People may naturally be supposed to feel a deep interest.

The Grange not only represents the largest body of men and women in the country, but is itself the most numerous and influential of American organizations, comprising about 27,000 separate Granges, while the Odd Fellows and Masons combined, number only 19,981 Lodges, or a little less than 20,000 in the world. In the number of its members the superiority of the Order of P. of H. is probably still greater than in its organizations. No doubt the older bodies possess more wealth, and it is probable that in this respect the superiority of Masons and Odd Fellows will always be manifest. The Grange is of modest and humble origin, which we trust its leading members will ever remember. Its glory lies in the fact that it represents the plain, working and producing classes of the country, and its strength is in the increasing necessity which the scattered rural population have felt for more intimate social relations and organizations for mutual instruction, interest and advantage.

The chief design of the Grange is to provide a means, and the only practical means yet discovered, for establishing live, interesting and social Farmers' Clubs in every town and neighborhood. That they have done this successfully where other appliances failed, demonstrates the advantage of giving these local clubs increased vitality and importance by combining them in State and National organizations. The subordinate Granges, controlled directly by the people in their respective neighborhoods, are the pivotal points on which Grange usefulness rests. State Granges subserve additional uses in arranging Agencies for sale and purchase of stock, implements and other articles, which subordinate Granges would not so well do. The frequent sessions of the National Grange are also important to devise plans for the good of the Order, and promoting its usefulness and prosperity. With this safe conservative limitations of its powers, continued growth of the Order will only mean the increase of social intercourse, refinement and intelligence among the rural population and need occasion no alarm, though the Order should speedily be made to include the entire producing interest of the country.

The farmers and planters of the United States have heretofore been too isolated for mutual improvement, or for the influence which so large a body of honest, industrious and increasingly intelligent men and women ought rightfully to exert. As the numerous advantages of the Grange system are made manifest, the prejudices, which have limited its progress will disappear. During the Centennial Year, on which we are now entering, there is every season to believe that its growth and importance will surpass anything it has heretofore attained.

GRANGE NOTES.

THEY have a Grange grist mill in successful operation at Camden, Ark.

WHITEBECK GRANGE, in Indiana, has purchased an acre and a half of land on which to build a Grange hall.

THE annual Convention of the N. H. State Grange, held at Manchester last week, was the largest ever held in that State. Nearly all of the 72 subordinate lodges were represented.

THE Maryland Patrons petition the Legislature to do away with the present system and substitute therefor private inspections of tobacco.

Domestic Economy.

A PLEA FOR PATCHWORK.

LONG years ago I became disgusted with the idea of spending so much time in making patchwork as had been done by some persons—myself, for instance—in times past. I thought it better to make comforts of new calico, without piecing, for winter, and have white spreads for outside, which would look better and cost less than the patchwork quilts upon which so much precious time had been wasted. I wish it to be understood that I had enough love of the beautiful to admire the many handsome quilt patterns, such as "Oak Leaf," "Flower Pot," "Peony," and others; but I thought that women could better employ their time in reading, or in making handsome rugs for the floor, or even the inevitable rag carpet. But a little change came over the spirit of my dreams, as I lay sick one day, when JULIA took up a patchwork quilt as it lay ready to be added to the cover, if necessary, and began looking over the pieces of worsted dresses which had been worn by ourselves and friends in days gone by.

"Here is a piece, mother, of Aunt HATTIE'S dress, and here is one of little MAY'S, which she wore only a few weeks before she died. And there, mother, is a piece of grandma's dress. How like her it looks! And here, mother, is a piece of one of yours, which you had as long ago as I can remember." And as she looked over the quilt, presenting piece after piece to my notice, and gave me so much pleasure, I thought, by all means, let the pieces be preserved which accumulate as we make dresses, and when one of the family takes the patchwork "fever" let it have its "run," and some day the patchwork quilt may bring as great comfort to other invalids as it has to me. But here is an idea. Few persons are liable to take such a fever when the utility of the work is so much questioned, and I see how difficult is this middle ground. I am almost ready to sanction the practice in vogue long ago, of training the little girls to patchwork, as we, of New England, were once trained just as effectually as we were drilled in the little old primer of the same locality. There is a great pleasure in calling to mind old friends and old associations and a real, *bona fide* "scrap-quilt" is certainly a good way of doing it; yea, even equal to old letters.

A. F.

GARMENTS MADE WATERPROOF.

A WRITER in an English paper says: By the way, speaking of waterproofs, I think I can give travelers a valuable hint or two. For many years I have worn India rubber waterproofs, but will buy no more, for I have learned that good Scottish tweed can be made entirely impervious to rain, and, moreover, I have learned to make it so; and, for the benefit of your readers, will give the recipe:

In a bucket of soft water put half a pound of sugar of lead and half a pound of powdered alum; stir this at intervals until it becomes clear; pour it off into another bucket and put the garment therein, and let it be in for twenty-four hours, and then hang it up to dry without wringing it. Two of my party—a lady and gentleman—have worn garments thus treated in the wildest storms of wind and rain without getting wet. The rain hangs upon the cloth in globules. In short, they are really waterproof. The gentleman, a fortnight ago, walked nine miles in a storm of rain and wind, such as you rarely see in the South; and, when he slipped off his overcoat, his underwear was as dry as when he put them on. This, I think, is a secret worth knowing, for cloth, if it can be made to keep out wet, is, in every way, better than what we know as most waterproofs.

HOW TO CARVE AND HELP AT TABLE.

IT is considered an accomplishment for a lady to know how to carve well at her own table. It is not proper to stand in carving. The carving knife should be sharp and thin.

To carve fowls (which should always be laid with the breast uppermost), place the fork in the breast, and take off the wings and legs without turning the fowl; then cut out the merry thought, cut slices from the breast, take out the collar bone, cut off the side pieces, and then cut the carcass in two. Divide the joints in the leg of a turkey.

In carving a sirloin, cut thin slices from the side next to you (it must be put on the dish with the tenderloin underneath) then turn it, and cut from the tenderloin. Help the guests to both kinds.

In carving a leg of mutton or ham, begin by cutting across the middle to the bone. Cut a tongue across and not lengthwise, and help from the middle part.

Carve a fore-quarter of lamb by separating the shoulder from the ribs, and then divide the ribs.

To carve a loin of veal, begin at the smaller end and separate the ribs. Help each one to a piece of kidney and its fat. Carve pork and mutton in the same way.

To carve a fillet of veal, begin at the top and help to the dressing with each slice. In a breast of veal, separate the breast and brisket and then cut them up, asking which part is preferred.

In carving a pig, it is customary to divide it and take off the head before it comes to the table, as, to many persons, the head is revolting. Cut off the limbs and divide the ribs.

In carving venison, make a deep incision down to the bone to let out the juices, and turn the broad end toward you, cutting deep in thin slices.

For a saddle of venison, cut from the tail toward the other end, on each side, in thin slices. Warm plates are very necessary with venison and mutton, and in winter are desirable for all meats.

HOME-MADE CREAM CANDY.

To a coffee-cupful of white sugar add two tablespoonfuls of water to dissolve it and boil, without stirring, in a bright tin pan until it will crisp in water like molasses candy. Just before it is done put in a teaspoonful of extract of vanilla, or lemon, or peppermint essence, and a quarter of a teaspoonful of cream tartar. When done, pour out into a buttered pan, and when cool enough to handle, work it as you would molasses candy until it is perfectly white, then stretch and lay on a marble slab or molding-board; with a chopping knife cut into mouthfuls and lay it on buttered paper on a plate. When children want candy, by all means let them have that made at home, and they will not eat plaster of paris, chalk, starch and poisonous compounds, which derange their stomach and ruin their teeth.

SELECTED RECIPES.

To Cook Turnips.—Wash quite clean, do not peel or cut or soak. Boil them whole in their "jackets." When, by trying them with a fork, they are found quite tender, take them up, peel them, press moderately, and mash with butter.

To Roast Birds.—Take larks, partridges, snipe or any other small birds; cover them with sage leaves, fresh if possible, then envelop them in slices of bacon, put them down to a good fire and baste with butter; sprinkle a little salt and serve in the gravy.

Cream Tapioca.—Soak two-thirds of a cup of tapioca in warm water till soft; boil a quart of milk with the yolks of three eggs, well beaten, and two-thirds of a cup of sugar. Boil till thick, stirring carefully; beat the whites of the eggs with two-thirds of a cup of white sugar, flavor and pour on top of the pudding. Set in the oven to brown.

To Clean Glass.—This mode of cleaning fine glass gives it a great brilliancy. Take fine powdered indigo, dip into it a moistened linen rag, smear over the glass with it, and then wipe it off with a perfectly dry cloth. As a substitute for this, fine sifted ashes, applied by a rag dipped in spirits, will answer just as well. Spanish white is apt to make the glass rough and injure it.

To Make Piccalilli.—To half a bushel nicely chopped tomatoes, which must be squeezed dry, add two dozen onions chopped fine, one dozen green peppers chopped, one box of ground mustard, one large root of grated horseradish, nearly a pint of salt, four tablespoonfuls ground cloves, four of allspice. Mix thoroughly in a stone jar and cover with vinegar, making a hole in the center to let the vinegar to the bottom.

Scotch Broth.—Take four pounds of mutton—part of the leg is best; add one gallon water, one teacupful of pearl barley, two carrots sliced, two turnips sliced, two onions cut small, three carrots grated, the white part of a large cabbage chopped very small, and a small quantity of parsley. Season with pepper and salt. Let this boil very gently for three hours and a half, and at the dinner table it will, most likely, by all who are fond of soups, be pronounced excellent.

To Clean Garments.—Wet a sponge in warm water, and squeeze it out till dry; then sponge one place after another until all the garment has been cleansed. All the dust and soil will be absorbed by the sponge. But if the garment is very much soiled, wash the sponge in clean water several times, squeezing it as dry as possible by wrapping it in a piece of black alpaca. This method of cleansing is more effectual than a hand-brush, and many spots will disappear by the use of pure water

Apple Bread.—Weigh one pound of fresh juicy apples; peel, core and stew them into a pulp, being careful to use a porcelain kettle or a stone jar, placed inside a kettle of boiling water; mix the pulp with two pounds of the best flour; put in the same quantity of yeast you would use for common bread, and as much water as will make it a fine, smooth dough; put it into a pan and place in a warm place to rise, and let it remain for twelve hours at least. Form it into rather long-shaped loaves, and bake in a quick oven.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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G. A. C. BARNETT, Publisher.

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THE CENTENNIAL YEAR'S RURAL.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER this week enters upon its Twenty-Seventh Year under very favorable auspices—with better prospects than for many a twelve-month. We trust the new and neat dress in which it appears will please its thousands of readers all over the country. The clear and yet compact type and their accompaniments give assurance that the fine mechanical execution for which the RURAL has always been noted will be fully maintained, while we intend that its CONTENTS shall vie with, if not excel, its APPEARANCE. In these two great essentials of journalism we hope to render the performance much better than the promise, and think other improvements tending to increase the value and attractiveness of the paper will be introduced in due season. Indeed, we have resolved that the RURAL NEW-YORKER shall be worthy of the Centennial Year—to spare neither labor nor expense to render it the leader in Agricultural, Horticultural and Home "Progress and Improvement."

These utterances are made in no boasting or selfish spirit, but with an earnest desire and determination to EXCEL in efforts to advance the best interests of the Producing Classes, and especially of the one for whose prosperity we mainly labor—that of the Rural Population. And, in language used on a similar occasion, though the marked success of this journal may have created envy and jealousy in the breasts of some, we extend kindly greetings to all and bear malice toward none. As there is "ample room and verge enough" for all who desire to promote the good cause in which we are engaged, each and every honorable contemporary has our best wishes, and may the most deserving receive the most abundant reward.

Those familiar with the RURAL—and many herein addressed have taken it during the entire twenty-six years of its publication—need not be told of its character and objects. They know that it has ever manifested the true spirit of its inspiring Motto, "*Excelsior*," and laudable objects—among which the improvement of the Mind and the Soil has been paramount. To these old friends, therefore, we make no promises, feeling confident that they will take our past record and action as an assurance of future rectitude—that we shall continue to uphold the Right and condemn the Wrong under any and all circumstances, and do our best to interest, instruct and elevate the upper ten hundred thousand—the Producing Classes of the Continent.

To the thousands—we trust it may be tens of thousands—of comparative strangers whom we now address for the first time as regular subscribers, we can only say that the RURAL NEW-YORKER will, during the year upon which it now enters, endeavor to more than maintain its reputation as the Leading and Best Weekly of its Class in America. If it fails of this, it will not be for want of earnest and honest efforts, aided by long experience, the best talent in the land, and increased facilities for furnishing the Standard Authority on the various practical, scientific, and other useful subjects to which its pages are devoted. And now to what we mean—Business.

POSTAGE ON SEEDS AND PLANTS.

WHEN a Committee of our Seedsmen and Dealers in Plants called upon the Postmaster-General, a few days since, and asked that the old rates of postage be restored on seeds, cuttings and plants, they were gravely informed that the receipts of the Department were several millions of dollars less than its expenses, and under the circumstances it would be useless to ask Congress to make the change or in any manner reduce present rates. The why or wherefore of the enormous deficit in the postal receipts appears to have been passed over in silence, no explanation being made or attempted. But during the interview referred to the P. M. G. informed the Committee (at least it is so reported) that the Department had to pay six hundred and sixty dollars per ton for carrying mail matter from New York to San Francisco, Cal., or three times as much as is charged individuals for transporting first-class freight over the same routes. This remark furnishes the key to the deficit in receipts, less expenses; and just so long as contractors for carrying the mails can charge their own prices for service, just so long will the people be burdened with high rates of postage and inefficient means of transportation, ending in an annual appropriation of five to ten millions of dollars to make up a deficit.

If the Postal Department is not self-supporting, it is not because the rates of postage are low, or for any lack of matter passing through the mails, but on account of paying exorbitant prices for transportation. Economy must begin here; then all difficulties in regard to deficits would soon end. The lobbying to obtain mail contracts, and the anxiety which contractors exhibit whenever a new route is opened or an old one to be re-let, shows conclusively that money is made in carrying the mails.

The residents of every country, village and hamlet are interested in this subject of cheap postage rates on seeds, plants and cuttings, and we hope they will speak out in tones that cannot be mistaken, demanding that their wishes in this matter shall be duly considered. The attempt to exclude plants, seeds and similar useful articles from the mails is a direct insult to our farmers, horticulturists and gardeners, and we hope they will have independent manliness enough to resent it in a fitting manner, even to demanding that every traitor to their interests now in Congress shall stay at home hereafter. We call upon them to watch the votes taken in Congress upon this subject, and to *spot* every man who lends himself to express companies and other monopolies.

NORTHWESTERN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of this Association will be held at Fort Atkinson, Wis., Feb. 8th, 9th and 10th. The following programme of proceedings has been issued:

Tuesday, 3 P. M.—Organization of Convention, committee appointments, &c.

7 P. M.—Address of welcome, by H. B. Willard, Esq., Fort Atkinson, Wis. Response by Dr. R. R. Stone, Elgin, Ill. Annual address by President Faville.

Condition and Prospects of Dairying in the Northwest—J. R. McLean, President Illinois Dairymen's Association, Elgin, Ill.; Hon. Hiram Smith, President Wisconsin Dairymen's Association, Sheboygan Falls, Wis.

Wednesday, A. M.—Do the Laws of the Northwest Furnish Adequate Protection Against the Adulteration of Milk?—W. H. Stewart, Hebron, Ill.

How far should Dairymen Combine Other Branches of Agriculture with this Specialty?—H. C. Drake, Lake Mills, Wis.; Robert Stewart, Hebron, Ill.

The Best Method of Keeping up the Supply of Milk Through the Summer Drought—John Porter, Mazomanie, Wis.; W. C. White, Kenosha, Wis.

P. M.—Butter Making—from Milking to Selling—J. J. Goodwin, Beloit, Wis.; I. Boles, Marengo, Ill.

Cheese Making—from Milking to Selling—D. E. Wood, Huntley, Ill.; S. Littlefield, Plymouth, Wis.

7 P. M.—Public address.

Thursday, A. M.—Is it Best for the Dairy Interest to Manufacture Butter and Cheese from the Same Milk?—L. H. Wanzer, Elgin, Ill.; B. R. Hinckley, Oconomowoc, Wis.

Where, When and How to Sell Dairy Products; What Markets to Look to; Prompt Sales or Holding; Selling at Home at Boards of Trade or Forwarding on Commission—D. R. Stone, Elgin, Ill.; C. H. Wilder, Evansville, Wis.

Afternoon—Election of officers.

Annual Report of Secretary—G. E. Morrow, Chicago, Ill.

Essay by Mrs. Frances C. Jones, Fort Atkinson, Wis.

General discussion upon the proper management of the dairy and dairy farm.

Evening—Dairy sociable, with banquet, speeches, toasts, music, &c.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Our New Dress—More Reading Matter.—The RURAL's new type for the practical departments is smaller, or more compact, than that formerly used, enabling us to give a much larger amount of reading matter in the same space, and yet is large and clear enough for everybody to read easily. This type makes more work for editors and printers, and consequently greater expense, but we think readers will not object, and so long as they are satisfied, we ought not to complain. The fact is, to change the subject, we—all hands—have been so hurried in getting out this number of the RURAL, that some things are a little mixed, and we havn't done as well as we expected: but as we are to issue fifty-two more numbers this year, we will fall back on good old RIP VAN WINKLE'S saying, "We won't count, this time."

An Excellent Suggestion.—The New York Centennial Commissioners propose that some qualified person in each County of the State should be selected to write the local history of the same for the last one hundred years, and that the whole be published by the State board in good form for preservation and circulation. Such a work, carefully prepared, would have an extensive sale, not only among residents of New York but natives of this State scattered over the West and South. Half the money spent in local celebrations and fire-works would more than suffice to prepare such a volume, and once issued it could not fail to repay all expenses. Such a history would in many Counties reach back to the earliest settlement. It would preserve for posterity the names of early notabilities, and would become more interesting and more valuable with increasing time. The published histories of the country necessarily give little insight into merely local matters, while some of these will be of greatest interest to people who live one hundred years hence. It is to be hoped that this idea will be practically acted upon in every county in the State, and it is adapted to other latitudes quite as well as to New York. The nearest approach to this idea is a book entitled, "The Annals of Kansas," recently published. Almost all the States have local histories, which, though not quite so exciting as those of Kansas, will be read with little less interest.

Doing a small and Safe Business.—There is some sense in the following paragraph from the Boston News. The unhealthy expansion of business beyond the means of parties conducting it has been rather encouraged by banks which distrusted business men of humbler pretensions:

"For some years it has been an unsolved problem whether a small dealer could live in competition with the great houses which threatened to absorb everything. Banks and importers have helped this on. The former have usually done the bidding of these great merchants without a question. Paper presented by them, or with their names upon it, has been the first to be received, even though humble tradesmen have thereby been compelled to forego their small requests. In a stringent market the small traders could get little accommodation, and having a small account have not been much regarded. Now that the day of trial is upon us, it is being discovered that the humble tradesmen are quite as strong to bear it as their mighty neighbors, having fewer liabilities in proportion to capital in trade. Banks are likely to find occasion for a re-adjustment of bank nomenclature in describing the relative strength of parties. We venture the opinion that a million dollars of discounts in small notes of so-called weak parties, engaged in a legitimate business, will show a smaller percentage of losses than the same amount invested in the paper of commercial giants. And of this commercial trial must come a re-adjustment of business relations, which will offer some chance for tradesmen of moderate means and ambition, who will not scatter debts over a continent and credits in both hemispheres."

Don't Allow Smoking.—We mean around barns and farm buildings. Most people who smoke will agree with us that it would be better if the practice could be abandoned entirely; but every farmer can at least make a rule that no smoking should be allowed in, or near buildings, straw and hay stacks and barn yards. It will need a good deal of vigilance to enforce such a regulation, but it is absolutely necessary if property is to be reasonably safe from the destructive element. More than half the fires in rural districts originate in careless use of tobacco, often by hired men or tramps roaming about the country and seeking a night's lodging. Occasionally the burning building makes the funeral pyre of its originator—a result which does not seem so horrible to the man whose buildings are burned, as it naturally should.

The Queen's Fat Stock.—The annual Christmas sale of fat stock belonging to Queen VICTORIA and fed upon the royal demesne, was held at the Prince Consort's Shaw Farm, Windsor Park, the other day. There was a large attendance of buyers. The sale consisted of forty-two very fine Short-Horn and polled Scotch oxen and heifers, which realized from £30 to £53; 400 fine wether sheep, the South Downs fetching from £3 11s. to £5 4s., the Cheviots £2 19s. to £3 7s., and lambs £2 19s. to £5 2s. 6d.; and 50 bacon hogs and porkers, the white Prince Consort's breed bringing £14 5s. to £15, and the bacon hogs £5 to £15 5s.

Thanks to Press and People—For their kind expressions and generous acts in behalf of the RURAL, of which we daily receive manifestations. Our contemporaries, near and distant, have always appreciated this journal, but their recent notices indicate continued faith in its tenets and management—for which we, as in duty bound, tender grateful acknowledgment. And to the People, especially our Agent-Friends, we are greatly indebted for their successful exercise of influence in support of the Old RURAL. The manner or style of their clubbing is most effective, and if they will keep on we think our circulation will be greatly augmented during the early weeks of the Centennial Year—the year which is, as many believe, to restore prosperity to the Republic and place it on a sure and enduring foundation.

Write for Your Paper!—Among the good resolutions, common at this date, we trust RURAL readers will include this one—to write for their papers. We propose to do the best possible towards instructing RURAL readers on practical and farm topics, but the old saying is a true one that nobody is as wise as everybody. Therefore if you know some fact of interest or value, jot it down and send it along—no matter if it isn't put in good shape; if that the facts are there it will be acceptable, and RURAL readers shall have the benefit of it. It is the Editor's business and duty to put things in proper shape, and this is what we are here for. We have great reverence for facts from any source, and if our ideas will not harmonize with facts, we modify them very promptly.

National Grange Proceedings.—The full and official proceedings of the Ninth Session of the National Grange, recently held in Louisville, has been issued in a neat book of more than 200 pages. Each Subordinate Grange is to be supplied with one, and we presume that an additional edition will be provided for those who wish to purchase, as many Patrons do. The exceedingly prompt publication of these proceedings reflects great credit on the reporters, and especially upon Secretary O. H. KELLEY, whose energy pushed it to completion.

The N. Y. Horticultural Association Society—Will hold meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, in Room 24 Cooper Institute building. An exhibition of novelties is expected at each meeting, and suitable arrangements will be provided therefor. More extensive general displays will be made in spring and fall. It is to be hoped that the gardeners and florists in and around New York City will take hold of this enterprise with zeal and make it a success.

A Centennial Printing Press.—The old hand-press on which BENJAMIN FRANKLIN worked one hundred and fifty years ago is to be placed beside one of Hoe & Co.'s lightning presses at the Centennial Exhibition. The press found its way to England, whence it was brought about thirty years ago by JOHN B. MURRAY and deposited in the model room of the U. S. Patent Office at Washington.

How to Remit.—In ordering the RURAL recollect that all remittances by P. O. Money Order, Registered Letter or Draft may be sent *at our risk*. By complying with this suggestion all will be safe, and we shall be spared the mortification of being accused of dishonesty, as we are occasionally by careless people who don't know how to remit.

RURAL BREVITIES.

ALL aboard of the good ship RURAL for 1876!

A NEW and dangerous cattle disease has appeared in Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM AYRAULT of Livingston Co., N. Y., has bought 350,000 lbs. of wool this season.

FIVE million dollars' worth of cotton was wasted this year for want of picking. Bad weather was the cause.

How many readers of the RURAL have grapes for daily use about these days? Those who have not, should prepare for planting some of the long-keeping varieties.

A TWO-YEAR-OLD Clydesdale filly was recently sold by Mr. CUNNINGHAM of Whitcairn, Scotland, for 1,000 guineas. This is better than the average price of fast horses.

THE trotting stallion Rhode Island, formerly owned by ex-GOV. SPRAGUE, and sold only two or three weeks ago for $6,000, is dead. The losing purchaser was Lieut.-Gov. SESSON.

WE need a Plimsoll in this country. The Chicago Inter-Ocean shows that there are thousands of unseaworthy traps afloat in the lakes. Congress should be memorialized on the subject.

DON'T FORGET, that any *Subscriber* to the RURAL can send the paper *as a Present* to any address at the lowest club rates—only $2.15 per copy, including postage. Many are availing themselves of this offer. The advantage of such a present is that it renews itself every week, creating friendly remembrances of the giver fifty-three times in the year. This is something worth thinking about and acting upon.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

BRIDE & CO.,

769 Broadway, N. Y., want agents for the best money-making article in the world. Send for particulars.

"A Slight Cold," Coughs.—Few are aware of the importance of checking a cough or "SLIGHT COLD," which would yield to a mild remedy, if neglected, often attacks the lungs. "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" give sure and almost immediate relief.

THE OLD MAN'S GREETING.

BY JOY ALLISON.

So ye are back, Old Winter!
Reckon there's something wrong,
For I aint so glad to see ye
As when I was young and strong.

Ye see I'm gettin' on in years—
Stiff in the j'lints and slow;
Blood don't leap so lively
As forty year ago.

T'winges o' pain beset me,
Tetches o' rheumatis—
They say I must expect such things,
I don't know how that is.

But I like my nook by the fireside,
And my pipe, and my easy chair,—
And I'm glad to think o' the cellar
Where there's food enough and to spare.

And I'm glad to think o' the wood-house
Where the fuel is piled so high,
And the mows of hay for the cattle,—
'Tis well the barn is nigh.

There's nothin' lackin' for comfort,—
I've looked out for ye, in my plan!
For my dear old wife will tell ye
I was allus a forehanded man.

But in my day I've seen enough
O' storms;—and I'm glad to know
In the land to which I'm hastening
Will be neither cold nor snow.

Our Story-Teller.

THE NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

BY MARY D. BRINE.

"If I go, Millie Harrington, do not look in me for any such weaknesses as have been ere this exhibited by your previous score of admirers. I, at least, have the will and ability to abide by my decision. No woman on earth can make a fool of Rafe Somers!"

Millie raised her head with icy hatred. "If you go? Pray, sir, do not trouble yourself to decide yes or no in so small a matter. Allow me to decide for you," crossing the room and touching the bell with steady hand. "John, Mr. Somers desires his hat and overcoat; have them at his service immediately."

The man withdrew, inwardly deciding that "there was somethin' up 'tween miss and her handsome lover, kase he hadn't seen sich high and lofty looks afore, he knew."

Meanwhile Rafe and Millie stood before each other proudly defiant, betraying nothing of the emotion which, truth to tell, forced each heart to quiver with pain. Never had Millie looked so beautiful, thought Rafe, and never had he cared for her more than at that moment of final parting. Indignation had flushed her usually pale face and given a sparkle to the dark eyes that only increased their beauty. She had drawn her stately figure to its full height, and Rafe had never seen his betrothed so regally attractive before. He had no idea that his own face appealed as strongly to her heart as hers had to his own. But she saw, with her quick woman's heart and eyes, how noble a specimen of manhood her own words had dismissed from her side forever. O! tender blue eyes, that had questioned her dark ones so many, many times! O! proud and manly heart that had laid itself at her dainty feet so long ago and worshipped till her own had stooped to meet its love. What of the days, weeks, months, and years to come, with only silence between the two! But pride was busy with its small though deadly venom, and into each heart the poison sank deeply while, with mute lips and flushed faces, the two who had been lovers turned apart from each other as the servant entered, and bowed a last adieu.

Rafe, while putting on his overcoat in the hall, caught the light humming of the opera air which escaped Millie's lips for that very purpose. "Cry before he had left the house?" said she to her grieving heart; "never! he must learn that a woman can scorn weakness as well as the other sex, and I'm weary and worn out with his unjust questioning of my will!" Then Millie walked to the window and drummed on the panes with assumed carelessness until Rafe, stung to the quick with her heartlessness, slammed the door and rushed down the stoop and out of sight in the darkness.

No more humming of opera airs then—no more idle drumming on the window pane for Millie after that. *Au contraire*, the twilight shadows, gathering so rapidly, folded the prostrate figure that lay sobbing on the sofa more closely in the mantle of darkness, and the proud eyes so lately scorning tears, were glad to give them vent at last, now that the friendly shadows kept her secret safe. In an hour she and Rafe were to have gone together to the Opera to hear the latest new star—and Millie's passion was music. Well, "she would not allow her enjoyment to be interfered with through trouble with Rafe Somers," was her indignant thought. "Gardy" would escort her of course, and Rafe might offer his services where it should please him.

"Gardy," the mild-eyed, placid, middle aged gentleman who had shouldered the responsibility of Millie and her fortune solely out of love for the orphan's parents, was sitting quietly at rest with his sister in the cosy up-stairs sitting-room, and enjoying to the full his fragrant Havana, when the disturber of his peace, flushed and still indignant, entered the room. "Mr. Somers will be absent this evening, Gardy; you will take me to the Opera House."

"Bless my soul! Put on my boots and take a fresh drive just to hear Singnor Bawlina or Madame Squallina upset the nerves of respectable people, myself in the bargain?" exclaimed Mr. Rand, with elevated brows. "And pray why must a quarrel between two lovers interfere with my comfort, Miss Crimsoncheeks, eh?"

Expostulation, however, availed nothing, and to the opera they went, Millie and her guardian, and with them also a gentleman who called upon Millie just as they were leaving the house, and at her invitation entered the house with them.

And what of Rafe Somers meanwhile? He, too, remembered the opera, and, notwithstanding his sore heart, he would attend it, as he knew Millie would, and she should see as much composure on his part as on hers. Very silly, no doubt, all his pride and obstinacy, but quite the fashion when lovers are silly enough to quarrel. And Millie and Rafe were like all the rest of mankind or womankind. What right had she to go where she was not willing her betrothed should discover her? And yet he had seen her several times conversing with a strange gentleman on the steps of a strange house in an unfrequented part of the city. Aye, worse, he had seen Millie Harrington enter the art rooms of Straus' on Broadway, in company with that same man. And he had been too far off to speak or attract her attention, and it was doubtful, he fancied, if she would have recognized him willingly if he had been near enough for that purpose. He considered that his betrothal with Miss Harrington gave him every right to her confidence, and yet this one thing she withheld from him, for no amount of argument would compel her to deal frankly with him.

"No, Rafe," she would answer. "I do not question you, and you must not question me. Some day I think you'll be ashamed of yourself, but until then I am ashamed for you!" And that was all he could get from the haughty lady love he worshipped so truly. But that Millie had loved him, he felt sure, and recalled her many acts of tenderness and love with such a weary pain in his heart as almost to bring tears to the proud blue eyes, unmanly tho' it might be. But he had said that "if he left her in anger he would never return," and nothing should cause him to retract his word. So he dressed for the opera and sat all the evening before Millie's box, growing more and more jealous as he watched the beautiful face and noticed her kindly manner toward the stranger who sat beside her. Millie did not fail to see him, although never had she seemed so careless and light-hearted. "Utterly heartless!" decided Rafe, indignantly, while Millie knew herself to be more wretched and sick of heart than ever before in her young life.

So the evening wore on, and when the curtain fell for the last time Millie gladly arose and left the house, only longing for the solitude of her own room and the relief of tears. Days passed. Mr. Rand questioned his ward as to the cause of the misunderstanding between herself and Rafe. But, to his surprise, she refused to explain, and retired behind that haughtiness she could don so well, until even her loved guardian was awed into silence. "He couldn't pretend to follow all Millie's queer whims," was his reply when the dear old sister, who played the role of propriety and matronized the small family, expostulated with him for allowing the girl so much liberty. "Let her alone, my dear," he would reply; "the child is well enough if you don't vex her. And bless me! if I know what to do when she lifts that grand head of hers and looks at me as if she were the queen and I a refractory subject."

So Millie was allowed to have her own way, and after one more mysterious visit to the strange house she ceased to offend in that way, and went out accompanied only by her guardian's sister.

New Year's day was drawing near, and Rafe Somers dreaded it for the first time since his first experience of that day's pleasure. He had spent the last New Year's day mostly with Millie, returning to her side from his numerous calls, and gladdening heart and eyes with her presence for a happy time before starting on another round of calls, which propriety demanded he should make. And he knew just how she would look this time. Like a young queen in her royal robes, receiving graciously her subjects, and dispensing her sweet smiles alike to each who were privileged to call upon her. And *he*, the once dearly loved friend and betrothed—he who had received the secret pressure of her small hand, and read his own sweet welcome in her dark eyes—must remain outside of her presence forever more, and see her only in his dreams. No words could tell how he longed to go again to her side and fold his arms about her. But "no woman shall make a fool of Rafe Somers!" his lips had said, defiantly. And should he humble himself after all?—not he! So he bore the cruel pain which fed on his heart each day, nor dreamed that even pride could not quite conceal his grief from curious eyes. There were whispers among mutual friends concerning the broken engagement. The pledge of betrothal was missing from Millie's white finger. And from Rafe's chain the little golden circlet his clumsy finger could not squeeze through, had suddenly departed. But no tongue dared question either the lady or gentlemen of the matter, and wider and wider in silence grew the gulf between the two hearts.

Christmas Day had passed. Millie's presents as usual from friends and admirers, were numerous and beautiful. But she missed one whose love had never failed her at this season, and grew weary ere half the bright day had gone. Rafe, for something better to do, he said to himself, went about the streets and hunted up forlorn little beggars, gladdening their half-frozen hearts with some toy or cake or useful article, longing with heart and soul meanwhile, that he might dare send something to Millie, even though his name were withheld. But the day slipped away and the gulf of grief and pride had narrowed not one whit.

Not one word had passed between the two, even of recognition, since the last angry words of their parting, and Rafe had refrained from passing the house lest it should be more than he could bear if her face were seen at the window pane. But two days after Christmas some impulse beyond his powers of resistance led him by the house which held all his thoughts. Closed blinds at the windows of Millie's room! What does it mean? And sawdust sprinkled thickly over the stones in the street before her door! And even the bell knob fastened, that its ring might not disturb the house! Rafe's heart sank with a sudden fear. O! what had happened to his love!—what had happened to her against whom his heart had no more resentment? A doctor's buggy stood before the house, and as Rafe paused the doctor himself came gravely down the steps. Impulsively Rafe touched his arm. "Tell me, sir, who is ill at Mr. Rands'. They are friends of mine and I have not seen the family for a long time!"

"Miss Harrington is exceedingly and dangerously ill," came the reply, while the doctor's quick eyes scanned the young man's eager face, and his prompt reasoning formed its own conclusion. "Miss Harrington is suffering as much from mental distress as physical pain," he continued gravely, "and in her delirium she calls a name which is evidently dear to her. Doctors are compelled to hear secrets occasionally, and from all I can learn Miss Harrington has been greatly suffering in her mind for some time past. If you are a friend of the family, sir, perhaps you can assist her recovery. Pardon me, but I do not think it necessary to speak plainer."

"A lover's quarrel; I knew it all along, and that young fellow, if I mistake not, is the lover himself! Whew! what geese young folks are to be sure!" Thus thought the doctor driving rapidly towards his next patient, while Rafe, bewildered, ashamed, and wild with

SEASONABLE SCENE.—A MISHAP ON THE ICE.

fear for MILLIE'S life, forgot his pride, his "ability to abide by his decision, and all the arguments of right on his side with which he had thus far encouraged himself in his proud obstinacy, and hurried down the basement steps to ask more particularly about MILLIE'S condition.

"Sure, Mister RAFE, an' it's a long time since we seen yees here. Is it out of town ye've been?" questioned the buxom Irish maid on opening the door.

"Never mind, never mind where I've been," was his hasty reply; "only tell me will Miss MILLIE live!"

The girl's honest eyes filled with tears. "It's powerful weak she is, sir, and no one allowed to see her only mesand Mr. RAND. Sure, I can't tell at all whether it will be that she will die or not. The Vargin save her, sir! Shall I tell Mr. RAND you would like to see him?"

RAFE waited impatiently until the message came for him to walk up stairs and Mr. RAND would meet him in the parlor. The familiar parlor! RAFE looked about him sadly. There was the piano where he and MILLIE had sung together hour after hour, and he could almost see the white fingers dashing over the keys now, dropping melody wherever they touched. Every nook in the stately room was hallowed with the memory of MILLIE'S presence. So many glad evenings he had spent with her there! And ah, me! that last sad sad evening—could RAFE now wipe it from his memory? Then she had risen and faced his angry eyes with her own, dark, indignant glance. Cruel words had escaped the lips of both, and although it must be confessed the right was a little on RAFE'S side of the question, yet he had been exacting and unjustly suspicious, even when MILLIE promised a some-time explanation. "I do not choose to be questioned, sir!" came proudly from her lips, and repeated itself in the flash of her eyes and the uplifting of her stately head. And then followed his threat to leave her, with the result we have already seen. Oh! how RAFE'S heart ached. Here he stood again despite his decision, despite his pride, his obstinacy and all his anger—only longing to go to her bedside and take the dear head on his breast once more and kiss the fever-stricken lips that called his name. But the entrance of Mr. RAND aroused him from thoughts fast unmanning him.

A quiet hand-shake, and after the gentlemen were seated RAFE learned how MILLIE had wearied of her Christmas day, growing strangely feverish towards night, and on the following day had fainted, the doctor said, from mental trouble and physical exhaustion. The exact nature of the disease could hardly be known, but she was constantly delirious, and her cries for "RAFE!" "RAFE!" were pitiful to hear.

"And why was I not sent for," demanded RAFE, excitedly.

"Simply because if MILLIE had been conscious we knew she would not have seen you, and to disobey her will when she is powerless to prevent it is not my intention, young man. You have quarreled with my ward—why—how I know not, nor shall I question you; but whether she or you be in the wrong, from her lips only, if the summons come at all, will you be called to her side."

Mr. RAND spoke gravely, and RAFE was silent before him for a moment. Then—"Mr. RAND, will, will MILLIE live? If so, as soon as she is able, will you plead for me with her? I acknowledge my fault, and my love for her has never left my heart."

"If it be possible, RAFE SOMERS, I will do what you ask."

RAFE continued, "But if—if MILLIE should—Oh, Mr. RAND! if MILLIE should not recover, I pray you have a little pity and let me kiss her just once for the last time. If she should be unconscious, my kiss cannot offend her; and Oh! it will be all of comfort left me in the world!"

Tears filled the guardian's eyes and he grasped RAFE'S hand. "Be calm, my boy; all may yet be well; but we have been very anxious those two days past. I fear the New year's Day will have but a sorry dawning for this family. God grant I may be mistaken!"

Then RAFE, with one despairing glance around the room, went silently out into the busy street where mankind guessed nothing of his repentant, grieving heart; and Mr. RAND crept softly up to relieve for awhile his sister's watch beside MILLIE.

New Year's eve—a lonely, starry night!—and from a thousand homes glad, cheerful lights were flashing, and life within seemed over-flowing with comfort and joy.

But Mr. RAND'S house was dark and cheerless, and the dim light that shone from MILLIE'S room could scarcely pierce the drawn curtains in its feebleness.

RAFE sat alone in his room. Down stairs the boarding-house—his temporary home—was alive and ripe rich music and mirth, which his sad heart forbade his sharing. Suddenly a messenger brought the hastily-scribbled words,

"Come at once! E. RAND."

Out through the silent streets, past the merry homes, he hurried, until at last the darkened house of sickness was reached, and Mr. RAND himself admitted RAFE SOMERS. Then up to the darkened room, where the doctor and Miss RAND waited and watched with grave faces beside the unconcious girl whose face was whiter than the snowy pillow beneath her head. RAFE stood one instant in mute despair.

"Say your farewell, my dear boy, and may GOD comfort you to-night," whispered Mr. RAND, laying his hand tenderly upon RAFE'S shoulder.

RAFE was beside MILLIE instantly, and his lips sought her brow, the closed eyes, and the still white mouth with a love that heeded not the presence of others. Tears he did not, even for his manhood's sake, try to restrain, fell from his eyes and wet the dark tresses that lay all unbound over the pillow. O! if his last words to her had been aught but those of anger! If his last look at her dear face had been born of love rather than of angry, jealous resentment! If he could have taken her in his arms and whispered the tender farewell of previous partings; then, ah! then it might have been that his last, bitter farewell would be easier to bear. "O! my MILLIE—my love!" he groaned, unable to control his anguish. And the eyes of those who watched him grew misty, and they turned their heads away.

"How long, Oh! Doctor, how long may I stay beside her?" whispered RAFE, with eyes and lips together. And the doctor replied, "Till the end, which may not be till morning." And RAFE bowed his head upon the pillow.

Slowly the hours passed, and presently the distant chime of the New Year's bell broke the silence of the weary night. Twelve o'clock, and the old year had slipped forever into the past, while the new young king ascended the throne amid the greeting of bells and the welcome of those who had "watched the old out and the new in!" But the young life so dear to the few who watched in silence at MILLIE'S bedside, had not yet gone out, and while there was life there was also hope—so said the doctor. And RAFE clung to the tiny thread of hope as a drowning man clings to a straw, and there were prayers in his heart that the death-angel himself in pity carried to the throne of GOD. And while the shadow of his wing was lifted from that silent chamber, as he sped on his kind mission, the dawn of the New Year crept softly into the room, and MILLIE'S eyes opened for the first time in many days. Even as RAFE'S silent prayer that GOD would spare the dear life was speeding upward, the answer came graciously, and the angel of death returned not again.

Quietly the invalid's gaze wandered about the room and rested upon the familiar faces. Then came the low-toned question, faint and trembling, "Have I been ill?" A quiet answer, and also the doctor's request that she should not speak, satisfied and rendered MILLIE obedient, and a refreshing sleep followed.

"This package for Miss MILLIE came last night, sir," said the maid, whispering outside the door. And Mr. RAND laid a small parcel upon MILLIE'S table, then renewed his watch with RAFE over the slumbering girl.

"The crisis is passed and she will live," said the doctor, with a glad smile. "And you, young sir, can effect what ever cure your own heart thinks right, for, if I mistake not, *my* skill alone will avail nothing."

RAFE'S face flushed, but he knelt beside MILLIE, and looked into her waking eyes with a gratitude to GOD which none could guess. Mr. RAND, his sister and the doctor left the room silently for a moment, and RAFE was alone with his precious New Year's Gift—the life restored to him of her he so dearly loved.

MILLIE recognized him quietly, with a faint smile and weak pressure of the hand. "When did you come, my RAFE?" she whispered, after he had given her the cordial ordered by Dr. MASTERS. And he told her of his night's watch beside her bed—of his repentance and grief, and of his love for her, which no distrust, no resentment could ever again injure.

And all that while the New Year's Day grew brighter and gladder with sunlight and heart-sunshine, and MILLIE'S hand laid within RAFE'S while his warm clasp aided her pulses in their new struggle for life and health. When her guardian and patient Mrs. RAND re-entered the room MILLIE had again fallen asleep with her head upon RAFE'S arm, and in his hand he held a beautiful India-ink portrait of his love. Underneath, in fine German text, ran the words, "*A New Year's Gift to Rafe from Millie.*"

And that was the secret of her private visits to the artist's house. Lest he or any one should suspect her gift she had gone, without even her guardian's knowledge, from time to time, sitting as long as she dared and pleasing herself with thoughts of RAFE'S delight. And he, questioning her imperiously, roused her haughty will against his, and hence the suffering on both sides. RAFE thought it all over during MILLIE'S slumber, and kissed lightly the lips so near his own with new resolves for the New Year.

"Two gifts—two New Year's gifts for me this day!" he whispered when she awoke. "Your precious life and this dear portrait. Oh, MILLIE, MILLIE! what can I give you, darling?

"Only your love and trust, RAFE."

MARRIAGE CEREMONIES.

THE ancient practice of marriage by capture, which has left some traces even in our customs and sports—notably in that popular game of kiss-in-the-ring, a mimic representation of the great game of marriage—finds many illustrations in this Mongol life. Rubruquis, who visited the hordes of Tartary and was entertained in the tent of the immediate successors of Yenghis Khan, describes a Mongol marriage thus: "Therefore, when any man hath bargained with another for a maid, the father of the damsel makes him a feast; in the meantime she flies away to some of her kinsfolks to hide herself. Then the father says to the bridegroom, 'My daughter is yours; take her wheresoever you can find her.' Then he and his friends seek her until they find her, and, having found her, he takes her by force and carries her to his own house." This simple form of marriage contract is still preserved among the Koraks and Tchuctchus, tribes of north-western Siberia. There the damsel is pursued by her admirer, and hides herself among the prologs, or cabins made of skin, which forms the internal compartments of their dwellings. The womankind assist her in her pretended evasion, and not till her bridegroom has caught his bride and left the impression of his finger-nail upon her tender skin is the betrothal completed.

The analogous customs in ancient Roman marriages here strike one with the myth of the rape of the Sabines; but we need not go far ahead. The customs of a Welch wedding up to a very recent date, included a mimic pursuit of the bride by the bridegroom, both on horseback; and even in our English manner, when the bridegroom goes to seek his bride on the wedding morn. But the value of womankind in a pastoral life, where there is so much for her to do in the way of milking, cheese and butter making, and so on, brings a further element into the relationship. A price must be paid for the future companion, and the kalim or wedding portion enters largely into the question.

A more modern Mongol wedding is described by Huc, that most amusing of Jesuit fathers. The religious ceremonies are those of Buddhism. The marriage is arranged by the parents, who settle the dower that is to be paid to the father of the bride by means of mediators. When the contract has been concluded, the father of the bridegroom, accompanied by his nearest relatives, carries the news to the family of the bride. They prostrate themselves before the domestic altar and offer up a boiled sheep's head, milk and a sash of white silk. During the repast all the relations of the bride receive a piece of money, which they deposit in a vase filled with wine made of fermented milk (we have, or had, a similar custom of hiding a ring or money in the wedding cake,) the father of the bride drinks the milk and keeps the money. The lamas, or priest, fix an auspicious day, when the bridegroom sends a deputation to escort the bride. There is a feigned opposition to the departure of the bride, who is placed on a horse and led three times—note the three mystic circles—round the paternal house, and then taken at full gallop to the tent prepared for the purpose near the dwelling of her father-in-law. All the Tartars of the neighborhood repair to the wedding feast and offer their presents, which consist of beasts and eatables. These go to the father of the bridegroom and often restore him the sum which he has paid for the son's bride. Rather a shame, one would think, of that selfish papa, did we not reflect that he will have to support his son and daughter, or at all events set them up with sheep and cattle from his flocks and herds.

MARRIED THROUGH THE WINDOW.

A WRITER relates the following: A clergyman on one occasion waited for a couple in his parlor one evening, and as they did not keep their engagement, he went to bed. Just about half past eleven o'clock the door bell rang violently. He put a cap and a wrapper on, and, in a state of general undress, opened the second story window and looked out. There stood the tardy candidates for matrimony.

"Well, its too late now," said the clergyman, "and it's too cold."

"Yes," called up the man, "but we missed the train, and I sail to-morrow."

"Well, then, go to some other minister," answered the irate parson.

"We can't now," both shouted up from the garden-walk, "it's too late."

"Well, I can't marry you now," he said; "the servant has taken the front-door key and has gone to sleep."

"Well, then, marry us out of the window," came up from below.

And so the minister took the book in hand and called out the directions from the second story casement, and the parties complied with the several orders, and finally left the fee in an envelope under the front-door, and went out of the garden-gate man and wife.

A CENTENNIAL CHESS-BOARD.

THE Swedish wood-carver, Oestergren, favorably known in England, is said to be preparing a chess-board for exhibition at the World's Fair, in Philadelphia, the pieces of which are symbolical of the struggle between Ultramontanism and the modern spirit in Germany. On one side of the board appear the Emperor William and the Empress Augusta as King and Queen, Prince Bismarck and the Minister Falk as Bishops; the knights are Prussian Uhlans and the pawns are soldiers and recruits. On the other hand stands Pius IX. as King, while his queen is an Abbess holding waxen-taper, well-nigh burned out. The Bishops are Cardinals, the Knights are monks riding on asses, and the pawns are monks on foot. Oestergren was, for many years of his life a paper-stainer, and it was not until he was fifty years old that he passed an examination in drawing at the Academy of Arts, in Stockholm, and began to draw and carve on wood. This is fourteen years ago; he is now celebrated for the grace and originality of his productions.

IN the lives of the saddest of us there are bright days when we feel as if we could take the great world into our arms. Then come gloomy days when the fire will neither burn on our hearths nor in our hearts, and all without and within is dismal, cold and dark. Believe me, every heart has its secret sorrows, which the world knows not of, and oftentimes we call a man cold when he is only sad.

IT is only our mental duration that we measure by visible and measurable objects; and there is nothing mournful in the contemplation for one who knows that the Creator made him to be the image of his own eternity, and who feels that in the desire for immortality he has one proof of his capacity for it.—*Southey.*

Sabbath Reading.

THE CREATOR'S POWER.

NOT worlds on worlds in phalanx deep
Need we to prove a God is here:
The daisy, fresh from winter's sleep,
Tells of His hand in lines as clear.

For who but He that arched the skies
And pours the day spring's living flood,
Wondrous alike in all He tries,
Could rear the daisy's purple bud?

Mold its green cup, its wiry stem,
Its fringed border nicely spin,
And cut the gold-embossed gem
That, set in silver, gleams within?

Then fling it unrestrained and free,
O'er hill and dale and desert sod,
That man, where'er he walks, may see
In every step the stamp of God.

[*John Mason Good.*

THE BIBLE.

THE following beautiful tribute to the Bible, we copy from the writings of Theodore Parker:

This collection of Books has taken such a hold on the world as no other. It is read of a Sabbath in all the ten thousand pulpits of our land; the sun never sets on its gleaming pages. It goes equally to the cottage of the plain man and the palace of the king. It is woven into the literature of the scholar and colors the talk of the street. The barque of the merchant cannot sail the sea without it. No ships of war go to the conflict, but the Bible is there. It enters men's closets, mingles in all the griefs and cheerfulness of life. The affianced maiden prays God in Scripture for strength in her home duties; men are married by Scripture; the Bible attends them in their sickness—when the fever of the world is upon them; the aching head finds a softer pillow when the Bible lies underneath. The mariner, escaping from shipwreck, esteems it the first of his treasures, and keeps it sacred to God. It goes with the pedlar in his crowded pack, cheers him at eventide when he sits down, dusty and fatigued, and brightens the freshness of his morning face. It blesses us when we are born, gives names to half of Christendom, rejoices with us, has sympathy for our morning, tempers our grief to finer issues. It is the better part of our sermons; it lifts man above himself—our best of natural prayers are in its stolid speech, wherewith our fathers and the the patriarchs prayed. The timid man about awakening from this dream of life, looks through the glass of Scripture, and his eye grows bright; he does not fear to stand alone, to tread the way unknown and distant, to take the Death Angel by the hand, and bid farewell to wife, and babes, and home! Men rest on this their dearest hopes. It tells them of GOD, and His blessed Son; of earthly duties and of heavenly trust!

A BEAUTIFUL ANSWER.

WHEN the Emperor of Germany was lately on a visit in a distant portion of his dominions, he was welcomed by the school children of the village. After their speaker had made a speech for them he thanked them. Then taking an orange from a plate he asked:

"To what kingdom does this belong?"

"To the vegetable kingdom, sir," replied the little girl.

The Emperor took a gold coin from his pocket, and holding it up, asked:

"And to what kingdom does this belong?"

"To the mineral kingdom, sire," replied the little girl.

"And to what kingdom do I belong, then?" asked the Emperor.

The little girl colored deeply, for she did not like to say "the animal kingdom," as he thought she would, lest his majesty should be offended, when a bright thought came, and she said, with radiant eyes:

"To GOD'S kingdom, sire."

The Emperor was deeply moved. A tear stood in his eye. He placed his hand on the child's head and said, in the most devout manner:

"Grant that I may be accounted worthy of that kingdom."

HAPPINESS CONSISTS IN LOVE.

As the affections are the noblest ingredient in human nature, so the elevation and happiness of a human being mainly depend on the right bestowment and ample exercise of these affections. To be self-sufficient and self-seeking—that is to keep all the affections to one's self,—is the meanest and most miserable predicament a creature can be in. The homestead of a fine spirit—much more the desolate chamber of a sinful heart—does not contain resources enough for its own blessedness. The soul must go out from itself, if it would find materials of joy. And just as its happiness depends on going out from itself, so its elevation depends on its going up—depends on its setting its affections upon something higher than itself, something nobler or holier or more engaging. The main part of true religion is the right bestowment of the affections. When they are set on the things above they are set as high as a seraph can set his. They are set so high that they cannot fail to lift the character along with them, and make him a peculiar character whose ends in living are so lofty.—*James Hamilton.*

THE New Year is the time to reform and persevere therein. Why not continue in well doing through the Centennial Year?

Ladies' Portfolio.

A GOOD NIGHT.

BY ROSE GERANIUM.

THE day is done, dear world, good night!
Repose falls like a mother's tresses,
That shut from infant eyes the light
With tender touches and caresses.

I would that in an hour like this,
By night, on wings all starry gleaming,
My spirit might be lulled to bliss
And pass to Heaven 'mid happy dreaming!

A DEED AND A WORD.

A LITTLE spring hath lost its way
Amid the grass and fern;
A passing stranger scooped a well,
Where weary men might turn;
He walled it in, and hung with care
A ladle at the brink;
He thought not of the deed he did,
But judged that toil might drink.
He passed again, and lo! the well,
By summer never dried,
Has cooled ten thousand parched tongues,
And saved a life beside.

A nameless man, amid a crowd
That thronged the daily mart,
Let fall a word of hope and love,
Unstudied, from the heart:
A whisper on the tumult thrown,
A transitory breath;
It raised a brother from the dust,
It saved a soul from death.
O germ! O fount! O word of love!
O thought at random cast!
Ye were but little at the first,
But mighty at the last!

SPARE ROOMS IN RURAL HOMES.

BY MRS. E. F. G.

IN these latter days, it may be almost deemed a misfortune for people of moderate means to possess a large house, so much more is expected of them than of their neighbors who dwell in dovecotes. There seems to be no earthly reason why all the sewing societies, sociables, committee meetings and surprise parties should not be welcomed. Whole families from the city may quarter themselves upon them during the summer months and the district schoolmaster must have a home and separate chamber for the whole winter. Why not, pray? They have plenty of room, and their neighbors think, "If I only had such a house, I would be glad," etc. So they are beguiled into entertaining more than they can afford to do, and more than their own inclinations would dictate, because they have a pleasant home. What else can they do? There is the fact of space, and to refuse the use of it would seem inhospitable.

But this is not, after all, the greatest disadvantage of having more apartments than one needs for actual daily use. There is the expense of furnishing and warming and the labor of keeping them in order, to say nothing of the money invested in the house itself. Our ancestors managed all this easy enough. If they had more rooms than they needed they simply shut them up, and only opened them for weddings, funerals, and other great occasions. Their chief care in the matter was to keep their house in order, not knowing the day nor the hour when its use would be made necessary. A modern housewife does this at her peril. Not only will fashionable people denounce her, but the whole array of health writers and sensation writers and people who don't know what they are writing for, will be against her, until she would gladly retreat into one of the little snuggeries whose inmates envy her so much. The "spare rooms" of New England are a perpetual target for the wit of romance writers and a remark that "a shut-up room is a nuisance anywhere," is so standard that it is stale.

There would be more sense than there is in this kind of talk if it were always our fortune to build our own houses, though even then we are apt to build for prospective as well as for present necessities. A family with small children, feeling the necessity for the strictest economy, will not need, or rather cannot afford, to use as much room as they will want when the farm is paid for and the children are grown up; but they may be pardoned if in planning their home, which is to be theirs in the future as well as the present, they make it more like their ideal home than the one which their present circumstances will allow them to furnish and inhabit. If we have no time or money now to spend elsewhere than in the kitchen, must we never expect to have a parlor until our house shall take to itself wings? Because every cord of wood that can be spared from the kitchen stove must go to town to pay grocers' bills, and we are obliged to use ingenious devices to make one fire warm as many apartments as possible, may we never dream of a time when we can afford plenty of the best fuel, and allow half the heat to go up the chimney? Dr. HOLMES has said that this is indispensable to a cheerful room, but he is careful to prescribe it only for the "mansion houses."

In this country too it often happens that we occupy where another built, and in most cases we must take things as we find them, or at best make a few inexpensive alterations for our own convenience. A man of property, especially a farmer, is very likely in his will to leave the homestead to one of his sons, with the provision that he shall pay certain sums to the other members of the family. Now would it be sensible, or even honest, for this young man and his young wife, who have all this debt upon their shoulders, to insist on furnishing the whole establishment and keeping it warm every day, when they can possibly have use for but three or four rooms?

The Freedmen at the South would easily get out of this dilemma. I recollect a little incident that will illustrate what I mean. Across the way from my boarding place in Chattanooga, a few winters since, was a group of dwellings belonging to the colored people. Having scraped enough money together to purchase little patches of ground, they put up such buildings as they were accustomed to, and which in their opinion did well enough. It was interesting to watch the improvements constantly going on in this neighborhood. First it was a pen for a calf—the pig usually had lodgings under the house—then perhaps a little stable for a cow or a pair of mules; then a new fence would be built, always outside the old one and encroaching a little upon the street. As soon as they could afford it, if they had room enough, they would erect a second cabin on the corner of their lot, to rent. At last came an improvement which I was wholly unprepared to see. One of the houses was larger than the rest, having a wing at the back for a kitchen, while the front was two stories high. I thought the owner must be an aristocrat, of course. One day I saw two or three men engaged in pulling this structure down. The next time I went into the street I asked the owner what they were going to do. "It's too high and too big,—I don't like it," was the answer. Now in this case, where a couple of workmen could rebuild the house in a few days from the old material and have enough left for a calf-pen, who can wonder that the owner was unwilling to live in a house that he did not like? But a man would be considered a lunatic who should pull down half his father's handsome residence because he had no present use for it, when it is almost certain that within a dozen years he will need every inch of it. As a family increases more room is needed; that is to say, a large family requires more room than a small one, and the natural tendency is for small families to become large ones.

A sitting-room, which, from its sunny exposure, is pleasant in winter, may be uncomfortable in summer from the same cause. Now, since it is not our custom to fold our tents like the Arabs, how shall we provide for the incidents of company and climate, and changes in the household, unless we arrange for more room than is necessary for the family while at its smallest? It would be absurd for an old man and woman, whose children are all married and moved away, to keep their whole house in the same receptive state as on the evening when the last daughter was married. Indeed I never could see the harm of keeping spare rooms, ready for use when you need them, any more than that of keeping spare garments for the same purpose. It is said that uninhabited rooms have a charnel-house air, and all that. I say, Bosh! and can think of nothing better to say. You need not allow your rooms to get musty, mouldy and cob-webbed because you do not live in them. Open the window now and then, and brush them out a little. Have your furniture well arranged, and the *things* that give a home-like air, and your guests will enjoy themselves when the rooms are opened, though not a chair has been occupied for a month. It is the disposition of furniture more than occupation that gives a pleasant impression; and sofas are more likely to be shrouded in Holland, and piano legs in baize, in a room were everybody's feet are playing antics, than in one that is in some measure secure.

After all that I have said, I must allow that I like a house well furnished, well lighted and well warmed throughout. I would like to keep the rooms open every day in the year, and see them filled with happy faces. I would like my carriage and horses to be models in their way, and would be glad to dress in velvets, heavy silks, and India muslins every day of my life, could I do it with perfect justice to all concerned. But I must be allowed the privilege of deciding whether I can afford these things or not, and I am as little disposed to accept dictation in the one case as in the other.

So long as I can give to my hired assistants convenient working places, to my family pleasant eating and living rooms, to my friends pleasant places for entertainment, and to all comfortable dormitories, I can not see that it is any affair of Mrs. GRUNDY,s how many suites of rooms I have locked up, any more than how many suits of clothing I have in my wardrobe which her eyes may never behold.

A woman who reads the literature of the day is forced to the conclusion that to keep a spare room is a crime against social laws, and unless she has self-reliance enough to follow her own ideas of right, she is in danger of sacrificing her own comfort, and her husband's earnings, at this one of Fashion's many altars. Carpets are often purchased, and, I may add, worn out, at the expense of creditors; the family go without comforts that they may keep up appearances; and the daughters, having little acquaintance with the kitchen, learn to despise it.

I want it understood that this protest is not written for the rich. If people are able to indulge in luxuries, I know of nothing more harmless than arrangements for warming the whole establishment, unless, indeed, these arrangements savor too strongly of smoke and carbonic acid gas. It is in behalf of those who must make sacrifices to accomplish this—sacrifices for which they do not receive an equivalent—that my one weak voice is lifted up against the great sea of voices surging on the other side.

No man's life is free from struggles and mortifications, not even the happiest; but every one may build up his own happiness by seeking mental pleasure, and thus make himself independent of outward fortune.

Reading for the Young.

WILL THE NEW YEAR COME TO-NIGHT, MAMMA?

WILL the New Year come to-night, mamma? I'm tired of waiting so;
My stocking hung by the chimney side full three long days ago.
I run to peep within the door at early morning light;
'Tis empty still. Oh, say, mamma, will the New Year come to-night?

Will the New Year come to-night, mamma? The snow is on the hill,
And the ice must be two inches thick upon the meadow's rill;
I heard you tell papa, last night, his son must have a sled;
(I didn't mean to hear, mamma,) and a pair of skates you said.

I prayed for just these very things, mamma. O, I shall be full of glee,
And the orphan boys in the village school will all be envying me;
But I'll give them toys, and lend them books, and make their New Year glad,
For God, you say, takes back His gifts, when little folks are bad.

And won't you let me go, mamma, upon the New Year's day,
And carry something nice and warm to poor old widow Gray?
I'll leave the basket near the door, within the garden gate—
Will the New Year come to-night, mamma? It seems so long to wait!

* * * * * *

The New Year comes to-night, mamma; I saw it in my sleep;
My stocking hung so full, I thought—mamma, what makes you weep?
But it only held a little shroud—a shroud, and nothing more!
And an open coffin, made for me, was standing on the floor!

It seemed so very strange, indeed, to find such gifts instead
Of all the toys I wished so much—the story books and sled;
But while I wondered what it meant, you came with tearful joy,
And said, "Thou'lt find the New Year first. God calleth thee, my boy!"

It is not all a dream, mamma—I know it must be true!
But have I been so bad a boy, God taketh me from you?
I don't know what papa will do when I am laid to rest—
And you will have no Willie's head to fold upon your breast.

The New Year comes to-night, mamma—your cold hand on my cheek,
And raise my head a little more, it seems so hard to speak;
You needn't fill my stocking now, I cannot go and peep,
Before the morrow's sun is up, I'll be so sound asleep.

I shall not want the skates, mamma, I'll never want the sled,
But won't you give them both to Blake, who hurt me on the head?
He used to hide my books away, and tear the pictures, too,
But now he'll know that I forgive, as then I tried to do.

And, if you please, mamma, I'd like the story books and slate
To go to Frank, the drunkard's boy, you wouldn't let me hate:
And, dear mamma, you won't forget, upon the New Year's day,
The basket full of something nice for poor old widow Gray.

The New Year comes to-night, mamma—it seems so very soon—
I think God didn't hear me ask for just another June;
I know I've been a thoughtless boy, and made you too much care,
And may be, for your sake, mamma, He doesn't hear my prayer.

There is one thing more, my pretty pets, the robin and the dove,
O, keep for you and dear papa, and teach them how to love;
My garden rake, the little hoe—you'll find them nicely laid
Upon the garret floor, mamma—the place where last I played.

I thought to need them both so much when summer comes again,
To make my garden by the brook that trickles thro' the glen:
I thought to gather flowers, too, beside the forest walk,
And sit beneath the apple tree where we once sat to talk.

It cannot be; but you will keep the summer flowers green,
And plant a few—don't cry, mamma—a very few, I mean,
Where I'm asleep. I'd sleep so sweet beneath the apple tree,
Where you and robin, in the morn, may come and sing to me.

The New Year comes—good night, mamma—"I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord," tell poor papa, "my soul to keep;
If I—" how cold it seems—how dark—kiss me, I cannot see,
The New Year comes to-night, mamma—the old year dies with me. [*Cora M. Eager.*

THANKS to GEORGIE PATTISON of Marengo, Mich., and LAURA GULICK of Altoona, Kansas, for sending us copies of the above beautiful and affecting poem.—ED.

IF I COULD ONLY SEE MY MOTHER.

"If I could only see my mother!" Again and again was that yearning cry repeated—"If I could only see my mother!".

The vessel rocked and the waters, chased by a fresh wind, played musically against the side of the ship. The sailor, a second mate, quite youthful, lay in his narrow bed, his eyes glazing, his limbs stiffening, his breath failing. It was not pleasant to die thus in this shaking, plunging ship; but he seemed not to mind his bodily comfort; his eyes looked far away, and over and anon broke forth that grievous cry—"If I could only see my mother!"

An old sailor sat by, the Bible in his hand, from which he had been reading. He bent above the young man, and asked him why he was so anxious to see the mother he had willfully left.

"O! that's the reason," he cried, in anguish; "I've nearly broken her heart, and I can't die in peace. She was a good mother to me—O! so good a mother; she bore everything from her wild boy, and once she said, 'My son, when you come to die you will remember this.' O! if I could only see my mother!"

He never saw his mother. He died with the yearning upon his lips, as many a one has died who slighted the mother who loved him.

Boys, be good to your mothers.

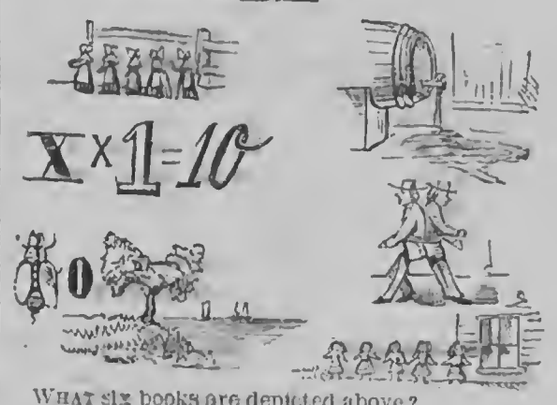
EARLY RISING.

THE difference between rising every morning at eight and six o'clock in the course of forty years amounts to twenty-nine thousand two hundred hours, or three years one hundred and twenty-one days and sixteen hours, which are equal to eight hours a day for exactly ten years; so that rising at six will be the same as if ten years of life (a weighty consideration) were added wherein we may command eight hours every day for the cultivation of our minds and the despatch of business.

"A MISHAP ON ICE," illustrated on a preceding page, is certainly a seasonable scene, and one which no doubt many of our young friends can appreciate. We hope, however, none break their bones, even if their baskets are upset, while enjoying the luxury of sliding on congealed water. Moral—Be careful, boys and girls, while carrying baskets of goodies. Otherwise you may have a mishap like unto that represented in our picture.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 1.



WHAT six books are depicted above?

☞ Answer in two weeks. L. G.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 1.

My first is in Volga but not in Amazon,
My second is in Danube but not in Don;
My third is in Goa but not in Bog,
My fourth is in Douro but not in Bug;
My fifth is in Tagus but not in Rhone,
My sixth is in Allire but not in Doedogne;
My seventh is in Umpqua but not in Yazoo,
My eighth is in Nueces but not in Rio Negro,
My ninth is in Seine but not in Oder,
My tenth is in Vistula but not in Tiber;
My eleventh is in Elbe but not in Kansas,
My twelfth is in Ebro but not in Matanzas.
My whole is a river of Spain. LITTLE ONE.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

BISECTED EASTERN CITIES.—No. 1.

1. VERY angry, and to deliver.
2. Contest between nations, and a cutting instrument.
3. Harbors, and a part of the body.
4. Part of a tavern, and human beings.
5. An acid fruit, and a pile of grain in the field.
6. Water impregnated with alkali, and a home of wild beasts.
7. A metal vessel for liquids, and a measure of weight.
8. A sack, and a name for father.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA.No. 1.

1. A vessel for flowers. 2. An open space. 3. To burn over. 4. Organs of the head.

☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

DIAMOND PUZZLE.—No. 1.

1. A VOWEL. 2. A number. 3. A hard substance. 4. One added. 5. The remains of a fire. 6. A number. 7. A consonant. The centrals make one more. S. C.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifth-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 2) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

DEATH OF HON. A. CARTER WILDER.

THE sad news comes to us that Hon. A. C. WILDER, ex-Mayor of Rochester, and formerly Member of Congress from Kansas, died in San Francisco, Dec. 22d. Mr. WILDER was born in Mendon, Mass., March 18, 1828. In 1850, he removed to Rochester, N.Y., and in 1857, to Kansas, where he was engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was in the 38th Congress from Kansas, and in 1866 returned to Rochester, where, for several years, he was engaged in newspaper publishing with his brother, Hon. D. W. WILDER, the present Auditor of Kansas. In 1872, Mr. WILDER was elected Mayor of Rochester, which position he resigned after holding it a year and a half. During the past two years his health has been poor, and, at the time of his death, he was on the Pacific Coast in hope of recovery.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE court house at Camden, Ark., one of the finest in the State, was burned Dec. 19th. The books, records, and all the papers pertaining to the clerk's office were destroyed.

On Dec. 20th the Rice Grammar School, on Dartmouth St., Boston, Mass., was accidentally set on fire by the janitor while thawing a steam-pipe with a red hot poker. The flames ran up the ventilator and destroyed the upper story and a part of the second. Loss $25,000; no insurance.

Mr. Peak of West Troy, has an old chair, which was the first thing taken off the first English ship captured by the Americans during the revolutionary war. An old sailor by the name of George Lewis was the first to lay hands on it, bringing it safely on board the American ship, and it has been handed down from one generation to another, finally coming into the hands of the present owner.

Mexican traders report 300 Comanche Indian warriors at the canon of San Rodgero, 40 miles above Rimalo. It is thought that the object of the gathering is to make raids into Texas.

The Rev. Dr. S. S. Laws of New York City has been elected President of the University of the State of Missouri, to succeed President Read, whose resignation will take effect July 4, 1876.

About 2,000 tons of mown prairie grass are said to have been destroyed by fire in Brookfield, Ill., on the night of Dec. 20.

It is said that Thompson, the man who caused the Mosel horror, rented a store in South Fourth St., in Philadelphia, in 1861, and set fire to it for the purpose of obtaining insurance on fictitious stock.

P. T. Barnum is said to be making arrangements for a Centennial enterprise on a gigantic scale, but the exact nature of the venture has not yet been made public.

The harbor of Grand Haven, Mich., is to be kept open all winter by a powerful propellor which has been chartered for that purpose.

Dr. Wales M. Huntington of Pittsford, N. Y., died Dec. 19, aged 55 years. Dr. H. was born in Pittsford, and with his father, also a physician and some years deceased, had been long recognized as one of the most successful and esteemed physicians of Western New York.

Jacob Haberle and David Hastil, both young men, were drowned while skating on Bound Brook, near Sixth Avenue, Newark, N. J., on Dec. 21st. Both bodies were recovered.

The stockholders of the Citizen's Steamboat Company, Troy, have resolved to build a new Hudson River steamboat at a cost of $60,000. Already $43,000 of the stock has been subscribed for. The new boat will be wider and longer than the Sunnyside, and will be fitted up in first class style.

The receipts of the police commission of the city of Albany, for the year ended November 30, were $135,435.26, and the expenses $26,799.65 less.

The late Joel Parker's bequest to Dartmouth College provides:—First, a law department. For this object he has left property valued at from $90,000 to $150,000. This is for constituting three funds in support of the proposed law department, viz.:—An instruction, a library fund, and a building fund. Second, increase of the Dartmouth College library. Some time ago he, with his brothers established a fund called the "Parker Fund," for the benefit of the library. In his will he adds to it the sum of $12,500.

Gen. C. A. Arthur's recent reappointment and confirmation as Collector of the Port of New York seems to give great satisfaction to both press and people. It is a long time since the Government had so efficient and faithful an officer in the position, and we are glad to note the general recognition of Gen. A.'s ability and integrity.

The general inspection of the military of Pennsylvania will take place during the months of April and May, next year, instead of in the fall.

Ex-Gov. Clifford of Massachusetts is slowly recovering from his dangerous illness.

A new post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Auburn has been named after the late Secretary Seward.

Grace Greenwood's husband, Dr. Lippincott, has become Chief Clerk in the Land Office, at Washington.

The late Charles B. Winn of Woburn, Mass., bequeathed $250,000 to public purposes in that town.

Chock Wong, one of the editors of a Chinese paper at San Francisco, has declared his intention of taking out naturalization papers in the United States District Court, which will test the question of the right of Mongolians to become citizens.

Prof. F. V. Hayden, in charge of the U. S. Geographical Survey of the Territories, has been elected an honorary member of the "Circolo Geografico Italiano" of Turin, Italy.

The Trustees of Princeton College approved the Faculty's action against secret societies.

Bowdoin College develops a sentiment in favor of withdrawing from the Rowing Association.

Cincinnati proposes a public inaugural of the Centennial year.

J. W. L. Barnes, formerly Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives, has been appointed Special Agent of the Pension Bureau, *vice* Col. C. W. Seaton, who has been tendered the position of Superintendent of the Census of New York.

It is asserted that the $10,000,000 bridge over the Mississippi at St. Louis will not pay interest on cost during this generation.

Tweed is in Cuba, according to last advices, for a dispatch dated Havana, Dec. 23d, says: "A report is current that Wm. M. Tweed arrived here Dec. 17 on a schooner. Several New Yorkers who knew him by sight say they saw him yesterday and to-day in different parts of the city."

A steam street car just completed in Philadelphia will make a trial trip on Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn, in a few days. At the head of the car, which resembles inside an ordinary street car, are set three mirrors, running from top to bottom, which conceal the upright boiler from view of the passengers. On the outside is a circular inclosed platform, where the engineer is seated, so that he can conveniently feed the furnace and keep a look-out over the track ahead. At his side, in compact space, are arranged the coal-box and the necessary appliances for running the engine. All the machinery of the engine is concealed beneath the car, the pistons work noiselessly, and the car runs smoothly over the track without jarring.

The White Spring farm buildings and mansion at Geneva, N. Y., owned by James O. Sheldon, were totally destroyed by fire Dec. 24. The loss is $50,000; insurance, $26,000.

The fire at Red Oak, Iowa, Dec. 23, destroyed the entire east side of the public square. The buildings were all of wood, however, and the loss will not be more than $20,000; insured in Western companies.

Gen. Schofield, of San Francisco, has received information from Gen. Kautz, commander in Arizona, that the Mexican rebels under Gen. Sonnia, lately defeated by the national troops in Sonora, are so hard pressed that they are about to cross the border.

Speaker Kerr spends his holidays in Philadelphia.

Henry Stiles, the first white person born in Cincinnati, died at East Bay, Mich., on Wednesday.

The college catalogues for the present academic year show that Harvard has 119 instructors, Yale 86; Harvard 776 undergraduates, Yale 582; Harvard 1,278 students in all branches, and Yale 1,051. The number of students to an instructor is, in Harvard 1.07, in Yale 12.2.

FOREIGN NOTES.

At Berlin, in 1878, an exhibition will be opened with the object of showing Germans what Germans can do, and, therefore, in what points head can be made against foreign competition. The exhibition will be classified in twenty-one groups, and prizes will be awarded in medals distinguished as for production, manufacture, commerce, art, science and education. Workmen's medals will also be issued.

Many British manufacturers and other employers have lately changed pay day from Saturday to Monday for the sake of the workmen, many of whom have been in the habit of squandering their wages in dissipation on Sunday. A similar change is talked of in New England.

In the Quebec Legislative Assembly, the Government Railroad bill, the amendment to the License act increasing the cost of licenses, and the bill to prevent all conflicts between religious and civil authorities in regard to Roman Catholic cemeteries, passed their final stages on Dec. 20.

The British War Department has had the German history of the campaign of 1870-71 translated for the benefit of the service, and will treat the forthcoming Russian official story of the Crimean war in the same way.

An exhibition of manuscripts, coins, arms, implements and other objects illustrative of the history and industry of the East, will be a prominent feature of the meeting of Orientalists to be held in St. Petersburg next summer.

The Sub-Prefect of St. Omer, in France, M. Ritt, and his deputy, M. Vancossel, have been condemned to fines of 100 francs and 50 francs respectively, for giving orders to fire at a lunatic who had escaped from custody.

The Epoca says, when the Carlist insurrection is suppressed, an efficient army will be maintained in Cuba, as a measure of precaution, and that heavy guns will be placed on the coast. At the same time, Spain will propose to the United States a new and mutually advantageous treaty of commerce. Subscriptions have already been opened to defray the cost of manufacturing heavy guns for the defense of Cuba.

El Cronista, the ministerial organ, states that the Government has decided to send heavy reinforcements to Cuba.

Some sixty statuettes in clay, taken from Tanara, in Greece, by MM. Albert Dumont and F. C. Chapelain, after a long voyage in the East, have just been placed in the Gallery of Antiquities at the Louvre, Paris.

It is rumored at Cairo that the Khedive is negotiating for the sale of Egypt's founders' shares in the Suez canal. The Government of Great Britain, and M. de Lesseps, representing a combination of French capital, are the bidders. The latter has offered $9,000,000 for the shares.

It is stated that the principal feature of the Great Powers' proposition relative to reforms in Turkey is that the ambassadors of the neutral powers at Constantinople shall exercise a permanent control in the execution of the reforms in the provinces.

In the Assembly, at Paris, Dec. 23d, the Electoral Districts bill was under consideration. An amendment proposed by the Government was adopted, by which Paris will return to the Lower Chamber twenty Deputies instead of twenty-five, and Lyons six instead of eight, as at present. This reduction is effected by apportioning one Deputy to each 100,000 of population in those cities, instead of one Deputy to each arrondissement containing under 100,000 inhabitants, and two Deputies to arrondissements containing more than 100,000, as in the rest of France.

The Left are indignant over the introduction and adoption of the amendment.

A Russian paper states that emissaries from Khokand had incited the tribes subject to Russia in the neighborhood of Urapete, Turkestan, to revolt. The Russian troops attacked them, and were at first repulsed, but subsequently obtained a victory. Three hundred insurgents were killed in one engagement. The insurrection is now suppressed.

Queen Victoria has bestowed a pension of $375 per year upon each of the three younger children of the late Mr. Birch, British Resident at Perak, who was murdered by the Malays, and the eldest son will be provided with a position in the colonial service.

Ex-Empress Eugenie is much in the condition of the boy who would like to eat his cake and keep it, too. She would like to sell every bit of her laces and finery in order to give the Prince Imperial a lift in life, and at the same time she would like to retain them for the adornment of her fifty-year old charms.

All paris was in commotion at Dejazet's burial. Fifteen thousand tickets had been issued for the Trinite church, which could only accommodate one-fourth that number. The elite of the artistic and literary world were present, and the streets were thronged with 200,000 spectators. Notwithstanding the intense cold, the windows were all open, and the balconies crowded on the line of the funeral procession.

The Dutch Government will show at the Centennial Exhibition a collective model illustrating the progress made by Holland in hydraulic engineering, and consisting of groups of models of the principal great reclamation and other works undertaken by the State. Among them will be shown the Haarlem drainage, the new canal, the Dordrecht steel bridge, the Kuilenberg railway, a new steam pump, copper models of sluices, relief map of the Zuyder Zee, &c. The objects are now being shown to the public before being packed for America.

According to an official report, dated 1873, the total force of the Mexican army was then 23,311, of which the infantry absorbed 14,002, the cavalry 4,813, the artillery 1,479, the engineer corps 969, and the medical corps 148. There was also an auxiliary corps of 526 men. In addition to this national force the various States had their militia averaged at 10,000 per State. The active fighting force of the country now under arms is estimated at 50,337 men. The Minister of War, Gen. Ignacio Mejia, is General-in-Chief. There are four generals of division, ten brigadier-generals, 310 colonels and lieutenant-colonels, and 1,359 officers of lower rank.

A Portuguese gunboat has been ordered to the Island of St. Thomas, in the Gulf of Guinea, on account of an alleged insurrection of the negroes.

The French steamer Louisiana was sunk, Dec. 20, in the River Gironde, by a collision. Sixteen lives were lost.

Sir Alexander Gordon, a Conservative, has been elected a member of Parliament from East Aberdeen.

A dispatch from Halifax, N. S., says that the Committee appointed to examine the distress at Cape Breton report 1,355 persons requiring assistance in the various mining districts.

Spain has decided to send heavy reinforcements to Cuba.

The British troops in Malacca have arrived befor Kintah.

The Prince of Wales landed at Calcutta last week.

The Epoca, of Madrid, says that when the Carlist insurrection is suppressed a large army will be maintained in Cuba as a measure of precaution, and that Spain will propose to the United States a new and mutually advantageous commercial treaty.

The London Times, in its second edition, Dec. 24, has a special telegram from Penang, dated Dec. 24 to the following effect:—General Colborne reports that he has taken Kintah without any loss. The Maharajahs, Ismail and Lela fled to Palane.

The steamship Kenilworth, Captain Prouse, which left Liverpool on the 13th, and Queenstown on the following day, for Philadelphia, has returned to Queenstown, having lost her propeller.

The Lord Mayor of London has received from Mayor Stokely of Philadelphia a superbly bound volume of the latter's third annual message. The book is bound in Levant morocco, with elaborate ornamental silk linings, and is inclosed in an elegant morocco case, also lined with silk.

The British troops in Malacca have arrived before Kurtah, where the Maharajaha Island and Lela opposed them with considerable force.

The principal feature of the great powers, propositions relative to the reforms in Turkey is that the ambassadors of the neutral powers at Constantinople shall exercise a permanent control in the execution of the reforms in the provinces.

Sonora, Mexico, is in a state of anarchy, and Governor Pesquiera has levied a special tax to carry on the war.

There is in China a remarkable people known as "the nameless sect." They profess "an old religion," which prevails more or less all over China, but especially in the province of Shantung. Disliked and persecuted by the civil authorities, they have for a long time endeavored to keep their beliefs and practices secret. Their religion is said to have come from the West, whence also they expect a deliverer. They do not worship idols. At the close of their religious services they have a meal, of which bread and wine form the greater part. It is thought that they may be the remnant of the native churches planted centuries ago in China by Nestorian missionaries, who are said to have preached the gospel for nearly a thousand years through Southern and Middle Asia with marvelous energy and success, and to have exerted a powerful influence in China for upward of six hundred years, from the seventh to the thirteenth century.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Dec. 25, 1875.

THIS and the coming week will render a good deal of produce inactive, especially coarse items. The lull at this season is not unexpected, as the term between Christmas and New Year is devoted to settling up the year's accounts in many wholesale circles. Dealers in dairy products and other lines of goods not persishable do not look for trade to open until after Jan. 1. We may look for easy figures, as we have passed a prolonged season of quiet trade.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Beans are generally quoted at the late low figures, for mediums and marrows are again shaded. Pea beans quiet. Few prime are offering. White kidneys fairly firm. Red dull and favoring buyers. Peas of all kinds are quiet and unchanged: the extreme for green is $1.75.

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.75@1.80; other, 1.50@1.65; medium, new, $1.45@1.50; fair to good, $1.20@1.35; very poor, 75c.@$1; marrow, new, prime, $1.75@1.80; other, $1.55@1.65; white kidney, prime, $2.20@2.25; fair to good, $1.90@$2; red kidney, new, prime, $1.55@1.75; fair to good, $1.40@1.50; California Lima, choice, $5.50@6.50. Peas, Canadian, bbls., now, duty paid, $1.23; bulk, in bond, $1.03@1.05; green, new, ₱ bush., $1.75; Southern B. E., ₱ 2 bush. bag, $3@3.10.

BEESWAX is wanted at 31½@32c. for Western, and 32½@33c. for Southern.

BROOM CORN.—Supplies are almost entirely of poor stock, which has to be sold low.

We quote Brush, short green, 9½@10c.; hurl, green, 10c.; green, medium, 7@8c.; red and red tipped, 6@7c.

BUTTER.—There have been one or two days of pretty brisk trade since our last and quite a satisfactory movement in good lines of State at 25@28c. Marketmen are willing to pay these figures, as they can make a profit and have a standard of quality that will run even. This gives the under grades of state the preference over the irregular supplies of Western at this season. Fancy State is still strong at our quotations. Very extra dairies may be quoted a shade above 30c., but the instances are rare. Western solid-packed and rolls are in good demand, especially the cheap grades of the former, which are wanted for bakers' use. Pails and creameries might as well be dropped from the list, so few arrive. We quote:

State dairies entire, extra, 30@—c.; entire, good to prime, 26@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; firkins, selected fresh, 28@30c.; good to prime, 25@28c.; fair to good, 21@25c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 30@33c.; good to prime, 26@32c.; fair to good, 27@30c.; poor to fair, 25@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, full made, 30@33c.; dairies, 27@29c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; poor to fair, 22@23c. Pennsylvania, store packed, 17@26c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 26@27c.; good to prime, 24@26c.; tubs selected fresh, 26@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 24@25c.; fair to good, fresh, 21@24c.; poor to fair, fresh, 20@21c.; Western, early packed, selected, 21@22c.; Western, early packed, other, 16@20c. Roll butter, good to prime, 24@26c.; fair to good, 22@23c.

CHEESE.—Export trade is moderate, and no improvement is expected until after the holidays. Exceptional lots of fancy factories have been sold at 13¾c., and some lots are held off the market even at this price, but more general sales of ordinary fancy are at 13@13¼c. The home trade is without life.

New State factory, fancy, 13@13¾c.; fine, 12¾c.; do. good to prime, 12@12¾c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor to fair, 7½@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12¾@12¾c.; good to prime, 11¾@12c.; fair to good, 10@10½c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat time, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@11c.; poor to fair, 6@8c.

CIDER—Scarce. Quoted at 20@25c. for new pure sweet.

COTTON has declined a trifle under the heavy receipts at the ports and a dull Liverpool market. December, 13 1-16@13 3-32c.; January, 13¼@13 5-32c.; February, 13 5-16@13 11-32c.; March, 13 9-16@13 19-32c.; April, 13 13-16@13 27-32c.; May, 14@14 1-32c.; June, 14 7-32@14¼c.; July, 14¾@14 13-32c.; August, 14 7-16@13 15-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	10 15-16	10 15-16	10 15-16	10 15-16
Strict ordinary	11 7-16	11 7-16	11 7 16	11 7-16
Good ordinary	12 1-16	12 1 16	12 3-16	12 3-16
Strict good do.	12 7-16	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 9-16
Low middling	12 13-16	12 15-16	13 1-16	13 1-16
Strict low middling	13¼	13¼	13¼	13¼
Middling	13 5-16	13 7-16	13¾	13¾
Good middling	13 11-16	13 13-16	13 15-16	13 15-16
Strict good middling	14	14¼	14¼	14¼
Middling fair	14¾	14¾	14¾	14¾
Fair	15¼	15¼	15¾	15¼

Stained.

Good ordinary	11 7-16	Low middling	12¾
Strict ordinary	12 3-16	Middling	12 11-16

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are plenty, hard to sell; and weak as to prices. Unpeeled peaches scarce and firm. Peeled peaches dull and favoring the buyer. Blackberries inactive.

Apples—State, sliced, 10¾@10¾c.; quarters, 9½@9½c.; Western quarters, 8½c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 9¾@10c. for prime, and fancy 12c.; Tennessee quarters, 8½c. Blackberries, new, 10@11c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@18c.; do. fancy, 19@20c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12½@13c. for halves, and 11½c. for quarters. Plums at 20c. Raspberries, new, 32@33c. Cherries, 24@25c.

EGGS.—There is always a steady demand for the holidays, and though the dull times produce some curtailment in the trade, dealers are satisfied with the rate at which stock goes out at prices.

Jersey and Pennsylvania, single bbls., ₱ doz., 31@32c.; State, 30@31c.; Western, prime, 29@30c.; do. fair marks, 28½@29c.; Canadian, 29½@30c.; Southern, 28@30c.; Limed, State, prime, 25@27c.; do. Western, good to prime, 24@25c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The remarks of the past week are still applicable.

We quote peppermint in glass "H. G." $4.25 ₱ lb. cans, ₱ lb., $1. Wintergreen, $3.25 ₱ lb.; sassafras, 65c.; spearmint, $3; pennyroyal, $2; wormwood, $1; tansy, $4.

FEATHERS are quiet at 60@63c. for prime live Western, and 35@55c for mixed.

FLOUR.—Export trade has been very light and home trade small, while supplies have been large and freely offered.

Superfine State, $4.50@4.75; extra do., $4.90@5.00; superfine Western, $4.30@4.90; extra do., $5.00@5.00; No. 2, $3.40@4.25; extra round-hoop Ohio, $5.10@5.30; trade brands do., $5.35@7.40; white wheat extras, $5.60@7.75; St. Louis, $5.50@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.10@6.75; Southern at $4.40@4.75 for superfine; $4.90@5.50 for poor to choice shipping extras; $5.60@8.75 for common to choice trade and family brands. Rye flour at $4.35@5.50.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.—Layer raisins, $2.80@2.85; loose Muscatel, do., $3.00@3.25. Currants, new, 7½c. Tarragona almonds, 17½c. Sardines, 13½@14½ for quarter boxes. Valencia raisins, 10½@10½c. Turkey prunes, 6c.

FRESH FRUITS.—Apples are quiet and unchanged. The weather is favorable for handling them, but holders' views are higher than large buyers feel to be safe. Cranberries steady. California pears in good demand for prime. Hickory nuts dull, considering the stock. Grapes not wanted.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, ₱ @3.50; mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; do. fair, $2@2.25. Lady apples, 10@15. Pears—Choice California, ₱ box, $4@4.50. Grapes—Catawba, 3@5c.; Isabella, 2@4c. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, $1; good to prime, $2.62@2.87; good to choice, ₱ bbl., $8.75@9.75; Cape Cod, fancy, ₱ bbl., $9.75@10.25; Eastern, fancy, $9.75@10.25; good to prime, $8.50@9.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.25@1.50; do. Wilmington, $1.65@1.75; do. Tennessee, 75c.@$1.15; Hickory nuts, $1.35@1.50.

FURS AND SKINS.—The season thus far has been a dull one. Shippers' orders for Europe are for the moment supplied. The bad results of last year have reduced the speculative inquiry. The following is the generally accepted table of prices for prime skins. After the 1st prox. it is thought that a revision will occur, and at the present outlook it will be in buyers' favor:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00 to 15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00 to 10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50 to 3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50 to 2 50
Badger	20 to 50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50 to 60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40 to 50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00 to 12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, silver	15 00 to 50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00 to 5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50 to 1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25 to 1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40 to 60
Fox, Kitt	30 to 50
Lynx	1 00 to 2 00
Marten, Stakes	1 50 to 2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00 to 4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00 to 3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00 to 1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75 to 1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50 to 75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	23 to 25
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	20 to 23
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12 to 15
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00 to 12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	8 00 to 10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00 to 6 00
Opossum, North. cased	18 to 20
Opossum, South and open North	12 to 15
Racoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indian handled, dark	80 to 1 00
Racoon, Ill., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50 to 65
Racoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn.	65 to 75
Racoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40 to 50
Racoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15 to 40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00 to 3 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	— to 1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	— to 1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50 to 80
Skunks, white streaked	15 to 20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00 to 3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75 to 1 25

GRAIN.—The arrivals of wheat by rail are sufficient for present demand, and the accumulated supplies from the fall are burdensome, with prices easier. Latest sales at $1.37 for prime amber Michigan; $1.46½ for very choice amber Pennsylvania; $1.44@1.45 for white Western; $1.31½ for choice No. 1 Milwaukee spring in store; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.21; $1.05 for No. 4 spring, under inspection rules; 95c. for "no grade" do., and $1@1.05 for rejected spring. Rye at 91@95c. for State, and 80@90c. for Western. Barley dull and weak; sales of two-rowed State at 85@92½c. for fair to good, and $1.12 for Canada. Corn is in larger supply and easier. Sales at 74@74½c. for sail mixed western afloat; 74½@75c. for high mixed; 73½c. for old yellow western in store; 66@68½c. for very damp to choice dry new mixed western; 87@88½c. for new yellow western. Oats selling slowly and weak at 49@51c. for white State; 45@50c. for mixed Western, and 47@51 for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—Purchases are less general and in lighter quantities on account of the full prices asked.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 80c.; retail qualities, $1.10@1.20 for new; clover, 65@75c.; salt, 65@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.15@1.25 for long rye; 80@90c. for short rye; 65@75c. for oat.

HIGHWINES.—Sales at $1.16.

HOPS.—There is more doing on export account, and choice grades occasionally bring better prices, or up to 15c. Good and grades under difficult to sell.

New York State, 10@15c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins, 10@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californians, 17@20c.

HONEY.—We have seldom seen the market so quiet at this season. Supplies are still largely in first hands, and that of course means weak prices. We quote white clover, in glass, 20@25c.; buckwheat, 15@17c.; strained, 14@15c.

MILK.—The farmers' average for the month of November was 1¼c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—There has been a very fair demand for dressed poultry. There is less demand for geese than is customary for Christmas week, still prime quality and good sizes are salable. Turkeys sell briskly. We quote:

Turkeys, N. J., choice, 15@17c.; do. other, 13@14c.; State and Western, choice, 14@15c.; do. other, 12@13c. Chickens, N. J., 13@17c.; State, as to quality, 10@13c.; Western, 9@12c. Fowls range at 9@12c. Ducks, 13@14c. Geese, near-by, 13@14c.; do. other, 9@12c.

Live poultry is a little stronger, but there is no inducement for heavy supplies.

Chickens and fowls, Jersey, ₱ lb., 10@12c.; Western, ₱ lb., 9@11c. Roosters, ₱ lb., 8@9c. Turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 12@13c.; Western, 9@11c. Ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, 70@90c.; Western, 55@65c. Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2@3.50; Western, $1.12@1.37.

Game is selling freely. Prices for birds are quite as good as they were last week. Venison is abundant and easier. The 15th of January is the law's limit for deer.

Quail, trapped, prime, ₱ doz., $2.00@2.25; soft, $1.25@1.50. Grouse, prime, ₱ pair, $1.10@1.20; drawn, 80@95c. Partridges, choice, ₱ pair, 80@90c.; Western, drawn, 65c.; Eastern, 65@75c. Hares, ₱ pair, 45@55c. Rabbits, ₱ pair, 40@45c. Venison, short saddles, ₱ lb., 15@16c.; long saddles, 13@14c.; whole deer, 8@10c. Bear, black, grown, ₱ lb., 10@12c.; cub, 10@12c. Canvas-back ducks, Western, ₱ pair, $1@1.25; redhead, 70@80c.; mallard, 60@70c.; teal, 40@50c.; common, 30@40c.; Havre de Grace canvas back, $1.50@1.75. Wild geese, 75c.@$1 ₱ pair; do. turkeys, 14@16c. ₱ lb.

PROVISIONS.—Mess pork lower on account of the increased arrivals of hogs at the West. Lard also easier. Bacon scarce and at full prices. The quotations are for mess pork $21 on spot, $20.65 for January and February, $20.80 for March; extra prime, $15.50@16, prime mess $19.50. Dry salted shoulders 8¼c. do.; short cut hams 11¼@12c. Bacon at 10¾c. for long clear, 11c. for long and short clear, together. Lard at 12 15-16@13c. for Western steam, spot and December, 13c. for January 13 3-16c. for February, 13 5-16c. for March. Tallow at 10@10½ for prime. Stearine at 13¼c. for prime Western. Beef hams $21.50@22.50. Beef, extra mess, $12@12.50; do., plain mess $11@11.50; new tierced at $23 for prime mess, $25 for India mess, City extra India mess, $31.50@32.50. Old extra mess, $11.50 and $10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.50@16.50.

SALT.—Ashton's, $2.50; Deakin's, $1.60@1.65; Marshall's, Washington's and Worthington's, $1.65@1.65; Higgins & Deans', $1.75@1.80.

SEED.—Clover is scarce; selling in small lots at 12¾c. for prime Western and 13¼c. for State.

TOBACCO.—Export purchases are small and local trade without much life, as usual about the holiday period.

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	7 @ 8	8 @ 8¼
Good lugs	8¼@ 9	8½@ 9
Low leaf	9¼@10¼	9¼@10¼
Medium leaf	11 @12½	11½@13
Good leaf	13 @14	13½@15½
Fine leaf	14½@16	16 @18
Select	17 @18	18½@22

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
Connecticut seconds, fine	12 @18
Fillers, fine	8 @10
Seconds and fillers, shipping	7 @ 9
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	15 @25
Wisconsin	6¼@ 9

VEGETABLES.—The market generally unchanged. Low prices for potatoes have induced considerable demand, but the stock continues large. We quote:

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.50@1.75; Prince Alberts, $1@1.25; Peerless, 65c.@$1.00. Sweet potatoes, $1@2.75. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $3@5; red, $2@4. Cauliflower, bbl., $2@5. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 40@60c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@2.75. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 40c. Carrots, $1.75.

WOOL.—Business is very slow, but supplies are now so reduced that prices are well sustained.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	Cts. per lb.
Picklock	50 @ 54
XX	@ 48
X	47 @ 48
No. 1	48 @ 50
No. 2	45 @ 48
Coarse	40 @ 45
Combing	58 @ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—	
XX	44 @ 46
X	44 @ 46
No. 1	46 @ 48
No. 2	43 @ 47
Coarse	40 @ 43
Combing	55 @ 62
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
XX	45 @ 47
X	45 @ 47
No. 1	46 @ 48
No. 2	43 @ 47
Coarse	40 @ 43
Combing	55 @ 62
Combing, unwashed	38 @ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—	
XX	44 @ 47
X	44 @ 47
No. 1	46 @ 48
No. 2	43 @ 45
Coarse	40 @ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—	
Fine unwashed	35 @ 38
Medium unwashed	31 @ 36
Coarse unwashed	27 @ 30
Burry	17 @ 28

ROCHESTER, Dec. 25.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat is dull: Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.30. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Cornmeal, $1.85@2. Butter, 28@30c. Cheese, 12@13c. Eggs, 26@28c. Lard, 13@14c. Apples, ₱ bu., 50@85c. Potatoes, ₱ bu., 25@35c. Beans, ₱ bu., $1.00@1.45. Mess pork, $21@—. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $8@12. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $5.75@6.00. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.65@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Dec. 18, 1875.

THERE were but few sales of cheese at the Little Falls market for the week ending Dec. 25. Only about 500 boxes of factory were sold, these being all November make. From 10 to 10½c. were paid for them. Septembers and Octobers may be quoted at from 1 to 2c. higher.

On account of the bitter cold weather no farm dairy cheese came into market, and but little butter was bought. Good winter butter brought from 22 to 25c.

We have advices from Europe up to the 12th of December. Our London correspondent says:

English cheese quiet in all its branches. American, if very fancy and free from late and early made, are in better request at quotations; low-priced in demand. Quotations are as follows:

American extra, 62s@66s.; fine, 62@63s.; good, 50@60s.; secondary, 36@48s. The other descriptions of cheese sell as below:—English cheddar, 78@91s.; Wiltshire cheddar, 70@78s.; Cheshire fine, 58@68s.; fine, 76@84s.; Scotch, 70@74s., ₱ cwt.

Butter is in improved demand, though nearly confined to the finest descriptions. We quote:

Clonmels, 134@136s.; Corks, 131@150s.; Dorsets, 160s.; Jersey, 100@130s.; Friesland, 130..136s.; Normandy, 90@156s.; American and Canadian, 90@122s., ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25, 1875.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	2,697	49	400	7,378	000
Forty-Eighth St.	30	37	200	8,472	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	613	18,740
Harsimus Cove	5,261	33	000	16,583	12,180
Totals this week	7,988	119	600	25,050	15,920
" last week	9,811	179	686	23,941	31,630

BEEVES. Last Monday forenoon, on a light run of horned cattle, trade was very slow; still prices were firm—the extreme range being 8@15c. ₱ lb., weights, 4½@11 cwt. The best steers to hand were 11 head of Kentucky cattle, sold at 13½@14½c., on 60@63 lbs., net, and 38 Illinois Short-Horn steers, at 13½@14½c., on 60@63 lbs., net. Wednesday, trade very slow at 13@13½c.; weights, 4½@8½ cwt. The best quality steers to hand were held over unsold. Thursday, trade slow at 12½c.; weights, 4½@7¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 6@12½c.; weights, 4½@8 cwt. From 63@64 lbs., net, have been allowed to the cwt. Spanish herds direct from the Plains, 6@8½c. ₱ lb.; do. corn-fed, 9@10½c. Native steers, 9@12½c.; grass do., 12½@13½c. Short-Horn steers, 13½@15c. Dry cows, 8@9½c. Mixed herds, 8@10½c. Oxen, 9@13c. Bulls, live weight, 3@4½c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @15	12 @13½
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	6 @ 9¾	6½@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	11 @11	10 @11¾

MILCH COWS.—The continued heavy run of poor quality fresh cows keeps trade slow at low rates. Extreme range of prices, $30@42 ₱ head for selves included. General sales, $30@35 ₱ head. Sixteen cows sold at $30@30 ₱ head; 41 do., $45@90 ₱ head; 10 do., $55@75 ₱ head; 1 springer, $81.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Coarse quality grass calves in over supply; prices obtained, on a slow trade, $3@12.50 ₱ head. Coarse quality meal-fed calves, 6@7c. Bobs, $2.50 ₱ head. Rough hair yearlings, 2½@3c. ₱ lb. Smooth quality scarce and slow of sale at 8@10½c. ₱ lb.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday trade was moderate. Sheep sold at 5@5c. ₱ lb.; lambs, culls included, 6½@6¾c. Wednesday, no change in the tone or trade. Sheep, 5@7c. ₱ lb.; lambs, 7@7¾c. Thursday, trade still uniform. Sheep, 5@7¼c.; lambs, not quoted. Friday, markets closed dull. Sheep, 5@7c.; lambs, not quoted. State sheep, 5½@6c. ₱ lb.; Wisconsin do., 6¼@7c.; Indiana do., 5½@6¾c.; Kentucky do., 5@5c.; Illinois do., 6@7c.; Canada do., 7½@8c.; Ohio do., 5@7½c.; Jersey do., 5½@6¾c.; State lambs, 7@8c.; Canada do., 7½@8c.

HOGS.—Monday trade in live hogs fair at 7¾c. ₱ lb.; Wednesday trade slow at 7½c.; Thursday and Friday none on sale. City dressed opened fair on Monday at 9½@9¾c. ₱ lb.; general sales at 9¾c.; on Wednesday trade was dull and prices fell off to 9@9½c.; Thursday, 8¾@9¾c.; Friday, 8¾@9¾c. The markets closed weak.

HORSE MARKET.—Trade in horses the past week was very slow. Nineteen poor quality light harness horses sold at $55@95 ₱ head; 81 fair do., $115@200 ₱ head; 23 roadsters, with moderate trotting action, sold at $215@275 ₱ head; 1 choice brougham horse, $300; 1 pair stylish carriage horses, $1,000; 2 pairs family do., $300@400 ₱ pair; 3 pairs heavy draft horses, choice quality, $525@600 ₱ pair; 5 head do., quality poor, $120@175 ₱ head. No arrivals reported, freight trains being held back in several instances.

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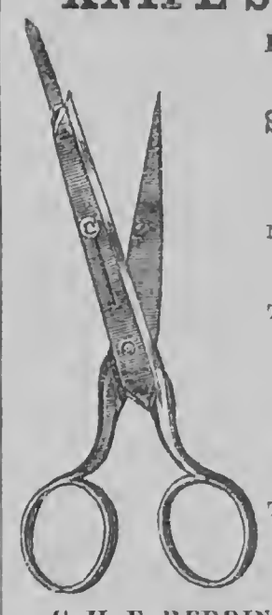

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

JENNY LIND'S health is failing.

ELIZABETH THOMAS of Ripley, O., is only 105.

EDMUND C. STEDMAN has gone to Aspinwall.

PAGE is painting President Eliot of Harvard.

GEO. ELIOT'S new novel is entitled "Daniel Deronda."

NILSSON is to make a tour through England and Belgium.

MARK TWAIN, Samuel Clemens, is sick in Hartford, Conn.

ALEXANDER of Russia finishes his fifty-eighth year shortly.

GEN. JOVELLAR has been appointed Captain-General of Cuba.

THE late Horace Binney left personal property valued at $520,192.

GEN. MEIGS' daughter is the American belle at Berlin this winter.

J. A. PERKINS, a prominent lawyer of Montreal, died there, Dec. 23.

WELD is the name of a Boston man reputed to be worth $18,000,000.

THE Italian Minister, Blanc has become a Centennial Commissioner.

MOODY and Sankey had their largest audience in Philadelphia, Dec. 22.

GEN. CABALLERO DE RODAS, formerly Captain-Feneral of Cuba, is dead.

BRIGHAM YOUNG has had a severe relapse and is in a precarious condition.

GEO. S. BANGS of Fast mail fame has resigned to engage in private business

, COL. J. H. WOOD of Chicago, is said to be the possessor of a $50,000 diamond.

CONGRESSMAN WARREN of the 8th Massachusetts District is in very poor health.

G. L. RUFFIN, a colored lawyer, has been elected a Common Councilman in Boston.

H. C. WILCOX (Rep.) has been re-elected Mayor of Meriden, Conn., by 233 majority.

PETER SANDFORD, a well-known New Jersey contractor, died in Newark, recently.

WATERS & SONS of Troy, will have six paper boats on exhibition at the Centennial.

GLADSTONE is receiving daily about twice as many letters as there are in the alphabet.

MOTHER STEWART, the Crusader, is soon to leave for England to begin a work there.

THE Rev. E. B. Andrews was inaugurated President of Denison University, Ohio, Dec. 22.

EULOGIES upon Andrew Johnson will be delivered in the Senate on the 11th of January.

DR. GALLERRY, formerly of Philadelphia, has again declined the R. C. Bishopric of Hartford.

CAPT. JAMES OSTRANDER, one of Troy's oldest and most respected citizens, died Dec. 15, aged 54.

EDWIN FORREST'S old house in Philadelphia, has been sold for $93,000, and is to become a club-house.

EX-SENATOR RICHARDSON of Illinois is dangerously ill with a stroke of paralysis, at his home in Quincy.

GEN. A. H. H. DAVIS, editor of the Doylestown, Pa., Democrat, is about to publish the history of Bucks County.

SENATOR FERRY of Michigan has been re-elected President of the Senate, and is therefore acting Vice-President.

THE Attorney-General Weeks has been elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature, for Guysborough, by a majority of six.

MR. J. W. LYTLE, a large land owner in the town of Williamsburg, Ohio, was kicked to death by a high-spirited horse.

H. E. BIRD, a distinguished English chess player, is now here and won a majority of the games played with the New Yorkers.

SENATOR FENTON writes from Florida to his Albany physician that he has already been much relieved from his throat trouble.

THE report that ex-Senator Nye was recovering his health and his mental faculties proves incorrect. He is considered incurable.

DR. D. IVES, pastor of the Baptist Church at Suffolk, Conn., for the past thirty-four years, died at Conway, Dec. 22, aged 70 years.

GEN. LANE, candidate for Vice-President in 1860, is now a farmer of Oregon. His son is a Representative in Congress from the same State.

HORACE WHITE thinks Americans are better housewives and cooks than English women. Possibly the Centennial year is rousing his patriotic feelings.

CAPT. F. W. BIGELOW of Boston, who absconded some days ago with about $1,200 of the funds of the Washington Guards, has been arrested at Fitchburg.

JAMES WILSON, a New York street broker, has failed for $350,000. He leaves $1,500,000 in stocks for assets (at par value), but they are almost worthless.

DR. W. P. HAMMOND, director of the prison at the Shoals, Martin Co., Ind., resembles Tweed so closely that he has been arrested twice on suspicion of being the fugitive, and is now afraid to go out of his house.

MR. SLATES JEWELL died at Saratoga, N. Y., Dec. 17, in his 99th year. Mr. Jewell was married in the year 1800, and his wife, aged 98, still lives with the first born—a lady of 74.

MR. MOODY paid no attention to the Congressmen while in Philadelphia the other day. He probably intends soon to have religious meetings in Washington and keep at the work long enough to make an impression.

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IN making up lists of newspapers for 1876, we hope our farmer-friends will not overlook that "old standby," THE RURAL NEW-YORKER, founded and still conducted by D. D. T. MOORE, New York. No better journal of its class is published anywhere. Join the Club now being made up at the Post-Office at only $2.15 a year.—*Lyons Republican.*

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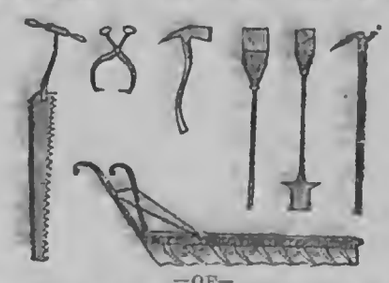

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— The election of the French Senate ended Dec. 21.

— Iowa has 8,865 Quakers, 4,465 males and 4,400 females.

— The total debt of the State of California is $1,033,361.35.

— The Bank of Brandywine, at Westchester, Penn., has closed.

— A revival is in progress at the Methodist churches in Troy.

— The annual production of gold in the U. S. amounts to $30,000,000.

— Default has been made in the payment of the coupons of the Peruvian debt.

— The Saratoga Lake Bridge Company has declared a dividend of 25 per cent.

— Bush & Groat's boot shop in Spencer, Mass., was burned Dec. 21. Loss, $75,000.

— A church in East Saginaw organized a squirrel hunt, for the benefit of its treasury.

— Reports from San Diego, Cal., announce that all is quiet along the boundary line.

— The Pennsylvania Railroad has bought the Philadelphia Navy Yard for $1,000,000.

— The parish bar of St. Mary's Parish, La., has requested the District Judge to resign.

— The House Appropriations Committee of Congress will bring in three bills after recess.

— The Republicans are more pleased with Speaker Kerr's committees than the Democrats are.

— The office of the Advertising Journal, Kearney Township, N. J., was destroyed by fire on the 21st inst.

— China departs from the custom of other nations by sending two ministers instead of one to Washington.

— The Yale University Boat Club has voted to withdraw from the Rowing Association of American Colleges.

— The Central Vermont railroad has reduced its pay-roll about $50,000 per month within the last few months.

— The Italian expedition for exploring the interior of Africa will start in January, and be absent three years.

— The population of Seattle, Oregon, according to the census just taken, is 3,480, exclusive of Indians and Chinese.

— A gas-main exploded under the Federal street bridge, Boston, Dec. 22, killing and wounding a number of persons.

— It is said that Mr. George Martin has conveyed the Martin Opera House premises, Albany, to James Hart for $150,000.

— The rolling mill at Lebanon, Pa., of which John W. Bowman is the manager, employing 100 men, resumed work Dec. 20th.

— The Georgetown Miner says that Colorado may safely be put down for $10,000,000 in gold and silver in 1875 and $20,000,000 in 1876.

— It is stated that female searchers are to be stationed in the Dominion custom offices at both the upper and lower suspension bridges.

— A resolution has been offered in the California Legislature providing for an investigation into the trustworthiness of Pacific coasting vessels.

— The military of Savannah are making preparations to celebrate the anniversary of Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday, Jan. 19, by a grand parade.

— The Boston Commercial Exchange has voted against appropriating $10,000 in aid of the Poughkeepsie bridge and the direct Western route project.

— The Court of Appeals of New York has decided that lager bier is intoxicating. After this warning people should be very careful about drinking it.

— No Chinese bank has failed for five hundred years. When the last failure took place the officer's heads were cut off and flung into a corner with the other assets.

— Philadelphia is the second port in the Republic, in the export trade. New York is first, San Francisco third, Boston fourth, Baltimore fifth, and New Orleans sixth.

— Practical engineers estimate the cost of the proposed free bridge over the Ohio, connecting Cincinnati with Covington, at present prices of labor and material, at $750,000.

— There are from seventy-five to a hundred thousand Chinamen in California. John flourishes anywhere, but seems to have a slight fancy for the immediate vicinity of gold mines.

— The religious revival at Port Jervis, N. Y., closed Dec. 19. The number of conversions in the Methodist Church are over 700. The converts in the other churches will probably make 800.

— Statistics show that from 1853 to 1871, wages in France went up more than 40 per cent.; while of the masters 80 per cent. were originally workmen, and 15 per cent. the sons of workmen.

— The Legislature of California has enacted a law which allows every citizen who will plant trees and maintain them for three years, a deduction from his taxes of $1 for each tree so planted.

— Nevada has passed a law forbidding any person practising as a physician in that State who has not practised medicine there for five years, or does not hold a diploma from an established medical college.

— Italy will be well represented at the Centennial exhibition. The committee in charge of the matter have received 600 applications for space in the Italian department. Most of the exhibitors will send works of art.

Dairy Salt.

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J. W. BARKER, Pres't and Sec'y. THOMAS MOLLOY, Treasurer.

General Office, No. 1 Clinton Block, Syracuse, N.Y.

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	Ashton.	Onondaga.
Water	0.7889	0.6280
Insoluble Matter	0.0501	0.0304
Sulphate of Lime	1.2272	0.7217
Sulphate of Magnesia	0.0769	.....
Chloride of Calcium	.....	0.0473
Chloride of Magnesium	0.0591	0.0316
Chloride of Sodium	97.7538	98.5213
	99.9674	99.9823

Circulars in regard to the various other tests made with this salt in comparison with the best foreign article, also certificates from a large number of the best dairies in the State as to its quality, may be had on application to J. W. BARKER, Secretary, Syracuse, N. Y., to whom orders for salt may also be addressed. It is also for sale by the Agents of the Company in principal Western Lake Ports; by ST. JOHN & AVERY, 110 and 108 Broad St., New York; ROBERT GEER, 105 Pier, Albany, N. Y.; E. W. PECK & CO., Burlington, Vt., and by dealers generally throughout the State of New York.

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J. W. BARKER, Pres't and Sec'y.
THOMAS MOLLOY, Treasurer.
Syracuse, May, 1875.

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1876.

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THE HOUSEHOLD MAGAZINE OF AMERICA,

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MIRIAM, AND THE LIFE SHE LAID DOWN, a new serial Story by T. S. ARTHUR, will also be commenced in the January number.

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BY X. A. WILLARD, A. M.,

Dairy Husbandry Editor of Moore's Rural New-Yorker, Lecturer in Cornell University, Maine Agricultural College, Etc., Etc.

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*Hearth and Home	5 15	4 55
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The Advance	5 65	4 90
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New York Witness	4 15	3 40
" " Sun	3 85	3 85
" " Evening Post	4 15	3 40
" " Tribune	4 65	4 00
" " Nation	7 85	6 85
Chicago Times	4 65	3 90
" Inter-Ocean	4 15	3 60
Cincinnati Commercial	4 80	3 80
" Enquirer	4 65	3 90
" Gazette	4 65	3 90
" Times and Hand-Book	4 75	3 90
Detroit Free Press	4 65	3 90
" Tribune	4 65	3 90
*Louisville Courier-Journal	4 65	3 10
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SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A TIE game—Getting married.

To what age do hogs attain?—Saus-age.

THE man who would like to see you—the blind man.

It makes a hen tender to lay a while after she is dead.

A MAN born without feet must necessarily be no-to-rious.

"You may tread on me for $4." Placard on a pair of boots.

WHY is a solar eclipse like a woman whipping her boy? Because its a hiding of the sun.

THE man who undertook to walk against time has given up, but time is still going ahead.

WEAK men are the hardest to control. They have no more backbone than an angleworm.

AN odd marriage is reported in Bland County, Va.—that of Mr. Allen Hannah to Miss Hannah Allen.

ISN'T it rather strange that one of the healthiest States in the Union should be named Chelera-do?

THE chap who is quoted as being "as honest as the day is long" had better take a back seat until next sprlug.

WHY must the letter "D" be the most wonderful letter in the alphabet? Because it is the center of "wonder."

BARTLETT is homely, while his two daughters are the opposite, and the boys have named them the Improved Bartlett pair.

THE following toast was given recently: "The ladies!—may we kiss the girls we please, and please the girls we kiss!"

HONESTY and happiness seem to be alike in this particular—those who have the most of either seem to make the least of it.

"MARY CHEESE is in the St. Louis jail." How are the mitey fallen! But perhaps her arrest was "smear-kase" or mistaken identity.

A SCHOOLBOY'S composition on the ox:—"An ox does not taste so good as an oyster, but it can draw a bigger load and run twice as fast.

A WESTERN paper says:—"We are publishing a tri-weekly now. We get out a paper one week and try like blazes to get it out the next."

THE Chinese have a saying that an unlucky word drooped from the tongue cannot be brought back again by a coach and six horses.

"A FARMER" advises strangers who wish to get teeth inserted gratis, to go and steal his fruit, when they will find his watch dog on guard.

BOY, when you slide on the long banister, of the front hall stairs, and go down to the bottom so fast that it burns you clean through your trowsers, that's friction.

A MOUNT BETHEL township farmer cut open an old hornet's nest, just to examine the inside arrangement. He says he thinks he will be able to see his barn in about two weeks.

A YOUNG man who went about Monday morning snuffing and blowing his nose, explained to a friend that "She didn't have ady fire id de parlor Suddy dight ad id dwas blabe code."

CHARIVARI tells of a negro named Domingo, in one of the French colonies, who, speaking of the advantages of the Christian religion, said: There was a time when I knew nothing of God or the devil, but now I know and love them both."

IT is of these holiday times that the poet speaks:

"The Turk awoke;
That bright dream was his last!"

The word "Turk" being, of course, poetic license for turkey.

THE other day a would-be fashionable lady called at a neighbor's at what she thought would be supper-time. "Come in," said the neighbor; "we are having a tableau." "I'm so glad," said the visitor; "I thought I smelt them, and I like them better than anything for supper.

DURING a recent examination of a class of youngsters in one of the Chemung county schools, the teacher asked:—"What is monarchy?" and was immediately answered by a bright little boy:—"A country governed by a king." "Who would rule if the king should die?" "The queen." "And if the queen should die, who would be the ruler?" "The jack."

"How is your beef?" asked one gentleman of another while dining in a cheap restaurant. "Bully," was the somewhat equivocal reply. By the way, is not the word "restaurant" of Latin origin, derived from "res," a thing, and "taurus," a bull? The explanation is at least as plausible as that the student gave when requested to define "Virgin." "It comes from 'vir,' a man, and 'gin,' a trap,' and means man-trap," answered the student.

THE CENTENNIAL NEW YEAR.

Jonathan (musing as he awakes, Jan. 1st, 1876).—"A hundred years old this year, am I? Well, I feel like a boy!"

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The Herdsman.

ENGLISH PRIZE ANIMALS.

RURAL readers will be interested in the accompanying engravings and descriptions of the heads and shoulders of six notable prize-winners at the recent (seventy-eighth) Annual Show of the Smithfield Club, the most famous live stock association in England. The Show was one of the best ever made by the Club. A London contemporary, in speaking of the Exhibition, says: "Taken altogether, every one of the 395 entries is a sample of what can be done by a judicious selection of breeding and crossing various strains of blood, so as to produce the most beef, mutton and pork for public consumption." The aggregate value of the prizes was over £3,000, and among the prominent exhibitors were the Queen and Prince of Wales. The prize animals portrayed in our illustration are briefly described as follows:

1. Mr. WM. FOX BEAVEN'S of Woodborough, Marlborough, Wilts, 3 years 9 months, Emma, bred by exhibitor, sire Master Arthur 29,311, dam Emma, sire of dam Ben Bolt 21,267; fed on hay, roots, cabbage, linseed cake, wheat and bean meal, and Thorley's food.

2. Mr. ALLAN BENJAFIELD'S of The Poplars, Stalbridge, Blandford, Dorsetshire, 29 months 19 days, black improved Dorset, bred by exhibitor; fed on barley, peas, whey and Thorley's food.

3. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K. G., Sandrigham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, Highland steer, about 5 years, breeder unknown; fed on oil cake, meal, roots and hay.

4. WILLIAM WOOD of Ifield Court, Crawley, Sussex, 4th Dark, 4 years 9 months, bred by exhibitor, dam 3d Dark 882, sire of dam Harry 55; fed on hay, linseed cake, bean and wheat meal; had one calf.

5. Mr. THOMAS WILLIS' of Manor House, Carperby, Bedale, Yorkshire, Bride of Windsor, Short-Horn, 4 years 7 months, bred by exhibitor, sire Windsor Fitz-Windsor 25,158, dam Blushing Bride, sire of dam Fitzclarence 1452; fed on hay, turnips, swedes, cake and meal.

6. GEORGE STREET'S of Maulden, Ampthill, Bedford, fat wether, about 21 months, bred by exhibitor, from the stocks of CHARLES HOWARD and his own.

THE SHORT-HORN MANIA.

THE breeding of fine cattle, horses or sheep is calculated to do an immense deal of good, but, beyond a reasonable price, the running up to such extraordinary and ruinous rates is certain to end in disappointment. Any one who doubts the collapse of this inflated excitement need only look back at former follies, as, for instance, the Cochin China mania among fowls in England, about twenty years ago, and the extravagant prices of fine wooled sheep in this country since then.

The fact of the Duchess family changing owners so often, and the sellers not being enriched by the thousands obtained sufficient to enable or induce them to keep on breeding, looks suspicious. Why did Messrs. THORNE, SHELDON, CAMPBELL and MORRIS all sell out after such short ownership? Whatever the cause, the celebrity of the breed, in consequence of the high prices, has spread the other strains of the breed together with the Princess and Oxford blood all over the Continent, which eventually will cause a deal of mixture among the grades, thus improving the general stock everywhere, and though the fashionable breeders may come to repentance good will arise to the great community at large.

1. Mr. W. F. Beavon's Short-Horn, "Emma."
2. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Highland Steer.
3. Mr. Thomas Willis's Short-Horn, "Pride of Windsor." (Champion Cup).
4. Mr. Allen Benjafield's Improved Black Dorset Pig.
5. Mr. W. Wood's Sussex Cow, "Fourth Dark."
6. Mr. G. Street's Fat Oxford Wether.

HEADS OF PRIZE WINNERS AT THE RECENT SMITHFIELD SHOW, ENGLAND.

It is time a breed was brought prominently forward, which not only produces rich milk, like the Jerseys, but which are good established milkers, giving a great quantity, too. When I was a boy the Alderney cows, as they were then called, gave more as well as better milk than any other breed; but beauty in figure and style, and points, are thought more of than the capacious udders they were formerly famed for, for they could not walk much faster than a turtle could crawl along, as they had to throw their legs around the great, wide and deep bag every step they took. It is admitted the cows of that day were very plain, and were a frame of little more than bones; but, as every breed has been bred with an eye to beef and fine form, by attention to milking qualities there would be no necessity to sacrifice beauty in shape, though, as a matter of course, when a cow gives a great deal of rich milk she must be bare of flesh. The Short-Horn is a fine breed. It is at the head of all the breeds, but in a few years it is probable the polled cattle of some of the long-established kinds will become general favorites on account of the absence of those dangerous appendages—horns.

Within a few years there will be a great deal of live stock sent to England, and it is presumed the hornless cattle will be much handier to move about in cars or ships; but so long as horns are tolerated, the Short-Horns and Herefords will stand first for beef. If gentlemen, who are rich enough to give from $20,000 to $30,000 each for cows, would go into raising meat for exportation, it would do more good to the country and to themselves. A WORKING FARMER.

CHARCOAL FOR SICK ANIMALS.

NEARLY all sick animals become so by improper feeding in the first place. Nine cases out of ten the digestion is wrong. Charcoal is the most efficient and rapid corrective. It will cure a majority of cases, if properly administrated. An example of its uses. The hired man came in with the intelligence that one of the finest cows was very sick, and a kind neighbor proposed the usual drugs and poisons. The owner being ill and unable to examine the cow, concluded that the trouble came from overeating, and ordered a teaspoonful of pulverized charcoal to be given in water. It was mixed, placed in a junk bottle, the head turned upward, and the water turned downward. In five minutes improvement was visible, and in a few hours the animal was in the pasture quietly grazing. Another instance of equal success occurred with a young heifer which had become badly bloated by eating green apples after a hard wind. The bloat was so severe that the sides were as hard as a barrel. The old remedy, saleratus, was tried for correcting the acidity. But the attempt to put it down always caused coughing, and it did little good. Half a teacupful of fresh powered charcoal was given. In six hours all appearance of the bloat had gone, and the heifer was well.

Farm Economy.

PROFITABLE WINTER FARMING.

THE great drawback on successful Northern farming lies in the fact, that, for six months in the year, nature is at a stand still. There is no production and consumption goes on with accelerating ratio. Years ago, we used to hear an old song which strongly illustrates the disadvantage of farming in the older States. It is the argument of the farmer with his wife to persuade her to "go West."

"For here we must labor each day in the field,
And the winter consumes all the summer doth yield."

When the country was new, there was no lack of labor for the farmer in even the coldest weather. Clearing the land of trees and stumps and preparing for next season's operations, furnished abundant, and most profitable employment. Though the compensation was small, there was never lack of something to do. Small earnings induced economy, and naturally resulted in prosperity if not wealth. Of late years all this is changed. Farmers in winter find very little to do, and it usually costs any man more to live idly than when employed. The problem of the time is to find some constant and profitable employment for farmers during the winter season, and a confessedly hard problem it must be conceded, when thousands of farmers fail to make money even in the growing season. Yet we believe it can be done, and is done by thousands of farmers in the feeding and fattening of stock. Where animals are merely kept in "store" condition through the winter, there is certainly no profit but an almost entire loss. The animal may be worth a trifle more in spring than in fall; but unless there is a positive gain in milk, wool, growth or fat, there is slender chance for profit. The wisest economy in feed, with warm shelter is also needed to make liberal feeding profitable, and herein is the advantage of large operations. It does not cost ten times as much to feed ten cows as it does to feed one, nor twice as much to care for fifty head of cattle as for twenty-five. With large buildings suitably arranged food may be cut and steamed, while the expense is entirely too great for small operations. This does not necessarily imply large farms, though these large feeding establishments will generally go with them, and the feed used be grown on the farm. The only successful winter feeding which we believe in is that wherein grain and hay consumed on the farm brings as much profit as if sold, and if this is so, excepting the cost of transportation, there is as much profit in feeding bought grain as that grown on the farm. Where large winter feeding is practiced on a small farm the tendency will be to grow roots, and possibly grain at home, buying the corn needed, and also such other grain feed as may be thought best. This is the method wisely pursued by some Eastern farmers who have found by experience that they cannot grow corn as cheaply as Western farmers will lay it at their doors. This heavy feeding and buying of corn, bran, or other feed rapidly increases the fertility of the farm, enabling it to produce more and more. This is one secret of the success of JOHN JOHNSTON as a farmer. For many years he fattened sheep every winter, and never but once did he fail to receive a profit on the corn and other feed consumed besides the large amount of valuable manure. The richness of Mr. JOHNSTON'S farm, rivaling the best-managed farms of England, is doubtless due to this management. Other farmers of our acquaintance make a good thing every winter fattening cattle, and others still by keeping cows and selling the milk. It is a fact that by skillful management and wise selection of stock, farmers can, and do make more money in winter than they do by their summer operations. This is what we call superior farming, and those who would rival it must learn to adopt similar methods, making no season of the year barren of profit, but each continuously productive.

MANURIAL IRRIGATION.

MY experience is so directly opposed to the conclusions of the writer of the article in the late RURAL—headed "Liquid Manuring not Practicable"—that I am obliged to say, that in one instance he is mistaken, for by experience, I know it to be, not only practicable, but highly profitable. This instance however, may be the one exception to the general rule. And yet I believe there are thousands of acres of land in the State of New York that might receive manurial irrigation with little more expense than has been incurred in this instance. I now have in mind several barns so located that the liquid manure from the stables could be delivered with nearly the convenience that the same material is taken from my stable to the level land below. If it could be delivered on but one acre of land, with good natural or artificial drainage—increased crops would pay a ten-fold profit over the expense the first year. Lest the opponents to hydropathic farming should get impatient, let me assure them here that I have neither tank, water-cart nor pump, and that the solid manure from my stable is applied to the land without being washed.

When I came into possession of the farm, the barn was sheltering, instead of cattle, eight or nine large rocks which served as foundation and held the building just high enough from the ground to afford a delightful retreat for stray dogs, cats, rats, skunks &c. Now instead of the rocks and vermin aforesaid, it shelters a dozen head of sleek cattle and beets and mangolds enough to feed them through the winter. If space would permit, and I could be allowed to digress far enough to tell how cheaply these comfortable quarters were built by farm hands, when other work was not pressing, and how my premises were graded by dirt drawn from under the barn in a manner that fully compensated for the labor bestowed in making the improvement. I might be rewarded by learning that some one else had been induced to go and do likewise. For the present, let it suffice that the cattle are in the stable, comfortably resting on a clay platform, held to its place by a 5x6 inch timber, behind which is a trough which receives the droppings from the cattle and the liquid manure. The latter is conducted out, and away from the stable, by a drain in the clay soil. Being compelled to suspend work a few days on the drain, the liquid ran out of the terminus and found its way to a thrifty honey locust hedge, killing it the same day it reached it, as effectually as though it had been boiling water or fire. By this I was taught how largely the article needed diluting before applying to the soil. A few rods further on, across the highway, a basin was dug in a fortunately located clay bed, into which the drain was terminated and the next morning I was the happy owner of two barrels of liquid manure. An elevated water course enabled me to run a stream of water into the basin, and from this a cheaply constructed ditch carries this dilution on to the highest part of a twelve acre lot; from thence it is made to flow to any desired place. The spout from the water course is constructed with a gate which is opened only for the purpose of spreading the liquid manure or for irrigating the land. The field having a good natural drainage never gets too wet.

Manurial irrigation has not been extended beyond the garden. Another year I shall be able to take it over the twelve acres. On most of the twelve acres for two years I have tried clear water irrigation, and have doubled the yield of grass. In the garden, I obtained a growth of beets, mangolds, corn, cucumbers, water melons, citron and squash, four times as great as on the same kind of land without the liquid application. The whole cost of this convenience does not exceed fifteen dollars. In this respect I am fortunately located. A few farmers may be similarly situated, and many may be able by artificial ponds or cisterns to wash their stable liquor on to an acre or more of land, which if kept moist through the season, will produce from two to three thousand bushels of beets, enough to feed a dozen or more head of cattle during the six months of the year that they are away from grass. S. A. M.

THERE are exceptions to all rules, and our correspondent correctly classifies the above experience as one of them. The manurial irrigation which does not pay even in England where labor is cheap, is that which demands carts and horses and drivers and laborious distribution. Wherever nature and natural forces can be made to do this work, or any other, skillful farmers will utilize them for that purpose. A great many fields are naturally irrigated and manured by the overflow of rivers in early spring. Wherever this process can be cheaply extended it should be done by all means. We think, however, it is expecting too much from an ordinary stream to have it irrigate and fertilize a twelve acre lot. —[EDS.

EFFECTS OF FROST.

T. J. EDGE, Chester Co., Penn., writes as follows in the Country Gentleman:—Many of my readers have no doubt noted the unequal effects of late spring or early fall frosts. In some cases the crop in one field suffers more than in another. A few hills here and there in a corn field are killed to the ground, or in some cases one stalk in a hill is killed and the others escape. Hoar or white frost is essentially frozen dew, and any cause which would increase the deposit of dew, would also increase the amount of frost, and hence of damage. We know that the deposit of dew is influenced by a variety of local circumstances. Two similar soils, one compact and the other made loose by mechanical means, will show a very material difference in the amount of dew. The greater the difference in temperature between the soil and the air, the greater will be the deposit of dew. Usually, low and moist situations increase the amount of dew. Spots, which from local causes, may be protected from the wind, will receive the most dew, and all these causes have probably an equal effect upon the amount of frost, and hence on the extent of the damage.

It is equally true that plants of the same kind show very different results after exposure to frost. After we carefully examine these effects, I think we will conclude that they are owing, mostly, not to any different degree of frost, or of constitutional vigor in the plant, but to the manner in which the frost is removed from the plant. If two tomato plants are exposed to equal degrees of white frost, and if before sunrise one of them is protected by two strips of board on the south and east sides, the chances are that it will not suffer at all, or at least not to the same degree as the one not so protected. Any plan by which the frost can be removed without producing too great an increase in the temperature of the plant, will be effectual. Dashing with cold water, thawing in the shade, or covering with earth, all produce similiar results in similar ways.

It is also evident that local causes have much to do in influencing the effect of severe cold upon plants. Half-hardy plants, having a southern or southeastern exposure, often suffer worse during winters of unusual severity, than plants of the same kind with a northern or northwestern exposure. This is probably due to the fact that in the first case the plant has no protection from the rising sun, whose rays strike the plant and produce that sudden change of temperature which proves so injurious. In the second case, the safety is due to the reverse state of affairs. The plant is in some measure protected by its position from this sudden change of temperature, and does not attain the same degree of warmth until its surroundings have also been warmed.

Last winter was unusually productive of "winter-killed" raspberries and grapevines, and this has been charged to the low temperature which several times prevailed. Raspberry plants with an inch or two of earth on them came out safe, while others close by (not so protected) died, But did this slight covering of earth prevent the low temperature? It is probable that in this case these plants had to withstand quite as great a degree of cold as those not protected. Is it not very likely that the damage known as "winter-killing" often proceeds from evaporation rather than from a low temperature? During the whole winter, moisture is evaporated or given off by the stalks and branches, but if from any cause this evaporation or loss exceeds the supply, the plant dries up and death ensues. During much of last winter a high wind increased the evaporation or loss, while a hard frozen soil diminished the supply. I think a few years of observation will convince my readers that windy weather, when accompanied by a frozen soil, is quite as productive of winter-killing as low temperature.

The Apiarian.

SWEETS FOR THE SWEET.

WE have to get our honey in the old fashioned way by smoking out the bees, for they hived so fast and so many that there could hardly be found boxes and kegs enough to put them in. So this fall some of the poor things had to die, for they would not allow us to rifle their treasures unmolested. Such a time as we had! I stuck sweetly to every door all morning, and clung tenaciously to the chair back. But we finished at last, and MAY carried the full crocks to the cellar there to await, "a few nice buckwheats hot from the griddle."

Then I began to look around for the children. The day was a golden October. Sunshine glimmered through the crimson and yellow maples; sunshine glistened the late autumn flowers as if for a parting benediction and shimmered along the piles of yellow pumpkins that lay ready to be housed in the garden. A yellow butterfly glanced by as I started on the search, or saw my yellow-haired laddie, wee NORMAN, getting his share of sunshine and honeycomb. For in his hand he held a lump like amber, transluscent and beautiful, but over his head in threatening attitude were three or four angry bees. He cried lustly, but continued eating, and finished his prize in the face of his assailants. WILL and JAMIE the Arabs of the family, each had a hive to scrape, and seemed to me enjoying the sum of all human happiness as they sat seesawing on the truck with big mouthsfull of luscious honey.

"Poor bees," we said, and STANTON, who is our bee man and looks after the hiving, was very regretful, though very fond of the sweets. He propounded SAMSON'S riddle as he sat with his honey poised in the center of a large beef bone from which we had cut the meat. And the glorious day, the mild Indian summer air, the content of a finished season was pleasant to our soils, and we said, "Even this cold climate is sometimes a land of milk and honey."

ANNIE L. JACK.

HOW TO SECURE PREMIUM HONEY.

DR. P. A. BAKER in the Beekeeper's Magazine publishes a plan to secure the largest quantity and the best honey which is well worthy of trial.

The plan is simply to keep a very strong colony queenless during the period of the greatest flow of honey. All apiarians know that a virgin swarm will work with more energy in building comb and storing honey, than one with a full supply. It is not uncommon for strong families, with everything needful for storing honey in surplus boxes, to loaf about the hive, until a few empty frames are given between the full ones, when they will soon be filled, but, being in the queen's chamber, she immediately performs her maternal duty and you get no honey. The law is immutable, in their allowing no empty space between brood combs, and the law impelling the bees to fill the space with comb, acts with like force in indicating to the queen her duty. By virtue of cause and effect, if the entire hive is made into space, it is but fulfilling that law for the bees to promptly fill it with comb and honey, if per chance, it is in abundant supply, but madam queen being present, we must allow a considerable force to assist in attentions to her royalty; dethrone her and supply the colony with material to make a new one, and yet allow none to mature for a period, and we shall have our boxes filled with the beauteous nectar. The operation is to put two large swarms, without queens or comb, into a hive filled with empty sectional frames or honey boxes, and give one brood comb at one end of the hive, and before the new queen is hatched, remove the comb and give them another. When the second has become fertile, the greatest flow of honey being over remove the honey frames or boxes and fill the hive with combs or empty frames as the fall season for honey may indicate. The queens and brood combs can be utilized to advantage, which any intelligent apiarian will understand.

Dairy Husbandry.

ADULTERATION IN DAIRY GOODS.

THE Boston Cultivator quotes from an article in the RURAL in which a process is given for detecting adulterated butter, and it says: "Will this test enable one to detect oleomargarine in cheese, Prof. WILLARD? If butter may be thus adulterated why may not cheese? Do not oleomargarine butter and cheese belong to the same class of adulterated goods when put into the market as they are, it seems, as whole-milk or cream goods? Then is it not clear that all such traffic is fraudulent? What says our contemporary?"

No, friend WETHERELL: the test referred to was not designed for detecting oleomargarine in cheese, and we most emphatically say that oleomargarine butter does not belong to the same class of goods as oleomargarine cheese, because the former is an adulteration and the latter is not. What is adulteration? WEBSTER defines the verb "Adulterate—to corrupt, debase, or make impure by an admixture of *baser materials;* as to adulterate liquors or the coin of a country." The popular understanding of adulteration is not to make an article better, but to make it *worse* by adding a foreign mixture. If copper coin is alloyed with silver or gold and passed as copper, it would not in a popular sense be considered adulteration, because it was made of more value than it was before the gold was added. Just so with the skimmed milk. If made into skimmed cheese without the addition of oleomargarine, an inferior and often an unpalatable food is produced. By the addition of oleomargarine a far bettes product is made and one that is palatable. The oleomargarine costs more per pound than the pound of oleomargarine cheese will sell for in the market. When oleomargarine is added to butter it is justly an adulteration to be condemned because a baser metal is used—one that does not cost so much by the pound as that asked for the oleomargarine butter. In other words, it is sold for genuine butter and the buyer is deceived and cheated with the addition of the baser material. But suppose genuine butter could be improved and made more palatable by the admixture of a healthful substance that costs much more than the same weight of butter—would it be considered an adulteration or fraud? Let us suppose a parallel case:—Take for instance winter butter, made from milk of cows fed exclusively on hay. Such butter lacks the flavor and delicious aroma of pure butter made when the cows are feeding from the rich, nutritious herbage of old pastures. Now if the butter maker could be furnished with a small quantity of those volatile oils which are supposed to give to grass butter its delicious aroma and high flavor, and if he added them to his hay-made butter making it, in all respects, equal to June butter, would that addition be considered in a popular sense as adulteration? The flavoring oils would of course be expensive and worth much more than the butter; yet if the consumer got more value in the goods and at the same time a more palatable article, would he consider it a fraud?

A fraud, as we understand it, is a deception, an artifice by which the right or interest of another is *injured*. If a person should represent that he had nice, palatable cheese, and a customer selected one recommended and it proved to be poor and unpalatable—the seller knowing the fact—that would be a fraud; but if the cheese proved delicious and in every way suited to the taste of the customer, we can see no fraud, even though it be made by the addition of oleomargarine. Rennet and salt are used in the manufacture of cheese; but if some other substances could be used, equally harmless, that would be an improvement and make the cheese better and more palatable, would that be an adulteration or fraud?

Some have claimed that it is a fraud to make skimmed milk cheese; but why is it not as legitimate as the making of whole-milk cheese? Skim cheese has been made from time immemorial, and immense quantities are used in England. Most of the Dutch cheese imported into England is skimmed cheese and it is quoted in London not unfrequently at a higher rate than extra fine American whole-milk cheese. On October 25, Edams—a skim Dutch cheese—was quoted at 64s. to 65s. per cwt., while the very *best American* sold for only 65s. to 67s. Cheese is a manufactured food, and what our cheese makers are trying to do is to make it so that it will best suit the palates of consumers; but why insist that the cream shall be used if it can be made in other ways so as to be palatable and equally as healthful.

It is useless to talk about stopping the make of skimmed milk cheese; it always has been made and always will be made; but if it can be improved in a legitimate way, why not favor that improvement? Why compel consumers to get an inferior cheese made "the old way" when the new way puts before them a more palatable article? If we can improve the make of the skimmed cheese a great advance is made for the dairy interest.

We believe in "progress and improvement." This is an age when men cannot be forced down into the old rut in which their fathers worked, and it is useless for friend WETHERELL or the American Agriculturist to spend their breath in trying to stem the current of new ideas. Oleomargarine added to butter lowers the quality; its addition is to give weight to the mixture and in this way to secure an unjust profit. Oleomargarine is added to skimmed milk not to increase its weight, but to affect certain processes in the fermentation and assimilation of the resultant parts of the cheese to improve it or make it more palatable and healthful.

The error which the opponents of oleomargarine cheese fall into is the mistaken notion concerning the office of butter in the cheese. The butter does not remain in the cheese in the same condition as when separated from the milk by itself. It undergoes great changes, the influence of the caseine destroys its flavor, and if separated from the cured cheese, it would be found to be a rancid, intolerably bad fat, totally unfit for human food. The more important office of the fat is its influence in modifying and assimilating the other constituents so as to make the cheese mellow and palatable, and the fat from the caul of the ox being prepared so that it resembles butter in its composition, is found to promote fermentation and assimilation in the same way as the butter, and hence its use for that purpose. Rancid butter can be purified of its rancidity and used in the same way as oleomargarine. It has been so used, but makes no better cheese than when oleomargarine is employed. Had the factories continued to use a low order of butter thus purified, could the opponents of the so-called oleomargarine cheese charge that it was an adulteration. By no means, because this fat passed through the udder and did not come from the caul.

We are opposed to the adulteration of butter with oleomargarine and have from time to time stated our objections to it in strong language in these columns and long before the oleomargarine cheese question was in controversy. We like to see a straightforward, honest course in journalism as in other matters, and the effort which some journals have made in mixing up oleomargarine cheese with oleomargarine butter and representing that we are an advocate of the latter and favor butter adulteration, we regard as a "fraud" quite on a par with the deception in butter adulterations.

We do not object to difference of opinion or the expression of honest conviction. We do not object to others taking different views from ours in regard to oleomargarine cheese, but we would like our opponents to give some facts. So far they have not given the name of a single consumer who has complained of oleomargarine cheese, neither has it been shown that the food is unhealthful or unclean or in any way objectionable as a food. On the other hand, the American Grocer, which was the first to commence this war, now admits that oleomargarine cheese "*is a fair, honest and palatable product of which they* (Capt. GARDNER'S Company) *need not be ashamed.*"

We like to see things called by their right names and have always so insisted in these columns. Others doubtless think differently; but we have yet to learn of a single oleomargarine cheese that has been sent away from the factories in any other name than that which rightly belongs to it. That some dealers have sold oleomargarine cheese for whole-milk cheese is no fault of the cheese or the process of manufacture. We do not countenance deception or misrepresentation whether it be in cheese or other goods. What we seek is progress in dairying. We do not seek to paralyze the efforts of manufacturers who succeed in making improvements by stepping out of the beaten track, but we feel constrained to congratulate them on their success—and we are sorry to see our esteemed friend of the Boston Cultivator laboring against "progress and improvement."

ASSOCIATED DAIRYING IN ENGLAND.

THE cheese factory system seems to be gaining ground in England. According to a correspondent of the Utica Herald (now in England) as many as eighteen factories have been established in the realm, fifteen of which are in Derbyshire. The system, he thinks, is thoroughly and firmly established, and that the spread of factories will be much more rapid in the future than in the past. It is now about six years since associated dairying was inaugurated in England, and its progress has perhaps seemed slower than was anticipated by many; yet, when we remember that during the first six years after the introduction of the system in America only ten factories were erected, we could hardly expect the English would do more than has been done. From a description of several factories visited in Derbyshire, it appears that the buildings are more substantial than the same class of structures in this country, but the appliances and internal arrangement are less convenient, and this feature imposes nearly double the labor to work them that it does for the same sized factories with us.

At some of the factories the cheese is made upon the Cheddar plan, while at others the American practice is adopted; but in either case it seems the cheese sells for a better price than ours, as it has sold from 76s. to 82s. the cwt. during the past season.

What will perhaps be a surprise to many, is the large quantity of whey butter made at some of these factories and yet, as is affirmed by the writer, the cheese made is rich, clean-flavored and palatable and in the words of the correspondent, "lacking the harsh, strong taste of our American." At the Ewall Marsh factory, which is under the charge of HENRY HARDING, 120 pounds of whey butter is made per week, which sells readily for 14d. (28c. gold) per pound.

At the Brailsford factory under the charge of Mr. OLIVER, and where the Cheddar process is adopted, the whey butter is of such excellence that it sells readily for 20d. (40c. gold) per pound, which is nearly equal to the price of the best prime cream butter. This, Mr. OLIVER states, is largely owing to his peculiar way of making it. In the first place, he mixes the cream skimmed from the whey with about twice the quantity of clear water; he allows the cream to rise and draws off the water, and with it many impurities which the water attracts from the cream. Then he uses a teaspoonful of alum and one of carbonate of soda for every twenty pounds of butter; this has the effect of hardening it, and prevents that oily appearance so common with whey butter. Mr. OLIVER'S cheese is pronounced very superior and has sold for the highest market price.

Great attention is paid to the curing of cheese. At the Kedlestone factory the writer says the curing rooms are warmed in a very superior manner; and he remarks further, that it would be well for Americans to imitate them in this respect. The following description is given:—"At one end they have a hot water stove and connected with it are cast-iron hot water pipes usually about four inches in diameter, extending all around the room exactly on the same plan as we warm our greenhouses and conservatories. This not only gives a mild, soft heat, but does not allow of the sudden fluctuations in temperature, so common even where steam pipes are used, as the water will continue warm for several hours if the fire should go out unexpectedly. The usual price paid for making cheese in the factories of England is 4s., 6d. per 112 pounds, or 1c. per pound our money.

At the Ewall factory one of the patrons has a model piggery, as a private speculation. It is a large, thoroughly ventilated brick building, with slate roof about 80x60 feet in size. A passage-way is left down the center with troughs and pens on each side, made of brick in the neatest and most substantial manner. At one end is the meal room, also a large cistern into which the whey runs, from which it is pumped into a smaller vat, and after the meal is mixed with it is discharged into troughs below. One farthing (½c.) only is paid for the whey per gal. and the speculation, the writer says, will prove profitable, and he adds, "The whole constitutes the best and least offensive piggery that I have seen connected with a factory."

During our examination of the dairies of Somersetshire in 1866, where the Cheddar process of cheese making was adopted, we were surprised in seeing the large amount of butter often made in connection with cheese dairying, and more especially as the Cheddar cheese commanded the best price of any sort in market, if we except the Stilton, a small cheese made only in limited quantity. We have frequently referred to this fact for the purpose of proving that it does not depend wholly on an excess of butter in cheese to make it palatable and high-priced.

The description given by the writer, who has recently visited the Cheddar factories of England, would indicate that large quantities of butter result from this process in cheese making, and yet the cheese is pronounced of finer character than American and sells for a better price. These facts are significant and may elicit the attention of American dairymen.

The Poultry Yard.

FOREIGN SUBSTANCES IN EGGS.

ONE of our English exchanges contains the following:—We frequently hear of strangely formed eggs, large and small, soft and hard, and possessing wonderful peculiarities. But the Ayr Advertiser gives the most recent case of abnormal construction, and not the least extraordinary. A friend of the editor, on cutting off the top of a hen's egg while at breakfast, found, it is said, a green pea imbedded in its contents. "Had it been dinner," says our contemporary, "with peas on the table we might have supposed it possible that one might have been jerked into a soft egg. But this was breakfast, with no peas on the table, and the pea was not only imbedded in the egg and left its form in the hard white of it, but, *mirabile dictu*, there were delicate rootlets at the base, as if the incipient pea had actually proposed to grow inside the shell!" Afraid of being accused of writing a paragraph with a Yankee flavor about it, the matter is verified and settled, because the writer says, "we have the most implicit confidence in the veracity of our informants, and what is more, we have been shown the pea and its tiny rootlets." We have seen peas with tiny rootlets too, but we never thought any of them grew in eggs. It appeared unnecessary in the present instance to see the egg; the pea was sufficiently convincing to the Scotch editor. "Naturalists," says he, "we pause for an explanation!" We confess we are puzzled at the pea. Had his friends found a big gooseberry in the egg, we might have thought it one of the spontaneous products of the "silly season."

A few years since a similar instance was recorded in these columns, and it called out several very positive assertions from our correspondents, that they too had found various foreign substances in hens' eggs, which had been discovered when broken, either before or after cooking. One lady found the head of an iron bolt about a quarter of an inch square in an egg which she broke to make a custard. This bit of iron we now have in our possession, and although we know from a scientific point of view, no foreign substance can possibly get into an egg without rupturing its shell, or the envelope enclosing it before the shell is formed, still we dislike to tell intelligent men and women who have found such things within eggs, that they are mistaken. If we ever find a pea or iron bolt head in an egg, we shall feel inclined to believe our own eyes in the matter, science or no science.

ABOUT A HEN-YARD.

I WISH to inclose about eight acres of ground for a hen-yard and would like to inquire which would be the best and cheapest method to do so, and about how high to build the fence, which will be about a third of a mile long. I have about 200 hens and intend to increase them as fast as possible, and have about 80 sheep. Will it do to let the sheep run in the yard with the hens part of the time? The ground I shall inclose is partly covered with huckleberry bushes.—C. A. RUSSELL, *Providence, R. I.*

THIRTY sheep would be a superabundance of stock for eight acres, even if well seeded with grass. This appears to be partly covered with huckleberry bushes—possibly wet and if so, not suitable for either sheep or poultry. The sheep anyway had better be omitted if poultry breeding on a large scale is proposed.

If the ground is dry enough for poultry, it will be better to re-divide the eight acres, making two, four or more yards, with separate houses and accommodations for each, even when all of the same breed. This will diminish the dangers of disease, always the great difficulty in breeding large numbers of fowls together.

A picket fence eight feet high, with pickets well sharpened, is the best fence for a hen-yard; but even this will not secure the fowls if the rambling varieties are kept, and especially if there are trees in the yard. With Brahmas and other quiet breeds a lower fence will secure them effectually.

The Garden.

SHALL WE CULTIVATE TRUFFLES?

For thousands of years the "Truffle" has been considered one of the greatest of delicacies among epicures, and, even at this day, it commands about $4 per pound in the European markets. We presume that most of our readers know that the Truffle of commerce is a species of mushroom which grows underground, and usually among the roots of certain species of oaks. It is found in various parts of Europe, also in Japan and the East Indies, flourishing generally in light, dry soil. It is somewhat of an irregular, roundish form, with a coarse, rough skin, the inner part, or flesh, being of a whitish color, possessing an agreeable fragrance, and, when cooked, a delicious flavor, besides being considered very wholesome food.

The common Truffle, (*Tuber cibarium*), as we have said, grows entirely underground, showing no surface signs of its presence, even in localities where most abundant; consequently, to find the tubers is no easy task, without the aid of some animal with a more acute scent than man. Happily, however, for the Truffle hunter, he readily finds an assistant in the swineherd, for hogs are very fond of these tubers, and can scent them while buried several inches in the earth, and, by proper training, a pig is soon taught to assist his master in seeking out these hidden treasures. Dogs have also been taught to point out the spots where the Truffles are hidden.

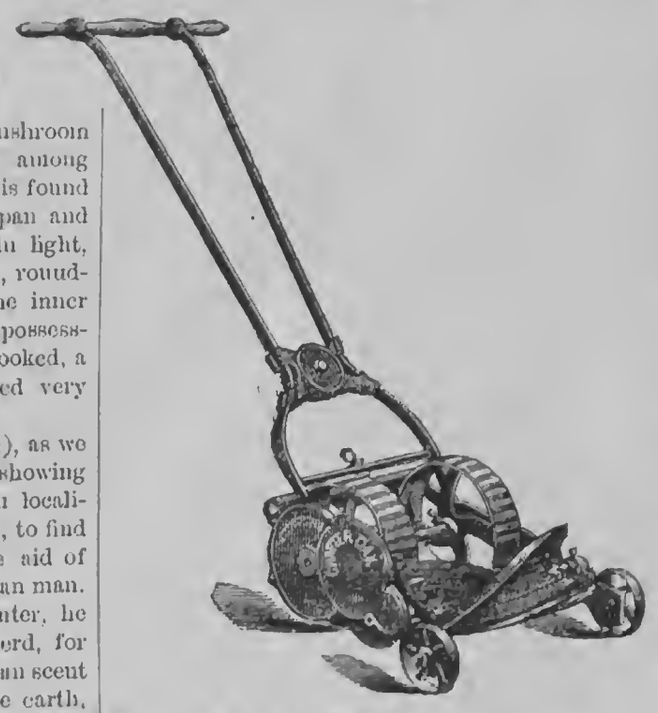
Although this plant has been so long known and extensively used as a food for man, its habits in regard to propagation still remain, in a great measure, a mystery, but it is supposed to multiply in a similar manner to the common mushroom. There is probably a minute mycelium which spreads through the soil, and, at certain periods of growth, the tuber, or truffle, is developed therefrom. Many theories have been advanced in regard to the origin of the Truffle, and we notice in a late number of the Practical Magazine that M. RAVEL of Montagnac, Department of the Basses-Alpes, says it is caused by the sting of a particular kind of fly, which pierces the roots of certain species of oaks, causing them to produce the tubers in a similar manner as galls are produced on the twigs and branches. But the structure and properties of the Truffle are quite distinct from any true gall which is known as being caused by the sting of an insect; therefore we must conclude that Mr. RAVEL'S theory is as wide of the mark as scores of others advanced in years past. Still, while his theories are vague and unsatisfactory, his practical experiments and observations are both interesting and valuable. He found that the Truffle was more abundant near the roots of the Pubescent Oak (*Quercus pubescens*) than elsewhere, although found sparingly about those of the *robur* and *lanuginera*. M. RAVEL claims, that from three and a-half acres, planted a few year since with the first named Truffle Oak, he has already obtained some five hundred pounds worth of truffles, and he values the annual crop at about one hundred pounds, or five hundred dollars. It is also said that near Montagnac there was, in 1857, fifteen hundred acres planted with these Truffle Oaks, and doubtless the plantation has largely extended since.

Now, as the oaks referred to will thrive in our climate, why cannot we introduce the Truffles along with them, adding another valuable food-plant to our already very extended list? It is quite probable that the climate of the Middle States, or that of the mountainous regions of the Southern, would be better adapted to the culture and development of this esculent than the more northern; but this question needs to be settled by experience. As a high, dry and rather poor soil is said to be the kind in which the Truffle and Truffle Oak succeed best, we should experience no difficulty in supplying the proper requisites for its extended culture without interfering with other products. It is also quite probable that some of our native species of oak might be congenial to the Truffle plant, if the latter were once introduced and planted in close proximity to their roots. But the true Truffle Oak of Europe can be obtained at foreign nurseries for about $2 per thousand for one year seedlings; there, it would not be advisable for one attempting the production of Truffles, to experiment very extensively with other species.

Our conclusion is, that the man who shall first produce the true Truffle in America may be pretty certain that his name will go down to posterity as one who did not live "all in vain," even if no great amount of money was made out of the experiment.

CHARTER OAK LAWN MOWER.

With increased attention to home adornment, Lawn Mowers have come in demand. They are now used by hundreds of families, who, 20 years ago, had never known of such a thing, as indeed they had never dreamed of having a lawn. Still there are many more who have not lawn mowers but want them, besides, not a few who need such an implement, but have not yet learned that they want it. To enable all such to be accommodated cheaply, we put the Charter Oak Lawn Mower (see cut) in the RURAL Premium List for 20 copies at $2.65, or 35 at $2.15 each. We will



also furnish a Croquet Mower, cutting 9 or 12 inches in width, very convenient for trimming grass on croquet grounds, for 15 subscribers at $2.65, or 30 at $2.15.

A START IN MARKET GARDENING.

EDS. RURAL:—Some eight or nine years ago I was a subscriber to the RURAL NEW-YORKER, but I never read it with the interest I do now. I am now taking it from the news room. I have bought twelve acres of good creek land, adjoining the corporation, for a market garden. About one acre of high land overlooks the garden. It is a favorite business spot. I am setting this to trees and grapes. I set them this fall. I would inquire if grapes will not do well on dry creek bottoms, as wild grapes grow in swamps.

This fall I set one acre to strawberries in the bottom land, and the best varieties of raspberries and blackberries I could get. I propose having a Honey Locust hedge, and have planted two bushels Locust beans. I shelled about one pint and planted the balance in the pod. I can get the beans in sight of the garden. I prefer this kind of hedge, as it is a native of this country and will not freeze out. I want to know if they will come up in the spring, or will they lie in the ground longer.

I have a swale of about one acre which I have set apart to cranberry vines, and also planted some Cape Cod cranberries. I am experimenting on the berries. I have always been inclined to fruit growing. I like to graft, and work at such business as trucking. I cut a ditch, and brought a spring run close to the building spot, and I will want to know something about a fish pond after awhile, but I am not quite ready for that yet. I want to make the garden a credit to the little town of Auburn. I will take your paper from the news room to January first, and then subscribe for the year. I could not do without it now; it has benefited me already.

Auburn, Ind., Dec. 13, 1875. G. S. M.

SAWDUST FOR WALKS.

In the extensive wild garden adjoining the well-kept pleasure grounds at Cadland, near Southampton, the gardener, Mr. Harnett, has used sawdust as a dressing for the pathways cut out amongst the heath and trees in the woodland. The transition from smooth mown lawns, bright, clean gravel walks, and brilliant flower-beds, on the one side, to the adjuncts of this wild garden, is both pleasing and refreshing, and seems specially enticing when the sun sheds a tropical heat, and quietness and solitude are most appreciated. The walks are firm and yet soft to the tread; the sawdust soon becomes of a neutral tint, closely allied to the crushed dried leafage of the Beach, which here so much abounds. Weeds seldom grow, and these are easily kept in check with the hoe, and a light sweeping with a broom keeps all clean and neat. —*D., in the Gardeners' Chronicle.*

HOT-BED FOR SWEET POTATOES.

The following plan for preparing a hot-bed is a good one:—Dig out a space as large as the bed is wanted ten inches deep, and filled with decayed leaves of wood. Upon this put eight inches of fresh stable manure. Pound down well, and cover this with three inches of rich, well pulverized dirt. Let it stand until the first heat passes off, which perhaps will take a day or two, owing to the weather. Put the sweet potatoes on the surface of this layer of dirt and cover with two inches of soft chip manure.

Field Crops.

CORN CULTURE.

Now that a good corn crop has been raised and a good deal of interest manifested, more experiments having been made the past year, owing to more reading having been done by the farmers than usual—which is no doubt the fact, and an encouraging one too—we propose to give such items of interest and true principles of the culture of a crop so important to the farmers of the West. The following is by John Elliot in the Ohio Farmer:

According to promise, I send you an account of my corn crop this year, with method of cultivation. My farm consists of one hundred and seventy acres of high rolling land, situated in Chippewa township, Wayne county, Ohio, adjoining the Medina county line, and I have lived upon it fifty-two years.

The first piece of corn I shall mention was a field that has been under cultivation over fifty years. It is free from stumps and is more clay than sand. I manured four acres in 1873, and planted in tobacco. In 1874 I took off it a good crop of sound corn. Last spring I plowed five inches deep, harrowed smooth, marked rows three feet apart and drilled in the corn, twelve inches apart in the row. It was planted May 18th, was cultivated three times and hoed once. I went through it and carefully pulled off all the suckers and stalks where they happened to be more than one in a place. I harvested about the middle of October and measured 640 bushels from the four acres, or 160 bushels of ears per acre of good sound corn.

I had another field of seven acres, clover sod, that had been under cultivation eight years. It was encumbered with a good many stumps, and never had any manure or fertilizer of any kind, except what it obtained from a lot of sheep that ran on it for three years. It was plowed and cultivated the same as the other, and it yielded 135 bushels per acre. Many of the ears measured eight and nine inches in circumference, and my hired man picked up one ear twelve inches long, and containing over 1,100 grains, the grains measuring half an inch in length.

The land for corn must be dry. Corn delights in loose, dry, warm soil. If it is soaked with water, all the sunshine of the hottest summer cannot make it warm, and all the manure that can be put on it cannot make it yield a good crop. To raise a good corn crop one must have good ground, well prepared, good seed, early and good and careful cultivation, and the weeds must be kept down the summer through. I prefer to plant in drills, because it secures a more even distribution of the crop over the ground, so that each plant secures its share of the soil and sun. The growth is more even and the ears more perfectly set and better filled. In cultivating I use the hoe to keep down the weeds.

If you would have good corn, the greatest pains must be taken with the seed. It must be carefully selected. Some farmers lose hundreds of bushels every year by carelessness in this particular. If you have not good seed of your own, buy it even at an exorbitant price. You will make money in the end, for it is labor and vexation to re-plant corn, and the re-plant rarely amounts to anything.

My corn is the yellow gourd seed and has from sixteen to twenty-four rows on an ear. I have had it for years, and have improved it and brought it up to the present standing by carefully selecting the best ears every year, at husking time. My plan is, when husking, I find an ear that suits me, to leave a few husks on it and put it by itself. After I am through husking, I go over the whole lot again, rejecting all that are not filled up to the end of the cob, and that have not sufficient depth of grain. Then I put away in the garret, out of the way of mice, till wanted. Let me add that I never select seed from a stock that bears two or more ears. Here, I suppose, I shall differ from many of our best farmers, but I can't help that. My theory is derived from close observation for many years. I would ask all who differ, go into your field, any year, select a dozen ears from stalks that grow more than one, and a dozen from stalks that bear but one, shell, measure and compare, and then be convinced.

BROOM CORN.

Broom Corn, like Indian corn, thrives best in rich, alluvial soil, and the land is prepared in all respects as for the latter crop. I use a horse-drill making two rows and marking the third, which serves as a guide on the return. One bushel of seed plants about 14 acres. When the corn is up about two inches I go through the rows with a horse-scraper; that cuts the weeds and scrapes the earth from the corn, after which the field hands, using a light hoe, scrape the earth from the corn, at the same time thinning it out when too thick. After this the labor is mostly performed with a horse and cultivator, going through five or six times, concluding with a hiller that throws the earth up to the roots. In this valley it requires about 90 days to mature. After the brush is in condition it is bent down so as to be cut, leaving a stem about seven inches long, after which the work is simultaneous of cutting, handing to the scraper, assorting, scraping and placing upon drying poles in open sheds of 15 to 21 tiers, according to the hight of the shed. When baled for market, two lengths are placed with butts out and filled in the middle to preserve a good shape, and pressed in a machine for the purpose, holding about 275 lbs., with four bands of No. 10 annealed wire. Prime green brush bears the highest price. Green hurl stalks, braided, will work itself up if there is sufficient small brush to work up the long, and Red is ripe when cut. Land well cultivated and adapted will yield one ton to three acres. After the brush is cut, and before frost, we plow under the standing stalks, and the following spring gang the land, followed with harrow and roller.—*H. B., Mount Morris, N. Y., in Tribune.*

EFFECTS OF TREES ON CLOVER.

Some species of trees seem to be specially injurious to vegetation beneath their shade, and of these the butternut and hickories, or walnuts are conspicuous examples. The fact is frequently noted that clover, corn and hoed crops are especially liable to injury. We have often seen clover killed outright around a butternut tree for a distance equal to the extent of its branches, and also presumably of the underground branches or roots. At the same time clover will thrive under apple, pear or other fruit trees where the ground is not unsuitable, and the failure under butternut and walnut trees suggests the query whether it is caused by the roots of one kind of trees exhausting the moisture near the surface while the others draw it from the subsoil, or whether it may not result from the direct injurious effects of the drippings of water from the leaves and branches. Many farmers believe that butternut and walnut leaves poison the soil for certain kinds of crops. In order to test this question we are instituting experiments, taking butternut leaves and spreading them on a few feet square of clover to note the effect next summer. If the leaves are really poisonous to vegetation the effect will be seen away from the trees as well as near them. Our guess is that the butternut roots exhaust the subsoil moisture worse than the roots of other trees. Butternut makes a poor shade, and this tends to keep the land dryer. We noticed last fall that young clover of last season's growth grew quite well under a butternut tree. The bad effect seems not to be manifested till the second year, by which time the clover roots should strike the subsoil.

This subject is well worthy of attention and investigation. Clover is so important and almost necessary as a renovating crop, that anything which detracts from its growth is a great loss, and it is highly important that we should know wherein the injury consists. We are entirely convinced that fields kept mainly for tillage should be cumbered with few or no trees and especially that those kinds most injurious to tilled crops or clover should be removed. They are as much worse than rocks in a field as a continued injury is worse than an inconvenience. By making the soil less productive, trees in cultivated fields become one of the worst obstacles to good and successful farming.

MANURING POTATOES.

ED. RURAL:—Being a subscriber to your valuable paper, I take the liberty of asking a question which, if you will answer, will benefit several. I have fresh stable manure and partly rotted stable manure, and can get pulverized charcoal in limited quantities. Should they be used together to manure in the hill potatoes at the time of planting or separately? JNO. J. HALL, *Eureka, Nev.*

The fresh stable manure will do better applied broadcast on the surface of the ground this fall. The rains and snows of winter will mix its fertilizing properties in the soil, and with little loss. If applied directly to the hill, fresh manure might cause potatoes to rot. Small quantities of rotted stable manure with charcoal can doubtless be used in the hill with benefit to the crop. We incline to the belief that charcoal is a preventive of rot. At any rate, it can do no hurt, and is a valuable absorbent of ammonia.

Good Corn.—The Husbandman says:—Geo. C. Hill of Burlington, Pa., presents the Elmira Farmers' Club with several fine samples of corn on the ear. He raised during the past season 247 bushels of shelled corn from two and one-fourth acres. The corn was planted on the 7th of May. The land was manured this year and last. This piece of land was planted to corn in 1869, oats in 1870, wheat and buckwheat in 1871, oats in 1872, corn in 1873, 1874 and 1875. There are probably fifty samples of corn in the Club Hall, but those presented by Mr. Hill are the finest in the lot. Some of the ears are 15 inches long, and are plump and sound, almost perfect.

The Horseman.

FEEDING WORK HORSES.

The Cincinnati Gazette gives the following account of the way the Adams Express Company feed their horses, which are always noticeably sleek and fat:

The number of horses kept at the stable is 54. Four hostlers attend to these. Promptly at 4 o'clock A. M. the watchman of the stable gives to each horse eight ears of corn. Then, about 5 o'clock, the hostlers commence their duties. Of those under the care of each, one by one is led to the watering trough and then to the urinary. This consists of a pit sunken 10 or 12 inches below the level of the basement ground floor and kept compactly filled with sawdust and short shavings. And it is a remarkable fact that a horse in this stable scarcely urinates excepting at this place, especially prepared for him. When horses come in from their work the harnesses are removed, and they are then led at once to the urinary. When a fresh or green horse comes to the stable, by being driven with some old "stager" that knows the rules of the stable, the new comer soon learns to conform to the habits of the older inmates.

From 5 to 7 o'clock, each horse is taken in hand and thoroughly curried, brushed and cleaned, from ten to fifteen minutes being spent by a hostler upon each horse. A damp woolen cloth is always rubbed over the coat of a horse after being curried and brushed. This serves to remove all loose dandruff and to give that fine, glossy, sleek appearance so noticeable in the animals of this stable.

The horses are fed nothing in the morning excepting the eight ears of corn. After being led back to the stalls when cleansed, they are then ready for work. The same process of carrying, brushing and cleaning is also gone through with at noon and at night, at the close of their forenoon and afternoon's work. At noon each horse is fed with half a peck of oats. At night chopped feed is given. This is composed of sheaf oats or rye straw passed through a straw cutter and then, when wet, ground oats, corn and bran mixed up with it. A peck and a-half of this is given to each horse. In addition to the chopped feed the rack is supplied with eight or nine pounds of bright, sweet timothy hay, this being the total amount of hay which is fed. And perhaps of this supply the horse will not eat more than five pounds during the night, finishing up the balance during the next day.

While Mr. Barrett is particular to give nothing but clean timothy hay in summer, in cold weather he is willing to feed hay which is one-third clover. About once a week a peck of oil-cake meal is mixed up with the chopped feed, being equal to about a third of a pint to a horse. This promotes the uniform good condition of the animals. And if at any time the urine of a horse is cloudy and thickened, a tablespoonful of pulverized resin mixed up with chopped feed is given him. This acts upon his kidneys and the difficulty is at once removed.

The horses are given what water they want as they come in from their work, unless they are "green," and then care is taken not to water or feed until they are thoroughly cool. In a few weeks, after becoming habituated to the regimen of the stables, the same course is taken with the "late comers." Of course, if horses come in over-heated, then they are not watered until cooled off.

A very marked feature connected with the stables is that the air is so sweet and fresh. And probably this is owing largely to the fact that scarcely any urinating ever takes place in the several stables, and that the saturated sawdust and shavings in the urinary itself are removed from the stables every third day.

DECREASE OF HORSES.

It is said that the number of horses is decreasing in England, and of those used there an increasing proportion are imported from the Continent. The effect of high farming in England is to restrict farmers to products of quick maturity, insuring speedy returns from capital invested. The improved Short-Horn cattle have reduced the time required for growing and marketing a beef from four years to two, and in some places they are fattening beeves at eighteen to twenty months old. There is no way of making a colt fit for hard work before he is four years old—or three at farthest, and in the meantime he is a constant expense with the liability of entire loss from accident or disease. It is probable also that in England much more than in this country there is decreased demand for horse labor on account of the employment of steam power in nearly all mechanical and many agricultural operations. Steam plows have been for several years in successful operation, and their economy on large and level farms is undoubted. Of course, such implements would cost more in this country but they would also supersede dearer labor, and probably in the long run the gain from their use, especially on large Western prairie farms, will be found as great as in England. Horses will never go out of fashion—possibly not soon be less used than now—but the proportion of power furnished by horses is steadily decreasing, and is destined to further decrease. Engines are used for threshing, wood sawing, feed cutting, and various farm operations requiring considerable power and engines are now made cheaply and portable, to be used on all the farms in a neighborhood.

That horse breeding is less profitable at the West is indeed a matter of some surprise. Cheap lands and abundance of feed would indicate this section as the natural home of the horseman. But at the West enormous and usurious rates of interest, from ten per cent. a year to two per cent. a month, take away profits and compel farmers to invest only in products giving quickest returns. Sheep and cattle are superseding the business of horse breeding. It costs less to keep a calf till it is three years old than a colt till it is two, and at three the steer will be fattened and turned into cash, while the colt must wait two years or more before finding a purchaser, and at last may very possibly be worth less than the steer. Poor stock is of course responsible for much of this loss; but there is more variation in prices of horses than of cattle. When a man grows a calf till it is three years old to be sold for beef, he can calculate pretty closely how much it will weigh and what it will sell for. Not so a colt. It may be one of the few prizes, selling for $500 to $1,000; or much more likely, it may be a blank—worth less than the expense it has cost. Aiming at the fashionable and fast breed of horses has intensified this evil. If the progeny of one of the trotting stallions is not among the few that "can make their mile" inside current fashionable trotting rates, he is not wanted by the gambling fraternity, is of no use on the farm and precious little use anywhere else. A much safer business and we suspect more generally profitable, is the breeding of good farm and work horses. They are less liable to accident, have a surer sale and at a higher average price than the majority of would-be racers.

THE NUTMEG.—MYRISTICA MOSCHATA.

Our readers will remember our illustration of the Clove tree which appeared a few weeks since. We now present them with a sketch of the Nutmeg, botanically called *Myristica moschata*, a native of the Moluccas, attaining a hight of twenty-five feet and resembling quite closely in its general appearance a Pear tree. The male and female flowers are borne upon different plants, (*dioecious*), the first in clusters resembling those of our Ericas, fragrant, and of a yellowish color—while the female or pistillate flowers generally exist alone.

The fruit is pear-shaped, consisting of a fleshy pericarp breaking open at maturity and exposing the seed. This is partially enveloped by a bright scarlet netting which changes in the drying process to a light-brown and is then known as Mace. The kernel within this *arillus* is the dark-brown, wrinkled nut known as the Nutmeg. The yield of each tree is said to be about 5 lbs. of Nutmeg and 1¼ lbs. of Mace. We copy our illustration from the Journal of Horticulture.

—The preceding article was intended for the Arboriculture department, but overlooked until after that page was electrotyped. Hence its contiguity to the Equine race.

The Vineyard.

THE BEST GRAPE.

Scores of times, during the past twenty years, *the* best grape for all localities and purposes has been announced, but we are about as far from possessing it as ever. It is true that we have many better varieties of grapes than were known ten or twenty years since, but the *one* first-class grape for general cultivation is still wanting, and will, probably, remain a hidden treasure for some time to come. But, as we have progressed in this direction, there is every reason for believing that a still further advance is not only possible but quite probable.

There are men still at work experimenting with seedlings, and every year some of their wares come to light in the shape of new sorts of promise, and this is all that it is safe to say of any variety until more has been proved through dissemination and extended cultivation. The experience of our grape growers, during the past two decades, has taught them a lesson that will not be unlearned in the next two or more, and it is not safe to decide upon value from the quality of the fruit or its appearance or that of the vine, as seen in any one locality.

These conditions must also be looked at in opposite directions, for if a variety promises to be only second-rate in quality, it may possess other valuable properties which will eventually give it a prominence over those of superior flavor. We have a noted instance of this in the Concord, which, at the time of its advent, was denounced in no unmeasured terms by those considered authorities in grape culture, still, in spite of this kind of opposition, it soon became the most popular grape in America, and even at this day has not fallen very low on the scale, even with the many powerful rivals in the field. The Delaware, however, which came in with all the honors imaginable, on account of its generally acknowledged superior quality, has dropped far behind its poor but more robust rival.

We might, if necessary, review the entire list of noted sorts, showing why they failed to meet expectations, but the well-known characteristics of the two sorts named above will illustrate the point which we desire to bring plainly into view, *i. e.*, that vigorous, robust constitution, and fair quality of fruit, will surely win the race against any enfeebled sort, no matter how superlatively good the fruit may be when obtained. We say this more emphatically at this time, on account of some objections which have been made in regard to what was said in these columns a few weeks since, in regard to the value of a few new and unnamed seedlings of white grapes of purely native or *vitis labrusca* origin.

It is certainly well to aim high in fruit culture, but, at the same time, a well filled bag of ducks may go further to supply a family than one lone snipe. Now the best grape for the masses is the one which will yield an abundance of good, wholesome fruit without costing more to produce it than the average cultivator can afford. In some localities and soils the very best in quality can be produced nearly or quite as cheaply as the inferior sorts, and, under the circumstances, a man would be foolish not to take advantage of them. But it is not fair to advise a man to plant oranges in a climate and soil where he can scarcely succeed with crab apples.

SOME IDEAS ABOUT GRAPES.

A writer in the Cincinnati Gazette says that "the more he knows about grape rot the more he don't know." He illustrates this proposition admirably by suggesting a theory that grape rot is caused by the burning heat of July when the fruit is forming. Letting this nonsensical idea pass for the very little it is worth, we quote something decidedly more valuable in a practical remedy, for grape rot. It is found in spading manure in the ground, of course cutting off old grape roots in the fall, and causing new rootlets to push out into the fertilized soil. The following experiment was very satisfactory and indicates that there is something valuable in this practice.

Early in November the ground around the collar of the vines was removed, leaving a dish of about a foot in diameter and six inches deep and a pitchfork of good rich manure applied. This was done to some eighteen hundred vines, or three-fourths of an acre. The manure then gave out. The next season the rot was very great, but the vines so treated escaped it almost entirely, making some 300 gallons of wine, while the 8,000 vines remaining yielded but 50 gallons all told. On opening the manure it was found to be pierced with roots a foot long. A deep furrow was then plowed between the rows and partly filled with manure and covered. These vines have averaged their 300 gallons for four years in succession.

To ascertain the best time to apply the manure, experiments were tried monthly till the 1st of June. All the vines so tested after the beginning of March showed no benefit whatever, while those done the fall before gave the best results.

To start new roots into an exhausted soil would show but a transient improvement. This many have tried. But, followed up by a covered deposit of manure, the result will be more lasting.

There is no doubt that almost all kinds of grape vines are benefited by occasional manuring. Possibly the good result might not be attained by top-dressing, as it may have depended on severe root pruning, causing new rootlets to form nearer the vine, and probably, also, nearer the surface of the ground. This remedy for grape rot is worthy attention in all localities where it is prevalent.

The Centennial.

DAIRYMEN AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The American Dairymen's Association has issued an appeal to Dairymen and Patrons of Husbandry throughout the entire country for aid in presenting a creditable exhibition at the Centennial Exposition. Mr. J. V. H. Scovill, Chairman of the Committee appointed for this purpose writes:—From such facts as have come under my observation I am led to believe that dairymen are laboring under great embarrassment for want of more concerted effort, both in the care of their goods to be placed on exhibition at the Centennial and in the arrangement and economy of space, and, in order to secure more uniformity of action, I unhesitatingly issue the following call:—"All Dairy Associations or Boards of Trade in the various States, whether State or local, are requested to send one or two delegates, as is most convenient, to a meeting to be held at the City of Rome, N. Y., on Wednesday, the 12th day of January, 1876, for the purpose of taking such action as will best unite our various interests, and at the same time stimulate the largest and most effective display."

Contributions may be fowarded to J. V. H. Scovill, Paris, Oneida Co., N. Y.; T. S. Gold, West Cornwall, Conn.; O. S. Bliss, Georgia, Vermont; David W. Lewis, No. 85 Broad St., New York City; Artemas Ward, Sec'y of Produce Exchange, Philadelphia; Geo. E. Morrow, No. 407 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

CENTENNIAL BELLS.

The Centennial Year was ushered in on Friday night by a grand celebration in Philadelphia. Beside a parade of the military, a salute, and a general illumination of the public and private buildings, other events transpired appropriate to the occasion. On New Year's morning an American flag of the original design was raised on the old State House steeple and a parade of the New Year's shooters occurred. Altogether the Philadelphians seem to have inaugurated the Centennial in a right joyful and spirited manner.

Many other cities and villages celebrated the event appropriately—the ringing of bells, illuminations, etc., etc., being the order of the night. The Dutchess Co. (N. Y.) Board of Supervisors provided for the ringing of the church and town bells in every town in the county at midnight on Friday, which we presume was accomplished successfully.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

NATURAL GUIDES IN HORTICULTURE.

Dec. 23.—There are many cultivators of plants who are constantly proclaiming the great importance of "following Nature," and still they are usually the first to be astonished at the inflexibility of natural laws. The difficulties to be met in searching after guides in these matters are mainly our ignorance of the natural functions and properties of plants. We may find two species of plants growing upon the same rod of ground in a tropical climate, and while one will be capable of standing repeated freezings and thawings without any apparent injury, the other dies with the first chill. Nothing that we know positively of natural laws will guide us in discovering the why or wherefore of the difference in the hardiness of the two; still the fact that there is a difference is indisputable.

The same principle pervades all of Nature's production, and our only sure guide in horticultural matters is to assume to know nothing positively until it has been learned by experience. Of course the discoveries of one man may answer us a guide to thousands of others, thereby saving loss of time in conducting individual experiments; but we must not overlook the fact that variations are likely to occur with every change of soil or location.

It may appear somewhat anomalous that a raspberry which succeeds perfectly in the rigorous climate of Canada, or passes the winter uninjured on the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario, fails in the milder climate of New Jersey. But we have scores of instances of this kind, not only among raspberries, but other families of what are termed hardy plants. The Northern species of pine, spruce and other kinds of evergreens fail as we approach warmer climates; but in these instances Nature furnishes us with an excellent guide for cultivation in the distribution of the wild plants of field and forest. We find the hardy Northern species occupying the higher table lands and mountains as they approach the warm climes, until they entirely disappear in the tropics. The Hemlock Spruce, which forms the larger part of some of the most extensive of our Northern forests, is found but sparingly in the vicinity of New York City, and it is here that we first observe indications among cultivated specimens that this species is not quite at home in so mild a climate. Few of the Rocky Mountain evergreens which thrive near the line of perpetual snow will thrive with us here; therefore we must conclude that the same law of adaptation which prevents us from cultivating the orange in the Northern States also excludes the hemlock and other similar evergreens from the Southern.

From this cursory glance at the natural distribution of species, it is easy to see how the novice in horticulture may be misled by taking it for granted that because a tree is hardy and succeeds in Maine it will thrive in New Jersey or further South. "Hardy as an oak and will thrive anywhere," is a statement frequently appended to the descriptions of new plants, but it is a somewhat contradictory piece of information, for if they are really very hardy and of Northern origin it is pretty conclusive evidence that they will be worthless in a warmer climate.

The natural guides to success in horticulture are abundant, but one needs considerable study and experience to enable him to make the proper application and avoid being led into errors thereby.

CUTTING CIONS AND MAKING CUTTINGS.

Dec. 24.—Before the cold of a long winter has weakened the vitality of the young wood of trees and vines is the time to take off cions and cuttings. With many of the most hardy kinds this operation may be deferred until spring, but it is best as a general rule to do it in the fall or early winter. Wood intended for grafting in the spring should now be selected from the best-matured shoots of the past season's growth. The shoots may be taken off and left entire; but if more than 18 to 24 inches long, they may be cut in the center, and then either tied in small bundles or spread along in shallow trenches, the lower ends being buried in moist soil in a cellar, or in any other material which will prevent them from becoming dried or shriveled. If one can obtain a good quantity of sphagna or swamp moss, slightly moist, the cions may be wrapped in this, and then put away in boxes, where they will be kept cool until wanted for use in spring. Sawdust and tan, both, are also used for this purpose; but I have never found anything equal to moss, as it holds moisture for a long time and never ferments or generates heat while undergoing decomposition. It is also an excellent material in which to store cuttings of all kinds in winter. But cuttings of grapes, currants, gooseberries and various kinds of hardy flowering shrubs and climbing vines, if made now, may be buried in soil, sand or sawdust, and stored in a cellar or in pits in the open ground.

Next spring, after it is too late for taking off cions for cuttings, there will doubtless be many regretting their forgetfulness in this matter; hence a hint at this time may be of value to those who are more or less prone to be negligent.

FREEZING SEEDS.

There are many kinds of seeds which do not grow freely unless exposed to a freezing temperature or considerable heat. Those natives of cold climates, such as the hickory nut, black walnut, heavy locust, *Shepherdia*, and similar seeds with hard, horn-like coverings, should be exposed to the action of frost during winter, but not in a dry state, for under such a condition the freezing would do more harm than good. The best way to manage such seeds is to mix with wet sand and put in a box or other tight vessel, and then half or wholly bury in the open ground, but do not cover so deep that they will not freeze during the coldest weather. This appears to be the most natural way of preservation, without sowing them where the trees are to grow.

Fall planting will answer with many kinds, but there is always more or less danger of nuts and edible seeds being destroyed by mice and other vermin, from which, however, they are readily protected when mixed with sand and kept in boxes. I have known hickory and chestnuts to be dug up and carried off by squirrels and mice during a thaw in winter; hence it is best to guard against such depredators.

Piscifulture.

ANGLING IN NORWAY.

Occasionally an American angler finds his way to Norway, but it is very seldom. Henry Harbeck, Esq., who has spent two seasons there, says:—"I leased a part of a river for salmon fishing in the summer of 1874, for which I paid £10 sterling, or about forty-five Norwegian dollars; but that is cheap, as the best rivers frequently bring from £40 to £140. I believe I am the only American angler who visits Norway. The rivers are mostly fished by Englishmen. The climate is very fine, and I have never been troubled by mosquitoes, or black flies, or punkies. I arrived at the river the 20th of June, and it being very early in the season for that river did not get fast to a salmon for four days. That was in the morning. In the afternoon the river, or my pools, became very muddy, caused by a clay bank washing away, which had often taken place for many years. Then I stopped fishing and went away to another part of the country; came back in about a week and the water was too high, but it lowered in a few days, and in three weeks time I killed about 180 pounds of salmon and sea trout. The sea trout are different from the Canadian trout in their game qualities, they being the strongest fresh water fish I ever saw of their size. I caught none over six pounds weight, and as to the salmon in that river, I never saw such strong ones, although I have fished wild rivers in Canada and Ireland. They immediately take down stream and are like race horses. They are long fish and terrific runners. I never saw their equal. The rivers differ, though; in some they are more gamey than in others. They were not large, the largest being only eleven pounds; but in game I never had more sport with a twenty pounder. They run small in that river, though. This summer, being better acquainted with the country, I had much heavier fishing; but the river brought a considerable higher rental."

STOCKING STREAMS WITH TROUT.

Seth Green writes from Rochester, N. Y., to Forest and Stream as follows:—"In answer to your inquiries as to how I know our depleted trout streams can be stocked again and be made a success, I will explain. In the year 1871 Charles Upton, a banker in this place, bought a small, played out trout stream about one mile long. I put 4,000 young brook trout one inch long in the stream. During the summer of 1872 the creek was alive with yearling trout. In 1873 Mr. Upton commenced fishing for them. He would go out at 3 P. M., after bank hours, and his take would be from 50 to 100 during the afternoon, and in 1874 his take would be from 20 to 60 three year old trout, and in 1875 his take was from 5 to 19. A good many of the 1875 take were pound fish. Care should be taken in putting young trout in trout streams, and to not put in any more than there is food for. They feed on all kinds of small animalcule and larvæ of small flies. I have just returned from the lower end of Lake Ontario. I have had great success in gathering salmon trout spawn. I shall have some millions to distribute next spring.

People engaged in fish culture are invited to communicate the results of their observation and experience for the benefit of Rural readers.

Arboricultural.

NOTES ON BUDDING AND GRAFTING.

The end sought in propagating plants by the common processes known as budding and grafting, is one and the same, but the operations are quite distinct. Budding as generally practiced is performed in summer or early autumn, while the plants operated upon are growing on just as the season of growth is ceasing but not fully closed. But in grafting the operation is usually performed while both stock and cion are in a dormant state, the union between the two taking place as the sap begins to flow and growth commences in spring. The various methods of budding and grafting have been so frequently described in these columns that it is probably not necessary to repeat them, but our object in referring to the subject at this time is to point out to the novice in horticulture some of the variations which may be practiced or rejected in these methods of propagation. With new beginners in any branch of business or profession, there is always more or less inclination to make experiments for themselves, and while this is commendable to a certain degree, it may lead to a useless waste of time and means. In propagating plants there are many possibilities and different ways of performing certain operations which experience has shown are not worthy of being introduced into general practice. It may be possible to grow pears on thorns and mountain ash stocks, but is it advisable to do so while we have other kinds which are far better. Then again, we find that the ordinary methods of grafting may be practiced successfully upon certain kinds of stocks and not upon others, hence the advisability of resorting to budding where grafting is less sure or more expensive.

BUDDING AND GRAFTING APPLES.

Apple stocks are so readily raised from seed that other kinds are seldom employed except when dwarf trees for garden culture are required, then the Paradise or Doucain apple are used instead. The latter are very dwarf or low-growing species, or perhaps varieties, of the common apple, and the sorts worked upon them assume the dwarf habit of the stock, hence the common name of Dwarf, or Bush, apples. Now it is possible to make the apple to grow on quite a variety of stocks, but the three named are considered best for general purposes.

The stocks may be budded in summer or grafted in spring, as standing in the nursery rows; but the method most generally practiced is to take up the stocks in fall and then graft upon the roots during the winter, planting out in spring. Grafting apple stocks in winter affords the propagator an opportunity of increasing his stock more rapidly and at less expense than if he had to depend upon budding or grafting the stocks while standing in the nursery, and the trees propagated in this manner are without doubt fully as good.

PEARS.

Pears may be worked upon apples—any of the species of thorns, (*Crategus*,) mountain ash, *Cotoneasters*, quince, and various other kinds of stocks; but the seedling pear for standard trees and the quince for dwarfs, are now generally employed for this purpose and considered the most suitable. Pear stocks may be grafted in winter the same as those of the apple, but budding in summer is usually the preferable mode, and the same is true when using quince stocks for dwarf trees.

Certain varieties of pears succeed well on the quince stock, while others do not, and we may seek to know why the difference without discovering it. For instance, the Bartlett will seldom form a good, permanent union with a quince stock, there appearing to be only a temporary uniting of the cells of the two; but the Vicar of Winkfield and some others which might be named will take to the quince almost as readily and firmly as upon stocks of its own kind. The discovery that the wood of one variety of pears united readily with the quince, while another would not, led to the introduction of what are termed "double-worked dwarfs," which are produced as follows:—The first season the quince stock is budded with some vigorous growing variety of pear like the Vicar of Winkfield, which is known to form a perfect union with the quince; the next spring the bud, in the usual course, produces a strong shoot several feet in hight. In the latter part of summer or at the proper time, a bud from another variety—say, for instance, the Bartlett—is inserted into the pear shoot about six inches above its junction with the quince. This bud, of course, unites readily with wood of its own kind, and next spring the entire shoot above it is removed and the inserted bud pushes into growth, forming the tree proper. Now in this case we have a quince root or stock, then six inches of a Vicar of Winkfield pear stem, and the remainder, or bearing portion of the tree, is a Bartlett.

These double-worked trees were once quite popular, and are really worth all the cost whenever dwarf pears are cultivated extensively or solely. This same principle of double-working, might be introduced into other fields of horticulture with beneficial results.

PEACHES, PLUMS AND CHERRIES.

Not long since we received an inquiry from a novice in pomology, asking if he could not dig up his peach stocks and root-graft them in winter, the same as practiced with apples. Of course such an experiment would certainly end in a disastrous failure, and no one but a novice would desire to try such an experiment. We prefer using seedling stocks and budding in summer for all the three kinds last named, although grafting plums and cherries can be done quite successfully in our northern climate. Peaches may be worked upon plum stocks and *vice versa*, although it is seldom advisable to do so. There are several distinct species of native plums, all of which may be employed for stocks upon which to work the choice improved sorts. The dwarf Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*) answers well as a stock for dwarfs, while the Chickasaw and Wild Red plum answer well for standards.

In propagating the cherry by budding and grafting, we meet some natural barriers, which prevent an indiscriminate inter-working of the various species. Of those bearing edible fruit both the foreign and native may be divided into two classes, or sub-genera, one producing flowers in umbels or clusters, and the others in racemes. Now all the species and varieties in either may be budded or grafted upon each other; but the wood of those bearing flowers in clusters seem to have no affinity for those with flowers in racemes. Now if the novice in Pomology keep this fact in mind, he will have no occasion to ask if this or that species of wild cherry can be employed as stocks for certain cultivated varieties. To make this point plain, we will name the principal species in both.

FLOWERS IN CLUSTERS.

The common Garden Red or Morello cherry (*Prunus Cerasus*) and all its various varieties. The English cherry or, as more generally called, Mazzard, (*P. avium*,) the parent of our large sweet varieties. The wild form, or Mazzard, is found growing wild in the hedges and even woods of the Eastern States, the seeds having been distributed by birds from cultivated trees. Wild Red cherry (*P. Pennsylvania*) is a small tree found in rocky woods in the Northern and Middle States. The fruit is small, red and quite acid.

The Dwarf cherry (*P. pumila*) is a small shrub growing only two or three feet high, forming large clumps. Flowers small, white, succeeded by a dark, purplish-black fruit a half-inch in diameter and of a sweetish, rather insipid taste. The roots are of reddish color, covered with numerous buds from which spring many suckers.

FLOWERS IN RACEMES.

Wild Black cherry (*P. serotina*) is too well known to need description, growing to a large tree, the wood of which is extensively used by cabinet makers.

Choke cherry (*P. Virginiana*) is also well known and common almost anywhere in the Northern and Southern States. A small tree or large shrub, with dark, astringent fruit.

Small Bird cherry of Europe (*P. Padus*) is sometimes cultivated for ornament in this country; resembles our Choke cherry, but the racemes are larger and the fruit usually of a lighter color.

Now when any of our readers write to us asking if wild cherry seedlings can be used as stocks for the cultivated sorts, they can see how difficult it is to answer this question unless we knew to what particular species they refer.

THE LADY APPLE.

This beautiful little dessert apple, the *Pomme d'Api* of the French, may often be seen in the windows of the fruiterers' shops in Covent Garden, where its handsome form and brilliant colors never fail to excite admiration. It is by no means a new apple; on the contrary, it was once said to be known and appreciated in the time of Pliny. It is now thought to have been originally a French apple, obtained from a wild variety found in the forest of Apis, in Bretagne. In Normandy it was well known in 1690, and was known as Gros Apis and Long-bois. The fruit of this apple, which should be gathered as late as possible, should be thinned where it is too thick, and, above all, should be as much exposed to the sun as possible, so as to give it color. So well does it adhere to the tree that it will brave, without falling, the strongest winds. This apple should be eaten with its skin on, this having so agreeable a perfume that we can hardly afford to dispense with it. It is largely grown in the United States, and always commands a higher price than any other fancy apple in the market. In this country it would, doubtless, succeed well under orchard-house culture, on the Paradise stock, or in the open air.—*G. in London Garden.*

Prairie farmers should plant wood-lots as soon as they get their farms fenced.

Patrons of Husbandry.

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

BELOW we give an accurate list of the recently-elected Officers of the National Grange, with their respective Post-office addresses. They are elected for two years—until November, 1878:

Master—JNO. T. JONES, Barton, Phillips, Ark.
Overseer—J. J. Woodman, Paw Paw, Van Buren, Mich.
Lecturer—A. B. Smedley, Cresco, Howard, Ia.
Steward—A. J. Vaughan, Memphis, Tenn.
Assistant Steward—Mortimer Whitehead, Middlebush, Somerset, N. J.
Chaplain—S. H. Ellis, Springborough, Warren, O.
Treasurer—F. M. McDowell, Wayne, Steuben, N. Y.
Secretary—O. H. Kelley, Louisville, Ky.
Gatekeeper—Oliver Dinwiddie, Orchard Grove, Lake, Ind.
Ceres—Mrs. Jno. T. Jones, Barton, Phillips, Ark.
Flora—Mrs. Sam. E. Adams, Montecello, Wright, Minn.
Pomona—Mrs. Harvey Goddard, North Granby, Hartford, Conn.
Lady Assistant Steward—Miss Caroline A. Hall, Louisville, Ky.
Executive Committee—D. WYATT AIKEN (Chairman), Cokesbury, Abbeville, S. C.; E. R. Shankland, Dubuque, Ia.; Dudley T. Chase, Claremont, Sullivan, N. H.; Alonzo Golder, Rock Falls, Whiteside, Ill.; W. H. Chambers, Osweehee, Russell, Ala.

MEETINGS OF STATE GRANGES.

WE continue from last week the reports of meetings of State Granges:

Maine.—Annual meeting held in Bangor, Dec. 14-16th, and embraced representatives from nearly every Grange in the State, of which there are 400, with an average membership of 200. The following officers were elected for 1876:—Master, NELSON HAM, Lewiston; Overseer, C. E. Gilman, Houlton; Lecturer, Raymond S. Rich, Thorndike; Steward, E. H. Clement, Newburg; Assistant Steward, O. A. Bowman, N. Fairfield; Chaplain, C. B. Davis; Treasurer, C. H. Cobb, E. Poland; Secretary, J. M. Jackson, Lewiston; Gate Keeper, J. C. Clements, Winterport; Ceres, Mrs. H. P. Ham, Lewiston; Pomona, Mrs. C. E. Gilman, Houlton; Flora, Mrs. J. F. Cornforth, E. New Portland; Lady Assistant Steward, Mrs. J. M. Jackson, Lewiston. Executive Committee:—A. K. Walker, Nealey's Corner; Hermon Sawyer, Durham; J. O. Keys, North Jay; Nathaniel Dyer, Pownal.

Kentucky.—The State Grange held its annual session at Louisville, Dec. 7. Over 200 delegates were present, of whom about 50 were ladies. The State Purchasing Agent, Bro. GUTHRIE, reported that he had purchased for the members of the Order in the State goods to the amount of $300,000 at a saving of $75,000 to the purchasers. The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of nearly $15,000. The officers for the ensuing two years of the State Grange are as follows:—Master, M. DAVIE; Overseer, W. J. Stone; Lecturer, Dr. R. D. Smith; Steward, W. J. Sec; Assist. Steward, D. W. Cooper; Chaplain, Rev. D. J. K. Maddox; Treasurer, J. M. Clark; Secretary, J. Eugene Barnes; Gate Keeper, H. S. Priest; Col. Chas. G. OTIS of Knickerbocker Grange, New York City, addressed the Grange.

Massachusetts.—The State Grange recently closed its annual session at Springfield, after having elected Thaddeus Graves of Hatfield, Master; Henry E. Rice of Barre, Overseer; A. F. Bliss of Blandford, Lecturer; Charles Jones of Deerfield, Treasurer; James Draper of Worcester, Secretary. During the year 35 Granges have been instituted, making 100 in all, and the membership has increased from 2,700 to 4,000.

Colorado.—The State Grange adjourned on the 18th ult., after a very interesting session. Subordinate granges were advised to discuss the proposed amendments to the State Constitution, and the Legislature was requested to make an appropriation for the Centennial Exhibition. Resolutions were adopted in favor of changing the present system of jurisprudence to Courts of Equity or arbitration; forbidding private corporations controlling the water in the rivers and streams.

Knickerbocker Grange.—Several members of this Grange have taken occasion to visit meetings of State Granges—notably Bros. NAUGHTON, Secretary, and REED, OTIS and INGERSOLL. Besides the National Grange, they have visited Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

GRANGE NOTES AND ITEMS.

THE Arkansas State Grange meets Jan. 24.

THE Virginia State Grange meets in Richmond Jan. 11.

YORK Co., Me., has eleven Granges, all in good working order.

NOTICE is given for an act to incorporate the Dominion Patrons of Husbandry.

THE receipts of the Illinois State Grange for 1875 were $124 000; balance on hand, $12,000.

THE Grange mill at Fairbault, Minn., is acquiring a high reputation for the quality of the flour it turns out.

ACCORDING to the last reports, there are 18 division Granges and 227 subordinate ones in the Dominion of Canada.

THREE Granges and a council of Sovereigns of Industry, in Massachusetts, have started a co-operative store in Holyoke.

MR. A. T. MATTHEWS, lecturer of the Kentucky State Grange, has sold his crop of broom corn to parties in Louisville at $120 per ton.

MR. HENLEY JAMES, master of the Indiana State Grange, favors making all fourth degree members eligible to the Pomona Grange.

A MEMBER of Brandywine Grange, Pennsylvania, and his wife, were the first to subscribe to the Centenial Encampment scheme.

EUREKA GRANGE of N. H., is in a flourishing condition. Its numbers are increasing and they purchase supplies at a discount of from 20 to 50 per cent. on former prices.

THE annual convention of the N. H. State Grange, held at Manchester, last week, was the largest ever held in that State. Nearly all the 72 subordinate lodges were represented.

THE Texas Grange Manufacturing Co. at Kelloyville is turning out cooking and heating stoves, every variety of cast, turning and cultivating plows, and is preparing to manufacture steel goods of all kinds. It is succeeding beyond all expectations.

Domestic Economy.

SPLENDID SUET PUDDING.

OUR Suet Pudding for dinner was so very nice, and gave such general satisfaction, that I send the recipe for the benefit of my RURAL Sisters, as it may be new to some of them. It is particularly nice and convenient for housekeepers, as it will keep nicely a month or two in a cool, dry cellar in earthen jars or a tin box, and a part of it may be sliced off and steamed from time to time as needed—when, with suitable sauce, it will be found as good as when newly made.

Recipe for Suet Pudding.—Take one cup of suet, chopped fine; one cup of raisins, chopped; one-half cup of English currants; one cup of sirup; one cup of sour milk; two even teaspoons of soda. Mix the suet, raisins and currants well into the sirup; then add the sour milk; next the soda, pulverized and well mixed in a handful of dry flour. Stir until it begins to foam, then add flour enough to form a stiff batter. Steam one and one-half hours. For a large family double the quantity will be required, and it should be steamed two hours. Serve hot.

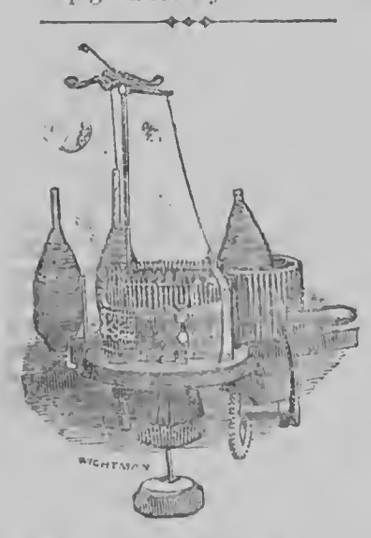
Sauce for Pudding.—One-half cup of butter; one-half cup of sugar; beat these together with one heaping table spoon of flour. Pour into it (a little at a time, stirring all the while,) one pint of boiling water, and let it simmer on the stove a few minutes. Add one teaspoon of lemon extract, and the juice of one lemon or a teaspoon of lemon sugar.—JULIA M. W.

WASHING FINE UNDERCLOTHING.

A LEADING firm, importers and retailers of hosiery goods in Philadelphia, gives the Germantown Telegraph the following directions for washing merino, lamb's wool and silk underclothing, and that paper bears witness to its excellence:—Use one pound of dissolved soap in four gallons of warm water, in which rinse well the articles to be washed, drawing them repeatedly through the hand; wring them as dry as possible, to remove the soap; rinse them again briskly in clean, lukewarm water; wring and stretch them to their proper shape, and dry in the open air if possible. The only effects of rubbing are to shrink and destroy the material; it should, therefore, never be resorted to. The material used in manufacturing silk underwear being an animal product, it is absolutely necessary that nothing but the best quality of soap and warm water should be used. All kinds of washing compounds destroy the nature of the material, giving to the fabric the appearance of poor cotton.

TO DRY FRESH MEAT.

CUT the flesh into slices of from two to six ounces in weight; immerse a small portion at a time in boiling water for five or six minutes, using only just water enough to cover the meat, adding fresh water to keep the liquor up to its original quantity. Lay the meat to dry on open trellis work in a drying stove, keeping the temperature at about 122 degrees Fahrenheit. In about two days the meat will be completely dry, having lost two-thirds its weight. Add a little salt and spice, especially coriander, to the liquor or soup in which the meat was immersed, and then evaporate to a gelatinous consistence. When the flesh is dry, dip it, piece by piece, in the gelatinous matter liquified by a gentle heat, and replace it in the stove to dry, repeating this varnishing and drying two or three times, so as to get the coating uniformly think. Meat thus dried will keep good for a year.



AUTOMATIC KNITTING MACHINE.

THIS is a simple, economical and effective machine, adapted to a great variety of work, and doing it with the least possible care of the operator. It is manufactured by the Franz & Pope Knitting Machine Co. of Bucyrus, Ohio, at the low price of $40. We have not room for a long description, but a little book, giving complete instructions, is sent with every machine. We will this machine to every one obtaining 20 subscribers to the RURAL at $2.65 each, or 40 at $2.15 per yearly copy.

THE BEST YEAST KNOWN.

VIENNA bread is said to be the best in the world. It owes its superiority to the yeast used, which is prepared in the following manner: Indian corn, barley and rye (all sprouting) are powdered and mixed, and then macerated in water at a temperature of from 149 to 167 deg. Fahrenheit. Saccharification takes place in a few hours, when the liquor is racked off and allowed to clear, and fermentation is set up by the help of a minute quantity of any ordinary yeast. Carbonic acid is disengaged during the process with so much rapidity that the globules of yeast are thrown up by the gas and remain floating on the surface, where they form a thick scum. The latter is carefully removed and constitutes the best and purest yeast, which, when drained and compressed, can be kept from eight to fifteen days, according to the season.

SELECTED RECIPES.

A Danish Dish.—One pint of currant juice; one pint of water; half pint of sago; two cups of sugar. Boil all together until the sago is soft. Pour into molds, and set on ice.

Cream Pie.—One cup cream (sweet, and as thick as you can get it), two tablespoons sugar, and one egg. Use one crust, making it the usual way.

To Warm Beans and Succotash.—Put with a little water into a flat dish and cover tightly. Heat slowly, and do not stir while warming, as that will make them messy and pasty. If they are likely to burn, put them where there is less heat. Dish them with a flat ladle or skimmer, so as to stir them as little as possible. A good dish for breakfast.

Aromatic Vinegar.—Concentrated acetic acid, eight ounces; oil of lavender, two drachms; oil of rosemary, one drachm; oil of cloves one drachm; oil of camphor, one ounce. Dissolve the camphor in acetic acid, then add the perfumes. After remaining together for a few days, with occasional agitation, it is to be filtered and bottled for use or sale.

Winter Succotash—This may be made with Limas, horticulturals, garden beans, or white field beans. The latter are seldom used for succotash, but they make it very nicely. The method of proceeding in each case is the same. Boil the beans without soaking until three-fourths done. In the meantime put an equal amount (dry) of dried sweet corn with three parts water, and let it steep on the stove for two hours without boiling, then add to it the beans and let them cook together gently until the beans are done. Serve warm, and do not break the beans.

A Test for Linen Fabrics.—To distinguish cotton when woven into professedly linen fabrics, it is well to know that linen fiber, when dipped in an alcoholic solution of rosolic acid, next in a concentrated aqueous solution of carbonate of soda, and finally washed several times with strong soda, attains a beautiful red color, while the cotton fibers are not dyed. Before testing, the dressing should be washed out of the goods, and a few threads ravelled out on each of the three sides.

Hygienic Information.

WHAT TO EAT.

AN American lady, medically educated abroad, and well acquainted with the habits of the Scotch, English and Germans, recently declared that she thought the three curses of America, and the primary causes of its physical deterioration were eggs, butter and sugar, in the form of cake.

In no country is this poisonous stuff used to the same extent as with us. Infants lay the foundations of future dyspepsia with it before they leave their mother's breasts; children are fed upon it between their meals, to the destruction of all natural appetite; while among schoolgirls, it slays more than all the studies in the world.

The case of hundreds of Scotch students was cited, now become eminent divines, who left home with barely money enough to pay the rent of a poor room, and with a bag of oatmeal on their backs, returning vigorous, strong men, remarkable for their powers of endurance, mental and physical, their food during their years of probation, oatmeal only, cooked by themselves, the bag being replenished from home as often as it gave out.

We use too much food in this country, we mix our oatmeal in the morning with beefsteak, fried potatoes, eggs, chops, fish, corn bread, hot biscuit, and other convertibles in a way which deprives it of all its virtue. Oatmeal must be made the principal dish at breakfast, if it is to have any potency, especially for children, for if there are other and more tempting luxuries, they will not of course choose that, and to eat a little under protest, when the stomach is already full of ill-assorted food, is to add insult to the injury already inflicted upon it.

"Crushed" wheat is winning golden opinions as a fine and healthful article of food, and as it requires three or four hours cooking, it is particularly adapted as a warm dish for "tea" for children, and adults also, in families where the city custom of late dinners is not observed. It is usually made the consistency of oatmeal, or Indian meal mush, with water, and a little salt, and left to "simmer" at the back of the stove or range, between the hours of mid-day dinner and tea, then eaten with new milk only, exactly the same as oatmeal.

REMEDY FOR FROZEN FEET.

THE following remedies, by several different persons are seasonable and we trust will be found effectual by any of our readers who may have occasion to use either. Any one having a better remedy will please send it to the RURAL:

Some one wishes to know what will cure itching of frost-bitten feet of many years standing. Mine troubled me very much every winter for several years, and were so sore that I could wear only a loose stocking and a felt shoe, and was obliged to cut a hole in the other shoe over the large joint, (which enlarged the joint.) I cured them with Cantharides cerate, and have never been troubled since. That was six years ago. I have given it to several persons, and have never known it to fail to cure. Two or three applications are generally sufficient.

To make it—rub into simple cerate as much of the tincture of cantharides as it will hold. Any druggist can prepare it for you. A small box will cost about fifteen cents. Cantharides is made from Spanish flies; *I think* it is a harmless remedy. Rub a little on the feet before going to bed, after bathing them in warm water. The best thing for frozen feet is to make a poultice of grated raw potato and fish oil, and apply to the parts. It never fails. An onion chopped fine and applied as a poultice will give immediate relief in cases of frost-bitten feet, and if persisted in will effect a cure.

Another writer says:—"I have tried almost every thing that could be mentioned, but found nothing equal to a mixture of turpentine and camphor-gum."

THE MEDICINE OF SUNSHINE.

THE world wants more sunshine in its disposition, in its business, in its charities, in its theology. For ten thousand of the aches and pains and irritations of men and women we recommend sunshine. It soothes better than morphine. It stimulates better than champagne. It is the best plaster for a wound. The good Samaritan poured out into the fallen traveller's gash more of this than of wine and oil. Florence Nightingale used it on Crimean battlefields. Take it into all the alleys, on board all the ships, by all the sick-beds. Not a phial full, not a cup full, nor a decanter full, but a soul full. It is good for spleen, for liver complaint, for neuralgia, for rheumatism, for falling fortunes, for melancholy. We suspect that heaven itself is only more sunshine.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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Founder and Conducting Editor.

WM. J. FOWLER, ANDREW S. FULLER,
Associate Editors.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1876.

CENTENNIAL PROSPERITY.

The Rural New-Yorker, having entered upon a new year and volume under the most encouraging auspices, sincerely congratulates its numerous readers all over the Continent upon the facts and indications which give promise of an early return of General Prosperity—our candidate for Centennial President—to the People and Country. That view is too rose-colored, in your opinion? Let us examine and decide.

The prevailing sentiment of both the People and the Press seems to be that the Centennial Year, so favorably inaugurated throughout the Union, is not only to restore and render permanent our former unexampled prosperity as a nation, but create and cement a bond of union among the peoples of these States and foreign countries which will insure peace and harmony in the future. And pray why may not such be the result? What we lack most is *Confidence*—in ourselves and in each other. With that, and judicious Economy and Industry, the "good time coming," which has been so long delayed that many have despaired, will surely arrive. Faith and Works will accomplish the desired object and inaugurate an era of prosperity equal to any ever known during the existence of the American Republic—whose career during the past century is unexampled in the history of nations.

The country never had more abundant resources. The farmers and planters are especially fortunate—for, notwithstanding the bad weather and other unfavorable indications, last spring, they have been richly blessed "in basket and in store," and are now really the most independent people on earth. The grumblers and croakers—we trust there are no chronic ones among our readers—should not forget the numerous blessings they enjoy, compared with inhabitants of other lands, where war, pestilence and famine prevail.

Of the unparalleled improvements successfully introduced within a few years—demonstrating the great ingenuity, intelligence and enterprise of the American People—we need not speak in this connection, for are they not patent to "all the world and the rest of mankind?" The invention of labor-saving implements and machinery, by the "Universal Yankee Nation," has alone created a wonderful change in the various channels of Agricultural Production and Manufactures—a change which has not only vastly benefited our own people, but those of foreign countries. The improvements in production, and the great facilities in transportation by both land and water—enabling us to compete favorably in many respects with other nations—are among the blessings vouchsafed, and for which the American People and Nation should thank God, resolving to do all that is needful in the immediate future to promote what has already been inaugurated,—Centennial Prosperity.

Thanks to the hosts of Agents and others who are helping the Rural by introducing it to the notice and support of their friends. We gratefully appreciate the efforts of all who are kindly seconding our efforts to benefit the Ruralists of America.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN 1875.

An observant philosopher has shrewdly remarked that, "Happy are the people who have no history." Looking backward over all preceding and barbarous ages, the saying is no less wise than witty. So long as history concerned itself only or chiefly with war, devastation and the misfortunes of mankind, its absence was for any people matter for congratulation. Looking forward to the Golden age, not far distant, we shall see history concerning itself chiefly with the more important yet less sensational matters which promote progress in the arts of peace and industrial advancement. The people of the United States are to celebrate this year the Centennial anniversary of their Independence; but it is safe to say that we should not think of making a World's Exposition of progress during the past century if we had only the most notable events of our history, our wars with England, Mexico and among ourselves, to show for it. The inventors of the cotton gin, of the reaper and mower, the sewing machine, the electric telegraph and of the innumerable devices for promoting civilization by bringing men nearer to each other and lightening their burdens, will make a prouder record in our coming Centennial than any mere military heroes. War for any cause is a public calamity. It may be the alternative of a worse evil and therefore excusable, but it always needs excuse. Only industrial progress benefits all, and is an unmixed good.

During the year just closed there has been no one achievement which towers far above others. Progress has been made, but it has been mainly in minor details rather than in single brilliant strokes. Despite the "hard times" which have affected all kinds of commercial and speculative business, the producing interests of the country are probably to-day more firmly established and more prosperous than a year ago. The farmers and other producing classes are probably also in better condition. Earnings have been small; but economy has been general, and the savings from small gains are more important to the individual or community than great increase in profits. Notwithstanding the general lack of astounding discoveries or inventions, the year has not lacked many of great importance, and which, in an age of fewer industrial triumphs, would have created a great deal of interest and excitement. It cannot be doubted that the aggregate of these lesser inventions cannot fail to be of great and increasing importance to the cause of human progress and improvement. An invention once made is for all time, and what now seems of the slightest importance, working through centuries and ages yet to come, may affect for good millions and millions of men and women yet unborn.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

Conrad Wilson, an esteemed contributor to our own pages, writes to the Christian Union:—"In view of the conceded usefulness of Farmers' Clubs and of their growing importance, it has occurred to me to submit for their consideration a suggestion that will perhaps be deemed worthy of attention. There are various and important considerations tending to show that many advantages would probably result if the Clubs of the whole country were connected together under a general organization. One obvious effect of such a movement, of course, would be that the countless local associations now scattered through the country, unnumbered and unknown, would be brought into fraternal union and concert of action that would largely increase their efficiency and the value of their influence on progressive husbandry. It would also tend to the mental and moral as well as social improvement of the present isolated societies, and would make each Club an object of greater interest to farmers and to the public, thereby increasing their membership and their sphere of usefulness. There would be no reasonable ground for suspicion of political motives, as the State and National organizations would simply reflect the sentiments and purposes of the Clubs from which they spring. The honorable rivalry at present existing between the Granges and Clubs would still remain the same as now, for the new movement would not need to introduce any new aims or elements of discord, and would make no essential change in the present character of the Clubs. It would simply enable them, by concerted action, to work out and more effectively promote the progress of husbandry and the prosperity of the country."

We believe the above "hits the nail on the head" in proposing to make the scattered Farmers' Clubs more efficient and useful. Some connecting links, to give coherence and effectiveness to farmers' organizations, would utilize for the farmers' benefit a great deal of power now wasted. It is this union of numerous local Granges in State and National organizations that has given the Order of Patrons of Husbandry its unprecedented success. To this we would also add one other feature, *i. e.*,—the presence of wives and daughters in Grange meetings. Probably the greatest advantage of the ritual consists in the fact that it necessitates the presence of women at Grange meetings. This advantage, together with that of a general organization through the country, can just as well be secured by Farmers' Clubs, and in many localities where strong prejudices exist against secret organizations, the open Clubs will probably have the preference. Each will have some advantage commending it to different habits of thought. With two classes of successful organizations, one open and the other secret, and each working for the farmer's welfare, the objects of both will be pushed forward to speedy accomplishment. We heartily thank Mr. Wilson for the timely and practical suggestion he has made, and will do all in our power to further its adoption.

PROPOSED POSTAL REFORM.

Postmaster Filley of St. Louis has suggested to the Department a change in the postal laws which seems to us very sensible. Newspapers and other periodicals sent to regular subscribers and news-agents are now reckoned as second-class matter and charged for at pound rates, while sample copies of newspapers, prospectuses, display posters, and similar articles issued by publishers and mailed generally to the same offices and at the same time with their regular subscribers' copies, are counted as third-class matter and charged for at transient ounce rates. This discrimination causes so much annoyance both to postmasters and publishers, and yields so little to the postal revenues, that Mr. Filley proposes that it should be abolished and all periodicals, with posters, prospectuses, sample copies, and other matters connected with them, rated as second-class. There will have to be a revision of the postal laws at this session, and we commend this common-sense suggestion to the consideration of Congress.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

There is no doubt that such a change would greatly simplify the postage business; but why not go a step further and make a uniform rate for all mailable matter, as proposed by Mr. Vick and quoted in the Rural New-Yorker December 18? Mr. Vick is himself one of the largest patrons of the Post-Office through his extensive business, and his suggestion is the result of much experience and a thorough knowledge of what the people need and what the Government can profitably furnish.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Tramp Nuisance.—The turning away of some hundreds of thousands of men engaged in industrial pursuits by the suspension of mercantile establishments within the past two years, has been the means of setting afloat a large population who go through the country ostensibly looking for work, but really begging or stealing whenever they can get a chance. These classes are called "tramps," and an intolerable nuisance they have become. Many of them are the natural result, not of "hard times," but of a dislike of honest industry learned during the flush times during and following the war, when a greater proportion of the people than ever before lived without work. Wages have naturally and properly declined somewhat from those flush times, but there is something for every one to do, and better pay than our grandfathers and great grandfathers were glad to take for harder toil. Nine-tenths of the tramps infesting the country are not looking for work, but for some nice, easy job that will not require much exertion and will give big pay. In the meantime, these fellows cost vastly more to maintain than the majority of respectable members of society. They prowl through the country, acquiring and disseminating vicious habits, burning barns, houses and other buildings wherever they can get a chance. The two recent fires, nearly destroying the entire village of West Avon, N. Y., were both probably started by tramps, and hundreds of other mysterious fires have a similar origin. It is high time that these outlaws were set to work, if only for the sake of keeping them out of mischief. The County of Orange, N. J., has given a good example in this respect. Last year the authorities housed and fed 18,000 of these traveling vagrants, and the news spread so rapidly that the number bade fair to be quadrupled. The coming year a new tack is to be followed. Each town is to have accommodations for giving able-bodied vagrants plenty of hard work for the benefit of the town while they remain in its borders. Judicious improvement of roads is a work which might profitably employ a good deal of tramp labor, and this suggestion is appropriate for most Rural districts. If some such practical measure as this is adopted, the business of "looking for work" as a permanent means of getting a living will speedily come to an end.

The Rural and the Centennial.—In remitting for a club of subscribers for 1876, Mr. Wyman Elliott of Minneapolis, Minn., writes:—"We are a devoted little band of admirers of your paper, and I have acted as agent so long that it comes natural to send for the Dear Rural every year. I have been a reader of its contents for the past twenty years and have most of the volumes complete. I hope you will give a good summary of the Centennial as it progresses, with all that is of interest to the *producing classes*. Cheap Transportation is what we of the West demand at the present, and he who gives us that will long be remembered by the millions of the great Mississippi Valley."

—Our friend, and others who have recently written us on the same subject, will observe that we anticipated their wishes by opening the Rural for 1876 with a department entitled "The Centennial." This we purpose to continue, with a view of chronicling the leading features of the great anniversary as they transpire or are announced. We hope to render "The Centennial" the most interesting feature of the Rural, while we shall neither forget nor neglect matters of interest to the producing classes—prominent among which we reckon Cheap Transportation.

Sugar from Grapes.—Some of the Pacific Coast journals are devising means for utilize their surplus grape crop by converting its sweetness into sugar for the market. The Pacific Rural Press exposes the fallacies of this idea as follows: "There is not a particle of crystallizable sugar in the grape. What is known as "grape sugar" is the same substance as that which is made from corn or starch, and when so made is called glucose, which is largely used in the manufacture of wine, etc. The form in which it approaches nearest to sugar is the appearance it sometimes presents on raisins, which is known as "grape sugar," an altogether different article from the sugar made from cane or beets. Grape sugar can be made much cheaper from starch than it can from grapes; and in fact, is largely manufactured from that substance for commercial purposes. The question of what to do with our surplus grapes is not yet solved."

Kind Words from Ruralists—Are daily reaching us from all sections of the country, which reminds us of the trite but wise adage, "Beware when all the people praise thee." Let us see. Here is a subscriber in Steuben Co., Ind., (Mr. Henry B. Dodge) who writes:—"You may just as well put my name on your book for life, or at least as long as my wife and children live, for 'there is no use talking'—they have got to have that paper if all the others go by the board." Another says:—"Having taken the Good Rural for twenty years I cannot drop it, inasmuch as it is now better than ever before. God bless you, and all who contribute to the institution. You are making the best paper of its class in the universe, and ought to be abundantly rewarded—for people who read and heed the Rural's pages cannot but be benefited."

We must omit, or defer, what many say, but here is an item from Fanny D. Boylan of Allegany Co., N. Y., (who remits for a handsome club,) which should be duly chronicled. She writes: "Please don't think that the Agent you named is the only one who does a good thing for you. I have been advancing money for Rural subscribers for years. I advance the money for half of this list. Pray tell us when and what is going to make the times better." The "good times" will come so soon as people are saving, economical and live within their means. In the language of a Boston lady, who has successfully managed a large estate for many years, "so long as the people of this country continue to eat roast beef when they have only money enough to pay for salt mackerel they will have and deserve to have hard times."

The Wheat Prospect in England for another year is very poor. Much of the seed grain rotted in the ground from excess of wet and cold, and what is left has made a poor growth. It is not possible that the crop of 1876, under the most favorable circumstances hereafter, can be an average one, and bad weather may make it a very light one. The rainfall in the United Kingdom was, in September, 2.66 inches; October, 4.22 inches; and in November, 2.97 inches; or, in three months, 9.85 inches, of which about one-half, or 4.22 inches, was during October. This heavy rainfall has prevented the sowing of fall wheat on heavy soils, and the Mark Lane Express says there is a wide acreage unsown with wheat, leaving the agriculturist to the uncertainties of spring sowing.

The Rural's Title Page and Index, issued on a separate sheet at close of last volume, was a "new departure" which is highly appreciated, judging from the commendation of it by several correspondents. It was only an augury or foretaste of what we propose to do for our readers during the Centennial Year—in return for which we trust all true Ruralists will extend to this Journal such influence and support as it may in their judgment be entitled to upon its merits.

RURAL BREVITIES.

Specimens, Premium Lists, &c., are sent free to all disposed to help the Rural.

The Centennial Year ought to be a good one for farmers, and will be if they do their duty.

Show the Rural to your friends and invite them to subscribe for the fifty-three numbers of 1876.

Officers of Agricultural Societies, Clubs, etc., will please send us the reports of their annual meetings.

The Rochester Business University (Prof. L. L. Williams, Pres't,) has just issued its Thirteenth Annual Circular and Catalogue in a beautiful pamphlet, worthy the Centennial Year.

A Texas subscriber to the Rural writes:—"To show you how we live down here I will give you a statement which speaks for itself. The assessed value of my property is $500, and my taxes on the same $38."

We learn that C. H. Dann, of Warsaw, N. Y., is preparing a lecture to be read before Farmers' Clubs and Granges. The title is "The Light Bringer," and we assure farmers within reach of one of his lectures that they will miss a good thing if they fail to hear it.

No sooner had we fairly recovered from the shock produced by the news of the earthquake in Virginia than we were again thrown into a state of nervousness by the appearance in our Publication Office of the ubiquitous Gen. Jones of Binghamton. We at first feared that he had come to talk Scales to us; but as it only turned out to be a friendly call, we soon regained our self-possession. We wonder if Jones intends to supply all New York City with Scales? He certainly did not come here for nothing.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

BRIDE & CO.,

769 Broadway, N. Y., want agents for the best money-making article in the world. Send for particulars.

For Throat Diseases and Affections of the Chest, "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" are of value. For Coughs, Irritation of the Throat caused by cold, or Unusual Exertion of the Vocal Organs in speaking in public or singing, they produce beneficial results.

WINTER WAIFS.

THE FACE OF NATURE.

As maidens who have passed their prime,
As beauties who have seen their day,
To cover up the tracks of time
And hide the russet of decay,
Puff powder o'er their faded roses,
Those tawny traces time discloses;
So, in the waning of the year,
When, ribbed and wrinkled, brown and bare,
Our Mother Earth feels age draw near,
She makes her face with snow-flakes fair.

[*Harper's Bazar.*

BEYOND EARTH'S FROST.

WHERE are the flowers? where the leaves?
Where the sweet zephyrs' gentle breath?
Where mellowed fruits and golden sheaves?
Dead, dead; all icy bound in death!
Is Love, too, dead? Hence, needless pain!
Love only sleeps to wake again.
Love dead? Ah no, not so with Love!
Love only dies to live above. [*Ennis Graham.*

LOVE LASTS THROUGH SEASONS' CHANGE.

OH, what if the snows are white and cold,
And the summer's bloom is over!
O, what if the roses blush no more,
And the frost has killed the clover!

Let us turn to the winter a smiling face
And welcome the pale new-comer;—
Isn't love as deep, isn't life as sweet,
As it was in the by-gone summer?

[*Mary F. Williams.*

The Story-Teller.

OUT OF THE STORM.

BY A NEW CONTRIBUTOR.

IT was a cold, dreary night without. The wind blew in wild, heavy gusts, as though it reigned a king. Men hurried on, with heads bowed and thrust forward to cut their way through the storm; little children slunk under the protecting shadows of doorways and such rude shelter as could be found; while poor, wretched women braved the horror of that terrible night from dire necessity. One among them—a pale-faced creature, with a look of mortal terror in her countenance, and who seemed to have known more cheery times—lifted her head from time to time, scanning the faces she met in an anxious, questioning way, that seemed to meet with no response from the passers-by.

At last, as though she felt it useless to hope longer, she turned aside to wait under the princely eaves of a large church. To wait! as we all come to do when the flush of youthful expectancy has passed out of our lives. "He will not come; perhaps the weather is too severe, yet it could not keep *me* within doors,' she murmured, desolation and weariness creeping over her face; "and then there remains but one thing to do, and the sooner that is done the better it will be for me; but oh, it is so hard to beg! Only twenty-five, alone, without friends, and, what is far more necessary—money!"

She started forward to meet the glance of a man with a kind pleasant face, gentle almost as a woman's. She noted it even then; she remembered it through all the years that came after. "Sir, I am starving. For the love of Heaven, give me enough to buy a single loaf of bread!"

He was a generous man, as men go—one who gave largely to charitable institutions—and his name stood among the first on the church-list; but he was a man who knew nothing of real poverty, and withal he *did* know how many of the refuse of society obtained a livelihood by begging. So he passed by—as others had done. Suddenly out of his memory crept the words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of these ye have done it unto me."

Back through the rain and slush he made his way to find something buried under a heap of clothes. He touched it, but there was no movement; he spoke and tried to push a bank note into the open hand, but the woman lay where she had fallen apparently dead.

"What a brute I have been! How could I have forgotten so soon!" he spoke aloud, and the only answer he had was from the wind and rain. A policeman passing on his round was hailed, a carriage called, and he lifted the inanimate form in his arms, saying to the driver, "No. 105 Arlington Place. Drive fast, and I double your fare."

"I wonder if she will die; if she does it will seem like a just retribution for that other." Then a tear came into the eyes and fell on the fair face of the girl. She was still unconscious, but a moment after and his home was reached.

"HELEN, I've done an odd thing to-night; picked up a woman on the street and brought her home with me; the why and wherefore I have not attempted to analyse. Get her to bed, send FRANK for Dr. GREY, and then let us have dinner, for I am hungry as a wolf, and after a fashion unnerved. How long is it since—since that time, HELEN?"

Mrs. ARNOLD was not a young woman, but there was a look in her sweet, beautiful face, that age alone had never brought—a look that told of some grief that had been wrought by her own hand—some act which was now irretrievable, but which she sought to atone for, in every thought and word and deed. She was a proud woman, but now her pride was all forgotten, and her voice trembled and her lips quivered as she answered, "It will be ten years the sixteenth of this month, HARVEY dear;" then hesitatingly, "why, have you broken the silence to-night?"

"I hardly know, but if he were not dead, I should believe that in some way news was coming to us of our lost ones; yes, *both*, HELEN—after all these years."

An hour later a servant entered the room, and announced "Dr. GREY." Mr. ARNOLD rose to meet him, while his wife extended her hand, with, "Well, Doctor, we are not in need of your services, but HARVEY has concluded to open a hospital for the poor, aged and infirm, and has desired to obtain your assistance as head physician—with an opening case up stairs."

"Mrs. ARNOLD, I wait your pleasure, refusing for the present all the hospitality you offer here below."

Speaking in the pleasant, gracious manner that people use when performing any act of charity which does not at all interfere with individual comfort, Mrs. ARNOLD and the physician passed up the stair-case into a bright, cosy room, where they were greeted by the cheerful warmth of a coal fire, the soft, subdued glimmer of gas lights turned down. On the bed lay the woman they had come to see, thoroughly restored to consciousness, but with a brilliant color on the cheeks that seemed to betoken fever.

Dr. GREY looked grave as he held the small, wasted hand in his, and counted the beating of the pulse. "Too rapid," he said, under his breath, "No, you must not talk, but remain perfectly quiet; rest is what you need. You are in good hands, and to-morrow, if you are better, you may tell all that you have on your mind."

There was an air of refinement about this waif that even fastidious Mrs. ARNOLD noticed; and she saw the look of gratitude that welled up from the depths of the deep, dark eyes, though the lips uttered no word. Bending over, she whispered, "Wait until to-morrow. The doctor thinks you require rest, and I dare not infringe upon his orders. ELLEN will remain with you, and you may be assured that we feel a deep interest in your welfare. Good night; try and sleep."

"Give her these powders every two hours," said the doctor, and then he passed out of the room.

How often we go to meet our fate without knowing it. The things we look for, the sweet anticipations of life slip, oftentimes, away from us, one by one. We know not where they have gone, or why, but we do know that where there was joy and hope, naught lives save desolation! And there are others that come down like GOD's white-winged angels, and rest, and help, and lift us up, and thus the odd things are made even, and the rough corners rounded and made beautiful.

Mrs. ARNOLD was true to her word, and when the light of another day had won the world back to her beauty, she looked upon the young girl's face and knew that she would live. Then she formed after the woman fashion—a life that should be redolent of good works, and rich in faith and love. "We will take her home to our hearts," she thought. "I am sure she is as fair within as without; the face is almost always an index of the soul. She will not disappoint us, I am sure."

She was very willing to listen to the stranger's story. Moreover, she was, like her husband, charitable, and there was a story in *their* lives—a sad, very sad one—that they never referred to from choice. The silence in regard to their "skeleton" had been unbroken for years until the previous night, when her husband had put the question that had brought back the old ache in her heart.

"You are very much better, almost well, but I intend to keep you in bed to-day. 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,' so the old proverb says, and I believe in it. By-the-by, what shall I call you?"

The girl's voice was low and sweet, as she replied: "My name is GRACE ARNOLD, and I have been married ten years."

Mrs. ARNOLD started forward: "What did you say—GRACE ARNOLD? Why—" and then she stopped, saying only, "go on, I am listening."

"I was only fifteen when I married, and I had never known trouble. Father and mother denied themselves many comforts in order that I might be educated. They were so good to me—taking all the rain of life and leaving me the sunshine. One summer, when I came home to pass my vacation, I met FRED ARNOLD, and soon I came to love him, to long for his presence, to miss his pleasant words and little attentions. The idea of marrying him used to cross my mind from time to time, but I lived too entirely in the present for it to prove a source of anxiety.

"At last—I remember the time so well—he told me that he must go away, but before he went there was a story he must tell me, and my answer would influence his whole future for weal or woe. How sweetly the birds sang that day; how fragrant the flowers were; but none of the precious gifts of nature were to be compared with this great benison of love that had come down into my life. Then he told me all about himself. His father was a rich banker, but very proud, and my darling feared that he should have little to offer save his heart and willing hands; would I be satisfied with them?

"A week from the time we said good-by he returned to claim me. He was very honest, telling me plainly that his father had erected a barrier between them that could not be broken down this side the grave. We were married a month later, and he brought me to Philadelphia, where we were left to fight the battle of life as best we could. Two years after a baby boy came to us. How glad and happy I was! FRED wrote to his father, but after some time an old friend sent word that the family had gone abroad and their whereabouts was unknown. My baby remained only ten months, and then GOD took him."

The girl's eyes were dim with tears, and her voice failed for a moment. The figure in the chair bowed her head lower; then the story went on. "Things went against us after that time. My husband lost his position and I could not aid him, my health was so wretched. One night he came home and told me that he had received an offer to go West, and if I were willing he would go out there first, as he did not want to take me into a wilderness. In a month he should be back, at the utmost. Days and weeks passed on, and I heard nothing. My money was nearly all gone, so I was obliged to leave the comfortable boarding place where he left me and rent a little room in an obscure part of the city. Then I tried to find a position as seamstress, but no one would engage me because I came without any kind of recommendations and I had no friends to whom I might appeal. Two days ago I heard, in an indirect way, that if I would be in a certain place at seven o'clock I might hear something of my husband. It was my last hope, and I clung to it as I have to the only thing that remained—my wedding ring. I went and waited for more than an hour, but no one came, and then the knowledge that it was a cruel piece of deceit—may GOD forgive the author of it! After that I wandered up the street, knowing that unless I begged I must starve. I asked and was refused. Then I remembered nothing more until I opened my eyes in this room and fancied I was in Paradise. This is all I have to tell."

Mrs. ARNOLD's face had grown whiter and whiter, and her hands were clasped in an agonized manner, showing that she was undergoing some terrible suffering. She looked up full in the girl's face. There was an indefinable something in the eyes of the elder woman that caused the other to hold her breath and say: "Did you know him?" For answer Mrs. ARNOLD crept nearer and nearer, until the young girl's head was pillowed on her breast, while, amid sobs and tears, she said: "GOD has forgiven me, at last! Oh, my child, my child!"

Ten days later a young man in a Western town might have been seen busily writing what appeared to be an important document. From time to time he referred to some papers that lay before him on the desk. His face bore the impress of a subdued sorrow and heroic endurance—such an one as we see a dozen times in the course of a whole life, but when once seen is never forgotten.

"FRED, does this concern you? HARRY ran across it in the New York Herald and brought it over to me. I hope it is good news, old fellow."

"IF FREDERICK ARNOLD will send any tidings of himself to No. 105 Arlington Place, Boston, he will hear of something to his advantage. Any information regarding this gentleman will be richly rewarded."

"I am off on the 4.30 train, HALL. It is news of my lost GRACIE. Good-by. We will not forget! Expect me back any day. Will telegraph immediately."

"GRACE, darling, I have learned to believe in the compensations of life. I sought you everywhere, but no one knew anything about you, and at last I went back, having nothing because I had lost you. Little did I think in the far-back days that my little wife would bring me back to my kindred, Out of the Storm."

GEN. ISRAEL PUTNAM.—EVENTS IN HIS LIFE ILLUSTRATED.—(SEE NEXT PAGE).

WHAT a glorious world this would be if all its inhabitants could say with Shakspeare's shepherd, "Sir, I am a true laborer. I earn what I wear. I owe no man hate, envy no man's happiness, glad of other men's good, content with my farm."

WORDS before blows.

IDLE words are fast in growth.

NO legacy is so rich as honesty.

MANY men have more hair than wit.

THE empty vessel makes the greatest sound.

GEN. ISRAEL PUTNAM.

SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A RURAL HERO.

Some names in history have a peculiar fascination for mankind, and are destined to perpetual remembrance, regardless of all intrinsic merit of their owners. It is mainly the names of men who sprang from the people and lived with the people that will enjoy this immortality. Not that these men are destitute of merit. On the contrary, they are universally men of the strongest native character, more often without scholastic advantages than with, whose heroism seizes upon the imaginations of mankind and makes their lives immortal. Holding no titled or official station, these men are remembered ages after the horde of Governors and Senators, and Presidents even, may have been forgotten. It is pretty safe to say that five hundred years hence every school-boy will know the story of Israel Putnam and the wolf, while as for our Presidents even, excepting Washington, Jefferson, and may be a few others, they will be as indistinguishable almost as the names of unnoted men and women who lived, suffered and hoped five hundred years ago.

Israel Putnam—of whom we give a portrait and some scenes from his active life, was a farmer and the descendant of a long line of farmers in the province of Massachusetts. Born in Salem, January 7th, 1718, he was one of twelve children who crowded the farm house of his father, Capt. Joseph Putnam. The old house is still standing and the object of much curious interest by numerous visitors. It was a few years ago occupied by the grand-nephew of the Revolutionary veteran. Reared in an era of large families, young Israel could not find much time nor opportunity for school advantages. He distinguished himself instead in athletic sports and adventures, one of which is thus related:

Young Putnam's first daring exploit was in attempting to get a bird's nest attached to a slender limb at the top of a tall tree. He walked out on the limb below, but just as he touched the nest and exclaimed, "I've got it—it is mine!" the limb broke, and he fell till he caught on another limb by his pantaloons, where he hung, head downwards. Hanging thus, where he could get neither up nor down, in a position where death must come in a few minutes, he called to a boy in the frightened group below to shoot off the limb with his rifle. After some hesitation he did this and young Putnam fell to the ground somewhat bruised. Determined not to be defeated, a few days afterwards he returned to the tree alone, and with much difficulty secured the nest, which he brought to his companions in triumph.

At the age of 21 Putnam married Miss Hannah Pope, and settled down as a farmer in the newer and more fertile farming land of Pomfret, Conn. In a few years, by good management and hard work, he made quite a competence. The new country was, however, much troubled by a wolf whose depredations none of the townsmen had been able to avenge. Putnam had a fine flock of sheep and on one night he lost seventy. Starting with some neighbors Putnam tracked the she wolf to a cave in the rocks, followed her, and as he saw the beast's eyeballs glaring at him, shot her and dragged her out to daylight. This adventure which, with a less daring hunter, would have been foolhardy and dangerous, seemed to Putnam only a matter of course. It gave him an established reputation among his fellow farmers, and afterwards in the army caused him to be generally known as "The Old Wolf."

Putnam was a man of great personal strength, and on one occasion twisted the tail of a vicious bull around a sapling tree, holding it firmly in one hand while with the other he chastised the animal so that it was ever after submissive.

As a matter of course, Putnam took an active part in the French and Indian wars which preceded the Revolution. His skill in adapting simple means to achieve his ends seemed almost miraculous. On one occasion, while some English troops were attempting to take Fort Oswegatchie, two French vessels blockaded the river and prevented them. Putnam offered to capture the vessels in the darkness of night. Taking a few picked men in a boat, they proceeded with muffled oars, with beetle and wedges, to the vessel. Putnam drove the wedges under the rudder so firmly that it could not be moved, and before the trick was discovered the vessel was drifted ashore and surrendered without firing a gun. The other vessel, seeing the fate of her companion, followed and became a prize.

During the French Wars Putnam went through a multitude of hair-breadth escapes, showing that he bore "a charmed life." During the nine years preceding the Revolutionary War Putnam was a hard-working and, for those days, very progressive farmer. He paid particular attention to the improvement of stock, and especially of cattle and horses. News of the battle of Lexington reached him when plowing in the field. Leaving his oxen on the furrow for some one else to loose, the veteran of ten years' service mounted his horse and hastened to the front. His beloved wife had died some years before, and with no home ties to interfere with patriotic duties, no man was more enthusiastic or did better service during the years that tried men's souls. He was older than most other Revolutionary heroes, and crippled by hard service he retired at the close of the war to spend the remainder of his days on the farm. His military experience and his native force of character brought him rapidly to the front in the Revolutionary War, and he rose to be the Senior Major General of the Continental forces under Washington. For eleven years after his retirement he lived on the farm, and at last died respected by all, and with a name and fame which will grow brighter with the passing of time.

One incident represented in our illustration, not noticed in the above sketch, is Putnam's celebrated escape when pursued by his enemies—riding on his favorite horse down a steep declivity where none dared follow. The bullets fired failed to injure him, in harmony with the mysterious and miraculous providence which always kept him from danger.

A CONNUBIAL CONTROVERSY.

The bolt in the back door had needed replacing for a long time, but it was the other night that Mr. Throcton had the presence of mind to buy a new one and take it home. After supper he hunted up his tools, removed the old bolt and measured the location for the new one. He must bore some new holes, and Mrs. Throcton heard him roaming about the kitchen and woodshed, slamming doors, pulling out drawers and kicking the furniture about. She went to the head of the stairs and called down:

"Richard, do you want anything?"

"Yes, I do!" he yelled back. "I want to know where in Texas is that corkscrew."

"Corkscrew, Richard?"

"Yes, corkscrew, Richard! I've looked the house over and can't find it."

"Why, we never had one, Richard!"

"Didn't, eh! We've had a dozen of 'em in the last two years, and I bought one not four weeks ago. It's always the way when *I* want anything."

"But, you must be out of your head, husband," she said as she descended the stairs. "We've kept house seven years, and I never remember of seeing you bring a corkscrew home."

"Oh, yes, I'm out of my head, I am!" he grumbled, as he pulled out the sewing machine drawer and turned over its contents. "Perhaps I'd better go to the lunatic asylum right away."

"Well, Richard, I know that I have never seen a corkscrew in this house."

"Then you are as blind as an owl in daylight, for I've bought five or six. The house is always upside down, anyhow, and I never can find anything."

"The house is kept as well as any of your folks can keep one!" she retorted, growing red in the face.

"I'd like my mother here to show you a few things," he said, as he stretched his neck to look on the high shelf in the pantry.

"Perhaps she'd boil her spectacles with the potatoes again," answered the wife.

"Do you know who you are talking to?" he yelled, as he jumped down.

"Yes, I do."

"Well, you'll be going for York State, if you don't look out."

"I'd like to see myself!"

"Look out, Nancy."

"I'm afraid of no man that lives, Richard Throcton."

"I'll leave you."

"And I'll laugh to see you go."

Going close up to her he extended his finger, shook it to emphasize his words, and slowly said:

"Nancy Throcton, I'll apply for a divorce to-morrow. I'll tell the judge that I kindly and lovingly asked you where the gimlet was, and you said we'd never had one in the house, which is a bold falsehood, as I can prove."

"Gimlet," she gasped.

"Yes, gimlet."

"Why, I know where there are three or four. You said corkscrew."

"Did I?" he gasped, sitting down on the corner of the table; "well, now, I believe I did."

"And you went and abused me like a slave because I wouldn't say a gimlet was a corkscrew," she sobbed, falling on the lounge.

"Nancy," he said, tenderly lifting her up.

"Oh, Richard!" she chokingly answered.

"Nancy, I'll go right out of doors and kill myself."

"No, you needn't—I love you still, only—only—you know a gimlet is not a corkscrew."

"It ain't—it ain't, Nancy; forgimme and lets be happy."

And that house is so quietly happy that a canary bird would sing its head off if hung up in the hall.

NEWARK LITERATI.

A correspondent of the Boston Gazette writes: There are quite a number of well-known literary people living in Newark, N. J., although there never was a city that showed less evidence of culture than that. Nothing ever draws a crowd but a prayer meeting or a circus. The best singers and the best actors may go there, but seldom make enough to pay their hall rent. Of literary people living in that manufacturing town perhaps the most widely known is Marion Harland. This popular author is Mrs. E. P. Terhune to Newarkers, and she is the wife of an equally popular clergyman of the Dutch Reformed Church. Mrs. Terhune is a sort of Lady Bountiful, and is at the head of almost every charitable undertaking in Newark. She makes no fuss or bustle about what she does, but goes quietly about her work, as though her books did not sell by the 50,000. From her "Common Sense in the Household" she has an income of $2,500 per annum. That is common sense worth having. If her novels do proportionately well she is in a fair way to become rich. Mrs. Terhune is a plain, modest sort of a woman, a devoted wife and a sincere friend.—She has been very ill all summer, but is now better.

Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge, the editor of St. Nicholas and the author of "Hans Brinker," lives on the old Mapes place, just outside of Newark. This was the home of her father, Professor James J. Mapes, and is the great summer visiting-place of some of our most distinguished literary people. It is a charming place to visit, and is one of those comfortable country homes that were built before the days when ground was so scarce that all houses and public buildings had to be shot up into the air, instead of resting firmly upon the earth. Mrs. Dodge is a widow and has two sons. One of these young gentlemen inherits all his grandfather's inventive genius, besides being a practical worker and the right-hand man of John Roach, the great ship-builder. The other, the younger, has just left Rutgers College, where he had a brilliant career. Mrs. Sophie Mapes-Tolles, who has an enviable reputation as an artist, makes the old homestead her summer quarters. Mrs. E. C. Kinney, the mother of Mr. E. C. Stedman, and herself a well-known poet, has her home in Newark. Mr. Stedman lived in Newark up to within a couple of years, and might have been seen any day in the week going to and fro on the cars, discussing the rise and fall of stocks with other brokers, or a Greek tragedy, if he could get the right sort of an auditor.

Dr. Abraham Coles, author of "The Evangel," and the thirteen translations of "Dies Irae," is a practising physician in Newark. Dr. Coles is one of the most learned Latin scholars in the country, and as a poet he ranks nearer such men as Heber, Jeremy Taylor, and that class of minds, than anything more modern, and, I was going to say, superficial. His hymns and religious poetry are not only beautiful, but they possess a quaint simplicity that is unfortunately of the past. Amanda M. Douglass, who is well-known as the author of popular Sunday school books and mild novels, lives at Woodside, a suburb of Newark. Virginia F. Townsend, who at one time had a reputation as widespread and somewhat similar to T. S. Arthur, is also a Newarker, or was up to a recent date. Edmund Kirk—Gilmore is his real name—is a Newarker. His literary work is not very high, still his book "Among the Pines" was widely read and favorably received.

NEW WAY TO GET A HUSBAND.

A reliable correspondent to the Reading Gazette says: "It is none of the world's business who the lady is or in what part of the county she resides. The facts are sufficient to show how a lady, vulgarly called an old maid, got a husband, and one that may prove himself worthy of her. Six months ago a tramp came to a Berks county farm house and asked the daughter for food, and it was given to him. He was considerably worse for wear, yet his modest demeanor and gentlemanly bearing attracted the attention of the family. He was given work on the farm and shortly became a favorite. He was sober, industrious, genteel and intelligent. Gradually the daughter took a liking to him and she loaned him money from her own purse to purchase clothing with. She encouraged him to keep himself well dressed, and in a short time the farmer saw that his man of all work had suddenly become a fine looking and earnest suitor for his daughter's hand in marriage. It was at first refused, but the only child cried to her mother, the mother interceded, and finally the stern parent gave his consent. It was virtually a romance in real life. The marriage took place, the ceremony being performed by a Reading clergyman. The young man is tall and finely formed, is a German by birth and has been in the country not quite a year. He has a good education and wants to be a farmer. The lady is proud of him, and does not seem at all embarrassed when reference is made as to how she secured him. He has made a 'ten strike,' and is now on a fair way of becoming a rich man by and by."

WHO ARE CREOLES?

Before I came to New Orleans, says a correspondent, I thought that a Creole was a half breed of some race, Cuban or Spanish or French, I didn't exactly know which, and I think the Northern people have the same notion, and will be grateful if I correct them before they come down here and show their ignorance, as I did. A Creole is a native Louisianian. Any one who is born here is a Creole. Just as any one who is born in Indiana is a Hoosier, and in Ohio a Buckeye. They don't have dark, pensive eyes and romantic hair; they don't sit on verandas with their fingers against their cheek and a shapely arm, bare to the elbow, resting on the balustrade; and they don't look off into the gardens of orange trees and bananas and drooping palms, with alligators crawling over the walk. It is a base misrepresentation, this idea; but I was sorry to have my romance shattered when I found it out.

ABOUT HATING.

Hate not. It is not worth while. Your life is not long enough to make it pay to cherish ill will or hard thoughts towards any one. What if this man has cheated you or that woman played you false?—What if this friend has forsaken you in your time of need, or that one, having won your utmost confidence, your warmest love, has concluded that he prefers to consider and treat you as a stranger? Let it all pass. What difference will it make to you in a few years, when you go hence to the undiscovered country? All who illtreat you now will be more sorry for it then than you, even in your deepest disappointment and grief, can be. A few more smiles, a few more pleasures, much pain, a little longer hurrying and worrying through the world, some hasty greetings and abrupt farewells, and our play will be "played out," the injured will be led away and ere long forgotten. Is it worthy to hate each other?

Many strokes, though with a little ax,
Hew down and fell the largest timbered oak.

Sabbath Reading.

"PRIEZ POUR MOI!"*

BY A. H. F.

My dying wish, for soon I hence shall go
Beyond the ken of mortal friend or foe.
Whither, ah! whither do my footsteps bend?
I may not know, but these words backward send—
Priez pour moi!

Wand'reth my soul alone or angel led,
In realms of light, or darkest gloom my bed,
Still, this my cry in keenest bliss or woe,
From blessed blights, or saddest depths below—
Priez pour moi!

For as within God's universe so wide
No place is found for human soul to hide,
So this I know, where'er my spirit be,
I shall have need of all His love for me—
Priez pour moi!

* "Pray for me!" No formal epitaph was ever so touching as this simple inscription, common in French and Catholic cemeteries.

A HAPPY CHURCH.

While speaking lately with some gentlemen connected with a very flourishing church, of which they are members, one of them said: "And there is not a grumbler in it!" Everything seemed to suit every body—pastor, elders, deacons, communicants, Sunday school, prayer meetings, the new and handsome church building, just ready to be dedicated—were all right. Brotherly love reigned over the entire community; liberality abounded, and there was the peace of Christian contentment. Happy minister! He would appreciate his seven years of labor in that "field" which the Lord hath blessed, for he came to it from another people who were otherwise. Happy church! "without a grumbler in it!"

Grumblers have their uses, like thorns and goads and flies and mosquitoes. They may be even "means of grace" to some ministers who have grace enough to bear with them. But they are so wrapped up in their own discontent and so unhappy, whether they keep it in or let it out, that they have the gift of keeping other people all the time in the same hot water with themselves. We suppose that they must be endured, because they are, as a class, past cure; but they are a hard set to get along with in any church, and if the Lord does not have more patience with them than those whose patience they try so sorely, they will have their reward after their own ways. But happy is the pastor and happy the church which have no grumblers to trouble them. How many such are there "among the thousands of Israel?"

GOLDEN GLEANINGS.

The fool derideth another's deformity.

The violation of truth is an infamous crime.

Fear is implanted in us as a preserver from evil.

Hope, though valuable, is not always a sure antidote to misfortune.

A good conscience seats the mind on a rich throne of lasting quiet.

Virtue is the greatest ornament, and good sense the best equipage.

In your worst estate, hope; in your best estate, fear; in every estate be circumspect.

In the Christian race all patient runners win, and in the Christian battle all who endure to the end are victors.

Let the fire be always burning brightly and ardently on your own altar, wherever it may blaze or blink besides.

I know of but two beautiful things:—the starry heavens above my head and the sense of duty within my heart.—*Kant.*

He that has tasted all the bitterness of evil fears to commit it, and he that hath felt the sweetness of mercy will fear to offend it.

Every day brings its own duties and carries them along with it; and they are as waves broken on the shore, many like them coming after.

They who are most weary of life and yet are most unwilling to die are such as have lived to no purpose—who have rather breathed than lived.

It is never too late with us so long as we are still aware of our faults and bear them impatiently—so long as aspirations eager for conquest stir within us.

The whole story of human life is compressed into this dainty little poem by Jean Ingelow:

Sweet is childhood—childhood's over.
Kiss and part.
Sweet is youth; but youth's a rover—
So's my heart.
Sweet is rest: but by all showing
Toil is nigh.
We must go. Alas! the going.
Say "Good-by."

If God, our Heavenly Father, seems distant and uninviting to us, it is because, like the prodigal son, we have taken our portion of goods and gone into a far country to set up for ourselves, that we may foolishly enjoy, rather than reverently serve.

How often do we try, and persevere in trying, to make a good show of outer good qualities, without anything within to correspond, just as children will plant blossoms without any roots in the ground, to make a pretty show for the hour! We find fault in our lives and we cut off the weed, but we do not root it up; we find something wanting in ourselves and we supply it, not by sowing the divine seed of heavenly principles, but by copying the deed that the principle ought to produce.

Ladies' Portfolio.

ETHEL.

THE harvest was ripe on the hill,
The harvest-moon reigned in the sky,
And her mantle of gold floated down o'er the world
And gilded the waters, by breezes uncurled,
When plighted were ETHEL and I.

We stood by the murmuring marge,
In the lull of the evening's breath;
And we said:—As these rivulets mingle their tide,
Our spirits united, as one shall abide
Till we enter the ocean of Death.

We plucked the fair flowers of hope
To garland our life-shallop o'er;
And wove us bright fabrics of faith for our sails,
And with Love for our pilot we feared not the gales
That might threaten from headland and shore.

We sailed in this love-freighted bark
On the tide of the unresting river;
And morning gleams deepened their tints into splendor,
And sunset glows melted to twilight so tender
That we fain would have lingered forever.

But the current we could not delay,
And the pictures so fair to behold,
Of sky-tint and landscape with fragrantest flowers,
Like flocks of fair birds in summer-time's hours,
Flew past us on pinions of gold.

Many days far away we descried
A boat with a sail black as night;
And sometimes we deemed it a phantom, but when
It drew near and we saw the pale boatman within,
Our souls read its meaning aright.

I knew what that dark wing would bear
Away, and I strove with my might;
But she whispered,—"Farewell, Love, 'tis heavenly here,
But I see the Green Hills, and 'tis heavenlier there,"
And the boat vanished into the night.

Alone in my shallop I sail
On the tide of the unresting river;
And her tender farewell, and her love-lighted eyes,
Are borne on the breeze and gleam out of the skies,
And I long to be with her forever. F. H. G.

THE FLOWER AND PLANT MANIA.

BY ROSE GERANIUM.

YES'M, *it's me!* "Where have I been?" In a very good world, my dears, storing up the joys of the present as so many shining little bits toward the great heaven-mansion we are all hoping for in the future! And though I am not sure that things are proper in improper places, as a by-dignitary I am going to write it just here that it is my private belief we will have to put up in very much the same kind of mansion we are able to fashion from these lilliputian pebbles. Now that I should say it, who certainly shouldn't, after all my past faith and works, I trust the lenient sisterhood will not make my burden of penance greater than I can bear. And if any one is offended, I wish it to be distinctly understood that I *don't refer to her*—not by any means! But she, if she looks across the street into her neighbor's affairs (though she *won't*, we all know!) may possibly understand who it is that has become the basis of my remarks.

Now that our eye is upon her let us scrutinize her doings. She is most certainly an ambitious candidate for air and exercise, for she has made just thirty-one trips from her sitting-room to the sunny south steps, bearing burdens which vary from five to forty pounds each. "Her blessed flowers, and she couldn't part with them for a world. They are so comforting, companionable and soothing. They make her pure,—and better"—. O, in mercy hush! We are fickle as a woman in our wavering toward solid reformations and we are particularly tender on this subject; so let us alone until we get the disagreeable duty off our rebellious hands. If we recollect how things looked in one of our wide-awake clairvoyant trips, we are very skeptical in regard to her husband's faith in their calming qualities. In truth we believe he candidly set SOPHIA down as a deplorably nervous and cross woman, though the next instant he told himself it was only a brute who would get out of patience with the pale, trembling, back-ache-and-head-ache-y mother of his children. If SOPHIA felt his coldness let us hope that some potent influence flowing from those thirty-one beautiful specimens of smiling nature may charm away her heart aches, as she clasps frail arms around them and tugs them in from the cooling air this evening.

"Did we ever put our vaguely-expressed faith into practice?" Aye! we have! Did we not whitewash our visage with a hellevlug smile while frost did his best night's works among our plunged and our bedded-out things? Did we not look to our flax and our wool, and let the tender perennials look to themselves? Did we not ignore the creepers, the trailers, the climbers, the jews that wander and the jews that don't wander, and build ourselves up on the awful wall that gives a broader vision?

We awoke, and lo! a thousand (strictly metaphoric) delegates from foreign land had got the doors opened and fastened their footholds—or rootholds—within. The tables, stands, brackets and mantels were conceded possessions. They nailed down the sewing machine lid and kept the piano lid open. Our soul fainted within us—but our ruffles needed to be ironed. We had forsworn ourself against lifting a single pot the whole winter through (except some ten or twelve that we had just culled from the creamiest cream of flowerdom),—but we wanted the laundry table. We practiced meekness for three hours and then blandly unbosomed our desires.

"Most certainly you can have it," was the answer. "Just set the plants in the sunshine of the dining-room windows. It will do them good!"

Think upon it, ye who vow vows! Yet we took up our cross and never a murmur escaped these patient lips!

"There is a tide in the affairs of men——"

and women too, when they won't endure another atom for anybody. We reached that climax when our beautiful new footstool and slipper box was requested as a casket for the *extra nice* tuberose bulbs. Then it was that we rose up like a—like a spunky woman! and spoke the thing that we meant! "I'm not going to permit it! I've taken too much pains with the outside of that box to think of turning it into a dry-cellar. The tuberoses may go to the—green-house, if they want to! There!" But they didn't seem to desire the voyage, and I have concluded that speaking the thing one means is only a figure of speech, after all; for the bulbs are all wrapped for packing and to-morrow my slippers move? Can any one tell where they are to go?

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

ANNE BREWSTER is writing letters from Rome to the Philadelphia Bulletin.

QUEEN VICTORIA has decided to send twenty pictures of the Royal collection to the American Centennial.

MISSES EVELINE and Althea Taylor of Westport, have lost by fire their ancient family mansion, built in 1700.

MRS. JULIA WARD HOWE lectured in Reading, Mass., recently. Her subject was "The Legacy of the Good Shepherd."

JULIA A. GOULD of New York, has recovered $6,000 damages for a fall on the ice in City Hall Avenue, in January, 1873.

MRS. N. E. RUSSELL of Greenfield, Mass., is President of a new society auxiliary to the Woman's Board of Missions.

STATISTICS are given to prove that of the sum total of human misery, physical and mental, women have to bear two-thirds.

STORE girls all over the country are taking a firm stand on the sit-down question. They have the sympathy of the general public.

MRS. MARY HOWITT, the well-known advocate of Abolition and Woman Suffrage, now appears as a correspondent of the N. Y. Observer.

MISS P. E. TOWNLEY has recently been preaching in Wallingford, Conn., and a Moody and Sankey revival, on a small scale, has crowned her efforts.

MRS. STEARNS, the widow of the late Dr. Samuel Stearns, eighty-two years old, has just returned from Kansas, making the 2,000 miles journey alone.

MISS I. C. DE VELLING of Springfield, Mass., has gone to New Haven, to take part in the temperance work by request, and will afterward go to Portland, Ct.

MISS ANNA E. DICKINSON is said to be in such an unsatisfactory state of health that her physician has ordered her to abandon all work and take a sea voyage.

JOSEPHINE J. THOMAS of Cornell University, is among the contestants for the Greek prize in the annual inter-collegiate literary contests just begun in this city. May she win!

MINNIE WHITE of North Middleboro, Mass., a girl only seven years old, a few days ago plunged into a pond and pulled out Lelia Lincoln, ten years old, who had broken through the ice.

A BEAUTIFUL and aristocratic Louisville girl of seventeen smokes a short, black clay pipe filled with the strongest plug tobacco. She was born with a love of the weed, and the habit has steadily grown upon her.

THE Princess Natalie De Keschko, recently married to Prince Milan of Servia, is described as looking like a Greek statue stepped down from its pedestal, and as having the air of a goddess when goddesses were believed in.

THE Marquise De Chambrun, the granddaughter of Lafayette, now a resident of Washington, has in her possession a set of pearls given her grandmother by Marie Antoinette, at whose wedding that lady acted as bridesmaid.

IN Newark the other day a fashionable mother said to the family physician in the presence of her three giggling, frivolous daughters: "Doctor, how can we improve our girls?" "By improving the mothers," was the gruff reply.

MRS. RAMASWAMI, a native Hindoo Christian lady, the wife of a clergyman at Indore, has been appointed by Maharajah Holkar, on a salary of one hundred rupees (about fifty dollars), as tutoress to the zenana of Bala Sanib, the young prince.

A WESTERN lady gives the following advice to girls engaged in looking up husbands:—"Look out for physical health and beauty for the sake of the race. Do not bestow a glance on the lean, dyspeptic, cadaverous biped; shun him as you would a pestilence."

THERE seems to be much suffering this winter among the genteel, poverty-stricken women in Washington. A few days ago two ladies, descendants of three of the most distinguished men whose names are interwoven with the history of this country, were turned out of their home in that city for non-payment of rent.

MARY MUKPOCH MASON divides her sex into three classes—the giddy butterflies, the busy bees and the woman's righters. The first are pretty and silly, the second plain and useful, the third mannish and odious. The first wear long, trailing dresses and smile at you while waltzing; the second wear aprons and give you apple-dumplings; and the third want your manly prerogatives, your dress coat, your money and your vote.

Reading for the Young.

THE OLD PROVERB.

"THE boy is father of the man."
Such talk sounds very queer to me,
But I suppose they mean to say
If I a true brave man would be,
I must not be a sneaking boy,
But in my work or in my play,
Whatever I may say or do,
Be true and honest as the day.

"The boy is father of the man."
I wonder how it is with girls?
If all they care for is to be
Pretty and fair, with glossy curls,
And handsome dresses will they grow
To noble women, good and true?
Or will they be like pretty dolls
Which please us for an hour or two?

"The boy is father of the man."
Then boys and girls, suppose we look
For the best pattern we can find,
And take him for our copy book.
Then looking backward, we may see
A pleasant pathway clear and bright,
And looking forward we may hope
To reach the world of light.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Virginia Girl.

DEAR RURAL:—In one of the numbers for this month I read a letter from your correspondent at Rocky Mount, Va., and thought I would reply, as some of the other Cousins have done so. I would most gladly receive and acknowledge the title of relationship, which "Young Tom" so disdainfully rejected, should it be tendered me; and I would also say, for the benefit of said correspondent, that the "fair cousins" are not *extremely* anxious to have him acknowledge the tie; it was merely a courtesy extended. The compliment he paid us, in speaking of our society, is returned in all sincerity. The flippant talk, which gentlemen think so interesting, is most tiresome, and we must endure it, and even engage in it, if their company would be tolerated at all. I guess no more intrusions will be made upon YOUNG TOM, and I hope he will not, hereafter, give publicity to his opinions regarding the "fair" portion of your correspondents. His letters, generally, are interesting, and I hope he will not be silenced by this rebuff.—MINNEHAHA, *Salem, Roanoke Co., Va.*

From a Canadian Girl.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—This is the first time I ever attempted to write to the RURAL. I am eleven years' old. My brother has taken the RURAL the last year, and we all like it very much. Pa takes several papers, but ma and I like the RURAL the best, on account of the nice stories and likewise the useful hints on gardening, and the many good recipes. I am going to school and taking music lessons. I have two pets. One of them is a beautiful red bird, a present from my cousin in Ohio; it sings sweetly. The other is a small black and tan dog, whose name is "Trent." I am very fond of these pets. We have a nice horse that I and my sister MAGGIE, who is four years younger than myself, drive. It has been very pleasant here this winter so far. There has been good sleighing for the last ten days, and we are enjoying it very much. I will now close, wishing you and all the Cousins of the RURAL a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.—ADDIE CRUICKSHANK, *Trenton, Ont.*

From a Western New York Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—We have taken your paper ever since I can remember, and I like it very much, especially the Letters from Boys and Girls. I am fourteen years of age. I have two brothers and sisters older than myself. I live on a farm of 137 acres, near the Lake Shore and Southern Michigan Railway, and about three miles from the pleasant village of Fredonia, the location of the State Normal and Training School, where one of my brothers and both sisters attend. It is a very nice looking building, quite an improvement, and also a great benefit to the place. There are about 400 pupils from this and other States. Fredonia is also quite noted for its natural gas. I am lame and therefore I do not go to school, but am taking music lessons, which I like very much. And now, Mr. Editor, if you please to print this perhaps I will write again.—JESSIE A. H., *Fredonia, N. Y.*

From an Eastern New York Boy.

MR. EDITOR:—I write to you in regard to that smart Western New York Boy, who dug 225 bushels of potatoes in ten hours. I am a farmer's boy, and live in a town where every farmer raises from 25 to 50 and some even 100 acres of potatoes. My father raised about 30 acres this year. I do not pretend that I can dig 225 bushels of potatoes in ten hours, but I would be pleased to dig a race with that smart boy whenever there are potatoes to dig. Did that potato digger dig ten hours on a stretch, or did he dig one or two hours a day? Did his basket hold 60 lbs.? What is the name of the potatoes? How many did you get out of a hill?—E. M. I., *Hartford, Wash. Co., N. Y.*

From a Southern (What State?) Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—I thought as I liked your paper so much that I would write to you. This is not the first time, for I have written three times. The first time my letter was not published, but my second (the Dew Drop) was, and I want to see where this one goes. I am 12 years' old, and am staying with my brother this winter, and I am going to try mighty hard to get up a club for your paper. I have one subscriber, but I am afraid I shall not get the others; but if I can't I don't know what I will do, for I want a microscope so bad. I have three pets—a flower, a cat, (her name is "Beauty,") and a chicken, named "Lady Jane Brown." Have any of the better writers caught any little rabbits? I used to have pet rabbits, but I let them go. I have my box set. I have a funny name for a girl. Good by.—DICKIE SIMPSON.

From an Oregon Boy.

DEAR RURAL:—I have read so many letters in your good paper from boys and girls, I thought I would write one. I am going to try to get up a club for the RURAL, if you will please send specimen copies. The past has been a very prosperous year for farmers, and I think every farmer's boy ought to take just such a paper as the RURAL. I am a farmer's son ten years old—but for fear that my letter is too long, I will close.—CHAS. WARD, *Salem, Marion Co., Oregon.*

From a South Carolina Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—Perhaps WEBSTER SMITH didn't know that I was a SMITH, but I am. My name is not GRACIE but ELLEN J. SMITH, Walhalla, Oconee Co., S. C. The above is my address, Mr. SMITH. As for my calico dress, I have made and worn all of the new off, but have another to make. What has become of YOUNG EAGLE? As for "TOM," I think he will not write any more. Thanks to the NEW YORKER and sweet MILLIE C. GIFFORD for their letters. I wish, if agreeable to them, WILD ROSE, ROMPING BESSIE and MILLIE would write to me. Good-by, dear cousins, for this is wash-day, and I have to get dinner with my sister's help.—ELLEN J. S., *Walhalla, S. C., Dec.*, 1875.

From a New Jersey Girl.

MR. EDITOR: I am a girl, twelve years of age, and I thought I would like to be one of the RURAL Cousins. May I? My grandfather takes four weekly papers, one semi-weekly, and one monthly. Of all these I like the RURAL best, though there are others that I like to read very much. I have been trying to make out Illustrated Rebus No. 10, but did not succeed. There is no singing school in this neighborhood, but I think it would be nice if there was. If this does not find its way to the waste-basket I will try again.—MINNIE, *Leonardville, New Jersey.*

From a Hudson River Girl.

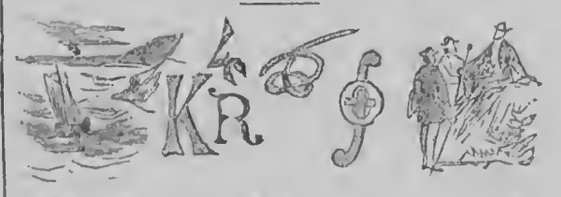
DEAR RURAL:—Having read many of the Boys' and Girls' letters, I am becoming much interested in them, and am trying for the first time to see what I, a little country girl, can do. I am attending school this winter and am studying for a prize in Lexicography. Last term I won three prizes. They were for Arithmetic, Grammar and Spelling, especially the last. Young TOM'S letters were most too simple to think of. My letter is not very long, yet still I hope it will find a welcome in your columns.—LOUIE M., *Coxsackie, N. Y.*

From a Missouri Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—As you were so kind to publish my letter I thought I would write again. I am sorry that I took ROMPING BESSIE'S name, but as I wrote first I think I am entitled to it. I should like to correspond with her, as I came from Canada. My address is HELEN M. SMITH, *Canton, Lewis Co., Mo.*—WILD ROMP.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 2.



☞ Answer in two weeks. L. G.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 2.

My first is in jay but not in hawk,
My second is in crayon but not in chalk;
My third is in sale but not in trade,
My fourth is in wither but not in fade;
My fifth is in robe but not in gown,
My sixth is in city but not in town;
My seventh is in bowl but not in dish,
My eighth is in long but not in wish;
My ninth is in rise but not in fall,
My tenth is in barn but not in stall;
My eleventh is in orange but not in peach,
My twelfth is in some but not in each.

My whole gives the name of a celebrated American humorist. G. H. F.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

BIBLICAL DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—No. 1.

1. A PERSIAN king. 2. A Greek letter. 3. An Italian city. 4. A Hebrew month. 5. An idol of the Egyptians. 6. A king of Israel. The initials give a woman of Jopha, and the finals a judge of Israel. ISOLA.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Dec. 25.

STAR PUZZLE.—

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      Z       A       P
    A   L       R
      M A O
  D A N B U R Y
      L A E
    E   M   Z
  M       A       I
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ILLUTTRATED REBUS No. 11.—Locke on the Understanding.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifth-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

DECREASE OF FREIGHTS.

THERE are signs that the railway combination, always made after the close of canal and lake navigation, is weakening. The explanation is that railroads are now so numerous, and their freight facilities so great, that competition is inevitable. If the roads were fewer, they might combine, but with ample rolling facilities, it costs little more to keep them employed than idle, and rather than suffer this last some road will give way. The Grand Trunk Railway has made a reduction from Chicago to Liverpool, carrying meats for 85c. per cwt. to Liverpool, while the contract price was 97½c. From Philadelphia to Chicago rates have been reduced to 27c. per cwt. on first class freights, and 14c. on fifth class. To St. Louis the reduction is to 38c. for first class freights, and 21c. for fifth class. In both cases the reduction is about fifty per cent. It is probable that the era of permanently high freights East and West has forever passed, and the producers of the country will not be sorry for the fact. At all which we rejoice.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE following members of the Spanish Commission to the Centennial Exhibition have arrived from Liverpool in the Steamship China, Fabra, Chief of Commission; Alvaro DeLagandara, Director of the Department of Industry; Count Del Donadio, Director of the Department of Fine Arts; Joaquin Oliver, General Secretary, and Alfredo Escobar, Official Secretary, to the Commission.

The President has signed the bill further extending the time of the duration of the court of commissioners of Alabama claims to the 22d of July next.

Papers were served last week in the suit brought by the people to recover $190,312.41 from the old Brooklyn Water Board and Abner C. Keeney, contractor.

The Lodingstone block in East St. Louis, and several adjacent frame buildings were burned Dec. 29. Loss $35,000; insurance $12,000.

The residence of David Morrison at Green City, Penn., caught fire on the night of Dec. 28th, from gas conveyed from a well near by, and his wife and child were burned to death.

E. G. Southwick & Co.'s dry goods store at Springfield, Mass., caught fire from the furnace Dec. 29th, and was burned. Loss on building, $15,000; insurance, $10,000; loss on stock, $40,000; insurance, $15,000.

The Eliot Academy, in Eliot, Me., was destroyed by fire on the night of Dec. 28.

State Auditor Thayer made his defense before the Canal Fund Board, which, however, recommended his suspension, and Gov. Tilden immediately suspended him.

Gov. Tilden has not yet appointed any State Auditor *ad interim*. The law is ambiguous as to the term which a temporary Auditor can be appointed.

E. L. Pierson, Republican member of the Louisiana Legislature from Nachitochez, was shot and instantly killed on Sunday week by Mr. Cosgrove, the editor of the Vindicator. The difficulty grew out of the abuse of Pierson by Cosgrove in his paper.

The oldest minister of the Methodist Church, and probably the oldest preacher in the world, the Rev. Henry Boehm, known better by the name of Father Boehm, died Tuesday afternoon at the residence of his daughter-in-law, near Richmond, Staten Island. He was born June 8, 1775, in Lancaster Co., Penn. His father preached in "Boehm's Chapel," after joining the Methodist Church. The edifice was built in 1731, and is still standing and used. It was six years after the building of this chapel that Henry, then 22 years of age, joined the Methodist Church, and on Jan. 6, 1800, three years later, he was licensed to preach.

A barn in Pittsfield, N. H., owned by D. Perkins, was destroyed by fire on the morning of Dec. 29, together with the contents, consisting of 120 tons of hay, eight oxen, eight cows, three horses, a number of hogs and a large quantity of farming implements. The loss is nearly $10,000, with small insurance.

A severe storm of wind, rain and lightning visited the country north and northeast of Cincinnati, O., Dec. 26. Near Rushville, Ind., a freight train was thrown into a ditch by an overturned tree on the track. At Hamilton, O., the Miami River swelled rapidly, flooding cellars on the west side of the river. At Carthage, O., the Hamilton Infirmary was partially unroofed.

A hurricane which prevailed on Dec. 26 at Little Rock, Ark., blew down the walls of the Gazette ruins, killing Robert Leech, a laborer.

Early on the morning of Dec. 24 the steamboat Mary Miller, from New Orleans for Cincinnati, when about 40 miles below Napoleon, in trying to land was struck by a squall and driven against the bank, breaking her stem and causing her to ship about three feet of water. Some bales of rags were thrown overboard, the pumps set to work, tarpaulins slipped under her bow, and the boat was saved, with only a couple of hogsheads of sugar and a few barrels of rice in her hold damaged. The steamboat Illinois passing she was hailed and took off the deck load. On the arrival of the Mary Miller at Memphis, Tenn., she was attached on a claim for $30,000 for salvage, made by the officers of the Illinois; but the attachment was withdrawn on Dec. 27, and the matter will doubtless be compromised. A protest was entered by the commander of the Mary Miller.

The barrel manufactory of Jaynes & Co., Cambridgeport, Mass., was entirely destroyed by fire on Dec. 29. The building was owned by the Boston City Flouring Mills Co. and valued at $7,500; insured for $5,000. There was stored about the place 50 car loads of barrels, etc., valued at about $22,500; insured for $13,000.

A frame dwelling at Passaic, N. J., belonging to David B. Sickles of New York, was destroyed by fire on Dec. 28. The loss is $5,000, which is partially insured. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, as the house is unoccupied.

The Baltimore dealers in terrapins keep them in nearly air-tight chests, packed layer upon layer, and deprive them of food. They grow fat under this treatment, although the fatness doubtless is the result of disease. They must each measure seven inches across the under shell before they are considered fit for the table, and are then sold at $24 a dozen.

It is not very likely this country will go short on wine soon. In California alone Amador County has 1,680,000 grape vines; El Dorado, 1,410,255; Los Angeles, 4,250,000; Napa, 3,108,500; Sacramento, 2,132,975; San Joaquin, 1,000,000; Santa Clara, 1,213,085; Sonoma, 3,603,385, and Tuolomne, 1,400,000.

FOREIGN NOTES.

ACCORDING to Hong Kong papers, placards censuring the Chinese Government for arranging terms with Mr. Wade appeared in Peking, but were immediately removed by the authorities. An uneasy feeling prevails among the native officials regarding the recent negotiations. Telegrams received from the main land indicate that the difficulty has only been settled temporarily. Considerable dissatisfaction is felt among the American residents of Tien Tsin and Peking at the order of Admiral Reynolds, sending the United States steamer Monocacy to Shanghai for repairs, owing to the unsettled state of affairs in Yunnan.

The rainfall during the last quarter has been one of the heaviest on record in England. At Oxford it exceeded the heaviest, that of 1872. The result has been serious flooding in all low-lying districts. Where the drainage was good, as in most large towns, the public health has not been affected, but in poor districts, where the water has remained in the basements of houses for days and weeks, much sickness has been experienced, and the Registrar-General's returns at the close of this quarter are looked forward to with the greatest anxiety.

A Herald dispatch from Vienna says that Secretary Fish has transmitted to all the European Governments a circular asking the expression of the views of each regarding the question of American intervention in Cuba. The object of Mr. Fish is to obtain data to be used in the preparation of President Grant's supplementary message to Congress. It is said that all the foreign Governments have replied satisfactorily; that England is ready to sustain the intervention at the present moment, and that the other nations express their willingness to support it, but hesitate to take the initiative.

A Spanish agent is now in Paris arranging for the return of ex-Queen Isabella to Spain. King Alfonso opposes the will of his Ministers, declaring that they may resign, but that his mother must have an asylum in Spain.

King Alfonso will soon sign a decree ordering that the general elections be held on the 20th of January and convoking the Cortes for the 15th of February.

Among the many other tokens of respect paid to Mr. Carlyle on his eightieth birthday was an address from the Chelsea, England, Literary and Scientific Institution, of which he is Vice-President. A portrait of the venerable writer, bearing his autograph, has been hung up in the reading room of the Institution.

Four artists are forever at work in the Uffizi Palace at Florence copying a picture of Fra Angelico, a "tryptich," with a border of heavenly musicians. It takes eight days to make a copy, which sells for sixty to eighty francs.

M. Lavally, President of the French Society of Civil Engineers and inventor of the dredging machines for the Suez Isthmus, announces that the fifteen scientific soundings taken between Dover and Calais conclusively prove that a tunnel uniting England and France is feasible. The matter now is only one of time and money.

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which is again active, amounted, according to the historians, to nineteen from the first to the seventeenth century, when twenty-three were recorded. In the eighteenth century twenty-three took place, and in the present century there have already been recorded twenty-five, or one every three years.

There were 19,289 deaths in Ireland during the first three quarters of 1875, in a population of 5,300,000, the greatest mortality prevailing in Ulster. Emigration has greatly decreased, 5,000 emigrants less having been reported than in the corresponding period of last year. A considerable decrease in pauperism and crime is also recorded.

The British training-ship Goliath burned at Gravesend, Dec. 22, with the loss of twenty lives.

Pierre Bonaparte has published an address announcing himself as a candidate for the French Assembly in Corsica.

The fifth century of Boccaccio's death was observed by a fete at Certaldo, Tuscany, the place of his birth and death.

At the Hotel Drnot, in Paris, the other day, was sold a valuable collection of violins and violin bows. A violin of Stradivarius was sold to Mr. Hart, an Englishman, for 7,200 francs. A violincello of Stradivarius was bought by two Frenchmen for 7,000 francs. A magnificent violin of Bergonzi was secured by an Englishman, and most of the valuable instruments sold went to England. The fine bass viol of Montagnana, however, was bought by some Frenchmen.

President MacMahon has written a letter to Minister Buffet, thanking him for, and expressing his approval of the speech in the Assembly, Dec. 24th, on the press bill.

A telegram from Berlin reports that the leading American residents in that city have called a meeting for the purpose of protesting against the strictures of the German press upon American character in their comments on the Bremerhaven plot.

A special telegram from Penang appears in the second edition of the London Times of Dec. 28th, from which it appears the British now hold all the important positions in that neighborhood. The Maharajah Lela has fled and taken refuge in Siamese territory. The British power is supreme at Perak, only the murderers of Mr. Birch, the Resident, being in arms.

The Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting in London, passed resolutions recommending the adoption by the Government of a policy of incidental protection as the most beneficial for the country under the present circumstances. A renewal of reciprocal trade relations with the United States was likewise recommended.

A memorial, signed by 129 clergymen and sixteen magistrates of the County of Derby, England, has been forwarded to the Home Secretary, praying that in any bill which the Government may introduce relating to the observance of Sunday, no permission may be given for the opening of aquaria or other places of amusement or of secular instruction on that day for money payment.

Lord Penzance designated Jan. 4th as the day for hearing the charges against the Rev. C. J. Risdale, incumbent of St. Peter's, Folkestone. This will be the first case under the new Public Worship Regulating act. Mr. Risdale is charged with using lighted candles on the communion table, mixing water with the sacramental wine, using water bread, adopting the eastward position, wearing illegal vestments and indulging in illegal processions.

As a measure of the extent to which the adulteration of butter is carried on in England, it is stated that from one manufactory alone 4,000 pounds of doctored stuff are ascertained to issue daily. A curious method of sophisticating oysters is also practiced in England. There is a French variety of the oyster in great repute—the Marennes, dredged in the vicinity of La Rochelle, and the flesh of which is of a deep green, said to be produced from feeding on the infusoria of the estuary where the oysters are stored. An imitation article is alleged to be produced in Falmouth by watering ordinary oysters with solutions of copper.

An Order in Council has been passed reducing the expenses of the Dominion Emigration Agency in London, England. A number of the officials are to be dismissed and other reforms instituted.

A new industry has started into being at the Halles Centrales, Paris. Large wagons, loaded with fresh vine leaves, arrive early every morning. A crowd of old women, dressed as peasants, surround them, purchase the leaves, wrap them tastefully about lumps of tallow, adroitly colored, and then go from door to door and sell the stuff as fresh butter.

A company of Spanish military engineers will be seen in full uniform at the Philadelphia Exhibition. They will superintend the embarkation of all packages from Spain, accompany them across the Atlantic, and will prepare the necessary fittings and decorations in the Spanish department of the Exhibition building.

Austria's project for the pacification of the Turkish provinces now in revolt, recently drawn up by Count Andrassy, the Prime Minister, has not yet been sent to the great powers, for some reason unknown.

Sydney Harbor, Cape Breton, was frozen over Dec. 29.

The work on the Greenville Canal, Canada, is being pushed forward. Nearly 500 men are now employed on the works and more are being engaged.

The Canadian Government has been informed that teams from Manitoba will be permitted to cross the boundary line at Pembina to bring in seed wheat and other grains for the sufferers by the grasshopper devastations.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce recently, a discussion was held relative to the system of foreign nations granting bounties on drawbacks on manufactured articles exported to the Dominion, and a resolution was passed urging upon the Government the advisability of passing an act giving the Governor-General in council the power to add additional duty to such articles equal to the bounty or drawback. The depression of the Nova Scotia coal trade was discussed by some members who wanted a duty of 50 cents per ton placed on coal, but the idea that Western provinces would look for duty on flour if coal was taxed prevailed, and a resolution was passed that the ruinous state of the coal trade in Nova Scotia demands serious attention from the Dominion Legislature.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Watson, Allegan Co., Mich., Dec. 26.—The past was a very cold season here, yet all crops did well, except corn. On the night of Sept. 17th a severe frost prevailed, entirely stopping the growth of corn, which required two weeks of warm weather to complete its growth and ripen it. Hence we have a large quanility of soft corn on hand that we are trying to feed out before the extreme cold weather of winter freezes it solid. Apples in this vicinity were a light crop compared with former years, although considerable shipping was done from this point. Prices rule about as follows: Beans, $1; Butter, 20 to 25c.; Beef, (dressed) 4½ to 5c.—live per 100 lbs, $3; cheese, 13 to 15c.; chickens, (dressed) per lb, 6 to 8c.; eggs, 18 to 20c.; lard, 13 to 16c.; potatoes, 25c.; pork (dressed) 7 to 8c.—live, $6 to $6.50; honey, strained, 12 to 13c. per lb.—in comb, 15 to 16c.; onions, 40 to 60c.; turkeys, (dressed) 8 to 10c. per lb.; dried apples, 6 to 8c.; green apples, 65 to 75c. per bush.; smoked meat, beef, 10c.—hams and shoulders, 9 to 12½c.; beeswax, 18 to 22c. per lb.; tallow, 8 to 9c.; hay, $8 to $10 per ton; grain—wheat, $1.10 to $1.20 per bush.; corn, new, 40c.—old, 60 to 65c.; oats, 30 to 35c.; flour, 100 lbs., $2.50 to $3.50; corn meal, 100 lbs., $1.50 to $2; buckwheat, 35 to 45c. per bush.; bran, 100 lbs., 75 to 80c.; corn and oats, ground, $1.50. Ready sale for all the above produce at the figures mentioned. Wages have ranged from $12 to $20 per month and board on farms in this vicinity, and plenty of help to be had at these figures. We have had several dashes of snow up to this date, and on the 20th sleighs were the medium of transportation, but before night the ground was bare; the sun and a warm breeze which prevailed caused the snow to vanish sooner than it came. Last Friday afternoon it rained hard, and to-day it is raining again, although during last night there was enough chill in the atmosphere to cause snow, which fell during the night to a depth of an inch. Sheep have picked almost their entire living thus far, and have done well.—H. P. E.

Perry City, Wood Co., Ohio, Dec., 1875.—We have had a mild winter so far, with but little snow. Late pasture was very good. Stock has done well, and is in good condition to go into hard weather. Milch cows and fat cattle are selling at fair prices; other cattle are rather dull. Sheep are in good condition—farmers have killed or sold about all of their fat hogs; the short corn crop made it desirable to kill and sell early. Fat hogs sold at $5.10@5.30 per 100, gross. A few hogs in Wood Co. died of hog cholera. Times are a little dull, yet farmers have but little to complain of, as their business does not suffer so much from dull times as that of merchants and manufacturers. Our corn crop was rather light; wheat was quite good; potatoes never so good before. There is an abundance of feed, unless we should have an extraordinary hard winter, a large amount of hay having been left over from last winter. Winter wheat looks well. Wheat is worth $1; corn, 50c.; oats, 30c.; butter, 25c.; eggs, 22c.; lard, 10c.; potatoes, 30 to 35c.—H. W.

Amherst, Mass., Dec. 29.—Our winter set in Nov. 28th, with the mercury in the neighborhood of zero for several days; then it was mild for a week or two, but on the morning of Dec. 20th the mercury sank to 13 deg. below zero, and on the morning of the 21st had risen to 42 deg. above—a change of 55 deg. within twenty-four hours. Since then it has been very mild for the season, with some thunder and lightning in the evening of the 26th. No sleighing yet.—L. W. G.

Ridgewood, Bergen Co., N. J., Dec. 30.—For nearly two weeks we have had weather which reminds one more of spring than the beginning of winter. Rain and sunshine alternately, with wind shifting to all points of the compass without giving us a freezing blast. Roads bad, mud deep enough for a spring break-up, and, with all, a bad prospect for making calls on New Year's Day in the country.—A. S. F.

Ovilla, Ellis Co., Texas, Dec. 18.—We have had a very open winter. The thermometer has not been lower than 30 deg. Wheat crop very promising; also the acreage is very extensive. Corn is worth 45c.; wheat, 95c. to $1.10; oats, 50c.—J. M. L.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Friday, Dec. 30, 1875.

As we remarked in our last, the holidays are of but little value as a test for the situation of commercial matters. The absence of good bright weather has made even lines of property that have to go into use duller than they ought to be. The prevalent impression in all circles is that moderate prices will be the rule during the rest of the winter. Some holders of special qualities of produce express a determination to force buyers to their views. This may be said of a few fancy marks of cheese, "gilt-edged butter," or choice smooth, well-kept apples. If present extremes for exclusive articles should be fully supported, we think the limit of success will have been realized, as we have little faith in any advance with the present outlook.

BEANS AND PEAS.—In beans the tone of the market for both mediums and marrows is in buyers' favor. There has been a pretty liberal export demand for the latter, amounting to about 1,500 bbls. during the past two weeks, but the stock is still heavy. Mediums are not expected to move until after the first. Pea beans still show the old drawback of poor, unattractive quality. Kidneys are not moving. Limas do not seem wanted in a wholesale way. Green peas have merely a jobbing call. B. E. peas are a trifle higher. Canadian peas quiet and lower.

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.75@1.80; other, 1.50@1.65; medium, new, $1.45@1.50; fair to good, $1.20@1.35; very poor, 95c.@$1; marrow, new, prime, $1.75@1.85; other, $1.55@1.65; white kidney, prime, $2.20@2.25; fair to good, $1.80@$2; red kidney, new, prime, $1.65@1.75; fair to good, $1.40@1.50; California Lima, choice, $5.50@6.50. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new, duty paid, $1.25@1.27; bulk, in bond, $1.03; green, new, ₱ bush., $1.75; Southern B. E., ₱ 2 bush. bag, $3.10@3.15.

BEESWAX.—Small lots on export account have been sold at 31½@32c. for Western, and 32½@33c. for Southern.

BROOM CORN.—Prime stock is scarce and wanted; poor grades plenty and selling low.

We quote Brush, short green, 9½@10c.; hurl, green, 10c.; green, medium, 7@8c.; red and red tipped, 6@7c.

BUTTER.—Receipts are moderate and the market is unchanged. In fact, general trade is not active enough to create much competition for any sort. We seldom hear of State dairies above 30c., and then they must be about perfect. Very desirable stock is still offered freely at the range pitched upon last week, 25@28c. Choice selected ends of dairies or a fancy small line will bring 29c. from stores. The market trade is using Welsh at quotations and such fresh Western as can be had. Receipts of the latter are light, but it is thought we will have a better offering of it soon as other cities seem inclined to divide up their supplies with us. Rolls have accumulated somewhat and prices are weaker.

State dairies entire, extra, 30@—c.; entire, good to prime, 26@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; firkins, selected fresh, 28@30c.; good to prime, 25@28c.; fair to good, 21@25c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 35@35c.; good to prime, 30@32c.; fair to good, 27@30c.; poor to fair, 25@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@31c.; dairies, 27@29c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; poor to fair, 22@23c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 17@26c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 26@27c.; good to prime, 24@26c.; tubs selected fresh, 26@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 24@25c.; fair to good, fresh, 21@22c.; poor to fair, fresh, 20@21c.; Western, early packed, selected, 21@22c.; Western, early packed, other, 16@20c. Roll butter, good to prime, 24@25c.; fair to good, 22@24c.

CHEESE.—Export trade is somewhat larger, chiefly in good stock, at 11¼@12c., and prices at 12¾@13¼c.; fancy held at 13@13¼c. With the turn of the year, the trade anticipates increased movement and meanwhile are not pressing business.

New State factory, fancy, 13@13¼c.; fine, 12¾c.; do. good to prime, 12@12½c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor to fair, 7½@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12¾@13¼c.; good to prime, 11¾@12c.; fair to good, 10@10¾c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12@12¾c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fine, 12¾@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@11c.; poor to fair, 6@8c.; English dairy, Connecticut, 12@13½c.; do. State, 17@20c.; pineapple, 16@18c.

CIDER.—Small prime packages are selling well for New Years. Quoted at 23@25c.; large packages or casks, 15@20c.

COTTON.—The foreign markets are dull and have tended to easier figures closing as follows:

December, 13 1-16@13¼c.; January, 13 5-32@13¼c.; February, 13 5-16@13 11-32c.; March, 13 9-16@13 19-32c.; April, 13 13-16c@13 27-32c.; May, 14 1-32@14 1-16c.; June, 14¼@14 9-32c.; July, 14 13-32@14 15-32c.; August, 14¾@14 9-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Strict ordinary	11	11	11	11
Good ordinary	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛
Strict good do.	12⅛	12⅛	12⅛	12⅛
Low middling	12 11-16	12 13-16	13 15-16	13 15-16
Strict low middling	13 1-16	13 3-16	13 5-16	13 5-16
Middling	13¼	13⅜	13 7-16	13 7/16
Good middling	13⅝	13⅞	14	14
Strict good middling	14⅛	14⅜	14⅝	14⅝
Middling fair	14⅝	14⅞	14⅞	14⅞
Fair	15⅜	15½	15⅝	15⅝

Stained.

Good ordinary	10¾	Low middling	13⅜
Strict ordinary	11¼	Middling	12¾

DRIED FRUITS.—Business is very slow in all descriptions, with prices unsettled, and favoring the buyer.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; quarters, 9¼@9½c.; Western quarters, 8¾@9c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 9¼@10c. for prime, and fancy 12c.; Tennessee quarters, 8½c. Blackberries, new, 10@11c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 11@13c.; do. fancy, 19@20c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12¾@13c. for halves, and 11½c. for quarters.

EGGS.—Strictly fresh Western prime limed are as firm as they were at our last. All of the later arrivals of Western fresh are not giving satisfaction in quality. Scarcely any near points appear in the receipts.

Jersey and Pennsylvania, single bbls., ₱ doz., 31@32c.; State, 30@31c.; Western, prime, 29@30c.; do. fair marks, 28½@29c.; Canadian, 29½@30c.; Southern, 29@30c.; Limed, State, prime, 25@27c.; do. Western, good to prime, 24@25c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Wholesale quotations as follows. Small parcels of peppermint a shade above.

We quote peppermint in glass "H. G." $4.25 ₱ lb., cans, ₱ lb., $4. Wintergreen, $3.25 ₱ lb.; sassafras, 65c.; spearmint, $3; pennyroyal, $2; wormwood, $4; tansy, $4.

FEATHERS.—Quoted stronger at 60@65c. for prime live Western geese and 35@55c. for mixed. Common poultry feathers not inquired for.

FLOUR.—Stocks are liberal, estimated at about 389,000 bbls. and steadily accumulating, tending to weak and irregular prices.

Superfine State, $4.25@4.40; extra do., $4.80@5.90; superfine Western, $4.80@4.90; extra do., $5.80@5.90; No. 2, $3.20@4.40; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.95@5.30; trade brands do., $5.35@7.40; white wheat extras, $5.95@7.00; St. Louis, $5.35@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.10@6.75; Southern at $4.20@4.50 for superfine; $4.80@6.40 for poor to choice shipping extras; $5.50@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye flour at $4.85@5.50.

FRESH FRUITS.—Comparing this year with last, the foreign export of apples is nearly 30,000 bbs. less. The city demand is not large, still there is some improvement, buyers paying best prices, which is favorable for common lots. The available stock of California pears is small and prices for Glout Morceau are stronger. Winter Nelis have been chiefly bought up ahead. California pears soften quicker this season than they did last. Catawba grapes are offering freely at 10c. ₱ box for average stock. A few extra marks may be quoted at 15@16c. ₱ lb. Most of the remnant is of poor flavor; in fact, Catawba did not ripen into their usual excellence this season. The demand for cranberries is again steady. Peanuts have sold well. Hickory nuts are slow. Florida oranges are in demand when in good order, boxes containing about 200, from Orange Mills, St. John's River, bring $4.50@5. This fruit is of fine color. Barrels of same are quoted at $7@10.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, $2@3.50; mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; do. fair, $2@2.25; Lady, $6@15. Pears—Choice Cal., ₱ box, $4@4.50. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, $3 good to prime, $2.62@2.87; good to choice, ₱ bbl., $8.75@9.75; Cape Cod, fancy, ₱ bbl., $9.75@10.25; Eastern, fancy, $9.75@10.25; good to prime, $8.50@9.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.25@1.50; do. Wilmington, $1.35@1.75; do. Tennessee, 75c.@$1.15; Hickory nuts, $1.25@1.50.

FURS AND SKINS.—There are no new features. Prices are likely to remain nominal for a week or two. We quote:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00	to	15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00	to	10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50	to	3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50	to	2 50
Badger	20	to	50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50	to	60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40	to	50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00	to	12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00	to	8 00
Fox, silver	15 00	to	50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00	to	5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50	to	1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25	to	1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75	to	1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75	to	1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40	to	60
Fox, Kitt	30	to	50
Lynx	1 00	to	2 00
Marten, Stone	1 50	to	2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00	to	4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00	to	3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00	to	1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75	to	1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50	to	75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, full & winter	22	to	25
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	20	to	23
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12	to	15
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00	to	12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	8 00	to	10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00	to	6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18	to	20
Opossum, South and open North	12	to	15
Raccoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indiana handled, dark	80	to	1 00
Raccoon, Ill., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50	to	65
Raccoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn.	65	to	75
Raccoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40	to	50
Raccoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15	to	40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 01	to	3 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	—	to	1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	—	to	1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50	to	80
Skunks, whole streaked	15	to	20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00	to	3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75	to	1 25

HONEY.—The prolonged dullness has produced some anxiety on the part of holders, and they express themselves ready to shade even the late low rates in order to start trade. White clover, in glass, 20@25c.; buckwheat, 15@17c.

GRAIN.—Wheat is in large stock, difficult to sell and lower. Latest sale at $1.20 for 16,000 bu. ungraded Milwaukee spring afloat, $1.08@1.09 for car lots No. 3 spring, $1.30 for No. 1 Milwaukee spring afloat, $1.08 partly for No. 3 Chicago spring, 95c.@$1.15 for inferior and ungraded spring, 98c. for rejected spring, $1.30@1.37 for red Western, $1.45 for choice amber Pennsylvania, $1.19@1.25 for No. 2 spring, $1.15@1.45 for winter red and amber, $1.33@1.50 for white, and $1.30@1.32 for No. 1 spring. No. 3 Chicago spring in store at $1.07, and inferior spring at $1.02½ in store. Rye at 95c. for prime State. Barley at 85@90c. for two-rowed State, and $1.14 for fair Canada. Malt at $1.12 for two-rowed State. Corn is in active demand; sales at 21c. for prime old mixed Western afloat, 59@65½c. for damp to prime dry new mixed Western, 68c. for new white Southern, 67c. for new yellow Southern, and 68c. for yellow Western. Oats more freely dealt in and firmer; sales at 48@50c. for white State, 46@47½c. for mixed State, 46c. for prime mixed Chicago, and 47@50c. for white Western.

HAY AND STRAW—Have increased demand, with straw at lower prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 80c.; retail qualities, $1.05@1.15 for new; clover, 70@80c.; salt, 65@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 80@90c. for short rye; 70@80c. for oat.

HIGHWINES.—Sales at $1.15.

HOPS.—There is more doing on export account, and choice stock, which is most wanted, quoted on a strong basis.

New York State, 10@16c.; Eastern, 10@16c.; Wisconsins, 10@16c; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californians, 17@20c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The dressed poultry market is in better shape than it has been for several days back. A good deal of stock was left over from Christmas receipts, and holders were forced to close it out very low. Fresh, small turkeys are doing better than they have before this season in a wholesale way. Geese also have an improved demand.

Turkeys, N. J., choice, 17@18c.; do. other, 15@16c.; State and Western, choice, 16@17c.; do. other, 13@14c. Chickens, N. J., 14@15c.; State, as to quality, 11@14c.; Western, 10@11c. Fowls range at 10@11c. Ducks, 13@17c. Geese, near-by, 13@15c.; do. other, 10@12c.

Live poultry is not plenty and prices for the moment are firm. Western geese showing an advance.

Chickens and fowls, State and Jersey, ₱ lb., 11@13c.; Western, 10@12c. Roosters, ₱ lb., 6@7c. Turkeys, State and Jersey, ₱ lb., 11@13c.; Western, 10@12c. Ducks, State and Jersey, ₱ pair, 75@87c.; Western, 55@65c. Geese, State and Jersey, ₱ pair, $2@2.25; Western, $1.2@1.50.

Game is very unsettled; the holidays usually excite the market for prime stock. The bulk of the back supply has sold low. Venison is very low; the weather is against its sale, and only a short season remains for it. Antelope does not seem to be a favorite.

Quail, trapped, prime, ₱ doz., $1.50@2.00; soft, $1.00@1.25. Grouse, prime, ₱ pair, 80@90c.; drawn, 45@60c. Partridges, choice, ₱ pair, 80@90c.; Western, drawn, 65c.; Eastern, 65@75c. Hares, ₱ pair, 45@50c. Rabbits, ₱ pair, 40@45c. Venison, short saddles, ₱ lb., 9@10c.; long saddles, 7@9c.; whole deer, 7@8c. Bear, black, grown, ₱ lb., 10@12c.; cub, 10@12c. Canvas-back ducks, Western, ₱ pair, $1@1.25; redhead, 70@80c.; mallard, 60@70c.; teal, 40@50c.; common, 25@40c.; Havre de Grace canvas back, $1.50@1.75. Wild geese, 75c.@$1 ₱ pair; do. turkeys, 13@15c. ₱ lb.

PROVISIONS.—The general markets are lower through larger arrivals of hogs at the West. The quotations are for mess pork $20.75, do; for January $20.40; extra prime, $16; prime mess $19.50. Dressed hogs at 8½c. for Western. Dry salted shoulders 8¾c. Bacon at 10¾c. for long clear, 11¾c. for short clear. Lard at 12¾c. for spot, December and January, 13 7-16c. for February, 13 5-16 for March. Tallow at 9¾@10c. for prime. Stearine at 13¾c. for Western. Beef hams, $21.50@22.50. Beef, extra mess, $12@12.50; do., plain mess $11@11.50; new tierced at $13 for prime mess. $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $31.50@32.50. Old extra mess, $11.50 and $10.50 for plain mess; jacket, $15.50@16.50.

SEED.—Clover is scarce; sales at 13¾c. for State and 12¾c. for prime Western.

TOBACCO.—Exporters are taking a few lots; the general market is quiet.

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.		Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	7	@ 8	8 @ 8½
Good lugs	8½	@ 9	8½@ 9¾
Low leaf	9¾	@10¾	9¾@10
Medium leaf	11	@12½	11½@13
Good leaf	13	@14	13½@15¾
Fine leaf	14¾	@16	16 @18
Select	17	@18	18½@22

CROP OF 1874.	Cents.	
Connecticut seconds, fine	12	@18
Fillers, fine	8	@10
Seconds and fillers shipping	7	@ 9
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	15	@25
Wisconsin	8½	@ 9

VEGETABLES.—The weather has been favorable for handling potatoes, but buyers wants seem to be light for the low prices do not bring them out. White onions firmer.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.50@1.75; Prince Alberts, $1.00@1.25; Peerless, 65c.@$1.00. Sweet potatoes, $1@2.75. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $3@5; red, $2@4. Cauliflower, bbl., $2@4. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 40@60c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@3.75. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 40c. Carrots, $1.75.

WOOL.—There has been more of a movement on manufacturing account, and it looks as if the turn of the year a satisfactory business will follow. Prices generally are very strong.

Picklock	50	@	51
XX	18	@	49
X		@	48
No. 1	48	@	50
No. 2	45	@	48
Coarse	40	@	45
Combing	58	@	65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—			
XX	44	@	46
X	44	@	46
No. 1	46	@	48
No. 2	43	@	47
Coarse	40	@	43
Combing	55	@	62
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—			
XX	45	@	47
X	45	@	47
No. 1	46	@	48
No. 2	43	@	47
Coarse	40	@	43
Combing	55	@	62
Combing, unwashed	38	@	46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—			
XX	41	@	47
X	44	@	47
No. 1	46	@	48
No. 2	43	@	45
Coarse	40	@	43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—			
Fine unwashed	35	@	38
Medium unwashed	31	@	36
Coarse unwashed	27	@	30
Burry	17	@	23

ROCHESTER, Dec. 30.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat is dull; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.30. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.85@2. Butter, 25@28c. Cheese, 12@13c. Eggs, 26@28c. Lard, 13@14c. Apples, ₱ bu., 50@85c. Potatoes, ₱ bu., 25@35c. Beans, ₱ bu., 85c.@1.20. Mess pork, $21@—. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $8@12. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $5.75@6.00. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.50@7.25 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1876.

THERE is no material change to note in the market this week. The depression and dullness continues. The weather is cold and the country roads are in bad condition for travel. The farm dairy cheese is now confined for the most part to "odds and ends," and what little is coming forward is uneven in quality and curing, and prices range at 6@9c.

The views of factorymen holding fine cheese are above those of buyers, and there is no sale of extra fine, which some hold as high as 14c., hoping to realize that figure sometime during winter. Common to fair may be quoted at 9@10½c., with light transactions. Winter butter is coming forward and sells at 22@27c., according to quality.

We have advices from Europe up to the 17th of December. Our London correspondent says:

"The finest English Cheddar cheese is wanted, but medium is neglected. American, if fine, brings full prices, and there is a good demand for common and lower grades. Quotations are as follows:

American extra, 64@68s.; fine, 60@62s.; good, 56@58s.; secondary, 28@44s. The other descriptions of cheese sell as below:—English cheddar, 86@96s.; Wiltshire double, 72@80s.; Cheshire medium, 68@72s.; fine, 78@84s.; Scotch, 72@76s., ₱ cwt.

The market is advancing on fine qualities of butter, and some large sales have been made of American.

Clonmels, 130@148s.; Corks, 150@156s.; Dorsets, 168s.; Jersey, 140s.; Friesland, 108s.; Normandy, 110@158s.; American and Canadian, 74@120s., ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter brings 60@84s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	2,038	28	379	5,170	000
Forty-Eighth St.	6	6	270	3,721	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	553	11,697
Harsimus Cove	1,102	00	000	553	12,655
Totals this week	6,756	34	719	20,011	24,352
" Last week	7,988	119	600	25,069	25,920

BEEVES.—Trade on Monday last, owing to a light run, was fast dull than it has been for several weeks, still prices did not advance, and the markets closed with a few car loads of cattle unsold—prices were 6@13c. ₱ lb.; weights, 4½@15 cwt. Wednesday, trade very dull at 7¼@12½c. ₱ lb. When the markets closed several herds stood over unsold. Thursday, trade slow at 9@12¾c.; weights, 6@7¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 9@12½c.; weights, 5½@8¾ cwt. From 53@63 lbs., net, have been allowed to the cwt. Spanish herds direct from the Plains, 6@8¾c. ₱ lb.; Native steers, 8@12½c.; grass do., 12¾@13¾c. Oxen, 8@13c.; mixed herds, 7@9¾c.; 431,995 beeves came to hand up to Dec. 31, 1875; sold at 6@12c. ₱ lb.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13¾	13 @15
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	6 @ 9¾	6 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	10 @11

MILCH COWS.—Trade so small as to render quotations valueless. 3,574 cows were received up to Dec. 31, 1875; sold from $19@125 ₱ head.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality calves not quoted. Grass calves, quality coarse, slow of sale at $5@10.50 ₱ head. 70,193 veals and calves were received up to Dec. 31, 1875. Veals sold at 7@11c. ₱ lb.; calves at $5@22 ₱ head, also at 4@7½c. ₱ lb.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade, though small in sheep, remains firm. Lambs have not been quoted. Some 47 head of Canada lambs, weight 3,750 lbs., 7¾c. ₱ lb. Monday sheep sold at 1½@4c. ₱ lb. Wednesday, 4@5½c. Thursday, 4¾@5¾c. Friday, 5¾@6¾c. State sheep, 4½@6c. ₱ lb.; Wisconsin do., 5@5½c.; Ohio, 4@5¾c.; 1,127,941 sheep and lambs were received up to Dec. 31, 1875. Sheep sold at 5¾@8¾c. ₱ lb.; lambs, 5¾@8¾c., with spring lambs up to 22c. ₱ lb.

HOGS.—During this past week 197 Ohio hogs, live weight, 44,930 lb, sold at 7¼c. ₱ lb. City dressed have been weak and slow at 8¾@9¼c. ₱ lb. Extreme range general sales 8½@9c. ₱ lb. 2,861,943 hogs were received up to Dec. 31, 1875, so largely consigned direct to slaughterers that quotations have been unimportant.

HORSE MARKET.—Trade merely nominal. 45 head arrived ₱ Erie Railway, via, Oak Cliff Station.

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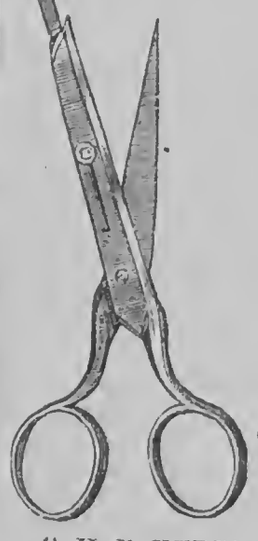

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

GEN. LOGAN is convalescent.

PATTI paid $12,500 for a fur cloak.

CHIEF-JUSTICE WAITE is in Toledo.

SIR ALEXANDER T. GALT of Montreal, is in New York.

MARK TWAIN is recovering from a recent illness.

THE Khedive proposes a new Eastern route via the Nile.

CELIA LOGAN writes New York letters to the Hartford Courant.

Mrs. JOHNSON, widow of the late ex-President, is again seriously ill.

MR. THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH thinks of coming to New York to live.

THE Pope indicates that he does not hold full ultramontane ideas.

SECRETARY BRISTOW'S son studies in Princeton, and his daughter in Paris.

DISRAELI says a Miss Rothschild is the most spirituelle lady in England.

MRS. GEN. SHERMAN will go to Texas with her son for the benefit of his health.

W. H. DUTCHER of Hartford completed on Dec. 24 a walk of 150 miles in 36 hours.

A GIRL in Kentucky, twelve years old, has recovered $500 damages in a libel suit.

Two of Mr. Tennyson's idyls, "Elaine" and "Enid," have been translated into Spanish.

OLIVE LOGAN thinks she will not lecture on "Butter," because she does not consider it pat.

IT is claimed that Mr. Morrison's ambition was to go on the Military Committee of the House.

SENATOR CAMERON and wife of Wisconsin are passing the Congressional recess in Elmira, N. Y.

MR. GLADSTONE does not want English convents inspected for the discovery of unwilling inmates.

THE will of the late Wm. Bose of The Baltimore American gives $19,000 to religious and charitable institutions.

CAPT. RICHARDS, who died not long ago at Colmar, was the captor of Louis Napoleon at Strasbourg in 1836.

THE family of the late Dr. Hackett of Rochester have presented his library to the Theological Seminary in that city.

A. C. MOORE of Buffalo, presented the General Hospital of that city with a check for $3,000 as a Christmas present.

MR. OLIVER WARNER, who has been Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for 17 years, has retired from that office.

Miss ADELAIDE MURDOCH, a sister of James E. Murdoch, is in San Francisco, where she proposes to lecture on women's duties.

THE library of the late Dr. Hackett of Rochester, N. Y., has been presented by his family to the Theological Seminary of that city.

PRESIDENT PORTER of Yale College showed his liberality by preaching in the First Unitarian Church in Boston on Sunday week.

PROF. F. W. PUTNAM of Salem, Mass., has been appointed Civilian Assistant on the United States surveys west of the 100th meridian.

EX-SENATOR FENTON is staying in Enterprise, Fla., where he expects to spend the winter. His throat ailment is a great deal better.

CHARLES LAMB, according to a new biographer, was one of a family of more than six children, instead of three, as generally recorded.

HON. CHARLES HUBBARD, formerly a member of the Legislature and an ex-State Senator, died in Chelsea, Mass, Dec. 28, at the age of 80.

THE Rev. John Brown of St. George's Episcopal Church, Newburgh, preached his sixtieth Christmas sermon recently. Mr. Brown is 84 years old.

THE Taylorian scholarship of the University of Oxford, Eng., has been taken by Mr. L. Dyer of Chicago, a member of Balliol College of that institution.

THE Vienna Vaterland says that the Vicar-General, Dr. Kutschker, has been recommended by the Austrian Ministry as successor to Cardinal Rauscher.

EX-PRESIDENT THIERS has reserved the right, in the event of his election to either the Senate or Chamber of Deputies, of choosing in which branch he shall serve.

FRANCIS D. MOULTON has sued Mr. Beecher for $50,000 for malicious prosecution. Mrs. Moulton is reluctant to meet the Plymouth Committee in a mutual council.

THE Trustees of Princeton College have conferred the degree of LL. D. on Gov. Bedle of New Jersey, and that of D. D. on Prof. Briggs of the N. Y. Union Theological Seminary.

MR. GLADSTONE is busily engaged on his new book on Homer, which will be an expansion of what he has already written for The Contemporary Review on the same subject.

GEN. M'CLELLAN, rumor says, will shortly be appointed to a position in the service of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, with the title of General Superintendent or Manager.

GEORGIA papers, among them the Augusta Sentinel, insist that Tweed was in Savannah and sailed in the City of Dallas for Nassau. Two New York detectives have been investigating the case in Savannah.

DR. H. C. KING, Physician-in-Chief at the Seamen's Retreat on Staten Island, is writing a medical history of the institution, which has been in existence 43 years. This work will embody the record of an experience derived from the treatment of 67,000 cases.

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— The Greeks are shy of Russia.

— Nevada has a population of 50,540.

— Deep snow prevails throughout Europe.

— London is wrapped in a shroud of snow.

— Utah has one Gentile to five Mormons.

— The Suez Canal pays seventy-five per cent.

— Californians had Strawberries for Christmas.

— Bermuda's fort defences are to be improved.

— Superstition is spreading among the freedmen.

— The South Boston Y. M. C. A., has lady members.

— The Monroe County penitentiary has 250 inmates.

— Trade Unionism has reached New South Wales.

— Six Boston newspaper men have died during the year 1875.

— Fifty thousand Hebrews carry on business in the United States.

— The latest advices from Hayti state that everything was quiet.

— "Mariscript" is suggested as a proper term for "cable dispatch."

— The English regiment at Jamaica is to be instructed in field operations.

— England proposes laws for purifying rivers. Manufacturers oppose them.

— Fifty million dollars in American property are annually destroyed by moths.

— The Y. M. C. A. of Rochester holds Sunday meetings in the Variety Theater.

— Large reinforcements have been sent to Hernani, which is besieged by the Carlists.

— The royal palace at Barcelo, Spain, was almost entirely destroyed by fire Dec. 26.

— It is said that $1,000,000 of Boston capital has been invested in Indianapolis the past year.

— The graduates of the State Normal School, Albany, had a re-union in that city, Dec. 29.

— Schenectady, N. Y., is talking about improving her sewerage at an expense of about $150,000.

— The steam ferry-boat which plies between Tarrytown and Nyack has gone into winter quarters.

— If Alaska is annexed to Washington Territory the latter will have an area of 640,000 square miles.

— The trustees of the Avondale relief fund report that from all sources they received $174,-222.05.

— A statue of Metellus, the Roman conqueror of Crete, has been found during excavations on that island.

— The English Admiralty authorities have issued a new circular on the subject of fugitive slaves.

— The Commercial Bank of San Francisco suspended Dec. 24. Liabilities about $50,000; fully secured.

— The Works of the Elmira Stamping Company, Elmira, were burned last week. Loss, $2,000; insured.

— An ice gorge has carried away a number of buildings at Pulaski, N. Y., and a portion of the town is flooded.

— The first steamer entirely laden with Nova Scotia coal which ever entered Boston Harbor arrived there, Dec. 23.

— A new pocket compass invented in England has the novelty of pointing to the true and not to the magnetic north.

— An appropriation of $25,000 is asked to convert the State Capitol Grounds at Sacramento into a State Botanical Garden.

— A Philadelphia firm has paid $50,000 for the right to sell all the beer that is to be guzzled on the Centennial grounds.

— Ship-building in Maine in 1875 aggregated a tonnage of 75,060.45, against 122,548.74 in 1874, a decrease of over one-third.

— The $4,000 claim of the Jersey City Water Pipe Company against the Village of Plattsburg has been settled for $1,000.

— A member of the California Legislature has given notice of a bill to establish a whipping-post for the punishment of wife-beaters.

— The yield of salt in Michigan this year was 1,026,978 barrels, being 200,000 barrels greater than that of the most successful previous years.

— The steamer Amerique of the General Trans-atlantic Company, which was recently disabled, left Roche's Point, Ireland, Dec. 29, for Havre, in tow.

— A factory for the manufacture of a new explosive, said to be ten times more powerful than giant powder, is to be started at Virginia City, Nevada.

— The annual report of the City Chamberlain of Albany shows that the receipts for the past year were $2,172,818.16; and the disbursements, $2,113,247.20.

— The absurd story about the phœnix grew out of the fact that phœnixes always roosted in ash trees, and hence when they took wing they were said to "rise from their ashes."

— The official survey of the steamer City of Peking at San Francisco, is completed. The repairs were found to be satisfactory and the ship in a thoroughly efficient condition.

— By some strange combination of circumstances the manufacture of marmalade has heretofore been confined almost exclusively to Scotland, but Florida is now going into the business, and can supply the world if she chooses.

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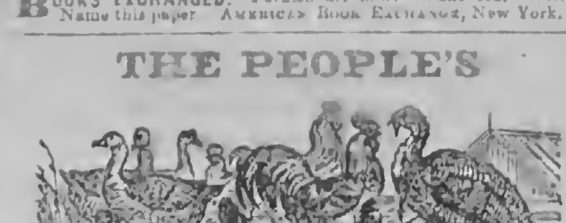

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SEEING is not believing. There are many men you can see and yet cannot believe.

Now somebody has invented a dish-washing machine. If they invent a few more such contrivances, including one to sew on buttons, women will not be worth fifteen cents a dozen.

A BUSINESS that is picking up—the rag gatherers.

THE center of gravity—the lowest button on a Quaker's vest.

WHEN poverty comes in at the door the broker flies away with the furniture.

"FOUR angels turned out by the hangman ye terday," is a head line in the Chicago Times.

FRANK D. DART of Chicago, and Ella Darrt of East Troy, Wis., have been married. May they have their quiver full of 'em.

THE minister who divides his discourses into too many heads will find it difficult to procure attentive ears for all of them.

AN Iowa editor recently announced that a certain patron of his was "thieving as usual." The word he wrote was "thriving."

JOHN SUPPER was divorced from his wife in Detroit last week. She prefers to go without her supper.

"THIS bank is a bad place for colds," said a printing cashier; "so many drafts passing through it all the time."

SAID an old doctor to a graduating class of medical students: "Keep your patients alive, if you can—dead men pay no bills."

A LONG BRANCH baker has received news of a ten thousand dollar legacy. He'll probably knead it.

"To bee or not to bee;" as the man said when he got home and found a swarm of them settled on his door knob."

MONDAY for wealth,
Tuesday for health,
Wednesday the best day of all.
Thursday for crosses,
Friday for losses,
Saturday no luck at all.

MILK PUNCH is now recommended as a cure for diphtheria. Certain classes have always considered it good for the throat.

"KEEP cool, darling," said a Brooklyn wife to her scolding husband as she dashed a pitcher of ice-water over his head.

NEWRASTHEUIPPOMSKELESTERIZO.—This is the name of a patent medicine advertised by a large English firm. Wonder what it cures?

COLUMBUS discovered America, but when a boy he had as much difficulty in seeing an empty wood box or water-pail as any other boy.

THE schoolmaster who sat down on the "business end" of a pin that had been ingeniously fixed on his chair, rose like a Phœnix.

YOU will notice that when a boy steps on a Canada thistle, or sticks a splinter into his foot, it's invariably a few seconds before school.

WHILE Professor Proctor was lecturing in Boston, the other evening, on "Other Suns than Ours," he received a cable despatch announcing the birth of boy twins in his family.

THE look a man gives his wife when he suddenly awakes in the morning and finds her going through his vest pockets, is not a studied expression, but it is excellent in its way.

THE fact that a girl in Texas, eleven years of age, had been led to the altar by a blind organ-grinder, leads a Houston editor to ask:—"Is the New York Ledger satisfied now?"

I WANT to be an angel—As sung by the Girl of the Period:

I want to be an angel
And with the angels stand.
With my "pull-back," tight around me
And my poodle in my hand,
With my bright-hued striped stockings
And my lemon colored gloves
I'll be the gayest angel
In the celestial groves.

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P. O. Box 5,509. New York City.

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PRACTICAL BUTTER BOOK.
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To those who are making up their minds what Agricultural paper to take next year we wish to say a word. The leading Agricultural paper of this State has been, is, and will be, MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER. Last year, when rumors were rife in regard to its publisher, Mr. D. D. T. MOORE, that gentleman found a strong wind to beat against; but he finally succeeded in convincing the people that one-half of what was said was not true and the other half greatly exaggerated, and so they rallied to the support of the old RURAL. Mr. MOORE lived up to his promises, and his paper for 1874 was characterized by the same spirit that has animated former volumes. We like the RURAL, and we hope to see Orleans County well represented in the subscription books of 1875.—*Orleans Republican.*

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER is an excellent Agricultural paper, and very popular. As a family visitant it is hard to beat in the attractions it holds forth for young and old. We are pleased to see that Mr. MOORE is full of his old enterprise and bent on making the paper better and better from year to year.—*Yates Co. Chronicle.*

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Floricultural.

BEGONIAS.

THERE are two very distinct classes of Begonias—the one tuberous-rooted and valued chiefly for their flowers, not that the foliage is in any way inferior; the other for their foliage, though many of these are attractive for their flowers as well. Both classes possess a distinguishing, rare, eccentric beauty—whether we view their flowers or foliage—that invests them with a special adaptability to certain purposes. Of the foliage section, many bear leaves a foot in length—some of them of a metallic-olive color, spotted and doubly margined with lighter and darker shades of a silvery and coppery luster; others with a grisaille-colored disc, margined and veined with crimson; while both upper and under surfaces, as well as the petioles, are thickly covered with bright red hairs.

The tuberous-rooted Begonias have annual stems and require a rest during the winter, beginning a new growth early in spring. The leaves are fleshy, of a rich, glabrous green, often doubly toothed or incised, and the habit of the plants is generally free and branching. The flowers of this section are often of great size, as represented in our engraving, and of various colors, such as white, cream, sulphur, orange, pink, salmon, magenta.

If—out-of-doors—Begonias are more captivating in one situation than another, it is when, in a shady, secluded nook, they are interspersed with *Ferns, Echeverias, Klenias, Sedums, Agaves* and *Cacti*. Indoors, a greenhouse temperature is suitable, and the soil needs no especial preparation.

Our engraving is from one of the many beautiful catalogues sent out by the well-known London establishment of E. G. HENDERSON & SON. E. S. C.

NOTE TO RURAL FLORICULTURISTS.

WE beg to state to the readers of the RURAL that our hardy *Phlox* seed are all disposed of. To those whose hearts are not made sick by hope long deferred, we would say that we shall save next fall from the same varieties (*Downie and Lairdes*), as well as from seedlings of our own, a sufficient quantity to supply any probable demand, when we will be happy to send them to those whom we have been constrained to disappoint.

Many applicants have inquired where they could procure *Deutzia* seeds—referred to in the same article as of the easiest cultivation. Except they may still find them clinging to the bushes in their respective neighborhoods, we do not know. Last winter so cut down the *Deutzias* upon our own premises that we did not have a bloom, except upon *D. gracilis*. But our home is in a valley that catches the earliest and the latest frosts, while the interval boasts of a lower temperature than any other locality within many miles.

Several friends cautioned us that the postcript in the RURAL (offering to forward *Phlox* seeds to applicants) would prove our last, as it was our first, experiment of the kind. We received many more letters than we anticipated, it is true; but the intense attachment expressed in many of them to floricultural pursuits, well repaid us for our inconsiderable trouble, and, if we live, the experiment at seasonable periods shall be repeated again and again. These letters show that, liberal as are our seedsmen in the distribution of their catalogues, they do not reach—or if they do, are not available to—the mass of poor people, who, in their love of flowers, no sooner ascertain the merits of a particular plant and that it is of *easy cultivation*, than they seize with avidity the first means within their narrow reach of procuring it. We give two extracts from these letters as fair specimens of many of them: "I have long wished for some plants, but, as we are in debt for our farm, my husband thinks it foolish to spend money for such things—he don't care for them as I do. When we send for vegetable seeds, I get a few papers of flower seeds; but when it comes to shrubs and plants, Oh! dear—it makes me sad to think of prices. And yet I am crazy for every new catalogue. I feast my eyes on their imagined beauties, and mark the most desirable ones against the time when my ship arrives." "Though I am poor and nearly a life-long invalid, yet my little flower garden, tended by my own hands, is such a continual source of delight, that without it life would almost be a burden."

Floricultural papers that have a care for something beyond the influx of subscriptions, could, we think, with little expense and with ultimate profit to themselves, greatly assist this class of people, while performing a commendable work in promoting a more general appreciation and cultivation of flowers over the land. There are two very distinct classes of people who spend time over flowers, viz., those who like them as flowers and those who like them as ornaments. To the latter class they are to the house what diamonds are to the person—a species of elegant furniture, the more prized because of the exceeding and general admiration they attract. They are the valued exponents of wealth, or, what is worse, the affectation of wealth, the tottering pedestal of which is well concealed beneath a lavish floral display. A Cowslip is to them a Cowslip, and rather "less" than "nothing more." They must have *flowers*—gorgeous flowers—flowers bigger than anybody else's, and, when they droop and fade, the plant is in disgrace, and the "desert air" may claim what remains of its fragrance and the plant, too, until it is ready to bloom again. If they procure rare plants they are very sure to keep them—at least while they are rare; exclusiveness adds to their value. The seeds and slips are jealously guarded, and all the more so if a neighbor has long sought them in vain.

But those who rightly love flowers cannot tell—know not why they love them. It is not for their bright colors or their fragrance alone; it is not for the green leaf, or the plant's symmetry or grace. It is not that they demand daily and patient care. They love them, in a measure, as they love a little child. The flowers cannot talk, but their actions are very winning. They love them in response to a longing of their natures—a longing that knows not of greed, and that demands no more the gratification of possession than the pleasure of distribution; and so, with slips and seeds, they are ready to share their choicest plants with those who will accept them and prize them.

There are hundreds of such true lovers of flowers who read their floricultural journals with great interest, that would cultivate plants in their sitting-rooms, if they knew what species to procure and how to procure them without much cost. Now there are hundreds of individuals who would delight in saving seeds from their own collections and sending them to just such persons. But how is the one class to communicate with the other? We answer through the horticultural journals. Let those good people who have seeds to spare, communicate the fact to their favorite papers, with the names of genera species and varieties, and their address. We doubt not that any journal would publish such a notice, if it conveyed with it strong evidence of good faith. Then let those desiring such genera, etc., apply.

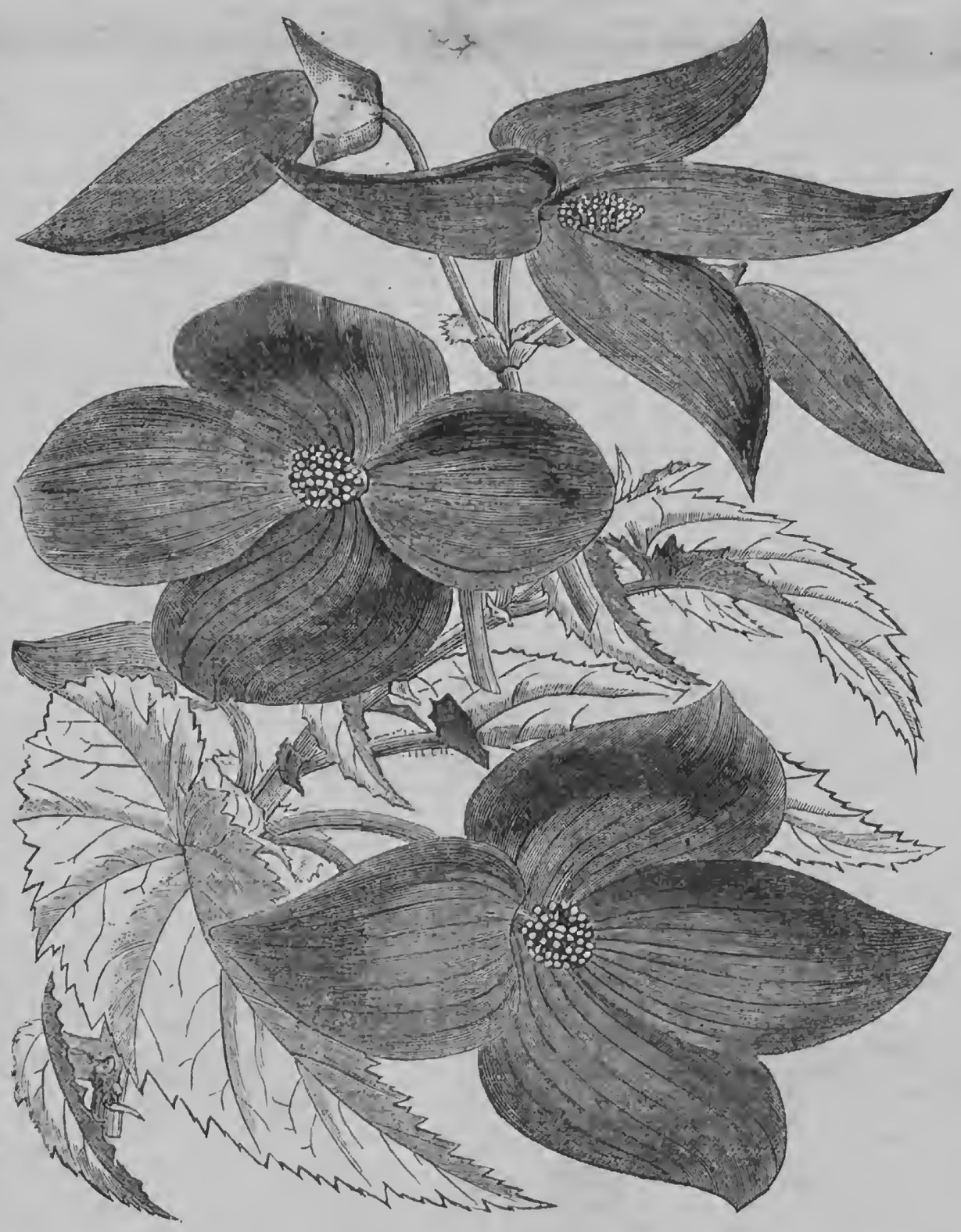
There is scarcely a person deeply interested in plants that does not learn something every season—either in-doors or out-of-doors—not generally known. If such persons, who do not write for publication, would send their information to those who do—many practical suggestions and facts of value might be distributed for the benefit of all. Horticultural writers, who narrate, for the most part, their own experiences, are necessarily confined within comparatively a narrow sphere; and the local causes which operate, either for or against a particular plant, may not exist a few miles distant. Time, however, does not permit a minute investigation of these details, and the remarks or directions in specific cases are often found quite inadequate to general application. In almost every garden certain plants will be found to do well; others to thrive in perfection; still others that sicken and perish. If the details as to the soil, moisture, dryness and exposure were carefully noted and published, we should soon arrive at a comprehensive knowledge of how to improve the plants in our own grounds—what to select—what to reject.

Thus, through the horticultural journals, the whole community might constitute itself a vast Horticultural Society, giving and receiving seeds and information free of expense, and with a trifle of trouble that would be well repaid by the information resulting from the observations which each would feel it incumbent upon himself to make and to record.

Speaking for ourselves, we are always ready to welcome such information, whether of the least or greatest import, and would promise it a careful consideration, and to render it serviceable to our readers according to its value and our capacity.

E. S. CARMAN.

River Edge, Bergen Co., N. J.



TUBEROUS-ROOTED BEGONIA.

COFFEE IN CALIFORNIA.—An exchange says that "recent experiments prove that Coffee can be raised in every portion of California, where the soil is congenial. Snow does not materially injure the plant." It has become more interesting to know what cannot be raised in California than what can.

Farm Economy.

CLOVER AS A SUBSOILER.

The fact is frequently noticed by old farmers that heavy and especially clayey land rapidly becomes hard and compact as the country becomes older, and virgin soil and the mold from decaying leaves is exhausted. For the first few years after clearing the land no difficulty is experienced, large crops of wheat and other grains are grown, and the soil seems to possess unlimited fertility. Farmers who judge of the strength of their soil by its abundance of black loam think there is no end to it. The soil, also, for a while seems dry enough, except, perhaps, in spring and fall. After a while something is found to be the matter. The black mold on the surface is turned to the bottom of the furrow, and in its place is turned up the clayey soil to be saturated with water in winter and spring, and bake and dry in summer heats. In a few years the fields need underdraining—or lacking that, are condemned as unfit for wheat and grain crops, and seeded to grass for meadow or pasture.

Yet such soils are by no means so poor as is generally believed. The elements of fertility are there; but in unavailable forms—locked up in clods of earth which roots cannot easily penetrate. The mechanical condition of the soil is at fault. While the land was newly cleared and unplowed a thick coat of leaf mold covered and protected the surface. Beneath this in the subsoil were decayed and decaying roots of trees, besides myriads of places where the roots had decayed ages before, forming natural water courses through which surplus water made its escape. No matter how hard and impermeable the subsoil seemed, it was permeated with these holes, so that if you dig anywhere in the hardest soil three feet deep, place all the earth on a board so as to lose none, it will not nearly fill the excavation. In making post holes we have often found that, with a four-inch and five-inch post, the earth taken from the hole would not fill around it, and the same experience holds good with drains. This excavated soil is apparently looser, and is really more permeable than originally, and yet it is evident that it has been made more compact than before. It will hold perhaps as much water; but cannot give it free vent through the channels which nature established ages and ages before. Thus the land becomes water-soaked, retaining moisture, retarding decomposition, and generating acids poisonous to the roots and plants. At the same time the surface soil, being unprotected by forests, burns and dries in the summer's sun, and the vegetable matter is washed away by rains or evaporated in the atmosphere, besides being taken up by growing crops. Under such circumstances it is no wonder that the soil becomes cold, "sour" and unproductive. What is the remedy?

A few years ago deep plowing was recommended as the panacea for all the ills that soils are heir to. Thousands of acres were permanently injured by injudicious deep plowing, throwing the fertile surface soil to the bottom of a deep furrow, and bringing the cold subsoil to the surface. This, naturally, didn't work well, and next we were told that the subsoil plow was the specific, loosening the subsoil, admitting air and moisture, and allowing the roots to strike deeper than they otherwise would. Some of these objects subsoiling will secure; but, when it is recommended in order to remove surface water and give a chance for its escape to the subsoil, we protest. Nothing in our experience or observation confirms this view. We have seen many experiments in subsoiling without any appreciable advantage, and some with decided injury to the soil. Both plowing and subsoiling break up the natural water drains which have been established in heavy soil, and may thus enable it to hold more water in a moderately wet season, but with the certainty of making the soil water-soaked and unproductive whenever an excessively wet season comes. When land is thoroughly underdrained these water courses re-establish themselves, as surplus water finds vent through the drains; but it isn't safe, yet, to give general advice fitted only for land that has been underdrained. In the few instances where subsoiling has proved beneficial, they have probably been followed by seasons when there was no more rain than the subsoil could hold without saturation. In such cases subsoiling would probably prove beneficial, as the roots of plants can undoubtedly more easily penetrate soil that has been loosened than that which has not. One other advantage of subsoiling must not be overlooked. It is probably the best possible preparation for the clover plant, enabling its root to strike deep and make a vigorous growth. These large clover roots striking into the subsoil will speedily re-establish the closed water courses, and leave the land nearly as light and rich as when first the forest was cleared from its surface.

Clover, after all, is the safest and best subsoiler. In its decay it leaves rich plant food, which wheat and corn and other roots can follow downward, and, after every particle of nutriment has been extracted, the "hole in the ground," which the clover root leaves, is useful as a drain. It is possible, by the use of clover, to restore the soil to its original porousness, and so dispense with one-half the underdraining otherwise deemed necessary. We believe in underdraining, though it is costly and laborious work; therefore we don't believe in doing more underdraining than is absolutely necessary.

Clover is much more grown on light, gravelly or sandy soils than on heavy loams or clays. Farmers on these last find it difficult to get a good catch. The reason is that the hard, cloddy soil is impervious to clover roots, yet, on getting a good growth of clover depends all hope of success in renovating the soil. All the manure that can be spared should be applied to the young clover to encourage a vigorous growth. With each succeeding clover crop it will be more easy to get a good growth, and the clover roots will strike deeper into the subsoil. Perhaps as a preparation for a clover crop the subsoil plow may do good service; but, excepting for this, it is much better to trust clover alone as the true and safest subsoiler.

THE ABSORBENT POWER OF SOILS.

Sir Humphrey Davy was the first chemist that ever gave a regular course of lectures on agriculture, which were in the first and second decades of this century, before the British board of agriculture in the city of London. He found by experiment that 1,000 pounds of a "very fertile soil from East Lothian, made perfectly dry, gained eighteen pounds weight in an hour," exposed to common air in the city named. A very fertile soil from Somersetshire gained sixteen pounds in the same time. A sandy soil from Essex gained eleven pounds. A soil of Bagshot heath gained only three pounds. One hundred and six pounds of dry quartz sand placed in a proper vessel absorbed twenty-five pounds of water before any came through so as to drop. Calcareous sand (that from lime rock) took up twenty-nine pounds of water before dropping. A loamy soil, forty lbs. English chalk gained, forty-five pounds; clay loam, fifty pounds; pure clay, seventy pounds. Here the practical farmer has evidence where a reliable man found 106 pounds of pure clay, thoroughly dried, probably in a large stove, took seventy pounds of water before one drop passed out of it. Such a soil is too tenacious of water and has an excess of clay. It needs underdraining, and does best in meadow and pasture. A more loamy, open soil that will hold forty pounds of water in 100 of earth is best for all tillage purposes.

The common dryness or dampness of the atmosphere is an important factor in the problem of fertility and plant growth. A mixture of vegetable mold, sand, red clay and lime salts, made pervious to the air by the use of the plow and other implements of tillage, has generally given the best returns in crops, and drawn the most moisture and plant food from the ever-moving atmosphere.

Plants and animals, when they die and rot, fill the air with fertilizing gases: and the cultivator of the soil wants to learn how he may draw manure from the inexhaustible storehouse with the least trouble and expense. Perfect tillage, to condense these fertilizing gases and vapors in the pores of the soil, is the first step in this direction. All plants that grow on dead trees, rail and plank fences, rock and stones, are very cellular and porous. In the granite wilderness of northern New York, deer, moose and elk subsist through long and cold winters on moss, which must contain all the element of their flesh, bones and blood. Gov. Seymour shot a moose, of large size, which in our view of the animal stands out boldly the representaive of fertility, in a sterile region, between almost naked granite and what may be regarded as exceptionally pure air surrounding this primitive crystalline rock. Buffalo and huge elephants once grazed in Tennessee, the unmistakable types of great fruitfulness of soil.—*National Granger.*

PLOWS AND PLOWING.

In times past farmers have thought any plow good enough that would cut a wide furrow and run level. But we notice more inquiry of late, and the better class of cultivators are experimenting with all the new inventions in hopes of finding *one* plow that combines all the merits, and none of the defects so common to almost all now in use. We have had several very good working plows, so long as we could keep them bright and have them scour; but a damp day or two with plow not in use, or even sometimes if left out over night in damp weather, and it could not be made to scour all day in our black, clay loam soils. One-horse plows, especially in fine, well-worked ground, would scarcely ever scour—not doing good work, and, of course, drawing hard. In sheer desperation we have tried every plow recommended by the seller, on condition that if it scoured we would pay for it, and if not, return. Some steel plows would do pretty well, but on certain soils in a dry, mellow condition they would clog. Last spring a very homely plow, made at Albion, Mich., by the Gale Manufacturing Co, was recommended by a party selling it here, and we took it home, without the least idea of being able to use it. We tried it, and kept trying it, but have never found a place where it would not scour, even though left wet a week it does not rust deep, but will scour the first rod—the surface being made so very hard that there seems to be no wear to it, and the rust cannot get hold. We have since seen another make of chill-hardened plows that works nearly as well. These chill-hardened cast iron plows must supercede all others on black, sticky soils. A light, two-horse plow of this kind runs quite as easy for one-horse as an ordinary cast-iron plow for two, and does much better work. We have decided to discard all our old cast-iron plows and substitute those instead. J. B. Jones.

Rochester, N. Y.

Field Crops.

EXPERIMENTS WITH CORN.

Reading an article in a recent number of the Rural New-Yorker under the heading of "An Experiment with Corn," reminded me of my father's experience with corn for the past few years. My story is as follows:—Two years ago last spring I asked my father what kind of corn he intended to plant. "The same kind I did last year," answered he. "Now," said I, "if I was in your place, I would plant a different kind. Uncle has a pretty good kind;" and I told father that I had bought and brought home some for him to plant. I showed it to him. He said he did not like that kind and would not plant it. "Well," thought I to myself, "it will make good chicken feed anyway," and I used it for that purpose. He planted the same old kind he had for years, giving it ordinary culture. From the field of three acres the result was as follows:

EXPENSES.

Plowing and harrowing	$10 50
Marking and planting	5 25
Cultivating and hoeing	15 00
Cutting	9 50
Husking	—
Harvesting fodder	3 00
Total cost	$38 25

RECEIPTS.

Two and one-fourth tons corn fodder	13 50
Loss	24 75

or $8.25 per acre.

Well, the next spring, awhile before planting time, I asked father what kind of corn he intended to plant. "Well," said he, "I guess I shall plant the kind you raised in the garden last year." (I had planted a package of early market corn—a very early variety—for the purpose of having green corn early. This variety grows from three to five feet high, the ears averaging five or six inches in length.) "I want to raise a little corn this year if I can."

"Why," said I, "that kind is not worth planting as a field variety."

"Well," said he, "I haven't any other kind to plant, and I am a going to get a barrel of phosphates to put on it, so I guess it will do pretty well."

Well, he planted it, applying the superphosphate with considerable care. The corn grew so fast, tasseled and cared out so early, that it attracted the attention of the neighbors. They wanted to know what kind of corn he had planted. I told them it was the early *short* kind. They thought it was. Well, that corn got ripe, and from the field of 1¼ acres, the result was as follows:

EXPENSES.

Plowing and harrowing	$4 37
Marking and planting	2 19
Superphosphate	6 60
Cultivating and hoeing	6 25
Cutting	1 87
Husking	1 87
Harvesting fodder	1 25
Total cost	$29 40

RECEIPTS.

15½ bu. shelled corn, at 80c	$12 40
One ton corn fodder	6 00— 18 40
Loss	$6 00

or $4.80 per acre.

Well, last spring, awhile before planting time, I asked father again what kind of corn he intended to plant. "Well," said he, "I guess I shall plant your uncle's kind"—the same kind I had tried to have him plant two years before—"one of the neighbors raised it last year and liked it pretty well, so I guess I shall plant that kind." So he planted that kind, and from the field of 3¼ acres the result was as follows:

EXPENSES.

Plowing and harrowing	$7 87
Marking and planting	3 94
Cultivating and hoeing	11 25
Cutting	3 37
Husking	6 75
Harvesting fodder	2 25
Total cost	$35 43

RECEIPTS.

56¼ bu. shelled corn, at 75c	$42 19
2⅔ tons corn fodder	13 50— 55 69
Profit	$20 26

or $9 per acre.

Father is a farmer of about forty years' experience, does not read agricultural books or papers a great deal, being somewhat old-fashioned in his way of farming. I am scarcely more than a boy, have always lived at home, working as farmers' boys generally do, and a short time before my story commences had subscribed for the Rural New-Yorker and read agricultural books some, picking up what information I could in regard to modern ways of farming. Had father planted the same variety of corn the first two seasons that he did the last, I haven't the least doubt but that it would have yielded as well the first two seasons as it did the last. Allowing this to be the case, it will be seen that the real loss for the two seasons was $69.50—an item of no small importance. And I have come to the conclusion that it does not pay the farmer to farm it in the same old way, year after year, but that it does pay him to try experiments, read agricultural books, and take the Rural New-Yorker.

Young Farmer.

Augusta, Oneida Co., N. Y.

The above experience reminds us of a story which, without meaning any disrespect to any one, we must tell:—A farmer had been greatly troubled by a mischievous sow which, every morning at daylight, was found to have mysteriously conveyed herself into the corn field. No break or gap appeared in the fence, and how the animal got through or over was a mystery. Watching carefully one day, the farmer saw the sow deliberately enter a hollow log of some length, one end of which crooked through the fence. The mystery was solved and the farmer, instead of moving the log, tried the experiment of building the fence so that both ends were outside the field. The next morning the farmer secreted himself where he could watch the result. In stepped piggy as usual, but a moment after emerged at the other end, on the *wrong* side of the fence. With a grunt of astonishment, the sow deliberately walked to the other end and repeated the operation. With a bewildered and amazed look, first at the log and then at the fence, piggy started on a brisk trot for the pen, and no amount of driving could ever bring her near that part of the field again.

There are a good many farmers who, unlike our correspondent, will continue growing a crop year after year, though every time the final result is being on the wrong side of the fence. If a farmer will not discard unprofitable crops, unprofitable varieties of grain, unprofitable stock and implements, is it not fair to say of him that he does not know as much as an ordinarily sensible hog? Two years is long enough for a man to grow a crop which, in ordinary seasons, will not pay the expense of its production.

SOME LARGE CORN YIELDS.

Wherever there was enough warm weather the past season, the crop of corn was enormous. There seems to have been a large growth of stalks nearly everywhere, but in some localities the grain failed to ripen. The Missouri Patrons of Husbandry offered a premium of $200 for the best corn crop. Fifteen farmers competed for the prize, and the number of acres and yield per acre in ears, are given below:

	Acres.	Bu. per Acre.
A. F. Brown	11	124
Jno. P. Martin	45	115
Vincent Marmaduke	20	105
A. Snody	30	100
Jno. Spears	30	100
W. B. Johnson	20	108
O. J. Ralph	30	100
M. A. Gualdin	60	97
Robt. Smith	50	97
Jno. Robinson	30	93
David Cockrill	12	86
Jno. Stoler	40	85
Benj. H. Hawpe	20	77
Craig Hays	20	75
M. T. Chartain	12	75

The Western Farm Journal, commenting on these results, says:—"In one case only was manure used; some of the crops were plowed only twice and rolled and harrowed each once; some were plowed four times and hoed once; some were worked with cultivator, and some with the plow alone. The plowing was not deep—only four or five inches; in some cases the grain was planted in drills, 3½ feet apart and 12 to 20 inches in the drills: in others it was planted in hills 3½ feet apart each way. The record states that the premium crop of 124 bushels per acre, exhibited by Mr. A. F. Brown, was raised on old ground broken up five inches deep once, laid off and planted without being harrowed—the grain being drilled 20 inches distant in the rows and the rows 3½ feet apart and covered with a hoe. When it came up it was harrowed, then rolled, worked twice with a cultivator and "laid by" with a plow by throwing the soil to the stalks. It is fair to presume that these figures would be reduced about 20 per cent. if the corn was re-weighed in the spring. We suppose it was weighed, although the fact is not stated."

Dairy Husbandry.

THE N. Y. DAIRYMEN'S CONVENTION.

LEADING POINTS IN THH PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS,

The New York State Dairymen's Association at Norwich, may be regarded as one of the most successful and useful meetings for the advancement of dairy husbandry of any that have been held in the State. The majority of the papers read were eminently practical, while science was brought to bear upon many points in such a manner as to make the arguments more clear and convincing to the educated mind. We have no space to give the several papers and discussions in full, but shall briefly notice some of the more prominent features of the topics brought forward.

SOILING.

The leading idea in the paper by Dr. Crafts of Binghamton, was that it was more economical to soil than to pasture cows. Soiling saves land; it saves fencing; it economizes food; it keeps the animal in better condition and greater comfort; it increases the quantity and quality of the manure. These were the points urged by Dr. Crafts, who contended that his experience in soiling abundantly proved the aforesaid propositions. He referred to his management of a pure-bred Jersey which he had soiled during the past season at Binghamton. The basis of the food employed was grass and grain. She was well fed but not over-fed, and all surplus food was removed from the manger, leaving none to sour. His conclusions were, that by having comfortable stables and giving the animals good feed and care, the product of cows in the State by soiling could be increased 33 per cent.

Mr. A. L. Fish of Herkimer said he did not think soiling, as a general rule, would pay dairymen; but in times of drouth or scarcity of pasturage, it could be adopted with profit. Gen. Jones of Binghamton said cattle that are kept solely by soiling from year to year, degenerate. He approved of the system of half soiling or feeding green crops in time of drouth to supplement pasturage. Mr. Fish was an advocate of sowed corn for half soiling, but the corn fodder must be fully matured. Prof. Roberts agreed with Mr. Fish, and remarked that sowed corn fodder, when it is not matured, is not much better for feed than cold water. In answer to the question of loss of health from want of exercise when the practice of soiling is adopted, Mr. Bliss of Vermont said this could be obviated by having a short range, where the animals may be turned from day to day.

THE COW AND HER MANAGEMENT.

was the subject of an elaborate paper by E. W. Stewart of Buffalo. Mr. Stewart is in favor of soiling and has practiced it to some extent upon his farm. Clover is regarded as an important soiling, crop, and in testing its value, he found the crop grown on a quarter of an acre was sufficient to feed a cow 150 days. When everything is made convenient for soiling, the labor expense is much lighter than many suppose. Years ago when labor was cheap this item amounted to only $75 for soiling a herd of 45 animals during one entire season. This seemed to be a very small sum to many in the Convention, and we should have been glad to have had a fuller explanation on this point than was given by the speaker. Mr. Stewart, in the course of his remarks, alluded to a point of much importance in the feeding of stalks which was, that farmers should study how to mingle the proper constituents of food, so as to make up a nutritious ration. In soiling, it is important that the animals have not only the best kinds, but they should be furnished in variety. In explanation of this, whey was taken as an example. Whey contains the sugar of milk which will make fat but not bone and muscle, but if it be mixed with pea or oil meal, the lacking elements are supplied and the mixture becomes a nutritious ration. He made some very good suggestions in regard to breeding animals for the dairy, and said the experience of dairymen will show that by selection the best milking stock is obtained. The milking habit of the Short-Horn had been bred out by selection—this had been resorted to by one class of breeders whose object was to make beef, but there was another class that bred for milk. He deprecated the practice of some breeders who fed and pampered their stock to excess for the purpose of making show animals.

Though the subject of winter dairying was not discussed in detail, yet from some general remarks, we rather inferred he was in favor of this practice, since the statement was made that a cow coming in milk in January if properly fed, will give 1,000 pounds more milk than if she came in milk in May, and the reason given was because, when turned to grass, the flow of milk starts up again, and thus her milking capacity is increased. Others have stated the same, among whom we may mention Mr. Boies of Illinois, who has had great success in winter dairying.

Mr. Stewart very properly urged that cows should be full fed, and that you could not starve a cow without loss. Mr. S. advocated an improved plan for barns. His model is, in shape, an octagon. It is built with concrete walls, so as to have no interior timbers. The concrete walls do not conduct frost like stone, and the stables are warmer in winter and cooler in summer than when built of other material.

BREED AND FEED

was the subject of a well written paper by Prof. J. P. Roberts of Cornell University. He said we should carefully consider the object in breeding whether for milk or beef. To understand this question of breeding, we must go back to history. He then gave the history of the Short-Horns, which he thought were not well fitted for the dairy. The high price of beef was the first incentive to high breeding. The Short-Horns of a hundred years ago were a milking family. Bates and others picked up stock of doubtful pedigree and improved them by care. All who have established a reputation for breeding have accomplished their ends first, by selecting the finest animals; second, by weeding out inferior animals; and third, by caseine. He had searched in vain for cows possessing such good milk and beef qualities as those bred by Bates. The pure Short-Horns of to-day are not good milkers, they are too high-priced and too liable to barrenness. We are already possessed of animals with a mixture of many different breeds. Let us select the best of these and improve upon them. We can breed from these an animal suited to our fancy by selecting males from the different breeds. It is a mystery why some farmers will persist in breeding from inferior stock. The business of breeding thoroughbreds should be a separate or special occupation. Animals designed for breeding purposes are not unfrequently confined too closely, and the result is disease or want of vigor; hence the animals either die or are unfit for breeders.

Upon the question of feeding he thought that artificial means should be employed in warming the food and drink of the animal during cold weather, and he showed by mathematical demonstration that the cost of heating water in the stomach of the cow by means of grain or other food, was $32.72, while the same could be heated by steamer or coal for $7. He called the attention of dairymen to the fact that with this great difference in the cost of the process, it behooved them to warm the water and cook the food for their stock. The practice of allowing cows to stand exposed to cold and wet weather and in giving them ice water to drink, was severely censured. He gave an account of the manner in which cows are fed at the University stables. The daily rations for large cows giving milk, were 25 pounds of hay, 7 pounds of meal and 2½ pounds of bran. Upon this feed a cow could be kept in high condition, yielding a large amount of milk. He deprecated the practice of some farmers in trying to find out how little a cow could be kept alive on instead of how much she could be made to eat. He urged the latter course in strong terms.

A spirited discussion followed this address, which was participated in by Hon. Harris Lewis, Mr. VanDuzen and others, the points objected to in the address being the cost of heating water by feeding the cow, and the amount of feed employed at the University for cows in milk.

The leading points in the addresses of the second day of the Convention we shall refer to hereafter.

PENNSYLVANIA DAIRYMEN'S ASS'N.

PROCEEDINGS OF ITS FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Meadville, Pa., Dec. 30, 1875.

As an instance of the progress made by the Butter and Cheese Interest of this State, a few figures will not be inappropriate.

Crawford County has now in successful operation 101 factories, employing 300 skilled operatives, who utilize the milk product of 30,000 cows, amounting in cheese alone, this year, to nine million pounds. This represents part of the income of 5,000 farmers.

The Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania State Dairymen's Association, now in session at the County Court House, was called to order at 11 A. M. promptly, and the business of the

FIRST DAY

began by the organization of Committees on Constitution and By-Laws, on Nominations, Dairy Utensils and Dairy Products.

The opening address was then read by the President of the Association, Mr. A. M. Fuller, in which he concisely reviewed the prospects of the Dairy Interests of the State. He strongly recommended concentrated action as the only successful way in which to meet the fierce competition of other sections, and urged a more hearty support of the Board of Trade as the the most efficient instrument to establish steady sales and secure a reputation for the dairy products of Pennsylvania that will place them on an equal footing with Eastern competors. He deprecated the rivalry existing between factories as inimical to their best interests. He would advise that the practice of factories buying milk be discontinued, but if persisted in, let it be done by the methods that obtain among Eastern factorymen, that is, base the price of the milk on the ruling quotations of the cheese market on the first of each month, thus relieving factorymen of a speculative interest in the products of their factories.

He also suggested that instead of Patrons electing a committee to act as salesmen, there should be one salesman appointed to each factory who should be given full power to use his individual judgment in selling the product of his factory, thereby avoiding the vacillation and uncertainty that has characterized the sales of the past season, to the great pecuniary disadvantage of the producers.

It is of the first importance that their cheese should be branded, in order to establish its reputation on its intrinsic merits, and not permit it, as heretofore, to be sent to market and sold as N. Y. State cheese. He commends the spirit of the Pennsylvania dairy interest in scorning to make skim cheese, adding that such a proof of honest dealing must redound to their advantage, and in closing predicted a halcyon future for the interest in this State.

H. Canfield, of Crawford, in commenting on the President's remarks, said that he substantially agreed with him that there should be co-operation on the part of the factorymen, and he was also in favor of the Association fixing the price at which cheese should be sold. Although in favor of cream cheese, he was compelled to make skim cheese.

Mr. Bigger moved that a Committee be appointed to draw up a plan for the united action of factorymen, which was seconded by H. C. Green of Meadville, and the Chair appointed the following Committee: Mr. Canfield, Hiram Nash and Wm. Morse, all of Crawford County.

J. H. Reall of Philadelphia was present by proxy, sending a letter congratulatory of the aims and success of the Association. He thinks Pennsylvania cheese is being improved rapidly and will soon be the best made, and attributes the low price of cheese to the poor quality of the product. Skimming has reached its bounds, and he lays the blame of this innovation on the dairymen rather than on the factorymen.

N. W. Miller, Stockton, N. Y., read his essay on

MEAL FEEDING,

prefacing his facts by the remark that he had generally been denounced by the press as a homeopathic meal-feeding lunatic, but he could only say, in his own behalf, that he had either drawn wrong conclusions from his own experiments or he had made a discovery that would revolutionize the dairy interests. He believes in his theory, and submitted facts as a radical test.

Wm. H. Whitney of Bladensburg, Iowa, wintered four two-year olds on exclusive meal diet last winter, the animals being in good condition and fattening unusually quick on grass the ensuing spring. Mr. Beadle of Carter, Ohio, fed two cows ten weeks, as an experiment, and found that they thrived quite as well as the remainder of his herd fed on the usual winter diet. John Adams, Ingersoll, Canada, fed a large herd ten weeks exclusively on meal, as the weather was exceptionally cold and the stables uncomfortable, he fed four quarts daily. They did well on the diet, and in some respects better than when wintered on hay. These results, in connection with those gathered by himself, he thinks establish the practicability and desirability of exclusive meal feeding in preference to hay when cows are dry. He found that feeding meal for three consecutive weeks produced remarkable results in developing the milking capacity of his animals. He fed two quarts meal and what hay they would eat. After dropping their calves, and until turned into pasture, they averaged 1½ pounds butter daily—the highest average when wintered on hay—but with same spring rations, never having exceeded 14 ounces daily. His herd are Natives. During the cheese-making season of 1873 wintered on hay, daily yield being 16 pounds; the past year fed meal exclusively and produced 27 pounds daily, the pasture being about equal for the two seasons and feed in both cases being grass. His herd averaged the present season 425 pounds cheese, ¼ skimmed, and 100 pounds butter. Other herds whose produce was sent to the same factory, but were wintered on hay, made no corresponding increase. He also claims that cattle will make much better beef, and whilst feeding remain in much better general health under this system, and that results have shown that the system is the best for the improvement of stock.

A discussion arose as to whether the animal kept her meal in the first or fourth stomach, in which Prof. Arnold took part. But as this matter concerns the animal herself almost exclusively, it will have to be determined when an intelligent cow can be found who will give in her testimony. Opinions varied. The address was followed by desultory remarks. Mr. Flint Blanchard of Jamestown suggested that dairymen try meal feeding, selecting the poorest stock. A motion to adjourn to 2 P. M. was made and carried.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After the meeting being called to order by the President, Mr. Cornelius Baldwin of Nelson, Ohio, was introduced, who then read a paper on

BREEDING AND SELECTING DAIRY CATTLE.

The essay was illustrated by crayon drawings of eight cows, said to represent the best and poorest of their kind for dairy purposes. They were Ayreshires, Jersey and Natives. There were also displayed, as illustrative of the text, drawings of the escutcheon, or milk-mirror of cattle. He thought if milk could be produced in larger quantities it would benefit both consumer and producer, and to do this great care should be used in selecting cattle. There are a number of signs by which dairy cattle, good and bad, can be distinguished, and although Guenon has made the most important of all discoveries in this connection—the milk mirror—the speaker has elaborated the subject to the extent that he feels justified in claiming some of the facts set forth as purely his own discoveries. This subject, he thinks, is not as well understood as it should be by farmers. Color was not very significant, but cattle, purely black or white, are not, as a rule, good stock for the purpose, Holsteins being exceptions. There are, however, three or four signs that are infallible, and dairymen should be content only with the combination. Size is important, and should be from medium to small. A good disposition is a prime requisite in cows and women, and this, he said, was comprised in a temperament that was sprightly, nervous and active, yet docile. Sluggish cattle are inferior for dairy purposes, and this is important as bearing on the selection. There are but three breeds in this country that deserve mention for the purpose under consideration—Ayrshires, Jersey and Holsteins—but few native cattle being up to the requirements.

In the near future, however, the natives, by judicious selection, will be among the best for dairy purposes. It is all a matter of careful selection, guided, of course, by the advice given below. It is noteworthy that good dairy cattle are thirsty, constitutionally thirsty animals, and are the first to lie down, last to rise, and utilizing their food thoroughly, are not difficult to keep. The head should be small, indicating small bones, clearly cut, with muzzle large and flattened; lips thick and protruding sidewise; neck should be clean cut, long and well jointed to shoulders; withers thin and of good breadth below the shoulders. The horns are not deeply corrugated, and are of a waxy, lustrous appearance. The body should have a general look of "bagginess" and be wedge shaped, the broadest part being the posterior; the tail must be long and bushy and the tail bone attenuated. It is also important that the carriage of the animal should be proud, erect and stately. A double chine is a very good indication. Milk veins shou'd be distinctly marked, knotted in places, and make a series of abrupt angles in their course. A short-bodied animal is one of the best, the milk secretions being larger the nearer they are to the heart. He instanced a physiological parallel in the human. The veins should be clearly noted on both sides the animal.

The milk mirrors are undoubtedly the best guides in selecting dairy cattle, it being possible to determine even how much, how long, and the quality of milk that a cow will give. This was very clearly illustrated by a series of pieces of hide cut from animals who possessed these peculiarities and which presented varied and marked characteristics of the escutcheon, that are difficult of explanation without illustration, and which exemplified the gist of his views on the subject. He suggested, in closing, that a new standard of judging dairy cattle, based on this theory, should be established, and premiums awarded therefor, thus closing perhaps the most original paper of the meeting.—[Conclusion next week.

CURE FOR A SICK COW.

For the benefit of my brother farmers' by whose contributions I have been much benefited, I will send you a recipe for the cure of a bovine which has taken cold or lost its appetite in any way, and it is also good for the disease termed "Hollow-horn" or "horn-ail." Take two pieces of salt pork, about the size of the two fore fingers, split them open and put in each a teaspoonful of cayenne pepper, stand on the right hand side of the animal, and elevate the jaws with the left arm, and put the pork between the grinders with the right hand, keeping the jaws elevated till the dose is chewed and swallowed, only putting in one piece at a time. After they are administered give two more pieces of the same size if you choose without the pepper, and if the animal seems affected by cold, give water with the chill taken off to drink and put on a warm blanket. I have no doubt that I saved the life of a valuable cow by the above proceeduro.

Weston, Allegan Co., Mich. H. D. Edgerton.

Reports from Dairy Associations.—Our aim is to give at least a synopsis of the proceedings of all prominent Dairy Associations, Conventions, &c., and for that purpose the Rural had representatives at most of the meetings recently held. We shall be glad to hear from the officers of other associations.

The Swine-Herd.

FEEDING OF YOUNG PIGS.

An experienced farmer, with whom we recently conversed, said he always had good luck with pigs, and a visit to his sties confirmed the assertion. Some notes on his management can hardly fail to prove interesting.

The prevalent idea that pigs should be kept constantly growing is a good one, but liable, nevertheless, to mislead. It is not best to stuff pigs as full as they will hold, and especially those just weaned. The sucking pig gets his rations often and in moderate quantities of food the simplest and most easily digested. The sow's milk is full of flesh and bone-forming material, and promotes a steady, uniform growth, building up a frame without too great accumulating fat. Weaning time is naturally and justly regarded as a critical period, and here is where farmers are apt to err in high feeding with rich and concentrated food. Cow's milk is excellent, and if most of the cream has been skimmed off it probably comes nearer the pig's natural food at this tender age than any other. But milk is rejected as not rich and "fattening" enough, and corn meal, the most concentrated kind of food, is substituted in its stead. Now corn meal is altogether too difficult of digestion for weaning pigs, and at most should only be given in small proportions. With an exclusive corn meal diet the young pigs will stop growing longer or larger framed and begin to pile on the fat on carcasses too small for profitable feeding. A great deal better plan is to continue feeding milk, and this sparingly, adding a little bran and a very small quantity of corn meal. This last can be increased as the pigs become accustomed to the change of diet and their stomach will bear a stronger food. The wheat bran and skim milk supply the phosphates which build up the pig's frame, while a very little corn meal will supply the fat-forming material which is taken from milk in cream, and at a greatly reduced cost. At no time should pigs be starved or stinted, but it is important to remember that pigs may be dwarfed by feeding too much and too rich food and with as bad results as from feeding too little. Great care is needed in feeding any kind of very young animal, and the pig, being especially piggish in his greed, is particularly liable to injury from eating too heartily. With all young animals growth rather than fat should be aimed at, and phosphatic foods should be given as far as possible. Corn in every stage belongs to the last and fattening stage of feeding of any kind of stock, instead of being used indiscriminately for stock of all ages.

WEIGHT OF PIGS FOR MARKET.

It was only a few years ago that swine breeders were vieing with each other for the greatest weight of carcass; but this is now all changed. Hogs that will weigh 500 pounds are sold at a less price per pound than those of 250 to 300 pounds. The market in England has long favored light weights. London is chiefly supplied with pigs of less than 200 pounds weight. And this tendency of the market to pigs, well fatted, but of small weight, is just what the farmer should encourage, for it is exactly in the line of his interest. It costs more to make the second hundred pounds of a pig than the first, and still more to make the third hundred pounds, and so every pound added becomes more expensive.

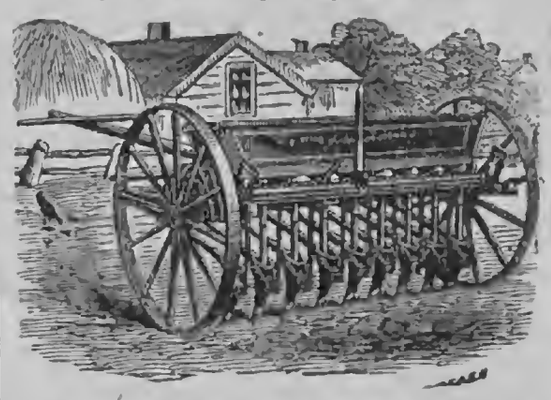
Several years have proved that well fattened pigs of 250 pounds weight find the greatest favor in the market, and this fact should change the whole system of pig raising and fattening. Instead of keeping them till eighteen to twenty months old, they should never be kept beyond twelve months, except for breeding, and seldom beyond nine or ten months. The great effort should be to induce early maturity in our pigs and thus shorten the period of feeding, and consequently lessen the cost per pound of producing pork. This is a matter of much greater importance than pork raisers generally realize. We think any well-conducted experiment would show that ten pigs carried over the winter in store condition, as is usual, and fattened at eighteen or twenty months, cost, per pound, of live weight, twice as much as another ten of equal quality, full fed and fattened at nine or ten months. There would not be so much difference in cost per pound if the pigs were full fed for the whole eighteen or twenty months; but even then the difference would be at least fifty per cent. in favor of early maturity. And this matter of early maturity is entirely within the control of the breeder. A cross of Berkshire, Essex, Suffolk, small Yorkshire, or other early-maturing breeds, upon our best common sows, will produce the desired result. But this system has no period of strong animals; it must be one constant progress from the first to the last day in the life of the pig.

Cure for the New Hoo Disease.—We have recently published reports of a new and dangerous hog disease now prevailing in the Western States. Hon. T. C. Jones of Ohio, publishes in the Delaware, O., Gazette, the following preventive treatment with directions what to do in case of an attack:—"A mixture of one peck of ashes, four pounds of salt, seven pounds of copperas, and one pound of sulphur, kept constantly in a trough, is of great service. If predisposed to cholera, hogs will eat it more freely than when free from all symptoms. If a hog gets down, try to get into him a gill of coal oil in slops; it has sometimes been effective when other remedies have failed."

Our Premium Articles.

THE FARMERS' FAVORITE GRAIN DRILL.

The Rural New-Yorker "believes in" drilling grain, and it is only in continuation of its every-day work in improving the methods of



farming, that its Publisher has made arrangements whereby energetic farmers may possess themselves of a first-class Seed and Grain Drill, by securing subscribers to the Farmers' Favorite Journal. Among Grain Drills, the Farmers' Favorite is that manufactured by Bickford & Huffman, Macedon, N. Y., and frequently commended in the Rural columns. It has a fertilizer attachment, distributing guano, superphosphate, plaster, or any finely-divided manure *with the seed*, so that the plant has a vigorous growth from the start. A small quantity of manure distributed in this way will often double the crop, and will always much more than pay the cost of applying it. One of these drills with fertilizer attachment is an important and almost necessary article for improved farming, and whoever procures one in a neighborhood, can make a handsome income every year by hiring it to neighbors at 25 to 50 cents, or more, per acre. We are able to offer these drills made in the very best style, with all the attachments, costing $130, for 130 subscribers at $2.15 each, or 80 subscribers at $2.65 each. Thus, at our lowest club rates, each subscription counts one dollar towards the price of a superior grain drill, an article which, on your own and neighbors' farm, will pay for itself within two years after purchasing.

THE WARRIOR MOWER.

The spirited engraving of this implement represents a scene pleasantly familiar to Rural readers. The Warrior Mower is deservedly popular

THE WARRIOR MOWER.

and is known in all sections of the country. Manufactured in Little Falls, N. Y., under the personal supervision of the inventor, it has the guarantee of both parties that none but the best material shall be put in each machine, and it is warranted, therefore, to be perfect in its kind, as are all the implements manufactured by this Company. The tilting lever, enabling the operator to turn the guards up or down at will, is an important feature of this machine. Its inclosed gearing, keeping out dirt from the running machinery, is another. Those wishing one of the very best of mowers cannot procure it more easily or more cheaply than by securing 75 subscribers to the Rural New-Yorker at $2.65, or 115 at $2.15, and receive a two-horse Warrior Mower as a premium, or for 70 subscribers at $2.65, or 110 at $2.15, we will send one of their celebrated one-horse machine.

The Herdsman.

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT FATTENING ANIMALS.

A correspondent of the New England Farmer writing from France, sends some curious and interesting speculations as to the effect of shearing or clipping animals intended to be fattened. It is not probable that the effect is marked enough to be of practical importance, though the experiment can be easily tried: of course, waiting until warmer weather before nature's covering for animals is removed. That sheep unsheared do not thrive as well is explainable by the fact that a heavy coat of wool in summer, keeps the animal uncomfortably warm. Also that it holds and retains wet next to the skin of the sheep after heavy rains. With these comments, we give the correspondent's suggestions for whatever they may be worth. He says:

Experience attests that sheep when shorn fatten more rapidly than those left in the possession of their fleece; horses lean or even sickly put on flesh quickly if clipped in due season and with the ordinary precautions. Animals thus treated acquire an increased appetite, and maintain the desire for more food for a longer period. M. Weiske of Proskeau, has conducted experiments with great care to test the facts found to be true by practice. He selected two full grown merinos, in good health, equal in age, and nearly so in weight. They were fed on 2¼ lbs. of meadow hay, ½ lb. of crushed barley, and less than quarter of an ounce of kitchen salt daily; their solid and liquid excrements were specially preserved, and frequently analysed contemporaneously with their food; they were supplied with a fixed quantity of water daily, and were weighed every morning; the temperature of the building during the experiments was nearly uniform. After being thus treated for seven days, no perceptible difference was discovered in their relative weights. After an interval of ten days they were shorn; the appetite which had appeared languishing suddenly became sharp. The shearing exercised little influence on the digestibility of the food, and any difference was unfavorable to the shearing; on the other hand, the animals consumed less water, pulmonary and insensible perspiration having diminished as in practice is known to be the case. But more nitrogen was eliminated, that is, less went to the formation of meat, though no change had taken place either in quantity or quality of food. Shearing then is apparently unfavorable to nutrition; the loss of the fleece is the loss of so much heat, demanding the greater consumption of food, in other words producing a more vigorous appetite. For draught animals, this result is beneficial, for it stimulates the sources of strength; horses when clipped become more energetic, lively and robust, and if they display an improved condition without any change in rations, the cause must be sought in a better appetite or superior assimilation of food. In the case of fattening stock, if this power of assimilation be a little less, the amelioration of the appetite is a compensation, for the animals will thereby put on more flesh, and to maintain the appetite in an excellent state, during the finishing stage of fattening, is the object to be realized. More food means thus more beef and mutton, and hence the advantage of the shorn over the unshorn animals.

MAKING THE MOST OF A STEER.

At the abattoirs of New York there is nothing of a steer lost after it is slaughtered: every part of its substance is used for some purpose, even to the blood. The handling of the bullocks after they are penned up for slaughter is thus described by a correspondent of the New York Bulletin:

"The way they kill a steer is this:—A man gets in behind the steers and throws a rope around the hind leg of one. Then he signals two men who pull on a windlass till the head of the steer is above the ground. Then the throat is cut and the blood flows into pans. A steer generally gives three panfuls of blood. Then the lot of savages—the skinner, legger and entrail drawer—pounce upon the carcass as a very hungry man assails a beefsteak, and in a very short time it is a carcass of dressed beef, ready for market. The butchers pay rental for pens for storage and slaughter, and bring their stock over the Pennsylvania Railroad.

"The Abattoir Company make everything pay profit. They salt the hides down long enough to set the hair. Then they shake out the salt and ship them to Europe and all parts of the United States. The unsalable portions of the hides are made into glue, the horns into buttons, combs, etc., and the inside of them into bone lime; the bones into various articles of commerce. The fat is rendered and the offal made into a fertilizer at The Meadows—a station about four miles out on the road from Jersey City, where the hog abattoir and the repair shops are situated.

"The blood is poured from the pans into iron tanks and run under a chute pipe to cook. It goes up an elevator and down the chute, then to a dryer, and by various systems of manipulation finally reaches the stage where it is reduced 60 per cent. and contains 17 per cent. ammonia. It is almost an impalpable powder, and is worth $50 per ton. This place turns out a ton and a half of it per day.

"The Abattoir Company do not allow anything—hides, pieces, bones, horns, blood or offal of any kind—to be thrown away, because there is money in every particle of the beef. They have the offal and bones carted away to their destinations—the bone factory and fertilizing establishment—immediately upon the accumulation of a car load, and the place is cleaned up every day.

"The theory that filth congregates about an abattoir, or that the river is filled up by the offal thrown overboard, is dispelled by the facts. The Board of Health of Jersey City are convinced that there is nothing about a well-conducted abattoir that is deleterious to the public health."

Pomological.

ENGLISH LATE APPLES.

Mr. Pyrus Malus in English Journal of Horticulture says:—Good keeping apples are the most useful of fruits. A store which lasts in good condition month after month, in the spring and summer period of the year, is a store of great value. This is the period of the year to test the relative value of varieties. If they keep until now in a fresh, crisp state, they are worthy of honorable mention. Even as much so—dare I write it—as are sweet scented roses. Which are really the best late sorts? I mean those which bear well and keep well without any special care. It would be interesting, and particularly useful, if those having, or who have had until recently, sound apples, could let us know their names and a sketch of the conditions under which they have been preserved. Mere size is not so much an object; neither is a very high standard of quality to go for too much at this season. Free bearing, late keeping, good, useful apples are the kinds of which I think information would be acceptable. There is no difficulty in having good apples in the winter, but we want them now and until apples come again. What are the best for culinary purposes and for dessert? I, for one, should be glad to know, and I feel sure the information would be generally acceptable. Three apples, which for a number of years I have found the most valuable, are Sturmer Pippin, desert; small, free bearer, and keeps fresh in a dark and not too dry cellar, throughout June. Striped Beefing; large, sunny side, red, a good bearer and sound until June. Gooseberry apple; medium sized, great bearer, very firm throughout June, and often useable until August. What is the experience of others with these and other sorts?

Look out for the apples about these days, and sort out those likely to decay.

The Apiarian.

WINTERING BEES IN THE NORTH.

Mr. John Voight, of Brown Co., Wis., writes to the Bee Keeper's Magazine, of his plan for wintering in the cold latitude of Northern Wisconsin: "I had no straw handy, for I am not a farmer, but I had some very dry hay. I put one foot of this hay on the floor of my bee-house, set my hives one foot from the wall and about eight inches apart; the holes in the honey boards I left open. I filled the caps with hay and put them on again, leaving the entrances wide open. I then packed hay behind and between the hives, and at last I put about one foot of hay on top of all of them, so that nothing but the front could be seen. As every one knows, we had an *extremely* cold winter, and for a time I lost all hope of ever seeing my bees fly in the yard again.

"As my bee-house was very tight, I gave it a little ventilation on top, and when the first mild night in spring came, say about zero, I opened the door for a few minutes and let in some fresh air, for the hay had begun to smell very strong.

"I give you the temperature of some of the coldest days at this place last winter:—Dec. 31, '74, 22 deg. below zero; Jan. 5, 1875, 22; Jan. 9, 35; Jan. 14, 23; Jan. 19, 20; Jan. 31, 20; Feb. 6, 20; Feb. 7, 32; Feb. 8, 24; Feb. 9, 44; Feb. 12, 34; Feb. 13, 22; Feb. 14, 20; Feb. 15, 25; Feb. 16, 24; also some days in November the mercury went 30 degs. below zero, and in March from the 17 to the 20th, 9 to 11 below zero.

"I had lost all hope. I thought my bees would be a solid mass of ice, but when in the latter part of March I went into the bee-house, very slow and listening, behold! all my bees were humming very strong and vigorously. Then I got new hopes, I took the hives out about the middle of April, and found the hay in the caps next to the honey boards dry; but that on the top moulded, and to my surprise all my bees strong and in the best possible condition. In a few hives I found some molded combs, but not enough to speak of. My neighbors lost all their bees. Along the Green Bay and Minnesota R. R. the farmers lost heavily; and everybody was astonished that I had saved all of mine."

The Magazine adds these comments on the above: "The report is valuable as showing that with proper care bees may be, and are, safely wintered no matter how cold the climate. The discriminating reader will notice that in all these reports of successful wintering, whether in bee-houses, cellars, or on summer stand, the same principle is kept in view—a moderately warm temperature, a small but constant supply of good air, and sufficient of good absorbing material to keep the bees perfectly dry. Had Mr. V. closed up the holes in the honey board, instead of leaving them open, the result would most probably have been dead bees in a mass of moldy combs, and had he failed to pack the dry hay on the honey boards, and all over the hives, his bees would have frozen. A little free ventilation below, and none, except through the absorbents above, seems to be the real secret of success.

TRANSFERRING BEES.

Mr. W. F. Lewis of Baldwyn, Miss., gives us his experience in the Bee World:—Like most Southern bee-keepers, I am a beginner. Last spring, a year ago, I had six colonies black bees in box hives. I transferred them in movable comb hives, Italianized half of them, and increased to twelve, and took about two hundred or three hundred pounds comb honey. A swarm issued from one of the Italian hives about the first of September, filled up its hive, and came through the winter in as good condition as any. During the fall and winter I bought about thirty stocks, in boxes and round gums. These I transferred at various times along through the fall and winter, except a few of the strongest which went till spring. From this experience I would not transfer good strong stocks in winter, but if scarce of stores I would do so in order to feed them successfully. I only lost one or two weak ones, and I think they lost their queens, as they swarmed out and went into other hives, leaving honey plenty. I have increased to seventy, about one-half Italians.

The yield of honey has not been as good as I expected; only about 1,000 lbs. from twenty of the strongest.

I made my own extractor. I don't see why any one should send off and pay $15.00 or $18.00 for an extractor, when one can be made at home in a few hours that will answer just as well. I use a brandy barrel, sawed off the right length, and waxed, for can. The revolving frame is composed of a small iron rod and sundry pieces of hoop-iron bent so as to make the frame of the size and shape wanted, and soldered to the rod. The gearing is that of an old Common Sense Sewing Machine, (can be had for nothing in this country,) and is just the thing wanted. About two square feet of wire cloth is all the material that need be purchased, and it costs but a trifle. I have a little circular saw for making hives. It costs but a small amount, and is a great help in hive making. At first I had trouble to get suitable frame material, and had to send to Mobile for it. I now find it can be sawed at any of the country saw mills out of poplar or cypress that will do as well as any.

The Centennial.

RAILROADS AND THE CENTENNIAL.

We don't know whether the long-headed men who manage railway affairs appreciate the interest which people in all parts of the country take in the Centennial. Farmers and their wives in far-distant States, who have never before been East, talk of coming to see the great show, and most of them also intend to visit the Metropolis on their way there or returning. We expect in this way to meet many correspondents, agents and other friends of the Rural during the Centennial year, and will be "at home" to all who call. A good many of our Western friends are from New York or other Eastern State, and all have many friends or acquaintances here. The scenes of boyhood and girlhood will be revisited, and happy are those whose parents live to extend cordial greeting to children who years ago left the parental roof to "Go West!" All this will make a busy year for railroads as well as for many other enterprises, and as people can't well circulate without circulating money as well, it is fair to presume that the "hard times" which have prevailed during the past two years will perceptibly ease. It is well that railroad managers should understand these facts and make ample preparations for the approaching "rush." Outside of Philadelphia we honestly believe very few people have an adequate conception of how great will be the occasion.

SIAM AT OUR CENTENNIAL.

Information has been received through United States Consul Partridge that the Kingdom of Siam will participate in the Centennial. John H. Chandler, an American citizen, has been appointed Commissioner to represent that country, and about $100,000 will be expended to display its products and Industries. Mr. Chandler was to leave Bangkok some time in December with goods for the Exposition. It was intended at first that a prince and several noblemen would be present at the Centennial. It has finally been decided that no nobles will accompany Mr. Chandler, into whose hands all the arrangements have been placed.

Spain and the Centennial.—A dispatch from Madrid, dated Jan. 5, says:—A royal decree has been issued emanating from a Commission charged with installing the exhibits from the Spanish colonies at the Philadelphia Exhibition. The Commission will draw up a memorandum relative to the exhibition. The Governors of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands will appoint members.

Italy and the Centennial.—A recent dispatch from Rome announces that the President of the Italian Executive Committee on the Philadelphia Exhibition will leave for America in April, to take the direction of the Italian section.

There will be a grand exhibition of the mineral resources of Canada at our Centennial.

A DUCK TENT HOUSE.

Sheep Husbandry.

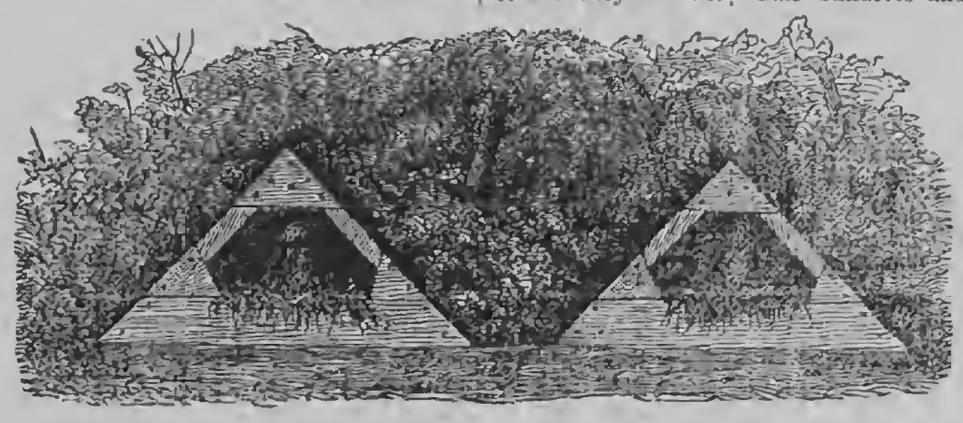
MANUFACTURING MEAT AND WOOL.

Instead of selling wheat, corn and hay from farms not in the vicinity of the best markets and where manure can be had at a very low price, if meat and wool was made for sale instead of robbing the soil year after year it would most assuredly pay very much better and improve the fertility of the land till this kind of farming would double the income, because the quantity of rich manure resulting from the consumption of corn and grain would increase the yield per acre, till there would be a corresponding augmentation in the quantity of meat and wool. Dairy produce, cheese and butter, if of the best quality, would also pay proportionally better than selling the food manufactured into milk.

Of course if it pays the English farmers to buy corn after the freight has been added to the price in the United States and make it into meat and wool, it must answer better to bring the crops into meat &c., while no expense has added to the price of the food. In sending meat to England it would be the same as in exporting cheese; the quality must be such as will suit the demand, for it must be ripe and of course equal to the best there, and when this trade is established and the country is awake to the importance of fattening cattle and sheep there will be bitter repentance for plowing up the fine natural pastures which follow on the cleared land in Kentucky and several other States. For although some newspapers with inexperienced writers tell their readers permanent grass land would not pay, yet the facts of hundreds of thousands of grass fed beeves stare them in the face as they arrive from the West and the buffaloes, deer, &c., which fatten on the old prairies prove what wretchedly poor weak minded men they must be who say it is best to sacrifice all the rich old sod to the remorseless plow. It is not twenty years since advocates for having the grass all in seed before it was mowed for hay were as plentiful as blackberries, and in Duchess County, New York, not more than ten years since I have argued with men who thought themselves smart who would not commence mowing till the grass was all dying.

A New Jersey farmer, whose name began with R. (I forget the name) was very severe on me for advising the cutting of green grass to make hay, intimating, I must be as green as the grass. Well! that man has lived to see his ideas superseded, but there are scores in every country upholding fallacies as great and editors of papers who support their correspondents, as for instance lately, an Englishman who must have come from some town and who never saw a grass field excepting as passing by on a Railway, said grass as a natural and permanent established sward was out of the question on this continent, to which the editors added, this writer being acquainted with England and the United States, knows all about the subject, therefore it is settled—natural grass will never pay, &c. Of course they will deny that buffaloes and deer ever get fat on permanent pastures or that in Kentucky or Texas, &c., cattle or sheep become beef and mutton.

A Working Farmer.



TURKEY HOUSE AND NEST.

SHEEP PAY BEST.

In "Some Sheep Talk," in the National Live Stock Journal, an experienced stock keeper says:

I have been feeding some three hundred head of cattle, and I am satisfied that, even with the most favorable conditions for selling when the time comes, I shall make a great deal more money, dollar for dollar, on the money I have invested in sheep, than I shall make on the capital invested in cattle. I have about six hundred sheep, running without any particular attention or care, and have sold one thousand four hundred dollars' worth of wool of this year's clip, and have two hundred and fifty lambs besides. I do not think it possible to have done so well on any equal amount of capital invested in cattle. One great advantage sheep have over other stock is, they never die of the contagious diseases which they contract. They get the scab or foot-rot, or something else, and if unchecked, it gets them in bad condition, and would ultimately, perhaps, kill them. But the very worst contagious diseases to which sheep are subject, give the owner ample time to treat the affected animals, and the diseases are generally of a character which yield readily to treatment.

The Poultry Yard.

TURKEY HOUSE AND NEST.

To save the trouble, says the Hand-Book of Poultry, of constantly watching turkeys while they are seeking their nests, there should be a yard inclosing an eighth of an acre for every fifteen birds, where nothing else is allowed to go. Eight feet long pickets, with a white birch or any other brushy bush woven in along the top, will make the most secure inclosure. As early as the first of April nests should be made in this yard.

The best arrangements for nests are small houses, about three feet by three, gable-shaped, (as shown by engraving,) and three feet high in the center. These should be scattered about the yard, and, if convenient, be partly hidden by an over-covering of brush or something made available. If two or three turkeys incline to one nest, set another house at right angles with that which contains the one they covet, and place several eggs in this new nest, and the probability is, that this will end the trouble; or let them all lay together till one begins to sit, and then shut her in, which will oblige the others to provide for themselves, elsewhere.

DUCK HOUSE.

A plan of a very cheap and pretty duck house is given in the American Poulterer's Companion, to be constructed after the style of the engraving herewith given. It should be placed on the bank of a pond or small island of an ornamental sheet of water. It may be constructed of rough boards thatched with straw, and partly covered with running vines and shrubbery, which would not only be ornamental but make a very pretty and cheap house for aquatic fowls. The interior arrangement of the house may vary according to the means and taste of the porprietor, only providing the ducks with nest boxes, in order that they may lay and incubate undisturbed, and affording proper protection for their young.

The Rural will will be glad to receive plans of improved poultry houses, etc.

The Vineyard.

A NEW WAY TO KILL PHYLLOXERA.

In one of our foreign exchanges we find the following on Phylloxera:—Among the thousand and one remedies proposed for the extirpation of the Phylloxera is one by MM. Balbiani and Borrot, and which has been brought under our notice by M. Sisley. The plan proposed is to remove the bark from the stocks of the vine during the winter when the winter eggs of the creature described by M. Balbiani, and which are deposited in and under the bark, may be destroyed by an insecticide, or by the application of boiling water. We are afraid that on the large scale these proposed remedies would be found impracticable.

The above, like many suggestions occasionally seen going the rounds of the press, show that the author had very slight knowledge of the insect he seeks to destroy or of its habits. The Phylloxera while in its root-inhabiting form attacks the minute fibers or rootlets, usually far away from the main stem above or below ground; it there becomes enclosed in a minute gall of cellular matter of a soft, spongy nature, not unlike the galls found upon the leaves of oaks and hickories in summer. This insect while inclosed in the gall is pretty safe from solutions which may be applied to the soil, and much more so from any application to the stems as proposed by Messrs. Balbiani and Boitot. It is quite likely that these gentlemen have found the eggs of some minute species of insect under the rough bark of grape vines and mistaken them for those of the Phylloxera.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

AMONG THE GERANIUMS.

Dec. 29.—It may be rather early to commence making preparations for propagating bedding-out plants for next summer, still I can hardly resist the temptation of making a few cuttings occasionally when I find them in proper condition. In looking over my geraniums to-day I find they have made sufficient new growth to yield a goodly number of cuttings, and these have been taken off and put into positions which will probably insure the production of roots thereon. I have procured but few new sorts, being pretty well satisfied with the best of the old, or those fully tested. Besides, one cannot always determine the merits of a variety upon short acquaintance, and a year or two of experience may make us reverse first opinions.

For instance, when I first obtained *La Nigre* and tried to make it bloom in the house, I was very much disappointed, because the flowers would not open, most of them drying up and dropping off in a half-developed state. The flowers were very double and of a dark, rich, purplish, maroon color, quite distinct from any other variety of its class, hence very desirable at that time; but the bad habit of not opening freely more than counterbalanced these merits. But in the following spring a number of plants were set out in the garden, where they bloomed profusely during the entire summer, and the flowers opened as freely as other double sorts, consequently I put this variety down as an excellent bedding-out sort, but poor for house culture. *Deuil de Strasbourg* is another double variety which may be classed as first-rate in every respect, blooming freely in the house as well as when bedded out. The flowers are very double and of a clear, light, claret color, and of good size and form. Add to the above *Marie Lemoine*, a splendid double pink variety, and *L'Annee Terrible*, with its orange-scarlet flowers, and one gets the cream of the two dozen or more sorts offered by our florists. A good pure white, double variety is much needed, but those heretofore offered as such are the poorest kind of trash and not one of them worth cultivating.

Among the single flowering varieties there is scarcely any end of the really good ones, and the novice in these matters need have little fear of being disappointed in making selections from any late list of choice sorts. The list of ornamental-leaved sorts is also quite large, but outside of the ordinary bronze and silver-leaved sorts represented by Beauty of Canderdale, Mrs. Pollock and Mountain of Snow, there are a few unique and very desirable varieties. Among the best and most distinct I would name the following:

Distinction.—This is a remarkable novelty; the leaves are of medium size, of a dark, rich, green color, and nearly circular in form, the edges coarsely serrate, a narrow and almost black band extending the entire circumference, near the margin.

Happy Thought.—This is apparently a seedling of some common green-leaved sort, but instead of showing a zone or edge of a different color, as usual when variegation appears among geraniums, there is a large, yellowish-white blotch at the base of the leaf, this color frequently extending down the entire length of the leaf stalk or petiole. This variety exhibits one of those wonderful freaks of nature which prompts us to ask—What next?

Reticulatum.—Leaves round, with smooth edges, bright green color, but, as the name implies, finely netted or veined with yellow, the lines being about one-fortieth of an inch in diameter.

There are also other sorts deserving a place in this list of "curiosities," but the above will give an idea of what our florists are doing in this line.

THE SMILAX AS A WINDOW PLANT.

Dec. 30.—The *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*, commonly known as Smilax, is one of the prettiest little climbing plants with which I am acquainted. There are no large and showy leaves or gaudy-colored flowers to attract attention, but everything about the plant, from its long, slender, grass-like stem to its small, delicate, fragrant, white flowers, are the very perfection of grace and neatness.

The roots, being small, require but little pot-room or soil, and the vines shoot up rapidly, clinging to any slight support given in the form of twine, wire or trellis. Plants are easily produced from seed, or they can be had very cheaply of almost any florist. I do not think the merits of this neat little climbing plant are as fully appreciated as they deserve by those who take delight in cultivating window plants, as it is especially adapted to this purpose. While a majority of plants of a similar habit become large, coarse and cumbersome when fully developed, the Smilax never reaches such a stage, but is always light and graceful, no matter how strong and vigorous the growth. It is extensively cultivated by our florists, the gentler sex being their principal customers, for Smilax enters largely into those "little nothings" which add so much to the grace and beauty of the final touches of a lady's toilet. Although the vine appears to be very delicate and fragile, it is quite the reverse, for the stems are almost as tough as iron wire, and the leaves remain fresh, without wilting, a long time after the twigs are separated from the parent plant, even in a warm and dry atmosphere, hence the special adaptability to the purpose named. New Year's Day being now at hand, I am reminded of the merits of Smilax by some hints from the women folk that my own plants would suffer demolition tomorrow.

WANTED—A JOURNAL OF FORESTRY.

I would like to see published in this country a journal exclusively devoted to Forestry. This is a field which as yet has scarcely been invaded by scientific or practical laborers, still the whole subject of forestry is one of vast importance to the country. It is not enough to know exactly how many species of oaks or maples we possess, or how to propagate them most expeditiously, but we need more specific information than has yet been given us in everything connected with this subject. We are told from time to time that forests have a wonderful effect upon climate, increasing or decreasing rain falls, but the arguments offered *pro* and *con* are founded mainly upon theories.

We stand in need of a more thorough knowledge of the geographical distribution of species, which could scarcely fail to reach practical results in pointing out the adaptation of certain kinds to certain climates and soils. We know as yet scarcely anything of the valuable properties of our native forest trees. It is true that our mechanics have had some experience in the use of the different kinds of timber in their various occupations, and so have the tanners, dyers and paper makers, but all the investigations made in these directions have been very superficial.

The geologist, chemist, botanist, ornithologist and entomologist all have, or should have, a special scientific interest in this subject, as well as the agriculturist and artisan. Our horticultural and agricultural journals devote more or less space to forest literature, but the treatment of the various branches of the subject must necessarily be restricted to very narrow limits under such circumstances, and hence the want of a periodical specially devoted to forestry in all its ramifications. Perhaps the time has not arrived for such a journal, but the need of it is none the less obvious.

Arboricultural.

PLANT MOVEMENTS.

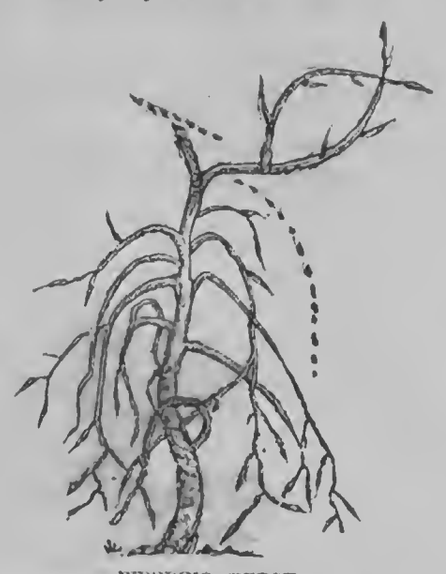
THREE years ago we purchased several Weeping Beeches. The leader of the one figured in the sketch died down to the point indicated by the short dotted line and was there cut off. It was not until the second summer that the tree made a thrifty growth. As, however, all the secondary branches were so pendulous as to droop in a direction almost parallel with the trunk, and as the trunk itself developed no buds, we at length grew curious as to how another leader was to be provided.

Late last spring (the third season) it was noticeable that the topmost branch was changing from its position, as indicated by the lower dotted line, toward a perpendicular. This elevation continued until the fall of the leaf, when it was found to have moved through an arc of at least 60 degrees, as represented in the cut.

It may seem to our readers that the relative size of the moving branch is exaggerted. It is, however, the largest of the branches, and as proportionate as we were capable of sketching it.

The Weeping Beech is a variety or sport of the English Beech, *Fagus silvatica*, and its pendulosity has been as decided as unvarying through we know not how many years. Counting its change from an upright to a pendulous tree as a variation that gravity might, in a degree render easier, if not explain, we have here an instance in which the heaviest branch, ignoring gravity, abandons its assumed habit to conduct the vertical growth of the tree, while every other bud and branch remain as pendulous as before. The buds upon the moving branch relatively to it have not altered their position—so that as they pointed downward while the branch was pendulous, they now point upward. It remains to be seen whether the lateral buds of this branch will reverse their direction of growth in harmony with the drooping habit of the tree, or whether with the terminal bud they will make an upright growth, reassuming the habit of the type.

There is not a plant, however, that does not in some form possess this power of movement or of adaptation. It rivets our attention only when we happen to observe it in some unusual and striking phase. Many vines grow erect until adjacent to a supporting object; then they twine about that object, conforming and clinging to its surface, of whatever shape, and again stretch up without a curve until another supporting object is reached. This is no less unaccountable; but we see it every day and mark it not. Branches



WEEPING BEECH.

have been artificially twisted so that the top of the leaves should look to the ground and the bottom to the sky. Such leaves very soon resume their normal positions; or, if prevented from doing so, soon wither and die. Some plants voluntarily close their leaves at night, as if to rest, opening them in the morning—as *Cassia nictitans* and other leguminous species. Others close them upon the slightest touch at any time, as the Sensitive Plant, *Mimosa pudica*, and many of the Sundews. Many well-known flowers open at a certain time daily, to close during the night, while others, too delicate to endure the sun's rays, bloom only at night. The spores of many Seaweeds, after leaving the parent cell, frisk about in the water for a long time, like so many microscopic animals.

The habit of the great Banyan Tree, *Ficus Indica*, is the same as that of any other until the branches stretch out so as to need additional support, when new branches or adventitious roots, as they are called, descend from the old branches, penetrate the ground and serve as props. The Screw Pine (*Pandanus*), Corn and many *Lycopods* present, in modified forms, like peculiarities.

The germination of seed, indeed, presents to us one of the most remarkable and beautiful illustrations of what, without a very violent leap, might be termed a plant's *instinct*. Minute as the particles of earth in which they grow, the tiny points of the seed never mistake the functions they were created to perform. Nourished by the nutriment in which they are enveloped, or by the cotyledons, in their first efforts of growth, the radical, parting from its sister plumule, creeps sturdily into the earth, where it finds its future humble occupation and its home. The plumule shoots up into the sunlight and air, where it finds a co-operative employment in returning, in the form of assimilable food, a part of the raw material which its humbler sister of the earth liberally supplies.

The trunk of a young tree may seem hard, clean and budless. Examined in its essential parts—the outer bark, liber and alburnum—we can detect by the aid of the microscope only those ordinary cells involved in the transit of the sap to and from its leafy top. Yet, if we cut this trunk in two a foot above the ground, that which remains, in its struggle for existence, at once changes its functions and structure. Many buds—those ubiquitous guardians of vegetable life—develop like mushrooms, and the leaves which quickly follow, as if they were good children gathering and preparing food for a hungry parent, continue with but a temporary check the vitality of the tree. If now we cover the old trunk and a part of the young shoots with earth, the buds which ere now were engaged in a struggle to protect their parent seize the opportunity of propagating themselves and multiplying the species, and each commences the formation of roots—an economy of which the nurseryman stands ready to avail himself in the collection of Paradise stocks for his dwarf apples and of Quince stocks for his dwarf pears.

The provident industry of the "Busy Bee" that "improves each shining hour" in gathering its winter store is no less exemplified in the "busy plant" that prepares during one summer the food by which it is enabled to develop leaves the next—or the flowers which, while they enliven the face of the earth with a beauty that "passeth all understanding," provide with a rare unselfishness for myriads of individuals that will bloom after they have passed away and added their fertilizing ashes to the soil which nourishes the new generation.

A vast array of instances in which plants are endowed with motion which they have the power to exert seemingly toward a definite object might easily be collected. Together we cannot view them as compatible with the conviction that the life of plants is purely mechanical, but that, though differing in degree, and, perhaps, in essence, they are possessed of vital propensities or tendencies as high in the scale of intelligence as is implied by that non-committal term, *instinct*, by which we disguise our ignorance of the mental operations of the lower animals.

E. S. CARMAN.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

The Continental Life.—The Insurance Chronicle says: "The Continental Life Insurance Company of New York has employed agents at the South to buy up its outstanding policies. The policy holders who can be induced to sell are getting less than fifty per cent. of the reserve." This will not surprise those of our readers who remember the comments we had occasion to make, some months since, upon the practices of this same Continental Life Ins. Co., which made the attempt, doubtless successfully in many cases, to induce the holders of paid-up policies to exchange them for forfeitable term insurances. Those who have the effrontery to attempt this in New York City, where actuarial advice and opinions are readily obtained, can calculate with more certainty upon the stupidity of the people of less favored regions, and will no doubt obtain, upon their own terms, the release of a vast number of their policies. We shall not be startled by the announcement that their emissaries, emboldened by their successes at the South, have essayed the same kind of parasitic enterprise at the North, also. Should they succeed in inducing the people here to sell their policies for a song, through fears of the company's stability, diligently cultivated by the parties who profit by this species of industry, it will demonstrate that we have little grounds for claiming superior intelligence. The Continental is a solvent company, able to complete all its contracts, none of which should be surrendered by a policy holder unless the insured is in the best of health, and the full reserve in cash is paid. Those who do not know the value of their policies, but desire to sell them, can have them valued by applying to us.

A Tripartite Amalgamation.—In December, 1872, the National Capital Life Ins. Co. of Washington, D. C., abandoned business, and was, ostensibly at least, re-insured with the Penn. Mutual Life Ins. Co. of Philadelphia. About a year later the National Life Insurance Company of New York was closed up at the suit of a stock holder, put into the hands of a receiver, and subsequently re-insured by the American National of New Haven, Conn., a company that will be long remembered for its success in bottling up the Insurance Commissioner of that State, and gaining

> . . . . . "a victory that cost
> as much as if the day was lost."

Well, it is now announced that all these three companies are to be combined under the charter of the first named company, which, being granted by an act of Congress, is held to confer peculiar privileges not granted by those which derive all their authority from mere State legislation. Just how this is, or will be decided, or what the *deus ex machina* of this enterprise proposes to do in the premises, we cannot undertake, at this early date, to predict, except that if he thinks he has rights he will force a decision one way or another.

The Governor of California, who is Insurance Commissioner as well, makes a sort of annual report, which, whatever it lacks in other things, lacks nothing in the score of brevity. He merely chronicles the fact that the severe legislation of that State, in respect to life insurance companies, had the effect to compel seventeen out of twenty eight companies to leave that State, and that of the eleven that remains only four propose to do any new business. One of the laws enacted, "to protect the insured by compelling the financial soundness of the companies," requires of them to return to the holders of a lapsed policy three-fourths of the reserve; a defective remedy, but still better than no remedy at all for the evils of forfeiture.

One Place to Put It.—The papers tell of a man—of course out West—who purchased a can of kerosene and put it into the oven for safe keeping. He remembered all about it while the fire was roaring, the tea-kettle singing merrily, and the slapjacks burning nicely, and in time to get the family—himself included—safely behind the barn. He thinks he can use the stones for a new wall for the cellar, and one of his neighbors has brought him one of the best flat-irons. Perhaps it is just as well that it did not happen from blowing down the lamp chimney.

The Travelers Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn., which issues two kinds of policies, life and accident, is one of the most successful institutions in America. In the past six months it has increased its surplus about $300,000.

Domestic Economy.

USE OF SALT IN PACKING MEATS.

The Massachusetts Ploughman publishes the following interesting and valuable facts about the uses of salt and the kinds of salt to use in packing meats. The meat-packer does not aim at a mere preservation of his beef and pork—his main object will always be to secure the keeping of his meat in the most palatable condition, and as much as possible of its natural color. Chloride of sodium, or what means here about the same, a good commercial salt, answers both ends satisfactorily, if properly applied. It does not necessarily change the color of the meat, nor does it affect its tenderness beyond reasonable limits. It is also a good antiseptic, for it prevents, if present in a sufficient quantity, the development of organisms of a lower order which in their growth, as a natural consequence, will hasten the disintegration of the meat mass, and thus its final putrefaction.

Practice recommends the use of the coarse and hard qualities of salt for meat packing, for the following reasons:—They dissolve gradually, and contract the meat by degrees to a desirable compactness; they keep the salt pickle within a certain moderate concentration; they cannot enter mechanically into the meat, and thus overcharge it, and may therefore be applied in a sufficient excess so as to compensate for the losses of pickle by leakage, etc., without endangering the tenderness and the flavor too prematurely.

The common fine salt answers for a short period of keeping very well, and is consequently used in the packing of meat for immediate family consumption. Fifty to fifty-six pounds of coarse salt are usually taken for the salting down of one barrel of meat; the bottom and top of the barrel are always carefully covered with a layer of coarse salt. The coarse qualities of salt which are used in our country are either manufactured from brines or from sea water. The purer the salt the nicer is the flavor of the meat. A salt which contains large quantities of foreign saline admixtures, particularly of chloride of calcium and of chloride of magnesium, imparts a pungent and disagreeable taste, and injures also the color of the meat.

NEW MODE OF WASHING.

The ill effects of soda on linen have given rise to a new method of washing, which has been extensively adopted in Germany, and introduced into Belgium. The operation consists in dissolving two pounds of soap in about three gallons of water as hot as the hand can bear, and adding to this one tablespoonful of turpentine and three of liquid ammonia; the mixture must then be well stirred, and the linen steeped in it for two or three hours, taking care to cover up the vessel containing them as nearly hermetically as possible. The clothes are afterward washed out and rinsed in the usual way. The soap and water may be reheated and used a second time, but in that case half a tablespoonful of turpentine and a tablespoonful of ammonia must be added. The process is said to cause a great economy of time, labor and fuel. The linen scarcely suffers at all, as there is little necessity for rubbing, and its cleanliness and color are perfect. The ammonia and turpentine, although their detersive action is great, have no injurious effect upon the linen; and while the former evaporates immediately, the smell of the latter is said to disappear entirely during the drying of the clothes.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Indian Rusk.—Two light cups of Indian meal, one cup of white flour, one teaspoonful of saleratus, enough sour or buttermilk to dissolve one cup sweet; stir in ¾ of a cup of molasses.

Poor Man's Cake.—One cup of sugar, one cup of milk, one tablespoonful of butter, one teaspoonful of dry cream of tartar, one-half a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in the milk, one egg, a little cinnamon, and flour to make it as stiff as pound cake.

Ginger Cake.—One and one-half pounds of flour, three-fourths of butter, one pint of molasses, five tablespoonfuls of ginger; rub the butter and sugar together; then roll them out very thin and cut them into rounds, place them on tin sheets and bake them well, and they will keep good a year.

Chocolate Cakes.—One pound of sugar, one pound of flour, one pound of butter, eight eggs, two tablespoonfuls of brandy, a pinch of salt, chocolate glazing. Mix the above ingredients well together with a wooden spoon, putting the butter (melted before the fire) in last. Spread a baking sheet with butter, put over it the mixture half an inch thick and bake it. Cut the cake into oblong pieces, and glaze them thickly with chocolate.

THE BLANCHARD CHURN.

The Dairy is one of the Rural New-Yorker's specialities. Probably no other journal in the country has done more than it to disseminate accurate knowledge on Butter and Cheese making.

The Blanchard Churn.

Not all our readers are personally interested in the methods of making Factory Cheese, but no farmer who keeps even a single cow is without a churn, and no farmer will fail to get one of improved pattern. After examining various kinds we have decided to offer the Blanchard Churn in the Rural New-Yorker Premium List, as in some districts it may be the article which our Agent-Friends would most desire, and believing that we can do the Dairy interest no greater favor than by bringing it within the reach of every one who wishes it. The Blanchard Churn is a favorite among Dairymen, has taken numerous first premiums at Fairs, and those who secure one as a Premium will never regret their choice. One of these churns, costing $8, will be sent to any one sending 5 subscribers at $2.65, or 12 subscribers at $2.15—our lowest club rates.

Scientific and Useful.

MOISTURE FOR PLANTS AT REST.

It has generally been supposed that plants do not need any moisture during their periods of rest, as, for example, trees in winter, and bulbs after their short season of activity. An English writer, Mr. J. Gnoom, contracts this idea in the London Garden, and we copy a portion of his very suggestive article.

There appears to be an idea that plants of a deciduous or bulbous character do not require moisture after they have shed their foliage, but that is, I think, a mistake, for that serious injury often results from keeping such plants, when at rest, dry, there can be little doubt. The effects of drouth are not, however, so immediately observable, as, when the foliage proclaims, by drooping, the lack of moisture at the root. In considering the effects of what is termed "drying off" on various subjects, I would divide them into two classes, viz., those with bulbous or fleshy roots, and those with fibrous ones. The latter are the first to suffer, owing to the fact that they have no store-house, so to speak, on which to fall back to maintain their vitality until a supply of moisture enables the roots to come to their aid. The effect of drouth on Peaches, Vines, and such fruits as are cultivated under glass, either in inside borders or in pots, is that the buds usually either drop off or refuse to swell, a circumstance almost unknown in the case of the same subjects when fully exposed to the annual rainfall.

I think that in the case of many deciduous trees and shrubs the roots are active for some time after the fall of the leaf—if indeed, they are ever wholly at rest; therefore, I would advise all who value the health of their trees to see that they do not suffer from lack of moisture. In temperate regions, the season of rest for this class of tree is invariably accompanied by abundant moisture, both at the root and in the atmosphere; therefore, I conclude that much more injury is likely to result from lack than from excess of moisture. Many bright hopes of success in fruit culture are blighted at this season, although the cause is not always apparent. With bulbous and fleshy-rooted plants, their peculiar formation enables them to resist the effects of drought for a lengthened period without entirely losing their vitality; but, nevertheless, the energy of the plant is, I think there can be no doubt, greatly lessened. If we compare the growth of our ordinary spring-flowering bulbs, that are, after blooming, lifted and stored on dry shelves with those left undisturbed in the soil, we shall not require further proof as to which system is best. The many beautiful Lilies now in cultivation are very impatient of the "drying off" process; while the beautiful Belladonna Lily can only be had in perfection if left undisturbed for years. If, then, any class of plants is benefited by being kept thoroughly dry when at rest, it must be such bulbous-rooted plants from the hottest regions as are usually grown in stove temperatures, such as Caladiums, Gesneras, &c.; yet it is conclusively proved that more are lost by "dry rot" than by excessive moisture. Cyclamens used at one time to be dried off periodically; but, thanks to a better knowledge of their culture, they are not now subjected to such a trying and weakening ordeal. The consequence is that finer plants are now raised the second year from seed than we used to have after several years' growth.

We can add, from personal observation, that injury to garden trees from excessive cold is more frequent during our American winters, when the ground is excessively dry, than when it is moist. This may indicate that the roots of trees absorb some moisture, though only slowly during winter, and thus supply the loss by evaporation from the trunk and branches; or it may be only a result of the ice in the soil, forming a covering and protection to tree roots from the severity of cold. Ice never becomes colder than 32 deg. F., while cold atmosphere may sink far below zero. A thickness of ice on the surface of the ground may protect the roots from injury just as Esquimaux and other far northern races are kept warm in winter in huts of snow. Beneath the frozen surface there is probably also some action, though very slight, of the roots, even in winter. There must be some evaporation from the bodies, branches and twigs of trees, even in winter, and, unless this loss of moisture is somewhat supplied, trees would dry and wither. With evergreens, evaporation of moisture during winter must be very considerable, and require a large amount of moisture to prevent injury.

The experience of the last two or three cold and dry winters has given us some valuable hints on this subject. Hardy evergreens have generally suffered more than deciduous trees, possibly because evergreens evaporated more moisture. Injury was also greatest on elevated pieces of ground. This has been explained because such places were more exposed to severe winds. Is it not rather because these "high" localities have also been exceedingly dry. In no case have we seen trees, usually considered hardy, killed or seriously injured when there was not good reason for believing that the ground was frozen down to the extremities of the roots, giving no chance for absorbing moisture. Dry soils freeze much more deeply than wet, for reasons previously given. The cold of 1873–4 & 5 was not more intense than in many other years, but it was long continued, and, in many portions of the country, accompanied by severe drouth. It is, very possibly, this winter drouth which did much of the mischief that has been credited to the cold weather. A few bucketfulls of water thrown around hardy trees, early enough in the fall to allow it to penetrate to the subsoil, might have saved some specimens which succumbed. This winter there is nowhere any lack of moisture, and hence, whatever severity of weather we may experience, we do not look for any damage to trees accounted hardy.

UTILIZATION OF COBWEBS.

Cobwebs have been applied to various uses. The delicate cross-hairs in the telescopes of surveying instruments are fine webs taken from spiders, a species that are specially selected for their production of an excellent quality of this material. The spider, when caught, is made to spin his thread by tossing him from hand to hand, in case he is indisposed to furnish the article. The end is attached to a piece of wire, which is doubled into two parallel lengths, the distance apart exceeding a little the diameter of the instrument. As the spider hangs and descends from this, the web is wound upon it by turning the wire around. The coils are then gummed to the wire and kept for use as required. About a century ago, Bon of Languedoc succeeded in making a pair of gloves and a pair of stockings from the thread of the spider. They were very strong and a beautiful gray color. Other attempts of the same kind have been made; but Reaumur, who was appointed by the Royal Academy to report on the subject, stated that the web of the spider was not equal to that of the silkworm, either in strength or luster. The cocoons of the latter weigh from three to four grains, so that 2,304 worms produce a pound of silk; but the bags of the spider, when cleaned, do not weigh above the third part of a grain, so that a single silkworm can accomplish the work of twelve spiders.—*American Cyclopædia.*

When you think of buying a harness examine the leather of the hame strap and the near tuck of the throat latch, and likewise of the crupper. If these ends are of a shazy stuff, calculated to squash and plague you while trying to make them enter their loops, don't buy. The man who cut the harness did not have the interest of the purchaser in his mind. At three separate and distinct scowls for each buckling the harness would be dear as a gift. And most likely faults and oversights run through the entire rig.

Hygienic Information.

LIFE LENGTHENED.

Dr. Hall, in his excellent Journal of Health, gives the following sensible and suggestive rules under the above heading:

1. Cultivate an equable temper; many have fallen dead in a fit of passion.

2. Eat regularly, not over thrice a day, and nothing between meals.

3. Go to bed at regular hours. Get up as soon as you wake of yourself, and do not sleep in the day-time—at least, not longer than ten minutes before noon.

4. Work always by the day, and not by the job.

5. Stop working before you are very much tired—before you are "fagged out."

6. Cultivate a generous and accommodating temper.

7. Never cross a bridge before you come to it; this will save you half the troubles of life.

8. Never eat when you are not hungry, nor drink when you are not thirsty.

9. Let your appetite always come uninvited.

10. Cool off in a place greatly warmer than the one in which you have been exercising. This simple rule would prevent incalculable sickness and save millions of lives every year.

11. Never resist a call of nature for a single moment.

12. Never allow yourself to be chilled through and through; it is this which destroys so many every year, in a few days' sickness, from pneumonia—called by some lung fever—or inflammation of the lungs.

13. Whoever drinks no liquids at meals will add years of pleasurable existence to his life. Of cold or warm drinks the former are the most pernicious. Drinking at meals induces persons to eat more than they otherwise would, as any one can verify by experiment; and it is excess in eating which devastates the land with sickness, suffering and death.

14. After fifty years of age, if not a day laborer, and sedentary persons at forty, should eat but twice a day—in the morning and about four in the afternoon; for every organ without adequate rest will "give out" prematurely.

15. Begin early to live under the benign influence of the Christian religion, for it "has the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

AN EXCELLENT IRRITATING PLASTER.

I have tried this plaster and know it to be good, besides it is very highly recommended to me by a friend in whom I have great confidence. She considers it really a necessity in her family. Take of Mandrake Root, Blood Root, Indian Turnip and Pike Root, finely pulverized, of each a half pound. Sift it through a fine sieve, cover with alcohol and let it stand until nearly dry. Melt four pounds of strained Burgundy Pitch, add a half pound of pure Venice Turpentine, then stir in the powdered roots. Incorporate the whole together; simmer until formed into a soft plaster. Care is necessary in the preparation of this plaster, so that the powders are not burnt in the hot tar and turpentine. It should be prepared on coals in an earthern vessel.

This plaster is designed to be applied over the parts in cases of deep-seated chronic affections, such as diseases of the liver, lungs, heart, stomach, kidneys, spine and sciatic nerve. Spread on a piece of leather and apply very warm. It produces a severe itching, and in the course of a day or two brings out small pustules, which discharge matter. When very sore, should be dressed with slippery elm poultice. When healed, apply the plaster again, if necessary. The head may be relieved by wearing this plaster on the spine or neck. It is also beneficial in throat difficulties. This quantity would supply eight or ten families. Julia M. W.

THE GRAPE CURE.

The London Garden speaks of the Grape Cure as follows:

"There are on the Continent numerous establishments devoted to the application of this remedy—two in France, three or more in Switzerland, and many in Germany, Austria and Hungary. The cure is very simple. It consists in eating an immense quantity of grapes. The patient takes but little ordinary food, and is required to eat three or four pounds of the fruit a day at first, the quantity being gradually increased to eight, ten or even twelve pounds of grapes. This is, if possible, to be eaten in the open air, in the vineyard whence the supply is derived—an arrangement which, no doubt, greatly conduces to the efficiency of the cure."

The cure is very simple, certainly, and, we should judge, very captivating; it is not remarkable, therefore, that it should be very popular.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1876.

IMPROVED HIGHWAYS DEMANDED.

THE following Petition to our State Legislature will, we earnestly hope, secure a long-needed reform. It is a matter in which most of our readers in this State are directly interested, and they should, by petition and otherwise, aid in influencing our legislators to take early and proper action upon a subject of such vital importance to themselves and the community generally. We understand the subject will be introduced at the annual meeting of the State Grange (held this week at Auburn), and presume the members thereof, who represent a large number of our best farmers and rural districts, will give it merited attention and encouragement:

OUR HIGHWAYS.

To the Legislature of the State of New York.

IT has become the settled conviction of all reflecting minds, that the present laws regulating highway labor are wholly inadequate to the wants of the traveling public; and that, under their administration, a vast amount of labor and expense are annually incurred, without any corresponding benefit to the public. It may safely be said, that there is no subject of paramount public importance so needful of reform. It is evident that the present system of highway labor is radically defective, for the reason that, from time immemorial, its administration has not, and we believe cannot, produce a good road. It is abundantly demonstrated by the experience of the past, that the annual expenditure of highway labor simply by plowing and throwing common soil upon the beaten track, obstructs rather than facilitates travel.

The rapid multiplication of occupants of land—the great increase of business generally, and the increased demand of an increasing population for favorable locomotion upon the highways—demand, at your hands, a careful examination of the subject; if wrong—a speedy repeal of the existing laws, and a proper remedy. We, who reside in this section of the State, are of opinion that it is high time for legislative action, for the following reasons, which we regard as unanswerable:

First—The piling of common soil upon the beaten track of a road is an obstruction to travel, and should be so regarded.

Second—It is a well-known fact, as each inhabitant of a road district is assessed a certain number of days, proportioned to the value of his land, and is under the direction of an overseer who appropriates the work where and as he pleases, the only incentive presented is to dispose of the work as readily as possible, without reference to *utility* or *permanance*.

Third—It is made by law everybody's, and that is *nobody's business*. It is a well-known fact, that a great proportion of the work assessed as highway labor remains annually unperformed.

For these and other reasons, to be given hereafter, we call upon the farmers and business men throughout the State, and especially upon every Grange, to let their voices be heard by the present Legislature. Gov. TILDEN'S Administration is one of reform. This great abuse of bad roads has slept for an age, unheeded and unnoticed, except by the loud curses and execrations of the wayfarer. Roads adopted at an early day, when the State was comparatively a wilderness, and when a better system was impracticable, will not answer now. It is high time to insist on *Centennial Roads*, adapted to the business and the growing wants of an increased and increasing population. We ask no subsidies from the State, and we have no money to buy the votes of legislators. We demand what may be reasonable and just.

LIVINGSTON AND STEUBEN.

Dansville, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1876.

RURAL NOTES FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

UNIVERSITY OF N. C., Chapel Hill, Jan. 1, '76.

DEAR MR. MOORE:—Several years have passed since I last wrote an article for the RURAL. Among the many changes of these years may be noted the failure of a large number of journals representing different departments of interest and enterprise. I congratulate you heartily that the RURAL has not only survived, but hangs out its banner for '76 with the confidence of a conquering hero. "Long may it wave!"

Changes, both pleasant and unpleasant, have come upon the industrial interests of the Old North State. Among the latter the most prominent, perhaps, have visited the Eastern section of the State, particularly the cotton-growing districts. The planters generally restricted their attention to the one staple, almost entirely neglecting other crops. Many mortgaged crops and lands to obtain supplies and suffered disastrously in the close of the year from the low prices and the necessity of early sales. In numerous instances money was borrowed at ruinous rates of interest. The tobacco planters are generally wiser. They raise breadstuffs and some stock. But even they have neglected progress in other things too much in their devotion to their staple product. There is some improvement in stock in the State. A great deal more of grass and clover seed are sown. As a consequence there are better milk and butter in many places, and a limited supply of fine beef, now and then in the markets.

The corn crop of the past year was unusually large. In consequence there are many encouragaing reports from the recent slaughtering of hogs. Heavy weights are published in different parts of the State. This is also attributable in part to the introduction of better breeds. Successful wheat growing is exceptional. The average yield is very low. The central part of the State does not appear to be so well adapted to Bisecreal as it was formerly. Of oats it is difficult to judge, as the rule is to sow them, without much care, on the thinner fields. Truck farming and dairy farming have both increased encouragingly with the growth of the towns and the forced development of new enterprises. Fruit growing is receiving more attention. Far more attention is given to grapes, to which this climate is so well adapted. Bee keeping is becoming more popular. Our mountain honey is exceedingly fine. The Italian bees and patent hives are working admirably in some places.

As to labor, I would report few material changes, it being worse in some sections and better in others. At present the people here are struggling under the general depression. There is great scarcity of money. This is charged both to the prevailing scarcity in the country and to the State Usury Law, which has caused the banks, to a considerable extent, to quit discounting in the State. Building and Loan Associations have abounded and doubtless led to a great deal of building.

Among the most pleasant changes I may justly class the resuscitation of the suspended University of the State at this place. Connected with it is the Agricultural and Mechanical College, contemplated by the Congressional grant of public lands. These and the academic course are all embraced in the institution. Thus far the Agricultural Department has not been developed to any great extent for the want of sufficient funds. Under former management, or mismanagement, the whole land scrip was invested and lost, and the poor old State was required either to refund to the Government or replace the amount (so it is stated). She decided to pay the interest annually. It is hoped that this great interest will contribute largely to the diffusion of much-needed intelligence in these vital departments of the public welfare.

Many other things might be mentioned, but the RURAL wisely prefers short articles. Perchance I will give you some more minute articles at other times. Truly yours, N. C.

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION FROM THE WEST.

THIS subject, which has heretofore been duly discussed in the RURAL NEW-YORKER, derives additional interest from the action of the Transportation Convention recently held in Chicago. Not only the West, but the whole country is interested in this subject, and the views of the large body of intelligent representatives from all sections are worthy of general attention. The following resolutions, offered by Ex-Gov. BROSS of Illinois, and supported by him, as also by the Hon. JOHN YOUNG of Montreal, show what is being done in the way of opening the Northern water route of transportation to the East:

Resolved, That in view of the enlargement of the Welland Canal, now in progress, and of the present and prospective diversion of the carrying trade of the Northwest to the St. Lawrence route, the construction of a slip-canal from the St. Lawrence to Lake Champlain, for which a favorable charter has been granted by the Dominion Government, and of the enlargement of the Champlain Canal, by which vessels of 1,000 tons can reach Lake Champlain and New York, or Montreal or Quebec, in from six to eight days less time than by existing routes, and at much less expense and depreciation of value in transport, is of vital importance to New York and New England, and to the entire country.

Resolved, That this Convention concur in the opinion expressed in the report of the United States Senate Committee on Transportation to the Thirty-ninth Congress, that the enlargement of the New York canals, the construction of the Caughnawaga Canal (from the St. Lawrence to Lake Champlain), and the free use of the Canadian canals, will greatly cheapen transportation from the West to the East, and that we are in favor of the appointment of a joint commission on the part of the United States Government and that of the Dominion of Canada, to arrange and recommend terms for the mutual free use of the canals and the inland waters of the two countries by the citizens thereof.

This water route is subject to some disadvantages, chief among which is the fact that it is closed half the year. Ultimately the greater portion of Western produce will be sent eastward on lines of railroad built exclusively for freight, with continuous trains, running at a moderate and uniform speed east and west on separate tracks. This plan, proposed in the RURAL NEW-YORKER six years ago, offers the simple and only effectual remedy for the Western producer. Its partial realization has already given great relief, and as business increases with the growing wealth and productions of the Western States, its advantages will be more appreciated than possible during the check to business which the country has felt during the past few years.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

A Good "Wager" Won—"Mintwood" Married.—Thousands of our readers will be interested in the announcement that the RURAL'S long-time versatile and talented contributor, Miss MARY A. E. WAGER (perhaps better known to the public as "Mintwood," as that was her most frequent signature,) was married at 23 Washington Place, this city, one very bright day last week (say Tuesday, Jan. 4,) by Friends' Ceremony, to WILLIAM RICHTER FISHER, Professor of Modern Languages in Dickinson College. The occasion was a very pleasant one to all participants, and the happy couple were wished *bon voyage* on leaving, soon after the ceremony, for Philadelphia. We are confident that hosts of Ruralists will unite with us in wishing Miss WAGER a happy and prosperous future with the able gentleman to whom she has been most worthily united. And many who admired and were benefited by her "Modes and Manners" and other contributions will be pleased to learn that Miss WAGER—beg pardon, Mrs. FISHER—has kindly consented to continue her contributions to the RURAL, for awhile at least, and we hope the time will be indefinite.

For the information of her correspondents among RURAL readers, we may add that Mrs. FISHER'S address will be Box 63, Carlisle, Pa., until June, and her permanent address thereafter, *Bryn Mawr*, near Philadelphia, Pa.

A Railroad to the Black Hills Gold Region.—Two Nebraska Counties have voted liberal sums in aid of this object. It should seem that enough hardship had been suffered from County aid to railroads; but if the people of Nebraska want the experience of Iowa, Wisconsin and other Western States over again, we suppose it is nobody's business but their own. A railroad to the Black Hills strikes us as a peculiarly speculative and unwise investment—more so, by far, than a road designed mainly for the transportation of Nebraska products to market. Better let the Black Hills go without a railroad until we know what is there beside blood-thirsty Indians.

The Western N. Y. Horticultural Society—Held its 21st Annual Meeting in Rochester, last week, with very successful results. The attendance is reported larger than ever before, while the discussions and reports and papers on practical and scientific subjects, are regarded as the ablest and most profitable yet said and read at any session of the Society. We are glad to note this, as the Society is doing much to promote the interests of the farmers and fruit growers of Western New York, and indeed of the whole country. As one of the RURAL'S Staff was present, a synopsis at least of the proceedings will be given in its pages.

Successful Co-operation.—A factory in Springfield, Vt., is owned by the persons who work in it. They started one year ago with five members and now have forty-five. All live in one large house, but families are separate. Men are required to save one-fourth of their wages and women one-sixth, which savings are invested in capital stock that can be sold at par at any time to the Society by giving six months' notice. A board of directors fixes the wages of each member, but any one can withdraw at any time, and receive pay for all he or she has invested.

Improved Stock Sacrificed.—WM. MATTOON of Springfield, Mass., was an extensive breeder of Devon cattle, but he got into financial trouble and the cattle were sold by the sheriff at astonishingly low prices. Thousands of dollars were sacrificed and the loss is discouraging to breeders of this stock. The famous bull, "Duke of Hampden," for which Mr. M. has refused $1,000, brought only $55, or about what ordinary stock would have fetched. By the way, isn't this about as good a time as any to get superior stock of some unfashionable breeds! Fashions will change some day, and then farmers who have other stock than Short-Horns may find their account in it.

The N. J. State Horticultural Society is to hold its first Annual Meeting at New Brunswick, (in Geological Hall, Rutgers College,) Jan. 20-21. All persons interested in any branch of Horticulture are invited to attend and participate in the proceedings. Samples of fruits in season are solicited. Mr. President THURBER will deliver his address at 2 P. M. of the first day, and be followed by papers and discussions on various subjects. Among the speakers announced are A. S. FULLER, P. HENDERSON, WM. PARRY, C. W. IDELL and other prominent horticulturists.

The Wet Weather in England continues. The rainfall, during the past three months, has been the heaviest on record. The result has been serious flooding in all low-lying districts. Where the drainage was good, as in most large towns, the public health has not been affected, but in poor districts, where the water has remained in the basements of houses for days and weeks, much sickness has been experienced, and the Registrar General's returns, at the close of this quarter, are looked forward to with the greatest anxiety.

Western N. Y. Farmers' Club.—This flourishing and useful Club met Jan. 5th, but held only a business session for the election of officers. HENRY QUINBY was elected President for the ensuing six months, and P. C. REYNOLDS of Rochester, Secretary and Treasurer for the year. The Club accepted an invitation to attend the meeting of the Western N. Y. Horticultural Society.

RURAL BREVITIES.

KANSAS papers urge silk growing in that State.

BUCKS Co., Penn., has a cow weighing 1,450 lbs.

FOUR persons, in one family in Mich., recently died from eating trichina in pork.

SHORT-HORN breeders in Iowa hold a Convention at West Liberty, Jan. 15th.

A GREENE Co., Ill., farmer has a hog which weighs one thousand pounds.

A CHINESE planter, near Signapore, India, has ordered plows and seed corn from America.

TWELVE thousand hogs died of cholera in Morgan Co., Ill., last year, and the disease is still prevalent.

THE Wisconsin State Horticultural Society will hold its annual meeting at Madison, on the 1st, 2d, and 3d of Febuary next.

A. B. WINANS of Convis, near Battle Brook, Mich., has husked from eleven acres of corn 1,185 bushels, all but 100 bushels of which was sound.

THE New England Homestead comes to us in a new dress and improved typographical appearance. Glad to note this evidence of its prosperity.

THE sugar crop of La. for the past year is estimated at 190,000 hogsheads. This is the largest crop in thirteen years, and about half the average yield before the war.

A NEVADA sheep man, who had tried and succeeded with sheep, said: "Sheep are better than a government bond; you can tear off a coupon every six months half as big as the bond, and the bond is left as big as it was."

THE New York Horticultural Society, which was organized recently, held its first meeting at the Cooper Institute on Wednesday week. The display of flowers that were new, or of other special interest, was large, which is regarded as a good augury.

WITH a little effort each reader of the RURAL can secure one new subscriber. Many can and are doing much better, but this paragraph is a reminder for those who have thus far done nothing. Show the paper to your neighbor and send his subscription.

THE annual Vegetable and Flower Seed Catalogue of GREGORY, the popular seedsman of Marblehead, Mass., is advertised elsewhere. We can indorse Mr. GREGORY as both honest and reliable. The fact that he grows so large a number of the varieties of seed he sells will be appreciated by all who want to have their seed both fresh and true.

THE HIGGANUM MF'G Co. of Higganum, Conn., have enrolled themselves among those manufacturers who publish an illustrated descriptive catalogue of their wares, gotten up in excellent style. Almost every implement which can be of use to a farmer is fully described and illustrated, as are many things which he could hardly find use for. Send for one of these and see if it will not save many dollars in the course of the year.

OLIVER DITSON & Co. have just purchased, for nearly $100,000, cash, the entire stock, music, plates and good will of LEE & WALKER, the old established music publishers of Philadelphia. For forty years the music firm of Oliver Ditson & Co. has been in existence. It has now four branches in the leading cities, namely: Oliver Ditson & Co., Boston; C. H. Ditson & Co., New York; Lyon & Healy, Chicago; and the new firm of J. E. Ditson & Co., Philadelphia.

WITH the New Year comes the announcement that E. N. FRESHMAN, our genial Cincinnati friend, has taken unto himself a partner, and will now be known, commercially, as E. N. FRESHMAN & BROS. If the energy and business that have heretofore distinguished their Advertising Agency, is to be increased in proportion to the number of the firm, we really can see no limit to the extent of their transactions. Let advertisers, then, beware, as Mr. S. D. FRESHMAN, the new partner, has a "tongue that can wheedle with the deil."

BUSINESS NOTICES.

BRIDE & CO,

769 Broadway, N. Y., want agents for the best money-making article in the world. Send for particulars.

For an Irritated Throat, Cough or Cold, "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" are offered with the fullest confidence in their efficacy. They maintain the good reputation they have justly acquired.

SUN AND RAIN.

A young wife stood at the lattice-pane,
In a study sad and brown,
Watching the dreary, ceaseless rain,
Steadily pouring down—
Drip, drip, drip,
It kept on its tireless play;
And the poor little woman sighed, "Ah, me!
What a wretched, weary day!"

An eager hand at the door,
A step as of one in haste,
A kiss upon her lips once more,
An arm around her waist—
Throb, throb, throb,
Went the little heart, grateful and gay,
As she thought with a smile, "Well, after all,
It isn't so dull a day."

Forgot was the plashing rain,
And the lowering skies above,
For the somber room was lighted again
By the blessed sun of love—
Love, love, love,
Ran the little wife's murmured lay;
"Without, it may threaten and frown, if it will;
Within, what a glorious day!"

The Story-Teller.

OUR EASY CHAIR.

A CHAPTER ON KINGS AND QUEENS.

BY OLD KING COLE.

OUR HOME ON THE HILLSIDE,
Wellsville, Allegany Co., N. Y., Jan. 1, 1876.

THE sun is just rising in the east and the clouds, red with the morning light, coupled with the balmy south wind, blowing in gentle breezes, speaks of summer, and yet the almanac tells us it is midwinter. We have been reading the almanac—a book in which we learned our first letters and wherein, a half century ago, looked with wondering eyes on that ghostly picture of

TIME IN THE PRIMER,

and on that too, of the other specter-looking object like unto a man, and they called his name

ZODIAC.

We think that was it—with spears, and darts, and sharp sticks pointing at him and, in scanning the pictures, wondered whether Old Time had a demijohn or cornucopia or an unicorn in his hand: but now we know it was

AN HOUR GLASS,

from which the sands, since running, have dropped noiselessly away and now, behold, another glass, the mirror, in which we so looked as a child and wondered if we would ever grow big, tells the story. The sands are still dropping out from Times's hour glass and the King grows old.

A half century ago, and we were sitting on the knee of an old soldier. His locks were white as wool, and on his cheek was a scar made by the saber of a red coat, and many were the stories the old man told us about the Revolution, for he was a Revolutionary soldier and drew a pension, so they said; but we did not know what was a pensioner nor much of the Revolutionary war then still fresh in the memory of thousands surviving; for we were but a child and, as we listened to the stories of the old soldier, our eyes opened wide with wonder as he talked about battles and swords, muskets and cannon, and showed us his old coat, that he wore in the army and told us about the horse he rode and said he was a trooper; and that was a something we could better understand, for we had seen worlds of troopers on general muster day. And when he grew weary of telling stories, the old soldier would sing us a song, the first we ever heard sung, and thus did the ditty run:

"Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
A merry old soul was he;
And he called for his pipe and called for his bowl,
And called for his fiddlers three."

And as we listened to the old man's stories all about King George and his sitting on a throne and having courtiers around him and his wearing of a crown made of gold and diamonds, we wondered if

OLD KING COLE

was much like King George and, whether so or no, longed to be a king; a something we have become! and here we are, sitting on our old throne, the massive Easy Chair presented to us by Brother French, an excellent Methodist man—not of the Bishop Haven kind, since Brother French was and is a Liberal and voted for Greeley—and that is the reason, we presume, he gave us this

IMMENSE EASY CHAIR.

As we said, we have been reading the almanac and looking over the chronology, tracing back to the time when, fifty years before we sat on the knee of the old soldier; one of the many myrmidons of King George, Dunmore by name, better known as the British Nero, set fire to the city of Norfolk. It was just an hundred years ago this blessed morning when the flames so lit up the heavens in lurid glare and, as the sun rose out of the waters, looked upon the scene of conflagration while the wretched people stood amazed witnesses of the destruction of their homes and the breaking in pieces of their household goods; and within a few brief hours, what had been one of the chief cities of the new world became a blackened, ruined waste. Not many were the cities of America then. Boston and Philadelphia were both in advance of New York; and as for those little towns out toward sunset of to-day—Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, San Francisco, and such like—they had not so much as existence in the fancies of fairies, to say nothing of the dreams of men. But Boston, the scene of that first great

AMERICAN TEA PARTY,

was a proud and rich town even then, for it was the home of John Adams and possessed Bunker Hill, and was only a little way off from Lexington. It had its kings, too—not titled and tinseled and crowned like to those of the old world, but of the order of Cromwell and Algernon Sidney—descendants of the old Roundheads; and queens too, had Boston—fairy queens of native beauty and bloom who, while their lords went forth in helmet and buckler to the wars, staid at home and did wifely duty, as becometh the true woman always, nor forgets the lint and bandages for the boys in the field, but bore them ever in mind, just as did our queenly mothers, sisters, wives and daughters who, a little while back, looked sorrowing and sadly on the bloody scenes of fratricidal strife, now happily ended; and who, binding up the wounds a little while ago, now unite in strewing flowers on the graves of those who sleep, forgetting whether this or that bore aloft the star-spangled banner or the bonny blue flag; or marched to the tune of "Dixie" or "Yankee Doodle," or wore, as he went down to death on the battle field,

THE BLUE OR THE GRAY.

Boston was under siege (possessed rather) by the janizaries of the King who, giving command from across the seas, bade his minions do well the work nor spare the rebels. While red-coated Britons paced the streets, keeping guard however, and making barracks of the houses of the descendants of the Roundheads, proud kings and queens, the first citizens of Boston, a little way off stood our Republican King George, surnamed Washington, the great American jailor, effectually, with his brave band around him, making prisoners of the enemy within the city. It was just

AN HUNDRED YEARS AGO

to-day that, amid the snows of winter, Washington and his little army so sat there, and eating their hard tack by day and lying down in their tents at night, gave to Britons their first lessons of American pluck, perseverance and endurance. And there were giants in those days. God's kings, dwelling among men, as in ages before, and none greater than George, who led the armies through the wilderness of those days. Thomas, who wrote the declaration.

JOHN HANCOCK

who with boldest hand signed it, saying, "There! Johnny Bull can read that without spectacles"—or words to that effect. Not to mention Doctor Ben Franklin, who sent up his kite after the lightnings, printed the first American newspaper, brought to us Lafayette and his gallant French compatriots who so helped us to whip the British lion—to say nothing of thousands of others, mighty kings and brave, each in his day and generation, living lives of valor and shuffling off this mortal coil, going away to

ANOTHER COUNTRY,

waiting each in turn the calling of the long roll. Nor have the names of the brave all been yet recorded, since many were but common soldiers, privates in the ranks, all equally kings in their day, and all had crowns too of a kind, but many more of thorns than of roses; so has it ever been and so shall it ever be till

TIME SHALL BE NO LONGER.

And who shall write the stories of the kings and chronicle their deeds of glory? Echo answers, Who?

AN HUNDRED YEARS AGO,

and skirting the Atlantic from the rocky coast of New England to the coral reefs of Florida, were seen cities and towns with their few hundreds of inhabitants, the houses of which were in many instances built of bricks brought across the ocean in ships, since Americans had not then found out that they could not only beat Englishmen in building houses and ships but in making bricks and rearing soldiers and educating sailors. There were no steamships in those days, and as for railroads, cars and locomotives, they had only been dreamed of by the author of the book of Job; and for the matter of electric telegraphs, it took as long to carry the news from Boston to Bunker Hill as now from Japan to San Francisco and back by way of New York and London to Hong Kong. Nearly all the nations were cursed rather than blessed by kings—real potentates, who sported crowns and scepters, thrones and armies, and yet, not one in ten could write his name as well as a modern Bowery bootblack, and for the making of his mark in the world to any purpose, was not to be mentioned in the same day with an American newsboy of the present. There have always been kings, so we are told, from the days of Nimrod, the mighty hunter, who is presumed to have been one of earth's earliest monarchs, to the present time; and these, with their crowns, scepters and armies, have been creating something of a stir in the world; and yet, not Xerxes, with all his boats, crews, soldiers and sailors bridging the Hellespont shore to shore, could have resisted for an hour the grape and canister from one of the six-pounders which King George used with his war in the colonies; and these in turn, had an hundred been molded into one, would not have made a gun of half the caliber of an eighty-pound Parrot of to-day, mere playthings in American arsenals, and sitting pivot-poised on decks of our ships of war, a terror to evil doers.

And now, sitting in

OUR EASY CHAIR,

we will not write a history of the hundred years during which one nation, from being the smallest kind of a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and all that, grew to be a big boy and was called Brother Jonathan; and thence up to fullest manhood, now challenges Johnny Bull to any kind of a trial either of skill or muscle—having bigger rivers, taller mountains, broader lakes, finer cities, faster steamers, more railroads and telegraphs, livelier newspapers, more enterprising journalists and bigger guns all round—kings and queens included—than a dozen tiny islands like Great Britain.

KINGS AND QUEENS,

did we say? Aye, that's what we sat down to write about. It's the first day of January, in the year of grace, one thousand, eight hundred and seventy-six—

CENTENNIAL YEAR—

and this is our first, possibly our last, Easy Chair, and we must have our say about the kings and queens, especially the latter. As regards the kings, it's the king bees we must notice, and nearly every live Yankee in America—to say nothing of our Dutch uncles and Irish cousins—are king bees; and for the queens, the whole land abounds with them, and fairer, more charming and beautiful queens have never been seen since the days of

MOTHER EVANGELINE.

Some, it is true—most, indeed—are better dressed and, though they couldn't probably get up a finer court costume out of fig leaves, they can beat all to pieces some of the fruits, to say nothing of the flowers which are understood to have grown in Eden, the plucking and eating of a single blossom or apple of which is presumed to have been the occasion of

OLD KING GEORGE

playing the tyrant, thereby begetting the big boy Brother Jonathan, since grown to be well known as

UNCLE SAMUEL.

It's a wonderful story is that of Time in the primer, and were we only young again, we might incline to sit down in Our Easy Chair and write it all out—the story of the kings and queens, inclusive of that of King Solomon with all his glory, the temple which he built, the greatest and most wonderful of its day and generation, nor forgetting to mention the "stone cleft out of the mountain without hands which the builders rejected, since made the chief of the corner"—or the crown, rich in jewels which sat on the brow of David, Israel's sweetest singer, and of the thrones and scepters of father and son, since gone to decay. And our story should

SIR WALTER SCOTT.—HIS EARLY DAYS. (See next page.)

tell of the kings of Assyria, of Babylon and Nineveh, of the proud Emperor who so fell down at the base of POMPEY'S statue, and gathering the folds of his mantle over his face as he fell, exclaimed—

"ET TU BRUTE!"

and that other, Prince of the House of David who, as he was hung up on the cross between the two malefactors, lifting his eyes to Heaven, said—"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

Then there is the story of the queens—of ESTHER, the feast of AHASHUERUS, and of MORDECAI the Jew, sitting at the king's gate; of SEMIRAMIS, DIDO, HELEN, CLEOPATRA, and later of ISABELLA, (loveliest Queen of Spain,) MARY, Queen of Scots, JOSEPHINE, not to mention JOAN of Arc, nor forgetting MARY, mother of JESUS, and MARY MAGDALENE, and MARTHA, richest crowned in glory of all the queens of earth. Nor stopping there, our story should tell of all the noble and beautiful queens who, in this fair land, so sit beside our hearthstones and make our homes so many palaces, and bringing to us jewels, sons crowned with glory and daughters clothed in grace.

THESE ARE AS RUBIES,

and their praises would we sing were the story left to us to tell. But here comes the work of kings, the iron horse, dashing furiously along with his train behind. It is number twelve, sounding out the whistle down at Selo, and we must up from Our Easy Chair and hie away to the city. Come, Mrs. Easy Chair, we must be going. Take the old hickory throne, my son, from off the veranda, and carry it away to the garret and let it there remain till the spring-time and, should the grass grow and the flowers bloom for us again, as in each successive spring-time of the past, we will return again and sit in it and write on till all our writing is done. But should we not come back to again sit in Our Easy Chair, and should our scepter perish, nor again ever be taken up, tell daughter to gather immortelles and weave the garland anew, entwining the picture on the wall; and as for the vacant throne, let it be kept as an heirloom, to be handed down to our children and children's children; nor forget to tell those who shall come after that, as their grandfather went away, he did so trustingly and in faith to a country where, awaiting their coming, he will go on his journey

AMONG THE KINGS,

But be not sorrowful but full of hope, confidence and trust, and when the May queens, clothed in beauty, shall gather around them the nymphs of the hills and the rills, the King will return again, and sitting on the banks of the Genesee River—which being interpreted, meaneth

THE BEAUTIFUL RIVER—

will again sit on his throne and see the play go on.

And now will we send this, our first Easy Chair, as written for the RURAL, away to Colonel MOORE and, if he thinks it worth while, he may print it, and then shall it be read by thousands sitting on the banks of that river, all the way from where, bubbling out from earth in crystal springs among the mountains, its waters running along, now singing and babbling, then leaping over the rocks falls in cataracts or circling in eddy, find their way to the lakes and thence on to the ocean. A Happy New Year to those who, years ago, read our old

GENESEE VALLEY FREE PRESS,

in whose columns we used to tell about the gallant Editor of the RURAL, who with us so loved the fruits and the flowers, the fields and the forests, that he was only at home on the farm or in the garden.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

REMINISCENCES OF HIS EARLY DAYS.

[SEE ILLUSTRATION ON PRECEDING PAGE.]

IN the year 1771 there was born in the City of Edinburgh the little child who grew to be known throughout the world as Sir WALTER SCOTT, the great writer and poet. Both his parents were highly-educated persons, and perhaps this influenced the tastes and habits in which their son grew up. At about the age of eighteen months he lost the use of his right leg, after a severe attack of fever; but, although he was ever after lame, he was wonderfully brave and active as he grew older. Those earliest days were spent in his grandfather's house at Sandy-Knowe, and while he stayed at the old farm he would go with the cow baille and roll about on the grass for hours among the herds and flocks, making friends with the sheep and lambs, who soon knew the little lame boy. One of those days he was forgotten among the crags, and a thunder-storm came on; but when his aunt remembered where he was, and hastened herself in search of him, she found him lying happily on his back, watching the lightning and crying, "Bonny! bonny!" at every flash.

His grandmother used to tell him the old Border tales which she had heard in her own childhood, and so the names of JAMIE TELFER and other heroes were familiar to him, and he could repeat long pieces by heart from the stories and ballads with which his Aunt JANET amused him.

When he was about four years old WALTER was taken to Bath, with the hope that the mineral waters might cure his lameness, but very little change took place. In 1779 the lad returned to Edinburgh and was sent to the High School there, where he was placed in the second class, which contained some very good scholars, among whom SCOTT became a general favorite, from his mirthfulness and fun; besides, in winter he could tell any number of tales as they sat round the fire in a circle listening to him. Of himself, he says that he "disgusted his kind master" by his negligence and frivolity, as much as he pleased him by his intelligence and talent.

One tale which SCOTT has now and then told of his school days is this:—"There was a boy in my class," he says, "who stood always at the top, and with all my efforts I could not get above him. Days passed, but still he kept his place, do what I would; but at last I noticed that whenever a question was asked him he fumbled with his fingers at a particular button on his waistcoat. In an evil moment I removed it with a knife. When the boy was again questioned his fingers sought the button in vain; in his distress he looked down for it, but it was not to be seen, and as he stood confounded I took his place, nor did he ever guess who was the author of his wrong. Often in after life has the sight of him smote me as I passed by him, and I resolved to make him some reparation, but it always ended in good resolution."

When thirteen years old, young SCOTT first read PERCY'S Reliques, and this work had a great effect in making him a poet; still, before this time he had tried his hand at verse-making, some of which attempts were found in after days. The rupture of a blood vessel laid him on his bed for many weeks, and then his great amusement was reading; for he tells us he did nothing else from morning till night' unless some one was charitable enough to play chess with him. From a circulating library in Edinburgh he obtained many old romances and plays, and when tired of these he turned to histories, voyages and travels, and thus acquired a quantity of ill-arranged information, which proved useful in the literary work to which he devoted his life, and which has made his name famous.

In 1792 he was called to the bar as an advocate; but he had very little practice. His literary life then really began, which lasted for six-and-thirty years. In 1805 he gave to the public the "Lay of the Last Minstrel," and became the poetical favorite of the day. "Marmion," the "Lady of the Lake," and other poems followed. In 1814 he published the historical novel of "Waverley," but for several years it was a secret that he was the author of the book, who was spoken of as "the Great Unknown." In the next few years he published with his name several similar romances, among them "Rob Roy" and "The Heart of Midlothian." He assisted in starting "The Quarterly Review."

To his pen he owed his land and castle at Abbotsford, and from 1820 to 1826 he lived there like one of his own feudal chiefs; but in 1826 there come a commercial crash and the publishers of his books became bankrupt, and he was found to be liable for a vast debt. SCOTT set himself nobly to work to repay it. He overtasked his strength in the effort, and in 1832 breathed his last at Abbotsford, leaving behind him a name which will never be forgotten.

SOUTHERN "INDEPENDENCE."

THE Natchez (Miss.) Weekly Democrat is responsible for the following excellent sketch:

"Hallo, stranger; you seem to be going to market?"

"Yes, sir, I am."

"What are you carrying that plow along for?"

"Going to send it to Pittsburg."

"To Pittsburg, in Pennsylvania?"

"You're mighty right, I am."

"What are you going to send it there for?"

"To get sharpened."

"All the way to Pittsburg to get sharpened?"

"You bet! We've starved our blacksmith out. He pulled up stakes the other day and went to Texas."

"Well, that's rather a novel idea, my friend—sending a plow so far to get sharpened."

"Not so novel as you heard it was. We do our milling at St. Louis."

"Is that so?"

"You're right. It is. We used to have a mill at Punkinville Creek, but the owner got too poor to keep it up, and so we turned to getting our grinding done at St. Louis."

"You don't mean to say you send your grist all the way to St. Louis by rail?"

"I didn't say nothing about grits—we hain't got no grits to send. But we get our flour and meal from St. Louis."

"I see you have a hide on your wagon."

"Yes; our old cow died last week. March winds blowed the life out'n her. Sendin' her hide to Boston to get tanned."

"All the way to Boston? Is not that rather expensive, my friend? The freights will eat the hide up."

"That's a fact; cleaner than the buzzards did the old critter's carcass. But what's the use bein' taxed to build railroads 'thout you get the good of 'em? Used to have a tanyard over at Lickskillet and a shoemaker, too. But they're kerflummmixed."

"Kerflummuxed—what's that?"

"It means gone up the spout. And 'twixt you and me, that's mighty nigh the case with our State."

"When do you expect to get your leather?"

"Don't expect to git no leather at all—expect to get shoes some day made at Boston or thereabouts."

"Rather a misfortune to lose a milk cow, my friend."

"Not so much a misfortune as you heard it was. Monstrous sight of shuckin' and nubbin' in a cow, and milkin' her night and mornin', and gettin' only about three quarts a day."

"What are you going to do for milk?"

"Send North for it."

"Send North for milk?"

"Yes, concentrated milk and Goshen butter."

"Oh! I see the point."

"Mighty handy things these railroads—make them Yankee fellers do all our jobs for us now—do our smithin', and grindin', and tannin', and milkin', and churnin'."

"I see you have a bale of cotton."

"Yes; we go our bottom nicket on cotton. Sendin' it up to Massachusetts to get it carded, spun and wove. Time'll come when we'll send it there to be ginned—then we'll be happy. Monstrous sight of trouble running these gins."

"That would be rather expensive, sending cotton in seed."

"No more so than them Western fellers pays when they send corn East and get a dollar a bushel and pay six bits freight. Besides, as I said, what's the use of paying for railroads 'thout we use the roads?"

"You seem to appreciate the advantages of railroads."

"I think we ought—we pay enough for 'em."

"I reckon you fatten your own pork?"

"Well, you reckon wrong, stranger. I get them Illinoy fellers to do that for me. It's mighty convenient, too. Monstrous sight of trouble toting a big basketful of corn three times a day to hogs in a pen—'specially when you hain't got none to tote it to."

"I should think so."

"There's one thing lacking, though, to make the business complete."

"What's that?"

"They ought to send them hogs ready cooked. Cookin', and preparin' wood for cookin', takes up a heap of time that ort by rights to be employed in the cotton-patch. I was sayin' to my old woman the other day, 'If we Mississippi folks got our cookin' and washin' done up North and sent by express, we'd be as happy as office-holders."

"Your horse in the lead there seems to be lame."

"Yes—needs shoein'. If he wasn't the only horse I've got, and I can't spare him, I'd send him up where they make the horseshoes and nails and get him shod. Can't get such a thing done in our parts. Perhaps I can at the depot."

"How do you manage to live in your parts, my old friend?"

"Why, we raise cotton. My road turns off here, stranger. Gee, Ball! back, Brandy. I'm glad I seed you, stranger."

THE CALIFORNIA WINTER.

THE most delightful weather in California, from January to December, is that which we enjoy in the intervals between the winter rains. Of winter, in the old-fashioned sense, we know nothing in San Francisco. We have no winter, and what we conveniently call a winter is simply a season in which a few days of steady and persistent rain are alternated with days of bright blue skies, of cheerful sunshine, and of an atmosphere more delicious than that of Indian summer in New England. Of the stern and terrible rigors of winter, as they are experienced in less favored climes, we know nothing in San Francisco, except from hearsay or tradition. Whittier's "Snowbound," and the story of the old homestead covered up to the second floor with the snowfall of a single night, of the trees, laden with the weight of the flaky deposit, of the gables adorned with gigantic icicles, seems almost as strange to us as a tale out of the "Araidan Nights." Of such winters as these the southern portions of California have no practical knowledge. There are some localities of the State, it is true, where in December and January snow falls to the depth of from five to fifteen feet, and travel is utterly impracticable except by the aid of snow shoes. But in the neighborhood of San Francisco, and to the south of it, all along the coast range, the winters are more delightful and more salubrious than any season known in the Atlantic States. We speak of "the climate of California;" but the fact is that California has a score of climates. Right here, within a circuit of thirty miles from San Francisco, an hour's travel will carry a man from one climate to another as diverse as those which in other countries have an interspace of hundreds of miles. San Francisco, Oakland, San Rafael and San Jose have climates essentially distinct, and all delightful. It is not to be wondered at that as the facts in regard to the State are becoming known the number of immigrants and visitors in search of health is steadily increasing. In the month of October last the largest number of passengers that ever reached the State since the opening of the railroad in 1869 arrived here. The total number was 7,495. In October of last year the arrivals were 5,019. There is no doubt at all that as the manifold advantages which California can boast over the less favored States on the Atlantic seaboard become more widely known the immigration will steadily increase.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

WASHINGTON'S HORSES.

ACCORDING to G. W. P. Custis' recollections, the grooming of Geo. Washington's white horses was something surprising. The night before these horses were expected to be ridden they were covered entirely over with a paste, of which whiting was the principal component part; then the animals were swathed in body clothes and left to sleep upon clean straw. In the morning the composition had become hard, was well rubbed in and curried and brushed, which process gave to the coats a beautiful, glossy and satin-like appearance. The hoofs were then blackened and polished, the mouth washed, teeth picked and cleaned, and the leopard-skin housings being properly adjusted, the white chargers were led out for service.

THINGS are not to be done by the effort of the moment, but by the preparation of past moments. *Anon.*

Sabbath Reading.

CONSECRATION.

TAKE my life, and let it be
Consecrated all to Thee;

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;

Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;

Take my voice, and let me sing
Only for my Lord the King;

Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with images from Thee;

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;

Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise;

Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou wilt choose;

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;

Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne;

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasured store;

Take myself, and I will be
Ever only, Lord, for Thee.

A CHILD'S PRAYER.

SHE was hardly able to talk plainly, and an officer had to give her his hand to assist her up the steps into the Central Station.

"Did you put my mother in jail?" she asked as she pushed her sun-bonnet back and looked from one to another.

They had arrested a red-faced, tangled-hair woman, who fought the officers and made use of foul language. No one dreamed that the child was hers, but it was. The little thing was so innocent and pure that they didn't want her to even see the iron bars, but the mother heard her voice, called to her and they opened the corridor door. The child grasped the iron door, looked into the cell, and cried out:

"Why, mother, you are in jail!"

The mother crowded back, ashamed of herself, and the child knelt down on the stone floor, clung to the iron bars of the door, and prayed:

"Now I lay me down to sleep, and I hope my mother will be let out of jail!"

The men had tears in their eyes as they gently removed her, and when the woman came into court in the morning to be tried, the Judge told her to go home and try for that child's sake to be a mother instead of a wretch.

HEAVEN.

A LITTLE boy was walking in the fields with his mother, one day. He looked up to the sky and said, "O, mother, Heaven is so *far off*, I'm afraid I shall never get there."

"My dear," said his mother, "Heaven must *come to us* before we can go to it."

He didn't understand what she meant. Then she told him what Jesus said when He was on earth. These were His words:—"If any man love Me, my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." Jesus is willing to come into your heart. He is standing and knocking for you to let Him in. And when He comes in He brings Heaven with Him. He will make a Heaven in your heart, if you will let Him come and dwell there. But, if we don't let Him come and dwell in our hearts *here*, He won't let us go and dwell with Him in Heaven hereafter. Heaven must come to us before we can go to it.

THE GARDENER'S LESSON.

TWO gardeners had their crops of peas killed by the frost. One of them was very impatient under the loss, and fretted about it very much. The other went patiently to work at once to plant a new crop. After a while the impatient, fretting man went to his neighbor. To his surprise, he found another crop of peas growing finely. He asked how this could be.

"These are what I sowed while you were fretting," said his neighbor.

"But don't you ever fret?" he asked.

"Yes, I do; but I put it off till I have repaired the mischief that has been done."

"Why, then you have no need to fret at all."

"True," said his friend, "and that's the reason I put it off."

PRAYER.—Prayer is the rustling of the wings of the angels that are on their way bringing us the boons of heaven. Even as a cloud foreshadoweth rain, so prayer foreshadoweth the blessing; even as the green blade is the beginning of the harvest, so is prayer the prophecy of the blessing that is about to come.—*Spurgeon.*

LOVE is its own perennial fount of strength. The strength of affection is a proof not of the worthiness of the object, but of the largeness of the soul which loves.—*Rowland Hill.*

WITH men the heart is known by our words; but with God our words are weighed by our hearts.—*Bernard.*

GOD sees hearts as we see faces.—*George Herbert.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE EVER-NEW QUESTION.

Do I love you? Do I love you?
Ask the heavens that bend above you
To find a language and to prove you
If they love the living sun.
Ask the burning, blinded meadows
What they think about the shadows,
If they love the falling shadows
When the fervid day is done.

Ask the bluebells and the daisies,
Lost amid the hot field-mazes,
Lifting up their thirsty faces,
If they love the summer rains.
Ask the linnets and the plovers,
In the nest-life make for lovers,
Ask the bees and ask the clovers—
Will they tell you for your pains?

Do I, darling, do I love you?
What, I pray, can that behoove you,
How in Love's name I can move you,
When for Love's sake I am dumb!
If I told you, if I told you,
Would that keep you, would that hold you
Here at last where I enfold you?
If it would—Hush! Darling, come!

ON FOUNDING A HOME.

FIRST secure a home, which is, a house to live in, and the proper people in it to compose the foundations of home life. Directions as to house decoration or skillful cookery, or the control of cook or chambermaid, are of very little account, if the people who sit down in the pretty rooms day by day find their hearts torn by jealousy, or their brains rasped by nervous irritation. Let Tom and Amelia turn from the altar, resolving to start fair and give themselves the largest chance of a clear understanding of each other, and, in consequence, of future happiness. Let them turn their backs on boarding-houses, shut their eyes to all considerations of style, be deaf to all hints of Mrs. Grundy's expectations, and buy or rent a house within their means. If they are too poor for a house, then a flat; if not a flat, a room; or, if the worst comes to the worst, let them hire, like our friends at Rudder Grange, a canal boat; only let them go to housekeeping, and *go it alone*. Comfortable quarters, perhaps, are offered them in the house of one of their parents, who very naturally try to keep the young birds just mated a little longer in the old nest, especially if they are well-to-do people, to whom the addition to the family will be only a pleasure, and no burden. Amelia's husband not being able to support her in the style to which she is accustomed, what can be more proper than that they should occupy part of her father's mansion, and reap the benefit of well-trained servants, carriages and sumptuous fare? Or some other motive of economy or affection dictates their plans. Amelia's mamma being a widow, and devoted to her child, why should she live alone in her house, peopled for her, perhaps, by ghosts of the beloved dead? Why not take the spare room in the young people's house and make a part of their new life? Or it may be Tom's unmarried sister or bachelor uncle who comes in to make a third in the partnership just begun.

Now this new comer may be the most clever, amiable, dearest soul in the world, and the arrangement one dictated by prudential motives and affection; but ninety times in a hundred it is destructive of the fine tone and temper of the newly formed household. The first year of married life is a passage, at the best, over dangerous quicksands; no matter how intimate their knowledge of each other was before marriage, husband and wife have now to find each other out in a thousand new and unexpected phases, and to adjust themselves each to the other in the habits, tastes, even language of every day. It will require all the tact and the patience which love gives to enable them to do this, and the interference, even the presence, of a third party, is always a disturbing element. The more near and dear the relations of this third party, the more apt are they to come between the wife and husband. Unfortunately, too, the whole tone of married life usually receives its key-note from this first year; and so invariably damaging is the influence of outsiders upon it, that the best recipe, probably, to insure a happy marriage, would be to make a holocaust of all kinsfolk on the wedding day. As that is not practicable, let Amelia and Tom live as much apart as is possible for at least twelve months, selfish as such reserve may appear to their families.

After they have become in a measure one, and the uncertainty and disquietude of the storms and sunshine of early marriage have given place to a settled home atmosphere, the occasional presence of strangers has usually a wholesome influence. With the companionship of a guest now and then, Tom and Amelia are less likely to find their thoughts and opinions grow stale and tedious. Charity, too, assumes, no more beautiful form than in a gracious hospitality, especially to those who are needy in body and mind. We know certain households where there is always to be found an orphan girl going to school with the other children, or a helpless old black "Aunty" in her chair by the kitchen fire, or some other waif warmed and sheltered from the cold without. We remember a certain young girl who, like most Virginian women, was skilled in housewifery, who took into her father's house, one after another, girls of fourteen from an adjoining mill, and trained them herself as seamstresses and cooks, teaching them to read and write at the same time. Before and after her marriage she fitted and placed eight women in useful, honorable careers of life. The home, when founded, should always be large enough to give place to some creature needing help, or it may be too small for any blessing to rest upon, which falls like dew from above.

BIRDS AS ORNAMENTS FOR BONNETS.

Do ladies know when they purchase their bonnets—do they realize that the birds, with which they are bedecked, were once alive—were once the lovable little creatures that flit from shrub to tree, enlivening the morning with their joyous, inspiring song, and investing nature with one of her freshest, most captivating smiles? If the ladies who purchase bird-bedecked bonnets, knew that they are the indirect cause of a slaughter of these innocents that threatens "the annihilation of our favorite little songsters"—would not the savage fashion soon fall into a richly-merited disgrace? Could they see these happy, harmless beings hunted, as we have seen them, by a pack of rough-sculf boys and men that skulk about the surroundings of cemeteries, parks, and even garden-walls, to entrap or shoot them—would not the sight of their poor little bodies, arranged among the artificial flowers of the hat in imitation of their graceful movements as in life, inspire them to frown upon a fashion so conceived in cruelty—so suggestive of cruelty to the young—so hateful to the tenderness with which womenkind are wont to cherish those bright creatures?

Bird catching for the milliner is a well-established and profitable business, and our readers have only to ride out to the suburbs of our cities in early spring to ascertain something of its magnitude. In the first copse, or grove, they will find trap-cages set here and there, each with a singing bird within to attract those which happen near. Scattered about are sticks, three or four feet in hight, besmeared with bird-lime. Concealed in thickets or behind trees are the bird-catchers, ready to shoot those wary birds that are likely to escape both the vicious sticks and the trap-cages. The worst of it is, the little birds are killed so as not to derange or soil their brilliant feathers. If shot, the bird-catcher aims only to cripple, not to kill—since this would, in many instances, cause a wound that would greatly mar their beauty and lessen their money-value.

Thus, not to speak of their value to the farm and garden as insect-destroyers, our ornamental birds, as we may call them—ornaments to lawn, field and woods as children are ornaments to the household—are being destroyed for the ornamentation of bonnets!

Perhaps all this is more sentimental than reasonable. Birds are killed to eat, why not to adorn bonnets! We prefer not to discuss the question. To any lady that would raise it, we would kindly suggest that she breed her own humming and Canary birds. Then, while learning something of bird culture and while enjoying for a period their company, she might kill them as they were needed, and the community at large, no longer sufferers, would hold their tongues. E. S. C.

HOW A WOMAN MADE A FORTUNE.

Six years ago Mrs. Mary Ahark, says the Laramie Sentinel, was living in a little tent on the edge of the town. Her whole worldly possessions consisted of this tent, a straw bed, two or three boxes which served as chairs and table, a seven or eight year old girl, and two cows and calves. She sold the spare milk of these two cows, carrying it around town with a tin pail, and with the product and from work she did for neighbors supported herself and child. When she could get three or five dollars ahead she would buy another calf or yearling. It is not our purpose to trace her progress up to the present time, but the result is that now, in less than seven years, she has several hundred head of cattle, a fine farm, with nice buildings and improvements, a comfortable, even luxurious, home, and, instead of carrying milk around by hand, rides in her own carriage. Her daughter is an educated and accomplished young lady. Mrs. Ahark's property is now valued at from $40,000 to $50,000, and she has made it all by honest industry and good management. She has had no outside help. She never had a Government contract nor fell heir to any property. "By industry we thrive."

ROMANCE IN REAL LIFE.

SOME thirteen years ago a man named Jerry Toner left his wife and children at Ovid, N. Y., and settled down in Massachusetts, where he married another woman. The deserted wife applied herself to business, and not only raised her children respectably, but accumulated some property. The other day the truant husband unexpectedly appeared, with repentant mien, at her door. He told her that his second choice was dead, and he was left with four children who needed a mother's care. He asked her to forget the past, to once more link her fate with his and become a mother to his children. Forgiveness and compliance followed, and the apparently happy couple at once settled up affairs at Ovid and left for their Eastern home.

SIXTEEN LADIES gathered in front of Williston Vt. Seminary, during a recent sleighing time, and, shovel in hand, proceeded to remove the snow from the side walk in front of the premises while professors and students looked on in amazement. On the completion of the work the ladies received three cheers, and departed in good order. The Seminary authorities, it is hoped, feel properly ashamed of themselves.

A MAN may as well expect to grow stronger by always eating, as to grow wiser by always reading. —*Collier.*

Reading for the Young.

WHAT WOULD YOU THINK?

WHEN walking out some summer's day,
What if a little bird should call,
And on your shoulders perch and say,
"Speak well of all or not at all!"
What would you think?

What if you chased and caught for fun
An airy, gaudy butterfly;
And on its wings there in the sun
You plainly saw the words, "Don't lie!"
What would you think?

What if you watched an opening rose
Spread all its petals to the air,
And to your wondering gaze disclose
Two little warning words, "Don't swear!"
What would you think?

What if you sought to rob the birds,
And hunted for their nests with zeal,
But found each egg traced o'er with words,
As plain as print "Dear boy, don't steal!"
What would you think?

A WORD TO TO THE GIRLS.

BY MINNEHAHA.

IN the RURAL of Sept. 18th, Cousin MAUDE writes a brief, interesting letter, surprising me by the assertion that she is "through" with studies that I have not thought of finishing; expressing a desire to become a teacher, and asking if it might not be in "a year or so," adding the portentous assertion of a friend's "too young and small." This last brought to mind two teachers who are associated with earlier years, and a sunny New England school-house. It was never satisfactorily settled between the scholars whether the first was old enough or not—her age being uncertain, known to but her—the adequate size, however, was not disputed, her average weight being two hundred lbs. Notwithstanding the general belief of others, that she was "old enough and big enough" to teach—the school proved a failure. Her successor was a little bit of a woman, with a heart brimful of patience and sunshine, who, through the two long terms, molded the most obstinate to her will. She was young and understood our rebellious natures, leading with a kind, firm hand that commanded our respect, and even the worst boy in school mourned her departure. I had thought my words of advice could be of no assistance, and hoped that Cousin JONNIE would steal time enough to favor us with a "little preach;" she would say it in such a perfect way, while I never could grasp the words most needed.

Not only MAUDE, but hundreds of young girls who read the RURAL, are thinking seriously of a teacher's life—a life of toil and responsibility. It is to them I would say a few words. First secure a good, strong constitution; the list of weak, sickly teachers is sufficiently large now. If there is any one place requiring a healthy ruler it is the school-room. By *ruler* we don't mean one of those dark, suspicious pieces of timber that flourish in dangerous proximity to head and hands sometimes. If we could have our choice we would like that special kind to be decidedly weak. Girls, do not pore over your books too much during your "teens." Don't burden the mind, thus injuring the body. Just spend those years in a manner allowing you to grow. Grow in body—grow in mind and soul. You cannot tax one without detriment to the rest. Suppose we let the body grow, as it wants to, strong, hardy and beautiful, as the Maker designed it; is not the brain, too, expanding, becoming firmer, and more capable of retaining the endless amount of knowledge with which we would crowd it? Remember, if you are using all your energy—all your strength for the mind, the body suffers.

You want a good memory, do you not? Then don't crowd the whole of a common school education within that skull while it is growing. It is all very nice to swallow WEBSTER'S Speller before one is ten years old, and other studies in a similar manner; but, when a few years have passed, and there is a desire to make use of that knowledge, we wish we had stopped to chew. You know, Cousins, what a confusion it makes when flower seeds of different varieties get mixed. That is about the way learning has been tumbled into my cranium, and the consequence is I have to assort, reject, take up with inferior; then, long afterward, will appear the very article wanted.

Learn a little every day, and let that little be *learned*—not merely committed, but labeled and secured in a snug corner from where it can be brought at a moment's notice. Take time to do it well. At home let some older member of the family do the sewing, and you strengthen your muscles, benefiting yourself while assisting others. When the work is done don't be afraid to play—not croquet nor other like boisterous (?) games. While you can have short dresses use your feet; learn to run *easily*; it is an art, and one that may be of use to you some day. Are your shoulders out, like the letter T, or drooping inward, hurling your health and appearance? Just toss me a ball, and I'll show you the cheapest way to put them where they belong. A girl can be every bit a *lady*, yet play an occasional lively game. It is not hoydenish. It was our good, grey-haired pastor who taught "us girls," so it *must* be right.

Let me close by asking you to continue this course till the roses are firmly planted in your cheeks—till you can eat plain bread and relish it—go to sleep at night as soon as your head touches the pillow, and waken in the morning as if you had never experienced a tired feeling in your life. Then it will do to talk about teaching. Good-by, and kind wishes.

THE FIRE THAT OLD NICK BUILT.

WE find in an exchange the following capital imitation of the "House that Jack Built," and wish that it might become a household favorite:

Intemperance—This is the fire that old Nick built.

Moderate Drinking—This is the fuel that feeds the fire that old Nick built.

Rum-selling—This is the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that old Nick built.

Public Opinion—This is the sledge, with its face of steel, that batters the stone that grinds the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that old Nick built.

A Temperance Meeting—This is one of the blows that we quietly deal to fashion the sledge with its face of steel that batters the stone that grinds the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that old Nick built.

Temperance Pledge—This is the smith that works with a will to give force to the blows that we quietly deal to fashion the sledge with its face of steel that batters the stone that grinds the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that old Nick built.

Eternal Truth—This is the spirit so gentle and still that nerves the smith to work with a will to give force to the blows that we quietly deal to fashion the sledge with its face of steel that batters the stone that grinds the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that old Nick built.

NOW!—YES, NOW!

A SHORT word; a shorter thing. Soon uttered; sooner gone. "Now!" A grain of sand on a boundless plain. A tiny ripple on a measureless ocean! Over that ocean we are sailing; but the only part of it we possess is that on which our vessel at this moment floats. From the stern we look backwards and watch the ship's wake in the waters; but how short a distance it reaches, and how soon every trace disappears! We see, also, some landmarks farther off, and then the horizon closes the view; but beyond, that ocean still rolls far, far away. Memory contemplates the few years of our individual life; history shows us a dim outline of mountains; science tells us that still farther back, out of sight, stretches that vast sea; reason assures us that, like space, it hath no boundary; but all that we possess of it is represented by this small word—now! The past, for action, is ours no longer. The future may never become present; it is not ours until it does. The only part of time we can use is this very moment—Now!

The Puzzler.

HIDDEN STATES.—No. 1.

1. NEVA, darling, do you love me?
2. His skin is florid, and his hair auburn.
3. In Diana's temple magnificence abounded.
4. Oh! I only want to see mother once more.
5. Oliver, Mont Blanc has been scaled by ladies.
6. That is not a pecan but a hazel nut.
7. Did you ever notice the color a dove's wings are?
8. Examine that quartz ore, Gonzales.
9. The Indian chief Kenebra skates splendidly.
10. Alas! Katie has left us.
11. Dio watered the garden.
12. Instead of trying to connect, I cut the last link.
13. We are in the vortex, as I feared.
14. Mamma, Rylando does not drink.
15. Fan, Ewy or Kate will be a widow ere the Doctor comes.
16. Yes, sir, Miss is sipping orange ice at Delmonico's.
17. Mamma, I need the money.
18. In Vermont a nail factory was burnt.
19. Still Ino is very, very ill.
20. Miss, our ice has given out.
21. Dela, warehouses are expensive property.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I AM composed of 23 letters:
My 1, 2, 4, 21, 15 was an idol worshiped by the children of Israel.
My 7, 4, 11, 20, 22 was a famous sorcerer.
My 13, 9, 1, 17, 12 was a king of Egypt.
My 16, 4, 10, 18, 5 was a Jewish ornament.
My 19, 9, 3, 14, 11 was a lake in Judea.
My 23, 4, 6, 21, 8 was a companion of Paul.
My whole is found in the New Testament.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Jan. 1.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS NO. 1.—Little Women (Alcott); Ten times One is Ten (Hale); B. O. W. C. (Ike Mills); Running to Waste (Baker); Fast Friends (Trowbridge); We Girls (Whitney).

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA NO. 1.—Guadalquivir.

BISECTED EASTERN CITIES NO. 1.—1, Mad-rid; 2, War-saw; 3, Ports-mouth; 4, Bar-men; 5, Lime-rick; 6, Ley-den; 7, Tam-ton; 8, Bag-dad.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA NO. 1.—

V A S E
A R E A
S E A R
E A R S

DIAMOND PUZZLE NO. 1.—

A
O N E
S T O N E
A N O T H E R
A S H E S
T E N
R

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifth-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address: and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

WHILE California produces 8,000,000 gallons of wine, the home consumption does not amount to more than 1,500,000 gallons. In first hands the wines are known to be absolutely pure, for which reason they are extensively imitated by a fraudulent article abroad, or so adulterated as to entirely lose their original virtue and flavor.

The coldest winters on record in the United States within the past 100 years were those of 1780, 1833 and 1856. In 1780 the Delaware River, Bay of New York and Long Island Sound were so completely icebound as to be crossed with horses and sleighs. The coldest year was that of 1816, in which there was ice in every month in the year.

One of the curious incidents of the holiday season is a call from the British Post-Office Department for a remittance of £150,000 on account of money orders drawn in the United States on Post-Offices in Great Britain, in excess of similar orders drawn there upon offices on this side of the Atlantic. The unusually large balance is explained by the large number of emigrants from the British Empire who make use of money orders in remembering "the old folks at home" at Christmas and New Year's.

The Russian Minister rather astonishes the natives in Washington. At a wedding, which occurred there recently, his Excellency and wife were preceded by their chasseur, who stood during the ceremony with drawn sword glittering savagely in the gaslight. The madam, notwithstanding it being a house wedding, and a full dress affair, appeared in a black velvet underskirt, brown silk overskirt, and seal skin sacque. She evidently doesn't depend as much upon her toilet as did the famous Mme. Catacazy, whose striking beauty was greatly enhanced by her exquisite toilets.

The San Francisco Bulletin bemoans the use of narrow carriage tires, which are rutting their streets badly, and points longingly to Paris, where tires are taxed, the narrowest paying the largest license and the widest almost nothing.

At the annual sale of pews in Plymouth church, Brooklyn, on the evening of Dec. 4, the amount received for rentals, etc., was $63,680 against $70,319 last year.

Hamilton, Richardson & Whitney, dry goods jobbers, of Boston, are reported to have failed. Their liabilities are stated to be $350,000.

In the libel suit of Metcalf agt. the Boston Herald, to recover $10,000 damages, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for $1.

The Maine Legislature assembled Jan. 5. The Senate was organized by the choice of Gen. Thomas W. Hyde of Bath as President. The House chose Col. Fred. Roble of Gorham, Speaker.

At an informal meeting held at the Arlington Hotel in Washington, Jan. 5, which was composed of prominent citizens of the District of Columbia, preliminary steps were taken to induce the Democratic and Republican National Committee to select Washington as the place in which to hold their respective National Conventions. The argument was advanced that the public generally would rejoice in an opportunity to visit the Capital during the Centennial year.

Petitions are being circulated throughout Iowa praying the Legislature to introduce homœopathy into the medical department of the State University.

The number of convicts in the Arkansas penitentiary and the number of hangings this year are double that of any year in the history of the State.

Wyoming Territory has a new county named Crook, not named after crooked whiskey, but after Gen. Crook, who commands the Department of the Platte, and who has done more effective and judicious work among the Indians during the past few years than all the brigadiers on the frontier combined.

One of the saddest results of the war is the almost total extinction of the rice industry in the Cape Fear district. Immense tracts of rich swamp land, drained at immense cost, ditched, banked, and cultivated with the nicety of a garden, have reverted to nature and become a hideous morass. The ruin is so complete that it seems impossible now that money or labor can ever again retrieve it.

Minister Washburne has written a letter declining to run for the Presidency.

Col. Lamar was last week unanimously nominated United States Senator from Mississippi.

The Louisiana Democrats adopted a platform of hostility to Gov. Kellogg, resolving to ask Congress for relief.

Dr. Linderman favors Indianapolis for the site of the new branch mint.

The Chamber of Commerce of this city has adopted a memorial to the Legislature for putting the canals under a Superintendent of Public Works.

It is expected that additional suits against the Brooklyn Ring will be brought.

Great depression is reported to exist in the market for the sale of ship property at the Marine Exchange of this city, caused mainly by a falling off of the foreign demand, which for several months past was the main support of the market.

The Newark, (N. J.) Library Association held their annual meeting last week. On Jan. 1 there were 22,223 volumes in the library, an increase of 1,036 since last year. The average number of volumes drawn monthly last year was 4,069. The total receipts were $6,117.58, and expenditures, $5,593.12.

Joseph Smith, son of the Mormon prophet, and President of the organization called the True Latter-Day Saints, says the new institution comprises about 15,000 members scattered throughout the United States, Europe, and the Sandwich Islands. They adhere to the "original faith," denounce polygamy and reject Brigham Young's claim to the leadership. In Mr. Smith's estimation polygamy will never be abandoned by the Mormons. It must either be crushed out by superior power or sapped by overpowering public opinion. Polygamy exists to-day by failure of the people of the United States to enforce their own moral enactments.

The Washington correspondent of the Milwaukee News says that the navy is doomed to a great reduction in officers and men, as well as in vessels. There are over 1,600 officers on the active list, a number which can be reduced at least one-third without detriment to the service. The writer adds: "Mr. Randall promises to play sad havoc with Robeson's estimates for the next year, and the whole House is determined to hold him to a strict accountability for the money spent."

Hamilton County, Iowa, is paying for its new court house with 1,360 acres of land. Better than to issue bonds bearing a high rate of interest and then repudiate them, like some counties in Illinois and Missouri.

Mr. Philip Stiner closed his eighteen tea stores in this city and the two in Newark, N. J., Jan. 5. He has made an assignment to Mr. Isaac Sommers. According to the schedule of the assignment filed recently, his assets are $35,534.87, and his liabilities $137,086.06. His largest creditors are Ockershausen Brothers of 81 Wall street, who are down for $16,181.15. The stock in all his stores at the time of failure is estimated to be worth about $11,000. Mr. Philip Stiner is a brother-in-law of Mr. Joseph Stiner of Messrs. Joseph Stiner & Co., who have twenty retail stores and one wholesale tea store in this city. Philip Stiner left his father Jacob and commenced the tea business on his own account about six years ago. He essayed to rival the extensive business of Messrs. Joseph Stiner & Co., and had like them branch stores all over the city. His business was never so large as theirs, however, and of late it has dwindled materially. His failure is owing to the general depression in trade. Mr. Stiner's friends deny that either his extravagance or any defalcation of his employees had anything to do with the failure. He lives in a quiet way in West Forty-seventh street.

The Coroner's Jury in the Boston explosion case pronounces the accident to have resulted from the negligence of the men in charge of the pipes.

The United States store-ship Supply will shortly be sent to the Mediterranean to bring home goods for the Centennial from the countries bordering on that sea.

Fees for 1876, under the Connecticut license law, to the amount of $30,000, have already been paid into the Hartford City treasury.

Chicago reports eastern freight rates weakening and that a reduction will be made shortly.

Orders have been received at the Charlestown (Mass.) Navy Yard for a general reduction of the force, to go into effect on the 10th inst. It throws about 600 men out of employment.

The Milk Dealers' Association of New York City held a meeting last week to prepare the draft of a bill to regulate the sale of milk, and which they intend to introduce into the State Legislature. Prof. Doremus was present. The Committee appointed to draft the bill had not yet agreed upon several important points, and the Association decided to wait until they could hear the views of Prof. Doremus upon the milk question before the Medico-Legal Society, as well as the opinions of the members of that body.

The Texas Democrats have nominated Richard Coke for Governor.

W. C. Stone, Utah emigration agent, has arrived in Washington from Salt Lake City, and brings with him petitions signed by 23,560 Mormon women addressed to Congress, praying the United States to give Utah a State Government.

During the year 1875 there were 12,433 deaths in Brooklyn, an increase of 1,422 over the previous year. The deaths from small-pox were 624, and from diphtheria 963.

Larkin G. Mead's statue of Ethan Allen, which is in the possession of the State of Vermont, will probably be exhibited at the Centennial Exposition.

Gov. Dingley of Maine was presented with a bronze statue of the muse of History by the members of his staff at the expiration of their terms of office last week.

The Rev. Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage, upon invitation of prominent clergymen in Western cities, has agreed to deliver lectures on the subject of the expulsion of the Bible from the public schools, in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Dayton and other cities.

The Legislature of this State was organized on the 4th inst. Judge Robertson of Westchester was elected President pro tem of the Senate, and Gen. J. W. Husted (of the same county) Speaker of the Assembly.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE little Isle of Man is accorded by England the privilege of self-government—a privilege which is denied to her greater neighbor, Ireland. And it seems that home rule is too much for the Isle of Man. The Legislature of the little country not only claims the prescriptive right to punish for contempt committed in its presence, but has lately passed a bill by means of which it proposes to hold the editors of the Manx newspapers for "constructive contempt." Of course, such an outrage could not be permitted anywhere in the British dominions, and Queen Victoria will, without doubt, find a way to veto this absurd enactment. Already the people have met at Douglas, the capital, and recorded a protest against "a subordinate legislature in a small place having such power." "Constructive contempt" is too much for even the peaceable, submissive citizens of the Isle of Man.

Paris during the coming fiscal year will expend about $40,000,000, a large portion of which will be for embellishments. The receipts as well as the expenditures of the city have quadrupled since 1847, although the population in the same period has not quite doubled itself.

The Egyptian troops recently butchered in Abyssinia were drawn into a narrow defile, when they were surrounded. The Abyssinians were armed with Remington rifles, had mitrailleuse, and were led by an Englishman. Some French officers were also among them.

Late advices from Tafalla state that several Carlist officers and soldiers have been shot at Estella for a conspiracy against Don Carlos. It is asserted at Hendaye that the Carlists raised the siege of Hernani in consequence of a decision to that effect of a council of war.

Cardenas has been appointed Spanish Embassador to the Vatican.

Raouf Pasha has been appointed Governor-General of the Island of Crete.

Ali Pasha, formerly Embassador at Paris, has been appointed Governor-General of Herzegovina.

Sir. John Hawley Glover has been appointed Governor of Newfoundland.

Dr. Gerlich has been appointed German Vice-Consul at New York in place of Herr Feigal, who has been appointed Consul at Havana.

Austria is evidently preparing for war. It is reported that all men in Vienna who are liable to serve in case of war have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to join their respective corps on 48 hours' notice.

The holiday presents in Paris this year were perfectly gorgeous. The toy shops, for instance, were peopled with dolls, not dolls such as may be found in English nurseries, but fine waxen ladies, dressed in the latest fashion, with their real hair arranged according to the latest prevailing feminine tastes. For these "poupets a la mode" there are gorgeous wooden mansions, furnished in a style of supreme luxury, while some of them are provided with a trousseau of corresponding magnificence and even with miniature husbands, correctly attired in black suits, with ties and opera hats. For the small boys there are no cricket bats or footballs, but there are plenty of military accoutrements, imitation decorations or walking-sticks, while whole armies of red-trousered leaden soldiers defend cardboard forts against more truculent forces wearing the spiked helmet of the hereditary foe. A gigantic Christmas tree was organized for the benefit of the refugees of Alsace Lorraine, and many florists laid in a stock of smaller kind of the same prolific shrub. Whatever, therefore, the course of politics, it is very evident that Paris is on the whole determined to celebrate its annual winter festival with the usual compliments of the season.

The Pall Mall Gazette is informed that the Khedive of Egypt has accepted the resignation of Nubar Pasha, his Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A Liverpool company is negotiating with the Marquis of Bute's trustees for the reestablishment of the steamship line between Cardiff, Wales, and New York.

The Orleans Princes have decided not to take seats in the Senate or Chamber of Deputies. The Duke d'Aumale has written a letter declining a nomination for either House.

The Canadian rivers St. Clair and Sydenham are again clear of ice, and several steamers and sailing vessels are making trips. The captains report very little ice in Lake St. Clair.

The French Assembly has decided to maintain martial law in a modified form in all the large cities and towns of the republic.

Marshal Canrobert persists in declining to be a candidate for the French Senate.

The German Ultramontane organ denies that opposition to the Government is abating.

Minister Buffet is disposed to interpret the French Press laws rigorously.

The National Museum of Bucharest has been robbed of its principal treasure, the famous golden hen and chickens. The group—which was of pure gold, profusely adorned with precious stones, and weighed 34 pounds—was of ancient workmanship, and was dug up some years ago at Petrosa. The robbers also carried away the massive golden amphora and pedestal which came from Petrosa. A portion of the broken head of the golden hen was found in the snow, outside the Museum building.

A pamphlet entitled "Poets and Profits," giving an account of the fortunes of Drury Lane Theatre while under Mr. Chatterton's management, has just been published in London. It illustrates fully the precarious nature of theatrical success. "Formosa" brought in a net profit of £10,000, and "The Great City" was a great success. On the other hand, £5,000 were lost with "Marino Faliero," and nearly as much by "Antony and Cleopatra."

A reply has been received at Ottawa from Secretary Fish to the protest sent to Washington by the Dominion Government against the refusal of the United State authorities to allow Canadian vessels to navigate American canals under the terms of the Washington Treaty. The communication acknowledges the receipt of the protest, but gives no intimation what the policy of the American Government will be.

The largest revolving gun that has probably ever been manufactured is now at the Royal gun factories in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, England. It is a revolver with five chambers, firing successively through an open-mouth barrel, and moving about on a kind of truck. It weighs 25 cwt., and appears to be very ingeniously contrived. It will shortly be forwarded to Shoeburyness, to undergo a series of trials in competition with various charges of gun cotton.

Monsignor Debs, the Maronite Archbishop of Beyrout, has presented for the new Montmartre Church of Paris a gigantic cedar, described as one of the trees of Lebanon contemporary with those of Solomon and Hiram, which was lately blown down. Twelve fine planks from it, being a sacred number, will soon reach Paris.

The question of making further grants in aid of railways will engage the Provincial Legislature at an early date. To complete all the roads seeking help, projected and in course of construction, would involve an expenditure of between $12,000,000 and $15,000,000, representing a total mileage of 1,115 miles. The applications of the various companies range from $1,500 to $10,000 per mile, the aggregate sum being $3,500,000, or nearly equal to the whole amount originally appropriated in aid of railways by the Legislature of Ontario.

A dispatch from Berlin to the London Post says the German Government is reported to be favorable to the propositions contained in the American circular in relation to Cuba, German commoners being seriously prejudiced by Cuban disorders. German merchants settled in Havana recently presented a memorial to the Reichstag asking for redress through the intervention of Germany. It is reported that the Spanish Minister at Berlin has informed the German Government of the note which Spain has issued in regard to the American proposals.

Prof. Melchiore Peccluuini of Rome, Italy, being unable to find a suitable location for establishing a Masonic colony in Southern California, has departed for the Hawaiian Islands, where he proposes to lease a large tract on one of the islands of the Archipelago.

It is reported that the mission of Rt. Hon. Steven Cane, Paymaster-General, who went to Egypt to inquire into and arrange the financial affairs of the Khedive's Government, has failed. Egyptian securities are depressed.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC

Harborton, N. J., Jan. 3.—Have had unusually warm, foggy and damp weather during the past week, clearing up warm and pleasant to-day. The year 1875 was not a bad year for farmers in this part of the country as compared with '71-72. We have a heavy crop of corn, good crop buckwheat, average crop oats, good yield of potatoes; wheat not a full crop but very plump grain, and hay nearly average. Prices of produce about the same as in '71-72, and our blacksmiths and other employees have found out that the war is over and do not make their charges a dollar an hour, as they did in '71-72. Prices—New corn, 50c.; oats, 45c.—if bright; wheat, $1.50; hay, $25 per ton; butter, 40c.; pork, 9½@10c. ℔ lb.; eggs, 60c. ℔ score.—D. J. B.

Chapel Hill, N. C., Jan. 3.—This place is, as far as heard from, the most southern extent of the recent earthquake. It was felt, or the rumbling heard, from Alexandria, Va., to this point. Since the earthquake we have had a most extraordinary season of weather. For a week and a half the air has been truly spring-like. For a few days of the time there have been thick clouds and rains. On the fair days people have found it very pleasant without fire throughout the day. Hyacinths and Spiraeas have begun to bloom in the open borders; vines and shrubbery are budding, and persons have enjoyed seats on the open porch. There is a cry of the loss of pork which was slaughtered during the cold days that preceded the great rise in the thermometer. To-day (Jan. 3) the air is coming from the North and there is the prospect of seasonable weather in a few hours.—M. W. A.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Friday, Jan. 8, 1875.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	100,775	Wool, bales	584
Whisky	3,100	Hops, bales	2,600
Corn meal, bbls	2,675	Pork, bbls	9,321
Corn meal, bags	3,525	Cut meats, pkgs	17,300
Wheat, bush	206,000	Lard, pkgs	19,033
Corn, bush	287,000	Tallow, pkgs	1,226
Oats, bush	200,000	Butter, pkgs	22,460
Rye, bush	9,205	Cheese, bxs	13,555
Malt, bush	13,000	Cotton, bales	32,500
Barley, bush	57,500	Rosin	4,832
Beans, bush	8,742	Spts. turp., bbls	348
Grass seed, bags	5,062	Dried Fruits, pkgs	157
Ashes, pkgs	228	Eggs, bbls	6,725
Beef, pkgs	1,416	Beeswax, pkgs	21

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,725 bbls.; same week last year, 490 do. Exports of peas past week, 14,614 bush.; same week last year, 3,518. The new year opens with a general decline in all classes of beans, and there is an increased demand at the price, chiefly for marrows. Lima beans are very dull at the low figures. The supply is mostly from California, but other growths would sell no better. For Canadian peas there is a fair demand. Green peas dull and again lower. Exports of beans for 1875, 36,900 bbls.; for 1874, 32,100 bbls.

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.50@1.60; other, 1.25@1.35; medium, new, $1.40@1.45; fair to good, $1.15@1.30; very poor, 60@90c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.70@1.75; other, $1.40@1.60; white kidney, prime, $1.85@1.95; fair to good, $1.60@1.70; red kidney, new, prime, $1.50@1.60; fair to good, $1.40@1.45; California Lima, choice, $3.50@4.00. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new, duty paid, $1.25@1.27; bulk, in bond, $1.02; green, new, ₱ bush., $1.60; Southern B. E., ₱ 2 bush. bag, $3.10@3.15.

BEESWAX.—This market remains quiet but steady at 31½@32c. for Western, and 32@32½c. for Southern; sales of 2,000 bbls. at the latter price.

BROOM CORN.—There is nothing of importance going on, and late quotations are without change; prime lots are scarce, while the lower grades are in abundance.

We quote Brush, short green, 9½@10c.; hurl, green, 10c.; green, medium, 7@8c.; red and red tipped, 6@7c.

BUTTER.—We lack the impetus of seasonable weather for butter to move well. Prices are not quotably changed, but buyers of round lots can mostly obtain concessions in the under grades. The stock of State is reduced to few grades; it is either lower in quality to that which was recently selling at 25c. or up above 28c. There is a large stock of butter to be used up, and a future cheap season is likely to occur. Fine or fancy holds pretty firm, but such grades are running low, and the interior stock cannot largely replace them this season, as the average quality is much below former seasons. Really choice fall butter is hard to find, and we have already drawn heavily upon the earlier packings of our best counties. Western is quiet for solid packed. Rolls easier. Pails are not quotable. They seem to be hurried or carelessly made, in order to use up the surplus of milk the mild season produces in the vicinity. Our quotations are:

State dairies entire, extra, 30@—c.; entire, good to prime, 26@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; firkins, selected fresh, 28@30c.; good to prime, 26@28c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 33@35c.; good to prime, 30@32c.; fair to good, 27@30c.; poor to fair, 25@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@31c.; dairies, 27@29c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; poor to fair, 22@23c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 17@23c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 26@27c.; good to prime, 24@26c.; tubs selected fresh, 26@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 23@25c.; fair to good, fresh, 21@23c.; poor to fair, fresh, 20@21c.; Western, early packed, selected, 21@22c.; Western, early packed, other, 16@20c. Roll butter, good to prime, 23@24c.; fair to good, 20@22c.

CHEESE.—Exporters are still doing very little. The sales are at 12@12¼c. for very good to strictly fine, with fancy, 13¼c.—held at 13c.

New State factory, fancy, 13@13¼c.; fine, 12¼c.; do. good to prime, 11¼@12¼c.; fair to good, 10@11¼c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12¼c.; good to prime, 10¼@11¼c.; fair to good, 10¼c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12@12¼c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fine, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@11c.; poor to fair, 6@8c.; English dairy, Connecticut, 12@13¼c.; do. State, 17@20c.; pineapple, 16@18c.

COTTON.—Export purchases are larger and spinning demand fair, with prices steady. Quotations as follows:

January, 13¼c.; February, 13 5-16@13 11-32c.; March, 13 9-16@13 19-32c.; April, 13 13-16c@13 25-32c.; May, 14@14 1-32c.; June, 14 3-16@14 7-32c.; July, 14 11-32@14¾c.; August, 14 7-16@14 15-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	10¼	10¼	10¼	10¼
Strict ordinary	10 15-16	10 15-16	10 15-16	10 15-16
Good ordinary	11 9-16	11 9-16	11 11-16	11 11-16
Strict good do	12¼	12¼	12¾	12¾
Low middling	12 11-16	12 13-16	12 15-16	12 15-16
Strict low middling	13 1-16	13 3-16	13 5-16	13 5-16
Middling	13 5-16	13 7-16	13¾	13¾
Good middling	13 13-16	13 15-16	14 1-16	14 1-16
Strict good middling	14 3-16	14 5-16	14 7-16	14 7-16
Middling fair	14 9-16	14 11-16	14 13-16	14 13-16
Fair	15 7-16	15 9-16	15 11-16	15 11-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	10¼	Low middling	12
Strict ordinary	11¾	Middling	12¾

DRIED FRUITS.—There is a little more life to the jobbing trades, with prices more regular; demand chiefly for prime grades of apples.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10¼c.; quarters, 9¼@9¾c.; Western quarters, 8¾@9c.; southern sliced, 1875 crop, 9¼@10c. for prime, and fancy 12c.; Tennessee quarters, 8@8¼c. Blackberries, new, 11@12c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12¾@13c. for halves, and 11¼c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 25@30c. Cherries, 24@25c. Evaporated (or new style dried) peaches are quoted at 22@25c. for peeled and 13c. for unpeeled halves.

EGGS.—The arrivals are liberal for the season, and with a good supply in store holders and sellers are not generally firm. A few prime straight lots of fresh Western are quoted at 30c. Limed are running out. We quote:

Jersey and Pennsylvania, single bbls., ₱ doz., 31@32c.; State, 29@30c.; Western, prime, 28c.; do. fair marks, 28@28½c.; Canadian, 28½@29c.; Southern, 28@29c.; Limed, State, prime, 25@27c.; do. Western, good to prime 24@26c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The bulk of the crop still remains in first hands. Small parcels of peppermint a shade above.

We quote peppermint in glass "H. G." $4.25 ₱ lb., cans, ₱ lb., $4. Wintergreen, $3.25 ₱ lb.; sassafras, 65c.; spearmint, $3; pennyroyal, $2; wormwood, $4; tansy, $4.

FEATHERS.—With an improved supply, prices are easier at 60c. for prime live Western geese and 35c. for mixed. Common poultry feathers not inquired for.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—The flour market ruled heavy. Medium and good grades dull. City Mill flour was shaded and sold to a fair extent, in part for the West Indies. We quote:

Superfine State, $4.25@4.65; extra do., $4.90@5.90; superfine Western, $4.25@4.65; extra do., $4.90@5.90; No. 2, $3.00@4.00; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.25@5.30; trade brands do., $5.35@7.40; white wheat extras, $5.95@7.00; St. Louis, $5.50@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@6.00; Southern at $4.15@4.00 for superfine; $4.80@6.30 for poor to choice shipping extras; $7.25@8.50 for trade and family brands. Rye flour at $4.25@5.40, the latter an extreme. Buckwheat plenty and dull at $2@2.35 ₱ 100 lbs. Corn meal dull at $3@3.25 for yellow Western, $3.10@3.20 for Jersey and Pennsylvania, and $3.85 for Brandywine. Bag meal was dull at $1.10@1.65 ₱ 100 lbs.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.—Layer raisins, $2.65; Muscatel, $2.90@3.15. Currants, new, 7¾c. Tarragona almonds, 17¾c. Sardines, 13¾@14c. Valencia raisins, 10¾c. Turkey prunes, 5¾c.

FRESH FRUITS.—Greenings have scalded some during the late warm spell. Spitzenbergs are turning out well. Sales moderate, and likely to be until the effect of the soft weather is disclosed. The demand for Lady Apples is over; $6@7 per bbl. now extreme for good lots. The stock has been pretty well culled for the holidays. California pears will be not in stock until we can reach Eastern Bourre. Cranberries have a good sale. Grapes not wanted. Peanuts steady, though liberal receipts do not help a late advance.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, $3@3.50; mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; do. fair, $2@2.25. Pears—Choice Cal., ₱ box, $4@4.50. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $3@3.25; good to prime, $2.75@3; good to choice, ₱ bbl., $8.75@9.75; Cape Cod, fancy, ₱ bbl., $9.75@10.25; Eastern, fancy, $9.75@10.25; good to prime, $8.50@9.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.40@1.60; do. Wilmington, $1.70@1.85; do. Tennessee, 75@90c.; Hickory nuts, $1@1.25.

FURS AND SKINS.—Generally quiet, except for hatters' stock. We quote:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00 to 15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00 to 10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50 to 3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50 to 2 50
Badger	20 to 50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50 to 60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40 to 50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00 to 12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, silver	15 00 to 30 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00 to 5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50 to 1 85
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25 to 1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40 to 60
Fox, Kitt	30 to 50
Lynx	1 00 to 2 00
Marten, Stones	1 50 to 2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00 to 4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00 to 3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00 to 1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75 to 1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50 to 75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	28 to 25
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	20 to 28
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12 to 15
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00 to 12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	8 00 to 10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00 to 6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18 to 20
Opossum, South and open North	12 to 15
Racoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indiana handled, dark	80 to 1 00
Racoon, Ill., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50 to 65
Racoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn.	65 to 75
Racoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40 to 50
Racoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15 to 40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00 to 3 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	— to 1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	— to 1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50 to 80
Skunks, whole streaked	15 to 20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00 to 3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75 to 1 25

GRAIN.—Wheat has been comparatively steadily held, notwithstanding large supplies and slow export trade. Latest sales at $1.21@1.23 for prime to very choice No. 2 Milwaukee spring in store; $1.34 for very choice hard Minnesota spring afloat for milling; $1.08@1.09 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring; 93@93c. for rejected spring; $1.01@1.04 for "no grade" red Western; $1.20@1.23 for No. 2 Spring; $1.04@1.15 for winter red and amber; $1.32@1.50 for white, and $1.30@1.34 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 95@96c. for State and 88@90c. for Western. Barley at $1.18@1.20 for No. 2 Canada, and $1.25@1.27 for No. 2 Bay. Corn is active and strong; sales at 66½@66¾c. for new mixed Western; 69c. for high mixed; 67@68 for yellow; 64@65c. for yellow Southern. Oats are strong and fairly active; latest sales at 47@48c. for white Western; 47@48c. for mixed State, and 47@47½c. for prime mixed Chicago.

HAY AND STRAW.—There is only a moderate business being effected in any description, but previous prices are unchanged.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 70@80c.; retail qualities, $1.05@1.15; clover, 65@80c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.20 for long rye; 70@90c. for short rye; 70@80c. for oat.

HIGHWINES are selling at $1.11½@1.12.

HONEY—Has declined when it ought to be advancing. Market very dull, and the cheap quotations that have ruled are a good indication of the inability of the masses to use luxuries this season. We quote:

White clover, in glass boxes, ₱ lb, 18@22c.; buckwheat, 10@18c.; strained, 10@12c.

HOPS.—There is a pretty steady tone to this market, and not a little is being done for export; the late cables report an advance, and shippers are taking advantage of this favorable turn. Home brewers are still quiet, as most of their contracts are now falling due. We quote:

New York State, 11@15c.; Eastern, 11@15c.; Wisconsins, 11@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@7c.; Californians, 15@21c.

LEATHER.—Hemlock, sole, 23@25c. for light; do. middle, 25@27c.; do. heavy, 25@27½c.; good damaged, 21@23½c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Prime dressed poultry have at last reached something like paying prices. Fancy dry picked are quoted 1@2c. higher than our annexed rates. Western stock runs poor; much of it has been in the way during the warm spell, and the importation of all Western is more or less damaged. We quote:

Turkeys, N. J., choice, 17@19c.; do. other, 16@18c.; State and Western, choice, 15@17c.; do. other, 7@13c. Chickens, N. J., 17@19c.; State, as to quality, 16@18c.; Western, 15@17c.; Bucks Co., 19@20c. Ducks, N. J., good to prime, 18@20c.; State, do., 16@18c.; Western, do., 15@17c.; fair to good, 13@15c.; poor, 8@12c. Geese, N. J., prime, 13@15c.; State, good to prime, 10@12c.; Western, do., 9@11c.; do, poor to fair, 7@8c.

Live poultry has sold unusually well for the season. Killers have been several times called upon to supply immediate wants of fresh dressed. We quote:

Fowls, Jersey, 13@15c.; Western, 12@13c. Chickens, 10@11c. Roosters, 6@9c. Turkeys, Jersey, 14@16c.; Western, 12@14c. Ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, 87c.@$1.25; Western, 55@70c.; Jersey, $2@2.50; Western, $1.25@1.62.

The game market is still in a very unsettled condition, owing to the softening effect of the warm spell. A good deal of venison arrives spoiled, or spoils soon after arrival. We quote the following rates for sound stock:

Quail, trapped, prime, ₱ doz., $2.00@2.25; soft, 75c.@$1.50. Grouse, prime, ₱ pair, 80@90c.; drawn, 35@45c. Partridges, choice, ₱ pair, 60@70c.; Western, drawn, 50c.; Eastern, 40@50c. Hares, ₱ pair, 15@30c. Rabbits, ₱ pair, 20@30c. Venison, short saddles, ₱ lb., 9@10c.; long saddles, 7@9c.; whole deer, 5@6c.

PROVISIONS.—The general markets are steady. Quotations are for mess pork, $20.75@21; for January, $20.80.; extra prime, $15; prime mess, $19.50. Dressed hogs at 8¼@8c. for Western. Dry salted shoulders 9¾c. Bacon at 10¾c. for long clear, 11c. for short clear. Lard at 12¾c. for spot, December and January, 13 1-16c. for February, 13 3-16 for March. Tallow at 9¾@10c. for prime. Stearine at 13¾c. for Western. Beef hams, $21.50@22.50. Beef, extra mess, $12@12.50; do., plain mess $11@11.50; new tierced at $23 for prime mess, $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $29.00@30.00. Old extra mess, $12, and $10@12 for plain mess; packet, $16@17.

SALT.—Ashton's, $2.50 ₱ sack; Higgins and Dean's, $1.70; Denkin's, $1.55@1.65; Worthington's, Marshall's and Washington's, $1.60@1.65.

SEED.—Clover quiet and rather weak at 12¾@12¾c. for Western, and 13@13¾c.

SUGAR.—Market steady with a fair inquiry. Powdered and granulated, 10@10¾c.; crushed, 10¾c.; soft yellow, 8¾c.; "A," 10@10¾c. for State.

SUNDRIES.—Cider in small pkgs. $22@25; in casks, $18@20; old papers, 1@1¼c.; country rags, free of wool, 3@3½c.; hoops, 14 feet, 38@40c.; do. 12 feet, 32c.

TOBACCO.—There has been a moderate demand for seedleaf at about steady prices. Kentucky quiet, but steady.

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 8	7¾@ 8¾
Good lugs	7 @ 8	8¾@ 9
Low leaf	9¾@10	9¾@10¾
Medium leaf	10¾@11	10¾@12
Good leaf	12¾@13	13¾@13¾
Fine leaf	13¾@15	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	17 @22

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

Connecticut wrappers	20 @45
Assorted lots	15 @25
Massachusetts assorted lots	12 @15
Connecticut and Massachusetts seconds	10 @12
Fillers	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania assorted lots	16 @25
New York assorted lots, common	8 @11
Good to fine	12 @18
Ohio assorted lots	8¾@10
Wisconsin assorted lots	7 @ 9
Seconds and fillers, shipping	7 @ 9

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
Connecticut and Massachusetts fillers	8 @10
Binders and seconds	12 @18
New York State assorted lots	7 @ 9
Pennsylvania assorted lots	15 @25
Ohio, assorted lots	6¾@ 8
Wisconsin	6¾@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week 400 bbls.; of onions 300 do. The supply of potatoes is still far above the wants of trade, and there is little chance of later sales, making an improved average.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.50@1.75; Prince Alberts, $1.00@1.25; Peerless, 65c.@$1.00. Sweet potatoes, $1@2.75. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $3@5; red, $6@10. Cauliflower, bbl., $2@5. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 40@60c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@2.75. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00.

WOOL.—Only a moderate trade has been effected in this staple, as manufacturers are not disposed to pay present rates, and holders, being backed by light stocks, are unwilling to grant concessions. We give quotations as follows:

Picklock	50 @ 54
XX	48 @ 49
X	@ 48
No. 1	48 @ 50
No. 2	45 @ 48
Coarse	40 @ 45
Combing	58 @ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—	
XX	44 @ 46
X	44 @ 46
No. 1	46 @ 48
No. 2	43 @ 47
Course	40 @ 43
Combing	55 @ 62
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
XX	45 @ 47
X	45 @ 47
No. 1	46 @ 48
No. 2	43 @ 47
Course	40 @ 43
Combing	55 @ 62
Combing, unwashed	38 @ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—	
XX	44 @ 47
X	44 @ 47
No. 1	46 @ 48
No. 2	43 @ 45
Course	40 @ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—	
Fine unwashed	35 @ 38
Medium unwashed	34 @ 36
Course unwashed	27 @ 30
Burry	17 @ 23

ROCHESTER, Jan. 6.—Flour market steady; spring, $5.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat is dull; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.30. Oats, nominal at 35@45c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 25@28c. Cheese, 12@13c. Eggs, 26@28c. Lard, 13@14c. Apples, ₱ bu., 50@85c. Potatoes, ₱ bu., 25@35c. Beans, ₱ bu., 85c.@1.20. Mess pork, $21@—. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $8@12. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $5.75@6.00. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Jan. 9, 1876.

THERE is no material change to note in the market this week. There has been a little more inquiry for fine cheese, but prices on late ends, both for farm and factory, remain about the same as last week. Farm dairy cheese is composed of "odds and ends," and sales are made at prices ranging at 6@9c., according to quality. The lower grades are hard to move, and buyers show but little disposition to handle them even at low prices. The "fancy cheese" of our best factories is not on the market, as the views of holders are above those of buyers. The price on such lots range at 13¾@14c., and the quantity back is comparatively light.

The "late ends" of factories now ready for shipment may be quoted at 9¾@10¾c., with exceptional lots going a shade higher. There are several factories holding considerable lots of into-made cheese which will not be put upon the market at present.

Winter butter is coming forward and sells at about 25c. for fair to good lots.

The weather has been warm and the snow during the early part of the week was not sufficient for sleighs to run on the country roads leading to this market.

We begin to hear of serious trouble in the herds on account of abortion. In other respects, stock of all kinds appear to be wintering well.

We have advices from Europe up to the 23d of December. Our London correspondent says:

The finest English Cheddar cheese is scarce and is sought after. Faultless American is undoubtedly scarce. Good medium and low grades compose the stock in market and sales have been good.

American, extra, 95@98s.; fine, 88@94s.; good, 56@60s.; secondary, 21@48s. The other descriptions of cheese sell as below:—English cheddar, 79@98s.; Wiltshire double, 68@80s.; Cheshire medium, 56@88s.; fine, 76@90s.; Scotch, 70@78s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 70s. ₱ cwt.

Fine butter is very scarce, and transactions in all sorts have been good. The market is firm. Quotations are as follows:

Cloonmels, 140@148s.; Corks, 118s.; Dorsets, 103s.; Normandy, 110@160s.; Swedish, 100s.; American and Canadian, 80@120s., ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter brings 70@84s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,123	33	316	2,474	000
Forty-Eighth St.	000	19	65	3,529	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	479	8,342
Harslmus Cove	4,029	00	000	7,245	10,139
Totals this week	7,152	51	441	11,727	18,481
" last week	6,795	34	749	20,011	24,352

BEEVES.—On last Monday forenoon trade opened slow on a moderate run of horned cattle, falling off a ¼c. on the closing quotations of the past week. The quality generally was fair. Prices were 8¾@13¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 4¼@11 cwt. Wednesday, trade moderate, with all of the herds to hand sold off at noon; prices, 7¾@13c. ₱ lb.; weights, scant 5@10 cwt. Thursday, sales fair at 8@12¾c.; weights, 5¼@7¼ cwt. Friday, the markets closed dull at 8¾@12¾c.; weights, 5@8 cwt. From 55@58 lbs., not, have been allowed to the cwt. Spanish herds direct from the Plains sold at 7@8¾c. ₱ lb.; do., corn-fed, 9@9¼c. Native steers, 8@12¾c.; grade do., 12¾@13¾c. Oxen, 8@13c.; Dry cows, 9c. Heifers, 10c. Mixed herds, 8@11c. Bulls, live weight, 4@4¾c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13¾	12 @13¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	7 @ 9¾	6 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@11	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade so small as to render quotations of little value, save to dealers. Three cows sold at $55@67.00 ₱ head; 2 do., $60@75; 5 do., $50@75; 3 do., 70@82—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals nominal at 8@10¾c. ₱ lb. Grass calves slow of sale at 4@5c. ₱ lb., also at $6@9.50 ₱ head.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Sheep slow of sale, even in the selected lots. Lambs have not been quoted. Monday sheep sold at 5@6¾c. ₱ lb. Wednesday, 4¾@7¾c. Thursday, 6¾@7¾c.; Friday, the markets closed dull at 6¾@7¾c. Iowa sheep sold at 5c. ₱ lb.; Colorado do., 5¾c.; State do., 4¾@6¾c.; Michigan do., 4¾@5¾c.; Kentucky do., 5¾@6¾c.; Illinois do., 5@6¾c.; Canada do., 6@7c.

HOGS.—Two car loads of Ohio hogs, live weight, sold at $7.70@8 ₱ cwt. City dressed remain inactive on a light run and with high rates of sale. Monday, 8¾@9¾c.; Wednesday, 9¾@11c.; Thursday, 10¾@11c. Friday trade closed dull at 10¾@11c. ₱ cwt. Western dressed slow of sale at 8¾@9¾c. ₱ lb.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade still dull and small. The only branch of the horse trade which manifests any activity is that of the sale of heavy draught horses, nine head of which sold at $275@400 ₱ head, including one pair choice quality at $575; one pair family carriage horses, $400; one pair stylish do., $1,000; thirteen head, poor quality, light harness horses, $19@70 ₱ head; ten ordinary quality, do., $95@150 ₱ head; one saddle horse, thoroughbred, choice quality, $300; three ponies, for harness use, $200@215 ₱ head; one trotter, moderate action, $250. Fifteen horses arrived ₱ Erie Railroad, via, Oak Cliff Station.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

GEORGE WILKES has gone to Europe.

GEN. MCCLELLAN is living in Baltimore.

SIR ANTHONY ROTHSCHILD of London, is dead.

SERVIR PASHA it is said had been recalled from Herzegovina.

MR. MAX MULLER has been offered a professorship in Florence.

MR. MAURICE DALY of New York, is staying in Jacksonville, Fla.

MRS. DAVID DUDLEY FIELD is said to be suffering from severe illness.

COL. W. H. CHEESEBROUGH and Mrs. Cheesebrough have returned to Europe.

THE Rev. Mr. Moody is opposed to dedicating church edifices till they are paid for.

GOV. H. LUDDINGTON and other Wisconsin officers were inaugurated at Madison, Jan. 3.

M. ONTHEY, French Minister plentpotentiary, has gone to Egypt on a special mission.

Bishop HAVEN is in New Orleans, and will remain there during the present month.

JAMES ANTHONY, late of the Sacramento Union, died in san Francisco, Jan. 4 of apoplexy.

ARCHDUKE RUDOLPHE, Prince Imperial of Austria, will be crowned King of Hungary in July.

THE King and Queen of Greece will make a tour in the spring to study the Eastern question.

PROF. MARSH has secured 2,500 volumes of Japanese literature for the library of Yale College.

THE Hon. Alex. H. Stephens was improving daily at last accounts, but was still very sick and weak.

THE NEXT edition of Mr. Tennyson's works is to be annotated with explanations of all the obscure passages.

THE Rev. D. N. Bentley of Norwich, Conn., officiated recently at the marriage of his great-granddaughter.

CAPT. S. P. CHILD, formerly a sea captain in the East India trade, died in Warren, R. I., Jan. 5th, aged 97 years.

COL. T. B. MILLS offers to pay the expenses of sending a regiment of Arkansas State Guards to the Centennial.

COL. S. A. STOCKDALE, a member of Grant's staff in the latter part of the war, died Christmas, at San Diego, California.

THE total income of the Prince of Wales, from all sources, is about $575,000. The Princess receives, besides $50,000.

BISHOP JEREMYN, late of Colombo, has been unanimously elected to succeed the late Bishop Forbes in the diocese of Buchin.

MR. CARLYLE expresses himself as greatly pleased by the address and medal presented to him on his 80th birthday.

EXCURSION trains run on three roads to accomodate people from other towns anxious to hear Tilton lecture in Hartford.

S. F. LYMAN, who has for twenty-seven years been Judge of the Probate Court at Northampton, Mass., died Jan. 3, aged 75 years.

THE Senators Wm. Windom of Minnesota, J. R. West of Louisiana, and James E. English of Connecticut, were in this city, Jan. 5th.

MISS M. H. DAVIS, daughter of Jefferson Davis, was married at Memphis recently, to J. Addison Hayes, cashier of the State National Bank.

ALDERMAN STONE, ex-lord Mayor of London, has received the rank and decoration of the French legion of honor from President MacMahon.

GEN. B. F. BUTLER is to deliver the Fourth of July oration at Lowell, Mass. This is the first piece of news from the Essex statesman for a long time.

PROF. B. L. GILDERSLEEVE of the University of Virginia, has accepted the chair of Greek in the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore, at a salary of $5,000 a year.

THE Rev. Dong Gong is the Chinese preacher who recently went from San Francisco to Portland, Oregon. Already he has baptized twelve Chinese converts there.

EX-SPEAKER BLAINE has been spending the New Year's season with his relatives in Carlisle, a town with which his family was identified from its foundation 150 years ago.

JUDGE PETER GANSEVOORT died at Albany, Jan. 3. He was one of the oldest and most eminent citizens of that city, and was a son of Gen. Peter Gansevoort of Revolutionary fame.

MR. JAMES MASON of this city, has won the chess match with Mr. Bird, the English player, thus gaining the purse of $100 subscribed by the members of the New York Down-Town Chess Club.

MAYOR COBB calls the attention of Bostonians, in his annual message, to the Centennial of the Evacuation of Boston by the British on March 17 next, and suggests a suitable municipal celebration of it.

MR. J. M. SEARS, the Yale student who is heir to a $9,000,000 estate in Boston, cannot come into full control of the property until he is 40 years of age. Till that time he will have an income of $10,000 a year.

MISS JULIA J. THOMAS of Cornell, carried off the Greek prize in the Intercollegiate contest; before she could take it she got married and it went to somebody else. Why? Because, accusatively speaking, Greek is all *gamon* to her now.

GOV. TILDEN is said to have accepted an invitation to act as presiding officer of the Infant Asylum Ball at the Academy of Music, and Mr. John Bigelow will be the Vice-President. The arrangements are in charge of Mr. Theodore Moss of Wallack's Theater.

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— France supports 1,500 dramatic authors.

— Russia advises Montenegro to remain neutral.

— Fishing is good on Oneida lake, near North Bay.

— The winter term of Hamilton College opened Jan. 7.

— Dividends paid in Hartford, last year, aggregates $10,343,409.

— The American Rifle Club has decided to build a club-house at Creedmoor.

— There are 11,333 blind men and 8,977 blind women in the United States.

— The Republican candidates were assured great popular support in Paris.

— Gregg is the only county in Texas out of debt and with money in her treasury.

— The people of western Georgia are still emigrating to Texas in large numbers.

— The Evening Republic is a new daily published by the Courier Company of Buffalo.

— A conspiracy has been discovered in Servia to dethrone Prince Milan, so says rumor.

— The Irish Home Rule members of Parliament held a conference in Dublin, last week.

— An attempt is being made at Brunswick, N. C., to raise Angora goats for their wool.

— A large number of Scandinavians have colonized near Falls City, Washington Territory.

— A saving of $190,000 is possible from the disbanding of the several New York regiments.

— Since 1865 the State of Alabama has bought, at tax sales, no less than 4,800,000 acres of land.

— Of the Mayors of the incorporated cities of this state, 14 are Democrats and 9 Republicans.

— The money order business of the New York post-office in 1875, amounted to about $31,000,000.

— The boat-houses of the amateur oarsmen on the Harlem River have a lonely look at this season.

— The Third Presbyterian Sunday school, Albany, celebrated its fifty-third anniversary Sunday.

— The West Presbyterian Church, Binghamton, has paid an indebtedness of $16,000 during the past year.

— A new hospital has been opened at Springfield, Ill., by a party of Sisters of Charity expelled from Germany.

— Nine jurors in a panel of twelve will be permitted to return a verdict according to the new Constitution of Texas.

— It has been decided to begin the Channel tunnel at St. Margaret's, near Dover, next April, by opening a trial cutting.

— The report of the English Committee on reorganizing the Erie Railway recommends giving control to the bondholders.

— The School Committee has again defeated the proposition to abolish corporal punishment in the public schools of Boston.

— In Philadelphia all owners of clipped horses which are not properly blanketed in the streets are to be arrested for cruelty to animals.

— On the 5th inst. the laboring men of Albany paraded with the motto, "Bread or Work," and waited on the Mayor, asking employment.

— Besides furnishing all the material, the Government will be obliged to pay $1,000,000 for the rebuilding of the Monadnock, at San Francisco.

— Vanderbilt University at Nashville, now has 200 students in its medical department, 150 in the literary, 40 in the theological, and 20 in the law.

— The hotels of Washington are crowded with the baggage of disappointed office seekers who didn't have enough money left to pay their bills.

— During 1875, there were built in the Boston District, 2 ships, 6 barks, 3 schooners, 1 barkentine, 1 steamer, and 8 other vessels, with a total tonnage of 8,439 51-100.

— A quarterly dividend of two and one-half per cent. will be paid by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company on and after Jan. 20. Transfer books closed recently.

— A woman at New Haven recently bought, at an auction sale, for a few cents, a $1,500 India shawl, which had accidentally got among some articles sent to the auction room.

— A despatch from San Diego says that the entire Mexican population was implicated in the recent raid on Campo and would have shared the spoils had the raid been successful.

— The subscribers to the new music hall in Cincinnati have organized with Mr. Joseph Longworth for President, Mr. Julius Dexter, Secretary, and Mr. Reuben R. Springer, Treasurer.

— A Tennessee court has just decided that a teacher has the same right to enforce obedience from a child that a parent has, and can therefore inflict corporal punishment when necessary.

— The total exports from this port to the Republic of Hayti in 1875 were $1,881,514. This is nearly $1,500,000 in excess of the previous year, while the imports show an increase of over $750,000.

— During the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1875, postage stamps of the value of $789,905.50 were sold at the Post-Office in this city. This exceeds by $30,000 the sale of stamps during any previous quarter.

— The California Senate has passed a bill for the destruction of the seals in the harbor of San Francisco on the representation of the Fish Commissioners that they kill the small fry and prevent the increase of fish in its waters.

— The National Republican Convention of 1856 was held at Philadelphia; that of 1860, at Chicago; that of 1864, at Baltimore; that of 1868, at Chicago, and that of 1872 at Philadelphia. The West feels itself entitled to the next one.

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A good wife is a good thing, but a bad husband beats her.

WHEN is love like a battle?—When it comes to an engagement.

A GOOD temperance work—Removing the bars at the mouth of the Mississippi.

How does man differ from the brute creation? He stands upright, but he doesn't act so.

IT is all well enough to say, "Take things as they come," but suppose they don't come?

JONES, in writing to a friend, says that he is glad to see that his wife is recovering very slowly.

QUERY from the studios.—When a man marries a lady artist, ought he to become a model husband?

THE Cincinnati elephant that swallowed two gallons of whisky at one gulp says that he took it for "a cold."

THE person who composed "O, for a Thousand Tongues!" passed most of his boyhood in molasses hogsheads on the wharf.

WHEN Freedom, from her mountain hight,
Unfurled her standard to the air,
Her skirts, pinned back so very tight,
Made her appear exceedingly fair.

IN St. Louis everybody is considerate, and therefore a daily paper remarks:—"Two gentlemen and a lady left for the Penitentiary last week."

A YOUNG lady asked a book-store clerk the other day, if he had "Festus." "No," replied the clerk, "but I'm afraid a boil is coming on the back of my neck."

IT is said that some people have what is called "spontaneity," and some haven't; but nobody ever sat down on a pin-cushion yet without manifesting something surprisingly like it.

"You here again, sir?" remarked the magistrate. "'Scuze me ju'ge," replied the victim, "I've been vazzinat'd four (hic), five times, an' juz I spoz'd, 's too much, 's too much."

PRINTED signs of "Heaven is Our Home," may be hung in every room in the house, yet a man will speak up promptly and emphatically when he can't find the boot-jack.

GRANDFATHER to his hopeful—"My son, which would you rather have when you get home, a little brother or a little sister?" Grandson—"Well, I would rather have a little pony."

IT is hard to keep track of the sermon when you sit in the back part of the church, but then you get out first and have the best chance to select a good umbrella from the pile at the door.

"HAVE you any nice fresh farmer's eggs?" inquired a precise old lady at a grocery store. "No, ma'am," replied the practical clerk, "but we have some very good hen's eggs." She took three to try.

A NEW sect has appeared in Kansas. They hold it a sin to kill a bug, or for a young lady to let any one put his arm around her. As for the bugs—good. As for the young lady—well, better.

A FRENCHMAN thinks the English language is very tough. "Dere is look out," he says, "which is to put out your head and see; and look out which is to haul in your head and not for to see—just contrarie."

"No George," she said, in response to his question, "It is not true that a string of new belt buckles in a shop window would make any woman lose a train, but," she added, amusingly, "sometimes she might have to run a little."

JOHN HENRY had a guest to dinner, the other day, and during a pause in the conversation the infant terrible spoke up:—"I wish I was you." "Do you little boy; and why do you wish you were me?" 'Cos you don't get your ear pinched when you eat vittles with your knife."

PAT had been engaged to kill a turtle for a neighbor, and proceeded immediately to cut off its head, Pat's attention was called to the fact that the turtle still crawled about, though it had been decapitated, and he explained:—"Sure the baste is entirely dead, only he is not yet conscious of it."

"Only a lock of golden hair,"
The lover wrote:—"Perchance to-night
It formeth on my pillow fair
A halo bright."
"Only a lock of golden hair,"
The maiden, smiling, sweetly said,
And she laid it over the back of a chair
And went to bed.

THUS does the unregenerate Salt Lake Tribune scoff at the saints:—"The other day the One-Eyed Pirate of the Wasatch sauntered up to the counter in the provisions department of the Co-op, and, noticing the oval butter scales with the hand pointing to the figure 12, pulled out his watch and set it accordingly. The pirate's watch now keeps butter time than any ticker in town.

DEAR! DEAR! DEAR!

Ancient Maiden—"What is the price of beef to-day, Mr. FROST?"
Butcher—"Fifteen pence a pound, Miss."
Ancient Maiden—"Fifteen pence a pound! Why you *are* a dear butcher!"
Butcher—"Why—eh—yes—thank you, Miss, that's just what Mrs. FROST used to say before I married her!"

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Rural Architecture.

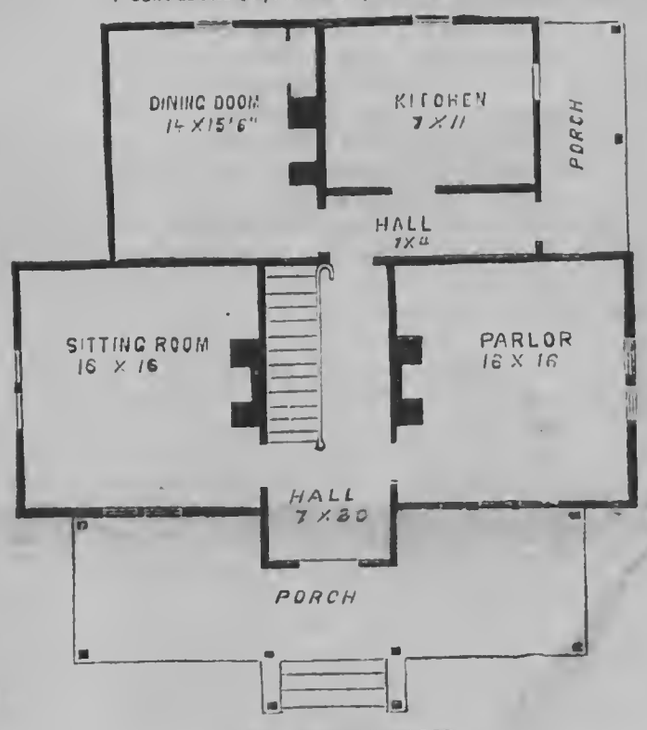
PLAN OF A SUBURBAN COTTAGE.

An article published in the RURAL some months ago (Sept. 18, 1875) — entitled "Cottages and Cottage Life, with Special Reference to Cottage Architecture at Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard"— opened with the remark that "Cottage Architecture has been greatly improved during the past decade," and concluded as follows:—"We rejoice that Cottage Architecture is receiving so much attention all over the land, and trust the subject will continue to exert an influence upon the minds and affections of people who believe in home comfort, and cheap, comfortable homes. During the past quarter of a century we have published plans and descriptions of many excellent cottages, of various styles, sizes and prices, and, being desirous of hereafter doing all we may in promoting improvement in the same direction, invite those informed on the subject to give RURAL readers the benefit of their experience and suggestions in and concerning cottage building, ornamentation, etc."

In response to the above invitation we have received from correspondents, and obtained from architects, several plans of Cottages of different styles and cost of building, which we propose giving during the year. Our intention is to give such a variety of plans that many country and suburban residents, (as well as the temporary habitues of seaside and other summer resorts,) will find something consonant with location, taste and means — and we again invite designs and suggestions from those disposed to give others the benefit of what they know about Cottage Architecture. Meantime we take pleasure in presenting the accompanying Plan of a Suburban Cottage.

This design was furnished by Messrs. DRUM & KUHN, Architects, of Pittsburgh, Pa., and from it, we understand, several cottages have been built in the suburbs and vicinity of that city. The perspective view will, we think, please many of our readers, while the floors seem to be conveniently arranged. The building may be constructed with a "balloon frame," or the walls can be built of brick, as preferred. The roof of the main building should be covered with slate—those of the verandas and dormer windows with tin. The interior arrangement is made so plain in the plans as to be readily understood,

The architects say that this cottage, if built in a neat and plain, but substantial manner, will cost from $4,000 to $5,000,—and would, if erected on a good-sized lot, with the surroundings kept in order, present a very pleasing appearance. Of course the above estimate of cost was made for the vicinity of Pittsburgh, where lumber must be cheap. The cost of such a building would necessarily vary in different localities, according to the price of lumber, wages, etc.



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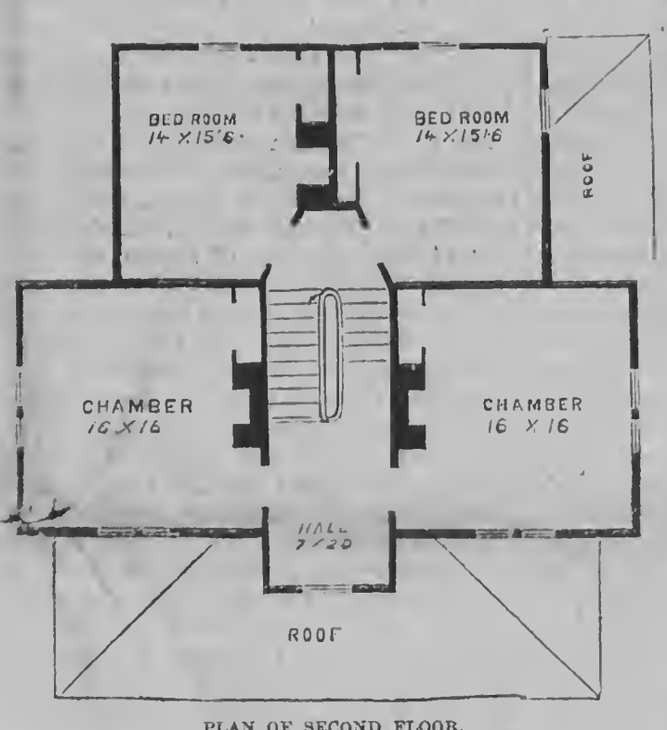

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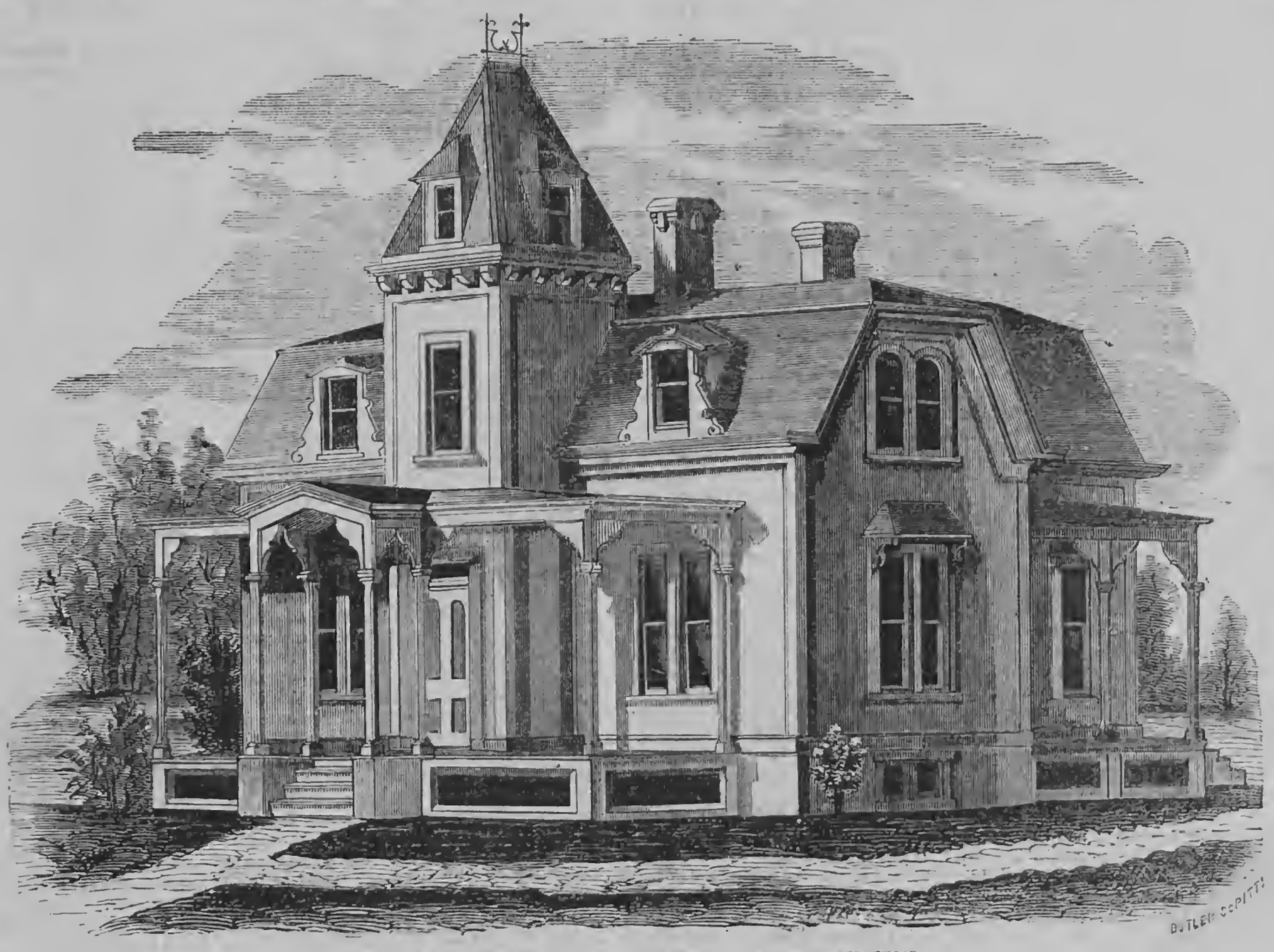


SUBURBAN COTTAGE.—PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF ELEVATION.

POSITION OF A RESIDENCE.

HOUSES on streets running nearly north and south are far preferable to those located on those going east and west, in a sanitary estimate. In the first, here at the north of the equator, the sun shines brilliantly in the forenoon on the front, and with nearly equal force in the afternoon on the rear. Thus dampness is expelled and the whole edifice is dry and the air far purer for its solar exposure. If a house is on an east and west street, those fronting north are decidedly the best for a residence, because the sun's action on the yard, the kitchen, and usual regions of neglected accumulations, purifies and modifies the humid atmosphere that is sure to predominate in yards and the back side of houses whose rear is north of the street. Thus circumstanced, the back rooms are never so pleasant, cheerful or economically warmed in winter or ventilated in summer, as when on the south side. Opening on the street, the frame of each gets both light and air by reason of the frequent swing of the front door. Here is a law of health in a nutshell.

DURABILITY OF WOOD.

WE expect wooden buildings to decay, and if they endure for a century or two they are regarded as venerable specimens of antiquity. The First Baptist meeting house in Providence, R. I., a fine architectural model, is said to be as sound, even to the top of its lofty spire, as when first built, though nearly a century old. But this is a young infant compared with some European churches. The trusses of the old part of the roof of the Basilica of St. Peter's, at Rome, were framed in 816, but when carefully examined in 1814 were found to be perfectly sound and good. The domes of the church of St. Mark's, at Venice were built nearly eight hundred and fifty years ago, and the outside timbers are yet good. Brick and stone could hardly last better than such woodwork. Timber cased in plaster and in iron, however, has developed a very dangerous kind of dry rot.

A NOVELTY in building is to have a window directly over the mantel-piece. The effect is said to be very pleasant; but it must be queer to lean on the mantelpiece and look out of doors over the clock!

Farm Economy.

WHAT ARE THE TRUE PHOSPHATIC FOODS?

Ever since it was discovered that the brain abounded in phosphorus, the endeavor has been to find some kinds of foods abounding in the phosphates in order to stimulate and invigorate its action. Fishes and wild game have claimed pre-eminence among phosphatic foods, and many a table has been graced with these delicacies in the hope of imparting greater mental activity. How this means of intellectual progress has resulted is not clear. Mark Twain once wrote to a young man, who asked him what he should do for his brain and if a fish diet would not be beneficial, advising him to swallow a couple of whales—not the largest whales, but moderate-sized ones—every day for a year, after which he might become of average intelligence; but though several years have passed since the prescription was given, we have yet to hear that any remarkable result has followed its adoption. With all the phosphatic food eaten of set purpose and for the brain rather than the body, it is to be feared that very little "took." Nobody has come forward luminous with phosphatic light, and men who can set rivers on fire are fully as scarce as ever.

We might have suspected as much. Savage and semi-savage people the world over have for ages lived on fish and game, the highest forms of phosphatic food; but somehow these advantages have not developed them out of their barbarism. What reason have we for supposing that eating fish frequently will develop powers of mind in civilized men greater than those possessed by island savages or Esquimanx, who live on fish all the time? In civilized lands no classes eat fish more frequently than fishermen themselves, but, though often enterprising and wide-awake business men, fishermen have developed few poets, philosophers, scientists or statesmen. The association of fish eating with brain power seems to be a fanciful deduction from a chemical fact, but not sustained by practical experience.

On this question we wish to suggest rather than affirm or even propose a new theory. Is it not possible that the large proportion of phosphates in fish and other animal food are not easily assimilable in the human economy, and therefore not available for the brain? We do not reject animal foods, as they have important uses; but does not the Scriptural declaration that "all flesh is grass" give a hint that to vegetables rather than animal food we must look to the highest development of mankind? If so, the fact is of immense importance, and illustrates remarkably the wisdom of the laws on which human progress depends. If animal foods were essential to the highest development of humanity, only an infinitesimal portion of mankind could ever become really great by exclusive feeding on slaughtered animals. The narrowness of the chance for advancement would intensify human hates and make the world a worse turmoil and hurly-burly than it is, with the certainty that as population increased the exclusive flesh or fish diet must become less common, and civilization and progress proportionately decline. The exact reverse of this suppositious condition of things is the fact. May it not result from an exact reversal of the the theories on which it was based? May it not also be true that phosphates, in order to be made most available as brain food, must first pass through some form of vegetable life and thus be taken into the human economy? The great facts of human sivilization harmonize with this theory as they do with no other. The beginning of civilization is always the abandonment of a life which depends upon fishes and wild game, and the adoption of the growing of grains and edible plants. The progress and character of civilization depends largely on the kind of grain used. Wheat, oats and barley are the grains most abundant as phosphates, and where they are the staple foods civilization has reached its highest development. Rice is a less-developed grain, poorer in phosphatic material, and rice-fed peoples, like those of India and China, have a less vigorous and fruitful civilization. In this country fashion has largely neutralized the advantage of our wheaten diet by taking the phosphatic portions of the grain from the flour. This, however, confirms our view. Fashionable people are mainly fools, and are becoming more and more so every year. The only sensible people of the country who continue to eat white bread generally manage to get a considerable portion of phosphates in corn bread and hominy; but even they would be a good deal brighter and smarter if they ground their wheat *whole*.

This subject of dieting on phosphatic foods enlarges. It is pretty well established now that grains of any kind grown on fields rich in phosphates are themselves richer in phosphates than if grown where there is a deficiency. The proportionate increase is not great; but it is appreciable by chemical analysis, and probably still more by the more sensitive human economy. It is of no use to eat fishes or bones or phosphates in any kind of animal organisms with the hope of thereby benefiting yourself. Apply your phosphates to the soil as food for wheat and corn. They will give you increased crops; but in addition to this there will also be a slightly increased amount of phosphates in the wheat and corn grown, and these will be in form to be of the greatest benefit to the consumer. Who shall say when the farmer does this that he does not stand at the base of all improvement, slowly but surely raising all mankind to a higher level? Universal experience shows that the amount and character of phosphatic grains eaten by any people is as fair an index to their civilization as any that can be adopted. Will not the rule hold further, that by increasing the phosphatic composition of plants, even in the very slight degree now possible, is an important means to advance civilization? There is reason to hope that this increase will be progressive, and that new varieties of wheat and corn grown from seed rich in phosphatic elements will in time develop food whose stimulus to thought and brain will exceed anything now deemed possible.

But it isn't worth while to become too enthusiastic over theories which experience may prove wide of the truth. We have here placed some thoughts on record mainly as suggestions which it can do no harm to think about.

A FARM OF 25 ACRES.

A. N. Kent of Bucksport, Me., believes that farming will pay even on a small amount of land. He gives the results in the Maine Farmer of the past year's operations on a farm of twenty-five acres. We quote it, not as anything extraordinary; but merely showing results no greater than many others have achieved under equally favorable circumstances. It is evident that this farm though small is a rich one.

Mr. B. F. Farnham of Bucksport, Me., has a small farm of 25 acres, five in tillage and the rest in pasture. He cut the present season eight tons of good hay, and raised from eighty-nine rods of land, 2500 lbs. of squash, 80 bushels Mangold Wurtzel beets, 40 bushels carrots, 40 bushels potatoes, 5 bushels beans, 60 bushels rutabaga turnips, besides sweet corn, pole beans, green peas, &c., for summer's family use.

The first ten rods was planted with squash, hills 8 feet apart, made broad and deep with the spade, and potatoes drilled between the hills, from which he raised 2500 lbs. squash, and 15 bushels potatoes. Twenty rods in Wurtzel beets yielded 80 bushels; nine rods in carrots 40 bushels; sixteen rods in potatoes 25 bushels; twenty rods in turnips 60 bushels; fourteen rods in beans 5 bushels; seed planted, 6 quarts. No fertilizers were used except stable manure, and he believes we should make our own fertilizers in our own stables. He has used phosphates in years past by way of experimenting, but believes good hard wood ashes as valuable as the phosphates we generally purchase.

After the ground is prepared for the seed, about all the work and weeding is done with Harrington's patent seed sower and hand cultivator, of which Mr. Farnham speaks in the highest terms. After harvest, his land was thoroughly plowed and cultivated, and laid down to grass in November. Mr. Farnham keeps two cows, from which he has sold the present season, $80 worth of milk; two calves for $4, and made 240 lbs. butter, besides what milk and cream has been used in his family of five, and they are "good livers." He believes cows do quite as well in winter on good hay and roots, as on oil cake, cotton seed meal or shorts, which no farmer can afford to buy:—we can raise roots much the cheapest. In feeding Mr. Farnham changes in roots each day, feeding turnips, wurtzels, and carrots alternately. His pig killed at the age of eight months and twenty-one days, weighed 406 lbs. I asked Mr. Farnham why he did not tell the farmers through some agricultural paper how he raised his pig, and give them the benefit of his experience, he replied:—"Farmers would laugh at me, a blacksmith of 25 years, to try to tell them how to raise a pig. But I have been experimenting for four years on the best way to raise a pig, and I have found by fermenting all the food he eats after the age of six weeks, we can get the best pig for the amount of labor and food consumed. All food but refuse potatoes, beets, squash, &c., is fed uncooked, and in all cases fermented before feeding. I have a tub where sour food is always kept, and when his morning food is taken out his dinner is put in, and when his dinner is taken out his supper is put in. Food should not be allowed to get too sour in hot weather. All vegetables are cooked and soured in the same way. My pig has had only ten bushels of meal with small potatoes, squash and beets, &c., with what milk we had to spare." It must be remembered two calves were kept to the age of four weeks, and 1200 qts. of milk sold, besides what was used in the family, which would take the milk of one cow at least. He has made two cords of excellent manure from his pig, which was applied to the land before laying it down to grass in November.

The pig was Chester White, crossed with the Suffolk, obtained from one of our best breeders, Mr. J. Cunningham, who from nine sows has raised 140 pigs this season. He tries to breed for the best pigs for the amount of food consumed at the age of about eight or nine months. How well he succeeded the scales will tell, as in past years very many will tip the beam at over 300 lbs. at that age.

MEAT AND MANURE.

Let it be remembered that the manufacture of beef is only profitable when it is coupled with the production of manure. Both scientific and practical men are agreed on this point, and hence the preservation and perfect making of dung is a matter of great importance. All good buildings should be contrived so that the manure from the various animals accommodated may be well mixed. We have in our thoughts a set of farm buildings, designed with much display of scientific knowledge in many respects; but alas! the architect had overlooked this cardinal point, and to this day the horse, pig and cow dung are all thrown into separate heaps, there to suffer from dryness; or, at best, to result in a badly-mixed or inferior quality of dung. Stables and byres should open into courts, over which the litter from the horses and cows should be regularly spread every day. By this means alone will a good result be obtained.

The respective merits of boxes, byres and fold yards for fattening cattle in a great measure depend upon the quality of dung they turn out. The box is economical in the matter of straw, and will be esteemed for this reason in suburban districts. It is also favorable for the manufacture of good manure, as, being under cover, the litter is wetted by the droppings of the animal only. The byre is still more economical of straw, but is not favorable to the manufacture of good manure, owing to the animals being tied up. Litter from byres ought to be thrown out into courts and trodden down with young stock. Fold yards require much litter, as they are always more or less open, and are for this reason preferred in rural districts, where the value of straw is not yet felt.

Excellent manure may be manufactured in small-troughed folds, with a considerable proportion of shedding. Cattle will do well in any of these forms of accommodation; but if tied up in byres, it will be humane, as well as profitable, to have them brushed and currycombed daily. It must be remembered that animals thus confined cannot lick or rub themselves, and that they are deprived of the cooling effects of air and rain. The skin under these circumstances becomes irritable; and especially where, as is often the case in byres, dirt adheres to the animal, brushing and cleansing the skin and attention to the state of the feet cannot be too strongly enforced.—*London Agricultural Gazette.*

The Swine-Herd.

RAISING AND FATTENING LARGE HOGS.

D. G. Brown writes to the Progressive Farmer:—We raise the Poland Chinas, for the same reason that every breeder raises his favorite breeds—namely, because they are the most profitable hogs to raise. The stock has gained its prominent position by being thoroughly tested for the past thirty years; and to-day we find double, if not treble, as many of this breed as all others, which demonstrates their superiority. In selecting those from which our increase is to come, we prefer to get our stock from extensive and experienced breeders who have been engaged in the business for many years, and who can show a uniformity of color and make-up in their swine. Poland China is a mixed breed; there is danger of their being intermixed too much. Notwithstanding we sell many pigs at fairs, our advice to all is to be very cautious in selecting stock at fairs because it is very fat and consequently seems very nice. The best place is the breeder's farm, where all his stock can be seen. We breed young sows to have them farrow in April and May. We find that ground floors are better than plank for sows and young pigs, but the sows must be ringed. Sows are kept separate until the pigs are two or three weeks old, when all are turned together on pasture. The sows are fed on ear corn and water, the pigs on soaked shell corn and what swill the kitchen affords. We wean the pigs at ten to twelve weeks old by turning the sows into another pasture where they get no grain. The pigs are put after cattle in the fall, and they continue there till the grass starts in the spring, when they are turned into pasture, where it is "root hog or die," and noses ringed at that. And right here lies the secret of raising strong, healthy hogs, that will fatten easily, and tip the beam at 500 pounds.

From three to four months in the summer we feed no grain to hogs. We feed the new corn sparingly, until it is hard enough to crib. It is poor policy to stuff hogs with green corn, especially to fatten them in a few weeks; they eat a large amount, if fed, and do not give half return for it. When hogs are fed corn all summer they should be fattened and sold off of the old corn. It is folly to undertake to put the fat on a hog with green corn. His whole material system has to first undergo a change before he can make a fresh start, which is too expensive with soft corn. Green corn should only be fed to thin hogs, and sparingly at that.

We give our hogs in winter a warm place to sleep in—a dust nest, which is always the same temperature. We feed till February. During the last three years the lightest lot of hogs we have sold averaged four hundred and twenty pounds, and the heaviest four hundred and eighty-seven pounds. We boldly assert that by our mode of feeding these weights were attained with less grain, trouble and expense than they could be by any other mode.

We are positively opposed to feeding cooked food to pigs and growing hogs. If pigs are to be crowded for early market, or matured hogs to be fattened, it may pay to cook feed. We don't believe that nature designed, that swine should have cooks. It is the worst thing a farmer can do to feed his growing breeders cooked food.

A PROFITABLE HOG.

The following description of a profitable hog, was reported by the committee, at the Swine Breeders' Convention at Indianapolis, Ind:

He must have a small, short head, heavy jowl, and thick, short neck; ears small, thin, and tolerably erect, not objectionable if they droop slightly forward; must be straight from the neck back to flank; must be let well down to the knees in brisket; of good length from head to tail; broad on the back; ribbed rather barrel-shaped; must be slightly curved or arched in the back from shoulder to the setting on of tail; tail, small; long in the ham from hock to letting off the loins; shoulder not too large to give symmetry to the animal; ham broad and full; hair smooth, and evenly set on; skin, soft and elastic to the touch; legs short, small, and well set under; broad between the legs; good depth between bottom and top of the hog; with pleasant, quiet disposition; should not weigh more than three or four hundred pounds gross, at twelve to eighteen months old, according to keep; color may be black, or white, or a mixture of the two. The above described hog, will measure as many feet from the top of the head, to setting on of tail, as he does around the body, and will measure as many inches around the leg below the knee, as he does feet in length around the body; depth of body will be four-fifths of his hight.

HOG FEEDING EXPERIENCE.

A hog-raiser and pork-packer in Iowa gives the following statement as his experience in the business:—"He has demonstrated to his entire satisfaction, that after his spring pigs had reached about three hundred pounds they ceased to grow with any profit. His pigs on the first of January weighed nearly as much as they did on the first of February, notwithstanding he had kept up the feeding. He is a great advocate of taking good care of hogs. He would never shut up his hogs more than five weeks before he wants to market them. His food early in the fall was pumpkins, steamed and mixed with middlings, the proportion being about one-half a bushel of middlings to forty gallons of steamed pumpkins. His object was to develop the bone and muscle of the hog without adding fat. This he continued three months, and then put them in a close pen and fed them meal and middlings steamed. After shutting them up for five weeks they gained two pounds a day until they reached three-hundred pounds, and then ceased to grow to any extent,"

ALARMING SPREAD OF TRICHINOSIS.

The Transaction of the Indiana State Medical Society, 1875, contain a report on trichinosis, by Dr. George Sutton of Aurora, Ind., which contains the following alarming observations:

From microscopic examination of pork killed in Southeastern Indiana, we have found from three to sixteen per cent. of the hogs affected with trichina. Over five millions of hogs are slaughtered and packed in the Western States; not including those which are put up for family use by the farmers; if four per cent. of this pork is diseased, which we believe to be a low estimate, we have 221,484 diseased hogs put annually upon the market. Ninety per cent. of disease produced from eating trichinous pork appears either as gastro-entiritis, or as a diarrhœa or dysentery, and that these diseases cause a mortality of more than 31,000 in the United States every year.

Dairy Husbandry.

PENNSYLVANIA DAIRYMEN'S ASS'N.

PROCEEDINGS OF ITS FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION.

MEADVILLE, Pa., Dec. 30, 1875.

[Concluded from Page 39.]

THE Convention, on motion, adjourned to the banquet which was given by the citizens of Meadville in honor of their guests. The good things were abundant and received ample justice at the hands of the guests. Speeches were made by prominent gentlemen, and the whole was enlivened by the Meadville Cornet Band.

SECOND DAY.

The proceedings were opened with an address by Col. O. O. POTTER of Potter's Corners, Pa., on

GRASS.

The first part was a general dissertation of no peculiar interest, in which Col. P. gave some good advice to farmers about acquiring business habits and conducting a dairy farm on principles that guide the merchant in his pursuits. Fire and the plowshare must be employed to reduce worthless meadows and fruitful pastures, the sweetest grass being only obtained from rich and well cultivated soils. [Here followed a species of subdued advertisement of the marl beds near his home.]

A greater variety of grasses should be sown, as timothy and clover are not the highest possibility of grass, meadow fox-tail grass being worthy of adoption among others, as it is succulent and nutritious. The blue grass has few equals in the pasture; but if the soil is thin and sandy wire grass flourishes best. Red top is excellent, but white top is good, especially when land is subject to overflow. He deprecates sowing timothy and clover together, but clover and orchard grass are a happy combination.

On the conclusion of the address, Mr. FARRINGTON of Crawford asked the speaker why he objected to clover; to which Mr. POTTER replied that his cattle did not like it, and he shared their aversion, as they would not eat white clover when other food was obtainable. Mr. FARRINGTON'S experience with his cattle was just the reverse, and in Herkimer Co. the best cheese was made in the flush of white clover.

Prof. L. B. ARNOLD being called upon, agreed with Mr. POTTER, and said, in reply to Mr. FARRINGTON, that the excellence of Herkimer Co. cheese was due more to other grasses, the clovers not being considered the best dairy grasses.

The Query Box was opened and a number of questions asked and answered; but there was a lack of animated discussion, and no spontaneity to speak of. This was observable during the whole of the proceedings. In most instances the President noticed by name gentlemen whom he thought should have something to say. The President was indefatigable; and the gentlemen of the Convention were indefatigable also—in remaining quiet.

Prof. ARNOLD of Rochester, N. Y., delivered a very learned essay on

THE SECRETION OF MILK,

illustrated by numerous diagrams. The address was so largely dependent on the illustrations for its intelligent comprehension, that the briefest mention here only is practicable. It was very attentively listened to, and created such a profound scientific impression that no comment was elicited at its close, except of a complimentary nature. It is the same address delivered before the Northwestern Dairymen's Ass'n in a modified form.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION

was opened by the annual election of officers and reports of committees.

The Committee on the Nominations of Officers, consisting of A. E. Harper, Evansburg; S. A. Farrington, Cambridge; Wm. H. Blystone, Erie Co.; D. H. Nodine, Cochranton; O. O. Potter, Potter's Corners; Samuel Reeder, Wm. Porter and H. Camp, all of Erie Co. They reported the following Board of Officers for 1876. The report was unanimously adopted:

Pres.—A. M. FULLER, Meadville. Rec. Sec.—H. Greene, Meadville. Cor. Sec.—J. M. Bigger, Cambridge. Treas.—Ira W. Hall, Randolph, and twenty Vice-Presidents, as follows:—Joseph Blystone, Venango; Wm. Porter, Chapinville; N. W. Power, Conneautville; Wm. Morse, New Richmond; L. L. Lomb, Townville; — Warner, Sugar Lake; A. W. Beatty, Shaw's Landing; S. Logan, Hartstown; John Cole, Crossingville; S. Reeder, Edinboro; R. H. Arbuckle, Erie; D. W. Titus, Phillipsville; Hon. Wm. Benson, Waterford; T. C. Cochran, Sheakleville; J. W. McConnell, Milledgeville; E. W. Hamilton, Cherry Tree; — Hopkins, Pleasantville; Hon. Mr. Wetmore, Warren; Hon. M. Leach, Greenville; S. E. Kinkale, Wayne.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws was composed of John Cole, Chairman, Venango; Ira R. Hall, Randolph, and J. M. Bigger, Cambridge. At the request of Mr. COLE, Mr. BIGGER submitted the report, which consisted in reading the Constitution and introducing a few modifications of the By-Laws. It was adopted.

Messrs. WM. MORSE, H. CANFIELD and WM. NASH, all of Crawford Co., were appointed to draw up a plan for the united action of factorymen, and submitted the following report:

Your Committee to promote united action and create a better feeling between dairymen and factorymen, recommended:—1, That factorymen buy all the milk of patrons or none; 2, That they use no undue influence to induce patronage of their respective factories, except by striving to make a superior product; 3, That the percentage plan is the true plan of conducting factories.

The Committee on Dairy Products report as follows:

Your Committee report four lots of cheese exhibited and branded respectively, "Cochran Farm," "Nash," "Hall," and "D. H. Gibins," being all so nearly alike in their general excellence, there could be no invidious distinctions drawn and all were approved. Signed by L. B. ARNOLD and FLINT BLANCHARD.

The Committee on Dairy Utensils (consisting of D. H. GIBINS, J. H. PHELPS and DAVIS PECK) report that the Cow Fetter, patented by H. J. SADLER, Mecca, Trumbull Co., Ohio, seems to possess merit, and recommend dairymen to try it.

A full size model of Gifford's Swinging Cattle Stanchion, exhibited by W. C. GIFFORD and A. C. ROBERTSON of Jamestown, N. Y., after a thorough examination, we found it to possess the following the following merits:—Each Stanchion is independent of all the others. they are hung at the upper end and swing forward as the animal rises to its feet, thus obviating the straining that cows are subjected to in the stationary stanchions; they are self-closing and fastening; the space for the animal's neck can be quickly and securely adjusted to any desired width, without removing the bolts; for ease and comfort to the animals and convenience to the owner, they are certainly a very great improvement and worthy the consideration of every dairyman and keeper of cattle in the country.

Your attention is also called to the Common Sense Milk Pan and Cooler, made by ELLIOTT & OAKES, Cattaraugus, N. Y., as exhibiting many points worthy the critical attention of dairymen.

A. J. DIBBLE, Franklin, N. Y., exhibits a butter-worker whereby the butter can be washed, weighed, worked, and salted without being removed from the worker. There is also attached a simple but effective mill for crushing and preparing the salt for use. We recommend it to the use of dairymen.

ALVIN MIDDAUGH of Friendship, N. Y., exhibits a Milk Tester on a novel plan, whereby he can work up samples of each patron's milk by itself, thereby practically testing its comparative quality.

HANNAN & OBITTS, Elyria, Ohio, exhibit the model of a Self-Heating Cheese Vat, which seems to possess some good features.

C. W. GRANNIS, Gowanda, N. Y., exhibits his patent Empire Milk Cooler and Cheese Vat, which cools the milk on a new principle—cooling from the center instead of from top or bottom. The cooler is detachable from the vat, and the whole apparatus is thus made to do a variety of duties. It is worthy a trial. We also commend the same inventor's new Empire Butter Package.

D. H. GIBINS, *Ch'n.*

Mr. FLINT BLANCHARD of Jamestown, N. Y., then read a paper on

DAIRY SPECTACLES,

The speaker enumerated the various sights, and dwelt feelingly on the "hind sight," as being one farmers more particularly lacked. Any defect of this kind indicated spectacles, and the dairymen should at once proceed to wear them, when they would clearly see that they needed—1, A farm adapted to the business; 2, Well kept cows, of a good breed; 3, The proper handling of the milk and proper care of the product derived from it, these being the three essentials to success in dairying. It is such defective vision that causes most of the mistakes in dairy farming. The speaker here enumerated various varieties of spectacles, from convex to plano-convex, in a metaphorical sense. He asked how many dairymen had seen the inside of a cow?—which was given up. The cow needs skillful handling, wholesome food and good care to develope her best milking capacity, and unskillful handling of her product is the destruction of profits. All work on a dairy farm leads up to the finished product, a fact that is too often lost sight of, as is evidenced by the manner in which what are called "chores" are slurred over. Five minutes' careful work with the churn often adds 5c. per pound to the butter. The difference between the price of prime and inferior butter would, the speaker thought, pay the taxes on the dairy farms of Crawford County. Farmers are to use their spectacles especially with reference to selling their products, as the rascality prevalent among commission men is a source of great loss. It is best, as a rule, to sell at home and get your pay when goods are delivered. It is also best to sell when the goods are ready to be marketed, and not wait for a rise in quotations. It is delusive.

It is an evidence of short-sightedness to buy cows because they are cheap, without regard to quality,—to construct poor milk rooms, and deliver poor milk to factories. There are those who use a telescope for one eye and a microscope for the other, and their transactions are proportionately disproportioned. Those dairymen who make 300 lbs. of butter per cow say the extra expense does not exceed $12 per head, 200 lbs. being taken as the average, thus yielding a profit of $18 per head, taking 30c. as the average price. By sowing corn and clover we are insured against drouth or a short hay crop. It matters not that associations have defined what is necessary for farmers to do so long as they do not act on the facts promulgated. The speaker commends the factory plan and deprecates the habit of working the wife and daughters to death, simply because they are willing to be so worked, and suggests that farmers fetch their wives to Conventions. A dairy farm could always be pointed out among other farms by the air of thrift and cleanliness that characterize it. Make cheese so good that people, like babies, will cry for it and send to oblivion oleomargarine.

Mr. BLANCHARD said, in closing, that, in his judgment, 30c. was just about the cost of butter, and it could not be made—a good article—for less.

Numbers left the Convention at the close of the address, and only those remained who were not compelled to leave the city by departing trains. The few present listened to an interesting account of the Chemical Constituents of Milk, by P. A. LAFFER of Meadville.

After complimentary votes of thanks to the Officers of the Association, which were appropriately responded to, the Convention adjourned *sine die*—thus closing a very interesting and successful meeting. C. H. E. R.

DAIRY STATISTICS FOR 1875.

A CORRESPONDENT desires to know, "What has been the average price of cheese received by the factories of New York during the past season." This question can be better answered when the factories have returned their reports of the season's operations. So far as we have examined reports that have been already made, the average price will be below 12c. per pound. The Utica Herald prints the returns from several factories from which we select such items as will be of interest and arrange them in tabular form, so our readers can see at a glance what these factories have been doing and can compare one with the other. We presume there are some factories in the State that can make a better showing than is here represented, but we doubt whether these will raise the average price on the whole much, if any, above 12c.

Factory.	Whole number lbs. of cheese made.	Average lbs. of milk to lb. of cheese.	Average price per pound of cheese.	Net price per lb. of milk to patrons.	Best average, per cow, in a single dairy.	Lowest ave'ge. per cow, in a single dairy.
Fulton, Oppenheim, N. Y.	135,430	10.017	11.95	1.027	—	—
Willow Spring, Oppenheim, N. Y.	731,480	9.834	11.67	1.013	—	—
Gillett, Gouvernemeur, N. Y.	224,737	9.81	12.5	1.118	$44.85	$30.00
W. W. Sears, So. Champion, N. Y.	152,266	9.71	12.253	1.15	48.00	30.00
C. H. Curtis, Waterville, N. Y.	Cheese 20,724 Butter, 3,250.	10.4186	—	1.04075	—	—
South Granby, South Granby, N. Y.	90,090	10	11.25	0.95	41.50	23.90
Miller, Constableville, N. Y.	184,475	9.742	11.8125	1.063	55.75	32.05
Wert Fowler, Shingle Creek, N. Y.	114,685	9.90	11.25	0.98	30.63	21.70

* Thus it appears that of these eight factories only two have reached 12c. per pound for their cheese; and if we allow 2c. per pound for making and furnishing the cheese for market, the average net price received by patrons will not be far from 10c. per pound. The two columns showing best and lowest average money per cow, in single dairies, offers food for reflection. When herds are kept that yield only about $22 per cow for the season, it must be pretty evident that there is no profit in the business, and such small returns should admonish dairymen to take more pains in securing good cows; for a cow that will not turn more than $22 during the season does not pay her keep. All such animals had better be sold and their places filled with better milkers or else the farm be devoted to some other branch of agriculture than the Dairy.

WATER IN WINTER.—Cows giving milk need an abundance of water. The dry hay usually given affords little material for milk, and even with abundance of roots, unless water is placed within easy reach, cows will tend to fatten rather than to milk production. A great difficulty in cold weather is in having water so far from the yard that cows will suffer long before going from comfortable quarters to reach it. Whenever possible a cistern should be constructed under the barn or under ground to hold water for stock.

The Herdsman.

PAMPERED ANIMALS.

IN its veterinary department, the Prairie Farmer gives the following true statement concerning the value of pampered animals for breeding. There should be a sharp line drawn at the fairs between fatted and breeding stock, but the evil noted below is of common occurrence. The Farmer prints it as follows:

Query:—Are the monstrously fat bulls and cows, now seen at our State and county fairs in America, to be looked upon as normal types of the bovine tribe; and ought such animals to be allowed entrance for competition among the breeding stock?

Answer:—This subject deserves to be discussed and acted upon more extensively by our breeders than has hitherto been done. Space forbids us, in this department of our paper, to give more than a few general remarks, though it is a subject upon which a small-sized volume might be written, and which ought to be taken up by a pen abler than ours. The enormous and rapidly increasing demand for meat which characterizes the food markets of these days, has reacted in a remarkable manner upon the nature of the animals that supply it. Formerly the animals that furnished pork, mutton and beef, were allowed to attain the age of three years old and upwards before they were considered to be ripe for the butcher; but now sheep and pigs are perfectly matured at the early age of one year, and two-year-old oxen furnish a large quota of our roast beef. The so-called improvement of stock is simply the forcing of them into an unnatural degree of fatness at an early age; and this end is attained by dexterous selection and crossing of breeds, by avoidance of cold, diminishing as much as possible their muscular activity, and lastly and chiefly, by overfeeding them with grain and concentrated aliments.

Every one knows that a man so obese as to be unable to walk cannot be in a healthy state; yet many feeders of stock look upon the monstrously fat bulls and cows of prize celebrity as normal types of the bovine tribe. It requires but little argument to refute so fallacious a notion. No doubt it is desirable to encourage the breeding of those varieties of animals which exhibit the greatest disposition to fatten, and to arrive early at maturity; but the forcing of individual animals into an unnatural state of obesity, except for purely experimental purposes, is a practice which cannot be too strongly deprecated. If breeders contented themselves with handing over to the butcher their huge living blocks of fat the matter would not, perhaps, be very serious; but unfortunately it is generally the practice to turn them to account as sires and dams. Were such a one as we a judge at a cattle show, we certainly should disqualify every extremely fat animal entered for competition among the breeding stock. Unless parents are healthy and vigorous, their progeny are almost certain to be unhealthy and weakly; and it is inconceivable that an extremely obese bull and an unnaturally fat cow, could be the progenitors of healthy offspring.

We should by all means improve our live stock, but we should be careful not to overdo the thing. If we must have ponderous bulls and cows at our fairs and exhibitions, let us condemn to speedy immolation those unhappy victims to a most absurd fashion; but in the name of common sense let us leave the perpetuation of the species to individuals in a normal state, whose hearts are not hypertrophied, and whose lungs are capable of effectively performing the function of respiration.

HOW MUCH MEAL TO FEED.

A VILLAGER wants to know how much meal it is profitable to give a new milch cow, per day, meal at 85 cents a bushel and hay at $15 a ton. The Vermont Farmer answers the query as follows:

The only man who can answer that question with any degree of accuracy is the one who takes care of the cow. His information upon the subject to be obtained by varying the feed and noting the effect. There is a wide difference in the capacity of cows for assimilating food, and as great a variation in the power to convert it into butter. Some cows never pay for their keeping, be it what it may.

It may be stated as a rule that it pays to feed milch cows meal with liberality, especially so if both hay and meal are bought. Much depends on the quality of the hay. Early cut June grass hay will make as much milk as a fair quality of timothy hay and two or three quarts of meal a day. From two to four quarts per day, of meal, is probably as much as an ordinary cow will pay for.

It is better economy and more healthful for the cow, and we believe for those who use the milk as food, to give a mixed ration. Say wheat bran four or six parts, wheat middlings two parts, corn meal two parts and linseed meal one part, by measure, and feed the cow as much of that as she shows herself able to pay for whether it be four quarts or eight.—*Ex.*

Industrial Topics.

WORK, WORK, WORK!

This is about all a great many can talk about, as if the creator intended man to do naught but work. Industry is essential to success in life, but the mind must guide the bodily work or a life-time of drudging and constant, never-ceasing labor will not amount to much. Brains will save the muscles very much, and it was intended the mind should rule and save the body. Religious people have a great faith in real, hard labor, but there is nothing said by any writer to show that those, most in favor with God, were such wonderful workers. There is a great antipathy expressed toward rich men, especially such as filled their barns and gloried in their wealth. The ones nearest to God's liking were those who had flocks and herds, the attendance on which was not hard work. In the new Testament this eternal yearning for "laying by for rainy days" is often rebuked and the Son of God says "take no thought for the morrow," and in the model prayer, the Lord s prayer in the bible, published in England it is, "give us this day our daily bread." There are many more cautions, etc., against laying up worldly possessions, but putting on one side religious teachings, the common sense given to mankind, ought to show that the greed of those who work! work! work! through the prime of their lives in such an unnatural way, crying "Come on" to others, must be tremendous fools for their pains, as not one man in a thousand ever enjoys his hard-earned gains. Some are poisoned by relatives to hasten the getting possession of their wealth, some are murdered by strangers, and the majority of those left, know full well it is their money which commands the homage of the public, and if that were gone they might die in a ditch.

Who are those who cry "work, work, work" by day and by night? It is those who make a great talk of working but who live on other people's work, and who are bodily the very laziest men in the world; like those who make laws to punish dishonesty, and the lawyer and judges who administer or pretend to apply the law, who altogether, lawmakers and lawgivers, are the most corrupt and most outrageous rogues in existence; for it is known not only to all the American people but to every nation in Europe that those who are elected by the people to offices in the Government and under can be bought to vote for the highest bidder, and New York City, to wit, see how those who work are robbed by those who cry to them to "work! work! work!"

There is not much made by real hard work, it is the scheming, forecasting man who makes money and those who possess talent, for they can make it by other people's work. Nature is capricious, at least it looks so to mortal eyes, for one is gifted to an extraordinary degree and for no reason which can be discovered by man, the parents and all ancestry as far as known having exhibited no superior abilities; yet there will every once in a while arise from a mass of kindred all below mediocrity, a brilliant genius outshining all around, even in the learned circles of men who have devoted lifetimes to the acquisition of knowledge, and it is useless for the sober, slow-thinking men to state that no man can rise to distinction without work, work, work. for these gifted men can accomplish as much in one year as some of them can in fifty years.

Now and then these meteor kind of men become proud of their distinguished faculties and in endeavoring to still farther attain celebrity overstrain the mind, and a wreck and death at the commencement of life ensues; consequently, it is best to steer clear of extremes and instead of so much work, work, work, have some play, for "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

A Working Farmer.

HARD TIMES IN KENTUCKY.

We are seeing hard times in Old Kentucky. Our farmers, it is true, have raised enormous crops of potatoes and corn, but the market is overrun with them, and potatoes bring only 35 cents a bushel and corn 40 cents. The rainy weather injured our wheat, so that there is not more than half a crop. Tobacco does not come up to the standard, although it is better than we expected it would be during the Summer. Our fruit crop was a perfect failure; small fruit was not quite so bad, and the wild was quite abundant. Our crops were late maturing, and if kind Providence had not given us so late a fall, we could not have housed our corn in time to save it. Plenty of corn makes fat cattle and fine beef, as also, I am ashamed to say, fine whisky, for which our State is already too well noted. Around Cynthiana, in Harrison County, and Paris in Bourbon County, distilleries are very numerous; in fact, in driving through this splendid Blue Grass region, one can sometimes count three or four distilleries at one sight that are world-renowned for their fine whiskies. Around Lexington and Paris our farmers pay more attention to fine and blooded stock. Near Lexington Mr. Alexander has an immense farm and has blooded horses. Near Paris Mr. Bedford has cattle that are of the finest blood, their sales every fall attracting customers from all parts of the world. Not long since some of our Kentucky cattle were exported to Europe. We export now instead of import, as formerly.—*Zip in Tribune.*

BUFFALO BONES.

A few years ago, none but the very tit-bits from the carcasses of these monarchs of the American plains were thought worthy of the

THE OLEANDER.

hunter's notice, and, after stripping them of their skins, these huge masses of wholesome flesh were left on the prairies to rot in the sun or to be devoured by the carnivorous beasts and birds that abound there. Now, however, owing to the wanton slaughter that has been carried on during late years, a herd of buffaloes is a most unusual sight in places where, within the memory of those who are still young, myriads of them passed and repassed on their route to pastures new at various times of the year. Now, also according to the Scientific American, not only is the carcass itself utilized, but the bones themselves form the source of a profitable business among the settlers in Kansas. The prairies, for forty miles each way from the railroad, have been gleaned over till not a relic of the chase can be found. Heads and ribs are worth $5 a ton; these are shipped to Philadelphia and ground up into fertilizers. Shins and shoulder-blades are worth $10 a ton; these go to the sugar refineries. The horns are worth $30; the tips are sawn off here, and sent to the factories of umbrellas, fans, pipes, etc. The remainder is used by the chemists. Bits of hide found hanging to the heads are taken off and sent to the glue factories. Every fragment of these animals is made to serve a purpose.—*Land and Water.*

MANUFACTURE OF TEA IN THE SOUTH.

The editor of the Soil of the South (New Orleans) has experimented in the manufacture of tea from home grown plants, and so great has been his success that he has received the highest praise from good judges both in England and America; he has been offered one dollar and a-half per pound for his tea. The following is the process:

Before the leaves are fully matured, or have become tough by age, they are gathered from the plants and placed in an oven, where they remain only a few minutes, or until they are partially heated, but not dried; in this wilted state, they are taken and placed upon the table, where they are rolled and beaten with the hand until they are thoroughly bruised; this process being kept up until the leaves assume rather a dark appearance. At this stage they emit a delightful odor, and have a decidedly oily feeling; this is, no doubt, due to the *theïn*, or essential oil, that gives to the tea its delightful flavor, and which is liberated or expressed by this manipulation. It is then placed in a moderately heated oven and frequently stirred, until it is thoroughly dried, care being taken so that it may not be scorched or burned. It is now placed in boxes or cans, and is ready for use. This is a genuine black tea, resembling our imported sorts, only finer and better flavored.

So soon as hogs cease to fatten they should be killed.

The Vineyard,

SWEET AND ACID GRAPES.

Sweetness has long been considered the characteristic excellence of grapes, and the phrase "sour grapes" has passed into a proverb of worthlessness. If the sourness originates from immaturity nothing can be more unpalatable, for immaturity always implies lack of saccharine properties. A green sour grape possesses few attractions for any one. Many people, however, prefer grapes which when fully ripe have an acid or subacid flavor—not deficient in sugar but by that surest test the saccharometer shown to abound in it, and yet with all this sweetness yielding a distinct and decided acid taste. A grape that is purely sweet with little or no acid is insipid and lacks flavor. It is the combination of sweet and sour which gives richness and delicacy of flavor to such varieties as the Iona and well ripened Catawbas. Nobody thinks of rejecting a well ripened acid apple because it is "sour." For many purposes and to many tastes acid apples are vastly preferable to sweet ones. There is reason why people who prefer acid varieties of grapes, not fruit sour through immaturity, but rich saccharine grapes to those whose main claim to sweetness lies in their lack of acids. To a great many tastes the Adirondac is the sweetest and best grape in existence, but let these same persons eat the rich, sweet and yet acid Delaware and Iona and the Adirondac will taste almost sour by comparison.

Is it possible for a grape to be really too sweet? For late keeping varieties we are almost convinced that it is. We dislike to say any thing against so good a grape as the Salem, the one grape, which for several years, has been our favorite above all others. But eating some Salems the other day, we found that their very slight acidity had entirely disappeared, leaving the fruit too little acid for the highest flavor, and bordering on insipidity. Many of our friends have remarked that the Salem is quite good when not fully ripe. We believe that it is even better to be a little under rather than over ripe, and this is true, generally, of grapes deficient in acid. The Salem is a good grape and an excellent keeper, but though form and size will be well preserved by mid-winter, unless special care has been taken, the freshness and sprightliness which the fruit had in September, will be lost. Rogers 15 and Rogers 4, having the thick skin of the Salem and rather more acid, will probably excel it as winter varieties.

AN ENEMY HATH DONE THIS.

Friend Moore, I send you by this mail, a sample of the work of a new enemy on the grape vine. I say new, because I have never seen it treated of in books, or by any writer in the agricultural or horticultural papers, nor learned that any grape grower has noticed it. It first met my observation on my own grounds some four or five years ago; and, at first, I supposed it might result from attacks of some insect at the root. But, finding the roots apparently healthy, I am in the dark as to its cause, and fail to find a preventive. It somewhat resembles the black knot on the plum. Is the disease identical with the plum knot? Or—What is it?

I once saved a choice plum tree from attack of knot on the body, when near an inch in diameter, by carefully cutting out all the affected wood, which extended to the heart. The wound healed over, and the tree made sound growth after that. The grape knot attacks the vine usually near the crown, though, sometimes six or eight feet above, and if left alone, the sap is choked, the vine above the knot dies. It appears on branches an inch or more in diameter, and on those of smaller growth, down to that of a single year's production. Last spring I noticed a choice vine that kept its wood green to the middle of June without pushing a bud, and finally a shoot burst forth near the root. Examining the old stem, I saw a knot forming on it below the buds, and treating it as I did my plum tree, I cured it, and obtained a vigorous growth from buds above, as well as from the sprout at the base, the knot wound healing over.

But this cure is not satisfactory as a general principle, whatever may be said of a single case. Usually, before discovered, it encircles the entire vine, leaving no remedy but amputation, and I don't like to be forced into the "renewed system" in this way! What say you? What says your man of "daily rural life?" The sample I send was cut from a branch that fruited well last season and I knew not that it was doomed till to-day, when I found it diseased from near the root upward, and cut the smaller bit I send you at a distance of some ten feet from the crown. Is it an insect? Is it fungus or parasite? Or is it, like the pear blight, chargeable to—you tell what? Perhaps I should add that this grape knot is no respecter of varieties. The tender and the hardy are stricken alike.—S. Folsom, *Attica, N. Y.*

This disease is far from being a new one, for specimens identical with those you send have been received at this office from various parts of the country, during the past five or six years. But we neither know the cause of the disease or that it has any specific name. Like the black knot on the plum and Morello cherry, it appears to be of fungoid origin, sometimes showing itself on the young shoots but more frequently on the old canes or main stem. This disease is doubtless closely allied to the one which appeared in the vineyards of Europe several years ago and was supposed to be one form or stage of the *Oidium Tuckeri.* Lime and sulphur applied to the soil would doubtless be of benefit in checking the spread of this disease.

Floricultural.

THE OLEANDER.

Make cuttings six inches long of old wood and place them in shallow water until they emit roots, then pot them.

An Oleander is never so pretty as when confined to a single stem; therefore rub off all side shoots as they appear, reserving only a foliaceous top sufficient to carry on its growth. At the end of the second year we shall have a stem, say three feet high, perfectly straight and dividing at its top into three branches. If now it be permitted to grow unchecked it will soon display the loose, naked habit which so mars the beauty of the Oleander as a house plant, while it demands a space that it scarcely merits. Let us cut off these three branches to within four inches of the main stem. Each branch will at once push a verticil of three buds, so that we shall have nine branches instead of three. These, when again cut back a few months later, will again trifurcate, producing twenty-seven, and so on until a thick ball of foliage is provided that, with its clean, elastic stem and double rose-colored flowers—produced more profusely for this course of manipulation—will prove a plant more attractive than any one could suppose who has never tried this form of Oleander cultivation.. Afterwards we have only to cut it back season after season as it transgresses desired limits.

Oleanders are so far from squeamish that they will suffer the rudest treatment without resentment. We have two plants about eight feet high so closely alike that we never have distinguished one from the other. They are planted out in the spring, taken up in the late fall with all the earth that readily adheres, placed in the cellar and the ball of earth and roots covered with sand. Thus, while they are suitable for shrubberies, as single lawn specimens, or in borders of whatever description, displaying anywhere marked distinctness of aspect, they are really of no trouble whatever. If it is preferred to pot them for the conservatory or sitting-room it is well to know that the roots may be crowded into the smallest pot that will receive them, working in as much soil as possible and supplying plenty of water.

Oleanders are quite hardy. We once exposed a plant to 20 degrees for thirty minutes without injury except to the leaves. We remember a tree in Savannah, Ga., twenty feet high, growing in a court-yard, and it may be that they are hardy further North.

If a unanimity of veracious authors did not so pronounce, we should doubt that they (the *Nerium oleander* species at least) were excessively poisonous, from the careless manner in which we have pruned and handled our own specimens for ten years without conscious injury.

The accompaning little cut appeared in the London Journal of Horticulture last October.

E. S. Carman.

The Centennial.

EGYPT AND THE CENTENNIAL.

The oldest nation in history—Egypt—which has had, if it has not celebrated, several Millenials of national life, appears promptly on American shores to aid our celebration of the first Centennial of independent existence as a people. The Philadelphia correspondent of the Tribune writes that Egypt's contribution to the Centennial is already landed at New York and the Chief Commissioner is here with his catalogue ready for the printer, and nothing remains for him to do but to put in orderly array in the Exhibition Buildings the products sent. If the fair were to begin next month instead of in May he would be ready. The Egyptian Commission is composed of the following members: His Highness Prince Mohamuned Tawfic Pasha, President; His Excellency Cherif Pasha and H. Brugsch Bey. The Commissioner General, accompanied by his brother, Emil Brugsch, and M. Belmer, attaches of the Commission, will take a house in West Philadelphia and remain until the close of the Exhibition. Many of the curious and costly articles, such as weapons and ornaments from the barbarous tribes inhabiting the remote regions of Central Africa, jewels, inlaid work of ivory, precious metals, rich embroideries in gold and silver thread produced by the Arabian artisans of Cairo, are taken from the National Museum, while the best specimens of agricultural products are from the estates of the Khedive. In all, the catalogue contains over 6,000 numbers. It is in itself a mine of information about the novel and daring experiment of the Khedive in ingrafting upon a decayed and dormant nationality all the modern improvements of highly civilized Europe. Statistics are given of the farms, factories, laboratories, schools and charitable institutions that have been established since he began his remarkable efforts to awaken his country from the sleep of centuries. The new arts and industries imported from France, Germany and America, and made to take root by the will of one man, contrast strangely with the barbaric splendors in architecture and apparel, whose forms and decorations come down from the reign of the Khalifs, and with the primitive furniture and utensils of the Fellahs, unchanged since the days of the Pharaohs.

The work of preparing the exhibition began last April. Had more time been given, the Khedive would have erected a palace on the Exhibition grounds. As it is it will occupy a section of the main building.

Whenever articles were desired that the viceregal museums, farms and factories did not furnish, they were in most cases purchased. Only a very few private manufacturers and land owners contributed, so that the Khedive is almost the sole exhibitor. The expense will be half a million of francs.

In the Agricultural Department Egypt contributes a complete and admirably classified collection of the products of the Nile Valley, the Oases and the coasts of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. The display of cotton includes specimens of the crops of the past eight years—in all 2,500 samples—with the prices they brought in Alexandria and in Liverpool. Sugar, raw and refined, is the next most important article. All the grains—wheat, maize, barley, doura, beans, peas, flax, vetch, lentils, serghum, poppy seed; a great variety of useful fibers, besides such well known ones as hemp, flax and ramie; all the woods of Egypt, in sections of trees, polished upon one side; dates, olives, preserved fruit, &c., appear upon the catalogue. The localities from which all these products come are given, and a large map of "Egypt in the Centennial Year of the American Republic," prepared expressly for the Exhibition by order of the Khedive, will enable visitors to study the geography and productions of the country at the same time. In the Agricultural Department will also be shown tobacco, indigo, chemical preparations, perfumery, Arabian honey, specimens of marbles and building stones, and many other interesting things.

CENTENNIAL NOTES.

The 17th of March next, the 100th anniversary of the evacuation of Boston by the British troops, will be celebrated by the people of that city.

It is proposed to erect in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, near the Centennial buildings, a monument one hundred feet high, commemorative of a century's progress of our country. The design is a succession of gradually diminishing star-shaped stages, corresponding with the number of States in the Union, the original thirteen forming the base or pedestal of the rest. From the thirteenth State, and at five different intervals thereafter the stages will be increased in hight. On these designs the statues of the Presidents will appear in their regular order, from Washington to Grant.

One of the interesting features of the Centennial will be an exhibition of the process of manufacturing stamped envelopes, and arrangements for the work have been completed by the contractors, the Plimpton Manufacturing Co. of Hartford, in a conference held in New York this week between their Superintendent, M. S. Chapman, and Dr. McDonald, Centennial Commissioner for the Post-Office Department, and A. D. Hazen, Chief of the Stamp Division. A full complement of special machinery will be set up in a building on the grounds, and the envelopes will be manufactured in large numbers by workmen selected from the best skilled operators in the employment of the contractors. The paper used will be pure white, with water mark, and the envelopes will be of the ordinary letter, No. 3 size, bearing a stamp especially designed and appropriate to the occasion. Several designs of stamps were submitted, and it is anticipated that a three cent design by Mr. Chapman will be accepted, as it meets all the requirements. These envelopes will be sold during the entire period of the Exhibition at the rate, probably, of twenty-five for one dollar, and will undoubtedly be in great demand by the visitors in Philadelphia.

The Poultry Yard.

ANTWERPS, OR LES PIGEONS VOYAGEURS.

So much has been written about this class of pigeons that I cannot hope to add anything that is new. Antwerps were little known in this country until the last ten years or so, and were probably introduced by the Germans, who are very fond of them, and take great pleasure in training them. They made a decided impression upon the public mind during the Franco-German war, and during the investment of Metz, at which time, and at the siege of Paris, their usefulness in carrying messages was highly appreciated.

Belgium and France have been the principal centers for the cultivation of the flying qualities of the Antwerp-carrier. Although our country may be said to be interlaced with railroads and telegraph wires, yet there are many places off the line of travel where they may be made to serve a useful purpose. They are sometimes called Antwerps, Antwerp-carriers, or Homing-pigeons. The latter name is, no doubt, the most appropriate on account of designating the true instincts of the bird for its fondness for its home, as, no matter where it may be carried, its first instinct, on obtaining its freedom, is to directly seek its home. It takes a long time to accustom it to its new habitation. It must be confined and allowed to breed and bring up its young, and even these natural ties will not always bind it to its new abode.

My observation has taught me that this homing quality does not belong alone to the Antwerp. All pigeons partake of it in greater or less degree, although it may predominate in the Antwerp; and there is no doubt that, by reason of its physical organization, of which I shall speak hereafter; it is swifter of flight and more daring in its nature. It will fly a great distance to accomplish its object, and keep up its speed with great pluck, and seek its home with a determinateness of purpose unrivaled by any other species of the feathered or even the animal creation. To show that this homing instinct does not alone belong to the Antwerp, I purchased of a dealer, who at the time had his birds in the basement of a building in Cortlandt street, and which was always lighted by gas, an Almond-tumbler, which is known by the fancy as a toy-bird. I took it from this place, where it had been for several weeks, to my place in New Jersey, and placed it in a pen with others of its kind. The following day I came home in the afternoon and went out to see how it looked, when I discovered the window of the dove-cote open and the Tumbler gone. All the other pigeons, about ten or twelve, were there sitting on the perch and by the open window. I searched the whole neighborhood, thinking it might have gone off with the other pigeons around the place. I heard nothing of it for two weeks, about which time the former owner of the bird called at the place where I had purchased it, and stated that it had come home that night between daylight and dark, which is about twenty miles from my residence. I let out a pair of black Fan Tails that I had bred, and they flew over Newark Bay, and, after four hours, returned to me again.

The Antwerp seems to be composite in its nature. It seems to have been made up of the Volant or Cannulet or Tumblers, the Curate Francais or Smerl, the Owl or some strong pigeon possessing one blood, and the English dragoon. The Belgian amateurs do not place the slightest value on the color of this pigeon; they match them up indiscriminately; their whole aim being to get speed and endurance. The whites are studiously avoided, for the reason that they are more conspicuous as they fly as a mark for the hawks and sportsmen. The birds that have won their long distances are very highly prized at Brussels and Antwerp. Parties have refused £20 for a pair of these birds. I have been breeding from a pair of birds that have flown 400 and 500 miles, and made their 1,531 yards per minute and 52¼ miles per hour. On the Continent a very perceptible improvement in the speed of the Antwerp has been made in the last few years.

With other pigeons, I exhibited three coops of Antwerps at the Long Island Poultry, Pigeon and Dog Show; a pair of Blue Checquers, a pair of Red Checquers and a pair of Blues, with black bars across their wings, which seemed to surprise some Belgian amateurs on account of their power and beauty. They desired to know why the blues only took 2d premiums, and when I explained to them the reason, on account of a white primary feather, they at first looked surprised, and could not understand it until I explained to them that it was considered by the judge a false feather, when they laughed heartily. One of them took the birds out of the cage and remarked, in relation to its strength, "I can hardly hold it." Feel its pectoral muscles; they are as hard as iron. We care nothing about color; we want strength, pluck, endurance.

Greenville, N. J. ISAAC VAN WINKLE.

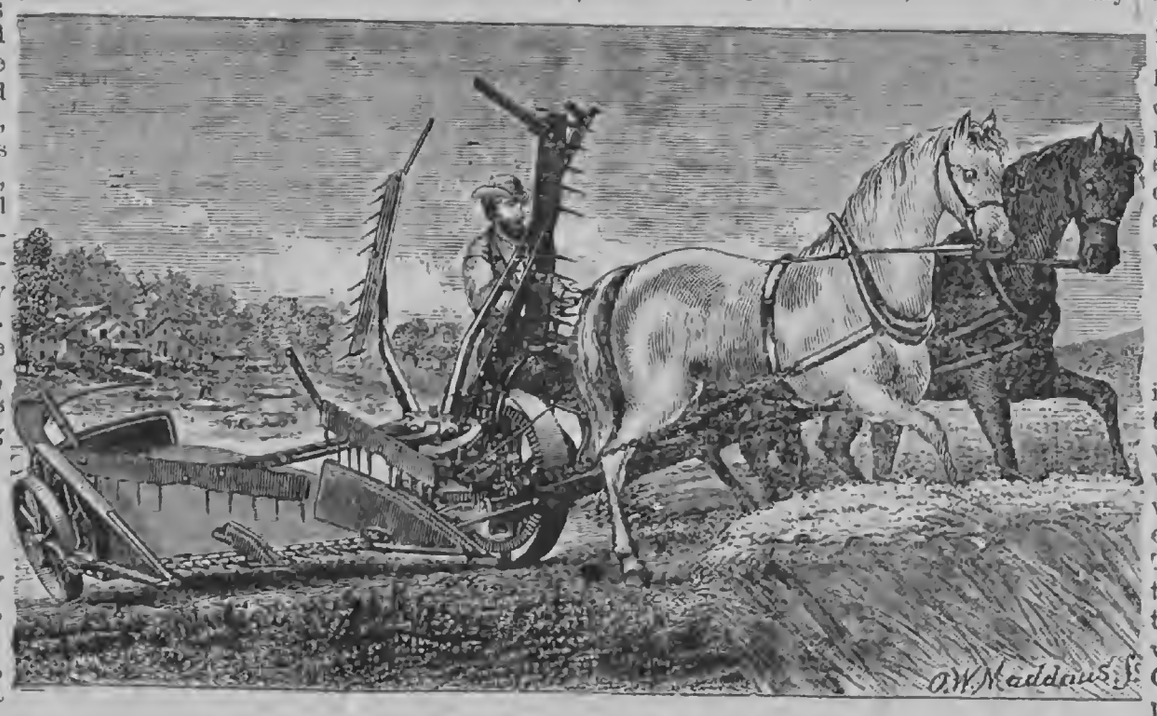
Our Premium Articles.

THE JOHNSTON HARVESTER.

The King of the Harvest Field has made a good record the past year, and occupies a correspondingly prominent position in the Rural Premium List. The New Improved Wrought-Iron Harvestor has proved itself unexcelled as a single machine, and is warranted to cut anything in the shape of small grain that a farmer can grow. The price of one of these Harvesters is $150, and such a prize is well worth the time and labor that it will require in canvassing for the Rural New-Yorker to procure it. We will send one to any agent getting up a club of 90 at $2.65, or of 150 at $2,15 each.

CAHOON'S BROADCAST SEED SOWER.

This machine is manufactured by the Geodell Manufacturing Co., Antrim, N. H. To many who cannot afford to purchase a seed drill this handy instrument will be most acceptable. Our readers have frequently seen in our advertising columns the picture of the farmer taking a morning walk with his head surrounded by a halo of golden grain. It does its work thoroughly and effectively, and will be to many the most desirable thing we offer this year. We will furnish this Seed Sower complete for use costing $10, for 15 subscribers at club rate, or 8 at $2.65.



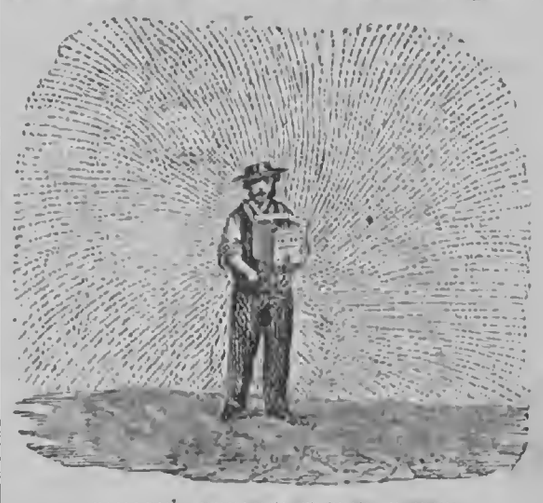
THE JOHNSTON HARVESTER.

Field Crops.

WHEAT GROWN IN BRITAIN.

The Irish Farmer's Gazette gives the following particulars about the varieties of wheat now grown in England and Scotland:

The fine varieties of wheat, such as Chiddam, Talavera, or Pearl, are delicate growers, and yield the least produce, although from their quality the grain of these wheats bring a high price. It is the farmer's interest to realize most money per acre, and he will better attain this by growing red wheats. Of these are Kessingland,



CAHOON'S BROADCAST SEED SOWER.

Hallet's Brewicks, and the Prolific Spalding, all belonging to the same class, and very large croppers; but the true Lammas red and Nursery red are by many considered preferable, the latter being a particularly saleable wheat, and by all judges considered equal to the finest white wheat for the baker.

In the best wheat growing district of the south of England, a mixture of Lammas and Nursery is much grown. The straws being of different lengths, the ears have more room, and give the mixture the character of Fenton wheat, which is perhaps the most prolific and profitable white variety in cultivation. We may here observe in regard to sowing mixtures of wheat, that produce of the first mixture may assume quite a different character if sown again. The two varieties may hybridize and produce a new variety in a partial state of development. If mixtures are sown, it is safer to mix varieties which have been grown separate.

Wheat growers in East Lothian usually get a change of seed wheat from England every year. The extra cost is more than balanced by thinner sowing, to say nothing of the superiority of the crop, which is invariably better after English seed and it has this further advantage that the crop grown from English seed ripens at least a week earlier, which is of importance in the case of wheat sown late in the winter months. Before concluding these remarks, we shall notice the special characteristics of two or three of the principal varieties mentioned above. The Nursery red, as we have stated, is much grown in the south of England, and its fine baking qualities make it a favorite in France. The grain is small; the straw very tall in soil adapted for it and likewise stiff. This wheat, from the small size of the grain, should be sown thin. Lammas red has long been a favorite variety in East Lothian. It is a tall, stiff-strawed variety, producing a large weight of straw per acre. The grain produces, fine flour, much esteemed by bakers. The Fenton is a white variety of wheat, has long held a pre-eminent position in the opinion of East Lothian wheat-growers. The peculiarity of the Fenton wheat is the great dissimilarity in the lengths of the straw. A sheaf of this grain is cared down to the band. The straw is very stiff and will stand much adverse weather.

FIELD NOTES.

Wheat-Yields in Wisconsin.—A correspondent in Outagamie county has ascertained from the threshers that in that county the varieties of wheat have yielded at the rates stated:—Diehl wheat, 34 bushels per acre; Fultz and "Russian wheat," (lately imported from Russian by a miller at the village of Neenah) each 33 bushels. The latter is a white wheat, said to be equal to the Fultz in standing the winter, and therefore thought to be preferable. The variety of spring wheat producing the largest yield was the Canada Club—33 bushels per acre. Our correspondent states that, owing to the large yield of winter wheat, a large acreage will be sown this fall.

B. F. Rice of Polo, Ill., says he grew 700 bushels of potatoes on an acre of land. These extraordinary yields are generally exaggerated in the newspaper reports; but there is no doubt that in this direction lies the future profit of potato growing. Nor are these large yields entirely incredible. We have seen hills of potatoes planted three feet apart, five of which would yield a bushel, or over 900 bushels per acre.

Pomological.

WESTERN N. Y. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

NOTES FROM THE WINTER MEETING.

THE twenty-first annual meeting of the Western N. Y. Horticultural Society was held in Rochester, Jan. 5—6. There was a larger attendance than in previous years, and the fruit growers generally acted and talked hopefully, as well they might, for fruit growing has been one of the few paying industries during the business depression. A goodly number of farmers were present to see and hear, for be it known the most enterprising and successful farmers of Western New York find it to their interest to combine fruit growing with general cropping. Some of the most encouraging reports of successes in fruit growing the past year were made by farmers, many of whom have planted from five to fifty acres in apples, besides pears, peaches, grapes, quinces, etc.

Mr. P. BARRY called the Society to order on Wednesday morning and made some sensible remarks on taking the chair, referring especially to the death the past year of ANDRE LE ROY of Angers, France, and Dr. E. S. HULL of Alton, Ill.

MESSRS. ELLWANGER & BARRY exhibited, as they always do, a fine collection of fruit in season, comprising 34 varieties of Winter Pears, including not only well-known and old sorts, but some new kinds of great promise. They also had four of Mr. FOX's seedling pears from California and 14 varieties of apples. They also had a beautiful vase of flowers on the platform and some fine bouquets interspersed with the fruit on the table.

The following officers were elected for 1876:

President—P. BARRY, Rochester.
Vice-Presidents—H. T. Brooks, Pearl Creek; E. A. Bronson, Geneva; I. H. Babcock, Lockport.
Secretary and Treasurer—P. C. Reynolds, Rochester.
Executive Committee—H. E. Hooker, Rochester; J. B. Jones, Rochester; S. D. Willard, Geneva; J. S. Woodward, Lockport; N. Bogue, Batavia.
Native Fruits—J. J. Thomas, Union Springs; Charles Downing, Newburgh; W. C. Barry, Rochester; G. S. Conover, Geneva; W. B. Smith, Syracuse.
Foreign Fruits—George Ellwanger, Rochester; T. C. Maxwell, Geneva; C. L. Hoag, Lockport.
Nomenclature—Charles Downing, Newburgh; P. Barry, Rochester; J. J. Thomas, Union Springs; D. W. Beadle, St. Catharines, Ont.; Geo. T. Atwood, Geneva.
Entomology—Hugh T. Brooks, Pearl Creek; Dr. A. Merrill, Geneva; Dr. E. W. Sylvester, Lyons; Mr. Saunders, Ont.
Ornamental Trees and Plants—Geo. Ellwanger, Rochester; W. S. Little, Rochester; T. C. Maxwell, Geneva; Geo. Moody, Lockport.
Garden Vegetables—E. S. Hayward, Rochester; John Craine, Lockport; J. W. Gray, Albion.
Ornithology—George T. Fish, Rochester; H. T. Brooks, Pearl Creek; David Henry, Geneva.
Botany—W. C. Barry, Rochester; J. J. Thomas, Union Springs; C. M. Hooker, Rochester.

The Reports of Standing Committees were less full than usual. Several have yet to be prepared, and will be published first in the pamphlet proceedings. J. J. THOMAS read a very interesting essay on Beautifying Winter Landscapes, which may be done by planting trees with ornamental bark, as white birch, golden-barked willow, golden ash and red-leaved ash, all of which contrast beautifully in winter when interspersed with evergreens. There are some varieties of oaks which, when young, retain their foliage or various hues through the winter. Other trees and shrubs, as mountain ash, black alder, sweet briar, and others, hold bright red berries which are very ornamental in winter. It requires more talent and skill to make a beautiful landscape than to erect a fine building. Very many costly houses in all parts of the country are disgraced by their surroundings. A little wise forethought will, at small expense, make a great improvement in this regard.

The report on Native Fruits, by J. J. THOMAS, elicited a lively discussion as to the merits of the Wild Goose Plum. There appear to be two, and perhaps more, plums bearing this name. One of these is really valuable, resisting the curculio and bearing large crops of a medium-sized fruit of pleasant but not the highest flavor. It will ripen in the drawer if picked a little before maturity. One man in Tennessee grew 600 bushels, which he sold in Chicago in peck crates at $2.50 per crate or $10 per bushel. The earliness and fine appearance of this variety make it always salable. The general impression seemed to be that nurserymen have been too cautious about being humbugged with the Wild Goose Plum and have neglected a really valuable variety. Many spurious wild goose plums, which are nothing but the common Wild or Chickasaw Plum, have been sold for the Wild Goose; hence the complaints of it.

While discussing plums, Mr. THOMAS said he had for years found no trouble in heading off the curculio by shaking the tree and catching the little turk on sheets spread beneath. The curculios disappeared so entirely that his plum trees over-bore and were considerably injured one or two years. J. S. WOODWARD of Lockport announced that he had planted 1,000 plum trees last spring and meant to plant 1,500 more this year. He asked what varieties he should set out and what four were recommended. About twenty were named, chief among which were Lombard, Coe's Golden Drop, Reine Claude de Bavay, Washington, German and French Prune, Damson, McLaughlin and Yellow Gage.

The efforts of some tree peddlers to sell the Utah Hybrid Cherry and Utah Red and Black Currants as new and valuable varieties of fruit were appropriately rebuked. President BARRY remarked that the money wasted on worthless trash of this kind would pay for a good deal of reliable pomological information through the Press and reports of this and other societies. It is the duty of fruit growers and nurserymen to protect the public from such impositions as far as possible.

Mr. A. C. YOUNGLOVE of Vine Valley, on Canandaigua Lake, made an interesting report of operations, both successful and otherwise, in that valley the past season. Peaches have never failed to produce a crop there, and are being extensively planted. It takes three years for the trees to get into bearing, and most of them are young yet. The past winter was very severe on grapes, not entirely from the severity of the cold, but because of the dryness of the earth, which admitted frost to a great depth. Grapes were killed without regard to their hardiness. The roots were frozen and dead, while the tops at trimming time in March or April were alive. Some cuttings taken off at this time made quite healthy vines, while the parent vine died about the time for putting out its leaves. These statements elicited considerable discussion. Mr. YOUNGLOVE had been reluctantly forced to abandon the Croton. The Delaware was his main reliance, but he thought very highly of Rogers' Red grapes 15 and Salem. The only money in grapes for market is in the red varieties. All black varieties, excepting Concord, which sells under its own name, are sold by N. Y. commission men as Isabellas and at Isabella prices. Average people don't seem to understand that there is any difference in quality in black grapes. Hence it does not pay at present to grow the finer varieties. There would be money in a good, hardy and productive white grape. The Rebecca is unreliable and only fit for the amateur who wants a few bunches for table use. A good white grape would bring a high price.

Mr. CRAINE of Lockport said that with him the Delaware mildewed worst of all. The Rogers grapes escaped, and the Croton was only partially injured. He suggested that the Croton was not adapted to Vine Valley.

Mr. YOUNGLOVE made the almost incredible statement that he could detect no difference in flavor or appearance between the Salem and Rogers 15. Both are red grapes, and he liked both, but thought them almost, if not entirely, identical. There is no reason to doubt Mr. YOUNGLOVE's word for this, and Mr. BARRY and others assured the Society that Mr. YOUNGLOVE had the varieties true to name. We suggest that Mr. YOUNGLOVE's grapes, grown in the sunny Vine Valley, are over ripe before tasting, and under such circumstances the very distinct flavor of Rogers 15, suggesting, though not resembling, pine wood, disappears. There certainly is a very decided difference in these varieties at the time of ripening and before. Both are good, and to our liking a little better before they are dead ripe.

With regard to the killing of grape vines and trees last winter, is it not probable that the roots of hardy vines and shrubs are less hardy than the branches? When the ground is full of water this forms ice in contact with the root, which is thus never exposed to a temperature much below freezing. Dry earth, on the contrary, can be permeated with air far more intensely cold than ice ever is. Last winter trees and plants had no protection of an ice mat for their roots. Frost penetrated to the subsoil, reaching to the tip ends of the roots and extracting every particle of moisture. Of course the roots died, unless very hardy, under such circumstances.

Pear blight was only briefly discussed. It has been very prevalent this season, probably from injury to pear roots the previous winter. Vigorous cutting off of the blighted portions and using diluted carbolic acid on the healthy parts was the treatment recommended as promising best. If the blight is a fungoid growth, it was suggested that sulphur might destroy it.

The Codling Moth elicited a good deal of attention. Putting bandages of paper around the trees for the worms to hide in, and examining and destroying every two weeks, has proved an effectual and cheap remedy. Bandages should be applied about the first of June, folded several thicknesses and tied in the middle. It is not necessary to remove the bandages, as a heavy flat-iron, pressed around the bandage as it remains on the tree, will crush and destroy the worms. On old trees loose bark must be removed, else many of the worms will hide under that and escape. Ground should also be kept clear of weeds and other material wherein worms can hide. In winter thousands of moths hatch in apple cellars, and, if the windows are kept closed, may be destroyed towards spring before escaping to begin their work of destruction. Many more hibernate under rough bark of old trees or on the ground. Scraping the bark off in winter, and late fall or winter plowing will destroy these. The first crop of moths in spring is always a small one, as thousands are destroyed by woodpeckers, and by wet weather in winter.

The bands applied in June will kill the second crop, and, after a few years of such treatment, we may expect to see this enemy materially lessened in numbers. Scraping loose bark from old trees is first in order, and should at once be attended to. After that, plowing, or even dragging the ground will be beneficial. A drag will disturb the dry place in which the worm has ensconced himself as effectually as a plow, and once where wet can reach them in cold weather few will survive. Messrs. HOOKER BROS., on a few acres of old orchard which has been bandaged and the worms destroyed the past season, picked 1,100 barrels of fine apples entirely free from worms, which sold at an extra price, ($3 per bbl.) on account of their superior quality. Thousands of farmers, whose orchards never yield anything, except in years when apples are too plenty for the codling moth to destroy, can, by a little care and at light expense, secure abundance of good fruit in the non-bearing years. The mischief seems to be that in the odd years, when apples are abundant, worms increase so largely that they take everything the following season, when, as there is a scarcity of apples, the codling moth crop is decreased, and the result is a glut of apples—many of them worm-eaten—every other year. The codling moth is responsible for the increasing tendency of fruit to fail entirely one season and be over-abundant the next.

In discussing the planting of ornamental trees by roadsides, President BARRY advised farmers to do it as a means of beautifying their homes. They need not go to nurseries and buy expensive trees, but dig them from the woods, as suitable varieties are found in almost every neighborhood, which may be had with little expense. The sugar maple is probably the best one variety for a long line of roadside trees, but other varieties of suitable size may be interspersed. The mountain ash is beautiful in winter as well as summer; but objectionable, as it harbors the borer, and needs as much attention as an apple orchard. The elm was recommended for an isolated tree, where there is plenty of room. Its branches rise and arch over buildings in a beautiful way; but it is not suitable in a line with smaller trees, as it will hide the view of the other and spoil the effect. It is also unsuitable for planting by roadsides near cultivated fields, as its roots run a great way, exhaust the soil and injure the crop. Some lower growing trees with shorter roots are preferable. They will also make a better windbreak.

Question 5—the comparative profits of fruit growing and general farming—brought out some interesting and suggestive facts, and showed that some men, at least, knew how to make money in "hard times." Mr. WOODWARD of Lockport said that successful fruit growing demanded the same skill and enterprise as successful farming. Men are not to think because they have planted an orchard that they can leave it uncared for and it will make them rich without effort. Still there are many notable instances of great success in fruit growing. In Niagara County it is found that generally the farmers with good orchards have long pockets, while those who depend upon grain crops exclusively can hardly pay their way. An acquaintance of his, named PETER E. MILLER, had a farm of 100 acres, with 15 acres in fruit. From this fifteen acres the sales have been far heavier than from all the rest of the farm. The orchard, mostly greenings and Baldwin's, is now fairly in bearing, and well cared for. In 1872 sales of apples were $5,000, in 1874, $2,000, and in 1875, $6,200. Mr. WOODWARD, some years ago, bought a farm, at $42 per acre, with a young orchard on it, sold $14,000 worth of fruit, and sold the farm at $118 an acre. He had set two orchards and sold them. Now he was planting an orchard and meant to keep it. A peach orchard in his neighborhood averages $125 profit per acre every year, counting bad years with good. Knew a farm of 176 acres which has 30 acres orchard, and the orchard yields more profit than all the balance of the farm. He did not believe there was any limit to profitable production of fruit in W. N. Y. Some years there would be a glut, but, on an average, it would pay. Had set out peaches, pears, apples, within the past two years. L. SHARP of Lockport, from an acre and a-half of orcharding, in 1374, sold $28 worth of fruit. In 1875 sold $898.88. From a young orchard of 40 acres, planted 13 years ago, he sold 9 bbls. per tree this last year. The trees are well cultivated through the summer; land not cropped, and the codling moth kept down. Have trees 11 inches in diameter, one foot from the ground. Would plant new apple orchard 33 x 40 feet, to give each tree plenty of room. In Niagara County, when a farm is for sale, the first question is: "How many acres of orchard are there on it."

Mr. RATHBONE of Genesee Co., reported that from ten acres of dwarf pears, planted 14 years ago, the sales to date have netted $10,694,44, and interest on profits amounts to $1,992, making a total profit of $12,686,44. The profits in 1874 were $72.80, and in 1875 $2,150.38. JULIAN REED of Oakfield, Niagara Co., sold last year, from 99 Duchess pears, $1,905. Nearly all these trees have taken root on their own stock.

D. E. ROGERS of Wheatland, related his experience with peach trees. Had a peach orchard planted between rows of young apple trees, on ten acres. Half of it is just coming into bearing, and from this half he sold, in 1874 and in 1875, $3,000 worth of fruit per year. The prospect is now good for an equal crop next year. Sold peaches at $1 to $1.50 per basket in Rochester markets.

FOSTER UDELL of Sweden was called out. Grew no fruit but apples for market, but apples were much more profitable than ordinary farming. Have a farm of 200 acres, with 55 acres orchard, 800 to 1,000 trees, have been planted 20 years, and 1,100 more were planted in 1861. From these the sales have been five times as great, for a number of years past, as from all the rest of the farm. Believes in thorough cultivation of orchards, but without cropping them. The fruit crop pays better than any other, and trying to grow any other is at the expense of that. Would plant trees wider apart than is common, to give them room to grow.

T. S. HUBBARD of Fredonia gave the produce of one acre of Concord grapes, planted ten years ago, and which has borne eight crops. In 1867, first crop, 1 and 2 tons, net $350; 1868, 3 tons net $400; 1869, 5 tons net $650; 1870, 2 tons net $300; 1871, 3 tons net $300; 1872, 3 tons net $240; 1873, 3 tons net $250; 1874, 3½ tons net $250; 1875, 2 tons net $200. Of late years the price of grapes has been low; but they still yield a good profit at low prices. The average of 8 years is $350, with ordinary soil and no manure.

DR. SYLVESTER of Lyons, said that 20 years ago he bought a farm of a German, who had tried in vain to pay for it. There was a mortgage of $1,500 on the farm, and the German had tried many years to pay it, but could only make the interest. The first year Dr. SYLVESTER occupied the farm he planted 1,100 trees of various kinds—a good many pears, with some apples and other fruits. The sales of fruit from that farm have averaged, per year, more than the purchase price of the land, and have long been much above that amount.

President BARRY, in closing discussion on this subject, said he never doubted that fruit growing would always be profitable in Western New York. It was within twelve hours of the great markets, and its soil and climate were better adapted to fruit growing than those of many other sections. It is true that many farmers think fruit does not pay, and no doubt in some cases they are right. A few trees left uncared for, and bearing a few barrels of wormy fruit only when apples are a glut, do not pay; often the fruit hardly pays for gathering. Fruit must be cultivated as a business, not necessarily excluding other farming, but in connection with it. A few acres of orchard well cared for and the codling moth destroyed by careful attention will not cost a great deal of labor, and will pay well on any farm. Farmers who have only a few barrels of apples cannot get so good a price per barrel as those who have large crops. For one reason the fruit is rarely of as good quality.

It was left optional with the Committee to hold an exhibition of Roses next June or not, as was deemed best. The exhibition last summer was creditable every way, but, owing to bad weather, did not pay expenses, and the deficit was paid by subscription. A further sum of $100 was raised to pay the Secretary for his services in getting out a report, a sum well earned and worthily bestowed.

Mr. D. WINO & Co. of Rochester exhibited specimens of fruit and Hubbard Squash excellently preserved by the ALDEN process. A perforated barrel stave was also exhibited and attracted much attention among fruit shippers. It gives the barrels perfect ventilation and at an expense of not more than four or five cents each—much cheaper as well as better than boring holes through by hand, as is often done in shipping perishable fruits.

It was voted that Western New York should be represented at the Horticultural show in the Centennial Exhibition. The following Committee was appointed to attend to the collection and forwarding of fruit, securing space, &c.:

Monroe—P. Barry, Chairman; H. E. Hooker, E. A. Frost.
Wayne—L. T. Yeomans, John M. Mackie.
Ontario—E. A. Bronson, S. D. Willard.
Chautauqua—T. S. Hubbard, G. E. Ryckman.
Genesee—N. Bogue, Norman Drake.
Orleans—J. W. Gray, V. Bogue.
Niagara—I. H. Babcock, J. S. Woodward.
Onondaga—W. Brown Smith, W. F. Will.
Wyoming—H. T. Brooks, E. C. Sherman.
Yates—A. C. Younglove, Dr. Spence.
Steuben—T. M. Younglove, Judge Larrowe.
Livingston—E. P. Mack, M. M. Brooks.
Cayuga—E. G. Pierson.
Erie—Godfrey Zimmerman, John P. Long.

THOS. H. HORWOOD, Janitor of the City Hall, had a conservatory fitted up in beautiful style with plants and birds of various kinds in the room adjoining that in which the Society met. It was much visited by members. The Society voted thanks to Mr. HORWOOD for his courtesy.

The time of meeting was changed to the fourth Wednesday of January, and about 1 P. M. of Thursday the Society adjourned *sine die*, having enjoyed a most instructive and profitable session.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

A HEAVY SHOT FROM TENNESSEE.

Jan. 4.—The Editors of the RURAL NEW YORKER are in receipt of the following letter, which has been called out by some remarks of mine that appeared a few weeks since in this department. Not being disposed to shirk any responsibility or to deprive my opponent of fair play, I give his communication entire:

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—In your issue of Nov. 27 I notice that I am charged with egotism and direct falsehood. If the charge had not been made by a "gentleman" I would not condescend to notice it. The circular which "A Gentleman near New York City" criticises so severely might, I confess, have been worded differently. It was intended to say that I *found* the plant and determined to offer it for sale. Until I offered it for sale, I had not seen it advertised by any of the professional gardeners, notwithstanding I am in constant correspondence with a great many.

My circular was sent mostly to professional gardeners, and the botanical name was given in each circular. Will any one suppose that the botanical name would have accompanied the advertisement if *deception* had been intended? I had no intention of robbing Mr. LINNE or any other man of anything due them. The "gentleman" sneers at the idea of an *agave* having *bulbous* roots. I desire to call his attention to the Gardeners' Monthly, edited by THOMAS MEEHAN. On page 90 he will find the following:

"*Agave Virginica.*—J. C. G., Knoxville, Tenn., sends some "bulbs" for a name, which we give as above. The plant is well worthy of cultivation—not for its beauty (greenish-white flower), but for its curious structure and very sweet odor. It is closely allied, botanically, to the tuberose, and its fragrance, though not as great as the tuberose, is still suggestive of it. We have been told by a Wilmington correspondent that a variety of the same plant has been found in South Carolina, with leaves spotted with red. There is no doubt much good material for ornamental gardening to be found in these wild plants."

The plant propagates almost identically as the tuberose, putting off offshoots at the bottom of the bulb. It is too much to say that when a man has seen one *Agave Virginica* plant that he has seen the whole family. There are several varieties of *foliage*.

"A gentleman" says that an "*agave* having *bulbous* roots is certainly something new in science." It is possible (barely so, I admit) that *he* does not know everything. If he wishes to discuss the subject *scientifically*, I will refer him to Mr. MEEHAN. Your correspondent is disposed to be witty at my expense and speaks of me as the "oldest man alive." It is true that the days of my childhood have passed, and that I have long been grappling with the stern realties of life. I am not too old, however, to remember the teachings of the fireside and the Sunday-school, where I learned that to *be* a gentleman is a very different thing from being *called* one. Your "gentleman" may be a brave man, but he certainly discounts his manliness when he charges falsehood upon an entire stranger without sufficient cause. Possibly the charge would not have been made if the parties had been face to face instead of hundreds of miles apart.—JOHN C. GUNN, *Knoxville, Tenn.*

You confess at the outset that the circular referred to "might have been worded differently," all of which is very true, and had it been worded in accordance with the truth I should have found no fault with it. But I have only to deal with the circular as it is, and not with what it might have been; and as you distinctly claim to be the "*original* discoverer and cultivator of this plant," I suppose you mean what you say in this case as well as when offering the plants for sale.

You start out by calling this a "New Flower," and while I admit that the term is subject to some slight variation in its application, it can hardly be said that a plant well known to science for nearly one hundred and fifty years can be called "new" by any one having the least regard for the meaning of words or truth. It also appears that you did not know the name of this wonderful plant until it was given in the Gardeners' Monthly. If it was new, how came it to have a name, and how did the Editor of the Gardeners' Monthly know what it was?

Now, you distinctly assert in the printed circular I received some weeks since that the *Agave Virginica* is a "new flower" and was "discovered a few years since," and further, that you are the "*original* discoverer;" and I claim that neither of the above assertions are true. I have before me a book published in 1743 by JOHN CLAYTON, on the Flora of Virginia, and in the second part, page 152, the *Agave Virginica* is not only described, but also the variegated-leaved variety which the Editor of the Gardeners' Monthly mentioned as lately found in South Carolina by his friend. In THOMAS WALTER'S Flora Caroliniana, published in 1781, page 121, both the species and variety are again mentioned and described; in fact, they are referred to in nearly all the old botanies, from LINNE'S *Hortus Cliffortanus*, published in 1737, down to the last editions of Dr. GAY'S botanical works published in New York City.

If you are the *original* discoverer of *Agave Virginica*, as asserted in your circular, then you must have been prowling about upon this earth before 1737, else the claim is false.

This plant has not only been described in hundreds of volumes, but an occasional figure of it has been given to aid the novice in identification. In CURTIS' Botanical Magazine, 1808, there appears an excellent figure of this plant, accompanied by a popular description of the same in the American Agriculturist. The plant is neither new to science nor cultivation, for it was introduced into the Kew Gardens, England, by JOHN CREE in 1765, only one hundred and ten years ago.

There is still another assertion in your letter which is not exactly clear in a scientific point of view. You say, "It is too much to say that when a man has seen one *Agave Virginica* he has seen the whole *family*." Now, will you be so kind as to tell me what the "*Agave family*" is, and whether you got that name with the rest of your science from the Gardeners' Monthly? If my memory is not at fault, a MICHAEL HOEY of Knoxville, Tenn., offered this same plant in 1874 under the name of "American Tuberose;" therefore you are not alone entitled to the credit of disseminating the old and well-known plant, even from Tennessee.

Now, please bear in mind that I have not said one word against the plant under discussion, or the price charged for specimens or seeds, but it is the claim of being its discoverer and only cultivator which are offensive to me, as they must be to every man who knows anything of the Flora of North America. There are very good reasons why such plants as the *Agave Virginica* are not offered in florists' catalogues, and one is, their merits are not sufficient to create a demand, and another is that they are far too common over a region of country extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Missouri River to be considered a rarity or really worth offering for sale.

FORESTRY TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Jan. 6.—While looking over the titles of the books upon my library shelves this evening, without any special object in view, my eyes rested upon the figures 1675, and the thought of the year just closed ending in the same two figures reminded me that two hundred years had elapsed since the author of this book committed his thoughts to paper. I have older books than this, but none on the same subject which comes so near an exact two centuries since publication, for the date of preface is Nov. 16, 1675. But let us look at these pages, which are slightly yellowed by time, but the print is as clear as though the sheets were struck off but yesterday. First comes the long title beginning with "The Manner of Raising, Ordering and Improving Forest Trees, etc., etc., by MOSES COOK, Gardener to the Earl of Essex, Cashiobury, England." If we look further in this work we shall find very little that is of especial interest to us at the present day, beyond the fact of knowing how much was known of forest tree culture two centuries ago. Strange as it may appear, MOSES COOK had to contend with much of the same kind of quackery in horticultural matters as is continually coming to the surface at the present day.

Men in those days had no doubt asserted that sweet and sour apples were produced by inserting parts of two buds or cions, or making the stems from two seeds unite by compelling them to grow up through a tube; but our author puts all this stuff down as nonsense. Watering seeds and plants with colored liquids in order to change the color of the flowers is also put down as another error. Boring holes in the stems of trees and filling them with any substance to change the flavor of the fruit is, he says, a great fallacy. Still, the constant denouncing of this process for two hundred years has not driven it out of existence, for every few weeks or months I notice the report of some quack in pomology who has saved his plums from insect depredations by boring holes in the stems of his trees and filling them with sulphur, or perhaps by driving rusty nails into the stems. He also tells us that the idea prevalent among the country people then, as now, that the sap of trees in winter descends to the roots, is an error; in fact, our author seems to have possessed a goodly share of common sense, even though he lived two centuries ago.

America was a wilderness when Mr. COOK was urging upon his countrymen the importance of raising forest trees, and although he knew nothing of our great prairies, "big trees" of California, or of railroad ties and telegraph poles, still I find it pleasant to have a little chat with him in this our Centennial year, over the occurrence of which we feel so very proud.

I am thinking who or what kind of a man will be looking over my copy of MOSES COOK'S book one hundred years from now, if it should escape destruction so long? Perhaps his attention will be called to it by reading this page of the RURAL NEW-YORKER during our bi-centennial. Who knows? Yes, who knows what may be one one hundred years hence?

Hygienic Information.

THE CONTAGION OF SCARLET FEVER.

HALL'S Journal of Health has the following suggestive and valuable article on this subject: Since none of our common diseases is more dreaded than scarlet fever, it is important to know what can be done to prevent its diffusion. To this end the following conditions should be observed: Let the patient be assigned an upper chamber, freely ventilated, comfortably warm and reasonably cool. There should be no carpet on the floor, no curtains about the bed, and no cushioned and upholstered chairs or sofas. Use an iron bedstead, and if possible let the bedding be destroyed by fire as soon as the patient is so far recovered as to mingle with the other members of the family. The handkerchiefs which he has used should be burned. It is better to furnish bits of old cotton or linen in place of handkerchiefs, that each piece, as soon as soiled, may be removed and destroyed. The spittoon, or other vessel which receives the expectorations, should contain a little water with carbolic acid or chloride of lime. One or the other of these disinfectants must be used freely about the room. An indispensable article for the comfort of the patient is an earth-closet. There are several kinds in use, but, as far as we have observed, the simplest and cheapest is the best. Common garden soil, perfectly dry, should be used, or sifted coal ashes. Either of these substances will readily deodorize the intestinal discharges. A small quantity of sulphate of iron—copperas—if added to the soil or ashes, will serve as an excellent disinfectant.

Nurses, and others who come in contact with the patient, should frequently wash their hands with carbolic soap. Clothing taken from the patient, if not burned, should be allowed to remain in water containing one of the above named disinfectants two or three days before being washed.

These simple suggestions, if followed, would result in a greatly decreased number of cases of scarlet fever; and if the means proposed were generally adopted, we believe that in a short time the disease would be effectually "stamped out."

We are aware that in many families the course we propose is impracticable. They have not the room, nor the means. But they can follow some of our directions. They can ventilate the sick-room and use disinfectants.

It is possible that physicians, in treating this disease, neglect, sometimes, an important part of their duty. They do not enforce, as they ought, the simple regulations by which so much may be done toward destroying the contagion.

MILK AS A MEDICINE.

THE American Journal of Medicine, St. Louis, says:—"This article, once looked upon with distrust, has now become a valuable agent in the treatment of disease, and is, on all hands, recommended by practioners of medicine as being a safe and reliable article in the list of curables. Given warm, it is declared to be almost a specific in diarrhœa, stomach ache, incipient cholera and dysentary. It is also pronounced invaluable in typhoid fever. 'We believe that milk nourishes in fever, promotes sleep, wards off delirium, soothes the intestines, and, in fine, is the *sine qua non* in typhoid fever.' This gentleman further says: 'In scarlet fever give all the milk the patient will take, even during the period of greatest fever; it keeps up the strength of the patient, acts well upon the stomach, and is in every way a blessed thing in sickness.' The authorities in these cases say that the milk should never be boiled, as that unfits it for use."

In "Practical Dairy Husbandry," (by X. A. WILLARD, A. M., and published at the RURAL office,) is an excellent chapter on "The Use of Skimmed Milk as an Exclusive Diet in Disease," which gives, from medical and other authorities, several interesting cases in which persons were cured of various and dangerous diseases by the use of milk. Those of our readers interested should refer to Prof. WILLARD'S work and carefully peruse what is therein said and quoted upon the subject.

DISEASE CAUSED BY THE PASSIONS.

PROF. R. W. RICHARDSON, in an article upon "Induced Disease from the Influence of the Passions," in the Popular Science Monthly, says that of all the passions, as anger, fear, hatred, grief, acting most severely upon the physical life, the first is the most injurious. "He is a man very rich indeed in physical power," says the author, "who can afford to be angry." The effect of rage upon the heart is to produce a permanent disorder and irregular motion, as is well known. This sometimes is so severe as to cause instant death, and is more to be avoided than almost anything else by persons having organic diseases of the heart."

Of the effects of intense mental excitement attending "revivals" he says:

"Probably few people who encourage or take part in what are known as revivals have any idea of the cerebral disorders produced by these seasons of unnatural mental excitement. The revivalist being a man of strong physical organization, passes through the ordeal unharmed, but heart disease of some sort, hysteria, all kinds of nervous diseases, and even insanity, too often follow in his wake. Particularly is this the case among children, whose sensitive nerves are excited to the highest pitch by the vivid pictures of eternal misery or bliss painted by the skillful preacher."

Domestic Economy.

THE POT ON THE FIRE.

THERE is one mode of preparing food in general use in many parts of Europe which we should do very well more generally to adopt; that is, "gentle simmering." In every or almost every French household there is the *pot au feu*. This permanent "pot on the fire," after the manner of the old-fashioned "digester," occupies a quiet little corner of the stove or fire place. It can hardly be said to boil, but it simmers on gently, for hours. There it is the receptacle of many a little bone, whether the trimmings of poultry or butchers' meat. It matters not, every little stray fragment of wholesome meat finds its way there. A bit of liver is considered an immense improvement; and any vegetables that happen to be about add to its pleasant flavor, whether the tops of celery, Jerusalem artichokes—which, par excellence, make it delicious—or otherwise carrots, turnips, leeks, etc. But supposing it were to be made altogether of fresh materials—which, indeed, in France is rarely—this would be the proper recipe: Put a gallon of water into a pot; put into this either three or four pounds of shin of beef, or any similar thing. Add to this an onion or two, or some leeks, carrot or other vegetable, three or four teaspoonfuls of salt, one of black pepper, three cloves. Give it one boil up; skim carefully. Now cover the pot closely, and let it cook gently, for four hours at least. About every hour throw a wineglassful of cold water into it, to make it clear. Taste; it may require a little more salt and pepper, according to taste. Pour this soup over toasted crusts of bread. Both soup and meat will be found delicious. The whole secret of this lies in the gentle simmering in a covered vessel, whereby the flavor is wholly preserved, and nothing is lost. A bullock's head so cooked is excellent.

BOTTLING CIDER.

A WRITER in the New England Farmer gives this advice to bottle cider that will keep sweet and fine for years, and its excellence is endorsed by the editor:—"Leach and filter the cider through pure sand, after it has worked and fermented and before it has soured. Put no alcohol or other substances with it. Be sure that the vessels you put it in are perfectly clean and sweet. After it is leached or filtered, put it in barrels or casks filled, leaving no room for air; bung them tight and keep it where it won't freeze till February or March, then put it into champagne bottles filled, drive the corks and wire them. It should be done in a cellar or room that is comfortable for work. The best cider is late made, or made when it is as cold as can be and not freeze."

GOOD BLACK INK.

A GENTLEMAN way out in Idaho says:—"Good black ink is not easily obtainable here, and the trash that passes for the genuine article is sold at fabulous prices." For his benefit and others similarly situated, we repeat a recipe taken from the New York Tribune. To one quart of strong decoction of logwood, well strained, add three ounces of blue galls in coarse powder, twelve drams sulphate of iron, one and one quarter drams acetate of copper, twelve drams of well ground sugar, one and one-half ounces of gum arabic. Set it over the fire till it begins to boil, then set it away uncorked till it has turned black enough; add a few cloves to keep out the mold. It is a real pleasure to open a letter and find a clear, legible chirography, in ink of a decided color.

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

THE Drug, Circular and Chemical Gazette gives the following recipe for making LEA & PERRINS' celebrated Worcestershire Sauce:

White vinegar, fifteen gallons; walnut catsup, ten gallons; Madeira wine, five gallons; mushroom catsup, ten gallons; table salt, twenty-five pounds; Canton soy, four gallons; allspice powdered, one pound; coriander, one pound; mace, eight ounces; cinnamon, eight ounces; assafœtida, four ounces dissolved in brandy, one gallon. Boil twenty pounds of hog's liver for twelve hours with ten gallons of water, renewing the water from time to time. Take out the liver, chop it, mix it with water, and work it through a sieve; mix it with the sauce.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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Founder and Conducting Editor.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1876.

TO THE RURAL'S CORRESPONDENTS.

Our regular contributors and frequent correspondents are reminded that we always prefer *seasonable* articles,—and, as much of the matter for the Rural is prepared and put in type for ten days to two weeks in advance of the date of the paper in which it appears, the early reception of contributions is necessary to secure timely publication. We frequently receive practical articles just too late to be rendered useful. And the same is occasionally true of literary contributions. As instances in point, we were favored with several Christmas and New Year's stories and poems a week or two after those happy anniversaries occurred. Therefore, please send all articles intended for a particular time or season promptly—in advance. And pray don't write in detail about hoeing, hay-making and harvesting in Winter, nor about wintering stock, maple sugar making, etc., during the Summer solstice. "There is a time for all things," and he who follows the hint in writing for the Agricultural Press will generally receive thanks, and his articles the baptism of print.

We are always glad to receive timely and suggestive articles for either our Practical or Scientific departments; also, the results of observation, experiments and experience in any branch of farm husbandry, horticulture, gardening, etc., at any season—for such contributions are usually available or will keep without spoiling. We want practical, intelligent and sensible men and women to write for the Rural—to give us the cream of what they know about rural and domestic affairs. Among our readers are, we believe, a myriad of this class, scattered throughout the various States and Territories of this now Centennial Republic and the adjacent British Provinces wherein the Rural circulates. How many of these will kindly send us such facts, suggestions, etc., as will impart their knowledge to others?

Another thing. The numerous applications we are receiving from persons who wish to become regular paid contributors to the Rural constrains us to give here the substance of a printed circular which we have very frequent occasion to use, as follows:—"Your favor has been received. Our list of Editorial and other paid Contributors is so large, and so much more expensive than formerly, that we cannot afford to make additions, at least for the present. Hence we return your MSS., as we are almost daily doing that of other applicants to contribute to the Rural New-Yorker. It is proper to add that, in many instances, our disposition exceeds our ability to respond favorably—in which cases we sincerely regret the necessity of saying Nay in regard to the acceptance of contributions."

If writers on literary topics—those who furnish stories, poems, etc.,—will bear in mind that most of our pages are devoted to practical and scientific subjects, they will readily see that it is possible for us to accept and publish only a limited number of sketches and articles for our miscellaneous departments. Indeed, we are obliged to decline more than a moiety of the literary contributions received, and many that are accepted have to be pigeon-holed for months before publication.

Once more, and finally. All who write for the Rural, whether paid or voluntary contributors, will please remember to *boil it down*—to be as brief as may be, omitting all superfluous preface or circumlocution, and giving the wheat without the chaff. We wish to make every page, column and paragraph of this paper *tell*, and in order to do this we must avoid long stories as much as possible. Repeating from a former volume, we say,—Let us hear from you, good and wise friends, but we beseech you to help us in our efforts to get at the soul of wit—brevity! Pray "be short."—*condense*—but, Write! And in writing please make your chirography as plain and legible as convenient. Take a little pains, write with pen and ink, and note that we prefer that you write only on one side of the paper. Items intended for publication should be sent detached (or so written that they can easily be separated) from business communications. The name and address of the contributor should always accompany manuscript—not necessarily for publication, but as a protection to the Editor against deception or plagiarism.

GROWTH OF THE U. S. SINCE 1870.

Fifteen of the thirty-seven States had a State Enumeration in 1875, and in eight of these the tables of population have been prepared for publication. It is almost a pity that we did not have a general enumeration, throughout the country, so that our *status* in the one hundredth year of national existence could be known. The returns show a gratifying increase in population, and, as compared with the U. S. Census of 1870, give the following results:

States.	1870.	1875.	Increase
Kansas	364,399	533,373	168,974
Louisiana	726,915	857,039	130,124
Massachusetts	1,457,351	1,651,902	194,551
Michigan	1,184,059	1,344,031	159,732
New Jersey	906,096	1,026,502	120,406
New York	4,382,759	4,705,208	322,449
Rhode Island	217,353	258,239	40,886
South Carolina	705,606	923,447	217,841
Total	9,544,538	11,299,741	1,355,203

New York holds its own as the Banner State in population; but the increase here has been only a little more than seven per cent., while for the average of the eight States it is thirteen. Most of the increase in New York is in its cities and villages, and the Rural and Agricultural population has apparently no more than held its own, if it has done that. In some of the Western States there is an increased Agricultural population, showing that the soil, even with defective farming, has not been occupied to the limit of profitable production. It is quite probable that one or two States not in the above table may, ten, twenty or thirty years hence, outrank New York in population. Illinois and Iowa each excel New York in Agricultural resources, while Missouri possibly excels all others in her combination of Agricultural and Mineral wealth and facilities for extensive commerce.

If the States above enumerated show the fair average increase of population for the whole country, the United States will have in 1880 a population of forty-nine (and possibly fifty) millions.

NOTES FROM WESTERN NEW YORK.

During a visit to Rochester, to report the winter meeting of the W. N. Y. Hort. Society, we found the fields bare and weather warm and pleasant. Wheat on the ground made a poor growth last fall, but has improved materially and promises well. There has thus far been little snow and less cold weather than usual—enough frost to be "hard" on wheat, only somehow bad weather does not do so much injury early as later in the season. What is called "winter killing" of wheat in ordinary seasons is more often destruction from cold and drying winds on the wheat plant in April or May, after frost has thrown the roots to the surface. For several years we have had dry springs—favorable for getting work done, but very injurious to wheat. The absence of snow early in winter leads us to hope that the ground will be well covered hereafter. The season is now advanced so far that long continued cold weather need not be expected. Sunday, Jan. 9th, the thermometer near Rochester showed sixty degrees above zero, and the weather had been even warmer than that. There was no ice in the lakes, very little anywhere, and it is solid blocks of ice drifting eastward on the lakes which make Western New York spring months cold and disagreeable. There is plenty of time for severe weather, and possibly for some extremely cold; but the lack of foundation makes it likely that it will not be long continued, and an early spring is extremely probable.

Prices of all produce are low, and many farmers are hard pushed to find money to pay taxes. Happily, however, these are lighter than usual for farmers in Monroe Co. this year—partly from decrease in State tax and partly because the towns have for the first time apportioned taxes between the City of Rochester and the county on an equitable footing, 60 per cent. to the city and 40 to the towns is this year the rule, and the proportion pretty fairly represents the actual distribution of wealth between the two. The city representatives are generally more inclined to extravagant legislation than those of the towns, and this increased tax rate will have a good effect in making them careful.

A great many potatoes have been sold at ruinously low prices, and thousands of bushels more remain to be sold. Many farmers are discouraged and will plant no more except for their own use, and nearly all will curtail operations considerably another year. Fewer acres, larger crops and better prices will yield more profit, and without better prices fewer acres will entail less losses. On the other hand, a friend of ours, an intelligent and successful farmer near Rochester, informed us that last year he grew potatoes for 12½ cents per bushel. This is a very interesting subject in seasons when potatoes are down nearly as low as that, and we are glad to be able to state that he has promised to inform readers of the Rural New-Yorker how it is done.

Hosts of friends from all parts of Western N. Y., gathered to attend the meeting of the Horticultural Society, greeted us at Rochester with many congratulations on the Rural's excellence and progress.

Our friend, Mr. Darrow, at the Rochester Agency for the Rural, No. 67 East Main street, was in good spirits and spoke encouragingly of the Rural New-Yorker's increased subscription list in Rochester and vicinity.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Rural's Advance in 1876—Has thus far been consonant with the progress and prosperity anticipated during the Centennial Year. Our circulation is being largely augmented throughout the country, while the Press is saying kind things about the paper and the people working for it successfully. Many Agent-Friends have already sent us double the usual number of subscribers, while not a few have trebled and quadrupled their former lists. And moreover its friends talk and write most appreciatively of the Rural. For example, that good old recruiter for the Rural Brigade, Col. H. R. Porter of Erie Co., Pa., writes:

"Here are a few more names for the Noble Old Rural, whose flag still waves and whose banner has never struck to rings, cliques, knaves, fools, tools, nor those who would, cheat, rob or crush down the farmer. O, how it has labored and toiled to watch over the interests of the tiller of the soil! God bless it, and long may its banner wave!"

In remitting for 1876, Mr. W. F. Baumann of Knoxville, Tenn., says:—"You say truly '*The* Paper for the People,' and I wish every farmer would take it. *The information contained in a single number is worth a whole year's subscription to any one.* I am not a farmer, but I will not do without the Old Rural as long as I can raise the means to secure its continuance."

Mr. John Harral, of De Soto Co., Miss., in a letter remitting for a copy of the Rural for his daughter, says:—"My estimate of your paper is higher every year,—and to say that I am pleased with it is the least that I would speak as praise, and I intend after awhile to tell you more fully my good opinion."

Miss (or Mrs.) Mary L. Ware of Hampden Co., Mass., writes:—"Five years ago I thought the Rural was as good as it could be, but it is improved, and I am now certain it is the best farmers' and household paper ever published."

—These greetings from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Mississippi and Massachusetts must suffice for the present. But—thanks to our friends everywhere for their good words and generous exercise of influence!

Advertising for a Wife.—It is no matter of doubt that a great many matrimonial engagements originate in local Grange meetings, where young people of both sexes are brought together in pleasant social relations. It is not supposed that the more formal sessions of State Granges can be utilized as promoters of matrimony. This, however, appears to have been done in Maine, as the Bangor Whig pleasantly tells the following story:

"During the sessions of the State Grange, P. of H., in this city, the place of meeting was filled with farmers, their wives and fair daughters, and some young bachelor farmers who, of course, were anxious that the fair damsels should know that they yearned for some one to make brighter the farm-house for them, superintend the dairy and darn the stockings of their spouses. But just how to pass round this information to the young ladies wasn't known. Finally it came about in one instance in the following manner:—The roll was called and those who brought their wives and daughters were asked to answer 'Here, and wife,' or 'Here, wife and daughter,' as the case might be. A large number of names had been called and every one turned to see who answered, and each time the 'here' was followed by an addendum, but at last came a name (we'll call it John Smith) and the young ladies all turned their eyes to where a tall, angular, young farmer sat. He turned red, stammered, coughed, and finally recovering himself, answered, 'Here and single;' and after the session they made the young man unhappy by accusing him of advertising for a wife."

Local Centennial Histories.—Onondaga Co., in this State, has inaugurated a movement for a local history of the county as part of its Centennial celebration. The Board of Supervisors has appointed a committee of two citizens from each town and ward to collect material, which will be arranged by some competent person in a local history. The Agricultural and Horticultural development of the country, its manufacturing establishments, its political history and sketches of notable professional men would each afford interesting and instructive matter for a pamphlet, and each department should be allotted to men specially adapted for the work. Collected in book form, these histories would be found increasingly valuable as the men familiar with our early local histories pass away.

Horse-Racing at Fairs.—The Patrons of Husbandry in Ohio have found a new use for their influence. In localities where they have members enough they are running the local Agricultural Societies—electing officers who will put a stop to horse-racing at Fairs. They have succeeded wherever they have tried, thus far, and the movement will probably be extended wherever Patrons of Husbandry are numerous enough to make it worth while. Horse-racing at Fairs has long been a severe injury to the best interests of farmers, and all friends of true Agricultural progress will rejoice at any means by which the evil may be abated.

Western N. Y. Ag. Society.—An annual meeting of this Society occurred last week, when the following officers were chosen:—President, Thos. Brown, Jr. Vice-Presidents, Jerome M. Keyes, Chas. F. Wadsworth, Walter Cole. Secretary, Chas. A. Pool. Treasurer, John W. Stebbins. Directors, Benj. Fellows, H. H. Hickox. Messrs. Heman Glass, D. D. S. Brown and Willard Hodges were chosen to represent the Society at the election of officers of the State Agricultural Society.

CENTENNIAL ITEMS.

Mr. A. T. Stewart will contribute largely to the Art Gallery.

"Shall the exhibition be open Sundays?" is now the question.

Ten thousand silk flags will decorate the Main Centennial Building.

"Bull Run" Russell will write up the opening ceremony for the London Times.

The Agricultural Building will have somewhat the appearance of an old English cathedral.

The display of fireworks on the night of May 10 will be the finest ever seen in this or any other country.

The London Graphic will send a corps of ten artists to take illustrations for that paper during the summer.

The several Centennial hotels are rapidly approaching completion, one (Trans-Continental) opening in April.

The Pavilion for the English Commissioners will be elegantly fitted up and will have sleeping rooms and a restaurant.

There will be an official daily newspaper published on the grounds, and a number of minor Centennial publications.

Goods to be exhibited are beginning to arrive by every steamer; but unpacking will not commence before March.

In the Art Gallery will be full-length portraits of all the Presidents of the United States, from Washington to Grant.

The site selected for the encampment of the West Point cadets is very beautiful. The encampment will last ten days.

RURAL BREVITIES.

Additions to Clubs are now in order, and it is not too late to start new ones.

Michigan owns a million acres of public land appropriated for school purposes, and yet unsold.

Back numbers of this volume (from Jan. 1,) can be supplied to all new subscribers, and will be sent unless otherwise ordered.

Franklin Co. Kansas, shipped 35,000 bushels of castor beans the last season, the receipts for the same amounting nearly to $100,000.

Queen Victoria sold last year $15,995 worth of fat cattle, sheep and hogs from the Show Farm, formerly owned by the Prince consort.

Some localities in New Jersey have to purchase potatoes this year, on account of ravages by the potato beetle. Never mind, potatoes are plenty.

A Clackamas Co. (Oregon) man is exhibiting a beet that weighs 18 pounds and measures 34 inches in circumference. He wants somebody to beat that.

W. B. Griggs of Sonoma, Cal., raised a hill of potatoes, five tubers of which weighed sixteen pounds. The remaining small potatoes weighed seventeen pounds.

Robert Douglas & Sons, of the Waukegan (Ill.) Nursery, send us their neat Wholesale Catalogue of Evergreen and Ornamental Tree Seedlings, &c., for the Spring of 1876.

There is a farm near Waterloo, Seneca County, on which is raised every year $600 worth of moss, which is used by the nursery men for packing trees. It is sold for $5 a load on the ground.

Recent warm weather has caused peach trees in Somerset, Ky., to blossom prematurely, and loss of the crop is expected to follow. Grasshoppers have also appeared, a bad indication for next summer.

D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Mich., send us their Illustrated and Descriptive Catalogue of Garden, Flower and Agricultural Seeds. It comprises 252 pages, and is admirably arranged and beautifully illustrated.

A Tennessee farmer had his crops, stock, &c., damaged by the late floods to the extent of $2,606, but gained by the deposit of a rich sediment on 550 acres of land, which he valued at $5,500, or a clear gain over loss of $2,900.

Maine farmers do not grow oats enough for the State, though Maine is one of the best States in the Union for oats. We shall soon have New England farmers conceding that there is nothing they can profitably grow in competition with the West.

Messrs. Briggs & Bro. of Rochester, N. Y., and Chicago, Ill., send us the January No. of their Quarterly Floral Work for 1876. It contains a great amount of interesting information about flowers and vegetables and should be widely read by lovers of flowers and those interested in the vegetable garden.

Dexter's dam died at Montgomery, Orange Co., N. Y., last week of congestion of the lungs. She belonged to Mr. Jonathin Hawkins, who raised Dexter. She was 27 years old, and the dam of other fast trotters who have distinguished themselves on the turf. The mare was famous on the road years ago, and was noted for her endurance and speed.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

BRIDE & CO,
769 Broadway, N. Y., want agents for the best money-making article in the world. Send for particulars.

An Article of True Merit.—"Brown's Bronchial Troches" are the most popular article in this country or Europe for Throat Diseases and Coughs, and this popularity is based upon real merit.

I'VE BEEN THINKING.

I've been thinking, I've been thinking,
What a glorious world were this,
Did folks mind their business more,
And mind their neighbor's less,
For instance, you and I, my friend,
Are sadly prone to talk
Of matters that concern us not,
And others' follies mock.

I've been thinking if we begin
To mind our own affairs,
That possibly our neighbors might
Contrive to manage theirs.
We've faults enough at home to mend—
It may be so of others;
It would seem strange if it were not,
Since all mankind are brothers.

Oh! would that we had charity
For every man and woman;
Forgiveness is the mark of those
We know "to err is human;"
Then let us banish jealousy—
Let's lift our fallen brother;
And as we journey down life's road,
Do good to one another.

The Story-Teller.

"NOT A DROP MORE, DANIEL."

DANIEL AKIN had become a confirmed drunkard. So fully had he come under the dominion of the bottle, that he was perfectly miserable when he could not obtain the means of gratifying his thirst. He had neglected his family till his wife's father had taken her and the children to the paternal roof. He had spent all his substance in drink and was kept from the poor-house only by performing menial services for his food and by the kindness of Thomas Edgerton, a member of the Society of Friends, who had known him from his youth, and who had a strong hope that, in the course of time, he would see his folly and turn again into the right path.

Hoskins, the leading liquor seller of the place, had let him have drink so long as his money lasted but would trust him no longer. He was lounging about the saloon one bright moonlight evening, pleading with the keeper to trust him for a drink. His reply was sharp and unfeeling:

"Not a drop more, Daniel!"

He remained awhile longer and then left. As the cool air of the evening fell upon him he, all at once, gave utterance to his feelings in the following strain:

"'Not a drop more, Daniel.' Am I drunk or am I sober? I am sober. 'Not a drop more, Daniel.' Did Hoskins think a drop would hurt me? No; but my money was gone. He has got all; got everything I had—even the Bible my mother gave me. He has got the boots which my wife, with her own earnings, bought for Jennie. 'Not a drop more, Daniel.' Daniel, what say you to that? I say so, too. I once had good clothes, but now I have nothing but rags. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till I have clothes again as good as when Mary and I were married. I once had a good watch; but that, too, is gone! 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till I have another horse and buggy as good as I once had. I once had cows that furnished my family with butter and cheese, but Hoskins has got them. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till those cows, or others as good, are mine again. I once had this wallet full of bills; but now not a cent have I got. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till this wallet is well filled again."

By this time he had reached the place where he formerly resided, and leaning up against the fence, he mused a long time in silence. He viewed the desolate place by the light of the moon, and his eyes ranged over the house and farm, once his own. He then said to himself:—"Once I owned this house and farm. Here I was born. Here my father and mother died. I was the pride of their hearts; but I brought down their gray hairs with sorrow to the grave! Here I began my married life, and all that heart could wish was mine. Here Mary and I took comfort together till Hoskins came and opened his rum-shop, and now he calls it his. In that south room my children were and there my Jennie died. O, how sorrowful she looked when she saw me take her boots and start for the store to pawn them for rum, while she lay sick upon the bed. And then, how she begged for me never to strike her mother again! I can see her now—her pale face, her wasted form; but she cannot come to me again. And O, my wife, how shamefully I abused her! It was not your Daniel that did it. No, it was Hoskin's accursed rum! No wonder you were taken from me by those who loved you and would not see you abused. They won't have me in the house; they won't let me live with you. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till this house is mine again. 'Not a drop more, Daniel,' till these broad acres are again in my possession and the wife and children that are living are in yonder rooms and we are a happy family once more. 'Not a drop more, Daniel.' Help me, my God, till all these things are accomplished! I thank you, Hoskins, for these words. I shall not forget them."

He had become so much occupied with his thoughts and spoken in a tone so loud, that he had not noticed the wagon which had reached the road, in which was seated the kind-hearted Quaker before mentioned. He stopped his horse and heard distinctly the language Daniel used. As he closed his soliloquy, he turned and saw Thomas Edgerton, who said:

"Daniel, does thee mean to keep thy vow?"

"Yes, friend Edgerton, I do."

"Thee has promised a great many times thee'd drink no more. What makes thee think thee will keep thy vow this time?"

"I know, friend Edgerton, I have often vowed I would drink no more. But now I feel different from what I have felt before; my heart is almost broken and I feel my weakness; and I believe God will help me this time."

"God grant that it may be so! Daniel, get in and take a seat. Thee must be hungry; go home with me."

On the way the Quaker drew out of him all that has been written, and he advised him to go to California. He told him to go to New York and work his way round the Cape. He decided to do so. The Quaker kindly promised to furnish him with suitable clothing.

"Thee would like to see thy wife and children before thee goes?"

"I should—but they have become so estranged from me; if I went, perhaps they would not believe me. I think it would be better they should not know where I am. I want to surprise them and hope to do so by coming back a sober man, and with money enough to make them comfortable. I prefer that you and your wife should be the only persons in the place who shall know where I am or what I am doing."

Thus, while riding toward the quiet farm-house of the Quaker, the whole thing was arranged. When they reached the farm the horse was put into the barn, and they entered the house. As they seated themselves before the fire, the Quaker said to his wife:

"Amy, thee can put on another plate. Daniel will stay with us a few days, and then he is going to California."

The good Quaker felt confident Daniel would keep his word this time. At the end of a few days everything was in readiness. The old horse was harnessed and, before daylight, Daniel Akin was on his way to the railway station. He had not been in the village since the night when the words, "Not a drop more, Daniel," were uttered. He was missed from his customary haunts; but it was supposed he had gone on a spree, and so nothing was thought of his absence. No inquiries were made, for all were glad that he was missing and cared not for his return.

He had been gone somewhat more than a year, when the Quaker was in the store of Hoskins and wished to hire a pasture for the coming season.

"I have one I will let you have free, if you will put up the fences on the place," said Hoskins.

"Where is it?" asked the Quaker.

"It's on the Akin's farm," was the reply.

"If thee will let it at that rate, thee must have let it get out of repair."

"It is, indeed. I cannot leave the store to look after it. The house is poor, and the family that lived in it last were too shiftless to buy wood, so they burnt up all the fences; in fact, I would rather sell it than rent it."

"What will thee take for it?" inquired the Quaker.

"It cost me $1,600."

"Yes; but thee paid in goods, and charged thine own price for them."

"To be sure I did. Akin could not get trusted anywhere else, and I felt that I was running a great risk in letting him have goods, so I charged accordingly; just as anybody else would have done under the circumstances."

"But thee has not told me what thee will take for the place. I will give thee $800 for it, if that is any object to thee."

Hoskins thought long enough over the matter to conclude that the interest of $800 was far better for him than a farm for the use of which he realized scarcely anything, and at last said, "You can have it."

"Very well, Hoskins; thee can make out the deeds to-morrow, and thee shall have thy money. By-the-by, does thee know what has become of Daniel Akin?"

"No; he has not been in the village for more than a year; at any rate, I have not seen him."

We may here tell the reader something that Hoskins did not know. The Quaker had that day received a letter from Daniel Akin, stating that he was at the mines hard at work and sticking to his motto, "Not a drop more, Daniel;" that he had laid up a few hundred dollars and desired him to inquire what the place he once owned could be bought for.

Mr. Edgerton had taken the method above mentioned to find out the views of Hoskins respecting the place; so confident was he that Daniel Akin would come home a sober man, with money in his pocket, that he had ventured to purchase the place, to keep for him till his return.

He wrote to Akin, informing him what he had done; and about three months after he received a letter from him stating that he had sent by express $500 in gold to a banker in New York, with orders to sell it and remit the proceeds to him, to go toward the money for the farm.

Gold at that time commanded a high premium, and the $500 became $800 before they reached the hands of friend Edgerton. Akin requested him to draw up a deed giving the whole property to his wife Mary, to have it duly recorded and left with the register of deeds.

In his letter he said:—"If, perchance, I should ever break my resolution, I shall have secured a home for my wife and children. I prefer, however, that they should not know anything of this for the present. If I live to come home, I will give Mary the deeds with my own hands; if not, you can do it. Now that the farm is bought, you had better stock it, for I still stick to my motto, 'Not a drop more, Daniel.'"

Another year passed away. By this time friend Edgerton had stocked the farm with young cattle and sheep, the fences were put in repair, and everything but the house wore a tidy appearance. Another remittance came, which paid for all the stock and left an overplus with which to repair the house. Carpenters were busy, and villagers who happened to pass that way found that extensive repairs were going on; still no one presumed to question the Quaker with respect to his plans. These repairs completed, furniture found its way into the house. A yoke of oxen were seen on the farm. The villagers were astonished to see the Quaker driving an elegant horse and riding in a new buggy. He received this short note one day:

"I have arrived all safe and sound. Please go and get Mary and the children."

Friend Edgerton rode over to the next town and called on Mary's father, and invited her and the children to go home with him and make a visit. The invitation was accepted and they returned with the Quaker to his house. On the afternoon of the next day, he said:

"Mary, I want to go to the railway station. Thee and the children can stay with Amy."

He went down to the station and fetched Daniel and left him at his own house, where he had previously conveyed some provisions, and where he was to pass the night. It was dark when friend Edgerton reached his home.

Next morning friend Edgerton said to Mary: "Mary, I suppose thee has heard I have bought thy old place? I have got it fitted up, and the children shall ride over after breakfast and see it. I think thee will like it."

They rode over, and Mary was surprised to see the changes which had taken place. They looked over the lower rooms first; and over the mantelpiece in the sitting-room was a frame, and under the glass, in large gold letters, were these words:

"NOT A DROP MORE, DANIEL!"

Mary, on reading these words, said, "O, friend Edgerton, if Daniel could have said these words and stuck to them, this beautiful place might have still been his."

"Then thee don't know where Daniel is?" asked the Quaker.

"No, I have not heard anything of him for more than three years."

"Thee would like to see him, would thee not?"

"O yes, indeed I should."

"Let us walk up stairs."

As they went up the front stairs Daniel slipped down the back ones and took his stand in the front room. When they returned, Mrs. Akin noticed a stalwart man standing in the room with his back to the door, and started back for an instant. The Quaker said:

"It is a friend, Mary."

Daniel turned around; but in the man with the heavy beard and mustache Mary did not recognize her husband. Daniel advanced to the step where Mary was standing and, in a voice tremulous with emotion, exclaimed:

"Don't you know me, Mary?"

We leave the reader to imagine what the meeting was. Friend Edgerton said he must go and see Amy and, addressing himself to Mary, said:

"Mary, this house and farm are thine. Daniel has got the papers and will give them to thee. Thee can stay as long as thee likes; thee will live happily once more, for that—pointing to the frame over the mantel-piece—'Not a drop more, Daniel,' is his motto now, and will be as long as he lives."

Daniel and his wife fell on their knees before the Lord. Their prayers were mingled with many tears; but in their future lives those prayers were found to be answered.

Several years have passed away since the above events occurred and Daniel Akin, now an earnest Christian man, still sticks to his motto, 'Not a drop more, Daniel!'"

MISS KITTIE'S KITTY.—[See page 63.]

DON'T struggle and kick, or I'll give you a pat;
I'm going to teach you—so try and spell CAT!

But, dear! what's the use? If you spelt all the day,
I could not make out the small mew that you say.

"TRAMP! TRAMP!! TRAMP!!!"

HE was travel-stained and weary, and his eyes had a far-off, wistful look, as though he knew that rest was not for him below, let his tired heart crave it never so much. And as he humbly asked the lady of the house for a morsel of food, his venerable appearance and evident want aroused all her womanly generosity, and she presently set the poor tramp down to the remains of the family dinner.

"Poor old man!" she murmured sympathetically, as she saw him lean back in his chair, leaving his food untouched on his plate, "he is too weary to eat"—and she asked him if he felt ill.

"Not exactly, mum," was the answer in a humble voice; "but mos' people cooks their roast beef till it's overdone, an' overdone beef don't gen'lly agree with me."

"Y' hav'nt got any Wooster sauce, have ye?" continued the mendicant; "I mos' gen'rally use it when beef an't cooked to suit me."

Unfortunately, the house of McCormick was out of "Wooster sauce;" but Mrs. McC. brought the mustard and a plate of nice pickles, observing, with the faintest trace of sarcasm in her tone, that if she'd known he was coming, she'd have looked out for something better.

"Oh, I ain't very pertick'ler, mum," said the old man, as he helped himself to another spoonful of gravy and a cucumber pickle, "on'y I jes' happen-'nd to mention it, 'cos where there ain't no pie nor nothin' sweet for desert, overdone roast beef's more like to disagree with me;" and the meekness in the vagrant's wrinkled face was touching in the extreme as he looked humbly around the table, as though his former glance might have overlooked the luxuries of which he spoke.

But Mrs. McC. was rather too far gone with speechless indignation to frame a suitable answer, and so the weary old man, with a mournful sigh, went on eating, and developed a most singular and wonderful appetite, which was gradually appeased as the 4-pound piece of beef was reduced to a mere shapeless fragment; and the last boiled potato had vanished from the dish.

"I hope you've made a dinner!" ejaculated Mrs. McC., in a fine irony.

"Well, yes'm; 'ive eat wuss wittals," said the old mendicant, with deep humility, as he pushed his chair back from the table and appeared to seek something on the floor.

"What is it you're a lookin' for?' demanded Mrs. McC., with a snap in her voice that reminded one of the slamming down of the lid of a chest.

"Nothin', mum; that is, nothing partick'ler. I didn't see no napkin, an' thought I might a' dropped it——"

But he never finished this speech, and five seconds later his white locks vanished through the doorway with amazing celerity; and an infuriated female with a mop followed so closely behind that he got fully a half mile from the house before pursuit ceased and he was able to light his cigar.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

A BARMAID'S FORTUNE.

It is not often that a pretty barmaid falls into a fortune of £80,000, as a very pretty barmaid at the Harp, Jermyn St., London, has just now done; but then probably few pretty barmaids deserve such luck as well as this one did. Three years ago a very well-known man was Mr. Thomas Alexander Mitchell, member of Parliament for Bridgport and senior member of the firm of Mitchell & Co. of London and Riga. He had represented Bridgport for thirty years. His business was extremely profitable he had accumulated a fortune of about £250,000. He was, however, in the habit of drinking a great deal, and he liked best to do his drinking at the Harp, Jermyn St., where he was served by the pretty Miss Helen.

In 1872, to the surprise and amazement of all his acquaintances, he walked off with Miss Helen one morning and married her. She made him an excellent wife, and to a great extent cured him of his intemperate passion for drink. Last March, however, Mr. Mitchell was taken ill and died. A few days before his death he made a will by which he left £80,000 to his wife: gave legacies of £1,000 each to his old servants and acquaintances; provided an annuity of £100 a year for some old ladies, his cousins, and left another £80,000 in the firm of which he was the leading partner, on condition that it should remain for twenty-five years, and that then his wife should have one-half of it, while the other half should be retained by the firm.

The rest of his property—that is, about £75,000—he bequeathed to the Metropolitan Board of Works, leaving them to do what they liked with it. Mr. Mitchell's relations were greatly displeased when they learned of this will, and they resolved to dispute it. Their grounds of dispute were that the will was not properly executed, that it had been obtained by undue influence, and that the testator was not of sound mind when he made it. The case has just been tried in the Probate Division of the High Court, and the will has been sustained, it being shown that the pleas set up by the relations were wholly and absurdly false. So the pretty young widow gets her £80,000 down, and £40,000 more in expectancy, while the Board of Works comes in for its £75,000 or £80,000.

HOW A HUSBAND WAS WON.

There were eighteen or twenty of us, mostly girls, says a writer in the New Orleans Bulletin. The subject of the conversation was servants. "Ah, girls," said the matron, "you have very little idea of the trouble we have with our servants, particularly now-a-days, when money is scarce and you are not always ready to say, 'Here's your money—you must seek another place.'" This was said in a sad voice, but the good old dame brightened up when she added:—"It reminds me of times gone by, when money was plenty and provisions were cheap. I had a German cook, a fine, buxom young lass, florid as a summer-sunset and robust as an Amazon. It struck me one day that the sidewalk in front of the house needed scrubbing and, being short of help at the time, I ordered the cook to do the work. She refused peremptorily to comply, claiming that it was beneath her dignity. The kitchen, she said, was her place; and I replied by handing her her month's wages, remarking coolly that I could quickly find somebody that would. Sophie had soon changed her mind, and an hour afterwards the sidewalk was as clean as any neat housekeeper could wish. But that was not all. The next day I was told that I was wanted at the hall door by a hard-working neighbor, a shop-keeper and apparently well to do. In a few words my neighbor had explained, in broad Teutonic accents, that he had seen my servant the day before scrubbing the sidewalk, and he added, exultingly, 'She worked with such care and vigor that I resolved from that moment that she should become my wife.' In short, girls, in a few days we had a sensation wedding in the neighborhood, and I had lost one of the best servants in the world."

A STRANGE STORY.

A curious incident is reported in the American papers. About ten years ago a Jew, in straitened circumstances, left Transylvania for America, to improve his position in the New World. He left a wife and several children behind, and promised that as soon as it was within his means he would send them some money from America. There fortune smiled on him, and when he had amassed a sum of 60,000 florins he resolved to return home and surprise his family with his wealth. He started without apprising his family of his intended return, and on his way home he arrived at Hamburg, where he was seized with so dangerous an illness that he made a will, bequeathing all his property to his wife. He recovered, however, only to find that during his illness his money had been stolen from him by a man who nursed him. A few benevolent persons, sympathizing with his misfortunes, collected about 100 florins, wherewith the unfortunate Jew resolved to return to America in order to retrieve his fortunes. In the meantime the nurse had decamped with his booty to America where, shortly after his arrival, he died suddenly. The American authorities sent the coffin, with the 60,000 florins, to Transylvania and, as the will was also found in the coffin, the authorities at the same time acquainted the relatives with the will of the testator. After the usual period of mourning the wife contracted a second marriage. The first husband had, however, again saved a considerable sum of money, and eventually returned to his native country to find his wife married to another man. The event has caused a great sensation in the neighborhood, and it is stated that a conference of rabbis is about to be held to determine which of the two husbands the woman belongs to.—*Jewish World.*

The Literary World.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

One Hundred Gems from the London Art Journal. Illustrations of the Best Works of Famous Painters. [Quarto.] Boston: Lee & Shepard — New York: Lee, Shepard & Dillingham.

Nothing more conclusively proves the progress of art, and the taste of our people for artistic productions, than the fact that there is a demand for such publications as the one above entitled. Though our Republic has only reached its Centennial year, its people have made wonderful progress and inaugurated many improvements in various branches of art—thus creating a taste for and consequent desire to possess choice illustrated works, engravings, paintings, statuary, and other articles of *virtu*. That the New successfully vies with the Old World in matters of art cannot yet be claimed, but that the former equals the latter in several important departments is undeniable. Those familiar with what has been and is being done in this country—especially in the way of engraving, lithographing and illustrative printing (both plain and in colors)—are aware that we are no longer necessitated to send abroad (to London, Paris, Berlin, &c.,) for choice artistic work. On the contrary, the tide is turning. But a few days ago a superior artistic printer in New York received an order from London for a large quantity of cards to be executed in colors and gold, without regard to price. And the beautiful work before us demonstrates that in the line of engraving and printing illustrations we are not a whit behind the most expert Europeans. It is indeed a magnificent work, each of its One Hundred Illustrations being so complete and delineative as to require no text description. It will prove a charming treasure to all who become its possessor, either as a gift or by purchase.

The Teacher's Hand-Book—For the Institute and the Class Room. By Wm. F. Phelps, M. A., Principal of the State Normal School, Winona, Minn. [16mo.—pp. 335.] New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.

The author of this work evidently thinks for himself and knows what he is about. In the outset he frankly remarks that it was no part of his aim to write merely that with which everybody would at once agree. "But free thought and free discussion are the soul of progress," he adds, and then continues:—"Differences of opinion are the life of discussion, out of whose crucible must finally issue the pure gold of truth, the only Philosopher's Stone worthy of human seeking. If, therefore, what is here written shall serve to excite discussion, awaken interest, and quicken zeal in the great work of elevating the teachers of our country to that commanding position which they should ever be worthy to occupy in the public regard, its leading purpose will have been fully realized." The work is worthy the careful perusal of every one engaged in advancing the cause of education, particularly in country schools, to the promotion of whose interests Mr. Phelps' contribution is especially dedicated. Referring, we presume, particularly to his own State, the author says:—"More than nineteen-twentieths of our children derive their sole educational advantages in the common schools, and these privileges, such as they may be, are limited principally to the school period below the age of ten or twelve years. This is especially true of our rural population, who compose the great mass of the people." And yet, how few people pay more attention to their district schools, teachers, and the education of their children, than they to their barns, stock, and hired men! Read this book, and "reform it altogether."

Songs of Three Centuries. Edited by John Greenleaf Whittier. [12mo.—pp. 352.] Boston: James R. Osgood & Company.—1876.

In this handsome volume—a large duodecimo, compactly printed in double columns—one of the greatest poets of the age has exhibited his rare taste, discrimination and judgment. In opening his Preface the editor modestly says:—"It would be doing injustice to the compiler of this volume to suppose that his work implied any lack of appreciation of the excellent anthologies already published in this country. Dana's 'Household Book of Poetry' is no misnomer; and the honored names of Bryant and Emerson are a sufficient guaranty for 'Parnassus' and the 'Library of Song.' With no thought of superseding or even of entering into competion with either of these large and valuable collections, it has been my design to gather up in a comparatively small volume, easily accessible to all classes of readers, the wisest thoughts, rarest fancies, and devoutest hymns of the metrical authors of the last three centuries." And we think the design has been most admirably fulfilled, for the work is replete with gems from the best authors—such as will be appreciated by all lovers of poesy. What renders the volume complete, adding greatly to its value, are the copious indexes given. In the beginning we have "Contents" and "List of Authors," and at the close "Index to First Lines," and "Index to Subjects"—so that the reader can readily refer to author, title or subject. In this respect the work is a model worthy of commendation to, and imitation by, careless book-makers.

A Farmer's Vacation. By Geo. E. Waring, Jr., of Ogden Farm. Reprinted (with Additions) from Scribner's Monthly. Illustrated. [8vo.—pp. 951.] Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.—1876.

The Preface to this volume is comprised in a single sentence, as modest as it is terse;—"The papers here collected are notes of a trip through some of the Netherland Provinces, parts of Normandy and Brittany, and the Channel Islands, made in August and September, 1873." The work is divided into Chapters severally entitled as follows:—Hollow Land, Droogmakerji (the Dutch for Drainage), Dutch Farming, the Bight of La Manche, Old Jersey, Guernsey, and Sark. Of course a practical, observing and educated man, like Mr. Waring—one who looks sharply into things and has the rare faculty of vividly describing what he sees—could not fail of making a most interesting and valuable work after a trip to the regions named; and such is the one we have just been examining and admiring. The information it contains relative to Dutch Farming and Drainage, Jersey Cattle, and on other practical subjects, renders the volume of special interest and value to our rural population. The numerous maps and other illustrations are invaluable in connection with the descriptive text. Withal the work is published in superb style—equal to the best Holiday gift books—and we reckon it a good sign that a practical, or at least a semi-practical, volume is ventured upon in garb so rich, even in these Centennial times.

LITERARY ITEMS.

Chas. G. Leland is to raise the wind by a volume on "Fans."

The centennary of Boccaccio has called out at least ten new publications on that writer in Italy.

Mr. Tennyson's works (next edition) are to be annotated with explanations of all the obscure passages.

A volume of "Miscellanies, Old and New," by the Rev. John Cotton Smith, D.D., is to be published soon.

Henry Holt & Co. have added "Pretty Miss Bellew," by Theodore Gift, to their popular "Leisure Hour" stories.

Mr. David A. Wells has written a little story which the Messrs. Harper will soon publish, with illustrations by Nast.

A "Comprehensive History of Methodism," by the Rev. Dr. James Porter, is announced by the Western Book Concern.

Carleton & Co. have brought out Mrs. Darrington Deslonde's novel, "The Miller of Silcott Mill," in a thick 12mo. volume.

Bishop Huntington has written another little Lenten book, "New Helps for a Holy Lent," which E. P. Dutton & Co. will publish.

Dodd & Mead have opened the Centennial year by issuing a new "Life of George Washington" by that indefatigable maker of books, J. S. C. Abbott.

Rev. E. P. Roe is at work upon a fifth novel, which will be a historical romance founded upon Revolutionary events on the west bank of the Hudson.

Rev. F. W. Farrar, author of the "Life of Christ," has written an introduction for a new edition of the "Imitation of Christ," which will be published by E. P. Dutton & Co.

Prof. Wm. Swinton has prepared a little "Bible Word-Book," in which he gives all the words in the Bible which are now modified or obsolete, with explanations. It will be issued by Harper & Bros.

The boys will have cause to be grateful to G. P. Putnam's Sons this spring for two promising books—the story which Bayard Taylor is writing for them, and another book by George Cary Eggleston, "Stories from Ancient, Medieval and Modern History."

Emerson's new essays are being anticipated with a lively pleasure in England. A Piccadilly publishing house is engaged in printing them. Emerson, Poe and old Noah Webster are now-a-days the most esteemed of American *litterateurs* in the United Kingdom.

Sabbath Reading.

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE.

BY A. M. MOSS.

O, weep not o'er the silent past,
O'er the days which have gone by;
Their sorrows, and their golden joys,
In the grave forever lie.

The hopes we fondly cherished then,
When in youth's merry prime,—
How sadly are they blasted now
By the ruthless hand of Time!

But we ne'er can cheer our weary way
By regrets and fruitless tears,
For they bring no solace to the heart
From the shades of former years.

'Tis true that many loved forms lie
In the dark and silent tomb,
But they've only passed to brighter land—
They'll in Heaven forever bloom.

'Tis only then that we can find
Surcease for our heavy sorrow;
But we'll reach its portals by-and-by
On Life's bright and glorious morrow.

"HE LEADETH ME."

BY MAY MAPLE.

"He leadeth me through green pastures, and beside the still waters."—Songs of David.

There are times when we get into the deep canons of life, and struggle and strive with mind, might and strength to climb up the perpendicular walls; and yet, at each succeeding effort, find it utterly impossible to gain a foothold among those adamantine rocks, or to reach a single twig around which to clasp our fingers—only seeing a narrow patch of blue sky above wherewith to comfort our eyes. As far as our vision can stretch, the way seems narrower and darker. If we could *then* remember that "He leadeth us"—that His guiding hand beckons us onward—how quickly would we cease struggling. Just as a tired child calmly rests in a fond mother's arms, would we trustfully lean upon Him, and watch for some opening that would let us pass out to the broad lands where the sun did not cease to shine—feeling sure that there was no path so dark that he could not find a way to a fairer clime. Or, had we faith in our Leader, we might still continue our efforts, but with a spirit that would give us the needed patience to overcome obstacles—the foresight that would make molehills of what would otherwise seem like mountain barriers.

Yes, "He leadeth us." We cannot always see the radiance that surrounds Him, white as the light, for our passions are allowed to cover our spiritual vision like a veil. And in our anxiety to make more rapid strides in the works we have planned to accomplish, we let go His hand and forget to follow in His footprints. Sometimes, to show us how powerless we are, He hides away from us for a season. But even then He sends messengers to us, all along the way, if we will accept their humble services.

Sometimes the sweet voice of a child lisps forth the message that He has sent. Again the aged sire or experienced matron leaves at the door a telegram. His mark is upon it: we feel that, though invisible, He is leading us with a strong, helpful hand. Blessed thought!—for the way is often through dense forests and tangled morasses, Will-o-the-wisps flash along the pathway, dazzling our eyes with their unsteady but brilliant torch-light. But He leadeth us, and we go on through valleys and over mighty mountains, till we reach the delectable hights, where we will behold the glory of that Elder Brother who cared for us while we were within the mazes of the wilderness.

SANDS OF GOLD.

Look above you, and in the overarching firmament read the truth of an all-pervading Providence. Yon sky is God's outstretched hand, and the glittering stars are the jewels of the fingers of the Almighty. Do you not see that His hand closes round you on all sides, and that you cannot go where universal love shines not?—*Gill.*

It is unsafe to base a prophecy upon the details of a creed, for if the men who meet in its name happen to have Christ in the heart, He will break out of the soul like perfume escaping from the flower; and behold! the man whose tenets we despise will stand nearer at last than we to the great white throne.—*David Swing.*

The friend who shows me the mirror of myself, who conceals no defects, gives me friendly warning, and heartily scolds when I have not fulfilled my duty—he is my friend, however little he may appear so.

O thou God's mariner, heart of mine,
Spread canvas to the airs divine!
Spread sail and let thy fortune be
Forgotten in thy destiny! [*D. A. Wasson.*

What a compliment to the religious education of Scotland is this, which some one says is the true test of a Scotchman:—"Ask him to repeat the twenty-third Psalm; if he cannot do it, be sure he is no Scotchman."

After the flight, the downy nest;
Over the shadowy river—rest.

They who are most weary of life, and yet are most unwilling to die, are such who have lived to no purpose—who have rather breathed to no purpose.

Nothing is rarer than a solitary lie; for lies breed like Surinam toads; you cannot kill one but out it comes with a hundred young ones on its back.

Ladies' Portfolio.

GIVE.

BY ROSE GERANIUM.

O, LIFE's pitiful pangs and its woe,
With no one to sooth or allay them!
O, the hearts that beat faintly and low
For kind greetings—and no one to say them!

Does a singing bird flit thro' your soul,
And its rich throat set music a-flowing?
Do soft heavens their sunshine unroll,
And spring blossoms bud and be growing?

O, open the windows of life
To the famished, who struggle and perish!
O, beckon them in from the strife,
To walk in the gardens ye cherish!

We none of us hold the estate
Of a blessing that bars out our neighbor;
We must gather and give, soon and late,—
We must compass the poor with our labor.

O, life's pitiful pangs and its woe,
With no one to sooth or allay them!
O, the hearts that beat faintly and low
For kind greetings—and no one to say them!

A HOME OF BEAUTY.

PERHAPS many of the readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER—those young or even more advanced in years—are thinking that as time has gone in the snug little comfortable homes, that were in the beginning their pride and joy, have grown old-fashioned—that they do not compare with the larger and more elegant houses around them, and that they are not keeping up with the times. To such I would say, do not attempt to keep up with the times. Do not bring the struggle of fashion, pride and envy into that most sacred of all places—home. I will tell of a little house at which I have the pleasure of visiting for a few days. It is to me beautiful beyond description, for there are found not only the beauties which please the eye but which touch the heart. Each member of the family, from mistress and friend, to man and maid servant, are CHRIST'S humble followers, realizing their responsibility. Life with them is not a play day, but full of earnest plans and work, and far too short to spend any of the moments in idleness; so it is a busy household.

Five miles out from a city the young husband and wife went some fifteen years ago, and there took a Gothic cottage, exceedingly small, in the beginning, with but six rooms, I think—parlor, dining-room, kitchen and three bed-rooms. Thus the little nest remained for some time, but was finally enlarged, little by little as was necessary, all the time preserving the Gothic style, and with no want of harmony in the additions.

The exterior of the house is almost entirely embowered with woodbine and the green foliage of summer, and the later rich, warm autumnal hills, add a great charm to the place.

The library being the living room is easy and inviting with its open fire, easy chairs and bright cheer. The very atmosphere of some libraries is conducive to sleep, and unfits one for reading, but this, with its several windows, has not that fault. Instead of large, expensive book cases, these are simple oak casings, from ceiling to floor, all around the room, with the exception of spaces for windows and doors. The books are friends, each having their familiar places. Much of the ornamentation of this room, and the parlor as well, is what even the poorest may have with a little trouble—ferns, grasses, bitter sweet, autumn leaves, etc.—arranged in baskets and vases. The simple Nottingham lace curtains, with their decorations of the leaves and ferns, are to one far more beautiful than the most elaborate wrought curtains ornamented by heavy cornices. Let me tell you the manner of doing this: Pin into a long strip of white muslin, about two inches wide, your pressed ferns and leaves, either alternately or in groups as you like. The more delicate ferns and brighter leaves are best for this purpose, as the strong light which falls upon them from the window throws out well the colors. From the center at the top of the curtain suspend the strip, and so arch it over the curtain, pinning or fastening as closely as is necessary, until the ends reach the floor, one either side. Then cut in muslin a design for a small lambrequin to fit the windows, and on this place the ferns and leaves also. The effect of a window decorated in this style is very lovely.

The matting on the floors, which in summer are so cool and comfortable, has now been covered with bright mats and rugs, giving the room something of an Oriental appearance. The large, easy, old-fashioned chairs are made more attractive by long strips of cretowne the width of the chair, wadded, and tied with bright worsteds. These are laid over the top and reach down over the seat. Also a sofa has been made, which is entirely of home manufacture. The body of it is a box, some 75 x 25 inches, and 16 inches high. Then a cushion, to fit over the whole top, is filled with hair, and springs placed in it. This is fastened down, and over it a smooth covering of rep is placed. Around the three sides at the top a puff of rep some eight inches wide comes, and below that a wide woolen furniture fringe, reaching to the floor, finishes it off very neatly. Then make three cushions which, when placed on the sofa upright against the wall, will be same width as sofa. These are covered with gray rep, and finished with narrow puffings. By making the effort you can add quite an elegant piece of furniture to your parlor, and at less than half the expense which the same piece would cost if bought.

The bedrooms are pretty and simple, having neat muslin hanging curtains, and dressing cases or toilet stands of muslin over a color. These rooms are filled with choice pictures—and to all I would say, do not spend your money for common pictures, cheap paintings, chromos and the like. Wait, and adding a little more to the sum, buy a copy (an engraving is always desirable) of some fine original painting, piece of statuary, or some choice works—something which is not a mere passing fancy, but has a deeper signification. Such a collection, gradually brought together, will be a great source of gratification to not only yourself but your friends, and will be, as well, a means of education. Lord BACON says, "Houses are made to live in, not to look at," and so live in them—have your home a part of yourself, and with some individuality—there bring out all that is in your power of the beautiful and good, and with the higher education and cultivation, the stronger love for Nature and all GOD'S wonderful works, the better can you do this.

In the care of your houses do not neglect your grounds, for if you do there will be an incompleteness about all. You may not be able to do much to them, but with a little thought and taste, and not necessarily a large expenditure, they can be greatly beautified. Do not attempt a uniformity with other gardens and grounds around you, but if you have any natural advantages in the way of trees, rocks, little brooks, etc., as far as is possible with convenience and health, leave them and you will have a much more picturesque spot. In the grounds of the home that I have written of, the same mind that has planned the interior has also exhibited taste there. Flowers in little beds adorn the lawns, and vines grow around as they will. There are rustic chairs, and settees, baskets, stumps, etc., that, too, are original and of home manufacture. If, with the description of this dear little home, any of the RURAL readers have gleaned new ideas of living in and making more attractive their own homes, I shall be satisfied that this is not written without good result.

Nov. 10th, 1875. S. P. H.

MY LOVE FOR THE RURAL—ITS GROWTH.

MY father has been a constant RURAL subscriber over twenty years. The first number he received contained—if I remember rightly—a picture of a mammoth pumpkin; against it, just reaching to the top, stood a ladder, which a man (looking very small indeed) was apparently about to ascend in order to view the surrounding country. At that time I was such a small girl that the pictures only interested me, and I really thought that the wonderful man who made the paper raised pumpkins as large as that picture represented. After a few years the poetry, stories and puzzles were my delight.

When I commenced learning to bake I was perfectly happy when I had mother's consent—as I often did—to use RURAL recipes. Although a farmer's daughter, I confess that I paid but little attention to the agricultural and dairy departments until I became a farmer's wife. For two years sickness has terribly afflicted a dear friend, and my health has been very poor—consequently the hygienic information is eagerly sought for and read.

We have a little five-year-old boy who loves to look at the pictures now, and always wants mamma to read to him about them, and the stories for children. This I gladly do—hoping that the dear RURAL will flourish many years, and that he may live to love it and all things good and pure. Now I read almost every department with pleasure, and I believe profit. If we fail to get a number by Saturday night—which we sometimes do, as we live quite a distance from the post-office—I feel as if a meeting with an old and dear friend had been postponed, for the RURAL is such to me.

From a Cousin who is not very young.

Wayne Co., N. Y. C. W. V. S.

FEMALE SOCIETY.

ALL men who avoid female society (says Thackeray) have dull perceptions, and are stupid, and have gross tastes, and revolt against what is pure. Your club swaggerers, who are sucking the butts of billiard cues all night, call female society insipid. Poetry is uninspiring to a yokel; beauty has no charms for a blind man; music does not please a poor beast, who does not know one tune from another; but, as a true epicure is hardly ever tired of water, sauce, and brown bread and butter, I can sit for a whole night talking to a well regulated kindly woman about her daughter Fanny or her boy Frank, and liking the evening's entertainment. One of the greatest benefits a man can derive from woman's society is that he is bound to be respectful to her. The habit is of great good to your morals, men, depend upon it. Our education makes us the most eminently selfish men in the world, and the greatest benefit that can come to a man from a woman's society is that he has to think of somebody to whom he is bound to be constantly attentive and respectful.

DON'T BORROW TROUBLE.

WINTER is here. The leaves have fallen from the trees and have turned to dust and mire; the sweet smells have gone out of the woods and given place to decay and death. But do not accept Jeremiah as your prophet or receive his Lamentations as the gospel of the day. The world is not on the wing beyond our clasp. Humanity, government, arts, faith, devotion are not fading out, nor turning to destruction and empty silence. The coming "winter of discontent" holds in its hand the brightest buds of radiant promise. Even in the feeble flush and flicker of dying nature there is a prophecy of distant beauties and of the time when the singing of the birds will come. The days to be will be broader and brighter than those which have passed. The future into which we are drifting is not one of desolation. "Let not your hearts be troubled."

Reading for the Young.

MISS KITTY'S KITTY.

[SEE ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE 61.]

I HAVE heard Pa read of a learned pig,
And of dogs that could pick out their letters,
So, Kitty, come here, you're as clever as they,
And can learn as well as your betters!

Don't struggle and kick, or I'll give you a pat,
I am going to teach you—so try and spell "CAT!"
But, dear! what's the use? If you spelt all the day,
I could not make out one small mew that you say.

Books are for this Kitty, and mice are for that;
I can't catch your mice, and you can't spell my "Cat?"
We each of us have our own lessons, 'tis plain;
Run, Pussy, I'll not try to teach you again.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Southern New York Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—Who knows where our Cousin JOHNNIE is? I have looked for a letter from her for a long time, but have failed to see one. Has she forsaken us? I hope not, I am sure. I would advise Cousin FRANK B. W. to be careful or he may be sent West to keep YOUNG BECH and the rest of the boys company. I agree with "School Girl" in regard to the boys following the fashions. They think it very bad taste for the girls to part their hair on the side, but they must remember that they took the girls' style of wearing their hair, and we didn't want to be like them: so *some* (I will not say all of the girls, for I am an exception to the rule) took to parting their hair on the side. I think each had better keep their own fashion; it would look more sensible. I think I speak the sentiments of most of my Cousins. I do wish Mr. Editor would please put his photograph in the RURAL for Christmas. I am sure we would appreciate it. Will my Cousins please sign their names to their letters? WEBSTER S. had better give us his model for making a calico dress, for perhaps some of the rest of us can afford one as well as GRACIE S. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I remain, your Cousin—ADELE WOOD, *Elmira, N. Y.*

From a Missouri Boy-Agent.

DEAR RURAL:—Your "Inducements to Agents" have persuaded me to act as an agent for your paper. I am going to get up a club, and will take a printing press for a premium. I am thirteen years of age. I have never written to the RURAL before, so I will write a few lines for the Boys' and Girls' Column. I am going to school. I will tell my studies:—Goodrich's U. S. History, Grammar, Philosophy, Algebra, Dictionary, &c., &c. I like all my studies very well, especially Algebra and Philosophy. I live in the country about three miles from any village. Get your Geography and look six miles east of Atchison, Kas., and you will know where I live. This is a very pretty country. Will Cousins excuse my very short letter? Send the "Press" by express when I send you the club. —EDWIN ELLIOTT, *Rushville, Mo.*

From an Illinois Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—We have been taking your paper for a long time, and I must say this is my first attempt to write a letter to be placed in the Young Folks' Column. I live in the city of Rockford, and also attend school there. It has been very pleasant until now. It is very cold; the thermometer has stood six deg. below zero. We had one or two days of good sleighing, but there is no snow to be seen now. Almost every night there are parties, and we enjoy ourselves ever so much. I have been reading some of WEBSTER SMITH'S letters, and from them I cannot say I admire him, if he *is* light complexioned and considers himself good looking. However, if he keeps his shirt fronts respectable very long, he does better than my brother. As WEBSTER requested GRACIE S. and others to answer his last letter, I am one of "the others," and trusting that GRACIE S. has her dress made, or will profit by the advice of WEBSTER S., I will close, hoping some time to become a Cousin. —HATTIE J.

From a Massachusetts Boy.

DEAR EDITOR:—This is my first letter for your paper. Perhaps I should not have written at all had it not been for the little mercy shown the female sex by Y. B. and others. What if the girls do talk about dresses?—what do you talk about? Is it not mustaches and cigars or some other worthless thing? I do not think it is because the girls have long tongues they talk so much. I think it is because their tongues are hung in the middle and run at both ends. They have a peculiar gift, given them by nature for talking. We should not correct them, for we have peculiar gifts also. Y. B. has made a great mistake by getting on the wrong side of the girls, and may mourn for it before he makes amends. I wonder if he is sick. I have not heard much from him lately; perhaps he is scared out. I advise all boys whose heads are level not to get on the wrong side of the girls.—A. R. MACOMBER, *Swansea, Mass.*

From a City Girl in the Country.

DEAR RURAL:—I have read many letters in your valuable paper, and thought I would try and write one. My home is in the city, but every summer finds me with my Grandpa in the country, where I am at present. We have taken your paper for a number of years, and I do not know how we could do without it. I have but one pet, that is a cat, and a very cunning one too. I have no brothers or sisters, as some of my RURAL cousins have, but I enjoy myself just as well without them. I think YOUNG TOM is quite sarcastic in his remarks about the fairer sex; but it does not worry me in the least, for no real gentleman would be guilty of such impoliteness. I will close for this time, but if I see this in print I will try again.—SUNSHINE, *Cowsackie, N. Y.*

From an Ohio Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been reading some of the letters from the boys and girls in the RURAL. I think they ought to be thankful for the space you give them in your excellent paper. Our folks take eight papers, but we like the Youth's Companion and the RURAL the best. My Pa is a farmer, but he teaches school winters. I have two sisters, both younger than myself. Their names are CORA and LILLIE. We all go to school this winter to Pa, who is teaching his eighteenth term, twelve of which he has taught in our district. He has forty-five scholars. We live near a lovely pond surrounded by beautiful scenery. Perhaps if this is published I will write again.—IDA HAYMAKER, *Earlville, Portage Co., Ohio.*

From a Pennsylvania Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—Mama has been reading to me letters in the RURAL from the boys and girls. I never wrote a letter, so mama said if it was printed in the RURAL I could always have my first letter to keep. I go to school when I am well. I fell from the school steps and broke my leg, so I have to lay in bed and write this. I will be so glad when I can walk again. My papa is dead, but I have a mama and little brother and sister. My sister's name is ALMA, and she is two years old. Tell HARRIET N. W. I think ALMA is the dearest little sister and has the nicest name I know of.—MARY H., *Meadville, Pa.*

From a New Jersey Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—I have taken quite a fancy to the RURAL, and thinking that you would like to have another contributor to the pages of your excellent paper, I thought I would write an essay and send to you, and if it pleased you to publish it in your paper and to count me as one of your contributors, I should like it very much. It is my first attempt at writing for a paper or anything else. I have done my best to make it good enough to put in a paper, and I will do the best I can at writing stories and short pieces if you will allow me to do so.—S. A. H., *Hopatcong, Morris Co., N. J.*

From a Central New York Boy.

DEAR EDITOR:—I would like to be accepted as one of your Cousins. I live on a farm. We keep ten cows. I have made out Cross-word Enigma No. 1. The answer is Guadalquiver. [Correct.] If this finds a place in the RURAL I will try again. —WILLIAM KING, *Chenango Forks, N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 3.

☞ Answer in two weeks. L. G.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—No. 1.

1. A FRUIT. 2. A measure. 3. To unfasten. 4. To look obliquely. 5. A boy's name. 6. Tenuous. 7. Any authorative prohibition. 8. A little elf. 9. Dress, tackle. 10. A town of France. 11. A farming implement. 12. A brook. 13. An image. 14. An Australian animal. 15. To furnish for support. My initials and finals give respectively the name of a poem and its author. X. Q. Z. H.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 3.

My first is in limb but not in tree,
My second is in him but not in he;
My third is in hoe but not in spade,
My fourth is in knocked but not in laid.
My whole is an animal much feared in Asia and Africa. ALEX. BROWN, JR.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

DECAPITATION.—No. 1.

My whole is a kind of grass. Behead me and I am an admirer. Behead me again and I am across. From my whole take my second letter and I am a lid. From my whole take my last letter and I am a kind of spice. From my whole take my first and last letter and I am affection.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

DIAMOND PUZZLE.—No. 2.

1. A CONSONANT. 2. An Asiatic animal. 3. A sort of gum. 4. Parents. 5. A city of Tennessee. 6. Cooked on a gridiron. 7. A large pill. 8. A man of the Bible. 9. A vowel. Centrals form a city of Tennessee.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Jan. 8.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS No. 2.—Seek for honor not of men.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 2.—Josh Billings.

BIBLICAL DOUBLE ACROSTIC No. 1.—Initials, Dorcas; finals, Samuel.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifth-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

MORE STEAMERS FOR EUROPE.

It is said that some New York capitalists propose to ask Congress for an appropriation to establish another American line of steamers to Europe. The appropriation is expected in form of a subsidy for mail carrying; but it is hardly probable that it will be granted. There is no good reason why mails for Europe should not be open to competition the same as through the different parts of our country. Going to Congress for appropriations is demoralizing business for all parties. Besides, it is not a good time to build new ocean steamers. Immigration has largely decreased, and last year fewer Americans went abroad than in several years past. Some of the companies having lines of vessels, hauled off a number on account of lack of business. The number of cabin passengers averaged 3,000 per company, and steerage 8,000, both showing a large decrease. Next season will probably be still worse for ocean steamers, as thousands of patriotic Americans who usually go abroad will remain to attend the Centennial Exhibition and spend their money at home.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

The members of the boat clubs on the Harlem River talk of sending a picked crew to represent them at the opening of the Centennial Exhibition.

There are now 6,804 public carts in New York City engaged in draying and similar work. There has been an increase of public carts in the last 15 years of 1,077.

Gen. James Packard, ex-Representative in Congress from Indiana, has been appointed an internal revenue agent.

Congressman Morrison is said to be a favorite candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Illinois.

Dennis Regan, Barney Rourke and Timothy Hayes, aged from 10 to 13 years, were drowned in Lowell, the wind carrying the sled on which they were riding into the swift water.

A large right whale and her calf were seen on one morning last week off Southampton, L. I. Four boats were launched, and after an exciting chase the cow whale was killed. The boats then started for the calf. The whale will make about forty barrels of oil.

Mr. Daniel Smith, a Westchester County farmer, started for White Plains on Wednesday week with a load of hay, and as he was driving down a steep hill the load swayed from side to side, and the shelving on which the hay was loaded struck on the hind wheel. The tire of the wheel struck sparks from an iron fender under the shelving. The hay was set on fire and the load was half destroyed before Mr. Smith discovered the fire, and his hair was burned before he could get to the ground. The horses tails were burned off before the hay was pitched off to save the wagon.

Mrs. Dr. Horr is a Vice-President of the Androscoggin County, Me., Medical Society.

The remains of the late Commodore Stephen Decatur arrived from Boston, Jan. 13, and were interred in the family vault in Greenwood Cemetery.

Mr. H. S. Thompson, a broker of 28 Broadway, died while riding home in a cab on the evening of the 13th inst.

A violent gale occurred in the Western Mediterranean, Jan. 13, and swept the Algerian coast with great fury. The damage to property is estimated at $100,000.

A wooden donkey, the head and tail of which are moved by pulling a rope in the store, at the same time ringing a bell, serves as a sign in Beekman st., N. Y. City.

During the last half of 1875 forty-four persons died in Philadelphia who had reached the age of ninety years and upward, fifteen being males and twenty-nine females. The oldest person was a man, who died at the age of 103.

In the breach of promise suit, Fannie E. Decker against John B. Elston of Unionville, N. Y., tried at Judge Dykman's First Circuit Court, at Goshen, N. Y., the jury gave a verdict for $5,000.

The Rev. Alphonse Dupont, formerly a Roman Catholic priest, has taken orders at Syracuse in the Episcopal Church.

Conscience money to the amount of $730, from Clinton, Iowa, was received at the Treasury Department Jan. 13, the sender being a Captain in an Iowa regiment during the war; $240.50 in gold, conscience money for the Government on the goods imported at New York, and appraised in error, was also received.

The President of the Catholic Association of Great Britain, the Duke of Norfolk, calls for subscriptions to aid the persecuted German priests, and heads the paper with $5,000.

Summary of the business transacted from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1875, in the Carriers' Department of the N. Y. Post-office:—Number of stations, 12; street letter-boxes, 973; letter carriers, 429; letters and postal cards delivered by carriers, 63,164,776; newspapers delivered, 7,891,571; letters and postal cards collected, 62,057,757; newspapers collected, 15,175,661; postal cards, letters and papers deposited in stations, 82,423,123; letters registered at stations, 56,398; amount received for 44,728 of money orders issued at stations, $846,817.28; amount paid on 48,005 money orders at stations, $863,295.18.

Mr. Meagher, the present owner, has offered to the Centennial Commissioners a portion of the gallows on which the thirty-eight Sioux Indians were executed in Mankato in 1862.

Walter Folger, at the age of ninety, climbs into the tower of the town clock at Nantucket with apparent ease and regulates the machinery as perfectly as in his younger days.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs had a meeting Jan. 13, at which Senator Logan presided for the first time this session. His health is improving slowly. The Committee agreed to report favorably on a number of Executive nominations, including that of Major Robert MacFeely to be Commissary-General of Subsistence.

A delegation of the Society of Friends appeared before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to urge the retention of Barclay White as Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Superintendency, headquarters at Omaha.

Henry H. Smith, a journalist, formerly of Michigan, and a prominent Liberal Republican, has been appointed Printing Clerk in the House of Representatives, the first recognition of the Liberal Republican element in the House.

Atlanta, Ga., affords an example worthy of imitation to other cities, both North and South. During the past year the city debt has been reduced over $50,000, and all bills paid upon presentation. It is impossible to increase the floating debt, as the charter makes the city fathers personally liable for any balance against the city on expense account at the end of the year.

It is asserted that Prof. David Swing has been offered the editorship of the Independent, and that he expressed his preference for his new church.

By order of the British Admiralty hereafter Roman Catholic priests will be permitted to go on board the training ships at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Falmouth.

The Industrial School for Girls in Hallowell, Me., is filled to its utmost capacity, and has already proved the most successful reformatory institution in the State.

Barney McQuade of Cumberland, Md., convicted of attempting to defraud the Government by forging county and pension claims, has been sentenced to six years imprisonment and to pay a fine of $1,000.

Dr. O. F. Cobb, a West Troy physician, was sent to the Penitentiary for six months and fined $50 for indecently disposing of the remains of two dead infants.

In the United States Circuit Court, Boston, Jan. 12, John W. Pierce, Jr., formerly cashier of the Merchants' National Bank of Lowell, was placed on trial on a charge of embezzling $150,000 belonging to the bank.

Charity Hayward of San Francisco has sued her husband, Alvinza, for divorce, alleging desertion for the past fifteen months. They have been married thirty years and have one child, a daughter, aged 15. The estate is worth $10,000,000.

Mr. Andrew J. Houston, a descendant of the famous Sam Houston of Texas, protests against the erection of a monument to his ancestor by means of a lottery scheme, as has been proposed.

Jefferson Davis has just lost a suit for $70,000 in a court at Vicksburg, Miss. The ex-President put in a claim for that amount against his brother's estate, but the court decided against him.

Mrs. Emily Tubman of Frankfort, Ky., has presented the Christian or cosmopolite congregation at Augusta, Ga., with a completely furnished church and parsonage, which she had erected at a cost of $101,850.

President Gilman has arranged for the erection of temporary buildings, and expects to open the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore on the 6th of October. No permanent buildings can be erected till interest on the building fund has accumulated.

The Executive Committee of the Taxpayers' Union of Milwaukee favor a consolidation of city and county governments.

One hundred and thirty-four criminals, of whom seventeen were murderers, were pardoned out of the Illinois Penitentiary last year.

The Massachusetts Prohibitionists have got a bill into the Massachusetts House for the enforcement of the act passed last year concerning the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Over 365 tons of coal and 1,000 bread tickets have been given out by the Overseers of the Poor of Newark, N. J., since Jan. 1.

Newburyport is to have a Centennial leap-year party—a ride on sledges; supper—baked clams, baked beans and Indian bread, by the light of tallow candles.

It is said that the center of the population of this city is nearly at Fourth avenue and Fourteenth street.

There are now 1,388 express wagons in this city. There has been an increase in the last fifteen years of 796.

Snowfalls under a cloudless sky are common in Virginia City, puzzling strangers. The snow is blown from Mount Davidson, which is close by the town, and is whirled through the streets by the wind.

President Seelye has made a public statement of the financial condition of the new female college at Northampton, Mass. The trustees have thus far made the income derived from the $387,468 gift of Miss Sophie Smith and the $25,000 contributed by Northampton cover the buildings and current expenses, so that the original total of $412,468 remains substantially intact; and they now estimate their productive funds and real estate at $525,000.

During 1875 the number of vessels totally lost, hailing from San Francisco or sailing from that port was forty-two, viz: Three steamers, fourteen ships, ten barks, three brigs, eleven schooners and one sloop, besides one United States steamer. The number of lives lost with them amounted to nearly 300.

A recent visitor to the Dismal Swamp describes it, in Forest and Stream, as having lost none of the characteristics which gave it its name. Bears are not so plenty there as when the region was rarely penetrated by man, yet they still afford sport for hunters. Lake Drummond, once believed by the ignorant to be bottomless, is really not in any place more than fifteen feet deep. Its water, impregnated with the juices of juniper and gum leaves, is of the color of wine, and is drunk as a remedy by consumptives.

Chas. K. Landis is now being tried in Bridgeton, N. J., for the murder of Uri Carruth, whom he shot on March 19, 1875, at Vineland, N. J., and who died a few weeks ago.

F. C. Pierce of Grafton, Mass., is collecting materials for a history of the Pierce family. The original Pierce was John Perse, who came over in 1630. His descendants are variously called Pierce, Pearce, Perse and Pearse. Ten thousand names have been collected, and all the Pierces are expected to respond.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Sir Daniel Gooch, manager of the Great Western Railway, hopes to be able to run trains at the rate of seventy miles an hour soon.

It is expected that the revenue of France this year will exceed £100,000,000 sterling, and be nearly £4,000,000 in excess of the estimates.

A scientific college, built at a cost of $500,000, with an endowment of $150,000, has been given to the city of Birmingham, England, by Sir Josiah Mason. These represent some of the profits of the steel pen manufactory.

The King of Sweden has been in the habit of commuting the death sentence of murders to imprisonment for life, but the number has increased so rapidly that he lately ceased interfering with the course of the law.

The Duke of Modena just deceased, left that historical Grand Duchy, in his will, to the Holy See.

Marshal McMahon expresses the greatest deference for the new life Senators of France. He was a Senator himself under Napolean III.

Paris modistes and milliners confess that the American fashionables residing in that capital are its life and pocketbook to an appreciative extent.

The London Home for Lost Dogs has kennels for 400. The police send all stray dogs there, and they are kept three days awaiting owners, after which they are either sold or killed.

The Prince of Wales had ten and the Princess five dogs entered at the late dog show at Alexandra Palace; but the nation pays their dog tax. New reading of an old proverb:—English royalty for dogs and children.

Harmony has been restored in the French Ministry.

Sir Garnet Woosely, the hero of Abyssinia has just been making a visit in Rome.

The Duke of Northumberland has given £100 to the Palestine Exploration Fund.

The Emperor of Brazil is to leave Rio Janeiro for New York on the 26th of March.

The Duke of Edinburg is to take command of the Monarch, one of the Channel Squadron.

The London Royal Society has given Le Verrier a gold medal worth 2,000 francs. He has accepted it.

While service was being conducted in the parish church of Cherry Burton, an English village, the other morning, the clock-weight came crashing through the belfry roof and alighted on a young girl, housemaid at the rectory, who was injured beyond hope of recovery. A young man sitting by her was also hurt severely. The rope on which the weight was hung was renewed only the week before. The two injured persons were to have been married the next day.

A letter from Ragusa in the *Golos* relates some horrible incidents in illustration of the cruelty practised by the Turks toward the Christians in the Herzegovina. These outrages, says the correspondent, are overlooked by the officers, it being found impossible to maintain discipline among the troops so long as their pay is many months in arrear, and they are kept on starvation rations. Even the Turkish boys, who are not usually models of humanity, are indignant at the atrocities committed by their countrymen.

Lieut. Murphy whose name is well known in connection with the Cameron expedition into Central Africa, has a companion, also distinguished in African travel. This is the late Dr. Livingstone's dog—the only dog that has survived a journey into Central Africa. This faithful creature traveled from Zanzibar to Unyanyembe with the explorer, and then followed Livingstone's body back to the coast. The dog wears a medal bearing the following inscription:—"Mabel F. R. G. O., late Livingstone East Coast African Expedition, 1873-4." It is a small-sized bull-terrier, white in color, and now in very infirm health. It traveled 11,500 miles in Africa—a wonderful effort in pedestrianism—before it was twelve months old, and it has since traveled 15,000 miles by sea.

Manuel Fernandez, a Cuban agent, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment in Hayti.

The Porte is willing to entertain the Austrian scheme of reform.

It is reported that Prince Bismarck and the Vatican are coming to terms.

Victor Hugo and Louis Blanc were among the nominations for the French Senate, made by the Council-General of the Seine.

The Republique Francaise (the organ of M. Gambetta) regards the proclamation of President MacMahon Jan. 13, as a confirmation of Republican institutions.

M. Leon Say has instructed his subordinate officials in the Finance Ministry not to connect themselves with the Electoral agitation, to vote according to their convictions, but not to participate in any manifestations either before or after the elections.

The South of India Observer says that the jewels worn by the little Guicowar of Baroda at the landing of the Prince of Wales are estimated at £2,000,000 sterling. The principal features were a plume of diamonds in his turban and a large bunch of pearls fringed with gold. He also wore the famous diamond Star of India, the purchase of which nearly broke the Baroda Exchequer.

The London Standard's Vienna correspondent telegraphs that before Niesic and Duga were revictualed by the Turks the insurgents suffered a defeat which was the severest since the beginning of the war. Six hundred were killed and many wounded. The insurgent commander, Paulovich, who is accused of treason, fled to Cettinie. Niesic is provisioned until May.

A special dispatch from Vienna to the London Standard says the negotiations between the Austrian and Hungarian Ministers on the Bank question have had no result and will be resumed in Vienna.

The Pall Mall Gazette of June 6 has a special telegram from Berlin containing the following: "The semi-official journals having expressed the opinion that the Ultramontane opposition to the Government is abating, the Germania (organ of the Ultramontanes) declares that the assumption is unfounded, and adds, 'The submission to the State in the sense demanded by Prussia is contrary to the fundamental principles of the Church and can never be accorded.'"

The Pall Mall Gazette says that Capt. Brickenstein of the wrecked steamer Deutschland was to leave England for Bremen on Saturday, where he will demand an inquiry into the loss of that steamer.

M. Gambetta has announced his intention of coming forward as a candidate for the Chamber of Deputies in Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, Lille and Bordeaux. His purpose in doing so is to ascertain the judgment of the large cities upon the policy of compromise which he espoused during the latter part of the session. The Moniteur gives notice that the Government will not support Bonapartist candidates in the coming elections. M. Outrey, Minister Plenipotentiary, has gone to Egypt on a special mission. M. Jules de Mohl, the Oriental scholar, and member of the Institute, is dead.

A hurricane in the Philippine Islands caused the death of 250 people and destroyed 3,800 houses.

An armistice has certainly been agreed upon between Church and State. The Roman correspondent of the *Germania* (Ultramontane organ) states that undoubtedly Prince Bismarck is seeking a *modus vivendi* with the Vatican. The *Italia*, a semi-official Roman newspaper, says that the Vatican has charged certain German prelates to report the condition under which the Prussian bishops shall be allowed to submit to the Falk laws.

It is reported in London that Queen Victoria's coming visit to Coburg has reference to the approaching betrothal of her daughter, Princess Beatrice, with a German Prince.

America contributes 39 students to the 488 at Heidelberg this year; England and Scotland 21, and Russia and Switzerland 21 each. The remaining 300 are from Germany. Only nine of the entire number are studying theology.

President McMahon has issued a proclamation in favor of law and order.

There is a great lack of candidates for the clergy, Protestant and Catholic, in Germany. The reason is said to be a falling off in the demand for preaching, caused by the growing prevalence of unbelief.

A pauper inmate of Horsham Workhouse, England, died in the union on Christmas Day from the effects of gluttony. He attacked his Christmas dinner so ravenously that in a few minutes he was choked.

The statement that Prince Frederick William of Germany would visit this country this year was a lie concocted by four Berlin newspaper reporters. They met casually, and invented the report.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Friday, Jan. 15, 1875.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	98,160	Wool, bales	154
Whisky	2,103	Hops, bales	4,076
Corn meal, bbls	1,850	Pork, bbls	3,783
Corn meal, bags	4,200	Cut meats, pkgs	9,153
Wheat, bush	330,080	Lard, pkgs	9,467
Corn, bush	297,000	Tar, bbls	226
Oats, bush	131,931	Tobacco, hhds	483
Rye, bush	672	do. crates	1,129
Malt, bush	14,428	Butter, pkgs	37,105
Barley, bush	7,620	Cheese, bxs	4,832
Beans, bush	2,000	Cotton, bales	28,981
Grass seed, bags	7,819	Rosin	1,154
Ashes, pkgs	64	Suts. lurp., bbls	305
Beef, pkgs	1,504	Dried Fruits, pkgs	259
Peas, bush	11,975	Eggs, bbls	6,532
Beeswax, pkgs	61		

BEANS AND PEAS.—A very large crop of beans and easy shipping weather keep up a heavy line of receipts, and prices continue low and weak. Cheap rates for marrows call out considerable West Indian trade, while a decreased exportation of potatoes allows larger orders of that class to be filled. Medium beans have only a fair demand, buyers calling only as they want stock. We might here remark that buying ahead in any line of produce for grocers' use is a noticeable exception this season. Pea beans, which usually have a sort of special position, have merely a jobbing demand for Eastern use. Kidneys are very quiet at the late shaded figures. Canadian peas are in large supply and going abroad pretty freely for feeding purposes; prices not strong. B. E. peas nominal. Green peas have not their usual winter activity. Lima beans a drug.

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.50@1.60; other, 1.25@1.35; medium, new, $1.40@1.45; fair to good, $1.15@1.30; very poor, 50@90c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.70@1.75; other, $1.40@1.60; white kidney, prime, $1.85@1.95; fair to good, $1.60@1.70; red kidney, new, prime, $1.50@1.60; fair to good, $1.30@1.45; California Lima, choice, $3.50@4.00. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new, duty paid, $1.25@1.27; bulk, in bond, $1.02; green, new, ₱ bush., $1 60; Southern B. E., ₱ 2 bush. bag, $3.10@3.15.

BEESWAX.—Export trade is moderate, and local business light. Sales at 31½@32c. for Western, and 32@32½c. for Southern.

BROOM CORN.—The offerings are still almost entirely of poor stock, which sells low.

We quote Brush, short green, 9½@10c.; hurl, green, 10c.; green, medium, 6@7c.; red and red tipped, 4@5c.

BUTTER.—The market is still an uninteresting one for producers. City operators seem quite as determined as ever, to let the interior carry the remaining stock. In former seasons, the winter months have been more or less enlivened by some speculative movement. This year there seems to be neither confidence or inclination for operations outside of the actual transfer of stock to the consumers, through the ordinary channel of market-men and grocers. There is a fair demand, but no large purchases, and receipts are just about heavy enough to keep prices tame for the ordinary runs of stock. Fancy late made State is scarce, so are the fine ends of other dates. For such selections 35c. is the generally quoted figure; but the quality has to be in every way right. Grades that have been selling at 25@27c., are still steady, and on some days 23@29c. have been realized for stock between fine and sound serviceable table kinds. At present a free offering of useful State, would find buyers at 25@26c., and sellers think they would be doing justice to the future market, by releasing such at easy, business-pushing rates. As before, adjacent dairymen have sent pails in quite liberally, owing to the prolonged abundant yield of milk; cans of 40 quarts have sold lately at the commission platforms at $1.25@1.75 each! a very low range for winter. Speaking of pails, most of them are off in quality, and 25c. is extreme for the best style now coming forward. Buyers want something that will stand up better than a hurriedly-made article. Western butter is not a feature at present, few parcels are good enough to rate at the extreme. Rolls are lower and tend in buyers' favor.

State dairies entire, extra, 30@—c.; entire, good to prime, 26@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; firkins, selected fresh, 28@30c.; good to prime, 25@28c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 28@29c.; good to prime, 30@32c.; fair to good, 27@29c.; poor to fair, 25@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@31c.; dairies, 27@29c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; poor to fair, 22@23c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 17@20c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 26@27c.; good to prime, 24@26c.; tubs selected fresh, 26@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 23@25c.; fair to good, fresh, 21@23c.; poor to fair, fresh, 20@21c.; Western, early packed, selected, 21@22c.; Western, early packed, other, 16@20c. Roll butter, good to prime, 23@24c.; fair to good, 20@22c.

CHEESE.—There has been a fair business in cheese; "something doing" is about the average response from sellers. The neighboring markets are taking home stock, and it is likely that an enlarged business will spring up from the N. E. States, as the purchases thus far from that section have been light. The general sales are at 11@12½c., the latter price buying rating cheese, including many Sept. and Oct. marks. Strictly fancy is quoted at 13@13½c., with small sales for special European orders. The stock of cheese in N. Y. is above the date last season, adding up 251,300 boxes.

New State factory, fancy, 13@13½c.; fine, 12½c.; do. good to prime, 11¾@12½c.; fair to good, 10@11¾c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 10½@11½c.; fair to good, 10½c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fine, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@11c.; poor to fair, 6@8c.; English dairy, Connecticut, 12@13½c.; do. State, 17@20c.; pineapple, 16@18c.

COTTON.—The foreign markets are against export trade, and with large supplies coming to hand, at the ports prices are easier. Latest sales are of January, 12 31-32@13c.; February, 13 5-32@13 3-16c.; March, 13 13-32@13 7-16c.; April, 13 21-32@13 11-16c.; May, 13¾@13 29-32c.; June, 14 1-16@14 3-32c.; July, 14¾@14 9-32c.; August, 14 11-32@14¾c.; barely steady, showing, as compared with yesterday, the following changes, all lower: January, 1-32@1-16; February, 1-32c.; March, 1-32c.; April, 1-32c.; May, 1-32c.; June, 1-32c.; July, 1-32c.; August, 1-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Strict ordinary	10 11-16	10 11-16	10 11-16	10 11-16
Good ordinary	11 5-16	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 7-16
Strict good do	12	12	12⅛	12⅛
Low middling	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 11-16
Strict low middling	12⅞	13	13⅛	13⅛
Middling	13¼	13¼	13 5-16	13 5-16
Good middling	13⅝	13⅝	13½	13⅝
Strict good middling	14	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛
Middling fair	14⅜	14¼	14⅜	14⅜
Fair	15¼	15⅛	15⅛	15⅛
	Stained.			
Good ordinary	10⅛	Low middling		12⅜
Strict ordinary	11⅛	Middling		12¼

DRIED FRUITS.—A few small lots are being taken by neighboring markets at steady prices. Blackberries scarce and higher. Peaches dull and unsettled. Apples—State, sliced, 10@10¼c.; quarters, 9¼@9½c.; Western quarters, 8½@8¾c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 9¼@10c. for prime, and fancy 12c.; Tennessee quarters, 8@8½c. Blackberries, new, 12½@13c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12c. for halves, and 11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 28@30c. Cherries, 24@25c.

EGGS.—Supplies have been very liberal for the period, and, as the warm spell had no good effect upon the stored supply, holders have been trying to work off a good many old lots. The market has ruled rather easier; but, with our first installment of real cold weather, sellers have more confidence. As the rate of receipts must naturally diminish. Limed are scarce. This has been one of the alternating profitable season for packers. Salt packed eggs are not desirable, as they soon fall off in quality after being taken out.

Jersey and Pennsylvania, single bbls., ₱ doz., 30@32c.; State, 29@30c.; Western, prime, 28c.; do. fair marks, 22c.; Canadian, 28c.; Southern, 27c.; Limed, State, prime, 25@27c.; do. Western, good to prime, 24@26c.

FLOUR.—There have been large purchases on export account, particularly for the West India market, and prices have been well maintained.

Superfine State, $4.25@4.65; extra do., $4.40@5.00; superfine Western, $4.25@4.65; extra do., $4.90@5.00; No. 2, $3.30@4.00; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.95@5.30; trade brands do., $5.35@7.40; white wheat extras, $5.95@7.00; St. Louis, $5.50@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.15@6.75; Southern, at $4.15@4.60 for superfine; $4.80@6.30 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.10@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye flour at $4.50@5.25. Buckwheat selling 55@60c. and flour at $1.50@2.30. Corn meal at $3@3.50 for yellow Western; $3@3.40 for white do.

FRESH FRUITS.—In apples, spys and greenings have kept poorly, and it really looks as though the lots will go through the season as well as a short crop ought to. Prices for loads from lofts are easier; only picked out for table or retailing. Fruit will bring the highest prices lately quoted. Whoever owns the remnant of grapes will have to pocket a loss. Some of the best marks have become shrunken and otherwise unsightly. Just as soon as domestic fruit of any kind begins to look shabby hlongarls of foreign stuff, and if the latter is quoted reasonably low, and such is now the case, the former is neglected. Cranberries continue firm at the late advance, boxes selling fairly for local use, the West using bbls. Peanuts are steady; though pretty free receipts check anxious buying. Hickory nuts are only moderately wanted.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, $3@3.50; mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; do. fair, $2@2.25. Pears—Choice Cal., ₱ box, $4@4.50. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $3@3.25; good to prime, $2.75@3; good to choice, ₱ bbl., $8.75@9.75; Cape Cod, fancy, ₱ bbl., $9.75@10.25; Eastern, fancy, $9.75@10.25; good to prime, $8.50@9.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.40@1.50; do. Wilmington, $1.70@1.85; do. Tennessee, 75@80c.; Hickory nuts, $1@1.25.

FURS AND SKINS.—The tone of the market is weak. Recent quotations nominal. We quote prime skins.

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00 to 15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00 to 10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50 to 3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50 to 2 50
Badger	20 to 50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50 to 60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40 to 50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00 to 12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, silver	15 00 to 50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00 to 5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50 to 1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25 to 1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40 to 60
Fox, Kitt	30 to 50
Lynx	1 00 to 2 00
Marten, Stones	1 50 to 2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00 to 4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00 to 3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00 to 1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75 to 1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50 to 75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	23 to 25
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	20 to 21
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12 to 15
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00 to 12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	8 00 to 10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00 to 6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18 to 20
Opossum, South and open North	12 to 15
Racoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indian handled, dark	80 to 1 00
Racoon, Il., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50 to 65
Racoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn	65 to 75
Racoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40 to 50
Racoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15 to 30
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00 to 3 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	— to 1 50
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	— to 1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50 to 80
Skunks, whole streaked	15 to 20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00 to 3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75 to 1 25

GRAIN.—In wheat there have been larger dealings on export account, and a smoother market. Latest sales at $1.12¼ for No. 3 Milwaukee spring; $1.45 for choice old amber Michigan in store; $1.20@1.30 for red Western; $1.24 for old No. 2 Chicago spring in store; $1.12@1.20 for ungraded spring; 98@99c. for thin rejected spring; $1.09 for New York No. 3 spring, in lots, and $1.45 for amber Pennsylvania; $1 18@1.45 for winter red and amber; $1.62@1.62½ for white, and $1.32@1.40 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 95@97c. for State. Corn is unsettled and pressing the buyer. Sales at 65¾@67c. for new mixed Western, N. Y. inspection, afloat, closing at 66c. for prime; 65¾@66c. for new low mixed; 65c. for "no grade" new mixed, N. Y. inspection, afloat; 66¾@67c. for new yellow Western; 72@72½c. for old mixed, afloat; 72@72½c. nominally for old yellow Western; 65c. for new yellow Southern; 66c. for new Southern, and 63c. for old white Western. Oats are in lighter receipt and firmer. Sales at 49¾@51c. for white State; 45½@47c. for mixed Western.

HAY AND STRAW.—Prices have been advanced on small receipts and a good demand.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 85c.; retail qualities, $1.05@1.20; clover, 70@80c.; salt, 65c. Straw is quoted at $1.10@1.20 for long rye; 80@90c. for short rye; 75@85c. for oat.

HIGHWINES are selling at $1.11.

HONEY continues depressed. Present quotations ought to start it if it is going to start this season.

White clover, in glass boxes, ₱ lb, 18@22c.; buckwheat, 10@18c.; strained, 10@12c.

HOPS.—There is no change in the market here. Exporters are doing but little, but for the choice stock required, pay full unchanged prices.

New York State, 10@15c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins, 10@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californians, 17@20c.

MILK.—The price paid to farmers for Dec. was 4@4¼c., in a few instances, 4½c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry is stimulated by the seasonable weather, though, after the cheap season, we have passed, it is not easy to teach buyers to pay the comparatively higher prices. A rush of dressed would certainly drop prices. We quote:

Turkeys, N. J., choice, 19@20c.; do. other, 16@18c.; State and Western, choice, 17@18c.; do. other, 13@15c. Chickens, N. J., 18@20c.; State, as to quality, 16@18c.; Western, 15@17c.; Bucks Co., 19@20c. Ducks, N. J., good to prime, 18@20c.; State, do., 16@18c.; Western, do., 15@17c., fair to good, 12@15c., poor, 8@12c. Geese, N. J., prime, 13@15c.; State, good to prime, 10@12c.; Western, do., 8@11c.; do., poor to fair, 7@8c.

Live poultry has kept well, sold up at very good prices for winter.

Fowls, Jersey, 14@15c.; Western, 13@14c. Chickens, 10@11c. Roosters, 6@9c. Turkeys, Jersey, 14@16c.; Western, 12@14c. Ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, 85c.@$1.25; Western, 55@70c.; Jersey, $2@2.50; Western, $1.25@1.62.

This is the last week for venison. The season has been a poor one, as a whole and closing prices are very low, owing to the large surplus the warm spell kept on the market. Other large game has little inquiry. Quail and Grouse are in good demand, as the market has been nearly bare several times, as shippers would not hazard supplies. Wild ducks when in prime order, sell well. Squirrels do not pay for sending.—We quote:

Quail, trapped, prime, ₱ doz., $2.50@3.00; soft, $1.25@1.50. Grouse, prime, ₱ pair, $1.00@1.10; drawn, 75@85c. Partridges, choice, ₱ pair, 75c.@$1.00; other, 50@75c. Hares, ₱ pair, 20@30c. Rabbits, ₱ pair, 20@30c. Venison, short saddles, ₱ lb., 9@10c.; long saddles 6@8c.; whole deer, 7@8c. Canvas back ducks ₱ pair, $1.50@2.50—the higher price for thivre de Grace, Mallard, 70@80c.; Red Head, 80c.@$1; common, 40@50c.

PROVISIONS.—Generally the market is weak on account of the heavier arrivals of hogs at the West. Quotations are for mess pork, $21; extra prime, $16; prime mess, $19.50@20,. Dressed hogs 7c 8¾@8¾c. for Western. Boxed dry salted shoulders, 8½@8¾c. Tierced pickled hams, 12½c. for 13 lb. average. Bacon at 11¾c. for Western long clear, 11¾c. for short clear, 11¾c. for long and short clear, half-and-half. Lard—Western steam at 12¾c. for spot and January, 13c. for February, 13 3-16 for March. Stearine at 13c. for Western. Beef hams, $24. Beef, new extra mess, $12@12.50; do., plain mess $11@11.50; new tierced at $23 for prime mess, $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $30.50@32. Old extra mess, $11.50, and $10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.50@16.50.

SEED.—Clover is scarce and wanted. Selling at 13¾@13¾ for prime.

TOBACCO.—At the reduced prices there is very little doing; exporters disposed to take any small lots. Quotations are:

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 8	7½@ 8¾
Good lugs	7 @ 8	8½@ 9
Low leaf	9½@10	9¾@10¾
Medium leaf	10¾@11	10¾@12
Good leaf	12½@13	13¾@13¾
Fine leaf	13½@15	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	17 @22

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1873.

Connecticut wrappers	20 @45
Assorted lots	15 @25
Massachusetts assorted lots	12 @15
Connecticut and Massachusetts seconds	10 @12
Fillers	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania assorted lots	16 @25
New York assorted lots, common	8 @11
Good to fine	12 @18
Ohio assorted lots	8¼@10
Wisconsin assorted lots	7 @ 9
Seconds and fillers, shipping	7 @ 9

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
Connecticut and Massachusetts fillers	8 @10
Binders and seconds	12 @18
New York State assorted lots	7 @ 9
Pennsylvania assorted lots	15 @25
Ohio, assorted lots	6½@ 8
Wisconsin	6½@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Farmers were fortunate in not holding potatoes "for a rise" this season, as no circumstance seems to have the power to get them out of the low rut they have run in so long. Unless trade opens soon or consumption enlarges there will be some great slaughter in the spring. Onions are firm. Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.50@1.75; Prince Alberts, $1.00@1.25; Peerless, 65c.@$1.00. Sweet potatoes, $1@2.75. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $3@5; red, $6@10. Cauliflower, bbl., $2@3. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 50@75c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.00@1.75; white, $2.50@2.75. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00.

WOOL.—Business still drags, there being a feeling of distrust occasioned by the few failures among manufacturers and dealers noted latterly. Prices are held firmly.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklock	50	@ 54
XX	48	@ 49
X		@ 48
No. 1	48	@ 50
No. 2	45	@ 48
Coarse	40	@ 45
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	44	@ 46
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	43	@ 47
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	45	@ 47
X	45	@ 47
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	43	@ 47
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	44	@ 47
X	44	@ 47
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	43	@ 45
Coarse	40	@ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	34	@ 36
Coarse unwashed	27	@ 30
Burry	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, Jan. 13.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.60. Wheat is dull; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.30. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 24@25c. Cheese, 12@13c. Eggs, 28@30c. Lard, 13@13c. Apples, ₱ bu., 50c.@$1. Potatoes, ₱ bu., 25@@35c. Beans, ₱ bu., 85c.@1.20. Mess pork, $21@—. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@14. Straw, $7@12. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $5.75@6.00. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Jan. 15, 1876.

THERE is a firmer feeling in the market this week, though there is no material change to note in prices since our last report. Among the farm dairy cheese we hear of nothing being offered but "odds and ends"—small lots, the close of the season's make. Prices range at 7@8½c., with occasional sales at a cent higher figure.

The market for factories continues to be dull, and the views of holders are generally above those of buyers. There is no really fine cheese on the market, as current rates are supposed to be below real values. Dairymen are hopeful of the future and are firmly holding all fine cheese for better prices than can now be obtained. The "late ends" of factories may be quoted at 9@10½c., and fine September and October at 11¾@13½c. The quantity of cheese now back in Herkimer County is quite small and no more than is usual at this season of the year.

Winter butter is still coming forward; but it is of variable quality, mostly common and low grades. Sales are made at 23@25c., according to quality.

Abortions among the herds are becoming more frequent, but in other respects stock is healthy and is wintering well. Cows are now being rapidly dried off their milk and only a few factories are running.

There was a heavy rain storm in Herkimer on Sunday, which swept off nearly all the remaining snow; but on Monday the weather turned cold, with high winds, and we are now having snow.

Our usual weekly letters from abroad have failed to reach us this week.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	2,365	37	360	4,975	000
Forty-Eighth St.	22	45	121	3,259	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	871	9,359
Harsimus Cove	4,861	00	000	9,715	8,423
Totals this week	7,249	82	481	18,800	17,812
" last week	7,152	61	411	11,729	18,381

BEEVES.—On last Monday forenoon trade opened fair on a moderate run of horned cattle; quality coarse to choice, with the aggregate of the herds in hand of fair quality. Prices were 7@13½c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5¼@12 cwt., on a continuous light run of beeves. Wednesday, trade was brisk at 9@12½c. ₱ lb.; weights, scant 5@10 cwt. Thursday, sales fair at 9¾@12½c.; weights, 6@8 cwt. Friday, the markets closed firm at 11¾@13½c.; weights, 6¾@9½ cwt. From 55@58 lbs., net, have been allowed to the cwt. Spanish herds direct from the Plains sold at 7@9¾c. ₱ lb. Native steers, 8@12¾c.; grade do., 12¾@13½c. Oxen, $@12¾c. Dry cows and heifers, 9@11c. Mixed herds, 9@11¾c. Bulls, live weight, 4@4¾c. Yearlings, $18@19 ₱ head.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13¾	12 @13¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	7 @ 9¾	7 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	10 @11	9¾@11

MILCH COWS.—Trade rather easier and sales more numerous. Six cows sold at $55 ₱ head; 3 at $65; 11 at $60@75; 3 at $70@82; 5 at $79@92—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals nominal at 9@11c. ₱ lb. Meal-fed calves, quality coarse, 6c.; grass calves slow of sale at 4@5c. ₱ lb.; also at $9@12.25 ₱ head.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday sheep sold at 4¾@7¾c. ₱ lb., Lambs in demand at 7@8¾c. ₱ lb. Wednesday, on a heavy run, trade fell off; Sheep slow at 5@6c.; lambs not quoted. Thursday, sheep, 5¾@7¾c.; Friday, the markets closed dull, with sheep at 6¾@7¾c.; lambs, 8c. Michigan sheep sold at 6¾@7¾c. ₱ lb.; Pennsylvania, 6@7c.; State, 5@7c.; Kentucky, 5¾@7¾c.; Ohio, 4¾@7¾c.; Illinois, 5@6¾c. State lambs, 7c.; Canada, 8@8¾c.

HOGS.—Trade in live very small. One car load of Ohio hogs, weight 198 lbs. ₱ head, sold at $8 ₱ cwt. City dressed have fallen in price and sales increased in numbers. Monday, prices were 8¾@10¾c.; Wednesday, 9¾@10¾c.; Thursday, 9¾@9¾c.; Friday trade very slow at 9@9¾c. Western dressed dull at 8¾@9c.

HORSE MARKET.—The unusual fairness of the weather has allowed of the easy sale of roadsters, 29 head of which, with moderate trotting action, sold at $225@375 ₱ head; 18 poor quality light harness horses, $50@85 ₱ head; 10 ordinary quality, do., $150@215 ₱ head; 3 pairs family carriage horses, $350@435 ₱ pair; 1 pony, $110; 1 pair do., $475—quality good; 7 head of heavy draught horses, $200@350 ₱ head—quality course. Fifteen horses arrived ₱ Erie Railroad, via. Oak Cliff Station.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

GLADSTONE is 66 years old.

SANKEY'S voice is failing.

THE Pope blessed a Milwaukee girl's voice.

POST-MASTER GENERAL JEWELL has rheumatism.

THE Senate eulogized Andrew Johnson, Jan. 11.

GEN. BABCOCK'S trial begins about February 1.

EX-SENATOR BEN WADE of Ohio, is in Washington.

BANCROFT DAVIS, Minister to Berlin, has gone to Egypt.

J. FORSYTH edits his paper and serves in the Alabama Legislature.

JOHN LEE CARROLL was inaugurated Governor of Maryland, Jan. 12.

DR. S. G. HOWE of Boston, (husband of Julia Ward Howe), is dead.

LA GUERRONNIERE, Napoleon III.'s famous pamphleteer, is dead.

DR. A. BORRERO took office as President of Ecuador on the 9th ult.

LEOPOLD VON RANKE, the historian, attained his 80th birthday on Dec. 21.

MR. BAUER of Newark, N. J., has recently lost 8 children by diphtheria.

MR. TILTON is very moderate in his price, only asking $150 for his services.

MRS. GRANT wears black silk and velvet. Mrs. Fred. Grant wears opal silk.

COL. J. W. FORNEY will return from Europe about the middle of February.

DORE has completed a series of illustrations of Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner."

SALVINI has been married in Florence, to an English lady named Miss Lottie Sharp.

PRESIDENT PORTER of Yale College has recovered his health sufficiently to return to his duties.

MISS CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN is said to be writing a book of personal reminiscences of the stage.

JAMES MALETTE, formerly of the Binghamton Republican, has purchased the Geneva Courier.

BOSTON has made a loud call for the able and earnest blacksmith preacher, Robert Laird Collier.

MRS. POLLY JEROME, New London's "oldest inhabitant," is 98 years old, and has 98 descendants.

BISHOP HAVEN (Methodist Episcopal) is in New Orleans, where he will remain during the present month.

THE Rev. C. D. Helmer goes from Chicago to the Tompkins Avenue Congregational Church in Brooklyn.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL DUFFERIN is Commodore of the Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron, just organized at Halifax.

SWINBURNE, the poet, has renounced Romanism, in which faith he was born, and joined the church of England.

GRACE GREENWOOD'S husband, Dr. Lippincott, has become chief clerk in the Land Office at Washington.

THE Marquis of Ripon, who recently joined the Roman Catholic Church, has presented the Pope with £10,000 sterling.

MR. A. J. PARKER of Albany has given $50 to the Mayor to be used in buying bread for those who cannot obtain work.

COL. J. W. FORNEY will return from Europe about the middle of February and resume editorial charge of the Philadelphia Press.

THE Louisiana House, with the aid of twelve Senators, chose Mr. Enstis for United States Senator, to contest Mr. Pinchback's place.

T. ROGERS JOHNSON, for many years Grand Secretary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of California, died at Santa Barbara, Jan. 11.

THE New Hampshire Democrats nominated D. Marcy for Governor, on a hard money, non-sectarian schools, and anti-third-term platform.

HER MAJESTY Queen Victoria is expected to arrive in Coburg about the 10th of April next. She will probably go thence to Baden Baden.

LARKIN G. MEAD'S statue of Ethan Allen, which is in the possession of the State of Vermont, will probably be exhibited at the Centennial Exposition.

BISHOP HUNTINGTON of Central New York thinks the exclusion of the Bible from the public schools "is foredoomed by circumstances that are to be deplored."

SIR E. THORNTON, the English Minister, by his habit of taking a walk of six or eight miles a day, is said to have made pedestrianism fashionable at Washington.

THE Rev. James Houston Eccleston, D. D. of the Church of Our Savior, Philadelphia, has been called to the rectorship of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Richmond, S. I.

DONN PIATT and Congressman Banning are among the heirs of the late Timothy Kirby of Cincinnati, who has left property valued at between $2,000,000 and $3,000,000.

THE Hon. William Welch of Madison, Wis., proposes to give each man twenty-one years old one vote, each man of forty-two years two votes and each man sixty-three years old three votes.

PROF. STALEY of Union College, accompanied by his wife, has sailed for Europe, to be absent till next fall. They will visit Egypt, Rome and Berlin, to collect art specimens for the new Memorial Hall of the college.

GEN. J. M. READ, our Minister to Greece, is said to be writing a history of that country, upon which he expects to be engaged four or five years. It will be the fullest and most complete history of Greece ever published.

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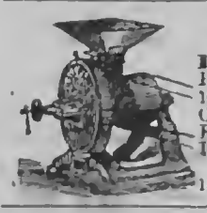
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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Binghamton wants a new cemetery.

— England now has spelling matches.

— The direct cable is repaired and again doing business.

— Eight murderers are waiting to be hanged in Missouri.

— Binghamton is in danger of having a hemlock opera house.

— The temple of Juggernaut is being destroyed by a banyan tree.

— Michigan has 113,413 farms under cultivation, containing 10,213,692 acres.

— England proposes laws for purifying rivers. Manufacturers oppose them.

— A street car moved by condensed air pressure has been successfully tried in Paris.

— The National Republican Convention has been fixed for June 14, at Cincinnati.

— The Spanish Government has authorized the publication of fourteen new journals.

— There are five ships now building at Kennebunkport, from 1,000 to 2,000 tons each.

— A nail factory at Cortland, N. Y., has received an order for 300,000 tons of horse shoe nails.

— Trouble is brewing between Nicaragua and Costa Rica on account of the boundary question.

— The Judicial functions of the Canadian Supreme Court went into effect on Tuesday week.

— Prairie du Chien has an artesian well 717 feet deep which throws up 30,000 barrels of water a day.

— In the multiplex telegraphy test, at Milwaukee, recently, sixteen messages were on the wire at once.

— The Spanish steamer Algeria has been wrecked off Cabras, Porto Rico, and six lives have been lost.

— The statue of Burns will be erected in Central Park, New York, this year during the Centennial festivities.

— The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Co. has re-elected the old Board of Directors.

— The Niagara Fruit Preserving Company of Lockport, put up 250,000 cans of fruit during the past season.

— About 1,400 miles of new railroad will be completed this year, which is much better than was expected.

— On and after the first of February visitors will not be admitted to the Centennial grounds without a pass.

— Twelve thousand dollars' worth of dried fish are every month sent from San Francisco to China by the Chinese.

— Three children named Peaubin were drowned near Arichat, C. B., recently, while drawing a sled on the ice.

— An incendiary fire at Murphysboro, Ill., destroyed half a block of buildings. Loss, $15,000. Small insurance.

— A flood in Valparaiso inundated the business part of the city and destroyed two lives and $1,500,000 worth of property.

— Public functionaries receiving over £500 a year are disqualified, by royal decree from sitting in the Spanish Cortes.

— Twelve grocers were held in bail in the Essex Market Police Court, N. Y., on the 12th inst., for selling adulterated milk.

— It has been decided to begin the Channel tunnel at St. Margaret's, near Dover, next April, by opening a trial cutting.

— The United States Senate has adopted resolutions declaring that it has the power to remove its President *pro tempore* at will.

— India has not a single port on the vast seacoast line between Bombay and Calcutta where a vessel could discharge her cargo at a pier.

— A despatch from Sacramento, Cal., says that a land-grab scheme has been unearthed by which the State is the loser to an enormous amount.

— The Albany Law School has in the class of '76, three married men; one ex-assemblyman; one ex-district attorney one ex-sheriff, and one ex-mayor.

— Rochester is troubled with youthful burglars. Four of them broke into a candy store Jan. 10th, and stole thirty pounds of candy. Two of them were arrested.

— The first passenger train passed over the London, Huron and Bruce Railway, from London to Wingham, recently. The formal opening of the road took place.

— St. Louis, Chicago, and Philadelphia are struggling vigorously for the National Conventions, and St. Louis offers the largest room in the country for the purpose.

— The young ladies of Burlington, Iowa, lured the unwary youth to call on New Year's by gifts of flowers. One bevy of fair ones distributed 75 bouquets. It's leap year, though.

— A convention for the purpose of pushing forward the Centennial education movement among the Baptists of the "Southern Tier," is to be held in the First Baptist Church, Binghamton, N. Y.

— The Boston & Albany Railroad Company began, January 1, to weigh the coal and measure the wood and oil issued to each engine, in order to ascertain the actual cost of running each locomotive.

— The Wisconsin Legislature met in Madison, Jan. 12. Mr. S. S. Fifield of Polk was elected Speaker of the House; Mr. R. L. D. Potter, author of the Potter law, was chosen President pro tem. of the Senate.

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LEAP year. Select your victims, ladies.

OLD-FASHIONED PULL-BACK—Driving a pig to market.

A WESTERN man says that figures won't lie unless they happen to be on a gas meter.

JUDGE VIRGIN belongs to the Supreme Court of Maine. He should hold only maiden assizes.

A GREENY named Clark has prepared a Boston Blue Book, which he hopes will be read all over.

FIFTEEN million brooms are annually manufactured in the United States. And yet men will get married.

WHAT is the difference between a hill and a pill? One is hard to get up, and the other is hard to get down.

AN Irish editor says he can see no earthly reason why women should not be allowed to become medical men.

"ASTONISHING cure for consumption," as the old lady said when she sprinkled snuff on the victuals of her boarders.

You can tell a lady who has a seal-skin sacque from one who hasn't. The one who has one has to run down to the stores twenty times a day.

THE Oakland (Cal.) Gas Company has been petitioned to paint the street lamp posts white, so that that they may be found readily on dark nights.

DELIVER us! A restaurant keeper in Park Row in this city advertises on his bulletin—"Fresh sausages from Kat(-)onah, Westchester County." Who wants them?

No Chinese bank has failed for five hundred years. When the last failure took place the officers' heads were cut off and flung into a corner with the other assets.

A CONNECTICUT cow committed suicide last week. Her owner left his gun against the barn yard fence, and what did that cow do but knock it down and discharged it into her neck.

KANSAS teacher—"Where does all of our grain product go to?" Boy—"It goes into the hopper." "Hopper! what hopper?" "Grasshopper!" triumphantly shouted the boy.

A SWEET little boy, only 8 years old,—bless his little heart!—walked into a scene of a teachers' examination at Oswego, last week, bawled out: "Annie, your fellow is down to the house!"

"No one would take you for what you are," said an old-fashioned gentleman, a day or two ago, to a dandy, who had more hair than brains. "Why?" was immediately asked. "Because they cannot see your ears."

A Miss of 10 or 11 on her way to school, was heard saying to herself:—"A noun is the name of any person, place or thing, and if any of the girls have hooked that apple from my desk, I'll raise a fuss with the whole school."

IT is a vulgar error to suppose that there are no Irish characters in Shakspeare. Does not Hamlet exclaim, "How might I do it, Pat, now he is praying?" To say nothing of O'Thello, Cory O'Lanus and the lady O'Phelia.

A GENTLEMAN questioning a little boy, said: "When your father and mother forsake you, Johnny, do you know who will take you up?" "Yes, sir," said he. "And who?" said the friend. "The police," was Johnny's reply.

"How did you like my sermon?" said a vain clergyman to a distinguished chance listener. "Ah, sir, there was one beautiful passage." "Yes, yes," said the dominie delighted, rubbing his hands; "and what was that." "The passage from the pulpit to the vestry."

"WHAT can you say of the second-law of thought?" Student.—"It cannot both be and not be. For example, the door over there must be either shut or open. It can't be both shut and open?" Tutor—"Give another illustration," Student.—"Well, take the case of another door."

A MAN who inquired if anybody had seen anything of his little boy, and then said he was looking for him, stopped at a White street grocery, yesterday, at 3 o'clock, and talked till about 5 o'clock, when he struck out again in search of his son with a touching exhibition of paternal interest.

WHEN a Little Falls wife remonstrated with her husband for staying out late at night, he retorted:—"You got me in the way of it. Before we were married you used to throw your arms about my neck at three o'clock, and say, 'Don't go, darling, it is early yet;' but now if I happen to stay out till two it is a terrible affair."

TWO REASONS WHY.—While some boys were skating on one of the slips up the river, a gentleman noticed one on the bank who looked on longingly but who had no means of enjoying the sport. "Well bub, haven't you any skates?" asked the man. "No, sir." "Why not?" "'Cause mother says I ain't prepared to die, and father says he needs the money to buy him some undershirts!" was the lonesome reply.

CONGENIAL COOLNESS.

REGY says that he infinitely prefers putting on HER skates for his Kate to putting on HIS skates for his skating. And KATE says she feels sure REGY is trying to pay her an ICE compliment.

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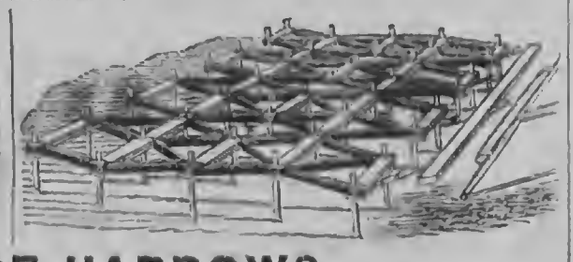

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No. 8 Church St.,
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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

1876

STATEMENT

OF THE

TRAVELERS

24TH SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE CO.

HARTFORD, CONN., JANUARY 1, 1876.

ASSETS.

Real Estate owned by the Company	$ 87,688 21
Cash on hand and in Bank	117,519 83
Cash in hands of Agents, or in transmission	92,301 87
Loans on First Mortgages Real Estate	2,009,877 50
Deferred Premiums	63,124 87
Accrued Interest	78,514 85
United States Government Bonds	571,570 00
State and Municipal Bonds	105,700 00
Railroad Stocks and Bonds	213,110 00
Bank and Insurance Stocks	552,955 00
Total assets	$3,701,361 13

LIABILITIES.

Reserve for re-Insurance, Accident Dept.	$169,427 45
Reserve, N. Y. Standard (4½), Life Department	2,056,553 49
Claims unadjusted and not due, and all other liabilities	170,186 94
Total liabilities	$2,396,157 88
Surplus, as regards policy-holders	$1,305,203 25

Surplus as above, on four per cent. reserve, Mass. and Conn. standard, $1,080,427 47.

Statistics of the Year 1875.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Number of Life Policies written in 1875	2,650
Net Gain in amount insured	$1,200,051 00
Net Gain on Life Policies in force	675
Whole number written to date	23,542
Whole number of Life Policies in force	16,511
Total amount insured	$19,169,114 00

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.

Number of Accident Policies written in '75	32,857
Net Cash Premiums rec'd for same	$459,325 00
Whole number Accident Policies written	396,161
Number of Claims paid in 1875	2,103
Whole number of Accident Claims Paid	23,225
Whole amount Acc't Claims Paid	$2,283,737 77
Total Losses Paid, both Dep'ts	$2,955,102 39

JAS. G. BATTERSON, President.

RODNEY DENNIS, Secretary.

JOHN E. MORRIS, Ass't Secretary.

New York Office, 207 Broadway.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

EXCELSIOR

RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

VOL. XXXIII. No. 5. WHOLE No. 1357. | NEW YORK, AND ROCHESTER, N. Y., JAN. 29, 1876. | PRICE SIX CENTS. $2.65 PER YEAR.

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Village and Suburban.

VILLAGE AND SUBURBAN ROADWAYS.

In a late number of the RURAL you gave a petition to the Legislature of your State on the subject of Highways, or country roads. This is well, for there is, as you say, great need of reform in the matter. But a great many of your readers, who live in villages and the suburbs of cities, and do but little traveling except by rail, are most interested in city streets and village and suburban roadways. Therefore, while advocating the improvement of country highways, please do not forget that there is abundant room for reform elsewhere, especially in village streets and roadways.—A MICHIGAN VILLAGER.

OUR correspondent is right. There *is* room for improvement in village and suburban roadways, as well as in country roads, and we trust reform in both will ere long be instituted. Perhaps we cannot better respond to the above, at present, than by giving the following illustrated article on Village and Suburban Roadways, originally contributed to the RURAL by F. R. ELLIOTT of Ohio. We hope its publication will elicit discussion on the subject, and lead to marked improvements in many localities during the ensuing season:

A large amount of labor and money is yearly expended on the construction of roadways, planting of street trees, etc., but rarely is it done with any thought relative to the future, or even the present, improved value of the abutting property. In the rural districts the control of what shall be done from year to year is left with the Roadmaster, or Supervisor, as he is termed, while the suburban roads of cities are generally lined and the work directed by the City Civil Engineer. I will not pretend to say these officials are all ignorant of the true system of road-making, or that they are void of any appreciable effective results that may be made to accrue from their direction of the expenditure of labor and money; but I do say that too many instances are to be met with when, had more thought of the present wants of the people, the economy of road-making and keeping, etc., been exercised, the results would have been different.

There are several points in road-making that to me appear all important—these are, *first*, to secure a dry road-bed, and at the same time so arranged that its drains may serve to drain the surface of the abutting property. *Second*, to consider the probable wants of travel and make the road-bed no broader than is really necessary. *Third*, to consider the position of the abutting property and judge at what grade the road-bed should be to give it the most commanding or elevated appearance. *Fourth*, at what distance from the center of the road should trees be planted for street shades.

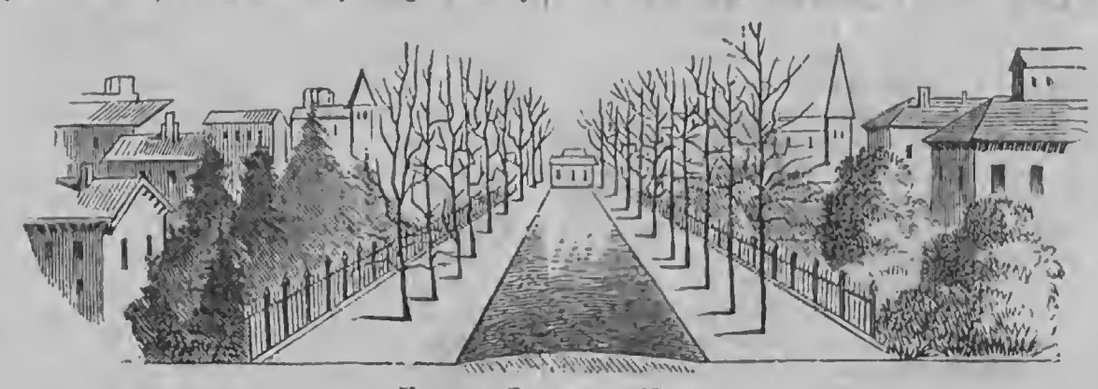
It is a common practice to form the road according to the natural surface of the ground, making it narrow in some places and wide in others, and then the occupants along the line plant shade trees according to their fancy as to distance. Figure 1 shows a street according to this common practice—a street that has no definite character in appearance, and whose road-bed is rarely in condition to drive over without winding about from side to side in order to avoid the various mud holes that are there as a necessity, because either the breadth of the road is too great for the manner of drainage, or possibly there is no definite drainage line constructed.

The actual roadway here allowed varies from forty-five to fifty feet, but has in fact but one track about eight feet wide over which there is travel; this line, however, being changed from time to time during the year, according as it is passable or impassable, until the whole breadth has been broken and needs repair—a need that has to be supplied from a fund perhaps ample to keep a track of eighteen or twenty feet in good condition, but when expended from year to year over a width of forty feet is insufficient even under the best of management.

Fig. 2 shows a sketch of a street on which a little improvement has been made by defining a line for the street shades and keeping the side

VILLAGE ROADWAYS—NO. 1.

line of the roadway true and straight; but this also has its roadway bed on a level with the abutting property, and no drainage beyond the natural course or lay of the land. The street trees are in the middle of the sidewalk, a practice not specially objectionable when sufficient breadth is retained for a good walk on each side; but if the breadth is narrowed, say to eight or nine feet, then the trees are quite in the way. Placing the trees in line and defining the roadway gives an additional improved character over that of Fig. 1; but the whole being upon a level, the sidewalk is always more or less subject to standing pools of water, and the roadway being left forty

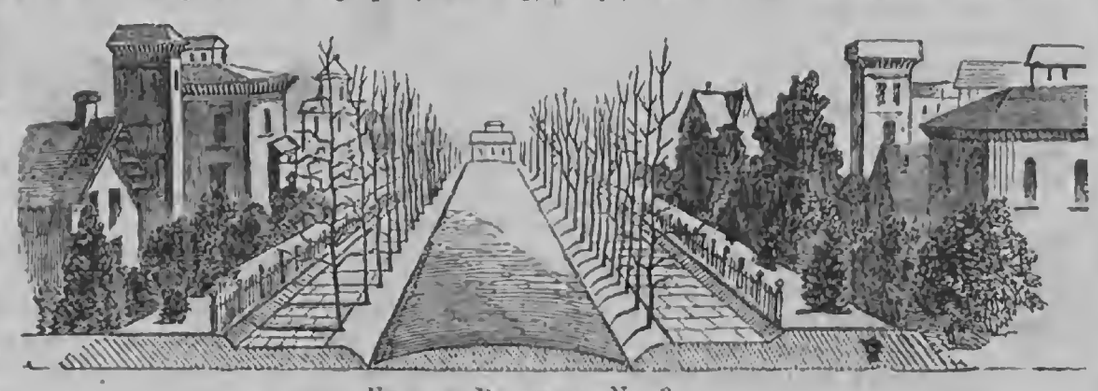


VILLAGE ROADWAYS—NO. 2.

or more feet in width is rarely in condition to be driven upon in a true or direct line.

Having shown these two roads as they are found all around the country and in the suburbs of cities, the first figure, 1, being the primitive and the second an improvement, I now propose, in Figure 3, to show how additional improvement may be made with comparatively little extra expense in first constructing, and far less yearly cost of future keeping.

In this sketch the road-bed is supposed to be twenty-six feet wide—abundantly wide for three carriages to pass each other—it is sunken two feet below the grade of the property abutting,



VILLAGE ROADWAYS—NO. 3.

and is eighteen inches below the sidewalk. It is plain to all that a dry road can just as easily be secured two feet below the surrounding level as on that level, provided the proper lines of drainage be secured. It also plain that with the road-bed and drainage at this grade, surface draining of the abutting property would be easy. To any person who has ever looked at a road so made, it needs not a word to convince him of the greater character and elevated condition this dropping of the roadway proper gives to the land and residences on the line. The roadway being once constructed and rounded in its bed toward the center, as shown in the sketch, will require far less expense in keeping or repairs, from year to year, because all surface water is at once carried off, so that it never has a chance to become soft.

Let me, however, say one word here about making the road, supposing it to be made from the natural soil. Once the grade is obtained, then the whole bed should be plowed, commencing at the center and turning furrow after furrow thereto. No firm and even settled road-bed can ever be made by hauling loose dirt on an unmoved base.

The trees in this sketch are one foot back from the front or road-bed line of the sidewalk, are designed to be fifty feet apart, and if planters of street trees would select elms for the low ground lines, maples for the next rise of grade, whitewoods or chestnuts for the highest and dryest lines, the harmony of natural association would be measurably retained, and perhaps indicate to the improver of the lots adjoining somewhat of the class of trees and shrubs best suited to the location.

I should be glad if other readers of and contributors to the RURAL would take up this subject of improving our country and city suburban roadways, because I think the advanced condition of our country and the educated taste of a large number of our people require it. In the earlier days any passway was acceptable, but when the value of lands on a line of road is estimated from one thousand dollars an acre to a high rate per foot, it seems important that something more than hap-hazard, thoughtless roadway making should be instituted. There is much more to be said, and after others have said something I will again write a word.

Pomological.

AMERICAN APPLES IN ENGLAND.

THE Editor of the London (Eng.) Garden acknowledges the receipt of a collection of apples from Messrs. ELLWANGER & BARRY of Rochester, N. Y. We omit the descriptions of varieties well known here, but the comments of the Editor, comparing American varieties with those grown on English soil, are decidedly interesting. He says:

Several of them are varieties well known in this country, but the majority and the best are strangers to us. In size these Apples do not surpass what one may see among fairly well-grown fruit here; in color they are much higher than ours, several of the kinds being a deep purplish-red; in flavor, the really essential point, they are very remarkable, and far beyond our own fruit. At the present season in London, after Cox's Orange Pippin, the Ribston, and now and then the Cornish Gilliflower, we have no Apples that can compare with the high and delicate flavor of the best of those sent to us; whether this is owing to a sunnier and dryer climate or to any inherent peculiarity in the fruit itself being much influenced by the season, situation, &c., it is likely that a sunnier and dryier climate must have an effect on flavor. The present season, which has been an unusually wet one, has had a considerable effect in altering the keeping qualities of British Apples—the Ribston Pippin for example, which often keeps good until Christmas, is now, at the end of November quite done; but the Ribston Pippins received from Rochester are firm, juicy, and delicious. It is not, therefore, unlikely that, in attempting to cultivate some of the fine varieties hereinafter mentioned, we in England, might find a fading off in flavor. On the other hand, our own varieties, such as the Ribston, seem to improve under the conditions to which they are subjected in the New World. Some of the Apples sent belong to the division which American growers term "sweet," and are the first samples we have tasted of these. In America, large numbers of Apples have been raised, and are in cultivation, in which the sugar so greatly preponderates over the acidulous principle of the fruit that the flavor of some varieties seems to an English palate to be that of a new fruit. Apples are classified broadly into summer, fall, and winter kinds; and, in each section, there are Apples termed sweet and sour.

The above Apples came packed in a barrel, in the way in which American Apples are sent to our markets, without spot or injury of any kind. Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry also sent us a collection of American-grown Pears. These, as regards size and appearance, are not, as a rule, up to the level of good European fruit. The Lawrence seemed the most interesting fruit, a large, golden-yellow kind with a richly-flavored, melting flesh. It is described as the most valuable of all the American early winter Pears, and the specimens sent were such as would compare well with the finest French or English fruit. A batch of Josephine de Malines were of very fine quality, and Winter Nelis, of average size, were even richer and higher in flavor than with us. Jones's Seedling, a very small Pennsylvania variety, is distinct and of a rich flavor. The Pears were packed in a box, and did not travel nearly so well as the Apples. This, however, could not be expected.

Field Crops.

DISPOSING OF SURPLUS STRAW.

A WRITER in the Maine Farmer is wrestling with the question, what to do with his surplus straw. It has puzzled many farmers where large amounts of grain are grown. He says:

"I have three or four tons of oat and barley straw, and the straw of fifty bushels of wheat, save what has been used for bedding, the stock thus far this winter. What shall I do with it? Will it pay to feed it? If so, to what?

"The above are simple questions for a farmer of thirty years' experience to ask, and yet I ask them in all candor and sincerity. I have asked myself the same many times and got different answers, partly because the queries are put under various circumstances, and partly, perhaps, because I have sometimes taken a more extensive or rather extended view of the matter. There are exceptions to all rules. For instance: when winter closed in upon us in 1871—the winter following the terrible scourge of grasshoppers—and we found ourselves with the least stock we thought we could get on with, and not half hay enough for what we had, it paid us to feed meadow hay and straw. So in answer to my first question I got "feed it with meal and roots."

"This year there is more hay than stock, and the only consideration is one of economy; so the questions return again. My cows are eating all the good, early cut hay they want; three quarts each of sugar beets at night, and one quart of barley meal and two of shorts in the morning; are driven to water in the cellar twice a day, and immediately tied up in a warm barn bedded with straw and left to furnish butter stock, and we are making now, Jan. 1st, five lbs. per cow, that se ls readily for 40c. a pound, and the cows are to come in in March. Will it pay to feed straw to them? I have a nice yoke of fat oxen that are doing my work, and it will take them through this week to finish it. The days will be longer then, the steers gaunted up a little, and with the warmer days and decreasing appetite, taking into account the objective point in rearing oxen, viz.: the beef they will make, will it pay to give them any more straw than they want to lie upon! Then there are the young cattle—why everybody, almost, says they will do well enough on straw. Well, let us see: The steers are designed to make at least ten hundred of beef each, and to do that with good economy will it pay to turn them from the barn in the spring no better than they came to it in the fall, if indeed as good? Then the heifers are with calf, and are to make dairy or stock cows, or both, and in the time when they ought to be growing, and the extra draught on the system at this particular time, will a diet of good, sweet, early cut hay be any too good; or if a little something in addition is given will it not pay just as well and even better, if in addition to the hay, than if with straw, where the virtue of the roots or grain is expended in getting the straw through the animal? Then there are the sheep, that pay a better profit than any other stock upon the farm, and drop their lambs in March; surely, they cannot eat the straw; so I think I shall continue for this winter, at least, to put the straw under and not inside the cattle."

Maine is a state where hay is usually abundant and of fine quality. Western farmers cannot, or at least do not rely so much on hay as winter food for stock, and cut corn stalks, and in some cases straw with corn meal profitably take its place. After all, we suspect that the meal supplies most of the nutriment, and the straw eaten is of little value. All that can be worked up into manure as bedding, and to retain liquid and solid excrement which would otherwise be wasted, is profitably used. The surplus, after doing this, may be profitably sold, and more concentrated and valuable fertilizers purchased in its stead. In some localities a load of straw will sell for enough to buy ten loads of stable manure, or a quarter of a ton of superphosphate. In other places, stock may be bought on the farm, fattened through winter, and the straw used as bedding. This will require the purchase of additional grain or oil meal as feed, and the profits will be found mainly in the manure pile.

COST OF WHEAT IN MINNESOTA.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—It may be interesting to many readers of your valuable paper to know about how much it costs to raise wheat in Minnesota, where as yet we pay but little attention to manuring or summer fallowing.

During the past season I kept an account of my expenses, so I am able to tell, very nearly at least, what it cost me; and if I succeed in making the facts clear and comprehensive, they will not only render valuable information to your Eastern readers, but also cause many Western farmers to think more upon the subject, and, in thinking, become more or less encouraged as the facts agree with their estimates.

I wish to describe my crop on different fields, though not divided with fences, because there is great variation, and will commence with

Wheat Field No. 1, containing 10 acres.

Plowing the 10 acres, $1.25 per acre	$12 50
Seed, 13⅓ bushels White Hamburgh, at 80c.	10 64
One and a quarter days drilling, man and team, $2.50 per day	3 12
Half day dragging, $2.50 per day	1 25
One day reaping, $1 per acre	10 00
Six days binding and shocking, $3 per day	18 00
Stacking	8 00
Threshing	14 75
Use of land, $2.50 per acre	25 00
Board for the help	7 00
Total cost	$110 26

Upon this field I raised 175 bushels, making the cost per bushel 63 cents.

Wheat Field No. 2, containing 18 acres.

(This was Timothy meadow land, broken up in August and sowed the following April.)

Breaking, $2 per acre	$36 00
Seed, 20 bushels Fife, at 80c.	16 00
Two days drilling at $2.50 per day	5 00
One and a quarter days dragging at $2.50 per day	3.12
Cutting with Marsh Harvester	18 00
Two and a quarter days' binding—two men at $3 per day each	13 50
Two and a quarter days shocking—one man at $3 per day	6 75
Stacking	10 50
Threshing, 5c. per bushel	22 50
Threshing labor per day, $1.50	10 50
Board for help	18 00
Use of land, $2.50 per acre	45 00
Total cost	$206 87

Upon this field I raised 450 bushels, making the cost per bushel 46 cents. Rather favorable to the use of Harvester in lieu of Reaper.

Wheat Field No. 3, containing 35 acres.

Plowing, $1.25 per acre	43 75
Seed, 51 bushels Tea Wheat at 80c. per bushel	40 80
Three and a quarter days with broadcast seeder	8 12
Two and a quarter days dragging	5 63
Two days cutting with harvester	17 00
Two days binding, with two men at $3 per day	12 00
Two days shocking, with one man at $3 per day	6 00
Two days reaping	19 00
Eight days binding at $3 per day	24 00
Two and a half days shocking at $3 per day	7 50
Stacking	20 00
Threshing, 5c. per bushel	31 50
Two days with seven men at $1.50 per day	21 00
Use of land	87 50
Board for help	25 20
Total cost	$369 00

Upon this field I raised 630 bushels, making the cost per bushel 57 cents.

Wheat Field No. 4, containing 63 acres.

Plowing, $1.25 per acre	$78 75
Seed, 95 bushels Fife at 90c. per bushel	85 50
Six days drilling at $2.50 per day	15 00
Three days dragging at $2.50 per day	7 50
Harvesting	144 00
Stacking	48 00
Threshing, 5c. per bushel	60 00
Threshing, three days' labor, with seven men at $1.50 per day	31 50
Use of land at $2.50 per acre	157 50
Board for help	48 00
Total cost	$675 75

Upon this field I raised 1,200 bushels, making the cost per bushel 56 cents, and the *average* cost per bushel of my crop of wheat was 55½ cents. Our home market to-day is only 80 cents.

Yours truly, F. L. MEACHUM.

Plainview, Minn., Jan. 10, 1876.

PROFITS OF HOP GROWING.

IN your comments upon my article encouraging Hop culture, you appear to think me generous in urging farmers to become competitors with me in the hop market. I would inform your readers that your correspondent had no selfish motive to conceal what I claim to be the most profitable farm crop now cultivated in this country. I have also no fears of the business being so quickly overdone. No prudent business man should be discouraged by one year's low prices. If such a theory was to be followed, farmers might abandon nearly all kinds of crops on account of low prices. Of course, we cannot expect that light-brained men would be successful in any branch of business. And under discouragements they would be driven to and fro, like the rolling stone that never gathers moss.

This world is large, and a few hundred acres of hops are as but a drop in the bucket. Allow me to give a little experience upon that point. I remember well when my father first started Hop culture, all the most sympathetic neighbors advised him to abandon such a foolish idea, for the reason that hops were such a profitable crop that every farmer would rush into the business and would at once spoil it.

I can look back to the day when there was not one farmer in a thousand who knew what a hop-yard was, and few hops cultivated were sold at from 5c. to 10c. for a pound, showing that as the number of acres increased prices advanced. To prove this, I would quote the Agricultural Report of 1864, Page 97, as given by LEWIS BOLLMAN of the Department of Agriculture, in which he says: "The entire crop of hops produced in the United States has been as follows: In 1840, 1,238,502 pounds; 1850, 3,497,029; 1860, 11,010,012; and as estimated in 1862, 16,000,000."

Notwithstanding this rapid increase, prices have increased in like ratio. I do not wish to be understood to advise farmers to plant their whole farms to hops, but to cultivate a few acres in connection with other crops. F. E. B.

POTATOES PLANTED DEEP.

THE English "Cultivator" tried the experiment on several alternate rows of potatoes about 30 rods long, of planting a part about 2 or 3 inches deep, and another part 5 inches deep. The latter produced from 20 to 25 per cent. more potatoes than those that were planted shallow, the treatment in every other respect being the same. They were cultivated on the flat system which always gives more than when ridged.—C.

DEEP planting may be preferable on sandy soils, or in a very dry season on other lands; but the practice is not to be commended without qualification. We know some farmers who tried deep planting and shallow side by side for two years, and abandoned deep planting because the crop was not so good. In a very wet season, as last summer was in many localities, potatoes cultivated in ridges or hills are less liable to rot than if grown altogether on the surface, and without raising the soil about the plants. There are no positive rules about potato growing, which admit no exceptions. Some varieties will grow entirely out of the ground and be sunburned, if the earth is not drawn around them as the tubers begin to form. The Early Rose and Peerless are liable to this objection.

ORCHARD GRASS.

I HAVE had some five or six years' experience with orchard grass, and I look upon it as one of the best pasture grasses, if not the very best, in this region at least. It is as tenacious as, and much more abundant in yield than the blue grass. As a hay crop I don't as yet, think much of it, but my experience in this respect has been small. It would probably pay pretty well as a hay crop for home consumption, if cut when the bloom first begins to show, and then again in the middle or latter part of September. The stems are too coarse and hard if left to mature the seed. Always sow in the spring, about the time of sowing oats, and always plow as for any spring crop and harrow in thoroughly. It is just as necessary that it should be thoroughly covered with soil. I always sow thirty-five pounds per acre when sown alone, twenty to twenty-five pounds when sowing with clover.—W. S. G., *in World.*

Farm Economy.

TESTING FERTILIZERS.

THERE are many reasons why it is better for the farmer, gardener, nurseryman or fruit-grower to purchase *prepared* fertilizers rather than the crude materials of which they are made. He cannot have the machinery or other requisites for properly reducing, compounding and pulverizing, even though he possess the necessary knowledge and skill. One factory properly located with respect to supplies and transportation, having strong steel mills for grinding, driven by steam, with ample room for storage, and with a manager who combines long experience in the business, with a perfect knowledge of the chemical composition of plants, soils and all materials used in making fertilizers,—one such factory can manufacture fertilizers for a thousand farmers at less than one-half the cost at which they could do it for themselves. The value of a manure depends both on its elementary composition and the availability of its fertilizing elements for the use of growing plants. Crude fertilizers contain a large percentage of matter worthless in a manurial point of view. A ton of ordinary barnyard manure contains, according to Prof. GOESSMANN, the best authority in the country, as given in the Scientific Farmer, 1,500 lbs. of water, 400 lbs. of other organic matter, 60 to 80 lbs. of worthless ash, and only 20 to 40 lbs. of plant food.

Moreover, much of even this small amount is not available to the growing plant until it is thoroughly rotten and mixed with the soil. This may require a year or more. And yet these few pounds of slowly dissolving plant food make barnyard manure a fertilizer of such value that the farmer can afford to pay a high price for it, and haul it a long distance. Now, the manufacturer of fertilizers, guided by the analytical chemist, can prepare, of cheap materials, a fertilizer almost free from water, 100 lbs. of which will contain all the manurial elements found in a ton of ordinary barnyard manure in such a state of solubility that the plant will begin to feed upon it as soon as it has roots to absorb it, and so pulverized that every spear of grass or grain shall receive its share of food. And this fertilizer may be made of waste products, and when made in large quantities, at so small expense of manufacture, that from five to ten dollars' worth will serve to fertilize an acre, hauling and spreading included.

I have before me the analysis, made by reliable chemists, of several deservedly popular fertilizers. I have, also, the reports of field experiments made with these fertilizers by managers of experiment stations, agricultural college professors and farmers, all of which corroborate my statement. For example, the Buffalo ammoniated bone superphosphate contains, according to the analysis of Prof. G. A. LIEBIG, in 100 lbs., over 18 lbs. of available plant food, and less than 13 lbs. of water. The farmer, then, has, in well-made concentrated commercial fertilizers, the means of speedily rendering every acre of his land productive, however limited his supply of barnyard manure; and he can do this at so small an outlay that he may safely borrow money for the purchase, assured that the increase of crop will pay cost, interest and good profit.

But how shall the farmer know that the maker has put up a good article, or that the dealer has not adulterated it, or that it is just what his own soil needs? These are important questions which the farmer should decide, and which, happily, he may readily decide for himself without the aid of chemical analysis. An example will show my method of testing the fertilizers I use. Several weeks before planting time I procured a small quantity of Buffalo superphosphate. I filled two 8-inch pots (boxes would answer) with soil from a field which I intended for oats. With the soil in one pot I mixed an ounce of the fertilizer. I planted eight plump oat kernels in each pot, and then set them in a warm window and kept the earth moist. When the plants were about three inches high I pulled up the smallest, leaving the best four plants in each. Before the time for sowing my oats I measured the plants accurately, and found those in the fertilized soil to average 15 inches in hight, the others 10 inches, each dimension of the former being fully 1½ times that of the latter, making the bulk or weight 3⅜ times as great. From this experiment I inferred that it would be a good investment to use the fertilizer, and the result justified the inference. For every dollar's worth of fertilizer used I got, in increased yield, $3 worth of oats at 40 cents a bushel, and a corresponding increase in straw.

Farmers, you may be sure of this, that concentrated fertilizers can be made at a price which you can afford to pay, and that you have, at your own command, the test for determining the value to yourself of the fertilizers offered you. During the summer season these test experiments may be made in the open air. Let all be done with care, with accurate weights and measures, and the most important results will follow.

C. H. DANN.

SPENT HOPS AS MANURE.

ED. OF RURAL:—Will you inform me through the columns of the RURAL what is the value of spent hops from a brewery as a fertilizer, taking stable manure at $7 per cord for a basis. Expense of carting, &c., being equal.—SUBSCRIBER, *Manlors, R. I., Jan. 8th*, 1876.

SPENT hops contain considerable fertilizing matter, and, when partially rotted, it is in form for immediate use, making it much more valuable than analysis would show. Spent hops are very light, and, of course, in equal bulk with stable manure, would weigh much less. They decompose rapidly, and serve an excellent purpose in ameliorating heavy and hard soils. Market gardeners, whose land is too costly to allow them to grow clover for plowing under, use refuse hops to keep their land in condition. They find that where the soil is manured, more or less every year, an occasional alternation with spent hops gives better results than using all stable manure. We judge, however, that where farmers keep their land light by use of clover the hops could well be dispensed with, and, in such circumstances, their value per load or ton would be much less than it is to market gardeners. The quantity of spent hops obtainable is comparatively limited, and gardeners can, and generally do, pay more than ordinary farming will afford. Decaying vegetable matter of any kind is of less importance to the farmer than to the gardener, for the farmer can secure abundance of carbonaceous matter much more cheaply than in the form of refuse hops. The farmer's chief need is mineral and nitrogenous fertilizers. With these he can grow clover, and depend on that for all additional fertility needed.

Though market gardeners use spent hops largely, it is very seldom that they are applied as general manure. The more frequent plan is to use the spent hops in heating hot-beds, as they render the soil loose and pliable, and, after being thoroughly decomposed, spent hops themselves are excellent material for beds in which to sow seeds or grow small plants.

EARTH CLOSETS.

THE best one is a simple commode, or box, the proper hight, with a hole in it and a lid on hinges to cover it. A common wooden bucket is placed underneath, or any kind of receptacle, filled with common road-dust, perfectly dry, may be used. The apparatus may be kept and used in any bed-room. All that is necessary, after using, is to throw a little dry dust into the bucket and shut down the lid.

For very old or infirm people, invalids or delicate women and children this arrangement is not only a convenience, but a comfort, if not a necessity. The contents of the bucket make a very rich manure, as is well understood by the Chinese and Japanese who are far ahead of us on these matters.—*Exchange.*

Dairy Husbandry.

AMERICAN DAIRYMEN'S CONVENTION.

ROME, N. Y., Jan. 13, 1876.

THE Convention of the American Dairymen's Association, which has closed its three days' session in this city, has not been so interesting as the conventions previously held under the auspices of this Society. The sessions were held in Sink's Opera House, which affordefl ample room for a much larger audience than was in attendance.

On the first day there were few persons present, and the papers read, for the most part, went over ground which had been pretty well occupied at other conventions. Mr. SHELDON of Lewis gave an interesting address on "Hints from Experience in Cheese-Making." Mr. J. G. CANOE of Chautauqua followed in a paper on "Whole-Milk Cheese-Making," and SETH BONFOY of Herkimer read a short paper on "English Cheese-Making and Personal Experience." These papers elicited considerable discussion, but nothing particularly new was brought out.

In the evening LEANDER WETHERELL of Boston gave a very valuable and elaborate address on "Dairy Stock," which was received with great favor by the Convention. It was replete with practical suggestions, and we shall, in a future article, refer to some of the points taken.

On Wednesday there was a very good attendance, but hardly so large as at some previous meetings. Messrs. READEN of Pennsylvania and HARDING of Kentucky occupied most of the morning session by elaborate and excellent papers on "Butter-Making," in which their own experiments were detailed.

In the afternoon Mr. S. D. PADDOCK of Malone, N. Y., gave an account of the manner in which butter-making is conducted in Franklin Co., N. Y. E. W. STEWART followed with a well-considered paper on "An Experimental Dairy Station." Mr. SMITH of Philadelphia closed the afternoon session by an interesting address on the Centennial.

At the evening session Messrs. PETERS of New York and REALE of Philadelphia discussed at some length the "Commercial Aspects of the Dairy." These papers elicited a very lengthy discussion, and much valuable information was brought out.

The leading paper on Thursday was by ROBERT MCADAM of Madison Co., "On the Difference Between English and American Cheese-Making," in which some of the leading defects in the latter were pointed out. The main part of the sessions on Thursday was taken up in miscellaneous matters, the reports of committees and a general finishing up of topics which had been put over for discussion. Two of the leading speakers who had been expected—Prof. CHASSY of Amherst and Prof. CALDWELL of Cornell University—failed to be in attendance, much to the regret of the Convention.

We can only give at this time a brief outline of the work done at the Convention, but in a subsequent paper we hope to present our readers with a full report of the leading points in the papers and discussions which were of interest and value. Rome is a very convenient point for holding a Convention. The hotel accommodations are good and it is easy to be reached from the great dairy counties—St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Franklin, &c. On the whole the Convention may be regarded as a success, though not quite up to any of the previous meetings of the Association.

The display of dairy products was of the most meager description. The following is a list of dairy apparatus, &c., on exhibition;

SIBBALS' Butter Packages and Champion Butter Worker, Weigher and Salt Crusher Combined were exhibited by A. J. DIBBLE, Franklin, N. Y. The Blanchard Churn was shown by WHITMAN & BURRELL of Little Falls, who also had on exhibition a Patent Improved Curd Knife, samples of Bandages, &c., &c. STERLING & BINGHAM, Watertown, N. Y., case of Steam Dairy Filtering. The Bullard Oscilating Churn, exhibited by JOHN T. ELLSWORTH, Business Manager, Barre, Mass, MEEKS & BROWNE, Syracuse, N. Y., General Agents for this State, gave away hundreds of bottles of Golden Extract of Annatto. W. W. MOORE, Erieville, N. Y., model of MOORE'S European Milk Pan. HUBBELL & CHEESBRO, Geddes, N. Y., a Stone Jar, with Patent Wooden Cover, for butter, fruit, &c. ALVAN MIDDAUGH, Friendship, N. Y., Milk Tester. FRASIER & BENTON, Rome, N. Y., Patent Curd Mill. BIGELOW & LINSLEY'S Patent Combiner, Curd Separator and Salting Machine. EMBRIE'S Rotary Butter Worker was exhibited by SPEAKMAN, MILLS & Co., Westchester, Pa.

RECORD OF MILLER'S MEAL FED COWS FOR 1875.

OUR readers will remember an account in these columns of some remarkable experiments made by LINUS W. MILLER of Stockton, N. Y., in regard to wintering cows upon an exclusive meal diet. A letter from Mr. MILLER to us on Nov. 1st, gives additional matter in regard to these experiments.

In order to have sufficient evidence that when cows are fed upon an exclusive meal diet, the meal goes directly to the fourth stomach, Mr. MILLER fattened a beef by feeding exclusively upon meal. On slaughtering the animal, Mr. MILLER says, "quite an accumulation of meal was found in the manure, and this settled the point as to the passage of the meal directly to the fourth stomach, not, of course, in all cases, but only in those fed exclusively on meal." He refers, also, to the rapidity with which animals, fed exclusively on meal, may be made to take on flesh, as instanced in his own experience in feeding two old cows last spring that were got in good condition for beef in the short space of three weeks. The butter product of his herd, wintered on an exclusive meal diet, averaged, last spring: 1½ pounds each per cow daily, and this, he says, was nearly twice as much as he ever had his herd make upon the same rations when they were wintered upon hay. In speaking of the results from his herd, during the past season, he says, My milk has been sent to the factory 145 days, and I find the daily average of my herd to have been, for that period, 27 pounds each, or seven pounds more than last season, and 11 pounds, daily, more than the previous year when wintered on hay."

These facts, he thinks, are remarkable, and indicate to him "new wonders" in meal feeding. He says they may possibly be, in part, accidental, yet other herds of cows in this town, wintered on hay, failed to do as well this season as last, owing to its having been very wet in that locality, and that his herd should have done so much better when others, differently wintered, have done worse, is certainly significant.

When we were at the Jamestown Fair, Chautauqua Co., this fall, we made inquiry concerning the conditions of Mr. MILLER'S cows as to health and flesh, and we were assured, by parties who had been to Mr. MILLER'S place and examined the stock, from time to time, that it was looking well and doing well, comparing favorably, in appearance, with the best in that neighborhood.

As Mr. MILLER has experimented in an unusual direction with his herds, it must be of interest to dairymen to keep informed concerning the results of these experiments, and we have no doubt many will be surprised to learn that the stock has made so good a record.

THE CHAUTAUQUA CO. EXPERIMENT IN BUTTER MAKING.

WE have a letter from Mr. L. S. HARDIN of Louisville, Ky., in which he denies some of the statements made by L. B. ARNOLD in the Buffalo Live Stock Journal of Nov., concerning the competition trial in setting milk for butter making with MARTIN BAILY of Chautauqua County. Mr. HARDIN says: "That trial was not with my box (refrigerator) as ARNOLD states, but in a barrel of water with ice, after the Swedish system. ARNOLD thinks the rapid cooling "set" the animal odor in the milk. The fact is, it was the foulest smelling milk I ever handled, and I called BLODGET'S attention to it at the time. I also was able to tell which was my butter by the comparative absence of odor in it, when the samples were put together so I should not know them apart. I have written to Mr. BLODGET for his evidence to sustain me in this point. I am sorry Mr. BAILEY did not keep the butter he made in the experiment with me. It is at least natural to think he would have kept it, if he had considered it was as good or better butter than mine,"

We have given in a previous number of the RURAL a cut of Mr. HARDIN'S apparatus, together with a description of what he claims is an improvement on the Swedish system, viz.: Instead of cooling milk with ice water, as in the Swedish plan, he cools air with ice and then sets the deep cans in air—on the refrigerator plan. The refrigerator is what he calls "a double cube box," with the space filled with sawdust. This is lined with zinc. In this cooling cupboard he places his cans of milk. The cupboard has a chamber for ice. By placing the ice above the milk he claims it is kept at a steadier and more even temperature than if cooled from the bottom or sides. His cans are covered up, so that the dripping ice-water may not fall into the cream. The ice-water is allowed to accumulate at the bottom, so that the cans stand in four inches of water and no more.

We presume the reason for adopting the Swedish plan in the BAILY contest was, because this refrigerator apparatus had not been forwarded to Chautauqua County, and that one could not be conveniently fitted up for the occasion. The Advertiser and Union, in refering to the test between HARDIN and BAILY, says: "The milk set by Mr. HARDIN gave a little more butter than the shallow set milk on Mr. BAILY'S plan, and BAILY is the man who makes from 250 to 270 lbs. of butter per cow a year. So it is quite fair to conclude that the HARDIN plan took the cream and butter out of the milk pretty thoroughly. The milk was from Mr. BAILY'S cows—mostly natives."

We infer, from Mr. HARDIN'S letter to us, that perhaps better results might have been obtained in the BAILY test, if the refrigerator box had been used in the experiment. As these experiments of Mr. HARDIN with his competitors now stand, the deep setting is ahead of shallow setting, both as to quantity and quality; but, should the advocates of shallow setting reduce the temperature of their milk by the use of ice-water, the results may possibly turn out differently for that side.

COOKING FOOD FOR STOCK.

MR. V. S. BEEKMAN of Ulster Co., N. Y., evidently has a poor opinion of cooking food for cows. He details, in the New York Tribune, some of his experience in this line. He had seen in several Agricultural papers, and in a pamphlet edited by one who had an ax to grind, that there were large profits arising from cooking food for cows. From these statements it appeared that there was a saving from cooking of one-third of the feed, and he concluded that if by cooking $900 worth of food he could make it go as far as $1,200 uncooked he could afford to pay $65 for a steamer and "go in." Well, he tried the cooking business one winter and got enough of it. The labor, he says, is increased ten fold. In cold weather only a little can be fed at a time, as stock do not like it cold. He thinks not one out of ten, who advocate cooking, do their own work, and, for his part, he had rather spend his spare time in winter in reading and recreation than in the barn saving a few dollars coddling his stock.

There are a good many others who have tried cooking that have abandoned it, and feel, we fear, someting like Mr. BEEKMAN in regard to it.

The Herdsman.

STOCK IN WINTER.

A WRITER in the National Live Stock Journal remarks:—Whatever our differences of opinion in regard to the advantages of close and nearly air-tight quarters for stock, there is among intelligent and practical men, no dispute as to the great economy of providing proper shelter from storms. As lumber is now very cheap, this may be done at very trifling expense by using pine boards for roofing, and by setting posts in the ground and boarding up the sides. Very comfortable stables and sheep-houses may be constructed of plank. It would seem as if this cheap and convenient shelter was within the reach of all, as the expense would be saved in feed this winter. There is, we think, very little economy in allowing cattle to run loose in open sheds. We waste too much room. If cattle are kept indoors they should be tied up. We use double stalls, about seven feet wide, with manger large enough to feed shock corn, hay, etc., (say two feet high and twenty inches wide), and tie with chains.

Some of our Short-Horn breeders, we observe, have low mangers—low enough for cattle to get their feet into them. This is following English practice, which, where the cattle were confined in stanchions, or tied, with a large ring to slide up and down on a round pole or iron rod, may have been proper. But where a chain is used with three branches, one of which (say twenty-two inches long) is attached to the manger, there is no excuse for these low English structures for feeding. An earth floor answers for cows, with a flat piece of timber at the rear set in the earth, behind which there should be a depression for the droppings. For bulls there should be a plank floor, or stone or brick pavement.

Having provided proper shelter, we should feed with a view to keeping up the condition of our stock through the winter. The practice which often prevails of allowing cattle that are in high condition in the fall to lose from one to three hundred pounds during the winter, is not only the loss of this quantity of beef, *but of all the food consumed during the winter*, besides the great disadvantage of starting on grass in the spring with a thin and unthrifty lot of cattle. In our opinion, this is the principal reason for the impression that breeding and raising steers is unprofitable.

All young stock, colts, calves and lambs, should have meal or grain the first winter, for this is the time to lay the foundation for future excellence and profit. For calves and lambs there is no feed that pays better than shorts and bran,—we mean the old-fashioned shorts, or middling,—with this we may profitably mix shelled corn for calves, and oats for lambs. For colts nothing can take the place of oats.

We wish to impress upon the inexperienced breeder the great importance of keeping up the best possible condition in the young stock during the first winter; here is where poor keep never fails to prove disastrous, and where the more liberal expenditure for nutritious food makes the most profitable returns. It is also most important that suitable shelter should be provided for stock at this age. There is the same necessity for nutritious food and proper shelter for cows in milk, and it is as cruel as it is unprofitable to allow these useful and most profitable animals to run out, exposed to the storms of winter, with poor or scanty supply of food. The young stock over one year old, with the dry cows, will do very well out of doors with the shelter of a wood lot to run to, and where corn is cheap this may be the most economical way of wintering such stock.

We suppose that in many of the corn-growing States there is this year a good deal of corn that is not perfectly matured, and this may be profitably disposed of by feeding it in the fodder to our cattle. And in this connection, we call attention to the fact that it is generally more economical to feed cattle some grain, than to undertake to keep them exclusively on hay. One pound of meal is estimated as equal to four pounds of hay. If, therefore, we have, say fifty bushels of corn per acre, we have for the weight of the grain 2,800 pounds,—equal to five and a half tons of hay! Whether this estimate be correct or not, we think every practical man will agree that an acre of corn, with the fodder cut at the proper time, is of a good deal more value as a feed for cattle than two acres of hay. It is therefore evident that the prevailing notion that corn cannot profitably be fed to stock-cattle is erroneous.

As to hogs, it is to be assumed that good farmers will only winter over a few sows for breeding, with, perhaps, some fall pigs—the latter should be pushed for the spring markets, and comfortable quarters provided for all. We should aim to have our pigs farrowed not later than April so as to be ready for market in the fall.

HOW TO FEED CALVES.

EDWARD HIBB of Jefferson, Vt., an intelligent Englishman, writes as follows of the methods adopted in feeding and raising calves, both in England and this country:

In England, calves, as a general thing, are all raised, and a good price paid for them as soon as dropped, providing they are good calves and from good cows. Farmers who raise or buy these calves, generally adopt the following mode of feeding. For the first week new milk twice per day, the next sweet skimmed boiled milk, providing they have milk to spare, as a great many farmers who live remote from cities keep no more cows than they want to supply themselves with milk and butter for home consumption. If they make more butter than they use, the lady of the house gets that for pin money along with the eggs, poultry, &c., and with the privilege some of them draw heavily upon the "old man." The milk is often used while sweet for the servant men, night and morning, for breakfast and supper; when this is the case they make a linseed porridge or gruel for the calves, and this, with good hay, raises some splendid calves. If they raise one for veal, they generally feed new milk twice, sometimes three times a day, for eight weeks, and the last three or four days that calf is bled every day before being killed, and the veal is beautifully white and tender.

Since I have come to America I raise my calves as follows:—first week, new milk; second week, half new and half sweet skimmed milk; and gradually work on to sour or lobbered milk, and continue this all summer. If I want to veal one, I feed as above. To those I raise I give all the hay or oat straw. To give them too much early cut hay, will sometimes cause them to scour. It is preposterous for any one to try to make fashionable English veal on sour milk. It is true, calves can be made fat upon sour milk, with oatmeal or other good feed. I have had them so myself, and for store cattle I can say that I have some as good looking grade Jerseys, Devons, Durhams and natives, raised on sour milk, as the next man, and I occasionally kill one in the fall and it is nice meat. I do not call it *veal*—it is neither veal nor beef and yet I claim that it is far superior to the red-looking veal or cow beef that I have seen killed here. A moneyed gentleman who wishes to raise calves for agricultural fairs, or wishes for something extra nice, will let them suck the cow, and give them the best of chances; but such a mode would not do for the generality of farmers in the old country, and I think I may truly say, neither in this,

Where calves are intended to be kept for cows they should never be fattened when young. A thrifty growing condition is needed, and for this oatmeal porridge with skim milk is as good a food as is possible. Where young calves are fattened, the tendency to fatten is easily established and cows thus reared will always be better for beef than for milk.

SOILING FATTENING CATTLE.

AT a meeting of the South Deerfield (Mass.) Farmers' Club, President C. SMITH related several experiments which he had tried to ascertain the comparative profit between fattening young stock in the barn in summer and fattening in a hill pasture, the result of which was a large preponderance of evidence in favor of soiling, from the amount of manure saved and the healthy, thrifty growth of the animals; heifer calves, kept at home till two years old, instead of running in a large pasture, will be worth at least $10 more for a cow.

The Centennial.

THE SONG OF 1876.

[A FESTIVAL Poem, written by BAYARD TAYLOR for the German Centennial Singers' Union of New York.]

WAKEN voice of the Land's Devotion!
Spirit of freedom, awaken all!
Ring, ye shores, to the Song of Ocean,
Rivers, answer, and mountains call!
The golden day has come;
Let every tongue be dumb,
That sounded its malice or murmured its fears;
She hath won her story;
She wears her glory;
We crown her the Land of a Hundred Years!

Out of darkness and toil and danger
Into the light of Victory's day,
Help to the weak, and home to the stranger,
Freedom to all, she hath held her way.
Now Europe's orphans rest
Upon her mother's breast;
The voices of Nations are heard in the cheers
That shall cast upon her
New love and honor,
And crown her the Queen of a Hundred Years!

North and South, we are met as brothers;
East and West, we are wedded as one!
Right of each shall secure our mother's;
Child of each is her faithful son!
We give Thee heart and hand,
Our glorious native Land,
For battle has tried thee and time endears;
We will write thy story,
And keep thy glory
As pure as of old for a Thousand Years.

CENTENNIAL NOTES.

QUEEN VICTORIA has decided to send twenty pictures of the Royal collection to the American Centennial.

THE New Haven (Conn.) Board of Education have voted to have the New Haven schools represented at the Centennial exhibition.

A STEAMER which lately arrived at San Francisco from Yokohama brought the materials for a Japanese temple and the men to put it up in the Centennial grounds.

AN additional horticultural building is to be erected to accommodate the applicants for space in which to exhibit flowers, plants etc. One foreign exhibitor alone wants a tent 150 by 50 feet.

THE Centennial trial of mowing and reaping machines will require fifty acres of grass and standing grain, and the Agricultural Bureau of the Commission has put the land in the best possible condition.

ON and after February visitors will not be admitted to the Centennial grounds without a pass. Lately the crowd of visitors has been so great that the workmen have been very much retarded and interfered with.

THE first and probably the only public rehearsal of the Centennial musical association of Philadelphia will be given at Horticultural Hall in that city on the 27th inst., when, in addition to the grand chorus of 600 voices, a number of distinguished soloists will appear.

THE Winter of 1776 was an unusually mild one, and this winter therefore seems to be a repetition of its weather. An hundred years ago this mild weather was very fortunate, as it enabled Americans to procure supplies from the West Indies and prepare for the coming conflict.

CARL SCHURZ says, in speaking of the Centennial:—"The country will in the coming year resound with eulogy of the men who founded the Republic, but those old patriots, if they could, would tell us to spend fewer efforts in praising them and make stronger efforts to follow their example."

As the space set apart in the exhibition building for the American book trade has been found to be inadequate, it has been proposed to double the space for books by erecting an ornamental structure of iron, forming a second floor over the entire space, reached by staircases on either side. A willingness has been expressed by the leading publishers to share the expense of $5,000 for this structure.

THE shoe and leather exhibition building in the Centennial grounds will be a great addition to the "side shows" of the Exhibition. It will be 160 feet by 314 on the ground, two stories in hight, constructed of iron, wood and glass, and will cost $30,000. In this department of industry we can beat the world. Our exports of leather already are valued by the millions and rapidly growing. "There's nothing like leather."

HON. HENRY S. RANDALL, of Cortland, N. Y., (author of "Life of Jefferson," "Practical Shepherd," &c., &c.,) has received an invitation from the Philadelphia Centennial Committee on the Restoration of Independence Hall to meet at that place, on the 2d day of July, 1876, a limited number of authors, each of whom is requested to bring a biographical sketch of some individual whose memory was associated with Independence Hall during the early days of the Republic, or a paper on some other allotted topic. These are to be deposited among the archives of the National Museum. Mr. RANDALL is requested to furnish a sketch of the life of Thomas Jefferson.

AFTER Italy signified her willingness to contribute to the Exhibition, it was announced that a company of gentlemen intended to charter a special steamer to visit this country. Information has been received at the Centennial Headquarters that the project is an assured success, and the gentlemen are known as the Associazione Cristoforo Colombo. A very handsome and commodious steamer has been selected, and already the demand for berths has been so great that all the space has been taken and propositions are making for another. The vessel will sail from Genoa, Italy, on the 1st of June, arriving in New York on the 15th, where it will stay until the 30th, when it will leave for Philadelphia.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

More Penalties.—Nearly all the States have enacted laws taxing insurance companies either a per centage of the premium receipts or a round sum for the privilige of doing business with their citizens. Some of them require special deposits of from twenty to one hundred thousand dollars, and there are few which do not, in some way or other, derive considerable income from them. Besides these there are no end of observances and compliances required of them, ostensibly for the better protection of the insured, but too often serving no other purpose than to augment the revenues of certain officials. Recently the Governor of Kentucky, a State that has a new insurance department to provide for, recommended the passage of a law imposing a heavy penalty upon all companies that delay the payment of claims more than sixty days after proofs of loss have been submitted. Any company failing to comply with this law will be required to pay one-fifth more than the face of the claim, as a bonus to the claimnant. This is a fair sample of the blundering way in which laws regulating insurance are framed. The intention is perhaps a good one, that is, to compel promptness of payment when payment is due, but the effect may be to encourage incendiarism and fraud, by imposing upon the companies a heavy penalty in all cases in which they unsuccessfully contest a fraudulent claim. Such legislation is not only useless, but burdensome upon an already heavily-weighted business. The companies early contest claims. The life companies pay, on an average, ninety-eight per cent., and the fire companies a still larger per cent., simply because in most instances, it is cheaper to pay than to refuse.

Mr. Chapman Resigns. The Hon. ORLAW W. CHAPMAN, for several years Superintendent of the Insurance Department of this State, has recently tendered his resignation to the Governor, and proposes to vacate, on the 31st of this month, the office he has so long and worthily filled. Judging from his official conduct, the manner in which he has endeavored to acquit himself of his not always very pleasant duties, and the efforts he has so persistently made to render the machinery of Insurance supervision more effective for good to the policy holder, we are constrained to believe that the office he vacates was never filled by a better man or one who has striven harder to do his whole duty in the premises. He came into office at the beginning of a tempestuous season for life insurance, to find himself officially responsible for the control of the companies, but with inadequate powers to do what was required of him. When he sought to bring about a better order of affairs he found himself opposed by the very influences to which he owed his appointment and his tenure of office. This has led him to retire. We hope to be able to compliment his as yet unnamed successor as highly. Whoever he may be he will find his hands full, and hampered with the same disabilities that have rendered office-holding any thing but a bed of roses to Mr. CHAPMAN.

Amalgamation and Reinsurance.—In the case of MEADE versus the St. Louis Mutual Life Ins. Co., the Court decided that this company in reinsuring all its risks with, and turning over its assets to, another company, acted without warrant of law. That in giving up its business the company placed itself in a position in which it could not carry out and complete the contract with MEADE, a thing which it had no right to do, and that the company must repay to the plaintiff all the premiums with legal interest since the day of payment. The effect of this decision has been claimed to be, to declare all the cases of reinsurance, without the consent of policy-holders, illegal, and some experts in these matters believe that any person, whose policy has been turned over to another company, may, by suing the company that issued it, recover all the payments that have been made upon it. The matter will probably be carried to a higher court for confirmation.

Look Before You Leap.—The Husbandman urges all Patrons to become members of the Patron's Aid Society, an enterprise intended to insure the lives of its members by a voluntary contribution of one dollar to the heirs of such members as die prematurely. The Husbandman claims that it, the Society, is fully established during the six months of its existence, though it incidentally admits that the fidelity of the members has not been tested by an assessment, no one having died meanwhile. This is the crucial test; all depends upon promptness and fidelity. If this is wanting the experiment is a failure. All similar enterprises, in which there was nothing to be forfeited, but always the amount of an assessment to be saved by failing to pay, have been unsuccessful. We hope this may prove an exception to an almost universal end.

The Statement of the Travelers Life and Accident Ins. Co., which appears in another column, is, as usual, a record to be proud of. Notwithstanding the hard times, this company has increased its new business, its income, its assets, its surplus and every other item that promotes solidity and prosperity, as if it knew no such word as fail and was bound to fatten upon lean percentage. This sort of thing is getting to be monotonous. If the Travelers would falter just a little, show some signs of growing shaky, be a little tardy in getting out its annual balance sheet, show a falling off of business, or something else to start gossip or create an appetizing sensation, as so many companies do and have done, we should have something spicy to write about. But it will not gratify this prurient taste, and persists in compelling us to record, year after year, its continuous and persistent growth and progress. How it manages to thrive, and wax great on premiums about two-thirds as large as those which did not suffice to keep so many companies from ruin is their secret. We do not know it, and if we did we could do no end of good by telling it.

Floricultural.

A HARDY SACRED BEAN.

MR. E. D. STURTEVANT of London, England, furnishes The Garden, of that city, the following

interesting account of this curious bean, derived from personal observation during a recent visit to the United States:

THIS plant is very rare in the northern portion of the United States, and having a desire to see it in bloom, I one day last August took a journey of 60 miles to the only locality where it is to be found in New Jersey. About 30 miles south of the city of Camden, opposite Philadelphia, which is latitude 40 deg., N., I found it in full flower, and it was a sight which I shall never forget, for I could almost imagine myself transported to the tropics. It grew in a beautiful lake, several acres in extent, one corner of which was filled with this plant. Some of the leaves rest upon the water like the Nymphæas, and these seemed to be the largest. I gathered one which measured 20 inches in diameter, and left many that were nearly as large. Others stood 2 feet above the water, as did all the flowers. Imagine hundreds of immense Tulips, in all stages of expansion—buds, half blown flowers, as large as a quart bowl, the petals being 5 inches in length—and you will have some idea of the appearance of this plant. The buds especially, were beautiful. The color of the flowers is a sulphur-yellow inside and on the outside it is nearly the same, shaded with rich green. The curious pistil, resembling an inverted cone, is surrounded with stamens of a rich orange color. The scent is like that of the Water Lily, but much more powerful. Then there were the seed-vessels, in all stages of growth, looking like roses of watering-pots supported by slender sticks.

Both leaves and flowers grew so thickly that it was with difficulty we could push our boat among them. They grew all the way from the shore to where the water was 4 feet deep. The large pointed tubers were imbedded in an exceedingly stiff sandy clay; over this lay several inches of soft mud, in which creep the long stems which start from the tubers, and from the joints of these stems the flowers and leaves grow. I pulled up some leaf-stalks and flower-stalks which measured fully six feet in length. In this locality the thermometer often stands at 80 deg. to 85 deg. in the shade in summer, and sometimes reaches 96 deg., falling occasionally in winter to zero; last winter, indeed, it fell to at least 10 deg. below that point, and ice was formed 12 inches thick. This plant could doubtless be grown in England without heat, but I suggest that one corner of the lake, fronting the palm house, at Kew, be walled off for it, the wall reaching just below the surface of the water. The portion enclosed should be heated in the same manner as the tanks under glass, and I think this would guarantee the flowering of the plant, the foliage of which, however, independently of the bloom, would be highly ornamental in any pond or lake.

Arboricultural.

HAZELNUTS OR FILBERTS.

SEVERAL of our cotemporaries of late have been calling the attention of their readers to the fact that neither the European species, or varieties of the filbert, nor those of our own country are cultivated to any considerable extent, and they naturally ask "Why this neglect of so valuable a nut?" The Prairie Farmer of Dec. 25, in referring to an article in the Register of Rural Affairs for 1876, makes the following pertinent remark:—"It is a curious fact that this paper, emanating from one of the most intelligent sources of horticultural information, can do no more than give English experience. American experience of any extent seems to be wanting."

We are not surprised at the remarks of our Western cotemporary, for the dearth of information given in the article referred to would naturally lead the reader to suppose that nothing was known of filbert culture in America, which is far from being the fact. We have ourselves experimented more or less with the foreign species and varieties during the past twenty years, and we know of other parties who have spent money and time freely in the same direction but uniformly the results have been unsatisfactory.

The late FRANCIS BUTLER of Brooklyn, N. Y. a gentleman widely known as one of our most eminent dog fanciers, experimented quite extensively with filberts. Our first visit to him, some fifteen years since, happened at a time when his filbert trees were in fine health and had reached a size to show a fine crop of nuts. There were dozens of trees eight to ten feet high, with stems three to four inches in diameter at the base, and well supplied with strong, healthy branches. Mr. BUTLER, fearing that the cold winds of winter might injure some of the choicest varieties, had protected the plantation by erecting a high board fence on the north side, and this had no doubt been a great service to the young plants. Although Mr. BUTLER, at the time named was quite enthusiastic over his success, and urged others to plant as he done, believing that the culture of these nuts might be extended as it had been in Europe, yet from previous experience and observations we had doubts upon this point. Upon a subsequent visit to Mr. BUTLER'S plantation we found his trees were being attacked by a fungoid disease somewhat similar in its results to the pear blight, although evidently quite distinct from it in character. A single branch, or in some instances the entire stem and branches, would suddenly die, and upon examination a fine, whitish mycelium could be detected covering the entire surface of the wood underneath the bark, occasionally penetrating to the very center of the stem. In a few weeks from the time the bark showed signs of oozing, sporidia emanating from the mycelium underneath would burst through and appear distributed over the surface in the form of small, whitish mushrooms, from the size of the head of a pin up to that of a small pea.

Mr. BUTLER'S plantation, which was doubtless the best ever seen in this country, was destroyed by this disease, and the same results have attended all of our own experiments in attempting to cultivate the foreign species of filberts. We obtained plants from Mr. BUTLER'S plantation before the disease appeared in it, and have also procured imported plants direct, but all have met the same fate in the end. We have tried planting upon various kinds of soils, from a stiff clay to a light sand—in shady situations as well as in the open field, but in every instance the experiment ended in failure. But the most provoking phase about this filbert culture is, that the plants will usually grow very rapidly, look vigorous and healthy until they begin to bear, and then, without a warning sign, disease will demolish our finest specimens; but even after the entire top is killed the roots frequently throw up such fine, vigorous suckers that one is inclined to give them a chance, but only to see them go the same way a half dozen years later.

For the last three quarters of a century at least, our nurserymen have been importing plants of the various varieties of European filberts, but we are not aware of a healthy, bearing plantation at the present time anywhere in this country. But we need not dispair of filbert culture, for we have two distinct native species and many untured varieties which will succeed under cultivation, and from these we may raise new sorts, probably equal to the best known abroad. Experiments in this direction are now in order.

Around the Republic.

"DOWN SOUTH."

Diary and Notes of an Ex-Editor Seeking Health.

BY CHARLES D. BRAGDON.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 15.—There be thermometers and thermometers! But what liars they are!—or those who report their record! One boarding-house keeper whom I have met reported his thermometer "stolen by a nigger," and he showed me the very spot it was stolen from. Where from, do you think? From a nail beside the front door on the piazza. This front door is on the *south* side of the house! The sun shines down upon the white piazza floor until it is so hot that the oil has oozed out and the paint peeled off.

I said, "That is a queer place to keep a thermometer. Why did you keep it there?"

"Oh, you see, the boarders wanted to know how hot it was here last winter, so they could write home to their friends up there in that cold country, and so I thought I would put the thermometer where it would be hot enough for 'em."

Since that I've placed less faith in thermometrical reports here in Florida. But I know Jack Frost and its effects when I see them; and there has been a curling up of orange leaves in certain situations; the Bananas have succumbed, and their broad, glossy, green, upright leaves are now drooping, brown and withered; the Castor Bean plants, which some of the residents of this city affect, have lost their semi-tropical beauty—if that is a proper prefix to their style. But the Oleanders are unharmed; and I do not know but this is quite as intelligible a statement of the degree of cold we have had as anything I can give based on thermometrical records, which are variously given as 28, 32 and 34 degrees—the lowest marking of these vexatious instruments.

I heard a lady say that she found ice in her water-pitcher one of these cold mornings. That same day I was talking of the climate with a gentleman who deals in real estate, and he rather promptly said, "Well, it is pretty safe to say that that lady lied—or at least was greatly mistaken; for my thermometer only marked 34 degrees, and it was in as cool a place as can be found in Florida!"

There you have it! Thermometers again! Nevertheless, *there was ice in the water-pitcher!*

SOLON predicted this cold weather during the fog, and said he dreaded it a great deal more than the fog. Evaporation is so rapid that the air is chilled and sharp and penetrating, and seems to "double a man up" a great deal quicker than a greater degree of cold would North. But the air is pure and good, and the sun warm, and it is better than the fogs, though they have doubtless saved the orange crop.

Dec. 16.—Bless their dear, good hearts! Here come letters from RURAL readers wondering

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"why I stay in such a damp, foggy hole as Jacksonville"—"why not go to St. Augustine or Palatka?" or——&c., &c. Don't they know that the only difference between the fogs of St. Augustine and Jacksonville at this time of year is, that one *can* cut a Jacksonville fog with a knife, if it is a sharp one, and cannot a St. Augustine fog? As for the other places, there has been a fog dance all over the State, so far as I have been able to ascertain. Again, this is as good a place as any to "sit down and growl" when a man feels like it.

Dec. 20.—Since my last entry here we've been raising delightful days. I've found a thermometer that is kept in the shade, and the range at midday has been 65 to 80 deg., but generally 75 to 80 deg. This with a breeze that renders it comfortable in the shade at any time of day. In the North I had great faith in the sun, I delighted in "basking in the sunshine." I don't bask here! I've tried to, and find it not so agreeable. The sun becomes quickly altogether too intimately acquainted with one's head and goes for a fellow's bump of metaphysics, without judge or jury. Really, I think the sun may be a worse "blessing" than the fog!—for the fog is

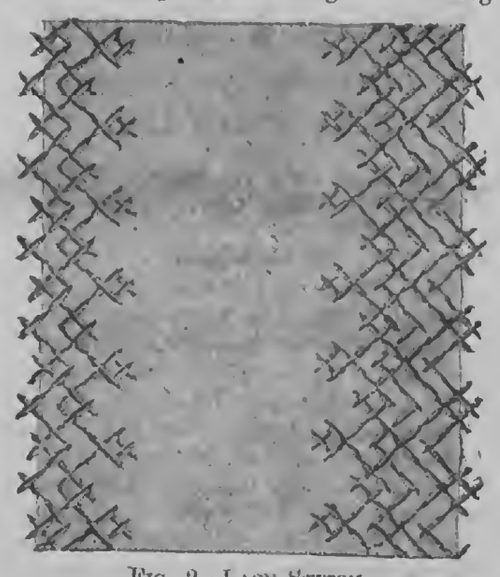


FIG. 2—LACE STITCH.

certainly a "blessing." One can walk before 10 o'clock very comfortably in the sun without an umbrella over his head—such days as we've been having; but from then until 4 P. M. one needs shelter. Such is my experience, and yet I have often endured a far greater degree of heat in the North with less discomfort. It seems to be the *quality of the sunshine* rather than the intensity of the heat that makes the difference. It can't be filtered through the same kind of medium here as North. Talking with old residents and some Northerners who have spent summers here, they call it "Delightful; but you must keep out of the sun." Of this, however, I *hope* to talk from experiences hereafter.

Christmas Day, 1875.—It is more like a Fourth of July here, in its seeming, than Christmas. The deep green foliage, the hot, sunny day and the powder exploding in one form or another make the day seem as unseasonable as it would to celebrate Christmas July 4th. The colored brethren are especially devout and jolly to-day. Their devotions began last night, and when I awoke at 5:30 o'clock this morning, I could hear their songs of praise and their hallelujahs from yonder church. All the night through had the hearts beneath their dusky skins celebrated the birth of the Christ-child.

Dec. 27.—"Will oranges ever be a drug in the market here?" asked two or three gentlemen who have orange plantations of their own—two of them Northern men and one a Georgian. Two said "Yes" and one said "No." The two who said "yes" based their opinions upon no other facts than that "everybody is planting oranges and the thing is to be overdone." The other—a gentleman from the North, who has had a few years' experience in orange culture, and who is not without horticultural experience at the North—said it would be a great many years ere the orange market here would be glutted, for oranges can be grown and sold at a profit for a much less price than any one gets now. But he added that, although a vast area of land may be planted with oranges, it does not follow that a very large per cent. of the trees planted will ever become productive. The orange in its earlier years requires much care until it is fully established. Observation leads him to believe that the proportion of cultivators who will succeed in orange culture is about equal to those who have made dwarf pear culture profitable in the North. One of the other gentlemen finally consented to this last opinion, indorsing the statement that, while "many might be called, few are chosen" orange culturists. All consented to my proposition, that there is more money made at present by starting orange plantations on new and cheap lands and selling out to Northerners who have more money than wisdom than in growing the fruit for market.

Dec. 30.—Two men from Michigan who have been through the State with a view to investing in homes, if they liked it, told me that they should start home to-day satisfied that no well to-do Michigan farmer, unless his or his family's health required a milder climate, could improve his condition by coming hither and entering into any agricultural pursuit. An Indiana family went home a day or two since with the same conviction. They had been in the State some months. I am simply reporting isolated facts, let it be remembered. There are probably a great many of an entirely opposite character. Three men from bleak Nantucket have just gone back "sick at heart"—which means homesick, I reckon. They had traveled up the Indian River and thereabouts, and up the St. Johns, and did not conclude to stay the winter through, though they were prepared to do so if they thought best. A Minnesotan said he had spent a "heap" in travel in the State, and "couldn't see it." He has gone back.

It is too soon for me to express an opinion

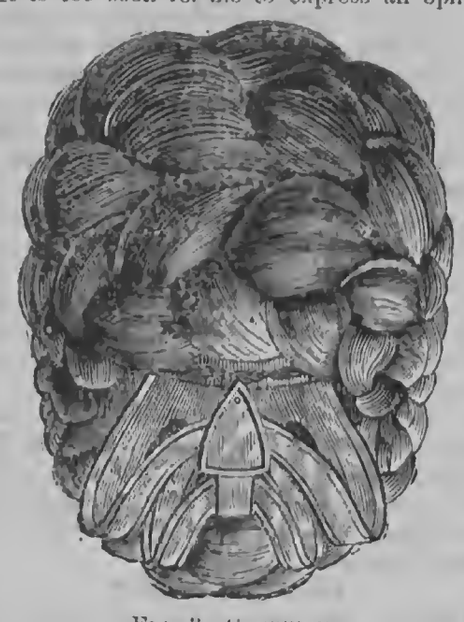


FIG. 3—COIFFURE.

which is gradually forming as to the policy of leaving a good home in the North for any that can be made here. But let those who think of making the change first come and look before selling out there. Of course, if the question of health is the main one, that is a different matter. Even then I would not advise the disposal of Northern property until after a residence here of a few months. Things anticipated and things realized are so different! Even the things realized impress different people differently, depending upon the imagination—the romantic nature of the person. You know some people call everything "lovely"—even a New York fog! or a northeast New England wind. I don't want such creatures to determine the degree of heat or cold *I* can endure; nor can they expect me to accept their standard of loveliness. Yet, I find there are some most romantic writers who are just now describing Florida,

Modes and Manners.

FANCY WORK.

Fig. 1 gives a pretty design in braiding, which may be used on pique, cloth or silk, as the ornamentation required be for tidy, mat, cushion or ottoman.

Fig. 2 is a design in "lace stitch," which, when done in embroidery silk or floss in bright colors, forms a unique and Oriental effect. A jacket with a band of black velvet put around it, upon which this style of embroidery in color is applied, (the overlapping stitches are supposed to overlap on the jacket material), is extremely effective. If the material and velvet be blue, gold-colored thread produces a fine effect. White or black is also good. Two or three harmonious but striking colors used together are also recommended. This stitch is also pretty for ornamenting blue flannel.

COIFFURE.

Fig. 3 illustrates the every-day style of fashionable back hair dressing with comb, which has again come into universal use. Those in real tortoise shell are the most beautiful, but are so expensive that most ladies are obliged to make choice of those in imitation. Metal combs, in silver, and others with high gilt tops, or ornamented in enamel or precious stones, are also fashionable. The much frizzing of hair, having left not a few fashionables with front head bald, has brought into very general use demi-wigs, or false fronts, sometimes called "scratches." They are frequently worn even by young ladies who admire the *furore* for luxuriant front hair, and the low, Greek brows these new wigs produce. They are so cleverly made and worn as to almost defy detection.

GENTLEMAN'S UNDERSHIRT.

Fig. 4259 is a desirable model for a flannel undershirt. The front being double, forms a complete protection for the lungs against cold. The garment is very easily made, there being but one

4251 4251

seam in the sleeves, which are sewed in without fullness. The pattern is in ten sizes. Price 25 cents.

CHILD'S DRESS.

In reply to requests from some lady readers of this department for illustrations of children's dresses, we give back and front views of two costumes—4251, suitable for in-door, and 4258 for out-door wear. They are suitable for boys or girls, and can be made up in any material from pique to cloth. The pattern for each is of six sizes, for children from one to seven years of age. Price of pattern 25 cents. MINTWOOD.

NEW TRIMMINGS.

BUTTRICK'S Delineator says:—On asking for "something new in trimmings," the reply was, "Nothing new—no call for anything but braids, braids, braids." Of course the answer was exaggerated, but it conveyed the idea intended, that upon every garment where braid could be put, braid was used; that being the latest caprice in decorations, later even than fur, which was introduced a season or two ago but has never been so popular as at present. Braid trimming is seen either alone or in connection with fur,

4258 4258

being equally stylish one way as the other. The assortment of fur trimming is this season far more extensive than it has ever been before, prices ranging from fifty cents to fifty dollars or sixty dollars per yard. Aside from these, no new trimmings are offered.

Entomological.

ENTOMOLOGY AND ITS RELATIONS TO HORTICULTURE.

A Paper Read Before the Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Horticultural Society held at New Brunswick, Jan. 20, 1875.

BY ANDREW S. FULLER.

EVERY thoughtful man must regret that there should exist in this, our Centennial year, a necessity for presenting a paper to any Horticultural Society upon the subject which I have selected. But there are thousands of otherwise very intelligent men among us who are not aware of the intimate relationship existing between entomology and horticultural pursuits. All insects to them, are "bugs," and enemies of the human race, either directly or indirectly, and, in their opinion, no good can come of a close study of their history or the true economic position which they hold in the great indivisible chain of nature.

As evils generally are only the manifest results of a disturbance of some natural law, we may conclude that the depredations of insects to any considerable extent are the legitimate fruits of our own ignorance of their habits, or indifference to the application of proper preventives.

Of course, insects are just as necessary to the existence of plants as the plants are to insects, and the total annihilation of one would result in the same fate to the other; consequently, we do not seek such extreme measures, but aim at establishing and retaining an equilibrium between the two. We might perhaps, without loss, dispense with the codling moth, plum curculio, and Colorado potato beetle, and some few more of the most abundant noxious species; but even should this ever become possible, it would not be wise to place the execution of so great a work in the hands of ignorant laborers. I do not mean by this term, "ignorant laborers," those we employ on our farms or in our gardens, but men who know nothing of the science of entomology, however well they may be informed on other subjects.

A man may be a passably intelligent horticulturist and at the same time a poor entomologist; hence, in his attempts to regulate matters among insect depredators, he may do more harm than good. For instance, the now common cabbage worm or caterpillar of the small white, rape butterfly, (*Pieris rapæ*) introduced from Europe a few years since, has spread to every part of the country where cabbages are cultivated. When first introduced it appears to have had no natural enemies except the birds, and these made little impression in checking its ravages; but after the lapse of a half-dozen years the parasite which had for ages preyed upon it in Europe arrived, and immediately commenced to lessen the number. So rapidly did this little parasite fly accomplish its mission, that the second season after its appearance in my neighborhood scarcely a specimen of the cabbage worm could be found. Previous to this time, the Agricultural and Horticultural press had not only advised the killing of all the worms found working upon the cabbages, but the gathering of the chrysalids which could usually be found in great numbers attached to fences and outbuildings during the winter. This was good advice at first, but worse than useless after the appearance of its parasitic enemy, because the pupæ of the latter are always inclosed within those of the former; therefore, in attempting to destroy an enemy, we were likely to kill many friends. Time and again I have received specimens of the cabbage butterfly chrysalids which were literally crowded full of the pupæ of the little *Pteromalus puparum* (or cabbage worm parasite) which had, in a few years, almost put an end to this great enemy of the cabbage.

From this one instance, as well as scores of others which might be named, it must be apparent to every one that a knowledge of insect life is as necessary, in order to secure desirable results, as to know something of plant life to become a successful horticulturist. In fact, it is scarcely possible for a man to reach a very advanced position in either entomology or horticulture, without becoming more or less familiar with the principles and processes of both.

The first step made by the novice in collecting specimens toward forming a cabinet, he will meet insects feeding upon plants: and this leads him to make investigations in regard to their name and habits. He soon discovers that while certain species of insects confine their ravages to certain kinds of plants, others feed indiscriminately without much apparent preference.

INDIFFERENCE OF THE MASSES.

The increase of noxious insects has spread consternation among farmers and fruit growers of the country, causing losses of untold millions of dollars to them; and while they mourn over their losses, scarcely an effort is made to prevent such disasters in the future. It is more than fifty years since THOMAS SAY described and named the Colorado beetle, and nearly twenty since its Eastern march was begun, and yet, while our entomologists sounded the tocsin, foretelling the results which must follow the spread of this pest, as well as how it might easily be prevented, no heed was taken of the warning, and to-day we are only paying the penalty of indifference and neglect. Had a tribe of Indians marched down from the Rocky Mountains and destroyed five or fifty thousand dollars' worth of property, there would have been a great hue and cry made over it; but an insect may come and destroy fifty or one hundred millions of dollars, and not one move will be made to repair the loss or prevent a repetition of the same.

I cannot attribute this general apathy of our people in such matters to anything else but universal ignorance of the science of entomology, or that our politicians cannot see any opportunity for swindling the masses in fighting insects as they do in the case of a war with a human foe. Only show our Congressmen and State Legislatures how they can make a little or good deal of money out of a war upon insect foes, and there will be no lack of men and means to conquer them.

The annual loss to the cotton planters of the Southern States through insect depredations, is from ten to one hundred millions of dollars; still, no considerable effort has ever been made to save this vast amount to the country. But the actual losses of crops cultivated is not the full extent of injury caused by our insect enemies, but they have prevented the introduction and dissemination of many valuable kinds of plants, as well as compelled the abandonment of hosts of others over extensive regions of country.

The plum, peach and apricot which formerly flourished in all parts of this State, are now only rarely cultivated, except in the gardens of our cities and villages, and all in consequence of insect enemies.

The same or similar conditions exist in many other States; and still, in the face of these facts, entomology is a science almost unknown in our common schools and colleges. Two Western States do, I believe, employ an entomologist to gather information and disseminate it among their people; but the salary obtained for this service is less than that obtained in a second-rate clerkship in our cities; which shows how lightly the labors of entomologists are appreciated—another evidence of the universal ignorance of the masses of subjects affecting their own immediate welfare.

NEW JERSEY A LAGGARD.

In the year 1785 a society was organized in the city of Philadelphia under the name of the "Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture." In the published reports of this Society during the succeeding twenty-five years, I find numerous communications from gentlemen residing in New Jersey—in fact, the most active members were Jerseymen. During the period named New Jersey was the center of pomological knowledge, and such men as WILLIAM COXE of Burlington, RICHARD PETERS of Belmont, PAUL COOPER of Woodbury, and many others whose names are well known in the history of the State, were hard at work, gathering and disseminating horticultural information. But in reading their writings we learn that the plum curculio had already begun its ravages, the peach tree borer had very nearly discouraged these pioneers in the field, and vainly did they seek practical or scientific information in regard to the habits and history of these insects. The question now arises, How much better off should we be to-day in regard to the habits of these identical species, had no one investigated the subject but Jerseymen? We have institutions of learning endowed munificently, one having received over a million of dollars during the past half-dozen years; but should a pomologist visit one of our colleges to learn the name of the common apple tree borer, he would probably find their entomological knowledge or cabinet did not extend beyond a stone model of the *Scarabæus* of the ancient Egyptian. Admitting that "distance lends enchantment," would it not be well to learn something of our own immediate surroundings, as well as of people long since passed from this earth?

WHAT IS THE REMEDY?

That we can never wage a successful war against our insect enemies without knowing the principal features of their natural history, is conceded by every one who has paid any attention to the subject; therefore, the first thing to do is to devise some means for a general dissemination of entomological information.

Perhaps if this Society is sustained as I hope it may deserve to be, something of the kind may be done through its annual reports. But I have no faith in any scheme for bringing about any great change or revelation in regard to the interest of the masses in entomology—or in fact any other useful branch of science—unless the seed is planted in our common schools. These are the nurseries to which the nation must look for its future supply of "bent" or upright twigs, and the longer we overlook that fact the more remote will be the day when every child shall know that all insects are not bugs nor created expressly to torment the human race.

We must have elementary works upon entomology suited to the capacity of children, in which the life history of some of our most common insects is given in language readily understood. The history of the mosquito would be especially interesting to the children of New Jersey, and it might even attract the attention of those of larger growth, for I fear there are many men and women in the State who are not aware of the fact that this very troublesome little fly in one stage of its existence performs a most meritorious work, beneficial to beings of a higher order.

The main features in the history of all insects—such, for instance, as their various transformations—could readily be imparted to children in plain but attractive language, and thereby diffuse a knowledge of these creatures which would naturally increase, and eventually produce most beneficial results. With such a system of education, the people who will probably meet at our bi-centennial celebration, might be so well informed upon entomological subjects as not to look upon the common thousand-legged worm as a kind of caterpillar, or believe that insects breathe through their nose or mouth, or execute their songs by the aid of the same organs. Perhaps they would also know that little house flies never grow to be big ones, but are born little and remain in that condition, and that all kinds of flies come from the pupæ full size and as large as they ever will be.

There are thousands of such simple scraps of insect history which it would be well for everybody to know, if for no other purpose than to promote their own pleasure in passing through life.

IN CONCLUSION,

permit me to suggest that our future progress in horticulture largely depends upon our success in controlling insect enemies. The labors of a few men scattered here and there through the State, will accomplish very little in this direction; but by an organized effort, with a proper knowledge of the work to be done and the best method of doing it, the end sought will be reached in due course of time.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

AN ODD REQUEST.

Jan. 11.—There must be some strange people in this world, if one is to judge from the letters they write. With my limited correspondence, I receive some rather amusing epistles and strange requests for assistance. Of course, I am not going to open my private letters and let everybody read them; but I am in receipt of one this week from a perfect stranger, which contains such an odd request that it is worth noting in my Diary. The writer says he is about writing a book on agriculture, in which he is going to set forth a "new principle in vegetable life," and he requests me to write a chapter in said proposed work on some important subject, adding, as an inducement, "I want to make the book important and interesting."

Now, I am not disinclined to have my name handed down to posterity in good company, or to lend a helping hand to those who aspire to the same position; but the "new principle in vegetable life" mentioned, makes me rather wary about such a venture, unless I am let into the secret in advance. Laying all levity aside, I am somewhat chagrined that a man who says he has read my Diary for years, should think me so verdant as to contribute a chapter to a proposed book of the character of which I know nothing or that of the would-be author. I must turn over a new leaf in my scribbling, or some one will be offering me a situation as baby nurse, or traveling companion to a respectable elderly lady.

MY SEED CABINET.

Jan. 12.—I have been in the habit, for many years, of preserving specimens of the various kinds of seeds which happened to come into my possession. To have them handy for examination, I put them into small vials, varying from the small glass tubes used for homœopathic pills up to those which will admit a good-sized bean. These vials cost but a trifle when purchased in quantities, and are preferable to boxes for preserving seeds requiring frequent examination.

Now, my principal object in keeping such things was first, to know them, and second, to see how often an old sort would come around as a new one. I think the Hulless oat has been offered as a newly-discovered variety something like ten times since my first acquaintance with it, forty years ago. Then there is the old Tartarian buckwheat, which has turned up from time to time as India wheat, Merino wheat, etc., etc.: but these cabinet samples I have found very convenient for aiding me to identify this old acquaintance, no matter under what kind of name it comes. Then it is handy to have samples of the different kinds of wheat, beans, peas, and such coarse kinds of seeds, for comparison, when some peddler of novelties comes along with "a wonderful" and newly-discovered variety for sale. If every farmer in the country had made a practice from his boyhood up, of saving a few specimens each of all the different kinds of seeds which he had either raised or met with on his travels, he would be far less liable to become the dupe of swindling dealers in such articles than without those aids for detecting frauds.

It is said to be hard "for old dogs to learn new tricks," therefore I have little hope of influencing old men to form such collections as I have named: but I do hope some of the boys who read this Diary will take an interest in the matter. But let me caution them, in advance, not to become too enthusiastic in the beginning, for in such matters it is best to make haste slowly, and continue unceasingly to the end of life. If you can afford nothing better for holding the seeds, make some small paper bags large enough to hold a dozen good-sized beans and long enough to allow the end to be folded under. Commence by taking a few specimens of every kind of bean you can find in the neighborhood, writing the name on the outside of the bag and the date of collection. If the variety is known by two or more names, put them all on, for it is well to know all we can learn of each variety. Also, write down whether the variety is a pole, bush, snap, field, early or late bean. All this and much more can be written in a very small space. Now, a collection of fifty to one hundred kinds of beans is not a difficult thing to obtain by a little perseverance, and if arranged in neat vials they would form an ornament worthy of a conspicuous place in any farmer's or gentleman's residence.

Some of the tropical species of peas and beans are exceedingly beautiful, being of an almost dazzlingly-brilliant color. A few years since I procured a number of varieties from Hindostan, China and Japan, among which were some that were not only beautiful in their dried state, but the growing plants were so entirely different from our ordinary kinds that one could scarcely believe them to be beans. I have picked up a good many sorts of beans, but am far from "knowing beans" yet, and these hints are thrown out with the hope that some boy who may read this will be able to come nearer that point than I have.

Collections of wheat, oats, corn, and all other kinds of seeds, should be gathered and preserved in the same manner, not forgetting the various kinds of fruit and forest tree seeds. Any one who will do this and keep it up through life, cannot fail to become well informed in regard to the products of the country; and should a farmer's son ever go into a city and engage in mercantile pursuits, or enter any of the learned professions, the knowledge thus acquired will be found of great practical use. A minister or lawyer who really "knows beans," will be able to make many a "telling point" during a professional career which could not be made without such knowledge. Individuals should not only endeavor to accumulate knowledge in this direction, but the Granges throughout the country could scarcely do better than to form cabinets of all their local productions for the benefit of members and their families. When this point is reached exchanges can be made between Granges in different parts of the Union. Let this be done, and the occupation of swindling seed peddlers would soon be gone.

SEEDLING POTATOES.

Jan. 13.—JOHN, who is my man of all work about the place, was very anxious to know how so many new varieties of potatoes were produced, and last summer I explained how the thing was done. As a result of this explanation, I began to find seedballs of potatoes hanging up here and there about the place at the time of digging the crop last fall. Two or three weeks since JOHN washed out his crop of potato seeds and spread them out on boards to dry, the same as he usually does with tomatoes; but he was so impatient to know whether the seed were good and likely to grow, that he sowed a quantity in a box in the greenhouse. The seed being sound, they came up in a few days, and now JOHN is in trouble, for he can scarcely spare the room to keep all the plants growing until spring, and I tell him if any one is destroyed it may be the very best of the whole lot—for nothing can be known of their value except by waiting until the tubers are tested.

Of course it will be hard to beat some of the new sorts of potatoes now in cultivation; still, raising seedling potatoes is no more difficult than raising tomato plants; and if the boys on the farm would practice a little more of this kind of diversion, good results might follow, and it would certainly do them no harm.

A CORRECTION.—In my Diary of last week there were several typographical errors, and one very important omission in the third paragraph of the second column, viz.:—In speaking of the figure of the *Agave Virginica* appearing in CURTIS' Botanical Magazine, it should have been followed by the words, "and one also in the *American Agriculturist*, November, 1871."

Patrons of Husbandry.

MEETING OF N. Y. STATE GRANGE.

THE third annual session of New York State Grange was held in Auburn, commencing Jan. 11th, Master G. D. HINCKLEY presiding. The annual address recommended further provisions for addresses and lectures. The Secretary and Treasurer have during the year addressed such Grange meetings as could be conveniently reached, and this did much for the progress of the Order; but they could not respond to half the demands made upon them. The Master recommended that the expenses of speakers be paid either by the State Grange or by the subordinate Granges to be benefited.

The Patrons' Aid Society, a co-operative life insurance, is prospering. Until Feb. 14th the fee of membership will be $3, without regard to age. For further particulars address J. S. VAN DUZER, Elmira.

The following officers were elected:

GEO. D. HINCKLEY, Master, Fredonia, Chautauqua Co.
M. B. Riggs, Overseer, Palmyra, Wayne Co.
Guy Shaw, Lecturer, Penn Yan, Yates Co.
Geo. Slaughter, Steward, Campbell Hall, Orange Co.
James H. Lee, Assistant Steward, Southwest Oswego, Oswego Co.
Rev. Milton Rude, Chaplain, Weedsport, Cayuga Co.
H. Bowen, Treasurer, Medina, Orleans Co.
W. A. Armstrong, Secretary, Elmira, Chemung Co.
Albert J. Potter, Gate Keeper, Orwell, Oswego Co.
Mrs. A. Snedaker, Ceres, Clyde, Wayne Co.
Mrs. S. G. Wiggins, Pomona, Antwerp, Jefferson Co.
Mrs. H. E. Evans, Flora, Brant, Erie Co.
Mrs. Sarah J. Van D. Mark, Lady Assistant Steward, Waterloo, Seneca Co.

Executive Committee—Wm. G. Wayne, Chairman, one year, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co.; John O'Donnell, two years, Jamaica, Queens Co.; L. H. Bishop, 3 years, Lorraine, Jefferson Co.

The Secretary's salary was fixed at $1,000 per annum; the Treasurer's at $100. The Master's necessary expenses only will be refunded. Addresses were made by O. R. INGERSOLL of Knickerbocker Grange, New York, and others, and it was decided to hold the next meeting of the State Grange in Rochester on the fourth Tuesday of January, 1877.

THE PATRONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

THE P. of H. is an organization designed for the social and material advancement of farmers, irrespective not only of section, but of country. The Order has made a considerable and gratifying progress in Canada and the other British American Provinces. It has been suggested that the Grange should be introduced into Great Britain. The subject was discussed at the late meeting of the National Grange and the Master was authorized to appoint deputies to carry out this project. In accordance with his instructions he has named Mr. J. W. A. Wright of Fresno county, California, as the first deputy to inform the farmers of the world in regard to the objects of the Grange, and the great work it is doing in this country.

The Louisville Ledger of Jan. 12th, announcing this appointment, says:—The task could not have been placed in better hands. Mr. Wright is a Princeton graduate of the class of '57, and is a practical and scientific horticulturist and botanist. He has resided in California since 1868, and has been one of the most prominent leaders in the Grange movement on the Pacific slope ever since the inception of the Order. Mr. Wright was the first Master of the California State Grange, and has organized fifty-five subordinate Granges in his own State. He has been an attendant at the last three meetings of the National Grange as Past Master, and in 1874 was chosen to draft the declaration of purposes of the Order. It will thus be seen that he is thoroughly identified with the organization, and is conversant with the most minute details.

Mr. Wright will sail from New York next week, and though the length of his stay in Great Britain will depend largely upon the amount of success with which his mission will meet, he will not be absent above two months.

It is the belief of those prominent in the Grange that, by union and co-operation, the farmers of this country and of Great Britain can do much to enhance their mutual interests, and advance the dignity of labor to a great degree. When there are fifteen subordinate Granges organized in a foreign country, they will constitute an independent body, or what is known in America as a State Grange. The members of a foreign State Grange will not be compelled to render any allegiance or pay any dues to the National Grange, but they will stand upon a fraternal footing with the Patrons of this country, and will be entitled to their aid and counsel whenever requested.

Those who are interested in the farming interests of England may be divided into three classes, viz:—the land-owners, consisting of the nobility and the wealthy squires; the farmers, or those who rents the lands, and the agricultural laborers, or those who are employed by the farmers. Of these three classes the Grange will appeal more directly to the second one. The farmers of England are still suffering from the effects of unjust laws, which discriminate in favor of the owner of the land and against the tenant. These laws give the legal rights to do that which custom sanctioned in the days of feudalism. Then the nobility were all-powerful, and they asked for no law other than their own will. For years the farmers have striven against this injustice, and sought to obtain aid by appeals to Parliament, but in vain. Their efforts were "dispersed." They did not unite in a solid body, and mass their strength for the attack, but skirmished here and there, and were, as a natural consequence defeated.

Prominent among the acts of legislation which they have striven for, we may mention the "Tenant Right Law," and the "Game Law." The first is a demand for a law requiring the land-owners to compensate the tenants for costly improvments which the interests of good farming demand that they make upon the land which they have rented.

The second advocates a change in the game law. Hitherto this law has been altogether in favor of the land-owner and against the farmer. It enabled the former to preserve game upon land which he had rented, and to hunt it upon all occasions, often to the utter destruction of the crops. The absurd injustice of this will be seen at a glance, and yet the victims have not, as yet, been able to secure a law to protect themselves and their property from the calamity which may fall upon them at any time.

The effects of the establishment of the Grange in England cannot but be gratifying to Patrons and friends of the Order on both sides of the ocean, and we wish Mr. Wright the greatest success in his undertaking.

Hygienic Information.

RUSSIAN CURE FOR DRUNKENNESS.

H. HAUROWIZ says that for some time past, *Aerba serpylli* (wild thyme) has been used with great success to effect a permanent cure of drunkenness; in case of a relapse (only after years), a short treatment will effect a cure again. The treatment consists in making an infusion of wild thyme (1½ oz. to 1½ pints), and give the patient a teacupful every half hour. The next day it is given every two hours, and then four to six times a day until the cure is complete, which generally takes from two to three weeks. The effects are in the following order: vomiting, diarrhœa, increased urine, strong transpiration; then, generally, increased appetite and craving for acidulous beverages. Diet: easily digested food, and lemonade or other acidulous liquids.

INFANTILE THUMB-SUCKING.

THE British Medical Journal publishes an article by Dr. Horace Dobells, in which that distinguished physician states that he has observed that a peculiar and rather common deformity of the chest is caused by the habit of sucking the thumb in infancy and early childhood. He says that the weight of the arm on the thorax of the child, during sleep, produces depression of the ribs in the line occupied by the arm when the thumb is placed in the mouth. The doctor thinks this is a very important effect of the habit of thumb-sucking—one which has never been pointed out—and he regards it of sufficient consequence to be put on record for the benefit of other observers.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

For Keeping the Teeth White there is nothing better than fine coal ashes. Take a very fine sieve and sift what you want: throw away the coals, and what remains will be nearly as fine as flour. Now wet your brush, dip it in the ashes and use. Of course it feels very gritty to the mouth; so also does what the dentists cleanse with; but it will not cost you one dollar, which is the dentist's fee—generally half an hour's work. It leaves the teeth perfectly white and sweet. Use every week or two.—BROWNIE.

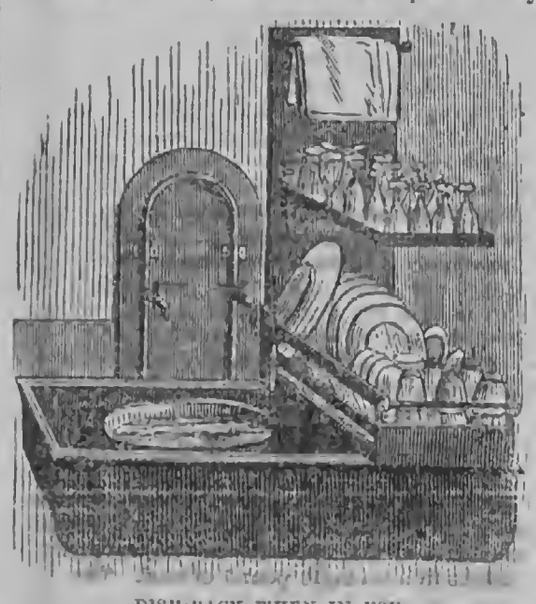
Incurable Heart Disease.—On reading the advice in RURAL of Dec. 11 in regard to the above disease, and feeling the propriety thereof, a few more injurious practices came to mind, which I have learned by experience to avoid, and which may be worthy of notice,—such as lifting (even a few pounds), going up long flights of stairs, or walking up a hill, as well as a stooping posture. The latter is particularly trying to the muscles of the heart in some forms of that disease.—A. F.

To Prepare an Egg for an Invalid.—Beat an egg until very light, add seasoning to taste, then steam until thoroughly warmed through, but not hardened; this will take about two minutes. An egg prepared in this way will not distress very sensitive stomachs.

Domestic Economy.

PATENT FOLDING DISH RACK.

THE accompanying cuts represent a valuable adjunct to the kitchen fittings in small or medium sized houses, which has been patented by



DISH-RACK WHEN IN USE.

a gentleman in Brooklyn. Its advantages are apparent at a glance, and will commend themselves to every practical housekeeper. It is always inconvenient to wash dishes in an ordinary sink, as there is not enough space for plates, dishes, glassware and other articles to stand after they have been rinsed off, and they are constantly liable to breakage or chipping. The present appliance, when not in use can be folded up and put entirely out of the way, and it is of a most convenient and compact form. Being made of black walnut, it is substantial and ornamental, while there is less risk of injury to the articles placed upon it. The lower shelf is intended for larger dishes, and the upper for cups and smaller articles, while there is a towel-rack at the top. As fast as each dish is washed it can be set aside on the rack, where it is entirely out of the way, and where it will be drained without further trouble, ready for drying. The size of the rack is about three feet by six inches, and it is adapted for almost any sized sink. A friend who has

DISH-RACK WHEN FOLDED UP.

tested one in his own home recommends this rack as being all that it is represented. The price is $4, we believe.

SELECTED RECIPES.

To Clean Old Pork Barrels.—Old pork barrels, whether tainted or sweet, should be thoroughly cleansed before being used for new pork. A very simple and effectual method is to put in a peck of strong wood ashes and a couple of pails of water, and let it stand a day or two; then scour thoroughly with a stiff corn broom. The lye will take hold of all the greasy particles with which it comes in contact, and the ashes, water and broom will, if vigorously used, leave them as sweet as new barrels. Rinse in cold water to remove all the ashes, then pour boiling water all around the sides and wash clean; now rinse again in cold water and the work is done.

To Keep Hams.—There is no better way to keep hams through the summer, free from taint or insects, than by hanging them up in the smokehouse, which is of course to be kept perfectly dark. Where there is no smokehouse or dark room, sew each ham up in a canvas bag and thoroughly whitewash it. We have also kept them perfectly by rubbing into them wood ashes, packing them in barrels and covering them with ashes.

How to Fry Chickens.—The best way to fry chickens is this:—Scald, pick and wash your chickens thoroughly in clean water; then quarter and throw them into boiling lard. If a few minutes they will be done brown; then remove them and serve them up hot and dry. Do not put them in grease again. In this way the fowl is very tender and is a great delicacy. If you don't believe it, try it, and if you do, why, try it again.

Stewed Shoulder of Mutton.—The shoulder must not be too fat. Bone it, tie it up in a cloth, and boil it for two hours and a half; then take it up, put a little cold butter over it and strew it thickly with bread crumbs, parsley, thyme, pepper and salt, all properly mixed. Let it remain in the oven half an hour, so as to brown it perfectly. Serve with lumps of currant jelly on the top, and gravy or spice round the dish.

Pisciculture.

FISH CULTURE IN THE WEST.

A WRITER in the Chicago Times from Northville Michigan says:

In no State is fish culture receiving more attention than Michigan. Aside from private enterprise, the State and the United States have aided in the work. A State hatchery under the supervision of Hon. Geo. H. Jerome, of Niles, is located at Pakagon, in which over 700,000 salmon have been hatched and distributed to the waters of the State during the last four months.

A State hatchery for white fish is also established at Detroit, in which there are now over 7,000,000 of eggs that were taken from the white fish of Detroit river, during the first week of November, and which are expected to hatch in March. In about ten days after they hatch the "umbilical sac" (from which they obtain their nourishment) will be absorbed, when they will be "planted out" in the lakes of the State that are thought to be suited to their habits.

The great success that has attended the hatching and letting loose of young shad into the Connecticut and Hudson rivers, and the consequent reduction of price at the fishing grounds, from 50 cents to a dime a piece for shad, give encouragement to promoters of this enterprise, and inspire the hope that the investment will prove a good one.

At this place, 25 miles northwest of Detroit, is the hatchery of Mr. Frank Clark. The Deputy Fish Commissioner of the United States, Mr. James W. Milner, made arrangements last fall with Mr. Clark to hatch out 800,000 salmon eggs and 4,000,000 white fish eggs. The salmon eggs were obtained from the head waters of the Sacramento river, Cal. They were out of a lot of 8,000,000 that were obtained there under the auspices of the United States Fish Commission in September last. The eggs arrived at this place on the 7th of October, and commenced hatching on the 25th, and continued up to the middle of November. When first hatched they were about an inch long, nearly transparent, and had a large appendage which prevented them from swimming, but which furnished them their nourishment during the first 40 days of their existence. At the end of this the umbilical sac was absorbed, the fish had grown to be over an inch long, and they required food. It was at this stage that they were "planted out" into streams of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee and Kentucky.

These rivers were selected that appeared to be the best suited to the habits of the fish. Salmon are always hatched in fresh water, where they remain till they are one to three years old. Then, when no obstacles intervene, they go to salt water where they grow very rapidly, and when of 10 pounds weight or more they return to propagate their species. It is a well established fact that, if no insurmountable obstacles prevent, they will invariably go to their native spawning beds. It may interest some in Chicago to learn that 286,000 young salmon were turned loose into the Kankakee river during the last 30 days. They were put into the head waters, near South Bend. It is thought by those who have given the subject careful examination that the California salmon (*salmo quinnat*) will thrive and be able to withstand the high temperature of the waters of our western and southern rivers.

Tests were made last summer in the San Joaquin river, a good salmon stream in California, and it was found that the temperature of the water was from 80 deg. to 85 deg. for weeks at a time, which is higher than that of the Mississippi or the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Jerome, in behalf of the State, is making an experiment by putting young salmon into the lakes, hoping that the fish will be content to remain in the lake and not attempt to push down to salt water over Niagara falls.

Is it not best to make these experiments? The rivers of Great Britain, many of which were nearly barren, and others in which no salmon were found, have by artificial propagation become sources of income to the government and furnished an abundance of wholesome food for the people. What has been done there may be done here, and we predict that the 8,000,000 eggs which have been distributed to various States will produce salmon suited to the streams in which they are placed, and that their progeny will furnish a rich supply of food for coming generations.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1876.

PUSH ON THE RURAL COLUMN!

DURING the first month of the Centennial Year the RURAL NEW-YORKER has made decided progress, its increase of circulation indicating the near inauguration of our candidate for President —GENERAL PROSPERITY. While we have been doing our utmost to furnish the *Most Valuable Weekly of its Class*, its Agent-Friends, both near and far, have manifested their appreciation of the paper by kindly introducing it to the favorable notice and consequent substantial support of thousands of level-headed people who were previously non-subscribers. For this generous and timely exercise of influence we tender sincere thanks, and trust our friends will continue their efforts in the same direction until everybody who ought to take the RURAL—all who would be benefited thereby—shall be supplied.

February is a short month, but recruiting officers for the Rural Brigade, if they improve their opportunities, will be enabled, during its twenty-nine days, to obtain many subscribers in their respective localities. We anticipate a goodly number of recruits during the month, and hope that not only our Agents, but high privates among our subscribers (both old and new), especially in localities where there are no recruiters (club-formers), will do their friends and us the favor to show the RURAL and solicit and forward subscriptions—remembering that we give Premiums of intrinsic value for thus doing good to individuals and community.

Don't forget, please, that, as the RURAL is electrotyped, we can furnish back numbers to all new subscribers from Jan. 1,—even if a million copies are wanted—nor that there is yet time to start new clubs and secure liberal and valuable Premiums. Therefore, *Push on the Rural Column!*

PREMIUMS FOR CORN.

MR. CONRAD WILSON makes the following offer through the Christian Union:—Believing that the present average yield of corn in this country is much lower than it ought to be, and that, consequently, the cost of production for each bushel is in the same ratio too high, and knowing, as I do, that with more thorough and well directed effort far better results may be reached, I herewith submit to the farmers of the United States the following Premiums, consisting, in part, of valuable books, and works of art of acknowleged merit, including also other articles of utility and value:

FOR THE FOUR BEST YIELDS.—1. For the largest yield of corn from one acre, an order on R. H. Allen & Co. for Farming Implements, amounting to $50. 2. For the second best yield per acre, an Oil Painting, worth $40. 3. For the third best yield per acre, an order for books, at publisher's prices, $30. 4. For the fourth best yield per acre, a Portfolio of Art Subjects, worth $20.

FOR THE FOUR LOWEST COST.—5. For the lowest cost per bush., for corn, an order on Baker & Bro. for Fertilizers, amounting to $50. 6. For the next lowest cost per bush., a Painting, worth $40. 7. For the third lowest cost per bush., an order on Bliss & Sons for seeds, $30. 8. For the fourth lowest cost per bush, a Portfolio of Art Subjects, $20. These premiums will be awarded at the close of the harvest of the present Centennial year.

How many farmers among RURAL NEW-YORKER readers will compete for these premiums? Our belief is that the largest yield per acre will also prove the lowest cost per bushel, in which case the farmer, taking first premium will get $100 in Agricultural Implements and Fertilizers.

PREMIUM POTATOES IN 1875.

MESSRS. B. K. BLISS & SONS of this city, last year offered $500 in premiums, $250 each for Eureka and Snowflake, to those growing the largest yields of potatoes from a single pound of seed. The Committee (Messrs. P. T. QUINN, J. M. HEXAMER and GEO. THURBER) has made its Report and awarded prizes as follows:—For the largest quantity of Snowflake from one pound of seed:

1st Prize to	P. C. Wood, Esther, Ill.,	1417	lbs.,	$100 00
2d " "	J. L. Perkins, Little Sioux, Iowa,	1304	"	50 00
3d " "	Fredk. H. Seiler, Verona, Essex Co., N. J.,	1125	"	40 00
4th " "	J. I. Salter, St. Cloud, Minn.,	1090½	"	30 00
5th " "	Alfred Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y.,	1080½	"	20 00
6th " "	Henry V. Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y.,	1060¼	"	10 00

For the largest quantity of Eureka from one pound of seed.

1st Prize to	J. L. Perkins, Little Sioux, Iowa,	1666¼	lbs.,	$100 00
2d " "	P. C. Wood, Esther, Ill.,	1403	"	50 00
3d " "	Alfred Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y.,	1149	"	40 00
4th " "	Milton M. Rose, Penn Yan N. Y.,	1145	"	30 00
5th " "	J. I. Salter, St. Cloud, Minn.,	1087	"	20 00
6th " "	Henry V. Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y.,	1066¾	"	10 00

The Committee says:—When two years ago your Committee awarded the first prize for the largest yield of Extra Early Vermont Potatoes from one pound of seed, to Mr. Salter of Minnesota, for the then unprecedented yield of six hundred and seven (607) pounds, many considered the climax of productiveness reached, and not a few doubted that such a quantity had ever been grown from so small a quantity of seed. Yet so much has the general interest and ambition stimulated the cultivators of the soil, both here and in Europe, that in England nearly double that amount (1082 lbs.) has been grown from one pound, and in our own country no less a yield than nearly treble that obtained then, entitles now to a first premium, and nothing less than a thousand from one can win even the lowest premium.

The planting, in nearly all cases, was done between the 10th and 26th of May, and one-fourth of all competitors dropped the seed on the 10th of May, nearly a week earlier than in former years.

A comparison of the distances between the hills, with the average yield per acre, gives a most interesting and valuable table, as follows: The sets planted at a distance of

2 x 3	feet	gave a	yield of	378	bushels	per	acre.
2 x 4	"	"	"	462	"	"	"
3 x 3	"	"	"	651	"	"	"
3 x 3½	"	"	"	441	"	"	"
3 x 4	"	"	"	379	"	"	"
3½ x 4	"	"	"	343	"	"	"
4 x 4	"	"	"	322	"	"	"
4 x 8	"	"	"	98	"	"	"

The large number of data of which the above figures form an average, give these statistics a special value. Although the greatest yields from one pound grew from hills four feet apart, the largest crops per acre were raised at distances of three feet each way, and that as the distances between the hills are increased or decreased, the yield diminishes in regular proportion. In the first case, there remains wasted ground which is not reached by the roots of the plants, and in the latter, the roots are so crowded that they can not obtain all the nourishment they are capable of consuming.

The Snowflake and Eureka have been grown alongside of some older sorts, and it has been found that "the new varieties will stand almost any amount of manuring and return a corresponding yield of tubers, while the older sorts, under the same treatment, would make nothing but vines and a few small tubers."

A MARVEL OF DRAINAGE ENGINEERING.

IT is well known that much of the most fertile land in Holland has been reclaimed from the sea by immense windmills which pumped the water out of the land while levees kept the water from further encroachments. Some of these achievements have been costly and required years for their completion, but they have generally paid. These successes have encouraged further attempts, and now we are informed that the great Zuyder Zee—an immense arm of the sea covering 500 square miles, or about half a million of acres—is to be pumped dry and reclaimed for the use of man. To do this will require the erection of a bank of earth one hundred and forty feet at the base, over which the waters of the Zee are to be pumped into the ocean. This will require a force of 9,400 horse power working incessantly, and pumping 5,000 cubic yards of water a minute, for two years and a half. It is hoped to drain the surface sea water from the land in this time after work is commenced, but a much longer time will be needed to get the soil in proper farming condition. Underdrains must be made to withdraw surface water, while open sluices will be left in some places to provide irrigation when needed. Two ship canals will admit large vessels to the new land, while smaller canals will afford easy transportation to every portion. Two trunk lines of railway are placed to cross each other at right angles, and at the intersection of these a city will probably arise on what has been for ages a desert of wild waves. Centuries ago the space covered by the Zuider Zee was an immense forest, with heavy timber, but it gradually gave way to the encroachments of the ocean.

It is expected that the work will require twenty years for completion, at a cost of one hundred millions of dollars. Similar land, reclaimed from the sea in smaller amounts, has been made worth four hundred dollars per acre, so that when completed the land will be worth two hundred millions. Of course, only in a country where interest is low can such enormous and long-continued expenses be justified. In the United States the interest account in twenty years would be more than the principal. In Holland, however, interest is usually only three per cent., and the Government is basing its calculations on that expectation.

The reclaimed sea land is very fertile, and under the skillful management of Dutch farmers and gardeners yields large crops of all kinds of vegetables. It seems especially adapted to the growing of Dahlia, Hyacinth and other bulbous-rooted flowers, while its moisture and fine tilth is the natural home of the cauliflower and cabbage, in the growing of which the Dutch excel all other peoples.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

American Dairymen's Association.—At the last annual meeting the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Pres't—Hon. HORATIO SEYMOUR. Vice-Pres'ts—X. A. Willard of Herkimer, T. D. Bliss of Onondaga Co., O. S. Bliss of Vermont, David S. Wells of N. Y. City, M. Folsom of N. Y. City, Stephen Farrell of Wisconsin, Chas. House of Lewis Co., G. B. Weeks of Onondaga, C. E. Chadwick of Canada, Wm. Blanding of Broome, Dr. Geo. F. Cole of St. Lawrence, A. M. Fuller of Pennsylvania, L. W. Miller of Chautauqua, E. A. Ayres of Jefferson, T. F. Keller of Cattaraugus, G. E. Morrow of Illinois, C. F. Whittier of Minnesota, John T. Ellsworth of Massachusetts, Hon. William A. Johnson of Erie, Pa., Dr. L. L. Wight of Oneida, L. Straight of Ohio, Charles Hazen of Wisconsin, Prof. L. Wetherell of the Boston Cultivator, Mass., A. B. LaMott of Tompkins, Edward Norton of Connecticut, P. H. Burchard of Illinois, C. H. Wilder of Wisconsin, O. C. Blodgett of Chautauqua, D. H. Burrell of Herkimer, J. M. Peters of N. Y. City, S. A. Farrington of Canada. Sec'y—L. B. Arnold of Rochester. Treas.—Hon. Harris Lewis, Herkimer.

Black Bass in South Jersey Waters.—Capt. PEIRCE of Wenonah, the only fish culturist in South Jersey, during the latter part of the past season placed Black Bass in the following-named waters of that region:—Mullica River, Hammonton Lake, Great Egg Harbor River, Cooper's Creek, Big Timber Creek, Woodbury Creek, Mantua Creek, Wenonah Lake, Raccoon Creek, Old Man's Creek, Alloway's Creek, Salem Creek, Cohansey Creek, Malaga Lake, Maurice River and Tuckahoe River. In some of the larger of these streams stocks were placed in two different branches. Some of this work was done for the State, but most of it under the auspices of the West Jersey Game Protection Society—a chartered institution that is doing good service in stocking the streams and forests of that region with choice varieties of fruit and game, and fully protecting the same under the stringent laws of that State. Capt. P. is the Society's Agent, and has kindly promised us some items concerning the action it has taken relative to game.

Cheating in Weight.—A farmer writes to the Syracuse (N. Y.) Courier that he and his neighbors having some grain to carry to market, took the precaution to accurately weigh it before leaving home. The buyer made the loads four to six bushels less than they should be. One of the farmers had no evidence of his home weight and so could do nothing, as the grain was already mixed with that in store. The other had a witness of the weight of his grain on the home scales, and compelled the buyer to pay for the full amount. There is little doubt that such frauds are often attempted these hard times, when buyers' profits are light. Every neighborhood at least ought to have platform scales, and many farmers could much better afford to buy them than to sell their produce exclusively at buyers' weight. It is hardly necessary for us to advise readers to write to FAIRBANKS & Co., The Buffalo Scale Works, or to JONES of Binghamton, for scale price lists.

A Continuous Horticultural Show.—We have received from E. W. BUSWELL, Treas. and Librarian, the schedule of prizes to be awarded by the Mass. Hort. Society during 1876. The Exhibitions are made monthly, and in the summer months more frequently, and the prizes, amounting to $3,200, are very judiciously appropriated. The Exhibitions include one especially for Roses, another for Strawberries, one for Azaleas in April and for Pelargoniums in May. An additional appropriation of $2,100 is made for Exhibitions of Fruit, another of $1,200 for Garden Vegetables, and $300 for Gardens, Green-Houses, &c. The total amount to be paid in prizes is $6,800, and with the number of successive and almost continuous Exhibitions through the year will undoubtedly make a success unexampled in American Horticultural annals. Competition is open to all.

N. Y. State Ag. Society.—This Society held its annual meeting in Albany, Jan. 19. The Treasurer's report showed the total receipts for the year to be $41,210.90, of which $15,086.34 were from the Fair. The total disbursements were $38,068.16, leaving a balance on hand of $3,142.81. The following officers were elected:

Pres't—EDWIN THORN, Millbrook, Dutchess Co. Vice-Pres'ts.—First District, John W. Wing, New York; 2d, Isaac H. Cocks, North Hempstead; 3d, Daniel Doncaster, Albany; 4th, N. Martin Curtis, Ogdensburgh; 5th, Jas. Geddes, Fairmount; 6th, Jos. Julland, Bainbridge; 7th, R. J. Swan, Geneva; 8th, Frank B. Redfield, Batavia. Cor. Sec.—Thos. L. Harison, Morley. Rec. Sec.—Wm. H. Bogart, Aurora. Treas.—Adin Thayer, Hoosic. Ex. Com.—Wm. H. Holmes, Washington; G. T. Hoffman, Chemung; Geo. F. Mills, Montgomery; John R. Stuyvesant, Dutchess; Ely Fox, Herkimer; Heman Glass, Monroe; David M. Osborne, Cayuga; Reuben E. Roby, Steuben.

The Dairymen's Association of Ontario—Is to hold its next Annual Convention at Ingersoll, Feb. 9—10, and the Committee hope to make it both beneficial and interesting to dairymen and farmers generally. Addresses will be delivered by several eminent gentlemen, and a large attendance is anticipated. Any parties wishing to attend and become members may obtain certificates by applying at once to the Secretary, Mr. J. C. HEGLER, Ingersoll, on presentation of which to the different stations on the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways they will be entitled, owing to special arrangements made with these companies, to tickets at one fare and a third the double journey. It is desirable that parties wishing to attend should apply to the Secretary at once for certificates, so as to avoid confusion and delay.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THE Agricultural Bureau estimates the cotton crop at 4,100,000 bales.

THE mild, wet weather this winter has spoiled much corn in the West.

KANSAS spends one million dollars a year in her schools, and the school fund is constantly increasing.

GEN. SHERMAN says there are 4,000,000 of people loafing around cities who ought to be scratching the Western prairies for an honest living.

MICHIGAN appropriated $1,000 to represent the State at the Centennial Exposition. Half of this is to be used in making a display of fruits.

THE "Southern Agricultural and Industrial Exposition" will open in New Orleans, Feb. 26, and continue ten days. J. N. MARKS is President.

THE Item in the RURAL of Dec. 18, saying that "the village of Lyons made $1,000 out of her peppermint crop this season," should no doubt read Lyons, N. Y., and $100,000.

BROTHER WISNER of Hay Rake fame displayed his smiling countenance in our Publication Office recently. He was on his way to Dayton, Ohio, where he will probably arrange for the future manufacture of his Rakes.

CONNECTICUT has established an Agricultural Experiment station with Prof. W. O. ATWATER at its head. This is a good movement and one which should be imitated by other States.

THE farmers of Wisconsin will hold a Convention at Madison, Feb. 8-11. These Conventions are held annually, and many interesting and profitable subjects are discussed. Sec'y W. W. FIELD, Madison, will furnish programme of the Convention.

PATRONS, take the RURAL to your Grange; tell the brothers and sisters, what is true, that though not an organ, it is sound on the principles of the Order, and an earnest advocate of the interests of the producing classes,—asking support only upon its merits.

THE Kansas Horticultural Society is urging the importance of State experimental stations for both Agricultural and Horticultural information. It is believed that private enterprise will co-operate to make these experiments more perfect and to lessen the expense.

THE National Live Stock Journal of Chicago has been sold by the former proprietor, Mr. GEO. W. RUST, and will hereafter be published by a Joint Stock Company. It will be edited by J. H. SANDERS, assisted by Judge T. C. JONES, GEO. W. RUST, A. M. GARLAND and CHAS. P. WILLARD.

THE HOUSEKEEPER is a neat and well edited monthly magazine devoted to domestic affairs. We know the publishers, C. F. WINGATE & Co., to be reliable, and have no doubt they will fulfill the promises made in their advertisement, headed "A Novel Idea," given elsewhere in this paper.

SOME of our correspondents suspect that "F. E. B.," who writes so enthusiastically in favor of hop growing, is a dealer in hops or a brewer, anxious for large increase in production. We assure them that this is not the fact. He is a farmer, and only urges hop growing because he regards it as the most profitable crop.

THE Eucalyptus, or fever tree, will grow from cuttings. A Californian, who set a slip a year ago, reports to the Pacific Rural Press that it is six feet high. This, however, is little, if any, larger than seedlings at that age, and Eucalyptus seed is plenty and cheap. The tree should be planted wherever the climate is suitable.

F. M. LUPTON & Co., 37 Park Row, N. Y., publishers of "Cricket on the Hearth," (as will be seen in another column,) offer a very attractive premium, consisting of a series of wood cuts in the highest style of art. These are given free to *every* subscriber to the "Cricket," and with the paper, are a combination that should appeal to the taste of all who like a good paper and a handsome present. The price of the paper is unusually low.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

BRIDE & CO,
769 Broadway, N. Y., want agents for the best money-making article in the world. Send for particulars.

Neglected Coughs and Colds.—Few are aware of the importance of checking a Cough or "Common Cold" in its first stage: that which in the beginning would yield to "BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES," if neglected, often works upon the Lungs.

THE HEROES OF THE EARTH.

BY KATE MERIDEN.

[SUGGESTED by an incident which came under the writer's observation.]

THERE are hearts that bear great burdens,
Under a cheerful smile—
There are natures high and lofty,
That sorrow all the while—
There are lives that give to duty
More than their own heart's blood,
And divest their life of beauty
For some unselfish good.

Ah, not on a field of battle
Are all Life's Heroes found—
Not in the crowded palaces
Of those of high renown;
But oft to some sad child of earth,
Is sent to prove how long
A spirit of immortal birth
Can "suffer and be strong."

When the veil is torn asunder,
And day succeeds the night,
Then these patient, holy watchers
Shall see the blessed light:
For amid the vast deceptions
The world has given birth,
They shall shine in peerless beauty,
The Heroes of the Earth.

The Story-Teller.

MAX AND MARGARET.

A STORY OF LOVE AND DUTY.

BY VIOLET FULLER.

CHAPTER I.

"WELL, MAX," said Captain HEATHCOTE to his friend MAX VON BERNSTEIN, as they drove through the pleasant lanes of the pretty village of Heathcote, one lovely August evening, "how do you like this for a specimen of our English villages?"

"Very much indeed," was the answer in excellent English, but with a slightly foreign accent, "it is exquisitely picturesque, and the fresh green of the grass is quite refreshing to the eyes after a sojourn in the dusky city of London." And in truth Heathcote was one of the prettiest villages to be found in "Merrie England," with its tiny cottages covered with roses and trailing vines, and its quaint old church, standing in the midst of its green churchyard, keeping solemn watch and ward over the many generations of sleepers in its quiet precincts.

Of the two gentlemen who were driving through the village one was the son of Squire HEATHCOTE of the Chace, the largest landed proprietor in the neighborhood, and the other a young German who was visiting Heathcote for the shooting season. As they neared the gates of the Chace, Captain HEATHCOTE took off his cap to an elderly gentleman who stood at the gate of a small but pretty garden. A neat cottage ornee rose in the back ground, whose low French windows looked out on the blooming flower beds.

"Welcome home, BERTIE," said Major TREHERNE: "come down and see us this evening."

"All right," shouted BERTIE, as he turned to direct the groom to open the gates.

"MAX," said BERTIE to his friend, "you must go with me this evening; I want to introduce you to my cousin MARGARET."

"Ah," said MAX, "the cousin of whom I have heard you speak so often? What is she like?"

"Wait till you see her. I fancy she will satisfy even your artist eye."

"So," said MAX, as he thoughtfully stroked his dark mustache; "I shall be delighted to see this paragon."

MAX, Count VON BERNSTEIN, although a Prussian, was not one of the stereotyped, fair-haired and blue-eyed Teutonic type of manhood; his mother had been a French lady, and he inherited her dark Provencal beauty.

The dog-cart was by this time whirling up the avenue, and the gentlemen soon stood on the steps of the huge pile of stone known as Heathcote Chace.

"Welcome 'ome, captain," said the old family servant, as they entered the large hall.

"Thanks, THOMAS; how are your old bones?" said the young man in a pleasant voice. "Where is my father?"

"In the study, sir."

"Come along, MAX," said BERTIE; "and THOMAS, show the servant of the Count where to go." He led the way to the study, where they found the good old Squire deep in accounts. His face brightened at the sight of his son's handsome face.

"My dear boy," he said, as he grasped his hand, "I am so glad to see you; I have been feeling lonely."

"Why, you look in good condition, sir; this is my friend, Count VON BERNSTEIN. You know his father, I think."

"Ah, yes," answered the Squire as he shook the Count warmly by the hand. "We were at college together at Bonn." He did not add that they both had loved LEONIE DE COURCELLES, the bright Provencal beauty, but that VON BERNSTEIN had been the favored suitor. "You resemble your mother," said the Squire, as he looked kindly at the young German.

"I am glad of that," said MAX; "I thought my mother perfection."

"And you have lost her?"

"Yes, she died some time since," answered MAX as he turned away.

"Come," said BERTIE, who had an aversion to scenes, "it is time to dress for dinner, I'm sure."

"Yes, we dine at six——"

"Off with you, MAX," said the hungry Captain; "I can't be kept waiting."

The young men left the room, and the Squire went to his, full of the recollections of his life at college and the dark-eyed LEONIE, who had been his first love. Squire HEATHCOTE was a fine specimen of an English country gentleman. His foreign education and extensive travel had given a refinement to his manners unusual in men of his class. His wife had been some years dead, and as BERTIE was his only child, he was anxious that he should remain at home and lead the life of a country Squire; but BERTIE had a fancy for the army, and his father did not oppose him.

The gentlemen met at dinner in renewed spirits, and conversation was brilliantly sustained during the meal.

"Are you for a walk, sir?" asked BERTIE, as they rose from the table.

"Where to?"

"I promised Major TREHERNE to go down to the cottage this evening; as there are no ladies to make tea for us here, we must go elsewhere."

The Squire laughed. "That is your own fault, BERTIE; but you can go; I will take my nap. Take care the Count does not cut you out."

"O, MAX is not a free agent; I'm not afraid. Eh, MAX?"

"I don't understand you," said the German, haughtily, who was quick to take offense.

"Never mind, old fellow," said BERTIE, good humoredly; "we can talk about it as we go along.'

"Don't stay long, my boy," said the Squire. "GOD bless them," he said as he watched them down the avenue; "they are both fine fellows"—as in truth they were, each in his different way being a noble specimen of manhood in its very flower and prime. They were of equal hight, but BERTIE'S fair curls and frank, blue eyes, were a great contrast to the dark, flashing orbs and waving black hair of the German. His tawny mustache was of regulation length, as became a Captain in the Plungers, while MAX'S was closely trimmed and as dark as his hair. Both men walked with that easy, swinging gait which bespeaks the soldier, and both had an air of perfect breeding which shows constant mingling with the best society.

"This is a magnificent place," said MAX, as they passed beneath the trees which formed an arch over their heads; "truly one of the stately homes of England. How I envy you English the possession of these grand ancestral estates; I would willingly barter my empty title for one. Of what benefit is it to me when the Schloss VON BERNSTEIN, the cradle of my race, is a mere heap of ruins? Better to be plain farmer SMITH."

"Nonsense, MAX," said BERTIE. "Does not your heart thrill at the recollection of the glorious deeds of a long line of ancestors?"

"You are right, lieber friend," said the German, as he placed his hand on BERTIE'S shoulder, while his dark eyes filled with light. "I *am* proud of my race, and if the opportunity should occur, I will strive to add fresh luster to the noble name of BERNSTEIN. But this is egotism. Tell me of your cousin."

"My cousin MARGARET? There is not much to tell. She only left school a year ago, to keep house for her father, who is a cousin of my mother. He is a retired Indian officer who lives on his pension and they lead a very quiet life."

"Has he been here long?"

"Only one year. My father is very fond of MARGARET and persuaded the Major to take the cottage. But here we are," and they turned out of the lodge gates and came in sight of the pretty cottage. As MAX entered the garden in BERTIE'S wake, he beheld the most enchanting picture that had ever delighted his eyes. Standing on the porch in a framework of greenery formed by the vines which were trained over a trellis-work, was a tall, slight girl, with such waving masses of chestnut hair and such violet eyes as he had never seen, even among the blue-eyed fraulein of his native land. Her skin was of a soft, creamy hue, with the faintest rose tint on the rounded cheeks. MAX never forgot this picture, but took in its every detail, even to the floating muslin dress she wore, which was of the palest mauve. A velvet band of the same color parted the gleaming waves of hair, and a similar decoration enhanced the beauty of the fair, slender throat.

"Sweet English rose," he thought, as she advanced with extended hand and her fair face glowing with pleasure, to greet Captain HEATHCOTE. "Welcome home," she said in a clear, sweet voice. "But I am afraid the poor partridges will be sorry to see you."

"I mean to make great havoc among them," answered BERTIE, as he pressed the little hand and smiled admiringly into the bright young face. "And I shall be ably seconded by one of the best shots in Europe, although he looks so peaceable. Count VON BERNSTEIN, MARGARET, of whom you have heard me speak."

MARGARET bent her head in acknowledgement of the introduction, and blushed as she felt rather than saw, the searching gaze of the Count's dark eyes. The Major proposed an adjournment to the house for tea or coffee. "Yes," said BERTIE, "we came for that; we have no fair lady at the Chace to administer the 'cup that cheers.'"

"Oh, stop, BERTIE," said Miss TREHERNE, reproachfully; "don't continue that worn-out quotation, or I shall think that what Punch says is true, and the Plungers are really devoid of originality."

"Come, MARGARET," said her father, leading the way into the house, "or your tea won't be fit to drink."

The pretty drawing-room, with its deep easy chairs, its flowing muslin curtains, the few good pictures on the pale green walls, and the light and graceful adornments in the way of bronzes and fair, snowy statuettes on tiny brackets, was a pleasant place to lounge in this sweet, summer evening. The low windows looked on the fragrant, blooming garden, and the scent of the flowers came wafted gently into the room by the soft breeze that stirred the curtains. MARGARET made tea for her guests, and as MAX received his cup from her hands and the faint, delicious perfume of violets came towards him from her delicate garments, his heart was filled with a sense of rest, a feeling of home-like peace came over him to which he had long been a stranger. MAX had lost his father when a mere youth, and had felt himself the sole guardian of his mother, whom he idolized. The VON BERNSTEINS were an impoverished family and the father had left nothing behind him, so that MAX was obliged to leave the army, where his pay was too small for the support of two people, and accept the position of attache to the Prussian Legation in London. As he was very handsome, spoke English well and waltzed charmingly, he was a great addition to the fashionable circles of Belgravia; but after his mother's death he went very little into society. Captain HEATHCOTE and Major TREHERNE were deep in conversation concerning the prospects for sport, and MARGARET addressed herself to the entertainment of the Count. "How do you like England?" she began.

"Very much indeed," he replied, rousing himself from his reverie. "I think I should like English country life better than that of the cities, however."

"Better than German country life?"

"I don't say that, for we have noble sport in our deep German forests. You have never been in Germany, Miss TREHERNE?"

"No, but papa has promised to take me very soon, and I am working hard at my German in the meanwhile. But it is slow work alone," she added, smiling.

A sudden impulse seized MAX, he hardly knew why, to say, "May I—dare I offer my services to you as teacher while I remain at the Chace?"

MARGARET blushed; what should she answer? She wished it, of course, but the offer was very embarrassing. She hesitated and seemed so confused, that MAX thought he had offended her and became angry himself. "I beg your pardon," he said coldly; "I presumed on my intimacy with Captain HEATHCOTE—" and placing his cup and saucer on the table he rose and walked towards the piano.

MARGARET looked after him in amazement. How rude of him to walk off in that manner! She had not meant to offend him. And now what could she do to conciliate him? BERTIE however came to her relief by calling out, "That's right MAX; you are going to give us some music, I hope."

"*Place aux dames*," he answered, "won't Miss TREHERNE honor us first?"

"Come, MARGARET, give us a song," said BERTIE. "I have heard no singing in London I like as well as yours."

MARGARET rose obediently and going to a pile of music, began to look out a song.

"Can I assist you?" said a deep, rich voice close beside her.

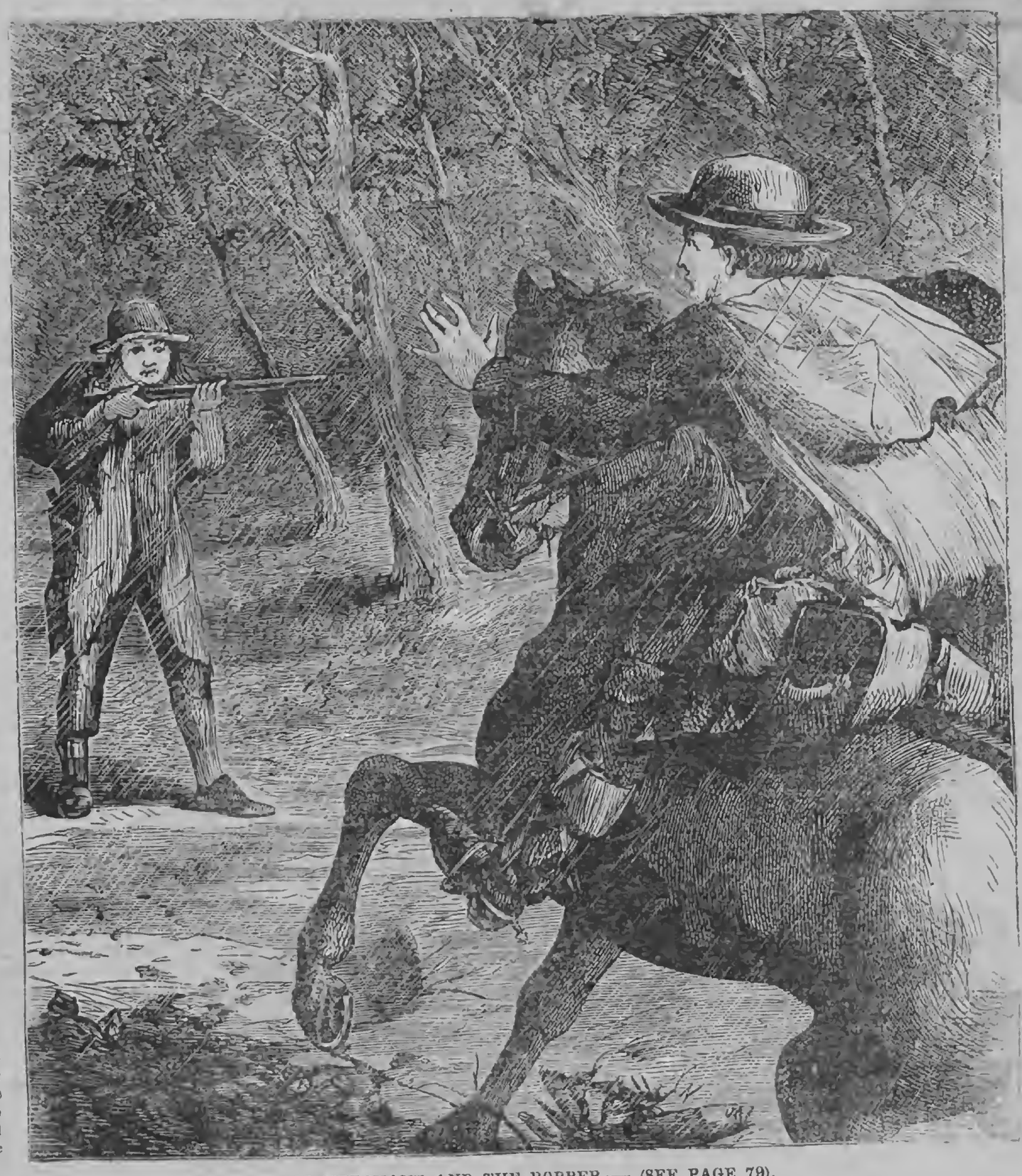
She looked up. "Thanks. I can find what I require.'

MAX turned away, but she stopped him. "Count, forgive me if I seemed rude just now, but——"

"Not so," he answered; "I was the offender."

MARGARET, can't you find a song?" called BERTIE, impatiently. She took up HULLAH'S "Three Fishers," and seating herself at the piano sang it charmingly, in spite of a slight tremor in the sweet, pathetic voice; this however added to the mournful effect of this saddest of songs.

"Oh, by Jove," said BERTIE, 'that's enough to give one the horrors. Good-by 'to the bar and its moaning,' with all my heart. But you sang it beautifully MARGARET."



THE MERCHANT AND THE ROBBER — (SEE PAGE 79).

"Now, Count," said she, rising from the piano, "I want to hear a German song properly sung."

"I am rather out of practice," he said seating himself; "but I will do my best;" and striking a few preliminary chords with a masterly hand, he sang "The Standard-Bearer" in such a rich and powerful tenor voice as would have made his fortune on any stage in Europe. MARGARET was delighted, and begged for another song.

"Give us "*Mein Hertz ist am Rhein*, MAX," said BERTIE. He complied, and sang it as though his soul was in his words.

"How you love your country," said MARGARET, as she leaned on the piano with her eyes fixed on the singer.

"I do," answered the German, turning his flashing gaze full on her; "and my fondest hope is that I may be one day able to prove my devotion by taking up arms in her behalf. You know I am a soldier by profession, nor do I think the day is far distant when she will need my services; but," he added, checking himself, "this is no conversation for a drawing-room. You see Miss TREHERNE, what a lion you have roused," and he rose and walked to where the Major was sitting.

"MARGARET," said BERTIE, "when are you coming up to the Chace? We are to have no end of fun when the fellows arrive—croquet, archery meetings, and all that sort of thing."

"But I can't go, BERTIE; you know I have no chaperone, and papa won't take me."

"O, I'll take care of you; I'll come for you every day. And now Count VON BERNSTEIN, if you are quite ready, we'll be off; I promised the Squire not to stay long."

MAX rose quickly and approaching MARGARET said in a low voice. "May I bring you a book tomorrow, Miss TREHERNE?"

"Certainly, I shall be very glad of it."

"Then you have quite forgiven me?"

"There was nothing to forgive," she said, holding out her hand. "Good night."

"*Auf wiedersehen*," he answered, giving the little hand a gentle pressure as he released it.

"Good night, MARGARET," said BERTIE. "You did not invite me, but you may expect me all the same."

"You are at home, my boy," said the Major.

"All right," said the young man laughing, as he took his way down the garden, followed by MAX. "My heart's on the Rhine," sang BERTIE, as they entered the gates of the Chace. "That's a glorious song, MAX, and you sing it in first-rate style, *con amore*. Eh, old fellow?" and he pulled his Glengary cap over his fair curls and linked his arm in that of his friend. "Your heart *is* on the Rhine, you know, with the fair Countess." MAX did not answer. "MAX, are you moon-struck?" he turned impatiently. "Honor bright," BERTIE went on, "isn't there something between you and a certain Countess?"

"What do you mean, HEATHCOTE? This is the second time you have insinuated this; what does it matter to you whether there is or not?"

"Come, don't be angry, but I must be careful how I introduce such a fascinating personage to our pretty country girls. They would break their hearts in vain." BERTIE said this in his usual good-humored fashion; but he wished his friend to know that MARGARET was only to be admired at a respectful distance.

The German laughed bitterly. "Bah!—you need not be afraid. The heir of a ruined castle cannot be a very dangerous rival to the future Lord of Heathcote. Besides, I don't think your English fraulein's are so susceptible."

BERTIE looked at the tall, lithe figure and dark refined face with the glorious eyes, and thought that he might be a formidable rival in spite of Heathcote and its owner; for he was not a vain man, this fair-haired young soldier—this blue-eyed Captain of Plungers. "What do you think of my cousin?" he asked at length.

"What can I think but that she is perfect? and that innocent, child-like manner, so unconscious of her own wondrous beauty. She is the *beau ideal* of FAUST'S exquisite 'Gretchen'"

"Aw, yes," said BERTIE, yawning. "She is charmingly fresh and innocent. She wants a season in London to improve her manners; *then*, I grant you, she would be hard to beat."

"Ah, you would destroy her greatest charm. Believe me, my friend, a woman who is ignorant of the world and its ways is one of the greatest boons that Heaven can bestow on man. My mother was such a one."

They had by this time reached the house, and in the quiet of his own room MAX had leisure to think of MARGARET. She was so different from all the women he had hitherto known—and his knowledge of the fair sex was not small, for the handsome attache with his distinguished appearance, had made a sensation in the salons. His heart amid all these temptations was still untouched; indeed, he had but to stretch out his hand now and a fair bride was willing to accept it and lay her fortune at his feet. IDA VON LANSTEIN, Countess and heiress, had been betrothed to MAX when they were both children, by their parents' arrangement of course; and the pretty IDA, who was obedience itself, had never permitted her thoughts to wander from her affianced, while MAX, on the contrary, refused to consider the contract final. He could not marry for money alone, and although he liked the playmate of his childhood, he did not love her as he wished to love the woman he would marry. This fair English girl seemed to realize his idea of what that women ought to be. "Happy BERTIE," he thought; "I wonder if she loves him? It is evident there is a marriage between them in prospect. Well, the 1st of September will soon be here, so for that short space of time it will do no harm to read German with her." And he took SCHILLER'S "Piccolomini" and "Wallenstein" out of his trunk before he retired to dream of MARGARET'S blue eyes and sweet, low voice.

The next morning MAX took his way to the cottage, where he found MARGARET in the garden watering her flowers—"a rose in roses,"—blushing brightly under her shady hat as she caught sight of him. "Good morning, Count. I suppose you have beaten Captain HEATHCOTE in getting out so early. He is generally lazy in the morning."

"I left the Captain at breakfast. I was anxious to begin at once, you see," and he showed the books he had brought.

"How delightful! I have always wished to read 'Wallenstein.' But won't you come in and see papa while I get rid of my gardening apparatus?" And she took up her watering pot as she spoke.

"Allow me," said MAX; "that is much too heavy for you."

"How weak you must think me," she said, laughing. "Pray go to papa; I don't need assistance, I assure you."

MAX obeyed, and MARGARET was soon on her way upstairs to her room, where she threw off her hat. "Hateful, unbecoming thing!" she said, as she proceeded to arrange the braids of her lovely chestnut hair. She would not change her dress; it was quite fresh and neat, and the plain brown Holland showed off the outlines of the young, round form, as well as if it had been made of silk. She descended to the study with a fluttering of the pulses, which she told herself was very foolish. What was this stranger to her? He had handsome eyes, to be sure, and they had certainly expressed admiration of her, and—but she did not go any further in her soliloquy.

Turning the handle of the door, she went into the study, where the Count and her father were deep in European politics. MAX talked well, and his manner was a judicious mixture of French vivacity and German reticence, which charmed Major TREHERNE so much that he seemed inclined to monopolize the young man entirely. MAX turned to MARGARET, however, as she entered, and rose to hand her a chair, when the Major remembered for what purpose the Count had made such an early visit.

"Well, young people," he said, "so you are going to read German;" but where is Capt. HEATHCOTE? Is he not going to join you?"

MAX reddened. The fact was he had never told BERTIE of his intention to visit the cottage so early.

"He will come to luncheon, papa, of course; he always does when he's at home."

"Very well; I will smoke a cigar in the garden." And he carried off a camp-stool and his copy of the Times, never thinking, good, easy soul, of the impropriety of leaving those two together to study German or anything else they chose in the pleasant library, with the perfume of the flowers and the sunshine coming in softly through the shady Venetian blinds. And thus began the story of these two lives, as together they bent over the same page and read the sad, sweet tale of love and death, the story of MAX PICCOLOMINI and THEKLA, and ever and anon MARGARET'S soft eyes would fill with tears at the touching record of the piteous struggle between love and duty which rent the hearts of the hapless lovers. What wonder that in reading of one MAX she thought of the real, living MAX whose dark eyes met hers whenever she raised them from the book. Ah! these were dangerous moments for MAX, who, although he knew that he was laying up a store of future misery for himself, sat there in a trance of delight, watching the bright, bent head, the rich waves of chestnut hair, and the long eyelashes, which threw a shadow on the fair, round cheek. And so the sweet summer idyl began—to end how?

"O, mornin' hope, O, mornin' life,
O, lichtsome days and lang,
When honeyed hopes around their hearts,
Like simmer blossoms, sprang."

[Conclusion next week.

WINTER AMUSEMENTS.

DR. HOLLAND writes as follows, in Scribner's, on the subject of Winter Amusements:

It is an easy thing to establish, either in country or city neighborhoods, the reading club. Twenty-five young men and women of congenial tastes, habits and social belongings can easily meet in one another's houses, once during every week, through five or six months of the year. With a small fund they can buy good books, and, over these, read aloud by one another of their number, they can spend an hour and a half most pleasantly and profitably. They will find in these books topics of conversation for the remainder of the time they spend together. If they can illuminate the evening with music, all the better. Whatever accomplishments may be in the possession of different members of the club may be called upon to give variety to the interest of the occasion. This is entirely practicable everywhere. It is more profitable than amateur theatricals, and less exhaustive of time and energy. It can be united with almost any literary object. The "Shakespeare Club" is nothing but a reading club, devoted to the study of a single author; and Shakespeare may well engage a club for a single winter. Such a club would cultivate the art of good reading, which is one of the best and most useful of accomplishments. It would cultivate thought, imagination, taste. In brief, the whole tendency of the reading club is toward culture, the one thing, notwithstanding all our educational advantages, the most deplorably lacking in the average American man and woman.

There was a time when the popular lecture was a source not only of amusement but of culture—when it stimulated thought, developed healthy opinion, conveyed instruction and elevated the taste. The golden days when Sumner, Everett and Holmes, Starr, King and Prof. Mitchell, Bishop Huntington, Clark, Beecher and Chapin, Emerson, Curtis, Taylor and Philips were all actively in the field, were days of genuine progress. Few better things could happen to the American people than the return of such days as those were; and the "lecture system," as it has been called, is declining in its usefulness and interest simply because it has not men like these to give it tone and value. A few of the old set linger in the field, but death, old age, and absorbing pursuits have withdrawn the most of them. The platform is not what it was. The literary trifler, the theatrical reader, the second or third rate concert, have dislodged the reliable lecture-goers, and the popular lecture will certainly be killed if bad management can kill it. The standard has not been raised or even maintained; it has been lowered—lowered specially, and with a direct purpose, to meet the tastes of the vulgar crowd.

Well, the young people, in whose hands the "lecture system" has always been, can mend all this, if they consider it worth the pains. Certainly, the coming into contact with a thoroughly utilized man of brains is a very stimulating experience. The privilege of doing so should not be lightly relinquished; and, whenever a course of lectures is well conducted, it ought to meet with a generous patronage from all who have young people on their hands to be entertained and improved.

But even the lecture, desirable as it is, is not necessary. In a city like New York there ought to be five hundred clubs of young people established this very winter for the purpose of social and intellectual amusements with culture in view as the great ultimate end. The exercises may take a great many forms which it is not necessary for us even to suggest. Books may be read, original papers may be presented, musical rehearsals may form a part of the entertainment, products of art may be exhibited, there may be dramatic and conversational practice, and practice in French and German. There is no limit to the variety of exercises that may be profitably entered upon. And what is good for the young people of the great cities will be just as good for young people everywhere.

SPEECH OF A MISSISSIPPI EDITOR.

AT a reception to an excursion party of Mississipi editors, at Buffalo, N. Y., Mr. S. H. Stackhouse, of the Hazelhurst (Miss.) Copiahan, made the following reply to the address of welcome:—"When the Queen of Sheba visited old Solomon's dominions in the ancient time, flew over the hills and dales in his lightning railroad trains, sailed over his great lakes in his big steamers, rode upon his keel boats as they plowed his canals, examined critically his farms and his machine shops, she finally made her way to the headquarters and formally interviewed the thrifty old autocrat of all the Jews; and in that interview candor constrained her to acknowledge that although she had heard much of his greatness and magnificence, yet the half had not been told her. So it is with us, fellow-citizens of Buffalo, in reference to this tremendous country you have got. We have heard a great deal about you. We have read much concerning you in your big newspapers, of your thrift, your push, your genius, enterprise, wealth, progress and irrepressibility. But now since we have traversed a considerable scope of your grand domain, we are, like the Queen of Sheba, forced to acknowledge that the half has not been told us.

"We are not going into any war with you fellows. If we had known how confounded numerous you were—what vast resources you had—what a nation of get up and gitters you are—we should never have been guilty of the absurdity of trying to whip you in the first place. Now that we have seen for ourselves, and gotten some sort of an idea of the magnitude of the job of cleaning you out, we consider that another war on our side would be preposterous and ridiculous, and we are for peace. Yes, fellow-citizens of Buffalo, we are here in the interest of peace—God-like peace. In the glowing language of the inspired psalmist, "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." We believe in peace. We are quite ready to be harmonized. And I am glad to be able to say that everywhere we have been in the North and West we have met with a cordial welcome and kindly greeting. Nobody has made faces at us. We have felt O. K. all the time. The railroads have deadheaded us and given us the finest drawing-room cars to sleep in. The hotels reduced their rates and some of them didn't have the heart to charge us at all. We have been fed at all your eating institutions where we have stopped. In some places they wined us and they dined us, rode us out in carriages and showed us the sights, made speeches to us, serenaded us with their brass bands, etc., etc. We have had just a splendid time of it. The ladies (God bless 'em, always) have smiled upon us, and the men have sometimes even gone to the extent of asking us to take a drink. That last is the capstone to the climax of reconciliation. [Hear, hear!] The true road to a Mississippi editor's heart is to invite him to take a drink with you. If that don't harmonize him—if that don't capture him—if *that* don't bring peace to the land and save the country, nothing else on earth will."

SINCERITY—Give us sincere friends, or none. This hollow glitter of smiles and words—compliments that mean nothing—protestations of affection as solid as the froth from champagne—invitations that are but pretty sentences, uttered because such things are customary—are all worthless. There is no need of them.

To know how to keep a tidy house and well-aired apartments; to know how to select the best kind of food; to know how to prepare them in the best manner—these are the first things—and every daughter should learn them before marriage.

Sabbath Reading.

ANGEL WHISPERS.

I LOVE the long, long hours of night,
For as I sweetly rest,
And dream of all things fair and bright,
An angel is my guest.
Her voice is soft, and full of love,
And fills me with such peace
That often as I hear, I wish
The night might never cease!
Little thoughts of heaven,
Little dreams of love,
Little drops of gladness,
From the world above!

She tells me of her wondrous home
Where winding streamlets flow,
Where all is bright with living light,
And flowers of beauty grow!
There little angel-children live,
Forever free from sin,
For through those heavenly gates of pearl
No harm can enter in!
Little ones of God,
Pure and sweet and fair,
Plucked so soon from earth—
Bloom in beauty there!

There's something else the angel tells
For me to learn, mamma,
The way to find those mansions blest—
The path that leads so far,
Is right amidst our daily life—
A straight and narrow way.
And though it seems so dim, so dark,
It leads to endless day!
Angel-whispers low,
Through the silent night,
Make its darkest hours
Bright with heavenly light!

MOODY'S FIRST REVIVAL WORK.

A CHICAGO correspondent writes:—It will hardly be believed that when Dwight L. Moody, many years ago, began to speak in religious meetings here, he made such poor work with syntax that some one suggested to him that he keep silent lest his blunders should annoy the other attendants. But Moody kept on talking, doing his work for awhile largely in by-places, among the poorer class. When I first knew him, twelve years ago, he had a mission school in the North Market Hall. Prior to that time he sometimes held meetings in an old shanty which had been used as a drinking saloon, and had become so ricketty that it was abandoned for such a purpose. Mr. Reynolds, an Illinois layman, who always has "a mind to work" for Christ, thus describes Mr. Moody as he first met him in that shanty:

"I went there a little late, and the first thing I saw was a man standing up, with a few tallow candles around him, holding a negro boy, and trying to read to him the story of the Prodigal Son, and a great many of the words he could not make out, and had to skip. I thought if the Lord could ever use such an instrument as that for His honor and glory it will astonish me. After that meeting was over Mr. Moody said to me, 'Reynolds, I have got only one talent; I have no education, but I love the Lord Jesus Christ, and I want to do something for Him, and I want you to pray for me.' I have never ceased, from that day to this, morning and night, to pray for that devoted Christian soldier." Who can tell how much the spiritual growth and success of Bro. Moody owe to the prayers of such men as Bro. Reynolds?

Chicago has several other laymen who are successful as preachers, among whom may be mentioned B. F. Jacobs, C. B. Blackall and J. W. Dean. The first two are known the country over as great Sunday school workers.

GROWING OLD.

IT is the solemn thought connected with middle life, says the late eloquent F. W. Robertson, that life's last business is begun in earnest; and it is then midway between the cradle and the grave that a man begins to marvel that he let the days of youth go by so half-enjoyed. It is the pensive autumn feeling; it is the sensation of half sadness that we experience when the longest day of the year is past, and every day that follows is shorter, and the light fainter, and the feebler shadows tell that nature is hastening with gigantic footsteps to her winter grave. So does man look upon his youth. When the first gray hairs become visible, when the unwelcome truth fastens itself upon the mind that a man is no longer going up hill but down, and that the sun is always westering, he looks back on things behind. When we were children we thought as children. But now there lies before us manhood, with its earnest work, and then old age, and then the grave, and then home. There is a second youth for man, better and holier than his first, if he will look on and not back.

READING THE SCRIPTURES—Suppose you have only a few moments every day. One of the holiest men I ever knew never read more than five or ten verses at once. Every verse had so broad and many-sided signification, that a few words gave him as much mental food as he could bear at one time. Throughout the day they came upon him in all their various applications and shades of meaning, as circumstances placed him in one position and now in another.

TAKE care that all is done in a sweet and easy way; make no toil or task out of the service of God. Do all freely and cheerfully without violent effort.

THE love of man is good while it lasteth; the love of God is better, being everlasting.

Ladies' Portfolio.

MUSIC.

BY MRS. S. F. HINCKLEY.

Music hath rich, enchanting strains,
That make life's pathway brighter,
And by their power the weary hour
Is often rendered lighter.

It nerves the patriot's arm with strength,
And fills his heart with fire,—
Amid the battle's ceaseless din,
His throbbing pulse beat higher.

'Tis said beside the dying couch
There's music soft and sweet,
That harps low tones are mingled with
The fall of angels' feet.

Beauty and music—hand in hand
They walk this earth of ours,
And each bright thing in nature thrills,
Charmed with their mystic powers.

There's beauty in the lightning's flash,
When storm clouds darkly lower,—
And music in the water's clash
Along the sounding shore.

There's beauty in the flower so pale,
That blooms so sweet and lowly,
And lifts its dewy chalice up
To HIM so high and holy.

There's music 'mid the dark-leaved trees,—
A hundred birds are singing—
And all the pulse of Nature thrills,
And all the woods are ringing.

And everywhere we see outspread
The leaves of music lie,—
And Nature plays the keys, and we
Stand idly dreaming by.

ABOUT HOUSEKEEPING.

BY AMELIA.

WE often hear the remark that such and such persons are good or poor housekeepers, as the case may be, but we seldom stop to think that good housekeeping is an accomplishment that very few, comparatively, possess. Girls are not brought up as they were fifty years ago. As the country has grown richer work has become more of a drudgery, and while the young lady of to-day idles away her time BRIDGET does the housework. Of course there are exceptions; still, I think, there is too little attention paid to teaching girls when young the rudiments of housekeeping. It will do no one any harm to know how to do all kinds of work, and we live in an uncertain age, when riches take to themselves wings and fly away so easily that it is sometimes convenient to be able to take care of oneself.

Hardly any two work alike. Some cook splendidly and require an abundance to cook with, while others will make a good deal of nothing. Some are painfully neat. They keep their rooms shut up for fear of sunlight and flies, and every step is light for fear of dirt. The dog and cat have a pinched, far-away look, as if they meditated suicide; and it is a real relief to step into another house where, perhaps, things are not in half as good order, but you are not afraid of putting them out of place.

Frugality, we have always been told, is another requisite for a good housekeeper, but I presume we have all seen those who possessed it to such a degree that it ceased to be a virtue, while others will "throw out of the window much faster than can be put in at the door." And now, as we notice the great difference in people, is it not true that good housekeeping is an accomplishment? There are so many things that are necessary to make home pleasant and agreeable—books, flowers, and all those little elegancies that make a house attractive. "I have so much to do I can never find time to read, much less to cultivate flowers and make ornamental things!" I say those who do the most generally have the most time. It is those women who will turn around all day in a half bushel that have no time.

Calculate your work so as to get it done. Do not be forever fretting at nothing. Be neat, but not so neat as to make everybody uncomfortable. Cultivate flowers and a love for the beautiful in nature and art, and never allow your mind to become so warped that you cannot think of anything but your housework. Read, and be in every sense an intelligent and accomplished woman; then will you be an accomplished housekeeper.

Cayuga, N. Y., 1876.

TO WHOM SHE SAYS NO.

A WOMAN never quite forgets the man who once loved her. She may not have loved him, she may, indeed, have given him a "no" instead of the "yes" he hoped for; but the remembrance that he desired a "yes" always softens her thoughts of him, and would make him, were he reminded of it, a friend forever. There may be girls who make a jest of discarded suitors; but they are generally very young; and the wooing has been something that did not betoken much depth of tenderness. There are mercenary offers, too, that only awaken scorn and hate in the woman wooed for money and not for herself; but, really, to have touched a man's heart is something not to be forgotten by her as long as she lives.

Always she will remember how his eyes looked into her's when he touched her hand with his, and how her heart ached when he turned away without that which she could not give him.

She loved some one else. Some other man has all the truth of her soul—always has, and always will have—but she cannot forget the one who turned from her and went his way, and came no more. She is glad when she hears of his success, grieved when she knows that he has suffered, and when some day she hears that he is married—she who has herself been married for long years, perhaps—she who, at all events, would never have married him—is she glad then? I do not know—A woman's heart is a very strange thing. I do not believe she knows herself. Glad? Oh, yes—and his wife pretty and nice? And then she says to herself that "he has quite forgotten," and "that, of course, is best," and cries a little.

TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION.

SEVENTEEN years ago, says the Boston News, William Lester, a poor carpenter, died in Boston. Three of his children were taken West by a friend, and the fourth, a little girl, was placed in a Boston asylum. Last September the only survivor of the Western members of the family came East in search of his long lost sister, having himself become very wealthy. He found that the girl had been adopted by John Wheeler, a dry goods merchant, but he had been dead a dozen years, and there was no trace of the girl's whereabouts since. Being discouraged he started West again, but on the train, a little way out of Boston, he noticed among a bevy of girls who entered the cars one who remarkably resembled his mother. He left the train when they did, and soon found that it was indeed his sister, who was living with her poor adopted mother. She had never been told that she was an adopted child, and it was long before she realized her situation. The young lady could not be prevailed upon to accompany her brother West, but as she looks upon the luxuries with which she and her adopted mother have been surrounded by her brother she enjoys the pleasures of a real romance.

EARLY INFLUENCES.

THERE can be no greater blessing than to be born in the light and air of a cheerful, loving home. It not only insures a happy childhood—if there is health and a good constitution—but it almost makes sure a virtuous and happy manhood, and a fresh young heart in old age. We think it every parent's duty to try to make their children's childhood full of love and of childhood's proper joyousness; and we never see children destitute of them through the poverty, faulty tempers, or wrong notions of their parents, without a heartache. Not that all the appliances which wealth can buy are necessary to the free and happy unfolding of childhood in body, mind, or heart—quite otherwise. God be thanked; but children must at least have love inside the house, and fresh air and good play, and some good companionship, outside—otherwise young life runs the greatest danger in the world of withering or growing stunted, or sour and wrong, or at least prematurely old and turned inward.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

MRS. KENT MASON has been lecturing to large audiences at St. John, N. B.

MRS. KATE CHASE SPRAGUE of Providence, R. I., is spending the winter in Paris.

MRS. CRAIK'S "Sermons Out of Church," are published by the Messrs. Harper.

QUEEN VICTORIA personally conducts a Sunday School for the children connected with Windsor Castle.

MRS. CHARLES WASHBURN is the President of the Worcester Co. branch of the Massachusetts Woman's Board of Missions.

STATISTICS are given to prove that of the sum total of human misery, physical and mental, women have to bear two-thirds.

MRS. ADELAIDE MURDOCH, a sister of James E. Murdoch, is in San Francisco, where she proposes to lecture on women's duties.

MARIAN SINGER, one of the numerous children of the sewing-machine inventor, has appeared upon the stage in San Francisco in burlesque.

SARAH W. DEVOLL, M. D., was elected orator for the coming year by the Cumberland County (Maine) Medical Society, at its recent annual meeting.

MISS ANNA DICKINSON is said to be in such an unsatisfactory state of health that her physician has ordered her to abandon all work and take a sea voyage.

MRS. ASA SHERMAN of Marshfield, Mass., is 100 years old. Her husband died at the age of 97, and she has five children living, whose ages are 76, 75, 68, 66 and 62.

MISS BETTINA DE ROTHSCHILD, the eldest daughter of Baron Alphonse de Rothschild of Paris, and Baron Albert de Rothschild of Vienna, are to be married early in the spring. Money marries money.

MISS LAVINIA GOODELL read an address on "The Temperance Reform, a Necessary step in the Progress of Civilization," at the Annual Meeting of the Woman's State Temperance Alliance of Wisconsin.

MRS. ABBY SAGE RICHARDSON, having finished a course of "Twelve Familiar Talks on English Literature," a number of her friends, including Miss Alcott, have adopted and presented to her a set of complimentary resolutions.

MISS FANNIE E. TOWNSLEY, the woman evangelist, has closed her labors at Wallingford, Vermont, where sixty persons have been converted under her preaching. She has been presented by the people there with a $20 Bible and $125 in money.

Reading for the Young.

THE SPELLING CLASS.

SEE that crevice in the floor—
Slender line from desk to door,
First meridian of the school,
Which all the scholars toe by rule.
Ranged along in rigid row,
Inky, golden, brown and tow,
Are heads of spellers high and low,
Like notes in music sweet as June,
Dotting off a dancing tune.

Boy of Bashan takes the lead,
Roughly thatched his bullet head;
At the foot an eight-year-old,
Stands with head of trembling gold;
Watch her when the word is missed!
Her eyes are like an amethyst,
Her fingers dove-tailed, lips apart;
She knows that very word by heart!
And swings like any pendulum,
Trembling lest it fail to come.
Runs the word along the line,
Like the running of a vine,
Blossoms out from lip to lip,
Till the girl in azure slip
Catches breath and spells the word,
Flits up the class like any bird,
Cheeks in bloom with honest blood,
And proudly stands where Bashan stood.

* * * * * * * * *

"Attention!" Now—"Obeisance all!"
The girls' short dresses touch the floor,
They drop the courtesies at the door;
The boys jerk bows with jack-knife springs,
And at the doors they all take wings.

[*B. F. Taylor.*

THE MITTENS.

Do you want to know why little children wear mittens, and not gloves like grown persons? Listen, and I will tell you.

Once upon a time, a mother went out and said to the five little fingers:—"Children, when I am not at home, behave well, and do what I tell you. If you are kind and obedient, I will bring each of you a little house, where you can live when it is cold winter."

"O mother!" exclaimed the five fingers, "we will certainly mind; only tell us what we must do."

Then their mother answered:

"The fore-finger must point abroad,
The middle-finger can only nod,
The third-finger strict guard must keep,
Lest the little one into mischief creep,
And the baby thumb must watch and see
That all the rest obedient be."

"Now go, mother dear," said the fore-finger, "I'll certainly be attentive, and point prettily, if you will only bring me something."

Then the middle-finger cried out, "I will promise to be polite and bow nicely, if you will bring me a little house, too, for I'm the biggest one!"

"I will certainly keep watch, that my little brother does not get into mischief," cried the ring-finger; "but my house must be the prettiest!"

"No, mine!" exclaimed the little-finger; "mine must be prettier than all the rest—and then I won't make a bit of noise."

But the baby-thumb only said, "Mother, dear, I will do just what you say!"

But their mother had only been gone a few minutes, when the fore-finger exclaimed:

"It is very stupid and tedious to be so good, and to point all the time. I want to rest a minute." So he lay down.

"Ah, you lazy thing!" replied the middle-finger; "it is much more fatiguing to be so industrious, and bow all the time," and he was going to lay down, too; but the fore-finger jumped up, and gave him a blow, crying, "How dare you find fault with me! You are lazy yourself, you wicked boy!"

Then the middle-finger struck him again, the fore-finger returned it; and who knows how long they might have fought, if the ring-finger had not called out:

"Aren't you ashamed of yourselves? One of you is as bad as the other. See how I torture myself, and stand here keeping watch all the time. I mean to stop and rest, and let you great fellows keep guard over your little brother!"

"What!" exclaimed the fore-finger and middle-finger. "You little rogue, do you pretend to dictate and find fault with your brothers? There, stop now!"

Then they both began to beat the ring-finger. He turned, with all his strength, and struck the little-finger, which he had the care of. The little one gave a dreadful scream, and began to scratch, as well as he could. But just as they were in the hottest of the fight, the door opened and the mother came in.

Oh, how frightened the naughty fingers were! They hung their heads, and were so ashamed they could not speak.

Finally, the middle-finger said that the fore-finger was lazy, and he would not allow it. But the fore-finger laid the blame on the middle-finger, and said he began the quarrel. The ring-finger blamed them both, and the little-finger complained of all.

Then their mother spoke, and said:

"You are four naughty, disobedient children, who deserve to be punished. See here, what I have brought for you!" And she drew a beautiful glove out of her pocket. On it was found five houses, just as large as the five fingers. One was for the thumb; one for the fore-finger; one for the middle-finger; one for the ring-finger, and one for the little-finger.

"But you cannot have these pretty houses now," said the mother. Then she went out, and soon returned with another kind of glove.

"Look!" she exclaimed, "this has only one separate house, which belongs entirely to little thumb, because he is good and obedient. You others must live together, and as soon as you become kind and obedient, then you shall have a house of your own."

And there it was; the four fingers might entreat as much as they could, it would not help them. Ever since this time, many little children wear mittens; but when they grow tall, and become good, then they can wear gloves.

THE MERCHANT AND THE ROBBER.

[SEE ILLUSTRATION, PAGE 77.]

AN English merchant was riding home from market, and had behind him his knapsack, in which there was a large sum of money. It rained heavily, and the good man was soon wet through, which annoyed him very much, and he complained of the weather being so bad while he was obliged to travel.

His way led through a thick forest. As soon as he had entered it he saw to his dismay a robber, who aimed at him with his gun. He must have been killed on the spot, but the rain had made the powder so damp that the gun missed fire. The traveler put spurs to his horse and escaped the danger.

As soon as he was in safety he said to himself, "How very foolish I was to complain of the bad weather, instead of bearing it patiently, as sent from God! If the sky had been bright and the air dry I might at this moment have been lying dead, and my wife and children would have expected me in vain. The rain of which I complained has saved both my life and my property. For the future I will never forget what the proverb says:

"'Take from God's hand whate'er He will bestow;
'Tis best for thee, although it seem not so.'"

A TRUTH.—It was like the song of some wonderful bird, and it made the air shine after the sound had died away; and yet it was just the remark of a brave young men who walked past me arm-in-arm with a companion:—"Depend upon it, Tom, St. Edmund of Canterbury was right when he said to somebody, 'Work as though you would live forever. Live as though you would die to-day.'"

BE frugal, not mean; prudent, not subtle; complaisant, not servile; active in business, but not its slave. There are also four other habits which are essentially necessary to the happy management of temporal concerns; these are punctuality, accuracy, steadiness and dispatch.

LET me deserve well, though I be not advanced. The conscience of my worth shall cheer me more in others' contempt than the approbation of others can comfort me against the secret check of my own unworthiness.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 4.

☞ Answer in two weeks. L. G.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—No. 2.

I AM composed of 19 letters:
My 1, 18, 13, 4 was a mountain mentioned in Genesis.
My 5, 16, 10, 8 was the father of a mighty hunter.
My 6, 3, 17, 9 is a small wild animal.
My 8, 2, 15, 6 was the ancestor of a tribe.
My 11, 3, 17, 7 is a wheeled vehicle.
My 14, 8, 16, 7 was a grandson of Noah.
My 19, 6, 16, 12 was a wilderness in which the children of Israel traveled.
My whole is a Divine command.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

CHARADE.—No. 1.

My first is a lady who is not wed;
In my second is found a prisoner's bed.
My third is what the hens should do;
On my fourth your lover kneels to you.
My fifth you'll see means you and me;
My whole is mixed, whate'er it be.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

PUZZLE.—No. 1.

IN the beginning of eternity,
And in the end of space;
In the beginning of end,
And in the end of time and place.

☞ Answer in two weeks. M. P. A.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Jan. 15.

HIDDEN STATES No. 1.—1. Nevada; 2, Florida; 3, Indiana; 4, Ohio; 5, Vermont; 6, Utah; 7, Colorado; 8, Oregon; 9, Nebraska; 10, Alaska; 11, Iowa; 12, Connecticut; 13, Texas; 14, Maryland; 15, New York; 16, Mississippi; 17, Maine; 18, Montana; 19, Illinois; 20, Missouri; 21, Delaware.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA No. 1.—Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifth-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

CITY vs. COUNTRY.

THE City of Rochester is having another of its periodical agitations for a new charter. The dodge this time, aside from some real improvements, lies in creating five new wards, making 21 in all, which, by a curious coincidence, is just two more than the number of towns in the County. This will give the city a majority of the County Supervisors and entire control of appropriations, assessments and equalization. Possibly the city would thus secure some temporary advantages; but will a bill arbitrarily increasing the number of Supervisors from a locality for the scarcely disguised purpose of giving it political control of a County, pass the State Legislature? Besides, the extravagance of city authorities in city matters makes it doubtful whether the city itself would gain by assuming direction of County matters. Country members of the Board of Supervisors have generally served as a conservative check on city extravagance, and the best interests of all parties require that their influence should not be materially lessened.

THE FAST MAIL.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL JEWELL adheres to the belief that the Fast Mail train is an immense and indispensable public convenience. He denies that it costs the country any considerable amount—a few clerks or so, at an expense of not to exceed $30,000 per year. The railroad companies are paid by the weight of mails, the same whether carried slow or fast. But this is not stating the question fairly, and the P.M.-Gen. ought to know it. The Fast Mail costs the railroads a large amount more than the slow one. Wear of stock and track, and danger, are each greatly increased, and for these the railroad companies will have pay as soon as present contracts run out, with a heavy margin of profit for "back pay" under old contracts. Meanwhile, the Fast Mail is falsely blazoned as a great public necessity, to prepare the way for extortionate demands from the railroads when the proper time comes.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS..

WITHIN five years 70,000 Chinamen may vote in California. Ten thousand may vote in San Francisco and wield one-third of the electoral power. That is, they may, if they choose, name, five years hence, the Mayor of San Francisco and Governor of California.

The Treasurer of Maine has has made his report for 1875, showing the finances of the State to be in sound condition. The receipts for the year were $1,563,775,43; balances on Jan. 1, 1875, $322,185.84. The disbursements for the year were $1,513,857.43; cash on hand December 31, 1875, $377,093.84. The estimated receipts for 1876 are $1,671,699.63, and the expenditures $1,553,490.30. The tax for 1876 will be four mills on the dollar.

Orange County is probably ahead of all others on entertaining tramps. Since the 8th of March last Poormaster Carr has harbored and fed 2,137 of that idle and predatory class.

Mr. John Vance Cheney, in the first of a series of articles on the "Poets of America" in this week's Appletons' Journal, says the first book published in this country was a version of the Psalms by the combined clergy of New England. It appeared in 1640, and in a quaint preface was this apology: "If, therefore the verses are not always so smooth and elegant as some may desire or expect; let them consider that God's altar needs not our polishings."

Miss Ude Zzuda, a young lady at school in New York City, has written to the Japanese Gazette, suggesting the following reforms in her native country: First, the conversion of the whole population to Christianity; second, an increased importation of scissors; third, a restriction of taxation; and fourth, the introduction of the American custom of wedding breakfasts.

The mangled body of a boy was found recently by a party of hunters in the woods near Wesson, Miss., life being barely extinct. The hunters supposed that the murderer would return to hide the corpse, and they hid near by. A negro soon came and, when accused, confessed that he had shot the boy's dog, and then killed the boy for fear that the death of the dog might get him into trouble. The hunters decided unanimously by ballot that he ought to die, and at once hanged him to a tree.

The Idaho gold mine, California, produced last year $492,919 in gold, and paid $172,050 in dividends. The average value of the ore produced by the Idaho mine was $17.63 per ton. The production of the principal mines of California and Nevada for 1875 was as follows: Consolidated Virginia, $16,840,300 Crown Point, $3,124,052; Belcher, $3,107,992; Ophir, $2,382,990; Eureka Consolidated, $1,707,672; Northern Belle, $851,700; Raymond & Ely, $698,635; Chollar-Potosi, $288,017; total, $22,000,059.

A fire at Canarsie, Long Island, Jan. 19, destroyed a large number of passenger cars, three engines and one hotel. Total loss is $40,000; insured for $25,000. All steam travel is destroyed for the present.

The Centennial Appropriation bill was defeated in the Virginia House by a vote of—ayes, 56; noes, 58.

Ex-Sheriff George C. Mills of Alleghany County, Mich., committed suicide by drowning himself, at Plainfield, last week.

There is considerable excitement over the alleged discovery of rich silver quartz just off Maine street, Biddeford, Me.

The port of Wilmington, N. C., just now presents an appearance more active and business-like than ever before. From Parsley's mills to the distilleries, a distance of nearly two miles, vessels of almost every nationality are seen either anchored or in the stream or taking and discharging cargoes at the wharves. A large proportion of them are German vessels.

The opening in the Kings County Penitentiary of a night school for the instruction of convicts whose conduct renders them worthy of encouragement, is a step toward turning our prisons from schools or crime into reformatory institutions. The herding of men between stone walls can do them no good, for men are no more subdued by confinement in cages than are wild beasts.

On Jan. 20 an incendiary fire in the large four-story warehouse on Prince st., Buffalo, owned by Mrs. L. H. Austin, caused a loss of $29,000; insurance, $19,100. C. W. Buell had 1,800 barrels of flour spoiled.

At Greenfield, Mass., the part of the Amidon factory used for making children's carriages was burned Jan. 19. Loss, $18,000; no insurance.

The New Jersey Historical Society held its annual meeting on Jan. 20. The Rev. Dr. Hamill was elected President. A very interesting paper on "The Life of John Witherspoon" was prefaced by John McLean, ex-President of Princeton College. The meeting was well attended, and it was resolved to have a Centennial celebration at Princeton on the 2d of July, that being the day in 1776 when New Jersey declared herself a free and independent State.

Arthur P. Devlin lectured at Dover, N. H., Jan. 19, on "Romanism in America." After the lecture a crowd followed him to his hotel, on the way to which he fled into a drug store for safety, when bricks were thrown the windows, and the Mayor was compelled to read the riot act. The police finally succeeded in getting him to the hotel, not, however, without being compelled to use their revolvers. No one was injured.

Since Dec. 1st 600 persons, nearly all colored, have emigrated from Georgia to the Western and Cotton States, while 250 negroes have left the turpentine districts of North Carolina for Florida in the last fortnight.

The City Council of Richmond has passed a resolution requesting the Mayor to act in conjunction with the citizens of Boston in appealing to Congress to erect a marble monument at Yorktown to commemorate the battle of Oct. 19, 1781.

Walnut logs are in such demand that a man who recently purchased a farm of 250 acres near New Albany, Ind., for $10,000 received an offer of $9,600 for 120 large walnut trees growing on the place. There are also on the farm over 200 poplars, worth from $20 to $30 per tree.

It is urged that the California Legislature should pass a law defining the rights of the children of white fathers by Indian mothers, now classified as Indians, and the children of Chinese parents, regarded as natives of their fathers' country. In the northern counties there are over 1,000 half-Indian children, and in the vicinity of San Francisco and Sacramento about 3,000 Chinese children, all fast approaching legal majority.

Prof. Pepper, the well-known savant, has had Oakey Hall's bad luck on the stage. His project was a play in which optical and chemical effects would be an important part, and he wrote one entitled "The Alchemist's Daughter," assigning to himself the role of the alchemist. The piece was produced in St. Louis, and Mr. Pepper failed hilariously as an actor. That was the opinion he entertained himself, and the theater-going public unanimously coincided with that view. Mr. Pepper at once decided upon a generous "act," and resolved that his first appearance should also be his last. On the next night an actor "to the manner born" did well in the part, and the Professor managed the scientific effects from behind the scenes.

At the Republican Legislative caucus at Augusta, Me., Jan. 20, delegates and alternates were chosen to the Republican National Convention. A resolution was unanimously passed that the Hon. James G. Blaine is the choice of the Republicans of Maine for President.

The Board of State Prison Inspectors has met at Sing Sing, and the following appointments are known to be made:—Agent and Warden, George R. Young of Yates County; Clerk, Samuel S. Whallon of Cattaraugus; Chaplain, Rev. John W. B. Wood of Orange; Storekeeper, E. Curtis Topliff of Cattaraugus; Matron of the Female Prison, Mrs. H. F. Clark of Cayuga.

At North Hoosick, N. Y., Jan. 18th, R. Carpenter & Co.'s woolen mills and store burned. Loss $175,000; insurance $100,000. Two thousand operatives are thrown out of employment. The Troy & Boston railroad bridge across the Walloomsac, near the mill was also burned. Loss, over insurance, $2,000.

Shaw & Stewart's drug store at Brazil, Ind., was destroyed by fire Jan 19. Loss, $5,000.

Gray's Opera House, Rome, O., was burned on Jan. 19; loss, $7,000. Frost & Co.'s dry goods store adjoining was damaged $14,000; insured for $7,000.

On the morning of Jan. 19, a fire broke out in the Lehigh Valley Company's Prospect Shaft, near Wilkesbarre, Pa. An explosion of gas followed, causing considerable damage to the mine. Owing to the bursting of the water pipe the flames could not be extinguished. Some of the men were severely burned while attempting to do so. The mine is now being flooded with water for the purpose of extinguishing the fire.

Henry C. Kibbe, Secretary of the Belcher, the New York, the Jackson, and the Lady Washington Mining Companies, has absconded from San Francisco. He is a defaulter to the amount of $60,000, mostly from the New York Mining Company. The Belcher Company does not suffer.

The Cape Cod Exchange and Brett's block in Harwich, Cape Cod, were destroyed by fire Jan. 1. The Exchange building contained the town hall. The fire destroyed nearly all the business portion of the town. The loss is about $15,000. The fire originated by the breaking of a lamp.

Gov. Tilden, at the request of the Common Council of Albany, has consented to sit for his portrait, to be placed in the Common Council chamber of that city.

The statute of Gov. Winthrop, by Greenough, arrived a few days ago in Boston from Florence. The figure is life size, dressed in Puritan style, and mounted upon a plain pedestal. The statue will be sent to Washington as the contribution of the State of Massachusetts to the National Gallery of Art.

A large fire occurred Jan. 20, at Apollo, Penn., on the West Pennsylvania Railroad. The fire originated from the explosion of an oil lamp. Two squares, comprising about 40 buildings, were entirely destroyed. The loss is estimated at from $40,000 to $50,000.

The Board of State Prison Inspectors have made the following appointments for the Auburn Prison: Agent and Warden, Charles F. Durston of Auburn; Clerk, James D. Morgan of Penn Yan, Yates Co.; Storekeeper, Willard N. Smith of Geneva, Ontario County.

The annual report of the Secretary and Superintendent of the Boston Board of Trade refers to the lack of adequate means of communication as the only obstacle to the growth of Boston's export trade, and adverts to the need of improved terminal facilities, commending the utilization of the South Boston flats. While there has been a falling off in imports of $2,785,497, as compared with the previous year, there has been an increase of $3,130,372 in exports, and there is enough freight now offering here for England to employ many vessels.

The Fourth of July will be a very noisy day in Philadelphia. The demonstration will turn out a multitude of deaf Quakers.

A bill to abolish Tammany has been introduced into the State Senate.

The Ohio Republican State Convention has been appointed for March 29 at Columbus.

Miss Charlotte Cushman is again dangerously ill in Boston, and her condition gives serious alarm to her friends.

Wm. Harlan, only son of the Hon. James Harlan, ex-Secretary of the Interior, died in San Francisco Jan. 19. His father and mother arrived, in response to a telegram, a few hours before his death.

Mr. D. L. Moody, the evangelist, has gone to Florida for the purpose of locating his son in a milder climate. Mr. Moody will return immediately, and begin his labors in New York on the 1st of February.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Governor of Paris has refused permission to the workingmen to hold a public meeting for the purpose of nominating a Senatorial candidate.

London dispatches from Algiers report a terrible hurricane in Algeria Jan. 13. The destruction of property was immense, and cannot be estimated. The shipping on the coast also suffered severely. The gale was of unusual violence.

The oldest daughter of Admiral Hardy, the officer in whose arms the gallant Nelson expired, recently died in England. She was the occupant of a suite of rooms in Hampton Court Palace, alloted her by the Queen. The musket ball by which Nelson was killed was for many years kept as a memento by Capt. Hardy, who had it mounted in crystal and silver as a locket. It is believed now to be in the possession of the Queen.

The London Times of Jan. 20th has an article in its financial department on the proposition of Mr. Sherman, recently introduced in the United States Senate, for a common unit for money and accounts for the United States and Great Britain. It says that the idea, so far as it has been considered, finds no favor here. It might suit the Americans, as most of their gold is locked up in Sub-Treasuries, while the English sovereign circulates in millions throughout the world. It is believed that the disturbance arising from such a change would be indescribable, particularly in the absence of specie payments in America.

With reference to the statement made by Secretary Fish before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the American House of Representatives respecting negotiations between Spain and the United States, it is semi-officially pointed out that the Washington Government not having yet replied to the Spanish note of the 15th of November, 1875, nor having officially communicated at Madrid the contents of the American circular note to the European powers, all reports of a favorable reply from Spain may be regarded as destitute of foundation.

Gen. Martinez Campo's army has begun moving against the Carlists in Navarre.

The London Times of Jan. 20th publishes a letter from Vienna containing the following details in regard to matters in the northern provinces of Turkey. In consequence of the Turkish operations on the Montenegrin frontier, the Prince of Montenegro summoned a war council of Senators and military officers, which resolved that if the concentration of the Turkish forces on the frontier is to take such proportions as to really carry into effect the reported plan of blockading Montenegro on that side, it will be considered a *casus belli*, and the Prince should summon all Montenegrins liable to duty to march into Herzegovina; that in the meantime Montenegro will keep an expectant attitude, and not disturb the peace if the Turkish operations develop nothing more serious than the present situation. This resolution, it seems, was chiefly taken for its moral effect on the Sublime Porte and the Montenegrins. The latter are highly dissatisfied with what they consider the undecided and timid policy of the Prince.

The returns from the Departments of Loret, Meuse, Eure, Charente, Mauche, Cher, Calvados and Pyrenees Orientales show Conservative majorities in the election for Senatorial delegates. In the Departments of Var, Cote d'Or, Tarn, Jura and Marne the results are doubtful.

At the sitting of the Permanent Committee of the Assembly at Versailles, Jan. 20, the Left complained that the Prefects were influencing the elections. M. Buffet refused to discuss the subject, alleging that he did not desire to anticipate the debate on the verification of the elections in the new Assembly. He only admitted the Committee's right to summon the present Assembly if it saw fit. He maintained the legality of his instructions to the Prefects in relation to the Press, which were to the effect that the licenses of newspaper dealers may be revoked in case legal regulations were not complied with. If the Left disapproved, they could appeal to the tribunals. The Left protested against the Minister's course, after which the matter was then dropped. M. Buffet likewise refused to make any explanation in regard to the suppression of the banquet to M. Gambetta at Marseilles, or to take notice of the reports that the Government favored a Bonapartist candidate in the Department of the Gironde.

The Alfonsists have thrown supplies of provisions and ammunition into Oyarzun, in the face of a heavy fire from the Carlist batteries.

Victor Hugo has issued an address to the Senatorial delegates for Paris and France, in which he asks them to found a Democracy which shall end foreign war by arbitration, civil war by amnesty, and distress by education.

In Victoria, the Hon. James McCulloch, in a financial statement, points out that the revenue of the colony is inadequate to meet the expenses. The Victoria journals state that an alarming increase of insanity, and destitution was noticeable in Melbourne.

The elections for members of the Cortes are proceeding in an orderly manner throughout Spain. The Epoca, in an editorial on the financial situation, urges the Ministry to reorganize the National finances on a sound basis, and restrict the public expenditures as much as possible.

The London Times favors placing American coin in simple ratio with the British standard.

M. Wallon, Minister of Public Instruction in France, has ordered the restoration of the Cathedral at Rheims, at a cost of $400,000.

Mr. Disraeli on his 70th birthday received a letter of congratulation from the Nottingham and District Workinginen's Constitutional Association.

Roderick William Cameron and Dr. R. Forbes of New York, Sir Daniel Cooper of London, and Geo. Russell of Scotland have been appointed Commissioners to the Philadephia Exhibition for New South Wales.

The London Lancet says: On Friday the Pope, after fatiguing receptions, complained of being unwell. He had an epileptoid seizure, lasting forty minutes. Since then he has been confined to his bed. Though his health requires the doctor's vigilant care, the grave reports recently circulated are groundless.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Shohomish City, Wash. Ter., Dec. 25.—Since the middle of October, it has rained more than half the time. Had five pretty good freshets in the Shohomish River; bottom lands inundated for the last three days. The ground has been white with snow several times, but no frost. Saw clover in blossom yesterday. Hay worth $12 now, with a prospect of higher prices. Potatoes, $1; Wheat, $1.25; oats, 62½c.; barley, 75c.; beef, by the quarter, 6@7c.; steak, 10@12c.—ARGUS.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Jan. 22, 1875.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	80,444	Wool, bales	1,114
Whisky	1,341	Hops, bales	3,485
Corn meal, bbls	1,051	Pork, bbls	4,815
Corn meal, bags	5,753	Cut meats, pkgs	8,900
Wheat, bush	447,100	Lard, pkgs	6,850
Corn, bush	302,838	Tar, bbls	100
Oats, bush	113,016	Tobacco, cases	823
Rye, bush	781	do. crates	2,588
Malt, bush	11,074	Butter, pkgs	17,167
Barley, bush	21,522	Cheese, bxs	10,500
Beans, bbls	1,511	Cotton, bales	25,750
Grass seed, bags	4,772	Rosin	7,052
Ashes, pkgs	56	Spts. turp., bbls	1,355
Beef, pkgs	3,299	Dried Fruits, pkgs	7,017
Peas, bush	30,322	Eggs, bbls	200
Beeswax, pkgs	5	Crude Turpentine	470
Oil Cake, pkgs	12,586	N. O. Molasses, bbls.	

BEANS AND PEAS.—There is a more settled feeling in beans, but prices as yet, do not admit of any advance for the most marketable grades, mediums and marrows. Receipts have been very large, as the interior has been remarkably free from obstruction in the way of bad roads. When the stock here is less scattered, we may look for prices to harden. There is a fair export demand for marrows induced by the low rates. Pea Beans are nominal. Kidneys of all kinds have merely a retail trade. Canadian peas are a trifle better. Green peas are in large supply, and in a large way will not go above $1.50. Lima beans have no call.

We quote Beans, pea, now, prime, $1.30@1.60; other, 1.25@1.35; medium, new, $1.40@1.45; fair to good, $1.15@1.39; very poor, 50@90c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.70@1.75; other, $1.47½@1.60, white kidney, prime, $1.85@1.95; fair to good, $1.60@1.70 red kidney, new, prime, $1.57½@1.60; fair to good, $1.30@1.45; California Lima, choice, $3.60@3.90. Peas, Canadian bnls., new, duty paid, $1.25@1.27; bulk, in bond, $1.02@1.03; green, new, ₱ bush., $1.50@1.60; Southern B. E., ₱ 2 bush. bag, $3.10@3.15.

Exports of beans since Jan. 1st, 2,375 bbls.; of peas, 32,473 bush.

BEESWAX.—There is a fair export demand and a firm market. Sales at 31½@32c. for Western, and 32@33c. for Southern.

BUDOM CORN.—Prime stock scarce and wanted. We quote Brush, short green, 9½@10c.; hurl, green, 10c; green, medium, 6@7c.; red and red tipped, 4@5c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.—This season's business has been very unsatisfactory, owing to the mild weather, which has had a tendency to restrict consumptive demand. Quoted $1.85@2.25.

BUTTER.—The demand for State butter is active, but without the volume usually incident to winter markets. The fact is, thus far we have had very little winter and it would seem as though consumers had reduced their wants in proportion to the mild weather. Very choice stock is firm and a few dairies claim rates above our figures. Useful market grades are pretty steady and with the present rate of receipts, prices will have temporary support. The open winter sends us a good deal of winter-made stock, nearly all of the arrivals from the West are of that quality. We have an excess of rolls, receiving some of the surplus of other cities.

State dairies entire, extra, 30@31c.; entire, good to prime, 28@29c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; firkins, selected fresh, 28@30c.; good to prime, 25@28c.; fair to good, 21@25c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 30@32c.; good to prime, 30@32c.; fair to good, 27@30c.; poor to fair, 25@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@31c.; dairies, 27@29c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; poor to fair, 22@23c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 17@25c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 36@37c.; good to prime, 21@26c.; tubs selected fresh, 24@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 23@25c.; fair to good, fresh, 21@23c.; poor to fair, fresh, 20@21c.; Western, early packed, selected, 21@22c.; Western, early packed, other, 16@20c. Roll butter, good to prime, 22@24c.; fair to good, 18@20c.

CHEESE.—The market is in better shape for the selling interest. There is a fair demand from neighboring markets, and increased trade on English account, the markets abroad being stronger. The chief sales are at 11@12½c. for good to prime, with fancy selling at 13@13½c.

New State factory, fancy, 13½@13¾c.; fine, 12½c.; do. good to prime, 11¾@12¾c.; fair to good, 10@11¾c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 10¾@11½c.; fair to good, 9¾@10½c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12@12½c., good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fine, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@10c.; poor to fair, 7@8c.; English dairy, Connecticut, 13@13½c., do. State, 17@20c.; pineapple, 16@18c.

COTTON.—Is unsettled and lower, on account of the depressed markets abroad and heavy arrivals at the ports. Latest sales for January, 12 31-32c; February, 13 1-32c; March, 13 9-32@13 5-16c.; April, 13 5-16@13 17-32c.; May, 13 21-32@13¾c.; June, 13 29-32 5-16c.; July, 14 1-16@14⅛c.; August, 14 3-16@14¼c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Strict ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Good ordinary	11	11	11⅛	11⅛
Strict good do	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Low middling	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
Strict low middling	12¾	13⅛	13	13
Middling	13	13⅜	13 3-16	13 3-16
Good middling	13¼	13⅝	13⅜	13¾
Strict good middling	13⅜	14	14⅛	14⅜
Middling fair	14⅛	14⅜	14⅝	14⅝
Fair	15⅛	15¼	15¼	15¾
	Stained.			
Good ordinary	9¾	Low middling		11¾
Strict ordinary	10¾	Middling		12¼

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are dull and weak. Peaches scarce and firm. Blackberries in light stock and held at full prices. Raspberries and cherries lower.

Apples—State, sliced, 9¼@10c.; quarters, 9@—c.; Western quarters, 8¼@8¾c.; southern sliced, 1875 crop, 9¼@10c. for prime, and fancy 12c.; Tennessee qrs., 8¾@9¾c. Blackberries, new, 12½@13c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12½c., for halves, 11@11½c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 28@30c. Cherries, 23@23c.

EGGS.—Large receipts, a light demand and bad weather for stored stock, has had a very shattering effect upon prices. As usual, when this item begins to decline, it is hard to say where it will stop.

We quote near points, 24@25c.; State and Pennsylvania, 31@21c.; Canadian, choice, 22@23c.; Western, do., 21@23c.; other Western, 20@22c.; Southern, 20@22c.; Lamed, 20@22c.

FLOUR.—There has been no active export inquiry and prices have been well sustained, notwithstanding the yielding market on wheat.

Superfine State, $4.25@4.65; extra do., $4.90@5.90; superfine Western, $4.25@4.65; extra do., $4.90@5.90; No. 2, $3.25@4.10 extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.95@5.30 trade brands do., $5.55@7.40; white wheat extras, $5.95@7.00; St. Louis, $5.20@8.00; City Mills extra, $5.15@6.75. Southern at $4.15@4.60 for superfine; $4.80@5.30 for poor to choice shipping extras; $5.40@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye flour at $4.10@5.85.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples since Jan. 1st, 91,000 bbls., same time last year, 3,100 do. The rough or tarnished grades of apples are pressed for sale, and prices favor buyer for small or scalded fruit. Prime is held for full prices. E. Beurre California pears are in fair demand. Cranberries are scarce and firm. Peanuts steady.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, $3@3.50; mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; do. fair, $2@2.25. Pears—Choice Cal., ₱ box, $4@4.50. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $3@3.25; good to prime, $2.75@3; good to choice, ₱ bbl., $8.75@9.75; Cape Cod, fancy, ₱ bbl., $9.75@10.25 Eastern, fancy, $9.75@10.25; good to prime, $8.50@9.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.40@1.60; do. Wilmington, $1.70@1.85; do. Tennessee, 75@90c.; Hickory nuts, $1@1.25. B. walnuts, 60c.

FURS AND SKINS.—There has been an advance abroad at Sir C. M. Lamson's late London sales. This improvement was expected here, and prices are not varied in consequence. We quote prime skins:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00	to	15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00	to	10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	3 50	to	3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50	to	2 50
Badger	20	to	50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50	to	60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40	to	50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00	to	12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00	to	8 00
Fox, silver	15 00	to	50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00	to	5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50	to	1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25	to	1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75	to	1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75	to	1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40	to	60
Fox, Kitt	30	to	50
Lynx	1 00	to	2 00
Marten, Sables	1 50	to	2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00	to	4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00	to	3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00	to	1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75	to	1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50	to	75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	23	to	25
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	20	to	24
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12	to	15
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00	to	12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	6 00	to	10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00	to	6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18	to	20
Opossum, South and open North	12	to	15
Raccon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indian handled, dark	80	to	1 00
Racoon, Il., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50	to	65
Racoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn.	65	to	75
Racoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40	to	50
Racoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15	to	40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00	to	3 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	—	to	1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	—	to	1 00
Skunks, prime cats-half white streak	50	to	80
Skunks, whole streaked	15	to	20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00	to	3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75	to	1 25

GRAIN.—For wheat there have been large arrivals, and, with depressed foreign markets, prices are lower. No. 1 Minnesota $1.35 offered for parcels to arrive; prime No. 2 Milwaukee afloat is quoted $1.23 offered; do., in store, held at $1.22; $1.20@1.25 for red Western; $1.11 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring; $1.45@1.50 for white Western. Rye quoted at 95c. for No. 2 State. Canada West barley, poor quality, sold at $1. Corn is in liberal demand. Sales at 62½@63c. for new mixed; 50@51c. for unsound; do. 60@61 for yellow. Oats are very steady in price. Sales at 48@47c. for mixed Western; 47@52c. for white Western and State.

HAY AND STRAW.—The arrivals are still moderate, demand fairly active, and prices strong.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 85c.; retail qualities, $1.25@1.45; clover, 70@80c.; salt, 65@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.10@1.20 for long rye; 80@90c. for short rye; 75@85c. for oat. Exports since Jan. 1st, 1,166 bales; same time last year, 2,158.

HIGHWINES are selling at $1.10½.

HONEY continues quiet. Dealers almost despair of moving it at all when it is neglected at present rates. We quote clover comb at 18@20c.; dark do. and strained, 10@12c.

HIDES.—The market here is fairly active. The demand largely for choice grades on export account. Generally prices are held quite firm.

New York State, 10@15c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins, 10@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californians, 17@20c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The supplies dressed have been light. The market is very tender. Quotations are for prime stock. Stock on the way will be apt to turn out badly, as the weather has been against killed stock of all kinds.

Turkeys, N. J., choice, 17@18c.; do. other, 14@15c.; State and Western, choice, 15@16c.; do. other, 12@13c. Chickens, N. J., 18@20c.; State, as to quality, 14@17c.; Western, 12@14c. Ducks, N. J., good to prime, 16@19c.; State, do., 15@18c.; Western, do., 15@16c. Geese, N. J., prime, 13@15c.; State, good to prime, 10@12c.; Western, do., 9@11c.; do

Fowls, Jersey, 15@16c., Western, 14@15c. Chickens, 11@11c. Roosters, 8@8c. Turkeys, Jersey, 15@18c.; Western, 15@16c. Ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, 87c.@$1.25; Western, 55@70c.; Jersey, ₱2@2.50; Western, $1.25@1.62.

The above prices for live.

Game has run scarce; prime birds selling high. Fresh venison is in demand. A good deal of poor Canadian has been sold low; some at 3c. ₱ lb. The limit for sale of quail and grouse will be made to March 1st. Western killed venison will also have some leniency shown it.

Quail, trapped, prime, ₱ doz., $3.75@4.00; soft, $1.50@2.00. Grouse, prime, ₱ pair, $1.25@1.50; drawn, 40@75c. Partridges, choice, ₱ pair, 75c.@$1.00.; other, 50@75c. Hares, ₱ pair, 20@30c. Rabbits, ₱ pair, 20@30c. Venison, short saddles, ₱ lb., 11@14c.; long saddles 6@8c.; whole deer, 7@8c.

PROVISIONS.—The heavy arrivals of hogs at the West have led to weak prices here throughout. Quotations are for mess pork, $20.75@20.80 for spot lots, $20.80 for January and February, and $20.30 for March delliveries. Extra prime, $16; prime mess, $21.75@22. Dressed hogs at 8¾@8¾c. Boxed dry salted shoulders, 8½c. Bacon at 10½@11c., for Western long clear, 11½c. for short clear Western steam lard at 12 13-16c. for cash. January and February deliveries, 13c. for March and 13¼c. for April. Stearine at 13c. for Western. Tallow at 9@9¼c. for prime. Beef hams, $21@25. Beef, new extra mess, $12@12.50; do., plain mess $11@11.50; new tierced at $23 for prime mess. $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $30.50@33. Old extra mess, $11.50, and $10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.50@16.50.

SEED.—Clover is in active export demand and prices are stronger; strictly prime State quoted at 11c., and fair lots at 13¼c.

TOBACCO.—There is a much better export trade and a steady feeling as regards prices. Quotations for Kentucky leaf.

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.		Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	6	@ 8	7½@ 8¾
Good lugs	7½	@ 8	8½@ 9
Low leaf	8¾	@10	9¾@10¾
Medium leaf	10¾	@11	10½@12
Good leaf	12¾	@13	12¾@13½
Fine leaf	13¾	@15	14 @16
Selections	16	@17	17 @22

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1873.

Connecticut wrappers	20	@45
Assorted lots	15	@25
Massachusetts assorted lots	12	@16
Connecticut and Massachusetts seconds	10	@12
Fillers	7	@ 8
Pennsylvania assorted lots	16	@25
New York assorted lots, common	8	@11
Good to fine	12	@13
Ohio assorted lots	8½	@10
Wisconsin assorted lots	7	@ 9
Seconds and fillers, shipping	7	@ 9

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.	
Connecticut and Massachusetts fillers	8	@10
Binders and seconds	12	@18
New York State assorted lots	7	@ 9
Pennsylvania assorted lots	15	@25
Ohio, assorted lots	6½	@ 8
Wisconsin	6½	@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes are wasting badly and prices continue low. The exports are principally for Southern garden use. Other items unchanged.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.50@1.75; Prince Alberts, $1.00@1.25; Peerless, 65c.@$1.00. Sweet potatoes, $1@2.75. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $3@5; red, $5@10. Cauliflower, bbl., $2@3. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 50@75c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@2.75. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00.

WOOL.—There is a more satisfactory business. Manufacturers disposed to purchase larger lines, with prices generally strong. Sales of X and XX Ohio fleeces, 47½@48c.; full California, 13½@20c.; spring do., 21c.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—			
Picklock	50	@	54
XX		@	48
X	47	@	48
No. 1	49	@	52
No. 2	43	@	46
Coarse	40	@	42
Combing	58	@	65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—			
XX	44	@	46
X	43	@	45
No. 1	46	@	48
No. 2	42	@	44
Course	40	@	42
Combing	56	@	60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—			
XX	45	@	47
X	43	@	45
No. 1	44	@	45
No. 2	41	@	43
Course	40	@	43
Combing	55	@	62
Combing, unwashed	38	@	46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—			
XX	44	@	47
X	44	@	47
No. 1	44	@	46
No. 2	41	@	43
Course	40	@	43
Combing	55	@	62
Combing, unwashed	38	@	46
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—			
Fine unwashed	36	@	38
Medium unwashed	34	@	35
Coarse unwashed	27	@	30
Burry	17	@	23

ROCHESTER, Jan. 20.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat is dull: Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.30. Oats, nominal at 36@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 25@28c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 26@28c. Lard, 13@14c. Apples, ₱ bu., 50c.@$1. Potatoes, ₱ bu., 25@@35c. Beans, ₱ bu., $1.00@1.20. Mess pork, $21@—. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@14. Straw, $7@12. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $5.75@6.00. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Jan. 23, 1876.

THERE is an improved feeling in the market this week, but prices remain unchanged. Farm dairy cheese is coming forward in "driblets," and is the last of the season's make. It sells at 6@8c., according to quality, with occasional lots going at 9c.

The views of holders of factory cheese being above those of buyers, the transactions are few. The prices offered for "late ends" of factories range at 9@10c., and for September and October make 11@11½c., but holders want for the latter 13@14c.

It is believed that the stocks here in the interior markets of the State or at the factories, are less than 100,000 boxes. Wyoming County has 3,500; Lewis, 5,000 to 6,000; Cattaraugus and Erie, 25,000; Oneida, 5,000; Chemango, 1,000; there is but little in Herkimer.

The shipments from Little Falls during the year of butter and cheese have been from January 1 to December 31, as follows:—1,666 packages of butter, weighing 102,506 pounds, and 90,978 boxes of cheese weighing, in the aggregate, 5,519,561 pounds. This, it must be remembered, is only a small part of the butter and cheese sold at the Little Falls market during the year, the shipments being made at different points along the line of the railroad most convenient to the factories.

The trade in butter now at this market is mostly confined to winter make, which brings 20@25c., according to quality. Grass butter is scarce and sells for 32@35c.

We have advices from Europe up to the first week in January. Our London correspondent says:

The present season, so far, has been an unprofitable one to all except retailers; competition and large make forced it down to a point stimulating consumption, so that we may look for a good spring trade, with more profitable results. Quotations as follows:

American extra, 65@68s.; fine, 62@64s.; good, 54@58s.; secondary, 30@40s. The other descriptions of cheese sold as below:—English cheddar, 81@94s.; Wiltshire double, 72@80s.; Cheshire fine, 76@84s. Dutch cheese —Edams, 70@74s. ₱ cwt.

Notwithstanding the large trade in substitutes for butter, the best descriptions of genuine butter closed at very high rates. We give quotations:

Clonmels, 118@150s.; Corks, —s.; Dorsets, 160s.; Normandy, 100@108s.; Swedish, 105s.; American and Canadian, 90@120s., ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter brings 86@110s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	3,226	58	138	6,681	900
Forty-Eighth St	6	26	253	7,068	000
Fortieth St	000	00	000	1,020	14,130
Harsimus Cove	3,514	00	000	15,093	15,544
Totals this week	6,746	84	691	30,381	29,974
" last week	7,249	82	481	18,890	17,812

BEEVES.—On Monday last trade in horned cattle opened with a brisk feeling, but closed slow at a reduction of ½c. ₱ lb on previous rates. Prices ranged from 8¾@13¾c. ₱ lb.; weight, scant, 500 lb cwt. Wednesday, trade slow at 9¾@13c. ₱ cwt.; weight, 500 lb cwt. Thursday, prices were 8¾@12¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 4¾@8 cwt. Friday, the market closed weak at 8¾@12¾c, ₱ lb.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. From 53@58 lbs. has been allowed net. Spanish herds sold at 8@9¾c. ₱ lb. Native steers 8@13c. ₱ lb.; grade, do., 12¾@13¾c. mixed herds, 8@11¾c. ₱ lb.; oxen, 9¾@12¾c. lb lb.; dry cows, 5½c. gross weight; bulls, do., 4@2c. ₱ lb.; yearlings, $13@22 ₱ head; heifers, $25 ₱ head.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13¾	12 @13¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	9 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	10¾@11¾	10 @11

MILCH COWS.—Trade firm but slow. Ten cows sold at $35@55 ₱ head; 7 do. at $50@65 ₱ head; 16 do. at $55@65 ₱ head. 3 do. at $77.50@85 ₱ head; 2 do at $95@110—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade fair in grass calves at $9@11.50 ₱ head. Smooth quality veals scarce and in demand at 9@11c. ₱ lb. Quotations almost exclusively from New York State. Meal-fed calves from New Jersey, 6c. ₱ lb.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last trade in sheep was fair at 6¾@7¾c. ₱ lb.; lambs, 7¾c. Wednesday, sales slow in large lots at 6@7¾c. for sheep; lambs not quoted. Thursday, sheep, 5¾@7¾c. ₱ lb. Friday, sheep slow at 5@7¾c. ₱ lb., lambs not on sale. Michigan sheep sold at 5¾@7¾c. ₱ lb.; State do., 6@7¾c.; Pennsylvania do., 6@7c.; Indiana do., 6¾@6¾c.; Illinois do., 6¼@6¾c.; Ohio do., 5¾@7¾c.; Kentucky do., 6¾@6¾c.

HOGS.—Monday, prices were $7.75@7 80 ₱ cwt. Wednesday, 7¾c. ₱ lb.; Thursday, and Friday prices were $7.87½@7.62½ ₱ cwt. During this past week city dressed have been weak at 8¾@9¾c. lb lb.; general sales, 9@9½c. Western dressed dull at 8¾@8¾c., with coarse quality at 8¼c.

HORSE MARKET.—The change in the weather has injured trade in roadsters, only a few head having been disposed of; range of prices, $250@375 ₱ head, quality medium; 52 head light harness horses, quality poor, $125@75 ₱ head; 34 ordinary quality, do., $175@210 ₱ head; 1 pair stylish carriage horses, $1,000; 3 pairs family do., $400@450 ₱ pair; 2 pair choice quality heavy draft horses, $500@550 ₱ pair; 5 head do., quality coarse, $200@250 ₱ head; Seventeen horses arrived ₱ Erie Railroad, via. Oak Cliff Station.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

HENRY BERGH has written a play.

THE Hon. Caleb Cushing was 76 years old on the 17th inst.

THE Hon. J. L. Robinson, Treasurer of Quebec, has resigned.

MR. H. WATTERSON of Louisville, Ky., who has been ill, is better.

BARON ROTHSCHILD has had an interview with Secretary Bristow.

LORD NAPIER of Magdala has been appointed Governor of Gibraltar.

DAVID D. FIELD says the Tweed prosecutors can never get a struck jury.

MME. A. GODDARD will begin her tour at Burlington, Vt., on Tuesday.

MRS. SCOTT-SIDDONS read at Steinway Hall last week with her customary success.

THE Hon. Reverdy Johnson arrived in N. Y. City from Liverpool on the 19th inst.

THE Rev. Dr. Lorrimer has decided to continue as pastor of Tremont Temple, Boston.

THE late census reports Sarah Hicks of Brooklyn as being the oldest woman in the State. Age, 114.

THE equestrian statue of Gen. McPherson, now being modeled in Cincinnati by Prof. Ribesso, is nearly finished.

SIGNOR BRIGNOLI, who is to sing with Mlle Titiens, has reached this city from Europe and is at the Everett House.

Mr. FROUDE is mentioned as a candidate for the honorary title of Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, Africa.

THOMAS HUGHES, M. P., states with regret that he cannot act as umpire for the American University Regatta of 1876.

THE widow of ex-President Johnson died at her daughter's residence, near Greenville, Tenn., Saturday night, Jan. 15.

L. D. MYERS of Columbus, O., and W. D. Brichell of Pittsburgh, Pa., have bought the Columbus Daily Dispatch for $30,000.

THE expenditures of the State of Massachusetts in connection with the funeral of Vice-President Wilson amounted to $5,322.23.

MR. EDWARD JARVIS succeeds the late Dr. Howe as Superintendent of the Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth.

M. VICTOR HUGO is about to publish a volume of verse entitled "Les Justes Colnes," and a prose volume, "L'Art d'Etre Grand-Pere."

THE Hon. George D. Lamont, a Justice of the N. Y. Supreme Court, died at Lockport on Saturday morning, Jan. 15, from heart disease.

AN anonymous benefactor has given $50,000 to the School of Art in Birmingham, Eng., with a view to enlarging its sphere of usefulness.

GOV. HARTRANFT has reappointed and the Senate has confirmed Mr. M. S. Quay to be Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

COUNT DE POURTALES, Third Secretary of the French Legation in Washington, has been married in London to Miss Beecher of New York.

AT the Church Convention in Philadelphia addresses were delivered by Messrs. Moody and Sankey, and Drs. Hall, Vincent and Tyng, Jr.

PRESIDENT VAN RENSSELAER of Hobart College, at Geneva, has established at his own expense a reading-room for the use of the students.

PROF. RICHARDS of Yale College, who has been suffering from an ailment of the spine for some years, has gone South to spend the winter.

THE granddaughters of Mr. Seth P. Staples, the founder of the Yale Law School, have presented that institution with a portrait of their grandfather.

ROBERT DALE OWEN is now in the enjoyment of better health than he has experienced since 1871. His late unfortunate illness was superinduced by overwork.

JOHN HATCH of California has collected between 12,000 and 15,000 specimens of precious ores in various parts of the world, and will exhibit them at the Centennial.

PROF. BOWEN, Lecturer on Philosophical Subjects at Harvard College, has resigned his position as Trustee of Phillips Academy, at Exeter, which he has held for 22 years.

Mr. G. L. FOX, the great "Humpty Dumpty," is still in the asylum at Somerville, Mass., and has somewhat improved. He has rational intervals, but his recovery is considered doubtful.

THE Rev. Morley Punshon, as the representative of the Wesleyan denomination, received recently the gift of a chapel built by two gentlemen at Ivybridge, Eng., and costing about $40,000.

CURIOUSLY enough, Jefferson Davis, ex-President of the defunct Confederacy, and U. S. Grant, President of the United States, have both ordered a bill of shoes from the same firm in New Haven, Conn.

THE Rev. Dr. John Hall objects to having the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church designated as Dr. Hall's Church. He tells his people, "It is yours and your children's, or rather, it is Christ's, the Lord's."

H. C. KIBBE, Secretary of the Belcher, Jackson and New York Consolidated Mining Company, has absconded from San Francisco, Cal., with $60,000 belonging to the two last-named companies. He is supposed to have come East.

THE eldest daughter of Zachary Taylor, Mrs. Gen. B. C. Wood, died lately in Frieburg, Germany. The other living children of the ex-President are a daughter in Winchester, Va., and Gen. Richard Taylor of Louisiana, who was a Confederate officer.

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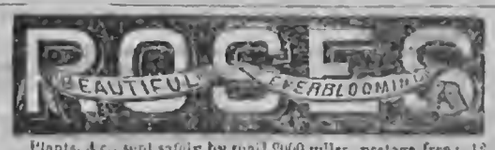

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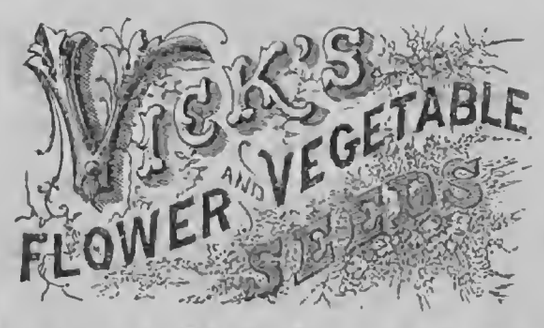

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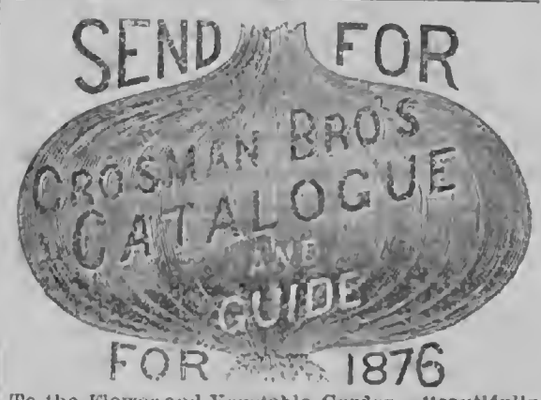

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Water	0.7859	0.6280
Insoluble Matter	0.0564	0.0364
Sulphate of Lime	1.2272	0.7217
Sulphate of Magnesia	0.0769	.....
Chloride of Calcium	.....	0.0473
Chloride of Magnesium	0.0591	0.0346
Chloride of Sodium	97.7953	98.5243
	99.9674	99.9822

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— The ice men are despondent.

— Boston is gloating over the possession of ice.

— Philadelphia has 35,239 pupils in its public schools.

— Where were the tramps before their present incarnation?

— At Montgomery, Ala., sweet potatoes sell for 80 cents a bushel.

— Washington Territory gained 5,000 new inhabitants last year by emigration.

— The Pullman car-repair shop, Jersey City, was damaged $2,500 by fire, Jan. 19.

— There are 694 cotton mills in the Northern States, and 181 in the Southern States.

— The Spring Hill strike, near Halifax, has ended and the miners have resumed work.

— The Police at Worcester, Mass., are killing all unlicensed dogs in that city with strychnine.

— The mill operatives in Macclesfield, England, have returned to work on their employers' terms.

— Extensive salt mines have been discovered in Holstein, the Brandenburg Mark, and Mecklenberg.

— The Board of Education of New York City has determined to take no part in the Centennial Exposition.

— A Society for the Protection of Animals has been formed at Copenhagen with the Crown Prince as President.

— A great revival is in progress at Montgomery, Orange Co., N. Y. Business is suspended during the meetings.

— An intercollegiate contest in oratory between the different colleges in the State of Virginia is being talked of.

— It is reported that six new locomotives are to be put on the Hudson River Railroad for next summer's travel.

— The trustees of the Cooper Union report the current assets to be $25,149.67, and the current indebtedness $22,395.76.

— A new steamboat 124 feet long is building at Owego. It will cost over $8,000. It will be called the Lyman Tremain.

— The railway ticket agents are unwilling to promise more than a 25 per cent. reduction in the Centennial's interest.

— The keel of a new tugboat which was recently laid in San Francisco, was composed of one stick of timber 140 feet long.

— The school population of Cincinnati, between the ages of 6 and 21, numbers 83,842. About 50 per cent. attend school.

— A vein of silver ore struck a short time ago in the Bay City tunnel, Alta, Utah, is said to assay from $2,000 to $4,000 per ton.

— The new Rensselaer mill, Troy, which has been idle for the past two months, started up again Jan. 17th, with 200 men.

— Five hundred and fifteen packages will be shipped from Cadiz on the 31st inst. for the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia.

— The Albany and Troy curling clubs played for the medal of the Grand National Curling Club of America, Jan. 13. Albany won, 127 to 79.

— The German Federal Council has been authorized to purchase Kroll's Garden, in Berlin, as the site of the new Imperial Parliament buildings.

— The directors of the Philadelphia School of Design have decided to issue a certain annual number of free scholarships to that institution.

— Harvard College received subscriptions and gifts amounting to $214,800 during the year 1875. The total amount of funds Aug. 31, 1875, was $3,139,217.

— The population of Louisiana is 855,039, an increase of 127,124 since 1870. Of the population, 404,657 are white, 450,611 colored and 1,512 Indian or Chinese.

— The temperance reform movement is making unusual progress in Maine. Large meetings are everywhere being held, while the liquor law is vigorously enforced.

— There are in Illinois, according to a late report of the Board of Education, fifty-four colleges for males, six for females, and thirty-five academies and seminaries.

— Cincinnati is organizing a battery of artillery whose members are going to the Centennial 156 strong, provided they can secure free transportation, and they think they can.

— In the Rev. Mr. Snively's Grace Church in Brooklyn, Jan. 16, a collection amounting to $12,300 was taken in aid of the domestic missions. Mr. Benson gave a $7,000 check.

— The University of Cincinnati received during the year 1875, $119,748.92, and expended during the same time $108,806.84. The endowment funds of the institution amount to $125,935.78.

— The Illinois State Industrial University has raised the amount apportioned to it as its quota of the $10,000 for the State, to be used in exhibiting its educational work at the Centennial.

— The Baptists of Tennessee propose to celebrate the Centennial year by raising $300,000 for the Baptist University recently located at Jackson. The city has already subscribed $150,000.

— Contractor McAndrews of the new Delaware, Lackawanna & Western tunnel in Bergen Hill, has broken through the last heading, and daylight was admitted into the dark cavern, Jan. 19.

— A committee of the directors of the California Rifle Association has been appointed to report a plan for a contest among California marksmen for the purpose of selecting a team to send to Philadelphia next summer.

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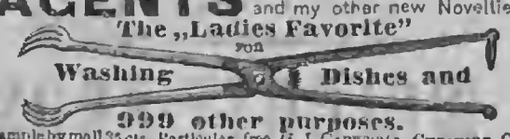

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What animal is suggestive of heavy rain? The fox—He is well known as Reynard.

Mrs. Van Slycke says she hopes the silver service bill will pass—whatever it is.

Considerably taken down—The boy that was caught up in a neighbor's apple tree.

Are your words of more weight when you propound anything than when you announce it.

The latest India notion is the preparation of a British atlas to put Wales in the Indian Ocean.

Swindler is the suggestive name of the principal contractor for the great canal in Colorado.

Why is it vulgar to use a wooden platter for the loaf? Why, of course, because it is underbred.

"It's a lovely doll, dear grandpa and grandma; but—but—I'd been hoping it would be twins."

The fellow who asked the policeman "What are you givin' us?" found out when the policeman knocked him down with his club.

Ah Sing and Ah Sin have been at law in San Francisco about the sale of a wife. The matter has been referred to Ah Bitration.

"Pa, do storms ever make malt liquors?" "No, child; why do you ask?" "Becaus I heard ma tell Jane to bring in the clothes, for a storm was brewing."

A New Hampshire man sends fourteen of his children to one school, and when they combine against the teacher he knows that he can safely bet upon the result.

After the clergyman had united a happy pair not long ago, an awful silence ensued, which was broken by an impatient youth exclaiming, "Don't be so unspeakably happy."

A Scotchman asked an Irishman, "Why were half farthings coined in England?" Pat's answer was, "To give Scotchmen an opportunity of subscribing to charitable institutions."

"Say," said a city youth to a modest countryman, "got the hay seed out of your hair yet?" "Wall," was the deliberate reply, "I jedge not from the way the calves run arter me."

"Sorr, av ye plase, whist now, while of ax ye whin is the bist month to tell a lie in?" "Ye give it up, ye do?" "Arrah, now, if ye want the bist month for a lie, what ud it be but Febr-uary?"

It has been discovered that the same kind of coloring matter which poisons the striped stockings is also used to color the bad whisky. In both cases it goes to the legs and ruins the understanding.

"John Henry," said his wife, with stony severity, "I saw you coming out of a saloon this afternoon." "Well, madam," replied the obdurate John, "you wouldn't have me stay in there, would you?"

It is said that since his release from confinement, Brigham Young acts as a changed man. It is only necessary for one of his wives to hint that the fire is low, and he will trot out to the woodshed as if he was thankful for the exercise.

Blaine and Cox are good friends. After Cox had saluted the gentleman from Maine the other day with "Bellow away then—you are a hynea!" they met in the cloak-room, and drew cuts to see which should call the other the dynamite fiend.

An Irishman recently handed into the telegraph office a despatch intended to inform another Emeralder, employed upon the public works in a neighboring town of the decease of a friend. It read thus:—"Barney, come home, I died last night."

The dedication hymn to Vanderbilt's university ends thus:

"Patrons and benefactors bless—
To teachers, students, give success;
We pray in faith, assured thou wilt
Shine forth upon our Vanderbilt."

This sort of thing is depressing, and tends to discourage all donations to colleges.

Smith (addressing his friend Jones, who is an inveterate stammerer)—Say, Jones, I've started out on a new line of buisness. Jones—Wh-what l-l-line friend Smi-smi-smith? Smith—Well, I've gone into the philanthropist business. Jones—Phi--phi-philan-lan-thropist? Smith—Yes, doing good to everybody. You never learned a trade, did you? Jones—No, Smi-smith, un-un-fort-fort-nately, I nev-never did. Smith—Well, Jones, I've thought of something for you. Jones—Do-de-dear Smi-smith! Smith—Yes, Jones, I have. Do you not know that you have been born with a natural gift for a well-paying trade? Jones—Is it pos-possi-possible? Smith—Yes, Jones, you would make a splendid auctioneer. Jones—A knock-a knock-a knockticneer! Smith—Yes you can say "go-go-go-going-gone!" so beautifully. Smith is now in hospital. His ante-mortem has been taken, and Jones is in jail awaiting the result of Smith's injuries.

HALF MEASURES.

"What, not got any lamb?" "No, m'm." "Nor any mutton?" "No, m'm. Mr. Butcher, he only kills once a week, and then only half a sheep at a time, m'm!"

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1876
STATEMENT
OF THE
TRAVELERS

24TH SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE CO.

HARTFORD, CONN., JANUARY 1, 1876.

ASSETS.

Real Estate owned by the Company	$ 87,688 21
Cash on hand and in Bank	117,519 83
Cash in hands of Agents, or in transmission	92,891 37
Loans on First Mortgages Real Estate	2,004,977 50
Deferred Premiums	68,126 87
Accrued Interest	78,511 25
United States Government Bonds	274,650 00
State and Municipal Bonds	116,700 00
Railroad Stocks and Bonds	213,110 00
Bank and Insurance Stocks	552,895 00
Total assets	$3,701,361 13

LIABILITIES.

Reserve for re-insurance, Accident Dept.	$169,417 45
Reserve, N. Y. Standard (4½), Life Department	2,056,653 49
Claims unadjusted and not due, and all other liabilities	170,186 94
Total liabilities	$2,396,157 88
Surplus, as regards policy-holders	$1,305,203 25

Surplus as above, on four per cent. reserve, Mass. and Conn. standard, $1,090,427 47.

Statistics of the Year 1875.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Number of Life Policies written in 1875	2,650
Net Gain in amount insured	$1,200,051 00
Net Gain on Life Policies in force	675
Whole number written to date	23,542
Whole number of Life Policies in force	10,511
Total amount insured	$19,169,114 00

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.

Number of Accident Policies written in '75	32,857
Net Cash Premiums rec'd for same	$459,525 00
Whole number Accident Policies written	396,164
Number of Claims paid in 1875	2,163
Whole number of Accident Claims Paid	23,225
Whole amount Acc't Claims Paid	$2,283,737 77
Total Losses Paid, both Dep'ts	$2,955,102 39

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Package—¼ lb.—Duryea's Satin Gloss Starch	" 8
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Box Bixby's Best Blacking	" 10
Box Bixby's French Bluing	" 10
Package Dixon's Stove Polish	" 10
Dixon's American Graphite Pencil	" 10
Package—¼ lb.—Schepp's Desiccated Cocoanut	" 20
Box—¼ lb.—Royal Baking Powder	" 15
Bottle Royal Celery Salt	" 25
Cake Jesse Oakley & Co.'s King Soap	" 10
Package Smith & Co.'s Crushed White Wheat	" 15
Bottle Spaulding's Prepared Glue, with Brush	" 25
Box Taylor's Gold Medal Washing Crystal	" 5
Package—1 lb.—Wilkie's Prepared Rice Flour	" 15
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The N. Y. Weekly Sun of Jan. 12th, 1876, says:

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The Centennial.

HORTICULTURAL HALL.

If American Independence had been declared in 1676, its Centennial Celebration one hundred years ago would have called for very little jubilation over Horticultural progress. Most of our acchievements in Fruit Growing, Gardening and Floriculture date far within the last half of our century's history as an independent people. To-day these departments of our country's progress are not the least astonishing, and to many thousands will be the most interesting portion of the Exposition, showing our growth and civilization.

Horticultural Hall, as shown in the engraving, is an imposing structure, with a length of 383 feet, and width of main building 193 ft. Its hight is 72 ft. to the skylight. The Centennial Conservatory, 230x80 ft. and 55 ft. high, occupies the main floor, and in this the main exhibition will be made. Twenty ft. from the floor a gallery runs around it. On the north and south sides of the principal room will be the forcing and propagating houses, each 100x30 ft., covered with a curved roof of glass and iron. Similar vestibules occupy the east and west ends, and by the side of these are rooms for offices, etc. Ornamented stairways lead to the interior and exterior galleries of the conservatories. These latter are 10 ft. wide. The entrances, at the east and west ends, will be approached by flights of blue marble steps. The basement is fire-proof and used for store-houses, cool room, kitchen and heating apartments.

The entire building will be mainly of iron and glass, and is intended to remain after the Exposition as an ornament to Fairmount Park and a patriotic memorial of our first Centennial Celebration of Horticultural Progress.

NEW YORK AT THE EXPOSITION.

It will gratify all friends of the Centennial Exposition to know, what we learn from correspondence of the Tribune, that the Empire State is to be well represented—not indeed in a separate department, but contributing its proportionate quota toward the whole. We understand that, to prevent confusion, like articles from different States will be grouped together, the localities from which they come will be plainly indicated, and each locality allotted sufficient space.

The New York State Centennial Commission is composed of the following gentlemen: Frank Leslie, President; John Murdoch, Alonzo B. Cornell, Felix Campbell, and Jackson S. Schultz, Commissioners, and Thomas McElrath, Secretary. These gentlemen have been actively at work only for a few months.

The total number of entries from this State is about 1,500. Something over 350 of these were made at the headquarters of the State Board in New York City. The rest were made at Philadelphia, and memoranda of them have been forwarded to New York City for record. The variety of articles to be shown is bewildering, and the magnificence of the display to be made by some of the firms who have decided to go into the Fair is surprising. The big leather-covered folio book of entries at the Centennial Headquarters on Broadway reads like a catalogue of American inventions. Among the miscellaneous articles nearly everything is to be exhibited that can be thought of, in size from a copper war token to a steam road-roller, and in beauty and value from a fan breastpin to the noblest of paintings owned this side of the Atlantic.

An important part of the contribution coming from this State will be in the line of mowers and reapers, farm implements and machinery. In the general exhibit of this class of manufactures several hundred firms in this State will be represented. It is believed that very few, if any, of the large factories, whose products in any way constitute a feature of the industries of New York, will not send to Philadelphia.

NOTES ABOUT THE CENTENNIAL.

A Parisian has obtained permission to put up a building in which models of Paris and Jerusalem are to be exhibited.

The West Virginia Pavilion will be near the British buildings, and will be constructed wholly of timber brought from that State.

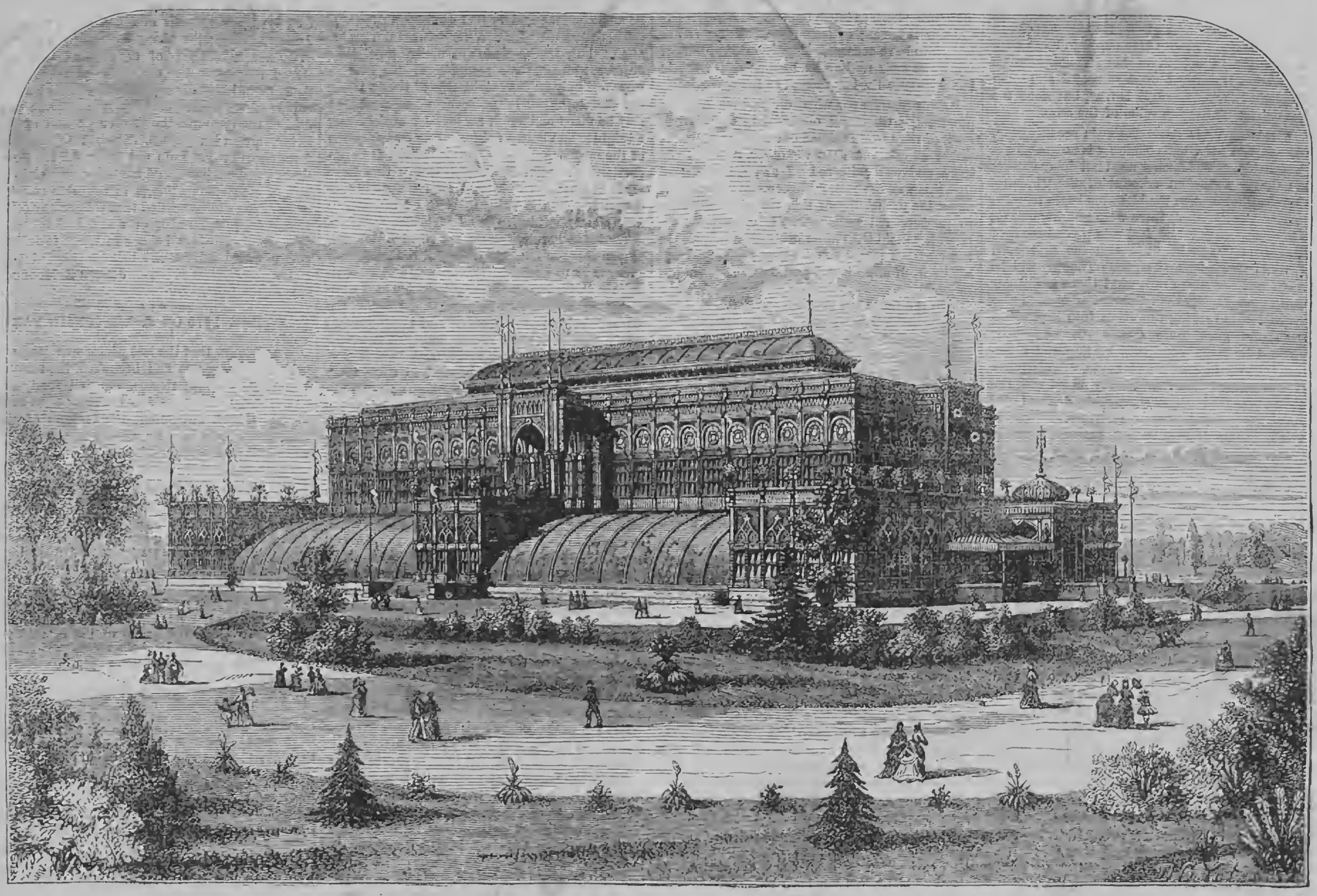
A signal and weather station will be erected on the grounds by the Signal Bureau. There will also be a block house in the rear of Machinery Hall to illustrate frontier warfare.

An afternoon edition of the Philadelphia Times will be printed in Machinery Hall during the Exhibition on one of Col. Hoe's new presses. The Times will also build an office on the grounds.

The minerals for the Government exhibit to be made under the supervision of the Smithsonian Institution have arrived in Philadelphia, and are being classified and arranged by Prof. W. P. Blake of New Haven.

A concession for a banking office on the grounds has been granted to the Centennial National Bank, a corporation just organized. Its President is E. A. Rollins, formerly United States Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

In Machinery Hall square feet of space have been allotted to foreign countries as follows: Great Britain, 37,125; Germany, 10,757; France,



HORTICULTURAL HALL, CENTENNIAL GROUNDS, PHILADELPHIA.

10,139; Belgium, 9,375; Canada, 4,300; Brazil, 4,000; Sweden, 3,168; Spain, 2,448; Russia, 1,500, and Austria, 1,536.

THE Main Exhibition Building will be finished about the middle of February. Little remains to be done except the interior decoration and the floor-laying, and both are well advanced. According to the contract, the builder, Mr. Dobbins, forfeits $300 for every day the work is prolonged after the 1st of January, but the Board of Finance will probably not exact the penalty.

THE United States Government building, a cruciform structure with a large glass dome, is now completed, and the portions to be occupied by the different departments are indicated by the decorations on the adjacent walls. Where plows abound as mural ornaments the Agricultural Department will naturally be found, anchors point out the location of the Navy, swords of the War Department, and so on.

THE Michigan building will be begun in the Park next week. The whole structure, except the foundation, will be finished in Michigan. The New Jersey building is nearly finished and makes a handsome appearance. Pennsylvania will have the largest of all the State buildings if the Legislature appropriates the $15,000 which it is asked to give for the purpose. The plans have been made and taken to Harrisburg. Ohio's headquarters have got as far along as the foundation.

Field Crops.

CLOVER AND TIMOTHY.

THE common practice of many farmers in sowing Clover and Timothy seed together is objected to because they are not ripe and ready to cut at the same time. F. R. ELLIOTT advises to sow Corn with Orchard Grass, as the two are better suited to each other for hay. Without saying anything against this recommendation, the growing of Clover and Timothy on the same soil has some good arguments in its favor.

First, we premise that Clover is, or should be, in nearly every case, the important crop, and wherever Timothy is grown it should be entirely a secondary consideration. There are only enough exceptions to this to establish its validity as a general rule. Considering that we are aiming at mostly Clover, there are very good reasons for adding a little Timothy. If the aim were otherwise—to make Timothy the main crop, as may sometimes be advisable on rich river bottoms, where hay is grown for sale—the addition of even a small amount of Clover would be a decided disadvantage. To bring the highest price in most markets, Timothy Hay ought to be as pure as possible. Clover in a field of Timothy grown for market is simply a weed—a useful and beneficial weed for the soil, it is true, but none the less detrimental to the value of the crop.

When Clover is made the main seeding crop, the addition of a little Timothy is not at all objectionable. The farmer need not delay cutting his Clover a day on account of the Timothy. Cut the Clover when the blossoms begin to open, just the same as if there were nothing else on the field, as in point of fact with a good catch of Clover there will be little else the first year. Early in the season the young Timothy will be small and immature, but what there is will dry much more rapidly than the coarser-stalked Clover and aid in curing the whole into hay. Farmers who grow pure Clover are every year plagued by large quantities heating and sometimes rotting in stacks and mows, despite every care in curing. A little Timothy mixed with the Clover quickly becomes thoroughly dry and aids in absorbing superfluous moisture. Farmers who have dry straw can use it between layers of Clover hay in the mow for the same purpose, and with excellent effect.

If Timothy is sown in the spring with Clover seed, it will not the first or second seasons interfere in the least with the Clover. The farmer will get just as much Clover as if there were no Timothy, and the additional grass will be so much clear gain. If the field is to be plowed the second season, the Clover will have benefited the soil just as much as if it alone occupied the soil. The Timothy grass and roots only occupy spaces that would otherwise have been vacant or filled with weeds. If, however, the Timothy was sown the fall previous to sowing Clover seed, there is danger that it will occupy the land and less Clover will catch. In all cases where a crop of Clover is desired, six quarts or a peck of Clover seed should be sown, and the Timothy seed, whatever the amount, be put in extra.

If for any reason the field cannot be plowed after the first Clover crop has been taken off, the Timothy will then come forward and occupy the land. Sometimes in very dry seasons the Clover catch fails entirely, and then it is important that land seeded one or two years before should be kept in grass, and then the Timothy with Clover comes in good play. Clover is a biennial, dying out after the second year, unless under very exceptional circumstances. Timothy may not be a profitable grass for farmers with arable land, but it is a great deal better than nothing. It is also better for fields soon to be plowed than blue-grass, which will inevitably gradually creep in where dying Clover has found no better heir to fill its place. Hence we advise farmers, when sowing Clover this spring, to add a little Timothy, unless they are quite certain that the Clover is to be plowed under the year following. Even then it will do no hurt.

POTATOES MIXING IN THE HILL.

WE had supposed that this question of whether potatoes ever do become mixed by either growing in the same field or hill had long ago been settled in the negative. Of course we know that there are farmers who still adhere to their *settled* belief that potatoes do frequently mix in the hill and wheat turn to chess; but it is seldom now-a-days that a man of intelligence who has given these subjects careful consideration and examination will stand up and declare his faith in either.

But it seems to be very difficult to eradicate prejudice or the influence of early training out of the human cranium, and although few may believe in lucky signs, still they had a little rather see the new moon over their right shoulder than over the left. In no other way can we account for the appearance of a late article in the Country Gentleman by Mr. CHAS. ARNOLD of Ontario, Canada, on this subject of potatoes mixing in the hill. Mr. ARNOLD is widely known as a scientific horticulturist, being one of the few men who have been successful in raising hybrid grapes and raspberries, still he seems to be inclined to take the affirmative side of the potato-mixing theory. In fact, he says:

"But still I shall choose the affirmative side of the question, and assert positively that potatoes do become changed entirely in the hill into quite distinct potatoes from those that were planted.

"The fact is, Nature has more and greater facilities for producing new varieties in the vegetable kingdom than she generally gets credit for. We are all too apt to overlook the fact that the whole vegetable world is capable of producing new and valuable varieties by bud hybrids, or sports, or whatever else they may be called. Of the conditions favorable for producing new varieties in this way but little is known, but that new and valuable fruits, flowers and vegetables are produced is, I believe, admitted by all. And no doubt thousands of valuable variations thus produced pass into oblivion unobserved. They are 'born to blush unseen.'"

After referring to some other similar freaks known to have occurred among various kinds of fruits, he tells us how he became converted to the mixing-in-the-hill theory, as follows:

"Four years ago, when digging my favorite potato, the Climax, I observed that upon one stalk of pure white Climax one potato was much larger at one end than the other, and that the large end was quite red. I at once concluded that this was a sport, and reasoned with myself about the probability of this red end continuing to produce red potatoes, and larger than the parent. I laid the potato carefully away, and in the spring I planted the white portion in one hill by itself and the red portion in another hill by itself.

"In the fall when they were dug the one hill was all pure White Climax, and the other hill all red, fine-sized potatoes, not quite so long, but larger and rounder than its parent. These potatoes have shown no disposition to sport."

Following this singular appeal to unbelievers, we are given a description of the superlative properties of the new sort produced in such a sportive manner. But we confess our inability to see how Mr. ARNOLD can make out that the production of the so-called sport or variety has anything to do with the "mixing-in-the-hill" theory. He does not inform us whether there was or ever had been any red potatoes growing on his ground to mix with the Climax; and even if there had been at the time of the discovery of the sport, it would not have been proof of a mixture.

Now, this whole story, which to some others besides Mr. ARNOLD may be convincing proof of the mixing theory, really has no foundation beyond the well-known fact that potatoes often do "sport" or vary from the original type, and the variety or sport thus appearing remains fixed and can be perpetuated. The White Peach Blow is a well-known sport of the red, and not a seedling. There are also two or three varieties of Late Rose potatoes which originated in the same manner, but they are not supposed to be the result of any mixing in the hill, and to claim for them such an origin is to further mystify a mystery. It is not at all strange that our common varieties of the potato should sport, because they all came originally from the same source, and there is likely to be a little red, black or blue "blood" even in such apparently pure white sorts as the Climax.

POTATOES GROWN FOR ONE SHILLING A BUSHEL.

I AM happy to be able to verify my statement made last March, which you did me the honor to report, that I would raise Brownell's Beauty potatoes for 12½c. per bushel. Dr. HEXAMER did not believe it possible that *another* could do for 12½c. what *he* could not do for less than 30c. It is, nevertheless, an accomplished fact, and the following exhibit, taken from my farm book will confirm the statement. Lot No. 1 (Brownell's Beauty), clayey loam and sandy loam. In corn the year before without manure; no manure this year:

Dr.		
To interest on one acre at $200	14 00	
plowing and harrowing	2 00	
furrowing and covering with one horse	2 00	
12 barrels seed	9 00	
cutting and dropping	2 00	
hilling with one horse	2 00	
Cutting and pulling weeds	1 00	
digging 340 bushels at 3c. per bushel	$10 20	—42 20
Cr.		
By 340 bushels at 1s. per bushel		$42 50

The current price of potatoes in October and November was about $1 a barrel, or 33⅓c. a bushel.

340 bushels would give		$113
Deduct cost of raising	$42 00	
delivering seven loads	9 00	—51 00
Net profit per acre		$62 00

Contrast this with the Doctor's *regime:*

One acre gives 180 bushels, which, at 30c., cost	$54 00	
Delivering four loads	5 00	—59 00
Receipts from 180 bushels sold at 33⅓c.		60 00
Net gain per acre		$1 00

"Look on this picture, then on that."

As a result of the mendacity of certain parties, I was forced to pay $10 the acre for digging by hand, when they should have been dug for $3 and picked for $3, thus making my net profit $66. My Eurekas and Snowflakes make a still better showing, yielding 400 bush. per acre, which,

At current rates, 33⅓c. per bush., would give		$133 33
Deduct cost as above	$42 20	
delivering ten loads at $1.25 per load	12 50	—54 70
Net gain per acre		$78 63

Rochester, N. Y. C. C. HOLTON.

Industrial Topics.

THE FARMERS AND THE RINGS.

IT is not to be denied that the general depression of the times is unusually severe, that trade is more stagnant, and finances more embarrassed than we are accustomed to witness; while the shrinkage of values is still going on, and the prevailing distrust is creating anxiety. At the same time it is evident that in politics, as well as in business, the standard of morals has fallen from its ancient level, and is still tending downward.

This is not, I admit, a very cheerful view of affairs, but, if the facts are mainly true, they deserve, at least, some recognition. To look always and only on the bright side of things is not the dictate either of policy or wisdom. There may be many and ample reasons for anticipating a brighter and better future. But certainly one of the means for insuring such a future is to understand the present, and the causes that have made it what it is. If bad men are mainly responsible for the existing state of affairs, we have clearly nothing to gain by ignoring that fact.

While the inquiry is on every tongue, "Who is responsible for existing evils?" it is in order for every man to vindicate his calling, and as agriculture is, by far, the largest industry in the nation, it is pertinent to inquire what relation the farmers hold to their country, and to its present condition. As a class of men, engaged in an industry of the highest utility and beneficence, there is much that may be said in their favor without the imputation of flattery. In the abstract they are, perhaps, neither better nor worse than other men. As individuals, they are like the rest of mankind. But, as a class, their daily lives are passed under influences that tend to elevate the mind and give value to the character.

On the other hand, there are classes of men whose position and associations have made them as different from these as possible; whose training and surroundings have fitted them for evil courses, and whose career is in striking contrast to that of the farmer. There are, for example, brokers and speculators, who make corners in grain; who convert the market into a lottery where the blanks are divided between the producer and consumer, while the prizes are drawn by harpies who gamble away in an hour the farmer's profit of a year. There are, also, political jobbers, and ring conspirators, lobbyists and retainers who represent the organized rapacity of the country, swarming everywhere through cities and towns, and growing continually more formidable in numbers and more daring in crime.

While the tillers of the soil have been steadily working by improved methods, and increased production, to create new values in agriculture, and new sources of national wealth, the robbers of the ring have been relentlessly devouring the substance of the people on a scale of magnitude measured only by millions. While successful farmers have been, from year to year, steadily pouring into the channels of trade incredible supply of cereal wealth, corruption has radiated from party centers into legislative halls, and bad men have traded in votes without limit and without shame. While the men who own the soil of the country, and the food it produces, have been patiently working to increase the yield of their acres, and to furnish bread and meat to the people in larger abundance and at lower cost, these defiant conspirators have added to the atrocity of their plunder a still deeper wrong. They have demoralized the people by the fascinating magnificence of their crimes, until the very principles of morality on which society reposes have been submerged by the tidal wave of dishonesty and sterling integrity of character has been driven to the wall by the overbearing insolence of organized villainy.

But through the whole of this contrast between the two classes described, perhaps the strangest fact of all is the disparity of numbers. While the numerical force of the farmers rises to five or six millions, the rank and file of the rings amount to comparatively few thousands, and the ring leaders themselves, not probably exceeding a few score in numbers, are, many of them, known and identified, yet hold their position in society, evading all laws, and defiant of all justice. CONRAD WILSON.

Sloatsburg, N. Y., Jan. 1876.

AN EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL FARMING.

"WILL farming pay?" is the frequent inquiry. I herewith give you my experience for the year 1875, and should you deem it of sufficient import to insert in your valuable paper, and should one of your numerous readers be benefited in the least, I will be fully compensated for the short time it required to compile from my day books.

My farm consists of 240 acres, about 116 in cultivation. The remaining 124 in pasture and hay land, except for orchard, young timber, yards and roads, to the extent of about 10 acres. The figures are as follows:

For labor of help, cultivating, harvest, storing	$487 21
Herding and feed for cattle of the farm	142 21
Lumber, posts for additional yard	91 35
Breaking new land	70 10
Taxes of 1874, paid in Feb., 1875	64 64
Live animals to replace those disposed of	631 90
Other expenses of living for family, from a paper of needles to an over-garment, board of help, small repairs of farm tools, painting, etc.	580 70
Total expenses of farm, as above stated,	$2,159 35

Receipts in cash as follows:

From cattle (fat)	$2,127 20
Hogs	956 96
Surplus grain (corn)	839 50
Butter	37 38
Hay	3 00
Sundries	6 25
Total cash	$3,970 09
Net income over all expense	$1,810 73

Am now in winter quarters, with a small increase of live animals of about equal value of January, 1875, with about $180 worth of small grain for future use of the crop of 1874, and were I to compile the cash value of pork, beef, flour, milk, butter, poultry, eggs, and a plentiful supply of vegetables that has been all the product of the farm and the greater portion of our living, are, with justice, disposed to say that farming will pay. I do not labor on the farm, that is, make a hand, and am not over-watchful, but, as a rule, keep things in tolerable running order. Am quite satisfied that this or any other farm of equal number of acres, and of equal soil, all other things being equal, run to full capacity, would show a net balance sheet of fully 100 per cent. greater. JOSEPH Z. MOORE.

Guthrie, Iowa, 1876.

THE YEAR 1875 ON A WISCONSIN FARM.

WE all know that the last winter was long and cold, the spring wet and backward, the summer cold with frequent storms, the fall frosty and wet. Still, "seed time and harvest" came to us as usual, and, altogether, the farmers of this part of the State have no reason to complain at the result of the year's labors.

Our wheat, both winter and spring, was the best crop grown in many years, the price ranged from $1.20 down to $1.00 per bushel. Oats were extra good, they are selling now at about 37½ cents. The hay crop was good, and mostly secured in good order. Corn came the nearest being a failure of any crop which we had, although we had a heavy growth and a large area planted, making much feed for stock. Potatoes we had too many, the yield being heavy and the quality good, but the price is too low for profit, being 20 to 26c. per bushel. Most garden vegetables were good, the prices of those are down, too, onions being less than 50c. per bushel. Some farmers have been quite successful in raising mangels for stock.

Fruit has been almost a total failure, and that is not the worst of it, for we have lost many of our best trees. Those who went into pork realized good prices, from 7 to 8c. per lb. Cows have done well, best butter has averaged about 35c., and cheese 13c. per lb., in our local markets. Beef is cheap. So far this winter we have had all sorts of weather, first, sleighing for a few days in November, then rain and mud and sunshine, more freezing and cold, then mud and rain, a few more days of sleighing just at Christmas, then another thaw with two days' rain at New Year's and a mud embargo on every body and everything, then froze again, but no snow yet. To-day the wind is in the south and the sun shines—a beautiful day. J. R.

Outagamie Co., Wis., Jan. 7, 1876.

Dairy Husbandry.

AMERICAN DAIRYMEN'S CONVENTION.

LEADING TOPICS OF THE FIRST DAY'S MEETING.

Mr. Arnold gave a general review of the dairy interest. He said the progress of dairying in the State of Maine had been great, and the product excellent. Thought the superior quality of the cheese was due, in part, to the large amount of Jersey blood in the stock. There are about 60 factories in Maine.

In Pennsylvania there had been a large increase in dairying. Mr. Arnold thought poor butter and cheese must continue to flow from the West for many years, owing to the state of transition. West of Ohio about 5,000,000 pounds of cheese has been produced, little of which has reached the Atlantic Coast. He spoke of Canadian cheese, which was in demand on account of its uniformity and excellence. Hence Canadian cheese is crowding out that from the States.

SHRINKAGE OF MILK IN 1875.

In Mr. C. S. Sheldon's paper on "Hints from Experience in Cheese Making" there were some interesting suggestions. He commenced by noticing the shrinkage of milk during 1875 as compared with 1874.

In 1874 he received at his factory the milk of 642 cows, and for 1875 the milk of 659 cows. The yield of milk for 1875 was 5 6-10 per cent. poorer than in 1874. The yield of milk in June, 1875, was 2 67-100 per cent. less than the corresponding time in 1874. July, 1875, shrinks 12 46-100 per cent., or 7 93-100 per cent. more than the corresponding month of 1874. August, 1874, shrinks 32 28-100 per cent., or 13 97-100 per cent. more than August 1874. September, 1875, shrinks 43 15-100 per cent., or 10 32-100 per cent. more than its corresponding month in 1874. October, 1875, shrinks 52 82-100 per cent., or 3 83-100 per cent. more than in 1874. And no month of the year has quite equaled in yield the corresponding month of 1874.

The explanation given for this shrinkage of milk during the past year was, that the feed grew faster than it was consumed: the tender, succulent grass became dry hay, losing the chief quality of milk production. This points to the importance of supplementing pasturage when it begins to fail.

VALUE OF FODDER CORN.

He mentioned an instance where one of his patrons fed fodder-corn to supplement pasturage. This patron's June milk was 3 6-100 per cent. better than the average yield of the factory for the same time. His July yield was 96-100 of one per cent. better than his June, and 10 85-100 per cent. better than the factory average. His August loses 20 37-100 per cent., but is 9 34-100 per cent. less than the average shrinkage. His September yield loses 33 8-100 per cent., but is 7 5-10 per cent. less than an average loss of the factory for the time. For the four months mentioned this patron gains 11 12-100 per cent. over the factory average for the same time, and, after deducting his increased yield for June, the ratio of his shrinkage is 8 6-100 per cent. less than that sustained by the factory. This record will be suggestive to dairymen in their summer management of cows. It shows the importance of supplementing pasturage by soiling, or by some other food.

WHOLE-MILK CHEESE MAKING.

was the subject of the paper by J. G. Canoe. He recommended cutting the curds lengthwise and crosswise, and no further. The heating, during the scalding process, continues about an hour and a quarter. Salt is applied at the rate of 2½ pounds to 1,000 pounds of milk. Mr. Canoe was very much opposed to skim cheese making, and urged the passage of a law to punish the making of counterfeit cheese.

Mr. J. R. Chapman of Madison Co. said it required more *bad* milk to make a pound of cheese than it does of good milk. He gave a great many causes for bad milk, and said the cheese maker is not responsible for those conditions over which he has no control. He indorsed the truthfulness of the lactometer in detecting watered milk, and gave instances where the same had been discovered through its use.

Seth Bonfoy, a noted cheese maker of Herkimer Co., described his process of cheese making. He sets the milk at 82 deg. Fahr., with perfectly sweet rennet, sufficient to coagulate the mass in 30 minutes so as to be of a consistency not too firm and clammy; but of a brittle texture, that will require careful cutting and handling. If carefully handled with *the hand* and carefully warmed, the whey will be of a clear, bright straw color. The curd should be largely matured in a temperature of about 92 deg. Fahr., and the finishing at 94 to 98 deg. should be short—not to exceed from 30 to 60 minutes. The heating must be slow, and as far as practicable from the sides of the vat. The curd should be handled with the hand in a light and rather lively manner, yet very carefully while warming, and the result of every move closely watched. The indications of the condition of the milk, and the result of right and wrong handling, are sure and unmistakable, but are not easily explained unaccompanied by practical illustrations. Cheese makers should be good judges of cheese.

DAIRY STOCK.

This was the subject of an elaborate and valuable paper by Leander Wetherel of Boston, and was read at the evening session. He said the best breed of cows was that which, from a given amount of feed, will produce the largest mess of milk suitable for butter or cheese. Soil, quality of cattle, breed and price are to be considered. Short-Horns, Holsteins and Swiss are among the large breeds; Devons, Ayrshires and Jerseys are of the small breeds. There are some good cows among the so-called "Natives."

He traced the history of the Short-Horns, showing that before their breeding for beef they were great milk-producing animals. Of the Holsteins, Mr. Miller of Peterboro reports an average yield per cow, during the year, of 9,597 pounds of milk. The Holsteins are superior in the quantity of milk produced, while the quality was shown to be as good as the average. He thought the Ayrshires did not yield as much milk in proportion to the place they occupied as the Short-Horns. On good keep they have a tendency to fat rather than milk. The Jersey cow produces the largest amount of rich and highly colored cream from a given quantity of milk.

Experiments have shown that 6½ quarts of milk from a Jersey would make a pound of butter, while Crossbreeds required a much larger quantity. From Natives 11 quarts of milk were required to make a pound of butter. Thomas Motley's Jersey cow, Flora, in 50 weeks made 10½ pounds of butter per week. He thought the yearly average of 500 pounds of butter per cow may one day be reached. The Guernsey cow is larger than the Jersey, muzzle broader, eyes less prominent—nose a rich yellow. She is smoother and more rotund in form, and is remarkable for the golden color of the butter, which excels that of the Jersey.

The speaker said there were three objects in view by the breeder. 1. A liberal production of milk. 2. The formation of meat. 3. The preservation of stock. Reference must be had as well to the bull as to the cow. We must separate the fatty and nutritious elements of food so as to introduce them into the circulation with as little loss as possible. Animals that give rich milk will fatten well and quickly. The formation of milk depends upon the activity of the mammary glands excited by breeding. It is the good milch cow that makes milk of her feed rather than fat. These qualities, he said, are subject to hereditary influences. A liberal supply of milk, and an aptitude to fatten, are often found in the same animal.

He thought the accumulation of hereditary tendencies, necessary to make good milch cows, is under the control of one breeder. He urged that the dairymen breed from none but animals of an ascertained and fixed type, carefully bred in a line for years, regard having been had to the development of hereditary points. Then it is that "like begets like" in the dairymen's herd as in Bate's herd. He quoted the Arab proverb: "The value of the horse is in his breeding," and said the same applied to the cow.

He was in favor of cross breeding when a farmer is unable to to purchase and keep high-bred stock. The breeder, by proper selections, and by joining like excellences and properties in size and dam, cannot fail to improve the quality of stock. Therefore, to improve stock, good blood should be on both sides. The dairyman, in beginning to breed, should have reference to the kind of land he is to stock, in determining the breed he is to select, always remembering that his ideal can never be fully realized. He must decide what are desirable qualities for him, and cross with the view of establishing them. Mr. Wetherel's address was able, and held the audience in close attention throughout.

We shall refer to the leading points in some of the other papers in another article.

THE DAIRY IN RUSSIA.

At the Dairy Fair held at Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., in October last, Alexis Elisheff, a young gentleman from Russia, read a paper giving some information concerning the progress of Dairying in Russia. According to this writer, dairying among the peasants has been conducted in a very rude manner. For instance, the peasant, he says, has a way of cooling milk with frogs. He keeps a number of small frogs in his dairy cellar for the purpose of putting into his milk. His idea is that these cold creatures will take the heat out of the milk, and so he puts them in to keep the milk sweet longer. Somewhat recently, however, the Government has established schools for educating persons in dairy management, and rapid progress is being made under their teachings.

Mr. Elisheff, in speaking on this point, says: "Our provincial Governments have adopted a system of credit for helping the peasant. Whenever a neighborhood of peasants wish to build a cheese factory, they form a society and ask for money to carry out their design. This money is lent on favorable terms. The factories are being operated quite successfully, netting about one cent per pound for milk. Again, our Government has established a school for teaching the practical art of dairying upon the most improved methods that can be found in the world. For my own use and for the use of this school, it is that I have come among you to study your system of dairying. Two years ago a lady was sent to France to learn how to make the fancy brands of French cheese. Other agents have been sent to other countries of Europe for the same purpose, and information eminently valuable to Russia's dairying interest has been thus obtained. Sweden, Holland, England and the German States have been visited, and now in our dairy school the art of making nearly all of their fancy brands of dairy goods is being taught. The head school is near Iver, with branches being established at some points in European Russia. At this school butter and cheese making is taught in all its branches; also the care of stock, the construction of barns and other dairy buildings."

Thus it will be seen that the time is coming when we are to have another competitor in dairy husbandry; for no doubt, so soon as a surplus of cheese and butter is manufactured in Russia above home wants, the outlet for that surplus will go to the nations that now get their supply from America. And the time may not be so distant as some would imagine, since the system of Government schools renders dairy progress more rapid than it would be if left to individual enterprise.

The Swine-Herd.

FEEDING FOR PROFIT.

The difference in the feeding capacity of hogs is very remarkable, and very closely related to the question of profit. It appears, according to the authority of Joseph Harris, that 13 pounds of corn per week are sufficient to sustain an Essex pig, against 22 pounds for a common pig of the same weight. This is very nearly at the rate of 2 pounds a day for the former, and 3 pounds for the latter.

It also appears, from the experiments of Mr. Harris, that the corn fed beyond these amounts goes to increase the weight of the animal, at the rate of about 2 pounds of corn daily for 1 pound of dressed pork. If, then, we assume that these figures correctly represent the difference between native pigs and those of a good breed, it will follow that when corn is fed to the latter, at the rate of 4 pounds a day, it gives 14⅓ pounds of pork to a bushel of grain, while in the case of the native pig, a feed of 5 pounds daily, gives only about 11⅕ pounds of pork to a bushel of corn.

It will also be seen that if the daily ration is increased by 2 pounds in both cases, the better bred pig will give, on a consumption of 6 pounds a day over 19 pounds of pork to a bushel of corn, while the common pig, on a daily feed of 7 pounds, gives but 16⅔ pounds of pork to the bushel of grain. On these results, every farmer can make his own comments. If he is feeding for profit, he can see at a glance that two points are very essential. First, he must have a good breed of pigs; after that, the gain of flesh depends on appetite and digestion.

But there is another view of the case. When pork is worth 8 cents a pound, the well-bred pig that eats 4 pounds of corn a day, pays the farmer 2 cents a pound for the grain, which is equal to $1.16 per bushel, while the native pig, on a consumption of 5 pounds daily, returns but 93 cents a bushel for the grain. And here again, if the ration is increased as before, it will be seen that the better pig, with a daily feed of 6 pounds of corn, returns $1.54 a bushel for what it consumes; while the native pig, on a ration of 7 pounds a day, returns $1.35 for each bushel of corn. Thus the same great facts continually reappear, that the profit of feeding depends first, on the breed of hogs, and second on their capacity to consume and digest food.

Some of the above results are beyond the ordinary range of experience, but they are not impossible, and in fact, have all of them been surpassed. Nineteen pounds of pork from a bushel of corn, though quite remarkable, is not a miracle. James Buckingham, as stated in the Prairie Farmer, obtained 22 pounds of pork from 1 bushel of cooked meal.

The manure of a corn-fed hog, according to Mr. Harris, is worth about half a cent for every pound of corn consumed. That is to say, a bushel of corn weighing 58 pounds, if fed to hogs, will yield manure worth 29 cents. By a singular coincidence, it also appears from the late experiment of Dr. Sturtevant, that corn can be raised in Massachusetts at a cost of 29 cents per bushel. This makes the manure of a good pig equal in value to the cost of the feed. A result, so remarkable, needs to be well proved and fortified by experience. But it seems, that each of the authorities here cited has claimed even a better result than the above. Mr. Harris found that 35 pounds of feed given to an Essex pig in one week, cost 37½ cents, and produced manure worth 41¾ cents. On the other hand, Dr. Sturtevant has given the cost of corn in one of his experimental crops at 11½ cents per bushel, omitting interest and taxes.

Practical men are always slow to accept extreme figures, in such cases. Probably the most it would be safe to claim as fairly within reach of the average farmer, would be 15 pounds of pork from one bushel of corn, and 30 cents a bushel as the cost of the corn in the Eastern States. As to the dictum of Mr. Harris that 35 pounds of feed costing 37½ cents, will produce manure worth 41¾ cents, however true it may be in chemistry, it is not necessarily true in husbandry.

Conrad Wilson.

Sloatsburg, N. Y.

ARE LARGE HOGS PROFITABLE?

The question is not an unusual one, and is of such a character that it cannot be answered by a direct "yes" or "no." A very large number of hogs are marketed during the summer, and quite a number are cut up by butchers and sold green from the block. In the case of hogs cut up by butchers we would say that hogs not *excessively* fat would command the highest price, and perhaps small hogs ought to be preferred—small hogs excessively fattened, however, we should think likely to be regarded with less favor than larger ones only moderately fattened. In the case of hogs cut during the summer time in the regular packing houses, we believe hogs of moderate weights would be preferred to hogs of extremely heavy weights, because, if for no other reason, the carcasses can be cooled more thoroughly, with less liability to loss from souring. Besides, in sending hogs to market in the summer when the weather is ordinarily warm, there can be no question that hogs only moderately fat can be shipped with greater safety than animals excessively fat. So far as markets are concerned, we do not see that there is any particular preference shown for one kind of hogs over the other. Our correspondent should be able to answer for himself as to whether he can produce one with greater economy than the other. He will doubtless find, whether he make a specialty of large hogs or small ones, that the most satisfactory returns will not be found in attempting to bring either to the utmost weight of which they are capable of attaining. When the animal is growing it will give a larger increase in weight in proportion to the food consumed. As the animal increases in fatness the expense of putting on additional pounds is greatly increased. The cheapest pound is the first pound, the cheapest one hundred pounds is the first one hundred pounds, while the dearest every time is the last. If the farmer has a given quantity of corn, which he desires to feed to hogs within a given time, he will find more profit in increasing the number of swine than in endeavoring to bring a few animals to a great weight. If a hog will make a good return when fed to 400 pounds, he will do much better if fed only to 300 or 350, and an experiment may show that the last 50 pounds is, and perhaps the last 100 is, put on at a loss. The feeding of swine is quite a problem, and we trust a large number of our readers will take the trouble to observe the progress they make (weighing often) under these different systems, and give us the result of their observations.—*Live Stock Journal.*

BEST FOOD FOR SWINE.

What would be considered the best food for swine in summer would not answer the same purpose in winter. In summer, such food should be given as would keep the animal in an improving condition, and would cause it to lay on a little fat, but not so much as to cause it to suffer from the heat, as a fat porker undoubtedly does. Cooling foods, such as plenty of young clover and bran and middlings, is what we use much of, not forgetting to give regular and abundant supplies of fresh, cool water. In putting up swine for exhibition purposes, we have tried many different kinds of food for the fall exhibitions, but have found none so desirable as a slop made of corn and oats ground together, one-third of the former, by measure, to two-thirds of the latter. One of the best ways to prepare it is to scald it at night and feed next morning, put on the mass only enough hot water to thoroughly moisten it, and then cover up the barrel tight so it can steam well, and make the mass mellow, and nice by morning. If it is found undesirable to scald it, moisten the mass with water and then put in one or more pans of sour milk—thick milk or clabber—to cause it to sour by the time it is used. We use both or either plan, and find them both good. As an ordinary summer feed, we have found this food to answer almost all purposes, though we do not feed so high as when feeding the animals for exhibition purposes, as experience has abundantly proved that the breeding stock should not be very fat, only in a healthy growing condition, to insure healthy, vigorous offspring. The refuse from the truck patches, such as tomatoes, cabbage, etc., come nicely into play for summer food in connection with the above slop, as do apples—windfalls—pears, etc. —*Amer. Swine and Poultry Journal.*

The Herdsman.

CROSSING DISTINCT BREEDS.

THE advice is sometimes given in Agricultural journals to cross animals having well defined and distinct characteristics. Still more frequently we hear farmers asking whether such a course would not be advisable. One of our acquaintances asks us whether we would advise crossing a thoroughbred Jersey bull on a thoroughbred Durham or Short-Horn cow, and what the effect would be on the offspring. To this we can only reply that such a cross is not to be thought of, for the precise reason that no one could guess what the progeny would be. Both Jersey and Short-Horn breeds have been perfected in their special characteristics by a long course of in-and-in breeding—the Jerseys for milk and butter and the Short-Horns for beef and early maturity. Pure-bred Short-Horns and pure-bred Jerseys are far too valuable to be used for breeding animals whose value could not be estimated, and which very likely would have scarcely any value whatever. Suppose, for example, that the calf from a Jersey Short-Horn cross should take after the Jersey for fat and the Short-Horn for richness of milk and yellow butter, where would the breeder be? If the animal happened to reproduce the better traits of both parents, the distinctness and purity of its breed would be so broken up by crossing that it would be absolutely worthless as a specimen from which to breed.

On the other hand, a cross of a pure bred animal with a native, is pretty sure to impress on the progeny the better characteristics of the thoroughbred. Our native stock is generally a mixture of strains with many accidental individual characteristics, but very few which belong to a family. Hence, these individual characters are apt to be obliterated by the stronger potency of the thoroughbred progenitor. A second cross with the same thoroughbred or one of the same strain, still further "fixes" the pure blood and obliterates the native. By the third or fourth cross the progeny may be depended upon as breeders whenever bred to the same strain to produce animals scarcely inferior, possibly in some cases superior, to thoroughbreds. Such crosses will not do to breed from to native or mixed stock, because only in the thoroughbred are the distinctive qualities so fixed as to ensure reproduction of the best type with tolerable certainty. A cross of two thoroughbred animals combining two strong potencies, each impressing widely different characteristics, leads to no good or definite result, and should be reprobated by all breeders.

It is found quite profitable to use a Cotswold or Leicester buck on common grade Merino ewes. The lambs from this cross bring a much higher price from the butcher than they would with native blood on both sides. But there would be no advantage in crossing thoroughbred coarse wool bucks on high-priced and thoroughbred Merino ewes. Their progeny ought to be worth far more for breeding than for the butcher, and would, if blood were kept pure. It may be almost stated, as an axiom, that thoroughbred animals of any kind are, or ought to be, too valuable to use for any purpose which would subordinate their value as breeders of pure stock. So long as a full blood Short-Horn will breed, he or she ought to be worth far more than for beef, and a Jersey cow is worth more for stock breeding than for milk or butter. If not, then they are not worth breeding at all. We have not yet a tenth part of the pure blooded animals of any variety needed to improve our common stock. So long as this scarcity remains, crossing thoroughbreds is a wicked waste of good breeding animals.

For many years to come the best use of full blood stock will be found in improving common and native strains of animals as nearly as possible like the thoroughbreds they are crossed with. If your native cattle fatten easily and mature quickly, improve them still further *in the same direction* by an infusion of Short-Horn blood. If your cows are remarkable for butter or milk, apply the same rule by a cross of Alderney or Jersey. Violent changes of type confuse all calculations of results, so that the breeder has no idea whatever as to what he may expect in the progony.

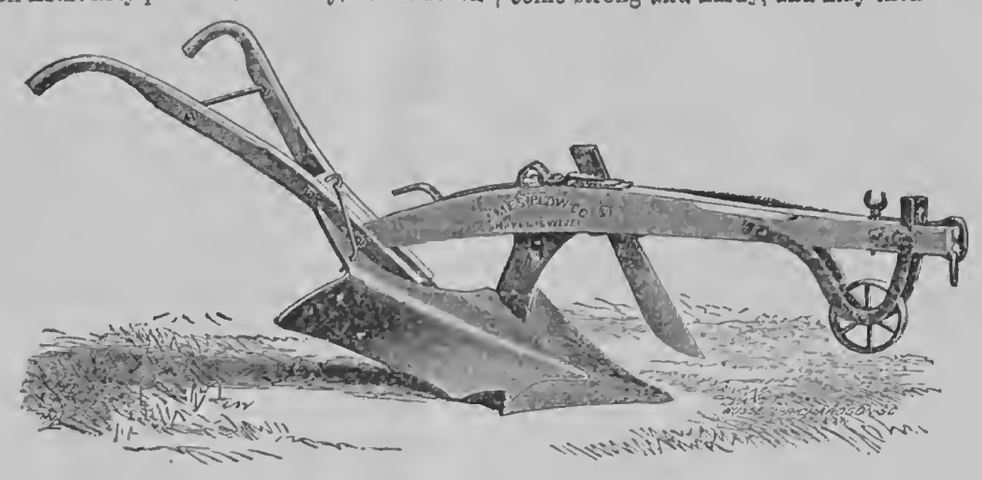
COST OF STEAMED FOOD FOR STOCK.

B. J. STONE of Westboro, Mass., writes in the Boston Cultivator:—I have tried for 25 years the feeding of dry hay and grain, and for the last 5 years I have thoroughly tried steaming my coarse fodder and roots, with most satisfactory results. I cannot afford to take my stock from steamed food and feed them on dry hay and grain, as I am satisfied with my past experience what the result would be. I will give you the cost of keeping my stock on steamed food, and would like to have some other gentleman favor you with the cost of feeding on dry food and compare results. I will give you at this time the cost of feeding 16 yearlings and 2-year-olds and 17 cows on steamed food:

150 lbs. corn fodder and straw, at $10 a ton	$0 75
96 lbs. cob meal and shorts	1 35
45 lbs. shorts fed in hay tea	50
120 lbs. dry hay	1 20
Value of coal to steam	36
	$4 16

or a fraction more than 12c. a head per day.

Mr. S. describes his method of preparing steamed food as follows:—Cut corn fodder, straw and hay, and put it into a box 10 feet long, 2 feet wide at the bottom and 3 feet wide at the top, which holds fifty pounds of cut hay. Add seven



HAKE'S SWIVEL PLOW.

or eight pails of water, with from three to four pecks of cob meal and shorts, and mix evenly, as I should to feed it directly to stock. I then pitch it down from the scaffold where I mix the feed into a large box, 8 feet long, 4 feet wide and 3½ feet high, with a false bottom made of slats four inches wide and three-quarters of an inch apart, which allows the water to settle to the bottom of the box, into which I introduce steam and boil the water. My large box holds as much as four of the small ones, or food enough to feed forty head of cattle one day, or two feeds, and with a tubular boiler I am able to cook or soften the corn butts, so they are made palatable, and not a particle of waste. It enables me to have a regular hour for feeding, both night and morn, and with one dry feed of hay at noon. I am at the present time keeping sixteen yearlings and two year olds, and seventeen cows, for $4.05 per day, or a fraction over 12 cents per head, a day. My cows on this mode of feeding give as much milk as on summer food, or by good pastures, and my young stock grow as rapidly as at any time during the summer season, and I believe that this mode of feeding is no more injurious to cattle than summer food.

RAISING CALVES IN WINTER.

INCREASED attention is being paid to the raising of calves and it is probable that fewer will be "deaconed," *i. e.* killed immediately after birth, this year than has formerly been the case. The New England Farmer gives some interesting and sensible observations on the best time and mode of growing calves:

Milkmen living near a good market often find it better to kill their calves immediately than to fat them, even in the spring, when veal sells readily, for the milk the calf takes will bring more before being made into veal than afterwards. As a rule, it does not pay milkmen to raise or fat their calves, or would not, if good cows could be easily found and purchased. With butter-makers the case is different. They have plenty of skimmed milk to be disposed of in some way, and if they are breeding a good-strain of dairy stock they may generally do well by raising their calves either for their own dairies or to sell to those less favorably situated for raising their stock. Nor is it essential that calves to be raised should all be dropped in the spring. From our own experience, we are satisfied that just as good, if not better, calves can be raised in the fall or winter as in spring or summer.

With the few we have raised in the fall, during the past ten years, we have had better success than with those started in spring. With spring calves, the temptation is very strong to turn out as soon as possible. The stables are hot and the flies are troublesome, and it seems wicked to keep the little things shut up in close stables, so they are turned out to be burned in the sun or chilled by the evening air when left out too late. They learn to eat fresh grass which, with the abundant supply of milk, causes scours, and oftentimes the calf receives a severe check in its growth by such treatment. In winter they may be kept in warm stables with perfect comfort. The farmer has more time to feed and care for them, and they soon learn to eat hay, which is really better food for a calf that drinks milk than the best of green grass.

By the time spring opens, they will have become strong and hardy, and may then be weaned from the milk gradually and turned off to pasture, with full promise of doing well during the summer. Every farmer who raises calves for his own use can afford to raise more than he needs, and than when they come to maturity he will have something to select from. This selecting the best and weeding out the inferior ones at three or four years old is one of the surest methods that can be adopted for building up a herd of cows that one will be proud of, and, if they are started well and kept thrifty all the time till four years old, they will make nice beef in a very short time on grain and grass, or good hay, for cattle fat a great deal more readily at that age than when ten or twelve years old.

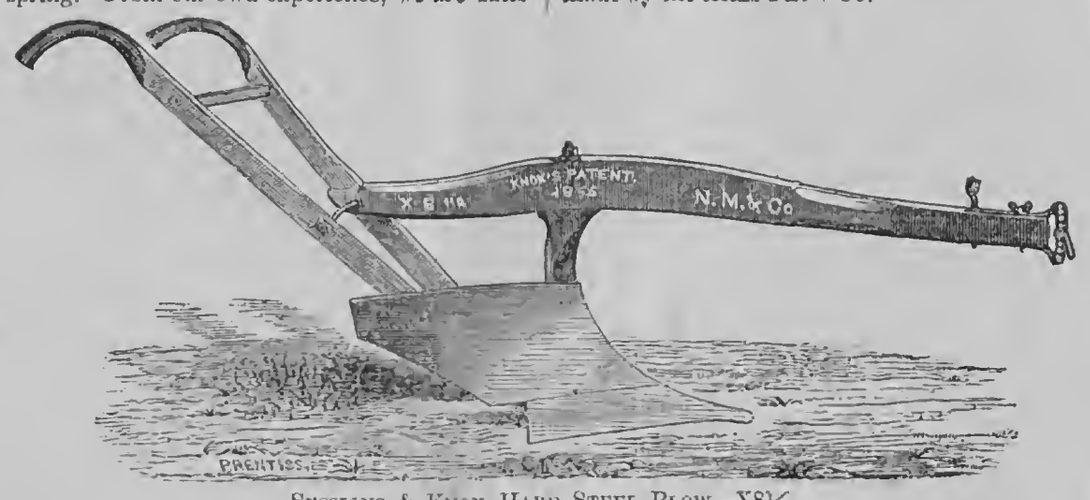
To the habit acquired by breeders of fancy stock of raising everything that has a pedigree, whether promising or otherwise, is undoubtedly due much of the prejudice against blooded stock felt by those common farmers who have been induced to invest in a small way by buying some third or fourth rate animal from a pure bred herd—an animal that ought to have gone to the butcher, instead of being allowed to go out and cast reproach upon the breed which it but poorly represents.

Our Premium Articles.

IMPROVED PLOWS.

THAT improvements should be made in articles so well known as plows, will surprise many old fashioned farmers who cannot imagine that since the days when iron superseded wood as a mold-board, any improvement was possible. The SESSIONS & KNOX Hard-steel Plow—an engraving of which we give on this page—represents a plow with mold-board, hardened to steel, on the outside, clearing well on all soils, while the center is tough and flexible, avoiding all liability to breakage—a union of very desirable qualities. The beam and handle of this plow are of the best white oak, strong and tough enough for durability but not so heavy as to be a burden either to beam or plow. Duplicate parts of this plow are kept constantly on hand by the makers, the AMES PLOW CO., at their Agency, No. 53 Beekman St., New York. We give this plow (price $19) for 15 subscribers at $2.65 or 30 at $2.15.

The Hakes' Swivel Plow is an arrangement adapting this style of implement not only to hillside culture but to level ground as well. It is made by the AMES PLOW CO.



SESSIONS & KNOX HARD STEEL PLOW—X8½.

We have frequent inquiries respecting Swivel Plows, and take pleasure in recommending the Hakes' Improved. It entirely obviates the objection to Swivel Plows that they do not run enough to land, as the sole on which the plow runs is made narrower to the rear, giving the plow a bearing toward the land—on the principle of a rudder directing the ship. The Hakes turns and pulverizes the soil as thoroughly as ordinary plows, and the advantage of plowing a field all in one land without dead furrows is one which every farmer will appreciate. We offer this plow (price $20) as a premium for clubs of 16 at $2.65 or 30 at $2.15.

The Poultry Yard.

POULTRY ON THE FARM.

A FARM of 40 acres is large enough for 200 fowls, though a dozen could not be profitably kept on it uncared for. The Spanish class is admitted to be the most profitable where eggs are wanted. They lay the most eggs and their disinclination to sit recommend them as being very valuable, but then they are somewhat tender, and of course rank among the poorest breed that the careless breeder could have. Minus of their large red combs, and with their feet badly frozen, they look mean and ordinary, and if you will not go to the pains to erect them comfortable quarters, you might as well bite their heads off, as to let Jack Frost do it. As for me, I will keep the Spanish a while longer. I only wish that I had two hundred of them. How would you manage so many? For the information of the many readers of the RURAL, I will tell you.

I would erect for their winter quarters a large, though economical poultry-shed, say 100x16. To save lumber, I would make it but 3 feet from the ground to the eaves. I would have the shed fronting the South, with at least 12 windows 8x8 in front. These would admit an abundance of sun light, so essential to the health and comfort of fowls. I would have ventilators at the East and West ends, two feet above the eaves, and five feet from the ground—high enough to prevent currents of air from striking the fowls. To the eaves on the North and West, I would have earth banked, first filling in stones and rubbish to prevent the boards from decaying. I would have a cheap, but comfortable roof put on this large shed, which shed I would not allow my fowls to use as a roosting place at all—would not allow a single perch in it. Their roosting apartment should be even warmer, but not larger than necessary for roosting purposes. This latter apartment I would attach to this huge shed on the South.

Combining those two apartments, certainly would be far more paying, than to leave fowls outdoors to freeze. Exercise too, is admitted to be of great benefit to fowls, and hence I would have some litter strewn over about one-half of the ground of this shed, among which I would throw enough wheat screenings to keep my hens busy at least half of their time, scratching. The remaining part, 50x16 feet, would be large enough for their nests, and dust boxes, and their feed, troughs, and drinking vessels. In this way, and with such winter quarters, I would expect to make my fowls well repay their keeping, if properly fed, and enjoy the care of them besides. Any breed cared for, thus, would well repay their keeping and building expenses.

F. M. SNYDER.

GROWING TURKEYS IN CALIFORNIA.

IT has often occurred to us, that the far Western States where grain and land are cheap, could beat Eastern poulterers out of sight in making cheap poultry. In California this business has especial advantages in the fact, that for six months in the year there are no storms, and the perfect dryness of soil and air is particularly favorable to young turkeys and other fowls. One-half the young turkeys hatched in Eastern States, perish from cold, wet rains or from being bedraggled in heavy cold dews. The Sacramento Valley, Cal. Agriculturist relates the following successful experience of a gentleman in in growing turkeys for the San Francisco market:

Last year, while traveling in the Visalia country, we met a flock of three hundred turkeys, which were being driven to San Francisco, to market, by a Mr. Johnson. Thinking that he must be a very successful poultry raiser, we questioned him as to his method of raising and feeding them, and as we camped together that night, we learned the following facts:

"I own half of this flock," said Mr. Johnson, "and I raise from 150 to 200 turkeys every year. I have about ten acres of alfalfa, over which I run the water. I have it fenced off in two fields, turkey tight, and then I clip their wings. I have good warm houses and attractive places for the hens to lay, and when they begin to hatch, I shut up the brood for a week or two. At first I feed them coarse corn meal, corn being very plenty in my locality, and mix it up with scalding water or sour milk. I commence from the very first to mix a little black pepper in their feed, and I am careful not to over-feed, nor let them have anything to eat later than four o'clock in the afternoon.

"When the young are about two months old, I allow the hens to take them into one of the alfalfa fields, and after that they require very little feeding, though a little scalded meal and black pepper, and occasionally a little sulphur, is very good. All the thick milk I put in troughs where they can get all they want of it."

He informed us that his present number of turkeys would bring in San Francisco over four hundred dollars. It was his calculation to keep them somewhat near Oakland, in a suitable field, until they had recruited from the trip, before offering for sale,

Pomological.

N. J. STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Proceedings of its First Annual Meeting.

THE first Annual Meeting of this Society took place at New Brunswick, N. J., Jan. 20—21. The attendance, though not as large as that of many older societies, was good, and considerable enthusiasm was manifested by those present. A number of new members were admitted and, with the augmented force, the Society proceeded with the work which had called them together.

FIRST DAY.

Prof. GEO. THURBER, the President, delivered his annual address, during the course of which he spoke of the small past and large future of the Society, and touched upon various matters of interest to Horticulturists in that attractive, easy and graceful way for which he is eminent. The address was enthusiastically received by all present.

This was followed by a paper read by WM. PARRY of Cinnaminson upon Raspberries. Upon this subject there ensued considerable discussion, participated in by E. P. BERRY of Elizabeth, A. S. FULLER of Ridgewood, and J. W. HAYES of Newark.

Mr. C. W. IDELL of Hoboken then read a paper on the Huckleberry, naming many varieties and explaining the manner of marketing them. It was remarked of this by one of our best Horticulturists, that, notwithstanding its briefness, it contained more information on this subject than could be found in all the agricultural books ever written—that more should be studied and known about this fruit. We shall, when less crowded for space, endeavor to publish it in full.

Prof. GEO. H. COOK of New Brunswick addressed the Society upon the subject of Fertilizers, giving detailed accounts of various experiments and tests, and their comparative results. This called out many inquiries from different members, and much information and good advice from the Professor, who seems to have made deep study of the subject.

After deciding against an evening session, the Society adjourned till 10 A. M. the next day.

SECOND DAY.

The Special Committee on Fruits and Flowers, consisting of Messrs. PARRY, HANCE, BAIRD and LOVETT, reported as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:—This being the first Annual Meeting of the Society, we have framed our report in proportion to the extent of the Exhibition. Although it is not large, yet we think it well selected, and in consideration of there being no premiums offered and the season of the year, we think it is as large as could be expected at our regular meeting. Hoping and trusting it will be still more extensive at our next meeting, your Committee report as follows:

E. WILLIAMS of Montclair, N. J.—Thirteen varieties of apples, including fine specimens of Jersey Hawthorn, Baldwin, Northern Spy, Ortley, Roxbury Russet, Peck's Pleasant, St. Lawrence, and remarkably well-preserved specimens of Maiden's Blush, Gravenstein and Fall Pippin. We call attention to the Jersey Hawthorn of this collection as deserving more notice than it receives; also, three varieties of Pears, viz., Doyenne d'Alencon, Prince's St. Germain and Easter Beurre, and specimens of Early Ohio Potatoes—a decidedly handsome sort, of recent introduction, a seedling of the Early Rose, and said to be two weeks earlier than Vermont.

W. W. GOLDSMITH of Newark.—Three varieties of Pears, namely, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Glout Morceau and Beurre d'Anjou, all of which were remarkably well preserved. We call special attention to the fine size and quality of the Duchesse d'Angouleme and Glout Morceau.

P. T. QUINN of Newark—Exhibits a new variety, called the Quinn Pear, of surpassing flavor and remarkable keeping qualities; rich russet skin; pretty form, very handsome, though rather small; exquisite flavor, in which it strongly resembles the Seckel.

EDWIN ALLEN of New Brunswick.—Specimens of the Nero Apple—a large and fine variety.

A. HANCE & SON of Red Bank.—Specimens of the Gilpin and Carthouse Apple, valuable for its keeping qualities, being equal in this respect to the Newtown Pippin and very productive.

JOHN RASSBACH of Bloomfield—Exhibits a new Seedling Apple, of large size, red, spicy flavor and a good keeper. This we esteem worthy of further trial.

GEO. SUCH of South Amboy.—A gorgeous and very fine panicle of Blooms of Laelia Superbens—one of the handsomest Orchidaceous plants.

H. E. CHITTY of Paterson.—A number of novelties in greenhouse plants, viz., Geranium Happy Thought—a variety of most distinct and handsome foliage; Pelargonium Distinction and Solanum Hybridum Argenteum, said to have variegated fruit, but in foliage much resembling Solanum Jasminoides, also Bloom of Carnation. La Belle and Violet Victoria Regina.

The Fruit Growers' Trade Co.—A jar of cooked Cranberries, prepared for exportation. They were found to be in perfect condition and of excellent quality.

DAVID C. VOORHEES of Blawbenburg.—Specimens of Triumph Sweet Corn—a new early variety of great promise; kernel and ear large and handsome.

From the above it will be seen that Mr. WILLIAMS excels in the exhibition of apples and Mr. GOLDSMITH in pears, while we are indebted to Mr. CHITTY for the "Happy Thought" that prompted him to show us his novelties in the floral line.

In the absence of Mr. PETER HENDERSON, his paper on "The Geranium as a Bedding Plant" was read by Mr. HANCE.

The matter of the more perfect organization of the Society was informally discussed by various members, which resulted in the passage of a resolution referring the soliciting of members to the Vice-Presidents.

Mr. E. W. CRANE of Caldwell offered a resolution to appoint a Committee to memorialize the Congress of the United States and the State Legislature to adopt a uniform system of weights and measures.

Mr. E. W. DURAND of Irvington read a paper upon the "Hybridization and Production of New Varieties of the Strawberry." This elicited some inquiries and discussion, during which the "*doctors disagreed*" on numerous points.

Mr. A. S. FULLER followed with his paper on "Entomology and its Relations to Horticulture," which was published in last week's RURAL.

Mr. EDWIN ALLEN of New Brunswick read a paper on the "New Fruits of Promise."

At the request of several members, Mr. T. B. MINER of Linden related his experience in raising seedling grapes, of which he had produced large quantities. He was heard with interest and obliged to answer numerous inquiries.

Mr. W. H. GOLDSMITH of Newark read a paper on "The Keeping of Pears," and Mr. G. W. THOMPSON of Stelton one on "Hedges and Screens,"—after which the meeting adjourned, with much apparent satisfaction to the members for the progress made. G. A. C. B.

Rural Architecture.

PLAN FOR A DWELLING HOUSE.

THE house herewith described for the benefit of RURAL readers consists of an upright with wings in the rear. The size of the building is 30

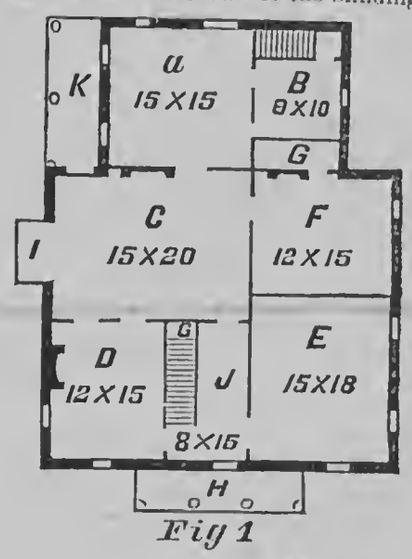


Fig 1

FIG. 1—PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

A, Dining Room, with Kitchen and Storeroom underneath; B, Pantry; C, Sitting Room; D, Library; E, Parlor; F, Sleeping Room; G, G, Closets; H, Porch; I, Bay Window; J, Hall; K, Back Porch. The circle is a crock for stovepipe from kitchen stove.

by 35 feet and the wing is 15 by 25. The roof of the upright should be like that of a square house (sloping four ways), and the wing should have the common double roof with gable.

The design is to have a basement kitchen under room A, Fig. 1; but where the lay of the land will not admit of this, A can be used for kitchen and C for dining-room. The space under the front stairs can be converted into two closets opening into C and D, or it may be left in one. If the kitchen is in the basement there should be

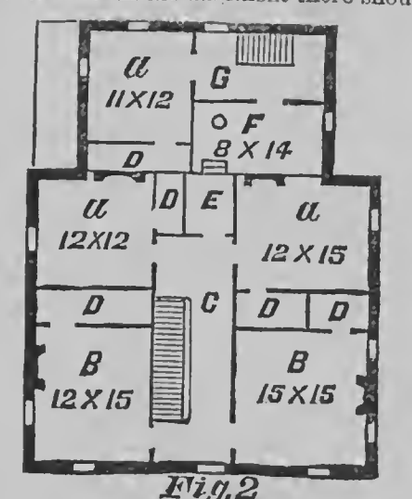


Fig.2

FIG. 2—PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.

A, A, A, Sleeping Rooms; B, B, Front Chambers, for sleeping or other purposes; C, Landing and Hall; D, D, D, D, D, Closets; E, Linen Press; F, Bath Room; G, Landing of back stairs and hall. Crock for stovepipe is seen in Bath Room.

a dumb-waiter connecting with the same from A or B, together with the stairs leading down from B—the pantry. Doors in the outer walls are shown wider than windows.

This is a very convenient house and is capable of accommodating many persons. It can be built cheaply, and yet look well and substantial. If taste demands and purse permits, however, a great deal of elaborate ornamentation can be put upon it without causing it to seem overdone.

The arrangement of chimneys is good, but if the greatest economy is to be consulted a different plan will readily suggest itself. The pipe from the dining-room stove enters the pipe from the kitchen stove, which is carried into the chimney in the bath-room. The linen press will serve as a passage from the upper hall to the chamber of the wing, which it enters in the bath-room by descending a few steps.

If a larger dining room (A, Fig. 1) is desired, extend the wing to the right five feet, carrying the pantry and closet out even with the main building. This will give a size of 15 by 20 feet for a dining-room. F. H. G.

Modes and Manners.

THE WORK TABLE.

Now that the cold days are upon us, which keep one indoors more than usual, some helps and suggestions about fancy work, which go so far in making a lady's toilet as well as a lady's room attractive, may not come amiss.

EMBROIDERED NET CRAVAT.

One of the daintiest cravats of the season is of black or white net ornamented with embroidery silk. Those in black are especially pretty, bright-

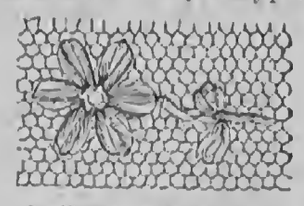


FIG. 2 EMBROIDERY FOR CRAVAT.

ened with gold, pale blue, crimson or cream-colored silk. Fig. 1 furnishes a good model. The net is turned down for a hem and worked round with chain stitch. Three rows more are worked across the ends; above there is a little spray, the details of which are shown in Fig. 2.

Floricultural.

VINES FOR A LOW TEMPERATURE.

THERE is no feature that more tends to neutralize the stiff profiles of conservatories, to soften the angles, to relieve the military array of earthen pots that—place them as we will—are matter-of-fact looking things, than a judicious selection of Vines.

It may be considered, too, that a few vines will produce the same effect as many shrubby plants—assuring the full, verdant appearance of the house—while more space is left to other subjects whose vigor and beauty are enhanced by not being overcrowded. They should be trained in those parts of the conservatory where they will cast the least shade upon other plants, and where—like a thick, ample background—they will fill the eye as the conservatory is entered. We have never yet seen a floral structure without vines—let the collection of plants be ever so choice, let them exist in their best richness and health—but what would have been rendered more naturally attractive had vines been arranged with taste so as to cover up the walls and pillars. For this purpose we mention the following as among the most deserving:

Stephanotis floribunda is a great favorite in England, though less common here. Its flowers, in clusters of half a dozen, resembling Tuberoses, are very fragrant. The leaves are opposite and thick like the *Hoya* or Wax Plant, to which, under *Asclepiads*, it is closely related. It likes close walls, sunny exposures, good drainage, little water during the resting period and occasional doses of manure water when the buds are swelling. Thus treated it may remain in the same pot for several years. A temperature of from 50 to 55 suits it. Propagated from cuttings.

Lapageria rosea is, when properly treated, one of the most beautiful vines known for cool conservatories. It is an evergreen, continuing in bloom the greater part of the year, very slow in growth until well established. It loves damp, cold, shady places and will stand a good deal of frost. A writer in the English Gardeners' Monthly says that he has a specimen twenty feet high planted against his house (Cornwall) in a corner facing northwest, and he thinks it will be found hardy elsewhere (*i. e.*, in colder climates) if planted in a bed of bog earth with good drainage.

The leaves are scanty—two inches long, ovate-acuminate—the stem green and slender. The flowers are three inches long, tube-shaped, of a deep rose color outside, delicately marbled with a lighter and darker rose within. The growth of *Lapageria* seems perpetual. It does best in sandy peat, well drained and always kept moist. It is propagated from divisions of the roots sometimes, from layers and from seeds, though from the seed to the flower several years are necessary. A temperature of 40 degrees agrees with it. *L. Alba* is the same with white flowers, but it does not flower so freely, is less vigorous and less desirable.

FIG. 1.—EMBROIDERED NET CRAVAT.

Thunbergia Harrisoni has something the habit of a Morning Glory, while its leaves resemble those of Grecian Silk (*Periploca Graeca*) varying in size, the largest five inches long. The flowers are in clusters, tubular, rather turned at the base not unlike the Snapdragon or many of the *Gesneraceae*. The tube is one and the lobed limbs three inches in diameter. The color is a sky-blue with a white throat. This does not seed freely and is propagated from cuttings. Temperature, 60 degrees.

Vinca elegantissima, grown upon brackets and allowed to droop over the pot, with its lively blue flowers and richly variegated leaf, is an attractive object.

Many of the *Passifloras—Myrsiphyllum asparagoides; Tecoma capensis*, yellow flowers; *Clematis indivisa*, white flowers; *Tacsonia Van Volxemi*, crimson flowers, borne in great profusion in wreath-like clusters; *Abutilon Mesopotamicum—Cobaea scandens var.*, well variegated with yellowish white, contrasting prettily with its large purple trumpet flowers which, however, are fewer and more ephemeral than in the unvariegated sort. It grows, we should say, ten feet in a month.

All the above thrive in a low temperature and many of them are well suited for window or sitting-room adornment.

Plant for Name.—The leaves and flowers forwarded by W. P. JOHNSON, Harthegig, Pa., are those of *Achania malvaviscus*, called also *Malvaviscus arboreus*. It is from the island of Jamaica, introduced into cultivation in 1714.

A Fruitless Orange Tree.—Mrs. E. W., of North Walton, N. Y., writes as follows: "I have a great love for flowers, and cultivate as many as time and means will permit and am generally successful. I look out to-day upon the storm through a curtain of green with only a few flowers yet to light it up, but with fair promise of more in the future. I have a pot of Callas that are magnificent. There are three of the lovely white flowers, the center one borne on a stem fully four feet high. I have also an Orange tree which I raised from the seed, now twelve years old, but which has never showed signs of bud or blossom although it grows luxuriantly. What treatment must I give it to make it blossom?"

That seedlings should not fruit as soon as grafted or budded plants is owing to the fact that, existing in a state of nature and unimpaired by any of the processes by which horticulturists hasten fruitfulness, their periods of puberty are later and their lives far longer. That vigor of the young tree which determines its stature and proportions in a manner ceases when it bears fruit, and the nutriment which previously developed leaf-buds and branches is now so modified during the period of adolescence—if we may so speak—as to induce fruit-buds as well. In the same way that an annual may be made a biennial—by nipping the first appearance of blossoms—the growth of the tree and its longevity, in a congenial soil, would be greatly extended if it were not for the debilitation caused by fruiting, which appropriates its vigor and provides for the one great object of all life—the continuation of the species. The weakest forms of life oftimes mature, as it is termed, the earliest—an immature maturity that promises and hastens an early decay. Vigor means health, strength, physical force; vitality, that ripened power which results therefrom and upon which the fruitfulness of the plant depends. If, therefore, we would precipitate vitality we must impair the vigor.

If Mrs. E. W. cannot wait for her vigorous Orange tree to mature in its own full time, she must weaken it either by destroying its leaves or young shoots, by which the sap is changed into food—by curtailing the roots which supply the sap—by withholding water or by providing a poorer soil.

We would recommend that she take up the Orange tree, wash the roots, cautiously shorten those that, as it seems to her, can best be spared, and replace it in the same soil freely and well mixed with sand. E. S. CARMAN.

River Edge, Bergen Co., N. J.

Arboricultural.

WILD THORN-APPLE FOR HEDGES.

INCLOSED I send sample of seeds of the tree which grows in this section, commonly known as the "Thorn-Apple." I am not familiar with the botanical name. The fruit is about the size of a cranberry. Will some of the RURAL friends inform me, through your columns, how to germinate them. I believe this is the natural hedge plant for this section, and wish to experiment with it. I believe that it possesses all the properties of a good fencing shrub, and any information in regard to its propagation will be thankfully received.—F. WILLIAMS, *Jefferson Co., N. Y.*

The seeds sent are those of some one of our many native species of "Hawthorn," or Thorn-Apple," probably the common Cockspur Thorn of the northern states, or, botanically, *Crataegus Crus-galli.* The seeds of these thorns do not germinate generally until the second year after sowing, consequently, it is usual to keep them one season in a kind of preparatory condition before sowing. The usual method is to put the apples in a vessel, or heap, where the pulp will soon rot, then wash out the seed clean, after which mix with sand or some kind of light sandy loam. The vessels containing the mixture should then be buried in some moderately dry spot in the garden. We usually select the north side of some building or board fence, where the seeds will get the full benefit of frosts in winter, and not become too dry in summer.

Seeds thus prepared and put in last fall, or this winter, may be left undisturbed until one year from next spring, then taken out and sown in many rows. If the seeds were sound when put in they will soon germinate after the approach of warm weather. If sown direct as soon as gathered they are likely to become injured by drouths during the ensuing season, and frequently not one seed in a thousand will grow. In their native habitats these seeds are protected from drouth by the leaves which fall upon them, as well as the shade from the parent tree, during summer, which is not the case when sown in an open field.

There is really no difficulty in producing this kind of hedge plant by the millions, if they were wanted, but they are not, and we will try to make it plain to you, and others who may not know, why the Hawthorns are utterly worthless as hedge plants in this country. It is not strange that the various species of native Hawthorns should have early attracted the attention of our farmers who were desirous of raising hedges, for many came from Britain where "Hawthorn hedges" are everywhere cultivated with success. Our native species are even superior to the foreign, being sturdy bushes or small trees, with beautiful foliage, flowers and fruit, in addition to their very formidable spines. But, with all their commended properties, their insect enemies have compelled the horticulturist to strike the Hawthorn from the list of desirable hedge plants.

In the beginning of this century the farmers in the vicinity of New York and Philadelphia were experimenting quite extensively with the native and foreign species of Hawthorns, glowing accounts of success appearing in the proceedings of Agricultural clubs and societies of that day. In the Transactions of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture (founded in 1785) we find a number of communications, giving the experiences of the writers with various hedge plants, and the Hawthorn among the number. The first notice we find in said Transactions, in regard to insect depredations, appears in a letter of Mr. PAUL COOPER of Woodbury, N. J., communicated Dec. 13th, 1808, in which he says: "The White-Thorn is often exceedingly injured by a worm, or some kind of insect, that kills the bark all around near the surface. I was discouraged from raising any more from the seed, although the insect did not kill the roots, yet so much dead wood looks very unhandsome."

For nearly seventy years the agricultural press of this country have been annually recording the failure of Hawthorn hedges in consequence of the attacks of insects, and still, in the face of this recorded experience, we frequently receive letters similar to the above, the writers of which either claiming that the "Hawthorn is the coming hedge plant," else asking why it is not more extensively employed for this purpose. Now the principal insect enemies of the Hawthorn (*crataegus*) are the same as those which attack the cultivated apple-tree. The most destructive one, probably, is the two-striped Saperda. (*Saperda candrida*) or, as more commonly called, the two-striped apple-tree borer. This beetle deposits its eggs on the stem of the trees near the ground, where they hatch, and the young borers penetrate the sap wood, frequently completely girdling the stem, causing the death of the tree, as reported by Mr. COOPER in the letter quoted above. In an apple orchard where the trees stand singly, the grubs could be cut out, or killed by inserting a wire into their holes, but, when they once get into a Hawthorn hedge, the case becomes a hopeless one, and its destruction is only a matter of time, and usually the farmer has not long to wait in order to see the labor of years destroyed without a shadow of a chance to avert the calamity.

Another very provoking phase of this Hawthorn hedge growing is, that the borers will give no signs of their presence, (at least to the inexperienced cultivator) until the hedge is of large size or fully established, then, without any apparent warning, great patches of plants along the hedges will suddenly fail to leaf out in spring, or die in summer. This has been the fate of nine-tenths of the American Hawthorn hedges in this country. There are also other species of borers which attack the Hawthorns, among the most conspicuous and well-known are several belonging to the great family of *Buprestidians.*

The larvæ, or grubs, of these beetles are usually found in the upper part of the stems and lower branches of the trees and bushes which they infest, working just under the bark, seldom penetrating very far into the solid wood. The common flat-headed apple-tree borer (*chrysobothris femorata*) belongs to this family, and is found everywhere from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada, and westward to California. A plant with as many natural enemies as the common Hawthorn, or Thorn-Apple, is not very likely to become popular for hedges.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

FUMIGATING HOUSE PLANTS.

Jan. 20.—J. G. R. of Griffin, Ga., writes:—"I want to know the names of those plants in a general collection which are likely to be injured by strongly fumigating with tobacco smoke or washing with whale oil soap. I have had to resort to both to extinguish the lice on Rose bushes and thrips and mealy bugs from my Fuchsias and other greenhouse plants. My Coleus and Begonias of the "Rex" species don't seem to do well under the treatment, and some of the leaves of my Camelias have shown a disposition to turn brown; and knowing that all plants do not thrive under the same treatment, I am led to ask for a little information on this point, and will esteem it a great favor if "Daily Rural Life" will respond."

There is, it is true, some difference in plants in regard to their susceptibility to injury during fumigation for the purpose of destroying insects, still none of those named would be considered by a florist as at all delicate. I have frequently had the plants in my greenhouse badly injured by smoke. The Heliotrope is especially liable to have its young growth cut off and leaves blackened if the fumigating is not properly performed; but the trouble is not caused by the fumes of the tobacco, but by genuine smoke. The tobacco, if too dry, will take fire and burn up rapidly, and the operator will sometimes use shavings, or even carry a quantity of burning brands of wood into the house, upon which the dry tobacco is thrown, the result being a hot, poisonous smoke, which soon destroys the leaves of all the more delicate plants. To prevent any injury from this source, the tobacco used for fumigating should always be damp enough to prevent its burning rapidly, the object being to obtain a thick, dense smoke composed of steam and the fumes of tobacco. Florists have to guard against accidents of this kind, for careless workmen will sometimes use dry tobacco, because it burns more freely, and a smoke can be gotten up in a hurry and with less trouble.

It is also well to syringe plants with pure water soon after fumigating, as this cleans the leaves and washes off the dead insects and their eggs. Where one has only a few house plants and it is not convenient to fumigate them, tobacco water may be used instead. A deep tub or half barrel of the liquid may be made, and wherever the Green Fly (*Aphis*) shows itself upon a plant, it (the plant) can be dipped into the solution, which will answer the same purpose as fumigating with tobacco. Large plants which cannot be handled conveniently may be syringed with the same liquid.

For exterminating "mealy bug" I have never found anything so good as alcohol, or even common high proof whisky will do. With a small, soft brush, one can soon clean the bugs from a hundred plants, no matter how badly infested. Dip the brush into the alcohol and then let a drop or two fall upon a cluster of mealy bugs and they will disappear. There are some very delicate kinds of plants which the alcohol will injure if used too freely; but there is not much danger in its application to the ordinary kinds cultivated in greenhouses.

BUDS DROPPING BEFURE EXPANDING.

DAILY RURAL LIFE:—I am in trouble about my house plants. They are kept in a dining-room bay-window off the kitchen, and there is a reservoir on kitchen stove, and door open more or less. They look green and very healthy; do not grow sickly. We have wood fires. The plants have been full of buds all the winter and every one blasted. Oleander is full of buds, and I am anxious to see them open. Petunias have budded and blasted continually. Scarlet Geraniums ditto. Primulas only budded once, and they are going the same way; the outside leaves turn black next to the root and die. Carnations are just budding and I am anxious to save them. I have given them a little liquid manure and soap water. What shall I do?—V. B.

Jan. 21.—I can do little more than guess at the cause of the buds dropping off. The atmosphere of the rooms may be too dry and warm during the day, and too cool at night, or you may water them too freely, although the latter is not a common fault in the management of house plants. Place a vessel of water in the room or among the plants where the evaporation therefrom will be likely to increase the moisture in the atmosphere, and then give water to the roots of the plants more sparingly for a few weeks, and see what effect this treatment will have. Of course, it is not advisable to withhold water until the foliage begins to wilt, although this would not be as likely to injure them as to keep the roots in soil continually soaked full of water.

There are many persons, who in their over-anxiety to prevent house plants from suffering for want of moisture, keep the soil about the roots in a semi-liquid condition, which excludes the air and causes disease and decay. The water plants, such as the common Calla or Ethiopian lily will thrive under these conditions, but those which are found in their native habitats upon high, dry soils are likely to suffer from too much moisture about their roots. Then, again, the greater part of the plants we cultivate in our greenhouses are natives of climates where there are heavy dews at night which wash the leaves once in twenty-four hours, leaving rains out of the question; hence it may readily be seen, that sprinkling the leaves of such plants when growing under artificial conditions is a very important operation. The water which falls in the form of rain passes down to the roots, but the dews do little more than wet the foliage and fill the surrounding atmosphere with moisture. In cultivating plants under artificial conditions, we should strive to imitate nature as closely as possible, but to do this it becomes necessary to know something of the natural history of each species, including the soil and climate in which they were originally found.

CUTTING DOWN THE OLD LOCUST TREES.

Jan. 22.—A half century or more ago the farmers on Long Island, in New Jersey and some of the adjacent regions of country, paid considerable attention to the planting of locust trees. The demand for locust timber at the time named was quite brisk and good prices were obtained, large quantities being used in the construction of vessels of various kinds. Many of the farmers of Long Island and New Jersey, scattered locust seed in their wood lands, and as the young seedlings grew up the other kinds of timber were removed in order to give the locust room to grow. Some of these old locust forests still remain, but the timber is in less demand than formerly, and it is well that it is so, for the supply has rapidly diminished of late years through the depredations of insects.

Some of the main roads in my own neighborhood as well as in other parts of New Jersey are bordered with rows of locust trees planted fifty to seventy-five years ago. But these old trees have long since ceased to be either useful or ornamental, and of late many of them have become decidedly dangerous, for their worm-eaten branches are broken off and scattered along the highways, putting the lives of those who may be obliged to pass along the road in peril. A large number of those old locust trees in my neighborhood have been cut down during the past few weeks, and I have examined these fallen monarchs with considerable interest.

The well-known locust tree borer or Painted Clytus, (*Clytus pictus*) is the larva of a handsome beetle nearly an inch long. It is of a black color, beautifully ornamented with golden-colored spots bands and stripes. These beetles appear in September, the female depositing her eggs in the crevices of the bark on locust trees, where they hatch and the grubs or borer soon penetrate the sap-wood, passing their various transformations, and appearing again as beetles in the following autumn.

Now, in examining the severed stems of these old trees lately cut down I find no marks of insect depredations, on the lower part, the first ten feet or more being sound and generally free from scars, but above this the burrows of the borers begin to appear and increase very rapidly until the growth during the last dozen or twenty years is completely honey-combed by these pests. From my slight examinations of these trees, I conclude that the locust borer was not very abundant in this neighborhood forty or fifty years ago, but as no efforts were ever made to prevent their ravages the increase in number has been quite rapid. At present every sapling and sprout, an inch or two in diameter, is certain to be attacked by this insect, consequently no one hereabout would think of planting the locust tree for any purpose whatever. The fate of the locust tree in my neighborhood will probably be its fate everywhere, as its great enemy, the Painted Clytus, is pretty well distributed over the country.

The Garden.

EXPERIMENTS WITH THERMOMETERS.

A WRITER in the Maine Farmer relates the following incident:—While working in my garden the last day of June, 1872, I found it so uncomfortably hot that I concluded to suspend work during mid-day, but on repairing to a locality of some twelve feet lower ground, I found I could work more comfortably; and to test by the thermometer the difference of heat, I placed it in several localities in my garden, embracing less than an acre of ground, and found that it varied six degrees within a distance of ten rods. My garden being composed of a clayey loam soil I had been unable to procure early vegetables and fruit so soon, by a week or more, as my neighbors, whose gardens were of a light sandy soil, and supposed the difference in the time of maturing vegetables was owing to the different soils. Since that time I have planted my vegetables, which I wished to mature early, in the locality where the thermometer indicated the highest temperature, and have succeeded in obtaining early vegetables and fruit as soon as my neighbors. I find that they will ripen ten days earlier than the same varieties planted ten rods distant in a cooler locality, and on equally dry ground.

Previous to experimenting with a thermometer I was not aware that there was so much difference in temperature in so short a distance. Probably many of your readers who find it difficult to raise early vegetables, by a little experiment with the thermometer might meet with similar success on their own premises.

President Parmelee of Michigan gives his experience of the difference of temperature in different localities as follows:—"I have long held and preached that hollows, from greater cold, are utterly impracticable as sites for orcharding. People will have it that the different temperatures at different points are owing to the difference in thermometers, and a council of instruments was called at the Farmers' Club, at which were present ten thermometers, and the trial showed an almost perfect agreement. Mr. Brinkman brought his up to my residence one still cold evening, and with mine was hung on a twig near the house. After ample time to settle we hung them in my cherry orchard, lower ground, and they went down nine degrees. We then carried them about a stone's throw west, to the top of a ridge, and they came up eight degrees, and the difference of altitude was only eleven feet. We then took them down on the little lake, between my house and the dock, and they sank twenty-three degrees. On my return home, my thermometer came back to the starting point."

It is very common during some seasons of the year, to find warm currents of air varying from a few feet to several rods in width. These warm currents are usually found on hills, and probably are deflected by local causes, forests, buildings &c. It is an interesting query whether any locality in a neighborhood is permanently warmer than others, except as exposure to the sun and reflection of the suns rays, might naturally account for the difference. We have sometimes thought that variations existed which could not be easily accounted for, but lack definite facts to warrant the expression of any theory.

PECULIARITIES OF SEED-GERMINATION.

THE instance quoted by Mr. Webster, says the Gardeners' Chronicle, of a Plum seed vegetating after having been boiled in the jam, is not the only one of the kind on record. Dr. Lindley has mentioned a case of Raspberry seeds vegetating after being subjected to the same ordeal, and he also states that the practice of boiling the seeds, of leguminous plants especially, with the object of making them germinate more readily, had been adopted by several persons with perfect success (Theory of Horticulture). The fact does not appear so wonderful when we know that seeds will stand without injury a temperature as far below the germinating point as above it. I suppose an extremely low temperature is as destructive to vitality as a high one, and that both act something in the same way. Seeds seem fitted by Nature to survive under very adverse circumstances, existing for ages if buried deeply, and, what is quite as singular as anything, passing unscathed through animals that have the power of digesting very extraordinary substances.

TO PREVENT CLUB-FOOT CABBAGE.—A German market gardener in Pennsylvania, in putting out his cabbage, followed the German custom of "puddling" the roots of a part of his plants in a thin mixture of cow-manure and water. Five rows thus treated entirely escaped disease, growing prosperously, while the remaining portion of the crop, one thousand four hundred plants, all died.

Domestic Economy.

HINTS FOR YOUNG HOUSEKEEPERS.

When oil-cloths are put down around stoves, they wear out on the edges quickly unless protected in some way. Strips of zinc are used by some, but are not as good as common carpet binding, doubled and tacked along the edge, or one edge of the binding put over the oil-cloth and the other under and fasten with tacks. Strips of full cloth—gray, or any shade to suit the taste—will answer very well, and can often be cut out of the best part of a garment that has been thrown by. For a common room this last is as good as anything, and is the most economical.

Molding Candles.—The wicks should not be too large, or the candles will burn away too fast. Double and twist the wicks, to make them as compact as possible before dropping them into the molds, or the candles will run down as they burn. Do not have the tallow too hot. Moderate freezing weather is the best for molding candles. If the tallow cools too fast it is apt to crack and cleave away from the wicks. Candles burn better if they have been made some time before they are used. Every housekeeper worthy of the name will have candles to go about the house with, instead of kerosene lamps. If they do not make them they will buy them.

To Bake Beef.—Lay the meat on some sticks in a dripping pan or other vessel, so that it will not touch the water which it is necessary to have in the bottom. Season with salt and pepper, and put in the oven three or four hours before it is wanted for the table. Baste it often with the water in the bottom of the pan, renewing it as often as it gets low. This makes sweet, juicy baked beef. The great secret of it is, not to have the meat touch the water in the bottom of the pan, and to baste it often. Tough, unpromising pieces of beef are best cooked by steaming them an hour and a-half or so, and then putting them in the oven and baking as much longer. Farmer's Wife.

ECONOMY OF HEAT IN HOUSES.

"T." writes as follows in the Western Farm Journal on a subject which is of interest to all housekeepers:—For a number of years the writer has used, for warming three rooms, a single heating stove, the heat from which passed into two drums. One of these drums is placed in a room adjoining that containing the stove, and the other is up stairs in a room above the second one. For several weeks experiments have been made, by observations with thermometers, which prove that the intermediate drum, or that between the stove and last one, heats the room from six to twelve degrees hotter, (according to the wind,) than the stove can heat, though both rooms are of the same size, and the drum is somewhat smaller than the stove. The room up stairs, fully 35 feet distant from the fire, is made quite comfortable, for a sleeping room, throughout the entire winter.

These facts are only stated to show what an immense amount of calorie is wasted by our system of heating with stoves, the pipe from which passes into a chimney or directly into the open air. Fuel, and consequently expense, is not only saved by the use of sheet iron drums, but the house is more comfortably and completely warmed, not only with less fuel, but with no trouble of making and keeping up fires, carrying in wood or coal and carrying out ashes, and cleaning up the dirt caused by doing so.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Cottage Pie.—In the bottom of the pie-dish put a good layer of nicely minced mutton or beef, season to taste, add an onion chopped fine, cover with mashed potatoes, and bake in a sharp oven half an hour, or until the potatoes are well browned.

Hominy Croquettes.—To a cupful of cold, boiled hominy, add a teaspoonful melted butter, and stir it well, adding by degrees a cupful of milk, till all is made into a soft light paste; add a teaspoon white sugar, and one well beaten egg. Roll into oval balls with floured hands; dip in beaten egg, then roll cracker crumbs, and fry in hot lard.

Apple Meringue.—Pare, slice, stew and sweeten ripe, juicy apples; mash smooth, and season with nutmeg or lemon-peel; fill a pie-plate with an under-crust, and bake till done. Then whip the whites of three eggs for each pie to a stiff froth, with a little sugar, one tablespoonful to an egg, beat till it stands alone, then spread over the pie three-fourths of an inch thick; return to the oven 3 or 4 minutes to brown.

Glossed Shirt Bosoms.—Take two ounces of fine white gum arabic powder, put it in a pitcher and pour on a pint or more of water, and then, having covered it, let it stand all night. In the morning, pour it carefully from the dregs into a clean bottle, cork, and keep it for use. A teaspoonful of this gum water in a pint of starch, made in the usual way, will give to lawns, white or printed, a look of newness, when nothing else can restore them, after they have been washed.

Rice Coffee.—This is good food for children suffering with summer complaints, and is made by browning the grains of rice in the same way as coffee, and afterward boiling them. It is not unpalatable, is very nourishing, and can be made any strength required. With the addition of sweet cream and loaf sugar, a child of two or three years will require no other food until the disease is removed.

Washing Linen.—This is the way they wash linen in Belgium: Dissolve two pounds of soap in about three gallons of water as hot as the hand can bear, and add one tablespoonful of turpentine and three of liquid ammonia; the mixture must then be well stirred, and the linen steeped in it for two or three hours, taking care to cover up the vessel containing them as nearly hermetically as possible. The cloths are afterward washed out and rinsed in the usual way. The soap and water may be reheated and used a second time, but in that case half a tablespoonful of turpentine and a tablespoonful of ammonia must be added. The process is said to cause a great economy of time, labor and fuel. The linen scarcely suffers at all, as there is little necessity for rubbing, and its cleanliness and color are perfect.

Hygienic Information.

BEING "OUT OF SORTS."

In his presidential address before the Clinical Society of London, Sir William Jenner alludes as follows to the bodily condition which is popularly called "being out of sorts":

"We are apt to pay too little attention, to attribute too little importance, to the general 'out-of-healthedness' which is so common in previously healthy persons from overwork, from anxiety, from over-feeding, from over-stimulation short of so-called intemperance, from want of food, from bad air, from deficiency of exercise, from deficiency of stimulus; to 'out-of-healthedness' in which the patient refuses to admit that he is ill, although he is a little, as he says, out of sorts, and only seeks advice because his friends notice that he does not look well, and urge him to consult a physician.

"This condition cannot be studied in hospitals. Those only who are engaged in family practice can trace the origin, can watch the course, can estimate the effects of this condition in all its bearings. For myself, I have been long satisfied that a very large proportion of the subjects of organic diseases, tubercular, malignant and degenerative, using those words in their widest sense, are mistaken when they attribute the symptoms of imperfect health, from which they have long suffered, to incipient local disease, and for not detecting which they too often blame their first medical attendant. The deteriorated general nutrition to which I have referred as mere 'out-of-healthedness' was the cause of their sense of want of perfect health; and, ultimately, this imperfect general nutrition of every part of the body culminated in the extreme mal-nutrition of that part or organ which natural constitution or accidental circumstance had rendered less able to resist organic change."

HYGIENIC NOTES.

For Chapping.—To cure chapped hands, rub cold cream on them on going to bed.

For Corns.—To cure corns, lay a piece of raw fat pork upon them. The corn will disappear in a few days.

For the Appetite.—To restore the appetite, take half a pound of valerian root and make tea of it. Take a wineglassful at night, on going to bed.

For Scarlet Fever.—An eminent physician of Chicago says he cures ninety-nine out of every one hundred cases of scarlet fever, by giving the patient warm lemonade with gum arabic dissolved in it. A cloth wrung out in hot water and laid upon the stomach, should be removed as rapidly as it becomes cool.

To Purify a Sick Room.—If onions are sliced and kept in a sick room they will absorb all the atmospheric poison. They should be changed every hour. In the room of a small-pox patient they blister and decompose very rapidly, but will prevent the spread of the disease. Their application has also proved effectual in the case of snake bites.

Pumpkin as a Poultice.—A correspondent of the New York Farmers' Club gives an instance in which a woman's arm was swelled to an enormous size and painfully inflamed. A poultice was made of stewed pumpkin, which was renewed every fifteen minutes, and in a short time produced a perfect cure. The fever drawn out by the poultices made them extremely offensive as they were taken off.

Patrons of Husbandry.

THE GRANGE IN ENGLAND.

The London, (Eng.) Farmer, after speaking of the wonderful success of the Patrons of Husbandry in this country, adds:

"We will not at present stop to discuss the merits of Granges, or whether, as adverse critics say, they may not grow some day into a great monopolizing dictatorial power, representing class interests only to the danger of the rest of the community. But the power of combination amongst the Patrons of Husbandry, or Grangers as they are otherwise called, we greatly admire. It would appear impossible to persuade English farmers to combine their interests so effectively for any purpose under the sun. They are divided amongst themselves, or they might return a large number of their class as representatives to the House of Commons. Then, again, our Farmers' Clubs and Chambers of Agriculture are badly attended; several have of recent years become extinct, and others are in a moribund state for want of hearty support. What is the solution of the question? Is it peculiar to young countries to maintain a heartier brotherhood than those which are old? Whatever we may think of the Granges, English farmers have certainly a few lessons to learn in the power of combination for the advancement of their mutual interests."

It is probably true that there is more neighborly and brotherly feeling in new communities than in old as witness logging bees, house and barn raising in new settlements, etc. But Patrons of Husbandry have achieved their greatest success in communities where members had become comparatively independent. The secret of Grange success lies in its social reforming and humanizing influence on members, and especially on the introduction of women as important and influential members of the Order. These peculiarities are inherent in the Grange system and their success is not necessarily limited to any section, country or clime. As a means of combining farmers for their mutual improvement and advantage nothing like it has ever been discovered in this country, and there is little doubt that it will be proportionately successful, not only in England, but ultimately wherever tillers of the soil or keepers of flocks and herds are found. As the experiment is soon to be tried in England, friends of the Order will watch with interest the result.

THIRD CLASS MAIL MATTER.

The members of Hesperian Grange, Red Willow Co., Nebraska, have adopted a petition to Congress asking for a restoration of cheap postage on all third class matter. They ask the co-operation of good Patrons everywhere in petitioning for the repeal of the present odious law. From their address we copy the following;

The law enabled the pioneers on our frontiers, who are doing so much to open up the wilderness and make the great American desert blossom, to obtain books, seeds, clons, cuttings and any little articles needed in their business or for the comfort of their families, at a small cost over that paid by people of the cities and larger villages; and this did much to lighten the hardships of pioneer life. It brought remote corners of our land and the commercial centers into close connection. Thousands of places never visited by an express agent were weekly receiving articles of necessity. The hardy farmers of the Western prairies and the Postal Department were both benefited thereby.

Will officers of Granges and others under whose notice this may fall bring it before the Grange at their next meeting, move in the matter and send to their Congressman a petition for the reduction of third-class postage? Patrons turn out! Ye are a strength in the land that can be felt.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR PATRONS.

There are 712 subordinate Granges in the State of Georgia.

At the session of Knickerbocker Grange, this city, Dr. Elder, Master of an Indiana Grange, and C. F. Hanby, Past Master of the Grange in Greeley, Colorado, were present.

Walworth (N. Y.) Grange, No. 289, is in good condition. The members are punctual in their attendance, take a lively interest in the meetings, and always have a good time.

The following are the officers of Greenport Grange, N. Y.:—Jacob H. Proper, M.; Richard Becker, O.; Morris Miller, L.; Charles Miller, S.; Martin Hallenbeck, A. S.; Andrew Hallenbeck, C.; Philo Couse, S.; Richard Miller, T.; George Foland, C. K.; Mrs. A. Hallenbeck, L. A. S.; Mrs. R. Becker, C.; Mrs. George Foland, F.; Mrs. M. Miller, P.

At the regular meeting of Jefferson Co. (N. Y.) Council held at Watertown, Jan. 5, the following officiers were elected:—Frank Hadcock, M.; George H. Hall, O.; O. W. Baker, L.; O. S. Potter, S.; Z. J. Seriven, A. S.; Elliott Makepeace, C.; J. W. Overton, T.; Charles E. Hadcock, Sec.; W. C. Lyttle, G. K.; Mrs. L. D. Olney, C.; Mrs. J. W. Overton, P.; Mrs. I. S. Morey, F.; Miss. Mary Durham, L. A. S.; Executive Committee—L. H. Bishop, E. Clements, M. Barrows, G. W. Rickett, Luke Fulton.

Sheep Husbandry.

POINTS OF A GOOD SHEEP.

A Committee of the Washington County (Pa.) Ag. Society recently visited the farm of W. Lee Archer of Jefferson Township, and at its request he gave a description of a perfect sheep, which we copy below:

1st. Of the form — first, the countenance should indicate docility; the eye of gentle and quiet-like expression; the form of the head broad or wide between the ears, and also between the eyes; the bridge of the nose broad, and wide in the nostrils, with thick lips; the ears large, thick and mellow: the measure should be short from the eye to the muzzle; the neck should be short and thick, carrying the thickness well up to the head; the top of the neck full and rising, from the wither to the crown of the head; the withers and back should be in line; the rump or tail drooping but little from the line of the back; the brisket projecting well, heavy and broad enough to spread the shoulders sufficient to admit a large hand between them; the rib should be full rounded; batrel shape chest; loins short and broad; the hams muscular and heavy; well joined behind and full from the tail down to a line of the belly and brisket; legs should be short, with heavy bone, which will be an index to the bone of the whole animal; the hind legs should present a perpendicular line from the root of the tail to the fetlock or foot; hock and stifle broad; the foot neat and square under the sheep, and free from trumpet-hoof form.

2d. Rams when full grown should weigh from 125 to 180 pounds in full fleece. The ewes, when fatted, should average, without wool, 100 pounds.

3d. Covering.—It is desirable to have a staple three inches long and of uniform length, including the belly, and of sufficient density to form a smooth, even surface, also to prevent the fleece from parting on the back.

The Committee in announcing this report issue a congratulatory cackle, averring that the above description is the most wonderful scale of points ever promulgated. To our view scales of points are usually fanciful and of doubtful utility—an attempt to make an exact science out of what baffles the closest analysis. Fixing the relative value of points is an absurdity. Exceptional excellence in one important point may give the highest value, almost irrespective of minor defects, as men with a decided genius for anything are not judged according to their less exceptional talents. It counts nothing against Dexter, the great trotter, that he has white feet, though thousands of humbler horses are less salable for this blemish.

In this description of a good sheep, covering is vaunted third in order of importance and character, and texture of wool is made entirely subordinate. For the great majority of sheep the wool is the supremely important point, and their value to the breeder depends almost entirely on its texture, weight and general character. In plain truth, Mr. Archer has given a good description of an excellent sheep for some purposes, and for this he deserves credit. To make anything more of his scale of points as a universal standard of value is only to expose him to undeserved criticism on account of unwise landations of indiscreet friends.

FAT SHEEP FOR HEAVY FLEECE.

A writer in the Country Gentleman says: "There is much said about ewes being too fat to breed well. In my experience of twenty years I have never seen anything that led me to think so, providing the flesh was put on with good pasture during the summer, and a few roots with good hay in the winter. The fatter sheep become under such circumstances the more valable I consider them. There is no time in the year when it pays better to feed a small allowance of grain daily than in the fall after the feed gets frozen, and it is not necessary to bring the flock to the barn.

"It is an old saying that 'sheep well-Novembered are half-wintered.' Keep the ewes fat, and the lambs will be fat and the fleeces heavy. I do not say that it is better to have the lambs come early or late, but I do say it is best to have them fat; but whether early or late, they are salable. All ewes, that with good care, will not raise a lamb and shear four lbs. of washed wool, should be sold. I have them in my flock that will shear nine lbs. and raise a pair of twins, and it costs no more to keep one, than a sheep that shears but three pounds. I think that no one will hear the man who keeps his flocks in this way, complaining because his sheep are all "run out." and do not pay him, and the like.

Ticks must be kept out of the flock; they are the worst enemies of the sheep. If they are not killed they will destroy the sheep. For killing them I have tried nothing better than tobacco juice.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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EDITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1876.

THE GREAT INCREASE OF TAXATION.

In accounting for the "hard times," the enormous increase of taxation cannot easily be overlooked, as it surely ought not to be. The era of war was one of flush times for money, of private and public extravagance, and, as a natural result, of loose ideas of financial integrity. The moral sense of the country was pretty thoroughly absorbed in patriotic and philanthropic efforts, so that such ordinary virtues as integrity in money affairs had a decidedly poor show. There was a stronger feeling of partisanship during this era than ever before, so that jobbers and contractors had greater power to run local and State governments into extravagance, and unthinking taxpayers foot the bills. Besides, most of these extravagant jobs were funded in debts, and so saddled on posterity. Increase of taxation only began when necessitated to pay interest on large accumulated debts. At all events, it only then began to be oppressive. While prices were high the heavy taxes were little felt, and many a farmer or business man, wondered how easily he could raise amounts, which, in previous years, would have been felt as an unsupportable burdens. All is changed now. The era of high prices has passed. Dull times and high taxes have followed. It has been shown that more than all the currency is paid each year in Federal, State, County, City and Town taxes. Luckily the authorities cannot well keep this money; but have to pay it out, else the business of the country would come to a standstill for lack of money to carry it on.

The New York Daily Bulletin has done the country good service by compiling some tables, showing the increase of expenditures in 1875 as compared with 1860. The ordinary expenses of the general government, excluding interest on debt, were, in 1860, $60,910,185; in 1875, they were $178,518,983. Population in 1860, 31,443,322, and in 1875 estimated 44,000,000. In other words, the increase in population is 40 per cent., and of ordinary expenses of the government is over 200 per cent.

Some of the States show a much larger proportionate increase, and the cities greater yet. New York State increased in population only 28 per cent., but the increase in State tax levy was from $4,376,169 in 1860, to $15,727,482 in 1875, or 260 per cent. increase. New York City has increased in population 36 per cent., but the city taxes have increased from $6,000,000 in 1860 to upwards of 24,000,000 in 1875, or more than 300 per cent. The same results are found in nearly every State where a large city exists. Boston has increased its tax vastly more than Massachusetts, Philadelphia more than Pennsylvania, and Baltimore more than Maryland. The annual taxes, however, represent but a small share of the extravagant expenditures of cities. Debts are piled on nearly every city in the country, often to the limit, or beyond, that its credit will bear. State debts have not grown in proportion. Most of the States are now steadily reducing indebtedness incurred during war times, and some are entirely or practically free. The following table shows the increase in city debts during the past eight years:

Cities.	Debt in 1867.	Debt in 1875.	Increase.
Allegheny	$ 300,935	$1,667,000	$1,366,065
Albany	744,500	1,780,000	1,035,500
Baltimore	23,762,632	33,943,425	10,180,803
Boston	13,021,463	45,512,611	32,491,148
Chicago	4,757,500	12,456,000	8,698,509
Cleveland	1,181,466	4,718,500	3,537,034
Detroit	1,194,168	2,382,900	1,188,732
Louisville	4,256,747	8,325,000	4,068,253
Milwaukee	978,755	2,644,963	1,666,208
Newark	2,110,000	5,666,000	3,556,009
New Orleans	14,643,275	23,002,030	8,358,755
New York	32,991,742	122,807,280	89,815,538
Philadelphia	35,165,631	64,299,464	29,133,843
Portland	1,673,100	5,254,628	3,581,528
Providence	1,993,000	8,948,046	7,155,046
Pittsburgh	3,035,746	13,533,819	10,498,073
Richmond	2,071,542	4,632,708	2,561,166
Rochester	1,003,009	5,420,000	4,417,000
St. Louis	5,638,000	16,570,000	10,932,000

These figures show pretty clearly that the great cities are responsible for the most of the heavy burdens under which industry is depressed. All these debts, and the yearly load of taxes for interest, have to be ultimately paid by the productive industry of the country, and of this, by far the larger part is engaged in agriculture. It is time that the farmers of the United States should arouse to their true interests. They had little to do with the enjoyable part of this business—the making of these city debts; but when they are to be paid, the farming interests of the country must suffer. This is the tax which the people are now paying in business depression.

That plain, practical farmers manage these affairs better is shown by the moderate increase of taxation in States which are mainly agricultural. While the population of Chicago increased 262 per cent., from 1860 to 1875, the tax swelled from $373,315 in 1860 to $5,468,692 in 1875, or an increase of 1,364 per cent. In the meantime the population of the State increased 77½ per cent., while the State tax levy of Illinois was $3,256,670 in 1875 against $2,523,536 in 1860, an increase of only 28 per cent., or less than the increase of population. In other words, the State taxes are less for each citizen than they were fifteen years ago. We remember that the farmers of Illinois inaugurated an independent political movement, two years ago, and secured the State Legislature. The Independents were roundly abused by the partisan press, and their Legislature pronounced a failure. But such results as this are a great deal more comfortable for taxpayers than brilliant successes, whose brilliancy consists in debt and heavy taxation on the industry of the country. Not only farmers, but all engaged in productive industry of any kind, need to take more part in public affairs wherein they are so vitally interested.

The methods of collecting taxes add to the burden on industry almost if not quite as much as the amount. "Practice makes perfect" is an old saying, and probably true of tax levying as of anything else. It would seem that this country has never yet laid taxes sufficiently to learn to do it, and to realize money with the least burden to industry. If this be so it is high time that the lesson was learned. But this properly belongs to another subject, and must be continued in another article.

MILITARY EDUCATION.

It is proposed to cut off the pay of cadets at West Point $50 a year as a measure of economy. A much better policy would be to abolish the West Point Military Academy altogether, and let candidates for the military profession get their education at their own expense, the same as members of other professions do. Docking each cadet would only save $15,000, and if Congress debate the subject one hour, the expense of the debate will be far more than the saving to be effected. The importance of military education to the country has been greatly over-estimated. It is true the country sometimes needs soldiers; but so also it needs surgeons, diplomats and lawyers, but no one thinks of giving professional education to these at public expense. As it is now, the country is taxed to pay the expense of giving a military education to several hundred young men, mostly sons or friends of professional politicians. Their tuition and expenses are paid by Congressional appropriation and at the same time they are paid a salary while receiving this gratuitous education and given a lucrative position if they choose, immediately after leaving school. There is no assurance that the services of these graduates will be available in case of need. It is a pure gratuity, nothing more.

Military science is a profession which will find no lack of students without the fostering care of Government. The danger is that ambition, and a multitude of other reasons, will lead too many young men to make war the career of their lives, instead of pursuing some avocation for the good of their fellow men. The country is probably more in need of good farmers than of men in any other business. A few years ago Congress appropriated some public lands to each State to promote Agricultural Education, and as a result we have Cornell and other Universities. But no one ever proposed or dreamed that the country ought to educate the farmers it needs and give them a salary while paying their way through a scientific course. Yet a better argument could be made for doing this than for maintaining the aristocratic and worse than useless military institution at West Point. The higher interests of the country do not lie in war, and the military spirit needs repression rather than encouragement.

Dairy Associations.—The Western Reserve (Ohio) Dairymen's Association meets in Garrettsville, Feb. 9-10. The Tenth Annual Convention of the Northwestern Dairymen's Association will be held at Fort Atkinson, Wis., Feb. 8-10.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Weather Wisdom.—Over a decade of years ago—indeed some time before "the late unpleasantness" between the North and South—Prof. M. F. MAURY, then Superintendent of the National Observatory, contributed a series of able articles to the RURAL NEW-YORKER on "Meteorology for Farmers." The co-operation of Farmers, Agricultural Societies, &c., was requested to aid him in extending from the Sea to the Land the beautiful and valuable system of research which had given world-wide renown to his previous labors. The Professor promised the rural population results which should be as valuable to the outdoor industrial products on shore as those already obtained had proved to be to commerce and navigation. Connected with Prof. MAURY'S plan was a system of *Telegraphic Meteorology*, which was taken up in other countries, and subsequently perfected in our own—as witness the Probabilities daily telegraphed to all parts of the country from the National Signal Service Bureau, under the superintendence of Gen. MEYERS. The articles alluded to, being the first popular series on the subject, were quoted from and commended by leading journals at home and abroad, and no doubt had great influence in securing the advantages now derived from the usually reliable Weather Reports of the above-named Bureau.

The preceding paragraph—giving "honor to whom honor is due"—was suggested by the receipt of a circular from Prof. WM. BLASIUS of Phila., Pa., a noted Meteorologist, and author of a work entitled "Storms: their Nature, Classification and Laws." Prof. B. says that the evidences which Nature gives of an approaching change of weather are in general easily seen by any one who know hows to look for them,—and that "the advantage, and even prime importance, to agriculture, navigation, and all out-of-door pursuits, as well as to the health and comfort of all, of a system of weather prediction which can be understood and readily applied by the unprofessional person, is manifest." Professor BLASIUS wishes to popularize a system, the correctness of which is proved by his own experience as well as that of many others, and therefore offers to address scientific bodies, agricultural societies and colleges, lyceums, etc., to whom the subject is of interest. The lectures will be illustrated by diagrams, etc., and the terms within the reach of all. We trust many agricultural and scientific associations may be benefited by hearing the Professor.

The Disappearance of Buffalo Grass.—Prof. SAMUEL AUGHEY of the University of Nebraska writes to the Tribune that buffalo grass has for some years been driven back westward in that State at the rate of twenty-five to thirty miles per year. Various theories are offered to account for this phenomenon, which does not seem to result from the disappearance of the buffalo, as in some localities the grass remains years after all buffaloes have been driven away. Prof. AUGHEY'S theory is that the disappearance of the grass is caused by a change in the climate—that the original alkaline deposits in the soil are favorable to it, possibly by excluding other vegetation. The climate of Nebraska is gradually growing moister, and as the alkali in the soil is diluted and washed away the grasses belonging to civilization have a chance. This increase of moisture does not take into account the exceptional season of 1875, but is based on several years' observation. In many old stream beds which had long been dry water has commenced to flow, and new springs of water have broken out where never known before. It is highly probable that this is a real change in climate, induced by civilization, lines of railroads and telegraph, and fires from thousands of homes, carrying currents of warm air into the upper atmosphere and causing frequent rainfall where it had been a rarity before. If this theory prove true, we may expect to see the "Great American Desert," which was a reality twenty or thirty years ago, gradually recede and a fertile region blossom in its stead, as the march of civilization makes new territory necessary or desirable.

Our Mild Winter.—The Tribune, speculating as to the facts and causes of our unusually mild winter, closes its article with the hope that it may prove proportionately mild to the explorers now wintering in Northern seas and striving to make discoveries in that gloomy region. In the wish which this hope expresses there will be general concurrence, but its realization is against all the probabilities. Our mild winter is caused by the fact that we are enjoying the currents of warm air from the South, which usually flow far above us in the upper atmosphere till they approach the North Pole, when, becoming colder, they sink by their own weight and send a cold polar wave near the surface southward. We have had few of these polar waves this winter, hence the probability is that few waves of comparatively warm air have reached the poles. In brief, the naturally cold weather of arctic winters has this year "staid at home" to an unusual degree, and we may expect, when we hear from the arctic explorers, to learn that the winter of 1875-6 was one of extreme severity, as the polar winter of 1874-5 is now known to have been of unusual mildness. Our prediction of a warm winter was made in the RURAL NEW-YORKER of Aug. 28th last.

Cheap Postage.—"The Farmer in Politics" has achieved his first triumph in the passage by the House of Representatives of the Bill restoring cheap postage on third-class matter. This is a good beginning. How does the country like the farmer in politics thus far? The Bill was reported by J. B. CLARK of Missouri, and advocated by Hon. WM. LAWRENCE of Ohio and Hon. S. J. RANDALL of Penn. Hon. J. A. GARFIELD of Ohio made a speech, claiming that the increase of postage last winter was a mistake; but arguing that the Post Office Department ought not to transmit any merchandize or articles other than written or printed matter. It looks more and more as if the "blunder" last winter was a cunningly-devised plan in the interest of the express monopolies. The Bill has yet to go to the Senate, and the country will look with interest to see what Senator HAMLIN has to say on the subject.

A Kansas Fruit Farm.—Professor GALE of Manhattan, Kan., thus writes relative to the enterprise of a noted fruit grower in that State:—"We have just visited Hillsdale Fruit Farm; near Parsons, on the M., K. and T. R. R., owned by C. G. WICKERSHAM, Esq., a gentleman of more than thirty years' experience in fruit culture. Mr. W. is doing a good work for himself at an expenditure of cash which few horticulturalists in Kansas are able to make. He is doing a work which will be invaluable to Southern Kansas, and measures have been taken, through the Experimental Committee of the State Horticultural Society, by which his experiments will be made available to the State."

Brook Trout Free of Cost.—The Commissioners of Fisheries of New York State have issued the following card, which will be interesting to many readers:—"Young brook trout will be delivered free of expense at the New York State Hatching House, at Caledonia, after February 15, 1876, to all persons desiring them to stock public streams or ponds in this State, or they will be sent to any address on the parties paying the traveling expenses of a messenger to accompany them. For further particulars address SETH GREEN, Superintendent, Rochester, N. Y."

An Unprofitable Canal.—The old Wabash and Erie Canal, in Indiana, is to be sold for the benefit of the stockholders, who have $15,256,558 invested in the venerable and now useless ditch, the sale of which, it is thought, will not realize over two or three per cent. of that sum. A large part of the stock is held by foreign capitalists. The railroads destroyed the utility of the canal, which once did a large and paying business,

A Good State to Live In.—The State Treasurer of Iowa, in his recent report, shows that the expenses of the State last year were less than $1 for each inhabitant. Iowa is more exclusively agricultural than any other Western State, and has no very large cities. As a result its affairs are administered with greater economy than those of most other states, and the State debt is reduced to nothing.

RURAL BREVITIES.

MINNESOTA produced last year 28,000,000 bushels of wheat.

FARMERS in Tennessee are agitating for a "no fence" law.

THE winter is very mild in England as well as in this country.

ST. ALBANS, Vt., 2,598,000 lbs. of butter in 1875, a decrease of 200,000 lbs. from Jan. 1874.

THE United States completed in 1875 1,176 miles of railroad, against 1,731 miles in 1874, 3,456 in 1873, and 6,559 in 1872.

ANOTHER insect called the twister, has attacked the vineyards in Lombardy, and is said to be far more destructive than the renowned phylloxera.

AMONG the fresh vegetables now being sold in Covent Garden Market, London, are asparagus, truffles, lettuces, radishes, endive and cucumbers.

THE RURAL is a good paper to take and exhibit when you go to a meeting of your Farmers' Club, Grange, or other gathering,—and there is no great objection to your doing the same when you go to the store or corners of an afternoon or evening.

LAST year 880 races were run in this country, and the amount at stake was 330,000, besides a vast amount of private betting and gambling. Is *that* progress in the right direction?

WHEAT everywhere appears well. The open winter has been a mild one, and with frequent rains and occasional warm weather the stand is generally even better than in the fall.

READER, if you wish to aid the RURAL in its efforts to do good to the community, please show a copy to friends, whenever convenient, state its objects and value, and the consequent advantage of subscribing.

THE RURAL is a capital Valentine to send any rural, suburban, or even village or city friend, and will remind the recipient of the giver fifty-three times during the Centennial Year. You can send it, as a present, for only $2.15, postage paid.

THE "Excelsior Carpet Stretcher," advertised in this paper, is something needed wherever carpets are put down. A loose and badly-fitted carpet is an abomination, while a carpet that is stretched smoothly over the floor is pleasant to the eyes and feet. How to so fit, without injury to the carpet, seems to have been the aim of the manufacturer. We have one.

DON'T FORGET, please, that, as the RURAL is electrotyped, we can furnish back numbers to all new subscribers from Jan. 1,—even if a million copies are wanted—nor that there is yet time to start new clubs and secure liberal and valuable Premiums. Therefore, *Push on the Rural Column!*

BUSINESS NOTICES.

BRIDE & CO,
769 Broadway, N. Y., want agents for the best money-making article in the world. Send for particulars.

Cure for Cough or Cold.—As soon as there is the slightest uneasiness of the Chest, with difficulty of breathing, or indication of Cough, take during the day a few "BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES."

EVERY keg "**Phœnix Pure White Lead**" warranted *perfectly pure*—is white, fine, and has the very best body and covering properties.

OVER THE HILL.

THERE'S a face I must ever remember,
Though I may not behold it again
Through the golden haze of September,
Or the gray November rain;
A face that was joyous and tender
As the sea in its summer splendor;
And a smile that was clear and still
As the sunrise over the hill.

There were steps that flew to meet me,
Crushing the moss and the fern;
Blue eyes that brightened to greet me,
When others were cold and stern.
We crossed, in the sunny weather,
The blossoming fields together,
And rested beside the rill,
Coming over the hill.

Now the hill is barren and lonely,
And the sea is moaning beyond;
And the bleak winds answer only
To my heart's cry, wild and fond.
Pale asters, with dewdrops laden,
Do you weep for the blue-eyed maiden
Who sleeps in the graveyard chill,
In the graveyard over the hill?

No longer the sea wears the glory
That lighted its waves of old.
The moss and the fern heard a story
That never again can be told.
But I only seem to outlive her;
Green hights lie beyond the dark river:
There her step to my soul shall thrill,
Coming over the hill.

The Story-Teller.

MAX AND MARGARET.

A STORY OF LOVE AND DUTY.

BY VIOLET FULLER.

[Concluded from page 77, last No.]

CHAPTER II.

THE first of September came at last and the best rooms in Heathcote Chace were occupied by a lively set of guests, officers belonging to the Plungers, and young lawyers anxious for a vacation from Coke-upon-Lyttleton—all loaded with gun cases, desirous of showing their sporting prowess. They were nearly all acquainted with Count VON BERNSTEIN, and astonished that such a famous shot was not more anxious to display his skill. But the Count had the game in view; and as it was in a manner forbidden, the pursuit of it became more delightful. Poor MAX! He could not resist the temptation of lingering in MARGARET'S society—of sunning himself in the light of her sweet beauty. Day after day, after arraying himself in shooting costume and firing a few shots with the others, he would gradually fall behind and watch his opportunity to steal away from them. With a few birds in hand—for the Major, of course,—he would present himself at the cottage and ask MARGARET to read German, which reading would be prolonged until BERTIE made his appearance for luncheon, as he always kept up the habit of taking that meal with the Major. Of course the Count's state of mind was very patent to his friend, who only looked upon that state of things as temporary. "Poor fellow," he thought, "he may enjoy himself now; it will all be over when he returns to Germany and the Countess IDA. I only hope that MARGARET will not suffer."

Croquet parties and high teas were the order of the day at the Chace now, and BERTIE insisted on MARGARET making; her appearance under his care, for was she not his by right of possession? He intended to marry her some day, although he had not exactly put the question to her yet; still he knew she would have him when he chose. Of this BERTIE need not have been so sure, as the Plungers were fascinated, to a man, with this "Belle MARGUERITE," although, as her cousin's intentions regarding her were suspected, they admired her at a distance. The young ladies of the vicinity who were bidden to these festivities were equally smitten with the handsome, melancholy Count, but in vain. He had eyes but for one person, whose graceful, slender form, and fair, delicate high-bred face, formed a striking contrast to the full-blown beauties of the country maidens.

And MARGARET? She was in a dream; a dream of happiness and perfect content. This hero with the dark eyes and the wonderful voice—this brave, true heart,—was her *beau ideal* of all manly perfection. She did not look forward to the time when he should be gone; she lived in the beautiful, happy present.

One wet morning at the end of September, the Squire, who opened his mail bag at the breakfast table, handed the Count a letter at the receipt of which he seemed disturbed. "A love letter, Count?" said CECIL LASCELLES, a young officer, whose wit and person were alike heavy. "No," said MAX carelessly; "from my uncle, in Berlin. I fancy it contains my recall to Germany."

"Aw; sorry to lose you, my dear fellow."

"Nonsense," said BERTIE HEATHCOTE, who was exploring the depths of a game pie. "you can't go. What will the fair ladies of Belgravia do, without their best waltzer?"

"Oh, they will do without me very well," was the answer, as MAX rose from the table.

"Whither away?" said BERTIE. "You are not going out in this rain?"

"Only as far as the library, to read my letter."

He closed the door and reaching the library found it empty, and seated himself by the window to read his letter. It was from his uncle, the guardian of IDA VON LANSTEIN, entreating him to return to Germany and obey his mother's wish by marrying IDA, whose health was suffering on account of MAX'S neglect and disregard of his betrothal vow. "And," added the writer, "you are in honor bound to fulfill the contract. You must throw aside all personal feelings when the honor of the VON BERNSTEINS is at stake. You *must* do your duty, my MAX. I need say no more."

"No," thought MAX, "he need say no more. The honor of the VON BERNSTEINS will not suffer in my hands. But—it is all over." And he rose, and walked up and down the room for a moment, thinking what he should do. He stopped suddenly—his resolve was taken. "I will go," he said. "It is for the last time." He left the room and the house, and was soon making his way down the avenue, without either cloak or umbrella.

"Hallo," said CECIL LASCELLES, who saw him from the dining-room window; "the Count has gone out in the rain."

"Gone for a walk, I suppose," said BERTIE. "He is a strange fellow."

"Ain't he?" said CECIL. "He reminds me of CHARLES DE MOOR and the robber fellows in the play, with stilettos and such things, you know."

"Exactly, Cis, but I would not advise you to tell him so; he is a first-rate shot."

"I don't want to be a mark for him, I assure you. I have too great a regard for the Queen to rob her of one of her best officers."

"That's right," said BERTIE, laughing. "Let us go to the stables to inspect the horses and smoke a cigar." And as BERTIE smoked, he wondered what was taking place at the cottage, for of course MAX had gone there.

Poor fellow! When he reached the cottage, although it was still early, MARGARET was at work in her bright little drawing-room, where she had caused a fire to be made on account of the damp weather. "How wet you are," she said, as she rose to meet him.

"Am I?" he answered, looking at his coat sleeve on which the raindrops glistened.

"You must have this changed; papa will lend you one of his morning coats."

"It is nothing," he said hurriedly. "I have no time." But she insisted, and conducted him to the Major's room, from whence he emerged in a velvet morning coat, looking in MARGARET'S partial eyes like a handsome young artist. She was so full of sweet feminine cares for him, that it redoubled the distress which he felt at their approaching separation. But he must see her alone, and Major TREHERNE seemed to consider it his duty to remain in the room, while the precious moments were quickly passing. He must make an attempt to see her alone for the last time.

"Are we to have any German to-day?" he asked.

"O, yes, if you wish to be troubled with it. The books are here," she continued.

The Major rose, saying, "Well, I will see you after a while."

"He must stay until his coat is dry, papa," said MARGARET laughingly.

The Major departed and MARGARET, sitting down to a small table, began to prepare her books. But her teacher was silent, and looking up she saw that he was standing with his eyes fixed on the gray sky and falling rain. "He is not in spirits," she thought, with THEKLA, "'Wherefore is he not?' 'Count," she said, aloud, "are you ill?—what is the matter to-day?"

He turned. "Not ill in body, but ill in mind, Miss TREHERNE. This is our last lesson. I am going away."

"Going away!" MARGARET grew as pale as death and the book dropped from her hands. MAX dared not look at her. "I am sorry," she faltered.

"Sorry?" he repeated, looking at her and speaking with keen reproach in his voice. "Is that all?"

"What more can I say?" and she raised her eyes.

"Say!" he exclaimed, passionately, all his assumed firmness vanishing—"Say that you are sorry because you love me, MARGARET. You must know only too well that I love you." And he bent over the chair in which she sat, until his dark mustache almost touched the shining ripples of her chestnut hair. She was trembling intently. "MARGARET," he said softly, "you love me, do you not?" She bent her head in assent. "Then tell me so—say, 'MAX, I love you.'"

Thus adjured she raised her blue eyes to his face. "MAX," she said, tremulously, "MAX, I love you."

He bent, as if to take her to his heart, then suddenly left her side and walked the floor with hasty steps. At length he seemed to form a sudden resolve. "MARGARET," he said, coming towards her, "*Meine liebe*, you believe that I love you, do you not?—and yet I am going to place an eternal barrier between us." She gazed at in wonderingly. "See," and he took his uncle's letter from his pocket, "this will part us forever. Read it for yourself."

She took it, and as she read, started at the name of the Countess IDA. The letter fell from her hand, while two large tears trickled slowly down the pale cheeks. MAX was almost beside himself; he threw himself on his knees beside her. "MARGARET, darling of my heart! do not weep; it breaks my heart to see your tears."

She drew her hand from him, exclaiming with sudden passion, "You have broken *my* heart. You came to my peaceful home, where I had been so happy—you, the betrothed of another, to win my love and leave me. Oh, MAX," she said, breaking down, "why did you make me love you?"

His face flushed crimson. "MARGARET, listen to me," he said. "I place my fate in your hands; of my own will I will never leave you. When you hear all my story, you shall decide. Now," he continued after telling her all, "I have never loved IDA, poor child. I have never thought of her as my future wife. When I came here I thought myself free to choose, and as to loving you, who, my beloved, who could help it?"

MARGARET shook her head sadly as she listened to the pleading accents of that dear voice. She was gazing at the cold, gray sky, while a struggle was going on in her heart—a struggle between Love and Duty. She had the happiness of another in her grasp as well as her own. IDA must not be forgotten, and an angel with a flaming sword seemed to stand between her and love, driving her sternly forth into the cold, blank path of duty. MAX was watching her eagerly. With the almost divine light of self-abnegation in her blue eyes, she turned to him. "MAX," she said, and her sweet voice grew firm as she continued, "I am a soldier's daughter, and I have been taught that duty is first of all; everything else is secondary." He caught her hand imploringly. She took his gently in her own, and woman-like tried to console him. "MAX, beloved MAX, do not make my task too hard. You must go; you cannot break a sacred promise made to your dying mother. And this girl; she loves you of course; you must not break her heart. Remember, dearest, we must not live for ourselves alone, but for others, and the knowledge that we have made them happy will bring us consolation at the last."

"MARGARET," he said passionately, "you do not love me; you could not reason so coldly if you did."

"Not love you? O, MAX, I love you too well to permit you to act dishonestly for my sake."

"Would we had never met," said he bitterly.

"O do not say so; think rather of what our favorite THEKLA said to her MAX, and let we say to mine, '*Wir haben gelebt und geliebt*'—is not that enough?"

"MARGARET, you are an angel," said her lover, as he stooped and passionately kissed the little cold hand that lay in her lap.

"No angel, but a weak woman, trying to do her duty."

They had both risen, and she was standing near him, her whole frame trembling with uncontrollable agitation. Before she was aware of what he was about to do, MAX'S arms were round her, and she was pressed, strained rather, to his throbbing heart. "Forgive me," he said, as he held her thus. "It is the first, the last time. Farewell, my love, my darling. I go only because you have decided that it is best." And, with one long, passionate pressure on her lips, he released her and was gone.

The struggle between love and duty was over, and "woe to the conquered." MARGARET stood where he had left her, her breath coming with great, deep sobs. She felt rather than saw her way to a chair, on which she sank down with a low moan of agony. "Farewell," she murmured; "ah, yes, it is indeed an eternal farewell. She sat with clasped hands and tearless eyes, taking no note of time, until her father entered the room. "Where is the Count?"

"He has gone."

"Gone! I thought he was going to stay for luncheon. It is time, is it not?"

"Yes; I will see about it."

She stood a moment in the hall to collect herself. How could she go through the meal and talk in an unrestrained manner to her father, while her heart was breaking? But she had to repress her feelings and strive to seem unconcerned as she spoke of the Count's departure. "*Soffie e taci*" is the motto of many a woman's life, and it became that of MARGARET'S.

MAX went mechanically along the Heathcote avenue, after his interview, utterly regardless of the pouring rain and of the fact that he still wore the coat of Major TREHERNE. He reached the house and his room unseen, and at length perceiving the saturated condition of the coat, rang for his servant, had it dried and returned with a note of apology and farewell. There was no message for MARGARET, but she would understand the omission,

BERTIE HEATHCOTE was sincerely sorry to lose his friend. "You will marry soon, I suppose, and bring your wife back on a wedding tour."

"I have no present intention of marrying," was the answer. MARGARET'S name was never mentioned between them. So MAX bade adieu to the cherished spot where the romance of his life had begun and ended. "Farewell, dear England and happiness," he said, as he stood on the deck of the steamer and gazed with mournful eyes on the white cliffs of Albion, as they grew more and more distant to his view.

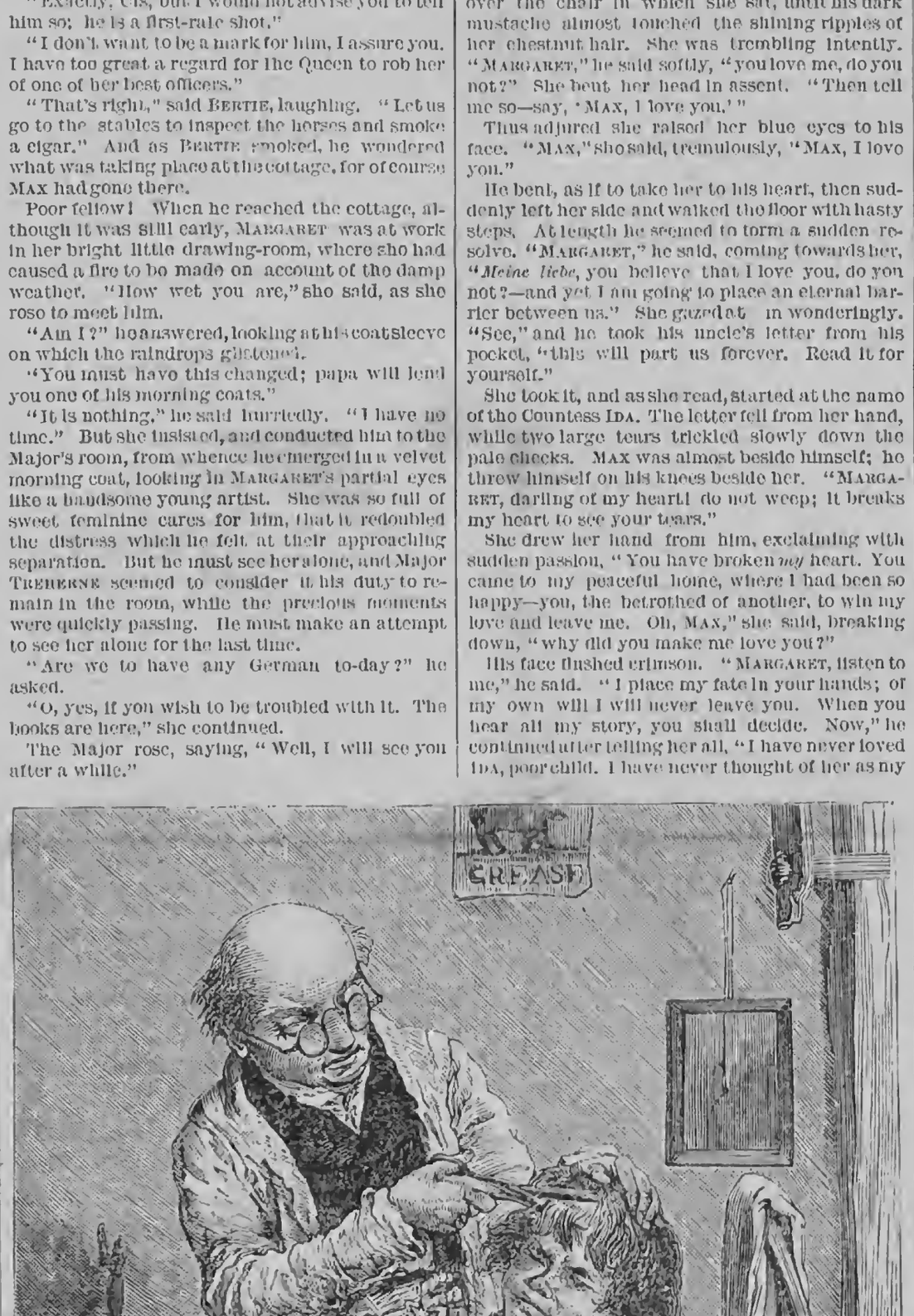
BERTIE came and went to the cottage in his usual fashion. He noticed his cousin's unusual paleness and apathy, but did not comment on it, as he suspected the cause. He was more in love with her than he cared to own, and now that he feared to lose her, she seemed more beautiful than ever. Besides, CECIL LASCELLES was evidently smitten, and as he was heir to a baronetcy, he loomed up formidably as a rival. So BERTIE determined to put his fate to the test—and lost! MARGARET refused him gently but decidedly. He was terribly disappointed. "It is the fault of that German," he said, pulling fiercely at his amber mustache; "I wish I had never brought him here."

MARGARET flushed crimson. "It would have made no difference. I have always loved you dearly as a brother, BERTIE, nothing more."

"It would have grown to something more in time, and you know how my father wishes our marriage, MARGARET."

"Dear BERTIE," she said, while her blue eyes filled with tears, "I am so sorry it cannot be as you wish; but you will find some one more worthy of you than I."

He was touched by her distress. "Tell me one thing, MARGARET, and I will trouble you no more. Do you care for VON BERNSTEIN?" She grew pale



THE VILLAGE BARBER.

to the lips, but bent her head in silence. "Ah! and he loves you, I know. Poor fellow, it is a hard fate that separates you two. Well, good-by; I am off to-morrow. I would have tried to make you happy, dear, but one can't force one's affections." He kissed her hand and hurried down the gravel path at a quick pace. "So that's over. Well, if I can't have her, neither can LASCELLES, great booby." And comforting himself thus, he smoked a cigar under the shade of the grand old trees, which would one day be his own, and thought that for such an estate a mistress could easily be found. "If she be not fair for me, what care I how fair she be?" he sang, and thus showed that he was not utterly broken-hearted.

BERTIE and the remaining guests took their departure the next morning, and the Squire was alone, save for the visits of the Major and MARGARET, who was more than ever sweet and gentle with the old man, for she know how bitterly she had disappointed him.

Thus the time wore on; winter came and went, and MARGARET was almost entirely alone, save for the companionship of two old men, with their memories of the past. And she had the memory of her love and grief, but she strove against vain repinings; only the longing to see MAX came over her occasionally with irrepressible power. She had never heard of him since he left Heathcote; and BERTIE, who had not been at home for Christmas, never spoke of him in his letters. At length the war cloud which had been hovering over Germany for so long, burst in fire and smoke, and one day BERTIE arrived at the Chace with the news of war between Prussia and Austria. "There's a chance for VON BERNSTEIN," he remarked to MARGARET.

She turned pale. "Have you heard from him?" she asked.

"O, yes; did not I write you? He married some time ago. But I am sure he will return to his old profession. He always wished for another war. It is a bore though, just now, for I wanted to persuade the Major and my father to take you for a trip on the continent this autumn; would you not like it?"

Like it, and MAX married and about to engage in useless bloodshed! It was too terrible.

Events progressed rapidly however, and the war was over in a few months, and BISMARK, the greatest statesman in Europe, settled the affairs of Germany on a peaceful footing for a time at least.

In the following autumn a group of travelers—consisting of a fair, chestnut-haired girl, a tall, soldierly young fellow, with blue eyes and a drooping amber mustache, and two old gentlemen, evidently English—stood one afternoon in the Kursaal at Baden. The lady with her delicate, high-bred beauty, was the object of many admiring glances from a group of Prussian officers who stood near. "Where is MAX?" asked one of them of his companion. "VON BERNSTEIN?—he was here just now."

The English girl blushed as these words fell on her ear, and her hand trembled as it rested on the arm of her escort.

"Is his health improving?" asked the officer who had just spoken.

"I believe it is, but the ball still troubles him."

"Ah," said the other; "where was he wounded?"

"In the chest; that is his souvenir of Konigratz—one that will last him all his life—but here he comes."

MARGARET TREHERNE—it was she who had been listening breathlessly to this conversation—turned away her head. She dared not look at the approaching figure. "Ah, WALDEMAR, have you been waiting long?" said the deep, rich voice whose every tone she knew and loved.

"Good heavens," said Captain HEATHCOTE, as he too heard the voice, "is not that VON BERNSTEIN? To be sure it is. MAX, my dear fellow," he exclaimed, dropping MARGARET'S arm and rushing forward with outstretched hand, "how delighted I am to see you again; and what a hero you are, my brave old MAX."

MAX turned, his whole face radiant with joy at the sound of the cheery English voice.

"BERTIE HEATHCOTE! Is it possible!" but catching sight of MARGARET, who stood with averted head, "Mrs. HEATHCOTE is with you, I perceive."

"Mrs. who? Why, it's my cousin MARGARET; you have not forgotten her. I am not married."

MAX smiled, and pressed BERTIE'S hand before advancing timidly to MARGARET who, with wildly beating heart, awaited his approach. He bent his handsome head before her. "Miss TREHERNE, may I beg leave to recall a friend to your remembrance?"

She raised her eyes. "Count VON BERNSTEIN, I am glad to see you again," and she held out a trembling hand, which was instantly taken in a warm and tender clasp. "How handsome he is," she thought as he left her a moment to shake hands with her father and the Squire. But where was his wife? Would he speak of her, or ought she to do so first?

At length he returned and offered her his arm for a promenade. The band was playing outside the Kursaal, and the gentlemen were all in sight. MARGARET'S hand trembled violently, and the arm on which she leaned was trembling too. They walked up and down under the lime trees for a time in silence, watching the groups of promenaders and listening to the band, which was playing one of STRAUSS' delicious waltzes—waltzes which are the very poetry of sound, full of a tender, melancholy longing after unattainable happiness.

"How delightful this is!" said MAX at length.

"Yes, very different from our quiet Heathcote," she answered.

"Heathcote was a Paradise! How much I have suffered since I left Heathcote; and you, MARGARET?" The last word came out lingeringly, fondly. MARGARET was silent. "They told me you were married to Captain HEATHCOTE," he said.

"Oh, no," she said quickly.

"And you are free then, my beautiful English rose?" and he looked with rapture at the sweet, down-cast face. "And I am also free, and rich."

She looked up. "And your wife?"

"My wife, my poor IDA, died soon after our marriage, leaving me all her fortune. She had a noble, generous heart. I would have sought you, MARGARET, but I thought you were married, and when the war broke out, threw myself heart and soul into the struggle."

"And you were wounded, MAX?"

"Yes, but not dangerously. It was for the Fatherland, and now, now that I have done my duty, I can claim my love—for MARGARET, I have never ceased to love you."

"Nor I you, MAX," she answered softly.

He pressed the little hand resting on his arm closely to his side. It was the only demonstration of affection he could make, surrounded as they were by the gay throng; but MARGARET could feel the strong, quick throbs of his heart, and her own was beating in unison.

MAX and MARGARET were happy at last, as they deserved to be, and no one was more delighted than BERTIE, although sorry to part with his cousin and her father, who took up their residence at the Schloss von Bernstein, now rebuilt and made a fitting home for our pure English pearl. And so we leave them, happy in the consciousness of duty richly fulfilled.

BERTIE HEATHCOTE married the fair daughter of an English baronet, and was as contented as possible in his own good-humored way, but the Squire never became quite reconciled to the loss of MARGARET.

NO TIME FOR ANYTHING.

THE great difficulty in this country is that we have no time for anything. The very walk of an American suggests that he is in a hurry. An Englishman buttons his coat and gloves, and goes to business as deliberately as he goes to church. An American business man flies after the car, struggling with his coat sleeves as he runs, plunges in headforemost, and plunges out at the end without regard to his neck. Chief among our accidents stand those which occur because people will jump upon flying trains and departing boats. To wait ten minutes is something not to be thought of.

Dinner is not eaten, it is swallowed whole; and when one comes to the dessert he finds that the fruit was picked before it was ripe. Everything is hurried through, from the building of a house to the curing of a ham. The women who work on sewing machines stop before they come to the end of the seam. The dressmaker sends home your dress with basting threads in it, and no loops to hang it up by. There is none of the slow, sure completeness of the old world about anything, and even fortunes are made in a hurry, and lost in the same way. If any man we know is getting rich by the slow and patient process of saving, be sure that he was not born upon this continent. Yet people live as long here as they do anywhere else, and the days are the same length. Why is it that we have no time for anything?

The Literary World.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Through and Through the Tropics.—Thirty Thousand Miles of Travel in Oceanica, Australasia and India. By FRANK VINCENT, JR., author of "The Land of the White Elephant." [12mo.—pp. 334. New York: Harper & Bro's.

IN a comparatively small volume our author gives an interesting, and most entertaining and instructive, narrative of his travels and observations to and in the countries named, with glances also at Terra del Fuego and California. Omitting all circumlocution and buncomb, the author imparts the gist of his experiences by sea and land in a direct, natural style—giving the salient points prominence, and rendering them interesting, without burdening the reader with unimportant details or imaginary speculations. The work is indeed a most enjoyable one, by a close observer, who is evidently a man of culture and cosmopolitan experience. The volume is a fitting companion or follower of Mr. VINCENT'S former work, "The Land of the White Elephant,"—which was most favorably received, both here and abroad, and translated into several languages—and is commended to all who would obtain much interesting information in compact form and without brain weariness.

The Sunny Side. A Book of Songs for Sunday-School and Home. By CHARLES W. WENDTE and H. S. PERKINS. New York: Wm. A. Pond & Co., No. 547 Broadway. [138 p. Price, 35 cents.]

WE have rarely had occasion to notice a book that is more perfectly adapted to its purpose than this. The poetry is mostly of a high order, and the music, while simple, as it ought to be for children, is not commonplace, being from the pens of some of our best-known composers. It is a thoroughly good book, and will be popular if the publishers advertise it properly.

Athenagoras. Edited for Schools and Colleges by F. A. MARCH, D. D., with Explanatory Notes by W. B. OWEN, A. M., Adjunct Professor of Christian Greek in Lafayette College. [12mo.—pp. 262.] New York: Harper & Brothers.

THIS is Vol. IV. of the "Douglass Series of Christian Greek and Latin Writers"—a course of text books designed to replace the works in our colleges and high schools now mostly occupied by the so-called pagan authors. The volumes of the series already published include "Latin Hymns," "Eusebius," the first book of his "Ecclesiastical History;" "Tertullian," select works; and the present—"Athenagoras," plus "Plea for Christians," and "Resurrection of the Dead." Two more of the series are in preparation—"Justin Martyr" and "St. Augustine," the former edited by Prof. GILDERSLEEVE of the University of Va., and the latter by Prof. CROWELL of Amherst College.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

AMONG the most readable works of fiction issued the present season are the three following, included in the "Library of Select Novels" published by HARPER & BROTHERS:

Owen Gwynne's Great Work. By the author of "The Story of Wandering Willie," "Conrad the Squirrel," &c. [The authorship of this delightful story is attributed to Lady AUGUSTA NOEL, daughter of Lord Albemarle.]

Victor and Vanquished. By MARY CECIL HAY, author of "Old Middleton's Money," "The Squire's Legacy," &c.

Halves. By JAMES PAYN, author of "Walter's Word," "One of the Family," "Won—Not Wooed," &c.

The above are handsomely issued, in paper covers, at 50 cents each.

T. B. PETERSON &. BROS., of Phila., send us the following cheap novels:

George; Or, The Planter of the Isle of France. By ALEX. DUMAS.

Felino de Chambure; Or, The Female Fiend. By ALEX. DUMAS.

The Twin Lieutenants; Or, The Soldier's Bride. By ALEX. DUMAS.

My Husband's First Love, (Gina Montani.) By Mrs. HENRY WOOD.

NEW MUSIC.

WE have received from WM. A. POND & Co., No. 547 Broadway and 39 Union Square, N. Y.:

"Fourth Company Quickstep," by C. S. GRAFULLA—A bold, stirring melody. "Evening Song,"—A Romanza for Piano, by HENRY KLEBER. "Down Among de Sugar Cane"—A Character Song, by ARTHUR D. BLAKE. "Lord, Whom Winds and Waves Obey"—Anthem for four voices, by H. MILLARD—A very pleasing and effective piece,—good to have and to hear. "Saviour Divine, We Bend Before Thee," "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," "Jesu, Lover of My Soul"—Three excellent sacred quartettes, by S. B. WHITELY. "Verlegenheit"—An easy song, with German and English words. It is issued in D flat for Soprano, and in B flat for Baritone or Alto.

LITERARY NOTES.

IN Germany there are now two magazines devoted chiefly to poetry.

THE United States sent $95,678 worth of printed books to England during the fiscal year 1874-75.

PROF. HARTT of Cornell University writes the article "Brazil" for the "Encyclopedia Brittanica."

ST. GEORGE MILVART'S new work, "Lessons from Nature, as Manifested in Mind and Manner," is just ready in London.

THE work on Libraries, to be issued by the Bureau of Education, will be of much wider scope than was at first contemplated.

THE President (Stearns) of Amherst says that the modern system of education, embracing a multiplicity of topics, is injurious to the memory.

GEN. READ, our Minister to Greece, is said to be writing a history of that country. It will be the fullest and most complete history of Greece ever published.

THE Rev. G. R. Crooks, D. D., is hard at work upon the "Life and Letters of Rev. Dr. John McClintock," but the volume will not be issued for some months.

THE Rev. J. S. C. Abbott will add another biography—probably one of Franklin—to complete his series of "American Pioneers and Patriots," in twelve volumes.

JACOB FREI, the popular Swiss novelist, died in Berne on the 30th of December. For many years he was one of the foremost writers of romantic literature in Switzerland.

AN essay by the late George Grote on "Aristotle as a Moral Teacher," has been found among the historian's papers, and is announced for publication, with other posthumous papers.

THE King of Bavaria has bestowed the knighthood of the Order of Maximilian on Professor Max Muller. This Order is confined to a limited number of men distinguished in science and art.

THE following Americans have been elected corresponding members of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg: Prof. Newcomb of the Naval Observatory at Washington; Prof. Gould of the South American Argentine Republic, and Prof. Whitney of Yale College.

A NEW work on "Burmah and its Inhabitants," by Charles Gordon, is announced in London. In this latter work the ethnology, zoology and botany of the country will be treated of, and many traits and peculiarities of the people of this comparatively unknown land are to be given.

"OUR Poetical Favorites—Second Series"—being a collection of the Best Minor Poems in the English Language, by Prof. A. C. Kendrick of the University of Rochester, has just been published by Sheldon & Co. of this city. The first series proved very popular, and the present will probably receive like favor.

Sabbath Reading.

WHILE BELOW.

SHARING mingled joy and sorrow,
Hope to-day and fear to-morrow,
Strength of heart we needs must borrow,
While below.

Sunshine with the storm is blended;
O'er the flood the bow is bended;
Trusting souls shall be befriended
While below.

Mid the tempest blooms the willow;
Sings the sailor on the billow;
Hope of heaven may be our pillow,
While below.

Though the way seem dark before us,
Oft the clouds are rifted o'er us,
And we hear the angel chorus
While below.

Love has never vainly striven;
Needed strength is ever given;
Dawns on us the light of heaven,
While below.

From the Captain of salvation,
Faith shall have its coronation;
Shout we then in exultation,
While below.

HONESTY—A BRIEF SERMON.

EVERYBODY says that everybody should be honest; but everybody is not honest either abroad or at home. That we should be honest in our trade, weights and measures, dealing with our neighbors and with strangers is also clearly right. That a strong principle of integrity should govern us—is just what every man not only admits but believes and contends for. There is no such thing as being too honest. Honesty is a virtue better than gold, richer than rubies, more precious than gems and costly trappings. It is much richer adornment for manhood or womanhood than wealth can purchase or place secure. To be honest is to be like a child and like an angel, and Christ said of little children, of such as is the kingdom of Heaven. But we wish to write a word—a strong word—in behalf of honesty.

There are many people who are honest away from home. They make home promises only to break them. As husbands they make a thousand and one promises to their wives, and hint a thousand good things and raise many pleasant expectations they never seem to think of again. As wives, they practice a thousand little deceits, equivocate many times, when straightforward honesty was just the thing required. As parents, they conceal, go around the truth, deceive, and often actually falsify to their children, when the truth is always better, always the best. The children see their parents' double-dealings, see their want of integrity, and learn to cheat, deceive and equivocate. The child is too often a chip off the old block.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

HOPE, though valuable, is not always a sure antidote to misfortune.

A GOOD conscience seats the mind on a rich throne of lasting quiet.

VIRTUE is the greatest ornament, and good sense the best equipage.

IN your worst estate, hope; in your best estate, fear; in every estate be circumspect.

IN the Christian race all patient runners win, and in the Christian battle all who endure to the end are victors.

LET the fire be always burning brightly and ardently on your own altar, wherever it may blaze or blink besides.

I KNOW of but two beautiful things:—the starry heavens above my head and the sense of duty within my heart.—*Kant.*

HE that has tasted all the bitterness of evil fears to commit it, and he that hath felt the sweetness of mercy will fear to offend it.

EVERY day brings its own duties and carries them along with it; and they are waves broken on the shore, many like them coming after.

PEACE is the flowing of a brook, but joy is the dashing of the cataract when the brook is filled, bursts its banks and rushes down the rocks.—*Spurgeon.*

IT is never too late with us so long as we are still aware of our faults and bear them patiently—so long as aspirations eager for conquest stir within us.

WE are all sculptors and painters, and our material is our own flesh and blood and bones. Any nobleness begins at once to refine a man's features, and meanness or sensuality to imbrute them.—*Thoreau.*

HOPE is the last thing that dies in man, and though it be exceedingly deceitful, yet it is of this good use to us, that while we are traveling through life it conducts us in an easier and more pleasant way to our journey's end.—*Rochefoucauld.*

IF God, our Heavenly Father, seems distant and uninviting to us, it is because, like the prodigal son, we have taken our portion of goods and gone into a far country to set up for ourselves, that we may foolishly enjoy, rather than reverently serve.

AS the fountain finds its expression in overflowing, as a river in rushing to the infinite main, as trees in bursting into life and blossom in the spring-tide, so God feels it his joy to give liberally, and to give above all we ask, or think, or desire, for Christ's sake.—*Cumming.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

RENUNCIATION.

BY C. N. C.

TAKE back the crown of flowers,
And on some other brow
Their beauty place until they learn
What 'tis that fails me now.

Take back the crown of flowers;
Henceforth I will none wear,
Unless a wreath of plain green leaves
Replace these so fair.

Take back the crown of flowers;
They are beautiful I know—
Sweet city buds, and purple blooms,
And roses white as snow.

Take back the crown of flowers,
And give me leaves that brave
The summer's heat, the winter's cold,
Nor find an early grave.

I bow my head at last,
And lay the bright gift down—
For I have learned there are better things
Than flowers for a crown.

MR. AND MRS. JOHNS.

A Sketch for Some Wives' Husbands.

BY PERSIE VERE.

"I DON'T know how it is," said Mr. JOHNS, drawing on his boots by the kitchen stove.

"Don't know how what is?" inquired his wife.

"Why, Mr. PALMER'S family must be dreadfully expensive. There he has seventeen hundred dollars a year, and he uses it right up, they say. But they keep a hired girl all the time. Then they have three or four fires going through the winter, and I dare say ever so many needless expenses."

"Well, I don't know, either," responded Mrs. JOHNS, thoughtfully, wiping and setting away her breakfast dishes. "I suppose they think 'tis wisest to take the good of what they have *now*. The comfort they get from the seventeen hundred dollars is sure, and life isn't."

"Nor health, either," broke in Mr. JOHNS. "If they should be sick, or he should die, what would they do? There would be nothing but his life insurance. For my part, I don't feel like taking my ease or going into luxuries till we have enough to support us in the most extreme case, and I think every man ought to act from this principle. Then Mr. PALMER takes ten papers of some kind; and he carried home five new, large books at Christmas."

Mrs. JOHNS' mouth fairly watered at this, as she said, "It must be so nice to have plenty to read, and time too. Oh, I should so like to be able to ask in our friends often, and let our children have pleasant times at home, now, before they are grown up and away. But as it is, I am so hurried I can't attend to any thing that can be left out. If I had a good, strong girl to help me——"

This touched Mr. JOHNS in a sore spot. "You wouldn't get along any better than you do now. There would be the girl to wash for, and cook for, and wait on, and you'd think then you must do everything yourself to have it right. Work is good for folks. I feel ever so much better when I am steady at work, and you look healthier than a dozen women I know of who keep hired girls."

Mrs. JOHNS made no reply. It was best not to, for the matter had been discussed times enough before, and nothing was to be gained by going over it again; but her face grew forthwith into a study for the curious, with its mixture of hopelessness and self-reliance. She had worked from week's end to week's end many years through, hoping and hoping that as means increased, the farm was paid for and the house built, the time would come when she could live easier. Now she was gradually making up her mind that for them it would always be work, work—getting together for others to scatter; that all the beautiful, softening fruits of home leisure must be foregone. She kept thinking to herself, if only her husband felt as she did about it, they might all have more time and more comfort now. But Mr. JOHNS, though he disclaimed the idea, was fast getting into the way of working from mere habit. To be sure, he said it was necessary that he should save and work hard, but he certainly had more good property now than he used to think he must have in order to feel easy about common expenses, still he did not feel easy about them.

This was not strange, perhaps. He had started out from a home of poverty to make a way for himself, when farm produce was a drug, and the poor producer smiled humbly if his doctor, or lawyer, or merchant deigned to take a few bushels of wheat or oats, at any price. Money was hard to get, and Mr. JOHNS early learned not to part with it lightly when once in hand. Now it had become second nature. He was not at all pinching about great bargains; he could keep the "main chance" in sight, and large sums were cheerfully paid out where large returns were sure. But when it came to handing over money for the countless little needs of the household, he was disposed to cut down and pinch to smallest point. Then, too, he had found that his wife, though she was not a very stout built body, could manage a great deal of work; that she could turn and twist and contrive, and with very little have herself and family presentable. He often said that when one had little, little would be spent, whereas abundance tempted to prodigality!

So it was that when, after ten years' hard work by both husband and wife, they found themselves in a good home, with landed investments sufficient to fall back on in case of necessity, he still felt like pinching. The habit was formed, and it was hard to see the money go for trifles. If ever his wife had a dollar of her own, it was earned by doing some extra hard job herself, like whitewashing, and papering walls, instead of hiring a man to do it. With all her multiplied cares, she did now, as at first, her own washing and house cleaning, though often with as much weariness and exhaustion as would make her tremble for future health and life even. When sinking down to rest a moment, in the midst of these labors, hard questions would come up. Why did she work so? How long could she endure it? What would become of her poor children if she wore herself out with this rough work?—and who would ever appreciate it? Then would she resolve never, never to go into such work again. Still she did undertake it again and again, because she wanted the money *so much*, and if she saved it she might have it; but she did not near always get it. She was unwise, and she knew it herself. While there is such a cry about the extravagance of money, multitudes of them are doing the same thing that Mrs. JOHNS did—working and striving continually to save, and taking the saving out of their own lives.

Mr. JOHNS never had a thought that he was unkind or unjust to his wife, but he had that belief, chronic among so many farmers, that out-door work is the means and end of life—and while they want all the comforts that flow from a proper performance of housework—they seem never to think that any money is earned by carrying on the endless and tiresome routine, and that all money spent about it is lost. Little by little the farm is paid for, crops are better, and there is money to buy another piece of land, but there is so often a sore lack for the little needs of home. Both husband and wife have formed habits, during the long struggle with debt, which are hard to break up. It may be comparatively easy for him, with machines and hired help, to slip his own hands out of the hardest work, but it does not come so easy for him to see his money frittered in small things about the house, nor for his wife to stop doing and saving all she can so as not to ask for money. This real enslavement of woman—mothers of families—to heavy, ceaseless toil, is a great lowering element among our rural population. A woman of ambition and inbred refinement, cannot keep up always stepping on a treadwheel. She must feel, after awhile, that there is bottom under her feet, that some of the proceeds of her labor will come into her own hands during her own lifetime, and help to make it easier and pleasanter, or she will lose heart, and become that saddest of sights, a broken down mother.

That very night, while Mr. JOHNS was buttoning up his overcoat to go to town, Mrs. JOHNS, after dreading it some time, began to tell him of some things they must have.

He replied: "This is the way it always is, something wanting continually. I can't keep any money about me. I took twenty dollars from the bank this morning, and now I haven't enough to get the nails I want to use to-morrow."

In that moment Mrs. JOHNS made up her mind that she would not send for the ten cent bunch of braid, but would bind the skirt with strips of cloth instead—a great deal more work and not so lasting. So it was always—saving ten cents here and five cents there, at the expense of much time and worry, so that she was continually in a hurry. Sitting sewing through the long evening—making a new coat out of an old one—her thoughts were busy, as they were very much of late, trying to contrive ways and means to earn money herself.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

QUEEN VICTORIA will open the coming session of Parliament in person.

IT is said that Miss Braddon, the authoress, is coming to this country on a reading tour.

CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN is said to be writing a book of personal reminiscences of the stage.

MRS. M. A. N. POLLARD, wife of the Confederate historian, is in California, and proposes soon to give readings there.

MRS. ELLERY BOND of Lewiston, Me., a carpet weaver, has woven, during the past three and a half years, over 3,500 yards of carpeting.

MRS VAN COTT has transferred her labors as an evangelist to Newark, N. J., where the Clinton Street Methodist Church was filled at her first meeting.

THE first fruits of leap year shine forth in the case of Miss BELLE HARPER of Fairhaven, W. Va., who shot a man because he refused her offer of marriage.

CAMILLA URSO has a violin, more than 200 years old, valued at $2,800, and another, made about 1790, worth $1,300. She uses both at her concerts, changing with the style of music she is to play.

MRS. ELIZABETH REUTER is the oldest citizen of Baltimore. She was born in Luxemburg, Europe, and is said to have been 109 on Christmas morning, but is still able to get about and superintend the house-work.

MRS. HARRIET E. TAPPAN of Claremont, N. H., left in her will about $30,500 to furnish prizes for the best scholarships in the Stevens High School, and in aid of poor children attending common schools in town.

MRS. EMILY TURMAN of Frankfort, Ky., has presented the Christian or Campbellite congregation at Augusta, Ga., with a completely furnished church and parsonage, which she has erected at a cost of $101,850.

IN Newark, the other day, a fashionable mother said to the family physician in the presence of her three giggling, frivolous daughters: "Doctor, how can we improve our girls?" "By improving the mothers," was the gruff reply.

Reading for the Young.

PRETTY IS THAT PRETTY DOES.

THE spider wears a plain brown dress,
And she is a steady spinner;
To see her, quiet as a mouse,
Going about her silver house,
You would never, never guess
The way she gets her dinner;

She looks as if no thought of ill
In all her life had stirred her,
But while she moves with careful tread
And while she spins her silken thread,
She is planning, planning, planning still
The way to do some murder.

My child, who reads this simple lay
With eyes downcast and tender,
Remember the old proverb says
That pretty is which pretty does,
And that worth does not go nor stay
For poverty nor splendor;

'Tis not the house, and not the dress,
That makes the saint or sinner,
To see the spider sit and spin,
Shut with her webs of silver in,
You would never, never guess
The way she gets her dinner. [*Alice Cary.*

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Canadian Rural Boy.

DEAR EDITOR:—I see in the last RURAL that the girls are pitching into YOUNG TOM since he threw that last "bomb," as they call it, into their camp. I am afraid they will keep him from writing again, but I hope they won't, as I like to read his letters. There was very cold weather here last week; the thermometer stood 10 deg. below zero. Although there is not much snow yet, there is good sleighing just now. The farmers around here have been threshing their grain since the ground froze up. In some places wheat turned out splendid, but most of the wheat that was harvested late is sprouted from the wet weather. There is a merchant in a village near here who is buying all the sprouted wheat he can get at forty cents a bushel. I see that there are a good many getting up clubs for the RURAL. I would be one of them, but no one can get up a club here. I asked two or three if they would subscribe; some of them said they could not afford it, and others that they knew too much about farming already, without taking a paper, but the whole of them can read papers if they get another to pay for them. But I don't care how much *they* know, *we* will be one of the million subscribers. Perhaps some of those who could not afford to take a paper will wish they had taken the RURAL, when they find out what the Bohemian oats are. The agents were all around here, but they did not come to us, as they must have heard we were taking the RURAL and were prepared for them. There was one man not far from here that bought over $10 worth of it. I think in a few years we will hear of that man's suicide.—ROBERT H. C., *Wellesley, Ont., Dec.* 19.

From an Orange Co. (N. Y.) Girl.

DEAR RURAL:—I am a farmer's daughter and satisfied with the title. I love to read the RURAL, especially the Letters from the Boys and Girls. This is my first letter to the RURAL. I will write a few thoughts, but hardly expect to see them in print. I felt very much out of patience and ashamed when I read YOUNG TOM'S last letter. I agree with the Iowa Girl in saying that girls are no worse about the fashions than the boys. Indeed, I would like to shake hands and explain to him a little, and see if we could not discuss any subjects without referring to the fashions. I do not think that the fairer sex need to be criticised any more than the other sex. You need not detest their company so much, and you will form a better opinion of them, I think. What is your opinion of dancing? I believe in dressing and acting in the most becoming manner, regardless of the latest style or mode. I would like to hear from the Iowa School Girl very much, and hope for a description of the State, and I hope to hear soon from YOUNG TOM. If I see this in your paper, I will write a letter and tell you something about the place in which I live.—HATTIE A.

From a Rochester Girl.

DEAR GIRLS:—I want you all to see the picture I have carried in my mind since YOUNG TOM threw that shell into our camp. Picture to yourselves a young man six feet tall, with hair the color of a last year's summer squash, mustache ditto—hairs few and far between—pea green eyes, sweet little nose, mouth and ears to match, any color of complexion to suit the taste. Now, TOM, take a little advice, will you not, and oblige the rural fair sex by mounting one of the many lofty peaks that tower around you, and stay till called for by one of the same? Take a bag of beans with you (that is, if you would be so condescending and obliging as to give us the honor of serving you). Now, THOMAS, "right about face," and send double charges in all directions. TOM the brave! If I see a wild-looking chap coming north, with his hair pointing every way, and nose upward, I will run for dear life.—DELL. B. W., *Rochester, N. Y.*

From a Michigan Boy.

MR. EDITOR:—As I have read the RURAL for many years and the letters from the little folks, and also written one which you were so kind as to publish, I will try one more and hope that you will give this. I read a letter from a New York Boy in RURAL of Dec. 18; how he dug 225 bushels of potatoes in ten hours with a potato hook, and that he dug them from 7,000 hills. This looks to me like a big day's work, and so I would like to have the New York Boy read this, for I have lived in a country where they raise potatoes for their main crop, and some plant as high as forty acres, and no one there ever dug 225 bushels in one day. Now take the 7,000 hills, which, if they stood three feet apart, would cover over an acre and a quarter of ground—for this is about the way potatoes are planted in these parts—and he would have to dig over twenty-two bushels an hour for ten hours, which is lively work for Michigan boys; but I think that there is a mistake somewhere. I have not seen anything in the RURAL lately about the Alfalfa clover, and so I will say a word in favor of it. I sowed a small patch on poor sand, where common clover would not grow, but the Alfalfa came up and grew good. Some of it got two feet high the first summer. It stood the last winter well (and it was a hard winter), and grew astonishingly last summer. I recommend it to all.—M. W. STEVENS, *Tyrone, Liv. Co., Mich.*

From a Wide-Awake Illinois Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—We have taken the RURAL for many years. I live on a farm. This is my first letter, and I hope you will accept me as a Cousin. We have been keeping a dairy of forty-five cows the past summer. I have milked eighteen cows a few times, but usually milk from eight to twelve. We have sold all but four, and I don't have to milk now. I am going to school; study Reading, History, Arithmetic, Spelling and Writing, and have to speak pieces every Friday. I can harness up a team and take a ride. I drove on a reaper last summer, and gathered over a half bushel of hazel nuts. I have a piano and can play a few pieces. Good-by.—WILD CRAB.

From a "My Maryland" Boy.

DEAR RURAL:—As so many boys and girls are writing to you, I thought if you would allow me space I would write a short letter to tell you how well I am pleased with the RURAL. I do not take the paper myself, but my brother does: he has taken it nearly three years. I think the RURAL is a very useful paper, and that no farmer ought to be without it. As most of the boys and girls tell their ages I will tell mine. I am fourteen years old. I like farming very much, and I don't think we could get along very well without the dear RURAL.—J. L. E., *Spring Garden, Carroll Co., Md.*

From a Connecticut School Girl,

DEAR RURAL:—After reading so many boys' and girls' letters I concluded to contribute my share. The "Dear Old RURAL" seems like a friend to me, and in my estimation grows better every year, and I would rather give up all the papers we take than the RURAL. I am in Danbury at school now, and my favorite pursuits are Music and Drawing. I would like to hear from some of the Cousins who are interested in those branches. I am studying Latin, which I like very much. The answer I find to Cross-word Enigma No. 3 is "Lion." If my letter meets with success perhaps I will write again, and until then good-by.—FAIRY BELLE, *Danbury, Conn., Jan.*, 1875.

From an Indiana Girl.

DEAR UNCLE AND COUSINS:—I have been reading the letters the boys and girls write to that gem of a paper, the RURAL, and thought I would write also. I think YOUNG TOM is very conceited. Wonder where he got all his fine ideas. I hope the "*fair* sex" will not bother him, as he is decidedly opposed to their company. I like GIPSY JESSIE very much, and hope she won't fall off the rocks. When she sees this she will think her tongue is very short compared with mine, and as I don't want her to have a bad opinion of me I will close this letter.—ELLA, *Noble Co., Ind.*

The Puzzler.

HISTORICAL ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I AM composed of 106 letters:

My 5, 23, 20, 92, 6, 2, 19, 41, 38, 4 a Syracusan writer.
My 79, 32, 17, 10, 22, 26, 30, 11, 33, 49, 51, 57, 80, 56, 15, 25, 3, 85, 41 the longest Roman war.
My 87, 61, 106, 74, 98, 12, 51, 7, 14, 27, 47, 13, 68, 53, 84, 38, 99 a brother of Constantine the Great.
My 8, 3, 49, 80, 23, 91, 21, 9, 24, 45, 35, 66 the music teacher of Epaminondas.
My 59, 34, 54, 35, 42, 55, 78, 29, 39, 18, 27 a Grecian officer of the Trojan war.
My 16, 72, 70, 45, 23, 28, 37, 101, 93, 89 a Greek philosopher.
My 43, 7, 60, 8, 42, 27, 62, 49, 96 a king of Bactria.
My 103, 104, 71, 86, 69, 27 a king of Thrace.
My 36, 58, 94, 65 a son of Severus.
My 97, 20, 85, 35, 12, 46, 25, 67, 94, 26, 88, 89, 102, 75, 41, 32, 33, 60, 100, 14 a son of Vespasian.
My 64, 63, 77, 91, 101, 61, 66 an Alexandrian grammarian.
My 31, 95, 106, 3, 20, 50, 11, 83, 26, 25, 56, 81, 73, 1, 75, 76, 51, 44 a noted divine.
My 52, 40, 82, 19, 8, 22, 63, 7, 22, 91, 105 a festival in memorium of those who perished in the flood of Deucalion.

My whole is a proverb of Scott Downey.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Jan. 22.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS No. 3.—Balmy sleep.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC No. 1.—Initials, Paul Revere's Ride; finals, Henry Longfellow.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 3.—Lion.

DECAPITATION No. 1.—Clover, lover, over, eover, clove, love.

DIAMOND PUZZLE No. 2.—

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PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifth-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

PLANS for the enlargement of the Albany, N. Y., penitentiary have been completed. The addition will be 150x50, running westward. It will contain four tiers of cells, 184 in number. The cells will be seven feet long, four wide and seven high. The walls will be two feet thick, and the whole structure of the strongest character.

The lumber receipts at Albany, N. Y., by canal, for the year were 269,915,000 feet sawed lumber. There was on hand, as estimated, at the commencement of the season, 84,579,500 feet, and the estimated quantity now on hand is 83,000,000 feet. These figures show the amount of sales for the year to be 271,524,000 feet. To this must be added the lumber received by rail, which is supposed to be from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 feet.

The United States Treasurer complains that large quantities of greenbacks and fractional currency are sent to his office for exchange which are perfectly fit for circulation, and that others are not put up in compliance with previously published regulations. In such cases he insists on his right to deduct expenses from the return remittance.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company have ordered that all their locomotives be kept ready for a heavy coal trade after Feb. 1. New locomotives are being constantly put on the road.

The Hudson River Railroad Company is drawing stone for the foundation of its depot at Fishkill Landing. It is to be built of brick and located a short distance north of the old depot.

The annual report of the Superintending Builder of the Elmira Reformatory shows that the total amount expended on the building last year was $285,601.27. There will be due when the work in progress is completed $58,053.70. There will be required to complete the building of the north wing, to equip the workshops in both wings, for furniture, etc., $300,000.

There is a man in the Ontario County poorhouse named Antdess Fletcher, who reached the great age of 113 years Oct. 12, 1875. He has been married twice, and says he has fathered 25 children. Preparations are making to take him to the Centennial.

Mr. Defreest has assumed the management of the local department of the Troy Times, and Mr. Sletcher takes the place of Mr. Johnson in the news department.

Sitting Bull, the Sioux Indian, who is now on the war path, is not the Sitting Bull whom the President some time ago presented with a rifle, but is another Indian of the same nation adhering to that name.

E. D. Winslow of Boston, Mass., has run away after committing forgeries to the amount, it is believed, of $600,000. He was formerly a clergyman, later a member of the Massachusetts State Senate, and two years ago purchased a controlling interest in the Boston Post and Boston Daily News. Winslow occupied the pulpit and preached an effective sermon less than two weeks before his flight. He attempted first to sail from this city to Brazil, but as the steamer was not ready to start he took passage for Rotterdam, Holland. As this country has no extradition treaty with Holland Winslow is safe from his pursuers.

A brilliant reception was given by the Washington Light Infantry, Charleston, S. C., on the evening of Jan. 26th, in honor of the Boston visitors who brought souvenirs of the participation of that corps in the Bunker Hill Centennial last June. The Hon. C. H. Simonton presided and welcomed the visitors. The Hon. J. C. Park of Boston, in behalf of the ladies of Massachusetts, presented to the corps a costly and beautiful banner, emblazoned with the arms of Massachusetts and South Carolina, the staff being surmounted with a white dove bearing an olive branch. In his address he referred to the Lexington celebration of April last, when he met Gov. Chamberlain and told him that though he had lost a dear son on the battle fields of Virginia, he would bury forever upon the hallowed ground where they stood the bitter memories of the past. [Applause.] Speeches were also delivered by Col. Simons, Major Gilchrist, Capt. Bartlett of Boston and others. The Bostonians have been the recipients of constant attention during their stay.

The Whitehall, N. Y., incendiaries have systemized their business. They now drop envelopes about the street containing letters addressed to the business men of the place, threatening that unless the writers are provided with work or bread another fire may be expected.

There are 21,255 Baptist churches in the United States, with 13,117 ministers, and a total membership of 1,815,000.

The California School of Mechanical Arts was incorporated Jan. 12, according to the provisions in James Lick's deed.

There are 3,000 white men in Florida who have not voted since the downfall of the Confederacy—enough to insure a Democratic triumph at every election.

Notwithstanding the mild winter a Worcester, Mass., skate manufacturer has sold 40,000 pairs of skates this season and is now busy filling an English order.

A company is about starting a great farming enterprise in the foothills between Marysville and Smartsville, Cal., where they have in a body 1,700 acres of land. Orchards of orange trees, English walnuts, almonds, and pecans will be laid out, and much ground devoted to clover, alfalfa, and sheep raising.

The population of Michigan is shown by the new census to be 1,334,031. In the year 1800 the population was 551. The male population is more than 60,000 in excess of the female, and the disproportion is constantly increasing.

The temperance movement is making great progress in New England. A grand demonstration took place in Gloucester, Mass., Jan. 27, under the auspices of the Reformed Men's Clubs. All the temperance societies joined in a grand procession and public services were held at the City Hall. About 1,500 men were in line. Many similar demonstrations by the temperance organizations throughout New England have already taken place, and many more are to follow. At Marblehead, on the evening of Jan. 26, over 200 signed the temperance pledge. A club in Gloucester which had but 16 members on its roll on the 6th of December now has 1,300.

Roxana Mead Drew, wife of Daniel Drew, the millionaire, died Jan. 27, at her residence in N. Y. City, at the age of 77, of paralysis of the heart. The deceased lady was born in South East, Putnam Co., N. Y., and was married to Daniel Drew in 1820.

Great thefts form a marked feature of the news of the past week. New England contributes the heaviest—the Winslow forgeries and the Northampton Bank robbery, the latter now being estimated at $670,000 worth of securities. But New Jersey comes well into line with a defalcation of about $140,000 at New Brunswick; from more distant States there are stories of nearly successful attempts in robbing express trains of very large amounts, and a long series of thefts from an express company in N. Y. City is just revealed.

The Hon. A. H. Stephens writes to a Washington friend that he has abandoned all hope of being able to take his seat in the House of Representatives during the winter, and that he has no intention of resigning.

The President has appointed the following Board of Visitors to West Point for 1876; Abner N. Ogden of Alexandria, La.; Gen. R. P. Hammond of California, Gen. Charles Devens of Worcester, Mass.; Matthew H. Bucham of Vermont; Prof. John M. Sterling of Wisconsin and Prof. H. C. Cameron of New Jersey.

By the burning of Fairbanks' scale shops at St. Johnsbury, Vt., on the night of the 22d inst., a loss of $40,000 was caused; fully insured. The fire originated from the throwing of a lighted match into a pot of paint.

Herr Hellwag, Chief Engineer of the St. Gothard tunnel, has decided that all the accessory lines and tunnels (of nearly four miles) leading up to the main trunk are to be commenced next summer, so as to be completed by 1880.

A Massachusetts co-operative enterprise has for an aim the occupation of Spartanburg, S. C., by thrifty folks from the overcrowed manufacturing towns of New England. The plan provides for cotton and lumber mills, and recruits are numerous.

Minnesota proposes to redeem herself from the stigma of repudiation by taking action looking to the payments of her old railroad bond indebtedness.

The Prudential Committee of the village district of Ludlow, Vt., have taken from the mills and shops children of school age and put them into the public schools.

Of 42,000 passengers carried over the Massachusetts railroads last year, not one was killed except by their own carelessness, and only six were injured.

A special dispatch to the Galveston News from San Antonio, Jan. 26, to-night says:—Advices received at different points on the Rio Grande, through couriers from Saltillo, state that a revolution has been started in the northern and central portions of Mexico, near the Rio Grande. Gen. Herrera has pronounced for the revolution and surprised the authorities at Parras. The revolutionists assaulted Rasoves, which is defended by Medno, who is prepared to defend it until reenforcements can arrive. The majority of the people in the northern districts are reported to be in favor of suppressing the rebellion, and are preparing for an emergency. Gen. Porfirio Diaz is at Laredo.

The robbery of $100,000 from a Chicago eastward-bound express car was neatly prevented near Toledo and the four robbers arrested.

The New Jersey Temperance Alliance held an enthusiastic meeting last week and raised $1,000 for a State Agent.

A discharged clerk of the Adams Express Company, having in some way secured duplicate keys, attempted to rob their office in this city, but was detected and fled.

U. S. Senator West of Louisiana is charged with securing his election by spending $25,000 in bribes.

Gen. Washington's family Bible will be exhibited in the Book Department at the Centennial Exhibition by Porter & Coates, Philadelphia. It is in three quarto volumes, each of which bears Washington's autograph on the title-page. The work was presented to Washington by the editor of this edition, Bishop Wilson, author of "Sacra Privata," was bequeathed by him to Lord Fairfax, and was left by the latter to the Herbert family, whence it came to the present owners.

About 11:30 o'clock, Jan. 22, while a Martella and Cincinnati freight train was passing over the iron bridge at Spring Grove avenue, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the structure gave way in consequence, it is said, of the weight of five cars overloaded with shelled corn. The falling cars carried the engine down with them, killing the engineer, named Conry; the fireman, Frank Lemman, and a brakeman. Two men who were driving on the avenue were caught in the wreck, and one of them suffers from a broken leg and the other from a broken shoulder. The bridge was a double track one. It is a total wreck.

The Lee Monument Association of Richmond, Va., has received $539.59 toward the fund for erecting a monument to the late Gen. Lee. The State Senate of Mississippi contributed $219.50 of this amount, and the public schools of Richmond the sum of $153.99.

The annual report of the State Treasurer of Massachusetts, which was presented to the Legislature last week, shows the total receipts for the year 1875 to be $18,454,960.13, and the total payments, $13,148,013.42, leaving a balance on hand Jan. 1, 1876, at $5,306,946.71.

The Hon. Henry H. Starkweather, M. C., from Conn., died on the 25th ult in Washington. He was conscious to the last, and conversed with his wife, who arrived two hours before his death.

A bill will be introduced to Congress to repay the $60,000,000 cotton tax to the South.

A heavy snow storm and intense cold prevailed west of the Mississippi last week.

Telegrams to our Ministers abroad from Secretary Fish indicate possible complications yet concerning Cuba.

The female shoe operatives in Lynn, Mass., have organized a protective association called "The Daughters of St. Crispin."

The Chicago Tribune announces that Eli Perkins, the celebrated American humorist, is about appear on the stage in an original play.

There has been no snow yet at Duluth since the winter set in.

A pansy bloomed in the yard of the Crawford House at White Mountain Notch last month.

The Maine editors and publishers in their Convention selected Philadelphia as the objective point of their summer excursion.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE London Times, in its financial article, Jan. 26th, says that investment stocks remain very firm, particularly United States bonds, which are being bought heavily for export thither. The 1867s are steadily absorbed for New York, and the funded loan is steadily taken for investment in London.

Skating rinks appear to be all the rage in England, where there are several well patronized. Another is soon to be erected in London at a cost of £100,000. The owner of a rink at Brighton has refused £80,000 for it.

By the latest census Ireland has 5,412,397 inhabitants, divided, as to religion, as follows: Roman Catholics, 4,150,857; Protestants, 1,261,510. Of the Protestants 667,998 are reported as Episcopalians and 497,848 as Presbyterians.

The German government is preparing documents acknowledging the magnanimity of England in the manner of conducting the inquiry into the Deutschland disaster.

In the Reichstag at Berlin, Jan. 27, the amendments to the Penal Code were considered. The clause imposing penalties on members of secret societies and the clause directed against acts inciting hostility between different classes and attacking national institutions were rejected. Count von Eulenburg, Minister of the Interior, declared that the aim of the Social Democrats was to establish the "Red Republic," with communism and atheism. The new penal provisions were required to obviate the necessity of some day drawing the sword.

Cardinal Simeoni, the Nuncio at Madrid, has made a report on the Spanish elections, in which he says the Government of King Alfonso has been compelled to accept the alliance of the defenders of the so-called religious liberty, in order to secure political victory.

The Vienna *Wiener Presse* reports that during an insurgent attack on a Turkish camp near Neum, Jan. 26, three Turkish men-of-war, anchored off Klek, unexpectedly opened a violent cannonade on the Herzegovinians. As the vessels were in Austrian waters at the time their action caused considerable surprise. The result of the attack on the camp is not known.

War is imminent between Guatemala and Salvador. Both countries are arming.

In the Ontario Legislature, Jan. 27, the bill giving women the right to vote at municipal elections and on money by-laws was defeated by a small majority.

Four officers of the French army have been cashiered for attending a funeral service on the anniversary of the death of Napoleon III.

A special dispatch from Vienna to the London Standard, Jan. 28, reports that committees have been formed in seven Servian towns, including Belgrade, which openly agitate for the dethronement of Prince Milan.

The municipality of Moscow recently resolved to send a second contribution of $16,000 in aid of the sufferers from the Herzegovinian insurrection. The Czar has refused to permit the money to be sent, although he sanctioned the first contribution.

It is said that agents of the Russian Ambassador are urging the Bosnians to join the insurrection.

A Bonapartist Association, styled the Conservative National Committe, has issued a manifesto announcing that they will support President MacMahon until the expiration of his term in 1880. They will then demand that an appeal to the people be made for determining the future form of government for France.

Gambetta and other Republicans, apprehensive of a bad effect in the provinces if the Radicals should succeed in electing all the Senators for Paris, are strenuously working to bring about a compromise between the various Republican factions.

The palace expenditure of the Sultan of Turkey has been $2,000,000 a year ever since his succession.

An iron steamer of small dimensions is to be built at Dubuque for the King of Siam, and shipped in sections.

A Berlin dispatch to the London Post says that it is expected that Queen Victoria will visit the Imperial Court while she is in Germany.

Lieut.-Gen. Henry William Stisted, C. B., is dead. He was the first Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario under the Dominion.

Writs were served on Minister Schenck and others connected with the Emma Minting Company in London, last week.

Cienfuegos is said to have been pillaged by Cuban insurgents.

At Caratamendi Jan. 26, the Royalists captured sixty Carlists, one cannon and one mortar. Gen. Loma continues his advance into the interior of Biscay. A battle is imminent in the Urola Valley.

Croquet is rapidly giving way to roller skating in London, and the ladies' newspapers are publishing concise rules to promote gracefulness of movement and proficiency in the sport.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Harlem Springs, Carroll Co., Ohio, Jan. 20.—Weather warm and wet. No snow, and but few cold days this winter. Corn was a good crop as regards quantity, but the quality is poor on account of the early frosts, a great deal spoiling in the cribs. Winter wheat looks well. Stock of all kinds doing average well. Sheep are worth from $4 to 5 ₮ head. Cattle from 3½ to 4c. ₮ lb., and scarce at that. Horses bring from $75 to $150 ₮ head, and dull sales at that. The apple crop was a total failure. Peaches ditto. Potatoes and other vegetables good. Times dull, as a matter of course, but, as our county is strictly devoted to agriculture, we experience no serious inconvenience from the depressed state of trade. The Ohio and Toledo Narrow Gauge R. R. passes through our County. The N. G. is a decided success. J. B. LEE.

Point of Timber, Contra Costa Co., Cal., Jan. 17.—It is raining hard now—the best rain in four years, or, in other words, the heaviest rain we have had in that time. The ground is too wet to plow and will be for some days to come. The wheat crop never looked better than it does at this time, and the farmers are mostly done seeding. Some have been plowing for summer fallow. Some wheat is now four to five inches high, and some is not yet up. The writer has 60 acres yet to sow, and half of the ground is yet to be plowed. We have had the epizootic among our horses here this winter. I mention this for fear you will grumble because I am so far behind with my work.—JOHN R. BYER.

IODO-MAGNESIAN SPRINGS.

MR. EDITOR:—For the sake of humanity I feel called upon to tell your readers what I know about the curative power of the Iodo-Magnesian Springs of Beloit, Wis. For ten years previous to last spring I have been troubled with what physicians term "the prostate," causing great irritation and severe pain, with burning sensation. For months at a time I have been disturbed in my sleep from seven to fifteen times each night. The 1st of March last I commenced using two glasses daily of the Iodo-Magnesian Spring water. It afforded me immediate relief, and for two months past I have been comparatively free from pain, and have slept from seven to eight hours each night without disturbance. I have recently visited these Springs and found there a large number of persons who had been cured of various diseases by these waters.

Persons desiring further information can address me, personally or by letter, at 56 and 58 Park place, New York. Yours truly,

B. E. HALE.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Jan. 29, 1875.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Oil Cake, pkgs	12,586	Pork, bbls	412
Flour, bbls	83,769	Cut meats, pkgs	7,500
Whisky	2,552	Lard, pkgs	15,183
Corn meal, bbls	1,049	Tar, bbls	—
Corn meal, bags	4,052	Tobacco, hhds	1,065
Wheat, bush	191,178	do. cases	3,827
Corn, bush	350,712	Butter, pkgs	26,011
Oats, bush	161,152	Cheese, bxs	16,161
Rye, bush	551	Cotton, bales	21,515
Malt, bush	2,873	Rosin	10,708
Barley, bush	213,800	Spts. turp., bbls	1,759
Beans, bbls	1,172	Dried Fruits, pkgs	191
Grass seed, bags	3,119	Eggs, bbls	28,572
Ashes, pkgs	96	Crude Turpentine	8,693
Beef, pkgs	1,741	N. O. Molasses, bbls	1,500
Peas, bush	100,915	Peanuts, bags	2,022
Beeswax, pkgs	10	Dressed Hogs	3,787
Wool, bales	509	Oil Cake, pkgs	4,000
Hops, bales	2,529		

BEANS AND PEAS.—The export trade in marrow beans is good, but prices are not better as the liberal receipts prevent an advance. Mediums are dull, that is they lack the steady wholesale outlet that ought to attend the winter months. However, the bean trade is not the only one that has had a disappointing season this year. Pea Beans are quiet, and must be had clean and handsome to bring the extreme. Both red and white Kidneys are still quoted low. Limas do not go into use to the extent that their quality as a food item should give them. Canadian peas have sold heavily this season for feeding abroad; just now there is some lull in the call and prices are only steady. Green peas are quiet the inside rate mainly representing sales. S. B. C. peas nominal.

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.50@1.60; other, 1.25@1.35; medium, new, $1.40@1.45 fair to good, $1.15@1.31; very poor, 50@1.10; marrow, new, prime, $1.70@1.75; other, $1.41@1.60 white kidney, prime, $1.85@1.95; fair to good, $1.60@1.70 red kidney, new, prime, $1.51@1.60; fair to good, $1.31@1.45; California Lima, choice, $3.50@4.00. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new, duty paid, $1.25@1.27; bulk, in bond, $1.02@1.04; green, new, ¾ bush., $1.50@1.60; Southern B. E., ¾ 2 bush. bag, $3.10@3.15.

Exports of beans since Jan. 1st, 8,484 bbls.; of peas, 51,405 bush.

BEESWAX.—Has a slow export demand, with very little doing from other sources. Sales at 31½@33c. for Western and Southern.

BROOM CORN.—The largest New York sale of the season was made this week, 12 car loads Western common at 5@7c. Sellers dispair of receiving any prime corn this season.

We quote Brush, short green, 9½@10c.; hurl, green, 10@; green, medium, 6@7c.; red and red tipped, 4@5c.

BUTTER.—The market continues without special new features. Quotations have a sound of improvement, owing to the fact that State butter has largely taken the place of Western for medium use this season, and as the cheap parcels have been well picked up, the standard of the general stock is better. Fancy State butter is scarce here, if indeed much of it remains to come forward. Interior holders continue to place a restrictive value upon some of their fine dairies, wanting about all that can be realized here for lots as they run. Herein is one of the troublesome features of the butter trade. A line of stock that may have a splendid local reputation at home often falls off a grade when brought into competition with consentratal receipts. Then again few marks of stock can be relied upon to run choice from a tub to tub or firkin to firkin, and this fact alone prevents buyers from paying a full straight price, even though he requires extras to fill his best wants. Its points are manifestly—would be light if the weather were at all seasonable; and we do not learn of any one being heavily stocked up with State. A late spring will give more consumptive margin for the unsold portion of the crop, and the dependence upon such an advent perhaps renders farmers less anxious to part with lines. Still it must be remembered that the chief opponent to advanced or even high prices has the scarcity of money in family circles and a slow spring does not do much towards enlarging the general purse. Western solid packed butter is getting a better share of the demand owing to the lack of low-priced good State. Rolls remain a drug; buyers became dissatisfied with the style and quality several weeks ago, and few marks have required their sale. Small packages of cloth wrapped sell best.

State dairies entire, extra, 31@31c.; entire, good to prime, 28@30c.; fair to good, 24@28c.; firkins, selected fresh, 31@33c.; good to prime, 25@28c.; fair to good, 21@24c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 31@32c.; good to prime, 31@33c.; fair to good, 27@29c.; poor to fair, 25@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@31c.; dairies, 27@29c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 21@25c.; poor to fair, 22@23c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 17@25c; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 25@27c.; good to prime, 24@26c., tubs selected fresh, 26@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 23@25c; fair to good, fresh, 21@23c.; poor to fair, fresh, 20@21c.; Western, early packed, selected, 21@22c.; Western, early packed, other, 15@20c. Roll butter, good to prime, 19@20c.; fair to good, 17@18c.

CHEESE.—There has been increased trade this week from all sources, and a generally strong market. The Eastern markets are short of low grades, and are dealing in them here almost exclusively; sales from 11c. down to 6c. English shippers are taking fine and strictly fancy at 14@14½c.

New State factory, fancy, 13¾@13¾c.; fine, 12½c.; do. good to prime, 11¾@12¼c.; fair to good, 10@11¼c.; poor to fair, 7@11c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12¾c.; good to prime, 10¾@11½c.; fair to good, 9¾@10¾c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fine, 12¼@13c; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@10c.; poor to fair, 6@8c; pineapple, 16@19c. English dairy, Connecticut, 12@13½c., do. State, 15@18c.

COTTON.—There has been a short upward movement, but at the close prices have reacted a trifle. Latest sales for January, 13¾c; February, 13 5-32c.; March, 13 11-32@13¾c.; April, 13 9-16@13 9-32c.; May, 13 25-32c; June, 13 31-32@14c.; July, 14¼@14 5-32c.; August, 14 3-16@14¼c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9¾	9¾	10¼	9¾
Strict ordinary	10¼	10¼	10¾	10¾
Good ordinary	11¼	11¼	11¾	11¼
Strict good do	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Low middling	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾
Strict low middling	13¼	13	13¼	13¼
Middling	13¾	13¾	13 5-16	13 5-16
Good middling	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾
Strict good middling	14	14¼	14¼	14¼
Middling fair	14¾	14¾	14¾	14¾
Fair	15¾	15¾	15¼	15¾

Stained.

Good ordinary	9¾	Low middling	11¼
Strict ordinary	11	Middling	12¾

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are about ¼c. higher under an increased jobbing demand. Peaches are dull and altogether nominal. Blackberries scarce and strong. Splendid samples of California raisins are in market.

Apples—State, sliced, 10¼@10½c.; quarters, 9½@—c.; Western quarters, 9c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 10½c. for prime, and fancy 12c; Tennessee qrs., 8¼@8½c. Blackberries, new, 12½@13c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12½c. for halves, 11@11½c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 22@23c.

EGGS.—One of our exchanges remarks that "this is an unusual part of the year for cheap eggs," which is so. Last year at this date, Western were quoted at 29@30c. To-day they are down to 22@23c., the latter an exceptional price. If retailers would only follow a decline quicker in the release of their stock, we might get rid of the pressing surplus; but they as well as receivers, expect to see a price-reviving snow storm, and the feeling in the trade is consequently unsettled. Limed are not selling owing to low fresh; but the stock is not heavy.

We quote near points, 24@—c.; State and Pennsylvania, —@23c.; Canadian, choice, 22@23c.; Western, do., 22@23c.; other Western, 20@22c.; Southern, 20c.; Limed, 18@20c.

FLOUR.—There have been large drafts on the supplies on export account, and with small arrivals prices are strong.

Superfine State, $4.30@4.75; extra do., $5.00@5.90; superfine Western, $4.20@4.75, extra do., $5.00@5.90; No. 2, $3.25@4.10 extra round-hoop Ohio, $5.00@5.30 trade brands do., $5.35@7.40; white wheat extras, $5.95@7.00; St. Louis, $5.20@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.10@6.60; Southern at $4.25@4.75 for superfine; $4.80@8.30 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.40@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye flour at $4.10@5.30. Corn meal—There is a fair sale at $2.85@3.40 for yellow Western, $3.85@3.35 for white do., $3@3.35 for Jersey and Pennsylvania, and $3.00@3.05 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples since Jan. 1st, 1,325 bbls.; same time last year, 4,195 do. Large red and choice Greening apples stand where they did in prices, but as before the tender sorts of any variety that have gone well through the "heat" are offered at wide ranges. The stock receives some addition by rail, but buyers are suspicious of them, and stored lots sell the most readily. Florida oranges are running poor. The stock of cranberries is reduced to N. J growth, and prices are lighter. Peanuts in fair demand and higher.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, $3@3.50; mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; do. fair, $2@2.25. Pears—Choice Cal., ¾ box, $4@4.50. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $3.50@3.75; good to prime, $2.25@3.50; made bbls., $11@12. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.50@1.80; do. Wilmington, $1.80@2.05; do. Tennessee, 75@90c.; Hickory nuts, $1@1.25. B. walnuts, 50c.

FURS AND SKINS.—At the Leipsig sale prices were very little different from the late London sale; home rates unchanged. We quote prime skins:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00	to	15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00	to	10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50	to	3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50	to	2 50
Badger	20	to	50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50	to	60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40	to	50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00	to	12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00	to	8 00
Fox, silver	15 00	to	50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00	to	5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50	to	1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25	to	1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75	to	1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75	to	1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40	to	60
Fox, Kitt	30	to	50
Lynx	1 00	to	2 00
Marten, Sables	1 50	to	2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00	to	4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00	to	3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00	to	1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75	to	1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50	to	75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	23	to	25
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	20	to	21
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12	to	15
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00	to	12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	6 00	to	10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00	to	6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18	to	20
Opossum, South and open North	12	to	15
Raccoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indiana handled, dark	80	to	1 00
Raccoon, Ill., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50	to	65
Raccoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn.	65	to	75
Raccoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40	to	50
Raccoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15	to	40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00	to	3 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	—	to	1 50
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	—	to	1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50	to	80
Skunks, white streaked	15	to	20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00	to	3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75	to	1 25

GRAIN.—For wheat there has been a very slow export demand, and prices have ruled weak. Latest sales at $1.06@1.10 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring mixed; 98c.@$1 for rejected spring; $1.05 for rejected and mixed spring in lots; $1.47 for choice amber Pennsylvania; $1.20@1.47 for winter red and amber; $1.35@1.55 for white, and $1.33@1.40 for No. 1 springs. Rye quoted 82@92c. for State, and 86@88c. for Western. Barley is unsettled and dull; Canada quoted at $1.20@1.45; four-rowed State at $1.12@1.35. Corn closed firm, with a fair export inquiry. Sales at 62¾@63c. for mixed Western; 62½@63½c. for yellow Western; 63c. for white do. Oats have a more active inquiry, with prices higher. Sales at 48@50c. for white Western; 53c. for white State; 48@48½c. for mixed Western.

HAY AND STRAW.—Receipts are lighter, demand more active, and prices more in favor of the seller for retail grades. Shipping hay dull.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 85c.; retail qualities, $1.05@1.15; clover, 70@80c.; salt, 65@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.10@1.20 for long rye; 80@90c. for short rye; 75@85c. for oat. Exports since Jan. 1st, 1,136 bales; same time last year, 3,307.

HIGHWINES.—Have a slow sale, with prices weak, quoted at $1.11.

HONEY unchange. We quote clover comb at 18@22c. for buckwheat and strained, 10@12c.

HOPS.—Exporters have been operating moderately with a light local trade, and prices well sustained.

New York State, 10@15c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins, 10@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californians, 17@20c.

MILK.—With a light supply in winter, too, prices have ruled as low as 1.25@2.25 per can of 40 quarts at the platforms.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry has almost lost a season. This is the part of the year when sellers expect general stock to make some money; but, with moderate supplies, prices are low.

Turkeys, N. J., choice, 15@16c.; do. other, 13@14c.; State and Western, choice, 15@16c.; do. other, 12@13c. Chickens, N. J., 13@16c. State, as to quality, 13@16c.; Western, 12@14c. Ducks, N. J., good to prime, 16@19c.; State, do., 15@18c.; Western, do., 15@16c. Geese, N. J., prime, 12@14c.; State, good to prime, 10@13c.; Western, do., 9@11c.; do.

Fowls, Jersey, 15@16c., Western, 14@15c. Chickens, 10@11c. Roosters, 6@8c. Turkeys, Jersey, 15@16c.; Western, 15@16c. Ducks, Jersey, ¾ pair, 87c.@$1.25; Western, 50@70c.; Jersey, $2@2.50; Western, $1.25@1.62.

Game birds are scarce and rule very high, though they sell readily at the figures. The absence of snow at the West has saved a great deal of game this season. This is the last week for venison.

Quail, trapped, prime, ¾ doz., $4.00@1.50; soft, $2.00@3.00. Grouse, prime, ¾ pair, $1.10@1.25; drawn, 75@85c. Partridges, choice, ¾ pair, $1.00@1.10; other, 50@75c. Hares, ¾ pair, 30@35c. Rabbits, ¾ pair, 35@40c. Venison, short saddles, ¾ lb., 11@14c. Ducks, canvas back, ¾ pair, $3@3; redhead, $1@1.50; common, 50@75c.

PROVISIONS.—For pork and lard prices have been reduced on account of the larger supplies of hogs at the West, but bacon has been in good export demand and strong. Quotations are for mess pork, $20.75@21.80 for spot lots, $20.80 for January and February, and $20.85@20.90 for March deliveries. Extra prime, $16; prime mess, $20. Dressed hogs at 8¾@9¾c. Bacon at 11c., for Western long clear, 11¾c. for short clear, 11¾c. for long and short clear, together. Lard at 12¾c. for spot, January and February deliveries, 12¾c. for March and 12¾c. for April. Stearine at 12½c. for Western. Beef hams, $24@25 for Western, and $22@22.50 for Southern. Beef, new extra mess, $12@12.50; do., plain mess $11@11.50; new tierced at $23 for prime mess. $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $30.50@32. Old extra mess, $11.50, and $10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.50@16.50.

SEED.—Clover is in good export demand and favoring the seller; State quoted 11¾@14¾ for prime to choice; Western at 14¼c.

TOBACCO.—Exporters are purchasing more freely Kentucky leaf and Seedleaf, with a confident range of prices.

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.		Heavy. Cents.	
Common lugs	6	@ 8	7½	@ 8½
Good lugs	7½	@ 8	8½	@ 9
Low leaf	8½	@10	9½	@10¼
Medium leaf	10¼	@11	10½	@12
Good leaf	12¼	@13	12½	@13¼
Fine leaf	13½	@15	14	@16
Selections	16	@17	17	@22

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1873.

Connecticut wrappers	20	@45
Assorted lots	15	@25
Massachusetts assorted lots	12	@15
Connecticut and Massachusetts seconds	10	@12
Fillers	7	@ 8
Pennsylvania assorted lots	16	@25
New York assorted lots, common	8	@11
Good to fine	12	@18
Ohio assorted lots	8½	@10
Wisconsin assorted lots	7	@ 9
Seconds and fillers, shipping	7	@ 9

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.	
Connecticut and Massachusetts fillers	8	@10
Binders and seconds	12	@18
New York State assorted lots	7	@ 9
Pennsylvania assorted lots	15	@25
Ohio, assorted lots	6½	@ 8
Wisconsin	6½	@ 9

VEGETABLES.—We quote:

Early Rose, bulk, ¾ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.50@1.75; Prince Alberts, $1.00@1.25; Peerless, 65c.@$1.00. Sweet potatoes, $1@2.75. Cabbages, ¾ 100, $3@5; red, $6@10. Cauliflower, bbl., $2@5. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 50@75c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@2.75. Russia Turnips, ¾ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00.

WOOL.—There is rather a more active demand from manufacturers and generally strong market; X and XX Ohio fleeces bring 47@48c.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—				
Picklock	50	@	54	
XX		@	48	
X	47	@	48	
No. 1	49	@	52	
No. 2	43	@	46	
Coarse	40	@	42	
Combing	58	@	65	
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—				
XX	44	@	46	
X	43	@	45	
No. 1	46	@	48	
No. 2	42	@	44	
Coarse	40	@	42	
Combing	56	@	60	
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—				
XX	45	@	47	
X	43	@	45	
No. 1	41	@	45	
No. 2	41	@	43	
Coarse	40	@	43	
Combing	55	@	62	
Combing, unwashed	38	@	46	
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—				
XX	44	@	47	
X	41	@	47	
No. 1	41	@	46	
No. 2	41	@	43	
Coarse	40	@	43	
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—				
Fine unwashed	36	@	38	
Medium unwashed	34	@	36	
Coarse unwashed	27	@	30	
Barry	17	@	23	

ROCHESTER, Jan. 27.—Flour market steady spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat is dull; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.30. Oats, nominal at 35@36c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 24@27c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 25@27c. Lard, 13½@14c. Apples, ¾ bu., 50c.@$1. Potatoes, bu., 30@35c. Beans, ¾ bu., $1.00@1.40. Mess pork, $21@—. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@11. Straw, $7@12. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $5.75@6.00. Wood, hard, ¾ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Jan. 20.

THERE is an increased firmness in the market this week, though prices have not materially changed. The general impression is that the lowest rates have been reached, and that the market must now steadily advance. The stock of cheese back in the country is not large and is very much less than has been reported. There is a brisk demand in England, and we think, with an improved demand both at home and abroad, the market will be cleared so that the spring crop will have a fair movement with fair prices.

Farm dairies now coming forward are poor, being the ends of the season's make and badly skimmed: these go at 6@8c. The late ends of factories bring 10@11c., while Septembers and Octobers will command from 12½@13c. But these last are not on the market, as holders want 13@14c for all goods that are fine.

Winter butter sells at 22@25c., according to quality.

Our advices from abroad say that the market is fairly cleared of old stocks and low qualities. Quotations are:

American extra, 64@68s.; fine, 62@64s.; common, 56@60s. English cheddar brings 84@94s.; Scotch, 70@76s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 74s. ¾ cwt.

There is more doing in American and Canadian butter, which sells at 90@120s. ¾ cwt. Clonmels sell for 150s.; Dorsets, 102s.; Swedish, 160s.; Normandy fine, which is very scarce, 160s. ¾ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,070	41	312	7,40	000
Forty-Eighth St.	20	22	26	2,431	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	2,332	12,610
Harsimus Cove	6,059	00	000	8,589	11,166
Totals this week	9,119	63	368	20,717	23,778
" last week	6,746	81	631	30,381	29,971

BEEVES.—There was a moderate condition of trade on last Monday, the herds fresh to hand being nearly all sold off by noon; quality ranged from coarse to choice, and prices from 8@13¾c. ¾ lb.; weights, 4¼@0 cwt. Wednesday, trade slow, and, with several car loads unsold Western, the markets closed at noon; prices, 8½@12¾c. ¾ lb.; 5½@7¾ cwt. Thursday, trade slow at 7¾@13¾c. @ lb.; 4¾@9 cwt. Friday, markets closed dull at 8@12¾c. ¾ lb., 6@11 cwt. From 53@58 lbs., net, were allowed to the cwt. Spanish herds sold at 8¾c. ¾ lb. Native steers at 8@12¾c.; grade do., 12¾@13¾c. Oxen, 9@13c. Dry cows, 5@6c., gross weight. Bulls, 4@5¾c., gross weight. Mixed herds, 8¾@13c. Yearlings, $18@23 ¾ head.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13¾	12 @13¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	7¾@ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	10 @11¾	10¾@11¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade fair in fair quality cows; no demand for poor. Twenty cows sold at $50@70 ¾ head; 11 do. at $60@75.50 ¾ head; 5 do. at $40@55 ¾ head; 6 do. at $79@92.50 ¾ head; 1 do. at $115—calves always included.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last trade in sheep very slow at 5¼@8c. ¾ lb.; lambs, 7¼@8c. Wednesday, no improvement in trade; sheep sold at 5@6¾c.; lambs not quoted. Thursday, sales dull at 4½@7¼c. ¾ lb.; lambs not on sale. Friday, the markets closed weak at 4¾@7c. ¾ lb. for sheep; lambs, 6¾@7¾c. ¾ lb. Virginia sheep sold at 6¾c. ¾ lb.; Illinois, 5¾@6¾c.; Indiana, 5¾@6¾c.; Michigan, 6¾@7¾c.; Pennsylvania, 6¾@7c.; State, 5¾@6¾c.; Ohio, 5¾@7¾c. Canada, 7@8c. State lambs, 7¾@8c.; Pennsylvania do., 6¾c.

HOGS.—Trade small in live hogs at 7¾@8c. ¾ lb.; city dressed slow or sale at 8¾@9¾c. ¾ lb., ordinary quality; selected quality, light weights, 10@11c. ¾ lb.; Western dressed slow at 8½@8¾c. ¾ lb.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade slow; 22 head, poor quality, light harness horses sold at $50@82 ¾ head; 31 ordinary quality, do., $100@@550 ¾ head. Railroad horses sold at $110@195 ¾ head. Stage horses at $200@275 ¾ head; 15 head of roadsters, with moderate trotting action, at $300@500 ¾ head; 1 pair stylish carriage horses, $1,300; 3 pairs heavy draft horses, $350@900 ¾ pair, fair quality, choice. Thirty-one horses arrived ¾ Erie Railroad, via. Oak Cliff Station.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

FREEMONT is 63.

CARDINAL ANTONELLI is ill.

NILSSON'S husband, M. Rozeaud, is dangerously ill.

BESSIE TURNER'S novel has reached its fifth edition.

HENRI ROCHEFORT is writing a history of New Caledonia.

THE autobiography of President Finney will be published early next year.

BARON ROTHSCHILD was among the passengers sailing for Europe recently.

CARDINAL BONAPARTE has been appointed Camerlingo of the Sacred College.

MISS CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN authorizes a denial of reports that she is seriously ill.

SECRETARY FISH opposes the reduction of force and of salaries in the foreign service.

THE statue of John Winthrop, by Greenough, destined for Washington, has arrived at Boston.

A LIFE of Count Rumford and his complete works will soon be published in England.

MR. W. R. CALLENDER, member of the House of Commons for the city of Manchester, is dead.

MARK TWAIN'S last joke is a desire to be run as an independent candidate for Mayor of Hartford.

M. DE LA ROCHETTE, a Legitimist, who was elected Senator for life by the French Assembly, is dead.

THE Hon. Robert C. Winthrop has been selected as the Centennial orator for the Fourth of July in Boston.

GOV. PECK of Vermont has decided to call a special session of the Legislature to provide for the Centennial.

THE late Viscount Amberley, only son of Earl Russell, completed a theological work a short time before his death.

JUDGE BRIGGS decides that Dr. Helmbold's mind is not in a healthy condition, and that he had best remain in the asylum.

EX-GOV. F. THOMAS of Maryland, was killed by a train at Frankville, a station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Jan. 22.

MR. JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL'S course of lectures at Cornell University next Spring will be on "Early European Literature."

SENATOR ENGLISH has sent a check for $500 to the building committee of the new St. Michael's Episcopal Church at Naugatuck, Conn.

A. WILLIAMS, ex-Mayor of Oakland, Cal., but more recently a resident of New York, died in San Francisco, Jan. 20, at the age of 79.

SENATOR SHERMAN is in favor of Gov. Hayes for the Presidency, and advises Ohio to unite in his favor at the Cincinnati Convention.

URSON County, Ga., claims the champion centennialist. He is a negro named Charles Dubignon, is 125 years old, frisky and vigorous.

PROF. TOWLER has been appointed pro tempore President of Hobart College on account of the recent resignation of Dr. Van Rensselaer.

WITH more zeal than prudence, Miss Mary Meek of Bonaparte, Iowa, assisted in a raid on a liquor saloon, and is now being tried for burglary.

AMERIGO VESPUCCI, the last descendant of the navigator of that name, after whom America was named, died a few days ago near Florence, Italy.

THE Trinity Church in Boston, sets a high estimation on its rector, the Rev. Phillips Brooks, and is said to have insured his life to the amount of about $100,000.

THE statue of Samuel Adams which Massachusetts has ordered for the National Gallery as a companion statue of Winthrop is nearly finished and will reach Boston in April.

DR. LINDENFELD, who proposes to settle a large German colony in Los Angeles Co., Cal., has invited owners of extensive ranches to send him maps and prices of eligible sites.

MRS. and Miss MITCHELL, wife and daughter of the late Dominion Minister of Marine, are assisting in a Methodist revival at Montreal. Both ladies are fervent, fluent speakers.

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, President of the New York Central, Harlem and Lake Shore Railroad companies, has been elected President of the Canada Southern Railroad Company.

ROBERT DALE OWEN writes that his late illness was due to overwork for a period of two years and a-half before the attack, but that he is now in excellent health, better than he has been for five years past.

AN English gentleman has offered $25,000 to the London Missionary Society as the nucleus of a fund for establishing a mission on Lake Tanganyika, with its headquarters at Ujiji, where Stanley met with Livingstone.

THE Rev. Dr. Behrends, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, has resigned his position and withdrawn from the Baptist denomination on account of a change in his views in regard to the question of communion.

EX-PRESIDENT MCLEAN of Princeton College and the Rev. Samuel Alexander of New York were appointed at a recent meeting of the trustees of the College to prepare an epitome of the history of that institution, to be placed in the Centennial Exhibition.

"GENERAL" COE, now living in Van Wert Co., Ohio, was born July 4, 1776. Both parents were massacred by Indians. He served through the war of 1812, and was with Gen. Scott at the capture of Niagara and Fort George. Mrs. Coe, aged 90, and several children ranging from 50 to 70 years of age, are taking care of the veteran.

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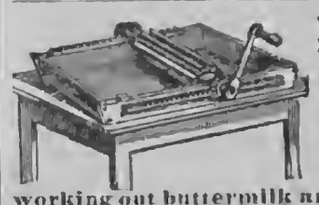
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Presbyterian (John Knox Engraving)	5 90	5 40
The Advance	5 65	4 90
Watchman and Reflector	5 85	4 85
[MISCELLANEOUS.]		
New York Witness	4 15	3 40
" " Sun	3 85	3 35
" " Evening Post	4 15	3 40
" " Tribune	4 65	4 00
" " Nation	7 85	6 85
Chicago Times	4 65	3 90
" Inter-Ocean	4 30	3 60
Cincinnati Commercial	4 80	3 80
" Enquirier	4 65	3 90
" Gazette	4 65	3 90
" Times and Hand-Book	4 75	3 90
Detroit Free Press	4 65	3 90
" Tribune	4 65	3 90
*Louisville Courier-Journal	4 65	3 90
Springfield Republican	4 65	3 95
St. Louis Times	4 15	3 50
Scientific American	5 85	5 20
Toledo Blade	4 65	3 95
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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Troy has two cases of small-pox.

— Nevada has a population of 50,540.

— Utah has one Gentile to five Mormons.

— Goodwin's Hotel at Amherst, N. Y., is burned.

— A Tilton Club has been organized at Auburn.

— Oregon has within its limits 2,752,000 acres of fertile soil.

— Fifty thousand Hebrews carry on business in the United States.

— An additional fine-art building will be put up at the Exposition.

— Illinois has a uniformed and equipped militia force of 3,256 men.

— The wholesale trade of Chicago for the year 1875 was $703,228,000.

— There are five counties in Georgia in which there is not a hired man.

— California's wool clip is expected to reach 50,000,000 pounds next season.

— The Auditor of Kentucky reports the population of the State to be 1,666,525.

— The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, in this State, has now 185 students.

— That was a rum fellow who got mad because Santa Cruz didn't bring him a present.

— Of the 38,000 persons employed in watch making in Switzerland one-third are women.

— The courts of Utah are closed because there is no money to pay witnesses and jurors.

— The canal deposits have been removed from ex-Auditor Thayer's and Jarvis Lord's banks.

— A widow has just died in Rome and left a quarter of a million dollars in cash to the Pope.

— Milwaukee, Wis., keeps 8,607 of the 9,762 children enrolled in attendance on the public schools.

— Probabilities point to New London as the place where the Yale-Harvard race will be rowed.

— If Alaska is annexed to Washington Territory, the latter will have an area of 640,000 square miles.

— The Vatican has decided that it will not resist the inspection of the seminaries by Government officials.

— On Jan. 23, seventy new members were received on probation at the Methodist Church, Lansingburg.

— New Brunswick proposes a canal from the Bay of Fundy to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which is a good idea.

— During the year 1875 the employes and apparatus of the National Lifeboat Association of Great Britain saved 725 lives and 29 vessels.

— An attempt to repeal the compulsory education law in the State of California will be made during the present session of the Legislature.

— Reports to the Controller of the Currency show that the National banks in New York City on Dec. 17, 1875, had $366,237,512.12 of resources.

— The Grand Lodge of F. and A. M. of the State of Michigan, began its annual session at Grand Rapids, Jan. 25. The attendance was very large.

— The production of pig iron in the United States in 1875 was about 2,100,000 tons net, a falling off of 600,000 tons as compared with the previous year.

— Eight pin factories in the United States manufacture 47,000,000 of those useful instruments daily. It is yet to be discovered what becomes of them.

— A girl, one of a bridal party of tourists, was recently blown off the highest cliff of the Giant's Causeway in Ireland, and, of course, instantly killed.

— The City Council of New Orleans has adopted a series of resolutions inviting the Emperor of Brazil to make that city the point of his arrival in the United States.

— The Pearl River Navigation Company is accused of defrauding Mississipi out of 123,000 acres of land, and a suit to compel restitution has been commencee.

— At a leap year party in Wilmington, N. C., recently, Joseph Walters was elected "belle" of the evening, and duly crowned as the Queen of Love and Beauty.

— M. M. Wilson & Co. of Troy, have purchased the Ithaca, N. Y., Glass Works, and will put them in operation again as soon as possible. This is good news for Ithaca.

— The Vermont Legislature will not be convened in special session to make an appropriation for the Centennial, too much opposition to the scheme having been manifested.

— Of the one hundred and seventeen women now studying at the Michigan University, four have chosen law, forty-seven medicine, and fifty-six literature and science.

— Instead of issuing a ruinous amount of bonds to pay for the new Court House, the authorities of Hamilton County, Iowa, have given the contractors 1,360 acres of land in full settlement.

— Chinamen stand by each other in this country. Those employed at shoemaking in North Adams have contributed out of their scanty earnings $347 to defend one who is entangled in law in Nevada.

— Boxes in the new London Opera House have been sold for £10,000 each, the owner to receive five per cent. interest if the profits allow, and to have the use of it during Italian opera seasons only.

— The ladies of Digby, N. S., have succeeded, through voluntary subscriptions and concerts, in raising money enough to light all the principal corners of Digby. The lamps are up and give a good light.

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Miscellaneous.

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LOVE-AGE is the root of marri-age.

A WASTE of "t"—Putting it in depot.

TERRIBLE fellows for napping—Hatters.

SILVER wedding—Marrying a grey beard.

SUGAR wedding—Marrying a candid man.

TIN wedding—The one that pans out well.

FRUITS for balloonists—Currents in the air.

A RELATIVE position—Standing god-father.

WOODEN wedding—Marrying a perfect stick.

THE man who never told a lie has just left town.

DIAMOND wedding—When the "washings" are large."

FOX'S martyrs—Ducks, chickens, turkeys and geese.

A REAL estate man's motto—"Not words, but deeds."

IN these days no lady appears perfectly unruffled.

"TORTUOUS tanglefoot," is the latest euphemism for crooked whisky.

WHEN is soup likely to run out of a saucepan? When there is a leek in it.

THEORY may be all very well, but young doctors and lawyers prefer practice.

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CRYSTAL wedding—When the groom is a miser and the bride is a little vain.

THE young lady who took the gentleman's fancy has returned it with thanks.

THE way for a desolate old bachelor to secure better quarters is to take a "better half."

YOUNG women should set good examples, for the young men are always following them.

THE kind of a gaiter that we don't hanker after is the alligator; there's too much snap to it.

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WHEN a mouse makes its appearance in a ladies' sewing-circle, the women with striped stockings on and the prettiest boots always jump the highest.

"YOUR dress." said a husband to his fashionable wife, "will never please the men." "I don't dress to please men," was the reply, "but to worry other women."

A CYNICAL man insists that the fewer relatives or friends the happier we are. "In your poverty they never help you, in your prosperity they always help themselves."

INEBRIATED gentleman who has fallen down stairs to another who offers to pick him up: "Wharzeuse slobberin' round a fella'? I allus come down stairs that way!"

TRANSMAGNIFICANBANDANDUALITY—To cure the toothache, spell the above word slowly, pronouncing the syllables and then repeating the whole word with a snap; it has never been known to fail.

A FRENCHMAN brought two mugs to the milkman in place of one, as usual, and on being asked the meaning of it, replied, "Dis for te milk, and dis for te water, and I will mix dem so as to suit myself."

A DANDY getting measured for a pair of riding boots, observed. "Make them cover the calf." "Heavens!" exclaimed the shoemaker, astounded, surveying his customer:—"I have not got leather enough."

IT took Sir Isaac Newton less than three years to thoroughly digest the principles of gravitation, while a Rhode Island farmer has spent eleven years trying to find out why a cow never kicks till the pail is nearly two-thirds full.

A LADY who loved Bulwer, entered a book-store just as one of the clerks had killed a large rat. "I wish to see what will he do with it?" she said, to a boy behind the counter. "Well," said the boy, "if you'll step to the window, you will probably see him sling it into the back lot."

STEVE—Say, Julius, wharefore you parts yer wool in de middle? Julius—To perwent compulsion ob de brain, ob course. Steve—Compulsion ob de brain! Wat's dat? Julius—Well, you is a nigorant nigger! Compulsion ob do brain is do forcin' ob de brain from one side ob de head to de oder side ob de brain. Steve—Your 'splanation am sufficiently cl'ar, Julius, but I mus' say dat dis nig don't cl'arly understan' it. Julius—'Cause yer ain't got no edderceation, Steve; yer ain't no stovedoor, if yer name am Steve, an' I ain't got no time to 'splain de science.

"WAITING FOR THE VERDICT."

The German Nurse—"Is it a Cherman or an Enklish Papy?"

The Mamma—"Well, I don't know. You see she was born in England, but my husband is German."

The German Nurse—"Ach, Soh! Zen ve vill vait to see vat Lenkvetch she vill schbeak, and zen ve vill know!"

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THE CLEMATIS.

We have no motive to praise a plant beyond what those glaring merits that are apparent to a majority of disinterested and capable judges would warrant. But it is the easiest thing to become unwittingly prejudiced in favor of a particular plant or class of plants. One taste detects marks of superiority quite invisible to another. Accidental conditions may chance to provide them with every requirement that the most discriminating care could select; while the fulfillment of special needs which renders the mall but invaluable in one place, may prove in other soils and situations wholly inoperative.

With these cautionary remarks before our eyes to guard us against inveterate praise—with the possibility of incurring the disrespect of her or of him who is influenced and disappointed thereby,—we yet assert that the Clematis is the finest hardy plant in cultivation.

The incipient popularity of this plant in England dates from the production of *C. Jackmanni* (thirteen years ago)—a velvety, purplish-blue flower, named after its producer, Mr. Geo. Jackman, who was among the first—if not the first—to start experiments in crossing the several species of this tribe. His splendid results, as well as the results of those who have followed closely upon him, have effected in this plant changes similar to those which, within a very few years, have been wrought in the Gladiolus, Amaryllis,—the Pelargonium, Bouvardia, Begonia, Fuchsia, Rose, etc.—constituting altogether a glorious leap of progress that will long incite to ardent and endless inquiries in a most delicate and ennobling sphere;—a leap that elevates the science of Horticulture and gladdens mankind.

The several heads under which the Clematis has been classified may be abbreviated under (1) those which flower from the old, or last year's, wood, and (2) those which bloom from the new, or current, shoots. Among the former we select the following as best adapted to display the most pleasing characteristics of the section:

Fair Rosamond.—Rosy white; reddish bar in the middle of each sepal; fragrant; six inches in diameter.

Sophia.—Medium-sized flower (5 inches), of a lilac color and yellowish-green bar.

John Gould Veitch.—Double flower; lavender blue.

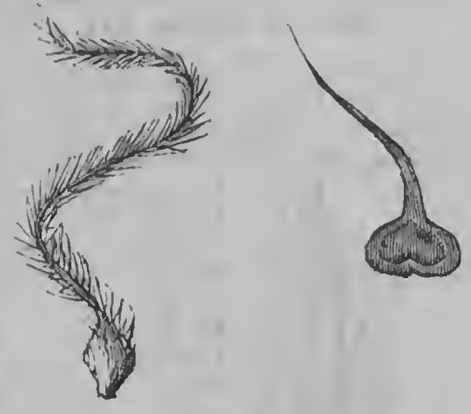
Among the latter, or those that bloom from summer shoots, we select the following:

Henryi.—This bloomed with us in a northern exposure in August, maturing buds after severe frosts. It measured 7 inches across when fully expanded. The sepals are a grayish, glistening white.

Lawsoniana.—Rosy purple; 8 inches in diameter when fully expanded.

Jackmanni.—Though one of the first, is still one of the best. Medium-sized flower, vivid purplish-blue.

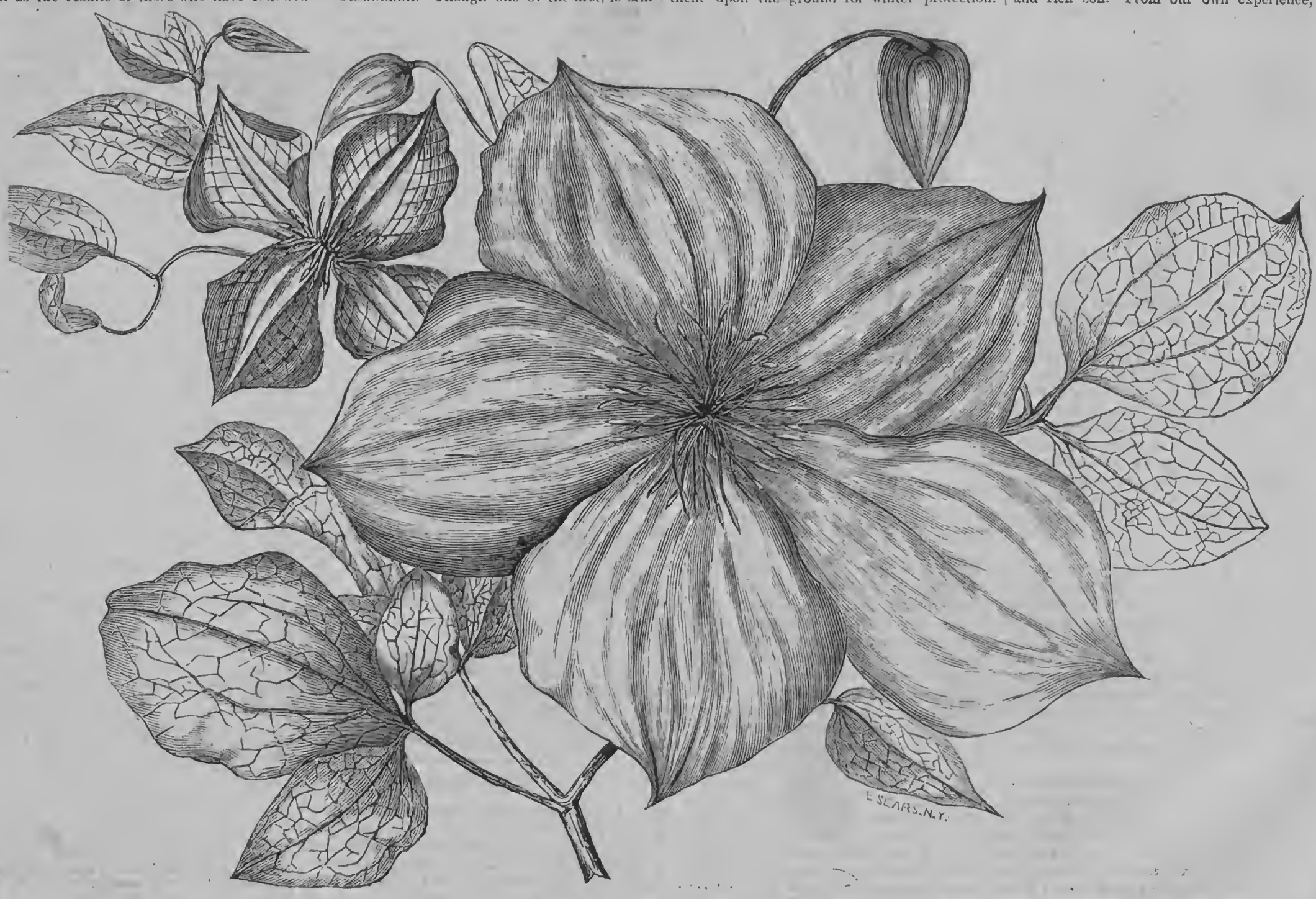
There are other varieties of an intermediate character, such as *Lady Stratford de Redcliffe*, mauve color, large flower, eight-sepaled: *Velutina purpurea*, very dark mulberry; *Henryi* (already referred to), that serve to keep up the bloom uninterruptedly throughout the entire season.



CLEMATIS SEED.

Most of the Clematises are perfectly hardy with us, and the rest so nearly so that with a slight covering they will endure our severest cold. They are rapid growers and cling by the twisting petiole, and not by tendrils. It is, therefore, quite easy to loosen them from the arbor or trellis to which they have been trained and coil them upon the ground for winter protection. The leaves, oftenest in threes, are very variable in size and form. The flowers, except when the outer stamens become petaloid, consist of a calyx only, and the sepals, as we have seen, present a rare and lovely range of colors. The achenia, or fruit, sometimes bears a naked tail, as in the Viticella section; sometimes, as in the Flammula section, a feathery tail, as we have endeavored to show in the smaller cut. *C. Flammula, Viticella, lanuginosa, Florida, Montana*, etc., natives of Africa, Japan and Europe, are the original species from which the cross-breeds of Jackman and others have sprung. *C. verticillaris*, purple flowers 2 inches in diameter; *cylindrica*, nodding, bell-shaped, bluish-purple flowers; *Viorna*, dark-purple, leathery flowers, with very feathery fruit tails: *Pitcheri*, small, bell-shaped flowers, of a dull purple, and *Virginiana*, are all native species. The last is, however, unaccountably, the only one offered by our nurserymen. It grows with coarse, rank rapidity, and is covered about the first of August with a mass of white, star-shaped, short-lived flowers, and is killed to the ground by severe cold. Its chief merit (if it has any) is the brownish, hairy, spirally-tufted fruit-heads (or achenia-tails, *les extremes se touchent*), that finally, from the fertile buds, cover the vine almost as strikingly as did the snowy flowers.

Cultural details need not be given. The Clematis will grow where the grapevine will grow, and like it will be benefited by good treatment and rich soil. From our own experience, we



THE CLEMATIS.—DRAWN FROM NATURE.

should select a peaty soil and a moist situation, if well drained. We should manure heavily, mulch every fall, and prune unsparingly, being careful, of course, to distinguish between the early and late-blooming varieties.

The Clematis is propagated chiefly by layering. In fact, we know of no instance in which cuttings have formed roots. The seeds are very slow to germinate, and will require six months, as a rule, without bottom heat. All the seedlings that we have seen bore narrow-sepaled, inferior flowers, though they may be used, especially *Flammula*, for stocks upon which to graft the finer sorts.

We are thinking that a circular bed of Clematises, arranged as we have to suggest, would prove a feature of the flower garden as lovely as anything that can be imagined. Say that the bed is 15 feet in diameter. Arrange vertical stakes at suitable distances over it—that is, stick them in the ground perpendicularly, the highest in the center, sloping to the perimeter. Connect these stakes with durable cord or wire, either with each other or in confluent lines, and train a well-selected assortment of Clematises thereon. Before the winter sets in the vines might be carefully untwined and spread about the stakes. The ground, sufficiently covered in the spring with hay or newly-cut grass, would retain plenty of moisture for the summer, and would retard, if not suppress, weeds. We should not foster extravagant hopes from this arrangement the first season. Not until the third should we look for the full beauty of these vines, that—forming a hemisphere of festooned verdure, with large flowers of pure white, rose, lilac, light-blue, deep-blue and purple, almost touching over the entire surface—would cause (we are lost for an adequate climax)—would cause the eye to sparkle with delight and the heart to dance for joy!

We need not designate at length any special place or form of culture. Grown in pots in the conservatory or window—in baskets or vases—upon rustic poles, summer houses or old trees—as solitary subjects upon the lawn, tied to single stakes, with cross-bars on the top for a spreading head—in aspects never reached by the sun's rays—for gate-posts, fences, rockeries—it is never ill at ease, and always most vigorously puts on its happiest looks. The price of the later varieties yet interferes with its appearance in every garden; but, that reduced, we cannot doubt that the Clematis will soon be as highly thought of among us as it long has been in England and on the Continent.

Our drawing, which was made expressly for the RURAL NEW-YORKER, gives a not overdrawn representation of the flowers and foliage of the Clematis. E. S. CARMAN.

River Edge, N. J., Jan., 1876.

ACHANIA MALVAVISCUS—PLUMBAGO CAPENSIS.

WE advise those of our readers who have never seen *Achania malvaviscus* to procure it. As a plant for a sitting-room, growing thriftily, needing little care, blooming incessantly, standing dry heat and dust, there are few more satisfactory. We remember a specimen of this plant that fills the whole of a store window in Jackson, Mich., not less than 5 feet wide and 10 feet high. We had occasion to visit that city once or twice a year for several years. We never saw it out of bloom.

The flowers are a bright red, bearing a general resemblance to single *Fuchsias*, an inch or more long, tubular, with the petals more twisted or contorted than in most Malvaceous plants, and a column twice as long as the corolla. The leaves resemble the Sugar Maple, but are softly pubescent. Its growth is so rapid that small plants in the spring will extend over a space four feet in diameter by fall, the branches bending over to the ground from their own weight and that of their ample foliage. In the conservatory they may be trained so as to cover wood-work as readily as a vine and there retained, if so desired, during the entire year; or they may be cut down every spring and planted in the open ground, where, with *Abutilons*, *Pelargoniums*, the double Hollyhocks, etc., they are quite in keeping.

This plant is old but, wherever we have visited, rare. We have seldom met with it either in florists' or private collections, though always admired wherever it exists. It is raised freely from cuttings or seed.

Plumbago capensis, another old plant that we rarely meet, growing beside the *Achania*, and, in common with it, covering pillars or walls, contrasting its lavender blossoms with Achania's, more numerous, though less clustered, brilliant-red flowers, would prove, we fancy, highly pleasing.

The stems of *P. capensis* are rather thick and lined with fine grooves. The true leaf is sessile, two or three inches long, broadly lanceolate, tapering toward the stem more than toward the apex, smooth and undivided. The calyx tube is half an inch long and provided with glandulous hairs, something like the stem of a Moss Rose. The slender tube of the corolla is not thicker than a large pin and nearly two inches long. The flowers are salver-shaped, one inch in diameter, with five divisions. They are borne in spicate umbels, twenty or thirty in number. The color is their striking beauty. We can only describe it as a mixture of lavender and blue of an exquisitely delicate tint. One is tempted to pluck these chaste flowers for bouquets, but they are as perishable as beautiful and wilt under the touch.

It is not a climbing plant, but like Achania, though so different in all other respects, droops from the weight of its long, elastic, thickly-foliaged branches, if unsupported. This plant is admirably adapted to rock-works and luxuriates in almost any soil. It will stand frost, and may be bedded early and left out late.

P. rosea has the same delicacy of color, inclining to rose that *capensis* has, inclining to lilac; but it requires a higher temperature, is more tender and less floriferous.

We cannot recall two plants more suitable for sitting-room corners or vases, window gardens or cool greenhouses than *Achania malvaviscus* and *Plumbago capensis*; and they are the more to be prized for the reason that, after having gladdened the house during the winter, they are ready without rest to continue their usefulness in the garden for the rest of the year.

E. S. CARMAN.

Field Crops.

NEVADA SPRING RYE.

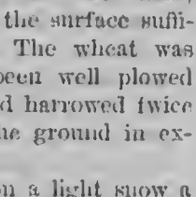
I SEND you inclosed a sample of what is said to be, by the man having it for sale, Spring Rye, and that it was first found growing wild on the Humbold River, in the State of Nevada. It is claimed to be superior for flour to any other rye, and will yield 75 bushels to the acre. As the price for such is about $1 per lb., I would like to be better posted as to its value for market before investing my money in it, and would like to have your opinion on the subject.—B. F. E., *Webster City, Iowa.*

MONTANA SPRING RYE.

A QUANTITY of this identical grain was sent to the Farmers' Club of New York City, in 1869, under the name of Montana Rye. It was noticed in the RURAL, Dec. 18, 1869, accompanied by an illustration of a full-grown head and a specimen of the grain, both natural size, which we give on this page. Soon afterward a party in N. Y. City offered the so-called Montana Rye for sale at $10 per pound. The Agricultural Department at Washington also procured a quantity of this grain and distributed it over the country. We procured a vial full of the "Montana Rye" distributed as above noted, and consequently had no difficulty in identifying your samples, even under a new name. This grain has been pretty thoroughly tested in the Eastern States, and is not considered of any value, being both unproductive and poor in quality. We have been expecting that it would soon turn up again, for such things usually come around about every half-dozen years, no matter how worthless they prove to be. Of course the story in regard to this grain having been first found growing wild on the Humboldt River in Nevada is a trumped-up falsehood, to be used in making some persons believe that it is a new variety of rye of American origin. But the facts of the case are that this grain is not rye at all, but an old variety of what is called in Europe "Turgid-eared Wheat" (*Triticum turgidum*).

It is a very large, coarse kind of wheat, making only a poor quality of flour. But in cool climates, where the more delicate and soft-grained varieties of spring wheat fail, this may prove of considerable value. The grains and heads are much larger than our common sorts of spring wheat, and wherever it thrives it yields more per acre; but the 75 bushels claimed is about 30 too much, even in Montana, where it appears to succeed as well as anywhere else in the world.

If the farmers in Wisconsin, Minnesota and other Northwestern States have not already tried this wheat, it would be well for them to do so, for it may prove to be of some value even for feeding stock, if not for bread.



GRAINS OF RYE.

A dollar per pound is rather a high price for seed, still it is not necessary for a farmer to invest more than a pound to begin with, and this amount will not be likely to send him into bankruptcy even should it be lost.

CLOVER A PAYING CROP.

SOUTHERN farmers, as well as Northern, are learning that clover lies at the basis of all good farming. It has been believed by some that clover would not succeed in the South. This we think a mistake. There is one danger to Northern clover fields from which Southern farmers are exempt—*i. e.* that of winter-killing, and this probably offsets, in most cases, the danger from severe hot and dry weather in summer. Clover has a deep root and if that once strikes down it is not easily destroyed by drouth, where the soil is rich enough to encourage vigorous growth and retain moisture. A correspondent of the Rural Sun gives the following experience with clover on a field of 20 acres of scarcely average land which would not produce 10 bushels of wheat per acre:

In 1871 I sowed this twenty acres with wheat, taking particular care to leave the surface sufficiently smooth for mowing. The wheat was sown after the ground had been well plowed with a large two horse plow and harrowed twice with an iron harrow, leaving the ground in excellent order.

In March, 1872, I sowed upon a light snow a gallon of clover seed per acre. In April of the same year I applied one thousand pounds of land plaster. The seeds and plaster cost twenty-two dollars and fifty cents, or a little over one dollar per acre. The crop of wheat yielded a little less than ten bushels per acre. After the wheat had been taken off, the clover afforded a fine pasture for many months. In 1873 the field was mowed, and produced, as near as I could estimate, forty tons of hay. I sold twenty-five tons at $12 per ton, the purchaser doing the labor of loading.

The second crop of the same year produced several bushels of seed, besides a splendid pasturage for the remainder of the year. In 1874 the field was pastured heavily, and the summer being hot and dry I thought the clover was killed out. In October of that year the field was closely plowed, sowed with wheat and the land well harrowed. Every one knows that money was very scarce in the spring of 1875, and thinking my clover killed out I was very much troubled about getting clover seed. Upon examination I found the clover coming up quite thick enough for a good stand. I applied land plaster the same as before, about one thousand pounds to the twenty acres.

The wheat crop in 1875 yielded over twenty bushels to the acre all over the field. Four acres were measured off and the yield accurately measured, producing one hundred bushels. The same four acres were in cotton in 1870, and the wheat sown in 1871 yielded scant ten bushels; showing an increase of fifteen bushels per acre in favor of clover cultivation. After the wheat was taken off in 1875, I cut from the same field a ton of clover hay per acre, and all who see it say it is excellent hay. After the hay crop was taken off it afforded a good pasture until Christmas, and now shows an excellent stand.

My outlay for seed and plaster has been less than forty dollars, and if nothing uncommon occurs in the season I do not expect to sow any clover seed on that field for a number of years, and expect the land to become richer every year.

I want to make a few figures to show what that field has produced since I prepared it for clover:

Wheat crop in 1872, 200 bushels, at $1.50 per bush..	$300
Forty tons of clover hay in 1873, at $12 per ton....	480
Clover seed in 1873.....	20
Pasturage in 1873.....	75
Pasturage in 1874.....	125
Wheat, 400 bushels in 1875, at $1 per bush.....	400
Ten tons of hay in 1875.....	100
Pasturage in 1875.....	50
Total.....	$1,550

I have said nothing about expenses, which are not as much as would have been had it been cultivated in any other crops; besides the land is very greatly improved in fertility.

I wish some cotton advocate to make as good a showing for the past four years if it can be done. No manure has been applied to this field.

WHITE CLOVER.

IN the United States this fine, nutritious grass is not valued as it should be. All the best pastures in England and also the best meadows and upland mowings of old grass land, have more or less of it, for it makes a thick bottom and adds to pasture or to the hay, and is decidedly good for sheep and for butter or cheese, and is sown on all arable land which is not strong enough to grow good red clover. For instance, I farmed on the borders of the Cotswold Hills and had arable fields in the valley running to the heading of the river Stour and up the incline to the top of the hills and there were about 520 acres, all arable, on the hills. In the valley I planted all red clover each time the rotation came round, planting up after one year on the side of the hill. I sowed red clover, white clover and rye grass mixed, but on the top substituted trefoil for red clover, sowing a bushel of rye grass seed, eight pounds of white clover and six pounds of trefoil. There were about 500 acres of old grass land in the valley and some on the slope at the commencement of the rise to the hills, which was never plowed in the memory of the then generation, and white clover was prominent as one of the great number of grasses which run to as many as 70 varieties. It is a very valuable grass and always shows green on well grazed grass land and is the main stay on lawns, and is benefitted by having sheep lie on it, hence the penning of sheep over public parks in England and in the Central Park in New York.

It is a great mistake to suppose that white clover is an inferior grass, for in reality it is the lack of this and a few other fine-fibered grasses in pastures which cause the cheese made in the United States to sell for less than the English. In England cheese is always made from cows which graze on old pastures which abound in short herbage, among which white clover is more or less to be found. Sheep do well on it and it invariably thickens when they are pastured, and it is the chief cause of permanent grass wearing out that sheep are not always grazed at some period of the year. A thick-set, short pasture is far better than tall herbage and shades the roots better for, as I have said many times before, in villages and on road sides where many varieties of animals graze close, there will be seen a green living face which continues to spring up daily and still look sweet and be eaten eagerly by horses, goats, swine and geese, while in the farmer's field near by will be seen long grass dried up brown and unpalatable with no green bottom herbage. Yet men will persist in saying there should be long grass left uneaten to shade the ground. When sheep are as numerous as they are in England and old-established grass is understood, white clover will not be slighted, and when the old pastures are occasionally mowed, it will be found this despised white clover will give an extra half ton per acre of the sweetest fattening sheep hay. A WORKING FARMER.

NEW VARIETIES OF POTATOES.

THE Editor of the Massachusetts Ploughman describes some new varieties of potatoes. Omitting the Brownell's Beauty, as it is better known than the others, we copy the description of Essex Seedling and Gillis' Prolific, varieties with which we have had no experience. It may be added that the Brownell's Beauty in 1874 rotted so badly as hardly to be worth gathering. The Essex Seedling were planted in 1874 with the Early Rose, and looked so much like them that at harvest the two varieties were not distinguishable. The Editor continues:

"Last spring we tried the Essex again from seed received through the same party, and took care to know for a certainty just where to look for them at digging time, and so well did they yield that, if we could have full confidence in any potato from only one year's trial, we should plant nothing else next year. They look, for all that we can discover, exactly like the Early Rose in every respect, only that they yielded a great deal better and the tubers were larger, smoother and more uniform. The color and shape of the two kinds are as nearly alike as could well be imagined. All visitors who have seen the tubers want a few to try, and our half-barrel will all be planted next spring, and, if they do as well another season as they have the past, we shall be forced to admit that the Early Rose, which has been the most valuable acquisition to the farmer we have ever known in this direction, has a rival with which it will be hard to compete for the public favor. The quality for the table is not enough unlike the Early Rose to require special notice.

"Gillis' Prolific is the name of a new late white potato from N. F. Safford & Son, Mt. Safford Stock and Seed Farm, Salem, Washington Co., N. Y. A single potato of this variety was received in a wrapper that was in such bad condition, owing to rough usage in the mail bags or elsewhere, that we should never have known to whom we were indebted but for a note recently received from the sender. The one potato was cut to single eyes and produced over a peck of good eating potatoes, and with only ordinary field culture. It is a good table potato, but as a market variety would fail to suit many who fancy that a potato, to be good, should have a colored skin. The public demand varies about this fancy of color in different markets, and neither a white nor a red potato should be condemned *in toto* because of its color. Practically, that potato is most desirable which will yield the greatest quantity of smooth, fair-sized, good table potatoes under fair culture.

The Herdsman.

SUGAR BEETS FOR MILCH COWS.

Just looking over the article in your issue of Jan. 1st, under the head of "Diary of a Ruralist," I find that he complains of the shrinking of at least 50 per cent. in the quantity of his cow's milk, from feeding her sugar beets: and he then asks, "Are they good feed for milch cows?"

For myself, I will answer, unhesitatingly, yes, better to produce an abundant flow of rich milk than any roots I ever fed, except parsnips; and especially far superior to turnips, being exactly the reverse of his experiment in feeding. I am satisfied something else is to blame in this, other than the beets; for whenever, for upwards of 30 years past, I have invariably cultivated the sugar beet and fed it largely to all sorts of my domestic animals, with the exception of hard working horses, both raw and cooked, and have ever found it highly beneficial for them.

No longer ago than last November, our family cow began to shrink somewhat in her milk, when we were feeding hay with additional mess night and morning of Indian meal and wheat bran half and half, with a pint of oil meal. I then directed most of this mill feed to be stopped, and in place of it, ordered a peck of sugar beets for the cow night and morning. On this change of food she began to increase her milk, and in a few days gave the same quantity that she had done previously when on pasture, and before being put up in the stable on hay and mill feed.

Sugar beets must necessarily be superior feed to all domestic animals, and especially to such as are giving milk, for they abound in saccharine juice; and to show their value for feeding purposes, as well as for making sugar, I will refer to several analyses recently made of them in England, reported on pages 24 and 25 of the London Agricultural Gazette of Jan. 3rd. These give a trifle over 7 to 14 per cent. of sugar, and over 12 to 20 per cent. of solid matter. In our drier and hotter climate, I should suppose the average percentage of sugar and solid matter would be increased in the beet crop; but this would depend much on the size of the roots and the soil where grown. To produce roots of the best quality, they ought not to be grown in too rich a soil, like that of river bottoms or the most fertile of prairies, nor should they be manured too highly in a poor soil; and what is of still more importance, probably, they ought to be grown standing so closely together in the rows, as not to exceed 5 to 6 lbs. in weight each. I prefer them even less than this, say 4 to 5 lb. on the average. I would not give a dime per bushel for great, overgrown roots weighing 15 to 20 lbs. each. I have occasionally grown detached roots of this weight, and for stock feeding found them little better than white oak chips. In fact, neither my pigs, sheep nor cattle would touch them cut up raw and placed before them, so long as they could find anything else decent to eat; while roots of a proper size they would devour with avidity, and grow fat or give great messes of milk from them.

I would suggest to "A Ruralist" to try sugar beet feeding again to his cow, but in so doing supervise the thing himself, and not trust it to any one else, as I have found that my man JOHN, as well as JACK and BILL occasionally made *mistakes* in one way, or another. A. B. ALLEN.

MEAL AND HAY FOR FATTENING STOCK.

"An Old Farmer" who has been accustomed to feed and fatten a few animals, has recorded a small item of his practice in regard to feeding raw meal against cooked meal. He writes:

"My practice in fattening beef and swine, as well as feeding cows for milk, has been to pour boiling water on as much meal as would not make the animal's bowels move too freely, at night, and in the morning; when the mush is cool, give it to the cow or pig. In covering the meal with boiling water in this way, the starch of the grain is dissolved, and the latent nutritive properties extracted, and the animal receives the entire nutriment of the grain. I have for two years past fatted two ordinary sized cows, feeding only hay, and only 300 pounds each of the former, and each yielded upwards of 40 lbs. of rough tallow. Salt was given once a week, and occasionally a tablespoonful of wood ashes. In my experience 100 pounds scalded and fed as above is equal to 200 pounds fed dry."

Live stock do not, in eating dry meal, receive more than one-half of the goodness of the meal, or there would not be so many farmers as he knows who feed from 4 to 8 quarts of meal a day to one beef creature, till they feed from 7 to 10 cwt. of meal to one animal. Those farmers never slaughter an ordinary sized beef that yields upwards of 40 pounds of rough tallow.

SCRUBS vs. GRADES.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Utica Herald, has been experimenting as to the relative profitableness of scrub and grade cattle. Probably he does not believe in scrubs much after such an experience as he reports. He says:—Two years ago I purchased 100 calves. They were of all grades, from scrubs to high grades. At the same time I had a few refuse thoroughbred calves that were not such as I desired to keep as breeders, and consequently turned them out and wintered them with the lot I had purchased. They were so kept until a few weeks since, (all together,) when fifty-one choice steers were selected and sold. Two thoroughbred Short-Horns were included. The lot averaged 1,370 lbs. The Short-Horns were again weighed, to see how they compared. One weighed 1,570, and the other 1,600 pounds, or about 14 per cent. more than the average of the whole lot, including themselves. One of the scrubs was then re-weighed, and made 1,150, or about 28 per cent. less than the Short-Horns This lot were all three old steers, and had the same fare from calves. The purchaser of these cattle placed the value of the Short-Horns at $1,-50 above the value of these common steers, which at least would be 30 per cent. Now 30 per cent. in value and 28 per cent. in size would make 58 per cent. in favor of the Short-Horns. This advantage is due entirely to the superiority of the Short-Horns as a breed, their keep being the same from calves. And this is not quite all; for a part of the scrubs are yet unsold, not being fit for market.

Dairy Husbandry.

THE VERMONT DAIRYMEN.

THE Vermont Dairymen held their Convention this year at Rutland, Jan. 19-21. The sessions during the last two days were well attended and the papers and discussions throughout were interesting and valuable.

Hon. E. D. MASON, the President, in his opening address, urged that young people be trained to accurate and careful work in their occupation. Success turns upon training, upon precision, upon patient practice. Every young man and young woman needs to know how to do something well, and this can be learned only by drill, persevering application to one thing. In conclusion, he recommended that farmers should hold on to their farms and dairies, and by industry and economy the "hard times" could be bridged over and we should again emerge into prosperity.

Mr. H. M. KENNEDY was introduced to the audience and read an interesting letter from a gentleman traveling in Switzerland, describing the manufacture of Swiss cheese

Mr. W. BLUNDING of New York explained his method of manufacturing cheese, which differs from the usual factory system, only in that he skimmed the night's vats of milk in the morning for butter making. He conducts 14 factories on this plan, and has been very successful. Mrs. W. T. ELSWORTH also read a concise and practical paper on "Butter Dairying."

At the evening session the time was mostly occupied in discussing Centennial matters, and the raising of a fund to meet expenses for a proper display of dairy goods at the exhibition. Liberal contributions to the Centennial Fund were received.

THURSDAY'S SESSIONS.

The meeting opened with a paper by HARRIS LEWIS of Herkimer on "Dairy Stock." He gave the leading characteristics of the several breeds usually employed in American dairies and their defects and good qualities were clearly pointed out. In conclusion, he said he knew of no breed of cattle that, for the food consumed, will produce so much milk, butter, cheese and beef as the Short-Horn. Dairymen may at small expense improve their herds by crossing natives with some valuable breed. Select small animals for steep hillsides and large animals for level or point-like surfaces.

INFLUENCE OF BUTTER FACTORIES.

W. L. RUTHFORD of St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., read a paper on "Butter Factories." His conclusions were that these increase the cost of manufacture and discourage the improvement of stock for butter dairying, because the cows that yield the most milk do not always produce the most butter, and as each patron is credited at the factory with the *quantity*, not the quality of milk delivered, cows are sought that will give a large quantity of milk, regardless of quality. The quantity of milk required to make a pound of butter varies from eight to forty pounds. He was opposed to butter factories because the patrons will not strive to improve their herds for butter production. In his own dairy during the past year, the herds made an average of 261 pounds of butter per cow in 9½ months, besides raising calves and supplying two families with milk. The average was 15 pounds of milk to make a pound of butter. With some cows in the highest flow of milk, it takes 46 pounds milk to make a pound of butter. The cream from the milk of Jerseys and Guernseys is more easily churned and makes a firmer and more highly flavored butter.

Mr. L. S. HARDIN followed with a paper on his improvement of the Swedish system of butter making, an account of which has appeared in these columns

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

The above was the title of a valuable paper by Hon. T. S. GOLD of Connecticut. He said the Texan cattle disease had cost the country millions of dollars. Champaign Co., Ill., in one year lost 3,554 head of cattle, valued at $45 each. In Cheshire County, Eng., 3,671 cattle died in one year of rinderpest, and Great Britain has lost by disease cattle to the amount of 100,000,000 pounds sterling. From a disease in Egypt 800,000 oxen and as many sheep and goats were lost, ⅔ths of which were thrown into the Nile, filling it so that at one time a dog could cross on the carcasses without wetting his paws. Pleuro-pneumonia had a long incubation in Brooklyn before it made its appearance in cattle, and—through the practice of inoculation in the tail to prevent it—came to be known as the "stump tail disease." The only safeguard against cattle disease is the power to inspect seaport regions and suppress all found infected. He explained the different laws in each of the New England States on this matter. Connecticut had a commission to whom was given the power to enter premises and to quarantine the infected stock. Vermont, from her isolated position, had suffered less than other New England States, but the State should be prepared for the outbreak of disease.

Prof. CRESSY of Amherst, Mass., gave an address in which he urged the importance of education of some farmers' boys to be veterinary surgeons. It was a great advance to put physiology in schools and now veterinary surgery ought to be one of the compulsory studies in college. The New England cow doctor is generally the most ignorant person in his region, and he gave some amusing illustrations of his practice. He said there was a vast amount of disease among cattle not dreamed of. He had known a cow's lungs from tubercular disease to weigh 75 pounds that in a healthy state would weigh only seven or eight. He referred to the unhealthfulness of the meat of animals afflicted with consumption and other diseases.

THE CENTENNIAL.

At the evening session Mr. B. LANDRETH of Philadelphia, the Superintendent of the Agricultural Department of the Centennial Exhibition, was introduced and gave a detailed history of the organization of the Centennial Commission and the legislation of Congress in reference to the Exhibition.

Mr LANDRETH answered various questions put to him by members of the association in reference to the Exhibition, and a general discussion was had, in which Dr. GOLDSMITH, E. S. DANA, Col. HALLEY, X. A. WILLARD, HARRIS LEWIS, O. S. SEARTER, Col. JOHN B. MEAD and others participated.

The Committee in their report favored the exhibition of dairy products, and that sufficient funds may be guaranteed to make the enterprise a success. It recommended also that aid should be asked from the State.

FRIDAY'S SESSION.

The first paper in the morning was read by Gov. E. H. HYDE of Connecticut, in which he gave a brief history of the progress in agriculture. This was followed by an address from X. A. WILLARD of New York on "The Philosophy of Curing Cheese."

Mr. A. W. CHEEVER of Massachusetts, read a paper on the improvement of pastures. He said more feed can be produced from one acre with ten varieties of grass than from ten acres with one variety. He urged, therefore, that when grounds are seeded for pasture, a great variety of seeds should be sown. Pastures may be kept in good condition for many years, if not overstocked. He urged an unceasing warfare upon weeds. Thistles can be killed by cutting the stalks before the bloom. Understocking also injures pastures, because the rank growth of grass left by stock runs to seed. The grass should be fed as it grows.

Mr. CURTIS of Syracuse closed with a paper in which he gave a general review of different theories in regard to butter making which had been presented at the various conventions during the winter.

The Secretary, Mr. O. S. BLISS, was indefatigable in his labors to make the convention a success. The discussions were animated and well sustained, and all went away highly pleased with the result of the meeting.

FANCY SHIPPING CHEESE OF HERKIMER COUNTY.

THE following is the process for making "gilt-edged" fancy cheese for the London market at one of the most noted factories of Herkimer Co., N. Y.:—In warm weather during summer, the milk is cooled by running water under the vats to a temperature of 70 deg. Fahr. The water is then turned off for the night and the agitator kept moving very slowly until morning. If the weather is cool in summer the water is turned off when the milk has fallen to a temperature of 74 deg. In the morning the temperature of the milk ranges about 64 deg. Fahr. Mr. FAIRCHILD, the manager, says he does not want the temperature of the milk to have fallen below 64 deg. in the morning because, when this is the case, the milk is too sweet or has not sufficiently ripened for his method of cheese making. In summer the milk is raised to a temperature of 82 deg. Fahr., and a sufficient quantity of good, sweet rennet added to produce coagulation so it will be fit to cut in one hour. The coagulation should be carried so far as to have the mass break smooth and clear on introducing the finger and raising it.

Then the curds are cut lengthwise of the vat with a gang of steel knives, and allowed to remain at rest for a space of ten minutes. They are now cut crosswise, and immediately after this operation the horizontal knives are used to divide the perpendicular columns of curd, and when this is completed no more cutting is allowed. Heat is now immediately applied to the mass, and its temperature is raised slowly or gradually until it reaches 98 deg. In the meantime, the curds are very carefully moved with the hands and the particles of curd are about ⅝ths of an inch through. Water is used under the vats for heating, and this is regarded as better than dry steam. When the mass has reached a temperature of 98 deg., heat is shut off; but in equalizing the temperature of the water under the vat and the curds, the latter will run up to about 100 deg. The curds are now stirred for from ten to fifteen minutes and very slowly, or until the heat is all equalized through the mass. Then the curds are left at rest—the cheese maker's office being to watch and stir the curds occasionally until the acid begins to develope. It generally takes about an hour for the acid to develope sufficiently during hot weather, and when this point is reached which is indicated by the odor, or if the hot iron is employed the curds should only spin threads about ⅝ths of an inch long. At this point, which must be determined correctly by the cheese maker, the whey is immediately drawn and the curds dipped into the sink. They are here stirred until the whey is all out, when salt is applied at the rate of three pounds salt to 1,000 pounds of milk.

A proportion of annattoine is used during summer in the milk, as the London dealers to whom the cheese goes on orders, require a colored cheese. The annattoine proportion is after WHITMAN & BURRELL'S recipe, and takes one teacupful for 1,000 pounds of milk. This gives the desired shade and suits the London trade exactly.

In spring and fall, when the patrons are allowed to skim a portion of the milk, the process of manufacture is varied, and is as follows: The milk is set at a temperature of 84 deg., and a quantity of rennet added sufficient to produce coagulation completely in 40 minutes. It is then cut in the same way as for whole-milk cheese and the mass raised to a temperature of 96 deg., which ultimately runs to 98 deg. in equalizing the temperature of the water and curds. The late fall cheese is salted at the rate of 2¼ to 2½ lbs. salt to 1,000 lbs. of milk and the winter cheese gets only two lbs. For this character of cheese he does not want so much development of acid as for the summer make. When under the hot iron test the acid is far enough developed when you can just perceive the strings to start on withdrawing the loops of curd from the iron. In winter he regards it important to draw the whey as quickly as possible and get the curds in the hoop rapidly.

SKIMMED MILK—VALUE WHEN FED.

It is a question often discussed by dairymen whether they can afford to feed skimmed milk to animals, and any experiments showing its value must be a help to form opinions and guide future action on this subject. At the recent Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Dairymen's Association, Mr. I. H. WANZER made a statement giving the result of his experiment in feeding skimmed milk. On the 10th of November he took five calves whose united weight was 257 pounds, and five shoats whose united weight was 487 pounds. The calves were fed 30 days on skimmed milk, consuming 420 gallons, and gained during the 30 days 300 pounds. In the same length of time the hogs consumed 480 gallons and gained 173 pounds. He concludes from this that the hogs are worth 6c. per pound; the milk is worth as food for hogs at the rate of 2⅓c. per gall. The calves, on the basis of being worth 4c. per pound, would make the milk worth 2⅔c. per gallon. The value then of skimmed milk when fed to animals, he thinks is at least 2½c. per gallon.

Now if we should assume that a gallon of skimmed milk would, on an average, make ⅝ths of a pound of cheese, and if it cost 1@1½c. to manufacture and furnish it for market, then the ⅝ pound of cheese would cost 4c., or at the rate of about 5c. per pound. In other words, skimmed milk, when fed to animals yielding at the rate of 2½c. per gallon, would give the dairymen the same amount of money that it would if made into skimmed cheese at 5c. per pound.

If our reasoning and figures are correct, the relative value of skimmed milk for feeding or for cheese making can be easily determined and the profits from one or the other procedure will depend upon the price obtained for the cheese in market. It will be proper to say, however, in this connection, that Mr. WANZER puts a higher value on skimmed milk for feed than that obtained by some other experimenters.

Pomological.

WHY?

If a person asks about fruit planting and what varieties to plant, we almost invariably see recommended the Wilson Albany Strawberry, the Concord Grape, the Bartlett Pear, &c. Now, why is it? In this section the Concord Grape is almost always below par in quality and is often worthless; on the other hand, the Delaware is always of good quality, above most others, and its yield is greater than that of any other grape known here, except the Clinton. I know some claim that the Delaware is not successful on as wide a locality as the Concord, but from all I have read or can gather from private correspondence, I find, as a rule, that where the Delaware fails it is through lack of proper soil, the land is too light or poor, and the grower is too heedless or ignorant to enrich it properly. I have the past fall seen Delawares growing and bearing in a light, sandy soil on a gravel subsoil; but the owner had put plenty of muck in the hills and made the ground rich.

You need not think that the seasons are so short here that we cannot grow any other grapes, for one grower has the Isabella, and he gathers full crops about four years in five, and of the Delaware he has failed to get a full crop only once in twenty years.

We have now only the Clinton and Delaware, but propose to set in the spring the following: 800 Delaware, 50 Concord, 50 Eumelan, 50 Salem, 30 Lindley, 30 Wilder, 30 Agawam, 30 Janesville, 30 Worden, 30 Barry, 30 Diana, 10 Croton, 10 Walter, 10 Creveling, 10 Massasoit.

If you can give us any hints on the distance apart of planting, &c., you will oblige us. We thought of setting the rows six feet apart, and the plants—strong growers, eight feet apart: weak, six feet apart.

On strawberries, the largest crop of Wilson's I know of is that of J. M. Smith of Green Bay, three miles from here. From one-quarter of an acre he gathered 111 bushels and 19 quarts, or at the rate of 446 bushels and 12 quarts per acre. His soil is sandy. Now, Mr. J. Knox raised fine varieties, such as Jucunda, Triomphe de Gand and Fillmore, at the rate of from 300 to 500 bushels per acre. His soil was a clay. Now, why should we, on a heavy soil, bother with that poor, sour excuse for a berry when we can grow such fine ones with just as good prospect of success?

In raspberries we usually depend on the Philadelphia, as it is only about once in three years that we can sell at a paying price, owing to the wild ones with which the market is flooded, and the blackberry season, which follows. Blackberries (wild) often sell for two cents per quart on the streets during the hight of the season. However, for home use, a few of Brinckle's Orange and Fastolff may be grown, and by bending down and pegging fast, so that they will be covered with snow, they will bear well and thrive.

If I was to advise any one what to plant in this section, it would be:—Delaware Grape, Jucunda, Triomphe de Gand, Nicanor, Wilson, Charles Downing, Kentucky and Green Prolific, Strawberries, Red Dutch Currant, Houghton Gooseberry, Philadelphia Raspberry, Flemish Beauty Pear, Lombard Plum, Kentish Cherry and Tetofsky, Duchess of Oldenberg, Haas, Famense, Plumb's Cider, Alexander, St. Lawrence, Pewaukee and Northern Spy Apple.

A. M. Van Auken.

Fort Howard, Wis., Dec. 28, 1875.

There is no reason excepting habit for recommending for universal use inferior varieties of fruits, and experiments such as our correspondent is making should be inaugurated in every locality to decide what good varieties are best adapted to it. His list for Wisconsin is a valuable contribution to our pomological knowledge of that State and for Wisconsin, on his recommendation, we heartily indorse the advice to "plant Delawares," instead of the thousand times repeated advice to every locality to "plant Concord." We have no ill will toward the latter variety, but the unceasing recommendation of it everywhere is becoming monotonous. Let us try something else for a while for a change. As for strawberries, something is to be said for the much-abused Wilson. Its "sourness" especially adapts it to canning, and when well ripened Wilson has a good flavor and is not too sour for many fastidious palates.

POTASH IN FRUIT GROWING.

Failure of a fruit crop may result from a variety of causes, prominent among which are attacks of insects; but unhealthfulness in the tree itself indicates that the soil has lost some fertilizing substance essential to the growth of the tree. Most manures applied to orchards are mainly carbonaceous; but, excepting for their influence in ameliorating the soil, it is doubtful if carbonaceous manures are of much value. Carbon is supplied by the atmosphere in unlimited quantities, and it is probable that the carbon which composes most of the wood comes to the tree through the leaves. Not so with the ash, the mineral substance which remains after burning can only come through the soil, and, as the tree becomes larger, the soil gradually loses in this element until it becomes nearly barren. Possibly the injury of trees to soil, aside from their shade and abstraction of moisture, may be remedied by supplying these mineral elements—potash, lime, sulphuric and phosphoric acid.

AMERICAN HAY TEDDER.

The subject is well worth a trial. There can be no doubt that the vigor and healthfulness of the tree itself requires one or more, or perhaps all, of these elements.

Fruit bearing trees especially are subjected to an unusually heavy strain, like in degree to that which the domesticated animal sustains in comparison with what it does in the wild state. The wild hen of India's jungles lays only a few eggs, where the domesticated hen lays hundreds. Wild cattle suckle their young only a few weeks; but the domesticated cow is required to produce a much larger supply of milk and continue it, often ten, twelve or more months at a time. Trees in woods bear very little fruit. In the fierce struggle for existence among dense masses of verdure, nature gives every effort to producing vigor and luxuriance of trunk and foliage. A cultivated, fully-grown apple tree will often yield ten barrels of apples per year, and this means exhaustion—not of carbon or sap, but of mineral elements. The stone fruits, such as peach, plum and cherry, are rich in potash, and when many successive crops are produced no wonder the trees begin to fail.

Thousands of old cherry trees are dying in many localities through no natural disease, but from sheer starvation for potash, lime or phosphoric acid. Is it not possible that the early rotting of peaches, and possibly of other fruits before they reach perfection, may be due to the same cause? We have heard of a man who has grown Hale's early peach successfully, and not been troubled by early rot; but he used wood ashes freely around his peach trees. In some localities Hale's Early rots badly, and in others no complaint is found. May the difference in results not be owing to variation in the mineral elements of soils? These are interesting questions, and we hope experiments will be made to give them a satisfactory answer. It is quite safe to apply mineral fertilizers of almost any kind to old orchards, with a strong prospect of improving their productiveness. This much of practical value is pretty well settled. As for the theories to explain the facts we can well afford to wait for them.

Industrial Implements.

THE HOLBROOK SWIVEL PLOW.

For farmers in hilly localities the swivel or reversible plow is almost a necessity. It has often occurred to thousands of others whose fields were level and easily tilled, that it would be a great convenience to have a plow which would make the field in one land with smooth surface and not a ridge or dead furrow. Various difficulties have attended the making of such plows: but we believe they have all been removed, and the swivel plow as now made does its work well and works with equal ease in turning the furrow right or left. Messrs. Everett & Small, 10 South Market St., Boston, Mass., are the successors to F. F. Holbrook & Co., in the manufacture of the well known Holbrook Swivel Plow, which has received the hearty commendation of practical farmers in every section of the country. As soon as the success of this plow is understood by the mass of farmers, it is destined to come into very general use, not perhaps superseding others, but as specially adapted to certain soils and localities. The old objection to swivel plows that they run on edge too much and were difficult to hold, is entirely removed by the new movable cutter, and with this improvement the swivel plow becomes, at least, equal to any other for ordinary level plowing, and superior for side hill culture. Messrs. Everett & Small have all the patterns for this plow, and can at any time promptly furnish extra parts or repairs, should any thing be broken. Farmers interested in this subject should send to them for circulars giving further particulars.

THE AMERICAN HAY TEDDER.

It is often important, especially in such a "catching" season as last summer, that hay should be got into barn as soon as possible after cutting. The mowing machine, cutting down eight, ten or twelve acres per day, may only become so much greater loss unless equal facilities are provided for seasoning it. The Hay Tedder and Sulky Rake are companion pieces in the hay harvest with the Mower and Horse Hay Fork. With these the severe labor of an old-fashioned haying is reduced to its minimum and the season becomes in reality, as too enthusiastic poets have long described it, one of sport and gayety. Believing that many of our readers would wish to procure a Hay Tedder, we have included it in our Premium List and will furnish one costing $80 for eighty subscribers at club rates or sixty at $2.65 each. The machine is strongly and simply made, and can be driven by a small boy without difficulty.

The Poultry Yard.

HENS—LARGE EATERS VS. SMALL.

I must differ with your correspondent upon this subject, page 10. Fowls that eat most *are not* the most profitable to keep. Some breeds (Brahmas in particular) are disposed to overeat to such an extent that their food is not fully digested, consequently there must be waste. Their lazy habits are against them.

Are cattle, sheep, hogs and horses that eat the most the most profitable also? Does the man that swallows the most food do the most work? Or is poultry the only kind of stock to which this rule applies? Again your correspondent is mistaken as regards Houdans and Leghorns not laying in the winter months. Either will lay equally as well as the Brahmas, or at least they do with me. The amount of food required to raise one Brahma hen to two years old will raise two Leghorns to the same age, and the chances are you will get double the number of eggs. While eggs sell by count large eggs are not so very desirable for market. If poultry is raised for the meat, then the Brahmas are a desirable breed.

Syracuse, N. Y. Nelson Ritter.

COOK YOUR POULTRY FOOD

In part, and feed it, at least, once a day this cold weather (in the morning is the better time), while it is hot. Mix with this soft feed, which should be composed of meal and vegetables, a little salt, and occasionally a small quantity of powdered charcoal and pepper. This renders it warming, cleansing, and palatable to the birds.

The value of potatoes, turnips, etc., thus cooked with bran and corn meal, is not generally appreciated; it keeps the fowls in good heart, and is altogether economical as well. The scraps from the table can be used up with this feed, and all the dry bits of the family may thus be utilized. If you keep but a few fowls, one-half their cost of feeding may thus be saved. If you have large numbers to provide for, the expense for food is greatly lessened, in the long run, by this process, and your birds will be quite the better for this treatment, instead of limiting them to dry grain and "cold victuals" continually. Fresh vegetables are valuable for their nutritive material, and for the assistance they afford in digestion.—*Poultry World.*

Patrons of Husbandry.

GRANGE NEWS AND NOTES.

The Ohio State Grange met at Cleveland February 8th.

The Grange at Homer, Illinois, has started an agricultural library.

Richmond Valo (Ga.) Grange is discussing the advisability of holding a fair during the coming summer.

Mrs. Laura E. Lyman of this city has been appointed by the Ex. Com. of the N. Y. State Grange as Purchasing Agent for ladies' dry goods, house-furnishing goods, music, musical instruments, etc., and given the requisite bonds for the faithful performance of her duties.

A writer in the Indiana Farmer says that last spring a member of his Grange, No. 1,489, had the misfortune to get a kick from a horse that disabled him for the season. The Grange gave him about money enough to pay for a hand to cultivate his crop. The members of the Grange assembled in the fall and cribbed the corn of a brother who had typhoid fever.

The Seneca Co. (N. Y.) Council installed the following officers in the fine Hall of Rose Hill Grange, Waterloo, Jan. 22.:—E. S. Bartlett, M.; J. G. Pearson, O.; J. C. Whiting, L.; J. G. Lewis, S.; Lewis Opdyke, H. S.; Henry Trantman, C.; E. F. Strong, T.; E. J. Schoonmaker, Sec.; Homer Stone, G, K.; Laura Bockoven, C.; Libbie Wayne, P.; Henrietta Barnes, F.; Nina Goodman, L. A. S.

Bethlehem (N. Y.) Grange No. 137, installed the following officers, Jan. 26, by Deputy Jurian Winne:—Walter T. Hotaling, M.; D. A. A. Nichols, S.; D. N. Mead, T.; James Van Duzen, O.; W. H. Singerland, L.; D. Conse, C.; William Bullock, S.; Daniel Walley, A. S.; Abram Fitch, G. K.; Mrs. W. T. Hotaling, G.; Mrs. A. Fitch, G. K.; Mrs. W. T. Hotaling, C.; Mrs. A. Fitch, P.; Mrs. John S. Russell, F.; Mrs. P. H. Van Deizee, L. A. S.

A Pomona Grange was organized Jan. 21, at St. Johnsbury, Vt., by Worthy Master Colton, of the State Grange, comprising the counties of Caledonia and Essex. Over seventy-five members enrolled their names. Jona. Lawrence, Master of Green Mountain Grange No. 1, was elected Master, and George D. Mears, of Excelsior Grange, (Post-Office, Peacham), Secretary. The officers of the new Grange was installed by Brother A. B. Smedley, Lecturer, of the National Grange, in a very acceptable manner. The new Grange starts off with flattering prospects.

The Yates Co. (N. Y.) Grange has elected the following officers for 1876:—Master—Harrison H. Sisson, Penn Yan. Overseer—Peter L. Dintuff, Rushville. Lecturer—Edwin H. Nutt, Dresden. Steward—Alfred S. Becker, Benton Center. Assistant Steward—Selah Crosby, Barrington. Chaplain—David Palmer, Penn Yan. Treasurer—B. F. Freeman, Barrington. Secretary—Wm. T. Remer, Penn Yan. Gate-keeper—Thomas Emery, Penn Yan—Ceres—Mrs. Alfred S. Becker, Benton Center. Pomona—Mrs. Edwin H. Nutt, Dresden. Flora—Mrs. William Becker, Branchport. Lady Assistant Steward—Mrs. Guy Shaw, Penn Yan.

An Alabama Grange has appointed a committee to visit the farm of each member of the Grange, and to report in writing the state of the growing crops; condition of farm and fences; condition of stock; methods of cultivation; rotation of crops; kinds of crops raised and the varieties of each; varieties of fruit raised, and the condition of farm buildings. These reports are not for publication, unless the owner desires, but are to form the subjects for discussion at future meetings. Such Grange work can not but be profitable to the community in which it is situated, and could be initiated by other Granges with much benefit.

The Grange in Greencastle, Ky., is inaugurating a needed reform in reducing the prices paid undertakers for conducting funerals. There, as elsewhere, the business has been a monopoly, and extortionate prices for funerals have been demanded and paid, because there was no other alternative, and relatives of the deceased did not care to make any complaint, which would only expose them to ridicule and misrepresentation. Hereafter a member of the Grange will have hearse and coffins in every style, all at less than half the rates usually charged. This sounds only like a down east Yankee movement, but we are glad to say the idea originated in a Kentucky brain. It is a good sign to see the Southern mind running to economy in new and unexpected directions. The return of prosperity under such circumstances cannot be far distant.

The Vineyard.

A NEW GRAPE—THE BRIGHTON.

THE introduction of New Fruits is the occasion of so much pleasure, and also of so much disappointment, that a few words, preliminary to speaking of the one whose name appears above, are desirable as showing what may *not* be expected of our best *new* fruits.

A careful examination of our most esteemed fruits shows that there is one general law under which they all come—a law not so much of *improvement* in the full sense of the word, as of *variation*, or improvement in one or more respects. This improvement in one direction is obtained at the expense of some other feature, so that as one peculiarity rises, another must fall, in order that the balance of forces may be preserved. For instance, if size of fruit increases, number or quality must fall; if great vigor and hardiness of plant are obtained, delicacy of texture or fine flavor, or abundance of fruit, must be sacrificed to some degree; if fine flavor, great delicacy, and beauty are secured along with productiveness, hardiness, or rapid, vigorous growth is so diminished that extra care, manuring, and perhaps winter protection, will be required to secure satisfactory results. We cannot by cross-breeding add one desirable feature, and then another, and so on until all imaginable excellencies are obtained in one *new* sort.

All our finest fruits, flowers, vegetables, grains, and even domestic animals, come under this universal law of *variation*, not improvement, for not one of them has *ever improved* (so far as we have any knowledge), except so far as to be improved for us by a variation which fits it for a special purpose. Every "improved" fruit, flower, vegetable, grain, or animal, in the sense in which they are commonly considered "improved," would perish and become extinct, if the care of man were withdrawn; their excellences (as we call them) becoming their deficiencies under changed conditions. This being the case it is useless to look for all the excellences of any fruit in one variety; quite a number of sorts is desirable in a fruit covering as long a season, and as many uses, as does the apple, the pear or the grape, in order to secure complete satisfaction and answer special uses. A variety of any important fruit which embraces a *good balance* of qualities is wonderfully useful to the general public, who must plant but few specimens, and make those answer all purposes. The Baldwin Apple, the Bartlett Pear, the Concord Grape, are instances of this kind of value very well known to us all.

The "Brighton" Grape, illustrated herewith, it is believed will take its place among the fruits which have this desirable combination of qualities which is so necessary to the general public. Its recommendations are—

1st,—*Excellence* of *quality*. It is equal to, or better than the Delaware in flavor, and richness, with even less pulp; very sweet, pure and delicate in character; an excellent table fruit.

2d.—*Vigor* and *Hardiness* of *Vine*. The vine grows with great rapidity, ripens its wood early, and proves fully as well able to stand severe cold as the Concord.

3d.—*Early Ripening*. The Brighton ripens along with the earliest good sorts, the Delaware, the Eumelan, and the Hartford. This is a peculiarity of especial value at the North and in the Middle States, in many localities.

4th.—*Beauty* and *Size* of *Fruit*. It is as large, and as beautiful as the Catawba, which it resembles in color, and form of bunch and berry.

5th.—*Beauty* of *Vine and Foliage*. The Brighton vine has very large glossy, dark-green leaves, which are very attractive and promise to be free from disease in most localities. This can, however, only be decided upon, by actual trial for several years and in many places.

The engraving is an accurate copy of a photograph, of a portion of the trellis upon which the original vine is growing. It was taken Sept. 18, 1875, at which time the fruit was ripe, and fully as mature as the Delaware or Hartford prolific.

This new grape shows what may be effected by the careful artificial fertilizing of one variety of fruit with the pollen of another. It was raised by JACOB MOORE, Esq., of Brighton, N. Y., through crossing the Concord and Diana Hamburgh. The infusion of a strain of the Hamburgh blood has doubtless given to it some of its great excellences, while the preponderance of the native (Concord and Diana) element, preserves to it great vigor and hardiness of wood and sufficient strength of leaf, to carry and mature the fruit and wood in any season or locality at all favorable to grape growing. It may not withstand all the vicissitudes which the Concord will, but no doubt will equal or surpass any of the Rogers' grapes, or other varieties crossed with the foreign sorts. We must be content to sacrifice some of the ruggedness of the wild or original types of the grape, to secure the elegant and excellent peculiarities found in this, and some other new grapes which will ere long make their appearance. How much of care and attention any man is prepared to give for the best and highest results in fruit culture, is, in this, as in other cases, for each one to determine for himself. Every really good thing costs something.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 24, 1876. H. E. H.

THE BRIGHTON GRAPE—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH).

Industrial Topics.

A VERMONTER ON SUGAR MAKING.

Now, that other farm crops do not pay very well, perhaps farmers who have some maple trees left will turn their attention to sugar making. If they should, the sugar would be nearly clear profit, as the work comes at a time when little else can be done on the farm, and the fuel used is generally what would otherwise be left to rot in the woods and go to waste. Some farmers annually make several hundred pounds of excellent sugar besides molasses, and at a very trifling expense. From an essay on sugar making by S. H. FOSTER of Calais, read before the Vermont State Board of Agriculture we take the following:

I have but little choice between tin and well painted cedar tubs; all things considered, perhaps, would take tin. I use two kinds of spouts; round tin which drives just outside the incision, and flat tin. A three-eighths bit is large enough to bore with; never use wedge-shaped nails, as they check and injure the tree; ross the bark lightly and smoothly with a sharp hatchet or ax. Keep the storage tubs under cover, that the sap may be exposed to the sun as little as possible; gather often, and convert it into sugar as soon as settled. The sugar house should be large enough for storage tubs, boiling apparatus, wood; and there should be a clean, cool room for sirup and sugar; also a partition between the storage tubs and arch. A separate arch for sugaring off, is an absolute necessity. For boiling, Cory's evaporator is the best thing I ever used; it works on the right principle, is easy to manage, makes better sugar, and saves at least one-third of the wood. The arch should rest on a good foundation, that the evaporator may be kept as nearly level as possible. The sap should run through a coarse strainer into the feeder, and from there to the evaporator through a fine one. Within two hours after starting your fire, draw off sirup; after that, once in thirty minutes; turn it into tin cans; when fairly cooled and settled, drain off, strain through flannel, and sugar off in small batches as rapidly as possible. Let it cool in the pan, stirring a very little, and when just right, it will turn out without adhering to the pan but little.

The longer you are sugaring off, the darker will be your sugar; hence, in a common pan I would put sirup enough for forty or fifty pounds of sugar, build fire enough at the start, and in thirty or forty minutes it will be ready to take off, nine times out of ten, without using ladle or sweet cream. It is better to clean the pan after each batch; the rinsings of the pan and settlings should be boiled by themselves, or made into vinegar. When boiling continually, the substance called niter, which collects in the back end of the evaporator, should be removed every thirty-six hours, or the sugar will be injured thereby. Clean the holders and drawing tubs often, and when the tubs begin to be sour, it will pay well to rinse them out. The wood need not be sound, or of the best quality, but it must be dry. If possible, before leaving the sugar yard, get your wood for the next spring; if not, make it the first business after spring's work; but never wait until late fall or winter.

How often we hear the remark, "It does not pay to sugar, when I can buy for six or seven cents a pound." It pays me to sugar, and generally pays the best when I am ready to commence as soon as the sap begins to run; for one pound of the first is worth two of three of the last. In the spring of 1862, while many were waiting for the line storm, and what else I cannot say, I tapped one thousand trees, and in a few days had one thousand pounds of nice sugar; sent it to Montpelier, and received ten cents a pound in cash, the highest price paid for maple sugar up to that time. Well, the line storm forgot to come; therefore many did not sugar that spring. Last spring I tapped one thousand trees and made four thousand three hundred pounds; the spring before, I made six thousand eight hundred pounds from one thousand three hundred trees, and for the last four or five years it has averaged me about thirteen cents per pound.

SPECIAL MANURES AND THEIR USES.

Of course the most certain and most reliable of manures is that which is always most easily procured—that from the stable. But altogether it costs considerable. Usually a purchase price is paid for it at the stable, it is then hauled a greater or less distance, and is handled from two to four times before it is under the surface. It behooves us then, to always use it to the best advantage.

Generally I know of no objection to the use of fresh manures, except that if applied heavily they trouble in fitting the ground for fine seeds. On the contrary, I have always noticed very good effects from the use of long manures, and advise piling manures only when no ground is prepared to receive it. But this period covers a considerable portion of the year and much of it must be piled. If left thus in warm weather without further attention, fresh manure invariably fire fangs—burns up—and loses nearly all its virtues, till it is worth little more than so much chaff. To avoid this, after several days hauling of manure we give it a good drenching with water.

C. .

RHODE ISLAND has 1,415,734 cotton spindles against 814,555 in 1860. This increase represents a large part of the wealth and prosperity of the busy little State.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Wise and Timely Counsel.—Two or three years ago, when the financial condition of the Universal Life Insurance Company was no better than it should have been or is now, the officers issued a circular, or annual address, to the policy holders, containing some most excellent advice, which is just as good and appropriate now as it was then. They said:—"Should you be approached by the agent of another company with a view to induce you to make a change of *companies or policies*, consider—First, that the object in view is not your benefit, but that of the person soliciting the change, who will profit by it to the extent of the commissions he is to receive upon the new policy. Next, that in making the change you will certainly incur loss, not only of the premiums you have already paid, but also, most probably, through having to pay a higher premium in consequence of increased age. In such cases, justice, not less to yourself than to the company in which you are insured, dictates the proper method to pursue. Ask the person soliciting the change to give you, in writing, the points he urges in favor of it, with a view of submitting them to the officers of your present company for explanation. Should he decline to do this, you have *prima facie* evidence that he himself is trying to deceive you." This is most excellent advice to the policy holders of the North American Life Insurance Company, whom the agents of the Universal have been soliciting to change from that company—proclaimed by the Superintendent of Insurance to be rather the better company of the two—to the Universal. No one knows better than the party issuing this circular how much the insured loses and the company gains by exchanging an old for a new policy. The privilege of importuning the members of another company to change policies is said to be worth, in some cases $600,000. Our advice is, "Should you be approached by the agent of another company with the view," etc., etc., kick him soundly.

A Sign of Weakness.—Whether it is because the Insurance Department of Massachusetts requires a higher reserve, or makes a more vigorous inquisition into the condition of a company's finances, would be hard to decide; but it happens to be a fact attested by numerous examples, that the first significantly bad step taken by a company about to fail is, to *step out* of that Commonwealth. Of the companies that have done so, either willingly or on compulsion, but two are in existence, and these are not permitted to do any new business. The list is a long but instructive one. Widows' and Orphans' Fund, Farmers' and Mechanics', Great Western, New York State, Empire Mutual, Delaware Mutual, Widows' and Orphans' Benefit, Hercules, Hahnemann, Craftsman, Commonwealth, Amicable, Anchor, Eclectic, Economical, Empire State, Excelsior, Government Security, Guardian, Hope, International, National Capital, National New York, North America, World and Asbury. There may have been companies withdrawing that are yet solvent, but the rule is so good that the act may be regarded as a premonition of uncomfortable sequences, and those who are interested in the solvency of a company declining to comply with the laws of Massachusetts are justified in regarding the refusal as being unpleasantly significant.

Longevity of Philadelphians.—The Philadelphia Ledger is responsible for the statement that 675 persons—254 men and 421 *women*—died in that city in 1875 at the age of 90 and beyond. Thirteen men died at the age of 90, eight at 91, two at 92, three at 93, four at 94, one at 95, three at 96, two at 97, one at 98, one at 99, two at 102, one at 103, and one at 108. The women did better still. Sixteen lived to be 90 only, eight held on till 91, seven died at 92, two at 93, six at 94, nine at 95, two at 96, four at 97, seven at 98, one at 99, three reached 101 each to 102 and 105. Nine persons reached the age of 100—a fact which strikingly confirms the mortality tables of the companies, which prophesy that one in every hundred thousand will attain that age.

The Asbury Life Insurance Company, that failed and passed into the hands of a receiver to be wound up, two years ago, has, according to law, a deposit of $100,000 with the State authorities for the security of its policy holders. An attempt was made recently to withdraw this deposit and place it in the Receiver's hands. Such a course would leave the policy holders almost utterly defenseless, and we hope that our legislators will remember the widows and orphans and promptly defeat any such measure.

Around the Republic.

"DOWN SOUTH."

Diary and Notes of an Ex-Editor Seeking Health.

BY CHARLES D. BRAGDON.

Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 1, 1876.—I am not given very much to Centennial jubilation. We have far too much to be ashamed of and to correct, as a people and a Government, to warrant us in spending much time or money in self-glorification. While it is not well for any citizen to habitually depreciate his Government and the institutions of his country, it is equally unwise and unpatriotic to wilfully close his eyes and assume unconsciousness of faults and abuses which are glaring and repulsive to every well-ordered mind.

Hence, when this Centennial Year dawned this morning, my invocation was: "Perdition to political place-hunters and professional politicians, and Peace and Good Will to all patriotic lovers of their country who may labor this year to root out the radical evils which afflict the body politic."

The day is a hot one here. The colored people have been celebrating it with processions, music, speeches, dinners and balls—not simply as New Year's Day, but as Emancipation Day. It is their "Independence Day." Of the speeches I have heard none. But, judging by the demeanor of those who constitute the procession, there is a steady growth of self-respect and conscious manhood and dignity among the colored people. Some of our party have visited their schools here, and speak hopefully of them and of the evidence of proficiency among the pupils. Only a day or two since I saw a boy and girl—perhaps 8 or 9 years old—busily studying their lessons in the street, *en route* to school. It was a scene in remarkable and gratifying contrast with other scenes I remember witnessing in the South in 1856. If each State would make the ability to read and write an essential qualification in a voter, it would stimulate culture among the colored people, as nothing else will; for the right of suffrage is the highest prized privilege that has followed their emancipation.

Jan. 15.—The sunny days, with an atmosphere that makes us forget January, go by in monotonous procession. There is no "rush" here, as was expected. There has been no strain upon the capacity of the hotels, and few of the boarding-houses have their maximum number of boarders. Jacksonville is a city of boarding-houses. The municipal government derives an income therefrom, for it compels each one of them to pay a license. I am not able to state how many licensed boarding-houses there are here, but the city's income from this source must be of considerable importance.

A gentleman from Palatka and up the St. Johns, says there are very few visitors up there, and hotel men and boarding-house keepers do not lie awake nights to listen to the rustle of new greenbacks with which their pockets have been lined.

My good friend, "Kittatinny" WILLIAMS, evidently fearing from my first published notes that I did not know enough to "come in out of the wet," has been kindly proffering me the hospitalities of his up-the-river friends. "Why do you stay there in that low, wet basin?"

Since this is a conundrum that other people puzzle themselves about, and since there are good reasons why I stay here in preference to going into the higher altitudes, I may give them and allow those who may hereafter come hither with the same purposes I did, to consider them. I did not intend nor expect to stay in Jacksonville when I first came hither; but I stopped here that I might determine, from information to be obtained, where I would go. Without entering into a detail of the modes by which I got information, and the sources thereof (which, by the way, I regard sufficiently reliable as a basis of action) I came to the following conclusions:

1. That here I could secure more of the comforts necessary to an invalid and his family, and at less cost than in any other part of the State.

2. That just in proportion to the distance I traveled from Jacksonville into the interior, in just such proportion was the cost of living increased, and accessibility to supplies needed by an invalid diminished.

3. That life here in this city is quite depressing and monotonous enough for one accustomed to an active life; but that it would be still more depressing in the interior to one without the physical ability to hunt, fish, or improve land, etc. What would be a delight to even a semi-well man would injure one whose lack of strength caused him to chafe under restraint, and whose mental resources and philosophy would be too severely taxed by solitude for his physical good.

4. That the gain in healthfulness of location, softness and sweetness of atmosphere and general climatic effects would not equal the loss in most other respects.

I did not accept the testimony of physicians located here, though judging from what I have seen of them, not one of them would misrepresent in order to save Jacksonville from annihilation! Nor did I listen to real estate dealers located here, nor to citizens holding property for sale or otherwise. But I talked with men and women who had been in the interior as invalids and had returned hither. The unwisdom of a stranger, ill, with his family, and with resources that require economical care, "taking the chances" inland, was made apparent to me. All this would be different to a man with plenty of money to spend, who could take his supplies with him, or whose ill health did not deprive him of ability to make physical exertion a source of pleasure. Or it would be different in case a good home had been previously secured.

This seems altogether too personal for publication; yet I know, from the letters I have received, that it will answer many inquiries in the minds of RURAL readers—hence I send it without further apology. [See article entitled "Seeking Health in Florida," on next page.—EDS.]

The cost of living here in Jacksonville is not necessarily very much more than in Northern towns of the same size—if one keeps house. Furniture, carpets, etc., can be bought as cheaply here as there; also stoves and tin-ware. Crockery costs more. Most groceries are as cheap. Transportation hither from New York costs so little that a family can buy groceries of all sorts at wholesale in New York and save commissions. This is done by many families, and, with the active competition there is here, tends to keep down prices. Meats are generally poor. The "Tennessee beef," which is most in the market, is poor enough, but not so poor as the Florida product. "A nice roast" of this Tennessee beef costs 20c. ₱ lb. Good mutton (which is sometimes obtainable) costs the same as or more than beef. After the hotels and larger boarding-houses are supplied, it is difficult to get a good steak or roast. Fish are plenty, cheap, and some kinds are excellent. Oysters are plenty, cheap and very poor trash, though there is scarce a Floridan who does not boast of the excellence of Florida oysters! Excellent salt mackerel, codfish, etc., are found here at reasonable prices. Potatoes retail at $2 per bushel. More of the apples sent hither are Baldwins, and this climate rapidly changes them to the consistency and flavor of old saw-dust. Haven't found an apple fit to eat in the State. Oranges have been plenty at $2.40 to $3 per 100. They are generally very good, too—of good flavor and size.

There is a good deal of talk about this being a land of Bananas. I have seen little evidence of it in the market. They cost more here than in Fulton Market, New York. One does not see the steamers loaded down with them. Of course they grow here—that is, the plants do; but the frosts have cut them back this winter. Of course they are productive in other parts of the State.

Rents, during the winter months, and taxes the year round, are high. It is, I am inclined to think, cheaper to rent by the year than to own the property and pay the taxes. But I am told that the homestead, no matter whether it cost $100 or $100,000, is exempt from attachment or execution. The Floridan's home is his castle indeed, so far as any rapacious creditors are concerned; and I have been given to understand that there is no limit to the amount of money one invests in a homestead.—it is safe from the Sheriff, except in case of special agreement.

Jan. 24.—The weather continues remarkably warm for even a Florida winter. No,—in answer to a letter just received—let no Northern stock-grower come down here with a herd, hoping to make money by breeding and growing stock here. There may be some people in this State who will dare to assert that it can be made profitable, but I have not yet reached that enthusiastic conviction. Milk retails, from the milk-wagons, at 20 cents per quart, or 6 quarts for $1; and we find that cream will rise on it if allowed to stand over night. But I imagine the bulk of the food upon which these cows are kept, comes from New York or some other Northern port. I have seen a few patches of Bermuda grass here, and there are coarse, wiry grasses on some of the creek edges; but grass is the feature wanting, and that cannot be produced on these sandy soils with the long drouths incident to this climate.

No, the men who may hope to be best contented, and desire profit from their previous experience and labor here, are Northern horticulturists—men with fruit-growing proclivities and truck-gardening experience. I see no beckoning for the ordinary farmer who has pursued a mixed husbandry North. I don't mean to say that mixed farming may not be successfully prosecuted here; but I do say that the man who is succeeding by it North had better stay there.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

FOOD AND SHELTER FOR BIRDS.

Jan. 29.—Thus far the winter has been so mild that the birds, which usually frequent my grounds this season, have scarcely paid me a "flying visit." Generally the evergreens about the grounds are a great resort for my feathered friends, and every morning they come about the barn and house and ask for a breakfast of seeds and crumbs of bread, a request which is never passed unheeded. But the present winter we have missed all this pleasure of feeding the birds, and I could almost wish for one good snow storm just to bring back the wanderers, who are doubtless scattered through the forests or chirping about the farmhouses in some more northern region.

We have thus far escaped the snow storms common at this season, and doubtless the birds join me in feeling that there is no cause for regrets over so favorable a change in the weather; still it seems rather unkind of them to act so "human" as not to give me a call without the promptings of selfish motives. Jonx has great heaps of hay and weed seeds, awaiting the order of the snow birds, and Mrs. RURALIST says that at least one loaf of bread has been saved from each baking this winter through the absence of the birds, still she misses the pleasure derived from feeding them.

Of course we shall forgive our little friends for this neglect, and give them a cordial welcome whenever they do come this way again: and further, would urge the planting of evergreens about the home grounds to afford shelter to the birds in winter. In addition to trees and shrubs for shelter, there are many kinds which produce fruit very acceptable to birds, although of no especial value to man, and these should not be overlooked in laying out and planting new grounds or improving old ones. The sassafras produces a fruit greedily eaten by several of our larger kinds of birds. A closely allied species known as the spice or fever bush, found in all our Northern swamps, bears brilliant scarlet berries, which are not only ornamental but much sought for by birds. The Highland cranberry is another handsome, ornamental shrub, bearing a profusion of light, crimson-colored fruit, ripening very late in autumn. In fact all of our many native species of *Viburnums* produce edible fruit much relished by birds. The Buffalo berry, (*Shepherdia*) Silver Thorn (*Elæagnus*) and scores of other native shrubs might well be introduced into our gardens, if for no other purpose than to supply the birds with food. We have driven away the birds, our natural protectors from insect enemies, by destroying the trees and shrubs, among which they found a safe retreat as well as food for sustaining life. In addition to this we allow every "scalawag," whose highest ambition is to burn powder and kill something, to prowl over our fields and destroy the harmless birds.

In the face of all this interference with natural laws, our fruit growers and farmers ask what shall be done to save the products of their fields from insect depredations? Alas! wisdom *is* a slow coach, carrying few passengers at a time.

THE EUROPEAN CHESTNUTS.

Jan. 31.—There are many localities where the European varieties of the Chestnut will succeed quite well in this country, but their only merit is large size. In quality none of them compare favorably with those of our own native sorts; therefore I do not see why we should pay much attention to their cultivation. We also have varieties nearly as large as the most famous foreign sorts, and by experimenting a little we may be soon able to produce new ones even larger than those brought to us from across the Atlantic. All that is required is to pick out the largest and best of those found growing wild in various parts of the country, and from those raise seedlings.

Of late I have noticed that the cultivation of the foreign varieties of the Chestnut is being discussed quite freely in some of our agricultural journals, and while I admit the probability of success, still I believe that in the long run our native sorts will give the best and most profitable results. In my own experience I have found the European sorts less hardy than the American, and far more liable to diseases caused by cold in winter or sun-burn in summer. Many thousands of the foreign trees have been imported by our nurserymen during the past half century, but the number which has survived and reached a bearing size is very small indeed. Occasionally one finds trees which have grown thriftily and escaped disease, but these are exceptions to the general rule.

Probably the best method of securing a healthy orchard or grove of the foreign varieties would be to graft them upon native stocks, inserting the cions near the roots, and then keep the heads low in order to shade the stems. I have found that some of the stronger-growing foreign varieties overgrow the native stock, or in other words increase more rapidly in diameter, but less in length; consequently, when the cion is inserted upon tall stocks it makes a rather unsightly top-heavy tree. When forestry has been as thoroughly studied and written up in this country as in Europe, it will be found that we have an abundance of really distinct and valuable varieties of the chestnut.

Our nurserymen have not as yet done much towards disseminating choice varieties of our native nut trees, but they must soon see the necessity of taking hold of this long-neglected branch of horticulture. I am reminded of this almost general neglect of propagating nut-bearing trees by the receipt of a quart or more of

HALE'S PAPER-SHELL HICKORY NUT,

Which was figured and described in the RURAL NEW-YORKER of Nov. 19, 1870. This is one of the best, if not the very best variety, of our common shell bark hickory I have ever seen, and fully warrants the description given of it in the RURAL five years ago. I understand that it is now being propagated in one of our leading nurseries, and will be offered for sale as soon as a sufficient stock of trees is produced. There are doubtless other varieties to be found worthy of propagation and dissemination, but somebody must look them up and make their merits known.

The Pecan nut, which is only a species of hickory, is quite variable, and I have received specimens from the South that were very large and quite distinct from those generally seen in our markets. These choice native sorts must be looked after, for those who are able to own fine orchards and ornamental grounds want the very best of everything, even to hickory, pecan and chestnuts.

The Swine-Herd.

ORIGIN OF HOG CHOLERA.

A WRITER in the Patrons' Helper of Iowa, traces the cause of hog cholera to close confinement and especially to the practice of ringing pigs to prevent them from rooting the soil. His argument is certainly plausible and the theory interesting. We quote:

Let us watch our hogs in their ample pasture. Some are browsing the herbage, some are destroying it by extracting the roots. Others are—what are they doing? They are rooting into that woody hill-side; into that hard, calcareous soil. The crackling sound indicates that they are eating the clay with its limestone pebbles. What can this be for? Well, we cannot tell. We know it as a fact. It may effect something chemically; but we sometimes doubt that, it being too crude to enter into the animal economy. Perhaps its effect is mainly mechanical.

The poor pig has no rights that man or dog is bound to respect, outside of his pen, so it is furnished a pen; may be one or two acres; frequently much less. In Mrs. Piggy goes with her numerous progeny. Everything goes well for a while. They eat the grass and turn over the soil and thrive. The owner improves his herd by an infusion of Chester White, Poland China or Berkshire blood. He is well satisfied with the profits of the investments.

Anon! a change has come in the condition of things. The surface soil is now all rooted over. The desirable properties are exhausted or befouled with droppings. The pigs endeavor to dig deeper but the filthy mass falls to the bottom; and soon it is said the pigs are not doing well.

The owner changes their food, gives them sulphur and antimony and what not. He concludes they look a little better, but they don't do well yet. In fact, he sighs for the "good old Elm Peelers and Prairie rooters." It does not stop here. The pigs are constipated, dyspeptic and mangy. Their blood is out of order, and ulcers are found on some so as to cause portions of the flesh to slough off. In fact they have got the cholera. No wonder. Had the proprietor made a vegetable garden or a corn field of his hog lot a year or two ago, and furnished his hogs with another pasture, his improved hogs would have improved the strength and vigor of his herd, and also the condition of his finances.

BLACK TOOTH IN SWINE.

THE American Swine Journal says:—Black tooth, so called, in swine, is sometimes caused by mechanical injury to teeth, received by chewing the dry and hard kernels of corn. The ailment consists in a state of decay of the tooth (caries). Such decayed teeth may be removed by the same instrument as a dentist would apply to one's own tooth under similar circumstances. The symptoms of toothache in swine are similar to those exhibited by mankind, viz: loss of appetite, salivation or slobbering, hanging the head, mostly to the side which is affected, peevishness, loss of all fear of man, and hot, repulsive breath. When hogs are fed on strongly acidulated food for any length of time, their teeth may become discolored; but it is a question whether the teeth at the same time are materially injured. So long as no decay or diminution of their substance can be noticed, and while the appetite and chewing facilities of the animal do not appear diminished no interference will be necessary.

Domestic Economy.

AN APOSTLE OF THE KITCHEN.

A WRITER in the Galaxy tells (we regret to say) an o'er true tale in the subjoined brace of paragraphs:

A few years ago the worthy Prof. Blot endeavored to create good housewives, but the hour and the man did not come together, for when he strove to turn woman's thought kitchenward their ears were deaf. His effort was made in the era of financial plethora when the idea of women was in spending money instead of saving it, and his wise counsels were unheeded. The forerunner of the hygienic and economical cuisine held aloft a loaf of wholesome bread, saying it was the foundation of human happiness; the women tittered, and yet it was true. With the enthusiasm of a reformer he offered to teach women how to turn dyspeptic stomachs into healthy ones, and consequently miserable husbands and fathers into members of a happp family. Again the women tittered, and continued to titter, until the apostle of the kitchen, finding that his glad tidings fell on ears that did not understand, became discouraged and withdrew into obscurity, whither a few of the faithful followed him, but even these abandoned him after a time, and then he died.

The Professor came in the spirit of a missionary possessed of a scheme of propagandism. The symbols of his office were soup and bread, for they were the principal auxiliaries by which the gastronic tenets were to spread. He proposed to make of a restless, eager, unsatisfied people a peaceful and blest one—to establish economical habits in the household, consequently to change thriftless, idle, extravagant women into good wives and mothers. It was nothing less than a revolution which the Frenchman contemplated. Some who comprehended the scope of his mission listened to him, but with apathy. The greater part smiled when the propagandist of wholesome nourishment unfolded his scheme, accompanied with Gallic zeal, gesture, and accent. The thing itself and its exponent appeared to be ludicrous. So he preached and taught in vain.

CHINESE COOKING.

AMERICANS who dine with the Chinese are surprised at the perfection to which they have carried their cooking. During a recent Chinese banquet at San Francisco, an orange was laid at the plate of each guest. The orange itself seemed like any other orange, but on being cut was found to contain within the rind five kinds of delicate jellies. One was at first puzzled to explain how the jellies got in, and, giving up that train of reflection, was in a worse quandary to know how the pulpy part of the orange got out. Colored eggs were also served, in the inside of which were found nuts, jellies, meats and confectionary. When one of the Americans present asked the interpreter to explain this legerdemain of cookery, he expanded his mouth in a hearty laugh and shook his head and said:—"'Melican man heap smart; why he not findee out?"

SELECTED RECIPES.

Baked Squash.—Take a squash, cut in two, clean inside, put in the oven flesh side up, an hour before dinner. Serve hot, with butter, pepper and salt. Squashes not quite ripe are also good thus baked.

Rye and Indian Drop Cake.—One pint of Indian meal, one-half pint of rye meal, two spoonfuls of molasses, a little salt; work it with cold milk so as to drop from a spoon into hot fat; be sure to have a smooth batter.

Meat Loaf.—Chop fine whatever cold meat you may have, fat and lean together, add pepper, salt and finely-chopped onion, two slices of bread which have been soaked in milk, and one egg; mix well together and bake in form. This makes an admirable tea or breakfast dish.

Pop-Overs.—Four eggs, four cups of fine graham flour, four cups of milk, or simply good milk and the best white flour made into a rather soft batter. These may be baked in gem tins or gem irons, or small cups which should be previously heated. Bake in a hot oven and eat with fruit sauce.

Doughnuts Without Eggs.—One-half cup of buttermilk or sour milk, the same of cream and of sugar, one teaspoonful of saleratus, spice and salt to taste; add a little yeast, flour enough to mold, and let it rise before frying; or if an egg can be put in, the yeast can be left out and the dough fried at once.

Stuffed Cabbage.—Take a large fresh cabbage and cut out the heart; fill the place with a stuffing made of cooked chicken or veal, chopped very fine and seasoned and rolled into balls with yolk of an egg. Then tie the cabbage firmly together and boil in a covered kettle for two hours. This makes a delicious dish, and is useful for using small pieces of cold meat.

Mincemeat Fritters.—With half a pound of mincemeat mix two ounces of fine bread crumbs (or a tablespoonful of flour) two eggs well beaten, and the strained juice of half a small lemon. Mix these well and drop the fritters with a desert spoon into plenty of pure lard; fry them from seven to eight minutes, drain them in a napkin and send them very hot to the table. They should be quite small.

Hygienic Information.

SEEKING HEALTH IN FLORIDA.

WHERE AND HOW INVALIDS MAY LIVE COMFORTABLY.

TWIN LAKES, near Mellonville, Orange Co., Fla., January 11, 1876.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I notice in your issue of Jan. 1st a letter dated Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 26, giving a description of the damp weather prevailing at that date. For fear that many of your invalid readers were discouraged by that letter, I write to tell you my side of the story—being up the St. Johns at the same time. I reached Jacksonville on the 26th of Nov., from Penn.; but knowing its character for dampness from many of my acquaintances, pressed right on to Palatka, where I kept my bed for five days before feeling strong enough to go on to our destination. At Palatka it was damp and chilly, but nothing like what your correspondent describes. A fire was not only comfortable, but necessary; but our clothing was not damp in the morning nor did we notice mold on our shoes. Truth compels me to say it was disagreeable enough, and confirmed me in my opinion of that part of the State not being the right place for invalids. When we got up here we still found the damp prevailing, but so much milder and more pleasant that we did not think of a fire and rode in an open vehicle five miles, without taking cold or being very much fatigued. Two miles back from the river the land commences to rise and break into little knolls and hills, with here and there a lake varying in size from a pond to large sheets of water several miles in length. A more desirable spot for homes cannot well be found than on the slopes and hights overlooking these lakes. The soil is pure sand and the timber pine, but all the better for that. The little rain there is runs off so quickly, there is no trace of dampness, and the air is full of resin from the trees. Such air—so pure that our fresh beef dries up if left hanging too long—and one can go all day without being sensible of fatigue. Every inspiration is a pleasure to the tender throat and delicate lungs. When we left home every breath seemed to rasp and hurt, and now it is all gone, and with it the sense of weariness and langour. The air seems to have as much effect on the nervous system as any thing else, soothing and restoring in a wonderful manner. This is our experience and that of many others.

The right way for people to come here, is to bring some bedding and indispensable housekeeping things along in their trunks; buy or rent a cooking stove; rent a cabin or more pretentious frame house and get a carpenter to make them some rude bedsteads, table, etc. etc., and keep house in primitive style. There are in this neighborhood houses to rent at from five to ten dollars per month; in which a small family can be made very comfortable, if choosing to live in such way for several months. We were fortunate enough to find a small house of three rooms, furnished, and are keeping house without the help of any one except a washerwoman. There are no negroes in these lower counties, and no servants, except those brought along. But this is not the objection one might think, for the simple reason that house keeping in such a style is not hard work; it is play compared to our methods at home, and if one wishes to economize—that's the secret—do things yourself. There are many, many invalids whose friends would bring them here if it were not for the cost, and when you pay boarding it soon runs away with money; but in this way you are perfectly independent, and live far more comfortably and at very little expense. I hope none of your readers who want health will stop at Jacksonville, but come up here to the hills where there is no damp. Don't stop at the river, but get back into the country. Health is every thing, and to gain it we must put up with many things not so indispensable as we may have supposed. MRS. M. C. B.

REMARKS.—By reference to the last letter of our Jacksonville correspondent, on page 106, it will be seen that Bro. BRAGDON has some cogent reasons for remaining in or near that place. Still we are inclined to think Mrs. M. C. B. correct in seeking a hilly region, in the interior, where fogs and dampness do not prevail to an injurious extent.—[EDS.

REMEDY FOR DYSPEPSIA.

A WRITER in the Medical Journal, discoursing on dyspepsia says:—We have seen dyspeptics who suffered untold torments with almost every kind of food. Bread became a burning acid. Meat and milk were solid and liquid fires. We have seen these same sufferers trying to avoid food and drink, and even going to the enema spring for sustenance. And we have seen the torments pass away and their hunger relieved by living upon the white of eggs, which have been boiled in bubbling water for thirty minutes. At the end of a week, we have given the half yelk of the egg with the white, and upon this diet alone, without fluid of any kind, we have seen them begin to gain flesh and strength, and refreshing sleep.

After weeks of this treatment they have been able, with care, to begin upon other food; and all this the writer adds, without taking medicine. He says that hard boiled eggs are not half so bad as half boiled ones, and ten times as easy to digest as raw eggs, even in egg-nog.

TEA A POISON.

THE Journal of Chemistry asserts that tea is not the simple, harmless beverage that it is generally supposed; but that its effects, in their character, may rightly claim to be classed with those of tobacco and alcohol. The Journal of Chemistry adds:—"Many disorders of the nervous system are the direct result of extensive tea-bibbing. Tea is a 'narcotic poison:' its essential principle, theine, is allied in composition and properties, with strychnine and morphine. It first excites the nervous system and then exhausts it. Experiments show that, both in man and in other animals, it impairs power in the lower extremities; so that it affects the 'understanding' in a double sense—literally as well as figuratively. It is not the harmless exhilarant it has been considered, but a powerful agent, whose effects are often serious."

REMEDY FOR DIPHTHERIA.—A correspondent of the Boston Journal writes that he has used the following remedy for diphtheria in a great many hard cases, and in not one has it failed to effect a cure. It is as follows:—Procure some pitch tar—not gas tar—put a little on a hot iron, invert tunnel over the smoke, and let the patient inhale as much as he can without strangling, for a few minutes, five or six times a day. During the intervals let the patient have small pieces of ice to keep as near the root of the tongue as possible.

Sheep Husbandry.

WOOL GROWING IN NEBRASKA.

MR. HARRISON G. OTIS of the U. S. Patent Office, and JAMES A. LAWRENCE of Overton, Dawson Co., Nebraska., recently addressed a letter to MOSES STOCKING of Wahoo, Saunders Co., Nebraska, asking information concerning the business of Wool Growing and Sheep Husbandry in that State. Mr. STOCKING made a reply, the substance of which we copy as follows:

With such a vast area of country admirably adapted to wool growing, it is a disgrace to us, as a nation, that we are still importing 50,000,000 pounds of raw wools per annum, and an amount equally large in the various forms of woolen manufactures.

The Western people have prosecuted grain growing, at a loss, with a vigor and a pertinacity worthy of a better cause, and almost overlooked one of the most pleasing and profitable of rural employments—that of sheep husbandry—for which their soil, climate and abundant grasses are so admirably adapted. Clear these noble plains of hostile Indians, preserve our present wool tariff intact, and with such industrious and far-seeing men as yourself, and some other worthy souls who could be named, to arouse attention and point out the way, and in ten years these United States would produce a large surplus of wool for export. Twenty years have sufficed to raise California, Australia, Van Dieman's Land, South Africa and the Argentine Republic from nothing to the position of leading wool-producing countries of the globe.

The success of our California brethren is but an earnest of what may be done in other portions of our country when the genius and enterprise of our own people shall take hold of the business in earnest. In the State of Georgia, notwithstanding the low breed kept and the immense annual loss from worthless dogs, sheep husbandry pays a profit of 63 per cent. per annum on the capital invested. The business will pay a profit equally large throughout three-fourths of the area of these United States. Let the country understand that the present wool tariff shall be maintained, encourage all classes of useful manufactures, turn the Indian over to the Army and compel him to labor for his living, kill off the worthless dogs, and, my word for it, in a few years these States will lead the world in the amount and value of their wool product.

But I have wandered far from the business before me and must get back to your questions: "What breed or grade of owe sheep would be best for him there for breeding purposes?" To answer this question definitely a knowledge of his acquaintance with the business and the principles of breeding is requisite. Pure-bred sheep of any breed are not very plentiful, and are always high in price; consequently, a considerable capital will reach but a little way, and, unless he has had much experience, or has a genius for breeding, he will be likely to fail, for a time at least, if he should attempt them.

I claim that our American Merinos are the best sheep in the world for our Western prairies at the present, and that they must continue such for years to come, and until civilization shall open up a largely-increased market for mutton, and the native grasses are supplanted by more succulent and perennial varieties. Until all this is accomplished the Merino and its crosses must remain as the sheep for the West.

Presuming that Mr. LAWRENCE has but a limited knowledge of sheep, I would recommend him to purchase, in the main, sheep of high grade, such as may be found in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, and which are abundant and cheap. Michigan is almost exclusively stocked with a class of sheep three-fourths to full-blood Marino, which are well adapted to these prairies, and which will, under fair care and feed, pay a very large per cent. on the cost annually. For the two-fold purpose of improving the blood of his flock and mastering the art of breeding, let him get in addition a few pure-bred pedigreed Merino ewes and the necessary number of pure-bred Merino rams for the whole flock. In this natural sheep country and healthy climate, it is not necessary to obtain acclimated animals. All sheep do well here, without regard to the locality which they came from, unless diseased when they arrive, and even then, under good care, soon come out all right.

2. To your second interrogatory I would answer that the chances to purchase desirable sheep here are exceedingly limited. This is a natural grass, grain and stock country. Our people have grown wheat to sell on the market until they are most heartily sick of that business. There is now a general awakening to the fact that in future some other business must be pursued, and stock raising in all its branches, and particularly wool growing, is attracting much attention; and as there are but few sheep (some 40,000) in the State, these are tenaciously held to.

Last June, in the localities named above, fair grade Merinos were held at about $1.50; high grades at about $2 per head. They are now much higher. But next season, soon after shearing, the prices no doubt will be about the same—prospectively a little higher. Rams—superior rams—can be obtained in Western New York, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Southern Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. [Here follow the names of well-known breeders in each of the States named.]

3. * * * The common coarse-wooled ewe of the West and the Mexican ewe are now held at figures about equal to the prices of high-grade Merino ewes, which will shear twice as many pounds of wool, and are much less troublesome to handle than the common native. The Mexican ewe possesses this advantage over the Merino ewe, that it is a more prolific breeder, but this point is fully balanced by the enhanced value of the Merino fleece. Again, they require less food and less shed room than any other good breed with which we are acquainted; their fleece being more dense (when not too greasy) enables them to endure stronger winds and a greater degree of cold. Besides, the wool fiber does not catch and waste on rough herbage like that of the more coarse and open fleeces; neither are they so liable to contract diseases, when run in large flocks, as are most other breeds, which, to the Western flock-master, is a very strong point.

The high price paid for coarse wools in our country, during the past few years, together with the increasing demand for mutton, has a tendency to cause novices to overlook the many valuable points of the Merino and induce them to engage in the breeding of those coarser breeds, without any regard to their adaptability to the locality and the breeding surroundings. To all such I would say, beware! First look over the whole ground, study the situation closely, nicely adjust the advantages and disadvantages, then purchase the breed best adapted to the locality, *and stick to that breed.*

Fashion is a fickle goddess, and the flock-master cannot change his flock to follow her vagaries with the facility that the postmaster did his political jacket, who, when asked how he had managed to keep his place through so many administrations, answered, "The easiest thing in the world, sir! All you have to do is to change in time, sir—and I defy any administration to change quicker than I can!" * * * * *

I remain, Sir, sincerely yours,
MOSES STOCKING.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1876.

BENEFITS OF THE OPEN WINTER.

While the mild weather of the first two months of winter has proved detrimental to people of a few occupations in limited regions, the great mass, in both country and city, have derived great advantage and benefit from the absence of frost and snow. The interests of the rural population seem to have been especially promoted by the open winter, in almost every part of the country—the farmers of the West and South, as well as those of the North and East, having taken advantage of the genial weather to perform much spring work in advance. For example, an old Kansas subscriber to the Rural—Mr. B. M. House, now a resident of Newton, Kansas—writes under date of Jan. 24 as follows:

"The last season was one of unprecedented prosperity for the farmers of this part of Kansas, they having been successful in every branch of agricultural industry. Our farmers have taken advantage of the beautiful weather we have been having this winter and prepared their lands for the reception of crops in the spring, not having been interrupted by frosts or snow. Many people are breaking the prairies, on which they will sow oats in the spring. It was formerly the practice here to break prairie only through the months of May and June, it being supposed that when broken at any other time of year it would not rot,—but within the last year or two it has been demonstrated by actual experiment that prairie broken in the winter and sown with oats in the spring will rot equally well with that done in May or June. There are large quantities of breaking being done here this winter, and the ground will be sown to oats in the spring and the crop taken off in season for wheat next fall, thus affording the farmers the benefit of two crops where only one was formerly secured. It has been demonstrated beyond the possibility of successful contradiction that the lands lying contiguous to the A. T. and S. F. RR., which is in the beautiful Valley of the Arkansas, are the richest and most productive of any in the State, and the liberal offers made by that Company have induced an emigration to this part of the State which will very soon bring every acre of land under cultivation."

From various parts of the Middle and Eastern States we have favorable reports from farmers, horticulturists and gardeners who have been enabled to take advantage of the "ethereal mildness" by working in field, orchard and garden. Even in the South the winter has been so unusual that much unseasonable labor has been performed most advantageously. A Farmer writing from Monroe Co., Ga., Jan. 26, to a contemporary, says:

"The prevailing topic of conversation is the 'hard times;' but instead of lessening the energies of the farmer, most of them have started work with redoubled vigor, to recover the loss sustained by the disastrous drouth of last summer. The winter has been unusually warm. The crop of wheat and oats never looked finer at this season. In fact, it was put in with uncommon care, and so much cotton seed was applied as manure that some planters will need it at planting time to raise another crop of cotton. As to oats, every available piece of land is still being sown. And you need not wonder at plows running now, when the plum trees are in full bloom, and we are trembling for other fruit, as all kinds of trees are just ready to bud. While some residents are seeking new homes in Texas and the West, persons from all parts of the world are inspecting our land."

Unless the cold weather which many predict will prevail this month (and which opened here on the 3d, giving us the first sleighing of the season,) proves very severe, the prospect is that the Centennial Year will be one of unusual vegetable production and consequent prosperity to all engaged in rural pursuits.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Diversified farming for the South.—The Granges of the Southern States are moving quite generally to decrease the production of cotton the coming year. So far as this means the creation of new industries it is a good movement. The South needs a more diversified industry as the first step towards prosperity. Undoubtedly the attention of planters has been directed too exclusively to cotton growing, and, as a result, the price is below a fair paying rate. But we notice that the antithesis to cotton is almost always corn—if a planter concludes to grow less cotton he fills up the gap in production with corn, rarely thinking of anything else. There is just as likely to be a glut of corn as of cotton. In the West farmers almost always have a glut of corn, and the price there is usually too low for profit. Let the Southern planter, besides corn, grow other grains, sheep, cattle, horses, vegetables and fruits of all kinds suited to the climate. In this way they will become really prosperous and independent, as they cannot hope to be on two crops more than upon one. Corn, indeed, is the poorest crop to grow in connection with cotton, as the labor of cultivating and harvesting of both comes at the same season of the year. What is needed is an industry which shall furnish employment in seasons when, under the present system, there is nothing to be done. This ought to be more easy in the South than in our more rigorous Northern climate; but it seems never to have been done. Hence the general lack of prosperity of Southern planters.

The Battery Endangered.—"The march of improvement" in New York City is up town. The lower part of the city, or what constituted the whole of New York of 100 years ago, (and a good deal less) is comparatively neglected, and its rural features, especially, seem to be little cared for. The old park has been filled with fine buildings, notably the new Post-Office, which is the finest and most imposing structure in the city. Now it is proposed to occupy portions of the Battery Park with buildings of the Elevated Railway Companies, and thus do away with that breathing place for thousands to whom even Central Park is not easily attainable. Against this we protest. The rural features of New York (including the Rural New-Yorker) are among its best and most important features. What parks remain should be made the most of. The Battery, especially, affords an outlook on the Bay which makes it a more pleasant summer resort than any other park not giving the cool salt-water breezes and view could be. As the trees recently planted attain age and size the Battery Park will become more attractive, and be more and more regarded as a necessity. Spare the old Battery!

A Great Wheat-Growing Region—Is Eastern Washington Territory, according to an informant of the Portland Oregonian. In testimony whereof these figures are given:—C. Maier, near the base of the Blue Mountains, in Walla Walla Valley, in 1873 raised on a sixty-acre field 4,020 bushels of wheat—an average of 67 bushels to the acre; and in 1875, from a sixty-acre tract, 3,420 bushels, or 57 bushels to the acre. Mr. Masterson, four miles south of Walla Walla, raised on ten acres 850 bushels, or 85 bushels to the acre. Mr. Kennedy, whose farm is on Dry Creek, six miles from Walla Walla, harvested 5,252 bushels from 150 acres—35 bushels average; and this was a volunteer crop—that is, the second crop from one sowing. It is added that these crops were produced on ordinary wheat land—land that is "no better than hundreds of thousands of acres now lying vacant in Walla Walla and Whitman Counties, especially north of Snake River, where there is a country vast enough to produce more than 25,000,000 bushels per annum, and where a failure of crops has never been known."

Restricting the Debt-Making Power.—Locking the door after the horse is stolen has passed into a proverb for untimely reform but here is a proposition not altogether too late. Two members of the N. Y. Legislature—Senator L. B. Prince of Long Island and Senator W. N. Emerson of the Monroe District—have attempted something like this in measures designed to prevent further increase in city and municipal indebtedness. Senator Prince proposes to restrict the debt of New York City to ten per cent. of its taxable property. Senator Emerson proposes a Constitutional Amendment, prohibiting all localities from incurring a debt greater than four per cent. of the assessed valuation. This would, in many localities, compel the severest economy in local government, and prevent the waste of a great deal of money. It would also have an excellent effect on the credit of State and local governments, and, by restricting the addition to bonds, make a much better demand for those already in existence.

Willard's Practical Dairy Husbandry.—This work, published at the Rural Office, is thus noticed in the last number of the New England Homestead:

"The author has been long known, both in this country and England as an authority on all matters connected with the Dairy. In this volume he has given the results of his experience and observation, and has made a truly standard work on practical Dairy Husbandry. It is decidedly the best book of the kind which has ever been issued. It is complete and accurate, nicely printed and finely illustrated. The chapters on the Management of Grass Land, Dairy Farms and Fixtures, and Dairy Stock are very valuable. It is a first-rate book and should be in the hands of every farmer in the country."

Fast Mails in 1776.—One hundred years ago the phrase "fast mail" did not mean all that it does now. The following paragraph from the Pennsylvania Gazette of February, 1775, shows what was thought a decided progress for those times:

General Post-Office,
Philadelphia, Feb. 14, 1775.

It having been found very inconvenient to persons concerned in trade that the mail from Philadelphia to New England sets out but once a fortnight during the winter season, this is to give notice that the New England mail will henceforth go once a week the year round—where a correspondence may be carried on and answers obtained to letters between Philadelphia and Boston in three weeks, which used in the winter to require six weeks. By command of the Postmaster-General. Wm. Franklin, Comptroller.

Salt for Cattle in Winter.—Farmers often neglect to salt their cattle in winter. The old practice of salting hay in the mow has been discarded, and we think justly, because it more frequently injures than preserves the hay. But this usually results in supplying the animals with no salt during the winter months. It is pleasant also in summer to visit the herds in green pastures and throw the salt in lumps on the velvet turf, while in going into a dirty barnyard in winter there is no enchantment whatever. Salt should be given to cows in the stable or some other dry place, and on no account in contact with snow, for snow and ice in contact with salt create an intense cold, which is injurious to animals.

The Scientific Farmer.—This valuable paper, filling a place in agricultural literature which no other journal can supply, has been removed to Boston, Mass., and will hereafter be conducted under the editorial management of Dr. E. L. Sturtevant and E. H. Libby. These gentlemen are well qualified for their positions, and the Scientific Farmer, in their hands, must continue to be an important medium for combining scientific research with the conclusions of practical farmers. The paper is issued monthly, in good style, at $1 per year.

Premiums for Corn.—We learn that the premiums for corn announced by Mr. Conrad Wilson two weeks ago are to be materially increased and new features added. The matter will also be taken in charge by the Centennial Commission, and the premium corn can be exhibited at the International Exposition in Philadelphia. Corn is the great American cereal, the amount, both in bushels and value, being much greater than that of any other grain, and it is, therefore, decidedly appropriate that corn should figure conspicuously at the American Centennial Exhibition.

Maine Poultry Show.—The Maine Poultry Association held a very successful show (its third annual) at Portland during the week ending Jan. 29. The first year there were about 400 entries, last year about 800, and this year 1,000. The quality of the exhibition was superior, showing great improvement in the stock. The attendance was large, some 25,000 persons having visited the show. The stock on exhibition was estimated at $60,000; the pigeons alone were valued at $10,000, four pairs of which, from New York, cost $900. A good crow for the sunrise State.

A Natural Mistake.—As a result of the ridiculous fuss which the English people always make over any of their royal family, the poor heathen of India with whom the Prince of Wales is now visiting, imagine that the Prince is the Englishman's God—or at least one of them. The mistake is not unnatural for heathen accustomed to worship at the shrine of Juggernaut.

Dreer's Garden Calendar.—This little manual for the Centennial year, published by Henry A. Dreer, No. 714 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, is on our table. It contains a full list of requisites for the flower and vegetable garden, with much valuable information to all interested in any branch of horticulture.

CENTENNIAL ITEMS.

Reverdy Johnson has prepared a written opinion, affirming the constitutionality of the Centennial appropriation.

Baron de Sant' Anna, the Portuguese Minister at Washington, has been nominated to be Centennial Commissioner for Portugal.

Flood & O'Brien are going to have one month's yield of the Consolidated Virginia and California mines exhibited at the Centennial Exposition. It is expected that $10,000,000 will be the figure, and in 3,500 silver bricks weighing 150 tons.

The Japanese Commissioners to the Centennial—Messrs. G. Kunst, M. Shieda, T. Yamaon, H. Shibata, and U. Tawara—arrived at San Francisco, Jan. 31, and will soon come East.

An effort is making to form a Georgia brigade for the Centennial, to be commanded by Gen. J. E. Johnston, and composed of battalions from Augusta, Macon, Savannah, and Atlanta.

May 10th is the day on which the great Centennial Exposition opens at Philadelphia. Those proposing to make entries should understand that there can be no more delay in the matter.

A long list of topics for Centennial sermons, has been prepared jointly by the Centennial Committee of the Brooklyn Baptist Social Union and the Central Centennial Committee of the State of New York.

O. R. Ingersoll of Knickerbocker Grange No. 154 of New York City has been invited by Bro. S. W. Lawrence, Sec'y State Grange of North Carolina, to deliver his celebrated oration on the Centennial Encampment before the State Grange of N. C., Feb. 15th.

Advertising in the Catalogue of the Centennial Exhibition is in charge of Messrs. S. M. Pettengill & Co. of New York, Phila. and Boston, the oldest and most experienced advertising house in America, and one widely noted for its responsibility and integrity. They have an agent in Europe who is procuring advertisements for the Catalogue and prominent American newspapers.

RURAL BREVITIES.

A dandelion in full bloom was picked in Medina, Ohio, in January.

The date of the next Ohio State Fair is fixed for Sept. 4, 1876, and the five days following.

The Annual Fair of the Western N. Y. Ag. Soc. will be held on the Driving Park Grounds, Rochester, Aug. 29 to Sept. 2, inclusive.

The export of grain and flour from New York for the last week in January, was: flour, 44,386 barrels; wheat, 442,826 bushels; corn, 332,326 bushels.

Indianapolis grunts with satisfaction because the number of hogs packed there this season up to date has been 258,364, an increase over last year of 11,027.

The famous racehorse Gladiateur, which won the Derby, the St. Leger, the Two Thousand Guineas Stakes, and the Grand Prize of Paris in 1865, recently died in England.

Minnesota's principal crops—grain, grass and potatoes—which were valued at $2,740,000 in 1860, aggregated $36,600,000 last year. This shows remarkable growth and progress.

One singular fact about wheat is, that the foreign markets have 30 per cent. less wheat than at this time last year, and the increase in price over last year is but four per cent.

The Mich. State Pomological Society will hold its next meeting at Lansing, Feb. 16—17, when the affairs of the Society and its programme for the year will be considered and settled.

E. & J. C. Williams of Chestnut Hill Small Fruit Nursery, Montclair, N. J., send us their descriptive catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Grape Vines and Small Fruits for the Spring of 1876.

Wm. G. Wayne has purchased the well-known Bull farm, on the banks of Cayuga Lake. This includes the famous "Bull's Grove" and the splendid woods, and is one of the finest lake-side farms in the State.

A young man of East Jaffrey, N. H., who went to Vineland, N. J., a few years since, to make his fortune raising grapes, and lost $2,000 worth in 1874 and $3,000 worth in 1875 by pests, has returned to his old home.

The Nurserymen of the Northwest are to meet at the Palmer House, in Chicago, on the second Wednesday of June next, for the purpose of organizing a Nurserymens' Association to promote the general welfare of the tree-growing interest.

A housekeeper in Des Moines, Iowa, having been much troubled by tramps who robbed his clothes lines and stole things generally, has published a card, warning all interlopers that he will shoot them on sight if they appear after nightfall.

An ox weighing 5,000 pounds arrived in Jersey City one evening last week by the Midland Railroad. He is five years old and twenty-two hands high. He rode in a hay car, the ordinary cattle car being too small. He was raised in Otsego Co.

The Maine State Ag. Society has fixed the time of its next Annual Fair for Wednesday, Aug. 30, to hold six days, thus keeping over the Sabbath—an experiment the necessity of which (we agree with the Maine Farmer in saying) is somewhat questionable.

The President of the Va. State Ag. Soc. has sent a communication to the Legislature of that State, asking an appropriation of $10,000, to be added to a like sum from the Ag. Soc., for the purpose of holding a State Fair at Richmond, as a partial compensation for Virginia's lack of representation at the Centennial.

Storrs, Harrison & Co. of Painesville, Ohio, have sent us their Spring Catalogue of New and Rare Plants for 1876, including Green-House and Bedding Plants—admirably arranged and illustrated. Also, their Catalogue of Fruits, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Bulbs, &c.,—and Semi-Annual Wholesale Trade Circular.

A bushel of oats and 400 lbs. of clover hay, will winter a sheep. With hay at $10 per ton and oats 40c. per bushel, the cost of wintering would be $1.40. If summering costs anything this does not leave much margin for profit except in the manure and opportunity to work up coarse feed not otherwise available.

The Executive Board of the Mich. State Ag. Society, at a late meeting, decided, by a vote of 15 to 5, to hereafter give no prizes for running or trotting — whereupon prominent owners of fast horses issued a call for a meeting of all horsemen at Lansing, the first Tuesday in March, with a view, it thought best, "to organize a State Horse Association, award premiums to all classes of horses, and also give premiums for trotting and running."

BUSINESS NOTICES.

BRIDE & CO,
769 Broadway, N. Y., want agents for the best money-making article in the world. Send for particulars.

For Coughs and Throat Disorders, use "Brown's Bronchial Troches," having *proved* their efficacy by a test of many years.

GOING HOME.

THE way is long, my darling,
The road is rough and steep,
And fast across the evening sky
I see the shadows sweep.
But, oh, my love, my darling,
No ill to us can come,
Nor terror turn us from our path,
For we are going home.

Your feet are tired, my darling—
So tired, the tender feet;
But think, when we are there at last,
How sweet to rest! how sweet!
For lo! the lamps are lighted,
And yonder gleaming dome,
Before us shining like a star,
Shall guide our footsteps home.

We've lost the flowers we gathered
So early in the morn;
And on we go with empty hands,
And garments soiled and worn.
But, oh, the great All-Father
Will out to meet us come,
And fairer flowers and whiter robes
There wait for us at home.

Art cold, my love, and famished?
Art faint and sore athirst?
Be patient yet a little while,
And joyous as at first.
For, oh, the sun sets never
Within that land of bloom,
And thou shalt eat the bread of life
And drink life's wine at home.

The wind blows cold, my darling,
Adown the mountain steep,
And thick across the evening sky
The darkling shadows creep;
But, oh, my love, press onward,
Whatever trials come,
For in the way the Father set
We two are going home.

The Story-Teller.

VALENTINE'S DAY,
AND WHAT IT BROUGHT TO LENORE.

BY MARY D. BRINE.

IT was Valentine's Day, and the postman who stood with a budget of dainty missives at the door of No. 49 —— St., improved the moments of waiting for response to his ring, by glancing across the way at No. 48, and pitying the lovely figure he never failed to notice, day after day, in the same seat, the same weary attitude, and with her pale, sad face always bowed over that endless stitching. "No valentines for the likes of her, 'tain't likely," he thought, "and she so pretty lookin' too!" and then his attention was called back to duty by bright little EFFIE WATERS herself, who came to the door and received her own letters, laughing merrily at the pile the carrier put into her eager hands.

The face at the opposite window turned towards EFFIE for just one moment, and a pair of wistful dark eyes noted the budget of valentines and letters fallen to the merry belle's lot, but nobody was near enough to hear the faint sigh which LENORE DE WOLF could not restrain, or to note the quick tears which sprang to eyes usually too proud to weep. But it was only for a moment; then, as the postman hurried on, and the seamstress knew he had nothing for her, she took up her sewing again and the tears were dried once more.

"Maybe I'll have one for her next round," thought the letter carrier, after he had taken a parting glance at the window of No. 48. And indeed for a whole year he had wished the same kind wish, but vainly, since, although there were plenty of letters for Miss CRAIG, with now and then one for the mother, and, I regret to say, an occasional *dun* on a postal card for the master of the house, yet nothing had ever come addressed to Miss LENORE DE WOLF. (The postman knew her name, for BRIDGET had told him,)—and the honest carrier's heart had learned to pity and sympathize with the lovely young seamstress—he knew her position in the family too, thanks to BRIDGET'S communicativeness.

Once, as he passed the house, the front door opened and a sweet voice asked, "Are you *sure* you have nothing for Miss DE WOLF, sir?" And the postman recognized the sweet, pale face, and wished in his heart he could have answered Yes. But he only shook his head and then, as he said to himself, "for a bit of encouragement"—"Maybe I might bring it on the next round, miss." That was the only time she had addressed him, and since then, a year ago, he had never seen her even turn her head when he gave his usual postman's call in the street.

Poor LENORE! She had indeed grown weary of expecting that which never came, and on this day, for the first time since despair had entwined her heart, she envied her pretty opposite neighbor her pile of letters. Well, at least she could read over, with memory's aid, certain letters of "long ago," and recall the dear past joys that lived when she lived her other life—when she was not LENORE DE WOLF, the seamstress in Mrs. CRAIG'S family, but Miss DE WOLF, the heiress and only child of her widowed mother. Miss CRAIG—upon whose ball dress LENORE was now sewing, pricking her small white finger, and wearing out her brave, dark eyes, while the young mistress herself sat in the parlor below reading the latest novel—imagined her father's home to be very fine and grand. And so it was—as fair and grand as the wealthy shoemaker could make it by continued industry in his business. But LENORE remembered—and the remembrance was so strong as to make it hard at any time to bear with patience Miss CRAIG'S smiles and insolent bearing towards the young dependant—a spacious mansion whose lofty rooms had echoed to the laugh of high-born ladies and gentlemen, her own laugh the gayest among them all. She could shut her tired eyes and see with mental vision the grand spiral staircase, up and down which ran lightly the delicate feet of maidens who would have scorned to count a shoemaker's daughter as one of "*their* set." She could see the walls of this fine old mansion hung with portraits, ancient and modern, of generations gone and those yet on earth. She could see as she last beheld them the noble works of distinguished sculptors, the statuary which gleamed in marble whiteness from every silken-draped alcove. She could hear the grand chords of music, the throbbing, pulsating music to which guests were moving gracefully; and again her own heart throbbed, as it had throbbed that last time to the swelling strains of the valse *one* had shared with her. There came before her the noble face of her mother, the high-born mistress of this grand old home; and LENORE remembered a portrait which hung in her mother's chamber, her father's portrait, and all of that father her young eyes had ever seen.

So long, so very long ago it was, since this sad dreamer and that light-hearted maiden were one. How did it happen that with the sudden death of her mother the property took to itself wings and flew beyond the orphan's reach? Ah! no one knows. How do strange things always happen? Enough for LENORE to know that not only was she orphaned and poverty stricken, but her heart was also robbed of the happiness which love had given, and *one*, the favored suitor of all who had sued her in vain, was lost to her forever; and the desolate girl, too proud to depend upon friends who knew her in better days, was glad to cross the water and find shelter in a strange land for her wounded pride and breaking heart.

And thus it had come to pass that LENORE DE WOLF, the once favored of fortune, became simply Mrs. CRAIG'S seamstress.

"Does the fine embroidery, you know, and ornamental work," explains Mrs. CRAIG to her intimate friend. "I shouldn't wonder if she had seen better days; she has really quite an air about her, and moves about my house quite as if she had lived as well all her days. It really amuses us to watch the girl!" Ah, Mrs. CRAIG; it is well for your complacency that you cannot enter into LENORE'S day dreams.

Five years is it since the seamstress left her native land to seek a home among strangers. Yes, LENORE remembers that after her mother's death, while yet the tears of grief were upon her cheeks, and even as she longed for the return of her lover from some distant city that he might comfort her in her affliction and help her to laugh to scorn the loss of her wealth lo! there came but these words from him instead:

"Farewell, LENORE. I forgive thee because so truly I have loved thee, my own! Henceforth HENRI shall be dead to thee—have thou no fear!"

Only these lines and the paper containing them was blistered as though the writer's heart had suffered in its pain a tear to fall upon his "farewell." And since then LENORE'S heart had never ceased its questioning of fate. "*Why* had her love sent her so strange a note? *What* had she done? And, oh GOD! *when* would her own faithfulness be made known to him who had never since that cruel time been heard from?" That somebody had plotted mischief between them she now had little doubt; but if ever on this earth they might meet again—ah! how could she know!

And so the weary days had passed. LENORE made a few friends in this land of strangers and maintained herself respectably, still retaining, in face and bearing, her native-born "air," as Mrs. CRAIG called it. Then one day she entered that lady's home as seamstress, and for one year, day after day, as we have described, her face was seen beside the window of the "second story front," and always, as the postman observed, at the same endless round of "stitch, stitch, stitch." And Miss CRAIG displayed to envying acquaintances her handsomely worked covers and cases, handkerchiefs, etc., and thanked her stars that "Mamma had at last secured a decent seamstress; why, the girl was *so* reserved, and pretended *such* exclusiveness, it was quite difficult to teach her her real position!" And LENORE, sitting alone in the quiet room, heard the loud-spoken and thoughtless words as they floated up through the register and smiled her scorn of the speaker. But it was not in her, because she was not a saint, to resist the impulse which led her to observe, when presently Miss CRAIG swept into the room to examine her work, "In future, Miss CRAIG, if it pleases you to discuss your seamstress, be kind enough to close the register, for I fear I am easily annoyed." And then she smiled at Miss CRAIG'S open-mouthed crimson-faced astonishment. Since that day there had been no more register-betrayed speeches, but LENORE was made to suffer for her reproof by a thousand and one annoyances and slights, only endured by the proud-spirited girl because of her entire dependence and need of employment.

And now we return to Valentine's Day. The long, bright day had almost passed, and twilight shadows were falling. Miss CRAIG had read her Valentines and confided to her tired seamstress her triumphs over hearts and admirers. And now she must rest awhile, for this was the night of her grand ball, ("nuisance of a party," as Mr. CRAIG called it,) and everybody in Miss CRAIG'S set was invited.

LENORE put the last finishing touches to the fluffy, gauze-like dress in which the young lady of the house would robe herself for the occasion, and pretty EFFIE WATERS from over the way stood idly drumming on the window pane, watching with pitying blue eyes the bowed figure of the seamstress, and wondering if the poor girl did not once in a while *envy* the gaieties she could not share. "Just look at her, mamma!" she exclaimed at last. "They do keep her working so, and now she's straining her poor eyes in this fading light just to finish BELLE CRAIG'S party dress. Too bad, isn't it?"

Mamma WATERS thought it was "too bad" indeed, and regretted that the rules of etiquette compelled EFFIE to attend the party that evening. The CRAIG'S were too boisterous a family to please this rather fastidious mother, but as neighbors some things could not well be avoided, and thus it happened that EFFIE was to share in the general "upside-down-edness" (as the paternal CRAIG styled it) of the CRAIG mansion that evening.

Darkness came to LENORE'S aid, and the busy hands laid finally at rest for a brief season.

"Buzz,—hum,—buzz!" LENORE up stairs in her small, dimly-lighted room, listened wearily to the ceaseless flow of small talk which, mingling with the sweeter strains of the music to which merry feet kept time, overflowed the house and crept into the street without—edifying a small crowd of street boys and beggars gathered to "see the fun:" LENORE'S heart borrowed a little of the gladness presently, as her thoughts were carried on memory's wings back to the dear old times past. "Ah, me! that is the valse which HENRI and I danced on the one glad night that he told me the secret of his love!" she murmured, her hands clasping themselves tightly together, and her cheeks crimsoning with the sweet remembrance. And little by little the glad, throbbing chords tempted her, the quiet listener, to a seat on the top stair of the shaded third hall, where, leaning her head against the wall, she listened to the joy she had, alas! no right to share.

EFFIE WATERS and Monsieur DE MONTVILLE had finished their waltz and passed from the parlors into the broad hall to rest and chat awhile. LENORE, who had been called upon to mend a rent in Miss CRAIG'S dress, and also was requested by that lady to remain in the dressing-room ready for similar mishaps to the guests, turned down a little the gas which troubled her tear-swollen eyes and seated herself on the low lounge again to think of happier times, and wonder what Miss DE WOLF'S friends would think, could they now see the humble seamstress in her position as *lady's maid*. Tears rushed to her eyes, and the small white hands clenched themselves with the tide of suppressed indignation, unuttered though so keenly felt. And gradually the tired head drooped, the tear-stained eyes closed, and LENORE was speedily transported from pain and sad memories to the once stately home and joys of her own dear land—vivid and real as dreams could make them.

"My fan!" exclaimed EFFIE, soon after. "I must have left it in the dressing-room. "Excuse me while I go for it," she said; but Monsieur DE MONTVILLE gallantly requested the pleasure of serving her; the maid would give it to him, and in one moment Miss EFFIE should receive it from his hands. And the handsome figure—the lion of the rooms and "catch of the season" ran lightly up the staircase, leaving bright-faced EFFIE, the sister of this same lion's warmest friend among America's sons and his chosen partner for the evening, to dispense her smiles to a few patiently-awaiting admirers thus far unable to secure her.

Only a dimly-lighted room, and to the Frenchman's embarrassment no waiting-maid to search for the missing fan. What could he do but step softly in and himself try to find it. So the gas was raised and the gentleman turned. Ah! who was she whose head was bowed against the arm of the small lounge whereon she sat? No more remembrance of the fan!—no more thought of the company below!—only a wild desire to look closer upon that pale, sleeping face which years of separation had not driven from his memory.

But LENORE stirred and opened her eyes, and instantly remembering where he was, HENRI DE MONTVILLE slipped from the room and trembling with excitement rejoined EFFIE. "Come with me," he whispered; "come with me there," pointing to a deserted room beyond; and EFFIE, wondering at his excitement, followed him unobserved. Then and there HENRI DE MONTVILLE questioned EFFIE imploringly concerning the girl who, despite her position as seeming lady's maid, was, his heart made him sure, one whom in five years he had not forgotten, nor had he ceased to love. EFFIE knew his story—knew it from her brother's lips, for a thousand times had the young Frenchman told it to his warm and sympathetic friend, only reserving the name of his lost love as something too sacred to be betrayed. And EFFIE,

THE FIRST VALENTINE—(See page 111.)

wishing with all her heart that his grief might thus find happy ending, told willingly all she knew concerning Miss CRAIG's seamstress.

"LENORE, you say!—LENORE! Ah, *now* I am sure! I knew there was but one face like that in all this world!" he exclaimed passionately. "And *my* LENORE, whom I loved—LENORE DE WOLF, my once promised wife, is here in this family, a *seamstress!*" Could Miss EFFIE arrange that he might meet her that night? How could he leave the house without speaking to her whom he thought he had lost forever?

All this and much more he asked of EFFIE, and she promised—as what warm-hearted girl of seventeen would not have promised?—to render all assistance to the long-parted lovers. Through another miserable dance, for Mrs. GRUNDY's sake, they walked, EFFIE and the impatient HENRI, whose thoughts were all in the dimly-lighted room above. Then on a card he scribbled a line which EFFIE, with a rueful face over a pretended mishap to her dress, took up to the tired girl who waited in the dressing-room.

"O, Miss WATERS, I think I must have slept;" said LENORE as EFFIE softly entered, "for some one came in and raised the gas which I had turned down. And I fear Miss CRAIG will think me very careless of my duty."

"Your duty," said EFFIE smiling, "is to read this card and be brave as *you* can be," putting the card into LENORE's hand.

"HENRI DE M—— is here! O, LENORE, let me come to you, for there has been a wrong done to us both, I fear!"

One wild, imploring glance at EFFIE—one faint prayer—"O, Miss WATERS, tell me it is not a cruel jest!" and then Miss CRAIG's seamstress quietly floated into that strange middle world of unconsciousness, and poor, frightened little EFFIE, who had never seen any one faint before, almost drowned the fainting girl with the pitcher of water near by—for water, she had heard, "was always used to bring people to."

Did they meet that night? Well no, because Mrs. GRUNDY'S rules came between the longing hearts of the two so long kept apart. But HENRI slept (?) the remainder of the night under Mrs. WATER'S roof, while LENORE walked her room and longed for daylight, and read her Valentine (oh, yes, *her* Valentine come at last) over and over, and kissed the name it bore until her happy tears had almost blotted it out of sight.

And from HENRI himself Miss CRAIG was informed *whom* she had been honored with as seamstress in her house. From HENRI she learned of LENORE's former position, and was fain to hide her head with shame as she remembered her own uncalled-for arrogance.

How did it end? As such things always do end, of course—and as this is truth, it follows that it is *stronger than fiction*. The postman heard, through BRIDGET, of LENORE's Valentine after all; and not very long after Miss CRAIG beheld from her window the arrival at Mrs. WATERS' of Monsieur and Madame DE MONTVILLE as honored guests and friends.

HENRY WILSON'S EARLY LIFE.

THE following interesting incidents in the life of the late ex-President WILSON, as told by himself, are given by a writer in the N. Y. Tribune:

"I was born," he said, "in 1812, and at the age of ten years was put out as an apprentice to a farmer. From the day of my birth to the day I was 21 years old I never had a dollar in money to spend for anything. During the whole of my apprenticeship my master never but once gave me a penny. On that occasion he allowed me a holiday with permission to attend a muster seven miles from home, and gave me three cents to spend. I walked to and from the muster, and of course spent no more than that sum.

"On the day I was 21 years old—I remember it very well, one Saturday, the 16th of February—in the afternoon, my master gave me a yoke of oxen and six sheep. The latter I sold the same afternoon for $9, but, not being able to dispose of the oxen that day, I requested my master to keep them for me until Monday morning, which he did, but charged me 50 cents for it. I paid him this and took the oxen away. I sold them to a man for $75, and took his note for the amount. So when I became of age I had for eleven year's work (I was sent to school only four weeks each year) $84. I had saved 57 cents, which I had in some way obtained, but I had paid 50 of this to my master for keeping my oxen two nights. I then hired myself to a farmer, agreeing to work for $6 a month and board. I used to get up long before daylight, feed the stock, get my breakfast, and, just as the east was beginning to be streaked with red, start off for the woods with my team. I used to place my dinner-pail on the sunny side of a tree, and continue drawing saw-logs to the mill until after dark at night. Then I went home, fed the stock, ate my supper, and went to bed. My father tended the saw-mill most of the time for many years for 50 cents a day.

"In the spring of the same year, I took my pack upon my back and started afoot for the town where I now live, Natick, Mass., 100 miles away, and that journey cost me just $1.25. I worked there at shoemaking, averaging 15 hours a day, and the last week's work I did at the bench was at bottoming shoes for $5 a week. Out of this I paid 50 cents for pegs and $2 for board, so that I had left just $2.50. I have bottomed 54 pairs of men's shoes without sleeping, and that for a little more than 50 cents. But even at this rate I got some money ahead, and made up my mind to work my way through college. I lent my money to a man in Boston, and went to the Academy at Concord, N. H. I had been there only six (three?) months when the man, to whom I had intrusted my fortune, failed, and I lost it all. I was so reduced that, although I owed for two or three week's board, I was absolutely unable to pay it, or even to take a letter from the Post-Office without borrowing money to pay the postage. But a friend invited me to remain and board with him, and pay him when I was able. So I stayed through the term, and in the Winter earned money enough to pay him by teaching school. Now the men who are working at shoemaking 10 hours a day, and earning from $3 to $5 a day, complain.

A GOOD NAME.

THE other day a young African asked us if it were "agin de law" to change his name. We replied that if he had a good name he had better keep it, as a good name was one thing to be desired in this world.

"I'se got a pretty t'ar name," he said, "wat I'se had eber since de war, but it won't do for dise chile eny moah."

"Why, what's the matter with it?" we asked.

"Well, you see, boss, dar's a fool nigger come hyar from Chillicothe, an' he's a buzzin' around wid my name, and no two niggers can cirgumgate in the same town unless one or de uder ob 'em hab a different prodogneem."

"Perhaps you can prevail on him to adopt another name."

"No, sah; I offered him fo'ah bits and a rahzor to call hisself something else 'sides Geowge Washin'ton Jones, but the yaller fool won't do it."

"Yellow, is he?"

"Yes, sir, an' dat's what make me so injurious 'bout it. He says de Joneses was the furstest families in Firginny, and dat he's condescended in a direct line from dem, an' consequenchly darfo'ah values de name moah exceedingly dan uderwise."

"So you propose to off with the old name and on with a new?"

"Somethin' like that, I s'pose, boss. An' I wants to ax you de favor to sejest some disappropriate name dat'll do for a cullud pusson oh standin'. I don't soshate wid de common low-class niggers, and I wants a name o' dere uncomprehension—wat dey can't steal, you know."

"How'll Benedict Arnold do?"

"De Arnold an tonish, for suah, but dar's too many Bennys and Dicks around. Try anudder one, boss."

"Well, Algernon Sartoris, how's that?"

"Dat's superlugant! Algerneyman Sartoris Arnold—dat'll do fur some ob de name. Please reach fur anuther one, sah."

"Why, that's name enough. How much do you want, for goodness sake?"

"Boss, you must 'member dat I'se deekin in de church, an' 'prietor ob a house an' lot."

"Oh! yes; well, let's see—Bill Allen?"

"Dat's too common."

"Abraham Lincoln."

"Too ordinary, sah. Git up higher."

"Phil Sheridan?"

"Higher yet, sah, if you please."

"William Tecumseh Sher——"

"Stop, sah, dat's nuff—needn't feel no furder. Wilyum Cherkumsey—dat sounds like Old Kaintuck—Wilyum Cherkumsey Algerneyman Sarteris Arnold! Yes, sir, dat'll do—no low-class nigger can get inside o' dat. You'se de solum witness, boss, dat dat's my name from henceforth on to all precedin' time. I'se obliged to you, sah."

As he walked majestically away, repeating the name over to himself, he was the proudest darkey in Brunswick. And yet Shakspeare says there's nothing in a name.—*Missouri Brunswicker.*

THE OUTSIDE PASSENGER.

THE Boston Commercial Bulletin tells this may be true story:

It was in the days of stage-coaches, and one of those huge, lumbering vehicles, was ploughing its way between Boston and Salem in a driving rainstorm, filled inside and outside with a jolly set of passengers.

Among the number of the more fortunate insiders was a respectable, bald-headed old gentleman, who seemed to be very solicitous about a lady riding on the roof. Every few minutes he popped out his head, regardless of the rain, and shouted to some one above, "Well, how is she now?" And the answer came, "All right."

"Is she getting wet?" inquired the old man.

"No, not much," was the reply.

"Well, can't you put something round her? 'Twill never do to have her get wet, you know."

"We've got everything around her we can get."

"Haven't you got an old coat or rug?"

"No, not a rag more."

A sympathetic young man, hearing all this, and feeling alarmed for the poor lady out in the storm, inquired of the old gentleman why they didn't have her inside, and not on the roof?

"Bless you, there ain't room!" exclaimed the old man.

"Not room! Why, I'll give her my place; it's too bad."

"Not at all, sir; not at all. We couldn't get her into this stage anyhow."

Amazed at her prodigious dimensions, the kind young man said, "Well, sir, if my coat would be of any service to you she may have it;" and, suiting the action to the word, he took the garment and handed it to the old gentleman.

"It's almost a pity, sir, to get your overcoat wet, but——"

"Not at all, sir; by no means: pass it up to her."

The coat was accordingly passed up.

"How'll that do for her?" asked the old gentleman.

"Tip-top! Just the ticket! All right now.

Thus relieved, no further anxiety was manifested about the outside passenger till the stage arrived at the inn, when what was the sympathetic and the gallant young man's surprise and indignation to find that his nice coat had been wrapped around—not a fair young lady of unusual proportions, but—a double bass viol.

THE PODDLES FAMILY.

PODDLES, JUNIOR, has unfortunately an ear for music—two much so, in fact. In this he bears no resemblance to Poddles, *pere*, whose musical notions are so vage that he can with difficulty distinguish his favorite air, "Old Dog Tray," from "The Irish Washerwoman."

Whenever Poddles, Jr., is relieved from the laborious occupation of devouring bread and molasses, he is either whistling or singing. His *repertoire* of airs is extensive, comprising all those furnished by the street musicians and concert halls. No matter though he be perusing the most exciting pages of "Jack Harkaway," this youth indulged in song at the same time, totally oblivious of the fact that others cannot appreciate his music when similarly engaged.

The other evening his father entered the room, where the junior, seated in his favorite rocking-chair, with one leg over an arm, was filling the house with that well-known air, "Up in a Balloon."

"Thomas, where did you put the market basket this morning?" demanded the senior.

"Down in a coal mine, underneath the ground," sang the junior, without looking up.

"Down where?" sharply inquired the senior, who is a little deaf.

"Where a ray of sunshine never can be found," yelled the youngster.

"Can't, never be found, hey? you young rascal," shrieked the elder party, making a break for his son and heir. "What do you mean? Answer me directly."

"Yes, pap; what is it?" 'Sweet Genevieve, sweet Gene——'"

"I'll sweeten you, young imp. Mrs. Poodles, this all comes from that boy reading dime song books, 'Jack Harkaway,' and similar stories. Come, sir (threateningly), where's the market basket?"

"In the cellar, pap. 'Put me in my little bed,'" he shouted.

"Very good. Be off this instant," replied the senior, taking the junior at his word, and before that misguided little musician could well realize the turn affairs had taken he was quickly trotted off bed-ward to the enlivening tune of the "Mulligan Guards."

An hour afterward a faint voice from the attic was heard imploring forgiveness, mingled with the plaintive song of the Madrigal boys, "Good night, good night, good night."—*Danbury News.*

HOW THE WIDOW CAUGHT HIM.

A GENTLEMAN of an autobiographical turn relates how he was instructed in the custom of taking toll by a sprightly widow during a moonlight sleigh ride with a merry party. He says:

The lovely widow L—— sat in the same sleigh, under the same buffalo robe with me.

"Oh, oh,—don't, don't!" she exclaimed, as we came to the first bridge, at the same time catching me by the arm and turning her veiled face toward me, while her little eyes twinkled through the moonlight.

"Don't what?" I asked. "I'm not doing anything."

"Well, but I thought you were going to take toll," replied the widow.

"Toll?" I rejoined. "What's that?"

"Well, I declare!" cried the widow, her clear laugh ringing out above the music of the bells, "you pretend you don't know what toll is!"

"Indeed, I don't, then," I said, laughing; "explain, if you please."

"You never heard, then," said the widow, most provokingly, "you never heard that when we are on a sleigh-ride the gentlemen always—that is sometimes—when they cross a bridge claim a kiss and call it toll. But I never pay it."

I said that I never heard of it before; but when we came to the next bridge I claimed the toll, and the widow's struggles to hold the veil over her face were not enough to tear it. At last the veil was removed, her round, rosy face was turned directly toward mine, and in the clear light of a frosty moon the toll was taken, for the first time in my experience. Soon we came to a long bridge with several arches; the widow said it was of no use to resist a man who would have his own way, so she paid the toll without a murmur.

"But you won't take toll for every arch, will you?" she said, so archly, that I could not fail to exact all my dues; and that was the beginning of my courtship.—*Providence Journal.*

SILENT MEN.

WASHINGTON never made a speech. In the zenith of his fame he once attempted it, failed, and gave it up, confused and abashed. In framing the Constitution of the United States the labor was almost wholly performed in Committee of the Whole, of which George Washington was the Chairman. He spoke twice during the Convention; but his words were so few that they could not fitly be termed speeches. The Convention, however, acknowledged the master spirit, and historians affirm that, had it not been for his personal popularity and the sincerity with which he spoke, the Constitution would have been rejected by the people. Thomas Jefferson never made a speech. He couldn't do it. Napoleon, whose executive ability was almost without a parallel, said that his greatest trouble was in finding men of deeds rather than words. When asked how he maintained his influence over his superiors in age and experience, when Commander-in-Chief of the army in Italy, he said, "By reserve." The greatness of a man is not to be measured by the length of his speeches or their number.

Sabbath Reading.

APART.

BY ROSE GERANIUM.

AH me! the graves that will not fold
Their generous mantles o'er the dead,
But with remorseless fingers hold
The frames which being long hath fled!

Yet still, with steps that quivering go,
Our ways among them we must take,
Haply, if tears that scalding flow,
May bathe the weary hearts that break.

How hard to watch the changeful eyes
Thro' years of solitary pain,
With love that lisps her ceaseless cries—
To watch and pray and watch—in vain!

To touch the hands, nor feel a thrill
Of answer through the pulses steal—
To know dumb silence watches still
The bosom that will not unseal.

O GOD! in other plans than these
Shall Sovereign hands the shadows bend,
And souls which holy Morning frees
Find recognition in the end?

A GREAT AUTHOR'S BELIEF.

VICTOR HUGO, at a recent dinner party in Paris, gave free expression in the presence of atheists to his belief in the infinite and in the soul's immortality. Hugo's face was bright with a heavenly halo and his eyes shone like burning coals.

"There are no occult forces," said he; "there are only luminous forces. Occult force is chaos, the luminous force is GOD. Man is an infinitely little copy of GOD; this is glory enough for man. I am a man, an invisible atom, a drop in the ocean, a grain of sand on the shore. Little as I am, I feel the God in me, because I can also bring form out of my chaos. I make books which are creations. I feel in myself the future life. I am like a forest which has been more than once cut down. The new shoots are stronger and livelier than ever. I am rising, I know, toward the sky. The sunshine is on my head. The earth gives me its generous sap, but heaven lights me with the reflection of unknown worlds. You say the soul is nothing but the resultant of bodily powers. Why, then, is my soul the more luminous when my bodily powers begin to fail? Winter is on my head and eternal spring is in my heart. There I breathe at this hour the fragrance of the lilacs, the violets and the roses, as at twenty years. The nearer I approach the end, the plainer I hear around me the immortal symphonies of the worlds which invite me. It is marvelous, yet simple. It is a fairy tale, and it is history. For half a century I have been writing my thoughts in prose and verse, history, philosophy, drama, romance, tradition, satire, ode and song. I have tried all. But I feel I have not said the thousandth part of what is in me. When I go down to the grave I can say, like so many others, 'I have finished my day's work,' but I cannot say 'I have finished my life.' My day's work will begin again the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight to open with the dawn."

A DELIGHTFUL LEGEND.

THERE is a beautiful legend connected with the site on which the Temple of Solomon was erected. It is said to have been occupied in common by two brothers, one of whom had a family, but the other had none. On the spot was a field of wheat. On the evening succeeding the harvest, the wheat having been gathered in shocks, the elder brother said to his wife:

"My younger brother is unable to bear the burden and heat of the day. I will arise, take off my shocks and place them with his, without his knowledge."

The younger brother, being actuated by the same benevolent motives, said within himself:

"My elder brother has a family and I have none. I will contribute to their support. I will arise, take off my shocks and place them with his, without his knowledge."

Judge of their astonishment when, on the following morning, they found that their respective shocks were undiminished. This course of events transpired for several nights, when each resolved in his own mind to stand guard and, if possible, solve the mystery. They did so, when, on the following night, they met each other half way between their respective shocks with their arms full.

Upon ground hallowed by such associations as this was the Temple of King Solomon erected—so spacious, so magnificent, the wonder and admiration of the world. Alas! in these days, how many would sooner steal their brother's whole shock than add to it a single sheaf!

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

A GOOD man and a wise man may at times be angry with the world, at times grieved at it; but it is certain that no man was ever truly discontented with the world if he faithfully performed his whole duty in it.

THE wounds of CHRIST were the greatest outlets of his glory that ever were. The divine glory shone more out of his wounds than out of all his life before.

IT is easier to find a score of men wise enough to discover the truth than to find one intrepid enough, in the face of opposition, to stand up for the same.

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER.

BY ANNIE L JACK.

SHE lives within a quiet home,
No model of the graces,
Unknown to culture's higher walks,
Or fashion's giddy places:
A thoughtful girl, so sweet, so wise
With earnest face and loving eyes—
The farmer's gentle daughter.

From morn till eve the little maid
Is busy at her labor—
She sweeps and dusts the old farm house
And helps a poorer neighbor;
No gossip will she listen to
(A merit rare, I own to you)
So lives the farmer's daughter.

On baking days her tiny hands
Are busy at the making:
No bread more light and sweet than hers,
Was ever made by baking.
She churns the butter golden, sweet,
And keeps the dairy white and neat—
The farmer's useful daughter.

Her garden is an Eden fair,
A-bloom with pinks and roses,
She knows the name of every flower,
And makes some gorgeous posies,—
Grows peas, and radishes, and cress,
And corn, and squash, and herbs to press—
The farmer's happy daughter.

Long may she bravely smile on us,—
Our darling household fairy,
The queen of garden, house and lot,
And princess of the dairy—
To teach us by her pleasant way
To love the things of every day—
God bless the farmer's daughter.

SOFT SOAP, WITH PLENTY OF LIE.

BY MRS. HATTIE F. BELL.

"OH, dear! There comes that horrid Mrs. JONES again! ALMIRA, do run and put that new basque pattern of mine out of sight, for she'll be sure to ask me for it if she sees it. Her prying eyes are in every corner, and she's never in a hurry to return anything, either. What a shabby old bonnet she's got on; and as sure as my name is STUBBS if she hasn't got that homely young 'un of hers with her. He's five years old, and squalls more than any six-months-old baby I ever saw. And that's her same old dress, too, ain't it? Of course she'll stay all day. Dear! how I detest her. I wish she was in France. Well, I may as well open the door. I suppose she'd rap her knuckles off but what she'd get in.'

"Why, my dear Mrs. JONES, how do you do? I was just saying to ALMIRA, this morning, 'How I do wish Mrs. JONES would come over and spend the day! It's an age since I've seen her.' And I'm glad you brought JIMMIE, too—dear little fellow! As I was telling ALMIRA, he's such a brave and gentlemanly little boy. I was afraid when you did come you'd leave him at home. As I told ALMIRA, 'taint often you see such a nice little boy. Take off your bonnet, Mrs. JONES; what a beauty it is! As I was telling ALMIRA, this morning, 'Mrs. JONES is such a tasty woman.' You always have the prettiest bonnet in the meetin' house. Why, if you hain't making another new dress! I don't see what you want of another, so many nice ones as you've got now. Why if I had half as many I'd feel rich as a queen. Now if my new basque pattern was only home, I'd let you have it, but Miss SAMPLE she had to up and borrow it before I'd a chance to use it myself. As I told ALMIRA, 'Now, Mrs. JONES wouldn't do so.' You're always so particular about such things. I'd send ALMIRA right over there after it, but I know she wouldn't get it.

"What! are you going so soon? Why, as true as the world it is past supper time. I meant as much as could be to have you stay to tea. I told ALMIRA 'twould be just like you not to stay, but I had set my heart on it, after all. Well, I don't like to urge folks out of their way. If you must go, you'd better walk fast, as it looks like rain, and 'twould be a pity to spoil your bonnet."

Mrs. JONES departs, thinking what a firm friend she has gained in dear Mrs. STUBBS. "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise."

MAPLE BUDS.

No. I—Teaching not Child's Play.

BY MAY MAPLE.

"I HAVE got through with arithmetic, algebra, geography, grammar and philosophy,"—why it fairly takes one's breath to think what a prodigy it is—writes a child of twelve years. And then she asks if we do not think she can teach school in a year or two. If the little girl means to teach a public school, we should answer most decidedly,—if she were our daughter,—"*No, no.*"

Not less than seventeen years should crown the child's head when she burdens her young shoulders with the responsibilities and cares of a teacher. When she takes upon herself the honor—and an honor it truly is, to be a teacher,—she must make up her mind to incessant labor; ever to be at her post through storm or sunshine, through summer's heat and winter's snow. She will have all sorts of dispositions with which to deal; some that will be extremely stubborn and disagreeable to encounter, both inside and *outside* of the school-room. She will need to sip largely from JOB'S fountain of patience; and although she has eaten quite heartily from the Tree of Knowledge, we think a little of SOLOMON'S wisdom will do her no harm if taken as dessert.

Teaching is not, or should not be, child's play. We think most likely the little girl may be very successful in teaching a select school, and might commence immediately, if she can have a good assistant in the form of a thoughtful, intelligent, loving mother. But we would suggest that the lessons taught be in the branches of Self-government, Self-reliance, Domestic Economy, General Intelligence, Patience and Humility; and that the number of scholars be limited to *one*, and that one, herself. These sciences well studied and practiced for the next ten years, then thoroughly reviewed in company with the school books that she now imagines she is "through with," and our word for it she will make a better teacher and a nobler woman than if she goes into the school-room "mistress of ceremonies," with her childish smattering of wisdom, at the too early age of fourteen.

HOW LITTLE BOYS CAN HELP.

"OH, these boys;" says MARY. "Isn't it queer how well it rhymes with noise?—In fact as if it was made on purpose."

We looked up and there they were—three sturdy little fellows, strong, rosy-cheeked and full of fun, crowding each other as they stood over the stove and snuffed the air and teased sister MARY to find out what nice smell foretold a savory dinner. Then "mother" came in. "Ah, WILL," she said, "can you clean the knives? We are busy, and *that* dinner would hardly cut with a dirty knife. JAMIE, a few sticks of good wood from the shed will make that pudding *boil* grand (with emphasis). Now, STANTON, wash your hands and face, and help set the table; be sure to lift all the dishes with two hands; they cost so much when we have to go to the store for new."

In a few moments the restless boys were transformed into little housekeepers, busy with light work that saved the girls many steps, and in after years would be useful to them as a lesson well learned. The boys of a household after they grow old enough are often worked too heavily; but many a mother with a group from four years old to ten, does not know that they can be made useful in many ways, and doubly happy in being able to do mother's work. In the family where this took place a boy of seven takes turn with another of nine to do the churning in one of the light, patent Blanchard Churns. True, there is only the milk of two cows, but it is fun for them to do it and a miniature pad of butter is an ample reward; at the same time noise is utilized, and so are boys.

ANNIE L. J.

PROMISED LAND FOR WOMEN.

OLIVE HARPER writes of domestic life in Greece, that in one respect it is the promised land for women; for the husbands, in devotion to their wives, are themselves their only parallel. She says:—A Greek man is only content when he can lavish upon his wife all the luxuries in the way of dress the female heart can desire. He is only happy when, in company with his wife in the house, in the garden or on the promenade, she is the best dressed of all the fair. With the Greek husband there is no grumbling consent to bestow upon you enough to buy a pair of boots, while he spends ten times that amount with his friends in champagne suppers; no long-drawn visage as he doles out a stingy sum, while delivering a solemn lecture as to female extravagance. Not a bit of it. On the contrary, the Greek husband does not lead his wife through by-streets for fear of dry goods stores when she wishes to go out for a little walk. He leads her, on the contrary, past the most fashionable stores, and observes, with the eye of a critic, all the new styles, and is really and truly willing to spend his money for his own wife. Even for fear that she should not be considered so lovely as some one else, he goes to a perfumer's, he buys cold cream, rice powder, delicate pinks for cheeks a little blanched by the stern realities of motherhood; he buys a little black for eyelashes, to brighten eyes that have become somewhat dimmed by tears, perhaps, or vigils over sick babies, and he not only gives his full and free consent to their use, but he himself will artistically apply them, and afterward compliment his wife upon her beauty till her heart swells with love that he knows so well how to retain, fresh as when the first vows were plighted. Yes, of a verity, the Greeks are bad men, but good husbands and tender fathers.

THE whole story of human life is compressed into this dainty little poem by Jean Ingelow:

Sweet is childhood—childhood's over
Kiss and part,
Sweet is youth; but youth's a rover—
So's my heart.
Sweet is rest; but by all showing
'Toil is nigh.
We must go. Alas! the going.
Say "Good-by."

KEEPING BIRTHDAYS.—It is not generally known that the good custom of keeping birthdays is many thousand years old. It is recorded in the fortieth chapter of Genesis and twentieth verse; "And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants."

A HAT made of human hair was recently sent to a Chilian exhibition by a Guatemala woman, the material of which came from the heads of her two daughters. Hereafter young ladies are expected to present their lovers, not with a lock of hair, but with a hat of hair.

HE that thinks innocent pastime foolish has either to grow wiser, or is past the ability to do so; and we have always counted it an impudent fiction that playfulness is inconsistent with greatness. Many men and women have died of dignity.

Reading for the Young.

THE FIRST VALENTINE.

(SEE ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE 109.)

RAT-TAT at the door! Rat-tat at the door!
Here are Valentines one, two, three;
There is one for Harry, and one for Will,
And a big one for girlie! See,
Wildly she flies o'er the nursery floor,
Never was girlie so happy before,
As she shouts in her baby glee—
"Oh, I've got a Valentine, all come look,
As big as the sheet of a picture-book!
Now don't you wish you all, like me,
Had a great big heart painted red, you see?"

All day long—now in, now out—
Now up, now down—she wanders about,
Showing her treasure, 'tis fast getting torn,
But paper, we all know, is very soon worn.
"Who do you think can love me the most
To buy this, and send it along by the post?
Do look again, you must like to see,
'Tis a great big heart, and it 'longs to me,
And please to read me the written line
That says, 'God bless you, sweet Valentine!'"

WHAT THE ROSE TOLD THE BUTTERFLY.

TIRED of roaming about from flower to flower, and, strange as it may appear, a little sick of honey, the beautiful butterfly, with the rainbow-tinted wings, stopped, at the end of a long summer afternoon, to take a few moments' rest on the branch of a fragrant rose-tree.

As he did so, he spied just above him a big brown caterpillar, slowly eating its way through one of the largest of green leaves.

"Well," said the young butterfly, opening wide his wings, so that all the roses and buds might see their brilliant colors, "that is a queer looking thing. It don't appear to have any legs, and it's very ugly. I've half a mind to speak to it."

Then he had a whole mind, and spoke. "Hallo! my friend" (his friend, indeed!)—"you with a fur coat on—in such warm weather, too. How very odd, when one feels like wearing no coat at all. What are you?

"What you were once yourself," answered the caterpillar, gruffly, raising its head for an instant, and then quietly going on with its meal.

"I!" said the butterfly, standing on the tip of his toes in his great astonishment, "Well, that is a good joke. I ever anything like you! The idea is absurd, ridiculous! I fly; you crawl. I feed on honey; you on green leaves. I, to speak plainly, am beautiful; and you, to speak still more plainly, extremely not beautiful. Oh, no! my funny fellow. You've made a great mistake, or else told a great——"

"Stop, stop!" said a sweet voice, and a lovely crimson rose leaned toward the indignant speaker. "The caterpillar has spoken the truth."

"Why, how do you know, pretty one?" asked the butterfly.

"The grape-vine told me all about it," replied the rose.

"And I should feel obliged if you would tell me all about it," said the butterfly.

"With pleasure," said the rose, and began: "When I was a bud I used to peep through my green lattice-work at a tiny cradle or hammock, or something of that sort, that hung from a branch of the blackberry bush just opposite, and wondered what was in it. It never stirred only when the breeze came along and stopped to rock it for a few moments; when one day, as I was watching and wondering, it burst asunder, and you, most beautiful of butterflies, came out—"

"Yes, yes, I remember that," interrupted the butterfly, forgetting his politeness in his impatience. "But what has that to do with my ever being like a caterpillar?"

"Like a caterpillar," muttered the fur-coated one, with his mouth full. "Oh! yes, indeed! Very like!"

"Have patience," said the rose, "and you shall hear. At the moment you first unfolded your wings the grape-vine behind me flung out a pretty tendril and caught me around the stem."

"'Ah, I have you now, Queen of the Rosebuds,' said he (he's a merry fellow, always full of fun); 'and I shall hold you until you tell me what you are thinking about.'

"'I don't mind telling you at all,' said I. 'I was wondering what was that just opened and let out a lovely butterfly.'

"'That,' said the grape-vine (who is ever so old, years old, and knows everything that is to be known about a garden)), 'that, sweetest of sweet, wee blossoms, was a caterpillar's coffin.'

"'A caterpillar's coffin!' repeated I, in great surprise.

"'Yes. When a caterpillar gets tired of being a caterpillar it makes for itself a coffin, and into that coffin it goes a caterpillar and out of it comes a butterfly. Don't ask me to explain, pinkest of pink buds. I can't, though I've seen it done over and over again.'

"'How funny!' said I, and I slipped away from the tendril that was holding me.

"'You sly little thing,' said the grape-vine; 'I'll catch you again—see if I don't—the very next time you are thinking.'

"So, though it may seem absurd and ridiculous to you now, velvet-winged butterfly, you must have once been a caterpillar. But I suppose sleeping so long in that coffin, as the grape-vine called it (I'd rather call it a cradle), has made you forget all about the days you had no wings and looked as though you had no legs."

"Well," said the butterfly, unfolding his wings ready for flight, "I must say, if all the caterpillars in the world had told me I had ever belonged to their family I wouldn't have believed them. But, as you say, sweet crimson rose, the grape-vine is old and knows everything. I think there is such a thing as being too old and knowing too much. I suppose I must accept his story as the truth. Good evening," and away he flew, feeling much less pleased with himself than he did when he first spied the caterpillar.

"Thank you. You're as clever as you are lovely," said the caterpillar to the rose, as soon as he had gone.

"Glad you think I'm lovely. Sorry I can't say the same for you," replied the truthful flower. "You're not pretty—not at all; and really I don't like the way you eat my green leaves. Do stop and wind yourself up in your cradle and coffin, or whatever it is, and turn into a butterfly as soon as possible. Won't you?"

But the caterpillar kept on eating. He wasn't ready for his coffin just yet. So the rose turned her back on him and began to throw kisses to the slender white lily that grew in the next garden and was deeply in love with a humming-bird.—*Independent.*

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 5.

☞ Answer in two weeks. L. G.

LITERARY ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I AM composed of 42 letters:
My 3, 30, 17, 1, 12, 5, 14, 41, 35, 28, 26, 40 is a poem by Longfellow.
My 20, 14, 10, 8, 32, 40, 6, 2, 34, 39, 14, 42 is a novel by Dickens.
My 23, 14, 23, 14, 24, 26 one of Tennyson's idyls of the King.
My 13, 4, 21, 32, 33, 23, 17, 34, 15, 23, 14, 18, 14, 28, 26 is a poem by J. G. Saxe.
My 15, 25, 16, 41, 19, 14, 27, 7, 29, 14, 33, 26 is a sonnet by Mrs. Browning.
My 1, 22, 34, 32, 38, 31 the name of an artist.
My 23, 22, 41, 11, 36, 14 is a novel by Augusta Evans Wilson.
My 37, 22, 31, 24, 9 hero of "My Wife and I."
My whole is a quotation from Longfellow.
☞ Answer in two weeks. M. E. B.

BIOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I AM composed of 51 letters:
My 17, 4, 17, 6, 22, 8 a great orator of old.
My 5, 11, 17, 1, 2, 22, 27, 21, 33, 25, 32, 38, 48, 40, 44, 26 a female editor.
My 50, 46, 35, 37, 29, 22, 42, 51, 38 a novelist.
My 3, 13, 7, 34, 41, 36, 9, 16, 38, 10, 18, 22, 12, 49, 15 a female lecturer.
My 31, 11, 15, 39, 46, 6, 24 a French writer.
My 43, 23, 47, 7, 16, 22 a Scotch antiquary.
My 28, 21, 14, 4 an artist of Socity.
My 20, 21, 36, 30 a canon of Rouen, France.
My 45, 19, 18 a divine of the court of Louis XIV.
My whole is a translation from Cicero.
☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 4.

My first is in found but not in lost,
My second is in purchase but not in cost;
My third is in come but not in go,
My fourth is in bread and also in dough;
My fifth is in stool but not in seat,
My sixth is in corn but not in wheat;
My seventh is in rain but not in snow,
My eighth is in fast but not in slow.
My whole is a village in the western part of New York.
☞ Answer in two weeks. JESSIE S. H.

BIBLICAL SQUARE-WORD.—No. 1.

1. A DESOLATE valley. 2. A king of the Amalekites. 3. A village of Galilee. 4. An Arabian name for Mount Sinai.
☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

DECAPITATION.—No. 2.

BEHEAD a stratum and obtain a body of water; an animal and leave an animal; a dividend and leave a small animal.
☞ Answer in two weeks. PAUL BOYTON.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Jan. 29.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS No. 4.—Accidents will happen.
BIBLICAL ENIGMA No. 2.—Search the Scriptures.
CHARADE No. 1.—Miscellaneous.
PUZZLE No. 1.—E.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper,* and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

A SEVERE WINTER STORM.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 2, was marked by a violent gale which prevailed over a large portion of the United States. Parts of the Atlantic coast were strewn with wrecks, though timely warning from the signal office prevented the sailing of many vessels. On land the damage consisted chiefly in unroofing houses, but in several localities buildings were entirely destroyed. In Cohoes, N. Y., the steeple of St. Bernard's Church, 223 feet high, was blown down and destroyed. In Little Falls a Catholic Church, built four years ago and costing $40,000, was entirely demolished, and at Amsterdam, N. Y., St. Mary's Catholic Church had its steeple blown over, crushing in the building. The tornado in the Mohawk Valley is reported to be the severest ever known. At the west the gale was accompanied by intense cold, the thermometer at Mackinaw, Mich., going to 25 degrees below zero—much the coldest weather of the season. There was a sudden and rapid fall in temperature everywhere. At Poughkeepsie, N. Y., the thermometer fell 20 deg. in two hours. Considerable injuries to buildings are reported from Albany, Whitehall, Middletown and Pt. Jervis in this State; Providence, R. I., Baltimore, Md., and Halifax, N. S. In Fredericktown, Md., the spire of an Episcopal Church was blown over, crushing in an adjoining building. The velocity of the wind in this (N. Y.) city was sixty-six miles an hour, the greatest ever known here. Although the storm was a remarkable one, and following an exceptionally mild January, it undoubtedly ushers in a few weeks of more wintry and seasonable weather.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

JERSEY CITY school-girls chased a loafer who had insulted them, and beat him with their satchels until he called upon a policeman for protection.

Silas Wilder, a farmer of East Lindon, Vt., killed both his parents, and severely wounded his wife, Feb. 2, while in a fit of rage. He then hanged himself.

An indictment has been found against Winslow, the Boston forger, in order that he may be arrested if he enters a country with which the United States have an extradition treaty.

The Grand Jury of the United States Circuit Court, at Milwaukee, has returned indictments against George Q. Erskine, ex-Collector of Internal Revenue, Leopold Wirth, distiller, and A. C. Zinn, rectifier.

The Rhode Island House of Representatives has passed a bill providing that buildings owned, but not actually used by churches, schools, colleges and charitable institutions, shall no longer be free from taxation.

There are six colleges in the State of Tennessee; the State University at Knoxville; the Baptist University at Jackson; the Cumberland University (Presbyterian) at Lebanon; the Southwestern Presbyterian University, formerly Stewart College, at Clarksville; the Southern College at Sewanee, supported by the Episcopal Church of the South; and Vanderbilt College, just established by the Methodists, with ample endowments, at Nashville.

It is reported in the Courier-Journal that Col. William Cassius Goodloe of Kentucky is about to settle in Washington, and will take there with him four thoroughbred horses to draw his coach.

An audacious young man attended Mrs. Miller's materializing seance in Memphis and suddenly turned the light of a dark lantern on the form of a supposed apparation, disclosing the medium to the sight of the company.

Mr. John Muir says that there are sixty-five glaciers in the mountains of California. One of them he watched forty-seven days and in that time it moved 46 inches. Yosemite and similar valleys were dug out by glaciers.

There is excitement in Pickens county, Ga., about the killing of a citizen by a United States soldier. The soldiers were engaged in a raid on an illicit still, and one of them shot the citizen in the mouth, killing him instantly. Several prisoners were taken by the military, and one of the prisoners declared that the soldier was altogether at fault, and that the killing was murder. The Sheriff of Pickens county overtook the soldiers with a posse of armed men, and demanded and arrested the one who fired the fatal shot.

The House Committee on Appropriations completed the Fortification bill Feb. 8, appropriating for the protection, preservation, and repairs of fortifications and other works of defense, $100,000; for conversion of heavy ordnance, $100,000; for projectiles of heavy ordnance, $25,000; for carriages for heavy guns, $15,000; for proving ground and proving canon, $25,000; for torpedoes, $50,000. The estimates were $3,000,000, but the Committee cut down the appropiations to $315,000.

It is stated on the authority of Judge Gilbert and the clerk of the Supreme Court, that Judge Dykeman has granted a writ of *habeas corpus* for Edward S. Stokes.

The Atlantic & Pacific Telegraph messenger boys of Rochester, N. Y., have put on a gray uniform. The Western Union boys will soon be uniformed in blue; and thus will the blue and the gray be revived.

A number of persons are under arrest in Buffalo, N. Y., charged with defrauding the poor department. They procure orders for railroad passage, raise them, and sell them.

The ice companies are making arrangements to run ice trains on the New York, Kingston & Saratoga railroad, bringing ice from ponds, lakes and mountain streams along that picturesque route to tide-water at Rondout, where barges will be in waiting to carry it to New York.

About 7 o'clock on the morning of Feb. 3rd, flames shot forth from the building at 30 Beekman St., New York City, occupied chiefly by Norman L. Munro, publisher of the Family Story Paper, Dime Novels, &c. On the previous night a fire had been extinguished in the same building. The fire in the morning gained great headway before the engines could get fairly at work. The warehouse at 28 Beekman St. soon caught fire and the druggists' supplies in the basement added to the intensity of the conflagration. A second alarm was sent out and six more steamers soon arrived, but the fire was not extinguished until Mr. Munro's place had been utterly ruined and the adjoining warehouse badly damaged. The buildings at 28 and 30 Beekman St. were leased by Norman L. Munro. No. 28 is a five-story and basement brick building, owned by Mrs. Henry, and worth $30,000. The loss, from $10,000 to $20,000, is covered by insurance. No. 30 is owned by the John Clapp estate, and damaged about $15,000; fully covered by insurance. The other losers are Norman L. Munro, $40,000, insured for $16,000; Clement & Stockwell, paper dealers, $40,000, insured for $30,000; Theodore Kicksecker, druggist, stock worth $35,000, partially destroyed, insured for $23,000; James M. Owens, loss $5,000, insured for $11,000 on stock said to be worth $20,000; Frank Morris, compositor, loss $2,500, partly insured; Robert Jackson, compositor, loss $3,000, insured. The stock of Frederick H. Levy & Co., manufacturers of inks and varnishes, who occupied the front part of the first floor of No. 32, was slightly damaged by water. In the office of the Church Union, on the same floor, the desks and papers were badly damaged by water. Clayton & Pagan, printers, occupied the rear part of the second floor in the same building, and sustained a slight damage from water. The fourth and fifth floors were occupied as a pamphlet bindery by Randall & Tomlinson, and their stock was damaged about $500.

A bill will come before the Main Legislature at an early date to allow the Maine Central road to connect its depots at Lewiston; also a bill to allow the same company to discontinue its road from Leeds to Crawley's Junction.

The Albany Fire Department has appointed a committee to report a plan of organization for a Mutual Benefit Association. It is proposed to allow all employes, department telegraph operators, commissioners, and exempt firemen to join.

At Auburn, Jan. 31, John McCalpin, a Sing Sing transfer, fatally stabbed, without provocation, Frank H. Meredith. McCalpin was the chief conspirator in the fan. 'is attempt to escape on a sloop from Sing Sing, at which time he was shot and recaptured. He is considered one of the worst and most dangerous felons in the country.

Three of the jury who convicted Samuel McKee of complicity in whisky frauds were subscribers to his paper. This is doubly rough on the journalist. It is bad enough to have subscribers go back on the publisher of their own paper, and then, what must be thought of a journal whose regular readers and patrons are not too intelligent for jury duty?

Mrs. Elizabeth Trimmer of Huron Co., Ohio, died on the 18th of January. She was born on the Fourth of July, 1776, and it was the intention of her friends to have her attend the Centennial Exhibition.

Mr. George William Curtis is supplying the pulpit of the Church of the Redeemer, Staten Island, as a lay reader, and he has of late read to the congregation on Sunday mornings from the sermons of Rev. Stopford Brooks of London.

The statue of Samuel Adams, which Massachusetts has ordered for the National Gallery, as a companion statue of Winthrop, is nearly finished, and will reach Boston in April.

A German boy, sixteen years old, named Henry Lange, hung himself in Cincinnati last week because of homesickness.

At the Centennial Tea Party on the evening of Feb. 3d, in the chapel of Dr. Scudder's Central Congregational Church, Brooklyn, the gauze used on the stage for better scenic effect took fire, the whole airy fabric at once being in a blaze. Several members of the Twenty-third regiment, taking part in the performance, at once pulled down the fragments and stamped out the fire. Others pacified the audience, enjoining nervous and frightened people to keep in their places and remain quiet. Fortunately all was soon over without serious results.

Hon. John W. Kingman, formerly United States Judge, of Wyoming, reports that since women have been admitted to the suffrage there has been a change from the former noisy, disorderly, and disreputable scenes to the "quiet of a religious meeting." He thinks that hardly a dozen men could be found in the Territory to favor depriving women of the suffrage.

As an illustration of the sudden rise of towns in some parts of California, an exchange cites the town of Winter, in Vacan valley. Last year a crop of grain was taken off the town's present site and a settlement there was not dreamed of. Now there are 1,200 inhabitants on the spot and town lots are selling for $600 each.

General Sherman writes: "I have never been, am not now, and never shall be a candidate for the high office of President before any convention of the people."

The extensive preparations for the Moody and Sankey revival meetings in this city were completed last week.

Moses H. Hale, for many years a special agent of the Treasury at Washington, has been appointed the successor of Colonel Frank E. Howe, as chief special agent of the United States Treasury.

A call is issued for a Greenback Convention to be held in New Haven, Feb. 22, the object of which is announced to be to take such steps as it may deem necessary to force both of the political organizations of the State to recognize the voice of the people in the coming campaign.

Encouraging accounts come from the Argentine Republic. Commerce is reviving, immigration is increasing, and 304 miles of the railroad across the Andes have been built. It is satisfactory to learn that this progressive Republic will be well represented at the Centennial Exhibition, the Argentine Congress having voted a sum of money for that purpose.

FOREIGN NOTES.

GREAT preparations are making at Naples for the carnival, which will last from the 20th to the 25th of February—the first since the overthrow of the Bourbons.

John Bright urges on English Liberals a platform of three radical planks. The extension of manhood suffrage to boroughs where a high property qualification is required. This would enfranchise agricultural laborers, as the mechanics and artisans of the towns already are enfranchised. Secondly, he would have a redistribution of parliamentary seats based on population. This would unseat many members, some of them Liberals, who represent insignificant constituencies, and for this reason this reform will not be adopted. The third plank is a reform in the monoply land laws and the abolition of primogeniture and entailed. This would be violently opposed by a majority of the House of Lords. Altogether, radical ideas have quite a fierce opposition and encounter as many difficulties in England as on this side of the water.

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope report that the Zambesi Mission have succeeded in placing a steamer on Lake Nyanza. Seven hundred natives were employed to carry the vessel past the Murchison Cataracts.

Sir John Glover has returned to England from Paris. His proposition to buy the French fishery rights in Newfoundland was declined. He stated that the French authorities show considerable resentment at the discussion of the subject by the English press.

The London Post's Berlin dispatch states that the Northern Powers have again jointly remonstrated with the Prince of Montenegro for countenancing the insurrection, and for allowing an indiscreet address threatening war with Turkey to appear in his official journal.

A London Telegram says that the Hon. F. R. Plunkett, now Secretary of the British Legation at Yedo, has been appointed to the same post at Washington. Mr. Plunkett has been in the diplomatic service 21 years, having been connected with some of the principal British Legations in Europe.

An official cable dispatch from Madrid was received at the Spanish Legation at Washington, Feb. 3, stating that as a result of the latest operations in the North the Alfonsist forces have almost entirely gained possession of the Provinces of Biscay and Alava. Gen. Martinez-Campos occupies the whole Valley of the Bistan, intercepting the communication of the Carlists with France. The army of King Alfonso is now in the hills of Santa Barbara, which command the Carlist stronghold, Estella.

It is said that Ali Pasha has offered to cede to the Prince of Montenegro the districts of Sutorina, Zubzi, and Bagagni, in Herzegovina, and the Albanian port of Spitza, if the Montenegrins withdraw aid from the insurgents and military operations are suspended.

Three "three-card monte" men were recently sentenced at Tours, France, to two years' imprisonment and fifty francs fine each, for "taking in" several passengers in first-class carriages of the Orleans Railway. A contractor named Doucet lost 21,200 francs, and M. Notte, a Bordeaux student was swindled out of 300 francs.

At a recent Consistory the Pope nominated 22 Bishops, including Carmenel, Bishop of Martinique; Payn, Bishop of Manilla; Moran, Bishop of St. Hyacinthe, Canada; and Tuigg, of Pittsburgh.

A revolution has broken out in Hayti.

An Italian paper states that Bismarck has asked through the foreign office the opinion of the Italian counsel of state with reference to the judicial question raised by the publication of official documents by Arnim.

Steamers arriving at Liverpool from America report very heavy weather from the 21st to the 29th of January. The steamer Gellert of the Hamburg-American Line, Alexandria of the Anchor Line, and City of New York of the Inman Line, felt it severely. The last two had their boats and skylights stove.

Advices of Feb. 3 state that the Alfonsists have occupied Echalar and Fesaca, and are advancing on both sides of the river Bidassoa toward Vera. The Carlists have destroyed all the bridges.

Later advices report that Count Caserta, with considerable reinforcements for the Carlists, having arrived at Vera, the Alfonsists have abandoned Lesaca and Echalar, and are falling back on Urdax, Maya and Elizondo.

Don Carlos has appointed Gen. Cavero in place of Gen. Ungate, and Gen. Lizarraga in place of Cavero.

There were 1,668 fires in London during 1775, a decrease of forty-four as compared with the previous year. In twenty-six instances lives were lost.

Silver-mounted rosaries, religious medals, and the like, to the value of $1,000,000, are sold annually in France.

The Archbishop of Paris has received from the Archbishop of Beyrout 12 large planks of cedar cut from a tree on Mount Lebanon that had recently blown down. A few trees yet remain, supposed to be as old as the time when Solomon built the Temple.

The French boys were all tipsy on Jan. 28th, in honor of Charlemagne, who died on that day 1,062 years ago, and who was greatly opposed to drunkenness in his time.

The Alfonsist successes are very marked. The Carlists have been outflanked, and the Alfonsists are marching into Navarre.

The marriage of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Prince Patrick, to the Princess Marie, niece of the German Emperor, is rumored.

The Prince of Montenegro received a Turkish envoy coldly, and refused to act against the insurgents.

The Baring Brothers of London will take up the interest bonds provided for at the meeting of the Eastern Railroad stockholders at Boston on the 15th of January, and pay full interest on the £600,000 bonds issued by them as usual on the 1st of March and the 1st of September, 1876.

The Hour (London) understands that only about one-twelfth of the Erie bond and shareholders assented to the scheme of Sir Edward Watkin; consequently Messrs. Miller and Fleming, representing the Dundee bondholders, have gone to New York to arrange the other scheme.

A Naples despatch, Feb. 2, says the indications of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius are steadily increasing. Prof. Palmieri announces that the instruments of the observatory for indicating and measuring the eruptions are disturbed, and the activity of the crater is becoming daily more apparent. A speedy eruption is generally expected. The number of strangers is increasing, though the city is not crowded. English and American patronage has been much less than usual this winter. Many of the hotels have not paid expenses.

A dispatch from London, Feb. 4, says that Captain Mildmay has not yet heard from Sir Henry Halford about the rumored change in the arrangements for the international contest. The Captain says he has received no orders to call the Council of the National Rifle Association, as the answer from New York to the resolution adopted on the 22d of January is still awaited. Captain Mildmay thinks, and he has heard Sir Henry Halford say, that if New York decides to admit separate teams from England, Scotland, Ireland, the National Association will not send a team.

Prince Louis of Battenburg, Hesse Darmstadt, who is with the Prince of Wales in India, was on Feb. 3, severely though not seriously injured by a fall from his horse while hunting wild boars.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Salado, Bell Co., Texas, Jan. 18.—Weather fine for the season, and in looking over my garden I see Narcissus almost ready to bloom. *Spiraea Reeveri* is a wreath of snowy-white flowers. *Lanicera Japonica nivea* is covered with delicate fragrant flowers. Yet, while I look upon this scene, my thoughts travel up to my early home in the Empire State, where perhaps many a RURAL reader is gazing out upon bleak hills and snowbanks.—E. G. M.

Ridgewood, Bergen Co. N. J.—Everybody happy over the fine weather but the icemen, who begin to fear a short crop. Perhaps their customers will also feel the pinch next summer when the mercury stands 90 deg. in the shade, lumps of ice scarce and melted butter plenty. The warm weather has, however, brought down the price of coal and wood, which is a blessing to consumers. Winter grain looks well, as it has not been cold enough to injure it, although not protected by snow as usual at this season. Farmers have done some plowing and are preparing to do more if the weather continues mild. Live stock look well and happy, but the boys have hung up their skates and taken to playing ball.—A. S. F.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Feb. 5, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	65,413	Pork, bbls	4,502
Whisky	2,478	Cut meats, pkgs	12,076
Corn meal, bbls	1,805	Lard, pkgs	10,789
Corn meal, bags	5,142	Tar, bbls	—
Wheat, bush	121,035	Tobacco, hhds	1,576
Corn, bush	253,089	do. cases	2,045
Oats, bush	83,314	Butter, pkgs	30,005
Rye, bush	960	Cheese, bxs	19,234
Malt, bush	45,026	Cotton, bales	18,555
Barley, bush	52,100	Rosin	1,987
Beans, bbls	2,123	Spts. turp., bbls	225
Grass seed, bags	6,989	Dried Fruits, pkgs	851
Ashes, pkgs	120	Eggs, bbls	10,672
Beef, pkgs	5,007	Peanuts, bags	3,151
Peas, bush	61,120	Dressed Hogs	3,512
Wool, bales	1,058	Oil Cake, pkgs	8,381
Hops, bales	3,015	Rice, bbls	1,153

BEANS AND PEAS.—There has been a fair export trade in marrows, and prices are 5c. better for prime parcels in good shipping condition. Medium beans sell so lightly in proportion to the stock and receipts that they continue weak, not bringing the extremes of last week for lots at the stations. Limas were never so plenty. They have been so long regarded as a luxury that buyers hardly know what the low prices for them mean. Red kidneys are somewhat more active, buyers have been out of market so long that they are forced to replenish. White kidneys are easier. Canadian peas are steady for bulk and a shade easier for bbls. Green and B. E. peas quiet.

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.50@1.60; other, 1.25@1.35; medium, new, $1.40@1.45; fair to good, $1.15@1.30; very poor, 50@2c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.70@1.75; other, $1.40@1.60; white kidney, prime, $1.85@1.95; fair to good, $1.60@1.70; red kidney, new, prime, $1.50@1.60; fair to good, $1.30@1.45; California Lima, choice, $3.50@3.60. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new duty paid, $1.25@1.27; bulk, in bond, $1.02@1.03; green new, ⅘ bush., $1.50@1.60; Southern B. E., ⅘ 2 bush. bag, $3.10@3.15.

Exports of beans since Jan. 1st, 4,067 bbls.; of peas, 92,695 bush.

BEESWAX.—Small sales are at 31@32c. for Western, and 32@33c. for Southern.

BROOM CORN.—There has been no further large movement.

We quote Brush, short green, 10@11c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@7c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—There are no quotable new features in the butter trade. Choice State continues firm, and as it does not arrive liberally, and the store reserve here has been greatly reduced, lots suitable for fancy trade are quoted a shade higher. This class of business, it must be remembered, does not represent the trade that clears up the stock. There are a good many dairies here and to come that will depend upon a late spring for hardness of quotations. Just now the medium trade is working as freely as it can in Western, paying 24c. for what may be called fine; but the chief inquiry is for sound 18@20c. stock. Western rolls have been unusually abundant this season, and very low prices still rule. They must be sweet, solid and cloth-wrapped to bring 20c.

State dairies entire, extra, 31@32c.; entire, good to prime, 24@30c.; fair to good, 25@27c.; firkins, selected fresh, 31@32c.; good to prime, 27@29c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 35@37c.; good to prime, 31@34c.; fair to good, 27@30c.; poor to fair, 25@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, full made, 30@31c.; dairies, 27@29c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; poor to fair, 22@23c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 17@26c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 26@27c.; good to prime, 24@26c.; tubs selected fresh, 26@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 24@25c.; fair to good, fresh, 21@23c.; poor to fair, fresh, 20@21c.; Western, early packed, selected, 21@22c.; Western, early packed, other, 18@20c. Roll butter, good to prime, 18@21c.; fair to good, 14@17c.

CHEESE.—The market is without new features. Exporters are operating moderately, and there is a fair home trade demand; fancy factories bring up to 13½c.

New State factory, fancy, 13¾@13½c.; fine, 12½c.; do. good to prime, 11¾@12¾c.; fair to good, 10@11¾c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12¾c.; good to prime, 10¾@11¾c.; fair to good, 9¼@10¾c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fine, 12¾@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@10c.; poor to fair, 6@8c.; pineapple, 16@18c. English dairy, Connecticut, 12@13½c., do. State, 14@15c.

COTTON.—With larger receipts at the Southern ports and dull markets in Liverpool, prices here are easier. Latest sales for February, 12 15-16c.; March, 13 5-32c.; April, 13¾c.; May, 13 19-32c.; June, 13 31-32@14c.; July, 13 31-32@14c.; August, 14 1-16@14 3-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Strict ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Good ordinary	11	11	11¾	11¾
Strict good do	11¼	11¼	11¼	11¼
Low middling	12¼	12¾	12½	12¾
Strict low middling	12¾	12¾	13	13
Middling	13	13¾	13 3-16	13 3-16
Good middling	13¼	13¾	13¾	13¾
Strict good middling	13¾	14	14¼	14¼
Middling fair	14¼	14¾	14¾	14¾
Fair	15¼	15¼	15¾	15¾

Stained.

Good ordinary	9¾	Low middling	11¾
Strict ordinary	10¾	Middling	12¾

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are held higher, with stocks considered small, and a better jobbing demand; otherwise, trade is of a restricted character, with prices about nominal. The late consignment of California raisins consisted of 1,000 boxes of 20 lbs. each, quoted at 10@12½c. ⅘ lb.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; quarters, 9¼@9½c.; Western quarters, 9c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 10½c. for prime, and fancy 12c.; Tennessee qrs., 8¼@8½c. Blackberries, new, 12@c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12½c. for halves, 11@11½c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 28c. Cherries, 22@23c.

EGGS.—The market has been drooping all of the week. To-day the first real snow storm for the season adds a little strength to prices. Still, buyers have loaded up pretty heavily during the late low turn of prices, and it will require winter weather of some duration to create firmness. One thing in favor of sellers is the fact that lately-received stock is in good condition, and curtailed supplies, in the advent of obstructed roads, will stiffen the feeling.

We quote near points, 19¾@20c.; State and Pennsylvania, 19¾—c.; Canadian, choice, 19¾—c; Western, do., 01@—c.; other Western, 19¾—c.; Southern, 18c.; Limed, 12@13c.

FLOUR.—Export trade has fallen off, while the arrivals are larger than had been expected and prices are weak. We quote:

Superfine State, $4.25@4.60; extra do., $4.85@5.10; superfine Western, $4.25@4.60; extra do., $4.85@5.20; No. 2, $3.50@4.00 extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.90@5.35 trade brands do., $5.35@7.40; white wheat extras, $6.95@7.00; St. Louis, $5.20@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.01@8.50. Southern at $4.15@4.70 for superfine; $4.75@6.25 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.20@8.75 for trade and family brands.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples since Jan. 1st, 1,325 bbls.; same time last year, 4,193 do. Apples are dull, but the stock of choice is not oppressive, and holders are asking full former rates for fine red fruit. Off qualities are irregular and favor the buyer. Railroad lots largely contribute to the latter grades. California pears are out of first hands. Cranberries are scarce and look ton profitable wind-up. Peanuts are in good demand. Hickory nuts not wanted. Domestic oranges arrive in bad order.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, $3@3.50; mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; other $1.50@2. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $3.50@3.75; good to prime, $2.25@3.50; made bbls., $11@12.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.60@1.90; do. Wilmington, $1.90@2.10; do. Tennessee, 75@90c.; Hickory nuts, $1@1.25. Black walnuts, 50c.

FURS AND SKINS.—The market is fairly firm, without business. We quote prime skins:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00 to 15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00 to 10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50 to 3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50 to 2 50
Badger	20 to 50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50 to 60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40 to 50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00 to 12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, silver	15 00 to 50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00 to 5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50 to 1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25 to 1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40 to 60
Fox, Kitt	30 to 50
Lynx	1 00 to 2 00
Marten, Stones	1 50 to 2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00 to 4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00 to 3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00 to 1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75 to 1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50 to 75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	25 to 27
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	22 to 25
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12 to 20
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00 to 12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	6 00 to 10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00 to 6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18 to 20
Opossum, South and open North	12 to 15
Raccoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indiana handled, dark	80 to 1 00
Raccoon, Ill., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50 to 65
Raccoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn	65 to 75
Raccoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40 to 50
Raccoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15 to 40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00 to 3 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	— to 1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	— to 1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50 to 80
Skunks, whole streaked	15 to 20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00 to 3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75 to 1 25

GRAIN.—Wheat has been hard to sell, reports from abroad showing full stocks, and prices have been lower and closed weak. Prime No. 2 Milwaukee spring quoted held at $1.20, $1.18 offered; $1.18@1.20 for No. 2 spring; $1.18@1.17 for winter red and amber; $1.35@1.55 for white and $1.30@1.37 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 95c. for State. Barley at 85@88c. for two-rowed State, and 93c. for two-rowed Canada. Corn is lower, with less export demand. Sales at 62½@63c. for mixed Western; 63½c. for yellow do.; 64½c. for new white Southern. Oats are lower and dull; mixed State 47c.; white State at 50c. White Western at 49@50c.

HAY AND STRAW.—Receipts have been a little larger through the open weather, and it has been difficult to sustain unchanged prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 85c.; retail qualities, $1.05@1.15; clover, 70@80c.; salt, 65@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.10@1.20 for long rye; 80@90c. for short rye; 75@85c. for oat.

HIGHWINES.—Higher; selling at $1.11.

HOPS.—Prices are advanced on medium and choice grades. Export trade has continued fair, while supplies of choice are running low.

New York State, 12@17c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins, 10@13c; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 17@20c.

MILK.—The season is still marked with low prices for commission milk; the range has been $1.25@2, with much left unsold.

MAPLE SUGAR.—As one of the curiosities of this remarkably open winter, sap has been obtained in Delaware Co. at this early date.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry is doing fairly, but it is mainly because we are not overcrowded with stock, and even with the moderate supply prices are not extravagant. We quote:

Turkeys, N. J., choice, 15@16c.; do. other, 12@14c.; State, prime, 14@15c.; do. other, 12@13c.; Western, prime, 13@14c.; other, 10@12c. Chickens, N. J., prime, 15@16c.; other, 12@14c. State, prime, 13@14c.; State, 11@12c.; Western, prime, 12@12c.; do. other, 8@11c. Fowls, choice, 12@14c. Ducks, N. J., 17@19c.; State and Western, 16@17c.; Geese, Western, 10@11c.

Live poultry is in demand as follows:

Turkeys, Jersey, ⅘ lb., 12c.; do. Western, 10@12c.; Geese, Jersey, ⅘ pair, $2.50@3; do, Western, $1.50@1.75; ducks, Western, ⅘ lb., 65@75c.; ducks, Jersey, ⅘ pair, 1@1.20; fowls and chickens, State and Jersey, ⅘ lb., 12@13c.; do. Western, 10@13c.; roosters, 7@8c.

Quail, trapped, prime, ⅘ doz., $3.75@4.00; soft, $2.50@3.00. Grouse, prime, ⅘ pair, $1.12@1.25; drawn, 80@1.00 Partridges, choice, ⅘ pair, $1.10@1.20; Hares, ⅘ pair, 20@30c. Rabbits, ⅘ pair, 30@35c. Ducks, canvas back, ⅘ pair, $1.50@2.50; redhead, $1@1.37; common, 50@75c.

PROVISIONS.—Mess pork is higher and very strong under a sharp speculative inquiry. Mess is quoted at $21.25@21.30 for February, $21.35@21.45 for March, $21.45@21.50 for April, $21.50@21.60 for May, $21.55@21.65 for June; extra prime, $16. Western prime mess, $19.75@20. Western dressed hogs, 9¼@9¾c. Boxed dry salted shoulders, 8¾c. Western dressed pickled hams, 12@12¾c. Bacon is scarce and wanted by export buyers at decidedly better prices; Western long clear, 11¾c.; long and short do., 11¼c.; long and short do. together, 11¾c.; short do., 12¾. Lard is stronger, with increased export demand; latest figures are—12-52½c. bid and 12-57½c. asked for February, 11-82½c. bid and 12-83c. asked for March, 12-95c. bid and 13c. asked for April, 13-05c. bid and 13-12½c. asked for May, 13-17½c. bid and 13-22½c. asked for June. Stearine at 14c. for prime Western. Prime tallow at 9¼@9¾c. Beef hams at $22@22.50 for Southern and $24@25 for Western. Beef—New extra mess, $12@12.50; do. plain mess, $11@11.50; do. tierced at $23 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $31.50@32.50 Old extra mess, $11.50, and $10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.50@16.50.

SALT.—Ashton's, $2.50; Denkin's, $1.45@1.50; Marshall's, Washington's and Worthington's, $1.45@1.50.

SEED.—Clover is scarce and wanted. Prime and choice, 10¾@11¾c.

SUNDRIES.—Honey remains quiet at 18@20c. for white clover comb and 10@12c. for dark and strained. Feathers, 58@60c. for prime Western: do. mixed, 30@45c.; hen and turkey feathers not wanted. Ginseng, $1.15@1.16 for Northern; $1.30@1.50 for Southern.

TOBACCO.—Exporters are taking a few small lots; with a light local trade, prices have varied slightly.

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7	7½@ 8¼
Good lugs	7¼@ 8	8¾@ 9
Low leaf	8¼@10	9¼@10¼
Medium leaf	10¼@11	10¼@12
Good leaf	12¾@13	12¾@13¾
Fine leaf	13¾@15	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	17 @22

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @15
Fillers, selections	6 @ 8
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 9
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	15 @25
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6¼@ 8
Wisconsin	6¼@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes, since Jan. 1st, 21,547 bbls.; same time last year, 11,831 do. Notwithstanding the low rates at which the stock of potatoes was laid in at, it seems likely that many will go to loss.

Early Rose, bulk, ⅘ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.50@1.75; Prince Alberts, $1.00@1.25; Peerless, 65c.@$1.00. Sweet potatoes, $2.25@2.50. Cabbages, ⅘ 100, $3@5; red, $6@9. Cauliflower, bbl., $2@5. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 50@75c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@3.00. Russia Turnips, ⅘ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Baltimore spinach, ⅘ bbl., $1.50@2.

WOOL.—The market is very dull, only small lines selling; but as stocks are moderate, holders are firm for nearly all descriptions.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
Pickings	50 @ 51
XX	@ 48
X	47 @ 48
No. 1	49 @ 52
No. 2	41 @ 46
Coarse	40 @ 42
Combing	58 @ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—	
XX	44 @ 46
X	43 @ 45
No. 1	46 @ 48
No. 2	42 @ 44
Coarse	41 @ 42
Combing	56 @ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
XX	45 @ 47
X	43 @ 45
No. 1	44 @ 45
No. 2	41 @ 43
Coarse	40 @ 43
Combing	55 @ 62
Combing, unwashed	38 @ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—	
XX	44 @ 47
X	44 @ 47
No. 1	44 @ 46
No. 2	41 @ 43
Coarse	40 @ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—	
Fine unwashed	35 @ 38
Medium unwashed	31 @ 36
Coarse unwashed	27 @ 30
Hurry	17 @ 23

ROCHESTER, Feb. 4.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat is dull; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.30@1.30. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 24@27c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 22@25c. Lard, 13½@14c. Apples, ⅘ bu., 50c.@$1. Potatoes, bu., 30@35c. Beans, ⅘ bu., 90c@1.40. Mess pork, $21@—. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $5.75@6.00. Wood, hard, ⅘ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Feb. 5, 1876.

THE prospects look brighter this week, and dairymen feel encouraged that prices for cheese will soon advance, though there is not much change to note at present in the interior markets. Fine factory cheese of September and October make is held firmly at 13½@14c., with no sales to speak of, as dealers are hardly prepared to pay these prices. "Late ends" of factories may be quoted at 9@11c., according to quality.

Very small lots from farm dairies continue to come forward and sell at irregular prices, sometimes as low as 6c., and the better grades at 8@9c. We do not know of any strictly fancy farm dairy cheese in market.

There has been nothing but winter butter in the market this week, and sales are made at 22@25c. In a recent tour through Onondaga, Broome and Cortland Counties, we learned that considerable quantities of butter were in makers' hands, some few dairymen having half their season's stock.

We have advices from Europe up to the middle of January. Our London correspondent says:

Large transactions in American cheese are reported, and the market fairly cleared of old stocks and low qualities.

American extra, 64@65s.; fine, 63@64s.; good, 56@60s.; common, 36@46s. English cheddar brings 84@94s.; Wiltshire double, 70@80s.; Cheshire medium, 60@70s.; fine, 76@80s.; Scotch, 70@76s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 74s. ⅘ cwt.

Fine butter is not to be had, and more is doing in Irish and American and secondary Continental.

Cloumels, 150s.; Corks, 144s.; Dorsets, 168s.; Normandy, 120@160s.; Swedish, 160s.; American and Canadian, 90@120s., ⅘ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter brings 90@110s. ⅘ cwt.

The European market, it will be seen from the above report, has a favorable look for the American export trade, and the prospects seem good for an advance in prices on all sorts of cheese.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	2,755	61	765	4,520	000
Forty-Eighth St.	17	60	61	3,730	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	618	4,919
Harsimus Cove	3,630	00	000	16,374	12,591
Totals this week	9,402	121	826	25,052	17,510
" last week	9,149	63	383	20,747	23,778

BEEVES.—On last Monday forenoon trade in horned cattle was firm, but not active. The quality of the herds on sale ranged from poor to choice, being generally coarse. Prices were 8¼@13¾c. ⅘ lb.; weights, 5¾@9¾ cwt. Wednesday trade dull at 8¾@12¾c. ⅘ lb.; weights, 5@11½ cwt. Thursday, sales slow, at 8@13c. ⅘ lb.; weights, 4@9 cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 9@12¾c. ⅘ lb; weights, 5@8¾ cwt. Spanish herds were not quoted. Native steers sold at 8½@12¾c. ⅘ lb.; grades do. at 12@14¾c. ⅘ lb. Dry cows and poor quality heifers at 7¾@9c. ⅘ lb. Oxen at 9@13c. ⅘ lb. Bulls, on live weight, at 4¾@5¾c. ⅘ lb. From 58@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt. The quality of the herds, as above quoted, has been generally coarse, extreme range poor to choice.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13¾	12 @13¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	7¾@ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	10 @11	10 @11¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade fair in fair quality cows; some sold at $35@100 ⅘ head, calves included. Extreme range of prices, $30@125 ⅘ head. Twenty-three cows sold at $55@75 ⅘ head; 10 do. at $60@79.50 ⅘ head; 3 do. at $95@1.25 ⅘ head; 3 do. at $35@45 ⅘ head.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals scarce and in demand at 9@11¼c. ⅘ lb. Grass calves, quality being very poor, slow of sale at 4@4¾c. Meal-fed calves in moderate demand at 5@8c., quality coarse.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last trade in sheep improved on a moderate run of fair quality sheep, with choice top prices at 5¾@7¾c., lambs, 7¾c. Wednesday, no improvement in trade; sheep sold at 5@7¾c.; lambs not quoted. Thursday, sales at 5¾@8¾c.; lambs, 8c. Friday, the markets closed weak at 5@7c. for sheep; lambs not on sale. State sheep sold at 5¾@7¾c.; Canada, 7¾c.; Michigan, 5¾@6¾c.; Virginia, 5¾@6c.; Missouri, 5¾@6¾c.; Illinois, 4¾@6¾c.; Ohio, 4¾@7¾c.; State lambs, 7@8c.; Pennsylvania, 6¾c. being calls.

HOGS.—Monday last live hogs sold at $8@8.6¾c. ⅘ cwt.; Wednesday, 8¾c. ⅘ lb.; Thursday and Friday same rate. Monday, city dressed sold at 9¾@10c. ⅘ lb.—trade moderate. Wednesday, prices at 9¾@10¾c. Pigs, 1c. ⅘ lb. lower—10¾c. Thursday and Friday trade slow at 9¾@10¾c.; general sales, 9¾@10¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade slow except on roadsters with fair trotting action, several head of which sold at $275@450 ⅘ head; 8 pairs family carriage do. $300@500 ⅘ pair. Heavy draft horses of good quality in brisk demand but scarce—3 pairs sold at $500@700 ⅘ pair. No change in values of poor and ordinary quality light harness horses since our last quotations. Forty-three horses arrived ⅘ Erie Railroad, via Oak Cliff Station.

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Balsam Fir,	2 to 2½ ft., "	" 10, $3.00, " 100, $25
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PERSONAL ITEMS.

PIUS IX. has nominated 22 new bishops

EX-GOV. FENTON is still staying in Florida.

WINSLOW, the forger, went abroad as "John Clifton."

ANTHONY TROLLOPE'S writing hours are from 5 to 9 A. M.

PROF. PATTON has retired from the editorship of the Interior.

B. P. SHILLABER (Mrs. Partington) will shortly visit San Francisco.

GEN. SHERMAN will perhaps make another visit to Europe next Summer.

EX-GOV. B. GRATZ BROWN has resumed the practice of the law in St. Louis.

MR. MOODY arrived in Jacksonville, Fla., recently, accompanied by his family.

J. M. SMITH has been elected President of the Cortland County Agricultural Society.

MRS. KENT of Wythe County, Va., recently distributed $2,100 among her former slaves.

F. A. PECKHAM, a well-known artist, died suddenly at Newport on the night of Jan. 31.

WALT WHITMAN read Schiller's "Diver" in Philadelphia, recently, for the benefit of the poor.

CARL SCHURZ and Reverdy Johnson are members of the advisory committee of the Free Trade Club.

MR. DEAK, the Hungarian statesman, was buried February 3d, at Buda Pesth, at the expense of the nation.

THE late Mr. Ralston's residence near San Francisco is now occupied by Budd Doble, the horse trainer.

THE last niece of Gen. John Stark, the Revolutionary hero, died recently at Dover, N. H., at the age of 92.

IT is said that Prof. John Tyndall will shortly marry the daughter of the Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton.

J. B. GOUGH has been lying seriously ill for several days, at the house of Dr. J. H. Helmer, at Lockport, N. Y.

GEN. JOHN JAY KNOX of Knoxport, Oneida Co., N. Y., died at his late residence on the night of Jan. 31st, aged 84.

MR. and MRS. LEWIS SMITH celebrated their sixty-seventh wedding anniversary at Mechanicsville, N. Y., last week.

A LIFE of Hans Christian Andersen is being prepared by Miss Wood, the translator of "The Dead Cities of the Zuyder Zee."

PROF. NORTHROP will decide upon the merits of the productions of those who wish to speak at the next Yale commencement.

THE late Theodore Parker's society in Boston are talking of inviting the Rev. Moncure D. Conway to become their pastor.

NEWS comes from London of the death of the Rev. Jabez Burns, D. D., a well-known Baptist Minister and author, aged 70.

F. REGAMEY has distinguished himself in Boston by a remarkable likeness in colored crayons of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

GEN. BANKS came forward as a pacificator in the amnesty debate, but, as might have been expected, pleased neither party.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON has accepted an invitation to address the literary societies of the University of Virginia on the 29th of June.

THE Rev. Dr. Charles C. Keys died on the 1st inst. at his late residence, in this city, of Bright's disease, after an illness of two months.

THE statue of Lord Palmerston in Palace Yard, near the Parliament House, Westminster, was unveiled Feb. 2. There was no ceremony.

ON the Sunday that the Prince of Wales spent in Lucknow, he went to church in the morning and to an elephant show in the afternoon.

LIEUT. CAMERON traveled on foot 2,953 miles from Zanzibar to Benguela, trusting to mere accident for his livelihood as he went along.

THE health of Father Tom Burke of Dublin, the well-known pulpit orator, which has been seriously impaired recently, is now much improved.

PROF. COIT TYLER, of Michigan University, has recently finished a work on American literature which will be published some time next season.

MRS. POLLY JEROME of New London, is the next coming Centennial woman; ninety-eight years old now, and exactly ninety-eight descendants.

THE Hon. John V. L. Pruyn of Albany, is said to own one of the finest collections of Oriental chinas, porcelains and works of art in the country.

MR. ROBERT DALE OWEN will soon give a public reading of "Enoch Arden," in Marquette, Mich., where he is now staying at the house of his son.

MR. MURRAY, missionary in China, uses Melville Bell's "visible speech" alphabet to teach Chinese their own language, with great degree of success.

A GENTLEMAN of Lynchburg, Va., owns a set of chessmen neatly molded in lead from bullets picked up on the battle-field near Appomattox Court house.

THE famous Singer will case has been decided in favor of Mrs Isabella Singer, the woman mentioned as his rightful widow, the application of Mrs. Foster being denied.

MR. H. PEASE of Darlington, England, has offered £50 for the best essay on juvenile smoking. The Rev. Dr. Ritchie, author of "The Workman's Pipe," is to be one of the judges.

A GENTLEMAN of Castleton has in his possession the dinner bell which used to call Horace Greeley to his meals when he was learning the printer's trade at Poultney, Vt. It will be placed among the relics at the Centennial.

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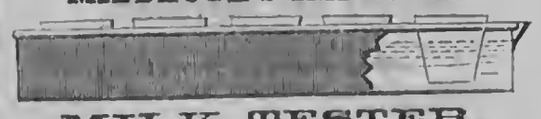

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Manufacturers of sleighs have the blues.

— Ice-cutting on the Hudson began last week.

— Michigan pays its Governor only $1,000 a year.

— Poughkeepsie, N. Y., wants a new ferry route.

— America produces 1,000,000 paper collars a day.

— Farmington, Missouri, is to have a woolen mill.

— Rhode Island has 1,416,734 spindles against 814,554 in 1860.

— Gas has been reduced to $2.50 per thousand feet in Chicago.

— The National debt was reduced $1,599,000 during January.

— The Marietta, Ga., mine is found to have superior magnetic iron.

— A strike of engineers on the Boston and Maine road is feared.

— The Legislature of Kansas gives $25,000 outright to the Centennial.

— The Bank of West Troy, N. Y., is to reduce its capital stock to $100,000.

— The Seattle (W. T.) coal mines furnished 8,000 tons of coal during December.

— The Spring City Stove Works of West Chester, Pa., have resumed operations.

— There are 81,320 flour mills in Russia, driven by wind, water, treadle or steam.

— The annual importation of eggs into England now reaches the value of £2,500,000.

— A lead mine is said to have been discovered near Conklingville, Saratoga County.

— The reward of $10 offered for the arrest of "Boss" Tweed is published in Germany.

— The eight-oared race between Harvard and Yale will be rowed at Springfield, June 30.

— Twenty thousand volumes have been stolen from the Mercantile Library of San Francisco.

— The State Homeopathic Society at Albany resolved to ask for a law upon mortuary reports.

— The non-taxpayers of Mississippi already represent nearly one-fourth of all the property in the State.

— The Portuguese Chamber of Peers has voted the abolition of slavery in St. Thomas and Gulf of Guinea.

— The New Hampshire State election takes place in March, and the prohibitionists are already at work.

— Some Californians who own 160,000 acres of land are enclosing it with a single fence 100 miles in length.

— The decrease in coals used for domestic purposes in London was 400,802 tons last year as compared with 1874.

— Many Spanish families exposed to the contests between the Alfonists and the Carlists are taking refuge in France.

— The Montana Temperance people are at work for a law to close the liquor saloons Sundays and election days.

— The sale of manufactured articles from the workshops of the Worcester Free Academy last year yielded $20,000.

— The Legislature of Minnesota has passed a bill to borrow $60,000 from the school fund to pay its current expenses.

— Fifteen of the Whisky Ring in Indianapolis were sentenced to prison for terms of from six months to three years.

— The Pennsylvania Coal Company has stopped mining in the Pittston locality. Other companies are expected to stop soon.

— A bill to prohibit the use of free railroad passes by Judges and Legislators has been rejected in the Kentucky Legislature.

— A new chain and chain cable manufacturing establishment is expected to go into operation in a short time in Pittsburgh, Pa.

— There are fewer distilleries now running in any of the large corn-raising counties of Central Kentucky than in any past year.

— The destruction of the scale shop of Fairbanks & Co., at St. Johnsbury, Vt., by fire, will not interfere with the prosecution of work.

— It is stated that large quantities of baled hay have recently been shipped from Richfield Springs station, N. Y., at ten dollars per ton.

— A girl in Medina, Ohio, has a head just the size of Daniel Webster's, or three inches larger in circumferance than the average of men.

— The stringency with which the adulteration of food act is enforced in London has caused a large number of failures in the milk trade.

— Thirty new papers made their appearance during the seven days ending January 29. There were 11 suspensions during the same period.

— In the British Official Army List for December are the names of about 150 soldiers who have died in the service, leaving unclaimed property.

— It is proposed to establish in Bombay, a branch of the Young Women's Christian Association. The Woman's Movement extends even into British India.

— Plans for the proposed County Asylum and work house at Troy, N. Y., have been completed. The building is to be three stories and basement high, built of brick, 170 feet long and 30 feet wide.

— There is much discussion in Colorado over a bill introduced in the lower House of the Legislature, fixing the legal rate of interest at ten per cent. when no contract is made, and prohibiting any interest higher than twelve per cent. under penalty of forfeiture of the money loaned.

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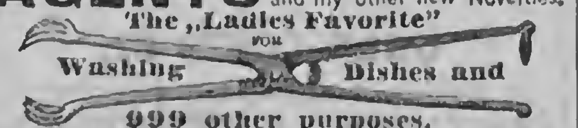

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IF Tweed has not evaporated, he seems effectually to have resolved himself into adieu.

WHAT flowers speak the sweetest words to friends and the bitterest to enemies?—Tu-lips.

BUT few men can handle a hot lamp chimney and say there's no place like home at the same time.

WHAT blossom deprived of one of its letters, becomes what all young misses desire to possess? A (c)lover.

"SMIFKINS, why do you allow your boy to chew tobacco? Smifkins—"'Cause I choose to." (chews too),

"OLD-MAN-AFRAID-OF-HIS-WIVES" is the name by which Brigham Young is known among the Indians.

IN the crop of a Troy turkey a button from a policeman's coat was found, but none of the force is missing.

"I WANT you either to hit me or stop making such a blamed racket," said a thief at whom a Detroit policeman was shooting.

OHIO tramps have got so particular that they want sweet cake and preserves and they hate to rise early and eat with the family.

MEN who eat the most cranberries have the most moral courage, says a New York doctor. What per cent. is he promised on the sales!

"THAT," said the tramp, "is the top buckwheat; it has been used to keep the others warm; and I don't eat no coverlets." So he laid it one side.

A GENTLEMAN rode up to a public-house in the country, and asked, "who is the master of this house?" "I am, Sir," replied the landlord; "my wife has been dead about three weeks."

OF course a woman doesn't want her plants to freeze, but still one can't blame a man for raising a row when he hops out of bed in the morning and finds a geranium plant in each trowsers leg.

HARRY, after looking on while his new little sister cried at being washed and dressed the other day, turned away saying. "If she screamed like that in Heaven I don't wonder they sent her off."

A NEGRO boy was driving a mule in Jamaica, when the suddenly stopped and refused to budge. "Won't go eh?" said the boy. "Feel grand, do you? I suppose you forget your fadder was a jackass.'

A GIRL with three arms is attracting attention at Tescelo, near Jalapa, Mexico; and when that girl gets two arms around her husband's neck she still has one to flirt with the other fellow across the street.

SCENE in the cars:—A candy boy passing through a car meets a cross old gentleman, and says, "Pop corn! pop corn!" "Hain't got any teeth," angrily replies the man. "Gum drops? gum drops!" calls the boy.

A MILWAUKEE man made three unsuccessful attempts to blow his brains out, and then his wife told him; "Don't try it again, John; you haven't got any." He goes about now saying he owes his life to that woman.

A BAKER at Binghamton, New York, sent two barrels of crackers to the President, and for several months expected to be called to the cabinet. He then discovered that the crackers had been sold to a negro in default of freight charges.

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A YOUNG lady in Lawrence, Kan., dropped her handkerchief in the street last Saturday, and it blew close to the dangerous end of a mule. The young man who picked it up will not send her his photo for a few days, as he doesn't look well with his chin under his ear.

A GENTLEMAN once called on the late Mr. Astor to solicit a donation for a charitable purpose. He gave $5. "Why, Mr. Astor," said the solicitor, "how is it you give so little? Your son John Jacob gave us $100." "Well," replied the old man, "He could afford it. He has a rich father and I haven't."

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VOL. XXXIII, No. 8.
WHOLE No. 1360.

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Rural Architecture.

A CHEAP SUBURBAN COTTAGE.

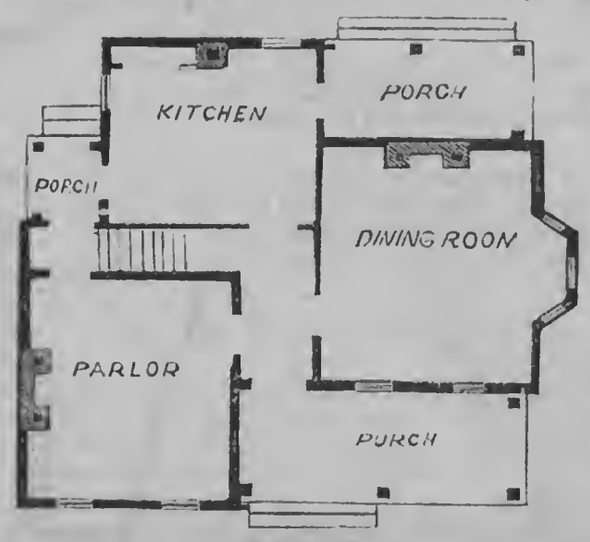
In the RURAL of the 22d ultimo we gave a plan and description of a Suburban Cottage costing $4,000 to $5,000, and promised to present our readers, during the year, with designs for country and suburban residences of different styles and prices. Our desire is to give such a variety of plans that those proposing to build can either find designs adapted to their taste and means, or such hints and suggestions as will enable them to greatly facilitate the labor and expense usually attending the construction of a residence.

With the above expressed wish in view we this week present a design for a neat and cheap cottage, suitable for either a suburban lot or small country place. The first floor plan shows the parlor, dining-room and kitchen, with main hall through the center, and side hall with stairs leading to the second floor. The dining-room has a neat bay window at the side. The entrance veranda in front adds much to the appearance and attractiveness of the house, especially when adorned with climbing vines. The second floor plan gives us three chambers, with two closets over the hall. The very desirable feature about this house is *ventilation*—a matter sadly neglected in the erection of houses and buildings. The attic can be finished into three apartments, thus giving a cottage of nine rooms, exclusive of halls and closets.

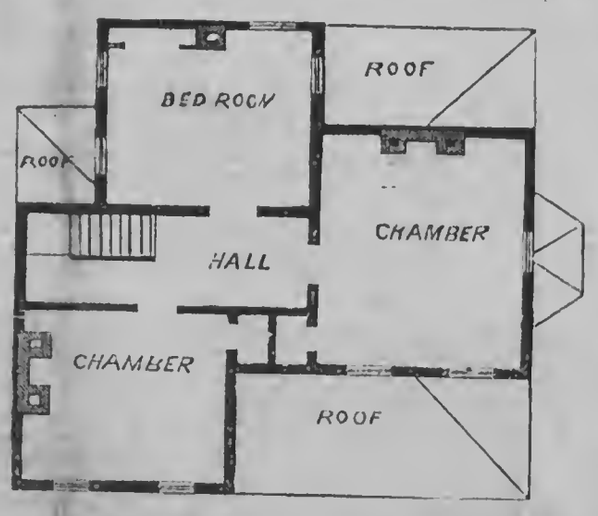
The building is intended to be built of wood, but brick could be used. If constructed in a *plain* manner, it could be done for $2,000 in many localities, but could be made to cost $3,000 or $3,500. The great difference in the cost of material in many parts of the country renders it very difficult to give exact figures. Our object in the publication of these plans is more to popularize architecture and suggest ideas to those about to build than to go into details,—as every builder (and many other persons) can take the plans as we give them and make an estimate approximating the exact cost.

If built on a large lot, surrounded with walks and shrubbery, it would present an exceedingly handsome appearance, and make a pleasant, home-like abode.

The rooms are all of a comfortable size. On first floor:—Parlor, 14x15; dining-room, 14x16; kitchen, 14x12 Second floor:—Room over parlor,



FIRST FLOOR.



SECOND FLOOR.

14x12: over dining-room, 14x16; over kitchen, 14x12. The scale of elevations is 1-12 per foot; of the floor plans, 1-16.

USE NARROW BOARDS FOR FLOORING.

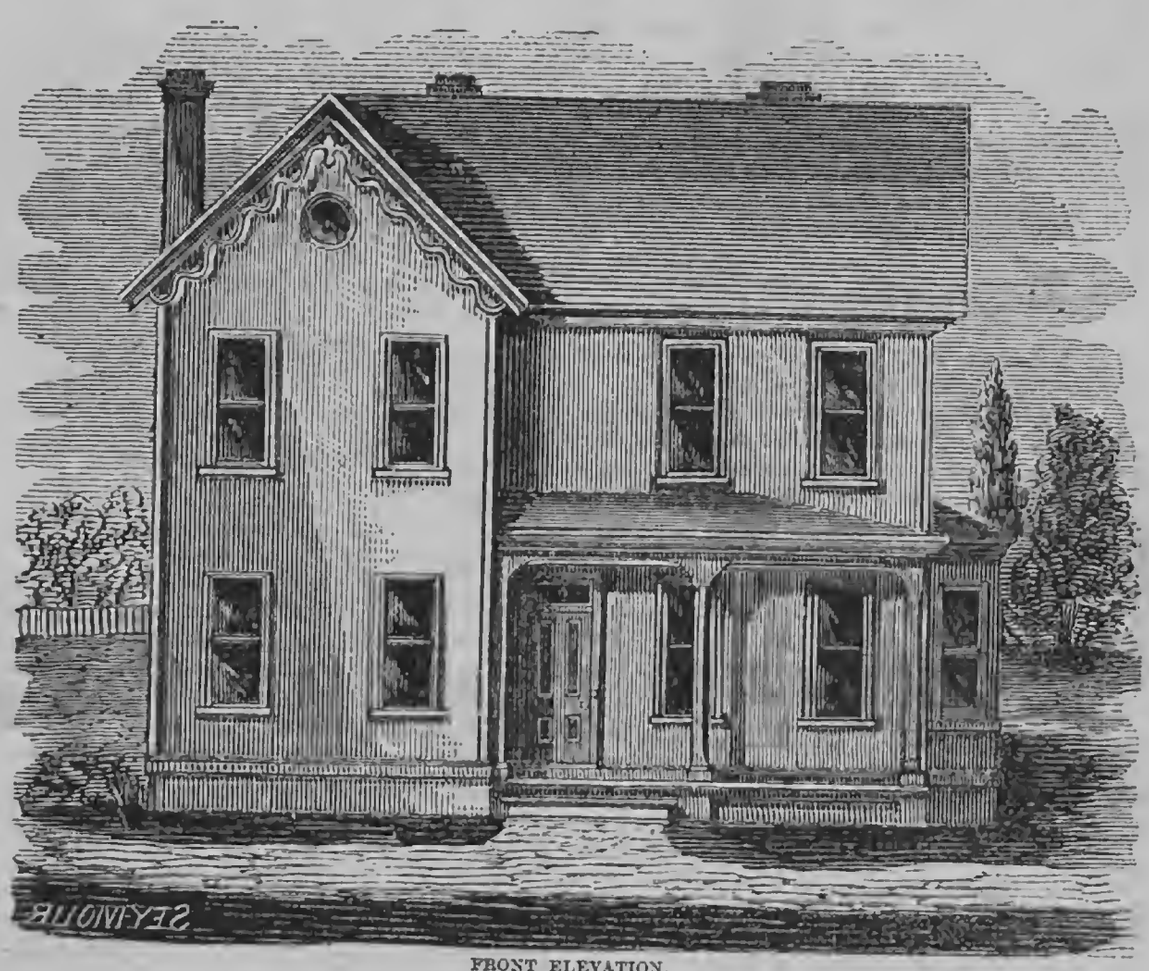
The Practical Farmer has these sensible remarks on an always timely topic:—A great many builders are not able to assign a philosophical reason why narrow boards are better for a floor than wide ones. If lumber were so thoroughly seasoned that the board would not shrink on one side nor swell on the other, wide boards would be more desirable, for a floor of any sort, than narrow ones, for the reason that a joiner will fit and lay a board one foot wide about as quickly as he can fit and lay a board four inches wide. More than this, when the edges of the floor boards are matched, there will be more waste if the pieces are narrow than if they are wide.

When floor boards are a foot in width, the upper side is liable to contract more than the under side. This is particularly the case when the floor is wet for a short time and afterward is allowed to become dry. When the under side of a floor is exposed to the dampness of a cellar, or to the moisture of the ground beneath it, wide boards will warp and render the surface of the floor more or less corrugated. But if the boards are narrow, although the under side may swell as much as if they were wide, the surface of the floor will be much more even and true. Hence, wainscoting should be narrow. When certain pieces of furniture are being made of a wide board or broad plank, it will be better to dress out pieces only a few inches wide, heat them thoroughly in a stove-room, then joint the edges and glue them together.

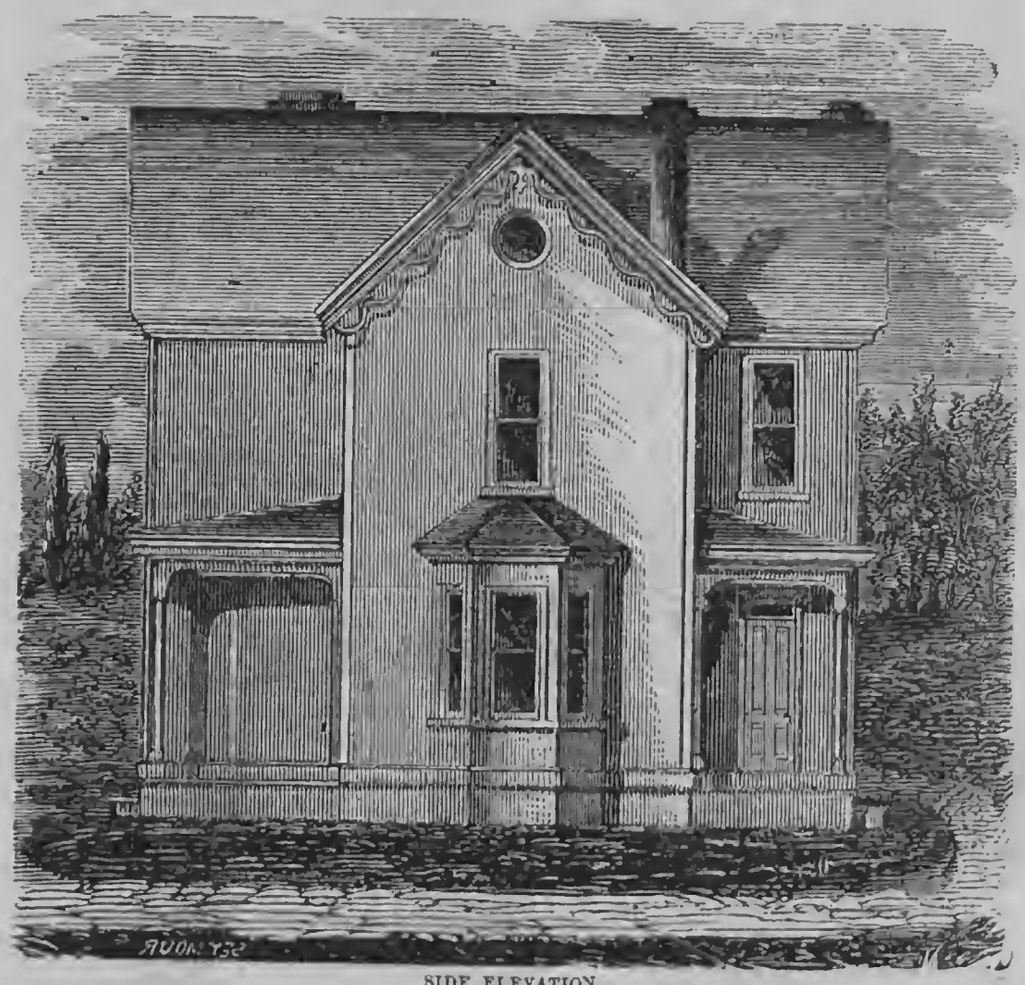
In many instances, one has numerous pieces of black walnut lumber, butternut, or other valuable timber, which might be glued together and thus make a more desirable wide board than one entire piece. The beds of billiard tables are all dressed out in pieces of plank only three or four inches wide and glued together firmly. The correct way to make a neat and true drawing-board or drawing-table is to dress out narrow pieces of plank, heat them for ten days in a stove-room, then joint the edges true and glue them together. When the edges of two boards are united with hot glue and pressed tightly together for a few hours, the timber will yield on either side of the joint before the glue will allow the pieces to separate. Glue is stronger than most kinds of timber. [These suggestions are offered for the benefit of all interested in erecting or repairing buildings.]

CONVENIENT HOUSES.

Many a fine house is made a mere shell of, because it is not built with reference to the convenience of those who are to occupy it. We think when a man proposes to build a dwelling a woman somehow should have a hand in it, for she alone can tell just where she wants this closet, that store-room, etc. A kitchen is better if it is built in an L, with two doors opening outside, so that the odors of cooking may not pass into the main body of the house. Besides, a better circulation is afforded the heat of summer. It makes work very hard for a woman when there are steps to go up or down between the kitchen and the dining-room. A short hall or lobby is not objectionable between the two rooms, as that can be occupied by a chest of drawers or two or three shelves, which always "come handy" in a house. The kitchen should be provided with two closets, a sink, cistern-pump, and always have a painted floor. Bedrooms are healthy up-stairs; but with a one-story house this cannot be. And in any event, the sleeping-room of the mistress of the house should be on the ground floor, opening into the living-room, with a large closet in it; the bedroom to be large and well-ventilated. Of course, the parlors, etc., should be designed according to taste of builders, but these general hints are thrown out for the benefit of those who contemplate erecting a substantial, sensible house, which shall be a home as well.



FRONT ELEVATION.



SIDE ELEVATION.

DESIGN FOR A CHEAP SUBURBAN COTTAGE.

Farm Economy.

RAISE ROOTS FOR CATTLE.

WHOEVER in midwinter has observed the eagerness of a row of cattle partaking of their daily allowance of beets, has been impressed with the naturalness of this food for these animals. In experimenting the writer has often induced his cattle to leave cut pumpkins, soft corn and corn meal to show their preference for cut beets. Winters when his cattle have had a good supply of roots, they have come out in the spring in good condition and apparently much healthier than when fed grain. Warmly stabled milch cows fed liberally with beets keep up a flow of milk in winter nearly equal in amount to the grass-fed cows in June, and butter made from their milk in January is as good as when made from the grass-fed cows in June.

Careful experiment has shown that 3½ tons of best roots contain, in nutriment, an amount equal to one ton of the best timothy hay. An acre of the best meadow land, under proper tilth, will produce four tons of hay. An acre of land that will produce this amount of hay, if properly cultivated, will yield 60 tons of beets—2,000 bushels. The difference in the care, cultivation and gathering of the crops will be about $70. The beet crop costing that much more per acre than the hay, but we get twenty times, in quantity, more beets than hay, while the hay is only three and a half times more valuable—saying nothing of the extra health-giving and milk-producing qualities of the beets. The maximum yield of both crops is here taken, but the proportion will hold good when smaller quantities are produced, except on swampy grass land not suitable for beet crops.

On the Earl of Warwick's sewage farm, mangolds were grown in 1874, on a twenty acre lot, at the rate of 3,670 bushels—more than 90 tons to the acre. Mr. R. GIBSON, near New York Mills, has grown mangolds at the rate of 2,000 bushels to the acre. The writer has grown Imperial sugar beets at the same rate, and hopes some time to grow 4,000 bushels of these roots on a single acre of ground. Last year, on good land with ordinary cultivation—except irrigation—he raised wagon loads of these beets, any five of which would weigh a bushel of 60 lbs. The rows were 30 inches apart, and the roots 12 to 18 inches in the row. On this plot beets grow at the rate of 2,000 bushels to the acre. Place the rows 18 inches apart—the roots one foot distant in the rows—and you will have 29,040 roots on an acre, which, at an average weight of 10 lb. each, would produce 4,860 bushels. If a given space of ground will produce a certain sized root, another equal space will produce the same, everything being equal. The average weight of Carter's Warden Globe Mangold is 18 lbs., and it grows well on shallow soils. Set the rows and plants the distances apart above mentioned—which is far enough to admit a free circulation of air to prevent crowding—and we have some idea of the enormous crop of these roots that can be grown on an acre. Of course this mode of growing them would prevent cultivating with the horse. The hoe has to be used, anyway, and if the rows are twice the distance apart, to admit of successfully using the horse cultivator, you will make a difference of nearly 1,000 bushels on the acre of ground, to which the extra cost of hoeing without the help of the cultivator is not to be compared. When the rows are but 18 inches apart two hoeings will generally answer—the leaves of the beets spread over the ground and smother the third crop of weeds. The best land should be taken for the plot of beets, and should be put in the best possible shape.

It costs no more to cultivate an acre of land yielding 8,000 bushels than it does the same quantity of land which produces but 300 bushels. To get uniformity of distance in the rows, a hand marker—like an ordinary horse corn marker in shape—should be made, into which drag teeth should be set 18 inches apart. A tightly-drawn twine can be followed in getting the first rows straight. If one has no seed drill, or if he wishes to get the plants in the rows more uniformly than a seed drill will place them, he can set the drag teeth one foot apart in the beam of the marker and cross mark the plot, then two or three seeds can be dropped in the corner of each square and be covered with a hoe. If the seeds are soaked in lukewarm water till they begin to sprout, then rolled in plaster and planted in freshly prepared ground they will get several days' start of the weeds, and, if the weeds are kept back from the start, the growth of beets will be much increased, and more than half the labor will be saved in cultivation. Spaces where plants fail to come up can be filled by transplanting. Nip off the tops and set when the ground is moist. The seeds should be planted as early in the spring as the ground can be prepared if large roots are desired—and of course careful preparation and good culture are advisable. S. A. M.

SUPERPHOSPHATE AND POTASH.

WE find the following interesting theories from Mr. D. H. THING in the Maine Farmer:—"I have used plaster thirty years on all the sward land under the plow, and shall probably do so as many years longer if I live so long. I have also used superphosphate ever since it came into this market, and have a ton for next year's operations. It has been my invariable custom to mix it with plaster on all lands where both are used. I have feared sometimes that the phosphate did not have so good an effect from this mixing, but know no reason why it should not. I have learned, on talking with my neighbors, that some of them have had the same fear. Now, sir, please tell us poor ignoramuses whether there is any chemical or scientific reason why either should exercise a controling influence for evil upon the other. Is there danger that the plaster, from its great power of holding or absorbing ammonia, should exercise a negative influence on the phosphate? Would it be as well to sow plaster broadcast on sod land for corn where phosphate is to be used in the hill? If so, how much, if any, should the quantity of plaster be increased? If as well to sow, would it be as well to sow in the fall before the snow comes? Does plaster act directly on the crop or does it chemically affect the soil or its elements of fertility so as to make them more available for the crop? I am to plant corn next season on dry, rocky, strong soil that has been pastured twenty years; broken up last August, with no manure save plaster and phosphate, 400 pounds of the latter to the acre. I tried to get these questions answered through some of the agricultural papers last September but did not succeed."

Without assuming to give positive scientific knowledge on a subject where so little is really known, we venture a few suggestions:

1. Superphosphate of lime is, even when pure, largely composed of sulphate of lime, gypsum or common land plaster. Hence the addition of more plaster is entirely unnecessary, and by diluting the strength of the phosphate is so far injurious.

2. Freshly-made superphosphate contains a considerable amount of phosphoric acid in soluble condition ready to be absorbed by the roots of plants; but—

3. There is an unavoidable tendency of this phosphoric acid to combine with lime, in which case it is "fixed," and only slowly soluble. In fact, no phosphate or superphosphate of lime was ever got on the land in freely soluble condition, as the chemical union with lime is immediate and powerful. We judge that with pure lime (carbonate) the union is stronger and the phosphate less soluble than with sulphate of lime or gypsum.

4. This phosphate of lime is soluble in carbonic acid, always present in soils where vegetable manures are decaying. Hence, where green crops or stable manures have been plowed under the ground is full of carbonic acid, and this makes the phosphate of lime more available.

4. Soda and potash have also the effect of making phosphate of lime freely soluble. Wood ashes are far better than lime in any form to mix with superphosphates; but as wood ashes contain considerable lime, we have preferred to use—

5. Salt, or chloride of sodium; always cheap and easily obtainable, and which produces the very best effects. Having used superphosphates ten years or more, we have for the past three, mixed two or three shovelfuls of salt with each barrel of superphosphate. Our experience is that 150 lbs. of superphosphate, with 15 lbs. of salt, will give as good results on wheat or other grain as 250 lbs. of superphosphate without the salt.

6. Superphosphate with salt, gives best results on wheat, with which the land should be seeded to clover. Ashes and gypsum (plaster) can be profitably used together on the clover the second year.

OIL-CAKE FOR FEED.

AN English writer to the Millwright asks: "Why is it that so much of the linseed oil-cake produced in your country, especially in the West and North, is exported to England? It must be that its value as food for cattle, and stock of all kinds, is not known or is not appreciated by stock feeders of your country. American oil-cake commands $50 to $60 per ton in England, and, as the English are the best economists in the world, they would not pay more for oil-cake than they would for anything else if it were not the most valuable for feeding purposes, particularly when we consider the extent to which they feed for fattening. Experienced English feeders all say that their best beef is that from cattle fed on oil-cake meal, and it is universally known that the English know how to make and appreciate good beef. Oil-cake meal is equally valuable as food for horses, cows, sheep and hogs. It is the richest food known: it gives a healthy tone to the animal, fattening the lean ones, and maintaining the health and vigor of the strong. The great value of oil-cake for cattle food has long been known, yet it is by no means sufficiently appreciated in your country, nor upon the part of very many persons who own or feed stock is it clearly or fully understood."

The neglect of oil-cake by American farmers is probably explainable by the fact that in Indian corn ground into meal we have a better feed than the English farmer gets in oil-meal and cake. The English farmer feeds oil-meal in connection with roots, turnips, mangolds, &c., and these require the most concentrated foods to make the combination most effective and profitable. Besides, in southern parts of this country we have cotton-seed meal, which is nearly as valuable food as oil-cake, and would be more generally in demand if it were not so abundant.

Field Crops.

WHEAT GROWING IN COLORADO.

AT a late Grange meeting in Colorado, Mr. H. STRATTON reported the following as cost and profit of growing wheat on a 15-acre field:

To 7½ days' plowing with a team at $4 per day.	$30 00
2¾ days' plowing with an ox team at $3 per day	11 25
3 days' work of horse team in going after a broadcast sower and sowing wheat	12 00
1 day's work with horse, hauling grasshopper exting ulsher	2 50
2 days' work of men tending same	3 00
cost of 5 gallons of kerosene	2 00
cost of extinguisher	7 00
cost of water at $1 per acre	15 00
1 day with horse team going for seed wheat.	4 00
running seed through separator	1 00
1,017 lbs. seed wheat at 3c. per lb.	30 51
5 days' work irrigating at $1.50 per day	7 50
cutting 14 acres with machine	14 00
29 days' work harvesting at $1.50 per day	45 00
board for men at 75c. each per day	32 50
5¼ days' work with horses and men at $5.50 per day	30 25
threshing 990 bushels of wheat, including labor, board of men and machine bill—just 12½c. per bushel	48 63
Total cost	$256 14
Interest on 15 acres at $20 per acre at 10 per cent.	30 00
	$286 14
Contra Credit.	
By 390 bushels of wheat (23,400 lbs.) at 3c. per lb.	$702 00
20 tons (estimated) good, bright straw at $4 per ton	80 00
Total credits	$782 00
Less total debits	$286 14

Cost of production per acre, $19.75; cost per bushel, 68c. Average yield in bushels per acre, 28.; average amount in dollars and cents, $50.40. Profit per acre over cost of production, not including straw, $27.62.2. Profit per bushel, $1.12.

In the above account I have calculated the wheat at 3c. per lb., which is a little above the local market; but as it is of the White Australian variety, weighing plump 60 lbs. per bushel, I shall hold it until spring for seed, when I can readily realize 3c. per lb. One acre was destroyed by grasshoppers, which is calculated in the cost of production, and of course cuts down the figures as far as profits are concerned. Wheat sowed on 1st, 2d and 3d days of April, and harvested from 10th to 20th of August.

WHEAT WITH STIFF STRAW.

ENGLISH farmers find much trouble from wheat being beaten to the ground by heavy rains before maturing. English fields are richer and the climate moister than our own, and these combined make falling down of straw much more prevalent in England than here. To offset this evil, stiff straw has become a necessity to English farmers, and the London Agricultural Gazette reports the following varieties as excellent:

Short and stiff-strawed varieties of wheat especially adapted to highly-cultivated and richly-manured lands are not uncommon. Piper's Thickset, as it was called, was many years ago a favorite sort. The Fenton white wheat is another short-strawed sort. Mr. Scholey's Square Head has got a very high reputation as a most productive short-strawed variety of white wheat of first-rate quality. And at the Smithfield Club Show the Biphosphated Manure Company exhibited Capt. Delf's Mainstay wheat, which is declared to have stood this year where all other sorts were laid."

It is probable that most of these varieties would prove tender in our severe winters. Of American varieties, the old Soules and the modern Diehl have short, stiff straw. The Clawson or Seneca has also moderately stiff straw, and is more hardy than the Diehl or any other white wheat of equal quality with which we are acquainted. As a rule, red wheats are more liable to fall down than those of white varieties, possibly partly because they are generally more hardy and grow more vigorously.

PLANTING POTATOES.

WE have taken your excellent paper six or seven years, and it seems as if we hardly could get along without it. You encourage your readers (if I understand rightly) to ask questions and you will answer them through your paper. Now, will you please tell us how many bushels of potatoes (Early Goodrich) it requires to plant an acre, how far apart the rows should be, and whether the potatoes should be cut into pieces, one eye for each piece, or planted whole? By answering these questions you will greatly oblige —A CONSTANT READER OF THE RURAL NEW-YORKER, *San Jose, Cal., Jan.* 22.

POTATOES here are usually planted in hills 3 feet apart each way. Our most successful growers cut to one, two or three eyes and one piece in the hill. Some varieties require more seed than others. The Early Goodrich hereabouts has been mostly superseded by Early Rose and other still newer varieties, Peerless, Brownell's Beauty, Eureka, Compton's Surprise, &c. We would advise trying some of these new varieties in your locality, the Early Rose Especially. One good eye of Early Rose per hill will bring a large crop. Peerless need more seed to prevent the potatoes from growing too large and coarse.

TO PREVENT POTATOES ROTTING.

SOME twenty-five years ago, when potatoes first rotted so generally in this country, I had a lot planted on low ground—a meadow bank—and also a lot planted on a high piece of ground. When I commenced to take up my potatoes I found nearly all those in the meadow rotted and those on the hill only about a third rotten. This induced me to select high-lying ground for potatoes, and instead of applying the manure in the potato row, as was almost the universal practice, I drew out and spread it on the surface any time during the winter, and when planting the potatoes in the spring I gave no attention to the manure, but plowed the ground, dropping the potatoes in every third furrow. The result was that I had very few rotten potatoes, while most of my neighbors who planted in the old way lost largely of their crops. Some varieties rotted worse than others. T. W.

The Centennial.

NOTES ABOUT THE CENTENNIAL.

THREE of the great restaurants are nearly finished. These are the American, near Agricultural Hall, the German, close by Horticultural Hall, and the Southern, in Belmont avenue, close by the Government building. The French restaurant, within a stone's throw of the Art Gallery, is going up rapidly.

THE Germantown Telegraph says that the Agricultural Building on the Centennial grounds is now nearly completed. It is located in front of Belmont Cottage, and will prove, when finished, one of the most attractive edifices in the great group. The farmers of the country may well be proud of what has been done to uphold the interests and dignity of their noble pursuit.

THE Book Publishers' Association have voted $30,000 for a display of articles in their line at the Centennial, and this department will be one of the most interesting and valuable. The Leather manufacturers and Furniture manufacturers are also preparing for a creditable show. It is also proposed to contribute to the Art Exhibition, but arrangements for this are not fully completed.

MR. JAMES BELL of Arnprior, Canada, is preparing a collection of mineralogical specimens, including gray, white and variegated marble, hematite and magnetic iron, phosphate, whetstone and bone, steotite, grit stone, shell marl, cobalt, and three kinds of mineral paint, Mr. Bell adding to this list some specimens of slate and copper. All the minerals were got within twelve miles of Arnprior.

THE old-fashioned New England farmer's home of 100 years ago is to be exhibited at the Centennial. In this will be shown the ancient kitchen with its roomy fire-place, spinning-wheel, quilting-frame, and other house-wife apurtenances, all in use as in the days when we lived under the king. Close by will be found as perfect a modern New England kitchen as it is possible to build.

AT Middletown, N. Y., there is a great ox which will be sent to the Centennial Exhibition. He was five years old on the 28th of May last, and weighs 5,000 pounds. He measures 25 feet from tip of tail to tip of nose, and is 22 hands high. His sire and dam were both imported from England, and were representatives of a celebrated English breed. He is not fat, and if in high flesh he would weigh, it is estimated, 6,000 pounds. The owner of the animal has been offered $5,000 for a quarter interest in him.

Here is a Centennial contrast. First as "Poor Richard" had it in 1776:

"Farmers at the plow,
Wife milking the cow,
Daughter spinning yarn,
Son thrashing in the barn,
All happy to a charm."

And now for the modern improvement in 1876:

"Farmers go to see a show,
Daughter at the piano,
Madame gaily dressed in satin,
All the boys learning Latin,
With a mortgage on the farm."

GROWING OF NURSERY STOCK IN THE U. S.—The increased attention paid to fruit and ornamental tree growing is probably best indicated by the growth of the nursery business. A writer in the Patron's Helper of Iowa suggests that a record be made by all nurserymen and placed on file with the Centennial Commissioners, giving statement of number of acres in nursery, the amount of glass houses used, and the yearly prodnction of fruit or ornamental trees, vines, flowers and vegetables. Such a record, with the names of firms contributing it, would prove a valuable statement of the progress of our people in horticultural pursuits.

Dairy Husbandry.

THE SKIMMED MILK QUESTION AT THE WEST.

At the recent Convention of Illinois Dairymen the practice of making skimmed milk cheese was strongly condemned and the following resolutions unanimously passed: "That the making of skimmed and partly skimmed milk into cheese is detrimental to the dairy business. It tempts and facilitates cheating, makes it practicable for the dishonest to sell as good, an inferior article of cheese, and thus impose upon the consumer. This impairs confidence in all cheese manufactured in the region where skimmed milk cheese is made; damages its reputation, diminishes its consumption, decreases its salability, depresses its market price, and results in the end in loss to the milk producers and cheese manufacturers. Therefore, it is the judgment of this Convention that the best interests of the dairy business of this State demand that making skimmed cheese be discontinued and that full cream cheese only be made."

The second resolution is as follows:—"That we petition our Legislature to pass a law requiring manufacturers to brand all cheese made, so as to indicate whether skimmed, partly skimmed or full cream—brand to be on bandage and with indelible ink. Also the name of the maker."

These resolutions are all proper enough, and they doubtless represent the views of whole-milk cheese makers in other States beside Illinois. But we doubt whether they will have any influence in stopping the make of skimmed cheese, since persons are not wanting who will continue to make such cheese so long as it proves profitable.

The second resolution will be of little or no value to consumers should it become a law, because it does not go far enough. It does not put any restrictions upon shippers or dealers in cheese. They are at liberty to deface the marks and brands made by the manufacturer and then sell the cheese for what they choose to call it. The practice of erasing marks on boxes of cheese is quite common with some dealers both at home and abroad, and would not all marks on the bandage be likely to be removed whenever it was the interest of those parties to erase the same. Again, how would such a law reach manufacturers who manufactured from whole-milk and worked out the cream during the process of making as effectually as if the milk had been skimmed. But there is a way of breaking up the practice of making cheese from skimmed milk. If dealers would agree not to handle such cheese at any price, leaving it on the maker's hands, we apprehend a deathblow must be given to the practice. A law compelling makers to brand skimmed cheese, may be useful to dealers who are not able to tell the difference between a whole-milk cheese and one partly skimmed, but so long as they are not restrained from selling according to the brand, the law would only be a cunning device to help certain dealers.

It is sometimes said by shippers and cheese buyers that our skim cheese manufacturers will ruin the reputation of American cheese in foreign markets and especially in the English market. Granting that this be true, some explanation is needed why the Dutch skimmed cheese sells in England often for quite as much as the "fancy cheese" from our best whole-milk factories. Thus for instance, on the 13th of December, 1875, extra fine American is quoted in London at 65s. to 66s. sterling per cwt., while Edams—a Dutch skimmed cheese—is quoted at 70s. per cwt., or 4s. above best American.

We are not sure but it would be a good thing for our skim cheese manufacture if all the States should pass a law requiring all cheese to be branded and sold for what it is. In that case perhaps the skim cheese men would so improve their product that it would outsell that made at whole-milk factories.

A NEW BUTTER WORKER.

There was a new butter worker on exhibition at the New York State Dairymen's Convention at Norwich that differs so much from those in general use as to merit notice. The bedpiece on which the butter is placed is 3½ feet long by two feet wide, slightly inclined so that the buttermilk will readily pass off. It stands upon legs, and a corrugated roller is so arranged that by turning a crank it traverses the whole length of the bedpiece pressing the buttermilk out and leaving the upper surface of the butter notched. The corrugated roller does not touch the bedpiece, and hence the butter is not ground against the two surfaces. By reversing the crank the butter is rolled up into a roll and may then be again flattened out with a notched surface, as in the first operation. The corrugated roller has eight corrugations about ¾ths of an inch deep and 1¼ apart at the surface or extremities of the corrugations. Springs are arranged at either end of the roll so that it yields more or less to the butter as it moves over it. The principle involved in its operation is to press the buttermilk out in a way similar to that of the ladle when used by hand. From the testimony of butter makers who were present at the Convention, and who had used this machine during the past season, and it was recommended as doing its work with rapidity and without injury to the grain of the butter. The machine was shown by G. W. Cunningham of Chenango, whom we understood also to be the inventor.

JUDGING THE QUALITY OF BUTTER.

Those who have been placed on committees for judging butter at fairs or other exhibitions where dairy products are shown, have often felt a difficulty in discriminating properly between the different samples. A correspondent of the Country Gentleman proposes a scale of points to meet cases of this kind, the points also to be observed by dairymen in making and dealers in buying butter. He suggests 10 points of excellence on a scale of 100 points for perfection, no one scale to exceed 10 points. Thus, for instance, a sample having the following would lack perfection by 24 points.

1.	Texture or solidity has	8
2.	Color	9
3.	Flavor enriched by feed of cows	7
4.	Quality and quantity of salt	8
5.	Freeness from streaks	6
6.	do. flecks or white specks	8
7.	Freeness from rancidity	7
8.	do. artificial coloring	6
9.	do. buttermilk	9
10.	do. taints	8
Making in all		76

or 24 points lacking for perfection.

At the recent Dairymen's Convention at Norwich, when the committee on dairy products were appointed we suggested that the exhibitors be made the judges. The work of the committee was to take samples of butter from the different packages and place them on plates with appropriate numbers corresponding with the packages and then give the samples to the judges. On this plan the judges are not able to distinguish their own butter, and when the award is made the committee, on referring to the number, can readily tell the package, and the exhibitors themselves, being the judges and agreeing on the awards, can have no cause to complain or make charges that any outside influence has been brought to bear on the judges in making their awards. The plan works well, and we commend it to the attention of Fair Committees.

BUTTER MAKING.

In the Rural New-Yorker of Nov. 20, page 331, is an article entitled "Something New in Butter Making." After carefully reading it, it occurred to me to experiment a little and see how much milk it would take to make a pound of butter. I am milking but two cows at this time, and they have been in milk for one year, and one is now farrow. They are fed on nothing but hay and corn stalks, and are a mixture of Short-Horn and Jersey. They are not in a full flow of milk at this time. The milk is set in tin pans to the depth of 1½ inch; milk is strained into the pans at time of milking and set away. At night the morning's milk is set upon hot water and heated, but not to the boiling point, and is then set away till next morning when it is skimmed. The night's milk is treated in the same manner. The milk is allowed to stand 24 hours before skimming. We have practiced this way with our milk for a number of years, thinking we make more and better butter, and have no trouble to make good butter in warm weather.

My figures are these:—13 lbs. and 13 oz. of milk made 1 lb. and 1 oz. of butter. Mr. Hardin should have made the same amount of butter by his process from about 11 lbs. of milk, according to his statement. But I think it must take more pounds of milk to make a pound of butter on grass than when cows are in the barn and fed on hay and stalks; and better still, if they can have some kind of a mess as meal provender and such like, with some roots.

Hampshire Co., Mass. L. P. Wolcott.

THE DAIRY IN ILLINOIS.

According to Dr. Joseph Tefft of Elgin, there are 200 cheese factories in Illinois. Elgin, which is situated about 40 miles in a northerly direction from Chicago, is the center of a flourishing dairy section, and at Elgin there is a Dairy Board of Trade, at which large transactions in dairy produce are made from week to week. The sales of dairy goods during the past season at this market were of cheese, 3,983,206 pounds and of butter 225,175 pounds, amounting in the aggregate to $540,399.15. There is a condensed milk factory at Elgin, and large shipments of fresh milk are made also from this point to Chicago. The number of milch cows in Illinois is put at 2,000,000. This, we should say, is too high an estimate, as the last census gave the number at 850,340, and it hardly seems possible that this number has been more than doubled during the last five years.

The Horseman.

THE CALIFORNIA TROTTING HORSE.

Some of the best trotting horses of recent time have been reared in California. Mr. A. T. Dinsdan, in the Stockton Independent, advocates the claims of California as the best climate for breeding horses. Some reasons for which opinion we quote:

The fibrous material of the muscle of the California horse is of a finer and better quality than that of the horses of any other country I ever saw, because of the peculiar dry feed, an analogy may be sought in the best cured tea; there is not that amount of water drawn into the system. Hence the fine, elastic fiber of the flesh is a prominent feature in their miraculous endurance. Superior to either their symmetrical framework, their fine, elastic fibrous muscles, or their rapid motion, is their large breathing apparatus. The result of pure air, well cured hay and straw without dust, mold or rust. The machinery of a horse may be as perfect as that of a well arranged locomotive, with powerful lungs and a larnyx well developed, but without a large, well developed nasal channel and open, leafy-like nostril, all the other perfect qualities will avail him nothing, no more than a large furnace and boiler in the locomotive without draft.

Both classes of the progeny of horses imported (if the term will apply to those brought from the sister States as it does from foreign countries) are similarly affected by climate, food and education, their motion becomes more rapid, in fact this happens to both man and beast. This rapid motion, whether native or acquired, is destined to place them in a much more noticeable position when better understood than even the great feat of Occident has done. Had old Hambletonian been bred to as many choice mustang mares as he has been to others, however select and well bred, he would have produced more and faster trotters in the aggregate than he has done. No single family has shown equal merit with Bruno and Brunette, and their dam, the little Canadian mare, would not compare favorably with select mustangs, so that we think that California breeders have a nucleus in their native horse that, were they in Kentucky, increased speed would be the result. The infusion of Pilot blood would be superseded by the more rapid motion of the mustang.

Of Occident himself the same writer says:—Occident, considering his age and advantages—having but one cross—has placed himself as the representative California trotting horse, not only at the head of the United States, but of the world. Contrast the number of horses in California with that of the other States and the world, as only in this way can a judicious comparison be made, and it will be fully one thousand to one. Occident's education contrasts strangely with the sons of science, in the breeding and handling of horses. He learned the alphabet of work in a dirt wagon, his jogging exercise in an excavation cart and his scrapes and speeding exercise in a poultry wagon. Mrs. —— told me that many a struggle she witnessed in company with the owner and his wife, with fast nags and light vehicles—Occident always being victorious. Goldsmith Maid, Occident, Smuggler and Red Cloud grew up as rustics, until five years old, and I might add Flora Temple, Lady Thorn and Dexter, who, from their turbulent spirits, refused to do much more than contend until after that age.

BREAKING COLTS.

In the Rural of Jan. 1, "Working Farmer" gave some ideas on breaking colts to which we propose to enter protest by your leave:

"Working Farmer" holds that the correct system is to let the colt run till three years old, then catch him (if you can) and teach him every thing the first day. He thinks the time spent toying with and teaching the colt to lead while it is with its mother as lost. We are aware that it is not practical to have colts broken to halter and gentled so as to be caught in the field, etc., where large numbers are raised; but the large majority of our horses are bred by small farmers who raise from one to four each year, and we know by experience that this gentleing process is practical.

"Working Farmer" gives an instance of his success in breaking his stallion, of trotting stock, and by the way we would much rather handle a stallion colt that had never been handled, than a filly or a gelding, from the fact they have less fear and better horse sense than geldings and fillys generally.

As an offset to "Working Farmer's" example, I will give one and not an uncommon one. A neighbor of ours who is breeding trotting stock quite extensively, had his favorite filly ruin herself when hitched with a strong rope halter for the first time. She had never been handled and was wild and strong, and when compelled to stand when tied, she struggled and threw herself and injured her neck and back, and has never recovered. Her owner has his colts all broke to lead and stand tied as soon as weaned now. Again, we object to the amount of work given the first day. We would prefer not to load the colt the first day; in fact if we hoped to make a trotter of him I would prefer to never pull him hard. Ohio Boy.

Harlem Springs, Ohio.

MORGAN HORSES.

At a meeting of the Vermont Board of Agriculture, held at Ludlow, Albert Chapman read a paper on the breed of horses for Vermont, full of interest. A long and interesting discussion followed upon the several points presented. He said that the reason why Vermont horses have stood so high was because they have been so well bred. The Morgan horses have given the State a reputation, and is the race which should be brought forward again for service, while they possess qualities of speed equal to any which have been introduced to public notice since their day. They will endure more service than the thoroughbred. The cross of the Morgan with the Canadian horse was considered next. The latter were animals of great hardiness. From an early age he inherits the lot of toil so that whatever commanded to do, he must perform or die, and it is a singular fact that Canadian horses do not appreciate gentleness or kindness.

The pacing horse in a cross was next considered in making good trotters, while the Morgans make horses of style, action and build, and also make good animals for all work on the farm, carriage and driving horses; they also make good trotters. A large proportion of them when properly crossed prove fast; at any rate good crosses always produce good roadsters. The past record of the speed of the Morgan horses was given, and several striking instances cited proving that several of the fastest horses this country has produced were of this breed. More blame attached to Vermont, for the decline of this breed, than to any other section by accepting the statements that other breeds were the speediest, which the record does not sustain in fact. The best produced, and those bringing the highest prices, were those bred from larger sized dams and smaller sires. He concluded by reading a record prepared by him of the speed and sales of Morgan horses as compared with other breeds. None failed to learn from Chapman's earnest and positive manner that he was an able advocate of Morgan horses.

STABLE FLOORS.

The Germantown Telegraph says:—The long-debated question as to the best material for stable floors, is being revived. A clay floor was held out for years, and such was the earnestness of its advocates and the many arguments brought to bear upon it, that we were induced some fifteen to twenty years ago to try it. In three or four months we had the planks back again, being severely satisfied of the disadvantages of clay for horses. Our present floor of plank is simply inclined a little from front to rear, where the usual gutter is made to carry off the liquid voidings. We do not believe in sand, coal ashes, sawdust, asphaltum, flags, cobblestones, or any of these modern devices to injure horses. Thus far we have never noticed that this little inclination was in any way injurious; and we doubt whether the wooden grating placed over the planking would be advisable on the ground that the animal would be no more comfortable, while this movable grating or second floor might lead to accidents. When a person can keep horses in good, sound, healthy condition for from five to seven years, as we have done on a carefully-constructed plank flooring, inclining a little to the rear, it is just as well to be satisfied with it.

CARE OF HORSES.

The London Horse Book says:—All horses must not be fed on the same proportion, without regard to their ages, their constitution and their work; because the impropriety of such a practice is self evident. Yet it is constantly done, and is the basis of disease of every kind.

Never use bad hay on account of cheapness, because there is no proper nourishment in it.

Damaged corn is exceeding injurious, because it brings on inflammation of the bowels and skin disease. Chaff is better for old horses than hay, because they can chew and digest it better.

When a horse is worked hard its food should be chiefly oats; if not worked hard its food should chiefly be hay, because oats supply more nourishment and flesh-making material than any other kind of food; hay not so much.

Rack feeding is wasteful. The better plan is to feed with chopped hay, from a manger, because the food is not then thrown out, and is more easily chewed and digested.

Sprinkle the hay with water that has salt dissolved in it, because it is pleasing to the animal's taste and the hay is more easily digested. A teaspoonful of salt in a bucket of water is sufficient.

The Herdsman.

ENGLISH PRIZE SHORT-HORN OX.

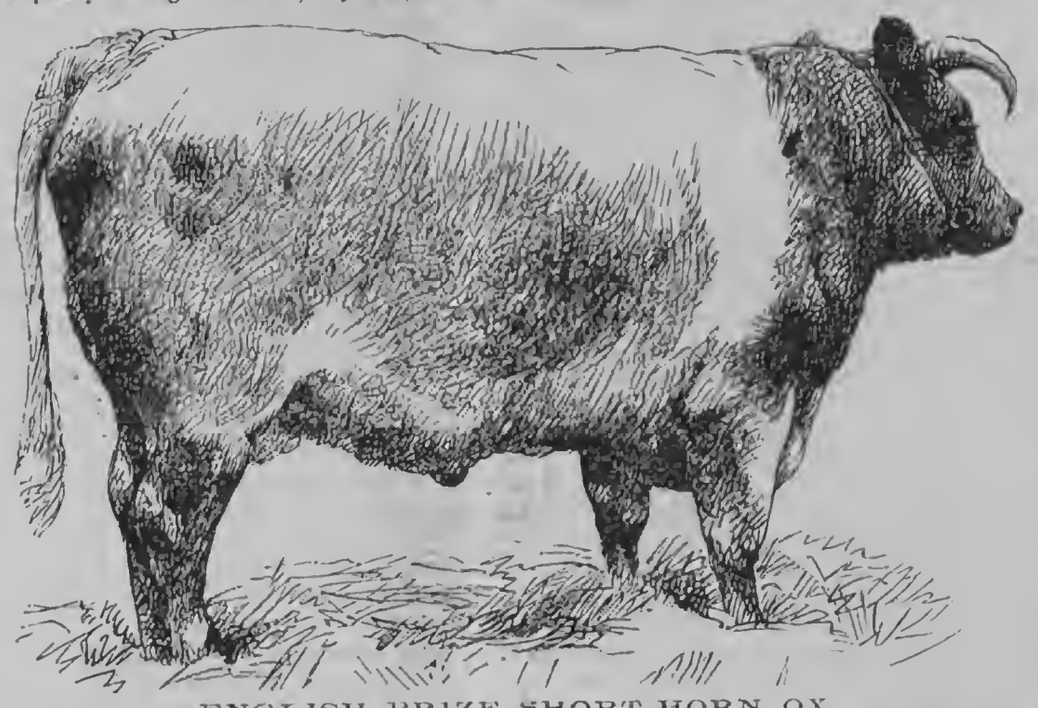
Our portrait represents a model Short-Horn Ox which has taken prizes at several English Cattle Shows. He is thus described by a London contemporary:

In the class of older Short-Horns at Islington, over 39 months, there was a great display. Among the eight were at least two grand specimens, and two more not to be overlooked. That declared the 1st in its class, and awarded the £50 cup as best male in the classes (Mr. G. Sowerby's roan ox) is an old visitor here. In 1873 he was put 2nd to Mr. Bolt's fine roan (which was 1st. again last week in Bingly Hall). Now he gains all the credit that he can expect, for the judges reserved (as gallant judges will when they have a chance) their highest place to a most beautiful heifer. Last year Mr. Sowerby's ox weighed 20 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lbs., now he gets credit for 23 cwt. 0 qr. 2 lbs. which at four years and two months, is a great record. He handles very soft, as he has done throughout. His hind legs are somewhat weary, giving him a bad carriage behind. But he seems an admirable champion of the popular breed, and might encounter any of his own, or of a rival breed without fear. Take him all round, from his symmetrical horns to the tip of his tail, it is difficult to suggest an improvement. It is plain that he is grossly fat, but he is healthy, and by far the best-finished animal in the show.

FOR BEEF AND BUTTER.

Geo. E. Waring in the Feb. No. of Ogden Farm Papers, in the Agriculturist, disapproves the advisability in considering the adoption of a breed for dairy purposes, that the preponderating regard should be had to the value of a cow as beef, after her milking is done. This, of course, is valuable and important, but its value and importance are much less than secondary. Let us put the probalities for the yield of butter at from 200 to 225 lbs. per cow, a difference that may very easily be secured by the selection of good representatives of the best breed, or of the second best. Take the average duration of profitable milking as ten years, and we have a difference in butter products of 250 lbs. worth at 30 cents, a pound, $75. In the one case let us assume that we have a worn-out thin cow worth, (to fatten) $20, and that in the other case, we have a well-constitutioned large animal worth, (to fatten), $50; this is the true standard, in considering the worth of the cow for fattening, we have to regard the cost of feed, and care, and time. Here is a difference of $75 in the income from butter, and of only $30 in the value for making beef. I have purposely neglected the citation of large yields and fancy prices, and have presented the case in its proper agricultural bearing for most localities. It seems to me to prove very clearly that no farmer who looks to the manufacture of butter as his business, can afford to consider the beefing value of his used-up cows, as an offset for inferior butter production. Thoroughbred animals get their fancy value from fancy reasons less largely than is supposed. The butter of the Jersey, the milk of the Ayrshire, and the beef of the Short-Horn are at the bottom of the fancy prices for all of these breeds, for it is this, after all, that must be looked to for the permanent value of any race. Those who embark largely in the raising of thoroughbreds often pay amazing prices for good specimens, but they have always the fact to fall back upon, that their animals will multiply rapidly, and that a slight advantage in practical value will, with their increasing herds, soon help to make up for their large outlays. They always believe, of course, that they will find customers able to appreciate, and willing to pay, for peculiar excellence, but the whole question, in its wide bearings, finally settles itself down upon the practical agricultural advantage of the race. Short-Horns, however fine, that are deficient in the quality of continuing in their progeny the beef producing characteristics; beautiful Ayrshires, well up in all the fancy points, whose descendants will not be good milkers; and Jersey cattle of the fanciest character, whose families are poor butter makers, will always fail in the end to be highly appreciated.

It will therefore be the wisest course for any beginner in stock-breeding, who is willing to invest the necessary capital, and to give the care and attention requisite for success in thorough breeding, to select such animals as are, in the first place, best adapted for the home industry that he intends to pursue, and in the second place, to get such specimens of the breed as will win favor among those who are to be depended upon as buyers at fancy prices, but a prudent man will always regard very high prices as so much lucky addition to his income. He will not depend upon it as an element of his regular business. For example, if one can establish a herd of Jersey cows which will make an average of 250 lbs. of butter per annum, and is so situated that he can secure (net) 50 cents per lb. for his product the year round, so that he may be sure of a gross income of $125, he can afford to pay a very high price for thoroughbreds, or if he has time and patience, he may buy a smaller number of remarkably good females, at still higher prices, and build up his herd, by a few years of careful breeding. If at all well situated, he may depend on a yearly average value of, say $40, for his



ENGLISH PRIZE SHORT-HORN OX.

weaned calves of both sexes. This will pay the interest on the cost of his original stock. Then, in proportion as he is fortunate in his judgment and arrangement, and in his skill in giving to his herd a good reputation, he may increase the value of his progeny to an amount that will add a very handsome profit to a business that has already been fairly profitable and satisfactory. Referring to my own experience, although I have bought many animals for from $150 to $250 each, by far the most profitable ones have been those which have cost me several times these sums. I have already referred in these papers to a cow for which I paid $500, (when this was a much higher price than it would be now), and which has returned me, in her progeny, nearly $2,000 cash, and more than that amount in the value of animals still on hand, these increasing year by year, and giving a value to the herd that reduces the original investment to insignificance. One may buy ten cows of good quality and good pedigree for $2,500, but the same money *judiciously* invested in one bull and two cows, would probably bring a larger profit in the end.

"WEEDING OUT" IN JERSEY STOCK.

The Jerseys are so exclusively grown for milk and butter that their value depends almost wholly on their excellence in these characteristics. Size, fattening qualities and, within certain limitations, health and vigor are each subordinate to the milk and butter making tendency. Fortunately the character of the escutcheon as described by Guenon affords a fair test of the potential value of an animal for milk in advance of practical tests. Judging by this the breeder is able to save calves, both male and female, for their value as breeders for milk and in this way continue and increase the distinctive value of the breed. Mr. John R. Poyntz of Maysville, Ky., has acted upon this principle for years in breeding Jersey stock and we quote from the Ky. Live Stock Record his remarks on the theory and objects of weeding out objectionable animals. He says:

The true principles of breeding necessitate pruning the herd, therefore all female animals are endowed with a time of heat, which faculty attracts the males of their kind, and inaugurates nature's requisites to the perpetuation without deterioration. Of wild animals the process of pruning the herd is successfully accomplished by the fighting of the males unto death or banishment from the herd, leaving the most vigorous males to propagate their kind; the buffalo, elk and deer, are instanced, showing no deterioration either in form or vigor, and fairly represent nature's standard, which is perfection, matured by the true principles of breeding in line, and concentration of blood to that extent necessary to perpetuate merit.

Man, in adapting animals to his use for specific purposes, has not adhered to nature's teachings in the process; hence the limited number produced that are renowned in their sphere. This may result from the "gendering of diverse kinds" being engaged in breeding cattle for rich milk and butter making. Where merit in these particulars gives value and distinction to them, I soon learned by practice that a standard of merit was necessary to regulate my business. I was fortunate in selecting "Guenon's Treatise on the Milch Cow," have adhered to the markings discovered and interpreted by him (of my selection), to determine the question of life or death of the calves, both male and female, of the herd at the age of eight weeks. If they do not have the marks indicative of merit up to our standard of his classification, they are deemed ill-bred, and placed with the butcher for veal. In this manner the pruning process is successfully accomplished, and prevents the historic reputation of the Alderney and Jersey cattle as butter makers being tarnished in our herd by the worthless of their race, purity and blood being no guaranty of the merit of the highest order in butter making. We have practiced this mode for the past fifteen years, endeavoring to attain the point for our herd in merit where they will transmit with certainty, merit of Guenon's "class first, and first order." Upon the farm we have now fifty cows and heifers, ranging in age from seventeen years old down to weeks, and seventeen bulls from five years to three months old, all having Guenon's marks of the highest order of merit, and all bred upon the farm according to the true principles.

The Poultry Yard.

DOES IT PAY TO KEEP POULTRY?

After ten years' experience I unhesitatingly say Yes, with proper care and management. Many people think there is no profit in keeping them. If we investigate closely the fact will probably appear that these unprofitable hens have to roost in trees, under sheds, on the wagon, upon the fanning mill, or anywhere else where they can find rest for their weary feet. They have probably had to scratch all day with might and main for a few scattered grains or a scant supply of worms, and have had to run the gauntlet of boys and dogs besides.

Said a farmer to me, "I keep fifty hens and have to buy eggs, and I am fully satisfied that it does not pay." I asked, "How much grain do you feed them?" "Oh," he says, "they have the run of the barns and help themselves. I do not know how much they eat, but it is more than they are worth."

"Where do they roost?" was the next inquiry. "O, anywhere that they can be most in the way."

"Can they get drink this winter weather?" "Yes, they can eat snow."

It would not have been polite to have called this man a simpleton, but I felt like doing so. Why he had to buy eggs was apparent enough. Hens are often blamed for scratching, but well fed hens are not so very troublesome in this respect. They do much good by destroying bugs, worms, and the like. Much is said and written about sparing the robins, but I would sooner have 100 hens than 1,000 robins for the purpose of destroying insects, and are quite sure they will make less havoc among the fruit and berries. Besides, hens can be kept shut up while the robins cannot. There is nothing better to destroy squash bugs than a hen with a brood of chickens cooped near.

Visiting a strawberry grower once I found him with several boys busily engaged digging after the "grub." He complained that his plantation was half ruined by them. After sympathizing with him for awhile, I remarked that no hens appeared about his barn, which stood within a few rods. "No," he replied, "I will not keep any; they are a perfect nuisance. We had a few once and they scratched up everything." My reply was, that "If they had dug over as much ground as you and your boys have, probably your wrath would have been great."

"Why," said he, in great surprise, "we are digging out the grubs that are destroying my strawberries."

"And so were your hens." I replied, "and had you let them run on here, they would probably have destroyed the May beetle and then you would have had no trouble with this grub; the hens would have saved your crop as well as this immense amount of work."

Poultry gives a home look to one's premises. Lack of them has a chilling effect. Very much like finding a house with no children in it; a front yard with never a shrub or flower in sight, or a church service with the singing left out, not pleasant by any means.

Poultry to a wise man is useful, ornamental and profitable, and any one who does not see it in this light is deprived of a great source of happiness as well as profit. Of course it will be at times necessary to shut up the hens, but a greater part of the time they can have the run of the premises. I generally shut up my fruit in preference to shutting up the hens, and find it the most profitable. N. Ritter.

FACTS IN TURKEY BREEDING.

The American Agriculturist has these comments and quotations on turkey breeding and raising:

There is nothing like facts to confirm a theory. If it were really believed that good selection and good feed would increase the average size of turkeys a third, it would not be difficult to get intelligent farmers to pay attention to these points. We find a very important item in a local journal from North Stonington, Ct., which confirms this view. This town is on the borders of Rhode Island, and represents the district where the Narragansett turkeys are principally raised, known in the market as Rhode Island turkeys. The writer says: "Probably more than fifty thousand pounds of poultry were sent from this vicinity for the Thanksgiving market in Boston last season, at 23 cents per pound. The quality sent this year is better than that of last year, some lots of turkeys averaging nearly twelve pounds, and one monstrous old fellow bore down thirty-six and a quarter. The size of turkeys raised hereabouts has increased steadily for twenty-five or thirty years, owing to attention to propagagation. The time was when the average at Thanksgiving did not exceed eight pounds, and brought only as many cents per pound; whereas the weight has been increased fifty per cent. and the price two hundred per cent."

From Stonington, the town immediately south, a still larger quantity was sent, and the quality was a grade heavier. Said an old farmer who bought a large bronze gobbler of premium stock last season: "I must have some more of that stock, for I have the heaviest turkeys in the neighborhood." Good feed, especially during the first fall and winter, is almost as important as good stock. A farmer feeds a bushel of corn a day to a hundred turkeys in November, at the cost of a dollar, and it looks a little extravagant. But it is less than the third of a quart, and the cost of a cent a day for each bird. We once tried the experiment of feeding some second-litter turkeys through the winter, and found the hens gained about two pounds a month and the gobblers three. The feed was principally boiled potatoes, and meal and corn. At this rate, the gain in flesh, at twenty-five cents a pound, would be worth seventy-five cents a month for each gobbler, and fifty cents for each hen. If thirty cents' worth of feed will make this gain, it cannot be very bad business to feed turkeys liberally through the winter. By all means have large, well-fed stock to breed from in the spring, and the time to make them is now.

POULTRY NOTES.

Warm Food for Hens in Winter.—"A Boy" asks how he may give warm food so as to get many eggs in winter. A warm place is necessary before the warm food will be of much use. Dry food is, probably, the best for all animals exposed to the weather. If you have a warm place, then you may treat your pullets to warm food, such as warm corn pudding cooked with a little oil-meal, milk, etc. Feed once a day with dry food, such as corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye—but wheat is best. Give warm food twice per day and let there be a variety. You should also keep a trough with fine raw bone and lime in it, all the time, for the hens to eat when they choose, and they will pick at it many times a day. The warm place and warm food will give you eggs in plenty and money in your pocket, for eggs bring the highest price in winter.—*Buffalo Live Stock Journal.*

Hens in Close Quarters.—Your correspondent (C. A. Russell) I think could not have lived through the hen mania of 25 years ago, or he would go cautiously into the business of keeping five acres of hens. Try the confining of hens on a smaller scale and see how their imprisonment will pay on four acres with half the number he intends for the eight acres, as I think the experiment will be a failure. One-half the expense will do to try it.—w.

Sick Mocking Bird.—A lady friend asks what she should do with her mocking bird, which is sick and does not sing a note. Possibly moulting is the trouble, in which case the bird will recover of itself. Give it some red pepper as food, and dust sulphur on its back and neck for lice.

Around the Republic.

LETTER FROM ALABAMA.

MOBILE, Ala., Dec. 21, 1875.

EDS. RURAL NEW YORKER:—I have before me your paper of the 18th ult., and my attention has fallen upon the article headed "Down South"—the diary and notes of an ex-editor seeking health. Now, it occurs to me that there are many people who, like your Florida correspondent, would be glad to hear of some genial clime where health, pleasure and comfort may be found, where "foggy mornings" do not exist, and where there is not the "bold northeast wind," that blows into one's frame the "chills, miasma and malaria," "makes bronchial coughs lively" and "breathing difficult," from which ailings your correspondent seems to think Florida is not entirely free.

The idea has undoubtedly grown up among Northern people that Florida affords the only anchorage for the forlorn hope of the consumptive, and that there, and *only* there, gushes forth that Pierian Spring of which "*all* must taste in order that *any* may be cured."

If you will allow me, therefore, I will call the attention of your readers, whether they be seekers of health or pleasure, to a few facts as to other places in the South besides the "Land of Flowers," so named, that have already been discovered, as being far more desirable and attractive to the pleasure-seeking tourist and far more beneficial to the consumptive than even the aforesaid blessed peninsula. And I will submit incontrovertible evidence to prove that the southern portions of Alabama and Mississippi, and portions of the coasts of these States, borderings on the bays and sounds and other inlets of the Gulf, are the finest winter resorts in the United States. For in health, climate and pleasure this section of our vast country is unsurpassed. In the first place, let us look at Mobile—a beautiful city of 40,000 inhabitants—of pure water—of fine streets—of handsome drives—of abundant markets—and all health and pleasure-giving properties that can exist in a city of its size. Situated at the head of a beautiful bay of the same name—in latitude 31 degrees north—Mobile is a salubrious, dry and healthy city. It is dryer here than in Florida, for we are free from those fogs and continuous cold northeast winds of which your Florida correspondent complains. Mobile is far enough west to escape these greatest of drawbacks to Eastern Florida. For, according to Prof. M. F. MAURY, in his "Physical Geography of the Sea," these fogs, &c., which prevail on the South Atlantic coast are caused by the winds blowing from the northeast taking up their moisture in the warm atmosphere of the Gulf Stream and depositing the same upon striking the colder climate of the coast. This moisture is, therefore, deposited long before the winds pass over Mobile from the same direction, and the only wind that brings much moisture to Mobile from the Gulf Stream is the wind from the South. Hence the greatest rainfall in Mobile occurs in the summer, as is correctly shown by the report of the Chief Signal Officer at Washington for the year 1873. The rainfall at Mobile for that year, according to said report, was as follows:—For the spring months, 16.21 inches; summer, 28.97; autumn, 16.49; winter, 11.01. The summer rainfall is, therefore, much greater than that of the other seasons; and it seems a providential blessing, for it is the summer season when the rain is most needed. These summer rains, according to MAURY, are brought up by the South winds from the Gulf Stream. But these winds do not always bring rain; they frequently simply cool the air and produce a luxurious freshness in midsummer, such as I have never enjoyed anywhere else.

The mean annual temperature at the City of Mobile, according to the Weather Bureau reports, is 64 deg., the mercury rarely falling below 30 or rising above 90, showing an evenness of climate unsurpassed in the world. Mobile, besides being pre-eminently healthy, offers, together with its fine climate, other advantages which should be considered very important by all tourists contemplating winter sojourns at the South. The society is hospitable and refined, and always open to our respectable friends of the North. Its markets abound with fish, oysters, game, tropical and other fruits, and early vegetables. Consequently, its hotels are enabled to keep the best tables. Nor are the prices so high as in that "land of pure delight," as your correspondent terms it; for the best hotel here—the Battle House—equal to any in the South, charges only from $2 to $3 per day, and I dare say is equal at least to the $4 per day hotels of Florida. Mobile is easily accessible to all points by rail, and its proximity to New Orleans makes it convenient for the sojourner to visit that gay city and enjoy its social advantages and public festivities, for which New Orleans is noted, in conjunction with those of Mobile.

And now, Mr. Editor, I hope you will excuse me for writing so long a letter. But this cannot fail to be useful to all, who, like your friend BRAGDON, can get no answers to their queries about the best places in the South to go for the winter, but will go, as he went at last, and, to use his own language, "be compelled, in a great degree, to go it blind. FRANK B. CLARK.

Floricultural.

CLEMATIS IN POTS.

THE accompanying sketch from the London Journal of Horticulture may give some idea of the excellence of these vines as pot plants.

CLEMATIS IN POT.

Pinching back the young shoots as they grow too long, which forces the lower buds to break, and confines the plant within desired limits, is the only peculiarity of this form of culture.

C. Viticella erecta is a new dwarf French variety less than two feet high bearing blue flowers and well adapted to pot culture. Balloon, umbrella or oval-shaped wires, or frames of any kind according to taste or convenience, may be used as supports. Rich, light soil—well drained pots, and liberal watering are advisable.

In view of our recent article upon the Clematis, further details are unnecessary.

INTERESTING PLANTS.

Thunbergia Harrisoni.—We see this vine offered as excellent for covering trellises. It was described in RURAL of Feb. 5.

Lilium Bloomerianum.—ELLWANGER & BARRY offer this Lily. The flowers are large, nodding, orange color, dark spots—six to eight feet high, producing, under good culture, four to six stems.

Souvenir du Congres.—This Pear was illustrated and described in the RURAL of June 5. E. & B. now offer it at two and three dollars each according to size.

Dionæa muscipula.—Mr. PETER HENDERSON is among the first to offer this renowned carnivorous plant.

Eulalia Japonica—Is offered by Mr. WM. BENNET as an entirely new and very distinct grass from Japan, having graceful, reed-like stems four or five feet high, which are crowned when ripe with light masses presenting the appearance of ostrich feathers. The leaves are long and narrow, striped with white and green. Perfectly hardy.

Hibiscus fulgidus.—Mr. WM. BULL of London, describes this as having flowers five inches in diameter, composed of undulated petals of an "intense carmine, paler towards base where on each petal is an oblong blotch of deep crimson, forming a blunt-rayed star in the center of the flower." Obtained from the South Sea Islands.

Lagerstræmia Alba.—Several of our nurserymen offer the White Crape Myrtle, a seedling of the pink and hardy in the South. It may be kept in pots in the cellar during the winter.

Rubus Roezli.—A smooth-branched shrub, with palmate-lobed leaves and creamy white flowers the size of half a crown. It was discovered in Colorado by M. ROEZL. "Gartenflora."

Proteinophallus Rivieri.—Well known as *Amorphophallus Rivieri.* We have several times spoken of this interesting plant. The Botanical Magazine says:—"Like its allies it throws up an umbrella-like head of deep green foliage, borne on a cylindrical stem, two to three feet in hight. The spathe is four or five inches across and of a livid-purple color, spotted with green below, the spadix being purple, streaked with white."

Agave Victoriæ Reginæ.—The Gardeners' Chronicle thinks this the most remarkable among greenhouse plants. It comes from New Mexico—is remarkably distinct and handsome in its own peculiar grotesque way.

Clematis Alba Magna is said to be without doubt the finest of all the white blossomed varieties, the sepals being so broad that any two meet across the intervening one, and thus form a more solid looking flower than we get in the case of any other variety.

Poinsettia pulcherima plenissima, the so called double flowering *Poinsettia*—though an additional number of bracts is alone referred to by "double flowering"—is still well thought of and will probably "go the rounds."

Iris gigantea.—In French gardens there is an Iris growing 5 feet high and bearing white flowers, striped with brownish yellow near the base of the outer segments.

CORRECTION.—In my article upon "The Clematis" in the phrase—"we yet assert that the Clematis is the finest hardy plant in cultivation"—the word *plant* should have been *vine.* E. S. C.

The Garden.

ABOUT SEED DISTRIBUTION.

(To E. S. C.)—Thank you kindly for your article in the RURAL NEW-YORKER. It is one of those articles that we need more of, full of good, common sense. Your suggestions in regard to giving away seed are very good, and if the papers would offer premiums of seeds, I think they would be thoroughly appreciated.

My business takes me among the farmers, and I am surprised at their ignorance in regard to the modes of procuring seeds and the great lack of flowers among them. Not one farmer in fifty has a collection worth naming, nor do they seem to know how easily and how cheaply they can procure them. I have distributed a large number of catalogues and packages of seed, in order to show them how beautiful and cheap flower seeds are, and I am pleased to learn that the receivers of them are very much pleased and that through them a love for flowers is fostered. I am particularly fond of the Bulb family, and I make it a rule after selecting my own stock, to give away all the balance. Another point: Many of the Bulb family multiply abundantly, and ought to be sold cheaper than they are; that would tempt many to buy who do not. I hope you will favor us with other sensible articles. C. W. IDELL.

No. 144 Roade St., N. Y.

CULTIVATING HUCKLEBERRIES FOR MARKET.

(A. M. VAN AUKER.)—There are several distinct species of "huckleberry" growing wild in the Northern States, one of which is called "blueberry" in some localities. We do not know of any experiments having been made to cultivate the huckleberries for market, and therefore cannot give you any information in regard to profit. Probably the best way to get up a plantation of this fruit would be to begin with the seed, raising the plants in a nursery, transplanting them once or twice before final planting for fruiting. Of course, where there are plenty of wild plants, small specimens can be dug up and removed to the garden or field without any considerable loss, but they would not be as good or as sure to live as those raised under the usual nursery system.

The huckleberry is a good fruit for some of our enterprising young horticulturists to take up and improve by scientific manipulation. It would be well, however, for those who are inclined to enter this (at present) unoccupied field to make themselves thoroughly familiar with the different species and best wild varieties in advance.

Patrons of Husbandry.

THE GRANGE IN ENGLAND.

THE movement to inaugurate the P. of H. in England comes at a very opportune time when the mind of English farmers is exercised over the inaction of the Government on questions affecting farmers' interests.

Mr. C. S. READ, a member of the Government, and the only tenant farmer who holds a seat in Parliament, has resigned his subordinate position, where he could be of little use, and will henceforth act as an Independent Member of Parliament. Mr. READ has made almost as great a sensation as Mr. PLIMSOLL did last summer in behalf of the seamen. His position as the only representative of the large working farmer interest, as opposed to the landholders who have long controlled Lords and Commons, is a most responsible one. He is already one of the most popular men in the Kingdom, and bids fair to wield such an influence as O'CONNELL did forty years ago as representative of the Irish Peasantry. The Grange is more likely to consolidate the influence of English working farmers and working men, and will, probably, take more active part in politics in England than it has done in this country. Heretofore English farmers, excluding the landholding interest, have had less political influence than the farmers of our own country.

SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATION.

THE Louisville Courier Journal says that a Grange co-operation store in Howard County, Indiana, started with a capital of $1,000, paid up, each Grange in the County voting directly out of its treasury $50 and electing one director. The whole business was under the direction of the Board, which selected an agent. In a little less than one year they report a business of over $30,000 and a saving of at least 30 per cent., while the whole expense has been less than 10 per cent.

This is about what can be done when a sufficient number of members become interested to create a large amount of business. But suppose the sales had been only $10,000, the expenses would have been the same, and a loss instead of a gain would have resulted. Patrons contemplating the establishment of Grange co-operative stores should think over the matter well, and in no case attempt it when from any cause any considerable part of the membership will fail to support it. One failure will do more harm than many successful ventures can do good.

HOW TO MAKE THE GRANGE ATTRACTIVE.

THE practice of Melrose Grange, Iowa, as reported in the Patron's Helper, offers a good suggestion about making the Grange attractive, which means successful, in many cases where more formal meetings would soon become tiresome. This Grange has no hall, but meets alternately at the houses of its members. The gatherings have a social character, and a simple supper is served after the meetings, *always.* Another practice is to have a question box into which any member may drop such questions as he pleases, on any topic of interest to farmers, and the master answers them or calls on some member to do so. This also is a regular custom. So the members are sure, at every meeting, of both bodily and mental aliment, of a pleasant social gathering of friends, and of profitable communion together. This Grange never fails of a quorum.

CO-OPERATION AT OBERLIN.

E. M. LEONARD writes to the N. Y. Tribune:—The following is the seventh report of the Oberlin (Ohio) Co-operative Association:

Goods invoiced at		$3,439 22
Fixtures		286 85
Cash		239 59
Total		$3,965 66
304 shares at $10, less by	$3,040 00	
Reserve fund	192 67	
Liabilities	259 86	$3,492 53
Profits		$473 13
Quarter's sales		$2,675 74

Dividend to stockholders for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1875. 15 per cent. The dividends for the seven terms aggregate 142 per cent. We commenced business Feb. 24, 1874. Our success has been in spite of great opposition.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

A PEEP UNDER THE SNOW.

Feb. 7.—The first snowstorm of the season in this locality (Northern New Jersey) occurred three days since, snow falling to the depth of about eight inches, and the temperature dropped to about 7 deg. below zero for a few hours only. The icemen began to look happy, as well as the boys and girls, who had been "spoiling" for a sleigh-ride. But last night there came a change: the mercury took a sudden rise in the thermometer, while the rain came down quite briskly. This morning the sun shone out bright and warm, melting the snow slowly but surely, and leaving the ground almost bare again at night.

Perhaps it is only imagination on my part, but it always seems to me that the thousands of little wild and cultivated plants look brighter and more beautiful as they come peeping out from the snow than at any other time. Their leaves fairly glisten in the light as the last drop of melted snow disappears, carrying with it the impurities which may have accumulated and rested there before the great white robe fell upon them, days or months before. For one I enjoy a ramble in the woods at such a time, even while snow banks still linger in the shady nooks and ice-water trickles over moss-covered rocks, because it is then that the sturdy character, as well as beauty, of frost-proof foliage shows to the best advantage.

IN THE GARDEN

we can find much to admire at this season, in addition to the taller kinds of evergreens, like the pines, spruces and hemlocks, because those of less stature, such as the *Hollies*, *Mahonias*, *Rhododendrons*, *Kalmias* and other broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, are really more conspicuous than they will be several weeks or months hence, while still lower down in the scale, and more humble perhaps, we find the long-leaved, hardy *Yuccas* creeping up, as it were, through the melting snow. The evergreen *Daphne* (*C-cneorum*) *Saxifragas* of many species, trailing *Euonymus* and Periwinkles (*Vinca*), Honeysuckles and many similar plants finally show their green and various-colored leaves as the last patch of snow departs, giving us a foretaste of greater things to come.

IN THE WOODS

there is a similar shifting scene worthy of study, for the pleasure it gives, especially to those who have a taste, and I may add capacity, for enjoying such things. The woods in my own neighborhood are not as rich in low-growing herbaceous and shrubby evergreen plants as in some other localities, still quite a number of really handsome kinds may be discovered by a careful search. The trailing Arbutus, which is one of the most beautiful of the very early blooming shrubs, is found upon rocky or sandy hillsides, usually in deep shade. It is a difficult plant to make live when transplanted into the garden, but will thrive if placed in a similar soil and situation to those in which it is found growing wild. Two species of the *Kalmias* are plentiful, the broad-leaved (*K-latifolia*) and the narrow-leaved (*K-augustifolia*), both of which may be transplanted without much danger of the plants dying, and they thrive in almost any kind of soil, from a light sand to clay, peat or muck. The broad-leaved species which in some localities is called "Laurel," is in my opinion worthy of being placed in the very front rank of choice shrubs. There may be kinds more showy but none more beautiful, either in leaf, bud or flower.

But if we look carefully among the low undershrubs and fallen leaves, other handsome plants may be found in abundance at this season, brighter for their late cold bath in snow-water. The common evergreen ferns (*Polypodiums*) straighten up their green leaves, as much as to say "see how many chilling blasts we can withstand and still look cheerful." "Take us to your gardens and give us a shady nook and we will continue to thrive there as well as here."

Here are also great beds of Pipsissewa, or Princes-Pine, one species with dark green leaves, and another, in which they are marbled, veined or spotted. These plants prefer the shade, and a cool soil, hence, seldom thrive if exposed to the sun. Then we have the *Pyrolas* or Wintergreen Shin-Leaf, in several species, all with handsome foliage but rather an inconspicuous flower. Also, the one-flowered wintergreen (*Moneses uniflora*) with its roundish veiny leaves and large, solitary white or rose-colored flowers. The more carefully we search among the dry leaves of the forest, the greater will be our reward, and while I cannot now attempt to enumerate all the choice plants which might be found in a ramble through our northern woods, still I must not omit the *Goodyeras* and the *Mitchella repens*. The first belong to the Orchis family, the flowers are not very conspicuous or beautiful, but the leaves are exceedingly pretty, being more or less veined with white, or to use a scientific term, "white reticulated." The leaves are clustered at the roots, about two inches long by one broad. The most showy and common species are *G-pubescens* and *G-Menziesii*, both found in our northern woods, and they never look better than in early spring soon after the snow has melted away. These are excellent plants for Wardian cases or ferneries, growing quite freely under such conditions, if placed underneath plants of taller growth.

The little *Mitchella*, also known by the common names of "One-Berry," "Squaw Berry," "Partridge Berry," etc., etc., is perhaps too well-known to need a word of praise from me, still I fear that many persons who never ramble in the woods, in spring, or take a peep under the snow, know little of the beauties of this humble little plant. Its long, slender stems creep over the ground, forming dense masses of the most delicate green, while the bright scarlet fruit nestle among the leaves, like coral beads in a necklace, neither frost nor snow affecting their brilliant color. Later in the season, in place of fruit we may find a wreath of exquisite, minute white flowers, but amid all these changes the delicate little leaves remain ever green.

SOWING GRAPE SEED.

Feb. 8.—Years ago I experimented a little in raising seedling grapes but gave it up for want of encouraging success. My aim was a good white variety, equal, if not superior, to any of the native red or black sorts, but in this I failed, not in obtaining varieties of the right color, but they all lacked something in other important properties. From the Delaware, without attempting any cross fertilization, I obtained one seedling which in vine and leaf was almost an exact counterpart of its parent. The fruit, however, was in color, what is usually termed white, both berry and bunch resembling the parent in size and form, but did not equal it in quality, besides ripening nearly a month later, consequently I did not consider it worth preserving and propagating.

Having had such poor luck myself, and reading the glowing accounts of the wonderful results obtained by a dozen or more "scientific hybridizers" of the grape, I concluded to abandon the field and purchase the best varieties produced by those who were successful in getting-just-what-they-were-after-every-time. Poor deluded mortal that I was; for after waiting these dozen years or more for *the* white grape, *par excellence*, it is apparently still a long way off.

Of course I have not been idle in the way of purchasing new sorts which were highly recommended, and of the much desired shade of color. Among these noted sorts I recall to mind, the *Anna*, *Allen's Hybrid*, *Albino*, *Cassady*, *Croton*, *Cuyahoga*, *Golden Clinton*, *Lydia*, *Martha*, *Manhattan*, *Maxatawney*, *Rebecca*, *Taylor's Bullitt*, and several other later productions, which may not prove to be any more valuable, or worthless than those named.

Now, I have never asked much in this direction, for a white grape as good in every respect as the *Concord*, would be quite acceptable, but not having been able as yet to obtain such a one, I have resolved to take a hand in the seedling business again, regretting that I ever went out of it, for who knows what might have been produced during fifteen or twenty years of annual sowing of a few grape seeds. My first batch of seed in accordance with the new resolve, have been put in to-day, and as they were saved from a white variety, I shall stand a better chance of getting new sorts of that color than if they had been taken from black or red, still there is no surety of this, and I must take my chances as to results.

We are sadly in need of better pure native sorts of all colors than we now possess, but we need more than anything else, a variety which will take the place of the *Malagas* in our markets; whether we shall ever get it remains to be seen. If everybody would try, the chances of success would be proportionally increased. It is no more difficult to raise a bed of seedling grapes than a bed of parsley, but it takes a little longer time to learn the results, and this is what discourages many from trying their hand at producing new sorts.

HOW TO MAKE GOOD MUCILAGE.

The best quality of mucilage in the market is said to be made by dissolving clear glue in equal volumes of water and strong vinegar and adding one-fourth of an equal volume of alcohol and a small quantity of a solution of alum in water. The action of the vinegar, is due to the acetic acid which it contains. This prevents the gelatinizing by cooling; but the same result may be accomplished by adding a small quantity of nitric acid. Some of the preparations offered for sale are mere boiled starch, or flour, mixed with nitric acid to prevent gelatinizing. These preparations are very inferior in quality to that made from glue.

Pomological.

ADAPTATION OF VARIETIES.

We may have our likes and dislikes in fruit culture as well as in other affairs of life, but circumstances frequently control our actions and modify our aspirations. It is certainly well to aim high, though we strike very low, but true wisdom will always lead a man to seek that which it is possible to obtain instead of something beyond his reach.

No one phase of fruit culture, probably, has puzzled the masses more than the one which we term "adaptation of varieties." Soil, climate, location in regard to market, supply and demand and various other conditions, come in under this head, requiring the careful consideration of the cultivator. A man's preference may lead him to plant the Hamburg grape in a location where he could scarcely succeed with the Concord; but no one would consider him wise in permitting a desire to run counter to well known facts developed through long experience in the same field.

There has been, in times past, considerable discussion among horticulturists upon this question of adaptation of certain varieties to certain soils and climate, and, in some instances, it was of a rather acrimonious character; but we are happy to say that little of this now appears, and all of our most intelligent pomologists admit that we have few sorts equally well adapted to all kinds of soils, leaving out other conditions and circumstances. Standing upon this plane, we can readily understand how men may honestly differ in regard to the merits or value of a variety. A grape which succeeds in Maryland may be utterly worthless in New York, the season in the latter State not being long enough to insure maturity or ripening of the fruit. Then again, it appears that with grapes the better the fruit the more difficult it is to obtain, for the very best succeed in fewer localities than those which are of only second-rate quality. The Concord at present is about as high in the standard of excellence as we have been able to go, and, at the same time, preserve a constitutional vigor of vines capable of withstanding extreme variations in soils and climate. Perhaps some of the newer sorts will yet show as great possibilities of adaptation: but heretofore our delicate-flavored Delaware, Walter, Iona, Allen's, Hybrid, Croton and similar choice sorts have not met expectation except in a few circumscribed localities.

In apples, pears, peaches, plums, and other of the larger fruits, the same rule holds good in regard to adaptation, and it is only by recognizing and giving it due weight that a man can avoid severe losses. The Siberian and Russian varieties of the apple are of more value in Wisconsin and other parts of the Northwest than all the thousands of choice sorts known in milder climates, because they are especially adapted to cold latitudes. Among the small fruits, or what are usually termed berries, the influence of soil and climate is even more marked than with grapes, and the cultivator must depend mainly upon local experience in determining the value of the oldest and best known varieties as well as the new. In view of this variability of varieties in this adaptation to localities, it becomes quite important that our fruit-growers, scattered over the country, should be ever on the alert to give the results of their experience for the benefit of "whom it may concern."

Owing to the well understood influence of surrounding local circumstances upon varieties, a man does not now, as formerly, stand in fear of offending by expressing his individual opinion in regard to the value of any particular sort in his own grounds or neighborhood. He may say that the Early Harvest apple is of no value in his grounds, but this would not in the least injure its reputation in other localities. Still, there is a recognized scale or standard of excellence by which the merits of both old and new sorts are judged, consequently a man may betray his cupidity or ignorance by ignoring it altogether. For instance, if one should assert that the old Pound pear was a better variety than the Seckel, or that the Charter Oak grape was superior to the Delaware we would know that he was either very ignorant or intended to deceive. He might say with propriety that they were bigger; but "better" implies something besides size. It is only by comparison that we can come to any definite conclusion as to the value of any particular variety.

PEACHES IN COLD CLIMATES.

The growing of peaches in Northern localities has, with few exceptions, greatly decreased within the last twenty years. When the country was new, Western New York, Northern Ohio and all of Michigan had an abundance of this delicious fruit. There were few facilities for marketing, and this made the price so low as not to pay, except near cities. Then a few severe winters injured the vitality of the trees, and as few new ones were planted the fruit became almost unknown, except as imported, often in poor condition, from the Delaware and Maryland peach orchards. This failure of peaches we believe entirely needless. By selecting side hills, or localities protected by belts of timber from the severest winter winds, the trees and buds may be protected in regions where peach growing has long since been almost abandoned. One of the most successful peach growers of Western New York, Mr. D. E. Rogers of Scottsville, N. Y., plants his peach trees between rows of a young apple orchard. The apple-trees protect the peach, and even in the severe winter of 1874-5 Mr. Rogers's trees were unharmed. On a small scale peach trees may be protected by wisps of straw tied on the branches and ends of twigs. It is also a good plan, after the ground is well frozen early in winter, to mulch the trees with straw or coarse manure. This fertilizes the tree, promoting vigorous growth and health. It also serves a more valuable purpose in retarding the growth of buds in warm winter weather or early spring. A good mulch of straw, even, will keep the soil frozen till late in the spring, and correspondingly retard the development of leaf and fruit buds. Cakes of ice thrown on the ground under fruit trees and then covered thickly with straw would also answer the same purpose. The peach is one of the most delicious fruits in cultivation, and wherever it has once grown successfully a little care on the part of the cultivator will make it succeed again.

MISTAKES IN FRUIT CULTURE.

Mr. Muir, Secretary of the Missouri State Horticultural Society, does not believe in painting the details of fruit culture in such high colors. In his last report he says:

The extreme simplicity of fruit culture has been very much insisted on. In this many have been greatly misled. There is a necessity of practical education. More knowledge, more experience, more of the technical training must be had to give a chance for success. Nurserymen and propagators have been blamed for encouraging excessive planting, but to a degree that is a mistake.

When a farm is well adapted to labor-saving implements, producing good crops of staple articles not liable to early decay in transportation to market, keep them producing such crops. But where land is broken, not adapted to the usual farm crops, and still capable of producing fine fruits, then, duty, economy, necessity, will indicate that fruit culture is not an extremity, and too risky on untested conditions.

A necessity exists for the thorough review of the lists of varieties, with reference to the changed conditions of culture and transportation. Dependence must mainly rest on varieties originated at home, or South, for staple fruits, and not, as has hitherto been the case, on those originated East and North.

Illustrations can be found in the Northern Spy, Rhode Island Greening, How's Crab, Roxbury Russet, and a host of others, losing their qualities, becoming fall instead of winter fruits, and in the decay of the tree or rotting of the fruit.

"UTAH HYBRID" CHERRIES.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—Tree peddlers have been selling in this vicinity "Utah Hybrid Cherry Trees." They represent it to be a cross between a cherry and a plum, that the fruit is nice and desirable, and the tree ornamental. If you will inform us through your columns what the "U. H. Cherry" is, in respect to its desirability, you will confer a favor, I think, upon many.—Inquirer.

The Utah Hybrid Cherry is a fraud, as, generally speaking, are all "new" fruits introduced by tree peddlers and sold as something wonderful—"unlike anything ever seen before!" Buy of men who deal in fruits that other growers know something about, and be sure that you get standard varieties true to name. Many a man thinks that his first onset in fruit-growing will astonish old pomologists with new varieties which their life-long experience and study have left them in ignorance of. To expect this is, of course, very foolish, and a little thought would show that it is impossible. Yet there are thousands who allow themselves to be imposed upon by the idea.

POMOLOGICAL NOTES.

Flemish Beauty.—The London Garden notes that at the great Pomological Meeting at Chicago this pear was found in the largest number of collections, and was most frequently marked for special praise by the Committee. This indicates a very wide area for the cultivation of that favorite kind. While it has faults in many districts, yet its hardiness and its prolific and early-bearing qualities are so well proved that it finds great favor everwhere.

Figs.—Ellwanger & Barry say that Figs may be grown as bushes in the garden, in the Northern States, if they are taken up annually, the first week in November, with a ball of earth attached to their roots, and placed in a cellar till about the middle of May, when they should be taken out and replanted. Most all of them ripen in August.

Domestic Economy.

MENDING TIN-WARE.

FAITH ROCHESTER, in the November Agriculturist, describes a method of soldering which we have long used, and can recommend it to all your readers. It is essentially as follows:—Get an ounce of muriatic acid, put it into an old teacup or bowl, and throw in a few small pieces of zinc, such as you can pick up at any tinner's. After it has ceased to effervesce, turn into a bottle and use a small stick to apply the liquid to the tin. Scrape the tin clean and bright around the place to be mended, rub some of the liquid on with the stick, lay on a piece of solder, and hold it over a lighted candle till it melts, and the job is done.

We use a small soldering iron, and much prefer it to the candle plan. A soldering iron can be had for twenty-five cents that will answer every purpose; ten cents worth of solder will last a year in an ordinary family, and the muriatic acid will not cost any more. What a tinner or traveling tinker would charge for a single job of mending will buy a complete outfit, and then you are done with the annoyance of leaking vessels, or being compelled to work without them, at a great disadvantage. With farmers who live some distance from town, the soldering outfit is one of the greatest conveniences—with us it is indispensable. We keep the iron, solder and fluid (the latter well corked except when in use) in a box by themselves, on a shelf out of the reach of children. The muriatic acid is a very powerful corrosive agent, and must be handled with extreme care. Children must not be permitted to get hold of it. Several years ago we bought a bottle of soldering fluid of a man who was traveling around selling it—at fifty cents per bottle. Not long afterwards we got hold of the above recipe for making precisely the same thing—at a cost of ten cents, instead of fifty.

BED AND BEDROOMS.

NEVER use anything but light blankets as a covering for the sick. The heavy, impervious cotton counterpane is bad, for the reason that it keeps in the exhalations from the pores of the sick person, while the blanket allows them to pass through. Weak persons are invariably distressed by a great weight of bed clothes, which often prevents their getting any sound sleep whatever. It is better to sleep in a cool room and dress in one that is well warmed, than the opposite. If it is necessary to heat the bedroom, let it be by means of an open grate fire, rather than by a register or flue.

In view of the fact that most people pass one-third of the twenty-four hours in bed, the importance of having only the best bedding needs no argument. There is no wisdom, therefore, in buying cheap or second class articles for the sleeping room, but true prudence directs to get the very best bedding that your means will command; a first-class hair mattress will outlast two of inferior quality. The same difference will also be found in respect to feathers, and with the latter as with hair, the best is always cheapest. Too many young housekeepers neglect to follow this rule, and pursue a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy, when they might just as well have adopted the opposite practice.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Rice Omelet.—One teacup boiled, one do. sweet milk, three eggs well beaten, tablespoonful butter, bake to a light brown. Too much cooking spoils it.

Champagne Cider.—Let the cider ferment until palatable, then put an ounce of sulphite of lime to every four gallons of cider. Mix it well, and let it stand until clear, then it is fit to use.

Sponge Cake.—Four eggs beaten separately, to the yelks add one cup of sugar, beat well, and then the whites, lastly add one cup of flour, put lightly in with spoon, not beaten, bake moderately quick.

Ginger Snaps.—One pint of molasses, one cup of butter or lard, one tablespoonful of ginger and cloves each, one tablespoonful of cayenne pepper; flour enough to roll out very thin. Bake on flat tins.

Orange Cordial.—Fill an air-tight jar with orange peel, then pour on it some good whisky. After keeping it for several weeks make a sirup, and add the whisky to suit the taste. It makes a delicious cordial.

Egg Kisses.—Beat the whites of four eggs, then put in gradually a pound of pulverized sugar, season with a spoonful of extract of lemon. Drop small quantities in letter paper, and bake in a quick oven.

Mock Goose.—Take two tender steaks, lay one in the bottom of the baking pan and cover it over with lard or butter; sprinkle over this bread crumbs, well seasoned with salt, pepper, sage and a little onion. Lay on the other steak and prepare it as the first, then pour on a tumbler of water, and bake slowly, keep it covered until nearly done.

Sauce for Pudding.—One-half cup of butter; one-half cup of sugar; beat these together with one heaping tablespoonful of flour. Pour into it (a little at a time, stirring all the while) one pint of boiling water, and let it simmer on the stove a few minutes. Add one teaspoonful of lemon extract, and the juice of one lemon or teaspoonful of lemon sugar.

Cooking Potatoes.—Many persons in preparing potatoes for cooking pare off a thick slice from the surface instead of digging out the eyes. The skinning process is all wrong, as the strength of the vegetable lies near the surface—the starch growing less abundant as the center is approximated. The best way is to scour them well, and either bake or boil them with their skins on.

Shorts Pudding.—Take four eggs well beaten, a pint of milk, and make a thin batter with the shorts. When boiling corned beef, dip in your pudding-bag and fill with the above. Have plenty of room in the kettle with the beef, and be sure the water is boiling; put in the pudding and let it boil two hours without letting it stop. Eat with sweetened cream or any other pudding sauce.

Pickling Beef.—To pickle beef for long keeping; First, thoroughly rub salt into it and let it remain in bulk for twenty-four hours to draw off the blood. Second, take up, letting it drain, and pack as desired. Third, have ready a pickle prepared as follows: For 100 pounds of beef use seven pounds of salt, saltpetre, and cayenne pepper, of each one ounce; molasses, one quart; and soft water, eight gallons; boil and skim well, and when cold, pour it over the beef.

Hygienic Information.

KEEP THE FEET WARM.

THE Herald of Health gives these seasonable hints and suggestions:

Never go to bed with cold feet. Never try to sleep without being perfectly certain that you will be able to keep them warm. To lie one night with cold feet gives such a strain to the system as will be felt seriously, perhaps ending in a fit of sickness.

Cold feet show an unbalanced circulation. The very best thing to do is to warm them by exercise, if that be practicable. If not, try dipping them in hot and cold water alternately two or three times, and then using vigorous friction. If that does not warm them and keep them warm, heat them before the fire, dry them thoroughly, and then correct your habits or improve your health; for be sure that one or the other is wrong, perhaps both.

With all the rest, if you sleep on a hard bed, with cotton sheets, in a cold room, put on an extra covering over the feet. It is very convenient to have a "foot comfort," just wide enough to cover the top of the bed and about a yard deep. This may be made of some light material (perhaps the remains of some pretty dress), filled with cotton, like a "comfortable," and tacked with some harmonious color. During the day this may be thrown over the foot-board, and spread over the bed at night. The advantage of this is to secure light covering for the feet without overburdening the remainder of the body.

If you use a hot brick or hot iron, put it in the bed a little beforehand, and then when retiring remove it. To sleep with the feet in contact with it has a tendency to make the feet tender.

But better than both these, and to be used with or without them, is the foot blanket. This may be a square yard of domestic flannel, or two yards folded of Swiss flannel, or anything else you like that is warm enough, only have it nice and clean. Fold this around your feet and ankles before you put them down into the bed. If not very cold, this will often warm them, especially if you have used friction; and if warm, it will prevent their becoming cold by contact with the cold sheets. It keeps the warm air around them. It does not make the feet tender, and it is far more convenient than the hot brick or soapstone. Try it, and if you are troubled with cold feet you will be likely to keep it by you hereafter. Whatever you use, always be at full length. To "curl up" hinders free circulation.

DRINKING WATER.

DR. HALL is opposed to the immoderate drinking of water. He says:—The longer one puts off drinking water in the morning, especially in the summer, the less he will require during the day; if much is drank during the forenoon, the thirst often increases and a very unpleasant fullness is observed, in addition to a metallic taste in the mouth.

The less a man drinks the better for him, beyond a moderate amount. The more water a man drinks the more strength he has to expend in getting rid of it, for all the fluid taken into the system must be carried out; and there is but little nourishment in water, tea, coffee, beer and the like; more strength is expended in carrying them out of the system than they impart to it. The more a man drinks the more he must perspire, either by lungs or through the skin; the more he perspires the more carbon is taken from the system; but this carbon is necessary for nutrition, hence the less a man is nourished the less strength he has. Drinking water largely diminishes the strength in two ways and yet many are under the impression that the more water swallowed the more thoroughly is the system "washed out." Thus the less we drink at meals, the better for us. If the amount were limited to a single cup of hot tea or hot milk and water at each meal, an immeasurable good would result to all. Many persons have fallen into the practice of drinking several glasses of cold water, or several cups of hot tea or coffee, at meals, out of mere habit; all such will be greatly benefited by breaking it up at once; it may be very well to drink a little at each meal, and, perhaps it will be found that in all cases it is much better to take a single cup of hot tea at each meal than a glass of cold water, however pure.

DIPHTHERIA.

DIPHTHERIA (says a medical writer) is a term derived from the Greek, signifying a skin or membrane. It is an epidemic sore throat of great severity, often contagious, due to poisoning of the blood, attended with much prostration, and characterized by the exudation of false membranes and lymph on the tonsils and adjacent parts. It attacks all classes of persons at all ages. Children are most liable to contract it. It is probably most fatal to the poor, or such as reside in damp situations and in badly drained houses. So far as known local treatment does not afford much benefit unless commenced in the early stage of the disease. Inhalation may then be of value; but the main reliance must be placed in the good nursing, hygiene of the sick room, and a supporting treatment, to enable Nature to work her wondrous cures. There is no specific remedy for the ailment.

The Apiarian.

REQUISITES IN A GOOD HIVE.

REV. J. W. SHEARER is writing a valuable series of articles in the Bee-Keepers' Magazine, discussing bees and the best methods of providing for them. His statement of the requisites for a good bee-hive is an excellent one, and we condense from his list of essentials as follows:

I. Movable combs. These are absolutely necessary to an intelligent management of bees. The movable comb properly used gives perfect control over the inside of the hive. The comb, bees and all may be transferred from one hive to another in a few minutes; worms may be readily destroyed before they make progress in a weak stock; weak stocks may be strengthened by inserting frames of brood from a strong one: swarms may be made at pleasure by division; queens reared from selected stocks; empty combs may be utilized, and swarming checked by destroying queen cells, or inserting empty combs or frames in place of those removed to strengthen weak stocks.

Movable combs enable the bee-keeper to prevent the excessive production of useless drones by breaking out the drone comb, and also to see that the queen is at all times supplied with worker comb for laying eggs. Sometimes when honey is abundant bees fill the brood-nest with honey to the great injury of the hive. The daily mortality is very great in the working season and young bees must be reared very rapidly to replete the ranks of the workers to insure a large surplus of honey. Colonies dwindle down, become very weak and are often lost, because the brood-nest is filled with honey so that the queen has no place to deposit her eggs.

The extractor enables us to save this honey, and also save the colony by replacing the emptied comb in the brood-nest; this is the best remedy for the disease of too much honey, and its application secures a cash fee in extracted honey. These movable frames can be made practically useful only by adapting them to these four facts learned from the economy of the hive. Worker comb is made of the uniform thickness of 7/8 of an inch. The sides of the movable frame to contain the comb must be 7/8 of an inch wide.

2d. Bees need a passage of 3/8 of an inch. This is just the distance between two sheets of comb as found in the hive. It is just enough to admit of the free, easy passage of bees. If an opening be much less they will glue it up with propolis, and if much larger they will fill it with comb and honey. By making the outside of the frame 3/8 of an inch less than the inside of the hive all around bees respect this opening and glue them fast only where they hang on the rabbets. The frames should leave 3/8 of an inch passage all around when hung in the hive.

3d. Bees are less apt to build to planed than unplaned lumber. Then let the inside of the hive and the outside of the frame be nicely planed whilst the inside of the frame is left as sawed. This prevents fastening the frames and also conduces to the building of comb in the frames.

4th. Bees prefer to hang their comb to a sharp angle. By tacking or otherwise securing a sawed angle along the center of the upper bar of the frame, bees are induced to build along these sharp angles or comb-guides.

II. The outside measurement of all frames, and the inside measurement of all hives must be uniform, the former being at least 1/4 of an inch less than the latter in length and depth so as to leave the requisite space of 3/8 of an inch all around. No special damage is done if there is greater difference between the hight of the frame and the hive because bees will not fill up a small space below the bottom bars of frames, and when quilts are used above the frames instead of honey boards, the quilt fills the space.

Exact workmanship in the manufacture of hives is of the first importance. Unless every frame is made so that it will fit properly in any hive in the apiary, great inconvenience and trouble arises. Hives well made and well-painted will last a lifetime if made of good heart wood. No sap should be used, for the moisture from bees will soon destroy it. Good pine is preferable, but any sound lumber answers well.

III. Movable division boards in the brood chamber. This is simply a board of equal hight and depth with the hive with two little blocks above and below for fitting in the rabbets above and the entrances below so as entirely to separate the two parts of the hive. Its uses are:

1st. To contract the hive in early spring according to its strength. As the swarm increases it is readily slided out and an empty comb inserted in the cluster. By this means the heat of the colony is utilized and colonies increase much more rapidly.

2d. By opening through it suitable entrances, honey boxes may be placed beside the cluster. By using two for each hive, boxes may be placed each side of the cluster for surplus honey.

IV. The hive should be adapted for use either as a single or two story hive; so that the two stories may each be used for swarms or nuclei during the summer by having extra covers. When used single, quilts should always be used under the cover and above the frames to prevent injury from too great heat from direct exposure to the rays of the sun. By such an arrangement one can double up for winter, so as to have an air chamber all around for out-of-door wintering. Such air chambers are very important to preserve an equable temperature when exposed to wind and sunshine. Those who prefer wintering within doors will find it most convenient to have their hives made two stories though the stories may each be used separately. Then by a little care to leave, in packing for the winter, the top stories empty, they can be used in the spring for feeding.

The alighting board in front should be extended three or four inches, the sides of the hive the same distance, and this closed at the top by a board an inch less, so that by inserting against this an extra board, for out-door wintering, an air chamber is formed in front. This front board should have a 3x3/8 passage for the air at one end. The regular entrance first closed except a small space at the other end so that the light is excluded to a great extent, a strong direct draft prevented, and mice effectually excluded. When thus prepared, with small holes for ventilation near the top of the upper story, a good quilt above the brood combs and on this a bag of sawdust, excelsior, or straw matting, nearly filling the upper chamber, bees winter well out of doors almost anywhere in this country.

V. Bottoms may be made either stationary or movable. We believe it much better to make them stationary. When nailed across the bottom the bottom strengthens the hive very much. It is very difficult to keep movable bottoms so well fitted as not to leave cracks where millers can lay their eggs. There should be no cracks about a hive where millers can go and bees cannot easily follow them.

VI. Tops should be, if possible, all in one piece, with cleats across the timber underneath to prevent warping, and guide to its place. If made of two or more pieces the timber should be well seasoned, tongued and grooved, and the crack securely stopped with paint. The crack should always run from front to rear, so that the water will not have to cross the crack in running off, since hives should tilt forward a little.

VII. Size of brood chamber. If made for honey boxes, each side can be contracted to suit the swarm. The best size for ordinary use, is from 1,800 to 2,000 cubic inches, and made low rather than high

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THE DECREASE OF POSTAGE.

The more this Postage business is investigated, the greater appears the outrage on the business interests of the country for the benefit of the few express monopolists. The revenues of the Government were not increased by higher rates on third-class matter, and notwithstanding the decrease of business, the cost of carrying was not lessened. The railroads carry mails under long contracts, and charge as much for running empty cars as for full ones. The distributing employes can handle a large increase of matter without burdening themselves or needing increased force. Neither the cost of carrying nor of distribution would be materially increased by third-class matter, even if the mails were quadrupled. In other words, the Government is running an immense and costly apparatus to do a small business when it might just as well do a large one—something like getting up steam on a twenty-five-horse steam engine for a work that needed only a one-horse power.

No wonder, under such management, that our mail service does not pay its way. Can any one say why, having all the expensive postal service in operation, it should not be used to the limit of its capacity and the people encouraged by material reductions in postage to make the most of it? The Postmaster-General stated to the Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads that prior to the 1st of December last, under the temporary revival of the franking privilege, he sent from Washington 250 tons of public documents, scattered over a period of seven months, and that it made no appreciable difference in the mails. This, however, is not an argument for the revival of the franking abuse. The surplus ability of the Post-Office Department to do a larger business should be made available for all the people. Instead of being made a gratuity to the very few who receive any benefit from free letters, seeds and other merchandise.

CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT IN ENGLAND.

The annual letter by Mr. James Caird about the Cereals grown and used in England shows some facts especially interesting to American farmers, who now have largely to make up the deficiency of English production. Previous to 1860 the annual breadth of British wheat land exceeded 4,000,000 acres, when the population was barely 28,000,000. The average breadth during the last eight years is 200,000 acres less, while the population has increased to 32,000,000. The produce of 3,000,000 acres of foreign land sufficed for our wants before 1870, that of 4,500,000 acres has been consumed in each year since that time. The consumption of wheat in the United Kingdom in the year 1874, may be stated in round numbers of 100,000,000 cwt., in the following order of supply:—Home growth, 50.7; United States and Canada, 31.5; Russia, 5.8; Germany, 4.0; Chili, 2.2; France, 1.1; other countries, 4.7; total, 100. This is subject to considerable fluctuation, Russia sometimes rising to 18 per cent., and America, as recently as 1872, falling to 12. But on the average of the last six years, the United States and Canada have taken the leading place, and Russia the second. The countries of Western Europe—Germany, France, Denmark and Spain show, he says, a declining export, either for a greater home consumption or lessened production. The mainstays are the United States and Canada and the Black Sea ports of Russia.

Russia has of late largely fallen off in its export of grain. This decrease is generally attributed to bad seasons and destruction by insects; but it is well known here that these causes are only symptoms of a more potent reason for unfruitfulness in the decreased fertility of the soil. It is highly probable that the limit of production has been reached in Russia, until increasing intelligence among her cultivators there, as here, develop a better system of agriculture.

THE N. Y. LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The regular Annual Statement of this old and sterling company is one of the most complete and satisfactory exhibits that we have had occasion to review. In fact the statements of the Company have always been satisfactory, for they indicate that the business of the Company is kept well in hand, and that the result is that which follows from a happy blending of progressiveness and conservatism. Every years' statement is an improvement in the right direction upon its predecessor. The column of assets continually increases, the divisible surplus augments, the ratio of expense to income diminishes, while the number of policies and amount of insurances issued attest how steady and unwavering is the confidence of the public in the stability and integrity of its management.

The New York Life is one of the companies that does not go mad over new business, or spend the trust funds in its hands to subsidize recruits, but pursues a steady and eminently prudent and conservative course, issuing about so many new policies each year, increasing its assets at the rate of about four millions every year, and resting content to husband its resources and do its fiduciary duties well and thoroughly. The volume of assets now exceeds thirty millions and the divisible surplus five millions, that is, it would be solvent without these five millions, a portion of which will of course be repaid in the form of dividends or additions to policies. What this dividend may be will be better known a year hence, but if the past practice of the Company may be accepted as a precedent, the returns to policy-holders during the Centennial year should exceed three millions. Those of 1875 amounted to nearly fifty per cent. of the annual premiums.

The surplus remaining on hand is nearly two and a half millions, but this sum does not represent the total surplus that would appear if the Company calculated its liability by the New York rule instead of adhering to the severer standard which it adopted before New York had a rule,—and which we believe the Company will retain long after the New York rule is forgotten. According to its own rule its surplus is two and a half millions, while by the official standard it is quite five. All of which goes to show that the Company tests its own solvency by a more exacting standard than that which the law requires. The evidences of economy and careful expenditure are both gratifying and characteristic. The expenses of management were, in 1872, 12½ per cent. of the income: in 1873, one per cent. less: in 1874, less than ten per cent., and in 1875 but little more than nine per cent. Comment upon this is superfluous. The Company has no need for encomiums, for all the world recognizes its claims to be regarded as occupying a place in the first rank of trustworthy financial institutions.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Black Bass in Winter.—Capt. Pence of the Aqueduct Ponds, Wenonah, N. J., who has during the past year made a specialty of Black Bass, writes the Rural New-Yorker as follows:—"If I may be allowed to coin a word, I should say that the Black Bass is 'hibernaceous.' Up to Jan. 1st I kept a number of them of various ages in two of my small reservoirs, in order to study their habits. One of these reservoirs is at the extreme head of a large spring, and the variation of the temperature of the water is very slight. The other reservoir is fed direct by a small spring, but most of the water comes from other springs, averaging about 150 feet distant, and this body of water varies with the temperature of the air from 50 down to 32 deg. on the surface. In November the bass in both reservoirs began to confine themselves to the bottom, although there was as yet no material change of temperature. In December the older bass kept to the bottom quite closely, though on sunny days I noticed that the younger ones approached the surface while the sun shone upon the water. Most of the older ones, on the contrary, sought the shade. They do not, however, appear to be so thoroughly hibernaceous in their habits as to refuse food entirely. I had a man digging a ditch near one of the reservoirs, and finding large numbers of the common red angle-worm, he threw them to the bass. They were generally consumed. The reservoir at the large spring is bricked, sides and bottom. The day before moving the bass from there I caught in an adjacent stream a six-inch pike, or pickerel, and placed it in the bricked reservoir. The next day, when I took the bass out, I found that the pickerel had disappeared."

The Ames Plow Co.'s Catalogues.—By the publication of their Catalogue of Ice Tools, the Ames Plow Co. recently gave us occasion to admire the taste with which it was gotten up, and now we have cause to express still greater approbation of a large octavo volume issued by that Company, called "Illustrated Catalogue." It was prepared for the press by Mr. J. Harris Reed, a gentleman well-known to the many friends and patrons of the Company, who, in this work, has surpassed himself. In addition to the fine tint of its paper, the excellence of its printing, etc., it contains 189 elegant engravings, thoroughly illustrating almost every implement which could be of use on the farm. The article upon the Plow is in itself good historical reading, while the rest of the volume is good reading for those interested. We are always pleased to see large manufacturing companies cause their catalogues to be prepared with care and to be issued in an attractive form. It not only looks successful, but is in itself an element of success; and we hope that every manufacturer who has not already done so will take a hint from the Ames Plow Co.

Tired of City Life.—A bank President of Worcester, Mass., speaking of the Northampton Bank robbery, the forgeries of Winslow, and other like items of commercial life, is said to have remarked: "I'm sick of this rascally world. Don't want to see or do business with anybody. I'd rather be an old farmer, living on a cross road, four miles from the sight of anybody, with a barrel of cider and two hogs, than to have anything to do with banks, money or men." A great many men long counted successful will echo the like words of Solomon, "All is vanity and vexation of spirit." But all of commercial life is not thus polluted, nor is "the lot of an old farmer living on a cross road, four miles from anybody," quite so enviable as the bank President's imagination, helped probably by the memory of boyhood days, has pictured it. Farmers well know that there are many and serious evils allotted to their lives; but very possibly this disclosure of envy of their assumed happy lot may make them better satisfied with their vocation, which is entirely the best in some respects.

Our American Staple—Corn.—Our highest export of corn is never more than four per cent. of the crop, and sometimes not more than one per cent. But English farmers are learning to use it as a feed for stock, and we may expect the foreign demand to increase. It never has been popular abroad as human food, possibly in fact because the meal or grain is apt to be injured by sea voyage, but more from prejudice. The small foreign demand results in undue depression of prices whenever the crop is above an average. But for the high price of pork and other meats our corn crop of 1875 would be much lower than it is. Corn is, however, the best possible safeguard against famine. Universal failure is never known, and in times of scarcity of other grains the great American Cereal is sure to be in demand, both at home and abroad.

"Honor to Whom Honor."—We are glad to observe, in a late number of the Prairie Farmer, honorable mention and recognition of the services to the Northwest of John S. Wright, Esq., who established that journal, and of the Rev. J. Ammoss Wight, who was its editor for many years. No two men in the land have done so much to promote Agricultural improvement in the West as these worthies, and they are entitled to a more substantial reward than the lasting gratitude of the farmers of a region whose settlement and prosperity they vastly facilitated and augmented. Why not manifest appreciation of their zealous, able and successful efforts in a tangible form, in return for benefits received therefrom?

The Potato Crop.—The abundance of this crop the past season is still felt in low prices. Owing to the mild winter there has been less loss than usual from freezing, and there is little present prospect of a rise. All the great markets are fully supplied, and in potato-growing regions a considerable portion of the crop remains to be sold. On one day, during the late mild weather, 1,250 bbls. of potatoes were shipped from Troy by rail—Peerless selling at six shillings, Prince Alberts and Early Rose seven shillings, and Peach Blows eight to nine shillings per barrel. The only satisfaction to be got out of these prices is that they mean cheap food for the poor.

Coal in the Adirondac Region.—It is announced that John J. Owens, our eminent geologist, has discovered superior hard coal in the mountains of Franklin Co. He reports the coal bed eight feet deep, and he has succeeded in tracing the lead over twenty-one miles. He has also discovered extensive beds of iron ore, copper, etc. The development of these mines will be of incalculable benefit to the business interests of Northern New York. The report of coal discoveries in New York needs some confirmation. Geologists have always thought coal impossible in this region.

Evergreen and Forest Tree Seedlings, Free.—The Editor of the Evergreen, Sturgeon Bay, Wis., informs us that he has growing upon his premises, of spontaneous growth, large amounts of seedlings of the above, of different sizes, and some ten or a dozen different varieties, which he will give away in any quantity to any person for his own planting only, by his removing them at his own expens. He will furnish full information regarding sizes, varieties, cost of removing, etc., to any person, addressing him as above, with stamps to pay return postage.

The Caledonia Co. (Vt.) Ag. Society.—At its recent annual meeting in St. Johnsbury, elected the following officers for the year ensuing:—Prest.—J. R. Kinerson, Peacham. Vice Prests.—Joshua Remis, Lyndon; C. J. Bell, Walden. Secy.—I. W. Sanborn, Lyndonville. Treas.—C. M. Stone, St. Johnsbury. The 29th annual exhibition of the Society will be held on the Fair Grounds in St. Johnsbury, Sept. 19-21.

RURAL BREVITIES.

Grand Traverse Grange, Michigan, has established a free course of lectures.

Louisiana is happy over a sugar crop of 145,000 hogsheads, the largest since 1861.

The National Butter and Egg Association will hold its annual meeting at Davenport, Iowa, March 8.

In certain towns in Switzerland, grapes are grown solely as medicine, and the vineyards are put to no other use.

A Michigan potato grower reports the Eureka "equal in quality to Early Rose, and Snowflake a little better."

J. B. Root, Seed Grower, Rockford, Ill., has sent us a copy of his handsome Garden Manual and Seed Catalogue for 1876.

Peter Coutts of Santa Clara Co., Cal., has recently purchased in Rhode Island several fine Ayrshires for his ranche.

There is a plum orchard in Oregon containing 4,000 trees—2,000 peach plum, 1,500 German prunes and 500 French plums. Curculio is unknown.

An acre of growing trees in forest fixes in the form of wood fully a ton of carbon. Most of this comes from the atmosphere and is absorbed through the leaves.

A School for Shepherds has been established at Rambouillet, France, where young men over fifteen are instructed in the Science of Sheep Husbandry. The course is for two years.

"Gladiator," the most famous of the French running horses, died in Paris recently. He was bred by Count La Grange, and in three years won for his owner $143,095 in purses alone.

James J. H. Gregory, the famous seed grower of Marblehead, Mass., favors us with a copy of his unique "Annual Circular and Retail Catalogue of Warranted Vegetable and Flower Seeds."

Arkansas exported grain last fall for the first time in its history. This state of things will soon become general in the Southern States, if the people do not continue to worship cotton as king.

Alfred Bridgeman, Importer, grower and dealer in all Standard Vegetable, Herb and Flower Seeds, No. 876 Broadway, New York, sends us his neat and well-arranged Annual Catalogues for 1876.

Mr. N. Hume, the importer and breeder of French horses, Brighton, Ill., died suddenly a few days ago. He was one of the most enterprising farmers of Macoupin Co., and had traveled all over the world.

The dam of Dexter died recently on the farm of Jona. Hawkins in Orange Co., at 27 years of age. Her sire was American Star. She produced fourteen foals, the first being Dexter by Hambletonian.

The Duncan Strawberry, which can be had of E. & J. C. Williams of Montclair, N. J., is worthy the attention of all cultivators. Whatever "Kittatinny" Williams recommends is pretty sure to be extra.

Botanical students and others interested, will please note that Prof. Gray's works on Botany, &c., are published by Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co., whose advertisement in this paper gives titles, prices, etc.

Crosman Bros., Rochester, N. Y., send us their "Illustrated Catalogue and Guide to the Flower and Vegetable Garden, for 1876." Beautifully illustrated and neatly printed on tinted paper, it is ornamental as well as useful.

A tribe of Indians in Oregon has 8,000 horses and 2,000 head of cattle. Indian civilization tends to horses even more than our own,—or, is the tendency of Agricultural Fairs to horse-racing something other than civilization?

James Fleming, Seed Merchant and Importer, 67 Nassau St., New York, sends us his neat, well-arranged and copious Annual Catalogue of Choice and Select Flower, Vegetable and Agricultural Seeds, Garden Implements, Knives, &c., for 1876.

Mrs. L. E. Cotton of West Gorham, Me., reports that last year she took 380 lbs. of honey from one hive, all in glass boxes, and which she sold at 33 cts. per lb. She fed the stock early in spring to encourage early breeding, and kept it strong all through the season.

Farm buildings in California are very shabby and poorly cared for. The climate makes well-built homes unnecessary, and besides that a majority of farmers in California are pursuing the business as a temporary expedient, hoping when they get rich enough to live in San Francisco or return East with their money.

A. B. Sawyer has discovered a valuable lesson in the art of keeping apples. Having always been very careful to assort his fruit two or three times every winter, he now finds that handling makes it decay worse than to remain among the partly rotten fruit. Another advantage of this plan is in rigorously excluding bruised or imperfect apples when put up in the fall.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

Much of the White Lead sold as pure is adulterated from 20 to 50 per cent. Every keg of Eckstein, Hills & Co.'s **"Phœnix" brand White Lead** is warranted *perfectly pure*, white, fine and durable.

For Bronchial, Asthmatic and Pulmonary Complaints, "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" manifest remarkable curative properties.

BRIDE & CO,
783 Broadway, N. Y., want agents for the best money-making article in the world. Send for particulars.

RECONSTRUCTSON.

In a wagon made of willow
Wheeled I once a little maiden,
Ringlets shining on the pillow,
Rolling homeward treasure laden,
Like a boat upon the billow,

Ten years fled. Ah, how I missed her
When we left the village school!
But she said she'd be my sister
As we lingered by the pool,
And I passionately kissed her.

Ten more fretting years renew it:
Little wagon made of willow;
Loving eyes are bent to view it;
Loving hands adjust the pillow,
And we've fitted rockers to it.

The Story-Teller.

THE PRETTY PLOTTERS.

A SCHOOL-ROOM FLIRTATION.

"Pride, pride, pride! There you have Charlotte Arden. Mischief, mischief, mischief! There you have Lizzie Dane. Look out for them both, Hart. And now, good-by. I'll pray for your success."

With this my friend, by whose influence I was installed in the academy of Marlboro, as principal, turned to leave me.

"Wait a moment, Mr. Jeffries; "how can I keep——"

"Clear of them?" he added, with a shy laugh. "Draw your own inferences. Handsome young men, with light purses, must make light hearts. When you catch a glimpse of your pupils you will understand me. I haven't been a teacher here for five years for nothing."

"Thank you! thank you!"

With this I gave my friend my hand, and thus we parted. An hour later I was seated at my desk in the pleasantest school-room, looking about me with no small degree of interest for the two pupils of whom my friend had spoken, and wondering in the meantime if his kindly, well-meant caution would not bring me at once face to face with the very danger which he had wished me to avoid.

Smiling at my own conceit, and failing to find in the threescore faces before me one that was particularly stamped with pride, or one that was marked with mischief, I turned to my books.

Something like a quick whisper broke through the stillness of the room as I did so. I glanced up. Every countenance bore unmistakable signs of demureness. Smiling again at my thoughts, I turned a second time to my books, and this time a big apple started from one of the back seats and came rolling down the aisle. The incident was slight; but, taken in connection with my reflection and my friend's parting words, it annoyed me. I picked up the apple, laid it on the desk, and glanced in the direction from whence it had come.

Goodness! what a pair of blue eyes were raised to mine at that moment! Eyes saucy, darling, and almost wicked, which wavered and brightened like two beautiful stars. This was Lizzie Dane, I was quite sure of that; the red mouth was dimpled about by smiles, and the white chin quivered with suppressed merriment.

"A good beginning," I thought; "it augurs well for the future."

Just then the school-room door was darkened and, looking up, I saw Charlotte Arden. My friend's caution was well. How like a beautiful picture she was as she stood there, her fine head covered with pretty braids, perfectly poised, her figure straight, round and perfect, brought out by the strong, clear light. The very fall of the soft, white robe, as well as her slender, gaitered foot, just visible beneath the folds of her sweeping skirt, was artistic. She stood, as if hesitating whether or not it was best for her to enter the school-room, and her manner was calm and quiet.

Miss Lizzie Dane telegraphed to her with her sparkling eyes to enter. This failing to have the desired effect, she doubled up her white, chubby hands, and held them to her mouth, trumpet fashion. I suppressed the smile that was rising to my lips and turned to Miss Arden, saying:

"Have you selected a seat?"

"No, sir, I have not," she answered, without moving forward a single step.

"You may do so now, if you please," I said.

She glanced up and down the long rows of seats several times, and then turned to a side desk but a short distance from my table.

"This one, sir," she said, raising her eyes for a single moment to my face and then turning them indifferently away.

I bowed in approval of her choice, though, at the same time, it did not please me. I did not care to have her so near, criticising everything I did, and I felt sure she would.

At the quarter-hour intermission Miss Arden and Miss Dane passed the time in pacing, arm-in-arm, back and forth on the blank space of floor before my desk. I could have wished, and did wish, that they had chosen any other promenade; but not knowing how to help myself unless I sent them out of doors to play, like two little children in pinafores, I raised the lid of my desk between their faces and mine and pretended to be engaged in setting my books and papers to rights.

Children in pinafores! I smiled grimly to myself as the audacious thought entered my head. Children they both were, I said to myself, unceremoniously thrusting my head above the temporary screen to confirm my opinion by a good look at them—a proceeding which made Miss Lizzie toss her curly head in a disconcerted attempt at carelessness, and brought a dash of exquisite color to the one velvet cheek of her companion's face which was revealed to me.

"And as for pinafores," I said, sulkily continuing my soliloquy and drawing in my head again like a turtle, "I'm sure they'd be vastly more appropriate and becoming than that little plaited and scalloped and puckered affair of plaid silk which Miss Lizzie wore under the dignified name of apron."

Such saucy little pockets, lined off with gimp and lilings—the corner of a tiny note and the profile of a big, yellow orange revealed from the distended mouth of one, and the lace edge of a handkerchief with a captivating rent in it, hanging jauntily from the other; such wicked, knowing tassels, such lengths of variegated silk cord round, round and round her pretty waist, as though once started it had lost its way, and had been traveling in a circle ever since instead of going straight ahead, as any sensible cord would have done that had been stout enough not to get becoiled on the road. It looked contented though, as if it didn't care a whit for the predicament it was in or whether it ever went straight again, as it could have that charming route to travel round and round, and I began to wonder.

"He's splendid, Lot; isn't he?"

Miss Dane's voice broke my wonderings. I was modest in those days and blushed easily. My wife told me so yesterday, referring to that morning, that the tip of my ear, just visible at the edge of my desk-lid, grew red as a coal; and that her friend threw a lozenge at it and missed it by the sixteenth of an inch. I wasn't aware of the circumstances before.

"Say, Lot, don't you think he's splendid?" came that loud whisper again.

"If I do, I don't intend to tell him of it," she retorted.

Evidently, however much averse she would have been to informing me on such a point, she was nothing loath for me to judge of her musical powers, for she burst forth into a merry song and warbled like a bird—in fact, like twenty birds. Whether my ear looked like a coal or not, it drank in that gay melody and, when it ceased, longed for more.

"What eyes he has!"

"Rather too deep-set for beauty."

"Deep-set, indeed! They are protruding as a cow's, and as big."

"Mere difference of opinion, my love. Don't let us quarrel."

"No. Then, how much character there is in his nose!"

"Decidedly."

I had a large nose, reader.

"Room for more—— "

I startled her there by dropping a book. I was actually getting angry. But she recovered from her fright almost immediately, and went on, in a still louder tone:

"How do you think he will answer?"

"Answer?"

Miss Arden spoke inquiringly in a puzzled voice.

"You speak as if you thought I intended to propose to him."

"And so I daresay you will, it being leap-year, and you so smitten."

A merry laugh followed this sally.

"In that case, I think he would answer in the affirmative."

"O, you conceited creature, Lot Arden!"

"Hush! What if Mr. Eldridge should overhear us!"

As if I hadn't overheard them.

"Who cares if he does? It's nothing to him."

Nothing to me! to sit there and hear myself discussed in that way! O, nothing at all!"

"But seriously, what do you mean?"

"Why, have you forgotten that I prophesied a flirtation? I mean, how do you think he would do for that?"

Ah, a flirtation! Maybe I didn't hold my breath for fear of losing the answer, and then maybe——

"O, passably, if he understands his place and stays in it."

"Men—boys!"

"Well, boys, then. Men in assurance, boys in intelligence, are what we have nowadays."

She spoke as if she had lived in the age of her grandmother. I clenched my hands and declined Jupiter under my breath in Latin.

"Do you think you'll succeed in bringing him around?"

"For shame. I'm sure I have no such design on his peace."

"Now, really, I am aching to know what you intend to do. Shall you flirt with him?"

My intentions were not consulted; but I made them, nevertheless, biting my finger nails viciously all the time.

"Oh, no matter."

"You're too bad. I got you apart from the other girls on purpose to have a confidential chat, and here the time is almost up and you haven't told me a thing."

"Well, I will now—two things. Your hair is twisted out of your net and your collar is shockingly tumbled."

"Bother my collar! Shall you flirt with him? I wouldn't mind, only that hateful Sue Liscomb vows she'll get ahead of you, and I don't want to see her win. Now, do you tell me!"

I laid my hand upon the bell and gave it a violent ringing. The two girls started like culprits and glanced hurriedly up at me. What they saw in my face I can't say, but they both colored. Just then they separated for their seats, but not before I heard Lizzie whisper desperately, "Shall you?"

"I shall!" floated back the reply, low and firm, as if determined not to be mistaken.

That afternoon while I was engaged with the French grammar class, I was startled by a sharp little scream, and by Lizzie Dane springing up and crying out:

"O, a hornet has bitten Charlotte Arden, Mr. Eldridge."

The whole school tittered. I scowled very pedagogucly (to coin a word) and commanded her to resume her seat.

Lizzie flounced into her seat, very red in the face, and I saw Miss Arden put a book to her face to conceal a smile.

After school I went to her and inquired politely for her arm. She showed me her round, dainty wrist, with a large, discolored swelling marring its whiteness.

"Good heavens!" I exclaimed, forgetting myself, "how it must have pained you! Why didn't you go home? I would have excused you."

She smiled and looked amused. That smile recalled me to myself.

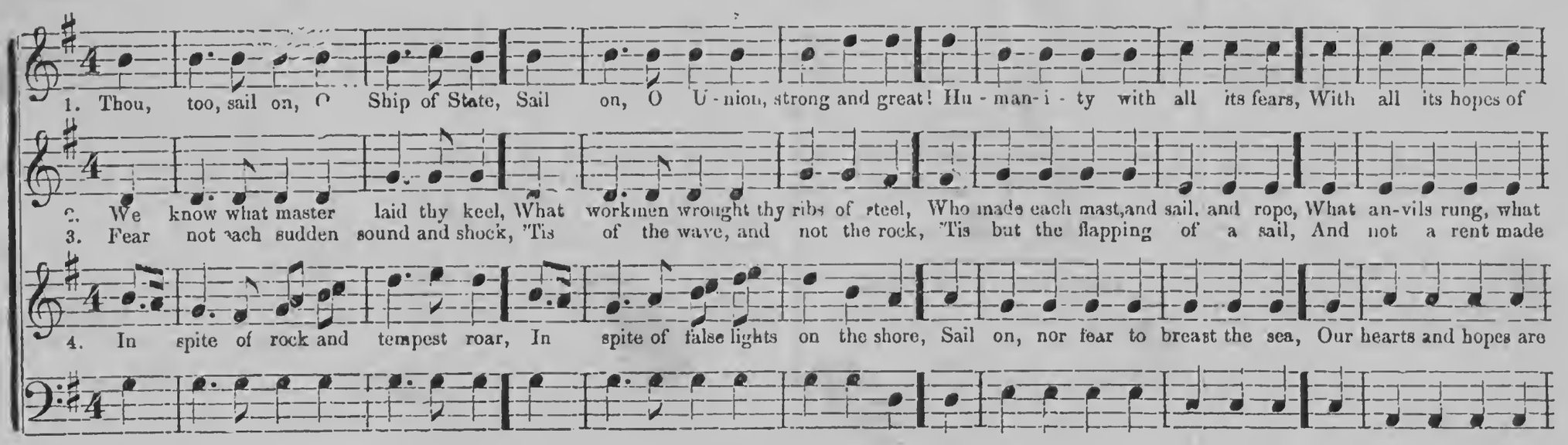
"Oh, it's nothing. It was slightly painful at first, but I was not child enough to run home over so slight a hurt."

In spite of my anger at her, I envied the very words that slipped through her red, haughty lips. "Had she already begun her arts?" I asked myself. If that simplicity of look and frankness of voice were art why, confound Nature! Well, I walked home with her, carrying her satchel of books. My excuse was her arm. As if she hadn't but one and couldn't, by any possibility, have carried her books on the other. O, the days that followed—and the weeks and the months! Miss Arden wanted to flirt and we flirted! Miss Arden wanted me to make love to her and I did it. Of course, I had no further exposition of her wishes on the point than the overheard conversation of the first day; but that was enough. I took the part assigned to me to play and played it with all my heart.

I had the satisfaction of knowing, as I stood by one of the long windows at the close of the last day, watching the scholars file out, that the whole village was alive with the rumor that my beautiful pupil and myself were engaged.

THE SHIP OF STATE.

Words by LONGFELLOW.



Charlotte Arden lingered behind the others, as if wishing to speak to me. The coquette had her last snare set, I thought, bitterly.

"I—I stopped to bid you good-by," she said, falteringly, as I approached her. How the proud face was humbled by its blushing. "And to—to give you this."

She held out a white rose—a withered white rose. It was one I had begged from her hair the night before at a party and she had refused it.

"Thank you. It will be a cherished souvenir."

I spoke derisively, for all the bad blood in my heart was aroused by her crowning artifice. The words were scornful, but they were true, in spite of me. She looked up with a shocked expression and made a half-angry motion to snatch the flowers from my hand.

"We have had a very pleasant flirtation—have we not, Miss Arden?"

"Flirtation!" she faltered.

"Yes. This will remind me of it when I am far away."

I saw the mighty pride that struggled in her face.

"I don't quite understand you, sir," she said, with dignity.

"I refer you for an explanation of my words to the conversation you held with Miss D— about the first day of the term."

She looked puzzled.

"I did not have any," she replied, after a moment's hesitation.

"About flirting," I suggested, to prompt her memory. "You were to win me away from Sue Liscomb, I think."

She leaned her head on her hand a moment, wondering and confused; then she lifted it and broke into a merry laugh.

"What an absurd mistake! And you overheard us, and have been laboring under that impression all these months! O, Mr. Eldridge, how could you?"

And as though some sudden recollection well-nigh maddened her, she hid her face in her hands and broke into a choking tempest of tears.

"What is it, Charlotte?" I inquired, softening in an instant, and feeling that I had been acting like a miserable fool.

"We were not talking of you at all, sir," and the hot, blinding tears flowed afresh.

"Not talking of me! It was all my own insufferable conceit, then! What an——"

"Idiot," I said aloud, and "monkey," under my breath.

She drew up her head a moment later and would have left me, but—but——

Pshaw! The scene won't bear rehearsing. Charlotte Arden is my wife now.—*St. Louis Democrat.*

AN OLD-TIME SPECULATION.

How a Lake Vessel was Sent Over Niagara Falls—Queer Passengers.

CAPT. GILBERT PRATT, a veteran mariner now living in Belleville, Ont., whose period of service on the lakes dates back nearly half a century, recalls an incident which, though it has been almost forgotten, attracted considerable attention in its day. Vessel owners were then more conscientious than now. They were not inclined to risk the lives of passengers and crew in unseaworthy crafts.

The owner of the old schooner Michigan—then the largest vessel on the lakes—hit upon a novel expedient for disposing of her. The vessel had become old and rotten, and was no longer serviceable. Instead of loading her and sending her out late in the season heavily insured to be wrecked, he chose a more harmless plan, but one not less profitable to himself. He induced the proprietors of the hotels at Niagara Falls to buy the vessel and send her over the falls. This was about the year 1830. The proposition was eagerly accepted by the hotel proprietors, who saw in it a capital advertising scheme, and one which would be certain to pay them well. The affair was widely published in the newspapers and was the talk of the surrounding country for weeks and weeks. They did not count amiss when they judged what an excited public curiosity would do. For several days previous to the great event the stages and canal boats were crowded. People flocked thither from all parts of the country to witness the novel spectacle of the largest vessel on the lakes going over the falls. The hotel keepers reaped a rich harvest. So great a crowd had never before been seen at that famous resort.

On the appointed day the Michigan was towed out into the rapids in the presence of a vast number of people who lined the banks or visited the scene upon the numerous excursion boats which were called into requisition. The task of towing the vessel into the current was intrusted to a Capt. Rough, with a crew of half a dozen oarsmen selected by himself. This was a rather hazardous enterprise, and Capt. Pratt, who was himself one of the crew, says his heart almost failed him when they set out, though he had gladly volunteered for the service.

There had been placed on the schooner several animals, in accordance with the programme, which had been widely advertised. These consisted of a buffalo, three bears, two foxes, a raccoon, a cat and some geese. At her bowsprit was the American ensign and at her stern the English Jack, the Canadian hotel-keepers having joined in the enterprise. There were also some effigies displayed on board to give the appearance of a crew, and to make more real the scene of a vessel with all on board making the terrific plunge. Just before the tow-line was cut the animals on board were turned loose. Just as the vessel entered the rapids two of the bears plunged overboard and actually succeeded in swimming ashore. The third one climbed the mast as if to get a better view of the scene.

All the animals seemed greatly frightened and ran from one end of the deck to the other, much the same as a human crew might have done under similar circumstances, in an agony of despair. The vessel swept grandly down the rapids, plunging over the first fall, shipping a little water, righting herself and moving on in fine style. In going over the second rapid the mast went by the board and the bear with it, and neither was again seen. She swung around and presented her broadside to the foaming waters. She had evidently struck a rock and was stationary. Here it was thought her career was ended and the affair was over. But she stopped only a moment. The force of the waters swung her around and she moved on, stern foremost. On the third rapid she lilged, but carried her hull apparently whole straight to the Horseshoe fall, over which she plunged stern foremost to the foaming abyss below. She was smashed into a thousand fragments. None of the beasts on board were ever heard of more; but the geese turned up all right and were soon seen on the bank below, quietly oiling their feathers, as if there had not been much of a shower after all. One of the effigies was also found uninjured, throwing his arms about and knocking his knees together in the eddies, but all the others had disappeared. The scene was a most thrilling one. The great crowd of spectators watched the progress of the vessel with breathless interest, and gave a great cheer as she made the final plunge.

"GO WEST, YOUNG MAN, GO WEST."

THE name of Horace Greeley is connected so often with the words, "Go West, young man, go West," that the one is seldom thought of or spoken without the latter. The phrase "Go West," may have been used often in Mr. Greeley's paper, but the origin of the words—the incident that brought them into being and made them as familiar as household words, is not generally known. It may be of some little interest to RURAL readers, and so we give it.

Tom Lincoln was an out-and-out specimen of the New York easy, devil-may-care hangers-on. He always had some position about the Custom House or City Hall, and Greeley, in his peculiar way, had taken a strong fancy to him. Greeley called Lincoln "Tom," and Tom called Greeley "Horace," whenever they met. If Tom by his too easy ways lost his sinecure of bookkeeper or deputy something or other, he went at once to the dingy little room in the Tribune building and had a session with Horace, and the result was that Tom's name was very soon on the pay-roll of some department.

One day Tom came swinging into Mr. Greeley's room, threw himself into a chair, and in his usual tone said:

"Horace, I'm up a stump again, and must have a place."

Mr. Greeley never looked up from his paper, but simply bobbed his spectacles a little and said:

"Tom, how long was you in the Custom House?"

"Six years, Horace."

"How long at the City Hall?"

"Ten years, Horace, off and on."

"Sixteen years. Well, Tom, how much money have you made?"

"Not a cent, Horace."

"Not a cent—not a cent." (Some little *italic* words, as the printers call them, were interspersed with the remark, but we leave them out.) "Sixteen years in office in New York City and never saved a cent. *Go West, young man; go West.*"

Tom tried to explain that he had been honest and his salary low, and all that; but he might as well have talked to a stone or a post. Horace Greeley had done with him.

From that day on Tom and Horace were not on speaking terms, and we heard Tome say one day, that he never thought of the old philosopher that there did not come ringing into his ears the prophetic words, "Go West, young man, go West." This is the origin of the phrase, as Tom Lincoln and those who knew him well will tell you.

SAMANTHY'S ELOPEMENT.

"YES," said the old lady, as she wiped her eyes and proceeded to tell the sympathizing neighbors about the elopement of her daughter. "Yes, Mrs. Blobbs, you may well say it ar' a dreadful stroke. I ain't had such another shock senco that last spell o' rheumatiz. To think that darter of mine would do sech a disgraceful thing after all the care an' affection me an' her father have ravished on her from her infancy up.

"Did you not suspicion that they were contemplating such a move?" asked the neighbor.

"No, we never suspicioned nary contemplation. After I'd runned the conceited upstart off the premises with a mop, I didn't think he'd have the insurance to speak to Samanthy agin. An' she seemed to appear so consigned that I never respected her of having any under handed contentions. But all the time—so I've heerd sence—they used to meet clandestinely, when I thought Samanthy was at meetin' an' decoct their plans to run off an' elope. Well, Samanthy has made her bed an' she'll have to lay on it. I wash my hands of the ongrateful girl from this time forthwith."

"Did you make any effort to intercept them?"

"No, you see, we didn't know it, or else we'd a intercepted 'em within an inch o' their lives."

"I mean did you try to have them stopped when you found they were gone?"

"Yes, indeed. Father telescoped to five or six towns, an' give their prescription—cost him lots o' money, too; but he said he wouldn't mind spendin' the price of a cow to get Samanthy back. But we never heerd nothin' from them, and I told father to let 'em alone and they'd come home after a while with five or six children behind 'em. But I tell you, Mrs. Blobbs, they shan't set a foot in this house except over the dead body of my defunct corpse. You just remember that."

EVERLASTING FIRE.

IN the neighborhood of Baku, on the Caspian Sea, there is a phenomenon of a very extraordinary nature called the everlasting fire, to which a sect of Indians and Persians called Gaurs pay religious worship. It is situated about ten miles from the city of Baku, in the province of Shirvan, on a dry, rocky piece of ground.

On it there are several ancient temples, built of stone, and supposed to be all dedicated to fire, there being one among them in which fire-worship is now carried on. Near the altar there is a large, hollow cane from the end of which issues a blue flame. The worshippers affirm that this flame has continued ever since the deluge, and they believe if it were suppressed in that place it would break out in another.

At a short distance from this temple there is a horizontal gap, two feet from the ground, about six feet long and three broad, out of which comes a constant flame of the color of that in the temple. When there is a strong wind it rises to the hight of eight feet, but is much lower in calmer weather.

The earth around, for more than two miles, has this extraordinary property, that by taking up two or three inches of the surface and applying a lighted lamp, the part uncovered immediately takes fire, even before the flame touches it. The [illegible] make the soil hot, but do not consume it nor affect what is near with any degree of heat.

It is said that eight horses were once consumed by this fire under a roof where the surface of the ground had been turned up and by some accident had ignited. If a cane or tube of paper be set about two inches into the ground, closed with earth below, and the top of it touched with a live coal, a flame will immediately issue forth without consuming the tube, provided the edges be covered with clay. Three or four lighted canes will boil water in a pot, and are sometimes used to cook victuals. The flames have a sulphurous smell but are inoffensive.

A MAN'S NEIGHBORS.

THE Raleigh (N. C.) News reports that Rev. Dr. Pritchard of that city referred in a thanksgiving sermon to a conversation held some years ago between Dr. Thomas E. Skinner, formerly of Raleigh, now of Georgia, and an anti-missionaryist. Dr. Skinner, he said, was soliciting aid to *foreign* missions, and applied to this gentleman, who promptly repulsed him with the reply, "I don't believe in foreign missions, and I won't give anything except to home missions. I want what I give to benefit my neighbors."

"Well," replied Dr. Skinner, "whom do you regard as your neighbors?"

"Why, those around me," replied the brother.

"Do you mean those whose land joins yours?" inquired Dr. Skinner.

"Yes."

"Well," said Dr. Skinner, "how much land do you own?"

"About five hundred acres."

"How far *down* do you own?" inquired Dr. Skinner.

"Why, I never thought of it before, but I suppose I own half way through."

"Exactly," said Dr. Skinner; "I suppose you do, and I want this money for the Chinese—the men whose land joins yours on the bottom."

The hardened brother had never thought of that, and gave a good sum for foreign missions.

SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR.

NOT many months ago, in India, a gentleman and wife having taken passage for England went on board with their baggage. Presently the husband discovered that there was time for him to go ashore and see a man. He went, and when it occurred to him that it was time to go aboard again, he hailed a boatman and ere long found himself on board a large passenger ship. It was night. A sleepy steward inquired the number of his cabin, which he chanced to remember, as also that his was the upper berth; so he contrived to clamber into it without disturbing his wife as he supposed, who slept beneath. But when dawn broke and the ship was well on her way, a feminine voice was heard shrieking in terror, "Steward, steward! there's a man in my cabin!" The wretched man was aroused, and the situation explained to him. He had mistaken the ship. They were under way for Australia, and his unhappy wife was steaming away to England under a firm conviction that he had been robbed and murdered by ruffians who frequent the quays. When he at length arrived in Australia he could not even there relieve her mind, as the cable connecting that country with Europe was not completed, so that about four months passed before she heard anything of him.

OF how many cheap, exquisite joys are these five senses the inlets! And who is he that can look on the beautiful scenes of the morning, lying in the freshness of the dew and the joyful light of the rising sun, and not be happy? Cannot God create another world many times more fair? and cast over it a mantle of light many times more lovely? and wash it with a purer dew than ever dropped from the eyelids of the morning?—*Edward Irving.*

Sabbath Reading.

THE RETURN HOME.

I FORAGED all over this joy-dotted earth,
To find its best nosegay of innocent mirth
Tied up with the bands of its wisdom and worth;
And oh, its chief treasure,
Its innermost pleasure,
Lay always at Home.

I asked a poor widow, returned from the post
With a letter she kissed, from a far-away coast,
What heart-thrilling news had rejoiced her the most?
And—gladness for mourning—
Her son was returning
To love her at Home.

I whispered the prodigal, wanton and wild, [child!
How changed from the heart that you had when a
So teachable, noble, and modest, and mild;
And, though sin had undone him,
Thank God that I won him
By looking at Home.

I pictured his welcome from hearts that were beating:
The fond mother's glance, and the fatherly greeting:
[illegible] words could not tell half the joy of that meeting:
The festal of love
Seemed to point me above
To the Heavenly Home.

CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE.

BY MAY MAPLE.

IT is beautiful to contemplate the life of the Son of GOD. The evening dews and earliest dawn found the Saviour seeking wisdom at His Father's throne. His whole life was fraught with zeal and devotion to the cause for which He was sent among the children of men. To draw all into the kingdom of His love He would fain spend His whole life.

His pleasure was to do the *will of His Father*—so different from the youth of the present age, or even of the age in which He lived. Cheerful He might be, but never gay. Studious He was, even in early childhood, to an uncommon degree. At the age of twelve we read of His sitting with the priests and elders to learn of them, while His brothers and companions were no doubt filling their hands at the confectioners, and planning for the merry dance and jubilant song. Happiness for the present moment was seemingly sufficient for all *their* needs. And because of their levity and demoralizing influence He was often put to an open shame. "Is not this the carpenter's son?" was asked in sneering tones and with scornful lips, when He taught as one having authority and not with the smooth, oily tongue of the scribes. Because He was apparently of low birth they desired to know nothing of His virtues or His worth. If they listened to His eloquence—and this they did, not unfrequently—it was but to criticise His sayings, to humble Him in the dust, if by it they might make Him give up preaching and praying round about those old Judean hills. It was among the lowly that His teachings were found most attractive and acceptable. "The common people heard Him gladly."

However much the Pharisees might desire exclusiveness in their worldly pursuits and associates, it was their pleasure to see the synagogues well filled with the humble laboring class. Of them they might gain tithes of mint, anise and cummin, wherewith to fill their censers. But to be interested in the minute affairs of their everyday life was seldom, if ever, in their creed. What wonder then that the young Prophet, Priest and King should draw all nations unto Him, from the wealthy Jew to the humble Galilean! His sympathies were with the suffering and the oppressed.

The sunsets of Judea beheld Him ministering to the sick, healing diseases, consoling the afflicted by His timely presence and calm, gracious mein. The light of His countenance beamed alike upon the sinner and the saint. No one was fallen so deeply in degradation but His strong arm was ready to raise the brother or sister. Did temptation assail again and again, so often did He forgive, if the stumbling one but came in humility and sorrow, confessing his weakness. All His energies were spent in doing good to His fellow men. Born with like passions as we are, He had the same temptations with which to contend—the same humiliations to endure. He must battle with poverty and privations; yet he practiced all the virtues of patience, forbearance, meekness and charity. His whole life was filled with lessons to be practiced by His followers.

THE BIBLE is a book that should be read like other books, in a broad and comprehensive way. The length of the creation period, the tonnage of the ark, the capillary relations of Samson's strength, the guerrilla skirmishes of the Judges, the ram's horn signals in front of the walls of Jericho—these are questions about which no sensible Christian cares a fig. What we need as regards the Bible is a rational interpretation of the history and its doctrines.—*W. H. H. Murray.*

ALL languages have a literature of terror about death. But living is far more terrible in reality than dying. It is life that foments pride, that inflames vanity, that excites the passions, that feeds the appetites, that founds and builds habits, that establishes character, and, binding up the separate straws of action into one sheaf, hands it to the future, saying, "As ye have sowed, so shall ye reap." And again, "As ye reap, so shall ye sow."

THE sweetest book in all the world, if properly read, is the Bible. Its leaves are as fragrant as a bed of violets in full bloom.—*Golden Rule.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

OLD MEMORIES.

BY RAY HULBURT.

In the early days of childhood,
When my heart was light and free,
And the hours with sunshine flooded,
Shed their radiance over me.

There, among the dearest day dreams,
Of the long-lost "Auld Lang Syne,"
Stands among the brightest sunbeams,
The school-house of ancient times.

Westward, sloping from the farm-house,
Ran the ever-pleasant lane,
Down to where the old log school-house
Nestled humbly on the green.

High, above its wide-mouthed chimney,
Towered the poplar and the beech,
While the wild rose and the cherry
Told a tale of sweetness each.

Round me hover bright-winged visions
Of the merry, murmuring rill,
As it speeds upon its mission
Close beneath the southern hill;

With its waters, gay and noisy,
Trickling o'er their pebbly bed,
And its banks, so green and mossy,
With the hidden berries red.

Far above, the green-leaved branches
Of the forest swung and played,
And beneath, the scene entrancing
Of the ever-varied glade.

Oh! ye gems of childhood's pleasures,
Flash your brightness over all,--
Live, among the golden treasures,
Garnered up in Memory's hall.

MY MYSTERY.

GINGER COOKIES—GOOD AND BAL

I AM very fond of ginger cookies, but alas, have not the *capacity* to make them. Shortly after I was married I spent a few months at my father's. A lady friend spoke of a receipe that never failed her. I handed it over to NORA, the cook, who transformed the ingredients into a crock of nice moist ginger cookies. They soon disappeared, and it was again filled and so on until faithful NORA placed them on the top-most shelf in the pantry, where slippery fingers could not reach them as easily as before.

I expected soon to go to housekeeping, and visions of pleasant rooms, snowy bulscuit, and splendid ginger cookies, passed before my imagination and lulled me to sleep at night. I returned to my husband, and it was not many days before I tried my skill. When they came from the oven the result was hard, dry cookies. I consoled myself with thinking that they would grow moist with age, for ANNIE had said, concerning them, "the older the better." I brought some to the table, and imagine my dismay to see the men picking out the soda between each bite with their forks.

"Oh, JOHN," I said, "I did want to have them just to suit you."

"They are not very bad," said he, "only a fellow has to look out for the soda."

"The recipe is good, I know, for NORA'S were splendid, and next time mine will be all right." Again and again I tried, and still the same result. It seemed to me that the men always commenced digging out the soda when I looked toward them."

"I'm sure I do my very best to dissolve and pulverize it," I said. "It must be because the soda is stale."

JOHN promised fresh, but I dismissed ginger cookies. A year after I picked up the RURAL and saw my old recipe recommended as being very nice. "I'll try it again," I said to myself, and I did. Not long afterward my husband came in and said, "I am going to Pittsburgh on the afternoon train. I wish you would do me up a lunch." With fear and many doubts I put some of my pet cookies in his pocket.

Sabbath we went to church and sat in the first seat in front of the pulpit. The "Amen corners" were full of people. After the benediction was pronounced JOHN picked up his overcoat to put it on, when out rolled a cake. It fell on the carpet with as much weight as a stone, and sounded as if it had been baked forty years. If it had only been content to fall, but it was not through traveling yet, and rolled on until it reached the pulpit steps at the side furthest from us, and the minister looked down upon it reprovingly for desecrating the LORD'S house. People smiled, and would have laughed outright if they had dared, for my husband was determined not to lose it, but followed, captured, and placed it down deep in the depth of his pocket.

A few days ago I got another recipe and did my best toward making the cookies palatable. I tasted, smacked my lips over them, tried to persuade myself they were good, and placed them on the table. They were passed around and the jokes followed at my expense. It was four years since I tried the first time, and here was failure again. A school-girl came in hungry in the evening and said "she liked them," so I gave nearly all to her, and tried again. The second time they were worse than the first. I then rode five miles to see the lady that gave me the recipe. I will insert it here:

"New Orleans molasses, 2 cups; brown sugar, 1 cup; butter, 1 cup; sour milk, 1 cup; 2 tablespoons of soda, and 1 tablespoon of ginger."

"You are sure you put in everything?" asked the lady.

"Quite sure," I answered.

"And used New Orleans molasses, for it is the best."

"Yes," I said.

"And you stirred them with a spoon, did you, and put sufficient flour on the board to roll out without making them very stiff?"

I again nodded assent.

"Well, I cannot tell why they are not good. I have some nice ones in the house now," she said.

A few days after I was leaving home, I said to MARY, our girl, "I wish you would bake some ginger cookies," and I gave her the benefit of my wisdom. When I returned we had some for tea. My husband said "they were the best he ever ate," and MARY said "she made them exactly as I told her." Why cannot I make them and have them good? Oh that somebody's mantle would fall on me! M. L. S.

WHAT MEN NEED WIVES FOR.

It is not to sweep the house, make the bed, darn the socks and cook the meals, chiefly, that a man wants a wife. If this is all he needs, hired help can do it cheaper than a wife. If this is all, when a young man calls to see a lady, send him into the pantry to taste the bread and cake she has made; then send him to inspect the needlework and bed-making, or put a broom in the young lady's hand and send him to witness its use. Such things are important, and the wise young man will quickly look after them; but what the true man wants with a wife is her companionship, sympathy and love. The way of life has many dreary places in it, and man needs a companion to go with him. A man is sometimes overtaken by misfortunes; he meets with failure and defeat; trials and temptations beset him, and he needs one to stand by and sympathize. He has some hard battles to fight with poverty, enemies and sin, and he needs a woman that, when he puts his arm around her, he feels he has something to fight for, and that she, being a true woman, will help him to fight; that she will put her lips to his ear and whisper words of counsel, and her hand to his heart and impart inspiration. All through life, through storms and sunshine, through conflict and victory, through adverse and through favoring winds, man needs a woman's love. His heart yearns for it. A sister's or a mother's love will hardly supply the need. Yet many seek for nothing further than success in housework. Justly enough, half of these get nothing more; the other half, surprised beyond measure, have gotten more than they sought. Their wives surprise them by bringing out a noble idea in marriage, and disclosing a treasury of courage, sympathy and love.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

MRS. JOHN ADAMS was an early advocate of Woman's Rights.

GEORGE ELIOT, it is said, has been paid £7,000, or $30,000, for a single novel.

MRS. JULIA GRIFFIN of New York has completed a portrait bust of Rev. Dr. E. H. Chapin.

DEBORAH F. WHARTON of Philadelphia has given $5,000 to the endowment of Swarthmore College.

MISS BURRITT has raised $1,000 to employ a lady to keep a Kindergarten at the Centennial Exposition.

QUEEN VICTORIA has subscribed £200 to found the chair of Celtic Literature in Edinburgh University.

SEVERAL women have been registered in some of the towns of Chili as qualified voters, and will vote at the approaching elections.

"MOTHER STEWART," who was prominent in the Ohio woman's movement, has been visiting England in the interest of the Temperance cause.

MISS SHIRREFF has been elected president of the Froebel Society of London, in place of the lamented Miss Doreck, who died last summer in Switzerland.

MRS. RAMASWAMI, a native Hindoo Christian lady, has been appointed by Maharajah Holka as tutoress to the zenana of Bala Sahib, the young prince.

MRS. LIVESEY, widow of Rev. William Livesey, is supplying the pulpit of the Methodist church at Braintree, Mass, made vacant by the death of her husband.

MISS EMILY L. TAYLOR, Principal of Adams' Female Academy, is preparing a history of that institution for the New Hampshire Department at the Centennial.

MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, who was rescued from an Insane Asylum by Mrs. Myra Bradwell and her husband, has been spending a few months very pleasantly with her sister Mrs. Edwards, at Springfield, Ill.

MRS. AMANDA SMITH, a colored evangelist, has been addressing large congregations in Wilmington, Del. She was formerly a slave, is about forty years of age and shows great familiarity with Scripture.

MISS THOMAS, Cornell University's successful representative in Greek, entered college in advance, graduating in two years. Having slender means, she worked in the University printing office at type setting, and paid most of her expenses in that way.

THE Women's Centennial Union of N. Y. City has issued an appeal—signed by many ladies of social prominence—urging the women of New York to show their interest in the Centennial Exhibition, and proposing as one indication of this interest to present a banner, bearing the arms of the city and an appropriate motto, to the Woman's Department of the Centennial.

Reading for the Young.

MY KITTY.

WHERE has my little kitty gone,
My kitty that I love?
I've searched in every room below,
And every room above.

My tabby kit, with silken hair,
And golden eyes so bright,
And full of fun and frolic gay,
With spirits ever light.

How she would whisk to catch her tail
Or play with ball or string!
So full of grace and fun and life,
A dear, bewitching thing.

Alas! the merry kit has gone,
With all her capers gay;
She's now a dull and lazy cat,
And sleeps her time away.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Northern Illinois Boy.

UNCLE MOORE:—I join my voice with the rest of the RURAL Cousins in asking what has become of Cousin JOHNNIE. As for me, I have missed her letters from the RURAL for a long time. I can assure her they were interesting. Girls, I guess you have given Y. B. such a set-back that he cannot come forward any more. I think if he had signed his name O. B. it would have suited him better. I should like A. R. MACOMBER to rise and explain to the boys how to keep on the right side of the girls. We are having a mild winter in Northern Illinois; not even one day's sleighing. I live just one mile from the Lake Bluff camp meeting grounds. They bought the land last spring and commenced work on it, expecting to have it ready for their fall meeting, but failed to do so. I expect they will have it ready by next fall. And then I would like to see Uncle MOORE and all the RURAL Cousins, even Y. B., at my end of the world. I suppose the way you and all the RURAL Cousins will be known to each other will be by their smiling faces, for I don't think any one can be a subscriber to the RURAL very long and not have a smile on his or her face. I am a farmer's son, and for pets I have a large Newfoundland dog and a gray mare. So you see I dare not side with YOUNG BACH, because I would be siding against one of my pets—and I could not do that, as she is real lovable and never scolds, nor do I think any good girl would, especially a RURAL Cousin.—JOE. CONDELL, *Rockland, Ill. Jan. 31.*

From a Virginia Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—I am 11 years old, and this is my first attempt at writing for a paper. I love to read the letters in the Young Folk's Column very much, and if you think this is worth its room in your paper, I will try again some time. My father has an iron foundry, and on cast days I like to go and watch the melted iron being poured on the flasks; to make plows, bells, etc. I have two brothers that work in the foundry. They make such cute little frogs, just like real ones, to put against the doors in summer to keep them open; ours often makes folks jump, it looks so much like a live one. I go to school, and have lots of fun at recess and noon; but I don't let fun interfere with my lessons. My sister and myself joined a Lodge of Good Templars that was organized last April. We have 189 members, and others are still coming in. We meet once every week. I think the Temperance folks are doing a great deal of good. I'm afraid you will think this too long for a little girl, so I must stop. My parents know nothing of this. I want to surprise them—that is, if you think this good enough to publish.—R. LIZZIE TAYLOR, *Lincoln, Loudoun Co., Va.*

From a Western Penn. School-Girl.

MR. EDITOR;—I have received as a premium for my club, consisting of ten subscribes, your prize, "McAllister's Household Microscope." It is much nicer than I expected. It paid me well for what little trouble I had in securing the club. I should have liked very much if I could have gotten more subscribers; but perhaps I can if I try again. I guess I have said enough about that. I will now tell you where I live and about our school. I reside nearly five miles west of Erie City, in Pennsylvania, on the main road, and in a very lively neighborhood. I attend No. 5 School. It is not so full this year as it was last, on account of some of the larger scholars attending other schools. But I guess I am forgetting myself, for my letter is getting pretty lengthy, and if I do not close soon it will find its way to the waste-basket. Hoping to hear from some of my schoolmates soon, I will say good-by.—EMMA J. L., *West Mill Creek, Pa.*

From a Southern N. Y. Boy.

DEAR SIR:—The other boys are all writing, so I think I might as well. I live on a farm. We have taken the RURAL about a year. I like it first-rate. We have not got all of our corn husked yet. We have a chicken, hatched the middle of April, that made a nest in the grass, laid twelve eggs and hatched seven chickens before the middle of October. I went quail shooting a while ago with another boy, but as we started only one covey, we did not get any. I like to go hunting, but I have never hit anything yet. Now, Mr. Editor, I want to ask you a question. What is the price of the book, "The Amateur Trapper and Trap-Maker's Guide," by STANLEY HARDING?—and can it be bought at your office?—CHAS. P., *Corning, N. Y., November 30, 1875.*

We can supply the book, postage paid, at 50 cents.—ED.

From an Indiana Girl.

DEAR SIR:—This is the first time I ever wrote for your paper. My pa takes the RURAL and several other papers, but I like the RURAL the best of all. We have a gentle horse that my brother, five years old, and I can drive or ride. My grandpa is here on a visit from Iowa; he says I can harness and hitch up quicker than he can. Sometimes I drive to Laporte, three miles distant, alone, and get the mail and some groceries for our family, and when I get home I put my horse in the barn and take the harness off. I help to wash and iron, and sometimes churn and work over the butter. When ma goes visiting I keep house, as my only living sister is married and has gone away. When the little red ants get into my mother's cupboard, she rubs some kerosene on the shelves and they never come again.—FANNIE A. ANDREWS, *Laporte, Ind.*

From a New York Boy.

DEAR EDITOR:—I have long thought that I would write to you and let you know how we liked your paper, and tell you how many pets I have. I have got a splendid little rat dog, and he washes his face and dances and sneezes when I tell him to. And I have a splendid pet cat; she catches all the rats and mice around father's barn. I had a pet coon, but father killed him, and I felt very sorry. He was so mischievous that he would get up into the plum trees and pick plums to imitate our example. And now I must tell you how near the school-house is to me. It is only a few steps from our house, and I go to school every day and like my teacher very much. I am thirteen years old. I study reading, spelling, arithmetic, bookkeeping and geography.—WM. MCG., *Stanton Hill, N. Y.*

From a Pennsylvania Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—Why do not some of you say something about flowers? Perhaps you do not like flowers. If that is so, it's very strange, for to my knowledge there are not many people who do not like flowers. Last summer I had a very nice flower garden; but this year I intend to have a nicer one, if possible. We could hardly do without flowers. How would the woods and fields look without them? Will not the Editor put his picture in the RURAL for a Christmas gift?—though it's rather late now. I would like very much to correspond with ROMPING BESSIE, MILLIE and WILD ROSE. Before I close I will say something in favor of the RURAL, which I think is a splendid paper. I like it best of all the papers we take, and we take a good many. If I see this in print, I might take courage and try again. My address is, LILLIE M. RUPLE, Washington, Pa.—WILD FERN.

The Puzzler.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I AM composed of 16 letters:
My 1, 3, 8, 14, is what boys kill birds with.
My 10, 3, 4, 9, 6, is a very useful animal.
My 7, 8, 13, 3, 12, is a very useful vehicle.
My 10, 3, 5 is a domestic animal.
My 1, 12, 8, 11 is an insect.
My 2, 8, 4 is a part of the head.
My 4, 11, 12, 1 is what ladies wear on their fingers.
My whole is the greatest general the Americans ever had.

☞ Answer in two weeks. J. H. R.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—No. 3.

I AM composed of 25 letters:
My 2, 1, 23, 15, 12, 6 is a symbolical name for Samaria.
My 5, 12, 15, 18, 13, 19 is a Jewish measure.
My 11, 7, 2, 17, 21, 13 is used is making bread.
My 16, 11, 10, 9, 4, 3 is a mountain in Palestine.
My 22, 10, 14, 8, 21, 13 was a judge of Israel.
My 25, 2, 3, 20, 12, 18 was miraculously destroyed for his sins.
My whole is a Bible command.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 5.

My first is in send but not in go;
My second is in water but not in milk;
My third is in eat but not in drink;
My fourth is in add but not in subtract;
My fifth is in paper but not in book;
My sixth is in no but not in yes.
My whole is a country in Europe.

☞ Answer in two weeks. MATTIE E. S.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—No. 2.

1. A CITY in Russia. 2. A town in Pennsylvania. 3. A river in Austria. 4. A lake in Michigan. 5. A river in Spain. 6. A city in France. Initials, a distinguished mathematician and astronomer; finals, the greatestest of philosophers and mathematicians.

☞ Answer in two weeks. PAUL BOYTON.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA.—No. 2.

1. ROOM. 2. Pertaining to punishment. 3. To abolish. 4. To make. 5. A girl's name.

☞ Answer in two weeks. AZILE.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Feb. 5.

HISTORICAL ENIGMA No. 1.—"Falsehood has an exterior polished with a gaudy maze of treachery, but Truth has an interior gemmed with justice, virtue and zeal."

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.35, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

STARVING JURIES INTO VERDICTS.

MOST of the disrepute into which the jury system has fallen arises from absurd compliance with ancient precedents that long ago lost all reason for existing. The stolid ignorance required in a juryman is utterly without reason, and hinders rather than helps the course of justice. Of like character is the practice of confining juries in uncomfortable quarters and with insufficient food until they have agreed upon a verdict. The New Jersey jury which tried Landis for the killing of Uri Carruth, deliberated from Thursday until Saturday evening before bringing in their forced verdict of acquittal on the ground of insanity. They very soon reported that they could not agree, and asked to be discharged. Still later they reported that the disagreement was hopeless, but the judge refused to hear them. It was not until it seemed likely that they would be kept in close quarters on the plainest fare, over Sunday, that some of the Jerseymen yielded and an agreement was reached. Of what moral worth is a verdict gained by this system of coercion? Landis is legally free, but is it not evident that some at least of the jury having sworn to render the verdict according to the evidence, were induced to perjure themselves? Worse still—If there can be worse—the confidence of the people in the system of trial by jury is impaired. It used to be thought that the right of trial by jury was a main bulwark of popular liberties. Possibly its importance now is less than formerly; but we have still need to guard the sacredness of the jury system as the best safeguard against the insidious and always dangerous encroachments of arbitrary power. In just the proportion that juries become contemptible, the influence of the judge and of the Executive authority is magnified. Juries may often work harm to individuals; but they can rarely, except by abdicating their functions, effect any injury on the public welfare.

—Since the above was written we have received the following from a South Jersey correspondent relative to the Landis-Carruth murder trial:

"Another murder trial farce has been enacted—this time in New Jersey, the State so long quoted as a model in the way of wholesome laws and the vigorous and impartial enforcement of the same. A passionate bravo takes umbrage at a humorous squib published in a village paper, and arming himself with a loaded revolver, deliberately walks into the editor's office and demands satisfaction; but failing in getting such as accords with his views, shoots down the editor in cold blood. After several months twelve men are found who listen attentively for two weeks to all the facts of the case and then deliberately render a verdict that the cold-blooded murderer is *not guilty* by reason of insanity! Talk of the impartiality of Jersey justice! Why, the finding of the jury in the Stokes-Fisk case was the concentration of righteousness and wisdom in comparison with this last legal travesty."

MOODY AND SANKEY IN NEW YORK.

ONE of the notable events in this city last week was the advent of Moody and Sankey, the revivalists. The great Hippodrome, holding 7,000 people, and which has been fitted up expressly for these meetings, is filled nightly, while thousands, unable to get inside, flock into an adjoining hall holding 4,500, and are addressed by other speakers. At the first meeting, Monday evening, Feb. 7th, Mr. Moody spoke from the 27th verse of the first chapter of Corinthians:—"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." Mr. Moody's entire career is illustrative of this text. His extraordinary success is not the result of great eloquence or great ability in any direction, but on the entire consecration of his life to God and sincere reliance upon Divine assistance. There have been hundreds of abler and more eloquent men who, lacking this consecration of self to Christ, have not accomplished a tithe of his work. Possibly if the learned and eloquent were equally devoted, there would still be the same preference for the preaching of this humble and unlettered man; for in his work at least, there can be no pretense that the results are not accomplished by Divine agency. There is in these meetings a marked absence of attempts to play upon the passions. All is calm and deliberate, and the truths of religion are enforced in the most simple and unpretending manner.

Mr. Sankey's singing is doubtless an attraction to thousands; but this too, like the preaching, is marked less by wonderful skill than by the evident earnestness and sincerity of the man. Mr. Sankey insists that all his choir shall be personal Christians; and it must be confessed that this rather novel method of making up a choir produces more marked religious results than the common plan of selecting singers for professional ability, without regard to character. Altogether, the two men are well matched, and their combined force, working in harmony as they do, has created the most remarkable religious awakening known since the days of Whitfield.

DEATH OF REVERDY JOHNSON.

THURSDAY evening, Feb. 18, REVERDY JOHNSON of Maryland, long a Senator from that State, and some years ago minister to England, was found dead in the grounds adjoining the executive mansion of the Governor of Maryland in Annapolis. Mr. Johnson was born May 21st 1796, and was consequently nearly eighty years old. He belonged to the old school of statesmanship, was a cautious, moderate Whig in 1844, when he was elected to the Senate, was a member of Gen. Taylor's Cabinet, but resigned on the accession of Fillmore. In 1863 Mr. Johnson was again a U. S. Senator, giving a hearty support to the war measures of the Government. President Johnson appointed him minister to England but he retired in 1869 when Mr. Motley succeeded him. Since then he has lived in retirement, only occasionally giving his views on public affairs which were always marked by good sense.

Mr. Johnson's death was mysterious. He had been attending a dinner given by the Governor of the State, went out of doors while his friends were enjoying a smoke, and was found near the door with some severe gashes in his head, caused as is supposed by a fall against the projecting corner of the building. He was bleeding profusely and was nearly or quite dead when found. Until the accident he was enjoying excellent health.

A GREAT FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.

TUESDAY evening, Feb. 8, a fire was discovered at No. 8 Crosby St., near Broadway, New York. The flames soon spread across the street and through the buildings No.'s 444 and 446, Broadway, which were speedily destroyed. In little more than an hour after the fire was seen, sections of walls began to fall, and in two of these many firemen were more or less injured; five were partially buried under piles of brick and mortar, and of these four have died, two being dead when taken from the ruins. The dead and injured were taken to a saloon and cared for as well as possible. Great excitement prevailed. The fire was gotten under control about ten o'clock; but not until it had burned out most of the block on the east side of Broadway between Howard and Grand Streets. The Continental Hotel was destroyed; also a large number of jobbing establishments of various kinds. The loss is estimated at $4,500,000 and the insurance at $2,500,000. At one time it was feared that the fire would spread and burn out the heart of the city. Had there been a severe wind, or cold weather, the damage would certainly have been much greater than it was.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

ON the 22d inst. Republican State Conventions will be held in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. That of Vermont is to be held March 29.

Dr. Edward Straznicky, Superintendent of the Astor Library, died on the evening of the 9th inst., at Montclair, N. J. He was a native of Austria, and came to Pennsylvania about 35 years ago.

The Bank of Commerce of New London, Conn., was robbed one night last week of $21,500, the burglars dropping $500,000 in bonds in their flight.

At New Haven, Conn., Feb. 10, James, John and Minnie Bates, young children of Andrew Bates, a mechanic, were drowned in Lake Whitney by breaking through the ice. Their mother also broke through, but was rescued.

At the meeting of the Board of Appeals of the National Trotting Association held in New York City last week, Col. C. W. Wooley of Ohio, was elected President; C. W. Hutchinson of Utica, First Vice-President; Judge Grant of Iowa, Second Vice-President; and Thomas J. Vail of Hartford, Secretary.

The revival meetings in the Universalist Church in Bergen, N. J., where the Rev. Phœbe A. Hanaford officiates, have been fervent. George Fielding, the sexton, has been thoroughly wrapped up in the progress of the meetings until the constant strain on his mind has driven him insane, and he is in strict confinement.

Mr. Beeler and Miss Beek of Louisville, have eloped. Their ages are respectively fifteen and thirteen. The parents, in tracing the pair, have learned of application to many justices and ministers to marry them, but in every instance their youthfulness was against them. They have not yet been overtaken but at last accounts were going toward Missouri, and trying hard to get somebody to perform the ceremony.

Under the Game laws of this State venison of any kind is now out of season, and the New York Association for the Protection of Game gives notice that it will prosecute any persons found with it in their possession, that being sufficient legal evidence of transgression.

A lamp on a table in a hotel at Bennington, Vt., exploded recently while no person was in the room, setting fire to the tablecloth and then to the table itself. The heat of the flames increased until it cracked open a globe filled with water for gold fish which was standing upon the table. The water extinguished the flames and thus probably saved the building from destruction.

Fifty years ago all the Baptists in Ohio dined together at one family table, and now they number 43,000.

Richmond, Virginia, is probably without a parallel in the country in its proportion of its church members to the inhabitants. Of its population of 60,000 there are 24,838 church members, which must be a large proportion of those who are not children. Half of these are Baptists.

When Oglethorpe was Governor of the province of Georgia, over one hundred and thirty years ago, there were no Methodists, but 1,000 members of the church of England. Now there are 150,000 Methodists and not quite 500 Episcopalians. The Baptists about equal the Methodists in numbers. These two are the leading denominations in the State.

Senator Ferry of Connecticut, died before he could deliver his prepared eulogy of Representative Strong of the same State, and Representative Starkweather died before he could deliver his eulogy of Ferry. And now tributes of respect are being paid to the lamented Starkweather by his colleagues, one of whom last week read his posthumous speech over the death of Ferry.

The Mayor of New Haven suggests in his annual message that the Rev. Dr. Leonard Bacon be invited to prepare a general history of that city from its settlement down to the present time.

A sacramento beet-sugar factory turned out 3,000,000 pounds of white sugar in 1875. The beets yield 13¼ per cent. of sugar—5½ per cent. more than the average yield of Europe.

The Piute Indians of Nevada, do not gain by contact with civilization. They beg in the villages in the daytime, and at night return to their wickiups, which are huts made of brush and old gunnysacks, warmed only by sagebrush fires. They do not seem to think of bettering their condition.

A burglar named Peter Curley, now in jail in Montpelier, Vt., for leading the Barre, Mass., bank robbers, has got himself in an unusual difficulty. He has lived and grown wealthy during the past few years by committing burglaries; but heretofore he has had the luck to secure valuable booty, by dividing which with his victims he has been allowed to go scot free. It is so much easier for bank officials to give up one-third, or even more, of the money or negotiable bonds stolen than to go into a long and possibly fruitless effort to secure the whole, that burglars have learned to look on this as the natural and safe way of "realizing" on their "business enterprises." They frequently take a great number of papers which can be of no use to them, except as enabling them to dictate a better compromise with those they have robbed. In this case, however, Mr. Curley made the serious mistake of not hauling anything, and the bank officials cannot decently propose a compromise. The burglar has money enough, but there seems to be a prejudice against buying off prosecution unless it is with property stolen directly from the prosecutor. There is a fine moral to this business of compounding felonies with burglars, but it is so obvious that it needs not to be pointed out.

James Horner of Perry Co., Tenn., is one of eight children. At eighteen years of age he was six feet tall and weighed 180 lbs. At twenty-one he was six inches taller and weighed 210 lbs. This was ten years ago, and he has been growing ever since—is now seven feet nine inches high, and grows about two inches taller every year. He will go to the Centennial, of course.

The keeper of the jail in Springfield, Ill., has opened the prison doors and let out the convicts, some 20 in number, because there was no money in the city treasury to pay their board bill.

A family in Bangor, Me., were very comfortably clothed and provided for by a charitable society, and the next day the three children, dressed in their new garments, went to have their photographs taken.

Senator Christiancy of Michigan, was married in Washington, Feb. 8, to Miss Lillie Lugerbeel, lately a clerk in the U. S. Treasury Department. Senator Ferry of Michigan officiated as groomsman. Senator Christiancy is a widower of 64, and his bride is said to be 20.

Mr. Peter Cooper is visiting his son-in-law, Congressman Hewitt, at Washington. He was 85 years old on Saturday week.

Not 100,000 tons of ice of the usual 2,000,000 are yet cut on the Hudson.

The funeral of Reverdy Johnson took place at Baltimore on Sunday last, and was largely attended.

Of the 172 churches invited to the Plymouth Advisory Council 117 have appointed delegates, and 26 have declined the invitation. The Council opened on the 15th inst.

Active search is being made for Winslow in Europe.

FOREIGN NOTES.

A STEAMER has been chartered to sail from Genoa on June 1, with Italian exhibitors and visitors to the Centennial and every berth and inch of available space for freight have already been engaged. Another one is to be chartered.

In Scotland it is reported the Baptists have more than doubled their numbers in the past six years. They have now seventy churches and three thousand members. The increase the past year was 700.

The largest Sunday-school in the world is at Stockport, England, which has in one room 424, teachers and 3,614 scholars. With the branch schools the total membership is 434 teachers and 4,792 scholars.

The Board of Trade inquiry into the loss of the American ship Harvest Queen, Capt. Janssen, off Waterford, Ireland, on the 31st of January, which has been proceeding several days at London came to an end Feb. 9. The Board find that the White Star steamship Adriatic sunk her, and that the captain of the steamer should have reported the matter to the British Consul on his arrival at New York, and left the bows of the Adriatic untouched until they had been inspected by the Consul. Saving this, the Captain is acquitted of blame and his certificate restored to him. The first and third officers are censured for withholding the information.

The English Government has sent to its diplomatic representatives abroad an exhaustive confidential memorandum upon the condition of Cuba. The circular describes the causes of the insurrection, the character of its leaders, and the reforms which will be introduced when it is terminated. The purpose of these reforms will be to assimilate the Government of the colonies to that of Spain by establishing common liberties and representation of the colonies in the Cortes.

An eminent English chemist, Dr. Bathurst Woodman, calls attention to the fact that ginger beer, though usually considered a very innocent drink, contains a percentage of alcohol about half as large as that found in the malt liquors in common use among the middle class of society in England, and equal to that in many of the cheaper ales made in that country, and the beer drank in Germany and other parts of the Continent.

The London World describes a new device for burying the dead, as follows:—You are placed in a glass box, to the top of which is affixed a metal rod. As soon as the earth is filled in a battery is connected with the rod, and an electric shock shatters the coffin into a thousand pieces, thus allowing the earth to press upon the dear departed and allowing him to return to dust even quicker than in one of Mr. Seymour Haden's wicker baskets.

Twelve hundred candidates for the Chamber of Deputies, at Paris, are already in the field, and 500 more are expected.

The Morning Hour (London) says that Sir Henry Peek, at the annual meeting of the Sutton Conservative Association, on the evening of Feb. 2d announced that her Royal Highness the Princess Beatrice, the youngest daughter of Queen Victoria, is engaged to Prince Louis of Battenburg, now in India with the Prince of Wales, and that Parliament at the coming session will be asked to grant a dowry.

A despatch of Feb. 4th from Vienna to the Standard (London) says there was fighting Feb. 2d on the Croatian and Bosnian frontier. The Turks pursued them and attacked the Croatian village of Topola. At last accounts the fighting continued. The Austrian authorities have arrested and disarmed the insurgent leader Hubmayer and forty of his men.

Great preparations are making at Naples for the carnival, which will last from the 20th to the 28th of Februrary—the first since the overthrow of the Bourbons. One hundred thousand francs have been subscribed, and the names of the members of the leading families and nobility, are on the Committee of Arrangements. Seats on the platforms in the Place du Plebiscite are held at 150 francs for the week. Windows in the Via Roma bring from four to twelve hundred francs. It is believed that the Chief of Police will prohibit the masked ball at the San Carlo Theater on account of the danger to the theater and the adjacent palace from fire.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Lyndonville, Caledonia Co., Vt., Feb. 4.—Weather fair and moderate. The winter thus far has been unusually mild. Snow storms have been quite frequent; but every storm of late has terminated with rain, so that the depth of snow is quite light—scarcely a foot on the average. A very few cold nights during the past two months; but much of the time has been really spring-like—more like April than mid-winter in Northern Vermont. The hay crop the past season was very good, and if the present favorable weather continues more or less hay will be summered over. Farm stock is looking well. Hay and grain plentiful. Hay, $12 per ton; oats, 50c. per bushel; Corn, 80c.—I. W. S.

Fulton Station, Fulton Co., Ky., Feb. 7.—We are having a great deal of rainy weather in this section. Six inches of snow fell on the 3d inst. On the 4th the thermometer was at zero for six hours, the lowest point by ten degrees this winter. Up to that time the weather had been unusually mild. Farmers are hurrying off their tobacco, it being in good demand at 6 to 11c. Plenty of feed in the country, consequently stock looks well.—F. P. H.

Clark, Mercer Co., Pa., Feb. 10.—This has so far been a very mild winter in this section. I saw dandelions out on the 2d of January. Business improving. Wheat, $1.40@1.50; corn, 35@40c.; oats, 40c. Hay and feed of all kinds low. Horses low and dull sales. Cattle, good, sell at 4@6c. ₰ lb. Cows will be a good price in the spring. Every one for the Centennial. S. C. R.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Feb. 12, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	58,241	Rice, bbls	1,153
Whisky	2,329	Cut meats, pkgs	13,707
Corn meal, bbls	497	Lard, pkgs	8,619
Corn meal, bags	4,995	Tar, bbls	791
Wheat, bush	117,310	Tobacco, hhds	1,185
Corn, bush	158,085	do. cases	3,450
Oats, bush	111,957	Butter, pkgs	17,207
Rye, bush	6,574	Cheese, bxs	10,868
Malt, bush	11,165	Cotton, bales	18,823
Barley, bush	49,500	Rosin	5,761
Beans, bbls	2,799	Spts. turp., bbls	805
Grass seed, bags	6,058	Dried Fruits, pkgs	319
Ashes, pkgs	132	Eggs, bbls	8,551
Beef, pkgs	1,523	Peanuts, bags	1,290
Peas, bush	7,840	Dressed Hogs	2,293
Wool, bales	2,495	Oil Cake, pkgs	2,273
Hops, bales	3,798	Leather, sides	86,402
Pork, bbls	4,685		

BEANS AND PEAS.—Medium beans remain in the flat condition that has characterized them for so many weeks. Pea beans have not renewed any of the Eastern demand that has heretofore made them a specialty. Marrows have sold well for export, but the wholesale orders are about filled. The late free sales have left prices higher. Kidneys are dull for both red and white. With lighter supplies of Canadian, peas are firmer as receipts are lighter, and the outgo has been unusually heavy this season. Lima beans do not sell. Green peas are higher for prime.

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.40@1.45; other, 1.20@1.30; medium, new, $1.35@1.40, fair to good, $1.15@1.30; very poor, 50@90c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.75@1.81; other, $1.45@1.65 white kidney, prime, $1.75@1.85; fair to good, $1.50@1.70; red kidney, new, prime, $1.50@1.60; fair to good, $1.30@1.45; California Lima, choice, $3.50@4.00. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new duty paid, $1.25@1.27; bulk, in bond, $1.03@1.05; green new, ₱ bush., $1.55@1.65; Southern B. E., ₱ 2 bush. bag, $3.10@3.15.

Exports of beans since Jan. 1st, 5,173 bbls.; of peas, 114,325 bush.

BEESWAX.—Exports since Jan. 1, 16,435 lbs.; same time last year, 1,915 do.; for the week, 1,501 lbs. Export and bleaching demand good. Sales are at 32@32½c. for pure Western, and 32½@33c. for Southern.

BROOM CORN.—Market quiet. Prime sells well. We quote Brush, short green, 10@11c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@7c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—A long steady demand for fine State during the fall, together with the steady drain of more than two winter months, leaves us apparently short of choice stock. There may yet be many prime dairies to come forward, but it is improbable that after the large use of the fancy end of the crop, extra lines can be liberally replaced. During the past week top qualities have been so limited in supply that daily competition to secure them among high priced grocers has run prices up to 31c. and in some cases higher. This of course, if only for the time being, promotes next table grades and to some degree sends a chord of firmness through all useful lines. Latterly receipts of State are larger and a few days may change the firm condition. Western is considerably benefited by the strong feeling in State, and supplies have run out well at 20@24c. and with 25@26c. paid for nice grocery parcels. Rolls thus far have felt the new improvement. We clip the following comparisons from the Producer's Price Current:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, lb.
June 1, '75, to Feb. 1, '76	625,987	28,136
June 1, '74, to Feb. 1, '75	734,235	39,757
June 1, '73, to Feb. 1, '74	760,463	25,623
June 1, '72, to Feb. 1, '73	583,412	39,215
June 1, '71, to Feb. 1, '72	536,780	57,751
June 1, '70, to Feb. 1, '71	402,657	11,011

State dairies entire, extra, 31@33c.; entire, good to prime, 28@30c.; fair to good, 25@27c; firkins, selected fresh, 31@32c.; good to prime, 28@29c., fair to good, 24@25c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 33@34c.; good to prime, 31@33c.; fair to good, 27@30c.; poor to fair, 24@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@31c.; dairies, 27@28c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; poor to fair, 22@23c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 166@24c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 26@27c.; good to prime, 24@26c.; tubs selected fresh, 26@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 23@25c.; fair to good, fresh, 21@23c.; poor to fair, fresh, 20@21c.; Western, early packed, selected, 21@22c.; Western, early packed, other, 16@20c. Roll butter, good to prime, 19@21c.; fair to good, 16@18c., common, 14c.

CHEESE.—There is a fair inquiry from shippers and home trade; market strong; stocks not oppressive. New State factory, fancy, 13¾@13¾c.; fine, 12¾c.; do. good to prime, 11¾@12¼c.; fair to good, 10@11¾c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12¾c.; good to prime, 10½@11¾c.; fair to good, 9¾@10½c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12¾@12¾c.; good to prime, 11@13c., flat fine, 12¾@13c; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@11c.; poor to fair, 6@8c; pineapple, 16@18c. English dairy, Connecticut, 13@13½c., do. State, 16@18c.

Since our last the Marshfield factory of 3,000 September sold at 13¾c. for export. A strong competition added somewhat to the price, still there is now no heavy abundance of extra either here or in the interior, and the market is tending higher.

The Producers' Price Current gives the following comparative receipts and exports from June 1st:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, lb.
June 1, '75, to February 1, '76	2,177,367	82,261,854
June 1, '74, to February 1, '75	1,827,405	83,378,143
June 1, '73, to February 1, '74	1,513,638	80,574,206
June 1, '72, to February 1, '73	1,678,847	66,242,768
June 1, '71, to Fepruary 1, '72	1,358,870	61,212,588
June 1, '70, to February 1, '71	1,349,918	55,253,336

COTTON.—Has been moving off slowly with quotations weak. The closing prices are: for Febenary, 12 29-32@12 15-16c.; March, 13 3-32@13¼c.; April, 13 11-32@13¾c.; May, 13 19-32c.; June, 13 25-32@13 15-16c.; July, 13 31-32@14c.; August, 11 1-16@11 3-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.		*Ala.*		*Orleans.*		*Texas*	
Ordinary	9	7-16	9	7-16	9	7-16	9	7-16
Strict ordinary	10	5-16	10	5-16	10	5-16	10	5-16
Good ordinary	10	15-16	10	15-16	11	1-16	11	1-16
Strict good do	11	11-16	11	11-16	11	13-16	11	13-15
Low middling	12	3-16	12	5-16	12	7-16	12	7-16
Strict low middling	12	11-16	12	13-16	13	15-16	12	15-16
Middling	12	15-16	13	1-16		13¾		13¾
Good middling	13	7-16	13	9-16	13	11-16	13	11-16
Strict good middling	13	13-16	13	15-16	14	1-16	14	1-16
Middling fair	14	3-16	14	5-16	14	7-16	14	7-16
Fair	15	1-16	15	3-16	15	5-16	15	5-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	9	11-16	Low middling 11 5-16
Strict ordinary	10	13-16	Middling 12 1-16

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are less freely dealt in, but stocks are considered moderate and prices are held firmly. Peaches are dull. Blackberries are in light supply and firmly held.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; quarters, 9½@9¾c.; Western quarters, 9c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 10¾c. for prime, and fancy 12c.; Tennessee qrs., 8¾@8¾c. Blackberries, new, 12 @ c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 13c. for halves, and 10½@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27@28c. Cherries, 22@23c. Peaches, evaporated halves, 12@13c.; quarters, 10½@11c.

EGGS.—Receipts are lighter; still they are heavy for the season. Prices have declined more or less every day, and all holders are anxious sellers at the low quotations.

We quote near points, 20c.; State and Pennsylvania, 19c; Canadian, choice, 19c.; Western, do., 19c.; other Western, 18@19c.; Southern, 18c.; Limed, 15c., full loss off.

FLOUR.—Exporters are purchasing moderately, while the home trade is light, but with the higher figures for wheat the market is well sustained.

Superfine State, $4.30@4.35; extra do., $5.00@5.80; superfine Western, $4.30@4.65; extra do., $5.00@6.00; No. 2, $3.25@4.25 extra round-hoop Ohio, $5.00@5.35; trade brands do., $5.40@7.75; white wheat extras, $6.05@7.00; St. Louis, $5.30@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@6.50; Southern at $4.15@4.10 for superfine; $4.80@8.25 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.30@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye, $4@5.05.

CORN MEAL.—Western yellow quoted at $2.85@3.25; do. white, $2.75@3.25; Jersey and Penn., $2.90@3.25.

FRESH FRUITS.—Apples are not selling much above retail wants. Red fruit fairly firm; greening nice, when faultless. Russets not showing. A few fine Catawba grapes for the season quoted at 8@9c. Florida oranges are in better order and bring high prices. Cranberries were firm and not likely to recede. Peanuts are easy. Prime pecans in good demand. We quote:

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, $3@3.50; mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; other $1.50@2. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $3.50@3.75; good to prime, $2.25@3.50; made bbls., $11@12.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.01@1.05; do. Wilmington, $1.75@1.80; do. Tennessee, 75@90c.; Hickory nuts, $1@1.25. Black walnuts, 50c. Pecans, 12@15c.

FURS AND SKINS.—There is no motion in stock, and prices are nominal. The receipts are light and not heavy this season. The coming March sale abroad will conclude all that will bear importantly upon settled prices for stock.

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00	to	15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00	to	10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50	to	3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50	to	2 50
Badger	20	to	50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50	to	60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40	to	50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00	to	12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00	to	8 00
Fox, silver	15 00	to	50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00	to	5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50	to	1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25	to	1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75	to	1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75	to	1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40	to	60
Fox, Kitt	30	to	50
Lynx	1 00	to	2 00
Marten, Stones	1 50	to	2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00	to	4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00	to	3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00	to	1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75	to	1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50	to	75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	25	to	27
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	22	to	25
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12	to	20
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00	to	12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	6 00	to	10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00	to	5 00
Opossum, North, cased	18	to	20
Opossum, South and open North	12	to	15
Racoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indian handled, dark	80	to	1 00
Racoon, Ill., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50	to	65
Racoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn	65	to	75
Racoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40	to	50
Racoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15	to	40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00	to	3 00
Sheep skins, summer and fall	50	to	1 00
Sheep skins, winter	1 50	to	2 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	—	to	1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	—	to	1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50	to	80
Skunks whole streaked	15	to	20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00	to	3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75	to	1 25

FEATHERS.—The market is easy at 50@57c. for prime live geese. Western 30@45c. for mixed. Hen and Turkey feathers not wanted.

GINSENG.—Southern $1.25@1.30. Western, $1.20@1.25.

GRAIN.—For wheat the markets abroad are strong, and prices here are in sympathy, with a larger export trade; latest sales are at $1.26 for prime No. 2 Milwaukee spring; $1.14@1.15 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring; $1.12@1.13 for ungraded Milwaukee spring, afloat; $1.34¾@1.36 for No. 1 spring; $1 10@1.11 for No. 3 Chicago spring; $1.06@1.07 for rejected spring; $1.04 for inferior spring; $1.31 for white Canada in bond; $1.23 for No. 3 New York winter, and $1.47 for amber Pennsylvania; $1.21@1.47 for winter red and amber; $1.33@1.35 for white and $1.44@1.40 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 90@92½c. for State, and 86@88c. for Western. Barley at $1 for four-rowed and 83c. for two-rowed State. Barley malt at $1.15@1.45 for Canada; 90c.@$1.10 for two-rowed State; $1.10@1.25 for four-rowed State. Corn is higher and fairly active. Sales at 64¾@64¾c. for new mixed Western; 64¾@65c. for new yellow Western; 65c. for new yellow Southern. Oats have a moderate jobbing demand. Sales, at 48@50c. for prime mixed Western.

HAY AND STRAW.—Offerings are larger and prices are easier, with a demand chiefly for prime qualities. Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, $1.00@1.10; clover, 65@75c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 80@85c. for short rye; 75@80c. for oat.

Exports of hay since Jan. 1st, 1,372 bales; same time last year, 3,642.

HONEY unchanged.

Exporters are operating liberally, and the local business is fair with prices on choice stock strong.

New York State, 12@17c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins, 10@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 17@20c.

MILK.—The farmers' price for Jan. ranged at 3¾@4½c. per quart. Prices at the platforms during the week ranged at $1.75@2.75, closing weak.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry is not abundant, but buyers do not make regular daily visits, and prices are consequently kept tame.

Turkeys, N. J., choice, 17@18c.; do. other, 14@16c.; State, prime, 16@18c.; do. other, 14@15c.; Western, prime, 15@16c.; other, 10@13c. Chickens, N. J., prime, 17@18c.; other, 13@15c. State, prime, 14@16c.; State, 13@14c.; Western, prime, 14@15c.; do. other, 10@12c. Fowls, choice, 14@15c. Ducks, N. J., 10@12c.; State and Western, 17@18c.; Geese, Western, 10@20c. Capons, 22c.; slips, 23@25c.; Philadelphia chicks, 19@20c.; turkeys, 16@20c.

Live poultry is in fair demand; geese doing better. Turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 15c.; do. Western, 12@15c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2.50@3; do. Western, $1.50@1.75; ducks, Western, ₱ lb., 65@75c.; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1@1.25; fowls and chickens, State and Jersey, ₱ lb., 13@14c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; roosters, 8@10c.

Game is easier; the late high prices restricted sales. Stock reduced to few items. A few Kansas wild pigeons have been quoted at $2.25 ₱ doz.

Quail, trapped, prime, ₱ doz., $3.25@3.50; soft, $1.00@2.00. Grouse, prime, ₱ pair, $1.12@1.25; drawn, 90@1.00. Partridges, choice, ₱ pair, $1.20@1.25; Hares, ₱ pair, 20@30c. Rabbits, ₱ pair, 30@35c. Ducks, canvas back, ₱ pair, $1.50@2.50; redhead, $1.25@1.50; common, 50@75c.

PROVISIONS.—Mess pork is higher, with an active inquiry. Bacon and lard have increased shipping demand, with the market more favorable to the selling interest. Pork quoted $21.75@22 for spot lots; $21.85@21.95 for Feb.; $21.90@22 for March; $22 for April; $22.15@22.15 for May. Dressed hogs at 9¾@9¾c. for Western long clear; 11¾@12c. for city do. Lard at 12-95@13c. for cash lots; 13c. for Feb.; 13-07½c. for March; 13-25c for April; 13-37½c. for May; 13-50c. for June. Stearine at 14½c. for Western. Tallow at 95-16 for prime. Beef hams at $22@22.50 for Southern and $24@25 for Western. Beef—New extra mess, $12@12.50; do. plain mess, $11@11.50; do. tierced at $23 for prime mess, and $25 for india mess. City extra India mess, $31.50@32.50 Old extra mess, $11.50, and $10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.50@16.

SEED.—Clover is lower with larger supplies. Western quoted 13¾@14c. for fair to prime.

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes since Jan. 1st 26,674 bbls., same time last year, 15,232. The market for all classes of vegetables is quiet. Potatoes are threatened a loss. Some samples of Bermuda produce have arrived thus early. Potatoes quoted at $7@8 per bbl. and Tomatoes $3 per 8 quart box.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.50@1.75; Prince Alberts, $1.00@1.25; Peerless, 65c.@$1.00. Sweet potatoes, $2.25@3.50. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $3@5; red, $6@10. Cauliflower, bbl., $2@5. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 50@75c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@3.00. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Baltimore spinach, ₱ bbl., $1.50@2.

TOBACCO.—Seed leaf has been taken freely by exporters, the demand largely for the old crop, which has brought full prices. Western leaf has a slow sale.

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7	7½@ 8¾
Good lugs	7¾@ 8	8¾@ 9
Low leaf	8½@10	9¾@10¾
Medium leaf	10¾@11	10¾@12
Good leaf	12½@13	12¾@13¾
Fine leaf	13¾@15	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	17 @22

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @15
Fillers, selections	6 @ 8
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 9
Pennsylvania assorted lots	15 @25
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6½@ 8
Wisconsin	8½@ 9

WOOL.—There has been a very light trade from manufacturers, who are indisposed to buy beyond pressing requirements, but with the moderate stocks in consideration, prices are held firmly.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—			
Picklock	50	@	54
XX		@	48
X	47	@	48
No. 1	49	@	52
No. 2	43	@	46
Coarse	40	@	42
Combing	58	@	65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—			
XX	44	@	46
X	43	@	45
No. 1	46	@	48
No. 2	42	@	44
Coarse	40	@	42
Combing	56	@	60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—			
XX	45	@	47
X	43	@	45
No. 1	44	@	45
No. 2	41	@	43
Coarse	40	@	43
Combing	55	@	62
Combing, unwashed	38	@	46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—			
XX	41	@	47
X	41	@	47
No. 1	44	@	46
No. 2	41	@	43
Coarse	40	@	43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—			
Fine unwashed	35	@	38
Medium unwashed	34	@	36
Coarse unwashed	27	@	30
Burry	17	@	23

ROCHESTER, Feb. 12.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.35@1.40; amber winter, $1.10@1.22; white winter, $1.20@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 23@25c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 18@20c. Lard, 13¾@14c. Apples, ₱ bu., 50c.@$1. Potatoes, bu., 30@35c. Beans, ₱ bu., 90c @1.25. Mess pork, $21@—. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@11. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $7.50@8.00. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1876.

THERE is a much better feeling among dairymen in regard to the future, and the market is stronger than for several weeks past. Buyers do not offer any better prices, but there is more inquiry for cheese and more eagerness to handle goods. Fine cheese is held firmly, with the expectation that 14c. will be reached, and the recent advices from abroad seem to indicate that an advance in prices will go to that figure.

"Late ends" of factories may be quoted at 11@12¾c., and fine September at 13c. Farm dairies continue to be brought forward in small parcels, but being rather inferior in quality. Sales have been made at 7@10c., according to quality. We hear of no transactions in fine factory cheese.

Winter butter sells at 13@26c. No grass make in market.

We have advices from Europe up to the latter part of January. Our London correspondent says:

Large transactions in American cheese are reported, especially in firm, clean, solid September make. The stock in fine English cheese is small. The prices are as follows:

American extra, 64@65s.; fine, 63@64s.; good, 57@60s.; common, 42@50s. English cheddar brings 80@90s.; Wiltshire double, 70@78s.; Cheshire medium, 64@66s.; fine, 76@82s.; Scotch, 70@74s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 75s. ₱ cwt.

Fine descriptions of butter are scarce, and other qualities are slow though pressed at low rates, good substitutes being preferred. The quotations are as follows:

Dorsets, 100s.; Jersey, 136s.; Friesland, 120@120s.; Swedish, 106s.; Normandy extra, 112@116s.; American and Canadian, 90@120s., ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter brings 90@120s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	2,516	33	365	7,726	000
Forty-Eighth St	00	37	12	4,762	000
Fortieth St	000	00	000	1,779	12,222
Harsimus Cove	6,785	00	000	13,231	8,841
Totals this week	9,301	70	377	27,498	21,063
" last week	9,402	121	326	25,073	17,510

BEEVES.—On last Monday forenoon trade in horned cattle opened slow, and the markets closed weak, with several carloads unsold. The herds to hand were in the aggregate coarse and inferior to the quality in demand. Prices were 7¾@13¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@14 cwt. Wednesday trade dull at 7¾@12¾c. ₱ lb; weights, 5@9¾ cwt. Thursday, sales were at 7¾@12c. ₱ lb.; weights, 4@10 cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 9@12¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5¾@9 cwt. From 53@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt. Dry cows and poor quality heifers at $37.50 ₱ head. Native steers sold at 8@12¾c. ₱ lb.; grades do. at 12¾@13¾c. Spanish cattle, in extremely light arrivals, sold at 7¾@8c. Oxen at 8@12¾c. Mixed herds, 9¾@13c. Bulls, on live weight, quality very rough, at 4@4¾c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13¾	12 @13¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	7¾@ 9¾	7¾@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@11	10 @11

MILCH COWS.—Sales moderately easy at $45@75 ₱ head for ordinary quality family cows. Extreme range of prices, $22@92 ₱ head. Five cows sold at $50@75 ₱ head; 9 do. at $45@75 ₱ head; 22 do. at $55@65 ₱ head; 3 do. at $80@92 ₱ head—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals scarce and in brisk demand at 9@11c. ₱ lb. Grass calves very slow, quality being rough and poor; sale at 4@4¾c. Quotations exclusively from New York State and Pennsylvania.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday trade opened slow with general sales effected in large lots. Sheep sold at 5¾@8c.; lambs, 7¾c. Wednesday, the same tone of trade; sheep sold at 5¾@7c.; lambs not quoted. Thursday, sales slow at 5@7¾c. Friday, the markets closed dull at 5@7c. for sheep; lambs not on sale. State ewes sold at 5c. ₱ lb.; sheep, 5@8c.; Kentucky, 5¾@8¾c.; Michigan, 5¾@5¾c.; Ohio, 6¾@7¾c.; Illinois, 5¾@7¾c.; Canada, 7¾c.; State lambs, 7¾@8c.; Canada, 8c.

HOGS.—Wednesday last, 250 Ohio hogs, five weight 193 lbs, sent ₱ head, sold at 8¾c. ₱ lb.; no other sales. City dressed firm but slow at 9¾@10¾c. General sales of hogs 240 lbs. ₱ head, 9¾c.; 150 lbs. down, ₱ head, 10¾@10¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade continues slow, the quality of the horses dealt in being generally very inferior. Twenty-nine head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $2@69 ₱ head; 41 ordinary do., $100@175; 9 roadsters with fair trotting action, $275@375 ₱ head; 2 pairs stylish carriage horses, $1,000@1,200 ₱ pair; 7 pairs course quality heavy draft horses, $300@450 ₱ pair; choice quality in demand, but not on sale. Fifteen horses arrived ₱ Erie Railroad, via Oak Cliff Station.

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Rochester complains of gas extortion.

— Fox hunting is all the rage in Indiana.

— California's wool clip will reach 50,000,000 lbs. next season.

— A Baltimorean has taken one newspaper for fifty-four years.

— The Boston and Albany Railroad have abolished free passes.

— Antwerp is preparing to celebrate the centenary birth of Rubens.

— Maryland has 1,846 public schools, which are attended by 143,003 children.

— Last season 337 car loads of potatoes were shipped from Canandaigua, N. Y.

— Governors of Illinois have pardoned eight hundred and twenty-four criminals.

— Since November last, 413 books have been added to the Poughkeepsie city library.

— The population of California increased 69,172 last year, of which 18,144 were Chinese.

— The Brooklyn police recovered property valued at $7,324.18 during the month of January.

— The United States sent $95,678 worth of printed books to England during the fiscal year of 1874-75.

— The Round Lake, N. Y., mineral water borers have reached a depth of 1,000 feet, but find no water.

— The total losses by the great Broadway fire were computed at $2,521,750, and the insurance at $2,194,200.

— A bill for a State Constitutional Convention, to be held in March, 1877, has passed the Georgia Assembly.

— They have established a regular shop in Vienna for the sale of horse flesh. The government authorizes it.

— The Trinity College Boat Club at Hartford, Conn., has resolved not to send a university crew to Saratoga this year.

— The five weeks' suspension of work in the coal mines, which was inaugurated Jan. 9, turns over to idleness 60,000 men.

— Small-pox is raging so severely at La Paz, Lower California, that the regular steamers have ceased stopping there.

— Norwich, Conn., has subsidized a man to the extent of $15,000 to enable him to open a sewing machine factory there.

— The Bristol, England, School Board has resolved to introduce cookery as a subject of instruction in female schools.

— Ice men are cutting ice while the moon shines, on the Hudson. Over 2,000,000 tons will be gathered, O. Prob. willing.

— What's in a name, again? — One Thomas Miscreant has been arrested in Corpus Christi, Tex., for horse stealing.

— Sixty female operatives in a Lynn, Mass., shoe manufactory have struck. The "Daughters of St. Crispin" sustain them.

E. A. Packer & Co., and other large commission houses of N. Y. City, have suspended, with aggregate liabilities of $800,000.

— There are eight complete Bessemer steel establishments in the United States, and three more are in progress of construction.

— The Christmas number of the London Graphic cost $40,000 before a copy was printed. The first edition consisted of 250,000 copies.

— Under the Iowa civil damage law the wives of drunkards in Sioux city have sued liquor dealers for sums amounting in all to $60,000.

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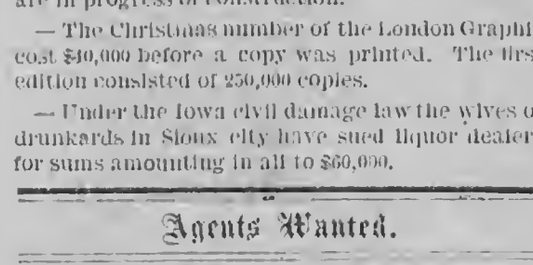

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BOOKS. PAPERS, WANT AGENTS. Send Stamp. L. L. FAIRCHILD, Rolling Prairie, Wisconsin. Any BOOK you want sent prepaid by mail or express. Send prices, publisher's name; order answered at once. Any Paper or Magazine sent on receipt of price and NAME of City where published. Thirty years' experience. I study to please. SEND A TRIAL ORDER. 15 cts. a year for Monthly Circular of all NEW books issued in United States.

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First-class small Separator—four to six horse Lever-power. Will thresh and clean twenty to thirty bushels wheat per hour.

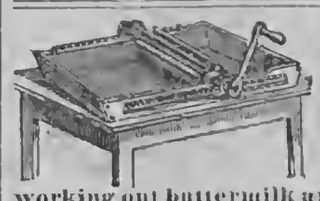
BLYMYER MF'G CO., CINCINNATI, O. Cane Mills and Evaporators, Steam Engines, Corn and Cob Crushers, Church, School and Farm Bells. Circulars sent on application.

Holbrook's "VETO" SEED DRILL & "NEW" Hand Cultivator sow and cultivate all kinds vegetables. Do work of 10 men. Best and cheapest. Price $12.50 combined.

$9.50 Boxed. $7.00 Steel Teeth.

Circulars Free. Made by E. E. LUMMUS & CO., Boston, Mass.

Dairy Utensils.



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The most Effective, Simple and Convenient yet Invented. Works 30 lbs. in less than 5 minutes, thoroughly working out buttermilk and mixing the salt. AGENTS WANTED. Send for Circular. A. H. REID, 1621 Market St., Philadelphia Pa.

MONITOR MILK PAN,

Patented June 29, 1875.

Made entirely of CAST IRON and *lined* with PORCELAIN. Milk discharge pipe does not pass through the water. The pan is easily removed from the vat. Water in vat regulated to any light. Will be *ready for sale in* JANUARY. AGENTS wanted for State of New York. Apply to LEWIS W. CENTER, General Agt., Delhi, Delaware Co., N. Y.

Miscellaneous.

20 FANCY CARDS, 7 styles, with name, 10c.; or 25 Repp or Damask Cards, with name, 20c.; or 20 Acquaintance Cards, 4 styles, no name, 10c. Outfit, 25 styles, 10c.; 20 Blank Scroll Cards, 10c. Address J. B. HUSTED, Nassau, Renss. Co., N. Y.

OPIUM and Morphine habit absolutely and speedily cured. Painless; no publicity. Send stamp for particulars. Dr. Carlton, 137 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

BUY WILLARD'S PRACTICAL BUTTER BOOK. Now Ready..... ...Price $1. Address MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER, 78 Duane St., New York.

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JUST THE IMPLEMENT **FOR**

Pulverizing your clay lumps;
Fitting your sod ground;
Working your summer fallow;
Fitting your fall-plowed land;
Exterminating noxious weeds;
Covering your grain of all kinds;
Mixing top manure with the soil.

IT WILL

Increase the yield of your crops,
Increase the value of your land,
Increase the money in your pocket,
Increase your general prosperity, and

SAVE YOU

One-fourth your time in filling your soil;
All your seed by covering it completely;
Miles of wearisome walk after the old drag;
One-half the work in after cultivation and hand work with the hoe, and

TWICE ITS COST IN ONE SEASON.

☞ Send for Circulars to THE WARRIOR MOWER CO., Little Falls, N. Y.

FOUST'S HAY LOADER, Improved for 1876, including Wind-Break Attachment. Warranted to pitch a ton of hay from the winrow in five minutes, and take it as clean as by the hand fork. Adapted to all ordinary meadow land, and to any farm wagon. Manufactured by STRATTON & CULLUM, Agricultural Works, Meadville, Pa. Send for Descriptive Circulars early.

CIDER PRESSES.

and Cider Machinery. Send for circulars. BOOMER & BOSCHERT PRESS COMPANY. Syracuse, N. Y., and 26 Beekman St., N. Y. City.

Matthews' Garden Seed Drills and **Matthews' Hand Cultivators**, are the most reliable, durable, popular and salable ever produced. Sold separate or combined. Send for Circular. Manufactured only by EVERETT & SMALL, Boston, Mass.

Allen's Planet Jr. SILVER MEDAL

Seed Drills and Wheel Hoes, *perfected for '76.* Four Sizes. They "sow like a charm," and hoe *better, easier and six to twelve times faster* than the hand hoe; often saving $100 in a season! Our NEW polished steel blade, HORSE HOE, perfected after ten years of experiment, *hoes, cultivates, plows* and *hills* admirably, and should be owned by every farmer. Circulars free, *mention this paper.* S. L. ALLEN & CO., Sole Manfrs., 1128 Fourth St. Phila., Pa. *We must have a Live Agent in every Town.*

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BRICK MACHINE.

Something new. Was awarded first premiums at Ohio, Indiana and St. Louis Fairs. Also Standard TILE MACHINES. Best in use. For Circular, address J. W. PENFIELD, Willoughby, O.

HIGGANUM M'F'G COMPANY,

Manufacturers of Agricultural Implements, Higganum, Conn.

SUGAR MAKER'S FRIEND

PRICE, $4.50 per hundred.

More Agents wanted to canvass for the sale of POST'S PATENT GALVANIZED METALLIC EUREKA SAP SPOUTS and BUCKET HANGERS. Samples, Circulars and Terms sent post-paid on rec't of 20c. C. C. POST, Man'f & Pat'e, Burlington, Vt

Real Estate.

GENESEE VALLEY FARMS FOR SALE. Some of the finest residences in the Valley, near R. R. Inquire soon of JOHN SHELDON, upon the premises, at Moscow, Livingston Co., N. Y.

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Send POSTAL CARD with address to LAND COMMISSIONER B. & M. R. R., BURLINGTON, IOWA, and receive FREE, Chart of Lands for sale in IOWA and NEB.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER is one of the readable, useful, family papers, equally in demand by the lady in her conservatory, the matron with her household, the farmer in his field, the stock raiser among his animals, and the young folks around the evening lamp.—*Laws of Life.*

PERSONAL ITEMS.

CHARLES O'CONOR is able to ride out.

ANNA DICKINSON calls her new book "A Paying Investment."

"LORD DUNDREARY" Sothern arrived in the Celtic, Feb. 7.

MRS. S. J. HALE puts in a claim of authorship to "Mary had a little lamb."

A GENTLEMAN of Philadelphia has sent Walt Whitman a present of $100.

MR. LONGFELLOW'S "Evangeline" has been translated into Portuguese.

THE 66th anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln occurred on Feb. 12.

A BUST of President Parkman has been presented to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

MRS. THOMAS, wife of the dynamite plotter, arrived in New York by the Wieland, recently.

A SISTER of Gen. Meade has received a position as copyist in the Pension Office in Washington.

HORACE GREELEY'S famous stage-driver, Hank Monk, is now old, poor and well stricken with gin.

LYDIA SHERMAN, the convicted wholesale poisoner, is said to be dying in the Connecticut State prison.

MEISSONIER was appointed President of the Academy of the Fine Arts of Paris at its recent sitting.

DR. KENEALLY, it is announced, will soon begin a series of religious services for the people in London.

J. G. WHITTIER will contribute to the April number of St. Nicholas a poem called "The Pressed Gentian."

JOSE JORDANAY MORERA, the director of Agriculture of the Spanish commission to the Centennial has arrived.

M. J. ROUSSEAU has been commissioned by the Belgian Government to prepare a history of Flemish sculpture.

MR. ROBT. BROWNING'S son, who took to painting two years ago, is said to show much progress in his chosen profession.

ADMIRAL KRABBE, Russian minister of marine, is dead. Vice-Admiral Lessowski will probably be his successor in office.

PHILIP PHILLIPS, the singing evangelist, has been holding services in Galle, Colombo, and other towns of Ceylon.

THERE is quite a sensation in Newburyport, Mass., over the marriage of James Parton, the author, to his stepdaughter.

IN order to complete his line estate at Friedrickruhe, in Lauenburg, Bismarck has bought the chateau of Reinbeck for $140,000.

F. B. CARPENTER is at present painting a full-length likeness of the late Ezra Cornell, the founder of the Cornell University.

THE Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise will be the guests of Sir Edward Thornton during their visit to the Centennial Exhibition.

MRS. D. G. CROLY, (Jenny June) President of the Sorosis, has been recently elected an honorary member of the Brooklyn Woman's Club.

J. CHAPMAN, President of the Excise Board of Long Island City, was indicted last week, as were eighty others, for selling liquor without license.

T. HUGHES, unable to visit this country during the Centennial, has been obliged to decline the post of umpire for the University regatta of 1876.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT will write the article on Yachting for the new edition of Appleton's Encyclopedia, by order of its editors, Messrs. Dana and Ripley.

A SCOTCH paper states that Dr. Keneally lately sold his wig, gown, and bands to the proprietor of a wax-works exhibition at Glasgow. He got £20 for them.

COL. GEFFROY, a well-known Boniface of Cincinnati, has been appointed "Captain of the Beefeaters" by the King of the New Orleans Mardi Gras.

A COPY of the catalogue of the library collected by the late John Carter Brown of Providence, R. I., has been received by the Bibliotheque Royale of Brussels.

DR. ANDREW A. BONAR says that as a result of the work of Moody and Sankey in Glasgow, "they can lay their hands on 7,000 converts who hold out well."

COL. SANDFORD, Director of the British Section of the Centennial Exhibition, will sail from Liverpool for this country on the 16th inst., in company with Col. Forney.

MADAME NILSSON has made an engagement to give eight concerts in Scandinavia—four in Stockholm, two in Christiana, and two in Copenhagen—during the ensuing Spring.

CONGRESSMAN WALKER'S friends say he will never run for political office in Virginia again, but will make his future home in California, where his brother has struck a bonanza.

BIERSTADT is employed upon a forest interior, a representation of gigantic trees in the Mariposa Valley, and another very large picture representing the settlement of Californian Spaniards.

PROF. BLACKIE says the subscriptions to the proposed Celtic chair for Edinburgh University now amount to $35,000, and that its projectors hope to have the chair established within two years at the outside.

THE Rev. Dr. Bushnell of Hartford, Conn., is again seriously ill with the pulmonary complaint from which he has suffered for 20 years, and his friends have hardly any hope of his recovery. He is 78 years of age.

Life Insurance.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
New York Life Insurance Company.
OFFICE: Nos. 346 and 348 BRORDWAY,
January 1, 1876.

Amount of Net Cash Assets, Jan. 1, 1875 ..... $27,145,777 51

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Premiums and annuities	$6,069,002 81	
Interest received and accrued	1,870,658 34	7,939,661 15
		$35,085,438 66

DISBURSEMENT ACCOUNT.

Losses by death	$1,524,814 83	
Dividends and returned premiums on canceled policies	2,481,696 96	
Life annuities, matured endowments and reinsurances	182,400 83	
Commissions, brokerages and agency expenses	961,918 06	
Advertising and physician's fees	87,591 26	
Taxes, office and law expenses, salaries, printing, &c	280,114 03	4,918,535 97
		$30,166,902 69

ASSETS.

Cash in Trust Company, in bank, and on hand	$1,703,291 26	
Invested in United States, New York City and other stocks (market value, $7,633,214)	7,154,191 05	
Real estate	1,320,240 53	
Bonds and mortgages (secured by real estate valued at more than double the amount loaned, buildings thereon insured for $15,717,000, and the policies assigned to the Company as additional collateral security)	17,685,597 50	
Loans on existing policies (the reserve held by the Company on these policies amounts to $4,090,586)	885,728 82	
Quarterly and semi-annual premiums on existing policies, due subsequent to Jan. 1, 1876	463,269 64	
Premiums on existing policies in course of transmission and collection (estimated reserve on these policies $320,000, included in liabilities)	105,341 54	
Agents' balances	27,111 49	
Accrued interest to Jan. 1, 1876, on investments	257,130 86	30,166,902 99
Excess of market value of securities over cost		479,052 96
Cash Assets, Jan. 1, 1876		**$30,645,955 64**

APPROPRIATED AS FOLLOWS:

Adjusted losses, due subsequent to Jan. 1, 1876	$303,165 00	
Reported losses awaiting proof, &c	141,598 66	
Reserved for reinsurance on existing policies: participating insurance at four per cent. Carlisle net premium; non-participating at five per cent. Carlisle net premium	27,390,396 44	
Reserved for contingent liability in Tontine Dividend Fund over and above a four per cent. reserve on existing policies of that class	308 138 51	28,146,298 91
Divisible Surplus		**$2,499,656 73**

From the undivided surplus of $2,499,656 73 the Board of Trustees has declared a Reversionary Dividend, available on settlement of next annual premium to participating policies proportionate to their contributions to surplus. The cash value of such reversion may be used in settlement if the policyholders so elect.

During the year, 7,029 Policies have been issued, insuring $21,964,190.

TRUSTEES.

MORRIS FRANKLIN, DAVID DOWS, ISAAC C. KENDALL, DANIEL S. MILLER, JOHN MAIRS, WM. H. APPLETON, ROBERT B. COLLINS, WILLIAM BARTON, LOOMIS L. WHITE, WILLIAM A. BOOTH, H. B. CLAFLIN, J. F. SEYMOUR, C. R. BOGERT, M. D., GEORGE A. OSGOOD, HENRY BOWERS, SANDFORD COBB, EDWIN MARTIN, JOHN M. FURMAN,

WILLIAM H. BEERS.

MORRIS FRANKLIN, President.
WILLIAM H. BEERS, Vice-President and Actuary.

THEODORE M. BANTA, Cashier.
D. O'DELL, Superintendent of Agencies.
CORNELIUS R. BOGERT, M. D., } Medical Examiners.
GEORGE WILKES, M. D., }
CHARLES WRIGHT, M. D., Assistant Medical Examiner.

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The Sorgo Hand-Book, containing valuable information on the culture of Cane and making Syrup, and description of the celebrated Cook Evaporator and Victor Cane Mills, sent free.

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CINCINNATI, O.

500,000 GRAPE-VINES.

Cheaper than anywhere else. Concord—1 year, $25 per 1,000; extra, $40; 2 years, and extra select 1 year, $45 per 1,000. No one dare undersell me. Delaware, Martha, Iona, Diana, Eumelan, Norton, Herbemont, Catawba, Croton, Hartford, and all other varieties, cheaper than anywhere. Also all small fruit plants. Address Dr. H. SCHROEDER, Bloomington, Ill.

POTATO GROWERS.

Try the VICTOR POTATO. Sent post-paid, 1 lb., 50 cts. Send for Descriptive Circulars, testimonials and special rates per bush. and bbl. Six bushels dug from *one rod*, or 960 bushels per acre.
Address A. C. ASHALD, Garrettsville, Ohio.

STAR OF THE WEST.—The best Strawberry. 100 acres in Small Fruits. Colossal Asparagus Seed. Millions of Trees and Plants at **Pomona Nursery.** Send for Circular. WM. PARRY, Cinnaminson, N. J.

TREES, SHRUBS, &c.

At wholesale to you, read r. For terms, Send Postal Card to C. H. DANN, Warsaw, N. Y.

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My New Priced Lists are ready, and mailed free. They contain the most desirable kinds of

VEGETABLE, FIELD
AND
FLOWER SEEDS,
including all the important novelties of 1875.

ALFRED BRIDGEMAN,
876 Broadway, New York.

Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

1876 DREER'S GARDEN CALENDAR, 1876

Contains descriptive and price list of Vegetable, Flower and Grass Seeds, Plants, Bulbs, Novelties, and every GARDEN REQUISITE. Beautifully illustrated. Send two 3 ct. stamps for postage.
HENRY A. DREER, 714 Chestnut St., Philad'a.

THE DUNCAN STRAWBERRY Sells higher, carries better, keeps longer, and *produces* to supersede the Wilson. Every reader of this paper should try it. For sale by E. & J. C. WILLIAMS, Montclair, N. J.

CHENOA NURSERIES.

APPLE and other FRUIT TREES, GRAPE VINES, HEDGE PLANTS, ORNAMENTAL PLANTS, GREENHOUSE and BEDDING PLANTS for sale. Stock SOUND and HEALTHY. PRICES low. Great Inducements to Granges, Clubs and Dealers for CASH. Spring Price-List now ready. Free to all applicants.
Address SCOTT & MAXWELL, Chenoa, Ill.

BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATED BOOK FREE OF CHOICE FRESH SEEDS.

Warranted best in the world. Lowest prices. Send for free book. H. H. SHUMWAY, Rockford, Ill.

MAILED FREE
FLORAL GUIDE

Contains over **1,200** varieties **Vegetable** and **Flower** Seeds, **COLORED PLATES.** Elegant wood-cuts of vegetables and flowers. **Handsomest Guide Published!** Send for it.
DETROIT SEED CO., Detroit, Mich.

NORWAY SPRUCE—

3 to 4 ft., 1st class,	per 10, $3.	per 100, $15
4 to 5 ft.,	" " 10, $3.50.	" 100, $30
White Spruce, 2½ to 3 ft.,	" " 10, $3.50.	" 100, $30
Balsam Fir, 2 to 2½ ft.,	" " 10, $3.00.	" 100, $25
Europ. Larch, 4 to 5 ft.,	" " 10, $2.00.	" 100, $15

J. S. BOYNTON, Stryker, Wms. Co., Ohio.

PEACH TREES.

The largest stock in the country. Other stock in full supply. Earliest and promptest shipments. Prices low. HEIKES NURSERIES CO., Dayton, O.

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FREE ON APPLICATION.
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	oz.	¼lb.	lb.
Wethersfield Large Red	20c.	50c.	$2.00
Early Red or Globe	20	65	2.50
Extra Early Red, very early and fine	25	88	3.50
Yellow Globe Danvers, extra stock	25	65	2.50
White Portugal, or Silver-Skin	25	88	3.50
New Queen, small early white (impot'd)	50	$1.50	6.00

Address R. D. HAWLEY, Seedsman, 492 and 498 Main St., Hartford, Conn.

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Prof. ASA GRAY of Harvard.

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Wit and Humor.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

THE popular key—San-key.

A "MAIDEN speech"—"Ask papa."

WHAT age is most deceiving?—Sausage.

THE best way to keep a secret is to forget it.

OFFERINGS of the season—Twenty cents on the dollar.

THE most successful kind of mettle these days appears to be brass.

NEW BEDFORD is said to have but one whaler left—a schoolmaster.

FOOLS don't know their strength; if they did, they would keep still.

CAN ladies with enameled faces be said to belong to polished society?

WHEN a dying man makes codicils to his will he is allowed to put on heirs.

"JOTTINGS by the weighside"—Figures made on a coal-cart by the scale-keeper.

WE know all about shooting stars, but often forget that the earth is a revolver.

"NIGHT threw her mantle o'er the world and pinned it with a star." Tasty wasn't she?

"YOU'LL build the fires or I'll be a widow," is the way the Fat Contributor's wife talks.

AN enterprising man in Philadelphia displays the following sign—"Fresh home-made pies and milk."

WHY is a married man like a candle?—Because he sometimes goes out at night when he ought not to.

A "RECEIPT" to get married, was what a young man applied for to the clerk of a court in a North Pacific town.

AN old maid in Reading married a tramp because, as she said, he smells just like an Italian count whom she met and loved.

IMPERTINENT PEOPLE—Barbers and dentists; the one takes you by the nose, while the other puts his fingers in your mouth.

NEARLY everybody knows that nearly everybody lies, and yet nearly everybody says: "What everybody says must be so."

"Is the Colonel here?" shouted a man sticking his head into a Kansas City street car. "He is," answered thirteen men, as they rose up.

"PATRICK," said an old gentleman to his servant, "we are all creatures of fate." "Well, if it wasn't for *fate*, how could we walk, sure?"

A KENTUCKY judge has decided that it is not legal for a farmer to hitch his wife up with a mule, no matter how anxious he is to plow.

"YES, I want my daughter to study rethoric," replied a Vermont mother, "for she can't fry pancakes now without smoking the house all up."

SPINNER, who is in Florida, writes his signature on the sands of a bayou, and the alligators come up to look at it and immediately get the jim-jams.

"How one thing brings up another," said a lady, absorbed in pleasing retrospection. "Yes," replied the practical Dibbs; "an emetic for instance."

> OH, let the poor woman's clothes alone;
> They're none of your concern;
> She never makes no fun of your'n,
> Then, why poke fun at her'n?

"Is it possible, miss, that you do not know the name of your best friends?" "Certainly; I do not even know what my own name may be in a year from this time."

THE young French ladies do not, in skating time, exchange a word with their partners. When they fall, however, they are permittted to mention the French for "ouch" in the presence of a gentleman.

NEURALGIA is the charming name of a charming girl in Florida. Her mother found it on a medicine bottle and was captivated with its sweetness. Some young man is certainly doomed to suffer neuralgia of the heart.

A MAN in New Hampshire had the misfortune recently to lose his wife. Over the grave he caused a stone to be placed, on which in the depth of his grief, he had ordered to be inscribed: "Tears cannot restore her—therefore I weep."

A LIQUOR dealer in Rochester placed a bust of Franklin above his counter. When asked why he did so, he replied that Franklin had drawn lightning from the clouds and he had a fellow-feeling for him, as he was constantly drawing lightning from barrels.

A CERTAIN parson, who was also a shool-teacher, handed a problem to his class in mathematics. The first boy took it, looked at it for a while, and said, "I pass." Second boy took it, and said, "I turn it down." The third boy stared at it awhile, and drawled out. "I can't make it." "Very good, boys," said the parson, "we will proceed to cut for a new deal;" and the switch danced like lightning over the shoulders of those depraved young mathematicians.

SHIFTED TILES.

ONLY fancy, if Hats had been worn at different periods, the effects would have been peculiar, wouldn't they?

Champion Milk Pan

AND COOLER.

Over Fifteen Hundred in Actual Use.

Patented March 30th, 1872, and July 27, 1875. This Pan took the First Premium at the New York State Fair, at Elmira, Sept., 1875. Descriptive Circular and Price List sent free on application to

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Randolph, Catt. Co., N. Y.

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J. B. ROOT, Seed Grower,
Rockford, Ill.

WILLARD'S PRACTICAL Butter Book

ONLY COSTS $1,

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Floricultural.

A NEW HARDY SHRUB—XANTHOCERAS SORBIFOLIA.

THE London Garden, a weekly magazine of horticulture of the highest merit, gives with every issue of the new year a beautiful colored plate of some new or rare flower or fruit likely to prove of permanent value to our gardens. It deems *Xanthoceras sorbifolia*, reproduced in our engraving, as the most important introduction made during the last few years in the way of hardy shrubs.

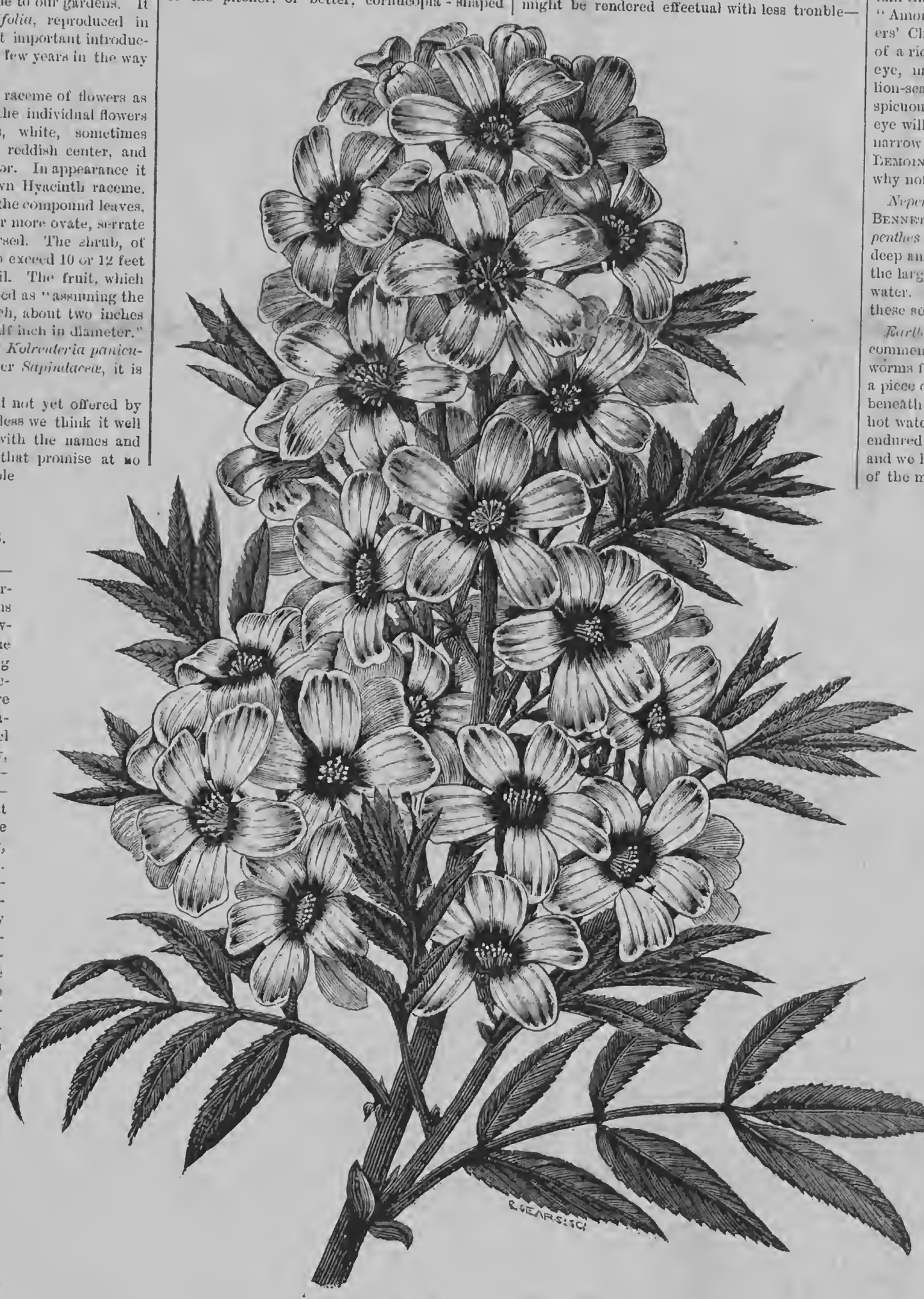
The plate represents the raceme of flowers as about eight inches long—the individual flowers consisting of five petals, white, sometimes slightly rose-tinted, with a reddish center, and an inch or more in diameter. In appearance it reminds one of a well-grown Hyacinth raceme, except that here and there the compound leaves, consisting of half a dozen or more ovate, serrate leaflets, are freely interspersed. The shrub, of a bushy habit, is said not to exceed 10 or 12 feet in hight, blooming in April. The fruit, which very rarely forms, is described as "assuming the shape of an elongated peach, about two inches in length and one and a half inch in diameter." The seeds resemble those of *Koelreuteria paniculata*, near which, in the order *Sapindaceæ*, it is placed.

This plant is still rare and not yet offered by our nurserymen. Nevertheless we think it well to familiarize our readers with the names and characteristics of novelties that promise at no distant day to become valuable to us.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

Variegated Pelargoniums.—Several accounts have appeared, of late, of Pelargoniums giving different colored flowers from different parts of the stem. In our own seedling cultivation this has never occurred—but it seems no more remarkable than that the calyces and pedicels of an umbel should be divided vertically, half being silver variegated—the other half plain green;—no more remarkable than that a single plant should produce three distinct shoots, namely, bronze, tricolor and green. The first of these we have observed repeatedly, and the latter twice. We have already referred to our seedling Pelargonium that, if cut perpendicularly through the middle of the main stem, would have left one-half wholly silver variegated, the other plain zonale. The first umbel of this plant growing from the apex of the main stem was marked as we have stated, half silver—half green. But the corollas revealed no difference of color. PETER GRIEVE mentions an instance in which a seedling developed three distinct varieties, viz., "Emperor" and "Empress of the French," and "Rainbow"—and such variations are by no means uncommon in variegated seedling Pelargonium cultivation.

Seedling Smilax.—In a late visit to Mr. GAMEWELL's nursery at Hackensack, N. J., we were shown seedling *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides* which, if not an improvement upon its parent, is at least quite different. The leaves are nearly twice as long, more lanceolate, more acuminate. We need hardly hope for any notable improvement upon this already perfect little vine. In his goodly collection of *Sarracenias* we saw numbers of sow-bugs (*porcellio*) that had either been drowned or poisoned by the "insidious nectar" of the pitcher, or better, cornucopia-shaped leaves. Several were partly—two half, filled with those animals, emitting a putrid odor from their putrescent mass. Scooped-out potatoes cut in halves are used in many greenhouses as traps for the sow-bug. Preferring the potatoes to the roots of plants, they are thus collected and killed every day. We know of an Orchid-house filled chiefly with Dendrobium nobile—an especial favorite of the sow-bug, in which a half potato is always kept upon each pot. Though this plan is successful, perhaps the *Sarracenia* might be rendered effectual with less trouble—though it must have plenty shade and moisture.



NEW SHRUB—XANTHOCERAS SORBIFOLIA.

Pelargoniums of the Future.—Mr. V. LAMOINE says in the Revue Horticole:—"For 1876 surprises await us, and there exist, ready to be distributed, plants with colossal umbels in tints of lilac, rose, rose-purple, rose-violet, lake (yes! true lake), purple, etc. The *debut* has been deferred;—now we advance, *a pas de geant*, and perfection will quickly be attained. Pale violet and yellow tints are still wanting. Shall we obtain these? Who can tell? After all, why not?" "Among the newer Pelargoniums," the Gardeners' Chronicle says, "is a most distinct variety of a rich salmon-yellow color and striking white eye, named *Jealousy*;—and *Dazzler*, a vermillion-scarlet, remarkable for its large and conspicuous white eye." We wonder if the white eye will ever be extended so as to leave only a narrow and distinct rim of crimson? In M. LEMOINE's words—"Who can tell? After all, why not?"

Nepenthes.—In the establishment of Mr. WM. BENNETT (Long Island) we saw pitchers of *Nepenthes* brightly mottled with purple, five inches deep and three diameter. It seemed to us that the largest one would hold an ordinary goblet of water. Very strange forms of vegetable life are these so-called Carnivorous Plants.

Earth-worms.—An invention is advertised and commented upon in England for preventing worms from entering pots. It consists simply of a piece of perforated metal placed over the holes beneath the drainage material used. We use hot water to kill earth-worms—as hot as can be endured by the hand. This kills them instantly, and we have never known it to injure the roots of the most delicate plants. The experiment is easily tried.

The Eucalyptus as an Insectifuge.—We extract the following passages, says the Illustration Horticole, from a letter received from Mr. C. BALTET of Troyes, and recommend our readers to try the experiment for themselves when the season arrives: "Lately my brother-in-law, being very much disturbed in his sleep by mosquitoes, took it into his head to place a young plant of Eucalyptus in his bedroom over night. From that moment the insects disappeared, and he slept in comfort. I have been following his example, with the same result. Should this really prove generally efficacious, our Southern provinces will be freed of one scourge. People will use young plants of Eucalyptus instead of mosquito curtains."

We commend the above to our New Jersey readers. A handful of seeds of the Eucalyptus globulus may be purchased for twenty-five cents. Planted in pots, they will germinate in two weeks, and fine young plants will have grown for next summer's use.

Mrs. P. Caldwell, Farmersville, N. J.—Cinerarias may be sown in March in light soil. Prick out when true leaves appear into small pots, and shift to larger as required.

Auriculas.—Sow in leaf-mold, loam and sand. Cover very lightly. Keep shady and moist.

C.

Industrial Topics.

HAVE FAITH IN YOUR BUSINESS.

THE Live Stock Journal thus discourses on a subject which is applicable to men in all avocations, and especially to farmers who are most apt to become discouraged over temporary failures of crops and low prices for produce:

John Johnson of Geneva, N. Y., came to this country with little more means than to plant him on his American farm. He saw the needs of his soil, and commenced draining off its surplus water, and the jeers of his neighbors at his folly, were soon turned to astonishment at the crops he produced. They saw him reap a wheat crop double the average of the State, raise cattle, and feed sheep at a profit, while others reported only loss. He proceeded, with the calm confidence of knowledge, to tile drain his 300 acres, at an expense much greater than he paid for his farm; but for some years, in relief of his old age, he has been able to rent portions or it at $25 per acre. He had faith in his business.

There is no occupation of man that requires, for its successful prosecution, more careful study, more confidence, based upon knowledge, than agriculture. We see the want of faith in the conduct of a large class of farmers, who never seem to have hit upon the right line of business. Now they are dairying, having gone into it when dairy stock was high, costing a large sum to start, but the product having been depressed for a few months, all confidence is gone in the future of the dairy industry, and their cows are sold at a heavy loss. Next they take to sheep, but wool soon has its turn of depression, and confidence is lost in this industry, and its abandonment follows. Hops now becomes their hobby. Fifty cents per pound is quite too alluring; but when their crop comes, a season of plenty has returned and down goes the price to ten cents. Woe meets them here—they turn in disgust from their thrifty vines, and seek their neighbors to whom they sold their cows. And now begins the dairying again—this business of battledoor and shuttlecock, "everything by turns and nothing long." These are the farmers who talk loudest that farming does not pay. They do not give it time to pay in any one direction. They are to be pitied. They have no faith in anything—they float with the current.

How strange that they should not see that every great agricultural industry is founded on the wants of society, and that these needs continue ever the same, the price of the product being governed entirely by demand and supply. Each branch must have its fluctuation in price, and the only true way to determine the profit is to take the average of ten years. This average will show fair prices for dairy products, for wool, for beef or mutton, for grain, for hops, for fruit, and for every product of the farm. The mole-eyed man who can only see one year's returns, and tries to govern his actions by that, will always find himself in the ebb of the tide.

AMERICAN MEAT IN ENGLAND.

THE London (Eng.) Farmer of Jan. 10, speaks in most favorable terms of the American beef sold in that market. Several processes of preserving it has been tried, but the only one which has succeeded is described as follows:

The cattle are mostly obtained from the Western States of the American Union and are slaughtered at New York. Immediately after killing, the beef is chilled by being placed in a prepared cold room, and is sent on board the vessel the next day. In the vessel, between decks, a huge room or box is fitted; in this room a fan is worked by the same steam power that propels the vessel. The ice needed for cooling purposes is placed in what we may call an outer compartment, and matters are so arranged that a constant supply of cold, dry air, at a temperature of from 30 to 40 degrees, circulates through the room, being again and again drawn off, and passed in again fresh over the ice in the outer compartment. The meat is carefully stitched in canvas, and is hung on hooks from the ceiling of the room. In ten days after being slaughtered, the meat may be expected at Liverpool, and on the next day it reaches London, being conveyed from Liverpool to London in the ordinary meat trucks. When it reaches the market it is almost, if not quite, impossible to distinguish this American meat from that which has come down from Scotland. As the room or box in which the meat is kept on the voyage here is not a fixture, the space occupied by it is available for any sort of cargo during the return voyage.

The meat which has been preserved by this process has stood every test, and not only the salesmen, but consumers—for it has been specially tried, both in the City and in the West End—speak favorably of it. Not only is it fresh, but it has that quality which good housewives know as "old-killed," which is so often wanted in our home-killed meat. It is evident that the Americans who are engaged in this new meat trade are working with as much caution as skill and energy. The meat is consigned to Mr. J. D. Link of the Central Meat market, and there is constant correspondence between him and the gentlemen at New York. They want to know what kind of meat will best suit our market, and at present it is intended to send carcases weighing from 750 to 850 lbs. Probably by the time this is in the hands of our readers the fifth cargo will be on sale in Smithfield.

AMERICAN CORN ABROAD.

THE Massachusetts Ploughman says:—If our corn had been a favorite food in Europe, or even in Great Britain, as our wheat is, it would long before this have been exported in increasing quantities annually. But of late the consumption of corn has rapidly increased in the United Kingdom, being not so much used for human food as for that of cattle and stock. The latter have been fatted hitherto on oats, barley, peas, turnips, and oil-cake; these cannot be produced so cheaply now as they have been in the past, and it wants nothing but slightly lower prices for corn to open to our immense crops of this royal cereal a market that will continue to be a marvel for generations. Stall feeding must become more and more the habit in a comparatively small country like England, and cattle must be sustained with what will pay to feed to them. Stall feeding also increases the productiveness of the land and thus increases the production of wheat.

It is therefore estimated that by lowering the price of American corn ten cents a bushel on laying it down at Liverpool, the fifty millions of bushels now annually consumed in Great Britain, of which one-half is supplied direct from the United States, will be rapidly increased until the export of this staple becomes one of the standard elements in our foreign trade. We have seen the computation that if American wheat could be delivered in Liverpool, at the average price of $1.40, which is the average price of Russian wheat in that market from 1860 to 1872, and if American corn could be delivered in the same market at the average price of 80 cents a bushel, the export trade in both these staples from this country would speedily mount up to 75,000,000 bushels annually of wheat, and 200,000,000 bushels annually of Indian corn. This would bring up our cereal exports to a level with that of cotton where they should be. What we need first is a sound currency and duties that encourage an export trade.

Field Crops.

ANOTHER NEW VARIETY OF CORN.

THE Platte City Landmark says:—"Mr. THOS. L. TURNER has this week shown us a peculiar kind of corn, called 'cow corn,' which was grown in Harrison County in this State. The ear is about four inches long and has no cob. Each grain or kernel is covered by a separate husk; while the whole ear is inclosed in the usual outer husk or shuck. The grains are exactly like any other well developed corn. It is said to be excellent for stock and many persons have obtained seed to experiment with it."

Wonders of this kind appear to have many lives or, RIP VAN WINKLE like, take long naps occasionally. We have been acquainted with the above supposed to be new variety ever since we were old enough to know anything about corn or its habit of growth. It has however been brought out under various names, such as the Rocky Mountain Wild Corn, South American, Oregon, California, Mexican and Indian Corn, and by some supposed to be the genuine "original" corn of this continent.

The cob is very small it is true, but still there is a central stem which answers the purpose of a cob, while, as stated above, each kernel is inclosed in separate husk-like envelopes, varying in length from an inch or more on the lowermost kernels on the ear, gradually becoming shorter until the upper ones scarcely cover the grain. The ears however in the specimens referred to in the above paragraph are rather short, for we have one that has been in our cabinet many years which is fully twice "four inches" and twelve-rowed. This old variety of corn is frequently cultivated as a curiosity, but is not considered worth growing for any other purpose.

Mr. TURNER'S new cow corn is just about as much of a novelty as "Hulless oats" or Tartarian Buckwheat, and no more. If the Editor of the Platte City Landmark had referred to his copy (supposing he had one) of KLIPPART'S work on "The Wheat Plant," he might have found this "new cow corn" described on page 672, with a figure of a section of an ear on the preceding page. Books are very handy sometimes for reference, if nothing more—especially when one desires to know whether a supposed to be new thing is or is not just what is claimed for it.

HOP GROWING—THE OTHER SIDE.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Your correspondent T. E. B. may mislead some in his highly-colored picture of the profits of hop growing. We must remember that all expenses of cultivating, harvesting and curing are much greater than formerly, while, from the prevalence of lice, mold and blight, the average crop is largely reduced. Five hundred lbs. per acre is now thought a fair crop, taking one year with another. Hop poles are an expensive item—so also are the drying house, stoves, kiln, pipe, cloth, hop boxes, hop sacks and the fetching and carrying of pickers often many miles distant.

The idea of one man and horse attending to six or seven acres quite easily is absurd. It could not be done properly if he could work day and night continually. Two men must work very hard to attend five acres. In fact there is an endless amount of work to be done in a hop yard; no one can tell how much until he has to do it himself.

J. E. B. says hops can be profitably grown for 8c. per lb. Here, in Otsego Co., N. Y., it costs 10c. per lb. to harvest a crop of hops. We pay 40@50c. per box for picking and $1.50 per day for box tending, and we must board the pickers in the best style or they will go somewhere else.

The cost of producing hops is not less than 15c. per lb. Again, he says a hop yard will last without replenishing from thirty to fifty years. What a pity we could not plant for the farmers here, so that we should not be troubled to plant so often. A yard may last four or six years; or the vines may be in good condition in the fall, and all be dead in the spring. From a hill near my farm you may stand in one place and count fifty hop yards. The oldest hop yard in this vicinity is twenty years old, and that has been planted over as fast as a hill died, until it is three times new.

Hop growing is a very uncertain business; sometimes very good and sometimes very poor. New beginners had better go slow until they know what they are about. H. W.

Cooperstown, N. Y.

BRITISH VARIETIES OF WHEAT.

THE Irish Farmer's Gazette gives the following particulars about the varieties of wheat now grown in England and Scotland:

The fine varieties of wheat, such as Chiddam, Talavera, or Pearl, are delicate growers, and yield least produce, although from their quality the grain of these wheats brings a high price. It is the farmer's interest to realize most money per acre, and he will better attain this by growing red wheats. Of these there are Kessingland, Hallet's, Browick's, and the Prolific Spalding, all belonging to the same class, and very large croppers; but the true Lammas red and Nursery red are by many considered preferable, the latter being a particularly saleable wheat, and by all judges considered equal to the finest white wheat for the baker.

In the best wheat-growing districts of the south of England, a mixture of Lammas and Nursery is much grown. The straws being of different lengths, the ears have more room, and give the mixture the character of Fenton wheat, which is perhaps the most prolific and profitable white variety in cultivation. We may here observe in regard to sowing mixtures of wheat, that produce of the first mixture may assume quite a different character if sown again. The two varieties may hybridize and produce a new variety in a partial state of development. If mixtures are sown, it is safer to mix varieties which have been grown separate.

Wheat growers in East Lothian usually get a change of seed wheat from England every year. The extra cost is more than balanced by thinner sowing, to say nothing of the superiority of the crop, which is invariably better after English seed, and it has this further advantage, that the crop from English seed ripens at least a week earlier, which is of importance in the case of wheat sown late in the winter months.

Before concluding these remarks, we shall notice the special characteristics of two or three of the principal varieties mentioned above. The Nursery red, as we have stated, is much grown in the south of England, and its fine baking qualities make it a favorite in France. The grain is small; the straw very tall in soil adapted for it, and likewise stiff. This wheat, from the small size of the grain, should be sown thin. Lammas red has long been a favorite variety in East Lothian. It is a tall, stiff-strawed variety, producing a large weight of straw per acre. The grain produces fine flour, much esteemed by bakers. The Fenton is a white variety of wheat, and has long held a pre-eminent position in the opinion of East Lothian wheat-growers. The peculiarity of the Fenton wheat is the great dissimilarity in the length of the straw. A sheaf of this grain is eared down to the band. The straw is very stiff, and will stand much adverse weather.

The Poultry Yard.

THE HAMBURGS AS LAYERS.

J. G. MCKEON of South Acworth, N. H., writes the Boston Cultivator that in his experience no variety of fowls equals the Hamburgs as layers. They are hardy, small eaters and wonderfully prolific; but, on account of their small size, are not recommended for their flesh. Nothing shows the breeder's skill better than a well marked Golden or Silver Spangled Hamburg in good condition. It requires much skill to breed them correct in marking, more than almost any other breed. The great objection to Leghorns is, that their combs and wattles freeze badly, unless they have very warm quarters. Of course the Asiatics will endure cold weather the best—but Hamburgs are reasonably hardy in this respect. All remember the old Bolton Grays; they were about the same as the Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, only not bred to such perfection of marking. Most farmers will tell you they never had such layers as the old Bolton Grays. It is not unusual for hens of this breed to lay 200 eggs each in a year. The eggs are rather small, pure white, and usually very fertile. The hens are good layers till they are 3 years old, while most breeds are the best the first year. Of course the Hamburgs are not the best for all purposes, but for eggs they stand at the head. They are good foragers, and somewhat inclined to ramble, but on a farm where they have room, this is no objection. Many farmers have a horror of the old "settin' hen," and do not want to raise many chickens; this breed is just the thing for such men. I think fancy runs too much now to the large breeds.

LARGE POULTRY YARD.

THE following account of the largest poultry yard in the State is given in the Fanciers' Journal:

It is at Greene, Chenango County, N. Y., and is kept by Mr. A. B. Robeson. He has 6,000 ducks, 4,000 turkeys and 1,200 hens. They consume daily sixty bushels of corn, two barrels of meal, two barrels of potatoes, and a quantity of charcoal. The meal, potatoes and charcoal are boiled together and form a pudding, which is fed warm. He has commenced to kill them off, and employs fifteen hands to pick, two to kill, and one to carry away and pack on racks until frozen, then they are ready to pack for shipping. He also employs two men to cook the feed and feed them. He has twelve buildings for his fowls, from one to two hundred feet long, fourteen feet wide, and seven feet under the eaves, with a door in each end of them.

Mr. Robeson bought most of his ducks in the West, and had them shipped in crates—three dozen in a crate. He also has an egg house, 35 by 50 feet, and four stories high. The outside is eighteen inches thick, and built of cut stone, laid in mortar, boarded up on the inside and filled in between the outside and inside wall with sawdust, it taking 3,000 bushels. Mr. Robeson claims that he can keep eggs any length of time in this building. He also keeps the poultry that he is now dressing until next May or June, which he sells for eighteen or twenty-five cents per pound, and it cannot be told from fresh-dressed poultry. He gets ten cents per pound for turkey feathers, twelve for hen's, and sixty-five for duck's. He says there is money in poultry, and he thinks he can make out of his 6,000 ducks enough to pay for his egg house, which cost $7,000. He intends to keep a great many more next season, and has agents out all over the country buying up poultry and eggs.

TONIC FOR FOWLS.

IT is a good plan to keep on hand the preparation of sulphate of iron, so often recommended by experienced poultrymen. It is frequently useful in the poultry yard, and is thought, in a measure, to ward off some of the ailments to which fowls are subject. It is a useful tonic during the moulting season, and a great benefit to fowls in cold winter weather. During the summer it serves as a disinfectant, keeping the drinking vessels from becoming soured or foul. Its constant use in the water, however, is not to be commended, since, by such a course, its efficiency in cases of real need would be less marked. Several formulas have been given for preparing the solution, so as to have it in convenient form at all times. Some of these make the solution too weak. The following will be found to be right, and the proportion being all in "ones" the formula is easily remembered. In one gallon of warm water dissolve one pound of sulphate of iron, (copperas) and then add one ounce of sulphuric acid. Put the mixture into a jug, from which it may be used as needed. To one quart of drinking water add one teaspoonful of the solution. It gives to the water a rusty appearance and a pungent taste.—*Southern Farmer.*

Dairy Husbandry.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF CURING CHEESE.

Address of X. A. Willard of the Rural New-Yorker before the Vermont Dairymen's Convention, Jan. 21, 1876.

AMERICAN Cheese will not be likely to reach its highest excellence until more attention is given to the construction of curing-houses. While our cheese makers have been desirous of learning the best methods of handling milk to obtain a fancy product, and while in many instances they have been able to make an article equal to the *best*, up to the time it leaves the press and is carried to the curing-room, they have found their skill at the vat not unfrequently neutralized in the curing-room, the cheese often deteriorating from week to week, and turning out a second or third-class product.

There is an erroneous notion among many dairymen and cheesemongers as to the proper proportion of constituents required for making a first-class cheese. The impression prevails that the best cheese must necessarily contain the most butter in its composition, and this has deterred many from making improvements in the true direction.

It is almost impossible to convince cheese dealers and dairymen that a rich, mellow, palatable cheese, having the taste and appearance of much fat in its composition, can be made from milk not particularly rich in butter, and yet such has been proved over and over again, not only by cheese makers who have had the milk and its manufacture under their immediate charge, but by chemists who have subjected such cheese to ultimate analysis.

It has come to such a pass at our Conventions that any statement of facts concerning this question is regarded by many as a direct injury to our cheese industry, because, as they say, it leads to a more extensive practice of skimming, which, by increasing a lower grade of cheese, must eventually ruin the reputation of American cheese in foreign markets. Thus, by suppressing truth and by instilling a false notion concerning the real value of butter in the cheese, dairymen have been led away from one of the most important requisites to success—the improvement of our cheese while undergoing the curing process.

In discussing this subject, I hope it will not be charged that I am advocating skim cheese manufacture. That is not my purpose, but rather to eliminate truth. If any one is so warped by prejudice that he must shut his eyes to the truth; if he is so set in his own opinion that he will not try to get out of the rut, but still persists in wallowing in the mire of old prejudices, no reasoning of mine can help him onward in the road to progress. I know there are many such men, and they are a drag on the dairy industry of the country. They believe that a cheese is only good in proportion to the amount of fat in its composition; that all poor cheese is the direct result of skimming. They are continually harping upon the danger of losing the reputation of American cheese abroad, and yet they offer no suggestion and make no effort for improving its quality.

THE COMPLAINT AGAINST AMERICAN CHEESE.

What has been and is to-day the chief complaint against American cheese? Not that it is deficient in fat, but that it is of bad flavor, defective in texture, and has a tendency to early decay. Any character of cheese that is short-lived, that is liable to lose flavor and fall into early decay on the dealer's hands, will be regarded as more or less dangerous to handle, and buyers must be expected to regulate their prices in proportion to the risk of holding.

One would suppose from what is frequently taught at these Conventions that nearly the whole product of cheese shipped abroad is made at creameries and from milk which had been deprived of nearly all its butter. It is convenient, of course, for whole-milk cheese manufacturers to attribute low prices and their troubles in the market to the creameries; but it is a false assumption and most mischievous to the well-being of our dairy industry. The trouble of stagnation and low prices comes from the great abundance of whole-milk cheese—cheese not deficient in butter, but defective in flavor—defective in moisture—either too much or too little—cheese badly made, and for the most part *badly cured*.

There never was a time when the market was glutted with "extra fancy cheese"—cheese of clean, sweet, nutty flavor—cheese of good, keeping qualities. I say there never was a time when such cheese would not sell at good, fair prices.

COMPARATIVE PRICES OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CHEESE.

Look over the English market reports for the past ten years and you will find that English cheddar has ranged not far from 90s. sterling per hundred weight, year after year, while American varies from 30 to 70 shillings. The following were the quotations of the London market on Dec. 11, 1875:

English cheddar, first quality, 92s. per cwt., equal to 22½c. per lb. currency; second quality, 74s. per cwt., equal to 18c. currency. English Cheshire, first quality, 86s. per cwt., equal to 21c. currency; second quality, 76s. per cwt., equal to 18½c. currency; third quality, 70s. per cwt., equal to 17c. currency; fourth quality, 50s. per cwt., equal to 12¼c. currency. Scotch cheddar, first quality, 76s. per cwt., equal to 18½c. currency; second quality, 54s. per cwt., equal to 15½c. currency, Dutch Gonda, first quality, 60s. per cwt., equal to 14¾c. currency,; second quality, 56s. per cwt., equal to 13¾c. currency. Dutch Edam, first quality, 68s. per cwt., equal to 16¼c. currency; second quality, 56s. per cwt., equal to 13¾c. currency. American, first quality, 58s. per cwt., equal to 14c. currency; second quality, 50s. per cwt., equal to 12c. currency; third quality, 40s. per cwt., equal to 9¾c. currency. Such a difference in values proves either that our goods do not enter into competition, or that the quality is so inferior that our competition is practically of no detriment to the foreign producers.

Mr. LIVES of Derbyshire, Eng., who has made a specialty in keeping the run of these matters, says in a recent letter to me that there has been scarcely any variation in the price of first-class cheese for many years in the markets of England. The variation has been confined exclusively to the common and inferior grades.

The charge, therefore, that creamery skim cheese is ruining the market for *good cheese* at home and abroad is, in my opinion, not well-founded, and demands correction. The low prices are on the skims and lower grades, not on the best. To make a comparison let us take the article of butter. In regard to quantity the cheese product dwindles into insignificant proportions beside that of butter, for it is estimated that we are annually making from a thousand to fourteen hundred million pounds of butter, and only three hundred million pounds of cheese, or nearly five times more butter than cheese, and we all know the quantity of poor butter as compared with that of cheese is immensely greater; and yet there is a premium on a fine article of butter, the price not unfrequently running from 75c. to $1 per pound. It is so on flour, on meats, and on all classes of goods; the depreciation is not on the extra-fine article, which is always in demand at good prices, but on the common or inferior grades. So I think the whole-milk factories, which are making a superior product, need have no fears that their business is to be injured by the skim-cheese men, but rather that there will be a better demand for their goods and better prices, while the common grades must be the ones that suffer in price. The important point I wish to urge in this connection is the adoption of means to improve American cheese of all sorts, whether it be made from whole-milk, milk skimmed or half skimmed. The way to retain our reputation at home and abroad is not by resting on what we have already accomplished and by urging creameries to abandon their business or throw their skimmed milk away, but, on the other hand, to stimulate manufacturers to continue to make a better and better product from the material in their hands. If the cheddar dairymen of Somersetshire, by skimming the night's milk and adding to it the morning's milk can make a cheese that will sell at from 20 to 30 shillings sterling more per cwt. than that from our best whole-milk factories, then there is room for us to improve our goods, so as to compete with cheddar dairymen. If Holland can make a skimmed cheese that competes in price with our best whole-milk cheese in the English market, is it not time to inquire into the defects of our system of cheese making, instead of making loud cries against the butter factories, with useless efforts to suppress them? I say useless efforts, because butter and skim cheese will continue to be made so long as they yield satisfactory profits. If more money is to be got by turning skimmed milk into cheese than into meat, it will be hard to convince those who are making a handsome profit in this way that it is better to abandon that business in order that the reputation and profits of their neighbor who makes whole-milk cheese may be increased. The true way, it seems to me, is to accept the situation, and then all hands go to work to improve our product, thereby increasing our reputation and profits. This can be done by studying the requirements of the curing process, by placing the cheese under certain conditions that favor its perfection, instead of allowing chance to have control in this matter.

THE THREE POINTS IN CURING.

The cheddar dairymen, by long-continued practice and experiment, have established three points in the curing of cheese. First, that a temperature of from 70 to 75 deg. is the proper range for securing mellowness in texture, sweet, clean, nutty flavor and long-keeping qualities; second, that this temperature must be maintained throughout the curing process, and that uneven temperatures much above and then sinking below the range named is prejudicial to fine flavor; and third, that excessive dryness of the atmosphere, like that produced from the heat of stoves, injures texture and flavor by producing a too rapid absorption of moisture. Take, for instance, the lump of curd as it comes from the press. If it has been well made from average whole milk, we have a tough, curdy-like mass, consisting of—without assuming to be exact—of, say, 28 per cent. of butter, 40 per cent. of water, and some mineral matters. It is in this condition about as unfit for food as unbaked dough. Now, what is required of this piece of raw curd to fit it for the palate of the fastidious cheese eater of England? Well, in the first place, the caseine must be completely broken down and intimately mingled with the butter, while a portion of the water must be eliminated and the balance so distributed through the mass as to make the whole a homogenous substance—mellow, plastic, delicious. The moisture must be so intimately mingled through the whole that it cannot be easily separated or distinguished from the other parts, but rather giving one the impression, when a bit of the cheese is pressed under the finger or tasted in the mouth, that it is rich in butter. In addition, the several parts, while undergoing this change, must have retained a clean, sweet, nutty flavor. Now, we know by analysis how much moisture should be held in a properly-cured cheese. The analysis of the very best of the cheddar cheeses when six months old show that it contains nearly 34 per cent. of water, a little more than 33 per cent. of butter and 28 per cent. of caseine. An analysis of the best American cheese indicates about 27 per cent. of water, 35½ per cent. of butter and 26 per cent. of caseine. In other words, it has 2½ per cent. more butter and 3 per cent. less water than the English cheddar, thus indicating that the 3 per cent. of moisture in the English cheddar in excess of that in the American is made to take the place of butter, producing a more palatable and desirable cheese, and one that will sell for more money in the English market than the American.

Mr. REED of Herkimer, who for some years kept an accurate record of the weight of cheese from the time it was made up to different dates, found the average shrinkage of cheese during the first thirty days after manufacture to be—in June, 10 per cent.; July, 12 per cent.; August, 6 per cent.; September, 3 per cent.; October, 3 per cent.; November, 4 per cent.; December, 3 per cent. Thus showing that as temperature decreases in the fall the shrinkage also decreases. It is well known that our best cheese is of September make. The temperature of the weather during September and October approximates more nearly to 70 deg. than in June or July.

I think it may be safely assumed that in all well-cured cheese of desirable quality and flavor we must have at least from 30 to 33 per cent. of moisture, or else an excess of fat to more than supply the deficiency of moisture when the latter runs below 33 per cent. The defect complained of in American factory cheese when well made is a tendency to dryness. In some of our home markets, like Boston and Philadelphia, for instance, a grade of cheese made in Ohio has obtained some popularity. It is softer and more plastic than the ordinary shipping cheese of New York. Much of it has the appearance of possessing an excess of fat; it is not fat but moisture, which is so intimately blended with the solids as to be taken for what the cheesemonger denominates "good stock."

One of the prominent faults in curing cheese is a too rapid evaporation of moisture in the *early stages* of curing. The water does not have a chance to assimilate with the other parts before passing off; hence dryness and apparent lack of butter. If the evaporation had been gradual and time given for the water to become assimilated or "fixed," so to speak, in the cheese, the curing process would be carried on more perfectly, and the evaporation thereafter would of necessity be more slow. I saw this exemplified in the experiment made at the McLean factory last summer, when it was attempted to cure cheese by a process of applying dry steam in the way lumber is seasoned. The cheese came out insipid and almost tasteless so far as a development of a cheesy flavor was concerned, and although it was placed in the curing-room and kept there a long time, it did not again take on a good flavor or become mellow like cheese properly cured. Again, when the fermentation is carried on unevenly—at one time hastened by high temperature and then checked by a low temperature—the cheese is apt to put on a bitter taint. I used to think this bitter taint came, for the most part, from weeds which the cows ate (and it does take taints in that way); but I have found from experiment that a bitter taint can be developed in any cheese by alternately stimulating and checking fermentation, and this repeatedly under high and low temperatures.

There are immense quantities of cheese, well made at first, that are seriously injured by this bitter taint. It is of various degrees of intensity, according to conditions in curing, but all leaving an unpleasant taste in the mouth. It is particularly objectionable to English buyers, who are generally experts in discriminating defective flavors in cheese.—[Conclusion next week.

The Herdsman.

HOLSTEIN CATTLE.

ISAAC AUGUR, agent of the West Pittsfield, Mass., Shakers, writes to the New England Farmer thus:

Having heard, from time to time, comments through the public journals and verbally, some in favor and some opposed, I offer a few remarks which have grown out of actual experience concerning the merit of this noted stock during the past eighteen months. Having owned two bulls and two cows, thoroughbred, and having seen their product in milk and butter, I feel able to say something in their favor.

One cow, seven years old in the spring of 1875 calving March 17, has given, on an average, twenty quarts per day to the present date. I tested her milk in butter from the 13th of June for seven days, during which time she made fourteen pounds of nice butter, with no extra feed and no more than a common pasture.

The second cow, six years old in the spring of 1875, calved Sept. 22, 1875, and after four or five days, her milk was reserved by itself and set for cream, after letting the calf suck what it would three times a day. From the surplus of seven days, I found, on weighing the butter, thirteen pounds of a fine article, and, in total quantity per day, after three weeks of the time of the calf sucking, she had averaged from twenty-four to twenty-six quarts per day of milk.

November 24th, 1874, I bought a thoroughbred imported Holstein bull, one year old past, and his gain in ten months is four hundred pounds, making an average of forty pounds per month, and not on high feed.

They are a fine growing stock, large, good feeders, and I can say, with all freedom, that they are, in my estimation, the best for market, milkers, butter, cheese, oxen and beef of any thoroughbred stock now known in our country. I should be pleased to show these above samples to any and all who may be pleased to call.

STEAMING FOOD FOR CATTLE.

THE editor of the New England Farmer, sums up his conclusions in regard to steaming food as follows:

If one has considerable quantities of coarse or inferior fodder to work up, and wishes to make up for its inferiority by the use of grain, and if the principal object is selling milk by measure, without special regard to quality, and if the number of cows kept is large, say twenty or more, and one expects these conditions to exist several years, it will pay to purchase a good steam boiler and cook the feed for the cows; but if the number of animals is small, the quality of the very best, as when the object of feeding is anything but making milk for market, he had better make his stables as warm and comfortable as possible, and feed his hay whole and raw, rather than incur the expense and extra labor necessary for steaming food. We also believe that many who have adopted steaming and have, at the same time, made their barns warm and comfortable by tighter covering, or by the fire from the furnace, or by both, and have also warmed the water drank by the cows, would find it not a little puzzling to decide just now how much of the improvement in the condition of the animals, the increase in the amount of milk, and the saving of fodder is due to steaming or cooking the food, and how much to the general improvement in the care and management of the animals which usually accompanies the introduction of a steamer on the farm.

SULPHUR OINTMENT.

THE North British Agriculturist says:—Sulphur ointment is generally prepared by melting one pint of flowers of sulphur with four or six of lard, palm oil, or other fatty matter. For mange, scab, and some of the simpler inflammatory conditions of the skin of animals, sulphur ointment proves a soothing dressing; but it is by no means the most effectual application for the destruction of those vegetable parasitic growths popularly known as ringworm. For such purposes, if sulphur ointment is used, it is advantageously mixed with about one part of the dark brown, impure carbolic acid to six or eight of sulphur ointment. Silver nitrate, zinc chloride solution, copper and iron sulphates, and other such powerful astringents and antiseptics, applied carefully in tolerably concentrated solution, destroy the vegetable parasite, and thus prevent the complaint spreading. In most cases where the bare circular spots of ringworm first show themselves, they are easily arrested by the inrubbing of any common oil or saline astringent solution, especially if the animals are not exposed to fresh spores of the disease usually developed amongst damp old straw, and particularly prone to occur where barley straw is chiefly used, whether for food or litter.

Farm Economy.

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT MANURES.

The farmers of this country have much to learn from the market gardeners. These last have devoted far more time to experimenting and have made careful and minute tests of facts in the line of their business which the great majority of farmers cannot afford. This is especially true with regard to manures, and as these are equally necessary in farming and gardening, the interchange of information cannot fail to prove valuable. We would have all farmers purchase and carefully study such standard works as Henderson's Gardening for Profit," together with the numerous manuals and catalogues issued by gardeners and seedsmen. Any thinking farmer will find much in all these which he can make available in his own business. From the "Garden Manual" (issued by J. B. Root of Rockford, Ill.,) we copy the following practical and suggestive ideas about the use and action of manures:

Hen manure, when mixed with enough soil to work fine, has special fitness for the onion crop, as it can be applied to the surface where wanted, has no weed seeds, and is exceedingly valuable, being little less than guano.

Leached ashes have an especial value on sandy soils, and produce most effect on onions, potatoes, corn and the root crops. Their value is lasting, and the effect of a liberal application will be noticed for years, and if not to be hauled more than three miles, their use is profitable.

Unleached ashes have a most marked effect when applied broadcast over onions partly grown—in fact, it is one of the most valuable special manures for this crop, and is worth for this purpose twice the amount paid by soap makers. For all garden crops they are valuable; potatoes, turnips, beets and peas deriving most benefit next to onions.

Lime is of most value on rich, old soils, its effect being to unlock and release fertility already in the soil, but inactive or insoluble. Hence upon poor soils it may sometimes do more harm than good; but used upon rich, old garden soils, its use occasionally will produce astonishing results.

Superphosphate of lime produces a very quick effect; and besides the fertility it adds to a soil, the rapid development it aids in plant life enables the roots to lay hold of much food they would not otherwise. In the garden it is of especial value to hasten growth while plants are still small and unable yet to reach coarser manures, and also to touch up and bring forward any portions of crops which seem to need further help. While depending chiefly on stable and green manures, yet we always find profitable use for more or less superphosphate.

In the garden, land plaster is exceedingly variable in its effects. Some of the most marked benefits from its use have been noticed upon vines during a drouth. If applied over the surface of the hill and vines during a drouth so severe that the leaves droop at midday, they will, in a couple of days, show no signs of drooping but exhibit unusual vigor. While in this section we sometimes use it without any perceptible effect, in Michigan it tells wonderfully upon clover and generally upon other crops.

Brewers' spent hops are in some places so abundant as to be an important fertilizer, generally one load being equal to two of stable manure. But I have found them most valuable, when well rotted, for raking into the surface of seed beds in which are raised cabbage, celery and other garden plants, since they retain moisture, keep the surface loose and light, and in every way favorable for the successful growth of plants. In like manner it is excellent for any plot where you wish a most vigorous growth—those vegetables for the Fair you know—since it furnishes abundant fertility, while it keeps the soil in the best condition for growth.

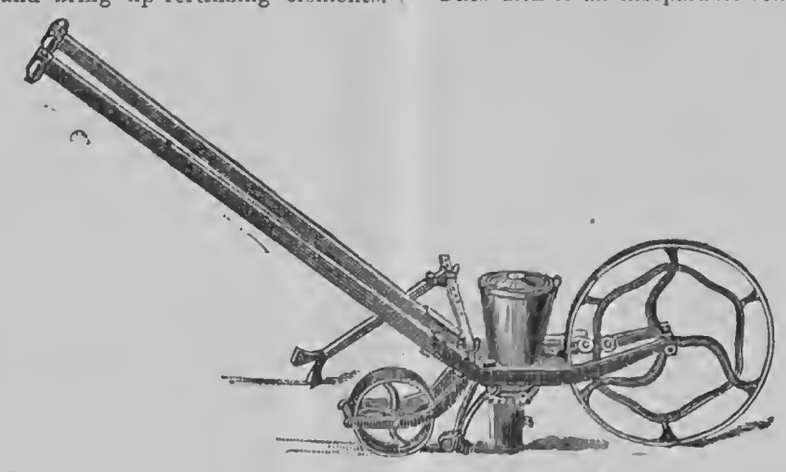
HOW CLOVER FERTILIZES.

It is a well known fact that clover has the singular property of being able to extract from the atmosphere, without the aid of manure or stimulants, nitrogen sufficient for its own proper growth and nourishment. The straw and roots of the clover contain a large amount of nitrogen, and these, when plowed down, are therefore as valuable to the next crop sown as a copious supply of guano.

The above paragraph is floating through our exchanges without credit, and we don't just now know where it originated. It is a good illustration of the facility with which theories positively stated find acceptance as if they were principles established by scientific research. Let us examine the statements in detail.

It is *not* "known" that clover does or can derive from the atmosphere all the nitrogen needed for its own growth. Only a few years ago scientific men denied that plants absorbed nitrogen through their leaves. Later investigations almost prove that this is a mistake. It is now probable that all plants have the power of absorbing some ammonia or nitrogen from the atmosphere and also probable that clover and other broad-leaved plants possess this power in greater degree than narrow-leaved plants.

But clover also undoubtedly derives some and probably many of the elements needed for growth from the soil. Its long, deep roots strike into the subsoil and bring up fertilizing elements.



HOLBROOK'S NEW REGULATOR SEED DRILL.

potash, phosphate of lime, and possibly nitrates that have been washed downward. By loosening the subsoil clover roots undoubtedly promote fertility in another way, by enabling it to absorb the nitrogen always present in the atmosphere. It is possible that it is mainly thus that clover makes the soil fertile.

However, we may differ as to the reasons and the means by which clover enriches the soil, there can be no question that it does do so. The practical fact is indisputable that good farmers do and should sow as much clover as possible for the benefit of their farms. The why and wherefore need not trouble anybody much until we learn enough facts to answer all questions satisfactorily.

DRILLING FERTILIZERS WITH GRAIN.

Eds. Rural:—Can the attachment for fertilizers on the Farmer's Favorite Grain Drill sow or distribute manure made on the farm, or can the manure be prepared so as to be sown by it to a certain satisfaction? Does it drop the fertilizer in the row on the wheat sown, so as to be covered by the same soil as the grain sown?—A. H. Moroan, *Fort Collins, Colorado.*

It is impossible to drill any fertilizer with seed unless such fertilizer is finely pulverized. Most manures made on the farm are too bulky and coarse to be drilled. Even guano or superphosphate has often to be run through a sieve to enable the drill to work well. Most barnyard manures are also too bulky in proportion to their strength, to make them worth applying in such small quantities as is possible with a drill. Hen manure, heated just enough to evaporate its moisture, and then dried and pulverized or mixed with gypsum, could be drilled with seed and would produce a good effect; but even this we should prefer to use in some other way. A small handful could be dropped in a hill of corn at planting time with half the trouble needed to fit it for drilling in. The fertilizer and the seed fall through the same tube and are covered by the same soil. The seed, however, rarely comes in direct contact with the manure, but is always very close to it.

THE ESTEY ORGAN.

Our own practice has been to not use more than 200 lbs. of superphosphate per acre. This drilled with the seed will give as much advantage to the crop as 400 or possibly 500 lbs. of fertilizers sown broadcast. Perhaps in Colorado superphosphate may not be needed. Let our correspondent hire a drill with fertilizer attachment instead of buying one. If it brings good results he may feel safe in buying not only a drill but fertilizers as well. It will not pay him to buy a drill expecting to work up manure made on the farm fine enough to use it.

Our Premium Articles.

HOLBROOK'S REGULATOR SEED DRILL.

This drill is an inseparable companion of the gardener and farmer, and is probably more widely known than any other implement of its kind. Various improvements have recently been made which must still further commend it to popular use. One of these is the open white seed conductor, which no other drill is authorized to use. This enables the operator to know at all times whether the drill is sowing, and also to judge pretty closely the amount, thus often preventing bed "bolts," missing the seed where the gardener supposes it is being distributed. The Holbrook Drill is not liable to get out of order, and is sure to give perfect satisfaction in every respect. Its price is $12. We will send one for 8 subscribers to the Rural at $2.65, or for 18 at $2.15 each.

THE ESTEY ORGANS.

The increasing wealth and intelligence of our people is most strongly shown in the number and variety of articles widely distributed which minister to taste and æsthetic enjoyment. We have passed the hardening and materializing era of our civilization and entered on that in which our moral and intellectual forces will assert their rightful predominance. Among the influences which will mold the future of our country, musical taste, ministering to ideas of beauty as well as of comfort, and endearing still more the memory of Home and its pleasures, must be prominent, and probably nothing has done more to encourage this than the popularization of music by means of reed organs. There are many different manufacturers, each making various styles, and, despite hard times and panics, the demand for all continues with but little abatement. If money is hard to get, more people have learned its better uses, and are devoting it to educating the nobler faculties of the soul rather than to merely sensual enjoyments, or to dwarfing the mind by making it the slave of a miserly passion for money and worldly goods.

Prominent among these instruments of musical education are those made by the Estey Organ Co. of Brattleboro, Vt. They are finely modeled in wood which has been thoroughly seasoned, standing the vicissitudes of any climate, and this is a very important point, for on it depends the durability of the delicate interior works, which, with badly-seasoned wood, are sure to warp and be seriously injured. The interior musical arrangements have by successive improvements been brought as near perfection as possible, giving forth tones clear, rich and sweet. We can unhesitatingly recommend these organs to lovers of sweet, rich music, and with this view we have placed one of them among our list of Extra Premiums to Agents who do the best work for the Rural New-Yorker previous to the 1st of March proximo. These Extra Premiums are in addition to our very liberal Specific Premiums, and should stimulate to increased endeavors to obtain some of the valuable prizes offered.

Pisciculture.

SALMON FISHING ON THE NOYO RIVER.

E. J. Hooper of San Francisco, writes to the Forest and Stream about salmon fishing in California. The Noyo river is about two hundred miles north of San Francisco:—"Our mode of warfare in these waters at this season was with the large red and silver spoon bait armed with a triangle of hooks, trolling with rod and reed from the boat's stern. One of us rowed alternately while the other fished. Our boat was rather too heavy to row very fast, which we found the best way to entice the fish to our spinning spoon bait. The first day or two we only took seven fish, but we soon discovered what was the most killing spoon, which was a rather large one with much red about—that is, one side of the spoon red with a small bunch of red worsted between the triangle of hooks. In seven fishing days at this point we captured seventy-three salmon, weighing in all 648¼ pounds, and averaging 8¾ pounds each. They were of the hook-bill species, of good game qualties, but inferior for the table compared with the Sacramento river salmon, being rather dry and not so tender in flesh. Their average weight is also far from being as large, as the biggest we took was only thirteen pounds, while the finer shaped and much better flavored Sacramento *quinnat* species average 27½ pounds each. Neither is the hook-bill kind so handsome in the mouth and head as the San Francisco market salmon from its bay and tributaries. The hook-bill has its upper jaw projecting under its lower, both jaws being armed at their ends with tushes or teeth, which are much larger in the males, as are also their hooked bills. Toward winter the finer and more perfect Sacramento sort appear in the northern rivers after the hook-bills, as do also toward spring the still more valuable salmon trout, that are longer in their bodies, more delicate and nice in their flesh, which is of a much lighter red color. They very much resemble the best specimens of our salmon in their silvery luster, but their heads are slightly smaller, and the shape of their tails is nearly square compared with the forked ones of the former. These salmon will only take the fly in the spring of the year, as we were informed and found by our own experience."

TREATMENT OF GOLD FISH.

Having been frequently asked for advice in the management of gold fish, will you kindly allow me to inform the ladies who read your paper that rice paper is the best food, with a crumb of raw meat now and then, minced as small as meal seeds. A piece of the rice paper the size of a four penny bit for every fish, cut small, once a day in summer, and every other day in winter; fresh water every second day in summer, and thrice a week in winter. In frost, the water should be drawn from the cistern and allowed to stand a while in a room where there is a fire in it before placing the fish in it,; this takes the chill off the water, which might kill the fish. If the fish becomes moldy, it may be taken off by a gentle touch of a little bit of sponge, or soft muslin cloth. The globe should never stand in the sun.

The following paragraph appeared more recently in the Scientific American:

For each quart of water only one fish; as gold fish cannot thrive if crowded. Do not change the source of water, whether from well or hydrant. In summer renew it daily, in winter only every second or third day. Shallow glass dishes should not be used. They should be deep, and kept in the shade, strong light and a heated room being detrimental to the fish. The bottom of the globe should be covered with smooth gravel to absorb the excrements and keep the water clean. In changing the water for cleaning the globe, take out the fish with a fine net, but never with the hand. Do not feed them with bread or cake, or any food containing tannin, but give them wafers, and eggs, flies, yelk of eggs, water cress, &c., but only once in three or four days, and then sparingly. In the months of November, December, January and February the fish should not be fed at all, as this is their hybernating season, and food in this season is unnatural. In March, April and May they should be fed little.

The Voracity of Pickerel.—According to M. Peupion, who has been practically investigating the subject, a pickerel will eat 47 pounds and four ounces of fish per pound of its own weight per year.

The Horseman.

ABOUT TROTTING WORKING HORSES.

WILL some one of your readers, who is experienced in such matters, answer me the following through the columns of your journal, viz: Whether it is better to trot work horses drawing an empty wagon going for a load, or to trot them when returning empty, the day's work having been done. I am aware that work horses should never be driven faster than a walk, but when necessary, as in the above case, I should consider the latter the best, as to adopt the former would be, in my opinion, to tire your horses just at the time that they needed all their strength.—KANSAS SUBSCRIBER.

If more pains were taken to break colts into fast walking it would not be necessary to trot them in intervals between hard work. Trotting is a hard pace for a horse on a hard road-bed, and more horses are prematurely disabled by fast driving to and from market than by the severest work they do upon the farm. Still, if a horse is kept in good working condition, he ought to and will want to go faster than a walk when drawing an empty wagon, and, in such cases, most working horses will not hurt themselves by fast trotting. Often the team is as anxious to get to its crib and feed of oats as the driver is for his supper, and we don't know why it should be held in, to the discomfort of both. As for whipping or urging a poorly-fed or hardworking horse, either to or from work, it should never be allowed. It is much better to take the Irishman's advice and "put the whip in the manger."

BIG JAW AND ITS REMEDY.

THE Live Stock thus speaks of this disorder: This is more properly called "dilation of the jaw bones." In horses it is sometimes called "big head;" it is a bony tumor, in which the interior of the bone is absorbed, sometimes leaving a mere shell of bone divided into cells, containing purulent cheesy matter. This is supposed to be caused by a deficiency of phosphate of lime in food, rendering the bones deficient in this most important element, and the following prescription is often given with good result: Phosphate of lime, 6 oz.; powdered golden seal, 2 oz.; powdered sassafras, 3 oz.; powdered ginger, 2 oz.; oatmeal, 4 lbs.; mix. This will be divided into sixteen parts, one given in the food every night. This will have a tendency to restore the missing elements in the bone. And the general diet should be food rich in phosphates. You may get your phosphate of lime by boiling beef bones in lye of wood ashes, and after it is reduced fine, wash with water and give a small quantity daily in food. The first thing to do surgically is to open it and let out any matter that it contains. Having removed the matter, inject the cavity with weak pyroligneous or weak carbolic acid. This will cleanse it and render healing possible.

MARES' MILK FOR FOOD.

MR. ALEXIS ELISHOFF, a Russian gentleman, visiting America for the study of its dairy practice, thus referred to mares' milk after visiting the "Western New York Dairy Farm." Three years ago, while traveling in Eastern Russia and Tartary, I became accustomed to the use of this milk for food. When the natives first offered it to me I was very much set against it, but habit and example rules us in the end, and in a few weeks I could drink down a bowl of mare's milk with as keen a relish as any wild Tartar. An intoxicating beverage is also produced from this milk that the people of Tartary drink. It is called *koumiss*. The mode of making it is very simple. Place the milk in a leather bag. Into this new milk put a quantity of sour milk, and shake it up several times a day for three days. In this manner a kind of spirits is produced that is very intoxicating.—*London Ag. Gazette.*

This "Koumiss," as may well be imagined from the description of the method of its manufacture, is a filthy and disgusting potation—unendurable to any but the most depraved appetite. Only an inveterate toper could relish it, and he only in default of other intoxicating liquors. As for using mare's milk as food, we believe whenever a mare gives milk there is always a colt needing all that its mother can supply.

INTESTINAL PARASITES IN HORSES.

ENTHUSIASTICALLY following up his specialty, looking everywhere for worms, and ascribing to them many and varied ailments, Prof. Cobbold marshalls a considerable amount of evidence to show that colic in horses is frequently in this country, as well as in India, produced by the ascaris, strongyli, and other internal worms. Over 1,200 ascarides he mentions as having been removed in a post-mortem examination of the intestines of one unfortunate horse. It is a pity we have to record of the sensations, the gastric arrangement, the thriftless appearance of this much-afflicted animal. What an amount of food these voracious vermin must have devoured; how in their movements they must have irritated the intestines; rolled in masses, as they often are, they must frequently have formed an almost hopeless obstruction. Thankful would this wretched victim be to shuffle off this mortal coil.

CHICCORY ROOT FOR HORSES.

A WRITER in the Germantown Telegraph says:—I once raised 1,800 bushels of chiccory roots on Long Island. The roots look like parsnips, and are as easily grown as carrots or other roots. I found my horse very fond of the tops. I also fed the trimmings in winter in place of grain. I had half a ton that got moldy after drying, so much so that I did not attempt to sell it. This I fed to my horse the next summer in place of grain, about one peck a day. He kept fat on it with no grain; and as it is very bitter it is a sure cure as preventive of worms and bots. I never raised any seed, but it can be obtained at most general seed stores. Sow same as carrots, sandy or loose soil preferred. I think farmers would do well to try it on a small scale. I am sure chiccory is worth double of carrots for horses.

A WORM IN A HORSE'S FOOT.

The Scientific American is responsible for the following: A horse was taken to a veterinary surgeon recently to be cured of a corn in the foot. In paring the corn the operator found a worm about ⅝ of an inch long, 1-16 of an inch thick, and sharp at each end as a needle. One end was black and the other end white. The black end was nearest to the sole and the white end was in the flesh. After removing the worm and burning with nitric acid the corn was entirely removed and the horse permanently cured of his lameness.

Preventive of Epizootic.—A correspondent of the Baltimore American says that he prevented his horses from having the epizootic by an expectant treatment, and that friends used the same means with success. He dissolved one teaspoonful of crystal chlorate of potash in a bucket of water, this amount making a morning dose for four horses. Another dose was given at night. A dose at noon is recommended if the disease is developed.

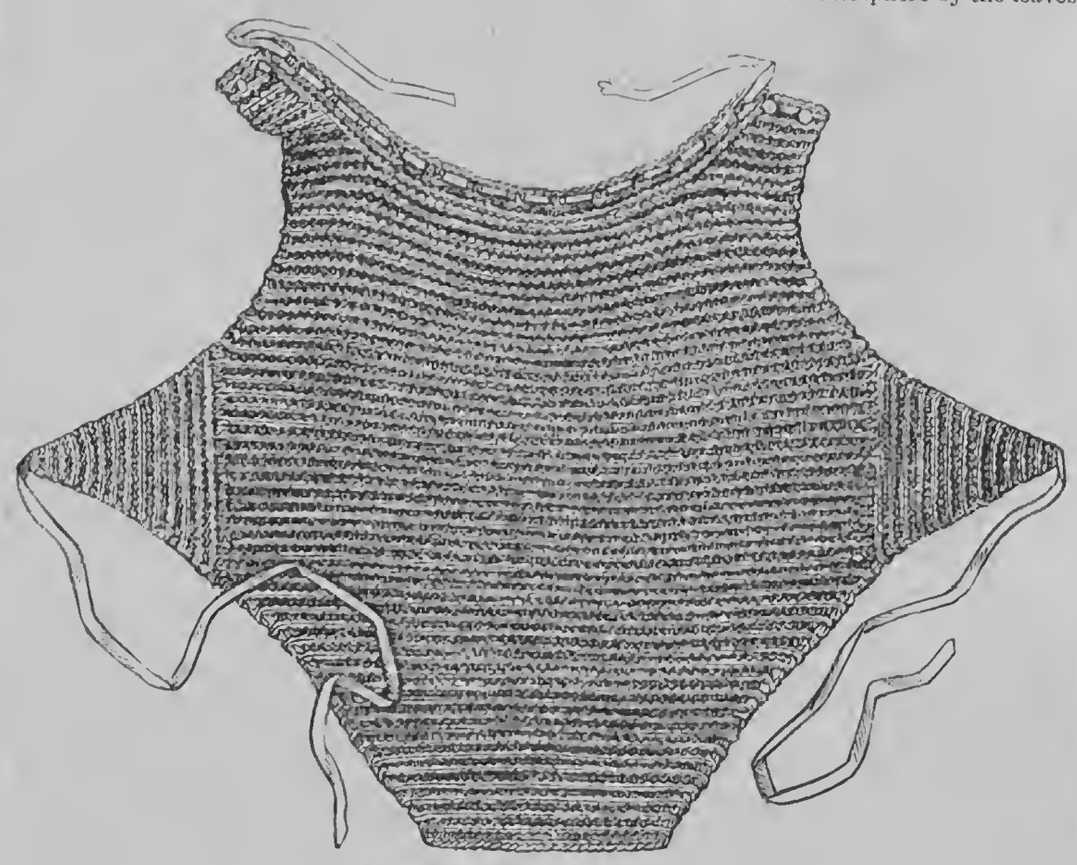
Modes and Manners.

A CHEST PRESERVER.

OUR engraving represents a chest preserver which may be easily made by any one who can knit,—and we believe many still do, notwithstanding the introduction of knitting machines. The material is Shetland wool. The work is plain knitting, the details of which are so plainly shown in the illustration as to require no explanation. For persons with weak lungs, these preservers are of great use and comfort.

TRIMMING FOR UNDER-LINEN.

WE illustrate a specimen of trimming for under-linen, etc., which most of our lady readers will readily understand. The edge is worked in buttonhole stitch. The cross band is ornamented with narrow, diagonal tucks. The frill is on the bias.



A CHEST PRESERVER.

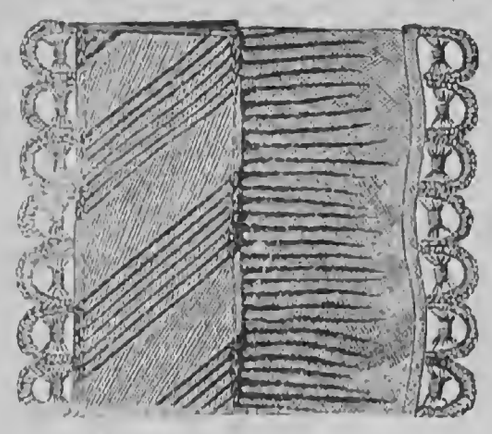
LIGHT COLORS will prevail in Milliners' materials this spring. Black bonnets are by no means to be abandoned however.

Scientific and Useful.

THOUGHTS ON PLANT GROWTH.

FROM a paper by J. V. H. SCOVILLE of Paris, Oneida Co., N. Y., read before the Central N. Y. Farmers' Club, we take the following:

Within the past quarter of a century there have sprung up on the continent of Europe a corps of observers whose investigations have done much to lift the darkness which surrounds the growing plant. Boussingault in France, La-



TRIMMING FOR UNDER-LINEN, ETC.

vees and Gilbert in England, Wolf and Fleischer and Pugh and Knop in Germany, have given much of their valuable lives to the solution of these problems. Professor Johnson found a cubic foot of wheat soil from the southern part of Onondaga County to weigh, when dry, 86½ pounds. In this proportion an acre to the depth of one foot weighs 2,768,000 pounds. This soil contains a large proportion of slaty gravel. Common arable land varies between 80 and 90 pounds per cubic foot, while very rich, mellow soils are lighter, peat soils weighing from 30 to 50 pounds per cubic foot. Taking these facts into careful consideration, we are able to comprehend how large an amount of available plant food nature generously provides upon an acre of land, and this is seldom used in American culture, for there are few farmers who stir the soil to the depth of 12 inches. There are some few favored spots where nature seems to restore itself and supplies with a generous hand the plant food abstracted from the soil by the growing plants. This is especially noticeable in some locations in the Mohawk river valley and in locations where annual overflows leave a rich deposit; and it is remarked that the rich valley of the Scioto river in Ohio, though bearing wheat and corn for 60 years, shows no perceptible exhaustion. The great proportion of our soil being upland, the ingredients composing it are coarser and to the cubic foot it is heavier, and as a consequence there is less available plant food. The sources of supply are the application of manures, phosphates, nitrates, &c. The more thorough is the tillage of the soil, the finer its pulverization; the more frequently it is stirred the more vigorous and healthy are the growing plants. This frequent stirring of the soil facilitates the absorption of ammonia and nitric acid for the uses of the plant. Rain water has been frequently analyzed for ammonia and found in minute quantities, and this property may also be absorbed from the atmosphere by the leaves.

I have observed these influences more perceptibly in the cultivation of the hop than of any other plant. At that peculiar season of growth when it is just in the burr, I have noticed that with many hills the growth was apparently stationary; but when I used the plow and the cultivator freely and threw fresh dirt about the hills, new vigor seemed imparted; often a change was perceptible in a few hours. Boussingault experimented with the very fertile soil of his garden, which was especially rich in nitrogen which, were it in the form of ammonia, would be equivalent to more than seven tons per acre taken to the depth of 13 inches; or if existing as nitric acid, would correspond to more than 43 tons of saltpeter at the same depth. The same authority made some beautiful experiments with the sunflower. In a soil destitute of nitrogen was obtained a crop weighing (dry) 4.6 times as much as the seeds. In a second pot, with the same weight of seeds, in which the nitrogen was doubled by adding ,0033 of a gramme in form of nitrate of soda, the weight of the crop was nearly doubled—was 7.6 times that of the seeds. In a third pot, where the nitrogen was trebled by adding .0066 gramme in form of nitrate, and the crop was nearly trebled also—was 11.3 times the weight of the seeds. The experiments were also continued by using garden soil which already contained a certain proportion of nitrogen, and beyond a certain proportion there was no perceptible increase in the weight of the crop.

The Garden.

SEED FAILURES.

THE following are some of the principal causes of failure of seeds:

1. Some cultivators, through ignorance or forgetfulness of the fact that the products of a garden, being natives of various soils and climates, require peculiar management, deposit their seeds in the ground at an improper season. The early and most hardy species and varieties should not be planted until the ground can be brought into good condition, as some species of plants that in an advanced stage of growth will stand a hard winter, are often cut off by a very slight frost while young, especially if exposed to the sun after a frosty night.

2. Some species of seeds, such as bean, beet, cabbage, lettuce, radish, salsify, turnip, &c., being from their nature apt to vegetate quickly, are often destroyed while germinating, through variableness of the weather, and some are liable to be devoured by insects in 48 hours after they are sown, and before a plant is seen above the ground, unless a suitable remedy is applied in time to annoy the insects.

3. Some species, as carrot, celery, leek, onion, parsley, parsnip, spinach, &c., being naturally of tardy growth, taking (in unfavorable seasons) from two to three or four weeks to vegetate, are apt to perish through incrustation of the soil, or other untoward and unaccountable circumstances which cannot always be controlled.

4. The failures often occur through seeds being deposited too deeply in the ground or left too near the surface. Sometimes, for want of sufficiency of seed in a given spot, solitary plants will perish, they not having sufficient strength to open the pores of the earth, and very frequently injudicious management in manuring and preparing the soil will cause defeat.—*Dreer Circular.*

EFFECT OF CAMPHOR ON SEEDS.

CERTAIN curious and all but forgotten experiences of much interest to agriculture and gardening have lately been revived by a German savant. Very many years ago it was discovered and recorded that water saturated with camphor had a remarkable influence on the germination of seeds. As of many other useful hints, the stupid world took no notice of this intimation: but a Berlin professor, having seen the record of it, appears to have established the facts that a solution of camphor stimulates vegetables as alcohol does animals. He took seeds of various sorts, some being three or four years old, and possessing a slight degree of vitality, and placed them between sheets of blotting paper. Some of these he wetted with pure water, and others with camphorated water. In many cases the seeds did not swell at all under the influence of the simple moisture, but in every case they germinated where they were subjected to the camphor solution. The experiment was extended to different kinds of garden seeds, old and new, and always with the result of showing a singular awakening of dormant vitalism and a wonderful quickening of growth. It also appears from the professor's researches that the young plants thus stimulated continued to increase with a vigor and vivacity much beyond that of those which were not so treated. When pounded camphor was mixed with the soil, it appeared to exercise a rather bad effect upon the seeds. The dose in this latter case was possibly too strong. At all events, this action of camphor is worthy of an examination by seedsmen and gardeners, and even farmers might determine how far wheat and barley may be profited by the strange power this drug appears to possess over the latent life of vegetable germs.—*Horticulturist.*

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near NeW York City.

ORNAMENTAL-LEAVED VEGETABLES.

Feb. 14.—To advise the culture of some of the ornamental-leaved vegetables as "window plants" may strike the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER as more a freak of odd fancy than good taste. Still, I am inclined to believe that where usefulness and beauty can be combined in the same thing we should consider it an additional merit of some moment. For my own part, I think a finely-grown plant of curled parsley far more beautiful and ornamental than many of the exotic or native ferns so frequently extolled by florists and dealers in such articles. The habit of the parsley is as graceful as any of the smaller kinds of ferns, and none can excel it in richness of color. Besides this, the plant will grow readily under circumstances that would be totally unsuited to ferns, and then, when a dish is to be garnished, the best material for this purpose is ready at hand, no thanks to the green grocer or market gardener. Parsley plants cost nothing, are easily grown and very common; but this should not be an objection with people who do not let sentiment outweigh practical common sense in the management of their household affairs. A pot or two of parsley, and the same of thyme, spearmint, peppermint, peppergrass and lavender will, in most instances, prove far more useful, as well as ornamental, than hundreds of the tender exotics usually recommended for window culture. Even a well-grown carrot, with its feathery leaves, is not one whit behind some of the rare ferns for which our florists charge a dollar or two per plant. If we desire something more "lofty" as well as showy in this line, some of the new varieties of curled kale or borecole will supply the want, and they are really grand plants, especially the "triple-curled," with variegated leaves. I think some slight change in the direction named would be quite beneficial, even if the ever-present rose and pennyroyal geraniums, oleanders and abutilons have to be laid aside to make room for some of the more ornamental and useful vegetable plants.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO PLANT?

Feb. 15.—This is a question that I am frequently asked at this season by my neighbors and correspondents, and I might as well answer all at once and thereby save time. Of course the question is not always propounded in quite so broad and indefinite language as given above, but that will cover the whole field, from early peas to late turnips.

TOMATOES.

I have not found anything better for an extra early sort than the *Conqueror*, although the difference in time of ripening between it and the *Canada Victor* is no greater than that seen on two plants of either variety growing side by side. For the general crop and real old "stand-by" tomato I have found nothing to equal the *Trophy*. Plants of the first and last-named sorts are now growing in my greenhouse, preparatory for setting out at the proper time.

EARLY PEAS.

If I raised vegetables for market, I might be induced to sow *Dan O'Rourke*, *Carter's First Crop*, and similar tasteless sorts, which do well enough for city people who never get anything better, and consequently are not supposed to know the difference between a first-rate article of this kind and one that is really inferior. *Laxton's Alpha* will, however, pass for a very good early sort, and the same may be said of *McLean's Advancer*, both being valuable for their earliness and good flavor. At the time of sowing those sorts I put in *Champion of England*, which will be fit for the table about the time the last of the *Alphas* and *Advancers* are gathered. I have "beat all about the bush" trying a dozen or more of the newer and highly-extolled sorts, but finally came back pretty well satisfied that the "old" *Champion of England* is second to none of the late varieties.

BEETS.

For early and table use, the *Early Bassano* has no superior, in quality, but if one prefers a deeper colored sort the new, *Red Egyptian* may be selected in preference. For use late in the season, the *Long Blood Beet* is one of the very best.

For feeding to stock I still prefer the *Red Mangel*, to any other. Last year I tried *Lane's Improved Sugar* beet, with the *Mangel*, and the result was, that the latter yielded twice as much as the former. There is also a great difference in the keeping qualities of the two sorts, both having been placed in the same cellar. I now find the *Mangel* as sound as when gathered last fall, while the *Lane's Improved* is not only rotting badly, but even the best specimens are light and spongy. On a different soil the result might have been different.

CABBAGES.

For a very good variety there is not much choice between the *Early Wyman* and *Early Wakefield*, either in quality or certainty of heading. But if I were growing cabbages for market, and in a climate where it was difficult to get good, solid heads, I would plant the *Winningstadt*, although I consider it one of the most inferior sorts ever introduced. In case of a war the heads might be used as conical shot for some of our old smooth-bore cannon, for they are usually hard and tough enough for that purpose. I tried this much extolled sort some fifteen years since, when first introduced, also from time to time since, but could never discover anything meritorious about it, except that it never fails to give solid heads. For late or winter cabbages there are many good sorts, but *Foster's Improved Brunswick* and *Curled Savoy* may be relied upon as excellent varieties for the table.

CAULIFLOWER.

The *Half Early Paris*, has always succeeded so well with me that I have had no cause or desire to look for anything better. The heads are large, solid and of fine flavor, and it succeeds well, even in a light, warm soil, if made sufficiently rich.

CELERY.

The new dwarf varieties of celery have of late years been extolled by our market gardeners, but under ordinary culture the "giant sorts" grow none too rapid or tall to insure a fair show of blanched leafstalks. I have had a pretty good opportunity of seeing all the fancy sorts as sent to New York City markets, but none of them are in my opinion superior for ordinary garden culture and home use to the old *Seymour's Superb White* or *Cole's Superb Red*.

SWEET CORN.

Of course I shall try the *Triumph*, and *Brigg's Early*, but at the same time depend for a main crop upon *Moore's Early Concord* and the old *Stowell's Evergreen*. When I find anything better it will be time to change. My experience with the extra early dwarf sorts leads me to think they are very much like the "extra early" varieties of peas; *i. e.*, very poor in flavor. The Black Sweet Corn is really the best flavored variety I have ever cultivated, but the color is objectionable.

TURNIPS.

Among the Ruta-Baga section the *Sweet German* is undoubtedly the finest flavored of all, although not quite as prolific and large as some other varieties. Among what are usually termed the "flat turnips," the seeds of which are sown later in the season, *Robertson's Golden Ball* pleases me best. It is a handsome, fine flavored variety and a good keeper.

POTATOES.

For my own use I shall plant *Alpha* and *Snowflake*, having tested both for the past two years, I have little hope or even desire for anything better in the way of potatoes.

The above is not all the kinds or varieties which I shall plant this spring, but the list will answer as far as it goes in reply to questions of some of my correspondents.

Arboricultural.

NATIONAL FOREST CULTIVATION.

THE Germantown Telegraph remarks on a subject wherein the Agricultural Press of the Country is almost unanimous:—"It is really astonishing how easily ill-considered matters like these can obtain a hearing and even approval before a body so generally intelligent as are the men who compose the American Congress. The project now is to appoint a Commissioner of Forestry, to take charge of American forests, with a view to their preservation. This is, we believe, the third year that the attempt has been made to found this new Department; but though twice defeated it seems bound to rise again.

"We all know now that much that has been said about this forest-tree subject is the veriest trash, and has been kept before the public systematically no doubt for the interest of a few who want to be constituted a Board of Commissioners. There is, so far as the practical question is concerned, nothing for such a commission to do that the Agricultural Press of the country has not already done. We—all of us—have pointed out that there is a waste of timber going on; but this waste of timber has no bearing, or very little, on our future supply. Where timber is wasted, it is generally in localities where it is really worth little because it is not near any place where it can be marketed, nor would it be for many years, and therefore it is cut down and burned to make way for farm-crops. Wherever it is near to any such market, or near to a prospective market, it is seldom destroyed. It needs no law for its preservation under such circumstances. Americans can see questions of profit and loss as quickly as any, and will not wantonly destroy that which will make them rich. As for timber outside of civilization, people talk of preserving it as if a tree were rocks and stones and would last for ages. Most of our great Western forests have already reached mature age and are on the downward road. Many of these are between one and two hundred years old, and it is believed that very few American trees reach an age of three hundred years. It is impossible to preserve that which nature has doomed. How are "Commissioners" to "preserve" them? Even were they much longer-lived than they are, the chief trouble comes from forest-fires much more than from the woodman's axe. Can a Commissioner prevent the sportsmen's wad or the spark from the locomotive?

"What we really want is not so much the "preservation" of the old forests in the far-away parts of our great country, as the encouragement of new plantations; and this planting is not a work for the General Government to do, which does not propose to hold public lands."

TRENCHING AMONG TREES.

TRENCHING is still practiced in England, but in this country it has gone mostly out of fashion. The subsoil plow pulverizes the soil so much more cheaply than can be done by hand that it will always retain the preference where labor is as dear as here. Trenching, however, admits the manuring of the subsoil, which subsoil plowing cannot well do. Trenching orchard ground is found particularly beneficial where manure is digged in about the roots. Mr. DANCER of Chiswick, Eng., practices trenching in orchards extensively and grows great crops of fine fruit. Fresh-feeding rootlets start from the old roots where cut off, and, finding well-manured soil, supply the tree with abundance of food. It is always important, where roots of trees are to be pruned, that it be done while there is least activity—in spring before buds swell, or in fall after the leaves have fallen. Orchards plowed in midsummer receive a severe check, which the roots do not easily recover from, while in early spring plowing may be done without injury, and, if the soil is sufficiently rich, with positive benefit to the tree. It is better not to plow fresh manure under in immediate contact with the roots. Its fermentation might cause fungus and disease to attack the tree. The better plan is to spread manure on the surface in fall or winter, and let snows or rains carry its fertilizing properties downward.

CULTIVATION OF SUMAC.

NOT long since the Pacific Rural Press, in speaking of the various plants yielding tannin, and while urging the culture of some of them in California, it took occasion to remark—"But there is no reason why the sumac tree may not be cultivated in California, as in Virginia and other Eastern States, with profit to the grower and with advantage to the leather manufacturing industry."

That Sumac is cultivated in Virginia or any other Eastern State, will we think, be news to our people on the Atlantic slope. We think the farmers in the "Old Dominion," and elsewhere at the East, would be very happy to be rid of this pest of fence corners, neglected fields and elsewhere, and forgo all the cash that it is possible to obtain from gathering leaves for tanning and other purposes. There is enough Sumac growing wild east of the Alleghany Mountains to supply the world with this material, but the trouble is, that the price obtained for it will not pay for gathering. Children, and even men and women who have nothing else to do, frequently earn a little money by gathering Sumac leaves, just as they do picking wild berries of different kinds, and this is about the extent of the Sumac crop in America.

BANYAN TREE.

EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS has had its share of attention in India, and without considering the question of the truth or otherwise of its reputed value, it is proved that although it grows quickly and with vigor on the Neligherries and Khasia hills at 5,000 to 8,000 feet above the sea, it cannot be induced to live even for a year or two in the hot plains of India. Dr. King's description of the fine old Banyan tree, "one of the greatest curiosities and ornaments of the place," will, we are sure, be read with interest. He says:—"Although considerably damaged by the cyclone of 1864, which carried away two of its largest arms, this fine tree continues to grow vigorously. It now covers an area of ground 800 feet in circumference; its trunk girths 51 feet, and from its branches no fewer than 170 aerial roots are sent down to the ground, some of them being more than 10 feet in circumference. This fine old tree supports quite a colony of Orchids, Ferns, and creeping plants of about twenty distinct species, and gives shelter to innumerable birds. Its exact age is not known, but, considering how rapidly Banyans grow, it probably does not exceed that of the garden, and is therefore less than a century."

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Prosperity of Fire Insurance.—We learn from the returns published by the insurance papers that the experiences of the fire insurance companies for the year 1875 were especially favorable to that interest. With few exceptions, all the companies doing business in this State have realized an increase of income, a decrease of losses, as compared with the average of former years, and have otherwise prospered. One hundred and two companies report their combined capital to be twenty-seven millions ($27,107,020); their gross assets, sixty millions ($60,052,978); their net premium receipts for the year, $22,440,275; their losses, $9,723,950; their excesses (to pay expected losses), $52,852,730, and their surplus (to pay unexpected losses), quite $17,671,440. These figures are very encouraging. Fire insurance has rarely shown so many and great evidences of a prosperous financial condition. But this state of affairs may not last long. A great fire may occur at any time, and when it does, many of the weaker and least careful companies are almost certain to come to grief. It is especially reassuring to notice that the better companies are carefully accumulating surplus funds in anticipation of a repetition of the Portland, Chicago and Boston calamities, and that the imminence of some such occurrence is recognized in a steadfast adherence to rates of premiums that will pay current losses and expenses and create, besides, a large surplus for the greater security and better protection of policy holders.

An Odd Idea, But Not a Bad One.—It is said upon pretty good authority that some life insurance companies habitually inquire into the condition of their policy holders and endeavor to purchase the policies of those who are in very bad health. One prominent company has, it is stated, paid the expenses of a European tour of a heavily-insured party whom it could not buy off. A medical man in Colorado, himself an invalid in search of health, urges companies to issue policies obligating the company to loan or advance a given amount of money upon the security of the policy to the assured, in case of any chronic disorder that the physicians despair of curing, to send the insured to a favorable climate or secure favorable conditions for his recovery. The suggestion is a valuable one, and should lead to a closer study of the relations of climate to disease. The time may come when the companies will find it to their interest to send ship loads of incipient consumptives from New England to Florida, and colonize fever stricken Southerners on the shores of Northern lakes and rivers.

More Useless Interference.—A bill has been introduced by "a Senator" providing that no policy of life insurance shall be declared forfeited until sixty days after the regular time for payment of premium. Which means that hereafter, for such a law cannot be retroactive, the company shall give fourteen months insurance for the first year's premium and a year's insurance for each subsequent payment. This is simply nonsense, as are most other attempts to interfere with private contracts. The companies can defeat the measure by stipulating that the second premium shall be paid at the end of two months, or they will raise the first premium seventeen per cent. If they do neither of these things or something equivalent, the new policy holders will profit at the expense of the old—a thing not to be thought of, for a good company seeks rather the protection of the members it has than to attract new ones at their cost.

A Muddled Matter.—Contradictory statements have been received in regard to the condition of the affairs of the Southern Life Insurance Co. First it was announced that a petition in bankruptcy had been filed, stating the liabilities at $1,117,000, or about four hundred thousand dollars greater than the entire assets. This announcement is contradicted by a subsequent report that the Company had a surplus, as regards policy holders, of nearly one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Except to those who have been led by sectional prejudices to entrust their money to the custody of political favorites, it does not much matter which of these statements is more reliable.

Farmers Should Insure.—"The barn of Supervisor S. D. BURRITT of Parma, N. Y., was burned Feb. 15. It was filled with grain, but an insurance of $2,000 nearly covers the loss. A barn was burned on the same site eight years ago." This item of news constrains us to say that all who have valuable buildings and contents would do well to have the same insured in safe and reliable companies.

An Alleged Failure.—The Penn. Fire Insurance Co. of Phila. is reported to be insolvent. We have no information except such as has been obtained from exchanges, and cannot vouch for the correctness of the report.

Domestic Economy.

HOW TO MAKE SAUSAGES.

THE Germantown Telegraph gives the following recipe for making sausages:—Having first procured a good machine (which will cost but a few dollars) for cutting sausage meat, collect your meat, containing about one-fourth fat, as taken from the hog, see that it is free from bone, sinew, gristle, &c., wash in tepid water, but do not soak it; then to every 20 pounds of chopped meat add 4 ounces of sage, 10 ounces of salt, 1¾ ounces of black pepper, 4 heaping tablespoonfuls of red pepper, and one ordinary tablespoonful of saltpetor. As there is no standard of tastes, some may think the seasoning too high, and others the ingredients too few. Everyone therefore should, to secure his own taste, try it before using the receipt upon too large a scale, This sausage is improved by age; put in casings and smoke moderately. Those desiring more flavor of sage, and less pepper, can take to every 20 pounds of meat, 10 ounces of salt, 8 ounces of sage and 1 tablespoonful of black pepper. Stir well with the hand, and pack in tin pans; when full, dip a cloth the size of the top of the pan in melted lard, and spread over the pans; then turn them together and remove to a cool place.

It is a common way among housekeepers to "cut and try," that is, add a little more salt, and a little more pepper and sage, tasting and re-tasting, and calling in the aid of the palates of others, till the thing has too much pepper and salt, and is probably spoiled. The above proportions are simple, easy and good. But should you desire to change to suit one's taste, be cautious in using the seasoning, as it is easy to add, but impossible to take out again; and remember, sausages become more salty as they dry.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Cream Pie.—One cup cream (sweet, and as thick as you can get it), two tablespoonfuls sugar, and one egg. Use one crust, making it the usual way.

Corn Cake.—One quart of sour milk, three eggs, one teacupful of flour, yellow corn meal enough to make a batter as thick as for pancakes. Bake quickly in pans well buttered.

Delicate Sponge Cake.—Use the whites of ten eggs, one and one-half tumblers of flour, teaspoonful of cream of tartar, half a teaspoonful of salt; lemon to suit the taste. Bake about 35 minutes or more.

Wild Fowl Pie.—The fowl should be trussed like a duck for a pie, larded with anchovies, and seasoned with pepper, salt, and sweet herbs; put a good quantity of butter into the pie, and flush like all others.

Washington Pie.—One cup of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, four tablespoonfuls sweet milk, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful cream of tartar, one cup flour. Bake in two layers, with jelly, fruit or cream between.

Lemon Pie.—The juice and rind of 1 lemon grated into one cup of water, 1 cupful of loaf sugar, the yelks of two eggs, 3 tablespoonfuls flour. Frosting—beat the whites of two eggs, add four tablespoonfuls white sugar, spread on the pie, and bake lightly in the oven.

Apple Jelly.—Cut the apples in quarters. Do not pare or core them; dip each quarter into clear water, and put them in a jar, and place them in the oven to cook until quite tender. Strain off the juice as usual, and boil with a pound of sugar to a pint of juice. The most delicious jelly will be the result, with the full, pure flavor of the apple.

Corn Dodgers.—One quart of corn meal, a tablespoonful of lard, two eggs, a tablespoonful of salt; scald the meal with the lard in it with boiling water, cool with a little milk, add the eggs (beaten light); beat very hard for ten minutes; make them thin enough with cold milk to drop off the spoon and retain their shape in boiling lard; serve hot; have the lard boiling hot when you drop them in.

Honey Recipe.—White or brown sugar 20 lbs., soft water 6 lbs., pure bee's honey 3 lbs., cream of tartar 80 grains, essence of roses 24 drops. Mix the above in a brass kettle, boil over a charcoal fire five minutes, take it off; add the whites of two eggs well beaten; when almost cold add two pounds more bee's honey. A pint of the decoction of slippery elm, of the consistency of cream, will improve the honey, if it be added while cooling.

Ham or Tongue Toast.—Cut a slice of bread rather thick, toast it and butter it well on both sides. Take a small quantity of the remains of either ham or tongue and grate it; have ready chopped fine, two hard-boiled eggs, put both meat and eggs into a stew-pan with a little butter, salt and cayenne, and make it quite hot, then spread quickly on the toasted bread, and serve immediately.

Hulled Corn.—Soak over night in warm water, in the morning put it on in an iron kettle, with warm water enough to cover it. To each quart of corn I put a rounding tablespoonful of soda; boil until the hulls come off readily, then wash in several clear waters, and after it is thoroughly washed, put it on to boil again in clear water. Boil until tender, and then salt it and let it boil a little longer. Turn into a sieve and drain thoroughly. Eat hot or cold, in milk.

Peas Pie-Crust.—Stew the split peas as for dinner. Strain through a colander or coarse sieve. Then add equal parts good wheat meal and fine corn meal sufficient to make a soft dough. Knead well for fifteen minutes, adding mixed meal enough to make a moderately stiff dough then roll out and use as any other pie-crust. As it cooks very quickly, it is not best to put in for a filling any fruit that requires long cooking.

How to Bake Sliced Potatoes.—Pare and slice, very thin, potatoes to almost fill a two-quart dish. Sprinkle on a large spoonful of salt and a little pepper, then turn on sweet milk until the dish is a little more than half full, that will wash the pepper and salt among the potatoes. Cut five slices of pork, lay them around on the top of the potatoes. Set it in the oven and bake two hours. The pork will get cooked before the potatoes are done. Take it out and cover it up to keep hot until wanted for dinner.

Suet Pudding.—Take one cup of suet, chopped fine; one cup of raisins, chopped; one-half cup of English currants; one cup of syrup; one cup of sour milk, two even teaspoonfuls of soda. Mix the suet, raisins and currants well into the syrup; then add the sour milk; next, the soda, pulverized and well mixed in a handful of dry flour. Stir until it begins to foam, then add flour enough to form a stiff batter. Steam one and one-half hours. For a large family double the quantity will be required, and should be steamed two hours. Serve hot.

Hygienic Information.

THE SICK ROOM.

WHEN there is a sick person in the house the rest of the family should be careful to retire early at night, and to avoid all noise and confusion as much as possible. No more people should be in a sick room, when the patient is weak and nervous, than is absolutely necessary to take care of him or her. It injures a sick person very materially to use his room for the common sitting room, where all sorts of things are talked over and discussed, and newspapers are read until late in the evening. Even if the patient is not sleepy, he may become so by keeping perfectly quiet and giving his nerves a chance to become composed.

Remarks on an invalid's diet, disparaging it, should be avoided. Don't say, "I know I could not eat such stuff."—Bah! such dish-washy victuals!"—or any such remarks. If the patient's appetite is good and he eats a great deal, and some diseases demand it, do not seem to notice it. When people are sick and nervous it is easy to plague and annoy them. All disagreeable topics should therefore be carefully avoided. Doors should not be slammed nor stoves rattled. Heavy walking, loud noises, or too sudden and startling movements, are very injurious.

Respect their wishes, when it can do them no injury; an easy mind is as good as medicine. Often, if patients are given what they wish it will do them a great deal of good. The appetite craves what the system needs. Sometimes, of course, it would not do, but as a general rule it is a good plan. I have known cases where the patient craved cold water, and when given it would work wonders, doing great good. It used to be considered dangerous to give any one milk when they had a fever, but now it is recommended, LORETTA E. K. TURNER.

Chicago Junction, Ohio, Feb. 1876.

SCARLET FEVER.

IT is as unnecessary for a child to die of scarlet fever as it is that it should be blind with cataract. Let us see:—At any time before the body has finished its ineffectual struggle we are able to help it, not by wonderful medicines, but by the knowledge of anatomy, and the application of common sense. We consult the sympathetic nerve, and do what it commands us to do. We must give this child salt when it wants it; we must give it acid when it has a fever and anxiously craves it—not vinegar, but lemon juice, because the first coagulates albumen, and the latter does not, on account of the surplus of oxygen which it contains. To imitate the soothing mucus in the intestines, which is now wanting, and to give some respiratory food at the same time, we add some gum-arabic. To restore and relieve the injured nerve, we apply moist warmth.

In practice we can fulfill all this with the following simple manipulations: Undress the child and bring it to bed at the very first sign of sickness. Give it, if it has already fever, sourish warm lemonade, with some gum-arabic in it. Then cover its abdomen with some dry flannel. Take a well-folded bed-sheet, and put it in boiling hot water; wring it out by means of dry towels, and put this over the whole, and wait. The hot cloth will perhaps require repeated heating. According to the severity of the case and its stage of progress, perspiration will commence in the child in from ten minutes to two hours. The child then is saved; it soon falls asleep. Soon after the child awakes, it shows slight symptoms of returning inclination for food; help its bowels, if necessary, with injections of oil, soap and water, and its recovery will be as steady as the growth of a green-house plant, if well treated.

Of course, if the child was already dying, nothing could save it, or if it has already effusions in the lining of the heart or brain, it is much better that it should die. But if the above is applied in due time, under the eyes and direction of a competent physician, I will guarantee that not one in a hundred children will ever die of scarlet fever. I know this will startle some of my readers, especially those who have lost children already, but I shall go still further. I maintain that a child will never get scarlet fever if properly treated. If a child has correctly mixed blood, it will not catch the disorder if put in bed with a sick child. This is still more startling, but nothing is easier of proof.—*Good Health.*

CURE FOR CROUP.

A KANSAS lady gives the following cure for croup which she vouches for as reliable. She has had much experience with a child always troubled with croup—had tried hive syrup, goose grease and scores of other remedies, and finds the following better than all:

Take of honey one tablespoonful, pulverized alum one-half teaspoonful, saleratus one and one-half teaspoonful, and one-half the white of an egg. Beat all to a cream, and give one-fourth teaspoonful. This will be enough to give relief if taken as soon as the first symptoms of croup appear, which is a hoarse cough, the horror of which can be realized only by those who have heard it, and have watched night after night with a child sick with croup. If it has become necessary to vomit the child, give one teaspoonful, and if the case is a stubborn one repeat the dose in half an hour. In an extreme case, when this remedy has not been applied soon enough, she recommends to take a piece of flannel large enough to cover the throat and lungs well, grease it with fresh lard and wet it with camphor, then warm it and apply. This will relieve the hoarse breathing in a very few moments. If given in time no outward application will be necessary.

LAUGHTER AS A MEDICINE.

A GENTLEMAN was suffering from an ulcerated sore throat, which finally became so swollen that his life was despaired of, when his household came to his bedside to bid him farewell. Each person grasped his hand for a moment, and then turning, passed out weeping. A pet ape which had modestly waited until the last, then advanced, and grasping his master's hand for an instant, also turned and went away with his hands to his eyes. This assumption of deep grief, which it is hardly possible the animal could have felt, since it could scarcely have comprehended the problem of mortality there so powerfully presented to the human mind, was so ludicrous in its perfection, that the patient himself was seized with such an uncontrollable fit of laughter as to break the ulcer in his throat, whereby his life was saved.

A GOOD MEAL FOR HEALTH.

ANY one can make a good meal of three or four things—nicely cooked meat, perfectly prepared potatoes, a dish of ripe fruit and exemplary bread and butter. It is not variety or quantity that is so important as quality, and if those who cook could only realize this and precipitate all their power upon the perfect preparation of only two dishes at each meal, those who feed at their hands would certainly be the gainers. Badly cooked food is sheer waste in nerve, muscle, soul power. The hungry body vainly attempts recuperation in trying to digest and assimilate food not 'convenient' for it, so that what might have been accomplished had the food been right remains undone.

ABOUT NEURALGIA.

A WRITER in the British Medical Record attributes the increasing prevalence of neuralgia of the face and scalp to the effects of cold upon the terminal branches of the nerves distributed to the skin. Men, he thinks, are less subject to it, because they cover their heads better while in the open air. It may be observed that the surface of the head which is actually covered in man is at least three times that which fashion allows to woman. Indeed, the points of contact between the hat or bonnet and the head, in the latter, are so irregular as to practically destroy any protection that otherwise might be afforded.

Patrons of Husbandry.

GRANGE NEWS AND NOTES.

THERE are 1,400 Subordinate Granges in Kansas, with over 40,000 members.

THE Kentucky Matrons claim to have the best looking ladies in the Order to be found in the Union.

MASTER JAMES of Indiana State Grange, favors making all fourth degree members eligible to the Pomona.

THE capital of the Patrons' Manufacturing Association, organized at Indianapolis, is to be $100,000.

THE Order in Idaho Territory is progressing. There are already seventeen Granges organized and working.

THE Kentucky State Grange has adopted resolutions favoring government aid to the Texas Pacific Railroad.

THE Maine Patrons have increased so that there are 400 Granges in the State, with an average membership of 200.

THE Missouri Granger says there will be four or five Grange halls built in Macon county during the coming summer.

THE Patrons' implement store at Dixon, Ill., has saved at least 50 per cent. to those interested in it during the past year.

THE Patrons of California ask the State Legislature to fix the fees of attorneys in all cases where no contract is made.

THREE Granges and a Council of Sovereigns of Industry, in Massachusetts, have started a Co-operative store in Holyoke.

T. A. THOMPSON, Ex-Lecturer of the National Grange, addressed the Ohio State Grange which convened at Cleveland, Feb. 15.

THE Southern Farmer says the Patrons everywhere are learning that mixed agriculture pays best, affords most luxuries, and better living.

C. R. HATTON of 97 Murray St., New York City, has been appointed by the West Virginia State Grange as purchasing and selling agent for the Patrons of that State.

MORTIMER WHITEHEAD, Master N. J. State Grange, visited the Ohio State Grange held at Cleveland, Ohio, last week, and made an address there on the Centennial Encampment.

BROTHER SMEDLEY, the State Master, Vt., is working hard for the advancement of the order. He is travelling through the State lecturing and encouraging the Patrons to go on with the good work.

THE Granges of Mt. Holly, East Wallingford, Ludlow, Plymouth, Proctorsville, Rockingham, Springfield, Chester, Andover, Weston, Londonderry and Landgrove, Vt., are about to form a Pomona Grange.

THE Tennessee State Grange presents that State to the world as having advantages over all others in climate, soil, minerals, coal, timber and healthfulness, and says to all persons seeking permanent homes, Tennessee is the place.

BRO. R. M. CONWAY, State Lecturer of Virginia, has written to the Virginia Patron a letter describing a plan for getting good laborers. He suggests that each applicant for work be required to show a certificate from his former employer stating his qualifications.

THE Order of Patrons of Husbandry has developed in this country more speakers and active parliamentaries than any school or combination of colleges ever started in any country. This fact shows what an educational power there is in the Order, if used to an advantage.

THE Granges in Texas are in a most flourishing condition as a general thing, and with a few exceptions are used as schools, debating societies and social re-unions for neighbors and friends, where all teach and learn, and feel called upon to give their experiences for the general good.

THE Patrons of Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Arkansas recommend a reduction of one-third in the planting of next year's cotton crop, so that the farmers may do less work and get more money. The Kentucky Patrons recommend the same thing in regard to tobacco.

THE Chemung Co. (N. Y.) Grange has elected the following officers:—L. W. Bailey, M.; Geo. S. McCann, O.; W. H. Cleveland, L.; Robert Mosher, S.; Uriah Hall, A. S.; David Shappee, C.; Jonas D. Wilson, T.; DeWitt C. Curtis, S.; Mrs. James McCann, C.; Miss Julia Roushy, F.; Mrs. James Suffern, P., and Mrs. Huldah A. Hall, L. A. S.

THE Farmer's Friend says there is now a genuine Grange of genuine straight-up-and-down farmers in the city of Philadelphia. There are enough farmers within the city limits to compose two or three large Granges, as perhaps fifty square miles of the city are farming land. The Grange referred to is located in the rural portion of the city known as "Bustleton."

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1876.

BETTER TIMES COMING.

FORMING our judgment upon then existing facts and favorable indications, and the sentiments prevailing among the people and being uttered by the press, we some time ago, in an article entitled "Centennial Prosperity," expressed the opinion that better times would ere long be vouchsafed this people and country—that the Centennial Year would not only restore and render permanent our former unparalleled prosperity as a nation, but cement a bond of union between these States and foreign countries which would insure peace and harmony in the future. Among other things we said:—"What we lack most is *Confidence*—in ourselves and in each other. With that, and judicious Economy and Industry, the "good time coming," which has been so long delayed that many have despaired, will surely arrive. Faith and Works will accomplish the desired object and inaugurate an era of prosperity equal to any ever known during the existence of the American Republic—whose career during the past century is unexampled in the history of nations."

Such was the outlook to us early in January, since which time there has been no change in our opinion, albeit the improvement in the times has not been so great as many anticipated. One reason is that most people expect a radical change to be rapidly brought about, whereas such a revolution as is desired must necessarily be gradual and founded upon Works and Confidence—Faith alone not being sufficient to accomplish the result. Labor, Patience, Industry and Economy, as well as Confidence and Integrity, are the great levers which must be brought into requisition to inaugurate an era of general prosperity and render it permanent throughout the country. We must not only be hopeful of success, but work for it diligently and faithfully—with confidence in ourselves and others, and a firm belief in the recuperating power of the people as a nation.

The return of prosperous times would be greatly facilitated were the Press to uniformly look upon the bright side and give such encouraging reports as the facts and indications warrant. Instead of this, however, leading newspapers in our large cities—or at least some of them—seem to take pleasure in shaking the confidence of community by gathering up and publishing the details of every business failure or fraudulent transaction; while partisan journals croak about or predict ruin caused, or to be inaugurated, by the action of political parties. Less of such twaddle, and more hopeful talk, must be the order of the day to assure and secure what the masses so anxiously and universally desire and expect—such a return of prosperity to the Industrial and Producing Classes as will be favorable to the interests of all well-doing citizens of the Republic.

This is very properly an era of Reform, though we fear too much of it is on paper (or in the papers) and in the speech of people. We hold that Economy in both Individual and Governmental affairs is a paramount duty, and the first requisite to a return of such prosperity as shall prove general and of permanent benefit to the whole country. With this, and the Industry, Business Honesty and Integrity of Character which characterized the American people one hundred years ago, the Centennial Year will certainly hasten, if not fully establish, the better times for which all classes of community have so long anxiously waited. To facilitate and hasten the coming of the era of good times all good citizens should labor—exercising their influence in such manner as to produce the desired result. Instead of croaking and cursing, we need hopeful talk, encouragement and wise admonition from the Press, the Pulpit and all exercising influence with any portion of the people. The resources of the country, its real wealth, are ample—never more abundant than now—and, instead of repining, every man, woman and minor in the land ought to thank Heaven, ignore idleness and speculation, and go to work bravely and confidently for a restoration of such prosperity as will benefit and elevate us as a People and Nation.

NOTES FROM WESTERN NEW YORK.

THE weather in Western New York, as everywhere else this winter, has been unusually mild for the season. There has been in most sections no sleighing and very little snow, but mud interminable. Heavy and continued rains have fallen, and the ground, which has been dry for two years or more, is now thoroughly soaked. The severe winters of 1873-4-5, opened the subsoil to a greater depth than had been known in years. Any light rain was speedily absorbed by this porous subsoil, and the result was that at no time has the ground been wet enough to keep springs and wells up to their natural supply. Very many wells have been dry more than a year, and though rain came abundantly in the summer, it affected the subsoil less than usual. Now we judge there will be no more trouble this year from that source.

One result of the two past dry and intensely cold winters, has been a natural underdrainage of the soil. It has really seemed to make little difference in many fields whether they were underdrained or not. Probably the good effect of opening the subsoil will be felt for some years to come, but it is specially important while fields are in their present flooded condition, that they should not be poached and trodden into mire by cattle, and when spring opens that no plowing shall be done while the soil is wet enough to "stick" to the plow. It is very important that spring grain be got in early, but it is far more important that the friability of the soil shall not be permanently injured by working while it is too wet. For a year or two past mud in spring has been only on the surface while the soil beneath has been frozen; but now it reaches deeper and requires careful treatment.

The open winter has thus far not injured wheat on the ground, which still shows a good stand. There is danger while the ground is soaked with water; but a light fall of snow protected the crop while the superabundant water passed away. In some places wheat is covered with water, and unless there is an underdrain it must be smothered. Wheat will however endure submerging several days without injury, provided the water passes off in underdrains instead of being left to dry out.

It is really gratifying to have a prospect of a season when underdraining shall produce its usual good results. During the dry seasons we have recently had, it has made little difference whether land was drained or not, and those who had made expensive improvements in that line were placed at disadvantage with their neighbors. Manures also are more effective in moist seasons; and in short, the whole economy of good farming is better prepared for a flood than a drouth—though better prepared for either than a farmer who does not keep his land in good condition.

THE CORN PREMIUMS—NEW LIST.

THE announcement made by Mr. CONRAD WILSON of a series of Premiums for corn, and which was published by us several weeks ago, has attracted much attention from farmers in all parts of the country. Since then Mr. WILSON has made arrangements to greatly enlarge the scope of the experiments and the Premiums will be increased to $2,000 or more and be given through the agency of the Centennial Bureau of Agriculture. Mr. WILSON announces that a descriptive circular is to be issued giving full details of the plan, and adds:

The object is to test the possibilities of our great national cereal, Indian Corn, in regard to the following points:

1st. The largest attainable product of shelled corn, by weight, from a single grain.
2nd. The largest attainable product of shelled corn, by weight, from one acre.
3rd. The lowest attainable cost per bushel for shelled corn.
4th. The largest attainable product of pork from 1 bushel of corn.
5th. The largest attainable product of butter from 1 bushel of corn.
6th. An experiment in corn culture to test the theory of Prof. Stockbridge. A formula for this experiment will be given in the Circular.

The premiums will comprise books, farm implements, fertilizers, plated silver ware, oil paintings, vegetable and flower seeds, art-subjects, tools, &c. They will be twenty or more in number, and the total value not less than $2,000.

The offers in the last line will amount to $800 or more, and are intended for Granges and Clubs, for the simple reason that experiments in clubs are greatly facilitated by co-operation, and the results obtained are more reliable.

In the circular to be issued the premiums will be described, and the conditions of the competition clearly set forth. All farmers throughout the country are invited to compete. As Indian corn will doubtless contribute more to the food of the human race for the next one hundred years than any other farming product, and as the present year is destined to be a memorable one in our husbandry, there is reason to believe that American farmers will take a lively interest in this competition.

All who are inclined to compete will receive a descriptive circular, as soon as it is printed, by inclosing their address with stamp.

Any other dealers, beside those who have already enlisted, are invited to co-operate in promoting this object.—CONRAD WILSON, P. O. Box No. 4242, N. Y. City.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Free Text Books in Schools.—The State of Wisconsin has supplemented its free school system by providing free text books for all classes of scholars. This plan has several important advantages. Buying largely, the State secures the books at lower rates than individuals or schools could do. The books are preserved for successive classes of scholars, thus greatly decreasing the cost. The children of poor parents are provided as well as the children of the rich. Many poor children attend to whom the cost of buying school books would be a serious burden. All the scholars, moreover, are provided with books at the beginning of the session, and the school can "begin" the "first day," instead of having one to three weeks wasted before all the scholars have text books. It has long been the custom in normal schools in some of the States to provide books at public expense; but there is certainly much stronger reason for doing this in public schools, where the great body of the poorer people get the bulk of their education, than in those large institutions of learning whose benefits are only available to the few. With the means taken to educate their children the people of Wisconsin ought to secure that pre-eminence for intelligence which the free school system of New England did for its people in the earlier history of our country.

Protection of Cattle in Cars.—The U. S. Senate has passed a bill prohibiting the confinement of cattle, hogs or other stock in railroad cars or other vehicles for a longer period than twenty-four hours, without food and drink and a chance to rest. The owner may perform the feeding and watering himself, but if it is not done he shall be liable to a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $500. Railroad companies are made responsible for the feeding and watering of stock, and in case it is done by them, owing to the neglect of the owner, the companies shall have a lien on stock for the value of food or attention furnished. The bill is undoubtedly designed in the interests of mercy, but such a law will not execute itself without a great number of officials to see to its enforcement. It seems to us that it is a very proper subject for action by State Legislatures, in which case of course its execution would naturally devolve on police officers and local courts already in existence.

Scarcity of Clover Seed.—Clover seed has suddenly gone up in price, and farmers who have it to buy find that they must pay two or three dollars per bushel more than they expected. Clover seed has been too low several years, and the advance is a healthy indication. We hope it will not lessen the quantity sown per acre. It is better to get a good seeding wherever you attempt to seed, and if the price of clover goes too high, leave some without seeding, plow the stubble and sow with wheat in the fall. In some cases—as where land is very rich, it will pay to grow wheat after wheat. While clover seed is so dear it will not pay to try to seed after oats. There was generally a poor "filling" of clover heads last fall, and owing to the low price for two or three years, many farmers did not try to save seed. We hope they will let their clover grow the coming year and save a good crop of seed. It will pay in the improvement of the soil if not in seed sold.

Death of Judge Warner.—The Hon. H. G. WARNER of Rochester, N. Y., died suddenly, a few days ago, at Greensboro', Ga., where he was spending the winter with his family. Judge WARNER was long a resident of Rochester, and actively participated in matters tending to improvement in agriculture and horticulture. He was also greatly interested in education, being one of the Regents of the University at the time of his decease. Though possessing positive opinions, which he always maintained with ability, Judge W. had many ardent friends, and his unexpected departure from earth will be widely regretted. His remains were taken to Rochester and interred at Mt. Hope, near the fine residence he so long occupied.

A Railroad to be Completed.—The Rochester and State Line Railroad, connecting Rochester, N. Y., with the coal regions of Pennsylvania and opening some rich farming regions of Wyoming Co., N. Y., has been in financial trouble for a year or two past. The City of Rochester is bonded for $600,000 to aid the enterprise, and some of the towns on the route still more heavily in proportion to their wealth. To all these it will be gratifying news that an arrangement has been made with J. CONDIT SMITH of Buffalo by which the road will probably be finished the coming season, and ultimately the bonds on which it has been mainly built will be made good to the localities issuing them.

The Spread of Noxious Animals.—The sportsmen in the neighborhood of New York City have betaken themselves to a new device to provide themselves with game. They catch foxes in some far-off place, bring them to Staten Island and various parts of New Jersey, give the animals a fair start, and then hunt them down. The trouble is that the fox almost invariably escapes, and now the vermin have taken to breeding and are becoming altogether too plentiful for the comfort of poultry growers in the vicinity. It is thought now that no new foxes other than the natural increase will be needed for several years to come. The folly of most of the city "sportsmen's associations" has never been more glaringly shown than in this increase of foxes and by their futile attempts to destroy them.

The Centennial Appropriation—amounting to $1,500,000—has passed the Senate without amendment, and the bill has received the approval of the President. This will probably enable the Commissioners to complete their arrangements for the Centennial Exhibition in due season and without further aid from the Government. Though opposed to subsidies in most matters, we think the justice and propriety of this appropriation will be concurred in by all people throughout the country who believe in celebrating the Republic's Centennial Anniversary—a matter in which the East and West, North and South, should heartily unite.

RURAL BREVITIES.

PEACH trees are in full blossom in East Tennessee.

IT is estimated that 20,000,000 young trees have been planted on the Minnesota prairie lands for timber.

THE Kohl-rabi is held in high esteem as a substitute for turnips. It stands drouth better than Swedes.

IT is said in England that animals which have been vaccinated are exempt from the foot-and-mouth disease.

W. B. KING of Suffield, Conn., has two breeding sows that have had since Aug. 1, 1875, 57 pigs, of which he has raised 49.

HOOPES, BROTHER & THOMAS, of the Cherry Hill Nurseries, West Chester, Pa., issue a neat Semi-Annual Trade List for the Spring of 1876.

MOST of the willow used in this country is imported from Holland, where it flourishes in the damp, mucky soil of the newly-drained land.

THE Iowa Agricultural Farm of 860 acres produced 3,669 bushels of corn, 1,300 bushels of oats, 127½ tons of hay, and 27½ tons of roots last year.

FARMERS of Richland Co., Wis., have built a wooden railway 18 miles long, at a cost of $3,000 per mile. This secures them good roads to market.

B. H. STAIR & Co., Cleveland, Ohio, send us their new Catalogue of Native and Imported Field, Garden and Flower Seeds, Agricultural Implements, &c., &c.

COLE & BROTHER, Seedsmen and Importers, Pella, Iowa, send us their "Descriptive Seed Catalogue of Choice and Select Vegetables and Flowers," for 1876.

I. H. BABCOCK of Lockport, N. Y., who makes a specialty of growing Grape Vines for nursery agents and dealers, sends us his Wholesale Price List for the current season.

AS a means of encouraging high farming among small proprietors, the Prussian Ministers of Agriculture are considering a proposition to award prizes for well managed small farms.

WM. E. BOWDITCH, Seed and Plant Grower, 645 Warren St., Boston Highlands, Mass., issues a Monthly Price List of Plants, Seeds, &c., which must prove very useful to his patrons and the public.

THAT was a good idea of the Colorado breeder, who compared a sheep to the Government bond, from which the owner could annually clip his coupon (fleece), leaving the principal to gather interest for another year.

A SIMPLE remedy for neuralgia is horseradish. Grate and mix it in vinegar, the same as for table purposes, and apply to the temple when the face or head is affected, or the wrist when the pain is in the arm or shoulder.

THERE were assembled at Nashville on the 13th inst., 200 stock-breeders, who organized the Tennessee Stock-Breeding Association. Addresses were delivered by W. R. DUNCAN of Illinois and J. B. KILBREW of Tennessee.

A CORRESPONDENT recommends dried sweet corn, cracked and then moistened with molasses and properly roasted as a substitute for coffee. We would suggest roasting before the molasses is applied, else the sweet is very apt to burn.

"THE New Guide to Rose Culture, published annually by The Dingee & Conard Co. Rose Growers, West Grove, Chester Co., Pa." A very neat and useful little annual is the one thus entitled for 1876, and a good substitute for the catalogue formerly published.

THE news from England in regard to the wheat crop is not favorable. The season has been unfavorable for the seed in the ground. It is reported that much of it is rotting. Favorable weather may change appearances, but that the next crop will be a short one is highly probable.

THE Vegetable and Floral Guide for 1876, containing descriptions and directions for the culture of Over Twelve Hundred Flowers and Vegetables, just issued by the Detroit Seed Co., importers, growers, and wholesale and retail dealers in Seeds and everything for Gardening, Detroit, Mich., is a beauty in illustrations, printing, etc., and admirably arranged.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

A Universal Remedy.—"Brown's Bronchial Troches" for Coughs, Colds and Bronchial Affections, stand first in public favor and confidence; this result has been acquired by a test of many years.

THE "Phœnix brand Pure White Lead," made by Eckstein, Hills & Co., is the most economical paint you can use. Every keg warranted.

BRIDE & CO.,
769 Broadway, N. Y., want agents for the best money-making article in the world. Send for particulars.

A WINTER SONG.

Alas! cold earth, dost thou forget
The scent of April's violet?
Do wailing winds bemoan the death
Of youth, and joy, and odorous breath?
Are all these shriveled leaves that fall
Heaped up for beauty's burial?

Ah! no, no, no; the careful year
Prepares a bed and not a bier:
Though beauty's trance be long and deep,
Her heart still quivers in her sleep.
Then leave her place of slumber bare;
Let the loved sunlight enter there.

Alas! cold heart, hast thou foregone
The bliss that o'er thy spring-time shone?
Has all the winter of thy woe
Congealed thy weeping into snow?
And in that long and bitter frost,
Has the sweet life of love been lost?

Ah! no, no, no: love wakes again,
Though still and pale it long hath lain,
And chilly was its place of rest;
Then warm it, dearest, on thy breast;
Revive it with thy voice divine,
It wakens to no touch but thine!

The Story-Teller.

THE BROKEN PRIMROSES.

A HIGHLAND LOVE STORY.

Among all the flowers that make the country beautiful, I think none have such a tender place in memory as the primrose. Who ever passed the months of spring in the country, in childhood, who cannot recall how joyously the first appearance of the favorite was hailed, and its opening watched as its delicate buds peeped from among the thick green leaves under the shade of a brier bush, or around the roots of a wide branching ash tree, or on the tiny shelves of the hoary rock?

To see even a bunch of artificial primroses on a pretty young lady's bonnet seems to me to give a touch of poetry to the wearer; while to see them worn by a matron about to enter into the sere and yellow leaf period looks like the ripe months of September or October wearing the livery of spring. They seem more in keeping even on the silvery locks of old age; for an early primrose may blossom on the brow of winter. But to our story.

The laird of a certain Highland estate, which we will call Achanellean, was early left fatherless, but was carefully trained by a very wise, although a doting mother. Sir Evan was a fine, high-spirited young man, who gave her the very highest satisfaction in all things, excepting in the wandering habits he had early formed. He would often dress himself in the strangest disguises and mingle with his tenants, taking a leading share in their games and pastimes. During his strolls he frequently gazed with delight upon such panoramas as that so beautifully delineated in "A Mountain Scene in Scotland"—a view not uncommon in the Highlands.

Sir Evan's mother, knowing his high and honorable nature, was never afraid of his doing anything wrong, at such times, but she thought his conduct undignified; so, as she could not win him from this strange habit, she tried to influence him to get married. With this object in view she gathered around her, both in London and at home, all the young ladies she most admired; but her efforts seemed in vain. Sir Evan was courteous and attentive to all her guests, but he was still fancy free; and she loved him too tenderly to wish to see him married without a sincere attachment. She knew the requirements of his nature, and understood, therefore, that a loveless marriage would only drive him further into the wandering habits from which she wished him weaned.

When Sir Evan was in his twenty-fifth year, he went to a distant part of his estate, which he had never visited before: and, hearing there was to be a wedding, he went to it in disguise as a minstrel. He wore a tattered old tartan coat, and carried his fiddle over his shoulder in a green baize bag, while his fair skin was stained to appear dark as a gipsy's.

It was towards the latter end of spring—a clear, beautiful afternoon—and by the river-side the young people were gaily dancing, while an old white-haired man, with palsied hand, was trying his best to give them music. The young man drew near, and bowing to the company, he drew his old bonnet over his brow and began to play.

The dancers were delighted, for they had never listened to such strains before; and the old fiddler, trembling for fear of losing the reward he expected, went to the young minstrel in the first pause of the music, and proposed that whatever was paid to either of them should be equally divided with the other. The young man laughingly assented, and when the best man came to offer him a glass of something to drink, he refused it; but said, as it was getting cold, if the old man would play them a spring, he would be glad to be allowed to dance a reel.

Permission was at once given, and the minstrel asked for his partner a pretty, gray-eyed, modest-looking maiden, whose graceful movements he had watched in the dance. She readily gave him her hand, and such dancing was seldom seen by those present. When he led her back to her friends, he offered her a few primroses from a small bouquet he had gathered by the river-side, and, turning to another fair girl, he offered her the remainder of the flowers, and begged her hand for the next dance. She tossed her head indignantly, and her looks said plainly, "Do you think I would dance with a gipsy?" She had taken the flowers out of his hand, but she broke them, and cast them away, saying suddenly, "I don't care for flowers, and I'm not going to dance with you, thank you."

The young man turned away hastily, and the maiden who had danced with him said to her companion, "How could you wound the young man's feelings so? What harm could it do you to dance with him? And oh! the dear primroses; the first I have seen this year; see, you have broken them;" and Ellen bowed down and gathered the scattered flowers, carefully placed them among those given herself, and fixed them in her belt.

"How could you rather dance with a fellow like that—likely one of the gang of tinkers that passed yesterday? And will you really wear the flowers he gave?" replied the maiden with a scornful sneer.

"I wear the flowers for their own sakes. How could you break them—the beauties?" replied Ellen, caressing the bouquet with a tender touch; "and as for dancing with the young man, I am sure I am quite ready to do so again, were it only for his delightful music."

Margaret drew herself away in dignified silence. She was quite horrified at the conduct of Ellen; and the young man, who was hovering near, and watching the maidens, again offered his hand to Ellen; and, anxious to heal the wound her companion had given, she danced with him gladly. He saw she was enraptured with his music, and he was delighted when, at the close of the festival, she asked him to proceed to her father's house, where she wished to hear again his sweet strains. She had an old piano—not a very good one, but nevertheless one that gave her pleasure; and she wished to try some of the tunes he had played to the dancers. Ellen's sisters were very much afraid she had compromised the family dignity by dancing with this stroller, and they grumbled about her asking him to their home so late in the evening. He went, however; and after Ellen and himself had discoursed music for a considerable length of time, to the delight of the old folks, who were rather proud of Ellen's musical taste, he rose to leave.

They offered him a bed in the barn, but he said he had to be miles away before daylight; so Ellen gave him a piece of money and stuffed his pockets with bread and beef and a large piece of cheese, at the same time begging of him if he ever came that way again to give them the pleasure of listening to his minstrelsy.

Sir Evan returned to his own castle, but he could not banish the image of the gentle Ellen from his heart. When he slept or woke he always saw her as she stood fixing the broken primroses in her belt—looking so sweet and pretty in her white dress and blue ribbons, and her rippling brown hair tossed both by the evening breeze and by the dancing; and at length when his mother renewed her attacks upon him about getting married, he told her of the maiden he had learned to love so well.

The lady was dumbfounded. Was her darling son, the pride of her heart, to wed a nameless, humble bride? But as she pondered the matter over she became more reconciled to it. If he loved this maiden his happiness was concerned, and what was his true happiness was hers. So after a short silence that almost seemed years, she raised her head and asked Sir Evan if he had cause to think the maiden returned his love?

"I dare not say she does, mother," he replied; "yet, I think she thought tenderly of the strolling musician. I think there was a sigh of regret for his not being the son of a neighboring farmer. I could read that in her dark gray eyes, even when she was not the least conscious of it herself."

"God bless you, my dear son," replied the good lady, with a tremor in her voice, "God bless you, indeed; so amiable a maiden must prove a sweet companion; and she must be in a measure accomplished, according to your statement; and if it is for your happiness, I am reconciled."

The young man kissed his mother's hand with tenderness and gratitude; and he went at once to order out his carriage for the interesting journey. He dressed with great care, and a finer-looking man could seldom be seen.

His well-knit limbs were lithe and hardy-looking, and showed the nimble huntsman or the brave soldier, as occasion might demand. His dark hazel eye was beautiful, and his curling hair the very sunniest shade of brown. His bushy whiskers were auburn, and the habit of command gave a dignity to his presence that lightened the charm of the whole.

Ellen's father saw the carriage approach his house in great surprise, for he knew the great yellow carriage, though he had not seen it for years. He went, bonnet in hand, to meet the laird, while his good wife hastily got on her best cap, and looked to her whisky bottle and her bread and cheese, in case he might alight to rest his horse and get some refreshments, as she had seen his excellent father do.

Sir Evan leaped from the carriage, and gaily entered the old house as if he had been an acquaintance for years, to the great delight of the good farmer and his wife. He partook of a glass of rich cream and a piece of delicious oatcake, and then asked to see their family. They came one by one, tall, blushing girls, and stout, healthy-looking, awkward lads—all but Ellen; and Sir Evan asked if these were all.

"We have one other daughter, our second eldest, but she is busy with some household duties, and unfit to come into your presence; so we hope you will excuse her, Sir Evan," said the mother gravely.

"Show me where to find her then, and I will go to her," said Sir Evan, with a strange quiver of lip and voice.

The mother was about to call the daughter, when one of the boys, hastily opening the door, pointed to the room where Ellen was busily taking off the butter from the churn. She was arrayed in a plain gray linen dress, clean and neat, and the curls, that had hung so prettily about her neck and face at the wedding, were fastened back with a piece of bright blue ribbon; but the drooping, tall, lily-like figure and the modest gray eyes were the same, and the expression he thought so angelic when she gathered the broken primroses was still the same also; indeed, as he gazed upon her, he thought her more beautiful than ever. She looked bewildered at the fair face of the young man, and he took her hand, saying:—"I have accepted your invitation, Ellen. You see I have returned, though in good sooth your eyes would speak a warmer welcome if I had come with my tattered coat and my fiddle."

A MOUNTAIN SCENE IN SCOTLAND.

Ellen stood speechless in astonishment; for she saw, indeed, he was no other than the strolling musician—for that hazel eye had left a tender regret in Ellen's heart for which she had often chid herself; and as it flashed across her mind who he was, and how she had stuffed his pockets with bread and beef, she fell on her knees, crying:—"Forgive me, sir; oh, forgive me. I knew not, indeed, you were any other than what you seemed."

"Forgive you, Ellen! Yes, my fair girl; you have more need of forgiveness than you think, for you have stolen my peace of mind away. Will you restore it to me? Will you be my partner now again—for all my life long?" He raised her from the floor as he spoke and drew her tenderly toward him; and she laid her face upon his bosom and wept tears of the purest joy and gladness as, amidst his caresses, she promised to be his through life. Ere he led her back to get a blessing from her parents, he took from his bosom a bouquet of the latest primroses of the year and fixed them on her breast, whispering:—"These flowers must always be sacred to us; for it was when you were gathering those of mine, so rudely broken and scattered by an ungentle hand, that my soul went out to you in the fulness of its first affection."

So Ellen became the wife of Sir Evan, and through life proved herself a true wife, a loving mother, and a benefactress to the poor and lowly. Sir Evan's mother never had cause to regret having given her sanction to the marriage; for she became very proud of her lovely daughter-in-law, whose charming character was daily astonishing her more and more. They are old now, and the elder lady has passed away; and the young generation are grown up to manly sons and beautiful daughters, being loved and wooed and won in their turn; but none of them are happier with their lovers than Ellen is with Sir Evan; and in the spring he never appears before her on any morning without a bouquet of primroses, which she places in her belt as she had done long ago to those he had first given her. The family all know the story; and they have heard how chagrined the haughty Margaret was when she learned who she had refused to dance with at the wedding by the river side, and whose flowers she had broken so rudely and cast to the winds; and the most valued painting in the castle is the fair Ellen in her white dress and blue ribbons, and sunny, rippling, golden-brown hair, with a tender look, half-glad, half-regretful, gathering into her bouquet the broken primroses, and a hazel-eyed, handsome gipsy gazing at her with passionate admiration.

A SUCCESSFUL MERCHANT.

Fifty years ago or more, says the New York Sun, a lad named Augustus Hemenway was engaged as a shop boy in a dry goods store in Charlestown, Mass. His extraordinary aptitude for business attracted the notice of a Boston merchant, who was heavily engaged in South American trade. He took the boy to his counting house on Central Wharf, Boston, and when the latter grew up to manhood sent him to Valparaiso to look after his large interest in that city. In a short time the young man left his employer and struck out for himself. This South American trade was a comprehensive one. It embraced the buying of all kinds of South American products, hides, wool, copper, etc., sending them to the United States, and bringing back an assortment of American manufactures. The business established by Hemenway advanced with great strides. The wealthy English houses in Valparaiso, having confidence in the remarkable ability of the young American, lent him their credit. A singular feature in this man's career was that he never gave a note. His business in a few years had become so great that he found it necessary to return to Boston and establish a house in that city. He sent his brother, Charles P. Hemenway, to South America to manage the house there, and, remaining himself in Boston, enlarging his operations until the magnitude of them demanded every moment of his time. He even built his own ships, and made additional profits by carrying his own goods. He owned sugar plantations in Cuba, copper mines in South America, and had business relations with the Barings of such magnitude as to astonish even that colossal house, and the whole of this immense business he managed himself.

Now comes a strange change in his career. About fifteen years ago, one morning he walked into the China Insurance Company's office, and expressed some anxiety about a payment which he was obliged to make of a comparatively trifling amount, saying that he was afraid he should not be able to meet it. Mr. Bacon, the President of the company, was astonished, and after some talk with Mr. Hemenway, was convinced that the latter was a little out of his mind. Mr. Hemenway himself came to the same conclusion. He sent for his lawyer, and ordered him to draw up a power of attorney confiding the management of his business to his brother Francis, and Mr. Tileston, his brother-in-law, of the firm of Spofford & Tileston. Associated with them was his chief clerk, a Mr. Brown, also a man of great business sagacity. Having done this, he quietly retired to Litchfield, Conn., and put himself in charge of an eminent medical man who resides there. In his house he remained for thirteen years, watching and nursing his brain. He had satisfied himself that without perfect rest and quiet the machine so terribly tried would give out, and the result would be softening of the brain. He passed his time in quiet amusement, glanced at the newspapers, but would never allow the word business to be mentioned in his presence. During this long period of seclusion, the great civil war broke out and was extinguished, specie disappeared, a new currency was born, new channels of trade were opened, and new methods of business were evolved. The great whirlwind swept by him unnoticed. To his friends Hemenway appeared to be hopelessly insane.

About eighteen months ago, like a clap of thunder from a clear sky, a telegram came to Charles Hemenway, worded thus: "Bring on your trial balance—Augustus Hemenway." The brother telegraphed to the physician. The answer came: "Patient perfectly recovered." Mr. Hemenway received his brother and the trial balance and looked over it. A few days afterward he walked into his counting room on Lewis's wharf, hung up his hat on the accustomed peg and sat down to business quietly. In a few days more he looked over the entire transactions of the house for the past thirteen years, and generally approved of what had been done.

Mr. Hemenway resumed the charge of his business. It had been enormously enlarged by his brother and Mr. Brown. To them he released the entire profits of the thirteen years. Now this extraordinary man has resumed his sometime suspended business. He is now engaged in some operation, which will, no doubt, prove successful, as it is asserted that during his long career he never made a business mistake. Mr. Hemenway is probably the wealthiest man in America. He owns a great deal of property in New York city. Seeing that the dry goods trade was drifting over to Church street, he bought some old houses there, and pulling them down, erected stores. He received as much for one year's rent as the ground and old houses cost. During the whole long self-imprisonment of this remarkable man, his wife was an angel of mercy to the poor, going about and visiting them, and spending money to the extent of a prince's revenue. All this she did in the most unostentatious manner, and as secretly as if detection would bring scorn instead of honor.

DEACON MARVIN, OF LYME.

One of the early settlers of Lyme was Reynold Marvin. He was a rich land-holder, a militia captain and a deacon of the church. He professed to be governed by Divine communications. On one occasion he announced that the Lord had directed him to distribute his cows among the poor. A shiftless fellow who was omitted in the distribution finally went to the deacon, and said he, too, had received a communication from the Lord, who had sent him there for a cow.

"Of course, then, you must have a cow," was the reply. "But what sort of a cow did the Lord say I must give you—a new milch or a farrow?"

"A new milch cow, sir."

"Indeed! Your communication could not have been from the Lord, for I have no new milch cow."

The baffled beggar departed.

Another time the deacon opposed some church measure, which was carried in spite of him. He promptly refused to pay his church taxes, and was sued, and his saddle taken for the debt. He esteemed himself deeply wronged, and rode upon a sheep skin (wheeled vehicles had as yet hardly appeared in the colonies) forever afterward. And riding upon his sheep-skin one day he reigned his horse up to the cottage door of pretty Betty Lee. It was an old Dutch door, cut in two in the middle. She came and leaned upon the lower half, her blue eyes opened wide, and her dainty hands holding fast to a plate she was wiping.

"Betty," said he solemnly, "the Lord has sent me here to marry you."

"The Lord's will be done," she replied.

The deacon nudged his horse and trotted slowly away, and the maiden finished washing her dishes. Betty's father was not friendly to the deacon, and tried to break up the engagement. He did not succeed, as appears from the "publishment," which, according to the custom of the times, was posted upon the church door. It was the production of the prospective bridegroom and ran thus:

"Reynold Marvin and Betty Lee
Do intend to marry;
And though her dad op-pos-ed be,
They can no longer tarry."

They were married and lived in peace, and a small stone house on the west side of "The Street" brought up a large family of children, and in due course of events were gathered to their fathers. On a time-worn headstone in the Lyme cemetery may be seen the following inscription:

"This Deacon, aged sixty-eight
Is freed on Earth from carving,
May for a crown no longer wait,
Lyme's Captain Reynold Marvin."

The Literary World.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Courtship of Miles Standish.—By Henry W. Longfellow. Illustrated. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.

Hawthorne.—By James T. Fields. Illustrated. Osgood & Co.

A Day's Pleasure.—By William D. Howells. Illustrated. Osgood & Co.

Enoch Arden.—By Alfred Tennyson. Illustrated. Osgood & Co.

The enterprising Boston publishers, whose imprint they bear, are entitled to the thanks of the lovers of choice literature for the admirable taste displayed, and convenience afforded, in issuing these beautiful miniature volumes. They belong to the "Vest Pocket Series of Standard and Popular Authors," and are fully as attractive, in both contents and style, as those of the same series we have previously noticed. "Their Lilliputian size, legible type, and flexible cloth binding, adapt them admirably for the beguiling (or improving) of short journeys; and the high excellence of their contents makes them desirable always and everywhere." They are sold at a uniform price of fifty cents each.

Christmas Stories.—By Chas. Dickens. With Original Illustrations by E. A. Abbey. New York: Harper & Brothers.

The admirers of Dickens' writings, and the thousands who are to become such, are under obligations to the Harpers for issuing this handsome volume. Its broad, double-column pages, clear print and fine original illustrations render the book attractive, and many who have read these Christmas Stories before will be glad to secure them in this form for re-perusal and preservation. The collection comprises fourteen stories, opening with "A Christmas Carol," followed by "The Chimes," "The Cricket on the Hearth," &c.

The Devil's Chain.—By Edward Jenkins, M. P., author of "Ginx's Baby," Etc. [16mo.—pp. 163.] New York: Harper & Brothers.

Locating his sketches in the city of London, our author delineates, from facts and statistics, the fearful loss of life, character and property from the use of intoxicating liquors. The Nine Links (or chapters) of this Devil's Chain exhibit in rude, stern, truthful outlines, the full features and proportions of the most fatal abuse or disease now afflicting mankind. We wish the work could be read and pondered upon by every well-wisher of peoples and nations among whom intemperance prevails.

A Paying Investment.—By Anna E. Dickinson. [16mo.—pp. 120.] Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.

Every lover of this Republic who peruses the little work before us will find in it abundant food for thought and reflection, and incentives to action in the right direction. It expresses ideas upon education and good citizenship as related to the future prosperity of our people and the perpetuity of republican institutions which are worthy of profound consideration by every intelligent and patriotic American.

Monfort Hall.—A Novel. By Mrs. Catherine A. Warfield, author of "The Household of Bouverie," &c., &c. [12mo.—pp. 230.] Phila.: T. B. Peterson & Bros.

The critical members of our family pronounce this a capital work, and one of them confidently adds that "Mrs. Warfield *always* writes good books." It is an American story, though an English gentleman figures as a prominent character. It is quite original and absorbingly interesting.

A Rent in a Cloud. A Novel.—By Charles Lever. [8vo.—pp. 111—paper cover.] Phila.: Petersons.

The world-wide reputation of the author will no doubt secure a wide sale for this work in the cheap form in which it appears. It is characterized by the free, dashing, manly style of Mr. Lever's most popular works.

LITERARY ITEMS.

A revised and enlarged edition of Dr. Hooker's work on Chemistry will be published by Harper & Brothers.

Charles Reade, the popular English author, is said to be meditating a visit to the Philadelphia Centennial.

Senator Logan has written a play for private exhibition. It is called "The Adventures of a Congressman."

Italy has a poet-laureate, Giovanni Patri, who is so prolific that he has just published a volume, called "Psiche," containing 568 sonnets.

The Rev. Dr. Henry M. Dexter of The Congregationalist will soon publish a monograph on "Roger Williams and his Relations to the Puritans."

Dr. Holland's novel of "Sevenoaks" has reached its twenty-fifth thousand. Its dramatization by Dr. Holland and Miss Gilder has been completed.

Beamish Murdoch, a lawer and author of some note in Nova Scotia, and the historian of that Province, died recently in the seventy-sixth year of his ago.

Mr. Caleb Cushing, U. S. Minister to Spain, has fallen into that infirmity of noble minds—he has written a poem for the birthday anniversary of a French princess, five years old.

Household art is occupying the public and publishers in England as well as in America. Two new books are announced, "The Art of Furnishing" and "Tables and Chairs."

Sheldon & Co. have removed to No. 8 Murray St., where they will hereafter confine themselves exclusively to publishing, in which they purpose to engage more largely than ever before.

The publication of Charles Sumner's works has come to a standstill, the fund left by him for completing the edition having been expended. Several volumes remain to be edited and printed.

Scribner, Armstrong & Co. will reprint the volume of Mr. W. S. Gilbert's plays, including "The Wicked World," "Pygmalion and Galatea," "The Princess," "Charity," "The Palace of Truth," and "Trial by Jury."

Hon. David A. Wells has prepared a satirical work on finance, entitled "Robinson Crusoe's Money." It tells how Crusoe and Friday went into money making and gives the sad results. The story will be profusely illustrated by Thomas Nast and will be issued by the Harpers.

The end of the dispute concerning the verity of Gen. W. T. Sherman's criticisms in his Memoirs, is not yet. Gen. Boynton having sharply reviewed the Memoirs, is now in his turn pursued by Mr. C. W. Moulton, who essays to prove that Boynton's review is warped and unfair.

Sabbath Reading.

THE VOYAGE.

ANCHORED.

O weary days and nights, so still, so still—
The useless sails hang flapping stiff and slow,
We pine and chafe, and set our helpless will
In vain revolt at what to change, to know
Is not for us. We hear the strong winds blow
And fret as in the east, the west, we see
Great ships and small go sliding fast and free.

ADRIFT.

O fearful days and nights, so dark and cold—
The swift waves mock and leap on every side;
No rudder steers; no mast nor spar can hold;
We think no ear could hear us if we cried;
We think God would not miss us if we died;
We feel forgotten, helpless, cast away;
We shut our eyes and do not even pray.

ON SHORE.

O peaceful days, and peaceful nights—whose peace
Cannot be uttered! O green shores of life
Beyond the body! Shall we ever cease
To smile that through such hot and silly strife
We cease? That doubts and fears could grow so rife?
That we could fail to see how God's good hand
Our anchorings and our driftings planned?

A BEAUTIFUL EXTRACT.

It was night. Jerusalem slept as quietly amid her hills as a child upon the breast of its mother. The noiseless sentinel stood like a statue at his post and the philosopher's lamp burned dimly in the recess of his chamber. But a moral darkness involved the nation in its unenlightened shadows. Reason shed a faint glimmering over the minds of men like the cold and insufficient shining of a distant star. The immortality of man's spiritual nature was unknown, his relation to Heaven undiscovered, and his future destiny obscured in a cloud of mystery. It was at this period that two forms of ethereal mold hovered about the land of God's chosen people. They come, sister angels, sent to earth on some embassy of love. The one of majestic stature and well-formed limb, which her drapery scarcely concealed, and her erect bearing and steady eye exhibiting the highest degree of strength and confidence. Her right arm was extended in an expressive gesture upward, where night appears to have planted her darkest pavilion; while on her left inclines her delicate companion, in form and countenance the contrast of the other. She was drooping like a flower moistened by refreshing dew, and her bright and troubled eyes scanned them with ardent but varying glances. Suddenly a light like the sun flashed out from the heavens, and Faith and Hope hailed with exciting song the ascending star of Bethlehem. Years rolled away, and a stranger was seen in Jerusalem. He was a weak, unassuming man, whose happiness seemed to consist in acts of benevolence to the human race. There were deep traces of sorrow in his countenance, though no one knew why he grieved, for he lived in the practice of every virtue, and was loved by all the good and wise.

By-and-by it was rumored that the stranger worked miracles, that the blind saw, the dumb spake, the dead arose, the ocean moderated its chafing tide, the very thunder articulated. He was the son of God. Envy assailed him to death.

Thickly guarded he slowly ascended the hill of Calvary. A heavy cross bent him to the earth; but Faith leaned on his arm and Hope, dipping her pinions in his blood, mounted to the skies.

GOLDEN THOUGHTS.

Doing good is a sure way of getting good.

Let another's shipwreck be your sea-mark.

Where the heart is inclined there also will the feet turn.

There is no to-morrow that cannot be converted into to-day.

No man is so insignificant as to be sure that his example can do no harm.

Men may judge us by the success of our efforts; God looks at the efforts themselves.

It was George Herbert who said a handful of good life is worth a bushel of learning.

Religion is a little like ether in one respect—it evaporates unless you look after it carefully.

The door between us and heaven cannot be opened if that between us and our fellow men is shut.

Some change their sins as they do their clothes, and so wait upon their infernal master in a new livery.

As sharp and nipping winters do to the earth, so do afflictions to the heart—they mellow it, make it fruitful.

Value the friendship of him who stands by you in the storm; swarms of insects will surround you in the sunshine.

Kindness is the music of good will to men, and on the harp the smallest finger may play heaven's sweetest tunes on earth.

I like to go all round a text to see what's after and before; then I often find it is like a little diamond set in pearls.—*Moody.*

It is never too late with us so long as we are still aware of our faults and bear them impatiently, and so long as aspirations eager for conquest stir within us.

All truths, unless productive of holiness and love, are of no avail. They may float upon the surface of the understanding, but this is to no purpose unless they transform the heart.

Ladies' Portfolio.

OVER THE WAY.

BY PORT U. LACCA.

Over the way I hear a voice.
'Tis the gentle voice of song,
I stop to list its melody
As I pass my way along.

Over the way are beautiful eyes
That own a blissful charm;
Should I happen to pass that way—
And I may—what's the harm?

Over the way is a form that's fair,
And a heart that's good and true;
I love that voice—its charms are rare—
I love those eyes of blue.

Over the way—how familiar grown!
Two forms there are, and one more!
What can compare with papa's own
A-creeping on the floor?

OUT-DOOR HOME DECORATIONS.

In this age of artistic novelties the desire seems to be to arrange something that our neighbors have not—to improve our homes and make them attractive—to rise superior to the necessity that forbids our indulging in expensive decorations, and to convert the useless appendages of kitchen, pantry and garret into articles of beauty and usefulness. It is true that there are no cast-off articles that need be thrown away. Glue, wire, twine, the various wood mosses, burrs, shells, vegetable seeds, aniline dyes and varnish, will make them serviceable and "things of beauty." I recently saw an old, three-legged, cracked, round-bottom, iron pot—such as used to be suspended from a crane or tramel in the deep, old-fashioned fire-places for cooking—suspended from the apex of three stout rustic sticks and nicely filled with scarlet geranium, heliotrope, candytuft, and the sides almost covered with smilax, Joseph's-coat and our irrepressible Money-wort. For the fuel and coals beneath the pot grew a fine Morocco plant, scarlet verbenas, white daisies and pansies. Altogether it was quite a unique affair.

"It is a pity you cannot have it during the winter," I remarked. "Oh, I intend to. The fire there beneath the pot is held in abeyance by cups, and the pot can sit on our rustic stand nicely." At all points necessary to produce effect were suspended various and oddly-shaped hanging baskets, improving the appearance of the yard and economizing space wonderfully—for it was in a town where land was sold by the foot, and at fabulous prices, and formerly had afforded only the money-eyed portion the means of cultivating their taste or increasing their enjoyment by flowers and plants.

"It must cost considerable for such a variety of hanging baskets."

"On the contrary the cost did not exceed thirty cents, and I think I could have reduced it still less. That one you pronounced odd is a cast-off tin lamp shade, the sides made to rise or fall on a wire. I punched holes in each alternate leaf or wing, allowing every alternate leaf to drop, filled it with moss that will flourish in a very damp soil, filled it with beech mold and planted our gill—seen over the ground—the first of May. You see the result. The one there which you admired so much, is constructed of old hoop-skirt wires. I heated and let them cool several times until they became very pliable, then fashioned them over a three-pint basin. The beautiful vines are our garden pusley and wild bean. I think that one has received more compliments than either. The next one is a wooden box artistically covered with grape clippings; the vine, morning glories. I shall cut them down as soon as they have done blossoming and plant fresh seeds for winter decoration. All the others, including those side hanging pots, are tin fruit cans. Those side hangers: I melted the can lengthwise, opened it sufficient to puncture two holes to suspend it by, and now that we can see only the rich, dark green German ivy and oxalis, what matter it if the receptacle is ordinary? Those hanging from the elm there are worn out tin basins of various sizes that I punched holes in for the cords and pressed them into service. That huge boulder that the woodbine covers so nicely was the stones I picked from the yard, and threw them in that heap to be removed. I was in the woods soon after and saw a woodbine trailing over a similar heap. So I utilized my refuse heap.

"My stump there is my pet ornament. Please examine it. First, there are three pieces of cedar driven into the ground to represent the branching of the tree from the bole. Then a nail cask fastened upon them securely and filled with rich earth, and Portulaccas planted. Then the sides I covered with elm bark that I picked from my stove wood. The plants that are growing from the sides issue from the holes I bored in the cask and the places I cut in the bark. My Royal Stand, that is my special attraction, is constructed of a cheese box and the hub of a wheel. The center of the box contains a smaller box, and that and the outside space is filled with rich mold. The center box is planted with Nasturtiums and they are nobly covering that cross and circle. The space is filled with pansies, white candytuft, daisies, amaranths, and see how nicely they hide their mansion. Was ever any arrangement more unique than the hub and spokes? How orderly that thunbergia creeps along each spoke. I imagined its little yellow eye winked in recognition of my satisfied look. My tall plants would overshadow the low ones, so I economized my ground by elevating the started ones in various shaped boxes, still my friends think I have quite a novel collection, and the satisfaction I extract from their growth and blossoms is a sure antidote to discontent, dissatisfaction and any counteracting feeling that mars home enjoyment.

"Equal with my flowers is my Aviary. I heard about bird boxes; so after considerable practice, disaster and triumph, I succeeded in constructing a house that I fastened into the tree for the birds. It was interesting to watch their movements. One came, lighted on a remote branch, peered stealthily, chirped softly, hopped a little further, and so repeated these movements till he ventured to put his head within it. After halting a moment he cautiously entered, remained a moment, came out and flew away. In a short time I heard a great chattering. The pioneer bird had returned with several more; one, more officious than the others, proved to be the mate. After chattering, flying about, taking cautious peeps of the whole house, they flew to the second house that I had put up, and after similar negotiations, examinations and fluttering, the second couple took possession of their house. In less than a fortnight my ten bird tenements were taken, and I quite intoxicated by my interest in them and the amusement and instruction I gained. Since these home innovations friends have complained of my secluding myself, and one plainly told me that since my inherited money afforded me home decorations I had become proud and selfish."

"Inherited money!" I repeated, surprised.

"Yes, of course: how could you have beautified your home if you had not received a fortune from some one?"

I laughed so heartily that it was some minutes before I could undeceive her. Then the surprised look and apology reinstated our friendliness and afforded a pleasant reminiscence that we both enjoyed referring to. It is not money that always answers our desires or develops our capacity, because oftentimes so small a part of our mind becomes interested in producing. But when our taste and ingenuity are developed, and exercised in a way that brings us in actual contact with philosophy, how generous and noble become our lives! The asperity of our nature becomes toned, purified, elevated, and the occurrences and transactions that hitherto annoyed and irritated us lose their influence, and we smile complacently at the thought that they once disturbed us. Hence the good that results from owning a bit of yard and four shade trees, and being the possessor of cast-off convertible refuse.

"But how are you to keep them through the winter? Neither window in your sitting room can be spared, without making it really unpleasant by shutting out the fine view you have from both windows?"

"I asked myself the same question a year ago, and I will tell you all about it if the Editor is willing." M. E. J.

THE SISTER.

No household is complete without a sister. She gives the finish to the family. A sister's love, a sister's influence—what can be more hallowed! A sister's watchful care—can anything be more tender? A sister's kindness—does the world show us anything more pure? Who would live without a sister? A sister that is a sister in fidelity, in purity, in love, is a sort of guardian angel in the home circle. Her presence condemns vice. She is the quickener of good resolutions, the sunshine in the pathway of home. To every brother she is a light and life. Her heart is the treasure house of confidence. In her he finds a fast friend; a charitable, forgiving, tender though often severe friend. In her he finds a ready companion. Her sympathy is as open as day, and sweet as the fragrance of flowers. We pity the brother who has no sister, no sister's love; we feel sorry for the home which is not enlivened by a sister's presence. A sister's office is a noble and gentle one. It is her's to persuade to virtue, to win to wisdom's ways; gently to lead where duty calls; to guard the citadel of home with sleepless vigilance of virtue; to gather graces and strew flowers around the home altar. To be a sister is to hold a sweet place in the heart of home. It is to minister in a holy office.

LADIES BOOTS.

A writer in the Pall Mall Gazette concludes an excellent article upon "woman and her boots" as follows: Her boots are far too thin for walking purposes, and it was only last week that an inquest was held on the body of a young lady who, owing to a nail piercing the sole of her boot, received such an injury to the foot that she died of lockjaw. Woman, moreover, now that she takes so active a part in the business of life, and is almost ubiquitous, requires to be strongly if not ponderously shod, so that, when necessity arises, she may hold her own with man, returning kick for kick with that fascinating but foolish creature. A few words from the pulpit would perhaps induce her to take the question of boot reform into her serious consideration.

Every kindly word and feeling, every good deed and thought, every noble action and impulse, is like the ark-sent dove, and returns from the troubled waters of life bearing a green olive branch to the soul.

Many do with opportunities as children do at the sea shore—fill their little hands with sand, and then let the grains fall through their fingers till they are gone.

Most men take conviction from an adversary as children do physic, with a struggle and a shudder.

Reading for the Young.

A VALENTINE.

Oh! little loveliest lady mine,
What shall I send for your Valentine?
Summer and flowers are far away;
Gloomy old Winter is king to-day:
Buds will not blow, and sun will not shine.
What shall I do for a Valentine?

Prithee, St. Valentine, tell me here,
Why do you come at this time o' year?
Plenty of days when lilies are white,
Plenty of days when sunbeams are bright.
But now, when everything's dark and drear,
Why do you come, St. Valentine dear?

I've searched the gardens all thro' and thro'
For a bud to tell of my love so true.
But buds were asleep, and blossoms were dead.
And the falling snow came down on my head.
So, little loveliest lady mine,
Here is my heart for your Valentine.

[*L. E. R., in St. Nicholas.*

TWO SCHOOL-BOYS:

Their Parents, Homes and Privileges.

BY AUNT JAY.

Henry Lee and George Wood were schoolmates. They attended the same school, shared the same seat, and were in the same class. Strangers visiting would say they were the two brightest boys in the school. They were both favorites among the boys of their age—one for his kindness, and being always ready and willing to lend assistance; the other for the wealth of his father, who never failed to keep his only son supplied with pocket money, which was spent for apples, nuts, candy, etc., and distributed among his mates. How many little boys wished *they* had just such a father who would gratify every wish; but I beg my young friends to first follow the life and career of these two school-boys, and having caught a glimpse of them in the future years, then choose for themselves in whose place they would wish to be—in that of Henry, the son of a poor carpenter, or of George, the son of a rich merchant. Could Mr. Wood have been able to look into the invisible Future and see the life his wayward son was to lead, I fear his gray hairs would have been brought in sorrow to the grave years before they were.

The mother of George was one of the many women of our land who are governed by fashion and the praise of the world. Leaving her son during his infant days to the care of servants, she spent her time among the pleasures and vanities of the fashionable society in which she reigned a belle, and suffered herself to be praised and flattered for her great beauty as well as her wealth—never deeming it necessary that she should spend at least a small share of her time with the prattling babe who was starving for a mother's care. Mrs. Wood had married her husband only for his wealth; and being a very vain and proud girl in her younger days, whose beauty alone attracted the attention of numerous admirers, had rejected one whom she loved for another who was more blessed with worldly possessions.

The father of Henry Lee was not a *poor* man, but was a carpenter by trade, who supported his family by the sweat of his brow. As both father and mother wished to give to their only son a good practical education, such as would fit him for any station in life, they could spare Henry but little spending money for "nicknacks." Mr. Lee was looked up to as an honest man, always doing the fair thing in a bargain, and as such ever respected by all who employed him. Mrs. Lee—unlike Mrs. Wood—was an economical woman and truly a helpmeet to her husband, devoting the little time she could spare from her household duties to directing the education of Henry, whom she wished to grow up as an honest and God-fearing man.

As I have introduced my readers to the parents of Henry and George, we will leave them for the present and return to the boys.

During the latter part of the summer term there was a great deal of excitement prevailing among the boys attending the Academy. For a prize had been offered consisting of a free scholarship for entering College to the one that would pass the best examination and compose the best Latin composition, of which every word of the latter was to be spelled and written correctly. The prize was offered only to the members of the advanced class, in which both Henry and George belonged. Both were of equal standing in his class, for George learned very easily and therefore kept up with Henry, who, by paying close attention to his studies at home as well as in school, managed to keep at the head of his class,—while George, being a rich man's son, passed his evenings on the street and smoking cigars. His father, too much engrossed in his mercantile business, and his mother devoting her time to her fashionable friends, had no time to look after their son, who was now, at so early an age, learning to walk in the broad road that leadeth only to destruction, and alas! where so many of the most promising youths of our land find an early grave.

Henry was blest with one of the best of mothers, who took pains to make home pleasant and attractive for both father and son,—so that they had no desire to spend the evenings on the streets, but enjoyed themselves in each other's company as they formed a happy family circle around the hearthstone, where Henry every evening pored over his school books. In like manner do we find him occupied the evening preceding Examination day. He is reading his composition aloud to his parents for their approval, and we, after spending a few moments in pleasant chat with our friends, bid them good night—promising however to be in readiness the following day to witness the examination.

The bell rang calling school to order. A looker-on could hardly have told which was the best behaved among all those boys as each passed in quietly and took his seat, without a murmur. After the devotional exercises were over and roll called, visitors were announced and the committee who were to examine the classes and distribute the prizes, took chairs arranged in a row on the platform facing the school. The classes all passed a satisfactory examination—a number of each bearing a prize they had earned. The Advanced class—being reserved to the last—at the tapping of the bell now rose and took places before the judges. How excited grew their faces as the examination proceeded, each wondering if *he* would be the favored one. But only two of the whole class stood the test—George Wood and Henry Lee. The prize was not awarded then, but put off until after the reading of the Essays, which were to be read in the afternoon. After they were read and carefully examined by the committee they agreed that the prize belonged to Henry Lee, not only for being the best composed, but the neatest written, without a blot or a misspelled word. It would have puzzled the committee which of the two boys, Henry or George, should have the prize, had not George, who had neglected to copy his essay till the last minute, omitted to notice the misspelled words.

A VERY SINGULAR SENTENCE.

An exchange contains the following literary curiosity:

"*Sator arepo tenet opera rotas.*"

1. This spells backward and forward all the same.

2. Then taking all the first letters of each word spells the first word.

3. Then all the second letters of each word spells the second word.

4. Then all the third, and so on through the fourth and fifth.

5. Then commencing with the last letter of each word spells the last word.

6. Then the next to the last of each word, and so on through.

A MAGIC SQUARE OF LETTERS.

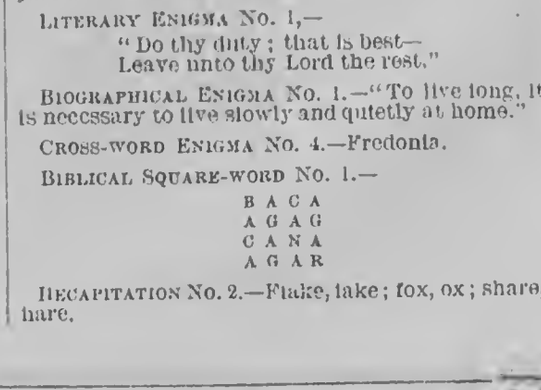
We find the following in an old Scrap-Book. It seems to have gone out of print, and we start it again:

T I M E.
I T E M.
M E T I.
E M I T.

This word, Time, is the only word in the English language which can be thus arranged, and the different transpositions thereof are all at the same time Latin words. These words in English as well as in Latin, may be read either upward or downward. The English words *time*, *item*, *meti*, and *emit* (to send forth) are mentioned above; and of the Latin one, (1), Time, signifies fear thou; (2), Item—likewise; (3), Meti—to be measured; (4), Emit—he buys.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 6.



☞ Answer in two weeks.

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 1.

My first is in river and also in spring,
My second is in fetch but not in bring;
My third is in voice but not in speak,
My fourth is in month but not in week;
My fifth is not in sing but in dance,
My whole is the name of two rivers of France.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Berbix.

ARITHMETICAL PUZZLE.—No. 1.

Subtract 12 from 41 so as to leave 49.

☞ Answer in two weeks. H. F. S.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Feb. 12.

Illustrated Rebus No. 5.—Innuendoes may injure men when open slander fails.

Literary Enigma No. 1,—

"Do thy duty; that is best—
Leave unto thy Lord the rest."

Biographical Enigma No. 1.—"To live long, it is necessary to live slowly and quietly at home."

Cross-word Enigma No. 4.—Fredonia.

Biblical Square-word No. 1.—

B A C A
A G A G
C A N A
A G A R

Decapitation No. 2.—Flake, lake; fox, ox; share, hare.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

A QUESTIONABLE PROCEEDING.

On Friday, Feb. 11, Owen Lindsay was hanged in Syracuse for the murder of Francis Colvin. Lindsay was first convicted a year ago and sentenced to death March 25, 1875, but various delays postponed the execution nearly a year. The remarkable fact about the doomed man was, that he uniformly protested his innocence of the crime. This denial he repeated in the most solemn manner just before the drop fell, and it constituted his dying words. Many who heard him were fully impressed with the belief of his innocence, but there was then no alternative. The testimony against Lindsay seems to have been not at all conclusive, and was mainly that of a man who was without doubt himself a participant in, if not the chief actor in the deed of blood. There seems to have been some doubt whether Lindsay was guilty. His chief accuser may have perjured himself, and if so the execution was a judicial and legalized murder. The last words of Lindsay will greatly strengthen this impression. Altogether the execution of a murderer under such circumstances is a bad job, weakening rather than strengthening regard for law. It is bad enough, and very common, to allow undoubted murderers and other criminals to escape punishment; but it is not often now-a-days that we have an illustration showing how much worse it is to hang a man who may very possibly be entirely innocent. Popular belief in the injustice of law is sure to bring it into contempt more speedily than any thing else.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

The prisoners confined in the Oswego, N. Y., jail have addressed a written complaint to Judge O. J. Harmon, chairman of the local committee of the Prison Association. They compare the jail to Libby prison.

A ball was recently given by the Volunteer Fire Brigade of Coventry, and at three in the morning, while the dancing was in full progress, the gas was turned off, and the entreaties of the firemen could not persuade the authorities to turn it on. The result is that to-day Coventry is without any Fire Department.

It is now said that the negroes who have been emigrating in large squads from Georgia into Mississippi are anxious to return, wages not being as good as was expected and the country proving unhealthy.

The mansion at the corner of Broad and Master Sts., in Philadelphia, formerly the residence of the late Edwin Forrest, has been purchased by Theodore Thomas, and, with the adjoining grounds will be fitted up as a Summer concert garden.

A large delegation of prominent citizens of Louisville, Ky., left for Washington, Feb. 16th, to procure, if possible, the selection of Louisville as the place for the next Democratic National Convention.

Very rich discoveries of telluride and free gold ores were made on Feb. 16, within five miles of Colorado Springs, Col., assaying $243 gold and silver per ton. The veins are true fissures of great width.

Two hundred feet of the toll-bridge at Wiscasset, Me., were carried away on the night of Feb. 15 by a schooner driven by the gale.

On Sunday evening, Feb. 13, a destructive wind storm passed over Washington County, Indiana. As far as heard from six barns were unroofed and seven dwellings and numerous outbuildings were demolished. The wife and two children of Thomas Nicholson, a farmer, were seriously injured by the overturning of their house. Joel Denney lost nearly two thousand fruit trees. Some of the farmers suffered great loses in live stock. The value of the property destroyed is very heavy.

The Constitutional Convention of Colorado has voted to require the submission of Woman Suffrage to popular vote as soon as the State is admitted.

Whenever a case of yellow fever occurs in New Orleans the streets surrounding the square are sprinkled with Calvert's No. 5 carbolic acid diluted in fifty parts of water. A large sprinkler on wheels is used for the roadways and sidewalks are sprinkled by hand. The grounds of neighboring yards are similarly treated, and the privy vaults disinfected with a solution of zinc-iron chloride. At the termination of the case by death or removal, the infected apartments are fumigated with sulphurous acid or chlorine. The extent of the ground disinfected is according to the lapse of time since the appearance of the fever. The extent of the infection along the ground is forty or fifty feet daily, so that after some days' delay the whole square must be enclosed with a disinfecting band and the enclosed surface sprinkled.

According to the ninth semi-annual report of the Massachusetts Catholic Total Abstinence Union, just issued, there are now 74 societies, with 5,820 members in the State.

The warden of the Oregon penitentiary has discharged the prison doctor and detailed one of the convicts, who is an educated physician, to perform the duties. The warden claims that he saved the State $1,500 a year by this arrangement and is always sure to have medical attendance "within reach" when needed.

The long pending contest for a seat in the Virginia Senate, of Knight against Johnson, has been settled, the Senate adopting, 21 to 19, the report of the committee, giving the seat to the sitting member, Gen. Bradley T. Johnson.

The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protesant Church has refused to concur in the proposed convention for a union between the Methodist, Protestant and the Methodist (non-Episcopal) churches which were separated by the war.

Pearce Kent, a farmer living near Ellision Ky., helped an Ohio Sheriff make an arrest in Ky. the other day. His neighbors considered Kent a traitor to his State, and mobbed him, pounding him so with ax-helves and pokers that he nearly died. Kent is 70 years old.

Alice Young, a grand daughter of Brigham Young, has scandalized Mormon Society by marrying Chas. H. Hopkins, who happens to be a Gentile. Brigham was very much enraged, but like other parents with similar troubles is unable to do anything about it.

A little Meriden (Ct.) girl whose father recently died, being displeased that her mother has fallen in love with another man, applied to the Mayor the other day to have the affair stopped by the police, and when informed that they couldn't do anything about it, left his office crying.

A fire started on the evening of Feb. 16th in the Bates House in Rutland Va., and before it was extinguished caused a loss estimated at $100,000. The Bates House was destroyed, and the office of the Rutland Herald badly damaged. The following firms were also burned out:—A. C. Bates & Son, hardware: G. W. Hillard, dry goods; C. S. Mason, clothing; A. W. Higgins, drugs; Abraham & Brothers, cigars; John Haley, saloon; A. O. Cunningham, clothing. The insurances, so for as ascertained, are:—Bates House, $40,000, and $18,000 on the furniture; George W. Hillard, $6,000; Charles S. Mason, 5,500; A. O. Cunningham, $4,000 A. L. Bates & Son, $7,000; A. W. Higgins, $11,500; Tuttle & Co., $10,000.

A. C. Russell, aged sixty-seven years, a leading citizen of Great Barrington, Mass., dropped dead in the street there on the 16th, of heart disease. He was connected with the Monument Mills of Housatonic, director of the Berkshire Life Insurance Company and President of the Berkshire Woolen Company.

The bill to abolish the death penalty in Maine and substitute imprisonment and hard labor has passed the Senate by a vote of 18 to 11. The measure had previously passed the House. An attempt to have the question settled by the people at the next election was defeated in the Senate by a vote of 18 to 12. The opponents of hanging are greatly rejoiced.

A dispatch to San Francisco, Cal., dated Feb. 18th from Tucson, Arizona, states that a battle took place on Jan. 14 between the Sonora revolutionists and the State troops near Almos, in which the latter were routed. Pursuit resulted in another fight—both sides being reinforced—and another victory for the revolutionists ensued. The latter have 500 cavalry concentrated near Conleari.

A fire in the round-house of the Lake Superior and Northern Pacific Railroad at Rice Point near Duluth, Feb. 18th, destroyed one wing of the building and badly damaged four locomotives. The total loss is between $20,000 and $25,000.

The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad will run through trains from Boston to Philadelphia during the Centennial show in eleven hours. Trains are to run down the Portchester branch road to the Harlem river at Mott Haven, and thence they are to be put on board the steamboat Maryland, which is being refitted to receive an entire train of cars. The barge by the way of the East river will connect with the Pennsylvania Central Railroad at Jersey City.

It is suggested that the burning of kerosene is one cause of the great prevalence of diphtheria of late years.

The New England sleighmakers have given up the present winter as a bad job and gone to making buggies.

James Parton has remarried his wife, and now "all goes merry as *two* marriage bells."

Wm. B. Reed, LL. D., long a Philadelphia lawyer, and one of the ablest contributors to the periodical press, died in New York City on the 18th inst., in the 70th year of his age. He was author of the "Life and Correspondence" of his illustrious grandfather, Joseph Reed, of Revolutionary fame, and during his life occupied various positions of honor and trust.

Miss Charlotte Cushman, the celebrated actress, died at the Parker House in Boston, on the 18th inst., aged 60 years. Though long enfeebled by cancer, the immediate cause of Miss Cushman's death was pneumonia, caused by taking cold during a walk on the Saturday preceding. She was not only a great actress but a model woman in society and private life, and will be widely lamented.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The Sultan proposes to give amnesty to insurgents submitting immediately.

It is proposed by the Conservatives to place M. Buffet as a candidate against M. Thiers in Paris.

L'Aigle, a Bonapartist journal, was seized in Corsica.

The Prince of Wales will visit Gibraltar on his way home from India, and it is proposed to erect there a column and bust of His Royal Highness to commemorate the event.

The Scottish Rifle Club has resolved to send a team of its own to the International match.

The Porte has declined to allow the revenue in Bosnia and Herzegovinia to be applied solely to local purposes.

Four Roman journals have been seized for publishing a speech of Garibaldi's.

The Prussian mines produce about 5,000,000,000 pounds of iron ore per year, which are worth nearly 7,000,000 thalers.

Petitions have been presented to the Prussian Parliament asking the Government to secure to the working classes their Sunday for rest.

A Canada journal has discovered a hermit in the town of Perth who is seventy years old, and for forty years has not worn any clothing summer or winter, in spite of which he has never been frozen.

The Trinity Board have had constructed in England a lighthouse of Dalbeattie granite, which is built in sixty-four courses, and is designed to be erected at Ceylon.

The Alfonzo XII., a new steamship, just built on the Clyde for the Cadiz and Havana line, is the largest steamer that carries the Spanish flag. She is 350 feet long, 38 wide, and 28 deep. Her gross tonnage is 2,915 tons.

A Vienna dispatch of Feb. 15, says:—Negotiations are making favorable progress between Count Andrassy and the Porte to secure the Bosnians and Herzegovinians who have taken refuge on Austrian territory leave to return to their homes. There are prospects of a satisfactory result.

It has just been decided to light all the waiting and luggage rooms of the principal railway stations in Paris by means of electricity. Electric lights were recently tried in the immense luggage room, or Salle des Pas Perdus, of the Great Northern station. The experiment proved successful. By working the Graham machine with three-horse power as much light is obtained as that given by a hundred gas-lamps. The electric lantern is placed at a hight of ten metres from the ground, and sheds a soft clear light over an area of 20,000 square feet. The hall situated on the opposite side of the station, where passengers are placed on arriving from Boulogne or Calais, is still larger, for it comprises an area of 30,000 square feet. Four lanterns, one in each corner, suffice to light it up as by daylight.

It is officially announced at Madrid, that the Carlists were completely defeated on the 13th by Gen. Quesada in the formidable position which they occupied at Elgueta. Don Carlos and his forces fled toward Villa Real and Zumarraga, pursued by Gen. Quesada. The latter passed the night at Vergara. Gen. Morlones has occupied the Carlist line of fortifications and entered Zumarraga.

Deeming the Porte unable to afford protection, Roumania has decided to discontinue paying tribute. This may be regarded as one of the consequences of the Herzegovina revolt, which is demonstrating the weakness of the Turkish Government and inciting disaffected subjects to make their hostility more manifest.

By opening the British Parliament in person, Queen Victoria has again formally assumed the public duties appertaining to her station. There is little noteworthy in the speech which Lord Cairns read in her name, except the announcement that the shipping laws are to be amended, and that a royal commission will be appointed to report on the duties of naval officers in regard to fugitive slaves. By promising these measures the Government breaks the force of impending attacks from the opposition.

By an explosion of fire damp in the Jabin colliery, St. Etienne, Belgium, Feb. 4, while 230 men were at work in the pit, all but 24 are supposed to have been killed. Twenty-six have been taken out, two of whom were dead. The earth fell in in immense masses.

Oxford and Cambridge are hard at work preparing for their annual boat race in March. At the latest accounts the Oxford trial crew was made up of Miller, Exeter, bow; Mercer, Corpus, 2; Marriott, Brasnenose, 3; Michison, Pembroke, 4; Bonstead, University, 5; Williams, Corpus, 6; Banks, University, 7; Edwardes Moss, Brasnenose, stroke; Stayner, St. Johns, cox. The Cambridge crew is constituted at present thus: P. W. Brancker (Jesus), bow; T. W. Lewis (Caius), L. G. Pike (Caius), C. Gurdon (Jesus), T. E. Hockin (Jesus), F. Peabody (First Trinity), G. L. Mann (First Trinity), C. D. Shafto (Jesus), stroke; G. L. Davis (Clare), cox.

The historic Haymarket Opera House, London, has been purchased by the British Government, and will be turned into a Central Post Office.

There are now more French workmen in Berlin than there were before the war.

The Swiss Federal Council has decided that the civil marriage law does not forbid marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

A Berlin dispatch to The London Standard, Feb. 16, says the Emperor William has assented to the cession of the Prussian railways to the Empire.

Jacob Bright, Radical, has been elected to Parliament from Manchester, polling 22,535 votes against 20,074 for Powel, Conservative.

A despatch from Vienna, dated Feb. 17, says the Austrian and Hungarian cabinets are reported to have agreed that the Austrian National Bank shall establish a Hungarian bank of issue, and guarantee the latter's notes and accept them the same as its own. This solves the principal difficulty in negotiating the renewal of the Austro-Hungarian compromise.

The Allgemeine Missions Zeitschrift for November gives the total number of converts from heathenism, connected with Protestant missions in 1873, as 1,537,274. These are divided as follows: German and Swiss missions, 127,414; British, 1,116,227; American, 183,571; Dutch, 87,226; French, 14,000; Scandinavian, 8,930.

Paris was supplied during four months of the year 1875 with 630,000 pounds of meat from the horse shambles, the result of the slaughter of 1,555 horses, mules, and asses.

The Maharajah of Indore has £5,000,000 stored up in his palace, and recently wished to give the Prince of Wales a present worth £50,000, but was at length cut down to £5,000.

An officer of the Imperial Prussian Foot Guards, according to a German newspaper, has received a communication from a French officer, in which thirty officers of the Foot Guards are challenged to fight an equal number of French officers, the Germans to have the choice of arms and place.

Centennial excursions to the United States are advertised throughout Europe at cheap rates.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Rocky Hill, Jackson Co., O., Feb. 15.—We had a very wet season here last year. Vegetation never was greater. Potatoes are so plentiful that they are worth only 10c., and they have to be fine ones at that. Corn was heavy and a great breadth planted, so we have more bushels of corn in our country than for many years before if ever as much. Wheat was the only poor crop we had; it was almost a failure, and what little we had was nearly spoiled by the wet weather. Fat cattle are worth 4@5c.; fat hogs, 7@8c.; stock hogs same. We have had the warmest and wettest winter we have ever had in the history of our State; the roads are almost impassable. Farmers are doing almost nothing on account of rain and mud. We are in the midst of a furnace region, and can on still days hear the whistles of 23 different iron furnaces. Iron is low in the extreme; many of these furnaces are stopping. This is throwing hands out of employment; consequently, times are dull and hard. We have two new railroads commencing to build. This will give some employment and will open up a new trade for our vast coal fields. Our stone coal is of a quality that makes No. 1 iron right from the mines without coaking or any other preparation. Our iron ore, stone coal and limestone are in quantities almost inexhaustible.—L. W. T.

Felts Mills, Jeff. Co., N. Y., Feb. 14.—Raining to-day. A very mild winter and little sleighing, so far. A few farmers have commenced sugaring. Dairying is the principal business here. One or two factories have their summer's make of cheese in cellars waiting for the price to advance. Many here went into raising potatoes pretty strong, last season, and are now feeding them to their stock. The mild weather has been very favorable for wintering stock, and for doing farm work generally. Winter wheat is not looking very well, and some are expressing fears for the grass crop the coming season, on account of the ground lying bare so long.—S. W. M.

Shepherdstown, Cumb. Co., Pa., Feb. 15.—Weather variable. A snowfall on the night of the 3d inst. 6 inches deep. Previous to this we had on the 1st and 2nd high wind and cold. On the morning of the 4th inst. mercury indicated 8 deg. above zero on our hill and 7 deg. below, not more than 400 yards distant; making a difference of 15 deg.!—E. H. C.

Huntington, Carroll Co., Tenn., Feb. 15.—We have had a very warm winter. No ice thick enough to put up. Plums bloomed in January and most of them killed by snow 3d of Feb. Some of the peach crop has been killed in the bud. Corn selling here at 25c. per bush.; wheat, $1.—J. C. M'C.

Manistee Co., Mich., Feb. 15.—We have been having a warm rain. The ground is nearly bare. Usually at this time of the year we have two or three feet of snow. This winter we have not had enough to cover the hubs, and but little very cold weather.—M. E. A.

River Edge, Bergen Co., N. J., Feb. 17.—Tulips and hyacinths are from one to two inches above ground. Lilac buds are ready to break—and Spiraea sorbifolia is in leaf!—E. S. C.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Feb. 19, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	54,100	Rice, bbls	1,036
Whisky	2,633	Cut meats, pkgs	14,850
Corn meal, bbls	2,314	Lard, pkgs	9,780
Corn meal, bags	4,049	Tar, bbls	—
Wheat, bush	137,900	Tobacco, hhds	1,406
Corn, bush	218,150	do. cases	3,806
Oats, bush	151,100	Butter, pkgs	19,150
Rye, bush	72	Cheese, bxs	19,147
Malt, bush	17,713	Cotton, bales	2,283
Barley, bush	3,352	Rosin	3,000
Beans, bbls	18,046	Sats, furn., bbls	879
Grass seed, bags	14,760	Dried Fruits, pkgs	245
Ashes, pkgs	130	Eggs, bbls	13,800
Beef, pkgs	3,023	Peanuts, bags	590
Wool, bales	828	Dressed Hogs	1,598
Hops, bales	2,000	Oil Cake, pkgs	3,000
Pork, bbls	4,225	Leather, sides	76,615
allow	693		

BEANS AND PEAS.—There is very little animation in beans; mediums specially dull; late arrivals hardly selling, being below the quality of stored lots. Marrows are in buyer's favor. The free exports of 1,400 bbls. include only previous sales. Pea beans and kidneys dull. Limas again marked off. Canadian peas have declined for bulk; bbls. free, nominal. Exports of peas, past week, 11,312 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 180,625 do.; same time last year, 23,375 do. Exports of beans, since Jan. 1st, 8,114 bbls.; same time last year, 2,603 do.

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.45@1.40; other, 1.15@1.25; medium, new, $1.35@1.40, fair to good, $1.15@1.30; very poor, 90@90c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.75@1.80; other, $1.45@1.65; white kidney, prime, $1.75@1.85; fair to good, $1.60@1.70; red kidney, new, prime, $1.50@1.60; fair to good, $1.30@1.45; California Lima, choice, $2.75@3.00. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new duty paid, $1.25@1.27; bulk, in bond, $1.00; green new, ₱ bush., $1.55@1.65; Southern B. E., ₱ 2 bush. bag, $3.00.

BEESWAX.—Exports since Jan. 1, 16,435 lbs.; same time last year, 7,705 do. Exporters are taking small lots of strictly choice Southern at 33c.; Western, 32@32½c.

BROOM CORN.—Supplies are chiefly of medium grades, for which prices are weak.

We quote Brush, short green, 10@11c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@7c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—The market is still deprived of the favorable surroundings that ordinarily help to stimulate trade in winter. The weather has been stormy for two days keeping away buyers, and warm enough to unsettle values, when parcels had to depend upon samplings. Buyers are so careful in making their selections that a good deal of stock is more or less condemned when tested. There are reputable marks of State that can be safely sent out upon outside or local orders; but most purchasers insist upon running the iron into most every package. That which is called choice State is subjected to the closest kind of scrutiny by parties who are compelled to pay the extreme rates demanded for extra. The sudden falling off free supplies of fancy and first-class stock has given butter a bad reputation; every one feels that we have used up the best end of the crop, and there is consequent caution exhibited by grocerymen and others who are fortunate enough to retain a steady retail trade, which calls for sound, sweet lots of State. Choice State is still firm at our late rates; under grades waver to some degree, especially as quality and appearance are against them. Fresh Western will bring 22c. for the style now arriving. Very fancy is bringing out higher rates in a small way. Holders of Western are not anxious to sell under the current figures, as there is some thought that later on an export outlet will arise, as the Canadian yield is reported scant. Rolls are firm.

State dairies entire, extra, 32@33c.; entire, good to prime, 28@31c.; fair to good, 25@28c.; firkins, selected fresh, 30@33c., good to prime, 27@29c.; fair to good, 24@27c.; half-Brkin tubs, selected, 35@38c.; good to prime, 32@35c.; fair to good, 28@32c.; poor to fair, 17@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 31@33c.; dairies, 25@30c.; good to prime, 25@28c.; fair to good, 23@24c.; poor to fair, 17@23c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 16@21c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 25@26c.; good to prime, 22@24c.; tubs selected fresh, 24@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 23@25c.; fair to good, fresh, 18@22c.; poor to fair, fresh, 16@18c.; Western, early packed, selected, 18@20c.; Western, early packed, other, 14@18c. Roll butter, good to prime, 20@22c.; fair to good, 18@20c., common, 16@18c.

CHEESE.—Exports for the week, 13,246 boxes; this shows a lighter trade than for some little time back, but as the grades required have been fine and strictly fancy, the offerings of which are light, prices are without attention. The local demand and trade from the neighboring markets has been fairly active. Altogether, the market may be considered as showing no decided change.

New State factory, fancy, 13¾@14c.; fine, 13c.; do. good to prime, 11¾@12½c.; fair to good, 10@11½c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 10½@11¾c.; fair to good, 9¾@10½c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fine, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@11c.; poor to fair, 6@8c.; pineapple, 16@18c. English dairy, Connecticut, 12@13½c., do. State, 16@18c.

COTTON.—A break in the Liverpool market and reports of failures there unsettle values here, and there are quite free sellers at the reduced figures. The closing prices are: for February, 12 23-32@c.; March, 12 16-31c.; April, 13 3-32c.; May, 13 11-32c.; June, 13 9-16@13 19-32c.; July, 13 25 32@13 13-16c.; August, 13 29-32@13 15-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Strict ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Good ordinary	10¾	10¾	11..	11¾
Strict good do	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Low middling	12	12¾	12¾	12¾
Strict low middling	12¾	12¾	12¾	13¾
Middling	12 13-16	12 15-16	13	13
Good middling	13 5-16	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 9-16
Strict good middling	13 11-16	13 13-16	14 15-16	13 15-16
Middling fair	14 1-16	14 3-16	14 5-16	14 5-16
Fair	14 15-16	15 1-16	15 3-16	15 3-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	9¾	Low middling	11
Strict ordinary	10¾	Middling	11¾

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Small lots of State quartered apples have been placed at 9¾@9½c.; there is very little doing. Blackberries are lower and dull, as well as small fruits generally. Peeled peaches are more steadily held with a little better demand.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; quarters, 9¾@9¾c.; Western quarters, 9c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 10¾@10¾c. for prime. Tennessee qrs., 8¾@8¾c. Blackberries, new, 11¾@ c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do, fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10¾@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27@28c. Cherries, 22@23c.

EGGS.—The market has been a very fluctuating one, but closes rather steady for prime fresh Western. At this date last year Western was selling at 40@45c. Stored eggs are dull, buyers insisting upon concessions when they move them, but prefer to pay full rates for the later receipts. Limed are losing too heavily for sales. We quote:

Jersey, single barrels, ₱ bbl., 19c.; State & Penn., 18@18¾c.; western, prime, 18c.; fair marks, 16¾@17¾c.; Southern and South Western, 15@17¾c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The leading item, oil peppermint, is extremely dull, especially for wholesale parcels. As this is also the case in the London market, quotations here are not strong.

The following sales fully represent current rates; 3 cans H. G. oil peppermint, $4; 18 do. Hall & Parshall, $4; 5 do., $4.10; 2 do. $4 20; 350 lbs. pure, in tin, $3.50; 1,200 do. sassafras, 55c.; 300 do. wintergreen, $3.12; 150 do. spearmint, $3.50; 225 do. pennyroyal, $4.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, 249 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 3,914 do.; same time last year, 7,481 do. There is a pretty fair demand for apples; buyers, however, will not take the chance of buying very roundly. There have been considerable losses in repacking. Cranberries are running out equal to the expectations of holders. Peanuts again lower.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, $2@3.50; mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; other $1.50@2. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $3.50@3.75; good to prime, $3.25@3.50; made bbls., $11@12.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.40@1.55; do. Wilmington, $1.75@1.80; do. Tennessee, 75@90c.; Hickory nuts, $1@1.75. Black walnuts, 50c. Pecans, 12@13c.

FLOUR.—There has been an exceptionally dull market, with offerings liberal and prices weak. Export trade is almost at a pause.

Superfine State, $4.35@4.65; extra do., $5.00@5.30; superfine Western, $4.35@4.65; extra do., $5.00@6.00; No. 2, $3.25@4.15 extra round-hoop Ohio, $5.00@5 40; trade brands do., $5.40@7.75; white wheat extras, $6.65@7.00; St. Louis, $5.20@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@8.50; Southern at $4.35@4.75 for superfine; $4.80@6.25 for pour to choice shipping extras; $6.30@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye, $4.10@5.05. Corn meal—Western yellow, $2.70@3.25; Jersey & Penn., $2.90@3.25. Buckwheat selling at 38@40c. for prime State, and flour at $1.82@2.25.

FURS AND SKINS.—The quotations for furs and skins are as follows:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00 to 15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00 to 10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50 to 3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50 to 2 50
Badger	20 to 50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50 to 60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40 to 50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00 to 12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, silver	15 00 to 50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00 to 5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50 to 1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25 to 1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40 to 60
Fox, Kitt	30 to 50
Lynx	1 00 to 2 00
Marten, States	1 50 to 2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00 to 4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00 to 3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00 to 1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75 to 1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50 to 75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	25 to 27
Muskrat, West. including Penn. and Ohio, winter	22 to 25
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12 to 20
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00 to 12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	6 00 to 10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00 to 6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18 to 20
Opossum, South and open North	12 to 15
Racoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indian handled, dark	80 to 1 00
Racoon, Il., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50 to 65
Racoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn	65 to 75
Racoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40 to 50
Racoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15 to 40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00 to 3 00
Sheep skins, summer and fall	50 to 1 00
Sheep skins, winter	1 50 to 2 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	— to 1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	— to 1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50 to 80
Skunks, whole streaked	15 to 20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00 to 3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75 to 1 25

GRAIN.—For wheat there has been a very dull market, with prices lower and closing weak; the markets abroad are in unsatisfactory shape; latest sales at $1.29@1.30 for very choice old No. 2 Milwaukee spring to store; $1.05@1.18 for ungraded and mixed spring; $1.25 for prime No. 2 Milwaukee spring milont; $1 for rejected spring; $1.35 for common white Western, in car lots; $1.01 for "no grade" red winter; $1.20@1.47 for winter red and amber; $1.35@1.55 for white and $1.20@1.37 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 88@91c. for State, and 86@88c. for Western. Barley small sales of two-rowed State at 70@90c. Barley malt at $1.12½@1.45 for Canada; 85c.@$1.07½ for two-rowed state; $1.10@1.25 for four-rowed State. Corn is lower, with larger supplies. Sales at 63@66c. for new mixed Western; 66@64c. for ungraded new mixed Western; 59@59½c. for "no grade" new mixed; 61c. for new yellow Western; 62@63c. for new yellow Southern and 69½@72c. for old mixed Western. Oats are more in favor of the buyer, with larger supplies. Sales at 46@47c. for prime mixed Western; 49@51½c. for white Western.

HAY AND STRAW.—The weather is favorable. Shippers have been operating freely, and the increased receipts are closely used up; prices generally are steadily held.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, 95c.@$1.10; clover, 65@75c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 80@85c. for short rye; 75@80c. for oat.

Exports past week, 730 bales; since Jan. 1st, 4,418 bales; same time last year, 5,589.

HIGHWINES.—Selling at $1.11.

HOPS.—The market continues firm, and demand quite active. A thousand bales of choice hops have cleared for export this week; shippers do not want to pay over 17c. for best. There is a great scarcity of fine hops. As the better grades are cleared off, seconds and low must generally come into use. The average is 2,486 bales per week since September 1st, 1875. The quotations are:

New York State, 12@17c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins, 10@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 17@20c.

LEATHER.—Hemlock solc, light averages, 22@23½c.; middle, 24@25½c.; heavy, 24@26c., good dam., 21@23c.

OIL CAKE.—Western has been taken freely at $43 ₱ ton. Receipts here are liberal, but they comprise in good part parcels on direct shipment abroad.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The supply of choice dressed has been light and has brought pretty full figures. Parcels that arrive weather damaged are irregular in price, as at present there are but few calls for anything off in quality. We quote:

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 18@19c.; Jersey, good to prime, 18@19c.; State, good to prime, 15@17c.; Western, good to prime, 14@16c.; fair to good, 12@14c.; poor, 9@11c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 17@19c.; State, good to prime, 16@18c.; Western, good to prime, 15@17c.; inferior, 11@13c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; State, good to prime, 19@21c.; Western, good to prime, 18@20c.; fair to good, 15@17c.; poor, 13@15c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 12@14c.; State, good to prime, 11@13c. Capons, 25@28c. Ships, Western, 18@19c.

Live poultry is tending lower.

Turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 14@15c.; do. Western, 13@14c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2.50@3; do. Western, $1.50@1.75; ducks, Western, ₱ lb., 65@75c.; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1@1.25; fowls and chickens, State and Jersey, ₱ lb., 14@15c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; roosters 7@9c.

Game sales easier as the season is winding up. The recent high prices checked the demand, and steady buyers have more or less withdrawn.

We quote at $1.50@1.75 for Canvasback ducks; $1 for Redhead, 75@80c. for Mallard and 40@60c. for common per pair. Rabbits and hares plenty and dull. Wild pigeons sold early in the week as low as $1.50. At present they are scarce, and a prime lot would bring our quotation.

Wild pigeons, feathered, per doz., $2@2.25; Quail, trapped, prime, ₱ doz., $3@3.25; soft, $2.25@3.75; Grouse, prime, ₱ pair, $1.10@1.20; inferior, 50@70c.; Partridges, choice, ₱ pair, $1@1.15; inferior, 50@70c. Hares, ₱ pair, 20@30c. Rabbits, ₱ pair, 30@40c.

PROVISIONS.—There has been considerable excitement in the market for hog products generally. Exporters have brought freely and prices are advancing sharply. Mess pork quoted at $23 for spot lots; $22.85@22.90 for March; $23 for April; $22.10 for May; $23.15 for June; extra prime, $17.50; prime mess, $21. Dressed hogs at 10¾@10¾c. for Western. Tierced pickled hams, 13@14c. Boxed dry-salted shoulders 9c. Bacon at 12c. for Western long clear; 12¾c. for city do.; 12¾c. for short clear, and 12¾c. for long and short clear, together. Lard at $13.50 spot and Feb. 13-52½c. for March; 13.65@13-67½c. for April; 13-82½@13.85c. for May; 13.90@13.95c. for June. Stearine at 14c. for prime Western. Tallow at 9¾@9¾c. Beef hams at $25.00@26 for choice Western. Beef—New extra mess at $12@@12.50; do. plain mess, $11@11.50; do. tierced at $23 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $32@33.50 (old extra mess, $11.50; 10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.50@16.

SEED.—Clover is in liberal supply and lower. State held at 13¾@14c. for prime to choice lots.

SUGAR (Refined).—Soft yellow, 8¾@9¾c.; soft white, 9¾@9¾c.; crushed, 10¾c.; powdered, 10¾c.; granulated, 10¾c.

TOBACCO.—There has been a fairly active export demand and more doing from other sources, with prices steadily held. We quote:

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7	7¾@ 8¾
Good lugs	7¾@ 8	8¾@ 9
Low leaf	8¾@10	9¾@10¾
Medium leaf	10¾@11	10¾@12
Good leaf	12¾@13	13¾@13¾
Fine leaf	13¾@15	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	17 @22

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @15
Fillers, selections	6 @ 8
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 9
Pennsylvania assorted lots	15 @25
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6¾@ 8
Wisconsin	6¾@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week 6,302 bbls.; since Jan. 1st 37,416 do.; same time last year 18,790 do. There is evidently no hope for a rise in potatoes. Quantities are reported on the way from the West, and near points are not yet drained of them. Onions are running poor.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.50@1.75; Prince Alberts, $1.00@1.25; Peerless, 85c.@$1.00, Sweet potatoes, $2.25@2.50. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $3@5; red, $6@10. Cauliflower, bbl., $2@3. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 50@75c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@3.00. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Baltimore spinach, ₱ bbl., $1.50@2.

WOOL.—There has been a fairly active business from manufacturers, and with the moderate stocks prices are firmly held. We quote:

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklock	50	@ 54
XX		@ 48
X	47	@ 48
No. 1	49	@ 52
No. 2	43	@ 46
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	43	@ 45
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	42	@ 44
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	56	@ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	45	@ 47
X	43	@ 45
No. 1	44	@ 45
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	44	@ 47
X	44	@ 47
No. 1	44	@ 46
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	34	@ 36
Coarse unwashed	27	@ 30
Burry	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, Feb. 19.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.35@1.40; amber winter, $1.10@1.22; white winter, $1.20@1.36. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 23@25c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 18@20c. Lard, 13¾@14c. Apples, ₱ bu., 50c.@$1. Potatoes, bu., 30@@35c. Beans, ₱ bu., 90c.@1.25. Mess pork, $21@22. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $7.50@8.00. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Feb. 19, 1876.

THE brisk demand by shippers and the improved home trade in cheese has strengthened the market here and fine goods are held very firmly. For September and good October 14c. is asked. This is at present above the views of buyers and there are no transactions to note. We learn that Mr. L. D. Snell, one of the buyers at this market, has recently brought 3,000 boxes of the Markfield Factory, Cattaraugus Co., fancy Septembers, at 13¾c. at the factory.

"Late ends" of factories may be quoted at 10¾@11¾c., extra lots bringing ½c. and upward more. Farm dairies come forward only in small lots—the end of the season's make—and are generally common or inferior in grade. They go at 7@8c., according to quality—with occasional sales at 10c.

There is not much winter butter now on delivery, and it is not first-class. Sales are made at 23@26c., according to quality.

We have advices from Europe up to the first week in January. Our London correspondent says:

Large transactions in American cheese of all sorts are reported, while fine English and Dutch are firmly held. The prices are as follows:

American extra, 65s.@66s.; fine, 62@64s.; good, 56@60s.; common, 30@50s. English cheddar brings 84@91s.; Wiltshire double, 70s.; Cheshire medium, 56@68s.; fine, 74@84s.; Scotch, 66@70s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 75s. ₱ cwt.

Fine descriptions of butter are scarcer, and realizes unprecedented high rates. There is an improved demand for good intermediates. American and substitutes.

Clonmells sell for 150s.; Dorsets, 160s.; Danish and Swedish, 168s.; Normandy extra, 116s., and some have sold as high as 184s.; American and Canadian, 90@125s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter brings 100@120s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	1,886	51	433	8,612	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	12	61	3,209	000
Fortieth St.	000	10	000	549	12,721
Harsimus Cove	5,070	00	000	14,028	10,912
Totals this week	6,956	63	459	27,398	23,633
" last week	9,301	70	377	27,498	21,063

BEEVES.—On last Monday forenoon trade in fair quality cattle opened slow. Prices were 3@13c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@10¾ cwt. Wednesday trade slow but firm at 8¾@12¾c. ₱ lb; weights, 4¾@9¾ cwt. Thursday, sales slow at 8¾@12¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6@7¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 9@12c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6@10¾ cwt. From 54@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt. Dry cows, 7¾@9c. Oxen at 8¾@12½c. Mixed herds—cows, steers, and oxen—9@11¾c.; do. steers, oxen and bulls, 9¾@12¾c. Native steers sold at 9¾@12¾c. ₱ lb.; grades do. at 12@13c. Bulls, on live weight, 3¾@4¾c. The quality of those herds as above quoted was generally course; extreme range, poor to good.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13	12 @13¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	7½@ 9¾	7½@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@11	9¾@11

MILCH COWS.—Trade slow, owing to the quality of the cows to hand not being good enough to meet the demand. Extreme range of prices, $22@82 ₱ head; general sales, $45@55 ₱ head. Twenty cows sold at $35@50 ₱ head; 9 at $55@75; 5 at $40@ 0; 3 at $22@30; 3 at $70@82—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade firm in smooth quality veals at 8@10½c. ₱ lb., with a few selected head at 11c. Grass calves in over supply and slow of sale at 3¾@5c.; coarse quality meal fed calves in small numbers and slow of sale at 6@7c.; State calves, 307 lbs., ₱ head, 4c. ₱ lb.; Pennsylvania, 275 lbs., 7c.; State veals, 160 lbs., 10c.; 140 lbs., 10½@11c.; Pennsylvania, 150 lbs., 9@10¾c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday trade opened slow in sheep at 5¾@7¼c.; Wednesday, the same tone of trade; sheep sold at 5@6¾c. Thursday, trade fair at 5¾@8¾c. Friday, the markets closed fair at 5@7¾c. Lambs not on sale. The quality of the flocks to hand has been from course to fair, with only a few carloads of good quality sheep. Ohio sheep sold at 5¾@7¾c.; Indiana, 5¾@6¾c.; State, 5@6¾c.; Colorado, 4¾c.; Illinois, 5¾@6¾c.

HOGS.—Trade small; 250 corn-fed Ohio hogs, weight 192 lbs. ₱ head, sold at 8...c. ₱ lb.; 139 choice quality Ohio pigs, 21,780 lbs., $5.56¾. City dressed limited in sale, owing to high rates, which have been firm at 9¾@10¾c.; general sales of hogs 200 lbs. ₱ head, 10¾@10¾c.; 230 lbs. down, 10¾c.; 18 lbs., 10¾c.; 160 lbs., 10¾c.; rough hogs, 230 lbs. upwards, 10c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade moderate. Twenty head of roadsters with fair trotting action, $215@400 ₱ head; 34 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $30@75 ₱ head; 21 ordinary do., $100@200 ₱ head; 19 head course quality heavy draft horses, $110@200 ₱ pair; 2 pairs choice quality do., $500 ₱ pair; 5 pairs family carriage horses, $300@575 ₱ pair. Forty-four horses arrived ₱ Erie Railroad, via Oak Cliff Station.

New Advertisements.

GRAPEVINES for Agents and Planters, from my stock of LARGEST VINES in the country. I. H. BABCOCK, Lockport, N. Y.

I have founded my business on the belief that the public are anxious to get their seed *directly from the grower*, and I therefore offer FREE to every man and woman in the United States who cultivates a farm, fills a vegetable garden, or plants a flower garden, my large, Illustrated Catalogue of Vegetable and Flower Seeds for 1876; it contains, in addition to the choicest kinds produced in Europe, *one hundred and fifty varieties of vegetable seed grown on my four seed farms.* Customers of last season need not write for it. As the original introducer of the Hubbard, Marblehead and Butman Squashes, Phinney's Melon, the Marblehead Cabbages, and a score of other new vegetables, I solicit your patronage. All seed sold under three warrants. A hundred thousand Catalogues will be issued and sent out on the first of January.
JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass.

BEST PLAN IN LIFE INSURANCE.—The Low Rate Cash Plan of the TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY of Hartford, Conn. Ample Security, Low Premiums.

THE JONES' SYSTEM.
DIRECT SALES TO THE USER.
ALL SALES ON TRIAL.
FREIGHTS PREPAID.
No risk to the purchaser, as no money is paid until you are satisfied. The Jones' system will bring your goods at lower prices. Will you try it or continue to sustain monopolies? For free Price List of Scales, address JONES of Binghamton, N. Y.

WILLARD'S PRACTICAL BUTTER BOOK costs but $1, and is the standard. Order it. RURAL PUBLISHING CO., 78 Dunne St., N. Y

Buffalo Fertilizer Works makes honest Fertilizers only. L. L. CROCKER, Buffalo, N. Y.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

ROCHEFORT is writing a history of New Caledonia.

THE Vokes family return to the United States in the spring.

HARRIET HOSMER, the sculptress, is forty-four and unmarried.

TOM ALLEN, the prizefighter, has gone on the stage as an actor.

FATHER MATHEW, the temperance apostle, is to have a statue in St. Louis.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS was lately refused accommodation in an Indianapolis hotel.

CARL SCHURZ is announced to deliver the Fourth of July oration at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

THE King of Bavaria has offered a prize for the best kerosene-burning drawing-room lamp.

MR. BEECHER has engaged his usual quarters at the Twin Mountain House for next Summer.

REV. DR. HORACE BUSHNELL of Hartford, Conn., died in that city on the 17th of Feb., aged 73 years.

LINCOLN'S birthday was observed in Buffalo by a display of flags and a general ringing of bells at noon.

PRESIDENT Grant signed the Centennial bill with a quill taken from the wing of an American eagle.

THE O'Connel Monument Committee at a recent meeting in Dublin decided finally to have a cloaked statue.

MRS. SCOTT-SIDDONS will shortly fill an engagement of two weeks at the California Theater, San Francisco.

REV. W. H. GOODWIN, D. D., and formerly a member of the N. Y. State Senate, died in Dryden, N. Y., Feb. 17th.

CHANG, the Chinese giant, has been received into the Baptist Church at Shanghai. His hight is 7 feet 8 inches.

BUSTS of MM. Jules Janin, Guizot, and De Remusat have been ordered for the Grand Hall of the Institute of France.

MR. EDWIN ADAMS has bought Mr. Oakey Hall's play of "Crucible," and will take it with him to Australia next year.

LIEUT.-GOV. DORSHEIMER made the opening address at the Hebrew Charity Fair in Albany, N. Y., on the evening of Feb. 4th.

STANTON, the "velocipedestrian," recently won a ten-mile race in 34 minutes 36 seconds, beating the trotting horse Happy Jack.

MR. PLIMSOLL has been presented with $500 by the shipwrights of London to aid him in his efforts for the protection of life at sea.

MR. HENRY WATTERSON of The Louisville Courier-Journal, who was reported convalescent some time ago, is still seriously ill at his home in Louisville.

M. MEISSONIER, the celebrated painter, has been elected President of the French Academy of Fine Arts, and M. Francois, an engraver, Vice-President.

SIMMONS, the sculptor, is in Rome, preparing a monument for the family of the late Senator Fessenden, to be placed in the family burial ground in Portland, Me.

WM. A. PIPER, a new member of Congress from San Francisco, is a bachelor worth $1,000,000, and the owner of 200 acres of land within the limits of the Golden City.

MR. JAMES H. MASON of Taunton, Mass., has a family Bible inherited from his mother which descended from Sir Thomas Davis, Lord Mayor of London in 1522, in which year it was printed.

THE Rev. Wayland Hoyt has declined the call to the Washington Avenue Church in Brooklyn, and the Rev. Dr. Elder of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church of this city, it is understood, will be invited.

Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

The Albany Seed Store, ESTABLISHED 1831.
PRICE & KNICKERBOCKER, Successors to
V. P. DOUW & CO. SEEDSMEN ALBANY, N.Y.
Our Annual Spring Catalogue, containing 96 pages and 250 illustrations of Flowers, Vegetables, etc., will be mailed free to any one sending for it.

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GOOD SEEDS
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ROSES
Strong Pot Roses, suitable for immediate flowering, sent safely by mail, post-paid. Five splendid varieties, all labeled, $1, 12 do. $2, 19 do. $3, 26 do. $4, 35 do. $5. For 10 cents each, additional one Magnificent Premium Rose to every dollar's worth ordered. Send for our new GUIDE TO ROSE CULTURE, and choose from over 300 finest sorts. We are the *largest Rose Growers* in America, and the *only ones* allowing purchasers to make *their own selections*. Satisfaction guaranteed. Address THE DINGEE & CONARD CO., ROSE GROWERS, West Grove, Chester Co., Pa.

Life Insurance.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
New York Life Insurance Company.
OFFICE: Nos. 346 and 348 BRORDWAY,
January 1, 1876.

Amount of Net Cash Assets, Jan. 1, 1875 ..... $27,145,777 51

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Premiums and annuities	$6,069,002 81	
Interest received and accrued	1,870,658 34	7,939,661 15
		$35,085,438 66

DISBURSEMENT ACCOUNT.

Losses by death	$1,524,814 83	
Dividends and returned premiums on canceled policies	2,481,690 96	
Life annuities, matured endowments and reinsurances	182,400 83	
Commissions, brokerages and agency expenses	961,918 06	
Advertising and physician's fees	87,591 26	
Taxes, office and law expenses, salaries, printing, &c	280,114 03	4,918,535 97
		$30,166,902 69

ASSETS.

Cash in Trust Company, in bank, and on hand	$1,768,291 26	
Invested in United States, New York City and other stocks (market value, $7,633,240)	7,154,191 05	
Real estate	1,820,240 53	
Bonds and mortgages (secured by real estate valued at more than double the amount loaned, buildings thereon insured for $15,717,000, and the policies assigned to the Company as additional collateral security)	17,685,597 50	
Loans on existing policies (the reserve held by the Company on these policies amounts to $4,009,599)	885,728 82	
Quarterly and semi-annual premiums on existing policies, due subsequent to Jan. 1, 1876	463,269 64	
Premiums on existing policies in course of transmission and collection (estimated reserve on these policies $320,000, included in liabilities)	105,341 54	
Agents' balances	27,111 49	
Accrued interest to Jan. 1, 1876, on investments	257,130 86	30,166,902 99
Excess of market value of securities over cost		479,052 95
Cash Assets, Jan. 1, 1876		**$30,645,955 64**

APPROPRIATED AS FOLLOWS:

Adjusted losses, due subsequent to Jan. 1, 1876	$303,165 00	
Reported losses awaiting proof, &c	144,598 66	
Reserved for reinsurance on existing policies: participating insurance at four per cent. Carlisle net premium; non-participating at five per cent. Carlisle net premium	27,390,396 44	
Reserved for contingent liability to Tontine Dividend Fund over and above a four per cent. reserve on existing policies of that class	308 133 81	28,146,298 91
Divisible Surplus		**$2,499,656 73**

From the undivided surplus of $2,499,656 73 the Board of Trustees has declared a Reversionary Dividend, available on settlement of next annual premium to participating policies proportionate to their contributions to surplus. The cash value of such reversion may be used in settlement if the policyholders so elect.

During the year, 7,029 Policies have been issued, insuring $21,964,190.

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MORRIS FRANKLIN, DAVID DOWS, ISAAC C. KENDALL, DANIEL S. MILLER, JOHN MAIRS, WM. H. APPLETON, ROBERT B. COLLINS, WILLIAM BARTON, LOOMIS L. WHITE, WILLIAM A. BOOTH, H. B. CLAFLIN, J. F. SEYMOUR, C. R. BOGERT, M. D., GEORGE A. OSGOOD, HENRY BOWERS, SANDFORD COBB, EDWIN MARTIN, JOHN M. FURMAN,
WILLIAM H. BEERS.

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D. O'DELL, Superintendent of Agencies.
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GEORGE WILKES, M. D., }
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is now ready for mailing to applicants; also,
CATALOGUE OF SPRING BULBS;
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Vegetable and Agricultural Seeds.
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Try the VICTOR POTATO. Sent post-paid, 1 lb., 50 cts. Send for Descriptive Circulars, testimonials and special rates per bush. and bbl. Six bushels dug from *one rod*, or 900 bushels per acre.
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STAR OF THE WEST.—The best Strawberry. 100 acres in Small Fruits. Colossal Asparagus Seed. Millions of Trees and Plants at Pomona Nursery. Send for Circular, WM. PARRY, Cinnaminson, N. J.

WANTED—The address of every Grange Secretary in the West, that we may send them our SPECIAL TERMS and PRICES of Nursery Stock and Hedge Plants for Spring planting. Address COTT & MAXWELL, Chenoa, Ill.

FRESH AND GENUINE WETHERSFIELD ONION SEED.
I offer the following varieties of Choice Seeds by mail postpaid, viz, (cash with order):

	oz.	¼lb.	lb.
Wethersfield Large Red	20c.	60c.	$2.00
Early Red or Globe	20	65	2.50
Extra Early Red, very early and fine	25	88	3.50
Yellow Globe Danvers, extra stock	25	65	2.50
White Portugal, or Silver-Skin	25	88	3.50
New Queen, small early white (imported)	40	$1.50	6.00

Address R. D. HAWLEY, Seedsman, 492 and 493 Main St., Hartford, Conn.

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Circular and Price List of STRAWBERRY *and* RASPBERRY PLANTS, *and other Small Fruits, will be mailed on application. Address* E. P. ROE, *Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, Orange Co., N. Y.*

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Contains descriptive and price list of Vegetable, Flower and Grass Seeds, Plants, Bulbs, Novelties, and every GARDEN REQUISITE. Beautifully illustrated. Send two 3 ct. stamps for postage.
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APPLE and other FRUIT TREES, GRAPE VINES, HEDGE PLANTS, ORNAMENTAL PLANTS, GREENHOUSE and BEDDING PLANTS for sale. Stock SOUND and HEALTHY. PRICES low. Great Inducements to Granges, Clubs and Dealers for CASH. Spring Price-List now ready. Free to all applicants.
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Warranted best in the world. Lowest prices. Send for free book. R. H. SHUMWAY, Rockford, Ill.

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3 to 4 ft., 1st class,	per 10, $3,	per 100, $25
4 to 5 ft.,	" "	10, $3.50,	" 100, $30
White Spruce, 2½ to 3 ft.,	" "	10, $3.50,	" 100, $30
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For Spring of 1876, will be ready in February, with a Colored Plate—Many beautiful new plants are offered—all at very low rates—Free to all my customers, to others price 25 cts. A plain copy to all applicants free. WASHINGTON, D. C.

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For HOME use and for MARKET in **ROOT'S GARDEN MANUAL**—practical, pointed and thorough—containing one-half as much matter as $1.50 books on the subject. Gardeners throughout the country commend its practical labor-saving methods as invaluable to them. Sent for 10 cents, which will be allowed on the first order for seeds.
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This is a beautiful Quarterly Journal, finely illustrated, and containing an elegant colored Frontispiece with the first number. Price only 25 cents for the year. The first No. for 1876 just issued.
Address JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y.

NEWS CONDENSER.

— Lent begins the first of March, this year.

— There are fewer cattle in Texas than formerly.

— Texas has a population of 1,275,000. In 1870 it was 818,619.

— A German iron-clad fleet will visit American ports next year.

— A petrified sunflower has been found in Logansport, Ind.

— Decatur has the reputation of being the muddiest town in Ill.

— Five thousand Indiana school teachers will go to "see the Centennial."

— One hundred thousand sheep were scattered by a California snow storm.

— Under the new constitution of Texas, nine of a jury may render a verdict.

— Two hundred and fifty thousand gallons of beer are sold in London daily.

— It is proposed in the Ohio Legislature that the State publish its own school books.

— Eighteen thousand one hundred and forty-four Chinamen came to California last year.

— Abington, Mass., has not a pauper, and the Selectmen have advertised the almshouse for sale.

— The Young Men's Christian Association of Buffalo, celebrated its 23d anniversary, Feb. 13th.

— A sweet potato weighing twelve and one-quarter pounds has been raised in Tallahassee, Fla.

— The Buffalo Board of Trade has appointed a committee to visit Albany and secure favorable canal legislation.

— Under a new ruling of the Buffalo School Board, no married women are hereafter to be employed as teachers.

— A Natural History Museum, with an enormous tank in the basement for fish, has been completed at Copenhagen.

— Street railroads are unprofitable in most Southern cities. The cars in Macon and Montgomery have ceased running.

— The Major-Domo of the Pontifical Palace at Rome has just ordered 500 lightning conductors for the Vatican and St. Peter's.

— Sixteen thousand two hundred and eighty-eight patents were issued in the United States last year, an increase of 2,689 over 1874.

— The coinage at the Philadelphia Mint in 1875 amounted to $11,514,835, being rather more of gold than silver, and $246,970 of base metal.

— Surveys are being made of the country around London with a view of some definite steps being taken for the defense of the metropolis.

— A Washington correspondent says that the favorite game with Congressmen this winter is euchre. Still, draw poker has its votaries.

— Fish packers in Nova Scotia, finding their occupation gone, are now packing rabbits, partridges, and other game for the English market.

— Every member of the Kansas House of Representatives is provided with twenty daily newspapers during its session, at the public expense.

— Eight prominent physicians of Albany, N. Y., propose to establish in that city a private hospital for the accommodation of private patients only.

— The recent death of a Canadian Judge renders it necessary for forty cases which he had taken into consideration to be argued over again.

— Orange County, N. Y., claims that it produces the best butter, the fastest horses, and the most apple whisky of any county in the United States.

— Last year the town of Winter, Cal., was a wheat field, and a crop was gathered from it. Now it has 1,200 inhabitants, and town lots are worth $600.

The New York Commercial Advertiser prints a table showing that the amount of default on railroad bonds alone since the panic of 1872, is $783,967,665.

— The ravine running from East Buffalo to the hydraulics overflowed its banks, Feb. 11, and caused about $5,000 damage to property in the vicinity.

— The Lehigh Valley Railroad Company are surveying a route for a new railway, from Elmira to Geneva, via. Watkins, along the east shore of Seneca Lake.

— At the close of 1875 there were 1,006 students on the rolls of the College of the City of New York. The receipts were $150,757.52; the expenditures, $149,836.80.

— In France, where every newspaper article must have a signature, the responsibility is frequently avoided by paying some noted duellist to affix his name.

— A petroleum gas man is urging the city fathers of Chicago to give him a contract for lighting the streets, agreeing to do for $75,000 what now costs the city $500,000.

Miscellaneous.

FARM HAND & ORCHARDIST WANTED. One who is thoroughly qualified to take charge of a large orchard of assorted fruit trees, and familiar with and willing to do all kinds of farm work. Apply to ISAAC M. SCHERMERHORN, Buffalo, N. Y.

EUREKA MACHINE SILK. ARE you troubled with garments ripping? Use the **Eureka Machine Twist**, and you will have one trouble less. Try it, and you will use no other.

OPIUM and Morphine habit absolutely and speedily cured. Painless: no publicity. Send stamp for particulars. Dr. Carlton, 137 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

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Continues to be unequaled. Turns a furrow on level land equal to the best landside plow. *No dead furrows or ridges.* Send for Circular.

Manf'd only by EVERETT & SMALL, BOSTON, MASS.

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GENERAL AGENT FOR NEW YORK CITY,
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Agricultural Implements, Fertilizers, and Seeds.

☞ Seed Catalogue mailed free on application.

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To Farmers' Clubs, of six or more, we offer "Our Centennial" {4 Ton Stock Scales, $35 each. {6 " " " 50 "

SENT ON TRIAL.

Osgood's Patent Rubber Spring Platform Scales.

All sizes and capacities. *Fully warranted.* 30 per ct. discount. *Delivered free.* County Agents wanted.
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THE
RANDALL PULVERISING HARROW!
JUST THE IMPLEMENT
FOR

Pulverizing your clay lumps;
Fitting your soil ground;
Working your summer fallow;
Fitting your fall-plowed land;
Exterminating noxious weeds;
Covering your grain of all kinds;
Mixing top manure with the soil.

IT WILL

Increase the yield of your crops,
Increase the value of your land,
Increase the money in your pocket,
Increase your general prosperity, and

SAVE YOU

One-fourth your time in fitting your soil;
All your seed by covering it completely;
Miles of wearisome walk after the old drag;
One-half the work in after cultivation and hand work with the hoe, and

TWICE ITS COST IN ONE SEASON.

☞ Send for Circulars to
THE WARRIOR MOWER CO.,
Little Falls, N. Y.

TEN PER CENT. of all your grain saved by using the Grange Farm Mill. Best and cheapest. Send for Circular. H. H. SWIFT, Millbrook, N. Y.

FOUST'S HAY LOADER, Improved for 1876, including Wind-Break Attachment. Warranted to pitch a ton of hay from the winrow in five minutes, and take it as clean as by the hand fork. Adapted to all ordinary meadow land, and to any farm wagon. Manufactured by STRATTON & CULLUM, Agricultural Works, Meadville, Pa. Send for Descriptive Circulars early.

CIDER PRESSES.

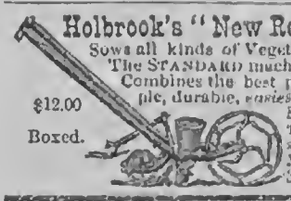
and Cider Machinery. Send for circulars.
BOOMER & BOSCHERT PRESS COMPANY.
Syracuse, N. Y., and 28 Beekman St., N. Y. City.

Matthews' Garden Seed Drills

and Matthews' Hand Cultivators, are the most reliable, durable, popular and salable ever produced. Sold separate or combined. Send for Circular. Manufactured only by
EVERETT & SMALL,
Boston, Mass.

HIGGANUM M'F'G COMPANY,
Manufacturers of Agricultural Implements,
Higganum, Conn.

Holbrook's "New Regulator" Seed Drill



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Dairy Utensils.

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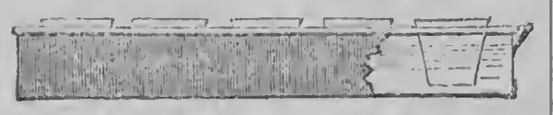

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For Factorymen and Dairymen. Is a more perfect instrument than the Lactometer. State, County and Factory rights for sale. Apply to
ALVAN MIDDAUGH, Friendship, N. Y.

Read the POULTRY BULLETIN.

Dairy Salt.

THE AMERICAN DAIRY SALT COMPANY

J. W. BARKER, Pres't and Sec'y. THOMAS MOLLOY, Treasurer.
General Office, No. 1 Clinton Block, Syracuse, N. Y.

Sole Manufacturers of the Celebrated Onondaga Factory Filled

DAIRY AND TABLE SALT.

Respectfully call the attention of Dairymen and others to the quality of Salt now being manufactured by them.

Having for many years past been engaged in perfecting the various processes for the manufacture of this salt, and by adopting the best modes and machinery for the purpose, they feel warranted in saying to the consumer that the article now produced is superior to any other, either of foreign or domestic production. The following is an analysis of our salt and the Ashton, made in April, 1875, by Messrs. Waltz and Stillman, Chemists, of New York, under the direction of a Committee of the Butter and Cheese Exchange of New York, the samples being selected by the Committee from lots found on sale in market:

	Ashton.	Onondaga.
Water	0.7880	0.6280
Insoluble Matter	0.0561	0.0364
Sulphate of Lime	1.2272	0.7217
Sulphate of Magnesia	0.0769	.....
Chloride of Calcium	.....	0.0173
Chloride of Magnesium	0.0591	0.0346
Chloride of Sodium	97.7593	98.5243
	99.9674	99.9822

Circulars in regard to the various other tests made with this salt in comparison with the best foreign article, also certificates from a large number of the best dairies in the State as to its quality, may be had on application to J. W. BARKER, Secretary, Syracuse, N. Y., to whom orders for salt may also be addressed. It is also for sale by the Agents of the Company in principal Western Lake Ports; by ST. JOHN & AVERY, 101 and 103 Broad St., New York; ROBERT GEER, 109 Pier, Albany, N. Y.; E. W. PECK & Co., Burlington, Vt., and by dealers generally throughout the State of New York.

Inquire for ONONDAGA FACTORY FILLED SALT.

J. W. BARKER, Pres't and Sec'y.
THOMAS MOLLOY, Treasurer.
Syracuse, May, 1875.

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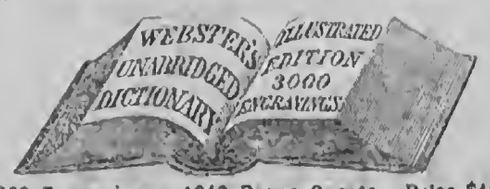
Subscription only $1.25 per year, post-paid. Specimen copies 10 cts. Address WM. H. KIRBY, Business Manager, P. O. Box 316, New York.



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These articles, it is believed, will be second only to "Gen. Sherman's Memoirs" as vivid pictures of Army life and startling adventure.

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to the close of the first 100 years of our National Independence, including an account of the coming Grand Centennial Exhibition. 700 pages, fine engravings, low price, quick sales. Extra terms. Send for Circular. P. W. ZIEGLER & CO.,
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$250 A MONTH.—Agents wanted everywhere. Business honorable and first-class. Particulars sent free. Address J. WORTH & CO., St. Louis, Mo.

$12 a day at home. Agents wanted. Outfit and terms free. TRUE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

$5 to $20 per day at home. Samples worth $1 free. STINSON & CO., Portland, Me.

AGENTS WANTED TO OBTAIN Subscribers for the best Agricultural and Family Weekly Newspaper. Liberal commissions for little work. Address RURAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, Box 3318. 78 Duane St., New York City.

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One Million Acres

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Book Catalogues of Music! Books, Instruments, Strings, Trimmings, with directions, prices, &c., 10c. Mailed free. MACKIE & CO., Rochester, N. Y.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER is one of the readable, useful, family papers, equally in demand by the lady in her conservatory, the matron with her household, the farmer in his field, the stock raiser among his animals, and the young folks around the evening lamp.—*Laws of Life.*

Wit and Humor.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

GOING to law for damages is the surest way of getting damaged.

HERE and there the sin of naming new babies "Centennia," is committed.

THE steamer that is over-due must be coming in with a very light draught.

WHY is your wife like dynamite? Because she's apt to blow up if harshly handled.

UPHILL buisness—sitting on a wheel-barrow and trying to wheel yourself to glory.

"SAM JONES, what ails your eye?"—"Nothing, only I told Jim Smith he hed and the fool resented it."

THE fool seeketh to pick a fly from a mule's hind-leg. The wise man letteth out the job to the lowest bidder.

TRYING to do business without advertising is like winking at a pretty girl in the dark—you may know what you are doing, but no one else does.

"Do you love me still, John?" whispered a sensitive wife to her husband. "Of course I do; the stiller the better," answered the stupid husband.

"ALFRED, darling," tenderly observed a young Milwaukee wife to her husband, "I wish you'd take your ears down now, Marian wants to dust the ceiling."

AN Illinois girl wrote to the School Commissioners of Chicogo that she "had bin out of employment for a year, and wud teech for $10 a month and bord round.

THE following advertisement recently appeared in a London paper:—"Three Lady Helps wanted, as cook, housemaid, and nurse; private family; no servants kept."

IT is estimated that it takes a young man twice as long to light a lamp when he returns home from a lecture or concert with his girl, as it does under other circumstances.

THIS may possibly be old, but it's undeniably good:—"Every man fancies he can do three things—farm a small property, drive a gig and write an article for a review."

A LONG and romantic story published in the Michigan papers may be thus condensed: "Beautiful daughter of a Michigan banker; married against her father's will; beer girl in a Lafayette concert hall."

A FACETIOUS boy asked one one of his intimates why a hardware dealer was like a boot-maker. The latter, somewhat puzzled, gave it up. "Why," said the other, "because the one sold the nails and the other nailed the soles."

A SCHOOL TEACHER got the boys down on him by taking their apples away from them when they had them around in school time, and eating them himself, but he looks at them very carefully since he ate one charged with red pepper.

"WELL," remarked Mrs. Spilkins the other evening, throwing down the paper with a sigh, "I don't think so very much of the President's message, Leander. He don't say a single word about Tweed's escape, or the Beecher scandal."

DOBB'S memory is not of the best, and he rather suprised his sweetheart the other evening by asking her if these lines of Scott were not beautiful:

> Oh, woman, in our hours of ease,
> Uncertain, coy, and hard to please;
> But seen too oft, familiar with thy face,
> We first endure, then pity, then embrace,

AN OPINION.—A highly respected colored gentleman, rejoicing in the big-sounding name of George Edwin Fitz-Augustus, visiting the Washington Market, a few days since, thus delivered himself to a fat countryman, whose stock of vegetables he had been busily investigating: "Are these good taters?" "Yes, sir!" responded the countryman. "A tater," resumed George Edwin Fitz-Augustus, "is inevitably bad unless it is inwariably good. Dere is no mediocrity in de combination of a good tater. The exterior may appear remarkably exemplary and beautisome, while the interior is totally negative. But, sir, if you wends the article ob your own recommendation, knowing you to be a man of probility in your transactions, I, widout any furder circumlocutions, takes a bushel of dat superior wegetable!"

CHEESE AND BUTTER
Factory Apparatus.
"ECONOMIZER" RETURN FLUE
Boiler and Engines.
Selling rapidly. Factorymen "*Take*" to them at once. Satisfaction guaranteed. Send for Illustrated Circular of Dairy Furnishings.
WHITMAN & BURRELL,
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The Centennial.

THE MAIN EXHIBITION BUILDING.

In our series of illustrations representing the great Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, we this week give an illustration of the Main Exhibition Building, which is described as follows:

The main building extends east and west 1,876 feet.—a symbolical number—and is 464 feet in width. The main portal on the north side communicates directly with the Art Gallery, and the main portal on the west side gives the main passage-way to the Machinery and Agricultural Halls. At the corners of the building are four towers, 75 feet in hight, while to obtain a central feature for the building the roof over the central part, for 180 feet square, is raised above the surrounding portion, and four towers, 48 feet square, rising 120 feet, are introduced at the corners of this elevated roof. The areas are:

	Sq. ft.	Acres.
Ground floor.....	874,220	20.072
Upper floor, in projections,	37,344	.85
Upper floor, in towers,.....	26,344	.85
Total.....	933,008	21.47

The main hall is 360 feet wide by 1,402 feet long, with an annex on the south side 208 feet by 210 feet: the area of hall and annex is 558,440 square feet, or 12.82 acres, and including the upper floors, it covers a space of 14 acres (floor space). There are two main avenues 80 feet wide, 1,360 feet long, with a center aisle and an aisle on either side. Each aisle is 60 feet wide, the two avenues and three aisles giving a total width of 360 feet. In the center of the building is a transept 90 feet in width, beginning 36 feet from the main hall, extending 208 feet, is flanked on either side by aisles 60 feet in width, and forms the annex for hydraulic machines. The promenades are 15 feet in width in the avenues, 25 feet in the transepts and 10 feet in the aisles; all other walks are 10 feet in width and lead to exit doors. The columns are 16 feet apart, 40 feet high to the heel-block of the 90-feet span roof-tresses over the avenues. The outer walls are masonry to a hight of 5 feet, and above they are composed of glazed sash between the columns. Eight main lines of shafting may be introduced, extending almost the entire length of the structure; and counter-shafts can be introduced into the aisles at any point. In the hydraulic annex at the south end there is a waterfall 35 feet high and 40 feet wide, to be supplied from the tank by the pumps on exhibition.

NOVEL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

Senator McCreery of Kentucky, while the Centennial appropriation bill was before the Senate, moved to substitute the following novel proposition:—"That it be recommended to the people of the United States to assemble on the Fourth of July next, in such numbers and manner as may be convenient, in their respective cities, towns, villages, neighborhoods or wherever they may be, publicly to testify their joy of the one-hundredth return of that auspicious day, by suitable eulogies, orations and discourses, or by public prayers and such religious exercises and ceremonies as may be appropriate to the occasion and sanctioned by their own conscience."

We feel very much about this as the Western couple did when stopping to breakfast at a fashionable hotel on their bridal tour. The table waiter asked if they would take ham and eggs and buckwheat cakes, "Of course not," quietly spoke the lady. "We get enough such victuals at home, now we are away we want something different from every-day fare." The country is familiar enough with the programme of Fourth of July orations, eulogies and speeches, to say nothing of public prayers and religious exercises. These are all very well in their way, but once in a hundred years the country can well afford to give itself a treat of a different, if not a better kind. Still we doubt not, that the local celebrations of Independence, will be more generally and enthusiastically observed this year than ever before. Possibly the religious element will be more predominant, as it should be in an anniversary, showing the progress and preservation of our country during several generations of human lives. After one hundred years existence and prosperity of our people as an independent nation, it must be quite plain that our country has not been preserved by any one man or party, for all the founders of the Republic have long since passed away. One after another, as the country needs them, men are being raised up to preserve the institutions which our fathers founded, and no one man ever has been or will be necessary to the security of our people. These facts cannot fail to impress all thinking minds with thankfulness for the guidance of Providence thus far and equal reliance for the future, and this feeling cannot be properly ignored in the exercises at the National Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.

CANADA AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The Toronto Globe says that it has been decided by the Ontario Advisary Board that the representation of farm products at the Centennial should be by counties. Accordingly circulars were issued as long ago as last September to the officers of the various Agricultural Societies, notifying them of the proposal arrangement, and requesting that two quarts of each kind of grain and seed should be sent in to the Secretary. It was found necessary, owing to this request not having been complied with, to issue a second circular in December, giving a list of of the agricultural products required. As some time will be required for the arrangement of the specimens, it is absolutely necessary that the parties addressed should respond as promptly as possible. The representation by counties presents many advantages over the representation of the Province as a whole, the method formerly adopted. As some counties will undoubtedly be well represented by specimens, all will find it to their interest to be so, if none are to be placed at a disadvantage as compared with others. The number of entries of exhibitors of manufactured articles now amounts to 469, with from 1 to 106 samples each: it is extremely desirable that the farmers and fruit-growers should not be behind.

THE FIRST AMERICAN CENT.

The item going the rounds that the first coin called a cent, was proposed by Robert Morris, and first issued in 1792, is contradicted by the Detroit Evening News, which says that Mr. R. E. Roberts of that city, has a cent of still earlier date. It has on one side the sun and dial, underneath which the words "Mind your Business," and on the sides "Fugio" and "1787." On the reverse a circle of thirteen rings, on which is stamped "United States," and in the centre "We are One." It has always been understood to have been designed by Dr. Franklin. Such is a correct description of the first cent. In this Centennial era correctness in matters of history is important. In this connection the question arises, as it has about pins, where have the millions of old red cents made by the government gone to? the answer to which is very simple. The old fashioned large red cents contain more than a cent's worth of copper, or at least did so for a number of years. They were carefully saved and melted up for copper, and now may be found in copper utensils of nearly every kind, and also reappear in the smaller copper cents issued by the government.

Mast, Foos & Co. of Springfield, Ohio, are to furnish a 400 horse power sectional tubular boiler for Agricultural Hall, and to run the machinery of the Centennial Exhibition.

Farm Economy.

PORTABLE FENCES.

This subject, which has often been up during the past thirty years—introducing all sorts of patent and no patent fences—is again in order and thus suggestively discussed by the Naturalist and Farmer:

Where it is desirable to set up a fence for enclosing a field for a single season, or for a few years at most, some sort of a portable fence is decidedly preferable to the more expensive and substantial stone wall, or even a wooden fence of posts and rails. Sometimes one may have a few calves that he would like to give a small enclosure in some mowing field, or a sick animal may need a field by itself. A sow with pigs or a few sheep may need a special enclosure for a month or two, after which the fence might be no longer needed in the same place. Under such circumstances, some kind of a light, cheap fence, that can be readily put up and taken down again, will prove very convenient and may pay a good per cent. on the cost of making and setting it.

The fence described at the winter meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Agriculture at Winstead, by Mr. Hubbard of Middletown, struck us as being the best thing of the kind that we have ever seen. It is plain, simple, light and cheap and when set up and properly pinned, will turn all kinds of stock that should ever be enclosed by fences.

The stock required for such a fence consists of four boards, 12 feet long by 6 inches wide, equal to 24 feet; two pieces of 2x4 joist, 5 feet long, equal to 3⅓ feet; two stakes for props 4½ feet long, which may be round saplings from the woods; two pieces of board 2 inches wide and a foot or more long, and about 20 tenpenny fence nails. The tools needed for building such a fence are a hammer, an inch and a half auger, a half inch bit and a saw, all of which any farmer should be competent to use.

The fence should lean *from* the field to be pastured with the props upon the opposite side, although cattle may run on either side with little danger of its being thrown down or broken. For calves, pigs, or other small animals, a fence one-fourth lower might answer as well. When finished and set up, it will stand as firmly as a wood-sawyer's horse, and may be removed and re-set in a new locality about as easily.

During the discussion which followed the exhibition of a model of this fence by Mr. Hubbard, several farmers criticised it because it was proposed by some gentleman to have the panels lock into each other and be confined together by nailing or otherwise; but this would defeat the very object that Mr. Hubbard had in view, that of making a fence that should not stand in the same place a long while without moving.

As fast as the farmers outgrow the idea of keeping up a great amount of permanent fence for dividing their mowing and tillage lands into small lots, they will appreciate the advantage of a kind of light and cheap portable fence that can be put up or taken down in a few hours around crops that need protection for a short time, or for enclosing young stock at certain seasons, or the after-feed in mowing fields. But what we most need to learn at present is the false economy of building and trying to support so many unnecessary fences around and across our tillage lands. Pastures must be fenced for the present, but the time will come when fences around mowing lots and gardens and by the roadside will be far less common than is the case now. People are learning that fences cost more than they are worth, and Yankees don't like to trade in that way a great while after they learn the fact.

POTATOES AS FOOD FOR STOCK.

Potatoes in many localities distant from market are this season so abundant and cheap that they can only be used to advantage for feeding out to stock. It is true that certain agricultural writers have of late endeavored to show that this valuable tuber was of little or no value for such purposes, but it is very probable that the gentlemen who advance such theories are not practical agriculturists. The value of the potato as food for man and many of our domestic animals is too well known to be discarded at this late day in consequence of anything which may be written by theoretical chemists or agriculturists.

But while the potato has been a bone of contention among agriculturists for many years, its practical and specific value as food for stock has never been disproved when put to the test. The celebrated veterinarian, Wm. Youatt, in speaking of the value of the various kinds of roots as food for stock, says of the potato:—"Among the various vegetable productions that have been appropriated to the stall-feeding of cattle, none have occasioned greater discussion than potatoes. They furnish an excellent supply, particularly when cut and steamed, and appear adequate to the fattening of neat cattle in combination with comparatively small portions of other food."

In the eleventh volume of the British "Annals of Agriculture" we find some statements from Mr. Campbell of Charlton, Eng., which bear directly upon this question. He observes that 100 pounds of potatoes and 700 pounds of hay are generally sufficient to fatten any animal that thrives tolerably well. They should at first be given in small quantities and gradually increased to one or two bushels per day: dry food being always intermixed and the proportion of hay being uniformly regulated by the effect which the potatoes produce on the bowels. The hay should always be cut, in order that it may be more readily mixed with the potatoes.

We might give almost any amount of testimony from practical farmers and stock-raisers to corroborate the above, but think it entirely unnecessary, as it is quite likely that a majority of our readers know from experience that potatoes are valuable food for stock. At the present price of beef, cheese, butter or pork, we think our farmers would do better to feed out their potatoes than to sell them at twenty cents per bushel and less, prices at which they have been sold in many localities this season. Potatoes are too heavy and bulky a crop to send to a distant market, but they are readily turned into beef, cheese or butter, and in these forms the cost of transportation is greatly reduced.—*N. Y. Sun.*

EXPERIMENT WITH SUPERHPHOSPHATE.

Having been a subscriber to the Rural New-Yorker for the last eighteen years, I have read with interest the recorded results of accurate experiments made by practical farmers, and consider them by far the most valuable of my agricultural reading. Thinking it might be of benefit to others, I will give the result of an experiment tried by myself the past season. Wishing to use more fertilizing material than I had on hand last spring, I concluded to get some superphosphate, and, not knowing what kind was best, bought some of three different kinds. I applied it to oats and potatoes at the rate of 250 lbs. per acre. The kind that proved the most valuable was manufactured by Alexander & Crocker of Buffalo; it was advertised in the Rural. Where applied to potatoes, it just doubled the weight of salable potatoes.

My mode of application was—after lightly covering the potatoes with earth—to apply one small tablespoonful of the superphosphate directly over the potatoes, and then cover that lightly also. I was afraid the phosphate might be too strong if put in with the potatoes. The ground was a gravelly loam, quite poor, having had no manure for several years. The hills were 18 inches apart, and the rows 3 feet. The difference in the vines could plainly be seen all through the season, being about twice as large as those having no phosphate. I intended having the experiment with oats accurate also, but a rainy time of ten days, just as they were ready to cut, so injured them that I was discouraged and harvested them altogether. It was very evident to me that the phosphate paid well on the oats. It was drilled in with the grain. The grass seed seemed to catch better also.

Rome, N. Y., Feb. 16. F. D. Perkins.

RENOVATING IMPOVERISHED LAND.

In a recent address, Prof. Stockbridge of Massachusetts said:

It is possible to make these old, worn-out hills of Massachusetts flourish with waving fields of grain and grass, by the use of the chemical elements of nutrition; and it is not necessary to keep cattle for the express purpose of making manure. I do not wish to be understood as "going back" on barnyard manure, but would use all that has accumulated as a waste product in the prosecution of agricultural pursuits. Making butter, cheese, beef and pork is like other manufacturing industries, and is a legitimate industry. But the time for carrying on these operations for the express purpose of making manure is soon to pass away. In the near future the value of barnyard manure would be estimated by the value of the nutritive elements it contains. As every farmer here, I suppose, is intending to ask what these elements cost in the market, I will state that, at present prices for nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid, the plant food for a bushel of corn should cost forty-one cents. I have applied manure for fifty bushels and obtained ninety-four bushels, worth, with the stalks, $134, which ought to pay me well for labor, taxes, interest, etc., over and above the cost of chemicals.

Another experiment with corn planted without manure, upon land manured last year, gave sixty-four bushels as the product of manure carried over from that applied last year. So it does not look as if we had ruined the land by applying these fertilizers. It may also be said that these experiments may work on little plots of a few rods, but when tried on large farms and by the acre they will fail. That we could test this also, two fields of the poorest common land, such as was considered too poor to pay for fencing, were planted with corn. One contained 154 and the other 192 rods. The yield of corn in these fields showed that such experiments in feeding crops were equally applicable to large as small fields. Besides the experiments carried on at the College, more than two hundred farmers from Vermont to the Carolinas have been experimenting in this same manner the past year, and with results highly satisfactory to themselves.

TOP-DRESSING MEADOWS.

The results of a single top-dressing on eight plots of nearly half an acre each of sandy warm soil of our State Agricultural College farm, exhibited the following facts at the end of three years:—The top-dressing was applied in 1864, and the grass was cut twice each season in 1864 and 1865, and once in 1866, and the produce of each lot weighed separately and a perfect record kept. The results for the four seasons were as follows:—On the plot to which no manure or fertilizer was applied, the total weight of hay yielded per acre was 8,740 pounds. Where two bushels of plaster per acre were applied, the yield per acre was 13,226 pounds, a gain of 4,484 pounds. Where five bushels of wood ashes were applied the yield per acre was 12,007 pounds, a gain of 4,165 pounds. Where three bushels of salt were sown per acre the yield was 14,969 pounds, a gain per acre of 5,227 pounds. Where twenty loads of muck per acre were laid on, the yield per acre was 13,816 pounds, a gain of 5,074 pounds. Where twenty loads of horse manure were laid on the yield was 14,686 pounds, a gain of 6 224 pounds. These are results which indicate that there are fertilizers which will produce as good results as plaster. For instance, the plaster yielded a gain of fifty-one per cent., while the horse manure gave an increase of seventy-one per cent., or nearly a ton more grass per acre in the three years.—*Michigan Farmer.*

Industrial Topics.

LARGE CORN CROPS MAKE CHEAP HOGS.

A central Kansas farmer contributes the following interesting statement to the New York Tribune:—This is the rule, and the notable exception this year is not fully understood by Eastern men. While we, here at the far West, have had good corn crops, witnessed by the fact that corn is now selling at 25 cents per bushel, we have no hogs to send to the market, but rather are buyers ourselves. I speak now particularly of the grasshopper-afflicted States of Kansas and Nebraska. During the visitation of these pests in 1874, instead of raising corn upon which to fatten stock, we were compelled to kill nearly all our hogs to keep them and us from starving. Now, with abundance of corn, we realize the advantage it would be, could we send it East in the form of pork, but we are bare of stock and are sending to Missouri and other States for a supply. Nor is it a mere handful of hogs that we want, for our denuded country is large, and our wishes only limited by our ability to purchase; for we recognize the hog crop is destined to be of great importance to this part of the country. The diverting the heretofore Eastern trade, or call for Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa hogs, and turning them Westward, is not sufficiently taken into account by Eastern people, many of whom are wondering at the light receipts and high prices of hogs.

ANGORA MANUFACTURES IN CALIFORNIA.

California, in pursuance of a characteristic fashion of doing what cannot be done elsewhere, has not only persisted in keeping considerable flocks of Angora goats, but multiplies their numbers and utilizes the fleece. There have been placed in the Museum of the Agricultural Department some specimens of dressed skin with fleece intact, of divers colors and great beauty, such as are used for fancy robes, rugs, mats, fur gauntlets, and for other purposes. These gloves are very strong, durable, warm, and showy. The leather is also used in strings for belt-lacing, and appears from its great strength to be very suitable for such use. This is the work of the Angora Robe and Glove Company, located at San Jose, and demonstrates the availability of Angora products for successful manufacture into articles of comfort and utility. Their gloves, unlike those of buckskin, are dressed with the grain left on. Mr. Frank Leavis, the Secretary of the company, is a part owner of a flock of six hundred ewes which were sheared last spring. In one county, Monterey, there are no less than twenty thousand returned by the assessors, and they constitute a portion of the stock of twenty-eight other counties.

THE WORKSHOP ON THE FARM.

As I commenced farming three years ago, I bought a set of planes, augers, chisels and a saw, and by-and-by some more tools that were needful to do the ordinary repairs of the farm, and soon I made some new implements out of wood. Last fall a blacksmith moved away from our village, and I bought a bellows, anvil, hammers, tongs, and soon I learned to do some smith-work. I never learned a trade, as I worked on the farm, and kept a country store for seven years. I would not give my tools for double what they cost me, as by patience and perseverance anybody can soon perform the common repairs on the farm.—H. E. E. R.

It is hardly true, as our correspondent supposes, that everybody can perform the common repairs on a farm. Probably he has a natural taste that way, and succeeds better than most would do. Still we heartily endorse the practical recommendation to have a workshop with anvil and bellows and a full set of blacksmith and carpenters' tools. Almost any farmer can save himself some expense and a good deal more trouble in making needful repairs. The boys especially will find in such a workshop an unfailing source of improvement and pleasure. Very many boys brought up on the farm, have a natural liking for mechanics, and in all cases this "bent" of the mind should be carefully studied, as on its development depends all after success.

ROTATION OF CROPS.

As desirable as rotation in office may be, it cannot be more so than a judicious rotation of crops raised on the farm. No matter how fertile the soil, it is conceded that constant cropping with one, two, or three kinds of grain, will wear out the land. All good farmers concede that a proper rotation of crops, including the grasses, should be followed. Chemists inform us that the nutriment of food-producing plants is taken in part from the soil in solution through the roots, and partly from the air through the leaves, and therefore that suitable food must be provided, or a manifest deterioration will result. The good farmer, while he aims to produce the largest crops at the least expense, will also be careful to keep up the fertility of the soil by a judicious rotation of crops, supplemented by the application of manures to the land.—*Rural World.*

GETTING RID OF STUMPS.

Some one, not long ago, started the idea that sulphuric acid would totally destroy stumps. An augur hole was to be bored in the top, filled with sulphuric acid, and plugged. In a day or two the stump would be eaten up, even to the very roots. The experiment was tried and failed, only a portion of the stump, at the top, being affected. The following method is recommended by the Scientific American:—In the autumn bore a hole one to two inches in diameter, according to the girth of the stump, vertically in the center of the latter, and about eighteen inches deep. Put into it from one to two ounces saltpeter; fill the hole with water and plug up close. In the ensuing spring take out the plug and pour in about one-half gill of kerosene oil and ignite it. The stump will smoulder away without blazing, to the very extremity of the roots, leaving nothing but ashes.

ABOUT PLOWING.

Seeing your repeated invitations to subscribers to furnish the Rural any hints or facts of general value that they are in possession of, I am emboldened to send you an item which I have found by experience to be of decided advantage. It is this:—In opening a land on a hillside, always turn the down-hill furrow first. The advantage is—in opening a land, one always wants to make the furrow straight as possible. The sod will turn down hill of itself. You can hold the plow much steadier than when turning the furrow up-hill, which gives you a better chance to guide the horses. And when you come to turn the up-hill furrow the leader has a guide to follow and needs but little driving, and you are allowed a better chance to cut a clear, regular furrow and lay it up smoothly.

A Young Farmer.

WORKMEN.

Mr. Ruskin says in the London Garden:—Supposing the captain of a frigate were by any chance obliged to place his own son in the position of a common sailor; as he would then treat his son, he is bound always to treat those men under him. So, also, supposing the master of a manufactory saw it right to place his own son in the position of an ordinary workman—as he would then treat his son, he is bound always to treat every one of his men. This is the only effective, true, or practicable rule which can be given on this point of political economy.

Dairy Husbandry.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF CURING CHEESE.

Address of X. A. Willard of the Rural New-Yorker before the Vermont Dairymen's Convention, Jan. 21, 1876.

[Concluded from page 135, last No.]

HOT WEATHER CHEESE.

I COME now to speak of "hot weather cheese"—cheese made in July, or in fact, at any time when the curing is carried on during intensely hot weather. It is almost needless to tell you that the great bulk of this cheese is more or less off flavor, the odor and flavor resembling that of putrid meat. The decomposition has taken on a taint that is decidedly offensive to the lovers of good, sweet food—often so intensely disagreeable as to cause vomiting when by mistake, or without warning from the olfactories, it has been taken in the mouth. Immense quantities of this cheese go upon the market every year, and whenever that happens there is a break-down in prices and heavy losses to the producer and not unfrequently to the dealer also. Every cheese manufacturer knows that the hot weather to which the cheese has been exposed in ill-constructed curing houses, has been the cause of this trouble.

If you stand in the market as I have done for the past 15 years, and see the sacrifice that is made from time to time by factories and dairymen on such goods, you will wonder why so little attention has been given to guard against these losses. The manufacturer will tell you that there are no means of controlling temperature in his curing rooms—that the cheese when two or three weeks old, was perhaps all right and ought to have been sold just at that moment, but the hot weather coming on was the cause of the trouble, and of course the goods must go at a lower price, or indeed at any price the dealer may choose to give.

Now it is bad flavor that injures American cheese, both at home and abroad, more than all other causes combined. A cheese may be dry and lack fat; but if it is clean, sweet and nutty in taste, it can be tolerated on the table; but a stinking, putrid lump of cheese can only be endured by the very lowest classes, who know nothing of the best kind of food, and are willing to take the worst without questioning.

A ROOM AT LOW TEMPERATURE NEEDED.

All factories should be provided with what may be called a refrigerator room—a room in some way connected with the ice house, in the plan if you please, of Crozier's Milk Cellar, where pipes are arranged to lead the cold air from the ice, thus reducing the temperature to 60 deg. or below and holding it low; then, as soon as the hot weather cheese has sufficiently ripened and while its flavor is perfect, let it be carried to the refrigerator room, where it may be kept at so low a temperature that fermentation and all change be arrested. Such a room does not cost very much, and cheese could be held, here for a few weeks in hot weather or until a favorable time for shipment, retaining the same flavor as it had when it left the curing room; and in this way large sums would be saved to manufacturers on account of "ill-flavored" cheese, while, by relieving the market from this class of goods, the consumption would be promoted and all classes benefited.

In England the large receivers of American cheese have their storerooms below the surface of the ground. These are well ventilated and with stone floors are so cool that the cheese when once cooled off, undergo but little change. I have seen cheese come in fearfully bulged and heated and to appearance almost a total loss; but the men in charge go to work immediately, removing the boxes and placing the cheese upon the cool stone floors and in a day or so, by turning and manipulating, the cheese are again in shape, when they are returned to the boxes and are ready to be offered for sale.

Is it not singular that a business of such magnitude as the dairy should continue, year after year, to make a wanton waste of its best goods, simply from a neglect of means easily supplied and within the reach of every establishment where cheese is produced?

OFFICE OF THE FAT IN CHEESE.

I have referred to moisture as one of the important elements of cheese, and I have a word now to offer concerning the fat. When I was in London in 1866, Prof. VOELCKER showed me a cheese from Norway which appeared to be exceedingly rich in butter. The caseine was completely broken down, the mass being so mellow and plastic as to be easily spread with a knife, like butter. It was sweet and clean flavored, and I was greatly surprised when informed that this cheese, on analysis, yielded scarcely any butter in its composition. With our present knowledge of cheese making, fat in cheese appears to be essential, not only on account of its own virtues as a food but as a promoter of fermentation. In skimmed milk cheese a larger quantity of rennet must be used than in whole-milk cheese, because in the latter the fat feeds the ferment and thus enables the caseine to be more easily and effectually broken down.

"The office of the fat and the transformation," says Dr. BASTIAN, "may be easily seen in a minute portion of Neufchatel cream-cheese. By placing a portion about the size of a pin's head upon an ordinary glass slip, moistening it with distilled water and spreading it into a thin film, the change which it undergoes can be readily watched. When kept in this moist, uncovered state, in a damp chamber, at a temperature of 65 deg. Fahr., I have found that at the expiration of 48 hours nearly one-half of the fatty-looking mass had undergone segmentation into fungi germs, many of which had in their turn grown out into well developed filaments.

Thus it would appear that a certain amount of fat in the cheese has an important influence in modifying and assimilating the other constituents so as to make the cheese mellow and palatable. From experiments that have been made, it has been found that a cheese with from 15 to 20 per cent. of fat, under proper manufacture and curing, will appear to be rich and mellow, with no indication of leanness, and quite equal in taste to much of the whole-milk cheese that we see in the market.

Whether we shall be able by our progress in knowledge and by our increase in dairy skill to make what seems to the taste to be a rich, mellow, palatable cheese from clear skimmed milk, remains to be seen; but that this is among the possibilities is believed by many. That we are to make a great advance in cheese making there can be no doubt, and this advance will be rapid when the attention of our cheese makers is turned to the improvement of the product by curing. The influence exerted by curing is very marked—for instance, in the Limburger cheese. The Limburger is a small cheese of about two or three pounds weight, of a brick-like form. If cured in the ordinary way, it would soon dry up and become almost as hard as brick. But they are placed in a damp cellar and are set up close together, thereby holding their moisture during the process of fermentation. And this moisture becomes so assimilated with the other parts that Limburger appears exceedingly rich in butter, and is so plastic that it may be spread with a knife, like butter. At certain stages of curing the Limburger is of a sweet, clean flavor, rich and mellow in texture, resembling Stilton; but the German taste requires that the fermentation be carried on until the odor and taste is very offensive to persons not accustomed to its use. It still, however, is plastic, mellow, and of rich, buttery appearance.

When I was in England I took some pains to look over the curing rooms in Somersetshire, where the famous high-priced Cheddar is made. Mr. HARDING told me the success of Cheddar was due quite as much to the curing as to the making. In the first place, the material for building the curing rooms is hollow brick, and they are constructed with hollow walls in addition. A nest of iron pipe runs round the inside walls of the rooms connected with the boiler below, so that the room may be heated with hot water. Care is taken to have good ventilation, while the range of the thermometer is allowed at no time to vary above 75 or below 70 deg.

After returning from England in 1866, I made some experiments in curing cheese which satisfied me that our July and August cheese could be kept in flavor while curing down mellow and rich and at the same time be increased in weight. I had arranged my curing room with openings even with the floor, provided with wickets, and with a ventilator running through the roof, also provided with a wicket, so as to be regulated at pleasure. The walls contained an air chamber, and I found that by the use of water at the wickets and on the floor during hot weather and by the arrangement of the wickets and ventilator, a pretty uniform temperature of 70 to 75 deg. could be maintained even in the hottest weather. We were making two cheeses per day of about 35 pounds each, and by keeping a moist atmosphere from time to time, so as to prevent the too rapid evaporation or drying out of the cheese, together with the even temperature, a very rich, fine, flavored product was the result: the cheese also keeping well—some of it being retained until the next season, perfect in flavor and mellow and rich in taste. The saving in weight over cheese as ordinarily cured was about four per cent.

CONSTRUCTION OF CURING ROOMS.

The question of the best manner of constructing curing rooms I shall not discuss in this connection. It is sufficient for me to state the conditions required. There are builders and architects who make a specialty of this matter, and they will tell you in what way a uniform temperature and good ventilation can be most economically secured. And it is important that this ventilation be good, in order that the emanations passing from the cheese be carried entirely out of the building and not be allowed to be condensed and fall back upon the cheese. Green cheese and cured cheese should not be kept in the same apartment. Hence all cheese, when it has arrived at a certain stage of maturity, should be removed to a room especially designed for this purpose.

SUMMARY.

We may now summarize the more important points in this paper:

1. That but little advance can be made in the quality of our best fancy cheese without especial care in curing.

2. That by proper attention in curing it is possible to reach the highest excellence in the cheese product. That by this means immense losses now annually sustained may be avoided, while consumption will be promoted.

3. That the proper temperature for curing cheese to get the best result in quality, has been determined by experiment to be from 70 to 75 deg. Fah.

4. That the temperature above named must be uniform, and that uneven temperatures, by alternately checking and unduly increasing fermentation, cause bitterness and other objectionable taint in cheese.

5. That moisture is an important element in cheese; that it should be properly distributed through the solids and so assimilated as to form one homogeneous mass, mellow and plastic, giving the cheese the appearance of great richness.

6. That at least from 30 to 33 per cent. of moisture should be retained in curing cheese; that as we decrease the percentage of moisture from this point, the percentage of butter must be increased to obtain mellowness of texture; that the cheese is not improved in taste by this substitution, which is often a serious loss, and this loss may always be estimated to be in proportion between the cost of water and fat.

7. That by proper temperature and attention in retaining a right proportion of moisture, the cheese is not only of better flavor and quality, but a saving in weight of from three to four per cent is made to the producer over the ordinary methods of curing.

8. That by the use of refrigerator rooms a cheese may be kept at any desirable point of flavor, and thus by holding when the markets are dull or the weather unsuitable for shipping, the intervening space of time may be bridged over by the factories without detriment to the flavor or quality of the cheese.

9. That with our present knowledge of cheese making a certain amount of fat in the milk is needed to make a good, palatable cheese. Hence excessive skimming, or a reduction of the fat in milk below 1½ to two per cent., is not to be recommended where the skimmed milk is to be made into cheese, unless other fat be substituted to supply the deficiency.

The Herdsman.

OIL-CAKE FOR MILCH COWS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Toledo Farm Journal gives the readers of that paper the benefit of his experience, as follows:

Dairymen in this vicinity, where continued feeding of milch cows is requisite from five to seven months of the year, who have not tested the virtue of oil-cake as an economizer in fodder, can scarce believe how profitable its results are, especially during long, cold, severe winters. Owning about forty cows several years since, all of which were stabled during the winter season, the writer's attention was called to the value of cotton seed oil as an economizer of fodder, and a trial was given it, a ton or two being purchased at St. Louis and shipped to Toledo in January. Several bushels were thrown into a barrel, which was then filled with water, and when the oil-cake had become dissolved about a quart of the fluid was poured over the quantity of middlings, cut hay, or whatever fodder was given each animal at one feeding, great care being taken not to give too much, in order not to cloy the appetite—a result which follows if caution is not observed in this respect. The consequence was that the cows grew sleek, were perfectly healthy, gave more milk, and required far less food than before; a very desirable result at that time, as the winter proved a long one and feeding had to be kept up until the middle of May. So long as I continued to remain engaged in the dairy business I never again gave up the use of oil-cake, although it became difficult to obtain the cotton-seed oil-cake, and I tried linseed oil-cake, using it in the same manner, with good results, although I prefer the former, but would always use the latter when that is not obtainable. When fodder is scarce and dear the value of this experiment is great, indeed, especially in winter; and I would advise all who are engaged in the production of milk for city markets to give it a fair trial, well convinced they will not regret it. So far as regards an increase in the quantity of cream, I cannot say from experience, though it is alleged to produce cream of better quality and of increased quantity. Those who sell milk and keep cows for this purpose cannot fail to derive great benefit from the use of oil-cake in the manner above described, as it is a saving of money, while it also serves as an aid in making it.

FEEDING VALUE OF VARIOUS FOODS.

THE Tribune, in reply to an inquiry, gives some ideas about the proportionate value of corn, bran and roots, which we copy that our readers may make their own comments. The estimate of corn and bran differs from our experience—making the latter higher than we have found it:

"As the quality of roots varies considerably on account of the quality of the soil on which they may grow, and as the value of a given weight or measure of corn varies somewhat for the same reason, it is impossible to speak with perfect exactness in regard to comparative values. We can give approximations only. The values of a given weight of corn and bran, when used as cattle food, are so nearly equal that, for all practical purposes, they may be considered alike; and yet the bran costs once and a-half as much as the corn. We will compare roots with the cheaper food. If we take an average value of the different kinds of roots, mangel wurzels, rutabagas, turnips, carrots, parsneps, sugar and field beets, they will have an average theoretical value by weight equal to one-seventh of the value of corn. On account of their rapid and perfect digestion when fed to cattle, and also on account of the better use made of their nutritive properties from being intimately incorporated with a large amount of water, their practical value is one-third greater than their theoretical value as compared with dry foods. The relative value of roots and corn may therefore be set down as 5 to 1. When 60 pounds of corn are worth 40 cents, roots will be worth 8 cents for 60 pounds. When compared with bran at $1 per hundred, they will be worth one-half more, or 12 cents per bushel of 60 pounds. It would not be advisable to feed roots too exclusively. It is better to feed part roots and part grain. Nor is it advisable to feed one kind of roots only. It is better to have a variety, both on account of the health and condition of the stock, and for the better results in milk which will be produced by a variety over a single kind."

CLOSE BREEDING.

A WRITER in the Western Farm Journal, after alluding to a discussion on this subject by the Stock Breeders' Association, says:—It has been supposed destructive to good breeding to go into any of the forbidden degrees of relationship. If a neighborhood was enterprising enough to buy a fine bull, or horse, at great expense, after a certain time the animal and all his progeny must be discarded for fresh blood, which must be imported at a further increased expense, or the original improvement went for nothing and was lost. In this way, many good breeds have been frittered away and wasted, because the importations could not be kept up and maintained indefinitely. This position is nonsensical in the extreme, as any intelligent breeder ought to know.

How was it possible for Bates, or Webb, or Bakewell, or any of the original improvers of stock, to maintain the superiority of their breeds? They had no other choice strains to run to, if they had desired to do so ever so much, for there were none in existence. It is more than probable, that if there had been, they would have kept on as they did, for when they once got a choice animal, they carefully preserved all his good qualities by breeding to others possessing, as near as possible, other good points. They were compelled to do this regardless of relationship for the reasons above stated.

It is now quite certain that the only way to maintain a choice breed of stock is to keep up the intercourse between them, regardless of relationship, so long as there are any good qualities worthy of preservation. Any system of breeding which is based on any other principle, is founded on error and is sure to fail, as so many of our previous attempts at improving Western herds have failed.

HAY OR MEAL FOR COWS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Agricultural Gazette, traced the change of opinion with regard to hay in his own neighborhood. "Years ago the practice here was almost invariably to feed the milking cow on hay alone; then some few dairymen began to give those cows that had lately calved, two or three pounds of linseed cake per day; then some of the poor grass land on the dairy farms began to be broken up, and some mangels were grown; now the rule is often to cut up partly straw and partly hay, and mix with pulped mangels, and give each cow four or five pounds of cake or meal, or both."

SEVERAL kinds of roots should be given to supply cows with succulent food in winter. Common turnips do not keep so well as rutabagas and mangel wurtzel, and sugar beets are still better for use in late spring.

Field Crops.

CULTIVATION OF BROOM CORN.

A WRITER in the Practical Farmer gives the following plain and practical directions for the cultivation of this crop, as the result of fifteen years' experience:

Broom corn seed should be planted in the spring, about the same time as Indian corn, on ground that has been thoroughly pulverized with the harrow. Corn stubble or clover sod is one of the best places for a crop of broom corn. Let the rows be marked out, three and a half feet apart, after which sprinkle the seed in the marks as evenly as may be practicable by the hand. A better way is to use a common garden drill. Cover the seed by passing a light one-horse harrow over the ground, going twice to the row if the land is cloddy. Do not cover the seed too deep. After the spears are up about two inches high, go over the rows with a large harrow. Do not be afraid of tearing up the young plants, as the greatest mistake with most people consists in planting too thick; the stalks should be three or four inches apart in the row. Two and a half quarts of good seed will be sufficient for one acre, if the ground is in good order. By harrowing the small weeds will be killed, and the working of the soil will give the corn a start, after which the growing crop will require the same cultivating as other corn. When the stalks begin to shoot out in head, go over the field, bending down all that are out, before the tops get crooked. This operation will have to be done several times. After the seed is nearly ripe, commence cutting the brush. First cut the brush from two rows, then go back and with a corn cutter cut the stalks, laying them crosswise on the rows, so as to make a bed to keep the brush from resting on the ground; lay the brush on this bed and let it remain two or three days in the sun, after which tie the brush up in bundles, and secure in round shocks about ten or twelve bundles together. One bed will hold the brush for eight or ten rows. Cover the shocks with stalks, tent fashion, making covering tight at the top, but so that the air can pass through the bottom. In this manner the broom corn ought to stand three or four weeks until thoroughly dry, then cart to the barn and take off the seed, which may be performed by using a common threshing machine; take off the top, and, if an undershot, cross the band: have a boy to hand you the brush, as much as you can hold tightly in your hands at once, holding the seed ends on the cylinder as it revolves. In this way one man and a boy can clean several hundred pounds per day. Much depends upon the kind of soil in raising broom corn. Flat, loamy lands or river bottoms will yield the best crops. But, paying crops of broom corn can be raised on any good corn land that will yield from 700 to 1,000 pounds and 40 bushels of seed to the acre.

There are several varieties of broom corn. The improved Evergreen is much more profitable, as the brush is worth almost twice as much in the market, and the yield of seed will be larger and better than the crop of the old red variety of broom corn. SAMUEL WILSON.

Mechanicsville, Pa.

PEDIGREE WHEAT.

THE careful choosing of the best for seed is scarcely practiced in this country except for corn. In England, farmers have for years been in the habit of selecting the choicest ears of wheat for seed, and this practice has produced some remarkable results. From a paper read by Mr. MOLD before the Maidstone Eng. Farmers Club, we copy the following, which may be of interest to many American farmers:

For 13 years I have grown Hallett's pedigree wheat, and every year have had extra sized heads and yield, and so long as this continues I shall buy fresh seed each year, at £5 5s. a quarter. You see here before you my best head (11 rows on a side) in the year 1870. You see a photograph of 1871's best head (12 rows on a side), also 1873, 14 rows on a side, also two heads of 1874, with 15 rows on a side, and I have even reached 16 rows. The bunches of heads displayed are 1874 Hallett's Red, Hunter's White, and Hallett's Pedigree Golden Drop, and on my poor clay they produced 6 quarters and 7 quarters per acre. You also see a sample which has been kept in a bag since last August, and you see 105 heads growing on one root, on which more than 8,000 grains were growing at once. Now, if I had not bought new seed since 1870, I should have only 11 rows on a side instead of 15 and 16 now growing. I must here call attention to the maxim, "Sow half the usual quantities one month earlier, and expect 2 quarters per acre extra." From its great tillering power it is able to occupy double the space of ground, but it requires more time to do it, and the right time to sow wheat is when it would shed. Most of you will buy a good bull or ram, but a pedigree in corn (wheat) pays better. Professor Buckman said, in a lecture to the Dorchester Farmers' Club, "He was convinced the best seeds were as essential in securing excellence in plants as were the best stock for producing good animals." Virgil, 40 years before Christ, wrote (Georg. I.) about wheat, "Yet have I seen them degenerate, unless human industry with the hand culled out the largest every year." A wonderful record of 1,900 years ago! They knew something, but it was not the largest grain they ought to have wanted, for every head contains one grain far better than all others, and this is not the largest. This principle is the foundation of Hallett's success.

CORN RAISING.

IN the following statement everything is charged the same as though it had all been hired. All the work but the husking was done by my father and myself with one extra hand, so it did not cost us near the 34½c.:

Dr.	
To 2 days, breaking up	$12 00
1 1-5 days' spreading manure	1 50
2½ days' hauling out manure	10 62
1⅘ days' harrowing in manure	4 75
3⅕ days' planting	4 37
5½ days' cultivating and hoeing first time	7 50
6 days' cultivating and hoeing second time	8 00
5 days' cutting up	4 00
hauling in	3 00
⅘ bushel corn planted	70
1 bushel potatoes	75
1 day digging potatoes	1 00
55 loads manure, ⅕ charged this year's crops	30 00
husking	10 40
interest	10 00
Total	$108 59
Cr.	
By 20 bushels potatoes	$8 00
1 cartful pumpkins sold	2 00
7 cartfuls pumpkins given to cattle, worth	10 00
18 pumpkins sold	1 50
fodder	15 00
Total	$36 50
Cost of 208 bushels of ears of corn	$72 09

or 34½c. a bushel. I do not think that is as large a profit for the work done as we should have obtained if we had sowed the field to oats last spring and put on the manure this fall and sowed it with grass seed. Then we should have got a heavy crop of grass next year—that is, we always have—and we have tried it a number of times within a few years. Perhaps I had better say that the potatoes were planted in a wet corner, and that there was 1 3-5 acre of land by measure.—A. H. C., in *N. E. Farmer*.

THE PEERLESS POTATO.

THE Germantown Telegraph says:—"There has been a good deal said about and in favor of a rather new variety of potatoes, called the Peerless. There have been different opinions, however, expressed as to their quality, but none as to their productiveness. In some instances 350 bushels have been the yield of an acre. They are a rather round, clean tuber; and in order to test their quality we purchased our winter's supply from one of the leading Montgomery County farmers. We can now say of them that they are a *good* potato. Better than our supply of the Early Rose was last winter, but not equal to the White Peachblow. The latter, owing to their poor yield, are so scantily grown in this section that we have found it difficult the last three or four years to secure a supply. We are satisfied with the Peerless, as being next to the best Early Rose, and if we never have a worse variety we shall think ourselves lucky."

This praise of the Peerless potato is deserved when they are well grown. Most potatoes vary largely in quality, and the Peerless more so than most. Our observation has been that on only moderately rich, heavy soil the quality of this variety is superior. Where the soil is very rich the tubers are too large, coarse and ill flavored. On sandy soil, also, the quality is more apt to be inferior, and a poor Peerless is a very poor potato indeed. This variableness in quality has greatly interfered with the introduction of the Peerless as a market potato. For productiveness it ranks with the very best, yielding 200 to 400 bushels per acre with good culture.

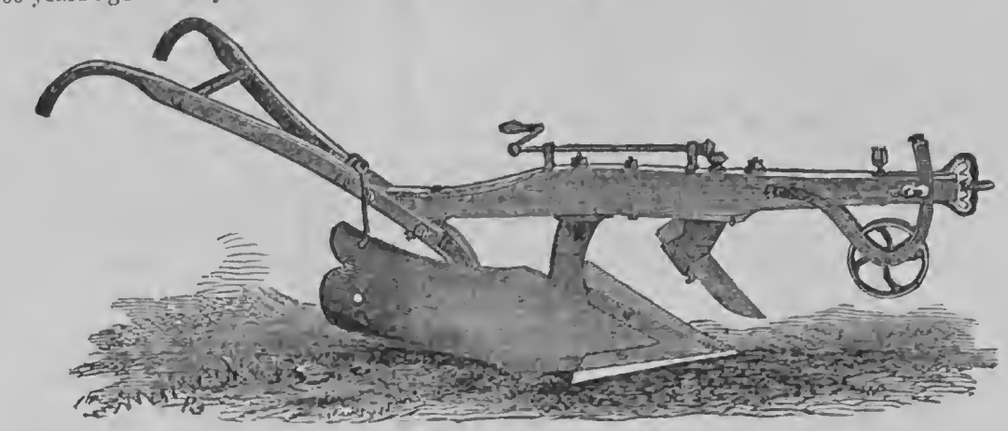
A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING.—In laying out plans for the coming season it is best to plant or sow some of all crops which can be grown successfully. In this way the failure of any one will not entail great loss, and employment may be found for all parts of the season better than by the cultivation of one specialty.

Industrial Implements.

THE HOLBROOK SWIVEL PLOW.

THE STANDARD SWIVEL PLOW OF AMERICA.

WE give this week an illustration of the celebrated Holbrook Swivel Plow, made and sold by EVERETT & SMALL of Boston. The engraving



THE HOLBROOK SWIVEL PLOW.

shows this plow as it now appears after various modifications and improvements since it was first introduced. The need for a swivel plow seems at least to have been fully met, and farmers who wish to have their fields level can do so with the certainty of making as good work in plowing as by the old-fashioned styles. From the beginning of the manufacture of swivel plows, very many farmers gave them the preference despite all imperfections. Some indeed had to do so, because their fields were too hilly for ordinary plows to work well, and the success of the Holbrook Swivel Plow has induced other farmers to demand them for use on level lands. The same cause has also stimulated the manufacturers to new efforts and to make greater improvements. Many farmers, having purchased a swivel plow for one or two fields, find it to their advantage to use it on their entire farms and will now use no other. In one plowing match, held by a New England Club last fall, other styles of plows were not admitted to enter the lists as competitors.

The Holbrook Swivel Plow was awarded the first premium at the National Swivel Plow Trial held by the N. Y. State Agricultural Society in Utica in 1870. It also won a silver medal and silver cup in the great plowing match of the Maine State Fair last fall, where it accomplished the remarkable feat of plowing on sloping land, throwing all the furrows up hill and laying them as handsomely as could have been done on a level surface.

Those of our readers who wish a good swivel plow are confidently recommended to correspond with the manufacturers of the Holbrook, Messrs. EVERETT & SMALL of Boston, Mass., whose advertisement may be found in another part of this paper.

The Poultry Yard.

DIARRHEA IN FOWLS.

F. W. BYERS, in Poultry Argus, gives the cause and cure of this disease in fowls:—This is not usually a serious complaint in adult stock, but frequently proves quite fatal in chicks. The causes in fowls that produce looseness of the bowels are usually referable to improper food and drink and when the diet is corrected the disease naturally disappears. If any medicine is to be given we would recommend prepared chalk in five grain doses with as much rhubarb, two or three times a day. The administration of one to three grains of cayenne pepper is also recommended, or if the discharges are not controlled by the above, opium and ipecacuanha one grain of each every four to six hours can hardly fail to arrest the diarrhea. But it is in the young broods that most trouble occurs, and generally within ten days or two weeks after coming off the nest. The little fellows may appear lively and eat well enough, but soon an ugly accumulation around the vent is noticed and the sick chick peeps around as if in distress. It will now be seen standing in the sun or moping around the coop looking about one-fourth shorter than its fellows and refusing its food. If it lives through the day, it is likely to be found dead in the coop next morning. We have seen whole broods die off in this way that appeared healthy when first hatched and no treatment seemed to do them much if any good. July and August are the months in which we find the disease most fatal to chicks, and while we have at times thought medicine was an advantage, no treatment has yet proved satisfactory in our hands.

We provide plenty of shade for the brood, give wholesome food and cool drinks, and let them battle for themselves. The chalk and cayenne pepper is worth trying for the little ones in smaller doses as well as for the older birds, but cannot be considered reliable. When early hatching is practiced there will be little to fear, and if from any cause our chicks must come late, we would prefer to wait until the heated term is over.

Whether contagious or not (this diarrhea of little chicks we mean) it will be found safest, or at least prudent to separate the broods so diseased. We would also advise that as soon as dead the carcass should be buried, although no careful breeder need be reminded of the necessity of pure air and cleanliness.

MANAGEMENT OF HENS.

THE Prairie Farmer gives the following advice in regard to the management of hens:

1. Never set a hen in a box above the ground or floor of the chicken-house if possible, as the eggs dry too fast and lose their vitality. If possible to set hens on the ground you will have much better success.

2. Never set more than fifteen eggs, no matter how large the hen. Some set only ten or twelve, but under ordinary fowls thirteen or fifteen will hatch as readily as a less number—though more are a waste.

3. Always be careful to mark the eggs set with the date of setting, as other hens often lay on the same nest with a setting hen, and when the brood is ready to come off, extra unhatched eggs are left in the nest, which you cannot account for, and do not know how to dispose of except by waste, not knowing when they were laid.

4. Keep a memoranda of all hens set, with dates when they should come off, that you may have coops and proper food prepared for them. Also take the young chicks from the hen as they dry, because sometimes they may run over their time a little, or hatch earlier.

5. Better let hens come off their nests for a short time for food and water, than to confine them and feed on the nest.

Two boards nailed together at one end, with slats of lath across in the form of an A, make an excellent coop.

Scientific and Useful.

INDIVIDUALISM IN PLANTS.

THAT different varieties of a genus or species of plants differ widely is well understood, and is indeed inferable from the word used. But there is also a less considered diversity in established and distinct varieties—an individualism of plant life separating it from others apparently identical, and this is generally lost sight of. It is too commonly supposed that specimens of the same variety are identical, excepting possibly in those instances where recognized "sports" are perceived. Is it not probable that this variation or tendency to "sport" pervades all plant life, only in the great majority of cases the difference is so slight as not to be noticeable? "As like as two beans" has passed into a proverb, but can any one certainly say that two beans even were ever exactly alike? To an uneducated eye there is little, if any, difference in a flock of sheep of same age and breed. But no ewe fails to find her own lamb, and an experienced shepherd will readily distinguish each member of his flock, though apparently exactly alike. In cattle, horses and some other animals these distinguishing peculiarities are easily seen by the most inexperienced; but it is every way probable that there is as distinct an individualism in animals where the peculiarities of form and structure are not noticeable as in those which are. Why not also in fruits, grains and vegetables?

The tendency of varieties to retrograde or "run out," as popularly believed, is thus explainable. If disease fastens upon a plant it affects not only itself, but its seed and the plants resultant therefrom. Any peculiarity is thus perpetuated, and at last the individual type "sports" into a distinct variety. With plants which are propagated like the potato from cuttings or eyes, the perpetuity of disease is easily explainable. There is, in fact, no new plant, but only a continuation of the old, with all its diseases and imperfections. In the seedling, no doubt, most of the characteristics of its progenitors may be found, sometimes active, but more frequently dormant, yet in either case none the less real and none the less practically important.

RAPID FILTRATION.—A simple contrivance, acting upon the same principle as Bunsen's filter, has been proposed by E. Fleischer. A wide mouthed bottle is closed with a rubber cork twice perforated; into one of the perforations the funnel is fitted, while a short glass tube, bent at a right angle, is inserted into the other, and lengthened by means of a piece of rubber tubing with spring clamp attached. The filter is capped with a small filter, then inserted and well moistened so as to rest against the funnel; afterwards the liquid to be filtered is poured upon it, and the air in the receiving bottle rarified by sucking through the rubber tubing, which is then closed by the clamp.

The Apiarian.

THE APIARY IN WINTER.

Mrs. E. S. Tupper, the noted apiarian, writes to the Am. Bee Journal as follows:

Through the month of January the bees require no care in the cellar or house. They only ask to be in darkness and quiet. If they are on their summer stands, and have quilts or carpets over their frames, they will not suffer; though the entrances are blocked with snow. It is well, however, to see that the entrance, during a thaw, does not become stopped with water and dead bees, which a sudden cold wind may convert into ice. While you have nothing to do for the bees directly in this month, it is the time to plan for another season's work and prepare your hives and honey-boxes. We hope the experience which some of you had will not be repeated this winter, viz:—Your bees die at such a rate that you will need no new hives. If you have been careful, we are sure you will not.

There is a feeling of discouragement with regard to the sale of extracted honey which we fear will lead many to remodel their hives, and try next season to secure box honey only. We say "fear," because we are sure that no such change is necessary for those who wish to secure the greatest amount of profit from their bees. We know that the extractor must be used by Western bee-keepers, in order to keep their colonies strong in numbers from May to November. We have seen, during the past year, many colonies that did well in June, but afterward stored nothing in boxes; and though the hives were full below, they had few bees, and had given their owner no profit. If these colonies had been "robbed" by the extractor of all the honey they could spare early in the season; the queen would have used the empty room; more bees would have been raised, and surplus boxes might have been filled, besides the profit from the extracted honey. The sale of extracted honey is another question. What we claim is, that it is better to take the honey from the bees, even if it had no cash value.

As to hives—those who do not care to increase their number of colonies, will find it best to have large hives containing from fifteen to twenty frames, side by side. Hives like these, well filled with bees, and with well arranged boxes and frames for honey, will give large amounts of honey in nearly every season. The comb foundations are sure to be a great help, not only in the main hive, but in the surplus boxes. Every bee-keeper can afford to have them in his boxes, and also in his main hives to secure the combs straight, as well as to save the bees time and labor.

We hope the sale of these will be large enough to reduce the price somewhat, but even at the present price, no one not well supplied with empty comb, can afford do without them. In surplus boxes, and frames for securing box-honey, they will insure the combs to be built straight, and give the bees just the inducement to work in them which is necessary.

EXPERIMENTS WITH HONEY.

A correspondent of the Scientific American gives his experiments with bees in 1874:

"I put up six one-pound cans of beautiful linden honey, being careful to make it one homogeneous mass by stirring. It was thrown from the combs by an extractor on July 20, and put into cans on August 1st. The cans were placed respectively as follows:—One in a dark, dry cellar, one each under shades of red, yellow, green and blue glass, and the sixth can in full light. On November 8th the honey in the cellar candied to a white. November 22 to December 10, honey under colored shades candied, first in the red, next in the yellow, green and blue; while the honey in full light remained transparent until January, when it soon candied after exposure to intensely cold weather. From my experience an equal temperature would preserve certain kinds of honey, while other kinds would candy under almost any circumstance. I think that candied honey, instead of being looked upon with disfavor, should be recognized as evidently pure. I hope, however, that the above experiments will lead others to follow up the light theory with beneficial results."

AMOUNT OF HONEY FROM A HIVE.

T. B. Miner in the N. Y. Sun believes that there is profit to be made in bee keeping, though objecting to rose colored pictures of the business. He says:

We often see statements in the bee papers of 100 to 200 lbs. of new honey being obtained from one hive or stock of bees; but the writers fail to say that such families are those that do not swarm; besides little reliance can be placed on what these men say, as the most of them have hives to sell. I know this to be a fact, that generally no bee keeper can obtain over 25 lbs. of box honey per hive, on an average, for a series of years.

With those who keep but a few stocks, five and upward, twenty-five pounds per stock is as much as can be relied on, and little or none from swarms. This is profitable. Suppose one has 10 hives, and has 250 pounds of honey to sell at 30 cents per pound, besides perhaps, enough left in partially filled boxes for the family use, doesn't that pay? It is over a 100 per cent. on the value of the bees, to say nothing of an occasional stock or swarm that may be sold.

It may seem strange to those who have had no experience in bee keeping, that after a certain number of families are obtained, as 100 to 500, there is no certainty of ever getting the number permanently higher from swarms, natural or artificial; but such is the result with the majority of our extensive bee keepers. They have no bees for sale, as a general rule, which tells the story plainly—they lose their annual increase by disasters of one kind and another.

SAGITTARIA.

The Garden.

THE ONION FAMILY.

There are a good many members of that respectable family so celebrated for fragrance—we mean the onion tribe. Some of them, of course, are well known and appreciated, as they are very likely to be; for they have a peculiar way of attracting attention, though they may be too modest to speak for themselves. Others are not as popular, though perhaps not unworthy of a passing notice.

The leek in many countries is quite extensively grown. In America it is found in the markets of our large cities, and in some particular sections, but generally in the country is almost unknown. The leek is very hardy, bearing a good deal of freezing when in the ground, without any injury, and therefore in climates not too severe is allowed to remain in the ground during the Winter, to be gathered as needed. This, of course makes it very desirable for many localities. In very cold climates it is taken up before winter and preserved in earth, about like celery, though not needing so much protection. The leek forms no bulb, and the thick stem, which is the part used, must be blanched by earthing up. The leek is prized for soups, and is often boiled and served as asparagus. Culture as for common onions.

Chives is a small and not very important member of the onion tribe, quite hardy everywhere, and will grow from the same bulbs and in the same spot. In old times it was the custom to make a little border of chives among the herbs. The leaves are as slender as a fine knitting needle, and appear in bunches early in the spring, and are cut and used in the raw state, and may be shorn several times during the spring. It is propagated by divisions of the root.

Shallots are somewhat similar to chives, but much larger and better, the roots being quite hardy, they are kept in the ground during the winter, and in the spring one bulb will separate into half a-dozen or more. They are then taken up, divided, and bought and sold as young onions. The shallot ripens about the middle of summer, and can then be taken up to be planted in the autumn, or retained for winter use. Some people prize shallots for pickling. If planted in the spring they do well, but are not ready for use as early as if set out in fall.

The most pungent of all the family is the garlic. It seems as if the essence of a whole bushel of onions was concentrated in one of its little bulbs. The root or bulb is composed of a dozen small bulbs called "cloves." Garlic is so much used in the south of Europe, that the American traveler at first gets the idea that everything he eats and drinks has been flavored with it. The little cloves are planted in the Spring six or eight inches apart, and in August the tops will die, when the bulbs are ready to gather. They grow the best in light rich soil.—*Vick's Floral Guide.*

LIMA BEANS.

A correspondent of the Practical Farmer gives some particulars about the raising of a large crop of Lima Beans by a Pennsylvania farmer:

The ground was a low piece which is frequently overflown from a creek close by. It was manured broadcast with stable manure and plowed in. No manure of any kind was used in the hills. Hills planted four feet apart each way, with four beans to each hill, were made on the level surface and covered one inch deep. Planted May 10, worked and kept clean with horse and cultivator; poles not put in till runners of beans were 12 to 18 inches long. No pinching process practiced, they being allowed to run at will, and made a very large growth, completely covering poles and running from one to another. When the frost came and killed the vines they were loaded down with beans quarter grown. The beans were not started in a hot-bed at all, and not soaked previous to planting.

Floricultural.

SAGITTARIA SAGITTAEFOLIA.

It is not everybody that has a lake, and so it is not everybody that can cultivate the beautiful Nymphaeas and Nelumbiums that are to small bodies of water what Roses are to the upland garden. But many have springs upon their premises and little rivulets that issue therefrom; many have low, damp places—incorrigible spots—that it is never dreamed may be converted into pleasing semi-aquatic gardens without expense and with no great amount of labor.

Our engraving represents *Sagittaria sagittaefolia* or *variabilis*, which, though common along the banks of little streams and endowed with no wondrous beauty, is yet well worth procuring for the situations above named.

The varieties which we find in this locality are, according to Prof. Gray, we should judge, *hastata*—narrow arrowed-shaped leaves—and *augustifolia*, narrower leaves and more divergent lobes. The flowers are correctly represented in the engraving, of natural size, borne in racemes upon scapes about one foot high. They are in color white and in substance perishable.

The flowers of *Sagittaria* are diclinous. When monoecious, the females form the lower whorl—the males above as in the engraving. But we have seen flowers of the narrow-leaved variety that were all male—a characteristic that according to the same authority, belongs only to a broad leaved variety named *obtusa*.

The engraving shows the fresh-looking, smooth, tidy leaves about one-fourth the natural size and, elevated upon long, curving petioles, the general appearance of the plant is not unlike that of the dwarf Calla Lily.

FLORICULTNRAL NOTES.

Ozone generated by Plants and Flowers.—One of the most important of the late discoveries in chemistry is that *ozone* is generated in immense quantities by all plants and flowers possessing green leaves and aromatic odors as, for instance, Hyacinths, Heliotrope, Mint, Lavender and the like. "So powerful is this great atmospheric purifier" says the Sanitary Record, "that it is the belief of chemists that whole districts can be redeemed from the deadly malaria which infects them, by simply covering them with aromatic vegetation. Every little flower pot, therefore, is not merely a thing of beauty while it lasts, but has a direct and beneficial influence upon the health of the neighborhood in which it is found."

Novelties.—The Gardeners' Chronicle says that Mr. Wills has succeeded in raising a batch of seedling *Dracaenas* that throw most of the varieties at present cultivated into the shade. These seedlings may be numbered by hundreds, and the effect of the group filling the center of a long span-roofed house, is "startling." It seems he does not propose "to pour such a flood of novelty into the market" at one time, but determines "to send out but a limited number"—so that we may expect, from this source alone—new *Dracaenas* for many a season to come.

Chinese Primrose—Mrs. P. Caldwell.—Sow in May and keep in shade or frames during summer. They should bloom next winter and spring. Planted out in a shady place, they will continue to bloom during a part of the summer. But it is better to have fresh plants for another winter.

The Vineyard.

CHEAPLY MANAGED GRAPERY.

Mr. James Dougall of Windsor, Ont., a nurseryman of long experience, gave the following account of his cold grapery before the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. It is so constructed that most of the labor of watering and ventilating is obviated.

By adopting the following plan in erecting the vinery they will be relieved of the greater part of this trouble and have a fine supply of delicious grapes, with no more trouble or attention than is required to grow the natural vine out of doors.

The sashes are made stationary but so that they can be unscrewed and taken off for repairs any time. They extend from the front wall to within a foot or ten inches of the back wall at the top, leaving an opening of ten inches wide along the top to be closed by sheet iron ventilators in winter or when requisite, but which are kept constantly open from the time the vines are uncovered in the spring till they are laid down and covered in the fall.

The principal peculiarity is in the glazing. The glass is laid end to end without lapping or putty, and merely kept in its place by small pieces of tin, and a space of half an inch is left open between every third or fourth pane, so that all the rain that falls on the house is distributed pretty equally over the entire house, very little running off the house except in very heavy thunder storms. There is no ventilation whatever below, as a draught I have found injurious to the vines. Any air that comes in is by these openings in the glazing, and the heated air finds vent at the top.

Last year was a very dry one as well as this, we had no rain here for months, but the vines never suffered from drouth, though they were never watered or syringed from the time they were uncovered in the spring, when it was done copiously, till again uncovered this spring. Nor were they the least affected either last year or this with mildew or red spiders, though previous to adopting this rule I was annually troubled with both, in spite of syringing copiously morning and evening.

The ends of my present vinery are not glazed, having only a small window and door on each end. Were I to erect a new one I would have the ends glazed to within three feet of the ground, and would have openings in the front wall to allow the roots of the front row of vines to extend into a prepared border outside.

For those who may wish to try this plan I would recommend the following varieties as being the most successful with me, and of the finest quality.

1, Black Hamburg; 2. Muscat Hamburg; 3, Champion Hamburg; 4 Lady Downes; 5, Golden Hamburg; 6, Bowood Muscat; 7, Buckland Sweet Water; 8, General de la Marmora

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near NeW York City.

MORE ADVICE WANTED.

DEAR RURAL: -Your "Gentleman near New York City" is guilty of inducing me to come to Kansas. His notes on a trip to Colorado and this State were the impetus that drove my unmoored bark here. Your paper, also, is the influence that changed my course of life from merchandise to farming. So you can realize that you have a farther duty to perform toward me. Our county is all prairie, and I want to see some trees. Formerly, in Michigan, my desire was to have them cut down and burned up. Please have the "Gentleman near New York" answer the following:

1. What trees are best suited to our Western high, dry, windy prairies?

2. State what kinds are best propagated by cuttings and what by seeds.

3. Where can I obtain cuttings and seeds, and what season of the year is best to propagate?

4. How shall I cultivate the cuttings—in beds, or where I wish the trees to stand?

Farmers in this part of Kansas are now busy plowing, harrowing and sowing spring wheat. We are determined to have our crop early, and, if possible, cheat the grasshopper.

Rice Co., Kansas. JAS. S. BEATTY.

Feb. 21.—What I may have said in the notes of travel referred to by the writer of the above which should have led him to change his residence is a puzzle to me at this time. But as my accuser does not complain of his lot, I must presume he is content, only desiring to improve his surroundings and accumulate those pleasant adjuncts so necessary to a home, wherever it may be located. In answer to the questions asked, I can only say what *I think* I would do if placed under the same circumstances.

"Those "high, dry, windy prairies" are anything but congenial to trees or shrubs, else Nature would have long ago covered them with forests; hence we have a powerful enemy to contend with at the outset. An uncongenial climate is far worse than an uncongenial soil, for the latter can, in a great measure, be changed and adapted to our wants and desires; but man's influence upon the former is very circumscribed, however powerful his efforts at cultivation.

Looking at the question in this light, a man must be content to make haste slowly, accepting of what he can keep, instead of seeking kinds which are not adapted to his soil and surroundings. Then, again, a man should keep in view the fact that there is a prospect of constant progress from the inferior kinds upward, the hardy old scrag which first takes root becoming a protector to something better; and it is upon this plan that the settlers in the most exposed localities of the plains must proceed in order to succeed in surrounding their homes with trees and other useful and ornamental plants.

BANKING AGAINST WINDS.

Success in starting a grove or plantation of trees upon the higher and drier prairies depends very much upon the arrangement pursued in the beginning, and the proper course would be to adopt what I shall term the "Banking system"—that is, plant low-growing shrubs on the outer edge of the proposed forest or grove, on the side from which the prevailing winds generally come. Next to these, plant those of a taller growth, and so on until the taller kinds can be introduced, thereby forming a gradual, elevated bank or wind-break for the most valuable kinds. This bank or wind-break may, of course, be made with one kind of tree by heading back the first row or two, low, allowing the branches to start from the ground; then trim up but slightly the next row, and so on; for some arrangement of the kind is positively necessary in order to secure a protection from the winds which constantly sweep over the higher plains of Kansas and Nebraska. The truth of this assertion may be seen in the unprotected plantations already started in various parts of the States named. The "lean-to-the-east" position of most of the trees planted on the plains certainly shows "which way the wind blows" and what is required to help matters in "uprightness."

WHAT KINDS TO PLANT.

There is a great diversity of opinion on this point, but trees with small foliage will usually not only offer less resistance to winds, as well as suffer less from drouths, than those with broad, large leaves, such as the hickories, magnolias and maples, although the latter may be introduced on the inner rows if the banking system is adopted. The honey locust, beech and small-growing species of wild cherries and plums are excellent for the windward side of groves, allowing them to form in dense masses, unpruned and uncared for, after the plants have become well-established. There are also various species of willow which may be used for the same purpose, for their roots strike deeply into the soil and the branches are sufficiently flexible to prevent any considerable injury from the wind. The white and yellow willow and the laurel-leaved, as it is generally called in the nurseries, are excellent for this purpose. Cuttings can, of course, be had very cheaply, and they grow readily; but in a very dry soil and climate it may be necessary to mulch the soil or apply water during the first season.

Next to the sugar, silver and negundo maple may come in for a goodly share of attention, as they are of rapid growth, withstand drouth as well as most native kinds, and are both handsome and valuable. The young seedlings of these kinds can be obtained in almost any Western nursery as well as Eastern, and so cheaply ($3@ 5 ₱ 1,000) that I would not advise any novice in fruit tree culture to attempt to raise them from seed, especially on the plains. Cottonwood is also a valuable tree on account of its rapid growth, and a man could scarcely do better than to plant a quantity as a *dernier* resort for wood, and then throw them out after superior and slower growing kinds had become available. Cuttings of cottonwood or young trees can, of course, be had very cheap and in any quantities in the nurseries near home. After a man has his wind-breaks well started he may begin to think of evergreens, fruit and other kinds of trees, but until this is done there is not much chance of success on high, dry prairies. Seedling apples, pears, plums and cherries, could, of course, be used instead of forest trees for planting in thickets and some fruit obtained from the trees in due time, with a possibility of producing new varieties adapted to the climate if nothing more.

(2.) This question has already been answered in the above.

(3.) Always apply to the most reliable seedmen for seeds and to a nurseryman for trees, giving peddlers a "wide berth." Spring would probably be the best time to plant on the prairie and as early as the ground will permit.

(4.) Cuttings should be kept in beds, and cultivated there for a year or two before planting in their final position. It is not too late for procuring seedling trees this spring; although plowing and sowing may be going on in some portions of Kansas, vegetation has not started in many other localities from whence such things may be obtained.

The principal reason why the farmers on the prairies make such slow progress in tree planting is this, dilatoriness in making a beginning. They keep putting it off, thinking, perhaps, that next year will answer just as well as this, and so it goes until they get accustomed to their dreary surroundings. When a man can purchase a thousand seedling forest trees for from three to five dollars, he cannot urge the cost as a reasonable excuse, unless he was as poor as the Irishman who could not buy one brick of a block of buildings offered him for a dollar.

Our nurserymen, knowing the actual needs and wants of those on the prairies, raise immense quantities of seedlings to meet them, hence the most suitable kinds can always be obtained at a very low figure, in fact for less than a man can raise such stock himself in small lots of a few hundreds or thousands. The cost of transportation is also but a trifle on such small plants, considering the number that can be packed in a box a few feet square. Neighbors should club together in sending their orders to the nurseries, thereby enabling them to obtain stock at wholesale rates, and then, by dividing up, each can secure a good variety.

Arboricultural.

PRUNING OLD FRUIT TREES.

"ABOUT this time we may expect" to hear the ax and saw among the old fruit trees. Sometimes their owners prune just because they have been in the habit of doing so at this season, while others do it to produce certain beneficial results. But we are inclined to think that a majority of our farmers have no particular object in view when performing this operation, and our reasons for thinking so is the manner in which the pruning is done. If the trees are very old, and have become stunted through long years of usefulness in producing heavy crops of fruit, they usually show it in the scraggy branches, numerous small undeveloped fruit spurs as well as the absence of good, healthy terminal shoots of the preceding years' growth. If there is still life and vigor in the old stems and roots, it is generally shown in many a young shoot springing from near the base of the larger branches, which are usually termed "water sprouts" or shoots. Now these water shoots, springing from the parts named, are reliable indications of a vigorous tree, no matter how much decay may be found about the main stems, even if it is but a hollow shell, there must be healthy roots to produce a vigorous growth of "water shoots."

A slight examination of the successive annual rings of the branches above the point from which the water-shoots sprung, will show that there has been a constant lessening in deposition of wood for several years previous to their appearance, until at last the outlet for an upward flow of sap was cut off or so impeded that it forced out new shoots from the base of their old and feeble branches. It may be asked why did not the leaves on those bearing branches draw to themselves and assimilate this crude sap in sufficient quantities to keep up a vigorous growth and return enough for forming a liberal annual layer of cambium as they did while the tree was young. A still closer examination of the old branches will show why this does not and cannot occur. As the tree grows old and the leaves multiply in number, they become proportionally smaller and less active in assimilation, besides the fruit takes up the greater part of the sap which assimilated by them, leaving a very minute quantity to pass downward and form cambium, or a new layer of wood. This disposition of the assimilated sap accounts for the well-known fact that trees bearing heavy crops of fruit produce very little young wood during what is termed the fruiting season. If what is called the circulation of the sap could be continued through the old wood or heart of the stem or branches, then we should see less of this gradual decline in growth as the trees increase in fruitfulness, and as the sap only finds a passage through the young cells of newly formed wood it becomes important that such channels should be provided.

Taking this view of the subject, which we believe to be a correct one, it may be readily seen that the usual mode of pruning old trees, that is, cutting off old branches entire and removing all water-shoots on very old specimens, is all wrong. We would not, of course, encourage the production of water-shoots in the center of moderately young trees, for these take to themselves that which is needed in the bearing branches, but their appearance, as we have said, is indicative of a stoppage of the channels which should conduct the crude sap further on.

The proper method of renovating old fruit trees is to first apply stimulating manure to the soil, then, instead of "pruning up," commence at the top and "head down," shorten all the old branches one-half to two-thirds of their original length. Thin out the central branches if they are likely to become crowded, and, during the summer, break out from time to time all surplus sprouts, leaving only those which will be required to give the head of the tree the requisite shape. The wounds made in cutting off large branches should be covered with some kind of a solution which will keep out the water and prevent decay. Common grafting wax applied hot is as good as anything known for this purpose, but ordinary mineral paint may be used instead without danger of injury to the tree. When the old stems are partially dead the rotten wood may be removed and the sound parts underneath painted over to prevent further decay. The coarse bark should also be scraped off from the stem and larger branches, after which an application of soft soap or whitewash may be applied with benefit.

The renovation of old fruit trees may frequently be attended with better results than planting out of new, especially of choice varieties known to be adapted to the locality.

FRUIT TWIG BLIGHT.

THE "newly observed" apple tree pest noticed in RURAL of Dec. 8th, from the pen of S. J. PARKER of Ithaca, made its first (?) appearance in this locality this year.

The twig blight acted nearly the same as described in above RURAL. One orchard of four acres was nearly one "forest bloom," yet it yielded but ten bushels of apples.

It differs from pear blight, in the fact that a twig without fruit is never blighted, whereas pear blight attacks any twig or shoot, or tree that does not bear fruit as well as fruetiferous twigs.

The blight has descended down the branches of some old trees two or three feet. Young trees withstand it the best, although they were attacked the worst. Very probably it is caused by a fungoid disease, as the irregularities of the spring were very favorable for its promotion.

The badness of the weather of any season is indicated by the mildewing of the Oporto grape—the only grape that mildews about here. Some years it does not mildew, but this year it mildewed very badly, even the terminal shoots and tendrils which projected far out from the vine and had free circulation of air, were covered with fungus.

This fruit twig blight of the apple tree is a very serious thing to fruit growers, if it continues, but likely it is not the work of an insect and may not reappear next year.

Clyde, N. Y. W. S. W.

Pomological.

NORTHERN SPYS AS POOR KEEPERS.

A WRITER in the Mass. Ploughman notes a remarkable variation in the keeping quality of Northern Spy apples, which he accounts for as follows:

The Spy is a very good winter apple and a good keeper, and yet a complaint is entered against it for not keeping. The trouble is here as it is with a case of Rhode Island Greening trees close to me. These apples rot on the trees during the summer and autumn, and none will keep until January first. Another orchard produces apples that will keep until late in the spring. There is a cause for this great difference in keeping qualities. I was so curious to solve the mystery that, at some trouble of time and expense, I learned that our poor keepers were raised by a man who grafted upon a very early stock, and upon trees that had become stunted. The graft partook of the parent stock, and produced an autumn apple only. The other case made a splendid keeper by having a better stock to draw from. Cannot the same thing occur in regard to the Spys. We think very likely it should. We have been advised not to plant a Northern Spy tree for this reason. We have seen trees in the vicinity of Providence with this very failing. We have seen others that produced a beautiful keeper."

A difference in soils and location will often make a great difference in keeping qualities. On light, sandy soil, apples of the same variety will mature and decay much earlier than on a soil that is cold and heavy. With regard to the Greenings referred to it may be suggested that there are several varieties of Greenings differing little in appearance but much in time of ripening. Possibly the two orchards spoken of may belong to different varieties of Greenings—possibly also there may be two families of Northern Spy apples, though this is a mere suggestion without any evidence to support it.

The codling moth causes premature ripening and decay in the fruit on which its larvæ works. An orchard kept free from this pest, other things being equal, will produce fruit of fine flavor, and especially of better keeping qualities, than orchards where nearly every apple is more or less worm eaten. We do not say that the theory offered by the writer in the extract above quoted is untrue, but only that it is not proven by the instances he cites, unless it is shown that other causes may not have produced the same result. The subject is well worthy of a careful investigation by fruit growers.

APPLES FOR THE WEST.

IN going westward it is often found that varieties of fruit which are standards in the East are wholly unsuited, and names, which to Eastern pomologists are scarce known, rank highest for the Western planter. Mr. O. H. LEAK of Hannibal, Mo., gives his opinions as to the best apples for profit in that section. He says:

"After twenty-six years of experience in growing apples for market and testing *one hundred and thirty varieties* of the leading sorts recommended in the *books*, I have received more money from three varieties, viz: Winesap, Genitou (Rawle's Janet) and Willow Twig, than from all the other varieties combined. The Ben Davis has proven more valuable than either of the three varieties above named, but it was not known here when I put out my first orchard of forty acres, I was the pioneer in planting improved fruit for market in this part of the country; had no experience in fruit growing, and worse than all, my neighbors knew no more than I did; we all thought that the man who had the greatest number of varieties had the best orchard. We all made the same mistake. If I had set out the three varieties first named, it would have been a success. The Genitous have been gradually failing for a number of years, the trees decay early, overbear alternate years, and consequently the fruit is very small; it is now discarded. The Willow Twig has not been a complete success with me, yet it is a success all around me. The Wine Sap has failed *once in twenty-six years;* the tree is very hardy—the fruit is rather small, but it bears handling better than any other sort. The Ben Davis is a perfect success all over the West. The tree is hardy, a good grower, bears young, and is full every year. Its fruit is very attractive in appearance, and sells from fifteen to twenty-five per cent. higher than any other variety—the grower does not have to hunt buyers, *they hunt him.* I am removing my old orchard at the rate of 200 trees yearly, and will in the future plant nothing but Ben Davis. I will also set them between my old trees, as they (the old ones) will be gone by the time the young trees begin to bear.

"If all the apple trees within marketable distance of Hannibal were Ben Davis, they would bring half a million of dollars annually into the County, as we are in the center of the finest fruit growing region in the West."

Patrons of Husbandry.

AMERICAN GRANGES AND BRITISH FARMERS.

THE Farmer of London (Eng.), of Feb. 7, has the following comments on the proposed introduction of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry in that country:

Those who have dreaded England being Americanized ought to quake at the news we have to give them to-day. British farmers are about to be waited upon by one of the chief originators of the American Granges, and will be asked to form associations which shall have fraternal relations with those in America. At a late meeting of the National Grange of the United States the subject of introducing the organization to British farmers was discussed, and the Master was authorized to appoint deputies to carry out the project. He appointed Mr. J. W. A. Wright of Fresno Co., Cal., as the first deputy to carry the gospel of the Patrons of Husbandry to England. Mr. Wright sailed some time since and has gone on the Continent for a short time, but should be here in a few days. He is personally about the best man the Master could have chosen for the purpose. He is a Princeton graduate, and a practical and scientific horticulturist and botanist. He was one of the most prominent leaders in the Grange movement on the Pacific Slope, and has passed almost all grades of the Order. We have reason to know that persons professing to act in the interests of English agriculture are in communication with the American Granges and with Mr. Wright. Of this we may have more to say by-and-by. It should be remembered that the Order of the Patrons of Industry, as established in America, is at once a secret Society, after the style of Freemasonry, and a Trades' Union, of a fashion different from those which we know in England. American Patrons have built ships, made agricultural implements, and fought railway kings and rings. Not only in the rapidity of their development, but in the strength and adaptability of their organization, are they a marvel to English farmers. We will not attempt to anticipate what Mr. Wright, as the deputy of the Granges, may have to propose when he comes here. We shall, of course, be glad to meet him, and may help to show him the difference between the farmers of the Pacific Slope and many of the farmers of English counties.

AMENDMENTS TO THE NAT'L GRANGE.

AT the last meeting of the National Grange fourteen amendments were proposed and submitted to the State Granges for ratification. Twenty-eight States and Territories ratifying would secure the adoption of an amendment, or ten States could reject it. No one of the amendments has yet been adopted. The action thus far has been as follows:

The first amendment has been ratified by 26 States; the second by 23; the third by 24; the fourth by 25; the fifth by 26; the sixth by 26; the seventh by 25; the eighth by 20; the ninth by 21; the tenth by 25; the eleventh by 17; the twelfth by 22; the thirteenth by 26; and the fourteenth by 25 States.

The eighth and eleventh seem to have been the most unpopular. The former requires meetings of State Granges to be held biennially instead of annually, as now required; the latter left to the State Granges the right to fix the amount of dues for membership. This one, if any, will be rejected.

GRANGE NEWS AND NOTES.

WEST VIRGINIA has 310 Granges.

THE Order is growing most rapidly of late in the South and Southwest. In some of the Northwestern States nearly every farmer is a Patron.

THE New Jersey State Grange, in a recent session at Camden, adopted a protest against excessive railroad freights, especially on fruits and perishable articles, and asked for legislation to remedy the matter.

THE Florida State Grange invites immigration to her luxuriant orange groves and healthy climate, and points with pride to the best variety of luscious fruits in the United States territory, with sugar lands rivaling those of Cuba.

THE California State Grange says that the Order has saved seven millions to her people, and that the future will show still greater results for their good, and reports a steady progress in every department of agricultural productions, with great improvement in the manner of farming.

MASTER BUCKHAM of Iowa State Grange recently wrote Col. Smedley, Lecturer of the National Grange, that the subordinate Granges of Iowa had almost without exception paid their dues to the State Grange up to Jan. 1, and the Order never had been so prosperous in Iowa as it was then. This is very encouraging, and very different from the reports circulated by the enemies of the Order.

FIFTEEN Pomona Granges were organized in Iowa last year, and every Grange in those counties in which they were organized gained largely in membership and interest in the Grange work. Pomona Granges will help the weak Granges and enable the Granges of each county to start co-operative stores, consolidate orders for flour, machinery, etc., have lectures from prominent speakers, and aid very materially in the social and educational features of the Order.

BRO. O. H. KELLEY, Secretary of the National Grange, writes:—"There appears to be new animation in the Order. One hundred and fifty to two hundred Granges are organized each month, although it would seem that the territory was all occupied. Large numbers are uniting with the old Granges in the West, and there seems to be a revival going on everywhere among the Granges. There are calls for new Granges in many places, and an increased number of applications for membership. Pomona Granges are forming everywhere and co-operative stores contemplated at many leading distributing points throughout the country.

Domestic Economy.

PATENT CRUSHED-BARLEY.

JULIA COLMAN contributes the following interesting facts and new recipes to Science of Health:

MR. SCHUMACHER of Akron, Ohio, has given us a new article in the cereal line, which is really quite valuable. We believe the value of barley, as an article of food, has long been known, and is generally conceded. The great objection to it was the long time which its usual form, pearl-barley, required to cook. It was a favorite for soups; but even there the much less nutritious rice often took its place, because it could be much more quickly cooked. The split pearl-barley, graded, 000 and 0000, was a great improvement in that respect, but the "crushed-barley" is better yet; it is just what its name indicates, the pearl-barley crushed. It is a beautiful article, and it can be cooked in half an hour as thoroughly as the old pearl-barley can in four hours. Some will prefer to cook it a little longer, if they have time, and I would advise them to do so, say from forty minutes to an hour. Somewhere I have seen the statement that Mr. Schumacher sends a sample free to any one that asks for it; but I do not know how long that offer lasts. I think, however, it would be safe to ask it, especially if you tell him where you saw the statement. For my own part I mean to keep it on hand as a part of my stock. I have had much pleasure in experimenting with it, and here are some of the results:

Crushed-Barley Mush.—Add one part crushed-barley to three parts boiling water, and boil in a double-boiler half or three-fourths of an hour. Serve in saucers, and while warm sprinkle over it a little sugar; or eat with milk or with stewed fruits, especially whortleberries. The double-boiler may be a covered tin-pail or an old fruit-can, with the top melted off, set into a boiler of water. Any one who has tried this way of cooking the grains will be almost sure to continue its use.

Griddle-Cakes.—One cup porridge, one and a-half cups water, and one and a-half cups barley-meal or Graham flour. Mix well and bake a good brown; let them stand ten minutes to steam, and eat with "C" oatmeal porridge.

Short-Cake.—One cup porridge, one cup water, and one and a-half cups barley meal or wheat-meal (Graham flour). Make into a cake not more than half an inch thick and bake fifteen or twenty minutes in a hot oven.

Fruit-Mush, or Porridge.—To either of the above, add one-fourth as much dried fruit—currants, whortleberries or raspberries—as there was this barley, and cook them until quite tender, makes a nice dessert.

Porridge.—Add one part barley to five or six parts water, according to the taste. This is more like soup and can be eaten with bread.

DRIED POTATOES.

THE following description of the manner of manufacture of "dried potatoes" is given in a German journal as conducted at Carsten's works in Lubeck:—The potatoes are peeled with the hand, and cut into disks by a machine. These are put in a basket, and this in a boiler, where the potatoes are nearly but not quite boiled. The disks are next put on wire frames in a dry oven, where they are dried quite hard. It is important to preserve the color of the potatoes, and to prevent their turning gray, as they would by the above process alone, the material after slicing is treated with cold water, to which has been added one per cent. of sulphuric acid, or one to two per cent. of muriatic acid. Then it is washed in pure water and the drying proceeds. The preparation obtained, which has lost none of its starch, is of a slightly citron-yellow tint, and transparent like gum. Boiled with water and a little salt, it is said to resume the natural color and fibrous structure of potatoes, and is not distinguishable in taste from newly-boiled potatoes.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Italian Cream.—Put the juice of one lemon and the rind of two to one quart of thick cream. Sweeten with a half pound of sugar, and let it stand for half an hour. Add one ounce of isinglass dissolved in half a pint of water till perfectly smooth and free from lumps. Strain the whole mixture through a fine sieve, and then beat together for several minutes. Then put into a mold or molds; and when cold and perfectly set turn out upon a dessert dish.

Stewed Winter Squash (BOSTON MARROW).—Cut the squash into convenient pieces, pare neatly, put into a closely-covered kettle and stew down, being very careful at the last not to burn. Mash and stew down as dry as you choose, precisely like pumpkin. This will be found far sweeter than when stewed and the water poured off after the usual fashion, also sweeter and drier than when steamed. Serve warm or cold or make into pies.

Cracked Wheat Pudding.—Take one quart of unskimmed milk, add to it one gill of cracked wheat, uncooked, and one gill of sugar and a small piece of stick cinnamon. Place it in an oven of medium heat. When about half done stir in the crust already formed, and leave it to form another, which will be sufficiently brown. Try when it is done by tasting a grain of wheat, which must be very soft. This, when cold, makes a delicious cream pudding.

Stewed Beets.—Pare the beets thinly, and cut in thin slices across; cut up some onions, and put all together in a stew pan, with a little pepper and salt; rub a bit of butter in flour and stir it smooth in hot water; pour this over the beets (it must cover them well) and let it stew until the beet it quite tender. The older the beet the longer time it will require. When quite young one hour will be sufficient. Serve hot.

Gelatine Apples.—Peel and core your apples and cut them in halves; put in a kettle with a pint of water, sugar, sliced lemon, and green ginger, a little whole mace, and six whole cloves; boil until they are tender; then remove the apples, and put into the syrup one tablespoon of gelatine, and allow it to boil down about three minutes, then pour the syrup over the apples.

Saratoga Fried Potatoes.—Wash the potatoes clean, slice with a potato slicer very thin, throw into cold water long enough to take out some of the starch, then wipe dry and put into boiling lard a few pieces at a time. Be sure and keep the lard boiling. As soon as the potatoes are of a clear, golden brown, skim them out, drain them in a colander or sieve, and serve hot.

Pumpkin Short-Cake.—One cup stewed and strained pumpkin or squash, one cup "C" oatmeal porridge, and one cup water. Beat these up together, and then add three cups fine Graham flour. Mix thoroughly, spread half an inch thick on a baking tin, and bake half an hour in a good oven. Cover for ten minutes, and serve warm or cold.

Bread Balls.—Break the bread in small pieces, and moisten with milk or a little warm water, season with salt, pepper and nutmeg, adding a little fine sage or parsley and a small piece of butter, mix and form into small cakes or balls; roast with beef or chickens, or fry after meat in a skillet.

Lemon Pie.—Take the juice and grated rind of one lemon, one cup of sugar, yolks of two eggs, three tablespoonfuls of flour, one pint of milk; after baking cover with a soft frosting made from the whites of two eggs and four tablespoonfuls of sugar, and brown slightly.

German Potatoes.—Mashed potatoes well seasoned and plenty of cream. Make in little cakes an inch thick, (made some hours beforehand they are better), beat an egg and dip them in it; brown nicely on both sides.

Indian Rusk,—Two light cups of Indian meal, one cup of flour, one teaspoonful of saleratus, enough sour or buttermilk to dissolve, one cup of sweet milk; stir in three-fourths of a cup of molasses.

Sago Pudding.—2 large spoonfuls of sago boiled in one quart of milk, the peel of a lemon, little nutmeg; when cool add 4 eggs; little salt. Bake about one hour and a-half. Eat with sugar and cream.

Quick Pudding.—1 egg, 1 cup of sugar, 1 tablespoonful of melted butter, 1 cup of sweet milk, half a teaspoonful of soda, 3 cups of flour. Bake half an hour or more. Eat with sweet sauce.

Pancakes.—1 egg, 2 spoonfuls of sugar, 1 cup of sweet milk, 1 teaspoonful of soda, 2 teaspoonfuls of cream-tartar, 3 cups of flour.

Hygienic Information.

BAD EFFECTS OF BEER-DRINKING.

THE worst results from accidents in the London hospitals are said to be draymen. Though they are apparently models of health and strength, yet if one of them receives a serious injury it is nearly always necessary to amputate in order to give him the most distant chance of life. The draymen have the unlimited privilege of the brewery cellar. Sir Astley Cooper was once called to a drayman, who was a powerful, fresh-colored, healthy-looking man, and had suffered an injury in his finger from a small splinter of a stave. The wound, though trifling, suppurated. He opened the small abscess with his lancet. He found, on retiring, he had left his lancet. Returning for it, he found the man in a dying condition. The man died in a short time. Dr. Gordon says, "The moment beer-drinkers are attacked with acute diseases, they are not able to bear depletion, and die." Dr. Edward says of beer-drinkers, "Their diseases are always of a dangerous character, and in case of accident they can never undergo even the most trifling operation with the security of the temperate. They almost invariably die under it." Dr. Buchan says, "Malt liquors render the blood sizy and unfit for circulation; hence proceed obstructions and inflammation of the lungs. There are few great beer-drinkers who are not phthisical, brought on by the glutinous and indigestible nature of ale and porter. * * * * These liquors inflame the blood and tear the tender vessels of the lungs to pieces." Dr. Maxon says, "Intoxicating drinks, whether taken in the form of fermented or distilled liquors, are a very frequent predisposing cause of disease." The hospitals of New York show an equally unfavorable record of the intemperate, and private practitioners everywhere have the same experience.—*Sanitarian for January.*

FRECKLES—THEIR CURE.

FRECKLES are not easily washed out of those who have a florid complexion and are much in the sunshine; but the following washes are not only harmless but very much the best of any we know.—Grate horse-radish fine, let it stand a few hours in buttermilk, strain and use the wash night and morning. Or squeeze the juice of a lemon in a goblet of water and use the same way. Most of the remedies for freckles are poisonous, and cannot be used with safety. Freckles indicate a defective digestion, and consist in deposits of carbonaceous or fatty matter beneath the scarf skin. The diet should be attended to, and should be of such a nature that the bowels and kidneys will do their duty. Daily bathing with much friction should not be neglected, and the Turkish bath taken occasionally, if it is convenient.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

To Avoid Sleeplessness.—If you wish to sleep well, eat sparingly of early suppers. Avoid all arguments or contested subjects near night as these are likely to have a bad effect upon one who is troubled with sleeplessness at night. Avoid having too much company. Many persons become so excited with the meeting of friends that sleep departs for a time. There is probably nothing better, after cultivating a tranquil mind, than exercise in the open air. By observing these simple rules, sleeplessness, in the majority of instances, may be wholly cured.

Rusty Nails.—Every little while we read of one who has stuck a rusty nail in his foot or some other portion of his person, and lockjaw has resulted therefrom. All such wounds can be healed without any fatal consequences following them. The remedy is simple:—It is only to smoke such wound, or any wound or bruise that is inflamed, with burning wool or woolen cloth. Twenty minutes in the smoke of wool will take the pain out of the worst case of inflammation we ever saw arising from a wound.

Heart Disease.—To the question, whether there is anything that will cure heart disease, the Science of Health answers:—It can be cured, in its early stage, by the adoption of a rigidly hygienic regimen. In its later stages, it is incurable. But nine-tenths of the cases of supposed heart disease are merely derangements of the digestive organs, producing palpitation, throbbing, intermissions, and other forms of abnormal pulsation.

Weak Nerves.—The Science of Health gives the following directions for the treatment of weak nerves:—You must conform to the habits of hygiene, eating food which contributes those elements necessary for the building up and invigoration of bone, muscle and nerve, and avoid all heating or stimulating preparations of food.

Cure for Burns.—Charcoal has been discovered to be a sure cure for burns. By laying a piece of cold charcoal upon the burn the pain subsides immediately. By leaving the charcoal on one hour the wound is healed, as has been demonstrated on several occasions.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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Founder and Conducting Editor.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1876.

SPRING AGAIN!

AN "OPENING" FOR ALL RURALISTS.

MARCH, the first month of the vernal season, usually inaugurates active operations in all branches of soil culture throughout a large portion of our country. The hibernating period having passed the great laboratory of Nature is again in full force, affecting favorably the earth, air, and animal and vegetable life. Though the past winter has not been severe, the opening of Spring must be cordially welcomed by all lovers of nature, and especially by the large portion of our population engaged in rural pursuits. The season is one of hope and rejoicing alike to the Northern farmer, the Southern planter, the Western and Southwestern ranchman, and also to horticulturists, gardeners and florists throughout the land. Indeed, March brings a "Spring Opening" to all Ruralists in the temperate and frigid regions of our Continent, from Canada to California and Maine to Minnesota, and far beyond.

The active campaign will soon open in garden, orchard, field—indeed in all out-door labors connected with the cultivation of the earth—and it behooves every one interested to prepare for a successful prosecution of the necessary operations attending soil tillage and production. Foresight and good management are requisite in spring to insure a proper return and profitable results in Autumn. The wisest course is for each to decide in advance, so far as situation and circumstances permit, as to the course best to pursue—what crops or specialties to adopt—and then devote his energies to secure success in whatever is determined upon. A season's campaign judiciously opened, and continued with diligence, intelligent direction and confidence, can scarcely prove a failure—for so long as the promised seed time and harvest are vouchsafed the industrious and persevering husbandman will be rewarded.

Wishing all engaged in Agriculture and kindred pursuits a hearty God-speed on the opening of spring, the RURAL NEW-YORKER pledges its best efforts to aid its myriad readers, so far as in its power, in their various operations. While it seeks to lighten and facilitate the labors, and augment the profits, of those more or less extensively engaged in farm husbandry, stock growing, dairying, orcharding, etc., it will by no means forget or overlook the wants and interests of city, village and suburban residents who cultivate only fruit, vegetable and flower gardens. For each of these classes of cultivators the RURAL has special departments, and hopes to render all valuable assistance during the season—thus making itself a useful if not indispensable visitor.

FOR THE PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE.

ECONOMY is doubtless important, both in the body politic and the individual. It is also generally inadvisable for the Government of the United States to dabble in matters which can usually be left to the States or to private enterprise. These ideas are pretty firmly fixed in the minds of the farmers of the United States, and the result is that, so far as agricultural interests are concerned, the strictest economy of expenditure has always been practiced. No matter how extravagance might run riot in every other department, it was always argued that the farmers didn't want any unnecessary expense. In short, "running economy into the ground" seemed to be the staple idea of legislators, which means, of course, that economy is only to be practiced where the interests of tillers of the soil are involved. We have had millions of dollars appropriated for war, navy, foreign diplomacy, and the agricultural industry of the country largely defrays the expense; but every penny devoted to matters directly affecting the farmer is given as grudgingly as if some honest and hardworking farmer were taking the money directly from his own thin pocketbook. The worst of all is that many farmers seem to approve this false idea of economy, and the agricultural press even criticises an appropriation for the benefit of farmers, as if only there could wasteful extravagance be found. It is high time that we should get over this idea of running economy into the ground and imitate the farmer himself, who scatters seed generously in hope of a liberal harvest. Looked at in this light we shall find no law of Congress which will yield better results for the money expended than the bill recently introduced by Senator JOHN J. INGALLS of Kansas into the U. S. Senate for the Protection of Agriculture against injurious insects. The Bill is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Secretary of the Interior shall have authority to appoint a board of commissioners, and to fill all vacancies which may occur therein, on the nomination of the council of the National Academy of Sciences, to consist of three entomologists eminent in their profession.

Sec. 2. That the said commissioners shall devote themselves to the investigation of those insects which are most destructive to the crops of farmers and planters, and especially of the Rocky Mountain locust, the rhinch-bug, the army-worm, the cotton-worm, the Hessian fly, and other insects injurious to the great staples, wheat, corn and cotton, in order to devise successful methods for the destruction of such insects. The commissioners shall report the results of such investigations and methods at least once in each year to the Secretary of the Interior, by whom the same shall be transmitted to Congress. As soon also as the information gathered shall enable them, the commissioners shall compile practical instructions for the repression of the different insects referred to.

Sec. 3. That the said commissioners shall be appointed for the term of five years, and vacancies shall be filled for the residue of the term only; and they shall respectively receive five thousand dollars per annum, to be paid monthly from the date of original appointment, and shall have clerical assistance, office-room, fuel, stationery, chemicals, and traveling expenses, not to exceed in cost thousand dollars per annum.

Sec. 4. That the sum of thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the objects of this act.

Sec. 5. That this act shall take effect and be in force on and after its passage.

This bill will probably require an appropriation of less than twenty thousand dollars per year, or not more than is yearly paid in maintaining diplomatic relations at some of the second or third-rate countries where our diplomatic service is entirely useless. Sticklers for economy may as well begin in our foreign diplomatic service in urging their ideas, instead of applying them exclusively to home interests. The cotton-worm, locust, potato-beetle and other enemies of the farmer, yearly diminish our agricultural product by hundreds of millions of dollars, and if there is any remedy, the farmers of the United States are clearly entitled to its benefit.

THE CENTENNIAL CORN PREMIUMS.

IN reply to various inquiries concerning the above offers to farmers a few words of further explanation will perhaps be sufficient. The importance and value of Indian corn to this country and to the human race, are clearly beyond any question. To stimulate farmers, therefore, to aim at better results in the production of this cereal, so as to render it more remunerative to the producer and less costly to the consumer, is an object worthy of the best efforts of thoughtful men.

On another point, it is sufficient to say that these premiums, as already partly explained, are due in a large measure to the liberality of other parties. My first offer in corn culture was made over a year ago through the Elmira Farmers' Club. The results then obtained were so remarkable that I was recently induced to make another offer through the public press. I now find that the growing interest in the subject and the increasing facilities for promoting it have made it expedient to enlarge the plan. This course is also fully warranted by the proffered co-operation of patriotic persons interested in husbandry, and perhaps still further by the liberality of dealers, publishers and others who, prompted by a generous sympathy with the farming interest, have offered their goods as premiums at prices so exceptionally low that the effect has been to increase the number and value of the offers. Certainly those who have thus enlarged the general plan of this competition are fairly entitled to the chief credit of the enlarged result which now seems likely to expand into unexpected proportions. The amount of my own contributions (beyond my time and efforts, which are cheerfully given,) is comparatively unimportant; but my attention has been for years devoted to the problem of husbandry, and especially to such questions as this competition will probably help to solve. There are possibilities in corn culture which, though very important and fairly within reach, have never yet been attained, and there is no better time for a grand concerted movement in this direction by our farmers than the great historic year on which we have entered.

The following are some of the business firms whose liberal offers have given an impulse to this movement:

R. H. ALLEN & Co., THE RURAL PUBLISHING Co., FRANK LESLIE, B. K. BLISS & SONS, SHELDON & Co., PETER HENDERSON & Co., H. J. BAKER & BROS., A. S. BARNES & Co., The New York Plow Co., C. T. DILLINGHAM, W. L. ALLISON of New York, HENRY A. DREER, HARRISON BROS. & Co. of Phila., W. H. BOWKER & Co. of Boston, JAMES VICK of Rochester, and others.

It will be seen by reference to Premium List in RURAL NEW-YORKER of Feb. 26, that the offers made to Granges and Clubs are the largest in amount, and that the experiment proposed involves practical questions of the greatest moment, and which the best minds in the country are already engaged in solving.

All Farmers, Granges and Clubs who are inclined to compete for these Premiums, will receive a descriptive circular, as soon as printed, by inclosing their address with stamp.

Any other dealers, beside those who have already enlisted, are invited to co-operate in promoting this object.—CONRAD WILSON, P. O. Box No. 4242, N. Y. City.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

New York State Dairymen.—At the Annual Meeting of the New York State Dairymen's Association and Board of Trade, held Feb. 21st at Little Falls, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Pres.—X. A. WILLARD, Little Falls. Sec.—Josiah Shull, Ilion. Treas.—D. H. Burrell. Vice-Pres'ts.—Geo. W. Hoffman, Elmira; John Shattuck, Norwich; Dr. E. G. Crafts, Binghamton; C. P. Root, Gilbertsville; S. M. Babcock, Friendship; F. Blanding, Brookfield; E. W. Stewart, Lake View; Gardiner P. Weeks, Syracuse; I. P. Roberts, Ithaca; Arba Campbell, Owego, C. L. Sheldon, Lowville; Dr. G. F. Cole, Canton; J. C. Cooper, Theresa; F. Blanchard, Jamestown; Hon. Willard Hodges, Rochester; S. Osborn, Fulton; H. M. Kennedy, Utica; J. Harvey Smith, Fort Plain; Henry Yost, Johnstown. Directors—Fred. Ives, Salisbury; J. V. H. Scovill, Paris; Hon. R. A. Young, Norwich; L. T. Hawley, Syracuse; Wm. Blanding, Hawleytown; Hon. H. Lewis, Frankfort. Manager of Board of Trade Rooms—R. S. Whitman, Little Falls. The invitation of the Elmira Farmers' Club to hold the next annual convention at Elmira, was accepted.

Newburg Bay Hort. Society.—At the recent annual meeting of this progressive Society the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President—ALFRED BRIDGEMAN. First Vice President—W. W. Carson; Second Vice President—Odell S. Hathaway. Secretary—Charles St. John Vail. Cor. Secretary—David A. Scott. Treasurer—Daniel Smith. Executive Committee—Isaac C. Chapman, C. S. Jenkins, T. S. Force, W. D. Barns, W. B. Brown, John F. Van Nort, Rev. E. P. Roe, Daniel T. Weed, John Heron, S. G. Kimball. The officers of the Society are also ex-officio members of the Executive Committee. Directors—C. S. Jenkins, T. H. Roe. Auditors—Francis Scott, J. N. Weed. The report of the Treasurer showed a balance in the treasury, and no debts. The subject of exhibitions during the year was referred to the Executive Committee.

Newspaper Change.—We learn that the Live Stock Journal of Buffalo has been sold to the National Live Stock Journal Company of Chicago, which will take its subscriptions and fill them with the Chicago monthly in its stead. This arrangement removes a valuable and well-edited monthly in this somewhat overcrowded department of Agricultural Journalism, and is so far a loss to the stock-growing community. We trust it will not involve the permanent withdrawal of its Editor, Mr. E. W. STEWART, from the discussion of Agricultural topics, in which he has done good work and achieved an excellent reputation. Our Chicago contemporary, with this removal of its competitor, can now drop its distinctive prefix, and will probably be better than ever.

An Old Landmark Gone.—The old elm tree which stood on Boston Common was blown down in the severe storm of Tuesday, Feb. 15. It is thought that this tree was older than the first settlement of the country, and for many years it had been decayed and liable to fall in any storm. The "Old Elm" was a notable object during the Revolutionary war, being often illumined by hanging lanterns in times of popular rejoicing. We have some mementoes of the old landmark in the form of leaves which we plucked from it while on a visit to Boston Common last season, and which have been prepared for preservation.

English Manufactures are finding competition from this country, not alone in cotton goods but in hardware. A paragraph in the Sheffield Telegraph says an American merchant arrived in that city a few days ago with a consignment of light steel hayforks, shovels, spades, etc., of American make, which he proposes to sell at lower than Sheffield prices for similar goods. American implements are also of generally better finish and quality than those of England. This superiority is conceded in large articles and is beginning to be recognized in those of less weight.

The Southern Industrial Exposition, at New Orleans, was successfully inaugurated last Saturday. Gov. HENDRICKS of Indiana delivered the opening address. A telegram says there was a large gathering to hear him speak, which became an enthusiastic one as he touched upon patriotic topics. His references to the prevalence of the Union sentiment in the South, and the dawning of an era of good feeling toward the South in the North, were heartily applauded. The speech was an argument for a more diversified industry in the South, coupled with remarks upon the South as a market for the productions of the North.

Hops.—The price of this staple has at last begun to advance. It was known last fall that the crop in Europe was cut off by mildew and other contingencies, but it was only lately that this fact has produced its natural effect. Only the better qualities of hops are yet in demand, but for these fair prices will be paid.

RURAL BREVITIES.

KANSAS is importing immense numbers of sheep.

MANY families in Central Georgia use only home-grown tea.

A PENNSYLVANIA milkman has three times been fined $100 for watering his milk.

THE RURAL pays good dividends to every soil cultivator who reads it carefully.

RAIN water is the best of all water for plants. Those keeping house plants will take notice.

NEW subscribers can have back numbers of the RURAL from January, or begin now, as preferred.

J. C. LOOMIS of Champion, Jefferson Co., N. Y., made 150 lbs. of maple sugar during the thaw in February.

THE RURAL is designed to benefit every one interested in rural and domestic affairs, wherever located.

KENTUCKY farmers are agitating for an Agricultural Bureau, and the Legislature will probably establish one.

J. MOORE, Jr. of Marshall, Mich., recently sold 40 young sheep, stall fed, weighing 118 lbs. each, at $6 per cwt.

G. W. PALMER of Vevay, Ingham Co., Mich., last season raised 17½ bushels of very fine clover seed on three acres.

IT is not too late to form clubs for the RURAL, or make additions to present ones, and secure premiums accordingly.

VANDERBILT BROS., 23 Fulton St. send us their seed and implement list which will be of interest to farmers and gardeners.

MARCH is a good time to subscribe for the RURAL, for all who have either a farm in the country or a town or suburban garden.

THE Canada Farmer is one of the best monthlies among our exchanges, and merits, as we trust it receives, a large patronage.

THE Mich. Ag. College opened its last term on the 23d ult. with a full complement of students—all that could be accommodated.

THE Mich. Farmer gives reports that the winter has been unfavorable to wheat and clover in some sections of the Peninsular State.

A LEAD mine has been discovered in Porter Co., Ind., and the people are as excited as if gold had come to light in their neighborhood.

THIRTY-TWO bachelors own and work a farm of 4,600 acres in Bell County, Texas. There is good and much needed work for a Grange thereabouts.

IN Germany they have introduced a new system of drying eggs. A "condensed egg factory" has been established at Passau, with an agency at London.

A BARREL of flour contains 14 stone—196 lbs. A stone weight in England is 14 lbs.; hence 14x14 lbs. equals 196 lbs., making it an even weight for that country.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Maine Farmer says in breaking steers place the most docile one on the off-side, as he can make a good near-ox of almost any steer.

AULTMAN, MILLER & Co. of Akron, Ohio, are getting out a new machine to be known as the "New Buckeye Mower." It is light and compact, being all iron. The price will not exceed $100.

THE Mich. Farmer says the next annual fair of the Macomb Co. Ag. and Hort. Society is to be held at Ann Arbor, Sept. 26-29. Queer, as Ann Arbor is, or used to be in Washtenaw Co.

THE Canada Farmer condemns horse racing at County Fairs, and says:—"Happily amongst us Canadians this species of gambling at our agricultural fairs is the exception rather than the rule."

MARTIN ELLIOTT of Vincennes, Ind., wants the address of some breeder of pure Suffolk hogs. There is great scarcity of hogs in that vicinity on account of hog cholera, and breeders would do well to advertise.

WHEN land is in good condition and the weather right the sooner corn is planted the better. The hand corn planter of DAVIS & Co. Ithaca, N. Y., meets a frequent requirement among farmers who grow corn largely. In saving of time one of these machines will pay its cost the first week of using.

WE have received from Sec. REYNOLDS a copy of the proceedings of the W. N. Y. Horticultural Society, held at Rochester in January last. The proceedings make a valuable pamphlet of about sixty pages which is sent to members of the Society and friends of Horticultural progress.

"PHŒNIX'S Plant Catalogue, including Plant Novelties, Greenhouse and Bedding Plants, in eight classes, each alphabetically arranged"—comes to us in neat style from F. K. PHŒNIX of the Bloomington (Ill.) Nursery. Also the Centennial Wholesale Price List of the Bloomington Nursery.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

Sore Throat, Cough, Cold, and similar troubles, if suffered to progress, result in serious pulmonary troubles, oftentimes incurable. "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" reach directly the seat of the disease, and give almost instant relief.

ECKSTEIN, HILLS & Co.'s **"Phœnix Pure White Lead"** is the whitest, finest; has the best body and most covering capacity of any lead in market.

THE OLD FARM GATE.

THE old farm gate hangs, sagging down,
On rusty hinges, bent and brown;
Its latch is gone, and here and there
It shows rude traces of repair.

The old farm gate has seen, each year,
The blossom bloom and disappear;
The bright green leaves of spring unfold,
And turn to autumn's red and gold.

The children have upon it clung,
And in and out with rapture swung,
When their young hearts were good and pure—
When Hope was fair and Faith was sure.

Beside that gate have lovers true
Told the old story, always new;
Have made their vows; have dreamed of bliss,
And sealed each promise with a kiss.

The old farm gate has opened wide
To welcome home the new-made bride,
When lilies bloomed and locusts fair
With their sweet fragrance filled the air.

That gate with rusty weight and chain,
Has closed upon the solemn train,
That bore her lifeless form away,
Upon a dreary autumn day.

The lichens gray and the mosses green
Upon its rotting posts are seen:
Initials, carved with youthful skill,
Long years ago, are on it still.

Yet dear to me above all things,
By reason of the thoughts it brings,
Is that old gate, now sagging down,
On rusty hinges bent and brown.

The Story-Teller.

"SOMETHING."

One of Hans Christian Andersen's Stories.

"I WANT to do something," said the eldest of five brothers. "I want to do something in the world. I don't care how humble my position in society, if I only effect some good, for that will really be something. I'll make bricks, for they are quite indispensable things, and then I shall truly have something."

"But that something will not be enough," quoth the second brother. "What you intend doing is just as much as nothing at all. It is journeymen's work, and can be done by a machine. No, I would rather be a bricklayer, at once, for that is something real, and that's what I will be. That brings rank; as a bricklayer, one belongs to a guild, and is a citizen, and has one's own flag and one's own house of call. Yes, and if it all goes well, I will keep journeymen. I shall become a master bricklayer, and my wife shall become a master's wife—that is what I call something."

"That's nothing at all," said the third. "That is beyond the pale of the guild, and there are many of those in a town that stand far above the mere master artisan. You may be an honest man; but as a 'master' you will after all only belong to those who are ranked among common men. I know something better than that. I will be an architect, and will thus enter into the territory of art and speculation. I shall be reckoned among those who stand high in point of intellect. I shall certainly have to serve up from the pickax, so to speak; so I must begin as a carpenter's apprentice, and must go about as an assistant in a cab, though I am accustomed to wear a silk hat. I shall have to fetch beer and spirits for the common journeymen, and they will call me 'thou,' for that is insulting! But I shall imagine to myself that the whole thing is only acting, and a kind of masquerade. To-morrow—that is to say, when I have served my time—I shall go my own way, and the others will be nothing to me. I shall go to the academy, and get instructions in drawing, and shall be called an architect. That is something! I may get to be called 'sir,' and even 'worshipful sir,' or even get a handle at the front or the back of my name, and shall go on building and building, just as those before me have built. That will always be a thing to remember, and that is what I call something!"

"But I don't care at all for that something," said the fourth. "I won't sail in the wake of others and be a copyist. I will be a genius; and will stand up greater than all the rest of you together. I shall be the creator of a new style, and will give the plan of a building suitable to the climate and material of the country, for the nationality of the people, for the development of the age—and an additional story for my own genius."

"But supposing, the climate and the material are bad," said the fifth, "that would be a disastrous circumstance; for these two exert a great influence! Nationality, moreover, may expand itself until it becomes affectation, and the development of the century may run wild with your work, as youth often runs wild. I quite realize the fact that none of you will be anything real, however much you may believe in yourselves. But, do what you like, I will not resemble you; I shall keep on the outside of things, and criticise whatever you produce. To every work there is attached something that is not right—something that has gone wrong; and I will ferret out and find fault with it; and that will be doing something."

And he kept his word; and everybody said concerning this fifth brother, "There is certainly something in him; he has a good head; but he does nothing." And by that very means they thought something of him.

Now, you see this is only a little story; but it will never end so long as the world lasts. But what became of the five brothers? Why, that is nothing and not something. Listen, it is a capital story.

The eldest brother, he who manufactured brick, soon became aware of the fact that every brick, however small it might be, produced for him a little coin, though this coin was only copper; many copper pennies laid one upon the other can be changed into a shining dollar; wherever one knocks with such a dollar in one's hand, whether at the baker's or the butcher's, or the tailor's—wherever it may be, the door flies open, and the visitor is welcomed, and gets what he wants. You see that is what comes of bricks. Some of those belonging to the eldest brother certainly crumbled away, or broke in two, but there was a use even for these.

On the high rampart—the wall that kept out the sea—Margaret, a poor woman, wished to build herself a little house. All the faulty bricks were given to her, a few perfect ones into the bargain, for the elder brother was a good-natured man, though he certainly did not achieve anything beyond the manufacture of bricks. The poor woman put together the house for herself. It was little and narrow, and the single window was quite crooked. The door was too low, and the thatched roof might have shown better workmanship. But after all, it was a shelter; and from the little house you could look far across the sea, whose waves broke valuly against the protecting rampart on which it is built. The salt billows spurted their spray over the whole house, which was still standing when he who had given the bricks for its erection had long been dead and buried.

The second brother knew better how to build a wall, for he had served an apprenticeship to it. When he had served his time and passed his examination, he packed his knapsack and sang the journeyman's song:

While I am young I'll wander, from place to place I'll roam,
And everywhere build houses, until I come back home!
And youth will give me courage, and my true love won't forget;
Hurrah then for a workman's life! I'll be a master yet!

And he carried his idea into effect. When he had come home and become a master, he built one house after another in the town. He built a whole street; and when the street was finished and became an ornament to the place, the houses built a house for him in return that was to be his own. But how can houses build a house? If you ask them they will not answer you; but people will understand what is meant by the expression and say, "Certainly, it was the street that built the house for him."

It was little, and the floor was covered with clay; but when he danced with his bride upon the clay floor, it seemed to become polished oak; and from every stone in the wall sprung forth a flower, and the room was gay, as if with costliest paper hanger's work. It was a pretty house and in it lived a happy pair. The flag of the guild fluttered before the house and the journeymen and apprentices shouted hurrah! Yes, he certainly was something! And at last he died, and that was something, too.

Now came the architect, the third brother, who had been at first a carpenter's apprentice, had worn a cap and served as an errand boy, had afterward gone to the academy and had risen to become an architect and to be called "honored sir." Yes, if the houses of the street had built a house for the brother who had become a bricklayer, the street now received its name from the architect, and the handsomest house in it became his property. That was something and he was something; and he had a long title before and after his name. His children were called genteel children, and when he died his widow was "a widow of rank," and that is something!—and his name always remained at the corner of the street and lived on in the mouth of every one as the street's name—and that was something!

Now came the genius of the family, the fourth brother, who wanted to invent something new and original, and an additional story on top of it for himself. But the top story tumbled down and he came tumbling down with it and broke his neck. Nevertheless he had a splendid funeral with guild flags and music; poems in the papers and flowers strewn on the paving stones in the streets; and three funeral orations were held over him, each one longer than the last, which would have rejoiced him greatly, for he always liked it when people talked about him; and a monument was also erected over his grave. It was only one story high, but still it was something.

Now he was dead, like the other three brothers; but the last, the one who was a critic, outlived them all: and that was quite right, for by this means he got the last word, and it was of great importance to him to have the last word. The people always said he had a good head of his own. At last his hour came and he died, and came to the gates of Paradise. There souls always enter two-and-two, and he came up with another soul that wanted to get into Paradise too, but who should this be but old Dame Margaret, from the house upon the sea-wall?

"I suppose this is done for the sake of contrast, that I and this wretched soul should arrive here at exactly the same time," said the critic. "Pray, who are you, my good woman?" he asked. "Do you want to get in here, too?"

And the old woman courtsied as well as she could; she thought it must be St. Peter himself, talking to her.

"I am a poor old woman of a very humble family," she replied. "I'm old Margaret that lived in the house on the sea-wall."

"Well, and what have you done? What have you accomplished down there?"

"I have really accomplished nothing at all in the world; nothing that I can plead to have the doors here opened to me. It would be a real mercy to allow me to slip in through the gate."

"In what manner did you leave the world?" asked he, just for the sake of saying something; for it was wearisome work standing there and saying nothing.

"Why, I really don't know how I left. I was sick and miserable during my last year, and could not well bear creeping out of bed and going out suddenly in the frost and cold. It was a hard winter, but I have got out of it all now. For a few days the weather was quite calm but very cold, as your honor must very well know. The sea was covered with ice as far as one could look. All the people from the town walked out upon the ice, and I think they said there was a dance there and skating. There was beautiful music and a great feast there, too; the sound came into my poor little room where I lay ill. And it was toward the evening; the moon had risen beautifully, but it was not yet in its full splendor. I looked from my bed out over the wide sea, and far off, just where the sea and sky join, a strange, white cloud came up. I lay looking at the cloud and I saw a little black spot in the middle of it that grew larger and larger; and then I knew what it meant, for I am old and experienced, though the token is not often seen. I knew it, and a shuddering came upon me. Twice in my life have I seen the same thing; and I knew there would be an awful tempest and a spring flood, which would overwhelm the poor people who were now drinking, dancing and rejoicing—young and old, the whole city has issued forth; who was to warn them if no one saw what was coming yonder or knew, as I did, what it meant? I was dreadfully alarmed, and felt more lively than I had done for a long time. I crept out of bed and got to the window, but could not crawl further, I was so exhausted. But I managed to open the window. I saw the people outside running and jumping about on the ice. I could see the beautiful flags that waved in the wind. I heard the boys shouting "hurrah!" and the servant men and maids singing. There were all kinds of merriment going on. But the white cloud with a black spot! I cried out as loud as I could, but no one heard me; I was too far from the people. Soon the storm would burst and the ice would break, and all who were upon it would be lost without remedy. They could not hear me, and I could not come out to them. Oh! if I could only bring them ashore! Then kind heaven inspired me with the thought of setting fire to my own bed, and rather to let the house burn down than that all those people perish so miserably. I succeeded in lighting up a beacon for them. The red flames blazed up on high and I escaped out of the door, but fell down on the threshold and could get no further. The flames rushed out toward me, flickering through the window, and rose high above the roof. All the people on the ice yonder beheld it, and ran as fast as they could, to give aid to the poor old woman who, they thought, was being burned to death. Not one remained behind. I heard them coming; but I also became aware of a rushing sound in the air; I heard a rumbling like the sound of heavy artillery; the spring flood was lifting the covering of ice, which presently cracked and burst into a thousand fragments. But the people succeeded in reaching the sea-wall. I saved them all! But I fancy I could not bear the cold and fright, and so I came up here to the gates of Paradise. I am told they are open to poor creatures like me—and now I have no home left down upon the ramparts; not that I think this will give me admission here."

Then the gates of heaven were opened and the angel led the old woman in. She left a straw behind her, a straw that had been in her bed when she set the bed on fire to save the lives of many; and this straw had been changed into pure gold—into gold that grew and grew, and spread into beautiful leaves and flowers.

"Look; this is what the poor woman brought," said the angel to the critic. "What dost thou bring? I know that thou hast accomplished nothing—thou hast not made as much as a single brick. Ah, if thou couldst only return and effect at least so much as that! Probably the brick, when thou hast made it, will not be worth much; but if it were made with good will, it would at least be something. But thou canst not go back, and I can do nothing for thee!"

Then the poor soul, the old woman who had lived on the dike, put in a petition for him. She said:—"His brother gave me the bricks and the pieces out of which I built my house, and that was a great deal for a poor woman like me. Could not all those bricks and pieces be counted as a single brick in his favor? It was an act of mercy. He wants it now; and is not this the very fountain of mercy?"

Then the angel said:—"Thy brother whom thou hast regarded as the least among you all, he whose honest industry seemed to thee as the most humble, hath given thee this heavenly gift. Thou shalt not be turned away. It shall be vouchsafed to thee to stand here without the gate and to reflect and repent of thy life down yonder; but thou shalt not be admitted until thou hast in real earnest accomplished something."

"I could have said that in better words!" thought the critic; but he did not find fault aloud—and for him, after all, that was "something."

THE WINDS OF MARCH.

THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER.

"THE idea is simply preposterous!"

Cleve Fairfax drew his tall, well-proportioned figure to its utmost hight, his lip curled as he did so.

"Yes," said his elder brother, irresolutely, feeling his moustache; "but, you see, Charlie is so set on it, and——"

"That makes no difference, one way or the other," interrupted Cleve, with that quiet firmness which made one think he might be molded in iron. "It is impossible—neither more nor less! Your son, my nephew, to marry a country girl—a Wisconsin farmer's daughter—simply because she has a pretty face and a pair of hazel eyes! Why, man, it would be a lifelong mistake."

And thus saying, Mr. Fairfax passed down the broad aisle.

Mabel Thorpe, sitting in the crowd under the balcony of the Academy of Music, had heard all the brief colloquy with a stinging through her veins and a burning flush upon her cheek.

"Cruel! cruel!" she thought, as they passed on, "and needlessly so, too! I did not care for Charles Fairfax. I should never have infringed on the dignity of their race by marrying him. They need not have been afraid."

And Mabel drew herself up with a pride no less genuine than that of the Fairfaxes, if she was "a Wisconsin farmer's daughter."

Miss Thorpe went home feeling that New York had lost all its charms for her. She had been very happy in the great metropolis, with a girl's innocent, unsophisticated happiness; but it was all over now. And when Charles Fairfax called the next day he was astounded to learn that Miss Thorpe had gone home.

So ended Charley's young dream of love, until the next pretty girl should strike its answering chord. And Cleve Fairfax thought no more of the girl who had given him a momentary annoyance, save to congratulate himself on the fact that the danger was over.

An October afternoon, with an atmosphere full of bracing vigor, in the wide chimney of the long, low, farm-house kitchen blazed a fire of well-seasoned logs, and Mabel Thorpe, standing in the level crimson light, seemed the very incarnation of the home deity, in her calico dress and ruffled white apron.

"How is he now, mother?" she asked, with a slight shadow of anxiety in her eyes, as a plump, matronly dame came down the narrow, winding stairway that led up from the chimney jamb.

"Oh, he's better," said Mrs. Thorpe, briskly. "He'll do well enough now. I don't see how he could possibly have been so careless as to let the gun discharge itself through his own arm."

"It will be some time before he recovers, I suppose, mother?"

"Your father says he wouldn't be surprised if it was a month before he got well around again."

"A month!" Mabel Thorpe drew a long breath. Of all men in the world, she most disliked and distrusted Cleve Fairfax, yet here he was, thrown, as it were, on their hands for the very boon of his life. Little had honest old Obed Thorpe thought when he brought home the disabled sportsman, upon whom he had stumbled through the merest chance in the world, whom he was bearing across his threshold. Mabel did not judge it best to enlighten him.

"We were never introduced to each other," she thought, "and it is not likely that he will recognize me, or even remember my name."

But when Cleve began to get better, Mabel could not but feel that a new change was coming over the life that had been rescued from the grave.

And Cleve, watching her, began to have vague ideas of a home and its home goddess.

The marvel and mystery of love—who may ever hope to read its enigmas? For Cleve Fairfax, who had run the gauntlet of innumerable New York seasons heart-whole and unscathed, had come beneath the lowly roof of a Western farm house to lose his heart after all!

"Mabel!"

He spoke one night, after a long silence, as she sat opposite, quiet and self-contained.

"Yes, Mr. Fairfax."

"Do you know that the doctor has decided that I may go away next week?"

"I heard them say so this morning."

"Shall you be sorry to have me gone, Mabel?"

She glanced quietly toward him.

"Of course it will be lonely without you, Mr. Fairfax."

He looked wistfully at her. What made him love her so passionately? What charm did she hold that so attracted his whole nature?

"Mabel," he said, suddenly, "I cannot go away from here until I have asked you one question. I cannot leave you until I tell you how dearly I love you—how earnestly I long to make you my wife."

Mabel looked up, pale, but self-possessed.

"The idea is simply preposterous!" she said; the very words that had so chilled her upspringing happiness a year ago, when she sat under the pillars of the balcony in the Academy of Music.

"Preposperous, Mabel! and why?"

"It is impossible—neither more nor less," she went on deliberately. "You to marry a country girl—a Wisconsin farmer's daughter—simply because she has a pretty face and a pair of hazel eyes! Why, man, it would be a lifelong mistake!"

Cleve Fairfax felt the blood rising hot and red to his temples. He had an excellent memory, and in an instant the whole scene in the opera house rose up before his mind's eye. His own batteries were turned against him with a vengeance.

"Mabel—you heard me then?"

"I heard you then, Mr. Fairfax."

"But I meant—I didn't know."

"It is not at all necessary to tell me what you meant, or what you knew or didn't know. I am the same Mabel that I was then; nor have the haughty race of the Fairfaxes waxed less aristocratic, that I am aware of. Consequently you will perceive the futility of further argument."

"But I have learned to know and love you since then," pleaded Cleve, eagerly.

"I am sorry you should be disappointed in anything you have set your heart upon, Mr. Fairfax, but my mind is fully made up and cannot be altered. Moreover, I am engaged to a prince among men—one of those who make agriculture the royal pursuit it is; nor would I exchange my destiny for the highest place in all your hollow city life. Leave me here to be happy and go you on your way. You are answered."

And Cleve Fairfax, dispirited and disappointed, went back to New York and lived a bachelor to the end of the chapter, and all for the love of a "Wisconsin's farmer's daughter."

PETER BENNET'S CASE.

If Mr. Stephens should be at home and his mind not be absorbed by public affairs, the visitor will find in him the best and most prolific anecdotist of the day.

One story—alas that he cannot sit in the types to tell it!—is the Peter Bennet speech. A Dr. Royston, doubtless a most excellent man, has sued Mr. Bennet, a farmer, for his bill. "Little Aleck," as Alexander is minified by his friends, told his client, Peter B., that the case of service and its value were proved against him in legal form, and there was no real defense. But the old farmer insisted that his lawyer should "speak to the case." Mr. Stephens told him that he ought to speak himself if he thought a speech could be made, and was surprised by the retort:—"I will, if Bobby Toombs won't be too hard on me." Mr Toombs promised and Peter Bennet began:

"Gentlemen of the jury, I ain't no lawyer and no doctor, and you ain't nuther. And if we farmers don't stick together, these here lawyers and doctors will get the advantage of us. I ain't no objections to lawyers and doctors in their place, and some is clever men; but they ain't farmers, gentlemen of the jury. Now this Dr. Royston was a new doctor, and I sent for him to come to doctor my wife's sore leg. And he did, and put some salve truck on it and some rags, but never did a bit of good, gentlemen of the jury. I don't believe he's no doctor, no way. There's doctors as I know is doctors, sure enough; but this ain't no doctor at all."

This was evidently telling, and Dr. Boyston put in with, "Look at my diploma, and see if I am not a doctor."

"His diploma!" said the new-fledged orator, with great contempt. "That ain't nothin', for no piece of paper ever made a doctor yet."

"Ask my patients," shouted the now furious physician.

This was the conventional straw that seemed to break the back of the orator's patience. "Ask your patients?" he said, in slow and mournful deliberation. "Ask your patients! *Why, they're all dead!*" Then, in rapid declamation, he named case after case, well known, but mostly among the negro servants of his neighbors, where his opponent had treated them and their owners buried them and continued:—"Ask your patients! Why, I would have to seek them in the lonesome churchyard and rap on the silent tomb to get answers from the dead. You know they can't say nothin to this case, for you've killed them all!" The applause closed the speech, and the defendant had his case.—*Harper's Magazine.*

HOW HE PROPOSED.

A story is told of a preacher who lived about forty years ago. He was a bachelor, and we could write his real name, but prefer to call him Smith. He resisted many persuasions to marry, which his friends were constantly making, until he had reached a tolerably advanced age, and he himself began to feel the need of, or, at least, to have new ideas of the comfort of being nursed with woman's gentle care. Shortly after entering one of his circuits, a maiden lady, also of ripe years, was strongly recommended to him, and his friends again urged that he had better get married, representing that the lady named would probably not refuse to accept him, notwithstanding his reputed eccentricities.

"Do you think tho?" responded the dominie, for he very perceptibly lisped; "then I'll go and thee her?

He was a man of his word. His ring at the door-bell was answered by the serving-maid.

"Ith Mith P—— within?" briskly but calmly asked the lover.

"Yes sir. Will you walk in?"

"No, I thank you. Be kind enough to thay to Mith P—— that I with to thpeak to her a moment."

Miss P—— appeared, and repeated the invitation to walk in.

"No, thank you; I'll thoon explain my buthiness; I'm the new preacher. I'm unmarried. Friendth think I'd better marry. They recommend you for my wife. Have you any objection?"

"Why, really, Mr. Sm—"

"There—don't anthwer now. Will call thith day week for your reply. Good day."

On that day week he re-appeared at the door of Miss P——'s residence. It was promptly opened by the young lady herself.

"Walk in, Mr. Smith."

"Cannot ma'am. Have no time. Start on my circuit round in half an hour. Ith your anthwer ready, ma'am?"

"Oh, *do* walk in, Mr. Smith."

"Can't indeed, ma'am. Pleath anthwer me—Yeth or No."

"Well, Mr. Smith, it is a very serious matter. *I should not like to get out of the way of Providence*—"

"*I perfectly understand you*, Mith P——. We will be married thith day week. I will call at thith hour. Pleath be ready, ma'am."

He called on that day week, at that hour. She was ready; they were married and lived happily several years.

SOME ONE TO LOVE.

Perhaps one of the most positive proofs we have of the soul's independence of the body is our great need of love and of something to love. Were we mere animals—creatures doomed to perish after few years of life in this world—that which contents the brute would also content us. To eat and sleep well, to have an easy time of it, would be enough. As it is, we may have all these things, and health to enjoy them, and yet be utterly wretched. Neither can mental food satisfy us. "Some one to love" is our heart's cry.

When the atmosphere of tenderness is about us we rejoice; when people are harsh and unkind we suffer. We begin life wishing to love all people, and believing that they love us. Experience hardens us. Our dear ones grow fewer; but, as long as reason lasts, we must have some one—we must at least imagine that some one loves us. The parents, sisters and brothers—that dearest friend whom we promise to love and cherish until death parts us—these come into our lives and fill them up. Afterwards come the little children—frail, helpless babes, who need our care so much, and friends to whom we are not kin, yet who grow dear to us.

Some have many loved ones, and some but one. Heaven help those who have none, though they are generally to blame for their empty-hearted ness, for kindness wins love. They are always wretched, and they often show their craving for something to love by cherishing some dumb animal—a dog, a kitten, a parrot, perhaps, on which they lavish carresses, which, better spent, would have bound some poor heart to theirs. Pride or morbid sensitiveness may have been at the bottom of their loneliness, and these pets fill the aching void a little!

Some one to love! It is the cry of the human soul, the note to which every human heart responds; the bond which will bind us all together in that other world where mourners shall be comforted and love shall reign forever.

HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

HUSBANDS.

Appleton's Journal says:—Ingratitude and indifference sometimes mar the character of men. A husband returns from his business at evening. During his absence, and throughout the live-long day, the wife has some little surprise, some unexpected pleasure, to make his home more attractive than ever. He enters, seemingly sees no more of what has been done to please him than if he were a blind man, and has nothing more to say about it than if he were dumb. Many a loving wife has borne in her heart an abiding sorrow, day after day, from causes like this, until, in process of time, the fire and enthusiasm of her original nature have burned out, and mutual indifference spreads its pall over the household

WIVES.

Many women have little idea of how greatly they shock the tastes and really endanger the affections of their husbands by their unseemly domestic apparel. There is not a man of sense and refined feeling anywhere who would not prefer some simple and chaste adornment for his wife in the morning to any extreme of splendor at the evening ball. Let a woman by all means dress brilliantly on those occasions that render it proper. We have no desire to abridge her privileges nor baffle her instincts in this particular; but we claim that it is important for her, if she value her household serenity, that she should give equal heed to her customary domestic attire. The female who goes about the house muddily dressed has no right to the title of woman. She is without those marks and indications by which she can be so classified.

A DISAPPOINTED POLITICIAN.

Yesterday, Si was found engaged in one of his philosophic, political harangues to some of his colored friends.

"Dese hyar 'publicans kin promise till do last day in de mornin', but dey ain't gwine to ketch dis hyar blackbird wid no more chaff!" he exclaimed positively.

"What's you mad 'bout? asked another darkey

"Dis is what I'm mad 'bout—mind my words now! Didn't dey say, when de war was played out, dat de nigger was gwine to be made just as good as de white people?"

"Ob koarse dey did."

"An' dat de nigger worked fur all dat de ole marsters has, and could soon yearn all dat property to demselves, hey?"

"Yes; dat's true, too."

"Dat de white folks waz gwine ter be pore as church mouses and niggers rich, hey?"

"Oom-hook; dat's what dey said!"

"Dat all sounded jus' as purty as readin' on a circus bill, didn't it?"

"You'se right, it did."

"Well, what makes me mad is dat circus hasn't arrove down hyar yit, an' we can't hear dat it's coming! Bres de Lord, de white folks is jes' as rich as eber, an' it wuz de nigger whar got busted eber sence, an' is gwine to stay busted! Dat's whar makes me mad, an' ef de 'publicans eber git anodder chance at me, I'll go die wid de yaller jandiss, a chawin' ole yaller 'leeshun tickets!"

No one felt capable of responding to Si's polut.

THE MARRIAGE QUESTION.

A Cincinnatian, who has five unmarried daughters, says: "A man has daughters; he knows that, unless married, a very unhappy old age is before them; he could provide them with husbands by boldly broaching the subject to a true man, that he had no objection to, as a son-in-law; now-a-days people expect the daughters to marry well; consequently, unless they are Madonnas in beauty, or dad immensely rich, they don't marry at all. Marry your daughters off; be sure that the man (poor, perhaps) whom you approach on such a subject is a gentleman—if he is, he would be flattered at the consideration—and if such a confidence was betrayed by him, he would be shunned and scorned by all for his cowardice. I have four daughters myself, and unless they are married during the next ten years, I shall endeavor to provide husbands for them myself." This sounds well, but would any woman place a very high value on such a husband? A man who would marry, but would not ask for a woman, is poor stock for a permanent investment.

Sabbath Reading.

THE JOY OF INCOMPLETENESS.

If all our lives were one broad glare
Of sunlight, clear, unclouded;
If all our path were smooth and fair,
By no soft gloom enshrouded;
If all life's flowers were fully blown
Without the sweet unfolding,
And happiness were rudely thrown
On hands too weak for holding—
Should we not miss the twilight hours,
The gentle haze and sadness?
Should we not long for storms and showers,
To break the constant gladness?

If none were sick and none were sad,
What service could we render?
I think if we were always glad,
We scarcely could be tender;
Did our beloved never need
Our patient ministration,
Earth would grow cold, and miss indeed
Its sweetest consolation;
If sorrow never claimed our heart,
And every wish were granted,
Patience would die, and hope depart—
Life would be disenchanted.

And yet in heaven is no more night,
In heaven is no more sorrow!
Such unimagined new delight
From grace from pain will borrow—
As the poor seed that underground
Seeks its true life above it,
Not knowing what will there be found
When sunbeams kiss and love it.
So we in darkness upward grow,
And look and long for heaven;
But cannot picture it below,
Till more of light be given.

"ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME."

In the pleasant county of Devon, in one of its sequestered passes, with a few cottages sprinkled over it, mused and sang Augustus Toplady. When a lad of sixteen and on a visit to Ireland, he had strolled into a barn in which an illiterate layman was preaching—but preaching reconciliation to God through the death of his Son. The homely sermon took effect, and from that moment the gospel wielded all the powers of his brilliant and active mind. During his last illness, Augustus Toplady seemed to lie in the very vestibule of glory. To a friend's inquiry, he answered, with a sparkling eye:—"O, my dear sir, I cannot tell the comfort I feel in my soul—they are past expression. The consolations of God are so abundant that he leaves me nothing to pray for. My prayers are all converted into praise. I enjoy a heaven already within my soul." And within an hour of dying he called his friends and asked if they could give him up; and, when they replied in the affirmative, tears of joy ran down his cheeks as he added, "Oh, what a blessing that you are made willing to give me over to the hands of my dear Redeemer and part with me; for no mortal can live after having seen the glories which God has manifested to my soul." And thus died the writer of that beautiful hymn, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me."

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

Like flakes of snow, that fall unperceived upon the earth, the seemingly unimportant events of life succeed one another. As the snow gathers together, so are our habits formed. No single flake that is added to the pile, produces a sensible change. No single action creates, however it may exhibit, a man's character; but as the tempest hurls the avalanche down the mountain, and overwhelms the inhabitant and his habitation, so passion, acting upon the elements of mischief, which pernicious habits have brought together by imperceptible accumulation, may overthrow the edifice of truth and virtue.

If thou bear the cross cheerfully, it will bear thee, and lead thee to the desired end, namely, where there shall be an end of suffering, though here there shall not be. If thou bear it unwillingly, thou makest for thyself a new burden, and increasest thy load; and yet, notwithstanding, thou must bear it. If thou cast away one cross, without doubt thou shalt find another, and that perhaps a heavier one.—*Thomas à Kempis.*

The cross is the concord of Scriptures, and, as it were, the boundary and border-land of old and new things. The cross is the death of vice, and the fountain and life of all virtue. The cross is the courage of those that are fighting bravely; the recovery of those that are fallen; the crown of those that are victorious. The cross subjects us to a momentary death and recompenses us with eternal life.—*Peter Damiani.*

How little is known of what is in the bosom of those around us. We might explain many a coldness could we look into the heart concealed from us; we should often pity where we hate, love when we curl the lip with scorn and indignation. To judge without reserve of any human action is a culpable temerity, of all our sins the most unfeeling and frequent.

From all fits of doubt, perplexity and fear—whether they respect the body or mind; whether they are a load to the shoulders, the head or the heart—the following is a radical cure, which may be relied on, for we have it from the Great Physician, "Cast thy burden on the Lord, and he will sustain thee."

Be frank with the world. Frankness is the child of honesty and courage. Say just what you mean to do on every occasion, and take it for granted that you mean to do just what is right.

Ladies' Portfolio.

YES, OR NO?

An Honest Love Letter.

DEAR lady, will you kindly lend
  Attention for awhile?
I'm not the man to sue and smirk,
  To gain a fair one's smile.
I'm far too dull to act the spark,
  Too blunt to play the beau.
I'll ask a question, plain and brief;
  Just answer—Yes, or No.

I cannot rave as lovers rave,
  Or swear as lovers swear;
My way is just to pass my word,
  And keep it, "fair and square."
I'm but an honest business man,
  As all my dealings show;
And clinch a bargain, at the start,
  With simple—Yes, or No.

My tongue is not attuned to talk
  Of lovers' smarts and darts;
I only know the honest way
  Of joining honest hearts,
The deepest waters quiet sleep;
  The shallow, murmuring, flow;
So, all the vow I give or ask
  Is briefly—Yes, or No.

I love you—that's the simple truth
  I love you as my life!
And all I have or hope to gain,
  I'd give to call you wife!
I've loved you since the day we met—
  'Twas just a year ago—
And after thinking for a year,
  I ask you—Yes, or No?

I do not promise that your life
  Shall be a dream of bliss.
I don't pretend that all my cares
  Will vanish at your kiss,
They're pretty sure to miss the mark,
  Who draw too long a bow.
I ask you—Will you take the chance?
  Just tell me—Yes, or No.

My heart, my fortune, home and name
  I ask you, then, to share.
If you'll accept, I'll be rejoiced;
  If not, I won't despair.
He's but a fool who stakes his all
  Upon a single throw.
If you won't have me, some one will;
  So is it—Yes, or No?

ON THE CONJUGAL DUTIES.

BY AN EX-EDITOR.

THERE was in the reign of GEORGE III. (*our* last king) a member of the English Parliament who emigrated to America and located himself in North Hempstead, Long Island, N. Y., where he purchased an estate on which he became a farmer of the first magnitude—both in theory and in sturdy practice. He made his farm a pattern one. Really he was a philanthropic agriculturist; for he did more to promote this cause than any other man of his time. While there he tested various methods of successful husbandry, studied the nature and requirements of plants and their adaptation to our latitudes, and wrote much on agricultural, horticultural and floral subjects for the public good, and gave to the world a manual in gardening entitled "The American Gardener," the merits of which have never been excelled by any other work to this day. Though written in North Hempstead in 1819 and dedicated at that time to "MRS. TREDWELL of Salisbury Place, Long Island," it was first published in London in 1821. He had been honored with the order of knighthood in England. His name and title were SIR WILLIAM COBBETT—better known, however, as PETER PORCUPINE by a weekly paper which he published over that signature. He seemed a second edition of BEN FRANKLIN, the POOR RICHARD of a little earlier date. He wrote another most practical and useful work entitled "Hints to Young Men," which is now out of print, but which we wish was republished and put into the hands of every young man in America. We know of nothing equal to it. In that work, among other things he exhibited, with much plain common sense, the advantages of early marriages. In this advice, indeed, COBBETT is not singular. Other sensible authors have advocated the same idea.

When the attachment is mutual and sincere there can, we think, be no doubt that early marriages have the advantage of producing a greater similarity of character and feelings in parties than can be secured in any later period of life, when the habits on both sides become fixed and rigid; and moreover, by entering early upon the responsibilities of the married state, young people are more likely to become settled on some definite purpose of life and feel called upon by necessity for exertion, which is always an indispensable condition of success and often of virtue. The history of connubial connexions show that those families enjoy the greatest degree of connubial happiness and succeed best in the business of life when the parents formed their connexion in early life, while every affection was honest and true, and while the yet unformed characters were not so confirmed and inflexible but that the husband and wife could find it easy to become assimilated into one mold. Much disparity in the eyes of these life-partners is hazardous to a firm union. There is something quite unnatural in such alliances. GOD never made the old to mix in the society of young people as companions and equals. Like only assimilates with like.

But it was not the writer's design in the present paper to indite a homily especially on early marriages. It was in his mind, rather, to discourse a little upon certain things that are necessary to maintain and perpetuate harmony and happiness in the domestic sanctuary. And first, as to the husband. Home must be to him the central point of attraction. Wherever he roams, whatever he is engaged in doing, his heart must turn thither with an ardent affection and solicitude. If he feels uneasy in the society of his family, one of two things may be affirmed as true—either he is the unqualified head thereof, or he is unfortunate in a partner whose disposition is calculated to discourage and alienate him. A man will be most likely to spend his leisure hours where he can find the most congenial companionship. If those hours are not devoted to the society of his wife and children but to the company of others, his wife will not be long in ascertaining his instincts; and when she finds herself neglected, she feels a dagger in her heart more cruel than a steel blade. If you would make home the seat of happiness, devote your spare hours to the companionship of her who has surrendered her all to you in the marriage covenant. Never give her reason to suspect that you delight more in the society of others than of herself. Above all, spend not the hours which should be devoted to the making of home happy in tavern, grog shop or gaming house.

We suppose all women will agree to the soundness of this advice; but let them not forget that they too have an important duty to perform here, which is indispensable to that strength of attachment and of those affections which are to make home an earthly paradise. It is woman that weaves the words which bind the heart of her husband to herself and home. In order for the husband to find happiness in his own house and home, in order to make him desire this as the central object of his loves, let him be treated with respect, courtesy and kindness. When he enters the house wearied with the cares and labors of life—a life devoted all along to the support and comfort of his family—let him not be met with a churlish look or with repulsive indifference. The outside world is sufficiently selfish and unfriendly. There is too much of selfishness evinced in all the business relations of life; against such unfriendliness he is called constantly to engage, and this strife he combats for the sake of his wife and little ones. But if on entering his home he meets with no sympathy in his wife's behavior; if she manifests little or no concern whether he has been successful or unfortunate in his plans, if she makes no effort to rejoice in his success or to cheer his depressed spirit under failures, his very heart will throb with disappointment and grief; and it need be no marvel if his ambition is destroyed, his efforts paralyzed, and if he seeks for sympathy and companionship somewhere else than his gloomy house. Woman is the sun of the domestic circle. Much depends upon her whether her husband shall find pleasure in his own castle or whether he shall roam about for the needed "crumbs of comfort." To insure her own happiness by making her husband delight in her companionship, she has a duty to perform which, if neglected, will make a hell of what was designed to be a heaven on earth. True, the husband can do much by forbearance and by kindly counsel to correct whatever of errors in his partner tend to discourage and repel him; but if his wishes and counsels are met only by railing and abuse, he will give up in despair, and consider his life thenceforth doomed to misery.

Much of the unhappiness that exists in families might be prevented and cured if both the husband and wife would agree between themselves—and faithfully abide by the agreement—never, under any provocation, to utter a criminatory or harsh word; or if one of the parties in a moment of impatience does speak harshly, let the other reply only in the tone and language of devoted kindness. If they cannot speak in the words of friendship and love, let them for the time being study the virtue of silence. We say if they *cannot*; but it is indeed a lamentable condition of domestic peace when silence is the only means by which disputes and quarreling are to be averted. Husband and wife should converse together much and often; and each should aim to introduce such topics of conversation as are known to be agreeable, and to carry on his or her part of it in such a manner as to please and edify.

There should be no secrets between bosom companions. Each should be frankly let into the wishes and designs of the other. It is a very serious affair to be connected with another person through life for weal or for woe. Too many enter upon such a relation rashly and without due consideration. But when it is entered into, let each party remember well that both he and she have mutual and reciprocal duties to perform, on which depend their success and happiness. Those duties will always be obvious. They will seldom require a prompter when there is a willing mind, resolved on making the best of everything. The circumstances of each day will develop its occurring duties; and if one party is unhappy in the other, let him or her first ask the question, "May not the fault be mine?" and let both bestow attention and care to remove the causes which are seen to contribute to the discontent and uneasiness of the other. In this way, life may avoid a multitude of evils and be rendered comparatively happy.

QUITE A FAMILY.—The late King of Siam had eighty-one children, and he wanted all of them to be educated in English. Mrs. Leonowens says of the Siamese potentate:—"Even the members of his body are specially named, as for instance, his head bears a long, many-syllabled title signifying the sacred, supreme, majestic top. The royal head is a sacred member, and a little prince had his hair all shaved off because he had been contaminated by being patted on the head by his English governess."

Reading for the Young.

BRIEF POEMS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

What Makes a Man?

A TRUTHFUL soul, a loving mind;
Full of affection for its kind;
A spirit firm, erect, and free,
That never basely bends a knee;
That will not bend a feather's weight
Of slavery's chance for small or great;
That truly speaks from God within,
That never makes a league with sin;
That snaps the fetters despots make,
And loves the truth for its own sake;
That worships God, and him alone,
And bows no more than at His throne;
And trembles at no tyrant's nod;
A soul that fears no one but God,
And thus can smile at curse or ban—
This is the soul that makes a man.

What Makes a Woman?

Not costly dress nor queenly air;
Not jeweled hand, complexion fair;
Not graceful form nor lofty trend;
Not paint nor curls, nor splendid head;
Not pearly teeth, nor sparkling eyes;
Not voice that nightingale outvies;
Not breath as sweet as eglantine;
Not gaudy gems, nor fabrics fine;
Not all the stores of fashion's mart,
Nor yet the blandishments of art;
Not one, nor all of these combined,
Can make one woman true, refined.
'Tis not the casket that we prize,
But that which in the casket lies!
These outward charms that please the sight
Are naught unless the heart be right.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Canada Boy.

MR. EDITOR:—With your permission I would like to say a few words to my Cousins through the columns of your valuable paper. I consider YOUNG TOM'S behavior very rude, and think MINNEHAHA gave him just such a lecture as he deserved, although her remarks concerning the flippant talk of gentlemen are almost too general to suit me. I hope she will withdraw a part of the charge, and not be too severe with us, otherwise I may see fit to take up the cudgel in YOUNG TOM'S favor. I too wonder, with ELLEN J. S., what has become of YOUNG BACH. Has he vanished altogether from the social circle? Come, young man, let yourself be heard; but take my advice, and be a little more guarded in your remarks about the opposite sex, as I will not see them abused any longer without saying something in their favor. The girls have revenged themselves pretty well, I admit, but you deserved *every particle* of it, and I hope it may be a lifelong lesson to you not to ridicule the fair sex again. Now, girls, if YOUNG TOM or BACH see proper to lecture *me*, I shall look for support from you. Will you disappoint me? Our subscription to the RURAL has expired, but we cannot afford to do without it, and will renew soon.—J. M. SHERK, *Sherkston, Ontario, Canada.*

From Virginia Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—This is my second attempt at writing a letter for your excellent paper, and as you were so kind as to publish my other letter I thought I would try again. My father has taken the RURAL for a long time, and we all feel as if we could not do without it. I enjoy reading the Story Teller and the Boys' and Girls' Column very much. I live in the country and am a farmer's daughter. As most of the boys and girls tell their ages I will tell mine; I will be twelve next month. I don't think that WILD CRAB can have any brothers, because she seems to take the place of a boy. I go to school about one and a-half miles from home and like it very much. Of all my studies I like Geography and Arithmetic best. We have just fifty scholars and a lovely teacher. We have not had any snow until last night, this winter. It has been an exceedingly warm winter so far. Most of the RURAL Cousins have pets. I have but one, and that is my baby brother who is just two years old. I have two brothers and one sister. I think your good paper is scattered far and wide, for I have seen several letters from Canada and California. I must close; so good-by.—SARAH H. SMITH, *Lincoln, Loudoun Co., Va.*

From a Wisconsin Boy.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—I have been thinking for a long time of writing a letter to the RURAL, but have not succeeded until now. Will you do me a favor by printing my first letter? My father takes your paper and thinks that he could not do without it. I read the Boys' and Girls' Letters and like them very much. We live on a farm thirty miles northwest of Milwaukee, in Wisconsin. I wish, Mr. MOORE, that you and the RURAL Cousins could visit my home. I am quite sure you would pronounce it the prettiest place you ever saw. We are having very queer winter weather for Wisconsin. It has been nearly like spring so far, but it has frozen enough for skating. I go skating nearly every day. I went skating about five miles to-day, and had a nice time. I must now close. From your young friend—FRANK A. S., *Nashotah, Wis., Feb.* 19, 1876.

From a Texas Girl.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—I read your Premium List for Boys and Girls, and as I am a little girl ten years old, and my papa says the RURAL is a No. 1 paper for any body, I thought I would work a little for it and make something for myself. I succeeded in getting four subscribers at $2.65 each, and send you a Money Order for the same. I would like a good gold pen and ebony holder as my premium. I enjoy reading the letters from the boys and girls, and would like very much to be considered a RURAL Cousin. I send you two of my Cross-word Enigmas.—MATTIE E. SAUNDERS, *Austin, Texas, Feb.* 2.

[The Premium was promptly sent to Miss MATTIE, and her Enigmas will receive attention.—ED.]

From a Connecticut Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—I had never heard of your paper until a few weeks ago a friend of mine came to stay with me and she takes it, and I took quite an interest in the RURAL and the Cousins that write for it, and I think you may well be proud to be the editor of such a splendid paper. I thought I would write one too. My answer to Cross-word Enigma No. 5 is Sweden. I go to school in Danbury, Conn., in No. 10, and my most interesting studies are Music and French. We live in the most fashionable part of the town, in one of the most beautiful places here. I think it is much pleasanter to live in the country with beautiful lawns and pleasant grounds than to live in the city in brown stone houses. I have a splendid little dog for a pet, and his name is "Zip;" he has a bed made for him every day and when we go to bed he goes too, and if any one tries to hurt me "Zip" snaps at them. If this meets with approval perhaps I will write again.—LITTLE DOT, *Danbury, Conn.*

From a Maryland Boy.

DEAR EDITOR:—This is the first time I ever tried to write to the RURAL. I am ten years old. I am going to school. We have about 1½ miles to go to school. I have two brothers younger than myself and one little sister. My brother, eight years of age, goes to school with me. I study Geography, Arithmetic, Reading, Spelling, and Writing. I like to go to school. We have quite a full school for a country school. My father is a farmer and gardener. We have five horses and two cows, some pigs and poultry and one dog. My father has taken the RURAL three years; we like it very much. I think some time I will try and get up a club. I live in Montgomery Co., Md., about six miles northwest of Washington City, D. C. I have been to the Capitol and most of the other public buildings there. If you think this is fit to publish I will write again.—A. E. S., *Montgomery Co., Md.*

From a Western New York Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—I am a little girl ten years old. I have two brothers and one sister. I live on a farm and go to school. I study Monteith's Geography No. 3, Rudiments of Arithmetic, Sanders' Fourth Reader, Writing and Spelling. My father is a farmer and has taken your paper most of the time for twenty-five years and we all like it very much. I have made out the Cross-word Enigma No. 3; the answer is "Lion." [Correct.] This is my first letter to your paper, and if I see this in print I may write again.—ALICE A. MOORE, *Clarkson, Monroe Co., N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I AM composed of 60 letters:
My 5, 10, 21, 15, 2, 23, 35, 29, 53 is one of the United States.
My 7, 19, 23, 36, 58, 25, 18, 50 is one of the United States.
My 13, 8, 34, 52, 37 is a State.
My 15, 20, 1, 16, 31, 46, 9 is a State.
My 14, 4, 39, 57, 3, 48, 41 is a State.
My 24, 54, 21, 55, 49, 14, 7, 26, 32, 52 is a city in New York.
My 6, 59, 44, 51, 47, 15 is a river in New York.
My 27, 60, 43, 21, 11, 31, 52 is a city in New Jersey.
My 57, 25, 17, 45, 8, 4, 58 is a city in New York.
My 30, 19, 44, 42, 51, 24, 59, 33, 55 is a city in Pennsylvania.
My 38, 12, 34, 4, 3, 22, 37, 4, 30, 28, 54, 8 is a city in the United States.
My 56, 25, 40, 58, 15 is a lake in the United States.
My whole is a Proverb of Solomon.

☞ Answer in two weeks. J. B. B.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—No. 2.

I AM composed of 25 letters:
My 17, 7, 12, 5, 2 is a nymph.
My 3, 4, 6, 8 is a pronoun.
My 10, 23, 15, 21 woman's crown of beauty.
My 14, 11, 9, 19, 16 a mythological river.
My 25, 20, 22, 18, 21 parts of the human body.
My 1, 13 an abbreviation.
My whole is the title of a lovely ballad.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

ARITHMETICAL PUZZLE.—No. 2.

PLACE the numerals, 1 to 9 inclusive, in such form as to make 100.

☞ Answer in two weeks. G.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Feb. 19.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA No. 1.—George Washington.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA No. 3.—Hate the evil and love the good.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA No. 2.—

SPACE
PENAL
ANNUL
CAUSE
ELLEN

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 5.—Sweden.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC No. 2.—Initials, Kepler; finals, Newton.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money in *the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

THE DELAY OF CHEAP POSTAGE.

It looks very much as if the Senate meant to defeat the will of the people in the matter of Cheap Postage. The House of Representatives nearly a month ago passed the bill restoring the rates on all third-class matter. The bill went to the Senate but, instead of passing it promptly, as it should, some Senator moved its reference to the Committee on Post-Offices. Senator HAMLIN of Maine, who is responsible for the original legislation in behalf of the Express Companies, is chairman of this Committee, and since the bill passed into his hands not a word has been heard from it. The trouble is that the Senate is only very slightly amenable to the popular will, and this is one of the weak spots in our Federal Constitution. Senators are elected by State Legislatures and for terms of six years. Senator HAMLIN'S term does not expire till the fourth of March, 1881, and what does he care in the meantime what the people of the country want? Friends of Cheap Postage in the several States should write promptly to their Senators, asking immediate action on the bill, and possibly this may have some effect. The danger is that the Senate Post-Office Committee will patch up the House bill so as to concede all that the Express monopolists desire; but after the decisive and unanimous action of the popular branch of Congress in re-establishing the old rates, we hope that it will stick to its position, even though it involves a conflict with the Senate and the Express Companies combined.

The most impudent of all suggestions is that the Post-Office Department shall be allowed, as a "disinterested" (?) party, to tinker the measure, and that its decision of what the bill should be shall be accepted by both the Senate and the House. We believe that there used to be a provision of the United States Constitution giving the law-making power exclusively to the two houses of Congress. It is a very interesting question whether the "third house," unknown in the Constitution, will dare to thus openly supersede the direct representatives of the people. On this point members of Congress elected directly by and responsible to the people, should make a positive stand. It may prove that on this question of cheap postage which is almost universally demanded by the people, will hinge the yet more important question of the duty of the Government to promptly respond to the popular will. Certainly in monarchical England even, such a demand as now arises for a restoration of cheap postage could not remain unheeded. Any administration denying or ignoring it would go out of power in less than a month.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

In Maine $999,000 are invested in porgy "factories," which employ 1,234 men, 36 steamers, and 37 sailing vessels. Last year 712,000 barrels of fish were taken and 1,500,000 gallons of oil and 22,000 tons of guano were made. Fourteen steamers were also added to the fleet, and 15,000 barrels of fish were sold for bait.

At midnight, Feb. 22, a fire started in the rear of Hammill's stables in Main St., Tarrytown, N. Y., and swept the entire block. The losses are estimated at about $37,000. The fire is supposed to have originated from the pipe of a tramp, who had entered Hammill's stable to sleep.

A dispatch dated Springfield, Dakotah, Feb. 24, says:—Wagon trains of every description are constantly passing here, bound for the gold fields. The different parties as they pass along have from two to twenty-five wagons each. One party camped in town last night, and one could see camp fires of three other trains on the prairie west of here. Another Springfield party will start at noon to-day, consisting of seven wagons and twenty men. In this party are some of the best business men of this town, and they have better teams and outfits generally than any who have yet left here. The party is jubilant, and will be in the Hills in a few days.

Three men were shot in a row at Guadaloupe, Cal., recently, and one of them refused to stop dancing until a physician arrived, and then only long enough to have the bullet extracted from his back, when, upon trying to dance again, he fell and expired.

John Laight, aged 73, and Sarah Coons, aged 70, were married in Somerset, Ky., lately. They had been husband and wife in 1848, but had quarreled and been divorced, and subsequently each had been married twice.

An Albany ice firm applied to the Shakers, wishing to purchase the ice on a small lake. The Shakers declared it to be against their principles to sell water, air or ice, and gave permission to cut it free. Three hundred teams and 400 men are thus given employment.

The Prohibition State Convention met at the State House in Providence, R. I., Feb. 22. Most of the towns were represented. B. Chadsey of North Kingstown was elected President. The following nominations for State officers were made by the Convention: For Governor—Albert C. Howard of East Providence. Lieut. Gov.—Alfred C. Chadsey of North Kingstown. Secretary of State—Joshua M. Addeman of Providence. Attorney General—Warren B. Peirce of Providence. General Treasurer—A. D. Vose of Woonsocket.

The steamer City of Quincy, from New Orleans for St. Louis, sunk on the night of Feb. 20th, five miles below Memphis. Her cargo of 450 tons of sugar will prove a total loss. No lives were lost. The boat will probably be a total loss.

While two men were the other day fishing for shad with a seine in Lake Monroe, Florida, they drew in an alligator six and a half feet long.

William S. Parsons, a child who lived at East Seventeenth street, N. Y. City, died recently of fright on being told that a dose of poison had been given him by mistake. His father got up in the darkness of the early morning to administer some medicine as directed by the attending physician, but picked up a bottle of aconite by mistake. He did not notice the mistake until the child had taken the dose. He cried out to his son that he was poisoned and the boy went into convulsions, which ended in his death.

The Ohio Assembly has passed the Senate bill authorizing the issue of $6,000,000 of bonds to complete the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, with an amendment providing that the question shall first be submitted to a vote of the people within thirty days from the passage of the bill.

Late on Wednesday night Feb. 23d a fire in Le Mars, Iowa, destroyed a large building occupied by four families. A woman and three small children were burned in the ruins, and when found were burned to a cinder. The husband is now a raving maniac.

The Blue Ridge "Blade," a North Carolina newspaper, mentions the death from diphtheria recently of eight persons out of one family in Caldwell county in that State.

A rival of Tom Thumb has appeared in Binghamton, N. Y., in the person of a boy five years old, who weighs nine pounds when fully dressed, is twenty-three inches in hight, is physically perfect and healthy, and who talks very distinctly. The child weighed but two and a half pounds at birth, and has not grown since he was a few months old.

Great numbers of codfish have been taken during the winter off the southern coast of New Jersey. A great school chased by porpoises passed Cape May one day last week, and a party of fishermen which put out from the Delaware breakwater succeeded in catching nine hundred pounds in a few hours.

The trial of Gen. O. E. Babcock, private secretary of the President, for complicity in whisky frauds which has been in progress several days in St. Louis has resulted in his acquittal. The fact was the occasion of many warm congratulations by the General's personal friends. It is now said that Gen. Babcock will retire from his position as the President's secretary, but will remain as Supt. of Public Buildings at Washington.

Prof. Peters of Ann Arbor, Mich., announces the discovery of a planet of the eleventh magnitude in 10 degs. 16 min., right ascension and 14 deg. 32 min. declination, with a daily motion of 4 deg.

The Delaware, Lackwanna and Western Railroad Company has decided on narrowing the gauge all along the road. The work will be begun forwith in the Company's car and machine shops at Scranton. The proposed change will require the narrowing of the gauge along 600 miles of road, the building of 4,000 new freight and coal cars, and the alteration of the 12,000 coal cars now in use.

The Grand Jury has brought in three indictments against ex-County Treasurer Henry A. Mann of Ballston Spa, each charging him with forgery in the the third degree. He gave bail in the amount of $10,000.

By advice of the Bishop, a burial is denied to Waltz, the murderer, in the Catholic cemetery at Catskill, for the present.

It was the American whaler Young Phœnix of New Bedford that rescued 41 of the survivors of the emigrant ship Strathmore. She took them aboard on the 22d of January, and on the 26th of that month transferred 20 of them to the Sierra Morena. The latter vessel, which has arrived at Galle and landed the unfortunates, reports the above details.

Retrenchment has at last pushed its way into the councils of Congress, and a reduction of salaries in both Houses is said to be imminent. If they carry out the project, the members will gain in popularity what they lose in cash.

Gov. Ames has been impeached by the Mississippi House.

Owing to speculation in rooms at Cincinnati hotels, the change of place of the Republican Convention is proposed.

The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company has decided to adopt the standard gauge.

Gov. Tilden testified in the trial of the civil suit against Tweed.

An Englishman predicted twenty years ago that if gutta-percha be used for sub-marine telegraphic purposes, an animal with a special appetite for that substance would be found or created. The Popular Science Monthly now tells us that the anticipated destroyer has appeared; and that he is about a quarter of an inch in length. The frequent interruptions of cable communications are ascribed by the writer to the propensity of this diminutive creature to take his meals out of gutta-percha. Should this theory be fully established, invention will have to cast about for some means to outwit this new enemy of civilization.

The annual report of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad shows a surplus of $415,000.

The reunion of the Army of the Potomac will be held on the sixth of June, in Philadelphia.

The Sumiatt paper mill at Rigua, Ohio, owned by William Wall, is burned. Loss, $20,000; Insurance, $10,000.

Besides Yale, Bowdoin, Trinity, Amherst and Williams have withdrawn from the College Rowing Association, and it is intimated that Dartmouth will follow.

The revival meetings conducted by Mr. Hammond at Washington, D. C., are daily increasing in interest. Between 5,000 and 6,000 persons profess to have been converted. Two Jews are among the converted and have related their experience.

Harrison Parkman, the veteran canal boat revivalist of Weehawken, who is locked up on the charge of assault in ejecting a noisy sinner from one of the revival gatherings, is holding prayer meetings in the Hudson county jail. On Feb. 26th he delivered a sermon on "Faith" to the prisoners.

Joel Sammitt, brother-in-law of Rubenstein, has been arrested at Brooklyn for perjury.

Prof. Silliman of Yale College, has discovered a chemical process by which German silver and brittannia can be made to ring like gold and silver.

FOREIGN NOTES.

In the time of Charles II. tobacco was supposed to be a mighty antidote to the plague, and Hearne says, when at Eton, the worst floggings the students ever received were because they refused to smoke.

The following has been published at Berlin as a warning against emigration:—The German Minister at Washington was recently asked to interfere in behalf of Germans living in Louisiana who, it was alleged, were maltreated by the Ku-Klux. The Minister could do nothing.

The Americans who are exploring Palestine have just concluded a successful tour east of the Jordan. The members were surprised by the number of the ruins of Christian churches, many standing side by side with heathen temples.

A magnificent cameo, supposed to be a portrait of Octavia, the second wife of Mark Antony and sister of Augustus, has been brought to the notice of the Paris Academie des Inscriptions. The stone is a sardonyx, with a milky surface.

In Manchester, England, the other day, two fine horses attached to a brougham took fright, dashed through a restaurant window, and forced their way to the middle of the room. They were badly cut, and the damage altogether is estimated at £200 to £300.

A Birmingham coach-builder named Thomas claims the Whaddon Hall estates, Buckinghamshire, England, which, with accumulated money, exceed in value three millions sterling. The Birmingham claimant has not been able to carry on an action before owing to want of funds, but several gentlemen afterward offered pecuniary aid on the particulars of the claim appearing in a local paper. The matter is to be placed in the hands of solicitors, who will be instructed to take immediate action for the recovery of the valuable property.

A curious illustration of the nonchalance and carelessness of Parisians is afforded by the returns of the "Found Property" Department in the French metropolis. Of 3,684 objects and valuables found in 1875 only 441 have been claimed by and returned to the legitimate owners, and there remain unclaimed numerous articles of valuable jewelry, watches, bracelets, and portemonnaies containing large sums of money in small notes, as well as 100 franc and even 500 franc bank notes.

A single manufacturer of perfumery at Cannes, France, uses annually 140,000 pounds of orange blossoms, 129,000 pounds of acacia flowers, 140,000 pounds of rose leaves, 32,000 pounds of violets, 8,000 pounds of tuberoses, and rosemary, mint, thyme, lemons, and citrons in proportionate quantities. Nice and Cannes together consume annually over 20 tons of violets, and Nice alone 130 tons of orange blossoms.

A twenty-five cent pamphlet, full of thinly-disguised abuse of the royal family of England, has attained in London a circulation of over 120,000 copies. A correspondent writes:—"It is as near treason as the author dare come for a shilling."

A dispatch from Havana, Feb. 24, says:—Mail advices from San Domingo announce that President Gonzales, on the 5th ult., was marching with an army toward Puerto Plata, which city is held by the insurgents under Luperon. Another report says that Gonzales is returning to the capital by way of Samana. The future is altogether a matter of speculation. There have been several bloody encounters between the factions. A public meeting was held at San Domingo on the 9th, at which a commission was appointed to go out and meet Gonzales and request him to disband his command peacefully, in order to prevent any further calamities.

The Italian lotteries are a source of great revenue to Victor Emanuel's Government. In one year various speculators deposited $15,000,000 in the public treasury, and the sums paid out in prizes, &c., did not amount to more than $10,000,000, so that the Government netted $5,000,000.

Garibaldi receives visitors in an arm-chair. He is supported by pillows, and is incapable of moving without crutches. The fingers of both hands are stiffened into utter rigidity, with the exception of the thumbs. His face, however, bears the hue of health, and his mind remains as vigorous as ever.

The Russian troops under Gen. Scobelef entered Khokand on the 22nd ult., and were warmly welcomed by the inhabitants, who expressed great satisfaction at the announcement of the incorporation of Khokand with Russia.

In England and Wales there are now one Roman Catholic cardinal archbishop, one archbishop *in partibus*, 16 bishops, 1,772 priests, and 1,061 churches and chapels, which shows an increase during the past year of 52 priests and 20 places of worship.

The British Admiralty have ordered the construction of two dispatch vessels to be made entirely of steel.

Gen. Chanzy, Governor-General of Algeria, reports that the organization of a sanitary service has been completed all over that country, which has a larger area than Great Britain.

The head of the Scottish house of Murray, generally known as the Duke of Athole, a young man of thirty-six holds one dukedom, two marquisates, five earldoms, three titles as viscount and twelve as baron, twenty-three titles in all; six more than any other nobleman in the United Kingdom.

The riots at Workshop, Eng., Feb. 24 on the occasion of the election, were caused by a gang of operatives from a neighboring colliery. No serious damage was done, and all is quiet now.

It is said that Spain has agreed to pay an indemnity to the family of M. Reygondeau, who was executed in Cuba, and to court martial the officer who ordered the execution.

The election in Victoria, N. L., resulted in the return of Mr. Elliott, new premier, by a majority of one hundred and sixty-three. The vote was the largest ever cast in the city. The election was quiet.

It is said that the appointment of Count De Stalberg-Wernigerode to the Vienna ambassadorship has made such an impression that Prince Bismarck would appear to regard him as a successor to the chancellorship.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Stony Ridge, Surry Co., N. C., Feb. 15,—An exceedingly mild winter so far. Raining now, and the water courses up. Wheat looking well; a plenty of corn for home consumption, and a large crop of tobacco for sale. This about expresses the present status of our section.—N. A. W.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Feb. 26, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	59,001	Rice, bbls.	1,116
Whisky	3,101	Cut meats, pkgs.	17,907
Corn meal, bbls	2,676	Lard, pkgs.	8,865
Corn meal, bags	4,505	Tar, bbls.	—
Wheat, bush	95,522	Tobacco, hhds	1,845
Corn, bush	382,612	do. cases	3,604
Oats, bush	139,180	Butter, lbs.	17,451
Rye, bush	224	Cheese, bxs.	9,546
Malt, bush	51,828	Cotton, bales	20,403
Barley, bush	62,500	Rosin	5,778
Beans, bbls	7,286	Sats. Turp., bbls.	1,079
Grass seed, bags	5,676	Dried Fruits, pkgs.	418
Beef, pkgs.	108	Eggs, bbls.	10,183
Wool, bales	667	Peanuts, bags	687
Hops, bales	1,761	Dressed Hogs	2,460
Pork, bbls	1,480	Oil Cake, pkgs.	
Tallow	1,131	Leather, sides	73,131
Molasses	1,622	Sugar	130

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,101 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 9,218; do.; same time last year, 2,365 do. Exports of peas past week, 2,456 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 183,077 do.; same time last year, 41,004 do. There is merely the same weak story for medium beans. The best in store are not quoted above $1.45, and, as before the late arrivals, are of the low-priced order. A continued active export demand for marrows has run down the stock to some extent, but they are only fairly firm. In kidneys we hear of only a light demand for red or white. Pea beans quiet. Limas weak and low. Canadian peas, both bulk, in bond and bbls. free of duty, quoted easy.

Wholesale prices: pea, new, prime, $1.45@1.40; other, 1.15@1.25; medium, new, $1.35@1.40; fair to good, $1.15@1.30; very poor, 50@90c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.75@1.80; other, $1.45@1.65; white kidney, prime, $1.75@1.85; fair to good, $1.50@1.70; red kidney, new, prime, $1.50@1.60, fair to good, $1.30@1.45; California Lima, choice, $2.75@3.00. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new duty paid, $1.15@1.20; bulk, in bond, $1.00; green new, ⅘ bush., $1.60; Southern B. E., ⅘ bush. bag, $2.90@3.

BEESWAX.—The market is fairly active for pure at 30@31c. for Western and 32@33c. for Southern. Exports since Jan. 1st, 20,311 lbs.; same time last year, 7,705 do.

BROOM CORN.—It looks as if we would soon run entirely out of fine grades. The few lots that show are eagerly taken at high rates. Ordinary, or such as is in stock, quoted at 9@10c. for brush, 8½@10c. for hurl, 5@7c. for medium, and 3@4c. for red and tipped. The two latter grades form the chief supply.

BUTTER.—Arrivals have been quite liberal latterly but they are of a grade that ought to have been here

when trade was more buoyant than it now is. Business for the past week shows a great improvement over that of the previous one; but we are on the eve of a spring month and with the quantities of undergrades yet to be moved, dealers dare not ask better rates than have ruled. We are speaking of 25@28c. State stock and at that range, with an enlarged offering buyers are really making better bargains than before. Fine butter is a thing of itself and will likely rule as high as it does until first grass. With spring almost upon us it is rather late for suggestions, but we are forced to remark there is now only one thing for State owners to do; that is let stock come right along and take its chance of being sustained at present rates. Many have held back unprofitably already by giving a fictitious home rate to quality. It seems to take a good many seasons for some dairymen to realize that the distributing point is the actual locality to decide grades, and until some settled science enables producers to make a uniform high grade they will be compelled to depend upon the comparisons that are inevitable in a crop depending upon a wholesale outlet. It might be stated incidentally that the past season has been an unusually perplexed one in its surroundings, baffling the judgement of almost every one in the trade. The crop fell short of its fall yield of fine, a wet summer spoiled or deteriorated often portions, while credit has been shaky to an extent that not only paralized ordinary speculative energy, but also reduced the transactions with actual consumers. Thus far, best dealers think that in the order of things butter has had a fair share of prosperity, and that the point should be to run the remnant into use as fast as the unfavorable season permits. Western butter keeps a pretty steady position; the supply is not large and very cheap, buyers find what they want at satisfactory figures. Rolls are still active and close firm.

State dairies entire, extra, 32@35c.; entire, good to prime, 28@31c.; fair to good, 25@28c.; firkins, selected fresh, 30@33c.; good to prime, 27@29c.; fair to good, 24@27c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 35@38c.; good to prime, 32@35c.; fair to good, 28@32c.; poor to fair, 17@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 31@35c.; dairies, 25@30c.; good to prime, 25@28c.; fair to good, 23@25c.; poor to fair, 17@23c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 16@21c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 25@26c.; good to prime, 22@21c., tubs selected fresh, 26@27c.; good to prime, fresh, 23@25c.; fair to good, fresh, 18@22c.; poor to fair, fresh, 16@18c.; Western, early packed, selected, 18@20c.; Western, early packed, other, 14@18c. Roll butter, good to prime, 21@23c.; fair to good, 19@21c., common, 17@19c. Fancy Mich. Rolls, 25@26c.

CHEESE.—The export movement is still moderate and the home trade light. Fancy factories bring 13¾@14c., with the shipping demand almost entirely for this class of stock. Local demand is chiefly for South at about 11@12c.

New State factory, fancy, 13¾@14c.; fine, 13c.; do. good to prime, 11½@12½c.; fair to good, 10@11½c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 10½@11½c.; fair to good, 9½@10½c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fine, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@11c.; poor to fair, 5@8c.; pineapple, 16@18c. English dairy, Connecticut, 13@13½c., do. State, 16@18c.

COTTON.—There has been a sharp decline in prices through a slow export trade, and larger supplies than had been expected. The closing prices are for February, 12⅝c.; March, 12 17-32c.; April, 12¾c.; May, 13 5-32@13 3-16c.; June, 13 13-32@13 7-16c.; July, 13 21-32@13 11-16c.; August, 13 25-32@13 13-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 3-16	9 3-16	9 3-16	9 3-16
Strict ordinary	10 1-16	10 1-16	10 1-16	10 1-16
Good ordinary	10 11-16	10 11-16	10 13-16	10 13-16
Strict good do	11 7-16	11 7-16	11 9-16	11 9-16
Low middling	11 15-16	12 1-16	12 3-16	12 3-16
Strict low middling	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 11-16
Middling	12¾	12¾	12 15-16	12 15-16
Good middling	13¼	13¼	13⅜	13⅜
Strict good middling	13½	13⅝	13⅝	13⅝
Middling fair	14	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛
Fair	14⅝	15	15⅛	15⅛

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—In apples there is a light jobbing movement at about steady prices. Peeled peaches in small stock and firm; unpeeled do. scarce and held as before. Blackberries are lower at the West than here, and are dull.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; quarters, 9@9½c.; Western quarters, 8½c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 10@10½c. for prime. Tennessee qrs., 8¼@8½c. Blackberries, new, 11½@c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 21@22c. Peaches peeled, new process, 20@23c.; do. unpeeled, 12@13c.

FLOUR.—The markets abroad have been in unsatisfactory shape, and there have been been but light requirements for export. This, in connection with a limited home business and liberal supplies, have tended to the lower rates.

Superfine State, $4.25@4.60; extra do., $4.60@5.60; superfine Western, $4.25@4.60; extra do., $4.30@6.05; No. 2, $3.25@4.00; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.90@5.25; trade brands do., $5.30@7.25; white wheat extras, $5.80@7.00; St. Louis, $5.25@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@6.00. Southern at $4.25@4.65 for superfine; $4.30@6.25 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.30@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye, $4.10@5.05. Corn meal—Western yellow, $2.50@3.25; do. white, $2.70@3.25; Jersey & Penn., $2.90@3.35. Buckwheat selling at 60@61c. for prime State, and flour at $1.85@2.35.

EGGS.—Low prices have produced a very free consumption of eggs, and this is certainly a favorable feature. Lent will of course call for a steadier trade, but it is not to ought that we will have marked high prices while the supplies are so unprecedentedly liberal. A few cold days latterly have given some strength to best marks, but old, speculatively-held parcels are quite a drag. Limed are down to 10c., with sales at the mark. We quote:

Jersey, single barrels, ₩ bbl., 23c.; State & Penn., 21@22c.; Western, prime, 21c.; fair marks, 18@20c.; Southern and South Western, 19@20½c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Wholesale trade is flat. The quotations for such lots as are running are as follows:—H. G. oil peppermint, $4, in glass; Hall & Parshall do., $4@4.20 do.; pure in tin, $3.50; sassafras, 55c.; wintergreen, $3.12; spearmint, $3.50; pennyroyal, $4.

FEATHERS.—Prime Western live geese quoted at 58@60c.; mixed, 30@45c.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, 670 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 3,681 do.; same time last year, 8,451 do. There is a pretty fair demand for apples. Stock has been sorted pretty generally and prime table fruit is firmer, or brings the extreme more readily. California pound pears, coming from Chicago, are quoted at $4@4.50 per box. Cranberries are scarce and firm at the new figures. Florida oranges scarce. Peanuts rule easy. Pecans unchanged. Hickory nuts no longer inquired for.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $3.50@4; Greenings, $@3.50; mixed, good, $2.00@2.55; other $1.50@2. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $1.52@4.50; good to prime, $1; made bbls., $12.50@13.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, $1.40@1.55; do. Wilmington, $1.75@1.80; do. Tennessee, 75@90c. Black walnuts, 50c. Pecans, 12@15c.

FURS AND SKINS.—Next month will bring further European quotations, and until the March sales take place prices here will rule more or less nominal. Furriers intend to make a creditable show at the Centennial Exhibition. Few are aware how marked an advance has been made in this country in the preparation of furs for garment-trimming and hat purposes. We quote prime skins:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00 to 15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00 to 10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50 to 3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50 to 2 50
Badger	20 to 50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50 to 60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40 to 50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00 to 12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, silver	15 00 to 50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00 to 5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50 to 1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25 to 1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40 to 60
Fox, Kitt	30 to 50
Lynx	1 00 to 2 00
Marten, States	1 50 to 2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00 to 4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00 to 3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00 to 1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75 to 1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50 to 75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	25 to 27
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	22 to 25
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12 to 20
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00 to 12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	6 00 to 10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00 to 6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18 to 20
Opossum, South and open North	12 to 15
Racoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indian handled, dark	80 to 1 00
Racoon, Il., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50 to 65
Racoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn.	65 to 75
Racoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40 to 50
Racoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15 to 40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00 to 3 00
Sheep skins, summer and fall	50 to 1 00
Sheep skins, winter	1 50 to 2 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	— to 1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	— to 1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50 to 80
Skunks, whole streaked	15 to 20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00 to 3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75 to 1 25

GINSENG.—Western $120@125; Southern $125@130.

GRAIN.—Foreign advices have been tame for wheat, prices for which are lower, with the poor grades offering most freely. Sales at $1.03@1.15 for ungraded spring; $1.47 for choice amber Pennsylvania; $1.30 for choice old No. 2 Milwaukee spring; $1.21 for No. 2 Northwest spring in store; $1.10 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring afloat; $1.05 for "no grade" red winter in store; $1.22@1.26 for No. 2 spring; $1.20@1.47 for winter red and amber; $1.35@1.50 for white, and $1.32@1.36 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 88@91c. for State, and 85@88c. for Western. Barley about steady in price; No. 2 Canada sold at $1.10. Barley malt at $1.12½@1.15 for Canada, as to quality, 95c.@$1.07½ for two-rowed State. Corn is in large supply, but has a fair export demand and rules strong as to price. Latest sales are 64c. for mixed Western, New York inspection; 63@64½c. for ungraded mixed Western; 60@61c. for "no grade," new mixed; 61@64½c. for new yellow Western; 61½@66½c. for new yellow Southern; 61@62½c. for poor to very good new yellow Western. Oats are in very good demand and steady in price. Sales at 48c. for New York light mixed; 45½@48c. for No. 3 New York; 46@48½c. for mixed Western; 47@52½c. for white Western State.

HAY AND STRAW are in small receipt and bring full prices. Exports past week, 590 bales; since Jan. 1st, 5,008 do.; same time last year, 6,061 do.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, 95c.@1.10; clover, 65@75c.; salt, 65@75c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 80@85c. for short rye; 75@80c. for oat.

Exports past week, 736 bales; since Jan. 1st, 4,418 bales; same time last year, 5,588.

HIGHWINES.—Selling at $1.10.

HONEY.—Scarcely quotable, owing to the very light demand. A buying range would be 15@22c. for good to best comb.

HOPS.—A large trade has been doing this week. Sixteen and seventeen cents has been freely paid for choice goods, though very few have been on offer, as holders feel confident that more money will be realized for this class within a short time, owing to the scarcity. Seconds and mediums have received considerable attention from brewers, and for this class 12½@13c. has been the ruling price. The total exports for the season from this port now reach 30,000 bales. It is believed that we have yet to spare 10,000, the shipment of 10,000 bales more, will be likely to run the price up to 20 cents and over.

New York State, 12@17c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins, 10@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 17@20c.

OIL CAKE.—Western is in large supply, and offered at $42.50.

POULTRY AND GAME.—It has not been much of a season for dressed poultry. The losses have not been so heavy as for some former seasons, but business has been slack and there was little inducement to ship stock at the period when trade ought to have been regular. For the moderate supplies of prime prices have ruled good. Parcels out of order have no settled rates.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 19@20c.; Jersey, good to prime, 17@19c.; State, good to prime, 15@18c.; Western, good to prime, 14@16c.; fair to good, 12@14c.; poor, 9@11c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 19@20c.; State, good to prime, 17@19c.; Western, good to prime, 16@18c.; inferior, 11@13c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; state, good to prime, 19@21c.; Western, good to prime, 18@20c.; fair to good, 15@18c.; poor, 13@15c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 12@14c.; State, good to prime, 11@13c. Capons, 25@28c. Slips, Western, 18@19c.

Live poultry is brisk; the winding up of the game season helps both live and dressed poultry materially. We quote:

Turkeys, Jersey, ₩ lb., 15@16c.; do. Western, 11@15c.; Geese, Jersey, ₩ pair, $2.50@3; do. Western, $1.50@1.75; ducks, Western, ₩ lb., 65@75c.; ducks, Jersey, ₩ pair, $1@1.25; fowls and chickens, State and Jersey, ₩ lb., 15@16c.; do. Western, 14@15c.; roosters, 8@10c.

In game we quote the few items that will be lawful by the time this paper is sent out:

Wild pigeons, feathered, per doz., $2@2.50. Canvas back ducks ₩ pair, $1.50@2; Mallard, 75c.@$1; Redhead, $1.25.

The closing rates for Quail were $3.75@4 for grouse, 87c. for poor, and $1.50 for prime.

PROVISIONS.—Export trade has been light generally and easier prices have been accepted. Mess pork quoted at $22.25@22.50 for cash and March; $22.50 for May; $23.65 for June; extra prime on the spot, $18.50, and prime mess, $21.25. Dressed hogs at 10½c. for Western. Western tierced pickled hams, 13@13½c. Boxed dry-salted shoulders, 9½c. Bacon at 12c. for Western long clear; 12½c. for short clear, and 12⅜c. for long and short clear, together. Lard—Western steam at 13-30c. for cash, 13-32½c for March; 13-42½c. for April; 13-57½@13-60c. for May; 13.67½@13-72½c. for June. Stearine at 13⅞@14c. Tallow at 9 5-16c. for prime. Beef hams at $24@26. Beef—New extra mess at $12@@13; do. plain mess, $11.50; new tierced at $23 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $32@32.50. Old extra mess, $11.50; 10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.00@16.

RICE.—Carolina quoted 6⅜@6½c. for fair; 6¾@6⅞c. for good; 7@7½c. for prime and choice up to 7¾c.

SEED.—Clover is again better, with a larger export trade. Sales at 13⅞@14c. for State; 13⅞c. for Western, and 13½@13⅝c. for Canada.

TOBACCO.—For Kentucky leaf, with larger arrivals, prices are reduced. Seedleaf is unchanged.

KENTUCKY LEAF.	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	5 @ 6	7 @ 8
Good lugs	7 @ 7½	8 @ 8½
Low leaf	8 @ 9½	9 @10
Medium leaf	9½@10	10 @11½
Good leaf	11 @12½	12 @13
Fine leaf	13 @14½	14 @15½
Selections	15½@16½	16½@22½

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @15
Fillers, selections	6 @ 8
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 9
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	15 @25
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6½@ 8
Wisconsin	6½@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week 4,620 bbls.; since Jan. 1st 42,015 do.; same time last year, 21,209 do. There has been a fair shipping trade in potatoes; beyond that there is little life in the market. Poor sorts are not looked at, while the best are quoted at $1.50 ₩ bbl. in bulk. The warm weather has affected onions and only strictly sound bring outside prices. Bermuda produce will now arrive regularly, opening considerably earlier than for several former years.

Early Rose, bulk, ₩ bbl., $1.00@1.37; Peach Blows, $1.37@1.50; Prince Alberts, $1.00@1.25; Peerless, 85c.@$1.00. Sweet potatoes, $1.50@3.10. Cabbages, ₩ 100, $3@5; red, $6@10. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 60@75c.; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@3.00. Russia Turnips, ₩ bbl., 75c.; white, 63c. Carrots, $1.00. Baltimore spinach, ₩ bbl., $1.50@2.

WOOL.—The week's business has been light; fine Western fleeces are held firmly, but occasional sales of the poorer grades are at easier prices, with holders as a rule, in consideration of the moderate stock, indisposed to make concessions. Combing and delaine are well sustained in price, although for the market trade is light. California parcels are offering freely, and a freer business results in this class of stocks. Pulled are quiet; common lots easier in price, but choice lots bring full rates.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
Picklock	50 @ 51
XX	@ 48
X	47 @ 48
No. 1	49 @ 52
No. 2	43 @ 46
Coarse	40 @ 42
Combing	58 @ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—	
XX	44 @ 46
X	43 @ 45
No. 1	46 @ 48
No. 2	42 @ 44
Coarse	40 @ 42
Combing	56 @ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
XX	45 @ 47
X	43 @ 45
No. 1	41 @ 45
No. 2	41 @ 43
Coarse	40 @ 43
Combing	55 @ 62
Combing, unwashed	38 @ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—	
XX	41 @ 47
X	44 @ 47
No. 1	44 @ 48
No. 2	41 @ 43
Coarse	40 @ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—	
Fine unwashed	35 @ 38
Medium unwashed	34 @ 36
Coarse unwashed	27 @ 30
Burry	17 @ 23

ROCHESTER, Feb. 26.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.35@1.40; amber winter, $1.10@1.22; white winter, $1.20@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 23@25c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 18@20c. Lard, 12½@14c. Apples, ₩ bu., 50c.@$1. Potatoes, bu., 30@33c. Beans, ₩ bu., 90c.@1.25. Mess pork, $21@22. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $7.50@7.75. Wood, hard, ₩ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Feb. 21, 1876.

TRANSACTIONS in cheese are light this week and confined to medium and lower grades. The factories holding fine Septembers and Octobers are asking 14c., which is above the views of buyers. Some farm dairies are held above current rates. The market is very firm, but our quotations do not vary materially from last week. Late ends of factories may be quoted at 10@12c. and farm dairies 9@10c., according to quality.

Winter butter sells at 24@26c. Small parcels of new milk butter begin to be made which are taken for home consumption, and the quantity is too small to quote.

We have advices from Europe to the second week in January. Our London correspondent says:

An active market and more doing in American cheese, especially for very fine sorts, which are in small compass. Medium and low grades wanted if in good condition. Fine English cheese is very scarce. The prices are as follows:

American extra, 65@66s.; fine, 63@64s.; good 50@58s.; common, 36@42s. English cheddar brings 80@96s.; Wiltshire double, 62@66s.; Cheshire medium, 46@52s.; fine, 70@80s.; Scotch, 70@78s., and Edams at 70s. ₩ cwt.

Fine butter is very scarce and there is an improved demand for secondary American and the substitutes.

Jersey sells for 136s.; Dorsets, 166s.; Danish and Swedish, 150s.; Normandy extra, 100@174s.; American and Canadian, 100@120s. ₩ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter brings 100@110s. ₩ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,139	18	305	6,108	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	29	64	2,938	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	895	12,198
Harsimus Cove	5,000	00	000	7,141	10,020
Totals this week	9,139	47	369	17,182	22,218
" last week	6,956	63	499	26,398	23,633

BEEVES.—On last Monday forenoon trade opened rather easier than it had closed on the previous Friday. Prices were 8¼@13½c. ₩ lb.; weights, 6@10 cwt. Wednesday trade dull at 8¼@12½c.; weights, 6½@8½ cwt. Thursday, sales slow at 8¼@11½c.; weights, 6½@7½ cwt. Friday, the markets closed slow at 8@12½c.; weights, 6@8½ cwt. From 54@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt. Mixed herds 8@12c. Dry cows, 33 ₩ head. Texas steers, 8½@9½c.; oxen, 9@9½c. Native steers sold at 8@12½c.; grades do., 12½@13½c.; oxen, 9@12½c. Bulls, on live weight, 3⅞@4½c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13½	12 @13
Fair	11 @11½	11 @11½
Poor	10 @10½	10 @10½
Poorest	8 @ 9½	7½@ 9½
Gen. selling rates	10 @11	9½@11

MILCH COWS.—Trade slow and small on a moderate run of generally inferior quality cows. Twenty-two sold at $40@67.50 ₩ head; 13 at $45@65; 10 at $55@70; 3 at $79@85; 8 springers at $65@80—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade fallen off in smooth quality veals, the same being not so good as those recently reported. Grass calves improved in quality and less dull of sale. Smooth quality veals sold at 8@10½c. ₩ lb.; grass calves, 4@4½c. Meal-fed calves, 5@6c. Pennsylvania, veals, 9@11c.; State, 9½@10½c. State calves, 1@4½c. ₩ lb.; Western meal-fed, 6c.; quality course but fat.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday trade in sheep opened on an improved market at 5½@8c. ₩ lb., the quality of the flocks being better than those to hand for several days past. Wednesday, sheep, 5½@8c., trade being slow. Thursday, sheep, 5½@7½c. Friday, the markets closed weak at 5@7½c. Lambs sold in small lots at 7½@8c. Illinois sheep sold at 5½@6½c; Ohio, 6@8c.; Michigan, 6@6½c.; State, 5⅜@8c.; Canada, 7@7½c.; Kentucky, 6½c.

HOGS.—Ohio hogs, live weight 195 lbs. ₩ head, 8⅜c. City dressed limited in sale, owing to high rates, which were 10⅜@11c.; Heavy hogs 200 lbs. upwards, sold at 10½c.; light hogs, 160 lbs. downwards, 11c. Trade in intermediate weights very small.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade fair in fair quality roadsters, with moderate trotting action; 25 head of such like horses sold at $210@400 ₩ head; a few head of superior quality trotting horses, $450@700 ₩ head; 4 pairs family carriage horses, $300@550 ₩ head; 2 pairs stylish do., $900@1,300 ₩ pair; 7 head course quality heavy draft horses, $185@225 ₩ head; 1 pair do., $400; 3 pairs choice quality do., $500@750 ₩ pair; 29 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $25@93 ₩ head; 20 ordinary do., $150@275 ₩ head. Forty-six horses arrived ₩ Erie Railroad, via Oak Cliff Station.

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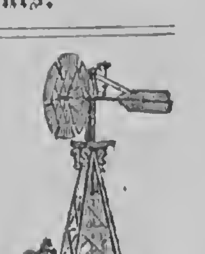

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

WASHINGTON'S birthday was widely celebrated.

SENATOR LOGAN'S wife is seriously ill in Washington.

THE Wisconsin Republicans favor Blaine for the Presidency.

GOV. CHENCY of New Hampshire is said to be seriously ill.

MISS CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN left a fortune estimated at $600,000.

GEORGE PECK, a prominent business man of Rochester, N. Y., died Feb. 21, aged 60.

PROFESSOR GILMAN has been inaugurated President of the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore.

PAUL BUTLER, son of Gen. B. F. Butler, is said to be one of the promtnent beaux in Washington this winter.

GEN. GARFIELD has been invited to address the Williams College literary societies at the next commencement.

GEROME, the French artist, got $30,000 from A. T. Stewart of New York for his new picture, "A Roman Chariot Race."

IT NOW seems that the Mrs. Green who lost her life in the Strath-Clyde disaster was the niece and not the daughter of Dion Boucicault.

PROF. GOLDWIN SMITH has resigned his position as a member of the Senate of Toronto University on account of other pressing business.

AN interesting lawsuit about Miss Thompson's picture, the "Roll Call," revealed the fact that the lady only received $500 for this work.

A SMALL, dilapidated building is allowed to stand in front of a fine residence in Petersburg, Va., because Andrew Jackson studied law in it.

THE marriage of Mr. James Gordon Bennett to Miss Ida May of Boston, it is announced, will take place on the 18th of April, in Grace Church, Boston.

A MONUMENT to the late Thomas Barry, actor, to cost $1,000, is to be erected in Forest Hill Cemetery, Boston, Mass., and subscriptions will be opened to raise the amount.

MADAME CHRISTINE NILSSON has been compelled to relinquish her engagements and go to Nice with her husband, who is suffering from an acute attack of bronchitis.

MISS GARRISON and Mrs. Cedarholm are preaching in Sherman, Texas, with great success. They are Methodists, and the first women preachers in the State of Texas.

AN Italian marble monument, bearing a life-like medallion portrait of Clement L. Vallandigham, was placed over his grave in Woodland Cemetery, at Dayton, Ohio, recently.

HEREAFTER the Justices of the Supreme Court of the Dominion of Canada will wear robes of scarlet and black, trimmed with ermine, similar to those worn at Westminster Hall.

PRINCESS FREDERICKA, daughter of the blind ex-King of Hanover, is said to be the most beautiful princess in Europe. She is the devoted and constant companion of her father.

AT a temperance meeting in London recently a vote of welcome to "Mother Stewart," the leader in the Ohio woman's whisky war, was moved by Mrs. Lucas, a sister of John Bright.

MR. FRANKLIN B. DEXTER, Secretary of Yale College, read a paper on the early history of that institution before the Historical Society of New Haven on the evening of the 14th inst.

THE Rev. Dr. Behrends of Cleveland, Ohio, who seceded from the Baptist denomination recently, has been called to the pastorate of the Union Congregational Church of Providence, R. I.

MR. VALENTINE, the sculptor, has finished the recumbent statue of Robert E. Lee, and it will soon be placed in a suitable structure above the Confederate leader's grave at Lexington, Va.

THE daughters of Sir Edward Thornton, the English Minister at Washington, wear thick-soled shoes, plain unpinned-back dresses and heavy old-fashioned cloaks. And they are pictures of health.

BRIGHAM YOUNG has sent word to the faithful at Ogden to stop baptizing into the Order of Enoch, saying that he would never have organized it if he had known how much opposition it would have excited.

JEFFERSON DAVIS now spends his time in looking after the interests of the Mississippi Valley Company, formed to develop inter-communication between the Southern States and Europe, and in watching Blaine.

THE Hartford City Government has named a park in that city "Bushnell Park," in honor of the Rev. Dr. Bushnell, who, 30 years ago, conceived the project of making the park out of what was then one of the most unsightly spots in the city.

DR. HAYFORD of Laramie, who drew up the Woman Suffrage law for the Wyoming Legislature says there are not twenty-five people in the Territory who would now vote for its repeal. Fights at the polls, street brawls and bar-room rows never occur.

Prof. Butestrierl of Naples, has invented a new method of illumination for lighthouses, which is an apparatus composed of several disks of polished silver or copper, so arranged that all the rays falling upon the disks are concentrated into one powerful beam.

SENATOR Sharon of Nevada was banqueted at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco on the 8th inst. More than half of the guests were millionaires, and the remainder were in no immediate danger of poverty. The bills of fare were engraved on solid silver dug from the Comstock lode, and were retained by the guests as souvenirs of the occasion.

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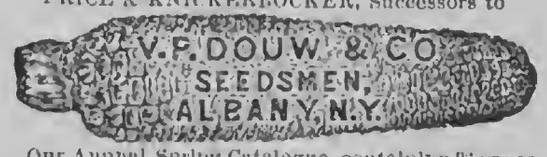

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Several wagon trains of miners are on the way to the Black Hills.

— Religious services are held every Sunday in public school No. 8, Rochester, N. Y.

— A distiller in New Hampshire makes all his employes sign the temperance pledge.

— The Vermont fish commissioners have 50,000 land-locked salmon ready for distribution.

— The Light Guard of Green Bay, Wis., are going to walk all the way to the Centennial, 1,033 miles.

— June 17 was appointed for the National Democratic Convention, and St. Louis was fixed as the place.

— On some of the country roads surrounding Quebec, Canada, the snow is from fifteen to twenty feet deep.

— The striking molders of Albany, N. Y., are still on their muscle, and occasionally attack non-union men.

— A new Presbyterian Church has been organized at West Albany, N. Y., and a building 100x50 is to be erected.

— In England 39 per cent. of the population are married, in Ireland 30 per cent., and in Germany only 19 per cent.

— The Republican State Committee has decided that the State Convention shall be held at Syracuse on March 22.

— The submarine cable between Sydney and New Zealand has been successfully laid and opened for traffic.

— It is said that there is a prosperous colony of Americans, numbering 600 souls, in the province of San Paulo, Brazil.

— Council Bluffs is very lively just now on account of the hourly arrival of mining parties *en route* to the Black Hills.

— Business is steadily increasing on the New York and Canada railroad, and extra freight trains are run frequently.

— Car loads of salmon are every day shipped East from California. The California salmon is coarser than that of Maine.

— The experiment of raising Angora goats in the mountainous regions of Arizona has already proved a substantial success.

— Builders are putting up V-shaped contrivances intended to divide and turn aside the descending snow on Virginia City houses.

— The scarlet fever is raging at Fond du Lac, Wis., and instances where two or three children die in a family are becoming common.

— The new excitement in California about the Lick benefaction is caused by the employment of Chinamen in building the observatory.

— The high price of meat in England has brought to light the fact that there is at present less live stock in that country than in any other in Europe.

— Fort Wayne, Ind., has under consideration a proposition to purchase the Wabash and Erie Canal as a means of securing an adequate water supply.

— The Legal adviser of the "Law and Order" Society of Buffalo, N. Y., has sworn out warrants against about a dozen liquor sellers for violating the Sunday law.

— An old lead mine in Madison, N. H., has been reprospected, and what is claimed to be a vein of silver and lead was found in a new shaft not twenty feet down.

— A sleeping car was wrecked and burned near Wallingford Station, Vt., Feb. 23d, and Mr. Bissel, proprietor of the Sherman House, Chicago, and his son were burned to death.

— A child one and a-half years old died in Vergennes recently which weighed at its birth eight pounds, and never weighed more than that. For the last year it weighed only six pounds.

— The sound portions of the old Elm of Boston Common will be made into furniture for the City Hall of Boston, and specimens will be sent to the various historical societies of the country.

— The State of Sinaloa, Mexico, has three large cotton mills. None of the goods are exported, the home demand being fully equal to the supply. The State of California has not a cotton mill.

— A large manufacturing corporation has been started in Cohoes, N. Y., under the title of "The Ten Eyck Ax Manufacturing Company," for the manufacture of axes and edge tools of all kinds.

— A commission has been appointed by the Mexican Government to make inquiry into the condition of affairs in Lower California, and confer about the same with the American authorities.

— The Cornell navy has decided to send a freshman crew to the Saratoga regatta. The freshmen will raise $500, and the navy the remaining $1,500 necessary. Freshmen crews now row daily in the gymnasium.

— There are 203,000,000 British subjects exclusive of those in the British Isles. About 5,000,000 are in America, nearly 2,500,000 in Australia, 2,000,000 in Africa, about 176,000 in Europe, and nearly 193,000,000 in Asia.

— The Plymouth Church Advisory Council was dissolved Feb. 24, after sustaining Plymouth Church in its discipline and providing for the appointment of a scandal bureau to investigate charges against Mr. Beecher.

— The Liverpool Town Council have been requested to lend for the Centennial Exhibition the two pictures "Julian the Apostate Presiding at the Conference of Sectarians" and the "Fall of Rienzi the Last Roman Tribune," both of which are in the corporation gallery of that city.

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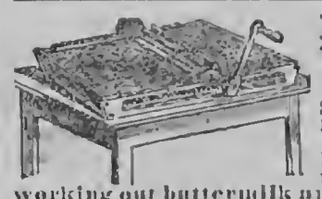

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Wit and Humor.

CONSTRAINT.

Down through the orchard wandered we
Where, bending low, each burdened tree
Hung full of fruitings yellow,
'Twas morning, and the autumn sun
Shone on the leaves of gold and dun
With radiance soft and mellow.

There came a blush upon her cheek,
I thought my time had come to speak,
She seemed so sad and tender;
I touched her snowy, dimpled hand,
But found no words at my command,
My burning love to render.

At last we paused beneath a tree,
The branch that sheltered her and me
Reached low its luscious fruit.
"Be seated, pray," I gently plead;
"I cannot—cannot," soft she said,
"I'm in my walking suit." [*Scribner's.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

MINOR events—births.

A MISS trial—courtship.

THE first thing in a boot is the last.

COMETH up as a flour—rising yeast.

MISS apprehension—arresting a female pickpocket.

A SCHOOL-BOY who does not know what a coat sleeve is for, nose very little.

"THE rich," said a Dutchman, "eat vension because it ish deer. I eat mutton because it ish sheep."

"THIS is spanking fine vinegar," said John Henry. "Ought to be spanking," replied young hopeful, "there's 'mother' in it."

COOK (come after a situation)—"By-the-by ma'am is there a rink in your neighborhood? for I shouldn't like to give up my skating!"

ATLANTA charges $700 for permission for a circus to exhibit one day, and the way circuses "pass on" makes tears stand in children's eyes.

A SCHOOLMASTER asked one of his fair pupils "Can you decline a kiss?" Dropping a perplexed courtesy, she readily replied, "Yes, sir, but, but I don't like to."

A CHICAGO poetess writes for a local journal the following poetical conundrum:

O monster man, handsome but untrue,
What shall a loving, lonely maiden do?

"DON'T come to see me any more just yet John; father has been having his boots half-soled, with two rows of nails around the toes," wrote a guiless Mosholu girl to her lover.

"LOOK at this republic one hundred years ago; and where are we now?" The nation moved toward the zenith of prosperity, but the speaker sat down on the wet ice in front of the post office.

"WHAT are you—confidence operators?" said a gruff old fellow to two little beggar girls, who asked for alms. "No, sir," said the smallest, with charming simplicty, "no, sir; but we opes to be."

"EPHRAIM," said Simon, "what does a young fellow look like when gallanting his sweetheart through a shower?" "Why," replied Ephraim, "he has very much the appearance af a rainbeau."

A SPRINGFIELD (Mass.) girl has been fooled by a Bavarian nobleman whom she expected to marry. She hasn't made up her mind whether to go to lecturing, writing novels, or go back to sewing shoe bindings.

AN Iowa woman claims to have made 1,095 fires during 1875. This is three a day, and it looks doubtful. After the fire is built and the wood brought into the house, almost any man is willing to sit around the stove and keep it going.

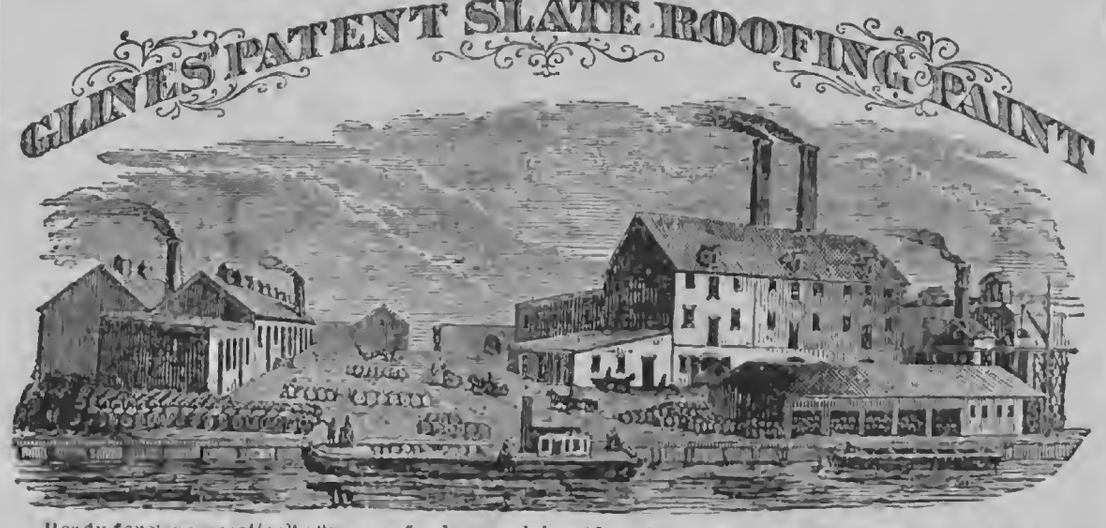
A CITIZEN of Leavenworth going to his barn to milk in the dark of the early morning, got into the wrong pen and undertook to milk a mule. He don't remember which side of the barn he went out at, but expects his bucket down in a few days.

CATS, foxes and weasels have always enjoyed the reputation of being remarkably sly, and they no doubt deserve it; but nothing can surpass the slyness with which a woman, surprised by an unexpected caller, will slip a set of false teeth into her mouth.

EDWIN (as the servant is present); Ah—j'ettay, see—ah—dissappointintay deme pas voo vwore a la riuk ce mattang; poor qwaw esker? Angelina. Ah, wee mais momong. Parlor Maid: Hem! beg your pardon, miss but I understand the langvidge.

"WHAT beats a good cup of coffee?" said Mrs. Spilkins to her husband the other morning at the brekfast table. He gave it up. "Two cups of coffee," said she. "What beats a good wife?" queried Spilkins. She gave it up. "Two good wives," said Spilkins, and then she got mad and sulked, nobody knows why.

A MEW-SICKAL SARAH-NADE,
With a Somewhat Affecting Involuntary on the Catarrh!



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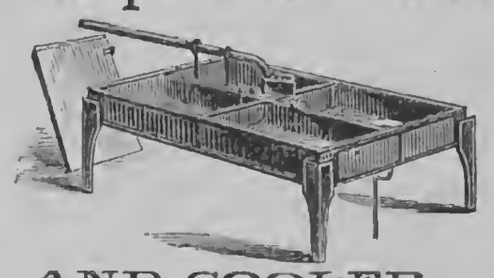

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Industrial Topics.

MAKING OF MAPLE SUGAR.

THE illustration which occupies this page gives a vivid description of the modes and manners accompanying the making of maple sugar in large quantities, which are now rarely seen in many portions of the country. Even in the new territories where maple trees are pleutiful sugar making is not nearly so general as it was in pioneer communities fifty years ago. Then large and thriving settlements depended upon home manufactures for the usual supply of sweets, and, with few of the modern conveniences, life in the sugar bush was far more disagreeable than now. No doubt the proportion of maple sugar is not so large as formerly; but it is still an important industry in many thrifty communities, and we believe can be made profitable wherever groves of maple trees are found. There is a peculiar flavor to maple sweet which is decidedly superior to that of any other—at least in our opinion. It is very probable that as maple orchards become scarce the price of maple sirup and sugar will rise high enough to make the land worth more covered with maple trees than it would be with anything else. In fact, hundreds of acres of rough land might be profitably planted to maples with the certainty that the next generation would find them highly profitable.

Our illustration, telling the story of sugar making in its various processes, is so perfect a reproduction of similar scenes often witnessed

SEASONABLE SCENES IN THE SUGAR ORCHARD.

in the sugar bush that it needs no further descriptive comment.

TIMELY HINTS FOR SUGAR MAKING.

A WRITER in the New England Farmer makes some timely and practical suggestions on the manufacture of maple sugar. Believing that wherever maple trees abound it will pay farmers to make their own sweets, we copy:

Wait till the season fairly begins. If you tap too early, the wood is dried by freezing, and the sap will not run as well afterwards. On account of their location, some sugar orchards will run earlier than others. If you tap later, the aggregate product of sugar may not be diminished. But get all things ready, and when the right time comes—go! Tap with a one-half or three-fourths inch bit and bore one and a-half inches some say less, where the wood is sound, and on the side where the sun will reach it the most of the day. Gather the sap every day it runs, so that at night there may be but little or none left in the buckets. Strain the sap and boil rapidly and make into sugar as soon as possible. Keep the sap clean while boiling, and strain the sirup through a woolen strainer, or let it stand a few hours and settle. Use no eggs or milk in cleansing. When the syrup will grain by stirring, remove from the fire and stir till it cools. If the sugar is too soft, it will not keep as well, and will drain considerably.

In conclusion, I will only say, all the utensils used must be thoroughly clean and free from the taints of previous years. The sap must be promptly gathered and converted into sugar, if a superior article is expected or desired. Maple sugar is often dark-colored and waxy, this is owing to the use of old, tainted, wooden buckets and delay in its manufacture. Sap changes rapidly, and requires rapid conversion into sugar, or its delicate color and flavor will be lost. Other causes sometimes affect the quality of sugar. Some soils are not favorable. The ravages of worms the previous year, the presence of rain water and snow in the sap, all these detract from the qualities desired.

Farm Economy.

ABOUT UNDERDRAINING.

CAN you or some of your numerous readers inform me through the RURAL, how to construct an underdrain? I am at a loss how to do it. I have French on farm draining, but see nothing to answer my purpose. The water descends from across the road on to my land. It will require about 2 five-inch tile to carry the water; the difficulty with me is how to let the water into the drain and keep the sediment out, there not being much fall. I have open ditches, but every year they require cleaning out. Also if it could not be constructed of timber and how, as large tile would have to be shipped here. What underdraining I have done has paid me well. One constructed nine years ago paid expenses in two years.—A. W. H.

If our correspondent had not had some experience in underdraining we should guess that he was certainly mistaken in the amount of water to be carried off. The two five-inch tile we suppose are only needed during very wet weather in spring and fall; but even then this is probably a larger drain than will be needed, as it would give fifty square inches of water—enough, if running in an open channel, to seem like a young river. One five-inch tile will carry off nearly twice as much water as a four-inch and three times as much as a three-inch. In a large tile there is less friction against the sides of the tile. We have often seen a three-inch tile spouting out water apparently much larger volume than could be got in a pipe 4 x 4 inch or even 5 x 5 inch. With such a volume of water a very light fall, if continuous, will remove all sediment from the bottom of the pipe. Be very careful in laying the tile, using a 12-foot board, straight edged on both sides, with level fitted into it. This will at once show any inequality in the bottom of the ditch. If one tile, or one end of a tile, sinks down half its hight, the sediment will lodge at that depth and the effectiveness of the ditch be thus impaired. If the ground is soft, with occasional pockets of quicksand, it will pay to lay the tile on a board, and where very level the boards planed a little at the end and overlapping each other. A three or four-inch tile laid thus will often carry off more water than a much larger drain as commonly laid.

We do not advise board drains. A board laid under tile, filled with running water and always wet, will last much longer than boards used for drains and alternately wet and dry. Possibly our friend may find that one four-inch pipe will convey all the water that now runs through his large open ditch. We have known such cases. To prevent the sediment running in at the end a wire gate may be placed over the mouth, and the opening to the surface of the ground be filled with small stones and gravel. It will do no great harm if in very severe freshets the water ponds back above the top of the drain for several days or one or two weeks. If he is careful not to leave the ground naked during the winter it will do no hurt to have some of the surplus water run over the surface in a small furrow made a little one side of the underdrain so as not to break through. We should advise this, unless there are special reasons otherwise rather than go to the great expense of having a drain made of two five-inch pipe. It is rare that so large an underdrain is advisable on ordinary farming land, though it may be in gardening or where back water floods houses and cellars. We are glad to know that our correspondent finds underdraining profitable, and don't want to have him discouraged by undertaking too expensive a job.

If the line of his proposed drain is dry during any part of the season he can save a great deal of digging by plowing out deep furrows and using some of the various subsoilers to loosen the dirt before it is thrown out. One of the best implements of this kind is simply a sharp point attached to a beam, like an ordinary plow, and with two horses and wide evener, so as to allow them to straddle the ditch, one man and team will do the labor of ten men or more with spade and pickax. We have reduced the cost of digging the ditch fully one-half where we had long, straight lines of ditch to dig. The ditch can be filled by team and plow, and the land leveled off in much the same manner. Ditching is, at best, an expensive undertaking; but on all soils that need it, nothing pays better. It is, therefore, doing the farming public a service to publish any means by which underdraining may be more economically accomplished.

LIVING TREES FOR FENCE.

I DESIRE to call the attention of farmers to a kind of road fencing which I think will prove substantial and not very expensive. This plan requires, first That the roads shall be planted on either side with lines of trees, twenty feet apart in the row. When the trees have attained the size of five or six inches in diameter at the base, they may be used as supports for wire fences. Sugar maple, elm, oak, black walnut and hardy evergreens are adapted to this purpose. The common cedar transplanted from the swamp, grows vigorously on high ground. The plan for building this fence is by fastening oak scantling two inches square by four in length to the trees with coach bolts. Two and one-half inch bolts five inches long go loosely through the timber and screw firmly two inches into the tree, leaving an inch space between the tree and the timber. The bolts can be turned out as the growth of the tree requires. The holes in the trees should be seared with a hot iron and swabbed with wax.

Six strands of No. 6 wire are used which pass in holes eight inches apart and of sufficient size, to allow the wires to run freely through the timber. In like manner the wires go through 1½ inch square oak pickets placed four feet apart between the trees. The top and bottom wires are wedged in the pickets to keep them in place. In sections of twenty-five rods, posts are set and firmly braced, to which the ends of the wires fasten. Each wire is provided with a stretcher by which the tension is regulated. The stretchers are made of ⅝ inch round iron, one foot long with eye at one end to hold the wire and thread cut six inches on the other which goes through the post with handle nut. The tension of the wires should be slackened during winter to allow for contraction by frost. The size of wire, number of strands, and closeness of pickets, should be graded to meet the demands of the fence. One of the advantages of this kind of fence is exemption from snowdrifts, while the trees are a thing of beauty and constantly increasing value.

A fence on our place very nearly answering to this description supported on maple trees of 12 or 14 years planting has answered so good a purpose the past season that we can recommend it for trial to others. Farmers plant your trees. Mark this Centennial year by millions of trees planted along the public highways. An average of 10 days judiciously employed by each farmer in the country, in planting highway trees cannot fail to prove a satisfactory investment of time. Plant with care and mulch thoroughly, these are important conditions of success.—J. O.

WIRE fences have not generally proven successful in fields constantly pastured. The plan above sketched seems to be well adapted to roadside fences and is well worthy of the consideration of farmers.

SEEDING CLOVER FOR FALL PLOWING.

A SUBSCRIBER to the RURAL NEW-YORKER asks us whether we would advise sowing clover seed on a piece of wheat which he intends to plow up and re-sow in the fall. The soil is rich and the wheat has a good growth and promises a large yield. The field was a clover ley and a fine growth of clover was plowed under last summer. Our friend's idea is that by sowing clover seed early sufficient growth might be obtained to pay for the seed. In this we think he is mistaken. Clover the first year does not amount to much, and the roots, which are the most important portion, are very small. If plowed for wheat it should be turned under as soon as the grain is harvested, and this would leave less time for it to grow. Besides, if the wheat proves a good crop it will keep the clover down until harvest. In all probability much of the clover seed sown will be smothered by the luxuriant wheat crop, and you will have a better chance for getting a good catch of clover to wait till next year before seeding. Clover seed is likely to be dear this spring, and it is hardly worth while to sow it except where there is a good chance for a catch. For some reason wheat after a fallow crop—wheat, oats, barley corn or potatoes—secures a better seeding of clover than wheat after a clover ley. Hence on rich soil we should not hesitate, if other circumstances made it advisable, to sow two crops of wheat in succession. Reserve the cost of the clover seed now and use it in the fall to drill in some superphosphate with the grain and it will give much better results than what little clover you could have to turn under after harvest. It will probably cost now two dollars or more to seed an acre with clover seed, and this would apply nearly 100 cwt. of superphosphate to the grain, drilling it in evenly with the seed. The chances are that this would give a greater weight of concentrated fertilizer than the entire amount of clover that could be scraped from the soil in August, including roots, stems and leaves.

There is nothing magical about clover as manure. Its chief value is in loosening and aerating the subsoil, and this it hardly begins to do until the second year of its growth, and only accomplishes perfectly when it is allowed to grow without disturbance till it has blossomed twice—once for hay in June and again for seed in September. The small amount which will grow in one season is hardly worth considering while clover seed is as dear as it is this year.

Field Crops.

VEGETABLES CULTIVATED BY INDIANS.

THE question as to what vegetables were cultivated by the original inhabitants of this country can hardly fail to be of interest to their successors—the American farmers of to day. Probably the agriculture of the Indians was of a very primitive character, but maize (Indian corn,) pumpkin, squash, and tobacco and beans, seem well established. The mixture of green corn and beans in the Indian dish, called succotash, will probably always retain its primitive name and be a memorial of the aborigines long after they have passed away. In the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club we find a letter from Dr. J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL of Hartford, Conn., giving some very interesting facts about the aboriginal agriculture which may be new to many readers. We copy as follows:

I could never discover where the doubt came in, as to the American origin of several well-known varieties of (to quote old Parkinson) "these Gourds, or Millions as some call them, or Pompions as I may call them."

First, for the northern varieties of "Squash." In the last edition of Webster's Dictionary, I gave briefly the origin and meaning of the name, and more fully in a note to my edition of Roger Wilham's "Key," p. 125. It is unquestionably of Algonkin origin. The root, *asq*, denotes something immature or not complete: hence, it takes the two-fold meaning, raw (i. e. not cooked) and green (not ripe). It became the generic name of fruits and vegetables which might be eaten green or raw, and particularly of Cucurbits. The Indian plural of *asq*, in the Massachusetts dialect, is *asquash*.

Wood, in "New England's Prospect," published in 1634, says, that "in summer when the corne is spent, *Isquouter squashes* is their best bread, a fruit like a young Pumpion."

Roger Williams (l. c.) wrote in 1643: "*Askutasquash*, their vine apples, which the English from them call 'Squashes,' about the bignesse of apples, of several colours, a sweet, light, wholesome, refreshing.

Eliot, in translating the Bible, puts *askootasq*, plural *askootasquash*, for "cucumbers," in Numbers xi., 5; *quonoosq* (literally, long-asq) for "gourd;" *monaskootasquash*, for "melons," etc.

Josselyn (N. E. Rarities, 57) says: "*Squashes* but more truly *squonkersquashes*, a kind of melon, or rather gourd; for they often degenerate into gourds. . . . . The yellow squash, called an apple squash (because like an apple) and about the bigness of a pome-water, is the best kind."

In England, the name 'squash' was understood to be of American origin. Robert Boyle mentions his experiment with the seed of "squash, which is an Indian kind of pompion that grows apace." (Works, i. 494.) But the name is not found, for any Cucurbit (or for any other fruit), in the earlier English herbalists—before 1650. It is used by Shakespeare for an immature pea-pod—perhaps so called because of its emptiness, (i. e. easy to be crushed, or, as we sometimes hear in the vulgar dialect of New England, to be *squashed*.

Going South we find, still earlier, two Virginia Cucurbits, with Indian names adopted by the English, and still in use: the *Macock* and the *Cushaw* (corrupted to "Kershaw.") Clusius (Exotic l. ii., c. 2) describes the "*Macocquer Virginiensium forte*," from the specimen sent him from London in 1591, which James Garet brought from "*Wingandecoor* Provincia, quam Angli *Virginiam* nuncuparunt." This specimen was hard shelled, orbiculate, about four inches diameter, the seeds flat and heart shaped. In the edition of 1605, he mentions the receipt of another specimen, which young John de Laet bought of a sailor at Amsterdam. Of the former he says, "As it is reported to have come from Virginia, I readily persuade myself that it is the same which the natives of that country call *Macocqueer*," etc.

Strachey, in his "Historie of Travaile into Virginia," 1610-12, describes this species: "The *macokos* is of the form of our pumpeons—I must confesse, nothing so good—'tis of a more waterish tast." "The inhabitants," he adds, "seethe a kind of *million*, which they put into their walnut-milke, and so make a kynd of toothsome meat." [This was, evidently, the rudimentary pumpkin pie.] In the Indian vocabulary appended to Strachey's book, he gives: "*mahcuq*, a pumpeon."

Beverley (Hist. of Virginia, 124) describes the *Macocks* as "a sort of a Melopeponc, or lesser sort of Pompion or Cashaw . . . . *Squash*, or *Squonker-Squash*, is their name among the northern (i. e. New England) Indians." . . . These are summer squashes, "never eaten after they are ripe."

"The Virginian Macock or Pompion, *Macocks* Virginiani, sive Pepo Virginianus, is described in Johnson's Gerarde (1636) p. 919; and on p. 920, he figures "The small round Indian Pompion" and "The cornered Indian Pompion." The latter, from the figure, may be our common scallop squash. On page 921 he describes the Virginian Water-melon, "melones aquatici cujusdam" from a specimen brought Oct. 10, 1621, by John Goodyer. The other species, he says, "are common in England," but the last described (the Water-melon) "is as yet a stranger."

The Virginian Cushaw (now "sometimes spelt Kershaw," according to Bartlett, who notes it as a "Western" name) was, I think, our old-fashioned winter Crook-neck. In Hariot's Virginia, the name is given as *Ecushaw*, which is probably the Virginian equivalent of the northern *asqua* and *asquash*, and of the modern Chippeway name of a squash or pumpkin; *agrissimun*. "These *Cushaws*," says Beverly (p. 124) "are a kind of Pumpion, of a bluish green color, streaked with white when they are fit for use. They are larger than the Pompions, and have a long, narrow neck." "The *Cushaws* and Pompions they lay by, which will keep several months good, after they are gathered." (p. 152.)

None of the North America species is described or named by Dodoens or his translator, Lyte, in 1578, nor in the excellent old Herbal of Jerome Bock (Hieron. Tragus), but the latter, in the edition of 1552 (pp. 831-836) describing the "Cucumis seu *Zucco* marinus," under *Indianisch* Oepffel," mentions it as one of the many species of foreign plants introduced, within the past few years, to Germany from distant countries. He distinguishes four sorts of "*Mala Indica*, Indianisch Oepffel" Crocea, Lutea, Citrina, and Nigra. "The *Zucco morosa*, as they are commonly called, because they first came ex *ultramarinus regionibus*, some from Syria and some from India, as their popular names testify, *Zucco de Syria* and *Zucco de Peru*," etc.

But I will not meddle with the Peruvian or the Mexican species. As regards North American varieties, the evidence seems conclusive. Three varieties at least still bear Indian names, which date from the first coming of Europeans, and of these varieties we have no mention before they were found in North America.

TOBACCO FARMING A FAILURE.

THE losses of farmers in the Connecticut Valley within the past few years from low prices of tobacco and partial failure of crops, have put this branch of farming under a cloud. Mr. H. C. HASKELL, in a recent essay published in the N. E. Homestead draws this graphic picture of the effect on the farmers of Connecticut.

A few years ago, tobacco was bringing twenty-five or thirty cents, and sometimes more, then every body went into the raising of that article. Every old building was filled, new Barns went up on every hand. The weed was raised upon all kinds of soils and in all situations.

What has been the result? The prestige of the Connecticut Valley seed leaf has been almost ruined. You have raised crops of every color, fitness and quality; perchance upon the same farm, and when stripped they were all packed together, thus ruining the reputation of the grower, when it might have been different, if each lot had been seperate.

What is the prospect for tobacco in the future? I must say it looks dark: the present crop is now selling at about the cost of production, in many cases less; the crops of 1873 and 1874 are selling at far less than the cost of production. What does it cost to raise an acre of tobacco? I cannot figure it less than about $140, and I doubt if the crop of the valley, averages 1400 lbs. per acre, so that I think it a positive loss to raise it, for less than ten cents per pound. At those figures per acre, a larger production can be raised for less, while a smaller costs more. Many farmers say that they cannot raise it, at even twelve cents per lb.

My advice would be, if you have land suitable and buildings fitted for the crop, to continue to raise what you can manure and tend, and do it and no more. It is a long road that never curves. It has turned once, and it will again, it may never pay as well as in the past, but still be a paying crop.

The Swine-Herd.

CAUSE AND CURE OF HOG CHOLERA.

Probably the direct losses of American farmers have been greater in hogs the past two or three years than in any other kind of stock or in any farm crop. A correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette discourses on the origin of hog diseases generally, and gives a remedy which he has found effective:

Among some of the causes which produce cholera may be mentioned extreme and sudden changes: long hot and dry weather, as in the year 1871: long dry and cold, as in the winter of 1874 and 1875, followed by the unprecedented rains which fell during the summer of 1875. These rains caused an extremely rapid growth of grass making it "washy," itcontrilions, and defective in the qualities calculated to excite the secretions; and producing billiary derangements and congestion in an already over-taxed liver that had suffered from an unparalleled long, cold winter, forcing the blood from the surface, unequalizing the circulation and centering an undue amount to the internal viscera of the hog.

Another cause is found in hogs occupying one field or pen from year to year, without cleansing or plowing under the accumulated filth, having the hog constantly "rung," denying him a taste or smell of fresh earth, or the use of an instinct that teaches him in bilious derangements to search for bugs, worms, or vegetable roots, the natural excitants of stomach, liver and bowels. Another cause is scanty feeding, muddy, stagnant, and filthy water, obliging them to allay their thirst often from the draining of their own discharges.

When the disease first made its appearance a few years ago, it was characterized by many symptoms resembling cholera in the human being, even watery discharges, emaciation, and rapid waste. Its most usual form now is loss of vitality, emaciation, and drying up, with occasional paralyzes or an entire suspension of secretions; no discharges; with an inflammatory state of the liver, sympathetically affecting head, throat, and lungs.

The health of the hog is much dependent on a healthy state of the liver, as that organ mainly governs the secretory system. But, at the same time, it does not render it proof against the introduction of poisons; for cholera may be contracted through the lungs or stomach. While some lots have suffered much from a combination of the causes which we have enumerated, rendering them highly susceptible to infection, others that have been treated in accordance to the instincts of their natures are almost proof against diseases.

One of my neighbors had two fine lots in separate fields some distance apart, composed of older and younger hogs. Out of the older lot he had already lost eighteen head in two months. On one occasion I went with the hand employed to feed the younger lot, and, on seeing a pig among the more thrifty ones poor and sickly, I asked the young man why he did not remove it, for I thought it had the cholera. He said that it had been sick about three weeks, and that he had spoken to the owner about it. But the owner had answered him by saying "let it alone; what will die, will die, at any rate." His hogs did contract the disease from that one, and he lost many, when five-minutes' time would have saved him grief and money.

PREVENTIVE AND REMEDY.

One pound madder, 1 lb. sulphur, 1 lb. resin, 1 lb. saltpeter, 1 lb. black antimony, 3 ozs. assafetida. Pulverize and mix well; feed 3 tablespoonfuls to five hogs three times per week in a little salt, more bran and ashes. Commence feeding before the cholera gets into your neighborhood, and continue until it ceases from the same; and if, during the time and before your hogs are properly medicated, one should take the disease, immediately remove it to a dry pen. Give 1 tablespoonful of this mixture in 1 gallon of water or table slops once per day; and in order to make the cure doubly sure, take ½ pint soft soap, 1 tablespoonful pine tar, 1 do. of lard; warm and mix well, and drench the hog; and my word for it, it will cure ninety-nine out of the hundred.

If you will treat the first one or two in this manner, the disease will spread no further. And you must remember that as fast as the disease spreads, or in a ratio to the number infected, its malignancy increases, until it will almost defy control. If the season should be wet, keep your hogs on short timothy pasture; if dry, on the best growth clover you have, and these are valuable helps. Sweet milk alone is said also to be good.

BERKSHIRE SWINE.

S. A. Knapp, an Iowa swine breeder, thus states his very high opinion of the Berkshires:

"The Berkshire hogs are superior to all others for the following reasons:

"1st. They possess greater vitality, and hence are less liable to disease.

"2d. They are more prolific. Mature sows seldom raise less than eight or nine pigs.

"3. Being strictly a thoroughbred hog, the pigs are uniform—all choice.

"4th. Their flesh is firmer than that of any other hog. They furnish superior ham, shoulder and bacon. They bring a higher price for the English market."

Soap for Hogs.—The exemption of hogs fed from the slops of hotels and private families from attacks of cholera is attributed to the fact that such slops contain a considerable amount of soapy water. The effect of potash is to cleanse the hog's intestines of worms, making them more vigorous and healthy, and a little soap fed with corn is therefore recommended both for economy and as a safeguard against disease.

Dairy Husbandry.

TIMELY ADVICE TO DAIRYMEN.

Mr. Robert McAdam, a distinguished Cheddar dairyman who learned this process of cheese making from Mr. Harding of Markbury (Eng.) and who has for several years been the manager of a factory near Lee Center, Oneida Co., made some valuable remarks at the late Convention at Rome, which deserve a more extended report than has been given them. Mr. McAdam practiced cheese making in Scotland 15 years, and then went into Somersetshire to learn the Cheddar method. He practiced this method for a number of years in Cheshire, and coming to this country several years ago, has been following the business in this country, being the owner and manager of the factory near Lee Center referred to. His views are therefore entitled to careful consideration, since from his experience and observation as a cheese buyer and manufacturer both in Great Britain and in this country he is abundantly competent to judge of the faults of our dairy system.

He very aptly points to the characteristic traits of Americans in running after new theories—many of them without foundation—in the hope of remedying the faults in our cheese, while the plain common sense requisites are constantly overlooked. Thus he says, in referring to the difference between our factory cheese and the fine cheese of England, which sells there for 30@40s. sterling more than ours, as follows:

HOW ENGLISH AND AMERICAN MILK DIFFERS.

The fine cheese of England are made from milk which has been produced from healthy cows fed on good herbage, the milk having been properly cared for in every respect with the most scrupulous cleanliness. But here in America, under the factory system, care and cleanliness about milk is often a lost art—or rather, an art that has never been acquired by many cheese factory patrons.

Many will say, The cheese maker ought to see to all these conditions; but the thing is impossible. Can he inspect every night and morning the milking pails, milk cans and milkers' hands; or can he see that no green or gargeted milk is sent to the factory, or see whether the cows were hurried home with a dog, blown and sweltering with heat, or can he see how many cows were left unmilked over night and their half-putrid messes sent to the factory in the morning to operate like yrast on the well kept messes of careful patrons; or can the cheese maker prevent patrons from detaining their milk at home after milking is finished, or from lingering to gossip on the way and then racing to the factory with the hot milk closed up in the cans, advancing rapidly toward putrefaction?

Another very injurious practice is mixing the morning and evening messes of milk, thereby promoting very pernicious effects and depriving the maker, in a great measure, of his power to discover fraud. These are causes which the cheese maker cannot control, and it is these which baffle the skill and frustrate the efforts of the most competent manufacturers, and those are the greatest causes of inferior cheese. But besides, the cheese maker has a continued war to wage against slovenliness. He may even furnish the patrons with strainers and aerators to cool the milk, but cannot get them into use; for in the factory strainer are found leaves, seeds, hairs, feathers, scabs, clots of blood, cow manure, flies, bugs, beetles, spiders, worms, snails, and lizards, which speak volumes in regard to the care and cleanliness of cheese factory patrons. It surprises belief to narrate the ignorance and carelessness manifested by many patrons about this, their most valuable product; and it is evident many have only one concern about their milk, and that is—*that it should weigh well.*

Mr. McAdam makes rather a bad case against patrons; and although great carelessness and slovenliness often prevails, it is to be hoped the cases to which he refers are exceptions.

BREAKING AND HEATING THE CURDS.

On the above points Mr. McA. gives some useful hints. He says: "The act of cutting and breaking up the curd after coagulation, ought to be performed very gently and carefully, and the succeeding warming up still more so.

One great cause of cheese getting off flavor, arises from rapid and incautious heating up. By this a portion of the butter becomes liberated from the caseine and forms an oil which pervades the whole mass of curd, and as it (the oil) does not take salt to cure it, as the curd does, it quickly becomes rancid and induces putrefactive decay. Another source of evil is the cream which rises. This should either be carefully skimmed off and passed through the strainer with the warm milk or gently heated up to 98 deg. Fahr. and completely mixed again with milk before the rennet is added.

Another error is putting the curd into press at too high a temperature. This assists early curing, but also promotes early decay. And keeping the cheese at a high temperature whilst curing, also tends to impair their keeping qualities.

A WORD ON INCOMPETENT CHEESE MAKERS.

Of late the practice of employing raw and incompetent cheese makers at the factories has been gaining ground, the reason being that such hands can be employed more cheaply than experienced and competent persons. Mr. McA., in touching this point, says the want of keeping qualities of American cheese is now the greatest drawback in the English markets. But as the proper development of acid wipes out the old porousness of American cheese and gives the desired solidity, so the proper condition of the milk and the skillful handling of it may yet give the desired pure and permanent flavor. To a cheese buyer who weekly examines a great many factories, it is evident that there are many makers who are quite incompetent to manage a cheese factory. Indeed, many of them have no proper idea of what cleanliness is, and it is often disgusting to look upon the slovenliness and filth surrounding both milk and cheese. Swarms of flies enticed by the foulness, infest the cheese and numbers of them, dead and drowning, are floating in the cheese vats during the heating process. And it is no unusual thing to find the cheese maker equally untidy in his own person, with a black pipe in his mouth and a rake (*miserable tool*) in his hand, warming up a vat of curd, his mind evidently more engrossed with the going of his pipe than with care of the precious contents committed to his care. Such persons are no more fitted for the place they fill than for the office of Chief Justice of the United States; and cheese factory patrons neglect their own interest when they do not make certain that careful and competent persons are to manage their factories. Many fancy that a few months working in a factory is sufficient to acquire all the knowledge that is necessary. Such an idea is simply a delusion. It would be infinitely better for any beginner to work in a first-class factory for a season or two for nothing more than instructions rather than undertake the responsibility without a complete knowledge of it.

THE BEST FACTORIES AS SCHOOLS.

Mr. McAdam thinks the best factories ought to become schools of instruction, and he advises cheese makers to look for the causes of their troubles which he has indicated and throw *mere theories* to the wind. He evidently has not much faith in certain expounders of dairy lore, who are ever ready, when present at the Dairy Conventions, to take the stand and answer all questions from imaginary premises rather than from those found true in practice, and he cautions dairymen not to be diverted from seeking the real by imaginary evils.

UNSOUND THEORIES.

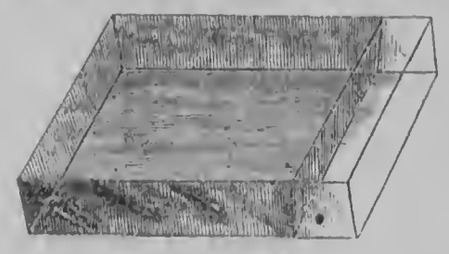
Referring to some of the foolish theories afloat and which have been promulgated by men assuming to be scientists, he says floating curds are absolutely unknown in Cheshire, and during 11 years' practice there as a cheese maker and 15 years' practice in American cheese factories, he is convinced that causes which operate to produce certain effects in England will produce like effects in America under similar circumstances. Science he thinks, up to this time, has done little or nothing to aid practical cheese making. We must look for help in the experience and practice of those who attain the best results, and if the worst class of cheese now made could be elevated to equal the best, the best would undoubtedly advance nearer the standard of fine English, and it is by still copying the Somersetshire or Cheddar modes of practice and keeping our milk perfectly good and pure that we can hope to attain that degree of excellence in our cheese which will entitle it to be classed among the luxuries of life.

These suggestions, which we have selected and condensed from his paper kindly furnished by him to us, are worthy the serious consideration of our dairymen who are about to commence another year's operations.

MANNER IN WHICH CREAM RISES.

The following result of experiments as detailed by our esteemed correspondent, will be of interest to butter makers. It is the first description we have seen in regard to the appearance of the cream in rising. The apparatus employed for observing this process is an original idea with Mr. F., and will be found valuable to others for conducting like investigations. We are glad our remarks in the "Butter Book" are calling out experiments:

Hon. X. A. Willard:—When I, not long since, reported to you the trials suggested to me by your remarks in the "Practical Butter Book" regarding the Swedish system of setting milk, I was so deeply impressed with the rapidity the cream raised when set in water at a temperature under 37 deg. Fahr. as compared with that set at 50 deg. Fahr. and over, that I began to question



GLASS MILK COOLER.

whether this rapid rising of cream was beneficial and to consider whether I could in a crude way discover how the fatty parts of milk act in their efforts to separate themselves from the component parts of milk in seeking their natural gravity.

Since my experience proves to me that rapid rising of cream shows to the eye a larger percentage at the termination of the rising process than a longer setting, evidences, the object of this investigation has been to ascertain the *manner* of this rising of cream from milk and, if possible, incite the assistance of those better qualified than myself to determine—First, Does the cream under the method of this rapid rising, by its subsequent contraction return to the milk any ingredient that would assist in improving the quality or weight of the cheese made from the milk devoid of cream? and Second, Does it by its contraction dispose of material such as caseine—that tends to injure butter? We all know that cream raised from fresh milk by any method, contracts to a greater or less extent, but under this Swedish system the contraction is in excess of all other methods I have investigated, while the rapidity of extracting the cream from the milk, is far beyond any plan I have practically used or experimented with a great desideratum when the object sought after is to secure all the cream for butter and insure a sweet milk for cheese.

The cooler used for the purpose of seeing how cream was driven to the top of milk when surrounded by ice water, was made of glass, consisting of two separate pieces: one vessel was 12x2x8, being the outside vessel, and to hold the water; the other, or inner vessel for the milk, was 10x1x8, and I give you drawing of outside case. By using a strong light, placed on opposite side to the eye, the action of the cream could, after it began to fully separate itself from the milk, be distinctly seen. I tried two specimens—one quart each—of milk from same cow. No. 2 was left 12 hours after milking before being put in the tester, but well stirred up in order to ascertain if cream once separated and then jolted over a road to a factory, would again rise to the surface as freely as fresh milk. Temperature of room in each case was 62 deg. Fahr., and water 35 to 37 deg. Fahr. No. 1 was set shortly after being drawn from cow and stood at 80 deg. In 2½ hours all the cream had risen, being 12-54ths in quantity. There was but one action noticeable in the milk, and that was the globules of cream rising upward without any counter action apparent to the eye assisted with the magnifying glass. At the end of six hours the cream had contracted to 11-54ths of the body of milk, and at the end of 12 hours to 9-54ths of the whole. No. 2 stood at 62 when put in the tester. At the end of 2½ hours the largest portion of cream had risen; still, small particles could be seen making their way to the top for five hours after setting, but all the while decreasing in size. The appearance of particles of cream in No. 2 was ragged and unlike No. 1 which, as I before stated, was globular in form. But there was no contraction in cream of No. 2 which, however, at no time showed over 6-54ths of cream.

This is the result of experiments as I have made, and while I am compelled against my heretofore educated notions to concede the palm to the Swedish system for rapidity of raising all the cream from milk, I would be pleased to have some one explain why it, the cream, contracts so rapidly and extensively—in other words, answer the two questions I advance. With your permission, I propose to test other points suggested in the "Practical Butter Book," and remain,

Sherburne, N. Y. HENRY O. FREEMAN.

If a new milch cow drops off in her mess of milk, no after feeding will entirely regain it.

Around the Republic.

"DOWN SOUTH."

Diary and Notes of an Ex-Editor Seeking Health.

BY CHARLES D. BRAGDON.

Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 5.—Strawberries in market—Wilson's; only colored, not ripe; $1 per quart. Grown 40 to 100 miles up the river.

"Strawberries are never cheap here; they bring too much North, and there are not enough growers in proportion to the consumers." So said an old resident to me today.

In December I saw, a couple of miles down the river, strawberry vines in bloom. Since that time, however, there has been frost enough here to destroy that promise of a crop. Yes, they were growing in this white sand, which is the prevailing feature of this city and neighborhood; but there was a mixture of "muck" from the swamp in it.

One day I was riding around Jacksonville with a gentleman who has lived hereabouts thirty years. As we drove through the best built portion of the city, he said, "I can remember when all this was hammock."

"This, then, is hammock land?" I asked.

"Yes."

Be it known—it is generally known by any one who has lived in Florida a week—that the lands of Florida are divided into two grand divisions, known, superficially, as "Hammock" and "Pine" lands. When a man talks to us about "Pine" lands we understand him; but a raw Northerner, like myself, does not master the "Hammock" so readily. I left my "Unabridged" at the RURAL office and never carry a pocket dictionary; hence I had to expose my ignorance and ask, "What are 'Hammock' lands? What distinguishes them from "Pine' lands?"

"Why, they are the lands upon which hardwood timber grows—such as the Oaks, Ash, Maple, etc."

I have asked the same question many times since, and the result is that "Hammock" lands are those upon which there is a growth of deciduous timber, as well as the hard-wood Evergreens. Why they are called "Hammock" lands I have been unable to learn. There may be, of course, as many varieties of soil included in these "Hammock" lands as there are in our hard-wood lands North. They are esteemed more highly than the "Pine"—especially for Orange culture.

One gentleman from a Northern State, who had traveled through Florida considerably, listening to the above conversation, said, "There may be a difference in the productive power of 'Hammock' and 'Pine' soils, but I don't see why there should be—the whole State is a sandbank, any way."

The impression made upon most travelers who see superficially only is like that of the above gentleman. But here is my neighbor the Alderman, who has a farm, only three-fourths of a mile from this city, of deep, white sand, and who talks to me of a stiff clay soil with iron in it which he "plows up in lumps." I accept the clay, but not the iron.

One thing is never refused here by any man who owns land that he cultivates—that is, manure. "Can't get along without a right smart lot of manure on our lands," said the Alderman. "But guano is bad; them as has tried it didn't find it profitable." I should think not, indeed!

An item for owners of Northern sheep pastures: The Alderman owns the "villa" in which I reside. It adjoins his own residence and is a part of the homestead lot. The other morning he planted a couple of rows of fig trees between the house and the front fence. I noticed he planted one of them out of line to avoid disturbing a big Mullein, which is one of four growing in our front yard—precisely the same thing as those yellow-flowered sentinels of our Northern pastures. I said, "Alderman, what plants are those which you seem to cultivate with so much care?"

"Them, sir, are Mulleins—a very useful plant indeed, sir. We think a great deal of them, sir."

"What are they good for?"

"We use them for bathing, sir."

"Bathing?—how for bathing?"

"Why, sir, we takes the leaves and steeps them in hot water, and uses the steep to wash any sore, wound, bruise, or swelling. It is very soothin' and healin'. We wouldn't know how to do without it."

"But don't these plants grow wild here?—are they not common?"

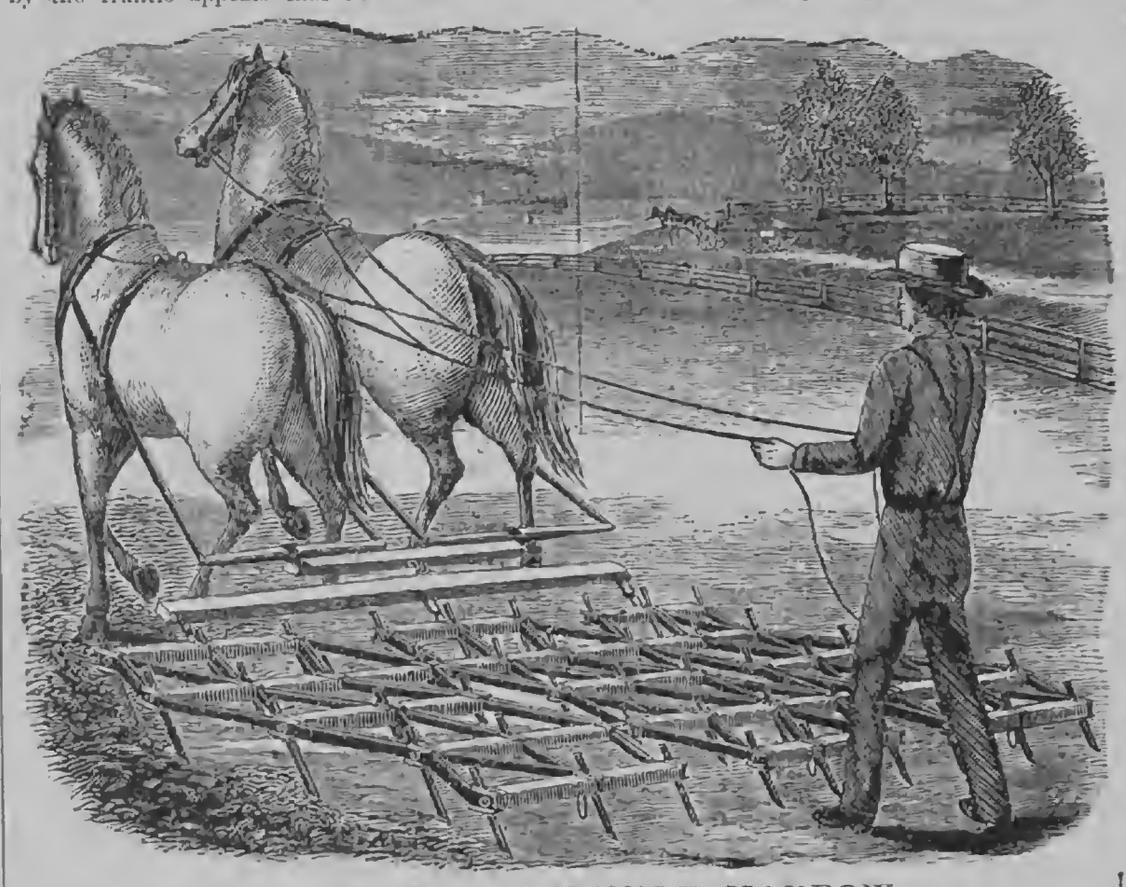
"No, sir; the seed was brought here, and I never saw any here except such as was cultivated."

[In explanation of the Alderman's grammar, etc., I may say he is an intelligent and sensible colored gentleman, who does not put on airs, and who attends strictly to his own business.]

Feb. 10.—The Duval Co. Ag. Society has been making strenuous exertions to prepare the grounds, buildings and fixtures for the holding of the State Fair here, which is to commence Feb. 22. It has been a hard struggle, judging by the frantic appeals that have been made through the papers. If the papers tell the truth, Florida, outside of Jacksonville, is wide awake to the importance of making a grand exhibit of its industrial resources here. The fact is, it is to be a scraping together of the best exhibit the owners of land grants, real estate dealers and land speculators, together with the legitimate fruit growers and farmers, can make. That is what I, with other Northern men, expect, primarily; and if it don't prove so, we shall be very likely to think it a failure; for that is just what we are going to this Fair to see; and you shall hear whether we are disappointed or not.

Don't believe as much Northern money has been spent here this as some previous seasons. The proportion of pleasure-seekers and those who come here simply to escape cold weather and kill time is not as great, I am told, as hitherto. There are more invalids; and these latter are not always rich, as they used to be here.

Feb. 14.—It is really settled spring weather. Peaches and plums are nearly out of bloom; all deciduous trees are making rapid growth. Here by my window is a bunch of my old friend *Sambucus Canadensis* (which, by the way, is cultivated here as an ornamental plant), which has a new growth of two feet. The Mulberries seem in nearly full summer foliage. The pressing query upon me as I travel through the markets is, Where are the Florida truck gardeners! Precious few tokens—and those most miserable ones—of their existence can be seen. But I may yet learn where to look for them.



BRADLEY'S REVERSIBLE HARROW.

The Horseman.

ARAB HORSES.

THE article on Arabia in the second volume of the new edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica" is by William Palgrave, one of the first authorities upon the subject. A good portion of his article is given to that theme of never-failing wonder, the Arab horse. He says:

"Reared under an open shed, and early habituated to the sight of man, to the sound and glitter of weapons and to all the accessories of life, the colt grows up free from vice or timidity, and even acquires a degree of intelligence that surprises a stranger. Barley and dates are the chief stall provender; but the grass of the pasture grounds, in the selection of which much care is taken, is the ordinary nourishment of an Arab horse. Of water the allowance is always kept purposely scant. A good Nejdee will canter four and twenty in summer time and eight-and-forty in winter without once requiring a drink. Raw meat, dried, is occasionally given in small quantities when extra exertion is required; lucerne grass is employed for lowering the tone. Geldings are very rare. The color most frequently occurring is gray; then comes chestnut; then white and sorrel; mottled gray and black are now and then to be found; dark bay never. Colts are ridden early—too early, indeed—in their third, or even second year, and are soon broken into a steady walk or canter, and to the ambling pace which is a special favorite with Arab riders; racing, an Arab amusement from time immemorial, and the game of "jerzed," a kind of tournament, or mock fight, with blunt palm sticks, highly popular without the peninsula, complete the training as to wind and pace. Saddles are seldom used in Nejd, and stirrups never; but both are occasionally employed in Hijaz and Yemen. So it is, also, with bits, the place of which is taken in Nejd by halter-ropes, the real guidance of the animal being almost wholly effected by the pressure of the rider's leg and knee. Shoes, too, are of rare occurance, nor are they needed in the light sand-mixed soil of the central provinces; on the other hand, the hoofs are rubbed with grease, to counteract the drying effects of the heated ground. Of all niceties of grooming, docking and clipping excepted, the Arabs are masters; and their natural kindness to animals—a quality which they share with most Orientals, together with the care every reasonable man bestows on a valuable article of property.—insures to an Arab horse good treatment at the hand of its owner. But Arab horses do not commonly enter tents, nor play with women and children, nor, in a general way, do they share the family meals, nor are they habitually kissed and cried over, as the imagination or credulity of some narrator has suggested. An Arab flying for life has, indeed, been known to give the only morsel of bread about him to his horse rather than eat it himself—an act in which self-preservation had as large a share as affection. Lastly, the standing prohibition of horse selling from Nejd has really nothing more romantic in it than narrow-minded application of the principles of protective monopoly; in other cases, reluctance to conclude a bargain amply indicates that the offer made was insufficient."

TREATMENT OF HORSES IN WINTER.

A WRITER in the Baltimore Trade Review is of the opinion that horses that have been in the habit of running in the pastures during the summer suffer very much during the winter, for the want of green food to which they have become accustomed. They give evidence of this, he says, by the loss of appetite, by becoming hide-bound, and losing the glossy appearance of their coats. When the coat of an animal loses its gloss and assumes a dry, dull appearance; it is sure indication that that animal needs green food or medicine capable of supplying the place of green food. Green food is much to be preferred, for an animal in such condition, to medicine, for two reasons, partly because it is cheaper and leaves no bad after effects, and partly because it is better, being the remedy provided by nature, and nature is always more skillfull than art in providing natural remedies for natural evils, just as a genuine diamond is of more value than any paste imitation. A couple of carrots, chopped up very small and mixed with the feed of horses, has upon them a very beneficial effect. They are slightly cathartic, and, given two or three times a week to horses standing in stables during the winter, they keep them in good condition, supply to a great extent the need of green food, increase their appetite, and prevent their coats from becoming dry, dull and hard. Horses are very fond of them. When the weather is dry and not very windy, horses that are not much used should, in town, be taken out for exercise daily, and, in the country, should during the day be allowed to run at large in the fields, or they will become cramped and stiff from long standing.

Our Premium Articles.

THE AVERILL CHEMICAL PAINT.

THE weather-beaten appearance of neglected buildings is in spring too often observable even where the best of care has been taken. Severe cold-beating storms of snow and ice affect the looks, if not the durability, of everything exposed to the weather. The bright spring-time, when Nature refurnishes her wardrobes and comes out in new apparel, is, therefore, the time when farmers and householders of every class are most inclined to imitate this laudable example. We presume that as large a proportion as usual of our readers are preparing for spring painting, either of old or new buildings and implements, and to all such we take pleasure in commending the paints made and sold by the Averill Chemical Paint Co., No. 32 Burling Slip, New York. These paints are prepared for use, and every desirable shade can be selected from a card, so that buyers at a distance may get the color they desire as surely as if they were on the spot to examine and test. These paints are sold by the gallon, in various sized packages and at reduced prices. This paint gives a hard, durable finish, is fire and water proof, and not liable to wash by rains even before dry. By closing up every pore of the wood, it excludes all water, thus effectually preserving it from decay. This chemical paint is also only slightly affected by frost, for which reason it retains its fresh and glossy appearance for a long time. Among the numerous recommendations of the Averill Chemical Paint we find the following:

EDITOR OF RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I am much gratified to see in your last number the article on the good qualities of the Averill Chemical Paint, for among the many things that cause people to hesitate, the one, What kind of paint shall be used to paint the house, barn and fence? is the most difficult for most people to decide. I was always in that dilemma until I got hold of the Averill Chemical, five or six years ago: from that time I have used that and no other, and would not pay a man to spread lead and oil if he would furnish that kind of paint (lead and oil) for nothing; for actual experience has taught me that it is cheaper to lay the Chemical than to use lead and oil paint if, as already said, it was given to me.

The Averill Chemical, in a few hours after it is spread, becomes hard and smooth as a mirror; the weather has no effect on it: water slides off from it as easily as it does from a duck's back; two coats of it will cover better and make every way a better job than three coats of the best lead and oil made. N. W. RIKER.

Westfield, Nov. 1, 1875.

From T. G. YEOMANS & SON, (the great Nurserymen,) Walworth, N. Y., Nov., 1875:—We have used your paint largely during the past *six* years, and find it convenient, durable, and in every way satisfactory to us.

From J. J. THOMAS, Esq., Union Springs, N. Y.:—I have used the Averill Paint at different times for the past *seven* years, and find it to cost less, spread easier, cover more surface, and to be *twice as durable* as any white lead paint. It is *especially valuable for barns and out-buildings*, furnishing a cheap, durable and perfect protection.—Nov. 10, 1875.

From Rev. THOS. DRUMM of St. Mark's School, Rochester, N. Y., April 14, 1875:—The paint which I purchased of you *four* years ago and put on my *barns and out-houses*, looks as fresh and glossy as if put on last fall

Orders or inquiries on this subject may be addressed to the Company's Agents, Messrs. SEELEY & STEVENS, No. 32 Burling Slip, New York, whose advertisement appears in another column.

Industrial Implements.

BRADLEY'S REVERSIBLE HARROW.

AMONG the many good things manufactured and sold by the Bradley Manufacturing Co., Syracuse, N. Y., we feel warranted in saying that their new Reversible Harrow must take a prominent position in the large list of agricultural labor-saving machinery. As far as we can judge, the principle is all right, and it seems to supply a want long felt by agriculturists, viz., a good Smoothing Harrow combined with a vertical or straight tooth. By simply changing the team and line of draft from one side of the harrow to the other either result is accomplished. This being a new implement, it is comparatively unknown; but we are informed by the manufacturers that a trial of it invariably results in a sale, which is good evidence that we have not over-estimated its good qualities.

THE FARM ROLLER.—Very often the neglect to use a roller at just the right time involves more loss than the cost of making one. A roller can be cheaply constructed by a farmer with a little aid from the blacksmith, and if carefully housed when not in use it should last for years. It is better to have some not very heavy wood for the roll, so as to get sufficient size to make it turn easily without being too heavy to manage. The frame should be made light but strong, and the tongue made of the toughest kind of wood, as this is the point where breakage is most likely to occur.

Floricultural.

UNCOMMON HARDY SHRUBS.

Weigelas, Roses of Sharon, Deutzias, Forsythias, Philadelphus, Viburnums—we need not particularize further—are as common in gardens as Violets in the woods and Corn Flowers in the fields. They are all fine—many of them faultless it may be. But for the same reason that we do not make beds of the Corn Flower in our gardens ought we to avoid in future selections these shrubs which, greeting us from every garden, have in a measure lost their charms. There is no more reason why our gardens should be furnished alike, than that our houses should be built and painted alike, furnished alike—or that people should dress alike. Indeed, as gardens are mainly objects of beauty, while houses, furniture and dress are mainly matters of necessity—there is stronger reason why gardens should not be copies of each other. Nevertheless, while a week may be taken in the selection of a carpet or suite of furniture—while ladies make *no* account of time in studying how to avoid resemblance to old styles or how to procure garments as different as possible from their neighbors, and yet garments that shall lighten their graces and soften their blemishes into the loveliest possible *ensemble*, their shrubs are selected "upon the spur of the moment," or perhaps *because* they have grown familiar with the same varieties from seeing them in neighboring grounds upon either side—and what of *Nature's* beauties is pretty enough for the neighbor, is deemed pretty enough for them.

We would like to have our readers "shop" a little for shrubs, and to give a moiety of that consideration to having their gardens differ from their neighbors', that they so willingly bestow upon matters of dress. The results, we think, would be quickly observable in the transformation of our gardens into objects of far greater variety and interest.

We mention the following shrubs because we admire them, and because, though far from "new" they are yet rarely to be met with.

Pavia macrostachya.—The *Pavias*, species of the Horse-chestnut, differ from it in bearing smoother fruit and in being of a more dwarf character. *Pavia macrostachya* is altogether distinct and possesses features belonging to no other tree or shrub that we have ever seen or read about. Broader than high, stooling from the root and covering the ground closely, it forms a hemisphere of foliage which, when adorned with its many spikes of fragrant Hyacinth flowers, blooming in July and enduring a long time when most other shrubs have ceased to bloom—few plants will give so much pleasure.

We saw last summer in the grounds of R. B. Parsons & Co., a specimen growing under the shade, 50 feet in circumference, 8 feet high. Mr. H. W. Sargent mentions one in his own grounds (1869) twelve years old, 60 feet in circumference, 8 feet high, bearing (as he wrote) between 300 and 400 racemes of flowers.

It should be planted in extremely rich soil—and, possessing in itself every charm of clustered shrubs—is, of all plants, the best suited to stand wholly isolated.

Rhus cotinus—(Wig Tree, Purple Fringe, Smoke Tree, Venetian Sumach). — Common enough it is true, in many country gardens where it is left to grow as it will, and to assume its own natural, disjointed, crooked-legged habit. It is only when restricted to half its natural proportions, that its beauties, which are all its own, are not marred by its unsymmetrical growth. Thus, though by nature a small tree 12 feet high, by pruning it may be adapted to any plot however small. The flowers, some of which are staminate—some pistillate—some perfect, are small and poor; but the many sterile pedicels that form globular masses exquisitely light and feathery, envelop the shrub as in a fine spray, the leaves breaking through here and there. At first this inflorescence is a pale, delicate green resembling little clouds of mist in front of a green back ground. Towards July it assumes a pink or deep flesh-color, and finally a grayish smoke color. We do not propose by pruning to force a straight growth—this is impossible; but to cover up the lower and larger branches obliterating the natural appearance of a round mass of foliage being upheld by long crooked legs. It is usually hardy, though last winter ('75) killed our young plants to the ground.

Fagus sylvatica heterophylla. The Fern-leaved Beech.—This is a trifle large to mention as a shrub—but the remarkable symmetry of well-grown specimens makes them appear much smaller than they are. Besides they are of slow growth and we may consider them shrubs for the first ten years. In the specimen grounds of R. B. Parsons & Co. (already referred to) is one measuring 68 feet in circumference and about 25 feet in hight. From a little distance it looked like a fine Arbor Vitae—being strictly cone-shaped, the base resting upon the ground as if it had been annually sheared. The foliage is quite fern-like—of a light-green color, and it will bear cutting back to any desired extent. If we could have but half a dozen trees or shrubs, we should be sorry not to include this.

Tamarix.—There is no plant that presents a more marked difference between being left to itself, and cutting the top back every season, than this. In Central Park may be seen many examples of the former. The branches alone are conspicuous—the foliage light, broken and tufty—and they seem to us so far from ornamental that we should cut them down. To secure this shrub in all its beauty, the top should be cut back every Fall. This induces stolons of slender, drooping growth and provides an abundance of its tiny, Erica-like foliage that in graceful, elastic sprightliness is almost unequaled by any other hardy plant. Its flowers appear about the first of August—very minute individually, but so numerous as nearly to divide the shrub between foliage and flowers. They form compound spikes which separately measure about an inch and collectively about a foot. Every branch is thus terminated with fine rose-colored spray. While it grows rapidly and thrives in even poor sandy soil—it seems well adapted to lake-borders or to ill-drained grounds.

Catalogues mention *Tamarix Africana, T. Gallica, T. Indica.* But, having all, we can not distinguish one from another. E. S. Carman.

The Poultry Yard.

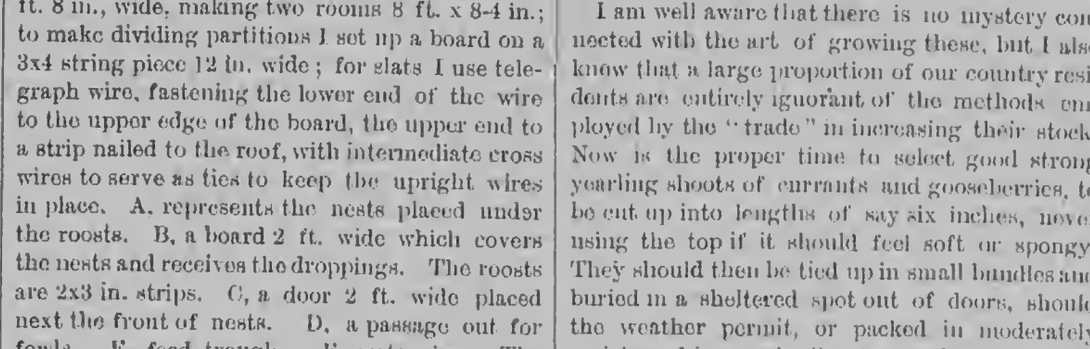
PLAN FOR A POULTRY YARD.

I enclose a rough sketch of Hen house, which perhaps you may think of practical value to some of your readers.

I have attempted to represent a building 20 ft. x 9 ft., the front elevation from sill to eaves 6 ft. 6 in., rear 5 ft., hight from sill to ridge 8 ft., rear distance from ridge to eaves 7 ft. 4 in., making the eaves project 6 in.; front distance from ridge to eaves 4 ft. 2 in., making eaves project 6 in.; projection of gable covering 10 in. Four front window, two each side of the door, the windows each 2 ft. x 4 ft. 4 in., of 7x9 glass, so placed that the distance from the door on the one side, and the corner on the other, will admit a 2 ft. inside swinging shutter to open. Window-sill 18 in. above sill of building. Door 2 ft. 8 in. x 6 ft., ventilator in gable 12 in. x 18 in. of blind slats, with adjustable slide inside. Sills and posts of spruce 3x4 in. Exterior walls and roof of matched boards battened.

INTERIOR ARRANGEMENTS.

Building divided in the center by a passage 2 ft. 8 in., wide, making two rooms 8 ft. x 8-4 in.; to make dividing partitions I set up a board on a 3x4 string piece 12 in. wide; for slats I use telegraph wire, fastening the lower end of the wire to the upper edge of the board, the upper end to a strip nailed to the roof, with intermediate cross wires to serve as ties to keep the upright wires in place. A, represents the nests placed under the roosts. B, a board 2 ft. wide which covers the nests and receives the droppings. The roosts are 2x3 in. strips. C, a door 2 ft. wide placed next the front of nests. D, a passage out for fowls. E, feed trough. F, water jar. The floors to be of cement, and by covering them with hay chaff, it makes a very dry and warm floor,—when chaff cannot be had sawdust is the next best thing. I have yards at each end of building, as it separates the lots of fowls and does not obstruct the light in front, which is so needful in cold weather. Each room will contain twenty fowls of the Leghorn variety or fifteen of the Bramah, and give plenty of room in cold, and the yards make up the extra in warm weather. I have used a 2x3 strip for roosts



POULTRY HOUSE—ELEVATION.

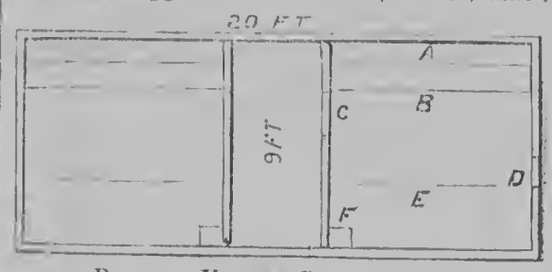
rounded on each edge, and as it is wide and thick the fowls can cover their feet and keep warmer in cold weather. By having inside shutters they can be closed nights in cold weather and keep out a great deal of cold and be a protection against thieves. The expense of building will of course vary with the locality. I find that by using the wire for partitions it makes a much neater finish and is not expensive, as by getting damaged pieces, it can be obtained for two and a half cents per pound, and it does not rust. H. D. Wellington.

East Lexington, Mass.

PARASITES IN BIRD CAGES.

Land and Water prescribes as follows for a very common affliction of caged birds:

"Many a person has watched with anxiety and care a pet canary, goldfinch or other tiny favorite, evidently in a state of perturbation, plucking at himself continually, his feathers standing all wrong, always fidgeting about, and in every way looking very seedy. In vain is his food changed, and in vain is another saucer of clean water always kept in his cage, and all that kindness can suggest for the little prisoner, done;



Poultry House—Ground Plan.

but still all is of no use, he is no better—and why? Because the cause of his wretchedness has not been found out, and until it is, other attempts are but vain. If the owner of a pet in such difficulties will take down the cage and cast his or her eyes up to the roof thereof, there will most likely be seen a mass of stuff looking as much like red dust as anything; and from thence comes the cause of the poor bird's uneasiness. The red dust is nothing more nor less than myriads of parasites infesting the bird, and for which water is no remedy, but there is one easily procurable in a moment—fire. By procuring a lighted candle and holding it under every particle at the top of the cage, till all chance of anything being left alive is gone, the remedy is complete. The pet will soon brighten up again after his house-warming, and will, in his cheerful and delightful way, thank his master and mistress over and over again for this, though slight, to him, important assistance."

The above prescription is good so far as it goes. Suppose enough of these parasites remain on the body of the poor bird to start a new colony? They will repeat the development of their progenitors, and soon multiply indefinitely in the top of the cage. Give the prisoner a very fine dust bath, in addition to the purification of his house, and the cure may be complete.

The Garden.

SMALL FRUIT PROPAGATION.

A writer in the N. Y. Tribune gives these timely hints in regard to the propagation of small fruits:

I am well aware that there is no mystery connected with the art of growing these, but I also know that a large proportion of our country residents are entirely ignorant of the methods employed by the "trade" in increasing their stock. Now is the proper time to select good strong yearling shoots of currants and gooseberries, to be cut up into lengths of say six inches, never using the top if it should feel soft or spongy. They should then be tied up in small bundles and buried in a sheltered spot out of doors, should the weather permit, or packed in moderately moist sand in a cool cellar, to remain until spring. As soon as the frost is out of the ground and the soil has become reasonably dry, open little trenches sufficiently deep to take in the cutting, allowing the topmost bud to remain even with the surface of the soil; fill in a little earth, press the bottom very firm, and level off the trench. If warm, showery weather occurs, the buds start into action immediately, and roots form at the same time. Should a long-continued drouth set in, however, it will be best to place some mulching material along the rows. If the young plants have made a strong growth they will be sufficiently large to set out in their permanent home the next season.

TOUGHENED GLASS.

We have already noticed this invention. When it becomes cheap it will be one of the best insurances we can have against hail storms for our glass-houses. The Boston Journal of Chemistry, referring to it, says:

"Essentially, the process consists in heating glass nearly up to the softening point, and then plunging it into a bath of oil or grease. But to bring it to perfection has needed the patient experience of seven long years. M. Bastie, who is a gentleman of fortune, is said to have made his discovery first some seven years ago. This was after many years of investigation. But though he seemed to have succeeded for the moment, it took two years more of continued experiments before he could repeat his success. The invention has been patented in all European countries, and soon will be throughout the civilized world."

REMEDY FOR THE CELERY FLY.

One of the worst enemies to the celery is a small fly, which deposists its eggs in the leaves, and the young eat their way under the skin, and in this way materially affect the growth of the plant. The English Gardener's Chronicle says:—"I can fully concur with what has been stated by Mr. Tillery as regards soot being beneficial to the growth of Celery and also a preventive to the celery fly (*Tephritis onopordinis*), having experimented with the same with satisfactory results, though instead of selecting a fine day for the operation I selected a showery one. I intended to have written to you before on this subject, as I consider it an easy remedy and of great importance where fine heads of celery are in requisition."

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Has a Bad Look.—Less than three years have elapsed since the St. Louis Mutual Life Insurance Company, one of the oldest as well as largest companies in the West, suspended business, and was expected, perhaps confessed, to be insolvent. After remaining suspended like Mahomet's coffin for a few months, during which a great number of its policies lapsed, an arrangement was made with another St. Louis life insurance company to join their business and form a great proprietary or stock company. The new company took the name of the St. Louis Life Insurance Company, and with, it is said, a million dollars of capital began business by insuring stock policies in exchange for the old mutual policies of the two coalescing companies. About the time this process—which may be rendered very profitable to a set of sharp managers—was completed, and before it had done much, if any, new business on its own account, the company joins in with the Life Association, another St. Louis Co., elects the same persons to its chief offices, and came under the same management. Though not in very good odor for soundness, the St. Louis Life Insurance Company had a capital of a million dollars as ultimate security, and its policy holders did not proceed with much alacrity to reinsure—for the third time—with the affiliating company. The latest movement is to reduce the capital to $100,000 that is, to take $900,000 from the capital pledged for the better security of the policies. Whether this movement will be regarded as legal or not, it will have the effect to frighten the policy holders and compel them to accept such terms as the reinsuring company may dictate. Amalgamation has put on many ingenious disguises in this State, but this St. Louis business rather caps the climax.

"Leave Well Enough Alone."—The insurance companies of this State are required by law to invest their means in a prescribed class of securities, such as United States and New York State stocks and mortgages of real estate, etc., in this State. The purpose of this enactment was the better protection of the insured by confining the investments of the companies to such as were easily traced and valued. Some of the companies think this law places them at a disadvantage as compared with the companies of other States not hampered by restrictions, and a bill has been introduced "providing that insurance companies may invest their funds in any other State in the same class of securities as such corporations are allowed to invest in in this State." They had "best leave well enough alone." Seven per cent. well secured is well enough, since it is two and a half to three per cent. higher than the rate of interest the companies use in their calculations. This bill may enable some companies to make a little more profit, but it may also open the way to wildcat speculations and no end of trouble. Better not tamper with the laws, especially good, wholesome laws.

Destructive Fires.—A great fire—the most destructive that has occurred in this city in many years—broke out on Broadway on the evening of the 8th of February and consumed several buildings and about $4,000,000 worth of property before it was brought under control. The falling of a wall killed and injured several firemen. Luckily the weather was propitious. Had it been otherwise, a high wind might have carried the flames over a large territory. A recent fire at Rutland, Vt., destroyed one of the largest business blocks, including the principal hotel. This village has such a fire about once every year. Tarrytown, N. Y., had a visitation of the same kind recently, which, as there was no fire department or facilities for subduing conflagrations, did its work of destruction as long as there was material for a fire. The loss exceeds a hundred thousand dollars;—less than half covered by insurance.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

SEEDLING CROWN IMPERIAL AND ROSES.

March 1.—I am in receipt of a letter from a Canadian subscriber to the RURAL NEW-YORKER, who desires me to answer the following questions:

1. Can the Crown Imperial be satisfactorily raised from seed?
2. Can roses be raised from seed, and how?
3. Is the *Eucalyptus globulus* hardy enough to withstand the cold of an Ontario winter?

To the above I will answer:

1. The Crown Imperial can be raised from seed, but whether "satisfactorily" or not depends very much upon the skill and patience of the grower. The seeds of the common species of Lily, Crown Imperial, Tulips, and closely allied plants, are not at all difficult to make grow. But the principal obstacles in the way of final success come up afterward, and unless very great care is bestowed upon the plants, few will reach maturity. A severe drouth or too much water may in a few days destroy the most promising bed of seedlings, consequently there is little use of one sowing seeds of such plants without making provision for future care, or until the bulbs have reached a size to withstand the ordinary vicissitudinous conditions to which they will naturally be liable. Still, the uncertainty of success in raising plants of this kind from seed is in itself a powerful incentive to perseverance and the bestowal of the requisite care, inasmuch as those things which are produced without labor or skill are usually valued accordingly.

The seeds of bulbous plants, like the Crown Imperials, should be sown as soon as ripe, or soon after, in shallow boxes or in beds, in very light, sandy loam or leaf mold from the woods, covering the seeds about a half an inch deep. At the approach of cold weather the seed beds should be slightly protected with a light covering of hay or leaves. In the spring this covering should be removed, and as the plants begin to appear, attention to weeding and watering, wherever necessary, should not be neglected, because the more care given the better the results. If the seed are sown in boxes, there will be less danger from vermin than in beds, but more care will be required in giving water during dry weather. If all goes well, bulbs the size of small marbles will be produced the first season or by midsummer, when they may be taken up and planted out where they will have sufficient room to grow to a blooming size. In transplanting from the seed beds or boxes, it is well to set the bulbs deeper than they were formerly, say two to four inches, according to the nature of the soil. In a light, dry soil, they may be set deeper than in a heavy clay. Nothing further will be required from this time on, except to keep the beds free of weeds and water in time of drouths. It usually takes from three to five years to obtain blooming plants from seed—a time sufficiently long to discourage most persons from making an attempt to raise Crown Imperials and other kinds of lilies.

ROSES FROM SEED.

2. In the autumn, as soon as the seed pods, which are technically called "Hips," or "Heps," are matured, gather them and throw them into some vessel where they will be kept moist for a few weeks, or until the pulp surrounding the seed decays sufficiently to be removed easily by crushing. The seeds may then be washed out or otherwise separated from the pomace; then sow immediately in a bed in the open ground, covering about a half an inch deep. The soil should be made very rich and of a light, friable nature, in order to prevent the surface from becoming hard after heavy rains. The surface of the bed, after the seed are all in, may be covered with sawdust to the depth of one or two inches, or with leaves, as recommended for lilies; these materials, or the greater part should be removed in spring.

Some plants will usually appear soon after the growing season commences, and continue to come at intervals during the entire summer, while a portion of the seed will remain dormant until the following year, and I have known instances where none grew until the second year after sowing, then came forward with great rapidity, consequently one should not be discouraged or destroy the seed-bed if no plants make their appearance the first season. Sometimes the young seedlings will need shading from the noonday sun, especially during a very dry and warm spring. But an occasional examination of the seed-bed will show whether shading is required, for the withered, scorched plants are certain to be found if the sun is too powerful. Watering the beds at night during dry weather may be necessary in order to keep up a vigorous growth. If satisfied in the autumn that only a small part of the seed have grown, either take out whatever plants there are and cover the bed again, or add protection and leave both plants and seeds undisturbed. Plants, when removed from the seed-beds, should be set out where they will have plenty of room to grow and bloom. Very little has been done in this country towards raising new varieties of roses, but there is no good reason why every lover of this Queen of the garden should not annually raise a few or many seedling roses. There is really nothing to prevent the production of new sorts in this country as well as in Europe, but for some reason our professional florists and amateurs have done but very little in this line.

EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS.

3. This much-talked of tree will not thrive in our Middle States, much less the Northern, or Canada. The well-known nurseryman, P. C. BERCKMANS of Augusta, Ga., reports that he tested not only the *E. globulus* but quite a number of other species, none of which proved hardy in his grounds, but some of them may succeed near the Gulf or in localities where frost seldom occurs.

TROUBLES OF A YOUNG BOTANIST.

March 2.—A young botanist writes me from South Adnams (no State given) deploring the general indifference of the young men in regard to the study of botany and kindred natural sciences. He thinks if the young men who spend much of their time "loafing" about the barrooms of hotels, and groggeries, had some branch of natural science for a "hobby," it would improve their morals and strengthen their mental faculties. No one but the said young men would disagree with my correspondent in this, but we must remember that we need a little shade in order to fully appreciate the unobstructed rays of light. Still there is undoubtedly too much shade in the moral and intellectual world, and if our young men and women could be induced to study science and truth more, and fiction less, the next generation would show a marked improvement upon the present. But to bring about any great change in the habits and customs of a people requires great perseverance and earnestness in the work, upon the part of those who become teachers by self appointment or otherwise, hence just such men as my correspondent must step into the field and do all he can to bring about the much desired reformation.

Boys who have pleasant homes are seldom inclined to spend their leisure hours at the corner grocery or other questionable places, and men who take to science, art or literature, are not likely to have much waste time on their hands. Probably there is no one line of study which will hold a man so steadily as the pursuit of knowledge in any one of the many branches of natural history, for every successive step taken in that direction opens a wider and more fascinating field for investigation than the preceding one. But it must be confessed, however, that few will find such studies lucrative in a money point of view. Mankind, as a whole, have not as yet reached a sufficiently high mental development to fully appreciate the labors of scientists in general, hence we find such men as LINNÉ, HUMBOLDT and AGASSIZ, closing their lives in comparative poverty. Still I fully agree with "Young Botanist," that every young and old man should have a hobby in some one of the various ramifications of art or sciences.

Arboricultural.

BASKET WILLOW CULTURE.

WILL you please inform me through the columns of your valuable paper the best method of cultivating the "basket willow," with the method of preparing the soil for planting, time of planting, harvesting and manner of cultivation, and all the necessary information to enable one having no experience in the business to make it a success.—A SUBSCRIBER, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

The culture of osiers or basket willows is exceedingly simple. Low, moist soil is, of course, preferable to that which is high and dry. The land should be as thoroughly prepared as for any other crop, that is, plowed and harrowed until all weeds and grass are killed out. Then set the cuttings a foot apart, and the rows from four to six feet, in order that the cultivation may be continued among the plants for the first two or three years, as well as to give room for passing between the rows in gathering the crop. The cuttings should be about a foot long, and set in the spring as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry for the purpose.

The heading back, or pruning, should commence the second season after planting in order to secure a number of shoots from each root, even if the first season's canes are not long enough to be of any value. The second season a light crop may be expected, and should be taken off at a time when the bark will peel off readily. The peeling may be done with a machine or by hand, according to circumstances. There have been hundreds of willow plantations started in various parts of the country, though few now remain in a productive condition. Willow culture is not profitable, except where one has a good home market.

EUROPEAN CHESTNUTS.

UNDER the above head "Daily Rural Life," in the RURAL of Feb. 12th, gives some interesting information. But in all the articles which have appeared of late I have failed to see anything in regard to what I consider its worst feature, viz: Its liability to insect depredations.

Out of a dozen or more, all grafted on native stocks and now more than a score of years old, bearing annually abundant crops, we do not get a dozen *quarts* of sound chestnuts. Nearly all wormy. The first we find equal in flavor (either boiled or fresh) to our native varieties, except that the skin around the fruit is quite astringent until dried. Can any one tell me why this variety, European or Spanish chestnut (as we usually call it) is more liable to be thus infested with worms, and this, too, growing as they are among the natives. This is the case every year. When the trees first commenced bearing only a small percentage were thus affected, but the trouble increased yearly. The trees in question have never been injured by cold. We once grafted on native stock a number of grafts from European seedlings which were purchased from an Eastern nursery firm. Not one in the lot proved worthy of propagation, but were entirely worthless—no better than acorns. I should like to know if any others have experienced similar results in regard to wormy fruit who have cultivated the European variety.—E. H. LOCKLIN, *Shepherdstown, Pa.*

The "Chestnut curculio" (*Balaninus*) is more or less abundant wherever this nut is either cultivated or found growing wild, but we were not before aware of its preference for the foreign varieties. We have found the larvæ of this beetle more abundant in the nuts some seasons than others, but it is always plentiful enough to make one a little careful about cracking the nuts with his teeth.

There being quite a number of foreign sorts cultivated by our nurserymen, it is quite probable that the trees you purchased were of some inferior variety. We shall be pleased to hear from any of our readers who have anything to contribute in regard to the cultivation of the native or foreign chestnuts.

MANAGEMENT OF OLD ORCHARDS.

MR. S. T. CARPENTER writes in the Peterborough (Ont.) Times the results of a long experience in fruit growing. He says: Old orchards should be highly manured, and all the ground should be stirred by plowing each and every year. No ground is rich enough to grow two crops at a time. If you have your bearing orchard sowed with rye, wheat, oats or grass, you will fail to have a full crop of fruit, and what you do have will be small and inferior. The more manure the more bushels and the larger and fairer the fruit will be.

Pruning should be done in June. Old dead wood should not be left upon the trees, and no sprouts should be allowed to grow about the trunks of the trees. Only one trunk should be allowed to grow. I would recommend every farmer who has an orchard to buy a grub hoe the first time he goes to town: it is indispensable to keep grass, sods, weeds and sprouts from growing about the trees. Young trees should invariably be kept cultivated in a hoed crop, such as potatoes, corn, beans and turnips, and not heavily manured while growing, or until they come into bearing, as doing so would be to force an unnatural growth, and hence they would be likely to freeze out and die. Order no Baldwins, R. I. Greenings, Roxbury Russets, 20 ounce apples, 20 ounce Pippins, Holland Pippins, fall Pippins, fall Gennetings, King of Tompkins County, Esopus Spitzenbergs, Golden Sweets, Sweet Bough and Early Harvest, as these varieties sooner or later will freeze out and die in this locality. They are too tender. The best upland upon the farm should be selected for the orchard. Hardwood timbered upland is the most natural and best for orchards.

Young trees planted in rye, wheat, oats, or grass should, as soon as they are put out, be heavily mulched in with coarse straw manure four or five inches deep around the trunks of the trees, and as soon as the crop is removed put in the plow and stir the whole ground and loosen the earth about the trees; this will insure a good fall growth. In planting young trees put them down two or three inches deeper than they originally stood in the nursery. If the soil is a dry, sandy loam, puddle the trees by putting a pail of water in each hole while the trees are in. Be careful to straighten all the roots out naturally, and if a light soil tread the dirt as hard as possible after the roots are covered all the way up, leaving the ground hollow about the roots of the trees, so that the water may not run off when it rains. Never pour water upon the top of the ground about the roots of the trees, as it will injure them and never gets to the roots. If a tree stands green and does not come out in leaf, take the dirt away down to the roots, be careful not to disturb the tree or the roots, and pour on a pail of hot soapsuds directly upon the roots, or, in the absence of this, a pail of soft water or creek water will do, and then replace the earth; repeat every three days until the tree comes out in leaf. I would recommend in conclusion to plant your orchard thirty feet apart each way, which will require 48 trees to the acre, all the ground can stand when they are fully grown. Order none but hardy varieties.

WATER-SHOOTS FOR CIONS.

A FEW days ago I cut some cions from the long, straight shoots that had grown last season from a large branch, the end of which had been cut off. An experienced grafter told me they were not good, and said the grafts would grow rapidly but would become slender, sucker-like branches that would not produce fruit. Will some one who understands the subject please answer through your columns.—A SUBSCRIBER.

WE presume you refer to the large, thrifty sprouts, which on old apple trees sometimes spring from near the base of the large branches, technically termed "water shoots." These are not generally considered as good for cions as the shoots growing from the ends of the branches, as they are more likely to grow soft, spongy, and the buds poorly developed. But if they have not been injured by the cold of winter, and grow when inserted into the stock, there need be no fear of unproductiveness. When short of better wood for cions we have frequently used these water-shoots with apparently as good results as those from other portions of the tree. No experienced pomologist would recommend the use of such shoots for cions, except in cases of great scarcity, still they are not wholly worthless, and, under proper management, grow and produce good trees.

The Vineyard.

GRAPE GROWING IN THE SOUTH.

E. O. NORTHRUP writes in the Rural Sun a very flattering account of the success and profits of grape culture in Tennessee. The subject is viewed in roseate colors, reminding us of the stories told years ago of Northern vineyards when grape growing was in its infancy. The price of grapes in Northern cities has ruled very low for several years, and the extraordinary profits formerly secured have not been obtained. Still, even at low prices, grapes pay as well as other farm produce, and better than most. In the South we judge that there will be no trouble from lack of ripening, and the price of grapes for a few years will be higher than prevails here. With the comments we give the correspondent's letter:

I have myself made five tons of grapes from an acre, and the very same acre would this year (now in other hands) have made the same quantity, but the wet season has, for the first time in ten years, caused the Concord to rot with us on the Mountain. And this brings us to the question of varieties to plant. As far as I have tested I can only recommend two: the Concord and the Ives Seedling. The Herbemont, Cynthiana and Norton's Virginia have not been tested. I hope they will soon be. For vineyard culture I recommend the Hartford, Diana, Perkins, Eumelan, Clinton or Delaware. The latter I would always have a few of, and where they do well are very much liked by most people. The old Catawba and Isabella are very good, but too uncertain to be profitable.

On an average my one acre of vineyard has paid me five hundred dollars a year profit after coming in bearing. I, however, was a pioneer in the business and realized more than others need expect to. At present there is a lively demand for grapes, which would sell readily, wholesale, at $120 per ton. With a crop of three tons to the acre the clear profit should be at least $300 a year.

A great many vineyards are now being planted in this neighborhood, and I expect in a few years over 150 tons will be annually produced in this vicinity.

WINTER GRAPES.—How many farmers have fresh grapes at this season of the year? With a little care, it is possible and easy to have some of the late-keeping varieties in good order till March, April, and even into May. The Agawam, Salem and Wilder are among the best keepers, and as their vines are perfectly hardy and the fruit ripens early, they ought to be favorites in the vineyard even for use when other grapes are in their prime. Plant some vines of these varieties the coming spring and they will fruit in two years from next fall.

Domestic Economy.

SPRING HOUSE CLEANING.

When houses are infested by cockroaches, they can be kept away by powdered borax. Keep it in a tin pepper box and sprinkle it wherever they go. Paris green is recommended, but it is a poison; while borax is harmless. Sprigs of wintergreen, or ground ivy, will drive away small red ants, and branches of wormwood will make black ants "vamose the ranch."

Scald your bedsteads in the hottest soapsuds you can apply; if there are traces of bugs apply kerosene with a small paint brush. It is a sure cure. Tenants of city houses are often annoyed by bugs, and cannot tell whence they came. Perhaps the border of the wall-paper might divulge their source, or the cornices of the windows disclose their haunts. Again apply kerosene and they will no longer trouble you. Carbolic acid may be applied; if pure, the odor is not as disagreeable as that of coal oil. Papering and painting are best done in cold weather, especially the latter, for the wood absorbs the oil of paint much more than in warm weather, while in cold weather it hardens on the outside, making a coat, which will protect the wood instead of soaking into it.

FOR HARD SOAP.

The Housekeeper gives the following:—Four pounds grease, one and one-half pounds resin, one can condensed lye, one-half pound sal soda makes ten pounds superior hard soap. Dissolve a pound can of condensed lye, or ready soap-maker, in six quarts of soft water (hot). Put four pounds of clean grease into a kettle, add two quarts of the lye, two quarts of soft water, and boil thirty minutes. Then add three quarts lye, a little at a time, so as not to impede boiling, which continue from two to five hours, or until it becomes soap, which may be tested by cooling in a spoon. Then add the resin (broken small), putting in remainder of lye slowly so as not to stop boiling, which continue thirty minutes. Then add a teacupful of salt, boil until the soap is separated from the lye and strings. When cooked in a spoon it should be hard. After standing twenty minutes, dip the soap into a deep tin dish or mold, and stir in a half pound of melted sal soda. If perfume is desired, stir in a little oil of rose, sassafras, or any other. When cold cut up to suit. The success of soap making lies principally in the proper equivalents of grease and lye. All pork grease, or all tallow is not as good as half and half, mixed.

WASHING FINE UNDERCLOTHING.

The Germantown Telegraph says:—A leading firm, importers and retailers of hosiery goods in this city, gives us the following directions for washing merino, lamb's wool and silk underclothing, and we print it at this time as being in season to be adopted. From our own experience we can testify to its excellence:

"Use one pound of dissolved soap in four gallons of warm water, in which well rinse the articles to be washed, drawing them repeatedly through the hand; wring them as dry as possible, to remove the soap; rinse them again briskly in clean, lukewarm water; wring and stretch them to their proper shape, and dry in the open air if possible. The only effects of rubbing are to shrink and destroy the material; it should therefore never be resorted to.

"The material used in manufacturing silk underwear being an animal product, it is absolutely necessary that nothing but the best quality of soap and warm water should be used. All kinds of washing compounds destroy the nature of the material, giving to the fabric the appearance of poor cotton."

A WEEK'S BILL OF FARE.

The following week's bill of fare is taken from the note-book of a city lady, and is adapted for a small family of say five persons. Besides the articles enumerated in the list, are to be included for breakfast, oatmeal or crushed wheat, milk toast, corn cakes, tea, coffee or cocoa, and for dinner the usual vegetables in season:

Sunday—Small steak for breakfast. A large turkey with vegetables and other accompaniments for dinner.

Monday—The same grilled for breakfast and in a fricassee for dinner.

Tuesday—Chops for breakfast. Dinner—Beef soup with plenty of vegetables, and bread pudding dessert.

Wednesday—Breakfast—Ham and eggs. Dinner—Corned beef.

Thursday—Breakfast—Hash. Dinner—Soup and cold corned beef, with dessert.

Friday—Fish for breakfast and dinner.

Saturday—Breakfast—Veal cutlet and buckwheat cakes. Dinner—Beefsteak and fried potatoes.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Furniture Polish.—Equal proportions of turpentine, linseed oil, and vinegar, thoroughly applied and then rubbed with flannel, is an excellent furniture polish.

Boot Blacking.—To make a good and cheap boot blacking take ivory blacking two ounces, sweet oil, one-half tablespoonful, and brown sugar one and one-half pounds. Mix them well, and then gradually add one-half pint of small beer.

Mock Cream.—Boil one pint and a-half of milk, sweeten and flavor to taste. Beat three eggs very light; add to them three heaping teaspoonfuls of flour, and a teaspoonful of salt. Stir this into the boiling milk. Spread this, when cold, between two layers of the cake as made for Washington pie, and you have a nice cream pie.

Butternut Cake.—Four eggs, beaten separately; two cups sugar, one of butter, one cup butternut meats, one half cup sweet milk, two and one-half cups flour (heaped), one teaspoonful soda, two of cream tartar. Rub the black scales off from the meats before putting them in the cake. Bake in two loaves.

Snow Pudding. If there should be a fall of snow this winter, some of your readers may like to try this receipt. Where cold, dry, fresh-fallen snow is used it gives a lightness to the cakes all its own; no amount of beating can rival it. Make a stiff batter with four ounces of flour, one-fourth pint of milk, or more if required, a little grated nutmeg, and a pinch of salt. Divide the batter into any number of pan-cakes, and add three large spoonfuls of snow to each. Fry lightly in very good butter, and serve quickly. The pan-cakes should be about the size of a soup-plate for the indicated quantity of snow.

Hygienic Information.

RESTORING LOST HEALTH.

In the Rural New-Yorker of Dec. 18, I read with much pleasure the notes of C. D. Bragdon on Florida. His remarks in relation to consumptive invalids reminded me of my condition in 1847-8. I then had all the distressing symptoms of consumption and did not expect to live long. I could not go to a warm climate, as some advised; I had no means to support me there, and I now think it was better for me to stay in my own quiet home.

I had taught school, to do good and obtain my living (not a very lucrative employment at that time); but I loved the work, and kept at my post so long as I could. When I ceased teaching my lungs and throat were sore, cough frequent, and attended with hemorrhage quite often. I loved to live, and in the retired home of my widowed mother I sought rest from society and studied the best means of restoring my health.

My mother had for several years suffered with a severe cough, but had strength to do a good day's work after she had recovered from a severe coughing spell and had cleared her lungs of superfluous matter. My mother had been accustomed to muscular exercise in purer air than I had breathed. I had exercised the muscles of the voice, lungs, etc., in the foul air of the school room, and my whole system had become weak for lack of healthful, muscular exercise in pure air. This exercise and air I could obtain at home far better than away, while I could also obtain needed rest and more freedom. I could also regulate my diet better. These things are of far more importance than many suppose.

Time has passed, and while I have been studying and, in a measure, teaching the laws of life and health, I have done much hard work; and if the readers of the Rural New-Yorker wish to know how I managed, I will write more on this subject hereafter. Hattie Hopeful.

CHILBLAINS AND FROST BITES.

These are two of perhaps the commonest ills incident to farming humanity, and, next to toothache, probably the most troublesome. They are thus diagnosed and treated by Dr. Hall in a recent interesting contribution to the Christian Weekly: "The chief symptom of the chilblain is a troublesome itching; it sometimes disappears of itself, but, if neglected, often returns for years on the approach of very cold weather. This affection would never manifest itself if the feet were always comfortably warm; or, if getting very cold, they were brought back to their natural condition by drawing off the stockings a yard or two from the fire or stove and patiently rubbed with the hands first, and then with a rough woolen flannel, more or less warmed, so as to gradually invite back the heat. A young lady returning from the Central Park, where she had been skating, found one of her feet stiffened with cold. She was advised to put it in warm water, which resulted in inflammation, mortification and amputation.

If the skin of the blain is unbroken, melt an ounce each of resin and beeswax in three ounces of sweet oil, and when thoroughly melted and stirred up, stir in half an ounce of calomine, a preparation of lead found at the drug stores; this forms a kind of ointment, which should be gently and patiently rubbed into the part night and morning with the warm finger, until all unnatural appearance of the skin is removed.

Another method is to paint it over with collodion, which is gun cotton dissolved. This soon dries into an impervious covering, perfectly excluding the external air, and, if not disturbed, recovery soon takes place.

If broken, wash the parts night and morning with half an ounce of blue vitriol dissolved in half an ounce of water, kept in a glass bottle for use; rub in a teaspoonful of this night and morning, and, when dry, rub in patiently with the finger some ointment, pain-killer, glycerine, or hog's lard. In old persons and others of a feeble circulation, this ailment, simple as it appears to be, is liable to cause ulceration, mortification and death.

FROST-BITE.

The blood first becomes stagnant by cold, which, if continued, causes the part to freeze, known by its becoming very white, the person not being aware of it until informed by some one whom he chances to meet. The remedy is to rub it gently with snow, for it is as brittle as glass and more easily broken off; in two or three minutes, or just as soon as some feeling in it is noticed, use a little warm water, rubbing it in gently, a little warmer every three minutes, until the circulation is fully restored and the part has regained its natural feeling. If snow cannot be had, use ice water, as it is slightly warmer than the frozen part, and proceed as before.

If a person is found frozen and nearly dead, remove the clothing instantly on the spot, envelope the whole body in snow or ice water, except the nostrils and mouth; as soon as any sensibility is observed, take the body out, rub it gently with cloths dipped in ice water until the muscles begin to relax; remove the body to a cold bed, cover it over, and with warm hands under the cover diligently rub the whole skin, two or three persons at once, for hours at a time if necessary. As soon as signs of life appear, give an injection of camphor water, a teacupful, and put several drops of spirits of camphor on the tongue; as soon as the patient begins to notice anything, give him a teaspoonful of strong warm coffee, in five minutes another, and in ten minutes more half a teacupful, hot. It would be a humanity to impress these things on the minds of the young, as it might put them in the way of saving some valuable life in the course of years.

MILK DIET.

"I find by experience," says Dr. H. N. Chapman, "that lime water and milk is not only food and medicine at an early period of life, but also at a later, when, as in the case of infants, the functions of digestion and assimilation have been seriously impaired. A stomach taxed by gluttony, irritated by improper food, inflamed by alcohol, enfeebled by disease, or otherwise unfitted for its duties, as is shown by the various symptoms attendant upon indigestion, dyspepsia, diarrhea, dysentery and fever, will resume its work, and do it energetically, on an exclusive diet of lime water and milk. A goblet of cow's milk, to which four tablespoonfuls of lime water have been added, will agree with any person, however objectionable the plain article may be, will be friendly to the stomach when other food is oppressive, and will be digested when all else fails to afford nourishment. Of this statement I have had positive proof in very many cases.

"The blood being thin, the nerves weak, the nutrition poor, the secretions defective and excretions insufficient, the physician has at hand a remedy as common as the air, and as common, almost, as water. In it all the elements of nutrition are so prepared by Nature as to be readily adapted to the infant or the adult stomach, and so freighted with healing virtues as to work a cure where drugs are worse than useless."

CURE FOR LOVE OF LIQUOR.

At a festival at a reformatory institution, recently, a gentleman said of the cure of the use of intoxicating drinks:—"I overcame the appetite by a recipe given to me by old Dr. Hatfield, one of those good old physicians who do not have a percentage from a neighboring druggist. The prescription is simply an orange every morning a half hour before breakfast. 'Take that,' said the doctor, 'and you will neither want liquor nor medicine.' I have done so regularly, and find that liquor has become repulsive. The taste of the orange is in the saliva of my tongue, and it would be as well to mix water and oil as rum with my taste."

The Herdsman.

POTATOES AS FOOD FOR STOCK.

Owing to the low price this winter, many farmers are feeding a considerable portion of their potato crop to store and fattening cattle. Where only the small potatoes are used the value is less, as many small tubers are unripe and contain only a small proportion of starch, in which the nutritive value of potatoes mainly consists. Where good, well-ripened potatoes are fed, they are estimated to be worth from 15 to 25 cents per bushel, with corn at 75 cents. The variation in value depends upon the kind of stock fed. For milch cows they are worth more in the absence of succulent food; but even for fattening cattle the value is considerable. In some cases steers are being fattened on hay with potatoes, and no other food; but in a majority of instances corn meal or grain is added. The potatoes are found to improve the digestion and enable stock to eat more with greater proportionate gain than if fed on dry food exclusively. They are always fed raw to cattle and sheep, and in many cases without cutting. It is found that where cows are choked by eating roots, it is when they are suddenly placed before a quantity, which they eat hurriedly and in constant fear of being driven away. When fed quietly with what potatoes they can eat after filling up with other food, no difficulty occurs. Some farmers, however, take the precaution to run them through a slicer. An ordinary cutting-box for hay will do very well, and will leave the roots in a pulpy mass, easily and greedily eaten by any kind of stock. It is the work of only a few minutes to run through several bushels of potatoes, or enough to feed an ordinary herd a day.

IS SALT NECCESSARY FOR CATTLE.

This question has been almost interminably discussed and without definite result. The latest contribution is an article by O. C. B. of Fredonia, N. Y., in the Country Gentleman, from which we quote:

Mr. Hardin's statement that salt is not necessary for cattle, is being much discussed here. If you were to put the question to a Chautauqua County man, he would disagree with Mr. Hardin, and would back himself up against the fact that the most successful dairymen here are very careful either to salt cows every day, or to keep a quantity where they can help themselves at will. Therefore, if the "general practice of our most successful dairymen," is to be taken as the highest authority then that settles the question.

But, then, some one may put the matter this way:—"Suppose your most successful dairymen should take exactly the same care of cows, and give them the same feed (except they leave off salting them), might they not do just as well—produce just as much butter—and live just as long or longer?" I should have to answer that I do not know; that such an experiment has not been tried here that I know of. Now, Mr. Hardin succeeds in the care of animals without salting. But then, perhaps, the case may be different there in Kentucky. Perhaps the water there, which the animals drink, contains a sufficient quantity of salt. It is not safe to say that because he succeeds there that we could here, without first analyzing the water used in both localities. If it should be found that in his wells every 100 pounds of water contains from 2 to 3½ oz. of salt (chloride of sodium),—that being about the quantity of water drank daily by each cow,—then it would follow that in reality his (Hardin's) cattle were being salted, in that way, about as high as the dairy cows of Western New York.

Before it is quite safe to put this matter down very dogmatically either way, it will be best to first procure the analyses of water consumed by cattle in the different cattle growing sections, and to have a series of experiments conducted in different sections by placing in each section herds of cattle upon exactly the same diet and care, except that one herd shall be fed salt and the other not, for the season, and then note the results. If it should be proved that salt is a superfluity with stock, it will be worth a great deal to us, and our Chautauqua county dairymen will have to own up beaten (myself with the rest); while on the other hand, if it should prove to be a fact (as I believe it is), that cattle need, and do better with salt; then Mr. Hardin will have to put on his hat and "step down and out" on the salt question.

THE HERD BOOK.

The Buffalo Live Stock Journal says:—We learn that the Herd Book for 1876 will show a goodly increase in the number of animals registered. The bulls number 3,400 against 3,000 in last volume, and probably 300 will be added in the supplement to bulls. Supposing the cows to retain the bull proportion, the increase in number of registrations will be fifteen per cent. at least. This with the ten per cent. increase in price per head, during 1875, makes an encouraging showing for this stock.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

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A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1876.

THE CENTENNIAL DAIRY RING.

The tendency of the age in the United States seems to be to Rings. We have seen the rise and fall of the Tweed Ring and the Whiskey Ring, but never should have supposed that a Dairy Ring was among the possibilities. It is well known that the Dairymen at their various conventions have agitated the project of a grand dairy display at the Centennial. Among others we have warmly urged this movement as due to so important an interest which represents a vast capital, and an annual product amounting to over $600,000,000. We had hoped and believed that every one favoring this great national dairy display, would enter upon the work with *clean hands*, and that no underhand trickery would be attempted or allowed. But it seems otherwise—as will be seen from the following:

At the late meeting of the American Dairymen's Association at Rome, a committee of some 50 persons from New York and other States, was appointed to raise funds for building a model Cheese and Butter Factory on the Centennial Grounds, and for bearing the other expenses necessary to a proper and complete display of dairy products at the Centennial. Mr. J. V. H. Scovill of N. Y., was Chairman of this Committee, and O. S. Bliss of Vermont, Secretary. But five members of the Committee, desiring to absorb all the honors and emoluments of this great National display, form themselves into a ring to accomplish their object. They meet at Utica, ostensibly to consult with the chairman, but without the knowledge of other members of the committee, no notice of the meeting being given, and they proceed to vote themselves into the most important places of honor and trust growing out of the display. The Board of Auditors was thus secured, Mr. L. B. Arnold and T. D. Curtis, of the immortal five, are recommended as Jurors, the Salary of a Juror being $1,000.

This work being accomplished a letter of recommendation was easily obtained from Gov. Seymour for the Aspiring Jurors, he supposing the meeting to be a full meeting of the Committee, held in regular form and after due notice. Thus it was hoped by the Ring to "steal a march" on the Committee and have the appointments made by the Centennial Commission before any regular and general meeting of the Committee could be had.

Now, when the Secretary, Mr. O. S. Bliss, was ordered by this Ring to record the proceedings as that of a regular meeting he declined to do so, holding that neither he nor other members of the Committee were informed or knew of the meeting, and he very justly denounced the whole thing as irregular and without warrant. The facts becoming known, the New York State Dairymen's Association at its annual meeting also denounced the action of the Ring, and by resolution pronounced the recommendation of Jurors as premature, asking the Committee of the Whole which had been called at Philadelphia, Feb. 23, to reconsider these fraudulent proceedings of the clique.

At the Philadelphia meeting of the Committee, which was regularly called and which was pretty well represented, when the Secretary presented the minutes of previous meetings he gave a statement concerning the irregular proceedings referred to, and said he did not feel willing to indorse them, and asked instructions from the Committee present. Hereupon a long and excited discussion followed, which consumed the morning and afternoon session, the Ring urging the indorsement of the irregular meetings. A vote being taken on the question they were pronounced irregular and ordered to be stricken out of the minutes. Near the close of the evening session, however, word was passed round by the members of the Ring that Gov. Seymour's letter of recommendation had been sent to the Centennial Commission, and so some of the members, out of courtesy as they supposed to Gov. S., were willing to indorse the fraud and thus on a vote the work of the afternoon was reconsidered.

At a meeting of the Committee the following day a resolution was offered by Mr. Chamberlin of Ohio, recommending, as an additional Juror, John Anderson of New York City, who is universally acknowledged as the best judge of cheese in this country. As the West wanted a representative, Mr. Stephen Favill of Wisconsin, President of the Northwestern Dairymen's Association, was also included. The Ring opposed the resolution, and by the aid of Mr. Arnold who voted to exclude all others but himself as a Juror, it was lost, the vote being a tie, 5 for and 5 against. Mr. J. H. Reall of Phila., a noisy and garrulous member of the Committee, went in with the Ring with loud talk and scheming, much to the disgust of the Committee, several of whom left before the sessions were closed.

We regret exceedingly this state of things, as we have been earnest and sincere in advocating a grand display of Dairy Products at the Centennial. We shall go on doing all in our power to provide for and further this display. We know that the great majority of the Committee are upright, true men, who have the best interest of the dairy at heart, and who are opposed to all ring combinations, and we have faith that hereafter any attempt to run the dairy display of the Centennial in the interest of a Ring will be signally rebuked. We hope the dairy display will be one of the most attractive features of the Centennial; and if the Centennial Commission shall appoint as Jurors such men as John Anderson or John Orpe, or Mr. Folsom of New York City, or Mr. Rape of Ohio, or Mr. Favill—men of undoubted integrity, and distinguished as experts in their judgment of dairy goods—we shall get fair awards and there will be no dissatisfaction among dairymen.

BEGGING COMPLIMENTS.

The milk of human kindness in the bosom of the commonly genial editor of the Rural New-Yorker's Department of Dairy Husbandry must have soured a little. In his report of the Vermont Dairymen's Convention, he has no word of recognition for his worthy co-laborer, Prof. L. B. Arnold, who was also present at the Convention, who made an address there, imparted freely of his valuable knowledge, and was handsomely recognized and indorsed by complimentary resolutions. We should think the omission accidental, simply, if we did not know that a similarly marked omission has occurred in every report of Dairymen's doings where Mr. Arnold has taken part, which the R. N.-Y. has printed of late years.—*Am. Rural Home.*

The above is an amusing specimen of the manner in which compliments are begged in these days. If friend Hopkins of the Rural Home will look over the Dairy reports of the Rural New-Yorker, he will see that the charge made is entirely gratuitous and without foundation. We call his attention to the report of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Convention in January last, in which Mr. Arnold is mentioned in these columns in very complimentary terms.

At the Vermont Dairymen's Convention Mr. Arnold *did not* give an address, the Rural Home to the contrary notwithstanding. He was called upon to answer questions, which we suppose he did in his usual happy manner, though we did not hear them, not being present at the first day's session of the Convention when they occurred. In regard to the complimentary resolutions passed to Mr. Arnold at the Vermont meeting, we think the least said by the Rural Home the better. The facts, as we are informed, are, that Mr. Arnold and one or two New York friends came to the Vermont Convention and begged the privilege from the officers, of introducing complimentary resolutions as an offset to the severe censure passed upon Mr. Arnold by the Northwestern dairymen at the recent Illinois Dairy Convention. The privilege was rather reluctantly given, and Mr. Arnold's New York friend drew up a series of resolutions and a Vermont dairyman was obtained to offer them to the Convention. We do not approve of such "*put up jobs*," and therefore made no comment on the resolutions. We are friendly to Mr. Arnold and have helped him in many an emergency, but we can be no party to such petty deceits to mislead the public. X. A. W.

New Kind of Wheat.—The Gipsy Wheat, a new white chaff bearded variety, is proving popular in Kansas. Col. R. C. Bates of Marion Center, Marion Co., raised, the past year, twelve acres, which averaged 37 bushels per acre. It is a winter wheat, was drilled in Sept. 15th, 1874, and harvested June 20th, 1875.

A MEAT FAMINE IN ENGLAND.

Owing to various causes, and especially the prevalence of foot and mouth disease, the growing and fattening of animals has been an unprofitable business for English farmers the past year or two. The result is that the number of domestic animals has decreased, and meat of all kinds has been scarce and dear. It is said that there are fewer cattle and sheep in England than has been known before in many years. The effect of this must in time be felt in a scarcity of butter and dairy products, and to some extent of wool. In this last item Australia and New Zealand are strong competitors, but in cheese and butter American dairymen will have the room partly vacated by the falling off of the English product mainly to themselves. Improved dairy processes belong to a more advanced condition of farming than is common in New Zealand or Australia, and even the best butter or cheese would hardly bear transportation so great a distance and be in good condition to satisfy the English market. Hence our dairy interests cannot fail to be favorably affected by this inability of English farmers to keep their usual amount of dairy stock.

How serious this deficiency is may be inferred from the scarcity and high price of all kinds of meats, amounting almost to a famine. The prohibition of importation of foreign cattle has created much dissatisfaction among workingmen, to whom the high price of meat operates as a deprivation of their accustomed luxury. On the 2d of February an immense meeting was held in Exeter Hall, London, protesting against the high prices of meats, and the Mark Lane Express of Feb. 7, reviewing the market, congratulates its readers on the successful importation of fresh dressed beef from the United States, and says there is no doubt that this business will be extended. In the meantime, for years to come there is likely to be a steady and increasing demand for American-cured meats, both beef and pork, and for such dairy products as we have to spare. This is a business in which our farmers know no limit, except in the ability of their foreign customers to pay remunerative prices. We can in five years double the value of both dairy products and of meats exported, and from present indications we are quite likely to do so.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

About Soiling Stock.—A new subscriber to the Rural New-Yorker in Conn., who has been taking the paper from a news agent since the 1st of January, wishes us to give him some information about soiling cattle. To give the best results the preparations for soiling should have been commenced last fall, with rye sown on a piece of rich ground for the very earliest spring feed. Lacking this, our correspondent ought to have some clover, which, in Connecticut, he can begin to cut by the 1st of June, or possibly a little earlier. As soon as the weather is warm enough, he should drill in some sweet corn on a very rich soil or well-manured piece of ground, and make successive plantings until the first of July. This drilled corn will yield a much greater amount of feed than the clover, though if the clover plot is rich and well seeded, successive cuttings may be made every four or five weeks, through the season, and four, five or more tons of feed be cut. The great requisite in soiling stock is to have the ground rich, as it does not pay to cut and carry feed on poor ground. In some cases partial soiling is advisable, supplementing the green food with bran, corn meal, or such other feed as may be found most economical. In other cases cows may be partially pastured and fed with cut food as pastures fail. This is very often done when no intention exists to begin the practice of soiling. It probably will not pay in Connecticut to soil any cattle other than milch cows, unless our correspondent has fancy stock of some kind. The mere growth of stock will not pay for so much labor. The increase of milk and the possibility of holding a steady supply through the hot, dry months, may make soiling milch cows profitable. The main advantage of soiling is in saving and increasing the manure pile, and in encouraging farmers to provide a liberal feeding in seasons when cattle at pasture often suffer.

The N. J. Cranberry Growers' Association held its recent annual meeting in the State House at Trenton, with the Rev. Dr. J. H. Brakeley in the Chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and approved, Mr. E. W. Crane, Chairman of the Foreign Trade Committee, made an interesting report. Other reports were made, showing the extent and importance of the Cranberry Trade of New Jersey. The following Board of Officers was elected:

President—Rev. J. H. Brakeley, Bordentown. Vice-Presidents—James A. Fenwick, New Lisbon; Dr. E. S. Merriman, Bricksburg. Sec. and Treas.—A. J. Rider, Trenton. Ex. Com.—Rev. J. H. Brakeley, Bordentown; A. J. Rider, Trenton; E. W. Crane, Caldwell; N. R. French, 180 Reade St., New York. Representative in State Board of Agriculture—E. W. Crane, Caldwell. Statistician—N. R. French, 180 Reade St., New York. Corresponding County Secretaries—Ocean County, Julius Foster, Bricksburg; Burlington County, Theodore Budd, Pemberton; Atlantic County, Rev. J. L. Scott, Hammonton; Gloucester County, M. M. Chew, Williamstown; Monmouth County, Samuel Conover, Freehold; Middlesex County, F. L. Buckelew, Jamesburg; Camden County, Job Braddock, Haddonfield; Cape May County, Thomas Beasley, Cape May Court House.

Stocking Lake Erie with White Fish.—The work of replenishing the inland lakes with fish is making excellent progress. For the large lakes there is no better fish than the white fish, which used to be abundant from Michigan to Ontario. Of late the number has largely decreased. The Fish Commissioners of Ohio, Michigan and Canada are hatching out myriads to re-stock Lake Erie. One and a half millions have been set loose by the Ohio authorities. Seven to eight millions will be turned into the river at Detroit from the Michigan Hatchery, and twelve to fourteen millions from the Canadian Hatchery opposite Detroit. In three or four years Lake Erie will probably be as well stocked with white fish as ever.

Large and Prolific Corn.—Last year produced some extra-large specimens of corn. The quality was generally poor, however, owing to the cold and wet season, but larger ears were never before seen. Mr. Reuben Barnett of Clermont County, O., had three ears which shelled out, respectively, as follows:—No. 1, thirty rows, with 1,582 grains; No. 2, thirty-two rows, with 1,120 grains; No. 3, thirty-six rows, with 1,296 grains. It will be noticed that the ear with thirty rows produced more kernels than those with thirty-two or thirty-six rows. Probably more grain was never grown on one ear than on the best of these specimens.

Arbitration vs. Law.—The requirement that Patrons shall settle their difficulties by arbitration instead of going to law, works well in Iowa. In several Counties where courts had met, the dockets were examined and not a case appearing for trial, an adjournment was had the same day. The lawyers were glum; but farmers took a different view of it, as in many cases they saved hundreds of dollars by avoiding expensive litigation. With such beneficial results, and continuously increasing membership throughout the country, the Patrons of Husbandry may well smile at the absurd talk about the collapse of the Grange.

What is Seed?—It is worse in England than in this country. The London Agricultural Gazette can only get so far in its definition of seed as to call it "something in a bag."

RURAL BREVITIES.

A Minnesota man says that the eggs of the hateful grasshopper cannot be frozen out.

A corn-starch factory at St. Josephs, Missouri, makes in the course of the year 350,000 bushels of corn into starch.

Fruit trees were in blossom all about Athens, Ga., Feb. 5, and ripe strawberries had been picked from vines in the open air.

Mr. J. S. Hubbard, Fredonia, N. Y., sends us his Wholesale Price List of Grape Vines, Fruit Trees, &c., for the Spring of 1876.

Meadville, Pa., has been selected by the State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, as the place for holding their next annual meeting.

Mr. J. P. Thompson, Secretary of the State Pomological Society, has become the Horticultural Editor of the Michigan Farmer.

Prof. Stockbridge of Amherst College, has obtained a patent upon his method of growing crops by the use of specific chemical fertilizers.

E. W. Stewart, late Editor of the Buffalo Live Stock Journal, becomes Associate Editor of the National Live Stock Journal, with which it has been consolidated.

In 1850 the aggregate value of butter and cheese exported from this country amounted to only $334,000. This year the export value of cheese alone will be over $12,000,000.

The exposure of the Dairy Ring connected with the Centennial, made elsewhere on this page, must be read with profound surprise and regret by the friends of the parties implicated.

The annual report of the State Assessors shows that there are 27,757,785 acres of farming lands in this State, exclusive of the lands used for farming purposes in the suburbs of cities and those in incorporated villages.

It is estimated that within a radius of two miles at La Salle, Niagara County, N. Y., there are 82,000 fruit trees growing. Of these, 37,300 are apple, 42,400 peach, 1,800 quince, 3,000 pear, and 500 crab-apple trees.

The rumor that "Prof." Arnold has succeeded Prof. Hopkins as editor of the Rural Home lacks confirmation, though, judging from recent issues, the former is liable to the suspicion of being an assistant in the department of personals.

Mr. Geo. E. Morrow, late of the Western Rural, Chicago, has received and accepted a Professorship in the Iowa Agricultural College. Mr. M. has been a journalist, and we trust will acquit himself with equal honors in the new position which he assumes.

The Agricultural Building on the Centennial grounds, now nearly completed, will prove one of the most attractive edifices in the great group. The farmers of the country may well be proud of what has been done to uphold the interests and dignity of their noble pursuit.

There are 703,325 head of cattle in Kansas, an increase of nearly 100 per cent. in five years, while the hogs have increased in the same time about 40 per cent. The total value of the farm products is placed at $43,970,444. The population of the State is 531,156. There are 74,905 dogs in the State, and they destroyed last year 5,223 sheep.

In a Rochester paper of a late date "An Old Citizen" claims for that locality the origin of the first Ring, and explains by telling how the Indians thereabouts joined in slaughtering cats and calling their scalps wolf scalps, thus receiving the bounty offered for the latter. But that was long before the Centennial, and when neither Tweed, Canal, Whisky, Dairy nor other similar Rings had been dreamt of.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

Throat Affections and Hoarseness.—All suffering from *Irritation of the Throat and Hoarseness* will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of "*Brown's Bronchial Troches.*"

Paint your house with the best. Every keg "**Phœnix Pure White Lead**" warranted fine, white, good body, and the most durable paint.

FORGET-ME-NOT.

I AM the flower that every age has sung,
My name has trembled on the unwilling tongue;
'Midst sad farewells how mournfully has rung
Forget-me-not!

I imagine best the heaven's eternal blue!
Though transient clouds may hide it from the view,
It shineth still, faith's never-changing hue,
Forget-me-not.

The restless brook, the river's deeper flow,
Beside my quiet home still come and go;
I kiss the waters, murmuring soft and low
Forget-me-not.

The birds above me hovering on the wing
List the hushed whisper, and the woodlands ring
With the light choral as they answering sing,
Forget-me-not.

The laughing eddies hastening to the sea
With rippling echoes mock the symphony,
The rude winds toss it on their pinions free,
Forget-me-not.

And human voices catch the sweet refrain,
In loving accents fraught with human pain,
Repeating still the never dying strain,
Forget-me-not.

The Story-Teller.

PAUL MILMORE'S STORY;

OR, THE LOST CHILD AND THE CROWS.

"IF you please sir, don't shoot those crows."

The gun dropped from my shoulder and I angrily turned toward the intruder who had so startled me as well as spoiled my shot.

"Don't shoot the crows?" replied I. "Why not, pray? They're destructive fellows; they pull up the corn and kill the young grouse, besides making such an infernal noise that one can scarcely think."

"Well sir, I'd rather you wouldn't shoot them on my farm."

The speaker was a gentleman; I saw this at a glance. He appeared to be between forty-five and fifty years of age, although his dark gray hair and beard gave a somewhat older expression to his face, which bore all the marks that some great sorrow had left, for it was furrowed deep.

Regarding him attentively for a moment, I said:

"I supposed every farmer was glad to have such troublesome neighbors made way with, especially at this time of the year, just as the young corn is beginning to send forth its shoots."

"The crows are welcome, sir, to all the corn they want on my farm. I've lived on this place more than six years, and should be very sorry to think that one had been killed during that time."

"It's a very singular fancy you seem to have—this penchant for crows; there must be some reason for it. I certainly never heard of such a thing before."

"There is a reason," said the gentleman, examining my face closely, as he paused for a moment; then, as if satisfied with the scrutiny, he resumed, "and if you care to hear it, and will walk over to the house and take a cup of tea with us, I'll tell you the story," adding apologetically, "we sometimes get lonesome out here on the prairies, and are glad to see a gentleman's face."

As the invitation had been proffered in the spirit of genuine Western hospitality, I accepted it as frankly as it had been given, and climbing over the fence that had up to this time separated us, started to accompany the farmer to the house.

The conversation had taken place in a newly-planted corn field. I had been hunting all day without success Chilled with the cold and weary and vexed at my ill luck, I was returning toward the farm house where I was stopping, when I noticed a large flock of crows busily engaged in tearing up the just sprouting corn in a field some distance from the road. Determined not to return empty handed and thinking to do the owner of the field a favor as well as to test the truth of the old axiom, that "crows can smell gunpowder," I had crept quietly up until within gun range, and was about to give the contents of both barrels of my "Jo Manton," when I was interrupted as above narrated.

A short walk brought us to the house, which proved to be a comfortable—in fact, for Western Iowa, an elegant—cottage, romantically situated upon the banks of a miniature lake. As we were walking toward it, I handed my companion my card, which he received with a bow, informing me that his name was Milmore, and that he was pleased to greet me.

As we approached the house, I could but note the neat and comfortable appearance of the buildings, as well as the good judgment that had been displayed in their location, and the admirable taste shown in the general plan of a half finished flower garden that occupied a portion of the lawn between the house and the beautiful little lake. But, if surprised by the order and neatness everywhere visible upon the outside, I was no longer so when I was presented to the presiding genius, the mistress of the establishment; for I was hardly prepared to find in a Western farm house so much refinement and exquisite taste as was displayed in the *tout ensemble* of the charming home.

The lady herself was about forty years of age; not beautiful, but interesting, a connoisseur of female beauty would have decided, with a face still fresh and fair though, like the husband's, it wore an expression that so far excited my curiosity that, at the first glance, I became painfully conscious of a desire to learn the history of this couple that had evidently so heroically relinquished the luxuries and refinements of the East for the hard and laborious duties of a frontier life. Mrs. Milmore bade me welcome to her fireside with an ease and grace that only served to confirm my first impressions of her education and culture.

After an exquisite supper, daintily served, mine host invited me into the library, remarking that I might make myself comfortable, for I must remain his guest for the night, at the same time wheeling one of the large Turkish easy chairs before the blazing hickory fire. He then produced a couple of fragrant Havanas, and lighting one I prepared myself to hear my host's singular desire to protect those ill-omened birds, the crows.

It is that story, told as nearly as I can recall it after all these years, in his own words, that I propose to relate to you.

I was born in Oneida County, New York, and was intended by my father for a lawyer; but, after delving a year in the office of an eminent practitioner of that County, I became dissatisfied, renounced the idea of acquiring a profession, and went to the City of New York, where I entered the mercantile house of Smith & Talbot—then, as now, one of the wealthiest firms in the importing line in that city. But promotion in the counting room comes slow; particularly so while one has but little capital to advance his interests.

While in the employ of this house, I met for the first time a niece of one of the members of the firm—my wife; and when, two years later, my father died and left me a small competency, I took it and entered into business for myself, and, within a year, married. From the date of our marriage, my life was a blessed one indeed; nothing seemed to disturb the even tenor of our lives, for we drifted along in the current, forgetful of all else save our own happiness and, I now fear, selfishly, heedless of the cares and troubles of others.

After five years of unalloyed happiness my wife became the mother of a beautiful boy; and it seemed as though I had nothing more to desire, no greater boon to ask for. Then came the financial crisis of '57, that caused such widespread disaster and ruin among the mercantile community, and for a time it seemed impossible that my house would be able to withstand the crash that swept like a whirlwind through the country; but I finally weathered the storm, and by good management came through it stronger than ever.

Shortly after this our child was taken sick, and it seemed for months as though we should lose him. He partially recovered, though my physician, after many mysterious hints that I can understand now, told me that if I wanted to see him grow to years of maturity, I must leave New York and find a home upon some Western farm.

I can't tell you, sir, how I dreaded to inform my wife what the physician had said; it seemed a terrible sacrifice to ask her to make; and it was only after months of hesitation that I ventured, one day, to broach the subject to her. To my great joy, she saw the necessity, and at once consented to leave New York, our friends, acquaintances, culture, ease, and luxury, for the discomforts of a pioneer life.

In closing my business in the city an opportunity occurred which enabled me to secure what was termed a fine tract of wild Western land, and to it we came. I built this house and surrounded our home with such comforts as we could procure, for here we determined to remain and rear our child, who was fast growing to be a noble boy.

When Benny was four years old, he was a child that any parent might have been proud of; and when we saw his ruddy cheeks and the perfect picture of health that he appeared, his mother and myself both felt that no sacrifice we had made for him was too great. He was the apple of our eyes, sir, the breath of our life, and had grown to be the idol of our home—our household god, to the exclusion of all things else.

Three years ago this fall, when Benny was almost five years old, one dark November day I was in the field where I had a couple of men at work, and, late in the afternoon, I chanced to look up, and saw the little fellow, accompanied by his pet rabbit, coming toward me from the house.

I went to meet him, and, taking him in my arms, told him that it was too cold for him out there, and to run back to his mother. I was busy at the time, and thought no more of the matter until just before dusk, when I returned to the house, and my wife met me at the door with the inquiry:

"Where's Benny?"

Before the question had left her lips, I felt a chill go over me like an ague fit; cold hands seemed to clutch my heart, cold lips to whisper in my ear, "Benny's dead." I turned toward my wife and saw that as she looked into my face hers grew ashy pale, while she waited for my answer. My tongue fairly cleaved to the roof of my mouth, and I could not have answered a word had my life paid the forfeit. At last she seemed to read my thoughts; for, seizing my arm with a grasp that I can feel to this day, she gave such a wail of anguish as never mortal ear listened to before, and fell to the floor insensible.

I can't tell you why I thought so, but, from the moment my wife asked for the child I had a presentment that Benny was dead. It flashed upon me like lightning, nor could I get rid of it, though it weighed me down like an incubus.

We were alone in the house at the time, and I picked her up from the floor and carried her to the room there, and laid her upon the bed. Then I summoned assistance, and went out of doors to find that it had grown bitter cold, as well as very dark. I instantly dispatched my men to rouse the neighbors and then returned to the house to endeavor to console my poor wife. As I entered the door, the sound of my steps appeared to rouse her to consciousness, for she sprang toward me, and, throwing her arms about my neck, and looking pleadingly into my face, cried:

"You will bring me back my darling boy, won't you, Paul?"

I promised her I would, and she bestowed upon me a hundred kisses, murmuring all the time:

"Thank God! he's safe then; thank God! he's safe then."

Perhaps you can imagine, in some degree, my feelings. No person ever experienced such as I did when I realized what I had promised, for I knew that the boy was dead as well as I know it now; and all the while she lay at my feet, moaning like some dumb creature in pain, and I trying to console her with assurances that I knew in my heart were false! But what else could I do?

When the neighbors came in, they carried her to her room, while I went out to search for our child. In less than an hour all the settlers within five miles were hunting, with torches and lanterns, over the prairie for the boy. As for me, where I went or what I did I have never known, for I had one thought constantly in my mind—that our boy was dead, and I had promised to bring him back to his mother alive.

Well, sir, we searched all night, notwithstanding the fact that about three o'clock the next morning the snow began to fall. I never saw it snow faster, for by daylight the ground was covered more than five inches deep, and we had not found the child. We kept up the search, and before noon more than fifty persons were engaged in it; but we found no trace of him, and at last it was reluctantly given up. Then I knew that I must return to my home alone and tell my wife the truth.

What passed after I reached the house I do not know, for the next two days are but as a hideous dream. I only remembered that my wife met me at the door and said to me, "If you had only told me the worst, I would have tried to be strong for your sake, my dear husband;" and then—well, sir, I knew nothing more for forty-eight hours. When I awoke to consciousness I rose from the bed, partially dressed myself, and went out and stood bareheaded beneath the leaden-gray November sky; and when I felt the wintry wind and saw the ground white with snow, and realized that it was the winding sheet of our darling boy, I felt that I could almost follow the advice of Job's wife, "Curse God and die."

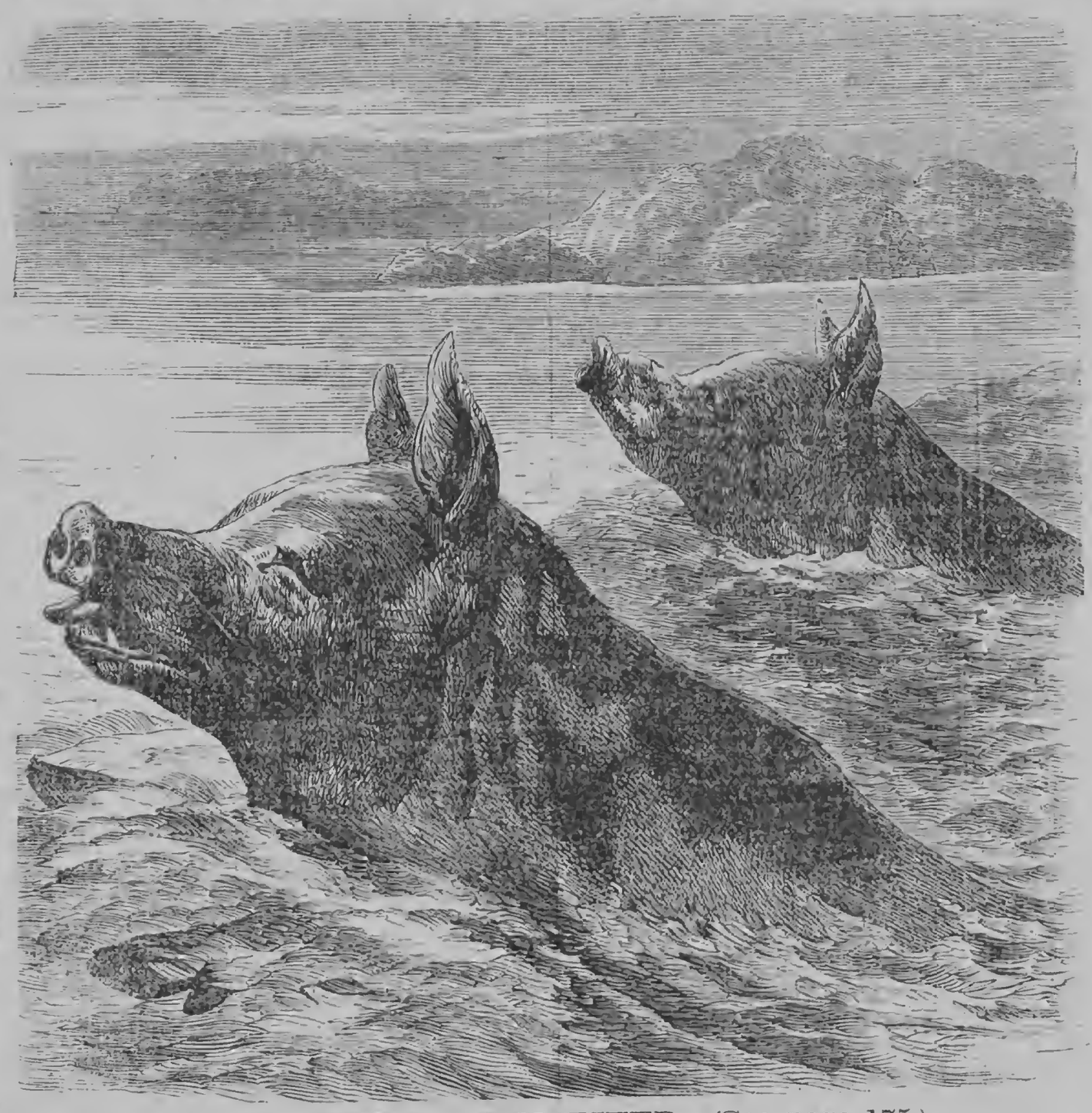
Standing in the yard I noticed that a large flock of crows had gathered in the field yonder, nearly half a mile from the house. I watched them for some time without seeming to heed them. I saw them flying swiftly athwart the heavens, jostling each other in their haste; then, when they appeared to have reached one particular spot, they would soar high in the air for an instant and swoop down, almost touching the ground, to rise once more, mounting higher and higher in a circle until, flying over my head, they would again dart back to the field, all the time uttering their harsh cries, which seemed to bid me "Search!"

So strongly did I become impressed with this idea, that I started toward the place, bareheaded and half clothed as I was, and so weak that I could hardly stand.

It was a long time before I reached the spot over which the crows were hovering; but, as I approached it I saw by the side of a dry, withered stalk, crouched as though for protection from the rude blast, a rabbit. Imagine my feelings when I recognized it as our darling boy's pet, nearly dead from hunger and cold. The instant I saw it I knew that I had found our boy—that Benny was there. I lifted the half-frozen creature carefully to one side and, kneeling, quietly removed the cold snow from the body of our darling. I remember taking him in my arms and kissing his cold lips; but how I reached the house I can't tell; I only know that I laid him in his mother's lap, and that she looked up in my face with a sweet smile and said: "I have been waiting so long for you to bring dear Benny back to me, Paul."

When I again returned to consciousness, Benny had been buried two weeks, and I was told that the physician said he had undoubtedly dropped dead from aneurism of the heart. Had it not been for those crows, sir, his little body would have lain upon the cold ground, unburied, until spring.

Now, sir, you know why I didn't want the crows shot. I don't often speak of this, our great sorrow; but I feel that an apology was due you for the unceremonious manner in which I interrupted your shot, and perhaps there was something in your face that told me that you would understand the motive that prompted me in spoiling your anticipated sport. And now, with your permission, we will return to the other room. My wife will be glad to talk with you, for it is not often that we see gentlemen from the East so far West as this.



PIGS CROSSING THE RIVER.—(See page 175.)

I thanked my host for his story, and assured him that ever after I would respect crows for his sake; nor have I killed one since.

We returned to the sitting-room and I spent a delightful evening in conversation with my charming hostess and her husband; and the next morning, after partaking of a delicious breakfast, I bade my new friends good-by, and returned to my boarding-house, quite satisfied to go back empty-handed. I have often, since that time, had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Milmore and his wife at their charming Iowa home; but the subject of crows we have never mentioned since my first introduction.

AN EDITOR OF 1775.

In 1775 there were four newspapers published in New York. Rivington's Royal Gazetteer was the subservient tool of the British authorities. The Mercury, published by Hugh Gaine, was a time-server and trimmer. Anderson's Constitutional Gazette was born and died in 1775, and had no influence whatever. The New York Journal, published by John Holt, was the sturdy and unpurchasable organ of the Sons of Liberty. Its editor fled the city after the disastrous battle on Long Island, and he was heard of afterward as publishing his newspaper at one and another of the towns on the Hudson under circumstances that would have appalled a less determined man. In the month of August, 1777, while at Esopus, he printed an advertisement in which he proposed to take any kind of produce in the way of trade. His prospectus reads very quaintly:—"And the printer, being unable to carry on his business without the necessaries of life, is obliged to affix the following prices to his work, viz., —For a quarter of news, 12 lbs. of beef, pork, veal, or mutton, or 4 lbs. of fine flour, or half a bushel of wheat, or 1 bushel of Indian corn, or half a cord of wood, or 200 wt. of hay, or other articles of country produce as he shall want them, in like proportions, or as much money as will purchase them at the time; for other articles of printing work, the prices to be in proportion to that of the newspaper. All his customers who have to spare any of the above articles of country produce, he hopes will let him know it, and afford him the necessary supplies, without which his business here must very soon be discontinued." It is gratifying to be able to state that the sturdy patriot survived the Revolution, and lived to revisit the city of which he had been Postmaster in 1775. His patriotic labors and sufferings justly entitled him to the following epitaph:—"A due tribute to the memory of John Holt, printer to this State, a native of Virginia, who patiently obeyed death's awful summons on the 30th of January, 1784, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. To say that his family lament him is needless; that his friends bewail him is useless; that all regret him, unnecessary; for that he merited every esteem is certain. The tongue of slander cannot say less, though justice might say more." Such an epitaph, inscribed over the dust of an editor, who had also held commission as Postmaster, opens a wide field of emulation to the journalists and officials of these later days.

DISRESPECT AT HOME.

One of the dangers of home-life is this habit of disrespect—that which is bred by familiarity. People who are all beauty and sunshine for a crowd of strangers for whom they have not the faintest affection, are all ugliness and gloom for their own, by whose love they live. The pleasant little prettiness of dress and personal adornment, which mark the desire to please, are put on only for the admiration of those whose admiration goes for nothing, while the house companions are treated only to the ragged gowns and threadbare coats, the tousled hair and stubby beard, which, if marking the ease and comfort of the *sans façon* of home, mark also the indifference and disrespect which do so much to damage the sweetness and delicacy of daily life. And what is true of the dress is truer still of the manners and tempers of home, in both of which we find too often that warm of respect which run side by side with affection and the custom of familiarity. It is a regrettable habit under any of its conditions, but never more so than when it invades the home and endangers still more that which is already too much endangered by other things.

Parents and up-bringers do not pay enough attention to this in the young. They allow habits of disrespect to be formed—rude, rough, insolent, impatient—and salve over the sore with the stereotyped excuse: "They mean nothing by it," which, if we look at it aright, is worse than no excuse at all, for if they really do mean nothing by it, and their disrespect is not what it seems to be, the result of strong anger, uncontrollable temper, but merely a habit, then it ought to be conquered without loss of time, being merely a manner that hurts all parties alike.

ANECDOTE OF BRET HARTE.

Bret Harte was lecturing in Pennsylvania a short time ago. At one of his appointments he felt very much depressed. It is said to be a peculiarity of humorists to be at times unaccountably gloomy and melancholy, and Bret, we believe, is no exception to the rule. He was in this mood on the occasion of which we speak. One of the lecture committee went back of the scenes to see him, and the depressed humorist welcomed him as a gleam of unusually good sunshine. They shook hands—Harte earnestly, the committeeman obsequiously.

"Mr. Harte," said the gentleman, gravely, "you will find this an exceptionally healthy city."

"Ah!" said the humorist.

"Yes, sir. The death rate is only one a day."

At this juncture Harte took the committeeman by the arm and hurriedly asked;

"Is he dead?"

"Dead!" ejaculated the committeeman, in astonishment. "Who dead?"

"Why, the man for to-day," said Harte, very gravely.

The committeeman stared with all his might at the immovable face of the lecturer, and Bret continued:

"Isn't there a clerk here, or register, or coroner, or something like that, of whom you could find out whether the man for this day has died?"

"Yes, yes, I suppose so," slowly replied the committeeman.

"Would you, then, be so good as to find out, and, if possible, before I commence the lecture, whether that man is dead? If he is, I am all right, as I am to leave the city early to-morrow morning; but if he is not, I cannot help feeling uneasy about myself, for I am not well to-night."

The obliging committeeman immediately hurried away to get the information.

When Bret was in his room at the hotel that night a servant told him a gentleman wished him to step down stairs into the hall. He went down, and there met the committeeman.

"I am extremely sorry, Mr. Harte, to disturb you at this late hour," he said, "but I could not get the desired information sooner. It is all right, however. That death rate I spoke of was merely the average."

Bret thanked the committeeman for the trouble he had taken and pleasantly bid him good night.

OUTWITTING A CONGREGATION.

Old Dr. Strong of Hartford, Ct., was not often outwilled by his people. On one occasion he had invited a young minister to preach for him, who proved rather a dull speaker, and whose sermon proved unusually long. The people became wearied, and as Dr. Strong lived near the bridge, about the time for the commencement of the afternoon service, he saw his people flocking in great numbers across the river to the other church. He readily understood that they feared they should hear the same young man in the afternoon. Gathering up his wits, which generally came at his bidding, he said to the young minister, "My brother across the river is very feeble, and I know he will take it kindly to have you preach to his people, and if you will do so, I will give you a note to him, and will be as much obliged to you as I would to have you preach for me, and I want you to preach the same sermon you preached to my people this morning."

The young minister, supposing this to be a commendation of his sermon, started off in good spirits, delivered his note, and was invited to preach, most cordially. He saw before him one-half of Dr. Strong's people, and they had to listen one hour and a-half to the same dull, humdrum sermon they had heard in the morning. They understood the joke, however, and said they would never undertake to run away from Dr. Strong again.

TELL-TALE LIPS.

I have observed that lips become more or less contracted in the course of years, in proportion as they are accustomed to express good humor and generosity, or peevishness and a contracted mind. Remark the effect which a moment of ill-temper and grudgingness lays upon the lips, and judge what may be expected from a habitual series of such movements. Remark the reverse, and make a similar judgment. The mouth is the frankest part of the face; it cannot by the least conceal its sensations. We can neither hide ill-temper with it, nor good; we may affect what we please, but affectation will not help us. In a wrong cause, it will only make our observers resent the endeavor to impose on them. The mouth is the seat of one class of emotions as the eyes are of another; or, rather it expresses the same emotions, but in greater detail, and with a more irrepressible tendency to be in motion. It is the region of smiles and dimples, and of trembling tenderness; of a sharp sorrow, or a full breathing joy, of candor, of reserve, of anxious care, of liberal sympathy. The mouth, out of its many sensibilities, may be fancied throwing up one great expression into the eye—as many lights in a city reflect a broad luster into the heavens.—*Leigh Hunt.*

A LESSON IN POLITENESS.

A friend of Dean Swift one day sent him a turbot as a present by a servant lad who had frequently been on similar errands, but had never received anything for his trouble. Having gained admission, he opened the study door, and pulling the fish on the floor, cried out rudely, "Master has sent you a turbot!" "Young man," says the Dean, rising from his easy chair, "is that the way you deliver a message? Let me teach you better manners; sit down in my chair; we will change places, and I will teach you how to behave in the future!" The boy sat down, and the Dean, going out, came up to the door, and making a low bow, said, "Sir, master presents his kind compliments, hopes you are well, and requests your acceptance of a small present." "Does he?" replied the boy; return him my best thanks, and here's half a crown for yourself!" The Dean, thus caught in his own trap, laughed heartily, and gave the boy a crown for his ready wit.

If we are sufficiently watchful over our own conduct, we shall have no time to find fault with the conduct of others.

The Literary World.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Bible Word-Book: A Glossary of Scripture Terms which have changed their Popular Meaning, or are no longer in General Use. By WILLIAM SWINTON, author of "Harper's Language Series," "Word-Book," "Word-Analysis," etc. Edited by Prof. T. J. CONANT, D. D. New York: Harper & Brothers.

This little manual, though designed for Bible-readers generally, is specifically intended for Sunday Schools and Bible Classes. Dr. CONANT most heartily commends it to Sunday School teachers and their classes, and to others who have not more expensive works devoted to literary discussions which have no direct bearing on the illustration of Scripture.

His Natural Life. A Novel. By MARCUS CLARKE. New York: Harper & Brothers.

The Curate in Charge. A Novel. By Mrs. OLIPHANT, author of "Chronicles of Carlingford," "For Love and Life," &c., &c. New York: Harpers.

Pausanias the Spartan. An Unfinished Historical Romance. By the late Lord LYTTON. Edited by his Son. New York: Harpers.

THESE are Nos. 458, 459 and 460 of the "Library of Select Novels" issued by Messrs. HARPER & BROTHERS in uniform style, with paper covers. They combine cheap and entertaining reading for the million.

Little Folks' Letters.—Young Hearts and Old Heads. By NANNETTE S. EMERSON, author of "A Thanksgiving Story," including "Betsey and I are Out," &c., &c. New York. G. W. Carleton & Co.

HERE is a volume of letters which will not only delight the little folks, but please the old heads as well. Taken all in all—contents, illustrations, binding, etc.,—the work is superb and most heartily commended. These Letters are so far superior to the trash given in most of the juvenile periodicals of the day that they will prove an admirable substitute for such sensational romances and mock sentiments as the aforesaid periodicals furnish.

Pausanias the Spartan.—An Unfinished Historical Romance. By the late Lord LYTTON. Edited by his Son. [12 mo.—pp. 203.] New York: Harper & Brothers.

THE admirers of Lord LYTTON will be pleased with this work, unfinished though it be, for it is characterized by his style and genius, and is of course absorbingly interesting. Had the author lived to complete it the finale of the historical romance would no doubt be most entertaining, yet as it is the volume is very readable and of special interest to all students of ancient history.

LITERARY NOTES.

GEN. FRANCIS A. WALKER has a manual of political economy in preparation.

A WORK by Mr. E. L. GODKIN of the Nation, "On Government," will be published during the year.

THE April Atlantic will contain a critical study of early American novelists by Mr. GEORGE P. LATHROP.

MR. RUSKIN has edited a work on "The Art Schools of Medieval Christendom," by A. C. Owen, just ready in England.

MR. BANCROFT'S first volume in the centenary edition of his United States history appeared on Washington's birthday.

E. J. HALE & SON will soon publish "Moody and Sankey—an Authentic Account of their Lives and Services," by Mr. FRANK S. READER.

THE third volume of LANFREY'S "History of Napoleon the First"—an English translation—is promised by Macmillan & Co. for early use.

PROF. THOROLD ROGERS will print "Epistles, Satires and Epigrams," the first two adapted from HORACE and JUVENAL, but entirely modernized.

A LITTLE book of "Hints on Bible Marking," by Mrs. STEPHEN MENZIES, with a prefatory note by Mr. MOODY, will be published by A. D. F. Randolph & Co.

A WORK on "The English Bible," by JOHN EADIE, D. D., LL. D., being a history of the various translations of the Scriptures, is soon to be published in London.

Osgood has published Hawthorne's "English Note-Book," in two thick volumes of the "Little Classic" series, and they make an excellent supplement to "Our Old Home."

GEORGE MACDONALD'S new novel, "Thomas Wingfold, Curate," to be published by George Routledge & Sons, will be directed chiefly against the religious, or irreligious views of such scientists of Prof. Tyndall.

COL. GEO. E. WARING will publish in the March Atlantic a final article on "Drainage." His valuable papers on this subject will then be put in shape for a volume to be issued by Hurd & Houghton, under the title of "Sanitary Drainage in Cities."

MR. EDWARD JENKINS, author of "Ginx's Baby," has at last begun the serial publication of his Coolie novel, entitled "Lutchmee and Dilloo," announced several years ago. Dodd & Mead long since made direct arrangements with the author for its republication here.

COL. R. I. DODGE, U. S. A., in addition to his work on the Plains, has written a volume on "The Black Hills," which will give the routes, with map, descriptions of the scenery, views, and the facts as to soil, timber, climate, gold, etc. Col. DODGE was one of the military exploring expedition.

Sabbath Reading.

"NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE."

A LATE English paper says:—In most collections where Mrs. Adams's hymn, "Nearer, my God, to Thee," is printed, only five verses are given; but the authoress wrote six, of which the following is the last, and the one usually omitted:

"Christ alone beareth me
Where thou dost shine,
Joint heir He maketh me
Of the Divine!
In Christ my soul shall be
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee."

The above stanza was not written by Mrs. Adams. It was added in a Baptist Collection of Hymns in England, by Rev. A. T. Russell. The internal evidence is enough to show that it was not by the author of the hymn. The following, which was written by Mrs. Adams, is not to be found in the collections in use in this country:

FATHER, THY WILL BE DONE.

He sendeth sun, He sendeth shower,
Alike they're needful for the flower;
And joys and tears alike are sent
To give the soul fit nourishment.
As comes to me or cloud or sun,
Father, Thy will, not mine, be done.

Can loving children e'er reprove
With murmurs whom they trust and love?
Creator, I would ever be
A trusting, loving child to Thee;
As comes to me or cloud or sun,
Father, Thy will, not mine, be done.

Oh, ne'er will I at life repine,
Enough that Thou hast made it mine;
When falls the shadow cold of death,
I yet will sing, with parting breath,
As comes to me or shade or sun,
Father, Thy will, not mine, be done.

LET YOUR PREACHER KNOW IT.

A MINISTER, worn out and sick, and therefore unable to prepare as he wished for his work, entered the pulpit with a faltering step and faltering heart. The sermon was delivered in weakness of body and misgiving of heart, and the services closed.

As the tired and discouraged pastor walked down the aisle, a lady, well up in years, waited till he reached her, then, taking his hand, she said: "Mr.——, I thank you, under God, for that sermon—it helped me greatly; it was just what my soul needed." And that pastor went out of the church, not puffed up with pride, but elated in heart and thankful to God, encouraged and strengthened, and "blue Monday" was not "blue" at all, but bright; while the work of the week was lighter far for the memory of the words in the aisle.

It might injure your minister if you told him often that his sermon was eloquent, his points well made, or his style striking and beautiful; but don't be afraid to tell him sometimes when the words are blessed to the comfort of your soul. That will make him a better preacher, a happier man, and a humbler Christian. Many a heavy heart has been carried by tired limbs in a weary manner out of the pulpit, down the aisles, up the street and into the study, when a word or two from one who had been blessed would have made it light and joyous. Many a time during the week's labors have the wheels of your pastor's mind seemed rusted and hard to move, when the memory of words which perhaps you might have spoken of the good his Sabbath's discourse had done you, would have been oil, causing a smooth and easy motion. Pastors do not ask for praises, but they do need encouragement, and to a man who is giving the labors of his life for the good of souls, it is certainly encouraging to know that his work is not in vain. If the Lord blesses your preacher's words to your good, let him know it sometimes.—*Rocky Mountain (Col.) Presbyterian.*

THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

If any one speak ill of thee, flee home to thy own conscience and examine thy heart; if thou be guilty, it is a just correction; if not guilty, it is a fair instruction; make use of both; so shalt thou dist'l honey out of gall, and out of an open enemy create a secret friend.

The soul that does good to others grows in goodness. He that is a medium of blessing to others is himself blessed thereby. Hence selfishness is folly as well as sin; for while it prevents our doing good to others, in the same degree it prevents our doing good to ourself.

The greatest man is he who chooses the right with invincible resolution; who resists the sorest temptations from within and without; who bears the heaviest burden cheerfully.

They that deny a God destroy man's nobility, for certainly man is kin to the beast by his body; and if he is not kin to God by his spirit he is a base and ignoble creature.

The highs of earthly promotion lift us no whit nearer heaven. It is easier to step there from the lowly vale of humiliation and sorrow.

To all men, and at all times, the best friend is virtue; and the best companions are high endeavors and honorable sentiments.

Blessed be the hand that prepares a pleasure for a child, for there is no saying when and where it may bloom forth.

There is a transcendent power in example. We reform others unconsciously when we walk uprightly.

Some mourn more the shame which sin brings than the sin which brings the shame.

Ladies' Portfolio.

LOVE AT SEA.

We are in love's land to-day,
Where shall we go?
Love, shall we start or stay,
Or sail or row?
There's many a wind and way,
And never a May but May;
We are in love's land to-day,
Where shall we go?

Our land-wind is the breath
Of sorrows kissed to death,
And joys that were;
Our ballast is a rose;
Our way lies where God knows,
And love knows where.

Our seamen are fledged loves,
Our masts are bills of doves,
Our decks fine gold;
Our ropes are dead maids' hair,
Our stores are love shafts fair
And manifold.

Where shall we land you, sweet?
On fields of strange men's feet,
Or fields near home?
Or where the fire-flowers blow,
Or where the flowers of snow,
Or flowers of foam?

Land me, she says, where love
Shows but one shaft, one dove,
One heart, one hand.
A shore like that, my dear,
Lies where no man will steer,
No maiden land.

MAPLE BUDS.

No. II.—Help Him, Parents.

BY MAY MAPLE.

"LET me have the paper! You make such blundering work with your reading that it is about as intelligible as the duck's quack. I don't see what's the good of your schoolin' if the teacher can't make a better reader of you."

So said MR. BROWN to his oldest son, BENNY, who had taken up the newspaper, looked over the humorous items, and finding one particularly pleasing to himself, had undertaken to read it aloud for the entertainment of the family. But he *was* a sad blunderer, and quite spoiled the sense of the item. His father had no patience with him, and seldom tried to correct his faulty articulation in a proper manner, preferring to do the reading himself.

The boy handed the paper to his father with downcast eye, and a very uncomfortable swelling in his throat. He did wish he could read well. He didn't see why there need be so many long, hard words. MR. BROWN read the "funnygraphs;" but BENNY did not care for them now, although the rest of the family seemed to be greatly amused. And we heard the boy muttering, as he picked up his hat and started for the barn, that it would be a long time before he would read anything for his father again.

"And this," we thought, "solves the mystery of so many poor readers in a land where an education is free to all." Those parents who *can* read prefer to do it themselves, rather than listen to one less intelligent. They never seem to think that the duller their children are about learning to read in school, the more necessary it is that they should have extra practice at home. And to improve they must read in the presence of one who is capable of correcting their faults—that *one should be endowed with patience*, and he should also keep on hand a good supply of that fragrant blossom known as Good Nature. A child should seldom if ever be ridiculed for his faults. For who does not shrink from the keen edge of sarcasm?

Again, parents should be more willing to supply their children with pleasant home-reading suitable to their growing minds. Yet there are but very few who feel willing to subscribe for a child's paper, though they may take a half dozen to suit their own tastes. But thanks to the publishers, who, as a class, seem to have a good deal of sympathy for the child-nature, there is a department for the young readers in almost all the weekly papers.

Now, if MR. BROWN does not like to pay out his money for a *child's* paper, let him just write his son's name instead of his own when he is about to subscribe for the RURAL NEW-YORKER. Thus the boy will have a paper he can call his very own, and still it will be one that MR. BROWN can appreciate also. Do you think BENNY will be displeased to have a valuable paper come to the village post-office addressed to himself? Behold, he treads like a veritable monarch, when he enters the house with *his own* mail matter in his hand. He will be no happier when he receives his first love-letter. With what a dignified air he takes off the wrapper which has his name *printed* upon it, and unfolds its pages. Of course the wood cuts will all be examined first—for who ever saw a boy that was not fond of pictures? Then the "Wit and Humor" column will be scanned. After a while the story will be found.

Now, if the mother will just express a desire to have her son read it to her, slowly and carefully, he will most gladly comply. Very gently she will criticise his worst blunders, and, lest she wears out his patience with too much fault finding, she will silently excuse the more trivial errors. When he finishes, she will *express* her thanks for the pleasure he has given her in reading the story aloud. It will not be long before he will be sure to find something else in that splendid paper that will be sure to please mother; and, with bright eyes and a smile of great satisfaction, he will ask if he shall not read this "piece" to her. Every week there will be a renewed interest, and very strange it will be if BENNY does not improve in his reading and general intelligence, for he will read all there is in the paper because it is his *very own*. And in the years to come, when BENNY becomes a man and takes the lead in literary circles, on account of his ability to read well, will those parents be sorry that they gave the boy a few years' subscription for papers that pleased him to read, or took a little pains to correct his faulty pronunciation? Will their time and patience have been vainly spent in attending to that part of his education?

Too much is left to the teacher. It is utterly impossible for him to give to each pupil more than a few minutes of time for each lesson. Think of the classes the district teacher is required to superintend personally each day. Besides the demonstrations and explanatory lectures,—a word here, a line there, a problem for this one, analysis for the other. In nine cases out of ten, there will be some lesson to be excused, and quite likely it will be the reading that will be considered of the least importance to the average number of the class. The dull scholar then stands a poor chance of making progress in this branch of education. Then on you, oh parents, must devolve, at least, a part of the responsibility of making your sons and daughters good readers. The painstaking, careworn mother should oblige her daughter to read aloud some of the pleasant stories that she spends hours in reading to herself. It ought to be a pleasure to each member of the family to read aloud while the rest are otherwise employed. If this was customary, we would not find so many poor, unintelligent readers.

A GLIMPSE AT THE RURAL.

WE had been to Central Park, that memorable Saturday afternoon of our stay in New York, and admired its wide paths and carriage ways—its wonderful bridges and grand lawns, which must in summer time be very beautiful. I could hardly imagine a Park of 843 acres—it seemed to me like half a dozen good farms; but it is a blessing I can well understand to have such a glimpse of *outdoors* in the midst of such a Babel. Here was a rustic summer house where an old lady and gentleman had seated themselves to rest; there a spring of water issuing from a rock; yonder a wide, serpentine carriage drive, where vehicles of every description can be seen; and just beside one, a shady path where two can hardly pass. Then we went to the Menagerie and admired the wonders gathered therein—saw the lions, tigers and elephants, that look so unhappy in their iron cages, and pitied while we feared.

But our chief interest centered in the Museum, and after we had examined the cases where are collected the order *Quadrumana*, we stood a long while in admiration before the bright-plumaged birds of tropical countries, and looked at the *Crocodilia* without fear. The *Actinozoa* next claimed our attention, and we had quite a little practical lesson on the strange and beautiful things that are found in the sea, if properly understood. Then our Entomological proclivity asserted itself and we commented on the *Hemiptera* and *Orthoptera*, and mentally compared the bright-winged *Lepidoptera* with our own small collection at home in far-off Canada.

Thoroughly tired at last, we left the wonderful Park and taking a Fifth Avenue stage made our way towards our resting place for the night. On, through Broadway, when suddenly MAYSIE jumped up excitedly, "There's the RURAL!" It was only a flash as we passed by Duane St., and the occupants of that stage no doubt thought they had no need to go outside of it for a "*rural*,"—but we heeded not and smiled at each other, for we knew what we meant. ANNIE L. JACK.

ONE OF THE SORROWS OF LIFE.

MANY a volume has been written about the love of parents, the love of mothers, its enthusiasm of hope and fancy, its adorations of the unworthy, its agony for the lost; but we do not remember that any one has ventured to touch on a still more terrible view of the subject—the disappointment, for example, with which a woman full of high aspirations, noble generosities and, perhaps, an unwarrantable personal pride, all intensified by the homely circumstances of life around her, sometimes looks upon the absolutely commonplace people whom she has brought into the world. She too, has had her dreams about them while they were children, and all things seemed possible—while they were youths, with still some grace and freshness of the morning veiling their unheroic outlines. But a woman of 70 can cherish no fond delusions about her middle-aged sons and daughters, who are, to all intents and purposes, as old as she is. What a dismal sense of failure must come into such a woman's heart while she looks at them! Perhaps this is one reason why grandfathers and grandmothers throw themselves so eagerly into the new generation, by means of which human nature can go on deceiving itself. Heavens! what a difference between the ordinary man or woman of 50 and the ideal creature which he or she appeared to the eyes of 15! The old people gaze and gaze to see our old features in us; and who can express the blank of that disappointment, the cruel mortification of those old hopes, which never find expression in any words?

THEY who are very indulgent to themselves seldom have much consideration for others.

Reading for the Young.

BABY'S DRESS.

BABY, baby, bless her;
How shall mamma dress her?

The summer cloud
Is not too proud
To find soft wool to dress her.

The blue bell
Is a true bell,
And will find the blue to dress her.

The cherry tree
Is a merry tree,
And will find the pink to dress her.

The lily bright
Will find the white,
The beautiful white to dress her.

The leaves in the wood
Are sweet and good,
And will find the green to dress her.

The honey suckle,
With buds for a buckle,
Will make a girdle to dress her.

The heavens hold
Both silver and gold
In the stars, and they will dress her.
[*Good Words for the Young.*

AN INDIAN FUNERAL.

A STORY FOR THE LITTLE FOLKS.

BY NANNETTE S. EMERSON.

THEY were a merry party of cousins gathered in the old New England homestead. I do not know their ages exactly, but I guess MABEL was eight years old. She had always lived near her father's old home, and JOSIE was nine, but she had been with her parents in Texas for several years. HOWARD must have been about ten, and FRED, JOSIE'S brother, was eleven.

There had been a picnic in the pine-woods the day before, and all the school and village children had been romping and swinging and playing games all day long. I will let you listen some day when I tell my little folks about this famous picnic from which the children came home late in the summer evening, tired out with the long, happy day. They slept late the next morning and dreamed of fairies, perhaps, who dance in the moonbeams until the sun shining through the green leaves drives them away. And though they woke happy and refreshed, they did not feel so much like startling everybody with unexpected mischief as they generally did. So, when they had eaten breakfast, the whole party went out to the long open shed, to play with the little dogs and plan for the future.

They soon fell to talking about the picnic and then JOSIE said:—"We went to a kind of a picnic in Texas once—do you remember FRED?"

FRED—"A picnic?—no!—I am sure we never went to a picnic there. What are you thinking of?"

JOSIE—Don't you remember? It was over the mountains. Some Indians sent for the squaws who were working at the ranche and father took us over."

FRED—"That was a funeral, goosie. Big Quill Quecheta,' the oldest chief was dead, and some Mexicans had brought a lot of fireworks to help celebrate his journey to the upper hunting-ground, and light him on his way to the big hunt, where buffalo with horns of solid gold and hides covered with snowy white fleece roamed in great herds. You never saw a queerer sight, I reckon, than those solemn old copper-skins, wrinkling their leathery brown faces to smile with pleasure when the rockets shot up into the air, leaving a slender ladder of stars on which their dead companion could climb toward Heaven, they thought."

HOWARD—"By hokey, I'd like that."

MABEL—"And could you see them JOSIE?"

JOSIE—"Yes! It was splendid—the strange red and blue lights shining against the dark mountains."

FRED—"But were you in a house, Jo, so you could not see the best fun. Some of the rockets had fallen into the water when the mule that carried them was crossing a ford, and these the Mexicans had lain aside, knowing they would not go off. Some little Indian children, boys and girls together, (they are as spry as monkeys and just about as sensible,) found these wet rockets, and so they lighted a fire and undertook to dry them. They tried again and again to light them, but the fuse would not burn, so at last they threw them all on to the fire together. They went off then, you bet! One bounced out and hit an old brave on the back of his head and brought him to his feet with a howl; then two or three scattered themselves among the pappooses, and the pappooses scattered themselves in all directions, yelling like wild-cats. A young Mexican picked one up that he thought the fire had not touched, and just then it went zurr-rr-rr, and the young black eyes jumped about a rod and sat down on a cactus; that did not seem to make him happy, so he hopped up and capered around indiscriminately.

"Meanwhile some half dozen rockets and bombs had started off on their own responsibility. The worst trick about them was, that you never could tell what they would do next. If I saw one travelling away, straight and swift, the first I knew it was sure to bounce back again and hit a fellow just where he was not expecting it. At last two or three of the burning things scooted out among the mules, where they were tied and watched by the young ones, and all at once the air was full of mules' heels and little Indians, and bursted bits of paper, and I thought it was just a good time to get out of reach. So I dodged through a shower of burning sparks and Mexican cuss words and tumbled into the house."

JOSIE—"Oh, Fred! how you do talk."

HOWARD—"Ha! ha! ha! Wouldn't I like to have been there then. But you say it was a funeral. Where was the coffin and the remains of old leather face. Did they happen to be in the way of the wandering fireworks?"

FRED—"Oh, no. They do not go in for the luxury of coffins in that country. They just wrap the departed redskin in his best blanket and lay him up among the branches of the nearest tree, out of the reach of wolves and bears, and on the tree they hang his hatchet and hunting knife. Then they go away and leave him, and I do not know what becomes of the bones."

MABEL—"What a strange way to have a funeral. But did you stay there on the mountain all night?"

JOSIE—"No. I remember the ride home, with the great stars seeming to shine warmer and warmer as we went down into the valley. And Mamma and old Aunt JOAN were waiting for us by the door of our home. But I wish you would tell me about Thanksgiving, MABEL. Oh, there comes Uncle JOHN, with JOHNNIE and HORTENSIA! Now we will have fun"—and away they all scampered.

A STORY ABOUT TWO PIGS.

[SEE ILLUSTRATION, PAGE 173.]

WE are apt to class pigs among the least intelligent of all our animals, and it is certain that they are particularly awkward and troublesome travelers; but a curious circumstance which happened in our own neighborhood nearly thirty years ago, seems to prove that, if left to themselves, pigs can be as clever as we know dogs and horses and several other creatures have often shown themselves, in finding their way home under more or less difficulty.

A gentleman, residing at Elmira, bought two pigs in the market, which were conveyed to his home. They were afterwards observed trotting along the Southport road to Elmira. The result was their safe return to the place from whence they had been conveyed to Elmira, a distance of five miles, and by cross-roads. The farmer from whom they had been purchased brought them back to their owner, but they took the first opportunity to escape again, re-cross the water, and never stopped till they found themselves at their first home. How the matter was afterward settled we cannot say; but the affair was thought so remarkable, especially by some neighbors, who took great interest in the study of animals and their capacities, that it excited full and particular inquiry and investigation at the time, and the truth of the above facts may therefore be relied upon.

The Puzzler.

FARMER'S ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I AM composed of 53 letters:
My 22, 7, 2 is a kind of grain.
My 9, 5, 48, 29, 25 is a useful animal.
My 11, 31, 13, 3 is a farm implement.
My 35, 21, 10, 30, 11 is a domestic animal.
My 1, 16, 17, 23, 39 is a building.
My 20, 23, 28, 47, 8, 4, 7 is a kind of grass.
My 32, 12, 41, 34, 42 is made of wheat.
My 6, 17, 36, 39, 37, 50 is made of milk.
My 26, 38, 24, 41 is something bees need.
My 19, 46, 8, 33, 17, 44, 50, 53 is an agricultural editor.
My 16, 27, 19, 2 is a part of an animal.
My 14, 51, 18, 15, 5, 15 is a kind of tree.
My 43, 52 are consonants.
My whole was said by a wise man.
☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

TRANSPOSITION.—No. 1.

Tel tafe od reh sowrt relhe rea leelrs fo yol,
Ghribt merads fo eth tasphlewh hes nocnat sedroyt.
Hiwch more ni hel ginht nite lo ro wor nda race,
Nda grinb Faeb hte afelrnee tait vole ened ot reaw.
Ongl, nolg eh yto lehar hitw lnes more nsle itfed,
Klle teh save ni thewh sores vahe cene eben aldlilde;
Uyo yam kreab, oyn any thasret eth evsa it ony liwl,
Tuh hte netse fo eth orses liwl ganh duron ti tilst.
☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

BIBLICAL DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—No. 2.

1. PART of a house. 2. A city of Sharon. 3. The wife of a patriarch. 4. A word signifying "my husband." 5. An inflammable fluid. 6. A musical instrument. The mother of a prophet. The initials give a noted city, and the finals a famous man of olden time.
☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Feb. 26.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS NO. 6.—Love me little, love me long.

ARITHMETICAL PUZZLE NO. 1.—
X L I = 41
X I I = 12
o XLIX o = 49

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA NO. 1.—Rhine and Rhone.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

DISGRACE OF SEC'Y BELKNAP.

THE Congressional Committee on Expenditures of the War Department, which usually considers its duties of the slightest public importance, has this year set to work most earnestly. The result is an astounding record of corruption in a quarter where least expected. Mr. Belknap, the Secretary of War, has been found guilty of selling the post tradership at Fort Sill, for which $20,000 was paid, part on receiving the position and the remainder in annual payments of $6,000 per year made to the Secretary's wife, with whom the arrangement was made and through whose influence the position was obtained. The effect of these disclosures was most astonishing. Sec'y Belknap broke down completely, confessed his shame, and only asked, but in vain, that his wife should be spared the mortification of having the facts made public. As soon as he knew that the Committee had the evidence in its possession, Sec'y Belknap went to the President and tendered his resignation, which was promptly accepted. Mr. Clymer, Sec'y of the Committee, read its report to the House March 2d, and in conclusion moved that Sec'y Belknap be impeached which, after faint opposition, was unanimously voted. The Investigating Committee was constituted a Committee to prepare formal articles of impeachment and present them before the Senate for trial. Some question arises whether the acceptance of the resignation will forestall impeachment, but the general and probably well founded belief is that it cannot. Impeachment involves not only removal from office, but disqualification for holding any position of honor or trust under the United States Government. This after penalty of his crime the Secretary has yet to receive.

During his residence in Washington Sec'y Belknap and family have lived in a style far more expensive than was warranted by his salary—$8,000 a year. Love of display and extravagance shared both by the Secretary and his wife is undoubtedly largely responsible for his fall. Let us hope that the disgrace it involves will teach a lesson widely needed and which cannot be too closely heeded.

DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO IN THE WEST.

THE deranged weather which has prevailed for more than a year past occasionally breaks out in freaks of unusual tempestual violence, causing floods and tornadoes. Two of these latter are reported from the West, both occurring on Feb. 27. The first is located in and near Princeton, Ind., twenty-eight miles north of Evansville. The storm lasted only a few minutes, but in that time destroyed property whose value is estimated at from $100,000 to $150,000. Numerous farms, with their buildings, throught the county, have also been destroyed, so that the whole loss in the county will probably reach a quarter million dollars. The following persons were injured:—Mrs. Wm. Clark, seriously; James S. Taylor, internally; Mrs. R. Torner, one eye lost; Miss Kendle, limb broken; Susan Blanchard, hip bone hurt. In some places the houses were carried 100 yards from their foundations. In one instance a horse was discovered in a cellar, whither the tornado had carried him from a stable fifty yards away. James Leslie, an old man, who is a full cousin of ex-President Jackson, was in his bed in the second story of his large brick residence, when the wind struck the house and tore out the ends, carrying him, together with his bed, out into the road, without injuring him in the least. The vacant lots in the town, in some places, are covered with lath and shingles, which were forced into the ground to the depth of four or five inches. Immense quantities of hail fell, ranging in size from a walnut to a hen's egg. The destruction of property, for the most part, has fallen upon those who are ill able to bear it. To add to the terror which prevailed, two houses which were blown down took fire and were consumed.

St. Charles, Mo., was visited by a most terrible tornado. Rain began to fall, followed by hail. In a moment dark yellow streaks were observed following in the course of the clouds. A noise as loud as thunder was then heard, and in the twinkling of an eye the tornado burst. The heavens were shut out by the *debris* of wrecked buildings, which filled the air so that nothing could be discerned. The roar of the wind was appalling and every one paralyzed by fear. The duration of the tornado could not have been longer than one-half of a minute. Three persons were killed, so far as known. James Gosney and his little son were both found dead in the gas-house, the child clasped in his father's arms. Both bodies were crushed and badly mutilated. It is also reported that a child was blown over the bridge, which is 90 feet high, but its body has not been found. About 20 persons were injured. The damage to property is estimated all the way from $100,000 to $150,000.

EXTRAVAGANCE AND GREED.

THE lesson of the day is a terrible one. An officer of the Cabinet and a trusted adviser of the President confesses his corruption in using his position to sell offices within his gift. He has been impeached by Congress and will, without doubt, be disqualified from holding office, besides suffering probably fine and imprisonment for his offenses. To these crimes Secretary BELKNAP and his wife were undoubtedly led by their desire to live more showily and spend money more freely than was warranted by the $8,000 a year which a Cabinet officer receives for his services. It is the fashion among some journals to decry this salary as too small, and this has been urged as partial palliation for the Secretary's crime. It is said that a Cabinet officer cannot live "respectably" on his salary. This is simply absurd. The RURAL NEW-YORKER goes to thousands of homes where half of $8,000 a year would be considered affluence. The trouble is that it is not "respectability" which these devotees of fashion are seeking, but each is blindly striving to outdo others. Expensive dinners are given, some of which cost $1,000 to $5,000 each. Houses are hired, suited only to an extravagantly expensive establishment and of course at corresponding prices. A few men with immense private incomes "set the fashion" in the race of extravagance, and Congressmen, Senators and other officials with no income but their salaries, consider themselves compelled to emulate these examples,—too often followed by bankruptcy or as in the case of Sec'y BELKNAP, by some act which forever blackens one name and disgraces our country in the eyes of foreign nations.

It is high time that all this should change. It is not a party question; but one of personal economy and honesty. We cannot have a cure of dishonesty in administration while the personal habits of law-makers and those who set the fashion in Washington are all in favor of unlimited extravagance. Economy in personal expenditures must go hand-in-hand with economy in Public administration of the Government.

It is a curious and sad commentary on this unhappy case, that while Secretary Belknap and his wife were leading the fashion in Washington the money by which their lavish outlay was supported was wrung from United States soldiers in distant trading posts, receiving $13 a month or $156 per year, and who because of the Secretary's crime were compelled to pay the extortionate profit of five hundred per cent. on everything they bought. And yet the Secretary was not able to live as he thought himself entitled to on his legal salary of eight thousand dollars a year. There need be no pity wasted on the guilty Secretary or his equally guilty wife for punishment which follows a crime of such disgusting meanness.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE Advisory Council called by Plymouth Church to consider its action in the Beecher case, and in dropping Mrs. Moulton from membership, has adjourned. The final conclusion of this Council is to present twenty names of the most eminent members of the Congregational Body in America from which Prof. Timothy Dwight of New Haven, Rev. J. N. Wellman of Malden, Mass., and Hon. Bradford R. Wood of Albany, are to select a commission of five. This commission is to make a thorough examination of all charges against Mr. Beecher and Plymouth Church. The Council decides that Plymouth Church has not contravened the usages of the denomination in any action it has heretofore taken, and in their concluding speeches Dr. Bacon, President Porter of Yale and President Sturtevant, expressed the deepest regard and affection for Mr. Beecher and the Church of which he is pastor. The commission to make the investigation is not yet decided upon; but among the twenty names proposed it is certain that five can be chosen in whose ultimate decision the public may repose entire confidence.

The stonecutters of Chicago have petitioned the City Council to exclude prison labor from competition on the new Court House work. The reply is that the work must go to the lowest responsible bidder, without regard to creed, color, sex, or condition of service.

J. B. Phillips of Orwell, Ohio, is making a cheese which will not be completed until the 20th of May, when it is expected to weigh 22,000 pounds. It is, perhaps, needless to say that it is hoped to astonish the natives as well as the foreigners at the Centennial.

Thirty-three mines in Colorado have been opened to a depth of from 100 to 900 feet since 1859. Five of them were idle last year, but the rest produced ore valued at nearly $2,000,000. Since their discovery they have yielded $26,980,000.

There is an ancient maiden lady of 82, living in Taunton, Mass., who has never seen a train of cars, dresses in Continental fashion, burns tallow dips, and has not called upon her neighbors for five years. If she does not make the most of the present year and its peculiar privileges, there is fear that she will die an old maid.

Montana, too, has its diamond excitement, owing to the discovery of some stones at Pioneer, which, having been sent to England to be cut, are pronounced by a lapidary to be genuine diamonds. One of the stones weighs four pennyweights, and, although a little off color, cuts glass freely, and stands all the ordinary tests of diamonds.

The Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias held a special session at Philadelphia on Mar. 2d when Chancellor's rank was conferred.

In Charleston Mass., Spencer Decker, age 12, was held in $5,000 bail, charged with causing the death of Charles H. Pressy, a playmate, 9 years of age.

Warsaw N. Y., goes for temperance by 76 majority.

On the afternoon of March 4, a freight train on Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, while crossing the bridge at Delaware, broke in two, throwing a car into the river.

The wife of Representative Wheeler of New York died in Washington Mar. 4.

Thomas J. Judge, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Alabama, died on the 4th inst.

The Republicans of Rochester have nominated Cornelius R. Parsons for Mayor, and the Democrats have nominated James Brackett.

Ross Campbell, aged 57 years, a prominent dry goods merchant of Baltimore, died last week of erysipelas. Mr. Campbell was also extensively engaged in business in New York.

Since the middle of November last a Somerset, Mass., man trapped in that town, 830 polecats, 160 muskrats, 20 minks, and 2 raccoons, and sold their skins for $567.

The City Council at Stockton, Cal., is considering the policy of establishing separate schools for truant and ill-behaved boys who cannot be controlled by the usual discipline.

The Industrial Works at Springfield, Vt., run on the co-operative plan, are a great success. The number of employes has been largely increased, and work is progressing day and night.

The New Hampshire temperance revival is assumming vast proportions. Twelve thousand persons have signed the pledge since the movement began.

Another west bound night freight train on the Troy and Greenfield road, consisting of twenty-five cars and two locomotives, was partly wrecked Mar. 2, by a car running off the track just west of Bardwell's Ferry station. The brakeman being unable to stop the train it ran on to the bridge across Deerfield river, dumping five cars into the river, fifty feet or more below, and damaging the bridge so that the train from the tunnel into Boston did not reach here until 11 A. M., and then only by shoving the cars across the bridge, it not being deemed safe for a locomotive. No one was injured.

A hunting party in Granby, Vt., recently slaughed 14 deer, the crust being such that the men could go along on it easily, while the deer cut through. Two arrests have been made, this sort of sport being unlawful.

FOREIGN NOTES.

A NEW mode of abandonment has been developed in France by the unnatural parents of a little boy four years old, who left him at the Vincennes station with an unsigned letter, stating they could not support him. The police have as yet been foiled in their attempts to discover the parents, the child being unable to give the necessary information.

A Latin inscription recording the triumph of the Emperor Claudius over the Britons and the taking of Caractacus has been found engraved on a stone in the wall of the ancient Cyzicus, in Asia Minor, and a copy has been presented to the Paris Academie des Inscriptions.

An ascent of Mont Blanc was successfully effected on the 20th of January by M. Gabriel Lappe, a French painter, and Mr. James Eales, whom the papers call an English geologist. The curious feature of the exploit was that at an elevation of 13,000 feet they found a temperature higher than that which prevailed in the lower regions.

Prince Bismarck rode on horseback in the Thiergarten, Berlin, on Mar. 1st, the first time for fully a year. He looks well, and it is now said that he is in satisfactory health.

Negotiations are pending for the marriage of the Duke of Genoa with the Archduchess Marie Christine, daughter of the Archduke Charles Ferdinand of Austria.

At the Dublin Lord Mayor's banquet the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland said the country had been more prosperous last year than ever before. Emigration and pauperism had sensibly decreased, two prominent banks were paying a dividend of twelve per cent., and the deposits in the Bank of Ireland amounted to £1,000,000 sterling more in 1875 than in the preceding year.

There is a curiosity of literature in England called the "Wordless Book." It does not contain a word, but the colors of its leaves supposed to interpret the thought. Two black leaves symbolize the unregenerate heart of man; red, the blessed redemption; white, the purity of the soul, washed in the blood of redemption; and gold, the radiant joys of heavenly felicity.

Santo Domingo continues greatly disturbed by the Presidential campaign. The three candidates—Gonzalez, Luperon, and Baez—have each ardent partisans who are easily provoked to arms. President Gonzalez, who is seeking re-election, appears to have the best claim to popular support.

It is fortunate for Don Carlos that he recently inherited $5,000,000 from his father-in-law, the dethroned Duke of Modena. This large sum will enable the adventurer to settle with his British adherents, to whom he owes about $1,000,000. He can hardly compensate them, however, for the awkward position into which he has led them by his empty boastings.

Despite the unfriendly course of Austria and Russia the insurgents in Herzegovina let pass no opportunity of showing their contempt for the terms of peace offered by the Sultan at the instance of the Great Powers. The battle at Dabra, recently, in which 800 Turks were slain, will embitter the conflict still more, and render a peaceful settlement almost impossible.

The city authorities of Brighton, the fashionable English watering place, are considering a proposition to build a number of cottages to be rented from Saturdays to Mondays during the season.

Mr. Alexander Agassiz has been elected in his father's place to the Zoological Society of London, and the Imperial Society of Natural History of Moscow. These are the three principal zoological and natural history societies of Europe, and in each of them the number of foreign honorary members is limited.

Signor Cuneo, a very old friend of Garibaldi and his companion in South America, having lately died without receiving extreme unction, the Roman Catholic Church refuses Christian burial, and the corpse is still above ground in Florence. Garibaldi has written a letter advising the burning of the body, which system he desires to be applied to his own remains, and he offers to receive Cuneo's ashes at Caprera in his family vault.

Some curious and startling facts concerning the people who live upon the canals are given in a recent English publication, entitled "Our Canal Population." It appears that on the canals and rivers in England there are not less than 22,400 men, as many women, and 72,000 children; and that 20,000 of these men and women are living as husbands and wives in an unmarried state, and have 40,000 illegitimate children. Mr. Smith says of these boatmen and their families:—"Ninety-five per cent. cannot read and write, ninety per cent. are drunkards, sixty per cent. are unmarried, but living as husbands and wives. Many of the boaters and their families have but one home, little more than one bed, and one suit of clothes, and these not much better than rags. The cabin home is scarcely the size of an ash-box, but in this hole men and women live together, children are born, and families are educated into vice and crime."

A despatch from Rome to the London Standard says that Cardinal Ledochowski was expected to arrive there last night.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, March 4, 1876

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	63,235	Molasses	1,868
Whisky	2,638	Rice, bbls	1,855
Corn meal, bbls	1,895	Cut meats, pkgs	16,414
Corn meal, bags	5,059	Lard, pkgs	8,811
Wheat, bush	139,300	Tobacco, hhds	1,559
Corn, bush	312,196	do. cases	2,700
Oats, bush	189,414	Butter, pkgs	18,457
Rye, bush	6,050	Cheese, bxs	15,518
Malt, bush	54,981	Cotton, bales	22,600
Barley, bush	44,600	Rosin	454
Beans, bbls	13,592	Spts. turp., bbls	146
Grass seed, bags	9,308	Dried Fruits, pkgs	175
Beef, pkgs	3,617	Eggs, bbls	12,557
Wool, bales	911	Peanuts, bags	502
Hops, bales	1,747	Dressed Hogs	2,251
Pork, bbls	3,981	Leather, sides	82,570
Tallow	1,106		

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 451 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 9,666 do.; same time last year, 3,670 do. Exports of peas past week, 9,322 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 122,440 do.; same time last year, 92,818 do. Heavy receipts of beans continue oppressively large, and with no compensating demand for any grade the market is dull and prices are weak. In marrows the market shows a marked falling off compared with the past few weeks. Buyers of mediums seem pretty well stocked. Kidneys are very quiet, the Southern, their usual outlet, being very limited this season. Southern B. E. peas have declined.

We quote beans, pea, new, prime, $1.35@1.40; other, $1.15@1.25; medium, new, prime, $1.25@1.30; good, $1.10@1.15; very poor, 50@90c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.70@—; other, $1.40@1.55; white kidney, prime, $1.70@1.75; fair to good, $1.50@1.60; red kidney, new, prime, $1.40@1.45; fair to good, $1.20@1.30; California Lima, choice, $2.40@2.50. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new duty paid, $1.15@1.18; bulk, in bond, 85@95c.; green new, ⅞ bush., $1.60@1.65; Southern B. E., ⅞ bush. bag, $2.85@2.90.

BEESWAX.—Exports past week, 3,298 lbs.; since Jan. 1st, 24,600 do.; same time last year, 23,353 do. Choice lots are in small stock and bring rather better prices. Western quoted at 32@32½c., and Southern at 33@33½c.

BROOM CORN.—Medium stock is in fair supply and favoring the buyer; choice lots still wanted.

We quote Brush, short green, 9@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@7c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—The past few days have developed the fact that the remainder of the crop of State will soon be settled here and that fact alone helps to revive what was becoming a drooping market. Fine butter continues scarce and is likely to go out high. Under grades are steady and not likely to advance materially. Several back seasons have made dealers cautious about putting on all the force the prices will bear in a Spring market. Western butter is in good demand and the outside rates are more frequently quoted than before. The following comparative tables are from the Producer's Price current:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, pkgs.
June 1, '75, to March 1, '76	903,478	30,225
June 1, '74, to March 1, '75	790,236	41,596
June 1, '73, to March 1, '74	809,776	28,036
June 1, '73, to March 1, '73	594,214	41,461
June 1, '71, to March 1, '72	577,852	61,321
June 1, '70, to March 1, '71	437,683	14,100

State dairies entire, extra, 32@34c.; entire, good to prime, 29@32c.; fair to good, 26@29c.; firkins, selected fresh, 32@34c.; good to prime, 28@32c.; fair to good, 24@28c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 37@40c.; good to prime, 33@35c.; fair to good, 29@32c.; poor to fair, 18@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, full made, 28@32c.; dairies, 25@30c.; good to prime, 21@23c.; fair to good 24@26c.; poor to fair, 18@21c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 18@26c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 27@28c.; good to prime, 24@26c.; tubs selected fresh, 27@28c.; good to prime, fresh, 24@26c.; fair to good, fresh, 20@23c.; poor to fair, fresh, 17@19c.; Western, early packed, selected, 22@24c.; Western, early packed, other, 16@17c. Roll butter, good to prime, 25@26c.; fair to good, 23@25c.

CHEESE.—The market begins to show a little more life. There is an advance abroad which has brought freer orders from shippers and sales effected at 13½@14c. for ordinary to strictly fancy factories. The home trade is moderately active. Exports past week, 21,171 boxes; cable quotation, 62s. for Liverpool, gold. New State factory, fancy, 13½@14c.; fine, 13@13½c.; do. good to prime, 11½@12½c.; fair to good, 10@11½c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 10½@11½c.; fair to good, 9½@10½c. Western factory, cheddar, due, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fine, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair, 8@10c.; poor to fair, 6@8c.; pineapple, 16@18c. English dairy, Connecticut, 12@13½c., do. State, 15@18c.

From the Producers' Price Current we take the following:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, lb.
June 1, '75, to March 1, '76	2,240,540	86,025,058
June 1, '74, to March 1, '75	1,830,795	84,523,068
June 1, '73, to March 1, '74	1,880,489	83,962,005
June 1, '72, to March 1, '73	1,628,200	69,475,721
June 1, '71, to March 1, '72	1,380,871	61,578,607
June 1, '70, to March 1, '71	1,110,200	57,619,039

COTTON.—The Liverpool market has been steadily declining, with the rates there now the lowest since 1857; the market here has consequently been completely upset, reacting towards the close under a disposition to operate freely by a few parties. The closing prices are for March, 12 21-32c.; April, 12 29-32c.; May, 13 3-16@13 7-32c.; June, 13 15-32@13⅜c.; July, 13 11-16@13 23-32c.; August, 13⅝@13 27-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16
Strict ordinary	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16
Good ordinary	10 9-16	10 9-16	10 11-16	10 11-16
Strict good do	11 5-16	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 7-16
Low middling	11 13-16	11 15-16	12 1-16	12 1-16
Strict low middling	12 5-16	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 9-16
Middling	12⅝	12⅝	12 13-16	12 13-16
Good middling	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛
Strict good middling	13⅝	13⅝	13⅝	13⅝
Middling fair	13¾	14	14⅛	14⅛
Fair	14⅝	14⅝	15	15

Stained.

Good ordinary	⅛ 9 3-16	Low middling	10 13-16
Strict ordinary	10 5-16	Middling	11 11-16

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples have had rather more attention and at steady prices for prime lots of quarters. Peeled peaches are in few hands and firmly held; unpeeled are in light stock but dull. Blackberries are lower and sparingly dealt in.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; quarters, 9@9½c.; Western quarters, 8½c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 10@10½c. for prime. Tennessee qrs., 8½@8¾c. Blackberries, new, 11@—c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 21@22c. Peaches peeled, new process, 20@23c.; do. unpeeled, 12@13c.

EGGS.—The market is quiet and prices not well supported. Lent ought to give more impetus to sales, but usually buyers take stock pretty freely in anticipation of the first week or so of Lent when prices suit, and this has been the case to a large extent this season. Receipts are large. Compared with this date last year, we have received 55,000 bbls. eggs since Jan. 1st, against 28,000 same time last year. We quote:

Jersey, single barrels, ₱ bbl., 21c.; State & Penn., 19½@20c.; Western, prime, 19c.; fair marks, 18@18½c.; Southern and South Western, 17@18½c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Unchanged. We quote: "H. G." oil peppermint, $4, in glass; Hull & Parshall do., $4@4.20 do.; pure in tin, $3.50; sassafras, 55c.; wintergreen, $3.12; spearmint, $3.50; pennyroyal, $4.

FEATHERS.—Prime Western live geese quoted at 58@60c.; mixed, 30@45c.

FLOUR.—The market abroad has been dull and weak, and with the light trade here in consequence, lower and irregular prices prevail.

Superfine State, $4.00@4.50; extra do., $4.85@5.60; superfine Western, $4.00@4.50; extra do., $4.85@5.75; No. 2, $3.25@3.65; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.90@5.25; trade brands do., $5.30@7.25; white wheat extras, $5.80@7.00; St. Louis, $5.25@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@6.50; Southern at $4.25@4.65 for superfine; $4.80@6.25 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.30@8.75 for trade and family brands. Corn meal—Western yellow, $2.70@3.25; do. white, $2.70@3.25; Jersey & Penn., $2.90@3.25. Buckwheat selling at 60@65c. for prime State, and flour at $1.85@2.25.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week 180 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 3,884 do.; same time last year, 8,966 do. Apples begin to move well and the high prices for extras are readily paid. Late arrivals have been of good quality, and quotations for them have exceeded stored parcels. We quote selected varieties as follows: Greenings, prime, $3.25@3.75; Swaars, Gilliflower, Spy, $3.25@3.50. Russets are not yet offered to the trade; they would probably bring rates for good mixed lots. Florida oranges, in cases, are in good demand at $5@7.50 each. During the week the winter market was enlivened by an arrival of 100 quarts of strawberries from Mandarin, Fla. They arrived in elegant condition in two of the Allagretti Antiseptic refrigerators. They were raised by Mr. Sayres, and sold here at $4@5 per quart by Arendgeon & Co. Cranberries are almost out of stock. Peanuts are a little stronger, they are apt to improve in the spring. Hickory nuts nominal at $1.25.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $4@4.50; Greenings, —@— mixed, good, $2.50@2.75; other $1.50@2. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $4.25@4.50; good to prime, $4@4.25; made bbls., $12.50@13.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, 1.45@1.60, do. Wilmington, $1.30@1.50; do. Tennessee, 95@$1.10. Pecans, 12@13c.

FURS AND SKINS.—We quote prime skins:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00 to 15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00 to 10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50 to 3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50 to 2 50
Badger	20 to 50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50 to 60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40 to 50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00 to 12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, silver	15 00 to 50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00 to 5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50 to 1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25 to 1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40 to 60
Fox, Kitt	30 to 50
Lynx	1 00 to 2 00
Marten, States	1 50 to 2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00 to 4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00 to 3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00 to 1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa	75 to 1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50 to 75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	25 to 27
Muskrat, West, including Peno, and Ohio, winter	22 to 25
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12 to 20
Otter, North'n and Eastern and Northwest	10 00 to 12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	6 00 to 10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	2 00 to 6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18 to 20
Opossum, South and open North	12 to 15
Raccoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indian handled, dark	80 to 1 00
Racoon, Ill., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50 to 65
Racoon, N. Y. and E. States & N. Penn.	65 to 75
Racoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Mo., Neb. and Kan	40 to 50
Racoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15 to 40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00 to 3 00
Sheep skins, summer and fall	50 to 1 00
Sheep skins, winter	1 50 to 2 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	— to 1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	— to 1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50 to 80
Skunks, whole streaked	15 to 20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00 to 3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75 to 1 25

GINSENG.—Lower. Western $110@115; Southern, $120@125.

GRAIN.—Wheat has been depressed and dull through a decline at the West and abroad, though it was more firmly held at the close. Latest sales at $1.09@1.10 for choice No. 3 spring in store; $1.40 for very choice old amber Western in store; also at $1.08@1.10 for No. 3 Chicago spring; $1.12 for No. 3 Milwaukee afloat; $1.25 for No. 2 Milwaukee in store; $1.26@1.27 for No. 2 spring; $1.32@1.47 for winter red and amber; $1.35@1.50 for white, and $1.32@1.36 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 80@85c. for State, and 78@82½c. for Western. Barley is dull at $1.07½@1.14 for No. 2 Canada, and $1.30@1.50 for No. 1 Canada. Barley malt at $1.12½@1.45 for Canada, as to quality, 85c.@$1.05 for two-rowed State, and $1.10@1.25 for four-rowed do. Corn has been in good export demand. Latest sales are 62@63½c. for mixed Western, new yellow Western at 63c.; new yellow Jersey, 62@63c. Oats have been in liberal supply and easy in price, No. 2 Chicago at 45c.; mixed Western, 45@47½c.; white Western at 47@55c.

HAY AND STRAW.—Receipts have been small, demand fair and prices strong.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, 95c.@1.10; clover, 65@70c.; salt, 65@75c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 80@85c. for short rye; 75@80c. for oat.

Exports past week, 171 bales; since Jan. 1st, 5,479 bales; same time last year, 6,071.

HIGHWINES.—Selling at $1.10.

HONEY.—Quiet at 18@22c. for white clover, 10@12c. for dark comb and strained.

HOPS.—Exports for the week have been 1,700 bales; these heavy shipments have led to an advance of fully one cent per lb., and the market at the close is very strong. Some few parcels are changing hands among dealers here with expected further free requirements from abroad. The supplies of strictly choice stock have become much reduced. The receipts the past week have been 1,600 bales, but they have been largely of other than best grades; home trade demand is fair.

New York State, 13@18c.; Eastern, 11@18c.; Wisconsins, 11@16c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 1@8c.; Californias, 17@20c.

MAPLE SUGAR.—We shall have an early offering. Samples have been received from Vermont and Ohio. It is always more or less difficult to start sugar into use at the beginning of the season. Buyers are afraid of being deceived into paying high prices for re-run old. New Ohio is quoted at 15@17c. for fine 13@14c. for other. Old is offering at 8@13c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The dressed poultry trade is of but little moment now. Retail shops take but what is required to fill orders, and even the hotel trade is not using heavily. Large capons are selling at 28@30c. by the case, and small and slips at 24@26c. We quote:

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 17@18c.; Jersey, good to prime, 15@17c.; State, good to prime, 14@16c.; Western, good to prime, 13@15c.; fair to good, 11@12c.; poor, 9@10c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 17@18c.; State, good to prime, 16@17c.; Western, good to prime, 15@16c.; inferior, 12@13c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; State, good to prime, 18@20c.; Western, good to prime, 17@19c.; fair to good, 15@16c.; poor, 13@14c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 12@14c.; State, good to prime, 12@13c.; Western, good to prime, 11@12c.; do., poor to fair, 9@11c.

Live poultry sells well, but the receipts keep prices easy. Ducks and geese seldom exceed the inside range. We quote:

Turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 14@15c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2.50@3; do. Western, $1.50@1.75; ducks, Western, ₱ lb., 65@75c.; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1@1.25; fowls and chickens, State and Jersey, ₱ lb., 14@15c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; roosters, 8@10c.

Wild pigeons are wanted, now that small game birds are out of the way. We quote:

Wild pigeons, feathered, per doz., $2@2.50. Canvas back ducks, Western, ₱ pair, $1.25@1.50; Havre de Grace do., $1.75; Western, 87c., Redhead, $1; Mallard, 70c.; Teal, 40@50c. ₱ pair, Hares, ₱ pair, 20@30c. Rabbits, ₱ pair, 35@40c.

PROVISIONS—Are generally higher under increased demand, and in consideration of the small arrivals of hogs at the West mess pork is quoted $23.12½ for spot lots; $23 for March; $23.05 for April, $23.35 for May, $23.35 for June; dressed hogs at 10¾@10¾c. for Western; Western tierced pickled hams at 13@13½c.; bacon at 12¾c. for long clear, 12¾c. for short clear. Lard at 13-65c. for spot and March, 13-77½c. for April, 13-92½c. for May, 14c. for June, and 14-28c. for July. Stearine, 14½c. for choice. Tallow at 9¼c. for prime. Beef hams at $25@26. Beef—New extra mess at $13@13.50; do. plain mess, $12; new tierced at $23 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $32@32.50. Old extra mess, $11.50; 10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.50@16.

SALT.—Ashton's, $2.50; Deakins, Marshall's, Washington and Worthington's, $1.45@1.50.

SEED.—Clover is higher under liberal requirements of exporters; State quoted at 14½@14¾c. for strictly prime; Western at 14¾c., and Canadian at 14½c.

TOBACCO.—The arrivals have been quite liberal of Western leaf, but largely of undesirable stock, which has led to low prices to move them. Seedleaf has a fairly active export trade, and brings full unchanged prices.

KENTUCKY LEAF.—OLD CROP.

	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7	7½@ 8¼
Good lugs	7½@ 8	8¾@ 9¾
Low leaf	8½@10	9¾@10½
Medium leaf	10½@11	10½@12
Good leaf	11½@13	12½@13¼
Fine leaf	13¾@15	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	17 @22

NEW CROP.

Common lugs	4 @ 5¼	5 @ 5¾
Good lugs	5¼@ 6¾	6 @ 7
Low leaf	7 @ 8	7¾@ 8¾
Medium leaf	8¾@ 9¾	9 @10½
Good leaf	10 @11	11 @12
Fine leaf	11½@13	12½@15

CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @22
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6¾@ 8
Wisconsin	6¾@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 1,627 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 13,673 do.; same time last year, 23,312 do. Exports of onions past week, 66 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 3,451 do; same time last year, 1,718 do. Potatoes are very dull, and with the advanced season dealers have marked prices lower than their recent cheap figures. Florida green peas have sold at $5 ₱ bush. We shall have an early supply of Bermuda produce, but prices will be apt to run below the usual high opening rates. A late arrival of 800 bbls. Bermuda potatoes is putting out at $6@7 ₱ bbl. Tomatoes, 2.50@3 ₱ 5-quart box. We quote:

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.25@1.37; Prince Alberts, $1.00@—; common, 60@75c. Sweet potatoes, $2.50@3.00. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $3@5; red, $6@10. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 75c.@$1; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@3.00. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Baltimore spinach, ₱ bbl., $2.25@2.50. Kale, 75@87c.

WOOL—There has been a moderate margin only. Fine Western fleeces, on account of small stock, are held firmly. California grades offered at weak prices.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklock	50	@ 51
XX		@ 48
X	47	@ 48
No. 1	49	@ 52
No. 2	43	@ 46
Course	40	@ 42
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	41	@ 46
X	43	@ 45
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	42	@ 44
Course	40	@ 42
Combing	56	@ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	45	@ 47
X	43	@ 45
No. 1	44	@ 45
No. 2	41	@ 43
Course	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	41	@ 47
X	44	@ 47
No. 1	44	@ 46
No. 2	41	@ 43
Course	40	@ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	34	@ 36
Course unwashed	27	@ 30
Burry	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, Mar. 4.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat active: Milwaukee club, $1.35@1.40; amber winter, $1.10@1.22; white winter, $1.20@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 23@25c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 18@20c. Lard, 13¼@14c. Apples, ₱ bu., 50c.@$1. Potatoes, bu., 30@@35c. Beans, ₱ bu., 85c.@1.25. Mess pork, $22@23. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@14. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $7.00@7.50. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., March 4, 1876.

THERE is nothing of importance doing in cheese this week at this market. Those holding fancy goods of September and October make are still asking 14c., which is above the views of buyers. The market is firm, but with a little more tendency on the part of holders to let goods go. Late ends of factories may be quoted at 11@12c. and extra grades at 13@13½c. Farm dairies range at 8@10c., according to quality for small lots of early winter make.

Winter butter sells at 23@26c. A small quantity of new milk butter now begins to come forward and may be quoted at 28@29c.

We have advices from Europe to the middle of January. Our London correspondent says:

English cheese is unaltered and not so much doing in them. There is a good demand for all qualities of American, with a tendency upward. The prices are as follows:

American extra, 65@66s.; fine, 62@64s.; good, 50@60s.; common, 30@46s. English cheddar brings 80@96s.; Wiltshire double, 62@68s.; Cheshire medium, 46@ An active market and more doing in American cheese, especially for very fine sorts, which are in small compass. Medium and low grades wanted if in good condition. Fine English cheese is very scarce. 64s fine, 75@81s.; Scotch, 50@78s., and Edams at 70@ ₱ cwt.

Fine butter is very scarce. Intermediate Continental, sound Irish, Canadian and the substitutes for butter sell well. The quotations are:

Jersey sells for 136s.; Dorsets, 160@170s.; Danish and Swedish, 100@170s.; Normandy extra, 160s.; American and Canadian, 92@120s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter brings 70@130s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 4, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,064	34	358	11,104	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	29	00	4,636	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	537	13,400
Harsimus Cove	5,158	00	000	10,152	12,384
Totals this week	9,222	63	727	26,429	25,784
" last week	9,139	47	339	17,100	22,218

BEEVES.—The near approach of Lent caused a sudden decline to the markets. On last Monday trade was slow at ½c. reduction on our last closing quotations. Prices were 9@13¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6@11½ cwt. Wednesday trade dull at 9@12¾c.; weights, 6¼@9¾ cwt., strong. Thursday, sales slow at 8½@12¾c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 9@12c.; weights, 6@8¾ cwt. From 55@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt. The quality of the herds as above quoted ranged from coarse to choice, being generally fat and in good order. Spanish cattle, corn-fed, sold at 9¾@9¾c.; Texan oxen, 8¼c.; State, 8½@9½c. Native steers sold at 8@12¾c.; grades do., 12¾@13¾c. Dry cows, 3@10c. Steers and heifers, mixed, 10c. Mixed herds 9@12c. Bulls, on live weight, 4@4¼c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13½	12 @13½
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10½	10 @10½
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	10 @11	10 @11

MILCH COWS.—With a slight improvement in the quality of the animals on sale, prices advanced and trade became easier. Twelve cows sold at $55@80 ₱ head; 9 at $60@75; 6 at $100@75; 3 at $65; 2 at $110—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade in smooth quality veals fair 8¾@11c. ₱ lb.; grass calves moderately in demand at $10@14 ₱ head. State calves, $10@12; Jersey, $12@11; State veals, 8¾@11c. ₱ lb.; Pennsylvania, 10@10½c.; Jersey, 10¾@11c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—The cause that has influenced the trade in beeves has also depressed trade in sheep. The flocks to hand ranged from common to good, with some choice quality sheep among them. Monday sheep sold at 5¾@7¼c. ₱ lb. Wednesday, sheep, 6¾@7¾c.; lambs, 8@8¾c. Thursday, trade dull; sheep at 5¾@8¼c. Friday, the markets closed weak at 5¾@7¾c. Missouri sheep sold at 6¾@7¾c.; Illinois, 6¾@7¾c.; Michigan, 6¾@7¾c.; Ohio, 5¾@7¾c.; State, 5¾@8¾c.; State lambs, 8@8¾c.

HOGS.—Trade in live hogs so small as not to influence the market. City dressed opened on Monday with a downward tendency, and closed at 10¾@10¾c. ₱ lb., since which date trade has been inactive at 10¾@10½c. General sales not quoted.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade fair in fair quality roadsters, with moderate trotting action; 32 head of such like horses sold at $275@475 ₱ head; there is a brisk demand for sound trotters which has not been met in the city stables. Stylish carriage horses generally held on sale; 1 pair fair quality choice sold for exportation at $1,300; 11 head coarse quality heavy draft horses, $195@250 ₱ head; 2 pairs choice quality do., $500@600 ₱ pair; 7 saddle horses, quality fair, $250@300 ₱ head; 1 pony, $75; 1 pair do., $275; 19 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $52@100 ₱ head; 10 ordinary do., $100@215 ₱ head. Fifteen horses arrived ₱ Erie Railroad, via Oak Cliff Station.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

EMPRESS AUGUSTA of Germany is ill.

EX-EMPRESS EUGENIE is in delicate health.

MRS. GEN. BURNSIDE still remains in a critical condition.

MR. POTTER, Supervising Architect, has a fine tenor voice.

MR. HENRY W. LONGFELLOW'S health still continues delicate.

THEODORE TILTON lectured to a large audience in Buffalo, Feb. 29.

PROF. PROCTOR will remain in the country till after the opening of the Centennial.

THE father of ex-Senator Carl Schurz died in Illinois recently, aged 80 years.

ERNEST LONGFELLOW, son of the poet, has recently made $8,000 from his paintings.

LISZT the pianist's fingering is described as that of a man who tried to put a buzz-saw.

GEN. PEL, commander of the Dutch forces at Acheen, is reported to have died of cholera.

SETH GREEN protests against the wholesale slaughter of the sea lions in San Francisco bay.

THE Khedive has accepted an honorary fellowship of the Russian Imperial Geographical Society.

MR. JENNINGS has sold his nine shares of New York Times stock to Mr. George Jones for $100,000.

THE Princess Louisa has been re-elected President of the Woman's Educational Union of London.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE COCKBURN will be the first lord to receive a life peerage under Lord Cairns' bill.

ASA PACKER, said to be the wealthiest man in Pennsylvania, is one of the signers of the Centennial bond.

EX-PRESIDENT THIERS'S health is excellent, and the rumor that he was suffering from bronchitis is incorrect.

THE Boston Transcript says:—"There are many who refuse to believe that Miss Cushman died of pneumonia."

JOHN LETCHER, ex-Governor of Virginia, was stricken with paralysis, March 2. His condition is considered serious.

CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN in her youth sang in the choir of the church of which young Ralph Waldo Emerson was pastor.

GEN. GARIBALDI'S health is not so good as it was. The failure of his Tiber scheme has had a depressing effect upon him.

THE pen last used by the late Vice-President Wilson has been sent by his executor to Mr. Joseph Carter of Philadelphia.

HORATIO HARRIS, an old and well-known merchant of Boston, and one of the trustees of the Sears estate, died Feb. 29.

AN English gentleman has offered £25,000 toward starting a special fund for Presbyterian Church extension in England.

THE first white child was born in Iowa thirty-six years ago, and is now living. To day there are over 500,000 Hawkeyes by birth.

GOV. HARTRANFT of Pennsylvania, expects to be present at the coming reunion of the Union College Alumni at Schenectady.

THE oldest peer in Great Britain is the Earl of Leven and Melville, aged 90, and the youngest, the Marquis of Camden, aged 4.

SALMON P. CHASE was the only Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court who was ever seriously talked of for President.

ENCOURAGED by a Government subsidy, M. Jean Rousseau, the Belgian art-critic, is writing an elaborate history of Flemish sculpture.

THE statue of Gov. Winthrop has arrived in Washington, and has been placed in Statuary Hall. The formal presentation was made March 3d.

COL. J. W. FORNEY, Centennial Commissioner in Europe, arrived home on the 29th ult., by the American steamer Indiana, after an absence of nearly two years abroad.

MME. PAPPENHEIM will make her first appearance in Italian Opera at the Academy of Music, New York City on Friday, March 17 singing *Violetta* in "La Traviata."

CARDINAL MCCLOSKEY has bought, it is reported, the country residence built by the late Le Grand Lockwood at Norwalk, with the intention of making it a Roman Catholic convent.

COUNT SCLOPIS told an American friend that, whenever Evarts rose at Geneva, the whole Assembly instantly became attentive. There was a flattering unwillingness to lose a single word.

EX-SENATOR NYE'S family are said to be in destitute circumstances. He is still in the Flatbush Asylum, while his son and daughter are seeking employment in the departments at Washington.

THE lecturers before the Kent Club of the Yale Law School are Prof. Walker, the Hon. Francis Wayland, the Hon. David A. Wells, Mr. Isaac H. Bromley, "Mark Twain," and the Hon. Horatio Seymour.

SECRETARY OF WAR, BELKNAP confessed to having corruptly received $20,000 from Caleb P. Marsh, a post-trader; he resigned on the 2d inst. His resignation was at once accepted; and he was unanimously impeached by the House.

THE Brown University Alumni residing in Boston held their fifth reunion in that city on Tuesday evening Feb. 29. Mr. Frank W. Bird presided, and ex-Gov. Gaston and Attorney-General Train were elected members of the Executive Committee.

Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

1876.
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No. 10.—1 Calla, 1 Cuphea Hyssopfolia, 1 Double Blue Lobelia, 1 Variegated Tallinum, 1 Tradescantia Aquatica, 1 Acyranthus, 2 Pansies.
No. 11.—1 Cuphea Hyssopfolia, 1 Double Blue Lobelia, 1 Variegated Tallinum, 1 Tradescantia Aquatica, 1 Tradescantia Vittata, 1 Acyranthus, 2 Pansies, 1 Violet.
No. 12.—1 Pansy, 1 Double Violet, 1 Gloxinia Cristata, 1 Othonna, 1 Candle Plant, 1 Alternanthera, 1 Geranium Mt. of Snow, 2 Verbenas.
No. 13.—1 Geranium Mt. of Snow, 1 Mrs. Pollock, 1 Golden Bronze Geranium, 1 Cyclamen, 1 La Belle Carnation, 1 Bouvardia, 1 Begonia, 2 Verbenas.
No. 14.—1 Parlor Ivy, 1 Kenilworth Ivy, 1 Hardy Ivy, 1 Othonna, 1 Mauranytia, 1 Smilax, 1 Crassula, 1 Gnaphalium, 1 Maherniu, 1 Pilea, 1 Mesembryanthemum, 1 Coleus.
No. 15.—1 Crassula, 1 Panicum Variegatum, 1 Tradescantia Aquatica, 1 Peristrophe Aurea, 1 Pilea, 1 Torrenia, 1 Golden Thyme, 1 Variegated Sedum, 1 Double Blue Lobelia, 1 Cuphea Hyssopifolia, 1 Golden Coleus, 1 Alternanthera.
No. 16.—1 Ianiana, 1 Dwarf Pomegranate, 1 Hydrangea, Paniculata, 1 Serissa Variegata, 1 Variegated Ivy, 1 Centrum, 1 Azalea.
No. 17.—2 Double Tuberoses, 1 Madeira Vine, 1 White Lily, 2 Gladiolus, 1 Dahlia.
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No. 19.—1 Monthly Rose, 2 Zonal Geraniums, 1 Double Geranium, 1 Apple Geranium, 1 Smilax, 1 Coleus, 1 Peristrophe, 5 Alternanthera.
No. 20.—1 Monthly Rose, 1 Climbing Rose, 1 Fuchsia, 1 Double Pink, 1 Pansy, 1 Heliotrope, 5 Verbenas.
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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Spinach is a Persian plant.

— Horseradish is a native of England.

— Wisconsin has voted $10,000 to the Centennial.

— The Greeks called butter boutnros—"cow cheese."

— Watertown's Union Temperance League is increasing.

— Fines at the N. Y. Tombs during February yielded $576.

— There remains $776,939.15 in the Brooklyn City Treasury.

— The first water works in Texas are being established at Austin.

— Galveston has a Venetian floating boarding house and beer garden.

— Out of 52,165 primary school teachers in Prussia, only 3,881 are women.

— A hundred pounds of flour cost twenty-eight dollars in the Black Hills.

— Women are now employed almost exclusively in the Italian telegraph offices.

— Eight hundred Turks were slain in a battle at Dabra in Herzegovina, March 1.

— Within the past three weeks 76,000 young trout have been put into Lake George.

— California exported 538,200 tons of coal last year, which brought from $8 to $11 per ton.

— Contributions to the Lee Memorial Fund in Richmond, Va., amount to $5,517 at present.

— Binghamton has a Business Telegraph Company which will soon begin locating its lines.

— Portland, Oregon, has shipped directly to Liverpool in one cargo 90,000 bushels of wheat.

— The Museum of Bremen, funded by a private society of merchants, is to be presented to the city.

— A negro woman in Opelika, Ala., has given birth to triplets, two of whom are black and one white.

— Sacramento is so well pleased with her Holly Water Works that she proposes selling out her steam fire engines.

— Letters to the number of 37,700 and 78 bags of papers were carried March 2 by the steamships Suevia and Vera Cruz.

— The property of the Wadsworth library at Geneseo, N. Y., an institution free to the whole county, is valued at $45,632.97.

— A seam of fine hard coal, nine feet four inches in thickness, has been struck at a depth of 500 feet at Nanaimo, British Columbia.

— In Antwerp two priests have been fined for having celebrated a marriage which had not been preceded by the civil ceremony.

— A passenger coach, valued at $10,000, and owned by the Canada Southern railway, was burned at Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 27.

— A single vessel of the Georges fleet brought into Gloucester, Mass., 60,000 pounds of halibut, the result of three days' hand-line fishing.

— The number of passengers that embarked from the three principal ports of Germany during the year 1875 was 56,259, as against 75,502 in 1874, and 134,191 in 1873.

— The Redpath Sugar Refining Company at Montreal has discharged all its hands, having been forced to suspend business. The refinery employed 300 hands.

— The report on the new Capitol at Albany, says that by the additional expenditure of $4,400,000, the building may be put in such a state as to be occupied in 1878.

— Another football player has been killed in England, and it is hoped the rules, so often proving fatal, under which this game is carried on will now be modified.

— Lemons were used by the Romans to keep moths from their garments, and in the time of Pliny they were considered an excellent poison. They are natives of Asia.

— The North German Lloyd has established a new German steamship line line between Bremen and Brazil and the La Plata States. The first vessel left Bremen March 1st.

— The Central Committee of the German Societies of Brooklyn, have resolved to support Mayor Schroeder's recommendations regarding the study of German in the public schools.

— The Theological Seminary building at Rochester, narrowly escaped destruction by fire, Feb. 27. The flames were extinguished, however, before serious damage was inflicted.

— The snow is so deep on the northern division of the New York Midland that a snow plow has been used almost daily for the last three weeks. The snow reaches the car windows.

— The Rhode Island Republican State Convention for the nomination of candidates for the State offices and the election of delegates to the National Convention is called for March 23.

— A monster with a head measuring 6 feet by 4 and a body 45 feet in length has been seen by some Scotch fishermen, who recognized it as the "herring hog," a creature that they had seen before.

— The number of paupers in the metropolitan district of London on the last day of the fourth week of January, 1876, was 89,149, of whom 37,405 were in workhouses and 51,744 received out-door relief.

— One-quarter of the employes in the shops of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, on Green Island, are to be discharged. Wages are to be reduced ten per cent., and hours of labor increased from eight to ten.

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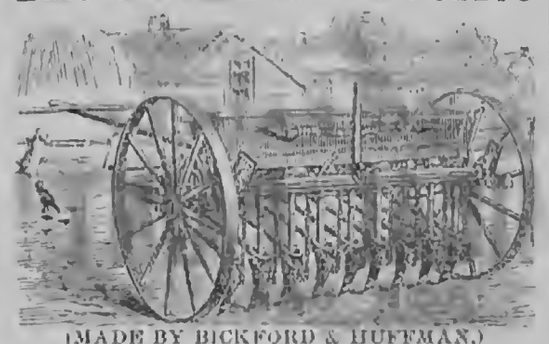

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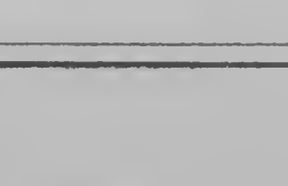

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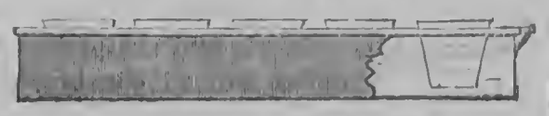

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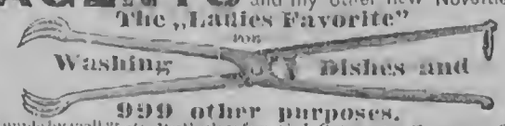

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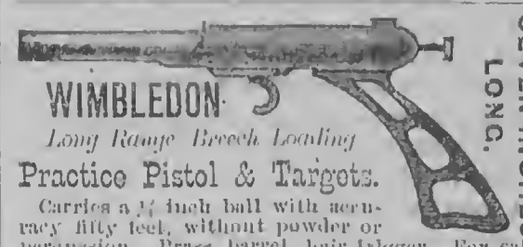

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NERVE, courage, push and patience are the qualities now needed in the business world.

IT is said that figures won't lie; but the figures of some women are very deceptive, to say the least.

A MAN with a small hed iz like a pin without enny, very apt to git into things beyond his depth.

THERE are only two hundred and sixteen men in Connecticut who have not invented some kind of salve or liniment.

"COLD streaks playing tag down my back," is the way a little Ypsilanti (Mich.) girl describes the approach of an ague chill.

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A MAN never looks so helpless and insignificant as when standing around in a dry goods store waiting for his wife to get through trading.

A FOND father thought he had found the rock of ages, after swinging the cradle two mortal hours and finding his infant hopeful still wide awake.

A MAN may occasionally kiss the wrong woman by mistake. But when he makes a practice of it the right woman finds it out, and that's what bothers him.

"WHAZZER mazzer me?" indignantly inquired the fellow sitting on the curbstone, blinking at the officer as if the light hurt his eyes. "Whazzer mazzer me? Juzzer same ole thing—hyp-dermic 'jection whizzky."

"WAS the 'crowd tnmultuous?" inquired one man of another who had just come from a mass meeting. "Too multuous?" replied the other; "oh, no; just about multous enough to comfortably fill the hall."

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RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS, ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

VOL. XXXIII. No. 12.
WHOLE No. 1364.

NEW YORK, AND ROCHESTER, N. Y., MARCH 18, 1876.

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Rural Architecture.

PLAN OF A GOTHIC COTTAGE.

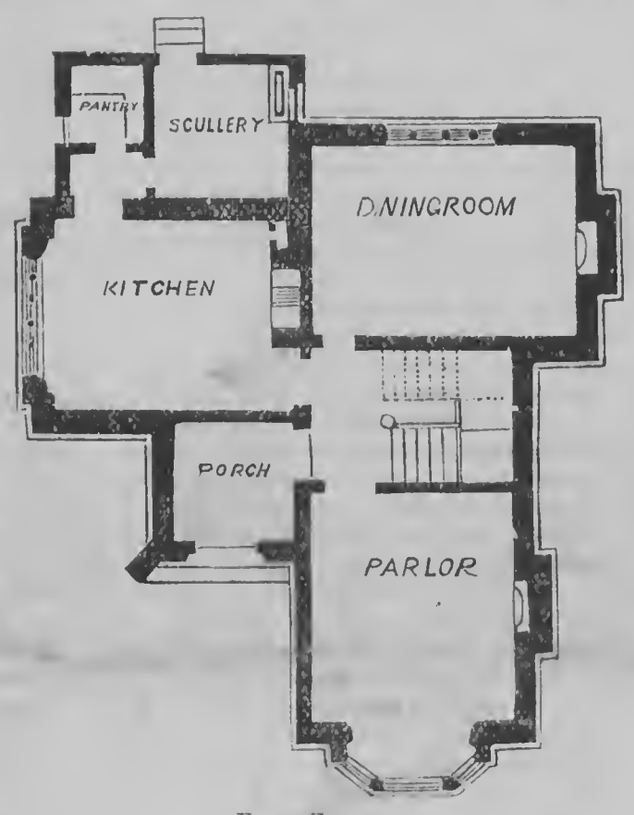
In commencing the publication of a series of designs for Cottages, &c., to continue through the Centennial Year, (see RURAL of Jan. 22,) we expressed the intention of giving such a variety of plans that many country and suburban residents would find something consonant with their location, taste and means. In accordance with that promise we this week present illustrations of front and side elevations and floor plans of a GOTHIC COTTAGE—a design somewhat unique, and one which, if not entirely adapted to the wants or tastes of those in quest of a cottage in this style, will at least prove suggestive.

It is intended that this cottage shall be constructed of brick, with stone corners. The roof is of slate and the chimney tops of terra cotta ware, which can be obtained of any desirable pattern or size. The plans exhibit accommodations for a family of four or five, there being three chambers of ample size on the upper floor. The first floor contains the parlor, dining-room and kitchen, with the pantry and scullery attached. The hall is lighted by the window opposite the landing in the second story. There is a fire-place in each apartment. Throughout the base of the building there is a cellar, having stairs beneath the main stairway. We think it a very neat design, and if built upon a large lot, slightly elevated and tastefully ornamented with walks, flowers and shrubbery, would make a home at once desirable and attractive.

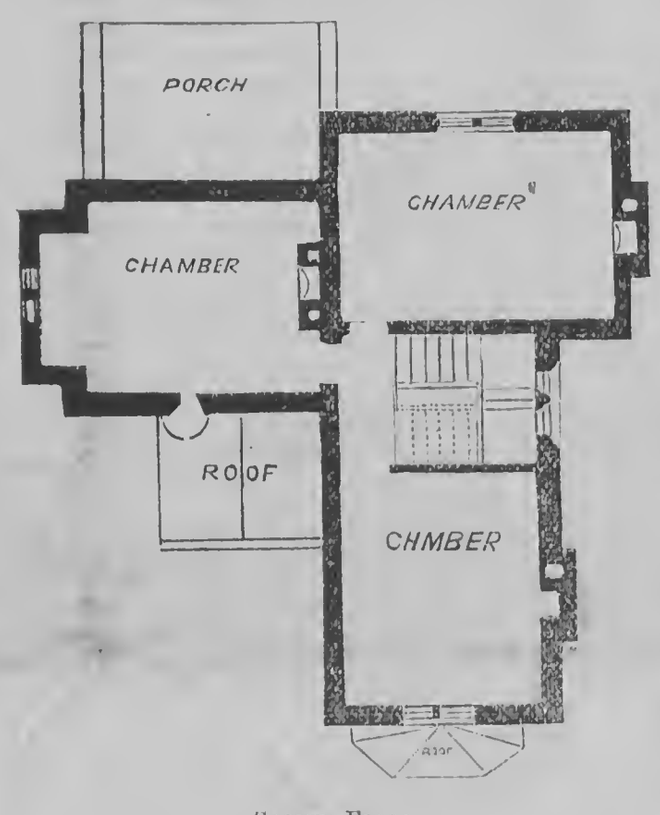
The rooms are in size as follows:—First Floor—Parlor, 14x16; Dining-room, 14x18; Kitchen, 14x16; Porch, 8x8; Scullery, 9x9. Second Floor—Chamber over parlor, 14x16; over dining-room, 14x18; over kitchen, 14x16.

If constructed of brick, with stone corners and caps, with cellar throughout, stone foundation and slate roof, and finished in first-class style, this cottage can be built in most localities for $5,000. Of course the cost can be materially lessened, or even increased, according to the wishes and tastes of the builder.

For one who can command the requisite means, a house built on this plan, modified, perhaps, in some details, and with well-planned surroundings as indicated, there will be few plans found more thoroughly satisfying.



FIRST FLOOR.



SECOND FLOOR.

COLOR OF ROOMS.

In rooms to be lived in, simply white for color of walls and paint, as well as any extremely dark treatment, should be avoided. The walls of rooms should be of such backgrounds as will best suit the complexion and dresses of the larger number of people. Delicate white intensifies, by contrast, any unpleasantness or want of perfection; extreme dark would make people look white and ghastly. Neutral colors will be found the best—generally some gray or cool color that will contrast with warmth of complexions. On no account let an absolutely pure color be used for general surfaces. Nature provides no such color in pigments. Her yellows are greenish or reddish, and so on. Nor does she use it to any extent in inanimate nature. So much so that you will find that, if you have much difficulty in describing a color, you may be certain it is good; the more difficulty the more beauty. Nature trusts mainly to gradations of tone, using vivid color in small quantities only, as in the touches on bright flowers and butterflies. This teaching of Nature will be found seconded in the pictures of the greatest artists, and, in following such teaching, it is necessary to consider the object to which (in domestic work, say) the rooms are to be devoted. A drawing-room, it is agreed, should be light, festive and gay; a dining-room at once more sober, and with more depth and warmth, as befits its uses. You must also consider the light and shade, openings and the positions of them, for these may, or may not, effect for you contrasts of tone, and may even touch the question of the good sense of your whole scheme of decoration.—*Builder (England)*.

HOW TO NAIL CLAPBOARDS.

THE Practical Farmer says that clapboards are often split by driving large nails into the board that has just been put on, sometimes checking the stud on which the clapboard is nailed. This induces leakage and often speedy decay. The proper method is pointed out as follows: After one board is nailed on, let the support nails be stuck into the sheathing boards or studs, so as to rest on the upper edge of the board below. Then, after the ends are fitted, draw out the support nails and lap the lower edge of the clapboard on the board below not less than one inch. By observing this direction, no cracks will be produced near the lower edges of the boards. It will pay well, also, to make holes for nails with a sharp brad-awl.

SHEDS FOR CATTLE.—As a rule, it is not advisable to erect temporary sheds for farm stock. If owner of the farm, it will be found to advantage to build substantial barns with basements beneath for stock and plenty of storeroom above. This is not only warmer shelter, but it saves a vast deal of labor in carrying feed. Besides, for the amount of room furnished, a high building is always relatively cheaper than a low one. It costs no more to roof a building 26 feet high than one only 10 or 12. The first-named building will be an ornament to the place and add to its selling value.

FRONT ELEVATION.

SIDE ELEVATION.

DESIGN FOR A GOTHIC COTTAGE.

Field Crops.

THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS AT CORNELL.

During the past year numerous experiments on various subjects connected with farming have been in progress on the experimental farm connected with Cornell University. Some very interesting and valuable results have been obtained. From a report of these in the Utica Herald we copy this week what relates to the experiments with fertilizers in corn culture:

Last summer careful experiments were made to determine whether corn chiefly demands of the soil nitrogen or phosphoric acid, and to discover which fertilizing agent is most valuable for corn. It was desired to test the effect of phosphates. Thirty-three plots were prepared, measuring one-sixteenth of an acre each in area. Commercial fertilizers vary so much in composition, and are so frequently adulterated, that Prof. Caldwell prepared all his fertilizers himself in the laboratory. Uniform amounts by weight were applied to each hill, and the hills were counted. The fertilizer in each case was thoroughly incorporated with the soil. Among the fertilizers employed were farm yard manure, phosphate soda, sodium nitrate, mixtures, peruvian guano, potash salts, fish scraps, superphosphates, plaster and Epsom salts. The corn was planted, but the season was unfavorable, and the corn germinated badly. Notwithstanding this relative results were gained. There were no marked differences in the quality or quantity of the corn produced upon the different plots. The plot enriched by farm yard manure yielded more corn than any other plot. The next best results were produced by plaster and potash salts. The superphosphates produced a fair yield. The guano caused no marked production. The fish scraps seemed to extract the moisture from the soil, and there was but meager germination. This experiment will be exactly duplicated next year, and corn from each plot will be analyzed to determine the relative amount of each element extracted.

Besides these chemical experiments, Prof. Roberts has conducted a series of experiments intended to illustrate the results of different modes of cultivation. He planted corn under fifteen conditions, and carefully noted the result. The following table is a record of the experiment, the yield being presented in pounds:

1—Ridge culture	352	55	407
2—Deep "	290	19½	309½
3—Shallow "	324	43½	367½
4—Continuous culture (7 times)	362	22	382
5—Drill "	365½	18	383½
6—Five stalks in a hill	360	28	388
7—Four " " "	438	44	482
8—Three " " "	301½	127	428½
9—Two " " "	266	49	315
10—Unlimed eastern (com.)	335	51	386
11—Limed " (200 bush. per acre)	491	57	548
12—Not suckered	84½	12½	97
13—Suckered (twice)	76½	10½	87
14—Unlimed western (not fully matured)			94
15—Limed " (20 bush. per acre)			545

Note.—A little ashes was mixed with this lime; by analysis about 20 per cent.

It will be seen that the limed plot produced much the largest yield, and that a slight difference was caused by suckering. Prof. Roberts will also duplicate his experiments.

"PERENNIAL WHEAT."

Mr. Miller, residing near Salida, Cal., informs The Pacific Rural Press that he has in his garden a species of wheat which may be termed perpetual. A few kernels of the grain were furnished him and sown. It matured and bore a healthy crop, and continues sending out new shoots from the parent root. These new shoots continue to present themselves and bear their crops, when immediately another one comes from the same root. The same roots, first presenting themselves two or three years since, are still alive and have borne several crops. Moisture and warm weather are all that are required to keep it constantly reproducing itself.

What would the farmers of this country think, if a few years hence any improbable or impossible yarn should only be greeted with a shrug of the shoulders and the remark, "That's only a grain story," as people now say "only a fish story." Wouldn't they think it a disgrace to their credibility. Yet we never heard a fish story half so improbable as the above.

Suppose we vary it a little. In the same State, California, where this wonderful Perennial Wheat is found, farmers often grow a second crop without sowing any seed, not in isolated spots but over large fields embracing many hundred acres. Sometimes the land is lightly plowed for this second crop and sometimes only harrowed; but in either case the "volunteer" crop is generally inferior to the first. The farmers of California however, are not so stupid as to think they get wheat without seed. They know that the volunteer crop comes from wheat shelled upon the ground during harvest time. It was reserved for a man, evidently not a farmer, who had the same phenomena occur in his garden, to be fooled into thinking his second crop sprung from the stub of the dead root, the moral of which is when making observations be quite sure the facts are as they seem at a superficial glance. Wheat is a biennial, and might possibly be kept over until the third year by careful watching to prevent its seeding, but certainly not otherwise.

THE CASTOR BEAN.

The Chicago Weekly Tribune says:—Among the farm products assuming prominence in the West is the castor bean. It has been discovered that the grasshoppers and chinch bugs will not touch the plants (the bugs, in this case, have the sympathy of all boys), and within the last two years the increase in the crop has been 200 per cent. This has cut off importation of the beans, and an unimportant farm product becomes an important and, under favorable circumstances, a profitable one.

Within the last few years we have personally urged the consideration of this product on farmers who received all statements with an incredulous smile, as though the castor bean never was and never could be of any value on the farm. But if they sell for $1 per bushel and an acre produces a goodly number, and if the demand for them continues, why not experiment in this direction? We are not among those who favor headlong experiments, but favor a course in which the farmer makes his business one of greater possibilities without much risk.

Any good corn land will produce castor beans and a-half bushel will plant eight acres. The hills should be 4 or 5 feet apart, four or five seeds in a hill. If the cut-worms do not do the work for you, thin to one or two stalks in a hill. The yield is about twenty bushels to the acre.

BROOM CORN—PROFIT.

Among the reports to the Massachusetts Agricultural Society on broom corn culture is one in which the net profits on one acre of broom corn are put at $80.72, estimating the brush at 7 cents per pound and the seed worth 45 cents per bushel, or in other words a crop of 1,159 pounds of brush and 88 bushels of seed to the acre. Many farmers make no use of the seed, and we remember cases in which great piles of it counted for nothing. There are other cases that come to mind in which the seed, as it was stripped from the brush, was looked after carefully, and found an excellent food, during the winter, for geese and chickens and for cattle.

Broom corn should be planted on good strong land, 3 quarts of seed to an acre, cultivated as it for corn, and when the corn has grown to full size bend down the top about 1 foot below the brush. On that on which the seed is to ripen, do not break until the seed is ripe; on the other, before, and in such manner as to expose the brush to the sun as little as possible, so as to preserve its color. One point often neglected by those who have little experience is care after cutting, avoidance of rain and dampness. Very fine brush is often injured or spoiled by injudicious packing in bundles before it is cured.

POSSIBILITIES OF CORN CULTURE.

From an essay read by H. C. Haskell of Deerfield, Mass., we copy the following:—The results of a series of experiments, by members of the Elmira Farmers' Club, seem to hint at the possibilities of the case. In one experiment, the yield of corn from a single grain was twenty-four ounces, equivalent to a bushel from thirty-seven grains. At this rate of production for an entire acre, allowing to each grain four square feet of soil would give 294 bushels of shelled corn. In another experiment, the yield from a single grain was 31⅛ ounces, which would give a bushel from twenty grains or 393 bushels per acre. In another, the yield was 37½ ounces, or a bushel from twenty-four grains, or 453 bushels per acre.

The most successful experiment of the series, was the yield of 43½ ounces, which is at the rate of a bushel from twenty-one grains or 500 bushels per acre. What has been done, can be done again. What one grain of corn has been made to produce, every grain if 10,000 like it, allowing a reasonable margin for accidents, may be made to produce. As yet we have scarcely begun to realize the possibilities of high farming.

American Potatoes in England.—A writer in the London Garden denies that American Potatoes degenerate in England unless seed is annually imported. Such at any rate is not the case with the Rose. He has grown it for six successive years and states that it was finer last year than on any preceding one. The rose in England is much affected by soil, and the statement is made that in many localities it is scarcely eatable, and that many imported varieties have been at a disadvantage because the soil was not suitable. The same correspondent state that the greatest percentage of diseased potatoes is found in the Eureka and Snow Flake.

Farm Economy.

TOO EXPENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. Richard Thompson communicates to the Colonial Farmer of Fredericton, N. B., an account of improvements made in five acres of stiff clay land by draining. He sent to England for their practical drainers, who took the job, digging 558 rods four feet deep and twenty-four feet apart at sixty cents per rod, twenty-eight rods six and one half feet deep, twenty-four feet apart, at $1.20 per rod. Extra work in open ditching and building outlets $9, making $370.40. Eight hundred drain pipes one and one-half inches at $9 per thousand, 6,300 do., two inches at $10.50, 1,529 do., three inches at $16, and 480 do., four inches at $20. Cost of pipes $107.39. Whole cost $478.79. Cost per acre $95.96. The men earned $2.50 per day each. The pipes or tile are one foot in length. In 1875 the land was sowed to roots, and the yield was, per acre, of turnips 660 bushels. Carrots, 467 bushels. Potatoes, 289 bushels. Parsnips, 359 bushels. Mangels, 800 bushels. In 1861, before draining, the field was equally well manured and sown to roots, with the following yield per acre: Turnips, 300 bushels. Carrots, 179 bushels. Mangels, 140 bushels. The surface of the land was such as to require much deep digging.

The above paragraph is clipped from an exchange, and we copy to protest against the idea which it will convey to the great majority of farmers that underdraining is necessarily so expensive a process as is here described, costing nearly $100 per acre. No doubt the experiment is reported correctly, and it is almost as certain that the favorable result was intended to impress the minds of farmers with the profit of the operation. The effect will be really exactly the reverse. It is only shown that underdraining pays in the cultivation of special crops more frequently grown by market gardeners than by farmers. Average farmers, growing corn, oats, wheat and barley, will necessarily infer that such expensive operations are not for them, and, under the supposition that effective underdraining must cost nearly $100 per acre, they will naturally conclude that *they* cannot afford to do any underdraining whatever. Both these ideas are mistaken ones. In fact, as a guide for average farm draining, the example given is much worse than useless. It is very seldom advisable to have drains four feet deep. For farm crops it is never necessary an any land, fit for farm purposes, to make drains twenty-four feet apart. It is very seldom necessary in draining so small a piece as five acres to use so expensive and large a tile as five-inch pipe. Finally, we have always got drains dug for less than $2.50 per day, and by doing considerable of the work with plow team and subsoiler, have dug ditches for much less than we could hire men to dig them for. In all these items farmers can make material savings over the estimate published above.

In recommending farm improvements it should always be remembered that the great majority of farmers grow crops which, at the best, yield very moderate profits. A market gardener who has manured his ground at the rate of $75 or $100 per acre in growing early cabbage or celery, very likely makes money by so doing. He cannot afford to do otherwise. But his example cannot be literally followed by the farmer who is growing wheat, oats or barley. The most the farmer can do is to learn the value of thorough manuring and imitate with such variations as he can afford. The words "heavy manuring" mean entirely different things as applied to different crops. For some vegetables the market gardener finds it profitable to apply $100 worth of manure per acre; but others need only $30 or $40 per acre. In farm crops, on ordinary good land, $25 per acre in stable manure would be a sufficiency for corn or potatoes, and $15 per acre, top dressed, would be a good manuring for wheat.

We have known the wheat crop to be doubled by the use of $5 or $6 per acre in superphosphate drilled in with the seed. Each of these may fairly be called thorough manuring. A market gardener has no right to decry the farmer because the latter does not and cannot afford to use $100 worth of manure per acre. The farmer, not growing such exhaustive crops as the gardener, does not need to pay so much for manures, and yet each may be doing the very best in his situation. Neither can afford to stop short of manuring his soil to the limit where more manure ceases to be profitable. In the garden this will be far greater than the amount which can be used on most farm crops.

It is the same with underdraining. All farmers whose land is wet and cold should underdrain some. If the land will not pay for this sell out and buy where it will pay, or the land does not need so much underdraining. Usually, however, all land fit for farming can be sufficiently underdrained for farm crops at a cost not exceeding $20 or $25 per acre—often for $15 per acre. These drains well laid will last a life time—are, in fact, a permanent investment, so that to be profitable we need only a good, liberal percentage as interest. Ten per cent. a year, or $2.50 per acre on the extreme cost of underdraining, ought to pay in almost any farm crop. Often, however, we have known the entire cost of underdraining a field to be paid in two or at most three crops of wheat—the investment thus paying thirty-three or fifty per cent.

How to economize in underdraining is a most important question for farmers. It is necessary if underdraining is to be encouraged—not among those who grow special crops and can afford to improve their land without much regard to expense—but among the great mass of average farmers throughout the country. We believe not only that the cost of underdraining can be much reduced; but that by proper management the amount of underdraining needed may be greatly lessened. This, however, must be left for another article.

BURNING GRAIN STUBBLE.

A writer in the Weekly Sun advises a return to the practice of burning wheat stubble. It is probable that the failure of wheat is due mainly to loss of fertility in the soil which would be common to any system without manure. Still his ideas are suggestive and we copy as follows:

I have lived in Lasalle county, Ill., almost since its earliest settlement, or since the fall of 1830; and I have seen it in all of its stages, from its most wild and barren waste (that is so far as the cultivation of the soil was concerned) up to its present light and flourishing state of cultivation, which has made this beautiful expanse to blossom like the rose, in all except wheat, which has gradually deteriorated until most farmers think it cheaper to buy their flour than to try to raise wheat, even for their own use.

In early times we considered this a good country for wheat. It is true fall wheat would sometimes winter-kill, rust, or fall down, but these were exceptions; otherwise, we were sure of a good crop.

The much dreaded chinch bug was scarcely known to exist; yet, by the more observing they were noticed in the corn husks at husking time; but they were not known as such enemies as they really are, for up to that time they were not numerous enough to do but very little if any damage to the wheat crop.

In those days the stubble was invariably burnt, and thus destroyed enough of the insects to hold them in check, and at the same time destroying millions of weed seeds, thus making the cultivation of the soil quiet easy. I have noticed time and again, in the cultivation of a corn crop, I could tell to a row, which part of the field had been burnt over and which had not, the ground being so much finer, more moist, looser, and more free from weeds. The corn also would be larger, ripen a little earlier, and yield more on the burnt portion.

I have also noticed that in just the proportion that farmers quit burning their stubble the wheat-crop began to deteriorate, and became more and more uncertain, until for many years past in this country wheat raising has been a failure, with an occasional exception. We import annually the flour of thousands of bushels of wheat for home consumption, while in former years we exported thousands of bushels anually as a surplus.

We used to think that if we only had a raw piece of prairie sod to break up in June, and then to sow to wheat in the fall following we were almost certain of a good crop of wheat; but in later years the virgin sod seemed no more certain for wheat than old ground and from that standpoint many say that it proves that the burning of stubble is all a delusion. I take a different view of the question when we know that the prairies were annually burnt off by the red man, as certain as the seasons came and went, for ages past, and leaving all the effects of that burning upon the soil to work its changes.

It is well known how quickly the prairie grass dies out when not burnt annually at the proper season of the year, and all goes to weeds and blue grass, as we term it, and then if broken up is very uncertain of being good for wheat, having lost in a measure the benefit of the burning, to make the wheat what we used to raise in earlier times. As near as I can learn, this has been the experience of all new countries; good for wheat for a time, and as the fires cease to burn the grass, leaves or stubble, the wheat crop decreases proportionately, until it does not pay for the raising.

Again, some argue that the stubble enriches the ground much more when ploughed under than when burnt. My experience is to the contrary. I think a good, clean burn is worth more to any succeeding crop, than to plow under a heavy stubble, to say nothing about the destruction of insects and noxious weeds.

Rain water brings down yearly about 12 lbs. of ammonia per acre of ground. To supply an equal amount in sulphate of ammonia at 6 cents per lb. would cost the farmer $2.88, and this is, therefore, the manurial value of the rain. To this, however, must be added a certain quantity of nitric or nitrous acid.—*Galaxy.*

Dairy Husbandry.

GRAIN RAISING AND WINTER MANAGEMENT OF DAIRY STOCK.

In our recent visit to Cortland and Broome Counties, we met many members of the Killawog Farmers' Club, a well organized and spirited association and which is doing much good in that section. Butter dairying is the leading branch of farming about Killawog and Marathon, and butter is made for the most part at the farm. Mr. GEO. SCHERMERHORN, the President of the Club, who has a fine farm near Killawog, believes in Short-Horns and Short-Horn grades for butter dairying, and he has some exceedingly fine animals in his herd. His stock of calves, of which quite a number was raised last year, is very superior and they show careful rearing.

After looking over this herd Mr. S. kindly drove us over to a neighbor, G. P. SQUIRE, who has a farm of about 200 acres near Marathon, N. Y., and a herd of 40 cows, nearly all of which are Short-Horn grades and a nicer looking lot of cows we have not seen in a long time. In regard to their productiveness, it will be proper to say that the cows yielded an average of 200 pounds of butter each, last year, and this we understand Mr. S. to say was his general average during other years.

METHOD OF WINTERING THE STOCK.

The plan of wintering the cows on this farm differs so widely from that in usual practice in other sections that it will perhaps be of interest to our dairy readers.

The cows are kept on cut oat straw and meal. The straw is cut with a machine, driven by horse power, which is immediately above the stable, the cut straw dropping down into the alley between the two rows of cows. Each cow gets 15 pounds of cut straw and 2¼ pounds of bran and corn meal per day. The bran and meal are mixed in equal weights, and the whole is fed dry three times a day. The 15 pounds of cut straw makes three baskets, and each cow gets a basket of the straw in the morning, then at 10 A. M. another basket is given, and she gets also at this time the 2¼ pounds of the mixed feed of bran and meal, and at 4 P. M. the other basket of straw. The cows have a warm yard into which they are turned a short time every day to get water; but they are not allowed to be long out of the stable, Mr. SQUIRE believing they are safer and more comfortable in the stable than out in the cold during winter. He commenced feeding in this way about the 20th of December, and expects his straw will hold out to feed in the same way until some time in March.

Now under this management the cost per day for the feed of each cow is only 7½c.; thus the cut straw is put at $6 per ton, the corn meal at $30 per ton, and the bran at $22.50 per ton, the prices for the bran and meal being those which obtain at the market at Marathon. The cows are in very fine condition as to flesh—they are lively and apparently in perfect health. In fine, no dairyman could wish to see his stock in any better heart or condition.

The saving it will be seen in the cost of keep, is very considerable: for if they had been fed on hay alone, they would consume at the rate of 25 pounds each per day, and at the low price of $10 per ton the cost to each cow would be 12½c. per day, a saving therefore being made by Mr. S. over hay feeding of 5c. per day for each cow. But hay is seldom so low as $10 per ton, while with such large cows it is doubtful whether the 25 pounds of hay per day would produce so good results in flesh and health as the bran and straw. In feeding the meal it is scattered on top of the straw at the second feeding, and Mr. S. thinks better results are obtained in feeding both straw and meal dry than wet.

By this system of winter management of cows it will be evident a much larger herd can be carried on a given number of acres, than where hay is made the chief food during winter. The question then occurs, Whether more grain ought not to be grown on dairy farms than is the practice in some sections? The subject is a pertinent one at this season, and we hope Mr. SQUIRE's management will arrest the attention of those dairymen who do not believe in growing grain on dairy farms.

Mr. SQUIRE is a "wide-awake" young farmer. His buildings are large and commodious, and everything appears to be in good order on the premises. He has a fine Short-Horn bull, and his stock of horses and pigs show that he is determined to have the best.

CONDENSING SKIMMED MILK.

NOT long since my attention was arrested by a suggestion in one of our Agricultural papers, to the effect that the skimmed milk from our butter factories might be most profitably utilized by being condensed. Now I am preparing to operate a butter factory the coming summer, and if there is any foundation for such an idea, would like to know it. Thinking you might be able and willing to enlighten me, I will venture to propound the following inquiries:

1. Is there a demand for such an article at a profitable rate to the manufacturer? or if not, could a trade be established by persevering effort, without too much risk?

2. At what age must the cream be removed to insure the proper condition of the milk for said process, supposing No. 1 is answered in the affirmative?

3. Would such disposition of the milk be more profitable than feeding to hogs?

4. Where can the necessary apparatus be obtained?

5. Where can full directions for the process of condensation be obtained?

If you cannot answer the above fully, will you please hand the same to Prof. ARNOLD of Cornell or some one who can? By so doing you will much oblige—PHIL A. MOSES, *Morgan, Ashtabula Co., Ohio.*

1. SKIMMED milk was at one time condensed in the factories of Orange Co., N. Y., and the product found sale in New York. It was made into what is known as plain condensed milk—that is, without the addition of sugar. Such milk will keep several days. It was packed in large cans about the size of those used to convey fresh milk for city consumption; customers purchased it by the quart. When well made it is palatable, and when it comes to be used, if the buyer is careful not to reduce it too far with water, it has the appearance and taste of more richness than it contains. We suppose a trade would have to be established by the manufacturer, and when established it could be made profitable if a good article was furnished; for the milk would be better than much of the milk peddled by the milk venders.

2. The cream should be taken off when the milk is 12 hours old, and for this purpose the Swedish system of setting milk described in our "Practical Butter Book," could be employed with advantage.

3. We should say that such a disposition of the milk could be made more profitable than feeding to hogs, provided it was supplied in limited quantities or not above the wants of an established market. To a man of enterprise, who was within convenient distance of some of our leading cities and who could work up a trade with milk consumers, supplying them regularly from time to time, we should say the business could be made very profitable.

4. The apparatus for condensing milk was, and we suppose now is, made in Williamsburg, N. Y.

5. The only treatise on condensed milk that has been written, so far as known to us, was furnished by the Dairy Editor of this paper for the Royal Agricultural Society of England and printed by the Society in pamphlet and in its Journal. The same author also delivered an address on the subject before the American Dairymen's Association. These give a pretty full account of the process of condensing milk and the apparatus connected therewith.

There is no writer on dairy matters by the name of ARNOLD connected with Cornell University. Mr. L. B. ARNOLD of Rochester is a writer on dairy matters and has been sometimes called Professor in the newspapers, but he has no connection with any college, the title being gratuitous.

CONSTRUCTION OF DAIRY HOUSES.

MR. GODDARD, one of the judges at the great Cheese Show recently held at Frome, in Somersetshire, Eng., gives some useful hints in regard to the construction of dairy buildings. They should be constructed so that temperature may be easily regulated, that you may exclude or introduce the air at pleasure. He recommends that the walls should be made double or hollow, the air space within as wide as possible, on the principle that confined air is a very bad conductor of heat. The windows on the same principle should be double, one opening outside and the other inside of the dairy; or there should be double shutters, made to fit tight and to exclude the air when shut. These remarks apply also to the curing room. He advises also that the outside walls and even the roof be made of a white color, as white repels the rays of the sun, while dark absorbs them. The heat should be kept out in summer. Whitewashing the roof, giving two or three coats a year, is recommended.

THE DAIRY IN ST. LAWRENCE CO.

THE amount of dairy products made in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., during the past year (1875) is estimated to be of cheese, 8,500,000 pounds, and of butter, 10,500,000 pounds. The total shipments of cheese from Ogdensburg by way of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg R.R. during the year ending Dec. 31, 1875, were 5,916,179 pounds. Of butter shipped for the same time there were 4,302,797 pounds.

This makes a fair showing for St. Lawrence Co. farmers. If the cheese be estimated at 10c. per pound we should have the whole product bring $850,000; and the butter at 30c. would come to $3,150,000—making in the aggregate $4,000,000.

The Swine-Herd.

LIGHT NECESSARY FOR GROWING ANIMALS.

A WRITER in the Chicago Weekly Tribune relates some incidents in feeding young pigs which strongly show the importance of sufficient light to secure their best thrift. It is often thought, in winter especially, that warmth is the only requisite, and these experiments may set some of our readers to thinking differently. We quote what he has to say on the subject:

"The sows which had litters on the 18th and 22d of January, respectively, were kept in the two rather dark, but warm, temporary sties, and had to occupy them till about the middle of the present month, when, for each sow with litter, one of the permanent sties was opened by selling the occupants. At that time the pigs which had been kept in the dark, temporary sties proved to be less lively than, and much inferior in weight and size to, those of any of the litters raised in the less warm, but well-lighted, permanent sties, notwithstanding that the difference in age was very small, and that food and care had been the same in every respect. One of the litters born on the 15th of January, which had accidentally the best-lighted sty, though situated in the northwest, and consequently coldest, corner of the frame building, exhibited the most rapid growth, and the litter born on the 18th of January, which had the darkest sty, had made the poorest. The sows in question are full sisters and of the same age. Since the pigs which were born in the dark sties have been transferred to the light ones, which is now about two weeks, their growth has been a very satisfactory one, and their liveliness and playfulness are now equal to those of any of the other litters."

The experiment is not conclusive, but it certainly is suggestive. There is a difference in the natural capacity of different sows to give milk, both as to its amount and nutritive qualities, which may account in part for the difference in growth of the pigs. Possibly the effect of light on the mother may be to make them elaborate more and more nutritive milk.

It is pretty well established by experience that most animals fatten more readily in the dark; but this fattening process is often the reverse of healthful. Animals kept in the dark pass all their carbonaceous food into fat, chiefly because the liver and other organs cannot work in the dark so as to strain it out. Fat and flesh thus accumulated lacks the highest nutritive properties and cannot be fit food for human beings. The stimulating effect of wild game of every kind is well understood. May it not be due to the fact that the flesh of wild game is always grown in open air, with abundance of oxygen, a healthful action of the liver and plenty of light. Pork has the smallest proportion of nitrogen in its composition of any kind of meat, which is in part because the hog is from birth usually confined to a small and often dark pen. Beef which has been fattened to excess under similar conditions is also less healthful than where cattle have for most of their lives had free range in pastures and have retained their health.

In considering the best methods of keeping stock farmers are too apt to regard only the money profit of the different plans. It ought to be remembered that man is far the most important animal on the farm, and the health and well-being of the family ought to subordinate every other consideration.

SUMMER CARE OF HOGS.

MANY farmers seem to think that fall is the only time in which pork can be made profitably. In the winter they try to find out how small an amount of food will sustain life in their pigs. During the spring they experiment in the same direction. In the summer they turn their pigs out to grass in a dry pasture, allowing them to shirk for themselves, or else shut them up in a tight pen and feed them as small an amount of dry corn as is consistent with their keeping alive. During three-fourths of the year hogs are kept on a short allowance, and, of course, their gain is very small.

About the time corn is harvested farmers commence to rush things. Hogs must now be fattened in a hurry. Now they receive about as many ears as they have before received grains. They are stuffed like sausage till their skins will hold no more. They are fed so much that they cannot digest half of it. The wonder is that more of them do not die of cholera. They grunt from fullness now as a little while before they squealed from emptiness. From a hungry, half-starved creature the hog passes to a gourmand. The farmer who was stingy of his corn before is now prodigal of it. He is impatient to see the machine in motion that changes it into pork. He wishes it would work faster.

This method of doing things is all wrong. It is contrary to nature, reason and economy. To produce pork to the best advantage, hogs should be kept growing all the year. During no time in the season can pork be made so cheap as in summer. Clover is a cheaper material to make it from than corn. It grows without cultivation or care. Hogs will eat it where it grows, which saves the labor of harvesting. It is a common thing for early pigs to gain a pound a day on clover alone. There is not so cheap or easy way to make pork as this. The addition of one pound of soaked corn to their grass food will cause a larger growth, though too much corn must not be given, for the reason that they would neglect to eat clover.

At all times of the year hogs should be kept in a good, growing condition. They should never know hunger or be allowed to run down. Their gain should be steady from the time they are weaned till they are slaughtered. During summer they should have the run of a good clover pasture, and receive grain in addition according to the state of the feed. They should have shade, and if there are no trees to furnish it, sheds should be constructed. They should have pure water in abundance. If practicable, the should have a place where they can wade in clear water, though bathing advantages are to be classed as luxuries rather than as necessities.

There is no doubt of the fact that farmers do not sufficiently consider the advantage of a change of food for hogs. Next to man the hog eats the greatest variety of articles of food. It delights in flesh, grass, grain and fruit, and when at liberty to choose will devour them all at a meal. Hogs will always be more healthy and gain better when they have a variety of food. In the East apples, potatoes, roots and sometimes fish are fed to hogs, and it is well known that diseases peculiar to hogs are fewer there than in the West, where they receive little but corn to eat. It is said that the best-flavored pork in the world is found in Germany, where a great variety of food is fed to hogs.

Hogs at all ages are fond of food that contains sulphur. It is doubtless for the sulphur it contains that hogs eat soft coal, and they appear to thrive on it. They are also very fond of mustard, which contains a good deal of sulphur. As this plant is very easily raised, producing as much feed as almost any plant that grows, there would seem to be economy in raising it for hogs. It may be said that it is more economical to buy the sulphur in a concentrated form, but it should be remembered that pure sulphur is not in a form to be readily taken up by the system, while that contained in mustard and other plants is readily assimilated.

HOG CHOLERA.

Hog cholera is known as "Blue Disease," "Red Soldier," "Distemper in Pigs," etc. This is undoubtedly a blood disease, and belongs to the anthrax type of fevers.

Symptoms. The disease sets in and usually secures a firm hold upon the animal before its presence is suspected. The one affected will isolate himself from the rest and burrow in the litter, often remaining thus till death, though sometimes they will run about as if wild, grunting and squealing as if in great pain. Dullness, drooping head and ears and loss of appetite are the symptoms observed, if at all in the first stage. In what may be called the second stage, the abdominal pains are indicated by lying on the belly, with fore-feet outstretched, and, when caused to move, uttering shrieks. The skin takes on a purple color, particularly upon the back and ears, along the abdomen, and inside the thighs. The pulse is rapid, but feeble. Diarrhea sets in, and becomes profuse in the third stage. The dejections are black and offensive. The pulse weakens and finally becomes imperceptible. Breathing is difficult and spasmodic, owing to the condition of the lungs, and an irritating cough comes on. General weakness is now apparent; the animal can scarcely stand, his legs get entangled like a tipsy man's, and complete paralysis soon results. Eruptions on the skin may have followed the first discoloration, which now are succeeded by sloughing and ulceration. Insensibility precedes death from three to six hours. The malady sometimes appears in less fatal forms, accompanied by colored skin and loss of appetite for a few days, when recovery follows; but this is uncommon. On *post mortem* examination the appearance of rapid decomposition is manifest, and all the tissues seemed transfused with blood.

Treatment. After diarrhea sets in death is almost certain. Before that event, administer quickly (by means of a drenching-horn or long-necked bottle, and, if the pig is large, tying him to a post with a rope around his upper jaw): Epsom salts, two to four ounces; sulphur, two to six drams; gentian and ginger (powdered), one to two drams; molasses, two to three tablespoonfuls; gin, one-half pint. Cold water sponge baths and friction with a course cloth are useful if they can be borne, and this treatment must be gentle. Clean bedding and comfortable pens, with light diet of vegetable food, are required. A free run in a bare pasture or lane is a great help. In this, as in all other sickness, when possible, prevention is the best treatment, and simply consists in careful feeding, plenty of vegetable food, cleanliness and exercise.—*Prof. Cressey in Scientific American.*

The Poultry Yard.

EATING AND LAYING OF HENS.

In an article, some time ago, I took the ground that "the fowls which eat most are, as a rule, the most profitable," this I re-assert and will try to prove. To start with, it is the same with all animals kept for the production of flesh, as cows, hogs, sheep, and fattening cattle. Let me cite some instances,

1st. In Germany, in 1871 or '72, an experiment was made as follows: Four Dutch cows, two large and two small, were selected and put in two pens, two in each, and both were fed all the green corn they would eat; at the end of sixteen days the large pair had eaten 4,921 pounds of lucern and given 272 quarts of milk, and the light pair had eaten 3,869 pounds of lucern and given 192 quarts of milk; the heavy pair had given 6 quarts of milk for each 100 pounds of lucern consumed, and the light pair had only given 5 quarts.

2d. In Dr. Miles' experiments at the Mich. Agricultural College, six pigs of the same litter were put in two pens—three in a pen—and in both pens the pigs were allowed all the corn meal they could eat. One pig in pen B met with an accident and was killed. When 30 weeks old the pigs weighed as follows: Pen A, pig 1, 59 lbs.; pig 2, 69 lbs.; pig 3, 133 lbs. Pen B, pig 4, 156 lbs., and pig 5, 142 lbs.

The pigs in pen B ate 61 per cent. more food than those in pen A, and gained 92 per cent. more. This result was owing to pigs 1 and 2, though perfectly healthy, gaining so little. At this time the Dr. put the three pigs of pen A into three pens. During the first week pig 1 ate 11 lbs. of meal, pig 2 ate 12½ lbs., and pig 3 ate 25½ lbs. During the month the pigs ate and gained as follows: Pig 1 ate 48½ lbs, lost 1 lb.; pig 2 ate 51½ lbs. and gained 4 lbs., and pig 3 ate 100 lbs and gained 19½ lbs.

I have no time to hunt up experiments with sheep and cattle, but all will recollect that most writers advise getting those "capable of eating, digesting and assimilating the most food."

I have bred Light and Dark Brahmas, Buff Cochins, Black Spanish, Hamburghs, Dorkings and Dunghills, and will give you some figures.

Flock No. 1. All Light Brahmas.

Dr.		Cr.	
30 fowls at 50c	$15.00	Eggs, 160 doz,	$65.43
Feed	21.12	Chicks sold	18.21
Eggs set	5.00	On hand	31.50
Total	$41.12	Total	$115.14
		Less	$41.12
			$74.02

This leaves $74.02 profit on the flock, or nearly $2.50 per head.

Flock No. 2. Black Spanish.

Dr.		Cr.	
30 fowls at 50c	$15.00	172 doz. of eggs,	$34.44
Feed	12.17	Chicks sold	9.11
Eggs set	2.34	On hand	17.00
Total	$29.51	Total	$60.55
		Less	$29.51
		Leaves	$31.04

This, as you will see, gives a profit of $31.04, or little over $1 each.

Now, with this in view, am I not justified in the grounds I take? My reasons for preferring the Brahma can be readily seen, their eggs brought me double what the others did. A neighbor who has kept Houdans and White Leghorns finds they lay no better and at no better season than the Spanish. There has been considerable "hifalutin" theorizing done to show that the Brahmas were poor layers, the above account shows them to be nearly as good layers as the Spanish, and the following from the Poultry World, p. 204, June, 1875, will show something. "Six Light Brahmas and six White Leghorns were put on trial and an account kept with each for one year. The first two months the Leghorns first maturing got the start, but after the Brahmas got to laying they steadily gained, and at the end of the year the account stood thus: Average, Leghorns, 171 eggs each, and Brahmas 168 each."

On page 237, July No., of same year, J. W. P. Hovey says of Light Brahmas: "With me they excel as layers, not excepting Houdans, Spanish, Leghorns and Hamburgs." Now I will close, though I may at some time send you my idea on feeding poultry. A. M. Van Auken.

Fort Howard, Wis.

THE TURKEY.

While visiting a poultry show at Tamaqua, Pa., a short time since, our attention was drawn to some fine large turkeys, and especially to a pair marked "Wild Turkeys." The cock bird in this pen was the handsomest turkey we ever saw. In symmetry he seemed to be perfect, while his plumage was simply superb. He was a three-year old bird, but showed none of the symptoms of age or debility.

This pair of birds made such an impression on us that we hunted up the exhibitor to learn their history. He said this cock was hatched from an egg found in a wild hen's nest in the mountains, and was raised on the farm. But since he was a year old, he and his mate take to the mountains when the spring arrives, and remain away till autumn, when they return with fine flocks of young ones, which they have raised without care or feed from their owner.

The statement was something of a surprise to us. In our community the young turkeys are carefully hunted up, brought home and fed every day until they have attained some size. This is perhaps necessary in a densely populated agricultural district; but those semi-wild mountain turkeys were certainly as fine as any we have seen anywhere. We weighed one gobbler, which turned the scale at thirty-two pounds, and numbers of them weighed from twenty-two to twenty-eight pounds each. As table birds they were equal to any we have ever tried. Many of our readers who live in wooded mountainous districts, should take a hint from this and what they can do in turkey raising. They may be raised in roomy places at a small expense, and always command a fair price in the market.

Some farmers object to having turkeys roaming over their fields before the harvest is gathered, but the objection is groundless. They really do no injury to the grain crops, while they consume innumerable insects of all kinds, which would be detrimental to the farmers' interests. It is true a flock will be destructive to a field of buckwheat, if they find it; but even here the loss is not great, as it is marketed in the shape of poultry instead of flour.

To give some idea of the turkey business, it may be stated that the annual product of Bucks County, Pa., alone, is over $200,000 worth. This may stagger some readers who have given the subject no attention; but when it is known that there are six thousand farms in the County, and turkeys are raised on nearly all of them, the figures will not be so surprising.—*Practical Farmer.*

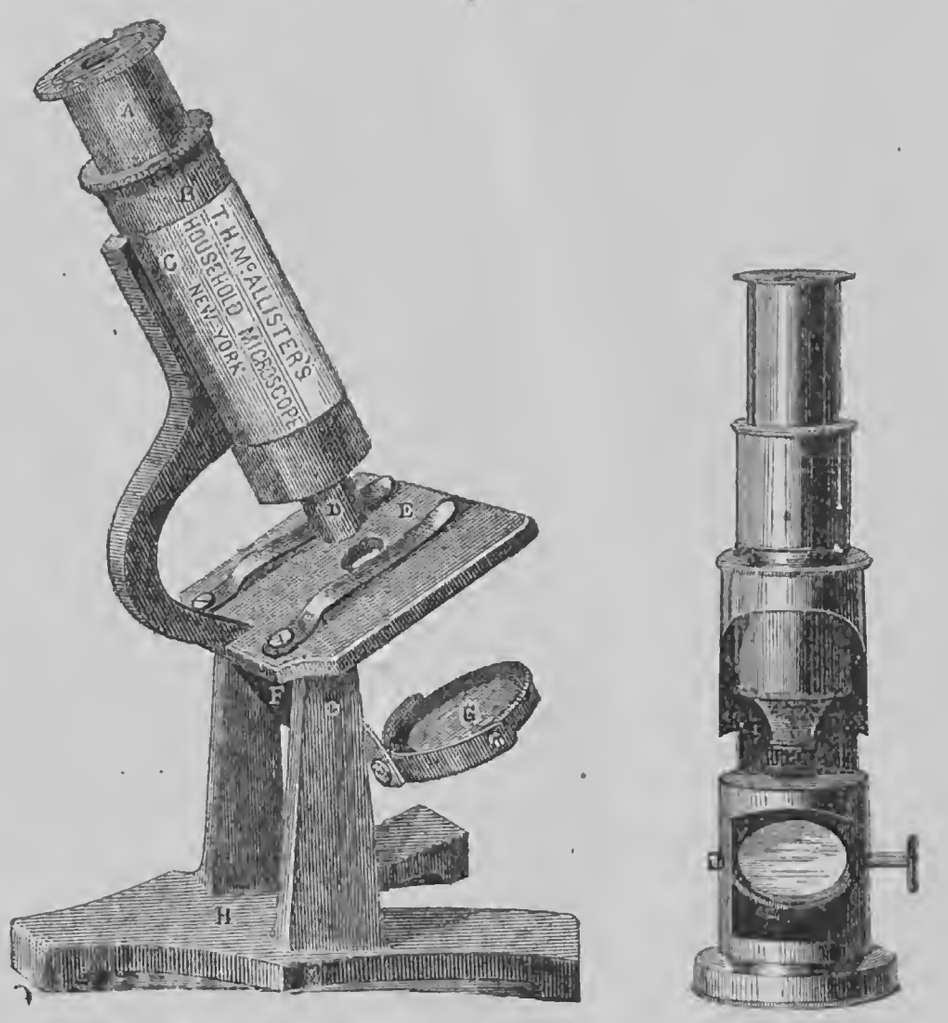
Our Premium Articles.

POPULARIZING THE MICROSCOPE.

The progress of popular science is nowhere more notably shown than in the general demand for instruments needed for scientific investigations. For example there are thousands of families where now the microscope is in frequent use as a diversion or for studying the wonders of nature, in which ten or twenty years ago the purchase and use of such an instrument would have been unthought of. There is an increasing interest felt everywhere on this subject, and instructions for the use of microscopes are eagerly read. Probably the cheapening of these instruments as well as the improvements in their construction, have added to their popularity. In the country, and especially during the growing season a good microscope becomes a constant source of instruction and amusement. The wonders of insect and partially of vegetable life are opened by its use as by nothing else. Every branch of natural science is under obligations to the microscope, and it is of frequent use in solving problems which daily arise in any family of active minds. For the family circle, and especially where there are children it is invaluable. Teachers in country schools will also find it an important help in enlisting the interest of their pupils in the natural sciences. The bias thus given in early life will often affect for good the entire after career.

Until within a comparatively recent period the cheaper forms of microscopes were mere toys, very imperfect in their optical and mechanical properties, and of little value except as curiosities. There were good microscopes, though the best then were not so good as now—but they were expensive—far beyond popular reach. Only a few students of science could afford to investigate by means of the microscope. Latterly, however the manufacture of the microscope has entered on a new era. Improvements have been devised which adapt the microscope to popular use making it cheap in price easily managed, and in short "a microscope for the people." Three of these styles manufactured by T. H. McAllister, No. 49 Nassau St., N. Y., seem to us best adapted for popular use and are included in our Premium List to Rural agents. They are figured on this page, and named respectively the "Household" and the "Youths" or pocket microscope, the latter an inexpensive instrument suitable for use in the fields, with brass body six inches high, and costing only three dollars. It will be found however that the household microscope, costing only five dollars will give much better satisfaction. With this will be sent two crown glass objectives, affording magnifying powers of every range from 20 to 100 diameters or 400 to 10,000 areas. The "Household" is a compound microscope, having all the essential parts of a first-class instrument, a miniature model of the most approved patterns, with a range of magnifying power adapting it to the investigation of the minutiæ of animal and vegetable life. The animalcule commonly present in pond water, the pollen of flowers, &c., can be observed and studied by its use.

The "Botanical" Microscope, not given in the illustrations, is a very handy little instrument, which is of great use to the investigator, on account of its very convenient size and shape. Those desiring any of these instruments, will find full and exact particulars by consulting our Premium List, or can get complete catalogues by addressing Mr. McAllister as above.



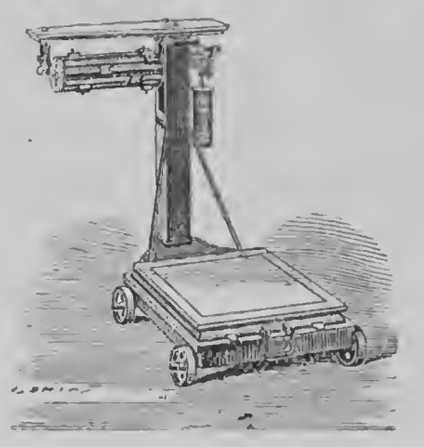
McALLISTER'S HOUSEHOLD MICROSCOPES.

Industrial Implements.

SELF-REGISTERING MILK SCALE.

Among the new and valuable improvements in Dairy Machinery is the Revolving Beam Milk Scale, invented and patented by Jones of Binghamton. This Scale weighs and registers each mess of milk as received at the cheese factory or creamery, and without the possibility of a mistake, saving time and bad feeling on the part of milk producer and the manufacturer. This scale is a novelty, and in the perfectness of its operations is characteristic of Jones himself, who has often introduced similar novelties and always with distinguished success. We do not doubt that this milk scale deserves and will meet with general favor among the dairying public. It will be sold as are all the Jones scales on the system inaugurated by himself—direct sales to the user, freight prepaid, and no pay required where full satisfaction is not given. This system takes all risk from the purchaser, while the popularity and perfection of the Jones' scales are such, that the sender has an absolute certainty of having them accepted.

The attention of readers is invited to Jones' advertisement, and farmers especially will do well to send for his free scale list of prices. This list embraces scales of every size, and in these days of general rascality, it is especially important that farmers taking grain or other produce to market should have at home facilities for weighing before starting. One farmer writes to Mr. Jones that he last year lost one hundred and eighty-five bushels of wheat because he thought



he could not afford to buy a set of scales. Now he is bound to have a set, afford it or not. Besides this, thrifty farmers need a set of accurate scales to keep a record of the experiments which every good farmer should make in feeding and weighing stock of various kinds, as also, what his produce costs him, what is the effect of various fertilizers, etc. We know the Jones' Scales to be first-class, and his system of doing business certainly commends itself to the confidence of all. Send to Jones of Binghamton, N. Y., for his free price list.

Scientific and Useful.

THE ABSORPTIVE POWER OF SOIL.

It is an important discovery of recent date, that soils have the power of separating not only ammonia, but other bases also, from their solutions, and of holding them with great tenacity after their absorption. Thus 100 grains of clay soil, taken from the plastic clay formation of England, absorbed 1,050 grains of potash from a solution of caustic potash containing one per cent. of the alkali. It is interesting to observe that the liquid was not, in this case, filtered through the soil, but the cold solution was merely left in contact with it for twelve hours.

It has been further shown that soils have the ability to separate the alkaline bases from the acids with which they are combined. When saline solutions were slowly filtered through soils five or six inches deep, the liquids which passed through were deprived of their alkaline bases, as potash, soda, ammonia and magnesia, and only the acids were to be found in combination with some other base. Thus, when muriate of ammonia was filtered through the soil the ammonia was removed, and a corresponding quantity of lime, in combination with muriatic acid, was found in the filtered liquid. In the same way sulphate of potash was deprived of its base, and the liquid collected gave sulphate of lime.

Those soils which have the greatest amount of capillary porosity will condense the greatest amount of manurial substances on their internal surfaces, will retain them longest against the adverse solvent action of water, and will give them out most readily to the rootlets of the growing plant.

A mass of adhesive clay will absorb but a very slight amount of available manure; but if this same mass is rendered friable, by mechanical processes, its power of absorption is amazingly increased. In view of what has been stated, it is very clear that one way in which plowing increases the fertility of land is by increasing its porosity by pulverization.

Again, many manurial substances exist in the soil, which, being insoluble, exercise no action on the growth of plants, and contribute nothing to their nutrition; but by the slow, though regular action of the frosts and the rain, the air and the sunshine, insoluble and refractory compounds are reduced to a soluble state, and are appropriated and held on deposit by the soil to the credit of the next cultivated crop. This explains the well known fact that soils, which have been cropped to the very verge of barrenness, will recover their fertility if allowed to remain long enough under the action of climatic influences to saturate the soil with the necessary plant-food, which they have unlocked from their chemical combinations, and given to the soil in a proper physical condition. These changes are brought about more rapidly when certain mechanical changes of condition are wrought upon the soil.

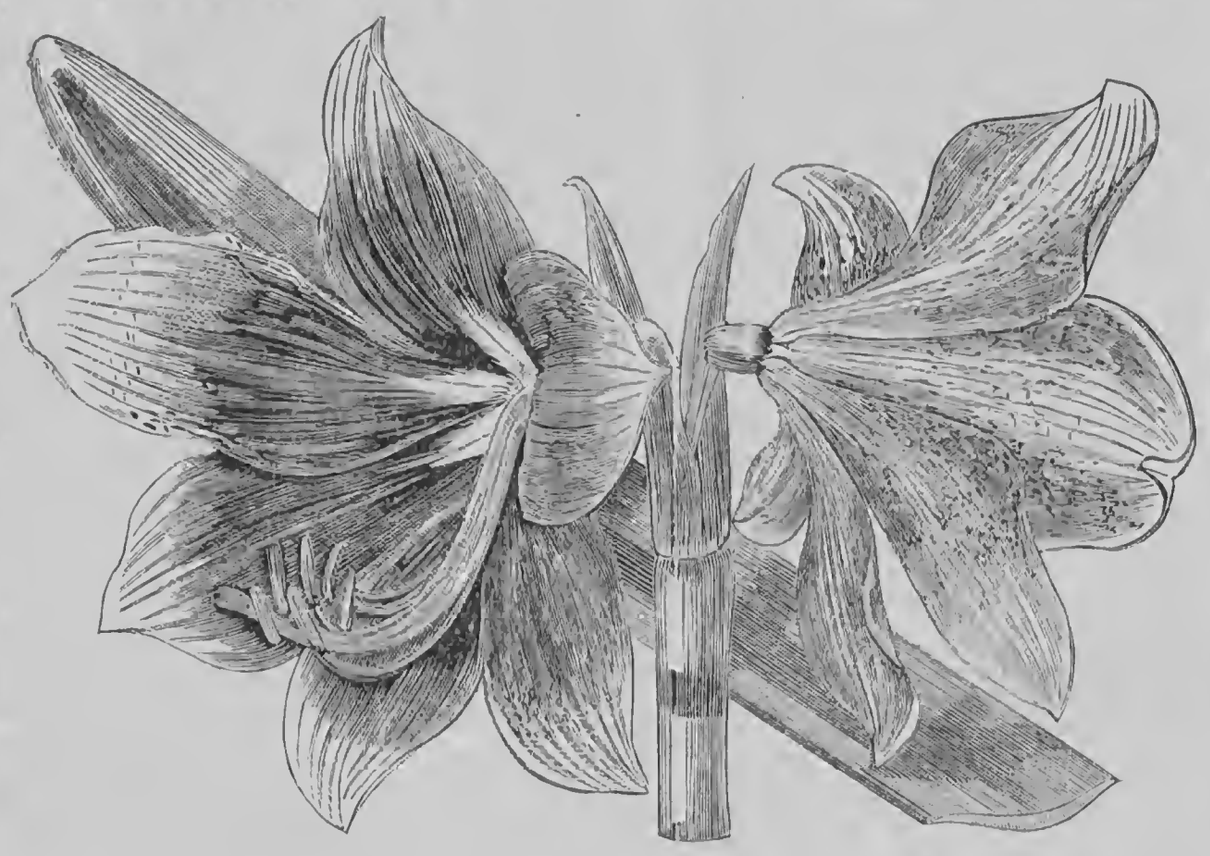
Carbonic acid is one of the most active of the agents employed in bringing the insoluble organic matter in the soil into that physical condition in which it becomes available as plant-food. In order that this acid may be formed, it is essential that the carbonaceous matter in the soil should be brought into direct contact with the atmosphere, from which they procure the oxygen necessary to convert them into carbonic acid. So long as stagnant water remains in the soil, or so long as the soil is in a dense or very compact condition, it is impossible for the carbon to be converted into acid.—*Journal of Chemistry.*

Floricultural.

AMARYLLIS HENDERSONI COCCINEA.

This Amaryllis is one of many raised by Mr. E. G. Henderson of London, from seed, and is an instance of the improvement made in this fine genus by seedling cultivation and crossing. It is of a scarlet color, each petal tipped with white and dotted with crimson. Its funnel-shaped flowers have a greenish star in the center and are from 6 to 9 inches in diameter.

Many of the Amaryllis are beyond question among the most showy of greenhouse flowers, and would be more esteemed even than the Lily, were they as hardy. Exceptions, however, may be found in *A. Johnsoni*, *A. belladonna* and its many varieties, *A. Valotta purpurea*, *A. vittata*, *A. Longiflora* and *A. formosissima* which are adapted either to the sitting-room or out-door cultivation. Those of our readers who have never seen *A. formosissima* (the Jacobean Lily) would be pleased if they procured it. The form of the flower is strikingly graceful—its glossy, soft dark-crimson color is superb. Blooming bulbs may be purchased of any seedsman for twenty-five cents each. They should be planted in the garden about June 1st, in light soil with the neck above ground. The scape appears before the narrow strap-shaped leaves are much developed and large bulbs will bear two, sometimes three flowers in succession. The greenhouse varieties of the Amaryllis after blooming, may be removed from the pots and preserved the same as a Tuberose bulb—though it is preferred to leave them in pots placed out of the way in a temperature between 40 and 50 degs. and to give them the needed repose by withholding water. In this way we may choose our own period for bringing them into bloom.



AMARYLLIS HENDERSONI COCCINEA.

When seeds are desired, it is well to assure the fertilization of the pistil by artificial application of pollen, and to keep them in heat and moisture until the flowers have withered and the seeds matured. They may be sown at once and blooming bulbs produced in from two to four years, according to circumstances.

Entomological.

A RAID ON NOXIOUS INSECTS.

At last a bill has been introduced into Congress, asking that a commission be appointed composed of scientific entomologists to make investigations in regard to several of our most destructive kinds of insects.

In fact two bills have been introduced, one asking for a commission whose duty it shall be to visit the Rocky Mountains for the purpose of ascertaining the exact location and extent of the breeding places of the Locusts, and endeavor to discover some method of destroying this pest in its native habitats. The other is introduced by Senator Ingalls of Kansas, and looks to the investigation of other species of insects besides the locusts, and in our opinion, it is altogether preferable to the former. The bill as introduced makes the following provisions:

"That the Secretary of the Interior shall have authority to appoint a Board of Commissioners, and to fill all vacancies which may occur therein, on the nomination of the National Academy of Sciences, to consist of three entomologists eminent in their profession.

"The said Commissioners shall devote themselves to the investigation of those insects which are most destructive to the crops of farmers and planters, and especially of the Rocky Mountain Locust, the Chinch Bug, the Army worm, the Cotton worm, the Hessian fly and other insects injurious to the great staples, corn, wheat and cotton; in order to devise successful methods for the destruction of such insects. The commissioners shall report the results of such investigations and methods, at least once in each year, to the Secretary of the Interior, by whom the same shall be transmitted to Congress. As soon, also, as the information gathered shall enable them, the commissioners shall compile practical instructions for the repression of the different insects referred to.

"The said Commissioners shall be appointed for the term of five years, and vacancies shall be filled for the residue of the term only, and they shall respectively receive five thousand dollars per annum, to be paid monthly from the date of original appointment, and shall have clerical assistance, office-room, fuel, stationery, chemicals and traveling expenses, not to exceed ten thousand dollars per annum."

The only objection we have to the above is the limited number of entomologists proposed, for no three men, however capable or industrious can spread themselves over the vast extent of territory infested with the insects named. Still we shall be pleased to see the bill passed as it is, for it will be an entering wedge that may eventually open the eyes of congressmen and the masses generally, to the fact, that entomology is not altogether an ornamental branch of natural science.

Of course this bill will meet much opposition, both inside and outside of Congress, from men who are utterly ignorant of the subject, and care nothing for the personal interest of the thousands of farmers who sustain the losses caused by insect depredators. It will doubtless be urged that the said commission will cost the country a few thousands of dollars annually, but what an insignificant trifle is twenty-five or even fifty thousand dollars in comparison with the two to four hundred millions destroyed by noxious insects. Some of our cotemporaries have already begun to ask. "How are these bug hunters going to control these insects?" This is just what the proposed commission is to find out, for did we know that much, it would not be needed.

We hope every farmer as well as friend of the agriculturists of this country will use his influence to have some such bill as proposed passed, even if some few hundred supernumeraries and leeches which are now sucking public pap, have to be cut off in order to supply the funds for the support of the commission.

PREVENTIVE OF BORERS.

As the season approaches when borers commence their ravages on fruit trees and the deposit of the eggs has to be guarded against, information on this subject will be in order. As one important precaution, we would advise against planting shade trees, as mountain ash, near where apple and pear trees are to grow. The borers breed in mountain ash, worse even than in apple trees, possibly because the shade trees are less carefully attended to. A writer in the Prairie Farmer has been experimenting with kerosene, which, though hazardous, seems to have been attended with good results. He says:

"The borers have been troubling us here for several years, more particularly near Chicago, where the maples have been destroyed in great quantities. It remained for the year 1874 to show us their destructive power. You remember that year was the hottest and dryest on record. The borers then made terrible havoc with our trees. All the mountain ash were destroyed, about four-fifths of the soft maples, two-thirds of the elms, and one-half of the ash-leaved maples. The true ashes, willows and poplars were not attacked. A great many trees were killed by the dry weather. I think not a single tree of the kind they attacked escaped without more or less injury. We came to the conclusion something must be done to destroy or counteract the borer, or that we must stop planting trees.

"We found that in this section the mass of eggs were laid from the last week of May to the first week of July (inclusive), on the south and southwest side of the tree, seldom on the east and never on the north side. A shaded tree they do not attack, unless it is dying or dead. To shade all our trees was impossible. Soap, if properly applied, we found would keep them out, but would not destroy them once they had obtained a lodgment; we found also that a fresh application had to be made after each hard rain to be effectual.

"Being told that an application of kerosene would be effectual, we determined to try it, but as no one appeared to be thoroughly posted as to its effects upon the trees, some affirming that it would kill, while others thought not, we concluded first to test it with two soft maples, just at the time the leaves were starting. We cut the bark of one of these in several places, the other we left entire. We saturated them with kerosene on the south and southwest sides. During the first week the kerosene was distinct to taste and smell; during the second week a slight trace only could be perceived, which entirely disappeared the third week. The buds which were touched by the kerosene were killed, but new buds pushed out and grew vigorously, and the trees grew as well as others in the nursery. We applied kerosene the middle of June to over four thousand trees, with apparently good results. The trees grew well and have commenced healing wherever previously attacked. There was no sign of a borer on trees washed with the kerosene; even where the trees were dead, the bark was stripped off and no sign of the borer seen. We shall continue the experiment this year (1876), and note the result. A number of trees were planted on the north and east side of a board fence, and some directly opposite on the south and west side; those on the south and west side were attacked in proportion to those on the north and east side as three to one, yet the only difference was the partial shade afforded those on the north and east.

"Notwithstanding the foregoing facts, I would not recommend the indiscriminate use of kerosene until the experiment has been more thoroughly tried."

A safer preventive, and effectual if applied before the eggs are laid, is to wash the trunks of trees, liable to be infected, with carbolic acid diluted with water. This does no injury to the tree, but it will not avail where the eggs are already deposited. It is very doubtful whether even kerosene will destroy the egg that is to hatch out the borer unless the bark is removed sufficiently to bring the oil in contact with the egg.

Rough bark should be scraped from trees in cold or wet weather to destroy insects. A little wet will often destroy what intense cold has left uninjured.

Pisciculture.

GROWTH OF BROOK TROUT.

Considerable discussion has been provoked lately, in the New York City papers, regarding the limit of the growth of brook trout (*Salmo fontinalis*), one having recently been brought to that city from Androscoggin river, in Maine, weighing ten pouds. An experienced guide at Moosehead Lake has laid it down as a law of nature that no real trout ever weighed more than five pounds, and unhesitatingly affirms that whenever one of greater weight is reported, either the fish is not a brook trout or the fisherman is a falsifier. This story of one of double the possible weight, and coming, too, from his own State, would drive the guide at once to his second alternative.

Mr. Thomas Sedgwick Steele of Hartford, Conn., who has of late turned his attention in leisure hours to trout painting, has among his studies drawings of brook trout from five to ten pounds in weight, with the date and place of their capture, as well as the name of the fortunate angler who landed them; and their varied proportions make an interesting study.

In the case of most of the fish the weight is well distributed throughout their entire length; but in the outlines of an 8½ pounder we noticed the bulk was thrown forward of the dorsal fin, while the tracing of a ten-pounder puts one in mind of a sunfish, being seemingly almost as broad as it was long. These fish are all from the Rangely region in Maine, but in attempting to give the size of these monster brook trout, one immediately places his veracity on trial. But for the sake of this noblest member of the *Salmo* family, one ought to run some risk of criticism. Professor Agassiz is authority for the statement that "no other waters in the world produce such large brook trout as these pure cold streams in the wilderness of Maine," and they grow very rapidly in the first few years of their lives, but, of course, like man, do not continue in the same ratio.

Many of them have been liberated after capture, with weight and year stamped on a platina tag inserted in the dorsal fin, and Thomas Moran, the artist of the Yellowstone, captured a 2¼ pound fish with one of these tags attached, stamped 1871, showing that the trout had increased one pound and three-quarters in two years.

At the headquarters of the "Oquossoc Angling Association," on the Rangeley river, a place of annual resort by Mr. Steele, and where he captured a six-pounder in June, 1873, there is a book in which a record of all large trout is kept, with dates, place and weight affixed, so that any time one can turn over its pages and note the heroes of the Association. This book dates as far back as 1869, at which time, if we mistake not, the Association was organized. Here on one page is an exact account of the numbers and weights of thirty brook trout taken by eight gentlemen visiting this locality at that time, the average time of fishing about six days each. In this list none are mentioned under four pounds each, although a large quantity of smaller ones were taken:

3	Brook	Trout	4	pounds	each.
1	"	"	4¼	"	"
1	"	"	4½	"	"
2	"	"	4¾	"	"
3	"	"	5	"	"
1	"	"	5¼	"	"
4	"	"	5½	"	"
2	"	"	6	"	"
2	"	"	6¼	"	"
2	"	"	6¾	"	"
2	"	"	7	"	"
1	"	"	7¼	"	"
1	"	"	7¾	"	"
3	"	"	8	"	"
1	"	"	8½	"	"
1	"	"	9	"	"

Making thirty trout, total weight, 181¼ pounds, or averaging over six pounds each.

Here is another account of a gentleman taking in three-quarters of an hour 24½ pounds of trout. That individual's time must have been spent very satisfactorily!

Mr. Page, President of the Association, some seasons ago, took with a fly, on the Rangeley river, a brook trout, weighing ten pounds, and if the reader has any doubts of this statement, the next time he is in New York, if he will call on Mr. Page, at No. 10 Warren St., (second floor), he will be permitted to examine the fish now at rest under a glass shade.

A party, in the spring of 1874, took in two weeks, 175 trout, weighing 232 pounds, and among the lot were fish which turned the scales at three, four, five, six, six and a-half and eight pounds.

In July last, in this same region, a gentleman landed four in one day, that averaged over five pounds each; and, during one week's fishing, there were captured two of seven and a-half pounds, and three of six pounds each; while a novice to the sport was made happy by a string of twenty-four, which weighed seventy-five pounds. The past season was the best in five years, the trout not being so plenty, but of larger growth.

Large trout, weighing from six to ten pounds, will average from twenty-three to thirty inches in length, and the width of the tail is from five to eight inches.

They have all the beautiful spots, tints and recognized peculiarities of brook trout, such as square tails, small heads, the inside of the mouth black (instead of white, like lake trout), and are, no doubt, the genuine *Salmo fontinalis*, as lake trout are not known in that locality. Some epicure will ask regarding the taste of these large trout in comparison with those under a pound in weight. But there is little difference, that little being in favor of small trout.

A number of these large trout are now frozen, preparatory to their exhibition at the coming Centennial, and they certainly have every right to be there, as it is estimated that the ages of two of the largest combined would make a hundred years. These trout are often very quiet and sulky, soon after they strike the hook, and one is often deceived by thinking he has fastened to a log, but when once they move they carry all before them.

The facts certainly prove beyond all question the statement regarding the extraordinary growth of speckled brook trout: still it's considerable satisfaction to know that there is a limit, and that we are not annoyed by those of the size of whales or sea-serpents.—*Hartford Times.*

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

CHOICE OF COMPANIONS.

March 6.—Every person probably has a choice in the selection of companions and associates, and there is such a wide field and endless variety that it is one's own fault if he, or she, is not suited. There are the good, better, best, and the bad, indifferent and worthless of both sexes, from which to choose, also the jovial and jolly, social and unsocial, those from whom we can always learn something which is useful and instructive, besides some of an opposite character, whose minds, like the fly leaf of a book, appear to have been missed and left blank by the types, with not a spot on the page, either for good or evil. There are, however, persons who go through life seeking companionship, though never finding it, they doubtless thinking it is the world's fault and not theirs.

We have all met such people, and in various places, and at various times, for they are not rare, either in city or country, among both the rich and poor, consequently neither photograph nor minute description is required to assist in recognizing them wherever or whenever found. The city with all its millions of attractions is to such persons a stupid "bore," the country a lonesome, dreary waste, in which there is neither life nor beauty, and they wonder how people can endure such solitude and not become insane or die through lack of something to excite the mental faculties sufficiently to enable them to live.

I am frequently reminded of the dreariness of country life by my city friends, although it never occurs to me except when asked, "How can you endure the country?" or, "What do you find to amuse you during the long, dreary winter, away from the many amusements to be found in the city?" These and hundreds of other questions are thought of, if not asked, by city people in regard to the pastimes and mode of living of their country cousins, but they either forget or overlook the fact that a person may be surrounded by the most agreeable companions when apparently all alone.

While I am at this moment shut up in my library with no human being for a companion, I am not alone, for arranged about me upon shelves are the works of thousands of some of the greatest men that ever lived. If I desire to converse with them, there they stand ready to give me their best thoughts—not the crude ramblings of some caller who desires to fill up the time and make himself agreeable whether he is able to do so or no. If I feel like talking of natural history, farming or horticulture, I can ask PLINY to tell me what of his time, twenty centuries ago, and after he has told his story he can be "shut up" without taking offence at the sudden termination of the conversation. Then Messrs. VIRGIL, THEOPHRASTUS, COLUMELLA, and other very old and somewhat antiquated, but rather interesting, gentlemen can be asked to step forward and tell what they know of any particular subject which may be under consideration and in their line of study. From these grand old fellow-laborers in natural history, of two thousand years ago, we may come along down to LINNÉ, FABRICIUS, BUFFON, SWAMMERDAM, HUMBOLDT, AGASSIZ, and even to men now living, and here they are all about me with their grandest words and best thoughts at my disposal. Who will say that these are not agreeable and entertaining companions? Yes, companions to whom royalty was in many instances proud to do homage and bestow favors.

Then, in addition to all these old and long-tried friends and companions, there come our daily, weekly and monthly visitors—neat, trim and in fashionable apparel,—affording one an abundant opportunity for the selection of friends and companions, and what is more, we can give them the "cold shoulder" or a hearty welcome, and it's nobody's business but our own. If we tire of these companions and desire a change, the very air is full of life. Even now as I write, this a bluebird is swinging upon a twig of an old oak near the window, trilling a soft, sweet song, such as a JENNY LIND or a CLARA LOUISE KELLOGG might vainly attempt to imitate, while a flock of blackbirds occupy an entire tree-top not far away, pouring forth a flood of music as rich and varied as ever came from the brain of a MOZART or a BEETHOVEN.

Is there not here an opportunity for making a choice of companions? Who will say that country life must necessarily be a dreary one, no matter how isolated from society or kindred? With books, birds, flowers, and animate and inanimate nature surrounding us, the life of every human being ought to be made full to overflowing, and it's no fault of Nature if it is not so.

PRUNING PLANTS IN SPRING.

March 7.—Although there is yet some frost in the ground, the warm south breeze and cloudless sky invite me out into the garden, where, with pruning knife in hand, I find something to do. The old currant bushes have thrown up so many thrifty shoots from the central stem that a portion must be removed in order to let in air and light to ripen the fruit and keep the bearing wood healthy and vigorous. In pruning the ordinary sorts it is well to cut out the weak young canes as well as to remove the old ones which have been in bearing for two or three years. Currant bushes generally become crowded with too many canes, for producing large fruit, and thinning-out becomes necessary from time to time. The same is true of gooseberries, and the knife and shears must be used freely if health of plant and good annual crops are to be kept up for any considerable length of time.

With raspberries less pruning is necessary, but the canes of the black varieties should be cut back in spring, if long and slender, as this will force out strong, lateral bearing branches, yielding far larger berries than if no pruning is done. The best of our cultivated sorts of berries, if given no culture and the plants not pruned, would yield very little, if any, better fruit than that obtained from plants in the woods and neglected fields. By pruning domesticated plants we reduce the number of specimens of fruit or flowers, but make up for it in size and quality, hence one of the results of scientific horticulture.

In passing among the apple, pear, cherry and other kinds of fruit trees, it is always well to have a sharp knife in one's pocket, even if the visit to the orchard is not intended for the purpose of pruning. A crowded or overlapping branch may have been overlooked, and needs to be removed, and there is seldom a better time to do this than when it is first discovered. Other branches may be taking the lead of their neighbors, either at the top or on one side, and these should be headed back, in order to give a uniform, symmetrical shape to the head of the tree. Attention to such small matters may in the end save much labor, and give a neat appearance to an orchard.

Among shrubbery I can usually find use for the knife in removing old, feeble stems and branches, and shortening the new, because it is seldom that shrubs will grow just to our liking without some little attention. The *Weigelas*, *Syringas*, bush honeysuckles and similar shrubs, if planted on rich soil, are likely to produce a greater number of slender canes than are required to give a shapely, handsome plant, and a little pruning now and then is required to make perfect what would otherwise be imperfect.

All kinds of hardy roses need the same attention as the ordinary shrubs. Old canes which have bloomed for one, two or more years, may be removed, thereby forcing the sap into the younger and more vigorous, which will give larger and more perfect blooms. There is always more or less of this kind of work to be done where one has an orchard and garden to be cared for, but it need not be considered an irksome, laborious task, but a pleasant pastime when one is off duty in other occupations.

Arboricultural.

TRANSPLANTING.

As the time of transplanting draws near, we wish to offer a few words upon this subject, which, however well understood in theory, is yet in practice so far disregarded that many people, to accomplish the operation speedily, prefer rather to "trust to chances" than by a careful observance of glaringly-important steps to secure almost beyond a doubt the health and vigor of the transplanted trees or shrubs. If it is worth one's while to ponder over catalogues, make many inquiries, select and purchase a tree,

It is certainly worth one's while to provide those easy conditions which will render it valuable to us after it is planted. Is it not silly for a man, after purchasing the finest of lines, hooks, etc., to go fishing without bait? It is true, in trusting to chances, it *might* occur that the fish would be found ravenous enough to bite at unbaited hooks. But the greatest expense and trouble having been incurred, it is safest not to permit a little extra trouble to stand in the way of an avoidance of the worst phase of "fisherman's luck." In trusting to chances in transplanting trees, it *may* happen that the trees will be received from the nursery without a broken fiber or a blemish; it *may* happen that the natural earth is that best adapted to those trees:—that the day will prove cloudy and the subsequent weather favorable. It *may* occur, in short, that the trees will greedily accept whatever is presented to them—but, as we have already incurred the greatest expense, it is the least wise to neglect several details, the observance of which will facilitate in so high a degree the safety and welfare of the plant.

The preservation of fibrous roots intact is that upon which the success of transplanting almost wholly depends. There would be no occasion whatever to consider the best times for transplanting, if trees could be removed without the slightest injury to their fibrous roots—and midsummer would answer just as well as fall or spring. In the proportion that injury is done to the fibrous roots, the vigor or life of the plant is weakened or endangered. (1.)

All parts of the roots are concerned in the procurement of water and the gases dissolved in it—but it is the new and thin-celled parts and fibrils which absorb most freely. In spring the buds which were formed during the last season's growth, are ready to break forth as soon as the ground is thawed and frosts cease. Every stem, branch, branchlet and bud commence their work. Exhalation begins. Vacuums are formed which induce the flow of sap from subjacent cells—and these from cells still beneath, until the roots are called into action and the tree is fairly at work. The flame of a kerosene lamp may be compared to the warmth and air which cause the evaporation from the surface of trees. The wick may be considered the stem and roots through which the sap is forced upward by the pressure of the atmosphere to refill the cells which by the flame in one case, and by heat and air in the other, have been made empty. As evaporation from the leaves, etc., becomes rapid, the roots are called upon to act with corresponding activity to supply the loss, and so long as the demand and supply are equal, the healthy functions of the plant are executed. The crude sap is inspissated and, combined with the carbon of the air, is ready to feed new buds, leaves and wood, according to the plant's nature. The power of the leaves and stems to exhale depends upon the power of the fibrous roots to absorb—and upon this co-operation the life of the plant depends. If the earth in which the plant grows becomes somewhat dry, the pores (stomata) of the leaves contract so as to check the drain which the roots can no longer supply. But perspiration continues, though lessened to adapt itself to this decreased supply as far as the mechanism of the plant enables it so to do. If now the earth become more dry, the roots labor in vain to perform their office—the dependent co-operative leaves, no longer supplied with material out of which to provide the plant's food, droop and, unless relief speedily come, wither and die, as a last service to the plant which bore them—since, with the same structure, they could only have survived upon the vital tissues of the plant itself. The plant, having thus parted with those members which—of the first importance in health, are the first to be sacrificed in debility—as the sick human patient is constrained to relinquish the food and exercise of a vigorous state—may still live until rain once more invigorates the enfeebled roots and fresh leaves are developed for estore its wonted equilibrium. (2). This disleafing is one of Nature's remedies—an adaptation of outgo to income—a curtailment of extended parts to a frailer foundation—and it offers, as it seems to us, a very plausible reason why, in transplanting, the branches of trees, shrubs or perennial plants of any description, should be pruned so as to re-establish, as nearly as may be, the normal relationship between the aerial and subterranean systems. (3).

There are few rural people that do not know the importance of cherishing every fibrous root during the operation of transplanting—but we have seen them—not unfrequently either—act as if they knew nothing about it. Bundles of trees and shrubs are received from the nurseries, the bagging and straw torn off and the roots exposed to air and sun until the last is planted—in which case "the last shall 'not' be first" only to die. Evaporation goes on in a greatly increasing ratio with the violence of the wind—a great deal of heat is thus rendered latent and cold is produced upon the evaporating surface. Hence *ether* produces cold in the hand by its quick evaporation. Hence, in order to hasten evaporation, we "blow" our tea and coffee—at least those of us who are lawless enough to do so. A high wind, with the thermometer 10 above, seems colder than a still air with 10 below zero. The atmosphere of warmth that radiates from all bodies is every instant dissipated by wind, and its place is every instant filled with fresh, cold air. Hence it is that water perfectly quiet has been cooled to 15 without solidifying—while if agitated it freezes at once and the thermometer will register 32. And thus it is that the fibers of roots—the minute, growing points—most serviceable in absorption, when exposed to sun and wind, are dried to death in a few moments and the functions of the plant crippled accordingly. Many catalogues recommend in their "Hints to Planters" to shake a tree up and down while setting it—a very simple and efficacious method of destroying these tender threads. The earth presses hard upon them, and a sudden jerk upward must wound and break, while the downward movement must still further bend and entangle them. If necessary to transplant during windy or sunny days, protect the roots *every moment* and keep them moist without an interval until the last one is placed in the ground. Shelter them even while they are being carried to the prepared hole. If the weather is not moist, choose early morning for planting—because as the plants do not perspire during darkness, while the roots continue to absorb, they are then provided with the greatest store of sap. If the ground is in the least inclined to dryness, flood the holes with tepid water—puddle to within a few inches of the top, stake the tree, even if small, and finally cover the ground with grass, moss, sawdust, straw or hay, which will retain the moisture and go far toward establishing that equilibrium between the roots and the branches, buds and leaves most conducive to a healthy development and growth.

We need not here refer to the advisability of digging large, deep holes—of providing a sufficiency of good soil, etc. All these are desirable if we would look to the ultimate tree: if we would have ornamental trees develop their finest forms, and fruit trees their finest fruits. But they are not otherwise indispensable. We only wish to impress upon our readers the degree of importance which should attach to a preservation of the fibrous roots.

(1.) We were obliged to transplant a five-year-old cherry tree in the middle of August. We endeavored to hold a ball of earth about the roots, but it fell off as the tree was raised from its hole. Having been transplanted the year previously, the fibers were in no way injured, so that, placed in its new hole and watered every other day for two weeks, not a leaf was lost.

(2.) In the Tropics, the leaves perform their work during the wet season and, becoming clogged with insoluble matter deposited in their tissues, fall, being of no further service, upon the advent of the dry period, when their presence would only exhaust the plant by exhalations which the roots could not replace.

(3.) So, on the other hand, if plants grow in moist, stagnant grounds or incessant rains and a saturated air supply water which the plant cannot throw off, the sap is stagnated—decomposition and appropriation cannot take place; the roots are rotted and dissolved in corrupting acid formations—the tree is surfeited and disease succeeds to the watery, pulpy growth. It follows that if trees at the time of transplantation have attained to any considerable size, they may be as much injured by being cut back too much as too little, because the scanty elaborating material would prove insufficient for the support of the stem and roots, which have been developed to their present size by a greater extent of leaf-surface.

E. S. CARMAN.

River Edge, Bergen Co., N. J.

FERTILIZERS FOR FRUIT.

THE Scientific Farmer answers the following questions from a correspondent, which may be of interest to some of our readers:

What are the chemicals necessary to supply fruit trees, apple, pear and cherry, in bearing, to produce crops of fruits? Would young growing trees need more potash than trees in bearing?

There are so many modifying circumstances and conditions connected with and controlling the production of fruit that the question of fertilizers is only one of many. But to answer the question directly we should say, that if the soil produced thrifty growing trees nitrogenous manures should be avoided, since such tend to develop foliage and wood at the expense of fruit. To develop fruit-buds mature wood is necessary. Some slowly decomposing nitrogenous substance in the soil, like horn shavings, leather scraps, etc., would supply necessary nitrogen to the trees without forcing the growth of wood. If the wood waste our subscriber mentioned in his letter is of the same nature as the above, we think, he has just the material at hand. The flesh of fruits contain much potash in combination with the fruity acids, also lime: and the seeds phosphoric acid. Therefore we advise the application each year, per acre, of from 200 to 250 pounds of bone dust, 300 to 400 pounds sulphate of potash, the latter guaranteed to contain 35 to 40 per cent. of sulphate of potash. This would give us 70 to 80 pounds of potash, 50 to 60 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 60 to 70 pounds of lime (from the bones), 10 to 20 pounds of nitrogen, and some magnesia in the potash fertilizer, etc. Such treatment has been found successful by fruit growers in both this country and Europe. We should apply broadcast in the fall to the surface, and leave it to the rains to incorporate with the soil, or at most only harrow the fertilizer in. A ton of dry, unleached wood ashes per acre would furnish nearly the same ingredients. The same amount of mineral phosphates as mentioned of bones would furnish more phosphoric acid, but in a more insoluble condition. Prof. Goessmann is now engaged in experiments upon feeding fruit trees, grapes, etc., and we hope that at no distant day to present some more interesting facts in this connection.

The answer to the second question is apparently from the preceding. Though potash is necessary to the production of fruit, and we apply it for that purpose, yet it is plain that before the tree is mature enough for such production, less potash is required than when in bearing.

Domestic Economy.

A RECIPE BOOK.

And Some Tested Domestic Recipes.

A good way to make a Recipe Book that you can depend upon, is, when you find a recipe that you think is good, try it, and if satisfactory copy it, and send to some paper for publication. Then cut out and paste neatly in a blank book. This gives you a nice book with tested recipes in a more compact form than if written in the book. It also makes them known to others and much benefit is derived from exchanging information, and the best vehicle for accomplishing it is the press. In accordance with this idea I send the well-tested recipes:

White Mountain Cake.—One pound of white sugar, one teacup of butter, half a cupful of sweet milk, the whites of ten eggs, half a teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, three cups of flour. Flavor with vanilla or almond. Bake in jelly cake pans with icing between. Icing for the cake:—One pound of fine white sugar, the whites of three eggs. The flavor of a grated cocoanut is very nice in it.

Almond Cake.—Two cups of sugar, one of butter, two-thirds of a cup of sweet milk, whites of eight eggs, one teaspoon of soda, two of cream of tartar. Cream to place between:—Two-thirds of a cup of milk, one cup of sugar, one egg, one-fourth of a cup of blanched almonds, pounded in a marble mortar.

Peru Custard.—Make a custard with one pint of cream, two eggs, one cup of sugar. Flavor to suit the taste. Place it in a glass dish and lay sliced cake over it. Whip whites of eggs to a froth, stir in pulverized sugar, and spread over the cake; ornament with colored sugar sand. Or, instead of the whites of eggs, stir powdered sugar into quince or apply jelly and spread over the cake.

Snow Cake.—One cup of butter, two of sugar, whites of eight eggs, one cup of sweet milk, one teaspoonful of soda, and two of cream of tartar. Flavor with lemon.

A Nice Pudding.—To one pint of well mashed potatoes, add half a cup of cream, one half cup of sugar, a piece of fresh butter, four eggs, and lemon or orange flower water. Bake and bring it hot to the table.

Caledonian Cream.—The whites of two eggs, two spoonfuls of loaf sugar, two of raspberry jam, two of currant jelly; all to be beaten together until so thick the spoon will stand alone in it.

Sponge Pudding.—Three eggs, the weight of the eggs in butter, sugar and flower. One teaspoonful of cream of tartar, and half a teaspoonful of soda. Is best with wine sauce.

Cocoanut Pudding.—To the grated meat of a cocoanut take six eggs, six large spoonfuls of sugar, half a teacup of butter and a little soda. Line a dish with puff paste and fill with the mixture. Bake in a quick oven.

To Remove Rust from Steel.—Dinner knives some times get rusty and may be brightened by covering with sweet oil; let it stand for forty-eight hours and rub with unslaked lime, or powdered brick. A fine grain red brick, finely powdered, is good for polishing knives. Whiting is an excellent article for cleaning and polishing silver, brittania, tin, etc., when properly used, making it look almost like new. They should first be rubbed with it wet, then polished with dry.

An Excellent Remedy for Sore Mouth is sage tea, sweetened with honey. It is good for chapped lips.

To Prevent the Hands from Chapping use bran when washing instead of soap. A little vinegar or honey rubbed on immediately after is very good.

To Strengthen Vinegar, freeze it and remove the ice from the top. The water alone freezes, and the strength remains.

LORETTA E. K. TURNER.

Chicago Junction, Ohio, 1876.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Good Sausages.—To every forty pounds of meat add thirteen ounces salt, five ounces black pepper, three ounces sage.

Batter Pudding.—One quart sweet rich milk, twelve tablespoonfuls flour, a little salt, eight eggs. Beat the eggs separately, very light, and have the batter perfectly smooth. Bake quickly, and send to the table immediately. Serve with butter sauce.

Ammonia Cakes.—One and a half pounds flour, four eggs, beaten separately, three-quarter pound butter, one pound sugar, one-half ounce ammonia, dissolved in a little cold water, make into a soft dough, roll out, and cut thin. Bake quickly.

Eggs for Breakfast.—Break ten eggs into a tin plate, add one large spoonful butter, some salt and pepper, put the plate on the stove and allow the eggs to cook until the whites are done, then slip the tin plate into a china one, and send hot to the table.

Sponge Cake.—Twelve eggs, the weight of ten in white sugar, the weight of six in flour, the juice of one lemon. Beat the yelks of the eggs with the sugar till very light, add the whites, beaten to a stiff froth; lastly the flour. This makes a large cake.

Silver Cake.—One pound white sugar, three-quarter pound flour, six ounces butter, whites fifteen eggs. Rub butter and sugar together, add eggs, well beaten, then flour, into which put a measure of Horsford's Bread preparation. Flavor with bitter almond.

Old-Fashioned Indian Pudding.—Scald one pint of milk, turn it on to one half-cup of Indian meal; one egg, two-thirds of a cup of molasses; salt and cinnamon to taste. Add one pint of cold milk, and bake about two hours, stirring two or three times while cooking, so as to make it wheyey.

Tea Cake.—One-half pound flour, one-quarter pound butter, one-quarter pound sugar, three eggs, one-half teacup sweet milk. Put into the flour one-half a teaspoonful baking powder. Flavor with vanilla. This baked in jelly cake pans makes three cakes and with jelly between is very nice for tea.

To Remove Moths.—Moths will work in carpets in rooms that are kept warm in the winter as well as in the summer. A sure method of removing the pests is to pour strong alum-water on the floor to the distance of half a yard around the edges before laying the carpets. Then once or twice during the season sprinkle dry salt over the carpet before sweeping. Insects do not like salt, and sufficient adheres to the carpet to prevent their alighting upon it.

To Prevent Flat-irons from Rusting, melt a quarter of an ounce of camphor, and half a pound of fresh hog's lard over a slow fire, take off the scum, and mix as much black lead with the composition as will bring it to the color of iron. Spread this over the articles for which it is intended. Let it lie for twenty-four hours, and then rub it well with a dry linen cloth. Or smear the iron over with melted suet, and dust thereon some pounded unslaked lime from a muslin bag. Cover the irons with baize in a dry place when not in use.

Hygienic Information.

A CURE FOR OBESITY.

There are many persons afflicted with an uncomfortable burden of polysarcia or pinguitude, or, in other words, who have too much fat on their ribs, and would like to reduce the amount of their adipose tissue. Banting's system proves rather too much for the most of them, and they would rather be aldermanic in their proportions than reduce themselves by starvation. Time, in working out the development of nature's resources, has at last brought to light something for the relief of these unfortunates. M. M. Griffith, M. D., of Wyoming, Del., writes to the Baltimore American, stating that an infusion of a species of seaweed, commonly known in Delaware as "gulf-weed," possesses the peculiar property of reducing adipose tissue in the human frame without injuring the stomach. No care need be taken in regard to the amount of the infusion the patient drinks. Dr. Griffith first noticed the effects of it upon a person who had taken it for the cure of a skin disease, and found that it diminished his excessive weight considerably. He then took it himself, taking no other drinks, and in the course of a few weeks his own corpulence had greatly subsided. He then tried it on three stout neighbors, who lost from twelve to thirty pounds within periods ranging from two to three months. Dr. Griffith says great care should be taken in collecting the weed. It acts by the absorption of the adipose tissue, and lessens the secretions from the oily, sudoriferous glands.

COOKING FOR HEALTH.

There is no more important branch of "preventive medicine" than cooking. Bad cooking may cause a dwindling of the race, ruination of the temper, and deterioriation of the morals. Good cooking, on the other hand, is accompanied by national prosperity and domestic bliss. So say the promoters of the national training school of cookery, who are undoubtedly right in the main, and are deserving of all imaginable success. Now, cooking is both an art and a science. For its progress as an art we are not greatly concerned, although our profession would undoubtedly suffer in pocket should fine art cookery go out of fashion. "Elegant" dishes are generally whited sepulchers, and the fore-runners of blue pills and other disagreeable correctives. The bulk of people live in big cities, and if we were asked to name the most predominating characteristic of our urban population, we should say "dyspepsia." Those who spend their days in dark offices, chambers, or consulting rooms, and keeping their noses everlastingly upon their respective grindstones, seldom know that digestion which should wait on appetite. Hitherto their dinners have not been so skillfully prepared as to demand the least possible effort from a jaded stomach; but let us hope that the national disgrace of indigestibility will no longer dim the brightness of our hospitality, and the number of patent medicines which are sold so largely in this country as aids to digestion will undergo a rapid diminution.—*Ex.*

NEURALGIA AMONG WOMEN.

A physician of a London hospital writes to the British Medical Journal:—"There is no recognized reason why of late years neuralgia of the face and scalp should have increased so much in the female sex, as compared with our own. There is no doubt that it is one of the most common of female maladies, one of the most painful and difficult of treatment. It is also a cause of much mental depression, and leads more often to habits of intemperance than any other. This growing prevalence to neuralgia may to some extent be referred to the effects of cold upon the terminal branches of the nerves distributed to the skin; and the reason why men are less subject to it than women may to a great extent be explained by the much greater protection afforded by the mode in which the former cover their heads when they are in the open air. It may be observed that the surface of the head which is actually covered in man is at least three times that which fashion allows to women; indeed, the points of contact between the hat or bonnet and the head in the latter are so irregular as practically to destroy any protection which might otherwise be afforded.

SYMPTOMS OF DIPHTHERIA.

From all parts of the country we hear of the ravages of diphtheria. In some cases whole families have fallen victims to this dread disease. It is important that all persons, especially parents, should understand what are the first symptoms, and the prompt and efficient measures for relief. An attack of diphtheria usually commences with high fever and headache, and in children with nausea and vomiting. There is great prostration. Upon the tonsils and other parts of the throat are seen white, snow-flaky patches. In malignant cases the patches are often yellow or brownish, and a fetid odor is perceived. A good physician should be immediately summoned when these symptoms are noticed. Chlorate of potash gargles and pounded ice are useful until he arrives. Many physicians have found a successful remedy in the use of permanganate of potash in connection with the tincture of belladonna.

LEMONS WHOLESOME.

When people feel the need of an acid, if they would let vinegar alone, and use lemons or apples, they would feel as well satisfied and receive no injury. A suggestion may not come amiss as to a good plan, when lemons are cheap in market, to make good lemon syrup. Press your hand on the lemon, and roll it back and forth briskly on the table to make it squeeze more easily; then press the juice into a bowl or tumbler—never into a tin; strain out all the seeds, as they give a bad taste. Remove all the pulp from the peels and boil in water—a pint for a dozen pulps—to extract the acid. A few minutes boiling is enough; then strain the water with the juice of the lemon, put a pound of white sugar to a pint of the juice; boil ten minutes, bottle it, and your lemonade is ready. Put a tablespoonful or two of this lemon sirup in a glass of water, and you have a cooling, healthful drink.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

Frosted Feet.—To relieve the intense itching of frosted feet, dissolve a lump of alum in a little water, and bathe the part with it, warming it before the fire. One or two applications is sure to give relief.

Cold Feet.—Cold feet are the precursors of consumption. To escape them, warm your feet well in the morning, and covering the sole with a piece of common paper, carefully draw on the sock, and then the boot or shoe.

For Croup.—Take a knife or grater, and grate or shave in small particles about a teaspoonful of alum; mix it with about twice its quantity of sugar, to make it palatable, and administer it as quickly as possible. Its effects will be truly magical, as almost instaneous relief will be afforded.

Bronchitis.—A simple, but oftentimes efficacious remedy, is this. It may afford relief. Syrup of tolu, one ounce; syrup of squills, half an ounce; wine of ipecac, two drachms; paregoric, three drachms; mucilage of gum arabic, one and a half ounces. Mix. Take a teaspoonful three times a day.

Weak Eyes.—Bathe your eyes night and morning in a tolerably strong solution of salt and water. We have known some remarkable cures effected by this simple remedy. After bathing the eyes daily for about a week, intermit a day or two, and then resume the daily bathing, and so on till your eys get strong again.

The Apiarian.

PROBABLE PROFITS IN BEE-KEEPING.

That veteran Apiarian, T. B. Miner, mentions a case which, though suppositious, fairly represents the results of thousands of attempts to realize a fortune from the Apiary in a few years' time. We copy from his letter in the New York Sun.

Mr. Jones commenced bee keeping in 1863. He bought ten stocks in common box hives for $60, and removed them in the winter in a sleigh to his farm and immediately placed them on low stands about eight inches high, with the hives about two feet apart, with a board roof to each to protect them from rains.

In the following June he had nine swarms' issue, which he put into movable comb hives and, as soon as the swarming season was over, he transferred the bees in the old box hives to those with movable combs, and in October he found that a portion of his bees had not honey enough to carry them through the winter.

Here was a dilemma. Mr. Jones had no experiance in feeding bees and he set them to robbing, and before he learned how to stop the stronger from robbing the weaker families, three had been robbed of all their stores and had been mostly killed in the fight, so that they soon deserted their hives. November came, and he began to think how he should winter his bees. He read in his bee paper so many conflicting accounts in regard to "winter management" that he did not know what to do. But at last he concluded to put his bees in his house cellar, which was dry and dark, two important essentials, and left them till April 1, when the weather happened to be very mild, and he removed them to their stands.

On examination he found all the bees dead in four hives and several others much depopulated. The weather also soon changed to bitter cold with high winds all through April, and the result was that he found on May 15 that out of his nineteen families he has but eleven left alive. That season was a good one for swarms, and he found himself in the fall with thirty families and about 200 pounds of honey in small glass boxes, which he sold in New York for 30c. per pound. The next year he increased to 50 families and sold 500 pounds of box honey. But the next year, 1869, the honey season was very bad, and in September he had 70 families, every one of which must be fed to carry them through the winter. This took 700 pounds of coffee A sugar at 11c. per pound, amounting ro $77; but he had no alternative—his bees must be fed or all be lost, and what was still worse, he got no box honey that year. This is one of the occasional drawbacks to which all bee keeeers are subject, and those who cannot stand any reverses often give up the business in disgust when such misfortunes overtake them.

Mr. Jones has never succeeded in having 100 hives of bees in the entire ten years that he has kept them, and now he has only 65 families; and the probability is that he will never go much higher in number, as the increase of the summer generally disappears in winter; and go where you will, you will find that very few bee keepers ever reach 100 hives from a beginning of ten or less. Severe, cold winters, bad honey seasons, robberies, the bee moth, &c., carry them off.

If a man by purchase, or otherwise, can accumulate 500 stocks os bees in a good section of country for bee keeping and can manage from year to year to keep up the full number, he can certainly make considerable money on them. It would be necessary to colonize them a few miles apart—about 100 families in a colony—and employ a man to attend each colony during the swarming season; and from such a number of families the following profit can reasonably be expected four years out of five: 25 lbs. of box honey to each hive, amounting to 12,500 lbs., worth in New York about $3,500. I say nothing about "extracted" honey, sold by the gallon, as I consider that way of getting honey about "played out" as a profitable way of making money on bees.

Neuralgia.—Persons troubled with this distressing complaint will be glad to learn a cure. Two drops of laudanum in a half teaspoonful of warm water and dropped into the ears will give immediate relief.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1876.

MORE FAITH NEEDED.

The deep disgrace which has fallen upon the country in the ruin of one who has been highly honored and trusted, is having a worse effect than is generally believed. For years rumors of corruption in high places have been heard and have been discredited as the complaints of political opponents against those in power. From this too lethargic condition of the popular conscience we are in danger of going to the other extreme—of losing faith in the principle of self-government—in all our public men, and to a large extent in human nature itself. The tone of sneering contempt for honesty, purity and goodness of every degree which prevails in many journals is far more dangerous than the ruin of a dozen such men as the late Secretary Belknap. Unless we can retain faith in the possibilities of personal integrity the rising generation of young Americans who gain their ideas of public men in this Centennial year of our country's history, will grow up with not a profound but a very shallow and flippant disbelief in anything real except evil and in any other power than the Satanic.

We do not underestimate the evil tendencies which are so prominent and possibly for the time being predominant in public and especially political life. Corruption and bribery may represent, and to some extent fairly, the public life of the times. But behind all this it must not be forgotten that there are forty millions of American citizens embracing the great industrial and producing classes. These are not corrupted. One public man after another may fall into disgrace and oblivion; but the heart of the American people is sound. They have tolerated corruption partly because in the rectitude of their own hearts they would not believe such wickedness possible; but once they see the truth, the sober, honest sense of the country will not fail to rectify their mistake.

In the meantime, let no honest man despair of the country. Our present condition, with wickedness exposed and thrown on the defensive—with the national conscience aroused and quick to seize every suspicion of guilt—is far more healthful than the moral torpor of years agone, when corruption unexposed was sapping the foundation of public morality. We are not in the greatest danger now, when every pen and tongue is quick to expose iniquity and every ear open to receive it. Our danger was when the few who knew the truth told it to deaf ears and were only received with scoffing and derision.

In the history of the Children of Israel there was a time when the whole nation seemed to be lapsed in idolatry and given over to evil ways. Elijah, the prophet of God, ran away and hid himself in a cave despairing of any good, and seeking only personal safety. The whole story is told in the 19th Chapter of 1st Kings; how the words of the Lord came to the prophet, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" And Elijah answered and said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the Children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I, only, am left, and they seek my life to take it away." The question was thrice repeated with the same dull, despairing answer. *Then* the word of the Lord came a fourth time, telling the prophet to get up and do the work which the Lord required of him, and adding the comforting assurance that the prophet was *not* alone as he thought himself, but that there were in Israel SEVEN THOUSAND, all the knees of which have not bowed to Baal and all the mouths which have not kissed him. The following chapters tell how the immense army of Benhadad, the Syrian, was put to flight and destroyed by the army of Israel which, by singular coincidence, numbered seven thousand.

If men who deal out unsparing denunciation of our political and social fabric because of recent revelations of corruptions, could go among the thousands of happy homes where the Rural New-Yorker reaches they could well believe that there are not only seven thousand good men and true, but a thousand times seven thousand in our broad country. Looking at the surface, all is black and dismal enough. Looking deeper into the hearts of the masses of the common people, we find a substratum of honesty able to save our country in sorer distress than any it has experienced. The people may be far too slow to believe evil and seek to remedy it, and this we have long thought; but when once awakened to the truth, their voice will be made effectual.

THE STEAM PLOW STILL WANTED.

Though there have been many failures to produce it, we are among those who believe a Steam Plow adapted to this country will ere long be perfected and prove of vast benefit to American Agriculture. And hence we are glad to note that "A Granger" suggests to his brethren, through the Prairie Farmer, whether a part of their wealth and power could not be well employed in an attempt to solve the problem of steam plowing. He says the work requires brains and money, yet he believes it can be accomplished—that inventors lack means and capitalists are afraid to risk their dollars in anything new. And he tersely adds: "If steam plowing is ever started in America, it will be of incalculable value to the country, and we farmers will derive most benefit in every way. Ought we not, therefore, to make some grand, systematic effort to prove the possibility or impossibility of economical steam cultivation, either by offering a handsome reward for the right machine, or by following up and developing some of the ideas that have been proposed in the past forty years? Let us ascertain the cause of the failures of steam plowing in the past, and see if the defect cannot be remedied. There may be inventions in existence to-day that are what we want, and their originators not having the means to develop them, it would be a glorious achievement for the united farmers of America to bring to light so great a labor-saving machine as a successful steam plow, and the expense to any one man need not exceed a few cents. Will some one earn the gratitude of a nation by carrying out the proposition?"

These suggestions are pertinent and we trust the Patrons—who are especially numerous and powerful in the West and South, where the Steam Plow is most needed—will take some efficient action in the direction indicated. "In union there is strength," and let the truthful adage be applied in this matter—to secure successful and profitable steam plowing on American farms. Among the many promising inventions for this purpose is Redmond's Steam Plow, once illustrated and described in the Rural New-Yorker. We have heard little of it of late, only that its inventor—Mr. Owen Redmond of Rochester, N. Y.,—is still struggling against adverse circumstances, to bring out his plow, and hopes to succeed. He and other worthy workers for a like object need substantial encouragement, and we hope it will be so speedily accorded that at least one practical Steam Plow will be perfected during the Centennial Year.

INCREASED INDUSTRY NECESSARY.

There is one form of inflation of the currency which commends itself to people of every financial theory. We mean, of course, the increase of money in every man's pocketbook, either by careful saving or increased skill and industry in producing salable articles. This last is altogether the better way, as increased production of whatever is useful or beautiful adds to the sum of human happiness. Strange to say, however, the lack of production in our country does not arise so much from laziness as from the fear that valuable articles of any kind will be too largely and rapidly increased. We hear the idea advanced almost daily that we have too much cotton, too much wheat, too much corn, and, in short, too much of everything which produces money, while nearly every individual acknowledges for himself personally a deficiency in that representative of value. Does it not seem probable that some mistake has been made? Are we not wrong in assuming decreased production as a remedy for existing business depression? If not, it will be only fair to exalt laziness into one of the cardinal virtues, and the hordes of tramps who now seek excuse in a false pretense of looking for work may discard the sham and boldly avow their voluntary idleness with the claim that they are the real benefactors of society by helping to restore the equilibrium between consumption and production.

The truth is that what seems an over-production is caused by the poverty of great masses of the people, rendering them unable to use even smaller crops than usual. This has thrown thousands of men and women out of employment, and this enforced idleness has resulted in continued decrease of production, with little prospect of getting out of the rut through present and proposed policies. It certainly will not help matters to still further decrease production. Too little productive industry, combined with extravagance and want of forethought, has brought us where we are. The country will not get out of the slough through pressing forward still deeper into it.

We want a greater variation in our productive industry. Northern farmers' produce is low, but it is because other productive industries are at a standstill and the utmost economy is used in purchasing only articles that are absolutely necessary. The Southern planter complains that cotton is low; but if other branches of productive industry were thriving, the country could take all the present cotton crop at an advance of two or three cents per pound over present rates. What money there is has settled in commercial centers and stays there, doing no good to the mass of the people and very little to its holders. What is needed is, first, the production of salable articles which will tempt this money out of the pockets of holders; and second, though not less important, the restoration of confidence in better times to set this currency moving to all portions of the country.

THE DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS INSECTS.

The bill introduced by Senator Ingalls, providing for the appointment of entomologists as commissioners to devise means of destroying noxious insects, was published in the Rural New-Yorker of March 4th, so far as we have heard it meets general approval of farmers and from the agricultural Press. We are glad to know that the measure is also favored by leading entomologists, who, from their knowledge of the habits of noxious insects, best appreciate the necessity for decided and united action in repressing their ravages. In reply to the only criticism which we have anywhere seen of Senator Ingalls' bill, Prof. C. V. Riley writes in the Prairie Farmer of Chicago, earnestly defending the measure and rebuking the petty narrowness which objects to it. We copy the following paragraph:

The good that a competent commission of this kind, adequately supported, is capable of, is incalculable. What it will do, if created, will depend of course on the character of the men composing, and the means at their command—and remains to be seen. The sum to be expended for the work is trifling in view of the object to be accomplished, and the interests at stake. To look at it as a scheme for securing lucrative positions to three men, is a narrow and prejudiced view. It would be well for us if all national appropriations were for a like economic end, and gave the same assurance of usefulness. Congress owes it to the oppressed farmers of the country that some effort be made to relieve them. In part, at least, of so pressing an evil as they labor under from insect depredations. As one who has labored for some time in the field of economic entomology, I heartily indorse the movement; and I view it in the light of national economy and aid to the agricultural population. The salaries which Senator Ingalls bill proposes are not too high. Competent and experienced men cannot be secured without adequate remuneration, and if we are to have a commission of this kind at all, let us not court failure and disappointment by crippling it at the beginning, either by weakening its power for good, or by obliging the appointment of men who would need to fritter the five years away in acquiring the knowledge and experience necessary to carry on the work understandingly and successfully: for those willing to accept small remuneration would very likely be such.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Get the Teams, Implements, &c., Ready.—As the busy season approaches, every ruralist should see that his teams are in good heart for the Spring campaign, for much will depend upon their strength, activity and endurance. If they are brought through the cold weather in good condition, fleshy and healthy, your oxen, horses and mules will do good service in prosecuting the varied work in which their aid is indispensable. The farmer who is thus prepared for the season's labors is wise indeed, while he who has weak teams—or bones and hides to sell—is as badly off as were the virgins who had no oil in their lamps on a certain occasion. And don't forget the implements. Every machine, implement or tool should be made ready for use in advance of the time it may be wanted. This will save time—which is money indeed at a busy season—and prevent vexation. Any tools or implements out of order should be repaired in season, so that there be no interruption or delay in performing any needed operation. Put everything in order, therefore, not forgetting that painting is an economical investment in many cases. And if your implements are worn out, or not really labor-saving, or as much so as others of recent invention, get new ones of the latest and best patterns. In these days of improvement in all sorts of farm machinery, it is not economical, but wasteful, to use old, shackly tools, which are liable to break every day, causing detention and expense for repairs.

Valuable Map and Pamphlet Free.—The Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Co. have issued an interesting and valuable pamphlet with sectional maps, showing lands which the Company has for sale in Southwestern Missouri. Besides giving valuable information respecting a railroad enterprise of national importance, this pamphlet contains many interesting and instructive items about a most important country—one which will ere many years, become the garden of the West. The Company offers for sale 1,200,000 acres of land which, as it lies along what will always be one of the highways across the continent, cannot fail to be in the line of good markets and profitable production. The fact that the Company sold last year 133,169 acres, shows the rapidity with which the country is filling up. The pamphlet gives full description of soil, climate, and mineral products as far as developed of these lands, with sectional maps showing each County. The pamphlet is mailed free on sending address to General Land Office, 25 South St., St. Louis, Mo., and is well worth reading by anybody, besides being invaluable to all who think of removing westward.

Moore's Creek Bridge.—The first Centennial celebration of the year was that of the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in North Carolina, which was fought one hundred years ago, Feb. 27th, 1776. This is claimed to be the first victory won by the American arms in the war of the Revolution. Curiously enough the event has never been celebrated, except once in 1857. Probably, hereafter, this important event in American history will receive the honor to which it is entitled. In the recent celebration, speeches were made by Capt. Samuel A. Ashe of Raleigh, N. C., State Senator Edward W. Kerr, Rev. Mr. Stallings and Judge Edward Cantwell. Patriotic letters were read from U. S. Senator Merriman, Oliver H. Dockery and others.

Iowa Ag. College.—At a recent meeting of the Trustees vacancies in Professorships were filled as follows: Geo. E. Morrow of Chicago (formerly of the Western Farmer and late of the Western Rural), Practical Agriculture; J. E. L. Bral of Boston, Civil Engineering; Thos. E. Pope of Boston, Chemistry. We congratulate the College upon this accession to its faculty. Bro. Morrow was a capital agricultural editor, and is well qualified for the important position to which he has been called. The other gentlemen are spoken of as good selections.

Postal Cards.—The Government loses $700,000 a year by issuing postal cards, that is, the printing and carrying amount to that sum more than the receipts. We never could see why the Government should charge three cents for carrying a letter, while it furnishes and prints a tinted card and carries it any distance for one cent. If postal cards were abolished the postal revenues would be increased two million dollars. Possibly in that event we might have letter postage reduced to two cents, which would be a vast improvement on the abused postal card system.

Tea.—The lady correspondent of the Rural who wishes to know about the culture of tea, is informed that it cannot be grown as far north as New York State, except as a curiosity. The leaves only are used, and hence a crop can be gathered at any age. We do not know where seed can be procured. The seedsmen do not advertise it in their catalogues, though probably any of them would get it if wanted by their customers.

RURAL BREVITIES.

A gentleman in Albion kept a robin in a cage for over twelve years. It has just died.

N. A. Willard of the Rural New-Yorker delivers two addresses before Conventions in the Province of Quebec, March 15 and 16.

The annual report of the packing of Chicago, issued March 10, shows a total summer packing of 728,781 hogs, and a winter packing of 1,592,065 hogs.

$5,000,000 is invested in driving parks in this country and horses amounting to three times that in value are entered for competition in a single year.

The rice growing business upon Cape Fear, N. C., has become nearly extinct. Only 10,000 bushels were raised last year, against an annual product of 200,000 bushels before the war.

The Springfield Union says its faith in Roxbury Russetts as a good keeping apple is confirmed by a couple received lately from W. S. Parker, of South Ashfield, which, though picked in 1874, are still sound and nice.

The Putnam County (N. Y.) Standard says: "An enormous hog, bought by a Watertown butcher a few days since, measured eight feet in length, seven feet around the body, stands three feet four inches high, is two years and nine months old, and pulls the scales down at the enormous weight of 1,750 pounds. It was raised by Mr. Joseph Schnell, near Rossiere."

A young man of this city, who writes "Esq." after his name, tells us what a splendid journal the Rural is—all except one department, which latter he proposes to "conduct *free*, the position being ample remuneration for my (his) services." A generous offer, indeed, but, as the judges say, "decision reserved." We cannot bear too much prosperity all at once, even though this is the Centennial.

Col. Rush C. Hawkins has read a report before the Union League Club of New York upon the cause of the increase of the City Debt, and recommending measures for its more economical government. He thoroughly reviews the doings of the Tweed Ring in all its ramifications, and makes many things plain which were before obscure. He dates the beginning of the robbery back to the Board of Aldermen in 1852, known as the "Forty Thieves" and follows it to the decapitation of all the Court House Ring.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

**Coughs.—A Medicinal Preparation in the form of a *lozenge* is the most convenient. "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" allay irritation which induces coughing, giving relief in Bronchitis, Hoarseness, Influenza, Consumptive and Asthmatic complaints.

ASK your merchant to furnish you the "**Phœnix Pure White Lead,**" if you would have the best, and take no other.

A SPRING SONG.

BLITHELY breaks the morning
With a warmer beam,
Now, O Earth, awaken
From thy Winter dream!
From some land of beauty,
Where the swallow's wing
Rests on balmiest zephyrs,
Comes the radiant Spring.

Odorous Southern breezes
With her garlands play,
And the sullen snow-clouds
Slowly drift away.
In the woods and valleys
Water softly flows,
And its silvery murmurs
Greet her as she goes.

By the budding hedgerows,
Through the meadows sweet,
Bright-eyed, starry daisies
Springing round her feet,
With the fragrant violets
To her warm lips prest,
And the timid snowdrops
Nestling in her breast.

Many a shrinking flow'ret
From its nook she wiles
With her tears, more precious
Than her sunniest smiles.
Quickly will the forest
Weave a leafy maze,
Ere the sun can seek them
With too ardent gaze.

Haste then, Earth, arouse thee!
Bid thy wild birds sing;
Let them give a welcome
To the gentle Spring!

[*Siecert Wynne.*

The Story-Teller.

FOUND IN THE SNOW.

"HALLOO! This won't do. Move on." The speaker was a gigantic policeman. The object of his wrath was a boy who sat on a low stoop, with his face buried in his hands as if crying.

It was night and snowing fast. A bitter, bitter night, in which one would not wish even one's enemy to be homeless and shelterless. The boy did not stir.

"Halloo, I say!" cried the policeman, angrily, advancing nearer. "No shamming, young 'un. Get up, and move on."

But as the lad, even yet, did not rise, the policeman stooped down and shook him. As he did this the boy fell over, senseless, in the snow.

"Great God!" cried the policeman. "He's dead. Frozen to death, too; perhaps starved. Poor little fellow! An orphan, no doubt. Well, I must take him to the station, I suppose."

But as he lifted the body, which he did tenderly—for he had children of his own at home, the seemingly inanimate form stirred.

"Fainted," said the officer, "but not dead yet. If the station house only wasn't so far off. Ah! maybe they'll take him in here."

As he spoke, a close carriage had dashed up to the next house, a footman sprang from the box, the coach door was flung open, and an old man, wrapped in a fur cloak, stepped out and took the servant's arm, to be helped up the high stoop. Seeing the policeman, however, with the boy in his arms, he stopped abruptly.

"What! what!" he cried. "A young tramp—a beggar? Not dead——"

"No, not dead yet, Mr. Ascot," said the policeman, respectfully, as he recognized the speaker, well known as the wealthiest and most influential householder on his beat, "but I'm afraid will be before I reach the station. And he doesn't seem to be a common sort of beggar boy——"

"Not the common sort, eh? Neither is he," said Mr. Ascot, as he looked at the boy's clothes. "Have him in here—have him in here. John, ring the bell; why the deuce do you stand there gaping—don't you see the boy's dying from cold and hunger? I can walk up the steps well enough alone."

A moment more and Mr. Ascot himself led the way into a warm, spacious drawing-room.

"There's a roaring fire ready," he said. "I always have one waiting for me when I come home from dining out. Where's the housekeeper? Didn't I tell John to bring her at once? Ah! here Mrs Somers comes. Something to revive him, quick! Good heavens! if he should die after all."

"Poor little dear!" said Mrs. Somers, as she poured a restorative down his throat. "There, Jane, give me the blankets while I wrap him up. Ah! he's coming to."

The boy opened his eyes, looked in a far-off way at Mrs. Somers, and then glanced, dreamily, about the room. Evidently his senses had not yet quite come back.

"Mother, mother," he murmured. "I can't find grandfather—and it's so cold. I'm so——"

His head dropped on her shoulder and his eyes closed again. One of his hands, which up to this moment had been tightly shut, opened weakly, and a note fell to the door.

Mrs. Somers did not see the note. Something in the boy's look had startled her. She gave a quick glance up at her master; then she began to tremble all over. Mr. Ascot, who had been standing by her full of interested anxiety, did not observe this look, for his attention had been attracted by the note, which he now stooped to pick up. Then he proceeded to take out his glasses in order to read the superscription.

"Perhaps this may throw some light on the matter," he said. "The poor lad has been sent out on an errand and has fainted from cold, and perhaps hunger. What! what! Good God!" His hands were shaking like leaves in an autumn wind. In the deep stillness the paper rattled with startling noise. "It can't be—it can't be! Mrs. Somers, your eyes are younger than mine—read, read; is that address—is it—mine—Thornton Ascot?"

As he spoke in choked, convulsive gasps, Mrs. Somers leaned forward to read. The motion roused the boy again, and he opened his eyes—this time with more of consciousness in them—and he fixed a long, questioning, puzzled look on Mr. Ascot.

"Merciful heaven!" the latter said, staggering like one struck with palsy, "it is her eyes—her eyes——"

With these words he fell back senseless, the half-open letter fluttering from his fingers to the floor. Fortunately the policeman was in time to catch him, and lay him on the sofa. For a moment the boy was forgotten, every one pressing around the master of the house.

"Is it a stroke?" asked the policeman, anxiously. "What does it mean?"

At any other time Mrs. Somers would have been reticent about family affairs; but she was too flurried to think clearly. Surprised out of herself she took her audience, unconsciously, into her confidence.

"No, it's not a stroke," she answered, with the experience of long years of nursing. "His face isn't awry, you see; and he's only limp, not paralyzed. There, I've opened his cravat; and now, Jane, bring some water. It's but a fainting fit; he often has 'em when he's worried; often, I mean, since his daughter went away. She ran off, you know, 'most ten years ago. He's never forgiven her, or rather she's never—leastway of late years—asked to be forgiven. The last time was when she came herself, just after she was married, on a night as bad as this." All this while Mrs. Somers was busy in trying to revive her master, chafing his hands, holding smelling salts to him, even ordering the window opened. "He turned her from his doors in a perfect rage—I never seed him so angry afore or since. But he's been sorry for it many and many a time, I know. I have heard him sigh so! He was a-thinking of her. He'd have forgiven all, years ago, if she would have come again; but she was as proud as him; I don't know which was the prouder. She went to forrin parts with her husband—he'd been her music teacher, you see—that's what made Mr. Ascot so angry—and she has not been heard of for these years and years. There—he's coming to; what a sigh! Stand aside, Mr. Policeman, please, and give him some air. Poor man! but he's nobody to blame but himself, after all. I don't uphold disobedience in children, of course; but a dearer, sweeter girl than Margaret Ascot never was. Many and many's the time I've carried her in my arms when she was a baby and her mother was alive. How are you feeling now, sir?"

This last sentence was addressed to her master, who, with a deep drawn sigh, opened his eyes.

"What—what is the matter?" he said, looking vacantly from one to the other. "Yes, I remember," putting his hand to his brow, "Margaret——"

His eyes wandering about fell on the boy who, during this episode, had entirely recovered consciousness and was now looking with a strange sort of wonder at Mr. Ascot.

"Please, sir," said the lad, seeing he had attracted the old man's eye, "can you tell me where Mr. Ascot lives? I was to go to him—only I lost my way—mother's very sick—and she's had nothing to eat to-day——"

With these words he broke down with a great sob, the tears streaming along his thin, wan cheeks.

"Where's the note? Order the carriage," said Mr. Ascot, incoherently, rising to his feet. "Is it from Margaret? Did somebody say she was starving?" His poor, weak, shaking hands vainly tried again to unfold the paper which the policeman had handed him. "I—I am not strong as I used to be; I think I am getting old;" and he looked pitcously at Mrs. Somers and sank again on the sofa.

"Drink this," said the housekeeper, handing him a restorative.

He drank it and rallied.

"Ah! it is her—her writing," speaking to himself. "She is a widow, and her only child is named—after—after—me."

He stopped reading and turned to look at the boy.

"Are you grandfather?" said the latter, timidly. "I think you must be, for mother has a picture she looks at and cries over, and it's like you."

The letter fell again to the floor. But this time it was because he opened his arms and the boy, catching the meaning, came to him.

"You won't let her die, will you?" said the boy, looking pitcously into his face.

"Die, die!" cried the old man, rising up; and his voice and air were that of youth. "She shall not die. Where is the carriage? I will go at once and she shall come home to-night. The carriage, I say," he cried, almost angrily, and he turned toward the door, where the footman now appeared.

"The carriage waits, sir," said the servant, obsequiously.

"Get your cloak and bonnet, Mrs. Somers, a few blankets—a bit of food—there's not a minute to lose. Good God! Margaret dying, and we wasting our time here! No, my brave little fellow; your mother shall not die."

In a few minutes, during which the thoughtful Mrs. Somers had provided a biscuit and some hot tea for the boy, the little party set forth. While the carriage is rolling over the snow, its destination being one of the most obscure streets of the great metropolis, let us say a few words about the daughter.

Margaret Ascot had been one of those sweet-tempered, sympathetic natures that everybody loved. Beautiful, accomplished, wealthy and well born, she had crowds of suitors, but at nineteen she turned from them all, and gave her heart to a penniless lover. This was not because she was foolishly romantic, like so many others, but because her suitor was worthy of her in every way except riches. He was only a poor music teacher, an Italian exile—for this was in days now fortunately long ago, before Italy was free, and to be an Italian patriot meant banishment or life-long imprisonment, or even death.

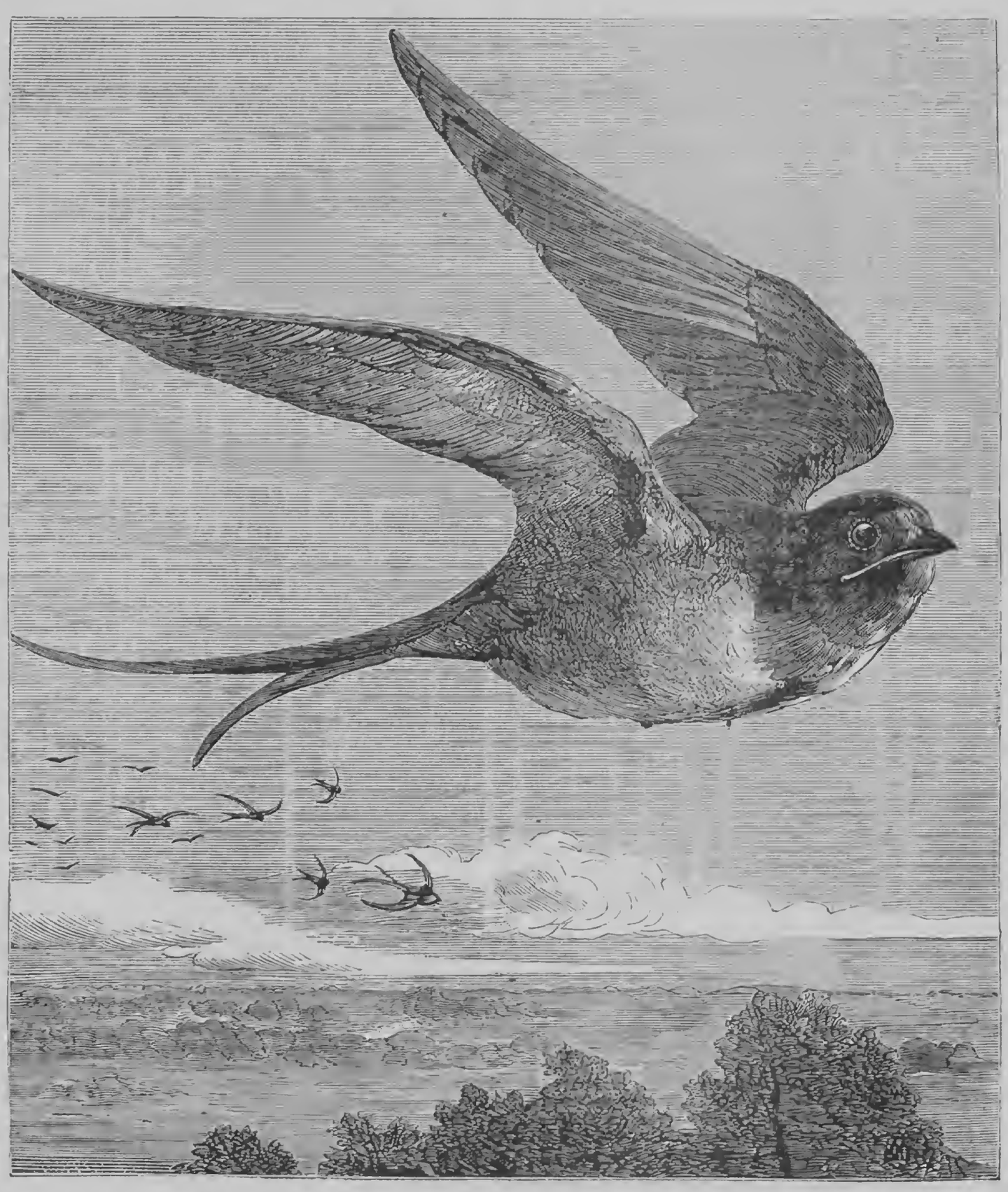
Andrea Filippo had, when hardly more than a boy, joined in the insurrection of '48, and had been compelled after its failure to fly the country. He had come to America and, being penniless, had been compelled to take up the first pursuit that offered itself. In his own land, nearly everybody has some knowledge of music; but Andrea was an amateur of more than ordinary merit, and he naturally became a teacher of singing. Margaret Ascot was his favorite pupil. He saw in her everything that youthful manhood in its highest type admires; she saw in him a hero and a martyr. Compared with the prosaic young men of business or the cold, calculating lawyers, or the idle men of fashion, who constituted the bulk of her admirers, he was a prince in disguise, a young god!

Parents do not sufficiently make allowances for the imaginative element of their daughters. They fancy that at nineteen girls can feed as their mothers do at forty; that the dry husks of a matter-of-fact life are sufficient for them. It is not so, and Mr. Ascot, though a sensible man in other respects, could not understand why his daughter was cold to her wealthy lovers and had given her heart to the exile.

When Margaret, hopeless of altering her father's opinion, finally eloped with her lover, his wrath knew no bounds. He refused to answer her letter announcing the marriage; and when, a few weeks later, she came in person, he had her literally thrust from the door.

After vainly trying to get some other employment—for Mr. Ascot's influence deprived Andrea of all his pupils—the young couple went abroad. For a while they lived in London; but afterwards Andrea returned to Italy and there struggled on until he died. He left his widow penniless; she had only money enough to pay her passage to America, whither she had resolved to come, in hopes by a last appeal to soften her father's heart. It was a winter voyage, and Margaret caught a violent cold, which threatened an inflammation of the lungs. She could only crawl feebly to the nearest lodging on the night she landed—a miserable attic.

The next day Margaret wrote a note to her father, trusting to her boy to deliver it, as she was too ill to go out herself. Knowing that Mr. Ascot would be out during the day, she had deferred sending the lad until toward nightfall; but hardly had he left before she began to think of the perils he ran alone in that great city. Perhaps, she said to herself, he has fallen down



THE FIRST SWALLOW.—(See page 191.)

some open area; perhaps he sank cold and insensible in some bank of snow. When eight o'clock struck from a neighboring steeple, and still her boy did not return, she became almost wild with fright. Ten o'clock came, but still no son. She listened intensely for the sound of his feet, but she heard nothing but the roar of the storm. At last her anxiety and fear rose to frenzy; she was sure her boy was dead. Eleven o'clock struck. Her candle had burned down into the socket and was almost on the point of expiring. Suddenly the sound of carriage wheels, muffled by the snow, was heard; the carriage stopped. Surely that was the opening of the street door; there were steps ascending the stairs. Yes, she could not be mistaken, they were the steps of her boy! The door of her room flew open and her son rushed in.

"Mother, mother!" he cried, flinging his arm eagerly around her, "I came as soon as I could. And oh! mother, I have brought grandfather with me. See!"

She looked past her son, scarcely believing her own eyes. There, just behind her boy, stood her father. She rose up in bed; she held out her arms.

"Father!" she sobbed.

"Margaret, my child!" And then they were locked in each other's arms and both were in tears.

"I can die in peace now," she murmured, after a while, as she clung to her father's breast, "since you have forgiven me. You will promise to take care of Thornton?"

"Die!" cried the father, rising bolt upright and fairly lifting her from the bed, all the strength of his youth coming back in that supreme moment. "You shall not die. You are going home with us; we have brought blankets, food, everything. The risk is not so great as remaining another night here; physicians—the best—shall be called in. No, you shall not die! You have not come home to die."

Nor did she die. Our simple tale has already been too long in the telling, or we might narrate how the sense of rest and peace that grew up in her now, the skillful care of the best physicians, and the knowledge that her boy's future was assured, all combined to work a cure that, otherwise, might have been regarded as almost miraculous.

To-day there is no more beautiful woman of her years in that great city than Margaret. She lives only for her father and her boy; they come, at least, before everything else. But she does not exclude herself entirely from society. To the select and cultivated circle of which she is the center and chief ornament, she gives freely of her varied accomplishments and of her exquisite charm of manner. But the memory of her dead husband is still green in her heart and ever will be; and though men of high station and even world-wide celebrity would woo her, if she would, to be the light of their home, they know, one and all, that her first and last love lies buried in that lonely grave on the blue shores of the Riviera, to which, every year or two, she makes a pilgrimage.

THE VIRTUES OF SILENCE.

In instances, and many might be mentioned, silence is chiefly used as a protective power, and that is no doubt its most obvious, though by no means its only use. In former days the Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, were forbidden by statute to marry; but the violation of the rule, which in fact they seldom observed, was connived at so long as they maintained a discreet reticence on their connubial arrangements, and their wives bore their maiden names in public. One of these wedded celibates was asked by a friend, who had been much perplexed on discovering the state of the case, how he managed to hold his fellowship? "My dear sir," was the reply, "a man can hold anything who can hold his tongue." It follows, of course, that a man who wears his heart on his sleeve will let everything slip through his fingers. This gift of silence is characteristic of the "canny" Scot. A Scotchman will never "tell a lee," but he will make it next to impossible for you to discover what he most wishes to conceal. The surgical operation which is said to be so requisite for getting a joke into him is equally required for getting anything out of him when he prefers, as he very frequently does prefer, to keep his own counsel. He is an adept at beating about the bush, which is another way of saying that he knows how to hold his tongue.

But silence is not merely a protective power. If it often serves to conceal what there might be an indiscretion in betraying, it may also prove a positive means of influence. The Greeks thought it so difficult to "speak good-omened words" that they used the phrase as equivalent to what the Romans more directly termed a "sacred silence." And, great as is the repute which their philosophers, orators and poets have won by their writings, it is difficult to determine how much of the still grander reputation of Socrates is due to his having written nothing. In one sense certainly he was the reverse of silent, but he did not commit his thoughts to paper, and he has been credited—we do not say undeservedly—with more than the highest wisdom of those who undertook to report his utterances, while their weaknesses are attributed to themselves.

How much gain of influences and reputation in ordinary life is due to a judicious silence. We have all heard of Lord Thurlow's awful nod, but there are other professions than the law where a sententious silence has proved the secret of success. How many medical reputations have been built on a capacity for looking wise and saying nothing! A doctor who knows how to insinuate by tone and face and gesture his perfect command of the situation, without committing himself to specific assertions, may make a little skill go a long way, and may even make serious mistakes with impunity. It does not seem so easy for a preacher to trade upon his capacity of reserve, yet even in the clerical profession many have gained the reputation of profound divines and able guides in the spiritual life by a judicious management of platitudes. Nor would it be hard to show, on the other hand, how lofty reputations and brilliant prospects have been blighted by too open-mouthed frankness. It matters little what opinions an aspirant for political or clerical promotion may hold, so long as he understands when to hold his tongue about them; but a single slip may mar a whole career.

THE FOOD OF THE ANCIENTS.

The diversity of substances which we find in the catalogue of articles of food, is as great as the variety with which the art or the science of cookery prepares them. The notions of the ancients on this important subject, are worthy of remark. Their taste regarding meat was various. Beef they considered the most substantial food; hence it constituted the chief nourishment of their athlete. Camels' and dromedaries' flesh was much esteemed, their heels more especially. Donkey flesh was in high repute, and the wild ass brought from Africa was compared to venison.

In more modern times we find Chancellor Cupret having asses fattened for his table. The hog and the wild boar appear to have been held in high estimation. Their mode of killing swine was refined in barbarity as epicurism. Pigs were slaughtered with red-hot spits, that the blood might not be lost; stuffing a pig with assafœtida was a luxury. Young bears, dogs, and foxes (the latter esteemed when fed upon grapes), were also much admired by the Romans, who were also so fond of various birds that some consular families assumed the names of those they most esteemed. Cafius tells us how to drown fowls in Falernian wine, to render them more luscious and tender. Pheasants were brought over from Colchis, and deemed at one time such a rarity that one of the Ptolemies bitterly lamented his never having tasted any. Peacocks were carefully reared in the island of Samos, and sold at such a high price that Varro informs us they fetched yearly upwards of $10,000 of our money. The guinea-fowl was considered delicious; but the Romans knew not the turkey, a gift which we moderns owe to the Jesuits. The ostrich was much relished; Heliogabalus delighted in their brains, and Apicius especially commends them. The modern gastronome is, perhaps, not aware that it is to the ancients he owes his fattened duck and goose livers—the inestimable *foies gras* of France. The swan was also fattened by the Romans, who first deprived it of sight; and cranes were by no means despised by the people of taste.

While the feathered creation was doomed to form part of ancient delights, the waters yielded their share of enjoyments, and several fishes were immortalized. The carp was educated in their ponds, and rendered so tame that he came to be killed at the tinkling of his master's bell or the sound of his voice. The fame of the lamprey is generally known; and sturgeon was brought to table with triumphant pomp; but the turbot, one of which was brought to Domitian from Ancona, was considered such a splendid present that this emperor assembled the senate to admire it. The red mullet was held in such a distinguished category among genteel fishes, that three of them, although of small size, were known to fetch upwards of $1,000. They were more appreciated when brought alive, and gradually allowed to do die, when the Romans feasted their eyes in the anticipated delight of eating them, by gazing on the dying creatures as they changed color like an expiring dolphin. Snails were also a great dainty; Fulvius Herpinus was immortalized for the discovery of the art of fattening them on bran and other articles; and Horace informs us that they were served up, broiled upon silver gridirons, to give a relish to wine. Oysters were brought from England to Rome, and frozen oysters were much extolled. Grasshoppers, locusts, and various insects, were equally acceptable to our first gastronomic legislators.

STOP A MINUTE!

Don't hurry so. Move slower; it may be you will go surer. Grind, grind, grind—one everlasting grind from five o'clock in the morning till ten o'clock at night, chasing the bubble of human riches. What is the need, pray tell me? You already have enough—more than you can use. You are heaping up wealth for others to waste or quarrel over when you are dead. And one-half of your heirs, instead of recollecting you gratefully, will contemplate your departure from this hurrying scene with infinite satisfaction. Take our advice, rest awhile. You are wearing out the vital forces faster than there is need, and in this way subtracting years from the sum total of your life. This rush and worry day after day, this restless anxiety after something you have not got is like pebble stones in machinery; they grate and grind the life out of you. You have useless burdens; throw them off. You have a great deal of needless care; dump it. Pull in the strings. Compact your business. Take time for thought of better things. Go out into the air and let God's sun shine down on your head. Stop thinking of business and profit. Stop grumbling at adverse providences. You will probably never see much better times than these in this doomed world. Your most opportune season is now; your happiest day is to-day. Calmly do your duty and let God take care of His own world. He is still alive and is the King. Do not for one moment imagine that things will go to everlasting smash when you disappear from this mortal stage. This world got along very well before your advent into it; it will do as well when you vanish from it. Don't fancy that the curse of Heaven, in the shape of the vain task of righting up this disjointed earth, is imposed upon you. Cease to fret and fume; cease to jump and worry, early and late. The good time is coming, but you can never bring it; God can and will. Take breath, sir. Sit down and rest and draw a long breath. Then go calmly at the tasks of life and do your work well.

A SAD AND PRETTY ROMANCE.

Not long since a young woman applied for medical relief at the city dispensary in St. Louis. Her appearance was extremely prepossessing and excited the sympathy of the physician in attendance to whom she related the familiar tale of love and desertion. She was given a permit to the hospital and there became a mother. On her recovery, she was eager to repay the kindness of which she had been the object, and was given employment as a nurse in the same institution. Here she would have remained in all probability—for her attention to the duties of her position was unremitting—had not a lady visitor become strongly interested in her behalf. The lady offered Alice Corbin, the name she had given, a place in her own family as a seamstress, and she thus secured a pleasant home for herself and child. She was becoming reconciled to life and was learning to be happy, when the son of her benefactress was brought home to die, he having been stricken with a fatal attack of fever. The lady idolized her son, and had always spoken of him to Alice as a model of what a young man should be in manner, habits and character. Alice entered his room as a nurse and recognized in him—her betrayer. He had become acquainted with her under an assumed name, as now appeared. She had, therefore, entered unaware under his mother's roof. He recognized her, and with that calmness which is always the accompaniment of approaching dissolution, bade her sit down, and tell her story. She ended by saying that the child of their sin was with her but by no word of hers should his mother even suspect the lad's parentage. Then, said he, "I will tell her myself. Go out Alice and send my mother to me." The result, as stated in the Times, which vouches for the facts, was that a clergyman was sent for and "marriage mended the broken promise." The husband soon died and Alice remains as a daughter in the mansion she had entered as a seamstress.

"SHOOST VAIT!"

The other day, says the Chicago Tribune, a simple minded German called on a grocer to pay a bill, giving him a $10 note. The grocer examined it closely and said, "Hullo, where did you get this note?" "Vot is de reasons mid dose note?" replied the honest Teuton; "don't she as good, hein?" "Good!" answered the grocer, "why, you're a lucky man—that note is worth $10.50." "Ish dot so? Why for?" "You see the signature over here, don't you?" "Dose tings like a cork-screw mit de worms? Yah." "Well, that's Spinner's signature." "Vell." "Well, Mr. Now is now treasurer of the United States." "You don't tole me so; "vell." "Well, and notes signed by Spinner are getting scarce, and people pay five per cent. more for them than for the new issue." "By Shimminy, ish dot so?" "Yes. Lemme see your bills. Why every one of them is a Spinner! Man alive, your fortune is made."

In pursuance of the grocer's advice, Mr. Schneider called at the sub-treasury, Saturday afternoon, to get the premium on his bills. What success he had it is impossible to state, but he was seen later in the evening lurking round the street by which the grocer must go home, and on being accosted by an acquaintance the following conversation took place: "Der peeble von Sharmany lights well, hein?" "Oh, yes; the Germans are unquestionably a military nation of the first class." "Some big fights, hein? Liepsic?" "Yes." "Und Sadowa?" "Yes." "Und Koniggratz?" "Certainly." "Und Worth, und Mars-la-Tour, und Gravelotte, and Sedan?" "Of course." "Dose was all big battles, und der Deutch licked?" "Yes." "Vell, you joost vaits till that grocery store shuts himself, and you saw a Deutch victory vot makes you forgot dem little ones."

BE ECONOMICAL.

"Take care of the pennies." Look well to your spending. No matter what comes in, if more goes out you will be always poor. The art is not in making money, but in keeping it. Little expenses, like mice in a barn, when they are many, make great waste. Hair by hair, heads get bald; straw by straw the thatch goes off the cottage, and drop by drop the rain comes into the chamber. A barrel is soon empty, if the tap leaks but a drop a minute. When you mean to save, begin with your mouth; many thieves pass down the red lane. The ale jug is a great waste. In all other things keep within compass. Never stretch your legs further than your blankets will reach, or you will soon be cold. In clothes choose suitable and lasting stuff, and not tawdry fineries. To be warm is the main thing, never mind the looks. A fool may make money, but it needs a wise man to spend it. Remember, it is easier to build two chimneys than to keep one going. If you give all to back and board, there is nothing left for the savings bank. Fare hard and work hard while you are young, and you will have a chance to rest when you are old

Sabbath Reading.

KEEP.

Keep to the right as the law directs,
Keep from the world thy friend's defects;
Keep all thy thoughts on purest themes,
Keep from thine eyes the motes and beams.
Keep true thy deed, thy honor bright,
Keep firm thy faith in God and right,
Keep free from any sin and stain,
Keep from the ways that bring thee pain
Keep free thy tongue from words of ill,
Keep right thy aim and good thy will.
Keep all thy acts from passion free,
Keep strong in hope, no envy see.
Keep watchful care o'er tongue and hand,
Keep free thy feet, by justice stand;
Keep true thy word, a sacred thing,
Keep from the snares the tempters bring.
Keep faith with each you call a friend,
Keep full in view the final end;
Keep love between thy God and thee,
Keep from all hate and malice free
Keep firm thy courage bold and strong,
Keep up the right and down the wrong.
Keep well the words of wisdom's school,
Keep warm by night and by day keep cool

THE LENTEN SEASON.

The Lenten season began March 1, that being Ash Wednesday. Rev. Thomas K. Beecher suggests that this season of devotion, the inheritance of so many Christians throughout the world, be accepted by all denominations. Its yearly observance in the Episcopal church, it is not too much to say, produces as large a proportion of conversions, as the revivals of other churches.—A correspondent in Carbondale, Pa., desires us to urge, and ask all Christians to urge, increased activity in prayer. He wants all the churches to "call special prayer-meetings—praise prayer-meetings—to pray for relief from the prostrating influence of the panic, that all may accept the true lesson of these dark times, and that all may do what they can to bring about a more prosperous condition of affairs. 'Our God is a very present help in time of trouble.' Now is a ripe time for Christian work, for many people are humbled, their hold on earthly things has been loosed; their houses have been broken up, and they seek for employment in vain. There is work to do for Jesus. Let us make our religion public, make it supply a want which is now felt more than ever before. A plan is on foot to place religious reading in every railroad depot in our country. Let Christians everywhere co-operate to speed the good work." The American railway literary union, we suppose, co-operates with the Bible society, in this plan, alluded to in the last sentence of the above letter. The union has done good service in obtaining the banishment of low and vicious reading matter from many of the railroad lines. The New England branch of the society has gained this point from all the railroads running out of Boston, except one. Some roads in this part of the State need this supervision. It is a genuine Christian work.—*Ex.*

THE BEST SERMON.

People are always listening to the "best sermon they ever heard." At an advanced age, still hearing the "best," we might conclude that they started up very poor ones; for this superlative did not, perhaps, express the opinion of some other person equally able to judge. But there are various kinds of sermons. There is the doctrinal one, the biographical, logical, illustrative, and various other styles; and men speaking of the "best," will mean the best of those several kinds. Then men are in varying conditions for hearing. If they are full of joy, the best one will be glad and enthusiastic. If they are borne down with sorrow, their praises are only for the consoling and sympathetic. Just in so far as the sermon is suited to the hearer, and is blest to his edification by the Holy Spirit, will he find it such as he will greatly praise. The really good hearer will find something helpful in all, and now and then he will be flooded with happy emotion.

THE SABBATH.

Gladstone, the English statesman, says:—"Believing in the authority of the Lord's day as a religious institution, I must, as a matter of course, desire the recognition of that authority by others. But, over and above this, I have myself in the course of a laborious life signally experienced both its mental and its physical benefits. I can hardly overrate its value in this view; and for the interest of the working men of this country, alike in these and in other yet higher respects, there is nothing I more anxiously desire than that they should more and more highly appreciate the Christian day of rest."

Misplaced Fear.—All languages have a literature of terror about death. But living is far more terrible in reality than dying. It is life that foments pride, that inflames vanity, that excites the passions, that feeds the appetites, that founds and builds habits that establishes character, and, binding up the separate straws of action into one sheaf, hands it into the future saying, "As ye have sowed, so shall ye reap;" and again, "As ye reap, so shall ye sow!" Yet life, which is the mischief maker, is not at all feared. Death, that does no harm, and is only the revealer of life's work, is feared.

The wealth of a man is the number of things which he loves and blesses, which he is loved and blessed by.—*Carlyle.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

A FIRESIDE LYRIC.

BY D. W. C. PACKARD.

I sit by the cheerful firelight,
In my home secure and warm,
But without is the howl of the tempest,
And the pitiless pelt of the storm:

And I muse on the wretched and homeless,
Who wander for shelter and bread,—
And I pray to the merciful Master,
That they may be covered and fed.

Think not of the crime, nor the weakness,
You know we can hate the sin,
And yet open the gates of mercy,
And tenderly take them in:

I think of the little children,
Adrift in the city's street,
And shudder at thought of the thorny ways,
To be trod by their sinless feet.

Oh, many a pure young spirit
Would be saved a woman's shame,
Were to-night but a crust, or a pittance,
Doled out, instead of blame.

Is there pity left in our sordid souls?
Have the prayers of the poor grown old?
Ah, woe, when the coffer is getting full,
And the heart is growing cold!

Now, as we pile the cheerful fire,
And hear the roar of the storm,
Let Love rekindle within the breast,
A flame to keep it warm!

WHICH SEX IS SUPERIOR?

UNDER the heading of "What Do You Think About It?" FRANCES D. GAGE of New York City, contributes the following sensible and suggestive article to the Woman's Journal. It certainly makes some good points in favor of Women Suffrage:

It is impossible to decide which sex was created superior or which inferior, while the condition of the two remains as mixed as at present. Dr. M., who is female, would weigh fifty pounds more than Dr. H., who is male, and could lift him in her arms out of any difficulty that his littleness might fall into. His eyes are blue, hers are black. His hair is flax color, hers like midnight. His voice is piping and child-like, hers a full round bass. He passed into his profession honestly, she with great *eclat*. He has a small practice, she one that is overwhelming. He is soft, docile, amiable, smiling, has pretty white hands and little decision of character, while she is stern, decided, resolute, and independent. He would turn white while amputating a limb, she would not blanch.

But what does it all prove? Nothing! She is a woman—he, a man; she is superior in some things, he in others. Why should he be granted rights and immunities denied to her? Which is superior?

BESSIE sings soprano and WILLIE sings alto; which is superior? TOM can plow and HATTIE can cook and weave. He might cook and she might plow; would it prove anything? A woman may run a farm or drive cattle—she may take charge of a saw-mill or learn the blacksmith's trade, and may be perfect in her art in each and all. Yet it would only prove that a woman could do those things, nothing more; not her superiority, or inferiority, or equality. Nor does it prove that a woman, in following these so-called "masculine employments," needs or can use for her own benefit, the right of Suffrage or the privileges of equality before the law any more than she can so use them as a maker of biscuits or of dresses.

Old BILLY LAMB was declared by the proper authorities of Morgan Co., Ohio, to be *non compos mentis* and entitled to board and lodging in the poor house while his wife, who was so much his superior that she could scrub and sweep, was denied the same favor. Every woman in the country whose labor enriched the nation by making a web of cloth or a pound of butter, or by cooking a meal of victuals for hungry laborers, in just so much helped to pay the taxes, in an indirect way, which gave this "superior" man his board, lodging and clothes. And yet, on every election day for fifteen years, this pauper was brought to the polls to give his vote for every county officer, and stood, in politics, an individuality in importance equal to the Governor of the State or even to the President of the United States, and could help elect Commissioners who would let him into a home and shut his wife out of it. Yet he was the more able to work of the two, and could have scrubbed and swept as well as she, only he would get drunk, and he and his peers always licensed the dram-shop. Who was the superior—BILLY LAMB or the lady principal of the school?

Mr. PUTNEY inherited a large home with stock, farming utensils and money in bank. He was father of seven children, lived fast, gambled, drank, and wasted his substance. One day he made a will, and willed away all but one of the children, including one unborn, to strangers. All the property he left to his wife and, like a man, locked himself up in a tavern room and blew his brains out. His will of course was not legalized, and his creditors came together to consult. The wife said to them, "Leave me my farm and my children and I will try to pay you all, in time." And the heaviest creditor said, "Let us do it and save this mother of seven children, the eldest not twelve years old, from bitter poverty and toil." And so it was agreed. The wife took the place of administratrix, carried on the farm as head manager; was mother, housekeeper, nurse, farmer, stock raiser and bookkeeper. She paid off the mortgages. When her children were ready to go out into the world their portion was ready for them, and they were ready to rise up and call her blessed. Was he or she superior?

A lady had two sons and one daughter; each attempted college studies. The boys failed; one from stupidity, one from ill health. The girl went through triumphantly. That was no proof that boys should not go to college. What do you think about it?

HOW SHALL WE DRESS?

MRS. HENRY WARD BEECHER says "That in making purchases it is economy to select as good articles as one's income will warrant, for there is no saving in buying anything because it is cheap, unless it is serviceable. To buy a needless and flimsy article because the price is unusually low is waste, not economy. For daily use the dress should be chosen with reference to the work that must be done while wearing it. Make it neat and comfortable for such work without regard to style, unless, by some unusual freak, fashion may have adopted something simple and convenient. To see girls sail through a kitchen or bend over the wash-tub in a trailing wrapper, sweeping the dirt from the floor or soaking in the suds, should prevent more sensible women from giving the warrant of their example to those under their influence. None should marry who cannot begin life with enough to enable them to dress with neatness, modesty, comfort and good taste, without unduly encroaching on their income. No article is cheaper for being ugly. First be sure of the price, then examine the quality of the goods to be purchased. Ginghams and calicoes are the most serviceable for working or morning dress, because they can be washed. The less cotton there is in woolen fabrics the longer they will last without looking shabby. If a person must be much in the kitchen or finds it necessary to attend closely to the cooking, woolen dresses are so difficult to clean that if they are used it is prudent to have a long sack apron, made with sleeves, reaching almost to the bottom of the skirt. It is commonly held that one silk dress at least is indispensable. We see no pressing necessity for it; one can be truly respectable without even one silk dress. Our American silks are the most enduring and economical of any kind of silk, and one dress will outlast two or three of other materials, unless it may be those very silks beyond the reach of persons in moderate circumstances, costing from six to eight dollars a yard.

SUNNY ROOMS MAKE SUNNY LIVES.

LIGHT is one of the most active agencies in enlivening and beautifying a home. We all know the value of sunlight as a health-giving agent to the physical system; and it is not less so to our moral and spiritual natures. We absorb light, and it nourishes us with strange power. We are more active under its influence—can think better and work more vigorously.

Let us take the airiest, choicest and sunniest room in the house for our living room—the workshop where brain and body are built up and renewed. And let us there have a bay window, no matter how plain in structure, through which the good twin-angels of nature—sunlight and pure air—can freely enter.

This window shall be the poem of the house. It shall give freedom and scope for eye and mind. We shall hang no picture on our walls that can compare with the living and everlasting pictures which God shall paint for us through our ample window. Rosy dawns, golden-hearted sunsets, the tender green and changing tints of spring, the glow of summer, the pomp of autumn, the white of winter, storm and shine, glimmer and gloom—all these we can have and enjoy while we sit in our sheltered room as the changing year rolls on.

Dark rooms bring depression of spirits, imparting a sense of confinement, of isolation, of powerlessness, which is chilling to energy and vigor; but in light is good cheer.

Even in a gloomy house, where walls and furniture are dingy and brown, you have but to take down the heavy curtains, open wide the window, hang brackets on either side, set flower pots on the brackets and tyes in the pots, and let the warm sun stream freely in, to bring health to our bodies and joy to our souls.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN is spending her time very pleasantly at Springfield, Ill., and seems likely to entirely recover from her recent attack. A short time ago she presented to Jesse K. Dubois of Springfield, one of Mr. Lincoln's most intimate and political friends, a gold-headed ash cane inscribed, "Cut from the birthplace of A. Lincoln and presented by Dr. J. H. Rodman of LaRue County." The cane was presented to President Lincoln during his lifetime.

MR. WM. L. BURT, late Postmaster of Boston, employed about thirty women as post-office clerks. He says of them:—"The women have proved far superior to men in looking up missent and misdirected letters and in making returns to the Dead-Letter office. They have also proved entirely reliable. There has not been a single instance in nine years where the accounts of any woman have shown a deficiency of $1 in the Boston Post-Office."

A WESTERN lady gives the following advice to girls engaged in looking up a husband:—"Look out for physical health and beauty for the sake of the race. Do not bestow a glance on the lean, dyspeptic, cadaverous biped; shun him as you would a pestilence."

Reading for the Young.

THE FIRST SWALLOW.

[SEE ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE 189.]

BEAUTIFUL wanderer, whither was thy flight
On that sweet autumn day that saw thee last,
Toying in the warm sunshine's fitful light,
That called back memories of summer past
And all the joys that were too bright to last?
Perchance thou lighted'st on some giddy mast,
When spent and weary was thy tiny flight,
A waif upon the trackless ocean vast.
Welcome once more! with me the hours have flown
Towards the last haven that we all must reach;
Would that our lives were guileless as thine own,
Proud as we are of reason and of speech;
And may we, passing o'er life's stormy sea,
As truly find the Home where we would be.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Kentucky Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—As I wrote to the Girls' and Boys' Column about four years ago, and you were so kind as to publish it, I have often thought of writing again, but have neglected it. If I were in the girls' place I would not condescend to notice what YOUNG TOM says, for he surely must be a mere fop, or he would not talk as he does. I agree with DELL B. W., in the RURAL of Feb. 6th. I think her picture was very well formed, and if she will write another letter in the same manner, I think his long tongue will be cured. We have had plenty of snow this week, but it is melting rapidly now. I tried to get up a club for the RURAL this year, but there is not a chance for getting up a club in town. We have taken the RURAL for several years, but we did not get last week's paper. We would like very much to have it. As my letter is getting quite lengthy I will have to close, hoping to hear from the RURAL Cousins soon.—SALLIE H., *Owensboro, Ky., Feb.*, 1876.

From a Pennsylvania Boy.

DEAR EDITOR:—Having read many of the Boys' and Girls' Letters, I thought I would try and write you one. My father has taken your paper for about five years. We all like it very much; my sister says she always looks for the Boys' and Girls' Letters first, and my father thinks it is a paper every family should have. The former's especially. Some men think that the price is too high, but father says he could not do without it for five dollars a year. I would like to speak to that small boy of New York State, who tells us that he dug 225 bushels of potatoes in ten hours. I would like to ask him whether he dug them all in one day, or whether he only worked one or two hours a day. I don't think there is any boy that can do it in one day. I am a boy myself 15 years of age, and I don't think I could do it. I wish he would answer my question through the pages of the good old RURAL. I would also like to hear from WILD ROSE, the Indian girl, if she is still within the limits of the RURAL's reach. Dear Mr. Editor, I have often seen in the RURAL letters from boys and girls asking you to put your photograph in. I have seen in your paper the pictures of great men, but I never saw yours. I would like to see it very much.—WILLIAM TAYLOR, *Manor Station, Pa.*

From that Young Potato Digger.

DEAR RURAL BOYS:—I snatch up my pen to respond to your requests. When I read the letter from the Eastern Boy, asking me how many potatoes I dug out of a hill—that means, did I count them?—I was indignant at such a question. This is why I did not reply. In your own statement you called it a big ten hours' work to do what I did actually do, and in addition you ask me how many potatoes there were in a hill. Maybe you could have counted them as they flew. My father measured the same potatoes in the field for market, and they overran weight in market. I would say to the Michigan Boy, the hills were twenty-eight inches apart; the ground was nice and free from weeds, and the potatoes were the Early Rose. I dug five hours in the forenoon and five hours in the afternoon by the watch, which we had in the lot, and father kept the time. I wanted to dig the rest of the day, but father would not let me. I have been thinking I would have my physiognomy taken and send it to Mr. MOORE, if I thought he would put it on paper so you could see what manner of boy I am. I do a great many kinds of work on the farm, but I call a farmer's life a slavish one. I am trying to obtain an education that will enable me to gain my livelihood by other means besides farming; it may be to assist Mr. MOORE in making up his paper. I cannot tell what the future will reveal to me. I live in the town of Mt. Morris, but our post-office is Nunda.—NORMAN KEYES, *Nunda, Liv. Co., N. Y.*

From a New York City Boy.

DEAR RURAL:—I attend school in the city and am nine years old. I am very fond of riding on horseback, and go to a riding school. I have no pets, except two gold fish. Two years ago we took a cottage at Yonkers on the Hudson, and when we were there I had two rabbits, and a coal-black cat named the "Imp of Darkness." Last summer we went to Martha's Vineyard. When I was there I had fine sport going out in little boats, and catching crabs out on the wharf. One day we went from Martha's Vineyard to Nantucket, on the steamer "Island Home." When we got there we went to the oldest house in the place, which is over 100 years old. We found many queer old things there. We saw an old spinning wheel, an old hat of Revolutionary times, and many other things. I was quite seasick on the way back from Nantucket. We came home by the way of Boston. We went to the Museum, the Common and other nice places.—D. D. T. M., JR., *New York City.*

From an Ohio Boy.

DEAR COUSINS:—I think YOUNG TOM had better keep still about the girls writing "such short letters" and then calling them too long. Now I have a better opinion of the girls than that, for I think they are the smartest. I wish "YOUNG BUCKEYE" would give me his post-office address, for I would like to write to him. I have a few curiosities. I will name some of them. One is a piece of bark from a mammoth tree in California—it is about an inch and a half in thickness, and I have a stone from the Devil's Wash Basin in the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky. I have several other curiosities, but it would take too much room to name them. I expect to get some curiosities from China. I have been sick with the lung fever for some time, therefore I am very nervous. Good-by.—JERRY POSTAL, *Bellefontaine, Ohio.*

From Wild Romp of Missouri, Again.

MR. EDITOR:—As you were so kind as to publish my other letters, I though that I would write again. I go to school this winter and study Arithmetic, Algebra, Grammar, Morals and Manners, Natural Philosophy, Familiar Science and Dictionary. I should like to correspond with MINNEHAHA, HATTIE J., and SCHOOL GIRL. If it would be agreeable to them.—WILD ROMP, *Canton, Mo.*

From a Lockport Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—Will you be so kind as to print a letter from a Lockport girl? I have not seen any letters from Lockport, so I thought I would write one. I think the RURAL is a very interesting paper. Pa has taken your valuable paper for the last twenty years. I go to a select school. I study Arithmetic, Reading, Geography, Spelling, Writing and Drawing. Every Friday afternoon we have speaking, reading and object lessons, which are very interesting. I have not as many pets as some of the RURAL girls have. I have one pet, a black, shaggy dog named "Towzer." Will some of the girls please send me a pattern of some patchwork quilt; I have pieced six. I hope to hear from YOUNG BACH and the Rochester girl soon.—ETTIE S., *Lockport, N. Y.*

From a New Jersey Girl.

DEAR RURAL:—I am a little girl twelve years old. I go to school and study Grammar, Arithmetic, Reading, Spelling, Writing and Geography, and have been studying Botany, but shall leave that off until spring, when our class can find some specimens. I like it ever so much. I think it is splendid to print letters from boys and girls. My father buys the RURAL at the news store every week and I almost always turn first to "Letters from Boys and Girls." I like to read letters from ROMPING BESSIE, and hope she will write again. I am a great reader and hope to be a teacher sometime. We keep two cows and have a calf about one and a half years old. Her name is "Bessie." I have a sister seven years old, and have a great many good times with her.—CORA A. LINDSAY, *No. Vineland, N. J.*

The Puzzler.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 6.

My first is in dog but not in cat;
My second is in east but not in west;
My third is in calf but not in cow;
My fourth is in land but not in water;
My fifth is in warm but not in cold;
My sixth is in sun but not in moon.
My whole is a leading town in Texas.

☞ Answer in two weeks. MATTIE E. S.

HIDDEN TREES.—No. 1.

1. FIND London on the map, Leonard.
2. Do see that bee, Chauncy.
3. Is Harlow ill? O what a misfortune.
4. Was it to-day you found that chick, or yesterday?
5. Mother, please quiet Anna: she is *so* noisy.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

TRANSPOSITION.—No. 2.

KREAR, rekab, ekbar
Ta eth toof fo yth graes nad aes,
Dua I donlw nath yin tearh doulc turet
Het ugthosth hatt sarle ni em.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA.—No. 3.

1. COMPANION of the hammer. 2. A measure used for land. 3. One of the metallic elements. 4. To afford for temporary use.

☞ Answer in two weeks. H. H. F.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—March 4.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA No. 1.—"Wealth maketh many friends, but the poor is separated from his neighbor."

ARITHMETICAL PUZZLE No. 2.—

15
36
47
—
98
2
—
100

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA No. 2.—"In the eye there lies the heart."

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We Ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE membership of the trade unions in New York city has fallen from 48,000 in 1873 to 18,000, and of the 75,000 artisans, mechanics and laborers in the city about one-third are out of employment. Wages in all of the building trades, have come down to $2 a day, and those of laborers and longshoremen to $1 a day.

According to the Tribune the New York and Manhattan Gas Company paid 20 and 35 per cent. dividends, last year, on a capital of $4,000,000 each; the Mutual and Metropolitan paid 10 per cent. each, and the Harlem, which supplies the upper end of the island, 8 per cent.

The Woman's Journal says that Mrs. Margaret Boggs celebrated her hundredth birthday at Germantown, near Philadelphia, two weeks since. Her maiden name was Donaldson, and she married at seventeen, eighty-three years ago. She danced a minuet with George Washington when she was eighteen and he was sixty-two years of age.

Delay in constructing the rapid transit road seems possible only on account of the opposition along the route. The plans are almost entirely matured; the support of capitalists is not wanting, and it appears quite practicable to have the eastern section of the road completed to the Grand Central Depot within the present year.

A correspondent of the Chicago Journal has a plan to heat cars of all kinds that entirely does away with the chances of burning in case of accident. He discards stoves, hot water and steam, and uses red hot shot that weigh 100 pounds each, in a box under the car, with registers in the floor of the car. Five balls will heat the car for four hours; the furnaces for heating to be placed along the stations, one hundred miles apart. He states that a trial has been had and it works satisfactorily. A patent based on this general plan has been applied for. The recent fearful accident by which two human lives were lost through the burning of a sleeping car by overturning and taking fire from the stove, as well as others of a similar nature in the past, render any means of preventing such horrors especially valuable and worthy of consideration.

The Rev. Mr. Mann, an Oregon clergyman of the Presbyterian Church, has met with such success as a missionary among the Indians at the Puguyallup Reservation, Washington Territory, that he proposes to settle there permanently.

It is thought that the sea lions in San Francisco Bay destroy too many fish, and it is therefore proposed to exterminate them. Seth Green protests against this, saying that they are not nearly so destructive to the fish as the Chinese. He recommends a judicious reduction of their numbers as the better plan in regard to them.

A bill before the California Legislature would, if passed, prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors within four miles of the State University; and the San Francisco Chronicle says the title should be "An act to promote pedestrianism among students."

The Union county (N. J.) Coroners did not qualify in time, and Union county is therefore without coroners. It is to be hoped the other New Jersey coroners are all qualified. One of them not long since was examining a doctor in an inquest on the case of a little girl run over by a horse car. The doctor said death resulted from injury to the spine. "Doctor," interrupted the Coroner, "was it the spine of her back?"

A dispatch from Chicago, March 9, says: Hesing, Rehm, and several of the distillers indicted by the last Grand Jury, are attempting to make a compromise with the Government, and plead guilty on some of the counts in the indictments against them. They have held numerous conferences with District-Attorney Bangs both yesterday and to-day, and rumors are prevalent that they have made propositions to give evidence valuable to the Government.

Moody and Sankey's success in New York is making the Herald think seriously what will become of its columns if the millennium should soon be inaugurated. It is probable, however, that our lively contemporary would have no trouble in reversing its policy and adapting itself to the new administration, even though chaining up the Devil for a thousand years involved an entire change in the Herald's editorial force.

A dispatch from Philadelphia, Penn., March 9, says:—The Legislative Committee to investigate municipal affairs at Pittsburgh met again yesterday and examined Mayor McCarty. Subpœnas were issued for City Treasurer Magee, Controller Snodgrass, City Assessor Phelps, and City Attorney Bigelow, all of whom refused to respond until the Committee decided to give their cases to the Grand Jury.

The Bon Ton House, at Ocean Parkway and the Coney Island road, Flatbush, a well-known resort, kept by Mrs. Peter Gleavy, alias "Widow Jack," was burned on Wednesday night, March 8. Loss $28,000.

The body of Richard Kane, a life forger, aged 50 years, was found lying on the rocks just below Henderson's Dam in the Matteawan creek Mar. 8. There were two deep gashes, one on each side of his head. Coroner Schouten and a jury held an inquest, and rendered a verdict of accidental drowning.

The new transatlantic line, which it is proposed to establish between New York and Galway, is to have a capital of half a million pounds sterling, in five hundred shares of £100 each. For a start, only four ships are to be purchased, and two trips a month are to be made. The chief backer of the line is the Midland Great Western Railway Company. The first steamship will sail in May from Galway.

When the 2.30 train on the Connecticut River Railroad left Springfield on Mar. 6, two gentlemen failed to connect. Superintendant John Mulligan, who was standing on the platform, saw the sad disaster, and taking pity on the belated travelers, telegraphed to hold the train at Holyoke till further orders. Then he jumped on the Holyoke engine with the laggards and rushed them into Holyoke in ten minutes, and didn't half try; distance ten miles. When the passengers reached the waiting train they were as much out of wind as if they had run the ten miles on foot.

The Bath County, Ky., News says:—On Friday Mar. 3 a shower of meat fell near the house of Allen Crouch, who lives some two or three miles from the Olympian Springs, in the northern portion of the county, covering a strip of ground about 100 yards in length and 50 wide. Mrs. Crouch was out in the yard at the time, engaged in making soap, when meat which looked like beef began to fall around her. The sky was perfectly clear at the time, and she said it fell like large snow flakes, the pieces as a general thing not being much larger. One piece fell near her which was three or four inches square. Mr. Harrison Gill, whose veracity is unquestionable, and from whom we obtained the above facts, hearing of the occurrence visited the locality the next day, and says he saw particles of meat sticking to the fences and scattered over the ground. The meat when it first fell appeared to be perfectly fresh. The correspondent of the Louisville Commercial, writing from Mount Sterling corroborates the above, and says the pieces of flesh were of various sizes and shapes, some of them being two inches square. Two gentlemen who tasted the meat, express the opinion that it was either mutton or venison. Some of the flesh was taken to Louisville and given to Prof. Lawrence Smith, a well-known scientist, who says it is without doubt animal flesh. Hundreds of persons are willing to attest with affidavits the truth of the entire matter.

The President's friends say that Babcock turned over to Belknap the complaining letters received from army officers and addressed to the President about extortions and over-charges by post traders. The President was charged with disregarding protests and complaints from high army officers, among whom were Sheridan and Sherman. Copies of letters forwarded two and three years ago were received, and the President declared that he had never seen them. They had all been concealed from him by his trusted private secretary.

The search for the lost treasure of the ship Mexico, wrecked on the Rockaway Beach, off Freeport, on the south shore of Long Island, in the winter of 1836, is being prosecuted with vigor by the Coast Wrecking Company. They have two schooners in the vicinity "sweeping," and on Mar. 10th, they fastened upon a portion of the wreck, which was buoyed. A diver then went down and fastened a rope to what proved to be a large anchor of an old pattern. This is the second anchor found. The company feel confident that they will recover the treasure, amounting to some $500,000.

The second span of the Scioto Valley Railroad bridge now being constructed across the river at Chillicothe fell Mar. 10, and ten or fifteen workmen fell a distance of thirty feet into the river. Byron Leach was killed and several others were more or less injured, but one of them fatally.

A plan for a general jail delivery was discovered at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., March 10. A prisoner imparted the information to the jailer. At least six burglars were concerned and the break was to be made at midnight of the next night. Various implements were found in the burglars' cells. In one cell a hole had been cut through the ceiling. A double guard has been placed upon the jail.

Victor Bishop, the Broadway jeweller, who formerly kept under the Fifth Avenue Hotel, N. Y. City died March 10 at the age of 60 years. It was he who, seven or eight years ago, sold the famous great diamond to George Henriques for $30,000. Mr. Bishop leaves a wife, sister of the late Mr. James Gorden Bennett.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Shah of Persia thought postage stamps such an admirable thing when he was in Europe that he had a large lot printed in Paris and sent to Teheran, but as there are no post offices in his dominions they are not eminently useful.

It is officially reported from Tomas de Gibare, Feb. 29, that 300 Spanish cavalry, while scouring the country, met 600 mounted insurgents, commanded by Maximo Gemez. The Spaniards hardly had time to draw their sabres. A hand to hand combat followed, lasting an hour, at the end of which time they remained masters of the battle field. Their loss was 26 killed and 33 wounded. The loss of the enemy is considered at least equal. Captain-General Jovellar reached the scene very soon after he heard of the fight. This is the first engagement of consequence which has taken place for a long time.

A despatch to the London Standard from Berlin states that Count Von Arnim has instructed his lawyer to inform the judge that he is ill, and little inclined to defend himself against the charge of high treason.

The Porte has notified the ambassadors of the guaranteeing Powers that it will remit tithes for one year and all other taxes two years to all refugees who return to their homes. Special officials will be appointed to protect them from outrage, and farms and churches will be repaired at the government expense.

A telegram has been received by the Japanese Legislation at London from their government, stating that a treaty between Japan and Corea was signed on the 27th ult.

A movement is on foot to raise funds to send the St. John, N. S., Paris crew to Philadelphia. A boat has been ordered from Jewett, the English builder, and the crew will go into training early in the Spring.

About 20 vessels are loading ice at Kingston, Ont., for Toledo and Cleveland.

Don Carlos received at Boulogne a deputation of 150 Legitimists, who presented an address. He has issued a manifesto to Spaniards in which he says: "Desiring to stop bloodshed, I forbear continuing a glorious but at present fruitless struggle. Seeing the sufferings of my volunteers and the superiority of numbers against them, it becomes necessary to sheath the sword. I will never sign a compromise. My flag remains folded until the moment which God shall fix as the supreme hour of redemption." In an address to his soldiers, Don Carlos congratulates them on the heroism they have displayed, and bids them not abandon hope. Carlos is under the constant surveillance of the Boulogne authorities. The total number of Carlists who have taken refuge in France is 15,000.

Hotel keepers at Nice have not done well this winter, and some have nightmares of red flags, bankrupt sales, &c. The place has fallen into bad repute, and former patrons are conspicuous by their absence.

The father of all newspapers is the venerable Pekin Gazette, which is over 1,000 years old. It is a ten-page paper, with a yellow cover; has no stories, no "ads.," no marriage or death notices, no editorials, no subscribers. It simply contains the official notices of the Government.

A writer in a leading German quarterly says that the peasantry of Russia are in a worse condition than they were when Alexander II. abolished serfdom fourteen years ago. They do not live so well, and idleness, drunkenness, tramping, bloodshed and arson, have increased to a frightful extent. The writer attributes this result to the bad management of the Government. The peasant is the slave of the Commune, which controls his person and his property in such a way as to leave him no liberty. The Commune is more despotic than the master used to be.

Figaro says that the plum pudding of Paris restaurants is made of sweepings of the tables, crumbs, stale cakes, leavings of the previous day, sour cream, and the like, boiled for hours to acquire a proper consistency, and then served with a fiery brandy sauce to disguise the flavor.

The arrows used by the Papuans, and with which Commodore Goodenough, of the British Navy, was killed, are poisoned by plunging the bone points into a human corpse and leaving them there for several days. The wound inflicted by these arrows causes a malignant and inevitably fatal blood poisoning.

A vote on the liquor question recently obtained by the temperance societies from the large cities of Ireland—namely, Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford and Limerick—resulted in 69,270 temperance votes out of 78,185—8,915 being unfavorable to the movement.

A man, who said he was very poor, nearly blind and unable to work, and whose appearance justified his words, was recently, in London, fined six cents and two shillings costs for not sending his son to school. He was unable to pay it, and was sent to jail for five days.

The *Boersenzeitung* says that the new iron-clad gunboats on the Rhein, two of which have just been on trial trips, will on account of the difficulties experienced in manœuvring them, probably prove failures. From the lofty banks between Bingen and Coblentz an enemy's battery could easily sink them, and their course could be arrested by simply stretching a few nets across the stream.

The Nagasaki Rising Sun says that the Buddhist religion is fast declining. In Yamashima Ken alone seventy-one Buddhist temples have been abandoned since 1873, and during the past six years nearly 700 temples have been converted to other purposes than those to which they were built.

Japan has a Bible-in-the-schools controversy, the Buddhists endeavoring to have the reading of the Bible in the Christian school in Kiyoto prohibited by order of the Emperor. The Buddhists are very influential, and are favored by the Emperor, but his chief counsellor and the Minister of Education are friendly to Christianity.

A deputation of the London Trades' Council recently urged the Duke of Richmond, a member of the British Ministry, to lower the importation duty on foreign cattle, which keeps the price of meat so high in the Metropolitan market, but his Grace could hold out no hope to the applicants that the Government would resort to a measure deteriorating the value of home cattle.

The London Daily News of March 8, says:—The appointment of Richard H. Dana, jr., as American Minister to the Court of St. James is one of the most acceptable that could be suggested. It revives the old tradition of honoring men of letters with important positions. Mr. Dana will be welcome here on many accounts. The appointment seems to indicate a return to a healthier sense of public duty in the distribution of posts.

Reuter's telegrams from Vienna to London state that the special dispatch to the Venice *Tempo*, March 7, stating that the republic had been proclaimed in Servia, the Obrenovitch dynasty deposed, and Prince Milan himself escorted to the frontier, is entirely unfounded. Perfect order and tranquility prevail throughout Servia. There have been no disturbances since the insignificant rising at Kragujewatz during the communal elections a few days ago. Even those were immediately suppressed.

Advices from Madrid, March 8, say:—In the Cortes to-day a member interrogated the Government in regard to the recent capture of an English merchantman by Spanish coast guards, and the recapture of the vessel by its own crew. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, in reply, stated that he had made representations to the British Minister in Madrid, demanding satisfaction and protesting against the contraband trade pursued by English vessels from Gibraltar.

A royal decree permits the Carlists who fled from the country since the 1st day of February to return to Spain, if they do so within forty days. Leaders must first swear allegiance, but all Carlists who formerly held offices in Spain are excluded.

The newspapers announce that Gen. Mollins has been ordered to request the French Government to expel all Spanish Republicans in France.

At Ottawa, Canada, March 9, in the Committee on the Depression of Trade, Mr. Drummond of the firm of Redpath & Co. of Montreal said American drawbacks had led to the partial closing of their sugar refinery since 1871.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Dunnsville, Essex Co., Va., Feb. 29.—This, the last day of the winter months, ends the warmest and driest winter for many years in this section. To-day the dust is disagreeable, though not very windy for this season. Peaches and apricots in full bloom—very unusual for this section. Wheat in good land looks very fine; some is six inches high. Clover first-rate. Farmers who do their own work are well advanced; hired help very scarce. Very little ice in this section put away for summer. We shall have to rely on our springs and wells for cold water. Money scarce and times hard, yet we made a good crop of wheat and corn last year, the best for five years. Wheat, $1.20@1.50; corn, 50@60c.; freight to Baltimore, 6c. per bush. by steam or sail vessel, where we find a ready market for the farmers' products. Land is at this time rather dull, but some is sold at from $5 to $40 per acre, as to quality and location, with improvements and convenience for transportation considered. Farm hands, $10@15 per month and board, and generally houses furnished for hands with families.—R. S.

Vermillion, Clay Co., Dakota, Feb. 29.—The winter has been one of the pleasantest I ever saw in any country. We have had no rain since last October, and not over three inches of snow this winter. It was thought for a long time our ice crop would be short, but this month is the coldest of the season. Geese have made their appearance once more. Farmers will soon commence sowing wheat. Crops were tolerably good; would have been splendid if it had not been for the heavy rains we had about harvest and stacking times; about half of the small grain was more or less injured. Corn crop was never better; more corn was raised here last season than ever before, and hence the price is low. Very few hogs to consume the surplus. Hay in abundance; every one thought hay would be scarce, and plenty was put up, so that much will be summered over. Horses range in price from $90 to $150; work oxen, $75@120; cows, $25@35; beef cattle, $2.50@3.00 per cwt.; dressed pork, $5.50@6; butter, 10@20c.; eggs, 10c.; wheat, 40@95c.; barley, 20@50c.; oats, 25c.; corn, 18@20c.—H. E. D.

Manistee Co., Mich., March 9.—Weather warm, and spring like. Large preparations are being made for sugar making. Potatoes, 20c.; oats, 45c.; corn, 80c.; butter, 25c.; eggs 20c.—M. E. A.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, March 11, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	73,820	Molasses	1,404
Whisky	2,426	Rice, bbls	1,232
Corn meal, bbls	875	Cut meats, pkgs	10,827
Corn meal, bags	3,645	Lard, pkgs	9,712
Wheat, bush	178,725	Tobacco, hhds	1,500
Corn, bush	147,751	do. cases	37,919
Oats, bush	268,587	Butter, pkgs	17,229
Rye, bush	320	Cheese, bxs	20,179
Malt, bush	31,559	Cotton, bales	22,866
Barley, bush	28,100	Rosin	3,014
Beans, bbls	18,932	Spts. turp., bbls	799
Grass seed, bags	10,684	Dried Fruits, pkgs	401
Beef, pkgs	1,481	Eggs, bbls	17,168
Wool, bales	465	Pennuts, bags	502
Hops, bales	2,019	Dressed Hogs	2,508
Pork, bbls	4,035	Leather, sides	86,267
Tallow	854	Oil Cake	8,009

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 2,756 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 12,423 do.; same time last year, 4,780 do. Exports of peas past week, 7,366 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 190,815 do.; same time last year, 102,773 do. Enormous receipts of beans continued to depress quotations, especially for the large stock of mediums. Prices are off a shade without leading to much business. Marrows have sold freely to exporters at easier quotations. Sellers are willing to make concessions in almost every instance, in order to unload the pressing supply for the season. Pea beans nominal; kidneys and limas dull and favoring buyers. Canadian peas quiet and lower. Green peas are also off for wholesale parcels. Split peas quoted at $6, free, in bbls.

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.35@1.40; other, $1.15@1.25; medium, new, prime, $1.20@1.25; good, $1.05@1.10; very poor, 50@80c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.65@1.70; other, $1.40@1.50. white kidney, prime, $1.70@1.75; fair to good, $1.50@1.60; red kidney, new, prime, $1.40@1.45; fair to good, $1.20@1.30; California Lima, choice, $2.10@2.50. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new duty paid, $1.16@1.17; bulk, in bond, 90@97c.; green now, ₱ bush., $1.55@1.60; Southern B. E., ₱ 2 bush. bag, $2.80.

BEESWAX.—Bleachers want choice lots, for which they pay advanced rates. Western quoted at 32½@33c., and Southern at 33½@34c. Exports past week, 3,740 lbs.; since Jan. 1st, 27,300 do.; same time last year, 23,350 do.

BROOM CORN.—Prime lots are in light stock and at full prices. Medium grades are plenty and dull.

We quote Brush, short green, 9@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 6@7c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—The late supplies show that the reserve of State is dwindling to the end. The fact that all of the stock will soon be located, inspires a great deal of life in the market. Buyers of liberal quantities now feel that it will be economical for them to carry a portion above their recent line of purchases, as they can thus protect themselves from an excited growth in quotations that might occur when the supply becomes centered. This feeling has run out a good many parcels of under-grade stock, that was expected to drag this spring. Fresh butter will come none to soon for the fancy retail trade; the old is a scarce commodity, and for the very extra half tubs sellers have prices pretty much their own way. In some portions of the market sellers have begun to advance the quality of grades but buyers do not respond in prices as there are free sellers at quotations. Western butter is doing very well. Much of it fine enough to run close to 30c. There is a rumor that several car-loads of new California stock is on the way. It is thought that new milk stock will appear next week.

State dairies entire, extra, 34@35c.; entire, good to prime, 30@32c.; fair to good, 27@30c.; firkins, selected fresh, 33@34c., good to prime, 28@32c.; fair to good, 24@28c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 37@40c.; good to prime, 33@35c.; fair to good, 28@33c.; poor to fair, 18@27c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 28@32c.; dairies, 25@30c.; good to prime, 31@34c.; fair to good 24@26c.; poor to fair, 18@24c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 18@26c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 28@29c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; tubs selected fresh, 27@28c.; good to prime, fresh, 24@26c.; fair to good, fresh, 21@24c.; poor to fair, fresh, 17@20c.; Western, early packed, selected, 23@25c.; good in lines 20@22c.; fair in lines, 18@19c.; poor, 15½@17½c. Roll butter, Mich. & N. Ills., fancy, 27@29c.; good to prime, 25@26c.; fair to good, 23@25c.; poor to fair, 20@22c.

CHEESE.—There has been very little doing this week, and some few parcels have been obtained at easier figures, with the general market scarcely steady.

New State factory, fancy, 13¾@14c.; fine, 13@13½c.; do. good to prime, 12@13c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair to good, 10@11c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 13¾@13½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fair, 8@11¾c.; poor to fair, 7@8c.

COTTON.—For spot cotton there has been an improved export demand, while in "futures" the business has been liberal, with prices higher and strong. The closing prices are for March, 13c.; April, 13½c.; May, 13 13-32@13 7-16c.; June, 13 21-32@13 11-16c.; July, 13¾@13 29-32c.; August, 14 1-32@14 1-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.		*Alx.*		*Orleans.*		*Texas*	
Ordinary	9	3-16	9	3-16	9	3-16	9	3-16
Strict ordinary	10	1-16	10	1-16	10	1-16	10	1-16
Good ordinary	10	11-16	10	11-16	10	11-16	10	11-16
Strict good do	11	7-16	11	7-16	11	9-16	11	9-16
Low middling	11	15-16	12	1-16	12	3-16	12	3-16
Strict low middling	12	7-16	12	9-16	12	11-16	12	11-16
Middling	12¾		12⅞		12	15-16	12	15-16
Good middling	13¼		13⅜		13¼		13¼	
Strict good middling	13⅜		13⅜		13⅜		13⅜	
Middling fair	14		14⅛		14⅛		14⅛	
Fair	14⅞		15		15⅛		15⅛	

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 5-16	Low middling	10 15-16
Strict ordinary	10 7-16	Middling	11 13-16

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are moving off moderately in small lots at about steady prices. Peaches hold firmly but very dull. Blackberries are depressed and easier.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; quarters, @9c.; Western quarters, 8½@8¾c.; southern sliced, 1875 crop, 10@10½c. for prime. Tennessee qrs., 8½@8¾c. Blackberries, new, 11@12c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 21@22c. Peaches peeled, new process, 20@23c.; do. unpeeled, 12@13c.

EGGS.—The market has steadily declined to the present rates, which have ruled since Thursday last. The demand is daily improving, but the heavy receipts and supply on hand form a check to early advance. We quote:

Jersey, single barrels, ₱ bbl., 16½@17½c.; State & Penn., 16@16½c.; Western, prime, 15c.; fair marks, 15@15½c.; State, 12@14c.; Southern and Southwestern, 15@15½c.; limed nominally at 10c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—We hear of no change. We quote:

"H. G." oil peppermint, $4, in glass; Hale & Parshall do., $4@4.20 do.; pure in tin, $3.50; sassafras, 55c.; wintergreen, $3.13; spearmint, $3.50; pennyroyal, $4.

FEATHERS.—Market strong. Western live geese quoted at 55@56c.; mixed, 35@45c. Poultry feathers not wanted.

FLOUR.—There has been a dull and unsatisfactory market, under dispatches from abroad of a weak market there; towards the close showing a slight improvement.

Superfine State, $1.00@4.50; extra do., $4.85@5.60; superfine Western, $4.00@4.50; extra do., $4.85@5.75; No. 2, $3.35@3.85; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.90@5.25; trade brands do., $5.30@7.25; white wheat extras, $5.80@7.00; St. Louis, $5.25@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@6.50; Southern at $4.@4.60 for superfine; $4.75@6.15 for poor to choice shipping extras; $5.25@8.75 for trade and family brands. Corn meal—Western yellow, $2.65@3.15; Jersey & Penn., $2.70@3.25. Brandywine, $3.40. Buckwheat selling at 60@62c. for prime State, and flour at $1.85@2.25.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, 17 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 3,901 do.; same time last year, 10,101 do. There is a good inquiry for apples and the better prices are supported. Cranberries are firm. Florida strawberries sold at $2.50@3 ₱ qt. Grapes are in remarkably fine order for the season. Peanuts in better demand.

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $4@4.50; Greenings, —@—; mixed, good, $3.25@3.50; other $2.50@3. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $4.25@4.50; good to prime, $4@4.25; made lots, $12.50@13.50. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, 1.55@1.65; do. Wilmington, $1.30@1.90; do. Tennessee, 95@$1.10. Pecans, 12@13c.

FURS AND SKINS.—Market for the moment only nominal. We quote prime skins:

Bear, Northern, as to size and quality	$10 00 to 15 00
Bear, Southern and Northern yearlings	5 00 to 10 00
Beaver, Northern, per skin	2 50 to 3 50
Beaver, Western and Southern	1 50 to 2 50
Badger	20 to 50
Cat, Wild, North and East States, cased	50 to 60
Cat, Wild, Southern and Western	40 to 50
Fisher, Northern and Eastern	7 00 to 12 00
Fisher, Southern and Western	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, silver	15 00 to 50 00
Fox, Cross, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	3 00 to 5 00
Fox, Red, Northern and Eastern, according to size and color	1 50 to 1 65
Fox, Red, S. Penn., N. J., and N. Ohio	1 25 to 1 50
Fox, Red, Southern and Western	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, North and Eastern, cased	75 to 1 00
Fox, Gray, South and West	40 to 60
Fox, Kitt	30 to 50
Lynx	1 00 to 2 00
Marten, Stones	1 50 to 2 00
Mink, New York and New England	3 00 to 4 00
Mink, Can., Mich., and Minn	2 00 to 3 00
Mink, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio	1 00 to 1 50
Mink, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana Wisconsin and Iowa	75 to 1 25
Missouri and all Southern	50 to 75
Muskrat, N. and East'n, fall & winter	25 to 27
Muskrat, West, including Penn. and Ohio, winter	22 to 25
Muskrat, Southern prime winter and fall	12 to 20
Otter, North'n and Eastern and North-West	10 00 to 12 00
Otter, Penn., N. J., Ohio and Western	6 00 to 10 00
Otter, South Carolina and Georgia	3 00 to 6 00
Opossum, North, cased	18 to 20
Opossum, South and open North	12 to 15
Raccoon, Mich., N. Ind., N. Ohio, Indian handled, dark	80 to 1 00
Raccoon, Ill., Iowa, Wis. and Minn	50 to 65
Raccoon, N. Y. and C. States & N. Penn.	65 to 75
Raccoon, N. J., S. Penn., Ind., Ill., Md., Neb. and Kan	40 to 50
Raccoon, Md., Va., Ky., Tenn., N. and S. Car., Geo., Ark., Fla. and Ala	15 to 40
Rabbits, prime, cased	2 00 to 3 00
Sheep skins, summer and fall	50 to 1 00
Sheep skins, winter	1 50 to 2 00
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, cased	— to 1 30
Skunks, prime black, No. 1, open	— to 1 00
Skunks, prime one-half white streak	50 to 80
Skunks, whole streaked	15 to 20
Wolf Skins, mountain, large	2 00 to 3 00
Wolf Skins, prairie, prime	75 to 1 25

GRAIN.—Wheat has been weak in price, but closed with some assurance under a renewal of export purchases. Latest sales at $1.21@1.25 for No. 2 Milwaukee spring in car lots; $1.35 for mixed prime No. 1 Minnesota spring in store; $1.13@1.11 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring of fresh receipt, afloat; $1.03@1.08 for rejected spring; $1.08@1.20 for ungraded spring; $1.36 for No. 1 white Canada in bond; $1.22@1.45 for winter red and amber; $1.35@1.50 for white; $1.28@1.37 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 85c. for State, and 82@83c. for Penn. Barley dull at $1.07½@1.12½ for No. 2 Canada; $1.20@1.25 for No. 1 do. Barley malt at $1.12½@1.35 for Canada; 90c.@$1.05 for two-rowed State, and $1.05@1.15 for four-rowed do. Corn is in large supply and lower. Sales at 62½@63½c. for mixed Western; 64c. for white Southern; 60@63¼c. for yellow Jersey. Oats are lower and dull. Sales at 44@47½c. for mixed Western; 48@52c. for white Western and State; 45@47½c. for mixed State. 46½@47c. for New York light mixed.

HAY AND STRAW.—There has been a fairly active business on export and home trade account, with arrivals moderate and prices well maintained.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, 95c.@1.10; clover, 60@70c.; salt, 65@75c. Straw is quoted at $1.45@1.15 for long rye; 80@85c. for short rye; 75@80c. for oat.

Exports past week, 140 bales; since Jan. 1st, 5,619 bales; same time last year, 6,736.

HIGHWINES.—Selling at $1.03½.

HONEY.—Dull at 18@22c. for white clover in glass dark and strained, 10@12c.

HOPS.—There is a liberal business in progress, and a further advance is fairly quotable, with an upward tendency. Arrivals have been larger than anticipated, but they comprise few lots of strictly choice. We quote:

N. Y. State, 13@19c.; Eastern, 11@17c.; Wisconsins, 11@17c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 17@20c.

MAPLE SUGAR.—Receipts are steady but dull. The large remnant of old promises to interfere with new more seriously than usual. We can hardly expect high prices after the fate that has attended honey. New sugar ranges at 12@13c.; good old, 10@12c.; common do., 8@9c.

MILK.—The price paid to farmers for February was 4@4½c. ₱ quart. Trade at the platforms has been poor; last week's sales, $1.50@2.25 ₱ can of 40 quarts, with much left over unsold.

POULTRY AND GAME.—There is an easy feeling in poultry, the weather is bad for holding, and holders are forced to make quick sales. Frozen poultry is quoted at 16@17 for turkey and 12@13c. for chickens. Philadelphia or south Jersey and Bucks Co. fancy dry-picked chickens sell at 20@22c., large capons at 20@23c., and small capons and slips at 21@25c.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 17@18c.; Jersey, good to prime, 15@17c.; State, good to prime, 14@16c.; Western, good to prime, 13@15c.; fair to good, 11@13c.; poor, 9@10c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 17@18c.; State, good to prime, 15@17c.; Western, good to prime, 14@17c.; inferior, 10@12c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; state, good to prime, 18@20c.; Western, good to prime, 17@19c.; fair to good, 15@18c.; poor, 12@13c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 13@14c.; State, good to prime, 11@13c.; Western, good to prime, 10@12c.; do., poor to fair, 8@9c.

Live poultry is in rather heavy supply and is tending lower. Quality not first class. We quote:

Turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 14@15c.; do. Western, 14@15c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2@2.50; do. Western, $1.25@1.50; ducks, Western, ₱ lb., 65@75c.; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $87@1.25; fowls and chickens, State and Jersey, ₱ lb., 13@14c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; roosters, 7@9c.

Game is reduced to few items. Wild ducks sell well, and pigeons are wanted. We quote $1.50@1.75 for Southern Canvasback, 70@87c. for Western Redhead and 40@60c. for Mallard; wild pigeons, feathered, ₱ doz., 3@3.25; English snipe, $3.50; plover, $3@3.25; hares, ₱ pair, 20@30c.; rabbits, 35@45c.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products generally have been well sustained in price, with a fairly active export trade. Mess pork is quoted $22.75@23 for spot lots, $22.87½ for March, $23.05 for April, $23.15 for May, $23.30 for June, $23.50 for July; dressed hogs at 9¾@10c. for Western; bacon at 12½c. for Western long clear, 13c. for city do. Lard—Western steam: at 13-05c. for spot, 13-07½c. for April, 13-87½c. for May, 14c. for June, and 14-10c. for July. Stearine at 14½c. for choice. Tallow at 9c. for prime. Beef hams at $24@26. Beef—New extra mess at $13@13.50; do. plain mess, $12.50; new tierced at $23 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $32@32.50. Old extra mess, $11.50; 10.50 for plain mess; packet, $15.50@16.

SEED.—Clover is stronger and fairly active; prime State, 14¾@15c.; prime Western, 14¾c.; prime Canada, 14½c.

TOBACCO.—There are large arrivals of Western leaf, prices for which are depressed, with export trade slow. Seedleaf is without change.

KENTUCKY LEAF.—OLD CROP.

	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7	7¼@ 8¼
Good lugs	7½@ 8	8¼@ 9¾
Low leaf	8½@10	9¾@10½
Medium leaf	10¾@11	10¾@12
Good leaf	11¾@13	12¾@13½
Fine leaf	13¾@15	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	17 @22

NEW CROP.

Common lugs	4 @ 5¼	5 @ 5¾
Good lugs	5¾@ 6¾	6 @ 7
Low leaf	7 @ 8	7¾@ 8¾
Medium leaf	8½@ 9¾	9 @10½
Good leaf	10 @11	11 @12
Fine leaf	11½@13	12½@15

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @22
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	8½@ 8
Wisconsin	8½@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 3,752 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 37,424 do.; same time last year, 25,252 do. Exports of onions past week, 645 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 4,196 do; same time last year, 1,118 do. Potatoes are dull, even with low prices for the best lots offering. This of course gives the inferior lots a very poor outlet. Bermuda potatoes quoted at $6 ₱ bbl., which is cheap for opening figures. Bermuda tomatoes, $3 ₱ box of 5 quarts. Bermuda beets, $2 ₱ crate. Florida peas sold at $3 ₱ bush.; they were not in as good order as the first shipment. Prime would bring $5 to-day. Southern green stuff, such as spinach and kale, is in good demand. New cabbage, however, is not wanted; old is plenty and good.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25; Peach Blows, $1.25@1.37; Prince Alberts, $1.00@—; common, 60@75c. Sweet potatoes, $2.50@3.00. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $4@5; red, $6@10. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 75c.@$1; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@3.00. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Baltimore spinach, ₱ bbl., $2.50@2.75. Kale, $1@1.25.

WOOL.—There has been a very dull market this week, and easier prices have been accepted on some few lots, with a generally weak feeling. Manufacturers find a slow sale for their goods, notwithstanding the concessions in prices made.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklook	50	@ 51
XX	47	@ 48
X	46	@ 48
No. 1	48	@ 50
No. 2	42	@ 45
Course	40	@ 42
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	42	@ 44
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	56	@ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	45	@ 47
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	44	@ 45
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	41	@ 47
X	44	@ 47
No. 1	44	@ 46
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	31	@ 36
Coarse unwashed	27	@ 30
Burry	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, Mar. 11.—Flour market steady spring, $6.75; nother winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $4.50. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.36@1.40; amber winter, $1.10@1.22; white winter, $1.20@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 23@25c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 18@20c. Lard, 13½@14c. Apples, ₱ bu., 80c.@$1. Potatoes, bu., 30@@35c. Beans, ₱ bu., 75c.@1.30. Mess pork, $22@23. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $7.00@7.50. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.96@7.35 for stove.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 11, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	2,988	33	491	8,710	000
Forty-Eighth St.	3	27	66	4,213	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	361	14,984
Harsimus Cove	4,816	00	000	7,215	12,944
Totals this week	7,907	60	563	20,502	27,928
" last week	9,222	63	127	26,420	25,784

BEEVES.—Trade in horned cattle on last Monday forenoon was slow on a light run; the quality of the herds ranged from common to fair, with some good quality steers; also two car loads of choice quality beeves. Prices were 9@13c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5¾@10¾ cwt.; the markets closed weak about ½c. off on the closing rates of the previous week. Wednesday trade very slow at a further reduction of ½c. on Monday's rates; prices were at 9@12¾c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. Thursday, sales slow at 8¾@11¾c.; weights, 6¾@8¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 8@11¾c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. From 54@60 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt. Spanish cattle, corn-fed in Missouri, sold at 9@9¾c.; State oxen, 9@12c.; Western, 8½@10c.; native steers at 8@12¾c.; grades do., 12½@13c. Bulls, on live weight, 4@4¾c. Mixed herds, quality coarse, 9@11c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13	12 @13¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade fallen off and quality also; 16 cows sold at $32@60 ₱ head; 11 at $50@70; 9 at $55@75; 5 at $69@81—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade very slow in coarse quality meal-fed calves at 5@7½c. ₱ lb.; grass calves generally held on sale. Smooth quality veals free of sale at 8½@11c. ₱ lb.; State veals, 8½@11c.; Pennsylvania, 10@10½c.; Jersey, 9½@10¾c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade slow with a fractional reduction in prices. Monday sheep sold at 5¾@8½c. ₱ lb.; lambs, 7½@8¾c.; spring lambs, $12 ₱ head. Wednesday, sheep, 6@7½c. Thursday, trade slow; sheep at 5¾@7¾c. Friday, the markets closed weak at 5@7¾c. Virginia sheep sold at 6¾c.; State, 5¾@8¼c.; Michigan, 6¾@8¾c.; Illinois, 6@7½c.; mixed flocks Ohio and Michigan, 7c.; Ohio, 5¾@8c.; Missouri, 6¾c.; Indiana, 7@8c. The lambs in hand were all quoted from New York State.

HOGS.—There have been no live hogs on sale during this past week. City dressed weak and slow at 10¾c.; Western dressed also slow of sale at 10@10¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade fair in fair quality roadsters, with moderate trotting action; 19 head of such like horses sold at $215@425 ₱ head; 3 trotters, $500@1,200; 2 pairs stylish carriage horses, $1,200@1,300 ₱ pair; 9 pair family carriage horses, $300@650; 11 head coarse quality heavy draft horses, $190@215 ₱ head; 2 pair choice quality do., $400 ₱ pair; 10 head Norman cart horse stallions, $1,000@2,000 ₱ head. Sixteen horses arrived ₱ Erie Railroad, via Oak Cliff Station.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., March 11, 1876.

THE market this week has been very active, and quite a number of offerings were made by the factories. The sales embrace lots of fall and winter cheese from the Old Fairfield, Brockett & Feeter, Columbia Center, Arnold Bros., Small's Bush, Palatine Bridge, and others. The prices paid ranged at 12@13c. The Fairfield Association and some others holding the September make are asking 14c., which is at present above the views of buyers.

A number of farm dairies was on delivery and sales were made at 9@12c., according to quality. We hear of some farm dairies that are holding large lines of good cheese at 12½@13c.

Cows are now coming in milk and factories are commencing operations.

There was a large delivery of butter and over 100 packages were sold. Winter butter brought 24@27c., according to quality, and fresh new milk butter ranged at 30@33c., only one or two fancy packages bringing the latter figure.

We have advices from Europe to the third week of February. Our London correspondent says:

Fine English cheese only is saleable, American taking the place of secondary. American of September make is in good demand; as also good, sound, intermediate qualities, if not strong and old. The prices are as follows:

American extra, 65@68s.; fine, 62@64s.; good, 56@60s.; common, 50@56s. English cheddar brings 80@96s.; Wiltshire double, 72@80s.; Cheshire medium, 46@64s.; fine, 76@84s.; Scotch, 70@78s., and Edams at 70s. ₱ cwt.

Fine and good intermediate butter is in demand, but oleomargarine is preferred to stale and rank varieties of butter. The quotations are:

Jersey sells for 140s.; Dorsets, 160@170s.; Danish and Swedish, 170s.; Normandy extra, 104s.; American and Canadian, 90@120s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter brings 70@110s. ₱ cwt.

New Advertisements.

SIBERIAN CRAB, Hislop, &c., 5 to 7 feet, extra — 100: $9; 1000: $70
Wealthy, Anculifolia, Whitney's 20, 2 to 4 ft — 20
Apple, 5 to 7 ft., Pewaukee, Walbridge, &c — 7: 50
Cherry, Early Richmond, 1st class, 4 to 6 ft — 20: 180
Black Walnut, extra fine, 1 year — 1: 5
Pecan, 1 year, 6 inch — 3: 20
Currant, Red Dutch, White Grape, Victoria — 3: 20
Raspberry, Doolittle, Clark — 1: 6
Asparagus, 2 years, Giant — 60c: 3
Hookthorn, best Anethorn hedge plant — 1: 8
Honey Locust, No. 1, 10,000, $25 — : 3
Osage Orange, No. 1, 10,000, $15 — : 2
Scotch Pine, 4 to 6 feet, fine — 5: 40
Elm, White, 4 to 6 feet — 3: 20
" " 8 to 10 feet — 10: 60
Maple, Soft, 6 to 8 feet — 4: 30
" " 15 to 20 ft., 2 to 4 inch stem — 20: 80
Mountain Ash, Weeping, 10, $2.50 — 20

Roses, Green-House and Bedding Plants, Colored Fruit Plates, &c. Price Lists free. Five catalogues (set), 25c. Address F. K. PHŒNIX, Bloomington Nursery, Illinois.

MICROSCOPES of all kinds and prices, for *scientific investigation* and the *amusement of the family circle*. Also MAGNIFYING GLASSES, for *botanical use*, etc. LENSES, SPY GLASSES, TELESCOPES, etc., etc. 56 PAGE Price List *free*. McALLISTER, *Mf'g Optician*, 49 NASSAU St., New York.

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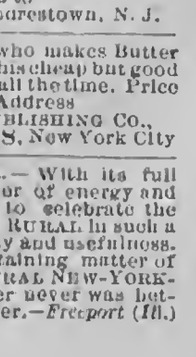

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FREIGHTS PREPAID.

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AGENTS Wanted—Salary or commission. Address COWAN & Co., Eighth St., N. Y.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—With its full corps of editors, and a new publisher of energy and ability, the management propose to celebrate the quarter-centennial of the pioneer RURAL in such a manner as to augment its popularity and usefulness. For a first-class, lively paper, containing matter of interest for all classes, take the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and do so at *once*, for the paper never was better, and its prospects never brighter.—*Freeport (Ill.) Journal.*

PERSONAL ITEMS.

FRED GRANT has "gone west."

COL. SELLERS RAYMOND is in Chicago.

THE King of Italy opened Parliament in person.

BABCOCK'S resignation from the army is promised.

FRED. GRANT has been ordered to join his regiment.

MRS. JENNIE C. CROLY was re-elected President of Sorosis, March 7.

REPORTS of H. W. Beecher's death prevailed in New York, March 3.

THE Howe memorial fund now accumulating at Boston amounts to $890.

THE Graphic says that Henry W. Genet is living in extreme poverty in Canada.

SARTORIS and family are coming over next month, to stay for the summer.

GEN. SHERMAN says it costs Secretary Fish $70,000 a year to live in Washington.

MINISTER SCHENCK sailed for New York Saturday March 4, in the steamer Abyssinia.

DON PEDRO, Emperor of Brazil, will sail from Rio Janeiro for New York on March 26.

MR. JOHN G. WHITTIER is about to change his residence from Amesbury to Peabody, Mass.

IT IS said that Fanny Fern, with her dying breath, urged her husband to marry her daughter.

IT IS said that Charles Reade will visit this country and the Centennial Exhibition next summer.

GARIBALDI has accepted the Presidency of the International Arbitration Congress to be held at Rome.

MR. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Jr., has been appointed President of the West Boston Savings Bank.

RICHARD H. DANA, Jr., has been appointed Minister to England, in place of Gen. Schenck, resigned.

PROF. T. STERRY HUNT has been elected to the chair of geology and mineralogy in the University of Cincinnati.

SETH GREEN says that all the sea lions in San Francisco Bay do not destroy as many fish as one Chinaman does.

IT IS proposed to place a memorial window to the late Sir John Coleridge in the nave of Exeter Cathedral in England.

EX-SECRETARY BELKNAP'S wife engaged a cottage at New London for the summer a short time before the bribery exposure.

EX-SECRETARY GIDEON WELLES has been summoned to Washington to testify before the Committee on Naval Expenditures.

IT IS said that Secretary Chandler is very sensitive to being called a drinking man, and that really he is quite a temperate man.

PRESIDENT CHAMBERLAIN of Bowdoin College has been appointed by Gov. Connor as Maine's orator at the Centennial Exposition.

MR. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Jr., was able to walk out on March 4, for the first time after an illness which confined him to his bed for several weeks.

DURING the three years' naval command of Captain, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duchess will reside a considerable portion of each year in Russia.

A STATUE of the late Dr. Livingstone has been completed, and it will be erected on the site set apart for it on the Northbridge, in Edinburgh, Scotland.

MRS. EDWARD CREIGHTON, who died in Philadelphia recently, willed $100,000 to establish a Roman Catholic College at Omaha, Neb., to be called Creighton College.

PROF. WHITE of Columbus, Ohio, has accepted the Presidency of Pardue University, at Lafayette, Ind., and will enter upon his duties in April. The Board of Trustees have voted him a salary of $3,500.

A MEDALLION bust of the poet Keats was uncovered at his grave in Rome, Italy, on the 21st of February, the anniversary of his death. During the ceremony Minister Marsh planted a eucalyptus near the grave.

BISHOP BEDELL, who is now traveling in Egypt, has sent a cinerary urn, taken from a Greek tomb near Alexandria, to Kenyon College at Gambier, Ohio. It contains some of the ashes found in it when disentombed.

A STRANGE old bibliopole died in Vienna a short time ago. He conducted an eating house, waiting personally upon his customers, and yet he collected a library of 21,000 volumes, many of them editions of rare value.

QUEEN VICTORIA has informed Lord Dufferin that she will assist in the projected improvements in Quebec by presenting the city with $50,000 for the construction of one of the proposed city gates, the one for which it is used to be called the Kent gate.

AN edition of the doubtful plays of Shakspeare is to be collected and published in London shortly. It will include "The Two Noble Kinsmen" and "Edward III.," in the composition of which some authorities hold that Shakspeare took part at least.

THE King of Belgium has just enriched his private collection by a sketch of Rubens, representing Christ triumphing over sin and death. It was the last of a series executed by Rubens to serve as designs for the tapestries of the Count Olivares, the other sketches being in the Museum of Madrid.

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The large space under the arm. From needle to foot of arm, 9 inches; from needle to bend of arm, 11 inches; from bed to bottom of arm, 5 inches. Easily oiled, threaded and cleaned.

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No cams or cogs are used, a continuous circular motion, preventing vibration, and rendering a high rate of speed possible, while noise is reduced to the minimum, and for foot power the ease of working is increased to a wonderful degree.

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Yellow Globe Danvers, extra stock	25	65	2.50
White Portugal, or Silver-Skin	25	88	3.50
New Queen, small early white (imp't'd)	50	$1.50	6.00

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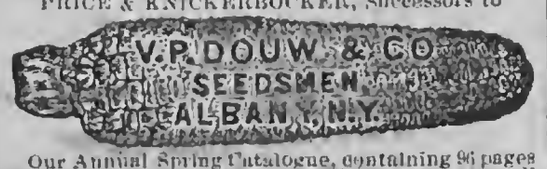

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Melons were found originally in Asia.

— Salem, Mass., wants a harbor master.

— A colony of Icelanders has settled in Manitoba.

— The Spanish army is to be reduced to 200,000 men.

— In Virginia City, Nevada, there are 300 ex-convicts.

— Chicago has an elm tree that is reported to be 100 years of age.

— The office of Deputy Collector of Customs in Lynn, Mass., is abolished.

— One county in Illinois sold its peppermint crop last year for $500,000.

— A Norwegian expedition to the Arctic seas will start early this spring.

— The tower of the new Yale College chapel will contain a chime of bells.

— Salisbury has petitioned for relief in rebuilding the Newburyport, Mass., bridge.

— There were 42,000 exhibitors at the Paris Exposition of 1867, and 24,000 at Vienna.

— The Newburyport, Mass., horse railroad averages a thousand passengers a day.

— Envelope makers and stationers are petitioning for the abolition of the postal card.

— A pine tree was recently cut on the Menominee river, Wisconsin, that scaled 4,490 feet.

— A man in Northampton County, Pa., has contracted to ship 75,000 school slates to Japan.

— The conversion of several Jews in Washington to the Christian religion causes a minor sensation.

— Ruddock's shoe factory in West Newbury, Mass., employs 160 hands, and is driven with orders.

— A lump of crude iron was recently rolled into a leaf so thin that four square inches only weighed one grain.

— A portion of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Bergen Hill tunnel caved in March 4. No one hurt.

— There will be thirty-two of the Governments of the world represented at the Centennial, besides our own.

— There are 28,000 persons employed in watch making in Switzerland, of which number one-third are women.

— Much valuable information is expected from the "Spontaneous Combustion in Coal Commission" now sitting in London.

— When oranges were first introduced into Germany the pastors were opposed to them as "refinements full of danger."

— Glasgow claims to be the second city in the British Isles. It has a population of 547,598, against the 473,405 of Liverpool.

— It is a curious fact that while the names of all our animals are of Saxon origin, Norman names are given to the flesh they yield.

— The Patent Office at Washington during its business hours last year granted patents at the rate of one every twelve minutes.

— An Indiana workman claims to be the fastest cigar maker in the Union. He has made 18,000 cigars in a month, and says he can make 30,000.

— South Kingston, R. I., can't exactly be called a growing town. The population is only 109 more than it was in 1790, and is 477 less than it was in 1860.

— An extensive vein of amethyst has been found near Monticello, Ga. Some of the stones are very large and brilliant, and sell for $100 a pound.

— The Connecticut Baptists have raised $25,000 toward their proposed Centennial Fund of $100,000, besides several large subscriptions which are promised.

— Beverly, Mass., claims to be the port whence sailed the first naval vessel under colonial authority, and therefore the first naval vessel in the United States.

— According to Dr. Punshon, the income of the Wesleyan Missionary Society was in 1820, £33,695 and 148 missionaries; 1872, £184,039, and 1,228 missionaries.

— In Livingston County, Ill., the roughness of the roads has almost entirely suspended teaming in some localities. A third of the corn crop stands in the fields unhusked.

— A Parliamentary return shows that the funds expended in England since 1840, in amounts above £500, in building and restoring churches, amount altogether to £26,000,000.

— Almond culture has recently been the subject of experiments in Santa Clara County, California, and it is stated that it can be carried on there with remarkable success.

— A petition to amend the charter of Lynn, Mass., so as to place the appointment and oversight of the police in the hands of commissioners, is now before the Legislature.

— They have got a boy in Binghamton five years old, who is physically perfect, healthy, talks distinctly, is very active, and weighs only nine pounds. He is twenty-three inches high.

— A Philadelphia firm estimates its sales of flags on the 21st of February at $500 an hour; and it was also estimated that $200,000 worth of stars and stripes floated in the city on Washington's Birthday.

— Official reports show that during the past month the operations in South Carolina by the mounted force under direction of Major Jacob Wagner, the revenue agent, have resulted in the breaking up of thirty-three illicit distilleries.

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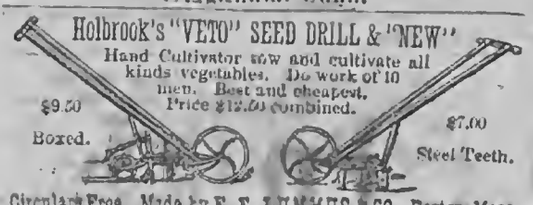

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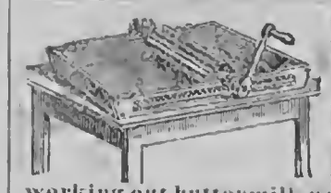

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DESSERT for golden wedding—preserved pears.

THE cause of woman suffrage—Scarcity of husbands.

WESTON is spoken of as a man who has two soles and a single thonght.

A BOOKSELLER lately advertised that he had plenty of scarce books for sale.

A MICHIGANDER, who was arrested for stealing a goose, said he found the bird hissing at the American flag and arrested it for treason.

"REMEMBER," said a trading Quaker to his son, "in making thy way into the world a spoonful of oil will go further than a quart of vinegar."

A HANDKERCHIEF of William Penn is to be on exhibition at the Centennial, and a curious correspondent writes to ask if it is the original Penn wiper.

"WHAT is conscience?" asked a schoolmaster. "An inward monitor," replied a bright little fellow. "And what is a monitor?" "One of the iron-clads."

A YOUNG man asked his bachelor uncle: "What advice would you give a young man who was contemplating matrimony?" "I should advise him to keep on contemplating it."

Forward and loquacious youth:—"By jove you know—upon my word, now—if I were to see a ghost, you know, I would be a chattering idiot for the rest of my life." Ingenuous maiden—"Haven't you seen a ghost."

"COME, wife," said Will, "I pray you devote
Just half a minute to mend this coat,
Which a nail has chanced to rend."
"'Tis ten o'clock," said his drowsy mate.
"I know," said Will, "it's rather late,
But it's never too late to 'mend.'"

"ZACHARIAH," said Mrs. Chandler, "what smell is that?" "Cloves." "But that other smell?" "Yes—apples." "And just one more?" "Cider, my dear." "Well, Zachariah," said she, "If you'd only drink a little brandy now you'd make a good mince pie."

WHEN a man wants a plug of tobacco, the grocery three-fourths of a mile off is only a step; but if his wife wants a drink of cool water from a neighbor's well opposite, by some mysterious agency that well suddenly becomes removed more than half a mile away.

"Our one-horse driver takes no care
To look up the struggling passenjare;
So when we wish to stop a cair,
After shaking in vain our umbrellaire,
And yelling again and beating the air,
We hire a boy to run round the cair
And tell the driver to stop his cair
If he wants another passenjare."

"WA'AL, yes," said the old man, as he painfully leaned on his cane, "I am kinder agein', and I feel it more and more every day. Only last year I used to be able to walk round Union Park every morning, and now my rheumatiz is so bad that when I've got half way round, all I can do is to turn round and hobble back."

"HALLO Pat! What's the matter? Is there anybody ill here?" said a gentleman to an Irish laborer, who was engaged laying tan in front of Fishmonger's Hall. "No, sir," replied Pat, "there's nobody ill just now, but there'll soon be a few fit patients for the hospital. There's to be a moighty foine dinner here this evening."

THE American Chemist affirms that "when benzoyinaptylilamide is treated with nitric acid, two isomeric mononitrobenzoylnaphtylamiden are formed. By the action of hydrogen upon these bodies are obtained different products. One yields mononitrobenzoylnaphtylamide and the other anhydrobezodiamtdonaphtalene." This prescription should be pasted in every intemperate man's hat.

"SIR," asked an attorney, yesterday, of a witness who was testifying in a case of assault and battery, "have you been in this court before?" "Yes, sir," said the witness, "I have been here often." "Ah, been here often, have you?" said the attorney, in a triumphant tone. "Now tell the court what for." "Well," replied the witness slowly, "I have been here at least a dozen times to see you, to try and collect that tailor's bill you owe."

A RATHER pedantic doctor, coming into a drug store, saw on the counter one of the old-fashioned bogus coppers. "Oh, what is this?" he exclaimed, scanning and beginning with the Greek article and using the continental vowel sounds, "*Tor-fair-ell-i-law-laytraw-day*," and then trying to translate; when after a minute of intense suspense, during which several of the loungers gathered around with "suppressed emotions," the plain English burst upon him, "To Facilitate Trade!" and then the loud guffaw burst out, and he burst away from the charmed circle of a moment before as if a bomb-shell had burst under his feet.

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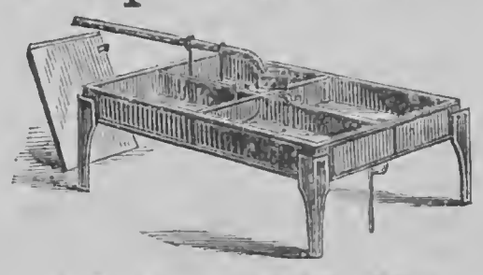

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THE CLAY HORSE "ANDY JOHNSON."

THE accompanying portrait of this model Henry Clay stallion is from the Spirit of the Times. From the pedigree and description given in the same paper we condense the following particulars which will prove interesting to horsemen:

Andy Johnson is a very dark chestnut, 15.3¾ hands high without white, except a few hairs in his forehead. His sire was Henry Clay, the founder of the Clay family of horses, he by Andrew Jackson, he by Young Bashaw. Andy Johnson was foaled in the spring of 1853, and was bred by Silas W. Spink, near Penn Yan, Yates Co., N. Y. His dam was a dark chestnut, without white, except a few hairs in her forehead, fine coated, thin skin, of blood-like appearance, and of remarkable beauty, endurance and speed. She was by Tormentor, bred in Dresden, N. Y. and Andy Johnson was her first colt. Mr. Spink has always claimed that the dam was in many respects a superiar animal to Old Henry Clay, his sire, and that he has inherited from her, aside from his color, marks, great endurance, and staying qualities, many of the traits and characteristics which have distinguished him, as well on the turf as in the stud. His grandam, on the dam's side, was a Mambrino mare, probably by Mambrino Chief. Andy Johnson early developed great speed while in Mr. Spink's hands, and acquired such local renown by the speed of his get, and his own performances, that Mr. Spink sold him for a large sum of money to Mr. J. B. Murray, who trotted him on Long Island, in New York, and many points, giving him a splendid reputation for speed and endurance. He was sold when sixteen years of age to D. A. Snell of New Bedford, Mass., for $5,500, who kept him as a family horse until the spring of 1874, when he was purchased by Mr. Clark Bell, who sent him to his stock farm at Dundee, Yates Co., N. Y., where he has since remained.

Andy Johnson is a natural trotter, with an open, slashing gait rarely equaled. His stride and reach are enormous. He is very powerful and strong in his action. With splendid limbs and physique, he is perfectly gentle, kind, docile, and it would be quite safe for a lady to drive him. He has a large brain, commanding appearance, especially when in motion, of remarkable intelligence, and is most emphatically, what horsemen properly term, "level headed." While he never had any training or proper handling for development of high speed, he made, many years ago, a record of 2:33 before he was withdrawn from the turf. At his advanced age, he is still perfectly sound, full of fire, force, and vigor, and his limbs are as clean as a four-year-old, while his feet, always excellent, are still models for the most critical observer, and perfect in every respect. Next to his endurance and staying qualities, his feet and limbs are his chief attraction, and he always gives both good to his colts. It was the misfortune of this horse never or rarely to meet in the stud, before he came into Mr. Bell's hands, any first-class mares, but he possesses the rare power of transmitting trotting action to all his colts, even from common and ordinary mares. Mr. Clark of Elmira, N. Y., who has owned more of his get than any one person, says "that out of hundreds of his progeny that he has known in Western New York, he never met one that could not, in his opinion, be made to trot in 3:00 or under. The most distinguished of his get in Western New York, upon the turf, are nearly all from common mares, who had neither speed nor lineage to warrant the cross, notably Joe Hooker, Anthony Wayne, Dispute, Ashland Pet, Lady Thompson, Charlie, owned by O. C. Knapp, and Col. Ellsworth, each of whom can trot under 2:30, though all of them have not records as low as that. His former owner, Mr. Snell, testifies that the same general facts are observed of his get in New England. Although substantially withdrawn from the stud for six years of his life, Andy Johnson has probably produced more trotters that could go in 3:00 and under than any living horse. Now that the cross of the Hambletonians with the Clays is exciting such attention, the mares of his get are eagerly sought for by breeders for use with Hambletonian and his sons, and, notably, his noblest son Volunteer. Mr. Alden Goldsmith has a colt of this cross, out of a mare by Andy Johnson, that he pronounces the best colt he has ever known. Mr. Bell is crossing him to the daughters of Hambletonian, Volunteer, Ethan Allen, Golddust, American Star and to thoroughbred mares. Many of our best judges pronounce Andy Johnson as probably the best of Henry Clay's living sons, and a worthy representative of his illustrious sire.

WEAK EYES.—During the summer, when exposed to the sun through the day, horses often have watery discharges from the eyes. The following lotion will be found to answer in such cases:—Plumbic acetate, one-half ounce; tincture of opium, one-half ounce; rain water, twelve ounces. Wash the eyes three or four times daily.

"ANDY JOHNSON," THE REPRESENTATIVE HENRY CLAY HORSE.

Farm Economy.

THE FARMER'S STOCK IN TRADE.

Prof. S. W. JOHNSON, in his valuable book, "How Crops Grow," says, "Nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid are, most commonly, the substances whose absence or deficiency impairs fertility, and are those which, when added as fertilizers, produce the most frequent and remarkable increase of productiveness."

Prof. F. H. STORER, in the Bulletin of the Bussey Institution, says, "To maintain the fertility of a field producing successive crops of barley, it should receive an annual dressing of phosphoric acid, nitrogen and potash, in the proportion of 1, 2 and 2½."

GEO. VILLE, the great French experimenter, says, "Nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash and lime are the indispensable agents for keeping up the fertility of soils and obtaining all kinds of crops."

Prof. STOCKBRIDGE of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, in the Scientific Farmer, says, "We have found by experimenting for four years—feeding plants in plots and boxes—that Nature supplies to most crops all materials in sufficient quantities, except nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. These three we must supply."

J. B. LAWES of Rothamsted, Eng., whose experiments have extended over a quarter of a century, says, "The only substances really required in artificial manures are nitrogen and phosphate of lime." His soil is undoubtedly well supplied with potash.

Prof. J. R. NICHOLS, Editor of the Boston Journal of Chemistry, says, in Fireside Science, "Without nitrogen not a stalk of corn nor a blade of wheat can grow. Phosphorus is so essential an ingredient in the food of plants that not one of any kind can flourish without it. Potash holds a most important place in the list of substances consumed by plants."

In view of the foregoing testimony of the highest authorities in this country and Europe, we may regard the farmer as a manufacturer whose raw materials are nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid, which he must procure in the cheapest available forms and convert, through the agency of the forces of Nature, into valuable animal and vegetable structures. He who buys a farm obtains with the farm a certain amount of those three elements of plants. To make his business profitable and permanent, he must at the same time keep good the supply of nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid, and sell enough of the finished products to pay expenses and give a fair profit. The amount of his gains depends in part upon his skill in obtaining his stock of plant food. He must be a prudent buyer, as well as a skillful manufacturer and salesman. He must not pay fifty cents, in time or cash, for the nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid to make 100 pounds of milk, when it can be had for fifteen cents. In other words, he must know all about the sources of supply and be on the alert to secure what he needs at the best advantage. He must also understand the special needs of the crops he raises, that he may know how largely to invest in nitrogen, how much in potash and how much in phosphoric acid. Experience has taught men everywhere that all decayed animal and vegetable substances are efficient fertilizers. From the chemist they learn that the value of a ton of good barnyard compost is found mainly in the 9 lbs. of phosphoric acid, 10 lbs. of potash and 15 lbs. of nitrogen which it contains.

But even though the home supply of fertilizers be carefully kept from waste and returned to the fields, still their fertility must gradually decline through the sale of farm products and the washing of rains, unless something be added from without. Besides, the progressive farmer is not satisfied with a crop of 13½ bushels per acre of wheat, 31 bushels of corn or 100 bushels of potatoes, the average yield in the State of New York. To raise the yield to a point at which farming pays well, the first step must ordinarily be to lay in a larger stock of nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. But if every farm needs all its fertility, and if most farms need an increase of fertility, whence shall the supplies come? The time was, not many years ago, when every farmer found an abundance of fuel on his own farm; but now, when, after years of free use and sale, he finds the supply deficient, he turns to the vast coal fields of Pennsylvania for his supply. Again, petroleum has supplanted the home-made tallow dip. In like manner the chemist has shown the adaptation of vast geological deposits, rich in nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid, to meet the demands of agriculturists for more fertilizers. Guano is one of the best known of these deposits. Chemical analysis has shown that one ton of the best guano is equal in fertilizing elements to fifty tons of good barnyard manure, and the experience of market gardeners, who find it profitable at $70 per ton, gold, confirms the chemical estimate. There has been discovered in our own country an inexhaustible supply of phosphoric acid. President CLARK of the Massachusetts Agricultural College says, "The whole world may come to Charleston, run their ships up the Ashley and Cooper Rivers and take in cargoes of phosphates anywhere along their banks." The material is found in the form of nodules about the size of a man's fist, which contain about 70 per cent. of phosphate of lime, or 32 per cent. of phosphoric acid, seventy times as much as barnyard manure. Another great storehouse of fertilizers, chiefly potassic, twenty-five miles square and twelve hundred feet thick, was discovered, a few years since, at Stassfurth, Germany. Other stores as vast may yet be found. Here and there all over the world are smaller supplies, beds of muck and marl and all the waste and sewage of towns and cities.

Warsaw, N. Y. C. H. DANN.

HOW ONE FARMER IMPROVES HIS SOIL.

MR. T. J. FISHER, having become impressed with the idea that much of his barnyard manure was going to waste, devised the following method of saving it, which he tells in the Maine Farmer: "I know I now make twice the value of manure at my farm that I did by simply throwing it out of the window to take a washing, as is now practiced at almost every barn. After experimenting a few years, I became satisfied that the liquid manure was very valuable and too good to be lost. I at last put under my tie-up a plank reservoir and calked it, and now save the liquids and solids entire from my cattle while at the barn. I never allow them to stand in the yard at any time. In summer, at night, they come up to the barn and go into their stalls as if they meant business. I throw in behind them old pickle, loam, lime, plaster, ashes, dry chip dirt, etc. It all works down and comes out the best of manure. If this plan was generally adopted, we can see at once what we should gain in an agricultural point of view. Such manure as this, when applied to the soil, holds out remarkably well. Green crop plowing I know nothing about, but I think it best to adopt the above plan first. This would assure you better crops to turn in. The most of our farms in the older part of the State would not produce a green crop until the land is first manured. I look upon this as the best and cheapest way our farms can be brought back to productiveness."

Very many farmers have several hundred loads of good manure in the bottom of their barnyards from the saturation it has received by years of filtration from the manure left in heaps in winter and spring. In all cases the bottom of a manure heap, even though only earth, is richer than the coarse and strawy portions which farmers are usually very careful to remove. This fine manure at the bottom of manure heaps is in good condition to use on meadows, and especially on young clover. A few days' work with teams and wagons, clearing out the last remnant of manure in spring, will well repay the trouble and cost in improved crops and greater fertility of the soil. It is not worth while to say anything against the purchase of fertilizers; but certainly no farmer can afford to buy while he does not make the most of the manure made in his own barnyard. In fact, it is this class of farmers who first feel the necessity of increasing the fertility of their farms faster than their best efforts can do it.

RYE AS A GREEN MANURE.

ROOT'S Garden Manual speaks highly of Rye as a green manure, especially for gardeners, or where farmers have not time to wait two years for a clover crop to reach maturity. We have often thought that rye might be profitably sown on all fall-plowed land, if only as a protection for the fine surface soil from washing or blowing in winter. It could also be sown on corn and potato stubble and harrowed in without plowing, and in the spring would often afford a bite of fresh feed earlier than any kind of grass. Of its value as a green manure, Mr. ROOT says:

After trying many different green crops, I am quite certain that for the gardener, and often the farmer, in the West, nothing is so valuable as rye. Its growth is made late in autumn and early in spring, at a time when little else will grow, so that the ground is free for this particular use. In fact, all the tender vegetables are off in time to sow it in September, and the ground is not needed for them again till May, by which time the rye will be as heavy as can be plowed under. Upon the farm, too, it comes in nicely, if the succeeding crop is to be corn, roots or potatoes, and more particularly sowed corn for fodder, for which it seems especially adapted. Even after corn I succeed well with it, sowing it broadcast and cultivating it in, leaving the corn hills standing, as they gather snow and help to protect the rye in winter. I sow the seed thickly—about six pecks to the acre—and early if possible, so that the plants shall stool out before winter, endure exposure better, and make a quicker and larger growth in the spring. When the ground is wanted for planting—usually from May 20 to June 1—we turn it under with a chain. It is often three feet high, and thick as only such a heavy crop can be, but with a heavy chain hung from the end of a whiffletree crossbar to the plow beam with slack enough so that it will drag just ahead of the uprising furrow, it will pull down every stalk into the empty furrow as nicely as it could be laid by hand, and the whole mass buried out of sight. A little practice will soon teach just the amount of slack needed.

My attention was first called to the value of this crop for manure almost by accident. Some years ago, just at planting time, I found myself short of suitable land for still another variety of seed melons, which I was obliged to grow, and I leased ten acres of land upon which a crop of rye was growing. This I turned under and planted to Nutmeg Melon. The occasional straws sticking up gave the field a ragged appearance for a time, but when midsummer drouth was upon us and other fields succumbed, this one looked as fresh and vigorous as could be, and in fruiting it even exceeded the promise its appearance gave. The yield of seed was more than one-half larger than on similar land in good heart, but not green manured. I have practiced it ever since, and always with satisfaction, the results the last season being, on some fields, more striking than in any previous year. Its wonderful efficiency in promoting the yield is due, I apprehend, not only to the available fertility it furnishes, but also to its mechanical effect on the soil, and thus maintaining moisture through our worst drouths.

Of course I would myself, and would recommend others to get every forkful of manure to be had and apply it. And yet, upon the same land, I would, in addition, apply green manure whenever practicable. The labor of applying evenly forty loads of manure per acre is considerable. All this is done more evenly by the green crop. Seed and labor together cost me but $3.50 per acre. I cannot say that it adds as much fertility to the soil as forty loads of manure, but I do say that in our drouthy seasons it produces as great an increase of crop as do forty two-horse loads of good manure. It certainly pays to practice it, and to practice it largely, even on land well supplied with stable manure, as that increases the vigor and growth of the green crop, which is immediately, with addition, returned to the soil.

Field Crops.

GRASS IS KING.

IN an able address of Charles Seymour before the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture on the 11th inst., we find the following remarks on this important subject. No State in the Union is better adapted to grass and stock-growing than this, and this extract will be found very profitable and interesting to our readers:

British agriculture is almost perfection. Taking the farmers of Great Britain as our instructors, we may derive some valuable hints from their experience. Of the fifty millions of acres under cultivation in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, less than twelve millions of acres are devoted to "white crops" or cereals; while over twenty-six millions of acres are kept in permanent pasturage; six millions of acres under clover and rotation grasses; and six millions of acres devoted to turnips and other vegetables. England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland have about two and three-fourths millions of horses, ten millions of cattle, and over thirty millions of sheep. Repetition of white or grain crops is not permitted. Instead of the old process of resting or testing land by keeping it fallow every fourth year, which was equivalent to the permanent withdrawal of one-quarter of the tillable land from cultivation, the turnip crop, with its broad leaves that shield the soil from the rays of the sun, and with its nutritious roots that are fed, before ripening, to cattle and sheep, is resorted to as the most effectual method of benefiting both land and stock: as biennial plants derive their chief nourishment from the air, and do not exhaust the soil, if used before they ripen.

Forty-two acres in over one hundred acres in England, and sixty-four in every one hundred acres in Ireland are pasture. England imports only five per cent. of meats consumed. The capacity of land when kept up to its utmost productiveness in densely populated countries of Europe is demonstrated in the ability of many tillers of English soil, besides paying heavy rents, to support a large family on the products of six acres of land; and in Germany, two acres of land yielded a similar amount of subsistence; while in France, where the long and narrow ribbon-like farms are cultivated almost as carefully as gardens, the capacity of land has reached Western credulity. The French farmers seem to enjoy great benefits from the culture of the sugar beet; and one farm that is owned by Monsier De Candaine, located on the Touraine, valued at two millions of francs, or about four hundred thousand dollars, with sugar, linen and woolen factories thereon, sends to market annually one thousand head of fat cattle. The annual income of this farm is five hundred thousand francs, or about one hundred thousand dollars. Doubtless, upon investigation, it would be found that beets and oil cake contributed largely to the production of the marketable cattle, while the cattle and sheep contributed to the production of the materials used in the factories; and that grass instead of grain was the commanding crop of that valuable farm.

THE BARLEY CROP.

IT is a mooted question whether barley or oats bring the most money at the present average prices; but we suspect that the most successful farmers will generally give preference to barley almost without reference to this question. Barley is much less exhaustive to the soil than oats. It is also much better to seed with, and, where used as a fallow crop, wheat will usually yield five to eight bushels more per acre after barley. A general impression has gone forth that a great amount of barley will be sown this year, and "the talk" among farmers is that for this season it is better to go into something else. It is impossible to tell much by this test. The better rule is, that if at spring seeding in the West wheat is below paying rates, a good deal of ground intended for spring wheat will go into barley. Owing to improvements in manufacture of spring wheat flour, wheat in Wisconsin and Minnesota is now relatively higher than barley, and the chances are that in the West more wheat and less barley will be sown. It is chiefly in Western New York and a few counties in Pennsylvania that barley divides the spring seeding with oats, for there very little spring wheat is grown. There is, therefore, no reason as yet for expecting surplusage of barley with low prices next fall. The quantity sown in the whole country is as likely to be under as over the average.

Barley needs to be got in the ground very early. We had almost said the earlier the better. It will bear very shallow plowing, and, if the corn or potato stubble is clean, it is possible that a gang cultivator with two horses would fit the land quicker and about as well as the ordinary plow. The barley roots do not strike deep, and it is not worth while to turn the rich soil, which is usually on the surface, to the bottom of a deep furrow. If manure has been plowed under the previous year it is well to plow that to the surface; but, otherwise, shallow cultivation is preferable. As barley roots do not run very far the plant needs richer soil than oats. For this reason barley is much the best spring grain with which to use any commercial fertilizer that you may have to apply. Barnyard manures are, however, usually too fresh and strong in spring and can be better used for corn. What is left the following spring will be in excellent condition for use by the barley crop.

Farmers differ as to whether the two or the six-rowed barley is most profitable. The two-rowed is a larger, plumper berry, and in a dry, hot season will yield the largest crop. It is also later in ripening, giving a chance to get winter wheat out of the way before the barley is ready. The six-rowed barley is ripe fully as early as wheat, and must be cut and harvested at once, whether wheat harvest is attended to or not. Great care needs to be taken with either kind of barley to prevent injury by rains, as the slightest stain impairs its value for malting. The six-rowed barley is most liable to premature malting, as it sprouts more readily than the other. It is in fact every way more capricious, needs a richer soil and better season, and in return brings, as it ought, a slightly higher price in the markets.

VALUE OF WHITE CLOVER.

I HAVE frequently read articles in Agricultural Papers condemning white clover as a pasture grass and also as useless for a Honey Plant. This has never agreed with my experience, as I think it one of the most valuable grasses we have. When I read the article on white clover in the last RURAL, by "A Working Farmer," I was reminded of a few circumstances in my experience that so firmly fixed upon my mind the value of this grass that it will take a good positive proof to the contrary to convince me that it is not a grass of the finest quality. When I was but nine or ten years old my father owned a large farm: a part he rented to a neighbor for a number of years, but this neighbor at the time I was of the above age, sold his effects and went West. We then worked the whole farm. There was one lot of eighteen acres that had been left by this neighbor for a pasture lot without sowing any seed. I well remember going to this lot barefooted after the horses and how I did delight in traveling over the white clover; it was so thick and cool, so soft and velvety that I was loth to leave.

A few years later we had a twenty acre lot that we wanted to cut for hay, but we had a good deal of ground to go over, and of course some of it would get pretty ripe unless we pastured it late to keep it back so it would make good hay. So we turned in the above lot about sixty sheep with their lambs and left them in until some time in June. When we took them out it didn't look as if we would ever cut much hay in that lot, but, when we cut the grass it was as thick as the wool on the sheeps' backs; white clover about a foot high and timothy about two feet, and we took over forty tons of hay off that field. Any one can judge it must have been thick because it was not tall. About the same time, I think the same season, after taking the sheep out of the meadow we turned them in a sixteen acre lot just across the road and kept them there most of the season: they kept it eaten down so close it looked as bare as the road. The next spring my father concluded to plow it up, as he thought the sheep had eaten out roots and all; but by the time we were ready to plow it it began to look so fine we let it be for pasture. But as we had plenty of feed and did not need it, we cut it for hay. I don't remember how many tons of hay we took from the field, but it was a great many of the finest quality of white clover and timothy, about half of each, that I ever saw before or since.

I very early in life came to this conclusion—Keep plenty of sheep and sow plaster and you will have the best of pasture for all kinds of stock, bees included, have first-class hay, fine fat sheep and lambs and a thick, heavy sod to turn under when you want to break up, and a certainty of a good crop of any thing you may put on it, other things being equal. INCOG.

Dairy Husbandry.

N. Y. EXPERIMENTAL DAIRY STATION.

THE project of establishing an Experimental Dairy Station iu the State has been agitated at the various Dairy Conventions for two or three years past. That such a Station, properly conducted, would do much good and advance the Dairy industry of the country, there can be no doubt. We need many exact experiments to settle important questions that are now agitating the Dairy public in regard to the management of stock and the manufacture of milk into salable products. The Dairy Conventions have been of important aid in educating Dairymen in many of the practical operations of the Dairy: but there are many questions which need the trained skill of the scientist to properly settle, and the Dairy interest of the country, now representing a vast capital and an annual product of $600,000,000, would be greatly promoted by a well-conducted Dairy Station, where all needful experiments can be made under the supervision of scientific men.

HOW TO SUPPORT A DAIRY STATION.

Mr. E. W. STEWART makes the following suggestions in regard to the support of such a Station. He says:—"An assessment of one mill on a dollar of product would yield a sum sufficient to establish a Station in every Dairy State. But suppose we examine the Dairy product of New York. This State is supposed to possess 1,500,000 cows, and the product cannot be less than $60,000,000; one mill per dollar upon this sum would keep up the working expenses of such a Station for ten years. Suppose the 1,500,000 cows of New York was assessed each only one cent, it would furnish $15,000, or a liberal working fund. How utterly insignificant the equalized expenses would be upon this great industry.

THE NEEDS OF SUCH A STATION.

Now let us look for a moment at the need of such an Experimental Station. The New York State Census of 1865 gives returns from 133 cheese factories for 1864, employing the milk of 67,034 cows through the season, and the average product of cheese is only 283 pounds per cow.

Prof. WICKSON compiles the returns from 127 cheese factories for 1874 and published in the last report of the Association, by which it appears that the average product of all the cows of these 127 factories was 343 pounds, showing an advance of sixty pounds per cow in ten years—owing mostly, no doubt, to the efforts of the members of the Dairy Associations. But this table also shows that the average of the best dairies of these 127 factories was 433 pounds per cow, and the average of the poorest dairies of the same factories was only 250 pounds per cow, showing an average difference of 183 pounds per cow between the best and poorest dairies in all these factories. What a wide field is here for improvement! What interest needs an experimental school if this does not? What other interest could stand such a wide discrepancy of results? Is it possible to suppose cotton manufacture to exist with a difference of 60 per cent. between the highest and lowest cost of productiveness and all going on, indifferent to the facts in the case. These facts indicate, not that good farming don't pay, but that it is possible to get a living with any kind of farming.

Look at a great cotton factory with its thousand spindles running like clock work, each performing its part and every operator understanding the part assigned to him. Here we see intelligent order and thoughtful care everywhere; the cost of a yard of cloth can be calculated to the smallest fraction. What, let us ask, is the inherent difficulty in placing the great Dairy industry under the same intelligent order and discipline? What a transformation! and what a paltry pittance it would be for each dairyman to furnish the means of running a model Experimental Station, where all the propositions looking to the advancement of the Dairy interest may be thoroughly examined and, if thought worthy, tested.

We need not speak of the Experimental Stations of Germany—they are doing a great work for the advancement of agriculture. These are organized and supported by the Government. In Sweden special schools for instruction in Dairy matters are under Government patronage, and the Swedes have advanced rapidly in their knowledge and practice of Dairy Husbandry; and there can be no doubt that a Dairy Experimental Station established in this State would have a most beneficent influence in promotiug and perfecting the Dairy industry of the country, and thus increasing the wealth and prosperity of our farmers and the nation.

SMALL CHEESES—RESULTS OBTAINED BY MR. HOLDRIDGE.

A FEW years ago, it will be remembered, an effort was made to introduce the manufacture of square cheeses. There has always been a demand for small cheeses weighing from 10 to 15 pounds, and could such be more generally introduced the consumption of cheese would be very largely increased. In England an immense trade is done in small cheeses. They are of various shapes and are sold under different names—as the Edams, the Cheddar loaf, the Stilton, the Gondas, besides the small flat cheeses of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

In America but very little attention is given to the wants of consumers in this regard, and many would purchase a small cheese that would not buy in small pieces, because unattractive in shape, to say nothing of the waste from drying and breaking into crumbs which a wedge of cheese always entails. A small cheese may be placed upon the table and it forms an attractive object. This is the English way of using cheese: It is placed upon the table and slices cut from it as wanted. The only table cheese that has come much into fashion among Americans is the Pine-apple; but we are persuaded that if our manufacturers would make more small cheeses of fancy shapes so as to be attractive for the table, the consumption of this article of food would be very largely increased.

Mr. HOLDRIDGE in a recent letter referring to his square cheeses, says:—"I sold my square cheese, the make of the whole season, to Messrs. SAGE BROS. & Co. for 15c. per pound last week. If I had waited perhaps I could have got more. This looks as if 'square cheese' was not altogether a failure. My factory makes up the milk of about 100 cows. I have not had a 'skipper' in my cheese this summer. I have some of my square cheese three years old, some ten years old and some made last year. All seems as sound and nice as can be, and have lost little or nothing in weight. I am saving them for the Centennial exhibition as requested. My patrons feel pretty well, as we have realized two or three cents above our neighbors."

As small square cheeses on Mr. HOLDRIDGE'S plan are more easily pressed than in other forms, we had hoped their manufacture would be introduced at least in sufficient quantity to supply the demand for small cheeses. This it seems has not been effected; but we suppose almost any form of cheese, if the weight ranged from 10 to 20 pounds, would command on an average, two cents per pound more than the usual 60-pound make. It becomes a question therefore, in those times of low prices, whether some of our factories could not find it profitable to enter upon "small cheese" manufacture.

THE DAIRY AT THE CENTENNIAL.

EFFORTS are being made to have a grand exhibition of dairy products at the Centennial, and the committee in charge (appointed by the Dairymen's Associations) has sent out circulars asking contributions from factories and dairymen for carrying out this project.

The following resolution, adopted at the late meeting of the American Dairymen's Association, will explain the work proposed:—"*Resolved*, That this Committee recommend as the best plan practicable for the exhibition of Dairy products at the Centennial that a Cheese and Butter Factory, combined in one building, be erected on the grounds for the display of those products, and that the Convention authorize this Committee to proceed at once to the collection of $10,000 to defray the expense necessary to a complete display."

The Committee was also empowered to appoint persons in the several States to collect money for furthering this interest, and Hon. HORATIO SEYMOUR of Utica, N. Y., was appointed Treasurer, thus guaranteeing that the fund will be properly applied. About $1,000 was pledged at the late Convention at Rome, one factoryman having several factories, representing 2,500 cows, agreeing to give five cents for each cow.

It is to be hoped that all factorymen and dairymen may respond liberally to the fund and thus enable the display of Dairy products to be carried out as proposed. Provision will be made for every factory in the United States to be represented at the Centennial, as well also as farm dairymen. The cheese and butter will be cared for in the best manner and at such times as most suitable the products on exhibition will be sold and the proceeds of such sale returned to the exhibitors. The sales will probably take place monthly and the places of the cheese sold refilled again from other factories, thus giving each factory a place in the Exhibition to show its goods, which are to be properly branded with the name of factory, its location and home of manufacturer.

CHEESE PRODUCT WEST OF THE OHIO.

MR. MORROW of the Western Rural makes a statement in that paper, correcting Mr. L. B. ARNOLD in his estimate of the cheese product of the West for 1875. Mr. ARNOLD, he says, put the cheese product west of Ohio at about five millions of pounds, little of which has reached the Atlantic coast." To this Mr. MORROW replies as follows:—"Our estimate of the cheese product of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa in 1874 was *twenty-five millions* of pounds. This also was President FAVILL'S figures, while others thought it low. For 1875 President SMITH of the Wisconsin Association makes the product of the State 15,000,000 pounds—Sheboygan County alone at 2,000,000 pounds. The sales at Elgin, Ill., during 1875, were nearly 4,000,000 pounds (3,970,000). We have no approach to statistics for 1875: but certainly no one could put the cheese product west of Ohio, thus including Michigan at less than 25,000,000 pounds, while many would think 30,000,000 a low estimate."

To that part of ARNOLD'S statement that "little of the product has reached the Atlantic coast." Mr. MORROW says:—"A large part of the total product was sent East, considerable quantities being shipped direct to Europe." Of course, every one who knows anything about the cheese product of the West, is well aware that it was greatly above 5,000,000 pounds for the past year, and it is unfortunate for ARNOLD, who claims to be an authority on dairy matters, to make such wild statements, as they mislead many as to the actual production and the disposition of our cheese product.

The Herdsman.

EXPERIMENTS IN FEEDING.

FROM an essay read before the Central New York Farmers' Club we quote some suggestive comments on a most important subject:

Starch in vegetables contributes largely to thrift in animals. If starch in the growing plant (carbon, oxygen and hydrogen) is allowed to form into woody fiber, it is lost for nutritive purposes; hence, the superior value of early-cut hay. Good oat and barley straw may be a partial substitute for hay by feeding roots and other succulent food with it. It does not contain the requisites for providing for the wastes of the system in cold weather; hence the importance of comfortable quarters for animals thus fed. I have found by experiment that twenty pounds of early-cut hay, by actual weight, daily fed to each dairy cow will keep her in healthy, thriving condition, when not in milk, and when kept quiet in comfortable stables, while the same grade of cows require during the same time thirty pounds to keep them in equal condition, fed out of doors, with no other protection than a shed to screen them from the cold blasts of winter. In housing forage crops, they should be so packed that either kind or quality may be reached at will to give the stock a change of food. A mixed diet is manifestly better for all kinds of stock. Cutting feed for stock is recommended by many, and has some advantages. When mixed with meal it retains the meal in the first stomach of ruminating animals longer than when fed separately in bulk. Nature has provided in the digestive functions of the ruminating animal, that the first stomach, mingles salivial properties with the food, to facilitate digestion, without which digestion would be imperfect and a portion of the food passing directly to the other stomachs would go to waste. Forage cut and steamed and fed warm is better in cold weather, because steaming helps digestion and preserves animal heat.

But the economy in hiring labor to cut hay and straw to feed alone is questionable. To ascertain the comparative value of early cut hay and soiling corn fed dry for milk and butter in January, I took two cows out of the dairy and fed them alternately on hay and dried corn. The hay was of fine quality, cut the first of July. The corn was cut and dried (not cured) when the tassel was well out of blossom. The two cows were fed sixty pounds of hay per day and the same weight of corn fodder, alternately. They gave in four successive days on dried grass 158¾ pounds of milk, which made 6 pounds and one ounce of butter, or one pound of butter from 26½ pounds of milk; and 167 pounds and 6 ounces of milk in four successive days from the same weight of corn, and 6¼ pounds of butter, or one pound of butter from 27½ pounds of milk, showing 8 pounds and 10 ounces more milk from the corn and only 3 ounces more butter, the quality of milk being in favor of dried grass.

The object to be attained in growth of young animals, in milk for butter, or cheese, for muscle in working animals, or fattening requires varied constituencies in the food they eat. The young animal requires food easy of digestion and ready assimilation, rich in nitrogenous properties and phosphates for the rapid growth of all parts of its body. With the milk-giving races the mothers' milk is adapted to building up all parts of the body of the offspring. Although skimmed milk will make good calves, less of new milk will grow them finer in symmetry and handling qualities. Oat, bean, pea and flaxseed meal, mixed and well boiled, fed in small quantities with milk as the stomach will bear it, is a cheap substitute for milk, and may take its place entirely with good results, when the second and third stomachs are developed to remunerate its plant food. Daily access to fine dried grass or dried corn leaves will hasten development of the rumiuating organs and fit them to do with less milk. In changing from milk no one kind of grain will do as well as a mixture well prepared for easy digestion. All changes in diet should be gradual, and the full capacity of the stomach to digest should not be taxed. Young animals to pay for their keeping, should be well supplied with nutritious food during winter: and have comfortable quarters to screen them from asperities of weather. Oats, wheat, bran and oil meal mixed are good winter food for calves. Apples and roots in proper quantities are also good. Oats need no grinding for calves or sheep, as they grind them closely by ruminating.

It is a fact well established that habits acquired in the early growth of animals are subsequently manifest in their physical constitution. Hence the economy of feeding heifers designed for milking, with food similar to that required for greatest flow of milk, which consists in succulent food nearest allied to milk in constituency. The lacteal glands are developed with other growth of the body, and are large or small in proportion to physical habits acquired from feed. Roots, pumpkins, apples and plant food are most congenial for heifers and cows in milk. Beans, peas and oats have the best analytical record for growth in bone and muscle; rye, wheat, buckwheat and oats, for milk and for cheese; and corn for butter and fat. Barley and buckwheat will fatten swine and horses rapidly, but are poor feed to fatten the bullock, or for butter.

Sheep Husbandry.

ANTIQUITY OF THE SPANISH MERINO.

THE Romans wore nothing but woolen goods. They had no cotton; they had a little linen, which was worn as a material of luxury; they had no silk. They cultivated the sheep with great care, and some of their richest posessions were in sheep. But there was one breed of sheep which they cultivated with great care, and by that system of selection which Darwin speaks of as the source of the perfected forms of our domestic animals. It was called Tarentine sheep, from Tarentum, a city of Greek origin, situated at the head of the Tarentine gulf. The fleece of this sheep was of exceeding fineness; it was of a great delicacy, and the prices paid for it were enormous. The sheep were clothed in cold weather to keep them warm; and the result was that they were very tender, and their wool was very fine. They were a product of Greek civilization transmitted down to the Romans. Columella, the great Roman agriculturist, says that his uncle, residing in Spain, crossed some of the fine Tarentine sheep with some rams that had been imported from Africa; and the consequence was that these animals had the whiteness of fleece of the father with the fineness of fleece of the mother, and that race was perpetuated. Here we see an improvement of the stock, an increase of strength and productiveness given to the fine-wool sheep of Spain. At that time the sheep of Spain were of immense value; for Strabo says that sheep from Spain, in the time of Tiberius, were carried to Rome, and sold for the price of a *talent* (one thousand dollars) a head. In the time of our Saviour, a thousand dollars was given in Rome for a Spanish sheep. When the barbarians inundated Italy, these fine-wool sheep were all swept away; but they remained in Spain. They were cultivated by the Moors in the mountains of Spain, which were almost inaccessible, and were not reached by the hordes of Huns, and other Northern barbarians, which had laid waste the greater portion of the Roman possessions. They continued to be nourished there by the Moors, who were very much advanced in arts, and further on were found there as the Spanish Merino. So that the Spanish Merino which we now have, if not the only, is at all events by far the most important relic that we have to-day which has come down to us from Greek and Roman material civilization. We have here a direct inheritance from the material wealth of the Old World civilization.—*J. L. Hayes, in Live Stock Journal.*

SHEPHERD NOTES.

The Big Fleece.—A great splutter was made a year ago about a large fleece that hailed from California, and weighed fifty pounds. It was handed over to a committee who were to wash it and report. They have done both. It does not pan out very good. With the grease and dirt out there remains about twelve pounds of wool and burrs, the latter in the opinion of the committee weighing two pounds, so that of wool there remained but ten pounds,

Ewes with Lambs should have some succulent food during the latter part of winter. Potatoes or other roots are excellent. If thin in flesh give a very few oats each day. Corn is too rich.

Industrial Implements.

THE BUCKEYE FORCE FEED DRILL.

READERS of the RURAL NEW-YORKER have had well "drilled into them" the advantages of drilling grain rather than sowing broadcast according to old fashioned practices. Very many of our Western readers are acquainted with the Buckeye Force Feed Drill, made by P. P. MAST & Co., Springfield, O., a representation of which is found on this page. It has, we believe, given general satisfaction, and by successive improvements has been brought as near perfection as this kind of implement seems capable of. Among its advantages are the easy regulation of feed, distributing more or less at the will of the farmer and without change of gear. Farmers have long wanted a drill in which the amount of seed can be regulated without putting on or taking off of cog wheels of various sizes, as often in the same field different portions will require more or less seed according as the soil is rich or poor. The Buckeye Drill, being a force feed, will distribute all kinds of grain with equal facility and exactness in any desired quantity. By the improved hoe shifter the hoes are changed from straight to zigzag without stopping the team, relieving the hoes of clods or other impediments when working on rough ground. This is a very valuable feature. The arrangement of the grain tubes is such that they are attached directly to the feeder cups, showing the grain as it falls from the hopper. Thus the farmer can at all times know that every tube is operating and distributing its seed perfectly.

THE BUCKEYE FORCE FEED DRILL.

An increasing proportion of farmers are using and will continue to use concentrated manures—mainly commercial fertilizers with their crops. The best result with these is always by drilling them in with the seed. The Buckeye Drill has a fertilizer attachment operated on the same principle with the grain drill, and distributing evenly any kind of concentrated manure. The advantage of using the fertilizer will alone pay the cost of a drill in many cases. As the fertilizer attachment is a force feed it will distribute manure in any reasonable condition, breaking up lumpy portions and putting them through the tubes. It is also superior for working with damp fertilizers which could not otherwise be evenly distributed.

These same parties manufacture the celebrated Buckeye Broadcast Seeder, Buckeye Riding or Walking Cultivator, Buckeye Plow Sulky, and Buckeye Cider Mill and Press.

The Vineyard.

HIGH CULTURE OF GRAPE VINES.

OF late it has become quite the fashion among a certain class of writers on horticultural matters, to either denounce or sneer at the mode of culture practiced by our grape growers of a dozen years ago.

We are told that high manuring, deep trenching and close pruning are, to use a slang phrase, "played out." But we think the advocates of high culture would come as near the truth as their opponents by saying, "and so has grape culture." Not that grapes have failed to be a success in many localities, or that our markets are fairly supplied with this fruit, such as it is, but grapes of good quality and well ripened are still an exception to the general rule. Perhaps the price which this fruit commands in market, will not warrant any considerable outlay in the way of cultivating the vineyards, or care in pruning, training and thinning out the berries and bunches, but this does not prove that high culture in all its ramifications is something unworthy of consideration.

We find that the cultivators of exotic grapes under glass, still pay great attention to the preparation of the borders, both as regards the proper manipulation and component parts of the soil into which the roots are to be placed, not omitting to give special attention to under-draining. But our would-be-advanced vineyardists, tell us that no such expensive preparations are required for the native grape when grown in the open air, although the half starved, sickly looking vines to be seen in almost every neighborhood throughout the country, show very conclusively that there is something radically wrong in their culture, or no culture at all which amounts to the same thing in the end.

Perhaps it is in the pruning, for those who denounce deep culture and high manuring for grapevines, usually reckon the various systems of close pruning in the same category of injurious and useless processes, that might better be dispensed with than practiced.

But again we must refer them to the manipulation of vines grown in graperies where our five to twenty-five pound bunches are produced, and of the very same sorts which would not grow to one-fifth of this weight if planted in the most congenial soil and climate, and the vines left to take care of themselves, or the bearing canes or spurs pruned a foot or two in length as frequently recommended for vines in a vineyard.

Of course we shall be met with the ever-ready assertion that "circumstances alter cases," and that foreign varieties cultivated where they are subjected to artificial heat, require different treatment than the native sorts cultivated in the vineyard. This is true to a certain degree, but in our own experience and observation we have failed to discover any good reason for such a nice difference in the culture, pruning and training of the foreign and native varieties. We have found no native sort which did not thrive better under the very highest culture and short, close pruning, than the opposite. But whether the product will pay for all this extra care and expense is quite another thing, and does not at all affect the question of the results of scientific or high culture. It has been urged that to tell the novice in grape culture that he must trench his soil 18 inches to two feet deep, mix in plenty of old, well rotted manure, bone dust or other enriching materials before planting the vines, is discouraging, and will prevent many from purchasing vines or attempting the culture of this fruit, all of which we admit is true. But it is not better that he should know this in advance, than to find it out after spending his money for vines, and wasting years of time in trying to get good grapes, in consequence of not knowing what was needed to produce the desired results. We remember the time, and it was not many years ago when almost everybody who had a foot of spare ground planted a grape vine, and in a soil prepared in accordance with the plans laid down by the advocates of high culture, and as a result hundreds of our amateurs succeeded admirably with varieties which are now considered "played out."

It was not unusual then to meet one of our merchants, mechanics, in fact, men engaged in various occupations, who would recount their triumphs in raising magnificent bunches of Delaware, Rebecca, Allen's Hybrid, and similar (as now considered) uncertain varieties. A fair or grape show at the Farmer's or Fruit Growers' Club in this city, was sure to bring scores of these amateurs together, exhibiting, or boasting of the product of his few or many grape vines.

That such exhibitions of the success of amateurs is not so common now as formerly we admit, but do not think it should be attributed to the failure of varieties in consequence of high culture, or to systematic close pruning. There are other causes which have brought about the change and the principal one is the overstocking of our markets with grapes from more favorable and distant localities. When the amateur had to pay twenty-five to fifty cents per pound for only a passably good grape he thought it worth while to cultivate a few vines himself, but a drop to three or five cents obliterates one of the most powerful incentives for spending time and labor over his vines, hence hundreds have ceased taking any special care of their vines.

GRAPE ROT.

THE Alton, Ill., Hort. Society have been discussing this subject. Chas. V. Riley, State Entomologist of Missouri, thinks the rot in the berry may be attributed to some constitutional defect in the vine. Mr. Starr, of Alton, does not believe it due to any constitutional defect in the vine, nor to the mode of preparing the soil, as some believe. J. M. Jordan of St. Louis, a successful cultivator, said:

"I have lost all confidence in the statements of our scientific men. I have seen grapes grow where our scientific men say they can't be grown. I do not disapprove of scientific investigation, but I do disapprove of stating as facts what are merely suppositions. I have grapes growing this year where you could not pick a handful of rotten grapes. I believe I can take any vine and make it produce rotten grapes, or I can make it produce sound fruit, free from rot. Close pinching is the main thing. Keep the foilage in check. The soil should be well under-drained, as I don't think one can grow fruit or vegetables with the feet of the plants in water. The rot this year is extensive, but on under-drained soil, where a careful system of close pinching has been followed, we find the grape nearly exempt, as compared with those vineyards where a different system has been followed.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

The Use of Kerosene.—Though the ingenuity of inventors and chemists has been severely taxed to devise means to render the use of coal oil and its preparations comparatively innocuous, it is practically a trifle more dangerous to life and property than gunpowder. The laws enacted to regulate manufacture and sale are nearly a dead letter because of the facility of adulteration of the safer varieties of the article. When the crude oil is distilled there comes first the lighter, more volatile and inflammable, as well as dangerous and cheap benzine; next the safer and dearer kerosene of common use, and lastly the heavier oils ordinarily used for lubricating purposes. Various rules have been proposed, and some adopted, for testing this inflammability and explosiveness of the middle grades used for domestic purposes, but these rules are easily evaded. A dealer may purchase a tolerably reliable article for a fair price, and by mixing with it a cheaper variety give better satisfaction, while apparently selling "coal oil" for less than it cost him, than if he had sold the same article he purchased. The user knows nothing of the dangers incident to the use of the cheap but brightly-burning article until an explosion occurs, and is likely to know less thereafter. Aside from the possibility of acquiring skill in detecting adulteration there would seem to be no protective measure except to purchase a high-priced article of a reputable dealer. There is, we believe, a lamp—patented perhaps, we do not know by whom—provided with an extinguishing attachment that puts out the light immediately when the lamp is tilted to one side, which occurs of course when it falls, and as there is no fire burning when the crash comes, there is no explosion. Such an appliance, if effective, promises to be useful, and will doubtless encourage other improvements in the same direction.

Insurance Legislation.—There appears to be a strong tendency to enact laws for the protection of policy holders. There may be some justification and necessity for this in the severe rules and practice of certain companies. There is danger, also, in unskillful and injudicious meddling. The State of Kansas proposes to enact that:—"All the conditions of every policy shall be in as large type as the body of that instrument; that no condition, limitation or restriction..... ...shall be of any force or effect unless the occurrence shall increase the risk or hazard; and that when policies are made payable to others than the insured no act of the insured, after the delivery of the policy and its assignment to another, shall invalidate the claim of such third party or assignee." These enactments, if properly guarded, may be salutary, but another that follows, promises to open the way to limitless fraud. It is "that no policy shall be void on account of false representations after it has been in force six months, and that in case fraud is discovered the company shall return all the premiums." Such a law as this would give a fearful advantage to designing men.

Do Not Forget This.—There are in life insurance, as in morals, certain cardinal truths that cannot grow stale through frequent repetition, and should be remembered only to be acted upon at once. These are—That life insurance cannot bring pecuniary gain to the party insured. For him there is only the consolation of knowing that his family is provided for in any event, This alone is worth ten times the premium. The prospect of dividends should not be an incentive to invest money in insurance policies. There is no profit for the policy holder except the insured dies prematurely. Protection for the family is the only thing worth buying, and security for a fair price the first, last and only condition worth seeking. And this security is to be found only in the tried and substantial corporations that have weathered all the financial storms and remained unaffected by hard times and business prostration. The companies permitted to advertise in this paper, and commended editorially, are such as may be trusted to fulfill any obligation implied by their policies. One thing above all others is worth remembering and that is, that doing business with a company or *society* that has neither corporate existence, capital to be sued and levied upon, nor financial responsibility, a conscientious man tampers with one of the most sacred of all possible responsibilities.

The "Privilege" Plan.—It has long been the custom of fire insurance companies taking long risks upon property, to collect the premium for the whole term in advance. This practice has been found to be inconvenient to all parties. The company is required to pay a large commission in advance, as well as to hold a larger reserve fund in order to meet the requirements of the law, and the insured have to pay a larger sum than the company needs for current losses and expenses, as well as to risk, sometimes, a great deal upon the chances that the company will be solvent during the entire term paid for. The new plan adopted by certain companies, that should advertise this great advantage, obligates the company to carry the risk during several years, but permits the insured to pay annually, as in life insurance, and to cancel the policy in case of dissatisfaction or transfer of the property. We heartily indorse the superior equity of this improved plan, and hope that it will be generally adopted.

Around the Republic.

"DOWN SOUTH."

Diary and Notes of an Ex-Editor Seeking Health.

BY CHARLES D. BRAGDON.

Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 22.—There was a heavy rain this morning until 10 o'clock, at which hour the Florida Fruit Growers' Association was to meet. It did meet, accomplished a little preliminary business, and, on account of the absence of a majority of the members, adjourned until to-morrow morning.

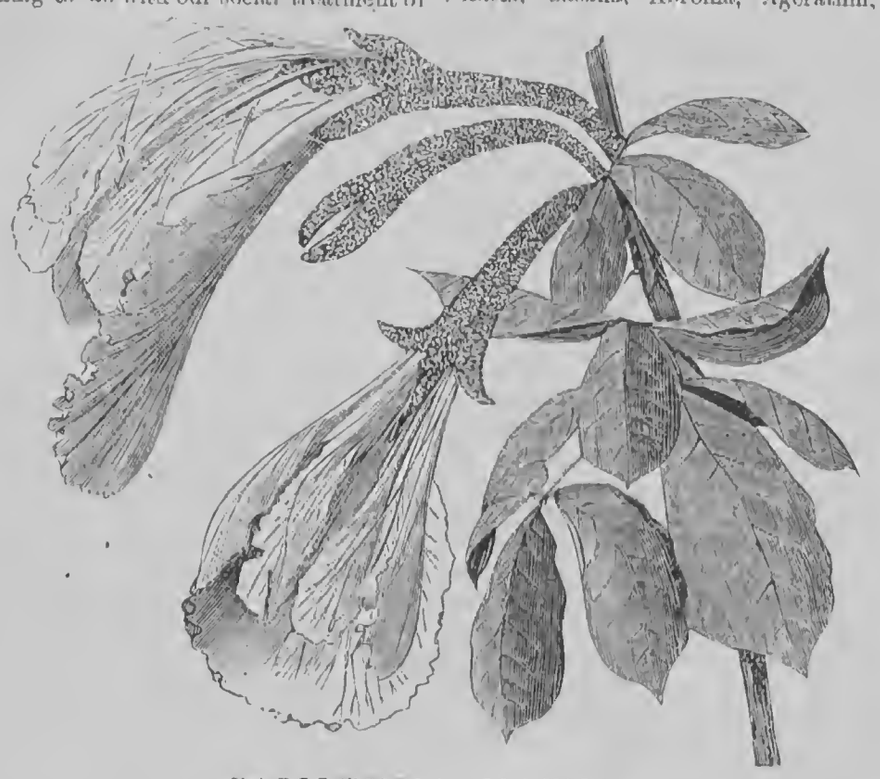
This was to have been the opening day of Florida's first State Fair. About 1½ P. M. I met the Sup't., who told me that but for the rain it would have opened this morning; that if he got 'round in time he should open it this P. M. I "hung around" awhile, but made up my mind that the burthen he was carrying would prevent his getting "around in time," and I accordingly came home. I learned, however, that visitors were admitted, although the distinguished Sup't. was not there to "open the fair."

[A question of privilege.—An officer of this State Fair, while I was quietly eating lunch at a public restaurant, left a group of friends and deliberately walked up to and accosted me as—JOSH BILLINGS! Now I may resemble a gentleman, or a fraud, a burglar, or a politician, a tiger, lion or unicorn, and therefore be like unto JOSH BILLINGS; and I do not know that he has a reputation for being any one of the characters; but I do know that he is reputed to be the worst speller in the universe, and herein lies my grievance. I respectfully submit that if, when I walk quietly through the streets of this City of Sand, I am to be accosted by every poor speller who comes along and given the name of the worst orthographical bummer on the Continent, I must have from the RURAL office certificates of my orthographical orthodoxy to smite such fellows with! I'm tolerably callous, after a newspaper experience of a score of years; but to be mistaken for and actually addressed as JOSH BILLINGS, touches too sensitively my professional pride for me to submit to it without emphatic protest!]

Wednesday, Feb. 23.—This morning at 10 o'clock the Fruit Growers' Association met again, with full attendance. President BISHOP delivered his annual address, all of which I did not hear. That portion I did listen to, seemed to stamp him as a sensible, level-headed man. He was enthusiastic about the future of Florida, but he didn't allow his enthusiasm to effervesce in real-estate-hifalutin. He talked upon one subject which I thought important—the character of Florida soils and the importance of the men of the State who have resided here long enough to distinguish as to quality, educating new comers whose superficial impressions are so often incorrect and unjust to the State. He asserted the existence of a diversity of soils, variously adapted to the growth of various products.

Following Pres't BISHOP'S address delegations of Georgians were formally introduced, welcomed and invited to participate in the proceedings of the Association. Two of these Georgians responded to this welcome. Florida was reminded that Georgia was one of the "original thirteen States" while Florida wasn't; nevertheless Georgia was not too proud to pat poor Florida on the back and proffer her the benefit of Georgia's superior wisdom and more extended experience! Patronizing fellows, these Georgians were to-day! "Information from them?" Oh, yes! The most interesting to the writer was the description one of them gave of the way to treat "Yankees." You should have heard the word "Yankee" sizzle between his teeth as he uttered it. With them, "Yankees," *with money to invest*, were treated with great cordiality and respect, *if they invested it*. This Georgian plumed himself upon the fact that, in his neighborhood, "Yankees" *with money to invest*, were treated about as well as other people and allowed to have political and other opinions. If the "Yankee" was a "Carpet-bagger," or without money, that was altogether a different matter; but if he *meant business, had money and planked it down*, then this generous, lofty-minded, royal Georgian would recommend that he be treated well! Imagine him giving this advice in a blown-out, pompous style, to an Association whose President (who sat politely listening) is a Northern man, and a majority of whose members may be, for aught I know!

Why do I take notice of such talk, thus publicly? Because it is one of the *facts* a Northern man will run against who settles any where in the South among this type of Southern men. Treat us well? As if they were to be commended or rewarded for not treating us ill! I've got heart-sick of these boasts in the RURAL NEW-YORKER and other papers, and in speeches by Southern men, that in certain localities in the South the Northern man is treated and welcomed. Why are these assertions made? A Southern man does not need to be assured that he will be well treated in New York, Massachusetts, Ohio or Illinois. In New York he is treated no better and no worse than a Western or a New England man. His political opinions or idiosyncrasies have nothing to do with our social treatment of him. His rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, so long as he obeys the laws, are never questioned; or no one thinks of doubting his right to his opinions, of whatever character, and to utter them or not as he chooses. Why then should we commend in the men of any other State what we ask and expect no credit for doing in our own? Why should men puff themselves up like poulter pigeons, for doing in one State what in a sister State is done as a matter of course because it is right to do it? The fact is, when I meet a man who thinks it necessary to boast of his honesty I expect to find him dishonest, or of his gentility, I expect he will prove a boor; or of his friendship I expect to find him as treacherous as JUDAS ISCARIOT is reputed to have been. I take no stock in either the men or the locality, North, South, East or West, that find it necessary to proclaim that they do not skin people alive and throw their carcasses out to bleach and rot like carrion.



CAMOENSIA MAXIMA.

It will probably be recollected that in some of my previous notes I advised men who could bring no money hither to stay at home. To-day Col. Concussion HARDEE made his little speech again before the Convention. It is the same little speech that I heard in Richmond, and have read since wherever it has been reported with variations. The variation to-day was that the Florida Fruit Growers' Association did not do its work as well as it might, last year, because it encouraged Northern men who had no money to come hither and settle on the homestead lands. "We don't want Northern men here without money!" exclaimed the Concussion Colonel with the biggest kind of concussion. He is right too; and it is the kindest thing I can say to a Northern man who has no money, *keep away from Florida*—that is, if he has any intention of coming.

The Col. also insisted that it was important the Association should do something more than it had done with reference to orange culture. He said it was all "at sixes and sevens." No two men would give the same advice concerning it. (By the way, I have scarcely found two persons in Florida who gave the same advice about anything—although it is so plenty as to be a drug on the market), and it was confusion worse confounded. Then the orange belt of Florida ought to be defined. Forty years ago he saw oranges growing 200 miles North of the now proclaimed limit of the orange belt. It should be better defined, &c., &c.

I shall have to leave my notes on "Col. SELLERS" of Memphis, Tenn., and also all notes on the State Fair until to-morrow. I've exceeded both my strength and limits already.

A NEW SHRUB. *Viburnum dilatatum*, the Botanical Magazine says, is a hardy white-flowered Japanese shrub, with large leaves somewhat like those of the common Hazel Nut. There are ten or twelve Japanese species of Viburnum, including the present plant which promises to be a welcome addition to our gardens. Some of the Viburnums owe much of their beauty to the fact that they bear enlarged but abortive flowers in a way analogous to those of the Hydrangea. In the present species, however, the flowers are all normal, forming dense rounded clusters at the apex of the downy stem.

Floricultural.

ANNUALS.

DURING the next two weeks, we may sow Antirrhinum, Petunia, Balsam, Perilla nankinensis, Callirhoe, Pansies, Alonsoa, Jacobæa, Salpiglossis, Nigella, Linum, Brachycome, Clarkia, Collinsia, Cacalia, Abronia, Ageratum, Viscaria, Alyssum, Amaranthus, Argemone, Bartonia, Browallia, Dianthus, Cannas, Celosia, Erysimum, Euphorbia, Entoca, Lobelia, Lupinus, Malope, Marigold, Mignonette, Nemophila, Nolana, Phlox, Ricinus, Salvia, Sanvitalia, Stock, Trapæolum, Whitlavia.

The above are among the most desirable of the Annuals; all either hardy or half-hardy, succeeding with ordinary skill and without bottom heat or any of the florist's "secret" appliances.

Of *Antirrhinum* we recommend the *dwarf* speckled and striped varieties. Though perennials, they will give greater satisfaction if raised from seed every spring. They bloom less freely the second year and are often much injured by the winter, even if protected. Planted at this time, or within two weeks, they will bloom early in July, continuing until after frosts.

Petunias started now will begin to bloom as soon as established in the open ground. We have found that the potato beetle is very partial to this plant, as to every other relative of its first choice, *Solanum tuberosum*.

We prefer the strain of *Balsam* known as Smith's Prize, having used it several years, always with most gratifying results as regards variety of color, size and "doubleness" of bloom. Place the plants two feet apart and never two or more together. Give them well-rotted manure generously and the results will please.

Perilla nankinensis, of plants valuable only for foliage, is one of the best. It is a dark, purplish-brown—almost black, bronzed with dull green. Rapid growth—large, crimped leaf.

Pansy seed can be procured for from five to fifty cents per packet. Get the best. The soil cannot be too rich, and the situation should be shady after early morning. If once they suffer from dryness, the flowers dwindle to little things. Save seeds only from the best marked, largest flowers. A thread or yarn should be tied about them as they bloom.

Alonsoa requires a little care as to watering, on account of a readiness to damp off, when not sown upon hotbeds. The flowers are small but brilliant, and they may be potted in the fall for winter purposes.

Salpiglossis, at least to those who have never cultivated it, is to be highly recommended. The flowers are funnel-shaped, two inches in diameter, purple, light blue, buff, crimson—all prettily veined, rich and velvety. *S. nigra* is a novelty, nearly or quite black. They prefer a sandy soil and shade from the hottest sunshine.

Among *Clarkias*, several novelties are worthy of note. Mr. B. S. WILLIAMS of London offers "Purple King" and "Salmon Queen" as comparable in substance to the finest double Balsam.

Collinsia is a pretty California annual, growing about one foot high; some lilac, some white and purple, and others (*C. multicolor*) crimson, lilac and white.

Of the *Viscarias*,—*Dunnetti, Cardinalis, elegans picta striata* are the best.

Amaranthus salicifolius is beautiful when well grown. Queen Victoria is said to resemble *tricolor* in its tints and *salicifolius* in form. In the sandy soil of the south side of Long Island, we have grown these plants so as to form the most beautiful objects of the garden. The brightly contrasting colors of crimson, yellow and green would early develop, spreading over the whole plant and increasing in brilliancy until frost. But in northern New Jersey, they have never with us been worth ground-room—varieties of *tricolors*, etc., never breaking at all, and *salicifolius* dying unaccountably during midsummer.

Argemone is a fine thistle and goes well with *Chamapeuce* among bedded-out *Cacti* and *Agaves*.

We can speak very highly of the annual Pinks—such as *Chinensis, Heddewiggi, laciniatus, imperialis, albus, astrosanguineus*. These in warmer climates are biennial or perennial. But it is easier and better to raise them from seeds than it is to trouble about protection—growing as they do with the utmost readiness and certainty, and blooming early and continuing until the first of November. Through August the first flowers mature seeds and the plants become ragged. But they recover and give satisfaction while they last.

The *Cannas* from seeds sown now, make strong plants of great leaf-beauty. Soak the seeds in hot water over night.

Among *Celosias*, *C. pyramidalis plumosa* and *Japonica variegata* are mentioned among the newer varieties.

Euphorbia variegata is margined with white and is a very pleasing, easily-grown annual.

For those who like yellow flowers, *Tagetes signata pumila* (new dwarf Marigold) will be sure to please. It is compact and round and one mass of flowers.

The foliage of *Nolana* resembles that of young Petunias, though smoother and more spatulate. The flowers in form are like a morning-glory, though far more enduring. *N. atriplicifolia* is distinctly blue, yellow and white in horizontal bands. It thrives best in sandy soil and warm exposures. We have found but the one objection to this annual that it is generally eaten up by insects unless dusted occasionally with hellebore, sulphur or some other exterminator.

Phlox Drummondi has the only fault of growing too tall for its strength and foliage. The latest variety of Phlox bears a large, enduring flower of a dull Yankeen color.

Ricinus Gibsoni is a very distinct variety of the castor-oil plant, having dark-red foliage and growing about five feet high.

Sanvitalia procumbens fl. pl. grows rapidly, bearing little Dahlia-like flowers one inch diameter, of a greenish-yellow, semi and fully double.

Among *Zinnias, Z. Darwini* is offered, fifty cents for twenty-five seeds. We have read several accounts of this annual and are prepossessed that it would be valued less if it bore a less "taking" specific name.

With trifling modification, all the above may be planted in pots or boxes, well-drained and filled with sod-soil, or old manure, and sand. Do not be afraid of using sand too freely. Press the soil firmly and smoothly—plant in depth according to size of seed and—without ever permitting the surface to "dry out"—endeavor to preserve it barely moist. C.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

Camoensia Maxima.—J. J. Monteirs in his work entitled "Angola and the River Congo" describes this plant as a hard, woody bush with long branches, fine large leaves, and bearing bunches of flowers, the lower, and by far the largest petal of which is shaped like a shell of a delicate creamy-white, with its edges exquisitely crimped, bordered with a golden rim, and nearly the size of an open hand. Half-a-dozen of the seeds which he procured, germinated at Kew Gardens, so that we may "hope this lovely flower will be shortly in cultivation—a welcome addition to our hot houses." Our engraving is reprodnced from the London Garden.

Thunbergia Harrisoni.—We hope that some of our readers will try this vine out-of-doors next summer. An English exchange (The Gardener) says:—"Like most other climbers it grows better and makes larger plants when it can be planted out in a prepared border having ample drainage, with a compost of rough, fibry loam, leaf-mold and a little sand and charcoal, all well mixed together." It is easy to mistake these flowers for Gloxinias, which alone will give an idea of their beauty. All accounts agree that the red spider is its greatest enemy—though easily checked if the plants are properly drained, well supplied with water and frequently syringed.

Double Begonias.—The English Journal of Horticulture says:—The double-flowered Pelargoniums and Cinerarias are to be followed by double-flowered Begonias, some varieties of the tuberous-rooted section being announced by M. Lemoine of Nancy. It is only the male flowers of each fascicle that are double, the female flowers retaining their normal form. Of these varieties B. Gloire de Nancy is in color rich vermilion, and B. Lemoinei orange scarlet. They are to be distributed the ensuing season.

The Revue Horticole states that the practice of watering store and greenhouse plants with tepid water is wrong A much better result is obtained by using the coldest water within reach.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near N w York City.

LARGE GRAPE VINES.

March 13.—California is going to show her biggest grape-vine at the Centennial Exhibition this summer, and I think *we* Eastern people ought to look up some of our wonders in this line, for who knows but we might match our neighbors over the other side of the big ridge?

There are some large, wild vines to be found on this side of the mountains, and if the very largest were hunted up and exhibited they would not fall far behind the California Monster. Several years since I procured a section of wild grape-vine, cut from the stem fifty feet from the roots, which measures now, after being thoroughly seasoned, twenty-four inches in circumference. The vine from which this piece was taken grew wild in the woods of Tennessee, and as the lower part of the stem had commenced to decay, I was obliged to take a section at some distance from the ground in order to secure a good, sound specimen. Now, I want some one to find a larger wild vine than mine, and the one who does shall have my specimen to go along with it to the Centennial. Of course I should be allowed a little lee way for shrinkage of my specimen, still I will not be particular on that score, and if anybody can find a larger this side of the Rocky Mountains I will take off my hat to the finder and own up beaten. Come now, boys, "trot out" your big grape-vines and don't let the Californians have it all their own way with their Santa Barbara wonder.

THE KIRTLAND RASPBERRY.

I am pleased to see that this old and excellent hardy native raspberry is again being recommended as worthy of a place among the best of the newer sorts. I have had occasion to discard many a variety for which I paid a fancy price, but the *Kirtland* has never met such a fate at my hands, because of its many valuable properties. It is one of the earliest of all our native varieties, and although the berries are only of a medium size, they are excellent in quality and of a firm texture, consequently carry well to market. There is, however, one difficulty in the way of reviving old sorts like the *Kirtland*, and that is in procuring genuine plants unmixed with others, for those who make it a point to try all the new varieties are very likely to neglect the old, consequently there is quite frequently a good deal of mixing of plants, which are not easily separated again except by those who make raspberry culture a specialty.

Raspberries and strawberries are probably the most difficult of all our small fruits to procure pure and genuine, because the plants spread rapidly, and it is not uncommon to find suckers of the red raspberries coming up six to ten feet from the parent stool, and perhaps directly among those of another variety cultivated in adjoining rows. The runners of strawberries will spread over walks and into adjoining rows, taking root in a few days, thereby becoming fixed in a position to stay and go on propagating its kind; therefore, constant attention is required to keep varieties pure and unmixed when two or more are cultivated in the same field or garden. Much of the diversity of opinion so frequently expressed in regard to the value, habits and merits of varieties originate in this way, one cultivator having the genuine sort and another something else, but both suppose they are talking about one and the same.

I have so frequently purchased mixed varieties that I am inclined to think a good many other persons have shared no better, consequently one cannot be too sure of the identity of a variety of raspberry or strawberry before expressing an opinion in regard to its merits. If somebody would only bring out the old *Kirtland* raspberry under a new name and sell the plants for $10 a dozen, it could scarcely fail to be pronounced a "big thing," until some other body discovered and let the world know that it was not new.

THOSE SEEDLING POTATOES.

March 14.—My colored gardener, JOHN, as I stated a few weeks since, has become quite interested in the potato seedling question, and the way he is going on the bedding plants will be crowded out of the greenhouse in order to make room for his pets. JOHN cannot read or write, which is lucky for me, because, did he once see the advertisement of "Pringle's *Hybridized* Potato Seed," I fear he would go stark mad, as I have almost, in reading it and trying to find out how he gets *hybridized* potato seed by *crossing* two or any number of varieties of the same species.

In my (perhaps) ignorance I had always supposed that a hybrid was a mixture of two species of plants or animals, and not a cross between two individuals or varieties of one, and consequently I am puzzled to know what other species of potato besides the *Solanum tuberosum* Mr. PRINGLE is employing to obtain his *hybridized* seed. May be it's all right, but my old brain is too dull to understand why the word "hybrid" should be incorrectly used, as it evidently is in this case.

But to return to the seedling potatoes, which are thriving as well as could be expected while cramped in small thumb-pots and boxes. It is quite an interesting study to note the variations in these seedlings, although raised from seed-balls as gathered in the field, without any regard to variety or cross-fertilization. The leaves vary in size, form and color, while the precociousness of an occasional plant in producing tubers is somewhat remarkable. Quite a number of these little seedlings, which are not over three inches high, have already produced from one to half a dozen tubers as large as good-sized peas, which shows there is likely to be a great difference in the earliness and productiveness of the varieties.

Then, again, one can see at a glance by these precocious seedlings how the tubers are formed, or upon what part of the plant they are produced, which is not upon the true roots, as many persons suppose, but upon subterranean stems. After the first upright or main stem has reached a certain degree of development, lateral branches spring from buds near the base, but above the primary roots. These laterals push into the soil a short distance only, then rest, as it were, and become the depositories of nourishment, which is formed from the fertilizing elements in the soil and air, assimilitated by the leaves, then sent down to these subterranean stems, which are developed into what we term potatoes.

Now, I have referred to JOHN'S seedling potatoes, not because there is anything new or novel about his experiments, or that there is the slightest probability of a superior variety being found among them, but merely for the purpose of showing farmers' sons who may read this that producing new sorts is not a mysterious or difficult operation. It is not necessary to start the plants in a greenhouse, or even in a hotbed, although they may be advanced more rapidly in these structures than in the open ground; still, whatever treatment is required for hastening the growth and maturity of tomatoes will answer for seedling potatoes. If our farmers' sons were encouraged to make experiments in this direction and shown what there was to be learned in regard to habits of plants under domestication, there would be less complaint of farming being a dull business.

Every boy residing in the country should be taught how to bud, graft and propagate plants from seeds and cuttings, as well as receive a few lessons in vegetable physiology, at least enough to enable him to determine the principal organs of reproduction, in order that he may know how the different varieties of corn become mixed when planted near together, as well as many other kinds of cultivated plants. Five dollars' worth of books and a course of six lectures given in the country school-house, or elsewhere, by some one who knows how to explain such things in simple, easily-understood language, would, in nine cases out of ten, make a boy believe that the farm was, as it is, the best place in the world for amusing and instructive study.

The girls may be admitted to the same course of study and lectures without the least fear of making them any the less better fitted to become wives and companions for farmers or those who belong to what are termed the learned professions. There is not a school district in any of the more thickly-settled of the old or new States which cannot afford to pay for instruction of this kind, and I am quite certain that when our young folks have once been shown the way, there will be less discontent and inclination to leave the country and huddle into over-crowded cities and villages.

Entomological.

CONGRESS AND THE ENTOMOLOGICAL COMMISSION.

A FEW weeks since Senator INGALLS of Kansas, introduced a bill providing for the appointment of a commission composed of scientific entomologists, to investigate the habits of insects most destructive to crops, and especially the Rocky Mountain Locust. We had at the time little faith in the passage of the bill, or any other likely to lead to practical results, knowing the general indifference of politicians to anything which would aid in the advancement of the interests of agriculture. Had our Senator from Kansas introduced a bill appropriating a-half a million dollars to ascertain the cause of the Aurora Borealis, or whether the earth was hollow or stuffed with sawdust, there would have been a much better chance of success, than to ask for a mere pittance to aid in discovering some method of saving the farmers of this country two or three hundreds of millions of dollars annually, which they now lose through the depredations of noxious insects.

Another mistake of our worthy Senator from Kansas, was his estimating the cost of the proposed commission at from $15,000 to $25,000 per annum, which should have been placed at $100,000 at least. This sum would have impressed our National Legislature with an idea of its importance, and then after whittling the sum down in the usual manner, one-fourth of that amount might have been obtained. But by starting out in such a modest manner, asking that only three entomologists be employed and at a salary of $5,000 a year, it left no margin for a lobby or whittling as the result has shown, for we learn that a bill has actually passed the Senate, providing for a commission of "one" entomologist at a salary of $4,000, to make investigations of various kinds of insects, the locust, chinch bugs, cotton and army worm to receive particular attention. Now this bill as passed by the Senate, is only making a farce of what is a very serious and important matter of national interest. To ask or expect one man to spread himself all over the United States and Territories, and investigate a dozen different kinds of noxious insects at the same time, is absurd, and we only hope no entomologist will be found willing to place himself in such a ridiculous position as to attempt it.

If Congress will not appropriate a sum sufficient to make proper investigations, it had better do nothing, for we have had a surfeit of the "cheap John," kind of entomological reports in volumes issued from the Department of Agriculture, and we do not believe the people wish to pay for any more of the same sort. If the annual losses to our agriculture through insect agency are not already sufficient to command the respectful consideration of our law-makers, then we beg of them not to add insult to injury by proposing a "one horse" commission, and offering it a sum for compensation which would scarcely pay its expenses.

When the cotton worm appears in the Southern cotton fields again we hope the planters will remember that Congress refused to appoint, or pay a commission to investigate the habits of this insect and discover some method of destroying. Western farmers may also bear this in mind as the locusts sweep down from the mountains, devouring the last stalk of corn, wheat or other plant which has been reared by the sweat of their brows. It has been well said that the farmer "pays for all," but when in return for it he asks moderate rates of postage on the seeds, plants, and cuttings, which in thousands of instances he cannot obtain through any other medium except the mails he is informed that the Government cannot afford to accommodate him in this matter, although as everybody knows millions of dollars are annually squandered by the department to enrich certain political favorites. No matter what party is in power the same lavish expenditure of funds goes on.

It is seldom that the agricultural community ask for any direct aid as in this case of a commission to make investigations in regard to noxious insects, but the refusal of Congress to comply with their wishes, shows how much our Legislators know or care about the losses which occur through the ravages of these pests of the farm.

Pomological.

ABOUT QUINCES.

THE common quince (*Cydonia vulgaris*) is supposed to have been cultivated by the ancient Romans, and from that time to the present, hence it is not strange that we have quite a number of distinct varieties. The most popular sort is what is generally termed the orange or apple quince; but even of this there are a great number of varieties, some much larger, earlier, and better flavored than others. In some few instances distinct names have been given to what are supposed to be distinct varieties, such as Rae's Seedling, the Douglass and other sorts known in particular localities, but not generally mentioned in our pomological works.

Among the larger varieties of the apple-shaped quinces there is not sufficient difference to enable one to separate them by the aid of the most minute description, as can usually be done with pears and apples, hence our pomological authorities generally speak of all of any particular form as one variety, as, for instance, those of a globular form as the apple quince, and the pyriform as the

PEAR QUINCE.

These pear-shaped quinces are of the same species, and only varieties of the apple quince, and some of them very large, handsome and valuable. A few years since we procured one under the name of the Day quince, which is a very superior variety, quite long, bell or pear-shaped.

The pear-shaped varieties are sometimes sold under the name of the Portugal Quince, which is certainly incorrect. The genuine

PORTUGAL QUINCE

is quite distinct from the ordinary orauge or pear-shaped sorts, and, by some authors, supposed to be a distinct species. Its leaves are large, broad, nearly heart-shaped, very thick, and darker green than the above sorts. The growth of the tree is also more sturdy and coarse, the young twigs coarse, covered with very dark, almost ebony-colored, bark in autumn. The fruit is neither round nor pear-shaped, but oval, tapering to both ends, but the upper much the smaller. The fruit ripens late, and seldom assumes the bright, clear yellow color seen in the other sorts. It is said to be highly esteemed in England, but is seldom cultivated in this country, although we have frequently seen it in the old gardens and nurseries in the suburbs of this city.

ANGERS AND FONTENAY.

It has been claimed that these are varieties of the Portugal, but, after seeing hundreds of them bearing fruit, we feel inclined to doubt this, for they appear to be nothing more than varieties of the orange, or common pear-shaped sorts, producing a smaller fruit as a kind of offset to a more rapid growth of wood. But it will hardly do to be very positive in regard to the identity of either the Angers or Fontenay, as the French nurserymen have not heretofore been very particular in regard to the genuineness of quince stocks sent over to the Yankees, and it is not an uncommon occurence to find good apple and pear-shaped quinces among what were sent us as Angers and Fontenay. The quince which we have known as the Angers for the past twenty years is a small fruit, about two inches or a little more in diameter, and of the ordinary apple-shape, of excellent quality, but of too small a size to become popular for market.

CHINESE QUINCE.

(*Cydonia sinensis.*) This is a distinct species, cultivated mainly for ornamental purposes. The leaves are very thick, oval, oblong, the edges finely and sharply serrate. They frequently assume a bright crimson color in autumn. The flowers are large, white, or faintly tinged with rose, and slightly fragrant. The fruit is large, regular, oval, bright yellow when ripe, but the flesh is coarse and gritty, and, although it may be kept for six months, it can scarcely be considered as edible. This species is generally propagated by budding upon the common quince, it then grows rapidly, forming a handsome, large, erect-growing shrub ten to fifteen feet high. A few years since there were some quite old plants of this species in the gardens about this city, and presume there are an occasional one remaining, although we lost ours in the winter of 1873-4.

JAPAN QUINCES.

(*Cydonia Japonica.*) These are well known showy ornamental plants, producing very tough, hard, fragrant fruit, not generally considered edible. There are several varieties, mainly differing in the color of their flowers, which vary from a pure white to a deep, brilliant scarlet. Of late years the Japan quince has been recommended as a hedge plant, and it answers the purpose admirably, except that cattle will browse off the leaves if afforded an opportunity, therefore it should not be used except for ornamental hedges and screens. It is readily propagated by cuttings of the roots made in the fall, and kept where they will not freeze during the winter, but not warm enough to induce them to sprout and grow.

FRUIT IN WISCONSIN.

IN my article some weeks ago on fruits I made some errors, as I wrote it in a hurry, in the place of Tetofski read Red Astrachan and instead of Haas read St. Lawrence apples. We lost many varieties last winter but the Red Astrachan, St. Lawrence and Famouse were uninjured and the last two bore; next best were Northern Spy, and American Golden Russet, these five are about all we had that did any thing. There is a pear orchard 5 miles from here set in 1862 and but few trees have died and they bear well and annually. Among the best are Flemish Beauty, White Doyenne, Winter Nelis, Buffum and Beurre Clairgeu.

This is a country little thought of for farming, yet one man on 9 acres last year raised 716 bushels of oats, another on 7 acres raised 183 bushels of barley and on 12 acres 507 bushels of wheat, etc. A. M. VAN AUKEN.

Fort Howard, Wis.

SMITH'S CIDER APPLE.

I DON'T wonder at the great popularity of this apple when I see the profits arising from its culture in certain portions of the State of Pennsylvania. An instance of "money in the orchard" has lately been brought to my knowledge, where a farmer in Bucks County, Penn., concluded to plant a large portion, if not all, his acres in Smith's Cider Apple, and the result is he has accumulated riches from this source alone. Of course it was not by quietly sitting down and watching his trees grow and waiting for customers to come along and purchase his fruit, but he tended his trees carefully and made a market for his crop. He found the variety that was specially suited to his locality, that would always fruit, that sold freely, that carried well, and the result has been entire success. It did not matter to him that wise savants turned up their nose at his want of taste in not selecting a rich, highly flavored variety; sufficient that it would pay, and pay it has.—*Cor. Tribune.*

Domestic Economy.

MENDING TINWARE.

HAVING read a communication in the RURAL upon this subject, and, having had some experience in the art, I give your readers the benefit thereof.

One can very easily learn to mend their own tin, and a soldering iron is much better than a candle to do it with, as the solder will adhere to the tinned face of the iron, and may be drawn along a crack, or seam, and spread or rubbed over a hole. If the solder is not inclined to stick, a little rubbing the place with the hot iron will assist it to do so.

In order to brighten tin for soldering, it should only be scraped very lightly, that the iron plate beneath may be exposed as little as possible; for the reason that solder does not readily adhere to an iron or untinned surface, and if there are any spots uncovered by the solder, the iron will soon corrode and make a new hole—and this is the reason why I have learned better than to use acids, or soldering fluid. They are so powerfully corrosive—as your correspondent says—that they set up an action on the tin, especially if the iron is exposed, and in a little while the whole spot will be rusted out. *Acids are wholly unnecessary in soldering tinned surfaces.* Tinners do not use them in ordinary tin work; but they are useful for brass, copper, zinc, etc. A little rosin, put upon the place with your solder is all that is necessary, and is not corrosive. If the iron is heated *too* hot, so that it is red, the tinning upon it will be destroyed and at the same time will eat cavities in it, making a rough face, in which case it may be hammered down some, then filed bright, and tinned again, by heating it so that it will melt solder, and then rubbing its bright face in the melted soldier, with rosin, on a brick. The brick serves to keep it bright, until the solder adheres. REUBEN ANDREWS.

TO GET RID OF HOUSEHOLD PESTS.

CHAS. THOMPSON writes to the Scientific American that he has not seen a bedbug or flea in his house for many years, and adds:—If an army of them were to be brought in, mercury would speedily exterminate them; but I think cleanliness the best and perhaps the only preventive. The common house fly I do not molest, believing it more than compensates for its trouble by clearing the atmosphere of effluvia and the animalcules which always arise from the putrefaction of decaying substances during the warm weather. So also with the birds, which are quite numerous here, during the summer. Instead of shooting them or setting up scarecrows to frighten them away, I throw out every possible inducement for them to build their nests in my fruit trees. The birds capture a large share of the insects in the larval state, and thus the millers are prevented from depositing eggs for a future crop of worms. As to the loss of fruit by the birds, the latter are always sure to be on hand in force in the season of ripe fruit, whether they come early enough to take the worms or not. For the residue of insects which infest my vegetable garden I find that the laboratory of the chemist furnishes materials fatal to them all, among which white hellebore and cayenne pepper are of the most utility.

The bug or worm which cannot find vegetation unflavored with these articles will seek its breakfast elsewhere, and leave my garden unmolested. A few drops of carbolic acid in a pint of water will clean house plants from lice in a very short time. If mosquitoes or other blood-suckers infest our sleeping rooms at night, we uncork a bottle of oil of penny-royal, and these insects leave in great haste, nor will they return so long as the air in the room is loaded with the fumes of that aromatic herb. If rats enter the cellar, a little powdered potash thrown into their holes, or mixed with meal and scattered in their runways, never fails to drive them away. Cayenne pepper will keep the buttery and storeroom free from ants and cockroaches. If a mouse makes an entrance into any part of your dwellings, saturate a rag with cayenne in solution and stuff it into a hole, which cannot be repaired with either wood or mortar. No rat or mouse will eat that rag for the purpose of opening communication with a depot of supplies.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Rice Batter Cakes.—Mix one-fourth wheat flour to three-fourths of rice flour; add a little salt; raise and bake as buckwheat cakes.

Infants' Food.—Mix the rice flour with cold milk and stir it into boiling milk until of the proper thickness; sweeten with loaf sugar.

Rice Muffins.—To one quart of sour milk three well beaten eggs, a little salt, teaspoonful of soda and enough of rice flour to thicken to a stiff batter. Bake in rings.

Rice Custard.—Into a quart of boiling water stir two tablespoonfuls of rice flour, dissolved in a little cold milk; add two well beaten eggs to boiling mixture: sweeten and flavor to taste.

Rolled Jelly Cake.—One cup sugar, one cup flour, three eggs, one tablespoonful sweet milk, half teaspoonful soda, essence, etc. Beat sugar and eggs slightly, then put all altogether and beat thoroughly.

Rice Sponge Cake.—Three-quarters of a pound of rice flour; one pound of white sugar, ten eggs; beat the yelks with the sugar; the whites alone; add the yelks, sugar and flour together a little at a time; flavor and bake in shallow pans.

Batter Pudding.—One quart sweet rich milk, twelve tablespoonfuls flour, a little salt, eight eggs. Beat the eggs separately, very light, and have the batter perfectly smooth. Bake quickly, and send to table immediately. Serve with butter sauce.

To Clean the Inside of any Tea Pot.—If the inside of your tea-pot or coffee-pot is black from long use, fill it with water, throw in a small piece of lard soap, set on the stove and let it boil from half an hour to an hour. It will clean as bright as a new dollar, and costs no work.

Scolloped Veal.—Chop cold cooked veal fine, put a layer in a baking dish, alternating with a layer of powdered crackers, salt, pepper and butter, until you fill the dish. Beat up two eggs, add a pint of milk, pour it over the veal and crackers. Cover with a plate and let the top brown.

Cleaning Knives.—A small, clean potato, with the end cut off, is a very convenient medium of applying brick dust to knives, keeping it about the right moisture, while the juice of the potato assists in removing stains from the surface. We can get a better polish by this method than by any other we have tried, and with less labor.

Indian Cake, or pone, as it is sometimes called, makes a delightful breakfast dish. Our method is as follows:—1 quart of buttermilk, 4 teacupfuls of Indian meal, 2 of wheat flour, 4 tablespoonfuls of molasses or brown sugar, 1 even tablespoonful each of soda and salt. Bake in a quick oven. This rule makes two handsome cakes.

Hot Slaw.—Butter the size of an egg, half a cup of milk, yellow of two eggs, teaspoonful of salt, one-fourth of a teaspoonful of pepper, small level teaspoonful of dry mustard and three tablespoonfuls of vinegar. Put the butter into the skillet with the fine cut cabbage and the other ingredients, and stir all the time until the cabbage heats well through.

To Mend Chinaware.—Take a very thick solution of gum arabic and stir into it plaster of Paris until the mixture is of proper consistency. Apply it with a brush to the fractured edges of the chinaware and stick them together. In a few days it will be impossible to break the article in the same place. The whiteness of the cement renders it doubly valuable.

Hygienic Information.

WHEATEN MEAL BREAD.

IN the "Philosophy of Eating," Dr. BELLOWS gives the following classification of food:—"First, Carbonates; that class which supplies the lungs with fuel, and thus furnishes heat to the system and supplies fat, or adipose matter. Second—Nitrates; that class which supplies the waste of muscle. Third—Phosphates; the class which supplies the bones, the brain, and the nerves, and gives vital power, both muscular and mental." The Nitrates and Phosphates in wheat are all contained in the *gluten*, which adheres to the bran and middlings, and is rejected with it in the bolting process. Dr. BELLOWS states that "animals and persons have been fed on pure starch, sugar, or fat alone, and they gradually pined away and died." He adds:—"The Nitrates in all the fine starch flour bread a person can eat is not sufficient to sustain life beyond 50 days!"

The superiority of wheaten meal bread was recently confirmed in Paris by a French chemist thus:—Two dogs of the same age and apparent strength and vitality, were fed—the one on starch bread and water alone. He pined away and died at the end of 40 days. The other was fed on wheaten meal bread and water alone, and at the end of 40 days he exhibited increased strength and vitality.

Dr. HAMLIN says:—"Superfine (starch) flour bread ranks among the predominant causes which shorten life." Bolted flour is only a carbonate—a heater; hence, it not only fails to build up the system and impart vitality and muscular strength, but by its heating and inflammatory nature enkindles disease, and is the prolific source of fevers and premature death. GOD made wheat in the right proportions to build up the entire system. The bolting process is a sin—a deadly curse.

O. S. HUBBELL, M. D., a distinguished Pharmaceutist of Philadelphia, says:—"The whole grain of wheat contains of tissue-making elements—gluten, albumen, &c.,—double the amount of that portion called fine flour. He adds:—"As the 'bolted part' is only one-fourth of the whole, it follows that each pound of it is equal to three pounds of fine flour in nutritive elements."

Dr. SAMUEL JACKSON, Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in Pennsylvania, whose opinions as a physician and physiologist, in this and other countries, are held in such high estimation, says:—"The phosphate of lime is a necessary constituent of all grain. Furthermore, it is an important nutritive principle, and recent experiments have proved it to be an indispensable element in the construction—not of bones only, but of all the animal tissues. A deficiency of the phosphate of lime in food is a common cause of ill health, of defective development and retarded growth in children, one-fourth of whom die ere they pass the age of seven! By the mistaken bolting process, the phosphate of lime is rejected with the bran, and in consequence this necessary and highly important element of nutrition, contrary to the arrangements by nature, is lost, and not obtained from bolted fine flour bread."

No such bread, in ancient times down to the period of the emperors, was known. It is the invention of modern folly. Mark, and observe the following statement. Dr. BELLOWS says that it is found by analysis that the human body is composed of 14 elements—the basis of every part of the system. He gives the 14 names, then adds:—"Wheat contains the same 14 elements found in the human body, and in the nearest average proportion of any other cereal or single article of food required to supply the system with muscle-making, heat producing and brain and nerve-feeding elements. Unbolted flour, containing 14 essential ingredients needed to build and nourish the 14 elements in the human body, is the true natural aliment of the race."

Wheat is scientifically termed the "staff of life." It contains everything necessary to the growth and support of the human system. The Eastern Christians, who retired from persecution to the deserts of Egypt and Arabia, lived on bread, crushed wheat and water alone, yet lived long and happy; their ages ranged from 101 to 120 years each! Let every person desirous of good health and long life make a speedy return to this *natural* and nutritive article of bread. Let them reject modern fashionable cookery, which Lord KAMES says, "Depopulates like a pestilence."

S. B. R.

Middlebury, Vt., Feb., 1876.

EATING—DYSPEPSIA.

IT is an old German adage that "more people dig their own graves with their teeth than with spades," and verily it with seem so if we would look at the immense number of dyspeptics, rheumatics and gouty individuals, creeping through life in pain and wretchedness. Yet it is next to impossible to induce even thinking people to control their appetites, and to eat such things and at such times as nature shows them is necessary and right. Dr. Hall declares, unhesitatingly, that it is wrong to eat without an appetite, for it shows there is no gastric juice in the stomach, and that nature does not need food, and not needing it, there being no fluid to receive and act upon it, it remains there only to putrify, the very thought of which should be sufficient to deter any man from eating without an appetite the remainder of his life. If a tonic is taken to whet the appetite, it is a mistaken course, for its only result is to cause one to eat more when already an amount has been eaten beyond what the gastric juice is able to prepare. The object to be obtained is a large supply of food; and whatever fails to accomplish that essential object, fails to have any efficacy towards the cure of dyspeptic diseases. The formation of gastric juice is directly proportioned to the wear and tear of the system, which it is to be the means of supplying, and this wear and tear can only take place as the result of exercise. The efficient remedy for dyspeptics is work—out-door work—beneficial and successful in direct proportion as it is agreeable, interesting and profitable.

BABIES' LEGS.

BOW-LEGS and knock-knees are among the common deformities of humanity; and wise mothers assert that the crookedness in either case arises from the afflicted one having been put upon his or her feet too early in babyhood. But a Massachusetts physician who has watched for the true cause, thinks differently. He attributes the first-mentioned distortion to a habit some youngsters delight in of rubbing the sole of one foot against that of the other; some will go to sleep with their soles pressed together. They appear to enjoy the contact only when the feet are naked; they do not attempt to make it when they are socked or slippered. So the remedy is obvious; keep the baby's soles covered. Knock-knees the doctor ascribes to a different childish habit, that of sleeping on the side, with one knee tucked into the hollow behind the other. He has found that where one leg has been bowed inward more than another, the patient has always slept on one side, and the uppermost member has been that has been most deformed. Here the preventive is to pad the insides of the knees so as to keep them apart, and let the limbs grow freely their own way. All of which is commended to mothers who desire the physical uprightness of their progeny.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

Two teaspoonfuls of finely powdered charcoal, drank in half a tumbler of water, will often give relief to the sick headache when caused, as in most cases it is, by a superabundance of acid in the stomach.

Parents should be very careful and not let the rays of the sun shine directly upon the faces of sleeping children. Strong light is very injurious to the eyes, especially if they are inclined to weakness.

A small piece of paper or linen, moistened with spirits of turpentine and put into a bureau or wardrobe for a single day, two or three times, is said to be a sufficient preservative against moths.

Scientific and Useful.

LIME AS A CONSTITUENT OF PLANTS.

THE Scientific Farmer for February contains an article devoted to lime, which comprises a positive scientific statement of facts. The following extract will be especially interesting and useful:

Among the most prominent constituents of plants is lime. It is one of the items indispensable to plant growth. The importance therefore, of its being at the disposal of crops as plant food is at once recognized. A few figures will indicate this more clearly. The table shows the percentage of lime in the ash of the plants named.

Grasses, average of sixteen kinds	7.9
Red clover	34.0
Potato tubers	2.3
Potato tops, August	39.0
Potato tops, October	46.2
Turnip roots	10.4
Turnip tops	32.4
Indian corn grain	2.7
Indian corn stalks	10.5
Wheat grain	3.1
Wheat straw	6.2
Tobacco	37.0

The table gives prominence to two facts, namely—that lime is an abundant ingredient in the ash of plants, and that the variation on account of this item in different plants and between the stalk and seed, or roots and stems of the same plant is very great. The latter fact has given rise to the name "lime plants" being applied to tobacco, clover, beans, peas, and other leguminous plants on account of the preponderance of that substance in their mineral composition. For a similar reason potatoes, beets, and root crops generally have received the appellation of "potash plants." Perhaps the fruits might be added to the list. It is also noteworthy in this connection that grains are remarkable for the large amount of phosphoric acid present in their ash, in comparison with the other ash constituents.

AMMONIA.

No housekeeper should be without a bottle of spirits of ammonia; for besides its medical properties, it is invaluable for household purposes. It is nearly as useful as soap, and its cheapness brings it within the reach of all. Put a teaspoonful of ammonia in a quart of warm soapsuds, dip a cloth in it and go over your soiled paint and see how rapidly the dirt will disappear; no scrubbing will be necessary. It will cleanse and brighten wonderfully. To a pint of hot suds add a teaspoonful of the spirits, dip in your forks and spoons, (or whatever you have to clean,) rub with a soft brush and then finish with a chamois skin. For washing windows and mirrors it has no equal. It will remove grease spots from every fabric without injuring the garment. Put on the ammonia nearly clear; lay blotting paper over, and set a hot iron on it for a moment. Also a few drops in water will cleanse and whiten laces and muslins beautifully. A few drops in a bowl of water, if the skin be oily, will remove all greasiness and disagreeable odors. Added to a foot-bath, it entirely absorbs all noxious smells, and nothing is better to remove dandruff from the hair. For cleaning hair and nail brushes it is equally good.

For heartburn and dyspepsia, the aromatic spirits of ammonia is especially prepared; ten drops of which, taken in a wine-glass of water, will give relief.

For house plants, five or six drops to every pint of water, once a week, will make them flourish. It is also good to cleanse plant jars. So be sure and keep a bottle of it in the house, and have a glass stopper, as it eats away corks.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1876.

A NEW HALF VOLUME.

JUST THE TIME TO RENEW OR SUBSCRIBE.

As this number closes the first half of our present volume, the present is a good time to renew or subscribe for the RURAL. All whose subscriptions expire this week will find the No. of the paper—**1365**—printed after their names on address label. We trust all such will renew at once, thus securing the uninterrupted visits of the paper to their homes—and all the neighbors and acquaintances they may induce to join them will be heartily welcomed into the ranks of the RURAL Brigade, receiving the full benefits of membership. Now that the busy season approaches every one who has a farm, orchard or garden—even a small plot of ground for cultivation—will find the RURAL a profitable investment, while the wife, sons and daughters cannot fail of being interested and instructed by a perusal of its pages. Will not our readers who concur in this, kindly tell their friends about the paper and invite them to give it a trial?

New clubs may be formed to commence with April, and additions to present ones are always in order. Our liberal Premiums are continued, so that Agents and all persons making additions to our list will be rewarded for their efforts.

ANALYSES OF FERTILIZERS.

THE Experimental Station of Middletown, Conn., of which Prof. ATWATER is Director, has been analyzing various brands of fertilizers and has issued a formidable report which, we presume, will figure largely in advertisements and circulars of fertilizer manufacturers the coming season. No names are given; but the value of the manures as per analysis is shown to vary widely—one fertilizer being branded as composed of 63 per cent. of sand. It is said that some of the leading manufacturers readily fall in with the idea of selling according to the value as certified by analysis. The idea is a good one, but is it practicable? Is each consignment of fertilizer to be analyzed? Is one analysis to suffice for a season? or how often will manufacturers submit specimens to the chemists? What is to prevent the manufacturer from submitting samples of much greater value than their general average? On the other hand, and quite as probable, an enemy, possibly a rival, may mix some such worthless substance as sand in a favorite brand of fertilizer and get the chemist's analysis for the purpose of breaking down a rival. We believe in chemical analyses, but not as absolute and unquestionable certificates to the unvarying value of one fertilizer or the demerit of another.

A great deal has been said, and some of it both unjustly and unwisely, about great frauds in commercial fertilizers. Possibly such frauds may exist, but they are neither common nor extensive. With considerable experience in buying fertilizers, the writer has rarely, if ever, failed to find them return more than their cost in the increased value of the crop. The only exceptions have been in seasons too dry to dissolve the fertilizer in time for the crop to use it, and even then it was available for the second year. More often, we have found fertilizers yielding a profit of 200, 300 and 400 per cent. This being so, we have earnestly urged farmers to use fertilizers, cautiously and in small quantities at first, to be increased as warranted by experience. With the very highest recommendations of the chemist, it is not safe for farmers to buy fertilizers by wholesale and use them indiscriminately without experiment. We do not see that it is not safe, despite the anathemas against brands, for every farmer to buy a small quantity for experiment, and if the result is profitable, increase the amount used.

What security has the farmer against a change in the quality of the fertilizer? Exactly the same that he has in any other business transaction. If a farmer becomes accustomed to one brand of fertilizer, he can easily tell it by the appearance, and when he believes there is fraud, he should insist on an analysis. Here the chemist's skill will come in good play, though it will not need a chemist to detect 63 per cent. of sand in a sample. We believe, however, that adulterations are much more rare than are usually supposed. The leading and reputable manufacturers of fertilizers have too much at stake to perpetrate such petty frauds. If men want to cheat, there are a thousand safer and pleasanter ways of doing it than this, and, as a rule, this business has, we believe, as small a proportion of rascals as any.

There is, of course, a difference in the quality of fertilizers—often a difference, and not a dishonest one either—in different lots of the same brand. The manufacturer cannot possibly turn out exactly the same chemical compound each time. What he can and should do is to guarantee a certain per cent. of soluble phosphoric acid, of nitrogen and of potash, if his preparation claims that as a constituent. With such a guarant, and having the farmer keep his eyes well open to the effect on his crops, there will be but little danger of any very serious cheating. There are thousands of farmers who might use commercial fertilizers with profit, but who have never done so through fear of being cheated. There will be no danger in making an experiment the coming season, despite all cries of fraud.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

New York State Wool Growers' Meeting.—The annual meeting of the N. Y. State Sheep Breeders' and Wool Growers' Association was held in Canandaigua, March 8th. From a report in the Country Gentleman, by the Secretary, we learn that in the absence of the President, Hon. HENRY S. RANDALL, the First Vice-President, E. BRONSON of Bloomfield, occupied the Chair. The spring sheep shearing will be held April 25th and 26th at Batavia. The following committee was appointed to confer with committees of the Ohio and Vermont Societies with reference to a Sheep Register, said committee to report at the April meeting of the Society: E. Townsend, D. Cossitt, S. B. Lusk, John P. Ray, W. G. Markham. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President—HENRY S. RANDALL, Cortland; Rec. Sec.—W. G. Markham, Monroe; Cor. Sec.—W. T. Reamer, Yates; Treas.—A. F. Wilcox, Onondaga; Vice-Pres'ts.—Davis Cossitt, Onondaga; Edward Bronson, Ontario; Elbert Townsend, Genesee; Cooper Sayre, Ontario; Peter Martin, Monroe; Lionel Sherwood, Wayne; Joseph Harris, Monroe; Daniel Jamison, Wayne; E. E. Brown, Cayuga; R. J. Gardener, Yates; Henry Morgan, Cayuga; W. N. Perry, Yates; R. A. Avery, Fulton; W. Roble, Steuben; W. M. Holmes, Washington; C. D. Champlin, Steuben; Silas Hillman, Livingston; G. L. Mills, Montgomery; Richard Peck, Livingston; Carl Heyne, Duchess; Ira D. Crandall, Allegany; Isaac N. Johnston, Seneca; J. E. Gilmore, Genessee; I. W. Harvey, Seneca. Ex. Com.—James Geddes, Onondaga; Peter McMillan, Ontario; H. H. L. Sweet, Onondaga; J. C. Short, Livingston; C. Crossman, Genessee; J. J. Brainard, Wyoming; S. B. Lush, Genessee; Stephen Briggs, Yates; E. L. Gage, Madison; G. F. Martin, Monroe; C. F. Hardick, Orleans.

Vermont Sheep Breeders in Council.—The breeders of Spanish Merino sheep in Vermont, at a recent adjourned meeting held in Middlebury—with Col. E. S. STOWELL in the chair, and G. S. CUTTING as Secretary—adopted a course designed for the mutual protection and promotion of their interests. The question was as to the desirability of entering their flocks in the Register in process of formation by the Ohio Wool Growers' Association. An elaborate report from Hon. R. J. JONES, chairman of a committee previously appointed, approved of the efforts of the Ohio breeders to preserve the purity of their flocks, but made no recommendation as to the desirability of entering in the Ohio Register. The report concludes—"In Vermont, where the prestige is not increasing, we need all the facilities at our command to preserve the purity of our flocks, and to preserve the quality as well. If co-operation, if a sheep register will aid us, give us a sheep register." It was finally resolved to organize a Spanish Merino Sheep Breeders' Association of Vermont, and a committee of three (consisting of S. S. ROCKWELL, ALBERT CHAPMAN and E. E. STICKNEY) was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws to be presented for consideration and adoption at an adjourned meeting. After thanking the Ohio Association for its efforts in behalf of a Merino Sheep Register, and declining to join with it in a competitive one, the meeting offered to unite with Ohio or any other State in the establishment of a National Register for the preservation of the pedigrees pure of the Spanish Merino Sheep of America.

Legislating for Pure Fertilizers.—Senator SEGKREG has introduced into the N. Y. Legislature a bill to prevent frauds in the manufacture and sale of commercial fertilizers. It provides that commercial manure sold or kept for sale in the State shall have affixed to every bag, barrel or parcel thereof containing fifty pounds or upward, a printed special name or trade mark by which the same may be known, with the name and place of the manufacturer or importer, together with a true specification of the guaranteed per cent. of the phosphoric acid soluble in water, phosphoric acid insoluble in water, nitrogen and potash contained therein, and also the quantity of fertilizer contained in the package, and the date of the manufacture or importation. A penalty of $10 is fixed for the violation of the above provisions. The provisions of the act are not applied to any other commercial manure which is sold at a price not exceeding one cent per pound. The bill creates the office of State Assayer of Commercial Fertilizers, of which the Professor of Agricultural Chemistry of Cornell University shall be *ex-officio* the incumbent, whose testimony in any prosecution under the act shall be admitted in any court of justice in the State as that of an acknowledged expert, and whose charges for the analyses that may be ordered shall not exceed the following rates:—For soluble phosphoric acid, $4; insoluble do., $8; potash, $6; nitrogen, $4—the above charges to be paid by the State. The act is made to take effect Jan. 1, 1877.

Advertise in the Rural.—A subscriber at Sedalia, Mo., requests us to publish this terse query: "Will some of your numerous readers that have bronze turkeys for sale, advertise them in the RURAL NEW-YORKER?" We hope so, and also that a host of other people who have domestic animals, implements, trees, plants, seeds, etc., for sale, will not forget to remember that this is the season when our readers want such articles, and govern themselves accordingly. A brief advertisement in the RURAL pays the advertiser larger dividends than any other investment he could make. And readers should carefully peruse the advertisements at this season, for they will be sure to find many articles offered which they need. We often have letters asking where certain things can be had, which are at the time, or recently have been, advertised in the RURAL. Therefore, to one class we say, *Advertise*,—to the other, *Read the Advertisements*.

Are the People Corrupt?—We note with surprise the following paragraph from the New York Mail:—"When the country is honest and incorruptible Washington will be so. Washington simply reflects the character of the nation. We are buying the dear experience that politicians are time-serving and dishonorable. They are not so because they are Republican or Democratic, but because they are the representatives of a society that begets and breeds them. The reform must begin with the people, not with the rulers. When the people are honest they will have honest rulers—not till then." It is quite true that Reform must begin with the people; but there is no reason yet for believing that Reform will not begin. Long neglect often produces similar effects to corruption, but ought not to be mistaken for it. The people are not so bad as recent developments indicate.

"The Industrious Bee"—Is a decidedly profitable institution in this country, and ought to receive greater attention from farmers and others. For it is said there are 2,000,000 bee hives in the United States. Every hive yields, on an average, a little over twenty-two pounds of honey. The average price at which honey is sold is twenty-five cents a pound. So that, after paying their own board, our bees present us with a revenue of over $8,000,000. Over 20,000,000 pounds of wax are made and given to us by these industrious workers. The keeping of bees is one of the most profitable investments that our people can make of their money. The profits arising from the sale of surplus honey average from fifty to two hundred per cent. of the capital invested.

The Hog Crop.—Carefully-compiled statistics of the number and weight of hogs killed at five of the six heaviest Western packing cities show that the average weight is 9½ lbs. heavier than last year and 2 lbs. increase in lard. The number, however, has largely fallen off, and will be seven hundred thousand less than last year. The increased weight is mainly due to the scarcity of hogs and the large corn crop, much of which has proved to be of very poor quality. Hence, hogs have been kept later than usual to eat up the corn that could not otherwise be saved. The same cause is keeping back a large number of fattening cattle for the spring market.

A Phonographic Paper.—J. E. MUNSON, a prominent teacher of phonography, has initiated a new idea in the publication of the Phonographic News, to be published on the 1st and 15th of each month. In an eight page sheet it gives, in phonographic condensed form, a great amount of interesting reading—facts relative to phonographic history and exercises for beginners. Not being able to read it we have handed the manual to a lady friend interested in phonography. By-the-by, will the Editor of the News assure us that these hyeroglyphics do not constitute or contain a love letter? If such should prove the fact, consequences might be serious.

Sovereigns of Industry.—At the recent annual meeting of the New York State Council of the Sovereigns of Industry, held in Albany, the following officers were elected: President—Clark Witherby of Watertown; Vice President, W. T. Dean of Greenpoint; Secretary, P. L. Sandford of Elmira; Treasurer, J. F. Roberts of Elmira; Lecturer, W. J. Drake of Elmira; Steward, L. H. Waldorf of Elmira; Inner Guard, C. Bond of Greenbush; Executive Committee, Clark Witherby, W. J. Drake, P. L. Sandford and Jerome Terry of Albany; Delegates to the National Convention, H. R. Matteson of New York and Clark Witherby.

When the Food Cereal.—The people of Great Britain consume, on an average, 5⅓ bushels of wheat per year. The annual deficiency is from 80,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels, and this year will be fully the larger amount. The average amount of wheat per head is larger in Great Britain than in this country. Oat meal in Scotland and potatoes in Ireland are not so largely used as Indian corn is in this country, and the prejudice in England against maize is, in many sections, nearly as strong as ever. It is increasingly used, but mainly for horses and cattle rather than as human food.

Death of a Journalist.—WM. S. ROBINSON, better known as "Warrington," the Boston correspondent of the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, died in Malden, March 11th, aged fifty eight years. Mr. ROBINSON was, for eleven years, clerk of the Massachusetts Legislature, and was a vigorous, able and honest political writer. At one time he was associated with the late Vice-President WILSON in the publication of a newspaper.

Various Inquiries.—Will some of the readers of your paper state what luck they have had with silver-hull buckwheat, yield, &c. Is it any better than the common kind? Will pear grafted on an apple amount to anything? One of my neighbors has one, grafted last spring, that looks nicely. Can you give the address of some dealer in Holstein cattle?—P.

RURAL BREVITIES.

WHEAT sowing has begun in Iowa.

POTATO BEETLES have appeared in some parts of New Jersey.

GREAT numbers of wild pigeons have appeared in Pennsylvania.

CHICAGO-killed beef is sold in Philadelphia at a great reduction in price.

FOUR THOUSAND cattle have died in Utah the past winter from cold weather and deep snows.

VICK'S Floral Guide, No. 2, for 1876—Rochester, N. Y.—is an excellent issue in both reading matter and illustrations.

HOVEY & Co. send us their Catalogue of Vegetable and Flower Seeds for the current year. It gives much interesting information.

BEES have worked on some of the fine warm days this winter in Peoria, Ill. "The little busy bee" does not often find much winter work.

JOHN SAUL of Washington City sends us his catalogue of new, rare and beautiful plants for 1876. The list is very full in all old varieties and embraces many novelties.

BRO. S. L. BOARDMAN of the Maine Farmer, has been elected a Councilman of the city of Augusta. —Have a care, friend, and don't become demoralized by ye wicked politicians!

F. K. PHŒNIX, the veteran Nurseryman and Florist of Bloomington, Ill., sends us price list of nursery stock and also catalogue of novelties in greenhouse and bedding plants.

SHORT-HORNS are usually bred for beef; but when bred for the Dairy, as has been done by W. G. MARKHAM of Avon, N. Y., they are excellent for Dairy purposes. See his advertisement in this paper.

AS will be seen by his advertisement, G. H. WARNER of New York Mills, has imported from H. BELDEN twelve very fine birds, which will add much to the value of stock he will send out the coming season.

A NEW machine for shearing sheep is a Californian invention. It facilitates the work immensely, makes the operation less disagreeable for the animals, and will probably be a great helper in the large sheep raising districts.

THOSE veteran seedsmen and horticulturists, HOVEY & Co., No. 53 North Market St., Boston, send us their Illustrated Guide and Seed Catalogue for the Centennial year. Their lists of $1 and 50c. packages of seeds are very attractive and can hardly fail to please. The catalogue is sent free to any address.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

Nellis' O. H. H. H. Fork and Patent Method for Mowing and Stacking Hay or Straw, will save the farmers its cost every season. Wanted Agents who can give reliable reference. Pamphlet free. Address A. J. NELLIS & CO., Pittsburgh, Pa.

An Extended Popularity.—Each year finds "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" in new localities in various parts of the world. For relieving Coughs, Colds and Throat Diseases, the Troches have been *proved* reliable.

If you would insure good work, use only the **"Phœnix Pure White Lead."** Its whiteness, fineness and great body make it the most desirable paint.

WITHOUT AND WITHIN.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

Within, the light shone, and the room
Was full of faint yet sweet perfume;
The gay, glad music of the dance
Wrapped scene and sense in subtle trance.
And up and down in dizzy whirl
Swung fair-faced youth and happy girl.
Oh little dreamed they, dancing there,
How near was heart-break and despair.

Without, the wild wind rudely blew
The frost chill each their garment through,
As, standing by the window wide,
Looked in a beggar, hollow-eyed.
Looked in, and saw no trace of care
Upon the faces gathered there.
"How happy they must be," she said,
"And I,—have not one crust of bread."

So goes the world. The poor man waits
A beggar, at the rich man's gates,
And sees the pomp go on within
Of merry mockery and din.
Sees happy things pass out of reach
With yearning all too deep for speech.
While some in gilded halls may tread,
Some poor child lacks a crust of bread.

The Story-Teller.

LOVE IN ALL HEARTS;
OR, A FLOWER IN THE WILDERNESS.

Do you ever judge, reader, of the character of the inmates from the physiognomy of their houses? I do. And when the stage swept round the corner I looked out eagerly, for as the driver had told me, about ten rods up the road stood the house of Philander White. His wife was my mother's own cousin, and I was just thirteen years old when I went there to make my first visit. There had been some quarrel between the two families two or three-score years anterior to my visit; and though my mother and Mrs. White never participated in this, the feud of their ancestors had doubtless involved some coldness between them.

But to cut a long story short—for the pen and paper gossip may be more dignified but not a whit better than tea table scandal—I had been an invalid all the previous winter.

When soft April days (to which my mother looked forward so eagerly) came, they brought no bloom to my cheek, no vigor to my step. My constitution seemed to have lost all its recuperative power; and the doctor said: "Send her into the country, Miss May. If that don't help her she is lost to you."

Just before this Mrs. White had learned through a mutual friend of my illness, and the very day of the blunt physician's ultimatum bro't a letter to my mother.

"For the sake of my old love," it read, "let all that may have come between you and me be lost in the pleasure of better memories. The hills of Meadow Brook are clothed again with greenness, and now in this late May is the time for Jennie to come to us. There is a prophecy of health for her in the soft wind that lifts the edge of my paper as I write. We know she is your all, and we will be very tender of your darling. Will you not trust her for a single summer?"

And before another week was passed my trunk was packed and marked, "Philander White, Meadow Brook." I looked out, as I have said, and there sat the pleasant white house, with its green window blinds, the shrubbery in front, and the cherry trees behind. My heart went out to it, and at once; and it did a moment later to the gentle-voiced woman and the fair, dark-haired girl who rushed out on the broad front steps and kissing my cheek, said, "Cousin Jennie, you are very welcome."

But it is not all to tell you of that summer, though I look across the gray years to its picture in the Maryland of my memory that I have taken up my pen this morning. Suffice it that the mountain breezes of Meadow Brook did their work well; and when in early autumn my mother came for her child, she could hardly identify the rosy-cheeked girl who rushed in with her curls dangling about her face and held up her rosy lips for a kiss.

I think it must have been nearly two months after my domestication at Aunt Mary's—for so I call my mother's cousin—when Uncle Charles Brace, her husband's brother, visited her. He was a minister, and Cora and I had anticipated the gentleman's advent with anything but pleasant emotions. Our preconceived notions of the clergyman's elongated visage and solemn, puritanical manner, which we regarded as necessary concomitants of the profession, soon vanished before the beautiful kindling of his smile and the winning gentleness of his manner. He was Uncle Phil's youngest brother and not more than twenty-eight at that time; and his religion had deepened and harmonized his fine poetic temperament without checking the outflow of that under-current of humor which sparkled through his character. Uncle Charles was soon our companion in our rides and rambles, and our confidant in our girlish plans.

"You don't really mean so, Uncle Charlie," and Cora's bright face was lifted from the roses and geraniums we were weaving into the bouquet for the mantel. "You don't really think what you just said, that in every heart there is a fountain; some blossom in the human wilderness of every soul."

He put down his paper and came toward us. "I have not a doubt of it, my little girl. The story I was just reading of the hardened old man who cried because a child gave him a bunch of marigolds, corroborates my remark. The light that is in us cannot quite become darkness; the hearts that might bring forth a hundred-fold for harvests of heaven, will never become such deserts but some good seed will take root therein."

"I don't believe it would, though, in Farmer Keep. You don't know him as well as I do, Uncle Charlie. He's one of the richest men in all Meadow Brook; he's worth thousands and thousands. He's a bachelor, you know, and lives in the great red house on the road to Woodbury, you remember. Well, he never goes to church; he never loved a human being in his life. Now don't think Farmer Keep—why, Grandma Deane, how do you do?"

The lady whose entrance put this sudden period to my cousin's peroration, came slowly toward the rocking chair. Cora drew it out for her. She was the oldest lady in the village. The hair under her cap, white as hillside snow, had imprisoned the sunshine of fourscore and ten summers; but she still retained much of the physical stamina which, with her active sentiment, had made her so vigorous a woman for many years.

"What's that you're saying, child, about Farmer Keep?" said the old lady with a pleasant smile, as she plumed her knitting sheath to her waist.

"Why, I was telling Uncle Charlie what a cold, hard man he is. You've always known him, Grandma Deane, and now did he ever do a good thing or ever love anybody in his life?"

"Yes, he loved a girl once, I think I remember."

"Farmer Keep loved a girl once?" repeated Cora, with a half contemptuous and wholly skeptical curl of her red lips.

"She's forgotten," she added in an undertone to Uncle Charlie and me, for Grandma Deane was slightly deaf.

"No, I haven't forgotten, neither," she said, placing her hand on Cora's hair; "I have held Lucy Reid on my lap too often and rocked her cradle—poor, little motherless thing!—too many times to have forgotten."

Cora's look of incredulity was giving way to one of curiosity.

"Grandma Deane, won't you tell us all about it? Jennie and I will sit down on the stool, and I know by that look in Uncle Charlie's eye, he wants to hear it, too. Come, let the flowers go, Jennie;" and my vivacious cousin established herself at the old lady's feet.

Grandma Deane slipped the yarn around her little finger and commenced:—"Let me see. It cannot be more than forty-two or three years this summer since Justin Keep came up to Farmer Reid's to let himself out for the harvest boy, through harvesting. The Reid house stood a little this side of Stony Creek. There is nothing left of it now except the chimney, and it looks out gray and cold from the grass all about it; but forty years ago it was a fine old place, with lilacs, and the hop vines running all around the back. Lucy was hardly three weeks old when she lost her mother. Her father never married again and the child grew up there in the old home as fair and sweet as the flowers about her. She was turning into fifteen when Justin came that summer. He was a shy, strange sort of a lad, and the neighbors said Farmer Reid would never get the salt for his porridge out of him. He'd been bound out until he was eighteen to some man down in Maine, and he hadn't a relation in the world he knew of, nor a decent suit of clothes, when he came to Farmer Reid's house. But for all that, Justin proved a smart, likely boy; and the farmer, who somehow was never very beforehanded—I always thought his wife's sudden death hurt him—found that Justin was a real prize.

"At first he was gloomy and silent, doing his work and taking little notice of anybody. But he couldn't stand it long before Lucy. I wouldn't like to have the heart that that girl's smile would n't have thawed out. She was just like a bird around the old place, singing from morn till night, and her blue eyes, that were like her mother's, seemed to be sending out one laugh and her lips another. I never wondered her father doted on her as he did, and of course Justin wasn't long in the house before she tried to make friends with him.

"Poor fellow! it must have seemed very strange to him at first, for I don't believe anybody had given him a kind word until he came to Meadow Brook. But he made ladders for her flowering vines to run on, and got shells for the borders, and propped up the dahlias, and did a thousand other things which took them out into the garden after supper, and made them the best of friends.

"Lucy had a playful, childish way about her that made her seem much younger than she was; then she was small of her age, so that at fifteen she did not seem a bit older than you are, Cora.

"Well, she rode on top of Justin's hay cart and helped him husk corn in the barn, and pretty soon the farmer noticed a change in Justin. He got him a new suit of clothes, and his face lost its down look, and after harvesting Farmer Reid made him an offer to tarry all winter. So Justin stayed, taking Lucy's advice, and went to the district school and, though he had no education before, he went ahead of many an older scholar that winter. Justin stayed with the farmer four years; then he had a good offer somewhere in New York State, and concluded to stop for the winter only.

"Lucy Reid had grown into a young woman by this time; and a handsomer one, children, these dim eyes never looked upon. I don't know how it happened, for Lucy might have had her pick among the boys for miles around, but somehow she took to Justin; and when he left, they were engaged to be married one year from that time."

"Why, Grandma Deane! you ain't going to stop now?" cried Cora in alarm; for the old lady had laid down her knitting.

"No, my child," she said, moving her spectacles and wiping her eyes; "but the rest is a sad story, and I must hurry over it. I don't exactly know how it happened, but that winter Lucy's father got into a terrible lawsuit with Squire Wheeler. There was some flaw in the title, and the people said it was plain the old man should let the homestead go. They said too, he'd never survive it; and better perhaps, he never had, than kept it as he did; but one day Squire Wheeler, to all the neighborhood's astonishment, rode over to the farm.

"What he did there was never exactly known; but in a little while it was rumored that the suit was withdrawn, and next spring Lucy Reid was to be married to his son, Stillman Wheeler. And so it was. One bright March day she went to the old church yonder and gave herself to him. He was a good-looking man, but never over-smart, the neighbors whispered; and I always thought that it was his father's money, more than anything else, that kept him up."

"But Justin, Grandma Deane—what became of him?"

"There is a dark look about the whole matter. Lucy was made the victim of some terrible falsehood. I never blamed her father, for the losing of the homestead seemed completely to shatter him. I only know that Squire Wheeler and his son were at the bottom of it, and that Lucy Reid went to the altar, believing that Justin had been false to her."

"Dear me, how dreadful! Did he ever come back?"

"Yes, the next May. Lucy had been a wife two months. Justin had not heard of her marriage. She was at home visiting her father. When she first saw him she fell down like one stricken with a ill. But he carried her into the house and there learned all. Both had been deceived.

"It was a terrible scene the old front room witnessed. Justin swore vengeance, and it was not till, with clasped hands and streaming eyes the young wife knelt to the only man she ever loved and pleaded for the life of her husband, that he promised for her sake to spare his life. But from the day of Justin's visit Lucy was a changed woman. All the light and gladness of her being seemed dead in her. She moved about her house pale and quiet, with a look of patient suffering in her once sunny eyes that made my heart ache to behold."

"And her husband—did she ever tell him what she had learned?"

"I think not. His father and Lucy's had died in less than two years after the marriage. The Squire was much less wealthy than was supposed. The next spring Lucy and her husband moved West and somehow people lost sight of them."

"And Justin?"

"You know the rest, my child. He became a moody, unhappy man, asking no sympathy and giving none. But he was always smart at a bargain, and in a few years he had laid up enough money to buy Deacon Platt's farm when his son went South. Ever since, he has added acres to his lands and hundreds to the banks; but for all that, he is a man soured toward all his race—a man who was never known to give a little child a smile or a beggar a crust of bread. I have sometimes thought his heart was like a desert, without a tree to shade or a stream to gladden it. And yet it bore a bright blossom once; and believe me, children, for it is the word of an old woman who has seen and known much of the ways of man, it is always so. The heart may be a great wilderness, but in some of its byways there has grown a flower."

Cora and I looked at each other and at Uncle Charlie. Just then

FAITHFUL BRONZE.—(See page 207.)

Aunt Mary came in. She had been out, and not heard of Grandma Deane's visit. But Cora stole up to her uncle and, winding her arms about his neck, whispered:

"I shall believe it always, Uncle Charlie, now I have heard the story of Farmer Keep, that there is a blossom in the wilderness of every heart."

It was a sultry August day in the summer I passed at Meadow Brook. The wind, low and slumberous as the hush of a mother's voice at nightfall, crept up among the corn and down among the rye and wheat fields, that lay like broad green folds about the dwelling of Farmer Keep. There was no poem of flowers about the front yard; no graceful, harmonizing touches of creeping vine or waving curtains about the old red homestead; and yet it had a quiet, substantial, matter-of-fact physiognomy, that somehow made a home feeling about your heart.

I think it must have been this unconscious feeling which decided the course of the girl who stood at the point where the roads diverge, and gazed wistfully about her that afternoon. She seemed very tired, and her coarse straw bonnet and calico dress were covered with dust. If you had looked in her face you would not have forgotten it. It could not have been more than fifteen summers. It was very pale, and its sweet, sad beauty made you think of nothing but summer flowers drenched with summer rains. Her eyes were of that deep, moist blue that rolls out from under the edge of April clouds, and her lips, ripe and full, had that touch of sorrowfulness about them, which tells you always the heart beneath is full of tears. The girl's hand clasped tightly the little boy's by her side. The resemblance between them would have told you at once they were brother and sister, but his life could not have covered more than a third of hers. The little fellow's eyes were full of tears, and the bright curls that crept out from his hat were damp with moisture. A few minutes later she opened the broad back gate, and went to the kitchen door. Farmer Keep's housekeeper—an old woman with yellow nightcap, and check apron tied over her linsey wool skirt,—answered her knock.

"Do you want any help, or do you know of any round here that does?" timidly asked the girl.

The old lady peered at her with dim eyes. "No," said she. "There ain't but four on us—Farmer Keep and the two hired men, and me. It's harvest time just now, though, and I reckon you'd find a place in the village."

"Thank you. Bennie, here, my little brother, is tired, for we walked from the depot. Can you let us come in and rest awhile?"

"Surtain you can."

The sight of the child touched the heart of the woman, and they went into the large kitchen, and sat down in the rag-bottomed chairs, while, with a glowing cheek, the girl cast about in her mind for the best manner in which to present her petition for food. Before she had decided the master of the house suddenly entered the kitchen, for it was nearly dinner time. He was a large, muscular, broad-chested, sun-burned man, with a hard, gloomy expression on his face, where fifty years were now beginning to write their history. He stood still with surprise, gazing on the new occupants of the kitchen; and the boy drew close to his sister, and the girl threw up a timid, frightened glance into the gloomy face.

"You don't know of anybody round here that wants a little help, do ye, farmer?" asked the woman. "Here's a little girl that wants a place, and as she's walked from the depot, I told her she might come in and rest a bit before she went up into the village to try her luck!"

"No," shortly answered the farmer.—"Dinner ready?" And the rich man turned away without one gentle or kind look for two homeless children whom God had brought to his door.

"Lucy, Lucy, don't stay here. I'm afraid." And the little boy's lip curled and quivered as he turned his face from the farmer's.

"Lucy, Lucy," how those little, trembling tones went down, down, down into the man's hard heart! How the dead days of his youth burst out of their graves, and rushed through his memory at that low, broken, "Lucy, Lucy!" He turned and looked at the girl; not sourly, as before, but with a kind and eager questioning interest.

"What's your name?"

"Lucy Wheeler, sir."

He staggered back and caught hold of the nearest chair. "And what was your mother's?" "Lucy Reid. She used to live at Meadow Brook. So I came here to get work; she told me to before she died."

At that moment the angels looked down and saw the seed that had lain for two score years in the heart of Justin Keep, spring up, and the flower blossom in the wilderness. He strode across the kitchen to the bewildered girl. He brushed back her bonnet and turned her face to the light. He could not be mistaken. It was the one framed and hung in the darkened room in his soul. The blue eyes of Lucy looked again in his own. At that moment the little boy pushed in between them, and gazed wistfully in the man's face.—Farmer Keep sat down and took the child in his arms. He tried to speak, but instead, great sobs came and heaved his strong chest. The trio in the kitchen gazed at them in mute astonishment.

"Lucy's children, Lucy's children!" he murmured at last, in a voice whose tenderness was like that of a mother. "God has sent you to me. For her sake this shall be your home. For her sake I will be a father to you."

Five years after, Cora wrote to me:—"We are having fine times now, dear Cousin Jennie, and mamma wants to know if you do not need to renew your cheeks among the dews of Meadow Brook. Uncle Charlie is with us, and if you were also, our happiness would be complete.

"Lucy Wheeler—you remember her—has the place in my heart next to yours. Her disposition is as lovely as her face, and that is saying a great deal, for its sweet beauty does one good to behold it. Farmer Keep seems to idolize her and Bennie. He is a charming man now; he goes to church regularly every Sabbath. He spares no pains or expense in Lucy's education, and she will be an accomplished woman. She is here very often, and I have suspicions that Uncle Charlie—but no matter, I will not trust this to you and paper.

"But now, Jennie, what a lesson has all this taught me. How has it deepened my faith in God and humanity. Now when my heart yearns over the wretched, sinning outcast, I remember always that there is a flower in the wilderness."

The Literary World.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Why We Laugh. By SAMUEL S. COX, author of "Buckeye Abroad," "Eight Years in Congress," "Winter Sunbeams," Etc. [12mo.—pp. 387.] New York: Harper & Brothers.

"SUNSET" COX, as the author of this work is widely called, is entitled to the thanks of hosts of lovers of genuine, refined humor for this admirable analysis of "Why We Laugh." Himself a noted humorist, our author fully appreciates his subject, and illustrates it by references and quotations which must excite the risibles of the most sedate. The personal descriptions of American humorists and the selections from their best things—especially of Legislators and other public characters—comprise a large and most readable and enjoyable portion of this cachinnating encyclopedia. The author proves that many great men possess genuine wit and humor if all humorists are not great. We commend the book to all who would laugh and grow fat, whether at home or traveling, well or ill—and especially to the latter, for its perusal will promote health and good digestion. A gradual perusal of it during recent severe illness was most salutary in our own case, and we verily believe did as much toward our restoration as the remedies of a skillful physician. Hence we feel like tendering the author, as we now do, a vote of thanks for personal benefits received from "Why We Laugh."

Notes, Explanatory and Practical, on the General Epistles of JAMES, PETER, JOHN and JUDE. By ALBERT BARNES. [12mo. pp. 400.] New York: Harper & Brothers.

WE always open a book of this class, by whomsoever written, with involuntary respect—it is such a concentration of careful study. For centuries the labors of the finest minds have been devoted to explanation of the Scriptures, and there is no commentary extant that has not required for its preparation hundreds of years—that is, the knowledge of centuries on the subjects treated of must be examined and collated. But as truth strikes each mind at a different angle, and so moves in diverging lines, commentators come to different conclusions from the same evidence; and, besides, some incline to be diffuse, some concise. It is necessary, therefore, to read and study several different writers, to get at any thing like a well-rounded, clear perception of what the sacred writings contain—for though the writers may agree in substance, there is room for almost endless diversity in detail. The neat volume under notice is by one of the ablest writers and most profound thinkers this country has produced, and displays all the industry in selection, care in grouping and vigor of expression so noticeable in his other works. A most valuable book, and withal pleasant to read.

The French Principia.—Part II. A First French Reading Book Containing Fables, Anecdotes, Inventions, Discoveries, Natural History, French History; With Grammatical Questions and Notes, and a Copious Etymological Dictionary. On the Plan of Dr. WILLIAM SMITH'S "Principia Latina." [12mo.—pp. 395.] New York: Harper & Brothers.

The German Principia.—Part I. A First German Course—Containing Grammar, Delectus, and Exercise Book, with Vocabularies. On the Plan of Dr. WM. SMITH'S "Principia Latina." [12mo.—pp. 358.] New York: Harper & Brothers.

TEACHERS, and students of French and German, will find these elementary works most valuable. For beginners the plan adopted is admirable, as it enables them "to acquire the chief grammatical forms of another language, to learn their usage by constructing simple sentences as soon as they commence the study of the language, and to accumulate gradually a stock of words." The French Principia is a well-arranged reading book, with an excellent etymological dictionary.

Parlor Quarterman. A Novel. By WILLIAM M. BAKER, author of "Inside," "A Good Fear," &c. Illustrated by ELIAS J. WHITNEY. [8vo.—pp. 158.] New York: Harper & Bros.

IN the form of an autobiography, the author of this volume—personating the son of a distinguished Southern clergyman—presents a most interesting and instructive narrative. The pictures of Southern life, society, customs and personages, are most entertaining, and evidently derived from experience and close observation twenty to thirty years ago. It is altogether a charming book, with an excellent moral tendency.

Text-Book of Scientific Agriculture, with Practical Deductions. For the use of Colleges, Schools and Private Students. By E. M. PENDLETON, M. D. [12mo.—pp. 443.] New York,: A. S. Barnes & Co.

As a manual of Scientific Agriculture, this book will have a use even more important than that prescribed in its title, as a text-book in colleges and schools. The thousands of practical farmers who are often puzzled by hard questions in their avocation, will find in this book the clear, satisfactory and scientific answer which they need. We have read much of the book with great interest and profit, and can heartily commend it to our readers. The author is Professor of Agriculture and Horticulture in the University of Georgia, and the work was originally prepared to meet the want of a practical text-book for his pupils.

Robinson Crusoe's Money; Or, the Remarkable Financial Fortunes of a Remote Island Community. By DAVID A. WELLS, late U. S. Special Commissioner of Revenue. With Illustrations by THOMAS NAST. [8vo.—pp. 118.] New York: Harper & Bros.

OUR author treats the intricate subject of finance by the use of an ingenious parable, which will please the advocates of hard money and make converts to the doctrine. The book is a spicy and timely one, and will attract wide attention—now the currency question is being so generally discussed. The lively illustrations by NAST will prove more effective with many than the rigid arguments which some writers bring to the elucidation of the vexed question.

The Language of Flowers and Floral Conversation. By UNCLE CHARLIE. Second Edition. Rochester, N. Y.: James Vick.

THIS is a neat little brochure, which will delight the lovers of flowers, and especially young people. It contains poetical selections from the best authors. The section devoted to floral conversation, among other good things contains a fascinating story. There is also a section devoted to the sentiments of flowers and floral decorations, treated in reference to special occasions, such as Thanksgiving day, Christmas, etc. A chapter on cemetery decorations—and others on preparing skeleton leaves, drying flowers, autumn leaves, sea mosses, etc.,—renders the work useful, in addition to its being sentimental.

On Dangerous Ground; or, Agatha's Friendship. A Romance of American Society. By Mrs. BLOOMFIELD H. MOORE. [12mo.—pp. 330.] Philadelphia: Porter & Coates.

THE moral of this admirable society story is excellent. The heroine finds that mere friendship—Platonic Love—is dangerous, as the sequel proves. The delineations of society, and the characters and characteristics of every-day life, are truthful, and the whole story is interesting and entertaining. Though Mrs. MOORE is an amateur writer the volume before us is worthy of a professional in all respects, and we trust will be followed by others from the same graceful pen.

Miriam's Memoirs. A Sequel to "Montfort Hall." Being a Romance of the House of Beauseincourt. By Mrs. CATHARINE A. WARFIELD, author of "The Household of Bouverie," "A Double Wedding," &c., &c. [12mo.—pp. 406.]

ALL who have read "Montfort Hall" will be delighted with this volume, as it continues the fortunes—the adventures and hairbreadth escapes—of the heroine. The tragic portions of the story include murder, suicide, etc., and, although well written and of moral tone, is sufficiently sensational to chain the attention of the reader throughout the exciting narrative.

Sea and Shore. A Sequel to "Miriam's Memoirs." By Mrs. CATHARINE A. WARFIELD, author of "The Household of Bouverie," &c., &c. [12mo.—pp. 332.] Phila.: T. B. Peterson & Bros.

THIS is an exciting romance, the heroine being an heiress with a base and intriguing guardian. A shipwreck and narrow escape, and subsequent confinement as a lunatic, on a false charge, add to the absorbing and almost tragic interest of the story. The volume is entrancing from its opening, and will augment the popularity of Mrs. WARFIELD.

The Squire's Legacy. A Novel. By MARY CECIL HAY, author of "Old Middleton's Money," &c. [8vo.—pp. 172.] New York: Harper & Bros.

THIS volume (being No. 455 of HARPERS' Library of Select Novels) comprises a capital English story, with a commendably conscientious and moral hero. It is one of those works which are calculated to exercise a salutary influence upon the reader.

The Count of Morcf; Or, Richelieu and his Rivals. Translated from the French by HENRY L. WILLIAMS, Jr. By ALEX. DUMAS. [8vo.—pp. 160.]

THIS is a cheap reprint of one of DUMAS' very Frenchy sensational works, and, judging from the picture which embellishes the front of its yellow cover, it must prove sanguinary reading.

LITERARY NOTES.

MRS. OLIPHANT'S new novel, "The Curate in Charge," is to be published by the Harpers.

MR. FRANCIS ABBOTT writes of "The Catholic Peril in America," in the Fortnightly Review.

MISS AMANDA M. DOUGLASS has written a new story, "Nelly Kinnard's Kingdom," a tale of home life, which will be published by Lee & Shepard.

THE April Number of the Galaxy contains a great variety of interesting literature, and fully maintains the high reputation of this magazine.

COL. T. W. HIGGINSON has been engaged to prepare "A History of the Growth and Development of the Public School System of the State of Rhode Island," to be sent to the Centennial Exhibition.

A SECOND volume of "Truths for To-day," by Prof. David Swing, is to be printed by Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago. This will comprise many of his recent sermons to his new congregation.

THE final volume of the new edition of Mr. Bancroft's History will contain an elaborate index of about a hundred pages, which Mr. S. R. Crocker of Boston, editor of The Literary World, is now compiling.

Sabbath Reading.

DON'T DRINK TO-NIGHT.

I LEFT my mother at the door,
My sister at her side,
Their clasped hands and loving looks
Forbade their doubts to hide.
I left and met with comrades gay,
When the moon brought out her light,
And my loving mother whispered me,
"Don't drink, my boy, to-night."

Long years have rolled away since then,
My jetty curls are gray,
But oh! those words are with me yet,
And will not pass away.
I see my mother's loving face,
With goodness, radiant light,
And hear her words ring in my ears,
"Don't drink, my boy, to-night."

My mother is now resting sweet
In the graveyard on the hill;
But her kind words come back to me
And haunt my memory still.
I've often, often passed the cup,
Oh! then my heart was right,
Because I heard the warning words,
"Don't drink, my boy, to-night!"

I've now passed down the road of life,
And soon my race is run;
A mother's warning listened to,
An immortal crown is won.
Oh, mothers, with your blessed smile,
Look on your boys so bright,
And say as you alone can say,
"Don't drink, my boy, to-night."

Those words will prove a warning when,
In the thorny path of life,
Thy boy is in the tempter's wiles,
And warring in the strife.
Thy words will stop the morning cup,
And revelry at night,
By whispering back a mother's voice,
"Don't drink, my boy, to-night."

FLOWERS AT FUNERALS.

SOMEBODY has been showing that the expense of a first-class funeral in New York is something over two thousand dollars, monument and all. Of this the cost of flowers is set down at a hundred dollars. Now, a hundred dollars spent in flowers may be a piece of extravagance or economy, as people choose to regard it. But we venture to say that twenty-five dollars judiciously expended will make, we will not say a better display, but in all respects a more beautiful and appropriate token of esteem and affection. Immense stacks of flowers are bad enough in churches, but at a funeral they are extremely out of taste. What is wanted is some proper token of affection on the one side, and on the other some suggestive symbol of an unfolding and beautiful hereafter.

But, how stands the case when all taste and simplicity, and especially when all true suggestiveness, are sacrificed to an immense show? Think of those hideous crowns done up with violets and pinks, which it is safe to say no saint would wear, to say nothing of mortals. And think of flowers being packed together like so many sardines! beautiful pinks and lilies enough to occupy half the room being gathered up in the compass of a square foot. It is as if a milliner, in order to make a big display on opening day, should gather up in some huge bee-hive 200 or 300 hats and feathers, all crushed and crowded, in order to suit her fancy. How would the ladies like that as a specimen of taste? But, there would be much more taste in it than there is to much of this massing and crushing up flowers by us much as a hat is a less delicate and beautiful object. If milliners could be paid for such an abomination as we have spoken of, they would probably be guilty of it. And this is just the real trouble with the florists; it is a question of sticking in as many flowers as possible at so much a piece. And the result is so much ugliness, and a hundred dollars to pay for it.—*Church and State.*

A GOOD RULE.

THE best rule for Christian people to observe is to tell folks of only what will give them pleasure. Whoever speaks a word that causes a heartache, sins. Whoever disturbs the peace and tranquility of a mind, even by rehearsing any perambulating gossip, lessens the joy of a life to whose joy it is his duty, in Christ to minister. Life is too short and joys too few, for us to mar the peace of the one or lessen the number of the other. If any reader of these lines has been in the habit of telling people unpleasant things, we sincerely hope the perusal of this article will cause him to stop doing so. He is taking liberties with human happiness that are unjustifiable. He is starting tears in many eyes and filling many hearts with bitter feelings. If he is thoughtless in doing this, he is simply rude; if his rudeness is spiced with malice, he bears close resemblance to one whose name we will not mention, but which any one can easily guess. "If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain, —*Golden Rule.*

USEFULNESS and noble acts are the most radiant epochs in the biography of men. When wrought in earliest youth, they live in the memory of age, like the Coral Islands, green and sunny amid the melancholy waste of ocean.

THE frowns of the world are among the blessings of the Christian. The property of fools shall destroy them. "He whom I kiss," said Judas, "take him;" so when the world kisseth, it often betrays.

Ladies' Portfolio.

KATE.

THERE'S something in the name of Kate
Which many will condemn;
But listen, now, while I relate
The traits of some of them.

There's deli-Kate, a modest dame,
And worthy of your love;
She's nice and beautiful in frame,
As gentle as a dove.

Communi-Kate's intelligent,
As we may well suppose:
Her fruitful mind is ever bent
On telling what she knows.

There's intri-Kate, she's so obscure,
It is hard to find her out,
For she is often very sure
To put your wits to rout.

Prevari-Kate's a stubborn maid,
She's sure to have her way;
The cunning, caviling young jade
Objects to all you say.

There's alter-Kate, a perfect pest,
Much given to dispute;
Her prattling tongue can never rest,
You cannot her refute.

There's dislo-Kate, quite in a fret,
Who fails to gain her point;
Her face is quite unfortunate,
And sorely out of joint.

Equivo-Kate no one will woo,
The thing would be absurd;
She is so faithless and untrue,
You cannot take her word.

There's vindi-Kate, she's good and true,
And strives with all her might
Her duty faithfully to do,
And battles for the right.

There's rusti-Kate, a country lass,
Quite fond of rural scenes;
She likes to ramble through the grass,
And through the evergreens.

Of all the maidens you can find
There's none like edu-Kate;
Because she elevates the mind,
And aims at something great.

WHIFFS FROM CANADA.

No. I.—Gardening for Girls and Boys.

Such a breeze! You would think it was a March wind if the almanac did not declare it the fifteenth of April. It has been a cold month so far; the buds that have been swelling so long do not know whether to open or not. But we *must* have peas, and out into the garden we troop, for it is Saturday and the children are out of school. Mother is teacher in our house and every other day in the week we do up our work in the early morning in time for nine o'clock lessons. There are three girls of us—MAYSIE, ANNIE and MINNIE—and for a good many years we have been taught at home. We take turns with the work. One week MAYSIE is cook, ANNIE housemaid, and MINNIE nurse; that is, we assist in those departments of work. I like to be cook, for then I can beat the eggs with my patent Dover egg-beater, and help at making pies, besides making the bread and getting a little loaf for myself, which mother always lets the cook have when the baking is finished. Then I like to be housemaid, for then I make the beds and try how neat I can keep the rooms when I dust; and I like to be nurse, for baby HOPE puts her little arms around my neck when I dress her and offers me kisses, and when I put the boys to bed for mother they say, "Good-night, sister ANNIE; I like you."

But to-day we are all in the garden. The work is finished indoors and papa says, "Let us sow peas," Oh! the sweet, fresh breeze of an April day. How glad we are to get out of doors, for since October's close we have not seen a blade of grass—just snow, snow and ice, until we sometimes feel like moving South in spite of our dear and beautiful home. Here comes STANTON with the reel and line. We always have the ground ready in the fall, "drilled," papa calls it; and with a seed sower in WILLIE'S hand they go to one end of the drill, dropping, dropping, the seed of "Carter's First Crop," which is our earliest pea. Then as the small roller covers them STANTON follows and with his little feet presses the earth down firmly in order to keep them from the sharp-eyed ducks and hens that roam the garden at this season of the year in search of earth worms, but do not refuse a vegetable diet when handy. There, they are finished, and papa is putting into the sewer a round, brownish-red seed, mixed with a larger, jagged-looking seed. "Can these grow together?" asks MINNIE. "Oh, yes," answers papa; "the first smooth little seed is radish—the last I put in blood beet. The radishes germinate quickly, are grown and pulled up to eat before the beets are any size, and the space they have occupied leaves plenty of room for the beets to grow. This saves thinning and transplanting, while at the same time the ashes we are obliged to put over the radishes is equally needed for the beets, which are subject to the attacks of a very hungry fly."

"What are you going to do now? Oh, yes, the seed bed." WILLIE is bringing rich manure from the stable in a wheelbarrow. MAYSIE is carrying over the marker and seed, and now papa has mixed the earth thoroughly and is drawing lines eight or nine inches apart. Here he puts in celery, lettuce and cauliflower seed, pats the bed over with a spade and leaves it. We find this plan better than a hotbed, because the plants are stronger and bear transplanting better in the hot weather, for celery and cauliflower are only a second crop; after the peas and early vegetables have had their last hoeing we take the chance of a shower to put in our celery between the rows, which are wide. The constant working which these require through the fall keeps the ground clean, papa says.

There! the Convent bell rings six, and in Canada everybody stops working when the vesper bell tells them. If you had twenty people hoeing or picking hops or apples, they would not ask you when to stop, but as soon as that vesper tune rings out they let the burden of the day fall off their shoulders, and with a gay "*bon jour*," start off for their little whitewashed cottages, content and light hearted. The little gray birds are nowhere to be seen now—the Star of Bethlehem has closed its white starry flowers and the snowdrop droops its tiny bell. To-morrow we will work in our gardens, which is work we all love. Our little plots of ground were given to us by mother, and now, as there are nine of us, we have quite a variety of fancy flowers and vegetables growing in them that I will tell you about next time.

ANNIE L. JACK.

REMARKS.—Thanks to our fair correspondent for her advance article on working in the garden. We trust it will induce many of our young readers to cultivate vegetables, flowers, etc., this season—on plats of ground given them for the purpose by their parents.

MAPLE BUDS.

No. III.—A Plea for the Children.

BY MAY MAPLE.

"I NEVER allow my children to eat between meals," said Mrs. PROPRIETY, after little JESSIE had gone out of the room. The little one had just asked for a "little, teenty piece of bread, 'cause I's so hungry," and having been refused by her overly-precise mother, and had gone out to the playground with a pearly tear ornamenting each delicately tinted cheek, and a little ache in the heart for the empty little stomach that felt *so tired*.

Dear little one, how my hands ached to get for her the much-coveted lunch! And no doubt my tell-tale face exposed my sympathy; for Mrs. PROPRIETY continued:—"When children are allowed to eat at all hours, they seldom have an appetite to eat what is set before them at the regular time; and then it makes so much work to keep the pantry in order, with three or four pairs of little hands to scatter crumbs, and as many feet to make tracks. Besides, many professors of science teach us that it is decidedly unhealthy. So, taking all these things into consideration, I have concluded that it is better not to allow them pieces between meals."

I made no reply, knowing that it would be worse than useless to argue the point with one who had so little sympathy for children. Nevertheless, I determined to enter a serious protest against such barbarous cruelty. It may do very well for physiologists to make rules, but people should remember that *all* rules have various exceptions. There is no doubt but the digestive organs should have time to perform their allotted duties. We are told, too, that we should *rest* at least an hour after eating, before attempting physical or mental labor. Who obeys this injunction? Not one worker in fifty; certainly not the little active one, who has houses to build, farming tools to create, mill-dams to erect, doll houses to care for, flowers to gather, butterflies to catch, birds' nests to hunt, and a thousand and one steps that mamma knows nothing about, besides as many more, for parents, brothers and sisters.

Now if one is to take the Physiology for a guide, it is necessary to mind *all* its precepts and not select one rule and make all organizations succumb to that. Nature tells the little child or grown-up individual when the stomach requires refreshments much better than science. The child is called in the morning, long before it has had its natural sleep, to eat its breakfast. Of course it has but little if any appetite; a few mouthfuls is sufficient; and then think of going from five to seven hours without tasting food! Ugh!—it makes one faint to think of it.

But, you say, the child will eat a hearty dinner, and make up for the breakfast. Possibly; but be assured if it does it will overload the stomach, causing derangement and inflammation. But it is more than likely that the child will have passed the time when dinner would relish, and again very little food is required. By-and-by mamma and papa begin to wonder what ails JENNIE. "Why, she doesn't eat enough to keep a chicken alive." She grows thin and pale week by week; a slow fever sets in, and she is confined to her bed. A long fit of sickness is the result; and caused by *actual starvation* in her own father's house, where there was bread enough and to spare.

Mother EVE set us an example, thousands of years ago, before scientists were born, TO EAT when we were hungry. Do you think Satan himself could have tempted her to eat of the forbidden fruit if she hadn't felt "a sort of goneness" in the region of the stomach? Most certainly not. She would have been supplying herself with flowers, wherewith to deck herself and her dear ADAM, or gazing with fond looks into her husband's eyes, wherein in she would behold her own fair face as in "a glass darkly."

Don't forget the hungry children, nor turn a deaf ear when they ask for bread.

To a liberal mind poverty is a stimulant, meanness a refrigerant, selfishness an opiate, and ingratitude a poison.

Reading for the Young.

OUR LITTLE MAN.

WOULD anybody like to know
Why it is we call him so?
Why we call him "our little man?"
Merry, jolly, seven-year-old Dan?

'Tis because he's willing to do
Everything that we ask him to:
Never pouting or making a fuss,
Always cheerfully helping us.

Ever ready to leave his play
When he's wanted in any way;
Often asking for something to do,
Saying, "Mamma, I love to help you."

Picking up things about the room,
Sweeping the steps with his little broom;
Playing with baby, shelling the peas—
How he helps mamma in things like these.

Watering the garden, pulling up weeds,
Running errands for what mamma needs,
Making the yard look tidy and neat—
Thus he spares his dear papa's feet.

Then of himself he takes good care,
Even brushes and combs his hair;
Keeps his hands and face so clean,
Never a neater boy was seen.

Useful and happy through all the day,
Ready for work and ready for play;
Do you wonder that dear, hopeful Dan
Goes by the name of "Our little man?"

[*Mrs. F. A. Percy.*

FAITHFUL BRONZE.

[SEE ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE 205.]

THE noontide was warm, and Miss Gladys sat upon a rock to read. As she did so a tiny skiff skimmed along as near the land as the shallow water would let it. When the sailor who was in it saw her, he waded to shore and came to her. He was a good, simple fellow, who lived in one of the huts on the beach, and worked sometimes with colliers, sometimes with fishing-smacks. He was full of trouble now, and poured his sorrow out to her. It seemed that he had been on shore seeking her. His wife, who was on board a fishing-smack that lay off the land, some mile or so westward down the coast, was very ill—dying, he feared—and had begged of him, if he could find Miss Gladys, to entreat of her to go and speak to her. He had been compelled to come to the village for bread, and tackle and other things he needed, but he could not find the doctor. This woman was a delicate, pretty, good-living creature, and Miss Gladys had won her heart with many little services in the drear winter-time gone by. It was a common thing with her to visit the people on board their vessels, for she loved nothing so well as to sail to and fro on the sea. She told the sailor that she would come at once.

"Come!" she called to her faithful dog, Bronze; but the sailor stopped her.

"I dare not take him, miss—not for our lives!" he said. "He's the weight of a man; and the boat is overcrowded now with the things as I've had to get: you're to the full as I dare carry."

"I cannot leave him!" she answered, shrinking back: and, indeed, she never had left him. He was always with her, whether on sea or land.

"I can go and come for you again, miss," said the fisherman ruefully: "but it will take a goodish bit of time—and Jenny so bad, and nobody but the boy with her, and the doctor not to the fore neither! Surely the dog'll wait for you here, miss, safe enow? Not as I'd be pressing you."

But he did press her—pressed her sorely. It was very reluctantly that she consented to leave Bronze there. Nothing but the thought of the sick and lonely woman would ever have persuaded her. As it was, she threw her arms about him and kissed her dog fondly, and then pointed to the basket of shells and sea-weed on the red, smooth piece of rock.

"Take care of them, Bronze," she murmured, "and wait till I come back. Wait here."

She did not mean to command; she only meant to console him by the appointment of some service. Bronze looked into her face with eyes of woe and longing, but he made no moan or sound, but only stretched himself beside the basket on guard.

The boat flew like a sea-gull over the waves, the sun bright upon her sail. Bronze, left upon the rock, lifted his head and gave one long wail. It echoed woefully over the wide, quiet waters. Nothing was in sight except that single little sail shining against the light, and flitting, flitting away.

Bronze never moved, and his eyes never turned from the little boat that had gone and left him there. An hour drifted by, and ere long the sand, hitherto so smooth and beautifully ribbed, grew moist, and glistened with a gleam of water, like eyes that fill with tears. Bronze never saw: he only watched the far-off boat. A little later the water gushed above the sand, and gathering in a frail, rippling edge of foam, rolled up and broke upon the rock.

And still he never saw, for still he watched the boat. A while, and the water grew to volume, and all around the tide rose silently about the rocks and stones, gliding and glancing in all the channels of the shore, until the sands were covered.

The waters rose till they touched the rock; but he never moved. Stretched out upon the stone, guarding the things which his mistress had left in his care, and with his eyes fastened on the sail which rose against the light on the distant horizon, he waited for death.

His mistress had not forgotten her faithful companion. As soon as she reached the fishing-smack where the sick woman was she begged the sailor to go back and see to Bronze. He went, and as he neared the rock he saw the brave dog awaiting death. Just as the sailor, straining his weary arms to reach the shore, came in sight of it, a great wave surged over the dog, breaking upon him and sweeping him away. He rose, grasping in his teeth the basket of weeds and shells. He had waited until the last. Driven from the post which he would not forsake, the love of life awoke in him, and of his own will he struggled against death.

Three times he sank, three times he rose. The sea was now strong, and deep and swift of pace, rushing madly in; and he was encumbered with shells and the weighty basket with its sea-weeds, which yet he never yielded because it had been entrusted to him by his mistress. The sailor, weary though he was, bent to the oar, while he shouted words of cheer to the brave dog battling with the waves. And to his joy, before faithful Bronze was sucked down by the hungry waves, he grasped his collar and pulled him, spent and panting, into the skiff, grasping still the basket in his teeth. And then the sailor rowed wearily and slowly through the gathering night to the fishing-smack, where Miss Gladys, as a ministering angel, was tending his ailing wife. With joy she welcomed the companion of her solitary wanderings, and when she heard the story of his faithfulness, even unto death, she threw her arms round his neck and caressed him, resolving never again to put his fidelity and obedience to so terrible a test.

"THAT'S HOW."

AFTER a great snow storm, a little fellow began to shovel a path through a large snow bank before his grandmother's door. He had nothing but a small shovel to work with.

"How do you expect to get through that drift?" asked a man passing along.

"By keeping at it," said the boy, cheerfully; "that's how!"

That is the secret of mastering almost every difficulty under the sun. If a hard task is before you, stick to it, and little by little it will grow smaller, until it is done.

If a hard lesson is to be learned, do not spend a moment in fretting; do not lose breath in saying, "I can't" or "I do not see how;" but go at it and keep at it—study. That is the only way to conquer it.

If a fault is cured or a bad habit broken up, it cannot be done by merely being sorry, or only trying a little. You must keep fighting until it is got rid of.

The Puzzler.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—No. 4.

I AM composed of 29 letters:
My 1, 12, 19, 4, 13, 28, 15 was a province of Syria.
My 5, 17, 1, 8, 11, 7, 8 was a Corinthian convert under Paul's preaching.
My 8, 21, 16, 4, 24, 10, 14 is a bird which feeds mostly on winged insects.
My 12, 16, 19, 6, 17, 5, 15 is an evergreen tree.
My 16, 12, 1, 25, 3, 26, 20 is a fallen angel referred to in Revelations.
My 17, 1, 27, 9, 12, 26, 14 is a beautiful natural phenomenon.
My 22, 2, 17, 10, 29, 13, 23 was a reservoir of water at the foot of Mount Zion.
My whole is part of a verse of the Bible.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 7.

My first is in waltz but not in dance,
My second is in saber also in lance;
My third is in ship but not in boat,
My fourth is in ditch but not in boat;
My fifth is in gain but not in loss,
My sixth is in turf but not in moss;
My seventh is in some but not in more,
My eighth is in window but not door.
My whole gives the name of one both great and good. YOUNG SCRIBBLER.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

HIDDEN TREES.—No. 2.

1. ARE you fond of tea, Kittie?
2. Mary will do a kindness cheerfully.
3. Repent, ye wicked ones.
4. Here is Caleb on your horse.
5. I saw a camel Monday afternoon.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—March 11.

FARMER'S ENIGMA No. 1.—

"He who by the plow would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive."

TRANSPOSITION No. 1.—

LET fate do her worst there are relics of joy,
Bright dreams of the past which she cannot destroy,
Which come in the night-time of sorrow and care,
And bring back the features that love used to wear.
Long, long lie my heart with such memories filled,
Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled;
You may break, you may shatter the vase if you will,
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

BIBLICAL DOUBLE ACROSTIC No. 2.—Initials, Corinth; finals, Goliath.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forgot to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money in *the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

THE GREAT STORM IN EUROPE.

LONDON telegrams of the 12th inst. tell fearful tales of the disastrous storm which occurred last week all over the Continent of Europe. A furious tempest, accompanied by such torrents of rain that the great rivers were swollen and many villages swept out of existence, extended from Havre to the eastern limits of Slavonia. One dispatch says:—"The present week has been the stormiest which has been experienced in England during the past hundred years. There have been terrible gales, storms and floods in England, France, Germany and Belgium." The damage was of course great and wide-spread—ruin and death leaving their marks on both densely and thinly populated districts. The devastation spread over land and sea—for while villages and crops were destroyed inland, many vessels and their crews were engulphed in the aerial vortex along the coast. The storm caused terrible inundations in Germany. Houses were unroofed, the steeples of churches blown down, telegraphs prostrated and railroad tracks blown away. Earthquake shocks were felt in several places during the prevalence of the storm. The inundations in many places over the Continent have injured the young crops, so that a new sowing will be necessary. In Bohemia and Hungary enormous tracts of country and above a hundred townships have been flooded. "In Hungary the total loss, as foreseen, will amount to $10,000,000, of which one-half falls on the agricultural interests. Sixteen hundred thousand acres of arable land in Hungary are still inundated." The loss of property by this unparalleled and widespread storm is incalculable, and the terrible catastrophes accompanying it will long be mournfully remembered.

ANOTHER TERRIBLE TORNADO.

THE village of Hazel Green, on the Southern borders of Wisconsin, was almost entirely destroyed by a tornado on the 16th inst. The tornado came up on the afternoon, and seemed at first like a very black cloud which divided and then reunited. It plowed the ground six hundred feet long and four or five feet wide, taking up stones, dirt and debris of every kind. The head of the column was a huge stone, eight feet long four feet wide, and one or two feet thick. This with other matter was suspended in the air and hurled on the village, striking with greatest force Masonic Hall, a huge stone building, which it crushed to the earth. Fortunately the hall was empty, though a meeting had been called for half an hour later. A large number of smaller buildings were destroyed, and many almost miraculous escapes are recorded. In one house the entire family were instantly killed, and when taken out a young girl had the baby in her arms, both dead, while her mother had some samples of cloth, clotted with blood, which she was showing when the disaster occurred. A span of horses were taken up by the whirlwind sixty or seventy feet in the air, carried a distance of several hundred feet and left dead, not more than ten feet apart. The following is a list of the killed and injured:

Killed—Mrs. E. Richards; Johnson Richards, aged 18 years; Lizzie Richards, aged 16 years; Mrs. T. H. Edwards and child; Alfred Jackson, aged 4 years; Thomas Allen and son, and Mrs. John Looney.

Injured—Joseph Clementson, leg broken; Edward Thompson, hip injured; child of Fred Plude, arm broken; Amanda Morcom, head cut; Thomas Magor, badly cut in the face; Mrs. Tregonin, arm injured; Joseph Mason, slight injury on the head; child of William Piddick, head cut; Dora Thompson, arm injured; Mrs. Joseph Jackson, injured; Mrs. James Edwards, face hurt; James Treganza, injured slightly; Frank Thompson, arm bruised; Miss Eliza Rodda, badly injured. Several in the family of Thomas Allen are reported as badly injured.

Hazel Green was a village of 1,000 inhabitants. Since the destruction of most of the buildings, a great horror has fallen on the people, and it is believed that it will never be rebuilt.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE Rhode Island Democrats have nominated Gen. Geo. L. Cooke for Governor.

A party of 400 people from the Northwest are being publicly entertained in Georgia.

It is charged that part of the Kentucky Central award went to Mrs. Belknap; Mrs. Marsh is wanted as a witness now, but was allowed to escape to Canada.

Over 30 Representatives in Congress are sick, including Mr. Cox, most of them from the bad ventilation of the House.

Last week the Inflationists of New York met at Syracuse and adopted a platform, claiming to be the real Democracy, resolving to send delegates to St. Louis, and calling for laws requiring the payment of all debts in paper money; Richard Schell was President.

The State Democratic Convention to elect National delegates is appointed for April 26 at Utica.

The Colorado delegation to the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati, it is understood, will go unpledged.

The completion of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad shortens the time-table from New York to Colorado about twenty-four hours.

The gold and silver mines recently discovered near Pike's Peak, have proved very rich, and stamp mills and smelting works are about to be established at Colorado Springs.

The Society of Alumni of the Virginia Military Institute proposes to erect a monument on the parade ground at Lexington to the memory of the cadets who fell during the war.

Pronouncing matches are rapidly taking the place of spelling bees in California, the prompter spelling out the names of local towns, and the competitors being obliged to pronounce them correctly.

A Chinaman on the passage to California jumped overboard intending to kill himself, but in some unaccountable manner was lodged in the wheel-house of the steamer, where he clung tenaciously, although the utmost exertion was necessary too escape the death he had sought. He was nearly dead when discovered. Upon being restored he cut his throat effectually.

A miner named Munson recently found in the Globe mining district, Arizona, a solid mass of metallic silver ore lying on the surface of the ground and weighing 2,200 pounds. A careful and low assay of it showed it to be almost a mass of pure silver and worth $20,000 at least.

The Convention to form a Constitution for the Centennial State of Colorado completed its labors and adjourned sine die March 10. The instrument will be submitted to the people on the first day of July, and if approved by them, Colorado will vote for the next President of the United States.

At a meeting recently held in San Francisco by a society for the promotion of the Christian religion among the Mormons, ex-Gov. Wood of Utah and Oregon, the Chairman, said that the best method of carrying out the object of the society was to court martial the Mormon leaders and then hang them as criminals.

A deer in Moriah, N. Y., close by the North Woods, has distinguished himself by nearly killing a man. The animal, a fine buck, rushed upon the man suddenly and trampled him.

In the year 1875 Chicago had 526 divorce suits, out of which 284 divorces were granted; 70 were denied, and 171 cases were not disposed of. The cause of all this misery was—In 174 cases, desertion; in 157, cruelty; in 111 adultery; in 69 drunkenness, in the remaining 15, mixed.

There are 1,234 men, 36 steamers, 27 vessels, and 18 factories engaged in the oil and guano business of Maine. During 1875 no less than 712,000 barrels of fish were taken, an increase of 90,000 over 1874, and 1,800,000 gallons of oil made, an increase of 21,000 gallons. The amount of guano prepared was 22,000 tons.

There is a prospect that the Hudson River Iron Works will soon start up again, under the management of the new proprietors.

The dirt and stone work on the new Amsterdam reservoir cost $27,755.39. This, taken with the land damages, engineering and other incidentals, will probably swell the cost to about $40,000.

The missing Spaniard, Senor Jose Holgardo y Cruces, who was supposed to have been kidnapped, has been found at the Eastern Hotel, New York City under an assumed name, where he has been living in a secluded manner since the night of his disappearance.

Daniel Drew, formerly one of the kings of Wall St., is bankrupt. His gifts to Wesleyan University and the Drew Theological Seminary seem to have vanished with his fortune, leaving those institutions in precarious condition.

Frederick Douglass is to deliver an address at the unveiling of a monument of Abraham Lincoln on the 14th of next April in Lincoln Park, Washington. The monument has been erected from funds contributed by freedmen.

The Albany and People's Gaslight Companies of Albany, have made another reduction of twenty-five cents per 1,000 feet in the price of gas, making fifty cents of reduction since the 1st of December. The second reduction went into effect on the 1st inst.

J. H. Stanley, the town clerk of Leroy, N. Y., has enjoyed a remarkable tenure of office. At an election he was unanimously re-elected for his fiftieth consecutive term.

St. Patrick's Day was observed in Providence, R. I., by religious exercises in all the Catholic churches, a parade of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, which was reviewed by the Mayor, and by banquets, balls and entertainments in the evening. There were also public demonstrations in Woonsocket, Pawtucket, Phœnix and Newport.

The towns of Lima, Springwater, Ossian, Sparta, West Sparta, and Groveland, in Livingston Co., N. Y., voted "No license" at the recent town meetings.

The Democratic Executive Committee met at Raleigh, N. C., March 15th, and appointed Raleigh as the place and the 14th of June as the time for holding the State Democratic Convention.

A large meeting of gentlemen representing various branches of the dry goods trade was held at Boston, March 15, and an association was formed for the protection and advancement of the interests of the trade to be called the "Boston Dry Goods Association."

Dr. James W. Willse, the superintendent of the State Asylum for Insane Criminals in Auburn, N. Y., died March 13th, at his home in that city.

The twenty-fourth annual commencement of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania was held in Philadelphia, March 6th. The degree of the College was conferred upon twelve ladies.

Messrs. Woods, Yeatman & Co., owners of the Cumberland Iron Works in Steward Co., Tenn., have suspended. Their liabilities are about $250,000, which will probably be covered by the assets. The largest portion of their creditors belong at Nashville, while others are in Louisville, Cincinnati and St. Louis.

The Onondaga County Milk Association has resolved to sell to the poor of Syracuse 100,000 quarts of milk at three cents per quart.

The farmers residing in the town of Granville, Washington Co., having a large supply of potatoes still on hand, are offering them for sale at 12 cents per bushel.

The Black Hills fever is commencing to rage in Rochester, and it is carefully fostered by the programmes, advertisements, bills, &c., of Western railroads.

The locomotive and eight cars of a freight train on the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad went through the bridge over the Merrimac River on March 15th, killing Christopher Lesson, engineer, badly bruising Harrison Preston, fireman, and destroying a good deal of property.

The election in New Hampshire has resulted in the re-election of Gov. P. C. Cheney, Rep., by three thousand majority, and large Republican majorities in both branches of the Legislature. A very large vote was polled and the entire Republican ticket elected.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE British ship Eumenides, Capt. Beard, from Port Royal, S. C., Feb. 17 for Greenock, capsized on the 12th of March. The second mate and seven of the crew have arrived at Queenstown. The remainder of the crew and the captain, 13 in all, were drowned.

In the House of Commons, London, March 16, when motion was made to go into Committee on the Royal Titles bill, the Marquis of Hartington rose and moved in amendment that, while willing to consider a measure enabling the Queen to make an addition to her titles, the House considers it inexpedient to impair the dignity of the Crown by the assumption of the title of Empress. The debate lasted seven hours, and was excited and acrimonious. Sir William Harcourt and Messrs. Forster and Duff opposed the bill, and Mr. Roebuck and Lord Elcho supported it. Finally, the Marquis of Hartington's amendment was rejected and the motion for going into Committee on the bill was adopted by a vote of 305 Yeas, to 200 Nays.

The cremationists of Germany will hold an annual meeting in April, at Gotha, where the Government has officially sanctioned their mode of disposing of the dead and permitted its public use.

Upon the score of economy, the directors of the South Yorkshire coal mines have ordered that hereafter blasting must be discontinued when men are down in the pits, as the continued deaths by accidents render skilled labor very dear.

In the House of Commons at London, March 16, the Postmaster-General, Lord John Manners, stated that it was the intention of the Department after the present year to make arrangements for the conveyance of the mails to America similar to those adopted by the United States, viz.: to make no contract, but send the mails by vessels whose efficiency is proved, and pay according to weight.

In France the storm has been particularly severe, inundations being reported from all the rivers, causing a great deal of loss and suffering.

Queen Victoria will start out for her tour in Germany on the 28th inst. It will be a quiet family excursion, as she desires no public receptions, and will meet relatives by blood or marriage at every step.

The United States steamer Franklin, which sailed on March 14, from Southampton, Eng., for Cherbourg and Gibraltar, has been obliged to put into St. Helen's Roads, Isle of Wight, on account of the continuously unfavorable weather.

The London Times correspondent at Ragusa says a telegram from Cettinje states that the insurgents under Peko and Socica attacked the Turks March 6, at Muratovizza while returning from Goransko. The Turks were routed and pursued to Lipuik, losing about 800 men, and horses, ammunition, and cannon. The correspondent declares that the information comes from a trustworthy source.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Mt. Pleasant, Jeff. Co., O., March 15.—We have had a remarkably open winter; less snow than any season for 15 or 20 years. Very little cold weather, the mercury touching zero only once. Rain in abundance; mud *ad infinitum*, roads almost impassable. Stock has gone through the winter better than usual, owing to the abundance of rough feed in the country. Wheat looks better for the season than for several years past. Hay is worth $10@15; corn, 40c.; oats, 35c.; potatoes, 30@35c. Month hands command $12@17; work scarce. Hogs are selling at 5½c.; cattle, 4@4½c.; grass and other vegetation started. Considerable plowing already done. The season has been pretty good for maple molasses making, though the sugar trees have been destroyed to a great extent in these parts, but those remaining are mostly opened this spring. Farmers who are cursed with debt are having a hard struggle to keep their heads above the wave; unless times improve, a great many will have to sell out at a sacrifice soon, or else do worse.—B. C. C.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, March 18, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	68,542	Molasses	2,454
Whisky	2,339	Rice, bbls	967
Corn meal, bbls	703	Cut meats, pkgs	13,127
Corn meal, bags	1,590	Lard, pkgs	6,340
Wheat, bush	238,754	Tobacco, hhds	1,804
Corn, bush	34,928	do. cases	2,520
Oats, bush	218,101	Butter, pkgs	14,150
Rye, bush	300	Cheese, bxs	19,200
Malt, bush	70,515	Cotton, bales	17,000
Barley, bush	25,500	Rosin	2,850
Beans, bbls	11,848	Spts. turp., bbls	872
Grass seed, bags	9,364	Dried Fruits, pkgs	285
Beef, pkgs	2,638	Eggs, bbls	20,240
Wool, bales	859	Peanuts, bags	7,280
Hops, bales	2,708	Dressed Hogs	902
Pork, bbls	8,141	Leather, sides	94,527
Tallow	525	Sugar, hhds	585

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 2,411 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 14,833 do.; same time last year, 5,250 do. Exports of peas past week, 9,046 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 20,883 do.; same time last year, 119,172. The few sales of marrows have given them a shade of firmness in holder's views. Mediums are dull and prices are weak. It is thought that the bulk of the interior reserve will soon be stored and better rates may rule. Still, warm weather does not increase trade in mediums, and we do not look for any sudden material advance. Pea beans and kidneys dull at quotations; Canadian peas quiet, but a little stronger. Other peas dull and weak. State marrowfats nominal at $2.

We quote: Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.30@1.65; other, $1.10@1.20; medium, new, prime, $1.15@1.20, good, 90c.@$1; very poor, 50@80c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.65@1.70; other, $1.40@1.50; white kidney, prime, $1.60@1.70; fair to good, $1.40@1.50; red kidney, new, prime, $1.35@1.40; fair to good, $1.0@1.20; California Lima, choice, $2.40@2.50. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new duty paid, $1.15@1.19; gulk, in bond, 90@$1; green new, ⅔ bush., $1.50@1.55; Southern B. E., ⅔ 2 bush. bag, $2.60; split peas, Canadian, free, ⅔ bbl., $5@6.

BEESWAX.—Choice lots are wanted at strong figures. Southern at 34c.; Western at 32½@33c. Exports since Jan. 1st, 27,347 lbs.; same time last year, 33,728 do.

BROOM CORN.—For prime stock there is a fair inquiry for choice lots; other grades dull.

We quote Brush, short green, 9@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@7c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—We are now on the last end of the State butter crop; and as the remnant is reduced to an inconsiderable quantity, the market indicates a strong closing up. Both sellers and owners are to be congratulated upon the way the heavy yield has been handled during the past season. The result ought to be instructive to producers showing, as it does, that they must depend upon the masses for the movement of supplies. The average low or under grade stock for the past make gives this point more prominence than would have otherwise been the case had the crop been one of higher condition. As it is, good prices have been obtained for the fine portions and fair rates for fair to poor lines. One of our recent paragraphs explained why stock should be marketed reasonably early in most instances, and we would now call attention to another point of interest to dairymen. It has been seen by the general run of the market that there has hardly been a week that offered the full complement of fine. Uncontrollable circumstances in the weather last packing season interfered with the operations of many who have a steady reputation for turning out choice marks. But, in many previous years there has not been a winter that has not shown room for a larger supply of fancy, or for that matter, strictly fine. Great stress is laid upon the fact that marketmen and ordinary grocers use the common or intermediate grades; while it is true that they undoubtedly work off the bulk of such lots, it may be remarked that nearly all of them have a class of custom which calls for extra quality, and is willing and able to pay top-going quotations. So don't be afraid that we can be overloaded with a prime article; prices are bound to balance according to the popular purse or exigencies of the times. Therefore, when stock is attractive, the owner has at least the benefit of an active trade that will not settle upon a low class of produce. The following revised table shows the advances that have occurred in State since our last. Western is bringing very satisfactory prices and sells readily. New butter is quotable in a small way as follows:

Pails, State, prime, 40c.; fair to good, 35@37c.; half-firkin tubs, prime, 38@40c.; fair to good, 33@36c.; pails, Western, creamery, prime, 40c.; fair to good, 35@37c.

We quote old:

State dairies entire, extra, 35@37c.; entire, good to prime, 32@34c.; fair to good, 30@32c.; firkins, selected fresh, 35@37c.; good to prime, 32@34c.; fair to good, 27@32c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 40@42c.; good to prime, 36@38c.; fair to good, 32@36c.; poor to fair, 22@32c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@33c.; dairies, 33@34c.; good to prime, 29@31c.; fair to good, 26@28c.; poor to fair, 20@26c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 18@23c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 30@31c.; good to prime, 28@30c.; tubs select-

ed fresh, 30@31c.; good to prime, fresh, 28@30c.; fair to good, fresh, 24@27c.; poor to fair, fresh, 17@24c.; Western, early packed, selected, 25@27c., good in lines, 23@24c.; fair in lines, 20@21c.; poor, 17@19c. Roll butter, Mich. & N. Ills., fancy, 29@30c.; good to prime, 27@28c.; fair to good, 25@27c.; poor to fair, 20@24c.

CHEESE.—There is more doing on export account, chiefly in good medium grades, which are available in instances at lower figures. Fine State is held at steady, but little wanted. The home trade is light.

New State factory, fancy, 14@ — c.; fine, 13½c.; do. good to prime, 12@13c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair to good, 10@11c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12½@13½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fair, 8@10½c.; poor to fair, 7@8c.

COTTON.—Is unsettled and weak with a light export movement. March, 12 31-32@13c.; April, 13 1-16c.; May, 13 11-32@13⅜c.; June, 13⅜@13 21-32c.; July, 13 27-32@13⅝c.; August, 13@14 1-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.		*Ala.*		*Orleans.*		*Texas*	
Ordinary	9	5-16	9	5-16	9	9-16	9	5-16
Strict ordinary	10	3-16	10	3-16	10	3-16	10	3-16
Good ordinary	10	13-16	10	13-16	10	15-16	10	15-16
Strict good do	11	9-16	11	9-16	11	11-16	11	11-16
Low middling	12	1-16	12	3-16	12	5-16	12	5-16
Strict low middling	12	9-16	12	11-16	12	13-16	12	13-16
Middling	12⅞		13		13	1-16	13	1-16
Good middling	13⅝		13⅝		13⅜		13⅜	
Strict good middling	13⅝		13⅝		13		14	
Middling fair	14⅜		14⅜		14⅜		14⅜	
Fair	14		16⅜		15⅜		15⅜	

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 7-16	Low middling	11 1-16
Strict ordinary	10 9-16	Middling	11 15-16

DRIED FRUITS.—There is more doing in a jobbing way in apples, but large parcels sell slowly, with prices barely steady. Peaches are still very dull. Blackberries weak and neglected.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; quarters, 9c.; Western quarters at 8½@8¾c.; Southern sliced, 1875 crop, 10@10½c. for prime. Tennessee qrs., 8¾@8½c. Blackberries, new, 11 @ c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@16c.; do. fancy, 18c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 21@22c.

EGGS.—Thus far the Lenten season has not been fraught with much encouragement for egg dealers. It has been difficult most of the past week to hold prices at 16c. for best Western fresh. Anything off in quality through long storing has had no attention. Receipts are out of all character for the season or the extra wants of the season. We quote:

Jersey, single barrels, ₽ bbl., 16½@17½c.; State & Penn., 16@16½c.; Western, prime, 15½@16c.; do. fair marks, 15@15½c.; do. old stock, 12@14c.; Southern and Southwestern, 15@15½c.; Illinois, 10@12c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—We quote:

"H. G." oil peppermint, $4, in glass; Hale & Parshall do., $4@4.20 do.; pure in tin, $3.50; sassafras, 55c.; wintergreen, $3.12; spearmint, $3.50; pennyroyal, $4.

FEATHERS.—Stock small, prices firm. Live Western geese 54@56c.; mixed, 35@45c. Common poultry feathers not wanted.

FLOUR.—There is an active export movement through the influences working on wheat, and prices are higher and strong.

Superfine State, $4.20@4.75; extra do., $4.90@5.60; superfine Western, $4.20@4.57; extra do., $4.90@5.75; No. 2, $3.20@4.00; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.50@5.25; trade brands do., $5.30@7.25; white wheat extras, $5.80@7.00; St. Louis, $5.25@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@6.50; Southern at $4.10@4.65 for superfine; $4.80@6.15 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.25@8.75 for trade and family brands. Corn meal, lower and hard to sell; Western yellow, $2.60@3.20; Jersey & Penn., $2.70@3.25. Brandywine, $3.25@3.35.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, 100 bbls. Since Jan. 1st, 3,051 do.; same time last year, 10,516 do. Choice red and other prime winter apples are diminishing. Russets begin to fill up the gap and open with very good prices. Stock is keeping well except some of the tender sweet sorts. These, however have only a side interest in the N. Y. apple market. Baldwins are quoted at $4.25, wholesale; Spitzenburgs, $4.75@5.00 do.; Greenings, $3.75@4.00 do.; Russets Roxbury, $3.50@4.00. Cranberries are firm for the small remnant. Somebody has the art of keeping catawba grapes in fine order. We seldom see them actually quoted at 9c. at this late date. Florida oranges are active when prime. A good many of poor grade are here. Prime loaf bbl. crates bring $4.00@5.00 each. Strawberries from Charleston and Florida, range at $1.50@2.50 per quart. Pretty good orders on packages are being filled for Florida. Hot house strawberries are quoted at $3.00@4.00 per quart. Peanuts are doing well. Stock of fine mainly Virginia,

Apples.—Spitzenbergs and Baldwins, fine, $4@4.50; Greenings, —@—; mixed, good, $3.50@3.75; other $2.50@3.25. Oranges, Florida, per crate, $6.00@8.00. Grapes, Catawba, good to prime, per lb., 6@8c. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, bush. crates, full measure, $4.25@4.50; good to prime, $4@4.25; "pony" crates, $3.50@4.00; choice bbls., $13@14. Nuts—Peanuts, Virginia, per bush., 1.55@1.70; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00, do. Tennessee, 95@$1.15. Hickory nuts, shellbark, $1 do.

GINSENG.—We quote Southern at $1.15@1.25; North and Western, $1.10@1.15.

GRAIN.—For wheat, with reports from the other side of unfavorable weather and spring farm work delayed, leading to higher markets, there has been an active export trade here and prices decidedly higher. Latest sales at $1.20 for soft ungraded Minnesota spring; $1.20 for Nos. 2 and 3 mixed Milwaukee spring, $1.17 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring in fresh receipt; $1.15 for No. 3 Chicago spring in store; $1.30@1.33 for No. 1 Minnesota spring; $1.30 for choice old No. 2 Milwaukee; $1.27@1.25 for do. do., full inspection; $1.26@1.25 for do. do., fresh receipt; $1.23@1.23½ for No. 2 Chicago spring, fresh receipt; $1.23 for prime old do. do. in store; $1.15 for mixed Iowa spring; $1.07@1.15 for ungraded do.; 85c. for very inferior do.; $1.30 for fair amber Western; $1.35 for good white Canada, in bond, afloat; $1.31 for Canada club, in bond, afloat. Rye held firmly at 90c. for prime State, and 80@85c. for Western. Barley strong, with two-rowed State at 77½@85c.; No. 2 Bay, $1.07@1.12½; No. 2 Canada, $1@1.10. Barley malt difficult to sell, and quoted at $1.15@1.35 for Canada; 90c.@$1.05 for two-rowed State. Corn is lower, but closed strong, with a good export trade; mixed Western, 62@62½c.; yellow do., 62@62½c.; yellow Jersey, 59@61c.; yellow Southern, 62@63½c. Oats are higher and strong; sales at 41@41½c. for mixed Western; 41@43c. for mixed State.

HAY AND STRAW.—With the opening of river navigation and the larger supplies in consequence, prices are unsettled and easier.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, 95c.@1.05; clover, 60@70c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 511 bales; since Jan. 1st, 6,130 bales; same time last year, 7,576.

HIGHWINES.—Selling at $1.10.

HONEY.—Remains in its old state of seeming immobility. Prices are very low, and it is doubtful if even cheaper rates would start it at this advanced season.

We quote:—White clover comb, 18@22c.; buckwheat and other dark comb, 10@12c.; strained, 10@12c.

HOPS.—There is a fair trade on export account, with prices unchanged. The receipts this week have been much larger than expected and have included more choice stock than had been supposed was back in the interior; this has led to more cautious dealings.

N. Y. State, 13@19c.; Eastern, 11@17c.; Wisconsins, 11@17c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 17@20c.

MAPLE SUGAR.—As before, the sale is confined to a few buyers, who must have the novelties of a season. The World very appropriately remarks that: "This year, above all others, ought to be a profitable one for the maple groves, as the Centennial visitors will be likely to give attention to this delicious special forest product of ours."

New prime sugar ranges at 14@16c.; fair to good, 12@13c.; old, 8@12c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—As before, fresh-dressed poultry is in light supply. Lots of frozen begin to appear; quoted at 17@18c. for turkeys and 14@15c. for chickens. Philadelphia and South Jersey dry-picked poultry is quoted at 21@23c. for chickens (the outside rate for lots of all choice chickens), 17@22c. for turkeys (the inside rate for heavy), 30c. for large capons and 26c. for small capons and slips.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 19@20c.; Jersey, good to prime, 17@19c.; State, good to prime, 16@18c.; Western, good to prime, 15@17c.; fair to good, 12@15c.; poor, 8@10c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 17@20c.; State, good to prime, 17@19c.; Western, good to prime, 16@19c.; inferior, 8@12c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; State, good to prime, 19@21c.; Western, good to prime, 18@20c.; fair to good, 16@18c.; poor, 10@13c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 12@15c.; State, good to prime, 12@14c.; Western, good to prime, 11@13c.; do., poor to fair, 8@11c.

Live poultry is fairly steady, there being some room for both turkeys and chickens, owing to the light supply of dressed.

Turkeys, Jersey, ₽ lb., 15@16c.; do. Western, 14@15c.; Geese, Jersey, ₽ pair, $2@2.50; do. Western, $1@1.50; ducks, Western, ₽ lb., 65@75c.; ducks, Jersey, ₽ pair, $87@1.25; fowls and chickens, State and Jersey, ₽ lb., 15@16c.; do. Western, 13@14c.; roosters, 8@10c.

Wild ducks are in poor order. Wild pigeons are in fair supply. We quote $1.6@1.25 for Southern Canvasback; 45@60c. for Mallard; 60@70c. for Western Redhead and 30@40c. for common yer pair; wild pigeons, feathered, ₽ doz., $2; English snipe, $4@4.25; plover, $3@3.25; hares, ₽ pair, 20@25c.; rabbits, 30@40c.

PROVISIONS.—Exporters have been operating freely, and prices generally are higher and strong. Mess pork is quoted $22.90@23 for spot lots, $22.95 for March, $22.95 for April, $23.15 for May, $23.35 for June. Extra prime, $19, and prime mess $21@21.50. Boxed, dry salted shoulders, 9c. Tierced pickled hams, 13@14c. Bacon at 12½c. for Western long clear, 13c. for city do., 12½c. for Western long and short clear, together, 13½c. for short clear. Lard—Western steam at 13-75c. for spot lots and March, 13-75c. for April, 13-85c. for May, 14-07½c. for June, and 14-15c. for July. Stearine at 14½@11½c. for choice. Tallow at 9c. for prime. Beef hams at $24@26. Beef—New extra mess at $13.50; do. plain mess, $12.50; new tierced at $25 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $32@32.50.

SEED.—For clover there is an excited and much higher market, with small receipts and an active home trade demand; prime and choice State, 16½@17c.; Canada sold at 14½c., in bond.

TOBACCO.—There are liberal arrivals of Western leaf, but prices are now so low that holders are disposed to store supplies in preference to pressing business. Export demand moderate. Seedleaf is hard to sell, but without change in price.

KENTUCKY LEAF.—NEW CROP.

	Light. Cents.		Heavy. Cents.	
Common lugs	4½@	5½	5 @	8¾
Good lugs	5½@	6¾	6 @	7
Low leaf	7 @	8	7½@	8½
Medium leaf	8½@	9¾	9@	10½
Good leaf	10 @	11	11 @	12
Fine leaf	11½@	13	12½@	15

SEEDLEAF CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.	
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @	12
Wrappers, medium	15 @	2
Wrappers, fine	25 @	35
Seconds	10 @	13
Fillers, selections	5 @	7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @	8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @	20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @	9
Ohio, assorted lots	6½@	8
Wisconsin	6½@	9

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 5,265 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 55,389 do.; same time last year, 26,147 do. A further reduction in price for potatoes shows the further depressed condition of the market. Exports of onions since Jan. 1st, 4,000 bbls.; same time last year, 1,148 do. White onions are higher. Southern green peas have a wide range, owing to condition; quoted $1@1 per bush.

Early Rose, bulk, ₽ bbl., 87c.@$1.25; Peach Blows, $1.12@1.37; Prince Alberts, 87c.@$1.12; common, 50@80c. Sweet potatoes, $2.50@3.00. Cabbages, ₽ 100, $4@6; red, $6@10. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 75c.@$1; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.50@3.50. Russia Turnips, ₽ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Southern spinach, ₽ bbl., $2.50@2.75. Kale, $1@1.25.

WOOL.—There is rather a weak market generally, with demand entirely for small lots, as needed to replenish assortments. Sales of No. 1 Ohio fleeces at 48c.; medium fleeces, 48c.; Oregon, 33c.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklock	50 @	54
XX	47 @	48
X	46 @	48
No. 1	48 @	50
No. 2	42 @	45
Coarse	40 @	42
Combing	58 @	65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	41 @	46
X	42 @	44
No. 1	46 @	48
No. 2	42 @	44
Coarse	40 @	42
Combing	56 @	60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	44 @	46
X	42 @	44
No. 1	44 @	45
No. 2	41 @	43
Coarse	40 @	43
Combing	55 @	62
Combing, unwashed	38 @	46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	44 @	47
X	44 @	47
No. 1	44 @	46
No. 2	41 @	43
Coarse	40 @	43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35 @	38
Medium unwashed	34 @	36
Coarse unwashed	27 @	30
Burry	17 @	23

ROCHESTER, Mar. 18.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.35@1.40; amber winter, $1.10@1.22; white winter, $1.20@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 23@25c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 18@20c. Lard, 13½@14c. Apples, ₽ bu., 50c.@$1. Potatoes, bu., 30@35c. Beans, ₽ bu., 75c@1.20. Mess pork, $22@23. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $7.00@7.50. Wood, hard, ₽ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.05@7.85 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., March 18, 1876.

THE cheese market this week showed sales of a few farm dairies at 10@12c., and one factory—the Brockett & Feeter—110 boxes at 12½c.

About 75 packages of butter were offered and sold, the best grades of which—made from new milk—brought 25@31c. Common grades sold at 25@28c. Many dairymen who have been holding their butter for some weeks back closed out their stock.

We have advices from Europe to the fourth week of February. Our London correspondent says:

Fine English cheese scarce and dearer, as also Dutch. American, fine, in small compass; a special dairy sold at 68s., to arrive; more doing in low at 30@45s. The prices are as follows:

American extra, 65@66s.; fine, 63@64s.; good, 56@60s.; common, 36@46s. English cheddar brings 80@96s.; Wiltshire double, 56@80s.; Cheshire medium, 56@66s.; fine, 76@86s.; Scotch, 60@76s.

Fine butter is scarce. Good intermediate Continental and American sell well, as also the intermediates.

Jersey sells for 100@148s.; Dorsets, 174s.; Danish and Swedish, 100@174s.; Friesland, 150s.; Normandy extra, 140@164s.; American and Canadian, 90@126s. ₽ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 18, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	8,336	39	396	5,609	000
Forty-Eighth St.	000	25	26	2,744	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	766	12,144
Harsimus Cove	4,606	00	000	9,732	7,190
Totals this week	12,942	64	422	18,851	19,334
" last week	7,907	60	563	20,502	27,328

BEEVES.—Trade on Monday last opened slow at a reduction of ½c. ₽ lb. on the opening rates of the previous week. Prices ranged from 8¾@13½c. ₽ lb.; weights, 5¾@10 cwt. The quality of the herds above quoted was generally coarse, ranging from poor to good, with only a few choice. On Wednesday trade was fair at 9@12¾c. ₽ lb.; 6@8¾ cwt. Thursday, no change in the general tone of the market; prices were 8@11c. ₽ lb.; 5¾@8¾ cwt. The markets closed weak on Friday at 9@11½c. ₽ lb.; 5¾@8¾c. From 65@68 lbs. net, were allowed to the cwt. Spanish herds, corn-fed, sold at 9¾@9¾c. ₽ lb. Texan oxen at 8@9¾c. ₽ lb.; State do., 8@12¾c.; Western do., 9@10¾c. Native steers sold at 8@12¾c. ₽ lb.; grade do., 12¾@13¾c. Bulls, live weight, at 4@4¾c. ₽ lb. Mixed herds, 9@11¾c. ₽ lb. Dry cows, $45 ₽ head. Bulls, 4¾c. ₽ lb., gross weight.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.		Last week. Cents.	
Good	12	@13¾	12	@13
Fair	11	@11¾	11	@11¾
Poor	10	@10¾	10	@10¾
Poorest	8	@ 9¾	8	@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾	@10¾	9¾	@10¾

MILCH COWS.—The quality of the cows on sale during the past week was not good enough to meet the demand, and in consequence sales were slow and low. Nine cows sold at $37@55 ₽ head; 4 do. at $50@60; 11 do. at $65@79.50; 3 do. at $102; 4 do. at $55, calves always included; 6 springers were sold at $65@72 ₽ head.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals scarce and in fair demand at 9@11c. ₽ lb. Coarse quality meal-fed calves were also fair of sale at 7@8¾c. ₽ lb. On a very light run of grass calves trade was slow, those to hand being generally held. State veals sold at 9¾@10½c. ₽ lb.; Pennsylvania do., 9@11c.; Jersey do., 10@10¾c. State calves, 8@8¾c. ₽ lb.; Western do., 7@8c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—On a light run trade opened slow on Monday last and the markets closed weak, with several flocks unsold; quality was generally fair, with a choice top; prices ranged from 6¾@8¾c. ₽ lb. for sheep. Lambs not quoted. Trade slow on Wednesday; sheep sold at 6¾@7¾c. ₽ lb. Thursday, sheep sold at 6¾@7¾c. On Friday the markets closed dull; sheep sold at 6¾@7¾c.; lambs, 7¾c.; spring do., 11c.; Illinois sheep sold at 6@7¾. Kentucky do., 7¾c.; Ohio do., 6@8¾c.; Virginia do., 6¾c.; State do., 5¾@7¾c.; Missouri do., 6@6¾c.

HOGS.—There have been no live hogs on sale during the past week, up to Thursday noon; city dressed slow at 10¾@10¾c. ₽ lb.; Western do., 10@10¾c.; these were the opening rates. Trade closed dull, with city dressed at 10¾@11¾c. ₽ lb., and 2 car loads of Ohio hogs, live weight, sold at 8¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade small but fair in sound, fair quality horses. Twenty-one roadsters, with moderate trotting action, sold at $200@425 ₽ head; 7 trotters sold at $500@975 ₽ head; 3 pairs of choice quality heavy draft horses sold at an average of $300 ₽ pair; 11 coarse quality do. sold at $200@350 ₽ pair; 52 poor quality light harness horses sold at $25@75 ₽ head. 13 ordinary quality do. sold at $95@135 ₽ head. Thirty-one horses arrived per Erie Railway via Oak Cliff Station.

New Advertisements.

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MANUFACTURERS.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

RICHARD GRANT WHITE is well again.

DR. LEONARD BACON is seventy-four years old.

CLARA MORRIS will go to Florida for her health.

STEWART L. WOODFORD will stump Connecticut.

QUEEN VICTORIA wears black, with a white tulle veil.

EX-GOV. JOEL PARKER of New Jersey, is in Philadelphia.

LOTTA now owns a villa at Oakland, opposite San Francisco.

THE membership of Mr. Spurgeon's church numbers 4,813 persons.

THE Prince of Wales has left India. He will call at Malta and Lisbon.

DR. HUGGINS has been elected President of the Royal Astronomical Society.

MRS. NELLIE GRANT-SARTORIS does not expect to visit her parents before autumn.

MISS ROSA BONHEUR, the painter, is the guest of Lord Cochrane at Dumfries, Scotland.

ROBERT LAIRD COLLIER has in press in London a book called the Essence of Christianity.

THE Empress of Austria is about to visit her sister, the Duchess d'Alencon, in England.

M'LLE DE LA RAME, better known as "Ouida," has been married to a Russian gentleman.

AT Professor Tyndall's wedding were Thomas Carlyle, Professor Huxley and Dr. Hooker.

THE death of Mrs. A. H. Bowman, Mrs. Belknap's sister, is announced from Louisville.

THREE sermons were preached in Boston in honor of the memory of Charlotte Cushman.

W. F. STOREY denies that Tilden, Wood and Randall have tried to buy the Chicago Times.

MARTHA MCQUIRK died in St. Joseph's Home for the Aged in N. Y. City, March 13, at the age of 106.

THE Right Hon. W. E. Childers has returned to Ottawa, and is the guest of the Governor-General.

PROFESSOR G. C. FOSTER, F. R. S., has been elected President of the Physical Society of London.

EX-GOV. WALKER of Virginia, has been invited to deliver the Fourth of July oration at Waverley, N. Y.

JESSE WELLS, a Shaker of the Watervliet Community, aged 98 years, died while on his knees in prayer.

CHAS. P. SCHNAUFFER, four times married and a Brooklyn grocer, is suspected of having murdered his wife.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS favors the making of a new French flag out of all the rival ones, with the tricolor as a base.

BESSIE TURNER'S brother, William, does not charge any admission fee at his lecture, but takes up a collection.

THE Grand Cordon of the Order of the Redeemer has been bestowed upon King Alfonzo by the King of Greece.

PROF. TARGIONI has been appointed by the Italian Government director of an entomological station at Florence.

THE Queen of Holland, who has considerable literary ability, is writing a book on the beauties of the coasts of Southern France.

SPEAKER KERR is again extremely low in health, and it does not seem possible that he will long endure without another respite from labor.

Traveler's Guide.

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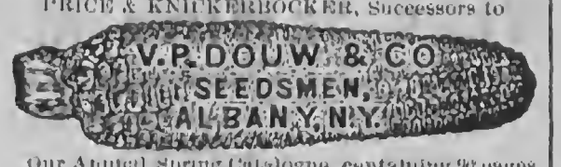

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Black Walnut, extra fine, 1 year	1	5
Pecan, 1 year, 6 inch	3	20
Currant, Red Dutch, White Grape, Victoria	3	20
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Asparagus, 2 years, transl	60c	3
Buckthorn, best Northern hedge plant	1	8
Honey Locust, No. 1, 10,000, $25		3
Osage Orange, No. 1, 10,000, $15		2
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" " 8 to 10 feet	10	60
Maple, Soft, 6 to 8 feet	4	30
" " 15 to 20 ft., 2 to 4 inch stem	20	80
Mountain Ash, Weeping, 10, $2.50	20	

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	Ashton.	Onondaga.
Water	0.7880	0.6280
Insoluble Matter	0.0564	0.0364
Sulphate of Lime	1.2272	0.7217
Sulphate of Magnesia	0.0769	.....
Chloride of Calcium	.....	0.0473
Chloride of Magnesium	0.0591	0.0346
Chloride of Sodium	97.7598	98.5243
	99.9674	99.9822

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Rain is spoiling California crops.

— Smallpox is raging in New Hamburg, N. Y.

— A powerful revival is in progress at Newburg, N. Y.

— A Jackson (Tenn.) mother is eleven and a-half years old.

— Good Templarism is all the rage this season in Kentucky.

— An Irishman supplies Chicago with most of its lager beer.

— Corn, as a crop, has greatly supplanted the grape in the Madeiras.

London pays nearly one-third of the whole income tax of England.

— Rich deposits of tellurium have been found near Colorado Springs, Col.

— The town of Granville, Washington Co., N. Y., has voted against license.

— Connecticut has 3,196 liquor dealers, and their traffic amounts to $15,000,000 a year.

In Rockland, Me., a cornet band composed entirely of women, is being organized.

— This year, for the first time, all Russian theaters will be kept open during Lent.

— The great Calvert sugar refinery of Baltimore is to be re-established with large capital.

— Paris has over 2,000 clairvoyants, 30 of whom are said to make $10,000 each per annum.

An Oregon farmer recently plowed up an Indian skeleton, together with 300 $50 gold slugs.

— A society has been organized in Fisk University, Nashville, for the evangelization of Africa.

— The expenses of the Five Points House of Industry (N. Y. City) last year, were about $32,000.

— The population of Paris in 1874 was 1,851,792. On the first of January, 1876, it was only 1,799,250.

— Linta Hose Co. No. 3 and Fountain Hose No. 4 of Binghamton, N. Y., will visit the Centennial.

— Gold Hill, Nevada, mourns for its pioneer cat, which recently died at the ripe age of 18 years and 6 months.

— Upward of 500,000 new grape-vines, mostly of the raisin variety, will be planted in Fresno Co., Cal., this spring.

— The entire front building of the Rochester Brewing Co. was destroyed by fire March 11. Loss estimated at $30,000.

— The licenses to shoot game in Scotland amount to $3,000,000 annually—much more than all the game is worth.

— Since January, 1858, when the British divorce act went into operation, the number of petitions has averaged 338 per year.

— In England the country bred boys average 1¼ inches more in hight and seven pounds more in weight than the city boys.

— On March 11, 300 laborers on the New York, Bay Ridge and Jamaica RR., struck for $1.50 a day. They were receiving $1.

On account of the hard times the seniors of the Wesleyan Female College at Macon, Ga., have resolved to graduate in calico dresses.

— The new city and county hall at Buffalo, was formally opened March 13th, with speeches by a number of prominent legal gentlemen.

The troops of Fort Osborne, Ont., have been out twice for drill upon snow shoes and have attained considerable efficiency thereon.

— Cooper's novels are having a great run in Russia. Translated into that language, 8,000 copies of the leading stories were sold in a year.

— The Argentine Republic exports wool, mostly to Havre and Antwerp, to the amount of 250,000,000 pounds a year, and owns 80,000,000 sheep.

— The Women's Mission Societies of the United States have contributed about $270,000 during the past year, most of which went to foreign missions.

Thus far this season 43,470 bales of cotton have been handled at Vicksburg. The entire business of last season amounted to only 35,000 bales.

Miscellaneous.

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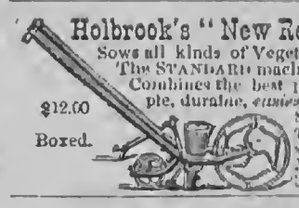

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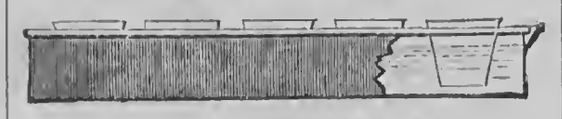

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WHAT do cats have which no other animal has? Kittens.

WHAT is the latest thing in dresses—Night dresses.

WHEN is love deformed? When it is all on one side.

WHEN is a boat like a pile of snow? When it is adrift.

WHEN are eyes not eyes? When the wind makes them water.

WHY is matrimony like a landed estate? Because it is a proper-tie.

CAN a curl over the forehead be called "Locke on the Understanding?"

IRON is a good tonic for debilitated young ladies, but ironing is better.

THEORY may be all very well, but young doctors and lawyers prefer practice.

"WHAT did you give for that horse, neighbor?" "My note." "Well, that *was* cheap."

MAN is an animal that bargains. No other animal does. No dogs exchange bones.

WHY is a man's life safest before he has had dinner? Because he can't di-gest then.

WHAT is the greatest affair of the heart known to science?—The circulation of the blood.

THE lady whose blood curdled in her veins has ever since been very sour in her disposition.

"THE only way to look at a lady's faults" exclaimed a super-gallant, "is to shut your eyes."

A CANDID old bachelor says:—"After all, a woman's heart is the sweetest in the world; it's a perfect honeycomb—full of sells."

WHY should soldiers be more tired on the 1st of April than on any other day in the year. Because they have just had a March of 31 days.

A MINNESOTA girl is named Happiness Quinn, and half the young men in the neighborhood wear black eyes for indulging in certain rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

IF there is anything in the world calculated to make a man forget he's been to hear Moody and Sankey on the previous evening, it is to bounce cheerily out of bed in the morning and light on the business end of a tack.

AFTER the ceremony the other evening in Seaford, Md., the happy groom handed the minister a twenty-five cent shinplasterer, saying, "I reckon twenty cents are about the right thing, ain't it?" and then waited for his nickel.

A GOOSE that sees another drink will do the same, though he is not thirsty. The custom of drinking for company, when drinking is dispensable and prejudicial, seems to be a case of the same kind, and to put a man, feathers only excepted, upon a footing with a goose.

A VIVID FIGURE.—Joaquin Milller, in describing how he fell in love with a girl at a railroad accident, makes a strange dramatic point where he says:

"I see her before me lie senseless and pale.
With her bustle ripped up on the ravenous rail."

ROGER M. SHERMAN was arguing a case, and made a point which the judge did not see. "Mr. Sherman," said he, "I would thank you to state, the point so that I can understand you." Bowing politely, Sherman replied, in his blandest manner:—"Your honor is not probably aware of the task you are imposing upon me."

IT takes the Chinese to bring out the inherent beauties of that favorite ballad, "How doth the little busy bee:"

How belly small chin-chin sting bug
Im-im-plove ebly sixty minit all a time,
Go, pickee up sting bug juice all day,
All kin' places 'loun flowels just got busted.

"I HAVE my own 'pinion on zis question," remarked a seedy looking individual on State street last evening. "What is your opinion?" asked a gentleman standing near by. "My 'pinion, zur," replied the man, "is zat every feller's got his own right (hic) to go on a tariff 'e wants to." No one ventured to dispute his views.—[*Chicago Journal.*

"How much is my bill?" inquired a sad-eyed youth in a Chicago confectionary store the other day. The proprietor looked over his books a minute and then replied—"Sixteen dollars and fifteen cents." As the young man drew forth his wallet to meet the account he sighed deeply and said, "I tell you this is tough!" "How so?" asked the confectioner. "Oh, she's gone back on me." "Who?" "Oh, she—the girl that eat all the candy," continued the unhappy youth, "and I tell you it's hard to pay for so much sweetness after its gone and soured on a fellow." The candy man acknowledged that it did seem kind of rough.

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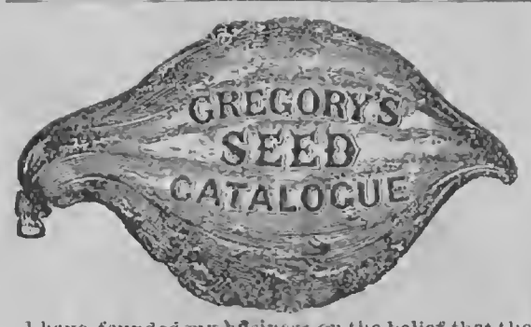

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The Centennial.

THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS.—MACHINERY HALL.

To a great many visitors at the Centennial Exposition, Machinery Hall, of which we give a large illustration on this page, will be the most interesting portion of the Exhibition. The building consists of the Main Hall, 360 feet wide by 1,402 feet long, and an annex on the south side of 208 feet by 210 feet. The entire area covered by the Main Hall and annex is 558,440 square feet, or 12.82 acres. Including the upper floors, the building provides 14 acres of floor space.

The principal portion of the structure is one story in hight, showing the main cornice upon the outside at 40 feet from the ground, the interior hight to the top of the elevators in the avenues being 70 feet, and in the aisles 40 feet. To break the long lines upon the exterior, projections have been introduced upon the four sides, and the main entrances finished with facades, extending to 78 feet in hight. The east entrance will form the principal approach from street cars, from the Main Exhibition Building, and from the railroad depot. Along the south side will be placed the boiler houses, and such other buildings for special kinds of machinery as may be required. The west entrance affords the most direct communication with George's Hill, the point affording the best view of the entire Exhibition grounds.

WOMEN AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The women of New York propose to present a banner in the Women's Hall of the Centennial Exposition. At the close of the Exhibition the banner is to be transferred to Memorial Hall, to be preserved as a permanent memento of the great Centennial. The considerable sum which it is hoped will remain after the purchase of the banner, says the address to the ladies of the State by the Albany Central Committee of ladies, it is proposed to devote to an object which needs only to be named to commend itself to the mind and heart of every citizen of this republic.

Mount Vernon, so justly dear to us all, will soon be among the things that were, unless means be provided to arrest its decay and secure its preservation. "What then can we do more appropriate to this interesting period of our national life, or more worthy of the patriotism to which we can justly lay claim, than to take measures to preserve for those who are to come after us this precious relic of our early history? Influenced by these considerations, let us unite for the accomplishment of this grand object as becomes the women of the State of New York, and raise without delay the amount of money required to secure forever the preservation and good keeping of the home and grave of our immortal Washington."

Among the names of the Committee from the State outside of Albany appear the following:

Mrs. Bishop Huntington, Mrs. Horatio Seymour, Mrs. Rutger B. Miller.

OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The programme for the opening ceremonies is in course of preparation. The grand platform will be erected midway between Memorial Hall and the northern entrance of the Main Exhibition Building. The proceedings will commence with a chorale by a large amateur choir, to be followed by prayer. There will be a cantata by an American composer, with a bass solo for a well-known Philadelphia singer, and a march composed for the occasion by Carl Wagner will be performed by the orchestra under the direction of Theodore Thomas. Mr. Wagner has been paid $500 for this march. Gen. Hawley, President of the Centennial Commission, will then make a brief address to the President of the United States, during which he will rehearse the prominent facts connected with the occasion and will request the President to formally open the Centennial buildings. After the President has made a reply to Gen. Hawley, they will descend the platform together, followed by the guests, and will enter the Main Building. They will then pass half-way down to the eastern end, recognizing France and the United States, who occupy that quarter, and then, retracing their steps, will traverse the nave to the western end, and emerging at that point, will cross the flowers and asphalt of the intervening square and enter Machinery Hall, where the official ceremonies will terminate. The cortege will then disband. Cannon and other firearms will be discharged the moment the President leaves the platform and all the chimes will commence ringing. All the steam whistles in Machinery Hall will be sounded and other noise-creating agencies will be put in operation at the same time. The cards of invitation have been handsomely designed by Dreka of Philadelphia, and will soon be completed.

A DOLL ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

Most of the babies from one hundred years ago have passed away; but here we have the record of a doll, made as a temporary plaything for a child of 1774, which has endured the mutations of time and is carefully preserved as a relic. The doll was a New Year's gift, January 1, 1774, to little Sarah Horn, she being then but three years old, and living in the City of Philadelphia. Her father was a sergeant in the Pennsylvania Marines. The doll was the gift of an uncle, who was a wood-carver. It was more than a foot in length, and was a handsome piece of work, being carved from wood and representing a woman in the costume of the period, high-heeled slippers, high head-gear and all. When Philadelphia was evacuated Mr. Horn's family went to Bordentown, N. J., and were there when Mr. Borden's house was burned. At the battle of Monmouth, the family with others were hidden in a swamp near that battle ground. The doll shared the fate of the family, but was preserved in the swamp by its little owner with tender care. It has been held as an heirloom ever since. In 1858 it was brought from New Jersey by Mrs. South, a descendent of Sarah Horn, who married Elias Tice, and was given to a member of the family. During the Morgan raid it was in Batavia, and was again the object of tender solicitude on the part of its then young owner, who concealed it in her clothing to keep it from falling into the hands of the enemy. The doll is now in the possession of Temperance Tice, whose home is in Indianapolis. It deserves a place in its early home — Philadelphia — during this Centennial year.

NOTES ABOUT THE CENTENNIAL.

Massachusetts still wants additional space for its educational exhibit.

Eleven more buildings for the use of States, associations, &c., are to be erected immediately.

The French goods for the Exhibition will be sent to Philadelphia direct in four large ocean steamers.

A flower bed, 40 feet in diameter, will load the air with perfume in the vicinity of the Horticultural building.

Farm Economy.

USE AND BENEFITS OF PLASTER.

From a very able and interesting essay on this knotty subject, by Prof. G. C. Caldwell of Cornell University, in the Tribune, we copy the fellowing:

Next to the use of plaster on clover, its application to young corn is perhaps the most common practice. About a tablespoonful is given to each hill by some farmers just as the corn appears above the ground, by others not till it is two or three inches high, while others still apply it before the corn has come up at all. The general testimony of farmers who use plaster in this way is very emphatic in its favor. Some who have left rows of corn unplastered by the side of others that were plastered as usual assert that the difference in favor of the plastered rows was unquestionable.

As to the manner in which plaster acts when applied to the soil, I shall have to confess at the outset that the mode of its action has not yet been satisfactorily explained. There are many ways in which it may act, but it cannot be proved positively that it does act in any one of these ways alone in any given case. It may serve to feed the plant with lime and sulphuric acid; but there is generally a sufficient supply of both of these elements of plant food in the soil, and, moreover, the crops most benefited by plaster are not those that make the heaviest demand on the soil for lime and sulphuric acid. It may serve to fix atmospheric combined nitrogen, and bring it within the reach of the plant, but the quantity of plaster that remains on or near the surface of the soil, where it would be in a position to act in this way, is too small for the accomplishment of this work to any such degree as to make it of much service to the plant. Furthermore, the clover plant, which is most benefited by an application of plaster, is remarkably indifferent as regards the supply of combined nitrogen in the soil, so that the fixation of ammonia there would be of no special service to it. It has been found that plaster in the soil may increase the solubility of potash, a very important element of plant-food that is present there to a large extent in forms with difficulty soluble, and therefore not readily available to the plant; but, if this be the only explanation of its action, that plaster helps to bring a greater supply of potash within the reach of the plant, then application of ashes should produce the same effect as one of plaster. This has not been found to be the case, at least with clover. The difficulty is, however, in a measure removed by another effect produced by plaster; not only does it make the potash in the soil more soluble, but it also appears to assist the plant in some way to take up an additional quantity of the potash which it has first brought within easier reach. The plaster not only helps to cook the dinner, but also to get it eaten. If two plants are made to grow in solutions containing all the needed elements of their food, including potash, and one of these solutions contains sulphate of lime and the other does not, a much larger quantity of potash will be taken up by the plant that is growing in the solution containing plaster than by the other. Plaster also helps to bring other elements of plant-food, such as phosphoric acid, ammonia, and magnesia into solution, so that it may give aid to the plant in obtaining its supply of other food besides potash.

As to the very common impression that plaster draws water, it must be said in truth that while it appears to be impossible that this substance should exert any action of this kind, yet such a wide-spread opinion on the part of those who have used plaster is not to be removed by simply laughing at it. I have had the account from a gentleman, who is one of the most trustworthy contributors to this department of the Tribune, that as he has walked in the morning across a pasture that was plastered in strips his boots would be wet with dew only while crossing the plastered strips, and this was observed, too, long after the plaster was applied. I find it hard to believe this story, and yet I cannot disbelieve the man. There is a mode of action of plaster on vegetation that is somewhat akin to that of drawing moisture. Many substances, when taken into the sap at the roots, may serve to make the same quantity of water move more slowly through the plant from the roots to the leaves, where it escapes into the atmosphere by evaporation. This upward movement of water and its evaporation from the foliage is hindered to a greater extent by plaster than by any other substance that ordinarily enters into the sap. Thus it appears to be a most efficient agent for hindering the waste of water, so to speak, and making it last longer. In this way it may produce practically the same effect as that of a body which would actually attract moisture to vegetation or to the soil. I have thus passed in review very briefly the several modes of action of plaster by which it may possibly serve to increase the growth of vegetation, but I cannot designate any one of them as the one way in which it does act, either in any given case or in all cases. If superphosphate produces a great increase of the crop to which it is applied, we know that the effect is produced by the phosphoric acid or the nitrogen of the fertilizer. If Chili saltpeter is used with good effect we know positively that the result was due to the nitrogen of the nitric acid in the saltpeter; but it is quite otherwise with plaster, and till favored with more light I cannot do better than to allow the possibility of its action by all the modes which I have noticed, not excepting even the possibility that it draws moisture, or rather saves water.

EXPERIMENTS WITH SUPERPHOSPHATE.

Mr. E. R. Towle of West Berkshire, Vt., relates in the Boston Cultivator some very interesting and successful experiments with superphosphate made by himself and his neighbors. He says: I use it on potatoes, soil a gravelly loam, previously in grass, turned over last spring, and no manure used, only superphosphate in the hill. The yield was increased about 50 per cent. above that where no fertilizer was used, and the crop was of good quality and quite free from the depredations of the white grub, that made sad havoc with many fields in this vicinity.

A farmer in another town obtained the following results with potatoes: Soil, green sward and gravelly loam. Plot with no manure yielded at the rate of 173 bushels to the acre, quality inferior. Plot with horse manure harrowed in, 240 bushels, and another plot with manure and a tablespoonful of superphosphate in the hill, at the rate of 300 lbs. per acre, 360 bushels to the acre, the tubers being of uniform size and excellent quality. The last plot gave an increase of 120 bushels per acre over that treated with manure, and 187 above that with the fertilizer. One hundred and twenty bushels at 30c. a bushel would be $36, minus $10.25 for superphosphate, leaves $25.75 as profit above cost of fertilizer.

Last year the corn crop was very poor, owing to the backwardness of the season, and although a fair growth was obtained the corn did not ripen, and in consequence some was not husked, and much that was husked has since hurt in the crib. The farmer alluded to found the superphosphate to give as good a yield as where hog manure was used in the hill, and also that it matured earlier. Notwithstanding the cold and wet season another farmer in a town adjoining raised as sound corn with this fertilizer as he had ever done before with manure, and both were particularly pleased with its effects in the garden.

A friend in my own town planted one-half acre to corn with no other fertilizer but a large spoonful of superphosphate in the hill. The ground until the year previous had been in pasture, and had become thoroughly overgrown with brakes. It was first plowed and sown with buckwheat, which rotted the turf, but no manure was applied. The growth of corn was very large and the crop became well ripened. I saw, selected from this half acre, 25 long traces hanging in a row, the best exhibition of seed corn I ever saw at one time. This field was sheltered somewhat from prevailing cold winds, with an inclination to the east, which was favorable for the season, but I consider the results as most extraordinary, and perhaps may be due in a measure to the fact that the land had been so long in pasture, although it was stated to me that it was exhausted by continued cropping, probably without manure, some 40 years ago.

PASTURING MEADOWS.

A paragraph is traveling quite extensively through our agricultural exchanges, recommending pasturing meadows as a means of making them more productive. It gives the name of a practical farmer who has tried it, and is sure he knows that pasturing is the preferable practice. All which shows that there are exceptions to all rules. It is possible that under some circumstances pasturing meadows may be really beneficial; but it by no means follows that it is to be generally recommended. For the great majority of meadows pasturing at any season is undoubtedly injurious. The roots, both of clover and timothy, are very liable to injury by the tramping of cattle at any season. Cropping the herbage diminishes the vigor of the plant. If fed down in spring, it will usually be impossible to get more than half a crop. If fed closely after haying, the natural shelter of the plant and roots for winter is destroyed.

The exception to this is where blue grass or red top completely occupy the soil. Their fine roots are scarcely injured when the ground is dry, and the removal of surplus grass leaves the surface more open to the warm sunshine of early spring. The intense cold of winter on a dry soil will not injure the roots of such a meadow, and there is a positive advantage in having the ground clear and open to the warmth and light of spring.

How much clover is injured by close pasturing may be seen by watching the bad effect which a wagon track has made across the field. The crowns of the clover roots will be found broken down, and the plants make about as feeble and stunted a growth as corn plants would under similar circumstances. The hoof of a horse or cow is little less destructive to clover wherever it touches. Of course, in rich full feed cattle will wander but little and the injury will be less; but whoever expects to get the best result from having his fields seeded with clover should see to it that stock of any kind is kept out of them, and that their crop is allowed to obtain nearly its full growth before cutting.

Field Crops.

JUNE GRASS OR BLUE GRASS.

The Canada Farmer recently published an illustration and description of the qualities of this well known but variously esteemed grass. In Kentucky the Blue Grass is considered the very best of grasses. In an address before a Shelby County Grange, published in the Farmers' Home Journal, Chaplain Blaydes gave the following three prominent characteristics as especially commending it to favor;

First—Its capacity to yield an abundant pasturage. This characteristic of the variety named is apparent to all whose attention has been directed to this matter, as it will yield rich grazing the year round, and may be almost classed with the evergreens. All this conspires to give it a very high place in our favor for winter grazing. It is a familiar fact that in what is proverbially known as the Blue Grass region, this grass has attained a very high state of cultivation, specially for winter pasturage; while in an adjoining and sister state (Indiana), there are a number of counties in which this grass is fostered with a view to both summer and winter grazing.

Second—Its fattening qualities are conceded by all to be equal, if not superior to that of any other grass, and for cattle it has no equal among all the grasses, giving rise to the most savory of meats. Especially for milch cows does its excellence manifest itself, in the rich flow of sweet and oily cream from which the choicest butter is made. I once heard a brother farmer remark that he had a large woodland pasture, set in blue grass, which he usually used for summer grazing; but being advised by a friend to cut the pasture in two and keep one-half of it for winter pasture, he was prevailed on to act out this suggestion, and he remarked that he turned about thirty head of cattle on in the early part of winter, and they remained on it during the winter, without having been fed any, except only when there was snow or sleet on the ground, so that they could not get to the grass. "And," said he, "they kept in good beef order throughout the winter." I mention the foregoing circumstance as it is an attestation of the superior fattening qualities of this most excellent variety of the grasses. Much more might be said in this direction, but I will pass on to the next prominent feature of this variety.

Third—Its capacity to hold the soil from washing away is perhaps more than double that of other grass. Embracing with its network of ten thousand thready rootlets, it thus clasps almost every atom of the soil, and, when it has thus taken possession of the soil, it admits of no rival, forming a heavy, rich, green sward on the surface. Thus, it may be seen that our soil is safest from the ravages of the watery element when in the keeping of this most beautiful variety of grasses.

THE COST OF CORN AND OF OATS.

At a recent meeting of the Lenawee Junction Mich. Farmers' Club reported in the Michigan Farmer the committee which had been appointed to determine whether it was profitable to raise corn, made their report.

Mr. M. Davis, one of the committee, said his crop turned out about 100 bushels to the acre. The cost of one acre was $18.00, and he had placed the value of the corn at $25.00, and the stalks at $5,00, or the receipts at $80, making the profit $12, on the acre. This estimate had been made on the work as though there were only one acre in the piece, which of course raised the expense higher in proportion than if it had been on a larger field.

President Sayles being another member of the committee, had made his estimate as follows. Hired it all done by the month, but had charged by the day against the field. The average day's work in plowing one field of stubble ground was two acres and the charges for it $3.00, or $1.-50 per acre. The harrowing was done at 10 acres per day, and with the same price for man and team, would be 30c for once over, or 60c for twice over the ground which was done. The marking cost 30c. per acre. He planted six acres per day with a corn planter, which he called $1 50 per day or 25c per acre for planting, and charged 20c. per acre for the seed. He used a two horse cultivator for all the cultivating, and averaged through the season 8 acres per day, which at $3 per day, and four times over the ground make a cost of $1.50 per acre for cultivating. He paid $1.25 per acre for cutting up the corn and 5c. per bushel for husking, or $4.50 per day and the drawing and cribbing the corn $1.45 per acre, making a grand total of $11.55 as the cost of one acre of corn. The corn yielded 90 bushels per acre, and he had allowed as credit to the field, two cents per bundle for the stalks, and got 160 bundles, or a total of $3.20, to be deducted from the cost, $11.55, which left as the net cost of the corn in the crib, $8.35 for the 90 bushels, or 9 5-18 cents per bushel. He had also another piece on sod ground, which he had manured well, for which he had charged the field $6.00 per acre. Had charged $2.00 per acre for plowing, as he used three horses; harrowing, $1.20 per acre; marking, 30c. seed 20c; planting, 25c; cultivating $1.50; cutting up corn at $1.25, all same as received in the other field; husking at $6.00 per acre, and cribbing, $1.80, making a total cost of $20.50 per acre of 120 bushels the actual yield, or 17¼ cents per bushel. He replied to a question that his system of farming was to allow no weeds to go to seed, and of course he has less cultivating to do on that account. He had, however, neglected to charge to the field its proportion of the taxes on the farm, and its interest on its money value.

The committee on the oat crop were then called on for their report. C. C. Whitmarsh first made a report on his crop, just as he had done the work. The ground 20 acres, had been prepared for wheat the fall before, and he only used the cultivator. The account stood as follows:

Five days with cultivator	$15 00
Two days with roller	5 00
Two days drilling	6 00
Seed—1¾ bushels per acre	18 90
Harvesting	40 00
Drawing, threshing and loading	50 00
Total cost of crop	$135 90

He had credited the crop with

815 bushels of oats at 39c. per bush	$317 85
The straw he called worth	50 00
Total income	$367 85
Deducting the total cost	135 90
Profit on the crop	$231 95

This makes a net profit per acre of $11.59¼, and a net cost per bushel of 16¾c.

Martin Bowerman had a report of 4½ acres, and his account stood:

Dr.

Three days plowing	$9 00
Half day sowing and harrowing	1 50
12 bushels seed at 67c. per bush	8 04
Harvesting	7 50
Drawing to the barn	4 00
Threshing, all told	13 00
Total cost	$42 04

Cr.

265 bushels oats at 40c. per bush	$106 00
Straw	20 00
Total income	$126 00
Deducting cost	43 04
Net profit	$82 96

This made $23.70 profit per acre. The net cost per bushel was only a fraction from 16¼c.

FARMERS AND THE CORN PREMIUMS.

Conrad Wilson in the last number of the Christian Union makes some interesting comments on the responses he receives from farmers relative to the Centennial Corn Premiums.

It is evidently the intention of many to test this cereal more thoroughly during the coming season than ever before.

One man writes to me from Ohio that he has a clover field of ten acres that was thoroughly top-dressed last fall with a view of planting it to corn this spring. He has always made corn a leading crop, and once got nearly a hundred bushels from an acre. He now intends to make an extra effort, and whether he wins a premium or not he is confident of getting an abundant yield, and *that*, he says, with much truth, will be itself a prize worth contending for at any time, and still more so on this occasion.

Another farmer, in Kentucky, writes that he intends to compete for several of the offers, and especially for the largest yield from a single grain, because he thinks he will thereby get a better quality of corn, and heavier weight, and will prepare the way for a larger yield by the acre in after years.

An enterprising widow who has a flourishing farm in a Western State writes that her late husband, "previous to his recent death, was for many years connected with the Board of Agriculture, and received the highest premium for the most productive farm in the State," and adds that she "intends to compete for these Centennial premiums."

Other letters of similiar import to these are continually coming to hand, and all of them indicate the same growing interest in the culture and development of the corn crop.

Onions are extensively and profitably grown by some farmers. On clean soil they cost no more per bushel than potatoes.

Dairy Husbandry.

NATIONAL BUTTER AND EGG ASSOCIAT'N.

THE Third Annual Meeting of the National Butter and Egg Association was held at Davenport, Iowa, the first week in March. From the report of its doings in the Prairie Farmer, we gather the following items:—The meeting seems to have been a success, though few producers were present, the attendance being mainly of leading dealers from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and other cities.

In the address of the President—GEO. E. GOOCH of Chicago, it is stated that two-thirds of the butter made in the West brought less than 16 cents per pound to the producer, and the belief was that if it had been made by the creamery system at least from 25 to 30 cents could have been obtained for it.

EXPORTS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

The Sec'y, R. M. LITTLER, gave a statement from official sources, showing that the exports for the year ending June 30, 1875, to have been: Butter, 6,360,287 pounds, valued at $1,506,996, and of cheese 101,010,853 pounds, valued at $13,659,603. The exports of cheese to Great Britain and Ireland were nearly 90,000,000 pounds. The imports to this country during the same time were of butter 1,199,620 pounds, valued at $319,470, and of cheese, 3,120,112 pounds, valued at $518,357. The duty on both butter and cheese is four cents a pound.

OLEOMARGARINE.

The committee in regard to the adulteration of butter with oleomargarine reported that as there was now no adulteration of butter with this material, there was no need of legislation on the subject; but a resolution was adopted recommending that oleomargarine, when on sale, should be branded as such.

GOLD MEDAL FOR BUTTER AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The committee on securing a display of dairy products at the Centennial, recommend that a gold medal of the value of $50 be awarded for best package of butter of no less than 50 pounds, to be shown at each of the two special displays, June 20 and October 17, and this recommendation was adopted.

PACKAGES, SHIPPING, &C.

L. E. FITS of Chicago urged the importance of the best packages and packing of butter for market. Butter should be graded and sold on its merits. Mr. HERMANCE of New York believed that commission merchants should keep shippers informed as to the state of the market, prices, &c., but it was not safe for him to predict prices. Shippers should not get into such a competition as not to allow a safe margin. Five per cent. commission is as little as is safe in the business.

Mr. RICHARDS of Chicago urged the importance of shipping butter when fresh; he opposed the policy of holding it in hopes of higher prices as resulting in losses.

In regard to packages, it was stated that the New York summer trade prefers oak firkins, which should be of good weight, 20 pounds. Correct tare should be marked or branded on the package. Fall trade requires tubs. Roll butter should not be shipped in large packages, but in kegs and tubs. Prints should not be packed with large rolls. Welsh tubs are liked. Chicago prefers tubs to half firkins. The oak for packages should be grown on high and dry ground as that from low, wet ground, allows the brine to soak through and spoil in appearance.

FREIGHT ON BUTTER.

The freight on butter from Chicago to New York, it was stated, was $1.10 per 100 pounds, with no reduction for large quantities. Bacon is shipped for 50c. and cheese for 65c. The rate from East to West is lower than from West to East. Counting out packages, the net freight from Chicago to New York is $1.35, or $1.40 per 100 pounds. The reason given by the representatives of the railroads was the greater value of butter and the increased cost and weight of refrigerator cars.

CHICAGO RECEIPTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS.

It was stated that during 1875 Chicago had received nearly 15,000,000 pounds of cheese and over 30,000,000 pounds of butter.

The election of officers resulted in the following: President—GEORGE E. GOOCH of Chicago; Sec'y—R. M. Littler of Davenport, Iowa; Treas.—E. L. Kemp of Baltimore, with one Vice-President from each State.

The next Annual Meeting is to be held at Chicago on the first Wednesday in March, 1877, and a special meeting October 17, 1876, at Philadelphia, the time of Special Dairy Show at Centennial.

OPENING THE CHEESE FACTORIES.

THE silly advice of J. H. REAL of Philadelphia, urging cheese factories to delay commencing work until the first of May, shows an ignorance of dairy matters which raises a smile on the faces of most dairymen to whom the project has been presented. Mr. REAL proposes that the cows be made to stop having calves until May; or if they come in milk earlier, he would have the dairymen make butter at the farm or give the milk to hogs or other domestic animals, or we suppose throw the milk away—anything, so that it be not made into cheese. This course, he thinks, will enable dealers to get rid of their stocks and cause a scarcity in the market, and as a matter of course enable dealers, who have stocks of cheese of their own, to realize a large profit in the disposal of their goods. But cows at this season (March 8) are rapidly "coming into milk," and no persuasion of dairymen or Philadelphia dealers will be able to induce them to delay the necessities of nature. Again, the cheese dairymen depending upon the opening of the factories at an early day, have no convenient buildings and utensils for setting milk and making butter, and hence the milk must be fed to animals or thrown away during March and April.

New York dairymen are not likely to look with favor upon this proposition of the youthful REAL. A correspondent of the Little Falls Journal says:—"Mr. REAL advances four categorical reasons why the opening of factories should be delayed, the sum of the argument being that decreased production will induce enhancement of prices. So far as it goes, this will apply equally well to any other branch of trade or business; but we do not hear of *grain merchants* advising farmers to keep back their grain and feed hogs with it, for the express purpose of raising the price of grain in the warehouses throughout the country. Nor is it common to hear of woolen manufacturers recommending the contraction of production, in order that artificial prices may be realized for their fabrics on hand.

If the proposal to delay opening the cheese factories were followed, its only result would be to put money into the pockets of dealers who have stocks of last year's cheese on hand, without in the smallest degree benefiting dairymen. Whatever may be said against April cheeses, it is undeniable that they generally bring the highest prices; and while this continues dairymen are not likely to inflate the butter market by abandoning cheese making to turn their milk into butter. The proposal to make cows come in later is not likely to be followed by dairymen who understand their own interests; for early cows pay best, since their full yielding season continues much longer. For instance, cows "coming in" the middle of May, will commence to shrink the same time as those that calved in the beginning of April.

Dairymen must consider their own interests while they are endeavoring to improve or keep up the high standard of the American cheese market, and it is not to be supposed that they will relinquish their most profitable produce without obtaining an equivalent in return.

GEO. W. DAVIS, a noted factoryman of Herkimer Co., N. Y., in referring to REAL's foolish proposition, says:—I have had 20 years' experience in the dairy and ten years in a cheese factory of from 500 to 800 cows, and it has ever been the fact that the early and late milk has given the best cash returns; and why? Simply because the demand was greater in proportion to the supply. Would the dealers pay more for the early make if they could not pass them into consumption? certainly not. But Mr. R. claims that they hinder the sale of grass cheese. The very reverse has ever been the argument by dealers here and I fail to see the point that what has preceded should lessen the price of better goods. One point more—the propriety of utilizing the early milk in the production of meats. This theory with us was exploded forty years ago, and hence the practice of slaughtering the calves at four days old. And again: we are told that if a part of the cheese product was cut off, we should realize more for the remainder.

Now suppose this Mr. REAL should approach the grain grower whilst busy with his reaper: "Sir, had you not better leave a part of this fine crop of wheat and turn in the swine, to the end that you may have more pork and better prices for what you do harvest? Would he indorse that? No. And yet it would be a parallel case to the subject in question.

We should advise our youthful Philadelphia friend to gain a little more experience in the ways of dairying before sending his letters of advice to New York dairymen. The cheese factories of New York are now being rapidly opened, and cheese is being made as in former years. Mr. REAL's plan may do well enough for Philadelphia dairymen, but it won't work in New York.

PLAN FOR SETTING MILK.

X. A. WILLARD:—You will do me a favor by giving me an answer to the following question: In your opinion, what is the best and most convenient arrangement on sale, and where can it be had, for setting milk in a spring house for making butter only from 200 or 300 cows?—ALBERT W. MORSE, *Easton, N. Y.*

ALL the recent plans for setting milk are very fully described in the "Practical Butter Book," lately published at this office. We could hardly answer our correspondent definitely without knowing more in detail concerning his building, conveniences for water, &c., &c.

Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY IN COLORADO.

EDS. RURAL:—Permit me to answer in the RURAL some of the many questions asked me by anxious inquirers in the East, frequently by mail. I came to Colorado with my family in June, 1874, to get relief from asthma, from which I had suffered much for thirty years, and found here complete relief. This climate I believe to be a specific for this most distressing complaint.

I removed here from the far-famed Genesee Valley in the western part of the State of New York, and brought with me three car loads of pure bred Spanish Merino sheep, bred with much care for ten years, from choice selections of several of the best flocks in Vermont. Shipping in excessive hot weather and acclimating, my losses were about 5½ per cwt. Since they have become acclimated they have done remarkably well. In the winter of 1874-5 I fed to my entire flock of about 1,000 (part Mexican) about six tons of hay, costing $10 per ton. The Mexican sheep ate very little hay. It being the first winter in Colorado for my Merinos, they required more than usual. January was considered the most severe cold since 1869; but with the exception of about ten days of severe cold, it was much the finest winter I had ever seen—very little snow and many fine, sunny days. Messrs. THIMBLE & TODD wintered 1,500 Mexican ewes, herding them near Fort Collins, in the cache at La Paredre Valley. Mr. THIMBLE informed me recently, he had lost none and fed very little hay, and his sheep wintered finely. Several other sheep men wintered near here, from 800 to 1,000 each, with no loss, and fed no hay or grain.

My friends East considered me an authority upon sheep husbandry in Colorado, but I must say my expectations have been fully realized. One man can easily herd 1,500 on the plains and 1,000 among the foothills. First-class herders usually get about $20 per month and board. It is necessary to have sheds to protect sheep from winds and occasional storms which may, at some seasons of the year and at rare periods, be severe, though many flocks are wintered or corraled nights in board and some in open pole pens without any cover, and daily graze the year round. The best time for our lambs to drop is from May 10 to June 10, it then being warm, fine weather, and the ewes have plenty of green feed and give abundance of milk. I think with good care and proper management, 80 per cent. of lambs can be easily raised from Mexican ewes; I have heard of 125 per cent. increase. Mexican ewes are very prolific. Nearly all Mexican flocks here are crossed with Spanish Merinos, and much more attention is being paid to procuring pure bloods for this purpose than formerly. Many sheep men have been imposed upon by sheep dealers and peddlers from the East, selling them grades for pure blood Merinos and giving pure pedigrees. One pure blood for grading up a flock of native or Mexican ewes, is of more real value than a hundred grades; hence the necessity of obtaining pure bloods to cross on Mexican ewes. The increase in wool when pure bloods are used is about doubled the first cross. The Mexicans clip here from 2½ to 3 lbs. and cost from $2 to $2.50 per head, delivered here in Northern Colorado. The third cross have cut in some cases over eight lbs. to average the flock, and in some choice ones over 10 lbs. of fine wool, which sells here for about 2c. less than in Boston. The Merino cross make a very hardy sheep, well adapted to this country. The half breeds make excellent mutton.

This is naturally the home for the sheep. I fully believe it to be as fine a stock country as any in the world, though not in productive capacity, and it seems peculiarly adapted to sheep husbandry. Capital is being rapidly invested here in this industry, which it is expected will pay from 80 to 100 per cent. above expenses with proper care and prudence. Colorado is supposed to be capable of sustaining 30,000,000 sheep, and if the introduction of Alfalfa (now being introduced) should prove a success where it can be irrigated, as many now confidently anticipate, its pastural capacity will be immensely augmented—sufficient to sustain 100,000,000 or more, of sheep. It has been estimated from a few experiments, that one acre of Alfalfa (Lucerne) will sustain 20 sheep, but I think it a more safe calculation to say ten to an acre, which will very materially increase the capacity of this country for growing stock and wool. Alfalfa can be cut three times here in a season, yielding six tons of dry hay per acre, and is much preferred by stock. It can be mowed once in six weeks and produce much pasture after the third cutting. Its rapid growth, and preference by stock, make it a most desirable forage plant for this country. It is believed from careful estimates, there are now in Larimer County alone at least 100,000 sheep, and that the natural increase, and annual importation from New Mexico and the States, will double the number annually in this country until it is stocked to its full capacity, and thus swell the aggregate of this most productive industry in Colorado, as before stated, to at least 100,000,000 of sheep, producing 450,000,000 lbs. of wool. We hope to make this the banner County, if it is not already, in the production of wool, and wool growing promises fair to be the leading industry in this Territory. And I believe near and on the foothills are to be found the best water and the most desirable place for sheep ranches, though sheep do very well on the plains far away from the foothills where water can be obtained, but wood and timber are not as convenient. Inside the foothills and even among the mountains, there are many forks and valleys well adapted to grazing which are being rapidly occupied by flockmasters and stockmen.

Now, when it is well known that sheep graze here the year round, requiring little if any hay or grain, it is easy to see that this industry is very remunerative. Sheep husbandry is a very safe business; sheep keeping very healthy here. Soon the most desirable ranches will be occupied and these rich and most nutritious grasses now annually wasting, will be fed off by stock and made to produce immense herds of horses, cattle and sheep, and millions of pounds of wool, thus enhancing the wealth of Colorado many millions of dollars. Mr. A. F. CLINTON, formerly Secretary of the Wool Growers' Association, writes:—"The climate of Colorado is admirably adapted to sheep husbandry. It is temperate, which, for raising sheep in large numbers, is an absolutely essential point. The marked success of our sheep men, who have been only some four years in the business at most, with no previous knowledge of its requirements, fully prove the suitability of the climate and grasses. The Buffalo and Gramma grasses are special favorites and deservedly so, as for native grasses, they contain more fattening and life-giving properties than I have ever seen."

It is grass in summer and cured hay in winter, and no drouth kills it or diminishes its nutritive qualities. The risks attendant on wool growing in Colorado are nominal—serious losses only arising from ignorance or carelessness, or both. Those wishing to come to this country to engage in sheep husbandry cannot fail, with proper care and intelligence, as nature has provided the rest. Water excellent and ample for stock, and grasses good all the year. Sheep husbandry is attracting much attention in Colorado, as it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that wool growing here is a most profitable and lucrative employment. It is yet in its infancy, but is being rapidly developed. This spacious pasture land, once the home of the savage Indian and countless herds of buffalo, has now become available for the sustenance of many millions of domestic animals, thus adding many millions of dollars to the wealth of those who occupy it. The native red men have been removed from nearly all of Colorado, by the Government, to reservations set apart for them, where supplies are generously furnished them. They are being taught agriculture on some reservations, and there is no more danger here from them than in the East. The railroad facilities make it easy to approach almost any portion of Colorado suitable for grazing, and offer a grand opening for the wool grower and stock raiser to follow their chosen occupation with comparatively little labor, and the certainty of ample and remunerative profits on the capital invested.

Colorado embraces 67,500,000 acres, about two-thirds—or perhaps three-fourths of which are grazing lands. The balance is mountainous and much of it rich in the precious metals, which adds greatly to the wealth and prosperity of the Territory. For about 300 miles west of the Missouri River, rains fall sufficient for crops, while west of that line Agriculture is not remunerative without irrigation and only a small portion, or perhaps one-twentieth of the whole, can be irrigated from all the streams available. These lands west of the rainy belt are the lands that produce sparsely the Buffalo and Gramma grasses, that are believed to be the most nutritious of all grasses. Stock growing west of the rainy belt is considered much more remunerative than where sufficient rain falls for crops, because there the grass remains green until the frost kills it, and then it is bleached and drenched with rain, snow and dew, depriving it of much nutrition—while west of said rainy belt the grasses dry up perfectly cured hay before frosts come, and we seldom have any dew, rain or snow to bleach or wash them in winter, consequently they retain their nutritive qualities the year round. The entire growth of grasses for the year is generally in April, May and June, and they usually dry up in July and August. Locations near the Rocky Mountains or foothills are considered preferable for stock in winter—the mountains affording protection, but principally on account of the cool, pure water and supplies of wood, timber, lumber and stone, which the mountains supply in abundance.

With such an immense country well adapted to wool growing in our own land, is it not surpassing strange that we import fifty million lbs. of wool and as much more in woolen manufactured goods annually? If the present tariff on wool and woolens is preserved intact, so as to impart confidence in this industry, will not the time soon come when we shall grow all the wool, and more, that this nation may need for home consumption? I think so. JOHN SHELDON.

Fort Collins, Larimer Co., Colorado.

REMARKS.—Thanks to Mr. SHELDON (whom we recognize as a former successful sheep breeder and wool grower in Western New York,) for his very interesting, suggestive and instructive article. We shall be glad to hear from him occasionally, and trust he will furnish us a paper on cattle raising and grazing in Colorado.—[ED.

Industrial Topics.

WASTE CITY FERTILIZERS.

The Germautown Telegraph says:—The discovery that dry clayey earth was a thorough deodorizer, an article utterly destroying all bad odors, would, it was hoped, work a great revolution in the closet system of cities; and, while aiding in promoting public health, would provide farmers with one of the best and cheapest of fertilizers. In this way the earth-closet was invented, and it was hoped that its use would be almost general.

It is clear, however, that these institutions have not become as general as was hoped and expected, and farmers have derived no benefit in the way of cheap fertilizers from their introduction. A few years ago a company was organized in connection with this idea, from which great things were expected. It was called the Fertilizing and Sanitary Company. They furnished the closets, supplied the dry earthy material, and cleared away the whole contents once a week for the sum of twenty-five cents. They manufactured from this material an excellent fertilizer, which they sold in barrels at $50 per ton, and which was found to be superior to guano at the same figures. But we have heard nothing of this company for some time. Certainly the idea has not been contagious. There has been no attempt to compete with it in the profits; and we rather think the whole thing is dead. The closets themselves are in use occasionally, but not near to the extent that was hoped for on their introduction.

The reason probably is the same as that which is so often given for so many other of our shortcomings. That which we can do with the least amount of labor, even though it may be not the best way of doing things, is sure to prevail. The daily application of earth is a sort of task, and one which the careless are almost sure to neglect; and the continued weekly visit of the scavenger would soon be voted a nuisance, unless the structure could be so arranged that the visitor would be unseen during his visitations. It is so much easier to trust to running streams carrying off through sewers the whole refuse of our households, or to have a visit only in a year or so from the nightman, that some risk of health is willingly run rather than to have this continuous labor. It is to be regretted that this is so; to be regretted not only for the sake of public health and many other public reasons, but also on account of the loss of so much valuable matter to our agricultural operations; but we fancy that unless the difficulties of continuous attention and frequent visitations can be removed, we are not likely to profit much by this very interesting discovery of the absorption of odors by dry soil.

NOTES ON THE RURAL FOR MARCH 4th.

Potatoes as a Food for Stock.—The article on page 150, from the New York Sun, takes the ground that potatoes are a good food for most farm stock. I can go into no chemical discussion of the matter but I consider that if you take potatoes and boil them and when well cooked, and while yet warm mash them, mix with them corn and oats ground together and bran, in proportions of 4 parts of potatoes, 1 of corn and oats and 3 of wheat bran, you will have a splendid food for young pigs and growing chickens, and in fact the best kind of a summer food for laying hens; the trouble is the amount eaten. I had 100 chickens and fowls and one small pig last fall, and they would eat a barrel full of the mixture in two days.

A Workshop on a Farm.—The more the better. It is a capital place to bring out one's talents. A friend of ours, who market gardens 30 acres, considers that his shop brings him, or saves him $150 per year.

Peerless Potato.—I endorse all that is said of this variety, it is the standard late potato here; many call it as good as the peachblow, but we do not think so, we consider the Compton's Surprise the best late potato, and the Peerless second. As we have to fight bugs, we want potatoes that yield well. A. M. Van Auken.

Fort Howard, Wis.

NEW WAY TO KILL GRASSHOPPERS.

Fears are entertained that the Western grasshopper or locust will prove destructive the coming season in some localities. The following method of destroying grasshoppers devised by Ferdinand Riemann of Montana we take from the Rocky Mountain Husbandman:

It is well known that the ordinary coal oil is one of the surest means of killing grasshoppers, and during the payment of the bounty in this county it was used quite extensively to kill the insects before marketing them. And coal oil is the chief of Mr. Riemann's plan for killing the grasshoppers. He says that the smallest particle that will adhere to one's finger, if touched upon the body of an insect will cause almost instant death. He takes a piece of cotton cloth a yard wide, and about twenty feet long. One side he fastens to a rope, the ends of which extend over the cloth a foot or two. To the bottom of the cloth he fastens, say one foot apart, lead sinkers, of sufficient weight to keep the cloth firmly stretched. The cloth is then soaked in coal oil until thoroughly saturated, and with a man at each end this apparatus is slowly dragged over the ground occupied by the insects. Every grasshopper touched by the oil is instantly killed. The cloth is soaked from time to time, as one's judgment dictates. Mr. Riemann says the first soaking consumes a good deal of oil, but afterwards much less is required, and he estimates that one and a-half or two gallons is all that is necessary to kill the grasshoppers on eighty acres. The process is to be applied as soon after hatching as possible, when the grain is small. Where it touches the grass or weeds more or less oil adheres, and this kills such insects as come in contact with it. Mr. Riemann tried the method last spring, and it worked to his complete satisfaction, destroying the grasshoppers upon his premises, and what injuries were sustained by his crops were traceable to insects that came upon him from other localities.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Eds. Rural:—I would like to have you, or some of your readers, answer a few questions for my benefit: First—Is it advisable to have the posts in a barn more than 16 feet high, where there are to be bays on either side of the floor? Second—Is there any roofing better than pine shingles, or more economical? Third—What are the best fastenings for cattle that are to be kept in the stable winter or summer?—w. *Jamestown, N. Y.*

One of the greatest expenses in building is roofing. The higher the posts the less cost for room gained. Eighteen feet posts with basement make an excellent barn. J. R. Garretsee of Rochester, N. Y., has a new style of roofing which promises to be superior to shingles, also cheaper. It is made of grooved boards, tightly battened and clasped.

Gifford's patent stanchions, made in our correspondent's own town, by W. C. Gifford are the best we know of. Is a prophet not without honor in his own town that Mr. Gifford's neighbors send to us to recommend his stanchions?

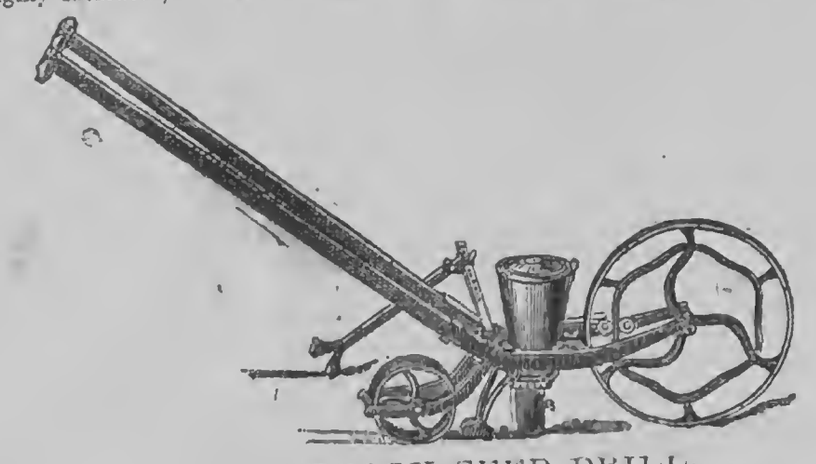
CHICAGO GRAIN TRADE.

Chicago, the largest grain market in the world, handles about 90,000,000 bushels annually and has now in operation eighteen steam elevators, with a capacity of 15,350,000 bushels, or more than the average product of 1,000,000 acres of the fertile wheat-producing lands of the continent. Their capacity varies from 200,000 bushels to 1,500,000. The entire cost of the eighteen elevators now in operation was about five million dollars, exclusive of the cost of the grounds on which they stand.

Industrial Implements.

THE HOLBROOK SEED DRILL.

As the season for out-door garden operations approaches, farmers and gardeners begin to prepare for seeding and weeding. At the outset a good garden drill is found to be indispensable.



THE HOLBROOK SEED DRILL.

No skill nor practice can distribute the finer seeds so evenly as a good drill will do, and even distribution saves a great amount of vexation and labor, and often the total or partial loss of a crop. This is especially true of onions, which, with many farmers, have become an important and staple crop. Holbrook's new Regulator Seed Drill, an engraving of which is herewith given, it is said fills all the requirements in a drill for garden or farm use. It can be easily and quickly adapted to seeds of different sizes and weights, and by means of the open seed conductor the seeds may be plainly seen against a white surface while it is in operation. This is a peculiarity of the Holbrook Drill, and enables the operator to be sure at all times that his machine is working truly. A great number of farmers and gardeners in all parts of the country have these drills, and all speak favorably of it. Those wishing a drill should write to the manufacturers before deciding which to buy.

The price is only $12, and it will save that sum in one day where onions, or other small seeds are to be sown, doing the work promptly before weeds start, and distributing the seeds more evenly than they could be by hand. It is manufactured by E. E. Lummus & Co., 32 South Market St., Boston, Mass.

THE TAYLOR SULKY RAKE.

Ruth, the gleaner, is not a prominent character in modern society. There may be characters like Ruth; but no gleaning is left for them to do, and so they all begin their story as the original Ruth ended hers—by getting married. Thrifty American farmers have learned that it pays well to glean their harvest fields, and improvements in machinery have made this work comparatively cheap and easy. Among those who have taken the lead in this is our genial friend B. C. Taylor of Dayton, Ohio, who has for twelve years been manufacturing sulky rakes of various styles and patterns, has made and sold 45,000 of them, taken over 1,200 first premiums at Agricultural and World's Fairs, and is now preparing to supply larger orders for 1876, than in any previous year.

As each rake will, on an average, save more than its value in grain per year the gain to farmers must be immense. With a moderate crop the wastage on unraked stubble is often equal to a tenth, sometimes an eighth of the whole amount. Of these approved rakes, Mr. Taylor makes six different styles, adapted to different parts of the country and different kinds of work. All have cast steel teeth, tempered in oil, and oval in shape, giving the greatest possible strength for the weight. Each tooth is entirely independent, held firmly, and can be taken out and replaced by a new one, in case of accident, by any farmer. These rakes have competed successfully with all others in the country, and the number sold is evidence that they are liked. We learn that Mr. Taylor has orders for and is shipping a large number of rakes abroad this year. It seems a pity when a boy and horse will rake over fifteen or twenty acres per day with one of these rakes that the work should anywhere be left undone or done by hand.

The No. 1 Rake is the style generally in use in all parts of the country for heavy work in grain or hay, corn stubble or brush, or newly cleared ground. No. 2 is with high wheels, and longer and heavier teeth, adapted to the heavier work on the Pacific Coast. No. 3 is a "drop tooth," the teeth sliding and dropping into depressions. This is adapted to very uneven ground, though other styles will work well with any ordinary depressions. No. 4 is a self-dumping rake, discharged by the horse, and is so arranged as to be operated by hand or foot at option of driver. No. 5 has less machinery about it than any other, and is gotten up in the simplest and most inexpensive manner. Farmers who have not a good rake will find it to their interest to send to B. C. Taylor, 228 West 5th St., Dayton, Ohio, and receive circular with full description of each style and price. If there has been no agent in their neighborhood, probably several of these rakes could be sold the coming season.

The Horseman.

HEAVY DRAFT HORSES.

The price of these animals has risen in England, and there is a demand for them in the United States so that it is safe to breed them for a regular source of income. Having raised a great many in England, and lived in a part of that island where some of the finest were sold to supply the London demand, I can say with confidence that in the course of years more might be made than from trotting strains or thoroughbreds, because in breeding fast horses there is only one now and then in twenty or thirty which come to make the large sums so coveted, and those which fall in speed sell low, whereas, if draught horses are bred there are comparatively no failures, every colt at four years old being sure to sell for from $400 to $600. Thus, as said in Virginia or anywhere further South, the colts would, up to that age, cost nothing but their grazing, excepting a little feed the first winter, from which any one can see much more could be gained than by breeding animals of uncertain results, for the fashionable cattle of the present day, with their unnatural treatment, cannot be depended on to breed or live.

There is no mistake in saying there is no extra expense at all required with these brood mares and colts, two men would do everything necessary for a breeding establishment, which would bring out annually 50 horses worth $500 each. In short they would cost no more than the mules in Kentucky and would make double the money. As the price of oats, corn and other produce runs, everybody must be aware that breeding horses must be far more profitable than plowing and sowing so much, and especially where as in so many districts the natural grasses make such fattening pastures and would also cut good hay the same as English old meadows and old upland do. Sheep and cattle can be kept and raised profitably with horses, in fact, all permanent grass is benefited by being grazed with a variety of live stock, and each kind of animals do better for having the others to help eat the grass, and the heavy draught horses are better among sheep than the high-blooded race-horses, as the latter will often in play run sheep and injure them.

If some of the great monied men of the cities would invest in land which, from the expense of free labor, cannot be employed to advantage in growing cotton, they might get it for as little as the Yorkshire breeders of England pay annually for rent, which in a few years would improve by grazing, or they could get good new land in grass regions which would be as cheap according to its productive power. However, this would not matter, as if it took five acres or even ten to support as much stock it would cost no more than one acre, and, if adapted for the purpose, it would improve every year.

Sheep cause pasture to thicken, and if they were well managed in conjunction with horses and some cows too, the wool, mutton and beef would all tell together. Horses, too, of the great powerful "van horse" stamp will pay well and would come in should the heavier "cart horse" breed be over and above produced, which though is not at all probable. When instead of gambling and speculating in stocks or railways, &c., wealthy men turn their attention to real estate as the aristocracy of England do, and on account of the difference in difficulty of finding tenants make fine stock raising establishments, the soil will cease to be bereft of all its fertility, and the tide of prosperity in agriculture will turn.

A Working Farmer.

Around the Republic.

FROM AND ABOUT FLORIDA.

IN REPLY TO CRITICISMS OF AN EX-EDITOR.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I have been much amused, and occasionally somewhat indignant, at your Ex-Editor (Jacksonville) correspondent: but, after all, I suppose it is pity more than anything else that he is entitled to. To have grown into such a chronic state of grumbling and fault-finding, it must have been made a constant study with him for years back to have arrived at such a degree of perfection—but perhaps his health is such that he can only see us "through a glass darkly." Enjoying good health myself, I do sincerely pity and sympathise with those who are otherwise. But why will such persons persist in writing for the press and try to throw their dark, fault-finding, gloomy state of temper over all creation, as well as themselves.

Northern born and Northern raised, I moved down here last June for the purpose of engaging in gardening and horticulture. Came from Nebraska here—am better pleased and better satisfied than I expected to be, and think it the best move I ever made. Have been here not quite nine months; in the mean time hunted up a location, bought lumber, and built myself a decent and respectable house. Cleared out an old deadening, experimented on vegetables of different kinds through last fall and winter, lost a month through sickness last fall, and now have a good-sized garden under way, from which I shall soon commence shipping vegetables North. Besides, I have a nice lot of seedling oranges and lemons growing, a few three-year-old trees set out, an asparagus bed started, and a few hundred grape cuttings rooting nicely. But Mr. Ex-EDITOR thinks Florida is all a sand bank, and that guano is worse than nothing to attempt to fertilize with. Let him give me a call, Mr. RURAL. I will show him tomato vines as dark green, thrifty and promising as any he ever saw, now hanging full of blossoms and standing from 15 to 20 inches high—cucumbers running nicely, and many vines with 6 to 8 cucumbers already on them. And what was the magic wand to put the spell on them? Two or three waterings with a little guano water. Sand we have here, but it is a very profitable kind of sand to those who have the will and energy to *intelligently manipulate* it. Let me see what was it I had for dinner yesterday, all from my own garden and of my own raising. New potatoes, young and tender turnips, green peas, and to top off with, strawberries, large, melting and delicious, and with the true flavor and aroma so often found wanting in many places. Again, Mr. Ex-EDITOR says he has never been anywhere in the State except Jacksonville, and yet he thinks that by talking to a few disappointed men besides himself he knows all about it. That he is sadly mistaken, many of us who are now prosperous and comfortably situated well know. ARCHER.

Archer, Alachua Co., Fla., March 13.

A SOUTHWEST MISSOURI EL DORADO.

BILLINGS, Christian Co., Mo., Feb., 1876.

OWING to the large number of letters I have received from New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa and other States, asking for intelligence about the land in Southwest Missouri, and owing to the very little time at my disposal, I feel it sometimes difficult to answer all separately and satisfactorily. I therefore deem it wise and becoming to give my correspondents all required intelligence as briefly as possible and by means of the press.

The winter is never extremely cold here. The days in summer are never so intensely warm that we cannot wear a cloth coat, and the nights are so refreshingly cool that we can always sleep under a blanket. We have no mosquitoes, no grasshoppers and no insects of any kind to annoy us or to take away our crops. We challenge America to produce better water than the water of Christian County. What shall I say of the products of the soil—of the lovely vineyards and gardens full of vines and fruits and vegetables of every kind—of the fields covered over with a plentiful harvest—of the beautiful and almost endless prairie, giving countless tons of fine hay, and fat cattle of every kind to the farmer; of the lofty and majestic forests; of the subterraneous stores of zinc, lead, and precious minerals of every kind, and of the wells of pure water spontaneously bubbling up by the roadsides, sometimes forming grand and noble rivers, rolling proudly on and turning many and different kinds of mills before mingling their limpid waters with the far-off, foaming sea! A minute and worthy description of this mighty mining, grass, fruit, corn and cattle country would far transcend the limits of a letter, and trespass on the time and space of the press.

It has often been a source of no little surprise to me why some of our great capitalists do not come out here and invest in land that is destined to make one of the greatest farming countries in America; and I am not a little pained, from time to time, when I reflect upon the large number of poor families living in our large cities and depending, in a great measure, upon a man's daily wages for support, and that, too, at times when employment is very irregular. Why do not such persons come to this "El Dorado" of plenty and purchase a little land, where they would be independent and happy in a few years?

HUMEA ELEGANS.

There are at present in this township those who came here five years ago with very slender means and whose individual property to-day is worth more than $7,000. I will answer all letters willingly, as will also my friend, Dr. A. G. LANE, a farmer and physician, who has a beautiful farm adjoining this town, and who, from his extended and exact knowledge of this country, would be able to give satisfactory responses to all letters that may be written him.

We most cordially invite all who desire to locate in a country more fertile than Egypt, a climate milder than Italy, an atmosphere more salubrious than that of New York, to come to this favored place of ours. We have schools, colleges and churches; and so bring your children to educate them, also your young men and maidens, that you may establish them in homes of beauty, plenty and content.

GEO. A. CULBERTSON

The Apiarian.

MANIPULATION OF BEES.

THE great bug-bear among young bee keepers is the danger of being stung. To remove this danger Rev. J. W. Shearer in the Bee Keepers' Magazine gives some suggestions which will be invaluable to those handling bees

Bees filled with liquid sweets never volunteer an attack. How can bees be made to fill themselves with liquid sweet? In many ways. Whenever bees in a hive are frightened, they at once fill themselves with honey to prepare for any emergency that may arise. Bees fill themselves with honey before leaving the hive in natural swarming. This is the secret of the ready handling of a swarm. They have prepared themselves in this case. Sometimes a few unfilled bees join a swarm and are troublesome, but generally the whole body of a swarm are well filled and peaceable so that they can be handled without danger. When the manipulator wishes to make bees fill themselves with honey the simplest way is to make rolls of dry cotton cloth, five or six inches long, to slip under the entrance of the hive. Light it with a match, place it on a piece of tin to prevent charring the stand, and shove it under the entrance of the hive. In a few moments the bees will have filled themselves with honey. The hive can then be opened and the bees handled with impunity

Every bee-keeper should have these rolls always ready. In the midst of a honey harvest hives may be opened without danger, but when little or no honey is gathered the bees are much more cross and need to be subdued before attempting to handle the combs. Bees are always handled more easily in the middle of the day. Then many of the bees are abroad, and the honey board or quilt and frames are loosened without jarring the combs. The propolis with which they are glued is soft after the hive gets warm. In the morning and evening it is brittle. There is a popular, but most erroneous, idea that bees may be best managed at night.

Never open your bees at night, for they are more cross than in the middle of the day. They are necessarily more jarred in loosening the frames and more easily excited. When they fly out many will not return to the hive. They will remain on you, crawl up your sleeves or under your clothes, and are much more difficult to get rid of. In the day they fly and rejoin the swarm. The most expert apiarian is almost sure of being stung if he open his bees at night. Bees are quickly subdued by sprinkling them with sweetened water or sirup. They greedily devour it and become peaceable. This method is not generally to be recommended, because if other bees are near they are apt to be attracted by it, and robbing is induced, especially if they are gathering but little honey.

II. Golden rule about stings:—Move gently, never dodge or strike at a bee, if stung never flinch, and remove the sting with a knife blade or thumb-nail pressed firmly against the flesh, dragging or rubbing it outward from the flesh.

Do not become excited or blow your breath upon them. In ordinary management one who does not flinch even when stung is not poisoned half so severely as one who does. The flinch of the manipulator is evidence to the bee that the sting is effective, but if he does not flinch, the bee, unless greatly excited, seems to conclude that it is ineffective, and immediately attempts, by working around and around to extricate itself without losing its sting, which is certain death. Often has the writer tempted bees to sting him and watch their efforts at extrication when convinced that they were mistaken because the sting caused no movement. A sudden effort to dislodge a bee will almost surely cause a severe sting.

Do not catch the bee and attempt to jerk it from the flesh, for in most instances, time is given to make the wound far severer than at first intended. Nerve yourself and do not flinch if stung. Thus the severest part of the thrust is avoided. The bee will at once attempt to extricate itself by crawling around and around. Never seize the sting between the thumb and finger to extract it. This mode of extracting squeezes all the poison from the poison-bag into the wound, and the effect is as great as possible. The poison runs slowly through the point of the sting into the wound, and if quickly pressed or rubbed outward from the flesh as described, but little poison is received. Pinch the wound, or press it with a hollow key so as to force out as much of the poison as possible. Apply some kind of an alkali to counteract the poison, such as soda (which should be kept wet for an hour), hartshorn or ammonia. An alkali is needed to counteract the poison. Try the remedies proposed and use that which seems to suit your case best. Soda, hartshorn or ammonia is best. One who attends to the foregoing suggestions will soon learn to care very little for stings. The practical apiarian soon learns to care but little for the sting. He learns to open his hives, even in the dead of winter, without fear, seldom receiving a sting and when received attended with little suffering.

RYE FLOUR FOR BEES.—Rye flour placed where bees can get it will supply them with pollen and induce breeding several weeks earlier than the first blossoms appear.

Floricultural.

IS IT A VULGAR TASTE?

LAST summer, among our few visitors was a lady (of education and refinement I judge) who, while walking about our grounds, asked—"Do you know what color I would paint those if they were mine?" She pointed to several rustic seats. I could not guess. "Red—a bright red," was the serious reply, Old Uncle DAILY, who was one of the little party, turning upon her a gaze that might have proceeded from a mild pity—possibly from an incipient alarm—at length laughed; and we all laughed except the lady herself who, as soon as she could be heard, earnestly sought to *prove* to us the propriety of her taste, though with but indifferent success. Seeing, however, that she was in real earnest, all listened respectfully, dissenting only by holding our peace.

Anxious as we were to avail ourselves of every suggestion in the improvement of our grounds—we yet rather inclined in this instance to heed the lesson taught the unfortunate artist who, having at infinite pains produced a speaking picture, thought to improve it by soliciting, and altering it in accordance with, the suggestions of every passer-by.

A few weeks after, during a ride—we were almost unconsciously admiring a portly, happy mansion surrounded by tidy, attractive grounds—when, reaching a front view, what should rivet my attention but a number of rustic settees and chairs, placed most comfortably—several upon the porch, several under the shade of trees—they were a bright red! What a coincidence! But though I laughed at our lady friend's *idea* of red rustic chairs, I laughed not at the realities but, [illegible]y enough, thought them precisely th[illegible] Was it a vulgar taste? I have a gre[illegible] hor[illegible]d RURAL, of being considered vulg[illegible] me, how shall I determine in aesthetic ma[illegible]s, what is refined, what is vulgar? Is there any book that tells? Some revile *white* houses because they look like ghosts. "Neutral tints" are said to be refined—that is, muddy colors—dusty, soiled colors—colors produced by spoiling bright lavenders, sky-blues, rosy-pinks and pea-greens. SOLOMON in all his glory was not arrayed as one of the lilies of the field. Was it a *white* lily referred to? Then SOLOMON would have looked like a ghost! Was it a red or a blue lily? Then SOLOMON would have looked vulgar! *Are* there any lilies of "neutral tints?"

What is there so unspeakably glorious about sunsets, that every poet must go crazy over, and youths in love so especially admire, but their fiery colors? Have poets vulgar tastes, and is love in this one respect demoralizing? Hyacinths, tulips, carnations, roses, camellias. Here we have the brightest shades of red, blue, yellow. Are they vulgar? And if so, how is it that ladies put them in their hair and imitations of them in their hats? Or is the same color which is "refined" in a lady's hair or on her hat vulgar on one's house?

Now, I want to paint my house, and I have a growing fancy for red or blue, or both. I do not like the "neutral tints," and *white* is ghostly. How am I to avoid both Scylla and Charybdis? Will you not confer the great favor of helping me? The more I think over it—the more I grow confused. In my perplexity, I called upon our country parson and stated my case: "Why," said he, after great patience in listening, "the only thing upon the face of the earth that is ever *vulgar* is the mind of man." But parsons—except they be such parsons as Mr. BEECHER—are rarely posted in the proprieties of refined life.

E. S. O.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

Humea Elegans.—We have already described this plant. The cut, from the spring catalogue of Messrs. E. G. HENDERSON & SON of London, unlike catalogue cuts generally, belittles the inflorescence which forms a "drooping pyramid of innumerable ruby-red, grass-like florets" four feet or more in hight. It is a half-hardy biennial, easy to raise from seed, and its silky panicles last from early summer until frost, though losing, late in the season, much of their brilliancy of color. It is, at least, worthy of a trial.

Invigorating Fluid for Plants.—4 ounces sulphate ammonia; 2 do. nitrate potassa; 1 do. white sugar; 1 pint hot water. Keep corked. One tablespoonful to a gallon of water, twice a week. We find the above written in the back of an old floricultural book in pencil. It strikes us rather favorably, but never having tried its effects we give it for what it is worth

Chimonanthus Fragrans.—The Gardener's Monthly says:—The buds are formed in the fall and grow larger with every warm winter's day. If these branches are cut off and placed in water in a warm room, they will expand in a few days, and fill the room with their delightful fragrance. A new branch so treated every week, will keep up a succession all winter.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

FORCING HARDY ORNAMENTAL PLANTS.

March 20.—There is such an endless variety of tender exotic plants in cultivation that one has no particular need of forcing hardy kinds with artificial heat. Still there are few species which are worth all it costs to force them into bloom at an unseasonable time, for we have really nothing else which exactly fills their place in the conservatory. Among the most desirable of all the easily managed and showy kinds which I have ever tried, the now common *Deutzia gracilis* and *Astilbe Japonica* are most satisfactory. That thousands of other persons also value these plants very highly is shown in the immense numbers sold by our florists every season.

Pots of these forced plants may be seen by the hundred in every one of our markets, all through the months of April and May, and there seem to be purchasers for all that are sent in for sale. I, for one, do not wonder at the demand for these beautiful plants, with their profusion of delicate little snow-white flowers, crowded upon graceful stems, each spike, or raceme, being a complete boquet in itself. The "Graceful Deutzia" is a low-growing, hardy shrub, seldom reaching more than two feet high, producing a number of small, slender stems in a clump, each springing from the base of the main one, or the roots, and no matter how short or slender the roots, they all produce flowers in abundance.

For the purpose of forcing, none but young plants are used, say those of one or two season's growth from cuttings, or old [illegible] which may be taken up and divided into as many divisions as there are stems. In the fall the plants designed for forcing may be taken up and heeled in, in some convenient place where they can be obtained when wanted. I usually put the desired number in my root cellar, which is cool enough to prevent growth, but does not freeze. About the first of February, or a little earlier, a few plants are brought into the greenhouse and potted, where they soon come into bloom. Other plants are brought out from time to time as wanted, in order to keep up a succession of flowers until those left out in the garden come on in their regular season.

The Japan *Astilbe*, sometimes called *Spiraea*, is an herbaceous plant with thick, fleshy roots, producing open, branching spikes a foot high, of pure white flowers, which, before they open, look like clusters of small seed pearls. The roots may be treated in the same manner as the Deutzias, and they bloom as freely when forced in the house. Both kinds are so readily propagated that our florists sell those taken from the garden for a little more than the cost of handling. Cheap and common as these plants are about our larger cities, I fear there are many persons in the country who have neither, but would be delighted to possess one or both.

For several weeks past I have been cutting sprigs of the Graceful Deutzia for table bouquets, and although it has long been a favorite of mine and occupied a prominent place in my garden and greenhouse, still as each season comes around it seems to have lost none of its beauty through long familiarity and association.

THE SPROUTING-LEAF PLANT.

March 21.—There is a singular looking plant in bloom in my greenhouse, which is known to florists and botanists as *Bryophyllum calycinum*. The name of the genus is from the Greek words for sprout or bud, and leaf, hence for the want of a better common name I call it the "sprouting-leaf," and the ease and rapidity with which it may be propagated from the leaves fully warrants the appellation.

A leaf thrown down upon moist soil, or cut up into sections and set edgeways in it, will soon produce numbers of small plants upon the upper edges. But it requires two or three years under ordinary greenhouse culture to produce a blooming plant, and then I think few persons would call the flowers handsome, although the habit of the plant is so graceful, with its hundred of pendant, shell-like blossoms, that one cannot fail to admire it. The specimen now in bloom in my greenhouse is growing in an 8-inch pot, and it has four flowering stems from 3 to 4 feet high, with at least 100 buds and fully-expanded blossoms on each. These flowering spikes showed themselves early in the winter, the lines appearing on short, lateral branches, and from the first they appear, like their shells, of a greenish color, spotted with brownish red. These buds are really nothing more than a globular calyx inclosing the embryo flowers which will appear later. The inflated calyx continues to slowly enlarge until fully an inch long and five-eighths of an inch in diameter; then from the lower end the reddish-brown petals of the tubular flower protrudes nearly or quite an inch more, the native bloom being a little more than two inches long. The leaves are of that thick, succulent character common to all of this family, and composed of from three to five pinnate leaflets. They are very brittle. Consequently plants set out in the garden, where exposed to winds, will soon be denuded of their foliage.

This Sprouting-Leaf is an excellent plant for the amateur propagator to begin with, for it will encourage him to attempt the multiplication of other kinds which are far more difficult to manage, besides it is a really showy thing and worthy of a place among a choice collection of window plants, as well as those of the more pretentious conservatory.

STARTING THE TUBEROSES.

March 22.—In our more Northern States the summer is rather too short for bringing tuberoses to perfection, and it is frequently the case that bulbs planted out in spring will scarcely commence blooming before they are cut off by the frosts of autumn. Now, to hasten the blooming and forward growth a few weeks, the bulbs should be placed under conditions which will excite the production of roots and leaves in advance of the regular planting season. This may be done in the kitchen or other warm room, if no better or more convenient place is at command. Shallow boxes filled with soil may be used for this purpose, the bulbs being put in close together and then watered occasionally as required. Other kinds of tender bulbs, such as the *Gladioli* and *Tigridia*, may be forced a little in the same way, if earliness of blooming is desired.

THE COLORADO POTATO BEETLE.

March 23.—Some of my neighbors call me a false prophet in regard to the potato beetle question, inasmuch as I asserted that the appearance of the Colorado pest would make potatoes scarce and high-priced in our markets. Last year these beetles made their first appearance in many localities in the Eastern States, doing but little damage on some farms and none whatever on others in the same neighborhood. The potato crop, upon the whole, was a large one, and the price in market has been very low during the entire winter, hence the cry that the potato beetle "don't amount to much after all." But they have come among us to *stay*, and the almost total neglect to destroy them last season in my own immediate neighborhood, as doubtless in many others, left a very numerous progeny to go into safe winter quarters and be ready for the first appearance of potatoes this spring. The resetting of fences and clearing up of old rubbish about the farm has already shown that the race still live and in numbers sufficient to show their power the coming season in reducing the potato crop. If our farmers think they are going to drive this pest out of their fields by a little leisure "whistling" at the "varmints," they will be most wofully mistaken, else I am no prophet.

Arboricultural.

BUYING vs. GROWING TREES.

There is little doubt that in thousands of families seeds of apple, pear and other fruits have been saved, and, either already in the ground or in some good place where their vitality will not be injured, will be planted out and ready to grow with the opening of warm, spring-like weather. There is a fascination about this business, and no doubt some valuable varieties are occasionally thus originated. In the great majority of cases, however, these seedlings are grown purposely to bud or graft, and in ninety-and-nine such cases out of one hundred the business does not pay.

If doing without fruit were the alternative to growing one's own trees, the case would be far different. As it is, the question is not fruit or no fruit, but only one of economy, with the advantage all in favor of purchasing fruit trees of nurserymen. Competition has reduced prices of nursery stock as low as they ought to be—lower than farmers can grow small quantities for taking the requisite care of the trees, grafting or budding, transplanting and other like items. The few farmers who have tried to grow small patches of nursery stock, expecting to sell what they did not need, have found that by the time the trees were old enough to transplant they had cost fully as much or more than it would take to replace them from the professional nurserymen. Such at least has been our experience and observation. In no branch of business is the importance of doing things largely greater than in growing nursery stock. Most of the work in the fields is done by horse labor in long, straight rows. Root grafting is done in winter by expert hands, who turn out ten times as many grafts per day as unskilled workmen could do. In every way the man who does a good deal of work has the advantage of him who does only a little.

Where the trees are designed for planting at home, the argument for buying as against growing is still stronger. In such cases *time* is an element of the first importance. Buying trees, grape-vines, currant and berry bushes means having the fruit one to five years earlier than growing from the seed. Often in this time more than enough fruit can be sold to pay the first cost, besides the immensely greater importance of having a supply for the family. There are hardships enough in a pioneer life; but doing without fruit, except partially, the first or second years, need not, and ought not to, be one of them. Fruit is so necessary to good health that its introduction should be one of the first duties in any distant settlement, instead of waiting till wealth made the purchase of trees easy. To wait for trees to grow from the seed is the next thing to postponing them indefinitely. Sometimes, however, by the mere purchase of cions to be grafted into wild fruit already found in the neighborhood, trees may be got in bearing very early and at a trifling expense. We are as anxious as any one can be that the people of new settlements should save in every way which does not mean doing without fruit. That is the loss of so much enjoyment, often of health itself, that economizing in fruit is to a certain extent robbing life of what makes it best worth living.

DWARF FRUIT TREES FOR GARDENS.

Standard fruit trees with their lowermost branches springing from the stems several feet from the ground may be preferable in an orchard, but we still prefer the dwarfs, or at least low-headed trees for the garden. In fact, the older we grow the less inclined are we to climb or risk our neck on ladders in gathering fruit. It is quite likely that in times past when dwarf pears were all the rage, that the mania for these trees led to some extravagant notions in regard to their productiveness and value, still we are not inclined to give them up, nor to think that all kinds of dwarf trees are a "humbug and delusion," as some horticultural writers have assumed to believe.

Our best specimens of pears of various sorts are annually gathered from pear trees worked on quince stocks, or what are termed dwarfs. But if we were about to plant a pear orchard of considerable extent we should probably select standard trees for the purpose, as they require less care and attention, and are perhaps less liable to disease. We think, however, that the failures experienced by many who went into the dwarf pear and apple tree culture, a few years since, with extravagant ideas in regard to profits, have led our pomologists generally to discourage the propagation and cultivation of dwarf trees of all kinds. There is, without doubt, some choice in the kinds of stocks to be employed in propagating dwarf trees, and only the best should be used; but let us not give up the low-headed dwarf trees, at least for garden culture. We want trees with branches starting near the ground, so that old folks and children can gather fruit without having to climb forty-foot ladders. If it is necessary to protect such trees from late frosts in spring, it is much easier to do so than with lofty specimens. The same is true in regard to destroying noxious insects, pruning and various other operations, which are sometimes necessary to insure a good crop of fruit.

It is well known that dwarf trees generally come into bearing much sooner than standard, and this saving of time is quite an important matter when a family has to wait for fruit until the trees grow from bud or cion to a bearing size. Trees trained low will usually come into bearing earlier than those trimmed up, even on the same kind of stock, and the only real advantage of using a dwarf kind of plant for a stock, is to save the trouble of checking by artificial operations, such as pruning and pinching back the young shoots in summer. Those who desire these low-headed trees have only to purchase one or two year old plants at the nurseries, and force the branches to push out low down on the main stem, and from that time forward avoid trimming up; but, instead, annually shorten all leading or terminal shoots. In many localities it is difficult to obtain large pears and apples from standard or tall trees, as they are likely to be blown off by the wind before mature, but with low-headed or dwarf trees this loss is avoided.

BUDDING PEACH TREES.

S. B. V.—Our nurserymen seldom propagate peach trees by grafting, as budding in summer is altogether preferable, not only for the peach but other stone fruits. Your inquiry "how to bud or graft one-year old peach trees," leads us to think that you have lost one year in time, by omitting to bud the stocks last fall, or when four to six months old, as is usually done by those who know just how to propagate peach trees.

Peach stones, properly wintered over, and planted in the spring in rich soil, will generally produce stocks large enough for budding by the first of August, or September at the latest, at which the operation should be performed, the inserted bud uniting with the stock, but remaining in a dormant state until the following spring. Now, if you have delayed this very important operation, and have the one-year old stocks on hand, they can be budded next fall, but one season's growth is lost, and the budding will have to be performed with more care to insure success than if it had been done last fall.

The stocks might be grafted this spring, but we would not advise you to attempt it, as it requires the skill of an expert to successfully graft the peach, especially in the northern states. Give the stocks good culture, pruning off a few of the lowermost branches if there are any near the ground. Later in the season, or when our readers begin to think about budding, we will give proper and full directions in regard to performing the operations. Should we do so now, one-half or more of our readers would have mislaid the article before they wanted to put the information it contained into practical use.

Pomological.

PEACHES.

Can any one of the editors or readers of the Rural give any information concerning these three new peaches, viz.:—the Alexander, Amsden's June and the Early Beatrice, and also tell us which would be most likely to succeed in Eastern Massachusetts?

Hale's Early is generally pronounced a failure here—it rots so badly. A good early peach as hardy and productive as the Crawford or Rareripe is greatly to be desired in this climate.

I have a number of peach trees set on a light, gravelly hill, not one of which the past three or four exceptionally severe winters has injured in the least, while Kittatinny blackberries, Rogers' grapes of different numbers, also the Walter, Croton, Senasqua and other new grapes were killed, root and branch, in the same grounds. I feel encouraged to set more peaches, and for that reason make the above inquiry. I think our Eastern farmers, who are near the best markets in the country, would find it profitable to devote more attention to this excellent fruit, which used to be so abundant in this section only a few years ago.

High lands, not over rich, but moderately fertilized with wood ashes or sulphate of potassa, with perhaps a little nitrogenous manure, I believe might be utilized as peach orchards. Almost every farmer has such spots, useless and unremunerative for grass or tillage, which, with a small outlay and intelligent supervision, might be made to yield a handsome return.

The yellows are not so troublesome as a few years ago, and, from my own limited experience with this tree, I see no reason why we cannot again raise this delicious and healthful fruit in New England as abundantly and more profitably than ever before.—P., *Brockton, Mass.*

At the winter meeting of the Western N. Y. Horticultural Society Mr. Ellwanger, who is excellent authority, spoke very favorably of the Early Beatrice peach, which, with the Early Louise, he called the earliest peach known. The Alexander and Amsden's June are American peaches, very early, but their character is not fully established.

There is no doubt that well-ripened peach wood will endure much colder weather than is generally supposed. Very often on rich soil, and especially where manure has been largely used, the growth of peach trees is watery and immature. Such wood will be destroyed by a moderate degree of cold. We suspect, also, that the reason for the killing of the grapes our correspondent mentions may be found in over-bearing and leaf blight, which prevented the vines of the current season's growth from ripening. Well-ripened wood is the best protection against severe cold. Vines which blight in summer will be quite apt to winter-kill during the following winter.

A SUCCESSFUL ORCHARD.

S. C. Davis of Orleans County, N. Y., has 90 acres in orchard, containing 2,500 apple trees, 500 of which were set in 1858, and the remainder in 1862 and 1868. The young orchards cover 55 acres, and are chiefly composed of the Baldwin, Rhode Island, Greening, and Roxbury Russet, with some autumn apples. He has besides these 2,700 trees or bushes of the Orange Quince, covering 10 acres, and planted six and ten years ago. The crops from these quinces the last two seasons were 50 and 53 barrels. Besides these, there are 2,000 peach trees, 350 planted in 1858, the rest in 1865 and 1868. The first 350 have yielded in all years over $4,000. There are also 2,000 standard pear trees, 1,000 of which are Bartletts. From the first planted (100 in 1864) 100 barrels have been picked.

Domestic Economy.

CONDOLENCE FROM THE KITCHEN.

GINGER SNAPS AND COOKIES.

"M. L. S." DEAR LITTLE WOMAN:—I know of course you are a woman, or you never would have paraded your grievances about ginger cookies so trustingly before the public, as you did in the RURAL of Feb. 19th. Whether you are little or big I do *not* know, but I call you "little"; because—because—well, because I'm a woman too, and feel sory for you, (not on account of your being a woman, but because you can't make ginger cookies). I do think it is a real misfortune to be particularly fond of some certain dish, and not be able to go to work and "get up" that dish in appetizing order. Now, if you'll promise never to tell, I'll tell you something. I love potpie—old-fashioned potpie, such as my mother used to make when I was a little girl. I love it, just as well as I did then, but, alack and alas! I can't make it. What light, tender, huffy crust, that belongs to the potpie I like, never emerges from the recesses of my dinner pot. Never? Yes, once I *did* make a mistake, and was actually complimented upon my "splendid potpie." I felt rather guilty as I quietly accepted the praise, for I didn't know and couldn't have told how it came to be so good; and I have tried and tried, since then, to make the same mistake, but I can't make it. My pieces of potpie crust would do very well to scare chickens off the garden with, but for grown up mortals without wings I consider them too solid a diet.

Now, how shall I get back to those cookies, again? I suppose I must proceed very gingerly, or our good Editor, though I'm sure he likes spice, will tire of seeing them in print. But he surely cannot blame us if we young housekeepers who know a little something about cooking, would like to know MOORE. To say the least, the subject is a sweet one (the cookies, I mean), and I suppose to be good should be shortened. So I'll tell you at once my object in referring to your unfortunate trials in this department of cookery. I want to give you my recipe for

GINGER SNAPS, OR GINGER COOKIES.

Two cups of molasses, one cup and a-half of shortening, one tablespoonful ginger, one tablespoonful soda, enough sour milk to dissolve soda. Roll very thin and you have splendid ginger snaps, or, not rolled so thin, they will be nice cookies. Now another thing—I speak from experience. Before putting your cakes in the oven, just hold your hand inside a moment, and if it is ordinarily hot, hot enough to bake bread—*don't put in the cookies*. Wait and watch, until your oven gets hot, hotter, hottest, and when it arrives at the superlative degree, and not till then, dare to slide a tinfull into its dark depths. I have found this to make all the difference, and have had just such cakes as you describe, all because I was simple enough to bake them in a moderately hot oven. This secret of my recipe is, *bake quickly*. Try this, please, and see if the next time one chances to jump out of JOHN'S pocket, if half the youngsters in the church don't start after it, it will look so tempting;—and I'll warrant you the minister's mouth, itself, will water for a taste of it too, if he loves ginger cookies as well as you and I do.

HATTIE F. BELL.

TO COLOR BROWN.

A WRITER in the Maine Farmer gives this recipe for coloring brown:—Steep hot, but not boil, one-half bushel butternut bark, until the strength is out. Then steep the goods one hour and air; then put in and steep one-half hour and let them cool. Add one ounce copperas to the liquor and bring it to a boil. If not dark enough use more copperas. Various shades may be produced in this dye by varying the bark and copperas. One part butternut and one part walnut bark answers well for a brown. The above is for four pounds of goods.

Here is another recipe from the same paper: The scaly moss from rocks and ledges is a good material for coloring brown. Gather the moss and place it in a brass kettle or tin dish, upon which pour cold water, then let it boil on the stove three or four hours. Then skim out the moss, put in the goods, and boil until you have the requisite color. It will never fade.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Plain Family Paste.—Two pounds of flour, half a pound of butter, half a pound of lard; mix as directed for puff paste. This makes a very good paste for ordinary use.

Sago Pudding.—Two large spoonfuls of sago boiled in one quart of milk, the peel of a lemon, a little nutmeg; when cool add 4 eggs, and a little salt. Bake about one hour and a-half. Eat with sugar and cream.

German Potatoes.—Mashed potatoes well seasoned and plenty of cream. Make in little cakes an inch thick, (made some hours beforehand they are better), beat an egg and dip them in it; brown nicely on both sides.

Short Cake.—One cup porridge, one cup water, and one and a-half cups barley meal or wheat meal (Graham flour). Make into a cake not more than half an inch thick and bake fifteen or twenty minutes in a hot oven.

Ginger Snaps.—One pint of molasses, one cup of sugar, one cup of butter or lard, one tablespoonful of ginger and cloves each, one tablespoonful of cayenne pepper; flour enough to roll out very thin. Bake on flat tins.

Potato Puffs.—One pint of milk boiled, one-fourth pound of butter or lard, one tablespoonful of sugar, six good potatoes mashed hot, flour to make a thick batter. Let rise very light, then knead into soft dough, roll thin, put two together; let rise two hours and bake in hot oven.

Bread Balls.—Break the bread in small pieces, and moisten with milk or a little warm water, season with salt, pepper and nutmeg, adding a little fine sage or parsley and a small piece of butter, mix and form into small cakes or balls; roast with beef or chickens, or fry after meat in a skillet.

Butternut Cake.—Four eggs beaten separately; two cups sugar, one of butter, one cup butternut meats, one-half cup sweet milk, two and one-half cup flour (heaped), one teaspoonful soda, two of cream tartar. Rub the black scales off from the meats before putting them in the cake. Bake in two loaves.

Mock Cream.—Boil a pint and a-half of milk, sweeten and flavor to taste. Beat three eggs very light; add to them three heaping teaspoonfuls of flour, and a teaspoonful of salt. Stir this into the boiling milk. Spread this, when cold, between two layers of the cake as made for Washington pie, and you have a nice cream pie.

How to Use Argand Burners.—The flame of an Argand burner possesses the greatest intensity of light when the quantity of air is supplied at such a rate as to bring the flame just beyond the smoking point. When more air is supplied, the flame becomes more and more pale, bluish and less luminous, while with a great excess of air, it burns with almost no light, like a Bunsen burner.

Hygienic Information.

REMEDY IN DIPHTHERIA.

DR. HOPKINS, in The Physician and Pharmacist, strongly urges the employment of acid tannate of iron as a local remedy in diphtheria. It may be prepared, he says, by the addition of one ounce of the muriated tincture of iron to one of a strong solution of tannin, and applied by means of a brush to the diseased throat, or elsewhere as the case may be; or, what is perhaps a still better way, apply the muriated tincture of iron in full strength to the diseased part with a brush, wait a few moments, then apply the solution of tannin in the same way, this forming a union of the two at the point of disease, having at the same time the advantage of chemical action, if there be any. On examination a few hours after, the line of demarcation will be seen distinctly drawn by the discoloration of the diseased tissue, showing exactly the extent of the disease, the very thing desired; with a tendency to separation, which will go on rapidly, if the system be properly treated with a nourishing diet and tonic and stimulating remedies. Dr. Hopkins regards this remedy as "above all others."

TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD.

IN the Buffalo Medical College, Professor Mason performed an operation on the 6th of February, in illustration of the transfusion of blood. Two dogs were rendered insensible with ether. One end of a thin rubber tube, filled with bicarbonate of soda to keep the blood from coagulating, was then inserted into the carotid artery of the larger one, and the other end into the jugular vein of the smaller dog. The tube was securely fastened. A vein was opened elsewhere in the smaller dog and his blood drawn off until respiration ceased and the dog was to all intents and purposes dead. By the aid of an air-pump artificial respiration was kept up in the body and the blood turned on through the tube from dog No. 1. In a few minutes when about four ounces of blood had been transferred into the carcass of the dog he began to breathe. His respirations gradually returned and in a short time were nearly as strong as before the operation.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

To Cure Hoarseness.—When the voice is lost, as is sometimes the case, from the effects of a cold, a simple, pleasant remedy is furnished by beating up the white of one egg, adding the juice of one lemon, and sweetening with white sugar to the taste. Take a teaspoonful from time to time. It has been known to effectually cure the ailment.

Lemonade for Scarlet Fever.—An eminent physician of a Western city says he has cured ninety-nine out of every hundred cases of scarlet fever by giving the patient warm lemonade with gum arabic dissolved in it. A cloth wrung out in hot water and laid upon the stomach should be removed as rapidly as it becomes cool.

Remedy for Earache.—There is scarcely any ache to which children are subject, so bad to bear and difficult to cure, as the earache. But there is a remedy, never known to fail. Take a bit of cotton batting, put upon it a pinch of black pepper, gather it up and tie it, dip in sweet oil, and insert into the ear. Put a flannel bandage over the head to keep it warm. It will give immediate relief.

Cure for Diphtheria.—A correspondent of the Boston Journal writes that he has used the following remedy for diphtheria in a great many hard cases, and in not one has it failed to effect a cure. It is as follows:—Procure some pitch tar—not gas tar—put a little on a hot iron, invert tunnel over the smoke, and let the patient inhale as much as he can without strangling, for a few minutes, five or six times a day. During the intervals let the patient have small pieces of ice to keep as near the root of the tongue as possible.

Patrons of Husbandry.

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS IN CONGRESS.

THE fact that Congressmen and Senators are giving increased attention to questions directly affecting the interests of farmers is due, in a great measure, to the influence of the Patrons of Husbandry. It is the organization of farmers which makes them powerful, and it is this which forces politicians to respect their wishes. Some of the Senatorial ways of attending to farmer's interests are awkward enough; but even then the politicians probably mean well, but err through natural and habitual stupidity. Thus the U. S. Senate has passed an utterly impracticable bill, authorizing the appointment of one commissioner to investigate insects injurious to farm crops, pay his own expenses and receive a salary of four thousand dollars per year. What the Senate expect from one man, devoting his time to so large a subject, it would be difficult to guess. His investigations would require much more laborious research than all the questions over which learned Senators puzzle themselves, and make long speeches to be distributed through the mails to their constituents. It is really funny; but Senator LOGAN, who opposed the bill, we presume, because he thought it too extravagant, remarked to some other Senators who favored it and are supposed to want the Presidency, "You are all in favor of farmers now."

We presume this idea is a true one, and as we are glad to have Senators and Congressmen anxious to favor farmers, it is important that they should go the right way to work. Such petty legislation as appointing one commissioner at a small salary to do work sufficient for a dozen or fifty men won't gain any body aught, except ridicule and contempt. If Senators want to really do one act which will give unbounded satisfaction, let them take the cheap postage bill as it passed Congress and adopt it without delay. Nobody but the stockholders of express companies could find fault with such an act as that.

WOMEN AND THE GRANGE.

"A MATRON" writes sensibly on this topic in the Patron's Helper of Iowa. She says: Many of our sisters, after reading the national constitution and by-laws, joined the Grange, that could never have been induced to join other secret societies, for the good reason that the Grange placed woman on an equality with her husband, father or brother, and she may advance as well as they, and I cannot see why our brothers now complain, when they knew the law before they joined as well as we.

You say, Bro. Jones, that the subordinate Granges elect the masters but not their wives. I cannot agree with you in that. They know when they vote for master they are also voting for his wife (if she be a matron) to be a delegate, and whose vote for right or against wrong is equal to the one her husband casts, and if they do not select the best-mated pair of delegates, who is to blame but themselves? "Whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder," and some of the sisters possess enough self-esteem to think it possible that a master may be chosen for his wife's qualifications, as best qualified to represent their Grange as *vice versa*.

If we want the the National Grange abolished let us be satisfied to wait until a majority of our subordinate members or Granges say so, the majority having the power to disgrace and ruin or honor and perpetuate our noble order.

If the majority believe woman was created solely for man's benefit, and her place always at home, they can soon have the subordinate Grange, *minus* women, by evading the law, and selecting for masters none but those, whose wives are not matrons, as is often done, or old bachelors, or widowers, or young men who are pledged not to marry while in office.

So you see the Grange has the power at the present, without changing the law, to leave us women out in the cold, or rather at home, to see that the boys, or hired hands, attend to the pigs, cows, sheep or horses, or, may be, to do most of it ourselves in order that our husbands shall go as delegates. But let me assure you, brothers, who enjoy leaving your wives at home, with your cares as well as their own, devolving upon them, they will not urge you so strongly, that you go, since they have tasted the sweets of equality. We would now feel it pretty hard to be left alone with so much to do, or worse, with unprincipled hands to oversee, and feel that it would be no more than justice that we, too, have rest for the body and food for the mind, which our husbands enjoy weekly, from home, while month after month passes that we are not off of the farm.

Could woman go with her husband she might improve, gain confidence in herself, and do much good in the end; but go alone is more than I would or could do, and I have had a trial of it and know of what I write. It is expecting too much of the sister delegates and will eventually rid the Granges of sisters, which some of our brothers consider a useless appendage to our Order, and I think some of them are working to that end, when they oppose "masters and their wives" as delegates. If our brothers will only have patience with our weaknesses, even if we are expensive now, I think they will find us apt scholars, and the expense of our tuition will be money bearing, hereafter, a large interest.

THE "SOVEREIGNS OF INDUSTRY."

THE growth of this Order in the United States, especially in New England, has been wonderful. In less than two years the Order comprises, in Massachusetts alone, 159 Subordinate Councils, with a membership of 15,000 persons—male and female. The objects of this Order, as has already been stated in these columns, is to accomplish for the mechanics and workingmen of the country, other than farmers, what the Patrons of Husbandry are doing for the agriculturist interest. As with the Patrons, women form an important and valuable feature in the order of S. of I. Experience has shown that their presence exerts a harmonizing and refining influence, strongly conducive to order and decorum. The number of co-operative stores under the management of the S. of I. in Massachusetts is now 65, with a capital of $50,000, and monthly sales reaching an average of $30,000.

FARM EXPERIMENTS IN THE GRANGE.

THE members of the Perry (Ga.) Grange have unanimously resolved that its members prepare and plant, each, one acre of land in wheat, this season; and the member reporting the best yield from his acre be entitled to and receive one bushel of wheat from each member of the Grange who may engage in said contest for the premium—each contestant to furnish the Grange with a description of his land, preparation, fertilization, kind of wheat sown, and all the particulars of cultivation. Also, as many as may incline to put in one acre of oats, subject to the same regulations and premium. Also, to raise one pig to the age of one year, and the one successful in raising the finest hog to receive a ham from each member. Every member of the Grange is considered as taking part in these contests, unless he notifies the Secretary of his declination.

GRANGE NEWS AND NOTES.

THE Order of Patrons of Husbandry has developed in this country more speakers and active parliamentaries than any school or combination of college ever started in any country. This fact shows what an educational power there is in the Order, if used to advantage.

THE Farmers' Friend says there is now a genuine Grange of genuine straight-up-and-down farmers in the city of Philadelphia. There are enough farmers within the city limits to compose two or three large Granges, as perhaps fifty square miles of the city are farming land. The Grange referred to is located in the rural portion of the city known as "Bustleton."

THERE are fifty-one Granges in Indiana which have saved their members on an average of $578.-50 to each Grange, and eighty-five others, $407.-25 to a Grange on an average, by making their purchases direct of manufacturers. Here we have a saving of $71,191.25 by only 136 of the 1,991 Granges in this State. We have no reliable information from the other, 1,857 Granges, but it is fair to presume that many of them have made large savings by direct dealing, and the whole amount would doubtless astonish the members themselves.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1876.

AMERICAN FLAX CULTURE.

TEN to fifteen years ago there was a partial revival of flax culture in this country, and the subject was somewhat extensively discussed by the Agricultural Press. The RURAL NEW-YORKER devoted special attention to the subject for awhile, and there was issued from its office, in 1864, "A Manual of Flax Culture and Manufacture, embracing full directions for Preparing the Ground, Sowing, Harvesting, &c.—Also, an Essay by a Western Man, on Hemp and Flax in the West: Modes of Culture, Preparation for Market, &c.; With Botanical Descriptions and Illustrations." Several thousand copies of this Manual (a 25-cent pamphlet) were sold at the time (we have one of the sixth-thousand edition before us), but soon after the close of the war the matter seemed to attract less attention, and flax culture has since been conducted on a comparatively small scale, and confined to limited localities.

The subject of flax culture is recurred to now in consequence of a recent conference in this city concerning it, which developed some facts relative to the importation of Russian flax, and the inducements for American farmers to engage in flax growing. We subjoin a report of this conference substantially as given in the Tribune daily newspaper, believing the facts stated will prove of special interest to many of our readers:

Messrs. MILLER and FLEMING of Dundee, Scotland, the former one of the largest flax spinners of that city, and the latter extensively engaged in the importation of Russian flax, recently met PETER COOPER and other gentlemen interested in the subject of American flax culture. Specimens of flax, hemp, jute and ramie grown in this country were examined by Messrs. MILLER and FLEMING, and pronounced to be of excellent quality, equal to the best Russian fiber. Mr. MILLER said that he could annually use in his business $1,000,000 worth of American flax of the quality exhibited. Mr. COOPER introduced Mr. WATSON, who has made the subject of flax-growing and manufacture a study for 20 years. Mr. WATSON submitted comparative statistics showing the rapid gains the United States had made over Russia in the exportation of wheat in the past few years. In fifteen years (1858—72) the United States shipped to England 27 per cent. of the wheat importation of that country, and Russia 24 per cent. In nine months of 1874 the United States supplied Great Britain with 58 per cent. of her wheat and Russia only 11 per cent. The same land that yields wheat will yield flax and hemp; and as this country has surpassed Russia in wheat growing, Mr. WATSON declares she can also surpass her in the exportation of flax. Yet this country annually imports from Russia $50,000,000 worth of flax and hemp, which could be raised on American soil!

That flax is the most profitable crop for the farmer is shown, Mr. WATSON says, by our agricultural statistics. For example, in Morrow Co., Ohio, flax yields $27.08 per acre; wheat, $14.51; oats, $10.37; corn, $11.41, and in all soils adapted to flax, from Minnesota to the Gulf, it was the most profitable crop raised. Prepared flax sells freely in the New York market at about $300 per ton, and a leading importer in this city states that when he can obtain Western flax in the quantities which he wants he will cease importing from Russia. With the new machinery—the flax-puller and decorticator for preparing flax—Mr. WATSON believes a revolution will be effected in the business, and that the machines will do for flax growing what the reaper has done for the grain trade of America. He confidently expects that when the culture and value of flax are understood by American farmers, they will successfully compete with Russia.

Mr. COOPER, who has also given the subject much attention for a number of years, and particularly the improvement of flax machinery, fully supported Mr. WATSON's views, and has great faith in the future development of this industry. Mr. MILLER expressed much interest in the statement made, and was convinced from his investigations that American flax, in the not distant future, would become a leading staple of foreign importation.

THE CENTENNIAL DAIRY RING, AGAIN.

THE exposure of the "Centennial Dairy Ring" in a recent number of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, has called down a long array of personalities and false statements in regard to the Dairy Editor of this paper, and in this way an attempt is made to answer the facts in the case. The Husbandman has an article entitled "Prof. ARNOLD and Prof. WILLARD," in which the *ridiculous* statement is made that the exposure of this attempted fraud upon dairymen has grown out of our jealousy of Mr. ARNOLD. This same argument, we now learn from J. H. REALL's version of the affair, was used by the Ring to influence the Committee of the Whole at the Philadelphia meeting, Feb. 23d.

The Rural Home (Mr. ARNOLD's organ) also renews its charge of *jealousy* in a long personal attack upon us. Now let us see what the facts are in regard to this matter. We have always been friendly to Mr. ARNOLD, and have labored for his advancement in various ways. Years ago, when he was a resident of Herkimer County and when he aspired to political honors, we spent many days in riding over Herkimer County hills to secure position for him. We were upon the Committee that gave him the prize on his first dairy paper of importance, and we urged his claims, believing honestly that his paper was best, though others thought differently. At a later day we urged and were instrumental in securing his appointment as Secretary of the American Dairymen's Association—an association which we helped to organize and for years labored to put upon a successful footing, but which Mr. ARNOLD only at a late day became connected with. And in many instances we have recommended Mr. ARNOLD and secured his appointment as a speaker before various dairy associations. Indeed, until this trickery in Centennial dairy matters we have never laid a straw in Mr. ARNOLD's path, as the Rural Home and Husbandman well know. The charge therefore which is now trumped up of jealousy, is simply ridiculous and maliciously false. It is only brought up to bias public opinion and turn attention away from the real facts in the case.

We do not propose to go over the several points in this Centennial affair. The statement made in the exposure is simply the fact. And it is not alone our view, but that of other members of the Committee. For our part we could not have dairymen misled in this matter. We are for upright, square work, and we can indorse no other.

We are opposed to Mr. ARNOLD as a Juror of Dairy products at the Centennial, believing him to be quite incompetent for the place. Factorymen and dealers everywhere express the opinion that none but a practical expert—one who is dealing constantly in dairy goods and who is well acquainted with foreign and home demand—is alone capable of taking this place. We have no ax to grind in this affair and have only sought the public good. Dairymen of late years have become disgusted with the manner in which Town, County and State Fairs have been conducted as to awards, and many have refused to exhibit. The Dairy display at the Centennial is to be no town show, but a great National Exhibition, and to discriminate between the qualities of cheese exhibited by 2,000 factories requires the best expert in this country, which we are certain Mr. ARNOLD is not.

We claim the right to an opinion as to the qualifications of men seeking important positions without asking the advice of the Rural Home. If the Editor of that paper desires to controvert the statements concerning the Dairy Ring, why does he not call out a statement from Mr. O. S. BLISS of Vermont, the Secretary of the Centennial Dairy Committee? Mr. BLISS is honest and straightforward. He has the record of the doings of the Committee, and if called upon can tell the whole story as it is. The Rural Home talks about gentlemanly journalism. If the low personalities and false statements dished out by its Editor be a sample of gentlemanly journalism, we have misapprehended the characteristics of a gentleman and of decent journalism.

We entered upon this work of a grand dairy display at the Centennial with "clean hands," and we shall keep them clean. We do not propose to see the dairymen cheated out of fair awards without protest, and we are not to be browbeaten by malicious personal invective. If the exposure of this affair shall break up all future attempt at running the dairy display in the interest of a few persons—which we have faith it will—great good will be accomplished, and the Centennial dairy display will be an honor to the Nation. We shall work heartily to this end, as we have from the beginning.—X. A. W.

ANXIETY OF MR. ARNOLD'S ORGAN.

THE proposal to appoint Mr. ARNOLD as one of the Jurors at the Centennial Exposition has aroused considerable feeling among dairymen, and especially in the West where his lack of practical qualifications for the position is well known. Many Western dairymen say they will not compete, as, aside from the ring business, they do not consider Mr. A. competent to act as expert in judging of dairy products. All this is intelligible; but the sudden anxiety of a Western New York hebdomadal to prop up Mr. ARNOLD's reputation is not so easily seen through. We will explain it by a little story.

A well-known Boston chemist says that many years ago a rough looking man came into his office, sat down and deliberately began to unroll a package. One paper after another was removed, and at last the man's eyes glistened as he saw some sparkling substance, which he eagerly thrust forward with the query: "What is that?" The chemist saw at once that the glittering particles were *not* gold. "That," said he, "is iron pyrites." "Well! what is it worth. Is it good for anything?" followed in quick succession. "It isn't worth two cents a ton," said the chemist very solemnly. The man's lower jaw fell several inches, the package dropped from his hand and he looked as if he would very much like to faint. "What a confounded big fool I have been! Why, Doctor, there's a woman in our town who has a whole farm full of that ere stuff, *and I've gone and married her!*"

If this story doesn't point its own moral, it need only be added that the publisher of the paper aforesaid has invested a good deal more money in "Prof. ARNOLD" than he can well afford, and both he and his numerous friends are now very much concerned lest he shouldn't get his investment again. If Mr. ARNOLD should prove no better than that "whole farm full" of iron pyrites, the consequences might be very sad indeed. The story is a very suggestive one.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Patrons and the Centennial.—It turns out that the arrangements inaugurated by the Patrons of Husbandry for their Centennial Encampment will furnish almost the only plan yet proposed for visiting the great Exposition with any degree of economy or comfort. The rates to and from the grounds—only 15 cents both ways—or ten cents one way, are much lower than any other arrangement proposes, and the charge of 50 cents for lodging and 50 cents for each meal is fully fifty per cent. cheaper than that proposed in the city. A Philadelphia correspondent of the Times writes: The Grangers may have hay-seed in their locks, but they certainly have brains under their hair. When the Grangers of Pennsylvania met in solemn State Convention and discussed the question of accommodation and prices within the city, they came to the conclusion that things were likely to be dearer than would suit either the pockets or the wishes of a true agriculturist. It may be observed that the farmer in all lands holds on to his money with an exceedingly hard grip, because he really earns it by the sweat of his brow.

The State Grange.—Sec'y ARMSTRONG sends us a neatly-printed pamphlet containing report of proceedings at the third annual session of the N. Y. State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry held at Auburn on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th of January last. The statistics show the Order to be in excellent condition, numbering 375 Granges, and the number is steadily increasing. At the close of the book is a list of Granges, with numbers, names and addresses of Masters and Secretaries, and the time of meeting. Among the officers of the subordinate Granges we recognize many of the leading agriculturists of their respective localities, and this feature of the report is especially interesting. The pamphlet is a creditable piece of workmanship, and was printed at the office of the Husbandman, Elmira.

Perquisites in a New Place.—The people of Albany County, N. Y., are showing some queer transactions incident to the General Term of the Supreme Court. During the last five years this Court has only sat 186 days, or less than 38 days per year; but, according to the bills paid, it used envelopes at the rate of 500 per day, and about two tons of white paper for decisions, notes, etc. A barrel and a half of writing fluid and a keg of carmine were used, or at least paid for, also 180 dozens of black lead pencils and 27 dozens of red and blue pencils. The bill for stationery, etc., amounts to $5,270.90, and shows on its face that somebody has enjoyed great freedom in dealing with the people's money. Luckily our Supreme Court judges are elective and can be reached.

The Glut of Silver.—Our suspension of specie payments has obscured the fact that in most parts of the civilized world silver coin has become superabundant, and is only received at a discount. According to the general prices, the U. S. silver coin is now worth, in gold, only eighty-three cents on the dollar, which is several cents less than legal tenders have averaged the past year. If we could be satisfied with silver a return to specie payments might easily be effected. This, however, would place us at the same disadvantage as now in our trade with foreign countries, which adopt the gold standard of currency.

RURAL BREVITIES.

WHEAT is higher in all the markets of Europe.

ANGORA goats are rapidly multiplying in California.

THE sorghum product of Georgia is increasing. A good sign.

THREE Counties of Ohio produced 769,000 bushels of potatoes last season.

BROOM manufacturing has begun in Nebraska, to use up the crop grown last season.

IN London last December a collection of orchids consisting of 659 lots, was sold at auction for more than $11,000.

A HORSE has been cured of heaves by sending him South this winter. Who knows but this may become fashionable for horses?

Two thousand three hundred and sixty-two dollars were paid last year on account of sheep-killing dogs in one county in New Jersey.

A YOUNG lady of Marshall Co., Ind., with the aid of a younger brother, works a farm of 80 acres, and is the main dependence of the family.

OF clover seed, the shipments from Philadelphia to foreign ports this season are only 1,500 bags, against 6,000 bags at the same time last year.

IF exhibitors of Dairy products at the Centennial desire honest awards and an equal chance, now is the time to break up the *Centennial Dairy Ring*.

ROBERT C. REEVES, dealer in garden, field and flower seeds, 185 Water St., New York, sends us descriptive catalogue for 1876. It is an interesting pamphlet, and will be sent on application.

OVER 197,000 trees were planted in Minnesota during the tree-planting season of 1875, by contestants of certain premiums which had been offered to those planting the largest number.

A VERY serviceable black horse, forty-two years old, died in Keene, N. H., a few days ago. He had been worked constantly until within a year and a half, when he was put on the retired list and kindly treated, being kept on porridge of scalded meal.

DAIRYMEN, don't desert the Centennial Exhibition, but break up the *Centennial Dairy Ring* and secure honest awards with an equal chance to all, instead of judgment for the favored few who captured the Committee by "surprise in the night."

L. L. CROCKER of Buffalo sends us Spring Circular of his brands of superphosphate, guaranteed to be equal to the analysis. We have so often recommended the use of these fertilizers that we need only call attention to Mr. CROCKER's advertisement in this paper.

IF the various papers which are endeavoring to sustain the *Centennial Dairy Ring* want proof that ARNOLD voted to exclude other candidates from the appointment of Juror, and that, by his own vote, they were so excluded, let them call upon Mr. BLISS, the Secretary, for his record of the proceedings.

NEW JERSEY is a thriving State, but always a little dwarfed by being so close to New York. We are glad to note that it is to have a first-class monthly agricultural paper, the New Jersey Agriculturist, published at Brunswick, N. J. The price is only 50 cents a year, and the paper should be liberally sustained.

A BRITISH Empire Horse Supply Association has been formed in London with a capital of one million dollars to import horses from the United States. It is expected to buy horses here at an average price of £100, have a steamer which will carry 450 horses, make six round trips a year, and sell the horses in England at £250.

THE farmer who boasted that he wintered his horses on oat straw, "and the oats were not half threshed either," did not use an AULTMAN & TAYLOR Thresher. The famished rooster, pictured on our last page, and looking like the worst defeated party after a Presidential campaign, shows the kind of threshing they do. The grain saved from the stack is just so much more added to the granary and to the farmer's profits. Send to AULTMAN & TAYLOR for their circular of prices.

HALF-VOLUME REMINDERS.

A GOOD TIME FOR RURAL RECRUITING.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER *this week enters upon a new half volume, and hence the present is a good time to add to its circulation and usefulness. Agent-Friends (to whom thanks for past efforts) are reminded that* NOW *is the season to increase lists, thus adding to their Premiums and at the same time augmenting the benefits of the* RURAL. *We trust they will continue recruiting therefore until every one in their respective localities who ought to take this journal becomes a subscriber. And will not subscribers generally—in fact all friendly readers—embrace this favorable opportunity to introduce the* RURAL *to the notice and support of neighbors and others interested in promoting the best interests of the industrial community?*

Note that Single and Club subscriptions, for either six months or a year, are respectfully solicited. New clubs may be formed to commence with April, and additions to present ones are always in order. Our liberal Premiums are continued, so that Agents and all persons making additions to our list will be rewarded for their efforts.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

Nellis' O. H. H. Fork and Patent Method for Mowing and Stacking Hay or Straw, will save the farmers its cost every season. Wanted Agents who can give reliable reference. Pamphlet free. Address A. J. NELLIS & CO., Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE **"Phœnix" brand Pure White Lead** is corroded by the only true method, known as the "*Old* Dutch Process," and is sold with the positive assurance of absolute purity.

Tested by Time.—For Throat Diseases, Colds and Coughs, "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" have *proved* their efficacy by a test of many years.

GREETING TO A TRIED FRIEND.

BY F. M'MASTER.

My faithful friend, thy counsels wise
Hath taught us how to learn
Our daily task, this side the skies,
In household, field and barn.

Since first we met, two short decades,
Life's best that I may see,
Have passed and bore me to the shades
That fall round forty-three.

Week after week, year after year,
Through Winter's storm and sun,
The RURAL's always present here
Before the week is done.

Justice and Truth hath been thy base,
On which alone can stand,
Throughout these wondrous latter days,
A people or a land.

Be thine a bright Centennial wreath
In days that yet may be,
Untouch'd by sin's defiling breath—
Child of integrity.

When MOORE hath done his well-done task,
And pass'd to CHRIST'S reward,
Oh! is it too soon to ask
That some be raised to guard

These pages from defiling things,
As they have always been—
Till JESUS down from Heaven brings
His hosts to close the scene?

St. Mary's, Ont., Canada, March, 1876.

The Story-Teller.

FATE VERSUS DECEIT.

BY MRS. GEO. BARTLETT.

"'A MODEST MAN is the very soul of honor,' dear grandma used to say;—how I wish she could have known ARTHUR!" This was what FLORENCE SHERBURNE was thinking as she tripped up the stairway of her father's elegant house.

ARTHUR had just left. He had called to ask if he might send a carriage to take her that evening to Mrs. FORSTER'S reception; but FLORENCE was obliged to decline, because EDGAR LEFFERTS had invited her two days before. Why did it always happen so? She could not even carry the little bunch of rose buds ARTHUR had brought, because EDGAR had sent a bouquet; but she smiled to herself—her dress at least had been chosen according to ARTHUR'S taste. She had purchased a pink silk because he once had said pink was his favorite color.

"Pink, rosy red, love's own celestial hue."

"You quote MILTON."

"And my own taste also."

So FLORENCE chose this color. The reception was to be the most brilliant one of the season, and with every anticipation of pleasure Mr. SHERBURNE'S beautiful daughter arranged her toilet. She did not stop to peep into her heart, or to perceive that with every thought of pleasure ARTHUR CLAYTON was associated.

No one entered those elegant rooms that evening with a happier, gayer heart than FLORENCE, and perhaps none left it with the same sense of disappointment. She had been admired and sought, and she knew that EDGAR LEFFERTS wished to marry her; but why had ARTHUR spoken so little with her, and why had he left so early in the evening? This last question she asked EDGAR on the way home, and he had simply replied, he "had an engagement."

But on reaching home—what could have happened?—the servants were moving about in such a hushed but hasty way! "Miss FLORENCE, don't be frightened," said THOMAS, meeting her in the hall, "but Mr. SHERBURNE is taken ill." Yes, her father was lying unconscious, and the physician in attendance pronounced it apoplexy.

What a night of terrible anxiety followed! But the morning came, and found her father still breathing; he lived. For weeks his only child watched by his bedside; and every day EDGAR LEFFERTS called to inquire and offer his services, which FLORENCE, poor, helpless girl, was glad to accept.

And why did not ARTHUR come? Twice he called and left his card and then suddenly he went to Europe. And something was gone from FLORENCE SHERBURNE'S life. For long hours she sat by her father's bedside, and with her anxiety was mingled a sense of desolation.

Weeks passed, and Mr. SHERBURNE was slowly improving when the doctor urged a sea voyage. "A few months at Pau or at Madeira, will be of great advantage," he said. "And something is needed to bring back the roses to this little lady's cheeks," he added, looking at FLORENCE. And so a plan came to be made. Mrs. RUSH, the sister of EDGAR LEFFERTS, was going to Cintra. Mr. SHERBURNE, with his daughter and EDGAR, who had become quite necessary to the invalid, would form the party. EDGAR had asked for FLORENCE to become his wife; her father had urged his suit, and she, in a subdued, half-sorrowful way, had at last consented.

They went to Cintra—beautiful Cintra!—but its soft air and charming scenery gave no pleasure to FLORENCE. Her father was not recovering as she had hoped; often she wept in secret, and felt that her heart was shut up by itself, while she seemed surrounded by friends. But at the end of three months Mrs. RUSH wished to make a tour of the Continent, and was eager to make a display before leaving Cintra. So why not celebrate the wedding? She urged the point, and Mr. SHERBURNE was led to agree that it was best. The bridal trousseau was accordingly ordered from Paris, the day was fixed, and preparations were hastened.

The fortnight quickly passed, and the day before the wedding day had come. The weather was charming, the soft air beguiling one out, and Mr. SHERBURNE said, "My daughter, I should enjoy a drive this afternoon. Can you go?"

FLORENCE was soon ready. "Why," said Mrs. RUST, as they met in the hall, "you surely don't mean to do a thing so contrary to the rules of propriety?"

"Contrary, I know, to the rules of society,—but I shall go."

"My dear," said Mr. SHERBURNE, "this is the perfection of days—I shall enjoy the sea air;" and when they reached the shore, he proposed they should walk a little on the cliffs. Arm in arm they walked, the father thinking of the passing scene, the daughter striving to shut out thought. A jutting rock was just before, and turning it, a gentleman was seen standing on the beach. Mr. SHERBURNE fixed a steady gaze, but the heart of FLORENCE beat quickly.

"Why, my daughter, surely that is ARTHUR CLAYTON!"

"Yes, father."

"Why, ARTHUR, ARTHUR! who would have thought of meeting you here!" said Mr. SHERBURNE, stepping forward and extending his hand.

ARTHUR said he had arrived only that morning in the steamer; that he was certainly intending to do himself the pleasure of calling very soon.

"Well you are just in time—one day more and you would have been too late. Our wedding is to be to-morrow; but come early, for I am impatient to talk with you, and in the morning I feel much stronger."

At ten o'clock Mr. SHERBURNE sat alone in his room when ARTHUR came; it was two hours from the time appointed for the ceremony. He had come to Cintra for the express purpose of speaking with FLORENCE, not supposing the wedding to be so soon; but here he was, and now his heart failed him. It was all too late; it was but for him to look on and see her made the wife of EDGAR LEFFERTS. He tried to keep up a conversation, then he looked at his watch.

"The guests I suppose are assembling," remarked Mr. SHERBURNE. "My dear, dear child! I am glad she is to have a protector before I go." He gazed out the window with a dreamy, absent expression; a certain pallor ARTHUR noticed came upon his face, then tremblingly he raised his hand toward his head. "Oh, ARTHUR, I don't feel well; what can be the matter?"

The head suddenly drooped on one side and the breathing was heavy and difficult. ARTHUR hastily rang the bell and FLORENCE was soon brought. Mrs. RUSH came and some of the guests, and physicians were sent for. But in less than an hour Mr. SHERBURNE ceased to breathe. He was laid upon a bed, and his daughter threw herself upon her knees beside the dear, lifeless form. Her toilet had just been completed when she was called, and now the contrast of the white satin dress—the wreath and veil, with the tear-stained face and the bursting sobs,—was something piteous to see. Mrs. RUSH and EDGAR endeavored to comfort her, and at last ARTHUR led her to her own room.

The guests had all gone now, and the hush of death was upon the house. The day was closing. FLORENCE lay quietly on the couch where ARTHUR had placed her. After a while she opened her eyes and perceived he had come in; they were alone together.

"ARTHUR," she said, "don't leave me; be a brother to me and take me home to America."

"But, Miss SHERBURNE——"

"Call me FLORENCE, and tell me that you will not leave me."

"Indeed, I will not leave you if I have the right to protect you. FLORENCE," he continued after a pause, "I came to Cintra to ask of you one question, little thinking I was coming just of the time fixed for your marriage. Let me ask that question. It is not whether you love EDGAR LEFFERTS; but,—you recollect the reception at Mrs. FORSTER'S,—tell me, at that time were you engaged to marry him?"

"No, ARTHUR, I was not."

ARTHUR bowed his head on his hand and a deep sigh escaped him.

"Why do you ask? I remember that evening; how you scarcely spoke to me, and when I got home,——oh, ARTHUR, it was that night that papa was taken sick! And then you called, but you did not come in; and then—then you went away. And papa liked EDGAR, and urged me to marry him. What is the question you wish to ask?"

"I have asked it. That evening I was told that you had promised to marry him—that you were engaged to him. That was why I went away. For I loved you, FLORENCE; for a long time I had loved you; and I thought you cared for me."

"I did care for you, and—and—when you went away and did not ask me to marry you, I was disappointed."

"Oh, how I was deceived!—how miserably deceived," moaned ARTHUR.

There was a long silence. At last FLORENCE said, "ARTHUR, will you promise to take me home?"

"I am happy in making the promise."

Neither spoke again through the hours of the night. Wearied by her grief, FLORENCE at last fell asleep. ARTHUR sat in the window, thinking of the strange events of the last two days.

The bridal dress was never worn again; but at the end of a week a carriage drove up to the American chapel, and there ARTHUR was married to the bride he had so nearly lost. There was no wreath, no veil, no ornament,—but the plain gold ring was placed on a pale, thin hand, and the dress was a mourning traveling dress. Traces of tears were in the eyes of the bride, but a quiet look was there that seemed to say her happiness found repose in his love.

THE RECLAIMED.

THE only one in the house, a little child, knelt by her bedside praying, alone. Perhaps the experiences of ten years had laid their weight upon her young heart—she certainly was not older—and were it not for the impressions which sorrow always leaves upon its victims, she would have passed for a younger child. It was not a large house, for there were but three rooms in it and, besides herself, it had but one occupant. He was away—she knew not where, only that her fears told her he was where he ought not to be. She had prepared their frugal supper hours ago, and had waited anxiously and hopefully for the sound of her father's returning footsteps, but night crept on apace, and he came not to cheer the solitude or relieve the anxiety of his waiting child.

Tears had been falling from the bright blue eyes, dimming their luster, and sobs had burst from the roseate lips, telling her heart's agony; and now, near the middle of the night, the little one knelt, as her sainted mother taught her to do, and prayed for the absent one:

"Dear God, bless my poor, dear father. Make him good and holy as my dear, dead mother was. Keep him from drinking the wicked brandy any more, and make him love his little Mary as he used to."

This was the burden of her prayer. But how can we tell the expression of her weeping eyes and little hands raised imploringly to heaven in the earnestness of her petition? Her golden hair fell loosely down upon her shoulders, and it was a picture which made glad the angels who beheld it. They had seen the picture before, and the merciful Lord had seen it and heard the earnest petition of the blameless one.

Charles Ransom had been prosperous and well-to-do. He had begun life with bright prospects; and with a loving wife and interesting children, his home was one of the bright spots of earth. But sickness and death came and robbed him of his heart's jewels—of all but one—and left him desolate and disconsolate. Truly, he loved Mary, the one left him by a wise Providence; but his devotion to his wife had been so entire and absorbing—she had become so truly a part of his own existence—that when she was taken from him life seemed a dismal dungeon, and he could see no "silver lining" to the clouds which mantled his life's sky.

Despondency took possession of him, and, to drown the poignancy of his grief, he resorted to the wine cup, as many an unfortunate one has done before him, deluded with false hopes. Having once begun in this way, he soon went to excess. At first the piteous appeals of his child and the advice and warning of friends who loved him, seemed to have some restraining effect; but at length these gradually lost their power, and one by one his "friends" gave up his case as hopeless, and ceased striving with him, wrapping themselves in the mantle of their own fancied perfection and invincible powers to resist temptation, and resigned him to his fate.

There was but one who remained fast and firm, staunch and true to the work of his reformation, and that was his heaven-eyed, sunny-crowned Mary. She never faltered in her prayers or her entreaties. She heeded no repulse and was discouraged by no delay, but, with the simple faith of childhood she kept her eye fixed steadily on the boon she so fondly desired—the reformation of the one she held most dear on earth.

On this particular night, Charles Ransom had lingered as usual at the dram-shop, and, becoming intoxicated, was oblivious to his home, his waiting child, and everything but his thirst for liquor. This thirst it seemed impossible to quench. His money was all gone and, alas! he had reached, too, that other certain stage in the drunkard's life when his credit at the bar was also gone; yet he implored the landlord for more drink. With his tongue thick and his eyes rolling in an idiotic stare, he begged in vain for one more glass to satisfy his craving thirst. His pleadings at last made the virtuous landlord angry, and, with a terrible oath, he answered the poor inebriate that if he could not be still he would kick him out into the street.

This was the first time in his mad career that Charles Ransom had ever received such a threat, and, bewildered and stupid as he was, his native pride and self-respect began to be aroused. The bar-room was almost full of men, some of them his acquaintances, and to be rebuffed in this manner and before them, made the degradation doubly poignant.

He staggered to his feet and caught a chair, but ere his faltering arms could raise it high enough for the object at which he aimed, the infuriated dram-seller hurled a decanter with such unerring precision, that it felled the besotted man to the floor, with his head gashed and the blood oozing from it frightfully.

"Get out of my house, you vagabond!" cried the landlord as, not content with seeing his victim helpless on the floor, he applied kick after kick to his prostrate body. "Get out with your villainous carcass, I tell ye, and get off to your pauper hovel and your crying brat, and never put foot inside this door again or, by ——, I'll kill ye!"

This brutal speech sobered the drunken man almost as by magic and, with a bound which surprised the lookers-on and made them stand back, he rushed upon his assailant and strangled him until he cried, "Help, men, for the love of God! The fiend is murdering me!"

The infuriated man loosened his grasp and broke forth:

"Oh, yes, Bill Jackson, you thought I was killing you, because you know you richly deserve it, not only from me, but hundreds of others. You sold me drink and encouraged me to drink; you said it would not hurt me—that it would do me good, that it would drive sorrow from me and make me forget my griefs. You were the one who, when I said my temperament was one that could not stand much drink, told me there was no danger—that I should get used to it as yourself had done; and you lured me on, from one stage to another, until you got all my money; and now, when I have nothing and am poor, and degraded, and low, and sunken into the gutter where you have dragged me, you spurn me from your house, you kick and beat me and, worse than all, you call my child, whom, with all my degradation and sin, I love better than my life—you call my child a brawling brat! Curse you, Bill Jackson, for the ruin you have wrought. But I will go from your house; I will go home to my poor child, and may the good God, whom I have so grievously offended, give me the strength to resist the temptation ever to enter your house or any other liquor shop again as long as I have breath."

APRIL SHOWERS.

The penitent man was assisted to his home by some of his companions; and, upon entering the house, there they saw that frail, fair child, still kneeling on the bare floor by her little bed. She had fallen asleep in that position after praying long and earnestly for her absent father. But she awoke at their coming, and with a startled cry she ran to her father and asked what was the matter.

With her own hands she dressed his wound and, pressing her to his heart, he told her he would try not to drink any more.

"O, dear papa!" she cried, "I thought God would answer my prayer. I have prayed so much for you, and mamma used to teach me that my prayers would be heard and answered when God thought it was best. Oh, won't mamma be happy, up in heaven, to know that you won't drink any more? and little brother Jamie? And I know God will bless you, dear father, and make you strong."

"May he bless you, sweet child, and make me ever worthy of such a precious treasure. Oh, what a sinner I have been! May God be merciful unto me!"

There was little sleep in that house that night. Charles Ransom was thoroughly aroused from the torpor into which he had been plunged so long, and he marveled that he had ever fallen so low. He had been snatched as a brand from the burning, but not by his own efforts; the grace of God, so unweariedly invoked in his behalf by his praying child, had at last come to his rescue. He saw how near the gulf of destruction he had approached, and in this hour of penitence he resolved no longer to rely on his own strength but to seek the aid of divine grace to help him battle with sorrow and adversity, for he had seen that "vain was the help of man," and that human nature, unsustained and unrenewed by grace, was the veriest weakness.

Two happy days passed into months, the months into years, and we behold the reclaimed one a respected and honored member of society. The beautiful little home which he used to own, and which he had sacrificed in his insane passion for drink, he re-purchased; and Mary, the same devoted daughter to whose prayers he owed his salvation, now developed into a beautiful and gifted young lady of seventeen, trains the flowers and vines around their happy dwelling, and with her love and care and goodness makes it a home which the angels seem to watch over with peculiar guardianship, and in her prayers she never forgets to say:

"My God, I thank thee that he who was nigh unto everlasting destruction is, by thy mercy, restored, and he who was lost is found."—*R. R. Engle.*

A SINGULAR MEETING.

What strange events happen; what wonderful coincidences spring into being along the pathway of life of some persons! I have just learned of an eventful meeting between two soldiers of the Rebellion, which, with a recent meeting I had myself with an old acquaintance, I will give the readers of the *Express* as they came to me.

Among the various regiments recruited in Central New York, during the late war, was the 160th, which was sent to the Department of the Gulf, and attached to the army under the command of General Banks. This regiment took an active part in the operations against Port Hudson, and was one of the first to enter that place at the time of its surrender, July 9, 1863. It was one of the regiments of Weitzel's Brigade, and the following year took part in an expedition to Sabine Pass, between Louisiana and Texas, where a large amount of Confederate stores were destroyed. One of the companies belonging to the 160th was raised in Palmyra, N. Y., and among its members was Mr. O. S. Stevens, who served full time, was discharged at its disbandment, and is now a merchant at Palmyra.

A few days since Mr. Stevens had occasion to go to Hartford, Conn., and left home on the 5 P. M. train on the Central Railroad. After becoming well settled in one of the sleeping cars, he discovered a tall, sandy-complexioned man in the opposite section, who, though a perfect stranger, had a large Roman nose which Stevens thought he had seen before, but failing to recall any resemblance of such a face, he gave no attention to it until the train reached Syracuse, when a long arm reached across the aisle, and a brawny hand touched him on the shoulder, the stranger at the same time asking if they stopped there for supper. To this Stevens answered in the affirmative, telling him if he would go along he would show him where to get a good lunch. At that they passed out together, and after supper the stranger offered Stevens a cigar, and then went into the smoking car where the following conversation ensued:

"Well, stranger, I reckon you live somewhere in these parts?"

"Yes, I live in Palmyra," said Stevens.

"And I live way down in Texas. I was what you used to call a Johnny Reb during the war."

"Ah, what part of the South did you serve in?" asked Stevens.

Thrusting his long legs under the seat in front, and turning part way round, he said:

"I was at Port Hudson until your army nearly starved us out, and we had to surrender. After I was exchanged I was a Texas ranger, and finally got reconstructed."

"And you were a prisoner at Port Hudson? Do you remember seeing the 160th New York Volunteers there?" said Stevens.

"I think I do," said the Texan; "and if I'm not mistaken, that was the very regiment our boys first met."

"And do you remember trading canteens with one of them?"

"Yes, and I got a tin canteen with the initials O. S. S. on it!"

"And I got a wooden one with J. T. P. on it," said Stevens.

"That was mine," said the Texan; "my name is John T. Pond. By George! we have drank from the same canteen, old friend; give me your hand for life," and he brought a tremendous squeeze on Stevens' hand, which fairly brought the tears to his eyes.

If the conversation had been lively before it was doubly so then. Mr. Pond going into a full detail of his history before and after the war. He had left Connecticut twenty-two years ago, and had settled at Sabine Pass, and was part owner of a large mill, which Stevens' command had destroyed the year following the surrender of Port Hudson. He was now on his way to New Haven to visit a sister he had not seen in all these years. He said that he returned to Sabine after the war, rebuilt the mill, was successful, and now had secured a competence that enabled him once more to visit his friends in the North. Stevens gave him an accurate account of the destruction of his mill, the first he had ever obtained, and the two sat up and conversed the entire night, while the sleeping car conductor wondered why they did not return to occupy their berths. The next morning they parted at Hartford; and though their first meeting had been as enemies, they bid each other good-by with many regrets, such as the best of friends only know.—*Cor. of Rochester Express.*

NO MOTHER.

The other day, when a stern and dignified Judge ordered a prisoner to stand up and offer objections, if he had any, to being sentenced to prison for a long term of years, the prisoner rose and said:

"I never had a mother to shed tears over me!"

His words entered every heart in the court room. He was a rough, bad man, in the middle age of life, and he had been convicted of burglary, but every heart softened toward him as his lips uttered the words. He felt what he said, and tears rolled down his cheeks as he continued:

"If I had had a mother's love and a mother's tears—some one to plead with me and pray with me—I should not now be what I am!"

Ah! That's it! There is a power in a mother's love, in her tears, pleadings and prayers, whose influence is hardly to be realized. God pity the lad who has no home to go to—no mother to whom he can tell his troubles and his griefs—no mother to put her arms around his neck and beseech Heaven to keep him in right paths! There is no heart like a mother's. Her child may wound it again and again, yea, pierce it with a sword, and its last pulsations will still beat with love for the ingrate. It is the first to excuse his faults, the last to condemn. There is no love like a mother's—none so enduring, so tender, so far-reaching. It is lavished upon the child in the cradle, and it follows the boy over the ocean. It calls up the wanderer the first thing in the morning, and it remains with him until sleep closes the eyes. When a mother's love for her offspring dies out, it is a certain sign that he has become a being too atrocious to longer live among men.

There are no tears like a mother's. Nothing can so lighten the sorrow of a child—nothing so restrain a mind from wandering into evil paths. The man who looks back over his childhood and youth regrets nothing so much as that he has brought tears of sorrow and sadness to a fond mother's eyes. Every tear a mother sheds over a wayward child is recorded in the great book, and he shall answer for it.

There are no prayers like a mother's—none that reach so far, and none so earnest. The wanderer on foreign shores feels this in his heart, and he is thankful to Heaven that he can feel it. Kneeling at her bedside and asking the angel to guide the feet of her children in right paths, who doubts that a mother's prayers are heard in Heaven?

"I never had a mother to shed tears over me!"

The sorrowful words of that burglar might be the words of many evil doers. "No mother" means aching hearts, burdened minds, deadly woes, and paths which lead down to ruin. Heaven be kind to the lad who must battle through the world without a mother's tears, a mother's prayers, and a mother's boundless love to give him hope, strength and courage!"

ALWAYS DISAPPOINTED.

Did you ever see, far, far away from you, the beautiful purple mountains, and set forth to seek them, with a vague feeling that upon them the world must seem more beautiful, more romantic than it does upon the plain? But as you go on, though the roads are hilly and there is some climbing to be done, you discover that you never seem to reach those mountains—those wondrously beautiful mysteries that smile upon you from afar. You tread common earth and clamber over common rocks. The trees and bushes grow even less beautiful; they are stunted and rough; there is much that is troublesome in the path, and you cannot believe that you are higher above the earth than you were. Far away still lies the beauty and the mystery—far away, far away; and about you only mire, and dust, and stones, and common herbage. Even should you mount to some highest peak and look back, you would find the beauty in the valley you had left, not on the rugged mountain where you stood.

And so in life. Climb where you may, to whatever pinnacle, you never reach your beautiful mountain. Where you stand, another's eyes may be fixed now. To him it has the beauty, the mystery, the charm it once had to you. You have only proven to yourself that the beautiful mountains are yet farther away. And, alas! living feet never reach them, but must for ever press common earth.

Oh, the golden mountain of Wealth! Oh, the glorious mountain of Fame, purple as an Emperor's robe! what say those who stand upon them? Only this:—"They were hard to climb."

And that most beautiful and roseate mountain which two ascend hand in hand, after the wedding ring is on! Ah! well, there is rest and peace there often, when both hearts are true; but it is not what it seems to the boy and girl who yearn for it as they stand together in the sweet valley of first love.

We never reach our beautiful mountains. We never may. Yet they make the valley beautiful—and we would be worse than we are if we did not see them as we do; unhappier, if they did not arise in all their splendor above these stony, common paths of ours, to tell us what might be, if not what is.

FIRST STEAMBOAT ON THE HUDSON.

The steamboat itself is a romance of the Hudson. Its birth was on the waters, where the rude conceptions of Evans and Fitch on the Schuylkill and Delaware were perfected by Fulton and his successors. How strange is the story of its advent, growth and achievements! Living men remember when the idea of steam navigation was ridiculed. They remember, too, that when the Clermont went from New York to Albany without the use of sails, against wind and tide, in thirty-two hours, ridicule was changed into amazement. That voyage did more. It spread terror over the surface of the river, and created wide alarm along its borders. The steamboat was an awful revelation to the fishermen, the farmers, and the villagers. It came upon them unheralded. It seemed like a weird craft from Pluto's realm—a transfiguration of Charon's boat into a living fiend from the infernal regions. Its huge black pipe vomiting fire and smoke, the hoarse breathing of its engine, and the great splash of its uncovered paddle-wheels filled the imagination with all the dark pictures of goblins that romancers have invented since the foundation of the world. Some thought it was an unheard-of monster of the sea ravaging the fresh water; others regarded it as a herald of the final conflagration at the day of doom. Managers of river craft who saw it at night believed that the great red dragon of the Apocalypse was loose upon the waters. Some prayed for deliverance; some fled in terror to the shore and hid in the recesses of the rocks, and some crouched in mortal dread beneath their decks and abandoned their vessels and themselves to the mercy of the winds and waves or the jaws of the demon. The Clermont was the author of some of the most wonderful romances of the Hudson, and for years she was the victim and enmity of the fishermen, who believed that her noise and agitation of the waters would drive the shad and sturgeon from the river.

B. J. Lossing, *in Harper's for April.*

ASTOR'S CHILDREN.

Wm. B. Astor had a superior wife and she strove to do good among the poor, but there were difficulties in the way, as the public generally understood. They have two daughters, married to men of character, the names being Cary and Delano, and they live up town in handsome style. There are three sons—Henry, a weak-minded man who has been kept carefully out of the public gaze, William and John Jacob. The latter is a portly man of large build and has passed his fortieth year. He is heir apparent to the largest part of the estate, it being the intention of the old man to keep it unbroken as long as possible. Of William, the second son, so little has been heard that were it not for his expected wealth he would be merely one out of our million of inhabitants. Henry was kept for many years at the farm in Barrytown (between this city and Albany), and as he is mentally deficient it was intended to make that an asylum for him. He defeated these plans, however, by making a match with a country girl, who had no objection to hitch on to an opulent family, and the latter was taken by surprise at an event which shows how love laughs at capitalists. John Jacob married about twenty-five years ago, and the oldest son has just graduated at the law school. The object, no doubt, was to give him such an acquaintance with this profession as will enable him to manage the vast estate. Instead of setting up his sign and waiting for clients, he will have enough to do in that office which contains the deeds to forty acres in the most important city in America. To go back to the idea of the Centennial, what a difference between the young Astor of the present day and his ancestor who a hundred years ago was helping his father draw pork on the banks of the Rhine.

A CHECKERED CAREER.

There is a man in Taunton, Mass., now forty-six years old, who has had a checkered career. He has been shipwrecked once; narrowly escaped baking in a railroad accident; has been run away with times innumerable; was shot in the neck at Gettysburg; had a taste of Libby prison; fell overboard from a whaler, and, before being picked up, left two fingers in the mouth of a shark; was drafted twice; had his right arm broken in two places during the New York riot; stood on a barrel with a halter around his neck, in an Alabama town, at the outbreak of the rebellion, from sunrise to sunset; in 1863 was crushed under a falling building during a California earthquake, and was without food and drink nearly fifty hours, and, when homeward bound from the mines of the White Pine region, narrowly escaped lynching through a mistake in person. Amid all, he preserves his equanimity, and refuses to believe that luck is against him.

Sabbath Reading.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR. HOWE.

The rest that earth denied is thine,—
Ah, is it rest? we ask,
Or, traced by knowledge more divine,
Some larger, nobler task?

Had fate those boundless fields of blue
One darkened sphere like this;
But what has Heaven for thee to do
In realms of perfect bliss?

No cloud to lift, no mind to clear,
No rugged path to smooth,
No struggling soul to help and cheer,
No mortal grief to sooth!

Enough; is there a world of love,
No more we ask to know;
The hand will guide thy ways above
That shaped thy task below.

[*April Atlantic.*

THE BIBLE.

There may be a few of our readers who are unacquainted with the following Biblical facts, consequently we insert them for their enlightenment: The Scriptures have been translated into 148 languages and dialects, of which 121 had, prior to the formation of the British and Foreign Bible Society, never appeared. Twenty-five of these languages existed without an oral form. Upward of 43,000,000 of these copies are circulated among not less than 600,000,000 of people.

The first division of the Divine order into chapters and verses is attributed to Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of King John, in the latter part of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century. Cardinal Hugo, in the middle of the thirteenth century, divided the Old Testament into chapters as they stand in our translation. In 1661 Athias, a Jew of Amsterdam, divided the section of Hugo into verses. In 1561 a French printer divided the New Testament into verses as they now are.

The Old Testament contains 39 books, 929 chapters, 23,214 verses, 592,439 words, and 2,728,100 letters.

The New Testament contains 27 books, 270 chapters, 7,931 verses, 182,253 words, and 933,380 letters.

The entire Bible contains 66 books, 1,190 chapters, 31,174 verses, 753,692 words, and 3,565,480 letters.

The name of Jehovah, or Lord, occurs 6,855 times in the Old Testament.

The word "and" occurs in the Old Testament 35,543 times.

The middle book of the Old Testament is Proverbs.

The middle chapter is the 20th of Job.

The middle verse is in 2d Chronicles, 20th chapter, 17th verse.

The middle book of the New Testament is 2d Thessalonians.

The middle chapters are in Romans, 13th and 14th.

The middle verse is Acts 11: 17.

The middle chapter and the shortest in the Bible is Psalms 2: 17.

The middle verse in the Bible is Psalms 18: 9.

The least verse in the Old Testament is in 1st Chronicles, 1: 25.

The least verse in the Bible is John 11: 35.

The 19th chapter in 2d Kings and in Isaiah 37th are identical.

The 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra contains all the letters of the alphabet, I and J being considered as one.

The Apocrypha (not inspired, but sometimes bound between the Old and New Testaments) has 14 books, 183 chapters, 15,081 verses, and 152,185 words.

The preceding facts were ascertained by a gentleman in 1778, also by an Englishman residing at Amsterdam in 1722, and it is said to have taken each gentleman nearly three years in the investigation.

There is a bible in the library of the University of Gottingen written on 2,470 palm leaves.

A shekel of gold was $8.09.

A talent of silver was $516.32.

A talent of gold was $18,800.

A piece of silver or a penny was 13 cents.

A farthing was 3 cents.

A gerhem was 1 cent.

A mite was 1½ cents.

A homer contains 75 gallons and 5 pints.

A hin was 1 gallon and 2 pints.

A firkin was 7 pints.

An omer was 6 pints.

The divisions of the Old Testament are four, as follows:

1. The Pentateuch, or the four books of Moses.

2. The historical books, comprising Joshua to Esther, inclusive.

3. Poetical and doctrinal books from Job to Songs of Solomon, inclusive.

4. Prophetical books from Isaiah to Malachi.

The New Testament is usually divided into three parts, viz.:

1. Historical, containing the four Gospels and Acts.

2. Doctrinal, comprising all the Epistles from Romans to Jude.

3. Prophetical, being the Book of Revelations of St. John.

The meanest principle is stubbornness. "If any one offends me I'll never forgive them," says one. Well, if you do not, you never enter Paradise, that's certain.

Ladies' Portfolio.

TWO LOVERS.

Two lovers by a moss-grown spring;
They leaned soft cheeks together there,
Mingled the dark and sunny hair,
And heard the wooing thrushes sing.
O budding time!
O love's best prime!

Two walked from the portal step;
The bells made happy carolings,
The air was soft as fanning wings,
White petals on the pathway slept.
O pure-eyed bride!
O tender pride!

Two faces o'er a cradle bent;
Two hands above the head were locked;
Those pressed each other while they rocked;
Those watched a life that love had sent.
Oh, solemn hour!
Oh, hidden power!

Two parents by the evening fire:
The red light fell about their knees
On heads that rose by slow degrees
Like buds upon the lily spire.
Oh, patient life!
Oh, tender strife!

The two still sat together there:
The red lights shone about their knees
But all the heads by slow degrees
Had gone and left that lonely pair.
O voyage fast!
O banished past!

The red lights shone upon the floor
And made the space between them wide;
They drew their chairs up side by side,
Their pale cheeks joined, and said, "Once more!"
O memories!
O past that is! [*George Eliot.*

IN THE GARDEN AGAIN.

Spring has come, I should say. At any rate the dear little bluebirds put in their appearance for the first time this year in this part of the universe this morning at daybreak, making one's heart leap for joy at the anticipation of another season of fruits and flowers. And these few nice days remind one of the preparations that need to be made to insure success the coming season in our gardens, both flower and vegetable. Now is the time to start the salvias, petunias, phloxes, potatoes, onions, etc., if we have not done so already. All will do well in boxes in our windows, if no other convenience is at hand, for early planting out. And we can soon start sweet corn on inverted sods. Place the sods in a box and fill in around with dirt or soil, and when the weather becomes settled transfer them carefully to the garden in hills prepared as usual, only deeper, with some warm horse manure in the hill, and the probability is you will have corn for the table some time before your neighbors.

We hope our lady readers are preparing themselves for some vigorous working in the garden this Spring and Summer, thereby gaining strength for the muscles by the gradual and daily use of them—not letting Pat or John do all the labor while we stand and look on, but take hold of the spade *once* or *twice* in a while ourselves, driving away indigestion and nervousness in all its horrid forms. There are few that have gained more than the writer of this by being often in the open air; once an invalid, now quite robust and strong. Then let us have fresh air constantly in our houses, especially in the sleeping apartments. Why, we have had visitors that would slam down the window sash to exclude the air from their rooms, as though they were in fear of the small-pox coming in at the window, and on getting into bed close the door tightly, and in the morning such a stench as proceeded from the room was enough to sicken even swine. But I fear I am digressing; excuse me, Mr. Editor. I hope there are none among the readers of the RURAL that are so ignorant of the laws of health.

And now let us put on our shoes with thick soles, go to the woods and gather moss and leaf mold for the potting of our plants next Fall for the house—adding some old cow manure and unleached ashes—place it convenient to receive all the slops from the chambers during the Summer—and people will wonder next winter why our plants bloom so well and why they are so free from insects.

As soon as the weather will permit plant out your little seedlings, preparing the ground yourself. Rake and remove all the rubbish from the yard some pleasant day. You see there is no use of *always* blaming the men folk for such a looking yard as we usually have, saying, "Our men folks never take time to do anything in the yard." Suppose you do what you can yourself, asking the "hired man" to assist you, if need be, when the "boss" is away for a few hours. (Oh, we have done such things; it makes us laugh, though, when we think of it.) The premises will soon assume quite a "slicked up" appearance, and if we only persevere in this out-door exercise, we shall soon be a much healthier class of women.

Catskill, March, 1876. BROWNIE.

KNOT HOLES.

I HAVE been sitting here, curled up in my chair, doing—nothing, people would say; but people would be mistaken, for I have been busy, very busy, watching and thinking.

What was I watching? I'll tell you. Just a little ray of Spring sunshine that was falling on the floor beside me, where all else was dark and somber. It came through a tiny knot hole in the shutter, and quivered and flickered, now bright, now gone entirely, as the branches danced across its path outside. After a little the sun went down behind the hill, and then there was nothing left but the knot hole, and that set me thinking. I remember just how it came there. I poked the knot one day to see if it was loose, and out it popped and left what I called an unsightly spot in the shutter. I am glad now that I punched it out for it has let so much sunlight into this dim old room. From this knot hole my thoughts went on to others. This whole day has been one grand knot hole, letting in sunlight and warm air enough to last through the stormy days that are sure to come before the Summer time is here.

How many knot holes there are in our lives that let in the light from the cheery outside world into our oftentimes weary hearts! We almost despair sometimes, yet, even though we doubt it, some one loves us, and that is the light and the smile or kind word they give us is the knot hole that the light creeps through. We could make knot holes for ourselves if we only would. Push out those rough, hard spots in our lives, and in will come the sunshine. It may not last long, but dance away as quickly as mine did to-day, yet we know it has been there and we feel that it will come again some day. We make the hole—that is our part of the work. God sends the sunshine, and that is His part of the work, and so it all comes out right. The way may be dark, but there is light outside and it will creep in if only we give it a chance. RUTH MORE.

Catskill, New York, 1876.

WOMEN PERSONALS.

MISS EVA ROSS-CHURCH, daughter of Mrs. Ross-Church (Florence Marryat), has recently made her debut on the stage in Edinburgh.

THE MISSES MULLER, Max Muller's two daughters, have passed successful examinations at Oxford in English, French and German.

MISS CELIA ELIZABETH HARRIS of Nebraska, a native of South Bend, Ind., leads the medical class of Boston University wich graduated recently.

MRS. AUSTIN G. BARNETT of West Stewartstown, has raised and sold $50 worth of canary birds since one year ago last June, all the progeny of one female bird. Besides these she has given away four and has four left.

ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS is a regular contributor to the Atlantic and the Independent. Her Florida Sketches have been read far and wide. They furnish a useful key to those who go there for health or to reside.

MRS. ANTOINETTE BROWN BLACKWELL is writing a book called "The Physical Basis of Immortality." It is to be offered to the ladies' department of the Centennial. The Putnams will also send the other works of Mrs. Blackwell.

MADAME SAND continues in the evening of her industrious life to publish novels as rapidly as in her prime, and it would seem that she has not lost her power to entertain the general public. "Flamarande" is but lately out, and it is already in a fifth edition.

LUCY LARCOM began to write verses at the age of seven. An amusing blunder occurred when one of her earliest pieces was published. The editor intended to say that they were written under the inspiration of the "muses," but the types made the word "nurses."

IDA LEWIS, the marine heroine, is poor, and plays every Monday morning on a seven and a quarter octave washboard. Yet people send her poems, silk hosiery, three-button gloves and fine jewelry. If any one wishes to send her anything let him send something substantial.

MRS. LUCY E. BURBECK of New London, Conn., widow of the Henry Burbeck who was a General in the Revolutionary war, is on the roll of the Pension Agency at Hartford, Conn. Mrs. Burbeck is ninety-four years old, but is still able to sign her name to the vouchers for the $150 which she receives quarterly.

MRS. THOMAS, widow of Major-Gen. George H. Thomas, publishes a letter denying the report that at the outbreak of the rebellion the General was a States-rights man and sought employment in the military service of Virginia. He was loyal to the United States, and never applied for service in the Southern army.

JENNIE JUNE writes—"Miss Alcott is lall, to the infinite surprise of many of her admirers, who get the impression that she is a very little person, from her books. But she is a good and thoroughly charming woman, utterly free from nonsense, shams, pretences, a quick and intelligent observer, kind, and even loving to children, who in turn soon learn to adore her."

MRS. A. M. WOOD, eldest daughter of the late President Zachary Taylor, died at Freiburg, Germany, on Dec. 2, aged sixty-five. She was the widow of Gen. B. C. Wood, U. S. A., and mother of Capt. John T. Wood, one of the most distinguished officers of the Confederate Navy. Her death leaves but two surviving children of Mr. Taylor—Mrs. R. T. Dandridge, Winchester, Va., and Gen. R. Taylor of Louisiana, ex-Confederate.

INQUIRY ABOUT THAT ROYAL STAND.—Will the lady that wrote such a pleasant article on "Out-Door Home Decorations" in RURAL of Feb. 26, tell how her Royal Stand is made? It has been a subject of dispute in our home. One member thought the wheel was placed on the cheese box, and another that the wheel laid on the ground. I should like to see her home; it must be beautiful.—RUTH WOOD, *Penn Yan, N. Y.*

Reading for the Young.

GRANDMA AND JO.

SHE has snow-white hair and a snow-white cap,
And a snow-white ruffle atop of that—
And Jo loves to climb on grandmamma's lap,
As she sits asleep in her easy chair;
For grandmamma never scolds nor says,
"Now run away, Jo," but softly she lays
Her shrunken hand on each glossy curl,
And whispers, "Grandmother's own little girl."

Grandma will never let Jo be whipped,
Cunning darling and rosy lipped,—
For grandmamma's heart is soft as the sun-
Ripened peaches when summer is done.
Mamma says—Grandmothers spoil children so:
But grandmamma sits in the golden glow
Of Heaven and cannot love whips, you know,
And that makes it very pleasant for Jo.

If grandmamma ever had any care
She has laid it down out of sight somewhere,
And now all she does is to say her prayer
And sit where the sunshine gilds her hair,
And play and whisper to little Jo
As the shadows of coloring come and go—

For grandmamma's feet are close to the shore
Of a river deep, where her friends before
Have crossed, and her dear beloved gone o'er—
And being so near to this shining shore
Of course she never weeps any more:
She knows that soon she shall see them all,
And she sometimes thinks she hears them call
Out of the chamber or sky or hall:

But she only kisses dear little Jo,
And whispers "Soon we shall know, little sweet,
How the City looks with the golden street,
And if our beloved will hasten to meet
Us who come up with travel-strained feet,—
There are CHARLIE and JACK, but you did not know
Any of them, sweet little Jo." A. E. M.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Pennsylvania Girl.

COUSINS:—I stand waiting at the door for admittance! Will no one bid me enter? Thank you for at last admitting me! I have long wanted to be one of your number, but feared to try lest I should not be received into your charming circle. Now, I am going to try and write something for our dear, old RURAL. First, I'll tell you about my own interesting self. I, like another of our Cousins, have a good opinion of self, and why should not we girl-cousins have a right to our own opinions? We may not be as conceited as our boy-cousins, yet we may have (and justly) a good opinion of our own abilities. But I am digressing from my principal subject. I am a country lassie, and live in Pennsylvania. Of course you will all want to know my age; and I guess I'll enlighten you slightly on the subject. (But, by the way, let me ask a question just here. Why are the gents always so very curious to learn a young lady's age? Gent-cousins, that is one thing we of the gentler sex are not generally possessed with—an over-amount of curiosity regarding a person's age.) I have promised to tell you my age, so here goes: I am still in my teens, but will be out of them before next century. I am still young enough to attend common school. I am five feet two and one-half inches in hight, weigh one hundred pounds, have dark hair and eyes, skin the same shade, and am passably—*homely*. I can work,—do housework, fancy work, play the piano, draw and paint, and if necessary piece quilts. I have pieced one quilt in my life—when I was eleven years of age—and I sincerely hope it may be my last one! How could our Mississippi Cousin endure putting piece after piece of material together until she had the vast sum of eleven bed-quilts? Did her brain never weary while counting the almost countless number of pieces that are sometimes required to make one of those elaborate pieces of bed covering? 'Tis all nonsense, Cousins, the cutting of cloth in pieces, and then sewing it together again! I can tell my Cousins a better plan than that, if any would like to know it. I am fond of music, but do not like practice. "Practice makes perfect," so my mother tells me. I delight in literature, and my favorite authors are H. W. LONGFELLOW, Mrs. H. B. STOWE and LOUISA M. ALCOTT. I also like the writings of the poets GRAY and CAMPBELL. What has become of all the *youngsters?* I mean "Young Student," "Young Hach," "Young America" and "Young Naturalist." I fell quite in love with the latter young gentleman, but fell speedily out again for reasons. Young man, fulfill your promises and redeem your character, and perhaps I'll fall in again. Why do you not write to the RURAL again? Have you been too busy fishing and hunting to think of your Cousins? I wonder what has silenced "Young Buck." Has some fair damsel done it? Has he indeed been demolished by a wagging tongue? If so, please write us one more letter, and tell us "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" of the matter. In imagination I hear some of my Cousins say, "What a supremely silly letter, and how very uninteresting." But, dear Cousins, please excuse me if I have written in a disagreeable manner, and if you frown on my attempt this time, I shall be afraid to venture on the "sea of literature" again, and if Mr. Editor will kindly overlook and print this he will confer a great favor on the country girl who signs herself—YOUNG ARTIST.

P. S.—Perhaps I should have told you why I sign myself Y. A.: I have begun the study of drawing, and besides having made considerable progress ("some more of her egotism," I hear you say), I have a natural talent for it, so I am told, and I thought the most suitable *nom de plume* would be the most truthful one.—YOUNG ARTIST.

P. S. S.—A writer once said that all school-girls used several postscripts to their letters, and I, to keep truthful the statement, will add two to this letter, and will here say that if any of the RURAL readers would like to correspond with "Young Artist," I will, if I ever chance to write again, give my address.—YOUNG ARTIST, *Poplar Place, Pa.*

From a Nothern New York Boy.

DEAR EDITOR:—The picture and story about the pigs swimming across the river, which you printed March 11, reminds me of the bull swimming the St. Lawrence River. A farmer residing near Chippewa Bay, N. Y., bought a bull in Canada and brought him across on a scow and put him into the pasture with the other cattle, thinking all was right. But the next day the bull was gone. He had started back across the river. The river is about four miles wide at the place, and when half way across the animal was captured by two Frenchmen from Ogdensburgh, who were out fishing. They towed him ashore where my grandpa lives, and came up to the house and one of them said to him, "You lose your bull? we found one in the steamboat channel,"—and that was all he could tell. I guess the bull did not like the Yankees.—WM. H. ALLEN, *Hammond, N. Y.*

From an Illinois Boy.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—I have been thinking a long time of writing a letter to the RURAL. We live six miles west of Woodstock. My father has taken your paper about ten years. I read the Boys' and Girls' Letters, and like them very much. We have got 155 acres of land; we got 400 bushels of potatoes from one acre. We had twenty-nine acres of corn, and the most of it was soft. The frost killed our cucumbers, and I was not sorry, because pickling them would have made my back ache; and pa wasn't sorry in the fall, because the pickle men went into bankruptcy. I must close.—WILLIE F. PARSONS, *Woodstock, Ill.*

From a Y Y Boy.

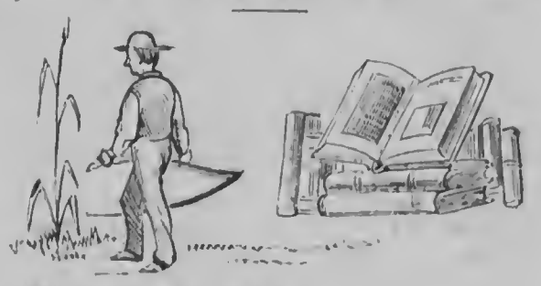
D R LITTLE COUSINS:—I am X C dingly fond of U all, & hope U will X Q Q me if you do not think this X L N T & Y Y. I wish U could C my sisters L A & K P; they R O so afraid of B H. I day we went 2 pick some P P for T, & I A saw 1 on the vines, & if U had C N how foolish she acted, U would have laughed as I did. I X pect 2 C her Y Y R, & hope I shall B somedime. From U R Cousin —L. M. K.

From a Missouri Girl.

DEAR RURAL:—I thought as so many of the boys and girls were writing I would like to write too. My friend "Wild Romp" brought the NEW-YORKER to school and I like it very much. I intend taking it. I would like to correspond with "Minnehaha," if it will be agreeable to her to do so; also "Young Tom."—LILLIE, *Canton, Mo.*

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 7.



☞ Answer in two weeks.

HIDDEN NAMES.—No. 1.

1. HE cannot sell engines now.
2. Let me know when rye gets cheap.
3. Tell Emma Ryan not to call to-day.
4. I shall attend the Grange or get my discharge.
5. The mail carrier has not arrived.
6. We went and rewarded him well.
7. Let us go and see them make glass.
8. They rebelled! Warden, have them punished.
9. Did you say she lent you money?

Sherkston, Ont. J. M. SHERK.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

TRANSPOSITION.—No. 3.

I OUNCT leseh lgsuih ot eb lgyrdan eurt,
Tath u lbeon elde sl a pets toarsdw Gdo,
Gnlfill eht ousl mofr het monoem dso,
Ot a erupr ral dan a rberdoa welv.

☞ Answer in two weeks. L. M.

BIBLICAL SQUARE-WORD.—No. 2.

1. A TOWER near Bethlehem
2. A plain where a golden image was erected.
3. A Hebrew name for Syria.
4. A town near Jerusalem.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—March 18.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 6.—Dallas.

HIDDEN TREES No. 1.—1, Maple; 2, Beech; 3, Willow; 4, Hickory; 5, Ash.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA No. 3.—

N A I L
A C R E
I R O N
L E N D

TRANSPOSITION No. 2.—

Break, break, break
At the foot of thy crags O sea,
And I would that my heart could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

THE DELAY IN CHEAP POSTAGE.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN once replied to an applicant who asked to have Secretary Stanton's orders overruled. "The fact is I haven't much influence with this administration." It begins to look as if the American people did not have much influence in the Government, which in theory they are supposed to create. More than a year they have been trying to secure the repeal of the increased postage swindle, and they haven't yet succeeded. Congress passed a bill restoring cheap postage some weeks since; but the matter lay untouched in the hands of the Senate Postal Committee until now Senator Hamlin has introduced a substitute, which is entirely impracticable and known to be so, and for no other reason that we can see but to continue the express monopoly. The Senate bill proposes to restore cheap postage only on short rates, charging higher prices for all third class matter to be carried 500, or 1,000 miles or more. This is practically a return to the inconvenient methods which prevailed thirty or forty years ago, and before the people had fully understood the advantage of cheap postage. It is impossible for thousands of people who are as much entitled to use the post-office as Senator Hamlin himself, to tell whether their mailable matter is within or without the area of cheap postage. One-half the postmasters even would be unable to decide in many cases what rates were legally chargeable, and from ten to twenty more clerks would be needed at all the large post-offices under such a law to answer questions.

The truth is our postal system needs simplifying, and this is almost as important as cheapness. A uniform and cheap rate for all parts of the country would add immensely to the receipts of the Post-Office Department and actually diminish the expenses. Under the present law, making absurd regulations against "frauds" the Post-Office Department pays the salaries of a good many thousand clerks whose sole duty consists in "peeking" into parcels to see that no writing is contained therein. Most of this labor is a good deal worse than wasted.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE number of men supported in the Westchester County poor house is about 200, most of whom are idle nearly all the time. All those who are able will soon be set to work breaking stone, to be used for macadamizing the roads in the neighborhood.

In Kingsbury, Me., a deer came out of the woods near the residence of Thomas Kingsbury on the 13th inst. Mr. K. put on his snow shoes, chased the deer into a drift, caught and bound him with the strings of his snow shoes.

Matthew Doward's way of resenting a St. Louis girl's refusal to marry him was to throw vitriol in her face, and the law's way of punishment was to send him to prison for five years.

A remarkable natural curiosity is said to be visible in southern Louisiana. Ripe fruit of last year's growth is seen on many orange trees with partly grown green oranges from blossoms of early winter and fresh blossoms which have appeared at the proper time.

Prominent New York Republicans have taken steps to form a new organization for political reform.

Rents are 10 to 30 per cent. lower in New York City, this year than last. In some cases the reduction is more than 30 per cent.

The Howland School at Union Springs, N. Y., has had an addition of $30,000 to its endowment fund, through the generosity of one of its trustees.

The wife of a Norwegian in Iowa has recovered $9,500 damages from a liquor dealer, for selling her husband some liquor a year ago, in consequence of which he had his hands and feet so badly frozen that they had to be amputated.

The Governor of Minnesota has allowed the bill appropriating $38,000 for the relief of the grasshopper sufferers to die without his signature to it.

Vineland, N. J., the prohibition "stronghold," voted "no license" last week by a majority of nine hundred and thirteen in a total vote of ten hundred and thirty.

Captain Eads, who has the charge of the Mississippi jetties, has applied for the first payment on the work, alleging that the depth of twenty feet will be obtained in a few days. He says that the full depth of thirty feet will be secured soon after the close of the present session of Congress.

New York is not the only State which suffers from the indefinite re-election of County Treasurers. The treasurer of Midland county, Michigan, who has held the office for nineteen years, has just been found to be a defaulter to the amount of $22,000. He is under arrest.

Rubenstein, convicted of the murder of Sara Alexander, now in the New York Tombs, has had a slay of proceedings and hopes for a new trial.

A single vessel left Mobile a few days ago en route to Liverpool with 6,257 bales of cotton, worth $417,405.

A Roman Catholic's body was recently refused a place in the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Swanton, Vt., and the Protestants turned out in great numbers to bury it elsewhere.

A South Carolina boy's gun would not go off, and he heated an iron rod, dropped it into the barrel, and ran. The gun fell with the muzzle toward him, and the hot iron was driven into his body, killing him.

Peter Blackington, a wool manufacturer of South Adams, Mass., failed, and a few days after his old employees serenaded him with a brass band, gave him a gold-headed cane and one of them made an elaborate and sympathetic speech.

The Smithsonian Institution is making a collection of specimens of the animals of the United States that are hunted or trapped for economical purposes; and also of the different apparatus used in their capture by hunters, trappers and sportsmen.

It is reported that President Grant is anxious to sell his Long Branch mansion before the expiration of his term, and that he is looking for a purchaser. It also said that the President will spend the summer at Newport instead of the Branch this year.

Columbus, Ga., claims the position of the Lowell of the South. She is now running 35,000 spindles and 1,000 looms, besides many iron and other industrial enterprises. The city was destroyed in 1865, and all these have been replaced since with Southern money.

Virginia City was not a good place for a broker to go into the business of selling puts and calls on mining stocks. The miners, whenever a good lead was struck, at once came up from underground and invested their money accordingly. The broker was financially so far behind after a few days that he went out of town in the night.

The Massachusetts Board of Health have made the important discovery that most of the inhabitants of that State, above five years of age, eat pie twice a day. Massachusetts must be the place Charles] Dudley Warner had in mind when he wrote of "a region of perpetual pie."

The Fall River mills are now sending out 15,000 pieces of printing cloths per week, for the use of Manchester printers, and are preparing to increase the export to 25,000 pieces weekly.

It has been decided that the sum of $1,200, being the residue of the funds collected in England for the Stonewall Jackson statue, shall be invested in safe securities, and the interest devoted to procuring a gold medal for presentation to the first graduate in each class, year by year, of the Virginia Military Institute.

It is the purpose of the Democratic Senators to hear Mr. B. H. Dana's defense on the charge of perjury and literary piracy before voting against his confirmation. Should these charges be refuted, Mr. Dana stands a very good chance of being the successor of Gen. Schenck as Minister to England.

The explosion at Woodlawn Hights, Westchester County, by which three lives were lost, does not deserve to be called an accident. It was the natural result of a management so careless that it amounted to a crime. The inquest shows that the employes of the powder factory were in the habit of smoking cigars and pipes on the premises, and that the explosion was directly caused by throwing down a burning match after lighting a pipe. The owners of the factory are quite as much to blame as the unfortunate employe who thus brought instant destruction upon himself.

A terrific hurricane passed over St. Charles, Missouri, Sunday, March 19, Kramer's warehouse and the gas works were totally wrecked. James Ganey and his son were killed in the gas house. Sam Ganey and several others were badly injured. Rufus Robbins' residence near the city, was razed to the ground and a boy is missing. The court house, county jail, German Methodist Church, St. Charles Savings Bank, Park House, Odd Fellows' Hall, the new Zeitung, Democrat and Hour offices and the railroad depot were badly damaged. The storm lasted five minutes and presented the appearance of a huge rolling yellow cloud. Loss estimated at $500,000.

Mr. William L. Stone of N. Y. City has been appointed by the New York Centennial Commission "Centennial Historian for New York State." The Commission invite the historical, antiquarian, collegiate institutions, and public libraries of the State, as well as individuals, to furnish Mr. Stone with any materials, catalogues, &c., in their possession.

The water in Lake Pontchartrain is higher than it has been since the great flood of 1871. The Bayou St. John—the water from the lake meeting there the flood of rain water from the city—overflowed its west bank, March 19th, and much damage was done to gardens, &c., in the outskirts of the city. Nearly 20 miles of the New Orleans and Mobile Railroad are submerged and doubtless greatly damaged.

On the summit of Pike's Peak, over 14,000 feet above the sea level, where there is not a trace of any vegatation, or, indeed, any earth upon which shrubs or grass could grow, the mountain rat, an animal twice as large as a Norway rat, abounds in vast numbers, overrunning the United States signal station on the apex of the mountain.

The special committee, consisting of Messrs. Morgan, Sloane and Dickson, to whom was referred with power the plan of funding Erie coupons, have agreed with the foreign bondholders committee to recommending the funding of first consolidated bond coupons for five years, paying in cash alternate coupons, and the second consolidated bond coupons for five years without any cash payments. The foreign committee return to England by steamer of March 25. Both committee reports, in possession of President Jewett are unanimous. There are some details in the statement which the officials do not now make public.

At Newport, R. I., March 21, the steamer Old Colony was damaged $3,000 worth by a collision. She was repaired.

The "New York Woman's Guild" has arranged for a series of eight free entertainments and valuable lectures for the working women of N. Y. City in the great hall of the Cooper Union, two evenings in the week for the next month.

A girl in Richmond on Sunday week, recited the whole of the Psalms and part of Ecclesiastes, 4,600 verses in all, which she had committed during the week previous. The Sunday before she recited 2,000 verses, comprising the Epistles to the Romans, Galatians, Philippians, and one or two others. She is bound to have the prize, but is more likely to have a brain fever.

FOREIGN NOTES.

COREA and Japan have been on bad terms, but all danger of hostilities is now averted. This is fortunate, since war would have retarded progress in Japan, and injured American interests in that quarter.

The Captain-General of Cuba levied $36,000,000 in direct taxation.

Gen. Latorre has become Dictator of Uruguay.

The yacht Octavia was captured off Culebra Island, near Porto Rico, March 16, by the Spanish gunboat Hernan Cortes, and was taken to Porto Rico. She is supposed to have some connection with Quesada, who left New York March 1. Her cargo consisted of 243 boxes of powder, 48 boxes of cartridges, 12 boxes of shells, 1,000 rifles, 150 carbines, and two pieces of artillery. It is not known whether the yact had any people on board besides her officers and crew. The capture is remarkable as the Cortes is a slow steamer, her boilers being in bad condition.

The English House of Commons has voted by a large majority to give the Queen of England the additional title "Empress of India." Of course the Prince of Wales, when he becomes king will succeed to the title as Emperor of India. The Disraeli Government made this title a party measure, and the English Liberals by generally opposing it have incurred her Majesty's serious displeasure. That Queen Victoria should care for this unmeaning title shows that she has the full share of the weaknesses which pertain to human nature. Her position as Queen is more ornamental than useful and the addition of a new title can only please a very weak vanity.

The Vienna correspondent of The London Standard says a dispatch received from Cattaro announces that a treaty of alliance between Servia and Montenegro was decided upon March 16.

Signor Minghetti presented the financial statement in the Chamber of Deputies at Rome, March 16. He said the deficit for 1875 was only 20,000,000 lire, instead of 77,000,000, as was anticipated. The budget for 1876 shows a surplus of 10,000,000 lire, and that for 1877 would show a surplus of 15,000,000.

Weston's tongue is outdoing his legs in England. He tells the Britons in speeches that, at home, he is a Methodist clergyman and an editorial writer for The Sun.

Just ten years ago the English sculptor Gibson died at Rome, and bequeathed $300,000 to the Royal Academy, provided his works should be exhibited. This has not yet been done.

A letter from India says that the visit of the Prince of Wales to the theater in Calcutta, intended to be made an ovation, was badly managed. The managers supposed that the Indian rajahs and princes would pay for admission any price that might be demanded, and the scale was fixed at $15 for a stall, $250 for a box holding four persons, and $500 for a box holding six. There would have been less than 100 present had it not been for the speculation of a native. He bought most of the stalls to sell again, but was compelled to offer them for about $2 apiece or find no buyers.

Intelligence has been received at Bombay announcing the appearance of the plague on the banks of the Euphrates.

The Moscow Gazette says that on the 6th of February a troop of wolves attacked near Moscow a number of persons traveling on sledges. One person only succeeded in making his escape, thanks to the swiftness of a horse; twenty-three persons were torn to pieces.

President MacMahon has again evinced his readiness to be in accord with popular opinion, by superseding or placing on half pay 13 Prefects, and transferring 11 others. Since their victory at the polls, the Republicans have regarded the positions of these refractory officials as a part of the spoils, which as victors they could not forego.

A grand winter garden is being erected by the King of the Belgians close by his palace at Lacken. It will have a roof 120 feet high, so constructed as to need no support in the center, and permit the tallest trees to branch out freely.

The Treasury Department received a telegram from London, March 23, giving the price of silver at 52¼ pence, British standard, corresponding with 103¼ cents per ounce United States standard making a dollar in silver coin worth 83 2-10 cents in gold.

An exhibition which is to last 100 days, was opened at Kioto, in Japan, on March 15. During this period and for a week after foreigners will be permitted to visit Kioto, and also to exhibit any article.

At a fire in Edinburgh the firemen stole jewelry from the burning houses, and got so drunk that many were found, hours afterwards, lying in the street. Consequently the brigade is to be reorganized.

There has just been sold at auction in Paris a kandjiar (a sort of sword) which belonged to the father of the present Shah of Persia; it had 42 notches on its blade, showing that it had destroyed the lives of 42 men; it brought $8.40; just 20 cents each victim.

English shipbuilders have just completed several ironclad gunboats for the Argentine Republic. They are of the most powerful class, draw only eight feet of water, are fitted with twin screws, and have a speed of about ten knots an hour. Each carries a 26½-ton 11-inch rifled gun, which is loaded by hydraulic machinery.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Richland District, Ohio Co., West. Va., March 24.—This has been one of the most remarkable winters that it has been my lot to see. Some days warm enough to plant corn, and it may be the next day cold as Greenland. But to take it on an average, it has been rather a mild and open winter. There was but one day the mercury fell as low as zero; but we had several spells as cold as 3 and 12 deg. Such a day as March 20 we seldom ever saw. It commenced snowing in the morning and continued all day and part of the night till it laid on the ground about 10 inches deep, and it is still there; but there is some hope of it going off, as it has commenced raining. I tell you, Mr. RURAL, it begins to look a little discouraging to those who have much sod to break, as the ground is so wet it will take it a long time to get dry. Concerning fruit, as far as my observations have went and judgment goes, I don't think we shall have anything like fruit of any kind. The early peaches were killed in February; but the late and common varieties were all right till the last freeze of the 18th and 19th of March, which has finished everything. The apple buds were nearly all bursted open, and since then they have all turned black. Wheat on good and dry land looks very promising; but that on wet and spouty ground is badly frozen out. Stock has come through the winter in pretty fair condition, except sheep, which look a little the worse on account of so much wet weather. Grain still continues low, except wheat, which is a fair price, $1.25@1.50; corn, 40@45c.; oats, 40c.; hogs, 8c.; grass cattle, $3,50@5.50; butter, 35c.; eggs, 12c. Hired help, $15 per month and board.—L. H. BRUNER.

Chapel Hill, N. C., March 20th, 1876.—For the last four or five days I have been at a great wedding. You have heard of "the couple" before. The occasion has not been at all pleasant. The bridegroom is old Mr. December, with his snowy locks and swarthy face; the bride is Miss May with her blooming cheeks and budding beauty. Weeks ago I sent you some little flowers from the open border. Since then garden and orchard have arranged themselves in lovely bloom. The flowers that are prized only for their beauty appear to be more weather-wise and weather-proof than many that are prized as the promises of luscious fruit. Not many of the former have been cut down by this withering storm; but the peaches and pears, and cherries have risked all, or nearly all, and have lost all. It saddens us to think that we are denied the pleasure and profit of the peach for still another year. I have hope that some of the pears are so backward as to have escaped. Very few of the apple trees have bloomed. Only one of 16 in my yard and garden appears sufficiently advanced to be seriously affected. At Ridgeway, in this State, there are very extensive orchards of the peach, and I learn the whole crop was destroyed by the cold on the night of the 17th ult. After a very delightful, spring-like season, the weather turned cooler on the 16th ult. The 17th of March came out on a Centennial rampage. I do not remember ever to have known such a storm of wind without a tempest cloud. The temperature fell rapidly. The night seemed intensely cold. The 18th day and night, was very severe. The 19th the wind subsided, and the weather moderated. But we were all astounded this morning to find the ground covered with snow, while an Eastern wind was driving the mingled snow, hail and rain. To-night it is much warmer. The rain is pattering and the snow and sleet will soon be gone. 21st, cold and windy.—N. C.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, March 25, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	56,693	Rice, bbls	1,595
Whisky	2,254	Cut meats, pkgs	9,147
Corn meal, bbls	710	Lard, pkgs	2,352
Corn meal, bags	6,000	Tobacco, hhds	1,377
Wheat, bush	218,518	do. cases	3,768
Corn, bush	43,000	Butter, pkgs	12,211
Oats, bush	113,156	Cheese, bxs	16,411
Rye, bush	—	Cotton, bales	9,389
Malt, bush	37,881	Rosin	7,114
Barley, bush	16,200	Spts. turp., bbls	939
Beans, bbls	8,580	Dried Fruits, pkgs	362
Grass seed, bags	6,022	Eggs, bbls	17,700
Beef, pkgs	1,578	Peanuts, bags	1,428
Wool, bales	156	Dressed Hogs	1,061
Hops, bales	1,357	Leather, sides	96,794
Pork, bbls	5,821	Sugar, hhds	15
Tallow	570	Oil cake	8,640
Molasses	32		

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,500 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 16,325 do.; same time last year, 6,063 do. Exports of peas past week, 9,461 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 218,322 do.; same time last year, 121,340. Medium beans are a shade steadier, owing to reduced receipts. No large business yet to note. The export demand for mediums is not large, but enough to support prices. Pea beans are not in large supply—not many seem to be wanted. Kidneys of all kinds remain quiet. Peas are generally nominal; if there is any variation since our last, it is in buyer's favor. We quote:

We quote Beans, pea, new, prime, $1.25@1.30; other, $1.00@1.20; medium, new, prime, $1.15@1.20, good, 90c.@$1; very poor, 50@80c.; marrow, new, prime, $1.65@——; other, $1.30@1.60; white kidney, prime, $1.50@1.70; fair to good, $1.30@1.50; red kidney, new, prime, $1.35@1.40; fair to good, $1.00@1.20; California Lima, choice, $2.40@2.50. Peas, Canadian, bbls., new duty paid, $1.15@1.19; gulk, in bond, 95c.@$1; green new, ₱ bush., $1.50@1.55; Southern B. E., ₱ 2 bush. bag, $2.75; split peas, Canadian, free, ₱ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—Offerings of choice lots are light, and full prices prevail. Western quoted at 32½@33c., and Southern at 34@34½c. Exports past week, 3,735 lbs.; since Jan. 1st, 31,083 do.; same time last year, 38,069.

BROOM CORN.—There is very little doing, with prices held as before.

We quote Brush, short green, 9@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@7c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—There is little new to remark about old butter; its firmness increases with its diminution and the market bids fair to be well cleared out by the time we get well into new, if not before. Really fine table grades are not put out as freely as the demand would like. Some of our dealers are forced to retain a reserve of such qualities as long as they can, as they have a class of trade that will not use early stall-fed stock. New butter arrives regularly but sparingly, and our prices are firm. Roll butter is scarce. At this season a few directions are in order to those who are not posted. One of our exchanges very clearly gives the ideas of the trade, as follows:

"Use only salt tubs; let them be as near uniform in weight as possible so as to make little variation in tares. Let each dairyman select a certain sized tub and adhere to it throughout the season so that his dairy will be in packages of uniform size. We also suggest that sizes should be selected which would hold a close average of 40, 50, 60 or 80 lbs. net weight of butter. Avoid using loose salt in the bottom of the tubs or on the sides. Soak the tubs thoroughly in strong brine before putting in the butter. Leave this salt off the top of the tub also—use instead a cloth, free from starch, thoroughly soaked in brine and not wrung out—when the dairy is sent to market. These remarks refer particularly to dairymen of this State, but they may well be read by Western makers also."

We would further caution the use of coloring matter. The attempt to impart a "grassy tint" is rarely successful, and as a general thing does more harm than good. Dont limit new butter to a price, its management at this season above all other times should be discretionary with the merchant.

New butter, prime, 40@——c.; fair to good, 35@38c.; half-firkin tubs, prime, 38@40c.; fair to good, 33@35c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 37@38c.; fair to good, 33@35c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 40@——c.; fair to good, 35@37c.

Old State dairies, extra, 36@37c.; entire, good to prime, 32@35c.; fair to good, 31@33c.; firkins, selected fresh, 37@38c.; good to prime, 33@35c.; fair to good, 28@31c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 40@42c.; good to prime, 36@38c.; fair to good, 32@36c.; poor to fair, 22@32c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@33c.; dairies, 31@33c.; good to prime, 31@33c.; fair to good, 30@33c.; poor to fair, 20@26c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 18@33c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 33@35c.; good to prime, 31@33c.; tubs selected fresh, 30@31c.; good to prime, fresh, 31@33c.; fair to good, fresh, 27@30c.; poor to fair, fresh, 17@26c.; Western, early packed, selected, 26@28c.; good to fine, 24@25c.; fair to fine, 20@22c.; poor, 16@18c. Roll butter, Mich. & N. Ills., fancy, 32@33c.; good to prime, 29@31c.; fair to good, 27@29c.; poor to fair, 22@26c.

CHEESE.—There has been a moderately active market only, but prices have scarcely varied. Fine, with the small stock, held firmly.

New State factory, fancy, 14¼——c.; fine, 13¼c.; do. good to prime, 12@13c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12¾@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair to good, 10@11c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12¾@13¼c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fair, 8@11½c.; poor to fair, 7@8c.

COTTON.—A very fair export trade has been reported, and prices are higher and strong. Closing prices are 13 17-32c. for March, 13 17-32c. for April, 13 25-32@13 13-16c. for May, 14 1-16@14 3-32c. for June, 14 9-32@14 5-16c. for July, 14 7-16@14 15-32c. for August, 13¾@14¼c. for September, 11¾@11¾c. for October, 11 1-16@14¼c. for November, and 14 1-16@14¾c. for December.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Strict ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Good ordinary	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Strict good do	12	12	12¼	12¼
Low middling	12¼	12¾	12¾	12¾
Strict low middling	13	13¼	13¼	13¾
Middling	13 5-16	13 7-16	13¾	13¾
Good middling	13 13-16	13 15-16	14 1-16	14 1-16
Strict good middling	14 3-16	15 5-16	14 7-16	14 7-16
Middling fair	14 9-16	14 11-16	14 13-16	14 13-16
Fair	14 7-16	15 9-16	15 11-16	15 11-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	9¾	Low middling	11¾
Strict ordinary	11	Middling	12¾

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are moving off slowly, and easy prices are necessary on large lots. Peaches, blackberries and cherries are lower and dull. We quote:

Apples—State, sliced, 9¾@10c.; do., quarters, 9c.; Western quarters at 8½@8¾c.; southern sliced, 1875, prime, 10c.; fair lots, 8@9c.; Tennessee qrs., 8¼@8½c. Blackberries, 10@10½c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@15c.; do. fancy, 16c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12¼c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 25c. Cherries, 18@20c.

EGGS.—The movement has been better and the annexed rates have ruled quite steady. Early in the week there were indications of an advance, but the stock is too large for high rates to rule, and sellers have offered freely. We quote:

Jersey, single barrels, ₱ bbl., 18c.; State and Penn., 17¾c.; Western, prime, 17c.; do. fair marks, 16@16½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 16@17c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—We quote:

"H. G." oil peppermint, $4, in glass; Hale & Parshall do., $4@4.20 do.; pure in tin, $3 50; sassafras, 55c.; wintergreen, $3.12; spearmint, $3.50; pennyroyal, $4.

FEATHERS.—Unchanged. Live Western geese, 54@56c.; mixed, 35@45c. Common poultry feathers not wanted.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, —— bbls. Since Jan. 1st, 3,981 do.; same time last year, 12,145 do. Apples are active; dealers are inviting further supplies of good stock. Florida oranges are in demand but not plenty. Catawba grapes are quotable at 6@9c. for a few special State marks. Cranberries strong. Strawberries from Charleston are abundant.; Floridas have to drop to the quotations given for Charleston. We quote:

Strawberries—Southern, prime, ₱ quart, 75@80c. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, standard crates, $4.25@4.50; good to prime, $4@4.25; "pony" crates, $3.50@4.00; choice bbls., $13@14. Nuts—Peanuts are in light demand and about steady; Hickory nominal. We quote: Peanuts—Virginia, per bush., $1.55@1.70; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15. Hickory nuts, shellbark, $1.

FLOUR.—An active business has been reported on export account, and prices strong.

Superfine State, $4.40@4.80; extra do., $5.10@5.15; superfine Western, $4.40@4.80; extra do., $5.10@5.75; No. 2, $3.30@4.10; extra round-hoop Ohio, $5.10@5.40; trade brands do., $5.45@7.25; white wheat extras, $5.90@7.25; St. Louis, $5.35@9.00; City Mills extra, $5 20@6.75; Southern at $4.35@5.00 for superfine; $5.25@6.45 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.50@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye at $4@5.10. Buckwheat flour at $1.90@1.90.

FURS AND SKINS.—The late table will be probably revised this coming week. Common skins have a wide range. Recent cable news from London quote coon, skunk, muskrat, opossum and otter lower, enough to mark our rates down, for most items, 20 per cent. Silver, cross and red fox, and fisher, steady.

GRAIN.—The export movement in wheat has been of a more restricted character. Accounts from abroad have been of a less favorable nature, and shippers have been disinclined to operate unless at a marked decline to prices, with slightly easier prices made. Latest sales of No. 3 Milwaukee spring afloat, fresh receipts, at $1.18; prime No. 2 Milwaukee spring in store at $1.28; $1.15½ for ungraded Milwaukee in store; No. 3 Chicago and Northwest spring at $1.14@1.15; ungraded and mixed spring at $1.08@1.20; rejected and inferior spring at $1@1.00; fair amber Western in store at $1.31; $1.22@1.47 for winter red and amber; $1.36@1.50 for white; $1.34@1.38 for No. 1 spring. Rye sold at 90c. for prime State. Barley malt at 95c. for two-rowed State. Corn is higher and active, the principal demand from the English market. Sales at 65¾c. for mixed Western, N. Y. inspection, afloat; 64¾@65¾c. for ungraded mixed Western; 65@65¾c. for yellow Jersey; 66@66c. for yellow Southern. Oats are more freely dealt in and higher sales at 48@52c. for white Western; 48@48¼c. for New York No. 2; 47½c. for New York No. 3.

HIGHWINES.—Selling at $1.13.

MAPLE SUGAR.—The demand is only moderate for sugar. Syrup slow of sale.

New prime sugar ranges at 14@16c.; fair to good, 12@13c.; old, run over, 10@11c.; old, ordinary, 8@9c. Syrup ₱ gal. of 11 lbs., 1@1.10.

HAY AND STRAW.—Exports past week, 600 bales; since Jan. 1st, 6 72; same time last year, 8,076. An active trade has been in progress for shipment, but at easy prices, on account of the liberal arrivals.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 55@80c.; retail qualities, 95c.@1.05; clover, 60@70c.; salt, 65@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

HOPS.—The rise in prices here bitterly restricts export trade. Quotations are the same as last week, but it is difficult to get 19c. for fine stock. Receipts continue liberal—something over 1,600 bales for the week—while shipments are only 617 bales.

N. Y. State, 13@19c.; Eastern, 11@17c.; Wisconsins, 11@17c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 17@20c.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products generally have been active and at advanced prices; demand largely from shippers. Mess pork $23.35 for spot, March and April, $23.45 for May. Extra prime, $19, and prime mess $21@21.50. Boxed, dry salted shoulders, 9¼c. Tierced pickled hams, 13@14c. Bacon at 13c. for Western long clear, 13½c. for city do., 13¾c. for Western long and short clear, together, 13¾c. for short clear. Lard—Western steam at 14-35c. for spot lots and March, 14-30c. for April, 14-37½c. for May, 14-47½c. for June, and 14-57½c. for July. Stearine at 15½c. for choice. Tallow at 9c. for prime. Beef hams at $21@25. Beef—New extra mess at $12.50@13.50; do. plain $12,50; new tierced at $13 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $31.50@32.

SEED.—Clover is less active on account of the high prices asked. State, choice, 17c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry is scarce, and were it not for the opening of frozen we would hardly have had a supply. We quote Philadelphia chickens at 20@22c.; capons at 30@31c. for large, and 25@27c. for small capons and slips.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 19@20c.; Jersey, good to prime, 17@19c.; State, good to prime, 16@18c.; Western, good to prime, 15@17c.; fair to good, 12@15c.; poor, 6@10c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; State, good to prime, 19@21c.; Western, good to prime, 16@18c.; inferior, 12@15c. Ducks, Jersey good to prime, 22@24c.; State, good to prime, 21@23c.; Western, good to prime, 20@22c.; fair to good, 18@20c.; poor, 14@16c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 15@16c.; State, good to prime, 12@14c.; Western, good to prime, 12@15c.; do., poor to fair, 10@13c.

Frozen poultry quoted at 18@20c. for turkeys, 19@22c. for ducks, 14@15c. for prime chickens. Frozen chickens are not keeping well; they rarely do turn out as good as turkeys.

Live poultry has sold well in the absence of dressed. Young chickens are offered in advance of the demand. We quote:

Turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 16@17c.; do. Western, 15@16c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2.50@3; do. Western, $1@1.50; ducks, Western, ₱ pair, 70@80c.; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1@1.50; fowls and chickens, State and Jersey, ₱ lb., 15@16c.; do. Western, 14@15c.; roosters, 8@9c.

In game, wild pigeons are scarce and high. Market not oversupplied with any kind. Western wild ducks continue poor in quality.

Wild ducks at $1@1.25 for Canvasback; 75@$1 for Redhead & 25@35c. for Mallard; Havre de Grace Canvasback have sold at $1.50@1.75 per pair. Wild pigeons, feathered, ₱ doz., $2.37@2.50; English snipe, $4@4.25; plover, $3.25@3.50.

TOBACCO.—Export trade still light, most parties awaiting developments through the increasing supplies of the new crop.

KENTUCKY LEAF.—NEW CROP.

	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	4½@5½	5 @5½
Good lugs	5½@6½	6 @7
Low leaf	7 @8	7½@8½
Medium leaf	8½@9¾	9@10½
Good leaf	10 @11	11 @12
Fine leaf	11½@13	12½@15

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6½@ 8
Wisconsin	6½@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 3,054 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 38,413 do.; same time last year, 27,553 do. Exports of onions for the week, 165 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 4,138 bbls.; same time last year, 1,158 do. It is the old story about potatoes: trade is dull, prices low and shipments this way altogether discouraged. Good Ohio Peach Blows in double heads offered at $1. Onions are firm. Bermuda potatoes quoted at $6@6.50 ₱ bbl. Tomatoes, $2.50 ₱ 6 quart box. Florida green peas, $2@3 ₱ bush. Old cabbage preferable to new Southern.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., 90c.@$1.25; Peach Blows, $1.00@1.37; Prince Alberts, 87c.@$1.12; common, 50@80c. Sweet potatoes, $2.50@3.00. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $4@6; red, $6@10. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 75c.@$1; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@1.50; yellow, $1.50@1.75; white, $2.37@3.50. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Southern spinach, ₱ bbl., $2.50@2.75. Kale, $1@1.25.

WOOL.—There continues a very dull and unsatisfactory market. Manufacturers are indisposed to purchase other than small lots, with rather a pressure to sell against arrivals of the new clip.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklock	50	@ 51
XX	47	@ 48
X	46	@ 48
No. 1	48	@ 50
No. 2	42	@ 45
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	42	@ 44
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	56	@ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	44	@ 45
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	44	@ 47
X	41	@ 47
No. 1	44	@ 46
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	31	@ 36
Coarse unwashed	27	@ 30
Hurry	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, Mar. 25.—Flour market steady; spring, $7.00; amber winter, $7.25; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.35@1.40; amber winter, $1.10@1.22; white winter, $1.20@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 25@29c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 18@20c. Lard, 13½@14c. Apples, bu., 75c@$1.25 Potatoes, bu., 20@30c. Beans, ₱ bu., 75c.@1.20. Mess pork, $22@23. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@16. Straw, $6@10 Timothy seed, $2.75@——; clover, $8.00@8.50. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.25@7.25 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., March 25, 1876.

TRANSACTIONS this week have been light and there has been no improvement in prices. Several lots of cheese were sent forward on commission. Farm dairies may be quoted at 9@11c., and factories at 12@13c. The Fairfield Association is still holding its goods at 14c.

About 200 tubs of butter were offered, two dairies of which was from new milk. The new make went at 28@32c., and in some exceptional cases 33@34c. were paid. Old grass made brought 27@31c.; winter, 24@28c.

We have advices from Europe to the first week of March. Our London correspondent says:

Fine English cheese scarce; medium is plentiful but dear, comparatively; Dutch is short and of bad quality, though realizing long prices. American stocks are moderate and nearly all medium and low. Fine September make is scarce and wanted at extreme quotations.

English cheddar brings 82@94s.; Wiltshire double, 68@80s.; Cheshire medium, 56@68s.; fine, 74@86s.; Scotch, 70@78s.

There is no fine butter landed, but intermediate and substitutes sell well, with every prospect of none being left over. The prices are as follows:

Jersey sells for 100@148s.; Horsgts. 176s.; Danish and Swedish, 100@176s.; Friesland, 156s.; Normandy extra, 140@168s.; American and Canadian, 80@130s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter, 56@130s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 25, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	2,513	51	615	5,265	000
Forty-Eighth St.	2	35	34	2,101	000
Fortieth St.	600	00	000	389	11,100
Harsimus Cove	4,611	00	000	6,807	7,870
Totals this week	7,189	89	617	14,862	17,970
" last week	7,942	61	422	18,351	19,334

BEEVES.—Trade opened with a slightly better feeling on last Monday, and the markets closed firm, with only a few head of horned cattle unsold; the quality of the herds on hand ranged from poor to good, only 20 head of choice quality beeves being on sale. Prices were 9@13c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5¾@10 cwt. Wednesday, trade slow but firm; the herds on sale were chiefly of coarse quality, and sold at 9@12¾c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. Thursday, sales slow at 9¾@11¾c.; weights, 6¾@8¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed fair at 9¾@12¾c.; weights, 6@9¾ cwt. From 85 to 88 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt. Spanish steers, corn-fed, sold at 9¾c.; oxen, 8¾c.; native steers, 9@12c.; grade steers, 12¾@13c.; mixed herds, 9@11c.; State and Western oxen, 9@11¾c. Bulls on live weight, 3½@4½c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13	12 @13¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@11	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade still more depressed and quality inferior. General sales at $10@55 ₱ head; extreme range, $30@75; 8 cows sold at $10@60 ₱ head; 5 at $50@90; 10 at $35@65; 7 at $45@53.50—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade fair in smooth quality veals at 9@10¾c. ₱ lb.; sales slow in coarse quality meal-fed calves at 7@8¾c.; grass calves not quoted. State calves from Western New York sold at 7@8c.; Pennsylvania, 9½@10¼c.; Jersey, 10¾@11¾c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last trade opened slow. Sheep sold at 6@6c. ₱ lb. Wednesday, sheep fair of sale at 6¾@8¼c.; yearling lambs, 7¾c. Thursday, trade small in sheep at 6¾@7¾c. Friday, the markets closed fair; sheep, 6¾@8¾c.; lambs, 8¾@9¾c. Michigan sheep sold at 7¾@8c.; Ohio, 6¾@8¾c.; State, 6@7¾c.; Pennsylvania, 7¾@8¾c.; State lambs, 7¾c.; Michigan, 8¾@8¾c.

HOGS.—Trade not reported in live hogs up to Wednesday at noon; on Thursday and Friday still none on sale. City dressed opened slow on Monday at 10¾@11c., and were no easier of sale on Wednesday, when prices were 10¾@11¾c. Thursday and Friday trade slow; both days rates were 10¾@11¾c.; Western dressed, 10¾@10¾c., supply light.

HORSE MARKET.—During the recent cold weather city trade in horses was nominal, but with a return of a milder temperature business improved. One pair choice quality heavy draft horses sold at $600; 1 pair stylish carriage horses, $1,000; 5 pair family do., $300@550; 19 head poor quality light harness horses, $52@95; 22 head ordinary do., $110@250; 7 head of roadsters with fair trotting action, $279@325; 1 trotter, $500. Thirty-two horses arrived per Erie Railroad via Oak Cliff Station.

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[MISCELLANEOUS.]		
New York Witness	4 15	3 40
" " Sun	3 85	3 35
" " Evening Post	4 15	3 40
" " Tribune	4 65	4 00
" " Nation	7 85	6 85
Chicago Times	4 65	3 90
" Inter-Ocean	4 30	3 60
Cincinnati Commercial	4 80	3 80
" Enquirer	4 65	3 90
" Gazette	4 65	3 90
" Times and Hand-Book	4 75	3 50
Detroit Free Press	4 65	3 90
" Tribune	4 65	3 90
*Louisville Courier-Journal	4 65	3 10
Springfield Republican	4 65	3 95
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PERSONAL ITEMS.

THE statue of Wm. Wheelwright, an American, who introduced steam navigation in the Pacific, is expected at Valparaiso, Chili, next August.

DURING the three years' naval command of Captain the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duchess will reside a considerable portion of each year in Russia.

THE Rev. Dr. Storrs of Brooklyn will deliver an historical address at the 44th annual convention of the Alpha Delta Phi Society which meets in Utica, May 24.

ACCORDING to Dr. S. Wells Williams, for long years a resident in China, only a few thousands of the many millions of women in that country can read or write.

GEN. BRAXTON BRAGG, with some prominent parties from Mobile, and Austin, Texas, is endeavoring to establish an extensive colony in Western Texas.

KING KALAKAUA got his thirty-second Masonic degree as a monarch and without being able to work his degrees, which is opposed to the tenets of Freemasonry.

MILES WHITE of Baltimore, died March 12, aged 84 years. He was widely known as an active member of the Society of Friends. He leaves an estate valued at $2,500,000.

P. B. SHILLABER, "Mrs. Partington," is seventy-seven; has white hair. He is in California for his health. He says he studied the character of "Ike" from his own son.

SOPHIE BERENA has translated into German Bret Harte's "M'liss," from the Tales of Argonauts, and it is published in weekly installments in the Berlin *Montags Zeitung*.

THE Rev. Dr. J. P. Thompson, formerly of the Broadway Tabernacle Church of New York City has been lecturing in Berlin, Prussia, on the "History and Progress of the United States."

THE Mikado of Japan has by a recent decree granted to journalists the right of sending whatever communications they may desire from one part of the empire to the other free of charge.

SIR EDWARD THORNTON will give a ball this month, at the English Legation in Washington, in honor of Col. Sanford and the other Commissioners from England to the Centennial Exhibition.

THE trustees of the Peabody donation Fund of London, in their annual report, say that when the buildings now in course of erection are completed they will have provided dwellings for 1,816 families.

PROF. GLADSTONE recently exhibited before the Physical Society photographs of devices invisible to the eye, drawn with colorless fluorescent substances, as quiuine, esculine, and others, upon white paper.

THE National Union of Andersonville Survivors will hold their third annual reunion at Norwich, Conn., on the 12th of April. Gen. Sherman, Gen. J. B. Hawley, and the Hon. James G. Blaine have been invited to be present.

MR. ROBERT DALE OWEN, the New Harmony (Ind.) Register says, has so far recovered his health as to be able to resume his literary labors, and he expected to leave for New York City soon. He intends to sail for Europe about June 1.

SECRETARY BRISTOW has promised to attend the Wilbraham, Mass., Academy celebration on June 21, unless some unforeseen emergency keeps him away. Senators Boutwell and Dawes have also promised to be present, and it is expected that Mr. Blaine will attend.

Traveler's Guide.

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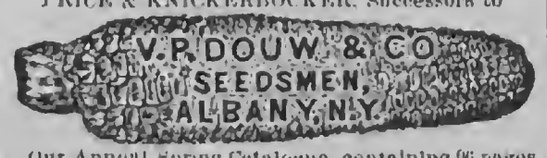

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— There are 1,409,448 slaves in Brazil.

— The recent Census gives these figures:—New York, 1,060,000; Philadelphia, 800,000; St. Louis, 450,000; Chicago, 410,000; Boston, 340,000; San Francisco, 250,000.

— San Francisco's Board of Education will close all the public schools during the last two months of the fiscal year, because the school fund is totally exhausted.

— A Lassen County, Cal., farmer recently had two thousand sheep starved to death. His feed gave out, and the deep snow prevented the sheep from reaching grass.

— Potter Valley, Mendocino County, Cal., is proud of a female physician, who during the recent storm swam across three rivers to attend a patient with the measles.

— A firm in Treves, Germany, manufactures fire blocks of refuse tan, just as it is taken from the pits. They are said to equal in flame-heating power the best stone coal.

— A boiling lake, two miles in circumference, has been found in the island of Dominica. It is on the top of a wooded mountain, and is 2,500 feet above the level of the sea.

— The peculiar bent of the German mind is shown by the fact that out of the 12,516 books published in Germany in 1875, only 900 were devoted to fiction and the drama.

— It will cost about $30,000 a year to maintain the new public buildings of Buffalo, N. Y. The gas alone costs $16 per hour. The old city buildings are to be torn down at once.

— A piece of scroll ivory veneering, 66 feet long and 10 inches wide, containing nearly 50 square feet of surface, was sawed from an elephant tusk the other day at Deep River, Conn.

— The Russian estimates for the current year are, total revenue, 570,000,000 roubles; expenditures, 659,914,000 roubles. According to Wilkins Micawber this is "bliss" for Russia.

— The prosecutions against open betting for ready money on race-courses in France have been abandoned, and the book makers were in as full force as ever at Auteuil the other day.

— A hunter shot a wild turkey near Nashville, the other day, and when he went to pick it up, found lying near it a half-decayed pair of saddle-bags, in which were $36,000 in gold and bonds.

— The mysterious music at North Chili, N. Y., has been found to proceed from a sawmill ten miles off, the humming vibrations of the air being distinctly noticed with a favorable wind.

— The shoe factories of the City and Easton company and S. H. Lane, together with a number of outbuildings, at Rockland, Mass., were burned recently. Total loss about $15,000; partly insured.

— The Hudson river ice companies have housed 406,300 tons of ice, and stacked 29,500 tons. The crop is said to be one million tons short. There is a feeling of insecurity as to summer rates for ice.

— A Chinese woman went to the Court House in Winnemucca, Va., the other day, and offered to go to jail for five years, if at the end of that time she might be free from the tyranny of her husband.

— A year ago a Norwegian in Decorah, Iowa, got drunk and froze his feet and hands so badly that they had to be amputated. His wife has just got a judgment for $9,500 against the druggist that sold him the liquor.

Insurance.

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Of WATERTOWN.

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Pays all Losses by Fire and by Lightning.

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Miscellaneous.

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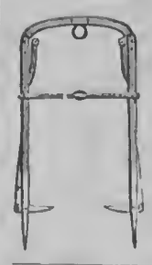

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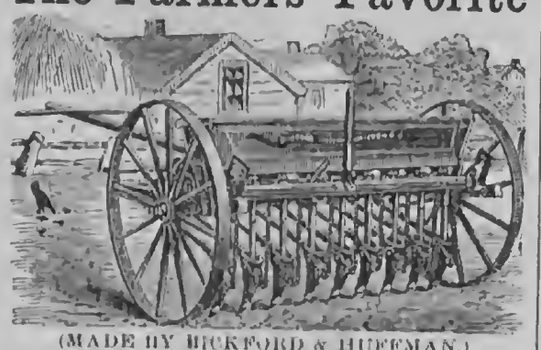

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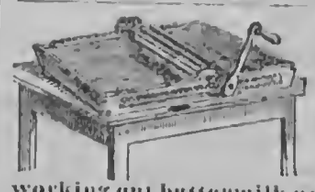

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Wit and Humor.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

Jug not lest ye be jugged.

Always operating for a rise—emetics.

Grace before meat—a handsome woman at market.

The following dialogue was overheard the other day:—He—"Araminta, *je t'adore?*" She—"Shut it yourself!"

Why is a minister near the end of his sermon like a ragged urchin? Because he's toward (tor'd) his close (clothes).

"I wonder why my mustache doesn't grow under my nose as well as the corners of my mouth?" Soph—"Too much shade."

Sheridan told Lord North that he had taken a new house, and that everything would now go on like clock work. "Ah!" replied his Lordship, "tick-tick."

"Oh, yes! a pretty story! very probable, Joseph! You've only been to the 'Devisory Council,' indeed! Where did the five kinds of hair on your coat come from?"

Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
I will a family paper take,
Both for my own and children's sake?
If such there be,let him repent
And have this paper to him sent.

When you go to Vienna and hear somebody say Hochquellchwasserlettingstohrenfalalitaten you may know that "the water pipe has busted." For our part, we should be apt to think that a whole reservoir had "busted."

A Western editor did not wish to hurt the feelings of a gentle poet, but apologized for the non-appearance of a long and tender poem by saying:—"Beautiful Spring" was crowded out of our Sunday edition to make room for an account of the great snow storm.

One of the female revelers in pink tights got mad and wouldn't march in the Cincinnati procession the other day, because a man saw her fall down, and yelled out—

A pink trip slip
For a three-cent fair!

A pretty little Ohio schoolmarm tried to whip one of her pupils, a boy of fifteen, the other day, but when she commenced operations he coolly threw his arms around her neck, and gave her a hearty kiss. She went straight back to her desk, and her face was just "as red."

She waltzed like a June at a hop; I vowed the question I would pop; and as her partner tendered her a seat, my throbbing heart with anxious pang did beat. I tripped beside my lovely charm, I bowed and gently touched her arm. "Engaged for next?" I said "My darling Kate?" "Go 'way," she said. "You hit my vaccinate."

NOT MUCH OF A SHOWER.

Gent with Umbrella.—"Well, our ways part here! *Adieu!*"
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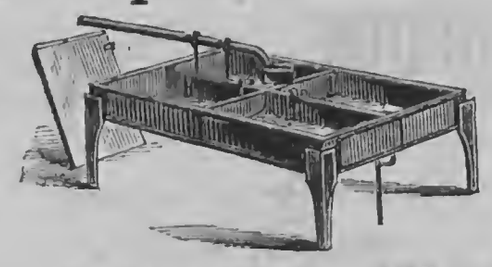

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WHOLE No. 1367.

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Industrial Topics.

OLD METHODS AND NEW.—A CONTRAST.

The progress which has been made in the life, manners and surroundings of American farmers is greater than that of any other portion of the community. In the early settlement of the country, poverty, a rude agriculture, poor houses and other farm buildings, and ill-conditioned stock were the rule. These have been replaced by wealth and all the surroundings of scientific thought, combined with thorough farming. The log cabin is replaced by the elegant and comfortable frame or brick dwelling, and commodious and well-filled barns show that the farmers' friends are not forgotten. It is not all the spirit of the age which has made this change, for side by side in many sections of our country you will find representatives of both classes of farmers—the one intelligent and enterprising, and the other the reverse. Thanks to the influence of widely-disseminated agricultural newspapers, and of late years the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, the better and more intelligent class of farmers is increasing, and the view on the right of our illustration is now rarely seen. That there is a great work to be done cannot be disputed, but the progress already made is a sure augury for the future.

THE OTHER SIDE.

The papers are telling us just now of some one in New Hampshire who was captivated by the interesting stories told about the profits of fruit-growing, and who went to Vineland to follow this easy and respectable occupation, whereby to fill his pockets full of "rocks." But it turned out the other way. He found the farm and the vines already to his hand, a perfect bargain. It does not seem to have occurred to him that if this farm was a perfect fount of flowing profits, it would not have been offered at such a tremendous bargain. Of what use, indeed, would be such reflections against the columns of figures showing the tremendous gains that had been made? Figures cannot lie, and the New Hampshire man went in. But the grapes, or the market, or something went contrary the moment the deeds were signed. At the end of one year there was a balance of two thousand dollars on the wrong side. The next year it was worse—three thousand dollars. All he had was gone, and he departed for his native granite hills a sadder and a wiser man!

This is not a solitary case. It is the lot of hundreds of unfortunates every day. The novelty is to find it recorded in our papers, so customary is it to paint all so lovely in regard to farming and gardening affairs. We are often told of the man who found ten acres enough; but we do not often hear of him who found it more than enough—entirely too much of a good thing. It is a very healthy sign when both sides of a question can be fairly heard, and it was this that gave us so much pleasure in reading the letter of our disappointed friend.

Every one should remember, when he reads accounts of some tremendous profits in one calling, that they are quite exceptional; that they are generally balanced by tremendous losses, of which we hear very little. Land agents and speculators are only interested in the one side. There are plenty of fair men in the business, but they cannot be expected to do more than show the fair side. It does no harm for the buyer to remember that there is and must be another side. With all its losses, farming and fruit-growing is as good and better than most pursuits. The thorough business man—one who understands his business—seldom loses. We are not addressing these, but those who believe they have only to plow a piece of ground or pluck a bunch of grapes in order to be at once rich.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

"The moral of a thing lies in its application," as Major JACK DOWNING used to remark. In this case the application is, perhaps unconsciously, omitted. As we read our contemporary, sometimes farming pays largely and sometimes it does not pay, and all without assignable reason. It only remains to be added that good farming, using skill and economy, always pays, while poor farming does not. We don't mean that money cannot be wasted in farm operations; but where it is used wisely, the more spent the greater the amount earned. In other words, farming is subject to the same laws which prevail in all other industrial operations.

FAULTS OF SOUTHERN FARMING.

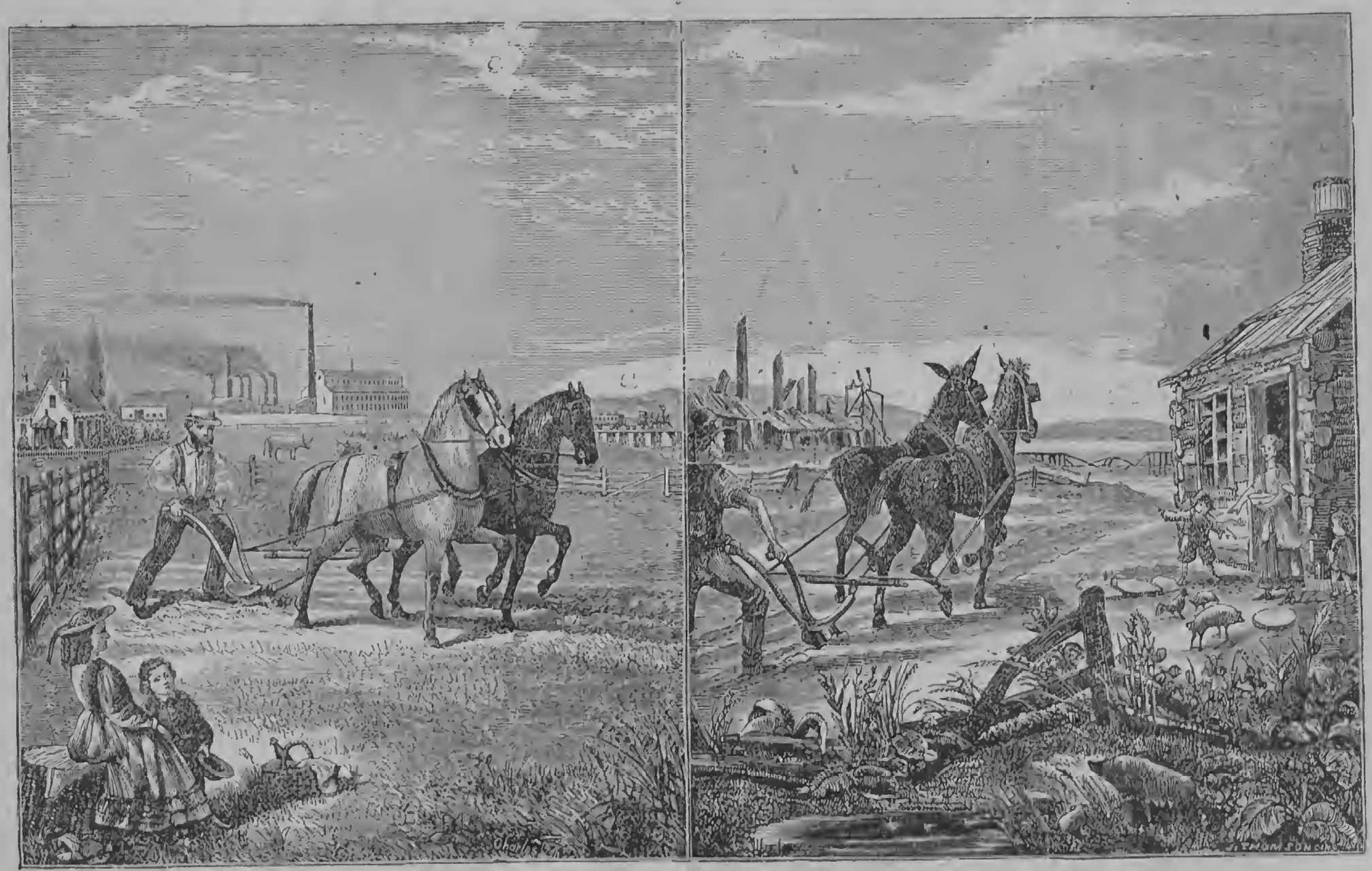
H. V. R. writes as follows to the Cincinnati Commercial from Tennessee. We suspect that he has made the picture from the worst side of Southern farming, which is too common in all sections:

The trouble in every Southern State is over-buying and under-production. Then the waste is dreadful. Unless a man has lived, say among the farmers of Western New York and then among the farmers of Tennessee, he can not appreciate the great difference in this particular. The New York farmer fattens his hogs upon what, in Tennessee, is thrown to the dogs. The yearly waste in the Southern States is past all computation. The refuse from the table is wasted; kitchen slops are wasted; stable and barnyard manure is wasted; wheat straw, in fact all straw and cornstalks are wasted. There is no saving anywhere. It is a carnival of waste from the Ohio river to the Gulf. And this is one of the things that is the matter, and the chief reason that we hear the eternal complaint that "there is no money in the country."

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The Price of Sumach.—From present appearances the price of sumach will be very high during the coming year. Advices from Sicily regarding the crop are anything but favorable, and the light stocks on hand and to arrive have caused holders to advance the price suddenly from $122.50, at which it has been quoted for some time, to $130, within a week. Many holders are asking $135, and even $140 is talked of as soon being the figure for the best Sicily brands. American sumach is also reported to be in short stock, and a corresponding advance has taken place in that variety.

New Use for Gypsum.—It is said that gypsum, mixed with four per cent. of powdered marshmallow root, will harden in about an hour, and can be sawed or turned, and made into dominoes, dice, etc. With eight per cent. marshmallow the hardness is increased, and allows of its being rolled out into thin plates, and painted or polished.



OLD METHODS AND NEW CONTRASTED.

Field Crops.

INQUIRIES ABOUT BEANS.

Will some person of experience please give me some information through the columns of the Rural in regard to the raising and management of Marrowfat Beans? What time in the season should they be planted? What kind of soil is best adapted to their welfare, how thick should they be planted? Also are they as prolific as other varieties, such as Mediums and Navies? Any information on this subject will be thankfully received.—Joseph Binsley, *Gavers, Col. Co., Ohio.*

The small or medium beans are most largely grown in localities where beans are extensively cultivated for market. Near Brockport, N. Y., many farmers grow five to twenty acres or more per year. The beans are planted with a horse planter made in Brockport, in hills ten inches apart, and rows about two feet or twenty-eight inches wide. This allows room to run a light cultivator through, and where the soil is reasonably free from weeds most of the cultivation is done by horse-power. If weeds appear they must be destroyed promptly or the crop will be ruined. Weedy beans are very expensive harvesting, and often not worth gathering. Fifteen to thirty bushels per acre are grown, varying greatly on account of soil, season, &c.

Beans are very impatient of wet, and must never be worked when the dew is on the leaves. In a damp, rich soil they are apt to grow too luxuriantly and ripen unevenly. This also is the trouble when planted on soil that is too dry. Often on dry clayey or sandy knolls the beans will be one or two weeks later coming up, and will remain behind during the season. Uneven ripening makes harvesting much more difficult as some of the beans will shell with over-ripeness while others are not fit to fall, and if stacked with the crop will mildew and spoil. Evenness of ripening is one of the chief points in growing field beans successfully. The medium bean is preferable because it generally ripens more perfectly and evenly than other varieties. Whatever kind of soil is chosen it should be as nearly uniform as possible. It will not hurt to have the field moderately rich, provided the season is a dry one. The yield of beans will be larger and they will ripen. In a wet season beans are a hard crop to grow. Weeds in summer and mildew in harvest time speedily destroy all profit.

We have had to modify our belief that beans exhaust the soil only slightly. Farmers who have grown beans several years in succession find the crop falling off. They make little material to work up into manure, and are in this respect about as bad as potatoes. Beans contain a good deal of nitrogen and (presumably) exhaust the soil of that element. In practice it is found that they are a poor fallow crop for wheatt, and the usual practice now where beans are largely grown, is to follow them with barley and that with wheat. One reason why beans seem to exhaust the soil may be that the field is rarely manured for them. We should advise our correspondent to plant the medium beans, and on a small scale at first till he sees how the crop succeeds. If his land, like much in Ohio, is a rich black muck the beans will be apt to run too much to vine, diminishing the yield and greatly increasing the cost of harvesting.

CAUSE OF SCABBY POTATOES.

For several years past, in localities where potatoes are grown largely as a farm crop, farmers have been troubled by a disease which removed the outer thin skin from potatoes, giving them a "scabby" appearance and making them unsalable. It is found too that sometimes these scabby potatoes are more predisposed to rot, though in dry seasons they often keep without injury. Various theories have been suggested as to the cause, a common one among farmers, being that the scabby appearance is due to worms or insects. Still this theory does not hold good in many cases. Dr. Michener in the Scientific Farmer, suggests as a much more probable explanation that the scab is due to a fungus growth on the potato. We are inclined to believe this is the true theory, and copy what the doctor has to say about the effects of fungus and the remedy:

When potatoes are eaten by larvæ, and the injury is recent, we find the flesh of the tuber fresh, white, smooth and inclining to heal or skin over, as we observe it to do when cut with a knife; yet who has ever seen such an appearance in the disease before us? I have sought for it again and again, but without success. On the contrary, whenever and wherever I have seen the injury which we are considering, from the smallest speck up to the more extensive destruction of the organic tissue, the appearance has constantly been the same.

It appears to be admitted that if we plant diseased tubers we may expect to grow diseased potatoes, even where there are no wire worms present. Such as men sow, such shall they also reap. It has been pretty fully ascertained that there is something left remaining in the soil where diseased roots have been grown that is capable of affecting healthy potatoes planted therein the following year, in a similar manner.

I once planted selected potatoes in the same ground for four successive years. The number of diseased tubers rapidly increased from year to year, until the last year half the crop was destroyed. An intelligent and observant friend of mine planted a few rows of potatoes across his lot. They proved to be a good deal injured. The next year he planted the same ground, with a corresponding strip alongside, which had been cultivated in some other sort of crop the preceding year. The result was, the crop in the old potato ground was almost worthless, while that in the contiguous portion was only slightly affected. All the conditions of soil, culture, manure and seed, were similar.

We know that insect depredators do often manifest wonderful discriminating powers in the selection of their food. But the Fungi, which constitute a still more predaceous class, are in a much greater ratio selective in the choice of their food, as well as in the places for their nidification. They are, indeed, so numerous and so discriminating that almost every plant appears to have some specific fungoid growth peculiar to itself. The thing under discussion may yet prove itself to be a Fungus peculiar to the potato, and not to be found anywhere else.

From what has already been said it may be of the utmost importance to plant none but the most perfect and clear tubers, and to avoid replanting the old potato grounds. It may also be prudent not to plant those varieties which have been found most obnoxious to the disease. If the germs inhere in, and are liable to be planted with, the potato, and I think that is the correct view, it would seem to suggest the use of some means for disinfection of the seed before planting. For this purpose I would recommend the trial of a solution of carbolic acid in water, of such strength as the tubers will bear without injury. The proper strength can only be ascertained by careful trials. Thus:—Take carbolic acid—an ounce; water—a gallon; mix when ready to plant; immerse the sets in the solution for five minutes; then remove, and rinse the acid off before planting.

As the Fungi are mostly found in connection with diseased, or dead and decomposing organic substances, from which they may sometimes pass over to healthy, living organisms; it may be a question worthy of your consideration: How far the fertilizers used may have aided in the production of the disease? To what extent was it known before their introduction? And how far has it been increased under their use?

POP-CORN AS A PROFITABLE CROP.

The Chicago Tribune has a letter from a boy, or young man, who tried an experiment with pop-corn. He planted one acre, and sold 47 bushels of corn for $47, and the fodder from the 1 acre for $5, this giving him a clear profit of $27.42.

We commend this statement to the boys on the farm. Those who have never grown pop-corn will scarcely credit the statement, but those who have, and understand how close the rows can be, to each other, and how many perfect ears every hill turns out, will not be surprised at the figures. There are several varieties, white and rice-like kernel, variegated, showing on one cob many different colors,—and all should be planted some distance from other corn. The yield is always good and the ears are nearly uniform in size. A good article always brings a good price, and, since pop-corn balls and other preparations in which pop-corn appears have been in favor, there has been a good demand for it. Pop-corn should be planted on good soil, and treated generally as other corn. It matures early, and the ground can be cleared for winter wheat or other fall crops.

SOWING CLOVER SEED.

A correspondent asks us if he should sow clover seed on his spring grain before sowing the grain, so that one harrowing will answer for both and also how much to sow per acre. It is not best to harrow after sowing clover seed, as it covers the small seeds so deeply that many of them will not germinate. If the ground is in proper tilth no covering will be needed, as the seeds will naturally be washed under fine particles of soil by the first rain. With winter wheat or rye, it is a good practice to harrow the surface before sowing clover seed. Or with winter grain the seed may be sown on frozen ground before it is dry enough to harrow. Freezing and thawing will cover the seeds sufficiently. One peck of clover seed per acre, should be sown on all land where clover seed has not recently been grown.

FIELD NOTES.

White Burley Tobacco.—In Ohio, an experiment, and on a larger scale than before, will be made the coming season, with what is known as "White Burley" Tobacco, and if successful the culture of Seed Leaf in that State will, in the future, be either entirely abandoned, or at least be very materially diminished. The Connecticut Seed Leaf Tobacco in Ohio has grown too rank, and does not keep up the original standard for quality.

A Good Rotation.—Geo. Kepler of Wayne Co., writes to the Indiana Farmer as follows:—"My method of farming is to have four fields and a regular rotation of crops. First clover, then barley and buckwheat, then corn, among which, in the fall sow wheat or barley, and sow clover in the spring on the wheat. I have made over $50 to an acre on barley, which is immediately followed by buckwheat or turnips, as a catch crop the same season. I sell no straw, hay, fodder or corn, feeding that and buying bran besides.

Farm Economy.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF MANURE.

Would you advise a mixture of hen manure, plaster and ground bone as a fertilizer for wheat, to be drilled in with the wheat at time of sowing. If so, please say in what proportion the mixture should be made. Or would it be advisable to add ammoniated superphosphate of lime and leached ashes, or either, with the plaster and bone, and in what proportion of each, and how long after composting before fit to be used. Please give formula in "Rural New-Yorker," and oblige—Ignoramus, *Wash. Co., O.*

There is no objection to using hen manure mixed with plaster and ground bone, but whether it would prove more or less useful than other mixtures depends on the needs of the soil, and can only be determined by trial. Hen manure must be thrown in a heap and allowed to heat slightly to remove its moisture, or it cannot well be drilled. Even after heating and mixing with plaster, we think the mixture would need to be run through a coarse sieve to prepare for drilling. Ground bone is less effective as a manure than an honestly made superphosphate, as the bone is only slowly soluble.

There is no "formula" for making manure for all kinds of soils. If your land is not deficient in phosphates neither ground bone nor superphosphate would be of any value in the mixture. An ammoniated superphosphate is always valuable, as crops never have an over-supply of ammonia. Still, if the ammonia is what is needed, the hen manure alone could supply it without the addition of bones. Hen manure itself also contains considerable proportions of phosphates, varying in amount with the kind of food. Fowls fed on scraps of meat make richer manure than when fed on grass. Wheat makes manure richer in phosphates than corn, and shrunken wheat or bran makes manure with more phosphates than plump grains, with larger proportion of flour. If fowls were fed on fish, and their droppings kept dry, the manure would be as rich as guano. Hen manure, like every other, is an indefinite quantity. We should probably find on analysis that the droppings of roosters are richer in phosphates than those of hens, whose food is largely used in forming the shell of its egg, possibly, also, the hens making richer manure when not laying than when one egg per day is imperatively demanded. In all manures which pass through birds or other animals the phosphates are readily soluble and available for plant food. Hence a small percentage of phosphates in hen manure may give a larger supply to plants than the larger percentage of insoluble phosphate in coarsely ground bone. We do not recommend the latter anyway. If not made soluble by the use of sulphuric acid, bone should be ground as finely as possible. Fine bone flour, composted with hen manure, would be thereby made soluble; but merely pounding or breaking bones into coarse lumps is of little use.

Ashes may or may not prove valuable, according as potash is deficient or abounds in the soil; trial only can tell. If potash is needed, it is better applied separately, rather than composted with other manures, as it wastes ammonia. There are no "right proportions" for applying manures suitable in all cases. Use as most convenient, and make trials of different proportions to decide what is best for your own soil.

COOKED VS. RAW CORN.

The Scientific Farmer has the following correspondence and remarks on the above subject: Mr. M. Stalker, the able and careful superintendent of the Iowa Agricultural College Farm, has been making some experiments in feeding hogs with the following, which he publishes through the college paper. He selected 15 hogs of the same age and breed, nearly the same weight and condition, prepared for the experiment by the same feeding and treatment from pigs. He divided these hogs into pens of three each; for the first 2 months fed equal dry weights of dry corn, soaked corn, boiled corn, dry meat, and cooked meal. Then for nearly two months he continued to each pen the same form of corn, giving, however, as much as the hogs would eat. The result of four months of feeding showed that the different forms of corn had made the following live weights of pork:

1 Bushel of dry corn,	13	lbs. of pork.
1 Bushel of soaked corn,	10¼	" "
1 Bushel of boiled corn	10	" "
1 Bushel of dry meal,	13 2-5	" "
1 Bushel of cooked meal,	5 9-15	" "

I am about to commence feeding hogs on boiled corn, thinking to improve it in that way, but, from the above, one would infer that cooking would be a disadvantage. In the Country Gentleman, late in 1875, I noticed an article from a feeder, saying that he had been cooking corn for stock for four years, and that it had been a detriment to him until within a few weeks past, when he discovered that he had been cooking under *too high pressure*, making the food too hot, thereby destroying some of the nutriment of the feed. He made an illustration something after this fashion: he bought a new stove, and his cook burnt the bread before she understood the stove. He found by actual test that he could hold his hand in the oven that burnt the bread for two or three seconds, but that it was impossible to plunge his hand in his steam box with sixty pounds of steam.

Some feed pigs with corn that has passed through cattle, but many think they could cook it cheaper in a steam box; at the same time all agree that corn prepared by passing through cattle is a good feed for pigs. Please give us what light you can on this subject, and the best way to *push* pigs running on grass and clover in Illinois.—Reader.

Prof. Goessmann says that of uncooked Indian corn, containing 10 to 12 per cent. of water, about 93 per cent. is indigestible as swine food—differing somewhat with the varieties. Cooking could improve upon this but very little. The same is true, to a certain extent, of most of the grains. The benefits of cooking are most marked upon hay and coarse fodder; that is, with those foods which contain a large percentage of cellulose—coarse fiber—upon which it acts to disintegrate and break down, and release the nutritious portions, which in raw grains are easily laid hold of by the digestive functions.

With a content of moisture of from 10 per cent. to 12 per cent., Indian corn contains from 54 per cent. to 64 per cent. of starch, besides albuminoids and fats, and only 25 per cent of cellulose; wheat grain contains 2.1 per cent. of cellulose, hay contains 25 per cent. of cellulose, and wheat straw 36 per cent. of cellulose.

A fine mechanical condition in food is conducive to ease of digestion, as shown in the experiment in the difference between meal and whole corn; beyond this it seems hardly profitable to go in the preparation of grains.

The apparent injury which the figures seem to show, we think, is due merely to the fact that cooking greatly increases the bulk of grain, hence the swine would soon get filled with it and eat less than of the dry, uncooked material, for the report says they were allowed as much as they would eat after the second month.

Recent German experiments substantiate these statements, while it is an almost universal practice—based on experimental knowledge—in that country to cook coarse fodder, and some of the grains.

MANURING TO DESTROY WEEDS.

Suitable food for crops, says an English journal, enables them to conquer the weeds. In regard to clover, it was found that when the land was wholly unmanured, the weeds formed 57 per cent. of the entire yield, but that the application of gypsum reduced the proportion of weeds to 2 per cent. Nitrogenous manures had very slight effect, and phosphatic manures but little more. We must not from this, however, consider gypsum as an antidote to weeds in general, since it is a specific manure for clover, and gives it a power to struggle successfully with the weeds, and crowd them out.

It is commonly observed that the first effect of large quantities of barnyard manure is to make the weeds grow more vigorously. This is partly because the manure is usually filled with weed seeds, and also because the increase in fertility encourages seeds to sprout, which, with poorer soil, would have remained dormant. The light, warm and rich soil will sprout weed seeds to a greater depth than that which is heavy, cold and poor.

On the other hand, where grain crops are sown, multitudes of these weeds are smothered and destroyed by the stronger growth of the grains. Almost all annual weeds start from seeds as tiny and as feeble as turnip or onions, and the first appearance of the weed is most insignificant. On the other hand, wheat, corn, oats and barley have a grain of considerable substance, and the blade and root are correspondingly vigorous, not only outgrowing the weed, but enabling the farmer to cultivate his sown or drilled crops with little injury to the grain, but complete destruction to the weeds. A light drag passed over drilled oats or barley, just as the grain is well up, will hardly disturb a single spear, but will bury and up-root millions of tiny weeds. In this way a field may be kept clean, and, where spring grain is to be followed by wheat, the labor of fitting the stubble is much lessened.

Dairy Husbandry.

FILLING UP THE HERDS.

THE practice with many dairymen for a number of years past, has been to fill up the herds in spring to the utmost capacity of the farm, and not unfrequently pastures are overstocked. Overstocking not only seriously injures the productiveness of pastures, but it decreases greatly the yield of milk in the whole herd, thus making a less return in butter and cheese than there would be if some of the poorer animals of the herd had been disposed of early in the season and more food left for the remaining portion.

We can point to dairies of common cows in Herkimer County of 40 animals and upward to the herd, that made last season an annual product of cheese and butter amounting to $60 per cow, and the dairy products were sold at the Little Falls market at the regular market rates for fine goods. Contrast this with herds on overstocked farms, where the yield has been only $25 to $30 per cow, and the difference in profits from dairy farms where the two systems are practiced will be seen to be very large. Forty cows averaging $60 per cow, turn off the same amount of money as 80 cows averaging $30 per cow; in other words, the extra 40 cows must be milked and cared for at no profit.

Good judges in regard to the markets for dairy products are of the opinion that we cannot hope to obtain any better prices for dairy goods the coming season than those of last year; while the impression with some is that prices may go lower. It behooves dairymen then to consider well before purchasing cows at high rates to fill up their herds, whether an increase of stock will yield a profit or entail a loss. It is always safer to understock a pasture than to overstock it, and in regulating the size of the herd for a given amount of land a liberal estimate should be made to meet the exigencies of an average season rather than basing calculations upon an extra good year for grass. Above all, if dairy stock *must be* purchased, avoid culls and refuse animals that are only cows in name. It always pays a dairyman to buy the best cows that can be had even at comparatively high prices. Poor milkers at best are only a burthen and should be avoided as a positive evil, entailing loss rather than profit to the farmer.

We have recently received letters from dairymen in different parts of the country, stating that they propose this year to have smaller herds than usual and to pay more attention to raising grain for home wants than to depend on purchasing from abroad as formerly. We think the plan a good one and believe this course will result in more clear profit at the end of the year than in stocking up to the utmost capacity of the land.

The old stock of cheese promises to go out, leaving a good market and fair prices for rich, well made cheese of the early make; but prices will be likely to fall during the summer, and dairymen should not base calculations on high rates. There never was a time when good management and economy were more imperative than now. Those who strike off useless expenses and count the cost of what they buy, will be likely to escape many of the troubles incident to this extravagant age.

COWS CALVING IN THE FALL.

I. W. WANZER, in the Practical Farmer, gives in detail the usual manner of managing dairy cows in the section of Illinois where he resides. In the first place he says, "We arrange so that a proportion of our cows come in through the fall and on through the winter, thus keeping up the dairy supply."

Warm stables are provided so as to be comfortable to animals and milkers, and care is taken that the feed of the cows be such as will promote good health and produce the largest flow of milk. The grass—timothy and clover—is cut when in full blossom, and care is taken not to cure it too much. For a change, Hungarian grass is used, cutting it when in the dough. This fed part of the time, he thinks is as good as a change of pasture to the summer cow. Corn stalks are fed once a day through the winter. For ground feed an effort is made to combine the elements that will produce the largest flow of milk and at the same time keep the cow in good condition and not too fat. And it is found that one part corn meal, one part ground oats and one part bran, will bring the best results. With these conveniences and kinds of hay and ground feed, good water and good care, a cow yields as much milk during six months in winter as in summer, when the cow feeds on grass.

Mr. WANZER says in the summer management of cows good, sweet, tame pastures and pure water are indispensable, and he is of opinion that a little grain should be fed to cows all summer. When the milker is to milk a cow, he first feeds her and then sits down to milk. The result is, the cow stands quietly, gives her milk at once, and the flow is increased. Sowed corn is considered an important help to meet the wants of the herd in dry times. He estimates the cost of keeping a cow six months in winter at $62, the items being for ground feed $36, hay $20, and care $6.

This we suppose is for cows giving a full supply of milk. Winter dairying has been urged by some on the ground that it is a better time to manufacture dairy products, as there is not so much liability of their being affected injuriously by the weather, and some claim that as large if not larger products can be made than under the usual summer dairying.

REGULATIONS IN REGARD TO THE DAIRY DISPLAY AT THE CENTENNIAL.

AT a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Centennial Dairy Committee, held at Utica, March 17, regulations in regard to the time of manufacture, delivery, shipment, and other disposition of dairy products, were adopted as follows:

Cheese intended for exhibition should be branded with the owner's name and the date of manufacture.

Cheese for exhibition must be manufactured between the first and the fifth days of June, July, August, September and October of the year 1876.

Of cheese one year or more of age, the processes, temperature, salting, curing, and general handling, must be described in writing.

Butter in packages or any patent mode of packing should be accompanied by a written statement, giving date of manufacture, quantity of salt used, and manner of churning, handling, packing, and treatment after packing.

Cheese on the shelves of the curing and display room will be treated in the same manner as upon the shelves of the home factory.

Cheese and butter in all cases will receive such treatment and care as shall be required to keep and show the product to the best advantage.

Date of shipment of cheese or butter will be fixed from time to time, and the parties will be notified as to dates of forwarding and mode of shipment.

Any rule hereby adopted will be subject to such change or alteration as may from time to time become necessary, and to any changes required by the rules and regulations of the commission.

The following charges are to be demanded from persons placing dairy implements and dairy machinery in the dairy building to be erected on the grounds: For cheese vats not to exceed four in number, $80 each; scale for weighing milk, $100; full set of curd knives, $5 each; curd grinders, $5 each; weighing can, faucet, and conductor, $10; delivery cans, $5 each; dairy pans and coolers, $25 each, not to exceed ten in number; churns $5 each, not to exceed four in number; butter workers, $5 each; butter packages or pails, $3 each; boiler and engine, $500.

BUTTER AVERAGES.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In the RURAL of Feb. 19, Mr. L. P. WOLCOTT reports a pound of butter from 13 lbs. 13 ozs. of milk taken from two grade Jersey cows that have not had calves for over a year, and thinks, in order to make my statement good, I ought to reduce that to 11 pounds. I have the advantage of him one way—no one will ever know what I would have done with it, especially as a neighbor of mine claims to have made a pound of butter from nine pounds of Jersey milk. Mr. WOLCOTT does not seem to be aware of the fact that a cow's milk becomes very much richer as she dries off.

My statement was that the *average* butter maker with any method, would save two pounds of milk to the pound of butter. The only qualification that this statement needs is that the test should be a fair one. That is, with the full season's milk of a herd of not less than ten cows, Mr. WOLCOTT shows by the manner in which he handles his milk that he is probably much above the average butter maker, nor do I mean by simply complimenting him to beg the question. What I mean is this:—The best average from a season's yield of a herd of cows known to us is that of the Hon. HARMS LEWIS of Herkimer, which was 23 pounds of milk to the pound of butter from Short-Horns. Now Mr. LEWIS is a finished butter maker. The average butter maker would probably require over 25 pounds of milk to the pound of butter. I think any one can do as well with my method as Mr. LEWIS has done with his shallow pans.

Louisville, Ky. L. S. HARDIN.

A NEW WAY OF MOLDING BUTTER.

AT the Vermont Convention we saw a new device for molding and putting up butter prints. The mold consisted of an oblong, brick-like box, with hinges on the sides so as to be opened out. The butter to be molded was pressed or pounded into this box until it acquired the proper shape and then the sides were opened or let down, thus allowing the butter print to be easily removed. The mold is made of any weight desirable, but in order to make the prints of suitable size for the table, a silver-plated wire is employed to cut the blocks of butter formed in the mold. In this way flat, square pieces an inch or more in thickness are easily made, and these are arranged on tin slides, one above the other, around an ice box in the center, the whole fitting in a larger box and then sent to market. The plan appeared to be practical, cheap and convenient, and the inventor claimed to have had great success in marketing this new style of prints.

The Herdsman.

THE COMMON GADFLY.

AT this season of the year warts or warbles may often be found in large numbers on the sides and back of cattle. On pressing these bunches a frothy substance will be squeezed out, sometimes slightly bloody, and, if pressed very hard, a large, blackish grub, tapering at both ends. This is the larva of the gadfly, which lays its eggs on the skin in summer and early fall. If left alone the larva comes out of itself in April or May, drops on the manure pile and very soon becomes a perfect fly, ready to perpetuate its species. They are most often found on animals in poor condition, as such most frequently have the rough, staring coat, in which the fly can easily deposit its egg on the skin. Possibly a good way to prevent the fly from laying its egg would be to smooth down the hair with grease, or apply some substance which should be poisonous or offensive. A writer in the Chicago Tribune argues that these insects are very injurious, and we copy what he says on this subject, as also how to get rid of them.

It may be that the presence of a few grubs is not a source of serious damage; but it is an indisputable fact, observed quite often, that numerous grubs, or larvæ, cause always considerable emaciation, and, in some cases, even loss of life. I myself had once an opportunity to make a post-mortem examination of a heifer killed by these larvæ. The hide, for at least a foot on each side of the vertebral column, was not only perforated by a large number of grub-holes, but also perfectly separated from the body; for the tumors, or cavities, containing the larvæ, or maggots, were so close together as to make them continent; and at least one-third of the whole surface of the body presented, after the skin was removed, an uninterrupted, suppurating field. As no other morbid changes of any consequence presented themselves, there can be no doubt as to the cause of the animal's death. Of course, after the larvæ, or grubs, have made their exit, and after the tumors have healed, the usually emaciated cattle will improve rapidly, and almost visibly; for then the food consumed is for their exclusive good. This observation has probably lead to the mistaken idea that the grubs of the gad fly exert a sanitary influence upon their abode-animals. That the constant irritation and the continued suppuration caused by those larvæ, and their feeding upon matter and expudation proceeding from the body of the abode-animal, must be very injurious to the latter, must interfere with its natural growth and development, and, in consequence, be a source of loss to the owner, is too self-evident to need any further proof. The question is, How can such losses be prevented, and how can the gad-fly, or its brood, be destroyed? To find the pupæ, to catch the flying insect, or to prevent it from depositing its eggs, is a matter of difficulty, and almost impossible; but to destroy the larvæ before they have arrived at maturity, is quite easy,—for their exact place beneath the skin is indicated plainly enough by the presence of the tumors, and is easy of access on account of the openings in the skin. The simplest way to get at these larvæ, and to kill them, is to enlarge the opening of each tumor with a narrow-bladed knife, and to draw out the larva by means of pincers, or with a small hook. Even a large herd of cattle may thus be freed very easily from the larvæ in one day by one person; and if every farmer would do it a few years in succession, the gad-fly would very soon become too scarce to do any damage. Bracy Clark recommends another method. He advises to destroy the larvæ by injecting into each tumor some corrosive fluid,—for instance, a solution of corrosive sublimate or of sulphate of copper; or to kill the same by pricking them with a red-hot needle. If injections are to be used for that purpose, I would prefer carbolic acid diluted with about one or two parts of glycerine, and two or three parts of water. Still, the former method, consisting in enlarging the openings and extracting the larvæ, deserves preference, as the consequent suppuration will be much less and the healing much quicker if the larvæ have been removed.]

BRAN AS A FEED AND FERTILIZER.

CAN you inform me through your paper, or otherwise, whether Wheat Bran is of any value as a fertilizer? and if so, what is the value per 100 lbs. for this purpose? G. E. M., *Lowell, Mass.*

There can be no doubt that bran possesses very considerable fertilizing properties. Chemical analysis shows that it abounds in phosphates, and, in fact, contains most of the elements which the wheat grain possesses. According to a table which has been widely published, and which we presume is approximately correct, the manure from a ton of bran is worth a little more than $14, which would make its manurial value something more than 70c. per 100 lbs. Still we should not think of using bran directly as a fertilizer, for the much better way is the common one of feeding the bran and using the manure thus made. No doubt considerable of the bran is utilized in the animal, and especially where it is fed to milch cows. This is by no means lost, for either meat or milk is worth much more than the bran. Besides, the fertilizing material, in passing through the body of an animal, absorbs the various dead matters thrown off from the body, and is, besides, partially prepared or "cooked" by animal heat, so as to be more readily soluble as plant food.

Dry bran in the soil, unless in a very wet and warm season, will not become freely soluble and fit for use by plants. The experiment has been tried of using raw corn meal as manure for corn, but we believe it has not proved profitable. Bran is less promising material for manure than corn meal, as it decomposes much less readily and contains less nitrogen.

Whenever bran can be bought for $20 to $22 per ton, it is a profitable feed for milch cows, and in smaller quantities for idle horses and growing stock. Horses working every day need stronger feed, but for horses lying idle in the stable bran has an excellent laxative effect, keeping the bowels in good condition and prepared for the higher feeding which should always be commenced as the working season approaches.

FEEDING BEETS TO MILCH COWS.

NOTICING the statement of "A Gentleman near New York City" concerning feeding sugar beets to his cows, and also a reply by A. B. ALLEN, I offer your readers a bit of my experience. Last year I raised a lot of mangolds and carrots. The mangolds were gathered first and put in the cellar; afterward the carrots were gathered and corded up on top of them, so that when I began to feed them to my cow the carrots came first. The cow gave about her usual quantity of milk, excepting the usual shrinkage on the accession of cold weather and being put upon dry fodder. Fearing that the beets would not keep as well as the carrots, and also thinking that they possessed better milk-producing qualities, I was anxious to get at them. Accordingly I removed part of the carrots and commenced feeding beets, when, to my surprise, my cow began to fall of her milk, until the deficiency reached about one-third. Wishing to test the matter still further, I changed back again to carrots, when her milk increased to about the usual standard.

The quantity fed was about the same in either case—about a half bushel basket three-quarters full. If there was any difference it was in favor of the beets. This was a matter of wonder to me, and while I was cogitating upon it, "Daily Rural's" statement came to hand. And now I have concluded to hereafter give carrots more attention and beets less.

I think the difference Mr. ALLEN makes between large and small beets is altogether too wide. If his statement is true, we had better be careful and not raise large, thrifty, vegetable crops of any kind. I think my cow would prefer any size beets to chips; am going to try her on some 11-pounders. Probably the difference between very large and small ones is about one-third. REUBEN ANDREWS.

Perry Center, N. Y.

PEDIGREE vs. PERFORMANCE.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—If I was purchasing stock, I would not give 10 cents for the best pedigree they could get up. I would sooner trust my own eyes than all the pedigrees they can produce. If a horse wins a race, the judges do not stop to inquire into his pedigree before awarding the premium.—*Toronto Globe.*

The above paragraph has a very taking sound and will quite likely prove popular. But what does it mean? Simply this, if anything:—that pedigree is no indication of value, which is most untrue. No doubt, if a horse wins a race, his superiority in speed attests his value; but it is absurd at this day to say that a carefully-bred horse is no more likely to win a race than a scrub. When it comes to breeding, the superiority of the pedigreed animal is still more manifest. The accidental superiority of an animal in any direction is rarely perpetuated in his (or her) offspring. The superiority which is the result of careful breeding for generations back is almost certain to be perpetuated in stock from carefully-bred animals.

The Horseman.

"OLD JOHN LAWRENCE."

One of the earliest, if not the earliest book, written on the trotting horse, was by John Lawrence of England, in 1800. It is interesting to note how accurate his observations were: "If a young trotter be obtained, it will be perceived in an instant whether he has a natural great bent of speed. But if not, granting that he be thorough shaped, and can trot a mile in four minutes handsomely, he may improve and become capital for a long distance. In training a young trotter, take a long time; keep him almost always within himself; never trot him with a slack rein, nor suffer him to hitch, lead with one leg, or get into a confused run between trot and gallop, but accustom him to pull well and steadily at you. Always oblige him to finish his trot in a walk, never in either canter or gallop; in which latter case cause him to turn round, as is the custom in trotting race. No hack is fit to trot any considerable distance until rising six years old; but it is remarkable that trotters, unlike gallopers, do not lose their speed from old age, many having been known to trot as fast at twenty, and even near thirty years of age as they did in their prime—a solid recompense, surely, for the extraordinary care which these horses demand. As it is obvious that the damage which trotters receive in their feet, joints, and sinews, arises from their violent and incessant thumping the hard road, common sense will naturally prescribe moderate and sparing exercise and soft ways. And whenever you see a fellow wantonly rattling his horse over a pavement, you may fairly presume a natural affinity between the skull of the jockey and the materials with which his course is strewed; and, even if you go so far as to wish a happy contact between them, humanity herself will forgive you."—*Spirit of the Times.*

SCRATCHES IN HORSES.

A correspondent writes:—My horses are all taking the scratches, or at least their legs are getting rough. What is the best thing I can do for them to keep the hair from coming off?—A Young Farmer.

Want of proper care of the horses' legs is probably the origin of the trouble which may result in the disease called "Grease," or more generally "scratches." If perspiration is obstructed, it results in horses as in men in making the blood foul, which causes blotches on the body. In the horse perspiration is most active in the cavity just above the heel. In winter this is often closed up—sometimes by filth—as well in driving as from standing in filthy stables; but more frequently by catching cold after hard driving and the horse is left to stand in the cold with his legs unprotected. Any of these causes are liable to originate the disease. It is seldom found in summer and never originates among horses in pasture. In the early stages the following remedy is recommended:

Slippery elm, powdered, ½ pound; fine salt, 2 ounces. Mix with hot water and when cool apply on a cotton cloth. If this does not afford relief the disease has probably affected the general health of the horse and a cure will be more difficult and require more time. Drawing poultices in advanced stages are out of order, as they tend to increase the secretion of matter which, owing to the bad state of the blood has been too profuse. The cavities above the heels should be carefully kept open. After this is done the legs should be poulticed with some astringent substance as bayberry bark or burnt alum with slippery elm.

NOTES FOR HORSEMEN.

Whale Oil for Bots.—The Popular Science Monthly says whale oil was poured on a piece of a horse's stomach that was covered with bot-worms, and it made them let go their hold and die immediately.

Poll Evil.—As soon as the sore is opened wash with castile soap, clean; then take lunar caustic, and be sure to get into the bottom of the sore; leave it in six hours. Then make a wash of white vitriol and rain-water, not very strong, stirring it thoroughly with the castile soap, and wash the sore with it every morning. This has cured many valuable horses for me.

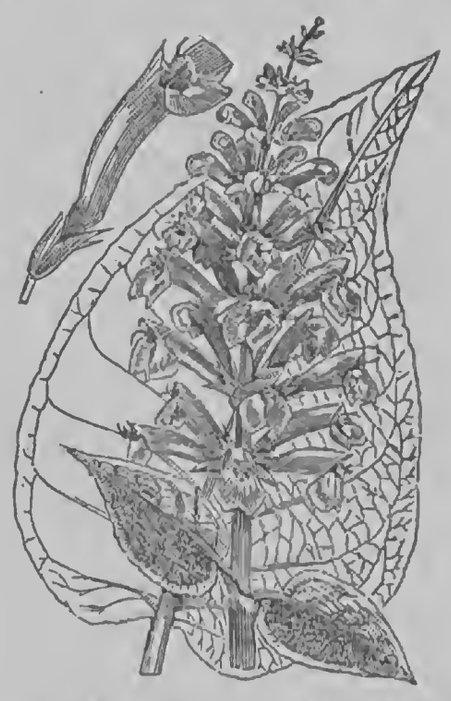
Staggers.—In this disease much depends on the treatment and on the management of the animal after an attack. In the first place, bleed freely from the neck—from six to ten quarts. Give immediately an active purge, throw up injections, and keep the animal's head wet with ice-water. In most new cases this treatment will effect a cure. Be careful to keep the bowels relaxed by giving two or three bran mashes weekly.

Lampass, or the Groom's Fancy.—When an animal does not take his accustomed amount of feed, whether it be a colt just getting his molar teeth, or a very old horse whose molars have become defective, the cruel operation is too often performed of burning the enlarged palate with a red-hot iron. If a colt is off his feed, treat him as a baby; he is then getting new teeth, and should have a soft diet—mashes, etc.—but do not allow the blacksmith to perform the unnecessary, injurious, and cruel operation of burning the lampass.

Floricultural.

SALVIAS.

Salvias, now that we have blue (*S. patens*), purple (*S. Horminum*), red (*S. splendens*), white (a variety of *splendens*), and red and white



flowers, as well as variegated foliage,—are among the showiest of our bedding plants, and—owing to their rank growth and spreading habit—they are better in the garden than in the conservatory.

For those, however, who seek their gay colors for winter flowering, we have selected *S. Boliviana verticillata* as one of the best—the little sketch representing, as well as so small a sketch can, the flower and leaf. Mr. E. G. Henderson of London says that it forms a neat, robust plant, two or three feet in hight, producing terminal and axillary spikes eight to ten inches long. The flowers are arranged in close whorls, each, in the chief spikes, containing thirty to fifty blossoms, and each spike having seven to ten flower clusters. The scarlet flowers, about one and a half inches long, are produced in succession for a considerable period.

A writer in the London Garden speaks of it as one of the best for winter flowering, and that, as with *Primula Japonica*, it continually throws out flowers from the whorls, as well as from the laterals.

LAYING OUT GROUNDS.

We hope that those of our readers who own homes, however small, with naked yards, front or rear, will manage to procure a few shrubs this spring. Procure *one* if you can do no better, and trust to it that, with kindly care, it will so please as to create the "will" that provides the "way" to others. Let those who have fine houses and unplanted grounds plant at once. No other outlay will secure a better return—no other feature of the home will more endear it to its occupants.

Volumes have been written upon Landscape Gardening—but we sometimes think that such works are of benefit chiefly to those who need them the least—and that no rules, however explicit, can guide a person, in laying out and planting grounds, who has not a natural love of plants and a natural taste to assist in their selection and arrangement.

The shortest distance between two points—a straight line—is the very best direction for streets or the limits of property; but it ought never to describe the boundaries of sylvan walks—of flower-beds or of the lawn. Nature abhors straight lines. How beautiful soever may be the trees, shrubs and flowers, and how skillful soever their display—straight marginal lines give a labored, an artificial look that it is the first aim of the good gardener to conceal. Not to stumble over the post while we avoid the pillar—lines that are too curved are also objectionable. The walk or carriage-drive leading to the public road should, of all paths, be the most direct; and in these, any curve sufficiently decided to lead one perceptibly out of his way and suggest the wish to "cut across" should be avoided. In by-paths leading to shady nooks, rock-works, rustic arbors—the curves, if only concealed by foliage so that their entire outline does not present itself to view, may crook without limit. The impression that we do not know whither we are going or to what beautiful surprises we are being led by these obscure paths—if ever so faintly produced, is one of the best proofs of taste and skill.

Arranging flower-beds, walks, grass-plots, trees, shrubs, mounds, vases and the like in *pairs* is another senseless proceeding—as if every object were so unfinished in itself that it must have a counterpart similarly placed to perfect it. But if we adopt the curvilinear style of gardening—as there are no rectangles that require sentinels stationed in every corner—the family of twins will be likely to receive at the outset "marked coldness."

In distributing plants, let us avoid dotting the ground at regular distances as if it were laid out in squares and each square were allotted one tree or shrub for its center and only ornament. The effect is meaningless, and far more distastefully so in the curvilinear than in the rectilinear plan, since in the latter it is in accord with everything else. Groups of trees and shrubs of varying sizes (always proportionate to the extent of the grounds) may be placed here and there, inclining on the whole, however, not to obstruct the view from those parts of the dwelling most frequented, and yet so placed as to conceal, except by glimpses, as far as possible the public road and all boundary lines, so that the actual termination of the grounds in all directions is obscured, and one may revel in fancied seclusion. These groups must not, however, be planted as if they were one huge tree, but in some instances connect with other groups—while occasionally they may be relieved by lower-growing specimens in the immediate vicinity. But of all violations of susceptibility to all that is beautiful—to delicacy of feeling and good judgment, the introduction of statuary to the grounds about one's home, is the most absurd. Bronzed animals, such as deer, dogs—or even lions and panthers—may, if placed in thickets or half exposed, be admitted; but white, nude statues of gods, goddesses or mythical heroes, flaunted out in the broiling sun, or left to freeze and thaw during Winter's snows, are painfully inappropriate. Who ever did select his favorite spot near one of them? But in the moonlight—bless our stars! We are not superstitious—but their general aspect is not reposeful—and we should select our nook so that many trees and shrubs might intervene to exclude these unhappy, friendless things from view ere we gave ourselves over to balmy, perfumed air—the deep shadows and the—the other enchantments of summer nights and ornamental grounds.

In selecting plants, our first thoughts should be about their *hardiness*, especially if a professional gardener be not employed and the proprietor is unable or unwilling to give or is incapable of giving discriminating attention himself. Trees not perfectly hardy for the locality may thrive for a season or so—but they will be sooner or later killed or so injured as to destroy their beauty. If your catalogue does not give this information explicitly, the editor of your horticultural paper will. New and alluring evergreens whose hardiness for a given section has not been thoroughly tested, are often causes of bitter disappointments. We once procured a Lawson's Cypress (*Cupressus Lawsoniana*). It lived through two winters—grew with the great rapidity and luxuriance for which it is noted, and we prized it as the finest species of evergreen we had ever seen. The third winter killed it root and branch.

We cannot afford to ascertain in the home grounds by experiment whether trees are hardy or not. It takes too long for them to grow—or rather, too long for others to grow to fill their gap. Reliable information is too easily obtained, and the trifling trouble will be repaid many fold.

Arrange flower-beds in a S. or S. E. exposure. Do not attempt complicated designs, or even angular figures, of any description. Reserve all study upon this subject for the selection of carpets and oil-cloths—wall-paper and frescoing. Have the beds conform to the paths, leaving grassy margins between, always wider than the lawn-mower. If flower-beds are cut out of the sod, it is quite easy to change them from one shape to another—to make them larger or smaller, or to re-sod and construct new ones in different places. Unless the ground is naturally rich, we are well rewarded by removing eighteen inches of earth and replacing it with leaf-mold or sod—old manure and sand, in the proportions needed. All should be thoroughly intermixed and leveled smooth, ready to receive the plants. Box and other edgings are very pretty if *well kept*—but, to our taste, there is nothing to compare with a clean, velvety sod for margins.

The best floral effects are only obtainable when the flower-beds are contiguous. To soften the effect of too much color, make the tropical bed central, and here display by the use of such plants as the Wigandia, Rheum, Dracæna, Aspidistra, Palm, Hibiscus, Dwarf Catalpa, Agave, Yucca, Aralia, Solanum, Musa (enseto), Ficus,—colors and foliage that will lend dignity and character to all. An occasional low-growing tree, such as the Crataegus, Pavia, Chionanthus, Rhus, Gleditschia (sinensis inermis), Cornus, Cercis, Alnus (laciniatus imperialis), Magnolia, Salisburia—or shapely shrubs, as Spiræa (prunifolia), Rhododendron, Azalea, Calycanthus, Cydonia, Hydrangea, Mahonia, would be in keeping. But whatever subjects be selected—whatever plan decided upon for the flower-beds—let us not forget that "everywhere *Nature* sets her flowers in clouds of refreshing green."

E. S. Carman.

River Edge, Bergen Co., N. J.

Entomological.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ARMY WORM.

The army worm, which has attracted much attention in certain portions of the United States, New Brunswick and Novia Scotia, is so little known outside the ranks of the naturalists that a description of it will be acceptable to all who have read the accounts of its late ravages.

It belongs to the order *Noctua*, genus *Leucania*, and is known in Great Britain, where fifteen species of the moth have been found. It figures in Newman's "British Moths," and Haworth names it *L. unipuncta*, from the single white spot which appears on each of its upper wings. It is familiarly known as the American Wainscot Moth.

The perfect insect will soon be found in abundance in those localities recently subjected to the unwelcome visitation of the crawling and devouring armies, and it may be readily recognized by reference to the following description from the American Entomologist:

"The eggs hatch during the early part of May in the latitude of South Illinois and Missouri, and the young worms may feed by millions in a meadow without attracting attention; but when they have become nearly full grown and have stripped bare the fields in which they were born, they are forced from necessity to travel in search of fresh fields, and it is at such times they first attract general attention. A curious instinct leads them to travel in vast armies, and as they are now exceedingly voracious, devouring more during the last three or four days of their worm life than they had done during the whole of their previous existence, they are apt to strip the leaves from the blades of grass or grain on their way. On the other hand, they are attacked by at least five different parasities, and when we understand how persistent these last are in their attacks, and how thoroughly they accomplish their murderous work, we cease to wonder at the almost total annihilation of the army worm the year following its appearance in such hosts. Furthermore, there may be influences at work, other than parasitic, which cause an increase or decrease the number of this pest. It is a significant fact that almost all great army worm years have been unusually dry, as Dr. Fitch has proved by record.

"The army worm, like other insects, hatches from an egg, and this egg is evidently deposited by the parent moth at the base of perennial grass stalks. The worm varies but little from the time it hatches to the time when it is full grown. Some specimens are a shade darker than others, but on many thousands of specimens examined we have found the markings very uniform. When full fed, which is generally about four weeks, from hatching, it descends into the ground, where it forms an oval chamber, and changes to a shiny, mahogany-colored chrysalis. Sometimes it scarcely penetrates beneath the surface, but forms a rude cocoon under what dry herbage there happens to be on the ground. Thus the worms vanish from sight very suddenly, and this sudden disappearance is as mysterious to those who have no knowledge of natural history as was their abrupt advent.

"After remaining in the chrysalis state about a week the perfect moth appears. The general color of the moth is light reddish brown or fawn color, and it is principally characterized by, and receives its name from, a white spot near the center of the fore wings, there being also a dusky oblique line running inwardly from the tips."

PROTECTION AGAINST THE WIRE-WORM.

I give you my experience with the wire-worm. Being troubled with the little pests one year, I was advised to soak my seed corn in a solution of copperas and saltpeter, using one-fourth of a pound each to a bushel of ears of common eight-rowed corn. The result was that my seed all grew, and I lost none by the wire-worms, and I never saw corn have so dark and vigorous a color before. Since then I always soak my seed twelve hours after being shelled. I do not know as it would affect the cut-worm, but I have never been troubled with them since I used the solution of copperas and saltpeter. Neither was I ever troubled with them when I plowed my corn in the fall, which I would invariably do on old sod. Some farmers exterminate them by hunting them out in the hill and killing them by hand, but this is slow and tedious work, and is liable to be slighted by hired help. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure is a proverb true in this case.—J. B., *in Country Gentleman.*

Pomological.

MANAGEMENT OF ORCHARDS.

At a recent meeting of the Penna. Fruit Growers' Society, John I. Carter, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm in Chester County, read the following paper on making orchards profitable:

"I believe that judiciously-selected and well-managed orchards will pay, and that farmers will find it profitable and greatly to their interest to give more attention to this department of their farms. It is common to say that if farmers grew much more fruit they would soon over-stock the market, forgetting that as the supply increases, and as their products are freely offered in the market the tastes of the people grow in that direction, and fruit becomes a necessity, when before it was only a luxury. I remember twenty or twenty-five years ago, when dwarf pears first became popular, and an impetus was given to pear culture, it was confidently asserted that this branch would soon be overdone, and that pears would be a drug upon the market. Yet, notwithstanding the great increase in production, we had no difficulty in selling our pear crop this year at better prices than ever before. Hence, I think farmers need have no fear of a permanent glut of really good fruit, but might very safely make considerable additions to their orchards and give them more careful attention. One word more as to the varieties to plant. I intend my remarks on this point, as well as on some others, to be more appropriate to farmers than to amateur fruit growers or regular orchardists. Both of these classes would probably plant many varieties as specimens, as tests, and to keep up a complete succession; but for plain farmers, who want reliable, easily managed trees and marketable fruit, but few varieties are needed. Among the apples the Malden's Blush, Smokehouse, and Smith's Cider would be the three safest as stand-bys. Among the pears the Bartlett, Seckle and Lawrence would occupy the same position; while the Governor Wood and early Richmond cherries would generally be safe to rely on. These varieties do well almost anywhere in Eastern Pennsylvania, and the fruit is known and valued in the market. For my part I do not like any of the above-mentioned apples as eaters, but they sell and the trees are good bearers and hardy.

I do not mention peaches in this connection, because we can make no successful competition with this fruit with our Delaware and Maryland neighbors. In regard to the treatment of orchards, I believe it is with trees as with any other crop we raise, judicious manuring and good cultivation give the most paying results. Trees cannot grow too rapidly, provided it is a healthy growth, such as would result from a timely supply of all the needed ingredients and conditions wanted to make it such. And when bearing time comes there must be no cessation of food and care, as is too often the case.

I have always objected to Mr. Meehan's practice of non-cultivation, principally because it too often led farmers into a neglect of their orchards at the very time they needed most attention. In following his plan they too often stopped at the grass and neglected the manure.

To secure healthy trees and good crops of fruit, not only requires the ground in good mechanical condition, but a plentiful supply of available food of such variety as meets all the requirements of the trees. Experience has shown that in many localities we cannot grow a perfect crop of wheat with a purely nitrogenous manure. We can make, perhaps a great weight of straw, but not that bright, perfect stalk farmers like to see and bearing a head of well-developed grains. We must use mineral fertilizers, or in some way make those in the soil more available. So it is, I conceive, in growing perfect trees or making perfect fruit. We must insure them an abundant supply of mineral fertilizers. I think this was demonstrated in our orchards the past season. We had the most perfect fruit we ever had; indeed, the finest I ever saw. Some of our Bartletts weighed seventeen ounces each, and otherwise perfect. Our Seckles brought from $4 to $6 per bushel, and our apples were fine, though this was our off year. Our orchards have heretofore been rather unthrifty in growth and bearing, but latterly we have been giving them better cultivation, and using phosphoric fertilizers freely on the hoed crops between the trees.

Our treatment last season was about as follows: We gave them the usual winter pruning, which was slight, merely cutting out injured limbs, and water sprouts, and those that interlocked, and cut back some of the most wayward and rampant, keeping the tree in reasonably good shape, with as little pruning as possible. We then washed or painted the trunks and larger branches with a composition of one-half bushel of muriate of potash, the same quantity of cow manure, five pounds of sulphur, and one barrel of water. Previous to this and during the winter, a light coat of yard manure had been applied. The ground was then carefully plowed, and planted with potatoes, giving them a good dressing of acidulated South Carolina rock. Immediately under each tree we sprinkled five pounds of muriate of potash. We find this muriate the cheapest form in which we can buy potash. It costs about 2½ cents per pound, analyzes about 45 per cent. of potassium. As the ground contained plenty of lime, we thought we had furnished the most needed materials for maturing wood and making healthy trees, and the result fulfilled our expectations. The trees held on their fruit, and retained their foliage late in the season. We suffered very little from blight or disease.

Of course we do not raise and sell crops on our Experimental Farm to the best pecuniary advantage, and our limited means prevent us from doing any of the many things undertaken very well; but we marketed this year about $130 worth of Governor Wood cherries, from twelve or fifteen trees; and over $100 worth of Bartlett pears from 150 bearing trees; and sold $100 worth of apples from an orchard of the usual farm size. Special attention to thinning fruit, and marketing to the best advantage would have increased our receipts, and I only mention these figures to show what can be done in an orchard with but tolerable treatment.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Proposed Insurance Laws.—A bill has been introduced in the Assembly of this State to permit the policy holders of mutual and stock and mutual life and health insurance companies to choose the directors and trustees of such corporations, each one being allowed one vote for every thousand dollars of insurance. To this is added a clause providing that no officer of one company shall hold any official position in any other. The last part is decidedly good. Unless he is a mere figure-head—in which case he has no right to occupy the place—no man can perform the duties of more than one office well, if at all, and the possession of duplicate power presents too many and strong temptations to abuse of privilege. The first part is impracticable. We are sorry to say it, but such is the case. The State can neither override, abridge, nor alter the charter of the corporations, which prescribes the manner of elections and the distribution of suffrage. Besides, it may be questioned whether a life insurance company can be successfully managed as a popular or democratic institution. Legislation upon these matters needs to be a great deal more crucial and wisely devised, or less open to the imputation of being a parasitic industry.

Industrial Life Insurance.—There has, we believe, been no successful endeavor to introduce into this country that sort of insurance called "Industrial," though it is successful elsewhere, especially in England, where one company, the special patron of this kind of insurance, issued, it is said, in 1875 more policies than all the other offices combined. This company, the Prudential, insured at every age and for any amount and premium, taking sixpence a week or a fortnight, and issuing policies to parents or guardians upon the lives of young children. Its chief usefulness lies in insuring poor people's lives for very small amounts, and for really small, though relatively high, premiums. Just why some of the more enterprising insurance managers do not embark in a similar enterprise is not readily explained, but it would seem to be worth a trial, especially in the great cities, where the character of the proposed beneficiaries assimilates more closely to that of its patrons elsewhere.

Foolhardiness Extraordinary.—The Coroner's investigation of the terrible explosion that occurred recently in Westchester County, near this city, disclosed the astounding circumstance that the employes engaged in the manufacture of nitroglycerine and its almost equally dangerous compounds were in the habit of smoking their pipes while at work, and that a match carelessly thrown among the inflammable *debris* caused the disaster. Ordinarily people shrink with horror from the proximity of such deadly substances, but these people had become so familiar with danger, this particular danger, that they despised it. And it is much the same habitual contact with kerosene that leads equally careless people to blow down the chimneys of coal-oil lamps and otherwise imperil their lives and property, in sublime ignorance of the risk of disaster and death.

Incendiary Fires in Albany.—If the extent of incendiarism elsewhere is to be measured by that which is said to prevail in Albany, the alleged excessiveness of fire insurance premiums is readily explained. Out of 70 fires occurring in ten months of 1875, 40 are attributed to incendiarism, and of the total loss (252,000), eighty per cent. (210,000) is ascribed to the same cause. Much of the expense entailed by intentional fires falls upon the owners of farm and other property. These people are not only too honest, as a general rule, to burn their property for the sake of the insurance, but they lack the incentives provided by fluctuations of value. But if they do not sin in this way, they bear no small share of the burden of increased and increasing premiums entailed by others' sins.

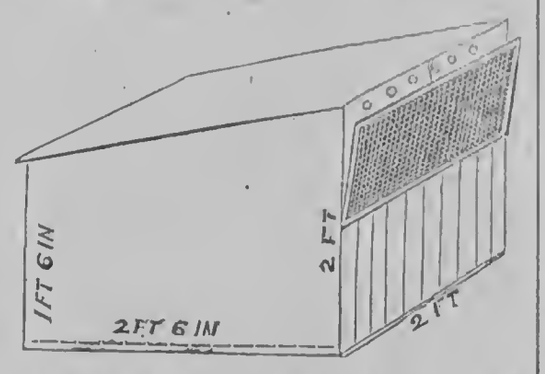
A Double Calamity.—During a recent great fire in Charleston the police were unable to protect the burning and adjacent buildings from a mob of drunken and brutal whites and blacks, who broke into and pillaged the stores and dwellings of their contents. Though the loss by fire amounted to a few hundred thousands only, partly covered by insurance, that from pillage is thought to be greater.

The Poultry Yard.

PLAN FOR A POULTRY COOP.

Enclosed I send plan of chicken coop which I have used for the last two years and find it superior to any that I have seen:

Coop to be 2 feet 6 inches long, 2 feet wide, 2 feet high, front, 18 inches back, dotted line



represents tight board bottom on slant of half-inch to the foot toward front of coop to run off any wet that may enter. Front of coop boarded tight half way with holes bored slanting near top for ventilation. A, wire door on hinges which shuts down over lower half at night and fastened by hook and staple. Pin back end. I make a door 7x10 inches to put in hen and chick, also to clean out coop. They should be made of half-inch material to be as light as possible. By having a tight bottom and shutting up tight at night you are entirely free from any harm that rats or skunks can do, and yet you have a good ventilation at all times. By buying empty shoe boxes at the stores and getting good-sized ones, they can be used to good advantage, and save expense, the wire netting can be had at any hardware store, but it should be pretty firm so there will be no danger from rats. If bottoms of coops are covered with hay chaff and cleaned out once a week, hens and chicks can be kept in good condition. H. D. Wellington.

East Lexington, Mass.

FEEDING POULTRY.

Our novice buys a poultry book and on one of the first pages reads, "never over-feed." "Never allow any food to lie about." "Never feed from pan, trough, basin, or any vessel." Feed only while the birds will run after the feed, and not at all if they seem careless about it. "Do not feed raw meat." "Do not feed one kind of food continuously, a change from corn to wheat, from wheat to rye, from rye to barley, etc., will give better results."

After reading this and much more of the same strain our novice considers himself a master of the profession, and goes in; but December comes and goes and no eggs; January melts into twenties and no eggs; he consoles himself that it is very cold weather and his house is not very tight, (though it is as warm as he could make it) and it freezes bad in it; he rings the changes in food and lets none lie about, but no success. He happens one day to be in the grocery when in comes a countryman with a big willow basket wrapped in paper and blankets, and out of it comes eggs, layer after layer of fresh eggs; one of the bystanders says, "Well Jonx your hens are doing well this year." "Oh yes," says Jonx, "they are buying my groceries for me." "How many have you," asks novice. "Well about 50 I guess, don't know exactly." You must have a warm house, says novice. "No I have lost many eggs by freezing, and my Leghorns all froze their combs and feet." "What do you feed?" says novice. "Well, in cold weather, mostly corn; though I give some raw meat that I get from the butcher, and they have a feed of boiled turnips once a week, and raw onions, twice a week, and when we cleaned our grain I fed them on screenings for a while." "How do you feed?" "Well, that depends, if the barnyard is not covered with snow, I feed in a hopper, if it is, I throw the feed in a pile of chaff on the floor so as to keep them busy all day scratching for it." "You say you sometimes feed with a hopper, don't they over-eat?" "No, at least they keep on laying just the same." "What kind do you keep?" "Dunghills crossed with a light Brahma rooster, but I have done it for several years, and now my stock could not be told from full blood Brahmas by a common observer." "Don't your Brahmas want to set too much?" "No, all set once and they rarely offer a second time, but my best sitters are my best early layers." "What kind of a hen house do you have?" "Well you see just below my house is a steep, gravelly bank, and I dug into the side of it and built me two log houses, each 12x18 feet, 30 feet apart, they were 4 feet high to the eaves, were roofed with logs, flattened like R. R. ties, then the cracks filled well with cement, and the whole covered with gravel from the bank, and between the two houses a sort of a shed was made and covered with gravel; the south end between the logs and the roof was only rough boarded and not battened as I consider air of more good than warmth; on the south side we put in each house two common slide windows of 10x12 glass." "Do you give fresh water daily?" "In summer; but not when there is snow on the ground." "How many eggs have you had this winter?" "I don't know, how many have I brought you Mr. Brown?" Mr. Brown goes to his ledger and in a few minutes says, "from Dec. 15, till date (Feb. 10) you have brought me 100 dozen eggs."

Novice goes home and ponders over those things and the next day goes out and visits some of his brother poulterers, he finds one who feeds his fowls every morning a mess of cooked corn meal, all they will eat, and he keeps a hopper of corn always before them, they are very fat and lay regularly and heavily, and when the breeder wants to market them he can sell them at much above the market rate. He finds another who feeds on wheat screenings entirely, and always puts it in a pile of chaff so as to make the fowls scratch for it; his lay well too. Novice goes home with the opinion that it pays to feed fowls well and that fresh meat won't hurt them, that fresh air is more good to them than warm houses, and he acts on his opinion and the next winter and each succeeding one he has as many eggs as any one. A. M. Van Auken.

Fort Howard, Wis.

HENS THAT DON'T SET.

The nonsitting varieties of fowls comprise the different kinds of Hamburgs, Spanish, Leghorns and Polands, and also some of the French fowls, yet, we often meet with individuals of the foregoing breeds which are medium sitters. Non-sitters, if well bred, will not give one confirmed case of sitting among fifty birds, though they sometimes sit for a few hours or a day, but soon leave off. They often have periods of leaving off laying for several days or a week. These correspond to the sitting fever of the incubating breeds. The instances of fowls sitting steadily, although belonging to a breed of pure non-sitters, show reversion to the primitive type when incubation was universal. A cross between two different breeds of non-sitters will produce a race that will sit as regularly and persistently as any fowls. Some crosses between breeds are very desirable, but non-sitters should be kept pure, or the trait which constitutes their principal value will be lost. Where many fowls are kept it is better to have the larger part consist of some non-sitting breed. A great saving may be made in a sitting breed to produce a few good mothers. The rest, say three-quarters of the whole of your stock, should be of some breed of non-sitters. It is as easy to take care of 200 non-sitting hens during the warm season as 100 of a sitting variety.

POULTRY NOTES.

There is a vast difference in the flavor of eggs. Hens fed on clear, sound grain, and kept on a clean grass run, give much finer flavored eggs than hens that have access to stable and manure heaps, and eat all kinds of filthy food. Hens feeding on fish and onions flavor their eggs accordingly, the same as cows eating onions or cabbage, or drinking offensive water, imparts a bad taste to the milk and butter. The richer the food the higher the color of the eggs. Wheat and corn give eggs the best color, while feeding on buckwheat makes them colorless, rendering them unfit for some confectionary purposes.

Breeding Fancy Poultry.—A great many beginners in poultry breeding fail through confining their fowls too closely, keeping one cock in a small pen with one or two hens. This is the natural result of trying to breed purely. Beginners usually have only two or three choice fowls, and turning these out with a flock of dunghills destroys all chances of purity. One cock may be kept with 15 or 20 hens, and, by having only this number, the eggs from the pure breed fowls will be full blood, while the others will be half breeds, and all will be more sure of hatching than if fewer hens were kept with the cock.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

TRANSPLANTING EVERGREENS EARLY.

March 27. In consequence of the teachings of a few writers on horticultural matters, the idea has become quite prevalent that evergreens should not be transplanted as early in spring as deciduous trees. I have frequently read carefully-prepared essays upon this subject, in which the authors attempted, with all the science at command, to show why evergreens should not be moved as early as other trees and shrubs; still, with all this contrary teaching, I have practiced early planting all my life, and with uniform excellent results. I will admit, for the sake of argument, that evergreens can be transplanted after growth commences in spring with more certainty of success than with some kinds of deciduous trees; but it does not follow that early planting would not be still safer and better. By early transplanting, I mean as soon as the frost is out of the ground and cold, freezing weather is over in spring. By moving evergreens at this time we get the benefit of the early spring rains, which carry the soil in among the roots and fill up all interstices which may be left in planting, and when the weather becomes warm enough to excite growth the roots are in close contact with the soil, where the first new fibers can find sustenance without pushing out to any great length. Then, again, evaporation from the leaves, which causes shriveling of the shoots, is not so likely to follow in cool, moist weather as in dry and warm, which usually comes late in spring. I move more or less evergreens every spring, of various ages and sizes, and it is a rare occurrence to have one die if the operation is performed early. The frost is as yet scarcely out of the ground, still I am making preparations to-day for setting out an arbor-vitæ hedge, with plants six to eight years old, and if one in a hundred fail to grow I shall be very much disappointed. I also make a practice of moving pines, spruce and other kinds of hardy evergreens as early as possible, and never experienced the least difficulty in making them all grow.

More trees of all kinds are lost through planting too late in the season than from all other causes combined, and I fear that we have borrowed this idea of late transplanting of evergreens from nursery agents, who, for the purpose of prolonging the season of sales or to ease the minds of their customers on account of losses in consequence of their late delivery of goods, urge that late transplanting of evergreens is preferable to early.

PRUNING RASPBERRIES.

March 28.—We have been pruning and tying up the canes of our black cap raspberries to-day. This operation is necessary to insure large and clean fruit. If the long, slender canes were left unpruned there would be a great number of berries, but of large or medium size, consequently, by cutting back the canes one-third to one-half the length, the size of the fruit upon the remaining portion will be enough larger to make the yield in measure equal to what it would be if the canes were left intact, besides large berries are more juicy and better in flavor than small ones. If the cultivator practices summer pinching of the young growing canes and laterals, less spring pruning will be necessary; but generally the cultivator of such fruits is too busy with other work in summer to give much time to such operations, hence it goes over to the usual season of pruning.

I went out among my raspberries this morning, expecting to order the destruction of the larger part of the plants of all the black cap sorts, for I have no use for a hundredth part of the fruit annually produced in my garden, even with the help of all the birds, which are always welcome, and help themselves very liberally, but the winter has been mild, and the plants looked so fresh, healthy and vigorous, that I concluded to let them stand another season.

How it is that so many farmers, and other people who have land on which to grow such things, have no berries, or, at most, a very short supply from their gardens, is beyond my comprehension, for of all the cheap and easily produced articles in temperate climates, the small fruits are unsurpassed. It is no wonder that they are so often a drug in the market, because raised with such ease and abundance. After pruning the plants in spring it is well to top-dress them with manure, unless growing in very rich soil. Large and fine fruit, like large and fine cattle, are only to be obtained by corresponding liberal feed.

DO BEES GATHER, OR MAKE HONEY?

I notice that Prof. CHAS. V. RILEY, the eminent entomologist of Missouri, has asked apiarians the above question, and now awaits their reply. It seems an odd kind of a question to ask after so much has been written on aplaculture, still it is an open one, and I expect to see some curious answers. Perhaps it will be settled on old SOLON ROBINSON'S theory that "nobody knows anything positive about anything."

Such questions as this about honey do good in leading people to observe, read and study up a subject which they might otherwise pass over without giving it a thought. Prof. RILEY claims that bees *make* honey, and, of course, it is different from the crude saccharine substances gathered by the bees from flowers. It has long been claimed that the honey of mountainous districts is higher flavored than those of low, and the honey gathered in spring better than that of autumn. It is also claimed that young swarms make better honey than old ones. If this be true it looks very much as though bees made honey instead of simply gathering it. They may hastily store up sugar when given them in liquid form without changing its character, but it is a question if this could be truly called honey. But with the two mooted questions now up for discussion, viz., "Do bees make or gather honey? and can or do bees puncture the skin of peaches, grapes and other fruits and then suck out their juice?" there is a chance for some lively talk the coming season.

Arboricultural.

TREES ON "HIGH, DRY, WINDY PRAIRIES."

Your "Gentleman near New York City" does not exactly hit the mark in respect to tree-planting on "Western high, dry, windy prairies." Having lived on these prairies, in Nebraska, for the last four years, not so very far from your Kansas inquirer, and being somewhat extensively engaged in tree-planting, I have some opportunities of knowing something about the matter.

NO TROUBLE IN RAISING TREES.

There is here no inherent uncongeniality to trees and tree-culture. Your "Gentleman near New York" seems to share in some degree the views of Prof. WHITNEY of New Haven, who some years since maintained that prairie soil lacked elements, or at least an element, essential to tree growth. He failed to specify what it was, but surmised that it consisted, at least partially, in "the extreme fineness of the particles of the soil."

But the Professor's views, and those also of your "Gentlemen near New York," so far from being confirmed, are flatly contradicted by the experience of every homesteader and tree grower on these "high, dry, windy prairies." Trees *are* raised here, and as easily as in any other part of the country whatever, and that settles the question;—the proof of the pudding is always in the eating. I am raising trees by the ten thousand, with less labor and expense than any man can raise them anywhere outside of the "Western high, dry, windy prairies."

NO MYSTERY.

It is deemed a mystery by our Eastern readers why, if there is here no uncongeniality to trees, they do not therefore grow more extensively on these prairies. But there is no mystery to any common-sense observer on the ground. One thing sufficiently and clearly accounts for it—it is *fire!*

The annual prairie fires render trees a simple impossibility by destroying the seeds that get scattered, and even the young trees that spring up here and there between the yearly burnings. There is no wonder about it to a man with his eyes open and his wits about him.

The only wonder is that any trees have escaped the destruction of the fire. And yet, all along the streams, where moisture prevents the burning, and on more barren places, not producing vegetation enough to burn, trees are growing and increasing at a very considerable rate. When we speak of an increase of rain-fall being induced by an increase of trees, many say, "That is impossible, since there are not yet planted forests enough to produce any noticeable results." But the fact is that Nature herself is constantly and gradually increasing tree-growth in this prairie country—at points where streams, or canons, or "draws," or other agencies, obstruct the advance of fire.

OBSTACLES.

I said there is no "inherent" uncongeniality. Still there are peculiar obstacles. The principal are winter winds and summer heat—the former killing some of the tenderer deciduous trees, and the latter "burning out" some of the tenderer evergreens. And yet the list of trees that for these causes do not grow well here is not longer than that in other places that, for local reasons, do not flourish. Besides, in process of time, when trees that do prosper here are generally raised, both of these obstacles will disappear. Groves will both break the winter winds and moderate the staring summer heat.

INDIGENOUS TREES.

These prairies have indigenous to them some of the best trees to be found in the whole catalogue of our dendrology. There is the cottonwood, the box elder, the ash, the maple, the black and white walnut, the oak, the elm, the red cedar, and in some places the yellow pine.

The cottonwood has been depreciated far below what it justly merits, and it will eventually compel an estimation far above that in which it is now held. The Creator could not well make a tree better adapted for the commencement of a tree plantation on these prairies. It is hardy, quick of growth, easy to propagate, sure to grow, and, if properly handled, produces a dense, high grove in an almost unprecedentedly short time, admirable for fencing if properly treated, and for fuel, for frame timber and general farm purposes.

The box elder is esteemed at the East as an ornamental tree. Here it is that and much more. It also is indigenous, hardy, of quick growth, good for wind-breaks and for timber, easily grown, and is almost equal to the hard maple as a sugar tree.

Of the other trees I need not speak. They are too well known and universally appreciated, and they can all be grown here as easily as anywhere else—many of them much more easily.

HOW TO GROW THEM.

Cottonwoods generally grow well from cuttings, providing the cuttings are in good condition when planted. The more vigorous the shoot from which they are cut the better. Cut them 8 to 10 inches long, just as the sap is swelling the buds, put them speedily into the ground, and they will seldom fail to grow.

They may be planted be a person striking a spade down the length of its blade, shoving the handle forward, so as to leave space behind it, and then shove the cutting down into this space, withdraw the spade and step immediately in front of the cutting, so as to press the ground closely around it. They may also be dropped into a shallow furrow and covered with a plow. In this case the ground should afterward be rolled, so as to press the earth close around them. It is not certain but this is the better way.

But cottonwoods seed themselves readily on the sand bars along all the rivers and streams in these parts. They can, when one and two years old, be easily pulled up with the hand—a thousand an hour—costing nothing but the pulling up and conveying to the point desired. They can be planted in a manner similar to the cuttings. If one does not live near one of these streams, he can get seedlings from some one who does, without the intervention of any nurseryman.

Box elder and ash are best propagated from the seed, which ripens in the fall, but does not generally drop to the ground until spring. It may be gathered any time before it falls and planted in nursery rows in the spring, to be set out where they are to grow the next spring.

Black walnut and butternut are best planted where they are to grow, immediately after the falling of the nuts and without "shucking" them. Drop them in furrows, as the land is plowed, four to six feet apart each way, covering with the plow. Sometimes they will not all come up until a year from the following spring. They do not transplant well. Acorns may be planted in the same way—as indeed may also ash and box elder.

All these young trees need cultivating for the first two or three years. A good plan is to plant corn with them, especially the first year. The shade of the corn is a help to the trees and the trees do not injure the corn, and the crop amply pays for the first plowing and the after cultivation.

Our Kansas friend doesn't want to put his cuttings out in a bed, but where they are to grow—doesn't want to apply to "nurserymen," as Nature has provided a better and more abundant supply than they have or can. He *had* better get seeds of box elder, ash, walnut and oak and plant them himself.

The fact really is that "A Gentleman near New York" is not very well qualified to give advice about Western tree-planting, without a Western experience. A. D. WILLIAMS.

Kenesaw, Neb.

REMARKS ON THE ABOVE.—I like a good, generous criticism, but fear that my critic in this instance has presumed upon knowledge which he does not possess. Reversing the order of his remarks, I must ask him how he learned that the "Gentleman near New York" is "not qualified to give advice about Western tree-planting," and how he happens to know that the said Gent. has not had "Western experience?" Would it be impossible for a man to reside at the present time "near New York" and at some previous period on the prairies or elsewhere?

Now, the advice which I gave my Kansas correspondent is just the kind which I think he needs, and it was not given at random, without "Western experience" in the business, and for the purpose of soothing the feelings of Mr. WILLIAMS I will say that my first visit west of the Mississippi occurred twenty-nine years ago last September, and that I have not only had more than twice four years of practical horticultural experience in the West, but have "leafed" about frequently, and recently, over the prairies and plains from Texas to Nebraska and West to Utah. I therefore claim the right to at least guess how forest tree-planting might be safely conducted on the plains.

If there is "no trouble in rearing trees," it is very strange that so many fail and are constantly seeking advice. My critic also says that it is "deemed a mystery by your Eastern people why, if there is no uncongeniality to trees," &c. But in this he is mistaken again, for it is plain as a "pikestaff" to any one who has passed over the plains from Omaha to Cheyenne, or from St. Louis to Denver, why trees thrive in some localities and not in others. Few persons of experience, I think, will agree with you in undervaluing nursery-grown trees, or of transplanting once or twice before finally planting where the tree is to grow to maturity. Cottonwood will answer as a makeshift at the start, but in intrinsic value it is the very lowest in the scale, just a little better than nothing for timber or fuel. Because you are near timber and get the various kinds of trees from the native forests, it does not follow that everybody else is as favorably located, and hence my advice to those differently situated to purchase the young seedlings from the nurseries instead of trying to raise them, unless they have had experience in such matters.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

Patrons of Husbandry.

NATIONAL GRANGE AMENDMENTS.

THE Master of the National Grange has issued a proclamation announcing that Nos. one, three, four, five, six, seven, ten, thirteen and fourteen of the Amendments proposed at the meeting of the National Grange have been ratified by three-fourths of the State Granges and are now part of the National Constitution. The amendments which have been adopted are summarized as follows:

1. Amend the preamble under the head of "State Grange," by substituting the following for section 1:

"Section 1. *Fifth Degree.* Pomona (Hope). Composed of Masters and past Masters of sub-Granges, and their wives who are matrons; provided, that past Masters and their wives who are matrons shall be honorary members, eligible to office, but not entitled to vote, and provided that when the number of subordinate Granges in any State becomes so great as to render it necessary, the State Grange may, in such manner as it may determine, reduce its representatives by providing for the election of a certain proportion of those entitled to membership in the State Grange from each county, and the members so chosen shall constitute the voting members of the State Grange."

3. Amend the Constitution under the head of "Orginazation of State Granges," in the fourth line of pages, by striking out the words "not to exceed three."

4. Amend the preamble to the Constitution under the head "National Grange" by inserting between the words "Master" and "of," where they occur in the second line of said paragraph, the words "past Masters and their wives," and also by adding at the close of said paragraph the words following to wit:—"Provided that only those members of the National Grange, who are Masters of State Granges, and their wives who are matrons, shall be entitled to vote therein; and provided further, that past Masters and their wives who have taken the degree of Pomona, and all former members of the National Grange, shall be honorary members of the National Grange, eligible to office therein, but shall not be entitled to vote."

5. Amend article 1, section 1, of the Constitution by inserting the word "district" between the words "state" and "on," where they occur in the second line of said section.

6. Amend article 1, section 2, of the constitution, by inserting between the words "practicable" and "on," where they occur in the fourth line of said section, the words following, to wit: "In the district grange annually at such time as each district Grange may determine."

7. Amend article 1, section 2, of the Constitution by striking out the word "three," where it occurs in the sixth line of said section, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two."

Amend article 5 by adding the following after the word "refunded," in the seventh line of said article:—"And no petition shall be received from a rejected applicant until six months shall have elapsed after such rejection."

13. Amend article 7, section 3, of the Constitution, by striking out the word "ten," where it occurs in the third line of said section, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

14. Amend article 8, section 7, of the Constitution by striking out the word "one," where it occurs in the first line of said section, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two."

Domestic Economy.

MENDING TIN WARE, AGAIN.

In the Rural of Feb. 19, page 123, I read an article upon this subject. In my younger days I learned a trade requiring the nicest use of the soldering-iron, so called, though the iron is or should be copper. I always do our own soldering of every description, and considerable for the neighbors. A satisfactory soldering-iron will cost (at hardware store) half a dollar or more—one costing much less will not hold heat long enough. To do good work the soldering-iron must be kept well tinned at the point or where it is to come in contact with the work. To tin the iron proceed as follows: Take a brick and hollow one side about the size and shape, but a little deeper than the bowl of a tablespoon. Fill this place half full (or more) of pulverized rosin. The "iron" should have four equal faces, tapering gradually to a point. With a middling coarse file brighten the faces of the iron to the point.

Now heat the iron, but *never* let it get red hot. By holding it near your cheek you will soon learn when it is hot enough. When heated, wipe the faces quickly on an old cotton cloth slightly wet, then with it melt enough tinman's solder to fully fill the bowl of a large teaspoon, letting the solder as it melts drop into the cavity of the brick with the rosin. Now plunge the iron into this melted solder and rosin, rubbing it violently back and forth—first in and then out. The brick will keep the face bright till the solder adheres to it. Keep rubbing all four of the sides till each is thoroughly tinned. If any spots of the iron refuse to take the tin, brighten the same with the file while the iron is hot and then rub it in the cavity. To prepare the fluid spoken of in former article, drop small pieces of zinc into the muriatic acid, one at a time, waiting till each is dissolved, and keep adding till the acid will dissolve no more.

For soldering tinware, it is far better to scrape the tin bright and apply pulverized rosin than to use the liquid, but if the tin is worn off then the liquid must be used. Its use, however, rapidly corrodes the soldering-iron, which will have to be filed again before it can be tinned. Red heat also takes the tinning off. To scrape your work, use an old three-cornered file, ground sharp towards the point. Keep the brick for future use. Always wipe the iron after heating to remove ashes, etc. M. P. P.

ORIGINAL RECIPES, ETC.

To Cook Beans.—When beans are kept over a year or more they become rather difficult to cook tender. One way to accomplish it is to soak them over night in soft water, and in the morning put them to boil, putting a quarter of a teaspoonful of soda into the water. The water must be turned off as soon as it boils, and changed two or three times. Have a teakettle of boiling water ready to cover them when the other is poured off, as cold water hardens them again. After they begin to crack open they should be put in the oven, with a piece of pork previously freshened, and water enough to keep them from burning, and bake a couple of hours. Beans are a healthful and convenient dish and should often appear on a farmer's table, being as good or better when cold than they are when just cooked.

Bean Porridge.—When the beans are skimmed from the kettle to be put baking, leave a teacupful or more of the beans in the kettle. Set the kettle on the top of the stove where the beans will slowly cook fine. Then season the broth with sufficient salt, pepper and butter, to make it relish, and, with good Graham bread, it makes a soup fit for a king or a dyspeptic.

Fruit Cans.—Those who have emptied their fruit cans of their first contents, and are fortunate enough to have green apples, may now fill them with apple sauce for future use. Flavored with lemon or black raspberries, and put up hot, like other fruit, this sauce is preferable to good dried apples. Some chop cabbage fine and pack tightly in glass cans, covering it with cold cider vinegar, seal them up, and find them an excellent resource when the warmer season comes on. It keeps well in this way. —Farmer's Wife.

Ginger Bread.—I send a good recipe for ginger bread:—one pint molasses, one-half cup butter, one-half cup sour milk, two teaspoonfuls ginger, one of soda, two eggs, four cups flour.—F. W.

Hard Soap.—Will some one give, through the Rural, a good recipe for making hard soap, such as the grocers keep for sale?—F. W.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Fried Chicken.—Cut a cold chicken into small joints and put them in a deep dish, covering them with some chopped parsley, onion, salt, pepper, and a little salad oil, and squeeze over all the juice of a lemon; let the chicken remain in this three or four hours, turning the pieces every now and then; then take them out, dredge each piece with flour and fry them. Pile high on a dish, and pour a good gravy sauce, seasoned, and flavored with sweet herbs, around it.

Meat and Rusk Puddings.—Chop any kind of cold meat with salt pork or ham, season it well with butter, pepper and salt, and add two or three beaten eggs. Then make alternate layers of wet rusk crumbs, with milk, or cold boiled hominy or rice, and bake half or three quarters of an hour. Let the upper layer be crumbs, and cover with a plate while baking, and when nearly done take it off to brown the top.

To Cook Oatmeal, Etc.—In cooking oatmeal, hominy, wheaten grits, cracked wheat, or any of those nice breakfast dishes, cook it in a covered tin dish set in a kettle of boiling water; in this manner there is no danger of scorching. Cornstarch pudding, sea-moss, farina, and all other articles mixed with milk, can be cooked in the same way.

Cheap Curtains.—One of the most agreeable materials for curtaining windows is coarse unbleached cotton. The irregularity of the thread and the roughness of the surface gives its soft folds much the charm of a Russia crash, and its hue warms the light of cool, north windows almost to the glow of sunshine.—*Housekeeper.*

Cranberry Roll. Stew a quart of cranberries in sufficient water to keep them from burning. Make it very sweet, strain and cool. Make a paste, and when the cranberry is cold, spread it on the paste about an inch thick, roll it, tie it close in a flannel cloth, boil two hours, and serve with a sweet sauce.

Rye and Indian Mush.—Use two parts rather coarse corn meal and one part rye meal, stirring in the corn meal first and cooking awhile if desired, then adding the rye meal, stirring very carefully; cover close and cook slowly one hour or more.

Hygienic Information.

GOOD REMEDIES.

Mr. Editor:—I send you some well tried remedies. Having tested them, I know them to be good:

To Cure White Swelling or Scrofula.—Scrape common elder bark, bitter sweet, mullein leaves—equal parts. Boil together in a little water; then put in a little golden seal. Stew all in fresh butter and mutton tallow, equal parts, until well done. Then strain and put back in pot, and put in beeswax and pine tar. Stew them all together. For use, spread on a cloth and apply as a poultice.

For Sore Eyes.—Take two tablespoonfuls honey, teaspoonful salt, tincture of balsam buds, one tablespoonful, teaspoonful gum pine. Make a paste and put it over the eyes. A thin cloth to go on the eyes first.—A Farmer's Wife.

Cure for Croup.—A piece of lard as big as a butternut, rubbed up with sugar, divided into three parts and given at intervals of 20 minutes. —B. C.

Cure for Toothache.—Take a lump of lime as large as a hickory nut, put it in a quart bottle of water, and rinse the mouth with it frequently. —B. C.

THE TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD.

A Phila. correspondent writes:—"I saw lately a letter written by Charles Reade to a young lady medical student of this city. She had written to him inquiring about the case of transfusion of blood mentioned in his novel, 'Griffith Gaunt.' He replied that the instance was a real one, and gave the particulars of the occurrence, also citing several authorities that mentioned similar cases. He said that when 'Griffith Gaunt' first appeared he was assailed by many members of the medical profession who did not believe in the transfusion of blood, and accused him of perverting the facts of science in his desire to be sensational. He concluded by saying that in defending his position he had become deeply interested in the study of medicine, and desired his correspondent, with whose professional aspirations he had much sympathy, to keep him posted regarding her researches on this particular subject, and her general progress and success in her profession."

TOO MUCH MEDICINE.

Some one, writing on the excessive use of medicine and the recuperating power of Nature, says:—It would be utterly impossible to tell how many constitutions have been impaired, how many digestions ruined, how many complexions spoiled, and how many purses emptied, through medicine. What is that you say—that a stitch in time saves nine, and that the right medicine quickly taken averts danger? Very likely. I quite believe that. But in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, where is the danger? and what is the emergency of the case? Medicine is often the precursor of after misery; and the poor constitution has to pay dearly for its medicinal fillip. The wiser philosophy of the present day is gradually delivering us from these potent perils. Nature has a self-righting power within her; there is a kind of vis-medicatrix in the physical frame. Treat the body kindly; let as much pure air as possible get to the lungs, and as much fresh water as possible be applied to the flesh, and as much healthy exercise as duty permits be given to the muscles, and early rising as circumstances allow be afforded for the recruitment of the brain, and then medicine will be a very avoidable affair.

APOLEXY AND INTOXICATION.

The British Medical Journal speaks of the difficulty often existing in distinguishing between intoxication and fatal apoplexy. Apoplexy from cerebral hemorrage imitates not only the comatose stage of drunkenness, but occasionally the "uproarious" form, when the drunkard seems determined to show what can be done in the line of noise. A recent case exemplifies this remark. A gentleman was found lying in the gutter by a policeman, and as the gentleman sang "Tommy, make way for your uncle," and also said part of the Lord's prayer, he was supposed to be drunk, and was taken to the police office. Later on, as he seemed to be in a fit, he was sent to a hospital, and died there next morning of apoplexy from disease of the brain. Dr. Hughling Jackson has recorded the case of a man who, during fatal coma, elaborately twirled his mustache. It was afterwards found that this was a very common trick of his.

ANTIDOTE FOR RATTLESNAKE BITE.

A writer in the St. Augustine (Fla.) Press says that a post-office agent traveling in Texas, tells of the successful use of the gall of a rattlesnake as an antidote for the bite of that reptile. In the case spoken of relief was almost instantaneous to the patient, who was writhing in paroxysms of great pain, rapidly swelling and becoming purple. A friend of the writer, who had spent several years in California and New Mexico, saw the same remedy successfully used among the Indians in the latter country. In one instance an Indian's dog near the camp was bitten in the nose by a large rattlesnake. The Indians immediately opened the reptile and administered the gall. The cure was rapid and effectual.

Around the Republic.

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

Having visited the South every year for four successive seasons, and having given considerable attention to the climate, resources and possibilities of the country, I venture to offer the Rural a few thoughts which may be suggestive to persons seeking homes.

Last year I spent several weeks in Pike Co., Miss., one of the southern tier of counties; and this year I have repeated the sojourn with increased pleasure and with confirmed good opinion of this part of the State. This is the region of the long-leafed pine, immense forests of which spread over the highlands between the rivers. The bottom lands along the Bogue-Chitto (a branch of Pearl River), the Topisaw and other streams in Pike and adjoining Counties, are rich as prairies, and far more inviting to agriculturists. The timber along the water courses consists principally of beech, oak, magnolia, gum, cypress, etc., with considerable hickory and some walnut. The forests afford ample material for the manufacture of agricultural implements, wagons, cabinet organs and other wares which must soon be in great demand all over the South. The splendid pines are the delight of builders and carpenters, and stand waiting the ax and saw. The lumber obtained here is of the best quality, and the variety sufficient for all practical purposes.

The climate along this belt of latitude is delicious. There is just enough saltness in the Gulf breezes which stir through the pine forests, to breathe health and wholesomeness over the land; and the sun is so clear and the air so pure that malaria is unknown. Indeed, persons seriously affected by pulmonary diseases, by a few months' residence at McComb City, Summit, or Magnolia, (on the railroad which runs north from New Orleans to Chicago, and directly through this elevated region of Southern Mississippi,) have become robust and strong again. One or two striking cases of this kind have come under my personal observation, and I speak from facts in hand. Snow is rarely seen in Pike County, and ice seldom forms to a greater thickness than an eighth of an inch in the coldest weather. Garden vegetables may be grown almost the year round, and strawberries have ripened here nine months in the year. There is a tonic in the atmosphere which is refreshing to persons accustomed to the extremes of heat and cold in the North. Although in midsummer days there are more hours of heat, the thermometer seldom rises to 100, while the nights are usually breezy and cool. It has been hotter on July days in Minnesota than in Mississippi!

This country is full of promise to the immigrant. These broad, rich acres of cotton land, bordered by abundant timber and traversed by living streams, are lying waste, waiting for the hand of intelligent industry. Far westward the best lands are being taken—the tide of emigration has swept up to the thin sage-brush barrens which verge the Rocky Mountains; but here, southward, are vast regions of richer soil and grander possibilities, which need only to be seen to be secured and developed. On the Bogue-Chitto bottoms are farms of hundreds—and in some cases thousands—of acres, which can be bought for seven to ten dollars per acre, where, in one or two years, the cotton crop alone would more than pay the entire purchase prices. There is one farm six miles from the railroad—a beautiful situation—2,300 acres, about one half in timber. The balance is good fencing, with comfortable dwellings, cotton gin, barns, etc., which is in the market at $12,000. Last year's cotton crop netted $4,800, to say nothing of the corn and other productions. It is owned by an aged gentleman who wishes to retire and who does not care to manage the negro laborers. Other farms of similar features and productiveness are for sale for similar reasons. Such opportunities for investment of means and employment of skilled labor I have nowhere else found in the country, and I have been over the ground several times from Maine to California and from Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico.

It is the desire of the Southern people to have white settlers from the North. Nobody is more welcome here—all political comments to the contrary notwithstanding—than the industrious Yankee who comes with his means, his family and his ingenuity, to aid in developing this country. There is room for every honest worker. The old citizens are anxious for the new order of husbandry—for the era of drills, subsoilers, reapers and threshers. These over-large and ragged-edged plantations need to be divided into farms of manageable dimensions—to have deeper plowing, straighter fencing, orcharding, clovering, grassing; in short, the radical reconstruction of an Improved Agriculture, rather than the annoyance of itinerating speculators and political reconstructers.

I have been in the rural districts, among the out-of-the-way planters and old residents of Mississippi, and I have found but one sentiment on this subject:—It is hearty welcome to every immigrant who comes to stay, to work, to join interests and hopes and responsibilities with the common people. And there are no prejudices here against the negro which need crowd him to the wall. There is a disposition to give the black man a chance, to educate him to an intelligent appreciation of his privileges as a voter and a citizen, and in every effort to elevate the colored race by school and church and State, the native Southerner is ready to advise, to help, and to abide the results.

I am sure the Rural, which I have read and enjoyed for twenty years, will allow me to make these statements in the interest of this section of our country; for among your readers, Mr. Editor, may be many who are thinking of homes in the West or South, and who, if here, might become factors in a commonwealth which, in a few years, would excel even New England for thrift, for culture, and for congenial society. I dare not permit my pen to express my own enthusiasm touching this subject, lest I might perchance, create discontent among farmers who are already comfortably located, and who had better remain where they are; but to all who seek more land, a more congenial climate, a new society, and new productions, with an almost certain prospect of rich returns for every investment of money and labor, I am sure Southern Mississippi offers inducements which are worthy of candid consideration. And all this I say the more freely, since I have no personal interest in the matter, my own business being of such character as to hold me in the North; but to the young man who wishes a pleasant home in a productive land and who is willing to cast his lot in a State which is sure to emerge from present comparative obscurity and confusion into the might and majesty of a redeemed Commonwealth, I point with good conscience to Southern Mississippi.

Persons who desire facts about soil, productions, climate or other points, may do well to address Col. M. B. Hillyard, McComb City, Miss., who is a Christian gentleman whom I have known for some time, and whose word is authority. Alexander Clark.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1876.

THE RURAL HOME'S "SOUR MILK."

ON Feb. 26 the Rural Home made an outrageously false charge against the Dairy Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, in this—that there had been a "marked omission" of Mr. ARNOLD's addresses at dairy conventions "in every report where Mr. ARNOLD has taken part which the R. N.-Y. *has printed of late years*."

In our reply we called the attention of the Editor of the Rural Home to a report of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Convention in January last, where Mr. ARNOLD is mentioned in these columns in very complimentary terms. Convicted of his misstatement, the Editor of the Rural Home complains that the report in question was not made by the Dairy Editor of this paper, and he again reiterates the charge from this point. We now call the attention of the Rural Home to *our* report of the American Dairymen's Association, printed in the RURAL NEW-YORKER of Feb. 5, 1876, in which there is a brief abstract of Mr. ARNOLD's address, and we say again that this was made by the Dairy Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and appears in good, plain type in our columns *only twenty-one days* previous to the R. H.'s sweeping and wholesale misrepresentation of our "*omitting to notice*," and which the Editor then falsely charges to jealousy of Mr. ARNOLD. In all the conventions this year in which we have been present with Mr. ARNOLD he has been noticed in these columns, either by ourselves or others, with the exception of the Vermont meeting, at which we were not present on the first day, and at which we heard *no* address and only a few brief remarks of no particular importance, and which were called out in answer to questions. We did not report the complimentary resolutions because we believed, and have been informed, they were questionably got up, and upon this we stand ready to be corrected, if wrong, by those who know. We did not say, or *imply*, as the Rural Home has it, that Mr. A. was not invited to that meeting. The Rural Home is now forced to admit that Mr. A. gave no formal address, but says he made an "*off-hand*" *address* on "curing cheese." This, we suppose, was one of Mr. A.'s short answers to questions propounded and now claimed as an address, for we are informed by an officer of the Vermont Dairymen's Association that Mr. ARNOLD *did not* make an address at the Vermont meeting.

Of the conventions of 1875, we were present at three in company with Mr. A., and at two of these he gave no formal address, and for the third he is noticed in the RURAL NEW-YORKER. In 1874 the Dairy Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER noticed Mr. ARNOLD in the RURAL of Jan. 10, in the RURAL of Feb. 21, and in the RURAL of March 14, giving quite full abstracts of his addresses. We have named the papers, so that the sapient editor of the R. H. can refer to them at leisure and cogitate over his *false statements* that we have ignored Mr. A. "in the RURAL for years past."

Now, after this showing, what can be said of the very astute Rural Home and its editor, who has thus wantonly falsified facts and made an entirely unprovoked attack upon us?—making charges upon us which he cannot sustain—charges the object of which, it is apparent, are for the purpose of injuring us and to help a *personal* object of his own.

We have no space in the columns of the RURAL NEW-YORKER to devote to personal matters of this character, but we have felt compelled to show that this brazen charge of "jealousy," made by the Rural Home, is utterly false and without a shadow of foundation. After these misrepresentations from the Rural Home, the public need not be surprised at any misstatements made through the HOPKINS and ARNOLD organ.—X. A. W.

HIRING FARM HELP.

PRIVATE letters from Western New York say that the wages of farm hands open much lower this spring than for several seasons past. From $16 to $20 per month and board seems to be the usual price this year. This reduction is a natural result of the very unfavorable outcome of last year's operations, and is what we may have expected. Fewer potatoes and other hoed crops will be grown, and in every possible way farmers will try to reduce expenses of hired labor. The effort to do this has already resulted in a reduction of wages which on many farms would constitute a considerable item of profit if the same amount of help was hired as last year. Yet in the great majority of cases less will be hired and the saving to farmers will be both ways.

Is this the wisest policy? We know very well that farmers are less disposed to hire help under the gloomy outlook based on last year's failures than when everybody is hopeful, wages are high, and all are hiring largely. Yet it is altogether probable that now is a more favorable time to hire than for several seasons past—better possibly than we may have again in years to come. Odd jobs of underdraining and the like can be better undertaken the coming summer with a low rate of wages than in ordinary times. For those who have not money to spare for such work, it is equally probably that extensive farming operations, cropping and manuring will pay fully as well the coming year as usual. Low wages indicate that farm work next summer is to be generally conducted on a reduced scale. Fewer crops will be put in, or they will be less carefully and thoroughly cultivated. The chances are that all farm crops, being grown in smaller quantities than usual, will command higher than average prices. With lower wages of help and a fair season, those who crop largely the coming year will be apt to make a hit. It is a rule with some shrewd farmers to plant or sow largely of "cheap seed." It would seem to be an equally wise dictate of prudence to hire a good deal of help and get a large amount of work done when wages are low. With good crops and prices next season, wages will probably be considerably higher next spring, and then rather than now will be a good time to hesitate about employing much labor.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Paying the National Debt.—A man in Cincinnati has forwarded to Sec'y BRISTOW at Washington, a letter in which he carefully incloses a dollar bill. He is not a whisky distiller nor a thief of any kind. The dollar is not "conscience money," sometimes returned by penitent defrauders. On the contrary, this man solemnly avers that he does not owe Uncle SAM a cent, but sends this dollar as a nucleus to a fund which will, in time, pay the National debt. We hate awfully to discourage such patriotic enterprise; but it is a solemn fact that money "given" for any purpose is quite as apt to do more hurt than good. Paying the National debt by private subscription is no exception. If half a dozen men or women should forward their dollars to Washington, we should straightway be told that it was absolutely necessary to put this patriotic fund under a new Department, with a Secretary or Commissioner to take charge of it and a Chief Clerk to give orders to a dozen assistant clerks, who would, in time, make the payment of five or six dollars on the National debt at a cost to the Treasury of eight or ten to twenty thousand dollars. The mania for making useless offices will far outrun the zeal of any private enterprise in sending money to Washington. In fact, we apprehend that the best way to pay the National debt is to send less money rather than more, to Washington. Less money will compel greater economy, and in these hard times it is a great deal easier as well as better every way, to save money than to make it. This rule is just as good for governments as for private individuals.

The Centennial Corn Premiums.—The circular giving details of the premiums offered by Mr. WILSON and others for corn is now ready and will be sent to all applicants. It is unavoidably crowded out of the RURAL NEW-YORKER this week, but will be published by us on April 15. It includes 130 premiums, ranging from $10 to $100, included in which are 10 premiums of $100 each for the ten best experiments in growing corn with commercial fertilizers, which is included for Granges and clubs. There is a great deal of interest among farmers in these corn premiums, and we look, not only for lively competition, but the discovery of many important and practical facts in corn culture. Without doubt, private enterprise can manage this business better than the State; but the public benefits to all parts of our country from this competitive study of the best methods of growing and feeding corn will be worth many times the two thousand dollars in premiums by which it is secured.

Vermont Merino Sheep Breeders' Association—is the title of an organization formed at a recent adjourned meeting of Vermont wool growers held at Middlebury, following the one noticed in the RURAL of the 25th ult. The object of the Association, as stated in the report of a committee previously appointed to prepare a Constitution, is, "In its own sphere, and in co-operation with other similar associations in other States, to preserve the purity of the Spanish Merino race of sheep, encourage their further improvement, and, as a means to these ends, to provide for the registration of the histories and pedigrees of the flocks of Spanish Merino sheep in Vermont and elsewhere." The constitution of the Association is similar to that of the Ohio one organized for like purposes. The following board of officers was elected for 1876: President—N. T. SPRAGUE, Jr., Brandon. Vice-Pres't's.—S. S. Rockwell, Cornwall; George Campbell, Westminster. Secretary—Albert Chapman, Middlebury. Treas.—Charles D. Lane, Cornwall. Directors—E. N. Bissell, Shoreham; L. P. Clark, Addison; J. H. Mead, West Rutland; A. E. Perkins, Pomfret. Committee on Pedigrees—W. R. Remele, Middlebury; J. T. Stickney, Shoreham; J. J. Crane, Bridport.

A New Cotton Planter.—There have been many attempts to adapt machinery to cotton planting and nearly as many failures. A decade ago a clergyman-farmer of Western New York invented a cotton planter which seemed to do the work well but for some reason—perhaps the lack of means or enterprise, or both, to introduce it—it did not prove a success. Recently some one has been more fortunate, for we read that the ordinary horse grain-drill has been modified so that it may be used in planting cotton seed precisely as it now plants corn and other grains. The modification consists of an apparatus in the box carrying the seed, whereby the cotton seed is continually shaken or agitated, and the sticking together of the seeds, caused by their fibrous covering, prevented, so that they find their way singly into the planting-drills. This planter has all the advantages of the best grain-drills, and may be used with or without the mixture of fertilizing materials with the seeds. If we mistake not this is also the invention of a Western New-Yorker.

Death of Rysdyk's Hambletonian.—The world-renowned stallion known as Rysdyk's Hambletonian—the sire of Dexter and other famous trotters—died at Chester, Orange Co., N. Y., on the 26th ultimo. The income from Hambletonian was over $10,000 a year, and it is said that at one time $100,000 was offered for him. He was nearly 30 years old. About 27 years ago he was bought for $150 from the SEELEY family, at Sugar Loaf, Orange County. Before Mr. RYSDYK's death, he selected a place where the old horse was to be buried in a fenced-in lot, with appropriate headstone. He left a clause in his will, that under no circumstances should the horse's remains be mutilated after death. Two offers were made after his death, one of $500 and one of $1,000, for Hambletonian's hide, for the purpose of preserving the horse in his natural shape; but the offers were refused by the RYSDYK family. The famous horse was buried with honors, and his remains will be undisturbed.

The Pennsylvania Dairymens' Association will hold a meeting at Union City, Pa., on Wednesday, April 12, 1876. Among the papers to be read at this meeting we notice the following: Testing milk at cheese factories, by S. SORRENSEN of Meadville; What are the characteristics of the best cheese and how is such cheese made, by J. M. BIGGER, Cambridge; Influence of a Board of Trade, by M. H. TERRY, Waterford; Cheese exhibit at the Centennial, by D. W. TITUS, Phillipsville; Local influences as affecting quality of dairy products, H. C. GREENE, Meadville; Butter making, by S. E. KINCAID of Wayne. A discussion will be had on the subject, "Are manufacturing rates too high." Affirmative—Dr. GRAY of Cambridge; Negative—S. A. FARRINGTON, Cambridge. The Pennsylvania Association is a live society, and the meeting will, without doubt, be one of interest.

"The James Islander."—This is the name of a new paper, soon to be issued by Bro. O. H. KELLEY, Secretary of the National Grange. The first number will be ready on the 15th of April, and it will be largely devoted to the interests of Florida, from one locality of which it takes its name. For the present it will be issued monthly, in editions of 10,000 and 20,000 each, for distribution in the North. The people of the Southern States, and especially of Florida, may be sure that their interests and advantages will receive more effective care than ever before, as Secretary KELLEY is bound to make a success of everything which he undertakes.

New York State and the Centennial Dairy Display.—A bill has been introduced in the Assembly by Hon. M. A. MCKEE of Herkimer, appropriating from the State the sum of $8,000 to pay necessary expenses incident to a complete representation of the dairy system and dairy products of the State of New York at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. M. FOLSOM of New York City, JOHN SHATTUCK of Norwich and JOSIAH SHULL of Ilion, are named as a special Centennial Board for the State of New York to co-operate with the Centennial Commission.

On the Wrong Track.—The American Agriculturist years ago earned the name, "The Ishmael of the Agricultural Press." This position seems to have been not altogether comfortable. Judging from its mean attack on the late Buffalo Live Stock Journal, consolidated last month with its namesake of Chicago, our neighbor seems to have adopted the profession of a ghoul. In this safe field we wish it all the enjoyment it craves. It had better take care however not to run foul of the National Live Stock Journal of Chicago, which is not its kind of game.

Centennial Poet.—Mr. BAYARD TAYLOR, journalist and traveler, has been selected as Poet of the Centennial Exhibition in place of Mr. LONGFELLOW, who declined. The selection is a good one. Mr. TAYLOR is a many-sided man, and writing a poem is one of the many things he can do well. The thousands who will hear the poem read, and the many millions more who will only read it, have a rich treat in prospect in the ode for our country's Centennial anniversary.

Mushrooms.—The Florida Agriculturist says: There are acres of natural mushroom beds on the Caloosahatchee River, in this State, and of the finest quality. At certain seasons of the year, when the water is low, they spring up in sufficient quantities to serve all the sauce-makers in the world. Why should it not pay some one to set up a factory to manufacture it? There is money in this for some one.

RURAL BREVITIES.

UTAH lost 4,000 cattle by the recent snow.

THE hog cholera continues to prevail in Central Illinois.

MRS. GEORGE DOOLITTLE of Oriskany Falls, N. Y., has ripe strawberries grown in the house.

A CREAM cheese factory at Vernon, N. Y., has started with quite a large number of patrons.

A FARMER in Canaan, Vt., never heard until a few weeks ago that wood-ashes were valuable as a fertilizer.

THE German Government intends appointing as members of its jury at the Philadelphia Exhibition leading industrialists like KRUPP and BORSIG.

JONES of Binghamton dodged into our office just as we were going to press. Of course we are obliged to suspend all journalistic operations and devote our whole time and energies to protecting ourselves. JONES, stay away and stick to selling skates!

B. M. HAINES of the Hudson River Nurseries, at Malden-on-the-Hudson, sends us his catalogue of trees and plants for the Spring of 1876. Mr. H.'s specialty is small fruits, strawberries, raspberries, etc., of which he has the newest and most approved varieties.

THE letter of Rev. Dr. ALEX. CLARK from and about Southern Mississippi, in this paper, will interest many of our readers who are looking South for homes. Dr. CLARK is editor of the Methodist Recorder, Pittsburgh, Pa., and a gentleman of veracity and intelligence.

THE Nebraska Agricultural Society offered premiums for essays on sheep breeding and sugar-beet culture. Students of the Agricultural College won two of the three premiums offered. These were for $100 and $60, and were taken by Harvey Culbertson and G. H. Simmons.

THE one answer which it will entirely become the Rural Home to make to the RURAL NEW-YORKER's proofs of its misstatements is a confession by its Editor of willful falsification. Until he does this all he can say will go for naught, and the public will have reason to discredit his statements on other questions where his supposed interests or prejudices are involved.

ONE of the editors of the Rural Home makes some pretensions as a poet. It seems from his misstatements about the Dairy Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, as exposed in this No., that poet HOPKINS relies mainly on fancy and imagination for his statement of fact. With a willful and convicted falsifier it is not worth while to have any further controversy, and we herewith drop him.

MORE than forty of the leading dairymen and dealers in dairy produce of Illinois have sent a protest to the Centennial Dairy Committee against the appointment of Mr. ARNOLD as Juror. They say it is vitally important to the success of the test that jurors should be competent men, and have practical experience in dairy products and say very plainly that Mr. ARNOLD lacks this qualification.

AFTER writing an article recommending the purchase of trees from nurserymen as being cheaper and better than for farmers to grow young trees themselves, we took up the RURAL NEW-YORKER and saw an advertisement of Messrs. RICHARDSON & KELSEY of Geneva, N. Y., offering peach trees, budded, all the best sorts and 4 to 6 ft. high, for only six dollars per hundred. If any farmer thinks he can raise peach trees and bud them cheaper than that, we are quite sure he is mistaken.

IT is no disparagement of Mr. ARNOLD to say that he is not qualified to act as an expert in judging dairy products. He has not had the practical experience in the dairy needed to give such qualification. DOGBERRY said that reading and writing came by nature; but we never before heard of any one who thought that knowledge of butter and cheese could come otherwise than by practically dealing with them. Considering his lack of experience, Mr. A. is very interesting as a theorizer on dairy matters, and suggests the idea that he might be really instructive if he had sufficient information on which to base his speculations.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

A Cough, Cold or Sore Throat requires immediate attention, as neglect oftentimes results in some incurable Lung Disease. "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" will almost invariably give relief.

THE best house painters prefer Eckstein, Hills & Co.'s **"Phœnix" brand Pure White Lead** to any other in the market, because it is whiter, finer, and will cover more surface.

WINTER AND SPRING.

BY RUNE BLUFF.

"I AM old: it is time for me to go,"
Sighed Winter, lad his steps were slow,
And he stopped to rest near a bank of snow.

Along the sunny hills was seen
Bright Spring, in robe of fairy green,
With its shifting lights and satin sheen.

She hastened forward to the place,
A golden halo of tender grace
Shining about her lovely face.

Over him bending gently there,
With her hands so full of snow-drops fair,
She scattered them in his hoary hair.

She beckoned a robin with ruddy breast,
And whispered, "O birdie, sing your best,
And lull the tired old man to rest."

The Story-Teller.

JESSIE'S TEST.

MISS JERUSHA JENKINSON folded her napkin with slow, precise carefulness, and then followed her pretty little hostess from the dining-room back to the parlor, where the soft astral lamp glowed like a silver moon, and the illuminated stove made red shadows on the brown-red easy chair in which Miss Jenkinson ensconced herself.

"I really don't know what to do about it, Miss Jerusha. If I once thought Rich was guilty of such indiscretions as you declare he is, I do believe I should—die!"

Jessie Wintrinham winked away a suspicious brightness from her pretty curling brown lashes, and looked eagerly at her guest's sarcastic countenance.

"I dare say there are a great many people who would say I was very officious, my dear, because I tell you what I think of that good-looking husband of yours. But I feel I have your interest at heart, and if no one else has the courage and charity to point out to a wife of half a year the goings on of her husband—why, my dear Mrs. Wintrinham, I'll stand by you and take your part."

Her solemn words made little shivers of vague terror thrill all over Jessie.

"I dare say you are kind indeed, Miss Jerusha, only I can't believe that Rich is such a flirt as you say—always paying such exclusive attention to ladies when he is away from home."

"You must think just what you please, my dear. Only I suppose if you were to see for yourself, you would believe the evidence of your own eyes?"

Jessie's slightly flushed cheeks betrayed the painful interest she felt.

"Of course, if I were to see——"

Miss Jerusha arose triumphantly.

"Then all you have to do is to take my advice, and the next time Mr. Wintrinham has such very important business in New York, do you go by the same train, with your waterproof and a thick veil to disguise you. I must go now, I think, my dear. I'll have to stop at poor Mrs. Delacon's and hear if she has heard from that runaway daughter of hers. Thanks for the early cup of tea you made so nicely—and don't forget what I told you, Miss Wintrinham."

And the abominable old gossip went her way, leaving the arrows of the distrust she had thrown rankling painfully in poor, loving, jealous Jessie's heart.

She perfectly adored her handsome young husband; and as always such passionate affection is accompanied by jealousy, this otherwise sensible little woman found it no difficult matter to entertain the doubt her guest expressed.

Rich was so handsome, so stylish, so gallant—why should not ladies enjoy his attentions? And, sitting by the cosy fire, waiting until her husband should come in for his dinner, Jessie almost decided to play the spy upon him at the earliest moment.

Then, when she heard his latch-key in the door and his quick, firm tread in the hall, and saw his handsome, cheerful face as he took her cheeks in his hands to kiss her, she felt ashamed and confused.

"I am afraid I shall have to hurry you, dear," he said, linking her arm through his and leading the way to the dining-room where the bright light made a genial glow on silver, crystal, and snow-white china."

"Hurry me Rich—how?"

"I have to take the 7.30 train very unexpectedly for the city on important business that cannot be delayed. I shall be at home to-morrow night, I expect. Jessie, will you have another piece of the black meat?"

Mrs. Wintrinham toyed with her chicken, her appetite entirely destroyed by the news Rich announced.

"On important business." Yes, that was what Miss Jenkinson had said. And the night train, too! It flashed hotly across Jessie's mind that her husband was going down to the theater and, if what Miss Jerusha had said was true, not alone.

That second decided her; and, as Mr. Wintrinham arose from the dinner table, he little knew the thoughts that were thronging in his pretty little wife's head.

"Don't be lonesome, darling, will you? Or shall I stop and tell Florrie to come up to-night?"

Jessie laughed a little forcedly.

"You over-anxious fellow! What do I want of sister Florrie? I shall not be lonely at all."

"Brave little woman! kiss me good-night then, dear."

He was so kind and thoughtful; and Jessie's fond, foolish heart almost misgave her as she watched him off.

"It is downright wicked to distrust him; but then, it is just these elegant, fascinating men who are so agreeable to other women beside their wives—at least Miss Jerusha says so, and she's old enough to know."

She watched the ivory hands of the cuckoo clock hastening toward 7.30.

"Well, I shall do it—this once anyhow."

And she went to her room with sparkling eyes and glowing cheeks.

"Is this seat engaged, sir?"

It was a low, sweet voice that addressed Mr. Richmond Wintrinham, as the 7.30 train steamed on, after calling at the last station before reaching the Jersey City terminus.

Mr. Wintrinham arose courteously, glanced at the small, graceful figure in navy-blue waterproof and double veil.

"Take the seat by the window, madam."

She glided in, and Mr. Wintrinham sat down beside her, all unconscious of the sidelong glance from a pair of eager eyes under the veil.

"How handsome he is! and he hasn't the least idea who I am."

For of course it was Jessie who had taken the train at the same station with Rich, but had waited until the last station had been reached before she changed her seat in the car for the one now occupied.

"I wonder if he does know me? Of course he doesn't, only he don't seem very eager to say anything to me." Then a little fragrantly perfumed handkerchief fluttered accidentally (?) to the floor.

Jessie made a deceitful little dive after it, displaying her daintily-kidded hand and round, neatly-cuffed wrist.

Rich quickly anticipated her and handed the handkerchief quietly to her.

"Allow me, madam."

"O, thank you! I am sorry to trouble you so much. I was very awkward."

Jessie's cheeks were blushing furiously under her double dark-brown veil.

"I will give him a chance anyhow," she thought.

But Mr. Wintrinham only bowed gravely and maintained a courteous silence.

The train slowed up and Jessie, with persistent determination to draw him into conversation, made a faint alarm that amused herself as she peered out of the window, then at her seat-mate.

"What are we stopping for? This isn't a station—oh! is anything the matter?"

Rich smiled—this little woman was such an odd one.

"There is no need of apprehension, madam. We are entering the tunnel."

"The tunnel! O, dear, *the tunnel!*"

But Rich didn't "take" at all. He only settled cosily back and slouched his seal-skin hat on his forehead, leaving his companion to fight the imaginary terrors of the tunnel as best she might.

The train had come to its final stand-still at the depot, and just as Wintrinham arose to leave the car, he felt a timid touch of fingers on his coat sleeve.

"Please pardon me—but—but there is a ferry-boat to cross in—isn't there? and if you would be so kind as to tell which way it is to the St. Julian Hotel?"

Rich buttoned up his overcoat deliberately while she spoke.

"The St. Julian? I am going there myself, madam. If you are unaccompanied, I will see you there. This way please."

At last! Jessie's cheeks were as hot as fire now, and her eyes bright as stars, as she walked through the long depot and ferry-house beside her husband. In the ladies' cabin Rich gave her a seat, then left her to join a group of gentlemen who were conversing near the door, and at the New York dock he escorted her to a St. Julian transfer coach, much as if she had been a child in his charge, whom he was bound to do his duty by, and yet considered somewhat of a nuisance. As it happened, the coach had other passengers, so that the hot color had time to die from out Jessie's face, although she mentally regarded him "a darling, provoking fellow."

"If you please, sir, an answer is wanted."

One of the waiters at the St. Julian handed a tiny note-let to Mr. Wintrinham just after that gentleman had inspected the arrangements of his room and was settled down for a half hour's examination of sundry papers in his memorandum book.

"An answer—a letter for?—O, yes, from Ned Hathaway, about the shares——"

His eyes opened widely as he carelessly tore it open to find, not a business communication from Ned Hathaway, but a dainty little note, in a graceful flowing back hand:

"To the gentleman in the Seal-skin Cap:—You made me desire to see you again. Is there not time to attend the theater?

"YOUR LADY ADMIRER."

Rich drew a long breath of surprise.

"So that's the little game, is it?"

Then he rapidly wrote an answer and dispatched it by the man, who grinned knowingly as he received a twenty-five cent stamp from Jessie's trembling fingers.

"Now, then, I've caught him this time. Suppose he consents——"

The ebbing color on her cheeks, the quivering of her pretty mouth, was ample evidence of the state of her feelings; and she opened the sealed envelope as one does a telegram—trying to assure one's self nothing is amiss, and yet, feeling it necessary to be prepared for the worst:

"Permit the 'Gentleman in the Seal-skin Cap' to offer a word of counsel to the 'Lady Admirer'—that, in future, when she learns to distinguish between a gentleman and a scamp, and when she returns home—which had better be at once—she confesses her imprudence to her mother."

Jessie gave a little cry of delight.

"Rich, my own true Rich."

The dinner-table was in readiness. Deliciously-suggestive odors of turtle-soup and egg-plant came from the regions where Jessie Wintrinham's incomparable cook reigned supreme; and in the lace and damask-draped bay window Mrs. Wintrinham waited for her husband's coming home, with her sweet face all sunny welcome, that made him feel what a bonny darling she was as he kissed her before even he removed his seal-skin cap.

"And how have you got along, Jessie? Were you lonely last night?"

She blushed a little as she helped him off with his overcoat.

"No, not at all. Indeed, I've had an unusual time."

"That's good. Had any company?"

"Yes; Flo and her lover were here to lunch this noon. Rich, I think Mr. Addison is just perfectly splendid."

He frowned in pretended horror.

"You think Flo's beau perfectly splendid! Very well, Mrs. Wintrinham, if you wish me to be jealous."

"If that makes you jealous, what will you say when I tell you I have had a letter from a gentleman since you've been gone—a handsomer man than even Mr. Addison."

Jessie watched him closely, her eyes beginning to dim of not far-distant tears.

"You did! I dare say I can see it?"

He was smiling very little, as a distrustful husband would do.

Jessie slipped a half-sheet of paper from her pocket and gave it to him, her lip half trembling, yet half smiling. He opened it carelessly, then looked at her in amazement.

"Why, what on earth, Jessie? Why, I wrote this letter."

"Yes, I know you did—O, Rich!"

She was almost crying now, and her husband was looking so gravely at her. She pointed to a navy-blue waterproof and brown veil lying across a chair.

"It was I, Rich. I knew it was awfully wicked, but—but I wanted to know if it was true, you know, and——"

Mr. Wintrinham knit his browns, frowningly. "I am not sure I understand yet. Jessie did you send me that letter last night? Were *you* my 'Lady Admirer' on the train and at the St. Julian?"

She laid her hands on his shoulder and looked in his eyes penitently.

"Don't scold, Rich. It was I, and my little escapade has made me very happy, for all I knew I was very cruel to do such a thing. You may punish me in any way you please, Rich."

She said it meekly, but with such love and pride in her eyes that he would have been less than Rich Wintrinham to have censured her. So he drew her head down to his breast and kissed her while she promised never to be so foolish again.

A MERRY RIDE.—(See Page 239.)

DEB.

THE solemn Androscoggin bell was ringing the mill girls in by broad sunlight one noon, when there came a knock at the door, and behind it the young lady of whom I board. Deb was startled by the knock and frightened by the young lady. It was not often that visitors came to Brick Alley, and it was still less often that Brick Alley had a visitor who knocked.

This was a young lady for whom Deb's mother did the washing. Deb's mother wiped her hands and placed a chair and the young lady sat down. She was a straight lady, with strong feet, and long, brown feathers in her hat and soft, brown gloves upon her hand. She had come, she said, with that Cluny set, which she found she should need for a party this very night; indeed, she was in so much haste for it that she had hunted Deb's mother up—which was a matter of some difficulty—as she never had the least idea where she lived before and how crooked the stairs were! But the lace was very yellow, as she saw, and would she be sure to have it done by nine o'clock to-night? and——

And then, turning her head suddenly, the straight young lady saw poor, crooked Deb in her high chair, with wonder in her eyes.

"I wonder if I frightened her?" thought Deb. But she only wondered and did not speak.

"Is this your——"

"Yes," said Deb's mother, "the eldest. Fifteen. I'll try my best, ma'am; but I don't know as I ought to promise."

She spoke in a business-like tone, and turned the Cluny lace—a dainty collar and a pair of soft cuffs—about in her hands in a business-like way. A breath of some kind of scented wood struck in a little gust against Deb's face. She wondered how people could

weave sweet smells into a piece of lace and if the young lady knew; or if she knew how much pleasanter it was than the onions that Mrs. McMahoney cooked for dinner every day in the week but Sunday, upon the first floor. But it gave her quite enough to do to wonder without speaking.

"Fifteen!" repeated the young lady, standing up very straight and looking very sorry. "How long has she been—like—that?"

"Born so," said Deb's mother. "She's jest set in that chair ever since she's been big enough to set at all. Would you try gum on these, miss?"

"But you never told me you had a crippled child!" The young lady said this quickly. "You have washed for me three years, and you never told me you had a crippled child!"

"You never asked me, miss," said Deb's mother.

The young lady made no reply. She came and sat down on the edge of Deb's bed, close beside Deb's chair. She seemed to have forgotten all about her Cluny lace. She took Deb's hand up between her two soft, brown gloves, and her long brown feathers dropped and touched Deb's cheek. Deb hardly breathed, the feathers and the gloves, and the sweet smells of scented wood, and the young lady's sorry eyes—such very sorry eyes—were so close to the high chair.

"Fifteen years!" repeated the young lady, very low, "in that chair—that nobody ever—poor little girl! But you could ride," she said suddenly.

"I don't know ma'am," said Deb. "I never saw anybody ride but the grocer and the baker. I ain't like the grocer and the baker."

"You could be lifted, I mean," said the young lady, eagerly. "There is somebody who lifts you?"

"Mother sets me generally," said Deb. "Once, when she was very bad with a lame ankle, Jim McMahoney set me. He's first floor—Jim McMahoney."

"I shall be back here," said the young lady, still speaking very quickly, but speaking to Deb's mother now, "in just an hour. I shall come in an easy sleigh, with warm robes. If you will have your daughter ready to take a ride with me I shall be very much obliged to you."

The young lady finished her sentence as if she didn't know what to say, and so said the truest thing she could think of, which is what we are all in danger of doing at times.

"Well, I'm sure!" said Deb's mother, "Dabitra, tell the lady——"

But Dabitra could not tell the lady, for she was already out of the door, and down stairs and away into the street. And, indeed, Deb would not have told the lady—has never told the lady—can never tell the lady.

If all the blue summer skies, and the gold of summer sunlight, and the shine of summer stars fell down into your hands at once for you to paint the scrap-book with, should you know what to say? Into the poor little scrap-book of Deb's life the colors of heaven dropped and blinded her on that bewildering, beautiful, blessed ride.

In just an hour the sleigh was there, with the easiest cushions and warmest robes, and bells—the merriest bells!—and the straight young lady. And Jim McMahoney was there, and he carried her down stairs to "set" her. And her mother was there, and wrapped her all about in an old red shawl, for Deb had no "things" like other little girls. The young lady remembered that, and she brought the prettiest little white hood Deb had ever seen, and Deb's face looked like a day-lily bud in the shining wool, but Deb could not be that. And Mrs. McMahoney was there, paring onions at the door, to wish her good luck; and all the little McMahoneys were there, and all the children who did not wonder, and the grocer turned in at the alley corner, and the baker stopped as he turned out, and everybody stood and smiled to see her start. The white horse pawed the snow, and held up his head—Deb had never seen such a horse—and the young lady had gathered the reins into her brown gloves, and the sleigh-bells cried for joy—how they cried!—and away they went, and Deb was out of the alley in a minute, and the people in the alley hurrahed, and hurrahed, and hurrahed, to see her go.

That bewildering, beautiful, blessed ride! How warm the little white hood was! How the cushions sank beneath her, and the fur robes opened like feathers to the touch of her poor, thin hands; How the bells sang to her, and the snowdrifts blinked at her, and the icicles, and the slated roofs, and sky, and the people's faces smiled at her.

"What's the matter?" asked the young lady; for Deb drew the great wolf's robe over her face and head, and sat so for a minute still and hidden. The young lady thought she was frightened.

"But I only want to cry a little," said Deb's little, smothered voice. "I must cry a little first!"

When she had cried a little she held up her head, and the shine of her pretty white hood grew faint beside the shine of her eyes and her cheeks. That bewildering, beautiful, blessed ride!

Streets and a crowd and church spires were in it—yes, and a wedding and a funeral, too—all things that Deb had seen in her high chair in the day-time with her eyes shut she saw in the sleigh on that ride with her eyes opened wide.

She was very still. The young lady did not talk to her, and she did not talk to the young lady. The horse held up his head. He seemed to Deb to be flying. She thought that he must be like the awful beautiful white horse in Revelation. She felt as if he could take her to Heaven just as well as not, if the young lady's brown gloves should only pull the rein that way.

They rode and rode—in and out of the merry streets, through and through the singing bells, about and about the great church spires—all over, and over, and over the laughing town. They rode to the river and the young lady stopped the white horse, so that Deb could look across and up and down the shining stream and the shining banks.

"There is so much of it," said Deb, very softly, thinking of the crack of it that she had seen between two houses for fifteen years. For the crack seemed to be very much like fifteen years in a high-chair, and the long, broad-shouldered, silver river seemed to her very much like this world about which she had wondered.

They rode to the mills, and Deb trembled to look up at their frowning walls and to meet their hundred eyes; but some of the girls who wore the little pink bows, and who knew her, came nodding to look down out of them, and she left off trembling to laugh; then, in a minute, she trembled again, for, all at once, without any warning, the great Androscoggin bell pealed the time just over her head and swallowed her up in sound. She turned pale with delighted terror, and then she flushed with terrified delight.

Did it pray, or cry, or laugh? Deb did not know. It seemed to her that if the white horse would carry her into the great heart of that bell she need never sit in a high-chair at a window again, but ride and ride with the young lady. It seemed to her like forever and forever.

They turned away from Androscoggin without speaking, and rode and rode. Daylight dimmed and dusk dropped, and see! all the town is ablaze with lights. Deb could not speak—there were so many lights.

And still she could not speak when they rode into Brick Alley, and Jim McMahoney and her mother, and the children who did not wonder, came out to meet her and take her back to her chair.

She was too happy to speak. She need never wonder any more. She could remember.

But the young lady did not want her to speak. She touched her white horse and was gone in a minute; and when Androscoggin bell rung them both to sleep that night—for the young lady forgot to ask for her Cluny, and she was too tired to go to the party—I am sure I cannot tell which was the happier, she or Deb.—*Elizabeth Stuart Phelps.*

FLOWERS IN LIBERIA.

Most of the African flowers differ from those of temperate climates in three striking characteristics, viz., brilliancy of color, luxuriancy of growth, and in emitting their odor after sunset.

The last peculiarity has been admirably described by Moore, in speaking of that lovely native of India—the fragrant jasmine:

"The flowers that wake while others sleep,
The timid jasmine buds, that keep
Their fragrance to themselves all day,
But when the sunlight drives away
Let their delicious secret out."

A rare and very beautiful species of the jasmine grows in our African forests. The bushes sometimes rise to the hight of ten feet, and are densely covered with large pinnate, oval leaves. The starry white flowers, with bright pink stems, (clustered on what botanists term a cyme,) raise their delicate heads in striking contrast with the heavy masses of glossy, dark green leaves. Their fragrance is delightful. If we happen to awaken at night in a room where a sprig of this odorous flower has dropped, we are almost inclined to imagine that, instead of the dreadful malaria we strive so much to keep out,

"The sweet south wind
That breathes upon a bank of violets,
Stealing and giving odor,"

has, by some miraculous means, penetrated our closely-shut African chambers. Most aptly did the ancients call this sweet flower the "odorous Violet."

So much has been written about the majestic lilies of the tropics that it is only necessary to say that many finer varieties flourish on our coast. Perhaps the most remarkable of these is the white chandelier lily, so called from having six narrow petals, four inches long, pendent from beneath, and six stamens, an inch shorter, growing out of the margin of a delicate, funnel-shaped corolla.

The Acacia Mimosa, said to be a native of the Nile, is a beautiful but fragile looking tree, from fifteen to twenty feet high, with small yellow flowers peeping out from among its branches of fine, sensitive leaves, and giving forth a most delicious fragrance.

In passing through the forests we are continually struck by the number and variety of luxuriant vines, so closely interwoven with the branches of tall trees as to form a complete canopy. Most of them are covered with small white flowers, apparently almost too delicate to touch.

Many of the flower-bearing shrubs of temperate climes when transplanted here attain to the hight of trees. Some years since a member of our mission brought across the Atlantic a small cutting of the Oleander, from which has sprung a number of stately trees. Some in the garden at Cavalla have already grown full twenty feet high, and are almost constantly covered with double pink flowers, which, for richness and beauty, surpass anything we have ever seen. A lovely sight it is to see these magnificent trees circled by birds of brilliant plumage.

Enough has been said to convince our readers that flowers, so appropriately styled "the smiles of God," have not been withheld from this land of moral darkness. We earnestly pray that the day may come when these beautiful gifts of our Heavenly Father may be appreciated by a redeemed and enlightened people, and that Africa, *spiritually*, as well as naturally, may "rejoice and blossom as the rose."—*West African Record.*

BARNUM AS A YOUNG LOVER.

That was a big book P. T. Barnum wrote about himself. It is very complete, too, but there is one little incident which he either forgot to mention, or which got pied when the forms went to press. It occurred when the great showman was a young man and a resident of this section. He was paying impetuous attention to a lady living in Newton. Being a son of poor but honest parents, he was obliged to walk over to the village which contained his adored, on the Sunday nights he visited her. When there he labored under another and more awkward disadvantage. The young lady's father conceived a singular and most violent dislike of the amiable embryotic showman. This necessitated extreme caution on the part of the lover, and he was equal to the emergency, as a matter of course. His ingress to the house was by a window on the second floor, which he reached by springing from the cover of a cistern curb, and catching hold of the window ledge. His egress was effected by hanging full length from the ledge and then dropping to the cistern cover, a fall of about six inches.

On Sunday he took with him on the visit a young man who now carries his silver hairs behind a Danbury grocery counter. They reached the place, the young lady saw the signal, opened the window and the famous Barnum sprung up into bliss. The young man was to amuse himself about the village until the time of departure. He amused himself. It don't seem possible that any one could be so brutal, but that young man actually removed the cover of the cistern. Then he sat down by the fence and ate currants, and calmly waited for the result. P. T. finished his sparking, and backed out of the window the full length his hands would permit.

"Good-by," he gasped in a whisper, as he prepared to drop.

"Good-by, Phinny," she whispered back. Then he let go, and instantly shot from sight into the yawning abyss of darkness and rain water, and if he had been of solid iron, heated to a white glow, he could not have created more of a commotion in striking the water. It is not necessary to repeat what Mr. Barnum said, both when crawling out of the cistern and during the eight miles' walk home, but shortly after he became a Universalist. —*Danbury News.*

HOW MERIT WAS REWARDED.

Kassim Pasha, when Minister of War for Egypt, was very particular as to the personal appearance of his officers, and issued stringent orders that they should never appear unshaved in public. One day he met in the street a lieutenant who had "bearded" the Pasha and disregarded his order.

"To what regiment do you belong?" demanded the indignant minister.

"To the —— Regiment at Abasseuh," replied the frightened lieutenant.

"Get into my carriage at once, so that I may carry you to the encampment and have you publicly punished," was the stern command which followed.

The young man obeyed, and the twain rode along gloomily enough for some time, when the Pasha stopped his carriage and entered a shop for a few moments to make some trifling purchase. Seizing the opportunity, the culprit sprang from the vehicle, darted into a barber's stall, and, minus his beard, regained his post before the return of his jailer. For the remainder of the route the officer buried his face in his hands and seemed the picture of apprehension. Abassueh was at length reached, and all the officers were assembled to witness the degradation of their comrade, who all the while kept well in the rear of the minister.

"Come forward, you son of a dog!" cried the irate Pasha, when there stepped before him an officer with a face as devoid of hair as a baby's and a look of supreme innocence.

His excellency gave a long look of blank astonishment, and then, with an appreciative smile breaking over his war-worn features, turned to the assembled officers and said:

"Here, gentlemen, your old minister is a fool, and your young lieutenant is a captain!"

A SINGULAR SERMON.

Four gentlemen and an old minister were assailed on the highway by three robbers who demanded and took possession of their funds. The old minister pleaded very hard to be allowed a little money as he was on his way to pay a bill in London. The highwaymen being generous fellows gave him all his money back again on condition of his preaching them a sermon. Accordingly they retired a little distance from the highway, and the minister addressed them as follows:

Gentlemen, you are the most like the old apostles of any men in the world, for they were wanderers upon the earth, and so are you; they had neither lands nor tenements that they could call their own, neither, I presume, have you; they were despised of all but those of their own profession, and so, I believe, are you; they were unalterably fixed in the principles they professed, and I dare swear so are you; they were often hurried into jails and prisons, all of which suffering, I presume have been undergone by you; their profession brought them all to untimely deaths, and if you continue in your course, such will be your end. But in this point you differ mightily; for the apostles ascended from a tree into heaven, where, I am afraid, you will never come; but as their deaths were compensated with eternal glory; yours will be rewarded with eternal shame and misery unless you mend your manners.

Sabbath Reading.

THE WAY WE GROW OLD.

A broken toy: a task that held away
A yearning child-heart from an hour of play;
A Christmas that no Christmas idols brought;
A tangled lesson, full of tangled thought;
A homesick boy; a senior gowned and wise;
A glimpse of life, when lo! the curtains rise
Fold over fold,
And hangs the picture, like a boundless sea—
The world, all action and reality—
So we grow old.

A wedding, and a tender wife's caress;
A prattling babe the parents' life to bless;
A home of joys and cares in equal part;
A dreary watching with a heavy heart;
And Death's dread angel knocking at the gate,
And Hope and Courage bidding Sorrow wait
Or lose her hold;
A new-made grave, and then a brave return
To where the fires of life triumphant burn—
So we grow old.

A fortune and a gen'rous need of fame,
Or direful ruin and a tarnished name,
A slipping off of week and month and year,
Faster and faster as the close draws near;
A grief to-day, and with to-morrow's light,
A pleasure that transforms the sullen night
From lead to gold;
A chilling winter of unchanging storm;
A spring replete with dawns and sunsets warm—
So we grow old.

Old to ourselves, but children yet to be
In the strange cities of eternity.

[*N. Y. Evening Post.*

NR. MOODY ON LOVE.

From a sermon on "Love," recently delivered by Mr. Moody at the Hippodrome in this city, we take the following:

I have often thought I wouldn't have but one text; if I thought I could make the world only believe that God is love, I would only take that text and go up and down the earth trying to counteract what Satan has been telling them—that God is not love. He has made the world believe it effectually. It would not take twenty-four hours to make the world come to God if you could only make them believe God is love. If you can really make a man believe you love him, you have won him; and if I could only make people really believe that God loves them, what a rush we would see for the Kingdom of God! Oh, how they would rush in! But man has got a false idea about God, and he will not believe that He is a God of love. It is because he don't know Him.

Now, in Paul's farewell letter to the Corinthians in the 13 chapter, 2d Corinthians, he says, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect. Be of good comfort. Be of one mind. Live in peace, and the God of love"—he calls Him the God of love—"and peace shall be with you." Then John, who was better acquainted with Christ, telling us about the love God has for this perishing world, writes in this epistle in the evening of his life these words: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God, and he that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love." We built a church in Chicago a few years ago, and we were so anxious to make people believe God is love that we thought if we could not preach it into their hearts we would burn it in, and so right over the pulpit we had the words put in gas jets, "God is love," and every night we had it there. A man going along there one night glanced in through the door and saw the text. He was a poor prodigal, and he passed on, and as he walked away he said to himself, "God is love? No. God is not love. God does not love me. He does not love me, for I am a poor, miserable sinner. If God was love, He would love me. God is not love." Yet there the text was, burning down into his soul. And he went on a little ways further, and turned around and came back and went into the meeting. He didn't hear what the sermon was, but the text got into his heart, and that is what we want. It is of very little account what men say, if God's word only gets into the heart. And he stayed after the meeting, and I found him there weeping like a child; but as I unfolded the Scripture and told him how God had loved him from his earliest childhood all along, the light of the Gospel broke into his mind, and he went away rejoicing. This would be the best meeting to-day we have had yet, if we could only make this audience believe that God is love.

PHYSICAL BENEFIT OF SUNDAY.

Sunday is God's special present to the working man, and one of his chief objects is to prolong his life, and preserve efficient his working tone. In the vital system it works like a compensation pend; it replenishes the spirit, the elasticity and vigor, which the last six days have drained away, and supplies the force which is to fill the six days succeeding; and in the economy of existence it answers the same purpose as in the economy of income is answered by a savings bank. The frugal man who puts away a pound to-day, and another pound next month, and who in a quiet way is putting by his stated pound from time to time, when he grows old and frail gets not only the same pounds back again, but a good many pounds besides. And the conscientious man, who husbands one day of his existence every week—who, instead of allowing Sunday to be trampled and torn in the hurry and scramble of life, treasures it up—the Lord of Sunday keeps it for him, and in length of days the halo of age gives it back with usury. The savings bank of human exisence is the weekly Sunday.

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE OLD LOG HOUSE.

BY WILL M'K.

THERE'S an old log house on my father's farm,
All silent, and lonely, and still.
Not a sound of mirth is ever heard, now,
In the old log house on the hill.

But fondly I think of the bygone days,
Where, with brothers and sisters dear,
Not a happier home, in the country 'round,
Could be found, either far or near.

But my father builded another house,
And my brothers are gone afar;
And the old log house is deserted now,
And defaced with many a scar.

The rabbit and squirrel play hide-and-seek
With the mice o'er the oaken floor;
But they quickly beat a hasty retreat,
When the owl flies in at the door.

The "twittering swallow" now builds its nest
On the rafters, going to decay;
And the robin and sparrow have made their house
On the logs for many a day.

The little room, where my brothers and I
Oft listened to the weird whip-poor-will,
Is open, now, to the birds and the bats,
And they come there without fear of ill.

But poor-will is miss'd from his nightly seat
On the apple tree near the door—
For there's no one there to answer him back,
As we've done a thousand times o'er.

The primroses bloom uncared for now,
And the "blue-eyed-violets" blow;
And the cottage rose, that my sisters lov'd,
Climbs in at the casement low,

As if it would ask, "Where are they all gone,
That used once to caress and to love
Us poor flowers, neglected now
In the rank weeds that o'er us rove?"

But the friendly vine, on the old black logs,
Still clings there, loving and true,
As if it would hide the marks of decay
From the passing traveler's view.

O, my heart still clings to the dear old home,
And the times of my childhood there!
And, I'd rather live o'er those blessed days,
Than to dwell in a palace fair.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March, 1876.

WHIFFS FROM CANADA.

No. II.—The Herb Garden and Its Labors.

EARLY in the season, after the vegetable seeds are sown, we prepare a seed bed where we sow the herbs used for culinary purposes, and a few simples as medicine. The seed is sown rather thick, lightly covered, and rolled. After the early peas are staked and earthed up for the last time we take advantage of a shower to transplant our herbs between the rows, and when the ground is cleared of the first crop and the debris carried away, a one-horse plow stirs up the soil where peas have been and leaves us a fresh-growing crop for the autumn. The work of hoeing round the plants, cutting and drying is easily performed by one of the children, who purchases the seed in spring and takes charge of the plants, reaping the reward in pocket money, which is valued more for being so pleasantly earned.

The best-paying herb crop is Sage: used for its aromatic, carminative and astringent properties medicinally, and as a favorite gargle and embrocation—the first for sore throat and the latter for chronic rheumatism of the joints. It is in good demand by cooks, especially in holiday times, and finds ready sale. Thyme, an herb of milder type, is used very much in dressing fowls. It is of slower growth than Sage, but if not to its full size will stand the winter and be a crop in the spring, growing luxuriantly the second season. Medicinally it is used in cases of obstinate sprains. A small corner is reserved for Saffron, whose golden, thread-like flowers when dried are used as a dye, and often called for by our neighbors as a safe and old-fashioned medicine for babies. But my favorite herb is the Lavender, aromatic and beautiful either in its pale-green leaf or its spikes of delicate flowers that produce a very refreshing perfume. When well grown the flower spikes sell readily to the chemist, and it is always valued as a choice, fragrant and acceptable offering to a friend—not fading like the flowers you may give, but retaining a memory of the giver for many years. How often has the faintest perfume of that flower brought back to me a closed drawer, where are put away the last worn garments, and a fair bright curl, all that remains of one whose unspoken name is enshrined in the deepest recess of a mother's heart! For did I not with fearless grief gather the September flowers of purple lavender to lend its delicate perfume to that drawer, so full of painful memories?

"It whispers of the long ago,
Its love, its loss, its aching woe,
And buried sorrows stir;
And tears like those we shed of old
Roll down our cheeks, as we behold
Our faded lavender."

And so sentiment and sorrow can grow, and flourish even in an herb garden. Nor can one describe, in this short article, the thoughts and feelings, the weavings of fancy and hours of sweetness that are merged in that aromatic spot. The sunshine tans our cheek, the labors of hoe and scissors are enough for the little shoulders that undertake the culture of their choice; but some of the pleasures of independent labor add zest to the work, and let us hope that the old-fashioned virtues associated with the old-fashioned herbs may become the possession of our little herb gatherers. ANNIE L. JACK.

IN ANCIENT TIMES.

IN the wardrobe of a Hebrew lady the most splendid article of clothing was the turban, for those who could afford it. The poor people had to be satisfied with winding a piece of cloth round their head and fixing it as well as they could. The turbans were of various colors, and wound in different ways; some of them were like a high tower. Shoes and stockings were unknown, but soles of leather were fastened with two lachets. The ladies, who carried luxury into every department, and who are supposed, even in the present day, to be far from indifferent to a nice, neat boot, or to elegant slippers, had their shoes, or rather sandals, and their lachets, made of colored leather; dark blue, violet and purple were favorite colors. The ankles were decorated with bracelets of gold or dainty silver chains and rings, with tiny silver bells. Hair nets and head-bands were in great request. The latter were made of gold or silver and worn under the net, extending from one ear to the other. Ear-rings were much thought of; we are told of some that weighed a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold, and were so large that a man could easily put his hand through them. Some of the women wore several rings with little bells attached to them. They were generally made of horn or silver. But the most popular ring was the nose ring. The left nostril was pierced for the purpose and a ring made of ivory or metal was put through it. Bracelets were favorite ornaments, and were generally worn on the right arm. Some of them were exceedingly large, so that they reached up to the elbow. Rings on the fingers were worn; chains of fine gold, or strings of pearls with little silver balls or small tinkling bells, worn round the neck.

LOVE.

TRUE love is grounded on esteem.—*Buckingham.*

If fun is good, truth is better, and love best of all.—*Thackeray.*

Love me little, love me long.—*Marlow.*

Love seldom haunts the breast where learning lies.—*Pope.*

Hate makes us vehement partisans, but love still more so.—*Goethe.*

In love we are all fools alike.—*Gay.*

Love, one time, layeth burdens; another time giveth wings.—*Sir P. Sidney.*

Love is the virtue of woman.—*Duderant.*

In love the deceit generally outstrips the distrust.—*Rochefoucauld.*

Where love dwells is paradise.—*Richter.*

Love is precisely to the moral nature what the sun is to the earth.—*Balzac.*

Words of love are works of love.—*Balzac.*

Love as if you should hereafter hate, and hate as if you should hereafter love.—*Chilo.*

When we love we live.—*Congreve.*

Gold does not satisfy love; it must be paid in its own coin.—*Madame Delazy.*

She that is loved is safe.—*Jeremy Taylor.*

How shall I do to love? Believe. How shall I do to believe? Love.—*Leighton.*

Love is an egotism of two.—*A. de la Salle.*

I could not love thee, dear, so much, loved I not honor more.—*Lovelace.*

A BEAUTIFUL PARLOR ORNAMENT.

A BEAUTIFUL ornament for the sitting-room can be made by covering a common glass tumbler with moss, the latter fastened in place by sewing-cotton wound around. Then glue dried moss upon a saucer, into which set the tumbler, filling it and the remaining space in the saucer with loose earth from the woods. Plant the former with a variety of ferns, and the latter with wood violets. On the edge of the grass also plant some of the nameless little evergreen vine, which bears red (scarlet) berries, and whose dark, glossy, ivy-like foliage will trail over the fresh blue and white of the violets with beautiful effect.

Another good plan is to fill a rather deep plate with some of the nameless but beautiful silvery and light green and delicate pink mosses, which are met with in profusion in all swamps and marshes. This can be kept fresh and beautiful as long as it is not neglected to water it profusely once a day. It must, of course, be placed in the shade, or the moss will blanch and die. In the center of this a clump of large azure violets should be placed, adding some curious lichens and pretty fungus growth from the barks of forest trees, and a few cones, shells and pebbles.

TEACH CHILDREN TO SPEAK THE TRUTH.—Children should be taught to speak the truth, to hate a lie, and to be honest. It is unsafe to leave any class of children untaught. It is not for the interest and welfare of the community to do so. It is from the ignorant and the vicious that the pauper and criminal element chiefly comes. That is the burden which others are chiefly taxed to support. It is chiefly from those who have no healthful home training, no church, no family altar, no Sabbath school. There are many who get no correct notions of right and wrong save what they get in school. At home and in the street they learn to lie, to steal, to fight, to get drunk, to use vile language. There, by precept and example they get a knowledge of evil. It is more the duty of society to provide for the right education and proper training of all the children than it is to support the paupers and take care of the criminals. Prevention is better than cure.

Reading for the Young.

SCHOOL-DAYS.

SIXTY little urchins
Coming through the door,
Pushing, crowding, making
A tremendous roar.
Why don't you keep quiet?
Can't you mind the rule?
Bless me, this is pleasant,
Teaching public school.

Sixty little pilgrims
On the road to fame,
If they fail to reach it
Who will be to blame?
High and lowly stations
Birds of every feather—
On a common level
Here are brought together.

Dirty little faces,
Loving little hearts,
Eyes brim full of mischief,
Skilled in all its arts.
That's a precious darling!
What are you about?
"May I pass the water?"
"Please, may I go out?"

Boots and shoes are shuffling,
Slates and books are rattling—
And in the corner yonder
Two pugilists are battling.
Others cutting didoes,
What a botheration!
No wonder we grow crusty
From such association!

A MERRY RIDE.

[SEE ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE 237.]

TOM, ANNIE, and JANE often say in the morning, when their father is going to the city, "Please, father, come home early." Mr. JONES is a very kind father, and loves his little ones very much. He often gives his children a treat; but nothing gives them greater pleasure than having a ride on his back. TOM gets a piece of cord, which he makes into a bridle, and then Mr. JONES trots away round the room, just as you see in the picture. Mrs. JONES sometimes wonders what all the merry noise is about, and when she opens the door the children cry out, "Oh, mother, we are having such a *nice* ride on dear papa's back!"

We reckon many of the young folks of the RURAL circle have kind fathers, who like to play with their children, but don't suppose they all do it in the same way. Some of them, who live in the country, take CHARLIE, MARY, and perhaps FANNY too, along when they go to the village, and all then have a merry ride in a carriage drawn by nice horses. At any rate we hope our young readers, in country, village and city, have many nice rides with their parents and mates, for innocent play gives zest to work and study.

A POTATO STORY WITH A LESSON.

MR. ROCKAWAY, being asked to tell one of his "ten-minute" stories, said:—"If it will content you, I will tell you a story which begins with a bean pole:"

Once there was a bean pole which was stuck into the ground by the side of a potato hill.

"Dear me!" cried a young cabbage growing near, "what a stiff, poky thing that is! And of no earthly use, standing there doing nothing!"

But very soon a scarlet bean, running about in search of something to climb upon, found this same bean pole.

"All right!" cried the happy little bean. "You are the very thing I want. Now I'll begin my summer's work."

"Well, to be sure!" cried the young cabbage. "Everything comes to some use at last; but who would have thought it?"

The scarlet bean was a spry little thing. She ran up that pole just as easy! Being of a lively turn, she began, at last, to make fun of the potato plant.

"How sober you are!" said she. "Why don't you try to brighten up and look more blooming?"

The poor potato plant, though doing her best, could only show a few pale blossoms.

"You don't mean to call those things flowers?" cried the frisky bean. "Just look at my beautiful blossoms!" and she held up a spray of bright scarlet.

The potato kept quiet.

"What stupid, useless things," said young cabbage, "those potato plants are! and how much room they take up!"

Summer passed. The bean began to fill her pods, and proud enough she was of them.

"Why don't you do something?" she cried to the potato plant, down below. "Only see what I've done! There's a summer's work for you!"

And sure enough she had hung her full pods all up and down the pole.

"Yes, why don't you do something?" cried cabbage. "Your summer is gone, and nothing done! Can't you come to a head? Anything but idleness!"

The potato plant still kept quiet. But when digging time came and the hill was opened and the pile of "Long Reds" appeared, her neighbors could hardly believe their senses.

"Dear me, what a surprise!" cried the bean. "So we can't always tell by appearances!"

"I declare!" cried the cabbage, "then you were doing something all that time! But how could I know? There's that bean—she hung her pods up high so everybody could see. Well, well, well! After this, I'll always say of a plant which makes but little show, 'Wait—potatoes inside there, maybe.'"

"There are a great many scarlet beans among the people I know," said Mr. Rockaway, "and some potato plants, too."

"And perhaps a few young cabbage heads," said Uncle Peter, looking slyly around at the children.—*Mrs. Diaz, in St. Nicholas.*

HENRY'S REASON.

"My son, why don't you like to visit Horace Mills? I think he is a very nice boy. His father is one of my best friends, and I would like for you to be sociable with Horace," said Mr. Marrs to his son Henry, a lad of some sixteen summers.

"I do try to treat him well," said Henry.

"Try to treat him well? That sounds as if it was an effort. Come now, my son, is there not a reason for your want of interest in Horace?" said Mr. Marrs.

"To tell the truth, father, I have a reason for not associating more with him; but if you do not mind, I would rather not tell," said Henry.

"I would feel better satisfied if you told me," said his father.

"Well, it is just this—he is not what he seems to you to be. He behaves very well in the company of grown people, but when he is with boys he uses bad language and is selfish. I do not want to be in company with a boy that talks as he does. I have nothing against him, but I can't bear to be in his company because I know so much about him," said Henry.

"That is perfectly satisfactory, my son. I commend you for shunning the society of such a boy. He is the son of good parents, but I am not willing you should be associated with him. I hope, my dear son, that you will always feel as you do now about associating with boys of his class."

Let those who read contrast Henry and Horace; admire the one and shun the habits and example of the latter. Let the boys and girls learn to read character and fall in love with noble traits.

HOW TO BREAK OFF BAD HABITS.

UNDERSTAND the reason, and all the reasons, why the habit is injurious. Study the subject until there is no lingering doubt in your mind. Avoid the places, the persons, and the thoughts that lead to the temptation. Frequent the places, associate with the persons, indulge in the thoughts that lead away from temptation. Keep busy; idleness is the strength of bad habits. Do not give up the struggle when you have broken your resolution once, twice—a thousand times. That only shows how much need there is for you to strive. When you have broken your resolutions just think the matter over and endeavor to understand why it is you failed, so that you may be on your guard against a recurrence of the same circumstances. Do not think it is an easy thing that you have undertaken. It is a folly to expect to break off a bad habit in a day which may have been gathering long years.

The Puzzler.

DECAPITATION.—No. 3.

1. BEHEAD a European city, and leave above.
2. An Asiatic city, and leave a home of wild beasts.
3. An animal, and leave a part of the body.
4. Part of a wagon, and leave part of the body.
5. A fish, and leave an animal.
6. A wild animal, and leave a domestic animal.
7. A domestic animal, and leave a kind of grain.
8. Part of a tree, and leave a boat.
9. A piece of wood, and leave an instrument for fastening.
10. A large package, and leave a beverage.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 8.

My first is in scare but not in fright,
My second is in loose but not in light;
My third is in many but not in few,
My fourth is in cut but not in hew;
My fifth is in crane but not in crow,
My sixth is in plant but not in sow;
My seventh is in snow but not in sleet,
My eighth is in quire but not in sheet;
My ninth is in rat but not in mouse,
My tenth is in building but not in house.

My whole is causing considerable excitement at present.

Sherkston, Ont. J. M. SHERK.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

ACROSTIC.—No. 1.

1. A VEGETABLE. 2. A dried fruit. 3. A bird. 4. An animal of Africa. 5. To rove. 6. A volcano. 7. Not fast. 8. Powerful. 9. A vegetable. 10. A poisonous shrub. 11. A spring flower. 12. The pests of summer evenings. 13. A crazy person. 14. A vegetable. 15. A work of Dr. Johnson. 16. A vegetable. 17. An acid. 18. A measure. 19. An animal. 20. A species of deer. 21. A recluse. 22. An English poet. My initials form the motto of one of the best journals of the day.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—March 25.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA No. 4.—And let us not be weary in well doing.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 7.—Washington.

HIDDEN TREES No. 2.—1, Teak; 2, Oak; 3, Yew; 4, Ebony; 5, Elm.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

DEVASTATING FLOOD NEAR WORCESTER.

THE reservoir supplied by Lyne brook, which overlooks the city of Worcester, Mass., gave way on Thursday of last week, destroying a great amount of property and narrowly escaping being much more destructive than it proved. The reservoir is capable of holding 700,000,000 gallons of water, and was nearly full when first discovered to be in danger. The recent heavy rains had apparently undermined the earthwork foundations, but it is since reported that leaks have been noticed occasionally for some time past. Only a few days before the break, the water in the reservoirs had been raised by flush boards, despite the protests of some mill-owners in the valley below, who apprehended danger. On Wednesday it was discovered that water was trickling through the embankment; but this, at first, was thought to be from rains and not from the reservoir itself. From this time, however, every effort was made to prevent a break. The water was drawn off as rapidly as possible, and when it was only too evident that the dam was slowly undermined, trunks of trees, bales of hay and wagon-loads of earth were thrown in to hold the breach from growing wider. As a last resort, an attempt was made to draw off the water on the opposite side, but this was only partially successful. The great break occurred about 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon, March 30, and immediately the thousands of spectators who had gathered to watch the reservoir, scattered and took refuge on the hill sides. A gap thirty feet wide was made in the wall of the reservoir.

Property holders had warning and much movable property was taken out of harm's way, but mills, dams, and houses on the line of the torrent were indiscriminately swept away. Several small houses were crushed by timbers and debris brought down by the flood. The water at first rushed down a ravine which it gullied on either side, washing out a great deal of soil and leaving the banks deeper and with almost perpendicular sides. Besides destroying numerous mills and other buildings in the line of its track, the flood tore up several hundred feet of the Boston & Albany Railroad, causing a detention of travel several days. The damage done by the flood is estimated at five hundred thousand to a million dollars, and for this it is supposed that the city of Worcester is responsible. Had the reservoir broken away suddenly and before much of the water had been drawn off the city of Worcester would have suffered very severely as the larger flood could not have been kept in channels so much as it was. There seems to have been culpable carelessness on the part of Worcester City authorities in leaving the reservoir in an unsafe condition.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

ONE of the workmen in a paper mill at Shawangunk, Ulster county, N. Y., recently attempted to make up the time of his father, who was ill and worked for fifty-six consecutive hours without sleep, only resting while he ate. At his last supper, he fell asleep while eating, but was aroused, got up and finished his last six hours' work.

The new City Directory of St. Louis fixes the population of that city at 498,182.

The women are now holding the office of County Superintendent of Public Schools in Iowa, under the act passed by the Legislature of the State. A majority of the Justices on the Supreme bench of the State are reported to favor the law as it stands.

The last rail of the Lake Ontario Shore Railroad has been laid at Lewiston, and connection thereby established with the New York Central and Hudson River road. The last fifty-five miles of the track has all been laid during the past winter. The road will be open for through business by the first of June. It establishes a route to New York via the Delaware and Lackawanna road from Oswego.

The free common schools in the States of California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin and West Virginia, are maintained through constitutional provisions, under which have been raised abundant public funds, said funds being permanent and inviolable. The Legislatures are particularly directed as to the application of these funds. The universal rule is, that the school funds may be increased but never diminished. In eleven States, the range of school ages and the period of the school year, are fixed in the constitution.

Buffalo, N. Y., is very proud of her new city and county hall, which has just been completed. It is in the form of a double Roman cross, with bases extending longitudinally north and south. The body of the cross covers a space one hundred and fourteen by two hundred and twenty-five feet, and the arms and heads have each twenty feet projection and fifty-two feet front, allowing to the building a total length of two hundred and ninety-five feet and a total width of one hundred and fifty-eight feet. The style of architecture is the Lombardic. The main walls, which are eighty feet high, are built of Maine granite. It is surmounted with a tower two hundred and seventy feet high.

The Massachusetts Senate a few days ago suspended its rules as a mark of respect to Mr. William Cullen Bryant, and passed through its various stages a bill to incorporate the "Bryant Free Library" in Cummington.

Bishops Janes and Harris, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, have issued a letter to all ministers and members of that church throughout the United States, inviting them to set apart Friday, the 28th of April, as a day of fasting and special prayer for the divine blessing on the coming General Conference.

A party of Denver men with more time than money are going to walk to the Centennial Exhibition. They expect to do the distance within 90 days.

The members of the Golden Gate Encampment, I. O. O. F., of San Francisco, recently visited in a body Mrs. Parlington and her boy Ike at the Palace Hotel.

Up to noon on the 14th of March, New Orleans had received 1,204,542 bales of cotton of the present crop, an increase of 320,310 bales over the receipts for the same time last year.

Twenty-six persons in Santa Clara county, Cal., own together over 1,000,000 acres of the best farming land, and 122 persons throughout the State control 6,500,000 acres.

Col. Furlong, a member of the Mississippi Senate, has introduced a bill to prevent the introduction of adulterated candy into the State, and to prohibit the manufacture of such.

The colored people of Newark, N. J., celebrated the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment March 30th by a salute of 100 guns and a procession through the streets.

The Government printing office has been doing work for private firms and the evidence appears to show that the Superintendent has pocketed the money.

An aged couple at Fairfield, Me., lately celebrated their golden wedding by separating. It took them fifty years to find out that they were only wedded, not mated.

In Spencer, Wis., there is a secret society in operation, of which the public will probably learn much soon, as the members are being tried for the murder of a candidate while undergoing initation.

A Chicago apothecary put up two prescriptions correctly, but misplaced the labels. The purchaser, a women, consequently swallowed a mixture intended for outward application, taking dose after dose until she died in great agony.

Chicago is very much embarrassed pecuniarily. The amount of unpaid taxes on January 1st were over $8,250,000, of which over $3,000,000 was for taxes due previous to 1875. The obligations maturing by the 1st of July foot up nearly $5,400,000, and to meet these it has now but $500,000 in the treasury, and the general fund is indebted to special funds for money borrowed about a million and three-quarters more.

John E. Shawhan, a San Francisco stock speculator, has built a stable at a cost of about $100,000 chiefly to gratify his wife, who is fond of horses. It contains a parlor handsomely furnished for her use; and the carriage and harness rooms, stalls, and other apartments are finished in fine woods.

A scientific man who takes great interest in the subject of drainage, says:—"Two-thirds of the miasmatic troubles in New York proceed from the kitchen sinks of the city houses. The sink drain gets clogged with grease, and foul odors arise to the upper stories of the houses, and little pale children inhale them all night, until they have scarcely strength enough in the morning to put on their shoes and stockings." For want of a better remedy, a common brick placed over the aperture will nearly obviate the trouble, and it should be the duty of every sensible head of a family to see that it is reguarly placed there.

The Louisiana State Funding Board March 29 and 30 funded nearly $1,500,000 of State debt, including a number of the one million issue of Levee bonds of 1865, recently declared valid by the Supreme Court. Nearly all the valid and unquestioned State debt has now been converted into the new consols.

The Rev. A. B. Earle the revivalist, is conducting a revival in Clinton, N. Y. He insists upon his congregation all kneeling and praying audibly a brief prayer which he gives out. Then he makes them arise and stand and answer questions, sometimes all in a body, sometimds singly. This he calls "a fool and ankle-bone meeting."

In order to check Indian and Mexican depredations in Texas, Gen. Ord has decided to establish a military camp near the head waters of Devil's river under the command of Col. Buell, at Fort Griffin.

A plan of Yorktown (Va.) and adjacent country, showing the operations of the American, English and French armies during the siege, drawn with a crow pen and presented to Lafayette, has just been deposited in the Virginia State Library.

Under its new laws Texas now exempts from taxation tools and instruments used in any trade or profession to the value of $50; all safes and furniture to a like amount; one year's supplies from the soil; all institutions of learning, with their property, and all hospitals and churches.

T. L. Coleman, Mrs. John Seal, Mrs. Frank Arnold, and others have discovered a land grant to Benjamin Waller, a relative, for 72,000 acres of land in Charleston, Abbeville and Greenville counties, S. C., dated in 1754, and renewed in Charleston in 1851. As lawyers are at work upon the claim, there is already much consternation among the property holders in that region.

A novel industry has sprung up in Iowa. Henry Buskirk, finding a number of ox carcases in his neighborhood, bought fifty cents' worth of strychnine and dosed them thoroughly. In the next three days he picked up thirty-eight dead coyotes, and taking them to the County Clerk received $1.50—the legal bounty—for each scalp, thus clearing $56.30 by his shrewdness.

Grayson is exceedingly jubilant, and will not be disheartened. Since gaining the advantage of railroad facilities her breed of hogs has improved a thousand fold. The pointer breed of several years ago that could run their snouts down a half-gallon jug of buttermilk and lick the bottom clean, and through whose emaciated sides a person could read the Declaration of Independence without spectacles, have altogether disappeared, and the great, fat, lazy Poland Chinas, the overgrown Berkshires and Chester Whites have taken their places in the estimation of the farmers.

Some English sparrows at Richmond, Va., have built their nests in the nostrils of the horse on which is placed Crawford's statue of Washington.

A revival of more than usual interest is in progress in Williams College. The students hold noonday prayer meetings, and the conversions are numerous.

In the six principal markets of this country the number of hogs packed this season amounts to 3,200,000, a decrease of nearly 300,000 as compared with last year.

The glass dome of the Centennial art gallery will be lighted by 2,000 gas jets. The dome is 266 feet above the level of the Schuylkill, and will be visible at night all over Philadelphia.

One of the first fugitive slaves that came to Oberlin, Ohio, a woman, said to be the veritable Eliza of Uncle Tom's Cabin," who crossed the Ohio on floating ice, died in Oberlin a short time ago.

The pupils of the Providence public schools are drawing maps, which will be sent to the Centennial Exposition. One of them, the son of an oysterman, has drawn the map of Rhode Island inside the two halves of a clam shell. But then Rhode Island is not a large State.

FOREIGN NOTES.

AT the Chester Assizes in England, Justice Lush has sentenced one Lewis to ten years' penal servitude and five years' police surveillance for passing a bad florin.

Excursionists to Europe are warned that the former railway robberies on "through" luggage have been resumed in Belgium and France.

In the House of Lords March 30, there was a long debate on the Royal Titles bill. The Duke of Richmond and Marquis of Salisbury defended the title of Empress as accurately expressing the Queen's relation to India. Lords Somerset, Grey, Laurence, Waveney, Granville and Kimberly opposed it. The latter congratulated the Ministers that they had not repealed Mr. Disraeli's mischievous argument concerning Russia. The bill was read a second time without a division, the opposition announcing their intention of supporting Lord Shaftesbury's motion praying the Queen not to assume the title of Empress.

Nearly every country in Europe has suffered more or less damage by floods during the past winter and present spring. In England there were inundations on the east coast, which laid the country under water for miles, and made communication in some towns only possible by boats; the south of France was visited with more severity, and immense damage done; then the Danube overflowed its banks and swept away hundreds of houses and devastated an immense area of agricultural land. Lastly, we have the intelligence that the town of Bois-le-Duc, or in the Dutch, Herzogenbosch, situated at the confluence of two small rivers which flow into the Meuse, has been partially laid under water and completely isolated by the bursting of the surrounding dikes. The railways have been destroyed, a large number of houses swept away, and over six thousand persons rendered homeless.

The French elections have all been held and the result is a decided triumph for the Republicans. Of the 536 Deputies, 354 are Republicans, 105 Bonapartists, 46 Conservatives and only 8 Orleans. The Republicans also have a decided majority of the Senate, Gambetta, leader of the Republicans, has shown many of the qualities of true statesmanship.

The Levant Herald, published in Constantinople, announces that the plague has reached Bagdad, where there are ten cases daily. The Egyptian sanitary authorities quarantine arrivals from the Persian Gulf for fifteen days.

The Pall Mall Gazette's Berlin special says that the proposed retirement of the Czar appears partly confirmed. It is said that the Czarewitch will be intrusted with the Regency during the summer, being temporarily invested with the full sovereign power.

The Church of St. Nicholas, just completed at Hamburg, is the highest in Europe. It is 472 feet high, eleven feet higher than the Strasbourg Cathedral.

The Chinese have built a man-of-war, and named her "The Terror to Western Nations." But she has not proved much of a terror yet, for the Government allowance of grease for the ways was so small that she was launched with great difficulty, and when launched the engines refused to work the screw, and the Chinese are wondering how they are to start her on the mission of terror.

A lively scene occurred in St. Paul's Church in Lisbon the other day. Father Hughes, an English Jesuit, has for some time past been attracting attention there by the vehemence of his language and his attacks on the vices of the times. But the other day he went a little too far, and spoke in unseemly language of the family of the women. Angry remonstrances were made by some of the congregation, and another Jesuit, to quiet the tumult, drew out a cudgel and struck one of the remonstrants. Upon this the whole congregation rose and drove Father Hughes and all the other Jesuits out of the church. The prior of the church now refuses to allow the Jesuits to preach there, and in this refusal he is sustained by the Portuguese Government.

Capt. Patton, the English pigeon shooter, won the grand prize at Monaco, worth $30,000, and then lost it all at roulette.

Brussels has the largest ice-house in the world. The roof covers an area of 18,000 square feet; the walls are double, and filled with moss and sawdust. There are nine separate ice chambers, each of 30,000 cubic feet capacity. There are galleries for storing meat in hot weather, capable of holding 2,000 quarters. A million tons of ice have been stored in the building at one time.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Lawrence, Ark., March 23.—Until within the past week we have had no winter comparatively; a little frost now and then; weather more spring than winter. Peaches have been blooming since Christmas. Plums were in full bloom, and the beautiful red bud was out two weeks ago, but the 19th we caught six inches of snow with a cold "Norther;" ice an inch thick the next night, and our peaches (the which we raise such fine ones) are gone where the woodbine, etc. Apples are injured some, but as they never fail here, we hope to get a full crop. I have been trying to raise fruit against North Iowa winters some eighteen years; have been here two years and am thinking I will have an easier thing of it here, for this is the best apple, pear and grape country I was ever in. No insects, no blight; the sweetest and most productive grapes; the largest, handsomest and finest-flavored apples and pears I ever saw. I will not now tell you any big stories about fruits here, but will send you some samples next fall, which I presume will please better.—J. F. M.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, April 1, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	59,666	Rice, bbls	824
Whisky	522	Cut meats, pkgs	9,375
Corn meal, bbls	220	Lard, pkgs	6,035
Corn meal, bags	3,216	Tobacco, hhds	1,559
Wheat, bush	287,300	do. cases	4,290
*Corn, bush	94,325	Butter, pkgs	15,069
Oats, bush	157,205	Cheese, bxs	—
Rye, bush	193	Cotton, bales	14,181
Malt, bush	24,535	Rosin	2,511
Barley, bush	45,532	Sols. turp., bbls	959
Beans, bbls	9,921	Dried Fruits, pkgs	288
Grass seed, bags	4,232	Eggs, bbls	13,718
Beef, pkgs	1,206	Peanuts, bags	2,239
Wool, bales	1,583	Dressed Hogs	1442
Hops, bales	1,102	Leather, sides	112,270
Pork, bbls	5,279	Sugar, hhds	209
Tallow	1,340	Oil cake	6,948
Molasses	709		

*Receipts of corn for week ending March 25 should have been 265,850 bush., instead of 43,000 bush., as we incorrectly printed.

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done: but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 823 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 17,150 do.; same time last year, 6,506 do. Exports of peas past week, 10,440 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 225,760 do.; same time last year, 133,825. The market is generally quiet and prices for every grade are weak. Distributors for consumption seem well supplied with mediums, and there are few new sales or marrows for export. The above totals in-

clude some parcels bought ahead. Nothing doing in kidneys. Peas are not moving to any extent. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, 90c.@$1; prime mediums, $1.10@1.15; fair to good, 85c.@$1; poor, 75@80c.; prime marrows, $1.20; fair to good, $1.25@1.15; prime white kidney, $1.60@1.70; other, $1.30@1.50; prime red kidney, $1.30@1.35; other, $1@1.20; Lima (Cal.), $2.50@2.75. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.10@1.12; do., in bulk and bond, 98@99c., green, $1.50@1.55; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.75; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—Choice lots are scarce and wanted. Medium stock dull. Sales at 33@33½c. for Western and 31@31½c. for Southern. Exports past week, none; since Jan. 1st, 31,080 lbs.; same time last year, 38,050.

BROOM CORN is hard to sell. The stock is composed of medium and common grades.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 6@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—New York has seldom turned into the second month of spring with such a scanty supply of butter as we now have. Were the times at all of a character that would be trifled with, we would be apt to hear of pretty warm prices under the light receipts and stock. Some of our largest houses are quite cleaned out of old, and they have to pay rather long figures to fill up special wants of fine or good old. Others who hold stock are husbanding it with great care since the storms of late threaten impediment to transportation. Quotations for old are marked up as high as they should be in the order of things. New is running white in color but it has to sell, and fortunately with the wants of market. We urge dairymen to give attention to our suggestions in recent reports. Western butter is selling well at our rates, there is no abundance. The Producers' Price Current gives the following:

Comparative receipts and exports June 1st.

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, lb.
June 1, '75, to April 1, '76	388,919	322,470
June 1, '74, to April 1, '75	887,150	448,500
June 1, '73, to April 1, '74	852,497	298,375
June 1, '72, to April 1, '73	617,223	445,113
June 1, '71, to April 1, '72	808,037	637,770

In speaking of Pail Butter Willard's Practical Butter Book has the following:—To neutralize the odor and sap of the wood, and to drive from the cells of the wood the air which bands the butter, the pails ought to be thoroughly soaked with hot brine made from the same kind of salt with which the butter is cared, and not used over and over again, until the bitter taste of the wood has destroyed the use of the brine, but thrown away after each pail is scalded. After the pail is thus prepared, pack the butter solidly, putting on the top of it a clean, white cloth, and cover the cloth with a layer of the same kind of salt, half an inch in thickness. Each time your pails are returned from the city, scald and cleanse them thoroughly.

New butter, prime, 38@40c.; fair to good, 35@38c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 41@42c.; fair to good, 33@36c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 37@39c.; fair to good, 33@35c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 40@—c.; fair to good, 35@37c.

Old State dairies, extra, 38@39c.; entire, good to prime, 36@37c.; fair to good, 32@34c.; firkins, selected fresh, 38@39c.; good to prime, 34@36c.; fair to good, 30@31c.; half-firkin tubs, selected, 40@42c.; good to prime, 37@38c.; fair to good, 34@37c.; poor to fair, 25@34c.; State, Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@32c.; dairies, 32@35c.; good to prime, 31@36c.; fair to good, 29@33c.; poor to fair, 21@28c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 20@23c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 33@35c.; good to prime, 31@33c.; tubs selected fresh, 30@31c.; good to prime, fresh, 31@33c.; fair to good, fresh, 27@30c.; poor to fair, fresh, 20@24c.; Western, early packed, selected, 27@29c.; good in lines, 25@26c.; fair in lines, 23@25c.; poor, 20@22c. Roll butter, Mich. & N. Hlls., fancy, 32@34c.; good to prime, 29@31c.; fair to good, 27@29c.; poor to fair, 22@25c.

CHEESE.—Export trade has been moderate of late but the aggregate for the week shows well. Do best grades unchanged prices were paid. The arrivals have been larger than expected, chiefly of common and medium stock, which are more urgently offered.

New State factory, fancy, 13¾@14c.; fine, 13½c.; do. good to prime, 12@13c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy fancy, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair to good, 10@11c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12½@13½c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fair, 8@11½c.; poor to fair, 7@8c.

There has been little Southern trade during the past season. Exports to Europe past week, 38,939 pckgs.

The Producers' Price Current gives the following comparative receipts and exports from June 1st:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, lbs.
June 1, '75, to April 1, '76	2,390 887	90,640,518
June 1, '74, to April 1, '75	1,881,070	88,515,132
June 1, '73, to April 1, '74	1,908,503	85,901,103
June 1, '72 to April 1, '73	1,658,938	81,014,108
June 1, '71, to April 1, '72	1,397,871	62,161,661
June 1, '70, to April 1, '71	1,140,946	59,148,007

COTTON.—The market advanced sharply immediately subsequent to our last, but closed with a decided reaction through the changes in the Liverpool market and their influences upon export trade. Closing prices are for April, 13 15-32@13 11-16c.; May, 13 21-32@13 11-16c.; June, 13 29-32@13 15-16c.; July, 14 5-32@14 7-32c.; August, 14 9-32c.; September, 14@14¼c.; October, 13¾@13 15-16c.; November, 13 25-32@13¾c.; December, 13 23-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.		*Ala.*		*Orleans.*		*Texas*	
Ordinary	9	13-16	9	13-16	9	13-16	9	13-16
Strict ordinary	10	11-16	10	11-16	10	11-16	10	11-16
Good ordinary	11	5-16	11	5-16	11	7-16	11	7-16
Strict good do	12	1-16	12	1-16	12	3-16	11	3-16
Low middling	12	9-16	12	11-16	12	13-16	12	13-16
Strict low middling	13	2-16	13	3-16	13	5-16	13	5-16
Middling	13¾		13¾		13	9-16	13	9-16
Good middling	13¾		14		14⅛		11¾	
Strict good middling	14⅛		14¼		14⅛		14⅜	
Middling fair	14⅜		14½		14¼		14⅝	
Fair	15⅛		15⅜		15⅛		15⅜	

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 15-16	Low middling	11 9-16
Strict ordinary	11 1-16	Middling	12 7-16

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are taken in small lots at about steady figures. Peaches are held more firmly, through reports of damage to the trees South. Blackberries are weak and dull.

Apples—State, sliced, 9¾@10c.; do., quarters, 8c.; Western quarters at 8¾@8½c.; Southern sliced, 1875, prime, 10c.; fair lots, 8@9c.; Tennessee qrs., 8¼@8½c. Blackberries, 10@10½c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@15c.; do. fancy, 16@17c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 25@26c. Cherries, 18@20c.

EGGS.—Receipts continue to arrive in quantities that give buyers considerable dictation on the price question. At one period since our last they worked up to 17½c. for prime fresh Western, but the market is very tame at present. For old stored stock the outlet is very dubious, and it may be that the fate of the remnant of limed awaits them. Other spring produce will soon divide up trade so far as eggs are concerned, and though the opening at the North may be backward, the facilities these days for sending Southern truck and fish, give us virtually an early spring. Dealers have this fact in mind, and shade quotations just as soon as a lull is imminent. Duck and goose eggs do not sell well until further on—say after Easter. We quote:

Near points, ₱ bbl., 17@17½c.; State and Penn., 16@16½c.; Western, prime, 15½@16c.; do. fair marks, 15@15½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 15@15½c.; duck, 25@27c.; goose, 50@55c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—We quote:

"H. C." oil peppermint, $1, in glass; Hale & Parshall do., $1@1.20 in tin, $3.50; sassafras, 55c.; wintergreen, $3.12; spearmint, $3.50; pennyroyal, $4.

FEATHERS.—Supply light. Live Western geese, 52@57c.; mixed, 35@45c. Hen and turkey feathers not wanted.

FLOUR.—There has been a good, steady export demand, which has been met freely at unchanged prices, closing with less doing and winter wheat extras rather weak.

Superfine State, $4.50@4.75; extra do., $5.10@5.65; superfine Western, $4.50@4.75; extra do., $5.10@5.75 No. 2, $3.30@4.10; extra round-hoop Ohio, $5.10@5.40; trade brands do., $5.45@7.25; white wheat extras, $5.90@7.75; St. Louis, $5.35@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.20@6.75; Southern at $4.35@5.00 for superfine; $5.25@6.45 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.50@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye at $4.25@4.65. Buckwheat flour at $1.60@1.80. Corn meal quoted at $2.65@3.25 for yellow Western; $3@3.35 for yellow Jersey; $2.90@3.20 for Pennsylvania.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.—Layer raisins, $2.37½@2.40; Valencia do., 10½@10¾c.; loose Muscatel, $2.60@2.90. Currants, 6@6¼c. Tarragona almonds, 17½c.; Ivica do., 15½@15¾c.; Languedoc do., 17½c.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, —— bbls. Since Jan. 1st, 4,151 do.; same time last year, 11,311, do. For wholesale use in apples we are now down to Russets. A few parcels of red fruit are bringing high prices, and, for that matter, the same may be said of choice, large Russets. Grapes are still quotable. Florida oranges are evidently down to last pickings. Few look well. Strawberries do not open with their usual spring vim. Charleston ranges at 25@40c. for poor and 60@70 for prime. Cranberries are plenty enough at the price.

Apples, winter varieties, ₱ bbl., $3.75@4.25; mixed lots, good, $3.50@3.70; mixed lots, fair, $2.50@3.25. Oranges—Florida, ₱ crate, $5@6. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, standard sorts, $1.25@1.50; good to pr., $1@1.25; "pony" crates, $3.50@4; good to choice, per bbl., $13@11. Peanuts are pretty and quiet; prices ruling weak. Virginia, per bush., $1.55@1.65; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 1½c.@$1.15.

FURS AND SKINS.—Further advices from the London spring sales show a decline of 10 per cent. on raccoon, skunked opossum and muskrat. Future city quotations will be apt to favor buyers.

GRAIN.—For wheat, with the foreign advices, unfavorable, there is more of an urgency to sell, and prices lower. Latest sales at $1.08@1.18 for inferior and ungraded spring; $1.20 for No. 2 Milwaukee spring, full inspection, in store; $1.48@1.50 for white Michigan; $1.15@1.30 for inferior to prime red Western; $1.23@1.30 for No. 2 spring; $1.15@1.17 for winter red and amber; $1.36@1.50 for white; $1.34@1.38 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 90c. for Pennsylvania. Corn is pressed for sale, lower and dull. Latest sales at 65¾@67c. for mixed Western; 66@66½c. for yellow Western. Oats have been in active speculative demand, but closed weak. Latest sales at 49@50 for white State; 45@48 for mixed Western.

HAY AND STRAW.—Exports past week, 3,082 bales; since Jan. 1st, 9,840; same time last year, 8,925. Arrivals are liberal, but there is a good demand and prices are well sustained.

Baled hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, 93c.@1.05; clover, 60@70c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

HIGHWINES.—Selling at $1.12½.

HOPS.—There has been a very quiet market and prices reduced 1@2c. The advanced figures almost checked export demand, and the receipts have been larger than expected. The market closed with more of an urgency to sell. The receipts for the week have been 1,200 bales; exports 950 bales, but the latter taking in some parcels purchased previously.

N. Y. State, 12@17c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins, 14@16c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; California, 15@20c.

HONEY.—Merely nominal. We do not remember another season so discouraging to both apiarist and seller. We quote white comb at 18@25c.; buckwheat and dark do., 13@15c.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 21@22c. for light, 23@24½c. for middle, 23@25c. for heavy, and 21@22c. for good damaged, showing a decided decline.

MAPLE SUGAR.—Choice Delaware is expected next week. The market is quiet for all grades. Supply mostly Western, much of which is of good quality. We quote:

New prime sugar ranges at 14@15c.; fair to good, 12@13c.; old, run over, 10@12c.; old, ordinary, 8@9c. Syrup, ₱ gal. of 11 lbs., 1@1.10.

Syrup is slow of sale; it seldom works off with much activity. Unfortunately, this valuable table delicacy arrives a little too late to be serviceable for the products of the griddle, which is an old bewilderment on the part of receivers.

OIL CAKE.—Western in large receipt and quoted at $40.50.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The working supply is mainly frozen. It brings pretty full prices when in good order. Some of it is turning out very poor. At this part of the season it is difficult to move any stock that is off in quality. We quote Philadelphia dry picked chickens at 21@22c.; capons at 25@30c. for large; 20@22c. for small capons and slips, with a supply fully equal to the demand.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 20@22c.; Jersey, good to prime, 19@21c.; State, good to prime, 18@20c.; Western, good to prime, 17@19c.; fair to good, 14@16c.; poor, 8@11c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; State, good to prime, 20@22c.; Western, good to prime, 15@21c.; Inferior, 10@15c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 22@24c.; State, good to prime, 21@23c.; Western, good to prime, 20@22c.; fair to good, 18@20c.; poor, 14@16c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 15@16c.; State, good to prime, 14@15c.; Western, good to prime, 13@15c.; do., poor to fair, 10@12c.

Pigeons have been scarce and high. They have declined with moderately increased receipts. Snipe scarce. Wild ducks dull and low.

Wild ducks at $1 for Canvasback; 70@80c. for redhead, and 50@65c. for Mallard. Wild pigeons, unpicked, ₱ doz., $2; English snipe, $1.50@5; plover, $3.50@4.

Live poultry is high in the scarcity of the dressed. Our quotations on geese are for prime only:

Turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 19@20c.; do. Western, 17@18c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2.50@3; do. Western, $1@1.50; ducks, Western, ₱ pair, 80c.@$1; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1.25@1.50; roosters, 8@10c.

A few spring chickens from Del. have sold at $1.25 per pair.

PROVISIONS.—There has been a very quiet market as regards export trade, with prices lower. Mess pork quoted at $23.30 for spot and April, $23.30 for May delivery, and $23.50 for June. Boxed dry-salted shoulders, 9¾c.; tierced pickled hams, 12½@13½c. Bacon at 12¾c. for long clear, and 14½c. for short do. Western steam lard at $14.30 for spot, $14.30 for April, $14.12½ for May, and $14.32½@14.55 for June delivery. Stearine at 15½c. for choice Western. Beef hams at $24@26. Tallow at 8¾c. for prime. Beef—New extra mess at $12.50@13.50; do. plain, $12.50@13; new tierced at $12 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $31.25@31.50.

SEED.—For clover there is at present only a light jobbing demand, with 17c. paid for choice State. Timothy selling in small lots at $2.45@2.75.

SUGAR (Refined).—Soft yellow, 8½@9½c.; soft white, 9¾@9¾c.; crushed, 10¾c.; powdered, 10¼c.; granulated, 10¾c.; cutloaf, 10¾@11c.

TOBACCO.—The assortments are better and an advanced range of prices prevail, with also a more active export trade.

KENTUCKY LEAF.

	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	5 @ 6	5½@ 6¼
Good lugs	7 @ 8	7¾@ 8¾
Low leaf	9 @10	9¼@10¾
Medium leaf	11 @13	11 @13¾
Good leaf	12 @14	12½@14¾
Fine leaf	14 @15	14½@15¾

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6¾@ 8
Wisconsin	6¾@ 9

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 2,005 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 60,340 do.; same time last year, 27,900 do. Exports of onions for the week, 105 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 4,771 bbls.; same time last year, 1,225 Potatoes continue dull and cheap. Nothing is selling with much volume. Onions are higher.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., 90c.@$1.25; Peach Blows, $1.00@1.25; Prince Alberts, 75c.@$1.00; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $4.50@7; Florida, $5.50@6. Sweet potatoes, $2.50@3.25. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $5@7; red, $8@10. Squash, Marrow, bbl., 75c.@$1; Hubbard, $1.25@1.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1.75@2; yellow, $1.75@2; white, $1.25@1.50. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 50c. Carrots, $1.00. Southern spinach, ₱ bbl., $1.50@2.25. Kale, 50@90c. Florida green peas, ₱ bush., $2.50@3.50. Norfolk cabbage, ₱ bbl., $1.25@1.50. Bermuda tomatoes, 4-quart box, $4; beets, $2@2.25 ₱ crate. Mushrooms, ₱ lb., 50@60c. Rhubarb, ₱ doz., $1@1.25.

WOOL.—Business continues slow, notwithstanding the moderate stocks are offered urgently in consideration of the close approach to the period for the new clips.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklock	50	@ 51
XX	47	@ 48
X	46	@ 48
No. 1	48	@ 50
No. 2	42	@ 45
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	42	@ 44
Course	40	@ 42
Combing	56	@ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	41	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	44	@ 45
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	44	@ 47
X	44	@ 47
No. 1	44	@ 46
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	34	@ 36
Coarse unwashed	27	@ 30
Burry	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, April 1.—Flour market steady; spring, $7.10; amber winter, $7.25; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.35@1.40; amber winter, $1.10@1.22; white winter, $1.20@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 25@28c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 17@18c. Lard, 13½@14c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1.25. Potatoes, bu., 20@@30c. Beans, ₱ bu., 70c.@1.15. Mess pork, $22@23. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $8.00@8.50. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., April 1, 1876.

TRANSACTIONS this week have been light, and there has been no improvement in prices. Factory dairies may be quoted at 12@13c., and factories at 12@13c. The Fairfield Association is still holding its goods at 14c., which is above the views of buyers.

The most important feature in the market this week is the sudden jump in the price of butter. New milk butter ran up to 38@40c. for extra grades, but the price for fair ranged at 33@36c. The high figures reached this week will stimulate the practice of skimming, and if it continues, we shall be likely to have a large proportion of skim cheese on the market at the early sales.

We have advices from Europe to the second week of March. Our London correspondent says:

There is a steady consumptive demand for all sorts of cheese—more especially American, the stocks of which are reducing fast.

The prices are for extra American, 65@66s.; fine, 63@64s.; good, 60@62s.; secondary and common, 30@45s.

English cheddar brings 82@93s.; Wiltshire double, 68@80s.; Cheshire medium, 56@68s.; fine, 71@86s.; Scotch, 70@88s.

There is no fine or good intermediate butter remaining unsold. All the oleomargarine to hand is sold, as also the best of the Canadian. The prices are as follows:

Jersey sells for 100@148s.; Dorsets, 176s.; Danish and Swedish, 120@176s.; Friesland, 160s.; Normandy extra, 168s.; American and Canadian, 90@130s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter, 60@130s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 1, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,539	40	497	6,403	000
Forty-Eighth St.	000	17	200	3,130	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	150	11,293
Harsimus Cove	4,658	00	000	8,161	8,016
Totals this week	8,197	57	697	17,853	20,309
" last week	7,189	89	647	14,852	17,370

BEEVES.—Trade on last Monday forenoon opened slow on an increased number of horned cattle, the quality of which was generally coarse. Prices were 9@13c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5¾@9¾ cwt. The markets closed weak, with several carloads unsold. Wednesday, trade fair at 9½@10c.; weights, 6¾@11¾ cwt. Thursday, sales small at 9@10¾c.; weights, 6@11¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed slow, with sales at 9@12c.; weights, 5½@12 cwt. From 55@58 lbs., net, fats have been allowed to the cwt. Spanish herds, mixed oxen and steers, sold at 8¾@9¾c., being partly corn-fed in Missouri. Native steers sold at 8@12¾c.; grade, 12¾@13c.; Western oxen, 8¾@10¾c.; State, 10@11½c.; Western bulls on live weight, 4¾@4½c.; mixed herds, quality poor, 8@9¾c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13	12 @13
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@11	9¾@11

MILCH COWS.—Trade very small and very slow: cows 5 ld at $30@45.50 ₱ head; 9 at $45@55; 5 at $50; 5 at $63@81—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—The supply of smooth quality veals has been light and the demand moderate at 9@10½c. ₱ lb.; sales slow to coarse quality meal-fed calves at 7@8¾c.; grass calves not quoted. State calves from Western New York sold at 9@10¾c.; Pennsylvania, 9@10¾c.; Jersey, 9@10c.; Western, meal-fed, 8@8¾c.; State, 7@8c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—The quality of the flocks as quoted below has been from fair to choice, generally good. Trade opened slow on Monday last, when sheep sold at 6¾@8¾c.; yearling lambs, 9¼c.; spring lambs, 11c.; the markets closed weak, with several flocks unsold. Wednesday, trade small; sheep, 5¾@8c. Thursday, trade small in sheep at 6¾@8¼c. Friday, the markets closed weak; sheep, 6¾@7¾c.; lambs, 8¾c. Michigan sheep sold at 6¾@8c.; Ohio, 6¾@8¼c.; State, 6¾@8¼c.; Pennsylvania, 7¾@8c.; Indiana, 7@7¾c. The lambs to hand have been received exclusively from New York State.

HOGS.—During the latter days of this past week and up to Tuesday afternoon, there were no sales of live hogs. On Wednesday, 114 Ohio hogs, live weight, 190 lbs. ₱ head, sold at 8¾c. ₱ lb. City dressed weak at 11¾@10¾c.; light pigs, 10¾@11c.; trade small.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade still hampered by bad weather, yet dealers report a slight improvement in the sales of high-priced animals. Three pair stylish carriage horses, $1,000@1,900 ₱ pair; 11 pairs family do., $325@450; 7 pairs course quality heavy draft horses sold at $320@425; 3 head of do. at $225; 18 roadsters with fair trotting action, $275@425; 5 trotters of moderate speed but stylish, $500@700; 43 head poor quality light harness horses, $40@92; 22 head ordinary do., $117@211. Thirty-one horses arrived per Erie Railroad via Oak Cliff Station.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

EDWIN BOOTH cleared $52,000 by his Southern starring tour.

FOSTER DEWEY, Tweed's old private Secretary, is at Jacksonville, Fla.

ALFRED R. PRITCHARD, a prominent citizen of Rochester, died March 26, aged 53.

LIEUTENANT CAMERON, the English African explorer, is headed for Liverpool and home.

AT the revivals in Troy, conducted by Mrs. Van Cott, 300 converts were made in one week.

A NATIVE Greek declined the post of Minister to England because the salary, $10,000 was too small.

A PARIS dispatch says:—"J. Thirion Montanban, Minister of San Domingo to France, is dead."

LOUIS XAVIER EYMA, the French author, is dead. He was born in St. Pierre, Martinique, in 1816.

RISTORI and Rossi will play together in London in the fall, and possibly will visit this country together.

GEN. GARIBALDI has accepted the Presidency of an International Arbitration Congress to be held at Rome.

THE Shah of Persia has decided to send the Crown Prince Muzesser Eddin to Europe to be educated.

A MONUMENT to the German artist Reitschl, by Prof. Jean Schilling, was dedicated at Dresden, recently.

THE Emperor of Brazil, now coming to visit the United States, has been a great traveler for many years.

SENATOR JONES of Nevada, has prepared a speech on finance, which he will deliver at the first opportunity.

TRACKERAY was the only man upon the Punch staff with whom Mark Lemon was not upon thoroughly easy terms.

PROF. J. F. WEIR of the Yale Art School, has selected five of his paintings to be placed on exhibition at the Centennial.

MR. COLLIN J. MCRAE of Mississippi, the financial agent of the Confederacy in Liverpool during the war, died in Spanish Honduras a few weeks ago.

MLLE. ANNA DE BOLOCA, the artist, accompanied by Maurice Strakosch, sailed from Liverpool on the steamship Germanic, on March 24th, for New York.

MR. DISRAELI is sitting for a bust to Mr. J. D. Crittenden, which is to be planted in the Royal Academy. The same artist has executed busts of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Carlyle.

MR. WILBUR FLAG of the class of 1873 of Yale College, has presented a practice barge to the eight-oared crew of that institution, which is to row with Harvard at Springfield, Mass.

LORD LYTTON has taken so seriously to politics since his appointment to the Indian Viceroyalty that he has withdrawn his new poem, "King Poppy," which was about to be published.

MR. ANTHONY TROLLOPE will commence a serial story in the May number of The Temple Bar Magazine, to be entitled "The American Senator." The scene of the story is laid in England.

PRESIDENT CLARK of the Massachusetts Agricultural College has selected Mr. D. P. Penhallow of Portsmouth, N. H., for Professor of Botany and Chemistry and Mr. William Wheeler for Professor of Mathematics in the Japan Agricultural College.

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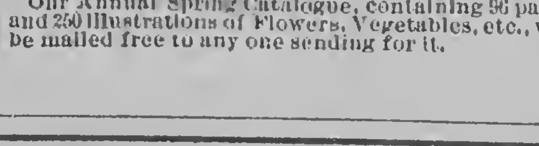

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Chattanooga is to have a United States Court.

— Forty-two theaters are in full blast in London this season.

— Fifteen thousand bunches of violets are sold daily in Paris.

— The Vienna Exposition buildings are rapidly falling to decay.

— Liverpool is the most densely populated town in Great Britain.

— A mountain of superior white chalk has been discovered in Idaho.

— Wide-awake farmers planted potatoes in Nantucket, two weeks ago.

— Vermont has a State Association of Breeders of Spanish Merino Sheep.

— The new catalogue shows that Michigan University has 1,127 pupils.

— England has spent $1,000,000,000 on her navy within the last eighteen years.

— The annual income of Oxford and Cambridge Universities is nearly $4,000,000.

— Hereafter wife-beaters in California will be punished by a public whipping.

— Eight per cent. has just been fixed as the legal rate of interest in Kentucky.

— A Polish translation of Shakspeare's works is in course of publication at Warsaw.

— The Bureau Veritas reports 96 sailing vessels and 9 steamers lost during January.

— It is said that the French Government has decided to annex the New Hebrides.

— Thirty-seven companies on the Kennebec river, Me., have housed 690,500 tons of ice.

— A library association has been formed by the negroes of Richmond, and they ask for books.

— The Grangers of the United States have over $18,000,000 invested in their various enterprises.

— Sixteen centenarians died in Massachusetts last year, eleven of whom were born in Ireland.

— At a sale in England the other day, Earl Dudley gave 7,500 guineas for a pair of Sevres vases.

— A Mormon tabernacle has been erected near Albany, Oregon, and many conversions are reported.

— At York, Pa., March 19, an explosion entirely destroyed the powder mill of Thomas C. Brainard. No loss of life.

— A man at Goshen, Ind., has made a chair on which he claims that he has used 103 different kinds of wood.

— The anti-gas fever has extended to Selma, Ala., where the city has discontinued the use of its street lamps.

— An excellent quality and almost unlimited quantity of mica (isinglass) has been discovered at Silver City, Idaho.

— Seven hundred men are employed on the Truckee division of the Central Pacific to keep the track clear of snow.

— The entire country for four or five miles west of Steamboat Springs, Nevada, has been located by cinnabar prospectors.

— There are a couple of women revivalists traveling in Texas. One preaches and the other exhibits a magic lantern.

— A Boston journal says that New York spends $2,000,000 a year for flowers alone, and for plants and fruits $3,000,000 more.

— By the arrival of the City of Peking at San Francisco the Chinese population of that city was increased by 1,017 persons.

— According to the new law of Alabama, every commercial traveler doing business in the State must take out a $50 license.

— A new line of steamers will soon commence running between San Francisco and Panama, touching at the Mexican ports.

— It is expected that the Watchung branch of the Montclair and Greenwood Lake Railroad will be in operation in about a month.

— Proclamations prohibiting all kinds of gambling have been posted outside the city of Canton, China, by the Viceroy and Lieutenant-Governor.

— A French legal adviser of the Japanese Government has presented a petition to the Ministers to abolish torture in the procedure of the courts.

— The Pennsylvania Legislature are considering a bill which makes it a penal offence to point a gun or pistol at a person, whether in jest or earnest.

— Packages of beet sugar seed are being distributed among the farmers of Oregon, and a factory will be located in the section showing the largest returns.

— France makes 640,000 dolls every year, many of them wonderful pieces of mechanism. England furnishes the rag dolls, and Germany the wax and china heads.

— The Sisters of Charity at Carson, Nevada, have purchased the race track near that place, and will erect a nunnery and orphan asylum upon the site.

— Several years ago the Berlin Museum paid $24,000 for what were supposed to be Moabite antiquities. It has just been discovered that they are not genuine.

— Petrarch, the favorite for the Two Thousand Guineas and the Derby, has been purchased from Mr. Spencer, his breeder and owner, for $52,000, by Lord Dupplin.

— A "ranchero" near Santa Fe owns 80,000 head of cattle, which he pastures on 16,000 adjoining sections of land. One hundred "vaqueros" and one hundred boys take care of them.

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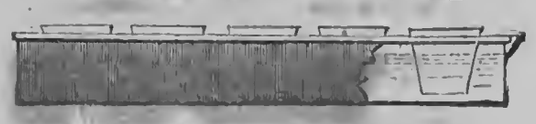

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Wit and Humor.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

Young girls like to read the marrytime news.

Why is the peacock like the figure 9?—It is nothing without its tail.

Somebody says that Tyndall calls his wife Molliecule. We suppose she calls him a-Tom.

The question is asked why newspapers will persist in abbreviating a son of temperance and make a S. O. T. of him.

Why is the present Polar Expedition likely to come to grief?—Because the men and officers of the Discovery are not on the Alert.

"Well, sir what does h-a-i-r spell?" Boy—"I don't know." "What have you got on your head?" Boy (scratching)—"I guess it's a mus-keeter bite."

The largest feet known to history must be those of the Maryland editor who writes: "We black our boots with 15,000,000 boxes of domestic blacking a year."

An original neighbor of Rip Van Winkle was said to be so lazy that when he went to hoe corn he worked so slowly that the shade of his broad-brimmed hat killed the plants.

Her smile is sunlight and her laugh
That same smile set to tune;
Her lips the honey bee might quaff
And dream of buds in June.

Two Irishmen, traveling, were robbed and tied in a wood. One in despair, cried:—"Och, I'm undone!" Said the other:—"Faix, then I wish you would come and undo me."

Gushing idiot—How sublime this rinking is! By Jove I could rink with you as partner through life—could you? Young lady—Well, I don't know; you see it all depends on your rinkome!

They have a disagreeable way in Canon City, Col., when a man takes a broken chair to the cabinet shop, of saying, "Hit you with a chair, did she?" This is very trying to the average citizen.

They are going to explode 50,000 lbs. of nitro-glycerine at Hell Gate next year, say the New York papers. It is not wide enough at present to accommodate the travel from New York and Brooklyn.

Butcher:—"Come John, be lively now; break the bones in Mr. Williams' chops, and put Mr. Smith's ribs in the basket for him." John briskly:—"All right sir, just as soon as I've sawed off Mrs. Murphy's leg."

"No, Mrs. Henry; no!" said John, in tones of solemn warning. "Look at Mrs. Belknap. She wanted a new dress, too; and see where she is now! Stick to your calico, Mrs. Henry, and avoid the insidious voice of the tempter."

Epitaph for a liar:

In life he lied while he had breath;
And strange to say lies still in death.

For a musical director:

In beating Time his life was passed,
But Time has beaten him at last.

For a brewer:

A well-known brewer lieth here;
His ails are o'er—he's on "his bier."

For a potter:

On earth he oft turned clay to delf,
But now he's turned to clay himself.

For a scalemaker:

His weighs were the ways of pleasantness
In all life's fill'nl dream.
He struck a balance with the world,
And then—he kicked the beam.

On arriving at Calais on her way to make the grand tour, an English lady was surprised and somewhat indignant at being termed, for the first time in her life, "a foreigner." "You mistake, madam," said she to the libeler, with some pique; "it is you who are the foreigners. We are English."

He was taken sick in the night, and in her youthful ignorance she made two mustard plasters, and put one in front and one behind, and then with horrid sarcasm she asked him how he felt. But he was a well-bred man, and merely said that he realized with a tenderness he had never known before the true position of a sandwich in the community.

The committee appointed to investigate the subject of ladies' luncheons when traveling report that they invariably consist of a very small sandwich, large quantities of white and yellow cake, and an immense pickle; if the latter is absent the affair is considered a failure. These data are trustworthy, and shed light upon a subject to which little attention has been paid hitherto.

A man out West, about thirty years old, having a shot-gun on his shoulder and two pigeons in his hand, was a short time back standing at a street corner, telling a crowd that he had been out, and killed five hundred pigeons since sunrise. "You're a liar!" shouted a man on the edge of the crowd. The stranger looked at him, long and earnestly, and then inquired, "Where did you get acquainted with me?"

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VOL. XXXIII. No. 16.
WHOLE No. 1368.

NEW YORK, AND ROCHESTER, N. Y., APRIL 15, 1876.

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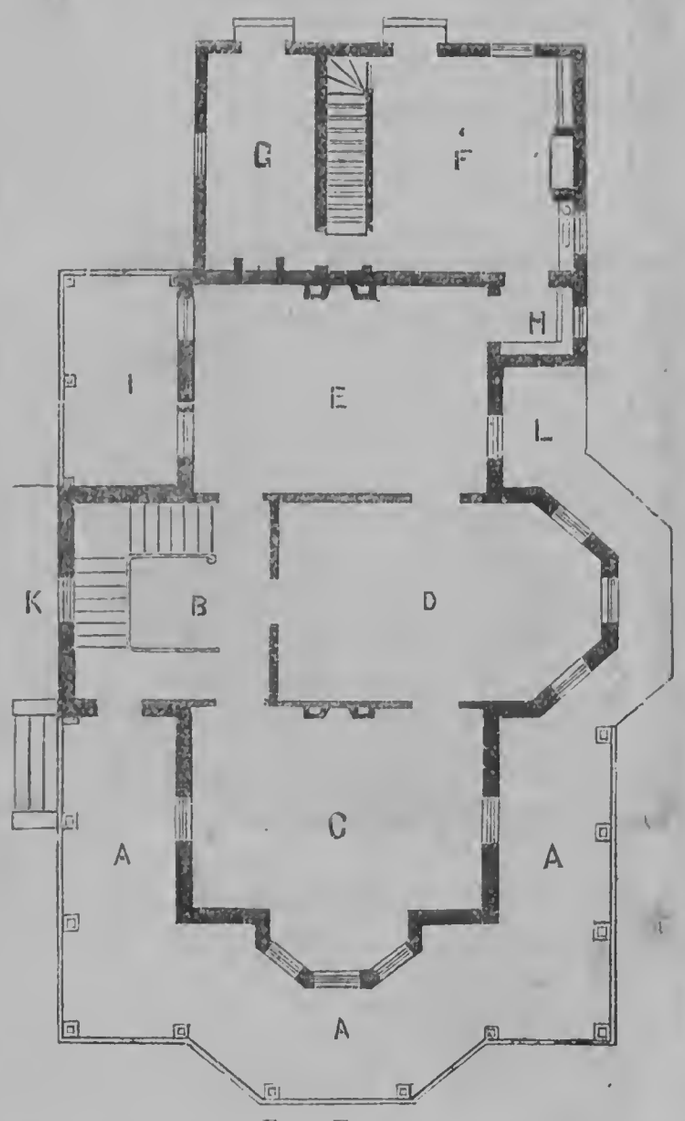
Rural Architecture.

A GOTHIC VILLA.

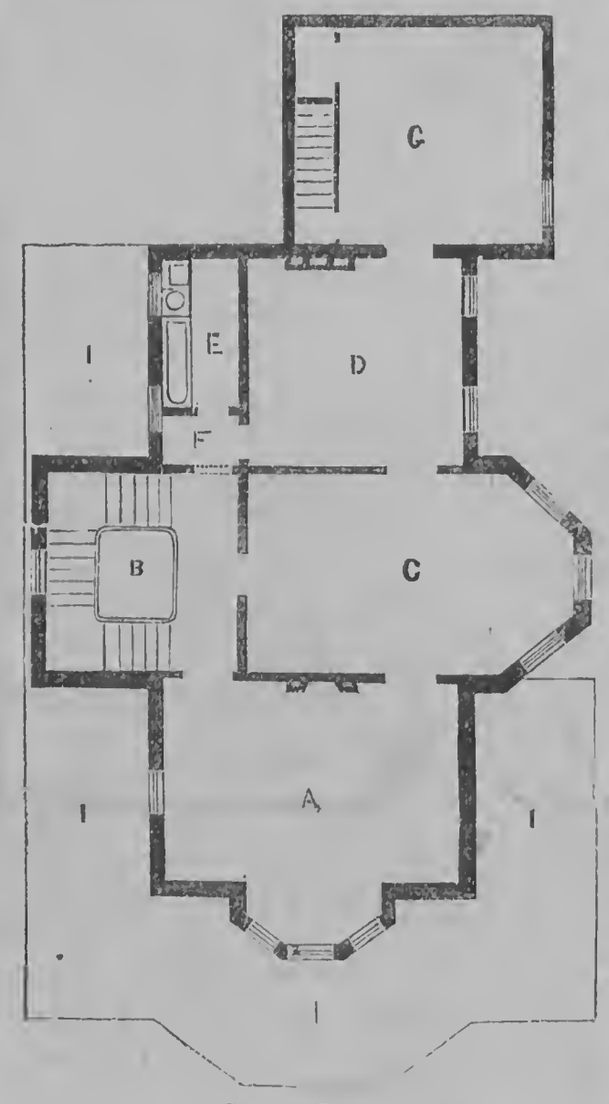
ONE of the best plans for a Gothic Villa which we have seen for many a year was contributed by Mr. SAMUEL SLOAN, an architect of Phila., to the American Land and Law Advisor. We append the illustrations and letter-press description, as follows:

There are few styles, if any, that can give a more perfect home retreat than the Domestic Gothic. Its irregularity of plan presents features of artistic value, and every gable and gablet helps to make up a picture possessed of all the charms which boldly contrasted light and shade so acceptably present to the mind.

The perspective which herewith illustrates our remarks clearly indicates comfort, ease and elegance. The ample verandas, which insure such an extent of shade, so desirable in overcoming seasons of heat, and the projecting gable, which gives such decided character to the whole composition, with the rural ornamentation which accompany them, tend to make it impressively a home. The material of which this residence might best be constructed, for permanency and appearance, should be stone of a selected tint. Coursed rubble, with cut quoins, hoods and sills, as well as plinths and chimney caps, would produce a most pleasing effect. It also would look extremely well if open-coursed mortar joints were sprinkled with small cobble stones and coarse, sharp gravel. But if the proper stone material cannot be had, brick is the next best thing in order, with cut stone trimmings, quoins, etc.



FIRST FLOOR.



SECOND FLOOR.

For covering the roof we would prefer slate of an ornamental cut, stained some tint appropriate to an attractive design. And here we may observe that the roof, being the finishing or crowning feature of a building, should not be slighted, but rather be made a prominent feature of the composition.

The covering may also be tin, well painted and finely sanded, taking care to obliterate all signs of joints. We would also suggest the screwing down on it of beveled or molded slips, in vertical rows, sixteen inches apart from center to center. But the tint chosen for painting the tin must be some one agreeable to the general tone of finish to the house, as any discordancy would be so remarkable in a Mansard roof that it would be fatal to the expression of the design. The vertical slips should be painted some color in strong contrast with the roof-covering, so as to give sufficient relief to these lines of demarcation.

Good, sound, split-shingles make an excellent roof, but if left unpainted, they present a raw appearance, until time has mellowed them with a somber tint assimilating better with the rest of the construction.

The following is a description of the plan of the principal story of this Gothic

DESIGN FOR A GOTHIC VILLA.—PERSPECTIVE VIEW.

Villa:—A, A, A, the porch, 8 feet wide; B, the hall, 14x13½ feet, with principal staircase; C, parlor, 14x20 feet; D, sitting-room, 14x22 feet; E, dining-room, 14x20 feet; F, kitchen, with stairs leading to the servants' room; G, wash-house; H, butler's pantry, connecting dining-room with kitchen; I, side porch to the dining-room; K, side porch to the hall; L, balcony, front of dining-room window, and extends around the octagon end of sitting-room, connecting with front porch. All the windows opening on to the porches and balconies extend to the floor.

The second story is divided as follows: A, front chamber, 14x20 feet, with bay window; B, the hall, 13½x14 feet, with stairs continued to the rooms above; C, chamber over sitting-room, 14x19 feet, with wardrobe closets, H, H, each of which is three feet deep; D, chamber above dining-room, 14x14 feet; E, bath-room, 5½x10 feet, with bath-tub, water-closet and water-basin, entered from the lobby at F. This lobby communicates with the main stair hall by an archway. In this arrangement the bath-room is accessible from all parts of the house. G is the servant's room over the kitchen, approached by a private staircase, as indicated; and a door communicates with the main house, by descending three steps.

The accommodations are ample for a family of ten persons, servants included, and if constructed with brick, with painted walls, and furnished with all the modern conveniences, the cost would not exceed $12,000.

Such a residence, with accommodations as the plans display, cannot fail to be satisfactory alike to those who occupy it and to the passing observer, to whom the evident completeness of the whole composition must give pleasure.

Field Crops.

CENTENNIAL CORN PREMIUMS.

THE following statement presents further information, as promised by Mr. WILSON, in regard to the offers made to farmers by himself and others for the best results in growing corn:

TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR BEST RESULTS IN CORN CULTURE.

The corn crop of the United States may be estimated in a favorable season at a thousand million bushels for the grain, and sixty million tons for the stover. The total cash value of this result is not less than a thousand million dollars a year. In addition to this stands out the great fact that each bushel of corn is capable of producing a definite amount of other products of higher value. This not only increases the profit of the crop to the farmer, but tends to reduce the cost of other food staples in the markets of the world.

The quantity of these staples annually produced by American farmers is far greater in amount than is commonly supposed. The single article of butter reaches a yearly aggregate of ten or twelve hundred million pounds. When to these are added the corresponding amounts for beef, pork and mutton, for milk, cheese and wool, for poultry and eggs, and when it is considered, that for every pound of these staples, the profit to the farmer, and the market price to the consumer are largely determined by the yield and cost of Indian corn, it is easy to see that the actual value of this cereal is not to be measured by ordinary standards.

An average gain of even 5 cts. a bushel in the cost of corn would amount to fifty million dollars a year for the entire crop of the country, and would reduce the cost in a like ratio for each of the above staples. Hence it is not surprising that the attention of the foremost minds in the country has been lately and earnestly drawn to this subject. To stimulate farmers to aim at better modes of culture and a lower rate of cost in producing this grain is an object worthy of the best efforts of thoughtful men.

No apology is therefore needed in submitting to the farmers, Granges and Clubs of the United States the following series of offers which, from a much smaller beginning, have grown up to their present extent, as already explained, by the aid and co-operation of other parties.

The following well-known business firms have, by their liberal proposals, contributed to promote this movement:—New York.—R. H. Allen & Co., The Rural Publishing Co., Mr. Frank Leslie, B. K. Bliss & Sons, Sheldon & Co., Jas. Miller, W. L. Allison, Peter Henderson & Co., H. J. Baker & Bros., A. S. Barnes & Co., Clark & Maynard, Dick & Fitzgerald, The New York Plow Co., C. T. Dillingham, The Lucius Hart Manuf. Co. Philadelphia.—Henry A. Dreer, Harrison Bros. & Co. Boston.—The Ames Plow Co., W. H. Bowker & Co. Rochester.—James Vick, The Pennock Manuf. Co. of Penn., and others in various localities.

Though the premiums are not in the form of money, they are believed and intended to be even better adapted to the end in view. They comprise books, farm implements fertilizers, plated silver, oil paintings, vegetable and flower seeds, art-subjects, tools, etc.

In order to give successful competitors some opportunity of choice, the premiums are made to consist of a series of orders on the various firms above named, by which means a better assortment is secured. This arrangement simplifies the plan so that it is only necessary to state here the money value of each offer, leaving the selection as far as possible to the winning parties, though necessarily under some restriction.

LIST OF OFFERS.

	Money values.
For the best yield of shelled corn by weight from a single grain, an order amounting to..	$50
For the second best yield of the same, an order amounting to.....	25
For the third best yield, an order amounting to.....	15
For the fourth best yield, an order amounting to.....	10
For the next twenty products of the same, twenty orders of $5 each.....	100
For the best yield of shelled corn by weight from 20 rods, an order amounting to.....	50
For the second best yield of the same, an order amounting to.....	25
For the third best yield, an order amounting to.....	15
For the fourth best yield, an order amounting to.....	10
For the next twenty products from 20 rods, twenty orders of $5 each.....	100
For the lowest cost per bushel for shelled corn on one or more acres, an order of.....	50
For the second lowest cost of the same, an order of.....	25
For the third lowest cost, an order of.....	15
For the fourth lowest cost, an order of.....	10
For the next 20 rates of lowest cost per bushel, twenty orders of $5 each.....	100
For the largest product of pork from 1 bushel of corn, an order amounting to	50
For the second largest product of the same, an order amounting to.....	25
For the third product, an order amounting to	15
For the fourth product, an order amounting to	10
For the next 20 products of pork from 1 bushel of corn, twenty orders $5 each.....	100
For the best results in butter from 1 bushel of corn, the same series of offers as above, amounting to.....	200
For the ten best experiments in growing corn with commercial manures, to test the theory of a specific formula for any desired yield, ten orders amounting to.....	1,000

This offer is intended for Granges and Clubs. An accurate outline for the experiment and a formula for fertilizing will be sent, on application, to every Grange or Club intending to compete.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION.

The mode of culture in every case to be accurately described in writing, and the result to be duly verified. All products intended for competition will receive due attention by notifying me as soon as they are ready to harvest. Full particulars in regard to the awards, and the exhibition at the Centennial, etc., will be furnished in a supplementary statement in ample season.

As most of the offers here made do not require the products to be exhibited, provided the statement of facts is duly verified, it will be left to the option of competitors to exhibit or not. But, in any case, the facts must be clearly stated and properly verified.

All farmers, Granges and Clubs intending to compete, are requested to send me their address; not for publication, but as a matter of convenience to me, and of advantage to themselves.

CONRAD WILSON.

New York City, P. O. Box 4242.

POTATOES.

WHO can tell what comments we shall have to make on the potato crop of 1876? Those on last year's crop were generally dismal enough. One correspondent of the RURAL NEW-YORKER succeeded in growing potatoes, (Brownell's Beauty) for 12½c. per bushel, and he made some profit even out of last season's low prices. Generally, however, potatoes were grown at a loss last year, and the caution is almost universal against planting too largely this spring. This will be especially true where enormous quantities were grown last year, and also where men unused to the business went to planting potatoes largely for the first time. The losses of these classes have been heavy; but farmers who have learned the knack of growing potatoes cheaply, and mainly by horse hoeing have not suffered so severely. Their crops have been grown at moderate cost and low prices only means the loss of their customary profits. Those who understand potato growing were cheated out of fair pay rather by partial failure of the crop, owing to dry weather in a few localities just as the tubers were setting, than to the lowness of price. A crop of 250 to 300 bushels per acre may be made to pay expenses at 25 to 30 cents a bushel, and when near a good market at even a less rate.

It is scarcely possible that the present low prices of potatoes shall prevail another season. We advise no one to discard other crops, and depend altogether or mainly on potatoes. Nor would we have any farmer plow up unsuitable ground or a larger area than he can easily and thoroughly care for, with the help and manure at his disposal. We had rather see him planting less than more than usual. If he has been accustomed to cultivating five to twenty acres let him reduce this one-third or one-half. In the meantime he can be quite well assured, that thousands who last year grew potatoes largely will henceforth discard them entirely, and enough will surely do so to ensure a paying price for all which even in a good season can be grown next year.

The potato beetle is not so generally feared as it was a year or two years ago, but the warning from the over-production of last season is far more likely to be effectual than any fear of the beetle. Still we do not doubt that this enemy may prove destructive in many localities, which last year almost entirely escaped. The great reduction in area planted this season, will concentrate the enemy on a smaller space; but this will also make it easier for farmers to fight him. With a hot, dry season, as we may probably have next summer, keeping the vines clear of potato beetles either by hand picking or poison, is likely to be no small part of the farmer's work. Still this should not deter any one from planting potatoes; but rather encourage them. If the beetle is active he will still further thin off the growing crop, and may even insure high prices for farmers, energetic and enterprising enough to save their crops.

BROWNELL'S BEAUTY.

AT the Jackson meeting of the Michigan State Pomological Society the Brownell's Beauty potato received strong indorsment as being the coming late potato and suitable to take the place of the favorite Peachblow, which is reported to be on the decline. A writer in the Lansing (Mich.) Republican confirms this commendation in the following terms:

"The Brownell's Beauty first made its appearance in the spring of 1873. Its beauty, superior keeping qualities, great productiveness, and delicate quality, as a table potato, at once placed it in the front rank of those recommended for general cultivation. It is stated on good authority that samples grown in 1873 were exhibited with those grown in 1874, and but few could detect sufficient difference to call them the growth of two years. It is decidely a late potato; and my experience has been that it is at least eight days longer in coming up, after being planted, than the Early Rose. The size is medium to large, growing very fair and smooth; eyes small and nearly even with the surface; shape oval, somewhat flattened; skin a deep flesh color; flesh white, fine grained and very delicate. For the table, they cook by either baking or boiling, equal to the best, and are never hollow, watery, or discolored at the center. The tubers grow compactly in the hill, and are easily dug,—fully equal to the Early Rose in this respect; and I confess this is saying much, as the Early Rose has always been the *queen*, in the item of digging. It ripens in 12 to 14 weeks from time of planting, and is a good, healthy grower.

"And now I must say that, while I have no mind to underrate the Peachblow as a late potato,—for no potato has filled our market so long and so well,—the Brownell's Beauty beats it, because it ripens early, it grows compactly in the hill, is dug with one-half the labor, the eyes are not one-quarter as deep, it is a better keeper, and the quality just as good. It has been tried for three years, and there is no humbug about it. I have no doubt it will be the principal late potato in our market next fall, provided there is enough in the county to furnish the farmers with seed."

CORN AND WIRE WORMS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Prairie Farmer communicates the following:—Last spring I planted a field of corn which was the second crop after breaking an old meadow. The wire worms attacked the corn before it came up and made clean work of it, in places, all over the field; in some places for nearly an acre the corn was entirely destroyed by them, while in others in the same field the corn came up and looked well. We went to work with our hoes and replanted the vacant places. The ground being warm and in fine condition I supposed the corn would be up in a very few days, but to my sad disappointment there was not one hill in fifty that came at all. When I examined for the cause, I found from four to six wire worms in each hill, which had entirely destroyed the germ and heart of the grain before the plant got through the ground. I thought I would not give it up yet, though it was getting late in the season, so I procured some early corn called the "Kankakee yellow," and put it to soak in copperas water in the evening, and let it soak till morning. I then poured the water off and went to replanting the same ground again. Nearly every hill came up in a few days, grew finely, and made good, sound corn. I am fully convinced that seed corn soaked as above directed, will prevent wire worms and many other insects troubling it. The only difficulty is it may be some trouble to plant with a corn planter while damp.

ABOUT OATS.

I HAVE seen advertised a few new varieties of oats. One is called "Andre's King," the other "Excelsior." Will you give your ideas about them in the columns of the RURAL?—YOUNG FARMER.

ANDRE'S KING, is a new variety with which we have had no personal experience. Will readers who have please write us its merits and demerits. The Excelsior is a white oat weighing 36 to 38 lbs. per bushel, and yielding as largely as any other good variety. We have known 86 bushels per acre to be grown of this variety. The white Probesteier oat is very similar to the Excelsior.

Sheep Husbandry.

MANAGEMENT OF YOUNG LAMBS.

THE following interesting and timely article on the management of lambs is from the N. Y. Herald of a recent date:

In the Northern and Eastern States a great many lambs are lost every season during the cold storms of rain and snow which prevail during vernal seed time. Many times lambs become so chilled in a short time after they are dropped that to save their lives the tender animals must be carried to the kitchen, where they can be warmed, invigorated and fed if necessary. The National Live Stock Journal states that this spring will be an exceptional one if there are not some days and nights when the lamb that is dropped with no shelter but the corner of a rail fence and no other bed than the ground will have a pretty hard struggle for life the first few hours of its existence. To those farmers who have not provided against such contingencies, as well as those who, having the necessary shelter, are crowded out, or accidentally separated from them, we offer a few suggestions as to the means most easily employed to resuscitate chilled lambs: Wrap the little sufferer in something soon as possible, to break the chilling effect of the atmosphere, and allow what animal heat there may be left to do its part in sustaining life. If within reach of the house, take the lamb to the fire (first observing closely the mother, so that you will recognize her when returning to the flock). If warm water can be had, immerse the lamb, keeping only the nose out, and hold it there until it is pretty thoroughly warm (no fear that the water is too hot if the hands can be held in it). Now, wipe the lamb as dry as can be done, and wrap in an old cloth or sheep skin, and place near the stove. If the mother cannot be caught readily so as to allow the lamb to suck, it should be fed a few spoonfuls of warm milk from a sucking bottle, if one is handy, otherwise from a spoon, using great care not to feed faster than the milk is swallowed. By this treatment we have known many a lamb resuscitated, that, when found, showed scarcely any signs of life. When the warm water cannot be had for immediate use, the same end can be secured, though not so readily or surely, by wrapping it in warm cloths and laying close to the fire, or, as the writer has often done, placing in the stove oven, left partly open for the admission of air. The advantage in hot water is that it will entirely exclude all chilling air, and will act equally on all parts of the body. When possible, the milk of the mother should be used in feeding young lambs, as it contains certain properties adapted to setting in proper order the digestive functions. Unless far gone, lambs will help themselves when held up to the mother, if a little patience is used by the shepherd. Cows' milk, warmed to the proper degree, with a few drops of molasses, will be found a pretty good substitute, if too much is not fed at a time.

TICKS ON SHEEP.

I should like to hear, through the columns of your paper, the best way to kill the sheep ticks. —H. E. R., *Glensdale, N. Y.*

Sheep well kept in winter rarely suffer much from ticks. At shearing time the ticks gather on the lambs, whose growing wool affords better protection than that of the newly clipped older sheep. Dipping the lambs in a solution of tobacco water will kill the ticks. Take the coarse stems of the tobacco plant for cheapness, steep in water, and immerse the lambs, excepting their heads, wetting the wool to the skin. This will speedily kill the ticks. By having the lamb stand on an inclined platform connecting with the tub, the tobacco juice can be squeezed from the wool and used for a large flock. While cold weather lasts, feed the sheep liberally and the ticks will do little injury.

SHEEP RAISING in California began in 1852 with importations across the plains from Missouri.

Dairy Husbandry.

EXPERIMENT IN SETTING MILK ON THE SWEDISH SYSTEM.

Mr. H. O. Freeman of Chenango, writes us as follows:—"Your invaluable work, Willard's 'Practical Butter Book,' that should be in the hands of all dairymen, has opened my eyes to the full extent of their orbits in the result of some late experiments made as suggested in the work. In order to be as practical as the Book, if that were possible, I go right at the results; yet I must diverge a little, for when I read your report of the Swedish system of setting milk, I made up my mind that the man who wrote that book had better have left out the plan followed in that far-off, isolated region. But I had the misfortune or good fortune to have under my charge one creamery in which the spring of water was unusually cold, standing at 42 to 44 degs., Fahr. Upon close of the season's business of 1875, I found this creamery had given more butter from a given quantity of milk than others where the water was not so cold. I at once conceived the idea that perhaps those Swedes did know some things which we Yankees had not yet practiced, and that Willard's 'Practical Butter Book' was written by a man who desired to place before the American dairyman such facts as had come to his knowledge, relying upon the intelligence of last-mentioned peoples to use them or ignore them. I tried the plan with the following result:

"I used the milk from one cow, stirred it well before dividing equally into the glass milk-testers, holding one pint each. Placed one tester, after filling, in a room the temperature of which was 62 degs. Fahr.; the other tester, filled with the same quality of milk, was placed in an ice bath and reduced to a temperature of 33 degs. Fahr. and within two feet of first tester. In three hours after setting, the open air tester showed just 5 degs. of cream—the ice bath tester 25 degs. of cream. After setting 20 hours the open air tester increased its percentage of cream up to 12 degs. and the ice bath tester decreased to 18 degs. The decrease of the latter from 25 to 18 degs. may be explained by you more to one's satisfaction than I am able to give. I assume the sudden rising of cream carried with it from the milk *something* the cream found out it did not want long in its company, and therefore rejected it. Some may argue that the slow rising of cream in the open air tester was a guarantee of its superior richness to that in the ice bath, Be this as it may, after 30 hours' standing the open air tester contracted its cream to 10 degs. and the ice bath tester to 17 degs. By placing the former between myself and a bright light, the milk was so opaque that no light could be seen through it, while the latter looked more like whey from the hands of a first-class cheese maker, and it was, as compared with its mate, quite transparent."

It is evident, from the above description, that the separation of the cream from the milk in the ice bath tester was much more perfect than that in the open air tester. We are glad attention is being called to the Swedish system of setting milk, and that our butter dairymen are finding the practice worthy of study and adoption.

BUTTER MAKING IN FRANKLIN CO., N. Y.

Mr. L. D. Paddock of Malone, Franklin Co., N. Y., in his paper before the American Convention at Rome, refers to some of the advantages of butter making at factories above those at farm dairies. The factory system removes much drudgery from farmers' homes, and better prices are also gained for the butter. In 1870 the first factory was established in Franklin County. It was a small factory, and the first season a pound of butter was made from 23¾ pounds of milk. The prices obtained for the butter were about 3c. higher than those obtained by the private dairies. There are now 28 butter factories in Franklin County, using the milk of about 7,000 cows. The plan of setting the milk usually adopted is in large pans, or what is known as "shallow setting." In establishing a factory he advises that the location should be near a cold spring of pure water, and it should also be near the greatest number of cows attainable. It costs but little more to manufacture butter from a large number of cows than from a small number. The most convenient size for a 300 cow factory is 30x50 feet. The pans are set with their ends to the wall, with an alley-way between each row. The water for cooling is brought in by means of pipes and the milk is brought from the delivery window to the pans on a truck and weighed. The milk is cooled down to 60 or 62 degs. as soon as possible. The temperature of the milk room is about 70 degs. The milk is skimmed as soon as it becomes sour, and the sour milk is emptied into a large vat outside the factory, where it is taken away by patrons.

It usually takes an hour to do the churning, and the butter, after being washed, is then taken to the cellar, spread out thinly and salted at the rate of an ounce of salt to the pound of butter. It is now set away until next morning, when it is worked and packed in 60-pound packages and covered with a cloth, and over this is placed the lid of the package. He expresses the opinion that cows fed on dry land pastures will give more milk than those on wet land pastures. Such is the general method of conducting butter factories on the "shallow setting plan" in Franklin County which has, of late, obtained much celebrity on account of the excellent quality of its butter.

CONCERNING THE QUALITY AND SALE OF BUTTER.

Hon. John Shattuck of Chenango County, well known as a leading dairyman of that County, and who has been distinguished throughout the State for the manufacture of fancy butter, read a paper recently before the Farmers' Club of Chenango County on the "Manufacture and Handling of Butter." He pointed out the losses to the dairymen from a failure or neglect of producing a first-class article. A cow that yields 200 pounds of butter that is sold at 5c. per pound off from the price of a first-class article, will make a difference in the receipts of the former of $10. Now, on 20 cows the loss of $10 per cow is $200, and on 50 cows the loss is $500. This tells the story very plainly, and points to the reason why dairying is often of little or no profit to the farmer.

Mr. Shattuck touches another point which it seems to us is a correct view in regard to purchasing. He urges a more careful discrimination on the part of buyers, and thinks they are to blame for not buying butter strictly on its merits in the country, the same as in the city. If one man's butter is worth 40c. and another but 35c. per pound, let the proper difference be made, and thus dairymen will be made to feel the importance of improving their product. He urges also, the plan of letting butter go upon the market when it is fresh and in its best condition, putting it into consumption as it is wanted and where it is wanted. And he says truly, that medium grades are worth more while fresh than they will be after standing through the season, while the practice of sending butter to market while fresh, or as soon as made, thereby letting it go into consumption, has a tendency to create a better margin for the fall make.

We commend these views of an old and experienced butter maker as worthy the attention of butter dairymen.

ABOUT THE BUTTER PRODUCT OF 1875.

Mr. J. M. Peters, in his address at the American Dairymen's Association, in referring to the butter product, said:—"The butter surplus—butter being a perishable article—suffers by the delay of storage. Very little of the stock received at New York is fine enough for the top price in the home market. The Western butter business has never been so well conducted as during the season of 1875. The Western dairymen have learned that prices depend upon the quality of the stock. It comes to market to be sold at any price. Goods should be put upon the market to be sold when at the time. The Western butter makers are crowding the State makers in quality. To brand a tub "Western," no longer condemns it, and to brand it "State," no longer insures good quality. No special effort has been made to extend exports. No progress has been made during the year. The season has been unprofitable both to the trade and the producer. The quality of the product has not proportionately been improved. Mr. Peters thought the buying system in the interior is defective, because the value of the product has been made to depend too much upon the quotations of a few buyers."

Mr. Peters would seem to argue, from the last statement, that better results would be obtained by returning to the commission trade. We can hardly agree with him in this regard. The best plan for dairymen it seems to us, is to have regular market days in the interior, where both butter and cheese are sold and paid for on delivery.

A CENTENNIAL CHEESE.

We see it stated that an Ohio Dairyman proposes making a mammoth cheese for the Centennial Exhibition, which will require one day's milk from 20,000 cows The proposed weight of this cheese is 25,000 pounds, and a car will be made for it and upon which it will be put to press. This will much surpass the great Canada cheese which was made at the Ingersoll factory. This cheese was six feet ten inches in diameter, three feet high and twenty-one feet in circumference, and weighed 7,000 pounds. It required thirty-five tons of milk to make it, or one milking from 7,000 cows. It was exhibited at the New York State Fair at Saratoga, and was afterwards exported to England, and caused a sensation when it passed through the streets of London and other cities on its way to the place of exhibition.

In making large cheeses, unless due caution is taken, there is difficulty in expressing the whey, and if the whey is not properly expelled the cheese will be sure to turn of bad flavor. Several large cheeses have been injured in this way, and we suggest to our Ohio friends to have special care in this regard. The Ingersoll cheese was pressed first in small hoops, the batches of curd being no more than from 50 to 70 pounds; then, after the whey was fully expelled, the small cheeses were broken up, passed through a curd mill and finally incorporated in one mass, where the curds assumed a proper shape under powerful pressure.

The Herdsman.

THE HOLSTEIN CATTLE.

Are Holsteins the "coming" breed of cattle? A writer in the Ithacan evidently believes so, and as there is much interest among farmers in this breed of cattle, we copy what he says of their character:

In history we find evidence to show that the Short-Horns owe much of their present superiority to Holstein blood, and the Ayrshires also, there is reason for believing, were, in a similar manner, improved from being a poor race until they have become a good one. They are large and well built, coming fully up to the Short-Horn in size, Many of the cows weigh 1,500 lbs. and upward, and the bull Von Tromp, imported in 1861, weighed when six years old 2,720 lbs. Their color is black and white, the spots being large and very distinct. The Holsteins are now found throughout Germany and Holland, but in the greatest perfection in Holstein, North Holland and the intermediate territory. As the name implies, they are found in Holstein. This is a province of Germany situated in the northern part and forming the isthmus between Denmark and the mainland. It lies between the North Sea and the Baltic, and, like Holland, the country is low and marshy, and the cattle are exceedingly hardy and vigorous. Their hardiness makes them very valuable to us, and more adapted to the climate of the Northern States than cattle from warmer climates. The Dutch are notably thrifty, and produce grain, butter and cheese in great abundance. Holland has been famous for its butter and cheese for a thousand years, and consequently they have taken greater care of their cows, for no doubt much of their success has been due to their superior race of cattle.

In the year 1864 there was estimated to have been exported from Holland 32,000,000 lbs. of butter and 61,000,000 lbs. of cheese, and that there were 913,216 cows in the country.

In 1820 it was estimated that the number of cows in the United States was 11,200,000, of which 900,000 were in the State of New York; yet there was exported from this country only 2,000,000 lbs. of butter and 47,000,000 lbs. of cheese. Of course the amount consumed is immensely greater in this country than in Holland, yet it is of interest to us to see the immense difference between the amount consumed and the total number of cows in the two countries.

The Holsteins were first introduced into this country in 1625 by the West India Company. The Dutch, of course, brought some of their cattle with them in their early settlements in New York. Then we know of no other importations until nearly two centuries later.

In 1810 William Jarvis imported two cows and a bull and placed them on his farm in Vermont. In 1825 Herman de Roy imported some and kept them on a farm near New York City, and also introduced them into the Western part of the State, in the Genesee Valley. There is no doubt that both of these importations improved the cattle in the localities where they were introduced very much, but not being kept pure they were soon mingled with the native cattle.

The present Holstein cattle in the United States, or at least those called thoroughbred, have mostly descended from importations by W. W. Chenery, Belmont, Mass. He first imported a fine cow in 1852, which pleased him so much that in 1857 he imported a bull and two more cows. Two years later he imported four more. These, with their progeny, he kept until 1860, when, in consequence of too close confinement in warm stables, a disease broke out among them. The people being in mortal fear of the rinderpest, they were all destroyed, except one bull calf, by a law of the State Legislature. But Mr. Chenery was not discouraged, and the next year he imported a bull and four cows. They arrived in good condition, and were the first successful introduction of Holsteins in this country. The animals imported were the finest that could be found in North Holland, and they have given evidence of being good beef animals, growing rapidly and maturing early. Although as a breed they are very old, yet, not having been bred in-and-in, like most of our pure breeds, they are inclined to be rather coarse. No doubt this can be remedied by proper breeding, and the animals made more compact and smooth.

Milk from these animals has in some instances produced 22 per cent. of cream, which can be excelled for richness by no breed except the Jersey. The milk seems especially adapted for cheese-making, as it is exceedingly rich in caseine, the basis of cheese. In 1822 Mr. Chenery, who was the largest importer of Holsteins, by authority of the American Association of Breen in thoroughbred Holstein cattle, published the first volume of a herd book.

The cattle of North Holland and Holstein are considered thoroughbred and can be recorded in the herd book, and also those that can trace purely to those that have been so imported. These cattle have been called by various names, one of the principal of which has been Dutch cattle. In order to establish some name that might be universally recognized and to avoid much confusion, the Association decided to call them Holstein cattle. This seems quite appropriate, because it is pretty conclusively proven that the race originally came from the Province of Holstein. Time will tell what rank they are to take among the herds of this country, but that they are to be the breed for general dairy purposes I feel well assured.

EXPERIMENTS IN FEEDING STOCK.

A writer in the Kansas Farmer, in considering the question of how to make money farming, mentions several experiments in feeding stock by men who could not command money to purchase stock. One feeder took 40 head of three-year-old steers, the 20th day of October, to feed, for 8c. per lb. for all the gross weight he could put on till the 20th of February. He had a great deal of soft corn that was not merchantable, and he gave the cattle all they could eat. He fed them four months, consuming about 50 bushels of corn to the steer, and putting 270 lbs. weight upon each animal. This made his corn bring him 42c. per bushel, and he had hogs following his cattle, which will still increase his profits.

Another feeder took some steers of the same man to feed at 7c. per lb. for what he could put on them. Of course his profits were an eighth less than the other feeder, and his corn netted him about 36c., while he still had the profits on the hogs.

These experiments are of considerable value, and they answer the objection so many farmers have at hand when the profit of feeding stock is mentioned, that it takes money to handle stock. Of course the open winter favored the feeders, but, if stock is sheltered, the same results can be attained any winter.

In this connection it may be said that a farmer, when he decides to put in a crop, should consider the probabilities as to a profitable disposal of it, or, in other words, make up his mind as to what he will do with the crop when he gets it. A little calculation and planning before making a venture is always in order.

FEEDING MILCH COWS.

J. H. R. of Northfield, Vt., writes as follows in the Vermont Farmer:

For two months past I have practiced feeding at 5 o'clock in the morning. Hay first, and roots and bran after the hay is eaten. Turn out and water about 8 o'clock, and return to the stable after a short time out for drink and exercise, but not long, unless the weather is fine. I feed all the roots and bran for the day at one feed.

The second feed of the day is at 2 P. M., hay only and all they will eat until 4 P. M., at which time I water and return to a warm stable for the night. I think my fifteen cows do better by this method than to feed three or four times, as I have done heretofore. I sell milk, and am thus able to know when the cows are doing their best. I consider one peck of roots, one quart of corn meal and three quarts of bran, together with all the June or autumn cut (rowen) hay they will eat, as good, liberal winter feed for an average-sized milch cow. My mowings are all cut twice in the season. Would be glad to cut it before it is fairly headed out. Grass is never cut too early, but mostly too late. Cut it early, and cut the second time. The cheapest feed that I can raise is dried grass and fodder corn. Roots cost me most, but they are very valuable. I shall raise more instead of less. Bran is worth all it costs for feed, and also all it costs as a fertilizer afterward.

At Point Reyes, Cal., there is a dairy farm of 45,000 acres, on which there are 3,000 cows. The farm, together with the cows, is rented, in part to several tenants. They make from $1,000 to $2,000 per annum clear of all expenses. The yield from the cows is reported to be excellent; some of the butter ranches show an average of $80 per cow through the whole herd of 200.

Industrial Topics.

OUR PUBLIC ROADS.

DANSVILLE, March 16, 1876.

MR. D. D. T. MOORE.—*Dear Sir:* Some weeks ago you had a couple of articles on the subject of "Highways," and I have looked through all the numbers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER since in the hope that I should see a continuation of the subject until something was brought about that would give us better roads. My neighbors and myself are about shut up at home in consequence of the poor condition of the roads. Sometimes they are too muddy, and at others frozen and rough. Many of us have become satisfied that that the common soil scraped from the sides and put in the middle of the road is not sufficient—that stone or gravel, or both, are necessary to be added in order to make a road-bed that will answer through the fall, winter and spring. We also believe that if you and other influential men would give the subject more attention, in a very short time a system of improvement would be planned which would in a few years give us good roads without burdening us to any great extent. "In the midst of counselors there is safety."

This question may look different from other standpoints, but from mine it seems as though each land owner should be required to build the road across his premises. I believe that this will be found, after full consideration of the subject, to present the fewest objections. I am aware that to properly grade and turnpike the road-bed and then cover the center with broken stone and gravel will take some labor; but the result would justify the expense. Business cannot be carried on with profit to men or with anything approaching humanity to animals over such roads as we have six months in the year. I respectfully submit for your consideration a plan that a number of us believe better suited to the purpose than any other we have seen suggested, and it has this great *desideratum* in its favor—it requires no money tax:

1. Have a law passed requiring every land owner to build the road across his premises.

2. Do away with pathmasters and the present assessments according to valuation, or what is known as statute labor.

3. Let this law minutely state how the roads shall be graded—how wide the dirt road shall be built—how wide the stone shall be spread on top of the dirt turnpike—how fine these stones shall be broken—how thick the stonework must be in the center and how thick at the outer edges—how thick a coat of gravel must be spread on top of these stones.

4. Let this law state the highest grade allowable in hilly parts of the country.

5. Make land owners responsible for accidents caused by neglect to keep the road in repair. All dangerous places at the side of the road must be fixed so that no accident can happen.

In short, give us a road law that when fully carried out will give us for all time to come first-rate highways, thus furnishing at all times of the year a pleasant means of communication between business places, villages, churches, schools, and inhabitants. The advantages to the people would be a hundred times the cost of construction. Other countries whose citizens were not as well prepared to bear the expense as we are have built stone roads. These roads could be built at times when other work was not pressing. Let there be a specified time within which these roads shall be completed—say five, eight or ten years—requiring every owner to build one-fifth or one-tenth, as thought proper, each year, until the completion of the road, or roads.

A READER OF THE RURAL.

NOTES FROM KANSAS.

WE thought we would write a few lines to let Eastern people know how this dronthy, chintz-bug-eaten, grasshopper-eaten and weather-beaten Kansas (so called) is getting along. We had grasshoppers in '74, we don't deny. They came on the 9th of August, about noon, falling as thick and fast as a moderate snow-storm. By evening they had stripped every blade from the corn-stalks, as when they have been pastured over winter. With the drouth they ruined our corn, it being just in roasting ears, but small grain was harvested earlier and was very good. After they had stripped everything, they left, but they did not carry their eggs with them, which hatched out the next spring, '75, destroying small grain and corn in some localities. Despite all, we obtained an immense corn crop, after planting two or three times. Oats, one-third crop; rye, one-third; potatoes good; sorghum good; buckwheat good; wheat not worth mentioning; corn was never better, ranging from 40 to 100 bushels per acre. Grasshoppers do not come every year, however. We have been here sixteen years, and this is the first time they have done us any damage. In '60 we had a drouth, and also in '74, but would have had enough grain to have wintered our stock were it not for the grasshoppers.

One of our most important crops is the prairie grass which our broad, rolling prairies are supplied with, for it and cattle constitute the wealth of the people. Stock run at large from April till October without costing the owner a cent, and come in in the fall fat and sleek; then they shut their steers up, feed corn, and thereby get about 50 cents for it; otherwise they would not

DEERE GANG AND SULKY PLOW.

have received more than 25 cents. There is nothing made here raising grain alone for market, for it costs too much to get it there, but it pays when fed to cattle and hogs. Any kind of farming, raising cattle and hogs, butter and cheese making, wool growing, and the like, are very profitable when properly managed, for not only can animals live and get fat in summer, but they can be carried through the winter in pretty good flesh when they are fed all the prairie hay they can eat, with plenty of salt and water. So you see our prairie grass is very valuable.

The northeastern part of this State is very healthy; sometimes a little ague, but seldom. The wind, at times, blows here almost strong enough to take the hair off a man's head; but we are used to it, and so don't mind it. The weather has been very pleasant this winter. Farmers have been plowing and grubbing almost every week. But this is an exception. We generally have from one to three weeks' sleigh-riding during the winter. For our soil you can judge from the amount of corn it produces, and that without manure. It is a sandy loam, however, three to five feet deep in the bottoms, and one to three on the uplands. E. J. B.

LARGE FARMS IN ENGLAND.

REFERENCE to the big farms in Illinois—40,000 acres, 18 in corn, 5 in oats and flax, and the rest in grass—has recalled a notice of the London Spectator, from the Domesday Book of Scotland, which has a list of these landlords who each own more than 20,000 acres of land in that country. The result is that one man alone, in his own and wife's right holds more than a fifteenth of the entire area of the Kingdom, and twelve men own nearly a third; a proportion probably exceeding anything in Western Europe. No less than 106 hold more than 50,000 each. The 11 who own the largest amounts of land are:—The Duke of Sutherland, 1,176,341 acres; Dutchess of Sutherland, 140,879 acres; Sir. J. Matheson, 406,070 acres; Mr. A. Matheson, 220,632 acres; Duke of Buccleugh, 432,183 acres; Earl of Seafield, 306,000 acres; Mr. Evan Baillie, 306,000 acres; Earl of Stair, 270,000 acres; Duke of Athole, 134,000 acres; Sir K. MacKenzie of Gairlock, 164,680 acres; Macleod of Macleod, 141,700 acres. The old idea that the Duke of Sutherland owns an entire county is not true, but the Duke, with his wife, the Countess of Cromartie, owns more than the entire surface of any county in England, except Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

LAST YEAR the United Kingdom had 2,874,290 acres of root crops (not including potatoes), and this year, it is believed, 83 per cent. more, and worth, according to estimate, fully $153,000,000 in gold. A good deal of money, surely, and that too for a product the value of which American farmers, as a class, have not yet learned to appreciate.—*Tribune.*

The Garden.

HYBRIDIZING AND CROSSING PLANTS.

ALMOST every day in the week we have some new fruit, flower or plant brought to our notice, which is claimed to be the result of artificial hybridization or crossing. Now, while we do not desire to throw "cold water" on such production, or allay the "fever" of certain enthusiastic manipulators who lay claims to being the originators of any particular hybrid or cross between different species or varieties, still we often feel inclined to ask, "how do you know that certain operations produced certain results?"

For instance, we have frequently heard strawberry growers tell how they produce new sorts, supposed to be crosses between two distinct varieties, by operating somewhat as follows: A plant, perhaps of the *Hovey*, is selected for the female plant, as this is a pistillated variety, which will not bear berries or seed unless the flowers are fertilized by pollen from some perfect flowering or hermaphrodite sort, consequently, if seed is obtained from it, it is pretty good proof that cross fertilization has taken place. Well, a plant of this variety is set out in some secluded spot in the garden, remote from any other strawberries, and alongside of it another is planted, but of a different sort, for instance, *Wilson's Albany*, which has perfect flowers, containing both stamens and pistils.

Of course, when both come into bloom at the same time, the pollen from the *Wilson* would be more likely to reach the pistils in the flowers of the *Hovey* than any from plants growing at a distance of a half a dozen rods, or a mile, still, if left to itself, there is no certainty that such cross fertilization will take place. But a majority of those who have raised new varieties of the strawberry would jump at the conclusion that it meant no better proof of the fact that the pollen from the flowers of the *Wilson* had fructified those of the *Hovey* than the presence of berries on the latter. They would overlook the fact, that a big bug, beetle, or other insect may have draggled itself in the pollen of some strawberry flower in a neighbor's garden and then flown directly to this isolated plant of the *Hovey*, scattering pollen grains over its pistils, fertilizing each thoroughly and effectually.

The seed from the *Hovey* being saved and sown in the ordinary manner, each would produce a different sort, no matter whether one of its parents was the *Wilson* or something else. If any should prove to be valuable the raisers would be very likely to claim that it was a cross between the *Wilson's Albany* and *Hovey's Seedling*. But, under the loose system of manipulation that we have described, (which is a fair sample of how such things are frequently done) how can the raiser know that it is a cross between the two sorts named.

Now to be certain in regard to results in crossing or hybridizing plants, the flowers to be fecundated must be fully protected from the visits of insects, which is a somewhat difficult matter in the open air and in the presence of minute species, which readily pass through the meshes of even common mosquito netting. We have experienced more or less difficulty upon this score, for when we placed very close-woven nets over the flowers the shade destroyed the functions of the pistils, and coarse nets admitted intruders that sadly interferred with our operations. It is very easy to flatter ourselves that results accord with our aims and desires, but it is quite a different thing to be certain of it, therefore it is usually safe to prefix our assertions, in regard to crosses and hybrids, with a "supposed to be," unless precautionary measures were adopted that did effectually prevent any mistake or outside interference with our operations.

COWPER AS A GARDENER.

THE London Garden finds in the "Life of COWPER" the following:—"Gardening was, of all employments, that in which I succeeded best, though even in this I did not suddenly attain perfection. I began with Lettuces and Cauliflowers; from thence I proceeded to Cucumbers, next to Melons. I then purchased an Orange tree to which, in due time, I added three Myrtles. These served me day and night for employment for a whole winter. To defend them from the frost in a situation that exposed them to its severity, cost me much ingenuity and much attendance. I continued to give them fire-heat, and have waded night after night, through the snow, (with the bellows under my arm,) just before going to bed, to give the latest possible puff to the embers, lest the frost should seize upon them before morning. Very moderate beginnings have sometimes important consequences. From nursing two or three evergreens I became ambitious enough to want a greenhouse and accordingly built one which, verse excepted, afforded me amusement for a longer time than any expedient of all the many to which I have fled for refuge from the misery of having nothing to do."

Industrial Implements.

IMPROVED MACHINERY FOR PLOWING.

THE DEERE GANG AND SULKY PLOWS.

UNDOUBTEDLY one reason why active, enterprising men have been averse to farming, has been the impossibility of conducting it on the large and magnificent scale on which other avocations are managed. No matter how large a farm a man might own, he was obliged to plow, cultivate and harvest by the slow processes which smaller farmers adopt, and could only get a large amount of work done by a proportionately large and expensive amount of hired labor. Mowing and reaping machines and other farm implements have long since overcome this difficulty for most farm operations; but until recently plowing has been an exception, and the slow work of following the weary round of the furrow at the rate of one to two acres per day, has been the lot of small farmers and large alike.

We are glad to note the reverse of this, giving capital and enterprise the same advantages in plowing that are enjoyed in other farm operations. The Deere Gang Plow, manufactured by DEERE & Co. at Moline, Ill., introduces an improvement which, at moderate cost, doubles the capacity of the plowman and enables him, with three to four horses, to turn in good order five to six acres of soil per day. We give on this page an illustration of this plow, by which its method of operation will be readily seen. The plows are firmly fixed in an iron framework, and work with the least possible draft. The driver sits in front and regulates the depth of the plow, or can lift it out altogether at the end of a land by means of a lever. The tongue is fastened in the beam by a swivel bolt, giving it free motion and relieving the horses' necks from all pressure except the weight of the tongue itself, which is of wood. The frame, beams and wheels are all iron, insuring the greatest possible durability and exemption from breakage. These plows are already extensively used in the West, and in some tests have shown lighter draft and a better scale of points than any of their competitors. Among their certificates is one from LANDRETH & SON, who use it on their seed farms in Pennsylvania, plowing nearly five acres ten inches deep in ten hours with three mules, and on another occasion plowing an acre and a fraction in two hours.

Messrs. DEERE & Co. also manufacture the "Gilpin," a sulky plow cutting only one furrow and easily worked with three horses. This, like the Deere Gang, is of recent introduction, but is already finding favor with farmers who do not find a virtue in doing work the hardest way when it may just as well be done more pleasantly.

These plows, together with numerous others, by the same makers, are sold by R. H. ALLEN & Co., Nos. 189 and 191 Water street, New York city, who will send descriptive circulars and price lists on application. The importance of the Gang Plow in doubling the working force of the farm during the busy season of plowing and preparing the land for crops, ought to, and probably will, induce a large sale the coming season. Those wishing plows of this kind, or further information on the subject, should order soon, that they may have time to think the matter over before the busy season commences.

Floricultural.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

Lilies.—For the past three years we have been unsuccessful with many Lilies, such as Excelsum, Chalcedonicum and Humboldti—and previously as well, with Browni, one of the most beautiful of Lilies, which, though we tried it repeatedly with every care, never once bloomed, and after a more or less feeble summer-existence, was heard of no more forever. Sometimes—as with Excelsum more strikingly—a good stem would shoot up a foot or more with every appearance of perfect health. Here it would remain for weeks without further growth and then dwindle away. We have found, upon removing the earth, that these stems had drawn their substance from the bulb itself, no roots being found upon the disk, and that the stem must have died when the bulb had yielded all its store of nutriment. Extensive growers, we have found upon inquiry, are troubled in the same way. In some instances wire-worms are said to do the mischief—destroying the first fibers of the bulbs when, the stem having commenced growth, the bulbs become exhausted in its support. We were told by one gentleman of experience that in planting, the scales should be held closely together, so as to prevent the earth from falling between them—or, planting in tissue-paper was recommended. Another had met with good success by surrounding the bulbs with pure sand. Another planted potatoes between the rows with good results, the wire-worms, to which he attributed all the trouble, preferring the potatoes and leaving the bulbs unmolested. We have, however, tried all but the potatoes—a remedy worse than the disease for garden-plots—with only failure for the result; so that for the present we shall try to content ourselves with the Auratums, Lancifoliums (Speciosums), Umbellatums, Longiflorums, Candidums, double Tigers, and others that always do well without extra care.

Pachyphytum Bracteosum.—This is one of the very best of succulent plants. We saw this plant for the first about four years ago—it was rare then, though propagated now in almost every hot-house. The leaves are two or three inches long, spatulate-oblanceolate, and as smooth and plump as if molded of wax. The edges are rounded and thick, without a wrinkle or unevenness. The color of the leaves is glaucous, suffused in some parts with a most delicate lilac bloom, in others with a shade of pink.

Like *Echeveria* and Klenia, it is prettiest when young, so that instead of retaining old plants season after season, it is better to raise them from seeds or leaves. From seeds, hundreds may be raised from a single spike and, sown in pans of light soil in the fall, they germinate freely and will be large enough to bed out by late spring. Propagated by the leaves, the sand should be kept rather dry, as they are prone to damp off. Indeed, dryness suits this plant in every stage of its life, and we have found that it thrives just as well in a hot, dry, dusty sitting-room as in any other place. As a bedding-plant it has no superior among succulents.

Xanthoceras sorbifolia.—Our readers will not have forgotten and must not forget this beautiful shrub, of which a life-sized engraving of the inflorescence was given in a late RURAL. We see that a specimen was exhibited in fine condition at a meeting of the Royal Hort. Society about the 15th ult. We shall be glad to make it known to our readers as soon as it is offered by our nurserymen.

Rhododendrons do well in shade—that is, the foliage thrives, though the bloom is not so good. A very pretty arrangement for a sunny situation is a mixed bed of Rhododendrons, Roses, Gladioli and the Japan Lilies. All will do well in the same soil—one composed of peat and loam, if destitute of lime and manure, either of which is injurious to the Rhododendron. Peat until lately has been used in England almost exclusively for Rhododendrons, and the belief was general that no other soil would answer. Now, however, ordinary garden soil is used. In this country there is no doubt but that it is just as good as peat.

Eucalyptus globulus. We have sketched a leaf of the famed prophylactic of those two pests—not to say scourges—of mankind, viz., the *mosquito* and the *fever and ague*, from a seedling four months old. The seed was planted in a pot of sandy soil Dec. 3d, and placed in a conservatory in which during the winter, the thermometer has several times fallen as low as 35 to 38 degs. during the night. In two weeks the cotyledons appeared, one of which is shown in the cut. Jan. 10 the plant was 1½ inches high, and it is now 7 inches in hight. The leaves are opposite, sub-sessile, of a light-green color—the midvein tinged with red. The stem is round at the base but quite square above, and bears 14 leaves besides the cotyledons which still persist.

A note in the RURAL has brought us a number inquiries as to its cultivation and where the seeds could be obtained. Its cultivation, as may be judged from the above, is as easy as possible, and the seeds can be procured of leading seedsmen. Not one of these inquiries, strange to say,

has come from our own (adopted) State. But New Jersey is proud and self-reliant though disowned, and she will stand faithful, through thick and through thin, to her allopathic quinine and her homœopathic mosquito (!) E. S. CARMAN.

Rhododendrons.—Speaking of the injury done to these by deep planting, the Gardener's Monthly says:—"The balls of roots of Rhododendrons should be set, as a general rule, *on* the ground, and the earth drawn up about the roots and pressed very firm." Anything from the leaf of experience respecting these noble shrubs which the veteran Mr. R. B. PARSONS deems the "finest hardy plant in cultivation," is worth noting.

Flowers and Patience.—Mr. VICK says in the March "Floral Guide:"—"Garden work needs a large stock of patience, and we are pleased that it is so; it is an excellent discipline for an irritable temper. Things will not all prove satisfactory the first season; but we see reason to hope for better things next year, and we have enough success to give us faith in the future. What a grand school for the culture of patience, faith and hope! Then, some of our work proves to be in excellent taste, while a portion we dislike, and resolve to change and improve another year. Thus, while we improve our gardens we improve ourselves, and while they get handsomer we get, at least, better. We propose no model, therefore, for any garden, and only give a few suggestions to set people thinking and working—just the keynote to get the tune properly started."

Burns says, appealing to his master, the Duke of Athol:

> Would then my noble master please
> To grant my highest wishes,
> He'll shade my banks wi' towering trees
> And bonnie spreading bushes.

Nature gives us volumes of fruits which she always prefaces with flowers.

Arboricultural.

GROWING QUINCE CUTTINGS.

THE different varieties of the common apple and pear quince are usually propagated by cuttings. They are not difficult to make grow, still it is not every person who tries that will succeed, for there are many unforeseen circumstances which frequently interfere with the success of such operations. We have, in years past, grown many a thousand quince bushes from cuttings, and, although always endeavoring to give the best of care and close attention to the preservation and planting, the results were not always uniform. Sometimes ninety-nine cuttings out of every hundred would grow, then again, with the same care, and with no apparent reason for it, the losses far outnumbered the successes. Our usual mode of proceedure is to make up the cuttings during the fall and winter, using one, two or three year old wood for this purpose, always giving preference to the former if of large size and vigorous.

The branches selected for this purpose are cut up into lengths of six to eight inches and tied up into convenient-sized bundles, say from fifty to two hundred cuttings in each, according to their size, and then set upright and partly buried in moist soil or sand, either in a coal cellar or the open ground, and thus protected from frosts. The object in placing in such a position is to hasten the development of a callus at the base from whence the roots are most likely to issue at the proper season. The strings used in tying the bundles should be of a kind that will not rot away before the bundles are taken out for planting. Tarred twine or osier will answer well for this purpose.

If the cuttings are kept in a cellar, care is required in preventing them from becoming too dry as well as too warm, for if the latter occurs growth follows, which cannot be checked without destroying the life of the cutting. Upon the whole, we have found that bedding the bundles in the open ground, then covering with hay or straw, just sufficient to prevent freezing, and keep out a surplus of moisture the safest place to keep quince and other cuttings of woody plants. If such a bed is made on the south side of some outbuilding the production or process which precedes roots called callus, can be hastened a little by proper care. The cuttings should be uncovered as soon as freezing weather is past, and if the bundles are set close together only the upper ends will be exposed to the cool air at night, this will keep the buds in check while the base of the cuttings being warmer the root-forming process continues. If the cuttings are dry give water from time to time, for moisture is quite important in softening the bark and hastening the formation of roots.

As soon as the ground where the cuttings are to be planted has become warmed by the sun, and in a fit condition for working easily, the planting out may commence. But it is not best to be in too great haste, so long as the cuttings do not show signs of growth in the bundles, because to take out of a warm situation and put into cold, wet ground, is pretty certain to check the formation of roots. We generally delay the planting until the weather is warm enough to stimulate a rapid production of roots and leaves, if the condition of the cuttings will admit of it.

In planting set the cuttings upright in shallow trenches, leaving about one inch of the top uncovered, and pack the soil very firmly about the lower end. Of course, a rich soil is required to insure a rapid, vigorous growth, and rank, fresh barnyard manure should not be placed in immediate contact with the cutting. In some soils mulching will be beneficial, in others it may do more harm than good, but of this every cultivator should be the best judge. We have grown quince plants by the hundreds and thousands from cuttings, managed as described, that would average four feet high at the end of the first season. Then again, a long, cold, drizzling rain, of a week or more has followed the planting out of cuttings, rotting the leaves as fast as they appeared, and almost a total failure ensued.

SEEDLING TREE CULTURE.

WE find the following timely and practical remarks respecting seeds of hardy trees in a circular received from Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN of the Germantown Nurseries, Philadelphia.

"The soundness of any seeds may be ascertained by cutting them open. Most failures arise from not sowing *in partial shade.* If hot bursts of sun come on the seed-beds while the seeds are swelling, and cold follows, many are liable to rot. For raising seeds on an extensive scale, many now use artificial arbors, tall enough to work under. For smaller lots, brushwood, or a thin shade of corn-stalks on a skeleton frame, is an excellent plan. Seeds take some time to swell their seed coats after going in the ground, hence all should be put in as early as possible—even though the frost be not out of the ground; if any dry soil can be had to cover, many find advantage in sowing even on frozen soil.

For evergreens of easy growth from seed, and which will grow rapidly, making beautiful ornaments, capital wind-breaks, and at length valuable timber, the Norway Spruce, Austrian, Scotch, White, Corsican and Pitch Pines stand preeminent. The Hemlock, White and Black Spruce, are on a par with the others, except that the seeds *must* have shade to germinate well.

Of the deciduous trees which grow very easily from seed and make a very rapid growth at once, the following stand foremost: Ailanthus, Catalpa, Persimmon, Honey Locust, Yellow Locust, Paulownia, Taxodium distichum, and the English and Chestnut Oaks. In Kansas and Nebraska, the two former have grown two feet the first year from seed. The Oaks make usually but about two inches the first year; but an average of two feet every year."

We have noticed of late several inquiries as to where seeds of the Honey Locust could be procured. This circular offers *fresh* Honey Locust seeds for 75c. per lb.—$16 per bushel.

PROFITABLE TREE PLANTING.

MR. HENRY IVES, Batavia, N. Y., sent a paper to the N. Y. Farmers' Club on Forest Tree Culture, which we find in the N. Y. Times. Mr. IVES belives that tree planting pays, but adds that in Western New York, and through many of most fertile parts of other States, it will not pay to try to keep a portion of the original forest for a wood-lot as it is found on most farms, for they were left without any reference to their ever acting as a windbreak or an ornament to the farms, and are generally deteriorating; besides which, they occupy the best virgin soil. I tried twenty-five years ago to keep the original wood-lot on my farm renewed, and a good stand of timber, by dressing up and planting in, but it proved a failure. But I am now growing all the timber I want on the farm by planting seedlings, which I have propagated of such thrifty kinds as I chose and in such rows and belts for windbreaks and protection as my orchard and fields require.

These trees are making a very satisfactory growth, and it is all done very cheaply, so that I would recommend all farmers to plant out such groves and belts of timber as his farm and location would require, and that he would find that after a few years he might clear off his old wood-lot and have acres of new land in place of the old land he planted his trees on, and he would have a very thrifty growth of timber instead of his decaying forest timber; he would have it where it would be useful and ornamental to his premises, and, besides, the crop of old timber would probably much more than pay the cost of starting his new timber growth.

Five or six years ago I planted two acres with four-year old seedlings of white elm and soft maple into forest rows, sixteen feet apart and three feet apart in the row. Now the best of them are twenty feet high and twelve inches in circumference, and for thinning out the rows I sell trees for more money than wheat would have brought grown for these years, and I can continue to sell so until they are so large I will take them for firewood, and I am growing a good crop of orchard grass between the rows. So that these acres in forest timber are paying as well, and are likely to pay for years to come, as any other acres on the farm. I am cutting now the second crop of wood where the first or original timber was taken off about twenty-five years ago, and last Winter a thousand rails were taken by a neighbor from one-third of an acre of growth, besides a quantity of wood from the top and timber not making rails. Another neighbor used nice black walnut lumber in building a fine farm-house, sawed from trees that he had helped to plant when a boy.

Our village of Batavia is admired for its fine rows of thrifty growing forest trees along its streets. One soft maple on Main street was broken down by the wind, and, when cut up, made two and one-quarter cords of 18-inch wood, and the owner of it said he planted it there twenty-one years before. The stump measured 19½ inches across inside the bark, and I could count about twenty annual circles outside its red heart. Of other trees on the same street that were planted seventeen years ago last spring, the largest elm masures 4 feet round two feet above the ground. I could give many more facts and figures to show that it does pay for Americans to plant forest trees, both for fuel and timber, and that very few enterprises they can take hold of will pay better.

The Poultry Yard.

TOULOUSE GEESE.

THIS variety is doubtless the largest known. Men in general have an aversion to geese, and we don't blame them either, for what could the little, noisy, voracious, unruly common geese be considered on a farm but a nuisance, unless securely penned in some swampy field? This natural aversion we were not exempt from till we tried the magnificent Toulouse, and then it was changed to a liking for these geese. In appearance, they are noble and dignified, and will thrive without water to swim in, if plenty be provided for drink. They are never unruly, and can be fenced as easily as sheep. are very quiet, not noisy, and extremely hardy. They are good layers, averaging about forty eggs each, in a season, and are seldom broody. If the old stock is not kept fat, and after spring opens only on pasture and vegetables, without grain, nearly every egg will hatch.

The goslings are much stronger when young than the common, and are more easily raised than a pig. We use hens for hatching, and in summer have placed them on a fresh grass-plat, and reared them without any mother. Their growth is so rapid that at four weeks old they will weigh from six to eight pounds each, and at three months, from fifteen to eighteen pounds. At four weeks old, they need no further housing, and can be taken from the nursery and placed in the open pasture to graze and shift for themselves, provided they have their regular meals of soft feed, which should be continued till they are three or four months old. In France and England, Toulouse geese are prized for their great size, excellent flesh, and abundant yield of soft, fine feathers, of which they will average about half a pound to the "picking," and would be profitable for this purpose. In the severest weather they require no shelter, and we never feed mature birds any grain when the ground is bare, where they have access to pasture fields.

In color, geese and ganders are exactly alike, viz: a uniform, handsome grey, with breast and under parts of body a shade lighter. They are so mild and tractable in disposition, and possess so many good traits, that they are profitable where they can be kept, and especially where grain and grass are cheap. There are hundreds of waste places upon which, with a trifling expense, large numbers of these geese could be raised. To show how prolific they are, we have known, for two seasons past, one hundred goslings to be raised each year from the eggs of eight females, besides a large number being sold for hatching purposes. For all purposes, the Toulouse should be voted the "goose of the period."—*The Poultry Nation.*

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

RAPID GROWING CLIMBERS WANTED.

Ed. Rural: I am about constructing a latticed arch over an armlet of a pond, which is of parabolic shape. The highest point of arch will be twenty-five feet above the water. The arch will be fifty feet long. I have graded a walk around this parabolic at the water's edge and eighteen above the water. This walk is to be inclosed by the latticed arch. Outside the arch-line I have planted choice varieties of the fox grape, in order to cover the arch with their foliage. I am anxious to cover it with something this coming summer, but, of course, it will take two or three years to train the grape vines all over it. What can I use temporarily? Will hops answer? Will "Daily Rural," or some other Ruralist, tell me? Also tell me how to cultivate whatsoever is recommended.—Aguadale.

April 3.—There are so many tender rapid-growing climbing plants in cultivation that it is somewhat difficult to determine which would be best for the purpose named. If you can procure good, thrifty clumps of hop vine roots, and remove without disturbing the ball of earth about them, they would no doubt throw up shoots strong enough to cover the arbor the first season. Another advantage of employing some such hardy perennial plant for the purpose named, would be the saving of expense and trouble of replanting next year in case the grape vines did not reach the desired size for two or three seasons to come. The common Japan honeysuckle, or the variegated leaved, are both excellent plants for this purpose, although not quite as rapid growers as the hop vine. All the culture required is to plant them in deep, rich soil.

The American Ivy (*Ampelopsis quinquefolio*) is a superb climber, and its brilliant autumn tints are unsurpassed in the way of high-coloring. For a plant with large leaves, giving a dense shade, the Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia Sipho*) has no equal among hardy climbing plants which will thrive in our Northern States. But transplanted vines grow slowly at first, and we fear they would give little shade the first season.

TENDER ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS.

Perhaps you might find some vine among the tender annuals and perennials which would answer better for that purpose than any of those named. The ornamental gourds grow very rapidly, and, for a novelty, your arbor might be covered with these one season, if no longer. By selecting a variety, or purchasing a paper of mixed seed, you could easily cover the arbor with vines which, towards fall, would give a grand display of ornamental fruit.

The Madeira, or, as sometimes called, Migonette vine, (*Boussingaultia Gaselloides*) is a very rapid-growing, tender plant, bearing small but very fragrant flowers. The tubers may be found at almost any florist, and, if planted in rich, light soil, will throw up stems ten to twenty feet long the first season. Then we have the common Morning Glory in its innumerable varieties, and the closely allied genera, *Ipomeas*, as well as *Tropæolums*, *Thunbergias* and *Cobæa scandens*, any or all of which will answer the purpose of covering an arbor or trellis.

SHEARING EVERGREEN HEDGES.

April 4.—Evergreen hedges are certainly very ornamental, and perhaps beneficial in protecting gardens from cold winds. But the cost of the plants and setting them out is only a starting point in the way of expense, for if a hedge is to be kept in order, cultivation and annual prunings are necessary. I am reminded of the cost of pruning by a pain in my right arm, caused by a few hours' use of a big pair of shears upon a hemlock hedge in my garden. I feel proud of this hedge, for it was planted ten years ago, and has been pruned annually by myself. Of course I do not swing the hedge-shears from morning till night when doing the pruning, still an hour or two at a time affords me an abundant opportunity for learning, in a practical way, just what it costs in labor to keep an evergreen hedge in order. The Hemlock is really the best of all our hardy native evergreen for this purpose, at least it makes the handsomest hedge, on account of its deep green color, both summer and winter, besides submitting with such good grace to the close shearing process, necessary for a neat, compact hedge. The American Arbor-Vitæ also makes a handsome hedge, the plants cost less than the hemlock and are less liable to die when transplanted, but the foliage changes to a dirty yellow in winter instead of remaining green.

But the point I wish to make is this, don't set out evergreens for ornamental hedges unless you intend to give them proper care afterwards, for one allowed to take care of itself, will prove to be anything but an ornament, after a few years. It is far better to put such plants in groups, or set out singly, to grow up naturally, than to crowd into long rows, where the struggle for existence ends in the "survival of the fittest," and these are scarcely worth preserving.

DISAPPEARANCE OF THE WHITE PINE SCALE.

For the past two or three years all white pine trees in my grounds have been infested with a kind of bark louse which seemed to check their growth, and I began to fear would eventually destroy them. These lice were abundant on the young, smooth branches, and was covered with a white, flacculent down-like matter, somewhat resembling (although much smaller in size) the maple tree bark-louse (*Lecanium acericolu*. Without close examination I considered it the same species as described by Dr. Asa Fitch in the Transactions of the N. Y. State Ag. Society, 1854, under the name of Pine-Blight (*Coccus Pinicorticis*). But whatever its true name or cause of appearance, the facts of its abundance and apparent injury to the trees were unmistakable; but, in some unaccountable manner, they have all disappeared as before a magician's wand. I have examined several hundred which were badly infested without finding a single specimen of the pest. The cause of this sudden disappearance is, of course, unknown to me, but I presume some minute parasitic enemy has done it.

I mention the above facts as an encouragement to others who may have become discouraged in planting the white pine on account of the "pine blight," for it shows that such pests frequently have natural enemies, which do more in keeping them in check than any artificial remedies, however skillfully and thoroughly applied.

TRADE IN AQUATIC PLANTS.

I am pleased to see that some of our florists and seedmen are turning their attention to the culture of our native aquatic plants, such, for instance, as the water lilies. It is something out of the usual line of trade for our seedsmen to offer seeds of *Nelumbium luteum*, but I notice that Peter Henderson is doing it this season, and I hope he will be encouraged to continue in the same direction until all of our most desirable water and bog plants become generally known and appreciated. Another dealer in plants offers the common white water lily (*Nymphæa odorata*) at the low price of 25c. each, sent by mail, which is cheap enough, for one could scarcely afford to go very far for them while they can be purchased at this rate.

There are hundreds of ponds which now yield nothing but frogs, sedges and homely weeds, which might be transformed into beautiful flower gardens by employing the more showy aquatic plants like the two named above. When once stocked with a few roots, or seed thrown in, no further trouble or expense need be incurred, and I will venture to say that the "water garden" will be one of the most attractive spots on the farm.

Pomological.

BERRIES.

It is generally known by fruit growers that our large cities are overstocked with berries, and for years past the prices returned for them have not been considered remunerative by the growers, yet but few take the time to investigate the cause of it, and being somewhat familiar with the subject, I take the liberty of presenting a few thoughts in regard to it.

A few years ago many of our agricultural journals were teeming with the wonderful success that a few persons met with in growing berries for market. This fired the ambition of others and they began to grow them very much like they would put out a fire—they did not take the time or pains necessary to learn about the soil, the expense or peculiarities connected with these successes, but planted acres of such land as they had, supposing that they would grow with as little care as potatoes or grass, consequently large quantities of berries have been thrown on the market totally unfit for the table, and they had to be sold for a mere trifle. Then these men exclaimed, "Oh, this business won't pay!" and I, for one, am glad that it did not, for then they would have been satisfied with producing this inferior article.

Growers are apt to lose sight of the true quality of their fruit; they handle their own, and occasionally their neighbors, and as it is the best they have they think it must sell, and even if an imperfection is discovered in it they excuse it and hope the buyers may overlook it. But that is a delusion, for on its arrival in market it is brought in direct contact with a large number of crops, and the defect is even more glaring than at home, besides these dealers are suspicious of the packers, so they examine critically and thoroughly, in order not to be deceived; then they buy to suit their fancy, taste or purse. There is always a demand for really fine fruit, although the large quantities of poor fruit often depreciates its value and in too many instances prevents the good fruit from being examined and appreciated, and too often it happens that the good is sold with the poor to induce the buyers to take a large lot, but the good is what is really sought for. When I speak of good fruit, I mean berries above the medium size, and hard enough to bear a second transportation.

It is safe to say that not one-fourth of the good berries that come to our market are consumed here, for such is the demand from other cities that it is often the case that this demand cannot be supplied; but all the small, soft, dirty fruit remains here, and to whom are we to sell it? That's the question. Who wants to eat this quality of fruit? I do not. Neither do you. But it must be sold, and to those only who know nothing about good fruit, and who look more at the price they pay for it than they do at its quality. Here is one point that I desire our fruit growers to remember—that consumers are becoming more cultivated in their tastes and demands every year; occasionally they get a glimpse of some fancy fruit, or perchance a taste of it, but that taste teaches them that there is a finer and better article than they have been accustomed to purchase, and they want it, and if the price be not unreasonable they will buy it.

Thus you can readily see that as the taste of consumers improves the demand for poor fruit decreases in proportion, and this state of affairs has led to another worth noting by fruit growers. In the early years of fruit growing our local dealers received all the orders for the outside demand, consequently they too often sent inferior fruit, because they had plenty of it, and consequently much of this fruit perished on the route, and the receivers were unable to sell it, save at a loss. These receivers then adopted the plan of uniting and sending a person to our city to buy fruit. These men are very careful and particular in buying, taking only such as they know will carry safely and prove profitable. This plan operated against poor fruit, but the dealers were well pleased with it, for they were relieved from all risk of loss from transportation, which in some instances proved to be very heavy.

Now, if growers will only realize this state of affairs and hasten to improve the quality of their fruit, even if the quantity is increased, they will find fruitgrowing profitable, for the demand for fruit increases every year, and growers have but to produce the article demanded to get a good price for it. Permit me to call their attention to another point worth considering, and that is, the depreciation of small fruit from the time it leaves their possession until it reaches the consumer, which depreciation I consider reaches from 15 to 25 per cent. on berries that have traveled all night in a hot car; and in view of this fact I would respectfully suggest that as this improvement progresses, the care and management of it by those companies who transport it should also be improved. They should be compelled to keep up with the spirit of improvement and made responsible for all the damage it receives while in their possession by bad handling. I am aware that these companies have always practiced a species of terrorism over their patrons, but it is time that these men were taught that the people know their rights and dare maintain them, and no more worthy subject can be brought before every Grange in the country than this one. The Granges can, if they will, control this point, and should do so before another crop of fruit is intrusted to their care.

New York, February, 1876. C. W. I.

IN FAVOR OF BLACK CURRANTS.

A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph writes in favor of this excellent but much-neglected fruit, doubtless the most valuable in every way of all the currants. He says:—"My opinion is that the Black English or Black Naples, all things considered, is the most profitable. Black currants have with me proved to be entirely free from disease or vermin. No hellebore to be used here. The black currant bears better than the red or white varieties.

"In 1874 I grew from six square rods ten bushels of black currants. In 1875 the same bushes bore only three bushels. The crop of 1874 was so very large as to greatly exhaust the bushes, which accounts for the light crop in 1875. Probably the two years will present a fair average. If so, we shall find that at eight cents per quart (the price at which they were sold) they paid at the rate of $443.73 per acre yearly. A good profit surely.

"Few people fancy the black currant at first; but, like the tomato, a taste for them is to be acquired, and when once acquired it is never relinquished. We all know that an acquired taste is much more lasting than a natural one. Black currants, unlike most other kinds of fruit, can be indulged in even by sick persons. They make the very best of jelly, and for preserves cannot be excelled (if, indeed, equaled,) by any other fruit.

The Madison (Ind.) Courier says that the farmers of that section differ widely as to the condition of the fruit crop. The majority, however, contend that it is not materially injured by the late cold snap.

Insurance Department.

FIRE INSURANCE FOR FARMERS.

Like every other kind of insurance, that against loss by fire is founded on the law of average. For, though it is in the nature of things in the highest degree uncertain what house will burn, the proportion of losses out of a considerable number may be predicted with tolerable accuracy—that is, if the risks are carefully selected, if they are so far apart that a fire occurring in one of them will not involve the destruction of all. For many years this average was pretty well preserved, but of late it has not been as constant. Great conflagrations have occurred, from time to time, sweeping whole cities out of existence in a few hours. The effect of these great fires is to utterly destroy and bankrupt the insurance companies, especially those that habitually insure large amounts upon closely contiguous property. Such companies rarely do an exclusively city business. They are always glad to insure dwelling-houses and farm property, if such business can be obtained; but this kind of business is necessarily scattered, and to get enough of it requires time, patience, and a deal of arduous labor. They desire dwelling and farm risks because they are profitable. They are far apart; one does not set fire to another. Farmers are too honest to set fire to their property for the sake of the insurance, besides their property does not change its value rapidly, so as to offer inducements to incendiarism. Consequently nearly every company has a share of this kind of business, and would like to have more of it. When a great fire bankrupts a score or so of the companies, the owners of dwelling and detached property are the principal sufferers. They necessarily lose their money and insurance, and must pay premiums again for the protection they have lost. And this hardship is not less severe because it has no compensation whatever. The company had put them and the crowded city risks into partnership as mutual insurance. The partnership has turned out badly. Both parties have lost money. The city party whose property is burned and paid for, if the company can pay, loses something, but the countryman loses all his share in this mutual business. In fact, it was a bad bargain from the beginning for the owners of detached and farm property. They run the greater risk of loss, not of burning, but of spending their money for nothing. No amount of burnings among their property could bankrupt the company, but they stand in continued and unavoidable danger of losing their premiums and insurance by a conflagration among the city risks.

Country and village people were very slow to learn that this kind of entanglement was worth avoiding, if possible. But it was not at one time possible. No one could tell what sort of business a company did in the great cities, whether it had crowded a great deal of business into one city block or had distributed as much to a dozen cities. There was really no means of knowing which of these things a company had done, though one of them involved ruin in case of a great fire. There was, however, a means of avoiding danger by insuring with companies that did no city business, but confined their insurance to farm or detached dwelling property. The companies specializing this class of business and that were managed prudently and skillfully met with an assured success from the outset. Prominent among these companies is the *Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown, N. Y.*, one of the pioneers of that kind of business, and entirely one of the worthiest, best and most reliable. It has accumulated assets to the amount of more than a million of money ($1,058,040), has an income of more than half a million ($541,570) a year, and has a clear surplus, over all liabilities, of $337,237. These figures indicate a very high degree of prosperity. They were not suddenly achieved by insuring a few dangerous risks for a high premium, but by the patient, painstaking and skillful labor of years. Its risks are not only scattered over a vast extent of country, but are all comparatively small, the largest not much exceeding five thousand dollars. This disposition of its risks makes the "Agricultural of Watertown" safer than any company, whatever its capital, that does a mixed business. Infinitely safer for the farmer, and as such we heartily commend it.

Patrons of Husbandry.

THE SORROWS OF A MIDDLEMAN.

"A RETAILER" writes anonymously to the N. Y. Grocer that the Grangers are not all dead yet, and are making himself and other retailers a vast deal of trouble. He says:

"The Grange has made its influence felt in a keener and closer competition amongst dealers, and a nearer approach to a cash basis of business. In driving us to sell closer for cash, it still leaves us with a mixed class of customers who want credit and who are not always the most desirable customers to have. But the worst feature of the business is that the farmers are getting in the habit of clubbing together and getting somebody to fill their orders in New York. If such a policy is kept up, it must have a bad effect on the general retail trade of the country. What can be done to counteract this tendency?"

On this the Grocer comments as follows:

"We know of no better way of stopping the clubbing business than that of showing to the farmers the inevitable result of such a course. Whether that is practicable is the question. The agricultural papers might do it, but they are afraid to touch the matter except to support it. The trade papers go only to merchants. The religious papers could reach them and should show them that the relations of retailers and farmers are so interwoven that upon the prosperity of the one class depends that of the other; that if the storekeepers are ruined the towns and villages must be ruined also, and all the present advantages of schools, churches, places of meeting and exchange of products, in a word, all the best fruits of our modern civilization must be given up."

"The agricultural papers might do it, but are afraid." Are they, indeed? When we see the Grocer ostentatiously balancing this chip on its shoulder, we are irresistibly tempted to knock it off, if only to see what will happen.

"Retailer" is evidently a person who knows nothing of the principles of trade, cares for nothing but his own personal interests, and, being unable to see further than his nose, does not know how best to promote even them. The Grocer, whose plain duty it is to enlighten "retailer," being dependent on his and like support, fails to do so, because it prefers to pander to the prejudices of its patrons. They all feel aggrieved at the Grangers, and the Grocer sneezes as the retail dealers take snuff.

The Grocer's correspondent charges that the Grange has made its influence felt in a keener and closer competition and a nearer approach to the cash basis. Patrons plead guilty and ask if this is a public injury. Would not an entirely cash business be safer and better every way? If not, who shall decide *how much* credit and how much cash would be best for all? If retailers have many "undesirable customers" and lose many bills, the fault is their own. They ought to know whom to trust and who cannot pay their accounts. The complaint is a vindication of the Grange principle, which discourages all credits, and aims at strictly cash payments.

But "the worst of it is" that farmers are in the habit of clubbing together and getting somebody to fill their orders in New York. "Retailer" thinks that this "must have a bad effect" on the retail trade. The only reason for farmers clubbing together and ordering their goods in New York is that they can thereby get them cheaper. This they ought to do. It is not only everybody's right, but duty, to buy where he can buy cheapest. If the middleman is capable and enterprising, people can buy of him cheaper than anywhere else. In that case he is a necessary part of the body politic, and is doing as much for the community in which he lives as if he were an active producer. He facilitates the exchange of products, and thus enables others to produce more cheaply and extensively. When a retailer cannot do this, the fact simply shows that he is not needed—that he is not doing a necessary or useful work in the community. That so rude and imperfect an organization as that of "the clubbing together of farmers" to buy in New York, can undersell the local retail dealer shows, that from some cause, possibly lack of capital, of enterprise, or both, he is not fit for his place, or that there is no place for him. To argue differently would imply that monopoly and extortionate prices were, in some way, public benefits. According to this theory, every village should be disposed of like a post-tradership and no outsider allowed to interfere.

The Grocer partially states an important truth, when it says that "the relations of retailers and farmers are so interwoven that upon the prosperity of one class depends that of the other." So far this is exactly true; but whose prosperity is paramount—that of the producer or that of him who exchanges products? Why not say that "upon the prosperity of the producers depends the prosperity of the retailers." We are against no retailer or middleman as such. When he can sell goods cheaper than any other agency he becomes not only important but even necessary to a community. But this class make no complaint of the Patrons of Husbandry. The Grange agents cannot possibly interfere with them. It is the retailers who cannot sell cheaply, and who thereby prove that they are not necessary parts of the community, to whom all buyers are obliged to pay an extortionate price lest the "advantages of schools, churches, and the best fruits of our modern civilization" should have to be given up.

Seventy or eighty years ago, men with these narrow notions thought the steam engine would make horses valueless, and that improved machinery would destroy the wages of labor. The wealth which the steam engine and labor-saving machinery have created has doubled the numbers of horses, more than doubled their value and has increased the demand and wages of labor. But for the steam engine, there would not be a quarter of the wealth in the world that now exists, and articles now regarded as household necessities would be impossible luxuries.

The Order of Patrons of Husbandry has saved millions of dollars to the farmers of this country, by devising cheaper methods of exchange between producer and consumer. This vast amount is so much clear addition to our national wealth. It is a great absurdity to suppose that money saved to farmers remains in farmers' pockets. It is seen in a greater abundance of the comforts and luxuries of life in the farmer's home—in better facilities for doing the work on his farm, in better schooling for his children and better support for churches and "all the best fruits of modern civilization." Individuals may hoard money but communities never do or can. Anything which increases the wealth of the agricultural class, is necessarily felt in greater prosperity of the merchant, the manufacturer and even of the retail dealer. Of course there are occasional instances of hardship as in all general rules; but these are clearly exceptional. The "hard times" are in no way chargeable to the Patrons of Husbandry. They would have been much worse if it had not existed. It is the saving on purchases effected by Grange agents, which has so largely brought trade to the safe.cash system which the Grocer pretends to deplore. Ultimately this saving must be felt in the increased prosperity not only of farmers but of all classes in the community.

NEW GRANGES.—Deputy L. A. Palmer has recently organized three Granges, as follows:—In Monroe County, March 22d, Chili Grange. Geo. L. Root was elected Master and P. G. Stryker Secretary. In Genesee County, March 23d, Byron Grange, with Geo. W. Prentice Master and Francis T. Miller Secretary. On March 24, Oatka Grange, in Genesee County, with D. H. Pierson Master and Wm. Duncan Secretary.

Domestic Economy.

GINGER SNAPS, CREAM PUFFS, &c.

IT seems to me that that young woman ought, with a fair amount of gumption, to manufacture ginger snaps without a recipe. I never yet tried one that was good, so I invented the following: 1 cup sugar, 1 of molasses, 1 of shortening, a little salt (if lard is used), ½ cup hot water, in which dissolve a teaspoon even full of soda, 2 teaspoons ginger, 1 of cinnamon. Pitch them all in together and stir in flour till it is so you can handle it; dust on white sugar and bake in a a reasonable oven (I object to raving hot ovens for cake), and see whose mouth will water.

Now, about these Potato Puffs, in this week's issue. I don't care anything about the six potatoes—they are only 15 cts. a bushel, but I hate to spend so much time on chicken feed. One thing is, the chickens don't expect it, and besides I'm rather particular about their diet. Did you ever eat these Cream Puffs in a confectioner's. Gushing things they are, but a nice change from ginger snaps after a hard winter. Here's the way to make them: ½ pint water, 4 ounces butter, 6 ounces flour. Put into a spider, stir smoothly and all the time till you have a lump that cleaves from the spider, and looks like putty, or a *heavy pot-pie* (one of your contributors knows *them* well, so she says); but don't be at all discouraged, cool your lump, and add four beaten eggs, and beat lump and eggs well together, drop in spoonsful on greased tins and bake in rather quick oven. Don't shove them on the oven bottom when you turn them round or they'll be heavy. Do as you're told and every puff will be hollow. When cold open with a sharp knife on side and fill with custard made thus:—2 eggs, pint milk, ¼ cup corn starch wet with a little milk; flavor to taste. Have the custard cold also. After you've eaten 6 or 8, you'll let your wife put 25 yards of calico in her dress if she wants to, but don't forget to be thankful that you don't have to iron it. If I dared, I'd iron my clothes as the Chinese do, by sitting on them; but I've established a reputation for housewifery that I'm not willing to give up, so I dress with Quaker plainness, and let it pass for the "eccentricity of genius." If I can get through the world without being called anything worse than *queer* I shall have high hopes for the future. I feel compelled to allude to Potato Puffs again. If persisted in they'll bring down, anybody's gray hairs with Dyspepsia to the grave, or "there abouts."

"The Suet Pudding," two weeks ago, was very nice, and as the RURAL is an old friend and has been a sure one heretofore, it was with the utmost confidence that I launched into Potato Puffs, I will forward any number of whetstones desired, C. O. D.

Will you give me a recipe for getting rid of red spiders, that you can't see, on plants. My "Maple" was enveloped in webs and for fear of my glorious geraniums and begonias becoming infested, I cut it down to the ground and burnt it. Its a sure thing on spiders, but calculated to spoil the looks of a green house if persisted in.

All mistakes in this letter must be set down as the fault of two children wrestling with the multiplication table. With Respect Yours,

MRS. L. E. N., of the Big Village

Kalamazoo, Mich., March 31.

THE ART OF MAKING COFFEE.

"AUNT PRUDENCE" writes in the American Grocer:—"If we browned our coffee, which we confess we do not, we should certainly adopt a plan which we see spoken of in Hall's Journal, and which carries conviction of its excellence to the mind of an old housekeeper. It is this: When the coffee is roasted, and before it is quite cold, while you can hold the berries comfortably in your hand, add to every pound of coffee the white of an egg, and stir the mass thoroughly, so that every berry will be wet with it. It has two advantages:—the first is one spoken of by the writer of the article, of settling the coffee without the addition of anything but boiling water, and the second would be to coat the berry with the egg so as to preserve the aroma, which will pass away in a measure from the roasted berry. We feel morally certain that coffee prepared in this way, with the addition of cream, would be a beverage fit for the gods.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Infants' Food.—Mix the rice flour with cold milk, and stir it into boiling milk until of the proper thickness; sweeten with loaf sugar.

Cream Pie.—One cup cream (sweet, and as thick as you can get it), two tablespoonfuls sugar and one egg. Use one crust, making it the usual way.

Delicate Sponge Cake.—Use the whites of ten eggs, one and one-half tumblers of flour, teaspoonful of salt; lemon to suit the taste. Bake about 35 minutes or more.

Rice Muffins.—To one quart of sour milk, three well beaten eggs, a little salt, teaspoonful of soda and enough of rice flour to thicken to a stiff batter. Bake in rings.

Corn Cake.—One quart of sour milk, three eggs, one teacupful of flour, yellow corn meal enough to make a batter as thick as for pancakes. Bake quickly in pans well buttered.

Rice Custard.—Into a quart of boiling water stir in two tablespoonfuls of rice flour, dissolved in a little cold milk; add two well beaten eggs to boiling mixture; sweeten and flavor to taste.

Rolled Jelly Cake.—One cup sugar, one cup flour, three eggs, one tablespoonful sweet milk, half teaspoonful soda, essence, etc. Beat sugar and eggs slightly, then put all together and beat thoroughly.

Wild Fowl Pie.—The fowl should be trussed like a duck for a pie, larded with anchovies and seasoned with pepper, salt and sweet herbs; put a good quantity of butter into the pie, and flush like all others.

Cocoanut Pudding.—To the grated meat of a cocoanut take six eggs, six large spoonfuls of sugar, half a teacup of butter and a little soda. Line a dish with puff paste and fill with the mixture. Bake in a quick oven.

Washington Pie.—One cup of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, four tablespoonfuls sweet milk, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful cream of tartar, one cup flour. Bake in two layers, with jelly fruit or cream between.

Lemon Pie.—The juice and rind of one lemon grated into one cup of water, one cupful of loaf sugar, the yelks of two eggs, three tablespoonfuls flour. Frosting—beat the whites of two eggs, add four tablespoonfuls white sugar, spread on the pie, and bake lightly in the oven.

Honey Recipe.—White or brown sugar 20 lbs., soft water 5 lbs., pure bee's honey 3 lbs., cream of tartar 80 grains, essence of roses 2½ drops. Mix the above in a brass kettle, boil over a charcoal fire five minutes, take it off; add the whites of two eggs well beaten; when almost cold add two pounds more bee's honey. A pint of the decoction of slippery elm, of the consistency of cream, will improve the honey, if it be added while cooling.

Hygienic Information.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP CURED.

THAT terror of parents, the much-dreaded membranous croup, has been met and conquered. A mother thus tells the story of how it was done in the Western Farm Journal of Chicago:

I began with the intent to add a story of a sore struggle with croup, that resulted in a cure almost miraculous in its character, hoping that, from the reading of it, somebody may get hope and help in a similar case. In the month of November, 1872, my little boy, Archie, then about three years old, was taken suddenly with croup, not of the worst type at first, but accompanied by the hoarse cough and other symptoms of the milder form of the disease.

Our well tried, and always before this, successful remedy, was applied at once, that is, the cold bandage on the chest and throat, but to our dismay, without any alleviation. The little fellow had considerable fever, and there was a steadily increasing closing up of the air passages all that night and the next day. A physician was called, who ordered emetics, etc., all of which had no effect. We flew from cold water to hot, used lard internally and externally, and even tried a patent nostrum, to our shame be it spoken. On the third day we gave him up, or rather could think of nothing else to do. The poor little fellow had lost almost all consciousness, and his breathing was that dry whistle, that showed the terrible work of suffocation that was killing our boy.

An older and wiser doctor had been summoned, but as he looked at the little sufferer he shook his head and said, "membranous croup of the worst kind; he can't live an hour." As we stood about the bed, an inspiration seemed to seize this physician. Said he, "Steam has been applied, I have heard, with good results;" and in an instant all were alert to find some means to apply this new remedy. The foot of an old-fashioned, high post bedstead was made one side of a room, perhaps six feet square. Quilts were rapidly collected and string around the sides and over the top; a large store box, the first thing at hand, was moved into this room of quilts; the wash-boiler was put upon the stove some six feet from this impromptu steam bath, its lid pierced and fitted with a copper pipe, which conveyed the steam where it was needed. All this came about like magic, though it is hard to tell exactly how; but in less than thirty minutes I was sitting on the box, with Archie's head on my shoulder, the air of our little den thick with steam, and our anxious friends waiting outside for the signal that the little one was saved.

The first breath of the moist, hot atmosphere changed the sound of his breathing, but for four hours the relief was uncertain. At the end of that time the whistle had become a rattle, and the little fellow finally fell into a sound sleep. For seven days and nights Archie and I inhabited that steam den. The progress of his recovery was marked by fearful struggles with his enemy. At times he would sit up, talking and laughing about the clouds that hung about his head, and then again he would wake from sleep half strangled, and for some seconds it seemed as if he must suffocate or burst a blood vessel. But during the last few days of our imprisonment, hard, scaly matter came up by coughing, until the little fellow was safe, and the eighth day we ventured out.

Some more of the facts connected with this strange experiment may be interesting. For twelve hours after we entered the bath it seemed impossible to keep up the needed amount of steam; our cotton walls drank it up until they were saturated. We were obliged to keep kettles of water inside the bath, into which hot stones were now and then plunged; but this made us trouble, as the steam was so loaded with sulphurous fumes as to be stifling; but other than this, my own sensations were not unpleasant, breathing was easy, and I came out from the ordeal, to my utter astonishment, with scarcely any ill effects, not even excessive fatigue, and Archie did not lose flesh or spirits, though for months there was a hoarseness in his voice, as if it had been weakened by the extraordinary efforts to throw off the disease. We were long apprehensive of a return of the attack, but it never came, and he finally was himself again.

The records of croup cases will show that remedies which succeed in one case fail in all others, and I am slow to encourage the belief that our experience would be that of all who try our method, but there is something in this direct application of hot moisture to softening of the membrane in this generally fatal type of croup, that makes me confident of its power to ameliorate, at least, if not to cure the worst forms of this terrible malady: and we shall never cease to thank the good angel who prompted the doctor to tell us of it, although the good doctor, himself, had little faith in its success in our case.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1876.

THURLOW WEED, THE JOURNALIST.

THE portrait in this week's RURAL NEW-YORKER is that of the veteran journalist, Hon. THURLOW WEED, long a political editor in Rochester and Albany, and now living in New York City in a retiracy earned by a long and busy life. The portrait is engraved from a photograph recently taken, and is acknowledged by all to be an excellent likeness. Though at a very advanced age—now in his 79th year—Mr. WEED retains his old interest in public affairs, and his advice and counsel are held in high regard by the shrewdest politicians of the State and Country.

THURLOW WEED was born in Catskill, on the Hudson, in NOV., 1797. At the early age of ten years he got a place as a cabin boy on a Hudson river sloop, and in 1807 he witnessed the first trial trip of ROBERT FULTON'S new steamship. Shortly afterwards, Mr. WEED's father moved West with his family and young THURLOW went to Syracuse to learn the trade of a printer, then removed to Chenango Co. and commenced the publication of a weekly paper. Going to Rochester about 1824, he published and edited the Anti-Masonic Inquirer, and was elected one term to the State Legislature.

In the sharp discussions which prevailed in those times Mr. WEED took a prominent part, chiefly through his paper. Seldom penning long articles, he had a faculty of writing short, trenchant sentences, which were sure to reach the popular thought and to be remembered. In 1830, Mr. WEED left Rochester and found his appropriate field in Albany as Editor and one of the Publishers of the Albany Evening Journal. During the thirty-two years that he remained there, Mr. WEED'S influence on politics and on public sentiment through the State was greater than that of any other person. He brought out the young HORACE GREELEY—who was fourteen years his junior, and was the fast friend of WILLIAM H. SEWARD as State Senator, Governor, U. S. Senator and Cabinet Minister. Both Mr. SEWARD and Mr. GREELEY have passed away, but Mr. WEED still lives in full possession of his mental faculties, and in better physical health than most men of his advanced age.

The influence of Mr. WEED on the political events of his time is undisputed. That influence he owed to no unworthy acts, but to the singular clearness and sagacity of his opinions. His views and plans were not only generally the wisest, but he had the rare faculty of convincing his associates of the fact. Only when they disregarded his advice did they have cause to regret it. He was a strong partisan, and yet strongly independent in his political course, choosing to work inside rather than outside of party organizations. No other public man of equal independence of character has understood so clearly the power of partisan organizations. Hence he saved for practical use the power which so many political reformers waste in efforts which have no result.

Mr. WEED, with the assistance of his daughter, has of late years been preparing an autobiography to be published after his death. Few careers have been more interesting than his, and no man of the last fifty years is able to give more of the history of our country and its politics than he. Aside from these labors, Mr. WEED writes occasionally on public events of the time, and his letters are always read with interest and extensively copied.

BUSINESS RESULTS OF THE CENTENNIAL.

IN the early history of Western New York the proprietors of large tracts of land, anxious to get the Genesee Valley settled, had a magnificent horse race, which was advertised in all the older parts of the country. The result was that some of the most enterprising and wealthy settlers of the new country—including, we believe, the FITZHUGHS and the ROCHESTERS—were attracted to Western New York and made it their home, to the advantage of all parties.

It seems to us that the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia may and should be utilized in a similar manner. This will be not alone in bringing people from all parts of the United States to Philadelphia, though that will be one important result; but we shall have during the coming eight months, thousands of the most intelligent and enterprising people from all parts of Europe. These should be encouraged in every way to extend their visit to various parts of our broad land. The great West and South have attractions quite as wonderful as anything which can be shown in the Centennial City itself. There has been some regret expressed because none of the European crowned heads would be present, and only one sprig of royalty—the Emperor of Brazil—would grace our Centennial; but such regrets are needless. Crowned heads would not be apt to remain here and continue their business, and we do not want them if they would; but the people of foreign countries are doubly welcome here—either as visitors or to remain.

It is probable that few of our foreign visitors will cross the ocean without going much farther than New York or Philadelphia. The reduction in rates made on the railroads will be equally operative for those going West as to those coming East, and the travel will not be so one-sided as is generally supposed. Our Centennial year is likely to be the occasion of a more intimate intercourse and interchange of thought between people in all sections of the country.

IMPROVING COUNTRY ROADS.

IN another part of this paper a correspondent presents his views on the improvement of country roads. His plan of making the owners of farms keep their own roads in good condition would exempt from road tax large numbers of property holders in villages who have only a trifling amount of roadway. The roads are for the benefit of all, and we do not see why all property holders should not help keep them in repair. It undoubtedly needs a great deal more intelligence on the part of path masters to make our present system effective. In fact, lack of intelligence is the grand cause of poor roads everywhere; but remitting the care of roads to owners of property adjoining would not make them any more intelligent in doing the work.

A great deal of labor on roads is misdirected. It is this fact which makes men try to "shirk" work as they do when filling out their road tax. Where roads are improved by the judicious use of stone and gravel, there is little disposition to shirk duty. In many cases an underdrain by the side of the road, and on the upper side, if on a side hill, will make the road bed dry, when otherwise it would have been almost fathomless. It is better to have the drain by the side of rather than directly under the road bed, so that tramping and cutting of the soil by heavy loads shall not disturb it. A little study of the effects of underdraining on wet or springy spots will enable pathmasters to wonderfully improve most country roads at comparatively small expense.

JURORS IN DAIRY PRODUCTS.

THE following paragraph, from the Little Falls Journal and Courier of April 4th, represents the views of most dairymen in Herkimer County, where Mr. ARNOLD formerly resided, and where his disqualification for the position for which he has been named are well known. The view of Mr. ARNOLD is evidently a friendly one; but his incapacity as an expert in dairy products is asserted in the strongest terms. This incapacity is undoubtedly much better known to those who have had a life-long acquaintance with Mr. A. than to those who only know him as a writer on dairy subjects in the public journals:

"Quite a discussion is going on in some of the agricultural journals as to the appointment of jurors to decide upon dairy products at the Centennial Exposition. Inasmuch as this discussion has been largely as to the propriety of the selection of Mr. L. B. ARNOLD as such a juror, it seems proper, in justice to him, to state that his old friends in this county, greatly pleased as they are to learn always of his preferment and personal success, still fear that his experience as a writer has not been just the experience to fit him as a juror and nice discriminator of qualities of cheese and butter. Indeed there are very few men in the country who *are* fully competent for this position—and it is no discredit to Mr. ARNOLD that he is believed not to be one of this few; as, really, we can think of but two or three men in Herkimer County who would just fill the bill, and these do not include the names of any of the most prominent essayists on dairy subjects. The display of these products promises to be a very large and creditable one, and the competition will be sharp and close. It is not strange, therefore, that factorymen are taking considerable interest in the proper selection of those whose duties will be most delicate, trying and responsible.

REMONSTRANCE OF NORTHWESTERN DAIRYMEN.

THE following remonstrance of leading dairymen and dealers in dairy products against the appointment of L. B. ARNOLD as a Juror has been sent to the Chairman of the Centennial Dairy Committee. It contains some very influential names, and without doubt represents the feelings of most Western dairymen on this subject:

ELGIN, Ill., March 11, 1876.

To J. V. H. Scoville, Esq., Chairman Centennial Dairy Committee.

DEAR SIR: We, the undersigned, dairy factorymen and dealers of the State of Illinois, feeling a deep interest in the successful exposition of the dairy products of our country at the Centennial in Philadelphia, and deeming it a matter of vital importance that we have *competent* men as Jurors, rendered such by *practical experience*, do hereby most earnestly protest against the appointment of Prof. L. B. ARNOLD of Rochester, N. Y., as essentially wanting in this qualification:

G. P. Lord, Thos. Bishop, A. D. Gifford, A. B. Church, O. F. Lawrence, E. L. Bishop, P. C. Gilbert, J. W. Sayer, M. W. Frazer, T. J. Shepherd, Wm. Dalton, D. E. Wood, A. Sherwin (dealer), H. A. Bogardus (dealer), G. W. Waterman, S. W. Kingsley, R. P. McGlincy (Dairy Editor Elgin Advocate), Dr. R. R. Stone (Sec'y N. W. Dairy Association), M. H. Thompson (Sec'y Ill. State D. Association), John Keating, S. S. Mann (dealer), Silvanus Wilcox (ex-Pres. Mo. D. Association), J. C. Bosworth, I. H. Wanzer (dealer), T. R. McLean (ex-Pres. Ill. State D. Association), Henry Sherman, C. B. Hawly, R. P. Brown, G. H. Britton, P. Moran (dealer), Jno. Anderson, M. N. Newton, F. W. Wright, E. G. Hammond, Z. W. Browning, J. W. Brown, C. H. Larkin, Ira Russell, J. H. Browning, M. Switzer, Wm. F. Osgood.

We understand that Mr. SCOVILLE has not forwarded the above remonstrance to the Centennial Commissioners at Philadelphia, who have power of appointment of a Juror, unless he has done so very recently. What is the reason for this delay?

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

A Question of Ability.—Senator WINDOM of Minn. having said in the Senate that the Indians were "the greatest liars and vagabonds on the face of the earth," Prof. THOMANS in Popular Science Monthly doubts this, and adds:—"Grant the ability, they lack the resources and capacity. Mentally, they are children, with but little knowledge, scanty ideas upon a few subjects, and limited intellectual operations. They lack the scope, the cultivation, the facilities for exercise in deceit which is possessed by the civilized race. . . . The civilized man multiplies his capacity of falsehood through division of labor. He not only lies with his tongue, but with his hands, manipulating falsehood into his manufactures. He lies by machinery, and swindles by steam. By the printing press he scatters deceptions like snow-flakes over the continent. Your civilizer lies with enterprise, through an army of agents, by post and by telegraph. What can the 'poor Indian,' with his 'untutored mind,' do in comparison with this? There was more lying in the management of the Northern Pacific Railroad than ten tribes of Indians could perpetrate in a generation. There is more lying in one presidential campaign than all the North American tribes could perpetrate in a century. The Indians are no more 'the greatest liars on the face of the earth' than they are the greatest lawyers, politicians, editors, merchants and manufacturers, on the face of the earth. Fraud, falsification, dissimulation, insincerity, trickery, overreaching, and the innumerable grades and shades of humbug, are vices of the civilized man, and he must accept this with all his other forms of greatness." There is a great deal of truth in this. We have yet to learn the best fruits of civilization by combining modern intelligence and enterprise with the homely virtues which distinguished the people of earlier and simpler ages.

The "Modest" Five of the Dairy Ring.—When five men meet in a private caucus, and each one comes out with an office and a claim for exceeding "modesty," it becomes an interesting question how the thing was done. Did each of the five vote for himself, or were only four votes cast for each office? The member of the Ring whose "modesty" is most vaunted, voted afterwards, in open meeting at Philadelphia, against associating other jurors on terms of equality with himself. It is fair to presume that the others voted for themselves throughout. Did three of the five name themselves as the Auditing Committee, and did the others name themselves candidates for the position of Jurors, or was this done for each by the others?

Election of Postmasters.—A Tennessee member of Congress has introduced a bill to make postmasters elective by the people in their jurisdiction. It is not probable that such a bill can become a law just yet; but it is a move in the right direction. Postmasters ought to be the servants of the people. Under our present system they are mostly appointed by some M. C. or Senator,, and are chiefly interested in serving personal and partisan interests. If we are ever to have uniformly competent and obliging post-office officials, we must make their selection depend upon popular favor. This also would do away with a large part of the official patronage, which has become one of the chief evils of our politics and a danger to true representative government.

Corn for the South.—The Rural Carolinian, Edited by D. WYATT AIKEN of the National Grange, quotes the RURAL NEW-YORKER on the importance of diversity of crops, and says that Carolina farmers need fear no glut of corn—would rather welcome it as a variation from recent experience. This is undoubtedly true, and Carolina farmers, and others in the older Southern States, need not fear any glut of corn. The difficulty will be found, rather, in getting enough of it. In the states bordering the Mississippi river it may still be found better to use cheap Western corn than to grow all wanted at home.

Petty Pilfering.—The Mississippi Legislature has passed a law, making the stealing of hogs, chickens or any farm stock, grand larceny. It is hoped that this will put a stop to a system of petty thieving with prevails in most of the southern states. The trouble, however, is in getting evidence of the crime, and increasing the penalty will not be apt to lessen the difficulty. Increasing educational advantages for all, with due regard to moral and religious instruction, would seem to be the more natural remedy for the evils now complained of. That takes time, as any reform must do to be effectual.

Fish in Canandaigua Lake.—Four years ago 20,000 salmon trout fry were placed in Canandaigua Lake, in Western New York. Since then more trout and whitefish have been added, and the fishing in these waters is now better than it has been for many years. This lake is a pleasant summer resort, and its banks are lined with some of the finest vineyards in the country, particularly at Vine Valley on the eastern shore, and Naples at the head of the lake. The people also of these localities are a hospitable folk, which vastly increases the advantages of their surroundings.

An English Grazier says he has not applied barnyard manure to pasture or meadow—using it only on tilled crops; but, instead of manure, has top-dressed his grazing and mowing lands with 5 cwt. of bone meal. The result is he keeps fifty per cent. more stock than before, and the stock is fifty per cent. better. There is no doubt that unmanured pastures are deficient in richness, and often the deficiency is from lack of phosphates, causing cows to yield poor milk, and being probably one cause of abortion.

RURAL BREVITIES.

PEACH buds are nearly all killed in Ohio.

SHEEP were introduced into Massachusetts before 1633.

THE hogs killed in Chicago last year, if placed in line, would have reached to Boston.

A HORSE FAIR will be held on the Fair Grounds at Belleville, Ill., on the 11th and 12th of May.

MICHIGAN last year yielded 1,026,975 barrels of salt, being 200,000 more than any previous year.

THE total cut of saw logs in Ottawa, Canada, for 1875, is estimated at 200,000,000 feet, and the cost of production $2,003,700.

A PUBLIC-SPIRITED citizen of Auburn, N. Y., has added $30,000 to the bequest of the late JAMES SEYMOUR of that city, for a public library.

AN English stock company is buying up all the wild pine lands in Georgia. They will send over immigrants, get out the turpentine, and then sell the land.

CATTLE disease is spreading over the entire south of Japan. The Government has ordered that none be killed for market till after official inspection.

THE Legislature of New Brunswick have passed a very stringent game law, prohibiting the killing of moose, deer and caribou in that province for three years.

ARBOR DAY (or Tree-Planting Day, April 15) has become a permanent institution in Minnesota. The Legislature has appropriated $2,500 for cash premiums to tree planters.

GROUND squirrels are a great trouble to California farmers. This nimble animal never sleeps. He lives in villages under ground and plunders the farmers worse than gophers. Every two months the ground squirrel breeds, and neither State premiums nor strychnine diminishes its numbers. He levies an assessment of 50 per cent. on the profits of a wheat crop in many sections.

MR. J. V. H. SCOVILLE, Chairman of the Centennial Dairy Committee, writes in the Utica Herald attempting to defend Mr. ARNOLD, but admitting that A. voted against recommending others as jurors on an equality with himself. This is an admission by one of Mr. ARNOLD'S friends of what we stated and what ARNOLD'S organ denied. It seems to us that the less said about Mr. ARNOLD'S "modesty" the better.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

THIRTY-NINE years' experience in the manufacture of White Lead, warrants us in stating that our **"Phœnix" brand Pure White Lead** cannot fail to give entire satisfaction. Eckstein, Hills & Co., Cincinnati, O.

Coughs and Colds.—Those who are suffering from Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, &c., should try *"Brown's Bronchial Troches."*

WAITING FOR SPRING.

THOU of the sunny head,
With lilies garlanded,
And bosom fairer than the blown sea-foam:
O Spring, in what waste desart dost thou stay,
Whilst leaves await thy presence to unfold?
The branches of the lime with frost are gray,
And all imprisoned is the crocus' gold.
Come, sweet enchantress, come!

Arise, and bring with thee
The rathe bud for the tree,
The healing sunshine for the trampled grass:
Loose tendrils for the boughs which bless the eaves,
And shield the swallows in the rainy hours,
The pendant flames which the laburnum heaves,
And faint scents for the wind-stirred lilac flowers.
Enchantress, breathe and pass!

The larks shall sing again,
Between the sun and rain,
The brown bee through the flowered pastures roams,
There shall be music in the frozen woods,
A gurgling carol in the rushing brook,
An odor in the half unbosomed buds,
And dancing foxgloves in each forest nook.
Then come, enchantress, come!

[Chambers's Journal.

The Story-Teller.

AUTUMN BLOSSOMS.

How was it that I came to be an old bachelor? Not because of hating women, I am sure, for I liked them very much, and never could have spoken to one rudely or discourteously for my life. As nearly as I know, it was in this wise:—

My father died, leaving a family of children, a wife, and an old father and mother, not one of whom, only myself, was able to earn a shilling. He had never saved anything.

So, after the first great grief, when we had calmed down and were able to look matters quietly in the face, there was a wretched sort of prospect for us. I was only an accountant, and had a young fellow's habit of wasting my small salary in a thousand different ways. I had been "paying attention" too, to Elsie Hall who, young and childish as she was, had a way that some girls do have of leading their admirers into extravagance. Of all the trials of that never-to-be-forgotten time, I think the greatest was appearing niggardly in those baby blue eyes. I did not mind wearing plain suits, discarding kid gloves and renouncing the opera; but not to lay those bouquets, and books, and music, and dainty bits of jewelry, and multitudinous trifles at Elsie's feet, was a very terrible ordeal. I passed it, though; and if ever man had reason to be thankful I had, for the acquisitive little beauty jilted me in a month for Tom Tantem, who was rich and lavish of gifts, and who ran away from her after a marriage of ten months.

I worked day and night, and managed to keep the wolf from the door.

Sometimes I used to think how well it was for Elsie that she had not really loved me, for she could have had nothing but a dismal prospect of wearing out her youth in a dreary, hopeless engagement to one too poor to marry. That was until Tom ran off. Then I thought it would have been better for her to have shared our humble home and poor fare, and the love I could have given her, than to be deserted so. And I pitied her, as if she had not proved herself heartless. But I never went near her, of course; and I never even spoke of her to my mother.

I grew no younger all this while, and every year seemed to add five to my looks. I had never been very handsome or very merry, and soon I became conscious of a peculiar middle-aged look, which settles down upon some people very early.

Strangers, too, began to take me for the head of the family; and once, in a new neighborhood, the butcher alluded to "my wife." I found out that he meant my mother, and only wondered that it was not dear old grannie.

She was eighty, grandfather ninety, and they died one bright autumn day, before prosperity came to us—died within an hour of each other; for grannie just said, "I think I'll lie down a bit, now Lemuel don't need me. I'm very tired."

Then she kissed me and said:—"You've been a good boy to your grandpa, Edward. You'll have that to think of."

And when next we looked at her she was dead, with her cheek upon her hand, like a sleeping child.

So two were gone, and we were sadder than before. And then Jean, my eldest sister, married at sixteen a physician, who carried her off to Hindostan in her honeymoon.

And we could none of us feel the wedding a happy thing.

But prosperity did come at last. I had worked hard for it, and anything a man makes his sole object in this life he is very sure to attain.

We were comfortable—easy. Ah, what a word that is, after years of struggle! At last we were rich. But by that time I was five-and-forty—a large, dark, middle-aged man, with a face that looked to myself, in the glass, as though it were perpetually intent on figures. The girls were married. Dick had taken to the sea, and we saw him once a year or so, and Ashton was at home with mother and myself—the only really handsome member of our family, and just two-and-twenty. And it was on his birthday, I remember, that that letter came to me from poor Hunter—the letter which began:—"When these lines reach you, Ned Sanford, I shall have my six feet of earth—all I ever owned, or would, if I had lived to be a hundred."

We had been young together, though he was really older than I; and we had been close friends once, but a roving fit seized him, and we had not met for years. I knew he had married a young Kentish girl, and knew no more; but now he told me that she was dead, and that his death would leave a daughter an orphan.

"She is not quite penniless," he wrote, "for her mother had a little income which, poor as I was, I was never brute enough to meddle with, and it has descended to her. But I have been a rolling stone, gathering no moss, all my life, and we never staid long enough in one place to make friends. Will you be her guardian? It is a dying man's last request"——

And then he wrote some words, coming from his heart I knew, which, being of myself, I cannot quote even here—I could not think that I deserved them.

And the result of that letter and of another from the lawyer who had Annie Hunter's little fortune in charge, was that one soft spring day found me on board of a steamer which lay at rest after her voyage, in the protecting arms of Liverpool, with two little hands in mine, and a pair of great brown eyes lifted to my face and a sweet voice choked with sobs saying something of "poor papa," and how much he had spoken of me, and of the lovely voyage, and the green graves left behind; and I, who had gone to meet a child and found a woman, looking at her and feeling toward her as I had never looked upon nor felt to any other—not to Elsie Hall. It was not the boyish love-dream come again.

Analyzing the emotion, I found only a great longing to protect and comfort her—to guard her from every pain and ill; and I said to myself: "This is as a father must feel to a daughter. I can be a parent to George Hunter's child in very truth." And I took her home to the old house and to my old mother. I thought only of those; somehow, I never thought of Ashton.

Shall I ever forget how she brightened the somber rooms! How, as her sadness wore away, she sang to us in the twilight! How strangely a something which made the return home and the long hours of the evening seem so much brighter than they had ever been before, stole into my life! I never went to sleep in church now. I kept awake to look at Olive Hunter—to listen to her pure contralto as she joined in the singing. Sometimes I caught her eye—her great, unfathomable brown eye—for she had a habit of looking at me. "Was she wondering how a face could be so stern and grim?" I used to ask myself.

Ashton used to look at her also. He had been away when she first came to us, and when he returned she was a grand surprise to him.

"Oh, how lovely she is!" he had said to me.

"She is very pretty," I replied.

Ashton laughed.

"May I never be an old bachelor if it brings me to calling such a girl 'very pretty,'" he said; and I felt conscious that my cheek flushed, and felt angry that he should have spoken of me thus, though I never cared before.

They liked each other very much—those two young things. They were together a great deal. A pretty picture they made in the Venetian window in the sunset. He a fair-headed, blue-eyed, Saxon-looking youth; she so exquisitely dark and glowing.

Every one liked her. Even my old clerk, Stephen Hadley, used to say her presence lit the office more than a dozen lamps—the nearest approach to a poetical speech of which old Stephen was ever known to be guilty; and I never knew how much she was to me until one evening when, coming home earlier than usual, I saw in that Venetian window where Ashton and Olive had made so many pleasant pictures for me, one that I never shall forget as long as I live.

She stood with her back to me. Ashton was kneeling at her feet. The sound of the opening door dissolved the picture; but I had seen it, and I stole away to hide the stab that it had given me.

I sat down in my own room and hid my face in my hands, and would have been glad to hide it beneath my coffin-lid. I knew now that I loved Olive Hunter; that I loved her not as an old man might love a child, but as a young man might love the woman who ought to be his wife—better than I had loved Elsie Hall, for it was not a boyish passion, but earnest, heartfelt love.

I in love! I arose and looked in the mirror, and my broad-shouldered reflection blushed before my gaze. The springtime of my life had flown and my summer had come and gone, and in the autumn I had dreamt of love's bud and blossom.

I knelt beside my bed and prayed that I might not hate my brother—that I might not even envy him. His touch upon my door startled me. He came in with something in his manner not usual with him, and sat down opposite me. For a few moments we were both silent. Then he said, speaking rapidly and blushing like a girl:—"Ned, old fellow, you—you saw me making a fool of myself just now, I suppose?"

"I saw you on your knees," I said.

"And thought me a silly fellow, eh? But you don't know, Ned. You can't understand—you've been so calm and cool all your life through, you know. She's driving me mad. Ned, I do believe she likes me, but she won't say yes. I'd give my right hand for her love. I must have it, and I think you can help me, Ned. From something she said, I believe she thinks you would disapprove; perhaps you are one of those old fellows who want every one to marry for money. Tell her you are not. Ned—dear old fellow—tell her you have no objection, and I'll never forget it—indeed I won't."

"Tell her I have no objection," I repeated, mechanically.

"You know you are master here, and as much my father as if you really were one instead of a brother," said Ashton. "If I did not know how kindly you had always felt to us both, I should not confide in you, for it's a serious thing to be in love, Ned, and you may thank heaven you know nothing about it."

"Know nothing about it?" Ah, if he could have read my heart just then!

"I'll do what I can, Ashton," I said at last. "I'll try my best."

And he flung his arm about me in his own boyish fashion and left me alone—alone with my own thoughts.

He had said, truly, I "had been like a father" to him. I was old enough to be hers, and no one should know my silly dream. I would hide it while I lived. As I had said once:—"I've only the old folks and the children now," I said then. "I will only think of mother and of Ashton. Let my own life be as nothing; I have lived for them—if needs be, I will die for them."

But I would not see or speak to Olive that night nor until the next day was quite done. Then, in the twilight, I sat beside her and took her hand.

"Olive," I said, "I think you know that Ashton loves you. I am sure he has told you so. And you—can you not love him?"

She drew her hand from mine, and said not one word.

"I should rejoice in my brother's happiness. I should think him happier in having your love than anything else could make him. I told him I would tell you so."

And then she spoke.

"You wish me to marry Ashton?"

Reproach was in the tone—reproach and sorrow.

"If you can love him, Olive," I said

She arose. She seemed to shrink from me, though in the dark I could not see her face.

"I do not love him," she said.

And we were still as death. Then suddenly Olive Hunter began to sob.

"You have been very kind to me. I love you all," she said; "but I cannot stay here now. Please to let me go somewhere else. I must—I cannot live here."

"Go from us, Olive?" I said. "Nay, we are not tyrants; and once assured you do not love him, Ashton will——"

"Hush!" she pleaded; "hush! Please let me go away! Please let me go away!"

The moon was rising. Her new-born light fell upon Olive's face. Perhaps its whiteness made her look pale.

She leaned against the wall, with her little hand upon her heart, her unfathomable eyes full of pain. How had I hurt so? A new thought struck me.

"Perhaps you love some one else, Olive."

And at that she turned her face from me, and hid it in her hands.

"Too much—too much. You might have saved me that," she said. "Let me go away. I wish you had never brought me here."

And I arose and went to her. I bent over the woman I loved. I touched her with my hand; her soft hair brushed my cheek.

"Olive," I said, "if coming here has brought pain upon you, I wish I had not. I would rather have died to make you happy."

And my voice trembled and my hand shook, and she turned her face towards me again and looked into my eyes. What she saw in mine I do not know—the truth, I think. In hers I read this—I was not too old to her; too old to be loved.

I stole my arm about her; she did not untwine it. I uttered her name, "Olive," huskily.

Afterwards I told her of my struggle with myself—not then. I said: "Olive, I love you; but it cannot be that you care for me. I am old enough to be your father."

And again I saw in her eyes the happy truth and took her to my heart.

But we kept our secret for a while, for we both loved Ashton, and both knew that this wound was not too deep to find a balm; and within a year, when the boy brought home a bride—a pretty creature whom he loved, and who loved him—I claimed Olive.

And she is mine now; and the autumn blossoms of my heart will only fade on earth to bloom again through all eternity in paradise.

THURLOW WEED.

A THERMOMETER MAN IN DETROIT.

HE was a way-worn man from the East, and he had thirty-seven thermometers in a basket on his arm. After standing on the street corners for two or three hours without making a sale, he started for the eastern part of the city, hoping to do better among the private houses. He seemed to gain confidence from the cheerful look of the dwellings, and he bore himself like a banker as he ascended the steps and pulled a door-bell.

"Nothing for the poor," said the lady, as she opened the door.

"I am not soliciting for the poor—I am selling thermometers," he said, in a balmy voice.

"Don't want any—bought our stock in the fall," she said, drawing in her head.

"I said thermometers, madam," he called, in a despairing voice.

"I know it; but we've got all the vegetables we can use," she called back, and the door struck his toes.

Going in the saloon on the corner the man addressed the proprietor with a sweet smile, asking:

"Would you like a thermometer to-day?"

"Py der pushel?" inquired the saloonist.

"No—a thermometer—a little instrument for telling you when it is cold or warm."

"Any music-box in it?" inquired the saloonist.

"No; it records the weather."

"What wedder?"

"Why, the weather we have every day in the year. When it is warm this little tube runs up; when it is cold it sinks down."

"Umph! Ven it ish wurm I dukes my coat off; ven it is gold I put more goal in the stoat. Go sell dat to some schmall poy as knows noddings!"

The thermometer man entered a carpet-weaver's, and a bow-backed man nodded kindly and cordially welcomed him.

"Accurate thermometers for only twenty-five cents," said the peddler, as he held one up.

"New thing?" said the weaver, as he took one in his hand.

"We have had thermometers for many years. People have come to consider them a household necessity."

"Zero—Zero? Who was Zero?" asked the weaver, reading the word behind the glass.

The thermometer man explained, and the weaver, after trying to get his thumb-nail under the glass, asked:

"Where does the blamed thing open?"

"Thermometers are not made to open, my friend," was the reply.

"Well, I don't want no thermometer around me that won't open!" growled the man. "I thought it was a new kind of stove-handle when you came in, or I shouldn't have looked at it."

The thermometer man next tried a dwelling-house. In answer to his ring, the door was instantly and swiftly opened by a red-faced woman, who hit him with a club and cried out:

"I'll learn you, you young villain!"

She apologized and explained that several bad boys had been ringing the door-bell, and he forgave her and said:

"I have some accurate and handsome thermometers here. Would you——"

"We never have hash for breakfast," she interrupted. "My husband detests hash, so I don't want to buy."

"Hush! A thermometer has nothing to do with hash!" he exclaimed.

"Well, I can't help that," she replied, slowly closing the door. "We haven't any lamps to mend, and you shouldn't track mud on the steps that way."

There was a portly man crossing the street, and the thermometer man beckoned to him, halted him, and when he got near enough, asked:

"Can I sell you an accurate thermometer, to-day?"

"A what?"

"A thermometer?"

"What do I want with a thermometer?" exclaimed the portly man, raising his voice a peg.

"Why, to note the weather."

"You blamed idiot! Do you suppose I run the weather?" roared the fat man, growing purple in the face.

"But you want to know when it is hot or cold, don't you?"

"Am I such an old fool that I don't know when it's summer and when it's winter?" shrieked the fat man.

"We all know, of course," replied the stranger, "but every respectable family has a thermometer nowadays."

"They have, eh? I never had one, nor I wouldn't have one, and do you dare to tell me that I ain't respectable?" screamed old portly.

"I didn't mean——"

"Yes, you did, and you have made me miss the car, and I'll cane you!"

The thermometer man waded across the muddy street and made his escape, and at dusk last night was backed up against the Soldier's Monument, his basket between his feet, and was squinting sadly at the clock on the City Hall tower.—*Detroit Free Press.*

USE GOOD ENGLISH.

A GREAT deal depends on early habit; and correct language learned in early life is easily continued ever afterward. Whenever young persons use a wrong word, let them immediately select the right expression and repeat it to themselves a number of times, and in this way it will soon become easy and natural. Without such repetition in use they will certainly fail. Every thing in life depends on a good use of English; and on the other hand, nothing will retard successful progress in life sooner than bad English, bad pronunciation, and slang words. Edward Everett said, that "to read the English language well, to write a neat, legible hand, and to be master of the first four rules of arithmetic—I call this a good education. And if you add the ability to write pure grammatical English, I regard it as an excellent education."

Now, to correct errors and establish a good practice, the work must be taken in detail. One thing must be done at a time. One of the first steps then, is to use simple language to express just what we want to say. There are several words often improperly used for many different meanings, and in this way they lose their force. Take, for example, the word *fix*—the strict meaning of which is to *make fast*, to *settle*. But it is improperly used in many other ways, as "I fixed my hair, I fixed the wagon, I fixed my gloves, I fixed the room," &c.; instead of "I brushed my hair, I repaired the wagon, I sewed my gloves, I put my room in order," &c.

Another word used still more loosely and widely, is, "*nice*." This properly means *over exact; punctilious; delicate; subtle*. But it is often employed to denote all commendable qualities. We often hear careless speakers say, "this apple is *nice*," instead of *delicious*; "she is a *nice* girl," instead of *good* or *agreeable*; a *nice* landscape," for a *lovely* landscape; a *nice* cottage," instead of a *snug* one; a *nice* man," instead of a *genial* man; a *nice* mountain," instead of a *grand* or *lofty* one; "a *nice* drink of water," for a *refreshing* one; "a *nice* story," instead of an *interesting* one; "a *nice* smell," to a flower, for a *pleasant odor;* and so on without limit. Some persons look nice, walk nice, talk nice, make a nice visit, write a nice letter, live in a nice house, wear nice clothes, make a nice present, &c.

Again, the word "*awful*," which means *dreadful, fearful, sublime*, is used as a general adjective for nearly all purposes, both good and bad, by those who cannot select a separate and appropriate adjective for each separate purpose; and we accordingly hear of an awful nice day, an awful dull knife, an awful good pear, an awful old hat, etc., etc.

Another word, "*got*," is used profusely by some speakers. Some of our readers have perhaps heard the man's narration:—"After I got your letter I got on horseback, and when I got to Boston I got a carriage, but I got wet before I got to the office, and I got such a cold as I can't get rid of. I got to the hotel and got my supper, and then I got to bed, but it was long before I got to sleep. When I got up in the morning and got my breakfast, I got to the cars. I got home before night."

To avoid all such inelegancies, or to correct them when they have become a habit, repeat to yourself the correction, and continue to repeat it till it becomes ready and familiar in use. In this way young persons may acquire the habit of using the best language, and the longer it is continued the more easy and natural it will become. Always select the shortest and simplest words, and those which convey distinctly the intended meaning. All this will require attention and pains, without which nothing is ever accomplished.

WASHINGTON'S ANCESTRY.

GARSDON, a small town or parish in Wilts Co., Eng., has the honor of containing in its venerable church a monument to the memory of General George Washington's ancestors—a memorial which, in the heart of every patriotic American, is replete with associations the most tender and sacred. The village of Garsdon is about two miles from Malmesbury, and the church is a quaint Gothic edifice, situated in the bosom of a rich country and surrounded with ancient trees. For generations past the country people of this charming spot have been in the habit of conducting strangers to the church for the purpose of pointing out this venerable memorial of the architect of the American Republic, the Father of his Country. The monument was once a superb specimen of the mural style, and even now presents evidences of rich and curious workmanship. It is to be seen in the chancel on the left side of the altar, and is finely carved out of the stone of that part of the country. It is surmounted with the family coat-of-arms, which form a handsome emblazonment of heraldry, and, although erected more than two hundred years ago, they are still burnished with gilding, and the following interesting inscription appears:

To ye
Memory of
SIR LAWRENCE WASHINGTON, NITE,
Lately Chief Register
of ye
Chauncerye,
Of Renown, Piety, and Charitye,
An exemplyarye and Loving Husband, a Tender Father, a Bountefolle Master, a Constante Refiever of ye Poore; and to Thoas of His Parish, a Perpetual Benefactor
Whom It Pleased
God to Take Into Is Peace.
From ye Fury e of ye Inzuing Warrs
Born May XIV.
He was Heare Interred
May XXIV., An. Dni. 1643,
Ætat. Sue. 64.
Heare Also Lycte
Dame Anne,
Is Wife, who Deceased
January XIIIth; and Who
Was Beryed XVth,
Anno Dni. 1645.

The ancient English homestead of the Washington family is handsome, very old-fashioned, and built of stone, with immense solidity and strength. The timber about it is chiefly oak, and in several of the rooms, particularly the old hall or banqueting room, there are rich remains of gilding, carved work in cornices, ceilings and panels, polished floors and wainscoting, also shields containing the same coat-of-arms as on the mural monument in the church, carved over the lofty and antique mantelpieces. Beneath the house are extensive cellars, which, with the banqueting-room, seem to indicate the genuine hospitality and princely style of living peculiar to a "fine old English gentleman, all of the olden time." And indeed, according to the traditions and chronicles of that region of country, such was the general character of the heads of the Washington family. The walls of the houses are five feet thick, and the entire residence is surrounded by beautiful gardens and orchards. In the old parish archives the Washington family are in frequent instances most warmly referred to as among the benefactors of the parish; and from the earliest recorded time they seem to have been the lords of the soil at Garsdon down to the period of their leaving.—*Cor. St. Louis Republican.*

A HOTEL WITH A LIBRARY.

How will the morning stars sing together on that millenial day when the landlords of the earth shall pull down their curtains, if need be, seeing they are usually gray as to the lace and dingy as to the damask, and sure to gather dust and defilement, be they never so royal at the outset; shall pull up their carpets if purses be shallow, seeing the carpets are trodden by such ungenial feet as fate may send, and that the deeper the pile the more surely it hoards the uncanny deposits for sensitive lungs, and delicate nerves, and vivid imaginations; shall give up even its frescoed finery, its breadth of gilded frame and plate glass, if danger of bankruptcy require it, but shall hold the one indispensable luxury of a hotel to be a library! With lavish generosity, from apparently boundless resources, the proprietors of hotels have furnished their guests with numberless comforts and conveniences. They have made a marvelous outlay to fascinate the eye and to gratify the palate; but it seems never to have entered into the heart of man that this American people knows how to read. An occasional Bible in a bedroom, a gorgeously gilded book of advertisements on the center-table of the gilded and gorgeous drawing-room, a faint, vague rumor of newspapers in the outer darkness where female foot never penetrates—this is all that indicates any consciousness in the hotel proprietor that the travelers of the world ever care to while away a waiting hour by the innocent diversion of reading. What doth hinder the devotion of a few hundred dollars to works of popular science, popular theology, art and literature, and history? In what quarter of the heavens shall rise that landlord of the future—is he even now disporting with his innocent infantine locs in the sunshine?—who shall send one looking-glass, one hot, heavy, horrid armchair, one dusty, tasseled curtain, to the auction room, and bear into his inn from the proceeds a set of Dickens, and of Thackeray, and Scott and Cooper, and George Elliot, and John Halifax, Gentleman, and an occasional volume of Tyndall, and Huxley, and Agassiz, and Browning, and Tennyson, and Matthew Arnold, and Macauley? The chair and the curtain and the looking-glass would do it. I can but think that the room from which it was known that a chair, a table, and a looking-glass had been removed to make room for a choice and sensible little library, would be the most popular hotel in the city.—*Gail Hamilton, in Scribner.*

A PLUCKY MAN.

YEARS ago, Chauncey Filley, formerly of this city, took up his residence in St. Louis and engaged in the manufacture of stoves. Honest, industrious and enterprising, he rapidly made his way in the world and became possessed of an ample fortune. He was an excellent citizen, established a reputation among his fellows, and eventually became postmaster of this great city of the West, a position he still retains. At the time of the President's visit to St. Louis, Mr. Filley entertained him sumptuously and with splendid hospitality. Engaged in the mining business was a friend who had plenty of enterprise and but little money. Filley had unbounded confidence in him, and when the friend wanted an indorser for his notes Mr. Filley became his surety, whenever requested, without keeping any record as to the amount of money he was bolden for. Eventually his mining friend failed, and these notes were presented to Mr. Filley for payment.

Of course his surprise was great, but the fact gave him no anxiety, for he did not think the indorsements would exceed $100,000, and he could easily pay that from his ample fortune. One hundred thousand dollars were soon presented and promptly paid, but they did not stop coming until they amounted to $990,000. To pay this would make Mr. Filley a bankrupt. In fact he had not the means to pay the entire claim, and he saw no way out of his dilemma but to go into bankruptcy. This he at first decided to do, but his pride restrained him. He had a business reputation which was second to no one in St. Louis, and, after mature deliberation, decided to ask for a chance to pay his full indebtedness.

He told his creditors that he could make more money out of his property than if it were disposed of at auction, and he was given an opportunity to prove his assertion. He paid $500,000 down, and resumed business with renewed vigor and energy, and to-day the full amount, nearly $1,000,000, lost by over-confidence in a friend, has been paid, with the exception of about $50,000, and that also Mr. Filley is now abundantly able to pay. The result shows what indomitable energy, pluck and perseverance can do when employed in the right direction.—*Troy Times.*

WHY SHE PLANTED ROSES.

A BLACKSMITH had in possession, but under mortgage, a house and piece of land. Like many others, he was at one time fond of the social glass, but was happily induced by a friend to join the temperance society. About three months after he observed his wife one morning busily engaged in planting rose bushes and fruit trees. "Mary," said he, "I have owned this lot for five years, and yet I have never known you to care to improve it in this manner." "Indeed," replied the smiling wife, "I had no heart to do it until you gave up the drink. I had often thought of it before, but I was persuaded that should I do it, some strangers would pluck the roses and eat the fruit. Now, with God's blessing, this cot will be ours and we and our children may expect to enjoy the produce. We shall pluck the roses and eat the fruit." And they did. Their cottage was known as the prettiest in the neighborhood.

KNOWLEDGE LIMITED.

THINK for a moment of the narrow limits of our knowledge! Eight hundred millions of featherless bipeds, more or less, are picking up a living, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, on this pretty planet of ours; of what infinitessimal proportion can you really unveil the secrets and guage the virtues and the happiness? How many people do you know intimately enough to say whether their lot is, on the whole, enviable or the reverse? Every human being is a foreign kingdom to every other. We make a short excursion into their minds; we touch at a port here and there; and we say glibly that we know them intimately. We know not how many dark corners are carefully hidden away from all strangers, and what vast provinces have never been reached in our most daring travels.

Sabbath Reading.

"THE NIGHT COMETH."

BY ELEANOR BURR.

WHAT thou doest, do quickly, child!
Thou hast not very long to stay:
Make haste to gird thy loins about;
My "Rod and Staff" shall wait thy way.

Stand with lights all trimmed and burning:
Sandals bound on pilgrim feet,
Stand with face to Eastward turning,
Thou may'st then His coming greet.

Let not Pleasure lure nor bind thee
With "green withes" or flaxen strands;
Yield thou not to guilty slumber;
Place not thy strength in human hands,

Lest a loud alarm be given,
And into her fair, mocking face,
Bewildered eyes uplifting,
Thou meet Philistine passion base;

Lest shorn and crippled thou bring'st shame
Upon thy Israelitish house;
Upon JEHOVAH'S honored name,
Upon the symbols of thy troth.

O Soul! O covenanted one!
Be thou faithful to thy vow!
Look up! look on! search thy own depths!
GOD'S own image stamps thy brow.

What thou doest, do quickly, child!
Thou hast not very long to stay;
Eager souls await thy coming;
My "Rod and Staff" await thy way.

THE REALITY OF CHRIST'S LIFE.

WHEN we look at the picture of Christ in the New Testament and see him moving through the "forty days" and the "forty hours" of sorrow, we are wont to lose the significance of this great struggle by so exalting the divine as to make it sweep away the human and to make Christ only an actor upon a stage. His temptation seems slight, his suffering slight, his tears only illustrative of what men ought to shed. There is such a feeling that there must have been in Christ such a sense of unused power, such a knowledge of what he could do if only it were best for the scheme of salvation, that before this feeling the thrilling scenes in his life become only the successive acts in a well-performed drama. But we must never exalt the divine at the expense of the sincere. Far better place Christ down among dependent, helpless beings, than suffer any of the scenes of the New Testament to lie in our minds as pieces of a drama or a pantomime. Apparent temptation, apparent grief, apparent agony in the garden, apparent struggling for character, are not what the world needs to see. It has enough of the hypothetical without finding any in the temptation or olive garden. To solve the enigma of the sufferings of a God, some of the early theologians held to the idea of two souls as existing in Jesus. But how they solved their two-souled enigma I know not. We must all escape the influence of those old theories. Christ passed along, not in a representative art like that of the drama, or of the painter, or sculptor, but he moved along in the same paths of trial, and courage, and effort, and sublime heroism as those along which human hearts in our day must move. The life was real, the triumph was real. Otherwise divinity is made the ally of pretense and deception. Christ is a real chapter from the book of life.—*David Swing.*

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

GOD will not refuse the poor offerings of poor people; but He will not accept the poor offerings of the rich.—*Bishop Medley.*

MISTRUST the man who finds everything good, the man who finds everything evil, and still more, the man who is indifferent to everything.—*Lavater.*

THE years go on; we with their tide
Are to the Future drifting;
And patiently we must abide
The curtain's lifting.

ONE hour with Christ is worth an eternity of all earth's joys, and communion with him is the best, the surest and the most ecstatic foretaste of the bliss of heaven.

MANY do with opportunities as children do at the sea shore—fill their little hands with sand, and then let the grains fall through their fingers till they are gone.

A GOOD conscience is better than two witnesses—it will consume your grief as the sun dissolves the ice. It is a spring when you are thirsty, a staff when you are weary, a screen when the sun burns.

EVERY kindly word and feeling, every good deed and thought, every noble action and impulse, is like the ark-sent dove, and returns from the troubled waters of life bearing a green olive branch to the soul.

WHY should the gloom deepen as we near the sun? And why should the unthinking speak of the downward slope of life? Why walk backward all our days, with our faces down hill, and gloomily speak of downward slope to the grave? But yet how true it is that most of us do so.

A SPOTLESS life may go far to incapacitate a man for saving souls. The common expression, "He is too good for us," contains, like many another vulgarism, pure gold. We are not Christs. We do not understand the evil that we have never committed. We are not the world's saviours, only its helpers; and we have all the helper's dullness, none of the Saviour's insight.—*Elizabeth Stuart Phelps.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

MOTHERS, DON'T SCOLD.

BY FORT U. LACCA.

It is true, I may have been naughty,
For I was to the stranger bold,
When he asked me who my "dad" was,—
But, mother, please do not scold.

I went to the brook there a fishing,
You see I am wet, and so cold!
I know I did wrong not to ask you,—
But, mother, please do not scold.

I fell from the ladder and hurt me,
It slipped and I loosened my hold;
By the fall I did tear my pant-leg,—
But, mother, please do not scold.

I'll try to be good in the future,
And to do just the best I am told;
But should I chance to do wrongly,
Please, mother, *then* do not scold.

Mothers, our boy is right in his pleadings,
And he stands where many a boy's stood:
I never yet knew the occasion
Where *scolding* e'er did a boy good.

"SUPERFLUOUS WOMEN."

In a recent lecture Mrs. Livermore made the following pointed and sensible remarks:

All through the land, in homes and outside of them, I find these women, unwedded, in the vulgar parlance of every-day speech called "old maids," with a shrug of the shoulder, and a slight dash of scorn, in the finer language of sociologists and essayists denominated "superfluous women." They have been brave enough to elect to walk through life alone, when some man has asked them in marriage whom they could not love; with white lips they have said "no," while their hearts have said "yes," because duty demanded of them the sacrifice of their own happiness. Their lives have been stepping stones for the advancement of younger sisters; they have earned the money to carry brothers through college into professions; like the Caryatides of architecture, they stand in their places and uphold the roof over a dependent household; they invert the order of nature and become mothers to the aged, childish parents, fathers and mothers, whose failing feet they guide gently down the hill of life, and whose withered hands they by and by fold beneath the daisies; they carry words of cheer and a world of comfort to households invaded by trouble, sickness or death. The dusty years stretch far behind them; beauty and comeliness drop away from them, and they grow faded and careworn; they become nobodies to the hurrying, rushing, bustling world, and by-and-by they will slip out into the gloom—the shadows will veil them forever from earthly sight—the great surprise of joyful greeting will welcome them, and they will thrill to the embrace of the heavenly Bridegroom.

Ah, Stewart, who from your $100,000,000 of earthly treasures have given $1,000,000 to the working women in a beautiful home! Ah, Peabody, whose gifts of libraries and institutes and educational funds were princely! Ah, Vanderbilt and Drew, who have put millions into the endowment of schools and colleges—these poor women have given and are giving more than ye all. For out of your abundance ye have given but little, and these superfluous women have given their all—themselves, with their loving hearts, with their possibilities of happiness, with their dreams of the future! Ah, four-starred Grant and Sherman, not so heroic was your march through the fearful, bristling wilderness, and from Atlanta to the sea, as is the lonely passage of life made by many an unmated woman, except as her celibate life serves to point a jest, or add cynical pleasantry to a story. Ye were stimulated by the cheers and prayers of a nation, while the gaze of the world followed you. But the path of these women was through the hot shot of ridicule and satire.

Let us give to women such training, physically, industrially, intellectually and spiritually, that we shame the word "superfluous" out of the vocabulary, as descriptive of women. And this will help men, and elevate them, quite as much as any special work which might be done for them, and thus collective humanity will be benefited, and a higher civilization be promoted, for

> The woman's cause is man's; they rise or sink
> Together, dwarfed or god-like, bond or free.

A STORY FOR THE GIRLS.

Sit down on the porch, children, and let me tell you about Aunt Rachel, and the story she once told me. One day, when I was about twelve years old, I had planned to go after strawberries, but Aunt Rachel said to me: "A girl of your age should begin to learn how to do housework. Take off your hat, roll up your sleeves, and help me do the baking."

I pouted and sighed and shed tears, but was encouraged by the promise that I might go after the baking. Under good Aunt Rachel's direction I mixed a big loaf of bread, placed it on a tin as bright as a new dollar, and was rubbing the flour off my hands, when she called out: "This will never, never do, child—you haven't scraped your bread bowl clean."

I shall never forget the picture she made standing there, her eyes regarding me sternly, one hand resting on her hip, while in the other she held the muddy bowl.

"It will never do, child," she went on; "it is not only untidy, but it makes too much waste; to be a good housekeeper you must learn to be economical. You have heard the story of the young man who wanted an economical wife?"

"No," I answered, and I might have added that I didn't wish to hear it, either.

"Well," she continued, "he was a very likely young man and he wanted a careful wife, so he thought of a way he could find out. One morning he went to call upon the different girls of his acquaintance and asked them each for the scrapings of their bread bowls to feed his horses. You see they all wanted him, so they got all they could for him. Finally he found a girl who hadn't any, so he asked her to be his wife, because he thought she must be economical. "Now," said Aunt Rachel, triumphantly, "suppose a young man should ask you for the scrapings of your bread-bowl, what could you say?"

"What could I say?" I repeated scornfully, "why, I'd tell him if he couldn't afford to buy oats for his horses they might starve. I wouldn't rob the pigs to feed them."

I suppose Aunt Rachel thought that lesson was all lost on me; but as true as you live I never knead the bread to this day without thinking of her lesson in economy.

THE EMPRESS JOSEPHINE.

Josephine, before marrying General Bonaparte, consulted her lawyer, Monsieur Raquideau, as to her union with the young victor of St. Roch.

"It is folly," answered the sage man of law, "perfect folly, to marry a young officer without fortune and without future."

But Josephine had more confidence still in the oracles of Mlle. Lenormand, the celebrated fortune-teller; or, rather, she did as people often do after asking advice—she followed her own mind, and did well.

Bonaparte heard of the opinion passed upon him, but made his way in spite of M. Raquideau's doubts, and the young officer became emperor.

But, although he had advanced much, he had forgotten nothing. When he was attired in his coronation robes, and a few minutes before proceeding to Notre Dame, he called out in a voice of thunder:

"Let Raquideau be brought."

The poor notary thought that he had signed his last contract.

"Well," said the emperor, as soon as he perceived him, "here is the man without fortune and without future;" and then, after a mischievous pause of a few moments, he added, "I name you lawyer to the family."

Josephine did well, they say. Can we think so, if we remember her after-suffering, and the agony of that night when, knowing her fate, she drew Bonaparte to the window, and, pointing to the sky, said prophetically:

"Like those two stars we have risen together, and separated we shall fall."

SATURDAY NIGHT.

How many a kiss has been given, how many a curse, how many a caress, how many a kind word, —how many a promise has been broken, how many a heart has been wrecked,—how many a loved one has been lowered into the narrow chamber, how many a babe has gone from earth to heaven,—how many a crib or cradle stands silent now, which last Saturday night held the rarest of all treasures of the heart? A week is a life. A week is a history. A week marks events of sorrow or gladness of which people never heard. Go home to the family, man of business! Go home, you heart-erring wanderer! Go home to cheer that awaits you, wronged waif of life's breakers! Go home to those you love, man of toil! and give one night to the joys and comforts fast flying by. Leave your book with complex figures, your dirty workshop, your busy store. Rest with those you love; for God only knows what the next Saturday night will bring you. Forget the world of care and the battle of life which have furrowed the week. Draw close around the family hearth. Go home to those you love, and as you bask in the loved presence and meet to return the loved embrace of your heart's pets, strive to be a better man and to bless God for giving his weary children so dear a stepping-stone in the river to the Eternal as Saturday night.

ADAM'S FIRST WIFE'S REVENGE.

The old Hebrew cabalistic legend of Lilith, the first wife of Adam, is told by M. D. Conway, in his lecture on the Devil, in language which is as beautiful as a finished poem. She was a cold, passionless, splendid beauty, with wondrous golden hair. She was created Adam's equal in every respect, and therefore properly enough refused to obey him. For this she was driven from the garden of Eden, and Eve was created, made to order, so to speak, of one of Adam's ribs. Then the golden-haired Lilith, jealous, enraged, pining for her first home in Paradise, entered in the form of a serpent, crept into the garden of Eden and tempted Adam and Eve to their destruction. And from that day to this Lilith, a cold, passionless beauty, with golden hair, has roamed up and down the earth, snaring the sons of Adam and destroying them. You may always know her dead victims, for whenever a man has been destroyed by the hands of Lilith you will always find a single golden hair wrapped tight around his lifeless heart. To this day, many and many a son of Adam is still lured to death and ruin from having the golden hair of a woman wrapped too tight around his heart. This is the moral. Has not Lilith been revenged?

Either trouble or happiness borrowed from the future is apt to prove fallacious.

Reading for the Young.

AT QUEEN MAUDE'S BANQUET.

She wears no crown
Save her own flossy curls,
Rosiest, plumpest
Of pet baby girls;
Blue-eyed and dimpled
And dignified she,
Pouring out for us
Invisible tea.
Little Queen Maude.

Tiniest teacups
And saucer and spoon:
Baby, your banquet
Has ended too soon,
Fancy's full cupboard
Unlocks to your hand;
We your poor subjects
Await your command,
Little Queen Maude.

Throned on the floor,
We must stoop to your state;
If a queen's little,
Can courtiers be great?
Now kiss us, dismiss us,
Red lips rosy sweet,
For yonder's a post
Chained fast to your feet,
Little Queen Maude.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Southern New York Girl.

Dear Rural Cousins:—If by that name you will allow me to call you—I have been wishing for a long time to write you and ask if I might be numbered with the Cousins, but could never summon courage enough until now. I am just sixteen (am I too old), and as this is Leap Year and the Centennial Year, I thought I would celebrate by writing to the Rural. Do any of the Cousins intend to go to the Centennial? I should dearly like to go, but it is too far away and too expensive for me to do anything more than dream about. If any of the Rural friends do go, I hope they will write and tell us of some of the wonderful and beautiful things that they have seen. We live a mile from the village of ——, and it is very pleasant and thriving little village it is, with high hills on all sides. My brothers and I have attended school all winter. We have a graded school here. My studies are Arithmetic, Algebra, Grammar, Philosophy, Geography and U. S. History as a reader. A few weeks before our winter term closed the advanced scholars visited a school about twenty-five miles from here. We went one day and returned the next. We visited the school in the afternoon and attended a party in the evening. They entertained us nicely, and we had a pleasant time generally. The return train stopped an hour in the village of Owego, and we, not wishing to wait in the depot, improved our time by marching down to the river (the Susquehanna) and looking at the new steamboat they are building; it is very nice, and I should not mind taking a ride on it when it is completed. I can imagine just how Uncle Moore looks, as he reads this, my first attempt. I see him sitting in a large arm chair by a table covered with letters. He takes up my unfortunate letter, glances through it, and with a "Not quite up to the mark," tosses it over his shoulder, and it lands—where? On the grave of many other letters; but I wonder if at the same time he says "Try again." I hope so, for I certainly shall.—M. A. B., *Tioga Co., N. Y.*

From an Illinois Boy.

Dear Cousins:—As this is my first attempt to enter the "Rural Circle," and I perceive that the girls are ahead as to numbers, I will throw in my mite to make up the deficiency. I notice that there are very few who boast of their attainments in the farming line, as the agricultural profession seems to be at a discount with them, as well as the boys. I am not sure that it is best to follow McOmber's suggestion to "keep on the right side of the girls." For my part I prefer a little difference of opinion, especially in conversation, for when a person agrees with every idea you advance, and the only reply you can get is yes or no, this is agreeing too well. And now I have a query to propose. Why is it that they bestow their smiles and favors on so many that claim to be young men, but who are little better than tobacco distillers, if we consider the quantity of tobacco juice that they manufacture every day? Is this one of the accomplishments that a young man must acquire before he can expect to win the favor of the fair sex? If their tongues are, as one of the Cousins suggests, loose at both ends, then let them wag at something that will do some good. I would make it one of the conditions essential to keeping my company, that he should abstain from the disgusting habit. If there was some of the energy that is displayed in following the fashions, I do not think that we should be any the worse, and it is a subject that will bear a great deal of tongue, both hot and cold.—Critic, *Melvin, Ill.*

From a Western New York Girl.

Ed. Rural:—Your valuable paper has just come to us with the back numbers from Jan. 1. We have decided that we cannot do without the Rural as long as the several departments are so well and ably conducted as now. In looking over the "Letters from Boys and Girls," I notice the several sarcastic remarks directed to Young Tom. As we did not take the Rural last year I have not seen *his* letter. Will the kind Editor send me the paper containing it? Both boys and girls denounce it so strongly my curiosity is excited, and I am anxious to know what the young gentleman said to arouse the indignation of *all*. I wonder he has not been tempted to write another letter. If he does not try to vindicate himself soon some of the girls ought to write *for* him. I hope Fairy Belle will write again, naming some of her favorite music. I am much interested in music, and practice several hours a day. I fear the Editor will think this too long, even if otherwise meriting publication.—Witch Hazel, *Groton, Tompkins Co., N. Y.*

From a Virginia Girl.

Dear Editor:—This is the first time I have written for the Rural, and I don't know as it will be printed, but I will try and see what I can do. As most of the girls tell about their pets, I will tell about mine. I have a dog I call "Skip," and a tortoise-shell cat named "Lillie." I live on a farm three miles from Norfolk City, on a branch of the Elizabeth River. I think it a very pretty place. I hope I may be admitted into the list of Rural Cousins, may I not? I think the picture in the Rural of Aug. 8th, 1874,—"O dear, No, I'm not Conceited," is a pretty fair specimen of Young Tom. I don't know as I shall pitch into Y. Bach just yet. Girls, you have administered a quietus that has cured him of his long tongue, I guess; he is fairly scared away—afraid to show his head again, poor boy. I should like to climb some of those mountains out where you live, Young Tom, but if I caught sight of you I should fly on the wings of the wind. And now, my dear Rural Cousins, if I may call you so, adieu.—Snow Drop, *Norfolk Co., Va.*

From an Oregon Girl.

Dear Editor:—I have long thought I would write and tell you how we like the Rural. We like it very well; we have taken it three years and commenced on the fourth year. We live in the country, and I think we have a nice place to live. I have no pets, but I have a little baby sister. I am twelve years old. This is my first attempt at writing for a paper, and if this does not go into the waste basket I will try again.—Bertha Parvin, *Dexter, Lane Co., Oregon.*

From a Central New York Girl.

Dear Girls:—As all the girls and boys are writing, I thought I would too. I went to school during the winter. I am a farmer's daughter, and nothing could hire me to live in the city. I agree with Dell B. W. of Rochester, and if she will give me her P. O. address I would like to correspond with her. I think Young Tom had better not say anything in regard to the fair sex. I close, hoping this (my first letter) will find a place in the Rural.—Ada O. H., *Hill's Branch, Cayuga Co., N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

LITERARY PUZZLE.—No. 1.

(A) Novel by Bulwer.

(1) Novel by Charles Kingsley, wearying of (2) Novel by Edw. Garrett, and possessing an income of (3) Novel by Warren, I sought the (4) Novel by Miss Warner in quest of adventure. 'Twas (5) Novel by Lever from (6) Novel by D. G. Mitchell to the Metropolis. But the tedium of the journey was relieved by the perusal of (7) Novel by Bulwer and conversing with (8) Novel by Howell, the possessor of (9) Novel by Hardy, who completely fascinated me. Arriving at (10) Story by Dickens, I left the carriage to procure some (11) Novel by D. Jerrold for my fair friend, leaving her (12) Novel by G. A. Sala. Picture my mortification at finding her on my return gaily chatting with (13) Novel by Dumas. But by means of a (14) Novel by Miss Carlen I succeeded in regaining my place beside her, and as (15) Novel by Werner would have it they soon left the carriage. 'Twas (16) Novel by W. Collins when we parted at the London terminus. I had gone but a short distance when cries of distress reached my ear. Suspecting (17) Novel by Chas. Reade, I hastened in the direction from whence they came, and soon discovered three (18) Novel by Miss Braddon attacking a cab, the inmates of which proved to be my traveling companion and her (19) Novel by Le Fanee. My arrival gave the ruffians (20) Novel by Wills, but not before I had recognized (21) Novel by Lever as one of (22) Novel by Dumas. Of course I felt (23) Novel by Chas. Gibbon to see them safely to their destination. It is needless to say the acquaintance did not stop here. After many (24) Novel by Miss Yonge, I found myself (25) Novel by Mark Lemon. (26) Novel by T. S. Arthur we returned to (27) Novel by Miss Bremer, (28) Novel by Hardy, quite content with the results of (29) Novel by Sterne.

☞ Key in two weeks. S. E. M.

BIBLICAL SQUARE-WORD.—No. 3.

1. A famous rock. 2. A city of Phenicia. 3. A giant of Hebron. 4. An article of food.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Isola.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—April 1.

Illustrated Rebus No. 7.—Read more books.

Hidden Names No. 1.—1, Ellen; 2, Henry; 3, Mary Ann; 4, George; 5, Carrie; 6, Andrew; 7, Emma; 8, Edward; 9, Helen.

Transposition No. 3.—

I count these things to be grandly true,
That a noble deed is a step towards God,
Lifting the soul from the common sod,
To a purer air and a broader view.

Biblical Square-word No. 2.—

E D A R
D U R A
A R A M
R A M A

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

DEATH OF A. T. STEWART.

ALEXANDER T. STEWART, the wealthy merchant of this city, died at his residence on Fifth Avenue on Monday, April 10th. Mr. Stewart has been sick several weeks, and his death was not unexpected. He was one of the three or four enormously wealthy men in the country, his property being variously estimated at forty to eighty millions of dollars.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE bonded debt of Syracuse, N. Y., is $1,316,000. The principal items are as follows:—Bonds for Chenango Valley railroad, $500,000; for Syracuse Northern railroad, $500,000; for Syracuse university, $100,000. The floating debt of the city is over $150,000.

The following are the directors of the Elmira driving park, chosen at a recent meeting of the association:—F. H. Atkinson, S. T. Reynold, J. C. Langdon, C. W. Skinner, Lorenzo Howes, E. W. Howes, M. H. Howes, M. H. Foster, H. H. Purdy, Url Bartholomew, F. A. Frasier. Very many substantial improvements are being made at the park.

The salaries of the Buffalo employes of the Erie Railway Company aggregate about one hundred thousand dollars a month, or nearly a million and a quarter dollars per year. Nearly one-third of this amount is paid out to the attaches of the work shops, two in number.

The Vue de l'Eau Hotel, at Bewell's Point, Hampton Roads, Va., was burned last week and is a total loss. The fire was the work of an incendiary. The house originally cost $38,000, the furniture $16,000. The insurance is $16,000.

In the New Jersey Legislature an amendment to the tax bill providing that church property shall not be exempt was defeated, April 6th.

Several bids have been made to sweep out the Centennial Fair Buildings for fifty thousand dollars. Sealed proposals for the contract were not even solicted by the managers of the institution.

The Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas rules that the right of telegraph companies to run telegraph lines and use other telegraphic apparatus through the streets of that city, is subject to the consent of the mayor and councils of the city. The court held poles to be nuisances, and say wires should be laid under ground.

An express agent named Dinsmore, at Parsons, Ks., has been arrested for the recent stealing of some forty registered packages from the mail. He confesses and makes some $800 restitution.

Florida has 3,000 white men who have not voted since the downfall of the Confedracy.

Only 40 out of 200 of the Nootka Sound tribe of Indians, British Columbia, have survived the visitation of small pox.

A woman and her daughter, the latter only twelve years old, both reeling with intoxication were seen in the streets of Virginia City a few days ago.

That plow made on the Daniel Webster farm at Franklin, N. H., under Daniel's supervision and partly by Daniel himself, is to be sent to the Centennial.

During the past five years the Bureau of Education of Virginia has received from State taxation $2,163,997.33; from local taxation, $1,982,789.02; and from the Peabody fund and private donations $410,820.37, making a total of four and a half millions.

The Connecticut election resulted in the [illegible] of the Democratic candidates. Gov. Ingersoll is re-elected and Hon. Jas. E. English will probably be returned to the Senate for the term which he is filling by appointment since the death of Senator Ferry. David A. Wells, a well known political economist was defeated for Congress. Hon. John T. Wait being elected in the 3rd Dist. to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Hon. H. H. Starkweather.

The wife of B. F. Butler died April 8th from cancer of the stomach.

Tramps attempted to rob a railway train on the New Jersey Central R. R. between Phillipsburg and Hampton. The engineer thought there was an obstruction and stopped the train, when the tramps tried to board it, assailing the engineer with stones. A melee ensued and the train hands finally drove the tramps away, taking nine of them prisoners.

At a meeting of the Elevated Railroad Co., April 9th, Mr. Johnson reported that he had secured the signatures of men who own more than $7,000,000 worth of property on the line, all opposed to the building of the road.

An amendment to the bill regulating the admission of attorneys to practice, which would have allowed women to become applicants for examination, was voted down in the Maryland House.

A Boston preacher said:—"If any society will take charge of all the cases of poverty brought on by intemperance, this church will take upon itself to relieve all the remaining paupers of Boston."

The Narragansett Indians at Charlestown, R. I., have just elected their council. At an election a line is drawn, and the candidate stands on either side. The one that gets the most Indians to stand on his side is elected.

The working hours at the Erie railway shops at Port Jervis, N. Y., have been increased from 35 to 40 a. week.

The Ex-Officers' Association, which had its origin in Troy four years ago, now numbers nearly 1,000 members.

During the last three months 486 cases were tried in the police court of Buffalo, N. Y. Of these 47 were sent to higher courts.

The Buffalo Bar Association, recently organized, has fifty-five members. James M. Humphrey has been elected president.

Four men gagged and bound the watchman at the Boston & Albany freight office, at East Albany, on the night of April 3rd and made an unsuccessful attempt to blow open the safe. They were frightened off without obtaining any plunder.

There are 62,552 churches in the United States, with sittings for 11,395,542 people, the Methodists being the strongest denomination. The total value of church property is placed at $342,619,780.

A company known as the "Jennings Estate Association" was incorporated by the Virginia Senate on the 25th ult. The object is to secure untold riches left by a Mr. Jennings in England a century ago.

In Philadelphia seven schools have enrolled nearly two thousand boys in societies for the protection of animals. They have badges and banners, are trained to march to the sound of military music, and have annual meetings at the Music Hall.

In compliance with orders from Washington, gas has been cut off from the post-office and custom house in Norfolk. Mails which are usually distributed at about 8 o'clock P. M., are delayed in consequence till next morning.

The United States Senate has refused to confirm the nomination of Richard H. Dana as Minister to England.

It is reported that the political campaign is about opening in Louisiana in the old style. Citizens are dragged away from their homes on Ku-Klux charges, and the writs of the United States courts are employed to produce terror in country parishes.

Carthage, N. Y., has abandoned the idea of celebrating the Centennial Fourth because the village has voted down the proposition to raise $500 by tax for the purpose.

The peculiar appearance of the trees in the line of the Worcester flood, which were struck by the waters but not uprooted, has attracted much attention. The bark of trunks, limbs and twigs has been stripped off cleanly and the wood bears the appearance of having been sand-papered.

The Congregational convention April 6th, refers the question of examining into the guilt or innocence of Beecher to a committee of five, who shall call together all persons who are supposed to have any evidence bearing directly on the subject.

The New York East Conference of the Methodist Church has been session at the Hanson Place Methoddist Church, Brooklyn.

Dolan has addressed a final appeal to Governor Tilden for executive clemency, again protesting his innocence of the crime of which he is convicted.

The American Express Company talks of arming all its employes with pistols, which they will wear in plain sight, because the law forbids the carrying of concealed weapons.

H. C. Kirk of Sacramento, has bottled up in alcohol an infant sea-serpent, which was taken in a net by some fishermen down the coast recently, and forwarded to him. It is about a foot long, but the body at its largest part is not half an inch in diameter. It is of a grayish color; has a dorsal fin; the head is over an inch long, of a bony substance, with a bill something like that of a bill-fish; eyes very large and protruding; body tapering until half an inch from the extremity it is scarcely as big around as a knitting needle; but at that point it suddenly breaks into a queer little tail of the flapjack-turner order.

Mrs. Lydia Graham, of Port Byron, N. Y., celebrated her 100th birthday in that village recently. Members of her family, down to the fourth generation, were present to take part in the festivities. Mrs. Graham, who was born in New Jersey in 1776, came to Cayuga county when thirty-eight years old, where she has resided sixty-two years.

One day recently Sheriff Wiseman of Mitchell county, N. C., attempted to arrest an illict distiller, named Barner, who was with a party of friends. Barner shot Wiseman through the shoulder, and the Sheriff in return shot him dead and wounded five of his companions, and then, his ammunition giving out, retired in good order.

In 1773 a former in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, made a will, sealed it in an envelope, wrote on it the direction that it should not be opened within one hundred years, delivered it to the selectmen for safe keeping, and then died. His heirs-at-law took possesion of his property, nobody objecting, and after many years the town papers were lost. The sealed will recently came to light, and was found to devise the testator's property to the town, to be used as a charitable institution for vagrants; but it has changed hands many times, and to take it now from the present holders would be a great hardship. Probably the town will not press its claim.

The model of the statue of American Girl is now completed, and is pronounced by those who are competent to judge, and who have been permitted to see it, really a very fine work of art. Doty, the driver of the lamented Girl, has carefully criticised it and allows it to be a most faithful likeness, and the model of a horse. The cast itself will probably be completed by the first of May, ready to be set up and unveiled at the Elmira Driving Park at the first meeting of the Association, early in June.

The town poor of Carmel, Putnam County, N. Y., have broken 2,933 bushels of stone at a total cost of $451.65, which has been paid by orders on the overseer of the poor.

In St. Louis, April 5, an injunction, restraining the police from interfering with the Missouri State lottery, was refused.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE united capital of the companies that supply London with water, amounts to $64,808,870. In December, 1875, they supplied a population of 3,726,893, living in 521,521 homes, with 111,421,397 gallons per day.

It appears that Capt. Webb's swim across the English channel will turn out to be a very profitable job. The testimonial being raised for him has already reached $20,000.

When a French army officer is convicted of a felony his epaulets are torn off, his sword is broken, and a private steps from the ranks and kicks him. After that the civil authorities take care of him.

The Camden Society of London has accepted the offer of Dr. Jessopp to edit "The Economy of the Fleet," from the MS. in possession of the Duke of Westminster. It contains a curious account of the condition of the Fleet Prison in reign of James I.

The Italian *Movimento* announces that the Workingmen's Association of Genoa, who applied to Spain, through the foreign Minister, for permission to remove the remains of Columbus, now interred in Havana, to Italy, have received a favorable reply as far as Spain is concerned, but Havana utterly repudiates the idea.

The Birmingham Post, England, announces that William Dudley, a deceased goldsmith, has left half a million dollars:—1. To assist young tradesmen with good characters; 2. To relieve necessitous aged tradesmen who have never been a burden to the parish; and 3, To extend the usefulness of local medical charities.

At a recent meeting of the London School Board a highly influential deputation of noblemen and merchants presented a memorial urging the advisability of establishing penny savings banks in connection with every public school.

The custom of drinking wine instead of liquor is a great economic benefit to France. The harvest of 1874 produced 1,836,000,000 gallons of wine, of which four-fifths were consumed in the country. This enormous yield was valued at $650,000,000, or more than the united wheat and cotton crops of the United States.

Parisian ladies who do their own needlework have adopted thimbles with a pebble inserted as a top. The agate, cairngorm, onyx, and crystal are the most popular, as they look very pretty in their setting of silver.

The Academy of Medicine and Surgery, St. Petersburg, is attended by 171 women and girls, 102 of whom are of titled birth. They mix harmoniously with the other sex in the dissecting rooms.

Of the 33 generals and 66 lieutenant-generals in the Prussian army, all are of noble birth. There are only 18 plebeians among the 147 major-generals, only 27 among the 146 infantry colonels, and only 6 among the 60 cavalry colonels.

Prof. Dove, the meteorologist of Berlin, Prussia, celebrated the completion of his 50th year as a doctor of philosophy recently. He received the congratulations of the Empress and a visit from the Crown Prince, and the Emperor conferred upon him the star of the Red Eagle Order.

The Wheeler exploring party recently found a ruined town in New Mexico, which the Indians say was built in the reign of Montezuma. A skeleton was found near the walls, and the natives warned the party that violent death or ill-fortune would result from disturbing it. The topographer of the party removed the skeleton, and three days after was shot and died.

A new comer at the city prison in Berne, Switzerland, having told his mates that a prisoner had escaped from the Zurich jail by cutting out wooden keys, a number of them set to work and actually succeeded in getting out in the same way, a few only being recaptured.

Mr. George Carter Sleut, an Englishman living in Shanghai, has just published a collection of Chinese ballads. One of them bears the name of "Chang Liang's Flute," and according to tradition its melancholy tones induced 8,000 soldiers to desert their camp for their homes in a single night.

They have on the Nord Railway in France a new system of danger warning, consisting of sixty signal stations along the line, to indicate danger when there is any, in connection with which thirty-eight locomotives have been supplied with the electric automatic whistle. This is so arranged that when, in day or night, the locomotive reaches a signal which shows "danger," that moment the whistle on the engine sounds.

There is enough lumber lying at the wharves of St. Johns, N. B., to load forty 1,000-ton vessels.

In the Italian army there now are 133 generals, 1,226 staff officers, and 2,927 captains and lieutenants.

The British naval estimates for the ensuing year amount to £11,288,572, a considerable increase over those of last year.

The Archbishop of Paris says that the exclusion of religion from the public schools would be equivalent to the destruction of France.

In Paris in 1875, there were born 29,211 boys and 26,613 girls; 45,980 persons died; surplus of births, 9,874; 19,127 marriages were contracted.

The Cologne Gazette has published a series of articles in favor of introducing the Latin instead of the German characters in the German newspapers.

Dion Boucicault will, in May, lecture in the large cities of Great Britain on "The prejudices existing in England respecting Irishmen." Soon afterward he will return to this country.

Laborers engaged on the new railroad from Alexandria to Aboukir have unearthed some interesting antiques, among them the head of a statue of a late Roman emperor, and large numbers of terra cotta lamps of the Roman and Christian periods.

The Russians have another naval novelty. It is a steamship for coast defence, without guns but covered with very thick iron, and armed with a spar. She has an arrangement for using torpedoes offensively, and can steam fifteen miles an hour.

In Great Britain in 1874-75 the fines for drunkenness imposed upon soldiers amounted to the sum of £17,939 from the army and £696 from the militia.

An illustration of the value of timber on waste lands is afforded by a sale of wood which took place on the estate of the Earl of Caw or in Nairnshire the other day. In 1820, two hills, about 200 acres in extent, were planted with fir and other trees, and after successive thinnings, the sale of which realized large sums, the remainder of the wood has just been sold off for the sum of £16,000. The sums realized for the wood on this waste land during the fifty years is stated to be equal per acre to the return for the best arable land in the country.

An old manuscript has been fished up in the archives of Pisa, giving a precise and detailed description of an immense treasure alleged to be buried near a hospital in the city of Cagliare, Island of Sardinia. The treasure is minutely described as consisting of millions of money and of phenomenally sized diamonds, and is promised to the finder. Amateurs have been zealously digging away for it, but so far in the dark.

The ravages of yellow fever at Rio Janeiro are increasing.

It is reported that Carlist depots of arms still exist in Biscay.

The French Chamber of Deputies has annulled the election of Peyrusse, Bonapartist.

Sir Henry Halford has formally resigned the captaincy of the British national rifle team.

The Spanish commission on the constitution proposes to increase the number of Senators to 300.

The strike of the dock laborers at Liverpool has ended, the men resuming work on the old terms.

Russia intends to re-open negotiations in regard to the codification of international rights in time of war, and hopes England will adhere to the amended proposals of the Brussels conference.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

Lyndonville, Col. Co., Vt., April 3.—A foot of snow, more or less, has fallen during the past two weeks, and the weather continues cold and winter-like. The hoary-headed old gentleman seems fondly to linger in the lap of spring, and the fair maiden coolly smiles and consents. Very little maple sugar has been made in this section yet, although some was made two or three weeks ago. The demand thus far has exceeded the supply. The weather at present is fair and pleasant, and with due moderation it may afford business for sugar makers. The young folks already have their "appointments," and "sugar party" the present month is their special institution.—I. W. S.

Willida, Lyon Co., Iowa, March 29.—We have had a very mild winter. No snow until March 1, and very little since then. March was the coldest month of the four. Robins and other spring birds here since the middle of February. Crops of all kinds good. No grasshoppers to do any damage. Wheat, No. 2, 85c.; oats, 30c.; corn, 25c.; a surfeit of potatoes and all kinds of vegetables; pork, 8@12c.; fat cattle, 3@5c. gross; milch cows, $30@35; work oxen, $100@125 yoke; horses, $100@112 apiece. Wild prairie, $5@7 acre. No homestead land left, but railroad and speculators' land for sale on long time at very low figures. A smooth prairie country of great fertility and room for thousands.—A. K. H.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, April 8, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	69,799	Rice, bbls	773
Whisky	4,635	Cut meats, pkgs	7,685
Corn meal, bbls	593	Lard, pkgs	5,238
Corn meal, bags	3,635	Tobacco, hhds	1,708
Wheat, bush	249,623	do. cases	4,232
Corn, bush	57,813	Butter, lbs	15,100
Oats, bush	200,184	Cheese, lbs	20,261
Rye, bush	5,028	Cotton, bales	13,011
Malt, bush	4,800	Rosin	4,206
Barley, bush	3,120	Spts. turp., bbls	1,271
Beans, bbls	11,275	Dried Fruits, pkgs	311
Grass seed, bags	3,325	Eggs, bbls	17,257
Beef, pkgs	3,075	Peanuts, bags	1,366
Wool, bales	103	Dressed Hogs	40
Hops, bales	600	Leather, sides	146,142
Pork, bbls	2,430	Sugar, hhds	23
Tallow	546	Oil cake	3,402
Molasses	—		

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures a sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 527 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 17,975 do.; same time last year, 6,504 do. Exports of peas past week, 14,211 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 242,971 do.; same time last year, 150,918. Medium beans continue dull at the late low figures. The best marks have been taken very sparingly by the home trade. Some of the under-quality lots have been taken for Great Britain, the exportation being stimulated by low rates. Sellers are glad of any chance that will relieve the market of such grades and do not attempt to lighten prices. For marrows the West Indian demand is limited. Dealers think that prices have struck about their lowest notch for mediums and marrows, and say they will make no further concession in prime marks. Pea, red and white kidneys remain quiet, prices favoring buyers even in small transactions. Green peas are lower, with a rather large stock. Canadian peas show some revival, with a par quantity going out.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, 90c.@$1; prime mediums, $1.10@1.15; fair to good, 85c.@$1; poor, 50@60c.; prime marrows, $1.60; fair to good, $1.25@1.45; prime white kidney, $1.55@1.60; other, $1.25@1.40; prime red kidney, $1.25@1.30; other, $1@1.15; Lima (Cal.), $2.50@2.75. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.20@; do., in bulk and bond, $1.00@; green, $1.40@1.45; Southern S. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.70@2,75; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—Extreme prices prevail, with the stock of old nearly exhausted and bleachers still in the market. Sales at 35@37c. for Western and Southern. Exports past week, 2,800 lbs.; since Jan. 1, 33,875 lbs.; same time last year, 96,500.

BROOM CORN.—Choice lots are scarce and wanted. Medium stock plenty and dull.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—Perhaps the shortest way to express the condition of the butter market is to simply say the demand has "balked." The first week or so of new with a diminished stock of fine old permitted the famine tone of sellers to have some weight; but buyers soon become tired of paying high prices for questionable qualities of anything, and the merit of white butter is not of a strong character in the N. Y. market. Consumers use it sparingly and if they have to change from it to accessible old on account of a bad-flavored sample, discontent is sure to arise that makes slow business for hay-stock that will not carry for retailing purposes. Our quotations show a very marked decline for new, and the prospect is for an unsteady feeling until well set grass. Old butter is in few hands and will go out firm, as there will be no surplus after furnishing Southern trade a fortnight or so.

New butter, Falls State, selected, 40@—c.; do., other 34@38c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 36@38c.; fair to good, 33@35c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 36@37c.; fair to good, 33@35c.; Falls, Western creamery, prime, 38@—c.; fair to good, 34@36c.; Western tubs, good to prime, 32@34c.; fair to good, 30@32c.

Old State dairies, extra, 38@40c.; entire, good to prime, 31@37c.; fair to good, 32@34c.; firkins, selected fresh, 38@40c.; good to prime, 34@36c.; fair to good, 28@31c.; State Welsh, tubs, fall made, 30@33c.; dairies 33@36c.; good to prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 32@34c.; poor to fair, 28@32c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 20@23c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 33@35c.; good to prime, 31@33c.; fair to good, fresh, 28@30c.; Western, early packed, selected, 28@30c.; good in lines, 26@28c.; fair in lines, 23@26c.; poor, 20@22c. Roll butter, good to prime, 32@34c.; fair to good, 28@32c.; poor to fair, 21@28c.

CHEESE.—The exports this week are fair, brought about by a disposition to meet shippers promptly. The common and medium grades have been more generally dealt in, as relatively easier prices have been secured on this class of stock.

New State factory, fancy, 13½@13¾c.; fine, 13½c.; do. good to prime, 12@13c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor to fair, 7@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12½@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; fair to good, 10@11c. Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12¾@13c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fair, 5@11½c.; poor to fair, 7@8c.

COTTON—Has been very irregular in price and closed weak. Closing prices are for April, 13 9-32@13 5-16c.; May, 13½@13 17-32c.; June, 13¾@13 25-32c.; July, 13 15-16@13 31-32c.; August, 14 1-16@14 3-32c.; September, 13¾@13 27-32c.; October, 13 21-32@13 11-16c.; November, 13¾@13 17-32c.; December, 13¾@13 9-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 13-16	9 13-16	9 13-16	9 13-16
Strict ordinary	10 11-16	10 11-16	10 11-16	10 11-16
Good ordinary	11 5-16	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 7-16
Strict good do	12 1-16	12 1-16	12 3-16	12 3-16
Low middling	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 13-16	12 14-16
Strict low middling	13 1-16	13 3-16	13 5-16	13 5-16
Middling	13¾	13¾	13 9-16	13 9-16
Good middling	13¾	14	14¼	14¼
Strict good middling	14¼	14¼	14¼	14¼
Middling fair	14¾	14¾	14¾	14¾
Fair	15¾	15¾	15¾	15¾

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 15-16	Low middling	11 9-16
Strict ordinary	11 1-16	Middling	12 7-16

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Exports past week, 153 bbls. apples. Apples are hard to sell, and the small lots moving at regular prices. Peaches are quiet and nominal. Blackberries are inactive and weak, as also small fruits generally.

Apples—State, sliced, 9¾@10c.; do., quarters, 9c.; Western quarters at 8½@8¾c.; Southern sliced, 1875, prime, 10c.; fair lots, 8@8c.; Tennessee qrs., 8¾@8¾c. Blackberries, 10@10½c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@15c.; do. fancy, 16@17c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12¾c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 25@26c. Cherries, 18@20c.

EGGS.—The week has been an active one, and a good deal of stock has been worked out that might have crowded some later on. Easter will be celebrated next week and all good marks will be in demand for a few days. The stock is reduced, but not sufficiently so to permit sellers to advance rates rapidly. A good deal of fine stock is now coming from near points. We quote:

Near points, ₱ bbl., 18@—c.; State and Penn., 17½@18c.; Western, prime, 18@—c.; do. fair marks, 16½@17½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 16½@17½c.; duck, 20@23c.; goose, 55@60c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—We learn of no change.

"H. O." oil peppermint, $4, in glass; Hale & Parshall do., $4@4.20 do.; pure in tin, $3 50; sassafras, 55c.; wintergreen, $3.12; spearmint, $3.50; pennyroyal, $4.

FLOUR.—Advices from abroad are discouraging, and have led to a pressure to sell and easier prices.

Superfine State, $4.20@4.50; extra do., $5.00@5.60; superfine Western, $4.20@4.60; extra do., $5.00@5.70; No. 2, $3.00@3.75; extra round-hoop Ohio, $5.00@5.30; trade brands do., $5.35@7.00; white wheat extras, $5 75@7.00; St. Louis, $5.35@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.20@6.75; Southern at $4.25@4.55 for superfine; $5.10@6.25 for poor to choice shipping extras, $6.35@8.75 for trade and family brands. Rye at $4.15@4.20. Buckwheat flour at $1.60@1.90. Corn meal quoted at $2.65@3.25 for yellow Western; $3@3.15 for yellow Jersey; $2.20@3.20 for Pennsylvania, and $3.30@3.35 for Brandywine.

FEATHERS.—Spring brings new business in feathers and the market is firm. Live Western geese, 55@57c.; mixed, 35@45c.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, —— bbls. Since Jan. 1st, 4,285 do.; same time last year, 15,867, do. Apples are not so active under high prices, still the stock is down to a point that gives sellers firmness. Supply, mainly Russets. Strawberries have a slow opening this season. Cranberries somewhat weak. Peanuts dull and in buyers' favor.

Apples—winter varieties, ₱ bbl., $3.75@4.25; mixed lots, good, $3.50@3.75; mixed lots, fair, $2.50@3.25. Oranges—Florida, ₱ crate, $5@—. Cal. grapes, ——@——. Strawberries, prime, ₱ quart, 55@65c.; other, 25@40c. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, standard crates, $4.75@5; good to pr., small crates, $3.50@4.75; "pony" crates $1@1.50; good to choice, per bbl., $11@15. Peanuts—Virginia, per bush., $1.45@1.65; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15.

FURS AND SKINS.—The London sales have had the effect of marking down a good many items here. There is some demand, but the season is drawing to a close. We annex the items that are chiefly affected by the cable news:

	North. & Eastern.	Western and N. Y.
Otter, ₱ piece	$6 50@ 8 00	$4 00@ 5 50
Gray Fox	1 75@ 2 00	1 50@ 1 75
Red Fox	1 60@ 1 75	1 25@ 1 50
Black Bear	10 00@15 00	7 00@10 00
Brown cubs and yigs	4 00@ 5 00	2 00@ 3 00
Fisher	8 00@10 00	7 00@ 8 00
Mink, dark	2 00@ 3 00	1 25@ 1 75
pale	1 00@ 1 50	75@ 1 00
Muskrat, spring	28@ 30	25@ 27
winter	24@ 25	21@ 23
fall	18@ 20	16@ 18
Kitts	6@ 7	5@ 6
Beaver, ₱ lb	1 00@ 1 75	75@ 1 00
Raccoon	68@ 80	40@ 55
Opossum	12@ 15	12@ 15
Skunk, black		75@ 90
striped		10@ 40
Wolf, mountain		2 00@ 3 00
prairie		75@ 1 00

GRAIN.—For wheat the market is lower and dull, with English advices unfavorable. Latest sales at $1.14 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring, afloat; $1.16 for mixed spring in store, called choice No. 3; $1.35 for good No. 1 Minnesota spring afloat; $1.11 for rejected Chicago spring afloat; $1.65 for white Michigan, crop 1874, in store, and $1.45 for amber Michigan; $1.21@1.28 for No. 2 spring; $1.15@1.16 for winter red and amber; $1.35@1.50 for white; $1.34@1.38 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 80c. for State. Corn is higher and scarce, with an active demand. Sales at 69½@70c. for mixed Western; 70c. for yellow Western; 70c. for yellow Southern and Pennsylvania. Oats have increased demand. Selling at 43c for good mixed Western, afloat; 41½@45c. for fair to prime white Western.

HAY AND STRAW.—There is a liberal business in shipping grades, and more doing in prime stock at strong figures.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, 95c.@1.10; clover, 60@70c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat. Exports past week, 1,640 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 11,450; same time last year, 9,355.

HIGHWINES.—Selling at $1.12½.

HOPS.—The decline as noted last week brought out export orders more generally, and tended to increased trade from brewers; the market closing firm. The receipts for the week have been 600 bales, and exports 1,117 do. It is thought 12,000 bales will cover the stock of new hops in this city, and, with anything like the export trade which prevailed here only a fortnight back, the market would soon work to a better basis.

N. Y. State, 13@18c.; Eastern, 11@16c.; Wisconsins, 11@16c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 15@20c.

HONEY.—Nominal at former rates.

MAPLE SUGAR.—The supply is light and prime new is in demand.

New prime sugar ranges at 14@15c.; fair to good, 12@13c.; old, run over, 10@12c.; old, ordinary, 8@9c. Syrup, ₱ gal. of 14 lbs., 1@1.25.

MILK.—The farmers price for March was 4@4½c.

OIL CAKE.—Western is selling at $41 ₱ ton.

PROVISIONS.—The general markets have been depressed. Mess pork quoted at $23 for spot lots, $22.90 for April, $24.95 for May, $23.15 for June, $23.30 for July, and $23.50 for August deliveries. Boxed dry-salted shoulders, 9½c.; tierced pickled hams, 12¾@13¾c. Bacon—Western long clear, 12 11-16c.; city do. do., 13c.; short do., 13½c. Lard—Western steamed, $14@14.05 for spot lots. $14@14.02½ for April, $14.07½ for May, $14.20 for June, and $14.35 for July; prime steamed, 13½c. Beef hams at $21@25. Beef—New extra mess at $12.50@13.50; do. plain, $12 50@13; new tierced at $23 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $31.25@31.50.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Fresh dressed is scarce. Frozen is in demand when prime. The winter has been poor for saving in this way. When nice, frozen sells nearly as high as fresh. We quote Philadelphia picked chickens at 21@25c.; capons at 31@33c. for large; 26@28c. for small capons and slips.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 21@22c.; Jersey, good to prime, 20@21c.; State, good to prime, 18@21c.; Western, good to prime, 18@20c.; fair to good, 14@17c.; poor, 8@10c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; State, good to prime, 20@22c.; Western, good to prime, 18@21c.; inferior, 10@15c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 22@24c.; state, good to prime, 21@23c.; Western, good to prime, 20@22c.; fair to good, 18@20c.; poor, 14@16c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 15@17c.; State, good to prime, 14@16c.; Western, good to prime, 13@15c.; do., poor to fair, 10@13c.

Live poultry has been up to high figures, but the market is tamer and is tending lower.

Turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 16@18c.; do. Western, 15@16c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2.50@3; do. Western, $1@1.50; ducks, Western, ₱ pair, 80c.@$1; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1.25@1.50; roosters, 8@10c.

Wild pigeons are in good supply and selling well. Wild ducks are not steady; quality against them. Wild ducks at 75c.@$1 for Canvasback; 60@75c. for redhead, and 50@60c. for Mallard. Wild pigeons, feathered, ₱ doz., $1.50@1.75; English snipe, ₱ doz., $1.75@1.87 plover, ₱ doz., $1.62@1.75.

SEED.—Clover is scarce and lightly dealt in, but steady in price; sales at 16¾c. for State and 16¾c. for Western. Timothy at $2.65@2.75.

TOBACCO.—Offerings are larger and of more attractive grades, leading to a freer business. Prices generally firm. Quotations for

	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP ONLY.		
Common lugs	4½@ 5½	5 @ 5½
Good lugs	5½@ 6½	6 @ 7
Low leaf	7 @ 8	7½@ 9
Medium leaf	10 @11	9½@10½
Good leaf	11½@13	11 @12½
Fine leaf	13½@15	13 @14
Selections	13½@15	15 @16
SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1871.		Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots		10 @12
Wrappers, medium		15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine		25 @35
Seconds		10 @13
Fillers, selections		5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots		7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots		14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common		7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots		6 @ 8
Wisconsin		6 @ 8

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 4,200 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 54,750 do.; same time last year, 28,775 do. Exports of onions for the week, 125 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 5,200 bbls.; same time last year, 1,725 do. Old potatoes still show a large stock, but the fine low rates prevent additions, which is fortunate for shippers. We don't want any more. Bermuda potatoes are doing better. Bermuda tomatoes are lower, with large cargoes arriving. Onions have largely advanced with the liberal export trade. Southern green stuff varies considerably as to quality. We quote:

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1@$1.12; Peach Blows, $1.00@1.25; Prince Alberts, 75c.@$1.00; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $8@9; Florida, $—@—. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $5@8; red, $7@11. Squash, Marrow, bbl., $1.25@1.75; Hubbard, $1.25@1.75. Onions, red, bbl., $2.20@2.75; yellow, $2.50@2.75; white, $4.50@5.50. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Southern spinach, ₱ bbl., $1.50@2.25. Kale, $1@1.25. Florida green peas, ₱ bush., $1.75@3.50. Norfolk cabbage, ₱ bbl., $1.25@1.50. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, $1@1.25; beets, $1.50 ₱ crate. Mushrooms, ₱ lb., 50@60c. Rhubarb, ₱ doz., $1@1.25. Bermuda onions, ₱ crate, $1.50.

WOOL.—The market has been very quiet. The freshers have checked work at a number of the mills, and with the production of goods restricted, manufacturers have been but little disposed to operate in wools.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Pickings	50	@ 54
XX	47	@ 48
X	46	@ 48
No. 1	48	@ 50
No. 2	42	@ 45
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	42	@ 44
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	56	@ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	41	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	44	@ 45
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	44	@ 47
X	44	@ 47
No. 1	44	@ 46
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	31	@ 36
Coarse unwashed	27	@ 30
Burry	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, April 8.—Flour market steady: spring, $7.00; amber winter, $7.25; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.35@1.40; amber winter, $1.20@1.30; white winter, $1.30@1.40. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.60@1.75. Butter, 28@32c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 15@16c. Lard, 13½@14c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1.25 Potatoes, bu., 20@@30c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@1.10. Mess pork, $22@23. Wool, 30@35c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $8.00@8.50. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.05@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., April 8, 1876.

THERE is no material change to note in the price of cheese this week. Farm dairies may be quoted at about 10c. for late ends. A few lots have been sent forward on commission on a guarantee of 9½c. Factories may be quoted at 12@13c. The Fairfield Association are still holding for 14c., which is above the views of buyers.

There has been a large trade in butter this week, but prices are about 2c. lower than last week. The rates paid for butter made from new milk, have been 37@38c.; common and ordinary ranged at 35@36c.

We have advices from Europe to the third week of March. Our London correspondent says:

Fancy English cheese is in small supply. Dutch is firm. American is in good demand for all sorts, especially fine/fine September. Two thousand boxes of one factory—a well known brand—have sold for 68s. Good fine mediums wanted at 56@60s.

The prices are for extra American, 66@68s.; fine, 63@64s.; good, 56@58s.; secondary and common, 30@46s.

English cheddar brings 60@65s.; Wiltshire double, 72@80s.; Cheshire medium, 57@66s.; fine, 70@74s.; Scotch, 68@72s.

There is no good intermediate butter remaining unsold. Continental sells to arrive, for which agents can name their own figures. For the substitutes (oleomargarine) manufacturing districts now compete for them. The prices are as follows:

Jersey sells for 120@150s.; Dorsets, 174s.; Danish and Swedish, 110@174s.; Friesland, 164s.; Normandy extra, 174s.; American and Canadian, 90@130s. ₱ cwt. Oleomargarine or artificial butter, Irish, 50@90s.; Continental, 90@140s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 8, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	3,864	20	643	4,621	000
Forty-Eighth St	000	15	145	2,454	000
Fortieth St	000	00	000	199	12,973
Harsimus Cove	5,760	00	000	8,596	8,931
Totals this week	9,624	35	788	16,870	21,904
" last week	8,197	57	667	17,863	20,309

BEEVES.—Trade on last Monday forenoon opened slow at a reduction of ¼c. scarcely ₱ lb. on the closing rates of the previous week. As trade advanced the markets improved in feeling but not in values. The herds to hand were sold off at noon and ranged in quality from common to good. Prices were 8¾@13c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6@12 cwt. Wednesday, trade very dull at 8@12c.; weights, 6@11cwt. Thursday, sales small at 9@12c.; weights, 6¾@9¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak, with sales at 8¾@11½c.; weights, 5½@8¾ cwt. From 55@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt.; the largest number of cattle were sold at 56 lbs. net. Kansas and Cherokee steers, in mixed herds, quality coarse, sold at 8¾@9¾c.; Texas steers, corn-fed, 9¾@11c.; native steers, 8@12½c.; grade, 12½@13c.; bulls on live weight, 4¾@6c.; mixed herds, 8@10½c.; oxen, 9¾@12c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @13	12 @13
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@11

MILCH COWS.—The poorness of the quality of the fresh cows offered for sale since our last weekly report, has caused trade to be small and slow; 2 cows sold at $90; 1 at $50; 1 at $75—no calves included; 9 cows sold at $40@60 ₱ head; 11 at $55@62; 3 at $65; 8 at $59.50@72—calves included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade in smooth quality veals small and slow on a light run at 9@10¾c. ₱ lb.; course quality meal-fed calves abundant on the markets and in moderate demand at 6@8¾c.; grass calves not quoted. State veals sold at 9@9¾c.; Pennsylvania, 9@10¾c.; Jersey, 9@10¾c.; Western calves, 6c.; State, 7@8¾c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade opened fair on Monday last; sheep sold at 6¾@6¾c.; yearling lambs, 8¾c.; Wednesday, trade small; sheep, 7@8¾c.; lambs, 8¾c. Thursday, trade firm in sheep at 6¾@8¾c.; lambs, 10c. Friday, the markets closed slow; sheep, 6¾@8¾c.; lambs, $10 ₱ head; stall sheep, 6¾@9c. Michigan sheep sold at 7@7¾c.; Pennsylvania, $8.43¾ ₱ cwt.; Illinois, $7.30@8.75; Missouri, 7c. ₱ lb.; Ohio, 6¾@8¾c. The lambs to hand have been received exclusively from New York State.

HOGS.—One car-load of Ohio hogs, live weight, 199 lbs. ₱ head, sold at 8¾c. ₱ lb. City dressed weak on Monday last at 10¾@10¾c.; light pigs, 10¾c. Wednesday, sales at 10¾@10¾c. Thursday and Friday prices were 10¾@10¾c.—light weights included.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade slow and small, owing in a large sure to the wetness of the weather; 19 head quality light harness horses, $50@95; 2? head ordinary do., $100@195; 7 pairs family carriage horses, $300@550 ₱ pair; 7 head course quality heavy draft horses, $125@270; several contracts for railroad horses have been filled at $100@250 ₱ head; no sales of choice quality arrivals reported. Thirty-one horses arrived per Erie Railroad via Oak Cliff Station.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

PERSONAL ITEMS.

WM. H. YOUNG of Troy, has a book published in Venice in 1474.

EX-SECRETARY of the Treasury Richardson has sailed for Europe.

HERSCHEL V. JOHNSON has consented to run for the Governorship of Georgia.

MRS. HENRY WARD BEECHER arrived in Jacksonville, Florida, March 29th.

THE Rev. Henry Ward Beecher will deliver a lecture in Boston on the 20th inst.

THE King of Holland has given $400 toward the erection of a Dutch church in New York City.

PROF. MARSH has procured 2,500 volumes of Japanese literature for the library of Yale College.

MR. M. D. CONWAY has declined the call from the Theodore Parker Fraternity Society of Boston.

GEN. CESNOLA, United States Consul in Cyprus, has been elected a member of the Academy of Sciences of Turin.

THE San Francisco Call says that Mr. Montgomery Blair has bought for $1,000,000 the New Idria quicksilver mine.

SALVA WILLIAMS, a negro, was jokingly voted for as constable in Palmer, Mass., and his election has been declared legal.

EX-GOV. ALLEN of Ohio has given the order for his portrait for the Governor's gallery to Mr. W. C. Matthews of New York.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CHILDS, A. M., has opened his cottage at Long Branch. He is the first summer visitor to the Branch.

PROF. JAMES MORGAN HART has been elected Professor of Modern Languages and Literature, in the University of Cincinnati.

THE statue of Lord Rosse, by the late Mr. Foley, has been cast in bronze and placed in Parson's Town, Kings County, Ireland.

THE late Dr. King's collection of curiosities, made during his Arctic expedition and elsewhere, will be sold shortly in London.

DR. DOLLINGER'S 77th birthday occurred on the 28th of February, when he received the congratulations of King Louis of Bavaria.

JAMES D. REID, for many years Superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, is writing a history of the Telegraph.

A Scotch lord, Sir Robert Abercrombie, with a party of friends, has been in Charleston, *en route* to Florida, on a hunting expedition.

MISS HOBART, a Massachusetts girl, has purchased twenty acres of land in Westminster, Cal., and is devoting half of it to—onions.

MR. HOLMAN HUNT'S portrait of himself, which was lately in the Liverpool exhibition, will be sent to the Centennial at Philadelphia.

A LONDON dealer in old china has confessed that he sold to the Baron Rothschild, for £250, a bogus piece which only cost 40 shillings.

THE Registrar-General of England believes that the illness of 140,000 fever patients reported last year cost more than $5,000,000 in money.

THE Rev. Ezra D. Winslow, the Boston forger, has been adjudged a bankrupt, and April 1 was appointed for a meeting of his creditors.

JUDGE J. W. DEADERICK has been made Chief Justice of Tennessee, vice Nicholson, deceased, by unanimous vote of the associate Judges.

GEN. SHERMAN will preside and deliver an address at a reunion of the veterans of the civil war to be held at Springfield, Ill., May 13.

TWO railway carriages have been built in Brussels at a cost of $10,000 for the use of Queen Victoria during her travels on the Continent.

A TABLET in memory of the late Justice Nelson of the United States Supreme Court has been placed in Christ Church, at Cooperstown.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL JEWELL has recovered sufficiently from his late attack of rheumatism to leave Washington for Connecticut.

REPRESENTATIVE WILSON, who is lying ill in Washington, is a little better, and his friends have some hope of his recovery.

A GENTLEMAN of Auburn has added $30,000 to the gift of the late James S. Seymour for the establishment of a public library in that city.

DON CARLOS, it is said, has purchased the place recently occupied by the Duc d'Aumale and known as the Orleans House, a few miles out of London.

MR. JEFFERSON DAVIS will sail for Europe May 1, where he will remain for six or eight months to promote the establishment of a direct trade with the cities of the Mississippi Valley.

THE Hon. John W. Johnson of Madison, Minn., has given $5,000 to the State University, the income of which is to be used in aiding students who speak the Scandinavian languages.

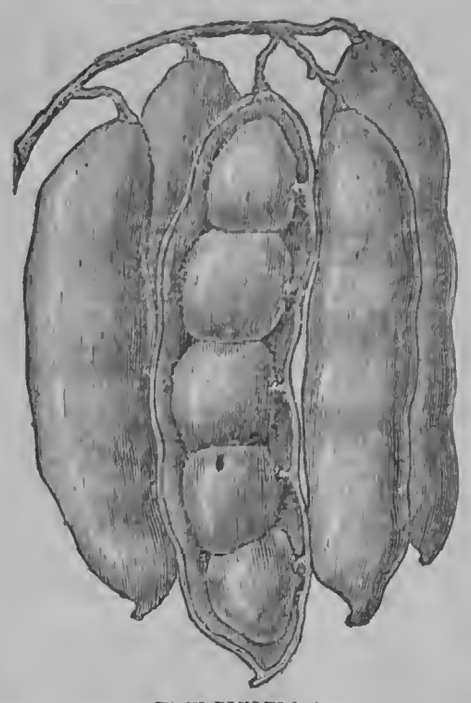
THE Hon. Robert C. Winthrop of Boston has accepted the Presidency of the Washington National Monument Association. He is in favor of finishing the monument as soon as possible.

COL. W. C. P. BRECKINRIDGE, a brother of the late ex-Vice-President Breckinridge, will deliver an address May 2, at the unveiling of a monument to the Confederate dead at Bowling Green, Ky.

JOHN CLARK, until a year ago a reporter employed by the Brooklyn Eagle, and since then a musical student in Milan, has been engaged for seven years by Mapleson, the London opera manager.

THE late Bishop Thirlwall of England is said to have been a perfect prodigy of precocity. At three years of age he read English so well that he was taught Latin, and at four he read Greek with an ease and fluency that astonished all who heard him.

Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.



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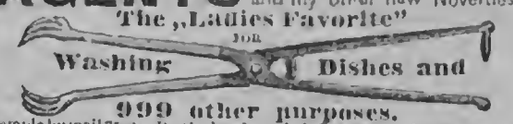

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Rochester wants a central market.

— Persia is to have a navy on her Gulf.

— The Philadelphia Ledger has enlarged.

— The prospects of the English iron trade are gloomy.

— Thirty-four Governments will be represented at Philadelphia.

— The Erie Railway will not change its time-table until May 1st.

— Lord Dupplin has bought the race-horse Petrarch for $52,500.

— The Universal Exhibition in Paris will be opened on May 1, 1878.

— Nearly all the fruit in East Tennessee has been killed by the frost.

— A postal service organized on the European plan is in operation in Persia.

— The women of Albany have contributed $1,000 toward the State Centennial banner.

— One of the four machines made in Germany for Tomassen has arrived at Baltimore.

— The Consolidated Virginia mine yielded the unprecedented sum of $2,500,000 in February.

— There is at present a large exodus of negroes from Tennessee, Kansas being the happy land.

— Hereafter the police of Paris will not allow any theatrical posters over 18 by 12 inches to be put up.

— Five hundred thousand grape-vines are to be planted in one single county of California this spring.

— Rabbits have so increased in Kentucky that hunting them down has become an absolute necessity.

— The present crop of sugar in Cuba is 1,000,000 boxes, and is worth $30,000,000 less than last year's crop.

— The meeting of the National Sportsmen's Association will be held at Chicago on the 8th of August next.

— It is claimed in New Orleans that fifty cents' worth of coal oil will last as long as nine dollars worth of gas.

— In San Francisco cucumbers are selling for $1 apiece, while peppermint is only twenty-five cents a bottle.

— It is a noteworthy fact that gas stocks are always readily taken as investments, because they pay largely.

— The Scotch herring fisheries earn $7,500,000 yearly, and the English fisheries do not fall much below that figure.

— The English revisers of the Old Testament have reached the forty-fourth chapter of Jeremiah, twenty-first verse.

— Southern Europe has forwarded enough olive oil to Philadelphia to dress the lettuce of that city for a century to come.

— A new museum has been opened in Rome, in which will be exhibited the antiquities discovered there during the last five years.

— The schooner Hart, Captain Newcomb, left Charlotte, N. Y., April 4th for Oswego. The first vessel out of that port this season.

— The name of the Post-Office at Rockaway, N. Y., has been changed to Lawrence Station. There is no change in the Postmaster.

— Thirty-one millions of dollars' worth of dressed hogs were exported from the United States from Nov. 1, 1875, to March 1, 1876.

— Two young men were digging a grave near Chattanooga, Tenn., and while they were at work in the opening a tree blew down and killed them.

— Two Boston women have expended $700 in money, a year of time, and nearly all their eyesight in embroidering a flag for the Centennial show.

— Two hundred and thirty thousand cubic feet of the best pine are used in making the 20,000,000,000 matches which the United States annually produce.

— There are $1,000,000 worth of shoe pegs made yearly in the United States, most of them in Massachusetts, requiring 100,000 cubic feet of white birch.

— It is expected that the new time-table on the Central road will be arranged with a view of affording local travelers more facilities than they enjoy at present.

— The first number of an Arabic newspaper has just been issued in Paris, edited by M. Florian Pharaon. It is intended for the instruction of the Arabs in Algeria.

— The American Express Company talks of arming all its employes with pistols, which they will wear in plain sight, because the law forbids the carrying of concealed weapons.

— Although 210,000 persons have been admitted since last Easter to the London Tower free of charge, not a single article in the great national collection has been lost or damaged.

— Booth, the Chicago oysterman, is planting oysters in San Francisco Bay, and about three car loads of young oysters are daily sent over the Union Pacific Railroad for that purpose.

— An English agent representing a capital of $15,000,000 is in Charlotte, N. C., considering the expediency of establishing a smelting furnace for the treatment of sulphurets and refractory ores.

— A girl employed in a paper mill at Westfield, Mass., suffered a severe attack of lockjaw recently, in which the jaws were set for nearly two hours. The doctor said the trouble was the result of an inveterate habit of chewing gum.

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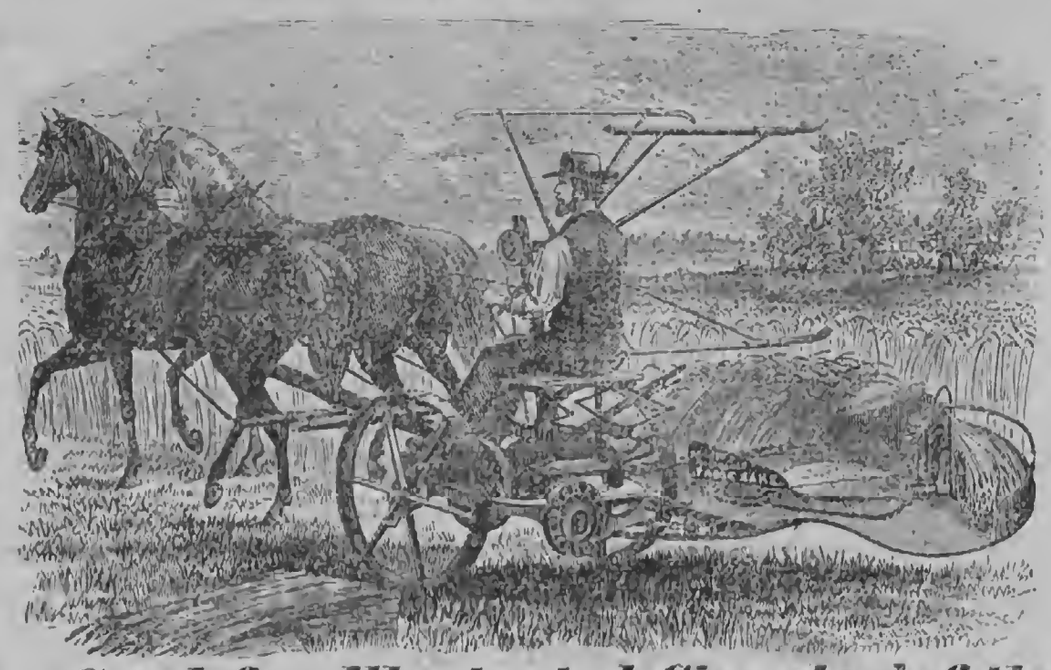

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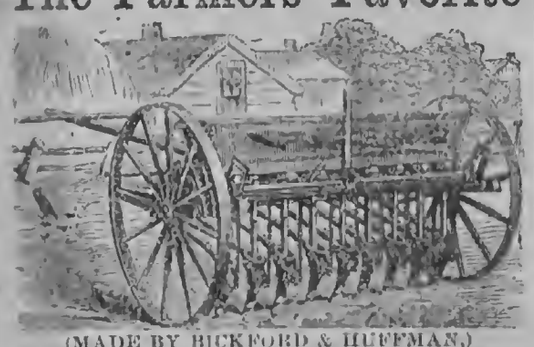

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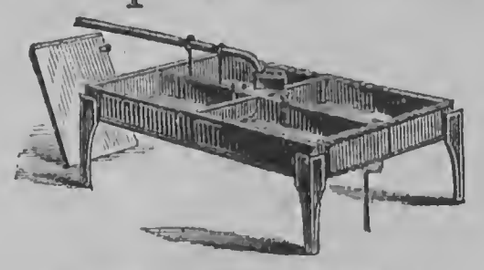

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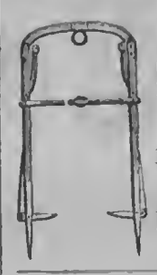

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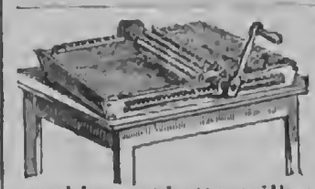

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POETICAL SOAP.

Messrs. Water and Oil
One day had a broil,
As down in the glass they were dropping,
And would not unite,
But continued to fight,
Without any prospect of stopping.

Mr. Pearlash o'erheard,
And, quick as a word,
He jumped in the midst of the clashing;
When all three agreed,
And united with speed,
And Soap came out ready for washing.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

Something of a wag—A dog's tail.

Cork is the paradise of bottle-stoppers.

"Cranky" musicians—Organ-grinders.

When is it right to take one in?—When it rains.

Motto for an orphan asylum—Thus far and no father.

Every old maid can boast of two beaux, but they are elbows.

A man can find fault in any direction he is pleased to look for it.

The first man who ever went round the world—The man in the moon.

Why is a man that can't learn by experience like laurel? Because he is an *evergreen*.

Is there a word in the English language which contains all the vowels? Unquestionably.

A worn-out parent in Chicago has named his baby Macbeth, because he murdered sleep.

The author of the saying, "You must always take a man as you find him," was a constable.

Why is a store that don't advertise like Enoch Arden? Because it "sees no sale from day to day."

Said a philospher:—"My friend conducted his wife to the altar—and here his leadership came to an end."

The Evening Post says there is a "Hurricane Baptist Church" in Indiana. We suppose it goes by wind and water.

"Why, Mary Ann, what in the world are you doing with the scissors?" "Shure yez tould me to scallop the oysters."

An exchange speaks of a woman so crosseyed that when she weeps tears from her left eye they drop on her right cheek.

"Big long-legged men don't always sometimes get ahead of little boy," is Chinese for "the race is not always to the swift."

"Why should we celebrate Washington's Birthday more than mine?" asked a teacher in Boston. "Because he never told a lie!" shouted a boy.

A woman in New Jersey is so economical that the other night while her husband was a-bed, she turned and made over his last pair of pantaloons for one of the children.

An Irishman noticing a woman pass along, espied two strips depending from under the lady's cloak. Not knowing that these were styled sashes, and in the right place, he exclaimed: "Faith, ma'am, your galluses are untied."

"Another shipwreck," said Elnathan, as they were walking down the Bowrery. "Dear, dear," said Mrs. Dorkings, sympathetically, "where?" "There," said Elnathan, pointing to a dead dog in the gutter. "There's a bark that's lost forever." "Oh!" said Mrs. Dorkings.

A little girl at school read thus:—The widow lived on a small limbacy left her by a relative."—"What did you call that word?" asked the teacher "the word is legacy, not limbacy." "But," said the little girl, "my sister says I I must always say limb, not leg."

A railway accident lately occurred, caused by the axle of a tender giving way, which detained a train for several hours. A lady inquired of a gentleman passenger, why it was so delayed. He gravely replied, "Madam, it was occasioned by what is always followed by serious consequences—the sudden breaking of a tender attachment."

Beware of Widows.—When a widow presses your hand and tells you how she has made four dozen clothes pegs last her twelve years, and she droops her eyes and says a paper of pins lasts three years, and she looks up and smiles a rosy smile, how on earth is a fellow to break away and leave that house and convince himself that she loves him only for his wealth?

Brown came home late the other night and Mrs. B., reaching out of the bedroom window, said:—"So you've been tipping the glass again, have you?" "Glass," said Brown; "(hic) 'ts a funny word; take off the 'g' and it's you my dear." "Yes," answered the wife, "and then take off the 'l' and it's you you wretch," and she slammed down the window with a bounce.

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VOL. XXXIII. No. 17.
WHOLE No. 1369.

NEW YORK, AND ROCHESTER, N. Y., APRIL 22, 1876.

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The Centennial.

ART GALLERY AND MEMORIAL HALL.

THE illustration on this page is of the Art Gallery and Memorial Hall, which is now completed and ready for use. The cost of the structure is one and a half millions of dollars. It is one of the affixes to the great exhibition and north of the main building looking southeast over the city, built on a terrace six feet higher than the plateau on which it rests, which is more than 100 feet above the river.

The entire structure is in the modern Renaissance. The materials are granite, glass and iron. No wood is used in the construction, and the building is thoroughly fireproof. The structure is 365 feet in length, 210 feet in width and 90 feet in hight, over a spacious basement 12 feet in hight, and is surmounted by a dome.

The main entrance opens on a hall 82 feet long, 60 feet wide and 53 feet high, decorated in the modern Renaissance style; on the farther side of this hall, three doorways, each 16 feet wide and 25 feet high, open into the center hall; this hall is 83 feet square, the ceiling of the dome rising over it 80 feet in hight.

From its east and west sides extend the galleries, each 98 feet long, 88 feet wide and 35 feet in hight. These galleries admit of temporary divisions for the most advantageous display of paintings. The center hall and galleries form one grand hall 287 feet long and 85 feet wide, capable of holding eight thousand persons, nearly twice the dimensions of the largest hall in the country. From the two galleries doorways open into two smaller galleries, 28 feet wide and 89 feet long. These open north and south into private apartments which connect with the pavilion rooms, forming two side galleries 210 feet long. Along the whole length of the north side of the main galleries and central hall extends a corridor 14 feet wide, which opens on its north line into a series of private rooms, thirteen in number, designed for studios and smaller exhibition rooms.

All the galleries and central hall are lighted from above; the pavilions and studios are lighted from the sides. The pavilions and central hall are designed especially for the exhibition of sculpture.

INDEPENDENCE HALL.

THIS venerable building is to be restored as far as possible and the work is now in progress. A Philadelphia correspondent writes:

Mr. Etting is getting on bravely in his restoration of Independance Hall. The coats of thick paint and other coverings have been taken from the walls and stairways, and all the fine old carving brought to light. The old bell is in the entry, and on the walls are panels giving a clear and concise history of the important deeds done in Philadelphia during the Revoluntary years. Mr. Etting has collected a large number of historical portraits of great interest; the members of the Continental Congress hang on the walls in one room, and below them are the very chairs and the table that they used. A second large room is made a kind of museum. Among its attractions already collected are a grand, stately picture of George III. in his youth; full lengths of William and Mary and Queen Anne; Sir Peter Lely's portrait of Charles II; the Sharpless collection of cabinet pictures, in colored crayons, including all the men and women of any note in this country from 1787 to 1800; some exquisite china and glass, fine old furniture, and everything that had to do with the life of that age. The Hall is already a most interesting place.

CENTENNIAL PREPARATION.

As the time approaches for opening the exhibition everything is hurry and bustle on the grounds, and doors are closed to vistors to allow preparations to be made with less interruption.

The giant engine is in working order, with the boilers, shafting, &c. The entire weight is 1,360,583 pounds. It required sixty freight cars from Providence, R. I., to ship it in sections. The cylinders are 40-inch, and the stroke is ten feet, and it will make thirty-six revolutions per minute. The power may be raised to 2,000 horses. When the giant was first tried the enormous arms ascended and descended so noiselessly that with back turned it was hardly to be told that the engine was in motion.

Nearly all nationalities are represented on the grounds. New buildings are going up every day. Patent rolling carriages are to be provided to allow people to wheel themselves over the ground in double quick time. A mammoth music stand for 200 musicians is to be erected in the middle of a ravine capable of comfortably seating 20,000 people, so that they can hear the music distinctly. The State militia and the Grangers are going to have encampments, and suitable accomodations are provided for companies representing all the States.

There is considerable objection to the price of admission. The poorer classes cannot afford to pay fifty cents for every time they visit the show. It is not as if a person could see all in one day. On the contrary it will require weeks to do so. The visitor cannot sleep on the grounds and every succeeding day he will have to shell out another and another fifty cent note for his admission. If he remains a week he will have to pay exactly $3, and that is what the people are talking about. At Vienna that same thing caused trouble. They finally reduced the admission to about twenty cents, and the receipts trebled in a few days. People who have thought this thing over are of the opinion that fifty cents is too much, and that by charging everybody, high, low, rich and poor, and admitting no one as a deadhead, the Centennial would gain, not only financially, but the solid respect of everybody in the end.

Up to the close of last week the American exhibits alone reached 10,500. Since March 25, 267 car loads of foreign goods have been received from all parts of the world. Large freight cars filled with precious articles are pulled right into and unloaded in the main building and in Machinery Hall. The interiors of these gigantic buildings remind the observer of chaos let loose. There is a mighty chorus of hammers, saws and chisels. About 1,000 Park Guards will do special duty during the show. The great collection of paintings will be at once arranged in the Art Gallery. In the Horticultural Hall will be plants and shrubs and flowers from all over the world. One of the great attractions will be the Turkish house, where full-grown natives will sell coffee and tobacco, pure from over the sea.

ART GALLERY AND MEMORIAL HALL.

Field Crops.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF HYBRIDIZATION.

Though I write in all kindness, my Dear Rural Life, I will not deny a literal reading of the irony you employ respecting yourself, when you write (Rural New-Yorker, March 25th, p. 202,) upon the terminology of Hybridization, and criticise my use of the word "Hybridized" to indicate the origin of a certain lot of potato seed produced by cross-impregnation among some of the varieties of *Solanum tuberosum*. I distinctly remember anticipating, when I made use of the word in this particular instance, just such criticism as you bestow; and I assure you I did not venture upon dangerous ground without the support of authority.

I confess having myself, being strenuous to apply them correctly, puzzled much over the use of the terms "hybrid" and "cross,"—terms by which the earlier hybridists, with the sanction of the botanists of their day, undertook to designate respectively the progeny from a union of two distinct species and those from the union of two varieties of the same species, and to discriminate between such. At the start the distinction between the two classes is easily enough maintained. When, in the beginning of my hybridization of plants, I united separate species, or varieties of one species, I found no difficulty in choosing the right term of these as employed; but, when I came to recross among themselves in various ways, or with their parent forms, the results of these unions, by what name should I call their offspring? Commonly such issues have been styled "mongrels," a vague term, as it has been used, conveying to those previously so precise about such things no exact idea of the origin of the new forms, or of the relations of their parents.

Of these very inadequate terms Prof. Lecoq, in his most excellent work, "De la Fecondation et Hybridation," p. 24, very justly remarks,—"These designations would be useful, if we could always apply them; but in the practice of horticulture it often happens that a hybrid is fertilized in its turn by its own parents, or that a hybrid impregnates a cross; then it becomes utterly impossible to recognize among all these crossings the different degrees of hybridity."

Happily, however, the German botanists come to us in the midst of this perplexity and offer a much more precise and complete nomenclature for Hybridization. Dr. Julius Sachs, professor in the university of Wurzburg, in his "Text-book of Botany," a work just translated into our language in England, and acknowledged by British botanists as a more profound and accurate treatise on vegetable physiology than our English literature has yet produced, thus speaks of hybrids: "According as the union takes place between different varieties of one species, different species of one genus, or between two species belonging to different genera, the resulting hybrid may be termed a variety-hybrid, species-hybrid, or genus-hybrid." "When a hybrid is made to unite with one of its parent-forms, or with another parent-form, or with a hybrid of different origin, the product is termed a derivation-hybrid." "When a hybrid unites with a new parent-form or with a hybrid of another species, a derivation-hybrid results in which three, four, or more species (or varieties) are combined. Hybrids of this kind may be conveniently termed combined-hybrids. Book III., Sec. 32. Here the issue of cross-impregnations of every sort receive the general name of "hybrids;" and we are able to indicate, if necessary, in a very simple manner and with entire precision, the botanical affinities of their parents, and in the case of continual inter-crossing to show approximately the number of species that have entered into the combination.

Now, my Dear Rural Life, desiring to see adopted in America so excellent a system of terminology for my art, an event which seems to me almost inevitable, and willing to draw upon myself the thunder of criticism for attempting an innovation, I advisedly wrote the phrase "Pringle's Hybridized Potato Seed," which, as it appears, has come so near terminating the sanity and usefulness of our most delightful horticultural writer. Should you care to know, further, the precise nature or degree of hybridity of the new potatoes which came of that seed, I should inform you, that they will be both variety-hybrids and derivation-hybrids.

And, now, since you inquire directly and in a manner that implies doubt, I will aver that there *is* a species of potato which I am employing to produce with the common species hybridized seed, that will give me species-hybrids. It is *Solanum Fendleri*, the wild species of New Mexico. A third species, *S. montanum*, a native of Peru, I am so desirous of obtaining for the same purpose, that he who helps me to it, will place me under life-long obligations.

But, before I close, permit me say a few words for your gardener John, which I do with all the less reserve, because I have no pecuniary interest in the seed in question. I am not certain that it is "lucky" for you any more than for John, that he cannot read. You have allowed him to crowd your greenhouse with plants "raised from seed-balls, as gathered in the field without any regard to variety." Evidently you have never told him that in the breeding of plants pedigree and blood are of just as much consequence as in the breeding of animals, and that in practice we should, as much in the one field as in the other, endeavor to combine in the progeny the desirable qualities we find in the potential parents, and to exclude the inferior characters, whether by interfering, as far as we can, with the tendency of direct inheritance (more or less potent as it always is) in the mother, or by anticipating, as we certainly may, unpropitious accidental impregnations.

You failed last summer to send John into the field to make a few judicious crosses; and, therefore, instead of a small and select lot of seedlings, he has a confused host of seedlings of unknown lineage, good, bad and indifferent, overrunning your greenhouse. That he would have had no bad ones, had he hybridized, I will not pretend, for over the tendency to revert to inferior ancestors so potent in inheritance, and over the tendency even more general with insufficiently-bred plants to vary widely in their seedlings, the hybridist has put little, if any, control. Nor would I discourage John in his hope to find among his batch of seedlings the coming potato. He has a chance. But, in his experiment, it is only chance. Hybridization, it cannot be gainsaid, offers us positive advantages; and, with these advantages, we need not invest in so many tickets to secure a prize. The batch of seedlings, among which the Snowflake and Alpha appeared, were less than a hundred in number.

C. G. Pringle.

I was perfectly well aware, when making my remarks on the use of the term "Hybridized Potato Seed," that plenty of authorities for its use could be found in foreign books, periodicals, and especially in seedsmen's and nurserymen's catalogues. The French are especially fond of using the high-sounding and pretentious term "hybride," and it has been gradually creeping into our own horticultural literature, and used without the least regard to its true scientific meaning. All of our best horticultural and botanical writers in this country use the term "hybrid," to indicate the offspring between two species, and with all due deference to Dr. Julius Sachs, or the opinion of our English cousins in regard to his abilities, I think we Americans have no need to travel quite so far to find an authority equally as reliable and capable to decide so simple a question as "what is a hybrid." Dr. Asa Gray defines a hybrid as a "cross-breed between two allied species," and this definition is backed by nine-tenths of all the botanical and horticultural writers of any note in the world.

Of course, no one familiar with horticultural literature of the present day, would be led astray by the use of the term "hybridized potato seed," for I presume when Mr. Pringle, or anybody else, succeeds in obtaining a true hybrid between *Solanum tuberosum* and *S. Fendleri* or any other species, it will be announced in very definite language. But if we are going to use this word "hybrid" indiscriminately for true hybrids as well as distinct species and crosses of varieties, it will at once put an end to lines of demarcation, which should not, for the good of horticultural and agricultural science, be obliterated. Men who, after years of patient labor, succeed in hybridizing grapes should receive the credit of accomplishing something more than raising a seedling from a variety of one species, which by nature is so liable to variation that no man is able to tell whether the oft-repeated claim of artificial crossing has actually been accomplished or not. If we permit the word hybrid to be used without careful discrimination, we shall soon be confronted with all sorts of seedling plants under this name as a prefix.

Now, as true or genuine hybrids are exceedingly rare and difficult to obtain, I will leave it to Mr. Pringle's own good sense to say, if it would not be better to retain this name for such a production than to permit of its being applied to every seedling—good or bad—which some illiterate or dishonest dabbler in horticulture may produce. Messrs. Pringle, Bliss, Campbell, Compton, and other well-known gentlemen, are doing a good work by raising and introducing choice varieties of the potato, and I think they cannot afford to use descriptive terms in presenting their productions to the public, which are not strictly in accord with the definition given in our dictionaries of the English language, as well as those of our best scientific authorities.

BREEDING UP, OR CHANCE SEEDLINGS.

It is true that I have not explained to my colored gardener, John, the importance of pedigree in potatoes, for I have yet failed to learn that any one who has practiced any such system of breeding the potato produced better results than those who trusted to chance. Mr. Goodrich started out with this idea, and, after sixteen years of experiments with sixteen thousand seedlings, he could not show a variety equal to some of the old sorts which were common when he was a boy. Dr. Knight of England pursued the same pedigree system with fruits, more than half a century ago, and left nothing worth perpetuating. Dr. Van Mons, however, of Belgium, started with the wild, poor crab pears, and from these, through a few generations of seedlings, produced hundreds of most excellent sorts, many of which will remain in cultivation for centuries to come. I might, if necessary, cite hundreds of instances where the chance seedlings from inferior parentage excelled the scientifically-produced offspring. Of course in raising a seedling plant of any kind, I would select the parents most likely to produce desired results, but just here there might be a wide difference of opinion in regard to the best method of proceeding to reach this end.

We have had some very fine varieties of potatoes introduced within the past few years, but there are few persons who would not gladly throw them all aside if they could see the old *Neshannock* and *Pinkeye* of forty or more years ago restored in all their pristine glory.

Daily Rural Life.

ORCHARD GRASS—FERTILIZERS.

I wish to ask a few questions, to be answered in your columns if you see fit. Many of my neighbors and myself are thinking of sowing orchard grass seed, the price of clover is so high. Now I would like to have some one that knows tell us if it will do well on land a little inclined to heave, how much it needs to the acre, and is it best to sow it alone or must we mix clover with it? Another thing; as we read your paper, we become interested in the experiments with fertilizers of different kinds. In your issue of March 25 we read of farmers making superphosphates and getting good returns for outlay and labor; now, if it can be made at home, we would like to know what to make it of and how to do it, or find where to get it and what it costs. The time has come that we must do something more than fit the land to get good crops. I will not try your patience longer, but must say that I would not trade the three numbers of the Rural that I have received for twenty of any that can be named. I learn something from every paper that is worth the price of the paper for a year; the one sent me is read by five or six, and all unite in saying it is the best.

Pittsfield, N. Y. A New Subscriber.

"New Subscriber" will not find orchard grass cheaper than clover seed, even at the present high price of the latter. It requires fully a bushel of orchard grass seed per acre, and two, three, or even four bushels would be better. The seed is very light—only 12 to 14 lbs. per bushel. Much of it will probably fail, and leave the grass in "bunches" the first year. Hence it is advisable to sow clover seed with orchard grass. The first year the clover will nearly monopolize the ground; but clover is a biennial, dying out after the second year, and the bunches of orchard grass will spread and occupy the whole surface, and last as many years as it is left unplowed. It is not likely to be injured on land inclined to "heave," as its roots are spreading and do not strike deep into the subsoil, as clover does. For this reason it is not so beneficial to the soil as clover, but preferable to timothy. Orchard grass does better sown in the fall; but if sown in spring, the earlier it is done the better.

We have had some trials in making superphosphate. For this burned bone, or bone-black got from the sugar refineries, is needed. It is almost impossible with the facilities farmers have, to reduce raw bones fine enough to be available. Even ground bone dissolves very slowly, and unless in the form of bone flour, often does not do so much good the first season. We know some farmers who tried making superphosphates out of bone-black, or burned bone. In this way they lost the ammonia which the unburned bone contains; but this un-ammoniated superphosphate produced an excellent effect on wheat. It was, however, found to cost fully as much as the dealers asked for ammoniated superphosphate of good quality. Hence, we have always purchased the superphosphate we have used, paying $40 to $60 per ton for it—the latter an extortionate price.

Our correspondent need not fear of purchasing superphosphate of any dealer that advertises in the Rural New-Yorker. We will not advertise any one who would cheat our customers. Buying will probably be quite as cheap as making, and save a great deal of *very disagreeable* work. Bone-black costs a cent, or more, a pound and sulphuric acid, oil of vitriol, costs 3½ cts. per lb. by the quantity. He had better get ammoniated superphosphate and try a little before buying largely, to see if it is adapted to his soil and crops. As a test whether phosphate is needed, a superphosphate without ammonia is better than the other.

POTATOES—CAUSE OF POOR QUALITY.

Col. D. C. Richmond in the Ohio Farmer, says one cause for the poor quality of potatoes last year was that planters permitted the bugs to prey on the vines to a considerable extent during the latter part of the season, before the tubers were matured, and holds that another reason for the poor quality lies in the new varieties recently introduced which, while they produce well, are not of first-rate quality like the Pink-Eye and Neshannock. He believes that the quality of our potatoes is deteriorating, and that the day may not be far distant when they will cease to be generally used as food. He has this to say of soil and planting:

"Now sandy loam produces the best quality of potatoes. Any sandy loam, not wet, especially in clover, will grow good potatoes. Low, mucky, black soil, which becomes very hot in the middle of the day, and cools rapidly at night, will produce a large crop in a favorable season, but the potatoes are generally too large for the market and not of good quality. A medium-sized tuber suits the market best. Clay land will sometimes grow a good crop, but in a dry season the tubers are small, and in a wet one they are inclined to rot. Gravelly soil, if rich, answers well. Under favorable circumstances they will grow in almost any soil, and they are always a failure where water stands on the land.

"Seed potatoes should be of good size and free from long sprouts. Several days before planting, cut them into medium-sized pieces, each containing two or three eyes. It is well to cut them in a warm room and sprinkle warm water over them, so as just to start the sprouts; they will then come up quickly. Furrow the ground in rows about 3½ feet apart and plant in hills or drills, according to circumstances. New land works best in hills. Put one piece in a hill and cover with the hoe about four inches deep, so that a light harrow can pass over without disturbing them."

DEEP PLOWING FOR CORN.

A correspondent of the Rural World remarks as follows:

It is better to raise one hundred bushels of corn on one acre of ground than fifty bushels an acre on two acres. The yield could be doubled on nearly every acre of ground in cultivation in the West. What is wanted is deeper plowing and better preparation of the soil and more thorough after cultivation. This skimming over the ground is one of the greatest evils in Western farming. Plow deep and then cross-plow deep, and you prepare food and moisture for the plants and enable them to resist the drouths, and make them laugh and thrive and bear abundantly.

The positive iteration of generalities, and especially the emphasis placed on deep plowing for corn, invites the suspicion that the writer was airing some very plausible theories, instead of writing from practical experience. It may be under certain circumstances that corn will do better on deeply-plowed land; but we never saw such a case. As for "cross-plowing" deep for corn, we know that this is only theory; for if corn is planted on a newly-turned sod, as it should be, cross-plowing would only turn the sod uppermost again. Most probably the writer of the paragraph quoted does not know anything of the subject which he was discussing, but has borrowed some plausible ideas from the agricultural wisdom always floating in the newspapers.

PRIZES FOR POTATOES.

Mr. D. A. Compton of Hawley, Penna., is widely known as the originator of Compton's Surprise, and other valuable potatoes. Two of these—the Acme and the Hawley—have never before been offered to the public, but have been fully tested by gentlemen well known, and whose commendation for prolificacy and quality is very high. The originator offers six premiums, amounting to $150, for the largest amount grown from one pound of the Hawley, and two premiums—one of $75 and one of $25—for growers of the Acme. Circulars giving details of these premiums, with description of the new varieties, and much valuable information about growing potatoes, will be sent to any address on application to Mr. Compton.

It is rather discouraging, planting potatoes largely this spring: but there is no question, that whether prices be high or low, varieties which are most easily grown and most prolific, pay best. It will pay farmers who grow potatoes for sale to make a trial of Hawley and Acme, even though they may not contend for the premiums.

Harrowing Wheat.—It is a good plan, both for the wheat and the catch of clover seed, to harrow wheat in the spring. Select some day when the ground is dry enough to pulverize freely, and if possible, just before a rain. Where wheat has been drilled-in a common, heavy drag will only break down the ridges between the rows and cover exposed roots. If sown broadcast, the Thomas Smoothing Harrow should be used, and is preferable under any circumstances.

Dairy Husbandry.

PRESERVING MILK.

THE experiments of Prof. KOLBE of the University of Leipsic in regard to the properties of salicylic acid, and especially his discovery of its action as an anti-ferment and antiseptic, has turned attention to its use, possibly, as a preservative of milk. KOLBE'S discovery was made only about a year ago, and although the fact appears to have been abundantly demonstrated that milk treated with 0.04 per cent. of salicylic acid remained uncoagulated for 36 hours longer than milk not so treated, yet the question will occur, Whether milk so treated is harmless as an article of food? In other words, whether salicylic acid does not contain properties which would render it injurious or unsafe to be used in milk, daily taken as food. From what has been stated in connection with KOLBE'S experiments, we are led to conclude that it is not injurious when so used; still, more extended experiments should be made to test this point, so as to leave no doubt as to its properties in this regard.

For several days KOLBE took daily, in four parts, ½ gramme, (solution in water in the proportion of 1 to 1,000,) without the slightest bad effect. After an interval of eight days he, for five successive days, took double the former dose, and for two successive days he took 1½ grammes. In the meantime his digestion was entirely normal; there was no feeling of oppression in the stomach, nor did he experience any inconvenience whatever. Other physicians who, at his request, made the same experiments, confirm these results. It must not, however, be taken in the form of a powder, for in that shape it attacks the mucous membrane of the mouth and œsophagus; it must be taken in solution.

According to an article in the Popular Science Monthly, from which we gather these facts, it is stated that eggs immersed for an hour in a solution of salicylic acid, were at the end of three months as fresh as at first. Fresh meat dusted over with the acid keeps its freshness for weeks. When about to be used, the meat may be dipped into water to remove the acid. KOLBE has employed it as a wash for the teeth and mouth, and asserts that it is very effectual in purifying the breath. It is stated also to be valuable as a means for keeping water sweet on shipboard.

If all the statements concerning salicylic acid be trustworthy, its use in the dairy in various ways may prove of advantage, and perhaps some of our dairy experimenters will make some tests with this new antiseptic, showing its value in the management of milk.

If any of our readers have any facts that go to show that salicylic acid is not a safe article to use for the preservation of foods, we should be glad to hear from them and print their views on the subject.

RAISING CALVES FOR THE DAIRY.

THERE are various opinions in reference to the best and cheapest manner of raising calves. We believe the best results are obtained by giving the calf generous treatment from first to last. A poor, stunted and half-starved calf will never be able to reach that standard of excellence that it would had a more liberal allowance of food been made during its earliest days. If a calf gets a fair start on milk, its food may be changed to whey by adding a porridge of oatmeal, oilcake, buckwheat flour, or something of this kind to supply the necessary constituents lacking in the whey. We have sometimes seen good calves raised on a small quantity of milk by adding the liquor from steeped hay. Where conveniences are had for steeping hay and only a small quantity of milk can be had, this plan may be resorted to, but if good, sweet whey can be obtained, the porridge or oatmeal, or oilcake will require less labor in its preparation and is easier to be regulated as to the quantity required.

In butter dairies good calves can be raised on the skimmed milk. Almost every farmer has some peculiar notion of his own in regard to the manner of raising calves; but the great and general fault in management is a scanty allowance of nutritious food in the early stages of growth. It is important that the young animal be kept in a growing, vigorous condition, so that when cold weather approaches in the fall and early winter, it will be able to meet the exigencies of change in climate with good feed and care and without special nursing to bring it through the rigors of winter. It pays well to do the work thoroughly and in the best manner at first, since if this is omitted no after-treatment will be able to wholly counteract neglect and starvation in the early stages of growth.

The importance of growing good dairy stock cannot be too strongly urged upon the dairy farmers of the State at this time. The difficulty of getting good stock by selecting from droves brought from a distance, is so great that the raising of stock on the farm where it is to be used is now almost imperative, if a good and profitable herd is desired. Calves should be selected from deep milking animals, and if these have been crossed with thoroughbred bulls of good milking families, the chances are almost certain that the calf will make a good cow.

A BUTTER MAKERS' EXPERIENCE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York Tribune gives the following account of his method in butter making:

"I keep sixteen cows; am milking ten this winter—six new milchs. I make 63 pounds of butter a week. The cows are a mixture of native with Jersey; but I should prefer they be half of each, for the reason that the milk is just as good, more in quantity, and the cows more hardy than all Jersey. Of course, the native cows should be the very best. Hay is given three times a day, and one quart each of cob meal and shorts twice a day. I add to this meal two quarts of skim milk. The cows are supplied with all the salt they will eat. Water is given twice a day, immediately after eating hay. Bed the cows twice a day thoroughly with fine shavings and sawdust, to keep them dry and clean. In winter card them regularly once a week.

"I treat my cows with great kindness, being very gentle with them, as such treatment has a great deal to do with a generous flow of milk. During the milking season my son favors them with his best whistling, not because he ever heard that cows are partial to such music, though he thinks 'our cows' relish it much, and expect it morning and night. Doubtless it has a soothing effect upon them. My pastures are newly cleared, hilly, and rocky, with a western slope, and pretty good; the other older and more level, but productive. I have about 20 acres of mowing land, and cut from 20 to 30 tons of nice English hay. My farm is on a hill; soil deep, strong and productive; first crop cut early. I cut several tons second crop of clover in August. We scald our milk or heat it twice a day, from the middle of October to June 1, in a tin pail over a kettle of boiling water. The pail will hold what I put into four pans, about three quarts to a pan. Milk stands 36 hours, then skim. In winter, keep it warm in a room warmed by a soapstone stove, so that the temperature is about the same day and night—from 50 to 65 degs. The milk is set on two racks, made in this way:—An upright square post, eight feet long, six inches square, pivot in each end, slats across seven inches, will set 32 pans on each; skim twice a day, and churn three times a week. Cream is kept in as cool a place as possible without freezing. When ready to churn, it is warmed by pouring sweet skim milk into the mass in the churn to the temperature of 62 degs. The butter is washed in three waters having the chill taken off; then weighed, allowing one-half ounce of salt to the pound. In winter we lump the butter the same day it is churned. We lump it over with a butter worker, weigh it into one pound masses, lump it square with butter spatters, then stamp and send to market. I sell to a firm in Boston; have sold to them for four years, and got 55c. a pound this winter, express paid by the firm."

PROFIT IN COWS.

THE Iowa State Register advocates liberal feeding at all times for cows. We do not believe it would find it a recommendation of any system that it was less expensive to feed cows than any other. We cordially indorse the following remarks on this subject:

"There are but few farmers who fully realize the true value of a good cow well kept. As a general practice, three cows do not produce as much milk, butter or cheese as one would if treated profitably. No account is kept of the amount of milk or butter produced by each cow in the year. The farmer with his cows is in the same situation as he is with the balance of his farm. He keeps no account and knows nothing about his business; 250 pounds of butter per year is not a large yield, yet there are more that do not produce more than half that amount than there are that exceed one-half. There is no poorer policy than starving and freezing a milk cow. There can be no more improvidence in any branch of agriculture than in half starving and exposing to the storms of winter the cow that is expected to furnish the family with milk, butter and groceries. We have seen this spring from three to five cows staggering about straw stacks of farmers which will require nearly all the summer to repair wasted nature, without supplying any of the rich, nutritious milk which only comes from a healthy, well-fed cow. Such a farmer should either keep a less number or provide better shelter and more rich food. One cow well provided for is better than three starved ones. One will furnish more milk.

"Children should never be fed on milk drawn from a poor cow, reduced to the bare possibility of sustaining vitality. It is cruelty to animals thus to treat them, and it is murder to the innocent children to feed them on such food. The profit, the morality and the respectability of it requires that a man who keeps cows should provide better than is done in most cases in cold climates. A man that would cheat his poor old cow, which has thus far raised his children, should be considered respectable in no society. There may be cases where drouth, flood or devouring insects have rendered it impossible to provide bountifully for all the animals on the farm; but in such cases the owner should not be compelled to see the poor old cow shaking her horns at him in his night dreams. We plead for the cow, and if three or five cannot be provided for, sell off, and one well fed will provide more than the three or five."

The Herdsman.

WHEN SHOULD COWS CALVE?

AUNT CHLOE in Uncle Tom's Cabin used to say, "there's reason in all things, and a good deal more in some things than in others." A correspondent of the N. E. Farmer has been giving the "reason" in deciding what is the best time for cows to calve. We quote:

For the man who has a cold, open barn, with nothing but husks, straw, swamp or late-cut hay to feed; who leaves his chores all to the boys, and had rather his cows would go dry four or five months, than to bother with milk in the winter, I would by all means, recommend the first of May; but for the farmer who has a good warm barn, and is willing to take care of his stock; one that would not mind getting up a cold night to look after a young calf; and if he has a plenty of early cut hay to feed, with a little grain, and wants to make the most milk and butter he can, I would consider the first of February as the best time of the whole year for his cows to calve. I find that cows that calve in the winter, if fed with all the early cut hay they will eat night and morning and are fed from two to four quarts of shorts, and half as much meal per day, scalded and given warm in water, will give as much milk in winter as in the summer in good pasture. By having them calve the first of February and feeding as indicated, we can obtain a large flow of milk, which, if properly handled, will make excellent butter, and after three or four months of barn feed, when they begin to shrink a little, we have the flush feed of May and June to turn them into, which will increase their milk again.

Then, in the fall we have our fodder corn, pumpkins, cabbage and root crops to feed, with which to keep up the flow of milk until winter sets in, about the last of November, when it will be time to dry them off, so they may go dry two months, which will bring them around to the first of February again. I find that cows that calve in the winter or spring will invariably shrink when winter sets in, and it is hard to keep up a satisfactory flow of milk in the short, cold days of December, and what milk we do obtain will not make as good butter as milk from new milch cows; the butter globules are small and the butter often will not come until after a tediously long spell at churning.

The cows that calve late in the spring will not give much more in the fall months than those that calved in the winter, and both will dry off nearly together. I am satisfied from my own experience, that by this system, I can obtain one-fifth more milk in the year than by the old system of having the cows calve in April or May. Aside from the increased flow of milk, it is quite an advantage to have the calves come early, whether intended for the butcher, or to raise. If for the butcher, the early calves will bring the most, and if to raise, they have the advantage of a longer time to receive milk before the feed is ready for them in the pastures. The late calves are apt to be neglected, or weaned and turned off too young, and seldom make as good yearlings as early calves.

INTERBREEDING OF SHORT-HORNS.

AT the recent Toronto Short-Horn Convention, Judge Jones, a gentleman of large experience and keen observation, offered a few very suggestive observations on the subject of in-and-in breeding, in the course of which he said:—While it must be admitted that mere speculative scientists had heretofore accomplished very little in aid of cattle breeding, it was nevertheless true that considerable progress had been made in establishing systematic methods founded upon the careful observation of fact and intelligently conducted experiments. All intelligent efforts for the improvement of domestic animals have been founded upon two principles:—(1) The selection of the best animal to breed from; and (2) proper feeding and care for the development of high excellence. Those principles were acted upon in a rude way at the very beginning of the history of races and breeds; and their observance was equally essential in the preservation of the valuable characteristics of the most perfectly developed races of the present day. In the early history of the Short-Horn race there was a good deal of in-and-in breeding; a practice that seemed justifiable because of the limited number of cattle of approved excellence to breed from and because the tendency was, within certain limits, to improve the symmetry, refine the bony and muscular structure, and increase early maturity. The great multitude of the race now disseminated throughout the world were, therefore, all descended from a very few animals.

The fact that close interbreeding tends to refine the extremities, and to impart elegance and style to the general appearance of the animal would explain why men of taste adhere to the practice, while we of a more practical turn of mind would have detected a diminution in useful qualities. In the case of in-bred animals commanding high prices, it could not be expected that the owners would change their style of breeding and involve pecuniary loss, and so long as those line-bred animals were in demand at higher prices than others, so long would they be bred. There was now no necessity for resorting to the refining system to give style and beauty of form, for, as observed by Prof. Low, the external form has already been brought to all the perfection which art seems capable of communicating; and now those other properties remain to be attended to, without which no further refinement in breeding will avail for the purpose of profit to individuals and benefit to the country.

Gentlemen in the in-and-in practice seemed to be aware of its influence in impairing useful qualities, as was shown by the fact that they were constantly seeking bulls as remotely connected as possible with their cows. What was at this day the essential matter to be attended to in their practice? Had they not carried refinement far enough, and had not the external form been brought to all the perfection which art seemed capable of communicating? The form of the model Short-Horn would seem to admit of very little variety in the way of types, unless they attempted something that was not essential to useful and profitable excellence. They should bring up the average to the maximum of excellence and keep it there. He urged that cattle should be judged by a scale of points, which might be subdivided to suit the fancy. He objected to incestuous breeding, especially where it was practiced merely for the purpose of continuing in the line, because it tended to impair constitution, vigor and the growing and feeding properties, although it produced high refinement of form.—*Michigan Farmer.*

PROMISE OF THE CATTLE TRADE.

THE cattle disease is threatening to become chronic. Scarcely a season passes that its presence is not manifested to a greater or less extent in the grazing districts of England and Wales, while France, Germany, and Belgium are also becoming more familiar with it. The endeavor to "stamp it out" by quarantine and red tape has thus far met with but little success, and from present appearances there would seem to be nothing to prevent the complaint, like the potato rot some years ago, running its course.

Meanwhile, stock raisers on this side of the Atlantic have their opportunity. There is no reason why the United States should not find abroad such a profitable outlet for their surplus as would add immensely to the profits of the business. During the few months past there have been a few cargoes sent over as an experiment, and the result, we believe, has been such as to amply compensate the parties who made the venture. The cattle endured the sea voyage with as little discomfort as is ordinarily experienced in crossing the English channel. With vessels having between-decks specially constructed with reference to this kind of freight, we believe it is admitted by those who are familiar with the business, there is no reason why it should not be as safely and as comfortably transported as any other cargo. There are but two or three such vessels afloat as yet, and these are owned at the East. There was some talk a while ago about an English company placing three or four suitable steamers to run between Liverpool and Texas ports, but latterly the undertaking seems to be lost sight of. It will be strange, however, if the continuation of the foot and mouth disease, and the consequent dearness of animal food in the British markets, does not soon force it again into the foreground.

As an illustration of the well-nigh illimitable capacity of the country beyond the Mississippi as a source of supply, we read in an Omaha paper the other day of a cattle range in Nebraska 156 miles in length. One stock-raiser owned 20,000 acres, upon which were some 26,000 head of beeves, and some 4,000 to 5,000 calves. Upon his net sales this year he expects to realize the sum of $33 per head. At this rate 4,500 would bring $148,500.

AYRSHIRE CATTLE FOR ARKANSAS.

GREAT size, early maturity and aptitude to fatten have made our Short-Horns the fashion, and justly so. There has been money in breeding them, and the highest prices ever heard in cattle sales have been paid for certain animals of this breed. Just think of a cow bringing forty thousand dollars! Whether or not paying such a price is a good investment, is not our present purpose to inquire, but it goes to show what can be done by judicious, careful, painstaking breeding. This breed is almost too artificial for our climate. It requires too much nursing. Farm grasses, well-matted sward, rich meadows, and all the appliances of wealth suit them the best, and these are all necessary to bring the Short-Horn to its highest development. The Ayrshire, on the contrary, though not so large, is a much more hardy race. They will thrive wonderfully on our coarse, wild grasses, and being very active and accustomed to a bleak climate and exposure, they can stand heat and the absence of creature comforts without any material detriment, whereas to the pampered Short-Horn such neglect would mean death. The breed has thus far surpassed expectations, and will prove a great benefit to Southern industry.—*Spirit of Arkansas.*

Farm Economy.

HOW SHALL WE INCREASE THE MANURE PILE.

This is a question of vital importance to the farmer and to many others. Last year I had my boys cultivate about an acre of corn, and after feeding all the cow would eat I found the stalks a nuisance, and the question arose how to dispose of them. With cow manure alone it will take a year to rot them so as to be suitable for grass land. Is there a chemical process whereby manure can be quickly and cheaply made from corn stalks, weeds and refuse, hay, etc? Our western country is full of large weeds. I often see hundreds of acres in a day's travel where the weeds stand up four and five feet high. If these were cut before seeding time and piled up, and could be easily made to decay, what a valuable work would be accomplished. Will you, or some of your correspondents, kindly favor the reader of your valuable paper with the desired information.—Calvin, *Webster Groves, Mo.*

It is very difficult handling manure mixed with coarse corn stover. The better plan is to cut the stalks with a horse-power cutting machine, which will cut off several acres of stalks per day at trifling expense. Besides, being better for stock, the advantage in making the uneaten stalks work up well in the manure pile is alone worth the cost of cutting. It is too late, however, for our correspondent to try this plan. His corn fodder is already mixed with manure. If he can get it into heaps, cover with a little earth and keep moist, the heaps will be rotten by fall. A little lime will greatly assist decomposition, and if the heap is covered even slightly with earth, little ammonia will be lost. Unless covered with earth, (thick sods are best) the corn stalks will hold the heap open to the air, and not even lime will cause it to rot. Mixing some manure from horses with the cow manure will cause it to heat more rapidly and be better for both, as horse manure alone is apt to fire-fang.

The weeds in the western country and everywhere else should be cut down and destroyed before seeding. We don't think much of the plan of "piling them up to decay." It won't pay. A large quantity of green succulent weeds, when thoroughly rotted, will only make a small amount of vegetable mold, and that not very rich in fertilizing material. It is far better to leave the weeds where they fall. They are worth more as a mulch for most crops before decaying than as a manure afterward. Besides, green weeds decay readily, and their remains are worth as much where they lie as if rotted somewhere else and then brought back. Of course, if the weeds are full of seeds this plan is impracticable, and in that case they had better be dried and burned than thrown into a heap to decay.

The value of weeds, straw and other like refuse as manure is greatly overrated in the mind of many young farmers. When thoroughly decayed such manures have little except carbonaceous matter, of which most soils, and especially western soils, have no lack. Our correspondent should not regard the size of the manure pile as of the chief importance. It is not likely that his land is deficient in vegetable matter; but its lack of fertility is far more likely to be due to a deficiency in phosphate, potash or ammonia. Let him experiment with fertilizers containing these elements, and when he discovers which does most good at the smallest expense, let him supplement his manure pile with that. If his soil is lacking in vegetable matter, he can most easily recuperate it by growing clover with gypsum and plowing under. Clover, also, is excellent for increasing the supply of available nitrogen, phosphates and potash. Of course it cannot increase the amount of mineral fertilizers in the soil, but its deep-reaching roots will bring fertility from the subsoil and make it available for roots of wheat, corn and other crops.

ECONOMIZING IN UNDERDRAINING.

The most essential point in persuading farmers to make needed improvements is to show how they can be made with less expense than has been supposed to be needed. Want of money stands in the way of manuring, underdraining and other improvements, but most of all of underdraining, the expense of which is often exaggerated and often really made much more than it should be. So far as possible the work of digging should be done with team and plow. This will often save one-half the expense of this heaviest item.

By laying out underdrains to cut off the overflow from high ground, a much smaller number of drains will be needed on low, level land. Very often this low land is flooded by springs which start out of side hills and which are not supposed to need underdraining because they are "high."

Where the spring or surface water from above is cut off, one or two drains properly laid will remove surplus water from a wide piece of level land. Plow in lands *across* the underdrains and leave the dead furrows open to conduct water to them. In this way the efficiency of underdrains is more than doubled. This is not perfect underdraining, but it is possible and will *pay* for thousands of farmers who would not dare think of laying out their farms in twenty or twenty-five feet wide strips with an underdrain between each one. It is better to have some dead furrows even when land is thoroughly underdrained. When the ground is frozen in winter, water will often stand on the surface and settle into hollows, unable to reach the drains, and killing out wheat if it should happen to freeze solid before the ground beneath had opened and let the water out.

Finally, by growing clover, which has a long tap root, forming a natural underdrain, the efficiency of all natural underdrains may be more than doubled. In other words, one-half the underdraining will answer if clover is grown, that would be needed if the soil were not treated to this crop. With the ground full of clover roots, soil that is not tramped and poached by cattle will absorb an immense amount of water with usually little apparent injury.

NEW VARIETIES OF CORN.

Mr. D. A. Compton of Hawley, Pa., writing about the Centennial Corn excitement, says:

I originated last season about 500 varieties of field corn, some of which grew ten feet in hight, and ripened extra large ears in seventy-five days from planting. It does not appear to be generally known that seed from the branched, exposed small ears, growing on the very tops of the corn stalks, will produce new varieties of corn in every way distinct from the old sorts.

I shall send several varieties, stalks and all, to the Centennial Exposition the day they ripen. An extra-sized *early* field corn would be worth millions to the farmers of the North in a few years. Much is now lost by early frosts.

D. A. C.

Pomological.

BLACK KNOTS ON PLUM TREES.

In many soils and localities the plum as well as the Morello cherry trees are subject to a fungoid disease known by the common name of Black Knot. This disease has been known for a long time, but the cause or origin remains as much a mystery as ever, although many theories have been from time to time advanced by our pomologists in regard to the same. It was once claimed to be prevalent only on heavy clay or wet soils, but its appearance and spread upon the sandy soils of New Jersey and Long Island showed that moisture at the roots of the trees was not at the bottom of the disease, although a well-drained soil is probably preferable to one of an opposite character. Anything which tends to weaken the vitality of the tree, such as exhaustion of the soil, too much or too little moisture, overbearing and neglect, generally seems to hasten the appearance and spread of this disease. We have always noticed that Morello cherry trees of the different varieties, when left to themselves, with roots choked with grass and weeds, were far more liable to show black knots than those given good cultivation, and the same is doubtless true with plum trees.

Fruit trees seem to be amenable to the same laws as animals, neglect being generally followed by the attack of parasitic diseases or insects. Sometimes, however, a contrary course produces similar results, as over-feeding and stimulating also causes disease. But as it is now almost universally admitted that the black knots on our plum and cherry trees are the result of a fungoid disease, and that the minute fungus penetrates the soft tissues of the tender branches, interrupting the flow of sap, and probably drawing a portion of its sustenance therefrom, we must look for an antidote in some stimulating fertilizer applied to the roots, or an *anti*-fungoid solution applied to the branches. Common salt, lime, sulphur and sulphuric acid are all of this nature, and when applied to the soil about the trees act as a stimulant, and some of them as a direct manure; hence it would be well to try experiments with the different substances named upon trees affected with this disease. In applying diluted sulphuric acid or common salt to the soil about trees it will be necessary to use some caution, as an over-dose would be dangerous. Of course the pruning-knife should be employed in removing all diseased branches as soon as discovered, for all such fungi spread more or less rapidly when they once become attached to a branch and healthy tissues are soon affected, even if not apparent to the eye.

INSECTS IN BLACK KNOTS.

If the knots on plum and cherry trees are examined during the summer, grubs of considerable size will be found therein. This fact has led many not very scientific persons to suppose that the knots were caused by insects, and we once heard a gentleman who has figured somewhat as an entomologist declare that the presence of grubs in the knots was a direct and incontrovertible proof of this. But it probably never occurred to him or others who have come to the same conclusion that the same train of reasoning would lead us to attribute the origin of every wormy cherry or plum to the same cause.

All the mystery, however, which at one time surrounded these grubs in the black knots has been dispelled, for it is now known that the plum curculio, which is so destructive to the fruit, breeds in these knots on the branches. The female beetle will deposit her eggs in the soft, spongy tissues of a newly-formed knot, and the larvæ seem to thrive there as well as in the fruit, consequently we are not likely to rid ourselves of this pest even should we abandon plum trees altogether, for where there are none of these it will go to the cherry trees, wild or cultivated, and it also breeds in the wild thorn-apples, crab-apples and several other kinds of fruit. But those who would successfully combat the spread of black knots on their plum and cherry trees should look for remedies elsewhere than in fighting insects.

CULTIVATING AND CROPPING ORCHARDS.

The horticultural editor of the Michigan Farmer recently advised the cultivation and cropping of old orchards. This perfectly reasonable advice has occasioned some criticism; but a correspondent, Mr. J. Webaler Childs of Ypsilanti, indorses it and relates his experience in corroboration as follows:

I have an apple orchard of seven and a quarter acres that has been set seventeen years and is most of it in very fine, healthy condition, and I have plowed and cultivated it every year, I think, but two since it was planted; those two it was seeded to clover and timothy, and yielded two good crops of hay each of the two years.

The trees have now become so large that the crops sowed or planted in the orchard do not amount to very much, but, taking the time from the first planting of the trees, I think I have raised as large an amount of crops on the land occupied by the orchard as on any equal number of acres of my farm—due to the fact, no doubt, that I have manured that oftener and cultivated it better. I know much has been said against cropping an orchard, but I think no harm results from so doing if it is kept so thoroughly manured that the trees never lack for food sufficient to make a vigorous growth and mature an abundant crop of fruit.

If I had not the means of sufficiently manuring an orchard, I would still cultivate it, but without putting in any crops. I have used some ashes upon my orchard, and consider them very valuable indeed for that purpose, but my principal fertilizer has been barnyard manure liberally applied about every second year.

From the first I have plowed very shallow near the trees, and since they have become of considerable size we endeavor to have no part of the orchard plowed more than four or five inches deep. I much prefer hoed crops, especially for orchards, and in no case would I sow an orchard to winter grain, for I think it desirable not to stir the soil much, if any, after about the first of August. But the oftener the surface of the ground is stirred from May until August the better in my judgment, especially if it be a dry season: but continued later, as in plowing and cultivating for fall sowing, a growth is stimulated, when the trees need the time to mature the early growth preparatory for winter.

My trees are headed pretty low, though not as low as I would have them if I were to raise another orchard. I think an orchard should be trimmed more or less every year, at least until it is twenty years old, for by so doing, if the grower has from the start an idea of how he desires his orchard to look when grown, he may not only give the trees the general form that he desires, but will avoid the necessity of cutting large limbs, which should never be done unless absolutely necessary.

I do not suppose that there is only one good way to manage an orchard, but I know that there are a great many that are very badly managed, and consequently pay but very small profits, if any at all. Well managed, in a good locality, there is in Michigan no more profitable branch of farming. At any rate, mine has paid me better by far than any other part of my farming. Some of my trees have borne only every other year, but, taking the orchard together, we never have failed to get a fair crop since the trees commenced to bear, several times portions of the orchard yielding as high as one hundred barrels of fine packing fruit to the acre, and last year from the seven and one quarter acres we packed eight hundred barrels, which I sold at $2.25 per barrel for the fruit.

The Wealthy Apple is as hardy as a crab, and increasingly popular in the Northwest.

The Apiarian.

FEEDING BEES IN THE SPRING.

In a communication to the Bee World, for January, D. Staples, of Columbia, Tenn., gives the following instructions upon this point, in connection with stimulating queens to greater activity, and the bees to the building of new combs. He says it is known by all good apiarians that when honey is coming into the hive regularly the queen is stimulated to lay a vast amount more eggs than where there is no honey coming in, although there may be an abundance of sealed honey in the hive. Hence the philosophy of feeding a little honey every day in early spring; also, if your bees are destitute of a sufficiency of bee bread, you can feed a little rye flour or corn meal, put in the sunshine and out of the way of the wind, with a good effect, in order to have a strong stock of workers on hand on the early appearance of the harvest, that they may wade in and take of the first fruits of the land; and should the harvest linger you need not fear the laborers will tire, for when there is work to do the little busy bee is always ready.

If you wish your bees to use your feed for the purpose of raising bees or building of new combs you will need to dilute your honey or syrup with water, but not so much that it will not be sufficiently sweet for the bees to partake of it freely; and in order that they may not store it in the combs it will be necessary to acidify it a little by using acetic acid, cider vinegar, or lemon juice, for the bees very well know that if they store such in their combs it will be an injury, therefore they will not do it; but being avaricious little fellows they will eat of it and feed it to their young until all become fat with a secretion of wax, when if you place an empty frame in the centre of the brood nest, you will be surprised with what rapidty it will be filled with new combs.

HOW TO PLACE HIVES.

Where bees are wintered in the cellar a question arises whether in replacing them on their summer stands it is necessarry to put them in the same locality they occupied last season. On this point the editor of the American Bee Journal says:

In our own practice, we have not generally placed the hives upon the same stands which they occupied the previous season, and think we have met no serious loss in consequence; but are quite sure that in some cases the bees have at least taken a look at the old spot which was home the previous year. But our bees have usually been confined a long time in the cellar—four months or more. If they were carried out for a fly every warm spell, we should expect them to show a better memory of the old spot. Moreover, being confined for so long a period in the same cellar, they seem in some way to lose their distinguishing scent, so that immediately on first being taken out of the cellar two colonies may be united without any preparation whatever, and without any quarreling. So in such case, if a bee should go to the wrong hive, it would be kindly received. Our bees, at some time during the winter, generally undergo a temperature at, or near, the freezing point. May not the degree of cold they have suffered have something to do with the matter under discussion? It is at least, safe to put them on the old stands, if the precaution has been taken to note where the old stands are.

RAPE AS A HONEY PLANT.

K. O. Krusche, Berlin, Wis., writes the American Bee Journal—"As a honey-producing plant the rape is scarcely second to the linden, producing a beautiful golden honey of good flavor, and is in blossom when nearly everything else is out of blossom, commencing about August 15, and continuing a couple of weeks. As a farm crop it is as good if not better than wheat. The time for sowing it is from the middle to the end of June. This gives time to prepare the soil after other crops are in; or if wheat or corn should fail in coming up, rape can be sown in their places. It is harvested from the middle to the last of September, after all other grain is harvested. It does not impoverish the soil, but benefits it. From five to eight bushels more per acre of wheat are raised on ground which had rape the previous year. It lets no weeds grow after it is fairly started, growing very dense, and its leaves completely shade the ground, therefore it does not suffer from drouth like other grains. The seed has a good cash market at Fon du Lac, Wis., where oil is extracted from it, and brings from $1.50 to $2 per bushel. From ten to eighteen bushels are generally produced per acre, but it is oftener over than under this estimate. Two quarts are sufficient to sow an acre. Thousands of bushels are annually raised in Calumet county, and it is just as staple a crop as wheat. Those doubting my statement I refer to report of agriculture for 1870.

Floricultural.

A GARDEN EXTRAORDINARY.

One of our considerable seed firms in arranging their stock for last spring's business, laid aside a large quantity of flower seeds which remained over after the previous years' business. Unwilling to sell seed of doubtful vitality, the following plan was hit upon for a disposal of it which should promise an unusual if not a profitable return. The article is published in the American Garden, and we give as much of it as our space permits: "We plowed a strip about six feet wide all around a five-acre field, close to the fence. On this plowed ground the seed—previously well mixed—was thrown, just as it happened to come. The surface having, afterwards, been smoothed over, we waited the result. This proved more than satisfactory. We had a wild garden indeed! The plants came up as thickly as they could grow, and flourished and blossomed as freely as though they had enjoyed all the care usually given to delicate hot-house exotics. Sweet Alyssum, Mignonette, Phlox Drummondi, seemed to cover the ground. Morning Glories of every shade, and delicate Cypress vines, tried to cover the fences and run up every tree. Quaint little yellow and green Gourds appeared in the most unexpected places, and the whole bed seemed in a blaze with the brilliant Eschscholtzia, Marigolds and Zinnias.

"Every morning would find some new and unexpected flower in bloom. In short, the place was a constant delight all summer to each member of the family, as also to the neighbors. The children, especially, who reveled in a garden where they were allowed to pick whatever they pleased, were never tired of the excitement of hunting for something new.

"A quantity of the same seed was sown in the adjacent woods. Many of these germinated—and the sight of Morning Glories running up the trees in the wildest part of the woods and bunches of Balsam and Zinnias and Asters looking up through the underbrush was, indeed, passing strange and promotive of intense enjoyment."

Those who putter over the planting of such seeds in pans and frames, may learn a lesson from the above rough and ready treatment.

NOTES.

Country Life.—The past fortnight has been a trying time to country folk, particularly to those quondam city people who have lately adopted the country as their home. Rain has poured down upon us as if the clouds would never empty. The ground is choked with water and gushes out underneath the foot like a juicy orange pricked under pressure. The winds have blown from every direction and have driven through crevices never suspected to exist before. Conservatories from this cause have suffered most of all, and seed boxes, as well as the earth of pots and seedlings yet in the first leaves, have received the drip, drip, drip, and in the morning finger-holes are found here and there—the earth spattered over all and the baby seedlings presenting the appearance of having engaged in a relentless war of extermination. Storms are just one ugly phase of country life. We have no high brick or stone walls, to shelter us, as in the city. The winds howl over us as if we had no existence. The house shakes—nay, trembles as a mad gust strikes it—and then another and another, as if by persistent efforts it had settled upon our poor dwelling for demolishment. The roar of the wind as it issues from the woods near us during several recent night-storms, has exceeded all past experiences—and, though one is snugly in bed, has made itself *felt* as lightning is *seen* with the eyes fast shut. One can but wish during such fierce night-storms, that they would "kindly" cease. *Then* we are ready to recall every harsh word we have ever uttered against cities and city life, and to admit that the city is at least sufferable during six months of the year. But these morbid, erroneous fancies pass away with the first ray of sunshine, and we apologize to our country home and to the country generally for our temporary estrangement.

One look over the fields, hills and woods in the early morning of spring, when the angry winds have passed and the sun assumes his genuine vernal manners, makes us forget the worst storms—in fact, *all* storms that ever have occurred or are likely to occur.

But it is the truth, gentle reader, nevertheless, that the storms of the past two weeks (April 7) have tried our soul more than all the others combined of which we have any remembrance, and the fear of devastating floods to which we are greatly subject in our "Happy Valley," has in no small degree added an element somewhat distressing to shaky nerves.

New Epacris.—The London Garden gives an illustration of a new double white Epacris (*onosmæflora*). It is introduced by Mr. W. Bull, who says that his collector wrote him in ecstacies about it, and said he had seen a plant of it only ten inches in hight, of which seven inches were so covered with double blossoms as to hide the stem, reminding him somewhat of a well-grown Balsam. The engraving certainly reminds one of a double Balsam.

The "Double" Poinsettia.—The same number of the Garden gives a fine colored plate of this new plant to which we have several times referred. The head is described as consisting of no fewer than fifty or sixty bracts, varying from six to eight inches long and upward of two in breadth. The bottom ones being the larger, droop gracefully from their weight, and those which fill up the center, being smaller, are less drooping, until in the center of the head they are nearly erect—the whole forming a bouquet of the most brilliant, glossy scarlet, not less than 16 inches across and rounded as much as bouquets generally are. C.

River Edge, Bergen Co., N. J.

The Garden.

FARM GARDENS.

Farmers do not generally realize the advantage, the profit, of a good garden, because they do not sell what is raised in it, nor buy vegetables if they do not raise them, and yet if they do not raise them they have to buy other things to use instead, or use up what they might otherwise sell. There is no better way to estimate the value of garden produce than by its price in the market. Men who raise vegetables to sell get from two to five hundred dollars per acre, at wholesale prices, and the consumer pays much more. Now if the laborer and mechanic in the city (where bread and meat are nearly as cheap as in the country) find it economical to buy vegetables at prices that would pay the gardener from four hundred to one thousand dollars per acre, the garden is surely worth half as much to the farmer. A good garden is worth more money, saves more money, than ten times the amount of land will yield in ordinary field crops, and every man who neglects it loses his best opportunity to make money. But a poor garden is a disgrace to a farm, and time and money thrown away—poor soil, planted too late, and covered with weeds—this is its history, and failure is the result.

But the profit is not the only advantage of a good garden. It is a healthful luxury. If farmers would eat more vegetables and less pig and pastry in summer, they would be healthier and suffer less from heat and thirst, and consequently drink less cold water, which everyone knows is very injurious.

As farm gardens are usually small, it costs but little more to make it a good garden than to make it a failure. The first necessity is to have it thoroughly drained so that it can be worked very early in the spring. Then a good share of the garden work can be done before time to begin the general work. Many persons do not think it worth their while to do anything in the garden until the whole can be planted. The consequence is that some things are planted too late, and some too early, the farm work crowds, the garden is neglected, and a few sickly vegetables and a great many luxuriant weeds is the result.

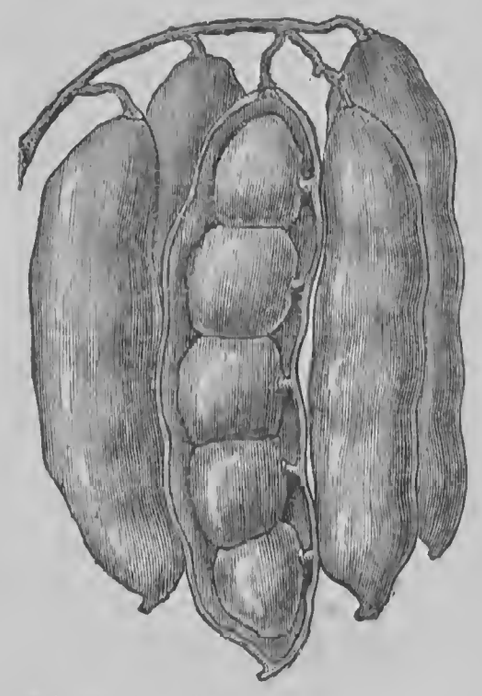
The next thing after draining is thorough manuring, and this should be done at the rate of from twenty-five to forty two horse loads of manure per acre every year. It is better to use different kinds of manure than to use the same kind constantly. It is with this as it is with farm crops—the best results are produced by rotation or variety. No single kind of manure contains all the materials needed to enrich a garden, and when the same kind is used all the time it seems to lose its power to feed the growing crops. Hen manure and ashes, used in connection with stable manure, have a good effect, as does lime or plaster, sown broadcast after the planting is all done. Having put the soil in proper condition by draining, manuring and deep plowing, and thorough harrowing and rolling, the next thing is to plant it. Each kind of seed should be planted as early as there is any prospect that it will grow. As but little of each kind is planted it is better to run the risk of having to plant part of it the second time, than have a late garden.

Early peas may be sown almost as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Cabbage plants, if they have been properly hardened, will stand considerable freezing without injury. Potatoes can be planted as soon as the hard freezes are over. Sweet corn, lettuce, onions, beets, carrots, beans, cucumbers, may be planted much earlier than they usually are, and if they fail to grow the same ground can be planted for a later crop of the same. Do not plant all the corn, peas, beans, radishes, &c., at once, but make successive plantings, and then if the earliest fail the next will come on immediately, and after the earliest are too ripe to use, the later plantings will be ready. Late cabbages and cauliflower can be planted after radishes, lettuce, early beets and early potatoes—celery after early cabbages, and any ground cleared before the fifteenth of August can be sown to turnips.

One of the important aids to a good garden is thorough culture. Don't let the weeds get started. It is easier to keep them down than to pull them after they have got started, and hoeing the crop is a great advantage, even if there are no weeds. A. Y. H.

DREER'S IMPROVED LIMA BEAN.

Farmers and gardeners will understand the importance of improving seed by the yearly



careful selection of the best. Where this process has been carried on a number of years it results in establishing desirable qualities as fixed habits of the plant, sometimes creating entirely distinct varieties. We do not know a better illustration of this fact than in Dreer's Improved Lima Bean, an engraving of which accompanies this article. It was originated by careful selection of the best seeds for planting during the past thirty years by Mr. H. Kimber of Kimberton, Pa., and in its present improvement is earlier, more prolific, and with a greater amount of saccharine matter. The superior quality of this bean is conceded by all who have tried it. The illustration shows the habit and prolificacy of the variety. The beans are more compact in shell, the ends butting against each other instead of being separated by a vacant space. This makes the beans almost square at the ends, and of course the amount of bean in the husk is largely increased. This also makes the beans as easily shelled as so many peas. Among those who highly recommend this variety, from a trial in 1875, are Geo. Paist of Chester Co., Pa., and David F. Grier of Salem Co., N. J. The bean was introduced and is for sale by Henry A. Dreer of Philadelphia, and we feel safe in advising all who grow Lima beans to secure some of this improved variety for trial. It will undoubtedly make Lima beans more popular in farmers' gardens than they have been heretofore.

THE CHO-CHO.

In this early spring time, when vegetation is barely beginning in our Northern climates, we always turn with unusual interest to reports of tropical vegetation. In fall or winter such reports are too discouraging, as it must be months before vegetation will start outside of hot houses. Now, however, we can read and enjoy, as it cannot be long ere winter's gloom and solitude is broken by the singing of merry birds and the breaking forth of luxuriant vegetation. From the last No. of the Florida Agriculturist we copy the following description of the Cho-Cho, a vegetable whose name and character is unknown to most Northern readers. The Agriculturist says:

This is a vegetable commonly cultivated in the Island of Jamaica, under the Spanish name of *Chayote*. There are two varieties—white and green. The latter is the better of the two, being more delicate. They are about the size of a Cluster cucumber—larger at one end, and slightly tapering off. In the West Indies they are sometimes grown on arbors, but more frequently are planted at the root of a tree. They grow very fast (several feet in a night), and will cover the top of the tree with vines, hanging down all around. The vines bear profusely. One will furnish a peck per day. So common are they in Jamaica that they sell in the country at about 10 cents per peck. They will thrive in any part of the Southern States, for when the vines are killed by frost, they only require to be cut off, and the roots covered with straw, and in the spring they will grow again. To cook them, first split in half, lengthwise, and boil until quite tender; butter, and sprinkle with black pepper; or mash up like squash, and treat in the same way. They are more delicate than squash. Apple-sauce can be made from them by the addition of lemon juice and sugar, so that we defy the greatest connoisseur to tell the difference. They should not be planted until they sprout, and then plant with the sprout end slanting downwards, and cover very light; in fact, they hardly require to be covered at all, only placed below the surface, for if covered they rot. The vine will last for years, bearing all the summer. Those who grow them can have apple-pies without apple trees, and no doubt they could be cut up and dried for winter use the same as apples.

The cho-cho should not be too old before used. If the finger nail cannot penetrate they are unfit for food, being too tough.

Ventilated Berry Baskets.—R. H. Haines of Malden, Ulster Co., is an extensive grower of small fruit, plants, &c. In this line of work he has devised some novel improvements in berry baskets of various sizes, and by making them on an extensive scale he can afford to sell lower than most growers can manufacture. His perforated berry baskets give perfect ventilation, and being made from one piece of wood, the flats, already cut, can be sent in quantities at very low rates and made up by the fruit grower at his leisure. This is the only way in which berry growers can profitably make their own baskets, and they should lose no time in addressing Mr. Haines and preparing for the busy summer campaign.

The Horseman.

SIRE AND DAM.

In a recent article which appeared in the Pall Mall (Eng.) Gazette, it is said that it is possible, and indeed obvious, that the character stamped by the sire, though not aided by subsequent association, is incomparably deeper, stronger, and more indelible. Moreover, as there is to all appearance such a thing as an unfortunate union, whereby the qualities of sire and dam conflict and neutralize one another instead of combining together to make something altogether superequine; and such conflict and such naturalization, to judge from many an example like Gladiateur and Fille de l'Air (for the neutralization may assume the shape of deformity as well as any other), are the more probable the greater the prodigy that might otherwise be expected. Another curious thing is that neither sire nor dam may promise anything particular, and that the excellence of the colt or filly they produce will be traceable rather to the general descent than to the immediate parentage; and then, perhaps, a jeremiad will be sung over the shameful manner in which we allow foreigners to buy our best sires, when we had already tried those sires and found them wanting, or had reserved to ourselves others presumably much better. If a Vedetto and a Flying Duchess, both well stricken in years, do, contrary to expectation, produce a winner of the blue ribbon, it will soon appear on reference to their genealogy that there was "the Derby in the family."

THE FEEDING OF HORSES.

The Michigan Farmer says:—Almost of more importance than the form in which food is given, is the frequency and regularity of meals. The horse's digestive organs are not constructed for long fasts. Long intervals without food produce hunger, and hunger begets voracity; food is bolted, and indigestion and colic follow. This is doubly true and dangerous with horses doing hard work. They come to their long-deferred meal not only hungry, but exhausted; not only is the food bolted, but the stomach is in such a state as to be incapable of thoroughly active digestion, and is overpowered by half the amount of food it could otherwise digest. The prevention of waste is almost attained when we give a proper form; but there are two points to which it is right to devote some attention—the form of the mangers, and attention to the wants of the individual animals. The mangers should not be less than three feet long, eighteen inches wide, and twelve inches deep. They should have an upper border of wood projecting inwards for two inches and a traverse bar of half-inch iron across the middle. A piece of two-inch hoop iron, on the top of the manger, protects it from damage by the horse's teeth. This simple arrangement prevents the horse from throwing out his corn, and the provender is not set in so thick a layer as in the ordinary narrow and shallow manger.

LINIMENT FOR HORSES.

R. S. Steele writes to the American Farmers' Club: Some time ago I was a good deal worried with a couple of horses which had sore backs. I tried various remedies without sucess, and was beginning to despair when the following receipt came to my notice: "The inner bark of white oak bark boiled down in an iron kettle (never use a brass one) until it is as black as ink; while boiling drop in a piece of alum, about the size of a hen's egg." This liniment is to be applied with a sponge, and is good for any sore or bruise; in fact it is a safe thing to keep in one's barn ready to use when occasion requires. As I found this so useful, I venture to send it for the benefit of others who may not be in the possession of anything as good. I think it is also an excellent plan in warm weather to clean the collars often with castile soap.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT OF AUTUMN LEAVES.

April 10.—The brilliant colors of the autumn leaves of many of our forest trees and shrubs have so often been the subject of dissertations in books and periodicals that it may well be considered almost, if not quite, hackneyed. School girls have exhausted the adjectives of Webster's Unabridged in writing letters to their friends at home and abroad in praise of the autumn tints of our forests, and from these up to the learned essays of an EMERSON innumerable changes have been rung upon the same theme. Still, with all that has been written and said upon this subject, the interest in it does not flag, for, like that of love, it is just as new and delightful to each succeeding generation as to the one preceding it. Love and beauty are two things which never grow old in this world, except to certain prematurely disorganized individuals of the *genus homo*.

But I have frequently had occasion to think that the preservation of autumn leaves by some persons was merely the result of a spasmodic overflow of sentimentalism, ending as abruptly as it began. I am forcibly impressed to take this view of the case soon after the close of every season, for during the autumn MRS. RURALIST has some city friends who seldom fail to spend a few days with us for the purpose of a visit and the gathering of "autumn leaves." During this time exclamations of ecstatic admiration greet my ears at all hours of the day, and such pressing, gluing, dying and varnishing, yes, and I may add scattering, of leaves and twigs about the house and lawn are scenes to be experienced in order to be fully realized.

But after all this is over and quiet again reigns, I am constantly being reminded of the past visits of the leaf-gatherers. If I pick up an atlas to look for the location of some village or town, out drops and are scattered over the carpet a quantity of autumn leaves which had been carefully hidden away and perhaps forgotten in the final disposal of the season's collecting. I open the Dictionary and out drops another lot which were hastily put to press in the most convenient book at hand, regardless of stains and defacement of its pages. Choice quartos and folios have met the same fate, and for a month or more after the departure of our leaf-gathering visitors I feel a little nervous when taking any good-sized volume, lest it should be followed by a shower of dried leaves, entailing upon me a half-hour's labor on hands and knees to gather up.

After a few years' experience of this kind one is likely to lose his interest in albums of autumn leaves, still there is no knowing how soon private opinions, likes and dislikes may be changed by something out of the usual line of preparation and arrangement. I am forcibly reminded of this by the receipt of a handsome album of autumn leaves sent me through the RURAL NEW-YORKER by Mrs. DWIGHT MERRIMAN of Jackson Miss., and I will forgive the young ladies who have used my atlas, dictionary and other volumes for pressing leaves if they will make up anything half as beautiful as these samples sent by Mrs. M. The specimens are arranged in groups, and by an artistic combination of colors each resembles a handsome oil or water-colored painting, more than natural leaves and flowers. The usual brilliant-colored leaves of maple and sumac are tastefully arranged upon some of the cards, but the finest and most beautiful groups are composed of very minute flowers, ferns, grasses and berries, with a little green moss intermingled to complete the picture and make it all the more natural. I can readily see by this specimen of Mrs. MERRIMAN'S handiwork how readily a splendid ornament can be made of natural leaves and plants, provided one is an artist (and possesses the patience to work out the subject in the best manner. Mrs. RURALIST joins me in returning many thanks for this album of autumn leaves, and I shall demand that the "girls," when they come out again to gather specimens, must show something of the sort as the result of all their "mussing about," else be dismissed as impracticable, momentary enthusiasts.

THE OLD SWEET-BRIAR.

April 11.—While our florists are extolling their new Hybrid Tea, China, Bourbon and other choice roses, I want to put in a word for that good old plant the common Sweet-Briar. Of course many of my readers will shrug their shoulders or toss their heads in disdain at the mere mention of so old and well-known a rose, but while I am not inclined to assert that its flowers can compare in brilliancy of color with a Jacqueminot or Giant of Battles, still there is a fragrance in its leaves which we may search for in vain among the more gaudy and newer aspirants for general admiration.

Then again, perhaps, there are thousands of others who, like myself, can remember the time when they plucked sprigs of sweet-briar from the roadside as they went to school along that dusty or muddy country road. No matter who they plucked the buds for or what she said in return for the gift, but the spicy fragrance of those young, crimped leaves still lingers in their memory, and although they may have long since left that pleasant field in which they built many an air castle, it is not well to ignore the pleasures of others of similar tastes who may be following in the same path, although far behind. I own to a sort of reverence for the old Sweet-Briar, perhaps because it was an early acquaintance, and I cannot help thinking that there are many other persons who do not forget the sweet perfume of this old favorite. Although it is a native of England, it was introduced into this country so long ago that it has run wild in many localities throughout the Middle and Eastern States. It is not well to overlook these old plants, which possess merits unknown in many a new and costly variety, for they frequently recall pleasant hours which can be enjoyed over again. "Yes," says one sitting on the opposite side of the table, and to whom I have read the above, "there is not a rose in your collection of superb novelties which surpasses in my eyes the old, rugged Cinnamon rose which bloomed year after year in my grandmother's garden."

But I could never see the beauty of a Cinnamon rose, and, like WARTON, can say:

"By sweet-briar hedges bath'd in dew,
Let me my wholesome path pursue."

Around the Republic.

"DOWN SOUTH."

Diary and Notes of an Ex-Editor Seeking Health.

BY CHARLES D. BRAGDON.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 31.—It is more than a month (I see by the last RURAL NEW-YORKER) since I promised to say something about the Florida State Fair, which I gave notice I intended to visit. The visit was too much for me, hence this delay. So much by way of apology on my part, though doubtless what I shall say of it will be as useful and of as much interest now as then.

The Duval County (that is *this* county) Agricultural Society had purchased a few acres of ground down the river a short distance from the city, accessible both by a good road and by boats, and had erected upon it a very creditable exhibition building, into which all there was of special interest at the State Fair was compressed and exhibited.

There were a few plows, cultivators of various peculiar patterns used here in the South, hoes, carriages, musical instruments, seed from the seed stores, bread from the one bakery in the city, millinery, including the palmetto hats, in every variety of style, which are peculiarly a Southern manufacture developed since (and perhaps during) the war. Large numbers are manufactured in this and other Florida towns, and are to be commended as tasteful ladies' head gear. There were also about the amount of fancy needlework usually displayed in Northern country and town fairs, bouquets of feathers and of the beautiful dried Florida grasses, feathers and shell-work, etc., etc. Of course there were sewing machines and kindred paraphernalia. The shops of Jacksonville displayed, to some extent, samples of their respective lines of goods.

But what did Florida send from its fields! Upland rice, which I was told by the grower could be profitably cultivated, "and," he said, "I have plenty of first-class seed to sell." The cleaned rice—if it *had* been cleaned from the upland growth, which I have no good reason to doubt—did not seem to differ much from that grown in water along the borders of the Savannah River. A few stalks of sugar-cane of the two varieties generally grown here (I was told) were reliable. The show of vegetables was a meager one, but they were generally well grown and of good varieties. The samples were far better than we ordinarily find in this market; but the fact is, only the overflow of the crop of vegetables and fruits finds its way to this market, the bulk being shipped directly to N. Y. City.

The fruit show was the attractive feature of the Exhibition and commanded the almost exclusive attention of Northern visitors. This was natural, because Florida is advertised chiefly as the garden of fruits and "Land of Flowers," in addition to its air of nectar for invalids and its equable climate. The exhibition of fruit was scarcely as large as I had expected, but it was certainly creditable as illustrating what can be exhibited right from the orchards and gardens late in February. There were oranges in variety—I don't know how many varieties; but not until my sojourn here did I realize the difference in quality in the different varieties of this fruit. In the North, as a rule, an orange is simply an orange, as an apple is simply an apple to the great mass of city consumers. I have no doubt I have lost much of my future enjoyment of oranges by this increase of critical knowledge! If you could only have tasted these great golden, pulpy, juicy globes, you would have vowed that EVE was foolish that she did not insist upon an orange instead of an apple! and then you would not have blamed her a bit!

But I had no strength to become enlightened as to the technical nomenclature of the different varieties shown and their respective qualities and merits, albeit the growers were there ready to give information. There were also lemons and limes, figs and pomegranates, pineapples and citrons, in variety, guavas and dates, sappodiloes and bananas—the latter green and of the yellow variety seen in New York markets. I have not fallen in love with Florida yet on account of any of its bananas that I have seen, though I am not sure that I have eaten one that was Florida grown. They cost more here than in Fulton or Washington markets.

A gentleman from Key West exhibited the largest variety of sub-tropical fruits made by one exhibitor, and in addition shells, sponge, etc., and curiosities from that neighborhood. His table attracted, deservedly, much attention.

These different fruits were exhibited in other forms — orange wine, and marmalade, guava jelly, prickly pear jelly, orange paste, etc. Scuppernong grape wine, blackberry and elderberry wines were also shown.

I came near forgetting to say that there was also an exhibition of strawberries—not large, but including well-grown specimens, among which I noticed some fine-looking samples labeled "Seedlings." There can be no doubt that the possibilities of profitable strawberry culture in this State, where the proper localities are selected, are established. I know of more than one plantation, not remote from this city, along the St. Johns River, where plantations are located upon a clay subsoil with humus enough in the sand to sustain growth, and moisture enough to develop the fruit without irrigation. Indeed, surface drainage is resorted to for the purpose of disposing of the superfluous water. There are plenty of such situations, I have no doubt. Florida has no competitor in the Northern markets when her first strawberries ripen.

Of live stock exhibited, there were several coops of creditable fowls; of swine, a few pair of Berkshire and Essex; of goats, a pair of Angoras; of sheep, a few Cotswolds; of cattle, a half-dozen, including an Alderney cow and a Short-Horn bull and cow—none of which, evidently, were bred in the State. But I suppose them to have been acclimated. A day or two before the State Fair opened. I saw an advertisement in a city paper announcing that twelve acclimated Tennessee cows would be offered for sale during the Fair on the Fair grounds. I did not find them the day of my visit, and have been curious ever since to learn the relative value of acclimated and unacclimated cows. What is the per cent. of loss of cows brought from the North during the process of acclimation? and what the expense of quinine and other tonics meantime? These are questions I should gladly have asked the owner of those acclimated Tennessee cows. The stock exhibition at the State Fair was fully as large and quite as excellent as I expected. I did not see the horses reported to have taken premiums, but I have no doubt they were good ones, for Jacksonville is quite a horse market, and much excellent stock can be seen on her streets and in her stables daily.

The attendance at the Fair was, in the aggregate, large, and it may be called a success. As illustrating the agricultural resources of a State which I believe (for I have no census report at hand and may be mistaken) does not yet number 200,000 white inhabitants — and the exhibition was made altogether by the white people, so far as I could learn, few colored people being seen on the grounds, even, the day I was there — I regard Florida's first State Fair (occurring in February, too, it should be borne in mind) as furnishing evidence of great capacity for fruit and vegetable production and promise of remarkable future development of her resources in these respects.

April 1.—I was just about to mail the foregoing when the RURAL of this date came. In it I notice "Archer's" letter from Alachua Co., Fla. Glad to see it. Enjoyed it. Much obliged to "Archer" even for his "pity." But how does "Archer" know that I think Florida all a sand bank? I haven't the papers before me, but I don't think he can find where I have said so. It was "the other feller." But even if Florida is "all a sand bank," "Archer" should not get mad about it. I think it fortunate for its population that as much of it is sand as is. So far as I have observed, it is productive sand. If it were clay, or a stiff, clayey loam, "Archer" would have to lose more than one month in nine by sickness if he were to attempt to stay here. Think of Florida as a clay basin, holding water like a tub, and these frequent pouring rains followed by a hot sun! All that water to be evaporated! Let "Archer" thank the Organizer of things that there is as much sand as there is in Florida. I have found reason to do so, in even the short time I have lived in the State.

When "Archer" next attempts to criticise what I or any one else says or writes, let him, before he begins to do so, settle back in his chair, put both thumbs in the armholes of his vest, compress his lips and audibly and emphatically resolve, "By the Eternal, whatever I do, I will be truthful!" If he had done so when he wrote his delightful letter, he wouldn't have said that "Mr. Ex-Editor thinks guano is worse than nothing to attempt to fertilize with." But some allowance must be made for his enthusiastic state of mind, resulting from his extended experience ("two or three waterings") in the use of this fertilizer. When he looked (the middle of March) upon those tomato and cucumber vines, how could he be expected to stop and be accurate? But "Archer" will grow more careful and truthful as he gets more experience in the "Land of Flowers," I have no doubt. That he will continue to write *facts* and experiences to the RURAL, I most sincerely hope.

Patrons of Husbandry.

CORN CULTURE FOR GRANGES.

THE formulas for the special premiums in corn growing for Granges and Farmer's clubs have been issued. The experiments are designed to test the theory of Prof. STOCKBRIDGE that a given amount of fertilizers may be relied on to produce a corresponding increasing crop. The formula for this experiment is as follows:

Take sulphate of ammonia (18 per cent. nitrogen), 404 lbs.; muriate of potash (55 per cent. potassa), 110 lbs.; sulphate of potash (23 per cent. soluble phosphoric acid), 199 lbs.; These, when combined, will make 864 lbs., which is the quantity employed by Dr. Sturtevant, under the direction of Prof. Stockbridge, who claimed it should add 65 bushels to the yield per acre. Though the proportion of chemicals is the same here as in the experiment of Dr. S. yet the other conditions are all different, which makes this essentially a new test of the theory.

Let this trial be made on four adjoining acres, with soil and other conditions alike, and in which the antecedent conditions have also been alike for one or more years. To the first acre apply the above fertilizer, to the second acre apply 5 1-5 cords of pure, first-class barn yard manure, to the third acre apply nothing, and to the fourth apply one-half manure and one-half the fertilizer above mentioned.

These four acres should, of course, be planted at the same time, and harvested at the same time, and in all other respects, except manuring, should be treated precisely alike. The treatment and results to be accurately stated in writing, and, of course, duly verified.

DELINQUENT MEMBERS.

THE following remarks are taken from the address of J. V. Webster, the newly elected Master of California State Grange:—One of the first duties which we owe to ourselves and the Order is that of pruning the Grange (as unsparingly as we do our orchards) of all decaying branches and superfluous growth—that the fruit may be fair and the harvest abundant. This decaying and superfluous growth in our Order will be found to consist of members who are luke-warm in the support of the principles of the Order, those who are slack and irregular in attendance; and those who are largely delinquent in their dues, I would recommend that the monthly dues of members be reduced to the lowest practical point that will provide for the payment of just obligations, and that the Secretary of each Subordinate Grange should urge prompt payment of dues quarterly. If any then becomes delinquent for six months—after due notice—let such delinquent members be suspended and duly notified of their suspension. If their dues are not then paid within two months they should be expelled. To effect this, I would recommend that the by-laws of each Subordinate Grange make it the duty of the Secretary to prefer charges for non-payment of dues against members who do not respond by the payment of dues after notification of suspension.

BRO. A. P. AXTELL of Perry, Lake County, Ohio, has been elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Ohio State Grange, in place of C. C. JENNINGS, deceased.

Domestic Economy.

FRENCH HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY.

THE French butcher separates the bones from his steaks, and places them where they will do the most good. The housewife orders just enough for each person and no more, even to the coffee. If a chance visitor drops in, somebody quietly retires, and the extra cup is so provided, but nothing extra by carelessness or intention. When the pot has boiled, the handful of charcoal in the little range is extinguished, and waits for another time. No roaring cook stove and red-hot covers all day long for no purpose but waste. The egg laid to-day costs a little more than the one laid last week. Values are nicely estimated, and the smallest surplus is carefully saved. A thousand little economies are practiced, and it is respectable to practice them. Cooking is an economical as well as a sanitary and gustatory science. A French cook will make a franc go as far as an American housewife will make three, and how much further than the American Bridget nobody knows—we should probably be greatly astonished, could the computation be made, how much of the financial, recuperative power of France is owing to her soups and her cheap food; better living, after all, than the heavy bread and greasy failures of our culinary ignorance.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Rice Batter Cakes.—Mix one-fourth wheat flour to three-fourths of rice flour, add a little salt; raise and bake as buckwheat cakes.

Boston Cake.—One cup of sugar; one cup of milk; one tablespoonful of butter; one egg; two and one-half cups of flour; two teaspoonfuls of cream tartar; one teaspoonful soda; flavor with nutmeg or lemon.

Raisin Cake.—One pound of flour; one pound of sugar; one-quarter pound of raisins; three eggs; one-half pint of milk; one teaspoonful of soda. These cakes, when baked in an earthen pot or saucer, are excellent.

Silver Cake.—Two cups of sugar; two and one-half cups of flour; one-half cup of butter; three-quarters of a cupful of sweet milk; one-half teaspoonful of soda; the whites of eight eggs; one teaspoonful of cream of tartar.

Molasses Candy.—One pint white coffee sugar, one pint molasses, one tablespoonful of vinegar, one teaspoonful of butter; cook slowly a long time until it "strings" from the spoon when dipped up; pour upon a greased tin pan; then pull it until it becomes white.

Ham or Tongue Toast.—Cut a slice of bread rather thick, toast it and butter it well on both sides. Take a small quantity of the remains of either ham or tongue and grate it; have ready chopped fine, two hard-boiled eggs, put both meat and eggs into a stew pan with a little butter, salt and cayenne, and make it quite hot, then spread quickly on the toasted bread, and serve immediately.

Molasses Cake.—Three cups molasses, one cup sugar, one and a-half cups milk or milk and water, one cup lard and butter—or corned-beef drippings is better—three eggs, one tablespoonful of soda; spice with ginger and cinnamon to suit the taste; flour to make as thick as pound cakes; fruit improves this very much. This quantity makes three good-sized loaves. Bake in a moderate oven.

To Clean Glass Globes.—If the globes are much stained on the outside by smoke, soak them in tolerably hot water with a little washing soda dissolved in it, then put a teaspoonful of powdered ammonia into a pan of lukewarm water and with a tolerably hard brush wash the globes till the smoke stain disappears; rinse in clean, cold water, and let them drain till dry. They will be quite as white and clear as new globes.

Cracked Wheat Pudding.—Take one quart of unskimmed milk, add to it one gill of cracked wheat, uncooked, and one gill of sugar and a small piece of stick cinnamon. Place in an oven of medium heat. When about half done stir in the crust already formed, and leave it to form another, which will be sufficiently brown. Try when it is done by tasting a grain of wheat, which must be very soft. This, when cold, makes a delicious cream pudding.

French Rolls.—Two quarts of sifted flour, a lump of lard about the size of an egg—one a little larger of butter; stir into the flour, the same as in making pastry. When well stirred, add bloodwarm water, or preferably milk and water, to mix; add a little salt, half teacupful of home-made yeast or three tablespoonfuls of baker's yeast. Mix in the evening as for bread, and let rise; ten or fifteen minutes will suffice if the oven is sufficiently heated. Good bread is made in the same way with a proportionally small quantity of lard and butter.

Plain Steamed Pudding.—One pint of buttermilk or sour milk; one-half pint of sweet milk; one teaspoonful of soda or saleratus. Thicken with flour to a stiff batter: add raisins or fruit; place in a budding dish and steam one hour. Serve with sweet sauce.

INITIAL LETTER.

Gelatine Apples.—Peel and core your apples and cut them in halves; put in a kettle with a pint of water, sugar, sliced lemon, and green ginger, a little whole mace, and six whole cloves; boil until they are tender; then remove the apples, and put into the sirup one tablespoonful of gelatine, and allow it to boil down about three minutes, then pour the sirup over the apples.

Hygienic Information.

FOOD FACTS.

IT has been observed that a small quantity of beef tea, added to other articles of nutrition, augments their power out of all proportion to the additional amount of solid matter.

The saying that "an egg is equivalent to a pound of meat," is a mistaken notion. It is a question whether, weight for weight, eggs are equal to beefsteak. With many persons, particularly of nervous or bilious temperament, eggs disagree. Almost any one can eat an omelet who would find a pound of meat superfluous, and yet the former may contain several eggs.

The nutritive power of milk, and of the preparations from milk, is very much undervalued; since there is nearly as much nourishment in half a pint of milk as there is in a quarter of a pound of meat. Hence, milk might be taken as a sort of representative diet, and as better adapted to sustain the body in health, or to strengthen it in sickness, than any other single article of food.

The almost universal testimony of men and women who have undergone great fatigue, such as riding long journeys without stopping, or sitting up several nights in succession, is that they could do it best upon an occasional cup of tea—and nothing else. But a little tea or coffee restores quite as much as a great deal; and a great deal of tea, and especially of coffee, impairs the power of digestion.

The question is often asked at what time in the day fruit should be eaten? In tropical countries, where fruit is the chief article of food, the rule appears to be that the earlier in the day it is taken the better it is, and the later, the worse. In hot weather, many wise people will eat none after noon, alleging that the digestion then declines in power with the decline of the day, and the fruit, instead of digesting, decomposes, owing to the presence of the saccharine matter. The objection to fruit and certain kinds of vegetables late in the day, be the explanation what it may, is certainly justified by an ample experience, though some persons can eat fruit at all hours without feeling any inconvenience.

It is made a frequent recommendation to persons about to incur great exhaustion, either directly, and with the least trouble of digestion, from the nature of the service, or from their being not in a fit state for it, to eat a piece of bread before they go. If they can take a bit of bread with the cup of hot tea, so much the better, but not instead of it. The fact that there is more nourishment in bread than in almost anything else, has probably induced the mistake. That it is a fatal mistake there is no doubt. It seems, though very little is known on the subject, that what "assimilates" itself with the human body, is the best under the above circumstances. Bread requires two or three processes of assimilation before it becomes like the human body.

HYGIENE FOR SMOKERS.

As a warning to persons who ought not to smoke and as admonitory and guide to those who *will* persist in the habit, we copy from the Tribune Medicale the following precepts and advices by Dr. Berthaud.

Never smoke more than three or four pipes or cigars a day and if it is possible limit yourself to two. It is unwholesome to smoke on an empty stomach, or immediately before or after a meal. Whatever the mode of smoking, direct contact of the tobacco with the mucus buccalis (mucous lining of the cheeks) and the teeth must be avoided. Cigars should be smoked in an amber, porcelain or ivory mouth-piece.

To smoke, by relighting them, portions of cigars that have been extinguished, together with the system of blackened and juicy pipes, constitutes the surest way of being affected by nicotine. Every smoker would do well, if he could rinse his mouth after smoking. By analogy is the same precaution applicable to chewers. For the same reason it would be well to subject pipes and bowls in which tobacco has been burned to frequent washings, either with water mixed with alcohol or vinegar.

It is difficult to choose between the different ways of smoking. I give preference to the cigarette, by reason of its slight quantitative importance, and the paper, which interferes with the contact of its contents with the buccal mucous membrane. But to realize all the desiderata it would be necessary to have the papelito made of flax thread and to abstain from the practice which has become the *ne plus ultra* of its kind, retaining the aspiration at the back of the mouth, so as to pour it out of the nostrils afterward.

The premature habit of smoking is certainly hurtful to childhood and during the adolescent period of organic evolution. The economy cannot but suffer at this period from the narcotic influence, be it never so slight, and from the salivation which is inseparable from this act. All persons cannot smoke with impunity. There are pathological counter indications or idiosyncrasies to this habit that it would be imprudent and culpable to infringe.

Disease of the lungs, of the heart, chronic affections of the mouth, nose, eyes, throat and stomach are the results of the present incompatibilities. The airing of apartments where smoking has taken place should be well attended to. To sleep in rooms where tobacco smoke exists slowly constitutes a grave infraction on the elementary laws of hygiene.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

For Sick Headache.—Two teaspoonfuls of finely powdered charcoal, drank in half a tumbler of water, will often give relief to the headache, when caused, as in most cases it is, by a superabundance of acid in the stomach.

For Croup.—Take a knife or grater, and grate or shave in small particles about a teaspoonful of alum; mix it with about twice its quantity of sugar, to make it palatable, and administer it as quickly as possible. Its effects will be truly magical, as almost instantaneous relief will be afforded.

Flaxseed Lemonade (good for colds).—Pour one quart boiling water over four tablespoonfuls of flaxseed. Steep—not boil—three hours; cover closely while steeping; then strain, sweeten to taste, and add the juice of two lemons, putting in more water if too thick to be agreeable.

The Vineyard.

A FARMER ON GRAPE GROWING.

WM. REID of Waukesha Co., Wisconsin, has taken premiums for the best grapes at State Fairs for many years. In the Weekly Tribune he relates his experience as follows:

I have raised grapes for twenty years; only a few at first, but gradually increasing the number, until now I have twenty-five varieties, and I never had a failure. What I say is not for nurserymen, but for farmers, or mechanics having small gardens; and a word of advice I would offer at the outset:—Don't read half a dozen books on grape-culture, or you may get your brain in a pretty tangle, and as likely as not never set a vine at all. But if you insist on peeping at a book, by all means let it be Fuller's. I think there is more common sense in that than in any other one or half dozen I have seen.

Procure in the fall what cuttings you want, well ripened, short jointed wood—in lengths from 4 to 6 inches are better than longer—cut square off below the lower bud, and say one inch above the top bud; then keep in sand in a cool cellar, or bury out of doors in a high, dry, sandy loam, till spring. Then select a moist, deep loam (not wet), open furrows a little slanting, and full as deep as your cuttings are long, lay them up to the back of the furrows, 5 or 6 inches apart, pack the soil firmly about the lower ends, and fill up to the top bud. Now you will have an inch or two of filling to do yet; go to your woodpile and get some sawdust, cover the top buds with it; then sprinkle sand in to keep the wind from blowing off the sawdust; now watch for two buds where one is only wanted, and take one of them off; hoe faithfully and persistently, grow vines, and not weeds, and if you have some sticks to tie to, all the better. In the fall, when the frost has stripped off the leaves, go and lift the vines carefully, reject all that have made a feeble growth, cut the top to within three buds of the bottom, prune the roots back to three or four inches, tie in dozens and heel-in in a high dry place, raising a mound to shed water.

The next spring, when the ground is in good working order, don't be in a hurry, time enough in May, at least in the first half of it in this latitude, set out your plants, say two or three feet apart, with a stake to each, placing the roots on the sunny side, points deeper than where they are attached to the stem, say at an angel or incline of three or four inches to the foot. As soon as you can tie up the strongest shoot, take the others off, pinch off the points of the side shoots from time to time during the summer, and don't be afraid of the hoe. Take up again in the fall, as before, cutting the cane back to three buds, and the roots back to within five or six inches of where they were cut the preceding year; the next season do precisely the same, and set them out again, only give more room this time than last season, but lift again as usual. The next fall prune to three or four buds, as before, the roots to within six or eight inches of where they were pruned the previous autumn. Take care of them one winter more as before, and, my word for it, you have a grape root such as no nurseryman has for sale, or probably would get paid for if he had. A plant of the same age that has not been lifted and root pruned, is not as good as a one-year old, for with care you can make a good plant of a one-year old; with the other you cannot.

When ready to set the vines in permanent place, we don't want either dead cattle, horses or hogs, old boots, bones or blood; all we want is a piece of land that will grow a middling hill of corn or potatoes without manure. I will just tell what I did three years ago with vines treated as described. I had 200 of them, mostly Concord, Isabella and Roger's No. 15. I put them out in rows running east and west, 10 feet apart, in the last week in May, which was very late, and the buds were all started, some of them having made a growth of 3 or 4 inches, but as they were root pruned in the fall, wounds all healed, and needed no trimming, and taking care they did not get dry, they never seemed to know they had been moved. I dug the holes on the south side of the stakes, about 7 or 8 inches deep at the stake, sloping to about a foot at the ends of the roots; set in the vines, carefully working in the soil among the roots, filling the holes half full of soil, then packing in a peck of leaves and covering with the remaining soil.

I then set two stakes to each vine, selecting two of the strongest shoots to grow for next year's crop, with a bunch, and sometimes two, of fruit on them, besides two other shoots. I pinched off two or three leaves beyond the last branch; of course the selected shoots got no pinching till September, except the side shoots, or laterals as they are called, which were pinched three or four times during the summer. In September, or early in October, I picked 400 pounds of well-ripened fruit from these vines. I pruned again in the fall, this time leaving two canes four feet long to each, excepting a very few that had not grown quite so strong, and on which I left only one. I laid on the ground for winter protection with a few sods to hold them down, while a light covering of leaves held in place with a little dirt, secured them for the winter. Next season I gave them a trellis, and they gave me nearly an average of ten pounds each. Among them was a cane with three bunches that took the State Fair premium for the best three bunches of Concord on a single cane. Now I never was in a vineyard in my life unless my own may be called such, never saw one till I came to this country, and to find out what I had really accomplished I went to our State Fair in 1870 and took the first premium for most and best varieties of grapes, and the Transactions of the State Horticultural Society will show that I take more premiums than any one else.

I believe that unless vines are treated as I have described, they will not suit our severe climate. When Dr. Grant was blowing his horn so loudly about the Delaware, and advising fall planting, and layering so much from year to year, his pretty theory and pictures induced me to take $20 worth of bait (two dozen vines). I prepared the ground according to rule, set out in the fall, protected well with sandy soil (which was easily done, as the plants were little or no bigger than a timothy straw), and the result was that next spring three of the vines made an attempt to grow and finally gave up the ghost about midsummer; the others never even tried to make a live of it. That was enough for me of Dr. Grant and the Delaware for two or three years. After that I got a few cuttings, took care of them in the way described, and find them as hardy as Concord, and I think the secret of it is in caring for them the first three years; then they can be set deep enough to take care of themselves.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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EDITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1876.

SPRING AND SUMMER PROSPECTS.

THE warm winter through most of the country has been very unfavorable for business, particularly in the West. In many places the roads have been almost unfathomable, and farmers have been unable to get to market, either to sell produce or purchase necessary supplies. In consequence of this state of things money has been exceedingly scarce among farmers, and business of all kinds has been unusually depressed. The coming of settled weather and better roads will of itself secure an improvement in business in many localities, and wherever any considerable portion of last year's crops remains unsold, money may even become comparatively plenty.

Notwithstanding some unseasonable weather in March, we believe the spring will prove earlier than for many years. Frosts and snows have not accumulated in large bodies, and the ice in the Northern lakes will be cleared out and open for navigation much earlier than usual. It is this cause more than any other which makes Northern springs backward. As a rule, we think farmers are preparing to sow and plant less than usual. But an early spring will enable them to do their work better, with less help, and probably, if fine weather prevails, to plant a little more than they had intended. The wheat crop seems generally to have stood the winter well, and farmers in Minnesota had commenced sowing spring wheat early in April. Wages are generally lower than for several years past, and if farmers would take the true view of the matter, the encouragements for hiring and planting largely were never better.

For the last two or three years winter wheat has been more injured by cold, dry weather in April and May than by winter freezing and thawing. Cold northwest winds have dried the partially exposed roots of winter grain, and prevented it from pushing forward. In such weather harrowing wheat instead of being beneficial has sometimes proved an injury, as pulverizing the soil without admitting moisture has only resulted in exposing new surfaces of roots to the winds. Forecasting the weather is always a difficult matter, but it is probable that this spring will be much more favorable for harrowing wheat than either of the last three previous ones.

What farmers should plant or sow for profit this year is beyond the wisdom of any one to advise. Every farmer must be guided by his circumstances and necessities. It is pretty safe to advise as great a diversity of crops as possible, and to have such crops as will be not only always salable, but furnish continuous employment through the season. Where only one crop is grown, the work comes all at once, requiring greatly increased cost of labor or neglect at the critical season. It is also safe to advise attempting a good deal—not however beyond your means to accomplish. Other things being equal, the farmer who sows and plants most largely, having of course plenty of manure and labor, will reap most abundantly, and he who only sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly. We read so much about the importance of concentrating effort, and of the profit of a little land well tilled, that we are apt to forget the other truth lying beside it, which is that on a large farm it is hardly possible for a farmer to make much money by cultivating only a few of his many acres. If two acres or ten acres are enough to cultivate they are enough to own, and the farmer had better sell the remainder of his farm than to keep it lying idle.

USE THE WHOLE FARM.

FARMING must be conducted on business principles or it cannot be successful. The first endeavor of a shrewd business man is to keep all his capital profitably employed. He is not satisfied to make large profits on a part while the greater portion is lying idle, nor will he allow lack of care or capital to rob him of profits which he might otherwise have made. Too many farmers, on the contrary, think they are doing well when they make large profits on one or two crops, or fields, though other parts of their farm may not be paying anything. Often on the cultivated parts of a farm the results are satisfactory enough, if it were not that these were so small as not to pay necessary expenses of conducting it. The farmer finds himself as badly off as the merchant who made a disastrous failure while selling all his goods at one hundred per cent. profit. The explanation is, that the merchant kept a peanut stand and his receipts were only fifty cents a day. The twenty-five cents clear profit did not pay the man's board and lodging, and he was bankrupted by personal expenses.

Looking at the subject from this point of view, we have innumerable agricultural and other journals urging farmers to reduce their expenses—to economize to the utmost extent in their homes, in travel, and on the farm itself. They seem to forget that farmers are already far more economical than any other class, and, without any prompting, have denied themselves luxuries, and even comforts, deemed almost indispensable by the residents of cities. The great majority of farmers, knowing that they cannot economize in their homes and personal expenses more than they do, accept this advice as recommending the hiring of less labor—planting and sowing fewer acres, scanty manuring and imperfect cultivation. In the meantime, family and personal expenses remain as before, because they have already been reduced to the lowest limit. It is easy to foresee that such a policy can only result in still smaller profits and greater pecuniary embarassment.

This policy is based entirely on a fallacy. Because farming does not pay it does not follow that holding a farm and doing nothing with it will be more profitable. It may be proved that owning land is unprofitable, but if the owner cannot sell at fair prices, he ought to make the most of his farm while he holds it. In this view, too little rather than too much help is employed. In the great majority of farms the profit depends more in the labor and manure put upon the land than upon the number of acres. Two men working fifty acres will produce and sell more than one man on one hundred acres. Often on a farm of one hundred acres, three, four, or even five men can be profitably employed, the number depending almost wholly on ability to secure manure. It does not pay to hire labor to cultivate sterile soil, or in fact any soil which cannot be made to produce large crops.

Farmers have been limited by their inability to get manures, except as made on the farm itself. Some of the shrewdest farmers of former years have yearly kept and fattened sheep and cattle, mainly as a means of increasing the manure pile. Others have sown clover seed, and manured it with gypsum.

It is only quite recently that farmers have practically learned the advantage of commercial fertilizers, and their greatest benefit is not yet fully understood. It is not the question whether commercial fertilizers are better than barnyard manures. Concede, if you please, that they are not so good. The fact remains, that where the farmer relies entirely on manures made in his barnyard he cannot, on one hundred acres, manure more than eight or twelve at the most so as to get a paying crop. Commercial manures will enable him to fertilize double or treble that amount of land without doubling or trebling his expenses. In this way he more than doubles his profits, besides the fertility of his farm. The peanut merchant would have done an exceedingly profitable business if he could have sold fifty dollars a day. What farmers need is to extend rather than decrease their operations, using more labor and more manure, and thereby cultivating the whole rather than merely a part of their farms. Doing this they will produce more cheaply, and not only have more to sell, but make a larger profit on every bushel of grain, or pound of meat, that they dispose of.

A QUESTION OF "JEALOUSY."

A CORRESPONDENT of the Boston Cultivator asks that journal:—"Please tell me what is the trouble between WILLARD and ARNOLD. I see in the Husbandman severe strictures on my friend WILLARD, and they accuse him of abusing ARNOLD. What is the matter? This I have to say:—If our great teachers, to whom we have looked for instruction in dairying, are so jealous of each other as to throw mud, I think it is time for dairymen to look elsewhere for what they need. We (*i. e.*, the St. Lawrence County Dairymen's Association) have been friends of both, have employed them both and paid both for their services rendered, and we now insist that they *must be good friends and work together* for the good of the whole dairy interest of the country, or we must look elsewhere for dairy instruction."

So far as the RURAL NEW-YORKER is concerned, its Dairy Editor last week proved conclusively that he had not been "jealous" of Mr. ARNOLD, or if he had, that he kept such "jealousy" very secret, noticing and commending Mr. A. frequently and warmly, urging his appointment to prominent positions in dairy matters, and every way dealing by him fairly and honorably. The charge that Mr. WILLARD was jealous of Mr. ARNOLD originated with the latter through his organ *two weeks before* the RURAL NEW-YORKER made its exposure of the Dairy Ring. If that exposure—simply stating the facts—was "throwing mud," we need a new definition of those words. The exposure was made solely from public motives—to save the Dairy interest at the Centennial from a mistake which threatened to make the display a failure. Read the Remonstrance of leading Northwestern Dairymen for proof.

The truth is that Mr. ARNOLD has long been "jealous" of Mr. WILLARD, and has been making this complaint among his personal friends for some time past. Only last year Mr. WILLARD was asked by the Secretary of the N. W. Dairy Association to recommend him to some suitable person to deliver an address, and he named Mr. ARNOLD. After delivering the address, Mr. ARNOLD complained to the Secretary that Mr. WILLARD had ignored and tried to injure him. Of course the slander was refuted, and Mr. A. was informed that it was on Mr. WILLARD'S recommendation that he had been invited to deliver the address. In the absence of the Dairy Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER we make this explanation, which throws a great deal of light on this subject. When a man is charged with "jealousy" of another he may, though entirely free from that feeling, find it difficult to prove a negative. Mr. WILLARD has conclusively shown that he has not exhibited "jealously" of Mr. ARNOLD in his actions or writings. The latter's warmest friend cannot say as much for him in his relations, not only to Mr. WILLARD but to other well-known writers on dairy subjects. We name as one, Prof. WICKSON, late of the Utica Herald and now of the Pacific Rural Press.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Wants a File.—The Editor of the Rural Home neither denies nor admits the falsifying which the RURAL NEW-YORKER proved upon him two weeks ago. He does, however, plead that he wrote the falsehoods about the RURAL NEW-YORKER and its Editor without knowing whether they were true or not. "They were penciled while on the cars, with no file of the NEW-YORKER to consult," is his excuse. And now this cheeky Editor wants some one to send him a file in order to see how much lying he has been doing. He should have thought of that before. It seems to us that he might as well gnaw away at the file he already has, even though the RURAL NEW-YORKER does set his teeth on edge. The R. H. is, too, evidently anxious to get into a controversy; but it is hardly worth while to dispute with a journal which makes false charges at random and inquires as to their truth afterwards. Our contemporary shows so plainly its animus that its own readers, seeing only what it publishes, cannot mistake its character.

An Unjust Punishment.—Massachusetts is earning a hard name for her treatment of criminals. The latest case is that of Moses S. Wheeler, convicted eight years ago of arson on testimony of his sister. On her death-bed the sister confessed that she perjured herself and established her brother's innocence. He, having worked for the State eight years under an unjust sentence, naturally demands some compensation. The Legislative Committee investigating the case report against allowing it, "because it might establish a dangerous and costly precedent." The justice of his claim seems not to have been considered. At the best, Mr. Wheeler has lost eight years of his life besides all the disgrace of imprisonment. He could probably recover judgment by suing the State for damages, and this method of getting justice is worthy his consideration.

The Profits of the Centennial Exhibition.—The Philadelphia Ledger makes this computation: "If the Centennial Exhibition costs $7,500,000 the amount claimed to complete it, in order simply to realize this sum it will be necessary for 15,000,000 people to visit it once at the price of admission, 50 cents; and as the time is confined to 158 days (from May to Nov. 10, deducting Sundays, on which it will be closed), it will require the daily attendance of over 94,900 people." It is very doubtful whether this high average can be maintained, and besides this, there will remain innumerable incidental expenses, aside from the Exhibition buildings, which must be paid out of the receipts. Not one of the great international exhibitions have paid a profit, and our own, with the millions of Europe so far away, is not likely to prove an exception.

Where the Shoe Pinches.—The Editor of the Rural Home says:

"When it (the RURAL NEW-YORKER) went to New-York, it left the best portion of its special field for other occupancy."

That this is not true the Editor of the Rural Home has been gradually discovering, and this is what is the matter with the R. H. and one or two other journals which lose no occasion to assail the RURAL NEW-YORKER. The Spanish proverb says, "The tongue will always find the aching tooth." We have felt quite sure that the R. H. could not help telling the secret cause of its attacks on this journal and its editors, and this it has at last unmistakably done.

The American Insurance Co. of Chicago.—Long before the time of the great Chicago fire, it became apparent that though a company taking large risks in cities could do a profitable business by insuring farm property also, the combination was not beneficial to the farmer. This impression was greatly strengthened when the ruin of so many companies by that and other great fires compelled the farmers to pay a second, and in some instances a third, time for the same insurance, and taught them the safety of insuring with companies doing a farm business only. This did not suit the companies doing a mixed business, and, in the West especially, they have been making war upon the American Insurance Company of Chicago, because it was, and is, and promises to continue, one of the leading and most successful farmers' companies. The charges brought against it by its busy maligners are such as impose upon the ignorant only. The American, regarded as an all cash company, has ample assets and as large a surplus in proportion to its liabilities as any company. Besides this, it has a couple of millions of premium notes, which are first-class assets to fall back upon, giving it a larger amount of resources in proportion to its liabilities than any of the companies that are trying to prejudice the public against it. This company does business upon all the improved plans, notably, the installment plan, by which it insures for a term of years, but collects the premiums year by year. It insures only detached property. It has always done a safe and prosperous business, has the fullest confidence of its patrons, and is, in every respect, a company to be relied upon.

The Senate and the Postage.—The U. S. Senate has passed Senator HAMLIN'S postage bill with some amendments, the principal of which is to allow reduced postage—one cent for three ounces on newspapers, but requiring the present rate on third-class matter. This places the Senate in antagonism to the House, and a committee of conference will probably be appointed before either bill can become a law. In demanding a cheap and uniform rate of postage on all third-class matter, the lower House of Congress unquestionably represents the people. Congress ought not to give way to the Senate and won't, if the people back their representatives as they should. A motion to pass the bill as it came from the House was only defeated by a tie vote—25 to 25. If the House does not back down the Senate speedily will.

Kerosene Dangerous.—Dr. WILSON of Meriden, Conn., says that kerosene oil is the origin of diphtheria. The disease is a comparatively new one, and was not known before the oil wells were discovered. Wherever diphtheria prevails, Dr. W. prohibits the lighting of kerosene lamps. He says that the substitution of candles always effects a marked change for the better in his patients. He also calls attention to the great prevalence of diphtheria where kerosene refineries are in operation.

Wheat Killed.—The Indiana Farmer says that thousands of acres of wheat have been killed in that State, and will be plowed up and sown with oats. It adds that the oat sowing will probably be very large.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THE Maine Farmer asks for a Dairymen's Board of Trade for that State.

A CALF in Massachusetts on the day of its birth weighed 164 lbs. It was of the Short-Horn breed.

FEED horses liberally as the working season approaches, if you would have crops got in early and in good order.

DAVID DENNETT of New Orleans has published a book, "Louisiana as it Is," which may be interesting to those wishing to go South. Its price is 63 cts., including postage.

CANARY seed is worth $6 to $6.50 per bushel, and it is suggested that it can be profitably grown—at least enough for home use. Sow the seed early in rich soil, as it is liable to injury by summer drouths.

M. B. BATEHAM, in the American Farm Journal, very highly commends the Sterling strawberry, a seedling of the Jucunda, introduced by MATHEW CRAWFORD, and now grown by G. H. LODGE, near Cleveland, Ohio.

SENATOR HAMLIN objects to a reduction of postage because he wants to make the Post-Office Department "pay" the Government. Suppose he should apply this rule to himself. How quickly he would go out of the Senate, as a legislator whose services have never been worth the pay he received.

THE Twelfth Annual Report of the Ohio Dairymen's Association and Proceedings of the Western Reserve Dairymen's Association come to us in a neatly-printed and valuable pamphlet of thirty-two pages. Col. S. D. HARRIS of Hudson, Summit Co., O., is Sec. and Treas., and from him copies of the pamphlet may be procured by those interested.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

Valuable and Reliable.—"**Brown's Bronchial Troches**" are invaluable to those exposed to sudden changes, affording prompt relief in Coughs, Colds, etc.

HUNDREDS of testimonials, from all sections where the "**Phœnix**" **brand Pure White Lead** has been sold, certify to its great superiority over all other paints.

IDYL OF SPRING.

O'ER the earth the Springtime, smiling,
Scattering leaves and flowers along,
Sweeps her harp of vibrant branches,
And the earth breaks forth in song;
Blue the wild flower clothes the hillside,
Green the ivy's trailing vine
Drapes the rocks in graceful festoons,
Sunshine gilds the somber pine.

In the icy steps of Winter,
Ferns and flowers are gay and green;
O'er the stream, freed from its bondage,
Budding willows wave and lean;
Now the blackbird and the swallow,
Glad-voiced darlings of the Spring,
Fill the air with pleasant twitter,
Their sweet mother welcoming.

The Story-Teller.

NELLIE HARTWELL'S HOUSEKEEPING.

"My dearest Nellie!"

"Dear Horace!"

"And you will be content to take me as I am—a poor clerk, with only seven hundred a year? Will you be happy to pass life with me in a small house, and attend to the domestic affairs yourself?"

"Yes, Horace."

"But, have you considered, my best beloved, how great a burden this may sometimes be?"

"A burden! O, Horace, as if anything that I could do for *you* would be a burden! A sweet little vine-wreathed cottage will be delightful. A cozy house all to ourselves, and no prying housemaids to spy into everything we do, and prate of our faults and failings to the whole neighborhood!"

"And no burnt steak and black coffee! Doubly delicious the ambrosial nectar that your lily hands shall prepare, my day-star, my wife—that is to be."

Immediately upon this followed a concussion which made the windows clatter as in the breath of a tempest; and, from what little experience we have had in such promises, we must venture to affirm that he kissed her—which of course sealed the compact.

Horace Hartwell was a fine-looking young fellow of twenty-three—a clerk in the jobbing-house of Martin & Turner; and Nellie Armstead was the daughter of a man who, though by no means wealthy, had a wonderful talent for appearing so. In this laudable endeavor he was aided by his wife—a handsome, showy woman, who brought her daughter up to ornament the parlor, to the utter utter exclusion of the kitchen. Therefore, Nellie was well qualified by education to become the mistress of a house, and the regulator of its domestic affairs.

Horace Hartwell had fallen in love with her pretty face at a picnic; and, on obtaining an introduction, the infatuation had increased, until he came to the conclusion that he could not live without her; and Nellie was firmly convinced that she should pine away and die if separated from Horace. And having succeeded in convincing Mrs. Hartwell of this fact, that lady informed her husband, and the good man had nothing to do but consent to the marriage which was to be the means of saving two valuable lives.

One fine, sunshiny morning in May, Horace and Nellie stood before the clergyman, and after that people called Nellie Mrs. Hartwell, and congratulated her on the happiness which was within her reach.

The young couple took up their residence in a neat, one-story house a little removed from the bustle of the city, and easy of access from the store where Horace was employed. And here they first came to realize that Longfellow was not far from the truth, when he said,

"Life is real, life is earnest."

Their house was comfortably, if not luxuriously furnished, and an ample stock of the good things of life was laid in for Nellie to exercise her skill upon as a *cuisinier*.

When everything was put to rights, and Horace had gone to his place of business, leaving many a lover-like kiss on the white forehead of his wife together with the intimation that he would expect dinner at three o'clock, Nellie consulted her watch, and found that she had full four hours in which to prepare that important meal. She would dress before she commenced doing anything about the kitchen, she thought; she had read so much of untidy housekeepers, it never should be said *she* went round the house in slip-shod shoes or dingy wrappers. O, no, housework should never make a sloven of her.

So Nellie went up to her chamber, arranged her hair in becoming ringlets, donned a pretty white cashmere *peignoir* over an embroidered skirt, and with black velvet bracelets on her arms and a blush rose in its own sweet buds and foliage on her bosom, it must be confessed that little Nellie looked pretty enough to challenge anybody's admiration.

"Let me see," quoth she, meditating, "what shall I have for dinner? Horace is fond of broiled steak; I've heard him say so. And pudding; yes, there must be pudding; a rice one, I guess, will be best. And then there must be potatoes and bread. That will suffice for the eatables; now for the drinkables, as Aunt Keziah says. Shall I have tea, coffee, chocolate or water? My head doesn't feel very well, and it shall be tea; tea helps settle anybody's head, I have heard mother say. That's all, I believe—no, there's the sauce; there must be some kind of sauce. Shall it be apple or cranberry? For this once, cranberry; it's an abominable job to pare apples, and it stains one's hands so shockingly; and Horace can't endure stained hands. I'll go and make a fire now."

And suiting the action to the word, Nellie, after some search, found the coal shovel, and put into the stove a peck of coal and an ignited bunch of friction matches, then stood quietly awaiting the conflagration which was to ensue. Nothing alarming occurred; there was considerable smoke, and a powerful, strong smell of brimstone, but no great fire. She concluded that the matches didn't get fairly burning, so she tried another bunch; and believing this could not fail of accomplishing her design, she retired to the pantry as the next field of operation. After considerable thought on the subject, she decided to make the pudding first; it would be the most difficult job, she argued. Well, how was it to be made? "The Revised American Cook Book and Delicate Housewife's Especial and Valuable Friend in Need" was called in play. There was a paragraph on the cover to the effect that you would find everything worth knowing within the lids of that invaluable casket of diamonds; and Nellie fondly believed that people in general prefer speaking truth to a lie! So she opened the book in full faith touching its veracity.

"Rice Pudding. Put the rice to soak in lukewarm water, having picked it clean of all impurities; and milk, sugar, and salt to your taste. A little nutmeg and a couple of eggs improve it."

"Goodness me!" ejaculated Nellie, "how am I to know anything about it, I wonder? How much is a little nutmeg? And how much rice, and milk, and sugar, will be enough? And, as I live, if there ain't the awfulest smut spot upon my skirt! I must wash that out the first thing!" And, forgetful of pudding and dinner, she flew to the wash-bowl, and scrubbed the soiled cambric till its gaping threads cried eloquently for quarter.

By the time this was cleansed she espied a second spot, located on the sleeve of her dressing-gown, and this must undergo the same elaborate process as the former blemish. When thus much was gone through with, she saw that the rose on her bosom was in a disabled condition—the rose itself being among the missing, and the two delicate buds broken and wilted. So Nellie had to go up stairs and get a fresh blossom. Horace admired flowers, and thought Nellie became them amazingly.

"Now the pudding must be mixed, for certain," said she, assuming an air of pretty importance, which, unfortunately, no one was there to see. "Let me read that receipt over again. 'Pick it clean of all impurities.' I wonder if that means the water, or the rice. It can't mean the rice, assuredly, for that is as clean as it possibly can be; it is the double refined—no, double distilled—mercy! strange that I should forget the label on the box! Well, it is pure rice, that don't need any picking, any way. How much rice will it take? Goodness! I wish the cook book was a little more definite. Some time, I'll write one myself, that will give all the particulars to a teaspoonful. Well, we shall want the large white dish full; I'll measure it, and see how much it holds."

And away flew Nellie to guage the pudding-dish, in order to calculate the quantity needed for the pudding. She found the plate capable of containing two quarts, and from this she concluded that two quarts of rice would be quite enough. The extravagant item was measured out, and committed to a tin pan full of water to undergo the soaking process, and Nellie surveyed with dismay what remained in the box.

"Dear me! it must be a terrible expense to keep house—here's every bit of that rice gone for a pudding; and Horace only having seven hundred dollars a year. I must try to be very saving. I won't use as much sugar as I intended to; and the recipe says a little nutmeg—and I won't put in so much as that. Economy is a real virtue."

Soliloquizing thus to herself, Nellie mixed the rice, water and all, with a cupful of milk, a teacupful of sugar, two unbeaten eggs, a half a cup of salt, and a few grains of nutmeg. This precious compound she put into the oven of the stove and then proceeded to examine the fire. This was not so easily done, as there was no fire to be examined. Nellie thought she never did see such a contrary stove in her life; and by way of improving its contumacious disposition, she poured two or three spoonfuls of burning fluid on the coal, and then touched a lucifer to it. The effect was astonishing; the covers of the stove were blown off like a beaver hat in a nor'wester, and the fire proved to be a mere "flash in the pan."

"Never mind," said Nellie, in a consolatory tone: "I guess it will kindle; there seems to be a small blaze underneath."

The potatoes were brought next, and having carefully peeled them, she placed them in a kettle with some water and put them over the stove. Then she cut the steak—and her finger at the same time; and the extraordinary gyration which she made under the influence of the pain upset the flour bucket into the slop-pail and entangled her crinoline in the hooks of the steelyards which depended from the wall. It was a long time before she could break clear from those tenacious intruders; the steel frame-work of her skeleton held on like true metal, and the hooks of the steelyards were bound not to let go; so a compromise was made, and Nellie divested herself of the war-like garment and disengaged the combatants at her leisure.

Nellie had heard her mother's cook say that pounding meat made it tender; and, in pursuance of this knowledge, she put the pieces of steak into a mortar and pounded them until the perspiration streamed down her face and her arms ached with the exertion. As for the meat, it is best not to say much regarding the appearance; but it more strongly resembled a poultice than anything else.

While she was thus engaged the cat—a family pet—had taken possession of the remainder of the steak, and was enjoying it to her feline heart's content, in the shadow of the pickle jar.

"Scat, scat, you beast! Shoo, scat, there! Shoo, I say!" cried Nell, dropping the mortar, and making at pussy with the pestle elevated over her head. The cat, to avoid the impending blow, made a sidelong spring, knocking down a shelf which held several vessels of milk, and this shelf falling upon the egg basket, smashed a chosen dozen of as good eggs as ever a hen cackled over.

Nellie had quite a mind to sit down in the midst of the ruin and indulge in a good cry; but she controlled herself, and after mopping up the milk, to the great detriment of her white garments, she went out into the kitchen to see what progress the fire was making. There was not the least vestige of a fire about the premises, and poor Nellie was in despair. Just then she spied a boy going by, and called out:

"Here, boy, here! I'll give you ninepence to do a little job for me."

The boy's eye glistened at the prospect, and he obeyed her call with alacrity; but, when she told him to make a fire, he laughed in her face. However, he was a capable lad—as Nellie thought—and ere long, by his skillful application of kindlings, a brisk fire was in progress. The stipulated price was paid, and Nellie considered it a good bargain.

The pudding was in the oven, the potatoes in the pot, the steak on the gridiron upon the top of the stove—everything was *en traine*. By-and-by the dripping from the fat began to smell rather unpleasantly; it filled the room with smoke so dense and stifling that poor Nellie's eyes grew red and tearful; and the tortured meat sizzled and hissed, and turned black as a bear's skin. Nellie threw open the doors and stuck to her task of turning the gridiron, resolved in vulgar, though expressive parlance, "to grin and bear it."

The pudding boiled over a continued stream; the potatoes bounced up and down in the kettle like cockle shells in a stormy sea; the steak groaned and spit; and in the midst of it all the clock struck three. Punctual to the hour, Henry's step sounded in the entry; the kitchen door was flung open with a lover's impetuosity, and that individual invaded the smoky room.

"Good gracious, Nellie! is the house on fire? Come here this moment, darling. What under the canopy ails your face? It's blacker than the ace of spades—begging your pardon for the comparison. Do look into the glass, Nell!"

He wheeled her round towards the mirror, and surely, the picture there presented was not the most attractive one that a young husband might wish to look upon. The ashes which had been evolved from the stove through her unremitting attempts to make a fire, had settled on her hair, until her head was as white as that of an ancient militia captain, powdered for training day. One long curl had dipped itself in the hot water, over which she had been standing in vain effort to scrub the stains from her clothes, and it was straightened out as perpendicular as a candle, and hung, dripping with water, down her back. To finish the *tout ensemble*, a streak of smut extended from her left temple across her nose to her right cheek, and at sight of the ridiculous figure she made poor Nellie burst into tears. This only made matters worse; but Horace, like a true hero, kissed away the tears, soot and all, transferring by far the larger portion of the latter substance to his own face. Then he off coat, turned up sleeves, and announced himself ready to assist about the dinner. In this respect Horace was a jewel, and his wife blessed him for the generous heart which prompted his ready sympathy. But his abilities as a cook were in no wise equal to his will. He turned the steak, and lost half of it in the fire through the bars of the gridiron, "set" the table with the cloth wrong side out, the knives in the spoon-holder, the butter in the preserve bowl, and mistook the pudding dish for the meat plate.

The potatoes were fished out of the pot, boiled to a complete mash; not one particle was left upon another; and Horace, to his wife's dismay, insisted upon straining potatoes and water through the dish-cloth, in the hope of saving the remains.

At last they sat down to dinner—baker's bread, suspicious-looking butter, meat, and a pie from the confectioner's. The pudding was to answer for the dessert.

"Is there tea or coffee, dearest?" asked Horace, looking dubiously over the table.

"Goodness, if I didn't forget it!" cried Nellie, springing up with such force as to upset the castor, and send the vinegar dancing to the floor. "How much tea will it take for us?"

"I don't know, I'm sure," said Horace, slowly. "What does your cook-book say?"

Nellie consulted the work.

"It says 'a quantity proportionate to the size of the family.' How much would that be for us?"

"Well, I don't know, about a cup full, I should think."

So a cup full was put into the urn; hot water was added, and the two housekeepers sat down and waited patiently for the steeping to be finished. At last the tea was drawn; Horace sugared and creamed it, and put the cup to his lips.

"Good heavens!" cried he, in dismay; it is strong enough to bear up a long-boat; and black, too. No more black ink needed in this house yet a while. We must drink water to-day. There, there, never mind; it was all my work."

Nellie's tears had begun to flow again, and Horace leaned over the table to kiss her forehead, upsetting the tea at the same time into the bosom of his white vest. The amount of caloric contained in the fluid was decidedly unpleasant, and poor Horace, under the influence of the pain, kicked over his chair and broke the looking-glass with the flourish of his elbows. Then he begged Nellie's pardon, picked up the chair, removed the fragments of the mirror, kissed his Niobe of a wife, and sat down to finish his dinner. Alas for his appetite! The steak was nothing but a burnt cinder—outrageously detrimental to molars and

SOAP BUBBLES.

Incisors; the potatoes were *non est;* and Horace saved all his powers for the pudding. And he had need of them.

The dessert was brought on and poured into its appropriate receptacle, and Horace helped himself and his wife to bountiful portions.

"Turk's Island! and crystallized limestone!" cried he, dropping his first mouthful back into his plate. "Lot's wife must have been imported in the last steamer."

"Why, Horace!" exclaimed Nellie, in alarm, "what is the matter with the pudding?"

"Salter than salitudus! Do taste, Nell!"

One mouthful was sufficient. Nellie's pretty face was screwed up into a hundred puckers.

"Why, Horace, who would have thought it? I only put in half a cup full."

Dinner passed off rather soberly. Nellie was mortified at the ill success of her hard work. Horace was obliged to quit the table hungry, and we all know that a man with an empty stomach, and the prospect of that organ's remaining thus, is a formidable animal.

However, his good humor returned directly. He kissed Nellie good-by, and left her to the task of washing the dishes—no easy duty, by the way.

The dinner and its accompaniments were but the prototype of many another dinner. It would be infinitely amusing to the reader to follow Nellie Harwell through the four weeks following her removal to a house of her own.

She invariably forgot to make the bed until she went up stairs to retire; the lamps were never filled till the moment they were wanted; the carpets were swept after she had dusted the furniture; she boiled the calico clothes and the white ones together; made starch of cold water; ironed Horace's dickies wrong side out; sewed up the fingers of his gloves; mistook salt for saleratus and tartar emetic for salt; burnt the meat, forgot to sweeten the sponge cake, and made a hundred other blunders that every inexperienced housekeeper can imagine for herself.

A month of this kind of existence passed away, and Nellie broached a plan to her husband. Horace was only too delighted to consent. Their house was shut up; the young man went to a boarding-house and Nellie went to Aunt Martha Chase, a widowed sister of her father, who resided in a country town some twenty miles away.

Aunt Martha was a lady more celebrated for the excellence of her pies and preserves than for the number of her flounces, and under her tutelage Nellie became, in time, what every woman should be, without regard to her station, a good housekeeper. And when at the end of three months she went back to her own house, there were no more salt puddings or burned steaks.

Little lady, think well beforehand, if the adoration of your accepted lover will live after marriage if fed upon bad bread and black coffee.

FAST LIFE.

Every newspaper reader must have noticed the unusually large number of exposures of dishonest clerks and cashiers lately made in this city. Whether these have been crowded into a few weeks by the general scrutiny which the close of the year always makes in mercantile affairs or not, we do not know. It is certain, however, that the magnitude of some of those thefts and the baseness of certain breaches of trust show a most unfortunate state of things. In the four or five cases of the deliberate stealing of goods from mercantile houses which have been reported within a few weeks, the facts look blacker for the thieving employes than they would if the purloiners had been driven to theft by sheer distress. One young man, who had smuggled his plunder out of the warehouse for more than two years, and had systematically repacked and sold it, is described as a person of good habits and "highly respectable connections." Yet he had stolen about $20,000 worth of goods from his employers before he was detected.

It will be found that almost all the betrayals of commercial trusts to which we refer have extravagant or fast living for their immediate motive. It need not be supposed that expensive habits necessarily involve gambling, drinking, or secret immoralities. That there is too much of this in the career of young men of small incomes and extravagant lives everybody admits. One young man who managed to make away with nearly one hundred thousand dollars of his employer's cash was, a week or two since, discovered to be maintaining a costly private establishment. Another dishonest cashier was suddenly found to be a gambler, and a third, over-fond of fast horses and fine equipages, went into the stock market to "make a raise," lost, and finally retrieved himself by stealing from his employers' cash-box and falsifying his accounts. But although these particularly flagrant breaches of trust seem to prove that vicious habits lead directly to dishonest practices, multitudes of other cases remain unaccounted for on any such theory.

Somehow it seems hard for our people—more particularly our city people—to come down to the plainer style of living which we knew before the war. The times have changed, but the manners have not. Ever since the panic of 1873 we have been "coming down to bed-rock," as the expressive phrase runs, but thousands of people refuse to modify their expenditures accordingly. In the nature of things, it is impossible for men to make the sudden fortunes, with almost no capital, which were once so common. But young men in commercial life, shut up to the prospect of a certain fixed and not princely salary, are discontented because they cannot keep luxuriously furnished apartments, entertain their friends handsomely, and dress expensively. The highly respectable young man, of correct habits, who muddles away his modest salary on fine clothes, upholstery, pictures and bric-a-brac, is in a fair way to be tempted to steal from his employer whenever he has a good chance. He cannot endure a plain style of living—so many of his associates' manners of life makes him seem mean. In this way the temptations of a city life are really much greater than the moralists make them appear.

The consequences of this false style of living are clearly apparent. If some new Asmodeus could take the roofs off our city houses, he would be appalled by the revelation of domestic unhappiness caused by ambitious extravagance. But worse than this is the crime into which so many young men are led by a similar weakness. Employers do not know much about the habits and expenses of their servants. We do not exactly see how they can. The conditions of society have changed very much since the time when young men in shops, warehouses and banking-houses were regarded as apprentices, and were a part of the family of their employers. The only hope for the future is in a more general practice of economy in all departments of life. The old-fashioned virtue of frugality seems quite lost. Few young men save anything. Many of them spend more than they earn. The result is that the shore is strewn with moral wrecks.—*N. Y. Times.*

A GOLDEN GIRL.

There is a servant girl living in a family on Howard street who wouldn't be permitted to change places if $10 per week would be any inducement for her to stay. She makes it her special duty to meet agents and beggars at the door, and to dispose of them without the least annoyance to the family. She has a rule to meet each case, and her rules are perfection. The door-bell never fools her. She can tell a caller's ring from a beggar's ring as certainly as the bell is touched. When she opens the door and finds a man with a red goatee having a clothes-wringer in his hand, she doesn't wait for him to hem and haw and say that his clothes-wringer beats all the other wringers ever made. She gets the start by saying:

"You seem like a decent, respectable man, and as a friend I warn you that the owner of the house saw you come up the steps and he ran into the back yard to unchain his Russian bloodhound."

The man with the red goatee slings that wringer over his right shoulder and canters out of that neighborhood with his teeth on edge and cold chills playing lag up and down his back.

The next one may be a young lady, who boldly inquires for the lady of the house, and has a new kind of lace powder to sell.

"You can go in," whispered the girl, "and I will stand at the door so as to rush in when you call. If the mistress asks you to taste anything, beware of poison. She may not have her little revolver with her this morning, and I guess it will be safe for you to go in."

"Why—why—?" stammers the young lady.

"Go right in—she may not be dangerous!"

"Never mind—I'll call again—I'm in a hurry!"

And that settles that case.

The next is one of those old chaps who go about with tears in his eyes, willing to work if work can be had, but never finding any work their health will permit them to do.

"Madam," he says, as she opens the door, "for mercy's sake, let me work at something long enough to earn a slice of bread!"

She motions him to go around to the side door, and is there to let him in. She hands him an ax weighing seven pounds, with a straight handle, points to three or four big knots which have became almost petrified, and softly says:

"You look hungry, and as soon as you split those up, I'll give you the best meal you've had in a month."

She goes in, and he spits on his hands, looks at that old ax, and then folds his little tent and slips through the gate like a shadow of fate.

Then the little girl who canvasses for the orphan asylum, rings the bell. She is met with a smile, and the hired girl says:

"You poor little thing! I pity the orphans, and I'd like to give you some money. If you will get the mayor to come here and say that it is all right, I will give you three cents."

The little girl thoughtfully pursues her way, and another case comes, is met and disposed of, and the mistress of that house is never disturbed or annoyed.

KEEP CHEERFUL.

It is not very difficult for a person to be sunny-tempered when everything is going prosperously with him. When a man has made two or three hundred dollars a day, and all the signs are favorable for his making the same amount to-morrow, how good-natured he can be. When the hour comes to close the store, he takes his hat from the peg, buttons up his overcoat, draws on his gloves and starts for his home with the feelings of a king. He feels kindly towards everybody. He buys a paper of the newsboy, snaps him a ten cent scrip, and hurries along without waiting for the return change, chuckling to himself as if he had perpetrated a first-class joke. When he comes to his house he smiles at the servant, kisses his wife,—or ought to—bounces the baby, and fills the entire household with a sense of his own supreme satisfaction. Ah me. How easy it is to be good-natured under such circumstances. What saints we all are when we have all we want!

But times change. The business sky looks dark and becomes black with ominous clouds. Under our feet run rumblings and the premonitory unsteadiness which always precede a financial earthquake. The commercial atmosphere is motionless and oppressive; everybody senses danger. Buyers are timid; sellers are suspicious. The current of trade shrinks. Goods remain unsold; paper on which you had relied goes to protest; household expenses begin to crowd; small bills accumulate; duns grow imperative. Ah, now is the time, friend when good nature in you is a virtue; yea, a grace, and a grace, so white that it shall be seen in the highest heaven and noted there. Now is the time for you to show what stuff you are really made of. Now is the time, if you are a gentleman, to prove it. If you love your wife, now is the time to show it; if you have faith in something nobler, higher, sweeter, than this world and its possessions, let that faith be manifest in your conduct everywhere. Don't take a gloomy face, and a surly voice, and a sour temper to your household. That household has its own cares, and troubles, and clouds enough in its own sky. Tell your wife your difficulties; but in such a brave, gentle and loving way as, instead of oppressing her spirits, will cause them rather, to rise buoyantly at the thought that she is fully trusted by you and may be able to help you. "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

SLANG OF ARTISTS.

The conversation of artists, when it has reference to their profession, is usually patched up with phrases peculiar to themselves, and which may not improperly be called the slang of art. This jargon, when heard by persons unacquainted with its application, is apt to lead to awkward mistakes. A laughable instance occurred lately. A party of artists were traveling in a stage coach, in which, beside themselves, a sedate, venerable old lady was the only passenger. The conversation among the artists ran as follows:—"How playful these clouds are! That group to the left is sweetly composed, though perhaps a little too solid and rocky for the others. I have seen nothing of Brown lately. I think he is clever. He makes all his flesh too chalky. You must allow, however, that he is very successful with the ladies!" The old lady began to exhibit symptoms of uneasiness, and at the close of each observation cast an anxious and inquiring look at the speaker. Her companions, however, unconscious of the alarm they were exciting (for she entertained doubts as to their sanity), went on in the same style. She heard them, to her increasing dismay, talk of a farm-house coming out from the neighboring trees, and of a gentleman's grounds wanting repose. At length they approached an old village church. A great many observations were made about the keeping, and so forth, of the scene, which the old lady bore with tolerable equanimity. But at last one of the party exclaimed, in a kind of enthusiasm, "See how well the woman in the red cloak carried off the tower." This was too much. The lady screamed to the coachman to stop, paid him her fare, although advanced only half way on her journey, and expressed her thankfulness for having escaped alive from such a set of madmen!

A CONNECTICUT WEDDING FEE.

The Hartford Courant narrates the following ludicrous incident:—A clergyman who was formerly located in this city, but who is now in New York, married a little over a year ago a couple who at once started for Europe and have recently returned. The bridegroom was a gentleman of wealth, and before he presented himself before the altar he placed a $100 greenback in his vest pocket to give the parson for the marriage fee. While crossing the ocean he discovered, greatly to his astonishment, the bill in the pocket where he had placed it, and could account for its presence there only on the theory that he must have had another bill of different denomination, and which he had given to the clergyman by mistake. On getting back to this country he determined to solve the mystery, and waited upon the reverend gentleman and inquired if on a certain occasion he did not marry a certain couple. The clergyman remembered the occasion perfectly. "I know I am about to ask an impertinent question," said the visitor, "but I should like to be informed what fee you received for performing the ceremony?" The clergyman said that he would, of course, gratify him. "I received," he went on to say, "a very small quantity of fine-cut chewing tobacco, folded in a very small piece of paper." The only thing remaining to be done the gentleman did. He laughingly apologized for the mistake, shook hands, and made good his original intention by leaving $100 in the hands of the clergyman.

CÆSAR SMITH AS A FINANCIER.

The "man and brother" is arriving, though by slow degrees, at the distinction of securities. With him, as with his less deeply frescoed fellow-citizen, absolute security for capital invested is of higher moment than large interest. Thus it was with Mr. Cæsar Smith, who applied recently to his neighbor, Mr. Thompson, for advice.

"Mr. Thompson," asked Mr. Smith, "wud you len' Cuff Jones forty dollars ef you was me?"

"What security can he offer?"

"A morgidge."

"A mortgage? Why, what has he got to mortgage?"

"Dat's w'at bodders me, Mr. Thompson. I knows he don't own nuffin but do ol' duds on his back."

"Well, then, how can he give you a mortgage?"

"Dat's de queshun, Mr. Thompson. No, he can't do it, an' I's made up my mln' dat he can't have de money onless he gives me his note o hand.—*Harper's Magazine.*"

Sabbath Reading.

OUR DAILY BREAD.

A beggar boy stood at a rich man's door—
"I am houseless, and friendless, and faint, and poor,"
Said the beggar boy, as a tear-drop rolled
Down his thin cheek, blanched with want and cold.
"Oh, give me a crust from your board to-day,
To help the beggar boy on his way!"
"Not a crust nor a crumb," the rich man said,
"Be off and work for your daily bread."

The rich man went to the parish church,
His face grew grave as he reached the porch;
And the thronging poor, the untaught mass,
Drew back to let the rich man pass.
The service began—the choral hymn
Arose and swelled through the long aisles dim:
Then the rich man knelt, and the words he said,
Were "Give us this day our daily bread."

LET US HELP ONE ANOTHER.

This little sentence should be written on every heart and stamped on every memory. It should be the golden rule practiced not only in every household, but throughout the world. By helping one another we not only remove thorns from the pathway and anxiety from the mind, but we feel a sense of pleasure in our own hearts, knowing we are doing a duty for a fellow-creature. A helping hand, or an encouraging word, is no loss to us, yet it is a benefit to others. Who has not felt the power of this little sentence? Who has not needed the encouragement and aid of a kind friend? How soothing, when perplexed with some task that is mysterious and burdensome, to feel a gentle hand on your shoulder, and to hear a kind voice whispering, "Do you feel discouraged. I see you are troubled—let me help you." What strength is inspired, what hope created, what sweet gratitude is felt, and great difficulty is dissolved as dew beneath the sunshine. Yes, let us help one another by endeavoring to strengthen and encourage the weak and lifting the burdens off from the weary and oppressed, that life may glide smoothly on and the fount of bitterness yield sweet waters; and he whose willing hand is ever ready to aid us, will reward our humble endeavors, and every good deed will be as "bread cast upon the waters, to return after many days," if not to us, to those we love.

"NEW EVERY MORNING."

How many bright things there are in the Book of Lamentations! It has a sad title, and in our happy moods we should hardly think of turning its leaves. Our instinct would be to go to it in our grief to find suitable utterances of our burdened hours. We open to its lines as to those who walk under a weeping sky and beneath the rain of falling tears. But our walk will often, as we look up, show us a rift in the clouds, and the blue sky shining through, and the blessed sunshine streaming down.

Here is an utterance that has the sunbeams in it:—"The Lord's mercies are new every morning." What an assurance this is to carry with us in all our wayfaring through this world!

The future is always dark to us. The shadows brood over it. A veil hides it from our sight. What is under the shadows, what is behind the veil, what is advancing to meet us out of the impervious mist, none of us can know. We have no anxious questions to ask. This is enough for all that is coming—"The Lord's mercies are new every morning." The mornings yet to break upon us may be heavy with storms; no matter, the new mercies will not fail.—*A. L. Stone, D. D.*

GOLDEN THOUGHTS.

Our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them.

The quality we call moral courage is necessary to finished success.

Man may judge us by the success of our efforts; God looks at the efforts themselves.

It was George Herbert who said a handful of good life is worth a bushel of learning.

Our court dress in heaven and our garment of sanctification for daily wear, are the condescending gifts of Christ's love.

The study of literature nourishes youth, entertains old age, adorns prosperity, solaces adversity, is delightful at home and unobtrusive abroad.

If you will not do that which God hath enabled you to do, how can you expect that he should do that for you, which, of yourself, you cannot do?

Trials teach us what we are; they dig up the soil, and let us see what we are made of; they just turn up some of the ill weeds to the surface.

Experience teaches, all is true; but she never teaches in time. Each ever brings its lesson, and the lesson is remembered; but the same event never occurs again.

If life had its fixed beginning and end, we could finish our works or our affairs, before going into the other world; but as everything is begun when we come to the earth, nothing is ended when we leave it.

What would be wanting to make this world a kingdom of Heaven if that tender, profound and self-denying love practiced and recommended by Jesus were paramount in every heart?—*Krummacher.*

It is in the whole people that we must put our hope and trust—the whole people, as they shall be operated upon by slowly-advancing ideas of truth, justice and purity.

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE FOOTSTEP ON THE STAIR.

I HAVE very many treasures
That my heart has hid away;
There's a little curl that's brighter
Than the sunshine of the day;
And a little shoe that's faded
Is among my treasures there—
And I listen when I see it
For a footstep on the stair,
For a patter, patter, patter
Of the footstep on the stair.

Now those little feet are silent,
And the face is hidden low,
Underneath the meadow grasses,
And the daisies' fragrant snow;
And I miss them in the morning,
Pattering feet and face so fair—
But I listen most at bedtime
For the footstep on the stair.

Then she'd come and kneel beside me
In her little gown of white,
And she'd say her short prayer over,
And would kiss me sweet good night.
And I listen in the twilight,
Though I know she is not there,
But I cannot still my yearning
For the footstep on the stair,
For the patter, patter, patter
Of the footstep on the stair.

OUR INFLUENCE.

WE women are not apt to stop and consider the influence that our words, looks and actions exert over those around us. We are constantly surrounded by critical imitators, and those who look to us as being models from which they are to mold their morals and manners. As the mother is, so are her sons and daughters. If a family of children are blessed with an intelligent, cultivated mother, who is dainty and refined in her manners, and does not consider it necessary to be one woman in the drawing-room and an entirely different person in her every-day life, but who is a true mother and always a tender, charming woman, you will invariably see her habits of speech and perfect manners, repeated in her children.

Great, rough men and noisy, busy boys, will always tone down their voices and step quietly, and try to be more mannerly, when she stops to give them a kind word and pleasant smile—for a true woman will never fail to say and do all the kind, pleasant things she can, that will in any way help to lift up and cheer those whose lives are shaded with care and toil. The dear Lord has given us the bright, beautiful sunshine, and we should gather an unlimited supply, so that we can give a generous measure to all who have failed to look up and take this great blessing into their own lives.

The mother of to-day rules the world of to-morrow, and what an untold responsibility rests with her to whom God has given the care of an immortal soul? Talk about "Woman's work!" What work can she do that will be so *grand and complete* as that of training her boys and girls to be true men and women?—To what work can she devote her life that will bring her so great a reward and so bright a crown as this? God pity the poor little ones who are really worse than motherless, and who are left to the tender mercies of a servant, or else sent into the street to be educated, and whose mother is only happy when those "tormented young ones" are out of her sight and hearing. Perhaps that mother is President of some Woman's Rights' Society? God has given her "rights," but she deliberately casts them under her feet,—those precious rights that many a woman would give a kingdom for—but to her, they are irksome bonds that bind her lofty soul to earth! But though there are women who despise the life work that our Heavenly Father has given them, we can thank God that there are so many good and true women who gladly take upon themselves the cares and responsibilities of married life, and who endeavor to live so that their presence shall be like a ray of sunshine in a darkened room, and their sons and daughters shall rise up and call them *blessed!* M. A. D.

Buffalo, N. Y., 1876.

PLAIN WOMEN.

AMONG women of exalted rank who have been wanting in beauty are Margaret of Sweden, Matilda, Empress of Germany, and Christiana of Sweden. Fulvia, wife of Anthony, had a few personal charms; nor had Terentia, wife of Cicero, if one may trust to the majority of historians; but most of these have found some admirers among biographers. Neither Anne of Cleves nor Catherine of Aragon was good-looking; still for a while they swayed the fickle heart of their Bluebeard husband. Queen Anne was a dowdy, graceless woman in her best days. Cromwell's wife was plain. When Queen Anne of Bohemia came to India as a bride, there was a pageant at Cheapside of a castle with two towers, from both sides of which ran fountains of wine; and we are told that the beautiful girls who blew gold-leaf in the faces of the king and queen caused the plain bride to look plainer; yet she made her way in the good graces of king and people.

In France the gay and pleasure-loving, plain women have gained many laurels. Madame de Stael is a memorable instance, though no one was more conscious of her personal defects. Even her name was a power in itself. The great Napoleon condescended to be so jealous of her influence that no persuasion would induce him to allow her to return to France. Mademoiselle de Lespinasse, one of the most fascinating women of her day, who exercised a marvelous influence on those around her, was marked with small-pox. Madame Geoffrin was a plain woman. Madame d'Epinay was neither beautiful nor clever, but most attractive. Madame de Mailly was the plainest woman of the Court. Maria Leczinski, daughter of Stanislaus, King of Poland, wife of Louis XV., was good, but interesting; and that famous Palatine princess, second wife of Philip, Duke of Anjou, brother of Louis XIV., and mother of the Duke of Orleans, the regent during Louis XV.'s minority—a woman who exercised more sway than any of her time—was coarse of feature, and so ungainly that her large hands passed into a proverb. She was of masculine habits, clinging to the customs of Germany, and wore a short, close wig like a man's.

HINTS TO THE GIRLS.

AN old stager who has been through the mill, gives the following parental advice to the girls:

Take lessons on the piano and learn to paint and sing, but let your mother do the washing.

Do worsted work, and make nice little neckties for the heathen, but don't acquire that mystic art to cook "pork and beans."

Go to boarding-school and *pursue* some French, Spanish and German, but neglect your good old mother English.

Flatly deny the soft impeachment that you are engaged. Treat your young sprig precisely as if you were ashamed of him. It is complimentary anyhow, to the young sprig.

When you laugh, laugh hearty. Your gold fillings may be seen. It is a card for the dentist.

Tell people who are posted, and consequently know better, that you are exactly nineteen last or next summer, you forget which. They'll believe it, you know.

Say naughty things of your rival and next-door neighbor, and speak disparagingly of Miss Q.'s nose. But entirely overlook your own incongruities.

By all means "tote" a nice little dog after you on the street. There is a chance of you being taken for some one else, while it speaks volumes—for the dog.

Walk four abreast and keep the center of the sidewalk, but never for a moment allow yourself to be disconcerted. It shows consideration for the happiness of others.

Finally, quit being girls by marrying some old bald-headed duffer, with lots of "tin," and ruthlessly thrust aside a man of brains with a becoming competency.

BRINGING THEM UP.

A GOOD old lady, whose grand-children play about her knee, remarks relative to the training of children:

Bad temper is oftener the result of unhappy circumstances than of unhappy organization. It frequently, however, has a physical cause, and a peevish child often needs dieting more than correcting.

Some children are more prone to show temper than others, and sometimes on account of qualities which are valuable in themselves. For instance, a child of active temperament, sensitive feeling and eager purpose, is more likely to meet with constant jars and rubs than a dull, passive child; and if he is of an open nature, his inward irritation is immediately shown in bursts of passion.

If you repress these ebullitions by scolding and punishment, you only increase the evil by changing passion into sullenness.

A cheerful, good-tempered tone of your own, a sympathy with his trouble whenever the trouble has arisen from no ill conduct on his part, are the best antidotes; but it would be better still to prevent beforehand all sources of annoyance.

Never fear spoiling children by making them too happy. Happiness is the atmosphere in which all good affections grow—the wholesome warmth necessary to make the heart-blood circulate healthy and freely; unhappiness, the chilling pressure which produces here an inflammation, there an excrescence and worst of all, "the mind's green and yellow sickness"—ill temper.

THE SINGER AND THE SHOP GIRL.

A BRIGHT and sunny-faced lady went shopping the other day in Boston, as all true women do, and was being waited upon by a young girl who, in the course of the brief conversation, was led to speak of Clara Louisa Kellogg, who was singing in opera at the time.

"How do you like her singing?" asked the lady.

"Indeed, I never heard her," replied the girl "I have wanted to hear her, but never felt as though I could afford to do so, and the times are so hard now that I cannot think of it."

The lady customer took a card, and writing something, handed it to the girl. The lady was Clara Louise Kellogg, and the card was an order for admission for the girl. It is safe to say that Miss Kellogg had one more enthusiastic auditor for that day's shopping.

CHILDREN are children, as kittens are kittens. A sober, sensible old cat, that sits purring before the fire, does not trouble herself because her kitten is hurrying and dashing here and there, in a fever of excitement to catch its own tail. She sits still and purrs on. People should do the same with children. One of the difficulties of home education is the impossibility of making parents keep still; it is with them, out of affection, all watch and worry.

Reading for the Young.

FRIGHTENED BIRDS.

"Hush! hush!" said the little brown thrush,
To her mate on the nest in the elder-bush;
"Keep still! don't open your bill!
There's a boy coming bird-nesting over the hill.
Let go your wings out, so
That not an egg or the nest shall show.
Chee! chee! it seems to me
I'm as frightened as ever a bird can be!"

Then still, with a quivering bill,
They watched the boy out of sight o'er the hill.
Ah, then in the branches again,
Their glad song rang over vale and glen.
Oh! oh! if that boy could know
How glad they were when they saw him go,
Say, say, do you think next day
He could possibly steal those eggs away?

MINNIE'S BIRTHDAY.

DON'T you think birthdays are delightful? I do. And so did Minnie, as her eyes popped open bright and early, the morning she was nine years old. She dressed herself quickly, and hurried down stairs all in a flutter of anticipation as to the presents, for she always found them at her place upon the breakfast-table. Charlie, her little baby brother, was there before her, and such a shout as greeted her! He wasn't able to talk, but he made it all up in shouting and pantomime. There was a nice little umbrella, marked with her own initials, a pair of shears, to make it easy for her to cut the labels for Uncle George; vases and pictures, a box of pencils, one of tiny stationery, a carriage to take her doll out for the daily airing, a pretty handkerchief, and an autograph album. That was a nice lot of presents for one girl to get, wasn't it? You see Minnie was blessed with many aunts, uncles and cousins, and all remembered the little girl on her birthday. But the best of all was the party. Several days before, Minnie had herself written invitations to some dozen or fifteen little girls of her own age. This is the way she wrote them:

Minnie would be happy to see Flora and Annie Thursday afternoon, Sept. 2d, from three o'clock till seven.

If the day proved pleasant, the table was to be set under the trees on the lawn, and as Minnie was going to bed Wednesday night she said, "I think if God knew how much I wanted my party out-doors, he would make it pleasant."

And the good Father knew, for He never made a pleasanter day than greeted the little girl on her birthday.

At three the guests began to arrive. Many brought their dolls, in their best dresses, and such attention as they received, such admiration! Had it been the owners of the dolls, their heads would have been quite turned with the flattery.

After the dolls, Minnie's presents were shown; and then they all went out into the yard for play, till tea was announced.

The table was spread under a large tree, and was made lovely with flowers, and no doubt the children thought with the fruit, nuts, ices, cakes, etc., also. After all were seated at the table but Flora and Annie, who had maintained an air of profound secrecy, these two little girls approached, bearing a basket of most beautiful flowers, which they placed before Minnie, at the same time sweetly singing the following

BIRTHDAY SONG.

O sweet are the flowers that are blooming to-day,
To brighten thy pathway and ours;
But sweeter the maidenhood happy and gay,
That reigns in these verdure-clad bowers.

For flowers, fair flowers will soon pass away,
And leave but a memory bright,
But maidenhood ripens with each gladsome day,
Into womanhood's dower and right.

The flowers, sweet flowers, we bring thee, dear,
To honor thy festival-day;
Glad hopes, and true prayers we leave with them here,
That our Father will bless thee alway.

After tea they lingered out-of-doors playing various games, until the dew began to fall, then they formed in couples, and marched singing into the house, where they remained, enjoying themselves singing and chatting, till seven o'clock came, when they all bade Minnie good-night, assuring her that they had had a "splendid time."

"O my! you didn't say what they wore!" Why sure enough! and you have been expecting that would come all the time. To tell the truth, I was so intent upon watching their bright, happy faces, I scarcely noticed their dresses. They looked as sweet as could be, and I think most of them had on white dresses with pretty sashes.

"Did they look stylish!"

Why, bless your heart, child, don't talk about those little girls being stylish for a dozen years yet. No, I'm thankful to say they were not stylish, but pretty and simple, as children should be.

And so Minnie's birthday was over. And a most happy one it was, too.

Her little brother Harvey said that night to his mamma, as he was going to bed, "Mamma, *won't* you let me have a party on my birthday?" "Why, whom would you invite to your party?" asked mamma. "O," he replied, "I'd have all the same girls, but I'd want *some* boys in it."—*Journal and Free Press.*

ADVICE GRATIS.

"How do you build your nest, sir?" asked the crow of the rook. "I'm going to make a new one, and should like to improve on the last."

"Much as you do," replied the rook, "only I don't think you make yours quite deep enough."

"Thank you, sir," said the crow.

"How do you build your nest, sir?" asked the crow of the raven.

"In your fashion, but larger; yours was too small. Make the nest at least two sizes larger."

"Thank you, sir," said the crow.

"Mag, how do you build your nest?" he asked of the magpie.

"O any how," said Mag. "I just pack the sticks together, much as you do, only I make a cover to it. You should make a cover."

"Yes, Mag, I should," said the crow.

"How do you build your nest, Jack?" the crow asked of the jackdaw.

"O, I use sticks, as you do; but I like a nice, soft lining, and I choose a snug chink to build in. Take my advice, friend; if you want to be quiet and safe from weasels and other enemies, settle in the old tower, or in yonder stone quarry."

"Thank you, Jack; I certainly will," said the crow.

So the rook and the raven, and the magpie and jackdaw, all gave the crow great credit for being humble-minded and willing to learn, and felt much interest in her work, and went in a body to see the new nest, each expecting to find an improvement after his own suggestion, when lo! they found it to be in size, in form, in lining and position, precisely like the old one.

"Ah!" cried the raven to the rest, "I'm not surprised; I never knew advice valued that cost nothing!"

THINK FOR YOURSELF.

Do your own thinking. Yes, that is the idea. Think for yourself. It is well to listen to the expressed thoughts of others, and it is an agreeable pastime to give expression to your thoughts; but when alone, weigh what you have said. It is well to do this, for it will assist in curing you of false notions, and eradicate unprofitable ideas, and in time make you better men and women. You will thus gain from surroundings, you will unwittingly transmit to the rising generation, and the result will be that you will do your share in the glorious work of elevating the human family. Do your own thinking.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 8.

☞ Answer in two weeks. PAUL BOYTON.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—No. 5.

I AM composed of 66 letters:
My 59, 34, 42, 47 a wicked king of Judah.
My 66, 39, 20, 16 a bird mentioned in the Bible.
My 12, 41, 64, 36, 1, 57, 9, 29 a Bible gem.
My 5, 39, 15, 13, 52, 61 a musical instrument.
My 48, 27, 60, 43, 17, 38, 7, 51 was raised from the dead.
My 11, 6, 28, 40, 46, 55 an insect mentioned in the Bible.
My 14, 3, 8, 22, 44, 58 a Jewish prophet.
My 19, 4, 31, 32 a metal mentioned in the Bible.
My 62, 24, 33, 56, 10, 26 a queen of Persia.
My 63, 35, 20, 2, 23, a bird mentioned in the Bible.
My 25, 30, 37, 49, 51 a companion of Paul.
My 65, 50, 9, 3, 54 a Jewish month.
My 35, 46, 38, 18, 54, 45 a city in Greece.
My 21, 58, 53 a judge.
My 49 is a consonant.
My whole is a verse in the Bible.

☞ Answer in two weeks. AZILE.

TRANSPOSITION.—No. 4.

1. TRANSPOSE a city, and leave level tracts of country.
2. A fisherman's instrument, and leave fruit.
3. A bird, and leave dishonest persons.
4. Small animals, and leave a part.
5. An apartment, and leave a desolate field.
6. A fruit, and leave a protuberance.
7. A body of water, and leave a vegetable.
8. A bird, and leave trees.
9. Behead and transpose what young ladies desire, and leave to wander.

Sherkston, Ont. J. M. SHERK.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA.—No. 4.

1. A WEEKLY paper. 2. Pertaining to interest. 3. An uncertain statement. 4. A rose. 5. Musical instruments.

☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—April 8.

DECAPITATION No. 3.—1, D-over; 2, A-den; 3, B-ear; 4, W-heel; 5, B-ass; 6, F-ox; 7, G-out; 8, B-ark; 9, B-lock; 10, B-ale.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 8.—Centennial.

ACROSTIC No. 1.—"Progress and Improvement."

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

R. H. SMITH, editor of the Waterbury (Conn.) American, was fined $75 for contempt of court, he having written and published an editorial "calculated to injure the dignity and efficiency of Judge Broughton." Smith refused to pay, and was locked up in the New Haven jail.

While hunting for woodchuck recently, near Livonia, N. Y., some boys found in a hollow stump a gold watch and chain, which had been stolen by a tramp twelve years ago. The thief was sent to prison for three years, but refused to tell where he had hidden the watch unless paid well for the information. When found the watch was apparently uninjured.

The master armorer of the Springfield Armory is preparing for the Centennial Exposition an exhibit of the different operations which each of the parts of a Springfield rifle goes through in its manufacture. The barrel goes through 87 operations; the bayonet 44, and its fastenings 23. The parts peculiar to the breech-loading system number 146; the mountings, 175; ramrod and bayonet scabbards, 27. The components of the lock require 135 pieces, and the rear sight, 73.

John Coltrell is a man whom the people of Clark County, Ill., would have lynched if they had not changed their intention. He drove his two stepsons, aged seven and ten years, out into a cold snowstorm. They started, scantily clad, for an uncle's residence some fifteen miles distant. The younger was exhausted when half the journey had been made and fell down in the road. The other tried to carry him, but was unable. He then laid him under the shelter of a fence and trudged on until he came to a house where he was taken in. The seven-year-old was dead when found.

John P. Treadwell, at one time an innkeeper in New York, died in New Milford, Conn., April 8, aged 65. He was part proprietor of the St. Nicholas Hotel from 1853 to 1863. He began business as a clerk in the old Franklin House, Broadway and Dey St.

Eighty-two veterans of the Fifth New York Volunteers, known as the Duryee Zouaves, formed themselves into a civil organization on April 10. They propose to visit Philadelphia during the Exhibition. Gen. A. Duryee is elected President.

The River and Harbor bill which passed the House on April 10 did not have the approval of the Appropriation Committee, the members considering the amounts extravagant and not properly distributed. Michigan gets $525,000, or $43,000 more than New York, which aggregates $482,000. Even West Virginia gets $495,000, Tennessee $445,000, Texas $432,000, Wisconsin $390,500, and Iowa $275,000. These seven States get more than one-half of the entire amount appropriated.

Sup't. Cooper of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad says that a locomotive drew a director's car nine and three-fourths miles on that line in seven and one-fourth minutes. The time was from a flying start to a dead stop, and it is calculated that the highest speed was at a rate of 87 miles an hour. It was on a down grade.

It is proposed to use the late Hamilton Murray's bequest of $15,000 to Princeton College in erecting a new building for the Philadelphian Society, the oldest religious society of the institution. The membership has largely increased of late, and better accommodations are needed.

Near Yreka, Cal., a herd of horses roamed for several years. They had strayed from their owners from time to time, and became so wild by a free life in the mountains that they could not be recaptured. The uncommonly deep snow of last winter confined them in a gorge and they starved to death. Their bodies and those of many deer that perished in the same way have been found.

The Congregational churches of Connecticut will celebrate the National Centennial on Sunday, July 9, and endeavor to raise money for a memorial building in Hartford.

In the railway shops at Port Jervis the working hours have been increased from 35 to 40 hours per week. At Susquehanna 150 hands have been discharged.

It will cost six or eight thousand dollars to have such a celebration as was proposed, and the Newburghers' patriotism is oozing out of their pocketbooks.

The people of Georgia do not believe in newspaper quarrels. The Grand Jury of Polk County, at its recent session, made the following report to the court after returning several indictments: "We also feel it our duty to censure the course and conduct of our two newspapers toward each other, and urgently request the two editors to cease wrangling about themselves and branch off into agricultural articles, or others that will tend to develop the interests and welfare of our country."

The Centennial Committee of the Philadelphia Councils have decided not to have the crack in the old Independence Bell repaired, believing that it is too precious a relic to be meddled with.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors are considering with some favor a proposed order to the Sheriff to cut close the hair of every prisoner sent to the county jail immediately upon his incarceration. This ordinance is aimed at the Chinese, who cherish their queues with religious devotion.

Mr. Henry W. Raymond, the only son of the late Henry J. Raymond, has become a partner in the firm of Hadley Brothers & Co., booksellers, in Chicago.

A wolf broke away from a cage in which he was confined at Joplin, Mo., recently, and attacked the little son and daughter of his owner, who were very badly bitten before the animal was driven off.

A counterfeit five-cent piece is in circulation which fails to be genuine only because it is not issued by a United States mint, as it contains the full amount of metal in weight and fineness. It is said that the five-cent pieces cost the Government only half a cent apiece.

There is a camel ranche near Elgin, Texas. The animals were imported at the opening of the Mormon war in expectation of a contract with the United States Government for transportation, and they have considerably multiplied since that time.

Horace Greeley's old homestead at Chappaqua was burned Friday night, April 14. It had not been tenanted for some months, but was to have been occupied by Col. Nicholas Smith and wife (Ida Greeley) during the summer. The money loss was small. The house was the favorite residence of Mr. Greeley the last twenty years of his life and had a historic interest.

A. T. Stewart's will left one million dollars to Judge Henry Hilton, his executor, and the remainder, except some few small bequests, to his wife. Now Mrs. Stewart has sold all the property to Judge Hilton, excepting New York real estate, for one million dollars. It is supposed that the intention is to make some public use of the vast property in accordance with Mr. Stewart's often expressed intentions; but no one knows what will be done.

About May 15 the Harlem Railroad Company will put on ten extra trains daily between the Grand Central Depot (N. Y. City) and Williamsbridge. The time to Williamsbridge will be 30 minutes, including stoppages, and to Harlem 12 minutes. The fare to Williamsbridge will be 30c. from the Grand Central Depot.

There are over 16,000 soldiers buried in the National Cemetery at Vicksburg. The spot has been rendered very beautiful and is visited daily by large numbers of people.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Bank of France has in circulation 2,463,806,490 francs, and in its vaults specie to the amount of 1,776,741,081 francs, or 721 francs of gold to every 1,000 francs of paper in circulation. This gold accumulation is said to be the largest ever got together anywhere.

In May, an interesting collection of manuscripts and letters left by Thomas Moore, will be sold at auction in London. It includes the original MS. of "Lalla Rookh" and the last letter written by Byron to Moore from Missolonghi, only a month before Byron's death.

The official Tashkent Gazette states that the immigration of Russian settlers into Turkestan is going on on a very large scale. The colonists chiefly come from the provinces of Astrakan, Samara and Tamboff.

Liverpool is to be supplied with water from Lake Windermere. The estimate of cost varies from £2,000,000 for a daily supply of ten million gallons, to £4,500,000 for forty millions.

The Governor of Great Britain's latest acquisition, the Fiji Islands, Sir Arthur Gordon, would seem to be a very different kind of man from the ordinary American office holder or salary grabber. Owing to the revenue having fallen short of previous estimates, Sir Arthur, although entitled to his salary of £5,000 a year, accepts only £3,000.

The British bark Emma L. Oulton, Capt. Mackenzie, which sailed from Baltimore, March 3, for Queenstown, was abandoned at sea March 13, in a sinking condition. Her crew was rescued.

In the department of the Loire, France, over 12,000 women are employed in the glove trade.

The Austro-Hungarian Empire has 1,501 mining establishments, which employ 87,431 men.

A statue is to be erected at Calcutta in commemoration of the services of Lord Napier, the hero of Magdala.

A committee is in session in London charged with an inquiry into the cause and extent of the depreciation in the value of silver.

Two large dry goods houses in London have well-salaried private chaplains to conduct morning prayers, and give addresses to the young men and women in their employ.

The Mayor of Fordwich, England, is dead, after an uninterrupted tenure of office for 28 years. It is the rule in the borough, if any person refuses to accept the office of Mayor, to pull down his house.

Penny banks have been established in London in connection with the public schools, and within a few months 5,266 children have deposited $5,620.

Divers are at work trying to recover the remaining $115,000 of the specie lost on the Schiller when wrecked at the Scilly Isles. Last summer $285,000 was saved.

The Italian Government has decided to restore the five ancient churches of Chiltile, which are said to be the most ancient Christian temples in Europe. They date from the fourth century, and contain remarkable mural paintings and sculptures.

A dispatch from Havana, April 10, says that advices from Jacmel to the 30th of March report the town still blockaded. President Dominique had given the insurgents notice that in 96 hours the place would be bombarded. The time had expired and the threat remained unexecuted. Dominique is very unpopular, but the movement against him this time will probably fail. It is reported that several of the passengers on the steamer Thyra, from St. Thomas, had been shot on landing at Jacmel. Two United States men-of-war at Port-au-Prince threaten to use force if the decree taxing foreigners is carried out against Americans, or the moneys already collected are not returned to them. The French Consul insists on the same treatment for French citizens.

The Liebig memorial fund in Munich has reached the sum of $375,000, and it is announced that no more money is needed. The mode of commemorating the great chemist has not yet been determined, but it is thought that scholarships will be founded, or a fountain will be erected in one of the squares in Munich.

The inhabitants of the island of Ayos Strati, near Lemnos, have been troubled with locusts, and thinking that witchcraft was the cause, they confined half a dozen women at the bottom of a well to effect a cure. They are now in a sad state of disappointment, because the authorities have released the women, one of whom has since died, and still the locusts don't disappear.

The Vatican has received a note from Cardinal Simeoni, the Nuncio at Madrid, stating that Spain proposes to enforce the Concordat of 1851 if the Vatican will promise not to oppose the clause of the Constitution relative to liberty of public worship.

The Italians have no special fancy for trees, like the English and Germans. The only tree cultivated in Italy is the mulberry, which has a great practical value as furnishing food for silk worms. Poplars are raised in Lombardy only.

The monks in their monasteries make the best beer in the Rhine and Bavarian cities. The reason of this is that they are too old fogyish to use the scientific ingredients which the profane employ, and keep on making beer to-day just as it was made a couple of hundred years ago. They put hops in it too. There is plenty of room in the United States for monk-made beer.

The Senate of the University of Prague have prohibited the attendance of women at the lectures at that institution.

The French Chamber of Deputies has annulled the election of M. Veillet, Conservative, from the Department of Cote du Nord.

The second report of the result of the investigation into the dynamite explosion at Bremerhaven, some months ago, is published. It mentions that three cases of furs shipped at Halifax in the missing steamer City of Boston, by "James Thomas," were uninsured.

The Beefsteak Club has been revived in London, Eng., with 200 members, noblemen and gentlemen connected with literature, art, and the drama, all of whom must have accomplished something of some importance to gain an entrance.

The Danish Government has awarded two life pensions of 3,000 crowns each to the composers of Niels Gade and Berggrun.

The opponents of vaccination will be disgusted to learn that the last returns of the Stockwell Small-pox Hospital, London, show that while among thirty-four cases with good or moderate vaccination not a single death has occurred, the rate of mortality of those who had not been vaccinated was as high as 45.8 per cent.

"It does not speak well for the intelligence of the public," says the London Lancet, "that the stamp duty on patent medicines during last year yielded an increase of £13,849 over the produce of the previous year. It is scarcely credible that the passion for consuming unknown quantities of unknown drugs should be so strong as this thriving trade in nostrums indicates."

President MacMahon has pardoned several inhabitants of Marseilles who were imprisoned for participation in the Commune.

The Pall Mall Gazette's Dublin special says it is pretty certain that the emigration from Ireland in 1876 will be the smallest since 1851. It was only 51,462 last year.

The plague is increasing at Bagdad, Turkey, where, on March 26, thirty new cases and ten deaths were reported.

A stock company is organizing in Russia for the introduction and development of the cultivation of cotton in Central Asia.

The Madrid *Diario*, ministerial paper, energetically denies that the Government intends to re-establish the concordat of 1851.

Turkey is considering the proposition of the Jewish bondholders, in conjunction with some other denominations, to exchange their bonds for land in Syria.

The Spanish Court of Cassation has rejected the appeal of Pastor, condemned to death for an attempt to shoot King Amadeus. The whereabouts of Pastor is unknown.

The reported negotiations for the cession to the German empire of the right of the Duke of Edinburgh, as heir presumptive to the duchy of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, are denied on trustworthy authority.

On the 3d inst. the champion bale of cotton was exhibited at Memphis. It was cased in blue silk of American raising and American manufacture, and on being brought to the Cotton Exchange it secured the premium of $1,000 offered for the finest and earliest cotton of the season.

THE SEASON, CROPS, PRICES, ETC.

West View, Goochland Co., Va., April 7.—The winter here has been very mild, in contrast with what we experienced in Maryland. There have been but two freezes, each of three days' duration; these enabled the provident to secure a supply of ice, varying from two and a-half to four inches in thickness. Plowing has scarcely been interrupted at all. Our only snow fell on the morning of the 15th of March, to the depth of two inches, but before morning it changed to rain, and by next morning every vestige of snow had disappeared. Wheat and winter oats are looking very fine. There is a large crop of corn still in barn. It has heretofore, since the war, sold for $4@5 ₱ bbl. at this season of the year, and farmers are loth to dispose of it at $2.75. Wheat is worth $1.50; oats, 65c.; hogs, 10c.; butter, 25c.; eggs, 12c.; fat cattle, 4@6c., gross; timothy hay, $20; clover, $16; shucks, $13; straw, $12 per ton.—L.

Insurance.

THE AMERICAN INSURANCE CO. OF CHICAGO.

The American of Chicago has been much slandered of late. Let us see why. Has it ever failed to meet its obligations—to pay every loss maturing against it? No: that is not claimed by its bitterest enemies. Are its officers or stockholders unreliable business men, or of inferior moral standard? The mention of their names disproves that. No one has dared to impugn such men as Hon. H. N. Hibbard, Hon. J. M. Bailey, Hon. W. H. Bradley, H. Z. Culver, L. L. Munn, Wm. H. Ovington, Nicholas Krausz, M. A. Hoyne, R. B. Currier, D. A. Knowlton, Jr., and Chas. L. Currier. Yet these are the men to whom the American's interests are intrusted. Does it lack enterprise or stability? Its cash income of $817,000 and the $40,000,000 of insurance written last year, and its $905,000 cash assets, together with its $2,000,000 of installment notes, are sufficient denials of that. What then is the matter? *Success! Merit!* These are what draw the enemies' fire. Perhaps the reader of this has received or had shown him by some rival agent one of numerous circulars which are being so industriously distributed over the country. If so, let him probe the motive of the source from whence it came. The insurance commissioners of four different States have just done this, and after a searching official examination of the American's plan of business, its assets and liabilities, all came to the same conclusion. In closing his published report, the Hon. W. D. Hill, Superintendent of Insurance for Ohio, says: "It is my opinion that the American Insurance "Company of Chicago is as safe and sound financially as other insurance companies possessed "of the same amount of capital and assets." The same results were reached by Col. C. P. Ellerbe, Attorney, and Hon. A. Harvey, the eminent Actuary, both of whom represented the State of Missouri in its official examination of the American's standing. Also by ex-Auditor Cattell for Iowa, and Mr. Kellogg, Actuary of the Illinois Department. These men declared what they knew, for they went to the Company's office and saw for themselves. Are not the results found by them, after days of personal examination, trustworthy, and to be accepted, instead of misrepresentations indulged in by business rivals for mercenary and selfish purposes? The American does business only in eight of the Western States, and insures no business property whatever, confining its risks to detached dwellings, school-houses and churches; yet there are only six companies in the United States whose business equals the American's, and these write heavy lines in large cities throughout the Union. Of course their agents fight the American. It's their bread and butter to do so. The American is getting the cream of the non-hazardous business. It will take no other. It knows how to get it, too; for in 1871 its cash income was only $238,672, while in 1875 it reached the splendid proportions of $817,424. It shapes its business to the needs of its members in writing five years' policies and collecting in cash only one year's premium, taking installment notes payable in one, two, three and four years for the balance. In conclusion, the American is old in years, prosperous in business, strong in reputation and money, and what is better than all, prudently and honestly managed by experienced, successful business men, with unsullied reputations for integrity and moral worth.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, April 15, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	85,707	Rice, bbls	1,428
Whisky	2,817	Cut meats, pkgs	6,673
Corn meal, bbls	1,000	Lard, pkgs	2,068
Corn meal, bags	4,255	Tobacco, hhds	1,791
Wheat, bush	228,000	do. cases	10,933
Corn, bush	56,850	Butter, pkgs	9,282
Oats, bush	111,400	Cheese, bxs	—
Rye, bush	2,400	Cotton, bales	22,443
Malt, bush	42,946	Rosin	—
Barley, bush	21,514	Spts. turp., bbls	1,107
Beans, bbls	2,544	Dried Fruits, pkgs	91
Grass seed, bags	3,451	Eggs, bbls	14,782
Beef, pkgs	2,355	Peanuts, bags	2,009
Wool, bales	411	Dressed Hogs	13
Hops, bales	553	Leather, sides	106,539
Pork, bbls	1,711	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	856	Oil cake	9,465
Molasses	—		

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 900 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 18,800 do.; same time last year, 6,813 do. Exports of peas past week, 9,400 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 262,300 do.; same time last year, 161,450. With a marked moderation in receipts of beans holders begin to feel more confidence in mediums; still, the stock is large for the coming warm weather, and old low prices are still ruling. Marrows begin to show some firmness. There is a fair export demand and sellers are generally asking full figures. Other items of beans continue to be neglected. Peas are firm, with little addition to actual stock. Most of the receipts are going through in bond. Green peas dull at the late decline. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, 90c.@$1; prime mediums $1.10@1.15; fair to good, 85c.@$1; poor, 50@60c.; prime marrows, $1.50; fair to good, $1.25@1.45; prime white kidneys, $1.35@1.60; other, $1.25@1.30; prime red kidney, $1.25@1.30; other, $1@1.15; Lima (Cal.), $2.50@2.75. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.20@; do., in bulk and bond, $1.00@; green, $1.40@1.45; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.70@2.75; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—Supplies of old have pretty well run out, and on the small offerings extreme prices are made. Quotations are at 26@27c. for best lots.

Exports since Jan. 1, 33,575 lbs.; same time last year, 53,250 do.

BROOM CORN.—Offerings are fair and demand very light.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@5½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—The market during the past week recovered somewhat from the weak tone that was manifested in our last. One of the instrumental features to help steady the market is the very light supply of old. There is always more or less fear that round parcels of old may be unearthed from some point, which even if they should not last long might appear for a length of time that would help to strengthen buyers, and that makes dull trade when prices are high. Prices are about as strong as buyers will stand, and the existing rates for State are very extreme. Some support is given to new State by the moderate receipts of Western. We are not apt to get the first receipt of Western make liberally, until there is a surplus. When that increase is added to the market State will have a formidable competitor, especially as in many cases good color favors some Western districts in advance of New York pastures. Old butter may be said to be out of regular trade and our quotations are nominal with some wider range.

New butter, Falls State, selected, 40@—c.; do., other 34@38c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 36@38c.; fair to good, 33@35c.; Welsh tubs selected, 35@—c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 33@35c.; fair to good, 33@35c.; Falls, Western creamery, prime, 35@—c.; fair to good, 34@36c.; Western tubs, good to prime, 32@34c.; fair to good, 30@32c.

Old State dairies, extra, 33@40c.; entire, good to prime, 34@36c.; fair to good, 28@33c.; firkins, selected fresh, 33@40c.; good to prime, 34@36c.; fair to good, 28@31c.; State, Welsh, tubs, half made, 30@33c.; dairies 33@36c.; good to prime, 35@37c.; fair to good, 32@34c.; poor to fair, 28@32c.; Pennsylvania, store packed, 26@33c.; Western, dairy tubs, selected, 33@35c.; good to prime, 31@33c.; fair to good, fresh, 28@30c.; Western, early packed, selected, 29@30c.; good to fine, 26@28c.; fair to fine, 23@25c.; poor, 16@22c. Roll butter, good to prime, 31@33c.; fair to good, 28@30c.; poor to fair, 23@27c.

CHEESE.—The market abroad has been against important export trade here. The shipments are lighter than the moderate total of last week, and have been brought about by unified views of holders. It is believed now that the old make is pretty well forward: stocks here would prove moderate only with anything like an ordinary trade.

New State factory, fancy, 13½@13¾c.; fine, 12¾@13c.; do. good to prime, 11¾@12¾c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor to fair, 6@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12¾c.; good to prime, 10½@11½c.; fair to good, 9½@10c.; Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12¾@12¾c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fair, 8@11½c.; poor to fair, 7@8c.

COTTON.—Export trade has been light and prices lower. Closing prices are for April, 13 1-16@13 3-32c.; May, 13 7-32c.; June, 13 15-32@13¾c.; July, 13 21-32@13 11-16c.; August, 13 13-16c.; September, 13¾@13 21-32c.; October, 13 7-16@13½c.; November, 13¼@13 5-16c.; December, 13 5-16@13 11-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 11-16
Strict ordinary	10 9-16	10 9-16	10 9-16	10 9-16
Good ordinary	11 3-16	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 5-16
Strict good do	11 15-16	11 15-16	12 1-16	12 1-16
Low middling	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 11-16
Strict low middling	12 15-16	13 1-16	13 3-16	13 3-16
Middling	13¼	13¼	13 7-16	13 7-16
Good middling	13¾	13¾	14	14
Strict good middling	14¼	14¼	14¾	14¾
Middling fair	14¾	14¾	14¾	14¾
Fair	15¾	15¾	15¾	15¾

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 13-16	Low middling	11 7-16
Strict ordinary	11 15-16	Middling	12 5-16

DRIED FRUITS.—A few small lots of apples are coming to hand, and are difficult to move off except at low prices. Peeled peaches quiet but, with the stock in few hands, held firmly. Pitted cherries and raspberries are higher. Blackberries are very dull.

Apples—State, sliced, 9¼@9¾c.; do., quarters, 8¼c.; Western quarters at 8@8¼c.; Southern sliced, 1875, prime, 9@9½c.; fair lots, 8@8¼c.; Tennessee qrs., 7¾c. Blackberries, 10@10¼c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@15c.; do. fancy, 16@17c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12¼c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 20@21c.

EGGS.—The present is not a test week for eggs. Buyers have pretty generally supplied themselves for Easter. Several days of dull trade have attended the week and prices are drooping. The natural tendency of the egg market is downward after the Easter sales, and with the stock resources of the past season, it looks as though this season will not be an exception. Geese and duck eggs higher. We quote:

Near points, ₱ bbl., 20@—c.; State and Penn., 19@—c.; Western, prime, 18½@19c.; do. fair marks, 18@18½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 16½@17½c.; Canadian, 18½@19c.; duck, 28@30c.; goose, 60@65c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—In a wholesale way, the market is nominal. We quote:

"H. G." oil peppermint, $1, in glass; Halo & Parshall do., $1@1.20 do.; pure in tin, $3.50; sassafras, 55c.; wintergreen, $3.12; spearmint, $3.50; pennyroyal $4.

FEATHERS.—The demand is light, but prices are steady. Business mainly in low-priced grades. We quote Western live geese at 55@58c.; mixed do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—There has been a little more doing on export account, and a fairly active home trade inquiry at generally steady prices.

Superfine State, $4.20@4.60; extra do., $5.00@5.60; superfine Western, $4.20@4.60; extra do., $5.00@5.70; No. 2, $3.00@3.55; extra round-hoop Ohio, $5.00@5.30; trade brands do., $5.35@7.00; white wheat extras, $5.75@7.00; St. Louis, $5.35@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.20@6.75; Southern at $4.25@4.75 for superfine; $5.00@6.15 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.25@8.75 for trade and family brands. Corn meal held at $2.75@3.25 for yellow Western; $3.10@3.20 for yellow Jersey; $3@3.35 for Pennsylvania.

FRESH FRUITS.—There is only a brief story about fruits. Apples are running out, and fancy exceed our figures. Strawberries are of varied quality; quoted, 25@40c. for poor to fair; 50@90c. for good to best. Norfolk berries soon due. Charleston cranberries firm. Grapes, 6@8c. for catawba. Peanuts still dull. Virginia, per bush., $1.40@1.60; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, standard crates, $1.75@5; good to pr., stand'd crates, $4.50@1.75; "pony" crates $4@4.50; good to choice, per bbl., $14@15. No Florida oranges offering.

FURS AND SKINS.—The following are the lately-revised quotations:

	North. & Eastern.	West. and N. Y.
Otter, ₱ piece	$6 50@ 8 00	$1 00@ 5 50
Gray Fox	1 75@ 2 00	1 50@ 1 75
Red Fox	1 00@ 1 75	1 25@ 1 50
Black Bear	10 00@15 00	7 00@10 00
Brown cubs and yigs.	4 00@ 5 00	2 00@ 3 00
Fisher	8 00@10 00	7 00@ 8 00
Mink, dark	2 00@ 3 00	1 25@ 1 75
pale	1 00@ 1 50	75@ 1 00
Muskrat, spring	28@ 30	25@ 27
winter	23@ 25	21@ 23
fall	18@ 20	16@ 18
Kitts	6@ 7	5@ 6
Beaver, ₱ lb	1 00@ 1 75	75@ 1 00
Raccoon	68@ 80	40@ 55
Opossum	12@ 15	12@ 15
Skunk, black		75@ 90
striped		10@ 40
Wolf, mountain		2 00@ 3 00
prairie		75@ 1 00

GRAIN.—In wheat exporters have been operating little more freely at generally steady figures. Latest sales at $1.37@1.38 for prime No. 1 Milwaukee spring; $1.41 for choice No. 1 Minnesota spring in store; $1.37 for prime No. 2 Milwaukee spring in store, fall inspection; $1.26 for prime No. 2 Northwest spring in store, of crop 1874; $1.18@1.20 for Nos. 2 and 3 spring mixed; $1.16 for choice No. 3 Milwaukee spring in store; $1.12 for No. 3 Chicago spring in store; $1.08@1.18 for ungraded spring; $1.42@1.50 for white Michigan; $1.17@1.46 for winter red and amber; $1.35@1.70 for white; $1.34@1.38 for No. 1 spring. Rye at 86c. for prime Western. Corn is in light demand, with prices weak. Latest sales at 72@72¼c. for ungraded mixed Western; 72c. for steamer mixed, N. Y. inspection; 71c. for "no grade" new mixed, N. Y. inspection, afloat; 71@72½c. for yellow Southern; 68@72½c. for choice old mixed Western; 71½@72c. for yellow Jersey. Oats are higher and moderately active. Mixed Western, 48@50c.; white Western, 48@52½c.

HAY AND STRAW.—There has been a sharp advance through the week with small receipts and considerable inquiry from shippers and the home trade.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, $1.10@1.15; clover, 75@80c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat. Exports past week, 162 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 11,600; same time last year, 100,500.

HOPS.—The exports the past week add up 954 bales and since September 1, 1875, 37,818 bales, against same time last year 15,688 bales. With continued export demand and falling off in receipts, prices are easily sustained. Choice lots easily bring 18c. but offerings are mainly of a grade under.

N. Y. State, 13@18c.; Eastern, 11@16c.; Wisconsins, 11@16c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 15@20c.

MAPLE SUGAR.—The supply is better and there is a fair demand at the prices. Extra light colored lots of Delaware, 1@2c. higher than ordinary.

New prime sugar ranges at 13@14c.; fair to good, 11@12c.; old, run over, 10@12c.; old, ordinary, 8@11c. Syrup, ₱ gal. of 11 lbs., 1@1.30.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The market for dressed poultry is mainly supplied by frozen stock, which, when prime, sells about as high as fresh dressed. We quote Philadelphia picked chickens at 21@25c.; capons at 31@33c. for large; 26@28c. for small capons and slips.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 21@22c.; Jersey, good to prime, 19@20c.; State, good to prime, 18@20c.; Western, good to prime, 18@20c.; fair to good, 14@17c.; poor, 8@10c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; State, good to prime, 20@22c.; Western, good to prime, 18@21c.; inferior, 10@15c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 21@23c.; State, good to prime, 21@23c.; Western, good to prime, 20@22c.; fair to good, 18@20c.; poor, 14@16c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 15@16c.; State, good to prime, 14@16c.; Western, good to prime, 13@15c.; do., poor to fair, 8@12c.

Live poultry is doing well during the scarcity of dressed.

Fowls and turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 18@19c.; do. Western, 17@18c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2.50@3; do. Western, $1@1.25; ducks, Western, ₱ pair, 80c.@$1; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1.25@1.50; roosters, 8@10c. Spring chickens, ₱ pair, $1.25@1.50.

In game, picked pigeons quoted at $1.75. Pigeons are plenty and begin to favor the buyer.

Wild Ducks—Canvasback, 90c.@$1.10; redhead, 70@75c.; Mallard, 50@60c. Wild pigeons, feathered, ₱ doz., $1.50@1.75; English snipe, ₱ doz., $1.75@1.87; plover, ₱ doz., $1.62@1.75; sand snipe, 85@45c.

PROVISIONS.—Mess pork, bacon and lard generally lower, with a slow business. Mess pork quoted at $22.75 for job lots, $22.45@23.50 for April and May, $22.65 for June, $22.75 for July. Boxed dry-salted shoulders, 9c.; tierced pickled hams, 12½@13½c. Bacon—Western long clear, 12½c.; 13c.; short do. Lard at $13.75 for spot, April and May; $13.90 for June, and $14.12½ for July; $14.12½ for Aug.; steam, 14½c. Beef hams at $24@26. Tallow, 8½c. for prime. Beef—New extra mess $13@13.50; do. plain, $12.50@13; new tierced at $23 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $29@30.

SEED.—Grass kinds remain dull. State clover, 16½@16¾c., and Western at 16½c. Timothy at $2.65@2.75.

TOBACCO.—There is now a good assortment of new Western leaf, and prices are more regular. Exporters are operating moderately. In seedleaf there is but little doing, but no change made in prices.

	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP ONLY.		
Common lugs	4½@ 5½	5 @ 5½
Good lugs	5½@ 6½	6 @ 7
Low leaf	7 @ 8	7½@ 9
Medium leaf	10 @11	9½@10½
Good leaf	11½@13	11 @12½
Fine leaf	13½@15	13 @14
Selections	13½@15	15 @16
SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.		Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots		10 @12
Wrappers, medium		15 @22
Wrappers, fine		25 @55
Seconds		10 @13
Fillers, selections		5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots		7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots		14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common		7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots		6 @ 8
Wisconsin		6 @ 8

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 757 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 65,491 do.; same time last year, 30,446 do. Prices are low for potatoes, but the demand has been pretty good and the stock is not so oppressive. Canal boats have had to close out very low. Onions have again advanced. Asparagus is in market; some from California brought 50c. ₱ lb.; Norfolk quoted at $1@9 ₱ doz.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1@1.12; Peach Blows, $1.00@1.25; Prince Alberts, 75c.@$1.00; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $3@3.50; Florida, $6.50. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $5@8; red, $7@11. Squash, Marrow, bbl., $1.25@1.75; Hubbard, $1.25@1.75. Onions, red, bbl., $3@3.50; do. yellow, $3@3.50; do. white, $5.50@6. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Southern spinach, ₱ bbl., $1.50@2.25. Kale, $1@1.25. Charleston green peas, ₱ bush., $1@6. Norfolk cabbage, ₱ bbl., $1.25@1.50. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, $1.25@1.50; beets, $1.50 ₱ crate. Mushrooms, ₱ lb., 50@60c. Rhubarb, ₱ doz., 75c. Bermuda onions, ₱ crate, $1.50.

WOOL.—The market for the old clip is winding up unsatisfactorily. It is almost impossible to sell except to consumers, and most marked on other than strictly fine Western fleeces and California stock. The latter description relatively most steadily held on account of the full prices being realized for the new clip arriving at San Francisco. There is more than usual interest felt in the opening rates on the new clips this year, as the goods market remain dull, and manufacturers will probably evince but little disposition to stock up, and insist on comparatively low prices on sympathy with the education which they have been compelled to make.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklock	50	@ 54
XX	47	@ 48
X	46	@ 48
No. 1	48	@ 50
No. 2	42	@ 45
Course	40	@ 42
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	40	@ 48
No. 2	42	@ 44
Course	40	@ 42
Combing	56	@ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	44	@ 45
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	41	@ 47
X	41	@ 47
No. 1	44	@ 46
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	34	@ 36
Coarse unwashed	27	@ 30
Burry	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, April 15.—Flour market firm; spring, $7.00; amber winter, $7.25; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.50. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.36@1.40; amber winter, $1.20@1.30; white winter, $1.30@1.40. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 23@32c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 15@16c. Lard, 13½@14c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1.25. Potatoes, bu., 20@@30c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@1.10. Mess pork, $22@23. Wool, 30@38c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $8.00@8.50. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., April 15, 1876.

THERE has been very little doing in cheese this week, and prices are lower. Lake ends farm dairies may be quoted at 9@10c., and factories at 11@12c.

Several lots of new cheese, both from farm dairy and factory, were on delivery. The Middleville and the Cook & Ives sent forward their goods on commission. The Barto Hill was reported as selling at 5c. All the lots on the market were badly skimmed.

There was a large delivery of butter, unwanting to about 400 tubs. Prices ranged at 32@33c., the bulk going at 35@36c.

We have advices from Europe to the fourth week of March. Our London correspondent says:

The finest English cheese is wanted and medium is neglected. American has sold very freely, especially extra-fancy September and all sorts of firm; medium grades are slow of sale and October make are neglected, together with all sorts of soft late made.

The prices are for extra American, 67@68s.; fine, 61@66s.; good, 50@53s.; secondary and common, 30@45s.

English cheddar brings 78@90s.; Wiltshire double, 70@78s.; Cheshire medium, 40@60s.; fine, 74@82s.; Scotch, 66@71s.

The butter for delivery has a tendency downward in price. The prices are as follows:

Jersey sells for 140@150s.; Dorsets, 174s.; Danish and Swedish, 110@174s.; Friesland, s.; Normandy extra, 170s.; American and Canadian, 100@120s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter, 100@140s., and the supply not equal to the demand.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 15, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,970	19	1,057	4,106	000
Forty-Eighth St.	9	21	10	2,596	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	150	10,133
Harsimus Cove	4,226	00	000	6,578	8,601
Totals this week	8,205	54	1,067	13,430	18,727
" last week	9,624	35	788	16,870	21,901

BEEVES.—There was a moderate run of generally coarse quality cattle on sale on Monday last, which sold off on a slow but firm condition of trade at 9@12¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6¼@11 cwt. There was an advance of ¼c. ₱ lb. on the closing rates of the previous week; only a few head of good quality beeves came to hand, and nothing choice was received. Wednesday, trade extremely dull, with several herds unsold at noon. Prices were at 8@12c.; weights, 6@11 cwt. Thursday, trade slow and small at 8¾@10¼c.; weights, 5½@7¼ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak, with sales at 9@11¼c.; weights, 6¼@8¼ cwt. From 56@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt.; the largest number of cattle were sold at 56 lbs. net. Native steers, 8@12c.; grade, 12¼@12¾c.; oxen, 8½@11c., with a few pairs of corn-fed State at 11@12c.; mixed herds, 9@10¼c.; corn-fed Spanish herds, 9¼@9¾c.; bulls on live weight, 4@4¼c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @12¾	12 @13
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—The quality of the fresh cows to hand has been so inferior that sales even at very low rates have been few and slow. Extreme range of prices, $20@75 ₱ head, with 1 cow for $80; 4 cows sold at $20@50—no calves included; 7 at $35@55; 11 at $45@65; 5 at $60@75—calves included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—On a heavy run of course quality calves, trade has been slow and sales few in the ratio of the arrivals. Meal-fed calves sold at 4@8¾c.; general sales, 6@7¾c. ₱ lb. Smooth quality veals in light supply and in moderate demand at 9@9¾c.; bobs, $2.50 ₱ head. The calves to hand quoted entirely from Central and Western New York. State veals sold at 9@9¾c.; Pennsylvania, 8@9½c.; Jersey, 9¾@9¾c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—The quality of the flocks on sale during this past week has been from coarse to choice. Trade has been very slow, and several car-loads of sheep have been held over from one market day to the other. Monday, sheep sold at 7@8¾c. Wednesday, trade small; sheep 7@8¾c.; spring lambs, 14¾c. Thursday, sheep at 6¾@9c.; lambs, 8¾c. Friday, the markets closed dull; sheep, 6¾@7¾c. Ohio sheep sold at 7@8¾c.; Illinois, 7¾@8¾c.; Missouri, 7¾@8c.; State, 7@8c.; Indiana, $7.31½ ₱ cwt. The lambs in hand have been received exclusively from New York State.

HOGS.—There were no live hogs on sale. City dressed quoted slow on Monday last at 10¾@10¾c.; light pigs, 10¾c. Wednesday, sales at 10¾@10¾c. The market closed weak at 10@10¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade heavier and sales easier in all classes of horses; 33 head of poor quality light harness horses, $52@100 ₱ head; 41 head ordinary do., $115@195; 14 roadsters, auction fair, but not warranted sound, $225@350; 7 trotters, $250@300; 3 head coarse quality brougham horses, $300@150; 2 saddle horses, quality poor, $100@150; 5 heavy draft horses, quality coarse, $110@275; 1 pair choice quality do., sold for express work, $700; 8 pairs family carriage horses, $275@525 ₱ pair; city railroad horses, $115@200 ₱ head; stage line horses, $175@250. Thirty-five horses arrived per Erie Railroad via Oak Cliff Station.

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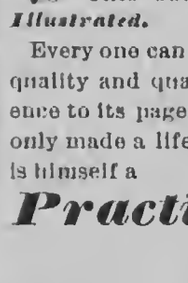

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

DR. TRAUBE, the celebrated physician at Berlin, is dead.

PAUL MORPHY declines to play a chess match at the Centennial.

MISS ANNIE LOUISE CARY will sail for home on the 17th of May.

DR. KENEALY, the Claimant's counsel, is coming to this country to lecture.

KARL BLIND has been elected an honorary member of the Cobden Club.

STEINBERGER has been deposed in Samoa, and imprisoned on a British war vessel.

A. ST. LAZAR, Consul-General of Hayti to New York, has arrived from Port-au-Prince.

MRS. SCOTT SIDDONS sailed from San Francisco on the 30th of March for Sydney, Australia.

IT is reported that William M. Tweed has bought a house in Havana, and is living there.

PROF. HAYDEN was recently elected a member of the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow, Russia.

MISS BRADDON, the novel writer, thinks of making a tour in this country and giving public readings.

A PLASTER cast of the features of the late A. T. Stewart was taken directly after his death by Bierstadt.

JUDGE PRATT of Brooklyn, April 11 sentenced Fuchs, the murderer of Simmons, to be hanged on June 2.

LOTTA, the actress, has engaged the Palmer cottage, on Bellevue Avenue, at Newport, R. I., for the season.

EX-GOV. TALBOT of Massachusetts, is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Massachusetts Anglers' Association.

MR. OWEN MARLOWE, the actor, who has been seriously ill in the Massachusetts State Hospital, is improving.

MR. CHARLES READE will be one of the contributors to The Belgravia Magazine under the new management.

SENOR DON ANTONIO MANTILLA, Spanish Minister at Washington, is sojourning at the Clarendon Hotel, N. Y. City.

COUNT FAVERNEY, long Secretary of the French Legation at Washington, has been promoted French Minister to Brazil.

MR. JOHN F. MILLS, one of the proprietors of the well-known Parker House, in Boston, died on April 9th, aged fifty-three years.

THE name of General George McClellan has been mentioned in connection with the colonelcy of the Fifth Maryland regiment.

THE Archbishop of York, it is said, has identified himself with the Church of England Temperance Society, and has become a teetotaler.

CHARLES MCMILLAN of this State, has been confirmed as the United States Consul-General at Rome, in place of the late Paul Dahlgren.

THE Harvard University stroke oar, Mr. A. P. Loring, has had to give up rowing on account of ill health, which is a set back for the crew.

PROF. SHALER of Harvard College, is reorganizing his school of geology and will start for Cumberland Gap, Tenn., in the latter part of June.

THE reported founding of a Chinese professorship at Yale and the appointment of Mr. S. W. Williams to the chair, is pronounced incorrect.

PRESIDENT PRADO of Peru, arrived at N. Y. City, April 11th. He was met at the quarantine by a delegation of eminent citizens, who escorted him to his hotel.

ONE of the trustees of Wesleyan University, whose name has not been made public, has given $25,000 toward the $500,000 endowment fund of that institution.

MR. R. H. HORNE, the author of "Orion," and Mr. R. S. Townshend Mayer, the editor of St. James's Magazine, have now decided to come to this country in September.

PRESIDENT MCCOSH of Princeton College will begin his second course of lectures in Cincinnati next Monday. His subject will be the "Motive Powers of the Human Mind."

RASPAIL, the advanced radical leader in the French Legislature, is also a chemist of celebrity, having made discoveries which have proved of considerable scientific value.

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S books, manuscripts, and autographs of distinguished persons will be sold by auction in Copenhagen for the benefit of the Andersen Children's Home.

PROF. HUXLEY received a check for $5,000 recently from a gentleman in Manchester, England, who sent it as an expression of the regards of his deceased father for the Professor.

BARTHOLOMEW SHUGRUE was an unmanageable maniac for years in the Norwich almshouse. He was rescued with difficulty when it burned, and has since been perfectly quiet and contented.

THE late John Forster's "Life of Dean Swift," it is now discovered, had not advanced beyond the first volume, which was published a short time ago, and the work will remain incomplete.

PROF. SIEGMUND, a distinguished German Orientalist, fell down a precipice at Amathes, in Cyprus, where he was engaged in the excavations undertaken by Gen. di Cesnola. He died immediately.

IT is stated that Mr. Moody will go to Florida after the close of his meetings in New York City. He will spend a few weeks of the summer with his mother, at Northfield, Mass., and then return to his pastoral work in Chicago.

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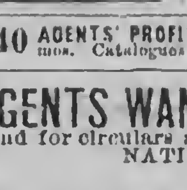

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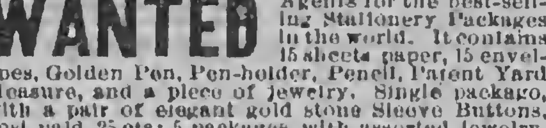

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Cohoes wants a new cemetery.

— They are shooting mad dogs at Binghamton.

— Kentucky is shipping black walnut to Europe.

— The Centennial Exhibition is not to be open on Sunday.

— The peach crop will be all right this year in the southern portion of Illinois.

— A treaty of peace has been made between the Republic of Liberia and the revolting tribes.

— Between eight hundred and a thousand cars of live stock pass through Buffalo each week.

— The Mohawk Woolen Mills were closed for three days in respect to the late A. T. Stewart.

— A majority of the Scotch and Irish members of Parliament are in favor of women's suffrage.

— The last census of Japan places the population at 33,300,675, an increase of 189,000 in three years.

— Paris proposes to name one of her streets "Feb. 20," in honor of the late Republican victory at the polls.

— Thirty-one new members were received into the first Presbyterian Church, Troy, Sunday morning, April 9.

— The leading hotel keeper in Japan has failed for $100,000. He wasn't a Jap, though, but an outside barbarian.

— A tract of 7,000 acres of land on Maple river, Dakota, has been purchased by Eastern capitalists for a great wheat farm.

— A revival in Amherst College has resulted in the conversion of 63 out of 320 students, of whom only 50 are unconverted.

— The State Sheep Breeders' and Wool Growers' Annual Convention is to be held at Batavia on the 26th and 27th of April.

— The House Ways and Means Committe has agreed to the Tariff bill, and refused to strike tea and coffee from the free list.

— The Northern Central railway company is about to supply their track between Elmira and Canandaigua with steel rails.

— A new Episcopal Church, styled the "Free Church of the Epiphany," was dedicated at East Albany, April 10, by Bishop Doane.

— Advices from San Domingo say the election passed off peaceably. Espaillat was elected President by an overwhelming majority.

— The unveiling of the Schiller monument at Marbach, in Germany, will take place on May 9, the anniversary of the poet's death.

— On account of the establishment of a Chinese laundry at Roseburg, Oregon, a war of races is imminent, and the Celestials are arming rapidly.

— There is a valuable piece of real estate in Boston which is leased for 99 years, at an annual rental of 20 tons of pig iron. No soft money about that.

— The banana crop in Louisiana is the largest ever grown there. The fruit has grown through the whole winter, instead of being killed by frost as usual.

— Returns from the vote in Montana on granting a subsidy to the Northern Pacific Railroad show that the proposition will be defeated by a small majority.

— On the 29th of February, forty years ago, the opera of "The Huguenots" was first produced. Since that time the opera has been performed in Paris 591 times.

— The Irish citizens of Albany have formed an Association known as the Mitchell Guards, and will make a parade through the streets of Philadelphia, July 4.

— A fire in the Court House at Martinsville, Ind., April 7, destroyed all the County Clerk's and Sheriff's records for the last eight years. A plot of some kind is suspected.

— The population of Philadelphia, according to the census taken on the 3d of April, is 817,448, a gain of 143,426 in five years, as compared with the last United States census.

— The money lost by a recent fire in Charleston, S. C., would have covered three-fourths of the cost of the water works for which the city has longed for half a century.

— Musical bees are now the rage in London, where prizes are awarded for reading pianoforte and vocal music at sight, and also for skill in interpreting classical works.

— They say in San Francisco that every municipal officeholder, excepting the pound-keeper, has taken a hand at lobbying at the capital during the present session of the Legislature.

— An archeological exposition on a very extensive scale is being organized in Amsterdam to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the capital, and will be opened about the middle of this month.

— The small-pox is prevailing to quite an alarming extent in Perkinsville, N. Y., a little village near Dansville. Two persons have died with the disease and it is said to be gradually spreading.

— Old Orchard Beach from Blue Point to Saco is covered to the depth of from one to two feet with quahaugs, which were thrown up by the late storm. The people are taking advantage of this to lay in a good stock of fish bait.

— The Ohio House of Representatives has just passed two praise-worthy bills, one compelling railroad conductors to eject gamblers from trains, and another forbidding the employment of children under fourteen years of age as gymnasts or public singers.

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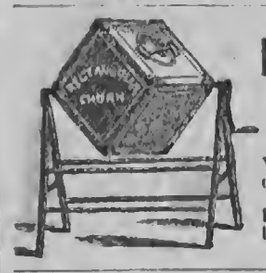

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Having for many years past been engaged in perfecting the various processes for the manufacture of this salt, and by adopting the best modes and machinery for the purpose, they feel warranted in saying to the consumer that the article now produced is superior to any other, either of foreign or domestic production. The following is an analysis of our salt and the Ashton, made in April, 1875, by Messrs. Waltz and Stillman, Chemists, of New York, under the direction of a Committee of the Butter and Cheese Exchange of New York, the samples being selected by the Committee from lots found on sale in market:

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Water	0.7980	0.8280
Insoluble Matter	0.0504	0.0364
Sulphate of Lime	1.2272	0.7217
Sulphate of Magnesia	0.0703	.....
Chloride of Calcium	.....	0.0173
Chloride of Magnesium	0.0591	0.0346
Chloride of Sodium	97.7598	98.5243
	99.9074	99.9822

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At the half it's no better I ween;
When the moon's at three-quarters, "it's at it again,"
And it rains besides mostly between.

[*London Garden.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A PREACHER'S word should be law only when it is gospel.

THE most likely thing to become a woman—A little girl.

ONE swallow does not make a spring, but a dozen make a fall.

AT a recent spelling-match one man spelt it "pasnip" and got beet.

WHEN you see a young goat asleep can you call it a case of kid-napping.

INDEPENDENCE of thought and expression is a rare virtue in these days.

MANY men are like asses, but it was only in Balaam's case that the likeness was a speaking one.

WHO was the straightest man in the Bible?—Joseph, for Pharoah wanted to make a ruler of him.

AN Irishman once ordered a painter to draw his picture and to represent him *standing behind a tree.*

WHY has an ocean voyage no terrors for physicians? Because they are accustomed to seasickness.

WHY is a mad bull an animal of convivial disposition? Because he offers a horn to everyone he meets.

THE young man who came near being transfixed by Cupid's darts, remarked that he had an arrow escape.

A VINEGAR-HEARTED old bachelor says he always looked under the head of "marriages" for the news of the weak.

WINTER clothes, worn thin, will be the prevailing style this spring. It is necessity that compels it.—*Yonkers Gazette.*

To reprove small faults with undue vehemence is as absurd as to seek to remove a fly from a friend's forehead with a sledge-hammer.

AN Irishman recently soliquized:—"What a waste of money to be buying mate when you know that half of it is bone, while you can spend it for whisky that hasn't a bone in it."

JOSH BILLINGS says:—"There is one thing about a hen that looks like wisdom—they don't cackle much till they have laid their oggs. Sum pholks are alwus a bragging and cackling what they are going tew do before hand."

"MY dear boy," said a fond aunt to a very fast nephew, "don't you know that in leading this irregular life you are shortening your days?" "It's quite possible," was the cool reply, "but then look how I lengthen my nights!"

A GENTLEMAN the other day saw a neatly wrapped package lying on the sidewalk, but was too sharp to pick it up, and merely smiled at the harmless sell and passed on. When however, he saw a bootblack stop and undo it and take out a box of fine cigars that some one had dropped, the world seemed to be all slipping away from him.

THUS rules the festive gambolaire:
Never bet on a single paire,
For three of a kind will beat you square,
Or even a straight will lead that are;
But if a full your hand shall bear,
Your chance to win may be reckoned fair—
That is, if your three are away up there;
Kings may do, but by aces swear,
Though four of a kind may make you stare,
Or a royal flush lift the four hand's hair,
Therefore, draw, boys, draw with care
And shift your cards with a careless air,
That when at last to call you dare,
You may "rake the pile" of the gay croupaire.

[*Sun.*

As a reporter passed a North Hill school-house yesterday, says the Burlington Hawkeye, a studious-looking lad emerged from one of the doors with a worried expression of countenance and ambled round to the rear of the building, closely followed by a companion, who popped from behind the fence. The two sought a retired nook, where the studious lad backed up against the wall, and reaching his hand behind him into that department of a boy's clothing that is patched next after his knees, he drew forth one buckskin mit, and again another. As he readjusted his deranged garments, he winced a trifle and rubbing a little lower down on his anatomy, gave vent to the remark "I say, they're pretty good, Jemmy, but he missed 'em seven times."

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The Horseman.

RYSDYK'S HAMBLETONIAN.

THE fine engraving of this remarkable horse was originally prepared for Wilke's Spirit of the Times. It represents the noble horse in the fine proportions which not only marked him, but are reprodneed in Dexter and other monarchs of the turf among his descendants. He was the sire of nearly thirteen hundred foals, more than 1,225 being known, which is probably a greater number than that of any other horse. For some years his services were worth to his owner $10,000 a year, the fee to insure a foal having been $500 since 1865.

This wonderful horse was bred by JONAS SEELEY of Chester, Orange Co., N. Y., and was foaled May 15th, 1849; got by Abdallah, son of Mambrino, by imp. Messenger. Abdallah, his sire, was out of Amazonia, formerly supposed to be of Messenger breed; but it is now conceded that her blood is unknown. The dam was got by imp. Bellfounder, second dam by Hambletonian, son of Messenger. Third dam by Messenger. There was thus the highly prized Messenger blood in both sire and dam. The dam and foal (afterwards RYSDYK'S Hambletonian) was sold by Mr. SEELEY to WM. M. RYSDICK of Chester for $125. At two years old he was bred to four old mares, from which three foals were produced, and one of these was Alexander's Abdallah, the sire of Goldsmith Maid. At three years old Mr. RYSDYK took Hambletonian to Long Island, and though he made a test of a mile in 2:48, which was thought very good for those days, his owner judged that he would prove more valuable as a stallion, and he was kept for that purpose. That this was a profitable move cannot be doubted, as it is estimated that Hambletonian brought his owner $100,000 during the twenty-five years that he owned him.

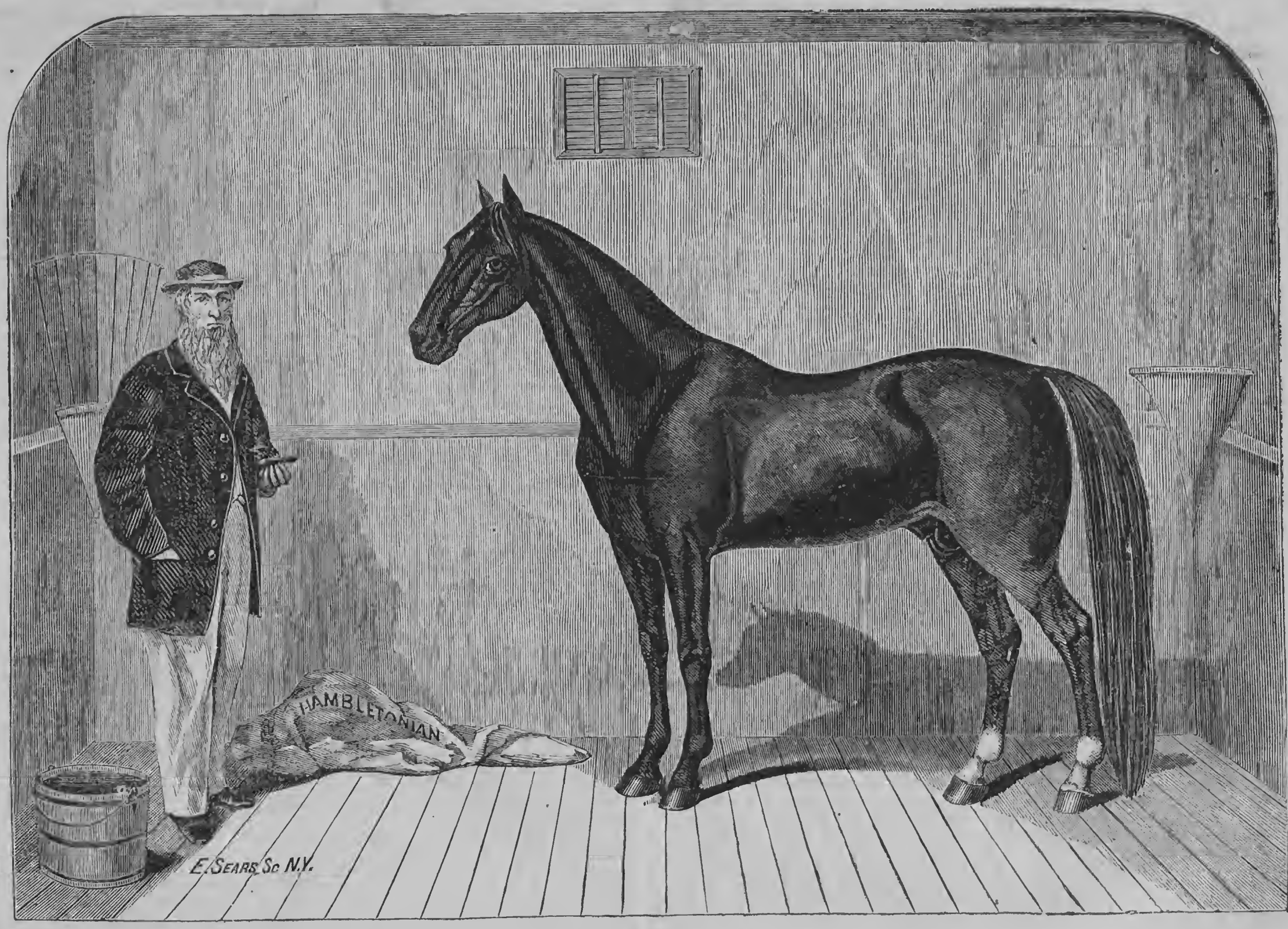
No less than fifty-eight descendants of this famous old sire have made public records of 2:30 or better, twenty-one of which are in the first generation. Of the remaining thirty-seven there are thirty-two grandsons and daughters, and five that are one generation further removed from their distinguished progenitor. Of those in the second generation twenty-nine are descended in the male line, two in the female line, and one by both branches. Of the sixty-one horses that have made records of 2:23 or better in harness, twenty-one were his descendants, and of the ten that have dropped into the 2:18 class, he claims just one half—a showing from the records that clearly entitle him to stand pre-eminent as *the great progenitor of trotting horses*. He was a horse of great substance, but, at the same time, without a particle of grossness. His bone, though heavy, was of most excellent form and apparent fineness of texture. His mane was originally light, the hairs perfectly straight, but not a vestige of it remained. His tail was once very heavy, but it also grew thin with age. In color, he was a rich mahogany bay, with a small star, and two white ankles behind, but below them the coronets were dotted with black spots, and the hoofs mainly dark. His head was large and bony; jowl deep; eyes large and prominent; ear large; neck rather short, and heavy at the throatlatch, but thin and clean; shoulders very deep, oblique, and strong; withers low and broad; back short; coupling excellent; croup high, and enormous length from point of hip to hock; broad, flat, clean legs, with tendons well detached from the bone; hock well bent rather than straight; pasterns long and elastic; and hoofs splendid.

BREAKING COLTS.

IN the RURAL of Jan 1st, "Working Farmer" furnishes your excellent paper with his views of breaking colts, from which, by your permission, I enter a demurer.

1st. "Working Farmer" thinks that the correct method is to permit the colt to run untouched until three years of age, then catch him, (if you can) and when you get him, and after a fearful struggle, get the halter on him. He being wild, in endeavoring to get away, or to elude your grasp, probably throws himself from one to twenty times, and endangering the life of the (would-be) manager, and running very much risk of breaking his limbs, or some blood vessel. In addition, it will take two men to hold, whereas, if haltered when four or six months old, one man can handle him, without danger to man or beast.

I broke a Hambletonian colt, whose mother was an English hunter by Tormentor, and consequently a very high-strung colt, that was two years old the 23d of last Oct. I haltered him when he was about from four to six months old, and before I could get him to lead—by the use of the mildest means possible—he threw himself



RYSDYK'S HAMBLETONIAN.

thirteen times. I then let him go, and when, some time afterwards, I put the halter on him again he was perfectly docile.

This winter, being two past, father gave him to me. I thought I would break him. I put the harness on, which did not seem to frighten or excite him in the least, so I led him out of the barn—led him down the road. I spent the major part of day in getting him to drive by the lines, and go where and do just what I told him, after which I hitched him up with another two year old Hambletonian (his mate) to the democrat wagon, and the other colt having been driven before, I tied his end of the doubletree back, just even, so that the colt, used to drawing some, had to draw the whole wagon when the other colt hung back. After I had driven him about half an hour, he drove up, finally, in the harness, and ever since has been as gentle as any horse in Steuben Co., and has never manifested the least ugliness or bad temper since the first days' toil with him. I think if I had undertaken to halter, harness, hitch up and drive him all in one day when three years old, I should have had not only a kicking and balking colt, but a colt not worth, in reality, one dollar, whereas I think him worth to-day, at the lowest figure, $1,000. Again, I have a two-year-old stallion (the mate of the one already referred to) that I harnessed, hitched and drove, all in one day, but he had been thoroughly broken to the halter at six months old, and he is as well broken and as gentle as the other.

My reason for referring to this last colt is this, there are no two colts that act alike when breaking, and the manager cannot adopt any one theory of breaking all colts, but must study carefully and know the disposition of the colt to be handled, and then act upon it. A colt should be well broken to the halter when weaned, as it is a great convenience, if necessary, to move them from one place to another, and they should be harnessed and way-wised to the road at two years, but not drawn hard. Then at any time in after life, when the horse has reached working naturally, he will be ready and willing to do whatever can be reasonably required of him. J. W. B.

Addison, N. Y.

MANAGEMENT OF BROOD MARES.

Mr. M. W. Dunham of Ill., last year made some large purchases of Percheron horses, and in a recent letter he thus describes the French, or Percha method of breeding.

The division of the sexes in Perche differs from most countries where horses are raised. One section has the mares and produces the colts, while another section buys and raises them. No matter what may be the class to which she belongs, light or heavy, or partaking of both, the mare is expected to breed every year. If barren, she is sold. This fault continuing, she passes into public use. During her gestation, she works constantly. A few days' rest before and after foaling is the only time lost. The remainder of her work pays abundantly for keep and the interest on her cost. At the age of five or six months the colt is abruptly weaned and sold. Led into the interior upon the fertile meadows it remains one year unproductive. In winter, it is fed on hay, in the stable, and during the fine season turned into the field to graze. To sum up, it is rather poorly nourished on bran, grass and hay. The reason is, that it is yet unproductive to its master, and it feels the effect. Wait a little. Its hardest time has gone by; and work will soften its lot. It reaches, in this manner, the age of fifteen to eighteen months. At this age the colt is put to work. Naturally docile and in the hands of a man always patient and kind, the training is generally easy. Assigned to farm labor the colt plows or draws a wagon. Harnessed with four or five colts of its own age, together they pull what would be an easy load for two good horses. Put before oxen or joined to three of its companions, the young animal plows, and is never overworked. Now it is fed better, and receives better care. Its *morale* improves, and its master seems to delight in contemplating the progress and development of the desirable qualities. Master, servant, large and small, all deeply imbued with the love of the horse, unite in this work with admirable skill. Thus, in traveling through Perche, one involuntarily stops in the middle of the fields to see the colt work, never tired of admiring the vigor it displays and the gentleness with which it is treated. At the age of three, the Beauce farmer buys the colt to work his soft and light soil. For him the young animal must be preserved intact, its development uninjured, nay, encouraged.

The colt has thus been worked one year, abundantly fed, but supplied with little or no grain. Doing enough light work to pay its keeping, the master has received enough besides the manure to pay a heavy interest on the cost of his colt. The primitive work, which would have been injurious under a careless management, is, on the contrary, beneficial so long as the colt is in the hands of a good master. This is so much the general case, that the contrary is the exception. The animal grows and becomes better developed in size and strength than if not worked.

KEEPING USELESS HORSES.

This is a subject which deserves more attention than it generally receives. Thousands of horses are kept at large expense without doing enough work to earn their board. In many cases these superfluous horses could be made useful by employing more hired help; but where this is impracticable they should be disposed of at once. J. V. W. writes very sensibly in the Country Gentleman on this topic:

The habit of keeping a lot of useless horses almost too good to give away, and hardly worth keeping, in many families is hereditary, handed down from father to son, and has become a chronic complaint. What shall be done to remedy this evil? The answer is—avoid accumulation. Very few men start in business with too many horses, but they increase in different ways. Farmer A. thinks it would be profitable to raise a few colts to sell, which is all well enough. Neighbor B. has sold one for a good price, and A. knows his colt is fully as good a one, if not better, and of course he must have the same price, or more. Time rolls on, horses are on the increase, finally a team is supposed to be ready for sale. This time neighbor C. has sold a team for a fancy price. A. feels now that he has too many horses, and would like to sell his team, and would do so if he could get the price C. sold at. He knows his team is just as good, perhaps not quite as well matched, or in as prime condition, or as well broken; yet in his own mind he is satisfied that his team is really worth the most money. He does not realize that to get a fancy price it is more important to have a good customer than a good team. Yet farmer A. is not discouraged, but means to sell his team, and have a good price for them.

In a few years he will have from six to nine horses on the farm, and no more work than three or four at most could do, if well fed and cared for. These extra horses are an expense of at least from $75 to $100 yearly, taking into account feed, shoeing, and interest on the money for which they might be sold. How much better to devote this sum to improvements, charity, travel, or good books! The amount of labor that a good team can do, when well fed and cared for by a person who makes it his business to follow them, is wonderful. Experience teaches me that they are fully equal to two teams fed and cared for in the average way among farmers; and certainly the expense is much less. This is what is to be looked after in all business; for just in proportion as expenses are curtailed or increased, will the profits be more or less.

Keeping an extra team year after year, simply to do a couple of weeks' extra work in the spring, and as much more in the fall, is worse than useless. My remedy to avoid this increase of horse stock is to sell. Whenever I can get a buyer for a horse, I do not hold on to get my neighbor's prices. As I said before, more depends on the customer than on the horse, as far as getting a fancy price is concerned. It is better to suffer inconvenience ten days in the year on account of not having teams enough, than to be harrassed all the rest of the year with too many.

WE DRIVE HORSES TO EXCESS.

By driving to excess we mean that horses are pulled and hauled, jerked and twitched too much with the reins. There is too much guiding with the lines. Concerning this subject the Prairie Farmer says (in truth) that the "most vicious and inexcusable style of driving is the manner which so many drivers adopt, to wit: Wrapping the lines around their hands and pulling the horse backward with all their might and main, so that the horse, in point of fact, feels the weight back of him, with his mouth, and not with his breast and shoulders. This they do under the impression that such a dead pull is needed in order to 'steady' the horse.

"The fact is, with rare exceptions, there should never be any pull upon the horse at all. A steady pressure is allowable, probably advisable; but anything beyond this has no justification in nature or reason. For nature suggests the utmost freedom of the action of the head, body and limbs, in order that the animal may attain the highest possible rate of speed. In speeding a horse the lines need seldom be grasped in both hands when the road is straight and free from obstructions. The true way to drive is to let the horse drive himself, the driver doing little but directing him and giving him that confidence which a horse gets in himself only when he feels that a guide and friend is back of him."

Brittle Feet.—Wash the horses' feet clean every night, and when dry apply a coating of the following with a brush:—Fish oil, one part; vegetable tar, one part; oil of tar, one-eighth part. Apply to the hoof only.—*Live Stock Journal.*

Farm Economy.

IMPROVEMENT OF OLD PASTURES.

This is a very important subject, and the means for accomplishing the object will interest many farmers. Mr. E. Woon of Concord, Mass., writes in the New England Farmer:

The pastures in this town will not keep nearly as much stock as they would twenty years ago. There are hundreds and hundreds of acres used for pasturage that are not worthy of the name. There is in one neighborhood more than a thousand acres, once noted for its value in that respect, naturally good land, undulating, too stony to plough to advantage, where, since my remembrance, cattle were fatted—now not able to carry a sheep to the acre—covered with brushes and almost worthless.

I have had much experience in improving pasture land of almost every description, and used many kinds of fertilizers in their reclamation, and came to the conclusion many years ago that the plow was indispensable in their improvement. I am aware that much depends on the nature and condition of the soil. When cows were kept on my farm, their manure was not evenly distributed, and, being taken out of the pasture nights, the grass failed. Two years since, some eighteen horses and colts were kept; they are very destructive, stamping out the grasses with their incessant running and frolicking, and their droppings, (except the liquid,) are of very little account, if left on the field and exposed.

As a last experiment I am trying sheep, and for two reasons, and the best one (it must be admitted) is the profit of early lambs. My sheep have already had sixty-nine lambs, with the loss of only two, and some of them weigh over thirty pounds. The second reason is the "improvement of the pasture." In that I have not been disappointed. In the first place, my pasture will keep more than I expected; and though sheep feed in spots where the feed is sweetest, and, of course, leave their manure there, it was not the pasture that needed to be improved the most, except to be enriched. People have expressed their surprise at the results. In passing over the pasture where the sheep frequent most, you would say it was newly top dressed, and that the grass had thickened wonderfully. On another portion good red top hay was mown, showing that my one hundred and thirty sheep and lambs were not overstock. Sheep are great scavengers, and there is hardly anything that grows naturally on the lot but what they will eat, except a coarse grass that always follows the cutting of wood. There were some seven or eight acres of this description, where wood was cut four years ago; the piece was plowed imperfectly, harrowed, and grass seed sown, but, being a dry year, the coarse grass got the advantage. Horses eat it, but sheep will not; horses would not eat an oak or birch sprout, brier or blueberry bush, but sheep eat everything of the kind. Every day you find them looking for variety, no matter how good the grass is. I cannot say as yet as to the profit, but the pasture is improving, equivalent, almost, to the cost of keeping in summer.

H. S. Randall, the best authority, says—"that four hundred sheep will, if properly managed, manure and improve from year to year forty-five acres,"—a statement which, from my own experience, I fully believe in. I do not say the business will be continued on my farm for a great length of time, but some reports shall be made satisfactory in regard to it, if not prevented by dogs or disease.

PASTURES.—ENGLISH TREATMENT.

Prof. W. J. Beal in the report of the Michigan Board of Agriculture, presents the views of English farmers on the subject of keeping a part of the farm in permanent pasture or meadow. According to their belief and practice, a pasture never becomes very good until it has been seeded six or more years, and in their opinion, it is undesirable to break up tolerably good pastures for the purpose of converting them into arable land. They have studied the nature of different grasses and the soils to which they are adapted, carefully and prepare mixtures of seeds suitable for each geological formation. The object is to have the grasses mature at different seasons of the year, producing a permanent and evergreen sward. It is the general belief in Great Britain, we are told, that permanent pasture, when properly managed, yields a better quality of grass or hay than one newly seeded, and that the quantity does not diminish with the age of the pasture. Mr. Clement Cadle, after twenty years' experience, concludes that, in England, money judiciously used in improving grass land pays a more certain return than when expended in the growth of wheat. He considers the question of applying manures properly, a difficult one, but gives the following general rule:—"In proportion as the land is inclined to grow bent or stocky grass, inclining to seed, apply ammoniacal manures. If the land produces thick, short, leafy herbage, the phosphate manures must be applied."

Mr. S. H. Thompson, another English farmer, concludes that money used in improving grass land gives a better return than on arable land. With him good barnyard manure is a standard. Coarsely-pulverized bones and barnyard manure produced lasting results, often very marked for twenty years. Mr. Lawes expresses the opinion that bones appear to be chiefly adapted to the exhausted pastures of certain localities. He recommends a dressing of barnyard manure once in five years, with application of nitrate of soda the other four years.

They conduct experiments with more care in England than we do in this country, or at least exhibit more patience in conducting experiments through a series of years, and we have outlined the views given because they are based on careful experiments.

R. H. Huntley of Coldstream, England, in the report of this year (1875) says he "laid down three fields to permanent grass by the process known as 'inoculation.'" He succeeded finely. With a plow he turned from an old pasture field strips of turf 4 inches wide. These were cut up with spades into pieces 4 inches long. They were put all over the new field in little holes 1 foot apart. Then the field was rolled. Prof. Beal has applied this system to lawns, and believes it is a surer and more rapid way than by using seed for lawns.

OAT STRAW INJURIOUS.

From a report of the Farmers' Club at the Experimental Farm in Chester Co., Pa., we take the following paper by J. L. Carter:

March 18 we began giving a common cow (selected on account of being a ravenous eater) as much oat straw as she would eat in addition to her usual feed of cut fodder, hay and meal. The first few feeds she ate ravenously of the straw, but settled to 3 or 4 lbs. at a feed. March 19 we began weighing her milk, and found that eight milkings made 91 lbs. of milk, or an average of 23 lbs. 8 oz. a day. We then ceased feeding her the oat straw and put her on her usual feed. We then found six milkings made 77 lbs. 1 oz., or an average of 25 lbs. 10 oz. a day. The whole experiment resulted as follows:—91 lbs. of milk made 8 lbs. 5 oz. of cream and 2 lbs. 14½ oz. of butter—taking 32 lbs. of milk to make 1 lb. of butter; 77 lbs. 1 oz. of milk made 7 lbs. 5 oz. of cream and 2 lbs. 14 oz. of butter, and took 26¼ lbs. of milk to make 1 lb. of butter. This showing would indicate that the oat straw was a serious injury. But during this part of the feeding the weather was quite cold and stormy, and all the cows shrunk in their milk—how much of the deficiency was due to this cause we cannot tell. We would feel better satisfied to try the experiment when the weather becomes settled, and perhaps try the whole herd.

N. J. Sharpless said it would be a good idea not to feed hay when feeding the oat straw. The impression existed that the oat straw affected the taste of the butter. Thos. M. Harvey said that Isaac S. Dance of West Marlborough was once informed by his city dealer that his butter was not as good as it had been, and he and his wife set about finding out the cause, when he accidentally discovered his cow eating her bedding, which was oat straw, and upon changing this style of bedding he heard no further complaint about his butter. Enos Barnard has had the same trouble, and remedied it in the same way. The speaker said, however, that this did not prove that it was the oat straw that did the mischief; it may have been due to the dirt which may have been on the straw and eaten with it.

"LASTING" FERTILIZERS.

Prof. Stockbridge, in a recent address before a Farmers' Club, thus disposes of the idea that it is advisable to use slow-acting manures:

If it is possible to realize the full benefit of a fertilizer in one year, rather than to wait four, let us do it. No merchant, with a convenient market for buying, will lay in a four years' stock of goods at one time. Of course, the old rule of charging 50 per cent. of the manure to the first crop, 30 to the second, 20 to the third, holds good. Even if all the chemical matter were taken up the first year, forces would be started which would increase the second crop. In considering what fertilizers he should use, the farmer must bear in mind the character of his soil and crop. The carting of muck and other heavy materials into the yard for composting is too costly, in labor, to be profitable, unless to save manure which is wasting. The surest way to decompose barnyard manure is to apply from 100 to 200 lbs. of plaster to the cord: the latter amount is better, and it should be well "forked in."

In hauling manure from barnyards, use two wagons with one team and two men—one man loading while the other is drawing away and unloading. In this way double the work can be done with only one team.

The Herdsman.

TWO KINDS OF CATTLE HUSBANDRY.

THE Colorado Farmer says of the two styles of cattle growing in the Western States:—A citizen of New Mexico owns not less than forty-two townships of land, and has it stocked with sixty thousand head of cattle. In Texas there are cattle ranches nearly as large, the number of cattle ranging from twenty to fifty thousand head. In early times ranches stocked with twenty or thirty thousand cattle were not uncommon in California.

There was an attractive side to this primitive cattle husbandry. It was a grand thing to send forward herds of cattle to market, or to ride over a domain as large as a whole county. But this kind of cattle husbandry involved no improvements. No crops were raised, roads built or fences made. In short, cattle raising as followed in New Mexico and Texas, or as formerly in California, tends to barbarism. The business develops nothing that is best for the individual; it stimulates no growth, encourages no agricultural improvements, organizes no society, supports no school, and does nothing for a well-ordered community.

There are few who sigh for the good old times when if a hungry man wanted a beef he took it from the fields, or if his horse gave out he exchanged it for a fresh one with the next ranch man. No doubt the rude hospitality of these early times was attractive. But then an ox was worth little more than his hide would bring, and a horse had no commercial value. The "pastoral days" have departed, and they are succeeded by much better ones.

The new cattle husbandry involves the best improvements. When a farmer undertakes to raise the best breeds of cattle his enterprise is sure to carry him far enough to adopt the best methods of culture. The home-farm is put under conditions of renewal. It is conveniently sub-divided, the exterior fences are well built, and the problem is, how many cattle can be sustained on a given number of acres. These high-bred cattle will pay for all the care bestowed upon them. They want rich pasture and a small area.

The sheep and cattle husbandry which have become accessories of the home-farm have an influence just the reverse of primitive cattle husbandry. The latter was continually lapsing and carrying everything towards barbarism; the other involves skill, stimulates the best methods of agriculture, and lifts up farming to an intelligent and attractive home pursuit. The great ranges of New Mexico and Texas may serve a useful purpose in furnishing beef for populous cities, but even then it is not the best. The business will disappear before the advancing wave of population, because the very conditions of success are immense ranges and an absence of population.

While it is undoubtedly true that the immense herds of cattle raised in some of the Western territories are not favorable to thorough breeding, they offer the greatest facility for profitable improvement by crossing with purely bred stock. Many small farmers in the Eastern States cannot afford to buy improved stock unless they are sure of co-operation with their neighbors, in crossing it with all the stock in the neighborhood. But where a man owns hundreds or thousands of cattle, he is made independent of such considerations, and can buy a thoroughbred bull solely for improving his own herds. This is being done to some extent, and this tendency must increase. Those who keep small herds carefully attended, can probably breed thoroughbreds to better advantage than the herdsmen of Texas or the Plains, but the latter are sure to be their best customers.

EXPERIMENTS WITH JERSEYS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Utica N. Y., Herald, writing from Norwich, N. Y., says that John S. Shattuck of that place, has been instituting a series of experiments to test the milk and butter-making qualities of his Jerseys, compared with other cows of his dairy, the result of which I am enabled to present substantially in his own words, as follows:—I have weighed, he says, the feed of four cows, weighing the milk also, and testing the milk by churning, to see its value for butter. Two of the cows are thoroughbred Jerseys (small cows); the other two are grade Ayrshires (good sized cows). I gave to each cow the following rations each day:—5 quarts sour milk, 2½ pounds shorts, 1¾ pounds corn meal mixed, and 22½ pounds of hay to the Jerseys, and 27½ pounds to the Ayrshires. The Jerseys gave in 7 days 345 pounds milk, being an average of 24.64 pounds each per day. The Ayrshires gave 409 pounds milk, averaging 29.21 pounds daily. The Jersey cows made 1 pound 3 ounces each of butter per day; the Ayrshires 1 pound 1 ounce each; leaving a balance of 2 ounces per day in favor of the Jersey cows. This, for nine months, would be 33.75 pounds. At 40 cents, the present price of butter, this would make $13.50. The difference in the cost of keeping with hay at $10 per ton, is 2½ cents per day in favor of the Jerseys, which would make $9.12 per year. The calves from the Jerseys are worth, at a low estimate, $30 each more than those from common cows. The difference of 5 cents per pound on 250 pounds would make a difference of $12.50 in favor of the Jersey cow, which would make $57.10 in favor of the Jerseys. Samples of the butter made during this experiment were presented for the examination of the Farmers' Club at their late meeting, and a committee of butter dealers called in to report the difference in the market price of the specimens on exhibition. The committee, consisting of J. D. Reed and J. A. Carr, gave it as their opinion that there was a difference of five cents per pound in favor of the butter made from the Jersey cows at wholesale, and ten cents per pound at retail. The food in the above test was given raw or dry. Mr. Shattuck is now giving like rations to the same cows, cooked or scalded, to determine the relative advantage, if any, of feed thus prepared.

JERSEY CATTLE.

THE following article relating to Jersey cattle is taken from the Agricultural (Eng.) Gazette:

If the value of Jersey stock is to rest on color, deterioration will surely follow of those useful qualities that are so far noticeable in the good, old-fashioned, parti-colored cow than that which will be found among the generality of fine, high-bred, whole-colored fawns, grays, or foxy, so-called Jerseys. I have owned hundreds of acclimated Jersey stock, and have never, as a rule, found the whole-colored such large producers as many of the parti-colored, but the most ugly and ungainly beasts of the lot, yet her stock have never failed to show their large butter-making qualities. The true type of a Jersey cow is in fact an animal that will not make meat. I do not say that this is not improved upon by acclimatization and a slight introduction of a hardier breed, of which what are termed Chichester Jerseys are the best description; neither do I say that Jersey breeders in the Island itself have not in some instances a breed that shows a disposition to make some flesh, and very probably may then be following up the requirements of fashion; yet I maintain that a pure Jersey should throw the bulk of her feeding properties into butter, and with little to flesh. The parti-colored good cow may have but a white spot, especially under the belly, but throughout the body the rich yellow skin, under any colored hair, will be found black, white or fawn. I have seen the commencement of a whole-colored breed, the property of a noble duke, to obtain which I have seen the healthy and large-producing cows sold off to prevent an animal with the slightest stain of that one color. I have heard from good authority that usefulness has been sacrificed for fashion in this instance, which, if followed up, as it rapidly is, I have no doubt that the future rich Jersey will be beef, not butter, as it was.

HOLSTEIN COWS.

THE agent of the Shakers, at West Pittsfield, Mass., bears the following testimony in favor of the Holstein cows for the butter dairy:

One cow, seven years old in the spring of 1875, calving March 17, has given on an average, twenty quarts per day to the present date. I tested her milk in butter from the 13th of June for seven days, during which time she made fourteen pounds of nice butter, with no extra feed and no more than a common pasture.

The second cow, six years old in the spring of 1875, calved September 22d, 1875, and after four or five days, her milk was reserved by itself and set for cream, after letting the calf suck what it would three times a day. From the surplus of seven days, I found on weighing the butter, thirteen pounds of a fine article, and in total quantity per day, after three weeks of the time of the calf sucking, she had averaged from twenty-four to twenty-six quarts per day of milk.

November 24th, 1874, I bought a thoroughbred imported Holstein bull, one year old past, and his gain in ten months is four hundred pounds, making an average of forty pounds per month and not on high feed.

They are a fine growing stock, large, good feeders, and I can say with all freedom, that they are in my estimation the best for market, milkers, butter, cheese, oxen and beef of any thoroughbred stock now known in the country. I should be pleased to show the above samples to any and all who may be pleased to call.

SELLING OATS AND FEEDING BARLEY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Utica Herald says: Farmers have been accustomed to sell their barley and feed their oats. That was quite proper when oats were worth from 30c. to 35c. per bushel, and barley $1.40 to $1.55. Now the situation is changed, and farmers should feed barley and sell oats, if they still find it necessary to grow as much barley as formerly. Barley will always be valuable as feed for horses, cows, and swine. This is something that cannot be affected by a variable market, and herein is the farmer's independence. His stock provides an excellent market for the barley he cannot sell, and it does not in this case increase the evil of intemperance, but adds materially to the wealth and prosperity of the country. The effect of barley, in fattening any kind of stock, or as a substitute for other grain, is excellent. In feeding horses, I find it better to boil the barley for the horses. Barley ground and cooked for pigs is not surpassed by any other kind of feed; it is economical, and the pigs like it. For feeding cows, I prefer mixing barley meal with the bran (as it is rather heavy), and either feeding dry or as a mash, which is decidedly the best.

Dairy Husbandry.

DAIRYING IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

THE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE AT SWEETSBURG.

THE Annual Conference of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society for the District of Bedford, Province of Quebec, was held at Sweetsburg in the above Province, March 15-16. The plan of this Society is to call together all the different Agricultural Associations in the District in annual conference, discussions, addresses, &c., being contemplated for all the different societies, and to have the various societies operate in harmony together, while during a portion of the time occupied by the Conference, each society has special meetings of its own. The Dairymen's Association of the District belongs to the Conference, and this year the principal work done was through the addresses and discussions on dairying before that Association.

The original idea of this Agricultural Conference, the general features of which differ from anything in the States, belongs, as we were told, to the Hon. C. DUNKIN who, as President, organized the Association. The Annual Conference last year was very largely attended and proved, in every respect, a great success.

The President, Judge DUNKIN, having recently gone abroad for his health, the chair was occupied by Mr. GEO. CLAGES, who expressed his regrets that owing to the illness of the President and the absence of Mr. H. S. FOSTER—who had been selected by the Executive Committee to take the chair on this occasion—that the duty devolved on himself. He thought it proper that a committee be appointed to draft suitable resolutions in regard to Judge DUNKIN and the great work he had done in promoting the agricultural interest of this district, and the following Committee was appointed:—Hon. G. B. Baker, W. W. Lynch, M. P. P., W. C. Baker, W. Toof, A. P. Hulburt, and E. J. Morgan. The committee retired and subsequently presented a series of resolutions highly complimentary to the Judge.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. X. A. WILLARD of New York, who proceeded to give an address on

BUTTER DAIRYING.

The speaker commenced by referring to the enormous consumption of butter in the United States, and then gave in detail a description of the best butter cow, her management and the processes in butter making which were calculated to give the best results.

In the discussion which followed some important information was brought out in regard to dgirying in the "Eastern Township." The District of Bedford includes the Counties of Shefford, Brome and Missisquoi. Brome County is about 29 miles long by 20 miles wide. The soil is a gravelly loam and pretty well adapted to grazing. Farms vary in size from 100 to 400 acres, the average farm being about 150 acres. This will usually carry 16 cows, summer and winter. There is not much attention paid to breeding, though there are more or less grade Short-Horns and Ayrshires scattered through the herds. There are 20 cheese factories in the County, the largest of which takes the milk of about 500 cows. The average product is about 275 pounds of cheese to the cow. Mr. HAWK, who has three factories in the District and one on his farm near Brigham, informed us that the highest price paid for cheese during the past season in this section was 11c. per pound and the lowest rates were 7c. There is a good deal of butter made in the District and all at farm dairies. The milk is usually set in the common small pan, but during the past year the large pans have been introduced to some extent. All the best butter goes to the States—usually to Boston, for which 21c. was the highest figure reached last season, and much was sold at 15c. to 18c. per pound.

Farmers generally get a yield of two packages, 50 pounds each per cow; but extra herds make a yield of 150 pounds to the cow, which is considered a large yield. Dairy farms are valued at $40 per acre for best, and good, fair farms can be had from $15 to $30 per acre. The farmers usually grow all the grains needed on the farm—wheat, oats and corn. The yield of hay on the best farms is about two tons per acre. The east part of Brome County is well watered by springs.

Shefford County lies north of Brome, is somewhat rolling, rough and stony, but is an excellent grazing County. There are 15 cheese factories in this County, and there is more grain raised in the County than in Brome. About half the population is French. There is a large quantity of butter made in the County.

Missisquoi County is one of the best farming Counties in the "Eastern Townships." It is the oldest and richest. The leading business is grazing. There are 30 cheese factories in the County of about the same size as those in Brome, the largest having 600 cows. Cheese making commenced in this County at Dunham in 1865. The best farms are valued at $50 per acre, and cows are selling this spring at from $25 to $30, which two years ago would have sold at $45 per head. Meadow lands are broken up and reseeded every four or five years, but pastures are generally permanent, or not often put under the plow. In breaking up meadows, the first crop taken off is corn and the second crop is wheat, when the land is put down again to grass.

EVENING SESSION.

At the evening session Mr. WILLARD of New York gave another address on "Curing Cheese," after which considerable discussion followed as to the best plan of constructing curing rooms. It was said that the cheese factories of the District were very defective in regard to regulating temperature, and there was quite a desire on the part of factorymen present to make improvement in this direction.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

At the morning session the Hon. E. A. BARNARD of Montreal gave an interesting address on the more important requisites in successful farming. Mr. B. has studied the best systems of farming in Europe, having been employed by the Dominion Government to visit different countries in Europe and examine the best farming districts, with a view of introducing improved agriculture in Canada. He thought the leading principles of Agriculture could be embraced under six heads, viz.:—1st, Drainage; 2d, Mellowing the soil; 3d, Cleaning the soil or freeing from weeds; 4th, Manuring; 5th, Seeding at the proper time and with the right proportion of seeds; and 6th, Cropping, or how to obtain the best crop and make the best use of it.

Each of these points was discussed at considerable length. He referred to what had been done in Great Britian. One hundred years ago the average yield of wheat in the kingdom was only six bushels per acre; now the average was 29 bushels per acre. He regarded underdraining as the basis of all this improvement; it secures a permanent benefit, and has added hundreds of millions of dollars to profit. He estimates the profit to be at least from 30 to 40 per cent. on the average.

In regard to mellowing the soil he illustrated the better yield from this practice by comparing garden culture with field culture, and said one reason for the immense yield of gardens was that the land was better prepared to receive the seed, and the constant working of the soil operated to produce results that could not be obtained in the usual field culture. He referred to the advantages of rolling, light, sandy soils and spoke of the heavy rollers used in Belgium, where farming is perhaps conducted better than in any other country in Europe. He deprecated in strong terms the waste of manures by American farmers. The manures are not only left to be leached out by rains, but they are often left exposed to the sun and air until a large share of their most valuable fertilizing elements is dissipated. In Belgium the liquid manures are considered the most valuable and give better returns than the solid excrements. He thought the best system of saving the liquid manure was to have it absorbed by placing dry earth upon it.

The address was listened to with marked attention, and from the happy manner of illustrating points to be urged, was made very instructive and interesting.

In the afternoon Mr. WILLARD of New York gave his third address on the "Manufacture of Cheese." This was followed by a brief discussion, in which all the leading points from the production of the milk, its care in handling, together with the manipulation of the curds, were touched upon.

It was stated at the Convention that the number of cheese factories in the "Eastern Townships" at the commencement of last year, was 160, and that the product of cheese manufacture in these townships during the year, amounted to between 9,000,000 and 10,000,000 pounds. Quite a number of new factories will go into operation the present year, especially in the French country. This part of the farming population in the "Eastern Townships," having learned that much better profits can be secured by dairy farming than by grain raising, is causing many to abandon grain and adopt the dairy.

The Conference was a very pleasant one, and was considered by those present as a great success.

Industrial Topics.

DOES FARMING PAY?

Some people have no shame. In reading the newspapers of the past week may be seen complaints that farming don't pay because of competition with the West, and others say all cultivated land should be free from taxes. A Mr. Davis in Maryland intimates that the corn laws of England make that country the richest in the world, and in consequence some protection is necessary to the worn-out land of the East.

Now, there cannot be any right feeling in such people. Whose fault is it that the soil of the East is so shamefully impoverished? and then what ignorance to say English protective corn laws give her agricultural prosperity, when it is the standing reproof to all protection that the corn laws were repealed thirty years ago, since which free trade has caused an extraordinary increase in yields of grain per acre, inasmuch as farmers have all doubled their previous stock of sheep and thereby enriched their soil, so that produce of every kind has nearly doubled, and instead of farmers being ruined, they pay more rent than formerly.

There is nothing in the world which should cause a man to feel so ashamed as to live close to ever open and good markets and then grumble at competition from those who have heavy freights to pay before they can dispose of their produce at the same price; but the Eastern farmers cannot be content, and ought to have some sense of shame when they cannot compete with others who have no advantages over them, but numerous disadvantages, for they have protective duties from heavily taxed Europe, and with that cannot grow wool enough for home consumption. New England cannot grow grain to support herself, and Canada can pay import duties and freight and then send horses to New York?

Is it not a shame for farmers to have run the land down till much of it cannot grow wheat to pay for seed and harvesting? Can it be aught but a shame for all the beautiful virgin soil to be despoiled and brought down to the lowest state of sterility, so that, as it is in Connecticut, farms can be bought for less than the buildings cost to erect them?

It is a shame that land should be so reduced as not to pay for cultivation. But as such is the fact over immense tracts of the Eastern States, both north and south, it is again a great shame that it should not be used for sheep raising, as every American agriculturist should feel ashamed to know there is not wool enough grown to clothe the nation, not so much as 1 lb. in 100 lbs., in comparison with the extent of England, and then how very much ashamed farmers ought to be of those who whine and cry out about dogs, just as if there were no dogs in England, France and Australia, and shame should mantle the cheeks of every one to know there are people so ignorant as to talk about English sheep being kept in small numbers, when there are one hundred for one here. A. W. F.

WIDE vs. NARROW ROADWAYS.

In a January number of the Rural New-Yorker, in the last few lines under the subject of "Village and Suburban Roadways," appears the following:—"There is much more to be said, and after others have said something I will again write a word." We think there is room for improvement, and that considerable labor and money is expended in constructing roads. We will agree with the writer on the first point, but how could we on the second? How can the amount of travel be determined? If one lives near a city, and if there are natural advantages amounting to anything, will it not soon be found necessary to widen narrow roads, and will there not be a greater loss? For example:—Land two miles out may be worth $200 an acre. Now, in ten years, suppose the road is widened when the land is worth $2,000 per acre, would it not be cheaper to have wide roads (80 and 100 feet—none less than 60) at the first? How would one manage suppose he should desire to turn around with a wagon and four horses? According to the illustration, &c., given in the Rural of the gentleman's idea, one would have to travel perhaps half a mile to turn around. Does not property sell more readily on a wide than on a narrow street? Are not wide streets more convenient? We think a road should be not less than 60 feet wide, well thrown up in the center, so that water will run off readily—in fact, about the same as the road described, only have it wide. The sidewalks should be so constructed that all water would run off into the ditch between it and the road. The trees should be planted on the outer edge of the sidewalk and about ten or fifteen feet apart (not more than fifteen), although it depends on what kind of trees are used; then, if they are found to be too thick, every other one may be cut out, which will furnish considerable wood, and in some localities this would be quite desirable. One of the finest roads in the County of Santa Clara is the Naglee Ave., which is 100 feet wide. San Jose Reader.

San Jose, Santa Clara Co., Cal.

PRESSING STABLE MANURE.

The manure from city horse stables is now being pressed into one-third its ordinary bulk by the use of powerful machinery, made for the express purpose. The bales, which weigh about 450 lbs., are confined by suitable staves and bands, and may then be transported to all parts of the country at a cost much below that required for unpressed manure. City stable manure has been sold the past winter at prices considerably below that of former years.—*N. E. Farmer.*

Undoubtedly the use of chemical manure has limited the demands for stable manure. Most of the latter have many weed seeds, which concentrated fertilizers are free from. Besides, stable manure, even when on the ground, cannot be evenly distributed in small amounts over a large surface, while guano and the superphosphates can be applied cheaply and thoroughly in drills with the seed.

GOOD ROOFING.

"There is nothing so bad in the pocket as a hole," and the same remark applies to a roof. Here empathically the best is the cheapest. A roof that leaks is costly property. The damage done to crops in barn is far greater than at any early period, because it represents the cost, not only of growing, but harvesting and generally threshing. In sheds, leaky roofs expose stock to unusual cold, and as for houses, no man who cares for the lives and health of himself and family will live under a leaky roof. The New York Slate Roofing Co. (limited), No. 8 Cedar St., N. Y., furnish a 100-page book, free to all applicants, which gives much valuable information on roofing, house paints and like subjects.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

True Grit.—There is a lady in Fulton County, living near the city of Atlanta, who is running a farm herself, her husband having been an invalid for a long time, and consequently, unable to assit her. She has made this year, with one horse, 450 bushels of corn, 2 bales of cotton, 300 bushels of turnips, 90 gallons of syrup and a large crop of sweet and Irish potatoes. She has a fine garden, from which she sells vegetables to the citizens of Atlanta. She sells butter and milk, makes her own fertilizers at home and buys everything for cash. She says that any man who lives on a farm, and who buys bacon and corn to feed his family ought to be chopped up and fed to pigs.—*Georgia Grange.*

The farmers of Lancaster County, Pa., think their manure heaps so many saving funds, and strive accordingly to increase them in quantity and size. This is why farmers there stable their stock and utilize their straw. By stall-feeding cattle they can feed a larger number of cattle on the same amount of corn and hay, and, consequently, make more and better manure than by feeding outdoors. Hogs are also stabled and well littered with straw; they also make a large amount of manure of a good quality.

The Vineyard.

PLANTING GRAPE VINES.

Doubtless some of our readers will plant out grape vines this spring for the first time, and various questions will arise as to how it should be done. Of course, it is not to be supposed that everybody knows how to plant a vine or tree any more than to build a ship or a steam engine. There is not much science or skill required in doing it; still, there is a little, and *that* little is quite important if the operation is to end successfully.

AGE OF VINES TO PLANT.

New beginners in vine or tree culture are usually impatient, and want to obtain fruit as soon as possible; hence, large vines and trees for "immediate bearing," are especially attractive, and purchasers often pay large prices for large specimens and then have to wait longer for the coveted fruit than if they had commenced with smaller plants costing a far less price. Large plants are generally injured more in transplanting than small ones, starting slowly and progressing less rapidly; therefore, what is gained at the outset in obtaining large specimens is frequently lost in the years following by feeble growth.

But of all the poor things a man ever purchased in the way of plants, an old or large grape vine is about the most worthless and the least satisfactory. A good strong two-year-old vine is about as far as a man need look in the direction of age for securing the best results, and even a healthy one-year-old plant frequently proves to be of more value than one of three or four. Of course we do not say that vines three or four years old are worthless or that they cannot be safely transplanted and by proper pruning be made to thrive and remain healthy, but as a general rule, younger plants are to be preferred. The small rootlets through which the plants draw their sustenance

from the soil are principally at the extreme ends of the main roots, and when large plants are dug up these are very likely to be left in the ground, and the removed vine must produce a new set before it can make any considerable growth.

PRUNING AT TIME OF TRANSPLANTING.

No matter how large and vigorous a vine may be at the time of transplanting, the canes should be shortened or cut back severely—say to one or two feet of the ground. With young vines of one or two years' growth, cut off all but one cane and shorten this within one foot or less of the surface of the ground. From this shortened stump one or two shoots may be permitted to grow the first season, but never more than the latter number, and as a general rule, one is enough. This cane should be kept tied up to a stake during the growing season, all sprouts starting from the base or on the old cane broken off—in fact, keep in view the one object of producing as large and vigorous shoots as possible.

The accompanying figure of a vine at the end of the first season after transplanting, taken from "The Grape Culturist," may be considered a model of its kind. The laterals which have sprung from the axils of the leaves—at a, b, and c—have been checked once or twice by having their ends pinched off with fingers and thumb.

Now a vine grown in this form will have large and healthy leaves, even where one of the same sort would produce small, weakly ones if permitted to trail over the ground without care or attention. Bare number of leaves or young shoots are no indications of strength and vigor, and if the vineyardist desires to make haste in producing fruit he must adopt some such system as this for concentrating the natural forces.

A vine one year old trained in the form shown, is ready for pruning down to a starting point of some future system of training either upon trellises or stakes. It is difficult to make healthy vines out of sickly ones, and many a failure in grape culture dates from neglect in the first season after planting. One must begin with good care if he expects the best results.

Layering Vines.—Persons who are not successful in propagating vines by cuttings, should try their hand at making layers. Any shoot of one year's growth which can be bent down and covered with earth can be used for this purpose. Strong and vigorous plants can be produced the first season by layering, which is not always true of cuttings.

American Grapes in Europe.—Prof. Riley says that the grape cuttings sent from this country last year to Europe to thwart the phylloxera amounted to 14,000,000 cuttings.

Field Crops.

SOMETHING ABOUT ALSIKE CLOVER.

A writer in the Maine farmer furnishes some interesting information relative to Alsike clover, and as many may wish to make a trial of it we copy the material portions.

Ten years ago I sowed five pounds of Alsike clover seed on half an acre of land. The seed came well and in the fall I had a good stand of grass. The next season it produced two loads of hay and 100 lbs. of seed. The second year the quality of hay was about the same and it gave me 165 lbs. of seed. I used the straw and fodder and found it nearly as valuable as my hay, and much better than my coarse pea-vine clover hay, cured fully as well as the alsike. I became so well convinced of its superiority over red clover that I commenced to seed all my land with it; some years seeding thirty acres. Since the second year I raised the alsike I have not sowed one pound of red clover, nor would I if the seed were furnished me free of cost, and a premium of fifty cents a pound given me for using it. I can get more pounds of alsike clover hay from an acre than red; it is no harder to cure and is worth one-third more per ton to feed. It does not lose by standing a few days after it is fit to cut for hay as other grasses do, but continues to keep green and does not lose its leaves and heads in curing like other clover. It will not be damaged so much by rain as other clover; a storm that will spoil red clover will not damage alsike more than one-half.

The past year I had sixteen acres of this clover from which I have cleaned 2700 lbs. of seed and from the 15th Dec., to the 20th March, kept twenty Short-Horns and four horses, wholly on the straw, with the exception of one feed of other hay in the morning. I have fed a small allowance of grain and my thoroughbreds never were in better condition.

As this will be read by hundreds in this State it will either be doubted or else the inquiry will be made, "Why have I not been more successful in raising alsike?" I think I can tell where the great lack of success has been. This clover is a a little tender the first year, after which it will not winter-kill one half as bad as the red. The seeds are fine, and when the clover first comes up it is also fine and tender until it begins to send out its mass of fibrous roots. Now anything that prevents it doing this before the first winter is an injury. If the ground be in poor condition, or weedy, or the grain grows very rank and lodges (any but wheat,) or if the seed be covered too deep, it will prevent it from getting a good growth of roots for the first winter. Another reason for want of success has been in sowing too small a quantity of seed to the acre. I shall not seed in the future with less than ten pounds of alsike and four to eight quarts of timothy. I have not known a farmer to be dissatisfied with this clover if he got a good crop the first year. Another great lack of success has been in sowing a poor quality of seed. There has been a great deal of seed sold in this State for Alsike that had sorrel and white clover seed mixed with it. The seed dealers and merchants who have sold this seed have not done it intentionally but they did not know it themselves. Alsike clover seed is all of it green—from a very dark to a very light green, but none of it is a bright yellow. If there be white clover or honeysuckle mixed with it, it may be known by its color being a bright or pale yellow. The sorrel may be known by its being a three cornered seed; that which is hulled being a glossy brown and a little smaller than that which is not hulled. This has the same shape but a rougher, duller look. The best and a sure way to be successful in raising this clover, is to sow the seed as early in the spring as possible without any grain which will give a good crop of clover well headed in August, and insure its safety in the future. I have confidence enough in this clover to believe it will not be many years before it will be more largely cultivated than any other variety.

SOW WHEAT THIS SPRING.

The Maine Farmer, says:—On no account should farmers who have land suitable for it fail to sow wheat this spring. We say on land that is suitable, for it is well known that wheat requires a strong, dry soil, of fine tilth, and sufficiently well fertilized to give a strong growth of straw and to insure good filling out of the heads, but not over rich. The failure of the crop in some instances the past year should influence no one against sowing a fair breadth of this princely grain, this king of the cereals, the present spring. The trouble heretofore has been that our farmers, discouraged by some unfavorable years with this grain, failed to sow it, and very soon drifted away from wheat as one of the chief crops of the farm. This should not govern any farmer of Maine in his plans for the present season's operations; and whatever may have been your results with wheat last year, go on sowing it this year the same as ever, and depend upon it for the bread of your family. We have faith to believe the soil, the climate, all the needed conditions of successfully raising wheat are possessed by every farmer in Maine, and we feel safe in advising every farmer to sow wheat this spring. Sow early; sow late; sow in the middle—and we believe the result will not bring disappointment.

Arboricultural.

HOW NEW PLANTS ARE INTRODUCED.

THERE appears to be a great lack of information among our rural population in regard to the way new plants are discovered, originated and introduced to the public. If every would-be purchaser of new things in this line was fully informed upon the points named, the occupation of the swindling seed, tree, and plant peddlers, would be gone. We do not say that the honest agent of well-known firms would be any the less successful in selling his wares; in fact, we believe the honest, upright dealer would do far better than now, when nine-tenths of our population know so little about horticultural matters that they are fit subjects to be "humbugged."

If every owner of a garden or farm was conversant with the current horticultural and agricultural literature of the day, the peddlers of mammoth Japanese corn, Egyptian seven-headed wheat, wine plant, blue roses, tree strawberries, and a hundred other similar swindles, would not thrive and make money as they now do in spite of the frequent exposures through the press. The fact is impressed upon us that there are thousands of persons in every State who do not read the very kind of periodicals and books which would give them the very information most needed to guard against being cheated, as well as assisting them in obtaining the best results for the labor expended in cultivating the earth.

But the idea that any peddler of seed or plants can, or ever does get hold of anything new or better than can be purchased of regular and well-known dealers in such articles is simply preposterous; still, there are thousands of people who will believe one of those vagabonds before they would a man of the highest respectability and a dealer in the same article offered by an irresponsible party.

We are not obliged to go into the country to learn this fact; for right here in New York city, where there are scores of seedsmen and florists who are not only responsible, but are known to be fully informed in regard to any plant introduced into cultivation, whether good or bad, these swindling seed and plant peddlers thrive and make money through the general ignorance of the masses in regard to horticultural matters. Every spring these swindling plant dealers open a store or a number of them in different parts of the city, displaying showy pictures of blue roses, strawberries and raspberries as large as good-sized peaches and apples. Sometimes the strawberries are represented as growing on trees several feet high; but no matter how proportioned, or contrary to all known natural laws their claims or exhibition may be, they seem to find fools enough to purchase their wares at exorbitant prices. Men will flock to these places and spend their money freely with those fellows whom they have never seen before and never expect to see again.

If the honest and respectable seedsmen, florists and nurserymen tell would-be purchasers of these prodigious novelties—there are no tree strawberries, blue roses or dahlias—they are very likely to attribute the advice or information given to jealousy on the part of the respectable dealer because he has not secured a stock of such desirable articles. In fact, we have heard men assert this while on their way to purchase the worthless trash generally palmed off as something new and wonderful.

Now if those who seek such novelties as blue roses, would only stop to consider the matter, they could not fail to see the absurdity of the claims made by said dealers. We have nurserymen, florists and seedsmen with almost unlimited capital, who have their agents in various parts of the world constantly on the lookout for rarities of all kinds, and we will venture to say that a plant worth introducing never has or will escape their notice. We once heard one of our florists offer one of the blue rose men $500 for a single plant, provided it produced flowers of the color named. Of course the fellow declared that the picture shown was an exact representation of the rose, of which he offered plants at a dollar each, but to warrant them true to color was quite another thing.

The perambulating tree, plant and seed peddlers who pretend to have something of which respectable local dealers know nothing, are all of the same class as the blue rose men, the veriest frauds, one and all, and it is time that the residents of city and country let them severely alone.

We must expect a slight exaggeration of merits on the part of those who introduce new plants, because it is quite natural that they should employ high-sounding adjectives pretty freely, in order to catch the public ear; but all this can be done without a total departure from the truth. New and valuable things in the horticultural and agricultural line are far more likely to fall into the hands of our wealthy and enterprising dealers than to be hawked about the country by itinerant peddlers. When the blue rose and dahlia are discovered, we will venture to say that some such men as JAMES VICK, ELLWANGER & BARRY, BRIGGS BROS., PETER HENDERSON, or some other of our numerous and wealthy firms will get them before any peddler who can carry all his wealth or stock in trade on his back or in a one-horse wagon.

We will be much obliged to any of our readers who will send us information in regard to wonderful and new varieties of fruits, plants or seeds which are being offered by the class of swindlers we have named.

IMPORTANCE OF THICK LEAVES.

THE important functions that leaves perform, not only in the growth of the plant, but the ripening of its fruit, make it a matter of vital importance that the leaves remain whole and healthy during the time wood and fruit are maturing. Here we meet one of the difficulties of American horticulture. A large part of our plants under cultivation are European species and varieties, or their immediate descendants, selected and grown under certain conditions, meteorologic and otherwise, that render a new trial and selection necessary in America. Hence we are going through anew the process of selection, based on the changed atmospheric and climatic conditions of our peculiar climate.

One of the points most needful to notice in selection is the adaptation of the leaves to our trying climate. Here we have excessive changes, from heat to cold and from cold to heat. We have long-continued rains and protracted drouths. We have insects that multiply excessively, and fungoid growths that spread with marvellous rapidity. All these are trying to plant life, and first after the blossoms to the leaves. If the leaves are small and thin and smooth, they are apt to perish or become diseased, and the fruit, and ultimately the plant, perish. Year by year we find varieties of fruit, otherwise desirable, have to be given up because of their inability to grow leaves that will endure the atmospheric changes or the insect attacks of our climate.

Among our apples we have a notable instance of that very popular variety, the Winesap, whose leaves, in many years and situations, fail to produce a good growth of wood or fruit. The Pryor's Red seems to be gradually succumbing, for a similar reason, in Kentucky and Indiana, and the evil will probably spread as soils become more exhausted. A large proportion of the European apples we have in orchard, show by their small and scanty foliage premonitory symptoms of failure. On the other hand, we find that the Russian varieties and the Siberian crabs are now gaining in favor, and notably hardy and vigorous in leaf, with the possible exception of the Totofski, whose leaf is large but warningly thin.

This subject has received full attention in the case of the grape, whose leaves have been more looked to than those of any other fruit. The Concord's success may be said to be specially due to its large, coarse leaves, which endure all climates and seasons through a wide range of country. The failure of a large number of grapes of excellent quality may be laid to the lack of a leaf with the health and vigor of the Concord. In the case of the peach, it was early found that many sorts deemed of high value in European climates would hardly answer here at all, especially the serrate varieties, which our cultivators, notably in the Mississippi valley, are generally forced to discard.

We might extend this article by multiplying instances, but we will resist the temptation. What we desire to do, and if we have done that we have done enough for the present, is to call the more general attention of our readers to the importance of thick leaves. Seek varieties that have strong leaves, and strengthen weak-leaved varieties by manuring and high culture, which, judiciously applied, strengthens and fortifies foliage against weather changes and insect attacks.

HALE'S PAPER-SHELL HICKORY NUT.

IN the RURAL NEW-YORKER of Nov. 19, 1870, we gave an illustration and description of this splendid variety. We also named it as above for the proprietor of the farm upon which the original tree now stands, near Ridgewood, Bergen Co., N. J. At that time we stated that the Hale's was superior to any sort of the hickory nut that we had ever seen, and altogether very distinct from ordinary varieties of the Shellbark (*Carya alba*), the species to which it evidently belongs. The nuts are large for a variety of this species, varying from an inch to an inch and a quarter in length and about the same in width. Shell very thin, and instead of regular corrugations running from base to point, as usual in varieties of this species, the entire surface is broken up into small depressions or cross sections, similar to those seen on the common English walnut.

That this was one of the most distinct as well as valuable varieties of the hickory nut known, every one who has seen it is ready to admit; but the next thing to be thought of was how it could be propagated for dissemination. If the nuts were planted, the trees grown therefrom would probably revert to the original form, as in fact has been proved by experiments already tried; consequently the only way of perpetuating the variety is to propagate it by cuttings, or by budding and grafting, as usual with ordinary kinds of fruit trees. But propagating the hickory by these last-named methods is much easier to talk about than to perform, as many have doubtless learned from experience.

Mr. HALE endeavored to find some one to propagate the above-named variety, and although there were plenty who thought they could easily do it by grafting, the success of the parties who first undertook it was not very encouraging. After two years' trial, and upon as many thousand stocks, two very poor plants were produced.

Last fall, Mr. J. R. TRUMPY of Flushing, L. I., who is perhaps the most skillful propagator of plants in this country, tried his hand at propagating the Hale's Hickory, and out of eighty grafted fifty-six grew and made fine, sturdy plants. This we consider great success and worthy of being put on record, considering the many total failures made by others in attempting to propagate different varieties of the hickory by grafting.

Choice wild sorts of the Pecan nut, as well as those of our more Northern species of the hickory, are frequently found, and we often hear men express their surprise that they are not propagated by budding and grafting; but it is easier said than done. Still, as we have shown, it has been done, and probably can be again.

It is now five years since we first brought the Hale's Hickory Nut to notice, and there are less than sixty one-year-old plants as yet produced, therefore there need be little fear of the market being glutted with this variety for some time to come, unless a more rapid method of multiplying it is discovered.

Here is a good chance for those who consider themselves skillful propagators of plants to discover why hickories are so difficult to propagate by the usual modes employed with other woody plants.

TREE-PLANTING RECOMMENDED.

IT has occurred to me that a general move in tree-planting, especially in the planting of shade trees along the roadsides and in other desirable places, would be a very appropriate and commendable enterprise for the Centennial year, and that the increased interest the people now have in whatever has about it anything of historical association might be utilized in inducing them to take hold of such a movement with unusual energy and unity. What a beautiful and blessed Centennial movement such an enterprise would give our country if entered into by our whole people! With almost no cost the great majority of them could contribute to the work, and with ever-increasing pride and pleasure they would afterward point out and regard the parts they had done, the landmarks they had put up. Can you not through your columns inaugurate such a step and at least incite many of your readers to take up work in this direction which will be to their profit and your honor?

Hiram, Ohio. O. M. WOODWARD.

THE CORTLAND WAGON.

Industrial Implements.

THE CORTLAND WAGON.

IT used to be considered by farmers that neat wagons, springs and all the apparatus that go to make a comfortable vehicle were beyond their means, and was one of those anticipations whose dim perspective, instead of growing into an accomplished fact, grow small by degrees and beautifully less.

Industry, enterprise and capital, however, have changed all that, and he is unfortunate indeed who cannot ride with his family to church and to other pleasant places in a conveyance that is a source of just pride. These reflections are induced by a consideration of the claims of the Cortland Wagon Co. of Cortland, N. Y., who make a series of styles which should have the general title, "*Multum in Parvo*."

We illustrate one of the most popular styles, and one especially adapted to farmers. It can be made to serve a variety of uses, and, being made of the best materials, stands a great amount of hard work without getting out of order.

The springs are the celebrated "platform" pattern, made exclusively by this firm. The box is their patent "solid bent round corner." The wheels are *screwed* each side of the spoke through the felloe, and all the iron work is made of extra "American refined." It would be impossible to enumerate their various merits in the space of this article, and we would suggest that our readers send for their illustrated catalogue, whether they purpose buying or not, as it is always well to know the points of a good wagon and what improvements are constantly being made.

This company have been long engaged in the business, and most of their machinery has been specially devised for their uses. They have a capital of $150,000, with a factory covering over two acres of ground. They placed 1,500 wagons on the market last year, and will double the number this year. Their branch house in Chicago is at the corner of Beach and Sebor Sts., and our Western subscribers can enjoy a rare treat by going through their warerooms, where they will meet with a cordial welcome.

Scientific and Useful.

MANUFACTURE OF ISINGLASS.

ONE of the most notable industries of Russia depends upon the sturgeon, the swimming bladder of which is manufactured into isinglass. The bladder is first placed into water and left there for some days, with frequent changes of the water and removal of all fatty and bloody particles—the warmer the water the more rapid the accomplishment of the operation. The bladders, on being finally removed, are cut longitudinally into sheets, which are exposed to the sun and air, being laid out to dry, with the outer face turned down, upon boards of linden or bass wood. The inner face is pure isinglass, which, when well dried, can with care be removed from the external lamellæ. The finer sheets thus obtained are placed between cloths to keep them from flies, and are then subjected to a heavy pressure, so as to flatten them out and render them uniform, and after this they are assorted and tied up in packets. The packets composed of the isinglass of the large sturgeon usually contain from ten to fifteen sheets, and weigh a pound and a quarter; and those of others contain twenty-five sheets, weighing a pound. Eighty of these packages are usually sewed up in a cloth bag, or inclosed in sheet lead.

CHEAP CISTERNS.

IT is not generally known that cisterns can be made without either brick or stone, wherever the earth is sufficiently compact to admit of digging out the soil and leaving a firm bank upon which the cement can be spread to a thickness of one or two inches. The cement soon hardens making a wall as tough as a stone jug. The top may be covered with plank, with timber support, and then cover over all about two feet of earth to keep out the frost. Of course a man-hole through which the cistern can be entered for cleaning, is also necessary.

Pomological.

APPLE CLASSIFICATION.

A CLASSIFICATION of apples and pears has several times been attempted—by which, from certain peculiarities of the eye, seed-cells, etc., it was intended to trace the name of any given variety. But they have been so imperfect as to prove next to useless in practice. Dr. ROBERT HOGG of the London Journal of Horticulture has, after years of careful observation, at last given to the world a classification which inspires the faith in its applicability and utility that any systematic plan of tracery emanating from so distinguished a source is certainly entitled to.

"For some years past," says Dr. HOGG, "I have endeavored to apply the characters I have now adopted. The light I had at first was small and dim, but by repeated application to the subject every recurring fruit season, I began to see the foundation of what has now grown up to the structure now offered.

"My reason for not giving publicity to it before this was that I wished to work it thoroughly before committing myself to it. To do so I have procured in various years' collections of fruits from different parts of the country, from different soils and climates, and also at different seasons of the year, and in every case I was gratified to find that the characters which I observed in each variety of fruit were equally well marked in that variety from whatever district, soil or climate it came, or at whatever season the examination took place.

"The characters which I have adopted as the basis of this classification are the eye, the seed-cells, the calyx-tube and the stamens. These supply the primary and most important divisions; but they may be extended and broken up into fruit round, roundish, or oblate, and fruit conical, oblong, or ovate, and these for convenience, may be further divided into pale, colored, and russet. I will now treat of the leading characters:

"1. *The Eye.*—This is the pomological term used to signify what botanists call the sepals or limb, and mouth of the calyx.

"If we examine a great number of varieties of apples, we find that in some the eye is wide open and the segments quite reflexed, in some cases so much so as to be quite flat on the surface of the fruit. This is very apparent in Blenheim Pippin, Wyken Pippin and Court of Wick. In many cases the segments are erect and spreading or reflexed at the tips, and this form of structure also leaves the eye open. Between the spreading and the erect open eye there are many gradations which will be remarked by any observer who examines the different varieties.

"The other form is the closed eye. In this case the segments are erect and connivent at the tips, forming a small cone. In some cases of this form of closed eye the tips are spreading; but there is another very distinct form of the closed eye in which the segments are quite flat and convergent, closing in the eye like a trap-door in five divisions, as is seen in Trumpington. These two charactors, *eye open* and *eye closed*, I propose to employ as my primary divisions.

"2. *The Seed-cells.*—These constitute what is popularly called the core of the apple, and contain the seeds or pips. There are usually five, but they vary in number, and are occasionally three, four, and even six. They differ very much in structure, and are either open to the axis of the fruit or closed; and between the closed and the wide-open cells there are as many gradations as in the closed and open eye.

"The seed-cells form the second great division of my system, which are distinguished as *cells open* and *cells closed*.

"3. *The Calyx-tube.*—In making a longitudinal section of an apple in a line through the center of the eye to the stalk a more or less deep cavity will be observed under the segments of the eye and between them and the core. This is called the Calyx-tube. It is of very varied form, but all of these are modifications of two, or perhaps three, which may be regarded as distinct, and these I have called the *conical* and the *funnel-shaped*. As in the cases of the open and the closed eye and the open and the closed cells, these run into one another, and there are instances in which it is difficult to distinguish to which of them the individual belongs.

"The Calyx-tube is the character on which the third division is based, and is divided into *calyx-tube conical* and *calyx-tube funnel-shaped*.

"4. *The Stamens.*—These are the little, bristle-like bodies which are found forming a fringe round the inner surface of the calyx-tube, and it is on the position they occupy that the fourth character of this system is founded. On examining a number of different varieties of apples it will be seen that the stamens are not always in the same position. Some will form a fringe immediately under or near the base of the segments; these I call *marginal*. Others occupy a midway position between the margin and the base, and these are called *median*; and a third are situated near the base, which are termed *basal*.

"Taking the position of the stamens as my fourth great division, we have—1, Stamens marginal; 2, Stamens median; 3, Stamens basal."

We have not space to mention several hundred varieties of apples which are classified in the J. of H. according to the principles above stated in brief, and by which it would seem the determination of a given variety ought not to prove a very difficult or perplexing matter. That we should be able to trace the names of fruits the same as any plant may be traced in the hands of a botanist, is of high importance, and we trust Dr. HOGG's system may become popularly serviceable.

We see by the latest English papers that the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society have awarded to Dr. HOGG a Gold Medal for his discovery of a new classification of apples.

MANURING ORCHARDS.

PEOPLE often look at trees growing on rocky hill sides, and argue therefrom, that trees can grow without manure. They know corn, potatoes and grass must have something given to them to eat or they will not thrive, but they regard trees as a different order of vegetables—something that can thrive and flourish where no other vegetation would.

But in the case of trees on rocky hill sides, the land is any thing else than poor. The rough rocks keep the land from leaching badly by rains. The rocks themselves often contain valuable mineral matter, which, as the rock decays, is presented in a form that plants can feed upon. Then, whatever vegetation grows among the rocks, remains there to decay, and even leaves and other foreign substances that blow in the crevices and land hollows, formed by the rocks, make a valuable plant food on which the tree thrives. Indeed, trees in apparently poor, rocky places, are really much better off than many trees in a farmer's orchard where the trees are in what appears to be good land.

Fruit trees in some of the Eastern states are often planted among the rocks in places where it would not pay to try to cultivate in any other way. But the trees are not starved. For the reasons we have given they are quite well off, and, in consequence, give abundant and paying crops.

In our more level land the trees must have manure given them. In many cases it is as necessary to the best success that trees have an occasional manuring, as it is that any other farm crop have manure. There have been many discussions as to whether manure for fruit trees should be applied broadcast or plowed in. We would say that for orchard trees there is no rule. It depends on one's circumstances. If one has the trees on the ground where vegetables or grain are grown, the manure is, of course, plowed in for the sake of these crops, and the roots of the fruit trees fight with the vegetables for some of it, and get it too. But there are many orchards where there are no crops grown but the trees, and then it is excellent practice to apply manure as a top dressing at least every other year.

As to the material with which to top dress, it is not so much a matter of choice as of convenience. One may find some article an excellent fertilizer, and recommend it, and yet no one be so situated as to get it as he does. Along the New England coast, sea-weed is freely used for top dressing orchards, and the fine pear plantations the tremendous crops of which we hear so much about, are top dressed in this way. It is quite probable that there is nothing in the sea-weed itself, any more than in any other vegetable substance, that gives it advantage, but it is, most likely, from the salt it contains, and, no doubt, an orchard would be benefited even by a little common salt being scattered over the surface under the trees.

In a word, top dress your orchards occasionally, if you would have them bear an abundance of good fruit; but be not worried about what you should top dress with. We read in an agricultural paper, some months ago, of a Pennsylvania fruit grower, who, in the absence of anything better, spread clay from the digging of a cellar for a house near by, and found good results from such a weak application as this. We do not know that so poor an article as this would do any good to our trees, but it shows how little is needed in such cases to give good returns.—*Mich. Farmer.*

PEARS AND THEIR CULTURE.

THE London Journal of Horticulture, in an article upon Pears and their Culture, says of *Dana's Hovey* that "the fruit is small and very handsome, wonderfully juicy and sweet, with an aroma of extraordinary richness. It is a veritable sweetmeat, and its value is all the greater from the fact of its keeping good quite six weeks after it is ripe. Fruit which was gathered on October 25th and was quite ripe on November 29th was pronounced 'most delicious' on June 9th." And of *Beurre Superfin*, that "it is of large size, melting, juicy, with a singularly rich, piquant, acid flavor, and a most delicious pear"

We tasted this pear for the first time ten years ago last fall in the grounds of ELLWANGER & BARRY. Mr. BARRY remarked at the time that he "liked that pear because, without becoming satiated, he could eat more of it than any other."

When our own trees which we purchased at that time come in bearing, we will try the experiment and pronounce upon Mr. BARRY's conclusion.

THE American Pomological Society is to hold a grand exhibition of fruits at the Centennial on Sept. 11 to 16. There will also be a social reunion of the members on the 14th of that month, by invitation of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Floricultural.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

RURAL floricultural readers will please take notice that for the next month, or during planting time, as also in the fall, we will publish an *Exchange List* from any of our subscribers having seeds to give away and desiring others for them. For instance, if A. has Balsam, Portulaca and Zinnia seeds, and wishes Antirrhinum, Phlox and Asters, he or she so states. B., having Antirrhinum, Phlox and Asters, or some of them, and wishing Balsam, Portulaca or Zinnia—communicates with A. and the exchange is made.

Postal cards may be used and all communications addressed to the Floricultural Editor. For obvious reasons, the publication of exchange lists must be confined to *direct* subscribers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER.

NOVELTIES.

Abutilon Darwini tesselatum is mentioned by the London Garden (among new plants that received certificates from the Royal Botanical Society late in March) as "an erect-growing, very ornamental plant, especially in a young state: it has cordate leaves, boldly trilobed at their apices, of a soft green color, blotched conspicuously with golden yellow. The flowers are a bright-red, inclining to vermilion."

The variety, endurance and rapidity of growth of the Abutilons render them next to invaluable as summer bedding plants. A. *boule de Niege* is no longer a candidate for admission among first-rate plants, but has passed through the trial-furnace without a blister.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

Vines on Dead Trees.—A few years ago, one of our old spruces (*Abies excelsa*) died. It occupied a conspicuous place in the front grounds. We cut off all the twigs and the ends of the main branches so as to form a cone, with the apex 15 feet high and the base about 8 feet diameter. The extremities of the branches were connected from the bottom to the top with strong twine, forming an irregular network. Underneath the circumference of the base a trench was dug and filled in with good soil—then vines (Cobæas, Lophospermums, Maurandyas and Madeira vines) were planted. They soon reached the top, and so covered the netting that the eye could not penetrate beneath its entangled surface, and the effect of this cone of leaves and trumpet flowers was one that caused many a passer-by to stop and admire what—at a first glance—seemed to be a tree bearing dissimilar flowers and foliage.

Pavia Macrostachya.—The London Garden, in commenting upon, or rather supplementing, a recent article in the RURAL upon this Pavia, says:

"This is indeed a shrub of a remarkable value for all who pursue what the Saturday Review has begun to patronize as artistic gardening. It is, as Mr. CARMAN says, one of the best possible shrubs to stand alone, but we have also seen it affording a very charming effect as an undergrowth beneath low trees. Its fine foliage and long spikes of flowers almost make one dislike calling it a shrub, as it possesses all the amplitude of noble leafage and charm of stately blossom that belong to the finest of its race. It seems indeed a tree come down to nestle on the grass."

Seedling Smilax.—We have noticed of late directions as to raising this vine complicated enough to discourage many from attempting it. The truth is, the seeds germinate as freely as those of Balsam, and may, indeed, be treated in the same way. This capital little vine, so neat, bright and enduring and so useful in many ways, blooms and forms seeds not until the second year. The berries are the size of peas and of a red color. Except seeds are wanted, it is not, we think, so pretty while in flower or fruit as when unadorned by either.

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

PLANTING OF JERUSALEM ARTICHOKES.

April 18.—Long before the common potato became popular or even known in cultivation, the Jerusalem artichoke was much esteemed for its nutritious tubers. It is a native of the same Continent as the potato (South America), and was introduced into European gardens some two hundred and fifty years ago. NEILL says that the epithet Jerusalem is a mere corruption of the Italian word *Girasols*, from *girare*, to turn, and *sol* the sun, because its flowers resemble the common sunflower. It does, in fact, belong to the same genus, for the botanical name of the common giant sunflower is *Helianthus giganteus*, and that of the Jerusalem artichoke, *Helianthus tuberosus*. The word "artichoke" was bestowed because the flavor of the tubers resembled that of the true artichoke (*Cynara scolymus.*)

The date of the introduction of the Jerusalem artichoke into North America is probably unknown, but it doubtless came by the way of England, along with the old and more common shrubs and other flowering plants, which the early settlers brought over as very important adjuncts to a home in a new country. But it does not make much difference to us in these days whether they were brought over by the Pilgrims or a hundred years later, the fact that Jerusalem artichokes are naturalized products of many an old New England farm is well known. The tubers have also been widely disseminated throughout the Middle States, and I have dug them up from many a neglected fence corner when a boy, supposing that they were to the manor born, and not a Brazilian production.

The destruction of the potato by the Colorado ten-liners, as well as by disease, has made some of our Eastern farmers look about for a substitute, and while I do not believe that the artichoke will ever become a popular esculent for the table, it is certainly one of considerable value as food for stock, especially in localities where the more commonly cultivated roots are liable to failure. In the grasshopper-infested regions of the West, an artichoke plantation on every farm would become a magazine of food upon which the farmer could make large drafts in times of invasion of the Rocky Mountain "Hatefuls."

The tubers are so hardy that they may be left in the ground year after year without care or culture, and they will take entire possession of the soil, and the stems spring up so thickly that every other kind of plant is soon killed out. The tubers may be dug by hand as readily as potatoes, as they do not go very deep in the soil; but if the farmer desires to avoid even this labor, he has only to turn in his sheep or hogs and they will do it for him.

There appears to be two varieties of the Jerusalem artichoke, the long, smooth red and the short, rough white, the latter is a later importation from England than the former, but whether it will prove to be superior, or more productive, remains to be determined by experience. I have planted a few of both to-day, and will report the result in due time. It may seem somewhat non-progressive to return to the old Jerusalem artichoke, or recommend its culture, even as food for stock, still we do little more than travel around in a circle in this world, at best, and it may be wise, occasionally, to take a step backward, and pick up some of the good things left behind in our hurry to go ahead.

PLANTING A FEW POTATOES.

April 19.—The prospects are favorable for a large crop of potato beetles this summer, and they are already crawling about, waiting for the first leaf to come above ground, and upon which they will no doubt pounce without further delay. Now the question arises, what shall farmers do under such circumstances? Many in the vicinity of New York have already decided to plant no potatoes this season, claiming that it costs more to fight the beetles than the crop will be worth. But in this I think they make a grave mistake, and they will see it next fall, if not before. If only a few potatoes are planted the price is sure to go up, and those who do raise a good crop are pretty certain to be handsomly paid for the trouble of fighting the beetle.

I am planting a much less area of land than usual, but endeavoring to make up for it by spreading on more manure and putting the land in the very best possible condition. I think this is the true policy to pursue under the circumstances, for the less ground one has to go over in fighting the beetles the less it will cost, besides, a concentration of labor in preparing the soil is pretty certain to increase the yield. Our farmers must not be satisfied with a hundred bushels per acre, but aim at two or three times this amount and then they can afford to fight Colorado potato beetles and do it thoroughly.

Domestic Economy.

ABOUT SOME SMALL ECONOMIES.

A LADY writes in the Patrons' Helper, Iowa, concerning some apparently trifling matters, which make or mar many homes. As our lady readers will be interested in this subject. We quote:

I dined not long ago, with my friend, Mrs. Spicer; a wise little woman, who lives in her shoes—day times—and has so many children she don't know what to do. Mrs. Spicer by-the-by, is quite the character of our neighborhood, being noted for practical brains, and for original short cuts, and by-ways to domestic success.

The lady had that day, upon her table delicious tomatoes, which had been boiled in their coats, like potatoes.

"I save all the time I can," she explained, "by simplifying all the processes I can. Now this is my expeditious way of getting up a dish of tomatoes."

To Cook Tomatoes.—Put the tomatoes to boil whole in a little water, in a copper vessel. When cooked tender remove, and with a spoon, stir them quickly through a colander. This is only the work of a minute. Add the liquid in which they have been boiled, or not according to the quantity of juice wanted. Return to the fire, and put in pepper, salt and bread crumbs, and plenty of butter; cook up, and bring up piping hot to the table. If toast is preferred to bread crumbs omit the latter, and pour the tomatoes hot and juicy, into a dish lined with thin, well-buttered toast; cut into wedge-shaped sippets, of the length and breadth one's finger has.

About Bed-Comforts.—"The comforts I make now, wear twice as long as those I used to get up," Mrs. Spicer observed to me, one afternoon, apropos of something or other. "The difference is in the making," she continued, "I find it excellent economy, to put careful work into comforts."

"How do you do it?" I asked.

"Well, a comfort goes first generally at the ties."

"Precisely!"

"The cords tear through the lining, which is not stayed as the outside is, by knots, leaving the cotton loose. The loosened cotton works away from the center, where it is most needed, and rolls into the outer edges, where it is a nuisance, and where it mats into wads and tears its way out."

I could imagine my departed comforts, writing their own autobiographies.

"To prevent this waste, make sure in the first place, of strong lining. If the lining to be used, is worn in spots, tack on an inter-lining of bits of strong stuffs, no matter how unpresentable.

Second, tie with rather coarse cord—coarse cord will not wear through like a fine one.

Third, take a generous stitch on the wrong side; and set it biasing. Two stitches are best; one at right angles to the other.

Fourth, tie firmly; tie in, say five inch squares then tie once in each square. A comfort destined to be worn either side up, can be taken from the frames, when tied into squares. Then turn it over, and tie in the center of the squares on the lining side.

"Fifth, heap the cotton in the center of the comfort. Thin it gradually toward the edges; leaving a wide margin comparatively thin, for tucking in."

To Cleanse Old Comforts.—Take comforts that are ready to be put by, for the season—which will be about the time of the spring rains—and spread them in some convenient spot, out of doors. Keep them out till thoroughly cleansed by the rains. Dry them on the spot, with the least handling possible; do not bring them in till they are well livened up by sunshine and vapor; they will then be found to be clean, fresh and fluffy; altogether more so than they could be made by wash-tub, and pounding-barrel. This without tearing the outside, or matting or displacing the cotton. The work should be taken in hand, before the weather is warm enough for mildew.

Utilizing Old Woolens.—Old woolens, ripped, washed and pressed, make most inter-linings, for all manner of winter clothing; no matter how old and torn the material, or how small the bits, the cloth can be tacked upon the lining, like cotton batting, in as many thicknesses as desired. It is of course never seen, when made up, being hidden between the lining and the outside. Calicoes furnished with flannel inter-linings, do up well and make inexpensive and very comfortable working suits, for winter. Basques, sacks, boy's pants, and baby's bed-gowns, are all improved by a few layers of old woolen stuff, tacked in as above described.

To remove freshly spill ink from carpets, first take up as much as possible of the ink with a spoon. Then pour cold, sweet milk upon the spot, and take up as before, pouring on milk until at last it becomes only slightly tinged with black. Then wash with warm water, and absorb with a cloth without too much rubbing.

SELECTED RECIPES.

The surest remedy for chapped hands is to rinse well after washing with soap, and dry them thoroughly by applying Indian meal or rice powder.

To Clean Britannia metal, use finely powdered whiting, sweet oil and yellow soap. Mix with spirits of wine to a cream. Rub on with a sponge, wipe off with a soft cloth, and polish with a chamois skin.

The best way to clean the inside of old iron pots and pans is to fill them with water in which a few ounces of washing soda is dissolved, and set them on the fire. Let the water boil until the inside of the pot looks clean.

Scorches made by heated flat irons can be removed from linen, by spreading over the cloth a paste made of the juice pressed from two onions, ¼ oz. white soap, 2 ozs, fuller's earth, and ½ pint vinegar. Mix, boil well and cool before using.

Rice Pudding.—Boil one cup of rice a little while; beat well together three eggs and one-half cup sugar; add one cup raisins, one quart sweet milk, and the cup of boiled rice; any seasoning preferred can be added. Bake in a moderate oven one hour. To be eaten cold or hot, with wine sauce or sweet cream.

Chicken Salad.—Boil the chicken until done, in as little water as possible; when done, cut up into small bits; take half as much celery stalks as chicken, cut into very thin slices; have ready two hard boiled eggs; slice the whites into the chicken, mash and mix the yelks with one tablespoonful of mustard; stir in half and half vinegar and the water in which the chicken was boiled, as much as needed to cover the salad, heat to boiling, and pour over your chicken and celery.

Orange Cake.—One cup of sugar, half a cup of butter, two cups of flour, half a cup of sweet milk, a teaspoonful of baking powder sifted with the flour. Rub the butter and sugar to a cream, add the eggs, the whites and yelks beaten separately, then the milk, then the flour. Bake in jelly pans. Squeeze the juice from an orange; add to it the grated rind, make it stiff with powdered sugar, and stir the white of one egg well beaten. Spread this on the cakes and lay one on another, like jelly-cake.

Carrots for Eggs.—It is not generally known that boiled carrots, when properly prepared, form an excellent substitute for eggs in puddings. They must, for this purpose, be boiled and mashed, and passed through a coarse cloth or hair sieve strainer. The pulp is then introduced among the other ingredients of the pudding, to the total omission of eggs. A pudding made up in this way is much lighter than where eggs are used, and is much more palatable. On the principle of economy, this fact is worthy of the prudent housewife's attention.

Hygienic Information.

SLEEP THE BEST STIMULANT.

THE best possible thing for a man to do when he feels too weak to carry it through is to go to bed and sleep a week if he can. This is the only true recuperation of power, the only actual recuperation of brain force. Because during sleep the brain is in a state of rest, in a condition to receive and appropriate particles of nutriment from the blood which take the place of those which have been consumed in previous labor, since the very act of thinking consumes, burns up solid particles, as every turn of the wheel or screw of the splendid steamer is the result of consumption by fire of the fuel in the furnace. The supply of consumed brain substance can only be had from the nutritive particles in the blood, which were obtained from the food eaten previously, and the brain is so constituted that it can best receive and appropriate to itself those nutritive particles during a state of rest, of quiet, and stillness in sleep. Mere stimulants supply nothing in themselves; they only goad the brain, force it to a greater consumption of its substance, until that substance has been so exhausted that there is not power enough left to receive a supply, just as men are so near death by thirst and starvation that there is not power enough to swallow anything, and all is over.

PHOSPHORUS FOR INSOMNIA.

Dr. CUTTER relates an interesting case in his practice—that of an energetic carpenter who, in building a hot-house, was exposed to the sun's heat under glass in the summer time, this exposure being followed by symptoms of disturbance of the nervous system, evincing a loss of nerve force. Naturally of a cool temper, he became excitable, was unable to cast accounts, his steps were rapid and manner nervous, but sleeplessness was the most prominent and perplexing symptom. Chloral hydrate, bromide of potassium, opium, sulphate of morphia and valerianate of morphia were successively tried without avail. Finally, reasoning that here was a case of loss of nerve force, and knowing phosphorus to be a most important nerve food, Dr. Cutter prescribed one-fiftieth of a grain thrice daily in pill form. In a few days the patient slept as well as ever, and, discontinuing the pills, has since had his natural sleep.

CURE FOR CANCER.

I HAVE known several that have had cancers cured by the following remedy:—Take ashes (those from red oak bark are the best) and get lye that has been filtered through them twice. Now boil the lye down until it become as thick as mush and take as much as may be needed and add six grains of corrosive sublimate. Stir it well and let it remain until it is done blubbering. Now take it off the fire, and let it stand till it is cool enough to be handled with the fingers. It will be something like grained sugar. In handling it the hands should be very dry. Now break it in pieces and put it in a glass vial, keeping it from the air and from all dampness. In applying it to the cancer, put it on cotton or a sponge and hold it to the cancerous part, say ten minutes. The cancer will be killed and come out gradually.—J. B. W.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

Iceland Moss Jelly (good for colds, and very nutritious in convalescence).—Soak for an hour four tablespoonfuls of the moss in cold water enough to cover it. Then stir it into a quart of boiling water, and simmer gently till it dissolves; strain, sweeten to taste, flavor with juice of two lemons, and a little cinnamon if agreeable, and a glass of wine; strain into molds, and cool before using.

An Epidemic Predicted.—Dr. Duncan, a homeopathic physician of Chicago, has grouped a mass of evidence and opinions to the effect that the remarkable climatic conditions which have prevailed since last autumn portend a coming epidemic, while the prevailing symptoms in persons of phlegmatic temperament, chiefly women and children, are characteristic indications of the plague. His prophecies may be taken homeopathically, but it is still probable that the coming summer may be as little like ordinary summers as the winter has been unlike ordinary winters.

Cure for Epilepsy.—A writer in the Cincinnati Gazette recommends a cure for epileptic fits which he has proved himself after suffering more than twenty years. He is now in good health. The following is the remedy. Take of bromide of potassa two and one-half ounces, dissolved in one pint of rain water. Dose, a tablespoonful three times a day before eating. Should your throat become sore, weaken it. If it should make you dizzy-headed, reduce the dose. Some constitutions will not bear it as strong as others. There is no danger in the above remedy, if you are careful.

To Relieve Piles.—I give three remedies which I know have given great relief. As for curing, it is seldom done by outward application. Regulating the bowels by proper diet and gentle alteratives is very important:

First Remedy.—Lump of lard the size of a hulled walnut, rubbed on a piece of lead until of a lead color. Anoint frequently.

Second.—To one tablespoonful of thick, sweet cream add fifteen drops of essence of peppermint, and bathe often.

Third.—Make a strong tobacco poultice and apply warm. Sometimes it relieves immediately.

Celery for the Nerves.—A writer who is familiar with the use of celery says that he has known several men and women, who, from various causes, had become so affected by nervousness that when they stretched out their hands they shook like aspen leaves on windy days, and by a moderate daily use of the blanched footstalks of celery as a salad they became as strong and steady in limb as other people. He has known people cured of palpitation of the heart by the use of celery. Everybody engaged in labor weakening to the nerves should use celery daily in its season, and onions in its stead when not in season.

Darkness in the Treatment of Small-Pox.—If a patient, in the beginning of the attack, be put in a room from which absolutely all light is excluded, save that of a candle, the effect is to arrest the disease in the papular or vesicular stage; the skin between the vesicles is never inflamed nor swollen; the large scabs of matter never form over the face; there is no intense pain and only trifling itching, and the smell is either very slight or altogether wanting.

Entomological.

INSECTS OF THE APPLE.

THE following paper on the insects that prey upon the apple tree and fruit—was read at the recent meeting of the Potomac Fruit-Growers' Association by Mr. Gillingham:

1. The apple tree borer (*Saperda candida*), is a nocturnal insect, and very destructive to orchards. The female deposits her eggs on the lower part of the stem. These hatch out a footless grub, which enters the tissues of the bark, burrowing deeper as they grow, till they penetrate the heart of the tree. In the spring the perfect insect emerges to the light of day.

To destroy them, cut into the discolored and depressed portions of the bark, and, if the worm has penetrated into the wood, follow him with a strong wire. As a preventive, scrub the bark with soft soap, or other alkaline washes, in May or June, at the same time placing some in the forks of the branches, to be dissolved by the rains. Examine the trees again in August, cutting and hunting for the worms as before, injecting some of the wash. Encourage the presence of birds, especially those which destroy the grubs of wood-boring insects.

2. The thick-legged borer (*Chrysobothris femorata*) is a variety common to the West. The perfect insect, a black beetle half an inch long, may be found on the trees in June and July. It works higher up the trunk than *Saperda*. Seek for the young in their shallow burrows in the bark, in August, before they have entered the wood.

3. The twig borer (*Bostrichus bicaudatus*) attacks the small branches, producing an effect similar to blight, and causing the death of the same in midsummer. The insect is a beetle one-fourth of an inch long, and works his way into the wood near the axil of the leaf. Catch and destroy the insect; cut off and burn the dead branches.

4. Another variety of the *Leptostylus aculfera*, a short, thick, brownish-gray beetle, with spines on his wing covers. Look for it in August. The larvæ are small worms, which make long, winding burrows under the bark.

5. The bark beetle (*Tomicus mali*) is a new species; is small, smooth, black, or chestnut red, and cylindrical. The young feed under the bark, and, penetrating the wood, destroy the young trees.

The remedy for the last two is to keep the trees well washed with strong lye, made white with lime, during May and June.

6. The bark louse (*Aspidiotus conchiformis*) makes sad devastations in some sections. This louse is very prolific, and soon covers the young twigs, abstracting the vital juices. Often the leaves and fruit are overrun. The *nidus* of these insects is the well-known "scale" found on the branches, flat, brown, and overlapping. The eggs hatch in May, and attacking the bark, the lice absorb the sap.

Washings of strong lye, or solutions of potash or soda, or whitewash, lye and sulphur, or tobacco boiled in lye, &c., are remedies. Make your application in May or June. The lady bird feeds on this insect.

7. The leaf louse (*Aphis mali*) is a small green, wingless insect. They crowd upon the tips of the twigs and on the undersides of the leaves, living upon the sap. The eggs are laid in deep cracks of the bark, and hatch when the buds expand.

To destroy the eggs, scrape the bark and apply alkaline or lime washes.

8. The root louse (*Coccus pyri*) is a very great pest. It is found on the roots in warty excrescences. To destroy, remove the earth and apply hot soapsuds. This insect is specially destructive to nursery stock.

9. The codling moth (*Carpocapsa pomonella*) gives so much trouble that we have now but few perfect specimens of fruit. This moth appears early in the summer, and drops its eggs simply on the blossom ends of the fruit. The grub passes thence to the core of the apple. In three or four weeks it reaches its maturity, and eating its way out, instinctively seeks the foot of the tree, secreting itself under the bark, and passes into pupa.

We now have the opportunity to catch them. They may also be caught in rags placed in the forks of the trees, or by bands of hay placed round the trunks. These should be examined as often as once in ten days.

The moth may be caught by lamps or fire in the orchard. Wormy fruit should be picked up and cooked for the stock; or sheep, &c., kept in the orchard, will destroy many of the insects.

10. The tent or nest caterpillar (*Clissiocampa Americani*) is found not only on the apples but also on the wild cherry and persimmon trees. The eggs may be seen in the winter under a sheath, and the branches cut off and burned, or the nests may be destroyed in the spring.

11. The sapped caterpillar (*Ostrapacha Americana*) is a flat worm, and when at rest can scarcely be distinguished from the bark. They feed only at night. The remedy for these is to hunt for and destroy them.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

ANDREW S. FULLER, Editor.

ELBERT S. CARMAN, - - Associate Editor.

X. A. WILLARD, A. M., Little Falls, N. Y.,
EDITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DAIRY HUSBANDRY.

G. A. C. BARNETT, Publisher.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1876.

ITS FOUNDER'S FAREWELL

TO THE READERS OF THE RURAL NEW-YORKER.

THE Founder and Conducting Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER this week vacates his position, thereby taking leave of its readers and dissolving many long-time and pleasant associations. The occasion awakens no ordinary emotions, for by this act we are separated from a life-work which, while being most laborious, has been fraught with many pleasures and compensations. From the outset, and during over a quarter of a century, we have earnestly and conscientiously endeavored to advance the best interests of our readers—to promote true "Progress and Improvement," Mental, Moral and Physical. But we should have failed had not our efforts been nobly seconded by the hosts who joined the RURAL standard and generously aided us with their influence and substantial support. For the extraordinary success and usefulness of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, therefore, we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to the thousands—aye, tens of thousands—who have contributed thereto by writing for its pages and extending its circulation. That all these, and other ardent friends of this journal, may be blessed in basket and in store—ever prosperous and crowned with Heaven's choicest favors—is our sincere aspiration.

In this connection—while tendering acknowledgments—we must not "forget to remember" our indebtedness to the Press of the whole country for its kindness, courtesy and appreciation of the RURAL. This has been so frequently and strongly manifested by many of our exchanges, that we are constrained to again tender our brethren the warmest thanks of an appreciative heart. May they, each and all, be prosperous in every relation of life—including a "rush" of subscribers and a "crowd" of advertisements.

THE RURAL was the pioneer in its peculiar sphere of journalism—the first in America to combine Agriculture, Horticulture, Science, Literature, News, &c., &c.—and, though its failure was predicted, it in a few years numbered its subscribers by tens of thousands and ranked first of its class in circulation, influence and usefulness. That it has accomplished much good—materially aided in making the fortunes and promoting the welfare of individuals and communities—we are often assured, and are vain enough, without boasting, to believe. Be that as it may, it has been assiduously and continuously conducted with a view of promoting the best interests of its readers, and especially those belonging to the Rural Population.

And here let us say that we believe the Agricultural Press is doing more to enhance the welfare and prosperity—to advance the material interests—of the people at large than any other instrumentality. As a rule, our Agricultural Journals are most zealously devoted to the interests of the producing classes, while many of them are conducted with superior ability and intelligence. And we frankly add (being now a disinterested party) that the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and many other journals we might name, should receive support at least equal to that given the trashy, ephemeral story papers, whose tendency is injurious and demoralizing. Let the reader reflect upon this, and aid in giving this journal, during the ensuing year, what it is entitled to, at least One Hundred Thousand Subscribers. There is "ample room and verge enough" for five times the number, for it already circulates and has a good reputation in every State and Territory of the Union, Canada, &c.,—a good foothold for an immense circulation.

Writing while convalescing from severe illness, and yet in some haste, we refrain lest our "Finis" prove prolix. In conclusion, therefore, with good wishes for all, we bid the readers of MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER a final farewell. May every reader, and every family the RURAL visits, long be vouchsafed Heaven's choicest blessings. Whatever may be our own future, we shall, while life is spared, have pleasurable remembrances of many persons, incidents and associations connected with our career as a Journalist.

Hail and Farewell! D. D. T. MOORE.

SALUTATORY.

IN taking the Editorial Chair—made vacant by the retirement of the Founder of MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER—I am not called upon to address a new audience. Having for nearly twenty years endeavored with my pen to disseminate whatever practical information I may have obtained through constant study and labor in field and garden, as well as filling an Associate-Editor's Chair in the RURAL'S Sanctum for the last five years, it will scarcely be necessary to say more of myself at this time.

My associate, Mr. ELBERT S. CARMAN, has been of late a regular contributor to the RURAL, and he is also not unknown to fame in other fields of literature. With his aid and a host of correspondents and contributors—and that of Mr. X. A. WILLARD, so long and favorably known as an authority in his specialty, to conduct the Dairy Husbandry Department—I hope to make the Old RURAL NEW-YORKER not only acceptable to all its present readers, but to many a new one, and worthy of the liberal patronage which it has received during the past quarter of a century.

No marked or radical changes are proposed, either in size of the paper or the various departments, further than to improve all, if possible, it being the aim of the present editors and publisher, who are also the proprietors of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, to heed its old-time motto (Excelsior), to spare neither time, labor nor money, to fill its pages with matter which shall be alike acceptable to the farmer, gardener, student of natural history, parents and their children, and all who desire happy homes with pleasant surroundings.

Correspondence upon all subjects of interest to our readers will always be acceptable, for it is only by an interchange of experience and ideas that man can become or remain a progressive, intelligent being. The Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER does not propose to take upon himself the prerogative of making every communication given in its columns exactly agree with his own ideas and convictions, but will only endeavor to guard against the dissemination of positive and well-known errors. ANDREW S. FULLER.

GODSPEED!

AFTER thirty-five years of unremittent toil as an Editor, twenty-seven of which have found him at the head of this Journal, Hon. D. D. T. MOORE is compelled by the condition of his health to seek a milder and more genial clime, thereby severing his connection with the RURAL NEW-YORKER. It is unnecessary for us here to say aught of the life-work of Mr. MOORE, of which the RURAL is to-day a living monument. Suffice it to say, that in parting with him many of the readers of the RURAL will feel as if they had lost a dear friend and a weekly counselor. Beginning his journalistic career at a very early age, his subsequent labors have attained for him in the profession a position which few men have the endurance to reach, and he is now gathering the inevitable fruits of excessive labor in a harvest of physical ills, which render him unfit for present editorial work. We learn that there has been tendered to him a foreign mission, and we wish him renewed health and continued prosperity in his new field.

And with the loss of the Editor-in-Chief, we are called upon to part with our late able and genial Associate, WILLIAM J. FOWLER, so long and so favorably known to all readers of agricultural periodicals. With him, also, we send our best wishes for his future prosperity, hoping and believing that, in whatever path he treads, his companions will find him, as we have done, always the same industrious, upright and conscientious laborer, seeking earnestly the greatest good for the greatest number.

THE LOT OF FARMERS' WIVES.

IN the labors and discomforts of the farmer's life, his wife is apt to have more than her fair share. Yet it is rare that she makes complaint. Work on the farm presses hard, and the farmer employs additional help, as he should. It is folly to suffer crops when grown to go to waste, and little less folly to let the farm lie idle where crops could be grown. But farm help makes more work in the house, unless tenant houses are furnished, which is far too rarely done. The "extra help" in busy times has, of course, to be cared for in the house. How many farmers make adequate provision for help indoors, as well as out? In cities, two, three or more servants are not uncommon in not large families. In the country it is rare that the wife of a wealthy farmer, with all her household cares and troops of hired men, has more than one assistant—sometimes not even that, if she has children old enough to in any way help her. It is too slavish a life to attract any young girl, and it is little wonder that so many, born and bred in the country, too, declare that they will never marry a farmer. But no one can foretell where love will lead, and many of them do marry farmers, nevertheless. Those bred in cities look on the farmer's life through the beautiful haze of sentiment and imagination. The rude awakening comes most severely to them.

The life of a farmer's wife is too isolated—far more so, even, than that of her husband. He goes to the market, the post office and the political meeting; but how seldom does or can his wife accompany him, even supposing her to wish to? Her life is spent at home in the dull, monotonous round of household drudgery and the care of children. She has not time for music, society, newspapers or books, and, after a few years, by a wise provision of nature, which makes useless faculties decay, she ceases to care for them. It is a wicked waste—not of money, for it sometimes saves that, but of human lives, which are far more valuable than all the wealth which the most successful farming can amass. It is in the chance it gives for greater variety and interest in the farmer's life that the Order of Patrons of Husbandry has achieved its most beneficial results.

We need not caution farmers not to make family expenses too high, nor to have too many assistants in and about the house. With all the effort which we can make to the contrary the tendency will be all the other way, and the lives not only of farmer's wives, but of farmers themselves, their children, and all connected with them, will be made dull and worthless, even where the worse result of social and moral ruin does not follow.

HOW TO IMPROVE FARMING.

IT is a wise provision of nature that whatever is largely wasted shall be produced in enormously superfluous quantities. Millions of seeds fall to the ground in the forest for every one that produces a full grown tree. It occurs to us that the enormous quantity of good advice bestowed on farmers with regard to their business, falls within the same category. Great progress has been made; but not one farmer in the country follows *all* the wise or otherwise directions which Agricultural Journals shower upon him. On the whole, it is probably quite as well that this is so. A great deal of the advice is worse than useless, and practical farmers can judge what to accept and what to reject.

One of our correspondents who has not philosophized on this subject as we have, remarked to us the other day that it was strange so many farmers who took and read Agricultural papers continued to plod on in the old-fashioned ruts of poor farming. In many cases the advice they read produces no effect whatever. Clergymen are used to this, and our brethren of the Agricultural Press must fall back on their philosophy for explanation. A shrewd old clergyman was once asked why one of his older parishioners was baldheaded. The retort was quick and pat. "You know Mr. T. sits in one of the front pews, and all the time I am preaching he always has his head bowed forward, and the gospel has hit the top of his head and glanced off so often that it has made him entirely bald." In very many cases the readers of Agricultural papers seem to have suffered in the same way, and we would not wonder if hundreds of them were as destitute of hair on top of the head as "Old Uncle NED" in the ancient negro rhymes.

"Line upon line, and precept upon precept" is doubtless good in its way; but for practical effectiveness there is nothing quite equal to example. One good thorough farmer will revolutionize the farming methods of a neighborhood, and make every acre in the vicinity worth a higher price. We have known some such cases. Where it is shown by practical experience that underdraining, thorough manuring and cultivation, improved stock and implements will pay, there is no lack of farmers who will gladly imitate these improvements. The trouble has been that seeing anything recommended in "the paper" is not conclusive evidence to most farmers that it is even practical—much less that it will pay *them* to adopt it. When the thing is tested in their own neighborhoods and proved a success, there is no difficulty in securing imitators. If one man in a town grows onions, broom corn, castor beans, hops, or some other unusual crop, and makes a success of it, one by one his neighbors take up similar methods and the old ruts are effectually broken. Go through the country, and you will find if any unusual industry has succeeded that a number of farmers in a neighborhood are engaged in it. This is notably true of hop-growing, dairying, apple, pear or peach culture, or the rearing and breeding of improved stock. Sometimes these diversified industries are favored by peculiar circumstances; but they are far more generally the direct result of the contagious influence of a good example.

Oregon.—This State is popularly supposed to be a wilderness; but the following shipments of produce for the last year will, we think, dispel this illusion:—Wheat, 3,492,553 bushels; value, $3,492,553, gold. Oats, 104,159 bushels. Apples, 1,625 boxes. Dried fruit, 448 packages. Bread, 2,576 cases. Salmon, 2,750 barrels; ditto, 8,893 cases. Beef, 72 barrels. Bacon, 763 packages. Total value, $4,000,000, gold.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Excitement on the Pacific Coast.—The people of California, and especially of San Francisco, are just now having their periodical excitement over the large immigration of Chinese. The trouble, or at least the prevalent complaint is, that the Chinese laborers underbid the white labor in California. The remedy for this is to have the white laborers having greater skill and knowledge of business, become employers of labor as well as laborers themselves. If they lack capital, let them combine their resources on the co-operative plan until they have enough. By using the co-operative principle, California workingmen can gain as much from the cheapness of Chinese labor as they lose by the depreciation of their own. Possibly the people on the Pacific coast may devise other and better remedies; but the above seems best at this distance.

Equitable Assessments.—The State Assessors in New York are engaged in an effort to secure the uniform assessment of all property at its true value. This is a movement in which the farmers of New York are specially interested, as under the old rule of partial valuations farm property has been always assessed proportionably higher than any other. Thirty-five counties of the sixty in the State have agreed through their Supervisors to this change, and under some pressure from the State Assessors the others will probably fall into line. Any inequitable valuation is liable to revision by the Board of Supervisors, and ultimately by the State Assessors, who will take care that no injustice is done.

Wheat for the South.—The many Southern farmers who are going to plant corn largely this spring would do well to think if they cannot also vary their crops by growing wheat. We have never understood why this grain is not more popular in the South. It succeeds everywhere except in the low lands on the coast, and through Northern Georgia, Tennessee and Texas rarely fails of producing a paying crop on land that will grow anything with profit. Wheat is not subject to so many accidents from winter-killing, etc., as in the North. Southern wheat also ripens earlier and is in the market for the high early price which usually prevails before the bulk of the Northern crop is ready for sale.

The Texas State Fair.—Spring is an unusual time for holding fairs, but in the far South the season is already well advanced, and the weather is much more pleasant now than during the severe heat of summer and early fall. The Texas State Fair will open at Houston on the 2d of May and continue one week. Hon. JOHN T. JONES, Master of the National Grange, will deliver an address. The premium list is a long and liberal one, and there is no doubt that the Fair will prove successful. A special request is made for specimens of minerals from different counties—a feature which should be introduced in all State Fairs, and especially in those of the newer States.

American Horses in England.—A London dispatch of the 19th says that their trainer has been very busy with Preakness, Bay Final and Mate. On the previous Monday the horses were out on cantering exercise. On Tuesday and Wednesday they galloped two miles and a quarter; on Thursday two miles. Mate and Bay Final are wanted at Epsom a month hence and Preakness at Newmarket a week later. If they win it will astonish English trainers, who declare they cannot get ready in time. The health of the horses is very good.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THERE is a scarcity of sweet potatoes for spring planting in some portions of the South.

THERE is much excitement among California vineyardists about the Phylloxera, which has appeared in that State.

LEMON JUICE pressed into a snakebite wound is said to be an antidote for the poison. Eating a lemon is also recommended.

ACRES of huckleberries are found in some portions of Florida, and they are a regular feeding ground for bears, coons, opossums and birds.

THE Central New York Farmers' Club calls the Early Rose the best potato. Southern papers all advise planting less cotton. All right if it does not mean less work.

AGRICULTURAL HALL, on the Centennial grounds, is already assuming a different shape in its exhibits. So is Horticultural Hall. They are attracting a great deal of attention, and all visitors speak in high terms of praise.

No time should be lost in grafting trees, though any time till the middle of May will answer. It is not worth while to have inferior or worthless varieties, when in two or three years by grafting they can be transferred into valuable trees.

THE Black Hills are a fraud. More money is to be made easier and more safely in sticking to any legitimate business than in "prospecting" for gold. The only men in the Black Hills region who can make anything are the hotel keepers. They will get all that is taken there and all that is mined.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

Public Speakers and Singers will find "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" beneficial in clearing the voice before speaking or singing, and relieving the throat after any exertion of the vocal organs. For Coughs and Colds the *Troches* are effectual.

"Phœnix Pure White Lead."—This brand of White Lead, made by Eckstein, Hills & Co., is sold by dealers with the positive assurance that it is perfectly pure.

A HUSBAND OF THE PERIOD.

YES, love, I'm breakfasting quite late;
But then, you know, it's Sunday,
And we who work for six long days
Deserve our comfort one day.
You're rather early home from church;
I hope you liked the sermon.
That velvet cloak, dear, by the way,
Looks charming with your ermine.

A chilly morning out of doors.
I'm glad you didn't wake me.
(Oh, native cutting, mother-wit,
Pray do not yet forsake me!
She heard me stumble up to bed
At three o'clock—I'll swear it!)
Dark blue is just your color, dear;
You always ought to wear it.

I've eaten very little? Yes,
It's nearly time for dinner;
This cutlet, too, seems rather flat.
(The truth, as I'm a sinner!)
A bloodshot look about my eyes?
My fingers in a flutter?
All fancy, love—I feel superb.
(That nauseating butter!)

You waited up last night till twelve?
For that, dear, I should scold you.
Of monthly meetings at the club
How often have I told you?
This waiting—had I not a key,
Perhaps I shouldn't mind it;
But having one—(By Jove, I took
An hour, last night, to find it!)

I left the hall-door open! Who
Insinuates that slander?
It's falsehood base and infamous,
If you'll excuse my candor.
Why, love, you trust mere servants' talk
I cannot well conjecture.
(She seats herself! The storm has burst!
Now comes my curtain lecture.)

The Story-Teller.

NE CREDE COLORI.

I HAD taken my chambers in Washington Square, and was inclined to like them. They were on the second floor, and consisted of three rooms. The door on the landing opened on to a narrow passage, at the end of which, on the right, was the door of the sitting-room, the three windows of which looked on to a green expanse, where stood a tall gaunt tree. In one corner of the sitting-room was a door leading into the bedroom, which communicated with a dressing-room. This dressing-room had a door leading into the end of the passage, to the left of the main entrance from the landing. Thus I could make the complete circuit of my premises; from the sitting-room, through the bed and dressing rooms into the passage, and through the passage into the sitting-room again. I am anxious to be understood on this point as a realization of the topography of the place is necessary for the comprehension of the incidents I have to relate.

I will premise by assuring my reader that at the time of which I am speaking I was in thorough physical health. As is the case with most sucking students, I rather prided myself on cultivating a habit of mind that should not permit me to be unduly impressed by causes unwarranted by calm reflection. I had been accustomed to a sedentary, to some extent a solitary life, and in moving to Washington Square had determined to apply myself unremittingly to legal studies.

My new chambers had been unoccupied for some months, and, after making sure that they had been well cleaned and scrubbed, I sent in my furniture and took possession. It was on a chill, dark October evening that, after dining at an accustomed eating-house, I wended my way to my new quarters. I shall never forget that evening; there was a heavy, clammy feeling in the air of the streets; and as I turned into the dreary square the air seemed heavier and clammier. On arriving at my chambers, I found the deaf, spirit-sodden old creature who had attached herself to me as laundress and char-woman in the act of setting out the tea-things. The lamp was lighted, and a bright fire burned in the grate. On my coming in the old woman mumbled a few words, the meaning of which I did not catch; however, well pleased with the air of comfort she had imparted to the place, I wished her a cheery good-night as she went out.

Having closed and locked the outer door, I returned down the passage into the sitting-room. I can perfectly call to mind its appearance on that night. The polished furniture was gleaming and glistening in the light, the windows were veiled by thick curtains, and the door leading into the bedroom stood ajar. I congratulated myself on my possessions, and, having poured myself out a cup of tea and lighted my pipe, settled myself with a volume of Hallam in an arm-chair by the fire. I had been reading for some time; my attention had somewhat wandered to a vague, sleepy consideration of matters not strictly relevant to constitutional history, when I became aware of a strange, all-pervading sensation of cold. The sensation was so sudden, so acute, that I rose from my chair shivering, in the expectation of finding one of the windows open. But no; they were all closed and fastened. Through the panes I could discern the gaunt branches of the trees, unstirred by any gust of wind. On glancing round the room I noticed the flame of the lamp, which, though somewhat dim, did not flicker or seem agitated by the icy stream of air which chilled me to the bones. The bedroom door, as I have mentioned, was ajar; and thinking the draught might proceed from one of the inner rooms, I lighted a candle, with the intention of looking through them. But the instant I entered the bedroom the candle went out; not suddenly, as from a current of air, but quietly, instantaneously, as though it had been introduced into an atmosphere of carbonic-acid gas. At the same moment the sensation of cold again came over me with ten times greater intensity than before. The gaslight in the square shone feebly into the rooms, and I was able to find my way through them into the passage, and back into the sitting-room. My sensations appeared to me somewhat unaccountable; but attributing them to some draught, of which I could ascertain the cause in the morning, I closed the doors and resumed my place by the fire. After a little while I fell again into my interrupted train of dreamy thought, and gradually fell asleep. Now, before proceeding further, I may state that I had never been a victim to nervous fancies. Nothing had ever occurred to me bearing in the remotest way on the events I am about to relate—events so utterly inexplicable by natural causes, and yet so fantastically real, that even after a lapse of many years I call them to mind with a shudder of horror.

I remember, as though it were yesterday, the appearance of the room as I mused lazily in my arm-chair before going to sleep. The sound of an organ, which was playing in some neighboring street, came to me fitfully, at times seeming to be almost close to me—at times, again, seeming to proceed from some great distance. The fire had burned low, occasionally cracking and ticking; the lamp, as I have mentioned, was burning dimly, and a large portion of the room was in deep shadow. I do not know how long I had slept, when I became conscious of my own being. I can not say that I awakened; for though all my mental faculties were struggling painfully into life, my vital action seemed suspended, and I was unable to move hand or foot. A cold perspiration burst from all my pores as I made tremendous but vain efforts to shake off the incubus that was upon me. My feeling was not one of impotence: it was as though I had been frozen into a solid block of ice. I endeavored to call out; I had no power over my voice, and could not utter a sound. But as I gasped and panted, there stole into my nostrils a deadly, terrible, overpowering stench, unmistakable in its penetrating sickliness to me, who had frequented hospitals. It was the dread odor of decomposing mortality that was suffocating me as I sat. I felt that I must break the spell, or die. With one terrific exertion that strained every nerve and muscle, I burst from the chair and fell cowering on my knees before the fire. The lamp had gone out, a faint gleam from the fire afforded the only light in the room. I relighted the lamp, and, having swallowed a glass of brandy, endeavored to collect my thoughts. My first idea was, that a dead body must be somewhere concealed in the room. The hideous odor still clung to my nostrils, and the absurdity of such a supposition did not strike me. I searched the room, but, of course found nothing; though, to my astonishment, the bedroom door, which I had carefully closed, was wide open. As I advanced toward it with the intention of shutting it again, my lamp was extinguished in the same unaccountable manner as before; I locked it, however, securely, and again struck a light.

By this time I had sufficiently recovered to endeavor to reconcile my sensations to natural causes, or at any rate to a formidable attack of nightmare. I lighted my pipe, in the hope of neutralizing the terrible stench that still pervaded the room. Leaning on the mantle-piece, I actually smiled, at beholding my own pale, scared-looking face in the mirror. As I looked, suddenly every pulse in my body stood still. I beheld the reflection of the bedroom-door, which gradually, noiselessly opened of itself. I tried to command myself, and turned round toward the door. The same intense thrill of cold, but not a soul was there. I considered for an instant, and cross-examined myself as to my own condition. It was evident that my nerves were completely unstrung, and I decided, as I saw reflected in the looking-glass my own ghastly-looking face, that I was not in a condition to investigate the matter any further for that night. A dread was upon me that I could not shake off; so, hastily putting on my great-coat and hat, I hurried out of the room, through the passage, found myself on the landing with a sigh of relief, and locking the outer door, walked to the rooms of a friend who lived in the neighborhood.

S——, who was reading for the Civil Service, was glad to see me, and offered me a shake-down for the night. I informed him at once of the cause of my ignominious flight from my own rooms. My experiences had been too unmistakably real for me to dread ridicule in the relation of them. So, confessing unreservedly that I had been almost frightened out of my wits, I sat patiently enough as he endeavored to prove satisfactorily that my sensations were entirely due to nerves or indigestion. Before retiring to rest, however, we agreed to spend the following night together in my chambers. In the morning we went to our respective duties, with an arrangement to meet at dinner in the evening. I did not call at my rooms during the day; and what with attending to lectures and reading tough law, had not only overcome any idea of supernatural agency in the events of the preceding night, but, as the evening drew near, entirely ceased to think of the matter.

It was about eight o'clock as we entered the rooms together. The old laundress had evidently been at work, as on the preceding evening. The fire was burning brightly, the lamp was lighted, and the tea-things were set out on the table. We walked through the rooms, and found every thing in perfect order. S——laughingly envied me my comfortable quarters, showing by his manner that he was more than ever convinced I had been the victim of an exceedingly bad attack of nightmare. After a little while we agreed to play at chess, and arranged a small side-table in front of the fire. I sat in the arm-chair with my back to the bedroom-door, as on the previous night; S—— was seated opposite to me, consequently facing the door, which I had closed, locked, and bolted, on completing our tour of inspection; S——, who was in high spirits, joking at me the while. I remembered, however, the uncomfortable tendency it had to open on its own account, and determined that it should be as securely fastened as a good lock and bolt would admit of. We were both fair chess-players, about equally matched.

Two hours, perhaps, had elapsed, when the interest of the game culminated, and we were considering it with an intentness known only to chess-players. The move was with me. Knowing it to be a critical one, I was considering it at length, in all its aspects; my decision was just formed, and I was on the point of moving a piece, when gradually, surely, I became aware of the same extraordinary sensation of cold as on the night before, just as if the surrounding atmosphere were becoming iced into solidity. I felt that the bedroom-door behind me was opening. I looked up with the intention of calling S——'s attention to the phenomenon, but my movement was unnecessary; he was equally conscious of it with myself. He had risen from his chair, and I can never forget the expression of his face, which was livid and distorted. His eyes were wide open, and turned full on the door that was just behind my chair. All his features were convulsed, and his appearance, as he bent forward, as if in an intensity of horrified expectation, was perfectly terrific. I actually saw his hair lift from his head, and great beads of perspiration burst from his forehead.

He took not the slightest notice of my movement, but slowly raised one hand, as if pointing to something in the room behind me; then suddenly, and without giving me a moment's warning, with one loud yell of agonized terror, he dashed to the door leading into the passage, through the passage, and out of the main door, which slammed heavily behind him. I hurried after him into the passage. Then I remembered that the outer door closed with a spring-lock, and that the key was in the pocket of my great-coat, which was hung up in the bedroom. We had inadvertently left the door open on coming in, and thus S—— had been enabled to escape.

It would be impossible for me to describe my feelings at finding myself alone in the passage. How long it was before I mustered up sufficient presence of mind for reflection I can not tell; but at least I realized to myself the fact that to leave my chambers it was necessary to get the key. With a desperate courage I returned to the sitting-room. The lamp was extinguished; the fire was burning with a sickly glare. With closed eyes I advanced into the bedroom. I quickly felt my way to the peg on which my coat was hanging, when something happened that caused my very heart to stand still and my blood to freeze. I heard a movement in the passage—a strange, heavy, shuffling sound, as of a body dragging itself along the floor. An impulse seized me, unaccountable as all the other events of that memorable night. I felt impelled to follow *the thing* that was painfully, slowly dragging itself down the passage. I stepped through the dressing-room; and as I moved I heard *it* move on before me, keeping at the same relative distance from me. I quickened my pace, I ran—but I could not overtake that which I still heard dragging itself along.

After three or four headlong rushes from room to room, I stopped in the middle of the sitting-room to recover breath. As I stood, a revulsion of feeling came over me. My eagerness to confront and discover the cause of the sounds I still could hear, gave way to horror. I felt my life and reason to depend on my escape. As I moved to the bedroom-door it closed in my face. I frantically endeavored to force the lock. The *thing* was dragging itself along the passage into the room in which I was. Again the nauseating stench of the night before rose into my nostrils; I rushed to the window with the intention of throwing it open and jumping into the space beneath; but it was too late. I turned my eye downward. It was close to me, and I beheld

ALSACE.

BADEN.

PEASANT COSTUMES IN GERMANY.

it. A man writhing on the floor, his features blue, bloated, and decomposed, the eyeballs turned up, yet bearing full upon me, dead and glassy, an impure phosphorescent light emanating from the body itself. As I gazed, one discolored hand was raised to the throat, in which I perceived a hideous gash. It drew itself gradually closer to me—— I became insensible.

When I was discovered in the morning, my friends, who were telegraphed for, removed me to the country where, among cheerful scenes and people, I soon recovered. S—— died of brain fever within three days of the night on which he sat and watched with me.

I have never cared to make any inquiries as to the previous inmates of the chambers. It is true I have heard that an inmate of one set cut his throat under peculiarly horrible circumstances; but I was never curious to identify the scene of the suicide's death with the chambers he occupied for so short a time; indeed, nothing would induce me ever again to enter the apartments.—[*Selected.*

HISTORY OF THE WAW.

[THE subjoined is from the pen of the truly celebrated historian, Mr. Addums, and is instructive, as giving a comprehensive explanation of his novel, patent plan of writing history.—ED.]

INTRODUCKTORY.—*Diffrunce betwixt Myself and Other Histoarians.—Sperrit and Puppus uv the Wuk.—The Addumsian Method.*

Uv thoase great Histoarians uv the Waw—Polind, Macfearson, Hopper, Frank Mo—who is Frank Mo?—and them, I am not wun uv 'em. The reezn why I am not wun uv 'em is this—they are a writin for posterrity while I'm a writin for munny. I sum uv 'em are a writin for fame, which is the Frentch for hunger, and I hoap they'll git it and hold onto it tite, for it is very slippy. I had sum uv it wunst, but findin it didn't pass currunt for family groserles, I draptit. Litererry and polittikul fame mostly goes out in whiskey ennyway, and is uv littil vally. Tharfo I'm a writin for munny, cavin greenbacks, and hence I truss thar will be no jellosy on the part uv my contemptoraries, for I'm determined to quorl with noboddy, exsept my publisher, who will cheet me as a matter ov coase. How else could he affode to pay writers not so popplar as me, say nuthin uv his family expensis?

Another diffrunce betwixt myself and uther histoarians uv the day is that they are (or say they are) writin a true and impartshul account uv what akurd endurings uv the Waw. It is the habbit uv pepul uv this class to talk in this way, and perchause they reelybleeve and mean what they prommis. Alas! how futile is thar efforts, frum Herodditus down to Hopper with his plektchers. But I would not be pusnul. As for me, I nought as well stait frankly that I do not intend to wrote a impartshul History. Far frum imitating the exampul of the Waw Department at Washintun, and telling uv the truth recklissly and regardliss of konsekenses, I shall not hesitate, whenever it suits my puppus, to tell the most infunnul lies that ever issued frum mortul man. Ef Mr. Enybody is offendid, I shall be sorry, but the methud uv the Wuk kin in no otherwise be carried out. I make out my kase in my own mind before startin, and then wuk the facts up to it. In this way alone, I fansy, kin a truly filosophikul History be constructid.

As has bin sed, this shell be strickly a parshul History, not for the reezn that my auntysedants fubbid any other, but beeaws I chews it soe to bee. And I chews it soe to bee, beeaws I don't know enuything about the other side and don't want to know nuthin bout it. And it aint necessary I should, in odder to carry out my desine, which is to be abused—wharby my Wuk will become famus, will sell reddily, and I shell make munny. For munny is my standpint, as afosed. And from this pint uv vue, history was nevver wrote belo; the motive is purely oridginal with me, and a patint has bin aplied for. Mr. Charls Reed, orthur uv "White Lize," "Never Too Lait to Mend," and sich, calls this kind uv writin "Numskullticulture," and says it perduces the finist effects in flekshun and paintin. We shell see what it will do for history.

McCawly, in his S. A. on History, informs the publick, with grate modisty, that history was never properly wrote till he writ it. But did he doo it properly in his oan History? Cumpyar him with Allison, for instants. I paws for a wreply. Buckul alsoe gives his vues uv the proper maner to rite history, and eaven goes so fur as to string out the natms uv the books he red. But all this perade uv ternin, in my opinyun, didn't evail to perduce a reely good History, sich as this shell bee. Now, with a verry modrit apreshashun uv my abilitys, and with a perfoun ignornnce uv the facts in the kais, I undertake to say and doo say that the Wuk forthcomin from my pen is the only trewly valibul historrikul Wuk which has apeared since the Book of Jobe—which he was a good histoarianer, beeaws he confind himself to a narrytiv uv his oan suffrins, with a okashunal excurshun descriptive uv wild asses, waw-hosses, and the hevinly boddies. Meenin no irreverunce, I kin but think that Jobe would hav maid a fine Army Corrispondent.

The sperrit and puppus of the Wuk may be gethered from what has bin sed above, but the methud uv the Wuk remains to bee discribde. The sperrit uv it is the sperrit uv a man waitin pashuntly for his enemies to perrish, in odder that he may releeve himself freely; and the puppus uv it is the puppus not to annoy posterriority—which will hav waws enuf uv its oan to write and read about—but to pay bode bills and, ef possibul, a fair sheer uv the expensis uv beinge lickt.

Two methuds surgestid themselff to me.

1. To misregard all miner pussons and ivvents, and to confine myself stedily to a diskription uv the desisiv battils and the prinsipul karactures which figgerd in the Waw.

This would make a verry intrestinge History indeed, but it would not be purely oridginul. It would inable me, too, to vent my sarchasms on certin pussunidges agin whoom I feel a feelin; but that is the methud uv uther historians; and, besides, I kin do it to better idvantage in the Methud follrin.

II. The aim uv all historrykul writers is to narrate, with great or greater inaccuracy, ivents—to tell what was done. Now it acurd to me, that a oridginal History must uv nesessity consist uv a narytiv or tall uv *what was not done*—in other wirds, uv what mought hav bin done, what ought to have bin done, and yet it was neglecktid to be did. This, tharfo, is my methud—the ADDUMSIAN METHUD, introduced for the fust them in polight litterychewer, and destinded, hereafter, to be adoptid everywhar, in all lands and in all langwidges, as the only true methud uv historical comperzishun.

I shell bring toe my task a mind prejudished to the last degree in favor of my oan opinyuns, and a heart filled with malice and all uncharrytubbleness for thoas who dar to differ with me in any way whatsumever. I shell lie plut-blank, by in new endo and old endo. I shell show that whatevver I *shell* show (and this is, as yit, very unsertin) could not have bin shown in any other way by any other man ixcept myself. In a wird, I shell avoid, ef possibul, all the errors uv the histoarians uv the day, and, taktinge warning by the fait uv Hedley, Abbut, and Bankrupft, I shell so shaip my coase as to offend everyboddy puppusly, and not unintenshunly, as po Davy Hume says he did. The world is full of corns, made to be trod on, espeshly by histoarians uv thar own times; and I be durn ef I dont inten to tred on as menny uv 'em as I possibly kin.—[*Mozis Addums.*

YACOB.

YACOB was the name of an Arab boy in the Oriental city of Cairo. He was poor, and, like most of the poor boys of that city, his chief ambition was to own a donkey and hire him out to the travelers to go to the pyramids and other places of interest in the neighborhood of Cairo. As it was, he was only the driver of another man's donkey; that is, when the animal was mounted by the traveler, he ran behind, poking the quadruped with a sharp stick to keep him in a brisk trot.

One day, while Yacob was standing in front of Shepherd's Hotel in Cairo, wishing he had a donkey of his own, an English traveler on the veranda beckoned to him and asked him why he looked so wistful, and Yacob answered that he was unhappy because he had no donkey.

And when the Englishman heard his story, he called his servant and told him to bring up Marish, which was an old, sleepy donkey. Then he said to Yacob:

"Would you be happy if you owned that donkey, my lad?"

"Oh, master, I would be happy with any donkey!" said Yacob.

"Then," said the Englishman, "he is yours—I make him a present to you."

When he said this, the other travelers gathered around, with smiles on their faces, for it appeared that the Englishman was a man much given to making fun. He told Yacob to get on the donkey and ride him up and down in front of the hotel a few times, to show his gait. Yacob got astride of him, and found that he was stiff in the legs and moved slowly, notwithstanding the sharp pokes he gave him with his stick.

"I shall give the donkey a name that will draw custom for you," said the Englishman as the lad rode up to the veranda.

Yacob was much pleased that his benefactor should give the donkey a name, for he had seen some of his companions who hired their donkeys more easily than others, on account of fortunate names given them by travelers.

"I shall be much glad to call him what my master pleases," said Yacob.

"Then his name shall be Lightning," said the Englishman, and the other travelers laughed.

Yacob did not know what Lightning meant, and he continued to call his donkey by that name after the Englishman went away. He did not have much difficulty in hiring his donkey; but when the travelers started on their journey, they told Yacob he was a humbug, and that he had imposed on them with his animal. So that they only kept Lightning for a few minutes, and the same people never hired him twice.

One day, as he led his old donkey toward the hotel veranda, after being called a little humbug by an angry traveler, who refused to pay him for hire for half an hour, he was spoken to by a fat man in a long black coat, who told him he ought to call his donkey Slow-coach.

After that Yacob called him Slow-coach, not knowing any more about the name than he did about Lightning. But this change of name, instead of mending matters, made them worse. In short, no one would hire his donkey any more on any condition, and Yacob and Slow-coach were a rueful pair, as they stood idly before the hotel.

One day, as he stod thus, the Prince of Wales came out from the veranda (the Prince was then on his way to the East Indies), mounted Slow-coach and rode him two or three yards, and then got off and took another donkey. Thereupon Yacob bemoaned his bad luck in hearing of an American sitting in a tilted chair on the veranda.

"Yacob," said the American, "your donkey shall be hired as much as any other, but hereafter his name must be the Prince of Wales."

The American had a certificate drawn up and sworn to before the American Consul in Cairo, to show that the Prince of Wales had, without any doubt, mounted Yacob's donkey; and when the lad wanted to hire the animal to any man, woman or child from England, all he had to do was to show this certificate, and they straightway engaged him, notwithstanding his moping gait and stiff legs. They engaged him for whole days, fondled him, and begged Yacob not to poke him up too sharp from behind. They fed him with whatever he would eat, and the only drawback to the donkey's pleasant life was that his tail was plucked a good deal for mementos.

Yacob said, and says still, that the luckiest day of his life was when he was spoken to by the American gentleman in a tilted chair."—*Albert Rhodes in St. Nicholas for May.*

THE POPE'S AUDIENCE-ROOM.

THE monotonous hum of conversation ceased abruptly, the two sections of the wide door I have mentioned were thrown open, and the Pope, surrounded by his cardinals and a number of foreign princes, entered. The occupants of the two long settees rose, and then, as if they were automata worked by the same tyrannical wire, sunk simultaneously into an attitude of devotion. For an instant I was seized with a desperate desire not to kneel. There is something in an American knee, when it is rightly constructed, that makes it an awkward thing to kneel with before any man born of woman. Perhaps, if the choice were left one, either to prostrate one's self before a certain person or be shot, one might make a point of it—and be shot. But that was not the alternative in the present case. If I had failed to follow the immemorial custom, I would not have had the honor of a fusillade, but would have been ignominiously led away by one of those highly-colored Swiss guards, and, in my dress suit, would have presented to the general stare the appearance of a pretentious ace of spades being wiped out by a gay right bower. Such a humiliation was not to be thought of! So, wishing myself safely back amid the cruder civilization of the New World, and with a mental protest, accompanied by a lofty compassion for the weakness and cowardice of human kind, I slid softly down with the rest of the miserable sinners. I was in the very act, when I was chilled to the marrow by catching a sidelong glimpse of my benign old gentleman placidly leaning back in his seat, with his hands folded over his well-filled waistcoat and that same benevolent smile petrified on his countenance. He was fast asleep.—*Atlantic for May.*

HOW THEY FIGHT IN FRANCE.

A SANGUINARY duel took place in France the other day. In a heated political discussion a blow was given by Count de X—— to the Duke of Z——. The Duke didn't return the blow; but a few minutes later, finding himself alone with those who were to act as his seconds, he took an oath never to see his wife or little girl again until he had washed away the insult in the blood of the Count. The next day the duel took place. The Duke was wounded twice—in the fore-arm and in the right side—before the Count had received a scratch; but the Duke, notwithstanding the suffering and loss of blood from his wounds, insisted on continuing the fight. The duel went on; the Duke, making a superhuman effort, drove his sword through his adversary, who fell lifeless. Then, pallid in death, bathed in his own blood, and with difficulty sustaining himself, the Duke drew a white handkerchief from his pocket, and bending over the Count's body dipped the handkerchief in the blood gushing from his adversary's death wound, and turning to the four seconds, who looked on aghast, the Duke raised the blood-stained cloth to his face and said:—"You will tell them, gentlemen, how the Duke of Z—— avenged the insult to his honor. I wash away the insult with the blood of the one who insulted me." He then said to his own seconds: "Take this handkerchief, which I confide to you, to the Duchess, my wife; I enjoin upon her as a duty to place it among the wedding presents of my daughter when she shall be married; it is her father's gift to her—the purity of his name." The words were hardly spoken when the Duke fell back dead; and in death his features looked calm and proud, and almost wore a smile. His honor had been satisfied.

We may live without poetry, music and art;
We may live without conscience, and live without heart;
We may live without friends, we may live without books,
But civilized man cannot live without cooks.
He may live without books—what is knowledge but grieving?
He may live without hope—what is hope but deceiving?
He may live without love—what is passion but pining?
But where is the man who can live without dining?

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, New York:
Sea Stories; Stories for the Home Circle; Rural Homes; Poetry for Home and School.

PORTER & COATES, Philadelphia, Pa.:
Official Guide to Philadelphia.

D. M. DEWEY, Rochester, N. Y.:
Hand-Book for Fruit Growers, by F. R. Elliott.

HURD & HOUGHTON, Cambridge, Mass.:
The Riverside Press Centennial Guide Books. 1, Boston to Washington; 2, New York; 3, Philadelphia; 4, Washington.

MAGAZINES FOR MAY:
Atlantic Monthly, Scribner's, Harper's, St. Nicholas, Record of the Year (G. W. Carleton & Co., New York).

Sabbath Reading.

LIFE.

AN infant on its mother's breast,
An eager boy at play,
A youth by maiden fair caressed,
A stalwart man with care oppressed,—
An old man silver gray,—
Is all of life we know:
a joy, a fear—
a smile, a tear,—
And all is o'er below!

A CONTRAST.

BOTH Luther and Calvin brought the individual into immediate relation with God; but Calvin, under a more stern and militant form of doctrine, lifted the individual above Pope and prelate, and priest and presbyter; above Catholic Church and National Church, and General Synod; above indulgences, remissions and absolutions from fellow-mortals, and brought him into the immediate dependence on God, whose eternal, irreversible choice is made by himself alone, not arbitrarily, but according to his own highest wisdom and justice. Luther spared the altar, and hesitated to deny totally the real presence; Calvin, with superior dialects, accepted as a commemoration and a seal the rite which the Catholics revered as a sacrifice. Luther favored magnificence in public worship, as an aid to devotion; Calvin, the guide of republics, avoided in their churches all appeals to the senses, as a peril to pure religion. Luther condemned the Roman Church for its immorality; Calvin for its idolatry. Luther exposed the folly of superstition, ridiculed the hair shirt and the scourge, the purchased indulgence and dearly-bought, worthless masses for the dead; Calvin shrunk from their criminality with impatient horror. Luther permitted the cross and the taper, pictures and images, as things of indifference; Calvin demanded a spiritual worship in its utmost purity.

Luther left the organization of the Church to princes and governments; Calvin reformed doctrine, ritual and practice; and, by establishing ruling elders in each church and an elective synod, he secures to his polity a representative character, which combined authority with popular rights. Both Luther and Calvin insisted that, for each one, there is and can be no other priest than himself; and, as a consequence, both agreed in the parity of the clergy. Both were of one mind that, should pious laymen choose one of their number to be their minister, the man so chosen would be as truly a priest as if all the Bishops in the world had consecrated him.

REVIVALS ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

REVIVALS in different periods of the Church have had marked peculiarities to distinguish them. In the great Awakening of 1740, the people of Enfield, Conn., were unaffected, while the towns around were moved by the Holy Spirit. They were in distress for Enfield, and prayed most of the night for its awakening. President Edwards went there the next day, by previous appointment, and the people came to hear him, and were so giddy as hardly to conduct themselves with common decency in the church. He preached a clear argumentative discourse on the danger of living in impenitence,—"Their feet shall slide in due time," was the text,—his reasoning took hold of their imagination and conscience, and before the sermon was ended the people were so affected as to cry out in their distress and weeping, so that the preacher was obliged to speak to the people and desire silence that he might be heard. A great revival in Enfield followed.—*Observer.*

THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S MERCY.—I have always believed with a calm conviction in that divine history and that divine mission, but I used to worry myself about the manner of it. I am reading the Gospels for the third time within two or three months, and accepting the whole of the holy mystery as I find it. Mystery there must be, and it is wiser to take humbly the relation of eye-witnesses than to seek to reconcile what we cannot comprehend by our own feeble intelligence. I throw myself humbly, hopingly, fearingly on the mercy of God.—*Miss Mitford.*

A PLACE OF REFUGE.—Our Lord Jesus Christ is a place of secure refuge to every soul that flies to Him. The moment a sinner believes in Jesus he is safe, and continuing to believe he remains safe in life, safe in death, safe in judgment, safe in eternity. The passing out of self-righteousness into confidence in Christ is the act that saves the soul. When thy faith doth lay its hand upon the dear head of the Redeemer, what if I say upon the horns of the altar of his sacrifice, then is thy soul secure and nothing can destroy it.

HE that follows the Lord fully, will find goodness and mercy following him continually. If ever God had failed one who trusted in him, we might doubt; but he never has, therefore we should be confident.

THERE are four good mothers who have four bad daughters:—Truth hath hatred; prosperity hath pride; security hath peril, and familiarity hath contempt.

IT is when to-morrow's burden is added to the burden of to-day, that the weight is more than a man can bear.

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE LOVER'S SEASONS.

I.

When infant Spring uncloses,
And music fills the grove,
I'll make of fragrant roses
A garland for my love.

II.

When Summer's sun is shining
On every flow'r and tree,
I'll tempt my love to ramble
Through woodland shades with me.

III.

When Autumn's golden treasure
With plenty gilds the fields,
We'll thank the Lord of harvest,
For all His bounty yields.

IV.

When winter winds are blowing,
And cold's the cheerless night,
Our hearts shall still be warm, love,
And *every* season bright.

SPRING STYLES.

Affections are cut close, are worn by old and young, and are equally becoming to all. They are useful for every-day wear, for hill-climbing and rock-scaling. They come mostly in the old decided colors, and are worn long or short to suit the taste or convenience of the wearer.

Honor is beginning to be considered a somewhat antiquated goods. Several large houses are selling out below cost, preparatory to going out of business, "as there is no profit in it," they say. Large stocks have accumulated on their hands, as they found few purchasers for even the finest quality. Some apparently heavy dealers have failed entirely, and closed up for want of capital.

Generosity was much worn at the holiday season. It is not an imported goods, but of home manufacture, and comes in all prices and grades.

Intellect is much sought after at certain shops, where it is supposed to be found. A "shoddy" article is often palmed off upon shoppers, a quality with a cotton back and satin figure. But those really desirous of purchasing can always find a genuine article, and it is within the means of the poor.

Fraud, though not as popular as it was last year, is occasionally worn as a *negligé* by those retiring into bankruptcy; and at the reception of creditors by their two per cent. debtors.

There is another garment shown at the openings which promises to be as great a favorite this spring as ever. Its common name is Love. It comes in suits, prices ranging from one hundred to many thousand dollars per suit. It is made to order when desired. Sometimes much profit is realized on the sales. Many who have purchased say that it can be turned and made over for another season. There is much counterfeit in the market. It requires a practiced eye to detect the false. Only the real will wear; the frail imitation soon gets shabby by dust and friction. I am told that some of our leading fashionables invest in the cheap material, and trimmed up nicely it is thought to look as well as the genuine.

Policy is one of the most popular over-garments of the season. It seems to be worn by all ages and classes. It is considered the "correct thing" for court, business or society. Some skill is required in wearing it, so that the lining, which is often of a different texture, shall not show. Those designed for ladies are often trimmed with a bewildering combination of puffs, bows and folds; those for gentleman are ornamented with red tape.—*Scribner for May.*

TURNING POINTS.

Marriage is unquestionably as decided a turning point in human destiny as can be. It is, however, a turning point which, least of all, should be left to mere blind chance. Yet mere blind chance often rules the result. Everybody now recollects how Lord Byron staked on a toss up whether he should make his offer to Miss Milbanke or not. Mr. Grant asserts that there is an English duke now living, who wrote the following letter, when marquis, to a friend with whom he had agreed to inspect some carriages in Long Acre:—"It will not be necessary to meet me to-morrow, to go to Long Acre to look for a carriage. From a remark made by the duke (his father) to-day, I fancy I am going to be married." Not only had the marquis left his father to choose a bride for him and to make the other necessary matrimonial arrangements; but when the intimation was made to him by the duke that the future marchioness had been fixed on, he seemed to view the whole affair as if it had been one which did not concern him in the least.

We have a similar anecdote of the late Duke of Sutherland. On the morning of the day of his marriage, a friend of his found him leaning carelessly over the railing at the edge of the water in St. James's Park, and throwing crumbs of bread to the ducks. His friend, surprised to see him at such a place, and so engaged, within two hours of the appointed time for his marriage to one of the first women in England—one in whose veins the blood of the Howards flowed—exclaimed, "What, you here to-day! I thought you were going to be married this morning?" "Yes," was his answer, given with the most perfect *nonchalance*, and throwing a few more crumbs to the ducks, without moving from the railing on which he was leaning—"yes, I believe I am."

WOMEN'S FACES.

Somehow or other the women whose life and grace of face are remarkable—so remarkable as instantly to attract and fascinate—almost never approach either the ancient or modern types of beauty. If you were to take one of the women out of the pages of *La Follet*, and give her twenty times the genius of George Eliot, she would still look a fool. No power of brain could conquer the simpering stolidity of the perfectly regular face. Yet, if pressed for an answer as to what they consider the perfect type of modern beauty, most men would think of one of these women in a book of fashions. There are the clear outlines of nose, mouth and chin; the smooth forehead, small ear, rounded cheek and accurately-placed eyes. A man suddenly confronted by such a face admires it; he is not moved by any instantaneous sympathy toward it. Perfectly beautiful women (there are not many, even if we accept the low type mentioned) are much caressed by society. They adorn dinner tables, are magnificent at balls, and make good matches. (Regular luciferS, sometimes.—Ed.) But they do not break hearts; and the memory of their face, tortured with pouting or glowing with the quick joy of meeting, does not haunt a man's life. A plain woman with a cultivated brain and good taste ought always to hold her own against merely pretty women.

One View of Marriage.—As a general proposition it has been often stated that there is more misery in the world than the world knows. This is especially true of marriage, and it reminds us of an absurd story which was told of a Roman Catholic boy who, on being examined in his catechism, replied to the question "What is matrimony?" by saying, "*A middle state, in which people suffer for a time on account of their sins.*" His confusion between purgatory and matrimony well expresses what must be in the minds of many persons who have made a false move in the lottery of life, which, if it does not make their life a hell upon earth, has at least converted it into a purgatory.

Platonics.—Mr. G. H. Lewes (Geo. Eliot's husband) says that the common notion of a Platonic attachment is the affection which a man has to a girl whom he cannot or will not marry. What Plato says is, that the soul goes forth in its search for Beauty—which seems sentimental enough—but then Plato identifies Beauty with Truth, which is not so sentimental. Plato does not introduce any considerations of sex into his theory. In the Phædrus and elsewhere Plato gives us his notion of matters, and if any one thinks that Plato's dialogues are enlightened with much love talk, he can have done but little in that wilderness of dialectics.

FASHION NOTES.

The pockets on overskirts are mostly put on the right side.

The Duchess is the most desirable of the new hat shapes.

The princess or gabrielle style is adopted for little girls suits this season.

Hats are either worn low on the forehead or else very far back on the head.

Pocket handkerchiefs, neck ties and breakfast caps are all seen in cream-colored muslin.

Black velvet pockets suspended from the waist are to be worn this summer with light dresses.

Silver necklaces in the form of flowers and leaves, with the same kind of a pendant, are quite new.

The suits of larger girls have overskirts, which are merely large aprons shirred to form a fan behind.

Lace scarfs for the neck are generally about two yards and a half long, and three-eighths of a yard wide.

Coral jewelry is increasing in favor of late, as it looks very pretty with the cream lace, so much worn.

Pretty fringes are made in color, the upper twist of the tassel of chenille; the tassel itself is of silk.

The new striped stockings have the stripes only half way round, and only from the instep half way up the leg.

At A. T. Stewart's is a model of a foot and leg, with one of the new-fashioned stockings drawn on, elegantly gartered.

The new polonaises have four pieces in the front and four in the back; the seams meet on the shoulders, and are also corded.

Many of the corsages button up high in the neck, finished by a high collar, around which is worn a dog collar; no bows or ties are worn in that case.

The flowers used on the spring hats are generally very small and fine. Large flowers are almost entirely abandoned. Grasses gone to seed are freely used.

A pretty tie is made of white crepe de chene, the ends embroidered in white silk, and a fine knife-pleating on the edge of cardinal colored crepe de chene.

Cambric and print dresses for girls' school wear have blouse waists, buttoned behind; this waist is separate from the skirt, extends over the hips, and instead of a belt has a drawing string confining it to the waist.

A very pretty hat has the front faced with black velvet, which sets off a wreath of wheat. The crown of the hat has also a wreath of wheat, finished in the back with a double bow of cream-colored silk, and a bunch of small red flowers.

Reading for the Young.

A DOG HUNT.

Few, I fancy, have even seen or heard of a dog hunt. It has fallen to my lot to participate in such a hunt; one, too, which was quite as exciting as a wolf hunt must have been in the olden time. Imagine to yourself a three days' chase after a fierce and savage dog, a confirmed sheep worrier, and that in the midst of the picturesque ruggedness and grandeur of the Welsh hills.

Some three or four miles east from Bala, the Berwyn Mountains raise their heathery summits in the midst of a solitude broken only by the plaintive bleat of a lost sheep or the shouts of men in search of it.

In the least exposed corners of the sheep-walks are folds built of loose, unmortared stones, in which the sheep huddle to find shelter from the fury of the frequent storms which sweep over the mountains.

As the wealth of the hill farmers consist chiefly of sheep, if a dog once takes to worrying them, he is either kept in durance vile or killed. The habit once acquired is never got rid of; and after a sheep dog has once tasted blood, it becomes practically useless to the farmer. The quantity of sheep that can be killed by such a dog in a short time is almost incredible.

It may be imagined, therefore, with what feelings the Berwyn farmers heard of sheep after sheep being killed on their own and neighboring farms, by a dog which nobody owned, and which ran loose on the mountains catering for itself. Descending from the loftier parts of the hills, it would visit the sheep-walks and kill, as it appeared, for the pure love of killing; in most cases leaving the mangled bodies on the spot.

Month after month ran by, and it still eluded the vengeance of the indignant hillmen. The most exaggerated accounts were current respecting its size and ferocity. No two versions agreed as to its color, though all gave it enormous size. As it afterwards turned out, it was a black-and-white foxhound.

The loss of numerous sheep was becoming serious; in some instances the farmers suffered heavily. From time to time, paragraphs such as the following appeared in the papers published in the neighboring towns:

"The Rapacious Dog.—The noted sheep destroyer on the Berwyn hills still continues to commit his depredations, in spite of all efforts to kill him. The last that was seen of him was on Sunday morning, by Mr. Jones on the Syrin sheep-walk, when the dog was in the act of killing a lamb. Mr. Jones was armed with a gun at the time and tried to get within gunshot range; but it seems that the animal can scent a man approaching him from a long distance, so he made off immediately. After it became known to the farmers that he had been seen, a large party went up to the mountain at once, and were on the hills all day; but nothing more was heard of him till late in the evening, when he was again seen and again entirely lost. On Monday a number of foxhounds were expected, and if a sight of him can be obtained, no doubt he will be hunted down and captured and receive what he is fully entitled to—capital punishment."

On a bright May morning, five months after the first appearance of the sheep destroyer, a pack, consisting of a dozen couple of fox dogs, with their huntsman, started up the lane to the hills, followed by a motley crowd of farmers and laborers, armed with guns and sticks, and numbering many horsemen.

Up the lane till the hedges gave place to loose stone walls, higher still, till the stone walls disappeared and the lane became a track, and then a lad came leaping down the hill, almost breathless, with the news that the dog had been seen on a hill some six miles away.

The cavalcade proceeded until we reached the spot where our quarry had been last seen. A line of beaters was formed across the bottom of a glen and proceeded up the hill. The hounds quartered to and fro, and the men shouted. The hardy Welsh horses picked their way unerringly over the *debris*.

"Yonder he is!" was the cry, as up sprang the chase a hundred yards ahead. From stone to stone, from crag to crag, through the water, through the furze and fern fled the dog, and the fox hounds catching sight and scent, followed fast. At first they gained; but when the pursued dog found it was terrible earnest for her, she laid herself well to her work—mute.

Startled by the unusual noise, the paired grouse flew whirring away. The sheep were scattered in confusion, and a raven flew slowly away from a carcass.

"Diawl! John Jones, I am fast," we heard and saw an unfortunate pony up to its belly in the bog. We footmen have still the best of it, although it is no easy matter to run through the heather.

We had now reached the other side of the mountain, and were fast descending into the valley. There seemed a probability of our catching the quarry here; but no, she left the heather—much to my relief, it must be confessed—and made for the valley, past a farm; then through a churchyard, and along the road for some distance.

Here a man breaking stones hurled his hammer at the dog but missed her.

Turning again she made for the hills, running with unabated speed, although she had been hunted for nearly ten miles. By this time the hounds were in full cry up the hillside. Mile after mile, over the hills we followed, now only by scent, as the dog made good use of her time, while the hounds were hampered by people crossing the scent at the village.

"The shades of night were falling fast," when we came to a brook flowing from the moorland. Here the scent was lost, and the wild dog was nowhere to be seen. We held a council of war as to what was to be done. I was the only horseman present at first, but by-and-by the huntsman and others came up, bog-besmeared, and in a vicious frame of mind.

One thing was evident—nothing more could be done that evening; and on the morrow, from earliest dawn, messengers were coursing the glens in all directions, with invitations to people far and near to come and assist in the hunt.

The day after, the men kept pouring in to the place of rendezvous, till I was sure the majestic hills had never before witnessed such an assemblage. From far and near they came. Many, like myself, were mounted upon ponies. We commenced beating, and the Berwyns rang with the unearthly yells of the crowd. We reached the highest of the Berwyns without meeting with a trace.

Here I was disabled by my pony sticking fast in a bog, and the hunt went on. Soon the noise of the beaters died away and I was left alone, sitting on a stone which peered out of the bog, holding the bridle of my unfortunate steed. "Here's a pretty fix!" I thought.

Soon the mist which enveloped the summit of Cader Frouwen came sweeping down the gorge in a torrent of rain; it would have been madness to stray from where I was, as I could not see two yards before me, and I did not know the paths.

By-and-by I heard them returning. After having extricated my pony, as I was chilled and wet through, I made the best of my way back. Tired with a hard and long day's work, the men separated and made off for their respective homes. No traces of the dog had been found.

Some of the people averred that the devil must be in the dog. The major part of the farmers believed that the savage animal had been frightened away, and most probably would not be met with again for some time.

The morrow was beautifully fine; and, little expecting that I should see the death of the sheep-worrier, I had gone for a ramble over the hills, armed with my geological hammer, when a man, gun in hand, came clinking down the sloping rubbish, and excitedly told us—the two or three quarrymen and myself—that he had seen the dog lying on a rock about a mile away.

A boy was dispatched to summon the neighboring farmers. In a short time about fifty were on the spot, armed with guns. Stealthily creeping up the hill, we were sent in different directions, so as to surround the sheep-walk where she lay.

In a half hour's time a gradually lessening circle was formed, all proceeding as silently as possible, and taking advantage of every tuft of fern or stunted thorn, so as to get as near as possible before arousing the sleeping dog.

There was a distance of about eighty yards between each man, when the brute rose up and stretched herself, showing her white and glistening fangs. Uttering a low growl as she became aware of her position, she set off in a long swinging gallop towards the heather. Just in that direction there appeared to be a man missing from the cordon, and a wide gap was left through which it seemed probable she would escape, and a storm of shouts arose. Just, however, as escape seemed certain, a sheet of flame poured out from behind a clump of thorn bushes and fern, and a loud report went reverberating over the glens. The dog's neck turned red, and she rolled over and over, uttering yelp after yelp in her agony. There was a miscellaneous charge from all sides. Crash came the butt-end of the gun which had shot her, on her body, with such force that the stock was splintered. Bang! bang! everybody tried to get a hit at her, even after she was dead.

When life was quite extinct we all gathered together, and a whoop of triumph awoke the echoes, startling the lapwings on the moorland.

As we marched down to the village we fired a volley in token of our success, and cheer after cheer told of the gladness with which it was welcomed by the villagers.

The Puzzler.

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 2.

My first is in fig but not in plum;
My second is in rifle but not in gun;
My third is in love but not in hate;
My fourth is in early but not in late;
My fifth is in gill but not in quart;
My sixth is in kind but not in sort;
My seventh is in walk but not in run;
My whole is two of the United States.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Berbix.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—April 15.

Literary Puzzle No. 1.—A, Strange Story; 1, Two Years Ago; 2, The Occupations of a Retired Life; 3, Ten Thousand a Year; 4, Wide, Wide World; 5, A Day's Ride; 6, My Farm at Edgewood; 7, My Novel; 8, A Chance Aquaintance; 9, A Pair of Blue Eyes; 10, Mugby Junction; 11, Cakes and Ale; 12, Quite Alone; 13, Three Guardsmen; 14, Lover's Stratagem; 15, Good Luck; 16, After Dark; 17, Foul Play; 18, Birds of Prey; 19, Uncle Silas; 20, Notice to Quit; 21, One of Them; 22, The Three Guardsmen; 23, In Honor Bound; 24, Hopes and Fears; 25, Loved at Last; 26, A Year after Marriage; 27, The Home; 28, Far from the Maddening Crowd; 29, A Sentimental Journey.

Biblical Square-word No. 3.—

E T A M
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M E A T

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Holiday Presents will be plenty this year among our Agent-Friends and others who form clubs for RURAL. Our list comprises many articles appropriate for presents. Induce a few of your friends to take the RURAL, and thus secure a Premium.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

A CIRCULAR letter, signed by Wm. Cullen Bryant, Carl Schurz and others, calling for a conference to discuss the advisability of forming a "third party," has appeared in print. It appeals to those who are dissatisfied with the present state of political affairs.

Mr. Charles O'Conor, the eminent lawyer, has addressed the Bar Association, replying to the charges against him and under investigation by that body: opinions differ as to his success in meeting them.

Mr. Moody has brought his labors in New York to a close. The meetings have been remarkable as well by the work done as by the enormous attendance. Thousands have been turned away at a single meeting. Mr. M. proposes to raise $125,000 as a fund to be left in competent hands to continue the work so nobly begun.

Gen. Macdonald and W. O. Avery, the "whiskey ring" thieves, have received their sentences of three and two years, respectively, in the penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo.

The Grand Jury at Washington have indicted Gen. Babcock, Richard Harrington, late Assist. District Attorney; H. C. Whitley, late Chief of Secret Service; J. C. Nettleship, a late Government detective; Thos. P. Somerville, a disreputable New York lawyer; George E. Miles, a professional cracksman, and William Benton, a housebreaker and thief. The witnesses upon which the indictments were found are, A. B. Newcomb, Chief of Police Richards, Albert Cunz, O. D. Madge, Joshua Parker, E. C. Banfield, Michael Hays, H. C. Whitley, and Columbus Alexander.

President Grant has vetoed the bill reducing the salary of the President from $50,000 to $25,000 per annum. If the bill became a law, it could not, in any event, affect the pay of the present incumbent of the White House.

Dom Pedro II. de Alcantara, Emperor of Brazil, arrived in New York harbor Saturday, April 15, on the steamer Hevelius, landed without display at Martin's stores in Brooklyn early in the afternoon, and was conveyed to the Fifth Avenue Hotel in this City. The Government steamer Alert, bearing Secretaries Fish, Taft and Robeson, and other officials, went down the Bay to meet the Emperor, and the Cabinet Ministers boarded the Hevelius for the purpose of inviting Dom Pedro to accompany them to the city. The Emperor received them cordially, but declined to leave his own steamer, and the reception party were compelled to return to the City without their intended guest. The result of this action of the Emperor was that the Alert received the salutes from the forts and passing vessels, intended for the imperial party, while the Hevelius with Dom Pedro on board, quietly passed unnoticed up the East River to her usual landing-place. In the evening the Emperor attended the theater, and later was serenaded at the hotel under the auspices of a committee representing the merchants, bankers and other citizens interested in his reception. About 1 o'clock he was driven down town and visited one of the newspaper offices, to see the operation of the presses and other interesting portions of the process of making a newspaper. During his stay he has worked at sight-seeing with a fervor incompatible with comfort. Rising at 5 A. M., he would start out and not return perhaps until midnight. He is now on his way to the Pacific Coast, and will return to be present at the opening of the Centennial and leave for Europe about July 12.

The Virginia Republican Convention met to select delegates for the National Convention, and expressed their choice for Blaine by a vote of 95 to 13.

Richard Kenyon, Tax Collector of the town of Amboy, Oswego Co., N. Y., has absconded with between $2,000 and $3,000.

The Sheriff of Steuben Co., N. Y., has offered a reward of $200 for the arrest of John E. McNamara, who shot and killed Ellen M. Callinan at the Arcade Hotel on Saturday.

The late A. T. Stewart was buried on Thursday, April 4th. His marble palace was thronged with friends and others with no higher motives than curiosity. The remains rested on a catafalque in the main hall, which was composed, apparently of moss roses, lillies, camellias &c. A beautiful floral cross four feet high stood at the head of the casket. The floral display was magnificent, and is said to have cost $10,000. He was buried in the family vault in St. Mark's churchyard after a very impressive service. So great was the crowd both at the house and at the church, that numbers who held tickets of admision were even unable to get to the ushers to present them. Mr. Stewart was born Oct. 12, 1803. In his will he bequeathed the bulk of his property to his wife, but suitably provides for numerous relations of his wife and other friends. The most conspicuous legacy was that to Judge Hilton, his confidential adviser and friend, who received one million dollars. Judge H. has since paid this sum back to Mrs. S. in consideration of her interest in the business of her late husband and the firm will continue to do buisness under the name of A. T. Stewart & Co., the partners being Henry Hilton and Wm. Libby.

Beware of a set of rascals calling themselves Hayes, Arlington & Co. and who purport to act as agents for the Centennial Committee. They are scheming to induce innocent country girls to go to Philadelphia, through the medium of a circular in which it is promised that expenses shall be paid and renumerative employment in the Centennial Exhibition furnished. The girls are advised *not* to consult their parents, but to keep the offer a secret. Look out for these fellows!

The House will probably pass the bill transferring the Indian Bureau to the War Department by a large majority.

Exploded:—The story about Bristow being offered $40,000 to resign the District Attorneyship for Kentucky.

Ex-Attorney General Williams appeared before the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice and testified to the payment to John I. Davenport, present United States Commissioner in New York, out of the Secret Service Fund, $30,000 for election purposes. He also testified that these payments were made at the order of the President. But further investigation adds that the money was used to prevent illegal registration and Mr. Davenport claims that he expended $25,000 of his private moneys to the same end. More light on the subject is expected.

The impeachment proceedings against Ex. Sec. Belknap are in *statu quo*. Nothing accomplished besides orginazination of the High Court.

Laborers are out on a strike at Rondout, N. Y. and have created such serious disturbance that the military have been sent for. The steamboat Pittston having gone to Saugerties for troops she was prevented from making a landing by the mob, and had to return to Rondout.

Immense damage has been done by the overflow of the Missouri to railroad and other property. Two miles of track of the Quincy and St. Louis Railroad and one hundred yards of the track of the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad are under water. Trains have been abandoned on the latter route. The Quincy, Missouri, Pacific and St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern Railroad are still under water for miles. A few miles above Hannibal the river is fully twenty miles wide, and just below it is fifteen miles wide. All the lowlands are overflowed.

The Missouri river is higher at Burlington, Iowa, than in the great flood of 1858, being fully eight miles wide.

The barges L. T. Eaker and D. A. McDonald were sunk in the river at Keokuk the 20th inst. by a collision. Loss, $14,000; uninsured.

The Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad Bridge over Charles River at Newton Upper Falls, was burned Thursday evening.

The scow Dunderberg went over the Housatonic Dam in Derby on Thursday night, carrying with it the owner, Capt. Edwin Wooster, who was drowned.

After a session lasting a fortnight, Mr. Whitthorne's Sub-Committee on Naval Expenditures have concluded their labors in Philadelphia. During the fourteen days which they have been in session, meetings have been held from early morn until late at night. The testimony is voluminous, and will cover some 1,700 pages of printed matter. The investigations have covered nearly every navy yard in the country and the operations of the Navy Department for the past three years. Much hearsay testimony has been taken, but there are assurances that certain parties connected with the department in Washington, and persons who have been supplying the department with various articles for other parts of the country, will be placed in no enviable light. Several naval officers will be found to have been mixed up in questionable transactions which will call for prompt action in their cases. The Committee has personally visited both the old navy yard and the League Island Station, and witnessed the remains of the wanton destruction of property which was allowed. Builders who were employed in the yard have been examined on this point, and they stated that glycerine might as well have been put under the building and then exploded, as to allow the edifices to be destroyed in the manner they were.

The Grand Jury of New Orleans have found true bills against J. F. Barrett Jr., for attempting to bribe State officers. In default of bail, Barrett was sent to the Parish prison.

Mollie Dean, the young woman shot by William Cooper in St. Louis, died this afternoon (April 21,) and Cooper is in the hospital and expected to die any moment. It appears Cooper had paid addresses to Miss Dean for some time, but of late she had attempted to break with him, she being engaged to another man. To-day Cooper called at the house where Miss Dean lived, and she went out into the garden with him, but after a few moments' conversation she uttered a scream and ran toward the house. Cooper followed and fired two shots, both of which entered the girl's head, and she fell to the ground mortally wounded. Cooper then put the pistol to his own head, and sent a bullet through his brain.

The New Jersey Legislature has adjourned *sine die*. Gen. Sewell, President of the Senate, was the recipient of eulogistic resolutions, as were also many of the other officers. The work of the sessions, summarized, is an act providing three Inspectors for the State Prison, passed over the Governor's veto; appropriating $1,000 for the Centennial and $1,000 for an Educational Exhibition; to dam the Delaware River; to authorize persons to change their names; to reduce salaries of State officers; to reduce Sheriffs' fees 25 per cent.; to make Decoration Day (May 30) a legal holiday; to prevent the sale of liquors on election day; a commission to establish the boundaries between New Jersey and New York, &c., &c.

The Academy of Sciences is holding its annual meeting in Washington. Several papers of interest have been read, especially one on the "Work of the Mound Builders."

The testimony taken secretly by the Select Committee of Investigation of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company has been made public. The investigation was begun Jan. 17. The first witness was ex-Postmaster-General Creswell, one of the Commissioners for closing the affairs of the Company, whose indebtedness was over $3,000,000. Mr. Creswell feared they would not be able to realize more than 40 per cent. from the assets, a large amount of the personal securities appearing to be worthless.

Charges of arson against Col. Fitzhugh, the Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, are revived, both privately and in print. Two indictments alleging arson were found against him in Kentucky in 1871. He was, however, promptly acquitted in both cases, and gentlemen of the highest respectability assert that they were gotten up either through malice or a misapprehension of the facts. Another charge against the Colonel is that of attempted bribery while he lived in Texas last year. Col. Fitzhugh has sent for official documents and other proofs which he claims will establish his innocence of the imputed crimes, and, if necessary, he will ask for the fullest investigation by a committee of the House.

Gov. Kellogg has left New Orleans for Washington via Mobile.

There will be five State Conventions this week to choose delegates to the National Conventions. On Wednesday the Massachusetts Republicans, the New York Democrats, the California Republicans, and the Oregon Democrats meet, and on Thursday the Arkansas Republicans meet. The Utica Convention will be very likely to send a solid Tilden delegation, while the Massachusetts Republicans will send an unpledged delegation, divided between Blaine and Bristow, with the odds probably in favor of the latter. There are no indications as to what the other Conventions will do in respect to candidates.

Mr. August Belmont of New York has consented to open his gallery of paintings—one of the finest private collections in the city—throughout the day, on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, for the benefit of the Women's Centennial Union. This is a rare opportunity and will be eagerly embraced. The ladies will place an agent at the door to sell tickets, and they can also be procured of any of the members of the Committee.

The St. Lawrence River is clear of ice above Victoria Bridge, but is filled with ice piled in masses immediately opposite and below. The islands at Boucheville and near the harbor are great obstacles to retard its dissappearance. The water has been drawn from the canal in order to make repairs.

Dom Pedro is progressing gaily across the Continent, and not without comfort withal. The Erie Railway placed a special and gorgeous "hotel train" at his disposal for which he pays like an Emperor, (at his especial request,) we are more than ever impressed that the Dom is a man of sense by this selection of a route to the West and it will be solely due to want of appetite if the irrepressible Pullman does not feed him "like a Prince."

James O'Donnell was shot at through the window of his residence in Pottsville, Pa.

An Associated Press dispatch from St. Louis states that an old Treasury clerk is to testify before the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department to an astounding system of fraud in the Treasury. The dispatch says that this clerk, George Prender by name, now Signal Sergeant at St. Louis, claims that the debt statements have been tampered with; that cash has often been reported on hand when the Government was actually borrowing money for current expenses; that money was lent from the Treasury to favorites and loaned back at a good interest, and that money and bonds reported canceled and destroyed were not destroyed, but that a large portion of the redeemed paper was divided among a Ring. Prender further states that he informed Mr. Spinner and Mr. Boutwell and others of the circumstances.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE three Northern Powers, Russia, Prussia and Austria have agreed to leave the Eastern question as it is for the present, meanwhile it is rumored that Montenegro has declared war against Turkey.

The Moscow Gazette says the Turkish soldiers have not been paid, and are selling cartridges to the insurgents for bread.

There is trouble between the U. S. Government and England on account of the forger Winslow. Both countries through their State Department interpret the Extradition Treaty differently. Meanwhile Winslow languishes on the delicacies of the season.

Another forger Wm. E. Gray is demanded from the British Government, Gray has relieved the N. Y. Stock Exchange of a considerable amount of money.

The plague has again broken out in Asiatic Turkey with disastrous effects.

Fifteen pilgrims were drowned while crossing the river Vienne near Parsac, France.

The Chamber of Commerce of Amiers, France has announced the death of A. T. Stewart by public hand bills the deceased being gratefully remembered on account of his charities to that place in 1870.

Another revolution in Hayti. Lorquet and Ramean have been shot and President Dominque left Port-au-Prince for St. Thomas, dangerously wounded. The people have called upon Gen. Canal the leader of the revolutionery forces to come to Port-au-Prince and assume the control of the Government.

It is said the Czar will retire to Yalta, a spot on the southeastern coast of the Crimea, instead of to Malta as formerly announced.

Rumor has it that Disraeli's speech *apropos* of the Queen's new title has somewhat incensed the Russian Bear, and that episode in addition to the fancied slights put upon the Czar's daughter, the Duchess of Edinburgh, has created more than a hyperborian coolness. The Duchess has returned to Russia, and it is not improbable that this is the begining of a separation from her husband that will be final and complete.

Queen Isabella and Queen Christina will soon return to Spain and occupy the Palace of Araujuez, so say prominent members of the Moderado party.

A telegram dated midnight April 21st, reports that a large fire has broken out in Glasgow, Scotland. An entire square on one of the principle streets has been consumed, and the office of the Glasgow Herald is threatened. The fire engines seem to be powerless to stop the conflagration.

Ex-President Ignacio Gonzalez of Santo Domingo has taken up his residence at Santiago de Cuba.

Senor Rubi, the Royal Commissioner, will sail for New York to morrow, on his return to Spain. The Segundo Cabo will probably take the field against the rebels in a few days. Ex-President Ignacio Gonzalez, of San Domingo, has taken up his residence at Santiago de Cuba.

Mr. Mapleson, accompanied by Mlle. Kattl Lanner, lately visited Liverpool for the purpose of selecting a number of children to study dancing in a ballet-school on the Continental principle. After a careful examination of some two hundred children by Mlle. Lanner, on the stage of the Alexandra Theatre, some fourteen or sixteen were chosen to be drafted to the ballet-school, which will be opened in London, in connection with Mr. Mapleson's new Opera House. In addition to being taught the profession of "dancing," the pupils will be educated, clothed and provided for in their old age. By the time the new opera house is opened Mr. Mapleson expects to have about fifty young coryhees ready for duty.

Owing to the prevalence of a contagious disease among cattle in many parts of Europe, the Dominion Government has issued an order prohibiting the importation of live stock from Europe, except at Halifax, St. John and Quebec, where arrivals will be subjected to a rigid quarantine.

Advices from Panama states that Nicaragua and Costa Rica are settling their quarrel amicably.

The armies of Guatemala and San Salvador were at last accounts near each other at Justlapa. The former has 8,000 and the latter 9,000 men.

In Honduras there has been a battle at Los Naranjos between the Salvadorian allies at Leiva, the deposed President, and the troops of Gen. Medina, the revolutionary president. The latter was completely defeated, and Gen. Medina himself died a few days later. The disturbances, however, continue. The Guatamala troops, who have also intervened in Honduras, have proclaimed Marcos A. Soto, a Hondurian by birth, President of the Republic. President Leiva, after defeating Medina, re-established his own government in Comayagja. A revolt in favor of Soto at Amapoa was quelled.

In Peru a school of mines is to be established to give an impetus to the immense mining interests of the Republic.

Col. Ensique Lara is appointed Secretary to the Peruvian Legation in London.

The Peruvian Government having bought the nitrate establishments for $15,000,000, it was to pay the interest due on that sum on April 1, in bills on London. The principal is to be paid within two years.

A telegram published in The Pioneer, Calcutta, announces that 17 persons implicated in the murder of Mr. Margary of the English expedition will be executed at Bhamo, Burmah, May 5, in the presence of the British escort.

According to advices from Mexico to the 13th inst. the revolution continued in Sonora and Sinaloa. Gen. Alatorre was defeated in attempting to take the city of Oaxaca. Gen. Lobeza, at the head of 1,500 troops, had occupied Chalchicomula, in the

State of Puebla, the rebels flying. The revolutionists had occupied Jalapa. The rebels had again cut the railway between Vera Cruz and the City of Mexico, and trains were only running to Puebla. Gen. Figueroa, at the head of a body of Revolutionists, had destroyed the railway at Orizaba and Paso del Macho, demanding $35,000 from the directors. The State of Chiapas was in a state of siege.

A new loan of $24,000,000 will shortly be issued by the Paris municipality for the purpose of completing the Boulevard Saint Germain and the new Avenue de l'Opera.

It is understood that Sir John Rose is now on his way from England to New York with the object of making business arrangements for his retirement from the firm of Morton, Rose & Co.

The Princess Isabella is dead. She was born in 1801, and was regent of Portugal from March, 1826, to February, 1828.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, April 22, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	62,750	Rice, bbls	135
Whisky	3,597	Cut meats, pkgs	4,800
Corn meal, bbls	1,350	Lard, pkgs	3,732
Corn meal, bags	3,775	Tobacco, hhds	2,475
Wheat, bush	328,000	do. cases	4,474
Corn, bush	114,000	Butter, pkgs	25,350
Oats, bush	115,480	Cheese, bxs	3,916
Rye, bush	—	Cotton, bales	—
Malt, bush	51,150	Rosin	5,050
Barley, bush	7,000	Spts. turp., bbls	1,137
Beans, bbls	2,875	Dried Fruits, pkgs	101
Grass seed, bush	2,175	Eggs, bbls	13,675
Beef, pkgs	1,175	Peanuts, bags	868
Wool, bales	500	Dressed Hogs	—
Hops, bales	650	Leather, sides	62,551
Pork, bbls	6,790	Sugar, hhds	47
Tallow	200	Oil cake	3,940
Molasses	90		

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off-nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 2,396 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 21,258 do.; same time last year, 7,870 do. Exports of peas past week, 31,750 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 280,115 do.; same time last year, 162,800. There has been an active export demand for marrows and quotations are firm, with a possible early improvement. Mediums are a shade stiffer; not so much because the demand for them has enlarged, but owing to the comparative scarcity of prime. Low grade of quality is a serious drawback to the large remnant of old crop we are carrying. Lima beans are doing better; growth of California. Kidneys and pea beans remain nominal. Canadian peas firmly held, with a small stock. Green peas lack their spring activity and prices are weak. We quote: Beans—Prime pea, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, 90c.@$1.00; prime mediums, $1.20; fair to good, 90c.@$1.00; poor, 50@80c.; prime marrows, $1.60; fair to good, $1.25@1.45; prime white kidney, $1.50@1.55; other, $1.25@1.30; prime red kidney, $1.25@1.30; other, $1@1.15; Lima (Cal.), $2.80@3.00. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.20@; do., in bulk and bond, $1.00@; green, $1.40@1.15; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.70@2.75; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX is scarce and favoring the seller at 35½@37c.

Exports past week, 1,450 lbs.; since Jan. 1, 35,310 do.; same time last year, 53,256 do.

BROOM CORN.—There is no demand for other than small lots.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—The market for new has been steadily falling off since our last, and closes weak with remarkably heavy receipts. The bulk of the supply is State and prospective, free Western deliveries give the former no strength. Good quality in white has helped sales materially with easier prices. Still we begin to show some of those troublesome left-over lots which always lend depression. Sellers of State express a determination to drop with the views of of consumers, and advice their purchasing agents to make no promise of a repetition of once paid figures. It must be remembered that new butter opened at the rather forced rates of the old. Now it has the market to itself, and distributors' views must be considered for the hay and stall-fed lines. Almost the first round arrival of natural grass color creates an uncertain value upon white. The first important lots of yellow will come from the West, and as the aim of dealers in Western is to hold a full share of the trade they keep as much under State as they can. Eastern buyers are purchasing pretty freely but will no longer pay extreme prices. Old butter is now put aside for Southern and West Indian use. We hear of no call for an increase of stock.

New butter, Falls State, selected, 36@37c.; do., other 31@36c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 35@36c.; fair to good, 31@33c.; Welsh tubs selected, 31@35c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 32@33c.; fair to good, 30@31c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 31@35c.; fair to good, 31@33c.; Western tubs, good to prime, 30@32c.; fair to good, 28@30c.

State, old ranges at 28@40c. for fair to selected firkins, 28@37c. for fair to prime, Welsh. Early packed Western 22@26c. for fair to good; poor, 18@18c. Grease, 12@12½c.

COTTON.—There has been a sharp break in prices, with lower markets abroad and limited export movement. Closing prices are for April, 13¾@13 5-32c.; May, 13 5-32@13 3-16c.; June, 13 13-32@13 7-16c.; July, 13 19-32@13¾c.; August, 13 23-32@13¾c.; September, 13¾@13 11-16c.; October, 13 17-32@13 9-16c.; November, 13 5-16@13 ⅝c.; December, 13 5-16@13¾c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 11-16
Strict ordinary	10 9-16	10 9-16	10 9-16	10 9-16
Good ordinary	11 3-16	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 5-16
Strict good do	11 15-16	11 15-16	12 1-16	12 1-16
Low middling	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 11-16
Strict low middling	12 15-16	13 1-16	13 3-16	13 3-16
Middling	13¼	13¾	13 7-16	13 7-16
Good middling	13¾	13¾	14	14
Strict good middling	14¼	14¼	14⅜	14⅜
Middling fair	14¾	14⅞	14⅞	14⅞
Fair	15⅜	15½	15⅝	15⅝

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 13-16	Low middling	11 7-16
Strict ordinary	10 15-16	Middling	12 5-16

CHEESE.—The stock has run down to about 30,000 boxes, yet with the indifference among exporters, easy prices rule. There is a disposition to get the market well cleared against arrivals of new. Best lots quoted 13@13¼c., but few above the inside price. We quote:

New State factory, fancy, 13@13¼c.; fine, 12¾@12¾c.; do. good to prime, 11¾@12c.; fair to good, 10@11c.; poor to fair, 6@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 10¾@11¾c.; fair to good, 9¾@10¾c.; Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12¾@12¾c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fair, 8@11¾c.; poor to fair, 7@8c. New has sold in a small way at 11c. for best skimmed.

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Of apples occasional small parcels taken by shippers at easier prices. Blackberries remain dull. Peaches are lightly dealt in without further change in prices. Pitted cherries and raspberries wanted at firm prices.

Apples—State, sliced, 9¼@9¾c.; do., quarters, 8¼@8¾c.; Western quarters at 8@8¼c.; Southern sliced, 1875, prime, 9@9¼c.; fair lots, 8@9¼c.; Tennessee qrs., 7¾c. Blackberries, 10¾c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@15c.; do. fancy, 16@17c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12¾c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 20@21c. Exports of dried apples, past week, 171 bbls. Since Jan. 1st, 1,170; same time last year, 9,090.

EGGS.—The market is passing through one of the usual cheap and dull phases that follow Easter when sales have been heavy for that festival, and they were unusually large this season. Receipts are less oppressive, but there is quite an offering of stock that was laid in speculatively which owners want to close out, and that fact alone tends to weaken prices. We quote:

Near points, ₱ bbl., 18¾@19c.; State and Penn., 17@17½c.; Western, prime, 15¾@17c.; do. fair marks, 16@16½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 16@16¾c.; Canadian, 16½@17c.; duck, 24@25c.; goose, 44@45c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—We can merely repeat the nominal quotations:

"H. G." oil peppermint, $4, in glass; Hale & Parshall do., $4@4.20 do.; pure in tin, $3.50; sassafras, 55c.; wintergreen, $3.12; spearmint, $3.50; pennyroyal $4.

FEATHERS.—Demand moderate at 55@58c. for prime Western live geese; 35@45c. for mixed do. Common poultry feathers not wanted.

FLOUR.—The reduction of rates of freight from the West on grain having led to freer supplies of wheat and consequent low prices, the market for flour has worked in sympathy. Export trade is moderate. We quote:

Superfine State, $4.15@4.50; extra do., $4.90@5.50; superfine Western, $4.15@4.50; extra do., $4.90@5.70; No. 2, $3.10@4.00; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.40@5.25; trade brands do., $5.30@7.00; white wheat extras, $5.75@7.00; St. Louis, $5.35@9.00; City Mills extra, $5 10@6.50; Southern at $4.25@4.75 for superfine; $5.00@6.15 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.25@8.75 for trade and family brands. Corn meal selling at $2.75@3.35 for yellow Western; $3.10@3.30 for yellow Jersey; $3@3.35 for Pennsylvania.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.—Layer raisins, $2.65@2.70; Valencia do., 10¾@10¾c.; loose Muscatel, $2.70@3.00. Currants, 6¾@7c. Turkish prunes, 6¾@6¾c. Sardines, 14¾@15c. for quarter boxes. Leghorn citron, 21@22c.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples since Jan. 1st, 4,350 bbls.; same time last year, 18,025 do. Increased receipts of apples give a tamer tone to the market, but prime stock still brings extreme figures. The reliance of the market is Russets; all other sorts now turn out poor. Strawberries have sold better. There will be liberal shipments from the South this season. Cranberries are in few hands, who sell only in small lots at quotations. Peanuts are a little higher, with a prospect of a revival of inquiry.

We quote:—Choice apples, $4.25@4.50; good, $3.75@4; fair mixed, $2.75@3.50. Strawberries, best, 80@90c.; other, 40@50c. Peanuts—Virginia, per bush., $1.45@1.85; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, standard crates, $4,75@5; good, $4.50; extra Jersey crates, $4@4.50; bbls., $14@15.

FURS AND SKINS.—Sales have begun at the Leipsic Fair; easy prices expected to rule. Red fox show a decline of 10 per cent. We quote:

	North. & Eastern.	West. and N. Y.
Otter, ₱ piece	$6 50@ 8 00	$4 00@ 5 50
Gray Fox	1 75@ 2 00	1 50@ 1 75
Red Fox	1 60@ 1 75	1 25@ 1 50
Black Bear	10 00@15 00	7 00@10 00
Brown cubs and yigs	4 00@ 5 00	2 00@ 3 00
Fisher	8 00@10 00	7 00@ 8 00
Mink, dark	2 00@ 3 00	1 25@ 1 75
pale	1 00@ 1 50	75@ 1 00
Muskrat, spring	28@ 30	25@ 27
winter	23@ 25	21@ 23
fall	18@ 20	16@ 18
Kitts	6@ 7	5@ 6
Beaver, ₱ lb	1 00@ 1 75	75@ 1 00
Raccoon	68@ 80	40@ 55
Opossum	12@ 15	12@ 15
Skunk, black		75@ 90
striped		10@ 40
Wolf, mountain		2 00@ 3 00
prairie		75@ 1 00

GRAIN.—A decline in wheat is noted through freer supplies, leading to a moderate export movement. Latest sales at $1.33 for prime No. 1 Milwaukee spring for crop of 1874; $1.27 for choice No. 3 Minnesota spring; $1.25@1.26 for good to strictly prime No. 2 Milwaukee spring afloat, of fresh receipt; $1.23 for No. 2 Chicago and Northwest spring afloat; $1.20@1.22 for mixed spring; $1.14@1.17 for No. 3 spring; $1.08@1.10 for inferior spring; $1.10@1.20 for ungraded do.; $1.32 for choice Canada Club in bond; $1.25@1.28 for red Western. Rye is higher; prime Canada in bond, 95c.; prime Western, 90c., and prime State, 95c. No. 1 Bay barley bought $1.15 and No. 2 do. $1.02½. Corn is lower and dull; sales, 65@68c. for ungraded mixed Western and 69c. for steamer do. Oats are lower and dull; mixed Western, 44½@45½c.; white do., 48@51c.; white State, 49@52c.

HAY AND STRAW.—The advance last week brought forward freer supplies, and there has been since a slight reaction in prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, $1.05@1.10; clover, 70@75c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.15 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 2,850 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 14,550; same time last year, 11,000.

HIGHWINES selling at $1.11.

HOPS.—There is a quiet market, comparatively, and a partial decline of one cent per pound is noted. Shippers claim that they have few orders at present. The hops in stock comprise but few strictly choice, the shipping demand having run them down close. Our home demand is moderate. The receipts for the week have been 713 bales, and since Sept. 1st, 1875, 75,488 bales, against 41,240 bales same time last year, with export clearances for the week of 1,168 bales, and since Sept. 1st, 38,983 bales, with same time last year, 15,688.

N. Y. State, 12@18c.; Eastern, 10@16c.; Wisconsins; 12@16c.; Yearlings, 3@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 15@18c.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 21@22c. for light, 23@24c. for middle, 22@25c. for heavy, 20@21c. for good damaged.

OIL CAKE.—Western quoted at $41.50 ₱ ton.

MAPLE SUGAR.—The offering is now quite large, and as there has been no really general demand, prices have suddenly declined for the styles of large molds on sale. We quote:

Choice new sugar, 10@11c.; fair, 8@9c.; old, 6@8c. Syrup, ₱ gallon, 75c.@$1.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The supply of dressed includes near points, frozen and city killed. The abundance of the latter has weakened prices. Much of the frozen is turning moldy.

We quote Philadelphia picked chickens at 21@22c.; capons at 31@33c. for large; 27@29c. for small capons and slips.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 19@21c.; Jersey, good to prime, 18@19c.; State, good to prime, 16@17c.; Western, good to prime, 14@16c.; fair to good, 12@13c.; poor, 4@6c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 18@20c.; State, good to prime, 17@19c.; Western, good to prime, 16@17c.; inferior, 10@14c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 20@22c.; State, good to prime, 18@20c.; Western, good to prime, 16@18c.; fair to good, 14@16c.; poor, 12@—c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 13@15c.; State, good to prime, 12@14c.; Western, good to prime, 11@13c.; do., poor to fair, 8@10c.

Live poultry is in large supply, and prices are weak. The Jewish buyers who have been in the habit of storing stock on their premises, are no longer permitted to do so; this makes some reduction in the demand at present.

Fowls and turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 15@16c.; do. Western, 14@15c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $2.50@2.75; do. Western, $1@1.50; ducks, Western, ₱ pair, 70@80c.; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1.25@1.50; roosters, 8@10c. Spring chickens, ₱ pair, 80c.@$1.50.

The supply of wild pigeons is very large. Their abundance weakens other game birds.

Wild Ducks—Canvasback, 87c.@$1; redhead, 60@65c.; Mallard, 40@50c. Wild pigeons, feathered or picked, ₱ doz., $1.00; English snipe, ₱ doz., $1@1.12; plover, ₱ doz., 87c.@$1; sand snipe, 40@50c.

PROVISIONS.—A sharp decline in prices throughout has been noted, with a break at the West and a pressure to sell. Mess pork quoted at $22.20 for spot, $22.35 for April and May, $23.35 for June, $22.60 for July, and $23.75 for August. Boxed dry-salted shoulders, 9c.; dry-salted hams, boxed, 12¾@13¾c. Bacon—Western long clear, 12¾c.; short do. 12¾c. Lard at $13.60 for spot; $13.52½ for April and May; $13.65 for June; $13.80 for July; $13.97½ for Aug. Tallow at 9c. for prime. Stearine, 14¾@14¾c. Beef—New extra mess $13@13.50; do. plain, $12 50@13; new tierced at $23 for prime mess, and $25 for India mess. City extra India mess, $28@29. Beef hams at $22@23 for Southern, and $24@26 for Western.

SALT.—Quoted at $2.50 for Ashton's; $1.45@1.55 for Deakin's; $1.40@1.50 for Marshall's, Washington & Worthington's.

SEED.—Grass kinds remain dull. State clover, 16¾@17c. Timothy at $2.65@2.75.

SUGAR (Refined).—Soft yellow, 8¾@9¼c.; soft white, 9¾@9¾c.; crushed, 10¾c.; powdered, 10¾c.; granulated, 10¾c.

TOBACCO.—There has been a good export demand and prices are fair. New crop quoted as follows:

	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	4¾@ 5¼	5 @ 5¾
Good lugs	5¾@ 6¾	6 @ 7
Low leaf	7 @ 8	7¾@ 9
Medium leaf	8¾@ 9¾	9¾@10¾
Good leaf	10 @11	11 @12¾
Fine leaf	11¾@13	13 @14
Selections	13¾@15	15 @16

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @13
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @
Ohio, assorted lots	8 @
Wisconsin	6 @ 8

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 2,150 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 67,650 do.; same time last year, 31,450; of onions, 181 bbls.; since Jan 1st, 5,377; same time last year, 1,225. Potatoes are running fairly at the low figures; red and yellow are easier now that Bermuda are taking their place; white are still advancing. Marrowfat squash are very scarce. A large invoice of Bermuda produce has been on the market this week—13,100 bxs. tomatoes, 3,550 bush. onions, 1,350 bbls. potatoes, and 125 bxs. beets. Southern green stuff is in fair demand, and the assortment is quite numerous. We quote:

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1@1.12; Peach Blows $1.00@1.37; Prince Alberts, 75c.@$1.00; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $7@8.00; Florida, $7.00. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $4@8; red, $7@11. Squash, Marrow, bbl., $2.25@2.50; Hubbard, $1.25@2.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@2.00; do. yellow, $1@2.00; do. white, $5.50@6. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Southern spinach, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.50. Kale, $1@1.25. Charleston green peas, ₱ bush., $3@5; Savannah, $4@6. Norfolk cabbage, ₱ bbl., $1.25@1.50. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, 60@65; beets, $1.25 ₱ crate. Mushrooms, ₱ lb., 50@60c. Rhubarb, ₱ doz., 75c. Bermuda onions, ₱ crate, $3@3.35. Florida string beans, $5@7. Asparagus, ₱ doz., $1@6.

WOOL.—The market is dull and depressed. Manufacturers are taking small lots only, as attainable at inside prices XX and XXX, best lots, quoted at 47@48c. for choice light, and heavy X and XX, 41@44c. New clips, California, sold in small lots at 23@26c. for best medium, and 25@28c. for long choice. Pulled are plenty and favoring the buyer.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
Pickings	50 @ 54
XX	47 @ 48
X	46 @ 48
No. 1	48 @ 50
No. 2	42 @ 45
Coarse	40 @ 42
Combing	58 @ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—	
XX	44 @ 46
X	42 @ 44
No. 1	46 @ 48
No. 2	42 @ 44
Course	40 @ 42
Combing	56 @ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
XX	44 @ 46
X	42 @ 44
No. 1	44 @ 45
No. 2	41 @ 43
Coarse	40 @ 43
Combing	55 @ 62
Combing, unwashed	38 @ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—	
XX	44 @ 47
X	44 @ 47
No. 1	44 @ 46
No. 2	41 @ 43
Coarse	40 @ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—	
Fine unwashed	35 @ 38
Medium unwashed	34 @ 36
Coarse unwashed	27 @ 30
Burry	17 @ 23

ROCHESTER, April 22.—Flour market firm; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat active; Milwaukee club, $1.30@1.35; amber winter, $1.20@1.30; white winter, $1.30@1.40. Oats, nominal at 25@40c. Corn steady at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 30@32c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 15@16c. Lard, 14¾@15c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1.50. Potatoes, bu., 20@@25c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $23.50. Wool, 25@30c. Hay, $10@16. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $9.00@9.00. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.95@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., April 22, 1876.

NEW cheese now begins to come forward, and several factories have been represented this week. Among those having lots of the new-make on delivery were the Fairfield Association, North Newport, Top Notch and Barto Hill. About 8c. was the best offer, and most of the lots were sent forward to New York to be sold on commission.

The Fairfield Association, which shipped a fine lot of old cheese to New York some days ago, we are informed has made sales at 13¾c.

Although the country roads leading to this market are in bad condition for travel, a large number of dairymen were on the market with their butter. Prices are about 2c. lower than last week, the rates ranging at 32@34c., the bulk going at 33c.

We have advices from Europe to the first week of March. Our London correspondent says:

There have been large transactions in American cheese, while English is quiet and Dutch is firm.

The prices are for extra American, 66@68s.; fine, 64@66s.; good, 50@58s.; secondary and common, 30@45s.

English cheddar brings 80@92s.; Wiltshire double, 72@80s.; Cheshire medium, 78@80s.; fine, 75@82s.; Scotch, 64@70s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 68@74s.; Gondas, 60@66s.; Derby shape, 60@64s.—the best goods being scarce.

With the exception of oleomargarine and the substitutes for butter, the market is quiet at a reduction in price.

Jersey sells for 140s.; Dorsets, 174s.; Danish, Kiel and Swedish, 120@164s.; Normandy extra, 164s.; American and Canadian, 100@110s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter, 124@150s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 22, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	3,115	18	736	6,466	000
Forty-Eighth St	00	14	28	1,505	000
Fortieth St	000	00	000	210	12,075
Harsimus Cove	4,761	00	000	10,673	8,500
Totals this week	7,876	32	814	18,754	20,575
" last week	8,205	51	1,067	13,430	18,737

BEEVES.—Trade opened excessively dull on Monday last, despite the facts of a merely moderate run of horned cattle and also of the Lenten season being over. Prices ranged at 8@11½c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@9¾ cwt. Markets closed weak, with several herds unsold. Wednesday, trade slow but firm at 8¾@12c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. Thursday, trade slow but still firm on a heavier run of horned cattle than usual for the middle of the week, at 8¾@12c.; weights, 5¼@8¾ cwt. scant. Friday, the markets closed weak, with sales at 9@11¾c.; weights, 6¾@8¾ cwt. From 51@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt.; the largest number of cattle were sold at 56 lbs. net. Native steers, 8@11¾c.; grade, 12@12¾c.; mixed herds, 9@10¾c.; dry cows, $45@62 ₱ head. Spanish herds, corn-fed, 9¾c.; Texan oxen, 8¾@9c.; Tennessee, 9¾c.; Missouri, 8¾@10c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @12¾	12 @12¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade slow, quality inferior; 12 cows sold at $32@45 ₱ head, 9 at $40@62; 5 at $65; 7 at $60@70; 3 at $79.50@85; 3 springers at $182—calves always included with the cows.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade in smooth quality veals so small as not to influence the market. Coarse quality calves in over-supply and very slow of sale at 4@8¾c.; also at $1@4.50 ₱ head—the calves to hand quoted entirely from Central and Western New York. General sales, 7@8¾c. ₱ lb.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last trade slow at 5@8¾c. for woolly sheep and 6@6¾c. for shorn do. Wednesday, shorn, 5¾@5¾c.; woolly, 6@8¾c. Thursday, shorn, 5¾@6c.; woolly, 7¾@7¾c.; yearling lambs, 8@8¾c.; spring, 12@17c. Friday, the markets closed weak on so small a trade as to render quotations nominal. Missouri sheep sold at 6¾@7¾c.; Illinois, 5¾@7¾c.; Ohio, 8@8¾c.; State, 6¾@7¾c.

HOGS.—There were no live hogs on sale. Monday last, city dressed sold at 10@10¾c.; Wednesday, 10@10¾c. Thursday and Friday trade still slow at the foregoing rates.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade moderate at low rates; 19 head of poor quality light harness horses, $22@55 ₱ head; 11 head at $50@90; 21 head ordinary, $100@175; 1 saddle horse, $175; 4 pairs family carriage horses, $300@570 ₱ pair; 9 head coarse quality single harness horses suited for broughams, $325@475; 7 roadsters, action fair, $270@395; 3 trotters, $50@700; 11 heavy draft horses, quality coarse, $179.50@210; 35 horses arrived direct from California via Pennsylvania held on sale at $100@150; these arrivals showed some blood and were active but light. Forty-six horses arrived per Erie Railroad via Oak Cliff Station.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

RICHARD A. PROCTOR sails for home May 3.

DOLAN the murderer was hanged in New York, April 21st.

THE average American is 5 feet 9 inches in hight and his wife 5 feet 2 inches.

TWEED in Italy, traveling as an American "baron," is the latest discovery.

CHRISTIAN BORG, the Norwegian sculptor, has sent several fine pieces of statuary to the Centennial.

MR. RIPSOM is organizing a Centennial colony of Western New Yorkers to go and settle out in Arkansas.

MRS. ELIZABETH PATTERSON-BONAPARTE of Baltimore, is seriously ill. She is more than ninety years old.

Two children of John Quincy Adams of Boston, Mass., died last week from diphtheria, and a third was not expected to live.

ONE Mr. Longshore has just opened a millinery store in Herkimer. "Seaside hats" will probably be all the fashion up there.

JOSEPH SILVER was put in jail for wife-beating, in Philadelphia, the other day. That helps explain who's locking up all the silver.

THE bill to confirm the marriage of James Parton and Ellen Willis Eldredge was ordered to be engrossed in the Massachusetts Senate, by a vote of 21 to 4.

A GEORGIA journal gravely asserts that Chee Squich, an Indian, and Nabib, his wife, residing in Graham County, are aged, respectively, 175 and 130 years.

MR. OLIVER HOYT of Stamford, Conn., is the gentleman who recently gave $25,000 toward the $500,000 endowment fund of Wesleyan University. He gave a like sum a few years ago.

MR. MOODY, it is announced, will begin revival services in Augusta, Ga., May 1, to continue one week. The Charleston, S. C., Young Men's Christian Association have invited him to visit that city.

GEN. SABERT OGLESBY, who commanded a division of General Jackson's army nearest the river at the battle of New Orleans, is still living in Texas. He was one hundred years old last February.

METHRALTON, the astrologer, well known to the British public, whom he easily gulled, has been arrested and imprisoned. For ten years he has been advertising to "reveal futures" and supply "love talismans." In his house 70,000 letters were found, many of them being from people of rank.

IT is said of Heinrich Heine, whose biography has just been published in London, that having been born on the 13th of December, 1799, he willfully put forward the date to the 1st of January, 1800, in order to give an admiring patron the opportunity of saying, "You are one of the first men of the century." Heine used to say of himself that he was born with three misfortunes—born poor, born a Jew, and born a Prussian.

BENJAMIN WILLIS and his two sisters were equally determined on the question of his marrying—he that he would, and they that he shouldn't. This was in Bangor, which city is greatly excited by the row in the Willis family, which is wealthy. Benjamin got married, and while in Portland on his bridal trip the sisters had him arrested as a lunatic. A medical examination, however, demonstrated his soundness of mind, and he was liberated.

MR. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, the President of the Washington Monument Association, proposes that the design shall no longer comprehend the temple or pantheon which forms a part of the original plan, but shall be a simple shaft or obelisk, and that from time to time subscriptions shall be asked until a fund is accumulated sufficient to carry the monument up to a hight of three hundred feet. This proposal has been adopted by the Association.

DR. FLEMMING, one of the most distinguished and respected men in Germany—the founder and one of the directors of the Hanover Institute for the Blind, and a very successful experimentalist and expert in the instruction of the sightless, has been sentenced to nine year's imprisonment and to five years' deprivation of his rights as a citizen, for licentious behavior with pupils of the school. He is the father of a grown-up family, and was as highly esteemed in private life as he was honored in public.

IN aristocratic circles of Vienna and Pesth great excitement has been occasioned by the publication of a libellous novel entitled "Fata Morgana," attacking the Austrian General and Commander at Pesth, as well as his wife, in the flimsy disguise of fictitious names and localities. The real authoress is a Hungarian baroness, who, maddened by rejected love, launches virulent taunts against the character of the General's wife, who is the constant companion of the Empress of Austria.

DOM PEDRO is more royalty to the square inch than has visited these shores for some time, being 6 feet 3 inches in hight. His full name is not one to be as easily remembered as the multiplication table, although nearly as long. We give it with other interesting facts, herewith:—Dom Pedro II. de Alcantaro, Emperor of Brazil, whose full name is Pedro Joao Carlos Leopoldo Salvador Bibiano Xavier de Paula Leocadio Miguel Gabriel Raphael Gonzaga, was born in Rio de Janeiro on Dec. 2, 1825. He is a scion, in the direct male line, of the House of Braganza, the female line of which is ruling over Portugal.

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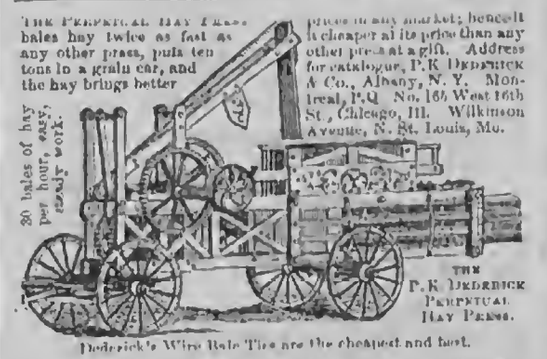

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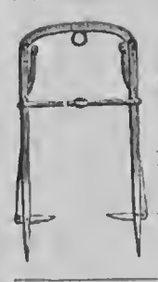

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NEWS CONDENSER.

— Two more illicit distilleries have been broken up in Brooklyn.

— Prairie fires are destroying the timber lands of Western Texas.

— The Buffalo, N. Y., Society to prevent cruelty to children, is a success.

— Miss Terry was killed by a railroad accident in Darien, Genesee Co., N. Y., last week.

— An enormous loss of all kinds of live stock in Oregon during the past winter is reported.

— The just completed census of Philadelphia gives the population of that city as 817,448.

— An unknown philanthropist in Manchester, England, has given $500,000 for an art gallery.

— The inhabitants of Greeley, Colorado, have secured a $30,000 school house by contributing $10 apiece.

— "V. R. B. E. I. I." are the new initials of the Queen—"Victoria Regina Britanniæ et Indorum Imperatrix."

— On the 1st of May, Charleston, S. C., will begin shipping from 30,000 to 40,000 quarts of strawberries daily.

— A bullion yield of $21,150,000 is promised from the Utah mines this year, more than half of which will be silver.

— The Hobbema of the late M. Schneider's picture gallery at Paris has been purchased for the museum at Antwerp for 100,000 francs.

— The Paris "Trois Freres" will have a restaurant at the Centennial, and the public will have a chance to see all the mysteries of a Parisian kitchen.

— According to a decision of the Supreme Court of Nebraska railroad companies are liable for damages resulting from prairies being set on fire by engines.

— A pressing machine for the use of smugglers has been invented, whereby forty yards of ribbon, worth some $50, can be carried in an ordinary watch case.

— There is a female evangelist named Emma F. F. Snyder successfully working in Southern Illinois, who publishes a list of her converts regularly in the papers.

— Some of the people in Augusta, Ga., are decidedly nervous because the magazine containing 38,877 pounds of powder is in charge of a man named Thomassen.

— Another bonanza.—The price of seats in the San Francisco Stock Board, which last year was $20,000 each, has rapidly increased, until last week $35,000 was offered for one in vain.

— A new station has been opened on the Hudson River Railroad. It is located between Croton and Crugers, and is called "Oscawana." New York business men were the originators of it.

— Complaints are made by the Gentiles in and about Salt Lake City that the Mormon police arrest them upon trifling charges, exact oppressive bail, and levy outrageous court fees.

— The successive storms have raised the price of fish in the London market to a remarkable degree. Salmon now sells from three to four shillings, while in other years it sold as low as a shilling a pound.

— The Brooklyn Argus says:—An evidence of the hard times is found in the fact that the offal receipts of the Boston Health Department show seventy-five per cent. less meat scraps than a year ago. People gnaw the bones closer.

— Minneapolis takes to women suffrage gracefully. Under a new law permitting women to vote for school officers, about two hundred voted recently. They were very politely received by the assembled crowd, and the ballot boxes were decorated with flowers in their honor.

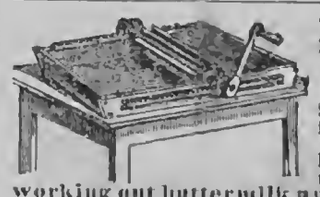
— In the San Francisco Mint there are manufactured in the Coiner's Department during the year at least $30,000,000, including gold and silver of every description. Of this amount the greater part is $20 pieces or double eagles; the rest is silver of every denomination, and but a small portion of minor gold is ever made, there being not much demand for coin of that description.

— The Netherlands Government has voted 240,000,000 francs for reclaiming parts of the Zuyder Sea, which during a terrible tempest in November, 1170, were invaded by the North Sea, when cities were swept away and 100,000 persons drowned. In the 16th century a similar catastrophe formed the Haarlem Lake, from which, between 1839 and 1852, 16,000 acres of fertile land were redeemed by draining. The Government now purposes reclaiming at least 200,000 acres.

— The new Republican French Director of the Press has decided that no foreign newspaper shall be prohibited from entering France, unless it contains an article for which it would be prosecuted if it were a French journal. In St. Petersburg the Government censor and his staff still detain every foreign paper for several days after its arrival, and it is only released after careful scrutiny as to whether it contains anything obnoxious to autocratic tastes.

— A political map of France has just been published in Paris. The Legitimist, the Orleanist, the Bonapartist, the Conservative Republican, and the Radical Republican constituencies are all marked by a distinctive tint. The Legitimists are nearly confined to Britrany and the adjoining provinces. The Bonapartists own large strips in the north and the southwest. The Orleanists scarcely appear in the east and center. The Radicals possess an almost unbroken tract on the south coast near the mouth of the Rhone. The Conservative Republicans cover most of the east and the center.

Dairy Utensils.



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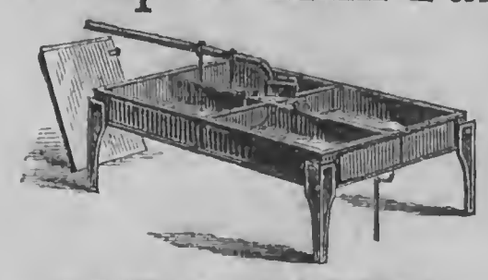

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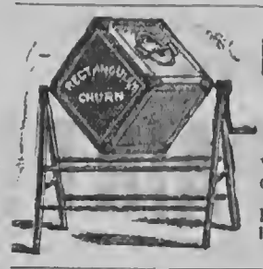

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A new test—Aunt (in alarm)—"Surely you've eaten enough, haven't you, Tommy?" Tommy (in doubt)—"F-f-feel me!"

A few days ago a jury in the Western wilds gave the following verdict in a case of suicide: "We find the deceased was a fool."

Oh, Horror!—Tommy (suddenly, on his way home from church)—What did you take out of the bag, mamma? I only got sixpence! Look here!

Hang brothers, hang with care,
Hang in the presence of the taxpayaire;
A half-inch rope for a collectaire,
A one-inch rope for an assessaire,
Hang brothers, hang with care,
Hang in the presence of the taxpayaire;

True to the last—"Man," says Victor Hugo, "was the conundrum of the eighteenth century; woman is the conundrum of the nineteenth century." An American editor adds, "We can't guess her, but will never give her up. No, never."

Why the English should be continually singing "God Save the Queen" is more than a reasonable man can conjecture. It is always advisable to save the Jack; but the Queen only counts two for game, and is always a good card to throw away.

Who saw Dom Pedro?
I, said Hamillton Feesh;
And, dom him, I wish,
When Robeson and Taft
Had followed me aft,
Where all the tars laughed,
We hadn't made such a ridiculous deesh.

Forbearance—Member of Hunt (to farmer) "I wouldn't ride over those seeds if I were you. They belong to a disagreeable sort of fellow, who might make a fuss about it." Farmer—"Well, sir, as him's me, he won't say nothing about it to-day."—*Punch.*

As Charles Lamb was returning to London in a stage-coach after dinner a person thrust his head in at the coach door and asked, "Are you full inside?" Lamb, pretending to take the query to himself, replied, "I am for one; that last slice of plum-pudding did my buisness."

We've suspected for some time past that measnres would have to be taken to check the alarmingly rapid growth of the Smith family. And here, now, sure enough, a Pennsylvania man proposes to exhibt at the Centennial a "Smith roller and crusher."—*N. Y. Commercial.*

The rapid and emphatic recital of the following is said to be an infallable cure for lisping: Hobbs meets Snobbs and Nobbs; Hobbs bobs to Snobbs and Nobbs; Hobbs nobs with Snobbs and robs Nobbs fobs. "This is," says Nobbs, "the worse for Hobbs's jobs," and Snobbs sobs.

The following are the latest observations of the season:

The wheezy south wind blows its nose
And wakes the violets from their sleep;
The guilly shade trees work their toes,
And up the sun begins to creep;
Men feel the change, and women too;
Dogs feel it; also Thomas cats;
Cheeks now put on a roseate hue,
And heads are stuck in (or against) new spring hats.

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Lo'.—Aw, yes, weally, this is Minnehaha! Where is the other fellow—Longfellow!

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Floricultural.

YUCCA FILAMENTOSA.

This plant is one that improves upon acquaintance. We never thought much of it until we used it at home, and now its loss would be severely felt. It is the last plant we should use in symmetrical plots or among flowers whose attractiveness depends in part upon a precise arrangement and uniformity of size. We first recognized its fine adaptability to certain situations upon seeing it in large plots along one of the lake banks of Central Park. It there looked to be the right plant in the right place and imparted a wild, half-rugged, picturesque beauty that few other hardy plants could supply. As an undergrowth in shrubbery borders—or planted between pines and spruces, as we have seen them—the evergreens planted rather closely together so as both to conceal the property line and to serve as a wind-break—or clumped here and there in the wild garden, they are very effective. Wildness is the Yucca's charm, and it suffers the moment it is placed in the company of flaming colors or "tropical amplitude of leafage."

Its pagoda-like inflorescence is very fine and may put to blush a hundred petted hot-house things that need to be washed, smoked, forced and rested throughout the year. It is borne upon a scape four to six feet high, in a pyramidal panicle of simple racemes. The color of the bell-shaped flowers would be white but for a slight tint of green. The plant is nearly acaulescent and its lower leaves rest upon the ground, while the upper ones are more upright and clustered as in a rosette of spikes. These leaves are a perfect evergreen and retain a fresh color through the most trying vicissitudes of winter.

Unless it is desired to save seed (which germinate readily) it is best to cut out the scape as soon as the flowers have disappeared—since the dry, oblong pods are unsightly.

We have never found that it is particular as to soil or situation, thriving with us both in sandy and in wet places. It is a splendid rockery plant, and in summer plots harmonizes well with Sedums, Aloes, Cacti—or, among hardy plants, with the dwarf evergreens—with Aralia spinosa—the hardy grasses and ferns.

Here we have a plant that is an evergreen, perfectly hardy—enduring at least 20 degs. below zero without injury—that bears in midsummer hundreds of flowers more beautiful than most hot-house subjects—that is easily propagated—that will stand storms, winds the fiercest, heat, drouth, moisture; and yet we seldom meet with it.

Our engraving gives a correct view of this Yucca.

SELECTION OF PELARGONIUMS.

Messrs. G. B. of Hackensack, ask us, among the golden and silver variegated and plain Zonales, to name those we should select as the finest of their sections.

We have often thought, as we have passed through the immense glass-houses of several of our florists exclusively devoted to Pelargoniums and have endeavored to make distinctions by which we could fix the names, that three quarters of all might be destroyed as inferior to the others, or so nearly alike as not to be worth the trouble of either a name or of preservation.

In the silver variegated section for instance, there are dozens so nearly alike that it is impossible to name them at sight without that sort of microscopic study that has enabled many pomologists to distinguish hundreds of varieties of fruit trees from a close observance of color and texture of the bark. And the same may be said of the other sections.

But although we have given for several years a good deal of attention to these fine plants, and are somewhat familiar with the most of those offered by our florists—yet when we come to make a selection of those we believe to be the best, as representing by distinct markings or other characteristics the whole list of Pelargoniums, the number surprises us with its smallness.

Of the golden variegated sorts ("Tricolors") we should still select as our first choice Mad. Pollock, old as it is, (1855), for its vigor and perfect leaf. We should select Macbeth for its high color and endurance of sunshine. It is the best of the "Tricolors" for bedding. If shaded a little, it maintains a passable appearance through the summer. Among perhaps fifty varieties fully exposed to the sun, Macbeth alone preserved a trace of color. Lady Cullom and Sunset of this section are the only ones we should add to the above.

Of the silver variegated sorts, Excellent and Princess Silverwings or Miss Burdett Coutts.

Of the plain zonales with scarlet flowers we should select Rienzi for the size of its flower and Jean Sisley for its brilliancy of color, distinct white eye and imbrication of petals;—Mas. Christine, for the color of its flowers and size of the umbel, though as a bedding plant it drops its leaves and the flowers fade. Matilda has a larger flower of a prettier shade, but forms a smaller umbel.

We should select Mrs. Geo. Smith for a salmon—Marie l'Abbe for a white with a rosy eye, and Mad. Vaucher for a pure white.

Of the double zonales, our first choice would be Marie Lemoine for a rose or rather pink. This is more dwarf than Mad. Lemoine and its flowers equally large and lasting.

Of the double scarlet, E. G. Henderson. Le Nigre, though next to worthless in the house, is splendid out-of-doors and stands the sun right well. The petals are small and crowded together, of a dark claret color—the darkest color, so far as we are aware, of plain zonales—occasionally streaked with white. It is a robust grower and forms roots most readily.

Asa Gray is the best double salmon and Aline Sisley the best white—though it is *not* white and *is* worthless.

Dieul de Strasbourg resembles Marie Lemoine in every way—but the flower has a decidedly violet tint, exceedingly beautiful and delicate.

Wellington for its deep maroon color and immense truss. Like most other of the "nosegays," however, the flowers are quite perishable in the open air.

Knowing that Pelargonium growers had been at work for years to produce the white disc of Happy Thought, we had supposed this really beautiful plant was finally the successful result of their labors. But we see by a note in the London Garden that it is a sport from some old variety. We have had the plant since it was introduced to us by Mr. Currey, and either as a bedder or a house-plant, it has given great satisfaction. From this doubtless many varieties of the white or yellowish-white disc will spring—constituting a section as distinct and as attractive perhaps as either of those popularly termed "Tricolors" and "Silver Leaf."

YUCCA FILAMENTOSA.

A GIGANTIC FLOWER.

We have in our greenhouse at this time a bulb of the new Aroid, *Amorphophallus Rivieri*, upon which there is what an unscientific observer of nature would term a flower, measuring two feet ten inches long by a foot broad. But scientifically speaking, this gigantic production is not a true flower any more than the white spathe of the common Calla lily is its flower, although generally referred to as such. The flowers of such plants are quite minute and situated on the spadix or central organ, while the outer and more showy parts are little more than a leaf-like envelope to which botanists have given the name of spathe. The *Amorphophallus* referred to above is a giant among the pigmies in this family; but we must say it is more curious than beautiful.

The fetid odor emitted from the opening spathe is simply intolerable, resembling that given off from putrid animal matter. The plant dies after blooming and is produced from small offsets of the old bulb, during previous years.

This new aroid is a handsome bedding plant, with a large, showy, divided leaf; but when the bulbs reach a blooming size they may be cast aside, unless one is curious to see what a repulsive montrosity nature can produce in the way of a flower.

CULTIVATION OF DIONÆA MUSCIPULA.

In response to inquiries as to where the Carnivorous plant Dionæa muscipula could be procured, we stated that Mr. Peter Henderson was, we believed, the first to offer it. We soon afterwards learned that they could not be made to thrive in ordinary greenhouses and that Mr. H. had none for sale—whereupon we wrote to ask the reason of this and received the following reply, which, coming from so experienced a horticulturist, may be accepted by our readers as reliable:

"The reason why the Dionæa does not usually succeed is that its natural habitat is the swamps of the Southern States and there are few greenhouses that are moist enough to suit it. It would do well, however, in a Wardian case, Fernery or Jardiniere. I expect a consignment in a few days from Georgia."

NOTES.

In the old-fashioned flower garden at Wimbledon House there is a fine old plant of Cydonia Japonica, 60 feet in circumference and from 8 to 10 feet high. The whole of the plant is now cov-

ered with flowers, and is quite a picture.—*London Gardeners' Chronicle.* [After all, take them all-in-all, there are few better shrubs than the ornamental Quinces.]

Procure Ferns.—You who have shady places and suitable soils—go now to the woods and procure loads of Ferns. Few plants are prettier for semi-wild plots or for the shady sides of rockeries.

Erythronium Americana, the first of the vernal lilies, is now blooming in many a meadow and woods. It is worth going after for bouquets—it is worth a place in the wild garden or among spring bulbs.

A correspondent asks the Gardeners' Chronicle if the male plant of *Aucuba* bears red berries—and gets the reply, "The male plant certainly does not bear red berries. We should as soon expect to see cocks lay eggs."

Yucca baccata.—Hoopes Brother and Thomas offer this plant. A rare native species found in Utah, Colorado, and recently introduced into cultivation. Leaves very thick, long, narrow, concave—flowers showy, bell-shaped, white and exceedingly fragrant, succeeded by agreeable, sweet, edible fruit.

Mr. J. W. Maple of Oregon, Mo., writes us under date of April 20 that his grounds are sweet with Hyacinths and spring flowers—that the fruit trees are in full bloom and the prospects of a large crop are flattering. He says:—"Herewith I send you a leaf of a plant received last fall as Sweet Fern, the fragrance of which is very pleasant indeed. No doubt you are familiar with the plant, and I would be pleased to know its name."

Sweet Fern is not a Fern, but *Comptonia asplenifolia* under Myricaceae—a shrub with sweet-scented, fern-like leaves. We know nothing of the "Cinnamon Vine," unless it is what is known about New York as Mignonette vine or Madeira vine.

Field Crops.

MIXED MEADOW GRASSES.

At a meeting of the Central New York Farmers' Club, reported to the Utica Herald, the question "What are the best meadow grasses to sow with timothy and clover," was opened by Daniel Bachelor, who said:

"This question is easier asked than answered, for climate, with us, has as much, or more, to do with an answer than soil, however important to good grass culture good land may be. The question then is, what grasses are best for us here in our meadow mixtures? Not what are the best for the valley of the Connecticut, or for the still milder climate of New Jersey. Almost all writers on the grasses in this country, conclude their essays or books with one formula of meadow grasses for the whole United States and Canada, regardless of climate. These lists are apparently made up from Sinclair and other English authorities.

The past and passing season, with its frequent alternations of thaw and frost, has been a severe one on grass and grain in this country. Many meadows, especially where the soil is light, and nothing but timothy and clover in the sward, are badly lifted, or "hove," as it is termed. The outlook for such meadows is not encouraging. I have taken especial pains to inquire of farmers who have used mixed grasses in their land, how it is with their meadows, and the universal answers are that these look well, and the sward is not lifted. This good luck is attributed to the simple fact that the stoloniferous grasses send their roots thickly through the sod, and thereby hold the semi-bulbous roots of the timothy down into the ground. Timothy so often fails of late, and meadows require such frequent seeding that the expense, as I have already hinted, becomes a large item in farm accounts. It is next to impossible to establish a permanent meadow where timothy and clover are the only grasses grown; yet many think that these are the only grasses that should be sown, notwithstanding the fact that but few meadows thus treated will produce more than one mowing without reseeding. In fact, a close mowing, followed by dry, hot weather, will often destroy the bulbous roots of the timothy entirely, thus causing the grass to disappear, leaving no aftermath at all. Timothy is one of the best and most nutritive of grasses, yet under the usual conditions it stools but little, and the aftergrowth from the young bulbs is always thin, showing plainly that to keep this grass well in the ground, especially where it is liable to lift with the frost, it ought to be grown with such other grasses as will come on with it to the hay harvest. If it is so desirable to have mixed grasses in our meadows, the question that we discuss is very important. What then are the best mixtures? That is, what are the best to ripen here with timothy and clover for hay?

THE BEST MIXTURE.

Observations of my own and the experience of others, together with actual tests made on President Campbell's ground with various grasses, as to their time of ripening, structure, attitude, and especially hardiness, have led to the conclusion that the following are the best adapted to our climate, with timothy and clover, always taking care that timothy and clover predominate. My list would then be:

Avena flavescens; or yellow oat grass.
Avena elator; or tall oat grass.
Agrostis vulgaris; or red top grass.
Festuca pratensis; or meadow fescue.
Festuca elator; or tall fescue.
Poa trivialis; or rough stalk meadow grass.
Poa memoralis; or wood meadow grass.
Lolium italicum; or Italian rye grass.
Anthaxanthum odoratum; or sweet vernal grass.

If the meadow is moist then the *agrostis stolnifera* or creeping bent, also in very wet soils fescue grass, fowl meadow grass and alsike may be advantageously grown. Orchard grass, when grown for hay, is better grown alone or with medium clover only, as it ripens too early for a meadow mixture. The question we discuss does not embrace pasture grasses; yet I take the liberty to say that there is not a better pasture in the world than our own indigenous *poa pratensis* or June grass, and when mixed with the fescue and orchard grass, we have good early and late feed. June grass constitutes more than two-thirds of the pasture grasses of Central New York.

Mr. Bachelor exhibited important colored plates illustrating the grasses alluded to in the paper. The reading of the paper was followed by a general discussion.

Morgan Butler—I have tried one experiment which resulted in signal success. I obtained a mixture of eight or ten varieties of seed to be sown on one acre. The seed was sown after a heavy crop of barley, and the first season, also being dry, yielded but a small crop. A copious yield, however, was produced the two succeeding years. The cost of the seed was $6. The soil was gravelly. I have devoted the same land to meadow for fourteen years; and there is still a good stand of timothy.

J. W. Lyon—I have found that a heavy production is produced by sowing little clover, and a greater variety of seed.

L. L. Wight—An essential point in the preservation of timothy in meadows is to refrain from feeding too closely in the fall. It will not do to leave all the aftermath nor to graze it too closely. For moist land the best grass is red top. It yields a thrifty crop. It will remain green and juicy late in the season. It is also one of the choicest grasses for hay to be fed to milch cows, with which I am acquainted. I did not entirely succeed with mixed grasses.

Mr. Butler—The soils of the Mohawk and of the Sauquoit valleys differ widely. The former "heaves" under the influence of frost, while the Sauquoit flats are never thus affected. We feed too closely in the fall.

Mr. Wight—It is well to have sowed corn from the first of August until the season of frosts. Thus the aftermath may be spared.

POTATOES AT 15 CENTS A BUSHEL.

Since the award made by Bliss & Sons for the best yield of potatoes from a pound of seed, I have obtained some additional facts in regard to a part of these crops, which will perhaps give a new interest to the results already published.

In response to another premium offer based on the cost of production, I have received statements in regard to said crops, from which it appears that—

1. The yield of Alfred Rose was at the rate of 746 bushels per acre, and the cost a little less than 15c. per bushel.

2 The yield of J. L. Perkins was at the rate of 475 bushels per acre, and the cost also nearly 15c. per bushel.

3. The yield of J. I. Salter, which was 36½ bushels from 1 lb. of seed, is not so reported as to indicate the rate per acre, but shows the cost per bushel to be 20½c.

4 and 5. In the case of H. V. Rose and of M. M. Rose the cost was slightly above the figure of Alfred Rose.

Finally, it appears that the cost per bushel is a tie between J. L. Perkins of Iowa and Alfred Rose of New York. The premium is, therefore, divided between the two.

There are several curious and interesting questions growing out of this trial which it will, perhaps, be worth while to consider hereafter in connection with a further statement of the processes and treatment of these crops.

Conrad Wilson.

TO SAVE NEWLY-PLANTED CORN.

A writer in the Mass. Ploughman relates his method of soaking corn in tar water in order to save it from crows. We know this plan to be good having tried it frequently, using copperas instead of saltpeter, though probably the saltpeter is better to give the young plant a vigorous start. The copperas in the water will save the seed from wire-worms until the plant gets beyond their power to materially injure. The correspondent describes his method as follows:

I took about a pint of tar—from the pine—and poured to it about a quart or two of boiling water, and stirred well to dissolve. In the mean time, had one or two bushels of seed corn put in a barrel, and added hot water to cover about three inches, poured in tar water and stirred well. I used saltpeter, say one pound to the bushel of corn. I do not know what strength it would require to injure the vitality, but doubt if two pounds to the bushel would. Let the corn remain for twenty-four or forty-eight hours to soak and swell. I have had it sprout, and when ready to plant, take out and let drain, then add land plaster to fully cover seed and admit of handling. This plan is better than mere smearing with tar, as the whole grain is saturated. The gentleman I alluded to, used tar, and squirrels would get up the grain and gnaw off the tar and husk, and eat the germ. When corn soaks for one or two days, even the blade when two or three inches high is distasteful to birds. Corn soaked in saltpeter as above may be strewn on the earth and but little taken by birds. I know it serves as a stimulant, as the deep green blades and thrift proves it.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORN.

A writer in the Southern Cultivator relates his experience as follows:—The seed corn is a variety I have been improving for four year's past. When I commenced propagating the corn, the ears had, as is usual, 14 to 18 rows, and would require from 90 to 125 ears to shell a bushel. The second year, under my system of propagation, the corn had 18 to 20 rows to the ear, and 80 to 90 ears would shell a bushel. The third year the corn increased to 20 to 22 rows per ear, and 70 ears made a bushel. The fourth year—the present—my corn has 22 to 24 rows to the ear, and 60 ears, taken just as they come, shell out a bushel. By picking the ears 40 to 50 will make a bushel. I have a few fine ears that have 32 rows to the ear, which I expect to plant, and I confidently anticipate a yield of seed corn therefrom that will only require 50 ears to the bushel, taken as they grow in the field, with anything like good land and average seasons. I will add that it has been a specialty with me for four to six years to examine minutely the finest specimens of corn in various corn-growing States, and I have never yet seen any corn to equal mine.

Farm Economy.

THE ROAD PROBLEM.

It is to be hoped that the "agitation" of the Road question will continue until something feasible comes of it. That reform in this direction is greatly needed is apparent to every one, but just the wisest course to pursue is not quite so clear. As the customs are now, and as the law stands, there is little hope of improvement in our public roads.

A correspondent, on page 248, says:—"Have a law passed requiring every land-owner to build the road across his premises." It appears to me that this plan is open to very serious objections. An energetic, successful man would be likely to have good roads in front of his premises, while his shiftless neighbor would let the public wallow in the mire.

No law can be passed that will transform a dull man into an intelligent one, neither can you cause the public to work wisely by statute. This plan would also be very unjust. One farmer may have two, three, or even ten times the length of road running through his land that his neighbor has, whose land is equally valuable. We often find that the wealthiest man in a road district owns only a few rods of road, while another worth much less may have roads crossing his land at right angles.

Again, persons who own no land have a use for highways, and should help to build them; therefore, a reasonable poll tax is not at all unjust. I am of the opinion that the tax to maintain roads needs no change, except it be to increase the amount and make it all payable in cash. It is in spending the road tax that all the abuses arise.

Road Commissioners are often chosen more on account of their ability to control jobs than for any fitness for the office. Pathmasters are sometimes appointed who know little about roads, and who spend the whole tax without any benefit; nay, more, they oftentimes do positive damage by their blundering management.

Now, I propose a plan which may appear no more feasible to others than does that of others to me:

1. Divide the highways into suitable sections, and allow each section to elect its own highway officers, subject only to a general road law of the State.

2. Levy a tax upon property as now, poll tax included, and make it payable in cash only.

3. Require the proper officers to hire as many men and teams as the money raised will pay for, and keep them on the roads the season through

4. Make the employes responsible for accidents and damages caused by the neglect of duty.

Two good, industrious, intelligent men, with one team and provided with suitable tools, would accomplish more in this way for the benefit of the roads than 150 men, whose principal work usually is, when employed on the road, telling yarns and drinking cider.

I think this plan will work if we choose men with regard to their fitness for the place, ignoring their opinions about the tariff, hard or soft money, etc. Nelson Ritter.

Syracuse, N. Y., April 17.

IMPROVING ROADS.

Whatever other betterments are needed in the rural districts of our country, it is certain that good roads are a luxury not enjoyed by a large part of our rural population for a great portion of the year. I can speak knowingly and feelingly of one mile of road, within the bounds of a thriving, incorporated village of about two thousand inhabitants, which has not been in a tolerable condition for ten days in the last five months; when not frozen and rough, it is deep with heavy clay-mud, and in either case two horses could not do the work of one on a good road. Were this a solitary case, it would not be worth while to write about it; but in our country poor roads are the rule, and no better enterprise can be inaugurated during this Centennial year than that of converting our miserable roads into hard, smooth, permanent thoroughfares. In some sections the character of the soil is such that the roads are naturally good during the entire year. Several times I have driven from Schoharie Court-House to Oneonta, N. Y., when the first half of the road was almost impassable on account of the deep mud, and the last half smooth and hard, delightful to travel over. For some years I lived on the "Ridge Road"—a natural, gravelly road-bed, running parallel to the southern shore of Lake Ontario. Mud was almost unknown. Half an hour after a long rain one could walk in the middle of the road without soiling his shoes. For a long time after removing to a village where muddy roads were the rule, I was homesick for the Ridge Road.

Now, if we consider the great saving in horse-power, vehicles, harness, time and patience, would it not be good economy to make artificial road-beds in all thickly-settled sections where good natural ones do not exist? Is it not time to abandon the pioneer mode of appointing unskilled pathmasters to see that the inhabitants of their beats devote a certain number of hours annually to hap-hazard work, and to give to skillful road engineers the means for building permanent and good roads?

Centennial roadside tree-planting has been ably advocated. Road-making is properly next in order. Cannot the publishers of the Rural secure the services of an experienced road-builder to prepare an article or series of articles to awaken and instruct the people upon this important subject? Knowledge is needed. Many well-meant and expensive attempts fail through want of it. A few years since the main street of our village was covered several inches deep with small stones, which have dissolved into mud as good as the original clay. With what materials, what machinery, and in what form can good, lasting roads be built at *minimum* cost?

Warsaw, N. Y. C. H. D.

VARIABLE EFFECTS OF PLASTER.

Richard Peters, in writing, in 1796, to the "Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture," said:—"I continue, after long and varied experience, in the free and extensive use of plaster. I have often been disappointed in expected results of my numerous applications of this generally powerful, sometimes fugacious, and frequently ungovernable stimulant. But I have been successful in the far greater proportion of my practice and experiments."

We think the above may be taken as a fair representation of the experience of those who use plaster at the present day. Washington experimented quite extensively with plaster on the cold, clay soil of Mount Vernon, but reported that he saw no beneficial results; while some of his neighbors, who had light, dry soils, were enthusiastically in favor of this—at that time—recently-introduced fertilizer.

Fertilizers.—Mr. Meehan says that clippings of barbers' shops are found to be very indestructible, unless treated first to a dose of sulphuric acid. We should suppose it would be an excellent fertilizer, so treated.

Dairy Husbandry.

OUR CHEESE TRADE WITH ENGLAND—PROSPECTS IN THE FUTURE.

Our English correspondent sends us some very interesting statistics. They are the official returns, showing the quantity of butter and cheese imported into England for ten years—or from 1864 to 1875—and the actual value of such imports from year to year, on a gold basis. The statistics which have not unfrequently been given of the exports of American dairy products to England, have been often only approximate. They have shown the quantity shipped from New York, not only to England, but to other countries than Great Britain. Thus we do not always get an accurate account of the quntity of cheese and butter which the English have taken of us from year to year. A knowledge of what we have been doing in dairy products with England for the past ten years, must be exceedingly interesting to American dairymen, since it snadows forth what are among the possibilities in years to come.

Ten years ago the quantity of dairy products sent from America to England, was supposed by many to be the extreme limit of what England would take from us; but it appears she has gone on, increasing from time to time the quantity, and there seems to be no complaint of a surplus of American goods in English markets *now* any more than there was ten years ago. To what amount our exports may be increased during the next ten years cannot, of course, be predicted with certainty, but it is believed by many that the quantity may be largely increased and still be within the limits of consumption. If this be so, the future of American dairying is not so cloudy as many would seem to imagine. With an outlet for a much larger quantity than we are now exporting, it will require a much larger production; and when we consider the rapid increase of our own population and the demands of home consumption, there is reason to believe that dairying will continue to be quite as prosperous a calling as any branch of agriculture which American farmers can follow.

We reduce our correspondent's figures into pounds and the aggregate values into gold dollars, to the latter of which our readers may easily add the requisite sum to represent values in our paper currency.

In 1864 there was imported into Britain from the United States, 50,062,656 pounds of cheese; 1865, 49,606,256; 1866, 46,561,312; 1867, 58,994,880; 1868, 54,781,104; 1869, 54,841,440; 1870, 62,203,120; 1871, 81,908,512; 1872, 66,997,176; 1873, 88,506,556; 1874, 95,192,496.

The real value of the product for the several years was in gold for 1864, $6,069,450; 1865, $6,480,020; 1866, $6,932,245; 1867, $7,350,065; 1868, $7,396,900; 1869, $8,081,625; 1870, $9,306,315; 1871, $10,074,025; 1872, $8,607,175; 1873, $11,765,705; 1874, $12,948,880.

During the same period of years there was imported into England from Holland, 36,000,000 to 47,000,000 pounds of cheese per year, or as follows:—The quantity was in 1864, 37,725,072 pounds; 1865, 43,339,744; 1866, 47,974,608; 1867, 37,151,136; 1868, 36,911,280; 1869, 47,814,256; 1870, 47,325,936; 1871, 38,992,576; 1872, 36,907,920; 1873, 37,705,248; 1874, 43,675,456.

It will be observed that the quantity imported from Holland has been pretty uniform, the variation being about 10,000,000 of pounds, while from the United States the quantity has almost doubled, having been increased to more than 45,000,000 of pounds.

Now as the cheese product of Holland is pretty constant, or at least subject to but little variation from year to year, we may infer that the largest shipments named have taken the entire surplus from that country. The entire quantity then that can be drawn from Holland is not above 50,000,000 of pounds. If this be so, the quantity of cheese imported into England during the past year, has been pretty nearly as follows:—From the United States, say 100,000,000 pounds, Canada, 30,000,000; Holland, 50,000,000—making a grand total from the three countries of 180,000,000 of pounds.

If there was an outlet last year for American cheese to England of 130,000,000 pounds, it is fair to conclude that at least that amount will be required the coming year; for as it has been shown, the required supply cannot be had from Holland, and hence it must come from the United States and Canada. The cheese product of Canada will doubtless be increased during the coming year to some extent, but it is doubtful whether the aggregate make in the United States will be any larger than last year. In some sections like Maine new factories will go into operation; but on the other hand, in New York there is likely to be a decrease rather than an increase of the product. On the whole, so far as we can learn, it will not be safe to estimate a larger product in the States than last year. Judging then from the past, and the figures we have given, there need be no fear that our cheese product the coming year will not be wanted in the markets of the world, and though prices may possibly go some lower than last year, we can see no reason for very much reduction in price so long as we keep the quality up to a high standard of excellence.

DAIRYING IN OHIO.

Col. S. D. Harris, Sec'y of the Ohio Dairymen's Association sends us the Twelfth Annual Report of that Society for the year 1875, to which is added the transactions of the Western Reserve Dairymen's Association. The pamphlet embraces the doings of the State Association at its meeting in Cleveland, Jan. 26-27, 1876, and also the doings of the Western Reserve Association at its meeting in Garrettsville, Feb. 9-10, 1876.

Mr. M. J. Lawrence of Cleveland, presented at the Annual Meeting of the State Association an interesting paper, giving some statistics concerning the dairy business of Ohio. Although not able to give a perfectly correct list of factories, he presented the names and address of 320 factories. These factories are distributed by Counties as follows: Geauga, 61; Portage, 57; Ashtabula, 56; Trumbull, 48; Lorain, 30; Summit, 28; Cuyahoga, 16; Medina, 11; Erie, 5; Lake, 4; Ashland, 1; Williams, 1, and Defiance 1.

He says he does not claim these to be all the factories in Northern Ohio, but he believes the list embraces nine-tenths of the whole.

From reports received from 42 factories doing business during 1875, the following averages are obtained:—Average number of cows at a factory, 310½; average amount of milk made up at a factory, 1,167,820 pounds; average time of running, eight months and four days; average amount of milk per cow for the season, 3,642 pounds; average amount of milk per cow per day, 15½ pounds; average amount of cheese per factory for season, 115,092 pounds; average amount of milk to a pound of cheese, 10.353-1,000 pounds; average price of butter sold (estimated on the ranges) 25c. per pound; average amount of money per cow for cheese, $35.25; average amount of money per factory for butter, $462.51; average amount of money per factory from combined product, $11,767.56; average amount of money per cow from combined product, $36.70; average value of 100 pounds of milk *made up*, $1.00-3.

The average net price for the April cheese exceeded the average price for the season by $1.22, and the yield for April is a little more favorable than for the season.

The highest net average price per pound for cheese for the season was 11¼c. and the lowest 8 2-10c. The highest average price per pound for butter reported was 30c. and the lowest 20c.

The aggregate quantity of cheese made at the 320 factories, taking the 42 factories as a fair basis of calculation, is estimated by Mr. Lawrence at 36,829,430 pounds. And the total amount of money realized from the 320 cheese factories in Ohio during the past season, he puts at $3,616,656.

The report contains the address of L. S. Hardin of Kentucky on "Butter Making," Mr. J. S. Van Duzer of Elmira, N. Y., on the "Progress of Cheese Dairying," Mr. H. Cooley Green of Meadville, Pa., on "The Way Out," together with a brief summary of discussions had at the meetings.

IMPROVING CHEESE FACTORIES.

Mr. A. L. Fish of Herkimer Co., N. Y., a gentleman well known in connection with improved methods of dairy manufactures, has some suggestions in a late number of the Utica Herald regarding curing-rooms. We give some of the points urged for the improvement of curing-rooms already built.

Mr. Fish advises the setting of 1¼ inch planks, eight or ten inches wide, like studs against the ceiling. The spaces should be sealed up, or lathed and plastered on the inside. Take out all the windows not wanted for light; widen the frames to those remaining to the thickness of the wall; have a floor board loose above to fill the space between the inner and the outer ceiling; from the floor above fill the space on all sides of the room with dry machine shavings and sawdust, dry tan bark or some other non-conductor, and the same overhead to exclude concentrated heat from the roof or upper room. If there are two stories, the upper and lower rooms should be arranged in the same way. Then tubes, six to ten inches square, are to be placed through the side walls once in ten feet down to the floor to admit air from without when needed to change the air in the room. Let them through inside far enough to saw the inner end off, beveling for a trap door to the upper lip. The inclination of the end of the tube will permit the door to keep shut by its own weight. If two inches from the wall, the weight of the door, when turned open against the wall, will keep itself open. By the tubes more or less air may be let into the lower strata near the floor, and it will not strike the cheese in a current. Tight tubes, twelve inches square, should pass upwards through the center of the rooms, with openings at the top of the room through which a draft is formed to carry off dampness from sweat of cheese or excess of heat. If there are two stories, the same tubes will serve both rooms, if carried high enough to form a draft.

Mr. Fish says the same structure should be adopted for storing cheese. After they are cured sufficiently for market they should be removed from the curing-room to a low temperature to arrest the fermenting process, and kept there until shipped to market. He suggests that a too high temperature in curing, or store-room, may be checked by placing a cake of ice over a tub in the center of the room, with a pipe attached to the tube to carry off the water from the melting ice; and he remarks, further, that having built and used such a room with perfect success, and finding that it serves to keep out frost as well as excess of heat, the plan is recommended to dairymen.

There has been considerable inquiry of late concerning the most practical plan of improving the cheese curing-rooms of factories already built. In many localities, where there is a desire to have properly constructed rooms, the expense of building new structures has been in the way of improvement in this regard. To such the suggestions of Mr. Fish may prove of value, and we commend them to the attention of dairymen.

The Swine-Herd.

ABOUT HOG CHOLERA.

The Illinois State Board of Agriculture are seeking information in regard to hog cholera by distributing a circular among the farmers of the State. The method adopted, we think, an excellent one, and much good might result if other "State Boards" would follow the same plan, for the purpose of learning the cause and spread of other diseases as well as the one named.

In the circular before us there are forty questions asked, and between each a blank space is left, upon which the recipient can write brief answers. The questions are of a kind which would lead the farmer to observe, even if he could give no definite answer thereto, hence we consider them quite important, and worthy of a wide dissemination in other States as well as Illinois. They are as follows:

1. What breed of hogs do you keep on your farm; how many do you keep on an average; and are they of your own breeding?

2. Please state how kept: whether in pens, or in small or large yard-lots; and whether in small or large bunches?

3. How are the hogs fed, and what the general food? Do you at times, feed exclusively on one kind of food, such as corn?

4. Have you lost any hogs from the so-called hog cholera during the past year; and if so, how many?

5. Did the disease attack pigs of all ages—sows and boars, as well as pigs under a year old—large hogs as well as shoats?

6. Was the cholera more severe on pigs bred from *young* stock, than on pigs raised from *older* sows and boars?

7. Did the cholera attack weak and lean pigs as readily as the fat and thriving ones?

8. Were the hogs that had the range of the field and wood attacked with the disease, as well as those kept within limits of enclosures?

9. In your experience, is there any particular breed of hogs more liable to be attacked with the cholera than others; if so, what breed?

10. At what *age* do you allow your pigs to breed; do you allow them to breed more than *once* a year; and what is the age of your boars when you *first* breed them?

11. Do you replenish your breeding stock yearly, by accession of fresh boars and sows, or do you breed closely in-and-in?

12. Did the disease appear among your swine soon after introducing new stock; and did each accession of swine come from herds among which the cholera had prevailed? Or did the cholera appear to originate spontaneously on your place?

13. Among the hogs that died from the cholera during its last visitation on your farm, were there any that had escaped the disease during its prevalence among your hogs the year previous?

14. Have you any reason to believe that the disease is contagious or communicable; if so, give your reasons?

15. Did your hogs run after other stock in the field at the time of the outbreak of the disease?

16. Did a spell of dry and hot weather precede the outbreak of the disease, or were the yards and grounds wet and damp at the time?

17. Were there any, and if so, what, changes in diet, or drink, or location, during the thirty days next preceding the appearance of the disease?

18. Of what material is the flooring in your hog pens? Do you bed your hogs, and how often is the bedding changed, and the manure removed?

19. Was water scarce on your farm at the time of the appearance of the hog cholera?

20. Did the hogs have access to pond water, or to pool water around the barnyard? Or what kind of water had they access to?

21. If your hogs, previous to this disease, had access to a running stream of water, do you know if this stream in its course, before reaching your place, passed through farms where hog cholera prevailed?

22. Are your yards and pens provided with special drainage; or does the waste water soak into the ground? And is there any artificial drainage on your farm? If so, what kind?

23. Did any horses, cattle or sheep die suddenly on your farm, shortly before, or during the prevalence of the hog cholera?

24. Did your hogs at any time, previous to the appearance of the hog cholera, have access to carcasses of horses, or other animals, or to decaying entrails of such animals?

25. Were the hogs that died on your farm, or in your neighborhood, from the cholera, always buried; or what disposition was generally made of them? Were such dead hogs not sometimes thrown into rivers, or streams of running water?

26. If the hogs that died from cholera were not buried, would the other hogs have access to, and devour part or all of the carcasses?

27. Did the disease appear more than once during the same year at your place?

28. During the different years, when the disease visited your farm, did it seem to appear under the same supposed influences, or from the same supposed causes?

29. Did the cholera always appear on your farm at the same time of the year?

30. Can you in any way account for the fact when your neighbor's hogs escaped the disease?

31. If preventive remedies were used by you, what were they, and with what effect were they given?

32. What remedies did you administer during the disease, and with what result?

33. What per cent. of the number treated, recovered from the cholera? What per cent. of those not treated at all, recovered?

34. If any of the pigs recovered from the cholera, did they become as strong, healthy and thriving as they were before the attack? If so, how long time did it take them fully to recover?

35. The following symptoms are more or less prominent among those exhibited in hog cholera: Dullness, loss of appetite for food or water, creeping beneath the straw, or seeking dark places, with the head held low, and ears drooping; disposition to lie on the belly; retching, and vomiting of food, mucus or bile; diarrhea of dark and fetid stools, or constipation; anxious and staring look; inability to stand; mouth hot and clammy; spasmodic breathing; partial or complete paralysis; bristles stiff and dry; sometimes the animal is wild and frantic, and sometimes quite unconscious; inability to scream; subdued and painful cough; discoloration of the skin—a red or purplish tint, especially on the belly and inner surface of the hind extremities, on the back, ears, etc. Death within twenty-four hours to three days. Were the above symptoms more or less prominently exhibited by your diseased hogs?

35. If you opened any of the hogs that died from cholera, what particular organs seemed to be most affected, and what were their appearance?

37. Are your lands low, level and ill-drained, or is your farm dry and high-lying?

38. Is the soil of your farm sandy, loose and loamy?

39. Is there much clay on your farm; and is the sub-soil stiff and retentive?

40. Is water obtainable at any time of the year on your farm, by merely tapping the soil at no great depth?

CARE OF HOGS.

Hiram Lane, Humboldt, Iowa, writes: For the past three years have been very lucky with hogs. Have a pasture of about 35 acres, not much grass, but plenty of young oaks, hickories and hazel brush, with plenty of running water. I keep salt and sulphur in trough where they can help themselves, with a pile of coal, and it will surprise those who have not tried it, to see them eat it after every feed of corn. Am wintering 80 head, and since first of May last have lost but one old one and six or eight little pigs. My hogs are thoroughbred and high grade Berkshires. I have fifteen fine sows from the celebrated Glen Farm stock, and, if successful, can furnish some of my brother patrons, the coming season, as fine pigs as are raised in Iowa.

Breeds Subject to Cholera.—After several years of practical experience with hog cholera, our Western breeders have decided that no one breed is more subject to this terrible disease than another. This should encourage farmers to hold on to their choice breeds and endeavor to learn the cause as well as cure, of the scourge which is at the present time making such havoc in the swineherd.

The Poultry Yard.

VARIATION OF INSTINCT IN ANIMALS.

A CORRESPONDENT of London Nature, gives some very remarkable variations of what is generally termed instinct in fowls, from which we clip the following:

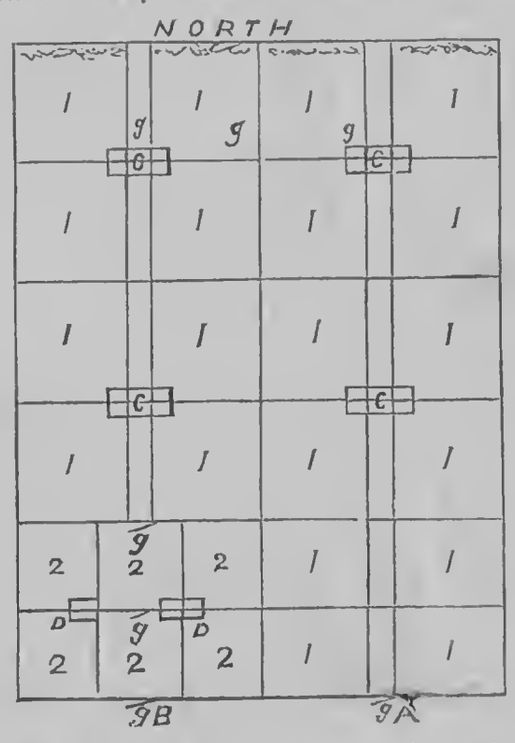
Three years ago I gave a pea-fowl's egg to a Brahma hen to hatch. The hen was an old one, and had previously reared many broods of ordinary chickens with unusual success even for one of her breed. In order to hatch the pea-chick she had to sit one week longer than is requisite to hatch an ordinary chick, but in this there is nothing very unusual, for, as Mr. Spalding observes, the same thing happens with every hen that hatches out a brood of ducklings. The object with which I made this experiment, however, was that of ascertaining whether the period of maternal care subsequent to incubation admits, under peculiar conditions, of being prolonged; for a pea-chick requires such cares for a very much longer time than does an ordinary chick. As the separation between a hen and her chickens always appears to be due to the former driving away the latter when they are old enough to shift for themselves, I scarcely expected the hen in this case to prolong her period of maternal care, and, indeed, only tried the experiment because I thought that if she did so the fact would be the best one imaginable to show in what a high degree hereditary instinct may be modified by peculiar individual experiences. The result was very surprising. For the enormous period of eighteen months this old Brahma hen remained with her ever-growing chicken, and throughout the whole of that time she continued to pay it unremitting attention. She never laid any eggs during this lengthened period of maternal supervision, and if at any time she became accidentally separated from her charge, the distress of both mother and chicken was very great. Eventually the separation seemed to take place on the side of the peacock, but it is remarkable that, although the mother and chicken eventually separated, they never afterwards forgot each other, as usually appears to be the case with hens and their chickens. So long as they remained together the abnormal degree of pride which the mother showed in her wonderful chicken was most ludicrous; but I have no space to enter into details. It may be stated, however, that both before and after the separation the mother was in the habit of frequently combing out the top-knot of her son—she standing on a seat, or other eminence, of suitable hight, and he bending his head forward with evident satisfaction. This fact is particularly noteworthy, because the practice of combing out the top-knot of their chickens is customary among pea-hens. In conclusion I may observe that the peacock reared by this Brahma hen turned out a finer bird in every way than did any of his brothers of the same brood which were reared by their own mother, but that on repeating the experiment next year with another Brahma hen and several pea-chickens, the result was different, for the hen deserted her family at the same time when it is natural for ordinary hens to do so, and in consequence all the pea-chickens miserably perished.

I have just concluded another experiment which is well worth recording. A bitch ferret strangled herself by trying to squeeze through too narrow an opening. She left a very young family of three orphans. These I gave, in the middle of the day, to a Brahma hen which had been sitting on dummies for about a month. She took to them almost immediately, and remained with them for rather more than a fortnight, at the end of which time I had to cause a separation, in consequence of the hen having suffocated one of the ferrets by standing upon its neck. During the whole of the time that the ferrets were left to the hen, the latter had to sit upon the nest; for the young ferrets, of course, were not able to follow the hen about as chicks would have done. The hen, as might be expected, was very much puzzled at the lethargy of her offspring. Two or three times a day she would fly off the nest, calling upon her brood to follow, but upon hearing their cries of distress from cold, she always returned immediately and sat with patience for six or seven hours more. I should have said that it only took the hen one day to learn the meaning of these cries of distress; for after the first day she would always run in an agitated manner to any place where I concealed the ferrets, provided that this place was not too far away from the nest to prevent her from hearing the cries of distress.

Yet I do not think it could be possible to conceive of a greater contrast than that between the shrill piping notes of a young chicken and the hoarse growling noise of a young ferret. On the other hand, I cannot say that the young ferrets ever seemed to learn the meanings of the hen's clucking. During the whole of the time that the hen was allowed to sit upon the ferrets, she used to comb out their hair with her bill, in the same way as hens in general comb out the feathers of their chickens. While engaged in this process, however, she used frequently to stop and look with one eye at the wriggling nest-full with an inquiring gaze expressive of astonishment. At other times, also, her family gave her good reason to be surprised; for she used often to fly off the nest suddenly with a loud scream—an action which was doubtless due to the unaccustomed sensation of being nipped by the young ferrets in their search for the teats. It is further worth while to remark that the hen showed so much uneasiness of mind when the ferrets were taken from her to be fed that at one time I thought she was going to desert them altogether. After this, therefore, the ferrets were always fed in the nest, and with this arrangement the hen was perfectly satisfied—apparently because she thought that she then had some share in the feeding process. At any rate she used to cluck when she saw the milk coming, and surveyed the feeding with evident satisfaction.

POULTRY BREEDING.

IN the following you need not expect any instructions on breeding "fancy" poultry; that field is filled by abler writers than I, but I shall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The Naturalist.

THE SPARROW—A FARMER'S COMPLAINT.

YEARS ago the "inch-worms"—popularly so-called—were, really and truly, a pest in cities, notably so in Brooklyn, N. Y. The leaves of the trees were eaten up before they were half-grown—the trees in mid-summer were not unlike trees in mid-winter—the sidewalks were so bespattered and soiled by the excrement of the worms and by their being crushed under foot, and they were so thickly suspended between the branches and sidewalks that—taking the risk of being run over and regardless of mud or dust—it was less annoying to walk in the middle of the street. Ladies with their flowing robes were all but constrained to remain indoors during the inch-worms' larval state—or, if they boldly ventured out, a brave boy or so was necessary to clear the way and to pick off those that were prone to drop without giving notice. All this I know, though a farmer. But hear my complaint.

The city people *knew* when they imported the greedy, fighting, songless sparrow, that they were introducing one pest to exterminate another; they knew that in the rural districts of England a prize was offered for their scalps and that they were destructive to grain and fruit of various sorts. "But let us cross that bridge when we come to it!" exclaimed they. Well, the sparrows proved a high success. The horrid worms disappeared as if by magic. The leaves remained upon the trees—and the ladies were enabled to dispense with the boy worm-catchers and to carry their enchanting heads with their wonted serenity. The sparrows being blessed, petted, fattened and, provided for in every way, multiplied prodigiously. Soon, however, they became so abundant that—like all superabundant things—their first meritorious claims were forgotten and they were obliged to betake themselves to the country for a livelihood. We have now arrived at "that bridge" and, for aught we see, the farmers are left to "cross" it alone.

Ladies and gentlemen of the city—the beautiful and useful singing birds that frequent our doors and grounds to build their nests in our trees and to pick up the morning crumb, are being driven away by the voracious sparrow. With its bleak cry like the mew of a sick kitten, it is ever there—ever ready whether to eat or to fight. The bluebird, and the wren and the snowbird stand aloof like helpless, hungry puppies in the presence of a bull-dog feeding upon an ample bone and turning to snarl threateningly at the cringing puppies respectfully distant. Every crumb is devoured or, if not, the ruffianly sparrow remains close at hand to preserve it for another meal—and our native birds are left to seek their food far off in fields and woods.

Now will the ladies come hither to assist in exterminating *their* pest—or will a lingering sentiment of gratitude to the sparrow in particular and of affection for birds in general restrain them? Much as we admire the ladies—and it seems to the dull observation of a farmer that they become more admirable and costly, if not more useful, with every succeeding season—radically as we are impressed that we could not in any wise get along without them—yet upon all bird questions we believe them to be sadly mixed up. They will shed a tear when, to preserve our fruit and grain and to recall our native pets that so assisted to render our grounds cheerful, we begin our war of extermination upon the greedy, homely, foreign sparrow—while they view their bonnets with a happy glance that is bedecked with one of our harmless native birds that are vilely slaughtered to maintain a heartless fashion—a fashion that, if there is the least chance of my being pardoned, I should designate as a "triplet relic" of barbarism. MAJOR.

WHAT IS INSTINCT AND WHAT REASON.

THIS is one of those questions upon which scarcely any two persons can agree. Still as its discussion tends to make people close and careful observers of animal life, we think that even some rather wild theories on the subject may be admissable in order to lead the careless and indifferent, to seek a more intimate knowledge of the living creatures with which they are constantly surrounded. In a late issue of the Western Rural, R. K. BLOSSOM gives his views upon this subject as follows:

All the voluntary phenomena of life, we believe, physiologists agree, are dependent on nervous matter, and the executive power is issued from that portion called the brain, or, a nervous mass of matter which answers to what in man we call cerebrum and cerebellum. Instinct then, so far as our feeble powers have yet comprehended, emanates from the same nervous matter which exercises the power of reason; at least, in the present state of mental science, our finite minds, that is, finite in their action here on earth, cannot conceive of reason and instinct as being entirely independent of each other, and manifested through separate and independent masses of nervous matter. It is true, some things we call instinct appear to be entirely free from all mental action, and yet we cannot see how such a phenomenon can be possible.

A robin, invariably in the spring of the year builds a nest, and the low-bunting never build's one, but deposits her eggs in the robin's or other birds' nests. Building a nest is said to be an instinct, and if so, the fact is clear that one bird has an instinct which another has not, and yet, the final result, the perpetuation of the species, is accomplished effectually in both cases. The robin feels that she is about to lay eggs, and this feeling suggests the important thought that a nest is needed, and then she feels that sitting on the eggs will produce young birds, and her own experience teaches her that they must be fed till able to take care of themselves, that the end of robin existence may be consummated. Now the feeling that impels the robin to build a nest may be an instinct, but procuring the materials, the mechanical skill employed in the building and the selection of a secure site, smacks more of reason and judgment than of blind instinct. So, the apparent necessity of shelter from cold may be an instinct in man, but the architectural construction which adapts it to his wants will scarcely be thought other than the deliberate acts of reason.

There are many acts and operations of animals and insects that we do not understand as being the results of reason as exhibited by man, and yet, we cannot give a satisfactory explanation of their origin from any other source than a modified or limited form of nervous exhibition inseparable from reason, possibly through ignorance, or the unexplained facts in the case. Of course no sane man will say that instinct is the culmination of fortuitous circumstances, born of chance; and he cannot well conceive of its practical existence, but through nervous matter, and as nervous matter is the medium of reason, how and where is the line of demarkation between the two? At best, we can only say, and that without being able to give any satisfactory solution, that instinct is a modification of reason, which to the human mind thus far is incomprehensible.

We have seen it stated that a frog deprived of its brain would still make instinctive movements upon being touched in certain places. We might, with as much propriety and reason, say that a hen with her head cut off is instinctively jumping about to find her head. This doctrine ignores the use of the brain in the visible production of instinct, and makes muscular sensation the author of instinctive motions, a fallacy which may decive the unthinking or those whose bigotry binds them to fixed opinions, however unnatural or untrue. In the case of the frog, immediately after taking out the brain, there remains for a short time muscular sensation, which if specially excited will make those motions, which coincide with the functions of the muscles excited, and these motions are made simply because no others could be made, and they bear no relation to instinct, any more than they do to astute metaphysical investigations of the operation of reason. A rattlesnake, with its head cut off, will still to all appearance strike at his foe as though his head still retained its natural position. The muscular power which is predominant in life is not quite extinct and the throes of death excites those muscles to action—not a particle of instinct about it.

With our present knowledge we cannot discriminate between instinct and reason, only at a distance from the division line, any better than we can tell where goodness ceases and evil begins. When a pig is carried two miles in a tight bag and let out, and takes a bee line for the place, he came from, we at once say that is instinct, and we can discover no particular relation with any process of reason; but on the other hand when the old hounds remain by the runways of the hare, and let the young dogs do the running and wait patiently till the hare comes around we recognize a clear act of reason, entirely disconnected from instinct so far as known.

In conclusion, allow me to suggest that instinct is the primeval function of all the organs of the brain, and reason is the fruit of education engrafted on instinct. Certain it is that no child was ever born with educated faculties, and equally as certain, that some instincts can be detected soon after birth. Now, if some instincts are present, is not it a fair inference that every organ as fast as sufficiently matured in physical growth has its peculiar instinct? And it is well known that many of the faculties of mind are not capable of action until long after others have been clearly manifested. In man by virtue of the volume and power of nervous matter, he is *par excellence* a reasoning being, while many of the lower animals and insects are incapable of that cultivation which elevates man into a superior reasoning atmosphere. Do you ask then, why all this difference between man and brutes? The only answer which we can offer as embracing the truth is, that it is so, because God in his wisdom so willed it to be.

The Centennial.

THE CENTENNIAL.

THE following circular, received from the Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture, will supply some desired information in regard to the exhibition of fruits at the Centennial:

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION,
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE.
PHILADELPHIA, March 28, 1876.

SIR:—The Centennial Commission are erecting a special annex for the exhibition of fruits. The dimensions of the structure, situated on the east of the Agricultural Building and connected with it by a covered way, are 180 by 200 feet, affording room for the display of 8,000 dishes of fruit at periods of special displays. Although the exhibition of pomological products will extend over the entire term of the Exhibition, affording most marked manifestation of the wide range of our soils and climates, still there will be certain periods especially designated for the display of particular fruits, which have special seasons, under the influences that more immediately pertain to the States near to Pennsylvania, and which, from their proximity to the point of display, will afford the material for large and expressive exhibits.

The periods decided upon for these special displays are as follows, though any of the fruits enumerated will be received for exhibition either preceding or subsequent to these dates:

Pomological products	May 16 to 24
Strawberries	June 7 to 15
Raspberries and blackberries	July 3 to 8
Southern pomological products	July 18 to 22
Melons	Aug. 22 to 26
Peaches	Sept. 4 to 9
Northern pomological products	Sept. 11 to 16
Nuts	Oct. 23 to Nov. 1

The Pomological Annex will also be used for the exhibition of vegetables, continuously, and at the stated dates of June 20 to 24 for Early Summer Vegetables, Sept. 19 to 23 for Autumn Vegetables, and Oct. 2 to 7 for Potatoes and Feeding Roots.

Tables and dishes for both fruits and vegetables will be furnished by the Commission free of charge, producers being simply requested to pay the charges for transportation.

In addition to the above there is to be a display of Autumn Honey and Wax, Oct. 23 to Nov. 1, and stated displays as we are informed by another circular just received, of:

Mowing Machines, Tedders, and Hay Rakes	June 15 to 30
Reaping Machines	July 5 to 15
LIVE STOCK.	
Horses	Sept. 1 to 14
Dogs	Sept. 1 to 8
Neat Cattle	Sept. 21 to Oct. 4
Sheep	Oct. 10 to 18
Swine	Oct. 10 to 18
Poultry	Oct. 27 to Nov. 6

The above dates may be favorable for the assembling in Philadelphia of Societies and Associations interested in the specialties above enumerated.

The right to amend or annul this circular is reserved. A. T. GOSHORN, Director-General.
BURNET LANDRETH, Chief Bureau Agriculture.

The Garden.

MANAGEMENT OF LAWNS.

THOMAS MCCLUMI, landscape gardener of Hartford, Conn., says of the management of lawns in America, that

1. The drier climate of America requires a deeper and richer soil than England, to maintain a continued green through the heat of the summer.

2. Terraces are properly objected to and denounced, as being unnatural and discordant with true taste.

3. Sewers, where necessary, and underdrains, are the first requirements when a lawn is intended.

4. The reasons for drainage are, access to the air, and the admission of the rains to pass through it, so that "it is treated like a dirty garment, and is washed, aired and dried."

5. Deep tillage and manuring are the foundation of success with American lawns—the soil to be uniform in texture and quality, to prevent spots—and trenching, keeping the rich soil at the surface, being essential.

6. Sow in freshly mellowed soil; and if there are many annual weeds, sow in autumn, that the winter may kill them; but if there has been much grading and filling, sow in spring after the settled surface has been smoothed. Steep hillsides are recommended to be sown in summer, to prevent washing; but we suggest a better way to secure the surface by the roots of a thin crop of rye sown the previous autumn, and then sow the grass among this crop in spring, cutting the rye away as soon as the grass is well established.

7. Roll in spring old or new lawns, to smooth the surface, and tiller the grass.

8. Avoid coarse or lumpy manure, and apply as a surface dressing either finely pulverized compost, or a mixture of guano and superphosphate of lime.

9. Keep the grass cut short from the first, to cause it to grow thick and form a dense carpet.

10. Never adopt the absurd practice of allowing the grass to grow tall, to cut for hay.

11. After many trials, the selection of grass for each acre is narrowed down to Kentucky blue grass, 2 bushels; red-top, 1½ bushels; white clover, 2 to 4 lbs. For dry and gravelly ground, increase the white clover, and depend less on the grasses. Sow the clover and grass seed separately, as the latter is lighter and cannot be thrown so far.

WETHERSFIELD RED ONION.

OUR English cousins appear to have just learned that there are good varieties of onions raised on this side of the Atlantic. The Agricultural Gazette, in referring to an old and well-known variety, the Wethersfield red, says:

During the past year the Royal Horticultural Society made a trial of the varieties of onion now in cultivation, at the Chiswick Garden, and perhaps the greatest novelty in the collection was the variety above named, which was sent for trial by Messrs. James Carter & Co., Messrs. Benary & Son of Erfurt, and Messrs. Hovey & Co., an American firm. It is officially described as being of free and robust growth. The neck is small, and ripens off freely. Bulbs large, flattened or oblate, very even and regularly formed, about 12 inches in circumference, and 2 inches in depth. The outer skin is of a light red color, and peels off freely, the inner coating being light purplish, shading greatly from the crown to the base, where it is very pale. The flesh is pure white, the outer surface of the coating only being colored. It is very firm, solid, and of mild and excellent quality, and keeps well. A remarkably fine and handsome onion from America; the finest type of red onion.

PRUNING MELON VINES.—Few persons practice pruning cucumber, melon, and other similar kinds of vines; still, it is just as beneficial if properly done, as the annual prunings of the grape and other woody plants. The pruning should be confined, however, to the pinching off of the ends of shoots only.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

A Nuisance to be Abated.—Some years since, the course pursued toward its policy holders in this vicinity by the Continental Life Insurance Company of New York, was commented upon in terms which subsequent revelations of its conduct elsewhere showed to be only too mild. And now it appears, from the California papers, that the people of the Pacific Coast are being put through the same merciless ordeal. The language of some of the complaints is rather too forcible to be quoted, but the substance shows that while one set of men, supposed to be agents, went around proclaiming the insolvency of the Company, another set followed proffering to purchase the policies at prices far below their real value. The Coast Review mentions a paid-up endowment policy of ten thousand dollars ($10,000) due and payable in less than two years for which they offered first $5,000 and afterwards raised the bid to six, and another case where a laboring man sold an endowment policy of $2,000 due in two years for $500, believing the Company insolvent. There is perhaps no way in which this Company can, if these charges are sustained, be brought to account and made to treat its policy holders more equitably. The insurance laws and insurance departments take no cognizance of these things. The only course to be pursued is preventive not remedial, and prudent people will foresee the evil and avail it by insuring their lives elsewhere.

A Righteous Judgement.—The decrease of confidence in the integrity of the management of certain Life Insurance Companies has ceased to excite surprise. It could not be expected to long survive the abundant evidences that these Companies neither treat the insured with fairness during his life nor pay their widows after their decease, except at the end of a lawsuit when the minutest flaw can be found. A case recently decided by an upright judge furnishes a notable example of this kind. The company refused to pay the loss, because the man had stated in his application that "he had not required the attendance of a physician for several years," and the Company was able to prove, that on one occasion, several years previously, a physician attending his wife had left some medicine for him, he having a slight cold. The judges very properly decided against the Company, because "it would be the grossest injustice to allow the Company to escape the payment of the policy, because the applicant had forgotten that he had taken a pill five years before."

Diary of a Ruralist.

DAILY RURAL LIFE.

From the Diary of a Gentleman near New York City.

VALEDICTORY.

For several years I have each week put on my wig and retired to this corner of the RURAL NEW-YORKER for the purpose of having a free and easy chat with its readers. Perhaps my conversation has been more gossip than wisdom; but of this others must decide; still I will say that the many letters received addressed to "Old Daily" have given me much pleasure, and I hope the writers have been equally pleased and benefited by my answers.

But changes will come and, as the young folks say, "best friends must part," and although I do not propose to leave my friends belonging to the great "Rural" family, still circumstances compel me to come out of my half-hidden rustic domain and enter a more active and laborious field, or, in other words, take a seat at the head of the RURAL table and endeavor to do the honors incumbent upon the position.

With many thanks for the kind words expressed by the readers of the "Diary of a Ruralist," I now take off my wig, drop my *nom de plume*, and subscribe myself

Yours truly,

ANDREW S. FULLER.

Arboricultural.

A NEW VILLAGE—RED CEDAR HEDGE.

NEAR the village of Hackensack, N. J., a gentleman by the name of ZINSSEM has undertaken to build a village. The wide streets are graded — curb stones set — Maples and other trees planted, and a little triangular park, filled with Pines, Spruces and Arbor Vitæ, and surrounded by a showy wooden fence, is completed. Already seven houses are constructed—all in the Gothic style, the smallest of which costing about six thousand dollars complete. These houses are models of odd, though tasteful, architecture. The lots are perhaps 50x100—inclosed by well-grown, well-planted hedges. Among these we noticed several of the Red Cedar—Juniperus Virginiana—which seemed to us more effectual as a protection against animals and far prettier than the Arbor Vitæ so commonly used. These Cedars are thickly furnished to the ground—three feet high, and, instead of the faded olive hue of old Cedars in the field, are of a purple color far less dull than the lifeless brown of Arbor Vitæ during the winter.

Mr. Z.'s residence, a fine mansion, surrounded by extensive and rolling grounds that display a keen knowledge of landscape gardening—which, by the way, is his profession—makes a part of this village, and, indeed, a very conspicuous and attractive part. Adjoining are his evergreen nurseries, to which unusual care has been given, covering possibly thirty acres. It is from these that the evergreens are taken to plant the grounds about the new houses. Only those of large size are used, which, have been frequently transplanted, are easily removed with a ball of earth and scarcely know of the change. Thus the grounds about these dwellings are made to look as if they were ten years old instead of having been recently constructed.

But what we wished especially to call our readers' attention to is the use of young Red Cedars for hedges. Two of these seedlings a foot high, taken from the fields and cut back a little, were not recognized in our grounds the next season by several horticultural gentlemen, one of whom is quite distinguished as such. They are as compact as the Irish Juniper—more prickly—more spreading—more hardy—will bear the shears as well, and can be procured in many sections for the trouble of going a short distance after them.

It would be advisable to establish a nursery from which, after a second transplantation and cutting back, they could be removed to the hedge-row.

THE FORESTS OF THE WORLD.

LAND AND WATER gives some tables or estimates in regard to the area of land covered by forests in different countries which are probably very near being correct:

The forests of Europe are estimated as being 500,000,000 acres in extent, or about 20 per cent. the whole area of the Continent. In North America it is reckoned that 1,460,000,000 are covered with trees, of which 900,000,000 are in British North America. In South America forests occupy 700,000,000 acres. The total amount for the two continents of the New World and Europe gives 3,600,000 geographical miles. The proportion of forest land to the whole area of Europe, as above stated, is computed at 20 per cent.; in America, 21 per cent. Supposing, therefore, 20 per cent. to be the proportion in Asia, Africa and Australia, the grand total of the forests of the world cover a space of 7,734,000 geographical miles. The areas of State forests and woodlands are estimated at the following figures in the following European countries.—Prussia, 6,200,000 acres; Bavaria, 3,294,000 acres; France, 2,700,000 acres; Austria, 2,230,000 acres; Hanover, 900,000 acres; Wurtemburg, 469,087 acres; Saxony, 394,000 acres; England, 112,376 acres. The range in hight of trees varies from the miniature alpine willow of a few inches in hight to the stupendous Wellingtonia, which grows to a hight of 350 feet, although indeed it is stated that one of the eucalypti often reaches a hight of 420 feet in Victoria. In Sclavonia a tree called the sapin attains a hight of 275 feet, and the umbrella pines of Italy 200 feet. The California big tree is said to girth 96 feet. The destruction of woods and forests, however, is enormous, and in the majority of instances no attempts are being made for their reproduction. In South Africa, we are told, millions of acres are destroyed and made waste annually. In New Zealand the 30 per cent. of forest existing in 1830 had sunk to 28 in 1868 and to 18 in 1878, which rate of diminution, if continued, would result in the total destruction of the New Zealand forests by 1889. In America, in the United States especially, the consumption of timber is enormous, and although public attention has been called to the matter, and the United States statute of March, 1875, imposes a fine of $500, or a year's imprisonment, for wanton injury or destruction of trees, and also a fine of $200, or six months' imprisonment, for allowing cattle to injure trees "on National grounds," the yearly consumption and improvident use of timber is almost incredible. Although, says the Scientific American, there are no available statistics to show the exact rate of speed with which they are using up the wood supply, it is easy to see that it is being done with great rapidity. Taking the legitimate use of timber alone, industries based on its manufacture constitute the second in point of magnitude in America, and are only exceeded by the iron interest. About 150,000 persons are stated to be employed in producing sawed lumber alone; $143,500,000 are invested therein, "and 1,295,000 laths, 3,265,000,000 shingles, and 12,756,000,000 feet of timber are yearly manufactured." On the secondary industries based on the use of lumber as a raw material, carpentry, cabinet-making, ship-building, etc., millions of people are employed. According to Prof. Brewer's assertion, wood forms the fuel of two-thirds of the population, and the partial fuel of nine-tenths of the remaining third; add this to the former estimate and some general idea will be obtained of the enormous drain upon American forests that is constantly in progress. As a fact, it is well known that in 1871 as many as 10,000 acres of forest were stripped of their timber to supply Chicago with fuel, and yet no attempt is made to reproduce.

BEAUTIFYING COUNTRY HOMES.

A WRITER in the April Wide-Awake—an excellent, finely-illustrated monthly magazine "for boys and girls"—but instructive and interesting, we should say, to grown people as well—concludes an article entitled "Tree-Planting for Children," as follows:

"To those who live in the country upon farms, let me say—first, plant your trees about your homes, then about the farm. Learn that he who plants a tree beautifies to that extent his home and benefits every member of the family. A country home is never beautiful without trees, and the love which unites the family is robbed of one of its happiest modes of expression and sympathy. In the improvidence that has ever ruled in our country, in the struggle to turn all things into wealth, may be found the secret of our wintry villages—the desert fields—the cheerless, uninviting door-yards; and we marvel not that as the refining influences of education are felt, the Western woman cries out that she is "hungry for the sight of a tree!" Nowhere is the beauty and utility of tree culture recognized. Forests are cut down like weeds. The most serviceable natural hedges that shelter from the blighting wind are slaughtered for fire-wood. The lands of the homestead, instead of growing rich and more attractive to children,—richer in actual value as well as in the loving traditions that should heap up with every generation—which should finally stamp every spot of ground with some reverential or endearing memory,—are wholly bereft of their charms.

It is for you, young friends, to change this. Beautiful, tree-surrounded lands—the wooded hills—the shady slopes, are the nurseries in which love germinates and grows strong among the children of GOD—and they are the natural inspirers of reverence for him. The bleak, naked, cheerless homes and fields are the natural concomitants of sorrow—of exceeding poverty. They are fitting areas in which to expiate sins."

Pomological.

BELLE BONNE.

MR. A. B. ALLEN, writing to the Gardeners' Chronicle, says: "It is the richest and most nutritious of all our sweet apples. It is of a large, size, nearly that of the Pound Sweeting, and when ripe, of a golden green color. The juice is of such a high flavor that I have often seen it granulated into sugar when the fruit was baked, as it oozed outside of it on the dish.

"The Belle Bonne ripens about the 1st to the middle of October, and although called an autumn fruit, I have kept them in a cool upper chamber of my house where it did not freeze, and also in a well-aired cellar, into the following April. Although a little shrivelled so late in the spring, the fruit still retained its fine flavor. Simple as you think it, there are few dishes that the unvitiated taste among us better relishes than a baked Belle Bonne Apple, sliced with crumbled bread into milk. This fruit, also, with cream and bread-and-butter, makes a delicious dessert, and is far preferable to the best of pies, for it is equal to these in taste, and much more easily digested.

"I wish some of the London fruit dealers would make an importion of a few of the superior sorts of American Sweet Apples, for I am confident that they would soon obtain high favor among their customers. They can begin to do this in July, together with peaches and other fruits, in refrigerators."

APPLE CLASSIFICATION.

THE Gardeners' Chronicle, in a review of Dr. Hogg's Apple Classification, (of which we gave a synopsis in last week's RURAL) thinks that, however useful it may be as an aid to the memory of a professed pomologist, it is not likely to be of much service to an amateur, or a young gardener with only a limited knowledge of the varities of apples. It deems its publication premature, and its official recognition by the Royal H. S. yet more so. The Chronicle, nevertheless, expresses a sense of the obligation Dr. Hogg has conferred on pomologists by his "gallant attempt," and confesses that in this matter it is far easier to offer objections than to substitute a better scheme.

ABANDONING THE TREE BUSINESS.

A. D. WILLIAMS, in writing a caustic reply to an article which appeared a few weeks since in our columns, in regard to raising trees on the "high, dry, windy prairies," says that wild seedling forest trees are so abundant in Nebraska, and trees are so readily raised from seed on the prairies, that all the local nurserymen are abandoning the business. This is good news, if true, to everybody but the nurserymen. If Nebraska farmers are so well informed in regard to forest tree culture as to have no further need of nurserymen, they are far ahead of their brethren in other and older States.

CORRECTION.—Speaking of Beurre Superfine, the word *ten* should have been *two* in our last issue. We hope to eat of this fruit ere the trees have grown to be ten years old from transplanting.

Patrons of Husbandry.

OF WHAT USE WILL "GRANGES" BE TO ENGLISH FARMERS?

THE farmers in England are just now somewhat interested in studying the progress of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry in America, and the above question is being freely discussed by the agricultural press of Great Britain. In our last number of the Agricultural Gazette we find the following from one of its correspondents.

I have read Mr. Wright's letter in your last, and also one he has contributed to a contemporary. The latter he confines to an onslaught upon the editor of the Preston Chronicle who, I notice in that paper of to-day, returns to the charge and I think is justified in the following remarks:—"The most practical portion of our article, that which dealt the solid blows at the 'Grange' business, got insertion in the Agricultural Gazette (forming the main portion of a correspondent's notice), and if Mr. Wright felt himself equal to reply to it, he ought honestly to have done so in that paper, and then the reader would have had before him both our indictment and his defense. He does figure in the Agricultural Gazette, but contents himself with merely mentioning our article; not a syllable of defense. His reply is laid before a class of readers who have never had the opportunity of hearing the other side! He is unable to speak in our presence, but chooses to be very valiant and grandiloquent in our absence. The fact is, that all the weighty objections we urged are never dealt with at all by him." It certainly does look strange that Mr. Wright should occupy a couple of columns in your paper without ever a word of reply to the extract I sent you for insertion. If he would adopt a less wordy and less 'frothy' style, plain, practical people such as English farmers are might be able to get a clear insight into what it is really proposed the 'Granges' should effect in this country. Mr. Wright tells of much that they have done in America, but we want to know how they are to operate here in England; what void, left by the numerous associations already in existence, they are to fill in this little country of ours. And on this point I cannot do better than quote from my old paper (established the year I was born) the Preston Chronicle which says:—'The real question lies in a little compass:—What profit will an English farmer get from a 'Grange' that he cannot get in associations of his 'own choosing' free from all the superfluous additions from America? In what way will rituals, regalias, secret signs, passwords, and such-like things, profit our English farmers? When we speak of profit, of course we except the officials; they of course will profit by the useless trappings, and adornments, and ritualism, and semi-mysterious secrets. We again assert that in England such things are out of place, purposeless, unless in connection either with the growing of crops, or rearing or breeding of cattle, or churning of milk, or making of cheese, or buying or selling of anything. All these and everything connected with farming can be done better without than with them. If the 'Granges' have been useful in America,—and we never asserted to the contrary,—well and good; here we have no need for them.' Let Mr. Wright descend from his literary altitude and come down to talk in a plain, matter of fact way, we farmers are accustomed to. Let him cease to generalize and be specific, showing exactly what the 'Granges' will do that our National, County and Local Agricultural Societies, our County Agricultural Chambers of Commerce, our Co-operative Supply Associations, our Analytical Associations, our Farmers' Clubs cannot do for us. If he can point out precisely what all those associations are unable to do which the Grange is able to do, then our farmers will get some practical information upon the matter."

From the above it would appear that Mr. Wright who has gone to England to establish the Order, is being somewhat roughly handled, but this we suppose he expected, as prejudices against Yankee institutions and customs are not yet quite dead in Merrie England.

Entomological.

KANSAS AND LOCUSTS.

"Do you think Kansas will be subject to periodical or occasional visits of the Rocky Mountain Locust?" Prof. RILEY answers this question in the Weekly Tribune as follows:

The invasions of locusts into Kansas are occasional only, not periodical. Since 1820 there have been but two generally disastrous ones, viz., those of 1866 and 1874. You may safely conclude that the State will not suffer, on an average, more than every seven or eight years, and in future, by virtue of laws that have been enacted the past Winter, and of the experience gained since 1874, the people will be better prepared to cope with and subdue the trouble than they have been in the past. I should not advise you to push too far West; but throughout the larger part of Kansas you will find most desirable soil, a delightful climate, and an intelligent and enterprising people who have prospered in the past and will prosper in the future. As I answered a similar question in these columns a year ago last October, when a gloom hung over Kansas, and there was quite an exodus from the State, and as subsequent events have so far confirmed the opinions then expressed, I repeat a few lines then written:

"If I had any intention of settling in that State, I should choose this time of all others to do so: First—Because so many of her citizens have become alarmed and are willing to sell fine homesteads at a great sacrifice; secondly, because from the past history of these invasions her people may reasonably expect exemption from them for a period of eight, ten, twelve, or more years. The same argument, also, which would deter people from settling in Kansas would deter them from settling in the western part of Iowa, in Colorado, Nebraska, Texas, Minnesota, in short, in any of the country 500 to 550 miles east of the Rocky Mountains, from British America to Mexico; for this vast extent of country is more or less subject to locust invasions. There are, indeed, few parts of the country not subject to periodic misfortune, either from meteorological or entomological excesses."

Domestic Economy.

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY.

MANY ladies have pieces of silks, ribbons and ties, etc., which are faded, but not much worn. These can be renovated and made to look very nicely indeed by dyeing, and pressing while they are yet damp. A cheap and pretty way is to dip them in an analine dye. Tie a very little rose analine in a thin cloth and dip it in a weak soapsuds until it is dark enough to suit. Then wash the silks and throw them in the dye. As soon as they are the right shade take them out, and, when partly dry, iron them, and they are ready for use. The articles look better if the dye is used as soon as made.

Another shade of red may be obtained in the following manner: For one pound of silk take three ounces of alum. Warm the solution and soak the goods an hour in it. Then take them out and put into another dye made of cochineal, three ounces; nutgalls, two ounces; cream of tartar, one-third ounce. Let them be in this dye one hour. When few goods are to be colored, the dye-stuff must be proportioned accordingly. Silks may be colored orange with a solution of annatto and soda.

The first and last recipes are very cheap, and it is very little trouble to use them. Many a ribbon that looks past all hopes, would do good service again, if washed clean, then dyed in this way. Schoolgirls, whose pin-money is limited, can, in this way, have fresh-looking ribbons, and I think a little rose color, or scarlet, is a charming addition to almost every young ladies' toilet, if fashion has, for so long a time, ruled them out and brought faded-looking colors into favor.—

MRS. LORETTA E. K. TURNER,
Fairfield, Ohio.

A HOUSE OF OUR OWN.

NEXT to being married to the right person, there is nothing so important in one's life as to live under one's own roof. There is something more than a practical charm in the expression of the wife: "We have our cosy house; it is thrice dear to us, because it is our own. We have bought it with the savings of our earnings.

"Many were the soda fountains, the confectionary saloons and the necessities of the market we had to pass, many a time my noble husband denied himself of the comfort tobacco, the refreshing draught of beer, wore his old clothes, and even patched up boots; and I, Oh, me! made my old bonnet do, wore the plainest clothes, did the plainest cooking; saving was the order of the house, and to have 'a home of our own' had been our united aim. Now we have it; there is no landlord troubling us with raising the rent, and exacting this and that. There is no fear harbored in our bosom that in sickness or old age we will be thrown out of house and home, and the money we have saved, which would otherwise have gone to pay rent, is sufficient to keep us in comfort in the winter-days of our life."—*Selected.*

A FEW RECIPES.

Fritters.—One quart of milk, one pound of flour, add seven well-beaten eggs, a teaspoonful of salt. Drop by the spoonful into hot lard and fry a light brown.

Family Cakes.—Yelks of eight eggs, and one cup of sugar, kneaded stiff with flour. Roll out thin, cut in fancy shapes, and fry in hot fat.

Acid Tarts.—Take one egg, one cup of sugar, one cup water, one and a half teaspoonfuls tartaric acid, one teaspoonful flour, one teaspoonful extract lemon, a piece of butter size of a walnut. Cook over steam, then fill the paste and bake moderately. Put the lemon in just before baking. Ice them if you wish.

Kisses.—Two pounds of powdered sugar, the whites of eight eggs, beaten to a froth, then add the sugar and flavor with lemon or vanilla. The whole should be beaten very hard a few minutes, then drop in oval shapes on white paper which has been slightly buttered, and place in a moderate oven. Bake to a pale brown, then place the flat sides together. L. E. K. T.

USEFUL RECIPES.

Articles on which flour-paste has been used are often injured by rats, even after the paste has become dry and hard. This can be prevented by mixing a small quantity of corrosive sublimate with the paste. Those who have tried this pronounce it harmless to persons handling it, and a complete safeguard against the rats.

French Toast.—Beat four eggs very light and stir them in a pint of milk; slice some bakers' bread, dip the pieces into the egg, then lay them in a pan of hot lard and fry brown; sprinkle a little powdered sugar and cinnamon on each piece and serve hot. If nicely prepared, this is an excellent dish for breakfast or tea—quite equal to waffles.

Lemon Pie.—Boil in one and a half quarts of water the juice, pulp and grated peel of two lemons. When it boils, add three heaping tablespoonfuls of flour, mixed smooth with cold water. Before it cools add two teacupfuls of sugar, three well-beaten eggs, a piece of butter half the size of an egg, and a little salt. Bake with under and upper crusts.

To make Hominy.—Put some concentrated lye in a kettle and dissolve, take five ears of white corn, shell, put into the lye and boil one hour, or until the skins will wash off; then wash four or five times, or until free from hulls and the taste of lye, then put it into a kettle of fresh water and boil all day. When wanted for use, put in a skillet and fry with lard.

Another Lemon Pie.—Make a very short crust and roll rather thick. For every pie take the grated rind and juice of one lemon, one teacupful of sugar, and the yelk of one egg; one cupful of sweet milk or water, one teaspoonful of starch, softened with a little milk; bake about an hour; beat the white to a froth; add two tablespoonfuls of sugar and pour over the top; bake slightly.

To Make Good Molasses Candy.—Two pounds white coffee sugar, one quart molasses sirup, three tablespoonfuls of vinegar; put in a small piece of butter. You can tell when it is boiled enough by dipping your finger into a cup of cold water, then into the candy, quickly back into the water, and if that which sticks to your finger is hard and snaps, the candy is done, and should be poured upon a greased marble or tin pan; add a little essence of lemon, then pull it till it becomes white.

To make Honey-Wine or Mead.—To a gallon of water, put 2 lbs. of honey and 1 lb. of sugar; boil for an hour, put in the whites of four eggs to clarify, and skim it quite clear while boiling; then put it into a clean tub, and let it stand for a week, putting in a toast with honey to make it work; then put in a cask, adding the peels of three or four lemons, let it stand for a month, and then if it is not sufficiently fine put in more honey, and let it stand longer.

Cold Slaw.—Cut up the cabbage very fine with a sharp knife, and sprinkle over it a teaspoon of salt. For a large dish, say a quart of cut cabbage, use two eggs, a piece of butter the size of an egg, half a teacup of water, and half a teacup of good vinegar. Beat the eggs, whites and yolks together, very light, add the water, vinegar and butter, and put all in a tin on the fire, stirring all the time until it is of a creamy thickness. Pour it hot over the cabbage, stir up well with a fork, and leave to cool.

Utilizing Old Tin Cans.—The Housekeeper gives the following suggestions:—Take off the top of the can, punch holes on the opposite sides near the rim, put in a wire bail, and you have a little bucket which may serve for a paint-pot, to keep nails in, or other handy purposes. Take off the top, cut to the proper shape, and fasten on a handle by means of a screw through a hole in the bottom, and a useful scoop may be made. A saucepan for small messes may be made by cutting down a can, leaving a strip to be bent at right angles and turned around a stick to serve as a handle. A coarse grater for crackers, etc., is easily formed from a piece of tin fastened to a board. The holes in the grater should be made with an old, three-cornered file.

Hygienic Information.

MEDICICES PRODUCING DISEASE.

DR. ROBERT WALKER, in a valuable essay published in the May Science of Health, forcibly states the objections to an indiscriminate or free use of drugs.

A temporary increase of action may be induced in any organ by exciting it, but that action cannot be sustained for want of power in the organ. It is a law of nature that only as much power can be put forth by any organ as that organ possesses. If by stimulation we get an extra effort to-day, a lesser action must be the result to-morrow. As power begins to be exhausted, action begins to fail, and an organ falls as much below its usual activity when a stimulant is withdrawn, as it was raised above by the stimulant; so that no permanent gain is had in stimulation.

A strong and vigorous organ may be excited to violent action by the use of proper medicament; but if the organ is weak, the degree of action, under the influence of the medicine, will correspond. At the first introduction of a medicine to an organ, the effect will be, perhaps, vigorous, because there is power to respond; but the vigorous action exhausts the power of the organ, so that to get the desired effect, the medicine must be increased from day to day, and often is increased until all power to respond is exhausted and death ensues. A cathartic, for instance, has been the usual drug-medical plan of inducing action in the bowels, as it usually succeeds if there is power in the bowels to respond; but if there is no power in the bowels, as in paralysis of them, or in death, there will be no action, no matter how great the quantity of medicine.

Sometimes the medicine used to "cure" a disease produces a contrary one; but more generally it adds to the existing difficulty. Cathartics were intended to remove constipation, and temporarily they may appear to succeed, but they prove to be a sure way of permanently producing the difficulty. Calomel, though it temporarily overcomes torpidity of liver, is the surest way to induce torpidity of liver. Diuretics, though they may increase the flow of urine, are sure means of reducing the power of the kidneys; Alcohol is reputed to be the great "strengthener" but none become so weak as those who continually use it. If you want a steady hand, drink a cup of tea; but if you want unsteady nerves continue its use. Tea is considered almost a specific for some forms of headache, but the sure way to produce headache is to continue a free use of it. And so on through the *materia medica*. Show me a drug-medicine that will apparently increase activity of an organ or set of organs, and I will show you one that will ultimately reduce activity of them.

The same objections that we offer to drugs are applicable to hygienic agencies, when employed on drug-medical principles. Water is a valuable health agency, and when used hygienically, no exceptions are to be taken to its use; but when used as a stimulant, excitant, tonic, sedative, etc., and as a great cure-all, it is little better than drugs. Steam baths may be useful, packs are excellent, the various water-cure appliances are commendable; but they should never be used to produce a condition that the vitality in the patient cannot sustain. Baths are to be employed to fulfill the conditions necessary to health; but purity of blood and all other results must come because of vital action, permanently induced and not through temporary excitement. The true province of all treatment is to develop and distribute vital power without exhausting it. Treatment should strengthen the patient, not weaken him; it should increase vitality, not reduce it; it should supply the conditions of health, but not stimulate or excite temporary action.

The attempt to get well by stimulating into health, is like an attempt to pull one's self into the upper region by *tugging at the straps of his boots.* The effort is like struggling in quicksand, the more you struggle the deeper you sink. If one is in the quicksand, it is very tempting to struggle, but he rarely struggles himself free.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

One ounce of the essence of bitter almonds will communicate an agreeable taste and smell to an ounce of the castor oil of commerce, and will not at all effect its medical action. Persons taking this medicine should order it to be thus flavored.

Dr. Cobbold states that cases of tape-worm are twice as frequent among males as females, the difference being explained, in his opinion, by the more cautious and fastidious habits of the female sex, as contrasted with males, in relation to the ingestion of underdone meat.

Dr. Lyon Playfair, at the recent meeting of the British Social Science Association, quoted Michelet's statement that, for 1,000 years, no one in Europe used the bath, and urged that it was no wonder that the epidemics of the middle ages cut off one-fourth of the population.

Pumpkin Poultice.—The best remedy I ever used for scrofulous swellings or sores is dried pumpkin, stewed in as small a quantity of water as possible and applied as a poultice. If the swelling or sore is on the limbs, apply it directly to the affected part; if about the head or neck, apply to the wrists or hands. One or two poultices in twenty-four hours will usually be sufficient.—A. M.

In the course of a Lecture on Mercury recently delivered at Vienna, the leg-bone of a man was exhibited, whose death had undoubtedly been hastened by mercury. On striking the bone heavily on the table, out fell thousands of little glittering globules, which rolled about on the black surface before the lecturer, collecting here and there into drops. This mercury had been absorbed during life, and proved the death of the absorbent.

A Mother Wants Light.—Occasionally there appears in the Hygienic column of the RURAL some information for young mothers, which comes very opportunely to me and, I presume, a great many others. I should like very much to hear from the old and experienced:—When they consider the proper time for weaning an infant child, what food should be given it, and any hints that would help me to bring my little boy through that process with health and strength.—Mrs. H. A. B.

Will some of our readers reply.—ED. RURAL.

Industrial Topics.

FARMERS' LIFE IN WINTER.

THE Journal of Chemistry in speaking of the lonesomeness of farmers' lives, or how some manage to live pleasantly and others unhappily under the same circumstances, says:

Probably not one of the industrial classes has been so directly, and we may say disastrously, influenced by modern innovations and changes as farmers, and this relates specially to the winter life and pursuits of this class. The active work of farmers and their families was not in any degree suspended in winter until within a third of a century. Indeed, the hardest labor of the year was performed by them in cold weather; they no more thought of housing themselves when the snows came than of living by begging and stealing. The country was comparatively new, and there were clearings to be made, logs to be cut, wood to be hauled, stone-walls to be built (for many of our common field walls were put up in the dead of winter); the ways were to be kept clear of snow obstructions; corn was to be shelled and taken long distances to mill; the cows, oxen, horses and sheep were to be fed, and the pigs to be looked after.

There were no idle hours for the farmers of a generation ago in winter; and the same may be said of the women and children indoors. All was hurry in the kitchen from early daylight to sunset; and when the evening darkness came on the knitting, spinning, darning and patching continued until eight or nine o'clock, when all went to bed. The clothing worn by the family was of domestic make, fabrics of linen as well as of wool. The wool was taken from the backs of the sheep, scoured, carded, spun, woven and dyed, on the farm premises. The bark of the butternut afforded a favorite tint of yellow-brown; and chipped logwood and copperas bought of the distant grocer, gave the inky black suited to garments for Sunday use. The hum of industry never ceased in the dwellings of the earlier race of farmers, except at night and on "Lord's Day." And they were happy, healthy, contented; but little money was needed, they had few artificial wants, and their ambition was confined to the narrow limits of their homesteads.

But a great change has occurred, and now farmers have become, so far as winter life is concerned, a kind of hibernating animal, like the bears and frogs in the woods and marshes. Coal has taken the place of wood to a large extent even in the country, so there is little chopping to be done; there are no walls to build, no heavy timber to haul, but little corn to husk or shell, few sheep and cows to feed, and but little marketing to do. When the first snow storm spreads its white mantle over the face of mother earth, all is hushed and silent around most of our farm homesteads. The crowing of a solitary cock, perched upon the barnyard fence, seems to be almost painful intrusion upon the general silence. As regards the family, the boys are not seen around the chopping-block, or on the hay-mow; the girls are seldom seen at the windows with their knitting work, or in the snow path leading to the barn, with milk-pail in hand. The boys are away at school, or serving as clerks in some city store; the girls, if at home, sit listlessly about the red-hot parlor stove, discontented, lonely, with "nothing to do." And really, there is very little they can do; there is no wool to card or spin, no flax to run into threads, no industrial labor that will give them even a small return in ready money. The large factories do all the spinning and weaving, and make all the bonnets, stockings and under and outer garments; and willing hands in isolated homes find no remunerative employment. The great want of the age is some industrial labor which can be performed at farm homesteads, and the dwellings of the poor, so that a little money can be earned at home. In the progress of events, we have the expectation that some new avenues of industry will be opened in this direction, and when this occurs a blessing will rest upon thousands of happy homes.

The discouraged state in which large numbers of our farmers live is not favorable to health or happiness; neither is it favorable to success in any direction. Winter in the country, in New England and the other Northern States, is really quite a severe ordeal to pass through; but it can be made a time for mind improvement, and also a time of preparation for the active labors of the summer. Every good and useful book a farmer reads is an acquisition, the value of which cannot be stated in dollars and cents. Winter is the time to improve the intellect, the time to lay up those stores of knowledge which will serve in old age, when the eyes are dim and the hearing impaired, as food for thought and meditation. In the altered condition of things which prevails in this age, farmers must seek new modes of occupation in winter, and every one who seeks is quite sure to find.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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X. A. WILLARD, A. M., Little Falls, N. Y.,
EDITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DAIRY HUSBANDRY.

G. A. C. BARNETT, Publisher.

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78 Duane Street, New York City.

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1876.

THIRD CLASS MAIL MATTER.

MEN are elected to Congress for the supposed purpose of enacting laws which will be of benefit to the masses. Class legislation is deprecated by all honest men, and in a Republic, "The greatest good to the greatest number," is one of the fundamental principles, which should never be lost sight of in carrying out the wishes, or needs, of a free and independent people.

But much as we dislike to find fault with our representatives in the national legislature, the thought must occasionally find utterance, that a great amount of stupidity is frequently exhibited by men from whom we have every reason to expect a moderate show of common sense if not of wisdom. During the past few years there has been an almost continual tinkering of the postal laws, resulting in anything but satisfactory regulations or financial gain to the Post-Office Department. In fact, nearly every change, instead of being a progressive one, has proved quite the reverse, and all because those most directly interested in any proposed modification have not been consulted.

If seeds, cions, and plants, are to be transported in the mails, who would be better qualified to say how such articles should be packed or the rates most likely to be remunerative to the Government, than seedsmen and nurserymen? But we are free to say that these gentlemen have never been consulted or their advice asked, in regard to a subject in which they are personally interested; for the most ignorant novice in such matters would not suggest the sending seeds through the mails in an open, unsealed package, any sooner than he would undertake to carry water in a sieve.

It is however unnecessary at this time to review the various bills introduced and passed during the last twenty years, regulating the carrying of mail matter, as it is well known that nine-tenths of them are unbecoming of the financial abilities of a sidewalk huckster who sells apples at a cent apiece, or two for three cents. Our wise legislators, it seems, did try to grasp this apple problem a few years since but failed, although they aimed at it in fixing the rates of postage on circulars, in allowing three in one package at the single rate of two cents.

The people were perfectly satisfied with the previous rates of one cent each, but the tinkers at Washington gravely told the "dear people" that the rates were too high and must be reduced, and this is the way they did it:—Single rates were advanced to two cents for each circular, with permission to send three for the same, the originators of this scheme not knowing that a majority of tradesmen only publish one catalogue or circular, therefore would have no occasion to send three of the same to one address. Now the sidewalk huckster could have told the wise men of the nation that the better way to have made a reduction to large dealers would have been to have kept the rates of one cent for a single circular and two cents for three.

Something like a year since the postage laws were again tampered with and the rates on third class doubled, and we are bound to say for no other good reason than that certain express companies desired to obtain more patronage if seeds, plants, cuttings, and similar articles were excluded from the mails, or the rates were advanced to correspond with the tariff charged by themselves. The result of this change was immense losses to dealers as well as their customers, and the express companies alone reaped the benefit, the hundreds and thousands of persons who reside far away from railroads and express offices, being compelled to pay an exorbitant rate of postage or go without many greatly needed articles.

Now, while we are not in favor of admitting boots, shoes, and all kinds of merchandize to be transported through the mails at rates of postage which are not remunerative to the Department, still we are in favor of low rates upon seeds, plants, cuttings, and specimens of natural history, as well as letters, books and periodicals, whether the Government makes any money out of it or not. In fact, the Post-Office Department is a convenience and necessity, and if it fails to be self-supporting, the people make up the deficiency, hence it is not material whether they pay the amount directly in the form of postage or taxes.

As the law now stands, a man residing in Colorado who may desire to exchange botanical, entomological or other specimens of natural history with some friend in the East or institution of learning, is compelled to pay three times as much postage on said specimens as he would on a dime novel. The law makes just this discrimination against the transportation of all specimens of natural history as well as seeds and cuttings.

If our young folks desire to exchange trashy novels, the Post-Office Department will aid them to do so at the low rate of three ounces for one cent; but if they are pursuing a line of scientific investigation in any branch of natural science and desire to exchange or send through the mails minerals, shells, microscopical or other specimens, they must pay postage at the rate of one cent per ounce. This is what we call wisdom with a vengeance, or a way NOT to promote the dissemination of useful knowledge.

DAIRYMEN OF THE ALPS.

CHAS. L. FLEISCHMAN years ago, in writing of the dairymen of the Alps, said: When the sun has fairly set, and night begins to spread its sable wings over the world, the dairyman steps under the door of his humble dwelling and sings through a wooden funnel a choral melody, yet a prayer to his Maker. These melancholy sounds serve also as a guide to the belated herdsmen, as an invitation to the poor but hospitable hut of the mountaineer; and at that signal every one in hearing bends his knees, like the inhabitant of the villages below at the sound of the chapel bell, saying their evening prayer.

The dairyman has finished his day's work—made the cheese from the evening milk and cleaned the vessels of the dairy—and retires to the hayloft, wraps himself in his blanket, and snores in harmony with the pigs which take shelter near the hut on the outside.

Scarcely have the first rays of the sun illuminated the highest points of earth's rugged crust, the mountain lark sings its morning hymn, and the dairyman leaves his nest, swarming with fleas, attends to his cows, makes cheese from the morning milk, sends the cattle to the pasture, brings the cheese made the day before to the cheese-lofts, cleans his dairy fixtures, and after a frugal breakfast, he looks about to see what he can do to keep his pasture clean and safe, removes stones, distributes the dung, and builds walls or fences near precipices to protect his cattle from danger. Such is the occupation of the dairyman of the Alps, which goes on regularly every day, never interrupted by any cares whatever, except by sickness of some of his assistants or cattle, or from the loss of a cow by falling over the side of some dangerous spot.

He remains a stranger to the doings and undoings of the world below, and he may thank his Creator that civilization never will reach so high up, but will ever leave a place where man can be free and live retired from the misery of the onward progress of time.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Western Lard.—The consumers of Western made lard may not enjoy the statement made by a correspondent of a Chicago daily newspaper, wherein he says that in the County of Sangamon 15,000 hogs have died of cholera; these were brought into Springfield and rendered, one firm alone making 1,000 tierces of grease from diseased animals. A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says that "What is true of Sangamon County is true also of several hundred other Counties in the cholera regions, so that the cholera-tainted grease or lard, instead of being measured by the 1,000 tierces, should be measured by the fifty or the hundred thousand. Considering the high price of No. 1 lard and the general debauchery in trade, politics and morals, it is not at all improbable that a considerable portion of this tainted grease will go on the markets of the world as No. 2 lard, "for cooking purposes." This is a rather nauseating state of affairs for those who depend upon the market for their supply of lard; still, for the sake of the good name of humanity, we hope it is not as bad as the above correspondence would make it.

Post-Office Department Outwitted.—A certain seed company doing business at Detroit, Mich., becoming dissatisfied with the high rates of postage on third class matter, adopted a little financiering which should teach our Post-Office Department a good lesson. The postal arrangements between the Canadas and the United States are that each is to carry all mail matter received from either side without extra charge. The seed company referred to above took advantage of this state of affairs and sent their catalogues across the river in bulk, paying the duty, then sent them back to their customers in the United States, stamped at Canadian rates of postage, our Post-Office Department being obliged to receive and distribute them without any further advance. It is said that the company saved about $2,000 by the operation, and we hope they did, for our Government officials need some such practical lessons in finance to sharpen their wits.

The Garden (Eng.) appears to have arrived at a similar conclusion in regard to wood pavements as some persons in this country, for it says:—"One of the most offensive nuisances and air-poisonings is caused by the laying down of the wood pavement, now becoming common in London. This is all the more to be regretted because the wooden pavement is not so lasting, or on the whole so satisfactory as the best asphalte. For cities, so far as our present knowledge goes, nothing equals the asphalte. When kept free from dust, &c., by aid of the hose, it is also most conducive to the purity of the air and consequently of health."

Annual Meeting of the National Ag. Congress at Philadelphia.—X. A. WILLARD, Dairy Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, has been engaged to deliver the address on "American Dairying," at the Annual Meeting of the National Ag. Congress, which occurs at Philadelphia Sept. 12–14, 1876. The Secretary, Prof. G. E. MORROW of the Iowa State Ag. College, writes that the indications are that the meeting will be successful and of great interest, as it will be somewhat Centennial in cast, and all the leading agricultural industries will be represented.

New Potatoes from Florida.—We are indebted to B. K. BLISS & SONS, the well-known seedsmen of this city, for our first "mess" of new potatoes. The variety which put in its appearance so much ahead of the usual season, is one of the novelties being sent out by Messrs. BLISS under the name of "Alpha," which we should judge is likely to prove a very early and fine sort. The specimens we received, although dug so early and sent a long distance, cooked as dry and mealy as the best of our Northern grown potatoes when fully ripe.

RURAL BREVITIES.

SHEEP sales are said to be very brisk in Vermont, 1,000 rams being sold in one neighborhood this season.

A MAN who does not carefully con the advertisements in a newspaper, misses a fund of information likely to be useful as well as instructive.

THE Chinese and Japanese prefer night soil to other kinds of fertilizers, rejecting the fresh dung of cattle because it is likely to contain weed seeds in greater or less abundance.

WIRE WORMS in gardens may be trapped by placing slices of potatoes slightly covered in the soil. These should be visited every morning and all the worms collected underneath gathered up and killed.

IF any of our readers have any curiosity about Pure German Millet Seed, it would not be time wasted to look at the announcement of H. JOHNSTON & SON, Lebanon, Ky., in another column, who will be happy to furnish information gratis.

AT a late meeting of the California Academy of Sciences, a member called attention to the Golden Chestnut (*Castanea chrysophylla*), trees of which he noted in the State as being from 100 to 200 feet high, four to six feet in diameter, and with stems from 50 to 70 feet high to the branches.

THEY have had a shower of flies in Canada—not house-flies or horse-flies, but real dragon-flies, such as boys call devils' darning-needles, and with which they are said to sew up the ears of bad children who go near ponds, where they are likely to fall in and get drowned. We hope for the boys' sake that the Canada dragon-flies will not cross the St. Lawrence until after the fishing season is over.

DR. ENGLEMAN of Missouri, at a meeting of the St. Louis Academy of Sciences, exhibited a section of the stem of *Juniperus Californica* variety, which, by the rings, is 127 years old. The largest growth in ten years had been about four lines; the smallest for the same period about one and a half lines; the average growth for the whole 127 years was about one-fifth of a line. Interesting as a curiosity, curious as a plant, but not plantable for profit.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

CONSUMERS, when purchasing White Lead, should bear in mind that much of it sold as pure is adulterated. Every package of Eckstein, Hills & Co.'s **"Phœnix" brand Pure White Lead** is warranted free from adulteration.

Coughs and Colds.—Sudden changes of climate are sources of *Pulmonary and Bronchial affections.* Take at once "*Brown's Bronchial Troches,*" let the Cold, Cough or Irritation of the Throat be ever so slight.

MAY.

My Sweetheart is coming!
Make broad the highway!
My sweetheart is coming,
My beautiful May!

Keeping time to the rhythm
Of each rolling year;
One note in the music,
A note sweet and clear.

I hear it;—she's coming
With glad, flying feet,
O'er mountain and valley
Her lover to greet.

And what will she bring me
From lands far away?
O what will she bring me,
My beautiful May?

Flowers in her bosom,
And sunshine and song;
Will she bring, Oh! my Queen!
Who has tarried so long?

Then hasten, my Sweetheart,
And make no delay,
Your lover stands waiting,
O beautiful May! B.

The Story-Teller.

FOR THE LAST TIME.

BY DUDU FLETCHER.

DEAR MR. DESMOND:—I knew I could trust you not to misunderstand me! I thank you a thousand times for the way in which you have accepted my letter; but why—why ask me now to keep that old promise of mine? You, a man, can afford to speak with a sneer of the "bonds of conventionality;" but I——

My window has just blown open and a flood of sunshine has rushed in, chased by the soft spring wind. The world is warm, and smells of violets. After all, why not take that "one last ride" with you? Why not bid a pleasant farewell to my Bohemian days? Let our little Roman world talk, if it pleases! I *will* go! Get me my favorite Olga, and let the horses be ready to-morrow morning at eight o'clock. I take you at your word and go, feeling quite safe from any allusion to the past. Your friend as long as you like,

ELEANOR HARDY.

"Late? Of course you are late!" said Jack Desmond, at 8½ o'clock the next morning; "but why should you mind that? Punctuality is at once the most masculine and the most unsympathetic of virtues; how can punctuality and Miss Hardy be anything but incompatible terms? Mind you are light with your curb to-day, Miss Hardy. Olga has not been out for a week." He swung himself lightly into the saddle; the two horses threw up their heads impatiently, scrambled down the bank by the roadside and started gaily off in the morning sunshine.

Eleanor glanced shyly at her companion. "Is there much of this pavement?" she asked, with an elaborate attempt at establishing their conversation on an easy and impersonal footing; "I always feel a wild desire to gallop my horse over the stones, in spite of every one's warnings. Look at that dear Olga! she finds it as tiresome as I do, and is quite longing to make a bolt, at the risk of breaking both our necks!"

"As you are strong, be merciful," said Desmond, lightly. "Olga and yourself are both in my charge to-day, please remember, and Mrs. Van Cortlandt will hold me responsible for all your past misdemeanors. Try to curb your impatience as well as your horse until we have reached the church," he added, pointing forward with his whip; "there's a glorious place for a canter after that."

In a few moments more they had passed the rich facade of San Paolo fuori delle Mura, and had clattered along the stone colonnade; they settled themselves back in their saddles, the road gave a sweep, and in another instant the horses were cantering wildly over the strip of short, daisy-whitened turf that borders the foot-path.

"Ah, this is what I like!" said Eleanor; "now we are out of Rome!" The fresh morning wind blew back the blonde masses of her hair and brought a peach-blossom bloom to the pale, flower-like face. "Isn't this glorious, Mr. Desmond! I feel like an escaped prisoner. Think of all the poor people who are just getting up to dismal and tepid cups of coffee all over town!"

"Dismal? Perhaps! The sun is overcast enough to make an apartment in a narrow street the reverse of cheerful, this morning; but why should all the coffee be tepid, Miss Hardy? Is there anything in your being on horseback so early to account for such a change of temperature in everybody's breakfast? Or do you refer figuratively to the blight under which Rome is lying when you leave it?"

"You are pleased to be satirical as well as literal-minded, Mr. Desmond," retorted Eleanor. "As though you could hope to understand what I feel at the prospect of forty miles on horseback and not a call to make, not a note to answer, not a stupid person to entertain and, crowning joy of all, the whole day in a riding-habit, without one's dress to change!"

"But how you will miss your aunt!" said Desmond. They looked at each other and both burst out laughing.

"That is exceedingly wrong of you," said Eleanor, becoming suddenly grave. "I only laughed because you took me by surprise. My aunt is very good."

"Very," said Desmond, quickly; "I am sure no one can doubt that. Mrs. Van Cortlandt is a most interesting companion and an invaluable authority in case a card is not returned in time, or the Van Rosevelts of Albany are in danger—horrible thought!—of being confounded with the *old* Van Rosevelts of New York. There is nothing narrow-minded, of course, in such a view of life."

"Indeed, that is more than can be said for your ideas of life," said Eleanor, flushing a little as she spoke. "Artists, and people generally who go in for being 'cultivated,' always pretend to be such broad-minded, tolerant men, and I don't believe I ever met one yet who could endure for half an hour a conversation on subjects of general interest without being bored—yes, and showing it, too!"

"Subjects of general interest?" said Desmond, inquiringly; "and this includes all the artists and *litterateurs* of your acquaintance? Now do you know, Miss Hardy, I've always noticed that a woman's most sweeping attack, her most crushing generalization, is aimed at some particular man. I wonder if it is only my guilty conscience which makes me remember that last reception at the Whytes, where I had the pleasure of meeting you, and where that pretty Mrs. Dulman's dress, appearance and manner, and the momentous question as to whether that exquisite complexion of hers is owing to cosmetics or to nature, were reviewed and criticised all the time we were there, to the exclusion of those other 'subjects of general interest' by which I and my unlucky friends are supposed to be bored?"

"That is not fair, Mr. Desmond!" cried Eleanor; "you select a—well, I will admit it!—a particularly silly conversation, and speak of it as of the type of what we talk about in society. You artistic people, as I said before, claim to monopolize all the tolerance, and yet you shut yourselves up in your shells like a small company of oysters who should agree together to consider all the other fish and sea-things like so many interlopers in their domains! You build a Chinese wall about yourselves, and the rest of the world become mere outsiders. Now I, for one, am a Philistine; and I'm not ashamed of it, either! I love the world. I belong to it, heart and soul. I have not made society, and I can see a hundred points in which I would alter it if I could, but I can't, and so I accept it and find the world a pleasant place, as it always is to the people who try to please it."

"Be witness, Miss Hardy, it was not I who made the discussion a personal one! May I ask, though, how it is that with such strong convictions you are not always of this delightfully optimist opinion?"

"Because I am 'young and unreasonable,' as my aunt says, I suppose," said Eleanor, lightly; "I dare say it will pass with time!"

"I dare say it will," assented Desmond, gravely. "Honesty of impulse does not live long in the atmosphere of a ball-room. You must have had an uncommonly large quantity to start with."

"See here, Mr. Desmond," said Eleanor, facing square round in her saddle, "I won't pretend not to understand what you mean. I've that much honesty left, whatever you may think," she went on, indignantly. "You imagine because"—she hesitated—"because I may—well, probably I shall—marry a man older than myself, and very rich, that I can have no good left in me. It is not true! You are hard, you are unjust to me in every thought of yours! Don't you suppose I know myself, my own wants and needs, better than you can? Talk of giving up 'all for love and the world well lost' to a girl accustomed to a simple life, and what wonder if she listens to you, with everything to gain by it and nothing to peril? Talk of it to a girl in my position, brought up as I have been and, if she is honest, she will answer you as I do; I am accustomed to extreme luxury, I have no fortune of my own, my happiness is centered on things which are offered me freely at the hands of a man for whom I have the utmost respect and who I believe is very fond of me; why should I not accept them?"

"Why not, indeed?" echoed Desmond.

They rode on a few minutes in silence. His acquiescence had suddenly shocked and puzzled her. She had expected to be argued with vehemently when she threw down her gauntlet, and now the gage of defiance was returned to her with a polite bow by her adversary. Eleanor did not understand it and, being disconcerted, began to lose her temper.

"It is so unjust!" she said, speaking very fast; "a man will give up anything, will work all his life long to win a position and become wealthy, and you will all applaud him to the skies for doing it. And yet, let a woman have the same craving for power and influence and ease, let her have an ambition to be more than a cipher in the sum, let her bring into real life one out of the countless lessons she has received since she left the school-room, let her too make an effort to gain her ends, and where will you find epithets with which to qualify her unwomanly heartlessness, her mercenary lack of sentiment!"

Desmond struck his boot absently with his whip and smiled. "There are just a few men in the world who do not count money as the crowning good of life, and who still cling to the exploded old belief that women, by the mere fact of their womanhood, are better, nobler, purer than they," he said. "And really, Miss Hardy, you exaggerate! Who ever gave anything but praise to a girl who made a 'good match' in society.

The gentle mockery of his tone stung her to the quick. It is one thing to dismiss a lover, but quite another to have him accept his dismissal with equanimity. The woman who does not feel a secret joy and pride in being still "the one fair woman in all the world" to the man she has just refused to marry, and does not think of him with a tender, regretful approval, is as rare, perhaps, as the man who is not privately convinced that were merit the only test he would never meet with want of success. A pathetic "it might have been," the memory of some hour when it did not seem so improbable that this was to be the companion of her future life, casts its halo around many an otherwise commonplace rejected lover. Until he becomes consoled again, a man never finds a warmer (if need be, a more unscrupulous) partisan than in the woman who has just assured him she was indifferent to his love.

A quick resentment of Desmond's self-possession seized Eleanor. "Very well! we will see if I cannot make him show he cares, before the day is over!" she thought revengefully. And she smiled innocently and sweetly the while, upon her intended victim.

"Don't let us discuss," she said softly; "I never get the better when I quarrel with you, and so"——The blue eyes looked up to his appealingly and ended the sentence for her. She laughed and touched her horse with her whip; they dashed on up the hill, racing the fleet, light cloud-shadows that flitted over the fresh green of the fields. The sky had the pale, watery blue of an April day. Little gusts of the warm spring wind went and came, now bringing puffs of wild, faint fragrance, now wandering off until lost among the blossomy fields. On either side of the road a rose-flushed shower of perfumed snow covered the bushes of flowering thorn; the birds in the hedge-rows were twittering and trilling under the shelter of the small green leaves, every now and then a hurried rush of wings telling how the tramp of the horses had startled some brooding mother-bird from her nest. Behind the riders the sullen, tawny Tiber rolled slowly by, its wicked and reticent-looking waves the only thing in sight that did not seem to feel the gentle influence of the spring sunshine.

"Did you ever notice, Miss Hardy," asked Desmond, "how differently the Tiber flows from other rivers? On the surface it looks smooth enough; indeed, the strong tide hardly ripples the yellow water; but watch it a little while and you will discover that it moves with a deep pulsation, a regular rhythmic effort, as though the fierce old heart of old Rome were still beating under its waves."

"It is a cruel river, and always seems to me as though it were smiling grimly at the thought of the next inundation it means to have," said Eleanor. "What do you say to resting a moment, Mr. Desmond? I'm beginning to be a little tired." They dismounted and Jack led the horses while Eleanor plucked long wreaths of the white stars of the blackberry vine and twisted them about her hat. "What a symbolical crown—thorns hidden under flowers!" she said, with a half sigh. They sat down a moment under the hedge and listened in silence to all the sweet, small noises of the spring.

"I should like to be a gypsy!" said Eleanor.

"A gypsy *a la* Watteau, with pink satin boots and a chateau to sleep in, you mean, of course," said Jack.

Eleanor laughed. "Well, yes, I suppose so! I don't think I should like the smoky fires and short rations of real gypsydom. I love the country, but then, my ideal landscapes are always landscapes with well-dressed people in the foreground."

"And there is Ostia!" said Desmond. "I wonder if Queen Eleanor will deign to alight and have some lunch?"

"Her Majesty is graciously pleased to be most plebianly hungry," said Miss Hardy, laughing. "I shall make a state question of it if we find nothing eatable at that most unpromising of inns!"

They rode into the courtyard under a queer, pointed stone arch. Half a dozen peasants looked up from the bottle of wine they were drinking at a table outside the door; two or three fair-haired, ragged children ran up to see the beautiful lady dismount. Eleanor gathered up her trailing skirt about her and entered the kitchen. It was a high-celled, smoke-blackened room; at one end was a large brick fireplace; around the wall were ranged rows of tables and chairs; five or six hens wandered composedly about the stone floor, in supreme indifference of the old gray cat who came up purring and rubbed against Eleanor's feet. She stood tapping the table with her whip, the image of amused perplexity. "But where shall we eat?" she said.

"There is a room up-stairs," suggested the hostess. "Clean? Blessed Saint Philomena! other than clean! But will the illustrious signora object to going up a ladder?"

Eleanor burst out laughing. "Oh, Mr. Desmond!" she cried, "how can I ever thank you enough for bringing me here? Fancy my aunt's face when I tell her of the ladder!"

The room up-stairs was scrupulously clean and bare. The only ornaments of the whitewashed walls were a brass crucifix and a cup for holding holy water, but the table and wooden benches were spotless, and a cool breeze came in at the one small window. Their ride had given them an appetite, and they did full justice to the provisions that an extended experience of Campagna inns had induced Jack to send down the day before.

"As though you had been sure of my coming with you!" said Eleanor, half pleased and half provoked at the attention.

Jack laughed. "Do you imagine I could not ride down to Ostia without the protection of your escort?" he said, teasingly. "I am sure I could have found some one to take pity on me, had you been unkind enough not to come!"

The words in themselves were nothing, but the mere fact that he could speak jestingly of her gave Eleanor a curious feeling of blank surprise. He had accepted the situation, and she instantly resented his having done so; she felt injured that having once offered her his love he should so soon have become resigned to her rejection of it. With an odd, feminine inconsistency, the firmer she had been in her refusal of him the more she had secretly gloried in what she had imagined to be the strength of his passion. There had been a bitter-sweet satisfaction to her in the sacrifice of such a devotion on the altar of her worldly advancement. It had been a sort of test in her eyes, for she had argued with herself, if I can give up such love as this so easily, surely my future life promises me only pleasure. What is there left for me to renounce, after this? Ignoring her own insistence on the fact that all allusions to old times were to be banished from their conversation, she tried to lead Desmond into a vein of half-tender, half-cynical remembrance, and see if even yet she had not the power of awakening the dormant fires of a passion she had held but lightly while it was still hers. In other words, she was a woman, and could pardon her old lover anything—except his forgiving her.

"How long it seems since I have spent a day out of Rome!" she said. "The last time was at Porto d'Anzio. Do you remember the day we were there, Mr. Desmond? I have never forgotten it. I can shut my eyes now, and hear quite plainly again the wash of the waves on the beach. Do you remember the moonlight on the water, coming back?" she went on dreamily; "and

'How near to the stars we seemed that night,
We two, on the sands by the sea'?"

Her voice had sunk almost to a whisper, her cheek was resting on her hand, she seemed looking far back into the past with those sweet, wistful eyes. Desmond glanced at her a moment, his face turned very pale, and his hand clenched hard under the table; but his voice was calm and he smiled quietly as he answered,—

"I remember quite well; pretty little place, that Porto d'Anzio is! By the way, it's a curious thing, do you know, to see with what an instinctive sense of the appropriate people always quote Owen Meredith when they speak of dead and gone flirtations. 'The Flirt's own Laureate' he should be called. There is about as much sham strength and false sentiment in the one as in the other, I suppose," he added with a reflective air.

"Really, I cannot say; I am not good at literary discussions," answered Eleanor, coldly. "I am not in the habit of dissecting the things which please me. This room is really getting to be very hot and disagreeable; shall we go?"

The wind had changed, and the blue April sky was hidden by a gray veil of sirocco clouds.

"Now, Miss Hardy," said Desmond, "Ostia is all before you where to choose. About a mile down that road is the wood of Castel Fusano; that pile of earth and stones you see there is the entrance to the excavations. What is your choice, sunshine or silence? Will you spend an hour under the pines, like an irresponsible Bohemian; or shall we improve our minds and 'do' the ruins, like conscientious tourists? By the way, did you remember to bring your conscience with you?"

"No; I left it in Rome with my aunt, for safe keeping," said Eleanor, demurely; "and as for your ruins, Mr. Desmond, you may visit them alone, if you please. There are better things to do with a spring day than to spend it in a hole under ground, like an invalid rabbit!"

They turned down the quiet, grassy lane that leads to Castle Fusano. A tender, half-pathetic color brooded over the landscape; even the stately old pines seemed to bend their proud heads to the breeze and murmur half-forgotten words to the lullaby of the spring wind.

"How I love pine-trees!" said Eleanor; "to enjoy them fully one should not look at them, but lie with one's face to the grass and only hear their grand old chant overhead."

"The pines of Ostia have a song all their own," remarked Jack. "You know all this ground about here was the open sea in the time of the Romans. I always think the trees remember the dash of the waves, and to me their song is like the breaking of the surf far away on the shore."

"Look at my daisies," said Eleanor; "I am afraid it is going to rain." The crimson and white petals of the flowers she held were closing fast.

"Do you know that the Campagna daisies look like the Roman girls?" asked Jack. "See how different they are from the little English daisy, or the delicate rose-and-white *paquerette* of France. In spite of their white petals, these are not a blonde flower. They have a bolder look, a deeper dash of red, a straighter, taller stem, and that same calmly-scrutinizing, wide-eyed, unabashed gaze you see in the *contadine*. They have a curious association for me, too," he added, taking up Eleanor's bunch as he spoke. "Daisies always remind me of the first time I fell in love."

"Merely because they are innocent spring things, like lambs or veal," asked Eleanor, mockingly, "or because your *inamorata* wore them in her hat? I think I can see her now. I know your tastes so well, Mr. Desmond, I can guess at what your first ideal must have been,—a china doll face, with a simper, and marguerites in her hair; all innocence, white muslin, blue ribbons, and amiable imbecility!"

"Indeed she was not," said Jack. "Fair hair has been a latter-day revelation to me; in those prehistoric days the Corsair was my patron saint, and I raved about raven tresses and dark, Oriental eyes. She was a very beautiful girl, I remember, and I thought her an angel at the time," he added, laughing. "I wonder where she can be now?"

"That is so like a man!" said Eleanor. "We are angels as long as we don't care for you, because our eyes are of a particular shape, or the shade of our hair pleases your lordship's tastes; then we fall in love with you and become ordinary mortals on the spot, and you straightway forget

us, or, worse still, quote us as rebukes or examples for the amusement of some other woman! The fact is, the wise woman cares only for herself, and every one immediately falls to caring for her too. It's the force of example, I suppose."

"Oh, the justice of the unfair sex!" cried Jack, with mock indignation. "I say of my first love that she looked like a flower and I thought her an angel, and am instantly accused of heartless indifference for saying so. No, I can assure you, my first duel with the 'grand passion' was a most desperate affair. In spite of my Corsair proclivities I have no doubt I should have married my Medora, and repented the act in broadcloth and fine linen for the last ten years, had not another and a bolder pirate carried her off before my agonized eyes. You ought to have known me in those days! I thought I was the proud and happy proprietor of a blighted life. I had sounded the bottomless abyss of all earthly sorrow, and knew to a nicety the depth thereof! It was all the more cruel in Medora since it had been an utter surrender at the first blow, a case of love at first sight, with me."

"Speaking of first impressions," said Eleanor, "I wish you would tell me quite honestly what you thought of me the first time you saw me. I've always been curious to know how I strike my contemporaries, and never had such a chance to find out, before. We are so out of the world here, so removed from conventional life, and why not drop conventional speech as well, and tell each other quite frankly what we think, for once?"

It annoyed her to hear him allude even thus lightly to a woman he had evidently cared for very strongly in old times. A vague jealousy prompted her to occupy him with herself, even to the exclusion of dead and buried rivals; and, as she truly said, they were so far removed from every-day life that any question seemed natural to ask. As they lay under the trees in the still afternoon, life was reduced to its simplest expression, and an impulse of Arcadian simplicity seemed to possess them both, for Jack answered at once, "I had much rather not tell you what I thought. I remember it quite well, but it would not be pleasant to either of us to think of it now."

"Mr. Desmond, you shall tell me! I insist upon it! Do," she added, coaxingly. "You won't refuse me the very first favor I ask you on our last day together?"

"Thanks for your kindness in reminding me of that!" said Jack, abruptly, looking away from her.

"The fact is, I don't believe in the least you remember where or when we met!" she pouted.

"Do you think so? It was at the Whytes' private theatricals; you were dressed in some sort of blue stuff, with white flowers in your hair, and after the play was over you sang—an air from The Huguenots. Mrs. Whyte introduced me to you, and we talked together for an hour or more, until you left at twelve o'clock to go to the Prussian minister's ball."

"But that is only what you saw. I asked for what you thought. See," she said, coquettishly, "I'll give you this bunch of violets, my own pet flowers, that I've brought all the way from Rome, if you will tell me what you thought of me!"

Jack looked at her fixedly a moment, and burst out laughing. "You are a true woman, Eleanor," he said; "but it would be asking too much, perhaps, to expect you to forego proving your power. I'll tell you what I thought, that night! I watched you a long while, and I said to myself, Here at last is a face to live with and to die for,—the frank, loyal face of a girl whose love it were well worth risking one's life to obtain; a girl above the petty considerations of society; a girl with enough heart to love a man for himself and not for what he could give her, and enough courage to avow it. That, Miss Hardy, was my first impression of you."

Eleanor turned very pale. Something in his emotion had touched her; here, in the country, away from Rome and her aunt, it seemed so much more difficult to realize satisfactorily the wisdom of her choice. Everything about her was young and full of hope; all the softness of the spring seemed to whisper to her that life is short, and love the one good of life. It was hard to have to renounce it all, and something in Desmond's expression, "a girl with enough heart to love a man for himself and not for what he could give her," seemed suddenly to cast a new light, and not a pleasant one at that, on her own motives and intentions. She was at once humiliated and angry; she admired Jack for his contempt of what she coveted, a hundred times more than she had ever done before; but while acknowledging his superiority to herself, she would have punished him for it if she had had the power to do it.

"And what is your last impression of me?" she asked, slowly.

Desmond had risen and was gathering up her hat and fan and cloak. "I shall not tell you what I think of you now," he answered, quietly.

"Why don't you say at once that you despise me!" she cried, impetuously. "Don't you suppose I understand what you mean?"

"No, I don't think you do," he answered, slowly. "I have loved you too well ever to despise you; but I am sorry, very sorry for you, Eleanor. I do not blame you, mind that! It is not your fault if I was fool enough to imagine in you qualities you do not possess. You may not be what I once thought you, but no one who sees you can dispute your charm."

The grave, dispassionate pity in his voice seemed to Eleanor to give the finishing touch to her mortification. A sudden fear lest she had lowered herself irretrievably in his eyes made her silent; a sudden disgust of her own aims, tastes and wishes kept her from speaking as they walked slowly back to the inn. The violets she had offered him had fallen unheeded at his feet as she rose to go, and a sharp pang of regret passed through her as she noticed his utter indifference to her gift. "Well, I have no one but myself to thank for it!" she thought, with a desperate effort at philosophy. "Better so. The day, or something in the strangeness of our being so long alone together, has made me weak and sentimental. I shall be myself again when I get home."

At the first turn in the road Desmond stopped suddenly. "Excuse me a moment," he said. "I must see if I left my cigar-case under that tree."

Eleanor sat down on the bank by the roadside while he ran quickly back to where they had been sitting.

"At least I shall have that much of you, my darling!" he said, half aloud, as he picked up her withered and bruised bunch of violets, and put them tenderly away in his note-case.

In another moment he was again at her side, and they walked quietly, almost sadly, back to Ostia. It was now almost six o'clock. The sun had sunk low down to the utmost verge of the mist-veiled horizon; long shadows were falling across the fields, and at the pasture-gates the cattle were crowded together, waiting to be driven home. As Eleanor stood in the court-yard of the inn, waiting for Jack, who had gone to see after their horses, a neat-looking young woman with a little child in her arms came up and asked for alms. Eleanor looked at her. "Is your husband living?" she asked.

"Yes," said the woman.

"Why does he let you beg in this way, then?"

It was a bad year, the beggar told her, and her husband was out of work; he worked at the quarries when he could, but nothing had been done there for a long time.

"Is he good to you? do you love him in spite of his doing nothing for you?"

He was the best man, yes, and the handsomest, too, in the village, his wife answered, flushing as she spoke. Eleanor hastily emptied her purse into the child's hand. "There are people in the world more to be pitied than you are," she said, bitterly. "What! back already, Mr. Desmond? We had better start at once, then. It is growing late, and I am afraid my aunt will be displeased that I stayed so long."

They rode slowly back towards Rome. The sun was setting in the golden glory that so often transfigures the last hour of a sirocco day.

"I wonder why it is that there is such pathetic suggestions in a net-work of branches against an evening sky?" said Eleanor. "Do you know, I never see the hedge-rows against a red sunset without feeling that somewhere, some time—ages ago, in another life, perhaps,—I have seen the same thing and been very unhappy at the time. I always feel as though there were something for me to be wretched about; they hint of some bygone grief which I cannot remember, and make me vaguely sad at the loss of some forgotten joy."

—[Conclusion next week.

A BIT OF COMMON SENSE.

BY KENNETH DUNN.

"THE busy days are crowding fast upon us," said ELLA with a little sigh.

"Yes;" answered practical ETTA, "and now I am about to deliver a short lecture;" sitting down and folding her brown hands over her smooth white apron. "Never do your work but once, ELLA, and then do it well. A great many people do their work over six, eight, or even ten times by so much thinking and talking about it; now to-day is Monday and you and I have been doing a heavy washing——"

"Yes;" I am perfectly conscious of it;" interrupted ELLA.

"The clothes are out in the sunshine drying," continued ETTA; "do not give them another thought until it is time to bring them in; if you are very tired lie down and go to sleep, if not occupy yourself with an interesting book; we have done enough hard work to-day, you well know mother does not expect us to do anything more until supper time. To be sure we must go to house-cleaning to-morrow, but do not let the fact *enter your mind* until after breakfast to-morrow morning; then it will not require more than ten minutes to plan our work, and one can see so clearly after a good night's sleep. Now work in this way, ELLA and you will soon find yourself singing all day long, instead of wearing that ugly frown upon your brow."

"Yes; that's just it;" said their father, who had been an amused listener to ETTA'S "lecture" opening the kitchen door; "there's a bit of common sense in that small head of yours my daughter."

THERE have been some radical changes in the last century. A hundred years ago they kissed a lady's hand; now you kiss her lips—that is, of course, if you happen to be behind the wood-pile and nobody is looking, and you don't want to disappoint her. It may take 100 years to get from her hand to her mouth, but we never felt that the time was misspent.—*Norwich Bulletin.*

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, New York:

Wych Hazel. By Susan and Anna Warner. [pp. 528. Cloth.]

HURD & HOUGHTON, Cambridge, Mass.:

Orchids. By E. S. Rand, Jr. [pp. 476. Cloth. Illustrated. Price, $3.50.]

MAGAZINES FOR MAY:

Wide Awake, St. Nicholas, Domestic Monthly, The Globe.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Riverside Press Centennial Guide Books.—1. Boston to Washington. [Cloth.—pp. 250. Price, $1.50.] 2. Washington; 3. Philadelphia; 4. New York. [Paper.—pp. 72. Price, 15 cents each.] New York: Hurd & Houghton.

THE Centennial has been provocative of a vast amount of useful knowledge in the shape of guide books, and under the pretense of illuminating the path of the verdant foreigner, we Americans will, doubtless, learn many facts about our chief cities, that we were quite willing, formerly, to assume to know, without much knowledge to support the assumption. With commendable enterprise, Messrs. HURD & HOUGHTON have produced a series of small books that are in turn histories, itineraries and guides. "Boston to Washington" is a condensed but succinct guide to the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, including the Centennial grounds, buildings, etc. The book is especially commendable on account of the very complete arrangement of the index, which leaves nothing to be desired as a ready reference. Rather too much space is given to the enumeration of obscure New England towns through which the traveler is supposed to pass, and although seasonable, it is of no great importance to know that South Framingham "is a manufacturing town, in which straw hats and bonnets are the leading interest." The plans of the cities, inserted in appropriate places, are a very great help to the tourist, and a feature worthy of commendation. In addition, there is a large colored map of the United States that fits into a pocket on the back cover, that is convenience itself. The smaller paper books, devoted to a single city, are merely reprints of the principal book, using such matter as pertains to the place under consideration only. As guide books our preference would be given to the latter. When we add that the mechanical execution and taste displayed in the style of the publication leaves nothing to be desired, and that the same matter is obtainable in English, French, German and Spanish at the same price, we have said all that is necessary to indicate to our readers the importance of supplying themselves with some such book, ere they visit the Great National Show this summer.

Hand-Book for Fruit Growers. By F. R. ELLIOTT. [12mo.—pp. 128. Rochester, N. Y.: D. M. Dewey.

WE always expect more from the pen of an author who has already done some good work than from a novice. With this expectation we opened the handsome little volume before us, and will add that on its perusal we were not disappointed. From the author's long experience he has culled much which will be of benefit to new beginners in horticulture, and has placed it before them in plain and easily-understood language. Of course Mr. ELLIOTT has his own individual ideas and opinions in regard to the manner of cultivating, as well as the merits of the different varieties of fruits, and while in some few instances we should disagree with him, still, upon the whole, he has not strayed very far away from the generally accepted conclusions of our leading pomologists. The lists of varieties given are quite extensive,—in fact, we think too much so—and the amateur or cultivator who may only want a few sorts will in some instances be puzzled to know where to begin and where to stop, in order to get just what he wants—no more and no less. But the methods of cultivating, propagating and planting, as well as the description of sorts, are given in so concise a manner that the reader will not be wearied by long-drawn-out theories—too frequently indulged in by authors who aim at producing more pretentious works. It is altogether a handy and valuable book for those who cultivate fruits for home use and market.

Official Guide to Philadelphia.—By THOMPSON WESTCOTT. [Cloth.—pp. 425.] Philadelphia: Porter & Coates.

THE publishers are to be congratulated on securing the services of Mr. WESTCOTT in this enterprise. Probably no gentleman is better qualified to tell all about the City of Brotherly Love, or be a more entertaining guide, philosopher and friend, than is the genial editor of the Times. The compilation is thorough and happy in its arrangement, and if any visitor goes away from Philadelphia saying he "didn't see much, any how," it will be through main stupidity. The engravings are especially noteworthy, as such careful work is seldom, if ever, found in a book of this character. In conclusion, we may say that the book must perforce be "regular," as it is official, and is approved by the Mayor over his autograph.

Sea Stories.—[Paper.—pp. 276. Price, 75 cts.] New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THIS book is a compilation similar in style to "Stories for the Home Circle," noticed below. The advantages of such works as these under notice are that, being carefully edited, a series of stories are presented for the amusement of young people, which are exciting and wholesomely sensational. They are happily free from any of the crude, demoralizing devices resorted to by contributors to so-called Boys' Papers, whose pernicious influence on the youth of the country can scarcely be overestimated.

Stories for the Home Circle.—New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. [Paper, 75 cts.]

WHILE the constant reader of the literature of the day would find but little new in these fourteen stories, the first reading of any of them would be both profitable and pleasant. They are the best of their kind, and are just the stories to be read, one at a time, in the home circle where reading aloud is a habit.

Sabbath Reading.

IF I SHOULD DIE TO-NIGHT.

IF I should die to-night,
My friends would look upon my quiet face,
Before they laid it in its resting-place,
And deem that death had left it almost fair;
And laying snow-white flowers against my hair
Would smooth it down with tearful tenderness,
And fold my hands with lingering caress,—
Poor hands, so empty and so cold to-night!

If I should die to-night,
My friends would call to mind, with loving thought,
Some kindly deed the icy hand had wrought,
Some gentle word the frozen lips had said:
Errands on which the willing feet had sped—
The memory of my selfishness and pride,
My hasty words would all be put aside,
And so I should be loved and mourned to-night.

If I should die to-night,
Even hearts estranged would turn once more to me,
Recalling other days remorsefully.
The eyes that chill me with averted glance,
Would look upon me as of yore, perchance,
And soften in the old familiar way,
For who would war with dumb, unconscious clay!
So I might rest, forgiven of all to-night.

Oh, friends, I pray to-night,
Keep not your kisses for my dead, cold brow.
The way is lonely; let me feel them now.
Think gently of me; I am travel-worn,
My faltering feet are pierced with many a thorn.
Forgive! oh, hearts estranged, forgive, I plead!
When dreamless rest is mine I shall not need
The tenderness for which I long to-night.

Littell's Living Age.

AT EVENTIDE.

YES, at eventide, we are all waiting for that, waiting, watching, hoping, for "At eventide it shall be light;" light that seems all the more bright and glorious because of the darkness before it. How often after the dreariest days we see the most lovely sunsets! Do we ever stop to think that the clear sunset is not the most beautiful? Far more exquisite is the one whose light is flashed back upon us by the clouds. So the life that has

—"Just enough shadow
To temper the glare of the sun,"

is more comforted by these words, "At eventide it shall be light," and to one whose life is nearly all shadow, this assurance is doubly sweet. To every one, with the thought of evening comes the thought of rest; rest, the real object for which we are all striving and longing. So to those who are most weary, the eventide brings the sweetest rest from the work of this world, and at the last—at the eventide of our lives—if we have faithfully borne the burden, we shall find "a rest which remaineth for the people of GOD."

RUTH MORE.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

GOD hands gifts to some, whispers them to others.

A MAN does harm to others by his actions, to himself by his thoughts.

As the earth is a point compared with the heavens, so are earthly troubles compared with heavenly joys.

PERHAPS there has been no simpler definition of faith than the one given by the late Dr. Bushnell, that "it is that act whereby one person—a sinner—commits himself to another person—a Saviour."

TRANSGRESSIONS of the Divine law constitute not merely the sin and sorrow of the individual, but the sin and sorrow of nations. Outside of Christianity, neither prosperity nor freedom will ever be lasting.

OF the 180,000 families which the agents of the Southwestern Bible Society have visited in Louisiana and Mississippi, 47,000 were without the Bible. There were 12,575 families visited in New Orleans, 3,511 of which had no Bible.

MORE joyfully look at the setting than at the rising sun. Burdens are laid down by the poor, whom the sun consoles more than the rich. No star and no moon announce the rising sun; and does not the setting sun, like a lover, leave behind his image on the moon? I yearn toward him when he sets, not when he rises.—*Richter.*

The making one object, in outward or inward nature, more holy to a single heart, is reward enough for a life; for the more sympathies we gain or awaken for what is beautiful, by so much deeper will be our sympathy for that which is beautiful, by so much deeper will be our sympathy for that which is most beautiful, the human soul.—*Lowell.*

YOU ask bitterly, like Pontius Pilate, What is truth? In such an hour, what remains? I reply, obedience. Leave those thoughts for the present. Act—be merciful and gentle—honest; force yourself to abound in little services; be true to the duty you know. *That* must be right, whatever else is uncertain. And by all the laws of the human heart, by the word of God, you shall not be left to doubt.—*F. W. Robertson.*

WE are surrounded by motives to piety and devotion, if we should but mind them. The poor are designed to excite our liberality; the miserable, our pity; the sick, our assistance; the ignorant, our instruction; those that are fallen, our helping hand. In those who are vain we see the vanity of the world; in those who are wicked, our own frailty. When we see good men rewarded, it confirms our own hope; and when evil men are punished, it excites our fear.—*Bishop Wilson.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

A BALLAD.

SIGH on sad heart, for love's eclipse,
And beauty's fairest queen,
Though 'tis not for my peasant lips
To soil her name between.
A king might lay his scepter down,
But I am poor and naught:
The brow should wear a golden crown
That wears her in his thought.

Her dress seemed wove of lily leaves,
It was so pure and fine—
O lofty wears, and lowly weaves,
But hodden gray is mine,
And homely hose must step apart,
Where gartered princes stand,
But may he wear my love at heart
That wins her lily hand!

'Tis vain to weep, 'tis vain to sigh,
'Tis vain this idle speech—
For where her happy pearls do lie,
My tears may never reach;
Yet when I'm gone, o'n lofty pride
May say, of what has been
His love was nobly born and died,
Tho' all the rest was mean!

INTERCEPTED LETTERS.

NEW YORK, ——— —, ——.

DEAR MARY:—Surely you must be mistaken about the date of my last letter. It does not seem possible that I have not written to the best of little women for a whole long month! I have been in a whirl of excitement, though, and have no more idea of the lapse of time than a wee kitten before its eyes are open. Such larks! You know TOM GAINES, that great, hulking fellow, who was so awkward and had a nose that—well, however good it might have been as an olfactory organ, was certainly not beautiful. Would you believe it, he has had a *nose-mold* made, and by perseverance is now the possessor of a very attractive-looking smelling organ? I found it out in a very curious way,—will tell you when I see you—and just accused the young man to his face of tampering with the work of Nature, and the dear old fellow—he's just as *good* as he can be—told me plumply all about it and showed me how it was done. He procured the machine from England. It is in the shape of the nose the wearer desires, and by placing it firmly on the soft cartilage at the end of the nose, in a short time the organ is modified so as to look quite nicely. He told me a great secret! There are molds for the fingers, too! And I am to have one, and if I don't have a first finger that would draw tears of envy from a duchess, it will not be for lack of trying. You know how horribly that finger of mine crooks. The mold reaches up to the second joint, and in time shapes the offending member divinely. But how I am running on! I sometimes think I am like that brook that some fellow speaks of. Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever, and such rattle-brain stuff, too! We have been to all the places of amusement, and, last week, GEORGE, auntie and myself went to the opera to hear BELOCCA sing. Gracious! such a "swell" affair as it was! You know I don't usually go out of my way or waste postage stamps to praise women, but I declare I never saw so many entrancing creatures in my life! How can men remain bachelors, I wonder?

You ask me about your hair—how to make it grow. I saw Dr. GRAY. You remember him. His mother was that stuffy, fidgetty old lady who never could sit still for five consecutive minutes. I just beamed on him—asked him if he did not remember that sweet little girl up in Rensselaer County. Of course he did. "Well," said I, "she is bald—true! the dear *enfant* is as bald as the American eagle—and she wants to know what to do." I suppose I shocked him. I am always shocking somebody. But, dear, you should have seen him blush. Yes, a man and a doctor actually blushing! (I believe he likes you, any way—always did.) He was positively picturesque in his confusion, but he surrendered, and here is what he said:

"Tell her to make a wash of equal parts of tincture of sulphate of quinine and aromatic tincture, and apply it regularly every day."

I know this is correct, for I copied it as he gave it. Now do this, dear, and let me know the result. I actually feel bald myself—from sympathy, I presume—and, until I hear from you, shall remain your expectant cousin, BLANCHE.

P. S.—I scarcely know what I have written; no time to read it over. Oh! I forgot. ANNIE JONES and HENRY MEAD were married Tuesday. I believe this is what I intended to write about. B.

P. P. S.—You would never believe it, but I now know why the ladies here are so beautiful! I have found that it is merely a toilet secret, and I shall in future give you some hints and recipes that will make even the ugly pretty, and you will be everlastingly the debtor of your own BLANCHE.

ABOUT WOMEN.

A WIFE'S SECRET—Her opinion of her husband.

HOMELY PROVERB FOR THE KITCHEN—Wishes won't wash dishes.

THE Governor of Iowa has appointed a woman chaplain of the Anamosa Penitentiary.

THE Queen of Madagascar collects her duties on liquors in kind, and empties the Government share into the ocean.

THE Senate of the University of Prague, the capital of Bohemia, has prohibited the attendance of women at the lectures.

IF you cannot inspire a woman with love of you, fill her above the brim with love of herself; all that runs over will be yours.

MANY a poor woman thinks she can do nothing without a husband, and when she gets one, finds she can do nothing with him.

A CYNICAL old bachelor says:—"Ideas are like beards; men only get them when they are grown up, and women never have any."

MRS. BETSEY PERKINS of Taunton, Mass., celebrated her ninety-fifth birthday by presenting $1,000 to each of her six daughters.

MISS MARIA MITCHELL, Professor of Astronomy at Vassar College, has been engaged to deliver a lecture in Cincinnati within a few weeks.

THE designer of the famous Cathedral of Strasburg, the finest building in Europe, was Sabrina von Steinbach, known as "The Fair Saba."

ANNIE WHITNEY has contributed statuettes of Roma and Charles Sumner to the Centennial. The only contributions in modeling yet received.

ONE of the ladies in waiting on the Queen of Greece is shortly to be married, and her *trousseau*, which has been ordered in Paris, is to cost about $200,000.

THE editor and proprietor of Truth for the People, Mrs. M. J. E. Millar, Detroit, Mich., will hereafter devote a large part of her paper to the Temperance cause.

OLIVE LOGAN boasts that she is the only woman on the American continent who knows how to manage a husband. Is her way the soft, persuasive way, or the rolling-pin way?

WILL the persecution of women never cease? The benighted Legislature of Kansas has gone and passed a law taxing lady dogs $2 per head, while gentleman dogs are taxed only $1.

"A ROMAN Hetor," said Bates, whose historical information comes by detail on the fly; "a Roman Hetor! Well, I s'pose she deserved it. No one but the Roman knows."—*N. Y. Mail.*

A YOUNG lady of this city dreamed she was in heaven, but saw no Boston folks there. They scattered in little groups, outside the gates, discussing metaphysics and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

AN exchange says that "pawnbrokers will advance nothing on a temperance pledge." And yet they know that the longer they keep such a pledge the richer they grow.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

A LADY who had her dress trimmed with bugles before going to a ball was asked by her daughter if the bugles would blow when she danced. Oh, no," said the mother, "papa will do that when he sees the bill."

FOR the first time in his life Brigham Young has discovered a weakness in polygamy. The other day thirteen of his wives gave each a different version of a certain event of which each had been an eye-witness.

A LADY of Sebago Lake, Mrs. Henry Chadbourne, has a valuable collection of relics. She has a cane and a silver knee-buckle which belonged to Washington, also a diary written during the Revolutionary war by an officer.

KANSAS, unable to compete with her sister States in the matter of girls with small feet, advances proudly to the front with a Cloud County lass whose foot measures eleven inches and three quarters, and challenges competition.

THE editor of the Charleston (S. C.) News has caught and locked up in his wood-house, for exhibition at the Centennial, a colored woman one hundred and fifty years old, and who has a living daughter aged one hundred and ten years.

THE wet-nurse of Napoleon III., Mme. Dubois Coppenceaux, died at Geneva on the 8th of January at the age of ninety-four. This venerable woman was born at Berney. Gen. Dufour often went to see her, and they always talked long and tenderly of "their child."

A LADY, Mrs. Sarah Bonney of Sterling, Mass., has shot and stuffed twenty-five choice birds of different varieties, and will send them to the Centennial mounted on an imitation of a laurel branch. Not a very bonny business for a lady—the shooting part.

A WOMAN is naturally as different from a man as a flower from a tree; she has more beauty and more fragrance, but less strength. She will be fitted for the rough and thorny walks of the professions when she has got a rough beard, a brazen front and hard skin, but not sooner.—*Blackie,*

A DUBLIN woman, jealous of her husband, threatened to drown herself in a tub of water that stood on the porch. "You dare not hold your head in it until I touch you," said the man. The excited woman at once plunged her head in the water. The husband waited too long, for when he drew her back she was dead.

WHEN is a lady's dress like an unfortunate bull-fighter?—When it is gored? And when is it like a partisan?—When it is biased. And when is it like a toper?—When it is full. And when is it like the sails of a ship?—When it is trimmed. When is it like a season of the year?—When it is lent. When is it no longer fit for use?—After she has once worn it out.

THEY put a bevy of good-looking ladies into a school meeting at Bennington, Vt., recently, at which some disturbance was expected from the boisterous element of the district. The result, however, was a cross between an old-fashioned town meeting and a Methodist love feast. In a gushing speech one of the speakers of the roughs declared that he never felt himself so near heaven in his life.

Reading for the Young.

TO THE YOUNG RURALISTS.

WHILE we must confess that no more pleasant duties than the care of our many young RURAL friends can possibly occupy our time, we are now obliged by severer duties to refer the girls and boys of the RURAL Brigade to our two estimable old friends, Uncle TRUE and Uncle MARK, who have spent their lives among the little ones and know well their ways and habits. From Uncle TRUE you may expect occasionally a prize, and from Uncle MARK you may look for a lesson once in a while.—ED. RURAL.

CHEAP EXCURSIONS.

A Letter from Uncle True.

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS:—Now you thought you were having a real good time among yourselves, with your "Cousins" and letters, and two columns of the good old RURAL each week, but I've been watching you, mind, and now I am a going to be young again and slip into the magic circle. The Editor was out to-day, and I slipped into his office and saw, oh! a perfectly lovely little pre——, no! I won't tell you what it was, but I took it and cramming a whole heap of Boys' and Girls' Letters into my pocket, walked out. Won't he be angry, though, when he finds out all about it? However, I got home, and I began reading what you all had to say. I declare I laughed right out, threw my crutch into the corner, hit the cat, who mewed like fun, and out came mother, who scolded the old man roundly for acting so "foolish like." But I didn't care. I just kept quiet after that and thought out a plan so that we can have some fun among ourselves this Centennial year.

Now you all say in your letters that you go to school and study lots of things, and that you like it, too, ever so much. I know you are real bright girls and boys, but if you go to school you must be getting a heap of learning, so to see how well you remember it I'm going to propose a little journey (of course, we can't *all* go to Philadelphia), but shall leave the *names* of some of the places *blank*. Now you are to sit right down, take your pen and ink, and *out of your head*, from memory, you know, *supply all the names I have omitted*. Mind, you are not to ask any of the old people to help you, for that won't count. The boy or girl who sends in to me, OLD UNCLE TRUE, care RURAL NEW-YORKER, New York City, the first *correct answer*, with all of the right names in the right places, WILL GET THAT PRESENT I slyly took from the Editor's desk, and also have his full name and address published in this column, as the winner of the prize. Now, here goes for

The Prize Journey.

I took passage on a big iron steamship at New York, and sailed across the —— ocean to Liverpool, in ——. Then I went by rail to London, and saw all the wonderful sights in that great city, not forgetting to call on Her Majesty the ——. Then I thought I would like to see France, and crossed the —— Channel to Calais in a dirty little steamer. The sea was frightfully rough, and I was awful sick. When I arrived at ——, the capital of France, I was delighted to see such a bright, gay city, and spent most of my time looking at curious things. I saw a beautiful column of bronze, made of cannon which the great Emperor —— took from the Germans and others; and after awhile I started for Switzerland, crossed the —— mountains into Italy, and went to see the Pope at ——. I didn't kiss his great toe, however, but soon left for Spain on a steamer that went down the —— Sea to Gibraltar. I saw at this place the greatest fortress in the world, now held by the ——, who captured it from the Spaniards when the garrison were all saying their prayers in church. Then I went to ——, the capital of Spain, on the river ——. Then I fell sick with a disease that we all have when far away from our native land, and I went directly ——. Well, where did I go?

Now, boys and girls, this is free to all. Put on your thinking caps, and write the names I have left out, and if I don't send something worth having to the smartest little boy or girl, my name is not OLD UNCLE TRUE.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Maryland Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—I have often thought of joining you in writing for the dear old RURAL, but I never fully decided until now. May I be numbered as one of the Cousins? I will have to wait and see if my letter is among the chosen; if it is, I will feel very thankful to the Editor. I was much pleased with "Critic's" letter, in RURAL of April 15th. I think what he said about tobacco chewers was splendid. You must excuse me for agreeing with you, Critic, but it was so much like my thoughts I could not help it; and I hope all the girls will agree with you, and let their tongues wag, as you suggest, and let you all know what they think of those that use tobacco. Now come, girls, let us talk to them about using it, not only chewing it, but using it in any way. I am sure it is not one of the accomplishments a young man has to acquire to win my favor. Who will agree with me? I tell you, girls, my GENTLEMEN (I do not say young men) that know you are not afraid to talk against using the filthy weed, will think the more of you for it. I do not mean young men only, but boys, for I call them gentlemen—if they do not make tobacco distillers or steam engines of themselves. I hope the Editor does not use it, or this letter may find its way into the waste-basket. I should like to write more, but am afraid this is too long now.—EMMA, *Spencerville, Mont. Co., Md.*

From a Virginia Lassie.

DEAR RURAL:—I thought that I would write to the Cousins. I see so many little girls' and boys' letters I thought I would write one. When I saw that letter from "Young Artist" I thought I would reply to her. I am a little girl and live in the country. I am eleven years old. I went to school in the winter, and intend to go three months this summer. I can do some house and fancy work; can milk, and have taken music lessons. I agree with "Young Artist" in regard to piecing quilts. I don't think I shall piece any more after I get the one finished I am now at work on. We are all very much pleased with the RURAL. Papa has only taken it since January. I always look at the Boys' and Girls' Letters the first thing. I think that "Young Potato Digger" must be a Yankee, or he could not have dug two hundred bushels of potatoes a day. I will let "Young Tom" rest for a while. Well, as my letter is quite lengthy I will stop.—ELLA MILLER, *Fairfax C. H., Va.*

From an Eastern New York Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—Pardon my liberty in thus addressing you—a stranger to you all. I have long desired to have a friendly chat with you, but the opportunity was not forthcoming, and I took the liberty to introduce myself. How many Cousins are going to the Centennial? It is most likely I shall be there, as Philadelphia is my home, although I am in the country one-half of my time. I wonder if we would know each other if we should happen to meet there! Won't Y. T. please write and let us know if we shall see his fair self there? I should like very much to correspond with M. A. B. Perhaps I shall try again at some future day. Now, dear Uncle, please look with favor on this. My P. O. address is—ANNIE LEE, *Coxsackie, N. Y.*

From a Western New York Boy.

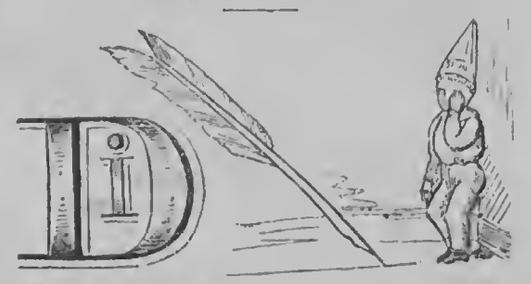
DEAR EDITOR:—This is my first effort in writing for the RURAL, and I don't know as it will be printed, but I will try and see what I can do. I have two canaries. One of them was sick and had fits; I went into the garden and got some chickweed and gave to them, and it got well and sings now; it did not sing any then. My father takes the RURAL, and has for five years. I am my father's youngest son; am twelve years old. I like the RURAL very much. Will some one tell, through the advertising columns of the RURAL, where I can get Toulouse geese eggs, and can they be sent by mail?—HENRY WELFARE, *Clifton Springs, Ontario Co., N. Y.*

From an Eastern New York Girl.

DEAR RURAL:—I have read the letters from the Boys and Girls with a good deal of interest, and especially from YOUNG TOM. I think he was pretty hard on us girls. What a funny description DELL B. W. of Rochester gave. I hope she will write again. I wish YOUNG TOM would write again. I don't think he can be scared out "as they say." I think you are very kind to publish the Boys' and and Girls' Letters. I am trying to live a Christian. —ELLA LA MONTE, *Richmondville, Scho. Co., N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 9.



☞ Answer in two weeks. PAUL BOYTON.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 9.

My first is in new but not in old,
My second is in silver but not in gold;
My third is in wind but not in rain,
My fourth is in barter but not in gain;
My fifth is in turn but not in pass,
My sixth is in water but not in glass;
My seventh is in groan but not in ache,
My eighth is in honey but not in cake.
My whole is a city on the Hudson.

☞ Answer in two weeks. E. L. H.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—No. 3.

1. A wooden tub. 2. Time past. 3. A short nap. 4. To discover. 5. To question. 6. The ocean.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—April 22.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS No. 8.—Concatenation.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA No. 5.—Hear counsel and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

TRANSPOSITION No. 4.—1, Naples—planes; 2, Spear—pears; 3, Grouse—rogues; 4, Hares—share; 5, Room—moor; 6, Plum—lump; 7, Lake—kale; 8, Snipe—pines; 9, Lover—rove.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA No. 3.—

R U R A L
U S U R Y
R U M O R
A R O S E
L Y R E S

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it 10 a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

THE NEW POSTAGE BILL.

THE following is the text of the new postage bill as passed April 12th:

Be it enacted, &c., That mail matter of the third class shall embrace all pamphlets, occasional publications, regular publications devoted primarily to advertising purposes, or for free circulation, or for circulation at nominal subscription rates, prices current, catalogues, annuals, handbills, posters, unsealed circulars, prospectuses, books bound or unbound, book manuscripts, proof sheets, maps, prints, engravings, blanks, flexible patterns, samples of merchandise, sample cards, photographic paper, letter envelopes, postel envelopes and wrappers, cards, plain and ornamental paper photographic representations, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, cions, and all other matter which may be declared mailable by law as third class matter, and all other articles not above the weight prescribed by law, which are not from their form or nature liable to destroy, deface, or otherwise injure the contents of the mail bags, or the person of any one engaged in the postal service. All liquids, poisons, glass, explosive materials, and obscene books or papers shall be excluded from the mails.

Sec. 2. That packages of matter of the third class shall not exceed four pounds in weight, and shall be subject to examination and the rates of postage hereinafter provided. The postage on mail matter of the third class shall be at following rate:—For all distances one cent for each ounce, or fractional part thereof. Every package of the third class of mail matter shall bear the postmark of the office at which the same shall be mailed for transportation.

Sec. 3. That postages on third class matter shall be prepaid by stamps. If, however, the postage on third class matter mailed at an office shall be less than the full amount above prescribed in cases where the sender is known, such sender shall be notified of the fact, and the amount of postage due shall be collected from such sender before the same shall be transmitted by mail. In case the sender is not known, and it has not been the evident intention of the party depositing the package to place less than the full postage thereon, such package shall be forwarded, and double the amount of the deficient postage shall be collected from the party to whom it is addressed or delivered at its proper destination.

Sec. 4. That the sender of any article of the third class of mail matter may write his or her name on the outside thereof, with the word "from" above or preceding the same, or may write briefly or print on any package the number and names of the articles enclosed. Publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print on the wrappers of news papers or magazines sent from the office of publication to regular subscribers the time to which such subscription therefor has been paid.

Sec. 5. That transient newspapers and magazines shall be admitted to and transmitted in the mails at the rate of one cent for every three ounces or fractional part thereof, and one cent for each two additional ounces or fractional part thereof.

Sec. 6. That this act shall take effect on and after the 1st day of July, 1876.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE House Committee on Foreign affairs are in receipt of a package of documents from the Emma Mining Co. of London, forwarded at the request of the Committee. The original letter of resignation of Gen. Schenck is said to be of the number. It is also affirmed that the letter is not in the handwriting of the aforesaid S., his testimony to the contrary, notwithstanding. If this is the case, the General will have another opportunity to explain his peculiar back memory on facts of peculiar importance. It does seem as if the memory is a very untrustworthy reliance.

Judge Lawrence, from the Judiciary Committee, has submitted a bill and report, which is intended to secure in full the repayment of the Nation's loan to railroads. A letter from the Chairman of the Committee, addressed to various railroad presidents, invites them to lay before the Committee within ten days their ideas on the subject.

The Committee on Ways and Means will shortly proceed to a consideration of the Funding bill, introduced by Fernando Wood, which, it is understood, has the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Committee has been urged to take immediate action on this bill, in order that the Government may avail itself of the favorable condition of the money market in Europe for the placing of first-class Government loans, and of the great amount of capital, especially in England, now seeking investment in a security of this kind.

Francis P. Blair's estate amounts to only five hundred dollars. He at least never used his many opportunities to make money dishonestly, and his poverty is a large item to his credit.

Queen Victoria is growing—well, less handsome than ever. She will visit the continent the coming summer, but cannot cross the ocean to visit our Centennial.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company is to build a new bridge across the Hudson, between Starbuck's Island and Green Island. It will be of iron, about 500 feet long, and will cost about $100,000.

There will be running and trotting races at the Buffalo Driving Park, June 13, 14 and 15. The purses aggregate about $2,000; entries close May 27. The summer meeting will take place August 1, 2, 3 and 4, and the entries close July 18.

There are said to be over a thousand pupils in each of the 42 school buildings in Chicago; the 36,983 school children of St. Louis are distributed among 54 buildings.

A dispatch from Allentown, Penn., says a terrible explosion of fire-damp occurred in the Nesquehoning mines on the 12th inst., killing three men and badly wounding five others.

The tow-boat Dictator, owned by Hues, Loomis & Co., icemen of St. Louis, dashed itself to pieces against the Hannibal bridge and dragged down nine men, who were drowned.

Bose, a mongrel yellow dog, is the mail-carrier between Minnesota and Dakota, sixty miles. He makes the trip for nothing, and boards himself, and never fails. There seem to be no competitors for the position.

Twelve thousand of the fifteen thousand dollars necessary, has been raised to complete the building for the display of dairy products at the Centennial.

About $5,500 in silver has been paid out at the U. S. Sub-Treasury, in Boston.

Mr. Welsh of the Centennial Board of Finance, states that the whole estimated cost of the Centennial will amount to $8,500,000, which is not dear considering the magnitude of the show.

The withdrawal by the Government of the permission hitherto granted American steamers to carry cargoes and passengers between Canadian ports, will affect steamers which have been for several years arriving at Halifax from Boston, and then proceeding to Port Hawkesbury and Charlestown.

A rumor was current recently in Baltimore that Don Carlos, of Spain, had arrived in Baltimore on the steamer Hibernian, which reached there from Liverpool.

The House Committee on Appropriations April 24, agreed to that portion of the report of its Sub-Committee on Postal Appropriations which relates to the salaries of post-masters. The plan proposed, as heretofore published, provides for a saving of about $500,000.

The figure of a calf in wood, the hide being indicated by nails of every size and variety, is contributed to the Centennial, by the Gottenburg (Sweden) Nail Fabrik.

The impeachment managers have filed with the Secretary of the Senate their surrejoinder to the rejoinder of Gen. Belknap. They reiterate in the name of the House and of all the people of the United States the assertions of their first replication to the plea of Wm. W. Belknap, to the effect that the Senate has jurisdiction to hear and determine the articles of impeachment preferred, and that the House of Representatives is ready to verify and prove the same.

Gen. B. avers that he can, if allowed, prove by accounts, etc., that the whole of the $320,000,000 disbursed by his Department, while under his control, can be accounted for to the last cent. Also that he never lived beyond his means.

The concurrent resolution to fix a common unit of money for the U. S. and Great Britain has been reported to the Senate, with a recommendation for adoption.

The failure of the City National Bank of Chicago caused great surprise to the Controller of the Currency. The latest reports from the bank showed it to be apparently strong, and nothing was known in Washington which led to a belief that the bank was not in sound and healthy condition.

Jonathan Palmer Loper, son of Commodore Loper of Connecticut, has been pardoned by Gov. Tilden. Loper was sentenced to State prison, about three years ago, for seven years, for arson.

By direction of the President the following changes in Supervisors of Internal Revenue have been made:—General] Seynell transferred from New York to New England; Supervisor Tuiton from New Orleans to Philadelphia, relieving Supervisor Hunt who is sent to New Orleans. The Commissioner has not received Supervisor Matthews's resignation, and has no reason to believe it is tendered.

The expert employed by the Printing Committee testified that after a searching and thorough examination of the account books of A. M. Clapp, Government Printer, he was led to the conclusion that the books were absolutely and entirely false from beginning to end, and that he could not make head or tail of the cash book. In this book he discovered errors in the footings exceeding $400, but still the cash account balanced to a cent. In addition to the amount reported as paid into the Treasury for wastage and shavings his calculation was that $60,000 was unaccounted for up to March 10, 1876. There were no entries of documents and materials furnished to private firms, amounting to several thousand dollars. The expert then showed that there was a far greater deficit in the transactions on account of paper purchased since the Senate investigation two years ago than before. The report also of the money turned into the Treasury appeared inaccurate in every item, and the Treasury accounts as compared with his own record of money received showed that there was a large deficiency unaccounted for. In regard to the bookkeeping at the Government printing office, in response to the question of the Chairman, the expert said he could have but one opinion of the bookkeeper, and that was that he was a scoundrel.

Drexel, Morgan & Co. are the highest bidders for the whole or part of the $5,853,000 known as the Alabama Claims Loan.

As Michael Turner of Amsterdam, was carrying Culver Patterson and John I. Snell across the Mohawk in a row boat, the boat struck the ferry cable, and all three were thrown out and drowned. Snell and Patterson were lawyers.

A hail storm passed over Topeka on Saturday afternoon, April 24, covering an area a mile wide and extending miles south, which destroyed all orchard and wheat crops. Not a single leaf, bud, or blossom was left, and a number of cattle were killed. In places the hail was eight inches deep and of the size of hens' eggs. Wagon loads could be scraped up thirty-six hours after it fell. Very little damage was done in the city.

The N. Y. Democratic Convention will send a a solid Tilden delegation to St. Louis.

Massachusetts Convention has concluded, at least the major part, that Bristow is about the sort of man honest Republicans will vote for.

The N. J. Republican Convention will meet at Trenton May 17th.

The impeachment proceedings progress. Belknap through his lawyers asked that the case be adjourned until December next. The Senate voted unanimously against it. Judge Black, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Blair, are the ex-Secretary's counsel.

In Macoupin county Ill., wheat looks well and prospects are fair for a good crop. Fruit seems to be all right yet, with the exception of peaches.

The Colorado and other mines have commenced shipping ores to the Centennial Exposition. One sends a single mass of ore weighing 4,500 pounds.

Mr. Blaine has made his speech defending himself against the charges preferred by Mr. Harrison of Indianapolis. Mr. H. says the country will hear from him again on this subject. He will make it Blaine to the dullest that he knows whereof he speaks.

A despatch from Chicago states that the rates over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and Erie line were on grain twenty-five cents and fifty cents on flour. Freights are very much unsettled, and figures as low as twenty cents were heard of.

The New Orleans people are afraid that Captain Eads's jetties are not the thing after all. They haven't improved trade nor reduced taxation nor increased immigration nor given every other man an office under Government, nor even given the city a navy yard, with an unequalled harbor on the ocean. These are sweetly solemn thoughts, and should lead to an immediate investigation of somebody or something.

Bernard Flaherty, better known as Barney Williams, the Irish commedian, died April 25th of paralysis, in his home at 41 East Thirty-eighth street, N. Y. He was born in Cork on the 19th of June, 1824. His father was a sergeant in the British army, and after his death Mrs. Flaherty and her two sons and three daughters emigrated to New York.

Judge Fullerton, of counsel for Mr. Moulton in his suit against Henry Ward Beecher, served notice of appeal from Judge Dykman's decision sustaining the demurer of defendant on Mr. Shearman, counsel for Mr. Beecher. The argument on the appeal is to be made at the General Term in Poughkeepsie on the 8th of May.

The new line to Philadelphia by way of Bound Brook and the Delaware river was opened for the public May 1st.

Senator Jones of Nevada has finished his great speech on the silver question, after speaking six hours in all. No speech of this session has attracted such marked interest, and few, indeed, of any session. Much of its effect was lost owing to the fact that he read from proof-slips instead of committing and delivering it off-hand. Nearly all the Senators congratulated him at the close, and for several minutes he received quite an ovation. Senator Sherman, Chairman of the Finance Committee, subsequently congratulated him in the open Senate with warm words of praise.

The New York Legislature adjourned on May 3.

The bill to equalize assessements upon real and personal property, by permitting a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court on complaint of any taxpayer that his property has been assessed higher than his neighbors passed the Senate.

Adjutant-General Wikoff has left Columbus, O., for Massillon to direct the movement of troops, which have been ordered to the Mahoning mining region, the civil authorities having informed Gov. Hayes that they are unable to render the requisite protection to the property of operators and the lives of miners who desired to work.

FOREIGN NOTES.

A DISPATH from the Barbadoes Defence Association of Barbadoes, to the West India Committee, London, says: "Riots have occurred throughout the islands. Plantations and houses have been sacked, animals destroyed, and an enormous destruction of property taken place. More than forty of the rioters have been shot. The troops are actively employed. The city of Bridgetown is threatened. Business is suspended and families are seeking the shipping for safety. The rioters say that they have the Governor's sanction for their actions. The immediate recall of the Governor, John Pope Hennessy, C. M. G., is requisite to save the colony."

The Prince of Wales and Prince Arthur (the Duke of Connaught) have arrived at Madrid. King Alfonso and suite awaited their arrival at the Southern Railway station, with a detachment of infantry forming a guard of honor. The King and the Princes, with their suites, entered the city in seven carriages, each drawn by four horses, escorted by the Royal Horseguards. On the arrival of the royal party at the palace they were received by the grandees of Spain, the Ministers, and Court officers, and the royal band playing "God Save the Queen."

The announcement of the end of the Insurrection in Algeria was premature. The insurgents recently attacked the French camp, but were vigorously repulsed.

Mr. Godlove S. Orth, United States Minister to Austria, and family, will sail from Liverpool for New York in the steamer Egypt.

A French farmer, near Bordeaux, to protect his crops from the frost, recently placed four large heaps of wood and dried leaves saturated with oil, in a four-acre lot, and set fire to them. They produced a thick, black smoke, which hung over the ground like a mist, and the temperature became two or three degrees higher than in adjoining fields. The cost was estimated at seven cents an hour for each acre.

A caucus of the National Liberals was held at Berlin to consider the bill providing for the sale of the Prussian railways to the Empire. No formal vote was taken, but the fact appeared that all except about six members of the party will support the Government.

The Hungarian Ministers, it is reported, will neither accept nor refuse the compromise, but demand further concessions from Austria. If neither Cabinet recedes from its position a change of government is inevitable and the situation will become critical.

The Egyptian troops have begun their homeward movement from Abyssinia.

They are still fighting in Central America. Down there they DON their armor without regard to SENORITY.

The Imperial Railway bill passed its second reading in the Prussian Chamber of Deputies by a vote of 206 against 165.

The Sultan has asked Egypt for troops and money to relieve the Turkish garrisons.

The plague is increasing in Mesopotamia. It is becoming a SYRIAS thing.

Count Von Arnim has been dismissed from the public service.

Another ironclad for the English navy; the INFLEXIBLE. The Princess Louise did the christening. It must have been a stiff affair.

The following telegram was received by the Colonial Bank from Barbadoes: "Forty persons have been killed and wounded, and five hundred prisoners taken. Rioting is suspended, but the position is threatening. Confidence in the Government is entirely gone." That immortal 40 must have lost confidence in themselves also.

The King of Dahomey has refused to pay the fine recently imposed on him for maltreating a British subject, and has sent an insulting message to the British Commodore, inviting him to visit Abomey, where he promises to pay the demand in powder and bullets.

The fate of the Egyptian army in Abyssina, seems to have fired the African heart.

A public meeting was held at Lyons, France, on April 30, which was attended by 3,000 citizens. A resolution in favor of complete amnesty was unanimously adopted. The Deputies of the Department of the Rhone were present. Great enthusiasm was manifested on the passage of the resolution.

The revolt in Algeria has been completely subdued. The leaders have been captured and are held as hostages for the good conduct of their tribes.

The following is official: "Mukhtar Pasha telegraphs that he has entered Niesic in triumph, after defeating the great mass of insurgents at Presjeka and occupying their intrenchments. Niesic has been revictualed."

At last the Turks seem to have made provision for prosecuting the campaign vigorously.

The Russian Government means to see that the insurgents and Turks shall have their little affairs out unaided, as the following despatch, dated St. Petersburg, April 30, shows: "The Porte has not asked for the armed intervention of the Powers, but merely their moral co-operation to prevent the insurgents from obtaining extraneous aid."

An imperial decree is published, restoring suffrage to inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine who, while electing to retain French nationality, are domiciled in those provinces.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, April 29, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	59,600	Rice, pkgs	678
Whisky	2,558	Cut meats, pkgs	6,122
Corn meal, bbls	1,611	Lard, pkgs	4,3 8
Corn meal, bags	2,421	Tobacco, hhds	2,570
Wheat, bush	651,000	do. cases	3,272
Corn, bush	395,000	Butter, pkgs	25,338
Oats, bush	125,200	Cheese, bxs	5,205
Rye, bush	10,200	Cotton, bales	10,276
Malt, bush	41,339	Rosin	4,952
Barley, bush	—	Spts. turn., bbls	1,305
Beans, bbls	736	Dried Fruits, pkgs	70
Grass seed, bush	1,328	Eggs, bbls	15,234
Beef, pkgs	1,408	Peanuts, bags	2,271
Wool, bales	771	Dressed Hogs	18
Hops, bales	581	Leather, sides	70,000
Pork, bbls	576	Sugar, hhds	50
Tallow	—	Oil cake	9,000
Molasses	—		

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 943 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 22,501 do.; same time last year, 8,391 do. Exports of peas past week, 28,100 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 312,511 do.; same time last year, 172,042 do. The receipts of beans have fallen to an inconsiderable quantity, and prime marks of mediums and marrows are a shade higher. Under-grades of mediums are still quoted low, and a foreign export is taking some of them out of stock. Pea beans are showing the first life they have had for many weeks. Kidneys are unchanged. Canadian peas are in light stock and steady. Green peas are dull for the season and prices are extreme. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.30@1.35; fair to good, $1.00@$1.05; prime mediums, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, 90c.@$1; poor, 50@60c.; prime marrows, $1.20@1.05; fair to good, $1.30@1.50; prime white kid., $1.50@1.55; other, $1.25@1.30; prime red kidney, $1.25@1.30; other, $1@1.15; Lima (Cal.), $2.50@3.00. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.20@; do., in bulk and bond, $1.00@; green, $1.40@1.45; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.70@2.75; split, ₱ bbl., $5.

BEESWAX.—Choice lots are scarce and favor the seller; sales at 36¼@37c for Southern.

Exports past week, 884 lbs.; since Jan. 1, 35,191 do.; same time last year, 1,742 do.

BROOM CORN is hard to sell and dull.

We quote: Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 6@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

The stock of brooms is quite large in this vicinity, and until we have the usual extra demand incident to the month of May manufacturers will not operate largely in corn.

BUTTER.—Enormous receipts and peculiar grades have kept the market in an unsettled state throughout the week. Nearly every day since our last prices would show variations in buyers' favor from A. M. to P. M. The market is fully 5c. per pound lower on all styles. Some of the best lines took the lead in the decline. The boats have marked 30c. and if the receipts of pails continues so heavy they will be again marked off, and of course other packages must follow them. The easy market has sent a good deal of stock to Eastern cities, still there is danger of an accumulation, as the principal portion of distributors for consumption will not buy largely ahead. Butter begins to have a tinge of yellow and the fact is a damaging one to buy stock, after the buyer has had a few samples of anything with the least grassy flavor. Receipts of Western are improving in quantity and color. Western white is slow of sale. That coming from remote points lacks the freshness of State. Old State is about out of market. A few lots of Western remain quoted at 15@22c. for poor to good. Grease 12@12½c.

New butter, Falls State, selected, 30@31c.; do., other 26@28c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 28@29c.; fair to good, 25@27c.; Welsh tubs selected, 27@28c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 26@—c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; Falls, Western creamery, prime, 30@—c.; fair to good, 27@29c.; Western tubs, good to prime, 21@26c.; fair to good, 20@23c.

CHEESE.—The trade generally are awaiting supplies of new. Meanwhile, prices here are altogether nominal for old stock. It would be difficult to get a bid from a shipper over 12½c., although there are some fancy lots in stock for which up to 13c. is asked.

New State factory, fancy, 12¾@13c.; fine, 12¼@12½c.; do. good to prime, 11¾@12c.; fair to good, 10@11c.; poor to fair, 6@10c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 12@12¾c.; good to prime, 10½@11½c.; fair to good, 9¾@10½c.; Western factory, cheddar, fine, 12¾@12¾c.; good to prime, 11@12c.; flat fair, 8@11c.; poor to fair, 7@8c.

COTTON.—Export trade has been light, and prices have fluctuated widely. Closing prices are for May, 12 25-32@12 13-16c.; June, 12 21-32@13c.; July, 13 5-32@13-16c.; August, 13 5-16@13 11-32c.; September, 13 5-16@13 11-32c.; October, 13¼@13 5-32c.; November, 13 1-16@13 3-32c.; December, 13 1-16@13 3-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 5-16	10 5-16	10 5-16	10 5-16
Strict ordinary	10 3-16	10 3-16	10 5-16	10 5-16
Good ordinary	10 13-16	10 13-16	10 15-16	10 15-16
Strict good do	11 9-16	11 9-16	11 11-16	11 11-16
Low middling	12 1-16	12 3-16	12 5-16	12 5-16
Strict low middling	12¼	12⅜	12¾	12¾
Middling	12¾	13	13 1-16	13 1-16
Good middling	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜
Strict good middling	13⅜	13⅜	14	14
Middling fair	14⅛	14⅛	14⅜	14⅜
Fair	15	15¼	15¼	15¼

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 7-16	Low middling	11 1-16
Strict ordinary	10 9-16	Middling	11 15-16

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—There is no business in this market beyond small lots on trade requirements, and prices are unsettled.

Apples—State, sliced, 9¼@9¾c.; do., quarters, 8¾@9c.; Western quarters at 8@8½c.; Southern sliced, 1875, prime, 9@9¾c.; fair lots, 8@8½c.; Tennessee qrs., 7¾c. Blackberries, 10c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@15c.; do. fancy, 16@17c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 20@21c. Exports of dried apples, past week, 175 bbls. Since Jan. 1st, 1,313; same time last year, 9,065.

EGGS.—A fair abundance of spring produce, including shad, curtails the egg trade to a considerable extent. Prices have ruled weak, and holders are free sellers with prospective free receipts. Duck and goose eggs very dull.

Near points, ₱ bbl., 17¾@18c.; State and Penn., 16@16½c.; Western, prime, 15¾@16c.; do. fair marks, 15@15½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 15@15½c.; Canadian, 15½@16c., duck, 23@24c.; goose, 30@35c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $4 ₱ lb.; in tin, $3.50. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras, 55c. The market for all oils is now very slow.

FEATHERS.—Dull at 54@56c. for prime live Western geese; 35c. for mixed.

FLOUR.—There has been a sharp pressure to sell, in sympathy with wheat, and at lower prices a larger export trade resulted.

Superfine State, $4.10@4.50; extra do., $4.90@5.50; superfine Western, $4.10@4.60; extra do., $4.90@5.70; No. 2, $3.00@3.05; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.10@5.25; trade brands do., $5.30@7.00; white wheat extras, $5.75@7.00; St. Louis, $5.35@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@6.25; Southern at $4.20@4.75 for superfine; $5.00@6.25 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.25@8.75 for trade and family brands. Corn meal selling at $2.75@3.35 for yellow Western; $3.10@3.30 for yellow Jersey; $3.00@3.35 for Pennsylvania. Rye at $4.10@4.65.

FRESH FRUITS.—The better part of the apple stock has been used up and lower ranges are now quoted. Strawberries sell well. Charleston have shown a fine quality. A few Norfolks have appeared, but were poor. Cranberries unchanged. Peanuts quiet, but expected to soon realize full prices.

We quote: Choice apples, $4.00@4.25; good, $3.50@3.75; fair mixed, $2.50@3.50. Strawberries, best, 70@80c.; other, 40@50c. Peanuts—Virginia, per bush., $1.45@1.65; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, standard crates, $4.75@5; good, $4.50; extra Jersey crates, $1@1.50; bbls., $14@15.

FURS AND SKINS.—The Leipsig sales all exhibited a low tendency compared with the London sales, and some of the finer items were withdrawn. New York quotations are:

Otter, ₱ piece	$6 50@ 8 00	$1 00@ 5 50
Gray Fox	1 75@ 2 00	1 50@ 1 75
Red Fox	1 50@ 1 75	1 25@ 1 50
Black Bear	10 00@15 00	7 00@10 00
Brown cubs and ylgs.	4 00@ 5 00	2 00@ 3 00
Fisher	8 00@10 00	7 00@ 8 00
Mink, dark	2 00@ 3 00	1 25@ 1 75
pale	1 00@ 1 50	75@ 1 00
Muskrat, spring	28@ 30	25@ 27
winter	23@ 25	21@ 23
fall	18@ 20	16@ 18
Kitts	6@ 7	5@ 6
Beaver, ₱ lb	1 00@ 1 75	75@ 1 00
Raccoon	68@ 80	40@ 55
Opossum	12@ 15	12@ 15
Skunk, black		75@ 90
striped		10@ 40
Wolf, mountain		2 00@ 3 00
prairie		75@ 1 00

GRAIN.—For wheat there has been a decline of 10@12c. ₱ bush. on the unfavorable markets abroad and depression at the West, with larger supplies coming to hand, reacting towards the close about 2c. ₱ bush. Latest sales at $1.23@1.23½ for prime No. 1 Milwaukee spring; $1.30 for No. 1 Minnesota spring, afloat; $1.21 for prime No. 2 Milwaukee spring, afloat; $1.20 for No. 2 do., fall inspection; $1.18 for No. 2 Chicago spring, afloat; $1.15 for Nos. 2 and 3 Milwaukee spring, mixed; $1.12@1.11 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring, afloat; $1.10 for No. 3 Chicago spring, afloat; $1.08 for New York "no grade" spring, and $1.44 for good white Michigan. Rye at 96c. for State. Barley at 1.09½ for No. 2 Canada. Corn is active at a decline; sales at 61½@61¾c. for steamer grades mixed; 60@63c. for ungraded mixed. Oats are lower; sales at 39@43½c. for mixed Western, and 48@52c. for white State.

HAY AND STRAW.—Receipts are less liberal, and, with considerable demand, prices favor the seller.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, $1.00@1.10; clover, 70@75c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.10 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 400 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 14,950; same time last year, 12,200.

HIGHWINES selling at $1.11.

HOPS.—The exports for the week have been only 430 bales, while the receipts were 887 bales. Prices have not been affected on the decreased business. Some of the choicest lines are held up to 20c., with 18c. bid. Fine stock shows to a meager amount in the assortments. We quote:

N. Y. State, 12@18c.; Eastern, 10@16c.; Wisconsins, 10@16c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 15@18c., ₱ lb.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 21@22c. for light, 23@24c. for middle, 23½@24c. for heavy, 19½@21c. for good damaged.

MAPLE SUGAR.—The supply is largely in excess of the demand. Grocers have bought very sparingly this season, and a week's dull trade gives quite an accumulation to this item. Fancy small refined cakes bring 11@12c., but wholesale lots of large molds will not exceed our last rates.

Choice new sugar, 10@—c.; fair, 8@9c.; old, 6@8c. Syrup, ₱ gallon, 70c.@90c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Frozen stock is still plenty, but does not often bring full prices. For fresh dressed the feeling is easy. Receipts from Philadelphia will be apt to fall off after the 10th of May.

We quote Philadelphia picked chickens at 18@20c.; capons at 33@35c. for large; 25@30c. for small capons and slips.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 18@19c.; Jersey, good to prime, 16@18c.; Slate, good to prime, 14@16c.; Western, good to prime, 13@15c.; fair to good, 11@13c.; poor, 4@9c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 18@20c.; State, good to prime, 17@18c.; Western, good to prime, 15@18c.; inferior, 10@14c. Ducks, Jersey, good to prime, 19@21c.; State, good to prime, 17@19c.; Western, good to prime, 16@18c.; fair to good, 14@16c.; poor, 12@—c. Geese, Jersey, prime, 12@14c.; State, good to prime, 11@13c.; Western, good to prime, 10@12c.; do., poor to fair, 8@10c.

Live poultry has ruled quite steady, with a fair demand for fowls. Turkeys are of poor quality and slow of sale. Spring chickens are lower.

Fowls and turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 13@16c.; do. Western, 14@16c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, 2.50@2.75; do. Western, $1@1.50; ducks, Western, ₱ pair, 70@80c.; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1.25@1.50; roosters, 8@10c. Spring chickens, ₱ pair, 60c.@$1.00.

We have seldom seen so large a stock of pigeons; quality good and low prices keep up an active demand. Wild ducks are no longer quotable. We quote:

Wild pigeons, feathered or picked, ₱ doz., 62@75c.; English snipe, ₱ doz., $1.25; plover, ₱ doz., $1@1.12; sand snipe, 30@40c.

PROVISIONS.—There has been a sharp decline in prices throughout, with a pressure to sell, partly occasioned by the heavy arrivals of hogs at Western points. Mess pork is quoted at $21.75@22 for spot lots, $21.80 for May, and $22.10 for June. Dressed hogs at 10¾@10¾c. Bacon at 12¾c. for Western long clear, and 13¾c. for city do. Western steam lard at $13.32 for spot lots, $13.25 for May, $13.40 for June, $13.60 for July. Stearine at 14¾@14¾c. for prime. Beef—Extra mess $13.00@—; do. plain, $12.00@12 50; tierced at $22 for prime mess, and $24 for India mess. City extra India mess, $27@28, and Philadelphia mess at $26.

SALT.—Quoted at $2.50 for Ashton's; $1.45@1.55 for Deakin's; $1.10@1.45 for Marshall's, Washington & Worthington's.

SEED.—Only small lots of grass have been placed at generally steady figures. Clover, 16¾@17c. for Western and State. Timothy at $2.65@2.70.

SUGAR (Refined).—Soft yellow, 8¾@9¾c.; soft white, 9¾@9¾c.; crushed, 10¾c.; powdered, 10⅜@10¾c.; granulated, 10¾c.; cut loaf, 10¾@10¾c.

TOBACCO.—There has been a fair export trade, and a generally steady market.

	Light. Cents.	Heavy. Cents.
Common lugs	4½@ 5¼	5 @ 5½
Good lugs	5¼@ 6½	6 @ 7
Low leaf	7 @ 8	7½@ 9
Medium leaf	8½@ 9¾	9½@10½
Good leaf	10 @11	11 @12½
Fine leaf	11½@13	13 @14
Selections	13½@15	15 @16

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @
Ohio, assorted lots	6 @
Wisconsin	6 @ 8

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 2,473 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 70,113 do.; same time last year, 32,773; of onions, 50 bbls.; since Jan 1st, 5,377; same time last year, 1,225. Liberal supplies of Southern produce cultivon the market, and prices are becoming popular. Bermuda stuff has had free quotations, and tomatoes are almost as low as canned. Old potatoes are dull; Southern new are declining.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., $1@$1.12; Peach Blows, $1.00@1.37; Prince Alberts, 75c.@$1.00; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $5.50@6; Florida, $3@5. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $5@8; red, $7@11. Squash, Marrow, bbl., $2.25@2.50; Rhubarb, $1.25@2.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@2.00; do. yellow, $1@2.00; do. white, $5.50@6. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 50c. Carrots, $1.00. Southern spinach, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1 50. Kale, $1@1.25. Charleston green peas, ₱ bu., $1.75@2.25; Savannah, $1.75@2.25. Norfolk cabbage, ₱ bbl., $1.25@1.50. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, 50@—; beets, $1.25 ₱ crate. Mushrooms, ₱ lb., 50@60c. Rhubarb, ₱ doz., 75c. Bermuda onions, ₱ crate, $2.00. Florida string beans, $3@5. Asparagus, ₱ doz., $3@7. Florida cucumbers, crate, $5@7.

WOOL.—There is still a dull and dragging market. It is difficult to sell other than small lots, prices for which are irregular and pressing the buyer. XX Ohio fleeces sold at 45c.; prime western Texas at 20c.; new spring California, 24@26c.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklock	50	@ 54
XX	47	@ 48
X	46	@ 48
No. 1	48	@ 50
No. 2	42	@ 45
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	42	@ 44
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	56	@ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	41	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	44	@ 45
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	41	@ 47
X	44	@ 47
No. 1	44	@ 46
No. 2	41	@ 44
Coarse	40	@ 43
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	31	@ 36
Coarse unwashed	27	@ 30
Bluffy	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, April 29.—Flour market dull: spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.25; white winter, $1.25@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 28@30c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 14@16c. Lard, 14½@15c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1.50. Potatoes, bu., 20@@25c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $23.50. Wool, 25@40c. Hay, $10@16. Straw, $5@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $9.00@9.50. Mill feed dull at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.50@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., April 29, 1876.

THE market for new cheese is in a very unsatisfactory state this week. The cheese in delivery, both from factories and farm dairies, was badly skimmed, and as such cheese is not wanted just now, sales were slow and prices low. The highest price offered was only 8c., and only two lots sold at that figure. Others were offered at 7@7c., but the bulk both of farm dairies and factories, was sent forward to be sold on commission.

About 250 tubs of butter were on delivery, and sales ranged at 28@33c., the bulk going at 31@32c.

The country roads continue to be in a wretched condition for travel, there being deep snow banks to pass over with wagons.

We have advices from Europe to the second week of April. Our London correspondent says:

English cheese is in fair demand, while American stocks are now in small compass and all inferior sold. Prices for American are very fine, with a good demand. We give quotations as follows:

The prices are for extra American, 66@68s.; fine, 65@66s.; good, 54@55s.; secondary and common, 30@40s. English cheddar brings 84@90s.; Wiltshire double, 70@80s.; Cheshire medium, 63@68s.; fine, 78@81s.; Scotch, 63@68s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 70@76s.; Gondas, 58@63s.

All the butter to hand has cleared at a reduction of 2@3s. from highest point.

Jersey sells for 136s.; Dorsets, 104s.; Danish, Kiel and Swedish, 124@140s.; Normandy extra, 150s.; American and Canadian, 90@100s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter, 80@120s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 29, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,371	19	1,195	5,021	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	31	157	1,795	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	11,679
Harsimus Cove	5,670	00	000	13,185	10,943
Totals this week	9,041	50	1,352	20,001	22,622
Last week	7,876	32	814	18,754	20,575

BEEVES.—Trade slow on a heavy run on Monday last, when prices ranged at 8¾@12¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5½@9 cwt. The quality of these herds was generally coarse, and ranged from poor to good, with only a very few choice quality top steers. Wednesday, trade firm at 9¾@11¾c.; weights, 5¾@9 cwt. Thursday, trade slow at 9¾@11¾c.; weights, 6¼@8¼ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak, with sales at 9¾@11¾c.; weights, 6@8¾ cwt. From 55@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt.; the largest number of cattle were sold at 55 lbs. net. The quality of these herds was from poor to good; only a few choice quality beeves came to hand; quality in general coarse but fat. Native steers, 8@11¾c.; grassy, 12@12¾c.; mixed herds, 10@10¾c.; dry cows, $18@57 ₱ head. Bulls on live weight, 4@4½c. Missouri oxen, 8½c.; Ohio, 9¾c.; Tennessee and State, 9¾c. Heifers, $10@11¾.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @12½	12 @12½
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—The quality of the cows to hand has not been good enough to meet the demand; sales slow at low rates; 15 cows sold at $35@72 ₱ head; 9 at $65@81.50; 7 at $120@15; 6 at $50@60—calves always included, save at rates below $10 ₱ head. Several springers come to hand and now sold at $60 ₱ head, less $5 on the lot.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade in smooth quality veals merely nominal 9@9½c. Course and poor quality calves in over-supply and very slow of sale at 5@8¾c. State calves sold at 5¾@8¾c. ₱ lb.; Jersey, 7@8¼c.; Pennsylvania, 6¾@8¾c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last the markets opened slow, with general sales in small lots. Shorn sheep sold at 5¾@6¾c.; woolly, 6@8c.; yearling lambs, shorn, 6¾c.; spring lambs, 16c. Wednesday, trade small and slow; spring, 10c.; yearling, 6½@6¾c.; shorn, 5¾@6¾c.; woolly, 5¾@8c., scant. Thursday trade firm, with a fractional advance in feeling; shorn, 5¾@6¾c.; woolly, 6¾@7¾c.; spring, 15@16c., also $7@8 ₱ head. Friday, the markets closed slow but firm; shorn, 4¾@5c.; woolly, 6¾@8c. Texan sheep sold at 4½c.; Colorado, 6¾c.; Missouri, 7@7½c.; Illinois, 6¾@7¾c.; Michigan, 7½c.; Ohio, $6.25@7.50; Jersey, 6½c.; State, 5¾@6¾c.; State yearling lambs, 6@6½c.; Jersey spring lambs, 15@16c.; Virginia, $6.

HOGS.—Wednesday last, 118 Ohio hogs, live weight, 162 lbs. ₱ head, sold at $8.10 ₱ cwt.; 142 do., 170 lbs., $8.56¾. Friday, 126 do., 195 lbs., 8¾c. ₱ lb. Monday last, city dressed slow at 10c.; Wednesday, trade active at 10¾@10¾c. Thursday and Friday trade fallen off at reduced rates—10¼@10¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade moderate; 18 head of poor quality light harness horses, $52@95 ₱ head; 22 ordinary, $115@150 ₱ head; 5 pairs heavy draft horses, quality fair, $100@150 ₱ head; 5 pairs choice, $300@450; 3 saddle horses, $170@255; 1 pair stylish carriage horses, $1,100; 3 pairs family, $400@650 ₱ pair; 1 brougham horse, quality coarse, $325; railroad horses sold at $120@150 ₱ head; stage line, $150@210 ₱ head. Seventeen horses arrived per Erie Railroad via Oak Cliff Station.

New Advertisements.

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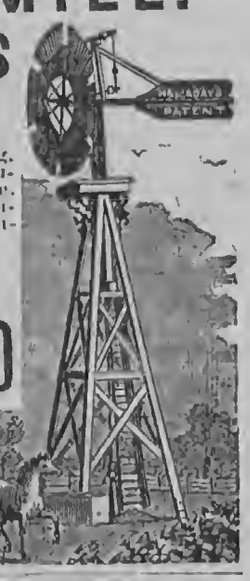

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

MR. MOORE is still in the city.

BARON DE SANTA ANNA arrived at Philadelphia last Saturday week.

WAGNER is not rich, though his notes are honored the world over.

DUMAS has written 300 novels and stories. He must have a large ink-come.

BRONSON HOWARD is to do the correspondence for the Detroit Free Press at the Centennial.

THE King of Holland has given $100 toward the erection of a Dutch Church in New York City.

MR. DONALD G. MITCHELL has been appointed one of the jurors at the Centennial Exhibition.

A NEW YORK man has had to pay a woman $5,000 for calling her "a withered-up old maid." Serves him right.

JUDGE DAVIS is having 1776 white oak trees set out around his residence at Bloomington, all on account of the Centennial.

CHARLES G. LELAND, well known as "Hans Breitmann," is about to publish a volume of "Pidgin-English Sing-Song."

JOHN MASON, an Englishman, who arrived in 1826 and has ever since lived there, is acknowledged to be the oldest pioneer of Oregon.

FOUND at last. It is Oliver Dyer, the author of the "Wickedest Man in New York," who writes the answers to correspondents in the Ledger.

MESSRS. JOHN JACOB ASTOR and William B. Astor have each recently given $25,000 to the funds of St. Luke's hospital in New York City.

GRACE GREENWOOD'S peculating husband has fled the country, and Grace is to be congratulated upon the departure of the graceless vagabond.

JOAQUIN MILLER calls A. T. Stewart's life "one long labor for the weal of man." In other words, the great shopkeeper merely looked upon man as a golden calf.

HATTON, the English playwright, has dramatized Hawthorne's "Scarlet Letter," and will produce the piece at Newcastle with Louisa Howard as Hester Prynne.

WILLIAM P. SARGENT of Boston, is about to build and present an elegant town house to Merrimac, his native town.

We trust Merrie Mack will enjoy it.

GEN. A. D. MARTIN of Walkill, N. Y., claims 250 acres in the heart of Newburg, under an old patent, and vows to get possession of it, too. The property is worth $3,000,000.

PROF. J. K. PAINE of Harvard, has been selected to compose the music for the Centennial Hymn, written by John G. Whittier for the Fourth of July celebration at Philadelphia.

HORATIO SEYMOUR says "Republicans have lost the confidence of the country and the Democrats haven't gained it."

Why don't they advertise in the "lost" column?

FISH COMMISSIONER SHAW of Anamosa, Iowa, is now arranging for a car load of young eels, which he will introduce into waters of Iowa. The eels will be brought from the South.

THE reason they style him "Dom," and not "Don" Pedro, is because Don is Spanish, and the language of the Brazilian Emperor is Portuguese. In each case it is derived from the Latin word *dominus*, lord.

THE Empress of Brazil has gone into mourning for the death of her husband's aunt, the Princess Isabella of Brazil, and was therefore unable to attend the Centennial Ball at the Academy of Music in New York.

IN pursuance of instructions from the Mayor, the Treasurer of Richmond, Va., has paid the bill for gas used last month by the post-office.

As there was no political Convention assembled, the bill was probably light.

JOHN D. HARVEY of Watch Hill, R. I., one of the heroes of the Metis disaster, who received a gold medal from Congress for bravery in saving life, died recently from lock-jaw.

What an excellent political disease that would be!

LI PO TAI, a Chinese physician, is the richest Chinaman in California. He owns $75,000 worth of real estate.

This statement, possibly agrees with the first part of the Celestial's name, if accounts of their habits of sending their money home are correct.

ANNA DICKINSON really is going on the stage this time. The theater is the "Globe" of Boston, and the play "Anne Boleyn." It is hinted, moreover, that Miss Dickinson will appear as "Beatrice" in "Much Ado About Nothing," if she finds herself equal to the demands of her new profession.

MR. WIRT HENRY of Virginia, a grandson of Patrick Henry, has aided in contributing a number of ancestral portraits, books and medallions to the historical department of the Centennial Exhibition.

A great many will contribute medallions. Half dollar size.

MARYLAND has decided that women must not become lawyers. That settles it. Now then, pass a law that men who are supported by women shall be considered vagrants.

Dictionary for "vagrant" is "moving without certain direction." Men only do this under *spiritual* influence. Wonder if that is what the writer means.

THE Hon. E. J. Ellis, M. C. from Louisiana, and Colonel Horatio C. King, Publisher of the Christian Union, have been invited to act as orator and poet respectively at the general reunion of the Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Philadelphia, in June.

H. C. K. used to be *Hon.* Strange how titles float about. Can't account for it except on the germ theory. A germ may be a Kernel we believe.

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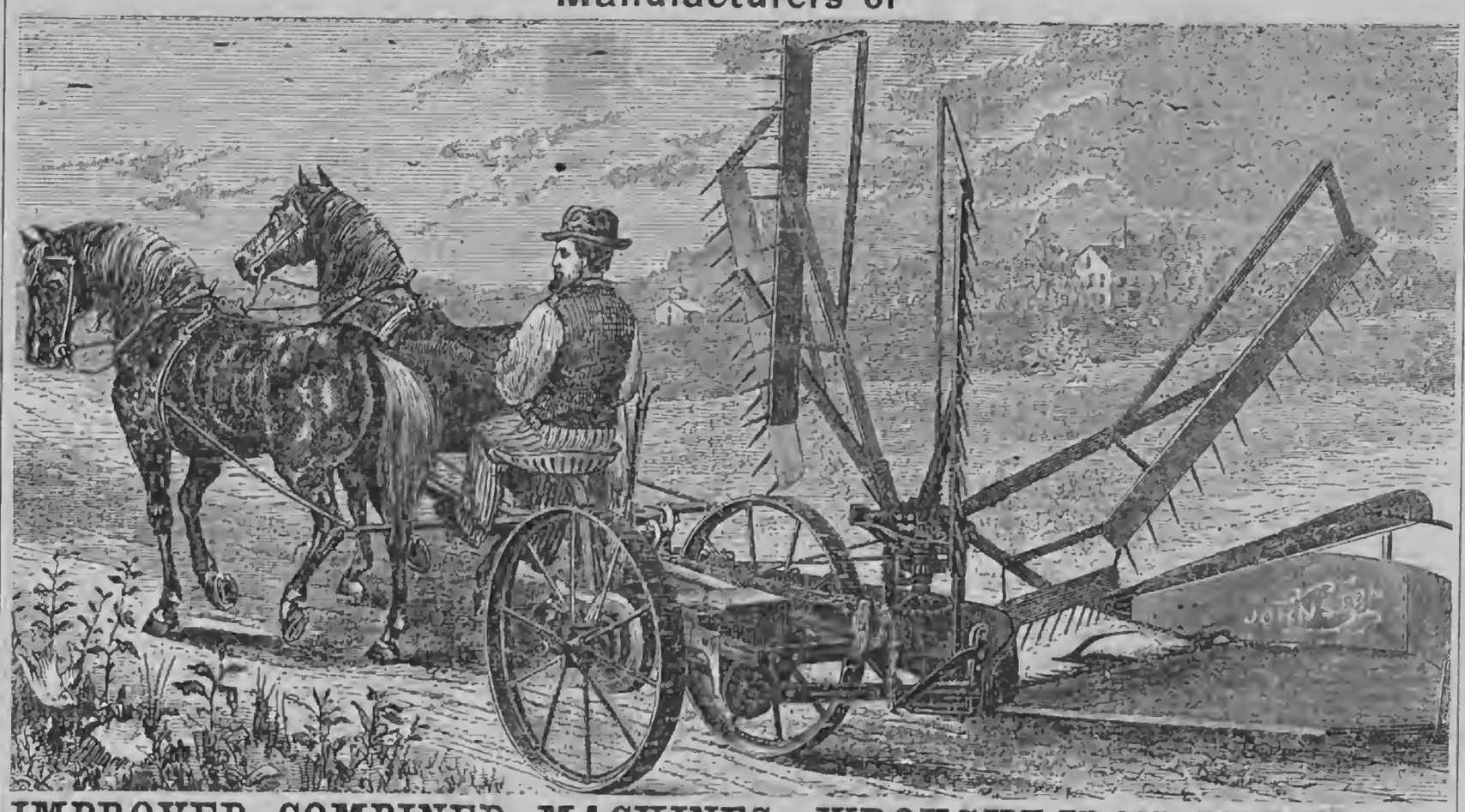

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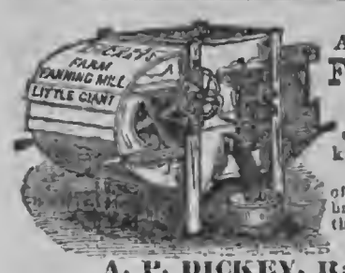

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We propose to hereafter devote a corner in these pages to answering questions relating to Rural affairs. Each correspondent is requested to send his (or her) full address, not necessarily for publication, but to enable us to be more explicit in giving the information desired. For instance, if a man should ask, "What is the best hedge plant for me to use?" it would be well for us to know in what part of the country he resides, for the one best adapted to the climate of Georgia might be valueless in Wisconsin. Correspondents may sign any name or initial they choose to their communications, but their full name and post-office address must also be added for the above-named reason, as well as an assurance that their questions are asked in good faith and for the purpose of obtaining needed information.

Mrs. Mary L. Faunce.—The Chinese fruit to which you refer under the name of "Lychee" is unknown to us, at least we do not know it by that name. If you have a specimen to spare, it would be very acceptable.

D. Clark.—The article to which you refer appeared in the RURAL NEW-YORKER for March 17, p. 187, under the heading of "A Cure for Obesity." The plant recommended to be used for making a drink to reduce flesh is our common "Sea Wrack," or Sea Weed (*Fucus versiculosus*). Many years ago, Dr. RUSSELL recommended applications of this plant for scrofulous swellings, but Sea Wrack tea for obesity is probably a modern discovery.

A Subscriber.—Before attempting to lay out a cemetery, you should consult some of the various works on landscape gardening, and also visit some of the old and most noted cemeteries in the country, such as Greenwood and Mount Vernon. The old geometrical system of square plats and walks at right angles is not just the thing for either cemeteries, private grounds, or public parks. Whatever plan is adopted, it should be made from careful surveys of the grounds, in order to be in keeping with the natural outlines and undulations of the surface.

Young Entomologist.—It is not known just how many different species of insects there are in the world, but we can safely say half a million. Probably not one-half of our native species in any one order has yet been named and described, therefore there is plenty of room for both old and young entomologists to work for fame and pleasure. After all the different species have received names and been described, then comes the more difficult part of the whole, *i. e.*, to discover and learn their habits or life history. There is need of at least one thousand more earnest workers in this field, in order that we may know more of the history of our common noxious and beneficial species.

Subscriber.—A good double-handful of leached ashes will answer for each hill of corn, and one-half the quantity if the ashes are unleached and fresh. It is also well to top-dress the hills with ashes after the corn is up, say six inches to a foot high.

J. C.—If you look close, the eggs of frogs will be found quite abundant in the ponds, usually in rather compact, glutinous masses. But do not forget that "tadpoles" are hatched from the frogs' eggs, and then in turn become what we call frogs.

L. A. R.—The yellow flower with filiform leaves now in bloom in your garden, is *Adonis vernalis*. The common name of this pretty little spring flower is Pheasant's Eye.

C. P.—The fine story going the rounds of the press in regard to the "new use for chicken feathers," sounds very pretty and looks very reasonable, but we do not think you need try saving those plucked from the fowls killed for market, expecting to find ready sale and at a good price. We think the supply in France is equal to the demand, and no large quantity will be wanted from this side of the Atlantic.

E. P. B.—Hungarian grass is cultivated to a reasonable extent in some few localities for fodder. It is sown in spring about the time of planting corn, about one half bushel of seed sown per acre. When cut for hay, the mowing should commence as soon as the flowers are seen on the heads, for if allowed to pass much beyond this point, the stalks become hard and the fodder will be of inferior quality.

Jno. M. W.—You will probably find no better very early potato than the Early Rose or Early Vermont. We have had some experience with these and other early sorts and class them among the best. They are especially valuable for the more Northern States, and succeed well in New Hampshire and Vermont.

E. C.—Yes; there is a variety of strawberry called the Brooklyn Scarlet. It is one of the handsomest of the scarlet sorts and of extra fine flavor, but, unfortunately, not very productive, unless planted in very rich soil.

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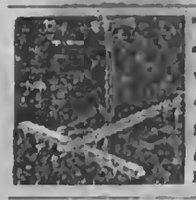

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THAT balky animal, the lobster, (says the New York Herald) which blushes in hot water, into which it is always getting, will have a short crop of itself this year, owing to the storms.

A LADDY who had an offer of marriage from a Mr. Moore, wrote to him and asked for time to consider the matter. The letter was courteous and brief, closing with "No more at present."

"I DOESN'T want no lawyer; I'se gwine to tell de troof dis time," is what a regular customer of the Recorder's Court told his Honor when that functionary inquired if he had engaged legal assistance.

LADY—"Now, Mr. Snapper, as I saw you at church last Sunday, tell me what you think of our new preacher?" Mr. Snapper—"I think he would be a first-class martyr at the stake?" Lady—"Why so, Mr. Snapper?" Snapper—"Because he is so very dry."

A SLIGHT mistake at christening—Clergyman (who has forgotten the day of the month)—"Let me see; this is the—ah—thirteenth, I believe?" Fond mother (not catching the idea exactly, but thinking of her family)—"Why bless your stars! No, this is only the eleventh!"

JUXTAPOSITION.—The approved style of announcing weddings wrought a very significant combination in a Versailles, Georgia, exchange of a recent date. Mr. Harry L. Cramp was married to Miss Nettie Kollock, and a paragraph to that effect was headed "Cramp—Kollock."

AN ardent lover was once pressing his suit. The lady said:—"I like you exceedingly, but I cannot quit my home: I am a widow's darling, and no husband could equal my parent in kindness." "She may be very kind," replied the wooer; "but be my wife, we will live together, and see if I don't *beat your mother*.

"CLASS in the middle of geography, staud up," said a schoolmaster. "What is a pyramid?" he asked. "A pile of men in a circus, one on top of the other." "Where's Egypt?" "Where it always was." "Where's Wales?" "All over the sea." "Very well," said the schoolmaster, "stay there till I show you a species of birch that grows all over the land."

IT is well enough to talk of elevating the tone of social conversation, but when a well-meaning young man tries to introduce protoplasm as a subject, at a little gathering, and finds that everybody thinks he is referring to a new kind of plaster, and considers him indelicate in doing so, he is apt to feel that the life of the reformer is a kind of perpetual picnic on an ant-hill.—*Norwich Bulletin.*

FOX'S PAY DAY.—Charles Fox had an unfortunate creditor who insisted that he would not leave until a day for payment was named. "Will you go, then?" asked the mininister. "Yes, and not trouble you until the day arrives," replied the dun. "Well, then," said Fox, slowly. "I will pay you on the day of judgement. But stop; as that will be a very busy time, let us make it the day after."

WELL CONNECTED.—John Bannister, the commedian, was presented to an old lady proud of ancient and noble blood. The old lady asked a wit of the day, who was present. "Who are the Bannisters? Are they of a good family?" "Yes," said the wit; "very good indeed; they are closely connected with the *Stairs*." "Oh," said the lady, "a very ancient family of Ayrshire—dates back to 1450; I am delighted to see your friend."

ANGELS MOLTING.—A teacher in a Sunday school, says the New York Evening Post, was explaining to his class of boys the meaning of "Jacob's ladder," when one of the number, more inquisitive than attentive, inquired;—"If the angels had wings what was the need of a ladder for them?" This was a poser, and while he was meditating a reply and unable to answer, another boy exclaimed, "I'll bet I can tell what they used the ladder for." "Out with it, then," said the teacher. "Oh, I guess they were molting."

GAVE IT UP.—The custom of appointing young lawyers to defend pauper criminals, says the San Antonia (Texas) Herald, received a backset the other day in our District Court. His Honor, Judge Noonan, had appointed two young lawyers to defend an old and experienced horse-thief. After inspecting his counsel for some time in silence, the prisoner rose in his place and addressed the Bench. "Air them to defend me?" "Yes, sir," said his Honor. "Both of 'em," inquired the prisoner. "Both of them," responded the Judge. "Then I plead guilty," and the poor devil took his seat and sighed heavily.

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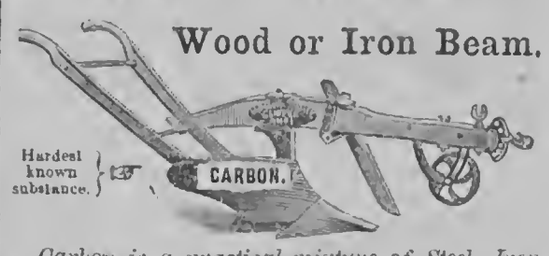

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EXCELSIOR

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RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

SICKELS DEL.

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Pomological.

SOME APPLES OF A CENTURY.

RETROSPECTIVE investigations by laborers in any branch of science or art, are often necessary in order to prevent them from becoming too egotistical and confident in their real or supposed advancement.

Our pomologists are not wholly free from a taint of a self-laudation of their great progress, and while we are not disposed to check enthusiasm, which tends to promote the happiness or welfare of the masses or even individuals, still it may not be amiss in this, our Centennial year, to take a retrospective glance over the past century and note some of the important changes which have taken place in the production of certain kinds of fruits.

The apple being one of the most familiar and valuable fruits in Europe and America, it well represents our progress in pomology generally. It is now over one hundred years since the Ribston Pippin apple originated, as is supposed, in England, for in 1875 there were grafted trees of it for sale in the Brompton Nurseries propagated from the original tree growing at Ribston Hall, near Karnesborough.

We name this variety not only on account of the great popularity which it has since obtained, but because through its once apparent decline in England for a period of years, came the oft-discussed theory of natural deterioration of all cultivated fruits.

For some unknown cause, nearly all the trees in England were, during the early part of the present century, affected with a disease which bid fair for a while to prevent the further propagation or culture of this then famous apple.

THOS. ANDREW KNIGHT, a noted English pomologist, while trying to discover the cause of the disease, came to the conclusion that the Ribston Pippin was really dying of old age, and all its progeny must necessarily go with their parent. Singular, and we might almost say absurd, as such a theory was, there were many to accept it as a true solution of the mystery which surrounded the decline of this old and popular variety.

A few years later, however, we find the Ribston Pippin again recommended as one of the very best varieties in cultivation, and to this day it is seldom left out of the most select lists of dessert apples.

Its introduction into this country dates from almost its first advent into orchard culture in England, and the accompanying illustration is from a specimen grown in Illinois, which is slightly more elongated than the usual type of this variety.

For one hundred years this apple has ranked among the best, and the late A. J. DOWNING said that in Great Britain it stands as high as the Bank of England.

In this country it has never been valued as highly as in its native clime; still we think a variety which can show so old and valuable a record is worthy of being placed high up in the Centennial Roll of Honor.

The old Rhode Island Greening, Newtown Pippin, Baldwin, Tompkins County King, and many other popular sorts, will probably remain in cultivation and be exhibited at our bi-centennary celebration. For our part, experience shows that there is little room for progress, except in the production of varieties adapted to certain conditions or climates. In seeking this, quite a marked progress has been made during the past few years, and in no one direction is it more apparent than in what are termed

SIBERIAN (OR CRAB) APPLES.

It is not many years since our list of these apples was made up of a half-dozen small and scarcely edible sorts, raised from the small wild apple of Northern Europe.

The varieties of the common *Pyrus malus* having in the main proved too tender for the more Northern and Northwestern States, our pomologists were compelled to seek a more hardy species, and this was found in the *Pyrus prunifolia*, or Siberian Crab-apple. For a number of years only acid varieties were produced, and some of our fruit-growers began to despair of a sweet sort in this species; but it came at last, and now there are several very excellent ones in cultivation. One of the very best, if not the best, is the Van Wyck, shown in the accompanying illustration. It originated near Fishkill, N. Y., and was first brought to notice and described by us in 1869. Since that time it has been propagated and widely disseminated. We have several trees of it growing in our grounds, and they give promise of being very vigorous and productive.

The Van Wyck is quite large for a Siberian, the skin white shaded and mottled on the side exposed to the sun, with light red. The flesh is tender, sweet and rich. Ripens in September and October. We consider it one of the most beautiful and valuable of all the sweet sorts.

SWEET SIBERIAN CRAB APPLES.

"HYBRIDIZING" GRAPES AND OTHER FRUITS.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Will you please give your opinion on hybridizing grapes and other fruits? It is a well-known fact that when the seeds of any variety of grape, strawberry, etc., are planted, that in no case, if not hybridized, do we ever get any variety that is an exact counterpart of the parent vine or plant, and to obtain an improved variety one has to grow thousands of seedlings, and often when that number is grown not a single new variety is produced worth cultivating, even when the parent is of excellent quality. The question, then, is, Can the seeds of one variety be so affected by fructification from another variety as to produce vines embracing the good qualities of both, when the seed of each, sown separately, without any attempt at hybridizing, will fail to reproduce, except in very rare cases, the good qualities of the parent vine or plant? I am inclined to believe that this whole theory of hybridization, in every shape and manner, is fallacious — that the fructification of the flowers of one variety with the pollen of another does not, and cannot, affect the seeds of the variety thus fructified so as to cause the seedlings grown from them to partake in any degree of the qualities of the vine or plant from which the fructifying pollen was taken, and that all so-called "hybrids" are mere chance seedlings; yet I may be mistaken, and therefore ask your opinion.

FRUIT-GROWER.

Plants in a state of nature vary but slightly from generation to generation, still we may safely assert that Nature never produces two things *exactly* alike. This natural tendency to vary increases as we bring plants under domestication, until after a few generations the original type is frequently so nearly obliterated that it becomes difficult to trace back the lineage or discover any positive characteristics of original parentage.

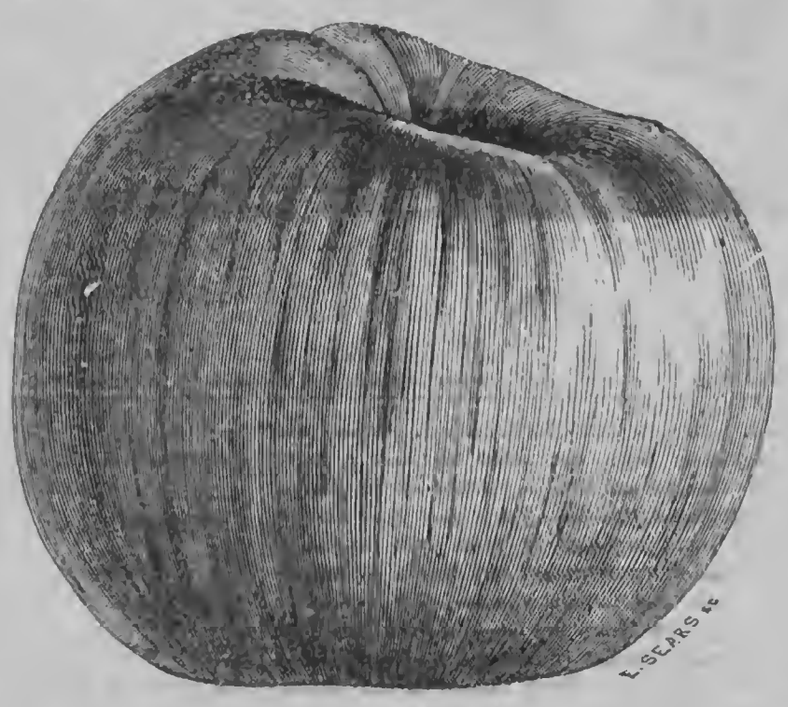
It is this tendency to extreme variations in plants under domestication which leads many a novice in horticulture to believe his maiden efforts in hybridizing and crossing have been successful, when the same results would have followed had no artificial impregnation been attempted. Still, with all the mistakes which have been made and the false claims set up for the parentage of *pseudo* crosses and hybrids, we think there are some genuine productions of the kind among our lists of new fruits. In other words, we think that direct crosses and hybrids have been and can be produced among plants as well as animals. The sexes in the former are, as a whole, as well defined as in the latter, and by proper and careful manipulation the end sought is probably readily attained.

But ordinarily the novice in horticulture is too ready to believe that the results of experi-

ments accord with his aims and desires at their commencement. For instance, should he wish to produce a cross between a white and a red apple, choosing the latter for the female parent, and then proceed with fertilizing the pistils in the usual manner, afterward sowing and planting the seed of the fruit, the result being a white or light-colored sort from a dark one, he might be led to suppose his object had been attained. But there would really be no certainty that the effect of cross-fertilization had caused the change in color or in any other characteristic, for the simple reason that nearly all of our cultivated fruits are the results of many hundreds of crosses in the past generations, and the seedlings therefrom are liable to vary naturally in all directions without artificial impregnation.

We obtain light-colored strawberries from dark-red ones, white apples from red, white grapes from black, and so on to the end of the chapter—all from seed gathered indiscriminately and without previous cross-fertilization of the flowers.

It is quite probable that a man who proceeds in a scientific manner to obtain a cross between two varieties would be more likely to accomplish it than one who runs the chances of insect aid in cross-fertilization, still it requires very great care in order to be certain as to results.



THE RIDSTON PIPPIN.

Field Crops.

POTATOES FROM SEED.

In a recent pamphlet entitled "a Treatise on the Cultivation of the Potato," by James Torbitt of Belfast, Ireland, the author quotes the essays of the late Andrew Knight, in the Transactions of the Horticultural Society, of which he was the President, in which he describes the experiments leading him to the conclusion that "every cutting will be affected by the state of the parent stock," none vegetating with vigor much, if at all, beyond the life of the parent stock, provided that died from old age." The mode of propagating potatoes by tubers or sections of a tuber is equivalent to the propagation of a plant by cuttings. The potato has attained its full duration of life, and it, with all parts cut from it, is old, worn out, and moribund: liable, therefore, to the attacks of parasites, disease, evil influences of all kinds. New life must begin for it before we can expect its original vigor to return. Let us propagate new sorts from seed, and we shall probably alight on sorts vigorous enough, as of old, to resist the attack to which the potato has since succumbed.

That is the theory. "At the meeting of the British Association at Belfast, in the summer of 1874," says Mr. Torbitt, "I stated my opinion, that the sexual combination resulting in the birth of the seed, formed the true and only starting point of the life of the individual; that plants propagated by their buds were yearly growing older, and that the process of cutting them to pieces and planting them in the earth could not, therefore, be carried out for ever. And I illustrated my statement by the following experiment:- In the spring of 1873, I planted the cutting of a vine; in the spring of 1874 it had put forth its adventitious roots and leaves. I then took it up, divided it longitudinally into two equal parts, cutting down exactly through the center of the pith, and leaving to each half an equal quantity of roots and leaves. I planted it in separate pots, and exhibited it growing healthily to the Biological Section of the Association.

I argued that it was only one individual, as regards the duration of life; that neither half had received any accession to its original stock of life—obtained a new birth or new starting point of life—and that if cutting a plant into two equal parts did not effect a new birth, neither could cutting it into two unequal parts, and calling one the stem and the other the cion, do so. I pointed out that the potato, when propagated by the 'set' for a series of years, undergoes a change; that in the season of its bloom, here and there a pedicel breaks at its junction with the calyx, the flower drops off, and a berry, which should have contained from 75 to 100 seeds, is wanting in that cluster; that when so propagated for a further season of years, all the pedicels break, and the plant becomes utterly sterile, the condition to which the Skerry Blue is now reduced; that when so propagated for another series of years, it becomes unable to reproduce its organs of reproduction, and the fields become completely flowerless, the state to which the Cruffle and others are now reduced; and I predicted that in a few years more the 'sets' of these old, flowerless plants would fail to germinate, they would rot in the earth, and that this death from old age would be supposed to be a disease, and be called, as heretofore, the 'miss.'

"I further inferred that as the potato became aged it became so weak as to be unable to resist the attack of the parasite whose growth in the body of the plant forms the disease, and that in order to extirpate the parasite it would be necessary to grow young, vigorous plants from the seed."

QUANTITY OF SEED PER ACRE.

There are various opinions held by farmers and gardeners in regard to the quantity of seed required for an acre of our common field crops, still the numerous tables published differ but slightly. The Maryland Farmer gives the following, which we think is not far out of the way and will doubtless be useful to our readers. Some of the estimates are not in accordance with our ideas, as, for instance, potatoes, but it will serve as a general guide:

Often a farmer or gardener will be in doubt as to how much seed should be planted to the acre. Of course circumstances somewhat vary this matter. One thing is certain everywhere—that is, that poor land requires more seed of every kind than rich land.

The following table gives the quantity of the leading articles sown to the acre. Of course, it is important to get good seeds. Some few seedsmen mix bad seed with the good, excusing themselves on the ground that people always sow too thick. None of good character do this of course. It is always best, however, to examine seeds carefully before sowing. The tables are intended for good, new seed:

Artichokes	4 to 6 bush.
Asparagus, in drills	6 to 8 lbs.
Beans, dwarf, in drills	1 to 1½ bush.
Beans, pole, in hills	10 to 12 qts.
Beets, in drills	5 to 6 lbs.
Buckwheat	1 to 1½ bush.
Barley	1½ to 2 bush.
Cabbage in beds to transplant	¼ lb.
Carrots, in drills	3 to 4 lbs.
Corn, in hills, 3x4	8 to 10 qts.
Corn, for soiling, in drills	3 to 3½ bush.
Cucumbers, in hills	2 lbs.
Mustard, broadcast	peck to ½ bush.
Melon, musk, in hills	2 lbs.
Melon, water, in hills	3 to 4 lbs.
Millet	½ to 1 bush.
Onions, in drills	4 lbs.
Onions for sets, in drills	6 to 8 bush.
Parsnip, in drills	3 to 6 lbs.
Peas in drills	1½ bush.
Peas broadcast	3 bush.
Potato (cut tubers)	6 to 10 bush.
Pumpkin, in hills	4 to 6 lbs.
Radish in drills	8 to 10 lbs.
Sage in drills	8 to 10 lbs.
Salsify in drills	8 to 10 lbs.
Spinach in drills	10 to 12 lbs.
Squash (running varieties) in hill	3 lbs.
Squash (bush varieties) in hills	4 lbs.
Turnips in drills	1 to 2 lbs.
Turnips broadcast	2 to 3 lbs.
Tomato, to transplant	½ lb.
Broom corn in hills	8 to 10 qts.
Clover, red alone	10 to 15 lbs.
Clover, Alsike alone	8 lbs.
Clover, white alone	8 to 10 lbs.
Clover, lucerne alone	16 lbs.
Orchard grass	12 to 20 lbs.
Blue grass	12 to 20 lbs.
Grass, mixed lawn	2 bushels.
Redtop	12 to 16 qts.
Oats broadcast	2 to 3 bush.
Rye broadcast	1½ to 2 bush.
Vetches broadcast	2 to 3 bush.
Wheat broadcast	1 to 1½ bush.
Timothy alone	½ bush.
Millet	½ to 1 bush.
Flax seed	1 to 1½ bush.

For a good lawn sod, different gardeners recommend different combinations of grasses: among them, the following is a good mixture, for an acre of lawn:

5 quarts Kentucky blue grass,
6 quarts redtop grass,
5 quarts Rhode Island bent grass,
2 quarts creeping bent grass,
2 quarts white clover.

The ground should be well underdrained, deeply plowed and made thoroughly fine and mellow, and rich with well rotted and mixed composts; then the grass will grow thick, fine, soft and even.

All the grains, and most vegetable seeds, germinate and come up evener and quicker, and grow more thriftily and ripen better, if the seed be soaked in salt brine or copperas water a few hours and then rolled in plaster, lime or ashes to dry it fit for planting; besides, another benefit is derived from this brining grains and other seeds—it does much to prevent destruction by birds, vermin and insects.

The Swine-Herd.

HOG CHOLERA.

Last week we gave a list of some forty questions sent out by the Illinois State Board of Agriculture to the farmers of the State.

Replies to these questions have been returned to the Board in large numbers, many of which appeared in the Inter-Ocean of April 27. We copy a few to show the general condition of swine, and the treatment they receive in the infected districts, as well as the opinion of farmers in regard to cause and cure:

KANKAKEE COUNTY.

Lemuel Milk, Kankakee.—Averages 1,000 head of Poland-Chinas; not confined in pens; run in lots of 75 to 100; feeds corn; lost none of own raising; lost a number of lot purchased; sows in pig suffered alike with others; fat hogs most liable; breeds at 1 year old; does not breed "in-and-in;" believes cholera is contagious or infectious; has pure water; used as preventive, 5 lbs sulphur, and 5 lbs fenigreek seed, and, as remedy during disease, carbolic acid in slop and sprinkled on bedding with good result; stomach of dead hogs generally full of worms.

STEPHENSON COUNTY.

James Flansburg, Elroy.—Average 25 or 30 Berkshires of own breeding except boars; part in pens and small lots, in winter large range and all run together; feed mostly corn, sometimes boiled potatoes and corn; never had a case of hog cholera; know of none in this section of country.

DEWITT COUNTY.

E. B. Harrold & Bro., Wapello.—Mixed breeds; keep about 100, partly of own breeding, in large herd in pasture, and follow feeding cattle, with dry corn on ground; lost none last year; usually pigs are first attacked; stock fed in feed lots of diseased stock spreads the disease, but it sometimes originates spontaneously; best preventive is remedy of A. C. Moore, Canton, Ill.; the main cause seems to be stoppage of the gall; the passage from gall bladder to intestine seems to close up; kill the animal at this period and the stomach contains only a watery jelly; think it is a sort of fever, which appears in just sixteen days after exposure although sometimes spontaneous; think wild indigo and resin weed are natural preventives when accessible to hogs.

PIATT COUNTY.

S. Cole, Bement.—Poland-China; own raising; keep in large yard, lots of fifteen or twenty; feed corn and oats alternately; lost twenty-five by cholera during year; think mixture of soda, saltpeter, black antimony, and wood ashes is sure preventive; disease rarely cured, and hogs of little value if they survive; give pure well water.

DEKALB COUNTY.

D. C. Joslyn, Cortland.—Keep twenty to fifty Berkshires of my own breeding; mostly in small yards and feed on dry corn. Never had cholera among my hogs in forty years' experience; some neighbors have had it; think crossbreeds more apt to take it; my only preventives were dry corn and sour drinks once or twice a week; have good well water; land dry and black sandy with clay subsoil.

FORD COUNTY.

Asa Canterbury, Gibson.—Berkshires; 75 of own raising; keep in large pens or pasture all together; feed corn in winter and grass in summer; lost ten head past year by cholera; took both large and small; eight years ago cholera attacked and took all; think sleeping in dry dust and mud around old stacks causes disease, probably a lung fever; have running water; gave diseased hogs copperas, with a little arsenic scattered in trough; don't know what cured them, but they have been healthy since.

MC'HENRY COUNTY.

W. W. Ellsworth, Woodstock.—Magie or Poland-China; twenty brood sows, and raise 100 to 125 annually; keep in small lots; dry corn in cold weather, and meal, shorts, and bran other times; no cholera past year; breed sows young, and change boars yearly; give well water, and bed with dry straw; charcoal, wood ashes, and salt used as preventives.

MACOUPIN COUNTY.

George Hunter, Carlinville.—Breed only pure Berkshires; about seventy-five an average; raise our own sows, and purchase fresh boars from other families of this breed; feed and sleep in small pens; pasture in large lots on good grass beets, turnips and potatoes, cooked, and a little corn. Exclusive corn diet is avoided. Lost none last year, and report following from previous experience:—Liability to attack depends on conditions, feed, care, etc., and those unfavorably situated are the first taken; age, sex, or size, of themselves are of no consequence; disease more severe in pigs from immature stock than from older, vigorous parentage. The weak are sooner attacked than the thriving, but fatness does not always indicate thrift; think the Berkshire less liable than other breeds to cholera; breed my sows at one year, and use boars at eight months and upward; experience shows that sows bred once a year produce more vigorous progeny than those bred twice.

ADAMS COUNTY.

T. J. Bates, Camp Point.—Poland-China, mostly; keeps in large lots together; feed corn; sometimes follow cattle; lost 25 from cholera past year, all under 1 year old of 60 to 125 pounds, and 6 or 8 young pigs; all were in good condition; breed young boars and sows, and change boars annually; it originated spontaneously in my yards; is not contagious; those attacked had run with fattening cattle; had plenty of water; first appearance of the disease with me for 8 years; used no preventive; hogs had access to salt once a week; treated some sick ones with a medicine purchased, and about one-half recovered, but were never as thrifty again; in some dead hogs in vicinity found lungs filled with fine worms. My opinion is that the main trouble is caused by worms; slaked lime is used by some with good results.

FULTON COUNTY.

John W. Carey, Canton.—Poland-China 100 of own breeding; keep in large yard lots in small bunches; general food is bran, shorts, oats and corn; lost none last year; think Berkshires most liable to disease; breed once a year; sows at 12 months, boars at 8 months; never "in-and-in;" don't think cholera contagious; use pine floor; straw bed in cold weather, change twice a week, and clean out manure daily; yards well drained; used ashes, salt, saltpeter and copperas once a week as preventive; farm is dry soil, with water easily obtainable.

CLINTON COUNTY.

O. B. Nichols, Carlyle.—Keeps Chester whites; keep them in small lots; feed a little corn and slops, and occasionally soap-suds and salt; do not eat one kind of feed exclusively; never had cholera among them; many neighbors have lost largely, say all their pigs and half their older hogs, since August 1875; it attacked old and young; think the lowest-bred and commonest stock suffered most; never breed mine under a year old, and never in-and-in; think cholera is contagious.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY.

Joseph Maxwell, Mahomet.—Keep 159 Poland-China of own breeding; in large yards; in large bunches; feed exclusively ear corn; lost about 190 head from cholera, of all ages and both sexes, as well the fat, thriving ones as lean, weak pigs: they had range of field and woods; think all breeds alike subject to it; breed at one year with fresh boars, not in-and-in; wet weather preceded the disease; have free access to pond and running water: no contact with hogs of other places where cholera existed; used as preventive black antimony, sulphur, copperas, ashes, stone coal, etc., without effect; out of 240 treated only saved about 20 per cent.; a few of those became healthy again in a short time; land is a dry and sandy loam.

COLES COUNTY.

James M. Bruce, Charleston.—Keep mixed stock in large lots, in bunches of 100 to 200; feed regularly, twice daily, with oats and corn (mostly corn), and grass; lost past year 30 hogs and 200 pigs; cholera attacks all without distinction, although boars in service take it first; when disease attacks a herd nearly all suffer more or less; attack begins in wet weather, and is more fatal as weather becomes dry; have access to pond and running water; remove dead hogs at once; have generally succeeded in stopping disease with 1 oz. arsenic, 1 lb sal soda, and 2 oz. assafœtida, mixed with dry meal for forty hogs; last year all were treated, and about 83 per cent. recovered and became healthy in six or eight weeks; soil, well drained prairie; black loam.

SANGAMON COUNTY.

Geo. M. Caldwell, Williamsville.—Berkshires; 100 to 200, kept in small lots in pens without floors; feed corn and shipstuff, and free access to grass; lost no Berkshires, except nineteen pigs shown at fairs and came home sick; as a rule, best hogs are attacked and poor ones left; Berkshires suffer least of any breed.

KANE COUNTY.

F. W. Belden, Kaneville—Keep 75 to 100 pure Berkshires; run in blue grass pasture; feed corn to hogs and oats and corn ground to pigs; never lost any from cholera. Land loose, dry and loamy. Soft coal, wood ashes and salt fed.

Dairy Husbandry.

TURNING DAIRY COWS TO PASTURE.

In turning cows to pasture in the spring, there is a wide difference in the practice of dairymen. Some allow the stock to range over pastures very early in the season and before grass has started, and no attempt is made to keep it off the ground at any time during spring. We have even heard it urged that there is some advantage in this, as the old tufts of grass left from last year's growth are not wholly wanting in nutrition—that cattle will feed upon them more or less, thus saving fodder, while at the same time the grazing of the old grass gets it out of the way and is of advantage to the new crop.

There is serious objection to allowing cows to roam over pastures during early spring, while the frost is out of the ground and while it is in a soft and unsettled state. The land is poached up by the tread of cattle and the grasses killed out or very much injured in these places. Again, the long continuance of the diet of dry fodder during winter renders the animals in spring eager to get a taste of anything savoring of green herbage, and they gnaw down into the ground and pull the grass out by the roots, which is easily effected, as the land is loose and the roots not held firmly in the soil.

This practice is a fruitful source of pastures running out, and must be condemned as altogether too injurious and unprofitable, since the small amount of nutrition obtained from the forage will not much more than supply the waste of the system from the extra work of travel and of roaming about in search of green food.

The opposite course practised is to keep stock yarded until pastures have obtained a good growth of grass, and the argument urged for this course is that unless pastures get a fair start, the stock will eat it down close, keeping it short all the season, and thus the yield will not only be less, but during the season an insufficient amount of food is supplied. The objection to this course is that where cows are kept from the pasture until it has a larger growth and are then turned in, they overfeed, and the sudden change from dry to green food, affects the health of the animal, not unfrequently causing serious troubles. And again; the grass often gets such a start that a considerable portion in places becomes hard and woody before it is cropped and is left unappropriated.

The best results from pastures is where they are kept in moderate growth, or so that the animals can get a good bite of grass and all parts of the field are eaten over, from week to week. The grass must be sweet, nutritious and palatable, and this state is best secured before it has acquired a high growth and is approaching maturity.

The best results obtained is when a middle course is practical. Let the animals be kept in the yard until the ground is well settled and the grasses have made a fair start; then allow the stock to go to pasture at first but a short time during the day, but not long enough to fill themselves. This should be continued for several days, or until they have become gradually accustomed to the change of food, when they may be turned to pasture for the whole time; but hay should be fed in small quantities at least once a day so long as the cows have a desire for it.

Pastures should not be overstocked, since overstocking not only decreases greatly the average yield of milk from the whole herd, but it seriously damages the productiveness and permanency of pastures, causing the grass to be eradicated and leaving the space thus left to be occupied by weeds which, from not being cropped, accumulate, and spread with wonderful rapidity. The most productive pastures are those which are thickly set with a variety of grasses, forming a thick, smooth sward, with no intervening spaces for the lodgment of weeds or otherwise, and if proper attention be given to such lands, the best results will be obtained not only in the amount of food yielded, but also that of milk from the herds grazing upon them.

SAVING RENNETS.

A CORRESPONDENT inquires as to the best method of saving rennet. We have tried several ways in our practice—stretching the skins on a hoop or crotched stick—filling them with salt—packing them in a cask with salt, &c. But of late we have adopted the Bavarian plan, which consists in inflating the skin like a bladder, tying the end tightly to retain the inflated condition until the skins are perfectly dry. Salt should be used freely at the point where the orifice is tied to hold the air, but as the other parts dry down quickly, none is needed except, perhaps, in very hot weather,

The skins on removal from the calf, should not be soaked or washed with water. They should be turned and emptied of their contents and all dirt wiped off with a cloth. Then turning the skin back again, insert a quill or tube and inflate as you would a bladder, tying the orifice as before stated. They should be hung in a dry atmosphere, but not near a hot stove, as high heat has the effect of injuring the strength of the rennet. In saving rennets great care should be taken to select only from healthy calves. If the stomach is badly discolored or shows signs of having been inflamed or diseased, it should be at once discarded, for such rennets work mischief and cause taints to be developed in the cheese.

SOAK YOUR BUTTER PACKAGES.

I HAVE noticed constantly the habit of dairymen of packing their butter into new butter packages without being soaked. This is the greatest mistake that dairymen can make in packing butter. The packages which are new, unless soaked, impart the flavor of the wood in the butter which is readily detected and depreciates the quality and price from 2c. to 5c. per pound. I have seen butter which has come to this market which I know had been made by good and experienced butter makers and was really fine when packed, depreciated, as heretofore said, from 2c. to 5c. per pound by carelessness in not soaking the packages.

Now it is to the interest of *all* butter makers to make good butter and have it come in sweet, good condition, which will bring good prices.

Dairymen have often wondered why their butter did not bring good prices. They say our butter was fine, and refer to their neighbors to verify their statement! This may all be true; but do they ever ask, Did our butter arrive in good condition—was it sweet? etc. No; they never ask this question, but pack their butter in packages without the necessary preparations, and send it off to market in a hurry and look for top market prices.

Now we advise all dairymen to soak their packages at least twenty-four hours before packing their butter. FRANK JAMES.

DAIRYING IN TENNESSEE.

PERSONS who have visited Tennessee and have become familiar with the resources of the State and its climate, have frequently expressed to us the opinion that a considerable portion of the State, especially East Tennessee, is well adapted to the Dairy. Nearly all of this section is so among the mountains as to be cool in summer, while it is far enough South to avoid the long and severe winters which are so trying and expensive to the dairy farmer of the Northern and Middle States.

The productions of the soil of East Tennessee are the same as those of the Northern and Middle States. Wheat, corn, and other grain crops can be grown. The lands are well adapted to grass, and pastures are productive and profitable. Hay is readily grown, for which there is a fair market in Georgia and Alabama. Apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, berries of all kinds, and grapes do well almost anywhere in East Tennessee.

A correspondent from Rogersville, East Tennessee, in a recent letter writes us, saying there is considerable butter made by the farmers in this part of the State, but there are no factories either for butter or cheese. The butter produced is poor and sells rather low, but as good can be made here as in any part of the United States.

A good article will bring fair rates, and one lady is mentioned who has engaged her butter at 50c. per pound for the season to go to a Southern city. The railroad connections with the Southern States, he says, afford a ready market for wool, grain and provisions. There are only one or two small cheese dairies in this section, but there is a large amount of cheese brought in and sold at 25c. to 30c. per pound, the most of it coming from Ohio.

And he remarks further that cheese of good quality can be made here for much less money than can be done in any of the Northern States. The summers here are not warm, the altitude being about 1,500 feet above sea level. Again, the winters are short and mild compared to those of New York, and do not require the costly stabling or the amount of winter fodder. Snow seldom lays on the ground longer than one day. The mountains break off the winds from the North. There is plenty of pure, cold water, and all the grasses thrive well, and meadows on the bottom lands yield from two to four tons of hay to the acre.

Tennessee, he remarks further, is one succession of valleys and ridges—or lines of mountains and hills—and the fertile valleys have close at hand ridge land for pasture, for timber, for fruit and supplying the clear springs which flow from every ravine affording cool, healthful water for man and beast.

Good upland will yield, with ordinary cultivation, 40 bushels of corn and from 12 to 20 bushels of wheat per acre, or from 1½ to two tons of hay, and with good cultivation much more. The bottom lands are very productive, not unfrequently yielding enormous crops, corn reaching 100 bushels to the acre.

Such is the description of our correspondent of East Tennessee, and it corresponds with the accounts that have been given us from time to time by others. And from what we have been able to learn, this section offers great inducements for the establishment of dairying—both cheese and butter—for those who have the requisite skill for manufacturing these products, and to dairymen who are seeking a mild climate, this region must be specially inviting.

Sheep Husbandry.

CASHMERE ANGORA GOATS.

To the late Dr. Jos. B. DAVIS of South Carolina we are indebted for the introduction of the Angora goats into America. He was sent to Turkey by request of the Sultan, under President POLK'S administration, to experiment in the culture of cotton in the Sultan's dominions, and on his return to America in 1848, out of courtesy to our Government, the Sultan ordered a selection of nine head of the finest specimens of fleece-bearing goats in his dominions, and presented them to Dr. DAVIS to experiment with in America.

In the year 1854 I visited the farm of Dr. DAVIS, near Columbia, S. C. His flock at that time consisted of seven pure breed Angora females and two males, one Thibet ewe, several head of half Thibet, half Angora, and quite a number of grade females bred from the common short-haired ewe goats of the country and his Angora bucks.

I purchased of the Doctor all of his pure breed Angoras, several of his Thibet Angoras, and some of his grades bred from the common goats.

Dr. DAVIS insisted on his goats being in some manner entitled to the name of Cashmere, and this led him into an error as to the market value of the fleece. He rated it at $6@8 ℔ lb. In this he was entirely mistaken, for his goats have proved to be Angoras, and the fleece for many years has been an article of import into England under the name of Mohair, selling at from 60c. to $1 ℔ lb. The Jamestown Manufacturing Co. of Mohairs, Alpacas and Poplins, located at Jamestown, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., is prepared to purchase all of the American Mohair to be obtained at from 60@90c. ℔ lb., its value depending on its length of staple, luster and freedom from kemp. I have sold my crop of Mohair for several years at about the same figures to the New York Plush and Braid Mills, located in New York City.

The Angoras in this climate shed their overcoats in March or April of each year, if it is not sooner sheared, and they continue in their summer suit of short hair or kemp until July, when the Mohair starts out, growing slowly until September, then rapidly until January, when it gets its full growth, averaging in length about 9 inches.

I have owned Angoras from six distinct importations from Asia, and have found them to differ greatly in size, fleece, horns and shape of the ears. For twenty years I have observed the following rules in selecting a stock buck:

1. Pedigree, dating back to ancestors imported from Asia.

2. Weight and length of its pure white, silky, ringleted fleece, and its freedom from kemp and mane on the back and neck.

3. Size, form and vigor.

4. Long, pendant ears and upright, spiral horns.

By this system of selection, I have obtained a flock possessing great uniformity. In making other importations, the agent should remain in Angora, the central district of Asia Minor, at least one year, so as to be able to make his selections when the goats are in full fleece. By this plan, some fine specimens might possibly be obtained. Several of the importations were doubtless procured near the coast, they evidently being of mixed blood and in no respect superior to American grade Angoras, called in the West, "full bloods," such as are of a higher grade than a fourth cross, or 31-32 Angora, 1-32 common, short hair, native goat. The fleece of the pure breed Angora male is coarser than that of the female, and becomes shorter in both from year to year after the fifth year.

In the year 1854 I sheared 6½ lbs. from the Davis imported buck, and in March, 1876, I sheared 6¼ lbs. from one of his descendants. Mr. LANDRUM of California claims heavier fleeces for the Angora in that climate than in this. He obtained from a celebrated Costamboul no-horned buck 10 lbs., but admitted that in his opinion 7 lbs. is a very heavy Angora fleece even in California. Mr. GILMORE, also of California, sheared in December, 1875, his flock of pure breed Angoras, full blood and grades. His clip amounted to 1,980 lbs. of Mohair. A pure breed buck gave 6½ lbs.; another 6 lbs.; a pure breed ewe 6 lbs., and from grade yearlings 1½ to 3 lbs.

The grade goats are bred in California principally for their skins, for which there is an increasing demand. The San Jose Mat, Robe and Glove Manufactory is now paying from $1 to $3 for each skin from a ¼ to ⅛ blood. The Angoras may be classed with the herbivorous animals. They have not proved to be a success in the Eastern and Middle States when kept in small inclosures on grass during the summer, and in winter in close barns and fed on grain and hay. At my farm near Atlanta they have succeeded admirably, being exempt from disease and able to protect themselves from an attack by dogs; but they are allowed to run about summer and winter in an inclosure of over 100 acres of woods pasture land, which they have greatly improved by killing the undergrowth of briars and bushes.

THE GOAT OF THIBET THE TRUE CASHMERE SHAWL GOAT.

Dr. DAVIS brought with him from Asia a pair of Thibet goats. The male died very soon after its arrival. The female I found to be smaller than the Angoras, very narrow in the chest, with fox-like ears, and rather short, upright, horns. She had an undercoat of downy wool and an overcoat of white hair about four inches in length. This undercoat of wool, amounting to a few ounces from each goat, is combed out by the natives of Asia as it starts to shed in the spring, and is used by them in the manufacture of the celebrated cashmere shawls.

In the year 1859 I bought of OTIS BREWER, Esq., of Boston, Mass., a male Thibet goat, also three females having the appearance of being half Thibet, half Angora. Mr. BREWER purchased them from the captain of a vessel from the Mediterranean. The Thibet male closely resembled in form and fleece the ewe imported by Dr. DAVIS. I combed out his undercoat of wool in April, 1859, but could not apply it to any practical use.

In the year 1854, when I was about to invest in the Angora and Thibet goats, I was advised by the late Rev. JOHN BACHMAN, the much-respected naturalist, of Charleston, S. C., not to purchase the Thibet goats, but to rely on the Angoras, as in his opinion the Thibet goats, like the Llamas of the Andes, could not be successfully acclimated in a locality under ten thousand feet above the ocean. His opinion proved to be correct in my case, as all of the Thibet goats, pure and grades, in my flock died in a few years after I purchased them, from a disease of their lungs, combined with dysentery, and I have not heard of any one having been successful with the Thibets or Llamas in any part of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. I am, however, inclined to believe that there are locations on the elevated plateaus of New Mexico and Colorado, and especially in California, where the Thibets and Llamas can be successfully acclimated. RICHARD PETERS.

Atlanta, Ga.

Industrial Topics.

SELF-COVERED SEEDS.

WE take the following from the London Garden: "Mr. F. Darwin read before the last meeting of the Linnean Society a paper on the 'Twisting of the Awn in Stipa and other Plants,' the effect of which is to force the seed into the ground; the upper feathery end of the awn being relatively fixed, the seed worms its way into the soil. Mr. F. Darwin, finding that the seeds so buried did not germinate so well as those which were simply placed on, or just beneath the surface of the soil, suggested that the burial of the seed was intended as a protection against seed-eating birds."

[The faculty of infinitesimal observation possessed in so remarkable a degree by CHARLES DARWIN—his wonderful patience and skill in those researches which have interested the people of every civilized land, have given birth and momentum to a little army of ludicrously weak imitators, whose highest aspirations seem to be to attach the most profound signification to the most trivial circumstances, and they rain a multitude of camels through the eyes of a multitude of needles with a facility that should inspire the wicked rich man with hopes of heaven.

We do not wish to belittle the atomic conclusions of Mr. F. DARWIN—but when the difference in the time of germination between a seed pressed into the ground by the "twisting of an awn" and one placed in the ground by hand, is instanced as a plant-method of preserving its seeds from birds—we think the thing is being *run into the ground*.—EDS.]

TO PREVNT NAILS FROM RUSTING.—Nails used for fastening vines to brick or stone walls soon rust and break, unless prevented by some previous preparation like the following: Take common cut nails, and, before using them, heat red-hot, then throw into cold linseed oil. This will give them a coat of varnish, and preserve from rusting and becoming brittle.

The Poultry Yard.

POULTRY FARMING.

RAISING poultry on an extensive scale, has not as a rule proved a success, no matter where or by whom attempted. The fate of large flocks appears to have been about the same in European countries as in this, and the advice given to a correspondent in a late number of the Journal of Horticulture (Eng.) meets our views upon the subject so fully that we copy a portion of it as follows:

We confess we do not believe in poultry rearing and in keeping hens for eggs for purely domestic purposes. We do not mean that a few fowls kept about a house do not answer, for they do, and very often well, and there are not many country houses without them: but to go in for a large number because a few pay, on the principle that because ten hens lay 1,200 eggs in a year that twenty hens must lay 2,400, is where the mistake is so often made, and which brings such woful disappointment to the breeder. No; we do not believe in poultry farming on the scale which so many think would pay—namely, of hiring so many perches of land, and erecting houses, stocking the runs, and then waiting for profits. We fear patience has to come into use greatly in such a case; for putting aside a percentage for interest on money expended, paying for food, rent, labor and the like must leave only a tiny balance on the credit side, and then only when the proprietor does not leave the work to attendants but does the greater part himself, and is always at hand to superintend. The profits made by the Sussex and other County cottagers are of course great; but then they work on a small scale, and are thus able to feed the birds and attend to them much more than if they had larger numbers. When their chickens are ready the higglers come round and collect them, and then other broods are brought up to take their places; but it is only because of the small size of their undertakings that they may make at times forty per cent. or even more, as no doubt they sometimes do; but once they were to get overstocked their game would be done.

We can never recommend any one to invest money on laying out yards for poultry for table purposes. The expense would be great and the results unsatisfactory. It has been tried and proved by many to be a failure, and "The Poultry Book" tells us too, that these establishments always collapse. They have had a very fair trial and the food has been various and good, but never has any real success been recorded. Companies, too, have been started, but the prospectus has invariably been drawn up upon some foolish and ridiculous basis, that it is needless to say they did not answer or would not have done had they struggled into life.

The largest scale of poultry farming for domestic purposes that can ever be attempted with success are the poultry yards connected with large farms. In such a case at one homestead it would be impossible to manage more than two runs where the birds could have perfect freedom and unlimited runs. Were we going to attempt the cultivation of poultry for eggs and chickens we should try and rent the farmyard of some large farm for the run of the birds alone. We believe this can be done and is actually being done. The food collected by the birds themselves in their wanderings over yards among the loose manure, around the cornstacks, in the fields, and in such places is immense, and would go a long way towards keeping them fed, and at the same time keep them in the most robust health. Ducks, too, might be added with success. Turkeys we would have nothing to do with. In no way depreciating them, but they are apt to be delicate and get in the way of growing chickens. Such a farm we would stock with Black Hamburghs for laying, and Brahma Dorkings for table and sitting purposes. No doubt others can recommend breeds which with them have been very useful and prolific, in which case people would use their own discretion in their choice. We have found black Hamburghs wonderful layers of good-sized eggs when kept in a farmyard, and we know the meat of Brahma Dorkings is juicy and good. A good-sized farmyard where the cornstacks and foddering yards are numerous should take from fifty to a hundred hens. We would never go beyond that number. Supposing the birds could not be divided and all had to run together we would substitute Houdans for Black Hamburghs, as the former are good layers and they make a good table cross, otherwise the Hamburgh eggs would be used for sitting, perhaps, which would hardly produce pretty table chickens.

For cocks we should have a large-bodied Brahma with not heavily-feathered legs, or the first cross between a colored Dorking and a Brahma. Three or four or more would live peacefully together if properly managed, and each would most likely take a certain number of ladies under his chaperonage. By always letting the cocks be of different ages and hatched one under the other we have generally noticed that the younger are afraid of the older, and run from them.

Supposing, of course, it would be practicable to hire some farm homestead for the fowls only, we think a fair price might safely be paid for rent, as with personal supervision the results should be good; but great care would have to be taken in looking-up the eggs regularly, for the hens would be sure to lay in mangers, and cribs, and out-of-the-way places where two-legged foxes would always be ready to lay their hands on any stray eggs.

We hope we have not damped "A. B.'s" ardor as a rising poultry farmer in embryo, but we cannot recommend anyone to enclose wire runs for keeping birds for eggs and rearing for table; for as we said, many good and practical people have tried it and found it not to pay.

Industrial Implements.

THE COATES LOCK LEVER RAKE.

A CENTURY ago, if the perfection of the hay rake, as shown in our illustration, could have been foretold, farmers, to a man, would have doubted and declared that nothing could or would take the place of the hand implement then in use. At the present time they would, perhaps, regard further improvement improbable, but not impossible.

No farmer can be found who will deny that it pays to glean well their fields, and recent improvements have materially lessened this labor, making what was once arduous toil, easy and economical work.

The old established firm of A. W. COATES & Co., Alliance, Ohio, (whose hay rake is the subject of our illustration), have been for more than twelve years engaged in the manufacture of these rakes, and with such success that upwards of 50,000 have been sold, and numberless awards at State and other fairs have been gained in honorable competition.

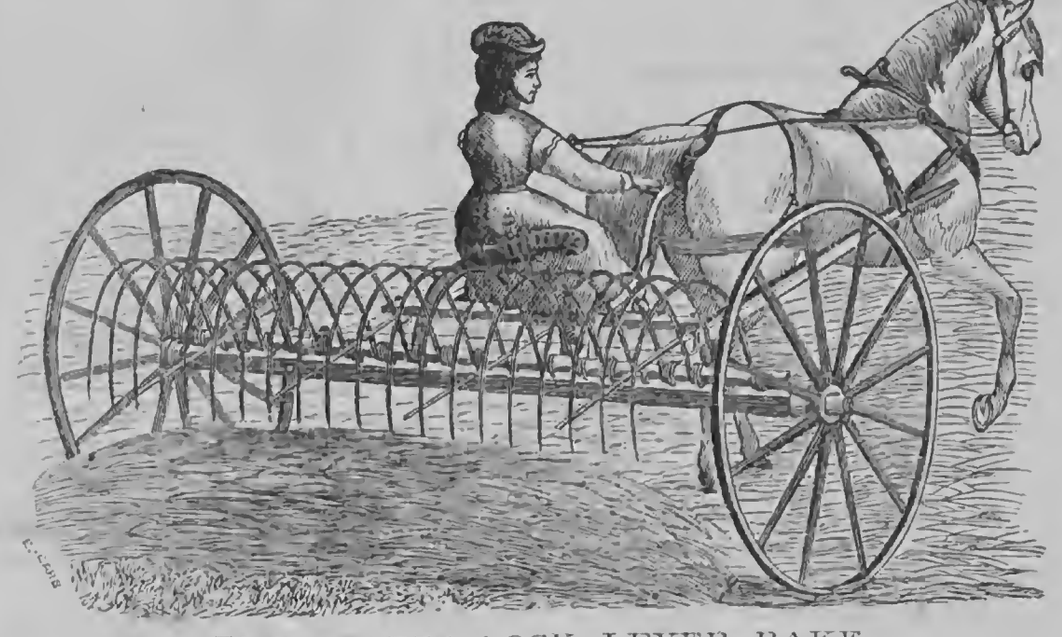
That it is to a farmer's interest to use hay rakes, none, we think, will gainsay; as experience has shown that they more than pay for themselves in the value of the grain saved by careful raking. The percentage of waste on a fair average crop does not fall short of a tenth of the entire amount. The rake in question is well and substantially made. The shafts and rake head are most durable, the best timber alone being used. The wheels are unusually high, thimble-skin axles are always used, and a new feature this season is the spring seat, which is easy, well braced, and the springs so made as to adapt themselves to the weight of a light or heavy person.

This rake is simplicity itself in its discharge, the whole mechanism being a lock lever, an ingeniously contrived joint (patented August 27, 1867,) which holds the rake rigid while down without using hands or feet, while the discharge is effected by the weight of the driver and simply the slightest upward motion to the handle of the lever.

The rake is regulated for any kind of ground by changing a pin at the joint, which raises or lowers the teeth as desired. A most important item in the rake, the teeth, are made of cast-steel, tempered in oil, and every one tested before leaving the factory. There is, therefore, no probability of their becoming weak or bent out of line.

A recent improvement in the cleaner does away with the wooden bar formerly used, and substitutes light, strong, metal bars, which pass through the teeth as they are elevated and clear the hay from the teeth completely.

It would well repay farmers and implement agents to examine the merits of this rake, and Messrs. A. W. COATES & Co. will be happy to furnish, free, information to all who apply for the same.



THE COATES LOCK LEVER RAKE.

THE JOHNSTON HARVESTER COMPANY OF BROCKPORT.

THE Rochester Democrat and Chronicle of the 8th of April says:—It is well known that this Company have, for several years, done a large business in Europe, and they have already shipped several heavy lots of machines for the continent for the harvest of 1876; but their principal object of pride just now is a communication received by them two days ago from the President of the Royal Agricultural Society of France, announcing that in a public trial of machines, which lasted through the entire season of 1875, they were awarded the first prize—the record of the judges showing a clear superiority of ten per cent. above all others.

The peculiarities of this trial entitle it to more than ordinary consideration. In the great trial of 1874, in which twenty-three different machines were entered, the three Johnston machines in their several departments, took each the first prize, but this trial lasted only five days. The Royal Society then determined to select six of the best machines in the world and put them to the test during the whole season of 1875 and then from their machinist's examination make the award.

They, therefore chose two from America—one being the Johnston—three from England, and one from France. After the harvest was over the machines were carried to Paris where they were taken to pieces and examined by machinists, to ascertain the wear. The manufacturers and owners of the machines were excluded from all access to the trial grounds, the drivers being selected by the judges themselves, and through this exhaustive and complete test the Johnston bears the palm of victory, over which the Company have reason to be proud, as it greatly enhances their business in that country, and gives them corresponding *eclat* in all the grain producing portions of Europe.

The Naturalist.

GARDEN ANTS.

MRS. SARA WOOD in her book "The Dwellers in our Gardens" in speaking of the common garden ant says:

"In each ant city there are three kinds of inhabitants, and on all three kinds the good of the whole community depends. There is no such thing as an ant living or working for itself, providing for its own wants or those of its young, as with most other creatures. All ants live and work together for the benefit of the whole population in each community. In each of the latter there are males, females, and working ants. The males and females have to produce the young, and so supply inhabitants for the city, while the working ants have to work for, and feed, and take care of the males and females and young, and construct the cave-cities, and it is these indefatigable little creatures with which we are best acquainted from seeing them above ground when they come up on matters of business. On them depends, in fact, the well-being and lives of all. It is they, as we have shown, who are so busy when the fine weather sets in in hollowing-out the caves or cells, which will be wanted for future progeny, and which they connect together with galleries and passages, so that all are communicable one with another. Some of the caves are for the reception of the females who are to become the mothers of a future generation, others are for the males, and others are destined for the eggs which produce the grubs or larvæ, and others for the cocoons from which the perfect ants are to be hatched.

"The female ants being much larger than either the males or workers, larger cells are wanted for them of an oval form suited to the shape of their bodies, and where they are waited upon and tended with great care and respect since on them depends the keeping-up of the population, which seems to be the great aim of all ant labor and industry; and when we consider how a constant diminution of their numbers must be going on from the fact that many species of birds make them their food, we can understand how necessary this strong instinct is in the nature of the little creatures, if the ant race is not to die out and become extinct. The greatest care, and exactness, and skill are shown in the formation of the little cave cells. The walls of them are built up of grains of earth fitted into each other with great precision, and then it would seem they are covered over with some kind of cement which the creature has the power of secreting from its body, and when the whole is done the small mason will carefully pass his feelers over his work to see that all is smooth, compact, and firm, just as a human mason will measure his work with his rule to satisfy himself that his bricks are all level, and his wall upright.

"During the winter ants spend their time in a torpid state in their underground caves, and at this time the hive is filled perhaps only with workers, and the cocoons ready for hatching when warm weather comes, and it is to prepare for the fresh populations that new works and additions to their cities are made in spring, and when these are once finished the whole character and employment of the working ant undergoes a complete change. The same anxiety for the good of the whole community, the same devotion to the interests of their race and city show themselves, and the same self-denial and unwearied industry go on; but they are now no longer miners or masons, no longer 'navvies,' but become most tender and careful 'nurses.' From the time that the city is supplied with new abodes, and that the warmth of the sun is felt even beneath the earth, the wonderful transformation begins within the ant-cocoon which is to change its contents into a living creature. Just when the mother bird is sitting on her eggs in her snug nest, so as to give the warmth needed for their change into young birds, the ant nurses begin their loving attentions to the cocoons in their caves, which also require heat for their change into living ants. More eager bustling begins among them, which we cannot always see, since it goes on beneath ground.

"When the sun shines out bright and warm, the cocoons in the cells deep down below in the hive must be carried up to nearer the surface, where the warmth will reach them, and to effect this the whole army of nurses is in commotion; and if we can manage to catch sight of them at such times we shall see each little worker with a white oblong cocoon—not very unlike a baby in swaddling clothes—held by the end in her jaws or mandibles which she carries before her, and which forms a load almost as large as her own body, or even larger if it be the cocoon of a future male or female. But the cocoons have, perhaps, not long been placed in the warmer cells, or laid in some passage or gallery near the opening of a shaft, when the sun becomes obscured and a shower begins to fall. Now although the white covering of the cocoons is a tolerably tough and strong material, yet it would not do for them to be exposed to both cold and damp, and the careful nurses have to set to work to carry their charges all back to the lowermost cells where the rain will not reach them—to bring them up again, it may be, before the day is over, in case the sun should reappear. No end is there, in fact, to the tender care and indefatigable attention of the nurses."

AN IMPORTANT (?) MOLE EXPERIMENT

DURING the mild weather about the first of January, we captured a mole that was slowly extending his furrow along a border.

We placed him in a large paint-pail 18 inches in diameter hoping to ascertain by experiments what sort of food he preferred and what, when pressed by hunger, he might be driven to eat.

We at first supplied him with ten grains of corn—a small onion and a small potato—marked the time of day and made a note of the food provided.

Three hours afterwards we visited our mole again.

Now we dislike to disappoint those of our readers who, having been pestered with these pestiferous creatures, are naturally interested in any series of experiments that might suggest exterminatory or preventive measures.

But we were ourselves disappointed and misery loves company.

The mole was dead!

In vain attempts to burrow, he had loosened the hard crust of paint from the bottom of the pail, and besmeared his jaws with the film of paint yet soft underneath, which was, doubtless, the cause of his death.

SPIDERS have eight legs, while true insects have six. Some naturalists say spiders are not insects.

Floricultural.

A VISIT TO PETER HENDERSON.

Last week we called upon Mr. Peter Henderson—who needs no introduction to our readers—and were kindly shown through his range of houses.

Among new or comparatively new plants, we noted the following:

Coleus Verschaffelti major, *C. aurea marginata*, and C. Merrimac. Mr. Henderson considers these three the best of the innumerable varieties of Coleï, and of them he prefers the last as the most distinct.

Tropæolum Firefly is a variety of the Nasturtium, with smallish leaves and orange flowers. Its growth is so rampant that it is best to plant it among rubbish or sand to restrain its vigor.

Begonia Froebelli—to which we have already alluded as having been offered in England—we here saw for the first. It is a native of Ecuador first exhibited by Froebel & Co. of Zurich, in August of last year. It is very striking, not for its foliage—which is the usual oblique-shape of Begonias and a plain green—but for the vivid scarlet color and good substance of its salver-shaped flowers—four-petaled. 1½ inch in diameter in the male, and five-petaled and about two inches in diameter in the female. These are well elevated above the radical leaves, which vary greatly in size and are borne on scapes about a foot in hight. Upon looking over recent English journals, we find it highly recommended as a bedding plant and, even for rockeries. Mr. Froebel himself thinks that it will form "a dangerous rival to the bedding Geranium"—an excusable predilection on the part of its introducer but one we hope may prove true. It is tuberous-rooted, requiring rest.

Begonia Verschaffelti Gilsoni is a double flowering variety (the first) raised by a colored gardener and an accidental seedling. The flowers borne in umbellate cymes are about an inch in diameter and of a blush-white color.

Hibiscus luteus sinensis plenus is sufficiently double, of a canary-yellow, crimson throat, good size and very desirable.

Among Pelargoniums Mr. H. pointed out the Earl of Roslyn as his preference among Bronzes. By the side of MacMahon its zone was better defined and the disc of a more golden hue. It originated in Boston and will not be offered till next year.

Among the Roses, Mr. Henderson remarked that he considered Douglas as one of the best winter flowering varieties, and that the buds brought him $18 per hundred, while Safrano and Bon Silene brought but $10 on account of the rarity of its color, which is a purplish-crimson.

Lightning Potting.—Observing our interest while watching the rapid movements of one of his men in potting—the same respecting whom Mr. Chitty and Mr. Henderson engaged in so warm a discussion in the Gardener's Monthly two years or more since—Mr. Henderson held his watch for precisely five minutes while the man, having arranged ample material, did his best. But, at least in this trial, he lost by his haste, upsetting one pot and making several slips, to adjust which caused a very marked check in the otherwise clock-work regularity and rapidity of his movements. Two-inch pots were used—the soil and Verbenas (three inches high) were before him—pots at his left, tray at his right, which was removed and another supplied as fast as filled. The number potted in five minutes was 100.

A bench holding 1,000 had been filled a day or so previously, working from 7 till 6. One of Mr. Henderson's men read from memoranda the incredible amount of work accomplished by this lightning potter last year as follows:

Potted, 1,248,589; shifted, 39,350 plants from smaller to larger pots; sowed 306 flats of seeds, filled 61 rustic baskets and 26 rustic stands, and transplanted 39,000 plants.

Mr. Henderson while referring to his varied experiences in Horticulture, spoke against the popular treatment of placing frozen plants in the shade and sprinkling them with cold water, as being quite ineffectual if not injurious to them—and mentioned the following circumstance as one of several that had induced this belief. During a mid-winter blustering night the thermometer sank to 12° below zero and, in spite of all the efforts of himself and men, thousands of plants in the greenhouses were more or less frozen. The following day, one of the houses was well shaded and the plants treated to cold water. The other houses were not shaded and the plants were not watered—with the result that more plants (or as many, we are not quite certain,) were destroyed in the former than in the latter.

We have ourselves always accepted the doctrine that shade and cold water constituted the best treatment of frost-bitten plants—but the magnitude of such tests and the variety of subjects affected, may lead one to question whether the old theory is not one that has been "handed down" and accepted, rather than well tried and proven by comparative tests. Mr. Henderson reasons that as freezing works its injury to the tissues by disrupting the fibers, the sooner the plants are thawed the better.

It occurs to us now, though it did not then, to ask, Why not use *warm* water upon the frozen plants—thus hastening the thawing process and benefiting them if Mr. H.'s belief is sound?

EXCHANGE.

Many thanks to the good Rural for having introduced the Floral Exchange! I have seeds of white, pink-tipped and variegated *Celosia*—a dozen kinds of Asters—mixed *Antirrhinum*—mixed *Zinnia* (including white)—mixed double Sweet William—purple Foxglove—white and mixed perennial *Phlox*. Mullein Pink—Browallia—Ammobium—ornamental Grasses—Honesty (*Lunaria biennis*)—*Helichrysum*, etc., which I wish to exchange for *Gladioli* (bulbs)—*Tigridia*—Dahlia plants—Feather Grass (*Stipa pemala*).

I have a *large collection* of hardy bulbs and shrubs, including several Lilies and a dozen Polyanthus—pink and red *Gladioli*—German Iris white with blue edge—Lily of the Valley—*Dicentra spectabilis*, which I wish to exchange later in the season for hardy things, especially *Lilium Auratum*—Mist Tree (*Rhus cotinus*)—blue double Hyacinth—variegated Tulips—*Penstemmons*—Weigela, white—while flowering Almond and *Triloma*. Address Mary M. Bowen.

Sycamore Dale, Harrison Co., West Va.

NOTES.

Marking Wild Plants.—If any of our readers acted upon our advice of last summer and fall, they may procure the shrubs, water-plants, etc., then marked or determined upon. There is not one person, having any ground whatever, so poor that he must go without flowers at his home. Those who say otherwise are lazy or do not care a tithe of what they profess to care for them.

Use the lawn-mower as soon as there is grass long enough to cut by it. Dig up Plantains—the earlier, the better. An old pair of shears with the points a little apart is a good implement to pry them out.

Uncoil and tie up vines that have been protected. All the bedding plants that have been kept in the cellar during the winter, such as Erythrinas, Abutilons, Pelargoniums—may now be put out. A little frost will harm them less than the weakening shoots that will start in the cellar.

Work diligently to get the garden in the most perfect order. It will leave you more time to do the work of arranging annuals and other seedlings in a thorough and satisfactory manner. It will prolong summer.

Look at the Magnolia trees now in bloom. Are not they as pretty as lilies, and are you not sorry that you did not plant one this spring?

Antennaria plantaginifolia is the first of the Everlastings to bloom. White, silky, six inches high. Find it—press it—mark its name.

Anemone quinquefolia is blooming now.

Around the Republic.

MILFORD, KENT CO., DELAWARE.

Your columns seem to be a favorite medium for the communication of information in reference to the merits of various localities of our country, to which immigration is invited. I therefore presume to say a few words for this section. Some twelve or fifteen years ago, northern immigration was first attracted this way, and in a short time grew to large proportions. Under the combined influence of the extraordinary demand for our farming lands, and the general inflation of values coincident with our exhausted currency, real estate advanced rapidly in price, and much land was sold to Northern settlers at extravagant prices. A large percentage of these new settlers were retired merchants, clerks and men of various pursuits who were utter novices at farming; but having made a little money they became imbued with the idea that there were millions in farming and fruit growing. They often went in debt for a considerable percentage of the purchase money, relying upon large crops and high prices to lift their mortgages.

Under these circumstances there were many failures. Mortgages fell due before they could be met. Foreclosures followed, and forced sales. Land, meanwhile, like everything else, had depreciated, and those who had bought at the top figures lost about all they had paid, and were bankrupted. Many of them returned North, bearing most damaging testimony against this section. This had its effect in checking the influx here, and for several years immigration languished. Still it did not cease. The fictitious, impracticable, visionary farmers were succeeded gradually by a more practical class—with more money. These bought land at lower figures; and, having a surplus as a guarantee against unfortunate contingencies, they succeeded bravely, and became permanent citizens, and the great majority of them are now doing well and could not be induced to exchange their location. Transportation facilities have developed rapidly within a few years, and now all parts of this Peninsula are within easy, quick and cheap communication with the best markets of the country.

Diversified fruit culture, and "mixed farming" generally, are the methods that are sure to succeed here in yielding any man of ordinary industry and management a first-rate living and reasonable profits. The climate is splendid. Our soil, much of it, is as fertile as can be found anywhere. We have good schools, churches, society, and all the elements of a high civilization. The country is very healthy. Fruit, of almost every kind, grows to the greatest perfection. Wheat, corn, rye, oats, potatoes, (sound and sweet) beets, cabbage, turnips, carrots, asparagus, celery, lettuce, peas, beans, and, in short, all the staples, cereals and vegetables of the country thrive here, and can be grown on most of our soil with profit.

Land can be bought here now *very low*. Holders of large tracts have at last realized that it is better to sell a portion of their acres at a low price than to keep more than they can cultivate to advantage. *Land will never be cheaper here than it is at the present time.* Good farms can be had for from $20 to $50 per acre, with fair buildings, in good locations. The peninsula railroad system, now being developed, and much of which is in operation already, puts the whole State practically at the doors of the great cities—New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, &c., and the high tariff rates, that have been in the past a great drawback, are now forced, by competition, down to a very moderate scale. Indeed the entire outlook is most promising for this section, and we think it is no rash prophecy to say that before many years have passed the Delaware Peninsula will have become exceptionally wealthy. I might occupy much space in particularizing the attractions here if I dared to thus tax your indulgence. I may say, however, in a few words, that there is no section of country on the Continent where so many of the luxuries of life from land and water, can be enjoyed at so little cost of labor or money, as right here between the two great bays—the Delaware and Chesapeake.

We need more population, and do not hesitate to say that those of the North who desire to change their location, can come here with every assurance of meeting with the most cordial reception, socially, and with every reasonable facility to make for themselves prosperous and happy homes. W. C. D.

DELAWARE FRUIT CROP.

I have just returned from a visit through the State of Delaware, looking after the fruit crop.

The peach crop is very materially injured, on the whole. From St. Georges to Dover the prospect was good for from one-fourth to one-half a crop, but below Dover it will be a general failure. There was considerable fear in regard to the pear crop, but nothing definite could then be ascertained. This variety of fruit is now grown very largely, and is increasing yearly.

The apple crop promised well.

The berry crop bid fair to be very large. Owing to the mild winter few, if any, vines had been killed. Strawberries were quite backward, but few being in bloom, except in the extreme lower portion of the State. Blackberries, blackcaps and the brandywine raspberries all looked well. The latter are becoming very popular in the State, as they yield well. The fruit is firm and handsome, and can be delivered in New York markets in good condition.

This State has various facilities to get their fruits to market. The P. W. & B. R. R. runs the entire length of the State, from which several branches run through the fruit sections, not only Delaware but Maryland. At Harrington the Breakwater R. R. branches and runs through a great fruit country, connecting Milford, Georgetown, and at Lewes, with the Old Dominion Line for New York. This line freights fruit very cheap, and have lately opened a new branch, beginning at Georgetown and extending down through the State to Franklin, Md., giving very great facilities to all that part of the country for getting their produce to market cheap.

Now is the time to buy farms cheap, as there are a great many for sale at less than one-half the price they sold for during the War.

At Milford I called on Mr. Rosa, who is the Master Granger of the State, and who owns a fine farm well stocked with fruit. He has a very fine pear orchard, with prospects of a large crop.

Several of the large growers in this vicinity have erected "Evaporators" on their farms, so as to secure the entire crop from any waste.

Permit me to digress from fruit to flowers to mention one garden that I saw on the farm of M. W. Jewell, near Milford. Mr. J. devotes his time to fruit growing, while his kind wife cares for the flowers. Without exception, she posseses the largest number of varieties of any person I found in the State. Even at the early period of my visit, her garden was brilliant with the crocus, pansy and tulips. Her varieties of tulips are large, and contain many "gems" of these beauties. I was reminded of that quotation from the Scriptures: "That Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like these."

Mrs. J. possesses rare taste, combined with skill, in keeping up a beautiful display during the entire season. Her home is designated as "Rose Cottage," owing to her large collection of those beautiful flowers in bloom during the season. I hope her example may be followed by many other ladies in the State, for there is a great need of flowers in the gardens that I saw, so much so, that in some, although laid out in fine taste, and the plats were neatly bordered with box; there were few or no flowers in them. If some of our celebrated florists would distribute a few thousand packages of their surplus stock of seed through this State free, I do not doubt but it would pay them largely in a few years. C. W. I.

New York, April 26th.

The Vineyard.

CALIFORNIA RAISINS.

There has been much said as to whether California could produce with profit sun-dried raisins. A recent issue of the Stockton Independent has the following:

It will cost but little to dry the grape, as it can be done by the heat of the sun, and the raisins thus produced are preferable to those dried by artificial means. At the ranch of L. P. Jarvis & Bro., Columbia, Tuolumne County, we lately saw a large quantity of excellent raisins made from grapes of the White Muscat of Alexandria variety. Mr. Jarvis erected a platform by inserting posts in the ground and nailing across them scantling to support its covering of rough boards. The platform thus constructed is about 4½ feet high, and he has about 150 feet in length and 75 feet wide. It is located where it receives the rays of the sun from morning till night. He also has smaller platforms similarly constructed and located. The grapes are gathered and spread upon the platforms, and with the exception of turning over the large bunches, the heat of the sun completes the manufacture of the grape into merchantable raisins. Mr. Jarvis will this year dry about 30 tons of grapes, and as he estimates that it will take about 6 lbs. of grapes for 1 lb. of raisins, his product of dried fruit should be about 5 tons. Good California raisins are worth about 12c. ₱ lb., and as a large portion of those manufactured by Mr. Jarvis will compare favorably with the imported article, he ought at least to get the highest market price. Reckoning the raisins at that price, it will make the grapes worth at least $30 ₱ ton, which is much more than they can be sold for to the wine manufacturers.

Thirty dollars a ton may be higher than wine manufacturers pay in California, but it is mighty poor pay for growing and marketing grapes. We suspect that raisins could be profitably made with grapes at 1½c. ₱ lb., though, allowing for labor, loss by drying, etc., there would not be much profit at these figures. It very rarely happens, however, that grapes in Eastern markets are not worth considerably more than 1½c. ₱ lb. Our vintners need not mourn their inability to grow from the true raisin grapes so long as common kinds pay better.

SIX ACRES OF GRAPES.

J. H. Kisten of St. Helena, Cal., reports the following as sales of grapes from six acres, or about five thousand vines during the past five years:

Year.	Tons.	Lbs.	Am't rec'd.
1871	30	1,394	$654 48
1872	29	485	482 63
1873	9	——	150 00
1874	50	1,578	915 46
1875	34	1,596	562 25
Sold other parties.			62 20
Total			$2,837 02

Think of that, a total of nearly $3,000 for six acres in five years! In one year, it will be observed, the product ran to the enormous amount of 50 tons and brought nearly $1,000. The smallness of the yield of 1873 was owing to a devastating frost, which blighted every green thing for that year—a frost which every vine grower will remember for years to come. In 1875, in the spring, 750 of the vines were cut away, so that the product of that year was from only 4,250 vines.

Vines, if planted late, and after the leaves are started, should be shaded a few days or until the roots have taken hold sufficient to abstract moisture from the soil. Of course, if all the stems having leaves on them are pruned away, shading will not be necessary; but it is frequently the case that it is well to save the buds or small leaves.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, May 6th, 1876.

ALL doubt as to the opening of the Centennial on May 10 should be dispelled at once. Gen. HAWLEY has notified the Government that the exhibition will commence as advertised. The Grand March, composed by WAGNER, the Cantata, written by LANIER, and the speech to be spoken by the President will certainly awaken the enthusiastic echoes of a great crowd of patriots, and before the RURAL readers see this the inauguration will have become a thing of the past.

Too much credit cannot be given to the managers, who have worked like Titans, night and day, to accomplish the end in view. The transformations that have been wrought seemed impossible under any circumstances. One day the grounds are a mass of mud, with man traps, erratic locomotives, howling foreigners, and frantic workers going to all points of the compass; two days elapse—the mud has become a fine sod, and shrubbery grows thereon; the locomotive has hauled itself and various ungainly obstructions out of sight, the babble of tongues has, if anything, increased, and houses have appeared that were *actually* constructed in a day and night. It is simply enterprise and energy run wild. But of description, more hereafter in the regular weekly letter, which is to be a feature of the RURAL.

The absorbing question at present is, how and when to go to the Centennial and how much will it cost? I would not, in the first place, urgently advise visitors to go at once, but rather delay the order of their going until the weather and show become more settled. Every day for 30 days at least will add to the attractiveness of the sight and the real enjoyment to be derived therefrom.

The choice of route will depend on the location of the intending visitor. All the trunk lines, except the "New York, New Haven & Hartford," have reduced their fare 25 per cent. from schedule rates, and parties of twenty-five or more will be able to command a still larger reduction.

The Erie Railway Company's new reduced tariff goes into operation on May 1. Three express trains daily will be run over this road, connecting in New York with both the Pennsylvania Central and the new Bound Brook or New Jersey Central trains. Through cars will also be run direct from Suspension Bridge, Buffalo, and Salamanca, via Elmira and the Lehigh Valley Railroad, to Philadelphia, passing through the most picturesque and beautiful part of Pennsylvania. Trains from Newburgh, Port Jervis and other local points, will be run by way of Patterson to Newark, connecting there with the Pennsylvania Central. By whatever route the Erie's passengers are carried, they will all be landed in Philadelphia upon the Centennial grounds, either at the depot near the Art Gallery or that close to Machinery Hall. Tickets will be sold from all points "to New York and return via Philadelphia," and visitors may take, in coming and going home, any route they please of those mentioned. The price of single tickets from Cincinnati and return will be $30; from Chicago, $33; Detroit, $24, and other points further west in due proportion to existing rates. Under the convention between the main trunk line companies, visitors to the Centennial may come by one road and go back by another.

The N. Y. C. R. R. makes the reduction *only* on points west of Utica. Travelers who go from Utica to Philadelphia direct by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Road and return by way of New York, will be entitled to a reduction of one dollar from the excursion rates, which includes New York both going and returning.

The Pennsylvania Central will run a number of trains between New York and Philadelphia, which are to be limited only by the demand. Their arrangement is very liberal, and includes "excursion" tickets (good for 15 days) $5@4, according to the train. Tickets good for one day on all trains, except limited express trains, $4; New York to Philadelphia and return, tickets good for one day on first-class Centennial excursion trains (leaving Jersey City prior to 7 o'clock A. M., and leaving Philadelphia after 6 o'clock P. M.), $3; New York to Philadelphia and return, tickets good for one day on second-class Centennial excursion trains (leaving Jersey City prior to 6 A. M. and leaving Philadelphia after 7 o'clock P. M.), $2, this will suit all purses. Sixty or more can make the round trip from San Francisco to Omaha for $130 each, and from thence to Philadelphia the regular 25 per cent. reduction obtains. The Fall River Line of steamboats will sell single tickets from Boston to Philadelphia for $11 for the round trip, or $10 each for companies of fifty or over. Space forbids further directions, but next week will be given complete details concerning all that the visitor should know regarding expenditures. YOUNG RURAL.

EXHIBITION OF POULTRY.

U. S. CENTENNIAL COMMISSION,
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE,
PHILADELPHIA, April 1, 1876.

SIR:—The exhibition of poultry will open on Oct. 27 and close on Nov. 6.

The display will be made in coops provided by the Commission and located under the cattle stalls, which will be prepared for their reception.

To meet the expense of coops and feeding, an entry fee of one dollar upon each bird of the Gallinaceous division and two dollars upon each pair of the Aquatic division must be paid to the Commission before the Chief of Bureau finally signs the permit of entry.

Transportation and terminal charges must all be paid in advance, or the Commission will not receive Consignments.

Full information relative to transportation will be furnished upon application.

Each coop used in the transportation of birds must be of sufficient strength to serve for their return, and must be marked with the proper shipping directions.

Numbers alone will distinguish birds in the show yards preceding the award of prizes.

All specimens, except Games and Game Bantams, must be exhibited in natural condition; pulling, splicing or inserting feathers, coloring, or otherwise altering the appearance of birds, will bar them against entry.

Misstatements as to age or breed will cause the exclusion of birds from the stock yard.

Birds of evident inferiority will be denied admittance, even though the owners may have received a permit.

Birds may be sold at private sale at any time during their exhibition; but no bird, in the event of being sold, will be allowed to be removed prior to Nov. 7.

Special premiums from societies and individuals must be awarded through the hands of the Centennial Commission.

Application for entry must be accompanied by a certificate from a recognized Poultry Society to the effect that the birds offered are considered to be worthy of competition.

Application forms for space can be had from this office. Entries are now being made, and will be in order till July 1.

BURNET LANDRETH, Chief of Bureau.
Per HENRY C. RONEY.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Centennial Committee of the American Dairymen's Association, held at Utica, N. Y., March 17, 1876, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That Josiah Shull of Ilion, N. Y., and Harris Lewis of Frankfort, N. Y., be and they are hereby appointed a committee to decide upon the merits of the necessary apparatus and outfit, including engine, vats, etc., to be placed in the Model Cheese and Butter Factory on the Centennial grounds.

No implement, machine or apparatus will be permitted to be put into the factory outfit, except it shall be first-class and such as shall be the best adapted for general use in cheese and butter manufacture.

For the purpose of paying the necessary expense in providing space for implements, dealers in dairy apparatus and equipments will be charged the contribution of the article or articles, or the wholesale value in cash.

On all freight charges on implements or apparatus prepayment must be made by the person or persons furnishing and sending the article. And all articles requiring skill to set up and properly arrange in position, the parties furnishing the same will be required to set them up at their own cost and expense, or pay such expense.

All applications for space for implements in the equipment of the factory should be made to the undersigned as soon as possible.

April 8, 1876. JOSIAH SHULL, Ilion, N. Y.
HARRIS LEWIS, Frankfort, N. Y.

AQUARIAS FOR THE DISPLAY OF FISH.

U. S. CENTENNIAL COMMISSION,
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE,
PHILADELPHIA, April 10, 1876.

SIR:—The Centennial Commission has provided thirty aquaria for the display of the fish of our rivers, lakes and seas. The fresh and salt water will be of about equal quantities, the aggregation approximation to fifteen thousand gallons. Full preparations have been made for thorough filtration and aeration, and, when necessary, for refrigeration.

The expenses attendant upon the fish display will be assumed by the Centennial Commission, and it is expected that fish will be contributed by the various State Fish Commissions, by associations, and by individuals interested in fish culture.

Parties so desiring may exhibit fish in tanks of their own contribution, the care of which will be gratuitously assumed by the Commission.

In addition to the display of living fish, will be exhibited the processes of hatching fish, and a full series of all the apparatus used in hatching and transporting roe and young fish.

Those who are in a position to contribute rare fish to the display will receive all necessary information by addressing

BURNET LANDRETH,
Chief of Bureau of Agriculture.

Entomological.

HABITS OF CANKER WORMS.

P. PICKMAN MANN, writing to the New England Farmer says there are two very distinct species of what are generally termed "Canker Worms," and that the mode of destroying must also be different in order to be effectual.

He writes, in answer to questions asked in a previous issue of the Farmer as follows:

In the first place, he must know that under the name of canker worm, properly used, are included *two* kinds of insects at least as different as a cabbage and a turnip, or a pear and an apple, or a dog and a wolf, or a bull and a buffalo; that is, they are what naturalists call two species of one genus or even separate as belonging to different genera. One of these canker worms, called *Anisopteryx pometaria*, is the one erroneously supposed to be called *Anisopteryx vernata* by Dr. Harris, in his admirable work upon the "Insects Injurious to Vegetation." The perfect or breeding insects appear mostly in the fall and winter, from October to January, though a few individuals come out of the ground in the month of March and April. It is therefore called the fall canker worm. The males are winged and in general appearance are gray with two whitish bands edged with dark dots running across the front wings. The females are usually wingless, and have a general smooth shiny gray appearance. The eggs are laid on the bark of the trees, in patches like a pan of biscuit, are larger at the top than at the bottom, and are flat on top with a depression in the middle and a circular furrow near the edge. The caterpillars or "worms" have six fleshy legs under the hind part of the body, besides the six jointed horny legs which most insects have under the front end of the body.

The other one of these canker worms, called *Anisopteryx vernata*, or, on account of its great unlikeness, put into another genus and called *Paleacrita vernata*, is the one which Dr. Peck studied and described in 1795, in the prize essay written for the Massachusetts Society for the promotion of agriculture. The perfect insects appear only in the months of March, April and May, on which account it is called the spring canker worm. The males are winged and in general appearance are gray with three dark bands running across the front wings. The females are wingless and have a general hairy speckled gray appearance with more or less of a black line down the middle, and more or less of a red appearance on the back owing to the presence of fourteen rows of spines running across the body. These spines have not been found at all in the other kind of canker worm, but are present in both males and females of this kind. The female has a jointed egg-layer, which she can push out of her body, and with it she lays her eggs separately between the leaves of the buds or in cracks of the wood, or under loose scales of the bark. The eggs are shaped like the eggs of a dove, being of the same shape at both ends. The caterpillars have only four fleshy legs under the hind part of the body, making with the six jointed horny legs in front, ten in all.

There are very many other differences between the two kinds of canker worms, and many of these have been described already, so that, while it is much to be desired that further observation should be made, especially by farmers and other men in the fields, it would not be advisable for those persons to publish their notes without first learning from special students whether there is anything new in them, or whether greater knowledge has not shown that many things which seem to be in one way are after all in a different way. Hasty conclusions confuse knowledge, but no conclusions can be made at all till facts have been observed, and facts can be learned only by practical men.

If your correspondent knows what I have said above, he will put ink on his trees before October 24th, if he has the fall species, and as far as present knowledge goes, need not tend his trees between Jan 15th and March 23d, but must then look to them till May. If he has the spring species, he need only tend his trees from March 7th to May 7th; but if he has both, as is likely, he must watch both. You see already that there is room for new knowledge whether these dates embrace the whole of the period of the insects. I should be pleased to have observers communicate with me upon the subject. Your correspondent will postpone the scraping of his trees, if he does it at all, till May; he will know the eggs if he sees them, but he cannot be sure, without more knowledge, that he may not destroy the eggs of useful insects, if he does not attend to the matter within the time specified.

These are but two out of more than a hundred known enemies of the apple-tree. They are the most important ones. The habits of these and the very numerous other injurious insects are best known to professional students, and it is from them that the farmers should seek their information rather than from agricultural papers, the editors of which have enough, and estimable work, without undertaking to keep themselves familiar with the acts and relations of the thirty thousand kinds of insects which live in this country.

It is judged proper to employ lawyers, physicians and ministers, rather than to refer all questions of detail to the editors of special papers or magazines. The agriculturists must learn by experience, if in no other way, that it is more profitable for them to employ entomologists, who need to spend, in preparing for their profession, more time and labor than it is required to get a degree in any school of law, college or divinity in the land, than to rely upon the knowledge of such a special subject possessed by persons whose attention is otherwise engaged.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Antiquity of Insurance.—It appears from some investigations made by German insurance companies and published in the *Versicherungs Zeitung*, that insurance is not only not a modern invention but that it was practiced, chiefly in a mutual way, by the Hebrews and there are several modes that have not yet been re-invented.

The information in regard to this matter was derived from old copies of the Jewish Talmud, a sort of ecclesiastic-civil code of laws, and consisted of rules and regulations for almost everything, including some for the formation of trades' unions, co-operative societies and mutual insurance associations.

These regulations show that they had, at a date long anterior to the speech of DEMOSTHENES in the celebrated marine insurance case, settled the practice of insurance proceedings nearly as completely as modern insurers, and were as well posted in the tricks of the trade.

They insured ships, houses, goods in transit, beasts of burden against loss by theft, and where loss was sustained made restitution in kind only and not in money, and were quite as particular in stipulating that losses occurring through the negligence or fault of the owner should not become or constitute a claim for indemnity. Some of their regulations were founded in sound wisdom and complete equity, as for example that requiring that when a company of traveling merchants mutually insured each other's property against robbery, and being attacked were compelled to buy off the assailant with a ransom, each one should contribute, not *pro rata*, but in proportion to the loss each would have sustained had the robbers succeeded in capturing all the goods; whereas if a spy was employed to peril his life for a consideration each one must contribute *pro rata*, "for a life is a life." Another regulation, which has an odd look, was, that when it became necessary for the common good to lighten a ship by throwing freight overboard, each one must part with an equal weight regardless of the value; a hundred pounds of gold or silk counting for no more in such emergency than so much lead. All of which goes to prove that "there is no new thing under the sun." We should not be surprised after this to learn that archæologists had found pieces of steam-hoisting devices used in constructing the pyramids or that Joseph's captors found their way back to Egypt by the aid of a compass.

"Wait a While."—We had occasion in a former issue to caution our readers that quite a number of life companies, heretofore regarded as reliable would soon be compelled, by hard times, to relinquish business, and that no harm and possibly much good would result from deferring to insure until the New Year's reports indicated what companies would be found in this category. Since that time several companies of mature age and large assets have made arrangements to reinsure and amalgamate, not perhaps because they lacked means, but because their small incomes rendered their business profitless. Other companies are expected to follow their example for the same, or more serious reasons, and we repeat the advice to wait a month or so, until the reports are all in.

Accident Insurance for Tourists.—Ocean and other travel promises to be menaced by a new peril, that of infernal machines provided with clock-work that explodes a barrel of dynamite or gun-powder, after the ship or boat is at sea, in order that certain shippers may obtain over insurance. The moral is that no one should travel without an accident policy of the Old Travelers Insurance Company.

Domestic Economy.

HOME MANUFACTURE OF TABLE SIRUPS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Sunny South offers the following suggestion in regard to making sirup for the table from sugar, which, we think, is worthy of consideration by all who value strict cleanliness in the preparation of food.

There are several reasons suggested by economy and convenience for making the manufacture of sirup from sugar a household practice. The dealer who retails sirup has to pay freight on the weight of its contained water. This he exacts from the consumer in the price at which it is offered. The package in which the sirup is transported is much more costly than that in which sugar is conveyed. The difference is added to the manufacturer's price, and is another element of cost to the consumer. The retailer of sugar adjusts his price at the lowest practicable rate of profit, because modern luxury has made it an article of prime necessity and which will not bear a profit. Not so, however, with sirup on which a rate of profit equal to the average of that made on the table supplies is required by the dealer.

To make a gallon of sirup of beautiful whiteness and crystal-like transparency, such as is known in our markets as silver drips, or rock-candy drips, there are required eight pounds of refined sugar, such as is known by its various names and grades of A. or B. or Extra C., and costing from ten to twelve-and-a-half cents per pound, according to locality and distance from the sugar refinery. To this quantity should be added three pints of boiling water, and the whole subjected to slow boiling for a period of fifteen to twenty minutes; after which, the solution, while warm, should be strained through a fabric of moderately close texture. This will produce a gallon of sirup, at much less cost than the price demanded in market for the grades of sirup named. For a light yellow or golden sirup the same quantity of light brown sugar may be employed, and so on through the lower grades of sugar and sirup; but no grade of sugar can be found which will produce so worthless an article as the Cuba molasses generally offered in all markets.

HOW TO CLEAN KID GLOVES, ETC.

LAWS of Life gives the following recipe for cleaning kid gloves, etc.:

Get gasoline which can be procured at the drug stores at 10 cents a gallon. Lay your glove in a long, flat-bottomed dish, like a common vegetable dish, and cover it with the gasoline; rub soiled spots with a clean white rag, squeeze, not wring it with your hand, as dry as you can, lay it on clean old muslin, take one corner of the muslin and rub the fingers and thumb out smooth, rub soiled spots if any remain, inflate by blowing into it, then pin on a cloth out-of-doors to dry. The process should be gone through with quickly, as the glove is injured by remaining in the liquid; not more than ten minutes being occupied in cleaning the pair of gloves. This will be found excellent economy.

Clean cashmere lace by dipping or rinsing it in the gasoline, being careful not to rub it so as to get the meshes and figures out of place. Dry it out of doors, then lay it on a cloth in good form, and place between the leaves of a book to press.

If it is desired to whiten unbleached Valenciennes lace, lay it on a cloth and cover with magnesia or baby powder, leaving it over night. Blow off the dust and repeat if need be.

SELECTED RECIPES.

WILL some lady reader of the RURAL give a recipe for Velvet Cream, also the proper preparation of salmon and its accompanying sauce for the table?—c. a.

Love Cake.—One and a half cups of sugar; a half cup of butter; one cup of sweet milk; two cups of flour; two eggs; one teaspoonful of soda; two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar; flavor to taste. This makes a good jelly cake.

Puffs.—Six tablespoonfuls of flour, one pint of milk, two eggs. Bake in cups not quite half full, or in gem pans. Put in the oven when you sit down to dinner, and they will be ready for dessert. Serve with cream and sugar, or wine sauce.

Cement for Aquaria.—An adhesive cement for aquaria may be made by mixing equal parts of flowers of sulphur, pulverized sal ammoniac, and iron filings, with good linseed oil varnish, and then adding enough pure white lead to form a firm, easily worked mass.

Potato Balls for Breakfast.—To three cups of cold mashed potatoes add one cup of sweet cream, a little salt and two well-beaten eggs. Mold into little balls; put on a baking-pan, and set in the oven until done a delicate brown, or, if preferred, fry in boiling lard.

To Fasten Labels to Tin Cans.—Put a teaspoonful of brown sugar into a quart of paste, and it will fasten labels as securely to tin cans as to wood. Housekeepers may save themselves much annoyance in the loss of labels from their fruit cans when putting up their own fruit, by remembering this.

A Delicious Dish for Tea.—Three pounds of lean round steak, chopped very fine; one tablespoonful each of savory, thyme and parsly; one teaspoonful of salt, pepper; one tablespoonful of butter, two eggs; mix together; form into a loaf. Bake in a moderate oven one hour and a half. To be eaten cold.

Another Breakfast Dish.—Toast some slices of stale bread and lay on a platter. Hash very fine some cold beef, or mutton; put it in a pan; season with salt, pepper, butter, and any sweet herb which is agreeable; add as much water as you think the toast will absorb; put on the stove and let it boil ten minutes; then pour over the toast and serve immediately.

To Make Attar of Roses.—Gather the flowers of some of the most fragrant sorts, but the common Blush or other June roses are the best. Put the petals in a cask, or stone jar, with sufficient water to cover them. Then put the vessel out-doors where the sun will keep it warm. In a week or ten days the oil will be seen on the surface, and may be removed by the aid of a piece of cotton.

Hygienic Information.

FRUIT vs. MALARIA.

WE find (pp. 132) in the revised edition of "The Fruit Culturist," (J. J. THOMAS,) the following interesting note:

"Residents in the Western States and other regions where intermittents and similar diseases result from malaria, state that a regular supply of ripe, home-grown fruit, is almost a sure preventive. Eat the fruit only when fully ripe, and eat only moderate quantities at a time, and little need be feared. The residents of such regions should, therefore, not omit the earliest opportunity for a supply. Plant large quantities of strawberries for early summer—they will bear abundantly a year from the time they become established. Plant many currant bushes—for these are a most healthy and excellent fruit—very hardy—and if in abundance, will last through all the hottest parts of the summer. The Doolittle and Orange raspberries are profuse berries—the former very hardy, the latter generally so, but should be laid down and covered with an inch or two of earth for winter. The Rochelle blackberry, if pinched in when three or four feet high (about mid-summer) will bear abundantly, and prove hardier than if the canes run up without control.

"The Delaware, Clinton and Concord grapes are early and hardy, and will bear in two or three years from transplanting. Dwarf apples, on the Paradise and Doucin stock, will flourish in any locality, and begin to bear profusely in three or four years, and on the Paradise stock often in two years. Some varieties bear early on common stock; such, for example, as the Dyer, Lowell, Early Strawberry, Sops of Wine, Oldenburgh, Porter, Belmont, Jonathan, etc.; but these will, of course, bear much sooner as dwarfs. The Bartlett, Washington, Julienne, Flemish Beauty, Beurre d'Amalis, Onondaga, Howell and Seckel pears, produce early as standards, and the Louise Bonne of Jersey as a dwarf. Houghton's gooseberry grows with great vigor, is very hardy, and in two or three years affords almost solid masses of berries in the branches. Such fruits as the above should be planted out on every new place, as indispensable to health as well as to comfort and economy; and emigrants to new countries should take a supply with them, as the best medicine chest they can provide."

SLEEPLESSNESS.

DR. FERRIER has recently published some observations he has made in relation to sleeplessness, and he tells us that a large proportion of the blood from the heart flows to the brain, and the increase or diminution of this amount means excitement or quiet. Any exertion of the brain, such as deep thought, increases the flow of blood to the brain, and so long as such flow continues this organ is excited, and the body gets no sleep or rest. Anything tending to promote circulation of blood in the brain, such as worry or anxiety, means sleeplessness; while, on the other hand, any cause that tends to diminish this flow of blood induces sleep. The best promoters of sleep were warmth, darkness and monotony of sound, for in all these there was an absence of excitement. Dr. FERRIER thinks that eight hours' sleep is necessary every night for the average adult, to restore his organization after the wear and tear to which it is daily subjected. The more a man exercised his brain the greater necessity there was for rest to recuperate himself, for every act of thought entailed a certain loss or consumption of brain substance.

Dr. R. GREENE says it is important always to keep as free from colds as possible. Dress warm, and avoid as much as your business will permit all sudden exposures to a cold or damp atmosphere. Colds in summer are more liable to be followed by serious consequences than in winter; but a cold at any season of the year is productive of much evil, and should never be neglected.

The pores of the skin are necessarily more or less open at all times, and a great amount of impure and diseased matter is thus thrown from the system by the millions of outlets with which the skin is supplied.

Colds arrest this action, and hence become dangerous. One great cause of mortality among children may be traced directly to the want of proper clothing to protect their bodies and limbs from the inclemency of the weather.

The causes of colds are so numerous that no rule can be laid down to avoid them, other than to dress comfortably and with due attention to the state of the weather, the condition of the body, and the places where you are going. If you at any time find that you have taken a violent cold, immediately place yourself in a warm room and take warm herb teas, if you can get nothing better, to produce perspiration. Keep in a warm room, free from exposure, and the cold will soon disappear, without serious disarrangement to the system. This is the only safe course to be pursued.

HARD PHILOSOPHY, BUT DOUBTLESS TRUE.

THE Science of Health, in speaking of Nature's remedies for disease, says:

Although the doctrine that Nature or Providence has provided some remedy for every disease (if we could only find it) has been believed in all ages and is now taught in all the medical schools in the world, with the single exception of the Hygeio-Therapeutic College, we can conceive of nothing more absurd. Diseases are the penalties of disobedience to vital laws. Has Nature attached a penalty to disobedience of her laws, and then provided a remedy to do away with the penalty? That would be such a self-stultification as no human legislation has ever yet been guilty of. Yet there are in the civilized world half a million of physicians who are busily, but vainly, employed in trying to drug and dose away the penalties. In the light of true science this is simply ridiculous, while in effect it is terribly disastrous; for every dose of medicine, being itself a violation of vital law, has its own penalty to be suffered. Hence the maxims of the drug schools, that "every dose, being a poison, diminishes the vitality of the patient," and "we cure one disease by producing another." * * If Nature had provided calomel, antimony, jalap, strychnine, alcohol, ipecac, cod-liver oil, and two thousand other drugs, or even air, water, exercise, etc., as remedies to obviate the causes of our intemperance, gluttony and other disease-producing habits, she should, to be consistent, have also provided remedies for broken bones, dislocated joints, spinal curvatures, warts, cancers, burns, scalds, and all the "ills that flesh is heir to." But no one pretends that surgical remedies are provided by Nature, or are to be found anywhere except in human ingenuity.

And again—to carry the principle to its ultimatum—if Nature has provided remedies for our natural and bodily diseases, why not also against the effects of storms, tempests, earthquakes, volcanoes, fires, floods, etc., which sometimes destroy human beings by scores, or hundreds, or thousands? Why not against wars, famine and pestilence, which, combined, are almost as great a curse to the world as is the drug medical system?

Nature has provided all things for use, nothing for abuse. If we do and can use everything and misuse nothing, our life will be perfectly healthy and happy. But if we cannot or do not use and do misuse the materials of the universe, we shall inevitably be sick and miserable just to the extent of that misuse. And this is the lesson that is to redeem the world from diseases, drugs and premature death, if it ever is redeemed. It is the doctrine of the world's physical salvation.

NEURALGIA OF THE FACE.

MEN are less subject to this painful complaint than women, owing, without doubt, to the reason that they cover their heads better while in the open air. It may be observed that the surface of the head which is actually covered in man is at least three times that which fashion allows to woman. Indeed, the points of contact between the hat or bonnet and the head in the latter are so irregular as to practically destroy any protection that otherwise might be afforded.

PEOPLE frequently mistake ventilation to mean *cold* air instead of *fresh* air.

Scientific and Useful.

HOW GRASSHOPPER EGGS ARE DESTROYED.

MR. JOHN C. WISE, one of the Grasshopper Commissioners of Minnesota, and editor of The Mankato Review, says, in a recent number of his paper:

"The Watonwan County Record says that a farmer of that county, living in a locality where a great many grasshopper eggs were deposited, went out one day to dig some, and after an hour's search, without finding any, came to the conclusion that they had all decayed. Telling his conclusions to a neighbor, the latter took him to a field where he said there were millions, but after considerable digging, they found their search equally fruitless. If the eggs had decayed, we imagine that some trace of the decayed matter would be found in the ground. In our investigations in the frontier counties we found nearly the same state of affairs. The eggs were supposed to be deposited in the greatest numbers, and surprise was generally expressed at the comparatively few found. We are inclined to the belief that the blackbirds, which are unusually plenty in the grasshopper districts, and the prairie chickens, both of which dig and eat the eggs, have destroyed them. The blackbirds, especially, have a great fondness for the eggs, dig them with great energy, and consume large numbers of them. A farmer of Watonwan County told us the other day that every year his corn has been badly injured by the blackbirds, which light upon the stalks and peck the kernels from the end of the ears. This year they have not troubled him, and upon investigation he found them feeding upon grasshopper eggs.

"Another hopeful prospect is, that where the eggs have not been thus destroyed, in many places the coating surrounding the eggs and constituting the sack, composed of mucus matter, has been dissolved by the damp weather, and the eggs lie unprotected in the damp ground. Prof. Riley, the entomologist of Missouri, gives it as his opinion that an unusual amount of dampness will destroy their eggs, and that their present condition in Minnesota is favorable for that result.

"While we do not desire to mislead the people of the frontier, we do believe that the outlook is decidedly hopeful. We would urge upon them, where practical, to plow and harrow shallow this fall where eggs are deposited; also to make investigations of the extent and condition of the eggs in their localities, and if any unusual facts are noted, report the same to this office at Mankato."

COMPOUND FOR DESTROYING INSECTS.

THE following compound, recommended by a French chemist several years since, may be worth trying on potatoes for destroying the potato beetle.

Take 2½ lbs. of block soap, 2½ lbs. of flour of sulphur, 2 pounds of mushrooms, of the species generally found in low, moist grounds, and 30 quarts of water. Divide the water into two equal parts; put one-half into a cask with the soap and mushrooms, after they have been bruised; boil the other half of the water in a kettle, with the sulphur in a bag and kept down to the bottom of the water with a weight. The sulphur must be stirred about, in order to better saturate the water. The water thus boiled must be thrown into an ordinary sized cask until it has acquired a high degree of foul odor, and the cask then closed up tightly. This solution may be sprinkled over infested trees, or plants of any kind, and it is said to be certain death to all kinds of insects.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL NOTES.

Cement for Steam Pipes.—Cheap and steam-tight cement can be produced by a mixture of rye flour and linseed oil, with an equal portion of white chalk.

Cement to Fasten Leather upon Metal.—Soak the leather in a hot solution of nut-galls, and apply it to the metal upon which it is to be fastened—the latter must be provided with a coat of glue. When dry, the leather will adhere so tight that it will tear before separating from the metal.

Harness, and other articles of leather that are injuriously acted upon by the ammoniacal exhalations common in stables may, according to Prof. Artus, be thoroughly and effectually protected by the addition of a little glycerine to the oil or blacking with which their surfaces are treated.

Dying Wood Mahogany Color.—Obtain a quantity of mahogany shavings or sawdust, and boil in soft water. This liquor makes an excellent dye for light-colored woods which it may be desirable to give a dark or mahogany shade. Basswood, poplar, pine, and similar light-colored woods, may be made to look like mahogany with this dye.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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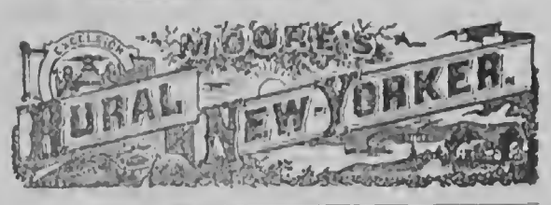


SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1876.

INTEGRITY IN CITIZENSHIP.

THE integrity of the citizen is the main pillar of a Republic.

It is not those who make or execute the laws that are alone responsible for the welfare of the masses. Granting this to be true, each and every citizen must be held in part responsible for the acts of the whole, and the individual becomes the leaven which in the end works good or evil, according to circumstances. Of late years (and we admit it with shame) official integrity has become almost a thing of the past, and the "noblest work of GOD" is found far less frequently in the political arena than formerly.

We may well ask ourselves, Why is this? Has honesty ceased to be a virtue? Or has its value depreciated in the estimation of the citizen? The latter we believe to be the true solution of whatever mystery there may be surrounding official dishonesty, and the subservience of principle to partisanship which has been so apparent during the past decade.

This depreciation of what has ever been held as a virtue in man, is perhaps but the outgrowth of national prosperity, together with the perfect freedom vouchsafed to every individual to work for his own exaltation and welfare. The general strife to accumulate wealth, tends not only to make all place a high valuation upon the talent required for its attainment, but also upon the thing itself; hence we come to place value upon a man's money instead of his integrity of character. There are few persons who will confess to such base worship; still it is to be feared that the taint has reached every grade of society, and the question, "How much is he worth?" is now more frequently asked than "What does he know? or what is his character?"

If we must continue in our "hero worship," well and good; but let the hero be a man who has not been made one by blind fate or inherited wealth, but gained the exalted distinction through his own individual exertions and integrity. We are not pleading for honesty alone, because a man may be as true as steel and yet lack other qualifications requisite to fill whatever station he may assume or be placed in by his fellow men, but sterling integrity must rank first and foremost.

Such men will not seek office nor will the office seek them, until the private citizen everywhere recognizes the priceless value of the attributes we have named. There is no lack of honest and intelligent men to fill every office in the gift of the people; but "money blindness" prevents the mass of voters from discriminating between the false and true, hence both enter where only one should ever be found.

The germ from which a reformation is to come, if at all in our political affairs, is at present in the possession of individuals, and we must all endeavor to encourage its growth by word and deed, and show by our own acts and dealings with our fellow men, what we would have reflected back to us from those called to positions of public trust. Parents must teach their children that desirable as riches may be in this world, there are things within easy grasp which are far more valuable. Mothers must cease to inculcate the idea that a good match for their daughters means a husband with money, while fathers point to our millionaires as the most noble examples of our race for their sons to emulate.

THE BETTER WAY.

How many people there are in the world who, under adverse circumstances, do just the wrong thing or, what is equally bad, do nothing at all! Occasionally we meet those in our social circle who reverse this rule and not only do something, but do exactly the right thing. Should we analyze such cases when they come under our observation, we should find almost always that it is the result of careful reflection.

We have in our mind's eye a sweet little woman of refinement and education, who married a poor man for love of him, believing him to be great and noble and all that was good. Alas! the disappointment! In a short time she learned to her sorrow that he never would be great, that nobility was a small part of his composition and that if ever he could be good such qualification was yet to come. Her idol did not fall to dust in a second; but by degrees the truth entered her soul. Did she sit down and bemoan her fate in having made such a fatal mistake? Did she wish she never had been born? Did she stand helpless and do nothing? No. Like a sensible little reflecting body as she was, she saw that a mistake had been made and then set about correcting it as best she could. She did not attempt at once to change the course of her whole domestic life nor did she take her friends and neighbors into her confidence for the purpose of getting that sympathy and condolence which is so sweet to many weak people in like circumstances. She reflected upon the matter and marked out for herself the course most likely in her opinion to bring the matter right. She started by degrees to lead that same husband who was not great, not noble and never had been very good, to see many great, noble and good things in life which he had never seen before. By constant and kindly endeavor she showed him that there was one good person in the world at least and that one his best friend on earth. He, with the germs of goodness in him which ALL men possess in some degree, finally perceived and appreciated the fact. He is not great nor perhaps noble in his character to-day; but he and his wife are very, very happy in their mutual exercise of kindliness and virtue. How easy it would have been for this young wife to have folded her hands and persuaded herself that she could do nothing under the adverse circumstances which cruel fate had brought to her; or, what would be infinitely worse, could have fought her terrible surroundings with their own weapons and thus inevitably wrecked two lives instead of saving one. The reflection showed her THE BETTER WAY, and the subsequent steps in that way made both of them better and happier. Can we not almost daily read such lessons in our intercourse with our neighbors, and can we not learn a lesson of reflection from them which shall produce equally good results? Let us try.

MAKING AND SAVING MONEY.

THERE are two ways of getting rich—one is to make money by speculating, and the other by saving a little constantly from whatever amount a person earns. The first is the quicker method, provided one is successful; the chances, however, with even the most shrewd speculators, are only about one in a hundred, and then not more than one in a thousand hold on to their gains, or any considerable portion of them, through life.

In all of our larger cities there are many rich speculators; but if we could only know the names of the thousands who have utterly failed to make a dollar in the same fields, the number of successful ones would appear ridiculously small. But the saving class far outnumber the speculating among those who are called rich or in comfortable circumstances both in city and country; besides, we can always count upon them as the solid and reliable portion of any community.

This being an indisputable fact, our young men and women who aspire to moderate wealth and respectability, should aim to save something from every week, month or year's earnings, no matter how small from necessity the sum may be.

The smallest sum put out at interest or safely invested in business, immediately commences to earn something for the possessor, adding just so much to his or her income.

There is another advantage of having something ahead; it is a credit among your fellow laborers or associates to nearly or quite the full amount of the accumulated capital, in case such accommodations are desired.

We will not pretend to say at what point savings should commence; but they who cannot save something out of a dollar or two dollars per day, will seldom do so from ten or twenty.

The habit of saving must be formed with that of earning; else it will seldom be practiced later in life. Nine-tenths of the men who have accumulated a competency for themselves and their families, owe their success to saving money, and not to what is generally termed making money by speculation.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

American Pomological Society. In a private note from the Hon. MARSHALL P. WILDER, President of the American Pomological Society, we learn that the notice which recently appeared in our columns in regard to the meeting of the above-named Society at Philadelphia, this year, was calculated to mislead. At the meeting of the Society in Chicago, last fall, it was decided not to hold an exhibition—as a Society—in connection with the Centennial, but go to Baltimore in 1877. The members will join in the exhibition of their several States, and the expectation is that a great display will be made from the 11th to 16th of September, in which all the States will unite. In conformity with this arrangement, the Pennsylvania Society extend an invitation to the American Pomological Society to become the guests of their Society at a grand social reunion to be held Sept. 15th, to which the members of the A. P. S. are invited, as well as to contribute fruits to the exhibition of the Penna. Soc. and participate in the hospitalities which are to be extended to the members of the oldest and most prominent Horticultural Society in the land.

The Phylloxera or Vine Louse.—M. DUMAS recently announced to the French Academy of Sciences that a mode of treating vines attacked by the phylloxera had been discovered, which is certain in its results in destroying the insect and in restoring the vine to health and fecundity. The remedy is the combined employment of sulpho-carbonate of potash, which kills the insect at any depth in the soil, and of potassic ammoniacal and sulphuretted manures. M. DUMAS himself is the fortunate discoverer, though his announcement to the Academy was not made until after his process had been tried by exhaustive experimenting by the commission appointed to examine into the various plans submitted. This being the case, DUMAS became the possessor of $60,000 reward, besides numberless other smaller prizes.

Planting Centennial Trees.—One can scarcely pass along the streets or ride in the cars without overhearing some one talking about planting a "centennial tree." It is certainly a good thing to do, but the time in which to do it is getting short, for the buds and leaves are coming forward very rapidly and it will soon be too late for planting this spring. Of course 1876 will give the negligent in this matter a chance to do a little tree-planting next fall, but then one will not be certain that they are going to live until the following spring, if death should ensue the opportunity cannot be made good for a hundred years. Just think of that, and hasten to plant your "centennial tree."

A Paradise for Farmers.—Brazil is the farmers' paradise. A young gentleman formerly from Georgia, writes:—"A planter's life in this country is agreeable and easy. In cultivating the land no plows are used; only the ax and hoe are needed—one for clearing the land, and the other for planting. My crop of coffee for this year is small on account of the frost; but I am now planting 20,000 trees, and when they bear they will give me 100,000 pounds of coffee annually—an income of $9,000 or $10,000.

Horse Beef.—During the past year 6,863 horses, asses, or mules were butchered for food in Paris, and averaged over four hundred pounds of meat each. It is said that the best Bologna sausage is made of asses' meat, but latterly it is seldom obtained unmixed with horses' flesh. It may interest some of our readers to know that several thousand pounds of the above edible yearly come to our markets from France.

Entomology at the Centennial.—The Entomological Society of Ontario forwarded a very fine collection of Canadian insects to Philadelphia, consisting of eighty-six cases—forty-five of which are Lepidoptera and twenty-seven Coleoptera—the remainder being occupied by other orders.

RURAL BREVITIES.

IT is said that a mixture of lime and strong brine is an excellent wash for all kinds of fruit trees, as it destroys lichens and other eppiphytic plants found on the bark.

THE BROTHERS GREEN, pisiculturists, are now experimenting with hybridized salmon—that is, they are trying to impregnate the ova of brook trout with the milt of the salmon. May they be successful!

DERRY'S IRISH GIANT, who is twenty-eight years old and stands seven feet five inches high, is on his way to the Centennial Exhibition. Philadelphians should engage him to pick cherries for them in June.

OWING to the press of advertisements for our last page this week, several favors in that line have to be laid over until our next issue. Advertisers wanting choice of page should take the hint and send in their favors early.

THOUSANDS of laborers in our larger cities have been made happy by the jingling of silver in their pockets during the past few weeks. Probably many a resolve to keep some of the glittering coin has also, ere this, been broken.

A DECREE has been issued by the Danish Ministry of the Interior, dated Feb. 25, laying down special regulations with regard to the exportation of domestic animals from Denmark to Great Britain, for the purpose of preventing the spread of contagious disease.

To all those readers who intend to visit the Centennial we recommend a careful perusal of the letter of YOUNG RURAL, on another page of this issue. By watching these letters every week much money and valuable time can probably be saved to those who go to Philadelphia as strangers there.

THE ILLUSTRATED CHAMPION—an eight-page paper, handsomely illustrated, and published by Messrs. WARDER, MITCHELL & CO. of Springfield, Ohio, in the interest of the CHAMPION MOWER—has just come to us. We like the machine talk, but advise the shooting of their funny man.

BRAMER, of Warrior Mower fame, showed his FRANK face in our publication office not long since. What the Central New-Yorker would do while he is absent we should never discover, had we not been informed that he left his scissors at home and that flour is comparatively cheap at Little Falls. Not that we wish to intimate that anyone from the Warrior establishment is a CLIPPER.

WE are in receipt of a handsome circular, issued by the AULTMAN & TAYLOR Mfg Co., Mansfield, O. It is illustrative and descriptive of their Threshers and Mounted Powers, and contains a large amount of information on the subject of Threshers that every farmer should know. It contains a brief but true history of that wonderful "rooster" which graces their advertisement in this number. Progressive agriculturists who keep abreast of the times should send for the pamphlet, which will be sent *free* on application.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

EVERY keg "Phœnix Pure White Lead" warranted *perfectly pure*—is white, fine, and has the very best body and covering properties.

SIDNEY LANIER'S CENTENNIAL CANTATA.

THE following is the cantata, written by Mr. SIDNEY LANIER and set to music by Mr. DUDLEY BUCK, which was sung at the opening of the Centennial Exhibition, May 10th:

The Centennial Meditation of Columbia.

I.

FROM this hundred-terraced hight
Sight more large with nobler light
Ranges down yon towering years:
Humbler smiles and lordlier tears
Shine and fall, shine and fall,
While old voices rise and call
Yonder where the to-and-fro
Weltering of my Long-Ago
Moves about the moveless base
Far below my resting-place.

II.

Mayflower, Mayflower, slowly hither flying,
Trembling Westward o'er yon balking sea,
Hearts within *Farewell dear England* sighing
Winds without *But dear in vain* replying,
Gray-lipp'd waves about the shouted, crying
No! It shall not be!

III.

Jamestown, out of thee
Plymouth, thee—thee, Albany—
Winter cries, *Ye freeze: Away!*
Fever cries, *Ye burn: Away!*
Hunger cries, *Ye starve: Away!*
Vengeance cries, *Your graves shall stay!*

IV.

Then old Shapes and Masks of Things,
Framed like Faiths or clothed like Kings—
Ghosts of Goods once fleshed and fair,
Grown foul Bads in alien air—
War, and his most noisy lords,
Tongued with filthe and poisoned swords—
Error, Terror, Rage and Crime,
All in a windy night of time
Cried to me from land and sea,
No! Thou shalt not be!

V.

Hark!
Huguenots whispering *yea* in the dark,
Puritans answering *yea* in the dark!
Yea, like an arrow shot true to his mark,
Darts through the tyrannous heart of Denial.
Patience and Labor and solemn-souled Trial,
Foiled, still beginning,
Soiled, but not sinning,
Toil through the stertorous death of the Night,
Toil, when wild brother-wars new-dark the Light,
Toil, and forgive, and kiss o'er, and replight.

VI.

Now Praise to God's oft-granted grace,
Now Praise to Man's undaunted face,
Despite the land, despite the sea,
I was: I am; and I shall be—
How long, Good Angel, O how long?
Sing me from Heaven a man's own song!

VII.

"Long as thine Art shall love true love,
Long as thy Science truth shall know,
Long as thine Eagle harms no Dove,
Long as thy Law by law shall grow,
Long as thy God is God above,
Thy brother every man below,
So long, dear Land of all my love,
Thy name shall shine, thy fame shall glow!"

VIII.

O Music, from this hight of time my Word unfold:
In thy large signals all men's hearts Man's Heart behold:
Mid-heaven unroll thy chords as friendly flags unfurled,
And wave the world's best lover's welcome to the world.

The Story-Teller.

FOR THE LAST TIME.

BY DUDU FLETCHER.

[Concluded from page 301, last No.]

"FOR joy once lost is pain," quoted Jack, absently. "Well, it is something, after all, to have had the joy! This morning, when I woke up, I said to myself:—'The pleasantness of life is not over for me yet. I have still a claim on it for one long, perfect day.' And now—I have had it; my day is well-nigh past!"

Eleanor made no answer.

As they rode on, the twilight deepened about them; a chill crept into the evening air; the color at the horizon faded to ashes of rose; a long, light wreath of mist ascended from the marshes and stole like the ghost of the dead day about the solitary fields. The scattered pools of water gleaming dimly through the dusk reflected the livid tone of the sky. The ineffable melancholy of an evening in the early spring fell upon them. They did not speak, but listened to the regular cadence of the horses' feet. That part of the road leads through a thicket of birches; every now and then a branch of the overhanging trees brushed against their faces, and a swarm of small white moths started up from under the leaves. Eleanor suddenly struck her horse sharply with her whip, and started down the hill at a mad gallop. The wind blew freshly in her face and there was exhilaration in the very movement; again and again she urged on her horse, taking a wild delight in the sensation of dashing along in the dark, not seeing where she went. It was with some difficulty that she checked her excited horse at the top of a long ascent in order to wait for Desmond, who had not dared to follow faster, for fear of frightening Olga beyond all control. Eleanor laughed gaily as he rode up a moment after her.

"I enjoyed that. It was great!" she said. "Did I startle you? Did you think Olga had run away with me?"

"If you had stumbled you would have killed yourself!" said Desmond, in a voice hoarse with suppressed emotion.

"Well, suppose I had," she retorted; "who would have cared? My friends? Rome would have talked for a week of that poor Miss Hardy, and how very shocking it was, how very distressing for Mr. Desmond!—she was killed under his very eyes, you know—and how careful one ought

"IF YOU HAD STUMBLED YOU WOULD HAVE KILLED YOURSELF!"

to be about accidents on horseback! So very unfortunate! And—and what a pity that those nice Tuesday evening receptions of Mrs. Van Cortlandt's will have to stop now for a time! such a loss to us all! As for my aunt—well, I'm afraid my poor aunt's chief despair would have been caused by the oddity and impropriety of my decease, and she would never be altogether comforted that I did not break my neck more decorously and with a proper escort. You're not an eligible escort, you know!" she added, with a reckless laugh.

"Don't talk in that way, please," said Desmond; "you don't know how much you pain me by doing so. Surely, my poor child, you must believe that there are people who care for you in another way than that."

"And why should there be?" she broke in passionately. "Have I ever cared for any one, myself? You have been cruel to me to-day, after a fashion," she added slowly. "I am sorry I ever came here with you. I don't think I am over-inclined to be romantic, but you have reminded me of what I had almost forgotten—that I am young and that it will be years and years before I shall outgrow the need of being loved. What good has it done you? What have you gained by it? This morning I was ready to marry Mr. Ross, if not with any great joy, at least without any great regret; and now—now you have forever ruined my contentment. I never shall feel as I did again, and I shall go on doing now what I would have done then, but without ever once shutting my eyes to the fact that I have missed my chance of happiness; that I shall die without ever having lived. Why could you not have left me alone? I am not going to change all my plans in life because of one day spent with you; why need you have taken the pleasure out of everything for me? Stop! I know what you are going to say, but it is of no use. This is our last ride together; to-night we say good-by. I may marry Mr. Ross without caring for him, but at least I will never see again a man I think I might have loved once; that is, if I had ever had a heart—which I haven't! Don't answer me; and let us go faster, please! I want to get home."

They put their horses to a sharp trot and rode on for several miles in silence. Behind them had risen a watery moon, that glimmered with an uncertain light through the sea of vapor in which it floated. Now and then the white wall of a farm house started out from the darkness, and the barking dogs made a dash at the horses as they passed. A dark line of trees against the sky marked the undulating course of the Tiber; now and then the moonlight glanced through their branches and cast a long, shining reflection on the water. Strange, fantastic shadows fell across the road, and more than once the horses shied violently at some mysterious black figure lying in their path. Before very long the houses succeeded each other at shorter intervals, and the distant city showed a pale circle of fire at the far-off horizon.

"We are nearing home. Do not go so fast," said Desmond suddenly; "this is our last ride, remember. Must it be the last, Eleanor?" he cried impulsively, laying his hand on the pommel of her saddle as he spoke.

"The very last," she said. "You may despise me now, but I should despise myself were I capable of giving up all the convictions of my life on the impulse of this day. I made a mistake of judgment when I consented to see you again after what had passed between us, and, like all other mistakes, it brings its own punishment with it.

"'Let what is broken so remain:
The gods are hard to reconcile.'

Do you like that quotation better than this morning's? And what do you think you will do with yourself to-morrow?" she added, with an abrupt transition to her customary voice. "By the way, are you going to the races, this year? I am."

"And so it is all over, and henceforth when we meet, we meet as strangers," said Jack, slowly. "Well, it was a pleasant dream while it lasted, only, as in all dreams, one must wake up awhile. Excuse me, Miss Hardy; not having had the advantage of frequenting your society all my life, I find I cannot hope to emulate your charming self-possession. How I envy you that praiseworthy habit of self-control! It is really an admirable triumph of good taste over those dangerous guides—the feelings! You ask about the races. I am so sorry I cannot say that I am going too; but we poor wretches cannot always afford to share in the amusements of our betters. It is quite pardonable, though, that you should forget this; a young lady with your brilliant prospects can hardly be expected to remember that we are not all blessed to the same degree."

Eleanor did not answer; indeed, she scarcely heard him. "It is our last ride, our last day together," she thought. "I must never see him again. I dare not! This is the last time, the very last time of all." She thought with a dull surprise of the change wrought in herself since that morning. "I wonder if we must altogether say good-by?" she mused. "Surely, surely he might still go on caring for me a little, be still my friend."

There came no answer to the question from out the night into whose melancholy depths she gazed with eyes brimming over with tears.

"Wait a moment," said Jack, reining in his horse suddenly; "those two lights at the end of the avenue are your gateway-lamps. The farewell to Bohemia must be said now, Miss Hardy." He held out his hand and clasped hers firmly for a moment, trying to pierce the darkness with eager eyes that could not be satisfied with taking a last long look. "Good-by," he said slowly, "good-by forever, Eleanor!"

The trees above them rustled in the darkness; the horses drooped their weary heads together; away in the marshes they heard the desolate, piercing cry of some lonely night-bird. "Good-by," he repeated softly, "good-by, and God bless you, Eleanor! Our paths part here: yours, I pray, may pass through all the sunny spots of life; mine—well, a man can always find enough to do if he is willing to work. Perhaps—who knows?—I may even learn to forget you, in time," he added, with a short, bitter laugh. "What do you say to comparing notes with me, this day ten years hence, Miss Hardy?"

Eleanor bent low down over her saddle-bow and played with the mane of her horse. "Do come and call on me to-morrow, Mr. Desmond," she said.

Jack burst out in a wild laugh. "Call on you?" he cried. "What! you want me to come and talk to you as another man would talk? Perhaps,—if my anecdotes are amusing enough and I know how to keep my place—perhaps you will even invite me to attend those Tuesday evenings when all Rome goes to the Palazzo Pini to admire the charming Miss Hardy! Heavens! Can't you understand that I love you! Have you lived so much in a drawing-room that you do not know there are passions in this world? Has your life been a parlor comedy for so long that you have forgotten that men are made of flesh and blood, and not merely of black coats and equally correct sentiments, manners, and neckties?" He flung her hand away from him with a sort of contempt. "And to think that I have thrown my heart, my life, my honor, at the feet of a woman so little capable of understanding their worth! Eleanor"—his voice grew gentle as he spoke her name—"have you never known what it is to love? *I* love you—do you know what that means to me? Just this—I love you. To me you are simply the one woman in the world, the one being whose presence is perfect joy, whose absence the world and all the glory thereof could not tempt me for an instant to forget. You are full of faults. I see them and love them for your sake! You are full of noble qualities, and I bow down and worship them! I love the very glove on your hand, the ribbon at your throat, the faded flower you have worn and thrown away. My feeling toward you is no dainty devotion, ready to fall gracefully into the background at a hint, and be the pleasing, tenderly remembered, lightly forgotten romance of a season. I love you as a man loves the woman he would make his wife—passionately, strongly, jealously. I want you all to myself, or not at all! Pardon me! I mean—I wanted you," he added, "I am speaking of the past. You need not tell me again you do not care for me; I know it now. I will not go and see you. I am your lover, Eleanor; I cannot play at being your friend."

Little fleecy clouds had been drifting fast across the face of the moon; now, as he ended, the wind blew them suddenly apart, and a flood of clear, soft light poured down on Eleanor's bowed head and tight-clasped hands. Some bird in the branches above them, awakened by the sound of Desmond's voice, gave a sleepy twitter as it turned in its warm nest. The horses shook themselves and stamped, impatient to be gone.

"Jack," said Eleanor, in a meek, small voice, "I don't think it's very kind of you to make me say it—but I wish you would come and see me to-morrow—for, look here, Jack—I've been thinking—I'm sorry for what I said—and—and I don't want you to come as my *friend*, you know!"—[*Atlantic Monthly.*

THE REWARD OF KINDNESS.

MRS. GORHAM put down a letter she had been reading, and looking around the table at her blooming daughters and two tall, handsome sons, she said in a doleful tone:

"Your Aunt Sabina is coming, and has invited herself here without ceremony."

"When?" asked Arabella, with an intonation of intense disgust.

"She will reach here this afternoon. Wilber, you will have to meet her."

"Sorry, ma; but I promised to drive Miss Caldwell to the park. Fred can go."

"Certainly, I will go," Fred said gravely, though there was a hot flush on his forehead. "I am very fond of aunt."

"Nonsense!" said his mother. "You have not seen her for fourteen years. I never went to the detestable old farm after your father died."

"Nevertheless, I have a vivid recollection of Aunt Sabina's kindness while we were there."

"Dear me, Fred," drawled Lucilla, "don't be sentimental. I wish the old thing would stay home. I can't imagine what she is coming here for."

"She is our father's sister," said Fred, "and I cannot find anything surprising in her looking for a welcome among her brother's children."

Mrs. Gorham shrugged her shoulders. If she had spoken her thoughts, it would have been—"Fred is so odd! Just like his father." But she only said—"I may depend upon you, then, to meet your aunt, Fred? I will see about her room."

It was a source of great satisfaction to Mrs. Gorham that her children were all like herself. "'Greers,' every one except Fred," she would say, congratulating herself that the blood of "Gorham pere" was not transmitted in the features of her elder son, Wilber, or any of the three girls.

That Greer pride meant intense selfishness; that Greer beauty was of a cold, hard type; that Greer disposition was tyrannical and narrow-minded—did not trouble Mrs. Gorham. That the son, who was "all Gorham," was proud to the core with the pride that knows no false shame—that he was noble in disposition, handsome in a frank, manly type, generous and self-sacrificing—she could not appreciate. His hands and feet were not so small as darling Wilber's, he had no fashionable affectations and no "Greer" look. So his mother thought him rough and coarse, and his sisters declared that he had no style at all. But outside the home, where a great show of wealth was made by many private economies, Fred was more appreciated.

When he became a man, and knew that his father's estate, though sufficient to give every comfort, was not large enough for the extravagance his mother indulged in, he fitted himself for business, and took a position in a counting house, thus becoming self-supporting. Darling Wilber had studied law, but his first client had not yet appeared, and Mrs. Gorham supported him, trusting his fascinations would touch the heart of some moneyed belle. Miss Caldwell was the present hope. She was her own mistress, an orphan-heiress, and very handsome. That she was proud and cold in manner was only an additional charm to Mrs. Gorham; and Lucilla, Arabella, and Corinne were enthusiastic in their admiration of "Cornelia Caldwell's queenly manner."

Nobody suspected that Fred, blunt, straightforward Fred, hid one secret in his heart, confessed to no living being. And that secret was a love, pure and true, for Cornelia Caldwell—a love that would shut itself closely away from any suspicion of fortune-hunting—that only drooped and mourned thinking of the heiress.

By four o'clock Fred was at the station, waiting for Aunt Sabina. What a little, old-fashioned figure she was, in her quaint black bonnet, and large-figure shawl. But Fred knew her kindly old face at once, though he had not seen it since he was twelve years old.

"You are aunt," he said, going quickly to meet her.

She looked at the handsome face, and caught a quick, gasping breath.

"You must be one of John's boys," she said. "How like you are to your father."

"I am Fred," he answered.

"Dear heart! How you've grown! Is your ma here?"

"She is watting for you at home."

The good old country woman had never had the least doubt of a warm welcome at her brother's house, and Fred certainly confirmed her expectations. He found the old black leather trunk, the bag, the band-box, the great bulging cotton umbrella, and put them all in the carriage. He made his aunt go to the restaurant and refresh herself before starting on the long drive home. He listened with respectful interest to all the mishaps of the long journey, and sympathized with the "Ruination of every mortal stitch I've got on, dear, in the dust and smoke."

And he chatted pleasantly of his childish recollections of the tiny house and wide farm where Sabina lived.

"You see," she told him, "I made up my mind this year I would come to see you all once more before I died. I've tried to before now, dear, but something or nuther allers hindered. Dear, dear! You're all grown up, I s'pose, and you was but a lot o' babies last time poor John brought you to see me."

"Corinne is the youngest, and she is eighteen. Wilbur is the only one older than I am."

"Yes, I remember. Well, dear, I'm glad that John's wife brought up such a fine family. I'm only an old maid, but I do love children and young folks."

But a chill fell upon the kindly old heart when home was reached at last, and four fashionably-dressed ladies gave her a strictly courteous greeting. But for the warm clasp of Fred's hand, I think she would have returned to the station in the same carriage she came, so wounded and sore she felt.

"Not one kiss," she thought, "and Fred kissed me at the train, right before all the folks."

Fred slipped a silver coin into the hands of the servant girl who was to wait upon his aunt, promising another if she was very attentive, and himself escorted the old lady to her room. It was not often the young man's indignation found voice, though it grew hot over many shameful acts of hard selfishness in the house of his mother; but he said some words on that day that called a blush to the cheeks of the worldly woman.

It was not a very busy season; and finding Sabina was likely to have a sorry time if left to the other members of the family, Fred asked for a holiday, and appointed himself the old lady's escort. He was too proud to care for the fact that the quaint little figure on his arm attracted many an amused glance, but gravely stood by while a new dress for Dolly the dairymaid, and a city necktie for Bob the hired man, were purchased.

He gave undivided attention to the more important selection of a new black silk for aunty herself, and pleasantly accepted a blue silk scarf, with large red spots, that was presented to him, appreciating the love that prompted the gift, and mentally resolving to wear it when he paid the promised visit to the farm. He drove Aunt Sabina to the park. He took her to see all the sights.

Once or twice, meeting some of his gentlemen friends, they had thought "the queer old party is some rich relation, Gorham is so very attentive," and had delighted Sabina by their deferential attention.

Once—Fred had not counted on that—in a picture gallery, Cornelia Caldwell sauntered in alone. She had heard of Sabina through the disgusted comments of Lucilla, and knew she had no property but a "miserable farm," but she greeted Fred with a smile far more cordial than she gave her admirers. A little lump came in Fred's throat. Then he gravely introduced the stately beauty in her rustling silk to the little old-fashioned figure on his arm.

"My aunt, Miss Gorham—Miss Caldwell."

They admired the pictures together, and the young lady was cordial and chatty.

After they came down the steps, Miss Caldwell said:

"You must let your aunt drive an hour or two with me, Mr. Gorham. I am going to do some shopping, so I will not tax your patience by inviting you to join us, but I shall be pleased if Miss Gorham will dine with me, and you will call for her this evening."

Then she smiled again, made Sabina comfortable in the carriage and drove off, leaving Fred forty times deeper in love than ever, as she intended he should be.

"He is a very prince of men," she thought, "and I will give him one day's rest. Bless the dear old soul! she has such blue eyes as my dear old grandmother had."

Then she won Sabina's confidence, and found she was worrying about the purchase of certain household matters that would not go in the black leather trunk, and that she did not like to worry Fred about it.

She drove to the places where the best goods could be had, keeping guard over the slender purse against all imposition till the last towel was satisfactorily chosen and directed. Then she drove her home and brought her to the room where "grandmother" was queen, knowing the stately old lady would make the country-woman welcome.

In the evening that followed Fred's heart was touched and warmed till, scarcely conscious of his own words, he told his long-cherished secret and knew that he had won love for love.

Aunt Sabina stayed two weeks and then went home, to the immense relief of the Gorhams, and carrying no regret at leaving any but Fred and Cornelia.

It was not even suspected that Cornelia spent four weeks in the light of the summer season, listening to the praises of Fred at Sabina's farm house; and Fred did not know it until he came too, after she was gone, and had his share of listening to loving commendation of one he loved.

He wore the necktie and made himself so much at home, that Sabina wept some of the bitterest tears of her life when he left.

"To have you both and lose you!" she sobbed.

"Next time we will come together," Fred whispered, and so consoled her.

But, alas! the next time Fred came was to superintend the funeral of the gentle old lady; and though Cornelia came too, his happy wife, there was no welcome in the pale lips, or the blue eyes closed forever.

But the will the old lady left, gave all her worldly possessions to her "dear nephew, Frederic Gorham"—the farm and farm house.

It was apparently no very great legacy, and Cornelia smiled at many of the old-fashioned treasures she touched, all with the tender reverence death leaves.

Ten years ago Sabina was laid to rest in her narrow coffin, and there is a busy, flourishing town around the site of the old farm.

Mr. Frederic Gorham lives there now, and handles large sums of money—the rents of stately buildings.

"Made his money, sir, by speculation," you will be told, if you inquire as to his source of income. "Fortunate purchase of ground before the town was thought of."

But I tell you that the only speculation he made was in the kindness of his heart, extending loving attentions to his father's sister, and that the only land he ever owned was Aunt Sabina's farm.—*"Standard."*

MISSING A FISH.

THE water was heavy, and no mistake, and as it dashed round the rock on which I stood, I rather hesitated whether to try that particular pool or not; for I knew by bitter experience the difficulty of following a fish, should he, as most probably he would, take down stream. However, I did the plucky, and in a few minutes my blue-bodied fly was swinging across the pool. Round it came floating on the top of the stream; so strong was the current that it would not sink. Two or three more throws, and then up came a noble fellow, half of him showing out of water as he boldly took my fly; the line tightened, and the steel struck home. A moment's pause as we both prepared for the tussel, and then off he dashed down stream. I groaned as yard after yard raced out, and I prepared to follow my friend in his reckless career. Fortunately, before I had moved, he turned and came straight back to me; fast as I reeled up, yet faster came the fish. I could not step back so as to regain the touch, and for a few agonizing moments I thought he was off; but no, I suppose the water kept the line taut, and prevented the fly coming away, as too often occurs in such a crisis; and I felt that the link that connected us still held good. Eagerly I watched the line as it slowly moved round and round the small pool, and made up my mind, if possible, to keep my antagonist within its narrow bounds. A short dash down was prevented by a little extra pressure. I dared not put on the strain too hard, for I was fishing with single gut and that little thicker than sewing gut. I began now to have hopes of killing him, and was chuckling over the idea of sending him home as a present to the friends I had left in the morning, and so have the laugh on my side; for of course they had made merry at the idea of my rushing off so frantically. "There's many a slip." The extra pressure had evidently riled the fish, and he made an angry dash up stream, followed by a grand leap clear out of the water; but he was unfortunately so close under my rod at the time that I could not slack sufficiently, the hold broke, and my fly came back to me. As if in derison, clear out of water again sprang my late antagonist. Was it my fancy, or was there a wriggle of his tail, and a cock of his eye, as much as to say, "Sold again, old fellow!"

INTERESTING SPIDER STORY.

QUITE a crowd gathered yesterday at a carpenter shop in this city, where a scene was transpiring that filled the spectators with astonishment. Near a bench in the shop hung a medium-sized mouse, head downward, and around its body was coiled a single thread of a spider's web, which reached to a corner of the bench above and had its fastening there. On the mouse's tail quietly sat the spider, which seemed to be manipulating the thread and working it as with a pulley. When caught the mouse was on the ground, and after five or six hours' work the spider managed to hoist it about an inch, and there it hung. The statement concerning this singular affair is that the mouse was accustomed, when on a predatory excursion, to emerge from a hole under the bench and pass to an inner room. The spider laid a trap in its path, it is conjectured, and yesterday morning, as the mouse was making its daily rounds, it was caught and securely held in the net set for it, the spider taking up position on its tail. Though the mouse hung suspended, a dead weight, the thread did not give way, and there it hung, helpless, between earth and heaven. At night the carpenter closed up his shop and dropped the curtain on the show, but the spider was still at work and had completed about an inch in the elevation.—*N. O. Picayune.*

A CURIOUS LAKE.

ONE of the most curious and interesting lakes in the world is Zirkwitz Lake, near Laybach, Illyria, at 1,115 yards above the level of the sea. It is 10,150 yards long, its greatest width is 4,750 yards, its greatest depth is 3½ yards. It presents the singular phenomena of being sometimes filled with water, and sometimes being perfectly dry, so that it can be cultivated like an ordinary field. How the water escapes has never satisfactorily been ascertained. Six brooks empty into it, but the greatest part of its water comes by infiltration. It often happens that there is not the least trace of rain in the valley and its environs, while an immense volume of water flows into the lake and speedily fills it. This is explained as follows: While fair weather prevails at Zirkwitz it rains on the higher table lands, and the water filters to the lake, filling it in seventy-two hours. It dries in thirty days.—*N. O. Picayune.*

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Orchid Culture.—By E. S. RAND, Jr. Cambridge: Hurd & Houghton. [Price, $3.50.]

STRANGE flowers are Orchids—many of them beautiful—many of them, as Mr. RAND remarks, the weeds of the Tropics. In the desire to obtain many varieties on the part of those who suffer from or who enjoy (as may be) the Orchid fever, friends in the Tropics are sent to for collections, in which case, Mr. RAND thinks, we run about as much chance of getting something desirable as a foreigner would who should send to a New England farmer and request a consignment of the wild plants of New England.

Orchids grow slowly and when weak do not bloom. It is doubtless true that many are sickened of Orchid collecting and culture by indiscriminate catalogue selections, in which low-priced, insignificant plants are first chosen—while the same amount invested in half-a-dozen fine plants would lead to a just appreciation and increased knowledge of all that concerns them.

It is only for the past forty years that Orchids have been cultivated with success away from their tropical homes. "Now the number is so great that we may safely say there is no family of plants so rich in species and varieties."

Warmth, moisture and rest, are the conditions essential to Orchid culture; and the early failures with the plants at first introduced, resulted from uneven heat, too little moisture and an ignorance as to the necessity and period of rest. There are, however, many details as to their cultivation which vary decidedly with different species—more especially with the epiphytal Orchids.

"A close, dead air is fatal to the health of many" and a proper ventilation is of the first importance. Many (such as the *Phalaenopses, Aerides* and *Vandas*) "grow perpetually and should always be kept in the warmest houses." How to determine when the resting period should begin and when it should terminate—the quantity of water required for different species during rest, and the "regulations of syringing"—how and when to pot—the treatment after potting—their culture in baskets, pots and upon blocks—the diseases and insects that attack them, are but a few of the subjects with which the book deals. It comprises 476 octavo pages, of which 40 are devoted to a glossary—about 300 to descriptive lists, and the rest to the above and kindred topics. Besides the value of Mr. RAND'S own experience therein recorded, which has extended "over many years"—the compilations have been made with care, exactitude and patience, and we should think ought to prove serviceable to the Orchid grower.

Rural Hours. By SUSAN FENIMORE COOPER. 18vo.—pp. 539.] New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THOUGH by no means a new book, it has been deemed sufficiently popular by its publishers to go into a new and handsome edition. The reader who opens it with the anticipation of something stirring or exciting will be sadly disappointed; but interesting it certainly is. It is a smoothly written, pleasant, personal diary of a quiet, intellectual, bucolic life comprised in the four seasons of the year, containing much information, imparted in an agreeable way. Thus writes the authoress on the 3d of July:

"How pleasantly things look about a farm-house! There is always much that is interesting and respectable connected with every better labor, every useful or harmless occupation of man. We esteem some trades for their usefulness, we admire others for their ingenuity, but it seems natural to like a farm or a garden beyond most workshops. It needs not to be a great agricultural establishment with scientific sheds and show dairies—for knowledge and experience are necessary to appreciate the merits of such a place;—a simple body, who goes to enjoy and not to criticise, will find enough to please him about any common farm, provided the goodman be sober and industrious, the housewife be neat and thrifty."

A Dilemma. By the author of the Battle of Dorking. Paper. New York: Harper & Bros.

PERHAPS no book created a greater sensation at the time than the Battle of Dorking, and in the volume before us Col. Chesney has worked out much the same idea, transferring the scene to India and dealing with the demoralization of the Sepoy contingent of the Indian Empire. The incidents are cleverly worked up, and sufficiently exciting to enchain the reader's attention to the end of the book. Being a novel, there is an amount of love and characterization, but we do not think the Colonel has shown much vigor in his treatment of this part of the subject. A Dilemma, however, will be found of an interest beyond the average novel. As an expression of the military view of the state of affairs in India, the book possesses some value.

Sabbath Reading.

A PRAYER.

MAKE known the Gospel truths, *our* Father King.
Yield us Thy grace, dear *Father*, from above.
Bless us with hearts *which* feelingly can sing,
"*Our* life Thou *art* for *ever*, God of Love!"
Assuage our grief in love *for* Christ, we pray.
Since the bright Prince of *Heaven* and *glory* died,
Took all our sins and *hallowed the* display,
Infant *being* first a man, *and* then was crucified,
Stupendous God! *Thy* grace and *power* make known:
In Jesus' *name* let all *the* world rejoice.
Now labor in *Thy* heavenly *kingdom* own—
That blessed *kingdom*, for Thy saints *the* choice.
How vile to *come* to Thee *is* all our cry!
Enemies to *Thyself* and all that's *Thine*,
Graceless our *will*, we live *for* vanity,
Loathing Thy very *being*, evil in design.
O God, Thy will be *done*, *from* earth to heaven;
Reclining *on* the Gospel let *us* live,
In *earth* from sin *delivered* and forgiven.
O! *as* Thyself *but* teach us to forgive,
Unless *its* power *temptation* doth destroy,
Sure is our fall *into* the depths of woe.
Carnal in mind, we've *not* a glimpse of joy,
Raised against *heaven*: in *us* no hope can flow.
Oh, *give* us grace and *lead* us in Thy ways;
Shine on *us* with Thy love and give *us* peace.
Self and *this* sin that rise *against* us slay.
Oh, grant each *day* our *trespasses* may cease.
Forgive *our* evil deeds *that* oft we do,
Convince us *daily* of *them* to our shame.
Help us with heavenly *bread*, *forgive* us, too,
Recurrent lusts, *and* we'll adore Thy name.
In thy *forgiveness* we *as* saints can die,
Since for *us* and our *trespasses* so high,
Thy Son, *our* Saviour, bled on Calvary.

This remarkable composition evinces an ingenuity of arrangement peculiarly its own. The initial capitals spell, "My boast is in the glorious Cross of Christ;" the words in italics, when read from top to bottom and bottom to top, form the Lord's Prayer complete.

AN ARAB LEGEND.

THE Arabs have a fable from which we may learn a lesson.

Once upon a time a miller, shortly after he had lain down for an afternoon's nap, was startled by a camel's nose being thrust in at the door of his house.

"It is very cold outside," said the camel; "I only wish to get my nose in."

The miller was an easy kind of a man, and so the nose was let in.

"The wind is very sharp," sighed the camel; "pray allow me to get my neck inside."

This request was also allowed, and the neck was thrust in.

"How fast the rain begins to fall! I shall get wet through. Will you let me place my shoulders under cover?"

This, too, was granted; and so the camel asked for a little, and a little more, until he had pushed his whole body inside the house.

The miller soon began to be put to much trouble by the rude companion he had got in his room, which was not large enough for both, and as the rain was over, civilly asked him to depart.

"If you don't like it, you may leave," saucily replied the beast. As for myself, I know when I am well off, and shall stay where I am."

This is a very good story; we hope the Arabs are all the wiser and better for it; but let us also try to turn it to a good account.

There is a camel knocking at the heart of us all, young and old, seeking to be let in; its name is sin. It comes silently and carefully, and knocks, "Let me in;" only a very small part at first. So in comes the nose, and it is not long before, little by little, it gains entire possession; like as it was with Achan of old, "I saw," "I coveted," "I took," "I hid," step by step, until he was "led captive by the devil." Once in possession, the master soon becomes the tyrant. Thus it is that bad thoughts enter the heart; then bad wishes arise; then wrong deeds; until evil habits rule us. The French say, "It is the first step that costs;" if the first step is not taken, the second will never be known.

WHAT A CHILD DID.

MR. MOODY tells the following story:—In one of our Western States, a good many years ago, a little girl heard she could do something for her Saviour, and her teacher said she could bring her father to the Sunday-school. At first she could not get him to the door of the little log house where the Sunday-school was kept. He had never been at a Sunday-school a day in his life. He was a great drunkard and blasphemer, but the little girl succeeded in getting him to that school; and what is the result to-day? He has planted eleven hundred and eighty Sabbath-schools throughout the Western States.

IT is a remarkable fact that every day in the week is observed by some nation for the public celebration of religious services. Sunday is devoted by the Christians, Monday by the Greeks, Tuesday by the Persians, Wednesday by the Assyrians, Thursday by the Egyptians, Friday by the Turks, Saturday by the Jews.

FAITH AND WORKS are the two oars of a boat. Row with the right oar alone, and the boat describes a useless circle on the water. Row with the left oar alone, and it merely goes in the opposite direction. But use both oars with equal force, and it moves swiftly and evenly forward.

Ladies' Portfolio.

ASK MOTHER.

WHERE is the sweetest pet,
The brightest birdie yet?
Whose are the prettiest eyes,
Most loving and most wise?
What form of fairest mold
Is worth its weight in gold?
You can't imagine? Well,
Ask mother—she can tell!

Where is the sunniest gleam
That makes her life a dream?
Where are the rosy toes,
And blessed little nose,
And dimpled hands and feet,
The models all complete,
Which nature can't excel?
Ask mother—she can tell!

Who is the grandest king,
Or queen, or anything
That may be great or high?
Who wandered from the sky
The best of girls or boys,
To be her joy of joys?
You guess—the baby? Well,
Ask mother—she can tell!

FASHION ITEMS.

NEW YORK, May 10, 1876.

THE Spring has been so coldly unfavorable to the budding styles that few novelties have appeared, except in the piece, in shop windows. The peculiarity of prints this season is the bewildering variety of plaids. Makers seem to have gone back to revolutionary times for patterns, and we have, therefore, fac-simile reproductions of the styles that captivated our ancestors. Prints are selling in this city as low as 5c. for the most approved brands of domestic mills. The "polonaise," formerly such a prime favorite, has again come in vogue, and I can do my readers no better service than to describe a model gown, which, with the necessary modifications of materials and trimmings, will answer admirably for the country.

The model is of quadrille cloth of blue-black tint, with pressed bars forming square figures that are almost invisible. The soft material drapes beautifully, and may be worn over a skirt of black silk. The waist and hips fit the figure as closely as any ordinary basque, and are therefore lined with the usual dress lining of silisia, or else with the strong black silk that dress makers now use for this purpose. There are no whalebones in these garments, but if the wearer prefers to have them, they should be of the most flexible sort, and instead of stopping at the waist line, should extend over the hips. The front has but one dart, and the long Gabrielle gore extends from the armhole to the bottom of the garment. The side form of the back is broadened below the waist, is not draped, nor is the skirt part of it sewed to the back form; it is merely hemmed or faced on the back edge (below the waist), and two sets of tapes are added to tie it back over the dress skirt, and thus keep the front and sides of the polonaise smooth, flat, and clinging. The skirt part of the back form is piped all around, and is draped from the lower edge in a cluster of pleats up the sides and at the top, and is laid on the side form, tacked up the sides, and the cluster of pleats is sewed on this side form just below the waist line. The waist of the back extends plainly over the tournure in Marguerite fashion. The quadrille cloth, of which the model is made, is a yard and a half wide, hence there is no seam down the middle of the skirt in the hollow box-pleat; but as goods three-quarters of a yard wide will be most used, it is necessary to have two breadths for the back form, as a quantity of the material is added to each side of the skirt below the waist line. As this back form is very long, it will be necessary to shorten it by a deep drapery pleat on each side of the middle; this will also prevent it from hooping when the lower edge is drawn up in the cluster of pleats at the top. The pockets are of the wool material, with the top turned over like a flap, and faced with silk; three button-holes are then worked or outlined by silk cord on this flap. The coat sleeves have a pretty cuff, with two buttons and mock button-holes. The collar and revers are of silk.

Gray or brown mohairs are being made up by furnishing houses in great quantity, and in very pleasing style. This material is wiry and durable, sheds dust, and will not crockle. The suits are sold as low as $12.50. Similar suits in alpaca can be bought for $15.

A marvel of cheapness is a suit for summer wear, made of gray linen and sold at $3.50. These, of course, are not very durable, but admirably adapted for use in visiting the Centennial, when the wearer may count on dusty travel and be subjected to such slings and arrows of fortune as would be the destruction of a nice gown.

Hats are displayed in all imaginable shapes, and never, perhaps, has the wearer been allowed such discretion and latitude in her fancy, as by Dame Fashion this year. The winter styles seem to be the most numerous, but one's own sweet will may be the criterion.

The conductors of this journal have decided to let me illustrate my ideas, and in subsequent issues I shall give my readers patterns of what, in my judgment, is most appropriate to wear.

FROLIC.

THE AWKWARD AGE.

A WISE and sweet woman suggests, as a sovereign remedy for the uncomfortableness of what we are wont to call the awkward age in boys and girls—that time when they are too large to feel like children, and not quite sure enough of themselves to feel like adults—that we should always treat the smallest children with the courtesy and consideration that we show to grown-up people, and then they will never feel at a loss as to their reception, thus quite escaping the uncertain and uncomfortable "awkward age." There are few things more important in the right development of a human creature than self-respect. But, how is a child to learn to respect itself if it sees that it is alone in the sentiment—that by no one else is it respected? More harm is perhaps done children by snubbing than by weak indulgence. We have all seen homes where the slightest expression of a child's idea on any point under discussion was greeted with—"Who asked you what you thought?" or with some sarcasm, such as—"Ah, now we shall have the matter settled—Miss Experience is freeing her mind." It is so difficult to hit the right mean. We do not want our children troublesome to visitors—grown-up people do not want to pause in their talk to listen to the unconsidered opinions of a child of thirteen—but what if we tried the experiment of respectful attention for a while? Would not the young folks cease talking until they had something to say, quite as surely if they saw that they were listened to with attention, as if they felt that their voices were but beating the air?

A WISE ANSWER.

SOME of the fancies of the Jewish Talmud are very witty and neat. Particularly so are those short apothegms which illustrate or defend some attribute of God by answering an infidel's objection. The following is a perfect specimen of Oriental retort:

A prince once said to Rabbi Gamaliel—"Your God is a thief; he surprised Adam in his sleep and stole a rib from him."

The Rabbi's daughter overheard this speech, and whispered a word or two in her father's ear, asking his permission to answer this singular opinion herself. He gave his consent.

The girl stepped forward, and, feigning terror and dismay, threw her arms aloft in supplication, and cried out.

"My liege, my liege! Justice! Revenge!"

"What has happened?" asked the prince. "A wicked theft has taken place," she replied. "A robber has crept secretly into our house, carried away a silver goblet, and left a gold one in its stead."

"What an upright thief!" exclaimed the prince. "Would that such robberies were of more frequent occurrence!"

"Behold, then, sire, the kind of thief that our Creator was. He stole a rib from Adam and gave him a beautiful wife instead."

"Well said!" avowed the prince.—*Selected.*

A WORD ABOUT MARRIAGE.

A PHYSICIAN writes the following sensible advice:—My profession has thrown me among women of all classes, and my experience teaches me that God never gave man a greater proof of His love than to place women here with him. My advice is, Go, propose to the most sensible girl you know. If she says yes, then tell her how much your income is, from what source derived, and tell her you will divide your last shilling with her and love her with all your heart. And then keep your promise. My word for it, she will live within your income, and to your last hour you will regret that you didn't marry sooner. Gentlemen, don't worry about feminine extravagance and feminine untruth. Just you be true to her, love her sincerely, and a more faithful, fond, foolish slave you will never meet anywhere. You won't deserve her, I know, but she will never know it. Now, throw aside selfishness, and see what will come of it.

TWO WOMEN IN A STREET CAR.

SHE was a pretty girl, nicely dressed, and she sat diagonally in a rear corner of a street car, occupying about two seats. Another lady came in and, turning herself sideways, sank into a swan-like dip across three of the adjoining seats. The young lady in the corner looked at the other's back and sniffed with her left nostril; looked at the languid contempt of the attitude and sniffed with her other nostril; then regarded the lady's costume, and finding it elegant, sniffed with both nostrils. Beginning to get mad, she rubbed her nose violently with the second joint of her forefinger, and subsequently with her handkerchief. Slowly their eyes met. One flashed the most undying hatred and scorn; the other irradiated lofty pity and disdain. They had never met before, and now they met but for a moment. What had happened? We give it up. By all means, let woman have the ballot.

THE London Pall Mall Gazette, speaking of the American girl in England, says:—Like the wind, she goeth where she listeth; but every man knoweth whence she cometh. She arouses the hostility of English matrons the moment she sets foot on British soil. Few of them are aware that she has been purposely trained to self-reliance and self-assertion, like her brother, from infancy. Such a training shows itself in her manner, which grates as harshly on British feelings as her voice too often does on British ears.

THE Women's Christian Temperance Union of Massachusetts are to have a Fair at Horticultural Hall, Boston. This organization is among the best of those now at work in the interest of Temperance.

Reading for the Young.

Now, who that is wise and witty,
Will tell this little maid
The thought—(it must have been pretty)—
And what the primrose said?

A LETTER FROM UNCLE MARK.

MY DEAR GIRLS AND BOYS:—Last week OLD UNCLE TRUE wrote you a letter which pleased me in part and displeased me in part. In the first place he said "Dear Boys and Girls." Now, he is a right nice old man; but I don't think age is an excuse for a lack of gallantry to the fair sex. Why did he not say "Girls and Boys" instead? However, we are both too old to quarrel, though I *do* think that all of us should never forget to display that polite respect to the opposite sex which has its origin away down in the deepest part of our better nature. But OLD UNCLE TRUE and I will not have any differences in this peaceful column, where we both should show the young how to be agreeable to each other. Speaking of that reminds me that I noticed in one of the letters published last week—the one from EMMA of Maryland—a strong argument against the use of tobacco. It pleased me. She seems to have begun at the right end of the subject. But I will tell you confidentially that I smoke cigars myself occasionally; though had I known in years gone by the expense and strength of the habit I should never have begun, and I sincerely hope that all my young boy friends who have not begun will avoid it. ELLA MILLER seems to have some little doubt of the truthfulness of YOUNG POTATO DIGGER'S statement about digging two hundred bushels a day. Well, that does sound a little steep. ANNIE LEE wants to know how many cousins are going to the Centennial. So do I. HENRY WELFARE is informed that eggs will not be admitted to the United States mails. ELLA LA MONTE wants YOUNG TOM to write again; but I fear he has produced almost too much flutter among his female Cousins by his strong language to reappear among you just yet.

Now, my dear little Nieces and Nephews, let me add a few words about the Centennial. Of course you all know that it means the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of these great United States. And you all must know, too, that we are to have an immense fair at Philadelphia, called the Centennial Exhibition. You may not know that in many places other than Philadelphia the Fourth of July is to be celebrated this year with greater show than ever before. In fact, at nearly every town and village in the United States special services and ceremonies will be the order of the day. Don't miss your nearest celebration if you can help it, for you will not probably be as happily situated as our Hibernian friend, who said he should not have time to attend *this* Centennial, but would certainly attend the *next one*. A large majority of you cannot go to Philadelphia, but you can read all about it in the RURAL. *That* you should not miss on any account, for next to seeing a thing is reading all about it in the newspapers, and your letters all show that you are readers. I shall be at the great Centennial Exhibition more or less while it lasts, and if you say so I will tell you about it occasionally. What do you say to a few words on the subject from

UNCLE MARK?

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Tioga Co. (N. Y.) Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—As the Editor was so kind as to print my letter that I wrote so long ago, I will try again; and as it is quite customary for our Cousins to describe themselves, I will give you a minute description of myself. I am of medium light, have gray eyes, brown hair and light complexion; am by no means so slender as some of my girl Cousins—my weight is 142 pounds, and I am just fifteen years of age. I am a farmer's daughter, and am not afraid to milk the cows or feed the calves and pigs. I can do nearly all kinds of housework, and can bake bread fit to take to the Centennial Exhibition. I am very fond of music, and wish to become a good musician; but I will say no more in regard to myself. I like the way in which "Critic" puts down the filthy and disgusting habit of chewing tobacco. I would say for one that no young man is a gentleman in the true sense of the word that indulges in the habit. Then, dear girls, let us beware of those "tobacco distillers," as he justly calls them; they are not fit for our society. I should like to learn more of M. A. B., as we both reside in the same county. I think we should become acquainted. I hope she will write again and sign her full name and P. O. address, as I wish to correspond with her.—FLORENCE, *Owego, Tioga Co., N. Y.*

From a Madison Co. (N. Y.) Girl.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—I am visiting at my grandfather's. He has taken the RURAL over twenty years. He has eighteen cows; two nice black horses, their names are "Prince" and "George," and a pet dog named "Nero." Grandpa makes maple sugar; it is lots of fun to go into the woods and see them boil the sap, but better still to help grandma "sugar off" in the house, when we have all we want to eat and make some little cakes; the only trouble about them is that they are too good to keep. I am twelve years old, and like to play ball, hide and seek and all sorts of games just as much as I ever did. I intend to study French and music this summer, as I like them very much. —A BLISSFUL GIRL.

From a Missouri Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—I am a plump little girl, ten years old. My home is in Missouri. I go to the graded school. We have written examinations every month. I take six studies; my average is 93. I am visiting at Madison Co., N. Y. I have just begun a charm string, and there is room on it for all the buttons the RURAL Cousins wish to send me. I have a pet cat named "Flossy."—JENNIE M. B., *Cazenovia, N. Y.*

Another Bright New Yorker.

DEAR EDITOR:—I see that all the boys and girls are writing, and I thought I would write too. We have taken the RURAL a good many years, and like it the best of any paper we ever had. I like to make out the Puzzles. I went to school last winter, and studied Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, Reading, Writing and Spelling. We had a large school; there were forty-five scholars.—C. H. W., *Oneida Co., N. Y.*

From a Livingston Co. (N. Y.) Girl.

DEAR RURAL:—I am a little girl ten years old. I go to school and study Arithmetic, Geography, Independent Fourth Reader, Spelling and Writing. I live in a village with my papa, mamma, brother and sister. I have not as many pets as most of the RURAL Cousins have. I have only a little black and white kitten. I think the letters from the boys and girls are splendid.—NELLIE, *Nunda, Liv. Co., N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

POETICAL ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I AM composed of 58 letters:

My 9, 5, 6, 11, 3, 22, 2, 27, 48, 18, 51, 30, 12, 41, 53, 13, 50 is a poem by Coleridge.

My 36, 15, 24, 44, 55, 52, 26, 4, 14, 20, 31, 53, 27 is the birthplace of a celebrated American poet.

My 10, 27, 40, 29, 34, 32, 17, 46, 31, 58, 39, 41, 16, 17, 33, 41, 58, 13 is one of his poems.

My 1, 46, 42, 19, 8, 34, 31, 52 is a poem by J. G. Holland.

My 45, 23, 35, 13, 16 was a Greek poet.

My 28, 38, 47, 44, 25, 21, 44, 43, 17, 54, 6, 40, 22, 45 is a poem by Whittier.

My 18, 15, 57, 35, 46, 10, 45, 49, 56, 32 was an English poet.

My 37, 2, 55, 37, 41, 20, 3 is the person to whom one of Bayard Taylor's poems is addressed.

My whole is a quotation from one of Alfred Tennyson's poems.

☞ Answer in two weeks. M. E. B.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA. No. 10.

My first is in will but not in deed,
My second is in stalk but not in reed;
My third is in right but not in wrong,
My fourth is in whistle but not in gong;
My fifth is in short but not in long,
My sixth is in story but not in song;
My seventh is in throw but not in fling,
My eighth is in winter but not in spring;
My ninth is in pardon but not in forgive,
My whole is the city near which I live.

☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

SYNCOPATIONS.—No. 1.

1. SYNCOPATE agony, and leave a heathen god.
2. To put under ground, and leave to purchase.
3. To bend over, and part of an organ.
4. To swell, and leave a stain.
5. To demand, and leave a shell fish.
6. To draw tea, and leave part of a porch.
7. Part of a church, and leave an old man.
8. A table article, and leave early.
9. Part of a lady's dress, and leave part of an ox.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

DIAMOND PUZZLE.—No. 3.

1. A CONSONANT. 2. To plunder. 3. Founded. 4. One who scolds. 5. Adorned with a beak. 6. Tardy. 7. To hinder. 8. A color. 9. A consonant. C. B. C.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—April 29.

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 2.—Florida and Georgia.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

DEATH OF HON. T. C. PETERS.

THE Hon. THEODORE C. PETERS, favorably known to many readers of this journal as a prominent agriculturist and an able and popular writer upon rural topics, died in Brooklyn, on Saturday last, aged 70 years. He was born in Warren, Ct., but in 1810 his father removed to Darien, Genesee Co., N. Y., being one of the pioneer settlers of the "Holland Purchase." On arriving at manhood, T. C. PETERS studied law with the late Judge LOVE of Buffalo, and was admitted to the bar in 1834, in the class with PRESTON KING and others. Though successful—holding the offices of City Clerk and City Attorney of Buffalo for several years—Mr. PETERS retired from the practice of the law in 1840, and was subsequently engaged in farming and other pursuits. He soon became widely and favorably known as a speaker and writer on agricultural subjects, in which field he was a leader and did much to promote rural improvement. For some years Mr. PETERS was one of the Special Contributors to the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and he continued to write for it occasionally to the time of his decease. Many of our readers will remember the ability, intelligence and rare practical sense displayed in his writings. A series of humorous and sarcastic articles over the signature of JOHN PLOWHANDLE attracted much attention, many of them being widely copied, and gave Mr. P. (as Major PLOWHANDLE) no little notoriety and popularity.

Mr. PETERS was for many years an active member and officer of the N. Y. State Ag. Society, and its President in 1865. He held many offices of trust and honor. He was twice (in 1852 and 1853) elected to the Assembly from Genesee Co., and on the passage of the law establishing the Board of Equalization of State Taxes, in 1859, he was appointed State Assessor by Gov. MORGAN, drew the short term, was re-appointed and retained the office until 1865. In 1866 Mr. PETERS sold his extensive farm in Darien and removed to Maryland, where he resided for about two years, being sent during the time through the South as the agent of the Department of Agriculture to re-establish agencies in the Southern States and report upon their condition, etc. Since 1868 he has resided most of the time in Brooklyn.

Personally, Mr. P. was a most agreeable man, his rare intelligence and amiable disposition rendering him a favorite in social circles. Though he had reached the full age allotted to mortals, his decease is a loss to the community, and will be lamented by thousands of personal friends and admirers. Mr. PETERS leaves a wife, daughter and three sons—two of the latter being competent journalists in this city.—D. D. T. M.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

MR. SARGENT of California has made a speech in the Senate deprecating the evil results following the influx of Chinese on the Pacific Coast. He enumerates a long chain of evils which, he says, are directly traceable to the presence of the Mongolian, and urges the Government to effect a change in the existing treaty.

There has been a sale of thoroughbreds at the stock farm of Gen. Harding, near Nashville, Tenn. Nineteen lots were sold at prices under the average for the quality of the stock.

There has been a split in the Union League Club of New York. The seceding members propose to organize a Political Reform Club, whose purposes are indicated by its name.

As amateurs we have gone back a century, and revived stage-coaching. Col. KANE of New York, has made his initial journey, and henceforth will run regularly, daily, to Pelham—a village, about 15 miles from New York. The coach has been imported from London, and is a perfect model of the old-time mail coach. Everything is done regularly; there are three relays of thoroughbred horses, and altogether the scheme is as novel as it is pleasant. The route is one of the most beautiful drives out of New York.

There is a prospect of a very general war among the railway magnates, and already there has been a reduction of freight rates on through traffic. The indications are that the strife will be very acrimonious, and agents of the various lines report that a reduction in passenger fares is to be duly expected, in which event travel this summer will be *very* cheap, and the expense of attending the Centennial materially reduced.

The seventeenth Delegated General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church has assembled at the Academy of Music in Baltimore and was called to order at nine o'clock by Bishop JANES. Bishops SIMPSON, SCOTT, AMES, BOWMAN, HARRIS, FOSTER, HAVEN, ANDREWS, MERRILL and PECK occupied seats on the platform and the auditorium was filled with delegates.

The Emperor of Brazil has been impeded in his eastward progress at Promontory Station, Utah, by a very muscular bull who stood on the track and upset an engine and eleven cars composing a freight train. The accident happened at Blue Creek.

There has been a damaging flood in Utah. The track of the Union Pacific Railroad is washed out a few miles east of Ogden, and eight freight cars ran into the river. The bridge of the Utah Central Railroad across Weber River at Ogden is in peril, and the cars are pushed across by hand. All the streams are very high, and the prospect is that great damage will result therefrom.

The site on which Cincinnati is built was sold for less than fifty silver dollars in 1787.

The Connecticut Legislature and the newly elected Governor, Mr. INGERSOLL, have been installed with the usual ceremonies.

The Women's Prison Association of New York city, which preferred charges against the management of the Raymond street jail, Brooklyn which the Supervisors' committee have been examining, sent to the Supervisors a remonstrance against a report from the committee being accepted on the ex-parte testimony that had been taken. Several of the witnesses, they maintained, were unworthy of belief; others were interested persons.

Farmers in Lancaster, Ohio, report most unfavorably as to the wheat crop, averring that there will be no more than a fourth of a crop, and some are plowing up their wheat land, while others declare that the wheat is injured but slightly.

The fruit prospect is good yet in Southern Ohio. Apples so far, are not injured at all, peach, pear and cherry trees give promise of a fair crop, and it is quite probable that there will be an abundance of the various kinds of small fruits.

The Pennsylvania Steel Company cast the largest steel ingot ever molded in this country, and equal to any made in England. The ingot is ten feet long, and has 29 inches square section. Its solid contents are 100,000 cubical inches, and its weight is 24,000 pounds. This mass will be sent to the Centennial either in its present form or forged into a shaft under the Company's 14 ton hammer.

The Ohio Board of State Charities has directed Dr. BYERS, its Secretary, to visit all jails, city prisons and infirmaries in the State and report on their condition.

Belgravia, the London magazine, has been sold for £200, and the authoress, Miss BRADDON, is coming to this country to lecture.

Of Iowa's population over sixteen years of age, only one in 168 cannot read, and yet newspapers in that locality do not seem over prosperous.

The San Diego (Cal.) Union says that there are 158,852 fruit trees in that county, of which 44,985 are orange, and 27,800 olive.

Everything is quiet at the Massillon and other Ohio mining districts. Some threats were made and shots fired at Farmington mine. The new force of miners were at last accounts working in the Farmington mine under protection of the militia. The strikers declare they will never go to work at the reduced rates.

Miss LOGAN and Miss BEARD, two young revivalists from England, will continue the revival in New York, taking up and prosecuting the work after the manner of MOODY and SANKEY.

The mountains in the vicinity of Port Jervis, N. Y., have been full of fire during the past week, presenting a grand scene at night. Much valuable timber is being destroyed. In the northern part of Deer Park thousands of acres have been swept over. These fires are supposed to be the work of incendiaries, and measures have been taken to ferret out the vandals.

At a meeting of citizens held at the Mercantile Library in Philadelphia, a resolution expressing the opinion that the opening of the Centennial Exposition on Sundays would do much to promote every object for which the Exposition is held, without endangering any public interest whatever, was adopted. A committee for the purpose of calling future meetings was appointed.

The Navy Department is still under investigation.

A quantity of very beautiful lace, the work of Canadian ladies, will be a pleasing feature of the Centennial at Philadelphia, and from both provinces will be seen many articles in exquisite point and other laces, faithful copies of rare old laces, and some tasteful, original designs of the worker. Some of this is exquisitely crocheted, microscopically fine lace, and might be mistaken for Irish lace.

The Pennsylvania Legislature, at 12 M. Friday, March 5, adjourned *sine die*.

We give herewith a recapitulation of the Conventions, Republican and Democratic, held up to the present time and their complexion, also a summary of the candidates and their strength.

REPUBLICAN RECAPITULATION.

Arkansas—Twelve delegates for Senator Morton.

California—Ten delegates for Blaine, two for Bristow.

Connecticut—Ten delegates for Jewell, two for Bristow.

Colorado—Six delegates claimed for Blaine.

Georgia—Eight delegates for Conkling, seven for Morton, four for Bristow, three for Blaine.

Indiana—Thirty delegates for Morton.

Maryland—Sixteen delegates pledged to Blaine.

Massachusetts—Incomplete. Eight delegates claimed for Bristow, four for Blaine—fourteen to be elected.

Mississippi—Fourteen delegates for Morton, two for Bristow or Blaine.

Nevada—Six delegates claimed by Blaine.

New York—Sixty odd delegates for Conkling, the remaining ones of the 70 unknown.

Ohio—Forty-four delegates for Hayes, divided between Blaine and Bristow on the second ballot.

Oregon—Six delegates instructed for Blaine.

Pennsylvania—Fifty-eight delegates pledged for Hartranft—all claimed for Blaine on second choice.

Rhode Island—Eight delegates with preference unknown.

South Carolina—Nine delegates for Morton, five divided between Blaine, Bristow and Hayes.

Texas—Sixteen delegates claimed by Morton.

Vermont—Ten delegates, equally divided between Blaine and Bristow.

Virginia—Eighteen delegates for Blaine, four for Morton or Conkling.

Wisconsin—Twenty delegates for Blaine.

Montana—Two delegates instructed for Blaine.

Utah—Two delegates claimed by Blaine.

Wyoming—Two delegates instructed for Bristow.

STRENGTH OF EACH CANDIDATE.

	Instructed.	Claimed.	Total.
Conkling	—	79	79
Blaine	27	107	134
Bristow	2	46	48
Hartranft	58	—	58
Hayes	44	—	44
Morton	56	34	90
Jewell	—	10	10

DEMOCRATIC RECAPITULATION.

Connecticut—Twelve unpledged delegates, equally divided between Tilden and Bayard.

Georgia—Twenty-two delegates unpledged and claimed by Tilden.

Indiana—Thirty delegates instructed for Gov. Hendricks.

Louisiana—Sixteen delegates uninstructed, with preference unknown.

Massachusetts—Incomplete; claimed by Tilden.

Nebraska—Six delegates in favor of Tilden.

New Hampshire—Ten delegates uninstructed, and of unknown preference, claimed by Tilden.

New York—Seventy delegates in favor of Tilden.

Pennsylvania—Fifty-eight delegates uninstructed, but leaning toward Hendricks.

Rhode Island—Eight delegates uninstructed, and of unknown preference.

Texas—Sixteen delegates of unknown preference.

STRENGTH OF CANDIDATES.

	Instructed.	Claimed.	Total.
Hendricks	30	58	88
Tilden	70	48	113
Bayard	—	6	6

The field meeting of the Detroit Horse Association for 1876 will be held July 4th to 7th inclusive. Premiums amounting to $10,000 will be given.

Navigation had scarcely been resumed on the Erie Canal at West Troy when a break occurred at Port Schuyler, emptying the canal between West Troy and Albany.

Navigation is open on Lake Champlain.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Paris Salon has opened with the yearly exhibition of paintings. The display is brilliant. Many American artists contributing.

Latest advices from Cuba contain hopeful news for the friends of Cuban liberty. The Insurgents are burning estates, destroying crops and attacking railroad trains with success.

In the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. CHITTENDEN for Gen. SCHENCK, said if the committee should be of opinion that certain correspondence of Park, Schenck and Fisher was proper to be considered he would waive all objection and leave the committee perfectly free to act. It was decided by the committee that the papers should not be received as evidence, but if Gen. Schenck desired to make a statement he was at liberty to do so.

Sir Henry James has given notice in the English Parliament that he is dissatisfied with the Royal Titles Act, and charged that the Government has not fulfilled the pledges given during the debate of the bill. The British Lion is wagging his august tail omenously.

England has called Spain to account for the murder, by her officials, of an English sailor at Malaga. Comparisons are not nice, but—that English Government does protect its subjects vigorously.

The Madrid Congress, by a vote of 163 to 12, rejected the proposition that Protestants should be restricted to private worship. They are to have equal privileges with Catholics.

The Liverpool grain market is very dull. Wheat has fallen off two pence, but corn is in better demand.

Dispatches from Belgrade state that the new Ministry received Prince Milan's approval, and then resigned at once.

Winslow, the forger, has been remanded to jail, neither Government having come to an understanding. They seem to have agreed to disagree, and the Treaty will probably be abrogated.

A serious riot took place in Salonica, European Turkey, last Saturday, between the Christians and Mohammedans. The trouble arose from the fact that a Christian girl wished to become a Mohammedan. She was forcibly taken from her Turkish friends by the Greeks. During the riot the French and German Consuls were assassinated by the Mohammedans. Further disturbances are apprehended. At last accounts the authorities had taken no measures to protect life and property, and no arrests had been made.

The Grand Operatic Festival, organized by the Franco-American Union to raise funds for the erection of the statue of Liberty in New York harbor, was very successful. The exterior and stage of the Opera House were decorated with American flags. The audience was a brilliant one, consisting of many distinguished persons and the elite of Parisian society. Among those present were Minister Washburne and all the members of the United States Legation, ex-President THIERS, MM. WADDINGTON, OSCAR DE LAFAYETTE, ROCHAMBEAU, and DE TOCQUEVILLE.

The steamer Pandora will sail from Portsmouth on the 25th of May next, to communicate with the Polar expedition.

Several Deputies have, on the strength of documentary evidence in their possession, informed the Ministers that they fear the French workmen going to Philadelphia will give attention mainly to politics. Accordingly, these Deputies have urged the Government to refuse the proposed grant of $20,000 for enabling them to visit the Centennial Exhibition.

Mother STEWART, the temperance advocate, obtained a public reception in Dundee, Scotland, on April 10, and was presented with an address expressive of the appreciation entertained there for her philanthropic labors. There was a very large audience, and Mrs STEWART was cordially received.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, May 6, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	57,852	Rice, bbls	540
Whisky	3,051	Cut meats, pkgs	7,375
Corn meal, bbls	2,949	Lard, pkgs	6,400
Corn meal, bags	2,212	Tobacco, hhds	2
Wheat, bush	537,400	do. cases	—
Corn, bush	504,250	Butter, pkgs	25,775
Oats, bush	246,150	Cheese, bxs	12,825
Rye, bush	28,250	Cotton, bales	10,830
Malt, bush	37,000	Rosin	3,101
Barley, bush	35,550	Spts. Turp., bbls	900
Beans, bbls	6,100	Dried Fruits, pkgs	100
Grass seed, bush	1,250	Eggs, bbls	21,100
Beef, pkgs	1,500	Peanuts, bags	1,308
Wool, bales	675	Dressed Hogs	7
Hops, bales	350	Leather, sides	87,000
Pork, bbls	8,680	Sugar, hhds	50
Tallow	1,425	Oil cake	9,500
Molasses	45		

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 827 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 23,630 do.; same time last year, 8,430 do. Exports of peas past week, 1,590 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 314,106 do.; same time last year, 175,890 do. The general tone of the bean market is dull. Sellers do not look for extra activity at this time. Still the stock is quite large that is stored and speculatively held, and the first lull in the demand is attended with weaker rates. Mediums are quoted 5c. lower. Marrows range as before, but the inside rate is about the selling one. Prime pea beans scarce and steady. White kidneys are not marked. Red ones have sold pretty freely, but at reduced prices. Canadian peas are quiet and easier. Green peas lower. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.30@1.35; fair to good, $1.60@1.65; prime mediums, $1.15@1.20; fair to good, 90c.@$1; poor, 50@90c.; prime marrows, $1.60@1.65; fair to good, $1.30@1.50; prime white kid., $1.50@1.55; other, $1.25@1.30; prime red kidney, $1.20@1.25; other, $1@1.10; Lima (Cal.), $2.80@3.00. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.18@1.20; do., in bulk and bond, 98c.@$1; green, $1.35@1.40; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.70@2.75; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—Bleachers want choice lots for which they offer full rates. Offerings are small generally. Southern quoted 36½@37c.; and Western, 35@35½c.

Exports past week, none; since Jan. 1, 36,200 do.; same time last year, 34,950 do.

BROOM CORN is hard to sell, with prices a little irregular.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—The butter trade has remained in the sensitive condition which always attends the gradual crossing from white to yellow, and were it not for the very liberal trade to Eastern buyers early in the week, prices would have shown a greater decline. The trade thinks that the lowest points have been touched for parcels of table fitness. White will soon have to have a separate quotation. With May here buyers begin to look for color in both State and Western, they frequently get it in the latter, but it is oftener a chemical than meadow tint. The Producers' Price Current gives the following:

Comparative receipts and exports from June 1st.

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, pkgs.
June 1, '75, to May 1, '76	1,049,873	33,059
June 1, '74, to May 1, '75	951,036	49,880
June 1, '73, to May 1, '74	923,046	32,032
June 1, '72, to May 1, '73	664,143	47,082
June 1, '71, to May 1, '72	637,072	67,653
June 1, '70, to May 1, '71	503,135	22,076

New butter, Paris State, selected, 28@29c.; do., other 24@27c.; creamery, 27@30c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 27@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; Welsh tubs selected, 26@27c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 26@—c.; fair to good, 24@25c.; Falls, Western creamery, prime, 28@29c.; fair to good, 26@27c.; Western tubs, dairy, good to prime, 24@26c.; fair to good, 17@21c.

Western factory, choice, 24@25c.; do. fair to good, 21@23c.; poor, 17@21c. Some low grades of State, 19@21c.

CHEESE.—There is a very liberal export movement and a light home trade demand. Supplies are greatly reduced, yet, in their anxiety to close out before important arrivals of new, sellers name easy prices. We quote:

State factory, fancy, 12¼@13c.; fine, 12@12¾c.; do. good to prime, 11@12c.; fair to good, 9¾@10½c.; poor to fair, 6@8c. State Farm Dairy—fancy, 11@12½c.; good to prime, 10@11c.; fair to good, 9¾@10c.; Western factory, fine, 11¼@12½c.; good to prime, 10½@11¼c.; flat fair, 8@10c.; poor to fair, 3@7c.

Now is quotable as follows:—State factory, good, 11@11¼c.; fair, 9@10c.; half-skimmed, 7@9c.; skimmed, 3@5c. Exports of cheese past week, 19,963 bxs. The Producers' Price Current gives the following comparative receipts and exports from June 1:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, pkgs.
June 1, '75, to May 1, '76	2,348,649	95,307,211
June 1, '74, to May 1, '75	1,936,310	93,235,511
June 1, '73, to May 1, '74	1,927,821	87,325,401
June 1, '72, to May 1, '73	1,696,014	75,399,207
June 1, '71, to May 1, '72	1,416,319	62,307,574
June 1, '70, to May 1, '71	1,455,873	60,912,215

COTTON.—Export movement has been small and prices have been weak, closing at 12½@12 17-32c. for May, 12¾@12 25-32c. for June, 12 31-32@13c. for July, 13¼@13 5-32c. for August, 13 1-16@13 3-32c. for September, 12 15-17c. for October, 12 27-32@12¾c. for November, and 12 27-32@12¾c. for December.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16
Strict ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Good ordinary	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Strict good do	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜
Low middling	11 11-16	11 13-16	11 15-16	11 15-16
Strict low middling	12 3-16	12 5-16	12 7-16	12 7-16
Middling	12 9-16	12 11-26	12¾	12¾
Good middling	13 1-16	13 3-16	13 5-16	13 5-16
Strict good middling	13 9-16	13 11-16	13 13-16	13 13-16
Middling fair	13 15 16	14 1-16	14 3-16	14 3-16
Fair	14 13-16	14 15-16	15 1-16	15 1-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 3-16
Strict ordinary	10 5-16
Low middling	10 13-16
Middling	11 11-16

DRIED FRUITS.—For apples, with some advance at the West, there has been inquiry here for straight lots quartered apples, which are offering reservedly at the advanced rates. Otherwise trade dragg, and prices about nominal.

Apples—State, sliced, 9½@9¾c.; do., quarters, 9c.; Western quarters at 8@8¼c.; Southern sliced, 9@9¼c. for prime; fair lots, 8@8¼c.; Tennessee quarters, 7¾@8c. Blackberries, 10c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@15c.; do. fancy, 16@17c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 20@21c. Exports of dried apples, past week, 50 bbls. Since Jan. 1st, 1,400; same time last year, 9,005.

EGGS.—Receipts have been very large, and as the outlet is reduced at this season prices have ruled low. The extreme for best Western to-day is 15c., but there is no disposition on the part of holders of prime to recede further, as supplies will fall off at the low-ruling prices. Duck and goose eggs hardly wanted.

Near points, ₱ bbl., 17½@18c.; State and Penn., 15@16c.; Western, prime, 14½@15c.; do. fair marks, 14@14½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 14@14½c.; Canadian, 14½@15c.; duck, 18@19c.; goose, 28@30c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $1 ₱ lb.; in tin, $1.50. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras, 55c. The market for all oils is now very slow.

FLOUR.—There has been a larger business on export account, favored by easier prices, but at the close there is a more confident feeling, with the markets abroad in better shape.

Superfine State, $4.10@4.50; extra do., $4.90@5.50; superfine Western, $4.10@4.50; extra do., $4.60@5.70; No. 2, $3.85@4.50; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.65@5.25; trade brands do., $5.25@7.00; white wheat extras, $5 75@7.00; St. Louis, $5.35@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@6.25; Southern at $4 15@4.65 for superfine; $5.00@6.25 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.25@8.75 for trade and family brands. Corn meal selling at $2.75@3.25 for yellow Western; $3.00@3.35 for Pennsylvania; $3.65 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples, since Jan. 1st, 4,315 bbls.; same time last year, 18,000 do. The stock of apples is now reduced to common sorts, and few parcels are good enough to bring the extreme. New arrivals do not add to the good quality that could be moved, and unless lots have saved first rate they had better not be shipped. Strawberries are lower with quite free arrivals; demand good. Peanuts are more buoyant and holders are firm, with a view to wholesale trade. Cranberries are running out; the stored lots are almost gone.

We quote:—Choice apples, $1.00@1.25; good, $2 50@3.75; fair mixed, $2.50@3.25. Strawberries, best, 35@40c.; other, 25@30c. Peanuts, Virginia, per bush., $1.60@1.70; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, standard crates, $4.75@5; good, $4.50; extra Jersey crates, $4@4.50; bbls., $14@15.

FEATHERS.—The demand is moderate at 54@55c. for prime white live Western geese; 35@45c. for mixed.

FURS AND SKINS.—Most of the common grades of skins have been reduced in sympathy with the dull Leipsic Fair. We should remark that some holders have confidence in the market under the impression that the late decline and dullness abroad was more the result of antagonistic combination than through a natural course. We quote:

Otter, ₱ piece	$6 50@ 8 00	$4 00@ 5 50
Gray Fox	1 75@ 2 00	1 50@ 1 75
Red Fox	1 60@ 1 75	1 25@ 1 50
Black Bear	10 00@15 00	7 00@10 00
Brown cubs and ylgs.	4 00@ 5 00	2 00@ 3 00
Fisher	8 00@10 00	7 00@ 8 00
Mink, dark	2 00@ 3 00	1 25@ 1 75
pale	1 00@ 1 50	75@ 1 00
Muskrat, spring	28@ 30	25@ 27
winter	23@ 25	21@ 23
fall	18@ 20	16@ 18
Kitts	6@ 7	5@ 6
Beaver, ₱ lb	1 00@ 1 75	75@ 1 00
Raccoon	68@ 80	40@ 55
Opossum	12@ 15	12@ 15
Skunk, black		75@ 90
striped		10@ 40
Wolf, mountain		2 00@ 3 00
prairie		75@ 1 00

GRAIN.—For wheat, with the lower rates of freight from the West, there have been liberal receipts. This has led to easier prices; but, at the close, exporters are operating more freely, and there is some improvement from the lowest point.

Rye quoted at 81c. for Canada in bond. Corn is lower under larger supplies. Latest sales at 62½c. for steamer grade mixed Western; 60¾@64¾c. for ungraded mixed; 65c. for yellow Western. Oats are active at 39@46 for poor to choice mixed Western; 47@53c. for white Western. The latest sales are of No. 1 Milwaukee spring, in store, at $1.27; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, in store, at $1.19; Nos. 1 and 2 Milwaukee spring, afloat, of fresh receipt, at $1.21; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, in car lots, at $1.19@1.20; prime No. 1 Milwaukee spring, in store, at $1.27@1.28; strictly prime No. 2 Milwaukee, afloat, at $1 21; choice old No. 1 Minnesota spring, in store, crop 1874, at $1.35; choice No. 2 Northwest spring, in store, crop 1874, at $1.20; No. 3 Chicago spring, afloat, at $1.10; New York No. 1 spring at $1.20½; fair white Canada, in bond, at $1.23, and rejected winter at $1.01@1.05.

HAY AND STRAW.—Arrivals have been moderate and a good demand has prevailed; prices very firm.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75@80c.; retail qualities, $1.00@1.10; clover, 70@75c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.10 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 777 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 15,737; same time last year, 12,311.

HIGHWINES selling at $1.11½.

HOPS.—Receipts for the week have been small, and exports 530 bales. Aside from the small shipments, there has been but little done. Stock have fallen off a trifle, and there is generally a steady range of prices.

N. Y. State, 12@18c.; Eastern, 10@16c.; Wisconsins; 10@16c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias, 15@18c., ₱ lb.

MAPLE SUGAR.—The very low prices have pushed a good deal into use, but the surplus is large and sellers quote as before.

Choice new sugar bricks, 10c.; small, 11c.; fair, 8@9c.; old, 6@8c. Syrup, ₱ gallon, 70c.@90c.

OIL CAKE.—Western brings $40 per ton.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The market is low for all items of live poultry.

Fowls and turkeys, Jersey, ₱ lb., 13@15c.; do. Western, 12@13c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1.75@2.25; do. Western, 75c.@1.00; ducks, Western, ₱ pair, 65@75c.; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1.00@1.25; roosters, 8@10c. Spring chickens, ₱ pair, 40@90c.

Dressed poultry is in light supply, and but little seems to be wanted. Frozen stock is not put out to good trade owing to its low quality. Dressed ducks and geese need not be sent now.

We quote Philadelphia picked chickens at 18@20c.; for fowls, 23@27c. for winter chickens, 35c. for spring chickens, 25c. for small slips, 27@28c. for small capons, and 35c. for large capons; the latter quite scarce.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 17@19c.; Jersey, good to prime, 15@17c.; State, good to prime, 14@15c.; Western, good to prime, 12@14c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor, 4@6c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 18@20c.; State, good to prime, 16@18c.; Western, good to prime, 11@17c.; inferior, 7@11c.

Less pigeons are offering, and prices are better, though still low enough to keep trade active in the absence of a long list of game.

Wild pigeons, feathered or dressed, ₱ doz., 75c.@$1. English snipe, ₱ doz., $1.25@150; plover, ₱ doz., $1@1.12; sand snipe, 35@45c.

PROVISIONS.—The market has been very much depressed, showing a marked decline, especially for pork and lard—through the heavier supplies of hogs at the West—closing with some reaction on the lowest prices. Mess pork is quoted at $21.60 for spot lots, $21.65 for May, $22.50 for June, and $21.90 for July. Extra prime, $27.50. Bacon at 11¼c. for Western long clear, and 12¾c. forshort clear. Western steam lard at $12.95 for spot lots, $12.97½ for June, $13.12½ for July, $13.25 for August, and $13.25 for September, Stearine at 11¼c. for Western. Tallow at 8¾c. for prime. Beef hams, $24@25. Beef—Extra mess $13; do. plain, $12.00@12 50; tierced at $21@22 for prime mess, and $24@24 for India mess. City extra India mess $26, and Philadelphia mess at $24@25.

SALT.—Quoted at $2.50 for Ashton's; $1.45@1.50 for Hoakin's; $1.40@1.45 for Marshall's, Washington & Worthington's.

SEED.—Grass are yet dull, yet with the small arrivals prices are well maintained. Choice State clover, @17c. and Western, 16½@17c.

SUGAR (Refined).—Soft yellow, 8¾@9¼c.; soft white, 9¾@9¾c.; crushed and powdered, 10¼c.; granulated, 10¼c.]

TOBACCO.—Kentucky leaf is strong at quotations, with a fairly active export movement. Seedleaf brings full figures, and meets with more attention. The closing prices are:

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	5½@ 6¼
Good lugs	6¾@ 7½
Low leaf	7¾@ 9
Medium leaf	9¾@14
Good leaf	11¾@12½
Fine leaf	13 @15

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @22
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @
Ohio, assorted lots	6 @
Wisconsin	6 @ 8

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 5,076 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 75,200 do.; same time last year, 32,800; onions, since Jan 1st, 5,427 bbls.; same time last year, 1,235 do. Old potatoes are very weak; only the best peachblows can be called steady. Bermudas are unusually cheap. The tendency is for low prices for new Southern when they show stock. Bermuda onions and potatoes are abundant and low. A full steamer arrives each week. The tomatoes are not as attractive as in some former seasons. Southern and near-by green stuff all begin to favor buyers as the season advances. Asparagus and spinach are coming from Northern gardens.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., 87c.@$1; Peach Blows, $1.25@1.50; Prince Alberts, 75c.@$1.00; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $4.00@5; Florida, $3@4. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $5@8; red, $7@11. Squash, Marrow, bbl., $2.25@2.50; Hubbard, $1.25@2.50. Onions, red, bbl., $1@2.10; do. yellow, $1@2.00. Russia Turnips, ₱ bbl., 75c.; white, 65c. Carrots, $1.00. Spinach, ₱ bbl., $1.25@1.50. Charleston green peas, ₱ bu., $1.00@2.00; Savannah, $1.00@2.25. Norfolk cabbage, ₱ bbl., $1.25@1.50. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, 50@60; beets, $1.25 ₱ crate. Mushrooms, ₱ lb., 60@70c. Rhubarb, ₱ doz., 75c. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, 50@60c.; onions, ₱ crate, $1.50@1.75. Florida string beans, $3@5. Asparagus, ₱ doz., $2@5. Florida cucumbers, crate, $2@4. String beans, crate, $3@3.50.

WOOL.—The market continues very dull. The decline made lately fails to start trade in other than small lots, as manufacturers find the goods market in poor shape. XX Ohio quoted 46c.; X do., 40c.; XX Pennsylvania, 45@46c.; X Michigan and Wisconsin fleeces, 35@36c.; new spring California, 22@24c.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
Picklock	50	@ 54
XX	47	@ 48
X	46	@ 48
No. 1	48	@ 50
No. 2	42	@ 45
Coarse	40	@ 42
Combing	58	@ 65
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	46	@ 48
No. 2	42	@ 44
Coarse	41	@ 42
Combing	56	@ 60
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	44	@ 46
X	42	@ 44
No. 1	44	@ 45
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota—		
XX	44	@ 47
X	44	@ 47
No. 1	44	@ 46
No. 2	41	@ 43
Coarse	40	@ 43
Combing	55	@ 62
Combing, unwashed	38	@ 46
Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—		
Fine unwashed	35	@ 38
Medium unwashed	34	@ 36
Coarse unwashed	27	@ 30
Burry	17	@ 23

ROCHESTER, May 6.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.25; white winter, $1.25@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 23@30c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 14@16c. Lard, 14½@15c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1.50. Potatoes, bu., 20@@25c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $23.50. Wool, 25@40c. Hay, $10@16. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@—; clover, $9.00@9.50. Mill feed dull at $16 for shorts, $13 for shipstuffs, and $23 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.50@7.35 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., May 6, 1876.

THE market this week has been quite unsatisfactory to dairymen, though, with nothing offered but skim-cheese and much of it badly skimmed, high prices could not have been expected. About 2,000 boxes were on delivery, and sales dull at 5@8¾c. A large share of the offerings went forward to be sold on commission. We can hardly hope for much better prices until the skim cheese is disposed of and a better quality comes upon the market.

More than 200 packages of butter were delivered this week and prices are lower, the range being 25@27c.—the bulk going at 25c. This is a decline from last week of fully 6c. ₱ lb., on the average.

The country roads continue to be in a very bad condition for travel, and the snow drifts have not yet disappeared in places. The weather is cool, with raw winds, but frosts do not prevail. Cows are reported to be doing well for the season, and factories are making "every-day cheese," which puts an end to skimming, except at farm dairies.

We have advices from abroad for the third week in April. Our London correspondent reports American cheese in good demand, especially for good, firm sorts, at 56@62s., and also for extra-fine September make. English cheese is quiet.

The prices are for extra American, 67@68s.; fine, 64@66s.; good, 56@62s.; secondary and common, 36@46s. English cheddar brings 80@90s.; Wiltshire double, 76@80s.; Cheshire medium, 54@56s.; fine, 76@80s.; Scotch, 67@70s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 72@74s.

All the descriptions of butter except Friesland sold at the previous week's rates, that from Friesland having advanced in price.

Jersey sells for 136s.; Dorsets, 130s.; Friesland, 110@144s.; Swedish, 140s.; Normandy extra, 142s.; American and Canadian, 90@100s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter sells for better prices than the genuine butter from America, the quotations of the artificial ranging at 100@116s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, May 6, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs
Sixtieth St.	4,079	53	2,800	4,722	100
Forty-Eighth St.	00	26	36	507	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	169	10,154
Harsimus Cove	4,766	00	000	9,591	7,954
Totals this week	8,845	792	12,836	14,989	18,108
" last week	9,011	50	1,352	20,901	22,622

BEEVES.—Trade firm on a fractional advance on Monday last on the closing rates of the previous week; quality generally coarse but fat; prices ranged at 8½@12¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6@10 cwt. The herds on sale were sold off by noon. Wednesday, trade firm but slow at 8½@11c.; weights, 6@9 cwt. Thursday, trade slow at 10¾@11¾c.; weights, 7@7¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed firm, with sales at 11¾@11¾c.; weights, 8¾@8¾ cwt. From 55@58 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt.; the largest number of cattle were sold at 56 lbs. net. Native steers, 8½@11¾c.; grade, 12@12¾c.; mixed herds, 9@10c.; oxen, 8¾@10¾c.; heifers, 8¾c.; bulls on live weight, $4@4.80 ₱ cwt.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @12¾	12 @12¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8½@ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade slow on light arrivals of generally inferior quality animals; 3 cows sold at $55 ₱ head; 4 at $50@55; 9 at $35@70; 7 at $45@70; 1 cow for $75—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—There have been no smooth quality veals received since our last weekly report. Poor and coarse quality calves in heavy supply and slow of sale at low rates. Extreme range, 4@8¾c. ₱ lb. State calves sold at 4@8¾c. ₱ lb.; Jersey, 6@7¾c.; Pennsylvania, 7¾@8c. A few lots of Western calves came to hand and were sold at 5½@5¾c.

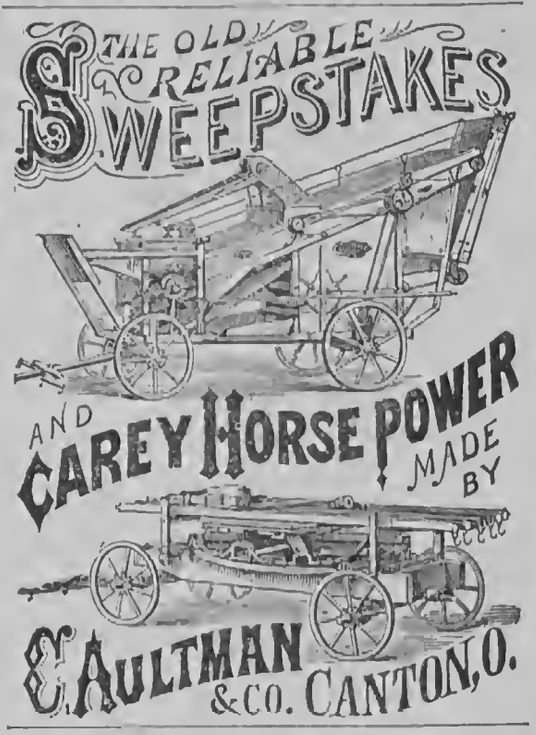
SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last sheep were in fair demand at 5½c.; yearling lambs, 8½c.; spring lambs, 12@14c. Wednesday, trade slow and sales generally effected in small lots; sheep, 5@8¾c.; yearling, 8c.; spring, 15c., also at $6.75@7 ₱ head. Thursday trade small; sheep, 5¾@7¾c.; lambs, 11@15c., also $6@8 ₱ head. Friday, the markets closed slow in sheep at 6¾@8¾c.; lambs, 15c. State sheep sold at 5¾@8¾c.; Ohio, 5¾c.; Colorado, 5c.; State lambs, 11@15c.; Virginia, 11@13c.; Jersey, 12½c.

HOGS.—Wednesday last, 150 Ohio hogs, live weight, 171 lbs. ₱ head, sold at 8 ₱ lb; Friday, 179 rough Indiana, 129 lbs., 7¾c. Trade in city dressed slow on a moderate run. Monday, prices were 9¾@10¾c.; Wednesday, 9¾@10c. Thursday, 9¾@10¾c. Friday, 9¾@10c.

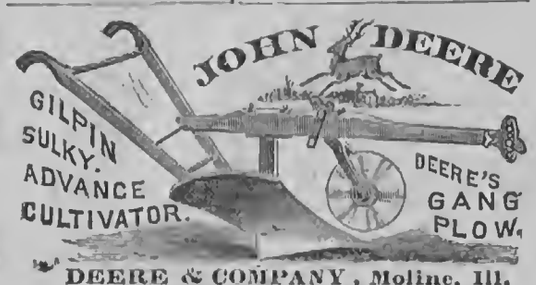
HORSE MARKET.—City trade slow; in the best sales stables several pairs stylish carriage horses are held on sale; only two sales have been reported at $1.400@1,600 ₱ pair, quality choice; 15 pairs family, $350@700; 9 pairs coarse quality heavy draft horses, $275@450 ₱ pair; 5 pairs choice, $500@625; 3 saddle horses, $200@250; 18 head of roadsters, with fair trotting action, $270@500 ₱ head—not warranted sound; several lots of poor quality light harness horses were offered for sale and were bid in; 91 ordinary, $100@175 ₱ head; 40 head of city railroad horses sold at $125@200 ₱ head; 10 stage line, $150@210. Sixty-one horses arrived per Erie Railroad via Oak Cliff Station.

New Advertisements.

GLINES' SLATE ROOFING PAINT IS THE BEST.



$50 TO $10,000 has been invested in Stock Privileges, and paid 900 per cent. profit. "How to Do It," a book on Wall St., sent free. TUMBRIDGE & CO., Bankers, 2 Wall St., N. Y.



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Who furnish full INFORMATION FREE.

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FARM FORGES FOR $16.
WILL WELD 3-INCH IRON.
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Headquarters for Steam Apparatus and Dairy Furnishing Goods. FIRST PREMIUM Boiler and Engine, made by us especially for Dairy use. Centennial Steam Cheese Vats; Self-heating Vats for Dairies. Send for Prices.

THE COATES LOCK LEVER HAY RAKE.

Manufactured of the best wood and iron, and put up in the staunchest manner. Shafts and rake head extra strong; thimble skein axles; wheels high, well built and finished; seats easy and thoroughly braced. The teeth made of **Refined Cast Steel, Tempered in Oil**, and every one tested at the factory. They readily adjust themselves to uneven surfaces. **Every Tooth is warranted.** The springs double coil, made with the body of the tooth, much stronger and better than the small separate wire coils so often used in inferior rakes. The Lock Lever has an ingeniously-contrived patented joint, which holds the rake rigid and firmly to its work, while down, WITHOUT USING THE HANDS OR FEET.

Discharging the Rake is effected by simply giving the slightest upward motion to the handle of the lever, which, unlocking it, causes the **Driver's weight** to tilt the rake and discharge the contents. A child can operate the Rake with ease. *It is easily regulated for any kind of ground.*

Twenty Acres per Day is a fair day's work with the "**Coates.**" and you can save enough grain from twenty-five acres of stubble to PAY FOR THE RAKE. Send for Illustrated Circular to the Manufacturers,

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H. L. McCLUNG & CO., Knoxville, Tenn.
SCOBIE, REED & SMITH, Pittsburgh, Pa.
WOOTTON, BRYANT & SMITH, Louisville, Ky.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

THERE are said to be nearly 100 women preachers in this country.

LORD LYTTON as Viceroy of India receives a salary with "allowances" of $185,000 in gold a year.

CHIEF-JUSTICE GILPIN of Delaware, was taken ill in Court and died in about one hour afterwards of heart disease.

MADAME GUILLANDT, a French lady residing at Rome, has presented a portrait of Washington, wrought in mosaic, to the city of Philadelphia.

A PRETTY Boston girl who dotes on poetry and poets, declares that she has had twenty-two offers of marriage from authors of "Beautiful Snow."

GEN. SPINNER has been investing in real estate in Florida.

What fun the chickens will have forging the General's autograph.

MRS. CADY STANTON relates that when Senator Christiancy married his wife out of the Treasury Department, Washington fashionables hung back from the newly-made bride.

THE New York journalists will give Dom Pedro a $30,000 reception.

True! We have been eating sandwiches for a month to save up our quota.

DOM PEDRO has left San Francisco for Chicago direct by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. It is understood that he will proceed from Chicago in a special car to Oil City, Pa.

MR. BUTLER, according to the Lowell Courier, does not intend to run for Congress in that district with Mr. Ayer as his backer.

We have known him to use wind, however.

HANNAH COX, one of the small band of original Abolitionists, died on the 15th of April, at Longwood, near Kennet Square, Pennsylvania, in the room where she was born, nearly 80 years ago.

A correspondent in China writes, that a very rich man in that country sometimes spends $500 a year

On a diet of rice and tea we could come within that figure, now that clothing is so cheap.

LOUIS RIEL, the President of the Republic of Winnipeg, in the British Possessions, during the insurrection of 1870, is an inmate of an insane asylum in Montreal.

The Canadians say there never was a Riel President in it.

WE learn from the London Lancet that "chloral punch had become an 'institution' in the drinking saloons of New York scarcely a year after it (chloral's) introduction into medical practice."

We have taken nothing but "bell-punch" which is not punch in the head.

MR. WILLIAM M. EVARTS has gone up to his country place at Woodstock, Vt., where he purposes to spend the next fortnight in diligent work on his Centennial oration.

Oh, Mr. Evarts, please! Draw it mild. Give us a little one for a cent-ennial.

A BOY whose teacher proposed to give him "Wych Hazel," Miss Warner's new story, replied, "No you don't. I catch that often enough at home."

Good book, though, for inebriates. It warns them when they approach water!

"OLD UNCLE" Ben Greer, aged one hundred and thirteen years, was married recently to Mary Harrison, aged fifty-seven, in Marshall County, Ky.

Ben being a XVth amendment, this is a case of black frost lingering in the lap of spring.

THE heirs of the late George T. Cobb of New Jersey, have endowed the chair of New Testament Exegesis in the Drew Theological Seminary by the gift of $40,000.

That's what might be called a charitable deed. But what is the other name of the Ex-egesis?

MR. SEAMON of Chicago, one of the witnesses to Charlotte Cushman's will, is surprised that there has been so much searching for him. He has been at home all the while, and has only just learned that he is wanted in Newport.

Certainly a Newport is the proper place for a Seammon.

ELIHU BURRITT twenty years ago planted an acorn of the famous Charter Oak, and now it is a thrifty young tree in the garden of his sister, Mrs. Williams, at New Britain, Ct.

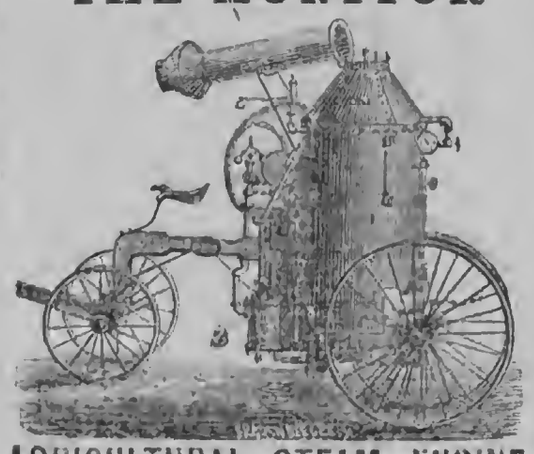
Yes, we planted acorn about the same time. It is now the famous Bunyan, and impedes this Pilgrim's Progress.

HENRY SHEMELL, the Chicago pedestrian, who is to walk against O'Leary, has arrived at San Francisco.

Is this the O'Leary that had the cow with the restive horn, that lived in a barn all forlorn, that ate the hay, that paved the way, to upsetting the lamp (the horrid old scamp!) that burned the town that Chicago built?

Implements and Machinery.

THE MONITOR



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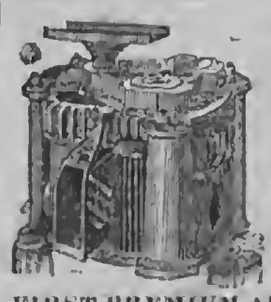
LIGHTEST OF ITS CAPACITY IN USE.

Specially adapted for use in a hilly country. Send for a Circular. Manufactured by the BATAVIA STEAM ENGINE CO., Batavia, N. Y.



FOR SORGO AND SUGAR-CANE, The only recognized standards in Cane Machines are The

Cook Evaporator AND THE Victor Cane-Mill.

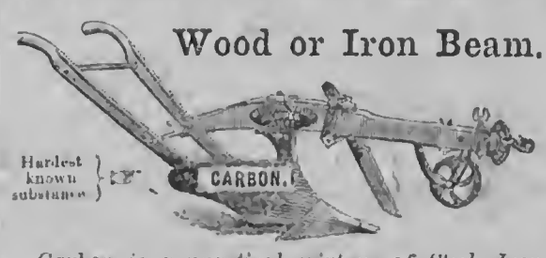
There are of these Machines OVER 40,000 IN USE. They have taken the FIRST PREMIUM AT 120 STATE FAIRS.

All attempts, thus far, to equal these unrivaled Machines by other contrivances have signally failed on trial. Planters can't afford to risk crops of Cane on light, weak, unfinished Mills that *break* or *choke*, or on common pans or kettles that do *second-class work*, and *only half enough* at that. *The Sorgo Hand-Book and Price List sent free.*

BLYMYER MANUFACTURING CO., 204 to 230 West Eighth St., CINCINNATI, O., Manufacturers of Cane Machinery, Steam Engines, Corn Crushers, Farm, School and Church Bells.

Patent Carbon Plow.

Wood or Iron Beam.



Carbon is a practical mixture of Steel, Iron and other metals. Cast in form, harder than steel or any surface-chilled iron. Will scour in any soil. Costs less than steel, and but a trifle more than cast-iron.

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Self-Discharging and Hand-Lever Hay Rake.

For prices and further information, address REMINGTON AG'L CO., Ilion, N. Y.

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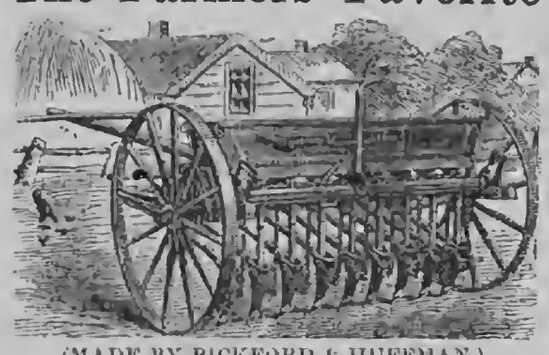

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CENTENNIAL DRILL.

This Drill is an advance on anything we have ever before presented to the public. It is absolutely

PERFECTION.

Sows every variety of field grain, plants corn, distributes manure or broadcasts grass seeds. The attachments are entirely independent of each other, but so perfectly under control that they are thrown in or out of gear by a single lever. Its construction is light and substantial, and in short it is unapproached by any Grain Drill heretofore known. Send for Circulars to S. N. GALLUP, General Agent, Macedon, N. Y.

Holbrook's "VETO" SEED DRILL & "NEW"

Hand Cultivator sow and cultivate all kinds vegetables. Do work of 10 men. Best and cheapest. Price $12.50 combined.

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OVER 35,000 IN USE.

THE PHILADELPHIA LAWN MOWER

THE BEST FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES.
SEVEN SIZES HAND MACHINES.
TWO STYLES HORSE MACHINES.

The most complete and perfect Lawn Mowers in the World.

The sales exceed 6 other Lawn Mowers combined.

Prices reduced for 1876. Send for Descriptive Catalogue.

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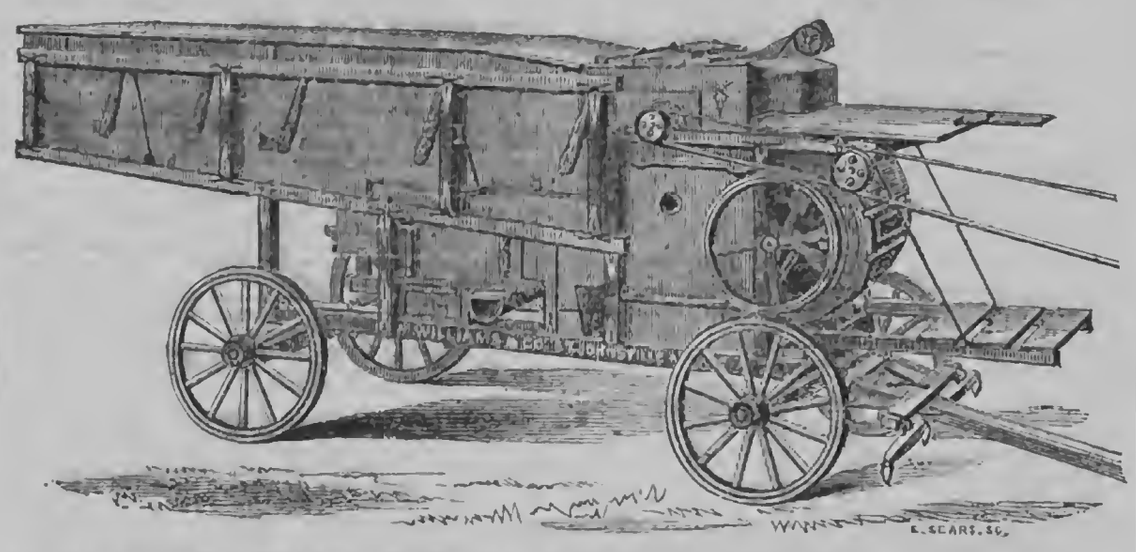
Williams' Noiseless Thresher



For Light Running, Easy Management, Simplicity, Durability, and the greatest amount of grain Threshed and Cleaned in the shortest time without waste, stands unequaled by any Threshing Machine in the world. Warranted as represented, or may be returned to us at *our expense*.

For Circular, giving full particulars, address

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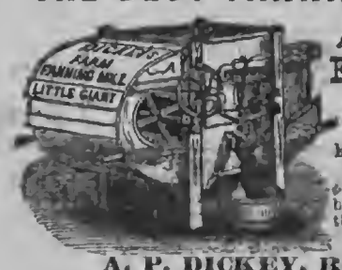

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No good Farmer can afford to market dirty grain.

A moderate quality of grain, well cleaned, brings a better price than the nicest grade in dirty condition.

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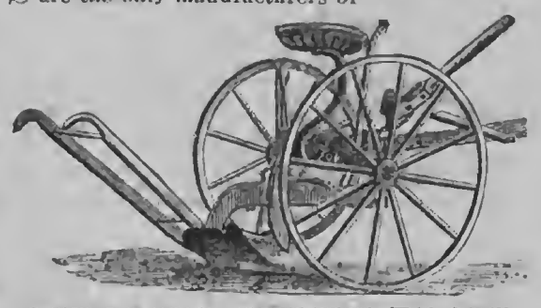
SULKY PLOWS.—THE SUBSCRIBERS are the only manufacturers of



OSBORN'S SULKY PLOW,

the only Plowing Machine that has proved a perfect success in all kinds of soil. Any kind of plow can be attached. The plowman rides and handles the plow with ease, regulating the depth and width of furrow. The draft for the team is materially less, and the ordinary laborious mode of plowing is reduced to one of comfort and ease.

COMMON-SENSE FEED-CUTTER,

the most effective and durable Feed-Cutter ever invented. GREGG & CO., Trumansburg, Tompkins Co., N. Y.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. H. C.—Alfalfa, Lucerne, and Chili clover are all one and the same thing. Botanically, it is the *Medicago sativa*, and one of the oldest plants known to be cultivated for fodder. Its leaflets are in threes, like the common species of clover; they are in shape obovate oblong, slightly toothed. The flowers are pale-blue, violet or purple, and pea-shaped. The seed is borne in downy pods, which are twisted into two or three twirls. It succeeds on deep, permeable soils, but not on hard, stiff clay. It will succeed well in the climate of Alabama if the soil is suitable.

Horticulturist.—You could not determine with any degree of certainty, whether the pear was a seedling or a grafted tree by the test proposed. If there is no sign on the stem of the tree that it has been grafted, and the suckers from the roots bear the same fruit as the parent tree, it might in ordinary instances be taken as very good evidence of its being a seedling; yet there is still room for a doubt.

Pear trees are sometimes budded or grafted close to the roots or, as usually termed, near to, or on the crown. Now it frequently happens that when such trees are transplanted, they are set a little or good deal deeper than formerly, the result being that new roots push out from above the junction of bud or graft with the stock, and in this case the old or original roots frequently die and entirely decay, leaving the tree upon its own roots. This will be the result nine times out of ten with pears worked upon quince roots, which are set deep enough to completely cover the point of junction in the earth.

Of course you can see how readily one might be deceived in supposing that an old tree propagated under such circumstances, was the original of a variety, or as some term it, "a seedling tree," because the roots were the same as the top.

James.—Do not be too sure that precious stones or minerals of great value are to be found in your locality. Thousands of persons have had their heads turned through finding specimens of quartz crystals, supposing them to be diamonds. We might tell you some funny stories about young men coming to New York with diamonds of great value in their pockets, which turned out to be nothing but quartz worth about $4 a cord. Be sure of value before building "air castles."

Potato Grower.—Dr. HUNTER was the man who is supposed to have first advanced the theory that the duration of a variety of potato is limited to about fourteen years. You will find that theory referred to in the Transactions of the London Horticultural Society for 1807, page 57.

J. M., Bradford Co., Pa.—We do not know who has the "Anautka, or Black Sea wheat," for sale. Perhaps you might find these varieties by addressing some of our seedsmen. Toulouse geese are sometimes offered for sale in our columns, but at present we do not know of any one having a stock to dispose of.

Mrs. P. W. H.—The plants sent are as follows:—No. 1, acute-leaved Liverwort (*Hepatica acutiloba*). No. 2, Rue anemone (*Thalictrum anemonoides*). Both are very pretty early spring flowering plants, and common in most of the Northern States.

Insects from Minnesota.—Mrs. S. A. M., New London, Minn.—The insects you send are:—No. 1, *Cucujus clavipes*, one of the common beetles which lives under the bark of old dead trees.

No. 2—*Pasimachus elongatus*, one of the large ground beetles which is quite common all over the country. It is a friend to the farmer and gardener, as it feeds on some of our noxious species.

No. 3—Is the well known Bombardier beetle *Brachynus fumans*. If you look sharp when one is caught, the reason why it was named the Bombardier will be apparent.

No. 4—Is a water beetle. The peculiar, gyrating motion as it swims on the surface suggested the name of the genus, *Gyrinus*. The species you send is the *G. emarginatus*.

No. 5—Is a gigantic water bug and not a beetle. It is known to entomologists as *Belostoma giganteus*.

No. 6—*Elodes opaca* of SAY; and like many other species of the same genus, inhabits the prairies and plains west of the Mississippi.

No. 7—Is a dark variety of the purple Tiger beetle, *Cincindela purpurea*. This variety was formerly known in cabinets under the name of *C. Auduboni*. The Tiger beetles, of which there are some seventy or more species, are supposed to be beneficial, as they feed on other insects.

No. 8—Belongs to the great family of Scavenger beetles, many of which, like the common May beetle, are injurious to vegetation both in the larval and imago stages. The one you send is sometimes called the Indian Cetonia, but by late authorities it is placed in the genus *Euryomia*, and will generally be found in cabinets labeled as *E. inda*. This insect is sometimes quite destructive to corn, eating off the silk; it also attacks ripening peaches and other fruits.

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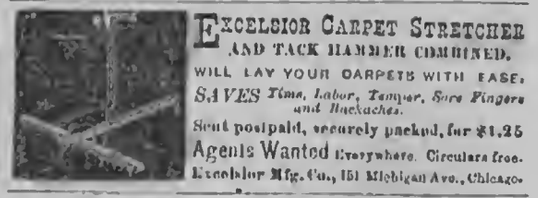
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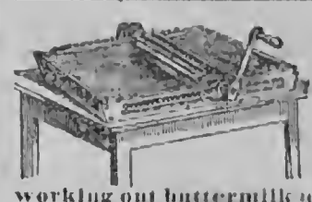
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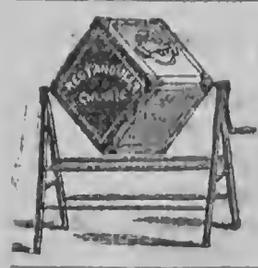

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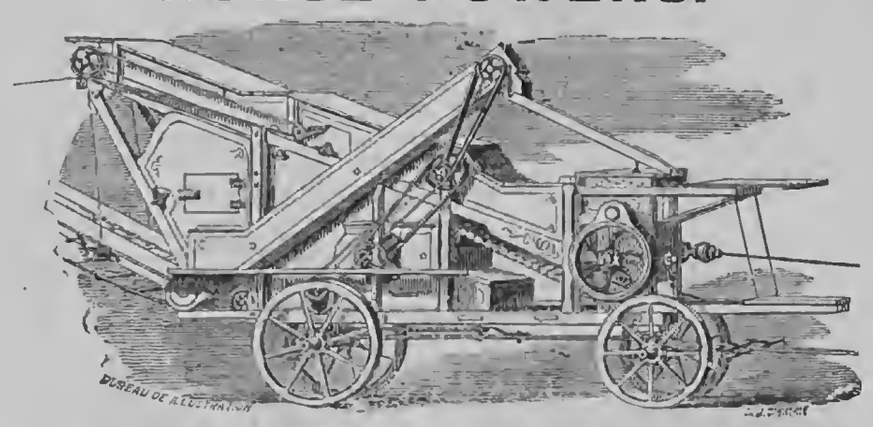

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

EXCELSIOR

RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

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Rural Architecture.

DESIGN FOR A COUNTRY RESIDENCE.

Few persons, in selecting a house to their "liking," ever consider the question of adaptation to surroundings. A Swiss cottage does not look well in the plain, level streets of a country village in an open, level field; neither will a tall city residence fit in or harmonize with country scenery. It is supposed, however, that the readers of the Rural New-Yorker possess too much good taste to fall into any such absurdities as are far too frequently seen where attempts at making some kind of a show without the least regard to harmony or adaptation of architecture to the surroundings are indulged in.

A house of moderate cost and surrounded by lawn trees and shrubbery, properly arranged, will usually be more creditable to the possessor than a very expensive one with no such pleasant and all-important adjuncts to a country house.

In the accompanying design the architect has endeavored as far as practicable to convey an idea of what may be done in the way of a plain and substantial, as well as convenient, house without expensiveness.

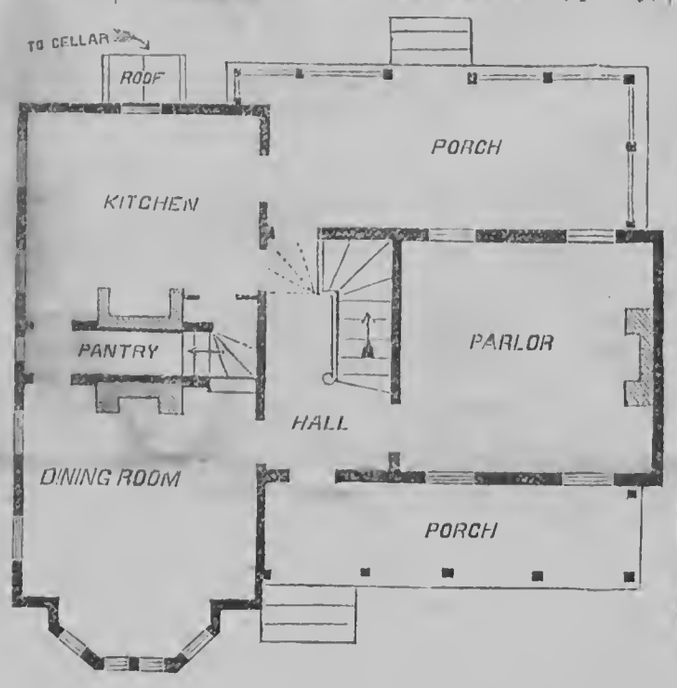
Every one cannot possess extensive domains, or erect with the most expensive materials large and showy houses, but all can alike exercise correct taste, and, by a judicious use of the means in their power, collect in and around their dwellings, however humble, those attractions that contribute to make home happy and desirable. There are thousands of persons in all parts of the country who wish to impart something of beauty and comfort to their dwellings. In the selection of this plan, the architect has avoided all useless and unsuitable ornaments, and chosen cheap, but at the same time substantial, materials, so that not a dollar more will be expended in the execution of this design than the same accommodation would cost in the usual plain modes of building. The rooms are all large and airy, being in size as follows:

First floor—Parlor, 15x17; dining-room, 15x14, exclusive of bay window: kitchen, 15x14; pantry, 3x11; hall, 8 feet wide; front porch, 6 feet 6 inches wide; back porch, 11 feet wide. Second floor—Chamber, 15x17; chamber, 15x14; chamber, 15x14; bath-room, 5½x8. The porches on the front and side and the neat bay window in the dining-room preserve the symmetrical form of the building.

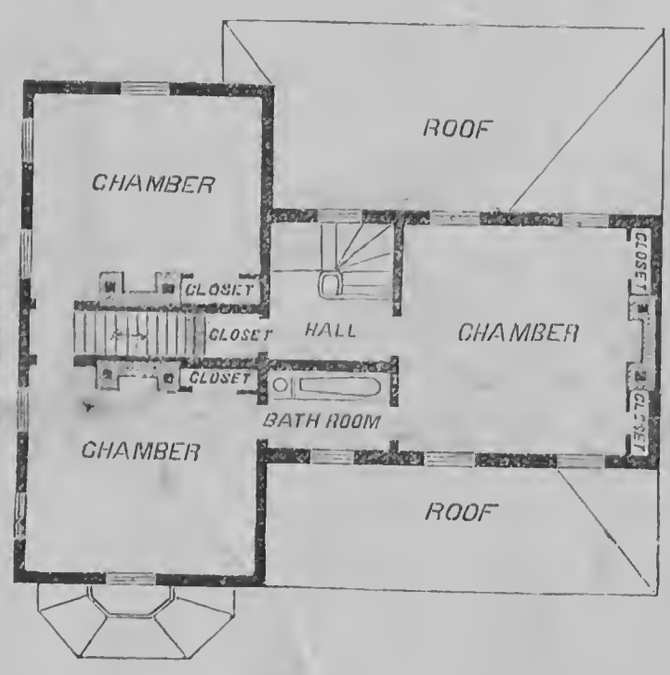
The inner arrangement of the structure is worthy of careful study. We think the architect has utilized every inch of space to the greatest possible advantage and without additional expense in the construction.

The building is intended to be built of wood, but brick could be used with some additional expense, and if finished in good style, with cellar throughout, would cost about $3,000 perhaps a little less in some localities, and in others a few hundred dollars more.

This variation in the cost of materials must always be taken into consideration when selecting a plan from our own pages or from those of other journals.



FIRST FLOOR.



SECOND FLOOR.

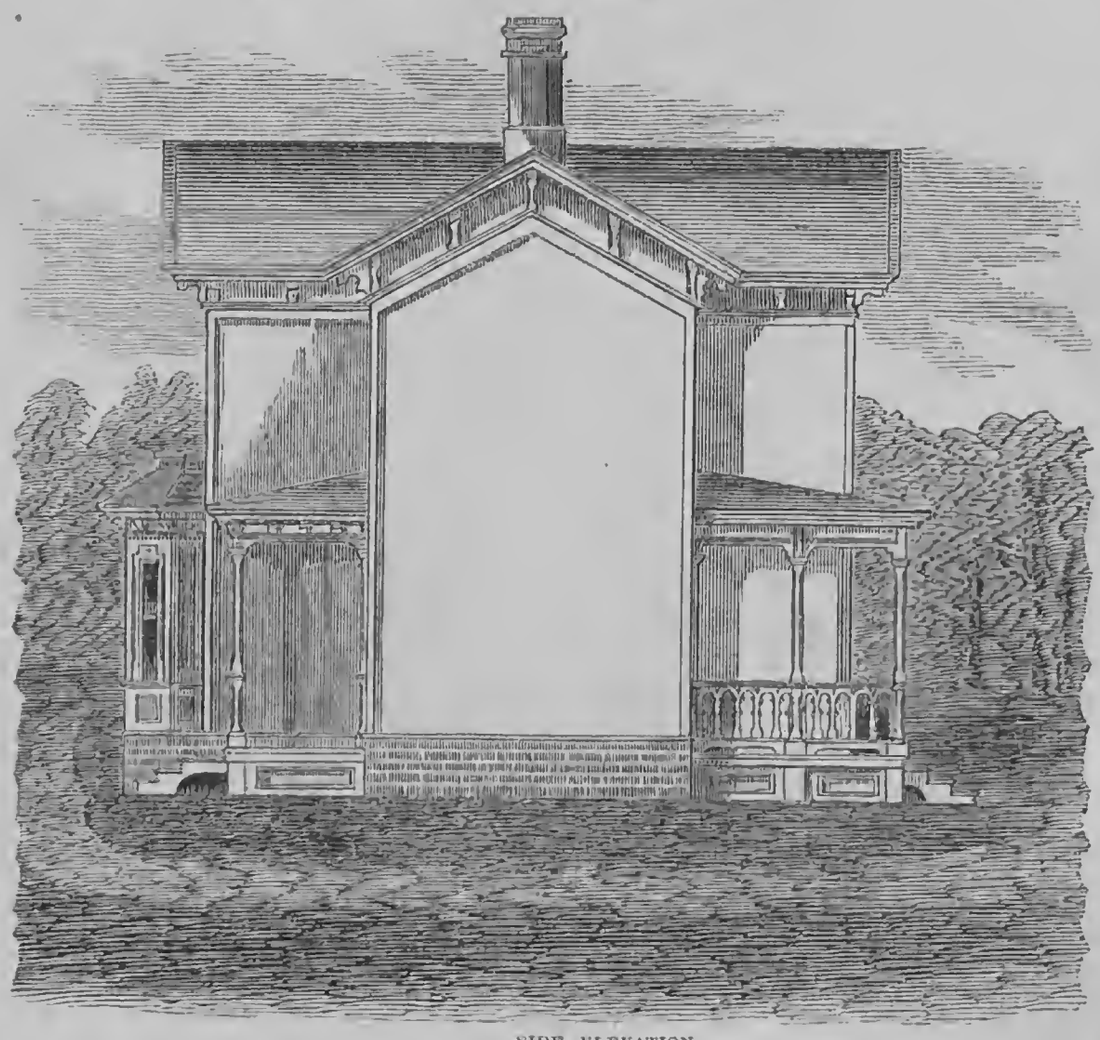
RURAL TASTE IN BUILDING.

It is not too much to say that a country seat should combine and express the real uses which are required by the intellectual and social conditions of its occupants, and not attract attention as blazoning the wealth and money importance of the owner. If he is rich, let him make it as complete as he will, and this he may do without proclaiming to every passer-by his miserable pride and contemptible worship of wealth. A man should have the privilege of spending his money in any way he may choose, whether in quack show or in simple but rich surroundings, still those who possess taste in such matters will ever judge of the man by the use he makes of his money.

It does not require wealth, or even any considerable sum of money, to enable one to evince excellent taste in the furnishing of a house or the arrangement of its surroundings. The true artistic taste of a man or woman will always creep to the surface, no matter how small their means or cramped the field of operations. The neatly-arranged plants near the walks or in a window, harmony in the colors of the same, as well as in the furniture of the rooms, carpets and hangings—all these exhibit true taste and art, even though evidence of impecuniosity is apparent in all.

Interior arrangements of a house, such as provisions for heating and ventilating in summer and warmth in winter, need careful consideration at the time of erecting a dwelling; but if anything of importance has been overlooked, modifications can easily be made afterward. A late writer, in speaking of the taste and comfort of country residences, very truthfully remarks that the uses of country seats depend mainly upon the tastes and habitudes of the occupants, and the adaptation of style, size and arrangement should be accordingly. There is certainly no law against a man's building an elegant library and picture gallery, though he may have no taste for literature or art, but having plenty of money, chooses to make this display with it for his own gratification.

FRONT ELEVATION.



SIDE ELEVATION.

DESIGN FOR A $3,000 RESIDENCE.

Field Crops.

ROOT PRUNING CORN.

In a report of experiments made at Waisharum Farm, Mass., given in the Scientific Farmer, we find some remarks on root pruning corn, which are quite at variance with the belief held by many of our practical farmers. Still we have always contended that cultivating corn late in the season was more beneficial than injurious, even if a few of the longer roots were cut or broken off. But here is what our scientists have to say on the subject:

With reference to the corn crop, to cultivate well is to cultivate close to the growing crop, and this that we may cut or sever the young rootlets, cause them to branch, and thus more completely occupy the interstices of the soil. When the root of an apple tree is cut off, numerous small roots are pushed from the buds latent in the bark on the tree side, and in the place of the removed root we have soon developed numerous fibrous branches which proceed to extend their feeding fibrils into the soil, and we find an immense amount of fresh feeding surface occupying the place of the removed portion, whose functions had become inert through age. In a similar manner with the corn plant; the long, straggling roots which occur in natural course through the root pruning are caused to branch, and thus offer a larger feeding surface to the soil than they otherwise would.

That this is so we have reason to believe through a course of experiments on plants growing in water, and in pots during the past winter, as well as from careful observation in the field plants which occupied last year's corn field. When germinating corn was suspended over a glass of water, the roots were perceived to extend, without developing root hairs, until the nutriment contained in the seed had apparently been exhausted. When this period arrived, root hairs soon showed themselves on the smooth, white and cylindrical roots appearing first at a distance from the extremity, and developing downward with the growth of the root. When the extremity of the root was nipped off, the effect was to develop the root hairs on the remaining portion to a large extent, and in many instances the straight root became branched before the experiment was closed, through an inability from inexperience and want of the proper facilities for continuing the growth in a properly fertilized media.

When the corn was planted in pots, the same effects appeared upon pruning the roots, and likewise whenever the extending roots came plump against the side of the pot. Upon washing the earth carefully from the roots by means of a gentle stream of water, the influence of the pruning in giving the roots a fibrous character was very perceptible.

It was also a matter of observation in the field, that those portions which were the best cultivated, produced the largest crop; and a careful examination of authorities shows beyond question, that under judicious practice, the nearer to the plant and the deeper the cultivator stirs the soil, the better the crop—provided common sense is used, and the plant is not killed through following the letter of the law, or the maturity of the crop delayed by its unseasonable practice.

Strange as it may seem, we are unable to find, in any of the books and authorities at our disposal, any reference to the root pruning of annual plants, as a beneficial practice. The whole object of cultivation is given as the stirring and aerating of the soil, its pulverization, and destruction of weeds. Indeed, the mention is occasionally made of the root cutting, but it is propounded most sagely that the benefits of the tillage so far exceed the injury of the root cutting of the plants, that we must till, till, till—the more the better. Yet the secret of the success of the new husbandry as originated and practiced by Jethro Lull, must be explained by the root pruning—the success of the Louis Weeden husbandry, in the hands of its originator and his disciples; and its failure when tried experimentally by Messrs. Lawes, must be explained by the presence or root pruning in the one case, and its absence in the other. The profitableness of drilling of wheat in England over the broadcasting, and the fact that there appears to be no prominent difference between these methods of sowing, in our country, may be legitimately ascribed to the root pruning effected by the English method of spring hoeing. When we come to the practice of the florist and the gardener, we find with them an empirical practice, which, in part, accomplishes the same result, and produces their success.

TOBACCO PLANTS UNDER GLASS.

The Planter and Farmer says:—Every spring both the planter and seller of tobacco are kept in a state of great anxiety, for several weeks on account of the damage apprehended to plant beds from cold weather and the fly. It seems to us that this might, in some practicable way, be avoided. The immense growth of the trucking interest has made the use of glass a matter of so much moment, that every device to reduce the expense of its provision has been resorted to. The frame is now made without the use at all of putty, the strips holding the glass being merely grooved on both sides, allowing the glass to be slipped backward or forward at will. It is so simple that any "jack-leg" could make it. As loss by cold weather and the fly both would be saved by such an arrangement, it would seem that the space necessary to produce plants for quite a large crop would not be very great; besides, it would provide for both cabbage and tomato plants for the kitchen garden; and, of course, every farmer has or ought to have a first-rate garden. We mention this matter, believing it is practicable, and trust that our friends will find it so.

PREMIUMS FOR TOBACCO.

We see by the papers that Mr. Geo. J. Sumner of Louisa Co., Va., has offered a premium of one hundred dollars in silver, for the best crop of tobacco produced this year, by a young white man, the work to be done so far as possible by himself; and another premium of fifty dollars in silver, for the best crop by a colored man. We learn, also, that it has caused much excitement throughout the County, and that Mr. Sumner has every reason to expect results that will make our hearts glad. The negro, a worker, is our friend, and we are his; but the negro, a politician, is our enemy, and we are his; because, being an absurdity in such a position, and acting as the servant of unprincipled white men, he not only produces nothing, and thus becomes a cumberer of the ground, but he interferes with production by others, by seducing them from their work, and putting notions into their heads that are evil, and only "evil continually." As a question of right, we owe the negro nothing. No laboring man, in any country, ever got as good a living for as little work.

NUTRITIVE VALUE OF CORN.

The Boston Journal of Chemistry, speaking in praise of corn, says: The prejudice existing against the use of maize as an article of human food, among certain classes of people, is surprising, and this prejudice is based on ignorance. Our corn is seldom found in Irish or English kitchens, although millions of bushels are exported to England every year. The people there are strangers to those New England luxuries, corn bread and puddings, and we suppose it will be a long time before they will know anything of them.

Indian corn is one of the most important and healthful articles of human food that a beneficent Providence has bestowed upon man; and to its high nutritive value is due, in a large degree, the strength and vigor of the race of men who laid the foundations of this great republic. It was much more largely used fifty or one hundred years ago than now, as fine wheat flour, for some not well-founded reason, has usurped its place in bread-making. In the several forms, however, of hulled corn, popped corn, hominy, samp, corn starch, maizena, etc., vast quantities are consumed by all classes of people.

Meal from Indian corn contains more than four times as much oleaginous matter as wheat flour, more starch, and nearly as much nitrogenous material; consequently in all cold climates it is admirably adapted to sustain the system by furnishing heat-forming compounds. The oil gives warmth, the nitrogenous principle gives muscular strength. The combination of alimentary compounds in Indian corn renders it alone the mixed diet capable of sustaining man under the most extraordinary circumstances. It holds the elementary principles which constitute the basis of organic life. In this particular it is more remarkable than any other vegetable production known to man. There is a large number of dishes of which corn meal forms the basis, which are exceedingly palatable. What, for instance, is more delicious than cold corn pudding cut in slices and fried in sweet butter and lard? Hot corn-cakes, when properly and skillfully made, are almost universally regarded as a luxury, and Boston brown-bread is famous everywhere in the country. The reason why corn meal is not more largely used at the present time is that it is quite difficult to obtain it of dealers or grocers in a perfectly pure and sweet state. Millers grind the corn as it comes from the West, mixed with portions of the cob and saturated with dust and dirt, and this is sold for kitchen as well as for stable use. Much of the Western corn is damaged in transportation, and this is ground up with that which is sound. If good, sweet, Northern corn is properly ground in an old-fashioned stone mill, after being winnowed to free it from dust, a meal will result of a rich golden color, and no dish can be prepared from it which will not be palatable and most nutritious. In our family we use the Lakeside-grown corn, selected for domestic use, pass it after it is shelled through a winnowing machine, and have it ground between millstones which have been revolving for probably half a century. In this way we secure meal in its highest perfection, and this is what ought to be accessible to all families.

In trials at the farm to test the comparative value of meal from home-grown corn and that from commercial sources, when fed to cows and other animals, we have learned that the nutritive value of the former is nearly double that of the latter, and this practical result confirms analytical results. The difference between the specimens from the two sources is most surprising. Farmers who are so foolish as to go into the market to purchase corn and meal for their animals should understand the great difference in nutritive value between what they can raise and what they purchase.

Farm Economy.

SEEDING LOW MEADOW.

I have about ten acres of bottom land that was drained last year by a county ditch being put through it. The ditch is about four feet deep. During the summer months the water is about six inches deep, but in a time of high water it overflows the banks.

This land has always grown up to flags and scratch grass. After we were through with the ditch, I mowed it for bedding. The soil is muck to the depth of two or three feet, and clay under. Now, I want to get it into pasture and meadow. What kind of grass had I better sow? Would it do to sow red top and blue grass? How would the land want to be fitted, and when should the seed be sown? Would it do to sow this spring on the land as it is now? Will it eventually come into grass if let alone?

By answering the above, you will oblige

A Subscriber.

The one main ditch through the center will scarcely be sufficient to make the land dry enough for the better kind of cultivated grasses. You should open smaller ditches at right angles with the main one and about 100 feet apart. Then plow and cultivate the land for two or three years, or until all the coarse sedge grasses and cat-tail flag roots are completely killed out. After this you can seed down in spring with oats or sow the grass seed alone, with a fair prospect of success.

It is useless to try to seed down by sowing upon the natural seed, or before thoroughly subduing the land by culture and draining.

Just so long as the land remains wet enough to keep the sedge and cat-tail flags alive, just so long will they remain and crowd out the more delicate grasses, which thrive best upon moderately dry soil.

Low bog and peat lands, such as you describe, make excellent meadows when properly prepared or subdued; but good drainage is the first requisite, in order to kill out the natural bog plants.

We have seen such lands, which were pruned and cultivated for two or three years before seeding, afterward become overrun with wild grasses, through the choking up of the ditches, showing that as soon as the proper conditions were restored, the native wild plants would take possession of it again.

Sometimes the sods and dry grasses can be killed by burning in a dry time, and grass seed made to take by sowing on the exposed soil; but there is some danger of burning too deep if the peat has become very dry, leaving deep holes to be filled with water.

Upon the whole, the best way to reclaim such lands is to drain them, plow up and cultivate afterward, and seed down in the usual manner.

Red Top and Blue Grass, equal parts, will probably do as well as any other species on such lands, for both hay and pasturage.

A FARMER'S EXPERIENCE.

R. W. in the Cincinnati Gazette relates in a brief but interesting way the story of his life as a farmer. He says:

In 1838 I rented a field of ground for which I paid $3 per acre, and sowed it to wheat, working the field with my father's team. In 1839 I harvested 300 bushels of wheat, selling it to a merchant on credit, for 50 cents per bushel. The merchant failed, and I only received a suit of clothes worth $20, and $52 in money for 300 bushels of wheat. In that year, 1839, my father died. He left me 83 acres of land. I had no money, horses, or farm implements. The first crop of wheat I sowed was a failure. My second crop promised fair until late in May, when it was killed by frost, the wheat being then out in the head. During my first ten years of farming I saved $400 in money and accumulated $400 in chattel property. In 1850 I bought a farm of 100 acres, for which I agreed to pay $3,000, I paid $400 down and the remainng $2,600 in annual payments with interest. Since 1850 I have paid $10,650 for land, $5,000 for buildings, $1,000 for railroads and free pikes, $5,000 for taxes and $5,000 for interest, and $1,200 for doctor's bill. I have lost in that time three crops of grass with high water, equivalent to 100 tons of hay. I have lost two crops of barley, and one crop of wheat by freezing, and a crop of barley and a crop of wheat very much damaged by excessive wet weather. My entire loss would be equivalent to $3,000. I have raised a family and sold $60,000 worth of produce in twenty-six years.

I am now 59 years of age. I have good health, am free from aches and pains, and I do not think I have worked excessively hard. Indeed, I would rather now do a moderate day's work than to do nothing. Neither has my family been worked to death. My habits have been regular. I do not use tobacco. I never was drunk. I have now 320 acres of good land. This has been my success in farming.

VEGETABLE MOLD PREVENTS LEACHING.

A correspondent of the American Agriculturist throws out a useful hint to farmers who have light, sandy soils, when he says:

Almost all thin soils are peculiarly subject to leaching — that is, to having their goodness washed through them. The remedy is to make a soil full of fine mold. To this end the land must have a crop upon it all the time. A growing crop fills the soil with roots. The roots decompose and form mold. Red clover is pre-eminent as a mold-making and soil-making plant. Buckwheat is useful chiefly when it is plowed under. Corn sowed as for fodder, being scattered in every third furrow when plowing, may be plowed under, or it may be cut and fed or cured; in either case it is beneficial. The roots and stubs make a great mass of mold in the soil, and where it is all made use of as a green manuring the result is most satisfactory. Turnips cover the land quickly, and if plowed under are of marked benefit. In any event they prevent the growth of weeds, and as summer fallowing is always detrimental to such land, quick-growing green manure crops are our only resource, for by their use we work the soil, we kill the weeds and we improve the land, all at the same time and with little labor.

WOOLEN RAGS FOR MANURE.

The use of wool for manure is almost as well known as guano. They are slow to decompose, but act powerfully when decomposition has been secured. Mons. Gaunn advises treating woolen rags with a weak caustic soda lye and then spread out and dry. Afterwards they are pulverized, passed through a coarse sieve, and in this condition spread upon the land. A hundred pounds of this manure is sufficient for an acre, and is especially well suited for turnips, beets and all such plants as require strong stimulants to hasten their development and maturity.

The Herdsman.

TEXAS CATTLE.

The Kansas City Price Current publishes a letter from a prominent cattle trader and banker of Kansas, giving as accurate information of the cattle drive from Texas the coming season as can be obtained. The letter is from San Antonia, Tex., and gives the names of owners and number of cattle in each herd, footing up in aggregate 258,000 head. This does not include cattle which have been wintered in the Indian Territory. About one-third of the whole number will be contract cattle, and one-half stock cattle. The most of the drive will be concentrated in Kansas, between Dodge City and Ellis, so that advantage may be taken of rates over either the Kansas Pacific or Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroads.

NOTES FOR HERDSMEN.

Reversion of Thoroughbreds.—What is a thoroughbred? All domesticated races are artificial, and therefore less firmly fixed than those formed by Nature on Darwin's principle. Any cultivated breed is certain, if deprived of human skill in matching suitable parents, to degenerate, and probably in time (though this would require a long period) would reassume the form of one or other of the wild races of which it was made up; this, however, being modified by the climate and soil of the country where it became feral.—*London Agricultural Gazette.*

Australia is becoming largely interested in cattle breeding, and several stockmen have had the purest bred Short-Horns and Herefords. Some of the best Short-Horn blood of England has gone to Australia. American cattle-growers may expect as lively competition in beef as we have for some years had in wool-growing.

Dairy Husbandry.

PLAIN WORDS ABOUT MILKING.

A FRIEND of ours recently purchased a tub of butter for family use which turned out to be so tainted with the filth of the cow barn as to be entirely unfit for the table and could not be used for culinary purposes. This butter was of good color and texture and was so well made as to have commanded the highest price in market had the flavor been perfect.

A merchant recently showed us a few cheeses which he had purchased to supply customers who desired something choice. The cheese was well made, very rich in fat, but it had a well marked taste of the cow stable, and customers who had taken one piece wanted no more, as it was unfit for the table. These are by no means exceptional cases. Our attention has been called to like cases over a wide extent of country in the dairy districts, and we are quite certain that large amounts of both butter and cheese are injured from this cause alone, and which would otherwise take the place of a first-class article.

At the late meeting of the American Dairymen's Association, Mr. ROBERT MCADAM, a well known factoryman and cheese expert, gave an account of the various kinds of filth which he had found in the factory strainer after receiving milk from his patrons. And yet some people wonder why progress is so slow in improving the flavor and character of our dairy products. At this time, when prices have depreciated and are unsatisfactory, it behooves dairymen to make every effort possible for improving the flavor and quality of their goods. The responsibility must not be shifted wholly upon the manufacturer. In most cases it lies back of this and rests with the dairyman in his management at the farm.

The defect to which we have alluded comes from uncleanliness in milking; and especially is this the case during spring and fall, when the cows are more or less confined to the stable. Some dairymen, even if they do not themselves milk upon their hands and wet the teats of the cow before commencing to draw the milk, they allow those in their employ to do so, and the result is, more or less filth drops into the pail to taint its contents. It is a very nasty practice, and should be guarded against in the most rigid manner.

If a cow's bag is besmeared with dung and dirt from the stable, it should be washed with water and wiped with a cloth, and then the operation of milking should be done with *dry hands*. A person who has once adopted the practice of milking with dry hands, finds the milk can be drawn quite as easily and rapidly as by constantly wetting the hands; while the latter practice must always result in more or less filth falling in the milk to give it a taint of the stables and thus injure the product which is manufactured from it.

In summer, when cows are at pasture, and when they are not allowed to run through swamps and muddy places, the udder will be generally clean and will require only a few brushes with the hands to free it from dust and loose hairs. One fault common to many dairies is that accumulations of manure or mud are allowed to remain at the entrance of the milking stables, and the cows, tramping through this every time they go to and from the stable, bespatter their udders and teats with the filth, and as the milkers do not properly cleanse the cow's bag before milking, the dirt falls into the pail and causes trouble. There is no way of avoiding this difficulty except by planking or stoning the space in front of the stable doors and keeping it dry and clean. This it pays well to do, even if no considerations be taken into account beyond the comfort of those who do the milking.

This story of cleanliness has been very often urged in connection with other advice on the dairy; but it needs to be urged much oftener before it will be properly heeded. One great fault complained of in American cheese is its defective flavor, and there can be no doubt that if taints could be traced directly to the cause, they would often be found to come from the source we have named. If taints are so distinct and pronounced as to leave no doubt as to their origin in stable filth, there cannot be much doubt but that there must be various gradations of this taint affecting the flavor of cheese, according as the milkers have been more or less clean in their milking.

This question was never more important than now. The low price of dairy products requires more attention to the details of handling milk at the farm, higher skill in manufacturing and curing our dairy products, so that we may put a better article before consumers at home and abroad and thus make up the loss so far as possible caused by depreciation in prices.

SALTING DAIRY COWS.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us that he "has been advised that salt is not necessary for cattle, and that in some sections in England as well as in this country also, salt is never given to cows, and they thrive well without its use;" and he adds, "why should one class of animals require rations of salt more than another?"

So far as regards dairy stock, this may be regarded as very poor advice, especially for all points in the interior, and which are removed from the ocean or where its influence on vegetation is not felt.

We presume that cattle kept near the sea shore do not require rations of salt to be given from time to time because they get their supply from the food in such localities which contains a much larger proportion of saline matter than in places far removed from the sea. During and after heavy storms, blowing from the sea inland, the salt spray has been carried many miles over the land, leaving a deposit of salt more or less on vegetation, and in this way and from salt marshes cattle will obtain all that is needed; but it is quite different with animals far removed from such influences where the feeding of salt seems to be absolutely required if the health and thrift of the animals and a good degree of profit from their product be sought.

Salt undoubtedly has some beneficial influence besides its use as a condiment, and this seems to be indicated by the fact that animals have a natural desire for it, and seem to suffer if for a length of time they are deprived of it. And this is not confined to domesticated animals, as the buffalo and deer of the Western prairies make paths to the salt licks by their frequent visits after salt.

LIEBIG has well remarked that the presence of free muriatic acid in the stomach and that of soda in the blood, prove beyond doubt the necessity of common salt for the organic processes; but the quantities of soda required by animals of different classes to support the vital processes, are very unequal.

"If we suppose," he adds, "that a given amount of blood—considered as a compound of soda—passes in the body of a carnivorous animal in consequence of the change of matter into a new compound of soda—namely, the bile—we must assume that in the normal condition of health the proportion of soda in the blood is amply sufficient to form bile with the products of transformation. The soda which has been used in the vital processes and any excess of soda, must be expelled in the form of a salt, after being separated from the blood by the kidneys.

"Now, if it be true that in the body of an herbivorous animal a much larger quantity of bile is produced than corresponds to the amount of blood formed or transformed in the vital processes—if the greater part of the bile in this case proceeds from the non-azotized constituent of the food—then the soda of the blood, which has been formed into organized tissue (assimilated or metamorphosed) cannot possibly suffice for the supply of the daily secretions of bile. The soda, therefore, of the bile of the herbivora, must be supplied directly in the food; their organism must possess the power of applying directly to the formation of bile all the compounds of soda present in the food and decomposable by the organic process. All the soda of the animal body evidently proceeds from the food; but the food of the carnivora contains at most only the amount of soda necessary to the formation of blood; and in most cases among animals of this class, we may assume that only as much soda as corresponds to the proportion employed to form the blood, is expelled in the urine. When the carnivora obtain in their food as much soda as suffices for the production of their blood, an equal amount is excreted in their urine; when the food contains less, a part of that which would otherwise be excreted is retained by the organism. All these statements are unequivocally confirmed by the composition of the urine in these different classes of animals."

Cows in milk require more salt than when not in milk, because the constant drain from the system of saline elements in the milk must be replaced. In the spring, when grass is young and "flashy," cows need more salt than later in the season, when grass becomes more mature, as it then contains more mineral matter.

We have frequently made experiments in withholding salt from dairy stock, and have invariably found the yield of milk falling off in consequence. In salting dairy stock, the best plan is to keep salt at all times within the reach of the animals. This may be done by placing the salt in troughs or boxes under cover, where the animals can have access to it daily. They then take it in moderate quantities, or just so much as nature requires; whereas, if fed at stated intervals, they not unfrequently overfeed, causing scouring and derangement of health which, in the case of dairy stock, should always be avoided.

CURING CHEESE.

MR. FISH of Herkimer says:—"The temperature in curing cheese should not be allowed to rise above 70° or fall below 60° during the process of cheesing the curd. Breaking down of the curd into marketable cheese is affected by rennet and heat in combined action. Too much heat makes the rennet too active, the cheese porous, and if carried too far separates the oil and caseine; if too cold, the curd sours and the water dries or leaks out before the curd breaks down into cheese. It is therefore essential to keep a constant even heat, which cannot be done without excluding outside influences at pleasure."

The Poultry Yard.

PROFITS OF POULTRY.

THERE are few words in the English language more attractive, or that will command more attention than "profit," and we confess to a weakness for seeing what follows, wherever it appears in the title of a book or article in a newspaper. An enthusiastic poultry breeder and correspondent of the Maryland Farmer, talks of the profits of poultry as follows:

Poultry as a source of profit, is generally under-valued by most farmers, for, from the hap-hazzard style they are kept in, perhaps there is not much profit—nor would there be in any other farm stock—if no more care or attention was devoted to them than there is usually bestowed upon poultry. If only the multitude of insects destroyed by poultry, (so injurious to the crops of the farmer) are considered they are of great value, while their guano, if properly saved, is worth five times what it costs to feed them.

Farmers are too prone to conclude that, "chickens eat their heads off"—when, if they had kept a correct account of all food furnished, the number of eggs laid, chickens sold, and those eaten by their families, they would discover evidence sufficient to convince them, that their prejudice, was without reason or foundation.

When poultry have to roost in trees, scratch in a neighbor's garden for a living, and are not considered worthy of attention, they are truly of—not much account. Common fowls, which may possess good laying qualities—derive those good traits from some strain of pure bred fowls, but if allowed to intermingle promiscuously, will eventually become so crossed that the laying propensity is destroyed or bred out. It would be the same with pure-bred herd-book cattle unless kept pure. There are several varieties of pure-bred fowls, that are very profitable as egg producers, some laying as many as eighteen dozen in one year. At the average price of thirty cents per dozen, this amounts to $5.40 per hen. This is not more surmising, for I have had hens that laid twenty-one dozen in a year.

If farmers who think poultry does not pay, would give their feathered stock, to their sons or daughters, with permission to enjoy and own any profit that might accrue from keeping them, they would soon be convinced that "there's something in it." Poultry rearing in some parts of our country, by ladies, is indeed quite extensively carried on. There is certainly no more health-promoting exercise than that afforded by caring for, or having the management of a flock of poultry, and if the flock is one of any of the pure breeds—there is in addition to the exhilarating influence, an enthusiasm that causes what might otherwise be considered a task, to become a pleasure,—and therefore profit and pleasure are happily combined. A young lady in Bethel, Pennsylvania, during the year 1874, kept a strict account of all the expenditures for feed, &c., for her yard of fowls, and at the regular market prices for eggs and chickens, she cleared above all expenses three hundred and sixty dollars, besides having more stock on hand than she started with. Is not this an incentive sufficient to awaken an interest among the numerous fair readers of the "Farmer" in favor of gallinaceous stock? It is certainly worthy of emulation.

THE LANGUAGE OF FOWLS.

MR. HENRY HALES, a poultry breeder of experience, gives some notes on the above subject in the Poultry Bulletin, which reminds us of Scudder's "Songs of the Grasshoppers," although the "chicken talk," is a little more intelligible to our unscientific ears:

Is there any one, who keeps fowls, who has not noticed the great variety of sounds they make, expressive of their feelings? It amounts almost, if not quite, to a language; probably more so than any other creature, except man.

Even the modulation of noises made is very significant of meaning. First, there is the piping of the little chick, calling for the care of its stately mother, who continually keeps answering with the assuring "cluck, cluck!" As the chick grows a little older, the piping is succeeded by a chirrup; then there is the trilling song of pleasure they make under their mother's wings, when sitting down to rest; but just put your hand under the mother, and pull out one of the little chicks, and hear its sharp cry of terror, mingled with the defiance and abuse of its parent.

Throw a large beetle into their coop, and hear the consternation uttered by all the little family, mingled with the warning voice of their matron. Now, throw them some dainty bit, and hear how soon her voice changes; her children understand there is something extra nice for them by her peculiar declamation, which brings in all stragglers in a great hurry. How well the little things comprehend the peculiar cry of their mother in case of danger, such as the approach of cats or hawks; or let a little straggling waif peep into the coop, and hear her timely warning to keep out.

In the course of time, the mother tires of her charge, and gives her children the slip, who express their forlorn feelings by a whining cry, while hunting around for her.

In due time the young gentleman chick tries his voice at a crow. Could any one ever believe that such stammering, such straining and croaking would ever reach that clear, rich song, that has been celebrated in the history and poetry of all the great nations of the earth, and caused so many great "awakenings" in all classes of society?

Soon he begins to feel gallant, and if, by chance, he finds some rare bit, he calls some of the nearest belles to partake of it, but they frequently arrive just in time to see him bolt it himself.

One of the next musical strains is the prating of pullets, when they feel happy and well; then there is the alarm, when startled by anything strange; also the shrill cry raised by all, should a hawk appear. Another peculiar noise is made when you approach their roosts at night, uttered and answered all round,—a slight, trilling noise, as much as to say, hark! What's that strange noise, which is deepened into a sharp tut-tut, if danger is suspected, and into a shrill, piercing cry, if taken from their perches, evidently suspecting that you may be thinking of chicken pot-pie?

I think there is no domestic animal that has a less offensive voice than the domestic fowl. It will compare favorably with the voice of the duck, turkey, guinea fowl, goose, or pea fowl. Their loudest noise has a charm for many a fancier, when they set up the cry, "Come! Come! Come! Take the egg."

TURKEY BREEDING.

THE Rural World in urging its readers to pay more attention to rearing turkeys says:—A flock of well grown turkeys makes such an agreeable addition to the receipts of the farm, and they are often raised with so little trouble, that I wonder at the seeming indifference of so many farmers with reference to them. The rules for breeding are simple and easily understood, and failures are due to two prominent causes—one, the weather, which, in some seasons, puts at fault the utmost possible care; the other negligence.

A hot and dry season is well nigh an essential for success with turkeys. This is so important that it is of little use to be in haste to get turkeys hatched early, as we may do with chickens; though old birds are tough enough, young ones are exceedingly tender. If brought out by the first of June, it will, in most cases, be early enough. Even if they live through such chilly and damp weather as is common in May, they will not grow much until hot weather and bugs come to their relief; but let them hatch out in June, in weather which drives the breeder to the shade, and little turkeys just enjoy it; they will stretch themselves in the sun and "lay off" with every token of delight. Damp, chilly weather is their ruin; rain their abomination; morning dew a poison sure to blight the hopes of inexperienced or careless breeders. Turkeys must be allowed to range very freely to insure success, but not while the grass is wet—that is, during the first two months or so of their lives. After that, one need not be quite so particular.

Early turkeys not being advisable, the first litter of eggs from a hen may be reserved for a common hen in May, and the turkey hen be invited to lay a second litter, which she will do if broken up. I think the earliest turkeys do better in any case with a common hen, as she roams less and the chicks become more tractable, and the females from among them make more manageable mothers for next year.

POULTRY NOTES.

Cure for Chicken Cholera.—If not too far gone, give each chicken one teaspoonful of castor oil; it is never known to fail.—M. BECHTEL, *Hanover, Pa.*

A Big Hatch.—J. W. STEVENS writes to the Fanciers' Journal:—March 10 set 16 game eggs; March 31, 17 chicks hatched out and doing well. He asks, "Can this be beaten?"

The Garden.

WHIFFS FROM CANADA.

Whew! what a whiff sweeps over the garden to-day. It is no use making English rhymes to suit this country. Here it should be: April winds and May showers bring forth June flowers. The wind, the southwest wind is the one that is just now careening the evergreens and sighing its mournful rain notes. I wonder if the flower roots know that this rough treatment is just what they need to make them grow, that it is the wind which brings

"Life, sunshine and desire,
And o'er every mount and meadow
Breathes aromatic fire."

We too, like the rootlets, do not always feel that the stirring and shaking, and roughness of sorrow or disappointment are for our good. We murmur as the trees do now in the strong breeze. We get a good "whiff" from the West when it blows, for the Canadians do not revere a forest, and have cut down the strip of woodland that intervened between our pleasant river and the St. Lawrence. Where years ago we saw but waving trees, we can now see the white far-off steamers as they flit up and down on the blue green water of our beautiful, yes, magnificent river, for if there is anything we are proud of in Canada it is the grand St. Lawrence.

But this is not gardening. How the fall bulbs are coming above the ground. Those we planted in late September are nearly in flower, while those put in a fortnight later are only just above the ground. In that way a succession is kept up until other flowers come on.

I put a box of loose earth in the cellar last fall, and awhile ago, before we could get at a hot-bed to sow, I filled some little pots with part of the earth and dropped three tomato seeds in each, covered lightly, and set the pots in the earth in the box, covering them to the rim. This plan prevents drying. They are easily lifted to transplant, and can be carried to any place where the sunshine, heat and moisture of the house are best suited for their growth. My only fear is that they will be too large before settled weather comes, for the mornings are very cold and frosty, and MAYSIE and I have more trouble blanketing the hot-bed than we do ourselves, and the long, green rows of tender plants make us long for weather to transplant them.

The birds have come back in great numbers. They seem to know we protect them, and follow almost close to the plow or harrow looking for earth worms. Yesterday I saw papa stop when he was harrowing between the rows of currant bushes, he picked up something in his hand, it was a dead bird. Poor thing! he said, and made a deep hole and put it in, under the shade of a maple, where no cat could get it for a breakfast. He is very kind to our feathered friends and so are all the boys. I have often seen them when the little gray birds had made their nests in the long grass go around the spot, or gently remove the nest to a safer place, when the plow or harrow was likely to disturb it.

We are all mourning the loss of our strawberry plants. The winter was, in the early part, so open, that the freezing and thawing destroyed the long rows of green plants, from which we had the promise of much ruby fruit. Why didn't we cover them? well, papa has a dislike to straw, which is often full of weeds, and it was difficult to get the right thing. We talked of forest leaves, knowing them to be the best, but the hurry of fall work, with 1,800 bushels of apples to pick, and as many potatoes, besides the gathering in of a large garden, did not leave the spare day required, and we trusted to the snow.

Our main crop is the Wilson, but for a choice late variety we like the "Seth Boyden" very much, only it is too tender for this climate, where frost comes on in early October and does not leave us till late in May, and last year we had only one month (August) in which there was no frost. Yet so attractive is our home in summer time that we love it, perhaps, "not wisely but too well," to "go West."

It is too early for squashes, which require warmth before being planted, but when the ground is ready we make hills eight feet apart each way, and, putting in well-rotted manure, cover up, and drop the seed, eight or nine in a hill, to be thinned out if they survive their enemies. The young plants need protection from the squash bug, and we try various devices.

A box with a pane of glass for the bottom, and inverted, will be of great use in the early stage, or old wire covers, such as are used at table, are serviceable. Old hoop-skirt wire, covered with mosquito netting, is good, but if a high wind prevail they are apt to be blown away. The best thing I know is a boy, who, with thumb and finger, catches the bugs in early morning before they are dried from the dew.

We grow some years "Hubbard" others "Marblehead," taking care to have the squash edge away from melons or cucumbers, and to grow only one variety in the garden. In this way we keep pure seed, and after we eat the squashes, wash and dry the seed, hang it up in paper bags in the loft, and when a quantity is gathered, put it through the riddle, and send to Montreal to be sold to the seedsmen, who are always ready to buy it, knowing it to be reliable.

But if we want any summer squash, we have to grow them in the fields far away from the garden, or they would mix and spoil our seed. Perhaps one thing in our favor is, that none of our neighbors grow squashes or have gardens near us.

Mice are very fond of these seeds, and even while they are drying will carry them off, and while they are stored in the cellar, sometimes get inside and eat out all the seed. But this chapter on squashes has kept me busy till the tea bell rings, and a "whiff" of gems and new maple sirup comes from the dining-room, so no more gardening for to-day.

ANNIE L. JACK.

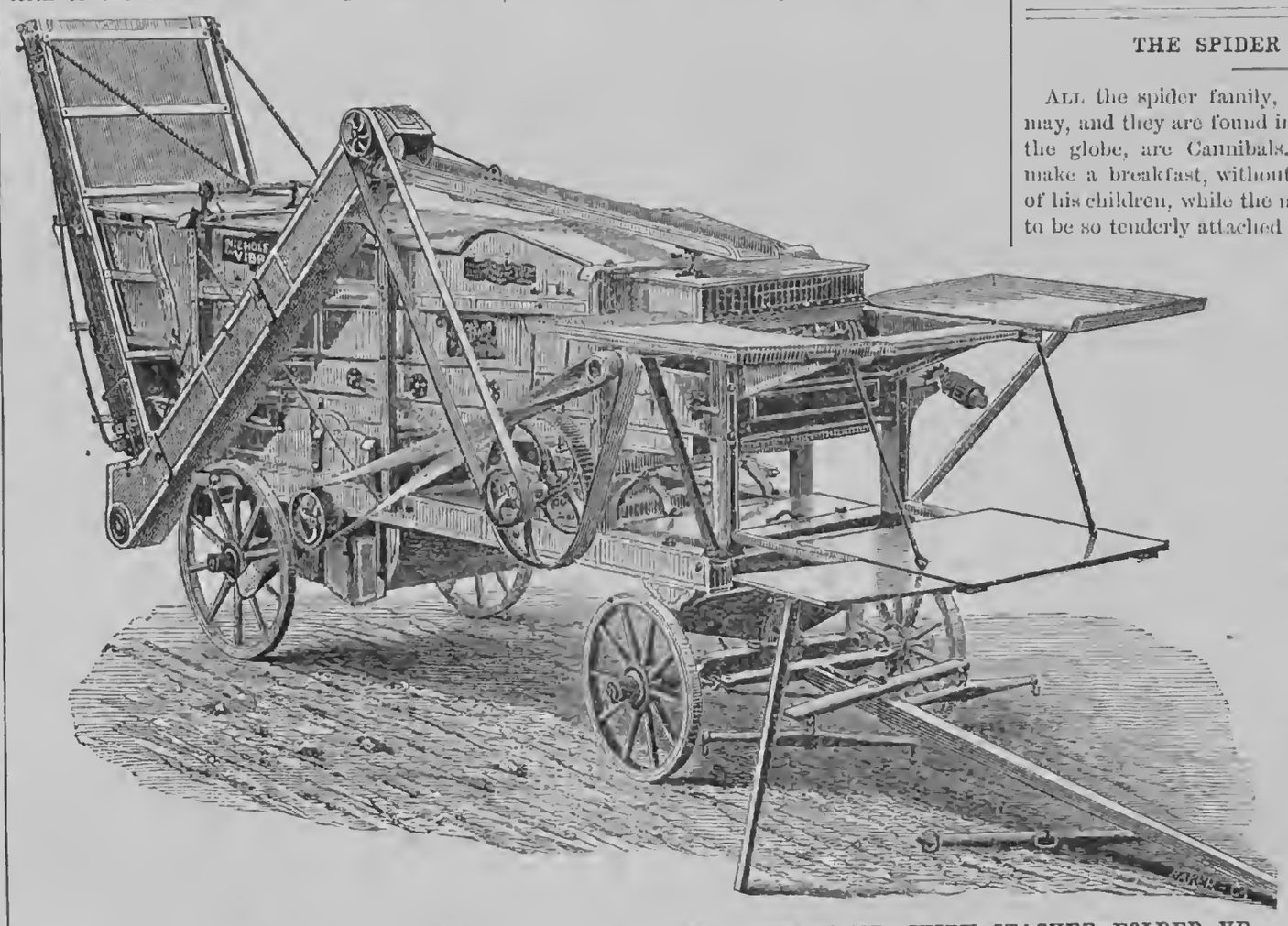
ARRANGING A MARKET GARDEN.

A MARKET GARDENER writes to the Evening Post as follows:—"Much labor may be saved by arranging the garden in long, narrow beds, running north and south, instead of irregular and dispersed patches. The fruit should be placed in rows so disposed that they as well as other rows can be cultivated readily and easily by horse and hand machines, of which there are several excellent ones. When thus arranged, the garden can be well plowed and harrowed by one horse, without injury to the fruit or beds of permanent vegetables or herbs. It will be found very convenient to have a broad plat of grass at each end of the garden, upon which the horse may be turned. These should be kept closely shaven with a lawn-mower. Most of the sowing and planting may be done with a hand-drill, which, with arrangements to enable it to be used as a weeder or a cultivator, can be procured for a few dollars. These implements are a great relief to the labor of gardening, and prevent the necessity of much stooping. They are certainly as necessary to the wife and daughters of the homestead, upon whom the gardening mainly falls, as the horse rake or mower to the boys and the father."

Industrial Implements.

THE "VIBRATOR" THRESHING MACHINE.

NEXT to harvesting a crop, the most important item to the farmer is in saving it after it is gathered and preparing it for the market. The threshing machine fills an important place among the implements used on the farm. Few farmers do business on a scale large enough to have a threshing machine for their own exclusive use. The great bulk of grain is threshed by traveling threshers, carrying their machines from farm to farm through the neighborhood. It is quite as well that this should be so. The threshing machine is used so short a time each year that the interest on its cost will often pay for threshing the grain an ordinary farm will produce. None the less, however, is every farmer interested in employing only the most perfect thresher to be found in the market. It is very easy in a single season to waste more good grain than would buy a new machine. This waste is well understood by farmers, and only tolerated because too many suppose that it is necessary. If farmers were only more particular, itinerant threshers would be forced to have the best machines or go without jobs.



VIEW OF THE NICHOLS, SHEPARD & CO. "VIBRATOR" SEPARATOR, WITH STACKER FOLDED UP.

Some years ago Messrs. NICHOLS, SHEPARD & Co. of Battle Creek, Mich., took a "new departure" in the Thresher line. They originated, invented and developed a new kind of Thresher, which they christened and named the "Vibrator." It differs from the "old style" machines in dispensing with all Aprons, Beaters, Pickers, Raddles, etc., and performs the functions of separating the grain by "uplifting fingers" which "shake up" the straw and "shake out" the interminglod grain very much as our forefathers used to do it with the rakes and pitchforks of those days, after the grain was "flailed" out, or had gone through the more modern "chaff piler."

Messrs. NICHOLS, SHEPARD & Co. had the advantage of long experience and unusual skill in the machinery line (the firm having a continuous business, without change of name or locality, back to 1848), and they have developed and built up a remarkable business in their "Vibrator."

Few farmers have not heard good reports of this machine, and though a Western production, it seems to be well known and appreciated in the East. The sales have steadily increased at the rate of 30 to 60 per cent. a year, and the works of the company at Battle Creek, Mich., comprise acres of brick buildings filled with appropriate machinery, and are probably among the most extensive and well-appointed in the country. The sales last year, despite the hard times, were much larger than ever before, and it is believed that the orders for this season will be still more extensive. Men who are unable to obtain work in any other way are sure of constant employment if they own and manage a strictly *first-class* Threshing Machine. Such a thresher can be paid for in a single season, besides making good wages for the man who buys it. Send to Messrs. NICHOLS, SHEPARD & Co., Battle Creek, Mich., for their illustrated circulars and price list, giving full information.

THE OSBORN SULKY PLOW.

WE remember, when a young man, seeing a picture of a rude wooden plow hitched to and drawn by an elephant. It was a most primitive affair, and the power seemed out of all proportion to the strength of the plow. When we regard the advance in this department of agriculture and its latest expression as shown by the accompanying illustration, we are inclined to think that the world is progressing indeed. We have painful recollections of "following the plow." It was not an agreeable occupation, and as for guiding the erratic course of the implement—well, could as justly have laid claim to directing a Bengal tiger by gently twisting his tail. Mr. OSBORN has made a decided step in advance in his invention, and Messrs. GREGG & Co., Trumansburg, N. Y., the manufacturers of the Osborn Sulky Plow, deserve success.

THE OSBORN SULKY PLOW.

The machine was patented in 1869, but not thoroughly introduced till 1870. Although carrying a driver, its draft, it is claimed, is no heavier than the ordinary plow, and almost any style of right-hand plow can be secured to the sulky, which is a great point in its favor. The vibrating frame to which the plow is attached is pivoted to the axle and is so arranged as to be frictionless. The axle itself is adjustable, and can be raised, lowered or tipped in either direction at will, throwing the plow on the moldboard, precisely as is done by hand, enabling the driver to regulate the depth and width of furrow without difficulty.

The plow is handled by the driver from his seat by a simple system of levers. It works quite as satisfactorily in stony and hard land, and the makers claim that it even shows to better advantage on such land. Our readers should investigate improvements of this nature, and Messrs. GREGG & Co. will be happy to furnish full particulars, free, on application.

OF the PRIZE CHURN, manufactured by A. B. CONE at 197 Water St., New York, Mr. WILLARD says:—It differs from other churns in general use. It is simple in its construction, very compact, easily operated, not liable to get out of repair and has the merit of being easily cleaned. In testing this churn we find the butter comes with a good grain, and is in a condition to be readily separated from the buttermilk and washed in the churn. It is a churn that does good work and can not fail to give satisfaction.

The Naturalist.

THE SPIDER FAMILY.

ALL the spider family, find them where you may, and they are found in all habitable parts of the globe, are Cannibals. Father spider will make a breakfast, without the least hesitation, of his children, while the mother seems at times to be so tenderly attached to her young, that she would prefer to perish with them! She does not seem to have the same love for her mate however, for she has been known after a vain endeavor to prevent "hubby" from eating the children, to come to the conclusion that he would make a good meal, and falling upon him would gobble him up in short order.

Even in the reproducing season will madam spider attack her lord, and conquering him in fair fight, will at once devour him. Certain of the small spiders are supplied with a small bladder, somewhat similar to a drum, and the sound made by it, called by the superstitious the "dead watch," is nothing more than the spider drumming for his mistress to come forth from her hiding place. Allusion is made to this by Lacon, where he says "an old man like the spider, can never make love without beating his own dead watch."

A DEAD APE.—Mafuka, a celebrated apo of the Dresden Zoological Garden, is dead.

Floricultural.

THE GARDENER'S SOLILOQUY OVER THE SEED CATALOGUES.

To sow or not to sow? that is the question;
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The greatest torment of a gardener's life
In poring yearly through "fat catalogues,"
Or to take means by popping them, when sent,
In the waste basket—to be looked to
No more; and by doing so, to say we end
The thirst for new and "special novelties"
That flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To grow—to sow?
To grow? perchance to cram our beds and borders
With useless rubbish. Aye there's the rub!

[*W. Tillery, in London Garden.*

QUI VIVE.

Now blooms the wide-awake *Hepatica triloba*. A mass of little six-petaled, sky-blue flowers three or four inches high. When the petals fall, the achenia and three large involucral leaves resemble small green clover-heads. It is bright and full of the essence of early spring.

Spiræa tomentosa may still be removed from the fields and roadsides and bloom this season. It is fully as pretty as *S. callosa, Nobleana, lanceolata* and others which are offered in nursery catalogues at 50c. each. The leaves are smallish, ovate-lanceolate, and the flowers are borne in dense racemes of purple, which form pyramidal clusters of fruit for the birds of winter.

Vernation.—Our young friends (and old ones, too,) just beginning the study of botany, may now study what is technically termed Vernation—i. e., the arrangement of the leaves in the bud—a distinctive mark of great use in determining the order to which a given plant belongs. If the unbotanical reader thinks this subject is not one to arouse a deal of interest, we ask him to pluck two buds—one from a Tulip tree, the other from the Wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantanoides*), and examine them. In the Tulip tree, when the outer scales separate, we shall see what appears an oblong, flattened pouch, somewhat like a young pea-pod, seamless and entire. This may be made to divide into two roundish stipules, and within we find a conduplicately-folded leaf bent over upon its petiole. Beneath this leaf we shall find another pod—and within this pod another leaf—and beneath this leaf another pod—growing smaller and smaller, until the tiny embryonal stipules, leaves, petioles and stems for the whole season's growth are disclosed.

In the Viburnum, the buds are quite naked. No scale-clothing exits to protect them in winter. The bud is itself the leaf entire, and its development is as simple as possible.

Thus are different plants differently organized, and early spring alone offers an opportunity for a comparative examination of what no words or books can so well explain.

CORRECTION.

In the article entitled "A visit to Mr. Peter Henderson" we gave items of the great amount of work accomplished by his lightning potter. In one of these there was an important error. In the statement that he potted a day or so previously 1,000 plants as no more than an average day's work from 7 'till 6—allowing half-an-hour for noon—the one thousand ought to have been *ten* thousand, as an average day's work.

NOTES.

A New Shrub.—In the Washington Market, (this city,) a sign a foot square is hung over a quantity of shrubs upon which is painted in large capitals, Hydra Ranchas. Though the clumps wear a familiar look, we do not find any such genus or species in the usual references. It must be a new shrub (!)

Pancratium Rotatum.—This native bulb is quite as handsome as many of the imported Lilies and other grand plants from abroad. Our enterprising friend who has taken in hand to push *Agave Virginica*, might do a similar good work by working up this which also grows wild in his region. It is not at all abundant in cultivation and, practically, it has yet to be introduced. Still, not to excite the ire of those of us who love to have things correctly expressed, he had better not, in his Pancratium circular, claim the honor of a "first discovery."

Thus kindly suggestive and gently admonitory is the Gardener's Monthly to our friend, Mr. Gunn of Tennessee.

Gladioli.—Plant the corms deep if the soil is light—five inches from the top for large, three for medium, two for small. This will give support to the leaves at least until the flowering stalk is well advanced and render stakes, which mar the appearance of the beds or borders in which they are planted, unnecessary.

Gladioli may be planted in groups, in plots to themselves, among low-growing annuals, among roses or scattered here and there if not too shaded and the soil is not too stiff.

Little is gained by early planting. Those planted before the first of April bloom no sooner than those planted two weeks later. For a succession of bloom, continue planting as late as July 1st. We may count upon an average of three months between planting and blooming.

One of the first charms about this plant of

DATURA STRAMONIUM.

many charms, is that the flowers open nearly as well even to the topmost bud when cut off and placed in water as when left to mature upon the stems. As the lower flowers fade and wither, pull the corolla out, leaving only the fresh ones above.

Cut off the flowering stem six inches below the spike and place it in water. A spray of enduring green for contrast is all that is needed to form a bouquet of exquisite beauty. A single flower is as pretty as that of many of the famed and costly Amaryllis. And yet each stalk bears twenty—more or less—and each bulb gives several stalks forming garden bouquets far more graceful than the stiff pugs into which flowers are usually squeezed.

It is a good plan—when they are planted in full sunshine—to cover the ground about the stem with freshly-cut grass in seasons of dryness.

Spiræa Prunifolia.—Of all the Spiræas, give us this one, if only one we are to have. Balloon-shaped is exactly the phrase to express its figure; its foliage is thick—though constituted of little leaves and these are of the smoothest, glossiest texture.

Last summer we estimated that there were ten thousand flowers upon one bush three feet high. The petals have minute splashings of green. Sessile upon the branch is an involucre of four or five very small leaves. From these from two to five thread-like peduncles grow an inch in length, each bearing a flower. These clusters of involucres are scarcely quarter of an inch apart, so that the bush is literally a mass of flowers. In the inflorescence, first is a calyciform involucre star-shaped—then an inner or true calyx forming a smaller star that alternates with the other—then the whorls of roundish white petals forming an oval agate-button half an inch in diameter. The whorl of leaves at first apparently sessile upon the branch, consists of nodes which do not develop until the flowers have disappeared, when the inter-nodes lengthen into regular branches and the tiny leaves grow to usual size.

It is one of the earliest to bloom and is now in bud (May 1st).

Speaking of Orchids, Humboldt tells us: "Such is their number and variety in the valleys of the Peruvian Andes, that the entire life of a painter would be too short to delineate all the magnificent forms which adorn those deep recesses."

[This is vague for Humboldt. Painters as a class are possessed of an insatiable thirst for "Mountain Dew" that sometimes eventuates in their working by "fits and starts!" If this sublimation were more abundant upon the crags and peaks—thither we should count upon our painter's spending a liberal share of his time maugre the Orchids in the "deep recesses" beneath. Again, one slashing artist might paint in an hour what another artist of precision might not paint in a day. Humboldt does but mystify us as to the number of Orchids in the "deep recesses of the Andes."]

Zinnia Darwini.—The Gardeners' Monthly for May says of this:

"Under this name a new race of Double Zinnias has come into existence through the skill of the hybridizer, and is illustrated in the February number of the London Florist and Pomologist. The habit is much better than the old race of Double Zinnias, and they will be no doubt great favorites. We believe our seedsmen will soon be able to offer them to American cultivators."

[The Gardeners' Monthly for once is not alert. We purchased seeds of Z. Darwini in several varieties this spring of home seedsmen and saw them offered in at least three catalogues. We called attention to the seeds being offered at 50c. per packet of 25 seeds in Rural of March 25.]

Scientific and Useful.

POISONING TOBACCO-WORM MOTHS.

Throughout the Middle and Southern States the tobacco crop is more or less injured every year by an insect known as the Tobacco Worm. Another and closely allied species, commonly known as the Potato Worm, frequently attacks the tobacco plant in the more Northern States and extends to some distance south, the two being frequently found in the same field near what may be termed the dividing line between the natural domain of either.

These caterpillars—or worms, as they are more generally called—are the product of "eggs" laid by moths belonging to what entomologists term the *Sphinx* family. The first, or true Tobacco Worm, is the larva of the Carolina Sphinx (*Sphinx Carolina*), and the second, or Potato Worm, that of the Five-Spotted Sphinx (*S. quinquemaculata*).

These moths are of large size, the wings spreading three to five inches, and are of a dull, grayish color, the body marked with patches or spots of yellow. The moths can do vegetation no direct harm, as they do not possess mandibles for eating solid food, but are provided with a long, flexible tube for sucking liquids, especially the sweet secretions of flowers.

With this knowledge of their habits, we are enabled to destroy them whenever the number becomes so great as to require it. But few men will take the trouble to kill off the moths, thereby saving themselves the much more laborious task of hand-gathering the worms.

Both the Sphinxes named frequent the flowers of the common Stramonium (*Datura stramonium*), also known as the Jamestown Weed, Thorn Apple, &c., for the purpose of obtaining food from its flowers. This coarse weed is probably well known to all of our readers by some one of the above names; if not, they will doubtless recognize it from the accompanying illustration of a branch containing a flower and one of its large, rough seed-pods.

Now, every farmer and planter who desires to protect his tobacco, potatoes or tomatoes from the ravages of the large, ugly, green worms so frequently found upon those plants in summer can do so by following our directions. Sow in spring a small number of the Datura seed in different places about the field to be occupied with the crops named, and then, when the plants come into bloom, proceed to charge the flowers with the following liquid poison:

Dissolve an ounce of cobalt (to be had at any drug store), in about a pint of water, adding enough sirup to make the mixture sweet. Now take a small bottle and fill it with the liquid, and to aid in distributing it put a goose-quill through the center of the cork, and you are ready for work. Go round among the Datura plants and drop a little of the liquid into each open flower. This should be done about sundown, as the moths come at this time or a little later to feed, and every one sucking up a drop of this poisoned liquid will be killed.

To some this may seem to be a slow and impracticable way to rid a locality of those pests, but when the fact that each female moth lays several hundred eggs is taken into account, the practicability of fighting this pest by poisoning becomes apparent. A boy can charge the flowers as well as a man, and it will take but a few minutes every evening while the moths are about to prepare for them their final feast.

We are assured by those who have tried this process of poisoning flowers, as moth traps, that it works well, especially if all the planters in a neighborhood will act together in the matter.

HOW TO BOTTLE LIGHT.

Countless accidents, as every one knows, arise from the use of matches. To obtain light without employing them, and so without the danger of setting things on fire, an ingenious contrivance is now used by the watchmen of Paris in all magazines where explosive or inflammable materials are kept. Any one may easily make trial of it. Take an oblong phial of the whitest and clearest glass, and put into it a piece of phosphorus about the size of a pea. Pour some olive oil, heated to the boiling point, upon the phosphorus; fill the phial about one-third full and then cork it tightly. To use this novel light, remove the cork, allow the air to enter the phial, and then recork it. The empty space in the phial will become luminous, and the light obtained will be equal to that of a lamp. When the light grows dim, its power can be increased by taking out the cork and allowing a fresh supply of air to enter the phial. In winter it is sometimes necessary to heat the phial between the hands in order to increase the fluidity of the oil. The apparatus thus prepared may be used for six months.

PREDICTIONS OF NINETY YEARS AGO.

The great Linnæus in a "Dissertation on the Sexes of Plants," written in 1786, predicts in the following selection what time and botanical investigation have most amply proved: "Here is a new employment for botanists, to attempt the production of new species of vegetables by scattering the pollen of various plants over various unfertile flowers. And if these remarks should meet with a favorable reception, I shall be the more induced to dedicate what remains of my life to such experiments which recommend themselves by being at the same time agreeable and useful. I am persuaded by many considerations, that those numerous and most valuable varieties of plants which are used for culinary purposes have been produced in this manner, as the several kinds of cabbage, lettuces, etc., and I apprehend this is the reason of their not being changed by a difference of soil. Hence I cannot give my assent to the opinion of those who imagine all varieties to have been occasioned by change of soil; for, if this were the case, the plants would return to their original form if removed again to their original situation."

AVERILL CHEMICAL PAINT.

By letters from various subscribers, who have used the Averill Chemical Paint made by Seeley & Stevens of 32 Burling Slip, New York City, we are informed that it is all it is represented to be and they advise us to recommend it to our readers. From our own use of it; and from the letters received by us from time to time, we are led to believe that an order filled by that firm cannot fail to give satisfaction. It is no new thing; but has been tried and found *not* wanting. Messrs. Seeley & Stevens will furnish samples and circulars on application.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

COLONNADE HOTEL, PHILA., May 13, 1876.

FINALLY the great Centennial Exhibition is formally opened, and visitors are now at liberty to inspect the buildings and note how, gradually, the exhibits take on most attractive forms until, finally, the American viewing these things in their full-blown excellence, may well feel proud to be the citizen of a country that has created an Exhibition of such grand proportions. Considering that, as a nation, we are yet in leading strings, this is surely a proud reflection.

As might have been expected, the opening ceremonies were more remarkable for the crowd that was attracted to the grounds than for what was to be seen, as not a moiety of the exhibitors were in a position to display their wares. The rain of the previous 24 hours had rendered the walks almost impassable and the mud was of a depth to discourage the most adventuresome; yet, at the appointed time, the Master of Ceremonies, followed by the President and the Empress of Brazil, DOM PEDRO and Mrs. GRANT, the members of the Foreign Legations, distinguished politicians, poets, philosophers, and members of the Press, took their appointed places on the platform that was erected for the occasion opposite the middle transept of the Main Hall and facing Memorial Hall, on the broad plaza of which was stationed the orchestra and chorus under the conductorship of THEODORE THOMAS. The order of ceremonies was as follows:

1. Centennial inauguration march by RICHARD WAGNER of Germany.
2. Prayer by the Right. Rev. BISHOP SIMPSON.
3. Hymn by JOHN G. WHITTIER; music by JOHN K. PAYNE of Massachusetts. Orchestral and organ accompaniment.
4. Cantata—the words by SIDNEY LANIER of Georgia; music by DUDLEY BUCK of Connecticut. Orchestral and organ accompaniment.
5. Presentation of the exhibition by the President of the Centennial Commission.
6. Address by the President of the United States.

The President read his address from manuscript and owing to the low key in which his voice was pitched, was entirely inaudible to all who did not immediately surround him. The music—both choral and instrumental—was rendered with great spirit and precision, and to the majority was about the only compensation for the sufferings they endured. The crowd at this time and point was so dense that it became literally impossible to move hand or foot, and the embrace of a bear might well seem a gentle pressure by comparison. Following the addresses came the general inspection, and by the time the President and party had reached Machinery Hall and the doors were thrown open to the public, it was 2 P. M.

The military, that for the occasion, undertook to maintain order, were not as well directed as could have been desired. At one time the ranks were broken, and the crowd shot through into the open, as if fired from a catapult. When they were finally forced back, it was done in a manner that would not have been tolerated by any but Americans,—incontestibly the best natured people on the face of the globe. At 12 M. the cannon pealed forth, and the chimes in the tower of Machinery Hall rang out jubilantly but not very harmoniously: the ringer, perhaps, feeling nervous, and oppressed by the grandeur of the occasion. Some twenty thousand people lined the limits of the grounds, and St. George's Hall was black with humanity, who preferred to take their sight seeing without the usual formula of paying for it, and this suggests the novel arrangements that are provided for ingress to the grounds.

There are 106 turnstiles, and 42 exit gates. The entrances and exits are in juxtaposition, so that when you wish to leave the grounds you merely direct your steps to where you see a crowd pouring in. Of the turnstiles seventy-six are for money only; six are for those who hold complimentary tickets, such as the press, officials, &c., and twenty-four are for exhibitors and attendants. The turnstiles are marked with a letter, so that those who have passes may go in under their letter. Complimentary ticket-holders pass in under the letter C, which will be found in two places in the main entrance, one place in the eastern entrance, one in the drive near the Vienna Bakery entrance, one in the drive near the Belmont Avenue entrance, on the northwest side of enclosure, and one in the Machinery Hall entrance near the Main Concourse.

By an ingenious contrivance of W. S. Phillips, Superintendent of the Telegraph, these turnstiles are connected by wire with a dial in the main office of the Centennial Commission. When a person enters through a turnstile he is instantly registered on this dial. At any instant of the day, therefore, it will be possible to know, by glancing at the dial, the exact number of people who have passed the gates and are within the exhibition grounds and buildings.

The Centennial Bank established for the convenience of visitors is prepared to change money and furnish those who desire it with 50-cent script, being the only and exact amount that can be deposited, stile-keepers being forbidden to make change. So great was the run on the bank, at the opening, that speculators availed themselves of the opportunity to sell small change at a premium of $1.10 for one dollar.

The great Corliss Engine was put in motion at the command of the President, and in a twinkling this enormous motor, started the miles of shafting as easily and quietly as if it was quite the simplest thing in existence. This giant piece of machinery will be one of the greatest objects of interest at the Exposition, and it may well excite the surprise and admiration of scientific and non-scientific sight-seekers.

GREAT stress was laid upon the assertion of *quid nunes* that the crowd at the opening would be so large as to cause hotel proprietors to sigh for houses of india rubber. This prediction was partly fulfilled; the crowd *was* very great, but Philadelphia, like another ÆNEAS, was equal to any fate, taking in and doing for the stranger handsomely. The Colonnade entertained 586 guests, but there was room for more; and while on the subject of hotels, I should like to say right here that the genial proprietor of this hotel do make it wonderfully comfortable and home-like for the stranger. And judging by their manner, one would suppose that each new arrival was one of those much-abused country cousins, and that he *was* quite welcome. The Colonnade is among the most centrally located of the city hotels, being but two miles distant from the Exhibition grounds, and we believe quite the nearest of any of them. On Wednesday the prominent arrivals at the hotel were Gen. JOHN H. KING, Albany; V. DARDON, Guatemalian Minister: Gen. LAFAVRE, Capt. FRANK ARNOLD, Gen. ELIJAH WARD, Dr. STODDARD from Australia, Gen. FRANK REEDER, Gov. INGERSOLL (Conn.) and staff, Gov. LITTITT (R. I.) and staff, Admirals SCOTT, JENKINS and D. B. PORTER and Commodore KANE, U. S. N.; Prof. ABBE, Washington, Hon. HEISTER CLYMER, and many others.

I regret that the length of this letter delays the fulfillment of my promise made last week until the next issue, when I shall endeavor to make it very plain how to avoid the petty annoyances that beset the traveler in a strange city.

YOUNG RURAL.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

THE horses and dogs will have their day in September.

ON an average 150 car-loads of Centennial goods are now unloaded daily.

THE monster Krupp gun carries a 1,600-pound ball and weighs sixty-four tons.

A BOAT constructed from the timbers of the wrecked Polaris will attract attention.

THE Coast Survey Service exhibits models of lighthouses, with the lights revolving, flash, and steady.

Patrons of Husbandry.

THE GRANGE AN EDUCATOR.

J. MUNGER, Lecturer of Agricola Grange No. 9 of Warren County, Ohio, makes the following very sensible remark in a recent lecture upon the above named topic:

Let us always bear in mind that the Grange is to become just what we shall choose to make it. Either it is a high-toned school of morals and a perpetual fountain of knowledge, wherein improvement and refinement shall go hand in hand with social and intellectual culture; moral and physical development, for herein all these must receive attention and the whole man must be educated, or it must become a mockery in the name of progress.

But more than this, we stop not here! Within the folds of the Grange we must gather the youth of the land. Here we must shield and protect them from the snares and temptations to which they are exposed—wooing and winning them from the follies and vices of the world, by providing for them innocent amusements, and furnishing them with rational enjoyment, inculcating in their minds and instilling into their young hearts the ennobling principles of virtue; not the least of which is the love of the heaven-ordained and inexorable law of labor; the necessity and the duty of industry; the glory and reward of plain, downright, blunt, honest, hard work—work both of body and mind—work, in the library and in the field, in the office and in the shop, at the desk and at the bench; obeying the injunction, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might," work of the head, hand and heart, whereby we shall be kept from retrograding toward ignorance, be saved from besotting superstitions, and be prevented from degrading into wretchedness and barbarism.

The frequent occurrence of fraud, theft, robbery, forgery, burglary and murder, the commission of all this black catalogue of crimes for the purpose of evading the great law of labor, is but a poor commentary on the present state of public morals, and it shows clearly our line of duty in this direction. The reformatory power of the Grange is invoked to rear up a generation of men and women that shall emulate each other in their love of labor.

Mrs. Livermore may lecture upon "What shall we do with our Daughters," but I would lecture upon what shall we do with our sons and daughters.

THE WAY TO DO IT.

THE Grange Visitor gives the following very sensible advise to farmers who desire to purchase supplies cheap as well as sell their products at good prices:

Why is it that it is so difficult for farmers to deal directly with each other in exchanging the products of one section for those of another without passing such commodities through the hands of one or more speculators? In a recent report of the State Business Agent of Ohio, he stated that rates could not be given on grass seeds, as they were in the hands of speculators. Why were these seeds which the farmers of this country produce and consume, held by middlemen? Is there not some way of correcting this evil? The whole difficulty arises from the very unbusiness-like way in which a majority of farmers do business. Farmers must get in the habit of doing their own thinking and of making their calculations a little further ahead than they now do. How many farmers who had to buy clover seed this spring did not know or might not have known with reasonable forethought last fall, that they would want it in the spring, and who do not know that it would have paid them well to have purchased it at that time even at an advance on the ruling prices? Clover seed, for instance, could have been bought for about two-thirds of the price paid for it this spring, which would give about fifty per cent. for the use of the money for six months. If farmers had taken the trouble to give the matter thought, they might have foreseen that the result would be just what it has been, and made their arrangements accordingly, thus saving to themselves a few dollars that would be very acceptable these hard times. Had a Grange in this section, for instance, where no clover was raised last year, made their wants known to the members of other Granges where it was for sale, could they not have bought it as low as any one, and would it not have been an advantage to both parties?

But grass seed is not the only thing that requires forethought and good management, and in which co-operation may be used to advantage. There are many things of even more importance. The selling of the next clip of wool might be made the subject for consideration at present. If the entire clip of the State could be collected into a few large lots properly graded and sacked, it could be sold to much better advantage, and the commissions of two or three agents be saved to the producer. In order to accomplish this, each Grange should obtain from the members an estimate of the quantity and quality each will have to sell, which should be reported to the State Agent, or some one appointed for that purpose, who should immediately enter into negotiations with Business Agents in the East, or with the manufacturers, themselves. If large lots of well-graded wool could thus be offered to the manufacturers, there is no doubt but the best prices could be obtained. This is but a single item of the many that might be named. Every article of sale or purchase should be bought or sold in a systematic and economical manner, and often an exchange might be effected that would be advantageous to both parties; for instance, if the Business Agent were authorized to take a certain part of the price of the wool in cloth.

The way to success is to look ahead, systematise the business of purchase and sale, and practice the true principles of co-operation.

THE DUES.

A PATRON writing to the Prairie Farmer, reminds his brother that "dues," should be paid promptly. Many Granges hold their meetings in school-houses, and the expense is light. Some have built halls, while others are yet renting halls. Each subordinate Grange is the best judge of the amount of dues necessary for its expenses. Patrons are not generally so "flush of money" as to wish an accumulation of it to be still in their treasury. Let the Brethren speak on this subject, so that the National Grange at its next meeting may take renewed action upon it.

Entomological.

ENTOMOLOGY AS A STUDY.

PROF. CHAS. V. RILEY in his late lecture delivered in the Hall of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., said of "Entomology as a Study."

That there exists a certain contempt in the public mind for what are derisively termed bugs, in America, is too evident, particularly in our cities, where the word is associated only with a troublesome or offensive species. Yet this contempt is unwarranted. The whole class should not be judged by the exceptional few. There is scarcely one of those creatures but, when carefully examined, presents a perfect microcosm of wonder and beauty, and the structure of most of them is more complicated than that of man himself. They are possessed of senses which we no sense have to conceive. We find assembled among them all the striking peculiarities of other animals. The piercing, but simple eye of the eagle or the lynx will not compare to the stereoscopic and compound eye of the dragon-fly, that sees in all directions at one time; the sharp snout of the sword-fish is, comparatively, a feeble weapon by the side of that of a pirate or soldier bug; the jaws of a lion weak in comparison with those of an ant or of a tiger-beetle; the tongue of a lizard short compared to that of a hawk-moth. What is the architecture of the beaver by the side of that of the bee? Compare the jumping of the kangaroo with that of a flea or a Pœciloptera; the fecundity of a hare with that of the aphis, or of the female termite, which has been known to lay an egg a second for twenty-four hours; the climbing of the squirrel with that of the fly; the swiftness of the antelope with that of a Cicindela or carabus—and you will find that, if the acts be measured by the size of the actors, insects invariably carry off the palm. The electricty of the gymnotus or of the torpedo, the horns of the stag and rhinoceros, the burrowing of the mole, the phosphorescence of the jelly-fish, the changing colors of the chameleon, are reproduced in the *Rednvius serratus*, in the stag and rhinoceros beetles, the mole cricket, the glow-worm and the tortoise beetles. In short, there is hardly a striking peculiarity among other animals that does not find its counterpart in insects while these, again, present us with many most remarkable habits and peculiarities which find no parellel in the rest of the animal kingdom, and prove them to be most worthy the student's attention.

I could dwell for hours on the remakable diversity of their habits. From the æsthetic side, the study of insects as the study of any other branch of natural history, elevates and enlightens. It dispels prejudice and superstition, and affords happiness and instruction. It more quickly than any other teaches us to "find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything." In my own experience I have known of several hypochondriacs made happy and hearty by the mental enjoyment and the physical exercise that resulted from getting interested in the collecting and study of natural history objects; and it is a significant fact that many of our greatest scientific minds, as Charles Darwin, Herbert Spencer, etc., began their scientific careers and developed their love of investigation by the study of insects.

The prosperity of a people does not depend solely on its material wealth, but to a great extent on its mental activty. If you would inspire your children with a love of rural influences: if you would make of them thinking, reflecting, observing men and women, then teach them, among other things, some of the wonders of insects and plant life about them; teach them to read the great book prepared by the Almighty. There is an inexpressible charm in animated nature for those who have learned to commune with and understand her. *They* read in the air, in the water, in the vast sky above, in the bowels of the unfathomable earth beneath. They see everywhere around them significance, harmonies, chains of cause and effect endlessly interlinked, which inspire them with a joy and contentment most desirable to possess. No wonder Carlyle exclaims:—"For many years it has been one of my constant regrets that no school master of mine had a knowledge of natural history, so far as to have taught me the grasses that grow by the wayside, and the little wingless neighbors that are continually meeting me with a salutation which I cannot answer, as things are." Yes those who have learned to unlock the arcana of Nature, ever find there new inspirations and pleasures, and you cannot leave your children a better legacy than the love and habit of studying her manfold wonders. Under every stone, under every clod, there is a little world in minature, if we but know how to look for it: and there scarcely grows a plant but what contains in nature's own hieroglyphs a whole volume of natural history, written by the Great Author of our being. Deep insight into nature's truths is not, therefore, of practical value only, it is ennobling and purifying, and leads to sublimest contemplation of the infinite. The study of nature is not only a struggle for the mastery of the external world, but as Agassiz said, "it is a struggle of man for the intellectual assimilation of the thought of God."

Domestic Economy.

FANCY COOKERY.

A CORRESPONDENT who signs herself "Farmer Girl," in writing to the New England Farmer, gives some excellent hints on fancy cookery, to wit:

Housekeepers who do their own work avoid much inconvenience by always keeping one or two kinds of pastry in the house made rich enough to keep some time, so that if unexpected company finds them with a small stock of food (as it is apt to do in warm weather), they will not have to cook everything for a meal.

TART CRUSTS

are excellent for this purpose, as they look nice on the table and are relished by most people better than cake. By the following rule they will remain good many months in a place dry enough to prevent their molding. I think a cellar would be too damp, though I never tried it, having always kept them in a stone jar set in a cool cupboard; unless to be kept a great while, it is needless to make them so rich.

With one pint of flour use one-half pint of lard, a pinch of salt and the beaten white of one egg, adding a little water, if any liquid is needed; roll thin and cut in rounds, wetting the edge of each before putting on the rim, which is made from a strip of dough cut one-third or one-half inch wide, set up edgewise and neatly fitted on. Another very pretty way of making them is to take two round pieces of dough, cut three or five holes in them with a thimble, and lay it on the other so they will hold together firmly when baked; when wanted for the table, fill each tiny hole with jelly. This is an easier method than the first, but not as good, if one wishes to fill them to carry to a levee or supper away from home, as they cannot be placed one upon another when filled, like those having high rims around them.

GINGER-SNAPS

are another kind that are excellent to keep. A friend told me she meant never to be without them; she had kept them six months by moving them down cellar when they became dry, and if they grew too moist there, would dry them a little in the oven.

Boil two cups of molasses, and when slightly cooled, add one cup of lard, pork fat or butter, one large teaspoonful of soda, and some ginger; mix hard as possible, roll thin and cut in rounds. For immediate use, they are good enough if one-half cup of water is added to the mixture.

APPLE PUFFS.

These are nice for party suppers, and, in fact, are good any time, but rather too tedious to make for frequent use. The quickest way of making them is to roll two large sheets of dough on separate boards, and put as many tiny spots of mashed or sifted sauce upon one of them as you judge there will be room to make puffs; then cover it all with the other sheet, which should be a trifle larger, and cut out with the biscuit cutter wherever there is a bunch of sauce. If too much sauce is put in, it will stew out badly and disfigure them; print around them with a three-tined fork — if you have nothing better—to press the edges together and keep in the juice.

By the way, an old wooden clock wheel is quite a handy thing to roll around pies, and makes a very pretty margin; cheap, isn't it? and it is never out of order.

NOTIONS.

I would like to ask if any one knows a sensible reason for the idea that, to make nice cake or pastry, the butter or lard should not be melted, but rubbed in cold with the hands? My mother (whom I have seen sit half an hour rubbing a cup or two of butter and sugar together) has faithfully labored to convert me to that doctrine, but as she can give no reason other than, "Old cake makers would tell you to do so," or, "Melting the lard for pastry makes it look gray," I am still an unbeliever. I know such pastry looks more gray before it is baked, but can see no reason why it should after, if the grease is merely warmed enough to melt it, and experience convinces me it does not; though perhaps if it were poured very hot upon flour or beaten eggs, it might, by partially cooking them, affect the color or quality when baked. I can never think it other than a foolish waste of time and strength to work half an hour or more on dough which, had the shortening been warmed a little, would have mixed equally as well in about two minutes.

Another foolish whim is indulged in by some when making sponge cake. I refer to the practice of beating whites and yelks of eggs separately until they are a stiff froth and one's body and patience are well nigh exhausted. By the old-fashioned method this was undoubtedly necessary, as, no cream of tartar being used, the lightness of the cake depended upon a foamy condition of the eggs; but with cream of tartar, as most people make it at the present time, it is good enough when beaten but a moment. One lady who makes a great deal of sponge cake tells me she beats them no more or differently than for anything else, and thinks she has just as good success as when she beat it a long time and had a lame arm for several days afterward.

Perhaps, when giving directions for making tarts and puffs, I should have spoken of reserving a portion of the shortening to roll in after it is mixed up, as it is possible some may not know how much more flaky that makes it.

A friend who makes very flaky pie crust with but little lard kindly gave me what she thinks is the secret of it. She mixes a little lard with flour and cold water till quite stiff; then rolls it out, spreads on a little lard, sprinkles flour over it and folds it over so it is double; then rolls out and spreads on again, repeating the process two or three times; after the last time, instead of rolling it up, as some do, she folds it over once or twice and cuts the pieces for use from the edge.

Her idea is to keep the layers of shortening as near horizontal as possible, avoiding mixing them up, as one does in molding or rolling, and there seems to be a deal of reason in it.

POT-PIES.

ADMIRING your noble effort to help M. L. S. over her difficulty in making ginger-snaps and cookies, and I, in my somewhat short experience in housekeeping, having had many such grievances, some of which are still a source of trouble, will try and assist you in the art of making those "puffy crusts." Though I cannot do it as spicily as your instructions were given, perhaps not wholly because I am not dealing with so spicy an article, yet if you will follow my directions, all the "Bells" in your vicinity will ring merrily when you bring your pot-pies on the table. Here let me caution you against two things. They are, that you do not make too many of them at one time, for it is very bad indeed for digestion to overload the stomach, though the food may be light and wholesome; also, if, in case of any indisposition of the "Bells," you should have any left, don't try to scare the chickens with them, for the feathered creation have an appreciation of good food as well as humans, and thereafter it would be very annoying to be continually driving chickens out of the house during the warm weather, when it is absolutely necessary to have the doors and windows open, as you would be obliged to should they discover from whence such a luxury came.

Perhaps you have been taught that you must not raise the cover of the kettle while they are cooking. Such were my instructions when a New York maid, but since I have become a Maine matron I have learned better, and am desirous of imparting this item of my "Down East" knowledge.

But I must hurry up those "puffy crusts," and that, too, very lightly and without shortening. Proceed in the ordinary way to mix the crusts; then see that you have a good fire, so that the kettle will not stop boiling when the crusts are put in; then be sure that they do not cook a moment after they are done. In order to know when they are done, it is necessary to turn them over and occasionally break one; this can be done with a fork, without detriment to them; in fact, I am of the opinion that they are all the better for turning. Usually from seven to ten minutes is ample time to cook them.

Now, my dear little "Bell," when you have again tried your skill in making pot-pie, let us hear of your success through the RURAL, and if you do not acknowledge that the surrounding "Bells" ring merrily, the heart of at least one "Reed"-er will be amazed.

Gardiner, Me. ESTHER P. REED.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

M. A. BAILEY, Onondago Co., N. Y., contributes the five following recipes:

My Ginger Snaps.—A cup of butter, a cup of molasses, a teaspoonful of soda, a teaspoonful of cloves, two tablespoonfuls of ginger, an egg; mix very soft.

My Gingerbread.—A cup of water, a cup of molasses, six tablespoonfuls of melted butter, one and a half cups of flour, a teaspoonful of soda, two of cream of tartar, two of ginger; bake very quick.

Mrs. Jones' Gingerbread.—A cup of buttermilk, two of molasses, four even teaspoonfuls of soda, six tablespoonfuls of butter, two of ginger; mix as soft as it can be rolled out; bake 20 minutes.

Fruit Cake Without Eggs.—A cup of molasses, one of sugar, one of butter (beat till the butter is melted), two tablespoonfuls of cloves, four of cinnamon, a nutmeg, a coffee cup of chopped raisins, one-third of a cup of citron, a teaspoonful of soda, a cup of sour milk, one and a half pints of flour; bake one hour.

Bread Hash.—Chop any kind of cold meat fine, scald and add twice as much dry bread, add butter, salt, pepper and sweet cream; mix thoroughly and warm up well.

The four following are furnished by Mrs. E. M. HAVEN:

Fried Cakes.—Two cups of sugar, one pint of cream, two-thirds of a cup of buttermilk, three eggs, one teaspoonful of soda, nutmeg, a little salt. These are nice.

Ginger Cookies.—One teacupful of butter or lard, two cups of molasses, two-thirds of a cup of water, one tablespoonful of ginger and one of saleratus.

Corn Starch Cake.—One and a half cups of sugar, one-half cup of butter, two-thirds of a cup of corn starch, two-thirds of a cup of milk, whites of four eggs, one and a half cups of flour, with three teaspoonfuls of baking powder; flavor with vanilla.

Frost Cake.—One cup of sugar, two even tablespoonfuls of butter, seven tablespoonfuls of milk, yelks of four eggs, one and two-third cups of flour, one teaspoonful of soda, two of cream of tartar; bake in layers and put frosting between.

The following come to us from a correspondent in New Jersey:

Root Beer—(F. A. Johnson).—The following is a good recipe for "root beer:"—A handful each of sweet fern, yellow-dock, dandelion, sassafras and plantain roots, a small handful of hops, three or four sprigs of hemlock. Boil in two gallons of water until the strength is extracted; add molasses or brown sugar to suit the taste; strain; when cold, add a dissolved yeast cake, or a teacup of bakers' yeast; cover tight and it will be fit for use in twenty-four hours.

French Rolls—One pint of milk, one small cup of home-made yeast, and flour enough to make a stiff batter; raise over night; in the morning add one egg, one tablespoonful of butter and flour enough to make it stiff to roll. Mix it well and let it raise; then knead it again, roll out, cut with a biscuit cutter, fold over. Set them in a warm place until very light; bake quickly.

Hygienic Information.

MEDICAL FASHIONS.

IT is a trite old saying that "one might as well be out of the world as out of the fashion," and it seems to be getting more true every day. The latest phase of this mania is in "medical fashions," which is elaborately treated by a contributor to the Atlantic Monthly. From his extensive lucubrations on the subject we condense a few of the more salient points.

The ancients had their unsical medicine, as well as their unguents and baths, their purgings and fastings, their bloodletting and their hellebore; the Middle Ages had their metaphysical medicine, as well as their mummies and their magnets, their amulets and their salves, then antimony and their mithridatics; while to-day, contemporary with orthodoxy, homœopathy and hydropathy, we have the medicine of clairvoyance, a spiritualistic medicine, and a newspaper medicine, all enacting miraculous cures, and all having followers most profitably numerous. We know more about anatomy than was known of old; we know more about pathology; and our *materia medica* ranges somewhat more rationally over a wider field than did that of the past generation. It must be admitted, however, that practice is as imperfect, diagnostic as bewildered, and pharmacy as absurd to-day as it was in the days of Dioscorides, or when the "white witches" of old England culled simples beneath a favoring moon. Disease is as rife now as it was then; treatment is of as little efficacy; and people take as many medicines, and are duped as grossly and as blindly in their mad pursuit of health, in the days of telegraphs, railroads, and universal suffrage, as in the days of Theophrastus and Galen.

The remarkable circumstance about medical literature is, that its authorities stand to-day almost precisely where they stood in the first ages of medicine, upon the very threshold of a science into which they cannot enter, but where each age fancies itself to have safely arrived. The utmost possible action of medicine, it would seem, is to increase, diminish, or in some way modify the motions natural to the viscera with which it can be brought in contact, an effect which, as Montaigne has said, there are a thousand simples in every herb-garden to produce; yet, what a weight of materials for fostering the diversity and adding to the confusion of prescriptions, do the shelves of our apothecaries groan under!

True, the superstition in regard to these things is not quite so apparent as it was formerly; drugs do not have to be gathered in certain stages of the moon and prescribed aspect of the stars, nor approached backward with annointed bodies; nor are our pharmacopœias so full as those of th ancients were of heterogenous and incompatible compounds, such as that venetian mithridate which was made up of two hundred and fifty ingredients, ranging from aloes and red oak bark to the oil of live swallows and the moss from a human skull.

But that certain incongruities palpable to the eye have been expunged, is no proof that the essential superstition which regulates the use of substances has been dispensed with in favor of a more rational theory of practice consonant with the demands of a more enlightened age. On the contrary, there is just as much sortilegery in physic, just as much wild conjecture and haphazard experiment with all of the products of the vegetable and animal kingdoms, in an insane pursuit of the impossible, as ever there was. There is no new herb, or root, nowadays fresh-brought to notice from California or Australia, but the faculty run just as mad about it, as the populace run mad after the well-advertised new nostrum in the papers.

It is a nice question, in many cases, which has done the most injury, the disease or remedy: whether cancer or the knife produces death more speedily; whether calomel and quinine be not pretty much such friends to the sick man as La Fontaine's good-natured bear was to the gardener, whose mouth he crushed while trying to brush the flies off as he slept. It is an equally nice question to determine whether there ever really does occur a critical period in any disease, when the direct action of any actual medicine, *per se*, can turn back the wavering life from the jaws of death to the flowery meads of re-established health; or, granting the possibility of such a rare occurrence, do we not run too great risk, as a rule, to be able to profit by it? These are nice questions, as I have called them, nor does the present condition of medicine entitle us to expect to see them answered. For these reasons, among many others, medicine cannot be called a science.

It must not be supposed, however, that the doctor's office is to become a sinecure because his drugs are voted rubbish and his methods false. On the contrary, we shall need him quite as much, and his advice will be more valuable to us than ever. He will not have it in his power to do harm, and consequently can give his undivided energies to the pursuit of good. It shall be his office to teach us the fallacy of physic. He shall present to our minds in all its horrid array the atrocious enormity of medicine as once it was practiced, and so shall save many a poor sufferer among us from unconscious suicide. He shall be our perpetual beacon-light against the iron-bound, inmitigable load-stone rock of quackery, where so many fair keels lie untimely wrecked. In fine, he shall become to us the counterpart of that invaluable member of another profession, known as the chamber-lawyer, a quiet man of skill and experience, who abounds with all the wisdom and unction of pertinent counsel, and who never takes his client into court, where he is bound to lose, no matter how his case is decided.—*Edward Spencer.*

POISON IVY.

STRANGE advice sometimes appears in our exchanges in regard to poisonous plants, and especially about "poison ivy." If what is called poison ivy (which, by the way, is not an ivy, but a species of sumac) was the only plant growing wild likely to poison a person by contact, we might excuse some of the mistakes made by writers upon this subject. But the facts are, that the so-called "Ivy" is the most harmless of the two virulent species found in all our moist-woods and low grounds. Even so good an authority as Dr. JAMES C. WHITE writes to the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, advising "all who are unacquainted with the poisons of ivy to avoid any vine or bush growing by rocks, fences and woodsides, and having glossy leaves arranged in *threes*." Now this climbing or trailing species of sumac, or poison ivy is the *Rhus Toxicodendron*, and ninety persons out of every hundred can handle it with impunity.

But growing in similar localities, and frequently side by side with it, there is another species known as poison elder. Poison sumac, or poison dogwood, is botanically the *Rhus venenata*, which few persons can handle without being poisoned. This virulent species is not, however, a "vine having three leaves," but a shrub, growing ten to twenty feet high, with long pinnate leaves of 7 to 13 ovate entire leaflets. Pinnate leaves are those which have small leaflets on each side of the mid-rib, as shown in the accompanying figure.

Now, when any of our readers are searching for wild plants, or fruits, in moist grounds, we would warn them to give this plant a wide berth, if they are at all susceptible to sumac poison.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1876.

SHRUNKEN FORTUNES.

THERE are doubtless many of our readers residing in the country, and especially in the Western States, who think the "hard times" do not affect the wealthy men in our larger cities. We are the more strongly impressed that there is such an idea prevalent among the masses from the tone of the leaders in some of our country contemporaries, who frequently denounce the capitalists in our great moneyed centers for not pushing business as they did years ago—thereby, to use a common phrase, "make the times better."

But we can assure our readers that it is all a gross mistake to assume that capitalists have not suffered by the depression of trade, as much in proportion to this means, as the poorest man in the land, or that they would not be as much pleased and as anxious to see business of all kinds revive, as any other class of our people.

There is scarcely a man of means in our great cities—and especially those owning real estate or engaged in trade of any kind—who has not seen his property gradually shrink in value from twenty-five to fifty per cent. during the past half dozen years, with no power to prevent it. Men who owned real estate valued at a million of dollars five years ago, could not realize one half that sum for it to-day, and to add to their misfortune, the income from the same has also declined in proportion, while taxes are continually on the increase.

Money flows into our banks and other depositories, simply because there is no demand for it elsewhere, and hundreds of capitalists who a few years since were using their money in trade where it brought them ten or fifteen per cent., are only too glad to invest in safe securities at four or five. This certainly does not show great prosperity, even among our most wealthy citizens, or that the present depression of business is owing to the scarcity of a circulating medium or high rates of interest.

In fact, money is about the cheapest and most abundant thing in the market, and the reason why it circulates so slowly is that there are comparatively few men in any kind of business at the present time who can find opportunities for employing it with a fair prospect of a moderate return upon the investment.

It is not reasonable to suppose that men who prefer to put their spare capital out at interest instead of employing in trade, would accept five or six per cent. per annum if they could on equally as good security get more.

The same rule holds good in all branches of trade; hence it is unreasonable to assert, as many have done, that capitalists are combining to depress trade for the purpose of making money out of the pecuniary necessities of the masses, as it is not possible that any considerable number of our people can suffer financial embarrassment without the whole being affected.

If there is an Eastern demand for the products of the West, capitalists will come forward and furnish the funds necessary to move them, provided there is sufficient margin for profit to cover the risk incurred, otherwise capital seeks other channels. The all-powerful law of "supply and demand" rules in money matters as it does in the price of potatoes, and we can see only one way out of our present financial difficulties as a people, and that is to practice the strictest economy until all shall live within their income, whether it be more or less, thereby lessening the demand for money.

Men who do this can usually "bridge over" a panic, or a few years of hard times, because they are very likely to have good credit and means of holding their possessions, even if the market value shrinks to a very low figure.

Real estate, which is generally considered as substantial property as a man can own, besides being less liable to be affected by the periodical fluctuations of the money market, has not escaped depreciation during the present "hard times," and we may safely say that in all of our great cities and their suburbs the estimated value of houses and lots as well as farms, have depreciated fully fifty per cent. during the past three years. This fact may be some consolation to those residing at a distance from our great moneyed centers, and who complain to us of "hard times" as though they alone were sufferers from the shrinkage in the values of all kinds of property.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

"The child is father to the man," has been sagely remarked. With this constantly before our eyes, what a terrible generation can we see for the future! The press teems with descriptions of juvenile criminals and their horrible crimes. Child pickpockets of both sexes infest the large city, while the boy incendiary and burglar are not absent always from rural population. These, then, are fathers to the future men? Undeniably so! Look however, at the homes—when perchance, the poor things have any—in which one of this criminal class has been reared, and ask yourself if you would have been much better, reared from infancy in a similiar place and with similar surroundings. Nursed by an ignorant, low mother, possessing none but the vilest instincts, who in turn draws largely for her information upon the stock possessed by a drunken husband, the child's impressible mind soon absorbs its daily lesson of immorality and crime without even a thought of anything better. Shall we blame that child for his acts? This is a social problem which all can solve correctly at once. A difference of opinion can hardly arise upon the subject. Some will here put the question:—"But suppose the child has good parents and good surroundings and then goes to the bad as is frequently the case? How will you account for that?" Here we are brought to the heart of the matter and must account for it if possible.

Upon the question of good parents and good surroundings, there is an opening for differences of opinion. A girl or a boy may be well fed, well clothed, sent regularly to school and carefully housed, and yet be in a state of absolute starvation for the very food upon which alone nobility of soul, greatness of heart, grandness of mind, and all other virtues are fed—and that is love. Not the love which corrects with severity nor yet that which indulges with weakness; but the love that watches the little opening human flower from its birth to its cradle, thence to its books and thence to its stronger adult development—which studies its needs and notes its necessities. Mothers do not make good children with the rod nor do fathers with a frown. How many of you after a hard day's work, are willing to devote an hour or so to PLAY with the child or children? It knows nothing else. As a little kitten will stop lapping her milk to play with the string which you draw across the floor, so will the child leave almost everything for a romp with its father or mother. In these romps and during these moments of recreation the great lesson of love is learned by the child. This close companionship makes the bond between parent and child which results in the future acceptance of advice and guidance. Perhaps you are naturally a dignified person and unaccustomed to play, so when your infant first came to you were you unaccustomed to its care; but you did not for that reason allow it to go uncared for. Perhaps you are harrassed by matters in your daily life which do not go altogether as you would wish them to; but the recreation will be of quite as much benefit to you as to the child. Your sleep will be the sounder and your dreams the sweeter for it. How many mothers there are who scrupulously care for the physical and outward morals of their offspring, but withhold from them that love and personal intimacy which builds up perfect confidence between them! How many fathers there are who provide all the needful clothes, food, instruction, and indeed money his child can wish, and yet withholds from it that loving companionship which is never forgotten through life and which is the main spring of so much that is good and noble! You have a bad boy, have you? Well! who is responsible?

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

More Money for Fish.—The United States Fish Commissioners have asked Congress to appropriate $17,000 for continuing the propagation and introduction of fish into the public waters of the United States. While we have no particular objection to seeing our lakes and rivers stocked with fish at the expense of the public and for the accommodation of certain sporting gentlemen, and give employment to fish breeders and fishermen, still when our Western farmers asked for a like sum to aid them in fighting insect foes, which destroy millions of dollars' worth of their crops annually, Congress refused it. We hope they will remember this, if Prof. BAIRD, the Chief of the Fish Commissioners obtains the appropriation he has asked for. We also understand that the said Fish Commissioners object to any restrictions being placed upon the Fishermen who slaughter unnecessarily millions of the finny tribe in our larger lakes and rivers, as it is claimed that a new stock can be put in by the fish breeders for a less sum than it would cost to enforce restrictive laws. This may appear very plausible from the fish breeders standpoint; but those who furnish the funds to keep these gentlemen employed, may think differently.

Rates of Postage in Canada.—If the present high rates of postage on seeds, plants, and cuttings and other third-class matter is continued, our seedsmen and nurserymen may find it cheaper to send their mailable stock over to Canada and pay the postage from there instead of putting it into the mail at home. In Canada the rates of postage on third-class matter is only four cents per pound, while in this country it is sixteen, and we can take advantage of the treaty between the two countries in this way: Seedsmen and others, having large quantities of third-class matter to send out can send it to a Canadian post-office, prepay the four cents a pound, and from thence it will go free to any part of the United States. This has already been done by some of our seedsmen, and unless a change is soon made in the postal treaty between the two countries it will soon be practiced to an extent which must show our Congressmen that they have made a mistake in increasing the old rates one hundred per cent.

Flax Culture in the West.—Increased interest is manifested in several of the Western States in regard to flax culture which, we believe, will be of vast benefit to the farmers in the regions entering into the culture of this crop. It requires a rich soil, and nowhere else in the world is there such a vast area of it as in the West; hence the farmers there should take advantage of these circumstances and reap a profit therefrom. In regard to the introduction of this plant into America, it is supposed that the first seed was brought over from England as early as 1629, soon soon after the fiber commenced to be used and woven by hand, and about fifty years later factories were erected in Massachusetts. It is time, however, that we were enabled to raise all the flax required for home use, either for thread or cloth, and that the importation of Irish linens cease.

Interesting to Scribblers.—It is reported that a river of genuine ink has been discovered in Algeria. It is formed by the union of two streams, one coming from a region of ferruginous soil, the other draining a peat swamp. The water of the former is strongly impregnated with iron, that of the latter with gallic acid. When the two waters mingle, the acid of the one unites with the iron of the other, forming a true ink. If somebody would only find a river of printers' ink, then publishers might rejoice as well as editors.

Dogs and Sheep.—Some men will keep a dog or dogs—that's a settled question. Now, let those who desire to keep sheep also keep dogs, but of breeds which will protect their flocks. A good well trained shepherd dog is an animal worthy of the affection of mankind and especially valuable to the farmer, as he can usually do more work of a certain kind than a man, and will guard flocks against intruding curs of low degree.

Glazed Butter.—We have heard considerable about "gilt-edged" butter of late, but a later invention is glazed butter. The butter is first put up in nice rolls, and then just before being sent to market a little sugar is dissolved in warm water and then a small quantity of the mixture poured over each roll, or just enough to melt the surface and leave a glossy polish.

Castor Oil Beans.—It is stated that Kansas now leads in the culture of castor beans, and her last year's crop was not less than $250,000. Grasshoppers refuse to eat the leaves of this plant, and as it grows thriftily and yields well on the prairies, there is no good reason why Kansas should not supply the world with castor oil.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THE demand for stock and feeding cattle is reported to be steady and satisfactory in the Western States.

THE potato beetles are coming to the surface in great numbers in New Jersey, and cutting off the potato sprouts as soon as they appear above ground.

A WESTERN cotemporary recommends getting the best of everything, but what puzzles most people is to know how to distinguish as well as to find the means to purchase it.

IT is said by those who have tried it that Jute grown about a cotton plantation will protect it from the cotton worm. Will some of our readers try it this season and report results?

WE have inquiries for Sonerat's jungle fowls, also Fin-back jungle fowls, Toulouse geese, and several other breeds of birds. Will some one having these breeds for sale make it known through our advertising columns?

WE notice that one of our contemporaries is greatly distressed for fear the late A. T. STEWART did not make money-getting pay. We think a man who could accumulate fifty to one hundred million dollars in half a century was paid pretty well for his labor.

THE Dutch Government has adopted a plan for draining the Zuyder Zee at an expense of nearly $50,000,000. The area to be drained is estimated at 759 square miles. When we run short of land, the Dutch will come over and drain the Dismal Swamp or Lake Erie for us.

PRINTERS' rollers are manufactured from a composition consisting mainly of glue and molasses, and this has been found to be an excellent manure. Large quantities of the old waste material can sometimes be obtained at the manufactories in our large cities, and it should not be permitted to go to waste, as it is valuable for composting with muck or common soil.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

MUCH of the White Lead sold as pure is adulterated from 20 to 50 per cent. Every keg of Eckstein, Hills & Co.'s **"Phœnix" brand White Lead** is warranted *perfectly pure*, white, fine and durable.

WHITTIER'S CENTENNIAL HYMN.

Sung at the Opening of the International Exhibition, Philadelphia, May 10, 1876.

Our fathers' God! from out whose hand
The centuries fall like grains of sand,
We meet to-day, united, free,
And loyal to our land and Thee,
To thank Thee for the era done,
And trust Thee for the opening one.

Here, where of old, by Thy design,
The fathers spake that word of Thine
Whose echo is the glad refrain
Of rended bolt and falling chain,
To grace our festal time, from all
The zones of earth our guests we call.

Be with us while the New World greets
The Old World thronging all its streets,
Unveiling all the triumphs won
By art or toil beneath the sun;
And unto common good ordain
This rivalship of hand and brain.

Thou, who hast here in concord furled
The war flags of a gathered world,
Beneath our Western skies fulfill
The Orient's mission of good-will,
And, freighted with love's Golden Fleece,
Send back its Argonauts of peace.

For art and labor met in truce,
For beauty made the bride of use,
We thank Thee; but, withal, we crave
The austere virtues strong to save,
The honor proof to place or gold,
The manhood never bought nor sold!

Oh make Thou us, through centuries long,
In peace secure, in justice strong;
Around our gift of freedom draw
The safeguards of Thy righteous law:
And, cast in some diviner mold,
Let the new cycle shame the old!

The Story-Teller.

ARTHUR SETON.

SCENE—A country tavern near the city of C——; a young man having a great-coat over his arm, a light bag in one hand and a stick in the other, presents himself at the door and asks languidly if he can be accommodated with a bed and sitting-room.

"A bed, sir!" replied Mr. Hunter, a big man with red face and gray hair, "yes, I think we can manage to give you a bed."

"And a sitting-room?" continued the stranger.

"A sitting-room!" echoed the landlord, in the tone of one who is considering some great undertaking; "one minute, if you please, sir;" and Mr. Hunter disappeared into a little room immediately adjoining the bar, there to hold counsel with some second person, the upshot being that in a few minutes Mrs. Hunter, Miss Hunter, and a few Hunters just out of the crawling state, issued forth, bearing respectively working materials, socks in process of being mended, tin whistles and decapitated dolls.

"You can have this room all to yourself, sir," said Mr. Hunter, triumphantly.

"You really must not let me disturb you," rejoined the traveler.

"Don't you mention it," replied the landlord, in a tone which was at once genial and confidential. "We would not turn a customer away from our doors. You see, we do not have much parlor company."

"And this is the only room you have disengaged?"

"Well, yes, sir; this is the only room at present. Susan, make a fire for the gentleman."

The traveler having as he thought shown a due amount of consideration for the comfort of Mrs. Hunter and the young Hunters, was glad enough to enter the apartment before alluded to and to draw close to the fire the one dilapidated arm-chair.

Arthur Seton, lawyer by profession and literary by choice, was not really more than thirty, though he looked considerably older; for the dark hair and beard were streaked with gray and the face, with its regular, handsome features, wore habitually a look of such intense mental weariness as would have saddened the most hopeful man had he looked on it for long.

For some time he leant indolently back, his hands clasped behind his head; at length he rose and took from his bag a locked-up diary, which he opened, and availing himself of pens and ink which stood upon the table, made the following entry:

"*Oct.* 17, 1874.—Got up late. Called on the Brianstones; George was out. Had a pleasant chat with Annie; went, like a fool, to G——, and, like a fool, haunted the Q—— House. It looked just the same as in the old, dear days, but I heard children playing in the garden. The house is let, I believe, to city people. Came back to C——; dined with the Frasers; went to the club. Got back home late. Wrote a column —— Review. A weary, weary day. Shall I never know a moment's forgetfulness?"

He then drew from the leaves of the diary a letter written in a delicate feminine hand and addressed, "Arthur Seton, Esq." This letter he regarded with a long, sad, loving look; then, resting his head on his hand, he read it through very slowly. It ran as follows:

MY DEAR ARTHUR:—If you will be so suspicious, so jealous and exacting, I cannot see how we are ever to be happy. Faith without works is dead, and love without faith is no blessing, but a weary burden. I am tired of cross words and dark looks. Some women I believe, like the feverish excitement of quarrels, but I only wish for peace. This miserable, petty jealousy is quite unworthy of you. Do try and put it from you; and remember that love, once wounded, is sometimes hurt past hope of recovery. I received your article quite safely, but I cannot speak about it now. You have made me too sad, too weary, and even a little indignant. Yours affectionately,

ALICE CLAREFIELD.

He replaced the letter, closed the diary, took up his pipe, and began smoking. The early part of this day had been fine and mild, but toward the afternoon the sky grew all at once leaden and the wind shifted to the north-east; now the wind was rising and the rain was falling—a cold, penetrating, impetuous, determined rain. The country, which but a brief while since had looked so fair in a bland October sunlight, now seemed a thing to shudder at. The dun-colored woods, wet and forlorn, seemed to have no hope of any returning summer and to know the utter desolation of the end. It was impossible indeed to imagine that in the green, soaking fields, where now a few cows were huddling together and lowing disconsolately, glad children could ever have tossed each other in the warm, sweet-smelling hay; the rain drove drearily against the window, and the wind shrieked round the house and occasionally thundered in the chimney; and the wagons lumbered by or drew up in front of the door, and while the drivers availed themselves of the tavern's hospitality, the large, broad-backed horses beat the miry roads with heavy hoofs. There was not much to occupy a man's thoughts in the dreary little parlor. A great variety of whips hung against the wall, and over the mantel-piece was a photograph of a fine chestnut mare. Under it was written, "Being Mr. Hunter's favorite mare, who died in her fourteenth year." A short way on was a photograph of Mrs. Hunter in full holiday costume. A large Bible and photograph album lay upon the table.

Seton mechanically opened the album. Here was a tinted photograph of a young girl with profuse gold ringlets, a large, round face, and meaningless blue eyes. Under it was written, "Presented to Miss Hunter by her affectionate friend, Isabella Grant." Poor Isabella! How many honest country hearts, I wonder, had she caused to ache while the hair was gold and the buxom figure still shapely!

For want of something better to do Seton began to write a letter; but he made slow way with it. For minutes together he sat holding the pen listlessly in his hand, leaning his arm wearily upon the table listening, as we all listen when alone, to what sounds may be going on near us, from a feeling which is not curiosity, but more overpowering.

Suddenly what must have been a very light vehicle dashed swiftly down the road and drew up with great precision at the door of the house, while the voice of a new-comer became audible. Seton, however, could only catch a few disconnected words, such as "Caught in the rain—delicate—shelter—a closed carriage."

Then the door opened, the landlord presented himself upon the threshold and said, in a very polished manner, "If you please, sir, a young lady driving over to Covington in a light, open carriage, has been caught in the rain, and her servants want to know if I can give her a sitting-room while he drives back for a closed carriage."

"And this is the only one you have?" rejoined Seton. "Oh! ask her in by all means. However, I am sorry the room smells so of smoke," he added, knocking the ashes from his pipe.

"Don't you mention it, sir, and thank you very much," replied the landlord, retiring.

In another moment the door opened again, and the unexpected intruder entered—a lady, tall and very graceful, having a pale, Madonna-like face, and gold hair shining like an aureole round a small, classical head.

Seton's face had grown white to the lips, and his voice quivered perceptibly as, extending his hand, he said—

"This is a very unexpected meeting."

"Very unexpected," echoed the lady, removing her wet mantle, and sitting down on the worn leather sofa. The recognition had been mutual, but women as a rule, are more self-composed than men.

"Let me recommend this chair," said Seton, laying his hand upon the one from which he had just risen.

"No, thank you; I prefer sitting away from the fire."

"I am sorry the room should smell so of tobacco," observed Seton, after a pause; "but you see, I did not expect the pleasure of a visitor."

She smiled a rather forced smile by way of answer, and Seton folded elaborately and put into an envelope a sheet of blank paper.

"The country is very beautiful around here," he observed, writing his own name, with great care, upon the envelope.

"We have only been back from Europe about six weeks," she observed, after a pause. "Mamma has taken a house near C——. I was driving over to Covington this morning and I was caught in the rain and induced to ask for shelter here."

"And how is Mrs. Clarefield?"

"Mamma is quite well, thank you." Then, after a pause, in a full, sweet, low contralto voice, which had a ring of infinite pathos, "Are you stopping here?"

"Hardly," said Seton, with an assumption of gaiety in his tone; "but I'll tell you all about it. My friends kindly took it into their heads that I was sticking too closely to work—that I wanted fresh air and exercise—so they bound me over, on my word of honor, to walk from C—— to this place daily. I acquiesce in everything now, so of course I acquiesced in this, and this is my first day of hard labor and imprisonment."

"But you used——" began the lady; then she colored a little, and seemed unwilling to finish her sentence; "you used to be so fond of walking."

"But a man changes a good deal in three years," he replied wearily.

Then came a long silence, broken at last by the pop of an ale cork, at which they started as if an explosion had taken place.

"Oh! you grow used to it in time," observed Seton.

It seemed impossible to imagine these two persons, more formal to each other in manner than the most distant acquaintances, could ever have been passionate and devoted lovers. What thoughts had they, I wonder, as they sat together and yet so far apart, of the old days wherein love led them and all was well? It would weary you, dear reader, and to no purpose, were I to set down here the dreary commonplaces with which these two tried to beguile the time for over an hour. At length, worn out by the arduous effort of trying to entertain each other while their thoughts were so far away, they took refuge in silence; and the wind roared, and the rain lashed the window, and the dusk came on prematurely, and Seton, looking out on the cheerless prospect, shivered as with the cold. Then that other person in the room rose very quietly and stirred the fire into a blaze, and resumed her seat on the sofa.

"No, you shouldn't really," said Seton, not turning round, however, though with a look of great pain upon his face. It is wonderful what suffering some small, common-place word or action may cause us. What vistas of impossible joys, again, may they not open up to us!

"I suppose the carriage will soon be back," said Alice presently, and speaking with effort, "and our new coachman drives so fast, too."

"Yes, and your term of imprisonment will soon be up," rejoined Seton, resting his arms upon the mantelpiece, and examining with critical interest the photograph of Mr. Hunter's defunct mare.

"How the time passes," said Alice, in a low voice, as if speaking to herself. Then with sudden energy, "I cannot tell when we shall meet again. Before we part, answer me one question. You are looking worn and weary—are you happy?"

Now he stood before her, and through the dusk and the firelight his eyes flashed on her, as he said, in a low, harsh voice—"From your lips this question is an insult."

"Of which you need not fear the repetition," she rejoined promptly, with cutting formality.

"No, it can't end like this," he went on. "Do you know, ever since you have been here, I have bitten my lips through and through to keep them from speaking of the past. This meeting was not of your seeking, and it seems to me unmanly and dastardly to take advantage of this opportunity."

"We are sometimes so mistaken," she said hurriedly, but her words were hardly audible, and he continued—

"Alice! you have treated me very ill. On that day, now three years ago, when I gave you my love, and believed in yours, I was frank with you. I told you how wild and irregular my life had been, and how full of faults I was. You reclaimed me—you transformed my days—you made my life, all at once, pure and fair; and then, because some thorn in my love hurt you, you threw it all away, and left me to perish miserably." She would have interrupted him, but he silenced her by a gesture and went on; "and now when we meet, after three years, you ask me if I am happy? If I loved you once, I shall love you forever. Do I look happy?"

"I think there were faults on both sides," she said quietly.

"Yes, perhaps there were," he replied: "but I was reading your last letter over only to-day. Oh! how terribly bitter it was!"

"And have you forgotten your answer to that letter?" she said, almost passionately, her voice quivering, and her breast heaving.

"I don't remember it word for word," he returned quickly; "I know it was written on the impulse of the moment."

"But I have it by heart;" then, very slowly, "you said, if your love, in its heart and strength was a little exacting, mine was cold and tideless; in fact, no love, only a slow, sluggish affection. You almost thought I was right, and that we could not be happy. I am naturally proud," she went on; "but a woman with less pride than I have could not have acted differently. Only one course was left me—to be silent."

"Well it is all over now," he rejoined; "we shall never, never meet again."

"You won't take my friendship, then?"

"No, thank you; you are very generous, but I do not want this gift."

He threw himself wearily into a chair, and for some time there was a complete silence. Hope is so subtle, so intangible, that we are often only aware of its existence when it has ceased to be. Arthur Seton looked upon himself as a man quite without hope. It seemed to him that his life could hardly be more gray and desolate than it was, yet who shall say what feeling, of which he was not directly conscious, may have sustained him through the last three years. Now everything seemed gone—there was nothing but death left.

Presently carriage wheels came down the road; carriage lamps flashed through the dusk, and grew stationary opposite the window. Mr. Hunter bustled in, and announced, in a tone of triumph, that the carriage had come for the young lady, and done the distance wonderfully quick. Then the door shut, and they were alone together again.

Very softly and distinctly Seton heard her say his name, "Arthur;" but he did not move. It seemed to him that he would keep back all his love, clinch fast his heart till she were gone, and then die swiftly of the pain.

"Arthur, I am waiting, dear. Won't you come? Are not you going to forgive me?"

Now he rose and groped his way toward her like a blind man. She stretched out her hands and drew him to her. Then he bent down. She raised her face, and the hearts and the lips, so long disunited, came together in a prolonged passionate kiss. He knelt down by her, her head sank upon his shoulder, and for several minutes they remained thus, lost in love's profound peace and mystery. They were soon disturbed by the landlord's summons, and as Arthur folded Alice's mantle round her, she said, half shyly, "You are coming back with me to see mamma, are you not?"

"May I?" he answered, great joy evident in face and voice.

So the bedroom which Mrs. Hunter had been preparing all the afternoon, and of which she was not a little proud, remained unoccupied; but the payment was lavish, and the day's labor was not regretted.

Oh! that never-to-be-forgotten ride to C—— through the wild, windy evening. Between it and the last three years lay all the pains of hell. And the rain ceased, and strange voices were abroad in the wind, singing jubilantly over love risen and redeeming. And the clouds drifted away and the pure, sweet, windy moonlight quivered over wet fields and trees, and seemed love's benediction.

I leave you to imagine the arrival home. Arthur had always been a favorite with Mrs. Clarefield, and in the old days of quarrels she used always to take his part. When dinner had at last been disposed of, Mrs. Clarefield pleaded household duties and went to her bedroom. There she sat down before the bright fire and wept profusely, dear soul, over the happiness of her children. And down stairs these two were very quiet. To them love was a solemn thing, and they were solemn lovers. And the wonderful, priceless moments went silently and swiftly by.

Presently, however, Alice said, looking up in Arthur's face, and pressing his hand very tightly, "You won't continue your walks this week?"

And he answered, with a bright smile, "But I have pledged my word of honor to do so."

"And I command you to break it."

Yes, he did break it; but none of his friends brought it as an accusation against him that for once in his life he had broken his word of honor!

DOT'S VISIT.

A STORY FOR THE LITTLE FOLKS.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

"GOOD-BYE, little DOT," Grandma said, as she stooped down to kiss the round, pink cheeks that were held up for a parting kiss. "Come and see Grandma before long, won't you, little Dot?"

"'Es," answered Dot, in her birdlike way, much the same as a robin would talk to its neighbors on a cherry tree, if they were eating cherries together. Dot's cherries happened to be bread and milk. "'Es, I'll tome an' stay one, two—ever so many days."

"That's right," said Grandma. "Don't forget now, will you?" and with another kiss she started for home.

Dot sat down and watched her till she was out of sight, wondering how many thousand miles away Grandma's house was 'way off in the other end of the world, Dot thought. Her ideas of matters and things were somewhat vague, sometimes. Never having been any farther away from home than to Grandma's, her knowledge of the world was very limited, and she rather imagined there wasn't much in it except the place where Grandma lived, and her own pretty home. But very soon she got tired of puzzling her little head over the problem, and turned her attention to her bowl of bread and milk.

The next afternoon Dot was out in the garden at play with Spot. Spot was her kitten; and a pretty little thing she was, too—white all over with the exception of a cunning black spot over one eye that gave her the most knowing look imaginable. Dot loved her kitten very, very much. She would say, "I love mamma ever so much, an' papa a bushel; but Spot I love—oh, I love Spotty *lots!*"

And Spot returned the affection of her little mistress, for she followed her all day and slept with her at night, and very often Dot allowed her a share of her bread and milk.

I don't know what put the idea into Dot's head, but she determined to pay Grandma a visit that afternoon. She never once thought of the possibility of her losing her way. Hadn't she been there, and hadn't she watched Grandma over so many times and knew just the way she went?

So, calling Spot, Dot crawled through an opening in the garden fence and trudged off along the grassy highway, singing and talking to the kitten, who trotted along by the side of her little mistress, seeming to enjoy the walk quite as much as Dot herself.

Dot went along very slowly. Her eyes caught sight of too many strange and beautiful things along the road to allow of her getting over the ground very fast. Here she found a pretty flower and there a curious old stone, covered all over with moss as soft and green as the velvet on papa's easy chair at home. Then she heard the birds singing away up in the trees, and wondered why they weren't taking their afternoon nap.

Pretty soon she came along to a place where a company of blackbirds were holding a concert, and of course she had to stop and listen to them, and when they had finished she thought it only fair that she should return their favor, so she sang them one of her little songs that was almost as birdlike and silvery as theirs.

Then Dot trudged on again. Pretty soon she got tired, and sat down to rest for a little while. Then she happened to catch sight of some pretty red flowers growing just a little way off from the road, and went to get them to carry to Grandma, for she loved flowers very much, Dot knew. And when she had, with a great deal of labor, broken the flowers from their stems, she spied some lilies farther on, looking like great cups of gold held up to catch the sunshine of the summer day. She determined that she must have them, and started off to get them. Oh, they were *such* beautiful things when she came near to them, such great, golden blossoms, speckled all over inside with velvetty spots of brown. But they were higher than her head. She tried to reach them, but her little arms were too short.

At last, tired out by her fruitless efforts, she sat down under them and laid her curly little head on the moss that made a beautiful carpet for the ground. Spotty crept up and nestled closely down in Dot's arms and began to purr. And in a little while the blue eyes of the little traveler were half closed; in a moment more she would have been asleep; but Spotty happened to see a bird flying close to the ground and away she dashed in hot pursuit. Dot sat up, her eyes wide open in an instant, and concluded she ought to follow Spot, and see what the result of the chase was.

She ran a little ways and reached the prettiest little brook she had ever seen, and found Spot on the banks in great trouble. The bird had flown across, and how to get over without wetting her white feet was a problem the kitten was unable to solve.

"Oh, oh!" cried Dot, in great delight. If there was anything she liked to do it was to splash and wade in brooks. She stepped in and danced about to the great detriment of her clean dress, sending the water splashing high over her head in her very enthusiastic demonstrations of delight, while Spot looked on with evident disapproval.

"Nice, nice," said Dot to Spot kicking about, and sending sand and mud from the brook-bottom flying in every direction. "Oo ought to wade, Spot."

But Spot couldn't be induced to wade. Dot kept up her sport for half an hour, and then sat down on the bank, all tired out. She leaned her head down by Spot, who was much relieved at having her mistress safe on dry land again, and before two minutes had gone by she was fast asleep.

"I wonder where Dot is?" her mother said, along in the afternoon, looking for the first time that all was still in the garden. "Dot! Dot!"

But Dot didn't answer.

She went out and sought through the garden without finding her. Then she saw the opening in the fence and print of little feet in the sand outside. She followed on the crooked, halting trail, and found, at last, where it branched off from the road. Then she found the broken stems of the red blossoms and farther on the footprints about the lilies. She went in, wondering how much farther her little girl had wandered. All at once she caught sight of her under a tree by the brook, fast asleep, with Spot curled up like a ball of white wool beside her.

"Dot!" she called softly.

Dot opened her blue eyes sleepily and sat up, half awake.

"I dess we've got to Dranma's, Spot," she said, rubbing her eyes open with her chubby hands; "we's tired most to deff, ain't we, Spot?"

And that's the way Dot went to visit Grandma.

VITAL STATISTICS.

I attended one of the Cooper Institute lectures. The subject was the "Atmosphere," and the speaker read a tabular statement of the condition of the air in school-rooms, lyceum halls and churches, that made my hair stand on end.

Vital Statistics will be the death of me. My father understood them as little as did his stone wall, and lived to be ninety. When I was a boy I used to eat fat pork, year in and year out, lie on feathers, and have a regular set-to with apples, doughnuts and hard cider before turning in at night, and then sleep like a Polar bear. I was as jolly as a Spitzenberg apple, always bursting the buttons from my jacket, to get laughing and growing room.

Did you ask about the sleeping? Well, I slept with my big brother, under a leaden heap of woolen comforters, upon a bed whose billows let us down into a vortex and ridged round us like a brooding hen. Our chamber was a seven by nine cubby, six feet high, out of which the roof sliced a section, so that the boy nearest the wall had to stoop low or get a sounding bump, and our window was often hermetically sealed with ice and snow for days together. Now, why were we not suffocated, like French lovers? Why did father's voice, calling us by starlight, make us fling off the blankets like a colt kicking a dashboard, tumble into our trowsers and cowhide boots, and "pile" down stairs like a charge of cavalry?

I never could understand chemistry, but it's my opinion there's a great deal more of this dreadful carbonic acid gas afloat than there used to be and if our furnaces and hot-air stoves don't stop puffing it into our faces, I expect we shall wake up some morning and find ourselves all asphyxiated. Then there'll be a pretty fix, with nobody to dash on cold water, and nobody to summon the Coroner!

It positively hurts one's feelings to see the "heathen Chinee," sleeping thick "as leaves in Valambrosa," fly in the face of Hygiene and go on age after age to multiply as the sands of the sea. Then consider those German peasants who repose summer and winter between feather beds weighing from fifty to one hundred pounds, sandwiched between Pelion and Ossa, without sheets, and these beds descending from father to son for generations. Is not that a powerful way to conserve the *odors*, not to say the *memory*, of one's ancestors, especially as these beds are religiously shut up in unventilated alcoves during the day?

Then there's the *food* question. One prophet comes in and puffs out his oleaginous cheeks at me as he insists that people are dropping into their graves from want of fat;—that I must eat fat, lubricate with fat, and ooze fat at every pore. He tells me, with insinuating oiliness of speech, that the only reason people ever reach the death point is because they will keep shivering over the brush fires of vegetarianism. I immediately order a roast of pork, with apple sauce, for dinner, as a sort of hickory back-log for my interior hearth-stone, when in rushes the slandered vegetarian, warning me, with harrowing earnestness, that pork is a very fricasee of the Evil One. He goes on to show what a disgusting animal the hog is, and how swine-abjuring nations are beloved of the gods and never have dyspepsia.

"But," I exclaim, ruefully, as savory odors from the kitchen steal in, "what is to become of my dinner?"

"Nothing easier," replied my friend; "just toss the roast into the gutter, where it belongs, and dine on the apple sauce."

And by this time swine and scrofula are so blended in my imagination that I feel as if I had swallowed a bolus of infection, and gladly follow his suggestion.

With some the hobby is not *qualitative*, but *quantitative*, and they slip away your haunch of venison or leg of Southdown just as you are inhaling the exquisite aroma of the first mouthful, blandly offering to weigh all your comestibles with Lilliputian scales, and your drinks with a minim glass.

And here comes a new savant, Dr. Fadies, who exhorts me to shrivel up my stomach, like a dried rennet-skin, with his Hunger-Cure. Did anybody ever hunt up the vital statistics of Leyden during her famous siege, or of other famine-striken places? What a low death-rate they should have shown! But, meanwhile, Dr. Aqua Pura stands at my other ear, insisting that in water alone lies the balsam of eternal youth, and the prophets of the whole bath genus, medicated, sun, compressed air, magnetic, etc., button-hole me in the street and thrust marvelous testimonials into my pockets.

Then the *drink* question perplexes me. Here I have just put a filtering apparatus, at great expense, into my cistern, in order to drink the pure nectar of the heavens, although I have in the yard a well of as crystal-clear water as ever dimpled on a pebbly bottom. Of course it was my luck, just after, to stumble on another "vital statistic," which told me the death-rate in soft-water districts is 4 per cent. greater than in limestone regions.

The hydropathist tells me that coffee is a nerve exhauster and brain enfeebler, while the turbaned son of Mohammed lifts devoted hands and exclaims: "Oh, coffee! thou dispellest the cares of the great, thou bringest back those who wander from the paths of knowledge. Thou art the beverage of the people of God, and the cordial of his servants who thirst for wisdom." But then Haroun had never studied hygiene.

Now if these apostles of reform would all speak the same word; but each has an interpretation—a revelation, and four wild horses could not rend one's limbs more effectually than they rend one's opinions. Oh! if somebody would but calculate all the winds and cross currents of medical belief, and build at their focal center an oscillating chamber like that which Bremer has been seeking for qualmish warriors, how gladly would we creep into it and be at rest! But, meanwhile, from *Vital Statistics* deliver us! Pendulum.

A FEW SPRING THOUGHTS, AS OTHERS SEE IT.

Summer is coming! We hear the sweet prophecy in the song of the blue-bird and feel it in the softened touch of the south wind; and soon we shall see, in springing grass blade and opening blossom, surer evidences of the approach of that welcome guest. And when the golden days are come, how sweet to be free to enjoy them; free, with the careless freedom of a child, or the lambs sporting on the hillside! Ah me! *Must* the sweet pictures all be blotted out by visions of heated, wearying toil? Not much time for the average farmer's wife to enjoy the beautiful and poetic. Her part is eminently practical. Strains of sweetest bird-music may waken her in the fresh, early dawn, but only to remind her that another work-day is awaiting her; the morning brings light to work by—that is all. Hard for her to pursue the dull round of duties, generally unaided, and, alas! too often unappreciated, while every blossom-scented breeze that fans her heated forehead seems to whisper lovingly, come away!

Oh! how pleasant to stray off into the wild, unfrequented places, and wandering at will over moss-grown rocks and under wide-spreading forest trees, to feel that sweet sense of isolation—a solitude, which yet is not loneliness—a feeling that you, and the trees and birds, and all the dumb things around you, animate and inanimate, somehow belonged together, and that the great, toiling, planning, sinning, suffering world, were something afar off, and altogether apart. And then how hard to feel that all such sweet trifles must be crushed out of one's life, and to realize that, what, to the dainty daughters of wealth and pleasure, means beauty, and the opportunity to enjoy it to the utmost, to you only means a season of toil which shall know no cessation, until leafless trees and chilling forests shall tell us that Winter has come again. Very, very hard; and a thought which must sometimes bring a little bitterness into the meekest heart. Yet, come to us, sweet golden summer! Come, with waving grass, and changing cloud, and singing rivulet! For thou shalt speak to us in sweetest language of the "green pastures and still waters of the "land that is very far off," where, with tired heart soothed into infinite peace, and tired hands folded in infinite rest, "we shall be satisfied."

Jonesville, 1876. Ermengarde.

RUSSIAN DINNERS.

It is worth while to go to St. Petersburg, if only to eat a Russian dinner. Like all Northern nations, the Russians rejoice in raw food and startling contrasts. Some of their favorite soups are eaten cold, and their tea is drank so hot as to be impossible to an ordinary palate. As a preparation for dinner, some of a long list of relishes are chosen and washed down by strong liqueurs. You may take caviar, raw radishes, or even, like a seasoned Russian, sevo-herrings, raw smoked salmon, raw dried sturgeon, raw smoked goose, cheese, butter, or all of these delicacies. They are followed by cold iced soup of "kyas" (a beverage made of fermented rye), with pieces of herring, cucumber and meat floating in it; or another cold soup of a green color, or, what is really good, "stchi," a cabbage soup, to be eaten with sour cream, or fish soup. For your next course—fish—you are recommended to select either Rastagai patties, very much like muffins with fish, or "solianka"—a dish composed of fish and cabbage. By this time you should be broken in sufficiently to face with equanimity both the words "porosionok pod knerenom," or their manifestations in the flesh, namely, cold boiled sucking pig, with horse-radish sauce. You may then add the really delicious chicken or veal cutlets and roast mutton stuffed with buckwheat, passing on to capercailzie, riabchick (a kind of grouse), or double snipe, with salted cucumbers for salad, and various sweet dishes, including Nesselrode pudding in the land of its birth. If digestion requires it, you may return to cheese and caviar; but if indeed you have succeeded in eating all these dishes with relish, there can be no apparent reason on the scores of digestion why you should not go on again with the cold soup and spend a few hours more or less in dining in a circle. You ought meanwhile to be drinking the wines of the Crimea, the Caucasus or the Don, but you will not find it easy to get them unless you pay for them under the names of Bordeaux, Burgundy, or Champagne. It is far better to try the cider, perry, or raspberry klas, or the cool Lompopo. Coffee, yellow tea, liqueurs and cigarettes complete the repast.

CHINESE BARBER-SHOPS.

The Chinese barber-shops in San Francisco are more numerous than those of any other calling. On Dupont street, between Sacramento and Clay streets, there are not less than fifty basement apartments devoted to tonsorial operations. At first blush the wonder arises why so many of those establishments are needed; but stand on the street in the quarter and glance at the head of each passing Chinaman and the mystery is dispelled. Among them no toilet is considered complete which does not involve a shaving of a greater portion of the head and neck, a thorough cleansing of the eyes, ears and nostrils, and even a trimming and pencilling of the eyebrows and lashes. Razors, probes, and lances of peculiar construction, are among the instruments used by these skillful artists. The process of shaving and cleansing is necessarily a long one, and when a Chinaman emerges from one of these shops he may be safely counted as thoroughly clean—above the shoulders. The combing and braiding of cues consumes no little time. Every Chinaman of adult years regards an occasional tonsorial experience as a sacred duty. The closely-shaven head must be scraped over often to preserve the appearance so much desired, and all this, in a place so populous as the "quarter" in this city, requires the constant service of a numerous force. All the barber-shops of the Chinese have a peculiar sign at the door-way indicative of the occupation. It is a four-legged frame, the legs painted green and the top knobs red.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York:
The Physical Basis of Immortality. By A. B. Blackwell. [Cloth.—pp. 324. Price $1.50.]

James R. Osgood & Co., Boston:
The Complete Poetical Works of J. G. Whittier. [Paper.—pp. 293. Illustrated.]

T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia:
Ishmael; or, Out of the Depths. By Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth. [Cloth.—pp. 718.]

Magazines for June:
Record of the Year, Atlantic, Harper's.

New Music from W. A. Pond & Co., New York:
The Liberty Bell. Music of the Pines; Song, E. B. Phelps. The Soldier's Return; *Morceau de Salon*, By. Kleber. A Jubilate Deo, Wm. H. Squires. O Hush Thee, my Baby; Lullaby, C. A. Macerone. Flower Song, G. Lange. Send out thy Light; Sacred Song, Clara Cottinet. First Kiss; Waltz, Samothe. Rothesay Bay; Song, T. S. Lloyd. Swing the Cot Gently; Song, D. Braham. Evening Service in C, Henry Wilson.

Sabbath Reading.

ONE DEED!

If I might do one deed of good,
One little deed before I die,
Or think one noble thought that should
Hereafter not forgotten lie,
I would not murmur, though I must
Be lost in Death's unnumbered dust.

The filmy wing that wafts the seed
Upon the careless wind to earth,
Of its short life has only need
To find the gem fit place for birth;
For one swift moment of delight
It whirls, then withers out of sight.

[*F. W. Bourdillon.*

HOW TO MAKE SUNSHINE.

"Sunshine! why, we have plenty of that every day," says a dear little friend at my side.

Yes, we certainly have plenty of it outside of us, and it is the most beautiful thing in the world, because it makes everything pleasant that it looks upon. Do the young people who read this paper ever think how beautiful and how useful the sunlight is? how it wraps the world in its bright mantle, till the earth's old heart grows warm and young again, and the grass and flowers spring forth? how it wanders all over the world, into every nook and corner, with its cheerful smile? how it glances in the trees and plays through the thick branches, till the little birds twitter and warble with delight in their leafy nests?

But it is another kind of sunshine I mean we are to make. Your own heart is the sun, and your home is the little world which you are to fill with happiness.

Do you suppose the sun ever sees anything dark with that great, bright eye of his? why, no; for the moment he looks at anything it grows bright, and nothing can be dark where he is looking. Just so, if you always carry a heart full of sunshine with you, everything will seem beautiful and bright. But if your own heart gets clouded with impatience or discontent you will find the pleasantest place on earth very gloomy and disagreeable.

How different would our life be, if we were only determined, in spite of discouragements, to be cheerful and happy ourselves, and to add, by every possible means, to the welfare and happiness of those around us!

But can every one be happy who wishes it? Surely, every one desires happiness; then why do so many fail in the attempt to gain it?

Because they do not try in the right way. Our only way to be happy is the one in which God is happy, and that is by *being good* and *doing good*. Those who earnestly try this, never fail of success.

"But can *every one* be good?" says my little friend, thoughtfully, and with downcast eyes.

Yes, dear, every one can be good, by the help of God, who willingly gives the help of His Spirit to all who sincerely ask for it.—*Early Days.*

KIND WORDS—WHY USE THEM?

I. Because they always cheer him to whom they are addressed. They soothe him if he is wretched; they comfort him if he is sad. They keep him out of the slough of despond, or help him out if he happens to be in.

II. There are words enough of the opposite kind flying in all directions—sour words—cross words—fretful words—insulting words—overbearing words—irritating words. Now, let kind words have a chance to get abroad, since so many and so different are on the wing.

III. Kind words bless him that uses them. A sweet sound on the tongue tends to make the heart mellow. Kind words react upon the kind feelings which prompted them, and make them more kind. They add fresh fuel to the fire of benevolent emotion in the soul.

IV. Kind words beget kind feelings toward him that loves to use them. People love to see the face and hear the voice of such a man.

Kind words are therefore of great value in these hard times.

RESTITUTION.

You have defrauded your neighbor. You have done him an injury, not accidentally but on purpose. You have sought your own profit by inflicting a loss upon him. You have taken what does not belong to you but to him. You must then proceed to make restitution. Go at once. Go to-day, if you can. State the facts frankly and honestly. Acknowledge your wrong-doing, and repair the harm as fully as you can. It will cost you a struggle to do this. When, however, you have made up your mind to the struggle, you will probably find it easier than you expect. But whatever you do, don't keep this burden upon your conscience. It will stand between you and God. It is an obstacle which you cannot get over. You may forget that it is there; but there it is; and you are on one side, and Almighty God is on the other.—*Dean Howson.*

The Secret of Peace.—The permission in all things to let our requests be made known to God would be a fatal one for us if it meant that God would always give us what we ask. When we come to see the record of our life as it is written in heaven, we shall see some of our best occasions of thankfulness under the head of "prayers denied."

Love God and everything will come right.

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE OLD HOME, WITH FATHER AND MOTHER.

BY MRS. HATTIE F. BELL.

THERE'S one hallowed place in our childhood,
Where we ever feel free from ill—
Where the sweet, holy hush of the twilight
Seems a whisper of "Peace, be still,"—
While a fond mother's kind, gentle teachings
Fall lovingly then on our ears,
And a father's dear smile of affection
Is a balm for all sorrows and tears.
Once severed from this, there is never another
That seems like the Old Home with Father and Mother.

Sometimes we grow tired of the old ways,
And like robins that flit from the nest,
The world seems so smiling and sunny,
We think its broad highway the best,—
So we leave a good-by with the homestead,
And fly out where gaiety sings,
But we find there's a world full of danger
For poor, little, unfledged wings.
But one path seems brighter to us than another—
The path that leads homeward to Father and Mother.

The years as they come up to meet us,
May furrow our brows with their care,
But they cannot blot out from our memory
The touch of a mother's kiss there:
And tho' Time may reach out his old fingers,
And weave in our hair silver thread,
Yet he never can mar our first blessing—
A father's dear hand on our head.
These sweet thoughts still linger above every other,
When we think of the Old Home with Father and Mother.

GERMAN WIVES.

THE culinary art forms a part of the education of the women in Germany. The well-to-do tradesman, like the mechanic, takes pride in seeing his daughters good housekeepers. To effect this object the girl, on leaving school, which she does when about fourteen years of age, goes through the ceremony of confirmation, and then is placed by her parents with a country gentleman, or in a large family, where she remains one or two years, filling what may also be called the post of servant, or doing the work of one. This is looked upon as an apprenticeship to domestic economy. She differs from a servant, however, in this—she receives no wages; on the contrary, her parents often pay for the care taken of her, as well as her clothing. This is the first step in her education as housekeeper. She next passes, on the same conditions, into the kitchen of a rich private family, or into that of a hotel of good repute. Here she has control of the expenditures of the servants employed in it, and assists personally in the cooking, but is always addressed as Miss, and is treated by the family with deference and consideration. Many daughters of rich families receive similar training, with this difference, however, that they receive it in a princely mansion or a royal residence. There is a reigning queen in Germany at the present time who was trained in this way. Consequently the women in Germany are perfect models of economy.

A GIRL'S POCKET.

WE found one lying on the sidewalk yesterday, says the Omaha Herald, and give an inventory for the purpose of enabling the proprietor to obtain the pocket:—Two white cotton handkerchiefs, the hems of which are bigger than the balance; a candy fish, of many colors; one short slate pencil, black, chewed at the end, too hard at the other; one slate pencil, mode color, chewed at both ends, and very short and slabsided; one bit of sky-blue ribbon; two bits in currency; one garter, without buckle, very elastic, but not long; one piece of short, black, scolloped ribbon; two short pieces of barber-pole candy, one of peppermint, the other lemon one pair of small black kid gloves; one parasol tassel; a camel's hair brush; one love letter, very tender, praising the recipient and running down another girl, hence very valuable; three hair pins; one horse-hair ring, unfinished; one perfumery bottle stopper; a box of breath perfume; a ball of floss and a broken crochet needle; a small piece of raw cotton full of white powder; the left heel of a No. 2 gaiter; one stocking with a hole in the toe; a thimble and a nut cracker. The pocket is of yellow nankeen, and can be obtained on application at this office.

A NEW REMEDY.

THE Dubuque Herald says of a resident of that city:—He and his new wife visited his good old aunt and she asked a hundred questions on the all-important subject to her. He was profuse in his answers, being only too happy to extol the good qualities of his young wife. He concluded the eulogy by telling the old lady that his wife had a wonderfully sweet voice, and a "mezzo soprano of extraordinary compass." The good aunt looked over her spectacles with concern in her eyes and said, "Hez she? Well, now, yer aunt Lucy used to be troubled with jest such a complaint, a long while ago, and she used to put a mustard plaster to the soles of her feet and take catnip tea, and it gave her a sight of easiness. Jest have your wife try that and I'm sure she will git better."

THE CULTURE OF THE AFFECTIONS.

THERE is a famous passage in the writings of Rousseau, that great delineator of the human heart, which is as true to human nature as it is true and beautiful in expression. He says:—Were I in a desert, I would find something to call forth my affections. If I could do no better, I would fasten them upon some sweet myrtle, or some melancholy cypress. I would write my name upon them, and declare that they were the sweetest trees in all the wilderness. If their leaves withered, I would teach myself to mourn, and when they rejoiced, I would rejoice with them."

TRUTHS FROM THE TALMUD.

IF thy wife be small, bend down to her and speak to her; do nothing without her advice.

EVERYTHING in life can be replaced; the wife of early days is irreplaceable.

AN honorable man honors his wife; a contemptible one despiseth her.

THE loss of a first wife is like the loss of a man's sanctuary in his lifetime.

IF a man divorces his wife, the altar itself sheds tears over him.

MAN and wife well matched have heaven's glory as their companion; man and woman ill matched are encircled by a devouring fire.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

THERE is in the heart of woman such a deep well of love that no winter of age can freeze it.

A NEWLY married couple in Paducah, Ky., a few days since, made their bridal tour in a skiff—the bridegroom at the oars.

ACCORDING to Dr. Mary Walker if the American girls in San Francisco were not closely watched many of them would marry Chinamen.

THAT old Norse king hit the nail on the head who, when asked what his religion was, answered, "Ask my wife. Our women are nearer to God than we are."

PLEASURE is to women what the sun is to the flower; if moderately enjoyed it beautifies, it refreshes and improves; if immoderately, it withers, desolates and destroys.

ANNA DICKINSON devoted last winter to perfect rest, and as a result, says a correspondent, she is once more plump, rosy, young, thoroughly cheerful, exuberant and full of vitality.

THE widow of ex-President Polk has been tendered the free use of a palace car from her home at Nashville, Tenn., to Philadelphia, if she wishes to visit the Centennial Exhibition.

AN enthusiast who had been to hear Anna Dickinson lecture wrote her, saying, "With you, I could be happy in a desert." And she wrote back, "No man will ever have a chance to desert me."

THE Wolverhampton rate-payers have elected Miss Lloyd of that town a member of the Board of Guardians. There were forty candidates, thirty-nine gentleman and one lady, for the twelve vacant seats, and the lady came out at the head of the poll, with 3,031 votes.

MRS. OTTER of Davenport remarked to a neighbor the other day, "My husband is the hardest man to reason with that ever lived. I had to smash up my china teapot and throw a milk-pitcher through the looking-glass before I could make him promise to take me to the Centennial."

MISS SMITH of Reading (Pa.) who lost the use of her limbs through sickness when a child, is now twenty years of age, and has a coach and twin goats, with which she drives out nearly every day. The little animals were trained specially for her use, and she guides them well with the reins.

HERBERT SPENCER says that the gold ring now worn by married women is the sign of the iron ring that was worn about the neck or ankle in olden times, and indicates the submission of the wearer. Herbert Spencer is an impracticable dreamer. The gold ring a woman wears now is simply indicative of the ring her husband must join in order to foot the bills.

"Is it becoming to me?" asked she, as she paraded in the costume of a hundred years ago, before the man who is not her lord and master, but is her husband. "Yes, my dear," said he, meekly. "Don't you wish I could dress this way all the time?" she asked. "No, my dear," he answered, "but I wish you had lived when that was the style."

EGYPTIAN ladies would regard it as highly indecorous to display upon the streets the magnificence of their dress. When they go about the streets of Cairo on shopping expeditions, they cover themselves with a dismal robe of black. As a general rule, whatever they are compelled to exhibit to the public gaze is simplicity itself, while what they reserve for private inspection is gorgeous and ornate in the extreme.

THEY pay female school teachers good salaries in England. Miss Buss, head of the North London Collegiate School for Girls, is paid £1,000 per annum, with a properly furnished and convenient suite of apartments. The head mistress of St. Paul's School, also in London, receives the same liberal compensation. There are at least twenty school-mistress-ships in England, the compensation for which is from £300 to £500 a year in each case.

MME. SUZANNE LAGIER, a good actress, but extremely stout, was one night enacting a part in a melodrama with Taillade, the original *Pierre* of "The Two Orphans," and thus had, at one moment, to carry her fainting off the stage. He tried with all his might to lift the fair heroine, but although she helped her little comrade by standing on tiptoe in the usual manner he was unable to move an inch. At this juncture a boy in the gallery cried out, "Take what you can, and come back for the rest."

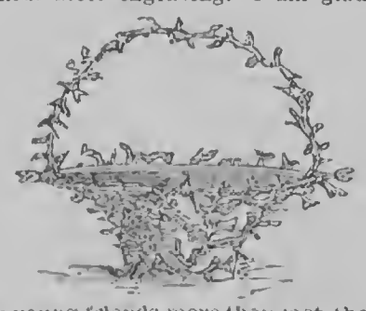
Reading for the Young.

WINKUM, WINKUM.

WINKUM, Winkum, shut your eye,
Sweet my baby, lullaby,
For the dews are falling soft,
Lights are flickering up aloft,
And the head-light's peeping over
Yonder hill-top, capped with clover;
Chickens long have gone to rest,
Birds lie snug within their nest,
And my birdy soon will be
Sleeping like a chick-a-dee;
For with only half a try,
Winkum, Winkum shuts her eye.

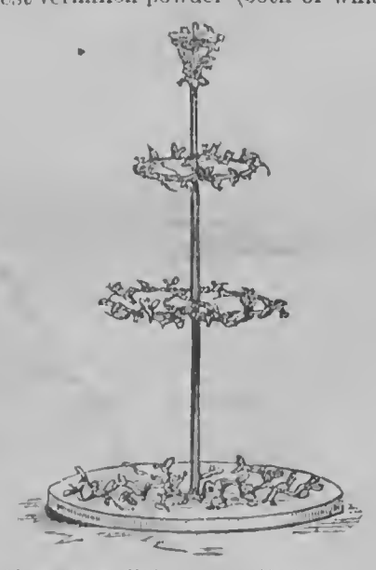
LETTER FROM UNCLE TRUE.

MY DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:—I feel flattered and grateful at the popularity of our PRIZE JOURNEY, and I take this opportunity to say that Miss MYRA CASE, Johnstown, N. Y., is the successful little girl, and she will, therefore, receive a beautiful steel engraving. I am glad to say



that my young friends more than met the expectations of the old man, and mother and I had a pleasant time reading the answers to the Journey, which were in the main correct. But what could I do? I only had one picture. Next time I shall give you a real hard one; and meantime, to make up, in a measure, to the disappointed nieces and nephews, I have had our artist make some pictures showing how to construct, at very little expense, really beautiful ornaments, which only require care and taste. I am sure you will enjoy trying your hands at coral work.

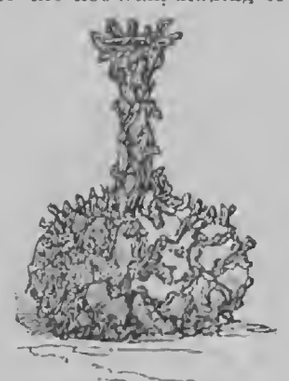
The materials required are some white wax, some best vermilion powder (both of which you



can obtain very easily), some cotton-covered wire, such as is used in straw bonnets, and some white cotton cord.

The first thing to be done is to twist the wire into the required shape—a basket, for instance. When done, tie the cord all over it in short, unequal lengths, which will presently represent bits of coral sticking about the basket.

When so far ready, put the wax into a very clean, dry saucepan, and let it melt; then sprinkle in it the vermilion, mixing them together until they form a bright red paste. Then, having tied a string to your basket, so as not to touch it, lower it into the hot wax, dipping it in and out



until it is all well covered. Then place it on something cold to dry quickly. If well done, it will look like real coral.

All these things are made in the same way; but when you want to make a flower-stand you will require a stronger stem, such as a thin stick.

The short bits of cord tied all round the top can be bent to support the little vase, which, filled with artificial flowers or sea-weed, will look very pretty under a glass shade.

Some prefer pure white coral. If such be your taste, all you have to do is to leave out the vermilion. Mind that you melt enough wax to completely cover the object you wish to dip into it.

UNCLE TRUE.

WHO WAS THE BAD BOY?

LITTLE Annie was prettily dressed, and standing in front of the house waiting for her mother to go out to ride.

A tidy boy, dressed in coarse clothes, was passing, when the little girl said:

"Come here, boy, and s'ake hands wi' me. I dot a boy dus' like you, named Bobby."

The boy laughed, shook hands with her, and said:

"I've got a little girl just like you, only she hasn't any little cloak with pussy fur on it."

Here a lady came out of the door and said:

"Annie, you must not talk with bad boys on the street. I hope you haven't taken anything from her? Go right along, and never stop here again, boy!"

That evening the lady was called down to speak with a boy in the hall. He was very neatly dressed, and stood with his cap in hand. It was the enemy of the morning.

"I came to tell you that I am not a bad boy," he said. "I go to Sunday School, and help my mother all I can. I never tell lies, nor quarrel, nor say bad words; and I don't like a lady to call me names, and ask me if I have stolen her little girl's clothes off of her!"

"I'm very glad you're so good," said the lady, laughing at the boy's earnestness. "Here's a quarter of a dollar for you."

"I don't want that!" said Bob, holding his head very high. "My father works in a foundry, and has lots of money. You've got a boy bigger than I, haven't you?"

"Yes; why?"

"Does he know the Commandments?"

"I'm afraid not very well."

"Can he say the Sermon on the Mount, and the Twenty-third Psalm, and the Golden Rule?"

"I'm very much afraid he cannot," said the lady, laughing at the boys bravery.

"Doesn't he ride on his pony on Sunday instead of going to church?"

"I'm afraid he does, but he ought not," said the lady, blushing a little.

"Mother don't know I came here," said the bright little rogue, "but I thought I would just come around and see what kind of folks you were, and—and—I guess mother would rather your boy wouldn't come round our doors, because she don't like Mamie to talk to bad boys in the street. Good-bye." And the little boy was gone.—*Watchman.*

A LITTLE HERO.

A BOY in the town of Weser, in Germany, playing one day with his sister of four years old, was alarmed by the cry of some men who were in pursuit of a mad dog. The boy, suddenly looking round, saw the dog running towards him, but instead of making his escape, he calmly took off his coat, and, wrapping it round his arm, he boldly faced the dog, and holding out the arm covered with the coat, the animal attacked it, and worried the coat till the men came up and killed the dog. The men reproachfully asked the boy why he did not run and avoid the dog, which he could so easily have done. "Yes," said the little hero, "I could have run from the dog; but if I had he would have attacked *my sister*. To protect her I offered him my coat that he might tear at it."

The Puzzler.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 11.

My first is in want but not in need,
My second is in plant but not in seed;
My third is in sea but not in bay,
My fourth is in think but not in say;
My fifth is in weak but not in strong,
My sixth is in brief but not in long;
My seventh is in leaf but not in tree,
My eighth is in us but not in we;
My ninth is in seek but not in find,
My tenth is in heart but not in mind;
My eleventh is in tear but not in rend,
In my whole many letters find an end.

☞ Answer in two weeks. J. M. A.

SYNCOPATIONS.—No. 2.

1. SYNCOPATE a tree, and leave an article of food.
2. An article of food, and leave a small nail.
3. A string, and leave a fish.
4. A gem, and leave a loud noise.
5. A small river, and leave a motive power.
6. A point of the compass, and leave what we all do.
7. An animal, an leave an article of clothing.
8. A measure of surface, and leave a measure of length.
9. A measure of surface, and leave a unit.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—No. 3.

I AM composed of 20 letters:
My 3, 10, 11, 7, 20, 18, 14, 20 is something we have cause to be proud of.
My 5, 11, 17, 10 a man's name.
My 2, 8, 19, 20 a mineral of great value.
My 12, 11, 8, 12, 11, 15 one famed in history.
My 19, 6, 11 a river in Asia.
My 6, 14, 5, 15 a title given to a notorious swindler.
My 4, 18, 1, 13, 11, 3 worn by ladies.
My whole was quite a success in 1875.

☞ Answer in two weeks. J. W. P.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—May 6.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS No. 9.—Independence.
CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 9.—Newburgh.
DOUBLE ACROSTIC No. 3.—Initials, Kansas; finals, Topeka.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Renew early if you would secure the uninterrupted continuance of the RURAL to your address; and pray don't forget to ask friends to join you in sending for the Fifty-three Numbers which we shall publish during 1876.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

TEXAS revels in the glories of her Seventh Annual Fair at Houston.

Anna Dickinson, the noted lecturer, has made her first appearance as an actress in the Globe Theatre, Boston. The play, a "Crown of Thorns," was written by herself. As an actress, she is a complete failure. Her reception was very cordial.

A Correspondent of the Courier Journal writes from St. Bethlehem, Montgomery Co., Tenn.: The farmers in this section are generally up with their work, having finished planting corn, and those who have planted are preparing their tobacco land. But plants are very scarce, the fly having destroyed them, and there are no prospects of more than half a crop. Many of the farmers are preparing their land for grasses, potatoes, etc. Wheat is looking remarkably well and promises a large yield.

Thos. W. Piper, the Boston fiend, has made a full confession. He says he killed Mabel Young and Bridget Landregan for no motive, except the desire to kill some one. His confession in detail is quite too horrible to print.

The Custom House officers have been informed that the jewels sent to Gen. Sherman's daughter by the Khedive of Egypt are to be re-exported to Europe in June by Drexel, Morgan & Co., the consignees as otherwise they might be sold at auction to pay the duties. The Senate has exempted them from duty, but the House will not concur.

Rubenstein the muderer is dead. He died in his cell. His death is ascribed to exhaustion of vitality from disease, insufficient nourishment and filthy habits.

Concerts conducted by the famous Maestro Offenbach, are nightly pleasing thousands in Gilmore's Concert Garden New York.

It has been decided, at law, that railroads are at liberty to eject gamblers from their trains.

Mr. Hoyne has just qualified as Mayor of Chicago. It is a beginning, being the first syllable in hon-es-ty.

Rev. A. S. Rosecrans, son of Gen. Rosecrans is dead. He was a Catholic missionary priest, of the Paulist order and died suddenly in N. Y. of apoplexy, at the age of 27.

Serious floods in New Hampshire. Connecticut river farmers heavy losers. Fears are entertained for the safety of mill dams.

Messrs. Moody and Whittle are preaching in Nashville, Tenn.

The Southern Baptist Convention met at Richmond, Va., May 11.

Provisions were shipped from Chicago to Liverpool via Philadelphia in 15 days. Extraordinary time.

76,133 is the correct number of *paying* vistors on the opening day.

Wm. Smyth, Austin, Texas, reports crops looking finely and well advanced. Wheat and oats ready to harvest. Prospects bright.

The Congressional Committee are examining the Brooklyn Navy Yard. In eight days the Committee has examined 100 witnesses, taken 2,000 pages of testimony, and all at an expense of $200.

The Grand Jury of the D. of C. has found a true bill against ex-Secretary Belknap. The bill enumerates charges already familiar to our readers.

A suit will soon be brought in the Supreme Court against the Western Union Telegraph Company by Thomas A. Edison, to determine the question of ownership of the duplex and quadruplex system of telegraphy claimed as the invention of Edison.

Judge Dowling, for many years a Justice of one of the lower courts in New York, is dead.

The N. Y. State canals are said by Commissioner Thayer to be at present in better working order than they have ever been before at this time of the year. With the absence of extraordinary repairs, and the consequent lack of contracts and bids, business in the Canal Commissioner's office has been so dull that in accordance with the general spirit of reform the Commissioners have reduced the salaries of the two clerks who have had charge of the office by $1,000 each.

A special dispatch to the Galveston News, regarding the Mexican trouble says:—Escobedo has left Mier with his force, and it is reported there has been hard fighting near Camargo. It is not known which side gained the day. It is reported that 300 were killed and 1,000 wounded. A shell struck a church in Camargo, killing a priest and four women, who were at prayers. Four large boats landed infantry opposite Camargo, on the San Juan river.

United States District Attorney Dyer has reported to the Attorney-General unfavorably in the matter of the applications of ex-Collector Maguire and Mr. McKee for pardon.

Up to the close of business hours on May 12, the aggregate of silver coin paid out at the various Sub-Treasuries amounted to $4,500,000, of which $1,280,000 belonged to the amount of silver on hand at the date of the passage of the Resumption act of the 14th of January, 1875, and was used to meet drafts on the Treasury. Treasury officers say that one noticeable feature of silver resumption is the very small amount of dimes paid out, the demand being for quarters and half dollars. At the New York Sub-Treasury alone there are more than six hundred thousand dollars of dimes in the vaults, or about one-half of the total amount of silver on hand. The officers of the Treasury are now satisfied that it will take fully three months to make silver resumption a practical success, and even longer if silver is not paid out to the amount of $30,000,000.

The sixteenth anniversary of the Baptist Sunday Schools of the Southern New York Association has been celebrated by the various schools. The annual meeting took place in New York City at the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, at which addresses were made by Rev. P. S. Henson of Philadelphia; Rev. J. D. Herr, Rev. J. F. Elder, Rev. W. C. Van Meter and others.

The first Presbyterian Church in Arizona Territory has just been organized at Tucson.

Judge Emmons of the United States Circuit Court has granted a decree for the sale of the Paducah and Memphis Railroad, which will, it is said, insure speedy completion of the road.

A considerable portion of the business section of Kenduskeag, Me., has been consumed by fire. The loss is about $10,000.

The Committee on Civil Service Reform continued the investigation of the Chicago Pension Agency case, and examined George W. Campbell, David Blakely and B. M. Johnson. The testimony corroborated the story told by Miss Sweet in every important particular. A dispatch was received from Chicago, which states that B. H. Campbell has refunded to Miss Sweet the entire amount of money paid by her to him, under the arrangement by which she was to pay Blakeley's debt.

The Albany Argus says that the fastest time that has been made on the Central-Hudson Railroad with the Fast Mail Train since it has been on the road was made with the eastward bound train by locomotive No. 386, in charge of Frederick H. Hortsman, engineer, and C. M. Waleigh, fireman. The train left Syracuse fifty-seven minutes late, and arrived in Albany three minutes ahead of card time, the train having struck its regular time at Schenectady. The run from Syracuse to Utica, distance fifty-three miles, was made in sixty-six minutes, or nineteen minutes faster than the regular running time. From Utica to Fonda, distance fifty-one miles, the run was made in seventy minutes, or eighteen minutes faster than the card time. From Fonda to Albany, distance forty-four miles, the run was made in fifty-seven minutes, or twenty minutes faster than the regular running time. From these figures it is seen that the run from Syracuse to Albany, distance 147¾ miles, was made in three hours and eighteen minutes. Deducting from this seventeen minutes lost in stops at Utica and Palatine Bridge, and the 147¾ miles are found to have been run in 181 minutes. This is not only the fastest time that has been made with this train on this road but faster than upon any road in the whole country through which the Fast Mail passes.

A Chicago correspondent, speaking of trade prospects in the Northwest, says the outlook is dismal. Spring trade has fallen off. Grain is not moving briskly, and bank statements show a surplus of loanable funds. Discounts at the rate of 7 ₱ cent. for 90 days are reported—a thing almost unknown before in the Northwest. One of the causes ascribed is that Presidential years are always bad for business. The farmers, however, have sold their products for fair prices, and are of all classes the best able to combat financial depression.

The Coal and Iron Police have done excellent service in breaking up the Molly Maguires in the coal fields of Pennsylvania. At the trial in Pottsville of those ruffians, a detective gave a history of the organization, as noted by himself, and it is an awful exhibit. The precious five will undoubtedly be hanged.

The lawyers for the defense have each made a speech; the Impeachment Managers have replied; the Senators have taken notes and notes. Proceedings continue—nothing accomplished yet.

Representative advocates of woman suffrage, in speaking for their hobby before the House Committee on the District of Columbia, were asked if they were willing to submit the question whether women should be allowed to vote in the District or not to the women of Washington, and they replied in the negative. They said that the women were so much under the influence of the men in their families that they could not vote independently on the subject.

The amount of silver in the Treasury Department at Washington at the time of the passage of the Specie Resumption of Jan. 14, 1875, was about $2,500,000.

Nine counties in Minnesota last summer destroyed 56,356 bushels of locust or grasshopper larvæ, at a cost of $87,505 in bounties paid.

It is stated that the cattle drive from Texas this year will number 350,000.

It is stated that $40,000 will keep the Genesee Valley Canal open for a short season.

Fifteen States will send altogether about a battalion of troops each to the Exposition.

The new silver coin is worth about 84 cents on the dollar in gold and 94 cents in greenbacks.

The amount of legal-tender notes deposited with the United States Treasurer, by National banks, during the month of April, for the purpose of redeeming and withdrawing their circulation, was $3,001,600. The amount of bonds deposited to secure circulation, withdrawn during the same time, was $3,529,000. The amount of legal tender notes now on hand for the redemption of National Bank circulation, is $28,382,401. The amount of legal-tender notes deposited with the Treasurer for the purpose of redeeming circulation from the passage of the act of June 20, 1874, to the 1st of April, 1876, was $52,657,372, including $3,813,000 previously deposited. The total amount of National Bank circulation thus far withdrawn is, therefore, $55,658,972. The contraction of the currency under this act has not been as rapid during the past month as during March, although nothing has occurred in the mean time to make the profit on the National Bank circulation any the greater or the necessities of the banks to convert their cash any the less. It is possible that the sale of bonds belonging to the Geneva award fund may have had some influence on the action of banks in regard to the withdrawal of their circulation. The managers of those institutions who intend to recover their bonds and surrender their circulation of course watch the market with great care in order to dispose of their bonds at the best prices, and the sale of a few millions by the Treasury Department during the past week may have caused some of them to suppose that a slight decline in the market value of their securities might take place.

FOREIGN NOTES.

At the opening of the session of the Chamber of Deputies a Versailles bookseller, named Rastoun, cried out from the gallery, "In the name of God and Joan of Arc, live Napoleon the Fourth! Down with the Gambettists and Orleanists." He was arrested amid considerable confusion, the majority, however, considering the episode as a freak of insanity. On appearing before the Questor, Rastoun said, "I have fulfilled my duty. You can do what you please with me." He was released.

Lord Derby, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has sent an answer to Secretary Fish's letter of March 31 in regard to the Winslow case.

The Pope has written a reply to King Alfonso's last letter, which gave assurances that Spain was Catholic, and that Catholics need fear nothing from the new Constitution, and maintained that the religious liberty clause was not inconsistent with the spirit of the Concordat of 1851. The Pope thanks the King for his letter, but avoids discussion of the questions at issue.

Advices from Rio Grande City report Gen. Diaz as retreating. Command suffering from scarcity of water, and desertions of daily occurrence.

The Porte is truly in a sea of troubles, with fine prospects of never emerging therefrom. The latest is that a Bulgarian insurrection has broken out near Philippopolis. The insurgents are estimated at from 1,000 to 10,000.

The Sultan of Morocco has punished the parties who committed aggressions on the neutral territory of Africa.

Ninety members of the House of Commons have signed a memorial, asking the release of the Fenian prisoners.

All quiet at Barbadoes, but trouble in the Island of Tobago.

Mark Lane Express reports grain market as very quiet.

The Russian Telegraph Agency reports that the Salonica affair has caused a panic throughout Turkey. The Foreign Embassadors at Constantinople have resolved to meet every day to consider the state of affairs. Upon later intelligence the Embassadors have agreed to ask their respective governments to send additional men-of-war to Constantinople.

A special dispatch from Berlin says it is understood that Count Andrassy, the Austrian Premier, has expressed views strongly adverse to Austrian armed intervention in the Turkish complications.

The Sultan has dismissed the Grand Vizier and summoned to Constantinople Hussein Avni Pasha, who is considered the head of the war party, and who, it is rumored, is to be appointed either Grand Vizier or Generalissimo of the Turkish armies.

The Serapis, with the Prince of Wales on board, together with the Royal yacht Osborne and the steam frigate Raleigh have arrived in England. The yacht Alberta, on board of which was the Princess of Wales and the Royal children met the Prince in the Solent, and the vessels proceeded to Portsmouth, where they arrived in the afternoon. The Prince accompanied by the Princess and Royal children, landed at the dock-yard, where a vast assemblage was gathered to meet them. There was great cheering as His Royal Highness stepped ashore. The Mayor of Portsmouth read an address, and a chorus of 300 ladies and gentlemen sang "Welcome Home." On the conclusion of the ceremonies of the reception the Prince and Princess and suite took a special train for London. An immense crowd surrounded the building and cheered with great enthusiasm as the Prince passed through the station to the carriage in waiting.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, May 13, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	60,350	Molasses	124
Whisky	2,405	Rice, bbls	418
Corn meal, bbls	3,186	Cut meats, pkgs	7,100
Corn meal, bags	1,627	Lard, pkgs	10,350
Wheat, bush	561,000	Tobacco, hhds	
Corn, bush	533,300	do. cases	—
Oats, bush	388,300	Butter, pkgs	24,060
Rye, bush	15,000	Cheese, bxs	10,550
Malt, bush	52,500	Cotton, bales	8,026
Barley, bush	61,900	Rosin	14
Beans, bbls	4,920	Spts. turp., bbls	2,000
Grass seed, bush	1,734	Dried Fruits, pkgs	60
Beef, pkgs	1,525	Eggs, bbls	22,403
Wool, bales	540	Peanuts, bags	1,200
Hops, bales	353	Leather, sides	83,850
Pork, bbls	8,475	Sugar, hhds	151
Tallow	719	Oil cake	7,751

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,225 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 24,230 do.; same time last year, 3,300 do. Exports of peas past week, 2,318 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 316,400 do.; same time last year, 191,540 do. The light receipts, together with a liberal export demand, give the market a degree of firmness, though the local and Eastern demand is moderate. Prime mediums are held for $1.20, and marrows cannot be bought much under the outside rate. Choice pea beans would find buyers. Other grades heavy. White kidneys are lower. Red kidneys moving at the low quotations. Canadian peas are tending downward, with prospective free receipts per canal. Green peas and Southern B. E. peas dull and favor buyers. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.30@1.35; fair to good, $1.00@$1.25; prime mediums, $1.15@1.20; fair to good, 90c.@$1.10; poor, 50@60c.; prime marrows, $1.60@1.65; fair to good, $1.30@1.50; prime white kid., $1.40@1.50; other, $1.15@1.30; prime red kidney, $1.20@1.25; other, $1@1.10; Lima (Cal.), $3.00. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.18@1.20; do., in bulk and bond, 95c.; green, $1.35@1.40; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.55@2.70; split, ₹ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—The high prices have brought some few pounds forward, and prices are a trifle easier. Southern quoted at 36½@37c.; Western, 35@35½c.

Exports past week, none; since Jan. 1, 36,194 do.; same time last year, 92,481 do.

BROOM CORN—Is altogether nominal. The moderate stocks are held as before.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—Receipts have been large and with the dull trade of the past week dealers have been threatened with a surplus. They have trimmed accordingly and have been quite successful in preventing alarming remnants from holding over. To do this last week's quotations for State had to be kept easy and Western had to be marked down. White butter is daily losing chance of ready sale; as enough yellow arrives to make buyers expect a good offering by the next time they appear for supplies, and it is not safe to look for any steady price for white from this time forward. Very few pails sell at the extreme figure. Other packages are quite their equal in quality and in many cases the buyer has a better bargain where deeper color is a desired feature. Welsh packages are in good demand, though their lack of uniform size at this season is not in their favor. The spring is backward in this particular section. The near-by dairy districts look green, but grass is not high enough for full feeding.

New butter, Dairy State, selected, 28@29c.; do., other 23@27c.; creamery, 27@30c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 27@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; Welsh tubs selected, 26@27c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 26@—c.; fair to good, 25@26c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 28@29c.; fair to good, 26@27c.; Western tubs, dairy, good to prime, 24@—c.; fair to good, 18@20c.

Western factory choice, 21@—c.; do. fair to good, 18@20c.; poor, 17@21c. Some low grades of State, 19@21c. Old Western, 15@20c.

CHEESE.—Exports, past week, 13,409 boxes. Old have been more urgently offered, particularly parcels that are showing some loss in quality, and consequently prices are irregular and lower. New are more plenty. It is presumed that next week's supplies will be sufficient to allow some export. The few transactions of best lots new are at 11c. Quotations are as follows:

New, prime, 11c.; good, 10@10½c.; fair, 9@9½c.; half-skimmed, 7@9c.; skimmed, 5@6c. Old at 12@12½c. for choice; 10@11½c. for good to prime; 8@9c. for fair lots.

COTTON.—A sharp decline in prices is noted on the slow export movement. May, 12 5-32@12 5-32c.; June, 12 5-16c.; July, 12 17-32c.; August, 12 21-32@12 11-16c.; September, 12½@12 21-32c.; October, 12 17-32c.; November, 12 13-32@12 7-16c.; December, 12 13-32@12 7-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	8 13-16	8 13-16	8 13-16	8 13-16
Strict ordinary	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Good ordinary	10 3-16	10 3-16	10 5-16	10 5-16
Strict good do	10⅜	10⅜	11	11
Low middling	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 9-16	11 9-16
Strict low middling	11⅜	12	12⅛	12⅛
Middling	12⅜	12⅜	12 7-16	12 7-16
Good middling	12⅝	12⅝	13	13
Strict good middling	13⅛	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜
Middling fair	13⅝	13⅝	13⅝	13⅝
Fair	14⅜	14⅜	14⅜	14⅜

Stained.

Good ordinary	8⅛	Low middling	10¼
Strict ordinary	10	Middling	11⅛

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples have further important demands from the West, and prices are strong. Otherwise there is but little doing; the jobbing trade still dealing chiefly in Turkey prunes.

Apples—State, sliced, 9¾@10c.; do., quarters, 9¼c.; Western quarters, 8½@8¾c.; Southern sliced, 9¾@9¾c. for prime; fair lots, 8½@8¾c.; Tennessee quarters, 8¼c. Blackberries, 10@10½c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@15c.; do. fancy, 16@17c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 20c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 20@21c.

EGGS.—Unusually low prices fail to bring out any extra demand. During the week prime Western have sold down to 13½c., and to-day 14c. is all the

market will bear. Dealers do not look for the market to recuperate until receipts fall off. Duck and geese eggs not wanted.

Near points, ₱ bbl., 16½@17c.; State and Penn., 15@—c.; Western, prime, 11@—c.; do. fair marks, 13@13½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 13@13½c.; Canadian, 14@—c.; duck, 18@19c.; goose, 24@25c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₱ lb.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras, 55c. The market for all oils is now very slow.

FEATHERS.—There is no wholesale demand. We quote prime white live Western geese at 52@55c., which is easier; mixed, 35@45c. No call whatever for common poultry feathers.

FLOUR.—The sympathy with the improved position of the wheat market, a more general trade is in progress, largely for export orders for the English and West India markets; prices strong at the advance.

Superfine State, $4.10@4.50; extra do., $4.90@5.50; superfine Western, $4.10@4.50; extra do., $4.60@5.70; No. 2, $3.85@3.90; extra round-hoop Ohio, $4.05@5.25; trade brands do., $5.25@7.00; white wheat extras, $5.75@7.00; St. Louis, $5.35@9.00; City Mills extra, $5.00@6.25; Southern at $4.15@4.85 for superfine; $5.00@6.25 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.25@8.75 for trade and family brands. Corn meal selling at $3.75@3.25 for yellow Western; $3.00@3.35 for Pennsylvania; $3.65 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples, since Jan. 1st, 4,345 bbls.; same time last year, 19,177 do. Prime Russets are firmer; for a while, there was quite an offering of Baldwins, but they have become unsightly if not unsound, and Roxburys outsell them for all trade. Cranberries nominal; rhubarb takes away some of their baking and hotel trade. Strawberries are in good supply and sell regularly; Norfolks begin to arrive in lots. There is only a fair demand for peanuts.

We quote:—Choice apples, $4.00@4.50; good, $3.00@3.50; fair mixed, $2.00@3.00. Strawberries, best, 35@40c.; other, 20@30c. Peanuts—Virginia, per bush., $1.50@1.70; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15. Cranberries—Jersey, choice, standard crates, $1.75@5; good, $4.50; extra Jersey crates, $1@1.50; bbls., $14@15.

FURS AND SKINS.—There are a few unimportant changes in common skins. Odds and ends in outside hands are pressing upon the market to get them out of the way. It is better to send raw skins to regular houses.

Otter, ₱ piece	$6 50@ 8 00	$1 00@ 5 50
Gray Fox	1 75@ 2 60	1 10@ 1 60
Red Fox	1 60@ 1 75	1 25@ 1 40
Black Bear	10 00@15 00	7 00@10 00
Brown cubs and ylgs.	4 00@ 5 00	2 00@ 3 00
Fisher	8 00@10 00	7 00@ 8 00
Mink, dark	2 00@ 3 00	1 25@ 1 75
pale	1 00@ 1 50	75@ 85
Muskrat, spring	28@ 30	23@ 25
winter	23@ 25	21@ 23
fall	18@ 20	16@ 18
Kitts	6@ 7	5@ 6
Beaver, ₱ lb	1 00@ 1 75	75@ 1 00
Raccoon	68@ 80	40@ 55
Opossum	12@ 15	12@ 15
Skunk, black		75@ 90
striped		10@ 40
Wolf, mountain		2 00@ 3 00
prairie		75@ 1 00

GRAIN.—Advices from abroad are of a much more invigorating nature, starting export purchasers to a liberal amount. The cable yesterday quoted cold weather in English sections and backwardness in farm work, with the markets there all higher. Prices have shown a decided advance at the close. Latest sales are of No. 2 Chicago spring at $1.22; No. 1 Minnesota at $1.20, afloat; choice No. 1 Sheboygan spring in store, at $1.32; choice Northwest spring, called No. 2 Milwaukee, at $1.25; prime No. 2 Milwaukee spring, here, at $1.22; mixed spring, in lots, $1.15@$1.20; prime No. 3 Milwaukee spring afloat, at $1.17; fair ordinary Minnesota spring, afloat, mainly at $1.13@1.17; No. 3 Chicago spring, afloat, at $1.10@1.13; ungraded spring at $1.10@1.18; prime red Western, in store, at $1.30; good white Western at $1.41. Rye wanted for shipment at better sales; good Western at 73@80c. Corn has been in active export demand at stronger rates. Sales at 60½@62c. for mixed Western; 57½@62c. for ungraded mixed; 53c. for fair yellow Southern. Oats are higher and fairly active. Sales at 39½@45c. for Western; 46@50 for white Western.

HAY AND STRAW.—There has been an active moderate shipping business and a fair home trade; prices are well maintained. Some 5,000 bales of hay have been taken through the week for the West Indies.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 80c.; retail qualities, $1.00@1.10; clover, 70@75c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.10 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 2,156 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 18,200; same time last year, 12,630.

HOPS.—The business is moderate from the home trade, partially owing to the cool weather. Exporters have done but little through the week, but at the close show more of a disposition to operate. There are reports that the roots and vine in some of the English plantations show signs of weakness. This is tending to increased trade from shippers. We have shipped 43,100 to 50,000 bales since September last, and have yet to spare 5,000 to 7,000 bales of good quality without drawing upon the supplies held in reserve for home use. We have to spare a few Californias; these may not be as good as New York State for carrying over as yearlings, but for present use they would be found very desirable. The keeping qualities of New York State hops are superior to any other variety, either domestic or foreign, and this is why they are so much liked as yearlings by English brewers. The quotations are:

N. Y. State, 12@18c.; Eastern, 10@15c.; Wisconsins; 10@16c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₱ lb.

HIGHWINES selling at $1.11½.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 20@31½c. for light; middle, 21@23c.; heavy, 21½@23½c.; good damaged, 18½@20c.

MAPLE SUGAR.—Seldom if ever was this item quoted so low, yet no large receiver has been able to clear up. Syrup not wanted.

Choice new sugar brickx, 10c.; small, 11c.; fair, 8@9c.; old, 6@9c. Syrup, ₱ gallon, 75c.@$1.

MILK.—The average price to farmers for April was 3c., ranging at 2½@3½c. ₱ quart.

OIL CAKE.—Western brings $30.50@40 per ton.

POULTRY AND GAME.—We append quotations for dressed poultry, but the season might be said to be over. City killers can furnish the market and hotel trade with about all that is needed in addition to the contracted lots of Pa. and N. J.

We quote Philadelphia picked chickens at 18@20c.; for fowls, 15@—c. winter chickens, 30@32c. spring chickens, 25c. for small slips, 28@30c. for small capons and 33@35c. for large capons; the latter quite scarce.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 17@18c.; Jersey, good to prime, 15@17c.; State, good to prime, 14@16c.; Western, good to prime, 12@14c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor, 4@6c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 17@19c.; State, good to prime, 15@17c.; Western, good to prime, 13@15c.; inferior, 7@10c.

Live poultry are in good demand as city killers have began operations. Prices will now have more stability with ordinary receipts. Chickens should not run less than 3@4½ lbs. ₱ pair to be saleable. We quote.

Fowls, ₱ lb., 13@14c.; turkeys, N. J., 12@15c.; Western, 12@14c.; Geese, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1.75@2.25; do, Western, 75c.@1.00; ducks, Western, ₱ pair, 65@75c.; ducks, Jersey, ₱ pair, $1.00@1.25; roosters, 7@8c. Spring chickens, ₱ pair, 60@$1 12.

Wild pigeons have been so plentiful that it does not take many to overstock the market now, hence the low prices. Snipe firm. A few wild squab quoted at $1 ₱ doz.

Wild pigeons, feathered or dressed, ₱ doz., 55@60c. English snipe, ₱ doz., $1.50@1.75; plover, ₱ doz., $1@1.12; sand snipe, 20@10c.

PROVISIONS.—An active export movement has been noted in pork and lard, prices for which are higher. Spot lots quoted at $21; June, $21; July, $21.25; August, $21.50; extra prime, $17.50; prime mess, $21.25. Bacon at 11½c. for Western long clear; 12c. for city do. Western steam lard at $12.75 for spot, May and June; $13.00 for July $13 for August. Stearin at 13½c. for Western. Beef hams at $22@24. Tallow at 8¼@8½c. Beef—Extra mess, $13; do. plain, $12.00@12 50; tierced at $21@23 for prime mess, and $23@24 for India mess. City extra India mess at $24.75@25, and Philadelphia mess at $23@24.

REFINED SUGAR.—Quoted 8¼@9¼c. for soft yellow; 9¼@9½c. for soft white; 10½c. for crushed; 10¼@10½c. for powdered; 10½c. for granulated.

SEED.—Grass dull: clover is quoted at 16½c. for Western, and 17c. for State. Rough flax, $1.60@1.60. Timothy, $2.80@2.90.

TOBACCO.—There has been a stronger export movement and prices favoring the seller, with some advance on Kentucky leaf.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	5½@ 6¾
Good lugs	6¾@ 7½
Low leaf	7½@ 9
Medium leaf	9½@14
Good leaf	11½@12½
Fine leaf	16 @14

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6 @ 8
Wisconsin	6 @ 8

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 495 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 75,687 do.; same time last year, 36,901; onions, since Jan 1st, 5,432 bbls.; same time last year, 1,275 do. Old potatoes are nominal at the low prices. Bermuda and Florida are low for the season and sell well. The latter must be of good size to bring $1. Florida tomatoes are a feature, as Bermuda ran poor. Peas arrive in poor order; Norfolk begins to send, and the market will be steadier next week. Asparagus is abundant and lower; the higher price is for Oyster Bay. Old onions not quoted. Bermudas take their place.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., 81c.@$1; Peach Blows, $1.25@1.50; Prince Alberts, 75c.@$1.00; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $4.00@5; Florida, $2@4. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $6@8; red, $5@11. Squash, Marrow, bbl., $2.25@2.50; Hubbard, $1.25@2.50. Russia Turnips, bbl. 50@75c.; white, 60c. Carrots, $1.00. Spinach, ₱ bbl., $1.00@1.25. Charleston green peas, ₱ bu., 50c.@$1.50; Savannah, 50c.@$1.50. Norfolk cabbage, ₱ bbl., $1.25@1.50. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, 50@60; heats, 100, $1.25 ₱ crate. Mushrooms, ₱ lb., 50@60c. Rhubarb, ₱ doz., $1@3.50. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, 50@60c.; onions, ₱ crate, $1.50@1.75. Florida string beans, $3@5. Asparagus, ₱ doz., $1@3.50. Florida cucumbers, crate, $2.00@3.50. String beans, crate, $1.50@2.50.

WOOL.—There has been a moderate movement in Ohio and California grades at easy prices; otherwise a dull feeling. X and XX Ohio fleeces quoted at 40@42c.; XX Ohio sold at 42½c. for prime lots; X Michigan fleeces, 38c., new spring California, 22@26c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., May 13, 1876.

TRADE this week has improved a trifle, on account of the improved quality of the cheese offered, but there is no material change on badly-skimmed goods. The great bulk of the cheese in market this week was more or less skimmed, though factories and farm dairies that had sent shipments of their first make offered goods that showed more cream, and upon such there was an improvement in price over last week. The offerings of factory amounted to about 3,000 boxes, nearly one-third of which was sent forward on commission. Prices ranged from 6 to 9c., the bulk of those only partly skimmed bringing 8c. Farm dairies went at from 6 to 8c.

Butter continues to come forward in considerable quantities, and sales were made at prices ranging from 2c to 20c., only a few tubs reaching the last figure, 25c. being considered a top price for best goods.

The country roads leading in this market are in the worst condition known at this season for years. The ground was very deeply frozen during the winter, and as the frost comes out it leaves the roads in many places with "no bottom," except soft mud and slush, which take the wagons up to the hubs. The weather is warm, and we are having frequent showers, which start grass rapidly. Cows are reported to be in good condition and are making a good yield of milk.

We have late advices from abroad. Our London correspondent reports a good sale for all sorts of American cheese. English cheese is quiet, and for secondary sorts the market is easier. Dutch cheese is firm for the best sorts.

The prices are for extra American, 67@68s.; fine, 61@63s.; good, 56@58s.; secondary and common, 33@46s. English cheddar brings 80@90s.; Wiltshire double, 70@80s.; Cheshire medium, 38@56s.; fine, 70@80s.; Scotch, 67@70s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 72@75s.; Gondus, 58@62s.

Butter sells as it comes to hand. We quote:

Dorsets, 150s.; Jersey, 120@130s.; Friesland, 140s.; Danish and Swedish, 126@130s.; Normandy extra, 130@142@160s.; American and Canadian, 90@100s. ₱ cwt. Oleomargarine, or artificial butter, sells for 80@112s. ₱ cwt.

ROCHESTER, May 13.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7,00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower: Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.25; white winter, $1.25@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 24@25c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 14½@15c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1.50. Potatoes, bu., 20@@25c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $23.50. Wool, 25@40c. Hay, $10@17. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.00; clover, $6.50@9.75. Mill feed dull at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $23 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.05@6.45 for stove.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, May 13, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,240	20	2,560	4,331	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	20	201	1,080	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	167	13,030
Harsimus Cove	5,606	00	000	12,312	11,745
Foots this week	9,806	46	2,769	17,823	24,775
" last week	8,845	702	2,836	14,989	18,108

BEEVES.—Trade on Monday last was extremely slow on a small run of horned cattle, the quality of which was from common to good, being in the aggregate better than the herds received for several weeks past; prices were at 8¾@12c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6@9¼ cwt. No actual reduction was effected, but the markets closed weak, with an off feeling. Wednesday, there was no change in the condition of trade; sales were slow, with several lots unsold at noon quality from coarse to good; prices at 9½@11¾c.; weights, 6@9 cwt. Thursday, trade slow at 8¾@10¾c.; weights, 5¾@8 cwt. Friday the markets closed weak, with sales at 9@11½c.; weights, 5¾@8¼ cwt. From 50@50 lbs., net, has been allowed to the cwt.; only the top steers sold at retail obtained at 58@60 lbs. net. Native steers, 8¼@11c.; grade, 11¼@12c.; mixed herds, 10@11c.; oxen, 9@11¼c.; heifers, 10¼@11c.; bulls on live weight, $4.70@4.90 ₱ cwt.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @12¾	12 @12¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8½@ 9¾	8½@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Sales slow at low rates; quality generally inferior; 9 cows sold at $32@50 ₱ head; 10 at $40@55; 10 at $60@75; 1 at $100; 3 springers held at $65 ₱ head—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—There were no smooth quality veals on sale during this past week. Coarse quality calves in heavy supply and slow of sale at 1½@8c. ₱ lb. State calves, buttermilk fed, sold at 4½c.; State, extreme range, 4½@8c.; Pennsylvania, 6@8c.; Jersey, 7½@8c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last trade in sheep was very slow at 6¾@8¾c.; yearling lambs, 8½@8¾c.; spring lambs, 11c. Wednesday, trade slow and rates firm; sheep, 6@8¾c.; lambs, 12c. Thursday trade dull in sheep at 6¾@8¾c.; lambs, 9@11c. Friday, the markets closed weak; sheep at 6¾@8¼c.; lambs, 10@15c. The quality of the flocks as above quoted was from fair to good, and they were largely in the aggregate. sheep sold at 6¾@8¼c.; lambs, 10@15c. The quality of the flocks as above quoted was from fair to good, and they were largely in the aggregate shorn; the woolly sheep to hand were in mixed flocks. State sheep sold at 6¾@8¼c.; Massachusetts, 7¾@8¾c.; Illinois, 7@7¾c.; Ohio, 6¾@7¾c.; Kentucky, 6¾c.; Michigan yearling lambs, 8¼@8¾c.; Virginia spring lambs, 11c.; State, 12c.

HOGS.—Wednesday last, 108 Ohio hogs, live weight, 156 lbs. ₱ head, sold at 7¾ ₱ lb. Monday, city dressed sold at 9@10c., there being scarcely any demand for heavy hogs. Wednesday, 9@9¾c., with a slightly improved demand. Thursday and Friday, 9@9¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—Trade fallen off in stylish carriage horses; only 1 pair sold at $1,300, General city trade slow: 40 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $55@92 ₱ head; 35 ordinary, $100@155; 17 roadsters, not warranted sound, with fair trotting action, $225@475 ₱ head; 9 head of coarse quality heavy draft horses, $200@300; choice quality in demand but not quoted; city railroad horses sold in small lots at $90@125 ₱ head; a few stage line horses at $115@150 ₱ head. No arrivals per Erie Railway.

New Advertisements.

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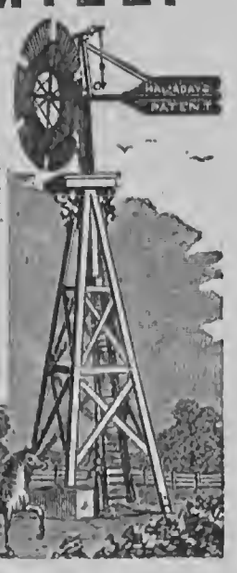
HALLADAY'S STANDARD.



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Pump water from WELL, SPRING or RIVER, and force it to any height or locality, for HOUSE, GARDEN, BARN or STOCK use; also grind feed and meals, saw wood, &c. Greatest invention of the age. A wind mill that does not blow away. Perfectly self-regulating. A solid wheel with no loose sections or joints. Can not freeze up or get out of order. AWARDED 96 1st premiums. Illustrated Circulars free.

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Eastern office, A. J. COCHRAN, 76 John St., N. Y.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER, conducted by our jolly friend, Hon. D. D. T. MOORE, leads all the papers of its class in this country. It is edited with great care and has a large variety of interesting and instructive departments for the family and the fireside. Conducted in form, remarkably neat in typography, abounding in timely illustrations, and well filled with the choicest of matter, both original and selected, it has no superior in its peculiar sphere.—*Yankees Gazette.*

WILLARD'S PRACTICAL BUTTER BOOK. Every one who makes Butter should have this cheap but good book by them all the time. Price One Dollar. Address RURAL PUBLISHING CO., P. O. Box 3318, New York City

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BROCKPORT, N. Y.

Branch Offices: CHICAGO, Ill., CLEVELAND, Ohio, and JACKSON, Mich.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

"KING POPPY," is the title of Lord Lytton's latest poem.

GEN. PIERCE, a Massachusetts man, intends to have himself buried alongside of his horse.

PARTON is to have his revenge. His is to write the life of Governor Rice, who vetoed the marriage bill.

THE girls at the Washington Seminary, Va., play foot-ball. They kick the ball and cry "Hall," just like the boys.

CARL SCHURZ has been invited to deliver the oration, and Whittier the poem, at the literary anniversaries at Dartmouth this year.

MISS EMMA ABBOT'S recent debut in opera from the first was highly favorable, and with the progress of the opera became enthusiastic.

IF anybody was crowned Queen of May in this neighborhood we don't know whether she wore a buffalo robe or simply sat on her throne with hot bricks at her feet.

Two hundred petrified cats have been found by Prof. Hayden in an Aztec village. Each one had a convivial expression of countenance, and each clasped a petrified boot-jack.

ONE dollar a year is the salary of the mayor of Oil City, Penn.

Oil City is an odoriferous place, but a mayor with one hundred (s) cents a year!

A. F. TIFIELD, clerk of the Water Board at Cambridge, Mass., has absconded, leaving a deficit of $9,000.

We presume he left the deficit as a receipt.

THE Sultan of Turkey pays $46,000 for music in the harem.

Notwithstanding the wives of this much married Sultan, continually do cry "he's not the Bosphorous!"

Is is not a little rough on George Washington that his artificial teeth should be exhibited at the Centennial?—*Cincinnati Commercial.*

Certainly not. It is what may be called high art official.

GRASSHOPPERS have bad habits this year. They are chewing up the Kentucky tobacco crop.

This is all wrong. They must not expectorate among the bugs, but rather take their chances of roasting on the spit.

THE children of Israel, under a Pharaoh, were oppressed with Egyptian bondage. Now it seems they are in a position to ask the Khedive 22 per cent. on Egyptian bonds.

Only a question of "age."

MARY CLEMMER AMES has returned to Washington cured of the affection of the eyes which has prevented her from doing any work for a twelvemonth past.

Lo! another case of affection at sight.

THE original manuscript of Thomas Moore's Lalla Rookh and several of his autograph letters will soon be offered for sale in London.

Thomas had two autographs. The one least sought after by financial Collectors was I. O. U.

MRS. LILLIE DEVEREUX BLAKE and Mr. Grinfill Blake were congratulated recently by their friends upon the felicitous completion of ten years of matrimonial partnership.

The firm remains unchanged. No accessions to date.

VINNIE REAM has made a model of the bust of L. Q. C. Lamar, and his wife wants to know how she got it so accurate, lips and all.

That is a *labelious* question. There will be trouble though. Mrs. Lamar exclaimed 'L! when she heard about it.

SAN FRANCISCO desires to have one of her big bugs go to Washington to lay the Chinese question before Congress, and that's why she sends Mr. Roach.

If this Roach can lay a? before Congress, we want to be there to see.

AN unbroken sheet of paper four miles long and weighing half a ton was recently wound by the Montague Paper Company.

Editors can now write articles of length and weight, without the petty annoyance of a paper mill at their right hand.

IT has been estimated that it costs two dollars a minute to run the South Carolina Legislature.

At the present price of dynamite we will guarantee to run the entire body at a discount of 50 per cent. from above price, and then assemble them miscellaneously all over the state in vulgar f(r)actions.

CAMERON, the returned English explorer, says that the Africans have no idea of the value of land. He could buy as much as there is in Rhode Island for a string of beads and six darning-needles.

As much as there is in Rhode Island? Would have to pin it down with his darning needles, then, to find it.

GEN. PLEASANTON announces that by the use of the violet ray he has succeeded in curing a mule of rheumatism and deafness.

This is not a subject to be made light of. Gen. P. will not receive the thanks of teamsters, who swear till all is blue-ray to super-induce rheumatism in the hind legs.

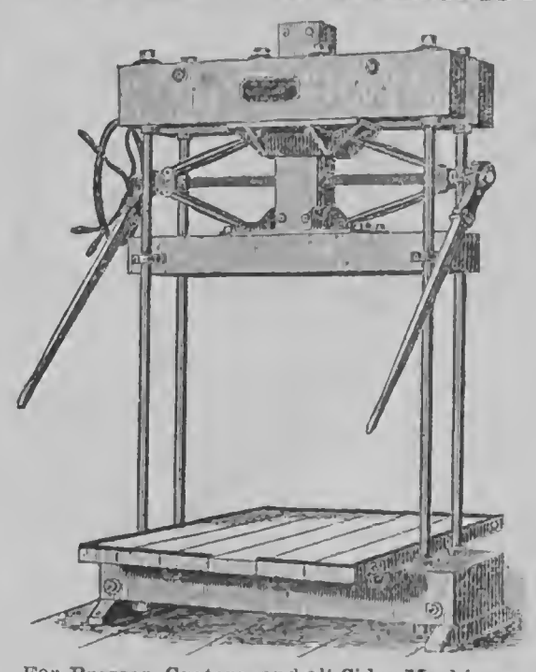
NORRISTOWN HERALD: There is still another serious objection to silver money. A man can't stand on his head without the "quarters" and "halves" rolling out of his pockets. Women can't either, unless they have lids on their pockets.

The Norristown man should know by this time where ladies carry their money. Pockets, forsooth!

A CAPITALIST who has money invested in the Keely motor recently told a reporter that there was not the slightest doubt of the success of the invention. For a long time the great difficulty was to find anything strong enough to hold the force when generated. But the credulity of the stockholders has been found equal to the requirements.

Implements and Machinery.

CIDER PRESS.



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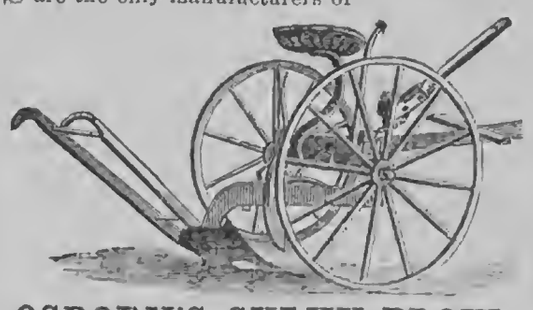

OSBORN'S SULKY PLOW,

the only Plowing Machine that has proved a perfect success in all kinds of soil. Any kind of plow can be attached. The plowman rides and handles the plow with ease, regulating the depth and width of furrow. The draft for the team is materially less, and the ordinary laborious mode of plowing is reduced to one of comfort and ease.

The Meadow King Mower,
and other Agricultural Implements.
GREGG & CO.,
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See COATES LOCK LEVER, on page 321.

OVER 35,000 IN USE.

THE BEST FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES.
SEVEN SIZES HAND MACHINES.
TWO STYLES HORSE MACHINES.
The most complete and perfect Lawn Mowers in the World.
The sales exceed a other Lawn Mowers combined.
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Wood or Iron Beam.

Carbon is a practical mixture of Steel, Iron and other metals. Cast in form, harder than steel or any surface-chilled iron. Will scour in any soil. Costs less than steel, and but a trifle more than cast-iron.

The Ilion Patent

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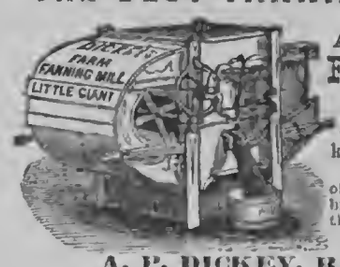

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A moderate quality of grain, well cleaned, brings a better price than the nicest grade in dirty condition.

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CENTENNIAL SCALES.

To Farmers' Clubs, of six or more, we offer "Our Centennial" ¼ Ton Stock Scales, $35 each. ½ " " " 50 "
SENT ON TRIAL.
Osgood's Patent Rubber Spring Platform Scales.
All sizes and capacities. *Fully warranted.* 30 per ct. discount. *Delivered free.* County Agents wanted.
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Sows all kinds of Vegetable Seeds with regularity. The STANDARD machine. REMODELED for 1876. Combines the best points ever produced. Simple, durable, *easiest handled,* OPEN WHITE SEED CONDUCTOR SHOWS THE SEED DROPPING. Give satisfaction. Circulars Free. Made by E. E. LEMMON & Co. 32 S. Market St. Boston, Mass.
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A Vegetable Manual, Prepared with a view to Economy and Profit.

THIS Work upon Kitchen and Market Gardening, and the Field Culture of Root Crops, is by P. T. QUINN, Practical Horticulturist, (Author of "Pear Culture for Profit,") and should be owned and studied by every one interested in Gardening. It is an able, practical, profusely illustrated work of 208 12mo. pages. Sent, post-paid, for $1,50. Address
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9:00 A. M., Daily except Sunday. Drawing-Room Sleeping Coaches through to Chicago; but one change of day cars.
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Jewelry, &c., sent C. O. D. Send for Illustrated Price List to WM. H. EINHAUS, 61 Nassau St., New York. Est. 1847. Prices reduced.

25 FANCY CARDS, 7 styles, with name, 10c.; 25 Snowflake Cards, 4 tints, with name, 20c.; 20 Leap Year or Acquaintance Cards, no name, 10c. Outfit, 25 styles, 10c.; 20 Blank Scroll Cards, 10c. J. B. HUSTED, Nassau, Renss. Co., N. Y.

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OPIUM and Morphine habit absolutely and speedily cured. Painless; no publicity. Send stamp for particulars. Dr. Carlton, 137 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

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THEIR HISTORY, BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. H. S., Snohomish City, W. T.—The flower head is that of our common white clover (*Trifolium repens*). The finding of two seeds in a pod is not unusual where this species is cultivated in rich soils and in a congenial climate. Now the clovers are closely allied to the common pea, both being included in the Pulse family, although the flowers are produced in a close, compact head or cluster, and not distributed over the plant as in the cultivated or wild pea. The pods although comparatively small, are still true pea pods—the common white clover producing one or two seeds while the wild Buffalo clover has three to five in each pod.

Perhaps some of the designs of houses given in the RURAL will suit you for the position named.

W. F., Md.—The clematis may be had of almost any of our florists or nurserymen. The prices of the varieties vary from 50c. to $2 per plant.

The *Xanthoceras sorbifolia* is not yet offered in this country, as we have already stated twice before. Our florists will probably not be able to procure and propagate a stock for sale in less time than one or two years from the present date.

J. J. Hall.—The simplest way of manufacturing superphosphate of lime is to break up the bones as finely as possible, put them into a large vat or kettle, and add sufficient sulphuric acid to dissolve them.

The quantity of acid depends somewhat upon the kind and condition of the bones, whether large or small, new or old. But we do not think a man with no machinery to grind the bones or fixtures for preparing superphosphates, can afford to undertake its manufacture. A few years since there was much talk going the rounds of the press about "home made" superphosphates, but it is one of those impracticable operations which had better be left to the regular manufacturers of such articles.

Mrs. Van D.—We have an American Mistletoe, which resembles the foreign species in leaf and manner of growths, although it is botanically quite a different plant. Its scientific name is *Phoradendron flavescens*, while that of the exotic one is *Viscum album*. The American Mistletoe is found growing upon various kinds of trees in the Middle and Southern States. It may be propagated by grafting upon the wild thorn apple, ash, honey locust, also the common apple and several other trees. The operation is performed by making an incision in the bark of the tree and insert into it a thin, wedge-shaped cion of the Mistletoe, having upon it a bud or two and at least one leaf. Early spring is the proper time for grafting.

James.—However preposterous it may seem to you, it is nevertheless a fact that we have several species of butterflies and moths which are capable of withstanding the cold of our most severe Northern winters and coming out all right in spring. One of the best known and most common of our large butterflies, the caterpillar of which feeds upon the willow, poplar and elm, remains alive all winter, hiding away in barns and other outbuildings, as well as in old willow trees and stumps. The name of this butterfly is *Vanessa antiopa*. Its wings expand about three inches and they are of a dark purplish-brown, with a broad border of buff-yellow and near the inner edge there is a row of pale-blue spots. The caterpillars of the Antiopa butterfly are black, minutely dotted with white, with a row of brick-red spots on the top of the back. When fully grown they are nearly two inches in length. The eggs, caterpillars or chrysalids of this species would probably perish if exposed to a light frost, but the butterfly or perfect insect withstands a low degree of temperature without injury.

Katie M.—The correct pronunciation of the word Bouquet is *bo-kay*, as you claim; but it is not of French origin, although it is usually considered as such. This word as spelled, is a perversion of two Tartar-Arabic words—*bo*, beautiful, *ka*, perfume; consequently, to say a beautiful bouquet would be equivalent to repeating the adjective, or saying "beautiful, beautiful perfume." Still, under the circumstances, it could hardly be termed improper to speak of a bunch of flowers as a beautiful bouquet.

Fanchon.—Crickets about the hearthstone may all be well enough in poetry, but when they become so numerous as to eat up one's stockings at night, it is time to descend to a lower level and take a practical view of their doings. They may be poisoned by mixing two ounces of arsenic with a pound of oatmeal, putting in some ground anise seed and caraway for flavoring; spread the mixture on a plate or thick paper, and put in or near their haunts, where the crickets can partake of it at their convenience. But put the poison where the cat and dog, or other household pets, cannot reach it.

Geo. W. B.—An excellent, cheap and durable varnish for iron or coarse woodwork can be made of one gallon of coal tar, half a pint of spirits of turpentine, and two ounces oil of vitriol. After mixing and stirring well put on with a brush.

Fertilizers.

These goods are analyzed by Professor G. A. Liebig of Baltimore and other eminent chemists, and their quality guaranteed. Send for Circular.

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SWEET POTATO PLANTS! Nansemond, Bermuda, Southern Queen, Early Red. By mail, $1 per 100. Express, $1 per 400; $2 per 1,000; $8 per 5,000; $15 per 10,000. W. W. RATHBONE, Marietta, Ohio.

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The Best Early and the Best Late.
Thorburn's Early Paragon,
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Priced Catalogues of
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MILK TESTER,
For Factorymen and Dairymen. Is a more perfect instrument than the Lactometer. State, County and Factory rights for sale. Apply to ALVAN MIDDAUGH, Friendship, N. Y.

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Without flouts or agitators of any kind. 5 Sizes made. Agents wanted where we have none. Send for Circular. CORNISH & CURTIS, Fort Atkinson, Wis.

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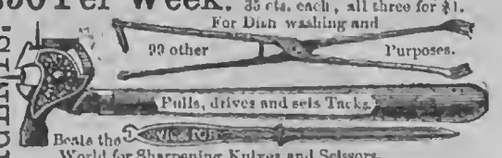
AGENTS. 

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Wit and Humor.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

The individual who was accidentally injured by the discharge of his duty is still very low.

Barbers can afford to sin twice as much as other people, for they are always willing to hone up, and "a sin confessed is half-forgiven."—*Boston Advertiser.*

An Indiana editor says spring is approaching, because he saw two snakes the other day. But when an editor sees snakes it is a stronger sign of a fall than spring.

A German actor refused to learn English on the ground that he could make nothing of a language where people wrote "ass" and pronounced it "donkey."

"Mamma, don't you want some nice candy?" said a shrewd little child. "Yes, dear, I should like some." "Then, if you'll buy some, I'll give you half!" lisped the little girl.

Josh Billings says: "The mewl is a larger burd than the guse or turkey. It has two legs to walk with, and two more to kick with, and it wears its wings on the side of its hed."

When you see a bare-headed man following a cow through the front gate, and filling the air with garden implements and profanity, you may know that his cabbage plants have been set out.

"Get out, you ornithorhynchus!" The man departed meekly. "Who's that?" said his friend. "An ornithorhynchus." "How's that?" "Well, Webster defines him as 'A beast with a bill.'"

A lady found her tongue entirely paralysed last week, the result, it is believed of playing the harmonica. The opinion seems to be gaining ground that a harmonica is of more real value in a family than a stalled ox.

A gentleman in the city has a pair of pantaloons which were worn by one of his ancestors a hundred years ago. They are made of homespun cloth, except the seat, which is of thick leather. It is inferred from this that the original owner was a book agent.

Who shtands der streets and goners around
Mit sefrel agzes to be ground
Und schmiled, und bowed, und nefer frowned!
Der Gandidate.

Who hold your hand ven you would start
Und told you you was mighty shmart,
Und how he loved you mit his heart?
Der Gandidate.

An Illinois girl has just been appointed assistant instructor of elocution in the Boston University. Just imagine for one moment, if you can the transition from "Dad, gimme half a dollar to go'n see the surkus 'n the wile animil show," to "Fathah, provide me with the funds necessary to procuah admittance to the wonderful zoological collection and puffformance of athletic and acrobatic feats which will be exhibited at hawf phast foah this awftanoon," which was necessary in that girl's elocutionary style before she could get her diploma.

A DOWNEASTER AT THE CENTENNIAL.

Downeaster.—"Friend, where's this yer Show? Cal'late Sall and I'd like to have a look."

Philadelphian.—"Friend, shows and vanities are not for me. But, if thee wouldst like to tarry here, thee mayst find good accommodation at my domicil, at reasonable charge."

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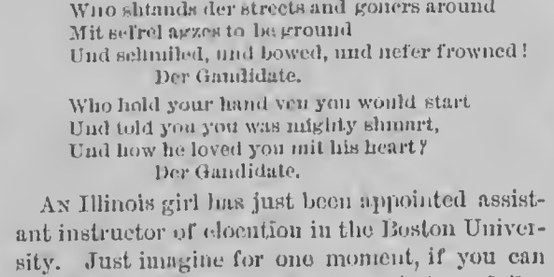

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EXCELSIOR

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

News

RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS, ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

VOL. XXXIII. No. 22.
WHOLE No. 1374.

NEW YORK CITY, MAY 27, 1876.

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Floricultural.

POINSETTIA PULCHERRIMA PLENISSIMA.

We have so often and so recently referred to and described this showy plant that extended details are unnecessary now—especially as the excellent engraving which we reproduce from the Gardiners' Chronicle will well present an idea of those parts which the most careful descriptions ofttimes fail to convey.

The old single Poinsettia is a native of Mexico—introduced by M. Poinsette and secured by Mr. Buist of Philadelphia in 1834. The proper flowers are borne in corymbose cymes, each cyme subtended by the brilliant leaves which are commonly spoken of as the flowers. But the word double should be confined to a multiplication of the corolline leaves only—so that, accurately speaking, the new Poinsettia is no more double than the old form. In the former, however, the cymes are duplicated and each one is provided with its series of bracts, which in their entirety form the superb crimson rosette or bouquet of floral leaves which the engraving shows, and which are scarcely over half the natural size. The flowers themselves are so little and plain that it has been suggested that the brilliant bracts perform the same office as the gaudier flowers of other plants, viz., to attract insects and insure the transference of pollen from the stamens to the pistils, either upon the same individual or from one to another, if the pollen and stigma do not in the same individual mature simultaneously.

The double Poinsettia which, if we judge from all we read, will utterly eclipse the old form is, at present, controlled by the Messrs. Veitch & Sons of England, who will offer it as soon as their stock becomes large enough to meet the popular demand—probably this fall.

English horticulturists are more alert than are those of our own country, and a hungry market is, among them, always craving for a change of food.

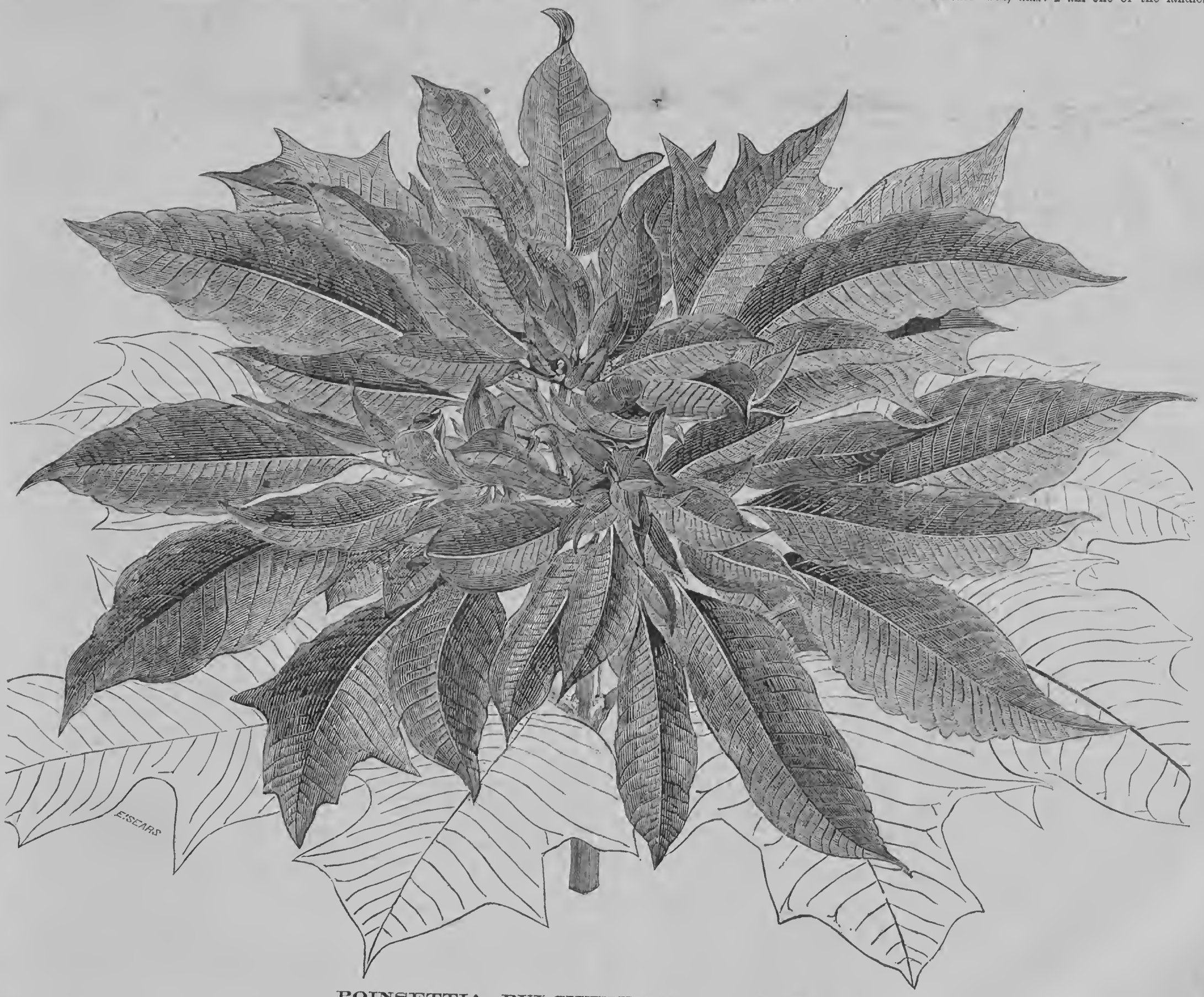
Thus it was that the "double" Poinsettia slipped through our fingers, as "it was first secured to cultivation through the enterprise of our veteran I. Buchanan, Esq., and was first described in the American Agriculturist in '73, accompanied by an original engraving from the plant itself."

We presume that Mr. Buchanan must have treated directly with M. Benedicte Roezl himself, who, in May of the same year, discovered it in a little village of the Mexican State of Guerero.

Since writing the above we have received the London Garden of the 1st inst., which, in an article upon Poinsettias in general, says:—"*P. pulcherrima* has now a formidable rival in the new variety named *plenissima*, to be sent out by Messrs. Veitch this month, and to which the old favorite will shortly have to give place. This has all the good qualities of *P. pulcherrima*, with the additional merit of having the colored bract at least double its size, so that the effect a few well-grown plants of this species will produce may be readily imagined."

RAMBLES IN THE WOODS AND FIELDS.

Dear Ruralist:—Like you, I am very fond of a ramble in the woods and fields, and whenever I meet with a plant bearing pretty flowers, I am seized with a desire to bring it home to cultivate—but, alas! I am one of the landless



POINSETTIA PULCHERRIMA PLENISSIMA.

ones, and am, therefore, obliged to cramp my favorites in a box or pot.

Last Spring I collected Painted Trillium, Blood Root, Spring Beauty and Columbine, and planted them in a box outside of the window on the east side of the house. They did very well all summer, and I am now (Feb. 22) anxious to know how they have passed the winter.

There is a swamp in this neighborhood that contains an abundance of the showy Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium speciabile*. I observed also seven different species of plants belonging to the Orchis family.

It is four years since I commenced the study of botany. I bought Gray's School and Field Botany and stuck to it until I have pretty well mastered it, working in the factory at the same time and botanizing when I had a chance. It is surprising how many more plants a person will *see* after he has become interested in it.

I made a great effort to find *Arethusa bulbosa* and *Sarracenia purpurea* last summer, but could not succeed. Do you think they are likely to be met with in this locality? [Yes.] Although I do not own a foot of land, my *botanical garden* is quite extensive, including the noble Graylock Mountain. I have planted seed of *Primula vulgaris* and *Datura Wrighti* in a box in the house. Do you think they will do well in the house? [Yes.] YOUNG BOTANIST.

South Adams.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

"*Why*," says HUMBOLDT, "have not everywhere the names been preserved of those who, in place of ravaging the earth, have enriched it with plants useful to the human race?" [We should like to have this question answered.]

A plant that should be found in every garden, whether for ornament or use—Asparagus.

The following touching paragraph we copy from a letter to JAMES VICK:

"And now, at the age of seventy-two, and in feeble health, I am compelled to give up my flowers, except a few of those easiest cultivated. Nothing has afforded me greater pleasure than my flower garden, and it is hard to think I cannot enjoy it longer. But I shall soon go to that world where flowers forever bloom, and there I shall meet that dear mother who taught my little hands to cultivate them here!"

EXCHANGE.

WHAT a blessed thought of the dear old RURAL, this exchange of flower seeds! Now we poor flower lovers have nothing left to wish for. I have a few seeds of Portulaca (mixed), *Eschscholtzia Californica* (California Poppy) and *Celosia* (Cockscomb) that I wish to exchange for stock (Gillilower), mixed colors.

Many thanks for privilege of floral exchange.

MARY WALEY.

Poquonoc Bridge, New London Co., Ct.

Sheep Husbandry.

IMPROVED BREEDS OF SHEEP.

IN an essay read by Dr. L. E. BROWN, before the Kentucky Wool Growers' Association, brief reference is made to the history and value of five of the most popular breeds of sheep, which will doubtless interest some of our readers:

First—The Merino is a breed originally Spanish, but now generally existing over Europe and the United States, and very extensively in Australia. Merino wool constitutes a great part of the wealth which flows into the new continent from its exports. The Merino has large limbs and the male has large spiral horns which do not rise above the head. The skin of the neck is loose and pendulous, the cheeks and forehead bearing wool. The fleece is fine, long, soft and twisted in silken spiral ringlets abounding in oil which attracting dust, gives it a dingy appearance until scoured, after which it is silky and white. This variety fattens slowly and is valuable mainly for the excellence of its wool, but as a general thing, has not been found profitable in England or the United States, and is not reckoned by some as being strictly one of the long-wool sheep.

Second—The Leicester sheep is regarded in Europe as one of the most valuable of the long-wools. This breed in the present improved condition, is the result of the skill and care of Mr. Bakewell of England, who, soon after the middle of the last century, began to make experiments for the improvement of the old Leicester sheep. It was then a large, coarse-boned sheep, not easily fattened, with coarse wool weighing about ten pounds to the fleece. The new Leicester, or present breed, has wool moderately long and of better quality, weighing seven or eight pounds, and is easily made very fat. The color is white, and both sexes are horuless with bald face tinged with blue, and low carriage. Other breeds of long-wools in England have been greatly improved by crossing with this—the Lincolnshire, Romney Marsh, &c. In this country the Leicesters are large and coarse, but easily fattened and with good mutton, the wool moderately long, but stiff, and without gloss. Altogether this variety is not generally held in great esteem.

Third—The Lincolnshire is a large, bony animal, takes longer to mature, has a long, flat, bony head quite bare of wool, with a good fleece, rather thin, slightly kinky with some gloss. But although the Lincolnshires have been greatly improved in late years, their legs being shorter and the wool more glossy, yet the fleece not being equal in quantity or quality to that of some other breeds, they have not met with general favor, and are rarely adopted by our wool growers as a breed.

Fourth—The Southdown is one of the most popular breeds both in Europe and the United States, and have, by crossing, produced what are called Hampshiredowns, Shropshiredowns, Oxforddowns, and perhaps others, all larger and coarser, but retaining the Southdown marks and characteristics, all producing valuable wool and making good mutton. But the Southdowns must be regarded as at the head of all these, both for wool and table use, the crossing of this breed having added nothing to the originals in either quality. The Southdowns are exceedingly neat in form, both in head and body, with gray face and legs, forehead and legs well covered with wool, the fleece short, thick and soft, the outer surface often appearing as smooth as the nicely clipped. The body is straight, with well-sprung ribs, broad, level back, and deep flanks, all well covered with wool. This breed stands at the head of all the breeds of sheep for superior table qualities, but does not rank so high for quantity and quality of wool. The Southdowns derive their origin and name from the Chalkdowns of the south of England, but are not adapted to a cold climate.

Fifth—The most important and valuable of all breeds of sheep is the Cotswold or Gloucester, the wool of which has been held in great esteem since the fourteenth century, and has generally commanded a higher price than any other. In 1464 Edward IV. of England, sent a present of Cotswold rams to Henry of Castile, and in 1468 he sent a similar present to John of Aragon. So the Cotswolds reach back to a right honorable age and right royal patrons. But in modern times the Cotswolds have been greatly improved by crossing with the Leicester, producing a shorter wool and better mutton than in former times. The Cotswold of to-day has a long, straight body, well rounded ribs, flanking low down, good full twist, broad, flat back, full and low in brisket, a neat, stylish head, broad between the eyes, neatly tapering mouth, short legs, with head, jaws and legs covered with wool, and altogether a pretty and stylish body, covered with long, fine, wavy wool, which is glossy, and very valuable and in great demand. The face in this breed is sometimes gray, but not generally so. They are more docile than any other breed, and take on flesh very kindly, making good mutton, but are not considered, in this respect, equal to the Southdowns. Yet, all things considered, the Cotswold is the best and most profitable breed for the wool growers of Kentucky, and we would earnestly advise them to continue to improve their flocks until they shall be as near thoroughbred as possible. It costs as little to raise and take care of a good animal as an indifferent one, while the thoroughbred will yield a fleece of from twelve to twenty-five pounds, worth twice as much per pound as the fleece of a common sheep, which would weigh three or four pounds.

CRUELTY TO SHEEP.

THE Pall Mall Gazette ssys:—"An interesting question was raised in a case which came before the Woodbury Police Court, near Exeter, when a butcher of Sidmouth was charged with cruelty to sheep. It appears that the defendant bought some sheep at an auction, and with a pair of shears cut off the top of their ears, in some cases cutting off as much as half the ears. He did this to mark them. It was urged in defence that it is the usual custom among farmers and butchers to mark sheep in this way. A veterinary surgeon said the sheep suffered little or no pain, the vessels being few and small in the ear. Ladies had their ears pierced for rings and did not suffer from the operation. He (the veterinary surgeon) "would not mind having part of his own ears cut off." It was less painful, he added, to the sheep to cut off their ears than their tails. The defendant was, nevertheless, fined £5 ($25), much to the surprise, it is stated, of several farmers and butchers present. Although the veterinary surgeon would not mind having his ears clipped, there was certainly no evidence to prove that the sheep were equally indifferent to this disfigurement and the annoyance attending the operation. Moreover, the fact that ladies have their ears pierced is no argument in favor of cutting off sheeps' ears. Any proposal on the part of husbands to nip off their wives' ears for the purpose of distinguishing them from other people's wives would, it may be imagined, be received with disapproval, and increase the animosity with which man is regarded by woman."

We never did believe it right to inflict the cruelty of docking or cutting off the tails of either colts, hogs or sheep.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY IN SOUTHWESTERN MISSOURI.

I HAVE read with some interest the statements made by JOHN SHELDON in the RURAL in regard to sheep raising and wool growing in Colorado.

I have often wondered why people go so far West, where they find nothing but waterless and treeless prairies, when in Southern Missouri there are oceans of grass, the country well supplied with choice timber, and watered with innumerable streams and springs of the clearest and purest water. The climate is as mild and genial as that of Italy, and all the accompaniments of civilization, such as schools, churches and the best of refined society, are in abundance.

I have spent much time in Christian and Stone Counties, and must candidly say that I know of no portion of the United States that offers such encouraging inducements for sheep raising and wool growing, as well as fruit growing in all its branches and general agriculture. The portion of country of which I speak extends southward to the northern line of Arkansas, starting from the line of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. It is in a latitude lower than Colorado, and on the score of climate far surpasses it, while in all other respects it is infinitely superior.

I am interested in giving information to my fellow-citizens in regard to this land of plenty, healthfulness and quiet. More than 100 families from Southern New York have located at Billings and have secured most desirable homes.

Tioga Co., N. Y. ELIJAH OSBORN.

The Horseman.

UNSOUNDNESS OF WIND.

IF any trouble exists with the respiratory organs of horses among our farmers it is usually set down as "heaves," a kind of guess-work way of naming a disorder, the nature of which may or may not be known. The London Field, in referring to these diseases under the name of "unsoundness of wind," says:

Roaring or whistling, when they are fully developed, may generally be detected without difficulty by putting the horse into a canter; but in some cases, when the disease is in the incipient stage, the sounds can only be heard when the pace is very moderate, and often only when the animal starts off. The reason of this is that the obstruction to the passage of air into the lungs is so slight that the expansion of their air tubes during exciting breathing removes it altogether, and the horse appears to be sound; but in very decided cases of roaring the sound becomes more marked as the exertion is continued, and the fact of the animal becoming distressed and making more noise at the end of a gallop than he did at the beginning is a clear proof that the affection is thoroughly established, and likely to get worse in the future. In making an examination of a horse which is suspected of being a roarer, the best plan is to start him suddenly at a canter for a short distance, and then pull him up as short as possible. Slight sounds, which are not distinguishable when the horse is going, will be very audible to the ear if placed close to the nostrils immediately the movement is arrested; and in this way slight defects, which might otherwise escape notice, are detected. It may appear that a sound which is so slight as to escape observation while a horse is going at a moderate speed is not of sufficient importance to demand special notice, and, if it were the case that abnormal sounds showed a tendency to remain in a fixed condition, the objection would have some weight; but the slightest noise of an unhealthy character is an indication of the commencement of a disease, which is almost certain to advance to the condition in which it seriously affects the horse's respiratory powers. There is no way of describing in so many words the peculiarities which distinguish an unhealthy from the healthy respiratory sound. Close observation is necessary to educate the ear to appreciate the natural and morbid sounds which are made during respiration. When there is a distinct whistle or roar, no one can fail to recognize it as an unhealthy sound; but there are noises which are close on the confines of the natural sounds, and the practiced observer requires his attention to be concentrated on the examination in order to decide whether or not any defects exists.

The differences of opinion which are constantly met with among competent horsemen as to the existence or otherwise of unsoundness in the wind, are sufficient evidence that there are many cases in which the departure from the healthy sound is not so marked as to be readily distinguished. Extraordinary cases of roaring, in which it has been impossible to decide at first whether the sounds were merely the result of some peculiar habit or depended on disease of the respiratory organs, have been from time to time recorded. These cases are very unsatisfactory to everybody concerned, the professional examiner especially, because, whatever view he may take, there are facts to be advanced on the opposite side. That there are a few eccentric horses which make unnatural noises at times, quite irrespective of any disease of the air tubes, is beyond all doubt. Fortunately, such cases are very rare, and if the existence of a bad habit exposes the horse to the stigma of being an unsound animal, no one ought to complain. It is probable, however, that the owner, who knows the animal's qualities, does not take this view of the matter, and protests against a verdict of unsoundness in the case of a horse which long experience has convinced him is perfectly sound, notwithstanding the objectionable noises which he makes on occasion in his breathing.

Various causes of roaring and whistling are enumerated by veterinary pathologists. Whistling is most likely to be caused by some obstruction in the nasal cavities, which, by diminishing the size of the tube through which the air passes, causes the pitch of the note produced to be elevated. The same effect will result from thickening of the mucous membrane at the opening of the larynx. Distortion of the cavity of the larynx or trachea is a not uncommon cause of roaring—the one condition is due to loss of power of the laryngeal muscles on one side, generally the left one; the other is a natural consequence of the bent position of the neck which follows from the improper use of the bearing rein.

The presence of a tumor in the gutteral pouches, in such a position that the side of the larynx is pressed, is an occasional cause of roaring, and the symptoms induced are very marked in such cases; the animal under exertion becomes excessively distressed, and it is necessary to allow him to rest in order to avoid suffocation. If the tumor is temporary in its nature, as in the case of an abcess, it is essential to keep the animal perfectly quiet until the process of suppuration is completed, and the contents of the tumor are excavated by bursting, or by the aid of the lancet; but in cases of premature tumors, as those of a scrofulous kind or fibro-fatty structure, there is no hope of cure, because, from the position of the deposit, an operation would be attended with a great amount of risk, and would besides be of doubtful efficacy, as there would generally be left enough deposit on the mucous tissue to cause some noise in respiration, although the actual relief to the animal might be considerable.

Treatment of ordinary cases of roaring or whistling, with a view to the restoration of soundness, is generally a very unsatisfactory affair. Different plans have been at various times advocated, and if it can be truly alleged that any method has succeeded in curing a whistler or roarer, the system is straightway lauded as infallible; and the result is that confiding horsemen subject their unfortunate animals to various degrees of punishment, in most cases without any benefit. When the abnormal sound depends on some recent deposit, which would, in all probability, be removed by a natural process of absorption as the acute disease which gave rise to it subsides, any form of counter-irritation will, to some extent, assist the removal of the morbid matter, and thus would have done in time, but in cases of roaring and whistling of long standing, counter-irritants are quite powerless, and their application only inflicts pain on the animal, without any chance of removing the cause of the mischief.

Severe blistering of the surface along the course of the trachea, firing the same part, applying seatons from the jaw to the chest, are plans of counter-irritation which have been advocated as means of cure, but in reality, in most cases, the use of them amounts to an act of unmeaning brutality. The operation, which has been successfully adopted in some cases, of removing a portion of cartilage at the opening of the larynx, is only likely to be beneficial when the disease is due to loss of power of the muscles, which allows the walls of the organ to fall inward, and thus diminish the area of the cavity. As this is a common cause of roaring, the operation may be successful in many instances; but there are no means of determining beforehand whether this condition exists, and if it is not present no benefit would be gained, and possibly injury might result. The proceeding, therefore, borders on the empirical, and, except as an experiment, should seldom be attempted. A roarer may be kept in workable condition by a careful system of management, regulation of diet and exercise, and the avoidance of irregular and severe work; but it is rarely worth while to attempt a radical cure by the aid of medicine and surgery.

Dairy Husbandry.

THE CENTENNIAL DAIRY RING.

CARD OF MR. BLISS TO THE UTICA HERALD.

The following letter in the Utica Herald of May 11, from Mr. O. S. Bliss, the well-known Secretary of the Vermont Dairymen's Association, explains how some of the "Ring work" was done. Mr. Bliss is Secretary of the Centennial Dairy Committee of which J. V. H. Scoville is Chairman, and as Secretary of the Committee, holding the records of that body, he is supposed to know what he is talking about. It will be seen that Mr. Bliss in his letter corroborates the facts stated in the exposure of the "Dairy Ring" published in the Rural several weeks ago.

The reader will bear in mind that the irregular meeting of Jan. 22, referred to by Mr. Bliss, was the time when Mr. Scoville and his five members of the Ring met at Utica without notice to the rest of the Committee, and nominated Jurors, &c., &c.

In justice to Mr. Bliss and to other members of the Committee, as well as to the Dairy public, we reprint his letter to the Herald:

"Editor of Utica Morning Herald:—Your letter of the 25th inst. is at hand. I find I was mistaken in supposing that I had at least a moral claim to as much of your space for my own defense as had been accorded to Mr. J. V. H. Scoville to make a bitter and untruthful personal attack upon me, under the guise of giving the public facts. Under the circumstances, I accept your 'courtesy' in permitting me to use a half column of the Herald, though it will not nearly permit me to do justice to myself or the public. I must of course pass over many material points in the case, and must take up together both Mr. Scoville's letter and your article founded upon mine which you declined publishing, though it leaves out of view the more material points in it. I am sure that the public have a claim upon you and me for a much fuller exposition of the case.

"Mr. Scoville did not in his 'card' state as you assert that 'Mr. Bliss with other members of the Committee, was duly notified to be present;' but he labored very hard to show that I had some sort of an irregular notice, which was not the case, however. On the other hand, he practically admits that but six of the more than fifty persons whose names appear on the list of members had any notice whatever of the meeting. In the same paragraph in which he proposes to convict me of lying on the affidavit of the members of the Committee, he speaks of the 'members of the Committee who had no knowledge of the meeting'—your covert insinuation to the contrary notwithstanding. I beg to ask how it happens that the two members of the Committee who are said to have conversed with me on the subject of the Vermont meeting, failed so signally to converse on the subject with any of the six or seven other members of the Committee who were there? You are mistaken in saying that I charge him with 'hampering' me. I did complain that I was held responsible by members of the Committee for their not getting notice of meetings of which I was not myself notified, and I quoted the letters of Mr. Scoville, not for the purpose indicated by you but to show that even after the Committee had voted at Utica, Feb. 3, to hold a meeting at Philadelphia, Feb. 23, and instructed me, as Secretary, to notify the whole Committee, he made three distinct efforts to thwart the purpose of the Committee and have only 'such as it was necessary,' notified; and he said he would send out the necessary notices himself. The admonition which he had received at Utica was not sufficient. He was still defiant, and determined to control the Committee. Your statement that the Utica meeting of Jan. 22 was ratified at Philadelphia, is not correct.

"My limits will not permit me to enter into details; but the material fact in regard to that matter is that when it was proposed to treat that meeting as regular and reconsider the vote taken there, it for the first time came to be known to the Committee that the resolution recommending Jurors had been indorsed by Gov. Seymour and forwarded to the Commission. I saw at once that a reconsideration of that subject would compromise some innocent parties, and I made the motion to drop the whole matter and to expunge from the records all allusion whatever to the meeting of Jan. 22. That vote passed unanimously and the Committee have, from that day to this, treated the meeting of Jan. 22 as dead. They afterward made it the duty of the Executive Committee to appoint three auditors, which was done at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Utica March 17, wholly disregarding the alleged election of Jan. 22. The only other thing which the Committee could have done in regard to the matter, would have been to recall the resolution then in the hands of the Commission.

"I, myself, (and I believe every man with whom I consulted in regard to the matter,) was actuated by the purest motives in protesting against these irregularities. I have been a member of the Committee from its original formation, three years ago, and I have had a very wide opportunity to know with what disfavor many of the acts of Mr. Scoville have been looked upon and how necessary it was that the public distrust should be dispelled. We had hoped that the free discussion of the Jan. 23d meeting at the Feb. 3d meeting would correct the evil; but when it became apparent through Mr. Scoville's letters that he still supposed he had authority to annul the action of the whole Committee, it became necessary to carry the protests, &c., into the Philadelphia meeting, or let him run away with the whole project.

"I thought and said then, and still think, that the whole matter should have been kept from the reporters, and I have deeply regretted that it was not. I least and last of all, expected to see Mr. Scoville rush into print in regard to it. He, of all men, had reason to keep silence. During the unhappy contest I have been importuned times without number, 'to write the matter up;' but I have steadfastly declined till Mr. Scoville in a most wanton manner has assailed my integrity and my motives. I did not in my answer to him, which you declined publishing, feel called upon to explain the disposition made of the Jan. 22d meeting; but your very positive but entirely erroneous statement, has seemed to require correction. Much as I would have preferred to continue to keep silence, I cannot longer believe that such is my duty.

"I must say in closing that the charge of collusion with Mr. Willard is entirely unfounded. I never exchanged a word with him on the subject till after my protests were all made. I have not approved of his publishing the matter, although I know his provocation was very great.

Georgia, Vt., April 28, 1876. O. S. Bliss.

DAIRY TRANSACTIONS.

NORTHWESTERN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

We are in receipt of the Tenth Annual Report of the above association from the Secretary, Dr. R. R. Stone of Elgin, Ill. The report comprises the addresses, discussions and factory reports presented at the Annual Meeting held at Fort Atkinson, Wis., Feb. 8-10, 1876. It is a well printed pamphlet of 86 pages, and contains much interesting matter relating to the dairy interest of the Northwest, and to which we hope to refer hereafter. Dr. Stone attributes a large share of the cause of the development of the dairy business of the West to the interest awakened at the Dairy Conventions. At these meetings the masses have been benefited by the valuable experience of the few. He thinks that it has been proved that the "West possesses the proper soil, water and climate to make as fine qualities of butter and cheese as can be made in New York or New England."

The report contains the address of welcome by Dr. H. E. Willard, and the address of response by Dr. R. R. Stone; the address of Hon. Hiram Smith and of Mr. Thompson; Secretary G. E. Morrow's annual report, the address of H. C. Drake; a paper by John Porter on "Keeping up supply of milk in summer drouth;" one on "Butter making from milking to selling," by S. J. Goodwin; "The children of the farm," by Mrs. Frances C. Jones; essay on "Cheese making," by S. Littlefield; President Favill's paper; "Shall we make skim-milk cheese?" by I. H. Wanzer; "Where, when, and how to sell dairy products," by Dr. Stone; "Buying and distributing dairy products," by A. H. Barber of Chicago, together with a number of short speeches made at the banquet.

VERMONT DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

Mr. O. S. Bliss, Secretary of the Vermont Dairymen's Association, has always issued an excellent report, and the seventh in the series, embracing the papers and discussions at the winter meeting, Jan. 19-21, 1876, is of great interest and value. It contains 183 pages, covering quite a variety of topics in relation to butter and cheese dairying.

The Secretary gives a brief account of the Annual and winter meetings, and then follows the address of welcome by Hon. Henry Clark at the Rutland meeting. We give the several papers in the order which they are printed in the report: Opening address, by President Mason; "Dairy progress and dairy engineering," by the Secretary; "How to get the most profit from milk," by Wm. Blanding of New York; "Swiss cheese factories," being a letter from an American in Switzerland, read by H. M. Kenedy of the Utica Herald; essay on the "Management of the butter dairy," by Mrs. J. T. Ellsworth of Barre, Mass.; "Breeds of Cattle," by Harris Lewis of Herkimer, N. Y.; "Dairying vs. thoroughbred bulls," by Dr. Sturtevant of South Framingham, Mass.; "Butter factories and the importance of improving butter stock," by W. L. Rutherford of Waddington, N. Y.; "A Holderness herd, by T. D. Curtiss of Syracuse; "An improvement on the Swedish method of setting milk," by L. S. Hardin of Louisville, Ky.; essay on "Home," by Mrs. P. L. Hopkins; "The contagious diseases of domestic animals and the laws of the New England States for their prevention," by Hon. T. S. Gold of the Connecticut State Board of Agriculture; "Diseases of animals," by Dr. Cressy of Mass. Ag. College; address on the Centennial Exposition, by Burnet Landreth of Philadelphia; "The manufacture of butter and skim cheese," by J. T. Ellsworth of Barre, Mass.; "The past and future of progressive agriculture," by Gov. Hyde of Conn.; "The philosophy of curing cheese," by X. A. Willard of N. Y.; "The management of pastures," by A. W. Cheever of the New England Farmer; "Dairy topics of the season," by T. D. Curtis. Thus it will be seen from the above list of papers (each of which was followed by discussion) the report makes a valuable document for reference.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR 1875.

This is a pamphlet of 108 pages, giving the papers and discussions at the annual meeting at Rome in January last. The Secretary, Mr. L. B. Arnold of Rochester, in his prefatory remarks takes occasion to recommend the "Heated Milk" theory for making butter and cheese. He says it "promises to be of great value in utilising skim-milk," and he thinks it is "the most important advance lately made in cheese making, as it enables the manufacturer to so perfectly cure skim cheese as to make of it a palatable, nutritious and wholesome food, thus solving the problem of the economical use of skim milk, which has so long baffled the skill of the best experts."

This opinion seems to differ widely from that of the Illinois dairymen. The experiments with the "Heated Milk" theory made at Elgin, Ill., last year, proved a sad failure, and it is a question whether Mr. Ellsworth's success in making skim cheese is due to heating the milk or to other causes.

The report is smaller than usual, but contains a number of papers of interest and value. As we gave a pretty extended report of the Rome meeting in the Rural, we need not present here a list of topics.

COLORING CHEESE.

A correspondent writes us, urging that annatto should not be used for coloring cheese, and he asks us if something cannot be done to discourage its use and thus relieve factories and dairymen from a heavy expense which adds nothing to the flavor or quality of cheese, and which he says "cannot be regarded in any other light than a villainous fraud."

We quite agree with our correspondent that cheese is not improved in flavor or quality by the use of annatto, and we should be glad to see it done away with in cheese making; but so long as certain markets demand a colored cheese and are willing to pay a premium for it, our cheese makers will find it to their interest to make it. We can hardly go so far as to say that the coloring of cheese is a fraud. Annatto is a harmless coloring material, and our cheese makers do not use it for the purpose of deception but only to meet the wants of trade. A very large proportion of the cheese demanded for the English market requires to be colored; but there are some markets like that of Manchester, where pale or uncolored cheese is preferred.

It is hard to say why the practice of coloring was first introduced; but very likely it came from a desire on the part of manufacturers or dealers to impress upon consumers the idea that color was an indication of better quality. At the present time we think the preference for color is a matter of education. People fancy that a colored cheese looks better on the table, and from long custom in its use they may fancy it is better than pale cheese.

Annatto is a very great expense to our cheese factories and dairies, and on this account we should be glad to see its use abandoned. But apart from this we can see no material harm in employing it, providing it is unadulterated and not injurious to the cheese as an article of food. Tastes differ, and we cannot all think alike. If certain classes of consumers desire their cheese colored and are willing to pay for it, we do not see why their wishes should not be gratified, providing such coloring matter is not injurious to the cheese as an article of food. All that can be done at this time by the advocates of pale or uncolored cheese is to educate consumers by proving to them that color is unnecessary, and that it in no way affects the quality of product. To attempt to force pale cheese upon a market that does not want it would be disastrous; and the cheese makers of the country have now enough to contend with without attempting to raise an issue of this sort with our foreign customers. There is a limited demand for pale cheese in the English markets and also in the home trade. This of course should be supplied. But we cannot advise factories which are making a shipping cheese to abandon coloring without they know where their goods are going. If factories can get an order for pale cheese, then let it be made; but without such order it will be safer to make colored cheese, because the demand for this is much larger abroad than for the uncolored article.

There was a time when a large share of the annatto in market was adulterated and some of it with materials injurious to health. But at the present time annattoine, annatto seed and other preparations can be had, which are free from impurities of the kind referred to. And it is the duty of manufacturers to procure only such an article as is known to be pure and which can be had from dealers under the proper guarantee.

This question of coloring has been agitated from time to time at our Dairy Conventions, and we know there is a great difference of opinion as to the course to be pursued. Some have advocated that if all the factories would unite to abandon coloring, our English customers would soon be educated into the use of pale cheese and would then prefer it. This course is not practicable, for in the first place the factories could not be united on this question, and even if they could it would only give the English manufacturer, making colored cheese, an additional advantage over our own make. We must for the present take things as they are, our highest aim being to meet the demands of the various markets, and make our goods so that they will command the best prices.

THE ICE METHOD IN BUTTER MAKING.

Mr. H. O. Freeman is making extensive and repeated experiments at his creameries in cooling milk for raising cream, as suggested in our "Practical Butter Book." He writes us under date of April 28th that he has applied ice water to the style of cooling vat adopted at the Ridge Mills Creamery with most satisfactory results, and he says:—"I am confident the principle of cooling with ice water is correct when all the cream is wanted and the milk is to be kept sweet for cheese. The point with me is, What *plan* is best adapted for a creamery?"

The effect of low temperature on milk set for butter making is arresting attention, and is likely to make some important changes in our system of butter making. The London Lancet gives the result of M. Eug. Tisserand's observations recently communicated to the Academie des Sciences. He found the nearer the temperature of the milk is to the freezing point the more rapid is the collection of cream, the greater is its bulk, the more butter it produces, and the better is the quality of the butter as well as the skimmed milk for cheese making. He experimented on milk fresh from the cow at various temperatures from 95° Fahr. to that near the freezing point, and the butter made from milk which had been cooled down to a low temperature was always of a fine quality, more delicate and of a firm consistency, altogether more unctions to the touch than the butter from the cream of the milk that had not been cooled or insufficiently so from 45° to 52°. It had above all that property required for culinary purposes — of keeping fresh for the longest time.

These facts, he thinks, may be explained by Pasteur's observations on ferments and their effects on the media in which they live. Refrigeration assists the growth of the living organisms which set up fermentation. In the process of fermentation these organisms feed upon the solid constituents of milk—the butter and the caseine—bringing about changes which if they do not lessen the quantity of butter at least prevents a complete separation of it from the milk. Hence the advantage of reducing the temperature of the milk and arresting their growth.

Such is the theory suggested; but without entering upon this branch of the subject, it will suffice perhaps for dairymen to know the practical operations of this plan and the results obtained by experimenters.

When the quality of milk is considered of especial importance, the ice method, it would seem, may be employed with great advantage and the subject must be of interest to butter makers. We hope at no distant date to give the result of Mr. Freeman's experiments more in detail, and have no doubt they will be of interest and utility.

The Effect of Cold on Milk.—The Lancet says that the effects of a low temperature on milk have been carefully examined by M. Eugene Tisserand, who recently communicated his observation to the Academy of Sciences. He found that if cow's milk is, immediately or soon after being drawn, placed in vessels at various temperatures between 90 deg. Fah., and the initial temperature is maintained for twenty-four or thirty-six hours, it will be found that, the nearer the temperature of the milk is to freezing point, the more rapid is the collection of cream, the more considerable is the quantity of cream, the amount of butter is greater, and the skimmed milk, the butter and cheese are of better quality. It is probable that the refrigeration arrests the evolution of the living organisms which set up fermentation, and hinders the changes which are due to their growth.

Scientific and Useful.

THE KENTUCKY SHOWER OF FLESH.

We presume all of our readers have heard of the supposed shower of flesh which recently fell in Kentucky, many explanations of the cause of the phenomenon have been given, but none of them seemed to come anywhere near the truth, except the following by Leopold Brandeis in the Sanitarian.

It appears to be a law of nature that weeds should grow with flowers, tares with corn, and that superstition should almost touch truth. Showers of frogs, of fishes, of bloody rain and snow have frequently occurred. The last sensation, however, "the fall of flesh in Kentucky," offers some features of special interest.

In 1537, while Paracelsus was engaged in the production of his "elixir of life," he came across a very strange looking vegetable mass, to which he gave the name of "Nostoc." The want of rapid transportation, combined with the perishable nature of the substances fallen, have hitherto prevented a complete and exhaustive examination. The specimens of the "Kentucky shower," reached New York well preserved in glycerine, and it has been comparatively easy to identify the substance and to fix its status. The Kentucky wonder is nothing more or less than the "Nostoc" of the old alchemist. The Nostoc belongs to the confervæ; it consists of translucent, gelatinous bodies, joined together by threadlike tubes or seed bearers. There are about fifty species of this singular plant classified; two or three kinds have even been found in a fossil state. Like other confervæ, the Nostoc propagates by self-division, as well as by seeds or spores. When these spores work their way out of the gelatinous envelope they may be wafted by the winds here and there, and they may be carried great distances. Wherever they may fall and find congenial soil, viz., dampness or recent rain, they will thrive and spread rapidly, and many cases are recorded where they have covered miles of ground in a very few hours with long strings of "Nostoc." On account of this rapidity of growth, people almost everywhere faithfully believe the Nostoc to fall from the clouds, and ascribe to it many mysterious virtues. The plant is not confined to any special locality or to any climate; sown by the whirlwind, carried by a current of air, in need of moisture only for existence and support, it thrives everywhere. Icebergs afloat in mid ocean have been found covered with it. In New Zealand it is found in large masses of quaking jelly, several feet in circumference, and covering miles of damp soil; and in our country it may be found in damp woods, on meadows, and on marshy or even gravelly bottom.

All the Nostocs are composed of a semi-liquid cellulose and vegetable protcine. The edible Nostoc is highly valued in China, where it forms an essential ingredient of the edible bird-nest soup. The flesh that was supposed to have fallen from the clouds in Kentucky is the flesh-colored Nostoc (*N. carneum* of the botanist): the flavor of it approaches frog or spring chicken legs, and it is greedily devoured by all domestic animals.

Such supposed "showers" are not rare, and are entirely in harmony with natural laws. In the East Indies the same Nostoc is used as an application in ulcers and scrofulous disease, while every nation in the East considers it nourishing and palatable, and uses it even for food when dried by sun heat.

HYBRID—CROSS-BREED.

We need both of these words in our language, and we need them to express just what, until within a few years, they were understood to express, viz., the genital union of animals or vegetables more or less nearly related. To those less nearly related, the name Hybrid has been adopted—and to those of the nearest relationship, the word Cross or Cross-breed.

Hybrid is derived from the Latin *hybrida* signifying lawless, unnatural, and was used in the sense of half man half beast, or to "one born of a Roman father and a foreign mother, or of a freeman and a slave."

Mongrel, therefore, is the true spirit of the word. The remotest botanical relationship between two genera or species that is capable of a fruitful union is that which produces hybrid fruit. The organs of the hybrid plant are usually imperfectly developed and their seeds when formed infertile. Fertilization by either parent is sometimes effective, but in this case the offspring at once or in the second generation reverts to the grand-parent species. But in the few authentic instances of true hybrids, there was no blood union or intermingling of the distinctive characters of each parent—but, as if budded or grafted, different parts were perfect reproductions of one or the other.

It is plain, therefore, that we need another term to denote that union which is induced naturally or artificially between varieties of the same species and which results in an intimate and permanent blending of the characteristics of both.

If true hybrids occurred less rarely and assumed a uniform resemblance in all their parts to both parents, and these were again crossed with other varieties of the species of either parent—neither Cross-breed nor hybrid, it is true, would accurately express the relationship; but it is not the less true that the union of a hybrid with either of its parents' species would be nearer to a cross-breed than to a hybrid, and its pedigree could, by the use of both words, be expressed without confusion. Be this as it may—it offers no reason for the interchange of these terms which are as definite as any terms can be that are applied to orders, genera, species and varieties which are themselves indefinite, and must so remain until botanical affinities and distinctions are more accurately ascertained than they are at present or, for aught we see—are ever likely to be.

The wrong use of these words originated with those horticulturists who, having produced crosses between certain fruits or flowers of varieties of same species, preferred the high-sounding, refined name Hybrid to the commonplace one Cross-breed. This sacrifice of accuracy to sound has been generally acquiesced in, and our catalogues teem with hybrid roses, peas, corn, potatoes, strawberries *ad infinitum*.

If horticulturists are willing to continue the confusion of these words—there is nobody to say them nay; but they thus encourage a perversion of accepted nomenclature that they, of all persons, should be the first to guard against.

A CHEAP WINDOW VENTILATOR.

Professor Kedzie writes as follows in the London Sanitary Record:

"Some one has recommended to place a strip of board three inches wide and as long as the lower window bar, under the lower sash, thus leaving an opening between the top of the lower sash and the bottom of the upper sash, through which fresh air may enter.

"I propose a modification of this plan, by which the air will enter in two thin layers, with an upward movement by which it will mingle with the warm air of the room so as to prevent sensible currents of cold air. Take two pieces of board a quarter of an inch thick, one inch wide, and as long as the lower bar of the window; three narrow pieces half an inch thick and one and a half inches long, one end being cut with the bevel of the window-stool. Nail those pieces across one of the long-slats, one at each end and one in the middle, placing the short side of each piece even with the lower edge of the slat. Nail the other slat on the opposite side of these short pieces, bringing the upper edge of the slat even with the square end of the short pieces. This will make a compound bar with half an inch between the slats, and one slat half an inch higher than the other when the whole is turned upon its edge.

"Place the whole under the lower window sash, with the higher slat on the outside. The air can then pass under the outer slat, between the two slats, and enter the room over the top of the inside slat, having an upward motion which will cause it to mingle rapidly with the warm air of the room, and thus prevent any sensible draught. By thus raising the lower sash, a space will be left between the top of the upper sash, through which another thin layer of air may enter the room at some distance from the layer at the bottom of the window. This air must also enter with an upward current, causing it to speedily mix with the hot air in the upper portion of the room.

"This arrangement is especially adapted to secure safe window ventilation in bedrooms. If properly constructed and inserted, it will never cause sensible currents in the body of a room except when strong winds prevail, when we usually secure enough ventilation by the imperfect construction of our window-casings, etc."

Pomological.

FRUIT CULTURE.

From a very interesting article published in a Troyes (France) horticultural monthly from the pen of Dr. Pigeaux, we extract the following:

"We have been following a wrong tack, and it will be both wise and profitable to adopt a more rational practice. In the culture of free stocks, it is indispensable not to plant them in soil having only a depth of 15 or 18 inches. Good vegetable mold, three or four feet in depth, is not too much for a fruit tree which is to live and bear for, let us say fifty years. With vigorous trees to choose from—trees that have not been enervated by too early production, that have come of a good stock and that have been properly pruned, of a good form, with plenty of room for the passage of the air—we may count on a sufficient and lasting yield, which is, after all, the most desirable point.

"A grave error, which cannot be too clearly pointed out, consists in giving the worst part of the land to fruit tree growing, the best portion by far being devoted to flowers and vegetables. In a poor soil trees soon degenerate, and the most careful culture will not suffice to maintain the production of fruit at its proper level. We must resist the temptations to introduce new varieties of fruit trees into a plantation except, indeed, as an experiment. For a similar reason we must avoid the worthless varieties which our forefathers planted in their ignorance of what was really good. Ground taken up by worthless trees is simply a continual source of loss.

"In virtue of the principles laid down above, we deprecate the system of cultivation which only allows of trees being grown which are cared for by trained cultivators. One of the complaints to be urged against modern fruit growers is evidently the system of pruning at present in vogue, and which has been carried to an extreme by the majority of those who practice it. To such a pitch has pruning now arrived, that it is held to be synonymous with cultivation. We frankly declare that this assertion is erroneous. A properly pruned tree—that is to say, pruned with knowledge and circumspection of which our best practitioners give every proof—ought easily to satisfy the wants of all amateur cultivators; but in the hands of unpracticed or amateur growers it may be affirmed that it will never return during the whole of its short existence the half of the sums laid out upon it. What fault could we not find with the system of reversing the natural order of vegetation by curving the branches downward towards the soil; of the grafting of fruit buds; of the cutting of leaves, and of the twisting of shoots? These modes of procedure are looked upon as constituting a real progress in fruit culture, but, on the contrary, they are a mistake. Without in any way wishing to abolish amateurs' small gardens, let us make the cultivation of fruit what we have already made the cultivation of the vine, and let us no longer be afraid of devoting the best part of our land, even of our corn-growing districts, to the growing of fruit. It would soon become largely remunerative. But it must not be thought that it is only necessary to cover large surfaces of land with fruit trees well fitted for the particular soil and climate of the locality chosen, and then fold our arms and trust in Providence; far from it, for an orchard of only a few acres requires the assiduous care of an experienced and laborious cultivator.

Industrial Implements.

THE ILION WHEEL HORSE RAKE.

When our attention is called to the numerous improvements in farm machinery, we are more than ever impressed with the fact that the American farmer is a thinking man. He performs his duties with his eyes open, and does an amount of brain labor that lifts him on a plane quite above the level of the same class in other parts of the world.

Hence inventors can offer for the farmer's approval any new idea that has for its object the mitigation of labor, and may feel confident that his auditor will grasp all the points in its favor, or raise pertinent objections that leave no room to doubt his having long since turned the matter over in his mind and that he apprehends exactly what is needed. Among such inventions, probably none are so generally appreciated as the hay rake, and that there can be many sides to the same subject receives ample illustration in the number of rakes of various patterns that are offered for sale. No intelligent man who desires to so manage his farm that it shall not be a continual round of manual labor, to the entire exclusion of all mental development, hesitates to admit that the hay rake is a very necessary implement, and that without it the waste of hay, etc., each year would greatly exceed the cost of the implement. The value of the time and labor saved by its use makes it a foregone conclusion that it is indispensable, and it only remains a question—of the many rakes offered—which to buy. We give this week an illustration of the Ilion Wheel Horse Rake, manufactured by the Remington Agricultural Co., N. Y. This company is so famous for the high excellence of its work that it is almost unnecessary to say that the material and workmanship of this implement is as perfect as can be desired. The Ilion Rake is distinguished for simplicity, durability, ease of management and effective work. It is self-discharging and automatic, can be thrown in or out of gear at any light, or can be worked by hand without any changes. The pieces composing it are made in duplicate, and can be replaced, when broken, without trouble or much delay. This rake is quickly adjusted to uneven surfaces, avoids scratching, and has no exposed gears, ratchets, etc.

THE ILION WHEEL HORSE RAKE.

There are 20 steel teeth, oil tempered, which are held in place laterally by a metal tooth-holder. The pawls are cast steel, being springs within themselves, without extra pieces, and as they can be changed from right to left, they wear twice as long. The ratchets are housed and independent, clutching to wheel. In short, the rake is what one would expect from the reputation of the makers; and as the Remingtons are most pleasant gentlemen to deal with, our readers cannot do wrong in sending for full particulars, which will be sent free.

The Garden.

GROWING SEEDLING STRAWBERRIES.

EDS. RURAL.—When strawberries are fully ripe, take a quart of berries and mash them in enough dry sand to separate the seeds, so that they can be sown. This quantity of berries will produce all the plants that most people can give space for them to fruit; and a bed three or four feet square is large enough to sow the seed on. It should be made of rich, light earth, and be in a shady place, or artificial shade should be made for it. Sow the seed, sand and all, as soon as it has been mixed with sand, upon the surface of the bed. Then take a coarse wire sieve, if you have one, and sift on just dirt enough to cover the seed about an eighth of an inch deep. Now pack the soil over the seed a little with the back of a spade, then water the bed lightly from a watering-pot, and keep the bed moist constantly before, and after the plants come up.

In the fall you may have a thousand plants on such a bed, which should be protected in winter by laying down some small brush, to be covered with hay or straw, kept about two inches above the plants by the brush. In the following May the plants should be set where each will have ample room to fruit, two feet apart is not too much space, as when you discover a promising variety, you need a little space immediately around it to increase it by its runners the same season. The next season your valuable varieties, if you happen to have any, should be removed to ample grounds, and the worthless ones should be thrown away.

The question, "what are the chances for obtaining a superior variety?" comes up naturally in the mind of every person inclined to experiment in seedling strawberries. Some persons have grown many thousands without obtaining a single valuable variety; and some, by mere chance, have obtained splendid varieties in growing a few hundreds. The seed of the largest and best berries does not produce any finer sorts than the seed of inferior kinds. This is a law of nature, when applied to growing any seedling vines or fruit trees. If we take a very fine apple, pear, or peach, and plant their seeds, we get no better fruit from such seedlings, as a general rule, than from seedlings from seed of inferior fruit. The only possible way to be benefited by planting the seeds of choice varieties, is by first hybridizing a valuable variety, and planting its seeds. But as no one in this country has ever obtained any good results from this method, except in a few cases of hybridizing grapes, it is doubtful if we ever discover a sure method of hybridizing fruits generally. Even in hybridizing grapes but one or two persons, during the last fifty years, have produced new varieties that carry in their general character any proof of being hybrids.

Attempts have been made to hybridize strawberries, but the results have not yet been very favorable; and to-day not a single variety exists that has been conclusively shown to be a hybrid. If we plant two varieties of squashes in the same garden they will cross, or become hybrids, as shown in their products the same season; but strawberries cannot be affected in their fruit by growing near other varieties; but if it be possible to fertilize one variety by the pollen of another, so as to be sure that no other chance fertilization has also been produced, then we may probably effect results in strawberry seedlings that cannot be obtained by chance.

Linden, N. J. T. B. MINER.

GARDEN NOTES.

Potatoes—Beetles.—Judging from the writer's neighborhood, fewer potatoes will be planted than usual this spring in anticipation of beetle depredations. Last summer in a four-acre field, planted with potatoes except a patch of muskmelons, not one green leaf or vine was to be seen by the time the melons began to ripen. The beetles collected in surprising numbers (surprising to us) over the entire field and were feeding upon the small potatoes left upon the surface. The melons were also attacked and we counted a dozen beetles upon one of them no larger than the palm of the hand. A field thus given over to these disgusting things, presents a saddening—a desolate sight.

In our own grounds, having no potatoes, our tomatoes were chosen by these Nightshade Blights—and even in Petunia beds hundreds were found. Those, therefore, who plant fewer potatoes on account of the beetle, may extend their philosophy to the tomato as well—and, indeed, it will be found that any attempt to starve them out will prove futile.

Gen. Grant Cucumber.—Tempted by the fine specimens twenty inches long and upwards displayed in the show cases of seedsmen, we tried the Gen. Grant cucumber summer before last, and again last summer, planting half a dozen hills with extra care. Blossoms were the only product of the first season, and two or three cucumbers, of an indescribable shape, neither "twenty inches long nor upward," the crop of the second. However well these odd novelties may succeed in frames, they are not to be recommended for out-door cultivation.

Tomatoes.—We have tried several of the newest and most highly praised tomatoes extant without changing our conviction that the Trophy is yet the best. The Arlington is firm, solid and of good shape, ripening with the Trophy or a little earlier. The Conquerors and Victors—both excellent early sorts—ripened the one with the other. A very few ripe tomatoes were gathered upon the Victors first, but there was no difference in the average ripening. Hathaway's Excelsior is a beautiful variety of medium size, round and solid. It is prized in Europe and esteemed here by many who have given it a fair trial.

Sweet Corn.—Among the varieties of sweet corn we have a word to speak in favor of the Black Mexican. It is as sweet as the Evergreen, and it is more. There is an oily richness peculiarly its own that makes us partial to it, the same as many prefer the old Peachblow potato for its peculiar flavor that is not excelled or, perhaps, equalled by any of the popular self-seedlings and "hybrids" in which there is such a lively interest at present displayed. Though the color of the Mexican Black—which is a blackish-purple—and the size of the ear—which is rather small—are unfavorable to its general use, yet it should be eaten before the kernels change color, though good afterwards,—while the size is just the handiest for table use.

Wheat Bran for Cabbage Worms.—It has been frequently stated that wheat bran scattered over cabbages would effectually prevent the ravages of the cabbage worm, but the efficacy of this preventive has also been denied. Will some of our readers who may have this pest in their gardens give the bran remedy a trial and report the results.

The Poultry Yard.

GAPES IN CHICKENS.

ED. RURAL NEW-YORKER: Will you be so kind as to give me the best remedy known to yourself for the "gapes" in young chickens.—*L. E., Williamsburg, Va.*

Although having kept fowls almost constantly during the past quarter of a century, and of various breeds, such as Cochins, Brahmas, Leghorns, Dorking and cross-breeds of the same, we have yet to see the first case of gapes among our chickens. Under the circumstances it must not be expected that we can speak from experience in giving a cure for gapes or other diseases of fowls, such as cholera, loss of feathers, or for lice and other vermin which sometimes infest them, as none of those have ever appeared in our poultry yard.

If you ask why this exemption from diseases and vermin, the reply must be equally as indefinite, unless there is something in the surroundings and care given, which prevents them. It is our honest belief, however, that the exemption from loss through any of the maladies named, may be attributed entirely to cleanliness and proper food and pure water.

Of course the fowls are given a good range through the garden and field, and not confined in close yards; neither are they crowded into a close, filthy place to sleep at night, nor fed irregularly, or when some negligent servant happens to remember that they may require attention.

The system which we practice may be stated in a very few words. The food is placed where the fowls can help themselves, no scattering it about in mud or snow at stated hours of the day. Corn is the main reliance, but oats, wheat, buckwheat and similar coarse seed are sometimes thrown in to give variety. In winter, vegetables and meat of some kind are given at least once or twice a week, and a trough of water is kept handy and refilled twice a day.

Dry dirt under an open shed is always at hand for a dust bath whenever the fowls may choose to use it; henhouse and roosts cleaned spring and fall—whitewashed and thoroughly dusted with sulphur. Every hen, when commencing to set, has her nest also well sprinkled with sulphur, and the heat from her body will cause just fumes enough to arise to prevent any vermin from attacking mother or young chicks.

As soon as the chicks are strong enough to remove from the nest they are taken out, and, with the mother, placed in a coop on the grass, if in warm weather, otherwise under a shed. The hen is kept in a coop for about a week, the chicks running out if they choose. After this the hen is allowed to go out as soon as the dew is off in the morning, and again shut in at night.

The feed of the young chicks is plain corn meal, no scalding or addition of any stimulants whatever. Gapes is usually attributed to filthy coops, unwholesome, sour food and putrid water, but if this be true it would go to prove that the gape-worm is the result and not the cause of the disease. In other words, the worm only finds lodgment in the windpipe of the chick, and feeds upon the mucous secretions which are the result of disease.

This would appear to be in accordance with what we know of the majority of other animal parasites, such as chicken-lice, intestinal-worms, etc.

One of our most experienced and observing poultry breeders, Mr. HENRY HALES of New Jersey, informs us that he can tell almost to a day when the gape-worm will be found among his chickens in spring, if the weather should be unfavorable to healthy growth.

The fact that this gape-worm is not found among chickens at all seasons, even if they become weakened by disease, is another proof that it is picked up from the earth, and seeks a position where its favorite food can be found, just as the *Gordius*, or hair snake, seeks a lodgment in the intestines of crickets, grasshoppers and other large insects which intrude upon its natural habitats.

It is, at least, exceedingly doubtful if a healthy chicken is ever injured by gapes, because it has the vitality to resist its attacks, and the worm finds no safe lodgment except in the peculiar mucous secretions of the unhealthy one's windpipe.

But after the worm has located itself there, it becomes necessary to remove it. This may be done with a small feather, stripping off the vane to within a half inch of the end. Dip this in spirits of turpentine and then thrust it down the windpipe, give it a turn and draw out quickly, bringing out the worm or killing it.

Another remedy is to blow tobacco smoke into the chicks mouth, a portion will pass down the windpipe as it breathes, thereby reaching the worms and killing them.

AN EGG WITHIN AN EGG.

EDS. RURAL: I will tell you of a curiosity that has in the last few days come under my notice. A lady in this place had occasion to use some duck eggs for culinary purposes, and in breaking one, which was unusually large, discovered, in addition to yelk and white, a perfectly formed egg *inside*, about the size of a walnut. It is the first "freak" of the kind I have ever known, and I am sure must be quite unusual. How can it be accounted for?—J. K. WINKELER.

This is one of the freaks of nature which we never attempted to account for. Instances of double hens' eggs are not infrequent, but such freaks are as nothing in comparison with the finding of hard, foreign substances within eggs, such, for instance, as a full-grown marrowfat pea, as noticed recently in one of our English exchanges, which, by the way, caused a great deal of ridicule to be heaped on the journal first publishing the story.

But we have in our possession the head of an iron bolt, one fourth of an inch in diameter, which was found inside of a hen's egg as laid. Of course we know that, according to all scientific and natural laws as understood by us, no such foreign material could possibly find its way from the crop of the hen into one of her eggs, still the passage has been made in more than one instance.

The Naturalist.

TRADITIONS RELATING TO BIRDS AND ANIMALS.

A WRITER in the Farmer's Journal for May gives some of the interesting traditions relating to birds and animals which are assuring and instructive as they show how ignorance and superstition give away before the advancement of science and general intelligence among the masses.

Certain traditions relating to birds and beasts are only explicable on the supposition that they were once objects of divination or worship. The old Germans, we know from Tacitus, used white horses, as the Romans used chickens, for purposes of augury, and divined future events from different intonations of neighings. Hence it probably is that the discovery of a horseshoe is so universally thought lucky, some of the feelings that once attached to the animal itself still surviving around the iron of its hoof. For horses, like dogs or birds were invariably accredited with a greater insight into futurity than man himself; and the many superstitions connected with the flight or voice of birds resolve themselves into the fancy, not inconceivable among men surrounded on all sides by unintelligible tongues, that birds were the bearers of messages and warnings to men, which skill and observation might hope to interpret.

Why is the robin's life and nest sacred, and why does an injury to either bring about bloody milk, lightning or rain? The Christian legend says that it extracted a thorn from the crown of Christ, or that it daily bears to hell a drop of water to put out the flames, and accounts in either way for the red dye on its breast. But this is evidently a mediæval gloss to some heathen belief, like the unluckiness of the magpie, that it would not enter the ark, but sat jabbering outside over the drowned world; or like the idea of the aspen still trembling at the part it played in the crucifixion. It has been suggested that the robin, on account of its color, was once sacred to Thor, the God of lightning; yet is it not possible that its red breast singled it out for worship from among birds, just as its red berries did the rowan from among trees, long before its worshipers had arrived at any ideas of abstract divinities?

All over the world there is a regard for things red. In the highlands women tie some red thread around the cows' tails before turning them out to grass in the spring, and tie red silk around their own fingers to keep off the witches; and just as in Esthonia mothers put some red thread in their babies cradles, so in China they tie some around their childrens' wrists, and teach them to regard red as the best known safeguard against evil spirits. Indeed, one of the chief lessons of comparative folk-lore is a caution against the theory which deduces popular traditions from Aryan or other mythology. We have already alluded to the fact that in parts of China, the same feelings prevail about the swallows as in England or Germany. But there are yet other analogies between the east and the west. A crowing hen is an object of universal dislike in England and Brittany, and few families in China will keep a crowing hen. The owl's voice is ominous of death or other calamity in England and Germany, as it was in Greece (except at Athens); but in the Celestial Empire also it presages death, and is regarded as the bird which calls for the soul.

And the crow, also is in China a bird of ill omen. Is it not, therefore, likely that all popular fancies about birds and animals have begun in the same way, among the same different races of the globe, and were subsequently adopted, but never originated by mythology? May it not be that certain birds or animals became prominent in mythology because they had already been prominent in tradition, rather than that they became prominent in tradition because they previously had been prominent in mythology? For instance, instead of tracing a dog's howling as a death omen to an Aryan belief that the dog guided the soul from its earthly tenement to its abode in heaven, may we not suppose that the myth arose from an already existing omen, and that the latter arose, as omens will do, from a coincidence which suggested a connection subsequently sustained by superficial observation? The St. Swithin fallacy which arose within historical memory and still holds its ground in an age of scientific observation, well illustrates how one striking coincidence may grow into a belief which no amount of later evidence can weaken or destroy.

Just so, if it happened that a dog howled shortly before some calamity occured to our Aryan forefathers, thousands and thousands of years ago, long before they had attained to any thoughts of soul or heaven, we can well imagine that the dog, which already betokened death, should, when they came to frame the myth, be conceived as the guide which was waiting for the soul to take it to heaven, and that the belief thus perpetuated by the myth might survive to latest ages. It, at all events, militates against the exclusively Aryan nature of the belief, and exemplifies the extraordinary coincidence of ideas among different people, that the Esquimaux lay a dog's head by the grave of a child, for "the soul of a dog can find its way everywhere, and will show the ignorant babe the way to the land of souls!"

THE SAGACITY OF ELEPHANTS.

THE services rendered by elephants to the English army during the Abyssinian expedition have suggested an article in the "*Revues des Deux Mondes*," by M. Guidoz on the use of these animals in warfare. Such an elephant as that described by Major Skinner, whose narrative is quoted by M. Guidoz, would be a valuable auxiliary at any time. According to this account, the major was riding in a forest near Kandy, when he heard a muffled sound of ourmph, ourmph, the peculiar cry of the elephant, and soon came upon a tame animal of this species, who, being left to himself, had undertaken to carry away a large beam, which he carried across his tusks, progressing, however, but slowly, owing to the narrow limits of the path which forced him to turn his head first on one side, then on the other, uttering ourmphs of vexation. Seeing the major approach, he threw down his load, and stood aside to let the man and horse pass. The major's steed trembled in every limb, when the sagacious beast, noticing his terror, backed still farther into the jungle, uttering his ourmph in a gentle and encouraging tone; and as soon as the horse had summoned up courage to proceed, he re-appeared, took up the beam once more, and resumed his arduous undertaking. It seems almost sacrilege to contemplate employing animals so considerate and reasonable in the questionable operations of man against man.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

COLONNADE HOTEL, PHILA., May 20, 1876.

REGARDING the material comfort of visitors to the Centennial, it would seem that self-interest and hospitality had conspired to make the journey of the stranger paths of pleasantness. He will have his dinner of herbs *and* contentment if he is wise.

The journey being ended and the passenger having arrived in Philadelphia, the next question is where to obtain board and lodging. He can have a choice between the down-town hotels, the private houses under the management of the Lodging House Agency, the regular private boarding houses, and the numerous hotels located near the Exhibition buildings. If he decides to go to one of the latter, and arrives via the Pennsylvania Road, he need not look for a carriage or an omnibus, for he can easily walk the few blocks intervening between the Centennial station and the hotel. But if he avails himself of accommodations in the city, which will be from two to five miles distant from the depot, he will take one of the Transfer Company's coaches and pay fifty cents for a ride and forty cents for each piece of heavy baggage. If he is acquainted in the city, or can learn of the exact location of his proposed lodgings, he can go by street car, the fare being seven cents.

Several lines of street cars start from near the station and run to all parts of Philadelphia. If the visitor does not wish to stop at the Centennial station, he can go to the regular Pennsylvania depot in West Philadelphia, which is a mile nearer the heart of the city, from whence he can take a transfer coach or a street car to the exhibition, or to any part of the city. Those who go to down-town hotels or boarding houses will save time, by going to the West Philadelphia depot. If for any reason the visitor should decide not to take a transfer coach or street car he can avail himself of a carriage or cab, with trunk or valise, and go not exceeding one mile for fifty cents; over one mile and not exceeding two, seventy-five cents. If the distance be over two miles, each additional mile will be twenty-five cents. Carriages and cabs can be hired at the rate of $1 per hour, going from place to place and stopping as often as required.

Among the limited corporations formed for the care and comfort of the million is the Centennial Lodging House Agency. This agency was organized to supply the demand for lodgings on the part of those unable to secure satisfactory hotel accommodations. The agency has secured about 4,000 rooms in 1,700 different private houses, where they expect to be able to furnish lodging, breakfast, and supper to 10,000 or 15,000 visitors. Applications are received from householders who are willing to receive guests, and the agency sends an inspector to survey the premises, and determine whether the accommodations are likely to be satisfactory. If the inspector reports favorably a contract is made, of which the following is one of the provisions:

And I do hereby further contract and agree that said lodging rooms shall be furnished with such good, clean, and comfortable beds and bedding, soap, towels, chamber-sets, and furniture as shall meet with the approval of said agency's inspector, and that daily changes of said linen, towels, etc., shall be made unless occupied by same lodger more than one night, and then such change shall be made not less than twice each week; also, to furnish good, cleanly, and comfortable meals. Breakfast to consist of coffee and tea, with bread and butter, warm meat or fish, and vegetables. Supper to consist of tea and coffee, with meat, bread, and butter, etc., and what may be regarded as constituting a good, ordinary meal. The agency not to be responsible for extra meals furnished said guests.

Orders for tickets issued by this association will be for sale at railroad offices throughout the country. Messengers in the employ of the agency will be on passenger trains approaching Philadelphia, and will furnish each holder of an order with a ticket in exchange, supplying minute directions by which such lodgings as are desired may be reached by street car or otherwise. The ticket is the stranger's letter of introduction to the householder. The charge will be $2.50 per day for lodging, supper, and breakfast, the guest to pay the agency, and the latter to settle with the householder. The agency have no contracts by which they will be enabled to furnish board by the week. If in any case more tickets are purchased than are required, the agency will redeem them without discount. The agency houses furnish no dinners; these will have to be procured at or near the grounds.

In addition to the boarding houses controlled by the agency, there are about 2,000 which are "regular," and which must be hunted up by the visitor. At some of those board by the week may be obtained at from $12 to $15.

As will be seen from the above showing, the visitor will necessarily be compelled to pay from $3.50 per day (which allows $1 for dinner for Lodging House Agency guests) to $5 per day, for the wherewithal to keep soul and body together. Those who stop at the hotels near the grounds will have no transfer charges to pay, but persons lodging in the city at hotels or boarding houses will have added to their other expenses street car, coach, or cab fare, seven cents for the former and fifty cents for the latter. Whether the visitor resorts to a coach, a car, or his legs, he will not be able to compass the distance between the Exhibition buildings and the city in less time than an hour.

The Patrons of Husbandry, or as they are more familiarly called, the Grangers, have made preparations on an extensive scale for the accommodation of members of their order during the exhibition. A tract of land at Elm station on the Pennsylvania road, about four miles and a-half from the Centennial grounds has been secured, and arrangements have been made with the railroad company by which passengers are to be conveyed to and from the grounds, from this locality for fifteen cents a round trip or ten cents one way. Wooden buildings have been erected capable of accommodating two thousand four hundred people, and the tariff of prices has been fixed at fifty cents for every meal and fifty cents for a night's lodging. For persons who desire to spend the day within the Centennial grounds, but who may not care to go to the restaurants in the grounds, lunches will be prepared. The buildings are located upon high ground, with a number of springs and fine trees in the vicinity. The buildings each contain ninety-two rooms, forty-six on either side of a broad corridor. The rooms are twelve by eight feet; and the doors all open on the corridor, light and air being admitted by numerous windows and transoms.

As a rule, I have found that the *cheap* hotels contiguous to the grounds too fully justify the appellation. It seems to have been the object of the owners to throw up crude structures and trust to luck and the wall paper to hold them together; but there is an honorable exception. At the foot of George's Hill, within easy distance to that entrance, stands a monster building, the Atlas Hotel, which, on inspection, leaves an agreeable impression. Unlike the other hotels near the grounds, it is pleasantly located, having an abundance of shade trees. The fittings are not precisely such as one would find in a palace, but they are neat and *clean*. The restaurant is independent of the hotel, or *a la carte*, and is under the management of Mr. MICHAEL RILEY. The lodging accommodations are $1 per day, and the prices in the restaurant are a grateful contrast to what is charged in and about the Exhibition grounds. Mr. RILEY is the caterer who has made the Colonnade table famous, which fact is an appetizing indorsement of this restaurant. This hotel should not be left out of the expense calculation of the visitor.

As for looking up private lodgings the files of the "Philadelphia Ledger" will furnish copious information. YOUNG RURAL.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

THE main circle of the grand chandelier for the Main Building is 75 feet in diameter.

THE Philadelphia horse railways are capable of delivering 40,000 people an hour at the Centennial grounds.

THE mammoth vases sent from the celebrated Sevres establishment will attract great attention in the French department.

THE Canadian goods, consisting of carpet-looms, silks, worsteds, and ribbons, are in their places in the Women's Pavillion.

THE original Declaration of Independence will be on exhibition in the National Museum in Independence Hall during the entire time of the Exposition.

THE choicest works of the Royal Porcelain manufactory at Berlin are in an elegant pavilion which the Prussians have erected in the Main Building.

THE post-office arrangements within the grounds are very complete. Collections are made by the carriers every hour at prominent points.

ENGLISH cattle-breeders, designing to compete at the Centennial, are making numerous applications to the English Centennial Commission in London.

SEVEN Short-Horned cattle purchased direct from the farm of Queen Victoria will be among the exhibits of Mr. Grant, the large landholder of Kansas.

THE great steam engine at the Centennial weighs 600 tons; will drive eight miles of shafting; has a fly-wheel thirty feet in diameter, and weighing seventy tons; is of 1400 horse-power, with a capacity of being forced to 2500 horse-power; has two walking-beams, weighing twenty-two tons each; two forty-inch cylinders, a ten-foot stroke; a crank shaft nineteen inches in diameter and twelve feet in length; connecting-rods twenty-four feet in length, and piston-rods 4 inches in diameter. The platform upon which it rests is fifty-five feet in diameter, and composed of polished iron plates resting upon brick foundations that extend far down into the earth. The hight from the floor to the top of the walking-beam is thirty-nine feet.

Arboricultural.

FIRE BLIGHT IN THE PEAR.

THIS disease of the pear has been for years a source of annoyance and loss to our orchardists, and its cause wholly unknown. Scientists, until lately, have also failed to discover its origin, and, although sometimes attributed to the attacks of microscopic fungi, the assertions were little more than a matter of opinion; no one seeming to know positively whether a fungus was the cause or not. But in an essay on "Fungi and Fruit Diseases," read by THOMAS MEEHAN before the last session of the American Pomological Society, we find a very clear and concise description of the disease, as well as the latest discoveries in regard to its fungoid origin. Mr. MEEHAN says: "That this (pear blight) is of fungoid origin is now clear, from the researches of Dr. J. GIBBONS HUNT. Dr. H. is President of the Biological Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, an excellent botanist, and one, as a rule, skilled in microscopy as you and I are with the pruning-knife. He finds that a very minute fungus germinates on the bark, enters the structure, destroying the cells as it goes till it reaches the alburnum, and then it penetrates clear to the pith by the way of the medullary rays, totally destroying the branch from center to circumference. Dr. HUNT was not one of those who believed in fungoid diseases. Indeed, I believe Dr. H., if he really had any prejudice at all, was impressed with the idea that the fungus found in pear blight was but a follower of the disease. But there is no other conclusion here than that arrived at by Dr. H., that in the true fire blight fungi are the cause of the disease.

The fire blight attacked large branches, destroying them rapidly, because all connection with sap-collecting roots was cut off; but there were numerous diseases of the pear similar to fire blight, but not so destructive, because the fungus did not penetrate the roots.

It may be that fungi causing these appearances are forms of other fungus, for it is now known that many characters are assumed at various stages of growth of these little plants. One of these diseases appears as a sort of bark-scaling at a period anterior to that when the pear becomes naturally rough-barked, which is not till its twelfth year. This does not penetrate deep enough to affect seriously the inner bark, still that it has a bad effect on health is apparent, from the fact that trees with it have their leaves turn a red or brown color early in the fall, showing that their nutrition has not been perfect.

Another form attacks the green bark of five and six year old branches, making dead patches of an inch or more, surrounded by the healthy green bark. Where the destruction terminates there is a separation, and the appearance is much as if the irregular patch had been marked by the edge of a knife. Still another form seems to confine itself to the spurs. It eats out the structure at the junction with the main branch, and gives the tree a peculiar appearance. Dead leaves and spurs everywhere, but the main shoots and branches as healthy as they possibly can be.

LATE TRANSPLANTING OF TREES.

IT sometimes occurs that it becomes necessary to transplant trees late in the season, or after the buds have swelled or new growth commenced. This can be done quite safely if due caution is given in protecting the roots from light and air.

In removing trees or small shrubs after growth has commenced, we have a watering-pot full of water near by, and as soon as the tree is dug up, the roots are re-sprinkled until every one is thoroughly wet, then fine earth is scattered over all the large roots and small fibers, thus preventing them from being affected by the light, as well as becoming dry while being packed up or removed from one part of the grounds to another.

A portion of the branches is also removed, and usually it is best to do this before digging up, because the pruning can be done much more systematically and readily while the tree is fixed in the earth than afterwards; besides, it lessens evaporation in proportion to the number of young shoots and leaves removed.

Trees and shrubs of moderate size may be removed quite safely, even after growth has commenced in spring, if these precautionary measures are strictly followed.

Where trees have been left heeled-in until growth has commenced, the roots may be puddled as taken out, that is, dipped into a solution of earth and water of the consistency of thin mortar. This should always be done when trees are to be set out in a windy day, for a few moments drying will frequently make one-half difference in the growth of a tree the first season, even if all other conditions be favorable.

EARLY-RIPENING TREE-SEEDS.

THERE are many persons who have spent a long life among elms and silver maple trees, but never noticed that their seeds ripened in the spring instead of fall. This is not strange, because we are not inclined to notice things in which we are not particularly interested.

But should there be any of our readers who care to grow silver or scarlet maples, or the American elm, from seed, we would advise them to commence looking out for seed this month, or the first of the next, in more northern localities. The seeds of these trees ripen quite early in the season, and if gathered as soon as they begin to fall, or soon after they have fallen, and sown immediately in a well-prepared seed-bed, young trees one to two feet high can be grown from them before next winter.

Very frequently one can find trees along the roadsides where seeds falling on clean, hard soil can be swept up in large quantities if they are wanted. The seeds of the trees named are very delicate, and will not remain sound for any considerable time, even if kept in a cool, dry place, therefore it is always best to sow them soon after gathering. But a very slight covering of soil is required, not more than a half-inch, and less is better, especially if it is inclined to become hard after a shower. A hint to the wise on this matter should be sufficient to make them open their eyes and look about, if new plantations of these trees be desired or old ones extended.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Not a Paying Business.—The commonly-received opinion that the business of fire insurance is a profitable one, as compared with others, is entitled to many grains of allowance. Here and there a small company, confining its insurance to the vicinity of its office, may make a large dividend out of the savings of an exceptionally fortunate year, but, taking a number of years together, the leading agency companies have made very small profits indeed. It appears from some recently-published statistics that the premiums of twenty-eight large companies, from the date of their organization to the time of the Chicago fire, but not including this calamity, were two hundred and fifty millions, and the expenditures two hundred and twenty-three millions. The difference of these figures amounts to a little more than a profit of ten per cent.—a rate usually regarded as unremunerative now in less hazardous times of business. Besides, nearly a dozen of these twenty-eight were ruined by the great fire alluded to, leaving the aggregate gain of the remainder even less satisfactory.

Lurking Dangers.—During the Centennial year, with its ebullitions of noisy patriotism, there will be a large sale and use of explosive toys. Most, if not all, of those that explode by concussion are composed of some preparation or combination of nitro glycerine. Children especially will purchase and "pop" innocent-looking wafers and long strips of prepared paper, which, taken singly, are comparatively safe, but are capable, used in considerable quantities, of a deal of hurt. A few years ago the accidental fall of a box of candy torpedoes caused a fearful explosion, and, later, a similar accident to a lot of toys in a show window on Broadway did scarcely less damage. The best way to avoid the consequent danger is to avoid the use of such toys. A grain or so of dynamite between the thumb and finger of a child may lead to a great destruction of property.

This Will Hurt Somebody.—For many years some of the life companies have required of those who obtain loans of money from them some additional security (?) in the shape of a heavy life insurance policy. This practice has been condemned by a Kansas Court as being usurious, because the borrower pays something more than interest upon the loan. In this condemnation is included also the exaction of bonuses and fees, or any consideration whatever other than legal interest. The companies referred to, will doubtless take measures to avoid violations of the rule based upon this decision.

Good News.—We are glad to learn that the better class of companies confining their insurances to detached and farm risks are more prosperous than at any former period. We claim no small share of the credit of this, because of our persistent advocacy of the expediency and safety of confining farm risks to farmers' companies.

Domestic Economy.

REPLY TO HATTIE F. BELL.

DEAR FRIEND: Ever since I saw your article in the RURAL my sympathies have all been enlisted in your behalf, for if there is one thing in the cooking line I love better than another it is a good pot-pie, and to be able to make one is no trifling matter. I will give my mother's recipe, which I have tried and always with the greatest success. Your failure in making pot pie and ludicrous description of it, reminds me of my first attempt to make biscuits.

My mother leaving home for a few days, I concluded to have a mess of biscuits all of my own manufacturing, and such biscuits! They never raised from the time I put them in the oven until they were raised from the tin, and, instead of increasing in size, they increased in weight. Just because they were biscuits we managed to eat sparingly of them. Father declares six would weigh a pound, and, after sundry attempts and many failures to soak them for the chickens, I was compelled (from the force of circumstances) to leave them for mother's inspection. I can make them now, but (as you say of your pot-pie) I cannot make a respectable soft cake—one that is really palatable—with the same recipe mother uses, which is delicious. Mine comes from the oven in such a sorry plight that, unless the chickens will condescend to eat them, they are a failure.

Now for the pot-pie. Take good, thick buttermilk, sufficient for the quantity required, and soda, as you would for biscuit, mixing a little stiffer. Let it stand and raise one hour before boiling. The first twenty minutes given to cooking leave the kettle uncovered, then cover closely till done.

My recipe for ginger cookies:—1 cup sugar; 1 do. molasses; 1 do. butter; two eggs; ginger to taste; one teaspoonful of soda, with just enough water to dissolve the soda.

Pony Hollow. LU.

THE IRREPROACHABLE WAY TO BROIL A STEAK.

FIRST see that the fire is clear and not too much of it; open wide all the drafts, to carry off the smoke that is made during the process of broiling; then see that the gridiron is smooth and quite clean; rub it well with whiting or chalk; lay on your steak. Do not pound it, nor after it is on the fire, stick a fork into it, as the juice will escape. Neither salt nor pepper it; do that on the dish. Place the gridiron close to the fire for the first few minutes, to carbonize the surface, then turn it over quickly to carbonize the other side. Now it should be exposed to a slower fire, to do which, place two bricks on their edges, and rest the gridiron on them. The steak should be turned repeatedly and carefully, and when it feels rather firm to the touch it is rare, and, if so liked, it should be taken off, laid on a hot dish, on which 1½ ounces of butter has been melted, less than one-half teaspoonful of salt, a pinch of white pepper and one teaspoonful of chopped parsley, well mixed; lay the steak on one side and then on the other. Serve immediately.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Cracker Recipe Wanted.—If you or any of your subscribers have a recipe for making crackers, known to be a good one, its publication in your columns will much oblige an old patron of your excellent paper.—C. C.

Lemon Pie.—Boil in 1½ quarts of water, the juice, pulp and grated peel of two lemons. Add, when it boils, three heaping tablespoonfuls of flour, mixed smooth with cold water. Before it cools, add two teacups of sugar, three well-beaten eggs, a piece of butter half the size of an egg, and a little salt. Bake with under and upper crusts.

My Recipe for Pot-Pie.—One coffee-cup of sweet milk; one tablespoonful of butter; one heaping teaspoonful of baking-powder, added to flour enough to make a very *stiff batter*. Have just water enough in the pot to cover the meat, *but not the dough*; drop in the mixture by the spoonful; cover tight; boil fifteen minutes, and you will have a light, delicious crust.—MRS. RUSTIC.

Velvet Cream.—In reply to C. G. in RURAL of May 13, I will give my recipe for Velvet Cream; Half a box of Cox's gelatine in a third of a teacup of tepid water and two glasses of sherry wine. When thoroughly dissolved, flavor and sweeten one quart of rich milk; add to jelly; stir well, and strain into molds. To be eaten cold with cream. It is best to be made the day before it is used.—MRS. RUSTIC.

Apple Meringue.—Prepare six large tart apples for sauce; while hot put in a piece of butter the size of an egg. When cold add a cup of fine crackers or bread crumbs, the yelks of three eggs well beaten, a little salt, sugar and nutmeg to taste. Bake in a large plate, with undercrust and rim of rich paste. When done take the white of eggs, beaten to froth; half cup of powdered sugar and some flavoring; pour over the top and brown slightly.—W. E. J.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Apple Float.—A pint of stewed, well-mashed apples, the whites of three eggs beaten to a stiff froth, four large tablespoonfuls of sugar, then add the apples, and beat all together until stiff enough to stand alone; fill a deep dish with whipped cream or boiled custard, and pile the plant on top. This is excellent with other fruits.

Egg Sandwiches.—Boil fresh eggs 5 minutes; put them in cold water, and when quite cold peel them; then, after taking a little white off each end of the eggs, cut the remainder in four slices. Lay them between bread and butter,

Hygienic Information.

ADVICE TO YOUNG MOTHER.

IN answer to "A Young Mother's" inquiry in the RURAL of May 6, I give my opinion, the result of considerable experience. The best time to wean children is when they are a year to a year and a half old. A child a year old in the spring should be weaned as early as March, that it may get accustomed to a change of diet before the warm weather comes on, or else it should be nursed until November. September or October are not safe months, as at those periods diarrhea is most prevalent, and, therefore, a cooler season is better.

The practice, which used to prevail, of the mother leaving the child to the care of the father or some other person through the night, while weaning, was one of needless cruelty. Some persons feed the child with bread and milk through the day, and after it gets asleep at night nurse it again for two or three nights. It is thought that the change, being more gradual, is not felt as much.

As to food, if a child likes and thrives on bread and milk, that is the best food for it; but beefsteak and mealy potatoes are not hurtful to healthy children.

The disposition of a child makes a difference about the trouble of weaning. Some are more yielding than others. But in rearing children, as in many other things, a little experience of your own is worth a great deal of other people's advice. A MOTHER.

MORE ADVICE ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT.

FOR the information of Mrs. H. A. B., who desires to learn the best method of weaning her infant boy, I would suggest that the health of the mother has much to do with it. If she is well and vigorous and her baby healthy, it will do to nurse him until he is twelve or fourteen months old. It is not healthy, for themselves or children, for some mothers to nurse them.

If the mother is not strong and her baby sickly, the sooner she weans him the better. A child should be accustomed to bread and other kinds of plain food before weaning; then there is not so great a change. Beware of arrowroot and all such food! It weakens the stomach, rendering it unable to digest anything. The best months for weaning are February, March and April; or if in the fall, November. Never wean in summer. W. E. S.

ADVICE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT.

MANY housekeepers injure themselves needlessly by lifting wash-tubs or wash-boilers half full of water. It takes longer, of course, to dip water out of a tub than to carry it away, but it pays in the long run; and what kind of forethought is there in setting the wash-boiler on the floor, filling it with water, and then lifting it on the stove? One such exertion of strength hurts a person more than a week's steady work.

FARMER'S WIFE.

THE VITALITY OF THE JEWS.

IT is claimed by those who have made vital statistics a special study, that the Jews are the longest lived race of people in the world. Their immunity from diseases of all forms is remarkable. Even the great epidemics pass them by with the infliction of a much lighter scourge than falls upon other races. It is declared that the cholera never chose one of them for its victim, and, in fact, the deaths from this malady have been so few as almost to bear out the assertion. Suicide is seldom practiced among them. It has been computed, from statistics returned in certain provinces of Austria and Germany, that in a population of 1,000,000, the proportion of suicides between the Jews and the mixed white races was one to four. From data carefully studied, Hoffman found that, between the years of 1823 and 1840, the number of still-born among the Jews of Germany was as 1 in 39, and amongst other races as 1 in 30. Mayer ascertained that, in Furth, the proportion of Jewish children who die between the ages of 1 and 5 years is 10 per cent., and of Christian children of the same age it is 14 per cent. M. Neuville, calculating from the statistics of Frankfort, shows even a greater vitality existing among the children of the Jews. He also finds from his data that the average duration of the life of the Jew is 47 years and 9 months, while of the Christian it is 36 years and 11 months. "In the total of all ages, half of the Jews born reach the age of 36 years only."

One fourth of the Jewish population live beyond 71 years, but the same proportion of the Christian population live beyond 59 years and 10 months. The official returns of Prussia give the Jews a mortality of 1.61 per cent., and the whole kingdom 2.62 per cent. While the Jews double their numbers in 41½ years, others require a period of 51 years. In 1849 there was in Prussia 1 death for every 32 of the remaining population. Commenting upon these statistics, which are brought together by Dr. Richardson in "Diseases of Modern Life," that author ascribes the high vitality of the Jews to their sober way of living. "The Jew drinks less than his 'even' Christian; he takes, as a rule, better food; he marries earlier; he rears the children he has brought into the world with greater personal care; he tends the aged more thoughtfully; he takes better care of his poor; and he takes good care of himself; he does not boast of to-morrow, but provides for it; and he holds tenaciously to all he gets. To our Saxon eyes and Celtic eyes he carries these virtues too far; but thereby he wins, becomes powerful, and scorning boisterous mirth and passion, is comparatively happy."

IMAGINATION AND DISEASE.

THERE is much more in this than many people suppose; at least, the unobserving and unreflecting do not understand how much influence and effect the will, the imagination, has over the health and vigor of body and mind. A man of strong resolution can bring on or resist disease or unhappy feelings by the very power of his will and mental actions. The following is to the point:

DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF.

The Journal of Health says:—To regain or recover health, persons should be relieved from all anxiety concerning diseases. The mind has power over the body. For a person to think he has a disease will often produce that disease. This we see effected when the mind is intensely concentrated upon the disease of another. It is found in the hospitals that physicians and surgeons who make a specialty of a certain disease are liable to die of it themselves; and the mental power is so great that sometimes people die of diseases which they only have in imagination. We have seen a person sea-sick, in anticipation of a voyage, before reaching the vessel. We have known a person to die of cancer in the stomach when he had no cancer or any other mortal disease. A man, blindfolded and slightly pricked in the arm, has fainted and died from believing that he was bleeding to death. Therefore, persons in health, and desiring to continue so, should at all times be cheerful and happy, and those who are sick should have their attention drawn as much as possible from themselves. It is by their faith men are saved, and also by their faith that they die. If a man wills not to die, he can live in spite of disease; and if he has little or no attachment to life, he will slip away as easily as a child falls asleep. Men live by their souls and not by their bodies. Their bodies have no life of themselves; they are only resources of life—tenements of their souls. The will has much to do in continuing the physical occupancy or giving it up.

PLANTS AS SANITARY SCOUTS.

A LONDON journal raises the question, "How comes it that such a well known and sensitive plant as the camellia suffers so much in so many living rooms and windows, that many have given up its cultivation?" and proceeds to answer it thus: "It is an easy matter to remove the plants and to substitute others of less value. But might it not be far wiser to inquire into the causes of the leaves turning yellow, and the buds dropping off, as they frequently do in living rooms and window gardens? Is it not, in fact, more than probable that the causes that injure such plants as camellias also injure the human occupants? What are the chief causes that turn the leaves of plants yellow in living rooms or make their buds fall? They are chiefly these: gas and fire-dried atmosphere, sudden drafts and extreme alternations of temperature. Are these more salutary or less injurious to men than to plants? They are more mischievous to us than to plants. The parched atmosphere of our rooms is a constant cause of irritation to weakly or diseased lungs. It dries up the natural juices of the body, excites thirst, and causes exhaustion, and perhaps one of the most grateful and wholesome changes that could be effected in our dwelling-houses would be the genializing, by some skillful means, of our gas, lamp and fire-burnt atmoshpere, that delicate women and children inhale all day and all night long. The plants cannot stand it with impunity, neither can we."

MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.

I NOTICE an article in the RURAL, copied from the Western Farm Journal, showing how membraneous croup was cured by a steam bath. To Hydropathic physicians this disease is not at all alarming. Their practice is to wrap a wet cloth round the throat and chest, covered by a dry one; to give small bits of ice from time to time, or sips of ice-cold water, which the patient retains in the mouth as long as possible; to keep the feet warm, and the head cool by sponging. Provided this course is adopted before the patient's strength is entirely exhausted, there is no danger of a fatal result.—H.

Suggestions like the above are always welcome when they are the result of experience in the treatment of diseases, and our columns are open to whatever information may be contributed for the benefit of our readers.—ED.

Around the Republic.

IN PRAISE OF KANSAS.

SINCE the publication of an extract from a letter written by me on Jan. 24, I have received numerous letters asking for further information in regard to the natural resources of this country. With your permission, I will endeavor to show the advantages of this part of the West to the man of limited means.

We have a climate superior to that of any other country now opened up for settlement. It being in latitude 38° north (which is the same as that of Central Kentucky and Virginia), it is far enough south, and yet is delightfully tempered by the rapidly-increasing altitude toward the mountains, which secures a healthy, breezy atmosphere.

Having had an experience of over three years in this part of the State, I can say, in truth, that it is the healthiest country in America. Doctors find it very difficult to live by their profession here, and some of them have had under contemplation the erection of a distillery, in order to prepare victims for their practice.

We have an elevation of from 1,500 to 5,000 feet at Pueblo, rising at an average of eight feet to the mile. This, with the well-drained surface of the land, no stagnant water or overflowed lands, tells the story of its healthful climate.

The fertility of the soil cannot be surpassed, consisting of a large proportion of thoroughly-drained valley land, producing bountiful crops of all the grains, fruits and vegetables of the temperate zone.

Having come from Central New York, where we could boast of the best and purest waters in the world, I can say by actual experience that the waters of the wells, springs and streams in Southwestern Kansas compare very favorably with those of my native State. We have water in abundance from our numerous springs and creeks, or by digging from six to fifty feet for it.

We are fast filling up with the cream of Eastern immigration, which has given this new country prosperous towns, churches, schools, mills, and the society and conveniences of a well-settled community.

Winter wheat, of which there was a large quantity sown last fall, is looking splendidly, many pieces standing from three to four feet high and just ready to head out. Wheat never kills out here in the winter. Winter wheat is destined to become the great staple product of the Arkansas Valley, and it has been demonstrated beyond a chance of successful contradiction that whoever sows wheat here in proper order is sure of a good crop.

I was out in the country a few days ago, and among the many large fields of wheat which I saw was that of Judge Ross of Penn, comprising over four hundred acres, and most of it is sown on sod. I noticed that the portion sown on the newly-broken prairie was the best, proving the fact that a good crop of wheat can be raised on our prairies from the first breaking.

I would mention another fact in this connection: Judge Ross is a land speculator, but takes a very different course to make money from most of that class who go to a new country and buy up wild lands. He is a fair sample of the numerous moneyed men who are coming here daily and purchasing lands of the A. T. and S. F. R. R. Co. and putting them under cultivation. They have learned that it will pay to do so; and if it will pay for that class who have all of the help to hire, it certainly must be profitable for the man of small means who can do the work himself.

Newton, Kansas. B. M. HOUSE.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

ANDREW S. FULLER, Editor.

ELBERT S. CARMAN, - - Associate Editor.

X. A. WILLARD, A. M., Little Falls, N. Y.,
EDITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DAIRY HUSBANDRY.

G. A. C. BARNETT, Publisher.

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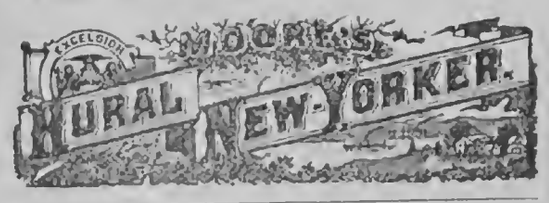

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1876.

THE CENTENNIAL.

THE position always maintained by the RURAL NEW-YORKER is favorable to Fairs and all Industrial Exhibitions. The value of the information obtained by the people through their means, which would not be obtained in any other way cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. It is said that one of the strong foundations of the affection which the French nation had for NAPOLEON III. was his faculty of keeping them constantly amused and, while such a statement may place a nation in a somewhat undignified and childish position, the facts and results will bear us out in saying that the American public is not exempt from a similar desire to learn recreatively rather than studiously. Notwithstanding the practical turn of mind which is so prominent a characteristic of the Average American he is eminently human and will receive and retain knowledge much more readily through pleasant and agreeable channels than in any other way. Much has been urged in favor of the Kindergarten, or object teaching, as a means of imparting knowledge to the childish mind; but nothing however, which would not be equally applicable to our adult Kindergartens, (if such an incongruous expression is permissible) the Industrial Exhibitions.

Of all the great Expositions of this world, in many respects the Centennial at Philadelphia is the greatest. In magnitude it not only compares favorably with its predecessors in foreign countries, but far exceeds them. No citizen of the United States, whether male or female, aged or young, who can command the means, should fail to attend it this summer. There seems to be nothing in which any one can be interested which cannot be found there. If one can imagine the largest of our State Fairs one thousand times magnified, it would inadequately convey an idea of Philadelphia Exhibition.

Then again from a patriotic point of view, the beholder is almost lost in admiration of the progress made by this national family in one century, of the favorable comparison of their productions with those of other nations and of the general cunning of the great people of which he himself is an integral part. With a hundred thousand others around him he may form a mutual admiration society and indulge to his hearts content in that sort of spread-eagle self laudation which most people affect to despise; but of which a reasonable modicum is almost a necessity and quite a benefit to any nation on earth.

From present indications, the Centennial can hardly be a financial success; but it is already a success in every other way. Don't think however to run through it and discover this in one day. The foreign departments alone will occupy the most cursory observer much more time than that. Less than a week's attendance can hardly give one an idea of it in all is immensity. A more suitable location than Fairmount Park could hardly have been chosen. The beauty of the surroundings adds largely to the elegance of some of the structures, while the accessibility to all parts of the grounds renders the labor of sight seeing comparatively light. As we shall see but one Centennial, let us make the most of it.

THE CENTENNIAL DAIRY RING AGAIN.

IN the RURAL NEW-YORKER of March 11 and subsequent issues, we gave a number of facts relative to the Centennial Committee of Am. Dairymen's Association and the manner in which a few of their number sought to control the action of the whole for the immediate benefit of the few. Various of our contemporaries saw fit to censure our action in the matter as ungenerous and unpatriotic, attributing it to motives of personal feeling instead of to a high-minded intention of giving to the public the truth, without regard to whom or where it might strike. Among the numerous parties supposed to be in the confidence of that *select few* and who rushed into print in their defence, was JOHN H. REALL of Philadelphia. In his manly, straightforward letter published below, he admits his error and confesses to have discovered a portion of the facts already well-known to us and which were the basis of our position in the matter. We are sorry if any of our friends are hurt, and can only give them the consolation of gratuitous advice, to keep out of bad company in future. A careful perusal of Mr. REALL'S letter (as well as the letter of Mr. O. S. BLISS of Vermont, published on another page of this issue) is all the vindication needed for anything we may have said in the past regarding the RING and is also an assurance that, hit whom or where it may, the RURAL NEW-YORKER will always be ready to pounce upon fraud and expose corruption.

Even with all this before them we do not advise Dairymen to abstain from exhibiting at the Centennial; but on the contrary, we should say that a more beneficial thing could not happen to the Dairy interest of this country than a large and successful display at Philadelphia under any circumstances. In view of the facts, however, let us again caution the exhibitors to see to it that the funds are not diverted from their proper economical channel and that justice is maintained in the distribution of the awards. Mr. REALL writes:

PHILADELPHIA, May 19th, 1876.

J. V. H. SCOVILLE, *Chairman Centennial Committee American Dairymen's Association*:

SIR—I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Centennial Committee of the American Dairymen's Association, and of its executive and sub-executive Committees, and in doing so, I would say, that the step is not made without due deliberation, having carried a letter of resignation in my pocket since the 23d day of March. I became fully convinced months before that date, that you were totally unfit for the high position you occupy in the Committee as Executive Officer, (to which you were somehow appointed,) and almost every subsequent step of yours has developed proclivities by no means creditable to one who has undertaken what should be an unselfish work, and which might have been one of incalculable advantage to the Dairy industry.

Instead of maintaing harmony in the committee, and conducting the work with high minded zeal and intergity, you have, by scheming, and the exercise of personal favoritisms and personal animosities, not only created dissensions in the committee and estranged some of the best members from its labors, but you have excited the distrust and disrespect of the Dairymen of the Nation.

I have delayed resigning, hoping a change for the better might occur, and being unwilling to impede the progress towards a Dairy Exhibition Building; but within a brief period, you have given new evidence of your unfairness, to use a very mild term, and an imperfect building being in a fair way of completion, I must in justice to myself, refuse to have my name longer connected with the enterprise, especially since you have treated with great discourtesy several members of the committee; and after the Canadians were given to understand, when they made their subscription, that the building would be properly refrigerated, you have had the effrontery to secure the passage of a resolution by the committee, in the absence of myself and others, asking them to pay the expense. As the Building being erected is entirely in accordance with your desires, as I judge from your support of the plans, in season and out of season, you will of course take the responsibility of its suitableness for the purpose. I cannot, however, recommend it to the Dairymen or Cheese-factorymen of the country, and, for their pecuniary interest, shall advise them to keep their goods at home, unless the Centennial Commission will take entire charge of it at once and adapt it to its uses, and provide for its management, an end to be desired by every Dairyman interested in the Exhibition: as then, and not till then, will it be properly built and managed.

It is now unsafe for Cheese or Butter, as I have repeatedly said it would be, and my opinion is indorsed by leading Dairymen who have seen it. A much superior structure could have been erected at one-third less expense, as I am prepared to prove.

You and your associates having seen proper to unjustly construe my motives, in supporting other plans than those from which you are building, I call your attention to the fact that the cardinal principles of the plans that I have advocated were unanimously indorsed by the General Committee, whose wishes you have utterly ignored.

Mr. Pope after examining said plans, told more than one gentlemen that there were features in them that he preferred to Blanding's plans, so called, yet for inexplicable reasons, you and he have pushed them nearly to completion. The plans that I have advocated were submitted entire to Prof. Arnold, after examining which he wrote Prof. W. as follows:—"*They are all that is required; such a building will satisfy exhibitors.*"

You deserve to be called to account for the manner in which yourself and others of the Committee, are incurring expense by repeated and entirely unnecessary trips to and from this City, Utica, Albany, etc. If you continue as in the past, the entire amount subscribed will be squandered. It is an outrage upon the Dairymen and Merchants at large, and upon your own State, which has contributed to the fund. Inasmuch as your State appropriation is made with the explicit statement that none of the funds shall be used for the committee's expenses, and the Centennial Commission will certainly not pay them from the people's money. I assume that you expect to realize the amount from a tax on the exhibits. If the Dairymen submit to such an exaction, I have nothing to say. But they obtain their money in too laborious and self-sacrificing a manner to suffer such imposition.

In conclusion, let me advise that you do not carry into practice the proposition made by one of your managers, to exact from the Centennial Commission $2,000, or any other sum above the actual cost of the building, as pay for your services and the services of others, simply because you think you can build cheaper than the Commission, whom, I have no doubt, expect a much superior building to that you are erecting. Neither Prof. Wilkinson, Prof. Willard, Mr. Bliss, Mr. Folsom, or myself expect, or would take a penny for anything we have done or may do, and the Dairymen do not understand that they are to pay any one directly or indirectly. The proposition is both dishonorable and unjust, and will disgrace all connected with it.

I refrain from mentioning your accomplices by name, leaving those of whose position I am not certain, to expose themselves. At the proper time I shall, if occasion requires it, give the particulars of your disgraceful conduct.

J. H. REALL.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Pomological Display. — It would seem that the shriek of our National bird had sadly disconcerted the good judgment of the gentlemen who manage our agricultural affairs at the Centennial, for on no other hypothesis can we account for a Pomological show at this season. Of the display we will say nothing, it is beneath notice, and does not rise to the level of wholesome contempt. We might, good-naturedly, tolerate vagaries of this kind at home, but when we consider the sharp, well-trained, foreign eyes, that ceaselessly watch this National exhibit of ourselves, we ought, surely, to astonish them in the right direction—with the beauty and quality of our apples. We can take a proud stand on apples. There is to be a display of small fruits this week. May the energy of the exhibitors be the reverse of the size of the fruit, and a good show given!

Bonus to Agricultural Enterprises.—The Victorian Parliament, (Australia,) has appropriated five thousand pounds for the encouragement of the cultivation and manufacture of beet-root sugar, silk and flax, and for the invention of a mechanical reaper and binder. According to the published regulations, the sum of five hundred pounds will be paid any person or company who manufacture prior to June 30, 1876, 50 tons of sugar from beet-roots grown in Victoria and a further sum of ten pounds for every ton additional, but it is stipulated that the sum paid shall not exceed two thousand pounds. The remainder of the five thousand pounds is offered in various sums for the production of the other articles named above. This is the way the English encourage agriculture even in their far-off colonies.

Disease among the Silk-worms.—A few years since our California exchanges were filled with glowing accounts of the surpassing ability of the State to raise silk-worms, and even silk, and it was broadly hinted that Japan was to be superseded in its trade in *Bromlyx Mori* eggs which for many years has been to that country a source of considerable revenue. But alas for human anticipation! the dreaded epidemic which for years has devastated most of the European sericultural districts appeared in California in 1869–70, and still remains, destroying the worm in vast numbers. Unless some preventive is soon discovered, sericulture in California will be one of the things of the past.

Norway Oats in Australia.—The black Norway oats have found their way to Australia, and a gentleman in Victoria writes that their culture has been quite satisfactory having yielded 55 bushels per acre. The yield is not only good but caterpillars which are very destructive to other sorts will not touch the Norway. In many cases the Norway oats, growing side by side with the more common varieties escaped injury, while the others were seriously damaged.

RURAL BREVITIES.

FRESHLY-slaked lime is one of the best insecticides for scattering over plants growing in the open air which may be infested with insects.

WE are pleased to notice in the last number of the Semi-Tropical that our old friend and co-laborer in agriculture, SOLON ROBINSON, still lives and wields his pen with all the vigor and directness of other days.

DOM PEDRO is said to have purchased farm machinery of Messrs. SEMPLE, BERGE & Co., while at St. Louis. Why is it that foreigners purchase their implements in this country? There must be an excellent reason for it.

MESSRS. REED & BARTON, the great Manufacturers of Silver Plated Ware, have removed their warerooms from No. 2 Maiden Lane to 686 Broadway. They certainly deserve success in their new quarters, as they have always had in their old.

A RECENT writer, in descanting on the food of nations, remarks that the Romans ate mice and the Cubans eat a climbing species of rat, while civilized men and women in America eat hog; therefore, there is little room for dispute about taste in such matters.

A NEW way to drive a rival out of the field is broached by the owner of one of the two patents to make comb-foundation for the apiary. He proposes to give his patent to the public if his rival will do the same, thereby removing all chance for jealousy and lawsuits.

SERVANT-GALISM, which troubles some city people so much, is said by a contemporary to be phenomenal, for no other country before has ever refused to do its own "chores" and then called in an army of foreigners for the purpose. This is equivalent to saying that there are a great many lazy people about, which is doubtless true.

PHILADELPHIA claims to have been the first to give to the world the iron roller, now so extensively used in gardens and upon the farm, and this, too, only about thirty years ago. It's a pity to spoil so good a story, but cast-iron rollers are not a Yankee invention. They were in use in England in the beginning of this century, if not before.

MR. FRANZ XAVIER HESSINGER, Landscape Gardener and Architect, whose card appears on our last page this week, received the first premium at the Vienna Exhibition. He has also done some good work in this country, laying out grounds for S. L. M. BARLOW, J. H. STARIN and several other well-known gentlemen, to whom he refers.

COL. HARDEE'S theory that concussion destroys insect life on trees is said to have been put in practice by a fruit-grower in Louisiana, and that coccus, or scale insect, eradicated by firing guns loaded with powder into the trees. Some of our fruit-growers may attribute the destroying of the scale to the fumes of burnt powder instead of concussion.

OUR English cousins seem to take as much interest in the Centennial Exhibition as we do on this side of the water, judging from the way they talk about it in their papers. This is just as it should be, for the prosperity of the one nation means the same to the other, and the big pond lying between us has narrowed considerably during the last century.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

EVERY keg "Phœnix Pure White Lead" warranted *perfectly pure*—is white, fine, and has the very best body and covering properties.

UNFINISHED STILL.

A BABY'S boot, and a skein of wool
Faded, and soiled, and soft;
Odd things, you say—no doubt you're right—
Round a seaman's neck this stormy night,
Up in the yards aloft.

Most like it's folly; but mate look here:
When first I went to sea,
A woman stood on the far-off strand,
With a wedding-ring on her small, soft hand
Which clung so close to me.

My wife—God bless her! The day before
She sat beside my foot!
And the sunlight kissed her yellow hair,
And the dainty fingers, deft and fair,
Knitted a baby's boot.

The voyage was over; I came ashore,—
What think you, found I there?
A grave the daisies had sprinkled white,
A cottage empty and dark as night,
And this beside the chair.

The little boot, 'twas unfinished still;
The tangled skein lay near;
But the knitter had gone away to rest,
With the baby asleep on her quiet breast,
Down in the churchyard near. [*Anon.*

The Story-Teller.

FIFTY YEARS AGO!

AN EPISODE OF THE SEMINOLE WAR.

"BUT, grandpa, did you really fight the Indians, and right at this spot, too?"

"Lor' bless you, child, I reckon we did! My! it makes my hair stand on end, like the porky-pine, to——"

"Por-*cu*-pine, grandpa."

"Yes, that's it, porky-pine. Children now-a-days knows a mighty sight more 'an old folks."

"But, I say, grandpa, did you—did you kill one?"

"Why, I 'spect I did, dearie. Howsomever, it was mighty hot, and the tarnal redskins jest 'hooped and hollered like they was goin' to send us to kingdom come in less 'an no thue."

"Oh! wasn't it frightful? Now, grandpa, let's begin just as they do in the story books and say 'once upon a time,' and then you will go on and tell me all about it. You must have been awful brave when you were a young man."

"He, he! you young flatterer. I reckon I'll have to surrender at direction."

"Discretion, yes. But do go on, grandpa, please."

"You see I 'listed quite young like, and the fust thing I knowed we was packed off to Florida to fight the Seminoles. Gen'al Clinch had command, and he was jest a parleyin' and pow-wowin' like fun with the redskins over at Camp King. We was at Fort Brooke,—that is, Major Dade's men—and one bright mornin' the order come to march to Camp King. We packed our traps in a hurry, and in less 'an no time was a gaily marchin' cross country. We didn't 'spect nothin', you know, 'cause everything was at peace. Howsomever, we thought so. Well, we got along pretty well for about forty mile or so, when, jest as we entered a piece of woods, bang, bang went the guns, and the red fiends were on us quicker 'an you could say Jack Robinson! I was in the rear and saw the men go down. It was my first fight, and I felt mighty queer, I can tell you. But it was fight or die, mebbe both, and the word passed along that the Major was dead and that orders would come from Cap'n Gardiner. He was a brave un', poor feller! He jest waved his sword and we went in like mad and driv the enemy quite smart. Then we got out infer the clearin' and commenced to throw up a breast-work. They seed what we was up to, and afore we had finished two feet or so they was on us again. It seemed as if there was millions of 'em. We tried to work the field-piece we had with us, but, bless you! as fast as we popped our heads above the works over we went as dead as Jerusalem. So we calkerlated it wouldn't do to have funerals so often when the other side didn't show any proper signs of grief, and we loaded and fired on our faces a'most. It was awful, though! We kept on a fightin' this way for some time, when, all at once, our ammernition gev out. Then the Indians rushed over the breastwork like an incarnate wave of red destruction. We were at their mercy, but, alas! that quality was not included in their fiendish natures. The last I remember I was a layin' about lustily with the but end of my musket, when I got a stunnin' blow and remained senseless I don't know how long. When I come to at last, I found myself buried under the dead bodies of my comrades. I will never forget how I felt as I crawled out and slunk away from the scene. All about me lay the poor boys that was so full of life that very same mornin', and now it was as silent as the tomb, and the frightfulest feelin' came over me as I saw the carrion birds hoverin' over their expected feast.

"Heigh-ho! Well, I made my way as best I could to camp, only to learn that the very same day Gen'l Thompson and some of his companions was murdered right under the guns of the fort.

"In '36 the army under Gen'l Gaines passed this place, and right here, where you see this tree, we come upon the skel'tons of my unfort'nate companions. It was a sad sight! Lyin' around, scattered like, was cartridge-boxes, bits of clothin' and sich like 'couterments. Ter one side was a cart a'most burnt, and the skel'tons of oxen yoked to it. All 'round us lay the bones of the poor boys, jest where they fell, and sure enuff there, too, was the old field gun, some'at the worse for wear.

"Well, we detailed a party to gather the bones and put them in the ground decent like. Ninety-eight privates were put in one grave and eight officers in another. Then we planted the old gun at the head of the officers' grave, fired a volley and left the spot."

"Grandpa, how did you happen to come back here to live?"

"Well, you see, child, arter the war I went

"AND RIGHT HERE, WHERE YOU SEE THIS TREE!"

back home; but the family had got sort o' scattered, and I liked this country, so I jest asked your grandma to come along and help me make a home in Florida. I got this piece of land from the Government, and here the old man has been ever since."

"Where did the Indians go to, grandpa?"

"Bless you! I don't know, child. They sent 'em some'eres West, I b'lieve, and I heerd John Gibbons tell us how they are all livin' peaceful like up Red River way. But I 'spect it taint so. It's mighty hard to l'arn them redskins to be like decent folks.

"Thar, now, you have made the old man run on until his tongue clattered jest like a mill wheel, I declar'! But them was awful times!"

THAT AWFUL SMITH.

CHAPTER I.

A DEFERENTIAL tap at the outer door, and then the low-pitched voice of my man Ward woke me from my morning dream. It *was* annoying. The clock on the mantel-piece had just struck one; it was a divinely-tempered May day, and a man felt in no humor to attack the usual pile of letters from creditors. I had carefully filled and lighted my pipe, yielded myself with a lazy sigh to the soft embraces of my pet lounging chair drawn up close to the open window where the sunshades flapped languidly over miniature hanging gardens—I had done all this, and oblivious for a while of debts and duns and entanglements, was falling fast into a blissful trance, like a Celestial in a state of bhang, when——

"Please, sir," said Ward, opening the door.

Brought back to sublunary matters thus, I looked at him reproachfully.

"I thought I told you——" I murmured.

"Yes, sir—I know!" he responded, anxious to vindicate my confidence in him; "you wasn't to be disturbed. More I shouldn't have, sir; only—it's your aunt! It was no good trying to stop her. And she's coming up."

Ward stated the exact truth; it *was* no good trying to stop her.

I drew the amber mouthpiece of the pipe slowly from between reluctant lips; laid it down with a covetous sigh and a faintly muttered strong ejaculation, and resigned myself to my fate.

The door opened once more, and Aunt Medusa pranced through the opening straight down upon me with a more determined expression than usual upon her aristocratic face.

Ward made a rapid exit, and the outer door closed behind him.

"My dear aunt!" I drawled, picking myself up languidly and moving a step or two to meet my infliction.

"Frank!" said Aunt Medusa, with ominous abruptness, "sit down again. I've something to say to you."

She folded herself, as it were—Aunt Medusa never seemed to sit down like ordinary humanity; she was very lean and abnormally long and, I fancied, had a hinge somewhere about the middle of her, and nowhere else—into a straight, knotty-backed, mediæval chair that formed a portion of my belongings and that, regarded as a resting-place, invariably made me shudder; folded her long thoroughbred gloved hands, and held me with her glittering eye.

I felt I was likely to be in for it. The charges that might be brought against me were so manifold that I only speculated, in that moment's breathing time I got, which particular one I was to be called to plead to on this occasion.

I thought of that neatly red-taped and docketed sheaf of bills in the bottom drawer of my writing desk, all impartially unpaid; of my losses at Jerome Park; of my subsequent (and consequent) transactions with Mr. Nepthall of No. — Bowery; of my flirtation with Miss Beaucatcher, and I was rather curious to know where Aunt Medusa was going to break ground; for that high-actioned, high-nosed, high-tempered relative of mine, with all three peculiarities more strongly marked than ever, was obviously about to come down on me for something.

Aunt Medusa had no end of money, and as I was the heir presumptive, I charitably assumed she had acquired the right of bullying me to any extent, and she was by no means slow to exercise it. Only, she had been usually wont to send for me to Park Avenue when she wanted to. What could have brought her to Bond street at this undue hour this morning?

"Well, Aunt Medusa," I went on aloud—for I was getting rather nervous under the prolonged gaze of the lady's glittering eye—"and what have you to say to me?"

Here I glanced ruefully at the pipe on the little table at my elbow, thinking I could have stood what was coming better if I could have had it between my lips again.

"Just this, Frank," said my aunt; "I saw, like every one else, the way you were going on last night with that horrible woman."

I know what my crime was then—Annie Montressor.

"What horrible woman?" I asked innocently; "and how did I go on?"

"You know what I mean. That Mrs. Montressor. Montressor, indeed!" snorted Aunt Medusa, in an indignant parenthesis, "her name's no more Montressor than mine is, I'll be bound."

"So I've heard," I responded meekly; "but if she likes to call herself so, why—and Mrs. Fitz-Fulke has taken her up this season, you know."

Now Mrs. Fitz-Fulke is one of the leaders of the Elect; with power to bind and loose, and make and mar; a very incarnation of Propriety; to be taken up of whom is to gain the meed of all who despairingly desire the same good fortune.

"Mrs. Fitz-Fulke is a fool!" snapped my uncompromising relative sharply; forgetting, as I fondly hoped, her wrath against me in her wrath at the cogency of my arguments; "she is a fool! This Mrs. Montressor"—indignant snort again—"this Mrs. Montressor has completely got over her by going to hear Mrs. Burthwaite, the revivalist, every Sunday, and that sort of thing."

"Well, she deserves something for *that!*" I ventured to suggest; "it must be decidedly the reverse of festive; and——"

But Aunt Medusa wasn't to be turned from her point. She had come to Bond street to hold forth to me on the heinous nature of my flirtation with the dangerous Circe that every woman in New York envied and hated, and said spiteful things about; and she did it.

"The long and short of it is, Frank," Aunt Medusa said, by way of general conclusion, opening and shutting her under jaw like a steel-trap between each word, and nodding her head at me emphatically, "the long and the short of it is, that you must marry. And the sooner the better. There!"

I wasn't certainly prepared for this heroic remedy; but I managed to make answer with tolerable composure.

"Well, yes; I suppose I must when the right woman asks me. But that hasn't happened to me yet; so——"

"Fiddlestick!" ejaculated Aunt Medusa. "You will be good enough to do as you're bid. I mean you to be married before Christmas!"

There was no question that she looked as if she meant it, at any rate. The situation was becoming rather alarming.

"Who is she?" I asked, submissively.

"She is very nice, Frank," Aunt Medusa said, propitiated; "but I shan't tell you who she is till you've seen her. What are you going to do this afternoon?"

I had intended to spend the most of it in Annie Montressor's parlor, so I said:

"Going to hear Moody and Sankey, I think."

"Oh!" said Aunt Medusa; "well, then you had better come down to Mrs. Leo Huntingdon's garden party at Astoria afterwards. I have a card for you."

"Very well," I assented. And then, as a thought struck me, "Is she to be there?"

"Perhaps," replied Aunt Medusa, rising all of a piece upon her hinge and preparing to depart. "Don't be later than four, mind. "No; you can't see me downstairs in that dress!"—as I dutifully moved towards the door with her—"Ward will open the door for me. Good-bye!"

And my aunt was gone.

I fell to smoking again, speculating who my Fate was to be. I had no thought of avoiding it. It was less trouble to be married than to combat a resolution of Aunt Medusa's; and I am, naturally, the laziest man of my acquaintance. Moreover, I couldn't afford to quarrel with her, even if I had had the energy. I concluded, as Artemus says, "to let things slide."

Just as I had awoke to the consciousness that it was time to dress, Charlie Twistleton and his bull-pup came in.

The latter always evinced a deadly animosity to my person, and invariably flew at my legs as he caught sight of me, as he did on this occasion.

Practice, however, had made me perfect in my system of defence; and I kicked him dexterously back again to his admiring owner, who quieted him by the application of his own boot-heel.

"Plucky, ain't he?" Charlie said. "Nearly nipped you, Frank. He'd better have something to eat. Ward, fetch me a bit of meat of some kind—raw, mind!" Over which refreshment the bull-pup continued to growl at me at intervals.

"Going to the garden party?" asked Twistleton, by-and-by.

"Supposed to be," I said.

"Same here. I'll drive you over if you like. Cut away and dress."

I went and dressed; thinking that as the matter was thus decided for me I'd better go to Astoria and not to Mrs. Montressor's.

"We'll leave the pup here," Charlie said, when I emerged from my bedroom. "He'd be in the way, perhaps, in the trap. Ready? Come along."

Charlie's dog-cart was waiting below. The next minute we were charging at his usual pace down Broadway to the ferry.

"I say," said my Jehu, lolling his arms on the apron, and tranquilly indifferent to the fact that we had shaved by a ponderous coal cart with about an inch to spare. "I say, Frank, I hope she's there! That's all I'm going for—to see her."

"All I'm going for too," I muttered, thinking of my *future;* "who do you mean, though?"

"Woman everybody's talking about, to be sure."

"And who's she?"

"Who?" Charlie drawled, as we swung sharply through the gate that led to the ferry and sent the stock in trade of the apple vender into the middle of the street; "who? Why, Mrs. Wybrowe, of course! Jove! we smashed something, didn't we?"

CHAPTER II.

"But who is Mrs. Wybrowe? And why is everybody talking about her?" I persisted.

"Long story," Charlie responded; "romantic, and that- However, old Dipas told me all about it last night; and here it is."

And this, briefly, and divested of Twistleton's peculiar diction, was the story:

Wybrowe, Brazilian millionaire, age seventy or thereabouts, marries Helen Chetwynd, impecunious belle, aged nineteen, daughter of an American consul in those parts; and, after two years of connubial felicity, considerately dies. Wybrowe is jealous as a Spaniard; and his jealousy looks beyond his own life. So he leaves a terrible will behind him. This cunningly-contrived document provides that his widow, then just twenty-one, shall receive and enjoy an income of some $75,000 per annum so long—and only so long—as she shall remain unmarried; that if she do marry again, she shall receive absolutely nothing—the entire estate of the deceased passing

to two distant relatives, believed to be living in obscure poverty in Boston.

Now comes the most curious part of the story.

A good many men besides old Wybrowe went mad about Mrs. Wybrowe out in Brazil; notably a man who was thought to be nearly as big a Croesus—a half-Spaniard, half-American, by name Alvarez Smith. This hybrid was said to have the temper of a fiend, the face of a baboon, and the complexion of a jaundice patient. The frantic vehemence with which, when at last he did speak, Smith pleaded his cause to her, nearly frightened Miss Chetwynd into hysterics; the malignant black scowl that twisted his ugly face till it grew absolutely awful in its hideousness when she unconditionally declined his proposals and shrank away from him, haunted her sleep for many a night afterward.

Alvarez Smith went away and thought out his vengeance. This is how he took it, after waiting patiently for three years.

During old Wybrowe's lifetime he kept quiet and made no sign. When the old man was dead, Smith broke in upon the widow and, with full knowledge of the provisions of Wybrowe's will, renewed his former propositions. They were rejected again—this time with the addition of certain words that Helen Wybrowe would have been more prudent not to have spoken to such a man.

The same steamer which brought the widow home to America had among its passengers Alvarez Smith. He never once spoke to her or molested her in any way during the voyage; but his hungry black eyes would rest upon her in a way that frightened her in spite of herself.

Those eyes watched her into the carriage and met hers as she got out at the door of her sister's house. Every time she went abroad she met them; sleeping and waking, Alvarez Smith haunted her. It was intolerable; but what could she do? She left town; he followed her. She shut herself up in the house for days; and the first person she saw when, by day or by night, she came out again was—Smith; always Alvarez Smith. Mrs. Wybrowe grew nervous and ill under this implacable persecution, which it was impossible to put an end to. And the worst of it was that she felt her persecutor was gaining a certain power over her; that those terrible eyes fascinated her like a basilisk's. She never avowed this feeling to Mrs. Oswestry, her sister, but she couldn't help confessing it to herself.

In a few weeks after her arrival in New York, old Wybrowe's lawyer communicated to her the following startling intelligence. A person had bought up the reversionary interest of her husband's two distant relatives in the income that had been left her, subject to her remaining unmarried. Wybrowe's kinsmen, too poor to be troubled with many scruples, and considering that it was barely likely a woman would give up $75,000 a year when she could keep it on such easy terms, had greedily accepted the offer that had been made them, had accordingly executed the necessary legal documents, had received a stipulated sum down and had emigrated to Salt Lake City.

The person who had thus bought them out was, consequently, the person who would claim the heavy forfeit from Helen Wybrowe in the event of her marrying again. And it was hardly needful to tell her that person's name. She guessed it instinctively—Alvarez Smith.

This, then, was her position:—She must either, at one-and-twenty, condemn herself to a life-long widowhood, or relinquish a magnificent income to the man she detested. True, a court of law might, as her lawyer told her, set the will aside; but how could a woman petition such a court? Her woman's delicacy, at all events, rendered that out of the question in her case. Again, there might be men who would think (and who could afford to think) lightly of marrying a beggar, and among them there might be one whom she could love. But, wise in her generation, Mrs. Wybrowe built no castles in the air of this sort. She accepted the situation; shut herself up no longer; went among her kind; encountered her basilisk with an implacable visage; and tortured her tormentor by an ingeniously arranged sequence of flirtations with passed masters of the art.

Such, in substance, was Charlie Twistleton's story which, interspersed with his own comments, lasted all the way to Astoria.

I felt curious—strangely eager—to see this woman; from all I had just heard about her, I fancied she must needs stand apart from her kind in some way. And I had had five years of penal servitude with apparently homogeneous society women; whose manners and customs and ideas seemed, like their dresses, to be all cut out of the same piece and fashioned on the same model. What would Helen Wybrowe be like? It was my pet name, too—Helen.

"See her?" I asked Twistleton when we had got out on to the croquet lawn. With his eye-glass stuck in his eye, Charlie was raking the groups round us—vainly, as it seemed.

"No," he said, "she ain't here."

"Frank!" said Aunt Medusa's voice behind me, just as I was moving off; "Frank, let me introduce you to Miss Boodle."

Brought up short like this, there was nothing for it but to stop and turn.

I turned. There was Miss Boodle, a plump, good-natured-looking girl, apparently very appropriately named. "*This* is the person you will be good enough to marry, sir," Aunt Medusa's eyes said to me as I lifted my hat; and Miss Boodle blushed a little and smiled a good deal, as though she quite understood and rather liked it.

But I made up my mind—with wonderful celerity, considering the little practice I had had in performing the feat of late—that Miss Boodle should never call herself Mrs. Francis Drasdyl unless, at least, Helen Wybrowe should prove to be——

"Frank will take you to the lower lawn, Bella," Aunt Medusa said, breaking in sharply upon me, and folding herself into a garden chair as she spoke, "I think the sets seem all made up here."

And Bella and I moved away. I looked at her as I strolled down a gravel walk beside her.

No; it was impossible. No; it really could not be done unless, indeed——

"You play croquet, Mr. Drasdyl?" Miss Boodle asked. Not a bad voice; but somehow, not the voice I (rather hard to satisfy in that particular) fancied could ever thrill me much.

"Do *you*?" I returned, prudently.

"Oh, I doat on it," Miss Bella cried, with a healthy enthusiasm I couldn't but admire. This was her first season. Her what I must call Boodledom was fresh upon her still; like the roses on her round, plump cheeks.

"Do you know," she went on, "I won the champion mallet at our club last year!"

"Did you?" I said, gravely; "I'm so sorry, Miss Boodle."

"Dear me, Mr. Drasdyl! Why?"

"Because I shan't dare offer myself as a partner to a champion. I'm a shocking muff at this sort of thing."

"Never mind!" she returned, with charming frankness, "I'm going to play with Cousin Tom."

I invoked a fervent blessing on that individual wherever he was.

"And Cousin Tom is a champion, too?"

"Oh! yes. He plays so well." And Miss Boodle's eyes went roving about in every direction in search of her partner.

"There he is!" she cried at last, half bounding forward. There he was, unmistakably. A broad-shouldered, freckle-faced, orange-whiskered youth perspiring with eagerness for the fray, must be Cousin Tom, of course.

"Mr. Claypool—Mr. Drasdyl," said Miss Boodle, performing a most uncalled-for and absurd ceremony for my sole benefit apparently, the champion being totally unconscious of my existence, and intent only on getting to work with the shortest possible delay.

"You couldn't be in better hands, I see, Miss Boodle," I said, as I lifted my hat to her and lounged off. I kept away from the upper lawn, where Aunt Medusa was, and turned into the river walk, where a score or so of flirtations were progressing more or less satisfactorily, with a firmer resolve than ever that never, at any price, would I take Isabella Boodle to wife.

I strolled along without meeting any one I knew and was just going to sit down under a tree in a secluded corner and take a surreptitious whiff, when the voice of some one hidden yet by the turn in the path—the divinest woman's voice that ever fell on a man's ear out of Paradise, fell on mine.

My slow, languid pulse, that nothing ever quickened, quickened then. I stood still, drinking in the sound. Two ladies came round the bend toward me. One I knew—Mrs. Oswestry. The other I fancied I had seen before—in my dreams.

They were talking so earnestly that neither saw me till they were quite close. Then Mrs. Oswestry looked up. "Ah! Mr. Drasdyl." And we exchanged hand-pressures and commonplace. Then she said, deliciously—

"Let me introduce you to my sister—Mrs. Wybrowe. Helen, Mr. Drasdyl."

Mrs. Wybrowe's heavy violet eyes turned slowly, full upon me; and I stood face to face with my Fate.—[Continued next week.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Passing the Portal; or, A Girl's Struggle. An Autobiography. By Mrs. Metta V. Victor. [12mo.—pp. 408. $1.50.] New York: Carleton & Co.

Obviously Mrs. Victor has paid much attention to the recent discussions of the scientists who advocate the evolution theory, and thinking the general tendency of this discussion to be toward that kind of materialism which either denies, or does not choose to discuss, the doctrine of future conscious personal existence, in which she is apparently a firm believer, takes this method of giving to the public a digest or brief of the arguments of both sides, which the careful reader will admit she has done fairly and well. It is always a difficult task for a writer to combine a philosophical essay with a popular story. Those whose tastes incline them to desire the one will usually reject the other, and the author who can weave together philosophy and fiction in such way as to make the fabric acceptable to the reader, as Mrs. Victor has succeeded in doing, deserves much credit. There are hundreds who will read this book and learn from it enough of some of the great scientific questions of the day to give them a desire to know more, and consequently become familiar with the works of Spencer, Darwin, Huxley and others—which otherwise they would never be inclined to examine,—while others who have never thought of the great subject of the immortality of the soul, but have accepted without question the doctrines as taught in the churches, will give the matter their more serious attention, and what is now only a vague belief may become with them a living faith. We should be glad, in order to interest our readers in the work, to give an extended analysis of its contents, but must content ourselves by saying that the heroine of the story—she through whom the author speaks her views and arguments, Marion Guthrie—is a young lady of eighteen, daughter of a Congregational clergyman. Her parents, dying, left her to the care of her uncle, Mr. Maxwell, by whom she had been kept at boarding school. The story opens when she leaves school and takes up her abode at her uncle's on Fifth Avenue, as an adopted daughter. Mr. M. is a wealthy physician out of practice, and devotes himself to scientific studies and experiments, in which Marion soon becomes deeply interested. The house is a favorite resort of professors, scholars and savants, nearly all of whom deny the doctrine of instantaneous creation and immortality, but are divided as regards the Great First Cause. Marion hears their discussions with astonishment, receives the evolution theory as an incontrovertible fact, while she sees no reason in consequence for giving up her faith in the future, but sets it forth in such light as to make at least one convert. Meantime "the old, old story" is going on: love which is not love but misplaced affection, and love that is love forevermore—jealousy, regrets, hopes blighted, anticipations unrealized, everything that goes to make up life—all of which is told in a manner creditable to the author and interesting to the reader.

There is in this book much food for thought, and if at times the positions of some of the parties seem somewhat improbable, it may be remembered that there is more romance in real life than any novelist would dare put on his pages. We notice that Mrs. Victor has been able to argue the question at issue from the teachings of Nature and her inner consciousness, without being obliged to quote Scripture—a mode usually adopted by those who have not brains enough to frame arguments for themselves.

Proceedings of the Fifteenth Session of the American Pomological Society, held in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 8-10, 1875. [4to.—pp. 200.] Edited by the Secretary.

The biennial volumes of this Society have come to be generally considered as our standard and guide in the various branches of pomology. The Society is composed mainly of the leading scientific and practical pomologists of the country, hence their deliberations, as reported in these volumes, are the most reliable and trustworthy information which can be obtained on the subject. We must say, however, it is to be regretted that so small a number of our farmers and fruit growers feel it incumbent upon them to support by their subscriptions the noble efforts of the American Pomological Society to gather and disseminate information upon the subjects in which they are or should be most directly interested. Out of the hundreds of thousands of men who own land and cultivate fruits—and we may add are constantly seeking information relating thereto—less than four hundred give material aid to the cause of Pomology by subscribing for the proceedings of a body of the most learned pomologists the world has ever seen. The volume before us, like its predecessors, is a model of typographic art, and its pages are filled with information which no fruit grower can afford to do without.

Illustrated Hand-Book of American Cities, with Outlines of Through Routes and Railway Maps. [8vo.—pp. 160. Cloth, 75 cts.; paper, 50 cts.] New York: D. Appleton & Co.

Prepared more particularly for travelers and tourists, but not less valuable for stay-at-home readers. All of the principal cities of the United States and Canada are briefly but concisely described, giving location, history, business, points of interest to tourists and sight-seers, and many other items of information. Its arrangement and condensation is such that it brings in small compass what in the usual style would fill a large volume. The text is illustrated by seventy-three engravings, of a finer character than are usually found in books of this kind.

The Poultry Yard and Market; Or, A Practical Treatise on Galine Culture. By Prof. A. Corbett. [Pp. 83.] New York: Orange Judd Co.

This book has been before the public for some time, although but lately issued by the above-named publishers. It gives a concise history of the origin and introduction of what is termed artificial incubation, or hatching eggs by heat generated by fermenting manures or otherwise, with a full description of Prof. Corbett's Incubator. Those who desire to test this method of raising chickens will find the work quite useful.

The Liberty Bell; a Collection of National and Patriotic Songs for All Nations. [8vo.—pp. 80.] New York: W. A. Pond & Co., 547 Broadway.

A most seasonable publication. The spasm of fraternity that just now racks the country must have some sort of vocal expression, and the howl may as well be a musical one. There are in the book all the old, familiar, patriotic songs of various countries and many new ones, all with a carefully arranged piano accompaniment. It is a good collection, sure to be popular.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From Porter & Coates, Philadelphia, Pa.:
The Prime Minister, by Anthony Trollope. International Series. [Cloth.—pp. 690. Price $1.50.]

The Courier Co., Buffalo:
American Short-Horn Herd Book, Vol. XV. [Cloth.—pp. 955.]

Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co., New York:
Reading and Elocution, by Anna T. Randall. [Cloth.—pp. 430.]

Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger, Philadelphia:
Choice Readings, by Anna T. Randall. [Cloth. pp. 408.]

Scribner, Armstrong & Co., New York:
Sans-Souci Series. The Life, Letters and Table Talk of Benjamin Robert Haydon. Edited by R. H. Stoddard. [Cloth.—pp. 311. Price $1.50.]

T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia:
Washington and His Men, by Geo. Lippard. [Paper.—pp. 188. Price 75 cents.]

Magazines for June:
Galaxy, Scribner's, St. Nicholas.

Sabbath Reading.

THE AULD KIRKYAIRD.

O' a' the spots on earth sae sweet,
There's nane I lo'e so dear
As that wee spot where freens aft meet
Ower freens to shed a tear.
Wha slumber 'neath the cauld, cauld sod,
Though ance our joys they shared,
But noo lie free frae every load,
Within the auld kirkyaird.

It stands sae quietly a' alane,
A wee bit patch o' lea,
Wi' here and there an auld tombstane
To mark its sanctity.
A' ivy-grown the totterin' wa's
That lang ha'e been it's gaird;
There's no a sign o' earthly brawn
Within the auld kirkyaird.

The sweet wee daisy's snaw-white head
Bedecks the turf a' roun'—
Fit emblem 'o the silent dead,
Made pure through Him aboon,
Devoid o' grandeur, life's behest,
For death nor Judgment scar'd;
Their dust lies peacefu' noo at rest
Within the auld kirkyaird.

There Minnie sleeps the lang, lang sleep
That kens no waukin' here;
But though our hearts are fain to weep,
E'en shed grief's bitter tear.
We ken that noo her speerit's gane
To him wha for it eared;
There's nocht but lifeless flesh and bane
Within the auld kirkyaird.

Oh, may we ne'er forget the day
Shall come when we maun kee,
Ne'er cease to mindfu' be alway
O' Calvary's sad tree.
Then swift oor souls shall upward fly
To God, who lang has spared,
When oor puir mortal frames shall lie
Within the auld kirkyaird.

PRAYER IS PRAISE.

Real prayer is joyous, because the promise is sure. The sense of want is more than balanced by the assurance of blessing. The Spirit recognized this when he coupled "thanksgiving" with "supplication." The reason for such a union of acts springs from the union of facts. There is always and necessarily, a great joy in conscious want if attended by strong faith that the supply is more than enough to meet it. If we prayed to a selfish, cold-hearted, sordid God, the shadow of despair would chill our supplications; but the wealth of love and generosity which we know our Father exercises to us-ward, casts a rainbow over the soul, and drops rays of gladness into its depths, making our prayers so nearly praise that it is impossible to divide between them, or tell where the former begins, or the latter ends. "Ask and receive," is a sweet sentence. Not that the Lord always gives the precise thing we ask; he gives that or something better. If we misjudge, he judges for us, so that we have the benefit of his infinite wisdom as well as the wealth of his love. Faith rejoices in this. Doubt is anxious about the thing we desire; faith relegates all to God, and rests rejoicing that Divine wisdom supervises and corrects our wishes. Thus prayer is praise.

PRAYERS OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

Cranmer says:—This is a great comfort for us to know that all the Church and congregation of Christ doth pray for us, and that all the treasures of God's riches, i. e., Christ himself, the kingdom, the holy gospel, the sacraments and the prayers of all godly men, be common to us all. For whensoever any godly man requireth anything of God, he also requireth the same thing for us; for no man ought to pray for himself alone. And this is a great consolation for all Christian people; for the Scripture saith that the prayer of one just man availeth much with God; and therefore when many just and godly men do make their supplications unto God with one accord, we may be sure that their prayers are heard.

GOLDEN THOUGHTS.

Purposes are better than regrets.

Christianity softens the edge of life.

The world can never sour on a heart of love.

Keep on the side of love and you'll keep on the right side.

There is a chart showing every harbor in the sea of life, so that none need be lost or go astray.

It took thousands of ages to fit the earth for man, and it may take as long to fit man for the earth.

Sins of the parents may be visited upon their children, but it is that the sting may strike back into the parents' hearts.

God's grapes of blessing are not gathered from the thorns of wrong, nor the figs of his abiding peace from the thistles of evil.

There are strings in the harp of every life, though covered with dust, that give out music when the wings of Truth stir the air.

Pain, like a trusty sentinel, guards every avenue leading to the citadel of life, and we are admonished whenever danger approaches.

Beautiful lives have grown up from the darkest places, as pure white lilies, full of fragrance, have blossomed on slimy, stagnant waters.

Never was a sincere word utterly lost, never a magnanimity fell to the ground; there is some heart always to greet and accept it unexpectedly.

Ladies' Portfolio.

WOMAN.

An angel wandering out of heaven,
And all too bright for Eden even,
Once through the paths of paradise
Made luminous the auroral air,
And walking in his awful guise
Met the Eternal Father there—
Who, when he saw the truant sprite,
Smiled love thro' all those bowers of light.

The while within his tranced spell
Our Eden sire lay slumbering near;
God saw and said it is not well
For man alone to linger here—
Then took that angel by the hand,
And with a kiss its brow He pressed,
And whispering all His mild command,
He laid it near the sleeper's breast,
With earth enough to make it human—
He chained its wings and called it *Woman*.

And if perchance some stains of rust
Upon her pinions yet remain
'Tis but the mark of God's own dust,
The earth mold of that Eden chain.

[*T. B. Read.*

"REALLY AND TRULY" FRANK ADVICE.

Some ladies seldom venture out upon the streets without having a tale to tell about being "followed by a gentleman," (?)—"stared at by a gentleman," (?)—"addressed by a gentleman," (?) or in some way or another "insulted by a gentleman." (?) They tell these tales with eyes that look indignant and in a tone that sounds earnest.

"It is strange," writes Miss Flyer (I have known her since she was a baby), "that I *never* go out; never ride in a stage or car but what something of this sort occurs." . . . "Why is this?" I propose to answer Miss Flyer's question in my own way—in a way that is "really and truly" frank.

There are many females who care more for dress than they do for any other earthly thing. Their pleasure is derived not from the sense of knowing that they are handsomely dressed, but from the gratification of feeling that they attract the notice, perhaps excite the admiration, of those among whom they mingle. In their toilet preparations for out-of-door walks or rides, the inspiring motive is that of attracting notice—and when this motive works its premeditated result, and men stare rudely at the gaudy sign which was painted for them—the indignant one cries, "Why am I thus insulted!" Now, dear Flyer, tell me truly, "Would you not cry if you were *not* thus insulted? Are not these insults balm to a chronic inflammation that else might defer the timely visits of "Nature's sweet restorer" until more masterly toilet efforts were crowned with the old results and you were again "stared at, followed, insulted?" We cannot imagine why it is that a lady will spend a full half of her time and an amount of money incredible to anybody but her father or husband, upon dress, unless she loves to be gazed at and admired. We cannot suppose that if ladies

——"were wafted off to seas unknown"

and surrounded by blind creatures only that were destitute of any knowledge or appreciation of costly dresses and rich colors, they would spend any considerable share of their time or money in this way. Labor, time and money have their value to sane people, and to squander them without an object would be an act of imbecility or insanity—and you (to use a diplomatic and popular form of expression which I much like) are not unpossessed of either intelligence or sanity. Any one in half-an-hour may dress himself with all the precision and taste that cleanliness, neatness and a worthy pride warrant. He may then appear as nature, health and circumstances intended he should appear—and what he *appears* to be, he *is*. To be admired *then* is something to be proud of—for that which is admired is *his*. The rose of the cheek and the fair skin were not produced by powder and paint, and an hour before the looking-glass vilely spent in their application—but they are the rewards of obedience to hygienic laws—an obedience that, owing to its scarcity and great value, is not of itself a thing to be sneezed at.

But here is where you are weakest—or, as I may say, most suicidal—my dear Flyer. People do not admire *you*—or rather the disguise under which you sail. They *do* gaze—rudely it may be—contemptuously—pityingly, it may be—but admiringly, respectfully——never!

You who in many things are so circumspect, Flyer—learn this one thing (it would prove the most valuable lesson of your life), that you are *never* so *homely* as when you have loaded yourself with your most bewitching dresses, and have changed your naturally saffron complexion to one of white and rose! Could you see yourself as I—as others—see you; could you know that the disguise is as manifest as a veritable false-face and that it reflects no more credit upon you than a false-face would upon a peacock; could you but *realize* that everybody knows these dress and cosmetic devices to be so many banners painted and unfurled at the cost of precious time—at the cost of money that might gladden the lonely, sickened hearts of many a poverty-stricken home—*then* you would not ask me why it is that people rudely stare at and insult you—for, I believe the question which you have asked is not intended to be a question, but merely an ingenious form of statement (invented by your enshrouding vanity) to make it known to your friends that—whether in the street or cars or other public place, you are ever gazed at as a marvel of beauty and grace.

Vanity, no less than love, blinds the eye and warps the judgment. The gaze which you covet is hateful to the well-reared, right-thinking woman whose pride first busies itself with a consciousness of personal neatness and then occupies itself with external details;—the healthy verdure of the rich and inexhaustible soil beneath.

Many ladies travel from Dan to Beersheba *alone* who are never "stared at"—never "followed"—never "insulted"—ladies (pardon me, dear Flyer) far more captivating than you. But they have the "ring of gold." Nature and education have pencilled for them the sign that powder and paint and meretricious dress have bedaubed for you.

We are all of us privileged to look at each other in passing. But our gaze is respectful in the one instance, because uninvited. In the other, it is as we choose to make it, because it is solicited—because it is "fished for"—and beggars must not be choosers.

You will not be angry, my dear Flyer—too well thou knowest the deep regard of

Vue de L'eau. S. Krout.

SNUFF BLIGHTED BELLES.

Talk about the opium-eater or the whisky-drinker, how much more are they to be pitied than the lady who is addicted to dipping snuff? We believe there is more snuff used in Hopkinsville than in any other place of its size in Kentucky, and its use is steadily on the increase. Hopkinsville has a reputation for beautiful women, but how long that reputation will last 'tis hard to tell. Some of the prettiest women we knew ten or twelve years ago are now nothing but faded flowers. Lips that once looked like ripe cherries, and for one kiss from which a man would almost give his right-arm, now look more like dried apples than anything else we can think of. The cheek once full and rosy is now sunken and colorless. The chin, which looks longer now, glories in a bronze-colored stripe, which reaches down to the throat.

We were going down the street the other day, and noticed a lady coming up. It was a windy March day, and the lady's skirts were lifted a little above her boot tops. We knew the aristocratically arched foot, but hang it! what had become of the nicely rounded ankle? It wasn't there. When we got near enough to look into the lady's face we knew that snuff had done its work. Snuff is robbing women of their beauty and depriving them of husbands. (Who ever saw a women that wanted to marry?) It is more harmful than smoking, and more repulsive than chewing, and its use by ladies is almost as much to be condemned as drinking of whisky by men, and if the ladies have grounds to talk about men drinking and smoking, they are assured that snuff-dipping, in the eyes of men, is about as repulsive as the smell of a two-cent-and-a-half segar, or a sniff of "rifle whisky to the olfactories of the fair sex,

We indulge the hope that soon there will be an anti-snuff society formed, which will be a twin sister of our temperance society. We have no idea how many ladies in our city will take exception to this article; if all that use snuff were to get after us, we would call their name legion, but we are upheld in our actions by some of the most sensible mothers in town in entering a protest against a habit, the adoption of which by a girl is almost as much to be dreaded by a parent as is the first taste of liquor by his boy.—*Hopkinsville (Ky.) Dem.*

TEARS.

The power (or weakness) of abundant weeping without disfigurement is an attribute of deficient rather than excessive feeling. In such persons the tears are poured from their crystal cups without muscular distortion of the rest of the face. In proportion to the violence or depth of emotion, and the acute or profound sensibility of the temperament, is the disturbance of the countenance. In sensitive organizations the muscles round the nostrils and lips quiver and are distorted, the throat and temples swell, and a grimace, which but for its miserable significance would be grotesque, convulses the whole face. Men's tears always seem to me as if they were pumped up from their heels and strained through every drop of blood in their veins; women's, to start as under a knife stroke, direct with a gush from their heart, abundant and beneficent; but again, women of the temperament I have alluded to have fountains of lovely tears behind their lovely eyes, and their weeping, which is indescribably beautiful, is comparatively painless, and yet pathetic enough to challenge tender compassion. I have twice seen such tears shed, and never forgotten them: once from heaven-blue eyes, and the face looked like a flower with pearly dew-drops sliding over it; and again, once from magnificent, dark, uplifted orbs, from which the falling tears looked like diamond rain-drops by moonlight.—*Fanny Kemble, in Atlantic.*

AN ODD PERSON.

Some young ladies were one day talking about one of their friends. As he entered the room, he heard the terms "odd," "singular," and the like, freely applied to somebody. He asked and was told the name of the young lady they were speaking of.

"Yes," he remarked very gravely, "she is an odd young lady; she is a *very* odd young lady; I consider her extremely singular;—*she was never heard to speak ill of an absent friend.*"

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.—*Thoreau.*

Reading for the Young.

ALADDIN.

When I was a beggarly boy,
And lived in a cellar damp,
I had not a friend or toy,
But I had Aladdin's lamp;
When I could not sleep for cold,
I had fire enough in my brain,
And builded with roofs of gold,
My beautiful castles in Spain!

Since then I have toiled day and night,
I have money and power good store,
But I'd give all my lamps of silver bright,
For the one that is mine no more;
Take, Fortune, whatever you choose,
You gave, and may snatch again;
I have nothing 'twould pain me to lose,
For I own no more castles in Spain!

[*Lowell.*

FERNERIES FOR SMALL PEOPLE.

I want to tell all the boys and girls who are fortunate enough to live in the country how they can find some work that will be play too. Of course you all like work, when it isn't too hard, and play, whether it is hard or not, and if you can both work and play together, you will like to know how it is done.

You want a basket, as large as you can conveniently carry, white paper nicely folded inside to keep the dirt from doing any harm, and it would be well to take a small trowel, unless you are so careless that you will lose it, in which case you must dig with your fingers, because they are fastened on, and you cannot forget to take them home. If you have a long walk, you need a luncheon, and you might as well have one in any case. Go to the pleasantest woods you know, where there are tall trees and soft mosses, and, perhaps, a little brook running over the stones; and don't stone the frogs, if you see any; they have quite as good right there as you have. Before you begin to dig, it would be wise to eat your luncheon, then, that being out of the way, you will feel more like going to work. First, you want some rich earth; the best has a dark brown color, and you will be likely to find it under a maple or oak. If the first place you open has only light, sandy or clayey soil, don't say, "That must do; I can't find any better," but go to another place, and another, and yet another, till you find the best kind. You do not need a great deal; if you each fill your basket a quarter full, that will be enough.

Then you must look out for mosses. Take all the pretty ones you can find, except the kind that looks like a tiny, green star and is so delightfully soft to jump on; the little stars will shut up in the house and look as if they had gone to sleep. Be sure to get a variety, and to pick out all the bits of dirt, pine-needles, etc.; this takes a good while, and it is pleasanter to do it out in the fragrant, sunny woods than in the house; besides, mother will not like to have you bring so much dirt into her neat rooms.

After the mosses are clean, you must get the prettiest vines, leaves and berries to put with them, and be very careful to dig up the roots, for the poor things will die if you do not, and you want your ferneries to live. I think you will be surprised to find so many different shades of green and bright berries and graceful little vines hiding about under the trees; the more you get the better, especially of scarlet berries.

After you have all these, put in the ferns; they must come last, because you cannot put anything on them, in the basket, without breaking the delicate leaves. In some places you can find several varieties, and you should take the smallest specimens of each kind, unless they are very small indeed, because you will not have room to arrange large ones; besides, you will have more trouble in carrying large leaves without breaking them.

If you are near a brook, when your basket is full you may a sprinkle the ferns a little; then they must be taken home as soon as possible. Try which of you can walk fastest without breaking a leaf on the way; that will be something like running a race with a book on one's head; you have to be careful. Your pretty things will live all night if you put them in pans full of water but they look better when they are arranged at once. You will not enjoy them half as much if you tease somebody to take care of them as you will if you do it all yourself. It is not of the least importance if you have not a nice fernery with a glass case to hold your treasure; anything that has a hollow and can hold water will do; any glass dish, a soup-plate, even a saucer, or a tin pan, if you paint it; a shell is very pretty, but will not often hold much.

Put in earth enough to cover the bottom of the dish thickly and to make a little mound in the middle; then plant your fern roots, taking care that each one has earth all about it, but do not press down the mound too hard on the tender little things, and do not try to put many into one dish, for they cannot grow well when they are crowded. Lay the mosses gently over the earth, and push the roots of your vines and little plants down through the moss till they reach the soil. When they are all in order, sprinkle the whole affair, pour in as much water as the dish will hold, and put it where everybody can see it.—*E. E. Newman, in Am. Young Folks.*

THE ESCAPE OF SECUNDUS CURION.

Celius Secundus Curion, a zealous Lutheran, having dared to give the lie in open church to a Jacobin who had heaped on him the most odious calumnies from the pulpit, was immediately arrested by order of the Inquisitor of Turin. He was dragged from prison to prison, but he at last made his escape so cleverly that his enemies could only account for it by accusing him of magic. In order to exculpate himself from an accusation extremely dangerous at that time, he published an account of his escape in a little Latin dialogue, entitled "Probus," from which we select the following passages for translation:

"I had been shut up for eight days in my new prison," says Curion, "with my feet fastened to enormous pieces of wood, when, by nothing less than a sudden inspiration from Heaven, I was urged to supplicate the young man in charge of me to release me from at least one of my fetters. The other, as I pointed out to him, would be quite heavy enough to insure my safe custody. As he was merciful, and bore no malice against me, he at length suffered himself to be persuaded, and set one of my feet at liberty. He had no sooner left me than I set to work to carry out a plan I had already formed for my escape. I tore my shirt into shreds, and taking off my stocking and slipper, stuffed them with these rags till I had made a very fair model of a leg and foot. But though the form and contour of the flesh was there, you had only to touch the new limb to find that it was lamentably deficient in bone. What was to be done? I looked about everywhere, till at last my eye lighted o a stick hidden away under a settle. I seized it eagerly and soon fashioned bones for my leg; and then, hiding my real limb under my cloak, I sat calmly awaiting the success of my ruse. After a time the young man came in to pay me his usual visit and to ask me how I did. 'I should feel better,' I said, pointing to my dummy, 'if you would kindly fasten this leg to the fetter and let me give the other a rest.' He consented, and chained up my false limb with all imaginable care."

The rest is soon told. The prisoner waited till nightfall, and as soon as he heared his attendants snoring, quietly parted company with his fettered leg, undressed it, clothed himself again, and softly stole out of his cell, which no one had taken the trouble to fasten on the outside. Even then his difficulties were not at an end; but he at length found means to scale the outer walls of his prison and to regain his liberty.—*Library of Wonders.*

"BUT THIS WAS TOMMY'S, AND HE'S DEAD!"

As we passed along the street one day, we saw a little boy sitting upon the curbstone. He was about five or six years of age, and his well-combed hair, clean hands and face, and tiny but well-patched pinafore, indicated that he was the child of a poor and loving mother. As we looked at him more closely, we were painfully struck with the heartbroken expression of his countenance and the tears rolling down his cheeks. We stopped and, placing a hand on his head, kindly asked him the cause of his trouble. He replied by exposing to our view the fragments of a tiny toy—the figure of a cow.

"Oh, is that all? Well, never mind it. Step into the toy-shop here and buy another," and we dropped a fourpenny piece into the little fellow's hand. "That will buy one, will it not?"

"Oh! yes," said he, in a flood of grief; "but this was Tommy's, and—*he's dead!*"

The Puzzler.

BOTANICAL ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I am composed of 72 letters:

My 12, 10, 6, 2 is the "queen of flowers."
My 22, 52, 53, 3, 4, 27, 36, 47 is a pretty flower.
My 51, 13, 24, 42, 8, 55, 14, 31, 30, 41, 37, 39 blooms once in a hundred years.
My 20, 2, 18, 31, 70, 57, 59, 35, 70, 52, 30, 68, 69 is a very graceful tree.
My 49, 68, 65, 50, 66, 15, 60, 56, 71, 45, 11, 3 is a fragrant house plant.
My 38, 21, 57, 39, 64, 54, 25 is a wild flower.
My 31, 29, 9, 23, 52, 62 is a part of every flower.
My 48, 31, 23, 52, 46, 17, 52, 26, 63, 16, 34, 3, 43 are the most beautiful fruit tree flowers.
My 22, 7, 64, 51, 32, 1, 2, 53, 58 is something to feed canaries.
My 28, 2, 3, 52, 68, 22, 44 is suitable for Christmas trees.
My 22, 4, 51, 39, 18, 43 is a tropical plant.
My 68, 67, 22, 40, 36, 63 is a singular-shaped flower.
My 22, 61, 19, 33, 70, 31 is a plant kittens like.

My whole is a poetical description of June, by J. R. Lowell.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Eudora.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—May 13.

Poetical Enigma No. 1.—

"Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood."

Cross-word Enigma No. 10.—Watertown.

Diamond Puzzle No. 3.—

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Syncopations No. 1.—1, Paln—pan; 2, Bury—buy; 3, Stoop—stop; 4, Bloat—blot; 5, Claim—clain; 6, Steep—step; 7, Spire—sire; 8, Spoon—soon; 9, Trail—tail.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend, as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

One of the clauses of the Cushman will is the following: "To a friend, Emma Stebbins, $1,500 yearly." This Miss Stebbins was the constant traveling companion of Miss Cushman. She is said to be a person of some literary attainments, and it is the general opinion of the friends of Miss Cushman that she will undertake to write a biography of the departed actress.

A new swindle, now extensively practiced principally in country towns, is the sale of almost worthless dry goods by trickery. A peddler calls upon a farmer and shows a large bundle of assorted cloth, and represents himself as the agent of a bankrupt firm in England. He says that under a special provision of the revenue laws, remnants in packages of not less worth than $150 each may be imported free of duty, thus saving about seventy per cent. The purchaser of a lot really pays double instead of half the value of the goods.

The flood in the Connecticut and Passumpsic rivers exceeds any rise since the great flood in October, 1868. All the lowlands and meadows north of White River Junction, Vt., to Barnet are under water. Wrecks of buildings, wood, bark, hay, etc., are constantly passing down. The toll-bridge at Piermont was swept away. The water was up to the chords of the bridges at Fairlee, Thetford and North Thetford. The station at Bradford was surrounded by water, and several stations near by flooded. The cattle-yards at West Lebanon were partially submerged. Several miles of the Connecticut and Passumpsic Railroad track between Bradford and Newburg were three feet under water.

The Ohio Legislature has passed a bill providing for the punishment by fine and imprisonment of all persons who get on or off railroad trains that are in motion.

The "heathen Chinee" has introduced a new industry in San Francisco—the manufacture of the genuine Chinese fire-crackers. Two factories, with a capital of $15,000 invested, turned out, last year, the value of $30,000; using $7,500 worth of raw material, and paying out $5,000 for labor.

A large number of counterfeit $5 bills on the First National Bank of Northampton, Mass., were detected in the New York banks recently. They have been only a few days in circulation, yet have become widely distributed, and it is evident that a large quantity has been issued. It is said that they are printed from the same plates as were the bogus lives of the First National Bank of New Bedford, which were issued two weeks ago. The picture on the right end is darker than in the genuine, and is blurred.

Jonah Titus of Providence, the oldest member of the Rhode Island bar, is dead.

The seventh annual report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics was published recently. Returns are given from 80,893 persons, 63,263 of whom are males and 17,630 females; 71,339 are of the "wage" class, and 9,554 of the salary class; 47,861 of the total number return 142,386 persons dependent upon them for support. From returns by employers for 254,993 employees, it is found that they amount to $118.39. On the other hand, 90 per cent. of males and 93 per cent of females gave the average yearly earnings of the former as $482.72, and of the latter, $198.76. The highest average of yearly earnings, for males, is found to be in Suffolk County, $576.19.

A substitute for the postal card, that is being considered by the Postoffice Department, is a stamped sheet (about note paper size), with gummed edge, to serve as both paper and envelope, and to cost two cents.

The Misses Logan and Board, young evangelists, have been giving Bible readings at the Hudson river towns.

The Hon. Newton Morse of Natick, successor of Winslow, the forger, from the Fourth Senatorial District of Massachusetts, has fled, having appropriated $3,000 of the town funds of Natick. He is said to have squandered large sums at faro.

An excellent quality of tea is being grown in Jasper Co., Texas.

The Centennial Commission has met and elected officers for the ensuing year. Gen. Hawley was again chosen President and Mr. Goshorn Director-General. Changes took place in the Executive Committee, the following being chosen:—Messrs. Goshorn, Corliss, Morrell, Boteler, McCormick, Beckwith, Loring, Kimball, Lynch, Latrobe, Atwood, Bernard, and Phillips. George W. Biddle was elected Solicitor.

The General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America held its meeting in Philadelphia. The Episcopal Convention met in Boston.

Trouble in Louisiana again. Bloodshed—negroes—military.

Late frosts have made the Ohio fruit crop a very dubious one.

The Boston City Council has reported adversely to the demolition of the old State House.

The season in Northern Vermont is reported very backward, owing to the heavy rains and freshets.

Wm. C. Austin, Deputy Marshal, has captured in Scott County, Va., five illicit distilleries, with over 10,000 gallons of mash and beer. He also arrested nine men engaged in distilling. Stony Creek has long been a place dreaded by the officers, where the distillers felt safe in defying them.

The sub-marine cable across Hampton Roads, which was broken a few days since by a vessel anchor, has been repaired.

Capt. McNally's men caught a party of Mexican raiders, while crossing the Rio Grande. They killed two and captured some stock.

Sixty members of the Boston Commercial Club have left for Philadelphia, where the annual dinner of the Club will be given. Gov. Rice is with the party.

Owing to heavy rains, little farming has been done in the country. Brooks and rivers everywhere are overflowing, and mills have been obliged to stop sawing. The Gulf ports are blocked with ice, which prevents the entry of schooners. It is believed that one result of the high water will be a fish famine for the next two years. The streams having overflowed their banks, the fish will spawn far in shore, where the eggs will be exposed when the water subsides.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows has adjourned after selecting Erie as the place for the next annual meeting.

Heavy damage by thunder storms is reported at Wheeling, West Virginia.

The Canal Investigating Commission met at the State Hall, Albany, N. Y., all the members being present, and considered the substance of two additional reports upon the canal frauds, which they will forward to the Governor in a few days. They also proceeded to the settlement of their final accounts.

Moody and Sankey have held a number of densely thronged meetings in St. Louis, and excited great religious interest among nearly all classes. They are now in Kansas City, where they will participate in the Sunday School Convention.

There was a terrible explosion in the mixing-house of the Atlantic Giant Powder Company's Works, 4½ miles from Drakesville, N. J. Frederick Johnson, the chemist, and Patrick Gallagher, a laborer, lost their lives.

A report just issued by the Examining Committee of the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts respecting the recent examination, shows that there are at present in the institution twenty-nine students. More than one-half of the graduating class will make farming their profession, as has thus far been the case with fifty-two per cent. of all the graduates.

Robert Bonner has eighty thoroughbreds on his breeding farm near the county farm.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States began its sessions in the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Tabernacle, May 18. About 400 delegates were in attendance. The morning session was occupied with a sermon by the Moderator of the last Assembly, the Rev. Dr. Edward D. Morris of the Lane Theological Seminary, on the "Past and Future of American Presbyterianism." At the afternoon session the election of a Moderator occurred, and the Rev. Henry J. Van Dyke, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, was chosen on the first ballot. Four clerks of the Assembly were also elected. In the evening a communion service was celebrated.

The Spring meeting at the West Side (N. J.) Driving Park began May 23d., and continued four days. The aggregate value of the prizes is $700.

The race against time by 30 mustangs, ridden by one man, ended in failure. The race was the result of a wager on the part of an old Californian that he could produce a man who would ride a distance of 305 miles in 15 hours, using for this purpose 30 mustangs. The first 10 miles were traveled in 26 minutes and 40 seconds, but it required 27 minutes and 20 seconds to accomplish the second 10. In riding the first 40 miles the rider changed horses 32 times, showing great agility in leaping from the back of one into the saddle upon another, and frequently meeting with serious difficulty because of the restive and vicious nature of the mustangs. Up to the 60th mile Parker rode with remarkable ease and grace, appearing only a little heated, and not materially fatigued. The weather proved unpropitious; the drizzling rain soaked the rider through and rendered the track very heavy. After Parker had made his 200th mile his motions were watched with intense interest. He was then 16 minutes behind time, and had been riding 10 hours and 6 minutes. At the end of the 226th mile Parker gave out and was unable to mount. He was completely exhausted, and was taken to the little hotel in the park. He suffered greatly from the effects of his undertaking, being blind and affected with nausea. The race closed at 3:27 P. M., Parker having been in the saddle 11 hours and 27 minutes. Mr. Hand now states that there will be another race, in which the attempt will be made to run 155 miles in 7 hours, using 25 mustangs.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Grave financial irregularities have been discovered among the Treasury officials at Madrid, and inquiry has been instituted which will lead to very disgraceful developments.

A town of 500 inhabitants in Syria has been converted to Protestantism. A chapel and a school-house have been built, and a preacher and teacher stationed there.

Dr. Aguilo Para, the new President of Colombia, was installed on the 1st of April. The Colombian Congress has voted $150,000 for the improvement of navigation on the Upper Magdalena River. In Peru the Government has failed to pay the first installment of the interest due on the purchase money for the nitrate establishments taken from private owners. Payment was to be made April 1, but the banks which were to advance the funds refused to make the additional loan required by the Government. Mr. John G. Meiggs has contracted for the working of the nitrate beds in Bolivia for 20 years, at an annual rent of $10,000. Great discontent exists in Ecuador. Dr. Borrero, the President, refuses to accede to the remodeling of the Constitution which Garcia Moreno gave them.

A private letter received in San Francisco, dated Honolulu, April 27, gives the following highly interesting extract: "The Zealandia brings stirring news from Samoa. The English ship Barraconta landed a force to add dignity to the captain's attendance at a conference of chiefs over the recent condemnation of Steinberger's vessel, and, thinking it a good opportunity, attempted to disarm the native forces. The result was much slaughter, and consequently the Barraconta shelled and destroyed the town, killing many natives, then landed and spiked the batteries and howitzers. All the English condemn the act of their captain, who is to be court martialed. Steinberger's brother is on the Zealandia."

For some time past the workmen in the Zoological Society's Gardens in London have been busily employed in the construction of a large temporary building, and an adjoining yard, intended for the reception of the Prince of Wales's living collection of Indian animals, which will be deposited there on his return to England. The collection is said to be extensive, containing nearly 150 mammals and birds, among which are four elephants, five tigers, two bears, one Cashmere deer, six other deer, and a very fine series of Himalayan pheasants. There were also living at the time the collection left Suez specimens of the Indian munis and gooral, or Himalayan chamois, neither of which animals has yet been introduced alive into England. Unfortunately the valuable armadillo died on the passage from India.

A British firm have completed for the Chinese Government an iron gunboat and supplied it with a 4½-inch Nevasour gun, which has such power that there is not an English man-of-war in the service that can resist damage from its shot.

A dispatch from Havana says that a party of insurgents in the jurisdiction of Sancti Spiritus attacked and captured a convoy of commercial goods and rations, killing the officer in charge. Another band of insurgents, numbering 500, captured a convoy consisting of twenty-three wagons. There are rumors of a great fight in the jurisdiction of Colon, but no particulars thereof have been received. Two hundred wounded soldiers are said to have been brought into Cardenas. In the jurisdiction of Cardenas an attack was made upon the large estate of Flor de Cuba by the insurgents, but they were repulsed. It is rumored that the Government will shortly increase the export duties on sugars and leaf tobacco.

A dispatch from Pesth says:—The Austrian Delegation has been engaged in discussing the estimates of the Foreign Office. Count Andrassy, in reply to questions, said: "I am now able to state that the peace of Europe will not be disturbed. The proposed reforms have been accepted by Europe and Turkey, and joyfully greeted by the insurgents, who now only desire guarantees for their execution. The present action of the Powers is directed toward the removal of obstacles preventing the accomplishment of the reforms." Count Andrassy said he was personally convinced that England would join in the agreement when the purely pacificatory intentions of the Powers become manifest. The result of the Conference at Berlin was that the Powers, setting aside all individual interests, had resolved to make the maintenance of European peace their guiding principle and to confer together on each case as it might arise. The Count declared that he would guarantee that no injury to Austro-Hungarian interests would result from the conference. He repudiated the charges of Austrian connivance in the insurrection, and opposed the idea of military occupation by Austria of the insurgent provinces. Austria, he said, in conclusion, had no enemies, stood on the best terms with all foreign countries, and might confidently anticipate that her efforts to defend peace would be successful.

A whole family in France has been poisoned by eating raw mussels gathered in places where an old copper-bottomed vessel lay. Boiling would have removed most of the poison.

During the past year 6,865 horses, mules and asses were delivered for consumption in Paris.

The "Urn Cremation Society" at Dresden has sent a circular to all other cremation societies in Europe, inviting them to send delegates to a congress which will be held at Dresden on the 6th and 7th of June. There will be one public meeting, succeeded by one held with closed doors, at the latter of which "experiments will be made." The process of cremation has more partisans in Holland than in any other country, and a Dutch Society, the headquarters of which are at the Hague, counts no fewer than 1,300 members. Similar societies have been founded in Germany, at Berlin, Dresden, Bremen, Hamburg, Breslau, Leipsic and Gotha, and the German adherents of cremation now publish three journals to advocate their views—the Sanitas, edited at Leipsic by Prof. Reclam, who invented the mode of incineration now practiced; the Medical Family Friend, published at Dresden; and the Correspondence for Encouraging Cremation, which appeared at Walburg.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, May 20, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	61,775	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,391	Rice, bbls	536
Corn meal, bbls	4,214	Cut meats, pkgs	9,790
Corn meal, bags	450	Lard, pkgs	8,623
Wheat, bush	390,050	Tobacco, hhds	1,497
Corn, bush	782,623	do. cases	3,317
Oats, bush	383,200	Butter, pkgs	23,920
Rye, bush	11,050	Cheese, bxs	13,426
Malt, bush	94,900	Cotton, bales	13,950
Barley, bush	11,550	Rosin	13,000
Beans, bbls	4,016	Spts. turp., bbls	2,686
Grass seed, bush	1,050	Dried Fruits, pkgs	160
Beef, pkgs	510	Eggs, bbls	14,800
Wool, bales	1,025	Peanuts, bags	1,738
Hops, bales	630	Leather, sides	22,970
Pork, bbls	2,025	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,517	Oil cake	9,329

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent properly from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,025 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 25,391 do.; same time last year, 10,215 do. Exports of peas past week, 10,130 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 326,110 do.; same time last year, 197,400 do. Warm weather reduces the wants of medlums to nearly a jobbing demand and late prices are very dull. A round lot of the best would not go above $1.15; holders, however are not inclined to offer freely at that rate. Marrows fall off to $1,90 early in the week, but a fair shipping inquiry has revived them again and some marks are held above $1.95 free on board vessel. Prime Pea beans suitable for eastern cities are scarce and wanted. For white kidneys there is no call. Red kidneys are quiet, but as stock has become reduced, holders of choice are firm. Poorly cured red are not looked at. There is a fair demand for Limas. Canadian peas are more animated and close firmer for bulk. Green peas very inactive with a further decline. B. E. dull. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.30@1.35; fair to good, $1.00@$1.25; prime mediums, $1.15@1.20; fair to good, 90c.@$1.10; poor, 50@60c.; prime marrows, $1.75; fair to good, $1.50@1.60; prime white kid., $1.40@1.50; other, $1.15@1.30; prime red kidney, $1.30@1.35; other, $1@1.10; Limas (Cal.), $3.00. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.18@1.20; do., in bulk and bond, 95c@$1; green, $1.20@1.25; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, ₰ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—There is a little better supply, but sufficient demand to give it a steady market. Southern quoted at 36½@37c.; Western, 35c.

Exports past week, none; since Jan. 1, 36,200 do.; same time last year, 62,500 do.

BROOM CORN.—Business continues very light, with prices unsettled.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—There is no special change in quotations. Most of the past week the sales of State have been at the inside line, but we look for full prices next week, especially for selections. There is a fair demand but some interruption is occasioned by the lack of uniform color. Some lots are arriving more or less streaked and the best trade will not touch them. Again parcels that would be called yellow last week are pushed aside in the endeavor to find enough of rich grass color such as is showing in a good many small lines. Careless seasoning condemns a good many lots. We know it is not easy to exactly hit the taste of all buyers but a little judgment would prevent the extreme of over-salting or washing out all of the seasoning. Speaking of color, packers in firkins should guard against putting up anything of a light tinge, as the trade that calls for firkins now will not use white or straw-colored at any price. Pails seldom exceed best tubs. In fact most of our grocery trade prefer the latter. Western butter holds up rather better than State. The retailers who have a quick trade are induced to purchase freely with prices so much in their favor, while its deep color (when natural) attracts other buyers. The Centennial does not as yet help our ordinary trade with Philadelphia, for the moment it is intimated an over supply there.

New butter, Pails, State selected, 28@—c.; do., other 23@27c.; creamery, 27@30c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 27@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; Welsh tubs selected, 26@27c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 25@—c.; fair to good, 23@25c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 27@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; Western tubs, dairy, good to prime, 24@—c.; fair to good, 18@20c.

Western factory choice, 24@25c.; do. fair to good, 18@20c.; poor, 17@21c. Some low grades of State, 15@21c. Old Western, 15@20c.

CHEESE.—Exports for the week, 16,928 boxes, showing only a slight movement as yet. Receipts have run somewhat larger, but they have been mainly of medium stock and skims. The fine factories do not accumulate materially, and are selling at 11@11¼c. The Liverpool dispatches, while not of a depressing nature, offer but little inducement to buy other than small lots.

New at 11@11¼c. for fine factory; 10@10¼c. for good; 9@9½c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 7@9c.; do., skimmed, 3@5c. Old, nominally as follows: State fancy factory at 12@12½c.; do. fine, at 11½c.; do., good to prime, at 10@11c.; do., fair to good, at 8@9½c.; do., poor to fair, 3@7c.; State farm dairy, good to prime, 9½@10½c.; do., fair to good, 7@9c.; western factory, good to prime, 9½@10½c.; fair, 7@8c.; poor to fair, 5@6c.

COTTON.—Export movement is still small and at easy prices. Closing prices are for May, 12@12 1-16c.; June 12 1-16@12 3-32c.; July, 12¼@12 9-32c.; August, 12⅜@12 13-32c.; September, 12 7-16@12 15-32c.; October, 12 5-16@12 11-32c.; November, 12 7-32@12¼c.; December, 12 7-32@12⅜c.; January, 12 11-32@12⅝c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	8 11-16	8 11-16	8 11-16	8 11-16
Strict ordinary	9⅛	9¼	9⅜	9¼
Good ordinary	10 1-16	10 1-16	10 3-16	10 3-16
Strict good do	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Low middling	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 7-16
Strict low middling	11⅜	11⅜	12⅛	12⅛
Middling	12⅜	12⅜	12 5-16	12 5-16
Good middling	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
Strict good middling	13⅛	13⅛	13⅜	13⅜
Middling fair	13¾	13⅞	13⅞	13⅞
Fair	14⅜	14⅜	14⅜	14⅜

Stained.

Good ordinary	8¾	Low middling	10⅜
Strict ordinary	9⅛	Middling	11⅛

DRIED FRUITS.—Apples have further demand from the West, but desirable lots are offering reservedly; generally prices very strong. Otherwise in this market business is limited to a few small job lots, and prices barely settled.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; do., quarters, 10c.; Western quarters, 9c.; Southern sliced, 9½@10c. for prime; fair lots, 8½@9c.; Tennessee quarters, 8¼c. Blackberries, 10½@11c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 14@15c.; do. fancy, 16@17c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 30c. Raspberries, 27c. Cherries, 20@21c.

EGGS.—The market is gradually improving, and the receipts are expected to now fall off. A portion dealers are asking the advance with confidence, tion of the Western is not turning out well in quality. These are irregular. Southern do not give their former satisfaction. State eggs are in fair supply. Penn. and Lower Jerseys are mostly going to Philadelphia. Low prices for duck and geese eggs are working them out. The new quotations for Western eggs have ruled only for the past two days. We quote:

Near points, ₱ bbl., 16½@17c.; State and Penn., 15@15½c.; Western, prime, 14½@15c.; do. fair marks, 14@14½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 13½@14c.; Canadian, 14½@15c.; duck, 17@18c.; goose, 24@25c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₱ lb.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras, 55c. There are no changes to report in price or situation.

FEATHERS continue very dull, and prices for even the best sorts are nominal. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; mixed, do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—There has been a liberal export demand and prices generally stronger. Quoted at:

Superfine State, $4.15@4.60; extra do., $5.05@5.30; superfine Western, $4.15@4.60; extra do., $5.05@5.75; No. 2, $2.85@3.60; extra round-hoop Ohio, $5.05@5.30; trade brands do., $5.35@7.00; white wheat extras, $5.80@7.00; St. Louis, $5.30@9.00; City Mills extra, $7.50@9.00; Southern at $5.10@5.35 for superfine; $5.10@6.25 for poor to choice shipping extras; $6.35@8.50 for trade and family brands. Corn meal selling at $2.85@3.30 for yellow Western; $3.50@3.55 for Pennsylvania; $3.50@3.55 for Brandywine. Rye flour at $4.75@5.10.

FRESH FRUITS.—Prime russets are lower; the market was not strong enough to bear additions from the over-stock of other cities. In this way Boston and Philadelphia have for a time broken the market. Strawberries are abundant enough to form a market item, and moderate prices keep them in motion; Marylands open very fine this season; first large instalments of Norfolk poor. Gooseberries quoted at $2.50@3 ₱ crate; not wanted. Cranberries are quoted as in our last; strawberries and rhubarb kill their sale locally. Peanuts steady, though quiet.

We quote:—Choice apples, $3.75@4.00; good, $3.00@3.50; fair mixed, $2.00@3.00. Strawberries, Norfolk, 10@20c.; Maryland, 15@23c. Peanuts—Virginia, ₱ bush., $1.60@1.70; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15. Hot-house grapes, ₱ lb., $1.50@2.

FURS AND SKINS.—Receipts are about all here for the season, and we know of nothing that will vary our recent revision of prices, which are as follows:

Otter, ₱ piece	$6 50@ 8 00	$4 00@ 5 50
Gray Fox	1 75@ 2 00	1 40@ 1 60
Red Fox	1 90@ 1 75	1 25@ 1 40
Black Bear	10 00@15 00	7 00@10 00
Brown cubs and yigs	4 00@ 5 00	2 00@ 3 00
Fisher	8 00@10 00	7 00@ 8 00
Mink, dark	2 00@ 3 00	1 25@ 1 75
pale	1 00@ 1 50	75@ 85
Muskrat, spring	28@ 30	23@ 25
winter	23@ 25	21@ 23
fall	18@ 20	16@ 18
Kitts	6@ 7	5@ 6
Beaver, ₱ lb.	1 00@ 1 75	75@ 1 00
Raccoon	68@ 80	40@ 55
Opossum	12@ 15	12@ 15
Skunk, black		75@ 90
striped		10@ 40
Wolf, mountain		2 00@ 3 00
prairie		75@ 1 10
Sheep, clipped		25
In wool		90@ 2 00

GRAIN.—Advices from the Continent of cold weather and unfavorable prospects have led to a sharp export demand for wheat, corn and rye, with prices generally higher and strong. Sales of wheat at $1.03@1.10 for No. 3 Chicago spring, so-called; $1.08@1.09 for rejected spring; $1.10@1.25 for ungraded spring; 1.18@1.19 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring; $1.20@1.22 for No. 2 Chicago spring; $1.23@1.25 for No. 2 Minnesota spring; $1.31@1.33 for No. 1 spring; $1.25 for No. 3 New York white; $1.20 for New York No. 2 spring; $1.35 for white Canada; $1.25 for No. 3 winter red Western; $1.45@1.52 for white Michigan. Rye at 83@85c. for Western; 95c. for white Canada; 92@95c. for State. Corn at 59@62½c. for mixed Western; 61c. for Western yellow. Oats at 34@42c. for mixed; 36@45c. for white Western and State.

GINSENG.—Southern, $1.15@1.20; Northern, $1.15@1.20; Seneca root, 75@80c.

HAY AND STRAW.—An active business has been reported in hay, largely in shipping grades; prices generally favor the buyers.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 85c.; retail quantities, $1.00@1.10; clover, 70@75c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.10 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 3,200 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 21,400; same time last year, 12,850.

HIGHWINES selling at $1.12.

HOPS.—Exports for the week have been 591 bales; these in good part go forward on owners' account, there being but little fresh export demand. Receipts are small, but in excess of the same time last year. Brewers are doing but little. It is most too early yet to get a decided idea to regard to the prospects for the new crop. The roots in most of the important districts have wintered well. We quote:

N. Y. State, 12@13c.; Eastern, 10@16c.; Wisconsins; 10@10c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₱ lb.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 20@21c. for light; middle, 21@23c.; heavy, 21@23c.; good damaged, 18@20c.

MAPLE SUGAR.—The supply is not large, but the light demand keeps prices unusually low.

Choice new sugar bricks, 10c.; small, 11c.; fair, 8@9c.; old, 6@7c. Syrup, ₱ gallon, 75c.@$1, which is relatively lower than crystallized.

OIL CAKE.—Western brings $30 per ton.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry is scarce, but any extra call for it can be now supplied by city killers. These operators can of late years prepare stock so as to resemble the desirable near points, and the fact gives them quite a hold upon retailers. A little Eastern frozen stock is left, but it does not go above 17c. for turkeys.

We quote Philadelphia fowls at 19@21c.; spring chickens, 35c. for small slips, 28@30c. for small capons and 33@35c. for large capons.

Chickens, Bucks Co., good to prime, 18@19c.; Jersey, good to prime, 16@18c.; State, good to prime, 15@17c.; Western, good to prime, 13@15c.; fair to good, 10@12c.; poor, 5@8c. Turkeys, Jersey, good to prime, 18@19c.; State, good to prime, 16@18c.; Western, good to prime, 14@17c.; inferior, 7@10c.

The supply of live poultry is good, and the demand is brisk enough to advance prices. We quote:

Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb., 16c.; do. Western, 15@18c.; Roosters, 8@9c.; Turkeys, N. J., 13@15c.; do. Western, 13@15c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, $1@1.25; do. Western, 65@80c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.25; do. Western, 75c.@$1.25.

Pigeons have been in large supply, but by working them off to other points dealers have been enabled to somewhat work up prices. English snipe are most out. Plover are coming from ice house. Long Island yellow-legged snipe quotable next week.

Wild pigeons, feathered or dressed, ₱ doz., 60@80c. English snipe, ₱ doz., $2.00@2.25; plover, ₱ doz., $1.12@1.25; sand snipe, 40@50c.; wild squab, ₱ doz., 90c.@$1.00; tame do., $2.50@2.75.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products generally have remitted a little from the late low prices. Trade is slow. Spot lots quoted at $20.85; June, $21; July, $21.20; August, $21.30; extra prime, $17.50; prime mess, $21.25. Bacon at 11¾c. for Western long clear; 12c. for city do. Western steam lard at $12.90 for spot lots and June; $12.72½ for July $12.85 for August. Stearin at 13¾c. for Western. Beef hams at $22@24. Tallow at 8¾@8¾c. Beef—Extra mess, $13; do. plain, $12.00@12.50; tierced at $21 for prime mess, and $23 for India mess. City extra India mess at $24 and Philadelphia mess at $23.

SEED.—Grass neglected; clover is quoted at 16¼@16½c. Timothy, $2.80@2.85.

REFINED SUGAR.—Quoted 8¾@9¼c. for soft yellow; 9¼@9¾c. for soft white; 10¼@10¾c. for crushed; 10¾c. for powdered; 10¼c. for granulated.

TOBACCO.—Export trade is quite liberal in Kentucky leaf, prices for which are stronger. Seedleaf moderately active.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7
Good lugs	7 @ 7¾
Low leaf	8 @ 9¾
Medium leaf	9½@11
Good leaf	11½@12½
Fine leaf	14 @16

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6 @ 8
Wisconsin	6 @ 8

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 1,206 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 77,653 do.; same time last year, 39,896; onions, since Jan 1st, 5,432 bbls.; same time last year, 1,275 do. Prime old potatoes are a trifle better; common not wanted. Bermudas are doing better; Asparagus coming from all points. Quotations for green stuff are subject to sudden fluctuations at this season of the year.

Norfolk now supplies green peas, others not wanted.

Early Rose, bulk, ₱ bbl., 97c.@$1; Peach Blows, $1.25@1.50; Prince Alberts, 75c.@$1.00; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $5@6; Florida, $3@4. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $5@8; red, $7@11. Squash, Marrow, bbl., $2.25@2.50; Hubbard, $1.25@2.50. Russia Turnips, bbl. 50@75c.; white, 30c. Carrots, $1.00. Spinach, ₱ bbl., 75c. Charleston green peas, ₱ bu., 50c.@$1.50; Savannah, 50c.@$1.50. Southern cabbage, ₱ bbl., $1.25@2. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, 50@60; beets, 100, $1.25 ₱ crate. Mushrooms, ₱ lb., 60@75c. Rhubarb, ₱ doz., $1@2. Bermuda tomatoes, 5-quart box, 50@60c.; Bermuda onions, ₱ bush, 1.75@2. Florida string beans, $3@5. Asparagus, ₱ doz., $1.25@2.25, the latter for O. Bay. Florida cucumbers, crate, $2@4. String beans, crate, $1.50@2.50 for Florida and $3@4 for Charleston. Norfolk green peas ₱ bbl. $2.50@4.00.

WOOL.—Domestic fleeces sell slowly, but no further decline in price. California grades are a little more freely dealt to at easy prices, otherwise a dull market. Manufacturers are not disposed to purchase beyond urgent requirements. The recent failures tend to demoralize the market. Sales of XX Ohio fleeces, 40@41c.; X Ohio, do., 40@43c.; X Penn., 42½@45c.; pulled at 38@41c. for super; California at 19@25c. for the new clip; Texas at 17@22c. for the new clip.

ROCHESTER, May 20.—Flour market dull: spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.25; white winter, $1.35@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 22@24c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 14½@15c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1.75. Potatoes, bu., 25@60@70c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $23.50. Wool, 25@40c. Hay, $10@16. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.00; clover, $9.50@9.75. Mill feed dull at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $23 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.05@6.45 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., May 20, 1876.

THERE has been some improvement in the market this week, owing to the better quality of the cheese offered. We have not, however, reached full-cream make, the best cheese on the market being every-day cheese, with the night's milk skimmed. For farm dairy cheese, every-day make, 85c, was paid; full-skimmed went at from 6 to 7c., according to quality.

The offerings from factories amounted in the aggregate to about 3,000 boxes, and sales were rather dull, though the market as a whole was more brisk than for the preceding week. The range of prices for factory was from 8 to 10c., the latter price being reached for extra lots of every-day make, with the night's milk skimmed. There were one or two lots reported at a fraction over 10c., said to be full cream. The market can hardly be considered settled, and prices will not be fully established until we begin to get full-cream cheese in quantity. Considerable cheese was sent forward to be sold on commission. The country roads continue to be in a wretched condition for travel, but, notwithstanding the difficulty of reaching market, there was a large representation from farm dairymen and factorymen.

The delivery of butter has fallen off and prices also. Sales this week have been made at from 22 to 23c. for the bulk, a few extra lots bringing 25c.

The weather has been favorable for grass, and some of the herds are being turned to pasture. Cows are reported to be in good condition and to be yielding fair returns in milk.

We have advices from abroad to the fourth week in April. Our London correspondent says there has been a good sale for all sorts of English and American cheese at previous rates. Dutch cheese is easier.

The prices are for extra American, 63@63s.; fine, 62@61s.; good, 56@60s.; secondary and common, 34@52s. English cheddar brings 80@90s.; Wiltshire double, 70@80s.; Cheshire medium, 36@56s.; fine, 76@80s.; Scotch, 66@70s. Dutch cheese—Edams, September make, 70@74s.; Goudas, 56@62s.; Derby shape, 56@62s.

Butter sells as it comes to hand, and at the close of the previous week's market there was not a pound in agents' hands. Normandy brings 116s.; Corks, 110@115s. No Canadian or American butter in market. Oleomargarine sells at 100@120s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, May 20, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,929	58	3,846	3,032	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	54	217	761	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	11,641
Harsimus Cove	4,806	00	000	7,375	8,103
Totals this week	9,735	92	4,063	11,768	20,044
" last week	9,846	46	2,769	17,823	24,775

BEEVES.—Trade on Monday last was extremely slow on a heavy run of horned cattle; to dispose of the herds, sales had to be effected at ½c. ₱ lb. less than the closing rates of the past week; quality from common to good, with a limited number of choice quality steers, a few of which were held over and the others slaughtered and shipped for England. Prices were at 9¾@12c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6¾@9¾ cwt. Wednesday, trade very slow on a moderate run of generally coarse but fat beeves; prices at 9½@11c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. Thursday, trade small at 9½@11c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. Friday the markets closed weak; sales at 9@10¼c.; weights, 6@8¾ cwt. Bulls on live weight, 4¾@5c. ₱ lb. Native steers, 8@11c.; grade, 11¾@12c.; a few top quality steers fetched 13¼c.; oxen, 12¾c.; Cherokee steers, corn-fed, 9¾@10c. Mixed herds, 8¼@10¾c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @12¾	12 @12¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	8¾@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—On a better quality of fresh cows trade has been easier at advanced rates; 20 cows sold at $50@70 ₱ head; 3 at $55; 16 at $40@60; 7 at $60@75—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Buttermilk-fed calves, quality poor, 4¾@5c. ₱ lb.; coarse lean calves, 5@8c. No smooth quality veals to hand. State calves, 4¾@8c.; Jersey, 6@7c.; Pennsylvania, 7@8c.; the demand was fair, and the markets closed firm.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last trade generally slow; sheep at 6@7¾c.; yearling lambs, 8½@8¾c.; spring lambs, 9¾@13¾c. Wednesday, trade fell off ¾c. strong; sheep, 6@8¾c.; yearling lambs, 8c.; spring lambs, 9@14c.; quality superior to that received on Monday. Thursday, trade slow in sheep at 6@8¾c.; lambs, 9@13c. Friday, the markets closed weak; sheep at 6@7¾c.; lambs, in small lots, 9½@12½c. State sheep sold at 6@8c.; Michigan, 7@8¾c.; Kentucky, 7¾c.; State lambs, 9½@13½c.; Jersey, 9@14c.; Virginia, 9@13c.; State yearling lambs, 5½@8¾c.

HOGS.—One carload Ohio hogs, 129 head, average weight 184 lbs. ₱ head, sold at 7¾c. ₱ lb. City dressed remain slow of sale on a light run. Heavy hogs, 9c.; 180 lbs. ₱ head and downwards, 9¾c.; 160 lbs. do., 9¾c.; light pigs, 9¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade heavy; high-priced valuable horses held on sale; 50 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $25@95 ₱ head; 30 ordinary, $100@179; 11 head of coarse quality heavy draft horses, $120@210; 3 pairs do., $300@450 ₱ pair; 3 saddle horses, quality inferior, $150@200 ₱ head; 1 pony, $92; 15 roadsters, with moderate trotting action, $250@475 ₱ head; 170 horses arrived per Erie Railway, via Oak Cliff Station.

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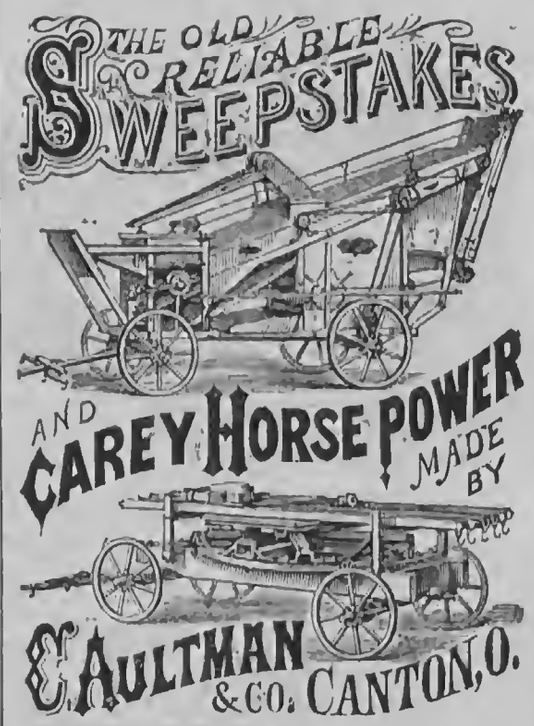

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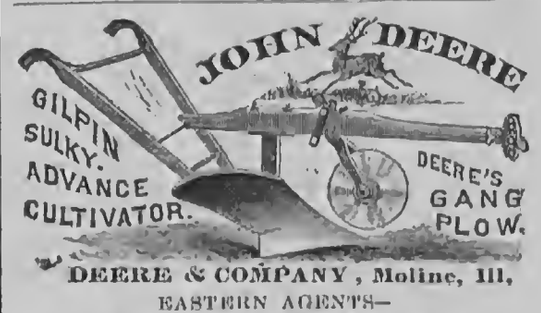

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

PRESIDENT GRANT is 54 years old.

JOHN YOUNG, son of Brigham, has but one wife.

A SCULPTOR has been at work on a model for a pale cast of thought.

A CEMETERY is the last place in the world in which to look for a man.

WALT WHITMAN has written a poem—"The Prayer of the Canteen."

A CERTAIN man whose clothes shine from age thinks himself a polished gentleman.

DR. PEPPER is Medical Director at the Centennial. Dr. Pepper's report will be read.

AN editor wanted something from the pen of a farmer. He received a pig and a bill for $9.60.

THE Emperor William of Germany will not submit, when traveling, to be distinguished in any way from his retinue.

MISS PERRY, a lady lawyer, who graduated from Michigan University last spring, has recently won an important lawsuit in Chicago.

GOLDWIN SMITH wants to see the man who knows that there is a hereafter. Goldwin will some day think he knows him all too well.

ADMIRAL VERNON JACKSON died recently in England. He was the original of Captain Marryat's capital character of O'Brien in "Peter Simple."

MR. LANIER'S cantata would have been much better if the head and tail of it had been cut off and some other lines put in the place of the rest of it.

A FARMER in Berks County, Pennsylvania, has used the same scythe for thirty-five years, and expects to make it last until he is himself cut down.

SUCH American girls as have married Chinamen pronounce them excellent husbands. "John" does all the work, while his wife reads all the novels.

AN Ohio clergyman, praying in his church was interrupted by his dog, which trotted up the aisle and pulpit stairs and put his paws on his master's shoulders.

A CHEYENNE editor says the only way to treat the Indians there is to boot them out of town. Pshaw! you wouldn't Kickapoo-r fellow for nothing, would you?

LUKE, the jockey who rode Petrarch in the Two Thousand Guinea race at Newmarket, England, subsequently received an anonymous gift of £500, enclosed in an envelope.

ANNA DICKINSON cleared $700 by her opening night, and if she is a failure she has money enough to buy a spring hat and a new dress and go home looking real sweet.

THE 2,629th anniversary of the foundation of Rome by Romulus was celebrated in that city on the 23d of April, with an illumination of the antique monuments and relics.

THE young man who was offered a situation in a tobacco factory at five dollars a week, half of it to be paid in fine-cut, replied that he didn't chews to accept any such chores as that.

DON CARLOS'S horse, upon which he intended to make his triumphal entry into Madrid, has been put up at raffle in that capital. The proceeds are to go in aid of the wounded campaigners.

THE editor of the Rocky Mountain News is worth $560,000, and yet he labors away as if he couldn't afford two calico shirts. His wealth consists of notes of hand from raving Indians.

GEN. JOHN A. SUTTER, who owned the ground upon which California gold was first discovered, is now said to be a very poor man, whose friends are petitioning Congress to vote him a pension.

A PAIR of Indiana twins 50 years old, if we may believe the Chicago Times, want to pass themselves off as a centenarian. Debating society will please commence. We stand by the twins.

A MOUNTAIN of superior white chalk has been discovered in Idaho, and now, if a never failing spring is in close proximity, an enterprising man might start a dairy there without investing in a single cow.

A HARRISBURG man who boasted he'd never seen the horse that could throw him, was landed in a druggist show window five minutes afterward, amid a chorus "There's alight in the window for thee."

Now subscribe for the newspaper. An eminent physician says: One of the cheapest and most efficient chest protectors, when unexpectedly exposed to cold, raw winds, is a folded newspaper inside the vest.

AND now historians tell us that Montezuma was not such a huge fellow after all, but only a simple Indian Chief, minus marble halls, bags of diamonds, and mountains of gold and silver, just like the rest of us.

MACAULEY says of Mrs. Beecher Stowe: "I am glad that I met her so seldom, and sorry that I met her at all." And of her book (Uncle Tom's Cabin): "It is the most valuable addition that America has made to English literature." The value of the compliment to the book depends upon whether he read it before or after he formed Mrs. S.'s acquaintance.

OLE BULL has just returned from a most successful tour in Egypt, where, according to a promise made to the King of Sweden and Norway, he played on the top of the pyramid Cheops on his his last birthday, Feb. 5. Having accomplished this, he telegraphed to the King, who answered him immediately:

"I thank you for your telegram and rejoice in all your success. OSCAR."

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The only satisfactory Wire Fence known.
HANDSOME. DURABLE. CHEAP.
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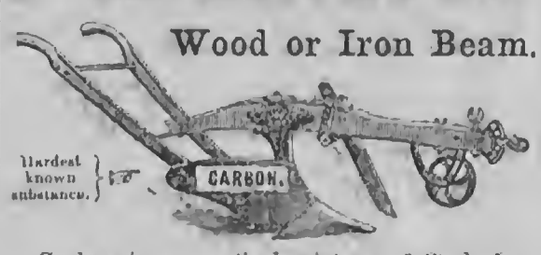

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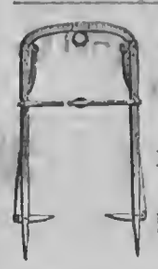

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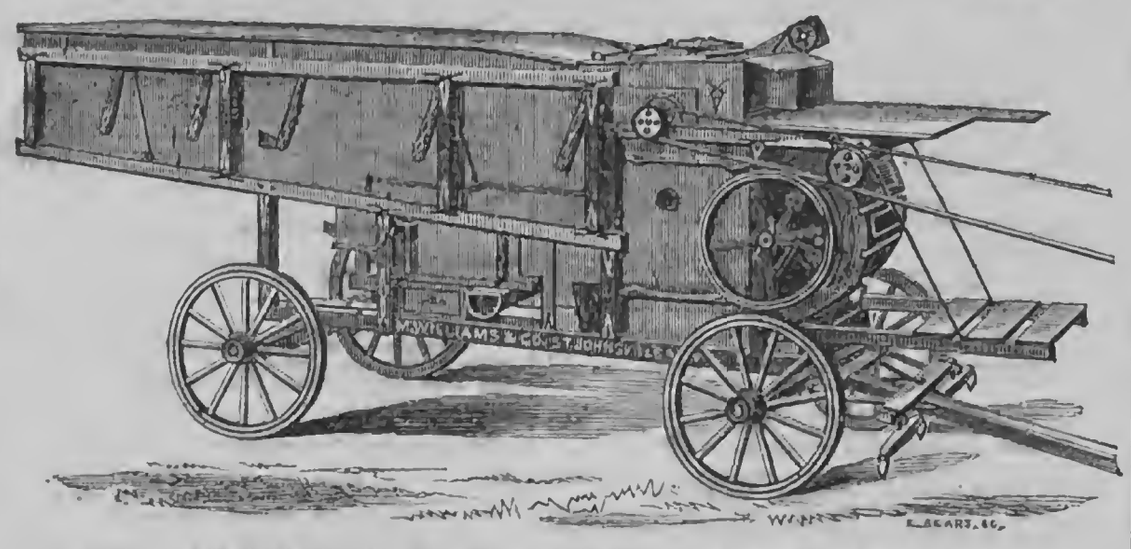

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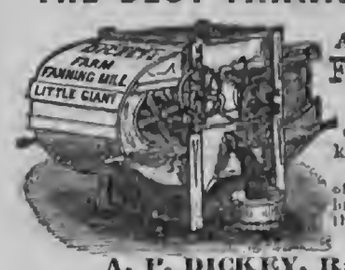

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WILLARD'S PRACTICAL BUTTER BOOK costs but $1, and is the standard. Order it.
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Alexis.—You want to know what we think of the assertion of a correspondent of one of our contemporaries, who says he "Has driven thousands of caterpillars from apple trees in less than thirty-six hours by putting sulphur in holes bored in their stems." Well, our honest convictions are the man, either innocently or designedly, intended to deceive; for if the worms did leave the tree, the sulphur in their stems had nothing to do with the desertion. But there is little use of trying to show some persons the absurdity of such remedies, for they are too ignorant of entomology and vegetable physiology to see it. The late BENJ. D. WALSH, in referring to a recommendation to use sulphur in the stems of trees for the purpose of destroying insects in them, said in derision, "Why not try jalap, rhubarb, and ipecac? But be careful not to give too large a dose of blue mass or vitriol, else you may salivate the trees."

M. C. S.—Purchase a copy of "White's Cranberry Culture," price $1.25, and read it carefully; then you will be able to determine for yourself whether it will be worth while to go into the culture of this fruit. Much depends upon the location and natural facilities for making the beds, and it may be after thoroughly investigating the subject you will conclude not to make the venture.

Alex. W.—For two light, slender-growing vines of rapid growth, we do not know of anything better than the American five-leaved ivy and the Golden-leaved Japan honeysuckle. They are both hardy, and the contrast in the color of their leaves produces a pleasing effect when grown side by side or the stems and branches intertwined. You can obtain the first from almost any wood or swamp and the second from our florists for about 25c. or less per plant.

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Farmer.—If you think the cow is afflicted with a disease of the eyes popularly called "hooks," and they must be cut out in order to effect a cure, we must say emphatically, *Don't do it.* It is very likely that the membrane at the inner corner of the eye—called the "haw"—is inflamed through some injury, which may be allayed by bathing in cold water or covering with wet cloths. But avoid surgical operations in such cases, as they are pretty certain to cause permanent injury to the animals.

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Portchester.—Old meadow sod turned over in spring or fall will usually give a good crop of corn without any addition of manure. A little plaster or ashes applied to each hill soon after the corn comes up will of course assist growth very much. We would advise sending orders for fruit trees direct to some of our leading nurseries. The price named for the trees as asked by your local nurserymen, is too high for ordinary kinds. Send for a catalogue of some other establishment and see what they charge for the same.

S. S. S.—You cannot do better than consult "French's Farm Drawing," price $1.50. By reading this book you can doubtless find just the information desired. After understanding the general principles, the application is comparatively easy.

D. W. Hoyt.—If all farm and road wagons designed for carrying heavy loads had tires four or five inches wide, it would be a great benefit to the highways as well as being much the best for the farm. But the change from the narrow to the wide tire increases the cost of wagons, and this is one of the principal reasons why so few farmers adopt this style, which are so common in England, where the law makes their use compulsory. Such changes however, will come in, as the country grows older and the people more wise.

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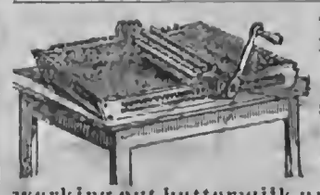

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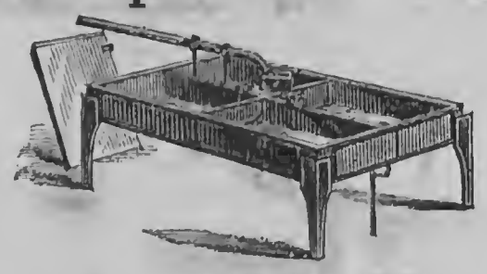

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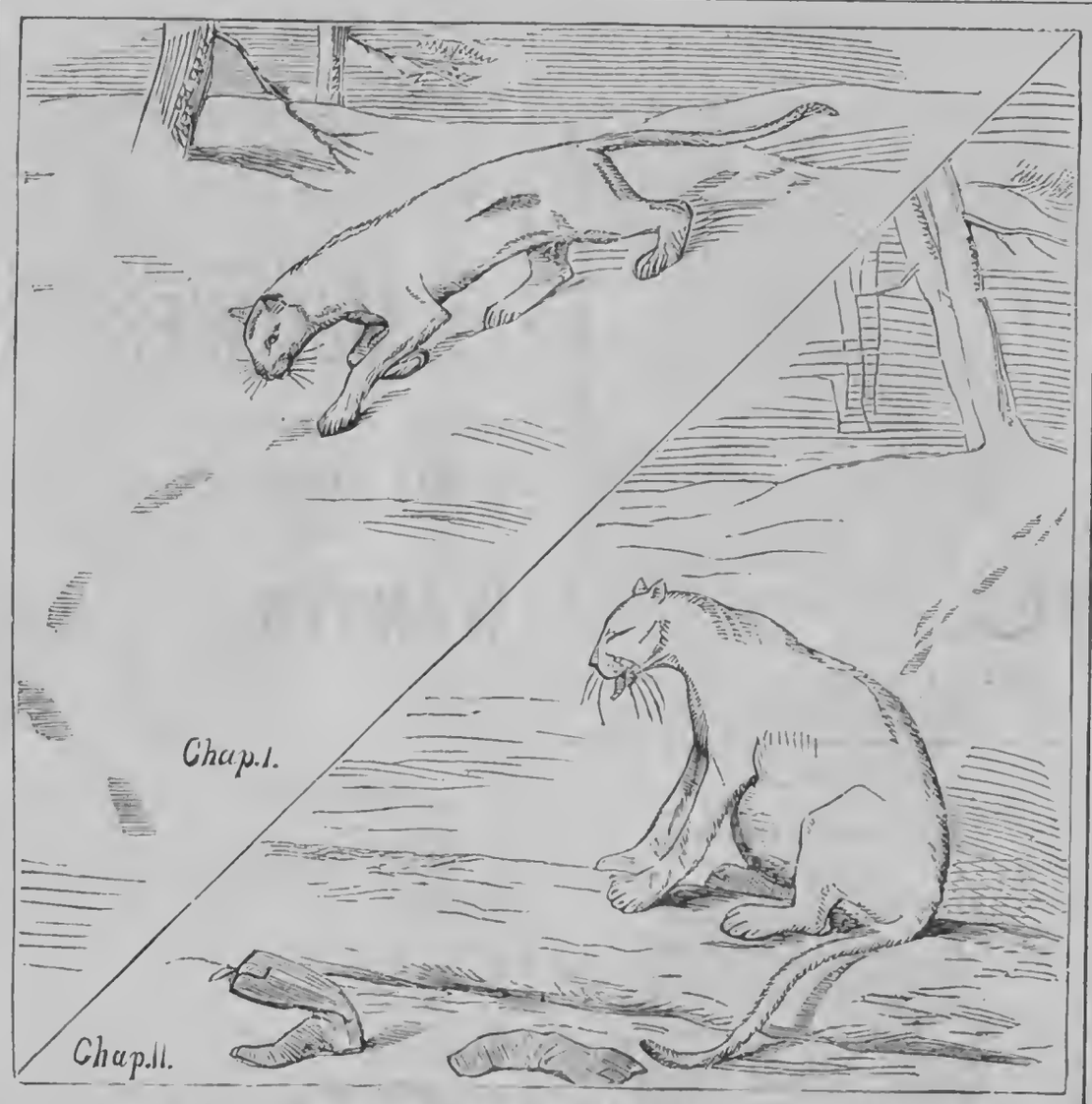

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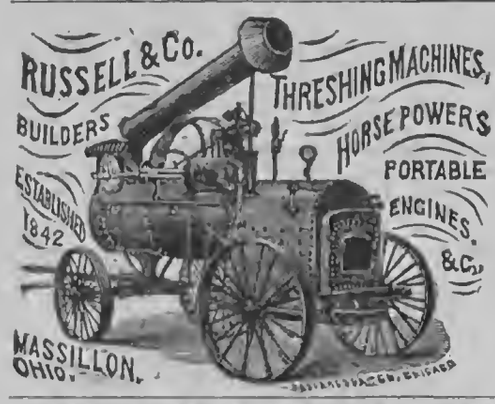

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VOL. XXXIII. No. 23.
WHOLE No. 1375.

NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 3, 1876.

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The Centennial.

THE WOMEN'S PAVILION.

DIRECTLY in front of and opposite the Government Building, and northwest of Machinery Hall, stands an irregular wooden edifice painted in sober tints, and at each of the three portals, in as many languages, is painted the legend: "Let her works praise her in the gates." This is the Women's Pavilion. The illustration on this page gives a very correct idea of the structure. The house and its exhibits is under the direction of the Women's Centennial Committee, of which Mrs. GILLESPIE is the President. The moneys necessary for the success of the enterprise were raised by voluntary contributions, concerts, etc., and great praise is due the President in this connection as those who should have been most heartily enthusiastic—the women of the land—have shown but a lukewarm interest in the scheme.

The interior is, however, light, airy, and well adapted to display woman's work to the best advantage. But a modicum of the exhibits are yet in position, owing mainly to the delay of the ship "Supply," which has at last arrived from abroad with a precious cargo, the contribution of women of other lands. The cases at present litter the floor in a chrysalis state, but in a short time ladies will have an opportunity to make notes of the progress of women in the arts and sciences from the time of PENELOPE to date.

The first impression, I think, will be one of disappointment, but when we recollect that the best display of practical female industry, textile fabrics, is in the Main Building, and that the notable results of the Philadelphia Female Schools will be shown in the Pennsylvania Educational Building, it will be seen that the Pavilion is not exactly representative after all, and, except as an amiable and worthy enterprise on the part of patriotic ladies, I see no particular reason for its being.

The walls are well filled with paintings, engravings, &c., and there are some meritorious examples of needle-work, embracing richly embroidered fabrics and a voluminous display of Japanese apparel, which is a practical demonstration of how not to do it, if you seek the æsthetic in your dress. The Lowell Industrial Schools make a creditable display, and the N. Y. Cooper Union Art Schools are not behind in meritorious work.

Madame JERICHAN of Copenhagen, contributes quite a number of pictures and the information that she "paints crowned heads," which may account for the fact that royalty never looks badly about the eyes after gentle vinous exhilarations. There are displayed, also, 74 patented inventions which will, doubtless, surprise many who think woman is not inventive. They are mostly in the domestic line, consisting of dish-washers, mangles, bedsteads, a frame for stretching and dyeing curtains, an ironer, and "darning made easy;" males have found no difficulty in doing that, and its practice is so universal that a patent seems superfluous. There is also a safety mattress combining comfort and the preservation of life. In times of distress at sea, the distressed are recommended to throw it in the water and—decide if it would be prudent to follow after it. The wax flowers and the Centennial Woman's Banner are quite perfect in their way, and not the least interesting feature is a loom worked by women. Telegraphy is shown to be a branch of women's work, and a paper, "The New Century for Women," is written and set up by women in the building. The press work is relegated to man, as the stronger animal. It would be impracticable to enumerate the many articles that will, without doubt, commend themselves to the peripatetic female visitor, but those of our readers who can give but a limited time to seeing the wonders of this vast Exposition, would not be recreant to their duty if they passed the Woman's Pavilion by the way.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, May 27th, 1876.

I HAVE striven, in previous letters, to buoy the channel so clearly that inexperienced navigators would sail as smoothly as in familiar seas. In doing this it has been necessary to omit any mention of the Exhibition, except incidentally; but in devoting so much space and time to what appertains to the physical comfort of the tourist, I should not like to have RURAL readers infer that these letters are merely intended for a guide book; on the contrary, when I shall have filled with good advice those of you who will see the Exhibition, I hope to "do" the buildings in order, and give full and particular descriptions of all that is remarkable and in any way interesting. We will not follow the custom of the Chinese and attack the delicacies of the repast before demolishing the solids.

HOW TO SEE THE EXHIBITION.

intelligently, and with the greatest lasting profit, becomes, therefore, a query of vast importance. I believe it is quite incredible for those who have not been on the grounds to realize the spasm of mental imbecility and utter helplessness that seizes one as he looks around on the acres of interesting places to be seen, and reflects that life is short and he has only two eyes; the result of which is, that the tourist drifts along aimlessly, soon becomes fatigued, and finds, to his disgust, that the legs move quite independently of the will, and have a bad habit of making circles about one locality, bringing up at the place from whence you first started. Meantime you look at various things as if you were passing in a balloon, get confused ideas, and finally your tired brain and body combine in the conclusion of Sir CHARLES COLDSTREAM, that there's nothing in it; and you feel as if you had expended time and money in vain; seen a mob of unfortunates similarly afflicted, that America is *the* country of the Globe; that you would give as large a pile of gold as you saw in the Main Building, if you were only home, thoroughly rested, the cobweb daze brushed from your aching head and ready to make a rational start once more.

If, perchance, you avail yourself of the Rolling Chair, you are trundled about quite as aimlessly, (if you have no definite plan) and the motive power being an indifferent citizen of the Republic, thinks he has performed his duty if he gets you over a goodly number of acres in the allotted time. This is the "having eyes, and ye see not" plan, and the one most generally adopted.

To say that this is all wrong would be merely to echo the sentiment of sensible people, as an Exhibition of this character is nothing if not educational. I would advise, then, in the first place, that before leaving home you procure a good Centennial Guide Book and a complete Catalogue of the various Centennial buildings. The Guides issued by either PORTER & COATES, Philadelphia, or HUBD & HOUGHTON, New York, are excellent. The Catalogues can be had only in Philadelphia (JNO. R. NAGLE & Co.). Study these carefully, that you may have a perfect idea of the location of buildings and their contents. You cannot fully appreciate this advice unless you disregard it, and unhappily find yourself in a sea of trouble on the grounds. As, to attempt to do this then, would only lead to wearying confusion. Conclude at once that it is beyond the power of human indurance to examine *everything thoroughly*, even though you remained through-

1776. WOMEN'S PAVILION. 1876.

out the entire term of the fair, and, like the wise person I assume you to be, select one or more departments in sympathy with your inclinations or previous study, and promise yourself to do them so efficiently that your absolute stock of knowledge may be thereby increased. Then, to get a good, general idea or outline of the whole, take a day, or week if you can, and devote it to "skimming." It will surprise you to find how quickly and smoothly things fall into place, and by the aid of your special, thorough knowledge many things, otherwise without meaning, will almost explain themselves. This is happily illustrated in science. If you are a specialist, it is at first amazing to view the tons of books you are supposed to have to read; but as soon as you have mastered principles, it becomes quite as much a matter of wonder how so many books on the same subject could have been written. Repetition is necessarily a large element in books and sight-seeing. As this Exposition is a comparative museum on a grand scale, it may at once be seen how nicely this analogy is carried out.

If your bent is Agriculture (with which I assume you to be quite familiar) you will get the bearings of Agricultural Hall from your Guide Book map so perfectly that you can find it as easily as you could your barn. Once there your fancy may direct you to the Implement Display. Knowing the principles that should govern mowers for instance, you will have marked on your Catalogue all the exhibitors of that class of implements, and never again, perhaps, will the opportunity occur to form such a just estimate of what, in your opinion, constitutes the perfect mower. Such knowledge is wealth as well as power, and you will never regret the outlay by which you gained it; and so on through all practical departments. The manner in which various countries treat their cereals, as illustrated in A. H. is of itself information of the most curious and useful character. I could extend the list indefinitely, but your catalogues, carefully studied as suggested, will furnish abundant hints.

As to the ornamental, I would advise a modified plan of the above system. In your catalogues of the Main Building you will find enumerated the gist of all that is beautiful in art.

If you attack art on the "subject," principle as herein recommended, and not on the hurly-burley "object" plan, you will accomplish wonders. There is scarcely a Nation represented that does not illustrate their national way of treating the same art, hence in your comparison of one subject you exhaust the exhibit of every nation illustrating that subject, which saves time, labor, and confusion, besides leaving a distinct impression.

I will illustrate my idea by taking Pottery—a subject I would recommend, as you kill, in your researches, several quite gigantic birds with one stone. If you are not familiar with ceramics, it would pay to read up on the subject before you leave home. An encyclopedia, or access to a fair circulating library, will put you in possession of the fact that pottery is one of the oldest and most beautiful of the arts; that by its aid we have gained most of our knowledge of old and extinct peoples; that Scripture has been mainly indebted to it for the authentication of many of its facts; and, that the history of its progress is in almost every instance the history of a people in art, culture and refinement. Here, then, is a sufficiently wide field for the most ambitious.

It would be well to particularly note the meaning of Pottery, Porcelain, Fayence, Majolica, Terra Cotta and Ceramic, as, if you do not, like Banquo's ghost, they will constantly rise before and plague you not a little, and the explanations of exhibitors will be about as intelligent as sanskrit to an ape. I would especially attract you to the English display to view the most exquisite creations in this department, and it may well excite your admiration when you reflect that all this is the outcome of the common delft ware, and that leads you to the fact that the ware was so called because it was first made by two sturdy Dutchmen who emmigrated from Delft in Holland, where the potteries were famous, and the wares not at all what we imagine by delft. The fact that Majolica is purely Saracenic in its origin, takes you at once to the fact that had it not been for those so-called barbarians we could not boast of our present culture, as when they rescued it from oblivion, Europe was banishing much that makes life pleasant, and doing it, too, under the sacred name of religion. Here, you see, is history in its broadest sense, as well as art. Knowing this, you may then compare the efforts of a score of countries in producing the identical ware, and form your judgment of their intellectual caliber as well as manual skill,

I think that if the Exhibition is studied in this way, the visitor will leave it with a stock of ideas as gratifying to himself as they will be astonishing to his less sapient neighbors, and he will also have laid the foundations of knowledge that may grow hereafter just in proportion to his inclination and industry. YOUNG RURAL.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

A VIRGIN MARY of colossal dimensions is among the statuary in the French collection.

THE great demonstration of the National Division of the Sons of Temperance will take place June 12.

ORGANIZED parties of visitors to the Centennial Exhibition will leave Europe shortly, one from Italy being mentioned.

A SIGNAL service office completely fitted up and in operation will be an interesting part of the United States Government display.

ALL the trees and shrubs exhibited by James Veitch & Sons of London, have been presented to the Fairmount Commission for the park.

A PIANO section has been organized near the eastern end of the Main Hall, in which the principal manufacturers are largely represented.

PUGET SOUND, Alaska, sends an Indian carving 40 feet high—a specimen of the wood of the region and of the skill of the Kulonsh Indians.

THE Jacquard loom, from Coventry, England, by which the process of weaving silk of the most elaborate patterns will be illustrated is now ready for work.

THE large model intended to represent the quantity of gold (£30,536,246,106) which has been produced by New South Wales is placed in position.

THE grand display of cotton velvets from Hanover attracts great attention. But on what ground? A cotton ground that velvet is made on, of course.

FAT men and people with tight boots will be gratified to learn that there are only thirty-eight miles of walking required to obtain a full view of the Centennial.

FORTY tents have been put up intended for the accommodation of the officers of the United States Army and employees assigned for duty on the Centennial grounds.

IT is stated, as one reason why the Exposition should not be opened on Sunday, that it "would be a flagrant breach of the well-settled law of the State of Pennsylvania."

A PHOTOGRAPH of Halliwell's unique portrait of Shakespeare has been sent from London. After the Exhibition it is to be given to some museum or library in the United States.

AN original painting of George Washington, by Stuart, presented by him to the Indian Chief cornplanter, and now owned by William Wilkins, will be placed in the Washington Memorial chamber of the Centennial Historical Department.

WHEN Russia fully unpacks she will exhibit enough malachite in vases, tables, chimney pieces and blocks for building houses to make us wonder that we much esteem the same beautiful mineral for earrings, studs and sleeve-buttons.

A MUSICAL contest will take place during the month of July between bands and orchestras from all parts of the country. These performances will be succeeded by competive performances of chamber music; and Handel's "Te Deum" will be given by all the singing societies of Philadelphia on the Fourth of July.

BARNUM says he could pay all the municipal expenses of Philadelphia, giving every poor family a barrel of flour, and lay up half a million, if all the drink money in that city in one year were paid over to him. Very well; why doesn't he buy up all the saloons and make it certain that all the money would be paid to him for his great philanthropic experiment?

AN immense chandelier, 24 feet in length, having a spread of 14 feet, and weighing 4,000 lbs., has been hung in the Art Gallery. It is manufactured of crystal and gilt in the Renaissance style, of a special design, to accord with the interior design of the building. Twenty large four-light brackets, of a style to match this chandelier, are being put up by the same firm.

Field Crops.

POTATO EXPERIMENTS.

A MR. MAULE of England has been making experiments with the object of endeavoring to arrive at certain fundamental principles in which a cure for the potato disease may be found. Some of these are extremely interesting not only in their bearings upon the disease but as likely to lead to new discoveries of practical value to the potato grower.

Mr. Maule in his first experiments considered if we could give a European foliage and constitution to the South American plant we should so strengthen it as to adapt it to the conditions under which it grows in Europe, and thus avert disease. Acting on this impression, he, as early as 1846, crossed the potato with Solanum Dulcamara and S. nigrum, and raised a batch of seedlings. This experiment was so far successful, but it was not so as regards Mr. Maule's principal object, for, he tells us, all the seedlings "partook of disease as much as their parents." Not disheartened by this result, but reflecting on the matter more and more, Mr. Maule determined to try the effect of grafting. In his former experiments he had endeavored to inoculate the potato with the hardier properties of the Bitter-Sweet and of the black Nightshade by means of cross-breeding; he now tried to bring about the same result by grafting. If, reasons Mr. Maule, a hardier foliage can be given to the potato its liability to disease will be lessened.

His photographs show, first, a spray of Solanum nigrum grafted on to a shoot of the potato. On the underground branches of this latter, a tuber was formed in the ordinary way. That tuber must presumedly, but not necessarily, have been formed by the aid of the leafage of the Solanum nigrum. It remains to be seen what this tuber will produce, and this is a point to which we look forward with lively interest.

Next, we have a case where a portion of the potato was grafted on to the Bitter-Sweet, or woody Nightshade, "Solanum Dulcamara." In this case tubers were formed on the potato shoot in the axils of the leaves, a position in which they may occasionally be found where no grafting has taken place. These tubers, having received their sap through the roots and stock of the Dulcamara, may, however, be assumed to possess some of the qualities of the stock. Lastly, and most interesting of the whole, we have a case where the Potato shoot was, as in the preceding case, grafted on to Solanum Dulcamara, and from the roots or underground shoots of this latter, tubers were formed, exactly as in the case of the potato in an ordinary condition. Here, again, we await with great interest the result and fate of these potato tubers produced on Dulcamara roots. But whether Mr. Maule's anticipations as to relative immunity from disease be realised or not, it is impossible not to see that in his hands the process of graft hybridization has received a most important confirmation, supposing the facts to be rightly interpreted.

Further particulars as to Mr. Maule's ingenious experiments may be found in the London Gardeners' Chronicle of the 22d ult., from which we glean the above. *Solanum nigrum* (the common Nightshade) and *Dulcamara* (Bitter-sweet) are found in the Northern and Western States. The first has jagged leaves, white flowers with yellow anthers, bearing black, poisonous berries. The second has shrubby, sub-climbing stems, blue flowers and red berries also somewhat poisonous.

CULTURE OF PUMPKINS.

W. H. WHITE, the well-known agriculturist, still holds on to the good old practice of raising pumpkins for stock, and he writes to an agricultural paper, giving his experience, as follows:

I remember how, in my younger days, a good supply of nice yellow pumpkins was produced by every farmer, furnishing a vegetable which found a place in domestic cookery as well as a goodly supply for milch cows, fattening cattle, hogs and other stock. Why the product is less prized at the present time (if it is less prized) I am unable to say; I only know the fact that pumpkins are less cultivated than formerly, in large sections. Probably the more general introduction of the squash as a substitute in domestic and family use, is the principal cause of lessened culture of the pumpkin. The squash, being so much preferred for a table dish, lessens the desirability of the pumpkin for similar purposes. Still the latter is the more sure and easily grown crop, when treated similarly. Pumpkins were always planted among corn, and as a rule there was an equally good crop of each, as if grown alone, and I find that similar results may be had now with good culture. Perhaps our corn cannot be planted as close in the row where pumpkins are planted among it as where alone, but the quality of the grain and fodder is superior to the close planted, and the yield in bushels per acre, is nearly or quite as great: and then we have several tons of pumpkins, which are excellent food for any kind of farm stock, and the following year no difference will be perceived in lessened product, by any successive crop in the rotation.

I prefer to put in the pumpkin seed by "sticking" them after the corn is planted and begins to come up, then I can distribute the pumpkins as I choose over the field. A good way is to stick the seed in every other row, and every third hill in the row, or more space can be given if desired. This mode of culture infers that a dwarfish, or rather low growing variety of corn is cultivated, such as is grown in our New England towns.

As an exclusive crop, the writer has grown and seen cultivated, small patches of half to several acres, with quite uniform success, and there is little doubt but that this might prove a paying crop in the vicinity of a good market, or as food for stock. As a feed for cattle and farm stock during the fall and winter, the pumpkin is not duly appreciated. They supply a most valuable food when grass fails from frosts and cold. For cattle and feeding purposes the old-fashioned yellow seems to be the more economical, as the product per acre is larger, but where the crop is produced for culinary use as well, the sweet or sugar pumpkin is preferable, it being thicker meated, according to size, and very much finer grained and flavored than the former. Seed can be obtained from any seedsman.

BARLEY AS HOG FEED.

D. A. COMPTON, writing to the Weekly Tribune about hog feed says:—As corn is frequently scarce and dear at the time hogs need it most, permit me to say a word in favor of barley. It should be sown on rich, dry land, as early as possible—land occupied the year before in corn or potatoes is preferable. It is a most excellent crop to seed down with, as it does not shade the ground to such an extent as most other crops. Two bushels per acre is about the right quantity to sow. As soon as the barley is fairly up sow two bushels of plaster per acre. When fully ripe cut with mowing machine or scythe, and let it get perfectly dry; then rake into windrows, draw in, and thresh at once. Ground and soured it makes the cheapest and best hog-feed I have ever used. It is also excellent boiled or steamed with pumpkins or roots. The straw makes good fodder and bedding. The great beauty of the crop is its cheapness and earliness, coming just at the time when required most. By giving hogs the run of the orchard and feeding barley as recommended, I find no difficulty in making early spring pigs dress over 300 pounds by Christmas. Corn-fed pork has a strong flavor, resulting from the acrid oil contained in the grain—a flavor not admired by any except Gentiles of the old type. Hogs intended for family use should be fed on ground barley, buckwheat, or oats for at least three weeks before slaughtering, to improve the flavor of their flesh. That corn alone makes solid pork is all bosh. As we have but one life to live here, let us have the best to eat that can be had, especially when the best is the cheapest.

DID TOBACCO COME FROM AMERICA?

A GERMAN iconoclast, says the Newark Daily, maintains that tobacco was familiar to the Old World before the year 1492. He claims to have found two mentions of the weed antedating the discovery of America. First—according to Sale the Koran contains a prophecy of Mahomet couched in these words:—"In later times there will be men calling themselves Moslems, but they will be Moslems only in name, for they will smoke *tambaco*." Second—In the writings of a Rabbinical author who lived before Columbus occurs a passage which Buxtorf translates thus: "The Persians eat *tabhaki* without salt." The verb in this passage (*achal*) signifies not only "to eat," but also "to drink." And very many Oriental nations say "to drink tobacco" instead of to smoke, this phrase reaching so far east as Japan. Among the wares imported into Alexandria during the reign of the Emperor Commodus was one indicated by the name Duakkha; very similar to the name Tuakko, applied to tobacco by the inhabitants of the Mosquito coast and many Caffirs, while the name among the Cochin Chinese is Tuakhan. The narghileh, or water pipe, furthermore, is found represented in the ruins of Nakshi Rustun, an ancient city of Persia.

VERMONT BEAUTY POTATO IN ENGLAND.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Garden speaks enthusiastically of the Vermont Beauty potato which is worthy of note inasmuch as American sorts, do not as a rule succeed any better in England than the English sorts do here. In speaking of the above named variety he says:

"This has proved here to be a most excellent late-keeping variety; to-day I have had a dish of it cooked, and I have never eaten a better potato. I mentioned some time ago that this is one of the best of the American kinds, aye, and of English sorts, too. It is also a handsome potato; that coarseness both in haulm and root, so general in the American potatoes, is quite wanting in Vermont Beauty. Its comparative freedom from disease, its short haulm, heavy crop, and early ripening and late-keeping properties all contribute to make it one of our best garden potatoes. It has the clean, smooth surface of the best of English-raised potatoes, and in many other respects leaves them a long way behind. Snowflake kept along with Vermont Beauty is not nearly so good."

FARMERS, HAVE A HOBBY.—Farmers, as well as other people, should have a hobby, and the best kind of a one is some particular crop under cultivation. It makes no difference what it is—corn, potatoes, or wheat—but push some one or more with all your might.

Dairy Husbandry.

CONCERNING MILK AND FEED.

DEAR RURAL:—Put me under an everlasting obligation to you by answering the following queries, which I am very anxious to know:—In order to get 150 quarts of milk daily, how many cows will a man be required to keep, of what breed, and at what daily average cost per cow, supposing that he buys all his feed? Also, what is the smallest possible space that said number of cows can be kept in with due regard to their health and all necessary exercise? Any other information or suggestions bearing on the subject will be gladly and thankfully received.—GEO. JACKSON, *New York City.*

The above letter was unfortunately mislaid, or it would have received a more prompt answer. The questions, however, can be properly discussed at any season.

The average dairy cow, taking the good and poor together in all the dairy herds of New York, makes a yield of from 1,800 to 2,000 quarts per year. It is generally put at the former figure, as there are many poor cows and many herds that are kept poorly. There are herds of from 20 to 30 cows that make a yield of about 3,000 quarts per cow during the year. This would be at the rate of 10 quarts per day on an average for 300 days, which would allow the cows to go dry 65 days. Good cows not unfrequently make a yield of from 15 to 20 quarts per day each for four or five months after "coming in milk." The Dutch, or Holstein, breed are noted for the large quantity of milk which they produce. But there are good cows of every breed, and if milk simply be the object—without regard to breeding in order to keep up the herd—we should say that selections could be made from the common cows of the country, or from grade animals with a dash of Holstein, Short-Horn or Ayrshire blood, that would give satisfactory results and at much less cost than to resort to thoroughbreds. If ten to twelve *extra good* cows are selected, they ought to make a yield of 150 quarts per day, on an average, for four or five months, and perhaps longer; but there is so much difference in the capacity of cows for milk and the time during which they will "hold out" in their milk, that it will be found difficult to state with exactness the least number to produce the quantity of milk named. The usual way with those running milk dairies is to have the cows come in milk at different seasons, so that as the milk begins to fall off, the cows failing or "drying up" are replaced with others "fresh in milk."

As to the cost of keep, that will depend upon locality or on the cheapness of the different kinds of cattle food. A cow not in milk and fed upon hay alone will consume on an average from 20 to 25 pounds per day. If she is giving a large quantity of milk, she will require—say, six pounds of wheaten bran and three pounds of oaten meal in addition to the quantity of hay named. The Germans put the ration of a cow giving milk at the rate of 30 pounds of good meadow hay per day. When we speak of hay as a ration, it must not be supposed that everything bearing the name of hay is to be taken. Good hay consists of a variety of nutritious grasses, cut when in bloom, cured in the best manner and stored in good order. Much of the hay employed in feeding cattle is defective, having been cut when the grass was too far matured, and, therefore, containing a large proportion of woody fiber, or perhaps it has been badly cured, exposed to rains which have washed out much of its nutritive elements. If we assume, then, that 25 pounds of the best hay, 6 pounds of wheat bran and 3 pounds of oat meal per day be sufficient to keep the cow in good condition while yielding the rate of milk named, we shall find the cost of keep to be as follows:—For 25 pounds of hay at $20 per ton (city price), 25 cents; for 6 pounds of bran at $1.20 per hundred, 7 cents and 2 mills; 3 pounds ground oats at $1.50 per hundred, 4½ cents—amounting in all to not quite 37 cents per day. Of course other kinds of ground grain may be substituted, or the proportion of hay lessened and the ground feed increased, according to the cheapness with which each may be obtained, from time to time. We have mentioned bran and oat meal because they are good milk-producing foods. A writer in a late number of an agricultural journal says that WILLIAM PYNCHON of Springfield, Mass., President of Hamden Agricultural Society, has a cow that averaged last year thirty quarts of milk per day through the month of June, and twenty-three quarts a day from July to October, her feed being a peck of bran twice a day, with grass and corn fodder. Bran will weigh from 12 to 16 pounds to the bushel. Another large milker is mentioned that was fed 4 quarts of rye feed and 2 quarts of corn meal per day, together with plenty of good hay. The amount of hay the latter consumed during the year was about five tons.

If the cows are to be fed green grass or other soiling crops duri any portion of the year, the cost of keeping would depend so much upon locality and circumstance that no satisfactory estimate could be made, probably, to meet the case of our correspondent without more specific description than is given in his letter.

If the cows are to be kept near the city, where hay and grain are the chief or main articles of food to be depended upon, an effort should be made to provide rations of some kind of roots, carrots, mangolds, potatoes, or the like, which do not affect the flavor of the milk. These will promote the health of the animals, and will also serve to keep up a good flow of milk. These rations could be made to take the place of a part of the dry fodder or meal, and often at no increase in cost of keep.

Now, as to the smallest space needed for ten or twelve cows, in order to give them the necessary exercise for health, etc. Our ideas in regard to this matter are that the cows should have a yard of pretty good size connected with the stable, where they may be turned daily. An acre would be quite small enough for the purpose to meet our views. Perhaps a much smaller space—a half acre—could be made to answer the purpose if the animals were carded daily and the herd were divided so that each portion in turn have the run of the yard. Those who advocate and have practiced soiling urge that cows can be kept in health by being confined within narrow limits and not allowed to roam in pastures; but so far as we have observed, the space allotted for exercise is larger than that we have named. If proper attention be paid to cleanliness of stables, to ventilation and freedom from filthy surroundings, and if the animals be kept clean and daily carded, they can be kept healthy in a smaller space than where these points are neglected.

CONCERNING SWISS CHEESE.

IN discussing the points of difference between the qualities of Swiss cheese as made in America and in Switzerland, a correspondent of the Utica Herald—a native of Switzerland, but now residing in this country—gives some explanation in that paper in regard to the cause of this difference. He insists that the cheese made in Switzerland is necessarily superior in that peculiar flavor and palatableness which are the chief characteristics or this kind of cheese. In the first place, he attributes a peculiar sweetness and flavor to the milk from the grasses and herbs on which the cows grazing on the lower Alps feed. He says:—"Those who have traveled in Switzerland will remember our beautiful dark-green meadows, alongside of numberless brooks and rivers, and encircling the sky-blue waters of some sixty smaller and larger lakes, feeding upon the everlasting snow and ice of our central mountains. They know that short, fragrant hay and grass, almost stunning with its odor, and growing along the sides and tops of our lower Alps. They will remember that sweet, powerful milk of our Alpine regions, not "white as snow," but perfectly yellow with cream, coloring and flavoring matter extracted from mountain herbs and prepared by the wonderful chemical apparatus of our stout, fair-looking and finely-coated cattle. It is not the "curd" only which forms a good cheese; it is a balsamo etheric principle, too, contained and dissolved in the milk, and coagulated and precipitated together with the curd. This principle, unknown in its constitution as it is, undergoes different changes during the "ripening" process of a cheese and turns out at last that peculiar taste and flavor by which different kinds of cheese are to be distinguished and valued. This is a chemical process completely analagous to that taking place in curing young wine, and differs only in the products finally obtained."

The curing process in Switzerland, he says, differs considerably in space of time in different localities. In Ementhal Valley this time ranges from five to six months; in Gruyere, Val de Pns and Unterwalden, from six to eight months. The Gruyere cheese is cured at a low temperature. At Gruyere, he says, there are natural cavities in the rocks surrounding that village. These cavities, though small, are used as curing rooms, having a natural temperature, never changing beyond 44 to 48° Fahrenheit. They are completely dry, having a perpetual, gentle blast from different slits all over the walls and running out probably from other cavities inside the mountains. It is accounted to that peculiar formation of these natural curing rooms that Gruyere cheese cannot be made elsewhere, though milk and method of cheese-making are as good anywhere else in Switzerland.

Exactly the same method of curing cheese can be followed at Roquefort, Depart, Aoeyron, France (*fromage de Roquefort*). There are a number of such cavities opening to the north (*les grottes au Delmul*), which cost in outfitting about 12,000 francs, and, though small and limited in space, they were sold in 1857 to the present proprietor for 215,000 francs. The curing time at Roquefort, he says, lasts from eight to ten months, the grottoes having an average temperature of 41 to 42½° Fahrenheit.

It will be observed in this description that the temperature of the cheese while curing is very low, as compared with the curing processes adopted in America. And we have heard it suggested that something of the value of these grottoes for curing the cheese was due to the presence of ammonia, which has a peculiar influence on the curing process. We have given these statements as the Swiss view of the matter, but we are hardly prepared to admit that, with the requisite skill in manipulating the milk and the proper method of curing the cheese, any better quality can be made in Switzerland than in this country; for we have mountain pastures here as well as there, while the Jersey cow upon these sweet upland grasses will yield quite as rich milk as the Swiss cattle. The Swiss take great pains with their cows, treating them very kindly and giving them the best care in every respect. This, with the clean, sweet water, the low average temperature of the climate and the nutritious grasses, has undoubtedly an important influence in producing good, healthy milk. In care and kindness to stock, many of our dairymen would do well to take pattern after the Swiss.

A MODEL DAIRY COW.

AND now Orange County, N. Y., takes the credit of having a famous cow. According to a correspondent of the Turf, Field and Farm, one SAMUEL MARVIN, living near Oxford Depot, in said county, has in his herd of 35 one small cow, purchased out of a Western drove, that gave last year, from Jan. 6, 1875, to Jan. 6, 1876, six tons eight hundred and eighty-two pounds of milk. Now, this makes 12,882 pounds of milk, which, if it had been converted into cheese at the rate of ten pounds of milk to one of cheese, would amount to 1,288 pounds, which, even at the low price of ten cents per pound, would come to $128.80. But if her milk had been made into butter at the rate of 25 pounds of milk to one of butter, we should have over 515 pounds, amounting, at 30 cents per pound, to $154.50, besides all the skimmed milk. Cows like this are evidently intended for "hard times," when dairy products fall to a low figure, as the increased product more than makes up for the depreciation in price. The writer says the statement of the yield of milk is no guess work, but is taken from Mr. M.'s farm book, and can be verified by *affidavit if necessary*. As to her feed, during the winter months she got one scoopful of soaked wheat bran and two and a half quarts of meal each morning, and a scoopful of brewers' grains and two and a half quarts of meal each evening and all the hay she would eat. When on grass she was fed two quarts of meal each day.

The following is stated as her record, which is certainly a remarkable one:

	Lbs.	Milk, quarts.	Per qt., cents.	Total.
Feb. 6 (31 days).....	42	21	4¼	$27 67
To March 6 (28 days).	42	21	4¼	24 99
April 6 (31 days).....	40	20	4¼	26 35
May 6 (30 days).....	40	20	4¼	25 50
June 6 (31 days).....	40	20	3¾	20 25
July 6 (31 days).....	36	18	3¼	17 55
Aug. 6 (31 days).....	36	18	3¼	18 13
Sept. 6 (31 days).....	36	18	3¼	18 13
Oct. 6 (30 days).....	32	16	3¼	15 85
Nov. 6 (31 days).....	32	16	4¼	21 08
Dec. 6 (30 days)	28	14	5¼	22 05
Jan. 6, 1876 (31 days).	20	10	4¾	15 06
[Or gave in 365 days 6,441 qts. milk; sold for.				$252 61

Dairymen who think they are getting fair returns when a cow yields 400 pounds of cheese or 150 pounds of butter per year will do well to study the above and consider what the possibilities are of a model dairy cow.

ARTIFICIAL BUTTER IN ENGLAND.

THOSE who have kept the run of the English dairy markets for the past year will have noticed that the much-despised oleomargarine, or artificial butter, has often sold for a much better price than genuine butter of American and Canadian make. There is no deception practiced in this matter in the markets of London. The oleomargarine is quoted as such; it is well known to dealers as artificial butter, and it is placed by the dealers in competition with the genuine article, customers being left to decide for themselves as to the merits of each and that which suits their taste best.

On the 21st of February American and Canadian butter sold in London, according to the quotations, at from 90 to 125 shillings the cwt., while oleomargarine at the same time brought 90 to 130 shillings the cwt. On the 28th of February the highest price for American and Canadian butter was 130 shillings, and the same price was reached for oleomargarine. Jersey butter on the 21st of February brought from 100 to 148 shillings, and the same price on Feb. 28. So it would appear that the manufacture of oleomargarine, or artificial butter, has been brought to a tolerable degree of perfection, or that American and Canadian butter is quite inferior. And it may be remarked in this connection that 130 shillings per cwt. is about the highest point at which American and Canadian butter has been quoted in London for two or three years past. We have never been partial to oleomargarine butter, and should prefer to select our supplies for the table from the genuine, old-fashioned dairies. We have always advocated that oleomargarine butter should go upon the market under its own name and should not be used to adulterate the genuine article; and while strongly advocating these points, we have not felt disposed to misrepresent facts concerning its manufacture, or to interfere in any way with the legitimate rights of those who are putting this article before the public in a proper manner. It has been said that the oleomargarine factories have been using impure and filthy fats in their manufactures; but no proof has been presented to show that any factory has been engaged in such work. On the contrary, so far as we can learn, the greatest cleanliness and care is taken in the manufacturing, while nothing but good, wholesome fat has been used. If it could be shown that refuse and improper material were used, thus sending abroad unhealthy food, we should be among the first to condemn its manufacture and urge that the factories be closed.

The London Grocer, in discussing this question in a recent article, says:

"Butter is fat from cow's milk; margarine is butter from cow's fat; no analyst can tell the difference. The known chemical analysts of London and Paris certify that margarine is chemically butter, and as a food it is equal to and will do all that is required of cream butter. We are indebted to the late Emperor of the French for the discovery and introduction of margarine as an important article of food. It will spread on bread and dissolve in the mouth, and, as it does not turn rank, it is now largely supplied to the French navy.

"Its consumption in this country is large, taking the place of the repacked foreign, as also third, fourth and fifth Cork Crane inspected butter (which, by the way, the Cork farmers say never came out of their dairies). It is sold by all the London wholesale houses, who, as also the retailers, well know what it is. As to the charge of venders not putting their names on the packages, it is not the custom for foreign butter to have the shipper's name on the packages."

KEEPING MILK AND BUTTER IN CELLARS.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I wish to acquire through your valuable paper information in regard to keeping milk and butter in a cellar where the bottom has been grouted.—A SUBSCRIBER, *Skaneateles, N. Y.*

REMARKS.—Milk or butter may be kept in a cellar the bottom of which has been grouted, and with good results, if proper attention be given to ventilation, drainage and temperature. When the ground is not of a character to afford natural drainage, drains should be laid so as to carry off all accumulations of water liable to occur at any time at the bottom of the cellar, and this should be done before grouting. By so doing, dampness from the floor is avoided, as well as impurities from stagnant water under the grout. If milk is to be kept in the cellar for the purpose of getting the cream and for butter making, means must be taken to have the temperature of the room as low as 60° Fahrenheit. Unless some one of the devices now in use for reducing the milk to a low temperature be employed, such as the large pan system, where flowing water is carried under the milk, or where the ice system and its modifications are adopted, there should be good ventilation to carry off stale air or noxious gases, as milk absorbs taints that will prove injurious to the butter.

We have seen excellent results from milk cellars having grouted floors, the walls being nicely plastered with water-lime cement and the floors made smooth and level with the same, and presenting the appearance of an immense block of stone.

We should not advise butter and milk to be kept in the same apartment. A butter cellar should always be kept by itself. It should be properly ventilated and used for no other purpose than for keeping butter. And so with the milk cellar; it cannot be used for storing vegetables, or for the meat and soap barrels, or for fish and other family provisions. Milk and butter are dainty aristocrats in their nature. They are extremely fastidious about coming in contact with filth and anything having an unsavory odor, as such contact speedily demoralizes them; and when they once become tainted, they go on from bad to worse, apparently having no disposition or power for reformation. So the dairyman should be careful and not introduce them to bad company.

FRESH GRASS AND SALT.—COWS in spring, when first turned out to pasture, require salt more frequently than at any other season, but in the hurry of spring work they are very likely to be neglected. The best way to insure a supply is to put a quantity in a box under cover, or where the animals can at all times reach it without assistance. In this way all danger from neglect through the carelessness of laborers will be avoided.

Industrial Implements.

THE PHILADELPHIA LAWN MOWER.

Nothing in the whole range of landscape gardening is more pleasing to the sight than a well-kept lawn. It maintains about the same relation to the ordinary grass plat that silk does to fustian. As nations advance in civilization their fancy for skillful gardening increases, and it incontestibly affords us one of the most delightful occupations in the range of out-door employments. What Americans have but recently come to regard as a distinctive beauty of the landscape—a fine lawn—has for centuries been the pride of the English. Such is the assiduous care and labor bestowed by the Briton on his grass plat that English lawns have become famous. Perhaps no spot on the globe can compare with the velvety turf that surrounds Windsor Castle. The recipe for a similar lawn is composed of two ingredients—plenty of labor and a good lawn mower; and man's inventive genius has striven and succeeded in lessening the labor by the improvement of the lawn mower. This implement is now used in nearly every country, and we may add, with great satisfaction, that the majority are of American manufacture.

HAND LAWN MOWER.

The makers of the popular "Philadelphia Lawn Mower" are, with their usual enterprise, among the first in the field this season, with new varieties of and improvements on this favorite machine.

As is our custom, on the appearance of improvements in agricultural machinery, we give in this issue two illustrations of an improved "pony" 30-inch cut, and a 6½ inch driving-wheel "hand" lawn mower, made by Messrs. Graham, Emlen & Passmore, Philadelphia, Pa. The pony mower is easily handled, compact, strong and durable,—the gearing is boxed, and with the exception of the shafts and foot board, the machine is made entirely of iron and steel, and cuts while turning either to the right or left. It weighs, complete, 350 lbs.

Of the hand mower, five sizes of the style illustrated are made. The size of the lawn must always be taken into consideration when deciding what to order. For small lawns or city grass plots the 12 inch and 14 inch are sufficient, but for general purposes, and where the lawn covers one-eighth of an acre or over, the 16 inch is the best size. Where the ground is smooth and the grass is cut every week, the 18 inch and 20 inch sizes are used to advantage.

To begin to enumerate the many styles made by this firm would be a work of supererogation, but we may say to those interested in the subject, that for light summer reading, where the illustrations please as well as instruct, we know of worse books than the little free pamphlet of G. E. & P.

THE ITHACA STEEL TOOTH HORSE RAKE.

Gradually but surely we see Darwin's theories exemplified, and the "survival of the fittest" not only operates on species but extends its influence to mechanics. The progress from the hand rake to the old revolving rake was as radical, as the advance to present high standards has become. It would seem that inventive ingenuity could no further go.

To discuss the importance of having an implement of this nature on the farm would almost be an absurdity, as no farmer worthy the name, (and surely none of the readers of this journal) would for a moment admit that it was not among the most essential helps to successful agriculture. Day by day the agriculturists of this country are being impressed with the great importance of farming scientifically, to the end that the land may be made to yield its utmost, and the loss of revenue caused by shrinking values, counterbalanced by increased productiveness. To do this, improved machinery must be employed, as in no other way can our material sails be filled by the wind of prosperity, and the ship that we all expect arrive, heavily laden with the blessings of this life, into the port of abundance.

In hay rakes, as in good breeding, the test is simplicity—accomplishing the end in view by directness, and a lopping off of redundancy. The perfectly bred person is natural and unobtrusive, the best hay rake is unostentatious, and so simple that we always wonder how perfection could have been so successfully boiled down, until the implement looks as fragile as a centipede and is in reality as strong as a whale. The Ithaca Rake, long and favorably known in the State of New York, is among the most popular implements made. It has been improved for the season of 1876, and its various makers say it is perfection in raking hay and stubble. The rake is made of the best material, steel teeth tempered in oil, which work independently. The teeth are held firmly to the surface when necessary, by applying the foot to the hand lever, leaving both hands free for driving.

The improvement consists of an attachment to the lever by means of which the load is discharged with but little effort to the operator and the teeth are raised above the cleaners by moving the hand lever to a point even with the side of the operator. The singletree is attached to forward part of the curved lever underneath the cross-bars, so that the draft of the horse acts simultaneously with the action of the operator upon the lever. This rake was exhibited at the Grand World's Fair at Vienna, by the Wheeler & Melick Co., and gained the *Medal of Merit*.

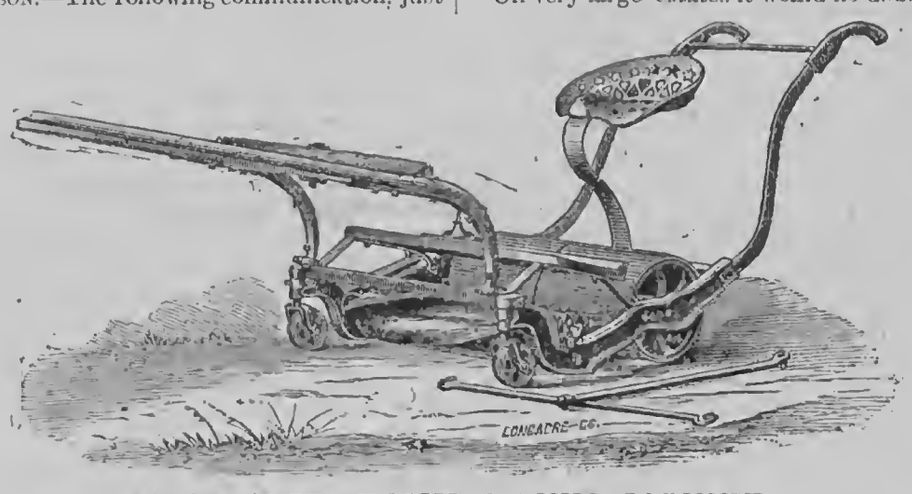
Catalogues and other information concerning this implement will be sent free on application by addressing either the Wheeler & Melick Co., Albany, N. Y., Williams Bros., Ithaca, N. Y., or Abbott, Brew & Co., Cleveland, Ohio, who manufacture the rake in these several localities.

WIND MILLS.

J. Edson.—The following communication, just received, answers your inquiry so fully that further comment is at this time unnecessary:

"Merrill Farm,"
Gwynedd, Pa., April 8, 1876.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—It gives me much pleasure to give you my experience in getting a supply of water for house and stock use on my farm. I first tried a small mule and endless chain power, which I found was very troublesome and far from satisfactory, as it required one man to attend to the mule when pumping, which was every day, and I concluded this did not pay, and determined to try something else. Some friend suggested a wind mill, and so I procured an old-style mill, said to have been improved, but, like the mule power, it was a complete failure. During the twelve months it was in use it was wrecked twice by wind storms, and had to be re-built at great expense and inconvenience.



IMPROVED PONY LAWN MOWER.

Having seen an advertisement of the Halladay Standard Wind Mill, I concluded not to abandon wind power until I had tried one of them. I accordingly purchased one, ten feet in diameter, of Wm. G. Rhoods, 1221 Market St., Philadelphia, who is Agent for the manufacturers, and he erected it in good shape. I am happy to say it has proved a complete success. It has run about two years at a cost of only $3. It has stood some very hard storms without the slightest damage in any of its parts. It elevates the water 54 feet, and we have had an abundant supply every day since it was first started. It is very simple and easy to manage, and I wish more of our farmers would adopt this great labor-saving machine.

I was so much pleased with the small pumping mill, that I decided to get a small geared mill for driving machinery in my barn. I therefore ordered a No. 6 standard mill, geared, and that, like the pumping mill, has proven an entire success. It has done much more work than the agent said it would. It was claimed to possess two-horse power in a good wind, but I am confident I have run it up to five-horse power. We have ground 10 bushels of corn meal per hour and run a corn fodder cutter, cutting large quantities of hay at the same time. We ran a 24-inch circular saw, cutting wood for house use at the rate of a cord per hour. We have ground all our feed, cut the fodder and shelled the corn for our stock, for which the grinding alone last year cost me $200, and the quality was not as good. We also run the grind stone, and a lathe for turning wood or iron, and can regulate the speed with perfect ease.

I have no interest whatever in the wind mill business—only to recommend to my brother farmers what I have tried to my full satisfaction, and hope that the day is not far distant when wind mills will be used as extensively in the East as they are on the prairies of the West.

W. O. B. Merrill.

PLOWING BY STEAM.

Mr. Editor:—In the Rural of March 18, you head an article: "The Steam Plow Still Wanted." My earliest recollection of the plow, over 40 years ago, was the exhibition of a model of a steam plow—five plows in the gang. It was then, I think, considered for some reason very doubtful of success. No doubt the time will come when it will not only be a success, but considered indispensible to the country.

On very large estates it would no doubt prove of great value, if not altogether in an economical view, but in making it possible to fit the ground in a reasonable time for the seed.

It seems to me that a good gang-plow with which three ordinary farm horses would do the work of four horses on two single plows, and thereby save the labor and keep of one horse and one man, is of far more importance to the great masses, both East and West, North and South. The price of a good gang plow seems so large that farmers will hardly stop even to discuss the merits or demerits, while to me it looks far cheaper than the best single plows now in use. The difference in cost of plowing 200 acres with the single plow and the gang is so great that the value of the gang can be saved in every plowing. If this is so, and it can be verified by practical farmers, how can any farmer afford to be without a gang, as owner either in whole or in part?

ITHACA STEEL TOOTH HORSE RAKE.

It would be much better, if one did not feel equal to the purchase, to join with his neighbor and buy jointly, and, by interchange of teams, each party as he uses the plow could have the advantage of a three-horse team, and do his plowing up quick, while he would be obliged only to keep a single team the remainder of the year. I do not see any gang plow advertised in the Rural, nor do I know of one made in this State though there may be. I would like to see the opinion of practical men presented in the Rural on this subject. I think the harvest is almost white for a good gang plow.

Buffalo, N. Y. S.

[By referring to our advertising columns you will find a gang and sulky plow offered, and both excellent implements of their kind.—Ed.]

Pomological.

SELECT YOUNG FRUIT TREES.

Three years ago we purchased with others two Baldwin Apples from a well-known nursery firm, the age of which may be guessed at from their size which was eight feet in hight and three inches diameter of stem. They were fine specimens of health and symmetry and were received from the nursery in excellent order with as much spread of root and fiber as could be transported with safety.

They were cut down about half or nearly so—all wounded roots smoothly cut—and planted with extra care. During the first summer the bark and wood of half the stem—that exposed to the South—died. The branches put forth a few leaves and the longest growth did not exceed two inches. The second summer showed an extension of dead wood and bark and it was evident the tree would never recover. It was, therefore, dug up and thrown aside.

The stem of the second tree remains sound—though a portion of the remaining top died during the first summer and the other portion made, like the other, but a sickly and insufficient growth. Last summer it recuperated so far that we considered it "out of danger," though its beauty is gone and the word "symmetry" can only be applied to its poor one-sided head in a spirit of miserable sarcasm.

Perhaps these two cases ought not to be taken as types of the injudiciousness of selecting large trees for transplanting. We can assure the reader that the experiment suffices for *us* and we shall in future recommend with that emphasis suggested by a thorough concurrence of the teachings of every fruit book and catalogue with personal experience—the selection of *young trees* alone.

As needless, however, as such experiments may seem and as needless as it proved to have been in the above instance—it is nevertheless a truth that "what everybody says is" not always "true," and that there are some things which "no fellah can find out" except by going it all over again himself.

THE CHERRY OR VERSAILLES CURRANT.

There has been considerable discussion among our pomologists in regard to the identity of the two currants known by the above names. Our nurserymen with few exceptions have offered both Cherry and Versailles in their catalogues as distinct sorts, charging in some instances fifty per cent. more for the latter than the former, and while they doubtless believed that there was a difference between the two, we have for the past ten years or more considered them identical. As an evidence of this we quote from the Small Fruit Culturist, page 205, 1867. "Very large; bunch, long and slightly tapering; dark red, acid; and by many it is considered to be a better flavored variety than the cherry, but by others very similar if not identical. The principal points of distinction claimed are that the Versailles is not so acid as the Cherry, and that the bunches are more tapering. But like variations may be observed in other well-known varieties, and upon plants growing in close proximity. At one time I thought that there was a difference in the growth and foliage of the two kinds, but more experience has not confirmed me in this opinion."

The above opinion was not reached through hasty investigations, but after procuring plants from various European nurseries, as well as all the best known and most reliable in this country.

E. P. Roe, in his late work entitled "A Manual on the Culture of Small Fruits," after referring to what we have written, as well as others, on the subject, says "But those purchasing the Versailles with the expectation of getting something very different and much better than the Cherry, should be undeceived."

We would naturally suppose that the English pomologist and nurseryman would be as likely as ourselves to discover a difference between the two sorts named, if any really existed, but, in an exhaustive article on currants by A. F. Barron, in the London Garden, for April of the present year, we find this head-line to the paragraph describing the cherry currant, "Cherry (*Synonym-La Versailles*)."

Now we leave it to our horticulturists in general if it is not about time to drop the name Versailles, from the list of currants or merely insert it as a synonym of the Cherry.

I have a large, luxuriant-growing cherry tree, about 30 feet high, which each year produces blossoms perfect in every particular, but never a perfect cherry, and seldom any at all. On examining the blossoms under a microscope, I discovered pollen in abundance and the grains actually attached to the stigma. What is the matter?—B.

We confess entire ignorance as to the cause of non-fruiting, and should be pleased to hear from some of our pomologists in relation thereto.—Ed. Rural.

Floricultural.

BANDAGE PROPAGATION.

The practice of slitting a branch and binding moss or other material over and about the wound is a very old custom. Six months or more ago we applied it to Geraniums (Pelargoniums) with results that lead us to speak of it now.

In raising the "Tricolors" from seed, we have already stated that it hardly ever occurs that the whole plant is variegated. Here is a shoot perfectly green; here is one with leaves half variegated, half plain. Still another shoot may be variegated with more or less uniformity—the only one upon the seedling, and it is this upon which we have to rely for establishing a "fixed" Tricolor of seedling origin. Those who have propagated cuttings in the usual way know that in spite of the most careful efforts the Tricolors sometimes fail to strike. In this case we should lose our variegated shoot and, perhaps, a year or more of time spent in its production. It was upon such shoots that we tried cutting the stem from half to three-quarters through—pressing the cut slightly open so that the parts should not grow together and then binding with moss—sometimes placing a small quantity of damp soil, as if it were putty, underneath and covering all with netting, gauze, or merely tying with a tape or yarn. This of course, must be kept constantly moist. In about the usual time required to strike the same cuttings in sand the roots will be found growing through the moss, when the shoot may be cut off just beneath the bandage and, with or without removing it, placed in small pots. By this method we have never once failed, and, indeed, we believe it to be unfailing, even though attempted when, under unfavorable conditions of moisture and temperature, the sand-bed would prove useless.

One advantage of this mode of propagation is that it may be accomplished during the winter in a conservatory or sunny window without marring the symmetry of the plant operated upon until the shoot is ready to be taken off. The variegated leaves hold their colors firmly while the callus and roots are forming, and the bandage may generally be concealed by the foliage. It is well to support the shoot which has been cut nearly through, by a neat stick or prop, since incautious handling is liable to break it off.

In this way many new and costly plants which one is desirous of increasing, and with which he is timid about running any risk, may be treated with little fear of failure.

Observe:—Our friends who are really interested in plants and who study to improve—to perfect (if this were but possible) their gardens—will now have their eyes wide open and will be keenly observant of every creeping, growing thing that blooms, wherever found; and they will note any that they deem worthy of their own collection, with a view of procuring it next fall or spring. No matter how fine the description of a plant may be written—*seeing* it is better, far. Then may be ascertained almost at a glance everything that belongs to the plant itself, as well as the conditions in which it thrives or fails. Visit the parks—visit your neighbors' grounds (to learn—not to copy), and don't think a flower mean because it *is* your neighbor's and prettier than yours. Visit nursery grounds. Nurserymen are obliging and are ever ready to answer civil questions, if they do not in several respects too closely resemble hail storms. Two things we have noticed in nurserymen: They do not like to have a second and a third question asked before they have answered the first in their own way; and (second) being great smokers, they appreciate a *good* cigar—not at all as a compensation for the information sought, you know, but as a "*guarantee of good faith.*"

We call attention to *Exochorda grandiflora* (*Spiræa g.*), now in bloom. Its axillary racemes of white flowers, as large as apple blossoms, almost conceal the shrub. It sometimes attains the size of a small tree, if so permitted—but it always branches low and retains a round shape. We know of a specimen ten feet high and more than three times its hight in circumference. In the fullness of its bloom (about the middle of May) it becomes a most showy object. It is especially to be prized for its extreme hardiness and its ready adaptation to many soils and situations. There are several peculiarities of this *Spiræa* possibly worth mentioning. The leaves vary from one to four inches in length, mostly of a spatulate shape—sometimes entire, sometimes half-serrate, sometimes having but two or three serratures near the apex. The calyx tube is green, but its lobes are nearly white. The racemes droop slightly and bear from five to ten flowers an inch to an inch and a half in diameter. Although advertised in a number of catalogues, this is not, like many inferior *Spiræas*, to be found in every garden.

The time of transplanting may be considered as having passed for another year—at least so far as hardy things are concerned—except for those who favor fall planting, from which number we respectfully and ruefully withdrew after the lesson taught by the fall of '74.

We extend to our good readers the very best of wishes touching their success for the present season. Let them ever bear in mind to well do whatever they undertake—to label plants accurately—to commit to memory their botanical as well as their familiar names, and to examine the more minute parts of the flower and plant that always escape those who, satisfied with beauty in the mass, think not—care not to search for that which may be hidden, but which, ofttimes, is no less captivating.

EXCHANGE.

C. F. McCloud, Darlington, Beaver Co., Pa., wishes to exchange Dahlia roots (sprouted), viz., dark velvet-red, bright-red, scarlet-quilled, maroon, flame-color, and a few pink—for lilac, white, quilled-buff, and variegated or tipped of any color.

Arboricultural.

TREES AS A PROTECTION.

On this subject there has been for the past few years much written and said, and as with most such matters that seem to come up, somewhat spontaneously, more crude theories have to be advanced before the real truth is reached.

Scientific men are liable to err like the rest of mankind, and when they do start a theory, it is taken up and nursed, pampered and propagated a long time, before any investigation is had of its merits. One of the most popular writers of the age says "One of the best books might be made by writing the biographies of defunct theories in science. Men have received as settled truths vast systems of Astronomy, Chemistry, and Geology that are now exploded, yet while these sciences were the faiths of the day, it was quite as much as a man's reputation was worth to teach otherwise."

Scientific men ought to know, and probably do know, that the cooling effect of winds is quite different upon vegetation from that upon living animals, and still many of them speak highly in favor of arborial wind-breaks as a protection to fruits, when in fact as true science indicates and experience proves, they are promoters of early and late frosts, the most deadly bane to the peach, grape and all tender fruits.

Winds are not necessarily colder than still air, and are quite as likely to raise, as to lower mercury in the thermometer, and their cooling effect upon the animal is due entirely to the fact, that the air surrounding the animal is constantly being heated by the combustion within its body, which heated air the winds move away to be replaced by cooler. Very different is it with the tree, for although it is held that all living matter generates heat, still with the plant when in leaf, the amount is infinitely less than with the animal, and what little is at this time generated, is more than over-balanced by the cooling effect of the evaporation from its leaves.

I am well aware that forests have an equalizing effect upon climate, raising the mean temperature of winter as well as lowering that of summer, for while in a torpid state, evaporation ceases mainly if not entirely, while the stem and branches being much better conductors of heat than air, receive heat from the sun when it shines, and conduct it below the reach of frost in the soil, to be restored again through the same channel to the air, while the sun is absent or behind a cloud.

I shall now attempt to show how and why these living wind-breaks promote killing frosts. It is well known that these spring and autumn frosts occur only on clear, still nights, when the heat which the earth has accumulated during the day passes rapidly upward into space. Either winds or clouds will prevent this rapid ascent. Even a slight motion of the atmosphere will often save tender plants that would otherwise be destroyed.

In districts where the surface of the land is uneven, (as most of the cultivated portions are more or less) the air as it begins to cool after sundown on these clear, still nights seeks the lowest level, and its place is occupied by warmer air, thus creating a current, the cold air flowing down the slope to the lowest point and the warmer air of the valleys which has received extra heat during the day following up; and this current like all other currents has the effect to prevent frost, except in the lowest places.

Now what will be the natural effect of wind-breaks? What but to prevent or obstruct these currents? Here is a specimen of tree protection. In the report of the orchard committee of the State Pom. Society (Transactions of 1874 page 133) is an account of four acres cleared, in the center of a 40 acre tract of timber and planted to peach trees; the owner doubtless believing in the doctrine of tree protection as taught, and had perhaps felt the thermal effect of forests in cold winter weather. Result "one-half the trees killed outright" during the winter and spring of 1874, and the remainder nearly worthless.

The reporter says "compare this orchard surrounded by forest protection with the Engle orchards so fully reported, (a premium orchard described on page 109) and the theory of forest protection falls at once."

There are also now to be seen on the bleak bluffs of Lake Michigan, peach trees that stood through the same winter and spring unharmed, while the same kind of trees on land nearly level, but protected by forest trees and high board fences are all dead.

It is not certain that winds if not strong enough to do mechanical injury, are not beneficial to vegetation in general.

The main part of the bulk of trees is carbon, which physiologists tell us they receive from the air, and as the proportion of carbon in the air is very small, it must take a very large amount of air to come in contact with the tree, to supply the necessary quantity. Then why not blow upon your trees to supply carbon, as you do upon the carbon in your fire to supply it with oxygen.

That trees are a great protection to animal life is beyond a question, and that large tracts of forests affect favorably the climate of the space they occupy, and to a considerable space beyond is fully demonstrated. I have no doubt that points elevated above the trees within the influence of these forests, are among the best points that can be chosen in this latitude for the peach and grape. At all events, no points are safe for tender fruits where the "atmospheric drainage" is obstructed. S. B. Peck.

Muskegon, Mich., May 18, 1876.

Remarks.—While we are glad to publish the above article, which bears evidence of thought, we must doubt the writer's theory that hedges and the like are favorable to the formation of frost. All objects radiate their heat in all directions, the same as luminous bodies do light. If a box with the cover off be upset upon the grass during a frosty night, the grass underneath the box will be protected. Let us now remove the bottom also. It will still be found that no frost has formed upon the grass within, owing to the mutual radiation of the sides, unless the temperature of the air has been below freezing. Now, what the sides of this box are to the grass which they inclose, hedges, etc., are to the grounds that *they* inclose. Clouds, like the branches of trees, radiate back the heat which they receive from the earth. It is not the frost which works the injury to the blossoms. Frost is if anything a protection to the parts upon which it forms, and its formation is attended with the evolution of heat. It is that degree of coldness which renders its formation possible that injures tender verdure.

Frost may form upon the surface of the earth while a foot above it the temperature may be many degrees above freezing. It is only when the temperature of the air itself is at or below freezing that blossoms, etc., are harmed—and *then* wind does but intensify the injury. We trust a further consideration of this subject on the part of our esteemed correspondent will induce him to favor our views, which we have not space to further discuss at this time.

Farm Economy.

WHEAT FARMING AND PROFITS.

Eastern journalists are continually pointing to the immense sum received annually from the export of wheat and flour to Europe and other countries, and continue to urge Western farmers to produce more wheat. We are told that water and rail communications are becoming better and better each year, thus reducing the cost of transportation. We are told that Missouri, Arkansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Kansas are capable of trebling their present productions; and that already American wheat has virtually driven Russia from the field in disgust.

There is no doubt these States might treble their productions. It is fully as true that any other Western States might do the same if they chose. That they do not is due to the fact that wheat is not found to be a paying crop, except on new lands, and as the first few crops until the farms can be brought into condition to produce grass, corn, cattle, hogs and sheep—the only real staples in the West that pay a profit without seriously deteriorating the fertility of the soil.

Those journals that are so anxious to urge wheat growing upon the West, persistently ignore this fact: Europe has had two short crops of wheat. The reason why Russia is not a competitor now, is because that region tributary to the Crimean ports, through bad seasons, have not had the wheat to sell.

The Western Farm Journal has steadily held forth the futility of any country trying to get rich from the export of any grain where, besides 1,000 to 1,500 miles of land carriage at least, 3,000 miles of water carriage must be added. In the case of corn and other rough grains, in seasons of plenty, the land carriage alone will eat out the profits, leaving nothing for the farmer at home over the bare cost of production—often not that. The case is not widely different with wheat, for even at present prices but few farmers in the West consider wheat a paying crop. They raise it until they can get ready to feed stock, and for the reason, they cannot get even by growing and shipping corn.

We suppose every sensible farmer will produce, and continue to produce, such crops as will bring him the most net money, having due regard to keeping the fertility of his farm as near intact as possible. This cannot be done with any one or two crops. The history of agriculture will show ruined farms from persistent wheat culture. It will show bankrupt owners where they have persisted in running their soil to wheat. It will also show that the area of wheat culture has steadily been pushed westward, and also a steadily diminished yield the longer wheat culture has been persisted in. The fact is, every bushel of wheat the country raises over the legitimate supply for the nation's use is nearly a dead loss. The true policy of the nation is to export only such products as are manufactured, flour, meal, beef, pork, butter, cheese and wool. Of wool we do not produce an exportable quantity: on the other hand millions of pounds are yearly imported into the United States to be manufactured.

The present price of No. 1 spring wheat Northwestern, in Chicago on April 1st, was $1.16. Last year, at the same date, it was 95 cents; in 1874 it was worth $1.27; in 1873, $1.27; and in 1872, $1.24, at a date corresponding to the first. In prolific seasons it often falls as low as 80 cents. Notwithstanding that high prices for the last five years have stimulated production, as it always must, we do not believe any community of farmers in the West can be made to acknowledge acquaintance with that mythical individual who has ever got rich raising wheat.

There are certain sections of the country where the land is especially adapted to the culture of wheat. Where this is the case, the farmer, if he did not give special attention to this crop, would not show business sagacity. We believe wheat may be profitably grown in many localities where it has been virtually abandoned, if it is made a part of a regular rotation, and due care is employed in giving the crop proper attention. That it pays railway companies well to transport this crop to the seaboard there is no doubt; that it pays commission merchants and shippers well there, is a fixed fact. That it does not pay farmers as a crop to ship to England, is fully as easy of demonstration. That it does pay the first two classes is probably the reason why Eastern commercial journals are so anxious that Western farmers should treble their productions. Sagacious Western farmers we opine, will not rush unduly into wheat because the present export demand happens to be good. It is not well to pin one's faith to a single crop.—*Western Farm Journal.*

ASHES ON CORN.

A correspondent asks us "what amount of leached and unleached ashes would be advisable to put in a hill of corn," "and on land which will produce thirty to thirty-five bushels per acre."

Now this is one of those questions to which a definite answer cannot always be given in the absence of very full data upon which to base an opinion. The cost of the ashes and the value of the crop to be raised should be taken into consideration beforehand, else a man may, after being successful in securing a large yield, still find that he has raised it at a loss.

Then again, upon some kinds of soil ashes produce better results than upon others, although all should be equally fertile at the time the applications were made. On light, sandy soils or loam, ashes generally produce better results than on heavy, tenacious clay, also in a wet season more than in a dry one. But, as a rule, ashes are valuable as a fertilizer on all kinds of soils, and for the various farm crops, because, the potash which they contain is an essential property that cannot be dispensed with in the production of plants.

In planting corn upon moderately rich soil, a half pint of good unleached hard wood ashes may be safely applied to each hill at the time of planting, and double or treble this amount of leached. After the corn is up, and before a second cultivation or hoeing, a single handful additional may be applied with benefit.

There are few farmers who can afford to sell their wood ashes for twenty-five cents per bushel, especially when the land has been cultivated for a number of years; still, many do sell them for six to ten cents and think they are saving money by doing so. We would say keep and use all the ashes you make and purchase all you can at a reasonable price, thereby keep up the fertility of the soil.

Patrons of Husbandry.

THE LEGITIMATE MISSION OF THE GRANGE.

One of the best exhibits of the true mission of he Grange which we have seen in some time, appeared in the Southern Plantation for May, evidently written by some good Patron, who takes a broad and comprehensive view of the subject. He says:

Inasmuch as I see some of our good Patrons, inclined to wander, or as I think over-reach the demands of our Order, I feel disposed to enter my feeble protest. While I fully appreciate our success as an organization, and participate in their pride of the results, I regard our great aim not yet attained, the war not ended. Success is apt to inspire confidence and often causes us to undervalue the strength of our enemies.

There is a general desire in the minds of our Patrons to constantly increase our numbers and I participate in this desire, provided always, this increase is from the ranks of the farmers, for whose interest primarily, the Grange movement was first made. I cannot conceive the probabilty of a practicing lawyer, politician, banker, money lender, note shaver and men of such like occupations making good Patrons of Husbandry, but the Grange can make better men in those various pursuits. The Grange has no fight to make with any of the industries of our country. Our object is first to place the farmer in a prosperous, independent position, controling the product of his labor, then we will present a sound remunerative set of patterns to all the other industries of our land, and in order to do so, we must not divide our time, energies and intellect or diversify our pursuits too much. We may divide our fields, diversify our crops as we should do, but let us concentrate the most of our energies and intellects upon our farms. Many of our members want to be identified with life insurance; the only insurance I desire is, to insure the dependent families of poor deceased Grangers from want. I will submit to a tax annually, as a charity fund to aid the bereaved families of deceased Patrons of my Grange, but am opposed to Grange Life Insurances, such as we see around us in the land. Others are for banking, I am of opinion that banking on borrowed capital as we would be forced to do, would certainly and speedily bankrupt the bankers or the patrons of the bank.

I desire our farmers to be so situated as to be their own *bankers*, investing their money as the comfort of their family or the requirements of their farm, may demand. Others are advocating Grange stores. I think there are too many merchants already, and I am of the opinion that dry goods are as cheap as we should demand, and from what I see, there is not much money made on meat at this time; this cannot be visited upon our grocers. We must go to the West to properly analyze the cause. So it seems that a good cause exists why the Grange should not pull out of the course blazed out for us in our ritual; the paramount object should be to vitalize and energize the great motive power of all the industries of the country, agriculture. We should strive to produce at least profitable expense, and procure all we can for our productions.

We should recollect the cheapening of goods is a small advance towards the prosperity of a country and I doubt its being any evidence of prosperity, at all events unless you employ in some way the poor of our country, they will not be able to buy, even at reduced prices. Let us look beyond our own home and firesides and invest our money so as to make our productions more valuable and enable the honest poor and destitute women and children of our country, to be what they should be, respectable producers, instead of the idle consumers they now are. The boys roving through the country uncontrolled, unadvised and almost unmindful of the Holy Sabbath, willing subjects of the most pernicious, the vilest habits taught them by their older and still more degraded companions, while the girls almost from necessity, being homeless and penniless and unaided, and often the subjects of habits even more damning in their results, while the wretched mother, sorely pressed by hunger, whose heart has been petrified by the ceaseless and useless cries of her innocent infant for bread, until she becomes the willing recipient of the accursed fruit of vagrancy and prostitution. Are we not called upon to stay this mighty tide, which is so rapidly tending to national imbecility and personal degradation?

Let us build factories and thereby increase the demand for our productions as well as double their value. We can then employ those destitute women and children as operatives, inspire them with pride and emulation and make them, as we can, useful and profitable producers, no longer hanging like an incubus upon us for their support and their habits and influence, like the pestilential sirocco, poisioning all around them. How often have our bosoms been made to heave and our hearts to thrill with pleasure from the eloquence of men born in obscurity and taking their first lessons in the workshops or the field. Labor is honorable and labor is but to carry out the injunction to man by his Creator and that too, before the bliting mildew of sin had fallen upon him. Successful agriculture, is a convincing proof of the supervision of a just and wise God, it is the improvement of the talent entrusted to our keeping. Agriculture not only develops the wisdom and goodness of God, the beauties of Creation, but it should inspire us with gratitude to our Creator, and charity for our fellow beings. Let us not be competitors in the various industries of our country, but let us foster, let us sustain them in their legitimate pursuits. Let us not create, but destroy all unjust monopolies.

Rural Architecture.

CONCRETE WALLS.

Can you give me a description how to make concrete walls for a cellar? Should it be made in one solid wall or in blocks, as described in the Rural a few years ago? Please give the description of the ingredients in full, and oblige an old subscriber.—J. R. Stephenson.

A number of years ago, Mr. D. Redmond of Georgia gave a very full description of the way he built his concrete house, and as the building is still standing and in good order we can scarcely do better in reply to your question than copy the directions he gave at the time.

1. *Location, etc.*—Select, if possible, a dry situation, and get all heavy materials, such as rock, sand, lime, gravel, etc., on the spot as early in the season as possible, say by the first or middle of May, in order that you may avail yourself of the long, warm days of summer for successfully carrying on your operations.

2. *Materials*—The proper materials are lime, sand, coarse and fine gravel, large and small rock, and water. The lime may be from any good, pure limestone that will slack readily, and "set" or harden thoroughly when dry; the sand should be sharp, and as free from clay, loam and other earthy matter as possible; and the gravel and rock may be of any size, from that of a boy's marble up to eighteen inches or two feet square, according to the thickness of your walls.

3. *Foundation.*—Having fixed on your plan, lay off the foundation, and dig a trench two feet deep, the area or full size of your cellar wall. With a heavy piece of hard wood, squared or rounded at the lower end, pound or ram down the earth in the bottom of this trench, going over it repeatedly, until it is solid and compact. A layer of hydraulic cement mortar, two inches thick, spread evenly over the bottom of the trenches thus compacted, gives you a solid foundation to start on, as soon as it "sets" or becomes hard. If you intend carrying up inside division walls of concrete, the foundation for these should be laid in the same way. Good hydraulic cement will take at least three parts of sharp sand; but it must be used as soon as mixed, or it will "set" and become useless.

4. *Frame and Boxing.*—Cut common 3x4 scantling two feet longer than you wish your highest story to be; set up double row, with the lower end resting firmly upon the edge of the hardened cement in the bottom of the trench; range them true and "plumb" them, letting stand three or four inches farther apart than you desire your wall to be in thickness; then nail cleats across, above and below, to keep them in place, adding also "stays" or "braces," driven slantingly into the ground and nailed to the scantling at the upper end. Your skeleton or frame-work of scantling being all set up and "stayed" firm and "plumb," proceed to arrange your "boxing" for holding the concrete, and keeping the walls in shape. This is done by cutting sound inch or inch-and-a-half plank of ten inches or a foot wide, so as to fit inside of the two rows of scantling and form two sides of a box. Movable pieces the thickness of the wall are dropped in between, at intervals, to keep the box of the proper width and wedges driven in between the boxing and scantling, on the outside, prevent spreading by the pressure of the concrete. Wooden "clamps," to slip down here and there, over the upper edges of the boxing, will also be found very serviceable.

5. *Mixing Concrete, Laying up, etc.*—It will be well to have at least four large mortar beds, one on each side of the house, made of strong plank, in the usual way. These should be surrounded by casks of water (oil casks cut in two are excellent), piles of rock, sand, gravel, etc.—the lime, of course, to be kept under cover, and used as wanted. Slack up your lime till it forms a thin, smooth creamy mass; add 4 or 5 parts of sharp, sand, stirring and mixing constantly, and using water enough to bring the whole, when thoroughly mingled, to the consistency of a thick batter. Into this batter mix coarse and fine gravel (that has previously been screened) until the mass is thick enough to be lifted on a common shovel. [The proper and thorough mixing of the sand with the lime, and the gravel with the mortar afterward, are very important, and should only be intrusted to your most careful hands.] Having one or two "beds" full of this mixture, you are ready to begin your wall. Wheel the mortar to the foundation in common railroad wheelbarrows, letting the common hands shovel it into the bottom of the trenches, while the superintendent or "boss" workman spreads it evenly with his trowel. When the bottom layer of mortar, three inches thick, is laid in, wheel large and small rock (previously sprinkled with water) to the wall and press it into the soft mortar at every available point, leaving a small space between each piece of rock, and working the soft mortar against the plank boxing, to preserve a smooth surface on the wall. When you can press no more rock into the mortar, pour another layer of the latter over and through the rock, then add a layer of rock, as before, and so on, until your boxing all around is full. You have now ten inches or a foot of wall, all around built; and if the lime is good and weather dry, it will be hard enough in twenty-four hours to raise your boxes another tier. This is readily done by knocking out the wedges between the plank and the scantling, raising up the plank and sustaining it in place by "cleats" nailed on the scantling. In raising the boxing, begin at the point where you commenced laying up the day previous, as that portion of the wall will, of course, be the hardest. It is not necessary to raise all the boxing at once, or go entirely around the wall in a day. A foot or yard of the wall can be completed at a time, if advisable; but if the complete round can be made, so much the better. Planks to cover up with, in case of a sudden shower, or when a storm is apprehended, should be provided, and placed within reach.

6. *General Details, Floors, Windows, Doors, etc.*—We prefer a cement floor for the basement, on many accounts; but those who desire a wooden floor should leave air-holes in the outer walls, under the lower floor, six inches above the surface. This may be easily done by inserting wedge-shaped blocks or pins through the wall, to be knocked out afterward. When you are ready to lay the floors, level up your wall and run one course of brick all around, the thickness of the wall, for the ends of the flooring-joists to rest on—filling in around these ends with concrete, when they are fixed in their proper places. The door and window frames should be made of three-inch yellow pine, the full thickness or width of the walls, and may be set up and built around, like those in a brick house, as the wall progresses. A piece of common inch plank, "cut in" all around them, to prevent the actual contact of the damp mortar, will keep them, in a great measure from warping. Where base-boards are needed, blocks of scantling may be built in flush with the inner surface of the wall, at the proper distance apart.

The Apiarian.

SALICYLIC ACID FOR FOUL BROOD.

Foul brood in the apiary is one of the diseases which has given bee keepers much trouble, and many would be glad to know how to prevent it or effect a cure after it has made its appearance.

A German apiarian claims to have discovered an effectual remedy in salicylic acid and we are indebted to John P. Bruck of Los Angeles, Cal., for an epitome of the report of Mr. Hilbert's on the subject which is given in the Pacific Rural Press.

The author of the report is Mr. Hilbert, a well know German apiarian, who has been so successful in the feeding of milk and eggs to bees to stimulate breeding. As this report gives a more detailed description of the manner of applying the acid, I have condensed it to the narrowest limits, and herewith give the same for the benefit of those who wish to try the remedy. Proceed as follows;—Dissolve the acid in eight times its quantity of alcohol. If more alcohol were used it might prove too strong for the unsealed brood; if less, the acid would flake upon being mixed with water.

For all purposes, except the disinfection of the sealed cells, use but 32 drops of the alcoholic solution to an ounce of water. The water should be about 65° Fah; when less than 60°, the acid will flake. It should not be too warm, on account of the unsealed brood. For the disinfection of the brood, comb, frames, etc., the best instrument is an atomizer, with which be sure to sprinkle all parts. After the hive has been disinfected, hang in the brood as fast as disinfected, to keep it warm; remove all surplus honey (after disinfection) and reduce the hive to its smallest limits.

The sealed foul broody cells must be treated differently from the rest of the brood. For them Mr. H. uses a solution of equal parts of warm water and the alcoholic solution. Use a piece of wood, of the shape and size of a match; dip this in the above solution and pierce the sealed cells to the bottom, removing if possible the decaying matter and immersing the wood anew for each cell. Every other day feed about one-third pint of honey to each hive, to which add from 30 to 50 drops of the alcoholic solution according to the size of the swarm. An application of the acid should be made every week, if not oftener. From five to six applications will be necessary for the complete cure of the hive. The constant exposure to the foul vapors of the hive proves deleterious to the queen and the bees generally. And as the nurse bees, that carry off the decaying matter and at the same time feed the brood, are likely to communicate the poison affected thereby, it is well to aid them by the addition of young bees from healthy hives. It sometimes happens that after all these directions have been fully observed, foul brood will continue to make its appearance. In such cases it may be safely inferred that the ovaries of the queen have become infected. In 25 hives treated by Hilbert, three such queens were found. They can best be tested in small hives with clean comb and healthy bees. Mr. H. sums up the matter in the following words: "The absolute cure of foul brood may be effected by the proper application of salicylic acid, by the addition of healthy nurse bees, and finally by a change of queens, if necessary."

By the same method Count Kolowrat, of Hungary, has cured 65 stands. One ounce of the acid will generally cure from five to to seven hives.

BEEKEEPING IN UTAH.

J. E. Johnson of Washington Co., Utah in writing to the Bee Keepers Magazine gives a very favorable report of bee keeping in the mountains. The raising of Mignonette and other plants for bee pasturage could be practiced elsewhere and far more extensively than it is at present, with profit to the apiarian. He says:

The past winter has been a good winter for bees, or we have been more careful how we put them into winter quarters, for we have never had them come through as well before. I had an apiary of 130 colonies in Kidder hives last fall, paid no attention to them but let them remain as they were on their summer seats out doors under shades made of willows, and when the almond blossoms began to open, March 1st, I had 125 apparently strong hives, and these have ever since that date been working hard every pleasant day.

I have planted in front of my apiary about ¼ of an acre Mignonette which when in bloom will do much towards keeping my apiary busy and besides will give the honey a high and pleasant fragrance. The sweet or melilot clover and Mignonette, will I think make finer flavored honey than that from any other bloom I have ever tried, and in fact I sold my honey made from these plants last year at a higher price than any of my neighbors who failed to provide plenty of such forage near their bees. The prospect for fruit here the present season was never as good, and when fruit is nice we generally have a good honey crop, for the conditions that make good fruit, makes plenty of forage for bees. Apricots are now in full bloom (March 19) and peach trees begin to open their blossoms, —and bees continue daily to work strong, and are carrying in both pollen and honey.

COMB FOUNDATIONS.

Several of our correspondents have asked "what is comb foundation so frequently referred to of late by apiarians?" The following from the American Bee Journal for May is an explicit answer to the above question.

Take a piece of empty honey comb and cut off all the cells, until nothing is left but the division wall of wax between the two opposite sets of cells, and you have a comb foundation. The latest production, however, consists not merely of the dividing wall, but also a slight depth of the cell-walls, themselves, on each side, and these cell-walls, although slight in depth, may be of such thickness as to contain enough wax, so that the bees may work out or prolong the cells to their full depth without any additional material.

These comb foundations are given to the bees in their brood chamber, enough being put in a frame to fill it, in whole or in part, perhaps only a narrow strip being used for the bees to start upon. They are also used for surplus honey, enough being given to fill the boxes, or merely enough to give the bees a start. The object is to save the time of the bees in secreting the wax, as also, the honey used in its production. Another object is to secure all straight, worker comb, and still another to hasten the commencement of work in boxes when the bees are loth to enter them.

Thus much by way of answer to those who are asking. "What is comb foundation and what is it for?"

Domestic Economy.

A WRINKLE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

In view of the cares and responsibilities of housekeeping, a young woman cannot begin too early to cultivate an acquaintance with culinary art; and there is no better way of acquiring and retaining this knowledge than by setting up a private recipe book, in which to jot down all tried and proved recipes, worthy of such distinction, that may be met with, either at the family board, or at the table of a friend. I began the practice when about 12 years of age, at the instigation of an experienced matron, herself a model of order in everything relating to housekeeping, and subsequent observation has often made me look back on her friendly counsel with respect and gratitude, and say to myself that even in worldly things, "A word spoken in season, how good is it." That these remarks may be equally useful to some young aspirant to prospective duties, I proceed to give a few hints to those who may feel inclined to adopt the plan.

First, then, let extreme simplicity of arrangement characterize the start. In the first flush of the new idea, it may be very amusing to divide and classify, but as the novelty wears off these elaborate devices become irksome, and may tend to disgust altogether. All that is wanted is a blank ruled book of a suitable size, and after numbering the pages, and writing the name of the owner, and the date, it is ready for work, which may be proceeded with as follows:

Never take a recipe on trust, or even on the recommendation of a friend; try it yourself before entering it in your book—you will thus be saved the pain of finding out, too late, probably from an error in diction, that it does not turn out well, when by adhering strictly to the rule, to enter nothing till you have tested it, you know at once that all your recipes can be depended on, and that there is no mistake about them. How often in reading a recipe in a cookery book, you think That looks promising! I wish I knew if it would answer. With your own book you need not be at such a loss; you have there confidence that is not misplaced, and confidence in what you are about, is generally half the battle. Therefore, we would say—write down everything you can make yourself, from a water-gruel to a *pate de foie gras;* and with your book, and your knowledge, you may take the world, broadside on, and when other trades fail, you can set up a restaurant; or go out as *chef de cuisine.*

Some recommend the plan of dividing the book into departments, as we see in works on cookery—fish by itself—soup by itself, &c; but as I said before, I think that all such divisions interfere with the simplicity of arrangement, which is the surest means of encouragement in what might otherwise become a distasteful task. In preparing a work on cookery for the press, of course it is absolutely necessary that everything should be classified, and as in that case the whole is completed at once, it becomes comparatively easy. But in a private book—added to during the most part of a lifetime—it is very different, and there is no better plan than just to jot down recipes as they turn up, trusting to the index and the numbering of the pages to find what is wanted at a glance.

[We find the above in the English Ag. Gazette and we commend it to our young lady readers especially, though older ones may follow its suggestions with, we doubt not, happy results. We would add this word of advice—let the recipe book be made of strong paper and durably put together.]

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Strawberries and Claret.—Over three quarts of strawberries pour one bottle of good claret wine; add sugar to suit the taste.

Whip Cream.—Beat the whites of three eggs to a stiff froth; add a pint of thick, sweet cream; sugar and flavor to taste; whip the whole together to a froth.

Strawberry Cream.—Mash the fruit gently; drain it on a sieve; when well drained (without being pressed), add sugar and cream to the juice, and if too thick, a little milk; whisk it in a bowl, and as the froth rises lay it on a sieve; when no more will rise, put the cream in a dish and lay the froth upon it.

Strawberry Sirup.—Make a sirup in the proportion of three pounds of sugar to half a pint of water. Boil and skim until clear. Have ready the strained juice of good-flavored strawberries. Allow two and a half pints of strawberry juice to the three pounds of sugar. Let it boil for about five minutes; then take it from the fire and pour into self-sealing glass jars. This is a fine flavoring for ice cream, and also makes a refreshing drink by diluting with clear cold water.

Velvet Cream.—In the RURAL NEW-YORKER of May 13 I saw a request for Velvet Cream. I think mine excellent, so I send it, as follows: Three pints of cream, the whites of six eggs, a half box of gelatine. Flavor and sweeten the cream to taste; then beat to a stiff froth the whites of the eggs, also whip the cream to a froth: dissolve the gelatine in a teacupful of hot water, and when the gelatine is milk warm add the cream and egg alternately, stirring it until smooth; line the mold with sponge cake and pour in the mixture.

To Preserve Strawberries Whole.—Take equal weights of the fruit and granulated sugar; lay the former in a large dish and sprinkle half the sugar over; give a shake to the dish, that the sugar may touch the under side of the fruit; next day drain the juice from the berries, add the remainder of the sugar and one pint of red currant juice to every four pounds of fruit. Boil and skim until no scum rises, drop in the strawberries (a few at a time); let them boil slowly for about ten minutes; skim out into jars. Boil the sirup until sufficiently thick; then pour it over the berries and seal while hot.

Mrs. Rustic's Strawberry Short Cake.—One large teacupful of sweet milk, one heaping tablespoonful of butter, one heaping tablespoonful of baking powder worked thoroughly through, flour enough to roll as for biscuit. Mix quickly, roll to an inch in thickness and bake in a quick oven. Two hours before wanted for use, wash and drain through a colander three pints of small-sized strawberries, put them in a dish and sprinkle sufficient sugar over them to sweeten. When the short cake is done, divide in the middle, butter the bottom layer, spread on half of the prepared strawberries and juice, invert the top, butter and spread on the remainder of the berries. Eat while warm, with sweetened cream, or whip cream.

Hygienic Information.

TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Laws of Life, in referring to an article published in the Illustrated Christian Weekly on "Children's Blues" says that it brought to my mind the many times a dear little brother used to come to me, with a face full of soberness and anxiety, saying, "Jennie, I feel as if I had done something wrong, but I'm sure I can't think what it is." Most certainly it is true that children have their hours of sorrow and trouble. Happy are those who have careful mothers, who look into things and are in earnest to bring up their children aright. Happy are those children who early learn to know the Savior who loves them, and who will as surely answer their prayers for help as those of the oldest disciple, for while He leads His sheep, does He not tenderly carry the lambs in His bosom?

Children frequently inherit a disposition to look upon the dark side of things, and they are frequently nervous, and I am inclined to think this is very often attributable to their food. If parents would only study the real happiness of children more, they would learn that certain nice bits, which are given because they taste sweet, make a child's disposition anything but sweet and happy.

I have in my mind a dear little fellow with a happy face, to whom the world seems always a place of sunshine. He has his three meals of bread and baked apples and milk. He sleeps sweetly all the night, and wakes serenely—a joy to all who know him.

A little neighbor generally has cookies or candy every hour, he dines on meat, gravies, and all the goodies (?). His life is an April life, sunshine while devouring the dainties, showers of tears, and, I am afraid, some very ominous looking clouds at other times. His sleep is disturbed, and his mother wishes "that child would sleep two hours longer."

I know from personal observations and experience that older people's dispositions are affected by their food. How often I have heard people say, "We had fresh pork for dinner, and I don't feel good for one thing; my head aches and my stomach feels dreadfully." Little things that would not ordinarily move them, fret such people, and they have the blues. Why should not a child's delicate stomach rebel in a like manner?

When shall we learn that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and it is profitable for instruction in righteousness," and that not the least is the command, "Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

HYDROPHOBIA.

CHINESE physicians treat hydrophobia in an original manner. Two sandstone bottles half filled with wine or spirits are placed upon a fire until the liquid boils. The contents are then emptied, and the red-hot mouth of the bottle is applied to the bite and held there until it is filled with blood, when the same course is pursued with the other bottle. A decotion of rice, in which cantharides have been boiled for an hour and then removed, is also given the patient, who is required to keep perfectly quite for eight or ten days.

GRIFFITH'S ENAMEL.

GRIFFITH'S Enamel is a recent invention which is said to be unaffected by the action of carbolic acid, and hence useful for coating the inner walls of fever wards in hospitals. Plates of iron covered with this enamel and exposed to the prolonged action of sea water are said to be kept fresh and clear from seaweed, the iron itself showing no sign of rust after the enamel is scraped off. It has been used by the British and other foreign Governments. In India it is reported that it does not blister under the sun's heat. It has also been found effectual as a protection against white ants.

DIPHTHERIA.

PHYSICIANS have determined that diphtheria is an inoculative disease, capable of being transmitted, and that physicians should therefore be careful of abrasions on the hands. There are many types of the disease, and the New York Academy of Medicine confesses that the best known remedies are powerless against the worst types. The opinion was expressed that the inflammation of the larynx or obstruction of entrance of air to the lungs, was the cause of one half of the deaths.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

A Lotion for Fetid Feet and Arm-Pits.—Bromo-Chloralum, 1 part; water, 15 parts. Bathe three or four times a day. For these and other similar cases, this formula has proven very efficacious. In many instances it has been successful when all others have failed.

Entomological.

COMBATING INSECT FOES.

PROF. F. H. SNOW of the State University of Kansas tells us how he would make war against noxious insects in one of his late educational lectures. He suggests that it should commence with:

1. Legislation to compel every man to keep his grounds free from insect pests. No one has a right to foster noxious agencies for the destruction of his neighbor's crops and fruit.

2. A bounty might be offered in certain cases, by the county, State or General Government, for the capture of injurious insects. A reward of twenty-five cents a bushel for locusts during our recent visitation by this scourge would doubtless have prevented a large portion of the damage inflicted. Such a reward would certainly be as legitimate as the customary bounty for gopher skins.

3. The introduction of parasities should be undertaken by the General Government. Many of our most destructive insects have been introduced from Europe. In the old country they have many parasities to keep them in check, but as yet few of these parasites have made their way to this country, so that our foreign foes have proved most destructive on account of the absence of their natural checks. That the plan proposed is a feasible one has been proved by Dr. Le Baron, the Illinois State Entomologist, who has successfully introduced into northern Illinois a parasite upon the apple bark-louse.

4. Every State in the Union should employ a competent man as State Entomologist, who should give his whole time to the work of investigating the habits of insects, and disseminating information among the people. Messrs. Fitch, Riley and Le Baron have saved millions of dollars to the great States of New York, Missouri and Illinois, by their indefatigable entomological labors. The salaries paid to these men have been a thousand fold returned to the States employing them.

5. The legal protection of insectivorous birds. A commission should be appointed to determine what birds are entitled to this protection.

6. The plan proposed for the appointment of a national commission for the prevention of the national calamities occasioned by insects is worthy of indorsement by every farmer and fruit grower in the land. The petition to Congress for such a commission should receive universal signature.

7. I would finally suggest that if our people were more generally familiar with the subject of entomology, and were able to distinguish between the beneficial and injurious species of insects, our universal enemies would be more intelligently and effectually resisted. To this end I would earnestly recommend the introduction into our schools of the elements of this extremely practical science. Independently of the educational advantages of natural history studies, the "practical" value of a knowledge of plants and insects should forcibly commend botany and entomology to those who determine the course of training in our common schools. If our children were taught to distinguish between their friends and foes in the insect world, a large proportion of the annual loss entailed upon us through ignorance would undoubtedly be prevented. And since the majority of those who attend our public schools will be connected for life with the pursuits of agriculture and horticulture, it is easy to understand the propriety, and even the *necessity*, of introducing into the courses of study those "practical" branches a knowledge of which is essential to success in those pursuits.

But if the "practical" nature of these studies should be conceded, it might still be objected to their introduction, that they do not furnish that training of the mind which it is one great object of an educational system to confer. A careful consideration of this question will show that this objection is not well founded, and that these natural history studies are educationally, as well as practically, the most pressing need of our common school system. As this is a subject of vital importance, it will not be out of place to devote the remainder of the hour to its discussion. I consider that to be emphatically the best means of defense against our insect enemies, which shall confer upon our people the ability to perceive and ward off impending dangers before they have assumed destructive magnitude.

In the first place, we will endeavor to show that the study of natural history should precede the study of the other sciences. It is a question of no little importance at what point instruction should begin in that broad field of investigation which includes the entire realm of natural objects, from the minutest microscopic crystal to the poderous globes in the yet unmeasured regions of space. The mind of the child would be completely bewildered if its attention should be first directed to the astounding truths of astronomy, and would be wholly incapable of comprehending the complex reasonings by which these truths have been established. In like manner, it would be worse than useless to begin the course of scientific study with the complicated combinations of chemical elements whose laws are unfolded with beautiful simplicity and clearness to the maturer minds of more advanced students. For the same reason the compound science of geology appears to be equally ill-adapted to our common schools. It is indeed true that all the natural sciences have a mutual connection and dependence, but in astronomy, chemistry and geology, intricate relations are so constantly recurring that the study of these branches should be deferred until the mind has become familiar with those sciences which naturally precede them.

Accordingly, the comparative simplicity of a science will help to determine its relative place in the course of study. If this test be applied, it will readily be conceded that the natural history sciences should first receive the attention of the young student.

The reasonableness of this view becomes still more apparent when we consider the order in which the faculties of the mind are called into action. That is the best order of arrangement for any course of study which best coincides with the natural development of the mental powers. The age of the great majority of the pupils in our common schools, comes between five and fifteen years. At this time of life, the perceptive or observing faculties of the mind are in full activity, while the reflecting and reasoning powers are comparatively listless. The studies, therefore, which should be made most prominent at this early formative period, are those which cultivate the powers of observation in the highest degree. The importance of a thorough training of these powers may be inferred from the extent to which their proper action is essential to every field of labor. Mr. Herbert Spencer has truly said that "exhaustive observation is an element in all great success. It is not to artists, naturalists and men of science only that is needful. It is not only true that the skillful physician depends on it for the correctness of his diagnosis, and that to the good engineer it is so important that some years in the workshop are prescribed for him; but we may see that the philosopher is fundamentally one who observes relationships of things which others had overlooked, and that the poet is also one who sees the fine facts in nature which all recognize when pointed out, but did not before remark. Nothing requires more to be insisted on than that vivid and complete impressions are all-essential."

It is because the powers of observation are not properly trained at the time of their great activity, that so many of our most "highly educated" college graduates find themselves far inferior to self-educated artisans, in knowledge of the common things of life. The training of the perceptive faculty begins in infancy, and should be continued through childhood and youth.

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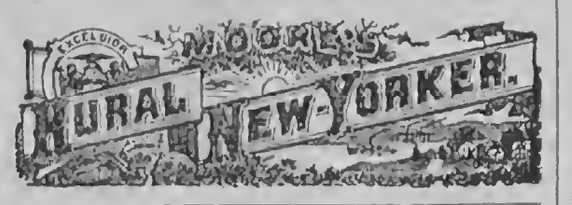

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1876.

LOSS AND GAIN.

THE story is told of two Yankee boys who were so sharp at trading that when for some cause they were shut up in a room together, they traded jack knives until, on investigation, it was found that each had made fifty cents and had his original knife beside. That may be called fancy financiering; usually there is no gain without some loss. When we hear of men making fortunes by Wall street speculations, we are likely to suspect that somebody has lost; and thus it goes the world over—gain and loss, loss and gain.

At present the cry of "hard times," "depression of business," "want of confidence," is heard all over the country, and mercantile failures are of constant occurrence. Many who a few years ago thought themselves in quite comfortable circumstances, are now unable to pay their debts and the list of insolvents is constantly growing larger. But the real property in the country is constantly increasing. There is more to-day than ever before; why then, this depression? Simply because of the inevitable law that makes in every country as it grows older—the rich richer and the poor poorer; comparatively at least, if not in fact.

We will not undertake to look for the basis of this law; too many have tried that and failed to find it, to encourage us in undertaking it; but we are no less certain that we see all around us the little property of the poor man wasting away only to swell the purses of the rich. Let us see if we can illustrate:—A friend who had by economy saved $1,000, was advised some three years ago to build a house in a location where the prospect of a speedy rise of property was flattering. His $1,000 paid for a lot, and $6,000 were borrowed with which to build a house, which was secured by mortgage on the whole. This mortgage became due last month. The property had "shrunk"—or depreciated in value—so much that the mortgagee did not consider it good security for his money and demanded payment. The house was sold for $7,500, leaving for the owner, after paying the mortgage, $1,500 instead of $4,000. Here was a loss of $2,500 to him. But who has gained? Why, the capitalist. He has no more dollars to be sure, but with those dollars he can buy as much as three years ago he could have done with $8,500.

A man who three years ago inventoried his property (mostly in real estate) at $250,000, was recently complaining that he had lost by depreciation in two years, $50,000, and was pleading poverty bitterly. "But," said a neighbor, "have you not as much in land and buildings as before?" Yes; but I could not sell it for more than $200,000." "Well, admit it. Could you not with $200,000, buy the same amount of property elsewhere as you held before?" "Yes; but my rents have fallen off 20 per cent." "Well, with the rents you receive in a given time, can you not build another store as readily as when you were getting more?" "Certainly." "Then you are no poorer but richer when compared with those who have lost the whole of the little they possessed."

He who owes a thousand dollars to-day must part with more of his property to pay it than he would have been obliged to do three years ago. The Creditor is the gainer and the Debtor is the loser. The Scripture is fulfilled which saith, "Unto him who hath shall be given and from him who hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

Moral—*Keep out of Debt.*

RURAL EDUCATION.

HAS not education much to do with the discontent of people in general? While not attempting to answer this question, it may be well to look at some of the various phases of society and see if a solution of what is sometimes considered a mystery cannot be discovered. We are, as a whole, an ambitious people, striving to obtain objects and positions, which are far too frequently beyond our reach, and failures, bring corresponding disappointments and unhappiness. This peculiarity of Americans, is not confined to those engaged in any particular line of trade or profession, nor is it more apparent among the rich than the poor, but it pervades all classes of society,—scarcely an individual who is not seeking something which he does not possess, but would obtain through the aid of wealth or other means.

Now ambition is a laudable attribute in a person or people, but even this may be employed for base purposes. Men and women may strive for that which will work their ruin, as well as that which brings honors and happiness, but it is only those who are born with good common sense, or have had the deficiency made good by proper education, who are qualified to obtain the greatest amount of pleasure from their own immediate surroundings whatever they may be. A man may toil for a dollar per day, and enjoy more of this world, and be far happier and greater than a king surrounded by wealth and thousands of cringing vassals, for true greatness, or capacity to enjoy, comes not from position or wealth, although both of these if properly directed, contribute largely towards the possessors happiness.

It is this mistaken idea of what constitutes greatness, nobility, and exalted human nature, which makes so many of our rural population discontented with their lot, as well as envious of the supposed happiness and prosperity of the residents of cities, but misery is no respector of position or locality, and like parasitic plants or insects, it seeks nourishment wherever it can be found. Leaving the residents of cities and villages to themselves, we have a word to say to our rural reader, residing in the country who are farmers, or in some way cultivate the earth for a livelihood, for it is from such as those that the most frequent and bitter complaints come of discontent and hardships. Now we hold that of all places where a man or woman should be able to enjoy life in the fullest sense of the term, the country ranks first and foremost, but it must be admitted, that a person who can see no beauty, and takes no interest in natural objects as they are found outside of city limits, will be very likely to find the country both dreary and uninteresting. All these lugubrious phases of rural life however, will disappear before a judicious system of education, one which points out the way for reaching the highest planes of intellectual training and enjoyment. The principle objection, which doubtless would be urged against a higher standard and more thorough education is the want of necessary means and leisure for its attainment, but this may be disposed of with the old adage of "where there is a will there is a way," besides some of the branches now taught in our common as well as high schools might be laid aside for others which are far more useful.

Natural history in its various branches must become the leading feature in the education of our rural population ere they become highly prosperous, financially and socially. The farmers' sons and daughters must each pursue some line of study which shall carry them deeper into the mysteries of nature than their parents have ever gone or thought of going, thereby finding a pleasant and profitable pastime and a never-ending source of enjoyment. It matters very little what object they may select for study—animals, minerals or plants, each one of which will furnish more material than can be investigated in a lifetime, and these are always at hand when desired.

We will suppose for instance, that one child takes up the study of *Coleoptera* (beetles), another of *Lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths), another of *Diptera* (two-winged flies), and so on through the different orders of Entomology; each would find enough work, and the results could scarcely fail to bring contentment and fame, if not great wealth. The same may be said of the study of plants, birds, minerals, shells, as well as the larger animals. Thousands of men have bred and raised horses all their lives without knowing anything of the anatomy of the animal or the structure and growth of hairs on his hide. If the farmer keeps sheep, let him encourage his sons to learn all that there is to be known about this useful animal, even to the final disposition of the fleece and the why and wherefore of the difference in value of the various qualities.

"He don't know beans," is an epithet often bestowed upon persons supposed to be very ignorant; but the man who does know beans in the fullest sense of the term is yet to be born, and he who attempts to even collect the various known species and varieties, will find he has no easy task, and this, when accomplished, would be but the first step in knowing much about beans.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Ginseng Culture.—The Chinese have long ascribed extraordinary virtues to the root of Ginseng, it being considered almost a sovereign remedy for various diseases. It is found growing wild in the mountains of Chinese Tartary from whence the Chinese formerly obtained their Ginseng, but the constant drain upon those regions has exhausted the supply, and for many years America has been the only country from which this root could be procured, but the wild plants are becoming scarce while the demand does not abate. Here is a chance for our horticulturists to introduce a new source of revenue by cultivating this plant extensively. It has been grown in botanic gardens for the past century or more, hence there can be no question about its succeeding under cultivation.

Oleomargarine, or what may be called "Imitation Butter," which has been manufactured quite extensively of late years, is likely to become unpopular and force the Legislatures of the different States to pass stringent laws against adulteration of all kinds. The Produce Exchange of Baltimore have taken the matter in hand and exact a promise from each member that they will not sell Oleomargarine or other adulterations of butter. We must go still further in this matter of adulteration, and enact the English laws governing all articles manufactured for domestic use, compelling the manufacturer to put on labels giving the exact composition of each. This might interfere with the profits of manufacturers of adulterated spices, but the purchaser would be the gainer.

American Silver in Canada.—Our neighbors across the line in Canada, are determined to drive all the United States silver coins out of their Dominions, and to this end the merchants and traders generally are refusing to take or circulate it. In some instances the merchants bind themselves under a penalty of $50, to take no American silver except at the following rates of discount. Three-cent silver coin at two cents, five cent at four, ten at eight, twenty at sixteen, and at this rate up to the dollar. This action of our neighbors is not the kind of reciprocity that is likely to improve trade between the two countries and engender kindly feeling.

RURAL BREVITIES.

PEANUT oil, which was first made in the South during the war, is said to be taking the place of almond and olive oil. There is room for this new industry to be greatly extended.

THE Florida Agriculturist broadly hints that half the people of that State are in tears over two big onions raised by a lady near Sanford. The said onions weighed together three pounds and seven ounces.

THE Housekeeper's Companion is the name of a new eight-paged monthly, published by M. V. RICHARDSON, 340 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y. As the subscription price is only fifty cents per year, it will doubtless have an extensive circulation.

ONE of our exchanges thinks "hard, horny hands, embrowned by the sun and roughened by labor, are more honorable than white ones," which may be all very true under certain circumstances, but much depends upon the man to whom they belong.

IF farmers have occasion to suspect that their dogs have been worrying sheep, they have only to give them an emetic to get at the bottom of the affair. The wool swallowed with the meat and blood will be very likely in such cases to come to light.

THE London Saturday Review has started a project for a novel society to be organized for the purpose of stocking uninhabited islands with pigs and rabbits, so that shipwrecked sailors who happen to reach them may find an abundance of food awaiting them.

IT is reported that some kind of a disease has broken out in the strawberry fields of Southern Illinois which, from present appearances, will nearly, if not wholly, destroy the crop. Can any of our readers give us any facts in relation to this supposed-to-be new disease?

SWINE with solid hoofs, like those of the horse, have long been known among the Mexicans; but for some reason, this breed has not received any attention from those who make the breeding of hogs a specialty. Would not specimens of these swine be worth exhibiting at our great Centennial Show?

OLD furniture of antique pattern is at present highly prized, and their is much searching in garrets and old lumber rooms for grandmother's or grandfather's arm-chair. Americans as a people have but little reverence for heirlooms, but our Centennial Show may be the means of making them take a look backward.

THE Chinese are giving the Californians considerable trouble, or, at least, the latter are troubling themselves a great deal about the Chinese, which amounts to the same thing. There are many persons in the Eastern States who would gladly trade off their present help for the Heathen Chinee and give something to boot.

TURKISH clover is recommended by a Western apiarian as an excellent plant for bee pasturage. We conclude, from the description he gives, that it is nothing more than the common Sweet or Tree clover, (*Melilotus alba*) which has become naturalized over the greater portion of the older States. To call this old plant Turkish clover, would doubtless lead many persons to think it something new, and give somebody a chance to sell the seed at an advanced price.

WE are in the receipt of an anonymous letter which, from the handwriting and post-mark, we should think was from JONES of Binghamton, did we not know that the worthy gentleman was just now busily engaged in proving to his brother Grangers that their cattle, horses and farm machinery and outbuildings should all be weighed twice a day, and that his *scales* are the only ones to use for that purpose. Then, too, the extreme modesty of the epistle is so like him. "JONES!" the Detroit Free Press man would say to you, "Yum! Yum! Yum!"

WE have before us an illustrated pamphlet from RUSSELL & Co., Massillon, Ohio, who manufacture the well-known "Massillon" Thresher. It is a most seductive little book, replete with pictures, that we can easily believe will appeal direct to the minds of those who are interested in the subject. The text accompanying the illustrations is solid "machine talk," and those who wish to post themselves on the subject will scarcely find information in a more compact and readable shape. R. & Co. have been in the business since 1842, which is an earnest that they have profited by the experience of a career so long and successful.

THE First Medal at the Centennial was taken by Mr. H. G. HOTCHKISS the great Oil of Peppermint man, and this is how he got it. Visiting the Centennial with some of his New York City business friends, he stepped up to one of the peripatetic segar vendors and asked for segars "two for a quarter" as only he can ask. He handed the merchant a silver half dollar in exchange for which he received two "rankapee" segars and what he supposed to be a silver quarter until some time afterwards when one of his friends discovered his silver quarter to be one of those worthless Centennial medals so common outside the grounds. This is how HOTCHKISS got the first medal at the Centennial.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

THE "Phœnix brand Pure White Lead," made by Eckstein, Hills & Co., is the most economical paint you can use. Every keg warranted.

GRASSES.

O, LIFE! that lideth in the sod,
How sweet and bountiful thou art;
Like Aaron's mystic almond rod,
By miracle the grasses start.

They creep about the naked land,
In silence shod they nimbly run;
They clothe the rock and deck the sand,
And spread their velvets in the sun.

Upon a mighty loom they ply,
With shuttle flying far and wide,
And woven in this tapestry
See buttercups and daisies pied.

O, sweet this green and humble home
For all earth's young that skip and play,
This dewy footstool 'neath the dome
Where low at eve the cattle pray.

O, sweet this fond, maternal care,
For nameless weeds that flower and fade;
And teeming millions flourish there,
The weakest races God has made.

O, sweet to think when day is done,
And tired we seek the common breast,
Like all that gaze upon the sun
Our frames beneath this cloak shall rest.

[*Augusta Larned.*

The Story-Teller.

THAT AWFUL SMITH.

[Continued from page 352, last No.]

CHAPTER III.

I KNEW it, in that moment when our eyes met. I knew that I, Francis Drasdyl, world-worn, case-hardened cynic of seven-and-twenty, was to love this woman—that I did love her already.

Rather tall, graceful as Diana in her statuesque summer draperies, a

"Helen of the low-areth'd brow,
And amber hair, and dewy violet eyes;"

this was Mrs. Wybrowe as I saw her that day.

My Fate was speaking to me—half a dozen words—of course; and I was drawling commonplace in answer; and then we were all three strolling on—I beside her.

If I had been blind I should have loved her for her voice—her voice that, with its weird, thrilling, ineffable sweetness, sent the blood with a long-forgotten shiver through my veins as I listened to it.

Side by side with my Fate, oblivious of Aunt Medusa and Miss Boodle, I lounged down that pleasant, shady walk.

I loved this Helen Wybrowe, this woman with a strange history, whom I had known barely five minutes, as I had never loved woman before, as I never should again.

It was sudden enough and absurd enough in me this passion that I felt. All the more reason for hiding it jealously.

Presently we came to a little round-point where, under a big tree, there was a provision of garden-chairs. "Shall we rest a little, Amy?" Mrs. Wybrowe said, "it's too hot to keep walking."

So we all three sat down under the big beech.

"You know Miss Boodle?" Mrs. Oswestry asked. "I saw you with her on the croquet lawn just now. Bella Boodle is decidedly a prize match, Mr. Drasdyl."

"She will be, in a year or two," I said, thinking of the Lambertesque symptoms I had noted in the damsel half an hour ago.

"Ah! you mean when her mother dies?" said Mrs. Oswestry, agreeably misunderstanding me; and so the talk rattled merrily on until I began to wish Mrs. Oswestry at Jericho, when she suddenly cried, "Ah! there's Gordon Murray! The very man I've been wanting to see all day."

And she made signals with her parasol to an individual in the distance, who perseveringly declined to see them.

"How stupid he is!" she cried, at last, provoked; "he's actually moving away. I must catch him. I'll be back in a moment, Helen."

And, heedless of my (not very strongly urged) offer to bring the recalcitrant Murray to her presence, Mrs. Oswestry set off in immediate pursuit toward a corner, and disappeared.

I don't remember what Helen and I talked about when we were left alone, or how long we sat under the big beech.

I know she spoke, and that every now and then the great violet eyes turned slowly upon me; and, when she was silent,

"Filled with light
The interval of sound,"

I was in Elysium, and lost the count of time. A step soft and cat-like, that neither of us heard, came down the walk. A dry branch cracked under the cautious tread, and then we both looked up. A man passed us. I knew him instinctively. The fierce black eyes, contracted in their wrath, which met mine in one brief, vindictive glare, could only belong to one man.

That lithe, dark personage with the feline tread and the ugly yellow physiognomy, must needs be the hero of Charlie Twistleton's story, the man who had bought up the arbitrament of Helen Wybrowe's fate—Alvarez Smith.

He never looked at her this time, only at me. I wonder whether the man's instinct told him, even then, that I loved her?

He went slowly by. I am not the least given to superstition; but I perfectly understood, in that moment, the Italian theory of the *mal occhio*, and the balmy summer air seemed purer when my enemy passed out of my sight.

For I felt that Alvarez Smith and I were foes, and mortal foes, from that hour; that a duel—it might be a duel to the death—had commenced between us. You laugh at this, perhaps, who read it, tranquilly skeptical of anything in the shape of melodrama in this age of realism.

Reading it too, I might do the same; but that day, I had heard and seen sufficient of Helen Wybrowe's rejected pretendant to be convinced that this was as absolute a fact as that I drew breath.

Mrs. Wybrowe rose a little pale; the dark circle under her eyes more plainly visible; a sort of *hunted* look upon her face that made my pulse throb angrily.

"Amy seems to have forgotten me," she said; "let us go and look for her."

We walked across the croquet-lawn, for a while silently.

Then she said, "You know that man who passed me just now?"

"I know him *now*," I answered; "I never saw him before, and only heard of his existence two hours ago."

Her pale cheek flushed painfully.

"Then you have heard——?"

"Everything," I answered, stopping her. "There is Mrs. Oswestry yonder."

So she was, with the unhappy Gordon Murray and Aunt Medusa.

Mrs. Wybrowe quickened her pace and said nothing more till she was safe under Amy Oswestry's wing again. Then a knot of men gathered round her and Aunt Medusa bore down upon me and carried me away captive.

"Where is Bella, Frank?" she said.

"Eating strawberries and ice cream over there," I answered, nodding towards the tent where the croquet players were.

"Ah! and what do you think about her?"

"How *can* I think about her?" And in truth it did seem preposterous. Fancy a human intellect occupying itself about Bella Boodle!

Aunt Medusa hadn't the faintest notion of what I meant.

"She will be just the girl for——" she began.

"For Cousin Tom," I interrupted. "Yes; the two champions will pair admirably. She'll be Mrs. Thomas Claypool before the croquet season is over."

I was longing to get back to that group round Mrs. Wybrowe from which Aunt Medusa was bearing me away; and I dare say something of the impatience I felt manifested itself through the elaborate languor of my tone; and so my captor on a sudden conceived, a wildly-vague notion that I was inclined to be envious of Cousin Tom.

"There's no fear of that," she said. "You must go to their country place when you take your vacation. Mrs. Boodle will send you a special invitation. I knew you would like Bella. And now take me to get an ice."

She was positively hugging herself in the success of her little game!

I let her continue that exercise to her heart's content without any further attempt to demonstrate to her that it was by no means called for, and took her away, as I was bid, to get an ice.

She ate three large ones. Then Mrs. Boodle came up and glared apoplectically at me through her double eyeglass when I was presented to her. Then *she* ate ices, which I had to fetch for her. When they had both tried their digestion sufficiently in this way, the two went off together to another tent to eat more ices, and I was set at liberty.

The croquet lawn was nearly deserted when I crossed it. Valse music floating out in the still air through the open French windows of Mrs. Huntingdon's drawing-room explained this phenomenon. Near the doorway, with a fresh knot of men about her, stood Mrs. Wybrowe. Just as I entered, some man asked her for the valse they had just commenced. It was Gordon Murray, an admirable performer. I was near enough to hear her refusal; but, making as though I heard it not, proffered a similar request the next moment.

The same refusal was on her lips when the angry blood rushed swiftly into her face; she bowed her head silently and put her hand upon my arm. As I turned, I saw Alvarez Smith watching us. The next moment my arm was close about her and we were swinging around the valse circle. I quite understood to what I owed that valse; she had read a threat in her persecutor's eyes and had rebelled against it.

As we had passed the place where I had seen Alvarez Smith standing the second time, her hand closed suddenly on mine.

"You are tired. Shall we stop?"

"No, no!" she murmured. "Don't stop. Keep on."

And we kept on, till the "Soldaten-lieder" came to an end.

"That fellow annoys you," I said, as we whirled by him again. "I believe he has the evil eye myself."

"Don't talk of him!" And again she trembled.

"If you bid me not—no. But it is intolerable, you know. And quite preventible. Why should you permit——"

"Hush!" And as she spoke she lifted her eyes in that slow, languid fashion she had, up to mine.

"Hush! Don't let us speak or think of him *now*."

There *is* something stronger than ice water in the veins even of a cynic of seven-and-twenty, after all. A fire shot through mine at her delicious emphasis of the "now." Her head drooped towards my shoulder again, and she seemed to nestle like a tired bird in my arms.

"What a valse this is!" she said presently. "I think no one has my step like you."

"You will trust yourself to me again, then?"

"If you choose."

The valse ended, we went away into the conservatory to sit out the square dance that followed. We sat out a good many there.

The evil eye lit on us once or twice. I think we were both too happy to trouble ourselves much about that.

"Only this dance, Amy," Mrs. Wybrowe said, presently, when Mrs. Oswestry had unearthed us and was proposing departure. And we had "only that dance."

I was wrapping her cloak about her in the hall.

"That rose will be dead before you get to Park Avenue, Mrs. Wybrowe," I said. "Will you give it me to mark to-day with?"

It was the white rose she wore in her hair that I asked for. She gave it me without a word. Then Mrs. Oswestry swept by us to the carriage; we followed.

I held her hand in long, close farewell clasp; then the carriage door was shut upon her; and Alvarez Smith and I were standing side by side on the gravel, watching her drive away.

CHAPTER IV.

The season was over; New York was emptying fast; dunns pressing; the heat intolerable. Howbeit I abode still in the Sahara of Bond street. Aunt Medusa had gone into the country with the Boodles, having extracted from me a promise to follow I only intended to keep it——

The "it" was in Park Avenue. Mrs. Oswestry had not yet made her move, hesitating between Long Branch and Saratoga, and I was watching the turn of the scale. For with Mrs. Oswestry would go Helen Wybrowe. And where Helen Wybrowe went I meant to follow. I had not spoken yet, though nearly a month had passed since that day at Astoria I had marked with a white rose. She had hardly given me a chance. And yet she knew, who knew me as I was, that I loved her—had loved her from the very moment our eyes met for the first time. And I knew my strange, willful, passionate darling—my darling Helen, who was like no other—I knew she loved me with the one love of her life. Only between her loving me and my winning her there was much. Nevertheless, the mask we both wore, before each other as before others, was getting too stifling to be worn much longer. It fell from both of us at last.

I had been sitting with her in Mrs. Oswestry's morning-room, under the shelter of the sunshades, among the flowers, one day for nearly an hour. Commonplaces had languished and died. There had been a silence, which these heavy violet eyes filled divinely enough, but which both of us knew must be broken; and only in one way.

I looked up into her face. In its passion-pallor, in the trembling lip, in the scarce-restrained tears that had gathered slowly to the eyes, I read what made me take her swiftly in my arms; and then the silence was broken by the sweet sound of her own name. "Helen!"

She trembled—but not with fear. And her head, with its diadem of amber hair, sank down upon my breast; and I bent mine till my lips touched hers and clung to them. I had won her! Not yet.

The next moment she had freed herself.

"Oh! why have you done this?" she sobbed—wailed almost.

"Why? Because I love you, Helen. Because you love me. And because you and I know this is so."

"Yes," she murmured; "yes—you love me. I know that. I knew it that day at Astoria. As no one ever has loved—ever will love me. I know that."

"And you love me, Helen. You know that, too."

"Yes; I love you!" she cried, passionately. "I know that, too."

"And yet you ask me"—I began, so far off my head as to be going to argue with her.

"Because this should never have been. All between us must end here, and now."

"In heaven's name, why?" I broke in, rather mad with this piece of feminine cruelty. "Why must it?"

"Frank," she said, coolly now, "Frank, this is folly. You know my story. You cannot marry a beggar as I shall be."

"Nor you, it appears."

"Selfish and cruel!"

Even at that moment I couldn't but admire that truly feminine retort.

She went on.

"I? Am I thinking of myself? And yet this is my fault. I knew what has happened must happen. Yes; it is I who have been selfish. I knew it; and I ought. But—oh! Frank, I knew you loved me; and my loveless life seemed so bitter—so bitter! And——"

And here she broke down, sobbing.

My willful, passionate darling! She was trying to persuade herself that she was acting nobly and disinterestedly; and, being noways fitted for such self-martyrdom, was failing signally. She ought to have nipped this love of mine sharply in the bud, but lacked the will. And now she was trying to sacrifice it and her own love on the shrine of duty—now when she was my own, when she had rested her head upon my breast, when she had given her lips to mine.

And so my Helen—who was, indeed, my very own—told me I was not to marry a beggar; told me that for my sake, our love story was to end here—in short, told me all a woman tells a man in like case.

But she told me, too, by every word and look, unwittingly but unmistakably, that I should be a triple fool if I lost her now—this be-all and end-all of my life; this woman who would make my life worth the living. I didn't repeat my folly of attempting to argue with her. Her hand was strong enough against me as it was without such strengthening. I didn't take her in my arms again and stifle her feeble special pleading with kisses. I let her say her say. And then, when she had sunk back into the low, deep chair weak and trembling and defenceless again, I knelt beside her; and holding fast in mine the soft little hand I never meant to let go, I told her how it must needs fare with me if she had her way. And I was conquering what I knew all along was my own of right; the violet eyes were full of happy tears; the words I looked to hear already trembling on the full lips that had grown meek again, when—there was a rustle of woman's draperies and Mrs. Oswestry bore down upon us.

And Helen rose; and, before I could stay her, had fled away swiftly upon her feet, leaving me to face my lady alone.

The which I did as best I might.

For a while Mrs. Oswestry looked grave and judicial; then, by degrees, benignant but mildly reproachful; when I took my leave, protective and honestly propitious. It was arranged between us that I should come to Park Avenue early the next day.

At a frightfully undue hour I drove there. A coupe had just pulled up at the door; the late occupant was speaking to the servant in the hall. I was just in time to hear the functionary's answer to the question put to him.

"No, sir. They left town for the country last evening."

The other swung round on his heel with a fierce "*Carajo!*" and again I stood face to face with Alvarez Smith, the man with the evil eye.—[Concluded next week.

THE BRIDE'S TRIAL.

IT is strange what different estimates people will put on a man's character, according to the eyes with which they may view him. In the opinion of some Mr. Benjamin Benedict—not our hero exactly, but the next thing to it, his uncle—was a gentleman, a scholar and a philanthropist; while others, quite as well qualified to reason and decide, wonder that such a monster was allowed to walk the earth unchallenged. For old Ben Benedict was just the sort of man to provoke and please in alternations—a human March day, with streaks of sunshine and chilling gusts sandwiched through his nature. People who knew him liked him passing well, but it sometimes took a life-time to know him as he really was.

"You will be sure to like my uncle, darling," said Hugh Benedict to his young wife. "He is eccentric, but he is sterling."

Rachel did not answer, but her blue eyes were wistful and full of perplexity. Uncle Ben, whom she had never seen, but of whom she had heard much, was to her an inscrutable riddle, whom she feared more than she was willing to acknowledge. For Hugh's future depended to a certain extent upon Uncle Ben Benedict, and with Hugh's future her own was bound inseparably.

She was a fair, fresh-looking girl, with velvety cheeks, bronze-bright hair, and features as correct and delicately cut as a cameo. Hugh was quite certain that Uncle Ben could not see her without loving her; but then these young husbands are not apt to be impartial judges!

She was sitting in the fire-light, at their lodgings, when the old gentleman first beheld her; and the only warning she had of his presence she saw reflected in Hugh's eyes.

"My dear, how do you do?" said the old gentleman, kissing Rachel on both cheeks.

And she thought he was not so terrible, after all!

He turned to Hugh when he had thus unceremoniously made himself acquainted with his new niece-in-law.

"Well, young man, are you ready to leave these lodgings and go to your new home?" he asked; for be it known that the old gentleman had given Hugh and Rachel a wedding present of a new house, wherein they were to live.

"Quite, sir," Hugh answered, cheerily.

"Shall it be to-morrow?"

"Yes."

"All right."

And Mr. Benedict sat down to spend the evening and enjoy himself.

"Well, sir?" said Hugh, when his uncle was taking leave, and paused on the front door steps to light a cigar.

"Well, sir?" said Uncle Benedict, calmly.

"How do you like her?" asked Hugh.

"How can I tell?" demanded the old gentleman, irritably. "She's pretty to look at; so is a china doll or a white kitten! It isn't always the prettiest callows that wash the best. Good evening!"

And Hugh Benedict, albeit he was very fond of his uncle, did not know whether to be vexed or not.

Early the next morning, however, Uncle Ben made his appearance before the young couple, breathless and eager.

"Trunks packed, eh?"

"All but the last one, uncle;—and Rachel lifted her pretty head out of the tray, as you may have seen a red clover blossom rise up from beneath a child's footstep.

"I'm going to take you down to Bloomdale myself, my dear," said Uncle Ben. "Hugh, I want you to go off to Canterbury with these letters. They're of importance. I'd go myself if I were ten years younger; but sudden journeys don't agree with old bones like mine."

Hugh looked aghast at the proposal. Rachel turned pale.

"Cannot the business be postponed, sir?" said Hugh hesitatingly.

"No, it can't!" replied Uncle Ben, curtly. "If you don't want to go, say so. I dare say I can find some one else to oblige me!"

"Of course I shall go," said Hugh. "But about Rachel——"

"I suppose I'm old enough to take care of a lit-

tle girl like that," said Uncle Ben, in an aggrieved tone. "You'll find us both in the new residence, with the table laid for dinner, when you come back to-morrow."

So there was nothing for it but for Hugh to kiss his little bride a half score of times, and commission Uncle Ben to take the best possible care of her until he should return.

"Foolish children!" said Mr. Benedict, as he saw Rachel sobbing on Hugh's shoulder. But there was a cheery twinkle in his own keen gray eyes, nevertheless.

Poor little girl! the atmosphere had lost somewhat of its sparkle, and the world looked less bright, as she journeyed in Uncle Ben's barouche towards her new home, with Uncle Ben's newspaper rattling at her side. As the autumn twilight began to fall, her thoughts became busy, as a woman's will, at times.

"Uncle," she said, turning suddenly towards the old gentleman, "what sort of a house is it? Ours, I mean!"

"Well," said Uncle Ben, reflectively, "it's a cottage, I should say."

"A modern cottage?"

"Well, no; rather of the antique order than otherwise."

"Oh," cried Rachel, "I'm glad. I despise those new, stiff, formal places, that look as if they were merely to be admired, not lived in and enjoyed. Uncle, what are you laughing at?"

"At your curiosity, my dear," replied the old gentleman.

"Then I won't ask you another question," said Rachel, resolutely.

But she fully atoned for that deprivation by sketching on the tablets of her own fancy an endless variety of little Gothic structures, with bay-windows and trellises covered with climbing roses and honeysuckles; while Uncle Benedict watched her from behind the screen of his newspaper, with the queerest of expressions on his brown old face.

"I'm almost sorry I commenced the thing," he said to himself. "If I *should* be disappointed in her! But, pooh! it's the only way to find out if she is worth my boy's love."

Presently the lumbering old chariot came to a stand-still; but to Rachel's surprise, in front of no fairy cot, or low-eaved edifice surrounded by verandahs and flower parterres. A tumble-down, unpainted farm-house stood a little back from the road, with its shutters hanging loosely by one hinge, and one or two scrubby lilac bushes forlornly tossing their foliage in the wind!

"How dreary it looks!" thought Rachel, with a little shudder, as she wondered whether the coachman had really meant to stop there. But Uncle Ben at once seized her carpet-bag and umbrella.

"Come, my dear," he said to Rachel.

"Is this the place?" she asked.

"This is the place," Uncle Ben answered, with a sudden paroxysm of coughing. "Gate's a little out of order," as that useful mode of ingress became suddenly detached from its sole remaining hinge, and fell with a crash to the ground; "but that's soon set right with a screw-driver and half a dozen screws."

Alas! poor Rachel! What were her sensations as she looked blankly around the neglected, dismal spot which was the sole realization of her fairy dreams? This the home Uncle Benedict had given them! And for an instant our poor little heroine felt as if she could repel the unwelcome gift, and tell Uncle Benjamin plainly that she could not spend her days in a hovel like this.

But then came sober second thoughts. Uncle Benedict had meant kindly; they were poor, and could not afford to dispense with even the meanest of roofs over their heads. No, she must gratefully accept the present in the spirit in which it was given, and check in the bud all her rebellious and unamiable repinings.

"I told you it was a cottage, you know," said Uncle Ben, keenly scrutinizing her face, as they stood on the doorstep waiting for the door to be opened.

"Yes, I know," said Rachel, glancing round with brightening eyes. "That is a very choice climbing rose over the window if it was only properly trained."

"It's rather lonesome," said Uncle Ben.

"I like the country," Rachel answered hopefully.

As she spoke a slipshod old woman appeared to let them in, and led the way to the best room, a green-curtained apartment, with a shabby carpet on the floor, and a fire in the grate that emitted far more smoke than caloric.

"Smoky chimneys, eh?" said Uncle Ben.

"The draught seems to be poor," said Rachel, "but I dare say it can be altered."

"I hadn't any idea the ceilings were so low," grumbled the old gentleman.

"It's partly the effect of the large pattern of the wall paper," said Rachel, with a glance at the red and green monstrosities. "A narrow-striped pattern will improve it."

"What queer little cupboards by the sides of the mantel!" said Uncle Ben.

"Oh, they will be nice for our best china," said Rachel.

"My dear," said the old gentleman, "I believe you are determined to be pleased. Do you really think you shall like this place?"

"I shall like any place where Hugh is!" said Rachel brightly.

She went all over the house with the old gentleman, planning improvements and suggesting and contriving until he really began to think she would make an Arcadia out of the tumble-down old farm. And if she shed a few tears on her pillow when she went to rest under the eaves of the roof, in an apartment which must have been built for Tom Thumb, Uncle Ben Benedict never suspected it.

There was the chariot at the door when Rachel rose from her breakfast of bread and butter and coffee the next morning.

"Come, my lass," said the old gentleman, "I want to show you a place further up the road, which has been taken by a friend of mine."

The drive and the delicious September air were like an invigorating tonic to our wearied little bride; and a picture after the style of Watteau awaited them, in the exquisite villa, with its rose-clad bay windows and picturesquely sloping roof. Rustic iron chairs stood under the bowing branches of the elms on the lawn, and a marble Cupid, holding up a carved conch-shell, scattered bright rain into a flower-bordered basin directly in front of the gates.

"Oh, how beautiful!" cried Rachel. "I never saw such superb scarlet geraniums in my life; and what a lovely marble-paved hall!"

"You like the appearance?"

"Oh, yes; 'tis beautiful."

"Come in, my dear, and see how you like the interior," said the old gentleman, serenely.

It was perfect, from the drawing-rooms, with their superb Brussels carpet and exquisite silk hangings, to the chambers, all in white and pink, like the inside of a rose's heart, and the fairy conservatory, all stocked with camellias, heliotrope, and rare fuchsias, at the south end of the house.

"It is like fairyland!" cried Rachel, enthusiastically. "Do tell me, Uncle Ben, who is to live here?"

Uncle Ben turned round and faced her.

"You, my dear."

"And Hugh, of course?"

"To be sure!"

"But, uncle," gasped little Rachel, quite overwhelmed by this unexpected good luck, "the other house——"

"That's only a little joke of mine. This is the real home, and I give it to you with all the more pleasure that you were disposed to make the best of the bad bargain you thought you were in for. My dear, the contented mind you possess is worth a thousand houses!"

And Rachel felt something warm and wet upon her cheek, like a tear, as the old gentleman stooped to kiss her.

When Hugh came home, to find his little wife upon the verandah, all welcoming smiles to greet him, he exclaimed, "Why, Uncle Ben, this is a perfect casket!"

"But none too good for the little jewel that inhabits it," Uncle Ben answered.

And Hugh read in the tone that his young wife had won the capricious old gentleman's heart.—*World.*

"POINTS."

He was a large man, except in his ideas and in the manner of his speech. His face was as grave as the Chinese problem, but there was a quizzical cast in his left eye, and his tongue was rich and heavy with a foreign accent, albeit as rapid as the running waters of the River Dee. Leaning against the frightful head of one of the iron lions in California street, with the general appearance of being ready to either brace up the market or stand from under, he voiced this idyl: "It's a fine thing to dale in stocks when you know you're right. I get all my points from Flood, Misther Flood's a friend o' mine. I make all me money through him. He's a kind adviser. A few days agone I went to me friend Flood, and sez I, 'Misther Flood,' sez I 'would I be best buying a few shares of Savage? It's goin' chape,' sez I, 'an' the Lord knows but it'll get out of me rache soon,' Me friend Flood looked up from his writin' (he was signin' a chick for an orphan asuylum), an' sez he to me, shakin' his big head betimes, 'Don't touch it,' sez he. 'Divil a thing is there in the mine but wather, an' it might hurt ye,' sez he. 'Thank ye, Misther Flood, sez I. Thin I wint and tuck 700 shares. I got all me points from Flood. It was goin' at $17. Betimes it rose to $22, an' I wint to his office. He was glad to see me. He was spakin' to his chafe clerk about kapin' the assessments from gettin' mixed wid the dividends, but kindly stopped and gave me a nod and a wink. 'Good mornin,' Misther Flood,' sez I. 'Savage is a square stock; it's lapin' about like a dog wid a male o' poison,' sez I. 'Wouldn't I best sell a trifle of it short?' He looked at me kindly, and sez he, 'Lave it alone for awhile, it's risin' like a full moon,' sez he, 'widout signs of stoppin', an' I couldn't advise ye to sell.' 'Thank ye, Misther Flood,' sez I. Thin I wint an' sold me Savage to Keene. He had a trifle already, but was frindly to take it an' give me the profit of $3,500. I get all me points from me frind Flood; but don't be talkin' about it; he might change his system some thine and break me."

JOSH BILLINGS ON STRAWBERRIES.

The strawberry is one ov nature's sweet pets. She makes them worth fifty cents the rust she makes, and never allows them to be sold at a mean price.

The color of the strawberry iz like the setting uv the sun under a thin cloud, with a delicate splash uv rain in it; its fragrance iz like the breath uv a baby when it furst begins to eat wintergreen lozzingers; its flavor is like the nectar an old-fashioned goddess used to leave at the bottom uv the tumler when Jubiter stood treat on Mount Ida.

There is many breeds uv this delightful vegetable, but not a mean one in the hull lot.

I think I have stole them, laying around loos, without any pedigree, in somebody's tall grass, when I was a lazy school boy, that eat dredful easy without any white sugar on them, and even a bug mixed with them in the hurry uv the moment. Cherrys iz good, but they are too much like sucking a marble that has got a handle tow it. Peaches iz good, if u don't get enny uv the pin feathers into your lips. Watermelons will sute ennybody who is satisfied with half-sweetened drink; but the man who can eat strawberryies besprinkled with crushed sugar, and bespattered with kream (at somebody else's expense), and not lay his hand on his stummak and thank the author uv strawberryies and stummaks, and the phelow who pays for the strawberryies, is a man with a worn-out conscience—a man whose mouth tastes like a hole in the ground, and don't care what gets down.

A SIOUX WARRIOR'S DIARY.

Among the interesting relics brought back by gentlemen connected with Gen. Crook's recent expedition against hostile Indians, and found in the village of Crazy horse, after it was abandoned by the band, and previous to its destruction by Gen. Crook's soldiers, was a book full of curious drawings, which appear to be the military record, expressed in picture form, of some one of the young warriors belonging to the Indian band. We have seen the book, which contains many sketches remarkable for bold delineation and truthfulness to nature, bearing in mind, of course, that the same is the work of an untutored Indian artist. The pictures represent attacks on American wagon-trains, parties traveling along the highway. In a few instances female figures occur The victims are pictured as being scalped, shot with rifles and arrows, and stabbed with lances. In some of the pictures the parties attacked are Indians of other tribes, Crows and Pawnees being especially noticeable. Nearly all the scenes are painted in bright colors; the blue uniforms of the murdered soldiers and the red trappings of the Sioux braves are especially vivid. It is quite certain that every scene so pictured was an actual occurrence. The warrior to whom this book belonged has a very sanguinary record, if that is true. The book itself appears to have been an account-book that was stolen from some post-trader. It bears date 1869.—*Omaha Rep.*

THE LARGEST SWAMP IN THIS COUNTRY.

The surveying party sent out to survey the Okefenokee Swamp report that it measures 142 miles in circumference, and with the sinuosities, 180 miles around. This vast formation, 30 miles long and 27 miles wide, is the largest swamp in the United States. It lies in the Southeastern part of Georgia, but partly in North Florida. Here is the Suwanee River, made famous by the old negro melody of "Old Folks at Home." It traverses a large section of upper Florida, is bordered with valuable cypress and other timber, and empties into the Gulf at a point about eighteen miles above Cedar Keys. Okefenokee Swamp was, for generations, a refuge for runaway slaves. Indians have lived there until recently, cultivating gardens; and in the depths of the jungles and forests are thousands of bears and a great many Florida "tigers"—the couger, or American panther. One curious experience of the surveying party was to find themselves at one time, while in the midst of a great swamp, suffering for water. The discovery of a number of mounds, "probably built by a race of men existing before the Indians," is also reported. Several skeletons were taken from them, but some crumbled as soon as exposed to the air.

Among the ridiculous patents that have been granted at Washington are a trap for catching tape-worms, a combined plow and cannon, a patent brick to be tied to a cow's tail to keep her from switching her natural appendage, a house on rollers that deaden the shock of an earthquake, and a combined trunk and house. The person afflicted with tape-worm starves himself until the worm, attracted by the delicious bait in the trap, is readily caught. The combined plow and cannon is for frontier farmers, and is intended for mowing down the savages. The combined trunk and house is adapted to persons of small means, and can be extended or contracted, as they may have occasion to use a house or a trunk.

All we can say of the most original authors nowadays is not that they say anything new, but only they are capable of saying such and such things themselves "as if they had never been said before them."—*Sterne.*

A timid person is frightened before a danger, a coward during the time, and a courageous person afterward.—*Richter.*

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philada.:

Self-Raised; or, From the Depths. A sequel to Ishmael. By Mrs. Southworth. [Cloth.—pp. 658. Price $1.75.]

Jas. R. Osgood & Co., Boston:

Old Acquaintance: "Barry Cornwall and some of his Friends." By Jas. T. Fields. [Cloth.—pp. 121. Illustrated. Price 50 cts.]

Orange Judd Co., New York:

Broom Corn and Brooms. Illustrated treatise. [Paper.—pp. 57. Cloth, 75 cts.; paper, 50 cts.

Chas. P. Somerby, 139 8th St., New York:

The Historical Jesus of Nazareth. M. Schlesinger, Ph. D. [Cloth.—pp. 98. Price $1.]

T. B. Peacock:

The Vendetta and other Poems. By T. B. Peacock. Published by the author. [Cloth. pp. 161.]

Magazines for June:

Wide Awake, Domestic Monthly, Demorest's.

Sabbath Reading.

THE MODEL CHURCH.

Well, wife, I found a model church! I worshiped there to-day!
It made me think of good old times, before my head was gray;
The meetin'-house was fixed up more than they were years ago,
But then I felt when I went in, it wasn't all built for show.

The sexton didn't seat me away back by the door;
He knew that I was old and deaf, as well as old and poor:
He must have been a Christian, because he led me through
The long aisles of that crowded church, to find a place and pew.

I wish you'd heard the singing, it had the old-time ring:
The preacher said, with a trumpet voice, "Let all the people sing!"
The tune was Coronation, and the music upward rolled,
Till I thought I heard the angels striking all their harps of gold.

My deafness seemed to melt away, my spirit caught the fire,
I joined my feeble, trembling voice with that melodious choir,
And sang as in my younger days, "Let angels prostrate fall,
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all."

I tell you, wife, it did me good to sing that song once more;
I felt like some wrecked mariner, who gets a glimpse of shore;
I almost wanted to lay down this weather-beaten form
And anchor in the blessed port forever from the storm.

The preachin'? Well, I can't just tell all that the preacher said;
I know it wasn't written; I know it wasn't read;
He hadn't time to read it, for the lightnin' of his eye
Went flashin' 'long from pew to pew, nor passed a sinner by.

The sermon wasn't flowery; 'twas simple gospel truth;
It fitted poor, old men like me; it fitted hopeful youth;
'Twas full of consolation for weary hearts that bleed,
'Twas full of invitation to Christ, and not to creed.

The preacher made sin hideous in Gentiles and in Jews;
He shot the golden sentences down in the finest pews;
And—though I can't see very well—I saw the falling tear
That told me hell was some ways off, and Heaven very near.

How swift the golden moments fled within that holy place;
How beautiful beamed the light of Heaven from every happy face;
Again I longed for that sweet time when friend shall meet with friend,
"When congregations ne'er break up, and Sabbath has no end."

I hope to meet that minister—that congregation, too—
In the dear home beyond the stars that shine from Heaven's blue;
I doubt not I'll remember, beyond life's evening gray,
The happy hour of worship in that model church to-day.

Dear wife, the fight will soon be fought, the victory be won;
The shinin' goal is just ahead, the race is nearly run;
O'er the river we are nearing they are thronging to the shore,
To shout our safe arrival where the weary weep no more.

ORNAMENTS.

We *all* prize an ornament, whether it be for our parlor, or our person, or as a gift to others. How we study our own taste, or the taste of our friends we wish to gratify. It must be beautiful, becoming to the person, and be in harmony with the style and dress of the wearer. But were we ever anxious to possess that Ornament which God, our best and dearest Friend would like to adorn us with? Unlike all others, it is perfectly becoming to the wearer, whatever may be her age. It adds grace and beauty to the possessor; is equally becoming and admired at the fireside or in social gatherings; adorns alike the richest palace or humblest dwelling place in the land. Age will not dim its luster, and I have seen it grow brighter while passing through the storm.

Women should especially prize it, for unlike their other ornaments, the *fashion* of it never changes. It is a priceless Ornament. Money cannot buy it. It is a gift. The gift of One who loves us tenderly. Let us accept it and guard it carefully, and as our little daughters early show a love for the beautiful, let us learn them, by wearing it constantly in their presence, to prize it above every other. Let love to the Saviour and to those around us be the golden chain that shall secure it to our persons. "The ornament of *a meek and quiet spirit* is, in the sight of God, of great price."

W.

How to avoid Anxiety.—Payson, on his dying bed, said to his daughter, "You will avoid much pain and anxiety if you will learn to trust all your concerns in God's hands. 'Cast your cares on Him, for He careth for you.' But if you merely go and *say* that you cast your care upon Him, you will come away with the load on your shoulders.'

A filial adoring affection on our part, uttering itself in all forms of activity, and making every work a worship; a divine benignity and tenderness on His part, replying to our love; these should mark our relation to God.—*Dr. Storrs.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

MY MOTHER-IN-LAW.

I MARRIED a woman of sweetness and truth,
And beauty without any flaw;
But over my head hung, like Damocles' sword,
That horror, a mother-in-law!

So upright and downright in person and looks,
She embodied the dismal old saw
Of a scolding and pushing and worrying and bothering
Old bore of a mother-in-law.

She decided to live with us. Chaos and wreck
Would be the result, I foresaw;
So I gave my cigars and meerschaum, with groans,
To a friend with no mother-in-law.

One night, as we sat by a blazing wood fire,
When the days had grown chilly and raw,
"How cozy and nice you would look with a pipe!
Don't you smoke?" said my mother-in-law.

Did my ears hear aright? Yes, bless her dear heart!
"Don't you smoke?" was the first happy straw
To "show how the wind blew," and clear up the clouds
'Twixt me and my mother-in-law.

And, oh, she's the kindest and dearest and best
Old darling that ever I saw!
My mother I love, and my wife I adore,
But I worship my mother-in-law!

THE GREEK BED.

THERE is no form of bedstead, from the four-poster to the French, which may not be found described by writers or represented in works of art. Ulysses manufactured one for himself of olive wood, inlaid with gold and ivory. The bed rested sometimes on boards laid across the frame, on thongs of ox-hide stretched over one another, or on a netting of cord. Plato speaks of bedsteads made of solid silver; Athenæus describes them as made of ivory and embossed with beautifully wrought figures, and Lucian has them veneered with Indian tortoise shell, inlaid with gold. In Thessaly, beds were stuffed with fine grass. According to Athenæus, effeminate gentlemen sometimes slept on beds of sponge. Fashionable people in Athens slept under coverlets of dressed peacock skins, with the feathers on. Clearchus, the author of a treatise on sleep, describes the bed of a Paphian prince in such a way that one can hardly keep his eyes open while reading of it. "Over the soft mattresses, supported by a silver-footed bedstead, was flung a short-grained Sardinian carpet of the most expensive kind. A coverlet of downy texture succeeded, and upon this was cast a costly counterpane of Amorginian purple. Cushions variegated with the richest purple supported his head, while two soft Dorian pillows of pale pink gently raised his feet."

One of the greatest improvements introduced by the Greeks into the art of sleeping was the practice of undressing before going to bed—a thing unheard of until hit upon by their inventive genius. Bed coverings were often perfumed with fragrant essences from the East. Counterpanes were not only perfumed, but embroidered with figures of animals and men.

ARTISTS' MODELS IN PARIS.

I BELIEVE I mentioned in a former letter, when speaking of artists' models, that many of them re women of undoubted correctness of life and purity of morals. An American artist told me recently that he knew of one such, a young Frenchwoman, who always prefaces the terms of her engagement with the stipulation that if one insulting word be addressed to her she will at once quit the studio and consider her contract as canceled. Her story is quite a romantic one. She came to Paris with her husband from the provinces a few years ago and they embarked in some small business; but proving unfortunate, they lost all their capital, and were forced to support themselves by their daily labor. The husband got an engagement as waiter in a cafe, and the wife went out sewing by the day, receiving sixty cents a day for her services, without board. One day a lady artist for whom she was working was so struck by the fine outlines of her seamstress's form that she paid her to sit a few hours as a model for a nude nymph. She then counseled her to give up sewing and to adopt the trade of a model, which the young woman with the approbation of her husband did. She now receives $3 a day regularly, is saving money, and contemplates taking the lease of a small shop as soon as she has laid by a sufficient sum.

A celebrated Spanish painter in Paris has recently created quite a scandal in Paris by marrying a model. This girl—she was young and very beautiful—was engaged to sit by an Italian artist for a term of months; but the Spaniard, hearing of her extraordinary loveliness, managed to tempt her away, and became so infatuated with her that he soon after made her his wife. She is said to be only sixteen years of age and as vicious as she is handsome.—*Appleton's Journal.*

TRUE LOVE NOT THE FASHION.

THE country never possessed so many beautiful and marriageable young women as it does at the present time. And why do we not have more marriages? We answer:—Because marriage for love is the exception and not the rule. The young people of this age have gone fashion and money-mad. If the dandy bank clerk, who pays one-half of his income for board and the other half for clothes cannot improve his condition, he will not marry. The shop-girl who earns good wages and cannot be distinguished by her dress from the banker's daughter, certainly will not plunge into matrimony unless she can better her condition in life. If a man is fortunate enough to possess money, it matters not how old and ugly he may be, hundreds of intelligent, handsome young women can be found only too willing to become his wife. Love is an after consideration. They marry to be supported and dressed extravagantly. How often do we hear the remark, "Better be an old man's darling than a poor man's slave!" Alas! too many of them are not satisfied to be darlings. They will persist in loving other men after they are married.

It cannot be denied that a great number of the unmarried men are adventurers looking for wives who can keep them without working for a living. The peace and contentment of a happy home is not taken into consideration.—*Argus.*

ARABIAN MEN AND WOMEN.

THE Arabs are generally handsome, with pale, oval faces, aquiline noses, and large, dark eyes. They have rather an effeminate appearance. Their dress is almost indescribable. They wear a sort of loose, baggy pantaloons, fastened at the waist by a sash coming down nearly to the knees, below which the entire leg and foot are bare. Some wear sandals. Their heads are covered with a turban, and when walking about free from work, they wear a long flowing cloak with a hood, which is thrown not ungracefully over their shoulders. The fabric from which it is made being originally of white woolen or worsted, but is innocent of recent washings and uncertain in color as worn. The women when seen outdoors, are attired in a large white robe reaching below the knees, full white trousers fastened at the ankle, and slippers. Their heads and faces are covered, excepting their eyes. They are possessed of a reasonable share of coquetry. So far as I have seen I do not think them as good-looking as the men.—*N. Y. Express.*

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

EIGHT HUNDRED girls attend Baptist colleges in Georgia.

WOMEN will hereafter be admitted as students by the university at Delaware, O.

OF the 33,000 persons employed in watch making in Switzerland, one-third are women.

IT is not etiquette for a lady to peruse an ice cream sign aloud while walking with a gent.

TO expect to rule others by assuming a loud tone, is like thinking one's-self tall by putting on high heels.

THE girl students all over the country who graduate this year are resolving to dress for that occasion in ordinary calico.

SMOKING is not a strictly masculine accomplishment in Russia. Ladies not only smoke in their rooms but join the gentlemen in a cigarette at the table.

THE following astounding item is afloat in the papers:—"The Princess Louise has launched and christened the Inflexible, and her displacement when all her weights are on board will be no less than 11,497 tons!"

THE owner of a pair of bright eyes says that the prettiest compliment she ever received came from a child of four years. The little fellow, after looking intently at her for a moment, inquired naively:—"Are your eyes new ones?"

AN Indiana farmer's wife has invented a machine that will prove of vast benefit to every woolen manufacturer in the country. It is a wool feeder and weigher, and is one of the most complete and delicate machines ever invented.

FROM Burlington comes news of a little girl, only nine years of age, who has developed a wonderful talent for sculpture. She chiseled a carbuncle on the side of her brother's head with a screw-driver so neatly that her friends think of sending her to Rome to have her learn to mangle marble in the Italian language.

THERE is a wide difference between admiration and love. The sublime, which is the cause of the former always dwells on great objects and terrible; the latter on small ones and pleasing. We submit to what we admire, but we love what submits to us; in one case we are forced, in the other we are flattered, into compliance.—*Burke.*

A BRIGHT young lady gave her slow lover a delicate leap-year hint the other evening. In the course of conversation a gentleman asked her what form of marriage she thought the most beautiful. Her quick reply was, "I should care little for form. The substance seems of more importance." That girl wears an engagement ring now.

A CORRESPONDENT says that Pittsburg has more business enterprises and successful ones, too, conducted by women, than any other city. There too, adds the writer, society kindly opens her doors to these worthy workers, and the shop woman whose brain or fingers find active employment, finds the doors of intellectual and social delights opened.

A LADY writing to the Cincinnati Gazette from Washington says:—"Did any of you Cincinnati girls ever hear of bunting dresses? If you have never worn them before, you should inaugurate the Centennial year by draping your graceful figures in the material of which your country's flag is made. The girls here have the prettiest and most serviceable of boating suits made of the blue bunting, and the softest, creamiest dresses imaginable are made from the white bunting. Fifteen yards of the blue can be purchased for only $6.50."

Reading for the Young.

NEVER GET ANGRY.

NEVER get angry when you are at play,
Good temper gains many a friend;
But sour looks and words drive companions away,
And lead to many a sad end.

Never get angry when you are at school,
If you would a rich reward earn;
Be cheerful, and practice each wise golden rule,
And soon every lesson you'll learn.

Never get angry when you are at home,
Let love and affection there reign;
Where angry words enter oft quarrels will come,
And there lead to sorrow and pain.

Never get angry when you are abroad,
Strive wisely right habits to form;
For better is he who can thus obey God,
Than he who can great cities storm.

THE "KINDERGARTEN."

AS SO much attention is directed to the "Kindergarten" system of late, perhaps the boys may take a hint from the following account in the Bulletin:

Barnes, the schoolmaster in a suburban town, read in the Educational Monthly that boys could be taught history better than in any other way by letting each boy in the class represent some historical character, as if he had done them himself. This struck Barnes as a mighty good idea, and he resolved to try it on. The school had then progressed so far in its study of the history of Rome as the Punic wars, and Mr. Barnes immediately divided the boys into two parties, one Roman and the other Carthaginian, and certain of the boys were named after the leaders upon both sides. All the boys thought it was a big thing, and Barnes noticed that they were so anxious to get to the history lesson that they could hardly say their other lessons properly.

When the time came Barnes ranged the Romans upon one side of the room and the Carthaginians on the other. The recitation was very spirited, each party telling about its deeds with extraordinary unction. After a while Barnes asked a Roman to describe the battle of Cannæ. Whereupon the Romans heaved their copies of "Wayland's Moral Science" at the enemy. Then the Carthaginians made a battering ram out of a bench and jammed it among the Romans, who retaliated with a volley of books, slates and chewed paper balls. Barnes concluded that the battle of Cannæ had been sufficiently illustrated, and he tried to stop it; but the warriors considered it too good a thing to let drop, and accordingly the Carthaginians sailed over to the Romans with another battering ram and thumped a couple of them in the stomach.

Then the Romans turned in and the fight became general. A Carthaginian would grasp a Roman by the hair and hustle him around over the desks in a manner that was simply frightful to behold, and a Roman would give a fiendish whoop and knock a Carthaginian over the head with Greenleaf's Arithmetic. Hannibal got the head of Scipio Africanus under his arm, and Scipio, in his efforts to break away stumbled, and the two generals fell and had a rough-and-tumble fight under the blackboard. Caius Gracchus tackled Hamilcar with a ruler; and the latter, in his struggles to get loose, fell against the stove and knocked down about thirty feet of stove-pipe. Thereupon the Romans made a grand rally, and in five minutes they ran the entire Carthaginian army out of the schoolroom and Barnes along with it, and then they locked the door and began to hunt up the apples and lunch in the desks of the enemy.

After consuming the supplies they went to the windows and made disagreeable remarks to the Carthaginians who were standing in the yard, and dared old Barnes to bring the foes once more into battle array. Then Barnes went for a policeman, and when he knocked at the door it was opened, and all the Romans were found busy studying their lessons. When Barnes came in with the defeated troops he went for Scipio Africanus, and pulling him out of his seat by the ear, he thrashed that great military genius with a rattan until Scipio began to cry, whereupon Barnes dropped him and began to paddle Caius Gracchus. Then things settled down in the old way, and next morning Barnes announced that history in the future would be studied as it always had been, and he wrote a note to the Educational Monthly to say that in his opinion the man who suggested the new system ought to be led out and shot. The boys do not now take as much interest in Roman history as they did on that day.

LORD DERBY TO THE BOYS.

IN his speech to the Liverpool lads Lord Derby said:—"You live in an age of inquiry, of doubt, of mental restlessness, when more than ever men are unwilling to accept traditional solutions of the great mysteries which surround our life and when many brains are bewildered and many hearts are made to ache by the vain effort to solve problems impenetrable to human reason. You cannot escape the common destiny. Those of you who reflect—and I hope they will be many—will inevitably have times of mental perplexity when the very purpose of existence seems obscure and doubtful; when traditions appear to fail and reason is baffled and when men ask in bewilderment, 'What does it all mean?' I am not here to deal with these high matters; it is not my duty, nor is this the place. Only so much I tell you—I believe that there are ideas implanted in us which, in a sound mind, no merely intellectual disturbance will long affect, and of which, in the deepest darkness, we may always, if we will, keep hold. Right and wrong, honor, duty and country, benevolence toward men and responsibility toward the unseen Power by which human actions are guided and controled—these are not idle phrases. In all countries and ages they have retained their meaning. They are realities which correspond with the deepest wants and feelings of our nature, and no man will feel himself utterly cast down who can say in his heart what the wisest and best of the human race have proclaimed in the whole tenor of their lives. Whether I am happy or unhappy is not my chief affair; what most and first concerns me is to find my work in life, to recognize it and to do it."

THE LIBERTY CAP.

WHEN a slave was manumitted by the Romans, a small red cloth cap called pileus, was placed on his head. So soon as this was done he was proclaimed a freedman (*libertinus*) and his name duly registered. When Saturnius took the capital, in the year 263, he hoisted a cap on the top of his spear to indicate that all slaves who joined him should be free. Marius employed the same symbol when inciting the slaves to take up arms against Sylla; and when Cæsar was murdered the conspirators marched forth in a body with a cap elevated on a spear as a token of liberty. The Goddess of Liberty in the Aventine Mount was represented as holding in her hand a cap, the symbol of freedom. In France, the Jacobins wore a red cap (*bonnet rouge*), but in England the cap of blue, with a white border, is the symbol of liberty, and Britannia is sometimes represented as holding such a cap on the point of her spear. The American "cap of liberty" is also of blue, with a white band or border on the bottom, upon which thirteen stars are placed, and has been adapted from the British. There is no absolute or positive regulation in regard to this cap beyond its shape and color, so far as America is concerned. It is in shape of an old-fashioned nightcap or truncated cone.

WHO WILL MISS ME?—A little girl once expressed very decidedly her expectations of going to heaven. One of her friends thought her over-confident, and told her so. But the little one still held on to her firm confidence. She said, "I know that I am only a very little girl; but when they are all singing so sweetly up there, I think the Lord Jesus will miss me if I am not there singing too!"

The Puzzler.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—No. 6.

I AM composed of 32 letters:
My 4, 14, 31, 28, 8, 24, 3, 9 is an Egyptian vegetable.
My 13, 30, 7, 23, 12, 9, 30, 2 was a queen of Persia.
My 17, 15, 30, 15, 22, 6, 23, 21 was a prisoner with Paul at Rome.
My 23, 10, 3, 32, 16, 11, 21, 1 was a precious stone in the high priest's breastplate.
My 26, 14, 23, 15, 27, 25, 20, 12 was a city of Macedonia.
My 29, 5, 18, 10, 29, 27, 5, 19 is a bitter herb.
My whole is a verse of Psalms.
☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.—No. 2.

I AM composed of 33 letters:
My 17, 4, 21, 15, 8, 10 is a city in Maine.
My 5, 8, 23, 18, 1, 6 is a city in Massachusetts.
My 10, 20, 27, 28, 2, 16, 25, 18, 30 is a city in New York.
My 12, 29, 7, 11, 31 is a West India Island.
My 16, 32, 1, 8, 9, 13, 16 is a city in Missouri.
My 30, 4, 6, 22, 24, 15, 26 is a city in North Carolina.
My 19, 29, 33, 3, 20, 14 is a city in Ohio.
My whole is a verse in 1st Corinthians.
☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

CHARADE.—No. 2.

My first oft with the gay will mingle,
For 'tis a lady who is yet single;
My second I presume you know
Means beneath or down below;
My third is an article of furniture
Most people have, I am quite sure;
My whole at present I will not send,
But will say that 'tis *not* comprehend.
☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 12.

My first is in small but not in big,
My second in waltz but not in jig;
My third in garret but not in house,
My fourth in rat but not in mouse;
My fifth in death but not in life,
Then guess, my friends, a patriarch's wife.
☞ Answer in two weeks.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—May 20.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 11.—Waste Basket.

SYNCOPATIONS No. 2.—1, Pine—ple; 2, Bread—head; 3, Cord—cod; 4, Pearl—peal; 5, Stream—steam; 6, East—eat; 7, Horse—hose; 8, Rood—rod; 9, Acre—ace.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA No. 3.—Pittsburgh Exposition.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE N. Y. Chamber of Commerce has given its 108th annual banquet. Present Gov. Tilden, ex-Gov. Dix and others. Speeches, wine, dyspepsia.

The Chalybeate spring water on the premises of Dr. Crain, near the Spring House, at Richfield Springs, has recently been analyzed, which reveals the fact that it is one of the richest iron springs in the State.

The Cazenovia Lake Camp Meeting Association have decided to put a new steamer on the lake this summer. It is to be a side-wheel steamer, capable of carrying 300 passengers. It is to be built in time for the Sunday School Assembly, which is to commence July 6th and continue ten days.

The Fall River, (Mass) Board of Trade are considering the alternative of half time or a complete shut down.

Nine hundred more Chinese coolies have arrived at San Francisco.

Mrs. Fortune and two young children were drowned in Pigeon Lake, Ontario.

The Windsor (Canada) authorities have extradited Meraine Smith, accused of the murder of McKeen in Detroit.

The police of Portland, Maine have $300 worth of unclaimed gold chains taken from two pickpockets convicted there of larceny. The thieves claim to have come from Philadelphia. The police invite the owners to claim the property.

In the center of the highway, near North Conway, N. H., there is a snow drift three feet in depth.

By an explosion in the powder works at Drakesville, N. J., on Tuesday, two workmen were blown to atoms.

The action of the House Judiciary Committee in regard to the proposed Sinking Fund for the repayment of the Government mortgage on the Pacific Railroads, is not final.

The Erie Railway Company announce that the laying of the third rail between Buffalo and Elmira was completed recently and test trains now run in both directions over the entire distance. The completion of the third rail enables Erie to run narrow-guage cars between all points of the West and Philadelphia without change.

John Biglin offers to produce a man to row with him for the pair-oared championship against any other two men in America for $2,000 over a three mile course.

The four-oared race over the Charles River near Boston, Mass., was won by the Faulkner-Regan crew.

It is expected that Major-General Schofield will make radical changes when he assumes the Superintendancy of West-Point. The Cadets will spend 10 days at Philadelphia during the Summer.

Counterfeit gold coin, made of platinum plated heavily with genuine gold, has of late been circulated in California. It is exceedingly deceptive, being of the right weight, color, and feeling. The platinum is worth half as much as gold, making these counterfeits costly of production.

This year Louisiana will have the largest banana crop ever grown. The winter has been so mild that the fruit continued to grow throughout the season, and while the leaves were badly burned by the ice, yet the fruit was entirely uninjured, and large clusters of half-grown bananas can be seen on many trees.

It is a good year for marvels. Large quantities of wheat have been destroyed by fish this winter in California, this singular fact being explained by the submersion of the fields by high water, during which the fish luxuriated on the tender grain shoots.

They have rated a tax of $5,200, to becomingly celebrate the Fourth in Oswego, N. Y.

The wife of Samuel Rheubart of Theresa, Jefferson County, ran away with George Thayer on Sunday last. Tayer, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Rheubart, have been living and employed at the Shurtliff ore bed for the past three years. Mrs. Rheubart took her children and left them with their grandparents.

In Volcano, Cal., the other day, a laborer found a piece of quartz rock among the rubbish he was wheeling in a barrow. On the rock being broken up it was found to contain pieces of gold, the aggregate value of which was about $1,000.

By the reorganization of President Grant's Cabinet, Edwards Pierrepont, late Attorney-General, is made Minister to England. Judge Taft, late Sec. of War, becomes Attorney-General, and J. Donald Cameron, son of Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania, is appointed Secretary of War.

The south wall of Frazee's flour mill, at Baldwinsville, Oswego County, has fallen, and seven thousand bushels of oats, twenty tons of feed, and 200 barrels of flour were precipitated into the river.

An Iowa court has decided that if a man engages himself to be married and then commits suicide, the defrauded party can proceed against his estate for breach of promise. Thus is destroyed the last hope of the bachelor of this Centennial leap-year.

The committee sent to Mississippi to investigate alleged outrages has reported.

The States of Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, Illinois, Kansas, New Hampshire and Alabama have held nominating (Republican) conventions, as have also Michigan and California Democratic conventions.

The judges, 125 in number, have been announced by the President of the Centennial Commission. The Committee on Animal and Vegetable Products are—Julius Weigler, Germany; M. Martell, France; Don E. Loring, Spain; Dr. Nicolau S. Moreira, Brazil; M. Jayme B. Reis, Portugal; Mr. Ikeda, Japan; E. Olebdorf, Argentine Confederation; E. Hoon Bumhauer, Netherlands.

The U. S. Senate has passed a resolution asking the President to act in the case of the Fenian prisoner Congdon, and spent five hours on the Belknap impeachment case.

Speaker Kerr, having recovered his health, has again assumed his position in the U. S. House of Representatives. A report unseating Mr. Morey (Rep.) of Louisiana was made, but no action taken.

We copy from advance sheets of the new edition of Colton's General Atlas of the World the following extract of the population of the world:—The entire land surface of the globe is estimated at 51,787,730 square miles, and the number of its inhabitants at 1,398,662,856, divided as follows:

Grand Divisions.	Sq. miles.	Population.
North America	8,062,190	59,682,342
South America	6,846,977	26,537,015
Europe	3,900,687	301,843,169
Asia	17,119,365	708,499,980
Africa	11,534,535	201,471,005
Australia	3,423,106	4,638,286
Polynesia		

Probably the most important peremptory auction trade sale of dry goods that ever was effected in the United States was that in Townsend, Montant & Co.'s store in New York City. Six thousand packages of domestics were offered, and the sale was attended by upward of two thousand gentlemen from all parts of the country. About twenty mills and manufacturing corporations were represented.

The Senate Committee on Appropriations have considered the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, and acted on the portions which relate to the Senate and House of Representatives. The Committee will pass upon the remaining items of the bill separately and with regard to the individual merits of the various items of reduction in salaries and clerical force proposed by the House, but will refuse concurrence in any reduction of salaries fixed by law unless the appropriate committee of the Senate charged with the subject affected shall recommend concurrence.

A controversy which has recently arisen between certain officers of the Engineer Bureau of the Army and Capt. Eads, who has a contract with the United States to improve the South Pass of the Mississippi River by the construction of jetties, has led some to suppose that these officers are opposing him in his work.

Piper the belfry butcher has been hanged at Boston.

The acreage of oats in Georgia is 135 as compared with last year, or 35 per cent increase on the acreage of last year's crop.

The first sack of Texas flour shipped from Dallas to Galveston was sold at auction Friday last, for $305, and was purchased by Brazilian coffee importers, who will send it to Dom Pedro.

About 200 miners in the Ohio mining districts have resolved not to go to work till a general mass meeting is held, and it is thought it will practically end the strike.

Mr. Orth, Minister to Austria, has resigned.

The new Cabinet officers will not act for some days.

In the Senate a number of bills were placed on the calendar; the question of printing the resolves of the Confederation and Continental Congress was referred to a Committee; impeachment occupied most of the day.

The Navy bill received the whole attention of the House; Mr. Harrison of Illinois kept the House in a roar a long while by a speech on the Marine Band; the abolotion of certain navy-yards was referred to a committee to report.

Chas. S. Cushing, the pedestrian, accomplished at Syracuse, N. Y., the unprecedented feat of walking for 130 consecutive hours, deducting five minutes out of each hour for rest.

Amos Lord of Biddeford, Me., obtained a verdict of $2,000, at Alfred, Me., against the Boston and Maine Railroad, for injuries received in getting off a train.

The House Committee on Commerce Saturday heard an argument from Representative Page of California in advocacy of the concurrent resolution recently introduced by him, requesting the President to propose an additional article to the treaty with China, which shall reserve to each country the right to regulate, restrict or prevent the immigration of subjects or citizens of one country into the other.

Work has been resumed in the International Company's coal mines in Cape Breton.

The jury for the Extraordinary Circuit Court, in which the canal suits will be tried, was drawn in Albany on the 28th ult.

On petition of its creditors W. Whitman, Esq., was appointed receiver of the Chicago and Pacific Railroad upon filing a bond of $10,000.

A fire in Bay City, May 28, destroyed two warehouses owned and occupied by Guster and Morrell. C. Schuerman, William Drake, and others lose stock and property by fire, and stock also damaged by smoke and water. Total loss, $20,000 nearly covered by insurance.

A fire at Midland, Mich., Saturday week, destroyed four entire blocks and several buildings on others. The total loss is estimated at $150,000.

A fire broke out in the upper story of the Anchor Flouring Mill, at the corner of Franklin Ave. and Twenty-third St., St. Louis, owned by the Yaeger Flouring Company, and almost the entire property was destroyed. The loss on the mill, warehouse, and machinery, including about 2,000 barrels of flour, was $110,000.

Walking tours by amateur pedestrians are very popular in New York and vicinity.

By the marriage of Miss Yzanaga to Lord Mandeville, America supplies another Duchess to England, as Lord M. will be Duke of Manchester on his parent's death.

The Erie Railway Company declare that reduced fares by other lines to the West really discriminate against New York, and accordingly "protects New York" by a further reduction of its own rates, both on through and local travel.

There arrived at this port last year from the West Indies 22,500,000 oranges, about 600,000 bunches of bananas, 5,250,000 pineapples, and 7,500,000 cocoanuts.

The reduction of bank loans reflects the dullness of trade in New York.

Mr. Dawes of Massachusetts, made a lengthy argument in favor of jurisdiction in the Belknap case.

A letter from San Quentin, Cal., reports great excitement in the penitentiary over an alleged discovery of rich gold prospects by laborers while excavating a new workshop.

The will of the late A. T. Stewart, it is said is to be contested by the Turneys, a family claiming to be blood relations.

The first through train from Denver for several days passed through Lawrence, Kan., on May 28. Heavy storms on the Denver division of the Kansas Pacific road are causing trouble.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of many prominent citizens of Philadelphia was held at Musical Fund Hall, in favor of opening the Centennial Exhibition on Sunday. An outside meeting was also held and speeches made, the hall being inadequate to accommodate the assembly.

The new game of Polo, so long popular in India and England, is being introduced in this country. It is played in the field, the players being mounted on ponies and hitting the ball with long mallets.

A dispatch from Cheyenne dated May 28, says: Crook's expedition will leave Fort Fetterman in the morning, and will camp on Sage creek, fifteen miles out. Gen. Crook will follow in the evening. Col. Royall will command the cavalry and Col. Chambers the infantry. All the supplies are across the Platte. Indians in considerable numbers are in the neighborhood of Fort Fetterman, but are keeping it quiet. A man, named Murphy, came into Fort Fetterman to-day from the Black Hills and reported that the Indians are very troublesome in that vicinity. He also reports having assisted in the burial of a number of persons who have been killed by Indians. His companion is among the victims.

On Sunday, May 29, there was a "Theosophist" funeral in New York City. The obsequies of the deceased, Baron de Palm, were conducted on the Egyptian plan. It was, probably, the first instance in this country of a purely pagan funeral.

A fire in Providence, R. I. destroyed the barn of Frank Slearin, with three horses, one of which was the trotting horse Long, who had a record of 2:20, and was valued by the owner at $10,000; the other two animals were a colt valued at $700 and a mare at $500.

Some days ago George A. Cowles filed with the Chairman of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department a sworn affidavit, in which he seriously reflected upon Donn Piatt in connection with the contract of Cowles & Co. for preserving army clothing from the ravages of the the moth. The committee, however, have decided not to receive the affidavit as testimony, but to permit him to answer such questions as they may deem necessary to ask him.

G. M. D. Bloss, one of the editors of the Cincinnati Enquirer, who is widely known throughout the country, was instantly killed while walking on the track of the Little Miami Railroad, near Branch Hill station, where he resided.

And now Speaker Kerr is on the rack. Charges of a grave nature are being circulated.

Probably the quickest change of gauge on record was that made by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad employes, as the following dispatch shows:—The gauge of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad was narrowed between 6 o'clock A. M. and 6 o'clock P. M. to-day, May 28, from Hoboken to Scranton, Pa., Binghamton, Oswego, Rome and Utica, and narrow-gauge trains passed over the whole line without interruption. About 2,000 men were employed on the work.

FOREIGN NOTES.

MR. DISRAELI refused amnesty to the Fenian prisoners.

Prince Napoleon accepted the Republic "loyally and unreservedly."

Victor Hugo advocated general amnesty in the French Senate.

Queen Dowager Maria Christina returned to Spain.

Premier Canovas del Castillo has presented a bill in the Senate abolishing the fueros and establishing in the Northern Provinces military service and taxation as elsewhere in Spain.

The Times (London, Eng.) reviews the text of Secretary Fish's dispatch of March 21, and comes to the conclusion that America is justified in saying that according to England's own law Winslow must be given up without any promise respecting his trial.

A special dispatch from Berlin says intelligence has been received in official quarters there from Constantinople, which indicates that the Sultan will probably be compelled to abdicate the throne very shortly.

A loan of $10,000,000 guaranteed by the Cuban customs is being negotiated by Spain.

Augusto Desmoulins is appointed by the French Government to report on education in the U. S.

Turkey has resolved to entertain the Berlin scheme.

The Spanish Constitution was adopted.

The French, Austrian and Spanish legations in Rome will soon be raised simultaneously to the rank of embassies.

A special dispatch from Alexandria, Egypt, says a rumor is current that another battle has been fought in Abyssinia, and that the remnant of the Abyssinian army succeeded in cutting its way through the Egyptian lines.

The insurgents in Herzegovina and Bosnia have resolved to demand absolute freedom.

Winslow was again remanded for eight days.

Polonaise won the Great Northern Handicap at York.

The Chinese Six Companies have prepared a memorial to be forwarded to the President, giving argument on their side of the question of Chinese immigration.

One of the rumors circulated on the London Stock Exchange says the attack with which the Prince of Wales is suffering is more serious than the announcement indicates. Another rumor is to the effect that the Rothschilds are sellers of consols to the amount of nearly a million pounds sterling, which transaction is supposed to be based on knowledge that the political situation in Europe is likely to grow worse.

At a meeting of delegates from forty-four workmen's societies in Paris it was resolved not to accept the subvention for the expenses of the visit to the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, subject to the condition that the Government shall select the delegates.

The announcement of the election of Mr. Goulding (Conservative) as member of Parliament from Cork is officially confirmed. Mr. Goulding succeeds the late Mr. Romayne, who represented Cork in the Liberal and Home Rule interest.

The first of the riflemen matches for the selection of an Irish team to go to Philadelphia was had at Dundalk on the 27th ult. The weather was boisterous. The best scores were as follows: Rigby, 190; Johnson, 193: Goff, 152.

Judging by the following, England is preparing for war:—One hundred tons of gunpowder and a million cartridges have just been dispatched from Woolwich to Gibraltar, Malta and the Mediterranean fleet. This is independent of the ordinary supplies. It was said in Portsmouth on Saturday that all available workmen are to be placed at work on the ships which are nearest to a sea-going condition. The turret ship Thunderer is understood to be the first whose completion will be thus pushed forward.

The English Patent Journal describes a combination of a foot warming apparatus with a boot The heel of the boot is of metal and hollow, and contains a supply of artificial fuel. The heat from this is made to pass through channels in the inner sole, a part of which is placed upon a spring, so that the action of the foot in walking acts like a bellows, drawing in the cold air by an aperture in the heel, and driving the heated air into the boot. A modification of the apparatus can, it is thought, be applied to horse shoes.

General Quesda has proclaimed martial law and a state of siege throughout the Basque provinces and Navarre. It is also reported that a rising has taken place at Tolosa, the capital of the Spanish province of Guipuzcoa, to the cry of "Long live the Republic; long live the Fueros."

Official information has been received at Washington that the Turkish Government is punishing persons who participated in the riot at Salonica about a month ago between Turks and Christians and in which the French and German consuls were killed by the Mohammedan populace, notwithstanding the efforts of the Government to protect them. The Governor-General of Salonica, Echref Pasha, and the High Commissioner of the Sublime Porte, Vahan Effendi, have sent the following telegram, dated Salonica, May 27, to the Turkish Minister at Washington:—"Eleven additional sentences were rendered yesterday, two of which are for capital punishment, eight for forced labor for life or limited, and one to three years' imprisonment. The instigators of the riot will be tried to-day." The Turkish Minister received the following telegram dated Salonica, May 28:—"Yesterday nine additional sentences were rendered, two of which are to capital punishment, five to forced labor, and two to three years' imprisonment." These dispatches are signed by the Imperial Commissioners.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, May 27, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	83,250	Molasses	—
Whisky	3,150	Rice, bbls	346
Corn meal, bbls	2,345	Cut meats, pkgs	9,590
Corn meal, bags	1,403	Lard, pkgs	6,470
Wheat, bush	1,213,850	Tobacco, hhds	2,016
Corn, bush	857,675	do. cases	4,061
Oats, bush	391,761	Butter, pkgs	31 922
Rye, bush	28,000	Cheese, bxs	21,425
Malt, bush	48,700	Cotton, bales	8,664
Barley, bush	53,900	Rosin	6,866
Beans, bbls	5,930	Spts. turp., bbls	—
Grass seed, bush	175	Dried Fruits, pkgs	81
Beef, pkgs	2,512	Eggs, bbls	17,613
Wool, bales	1,350	Peanuts, bags	1,215
Hops, bales	351	Leather, sides	77,766
Pork, bbls	1,000	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,863	Oil cake	9,101

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise, many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off-nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 2,000 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 27,363 do.; same time last year, 10,085 do. Exports of peas past week, 10,130 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 391,256 do.; same time last year, 206,863 do. Medium beans continue dull and prices for best marks are shaded, even for the regular demand, which is not large after warm weather sets in. In marrows the trade has been very active and prices are a little stronger. Holders, however, are not over firm. A large quantity has been taken from store to fill out the orders, but a lull is expected after the very liberal export. Pea beans are scarce and firm for Eastern use. Kidneys of all kinds are dull; prices almost nominal. Canadian peas are easier. Green peas are a drug and prices are further in buyers' favor. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.30@1.35; fair to good, $1.00@$1.25; prime mediums, $1.10@1.15; fair to good, 85c.@$1.00; poor, 50@70c.; prime marrows, $1.55; fair to good, $1.35@1 55; prime white kid., $1.40@1.45; other, $1.15@1 30; prime red kidney, $1.20@1.25; other, $1@1.10; Lima (Cal.), $3.00. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1 18@1.20; do., in bulk and bond, 95@96; green, $1.15@1.20; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, ₩ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—There is but little doing, and supplies are not excessive; sales at 34½@35c. for Western, and up to 37c. for best Southern. Exports since Jan. 1st, 36,200 lbs.

BROOM CORN.—The market is still lifeless, and to make sales lower prices are necessary.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER. The week has been a dull one, and with trade falling off just at the time when Western began to come forward freely, prices for both State and Western fell off considerably. Since our last, the decline in State is fully 1@2c. even on best styles. Western has ruled very unsettled, and all of the under grades have been more or less optional with the buyer. The general receipts are unusually large, adding up 31,000 pkgs. Of course there are a good many small packages, but there are enough half tubs and firkins to make the supply oppressive when the market runs dull for several successive days. There is a marked falling off in line buying for market use this season, and unless it can be resumed the second grades of stock, especially Western, will hold an undecided position. Very good serviceable lines are offering at 20c., with but little attention. There is some inquiry for firkins, but they must be all yellow to suit best buyers. Strictly fancy pails are quoted in a small way at 30c., but buyers at the price are few. We revise quotations:

New butter, Pails, State selected, 25@27c.; do., other 20@26c.; creamery, 26@28c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 26@27c.; fair to good, 23@26c.; Welsh tubs selected, 25@27c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 22@24c.; fair to good, 21@23c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 25@26c.; fair to good, 22@24c.; Western tubs, dairy, good to prime, 21@22c.; fair to good, 15@19c.

Western factory choice, 20@21c.; do. fair to good, 18@19c.; poor, 15@17c. Some low grades of State, 18@20c. Old Western, 15@—c.; State firkins, all yellow, 28c.; Western firkins, all yellow, 20@22c.; other, 15@18c.

CHEESE.—Exports past week 20,702 boxes. Early in the week with the interior markets running up sharply there was an advance of at least one cent per pound demanded here, but little doing, however, subsequently yielding a trifle from the extreme figures but closing about steady. This sharp rise in prices was wholly unexpected by the trade here, and led to a demoralization. Shippers seem disposed to await further developments. The main reason for the improvement was the sharp bidding by a Canadian operator on competion for the best stock. The movement has been light this week, generally at 12c. for fine, although some exceptional lots run up to 12¼@12½c.

New at 12@—c. for fine factory; 10@10½c. for good; 10@10½c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 8@9c.; do., skimmed, 4@6c. Old, nominally as follows: State fancy factory at 12@12½c.; do. fine, at 11½c.; do., good to prime, at 9¾@10½c.; do., fair to good, at 8½@9½c.

COTTON. Prices are now lower than at any period for a number of years and the market closed depressed. The stagnant condition of the manufacturing interests both here and abroad is the basis for the exceptionally low prices. The closing prices are:—May, 11 17-32c.; June, 11 17-32@11 9-16c.; July, 11 11-16@11 23-32c.; August, 11 13-16@11 27-32c.; September, 11 27-32c.; October, 11 21-32@11 11-16c.; November, 11 9-16@11 19-32c.; December, 11 9-16@11 19-32c.; January, 11 11-16@11 23-32c.; February, 11 13-16@11 27-32c.; March, 11 29-32@11 15-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	Ala.	Orleans.	Texas
Ordinary	8 5-16	8 5-16	8 5-16	8 5-16
Strict ordinary	9⅛	9⅛	9⅛	9⅛
Good ordinary	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 13-16	9 13-16
Strict good do.	10⅛	10⅛	10⅛	10⅜
Low middling	10 13-16	10 15-16	11 1-16	11 1-16
Strict low middling	11—	11⅛	11⅜	11⅜
Middling	11⅜	11⅜	11 15-16	11 15-16
Good middling	12⅛	12⅜	12½	12⅜
Strict good middling	12⅞	12⅞	13	13
Middling fair	13⅜	13⅛	13⅛	13⅜
Fair	14	14⅜	14⅛	14⅛

Stained.

Good ordinary	8⅝	Low middling	10
Strict ordinary	9⅛	Middling	11⅛

DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are firm and moderately active; otherwise very little doing and prices badly settled.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; do., quarters, 10c.; Western quarters 9c., Southern sliced, 9½@10c. for prime; fair lots 8½@9c.; Tennessee quarters, 8½c. Blackberries, 10½@11c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 13@14c.; do. fancy, 15@16c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 18@19c. Raspberries, 26c. Cherries, 20@21c.

Exports of dried apples since Jan. 1st, 1,483 bbls.; same time last year 9,215 do.

EGGS.—The market is lower. Trade has been very slack, and at this season eggs are not the property to stand a lull in the demand. It was thought when they went at 14c. for Western that the bottom was touched but 13c. is the extreme figure at the close and not much movement at that. Southern eggs are now precarious stock. Buyers are beginning to call for loss off in Western and sellers generally submit. Near points are in fair demand owing to freshness. Canadian for the moment are doing better than best Western. We quote:

Near points, ₩ bbl., 17@17½c.; State and Penn., 14@14½c.; Western, prime, 13c.; do. fair marks, 12@14½c.; Southern and Southwestern, 12c.; Canadian, 13½c.; duck, 17@18c.; goose, 20@23c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₩ lb.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3, Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras, 55c.

FEATHERS unchanged. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; mixed, do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—Export trade has been brisk, the advices from abroad favorable, and prices strong.

Superfine State, $4.10@4.50; extra do., $5.20@5.30; superfine Western, $4.10@4.50; extra do., $5.30@5.75; round-hoop Ohio, $5.00@5.25; trade brands do., $5.80@7.00; white wheat extras $5 80@7.00; St. Louis, $5.20@9.00; City Mills extra, $7.50@9.00; St. Louis, $5.20@6.60 for common to fair extra and $6.55@9 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.25@7.25, and patent at $6 25@9.50; unsound stock, $3.75@5.75; No. 2, $3@3.50. Southern at $5@5.25 for common to good extra, $5.30@6.15 for good to choice, $6.20@8.50 for family extra, and $8@9 for choice to fancy new prices. Rye flour at $4.75@5.20. Corn Meal is selling at $2.85@3.30; for yellow, Western, Jersey and Penn. and $3.50 for Brandywine.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.—Layer raisins, $2.75; Valencia do., 10¼@10½c. Currants, 7⅜@7½c. Turkish prunes, 5⅜@5½c. Sardines, 11½@15c. currency, for quarter boxes.

FRESH FRUITS.—Strawberries are now the chief attraction. The bulk of Norfolks have been shipped. Maryland sell well and prices are generally popular. It is said the river gardens do not look well, but New Jersey will send large quantities. Southern cherries quoted at 15c. Apples are dull; only the best are selling. Gooseberries dull at $2@$2.50 ₩ bush. Hot-house peaches, $3@5 ₩ doz.; do. Hamburg grapes, ₩ lb., $1@1.50. Peanuts are fairly steady. Norfolk strawberries, ₩ quart, 15@20c. (one steamer load sold at a loss); Maryland, 20@25c.; a few Charleston remain, 20@25c. Peanuts—Virginia, ₩ bush., $1.60@1.70; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 85c.@$1,15. Hot-house grapes, ₩ lb., $1.50@2.

FURS AND SKINS.—We quote:

Otter, ₩ piece	$6 50@ 8 00	$1 00@ 5 50
Gray Fox	1 75@ 2 00	1 40@ 1 60
Red Fox	1 60@ 1 75	1 25@ 1 40
Black Bear	10 00@15 00	7 00@10 00
Brown cubs and ylgs.	4 00@ 5 00	2 00@ 3 00
Fisher	8 00@10 00	7 00@ 8 00
Mink, dark	2 00@ 3 00	1 25@ 1 75
pale	1 00@ 1 50	75@ 85
Muskrat, spring	28@ 30	23@ 25
winter	23@ 25	21@ 23
fall	18@ 20	16@ 18
Kitts	6@ 7	5@ 6
Beaver, ₩ lb	1 00@ 1 75	75@ 1 00
Raccoon	68@ 80	40@ 55
Opossum	12@ 15	12@ 15
Skunk, black		75@ 90
striped		10@ 40
Wolf, mountain		2 00@ 3 00
prairie		75@ 1 00
Sheep, clipped		25
in wool		90@ 2 00

GINSENG.—Southern, $1.15@1.20; Northern, $1.15@1.20; Seneca root, 75@80c.

GRAIN.—The advices from England and the Continent have been encouraging, and a large trade results in wheat and corn, the former at high prices, but for the latter with full receipts at a decline.

Latest sales of wheat at $1.10@1.11 for No. 3 Chicago spring; No. 3 Milwaukee spring, $1.15; No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.20@1.22; ungraded spring, $1.13@1.29; No. 1 New York inspected spring, $1.21@1.23; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.25@1.26; No. 1 spring at $1.30@1.33; for amber State, $1 45; No. 1 Sheboygan spring, $1.31; white Canada, $1.39, and winter red Western, $1.40. Rye at 85½@86c. for Western, 9 for Canada, and 95@95½c. for State. Corn at 57@60c. for mixed Western; 62c. for Western yellow. Oats at 33@44c. for mixed Western and State; 38½@48c. for white.

HAY AND STRAW.—Shipping grades hay are wanted at full prices. Prime lots plenty and dull.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 80@85c.; retail qualities, $1.00@1.10; clover, 70@75c.; salt, 60@70c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.10 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 65@70c. for oat.

Exports past week, 3,830 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 25,221; same time last year, 15,350.

HIGHWINES selling at $1.12.

HOPS.—No exports this week. The export demand has entirely ceased and brewers are buying sparingly. There is considerable interest now watching developments of the new crop, particularly advices from the other side as much depends upon the yield there, as affecting our export movement. We quote:

N. Y. State, 12@18c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c, ₩ lb.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 20@21c. for light; middle, 21½@23c.; heavy, 21½@23c.; good damaged, 18@20c.

MAPLE SUGAR.—Dull at the old low prices.

Choice new sugar bricks, 10c.; small, 11c.; fair, 8@9c.; old, 6@7c. Sirup, ₩ gallon, 75c.@$1, which is relatively lower than crystalized.

OIL CAKE.—Western brings $40 (currency) per ton.

POULTRY AND GAME.—A little good Vermont frozen is still in market. Prime turkeys bringing 15@17c. Capons are out of season. Philadelphia dressed or other near points, ice packed, are not of special interest. We quote fowls, good to prime, 17@18c.; fair to good, 15@16c.; spring chickens, 28@30c.; other, 20@26c. Turkeys, 14@18c. The market has been good for live poultry, and has easily recovered from a few days of over stock. Geese are higher. We quote spring chickens, ₩ pair, 50c.@1.

Fowls, N. J., lb, 16c.; do. Western, 15@16c.; Roosters, 8@9c.; Turkeys, N. J., 13@16c.; do. Western, 13@15c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, $1@1.25; do. Western, 65@80c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2 50; do. Western, $1@$1.50.

Wild pigeons are doing rather better. Stall fed now quotable. We quote:

Wild pigeons, feathered or dressed, ₩ doz., 90c.@$1; do., stall fed, $1.75@2; English snipe, ₩ doz., $2.00@2.25; plover, ₩ doz., $1.12@1.25; sand snipe, 40@50c.; wild squab, ₩ doz., 75c.@$1.00; tame do., $2.50@2.75.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products are very much lower and depressed. Mess pork at $20 for spot lots; June, $20; July, $20.15; August, $20.40. Bacon at 10⅝c. for Western long clear. Western steam lard at $11.80 for spot lots; $11.80 for June; $11.95 for July; $12.12½ for August. Stearine at 13½c. for Western. Beef hams at $23@24 for Western. Tallow at 8⅜@8 11-16c. Beef—Extra mess, $13; do. plain, $12.00@12 50; tierced at $21 for prime mess, and $24 for India mess. City extra India mess at $24 and Philadelphia mess at $23.

SEED.—Grass dull; clover is quoted at 16; timothy, $2.75.

TOBACCO.—Kentucky leaf is favoring the seller, with a good export demand. Seedleaf very quiet.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7
Good lugs	7 @ 8
Low leaf	8½@10
Medium leaf	12 @12
Good leaf	12½@13½
Fine leaf	14 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	15 @ 2
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	10 @13
Fillers, selections	5 @ 7
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	7 @ 8
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	14 @20
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	6 @ 8
Wisconsin	6 @ 8

SALT.—Ashtons at $2.50; Deakin's at $1.40@1.50; Marshall's at $1.40@1.50.

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 2,300 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 79,919 do.; same time last year, 14,426; onions, since Jan 1st, 5,432 bbls.; same time last year, 1,275 do. Though the advance comes late we can report better prices for old potatoes this week. Asparagus is abundant and cheap. Green peas are in good supply and prices are easy. Southern produce will soon lap on the Northern and prices cannot be expected to rule steady.

Early Rose, bulk, ₩ bbl., $1@1.37; Peach Blows, $1.25@1.50; Prince Alberts, 87c.@$1.12; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $6@7; Florida, $2@3.50. Southern cabbages, ₩ bbl., $1@1.50. Florida tomatoes, ₩ crate $2@4. Bermuda, do., 5 qt. box, 60@70c. Md. green peas, ₩ bbl. $4.50@5. Norf. do., small, $2@2.50. Norf. marrowfat, $3. Fla. string beans, $1@1.25. Charleston, $1.25@1.50. Fla. cucumbers, crates, $2@3. Chas. do., $3.50@4. Asparagus, per doz., 75c.@$2. Nor. cauliflower, ₩ bbl., $1@1.50. Red onions, ₩ bush, $1.50@1.75.

WOOL.—There is still a very depressed feeling. The new clips are arriving at some of the Western and Southwestern points; but little being marketed, however, on account of the full rates asked. The impression of the trade here is that a dragging market will prevail on the first offerings of the various new clips, as it is presumed full rates will be asked, while the present condition of the goods market, it is claimed, will not admit of free purchases.

ROCHESTER, May 27.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower: Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.25; white winter, $1.25@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 20@22c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 14½@15c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1.75. Potatoes, bu., 25@50@30c. Beans, ₩ bu., 60c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $23.50. Wool, 25@40c. Hay, $10@15. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.00; clover, $9.50@9.75. Mill feed dull at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $23 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₩ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₩ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.05@6.45 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET,

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., May 27, 1876.

TRANSACTIONS in cheese this week have been brisk and prices have improved. The weather and the country roads have been bad, but there was a large representation from factories, and the offerings have been over 5,000 boxes. The delivery from farm dairies was about 200 boxes, and sales were made at 5½@9½c., according to quality, and 10c. was reported for a few extra lots.

Factory cheese has improved in quality, and the delivery this week was the best of the season, being largely free from badly skimmed lots. Prices ranged for every day cheese at 10@11½c., and the bulk sold at 11@11½c. A few badly-skimmed cheese were sold below 10c. Dairymen are now quite encouraged, the prices ranging higher than were expected, and as cheese improves in quality, still better rates are anticipated.

The delivery of butter is declining, and less than 100 packages were on the market last week. Sales were made at 22@24c., a few tubs, partly grass make, reaching 25c. The herds are now out to grass, and we shall have a decided improvement both in butter and cheese, especially the latter, as the factories do not now allow skimming.

The weather is warm, and grass is now making a rapid growth. Cows are reported to be making good returns in milk.

We have advices from abroad. Our London correspondent says there has been a good sale for English and American cheese, especially for low quality American, of which the market is nearly cleared. Dutch cheese is slow of sale.

The prices are for extra American, 63@65s.; fine, 59@63s.; good, 56@60s.; secondary and common, 35@45s. English cheddar brings 80@90s.; Wiltshire double, 70@80s.; Cheshire medium, 81@86s.; fine, 76@80s.; Scotch, 66@70s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 74s.; Goudas, 56@62s.

The supply of butter is not equal to the consumption. Oleomargarine is also short.

Dorsets brings 150s.; Jersey, 120@132s.; Danish and Swedish, 120@150s.; Normandy, 120@150s. No American or Canadian butter in market. Oleomargarine sells at 100@115s. ₩ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, May 27, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	4,259	18	3,514	9,297	00
Forty-Eighth St	00	6	463	1,378	00
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	13.510
Harsimus Cove	5,739	00	000	40,925	7,066
Totals this week	9,998	24	3.977	21,520	20,516
" last week	9,735	92	4,093	11,768	20,044

BEEVES.—On a heavy run of generally fair quality horned cattle, with a good top trade on Monday last, was extremely slow at ½c. ₩ lb. reduction on the closing rates of the previous week. When the markets closed at noon several carloads remained unsold at noon. Prices were at 9@12½c. ₩ lb.; weights, 6@9½ cwt. Wednesday, trade extremely slow and off another ½c.; quality coarse; prices at 9½@10½c.; weights, 5½@8½ cwt. Thursday, trade small at 8½@10½c.; weights, 5@8 cwt. Friday the markets closed weak; sales at 9@10½c.; weights, 5½@7½ cwt. General sales at 56 lbs. net. Still-fed Illinois and Kentucky steers sold at 9@10½c.; native, 8@11c.; grade, 11½@12c.; the best herds to hand were shipped for Bermuda or slaughtered for the London market. Bulls on live weight, $4.37 ₩ cwt.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @12½	12 @12½
Fair	11 @11½	11 @11½
Poor	10 @10½	10 @10½
Poorest	8 @ 9½	8 @ 9½
Gen. selling rates	9½@10½	9½@10½

MILCH COWS.—Trade easier on a light run of rather better quality animals; 16 cows sold at $55@70 ₩ head; 13 at $45@69; 5 at $60; 10 at $10@60—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—There have been no smooth quality veals to hand. Buttermilk-fed calves sold at 4½@6c. Calves from coarse and lean to ordinary quality sold at 6@8½c. General sales at 6½@7½c.; State calves, 4½@7½c.; Jersey, 6@8½c.; Pennsylvania, 6½@8½c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade slow in sheep and still less demand for lambs. Monday sheep sold at 5@7½c.; lambs, 8@13c. Wednesday, sheep, 5½@7c.; lambs, 8½@12½c. Thursday, sheep at 5@7½c.; lambs, 12½c. Friday, the markets closed weak; sheep at 5½@6½c.; lambs, 8@10½c. State sheep sold at 5@7½c.; Ohio, 5½@7½c.; Michigan, 6½@7½c.; Kentucky, 6½@7½c.; Tennessee, 6c.; Tennessee lambs, 8½c.; Jersey, 8½@13½c.; Pennsylvania, 11½c.; Kentucky, 9c.

HOGS.—There have been no live hogs on sale since our last weekly report. Trade in city dressed remains dull and depends largely on local demand. Extreme range of prices, 8½@9½c. ₩ lb.; general sales, 9@9½c. Quality decides the price.

HORSE MARKET.—Stylish carriage horses generally held on sale; only 3 pairs reported as sold; rates, $1,000@1,300 ₩ pair; 11 pairs of family, $450@700; 3 pairs heavy draft horses, quality coarse, $375@425; 2 pairs do., quality choice, $550@625 ₩ pair; 29 head of poor quality light harness horses, $60@79 ₩ head; 42 ordinary, $100@150; 15 roadsters, with moderate trotting action, $275@325 ₩ head. Ninety-three horses arrived per Erie Railway, via Oak Cliff Station direct from Texas. These animals have been shipped Eastward on speculation of their proving good Polo ponies. At present held on sale.

Read the POULTRY BULLETIN.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

THE King of Dahomey wants a white man for military leader.

BEECHER lectures to thin audiences. How do they sort 'em, by turnstiles?

ULYSSES S. GRANT, Jr., was recently admitted to the bar in Supreme Court, General Term.

WHEN a rough says, "You ain't no gentleman," the best way is to parse the remark in silence.

A FASHIONABLE London preacher recently said: "St. Paul remarks, and I partially agree with him——"

FIVE Senators are already booked for speeches at the impeachment trial, and yet the ventilation of the Capitol is imperfect!

GOV. TILDEN has accepted the escort of the Albany Zouave Cadets for the Fourth of July celebration at Philadelphia.

KATE RANDOLPH ROGERS, the successful actress, now playing in Boston, says that Anna Dickinson has genius and that she will succeed.

THE rates of fare are posted in the Philadelphia street cars in five languages. The conductors knock down fares in every known language.

A GRANGER writes to a rural paper to ask "how long cows should be milked?" Why the same as short cows, of course, adds another rural editor.

"THERE are 586,193 silver dimes in a barrel.' We are going to hunt for that barrel.

Does any one know how many an old stocking holds?

JOHN ECCLES of the South Wales Survey Department has invented a lithographic process which is said to be a great improvement on the common practice.

STANLEY WATERMAN WATERLOO, one of the editors of the St. Louis Republican, will run for Alderman in the Seventh ward of that city.

Why don't Alderman run?

BOATING is reported backward at Vassar. Boating always did have more pull-backs at Vassar than at the other colleges.

Immaterial, they do it with skulls up there.

SPEAKING of a new club "with home comforts," some one asks, "Why not have a home with club comforts?"

We do, but it's a secret organization, only known by its ear marks.

IN Corsica the octopus is an esteemed article of food, in fact, a "great delicacy." It is first boiled, and then roasted.

The great objection is, that you can't eat them on the half-shell.

THE parents of the Louisville boy who swallowed a slate and pencil feel certain that he is destined to "figure" in the world.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.* That is, of course, provided he don't throw up the sponge."—*Com. Adv.*

CARLYLE thinks that doctors who practice surgery on live animals should be indicted.

And as he has cut and punctured live animals about as much, and more disagreeably than doctors let him be the first.

M. BARTHOLDY, the French sculptor who modeled the colossal statue of Liberty for New York harbor, has arrived in this city.

We have had enough accidents lately, we don't want any man around who makes faces and busts!

THE Egyptian Khedive's son is expected to visit our Centennial. Strange that they should allow a mere youth so far away from his Mummy's apron-string.

No danger, he will meet his ancestor Faro in Philadelphia.

No nocturnal visitors are admitted to the Centennial grounds. And yet they expect a great many Knightly visitors, shortly.

Yes, but they do the *mason* work, you know. This will be a grand display of elegantly mounted "dead heads."

THAT "low type of malarial fever" which has prostrated Mr. Blaine tells the true story against the charming early spring weather of Washington and Philadelphia.

If it's a low type, leave the "early spring" and take another font.

A STONE ax of granite weighing thirteen pounds, very perfect and symmetrical in form, was recently plowed up on a farm in Marshall County, Illinois, near an old Indian trail.

The party don't state what he did with the scalp of the other man.

DONN PIATT is now under the investigation harrow, a fact which will be of exceeding comfort to those who have suffered from the pricks of that virtuously virulent journalist's pen.

No fear but that he will be well *raked* at least. Heth moth exthisterminated already.

DR. J. G. HOLLAND has volunteered to lecture for the benefit of the Easthampton (Mass.) village improvement society, and the offer has been accepted.

As there have been recent floods, the lecturer will practically dam the village.

WM. H. BARNUM was, on Tuesday week, elected U. S. Senator, by the Connecticut Legislature, for the unexpired term of the late Senator Ferry, which ends in 1879.

This is not the B. who has the "Congress of Nations," but a member of the Nation's Congress.

THE Prince of Wales has, in seventeen weeks, traversed 7,600 miles of land, 2,300 of ocean, seen more of India than any man living, and enjoyed more fun than all the Kings of England, from the conquest downward, put together.

We would take our chance as Henry VIII. for example, if it was a matter of choice.

EDMUND YATES always dictates his novels, and has for amanuensis an exceedingly grave and unimaginative man. On one occasion, when about to begin his day's work, Mr. Yates inquired: "Where did we leave off?" "Where we were pressing her lips, sir," replied the Secretary, in a matter-of-fact way, and yet he left off!

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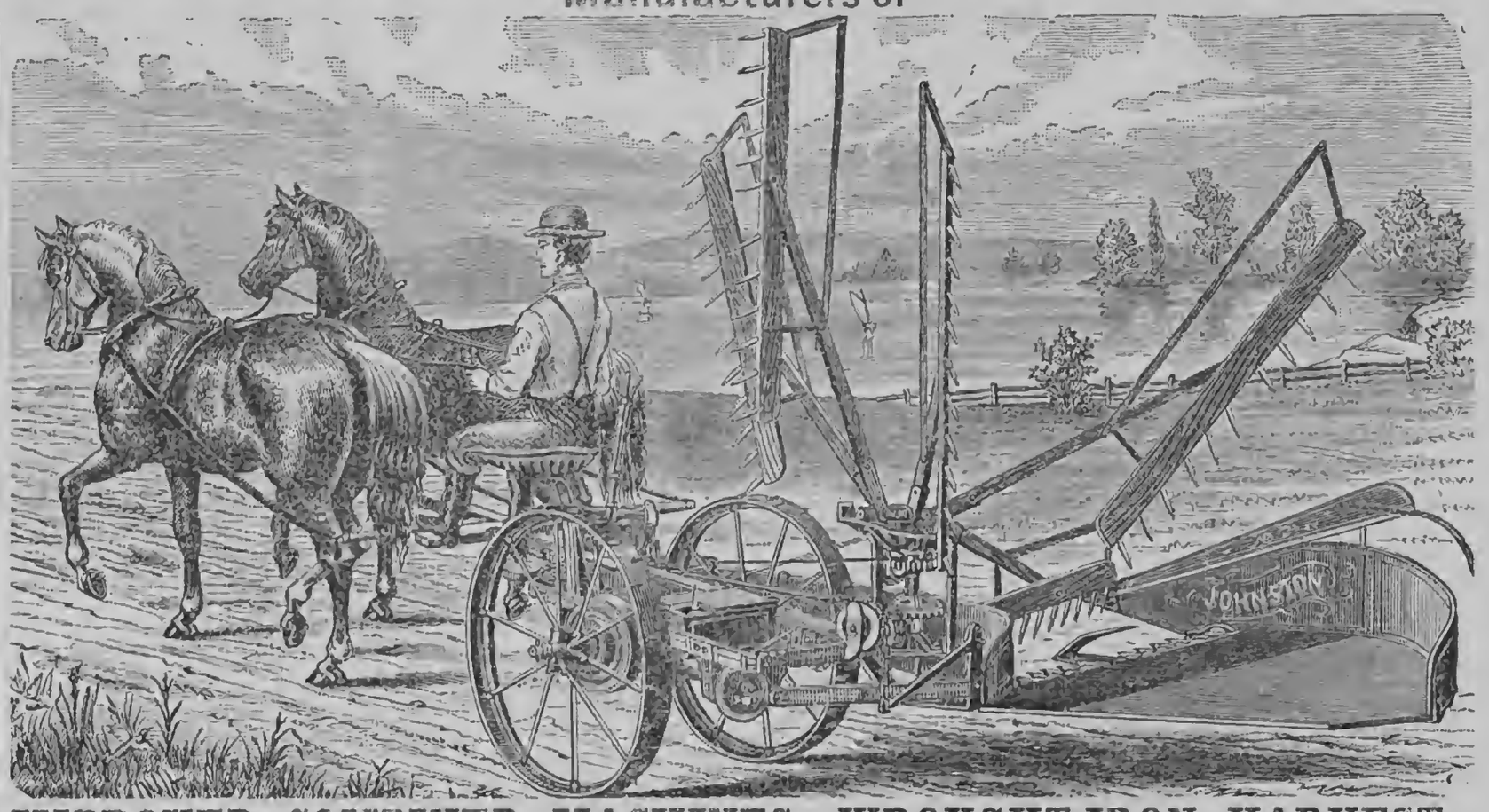

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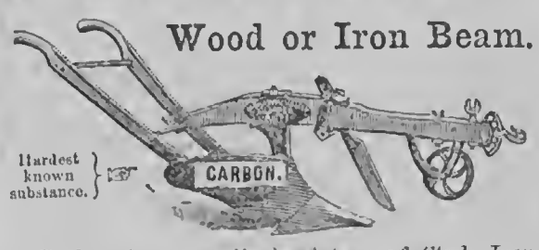

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Manufacturers of Agricultural Implements,
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SEND $1 FOR WILLARD'S PRACTICAL Butter Book, to RURAL P&B. Co., 78 Duane St.

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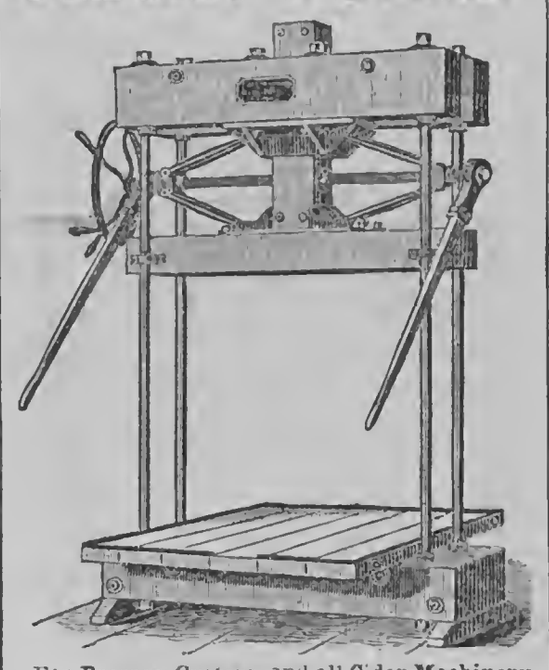

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See COATES LOCK LEVER, on page 353.

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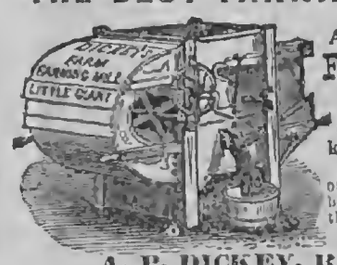

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Willard.—1. How are the weather prophecies calculated for almanacs, or are they guessed at? Sometimes they are quite correct.

2. What is the cause of the new moon lying horizontally, with the horns sticking up, indicating what moon savants call dry weather? The last new moon was a very dry one, but we had some rain every day.

ANSWER.—1. "Old Prob." finds it troublesome enough to foretell the weather 48 hours in advance, with all the facilities of modern meteorological science. Upon the face of it, then, are not the minutiæ of almanac weather predictions absurd?

2. Judging of the future by the past, it will yet be many years before the maze of foolishness ascribed to the moon's influence will have passed away. The moon has no "horns" and it never "lies horizontally." Whether we see much of it or little depends upon its relative position with regard to the sun and earth. Being a dense body and shining by the reflection of the sun's light, when it is between the earth and the sun we see it not. When the earth is between the sun and the moon, the moon's illuminated face is presented toward us and we see it at the full. Intermediate shapes are caused by intermediate positions. If the moon has any influence upon the weather, such as that to which you refer, astronomers have not yet found it out.

A. E. M. B.—The corms of gladioli may be cut in halves if "eyes" be apparent in both. If of medium or half size, each half will bloom and new corms will form; but we believe just as many new corms would form if planted without division. "Gladioluses" is not permissible. Gladiolus is the Latin diminutive of *gladius*, meaning a small sword, and its nominative plural is *gladioli*.

C. A. C., Berlin, Wis.—Wishes to know how she may treat a Portulaca bed that is "full of weeds, grass and stones, so as not to harm the Portulaca seeds."

Skim off the surface soil with a sharp spade and sift it. The bed may then be dug over, weeded and pulverized as you choose. Replace the sifted earth, containing the seeds, evenly. Press down gently and, if the earth is dry, water through a fine rose. It is now too late for this season.

E. M. T., Queens Co.—Up to the present time, Paris green is the best known exterminator of the dreaded potato beetle. Of the many other substances and compounds recommended, the present summer will test the efficacy. We may hope that some application or method of treating them will ultimately be discovered or invented that may prove just as efficacious and less dangerous to have about a place. From many and trustworthy experiments, it has been ascertained that potatoes are not in any way affected by Paris green. It is usually mixed with flour, and sprinkled or sifted over the leaves while the dew is still upon them.

To A. R. of Broome Co.—The Wheeler & Mellick Co. of Albany, N. Y., are the manufacturers of the Ithaca Hay Rake for Eastern New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, all the Eastern States (excepting Vermont), New Jersey and the Southern States.

L. J.—Sacharrinum officinarum is the common sugar cane of the Southern States and tropical countries generally, but you leave us in the dark as to the object of asking the question. We will add, however, that it is a tender plant, will not succeed except in very warm climates, and produces no seed under cultivation. Put no faith, therefore, in parties advertising "sugar cane seed," warranted to thrive in the Northern or Middle States. The Aylesbury and Rouen ducks are probably the two largest breeds, but it would be difficult to determine which among the various breeds is the most prolific.

S. L., Jacksboro', Texas.—The wild plants you send are:—No. 1, *Claytonia Virginica*, usually called Spring Beauty. No. 2, *Allium striatum*, or wild striped onion. No. 3, *Nemastylos geminiflora*. No. 4, *Brodiea grandiflora*. No. 5, *Lithospermum longiflorum*. No. 6, *Actinella scopara*; variety *glabra*. No. 7, *Oxytropis Lamberti*. No. 8 we cannot make out from the imperfect specimen. No. 9, *Verbena aubletia*. This last is the celebrated Mountain Verbena which certain parties have tried to palm off upon the public of late years under the name of *Verbena Montana*. It grows wild from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic coast, and is abundant in Southern New Jersey.

A Subscriber.—We cannot give you any better remedy to prevent the "cockerells" of your Houdans from disturbing the hens when on the nest than to keep more hens. The cockerells are doubtless lonesome and want company.

C. McNaughton, Jersey City, N. J.—The book you need is—"How Plants Grow," by Dr. GRAY.

A. B., Bristol.—The plant which you send us is *Prunus Japonica flore albo plena*—usually called Double Flowering Almond.

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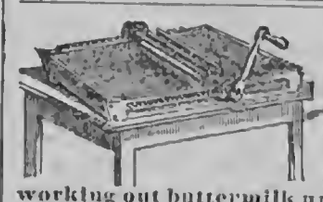

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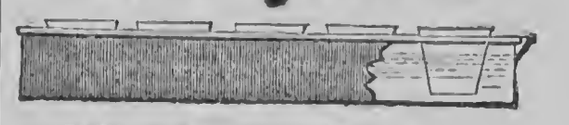

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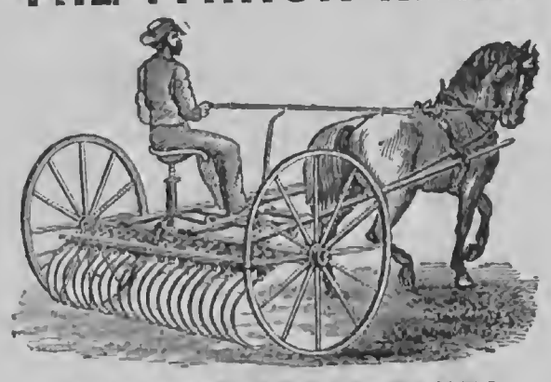

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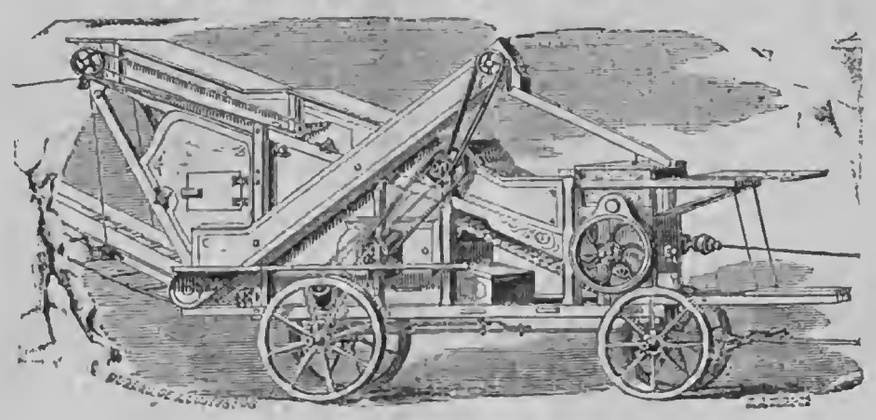

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VOL. XXXIII. No. 24.
WHOLE No. 1376.

NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 10, 1876.

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The Poultry Yard.

ABOUT GEESE AND DUCKS.

The various choice breeds of water fowls are neglected by many farmers who possess every facility for breeding them extensively, as well as profitably. While the goose and duck thrive without having access to ponds of water, still this is their natural element, and those who have these necessary aids should be the first to introduce some of these birds upon their premises.

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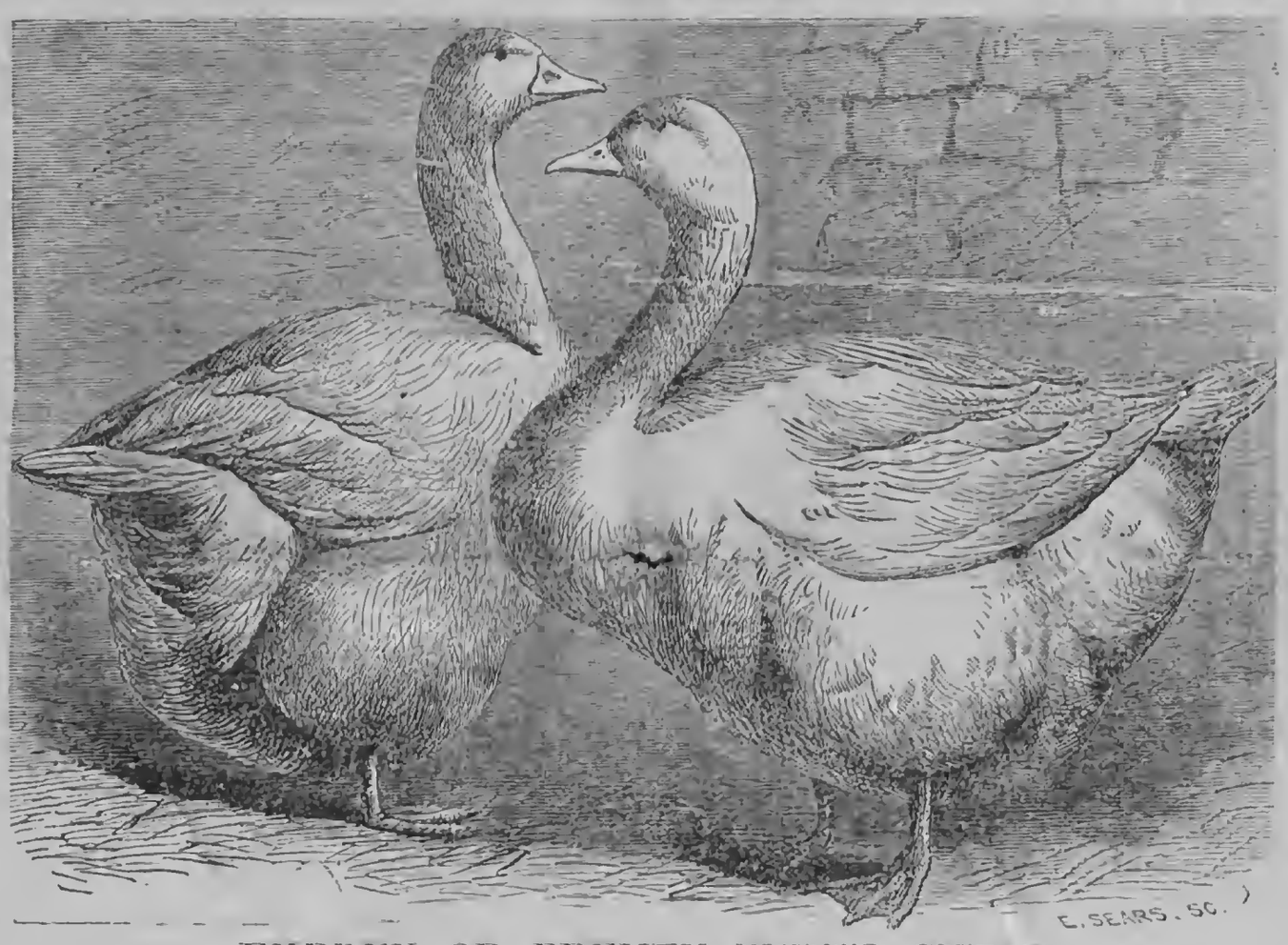
AYLESBURY DUCKS,

which rank among the largest of our domestic breeds of this fowl. They are also white, as shown in the accompanying illustration, and their flesh is highly prized on account of its possessing a smack of the wild duck flavor. They match well with the Emden geese in appearance; but if a contrast in color is desired, then the breeder should select the

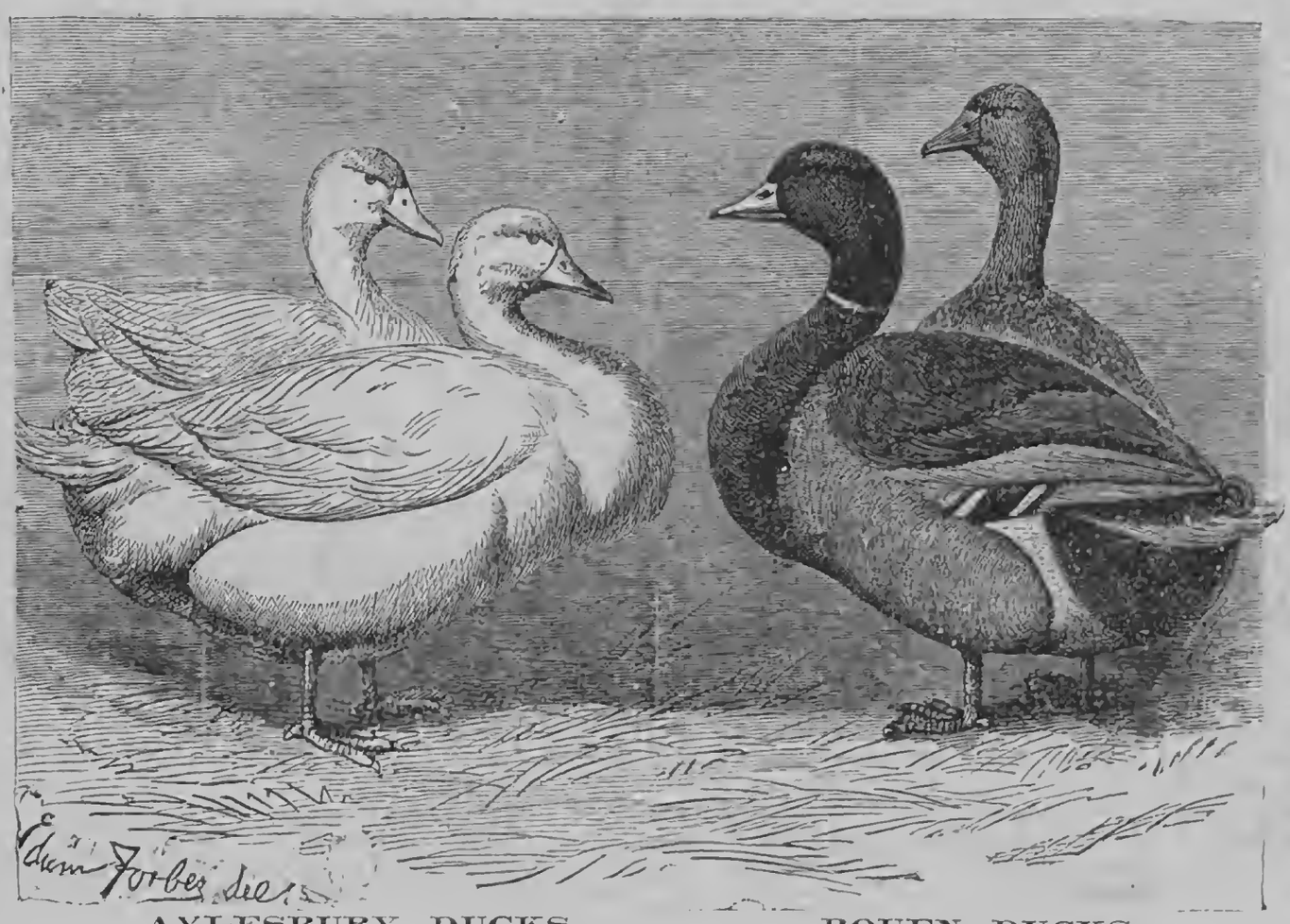
ROUEN DUCK,

which has a dark, rich plumage, resembling that of some of the wild species, perhaps coming closer to the Mallard than any other. These ducks fatten readily, and their legs are so short that when walking they seem to drag the body along the ground; but even with this awkwardness in their gait, they are really a handsome and graceful bird when seen upon the water.

Our readers who have available ponds or streams of water should endeavor to use them by keeping such fowls as we have named, or some other of the notable breeds.



EMBDEN OR BREMEN WHITE GEESE.



AYLESBURY DUCKS. ROUEN DUCKS.

TREATMENT OF SICK FOWLS.

Mr. Editor:—As I am, to some extent, in the poultry business, perhaps my experience may be of some use to those situated as I have been recently. My hens got sick, and, without making any investigation as to the disease, I took them to the wood pile and cured them "a la guillotine." I was losing them much faster than I could afford. I mentioned the matter to a friend, and he suggested that I had better find out the disease and possibly a remedy might be discovered.

So I began to examine the sick ones, and I found that their mouths and throats were filled with a cheesy formation and their breaths extremely offensive. My friend was better acquainted with the diseases of poultry than I was, and he at once pronounced it canker or diphtheria, and suggested treating them as follows:

Remove with a hard wood sharp stick the matter which forms in the mouth and throat, and then wash with strong alum water, using a small syringe to inject it into the throat, and in some cases use borax after removing the offensive matter. It is necessary to cram them while they are laboring under the disease, as they cannot eat while their mouths and throats are so filled up?

After trying his remedies for some days with partial success, another friend, hearing of the case, visited me and went into my hospital, examined the inmates and recommended the use of salt, after the stick had been applied, and raw meat and onions chopped very fine to cram them with, for they require stimulating while they are sick. It struck me at once that this was a simple and cheap remedy, and so I treated them in that way, although I had always heard that salt would kill hens I did not hesitate to give them a good liberal pinch. They improved rapidly under this treatment. At this writing, or rather time, I have only three fowls on the sick list.

Sometimes it affects the eye and not the mouth or throat. In which case, I wash the eye with salt and water, giving them, however, the doses of salt. They may lose the eye; but, if the hen is valuable, that may be endured.

I hold, however, that as a rule, it is much better, or perhaps I should say safer, to cut their heads off at once. Of course the wisdom of this every one must judge for himself.

I hope that my friends will not accuse me of using their thunder to their injury. They did not appear to be willing to communicate the above facts to you, so I have done it, and if they think that I ought to publish their names, I hold myself in readiness to do so.

I do not know that you will think this of sufficient importance to publish; but you are at liberty to throw it into the waste basket, if that is the proper place for it. I have no doubt but that it could be put together in a much better shape by those who are in the habit of contributing to newspapers; but, if it is not artistically done, I hope that it will be easily understood, at least. B. Z.

Ridgewood, N. J.

[We are much obliged to B. Z. for the above, and hope to hear from him again, and from all of our readers who can give us the results of practical experience in anything pertaining to rural affairs.—Ed. Rural.]

THE HEN'S NEST.

While there may be good reasons for treating fowls somewhat differently in different climates, still the general principles of food and care are the same all over the world, consequently we think the following from the English Agricultural Gazette may contain some valuable hints to our poultry breeders:

There is much to be said on this subject, and there may be a diversity of opinion, but on one point poultry keepers are well agreed, viz., that "stolen" nests generally answer the best, as far as a good hatch is concerned, and with the fact before us, it is evident that many of the ideas, and much of the practice we hear of and see, must be altogether wrong. Occasionally a hen will choose to make her nest high up in the roof of an old barn, sometimes the spot selected may be even outside, on some hollow of the thatch, with very little overhanging shelter, and there, in due time, she brings forth a large and healthy brood; or the favored position may be low and damp, under the seeming protection of a little overhanging grass, which, however much it may tend to screen the nest from curious eyes, can afford no real protection to the sitting bird from heavy storms and winds. Yet there she sits, and thence she emerges with a chick for every egg she has been covering.

It is clear, then, that there are feathered bipeds, as well as others, with high and low proclivities, and it is also clear that believers in boxes placed many feet from the ground, as well as believers in nests upon the cold earth may found some argument on the instinct and natural habits of the bird in support of their preference. We like to afford our hens an opportunity and the liberty enjoyed by young women, and allow them to choose for themselves. We have neat boxes, and also convenient nests on the floor. For people who are careless and forgetful,

and who consequently are not so likely to remember the day when the brood may be expected, we have no hesitation in suggesting a row of nests upon or very near to the ground, as hens are sometimes found to place themselves in the same fix as they are sometimes forced into by human thoughtlessness; in other words, the bird may be in the position of the old lady of bygone days, who, having set her face against "tips" to coachmen, upon arriving at her journey's end, and inquiring how she was to get off the coach, was answered by the suggestion of "the same way you got on."

Every owner of poultry should guard against compelling his hens to that which exceptionally is done by the bird without cause, and as we say without reason or instinct. Therefore he should either be in place to assist to put the young chicks on *terra firma*, or he should set the eggs there. Another reason for the selection of a nest on the ground is that our experience goes to convince us that a smaller number of chicks die through sticking to the shell, and also through their inability to effect a full and satisfactory exit from the egg. On the ground we never moisten or sprinkle eggs; they seem not to require it. The greatest objection to nests placed very low in the poultry house may be that the hen is to a very considerable degree deprived of quiet: she is annoyed by her neighbors looking down upon or into her nest, consequently we advise a different kind of nest-box for the ground; a reversion of the same box may very probably answer the purpose in either case.

Whether on the ground or in a box, the nest when once used, should be destroyed. The amount of filth and the number of insects which collect is almost beyond belief, even after sitting has been going on for a week only. We are disposed to try the effect of a little carbolic acid as beneficial both to the old bird and to the little strangers as they arrive. To form some idea of the number of fleas in a hen's nest, let any one observe the life there is upon a young chicken of only an hour old; take a dead one as it is beginning to get cold see the swarms of black spots, which produce life as well as death.

A great top to the boxes should never be allowed, as other fowls roost upon or leave a large accumulation of dirt, which is highly objectionable for every reason. We would also utter a word of caution against a continuous ledge reaching in front of the line of nests, and allowing an inquisitive bird to walk along and disturb the occupants of the partitions. Stops should be placed here and there, if not on each side of every nest. Straw we also choose in preference to hay, but not too much of that—anything long and possessing a tendency to hang or entwine around the leg of a sitting hen should be discarded, but straw chaff, as suggested by some authorities, we never use.

It is desirable to allow a nest to settle when a nest is made, and a hen is removed from what is considered an insecure to a safe place. Occasionally people place a hen on a mass of hay, and find to their surprise broken eggs, which have been dragged out by even a careful mother. When a hen is out of the nest, and a good sitter will in general leave at the regular time of feeding, we advocate an examination of the nest, otherwise, our idea is to leave the bird as much as possible to herself, and, if the nest be suitable, to hope for the best.

Field Crops.

GERMINATION OF SEEDS.

It is a great puzzle to many persons to know how certain plants become distributed over the country, or why they spring up all of a sudden where none were ever seen before. S. B. PECK of Muskegon, Mich., who appears to be a very close observer, gives his views of the distribution and germination of seeds in the Weekly Sun as follows:

There are many unaccountable facts in relation to the distribution and vegetation of seeds which are yet, and perhaps always will be, mysteries. With our common cultivated crops we expect to reap such as we sow and plant, because such has been our observation and experience, and we who have helped clear up and settle new countries have learned that after the first fires to get rid of the refuse wood, there generally spring up a variety of plants that seem not to generally vegetate under other circumstances, and the unavoidable conclusion is that the seeds of these plants have remained in or on the soil for years, ages, or centuries, awaiting favorable circumstances to bring them into life. Such are the common blackberry, the wild cherry, the wild poplar, and the fireweed. The seeds of the first two are doubtless distributed by birds and small animals only, while the latter two are provided with egrets, or wings, evidently for the purpose of distribution, and all four are stimulated into action by the ashes or the heat of the fires. The distribution of the acorns, which produce the oaks that cover such extensive tracts of new land in some of the Western States, is a greater mystery for it can hardly be supposed that they can, like the seeds of berries, pass through the stomachs of the birds and beasts harmless. A still greater wonder is the fact that while the old oak trees that produce the seed are mainly of the white variety, the young ones are mostly of the black, red, or yellow kinds. We can only explain this on the theory that nature thus illustrates the principle of "rotation of crops."

There are many other plants, the seeds of which are rarely known to vegetate, except under peculiar circumstances other than fire. The sycamore or buttonwood tree, producing an infinity of seeds, which are blown by the winds over large tracts, I have never known to vegetate except where the subsoil is brought to the surface, either by artificial excavations, the upturning of trees, or the abrasion of the banks of streams. Thus we find the young trees along our canals and railroads, and seldom anywhere else.

The common mayweed is peculiar to highways, and though producing an abundance of seed, we rarely see it in fields, but is abundant in roads where the ground is stirred by travel, while just under the surface the earth remains frozen; thus we see it following the sleigh tracks where teams have in spring turned out of the main track to reach snow upon the sides of the streets. But examples of the idiosyncracies of plants more familiar to us who have emigrated from the older to the newer countries, are the springing up in the wake of settlements, without any intentional agency of man or any known cause, of such plants as burdock, catnip, motherwort, plantain, and many other plants to me nameless, which are seldom seen except around the habitations of man, and never appearing till the premises have been occupied for some years. Can we resist the idea that these seeds are stimulated into life through the emanations from the body of man?

That many hard shelled small seeds, like turnip and mustard, will sometimes remain uninjured in the soil ten or twenty years, has been repeatedly demonstrated, and if so, why not 100 or 1,000 years? And on the clearing of new lands grasses spring up, the seeds of which we have every reason to believe have lain dormant during the growth of a heavy burden of timber. On the soil of this region sorrel occupies the ground wherever the timber is removed, and if the land is cultivated a few years and a coat of manure is applied purslain springs up on every square inch, and it seems hardly possible that the seeds of this plant could have been in the manure, for the plant is not gathered with any of our crops. We cannot resist the idea that the earth as it now is teems with myriads of seeds, patiently awaiting the time and the circumstances that favor their springing into life.

One of these small hard shelled seeds, tenacious of life, peculiar to new lands, and not often vegetating, except under peculiar circumstances, is the chess plant, and the pabulum which it seems to require for its vegetation and prosperity is the dead and decaying wheat plant. The evidences of this are, that whenever and wherever the wheat flourishes, the chess does not; but where circumstances have caused the destruction of the wheat either in the seed or plant, there and then the chess flourishes, if so be that there are dormant seeds in the ground, for it does not always follow the destruction of the wheat. There are several instances on record of the roots of chess being found permeating the shell of the wheat kernel, seeking there (like the roots of many other plants) the food best suited to its taste. If I am asked how came the seeds of chess in the soil I can only answer it by asking the same question in relation to the seeds of the other plants named. To those who know from their own experience that "wheat does turn to chess," I can state a case established by similar evidence, a man knew there were such things as ghosts, for he "had seen them."

WHAT IS TOBACCO?

If any of the readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER should ever feel disposed to answer the above question, we would refer them to a late article which appeared in the Florida agriculturist, written by an M. D. E. R. C. S. etc., etc. He tells us "that several varieties from America, Cuba, Mexico, Turkey, China, and the Indies were experimented upon, and each was found to contain more or less of celluline, lignine, albumen, starch, gum, gluten, resin, bitter extract, water, tannic acid, citric acid, nitric acid, silicic acid, malic acid, malate of ammonia, malate of lime, malate of potassa, carbonate of potassa, chloride of potassium, sulphate of potassa, carbonate of lime, phosphate of lime, crystalline sand, sulphate of alumina, camphorated nicotine, and the oil of nicotine. The sum total of all these chemical compounds consists of the monadic molecules, aluminum, carbon, calcium, chlorum, hydrogenum, nitrogenum, oxygenum, phosphorium, potassium, silicum, and sulphurum in varied proportions, but the tobacco most prized for its flavor, aroma, and richness of juice was found, by repeated trials, to contain an unusual quantity of potassium, an element superior in vital forces to all the other fifteen orders of organo-monadic-molecules that constitute the life, nerve, force, and the individual, *est ego*, of every being, plant, and animal that lives on the face of the earth, or that exists in the bosom of the seas."

After committing the above to memory no one would ever be at a loss to answer the question, what is tobacco? Then, after repeating the above rigmarole we might be counted very learned among these who did not understand what it was all about?

MORE POLLEN NEEDED.

THE Western *Rural* tells of a man who plants, two or three weeks after the corn is planted, a new hill of corn every fifteenth row each way. And this is the reason: If the weather becomes dry after filling time, the silk and the tassel both become dry and dead. In this condition, if it become seasonable, the silk revives and renews its growth, but the tassels do not recover. Then, for want of pollen, the new silk is unable to fill the office for which it was designed. The pollen from the replanted corn is then ready to supply the silk, and the filling is completed. He says nearly all the abortive ears, so common in all corn crops, are caused by the want of pollen, and he had known ears to double their size in this second filling.

THE Michigan Farmer says the Peachblow Potato is dying out. This will be news to our more Eastern farmers, especially to those residing in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as well as those dependent upon the city for a supply of this wholesome tuber. New-Yorkers, who find the old Peachblow Potato abundant in the market and on every table in saloon and hotel, and, in fact, about the only potato seen in such places at this season, will be somewhat surprised to learn that this old favorite is dying out anywhere.

The Horseman.

A PARSON'S METHOD OF COLT-BREAKING.

A MINISTER writes his practice of breaking and harnessing colts as follows, to the Golden Rule:—When the foal is fifteen months old we begin to educate him to harness. Most colts, remember, are timid; they are born so. The first day, we simply put saddle without the back-strap on, buckling up the belly-band loosely. This is done many times, increasing the pressure. Then we take the neck collar, and put it over his head, first permitting him to smell of it, and touch it with his nose, until he is entirely convinced that it is not calculated to hurt him. In like manner we add part to part until the colt is fully harnessed. He is then allowed to stand with the harness on until he has had time to reflect upon the whole matter, and become accustomed to the pressure of the harness against his sensitive skin; for we must remember that all this performance seems very queer to him, and startling. When he has fully composed his mind, and settled down into conviction that everything is all right and as it should be with him, he is then walked about, the harness still on, and brought back every few minutes to the spot where he is to be unharnessed, and taught to stand as long as it would naturally take to remove the harness. Straps are loosened, buckle-tongues started, saddle and collar eased; in short, everything done that would be done in unharnessing, save removing the harness. After several times, this standing still while being unharnessed has come to be, in his mind, a part of the programme, and he understands it and assents to it as such. Once learned, in the case of an intelligent horse, always learned. This same process should be gone through with in the case of a high-spirited valuable colt, once or twice each day, for a week at least. And remember that he is learning many lessons in one, including that, the greatest of all a colt can learn, viz.; to have confidence in and yield his will to man. Have great patience at this point of his education, and proceed step by step, advancing no farther than your pupil's success justifies. During the harness exercises, accustom the colt to pressure against breast and shoulder by tying long cords into the buckle either side of the collar, and pulling gently, causing him to brace himself, as he would naturally do, against it. This gives him the idea of drawing weight somewhere behind him, and, by permitting him to pull you along, he will grow to feel that he can pull anything.

BREAKING COLTS.

THERE must be a good deal of misunderstanding and some ignorance about the handling of colts. I have seen hundreds of Welsh colts brought into England which were foaled on the mountains, and never touched in the way of breaking, and they are haltered in the fairs by the drovers, hauled out of the drove and pulled about by main force, and there is no danger apprehended from falling.

In England, the nag colts, sired by thoroughbred horses, which farmers breed to sell as carriage or lighter horses, and also those intended for saddle exclusively, are generally broken by men who make a living at the work, and these men, who are termed "colt breakers," will all say they can get on much better and bring a colt to a good mouth and to his paces much better when he has never been handled by inexperienced people.

Colts with good blood, that is, of the "nag" species, as it is termed in the Middling counties, are always broken to the saddle first, for riding on horseback is universal there, and a nice mouth is of as much importance in every horse as "good hands" are in every rider. There was no intention of saying the correct method was to let all colts run till three or four years' old, the most meant was to show there was no necessity to halter them where it was not always convenient to do so before they were required for work.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.—Let people agree to differ. One set of men believe in the moon having influence on vegetation, on rain fall and on the blood of animal life, and on the preserving and keeping of meat, etc. Some believe that two-year old colts, or any young males, cannot get as good stock as when older, and there are many absurdities about influence of high feeding of males on their offspring, when the truth is, every male of every variety is more certain to get stock and continue to do so when he is fed plainly and is not allowed to have much flesh on him.

Then there are those who believe that grazing pastures with sheep is injurious, and cannot understand that there are pastures which will improve without any kind of manuring, beyond what the animals drop in the shape of dung and urine.

I know a man who will not have any poultry about his farm buildings, yards, etc., and thinks it proper to confine all fowls in places especially erected for them. I know men who have not brains enough to save any manure from cattle fattening to a very fine quality of beef, and actually throw it all in the river.

BIG-HEAD IN HORSES.

THIS disease which has attracted so much attention of late is nothing new, but one that appears to follow the westward march of corn culture. The Western Rural seems to favor this idea in the following:

The disease commonly called big-head is an enlargement of the bony structure of the face, commencing from the hollow beneath the eyes, and running nearly to the junction of the nostrils. The opinion is that it is caused by the mastication of too much corn when young, which produces ulceration of the roots of the teeth, when they are not fully filled or set. The convincing evidence of this fact is that big-head is seldom exhibited in any other part of the country, except in the States, more especially in the Western States, as more corn is fed there. The symptoms are the enlargement of those bones of the face that are of a spongy character, and if allowed to proceed, breaks out in small holes, and runs a thick secretion. Treatment: Apply in the first stage an ointment composed of strong mercurial ointment, 2 ounces; mix. Apply twice a day, and give broken doses of calomel and tartar emetic, or iodide of potash, in moderate doses, but never the two together. This is thought to be a radical cure, as there are cases under observation daily that have been cured by the same process. Secondary: By syringing the holes with a solution as follows: bromine, 1 ounce; water 1½ pints, and give alterative treatment as above.

In a book before us, published nearly forty years since, there is a recipe for curing this disease, which was then known in Tennessee under the same name as at present. The writer says that he has seen a number of horses affected with this disease, but never a mule. As the early settlers in Tennessee fed whole corn almost exclusively to their horses, as many of them do at this day, we can readily understand how the disease has been kept alive, if not perpetuated, by direct hereditary descent.

Our veterinarians of to-day, however, would scarcely indorse the treatment recommended for big-head forty years ago, for the hot-iron was their only recourse, a cruelty which was once quite in vogue among our farmers for various diseases.

FISTULA.—Fistula on a horn is but the result of an injury and when once started is likely to spread unless treated in a radical manner. Every fistulous passage must be opened with a knife and the pus removed; then treat the wound with nitrate of silver or chloride of zinc, one dram of either to an ounce of water. Inject into and wash the wound thoroughly and frequently.

Dairy Husbandry.

THE CHAUTAUQUA EXPERIMENTS IN FEEDING DAIRY COWS.

The report of the Committee appointed by the Western N. Y. Dairymen's Association on L. W. Miller's experiments in wintering cows exclusively on meal during the past season is before us. The Committee consisted of E. L. McCullough of Stockton, N. Y., Chairman; Dr. Geo. S. Harrison of Sinclairville, Philip Lazell of Stockton, Chauncey Warren of Stockton, Dr. D. G. Pickett of Stockton, and O. C. Blodget of Pomfret.

We give the leading points of the report, or such as will be of interest to dairymen. The Committee visited Mr. Miller's herd from time to time during the winter while they were being fed on meal and after they were put back again to hay. The herd was an average lot of Chatauqua County cows, the live weight being about 900 pounds. They were fed for seven weeks on corn meal exclusively, the average quantity per day being about three quarts for each cow. The Committee observed the following points:

The cows did not ruminate; they were very quiet; did not evince any inordinate desire for food when hay was shown them, and not so much as when cows are fed on hay alone in a little less quantity than they will eat. They were more quiet than cows fed on meal and a small feeding of hay—say four or five pounds per day. No signs of suffering or unrest were discovered; no loss or gain in weight of flesh was noticed from the time they were put on a meal diet to the time of going back again on hay. Thirteen days after being put again on hay the Committee could not discover anything about them that would denote that they had been wintered in any other than the usual way—on hay. They were filled up like other cows fed on hay; their stomachs were sufficiently distended for digesting hay, and they were ruminating in the usual manner. The calves dropped from these cows were of more than ordinary size, fleshy, strong, active and healthy, and in parturition cases of retention of the placenta were unusually rare.

The Committee state further that these cows have been treated in this way for several winters at a greater or less length of time each year, and by referring to notes from cheese factory reports it is found that these cows sometimes produce more milk per day than any other herd of the factory. During July last, for instance, the daily yield per cow was 29 pounds 3 ounces, or 1 pound 11 ounces more than any other herd. And, from affidavits of persons who have observed the point, it appears that such meal-fed cows, when turned to grass, take on flesh faster than those wintered in the usual way, other conditions being equal.

The Hon. Flint Blanchard, President of the Association, a gentleman who is well known for the part he has taken in dairy matters, says he has met with the Committee several times and fully concurs in their report. As to the practical side of this question, he says:

"Should I find in the fall of 1876 that I lacked feed for thirty or forty cows for thirty or forty days, I should not sell off a per cent. of those cows, nor should I buy hay, nor should I cut down on their daily feed of hay and add a little daily ration of grain with the hay to make it go further; but when my cows were all dried off, I should keep them on meal exclusively for thirty or forty days, and then go back again to hay.

"Other ways of making this method useful to us will readily occur. Thus we may keep more stock with a given amount of meadow land, or we may utilize the corn crop in the place of hay at any time when the meal would be cheaper than hay. Many ways will occur to us as to how to utilize a fact in nature when it has once been discovered."

Again he says:—"I am of the opinion that when Mr. Miller's rules are followed in this matter, as laid down in his treatise on "Meal Feeding and Animal Digestion," that not only is meal feeding cheap, safe and reliable, but we have some evidence to show that the treatment goes to improve the after-milk production of the cow."

He then refers to Miller's herd of cows (though only an average lot in appearance) as often outstripping other herds of his town (Stockton), also to Thomas Lyne's experiment in meal feeding exclusively, as pointing in the same direction; and he thinks the logical conclusion cannot be resisted, that exclusive meal feeding has a tendency to influence the animal both to milk production and her capacity for laying on fat when changed back to other feed, after she has ceased to give milk.

We have had occasion heretofore to refer to Mr. Miller's experiments in exclusive meal feeding. The facts given differed so widely from what was supposed to be required in maintaining the life and health of the cow that many were inclined to have but little faith in Mr. Miller's theory. The report of this Committee, composed of gentlemen of well-known integrity and standing, must be of interest. It seems to corroborate in all essential particulars the statements which have been previously given by Mr. Miller. Those interested in this system of meal feeding will do well to obtain that gentleman's pamphlet on the subject.

FODDER CORN FOR THE DAIRY.

Fodder Corn can be put in as late as the 20th of June and even up to July. Late crops make excellent fall feed for dairy stock when grass begins to fail and deteriorate on account of frost. It is a great saving to the hay crop, and many dairymen are enabled to carry stock along until the middle of January without feeding hay, sole reliance being placed on corn fodder which is properly cured and shocked in the field, whence it is used from week to week, as wanted.

In raising corn fodder, good, rich, mellow soil is required. There is no crop that will bear manuring better than corn; but in late sowings well-decomposed manures, well-incorporated in the soil, are best, unless the weather happens to be moist, as fresh barn-yard manures are liable to become dry and of little use.

We have grown good crops of corn fodder on sod in old meadows, the crop of grass being taken off in June, the land immediately plowed and sowed with corn. And in seasons when there has been a light hay crop we have known many dairymen to resort to this method to obtain the requisite amount of fodder for carrying their stock through the winter. The best way to grow this crop is to drill in the seed, and if large drills are not at hand, it will be found more advantageous to use small ones rather than to sow broadcast. We like the rows to be at least twenty inches to two feet apart, as it allows the air and light to be properly distributed through the plants, while the wide space will admit of horse-hoeing, which will add to the growth and value of the crop.

From two to four bushels of seed are used; the latter quantity when sown broadcast; but we prefer not to have the stalks grow too thickly together, as by excluding the sunlight the stalks are apt to be weak, liable to be prostrated by winds, and are less nutritious than when the seed is not so thickly sown.

Much has been said, first and last, concerning the value of corn fodder for the production of milk, and some have urged that it is of little or no account. This latter opinion, if it does not originate from prejudice, must have come from the manner in which the crop is grown—by being sown too thickly, thereby obtaining plants that could not properly mature, and in consequence lacking the nutritive elements of a well-grown crop.

We have used fodder corn for many years in our own dairy, and always with the best results. It promotes a flow of milk and keeps up the supply at a time when it would be difficult to obtain any other crop to take its place for this purpose. And it produces a milk of good quality, as we have repeatedly demonstrated by resorting to the proper analysis of different samples. We urge, therefore, upon all dairymen to grow a patch of fodder corn, and, even if it should not be wanted for soiling, there will be no loss, since the crop can be used for corn fodder, thus not only increasing the supply of good milk at this season, but taking the place of hay and making an important saving in the more expensive kinds of cattle food.

PRESERVED MILK.

Among the earliest experimenters in preserving milk we find Mr. Newton of London, who, in 1835, originated the following process:—He added about a fiftieth part in weight of pulverized sugar to the milk, and evaporated it slowly by subjecting it to a gentle warmth. When it was evaporated only to the consistency of sirup he bottled it; but if made as thick as honey, he put it into pots; and if the mixture was evaporated still further until it became as thick as paste, it was made into lozenges, or reduced to a powder and combined with other matters, such as tea, coffee, or chocolate.

We believe the late Gale Borden of White Plains, N. Y., was the first to conceive the idea of employing the vacuum plan for eliminating a large percentage of water from milk. Of the various methods which have from time to time been invented for condensing milk, we believe Mr. Borden's is the only one that has stood the test for making a good product—time, labor and cheapness being taken into account.

We should be glad to see the business so extended and simplified that what is called "plain preserved milk" (milk not treated with sugar) could be put on the markets in all our cities and villages at comparatively cheap rates.

VALUE OF MILK FOR MAKING FLESH.

Experiments have been recently made to ascertain the quantity of different foods which needs to be eaten to make one pound of flesh. The conclusion arrived at is that it requires 25 pounds of milk, 100 pounds of turnips, 50 pounds of potatoes, 50 pounds of carrots, 8 pounds of oatmeal, 7½ pounds of barley meal, and 3½ pounds of beans.

The Swine-Herd.

BERKSHIRE SWINE.

The American Berkshire Swine Association about a year since offered a prize of one hundred dollars for the best essay on the above named breed. The award has lately been made to Hon. A. B. Allen of Flushing N. Y., a gentleman whose name is familiar to the readers of the Rural New-Yorker. This valuable essay has just reached us, published in pamphlet form, in advance of its appearance in Vol. 1 of the American Berkshire Record.

We make some extracts from this paper which will doubtless interest many of our readers. The essay itself is well worth the careful perusal of every breeder in the country:

FORMATION OF THE IMPROVED BERKSHIRE SWINE.

Tradition tells us that this was made by a cross of the black or deep plumed colored Siamese boar, on the old unimproved Berkshire sows. Other traditions assert that the black and white spotted, and even pure white Chinese boar was also sparingly used to assist in the same purpose. I can well believe this; for I often saw swine in Berkshire spotted, about half and half black and white, in addition to the reddish brown, or buff and black, and so on almost up to a pure plum color or black. The produce of the above cross or crosses was next bred together, and by judicious subsequent selections, the improved breed, as we now find it, became in due time fixed and permanent in all its desirable points.

Another feature, aside from the half and half black and white spots hitherto occasionally found to mark the improved Berkshire Swine, which may be adduced in support of the supposition of a sparing cross with the white and light spotted Chinese, is the shape of the jowls. All these which I have bred in my piggery, or imported at different times direct from China, or have seen elsewhere, had much fuller and fatter jowls than the Siamese. Some of the breeders in England preferred the fat jowls, because carrying the most meat; others the leaner, as they said that gave their stock a finer and higher bred look in the head.

THE SIAMESE SWINE.

In the same volume of Professor Low, which contains the Berkshire portrait as described above, is a colored plate of a Siamese sow. She is a dark slate, varying to that of a rich plum color. The two hind feet are white; the fore legs and feet white, shaded in front with plum. The face is dished; head fine, with short erect ears; shoulders and hams extra large; back broad, with a deep, round and longish body. This sow is represented with a slightly swayed or hollow back, at which we need not wonder, considering its length, and that she has a litter of nine great, fat pigs tugging away at her dugs. These Prof. Low says were got by a half-bred Chinese boar, which I presume, from the color of the pigs, was white; for some of them were pure white, while others are mixed slate or plum and white, and one is a buff, with black spots, like the original Berkshire.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BEST OF THE IMPROVED BERKSHIRE SWINE AT THIS TIME.

Snout and head fine and rather short, but larger in proportion to the body in the male than in the female, and with a bolder and more determined expression; face dished and broad between the eyes; jowls full or thinner, according to the fancy of the breeder; eyes bright and expressive; ears small thin and upright, or inclining their points a little forward, neck short, rather full in the throat and harmoniously swelling to the shoulders; chest broad and moderately arched; rump nearly level with it; well let down in the twist; body of good length and depth, round with well sprung ribs, and straight along the sides and under the belly; shoulders above all, in the boar, extra thick, yet sloping smoothly to the body; hams broad, round, deep and so thick through from side to side, particularly in the sow and barrow, that, standing directly behind, except when pretty fat, the sides of the body are scarcely seen between them and the shoulders; legs fine, strong, of moderate length and set rather wide apart; feet small, with clear, tough hoofs; tail slender and well set, with a handsome curl near the rump; bones fine and of an ivory-like grain and hardness; offal very light in comparison to weight of carcass; hair fine, soft and silky; no bristles, even on the boar; skin thin and mellow, with elastic handling of the flesh beneath; quick and spirited in movement; stylish in carriage and, in the boar, more especially, bold and imposing in presence.

COLOR AND MARKING.

The most favorite color among the best breeders in Berkshire, in 1841, was a deep rich plum, with a slight flecking on the body of white, or a little mingling with it of buff; a small blaze in the face; two to four feet white, and more or less white hair in the tail. The plum color was preferred to the black or slate, because it carried rather higher style and finer points with it, a superior quality of flesh, softer hair and thinner skin.

The above is no ideal description of choice improved Berkshire swine, for I found several such in traversing the country, and purchased and sent them home to grace my own piggery.

The Apiarian.

EXPERIENCE WITH BEES.

Julia M. Wheelock, in writing to the Patron's Helper on her experience with bees, says:

Many persons who have kept bees on the old plan have a strong impression that they should not be meddled with, and think that the little workers can and will do all their "house cleaning" in spring, attend to all their family matters, increase at their own pleasure, and lay up stores for future need, better without any assistance than with it. A case of this kind came under my observation this season, the relation of which may be of benefit to some of your readers. Neighbor A. had, by the advice and success of his friends who were controlling their bees advantageously, been induced to adopt such hives as were convenient for examining bees, and really seemed to feel that he was trying the "new way" of bee-keeping, but for some reason, he had not visited them this year, and it was then near the middle of June. He had walked near the hives, and discovered that some of them were not so busy as were some others, and wisely mistrusted that there might be one hive at least without a queen, in which case, as apiarians well know, the whole family must sooner or later die.

At this time we were induced to examine neighbor A.'s bees—some less than fifteen swarms—and found many swarms apparently doing well as to honey, and raising brood, but having never "cleaned house" this spring. The dead bees were from one to two inches thick on the bottom of most of the hives, in the midst of which were brown moths, cockroaches, ants and some other insects, drawing sustenance from this filthy mass, which the bees had not been able to remove. The hives were then carefully cleaned, but this is not the object I had in telling this, but simply to urge upon those who think that bees should never be disturbed, the importance of ascertaining whether they need assistance or not. In the case referred to, the bees could not have removed the rubbish, however annoying it must have been to the little laborers, whose strength is limited, except in self defense. They undoubtedly, in some cases, throw dead bees and other filth from the hives, but they do not always do it, even when they are strong in numbers and rich in stores. I have seen many colonies this year which had dead bees still clinging in the comb, where they had died last winter or spring, and, contrary to our general supposition, had not been removed by the living bees. Whether the honey came earlier in flowers, and they considered their time demanded in the field or not, we cannot tell, but suppose the labor requisite for house cleaning must have been beyond their abilities, as they are supposed to have a just estimate of what they can perform. In raising brood, they have such correct estimates of their strength and capacities that the increase of honey will cause the queen to lay more eggs, or a decrease of honey will cause her to diminish the quantity. And in cases where dearth of honey comes suddenly, from drouth or grasshoppers, or other cause, bees have been known to destroy some of their brood, where they had more than they could feed and take good care of.

The bee-keeper should always carefully examine his bees in spring, and remove all dead bees (or any thing else) which may become offensive, from the hives. Sometimes it is best to remove moldy combs as worthless, although the bees sometimes clean such combs; but it is a question whether they could not build new comb nearly as quick, and with more safety to themselves, as mold is known to be very poisonous, and must have a deleterious effect on the bees, while removing it from their combs.

Lucerne Clover for Bee Pasturage.—It seems rather late in the day to proclaim the merits of Lucerne as a forage plant or for bee-pasturage, considering that it has been cultivated by agriculturists for twenty-five centuries or more. Still, as every generation have to learn some things from practical experience, perhaps ours may be, in a measure, excusable for not knowing that bees can, and do gather honey from the flowers of this ancient plant. But it is not advisable to create a "Lucerne mania," in order that some one may make a fortune in selling the seed under some one of its many names.

Farm Economy.

"CURSED BE HE THAT REMOVETH HIS NEIGHBOR'S LANDMARKS!"

When, after their forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the children of Israel had at length reached the river Jordan and the promised land was in sight, Moses, that model lawmaker, called them together and expounded to them, in the name of the Lord, the "Statutes of Judgments" that were to govern their lives and conduct when they should have entered upon their inheritance. These laws, on the day when they crossed the river, they were to write very plainly upon stones that he directed should be properly prepared for the purpose.

To impress more effectually upon their minds the duty of keeping these laws, certain Levites were appointed who should stand upon Mount Ebal and pronounce, in a loud voice, curses upon the violators thereof; and so, in the hearing of all the people, they were to say, "Cursed be he that removeth his neighbor's landmarks!"

We know of nothing that engenders more bitterness of feeling, anger, hatred and contentions among neighbors than boundary lines. The value of the premises in question is often insignificant, and it is only the right of way of the matter that is considered, while at other times the removal of a line a few feet, and sometimes a few inches, is a matter of considerable moment.

We are not willing to believe that many of our fellow-citizens are so lost to every feeling of justice and self-respect as to do an act that would so lower them in the estimation of their neighbors, and the few exceptions that have come to our knowledge are not sufficient to shake our faith in the general rectitude of the community.

But the fact remains, nevertheless, that there is constant quarreling among neighbors as to boundary lines, and, particularly in the older States, it is often very difficult to tell who is right and who is wrong. The proportion of conveyances of land in these States (and particularly in New England) in which definite boundaries are stated is very small. The description is usually quite as vague as to say, "North on John Smith's land, east on highway, south on Thomas Brown's and west on William Jones', containing 50 acres, 'more or less.'" This more or less is a saving clause, and in a majority of cases it doubtless ought to be more, the number of acres in an unsurveyed farm having a natural tendency to decrease as taxes increase.

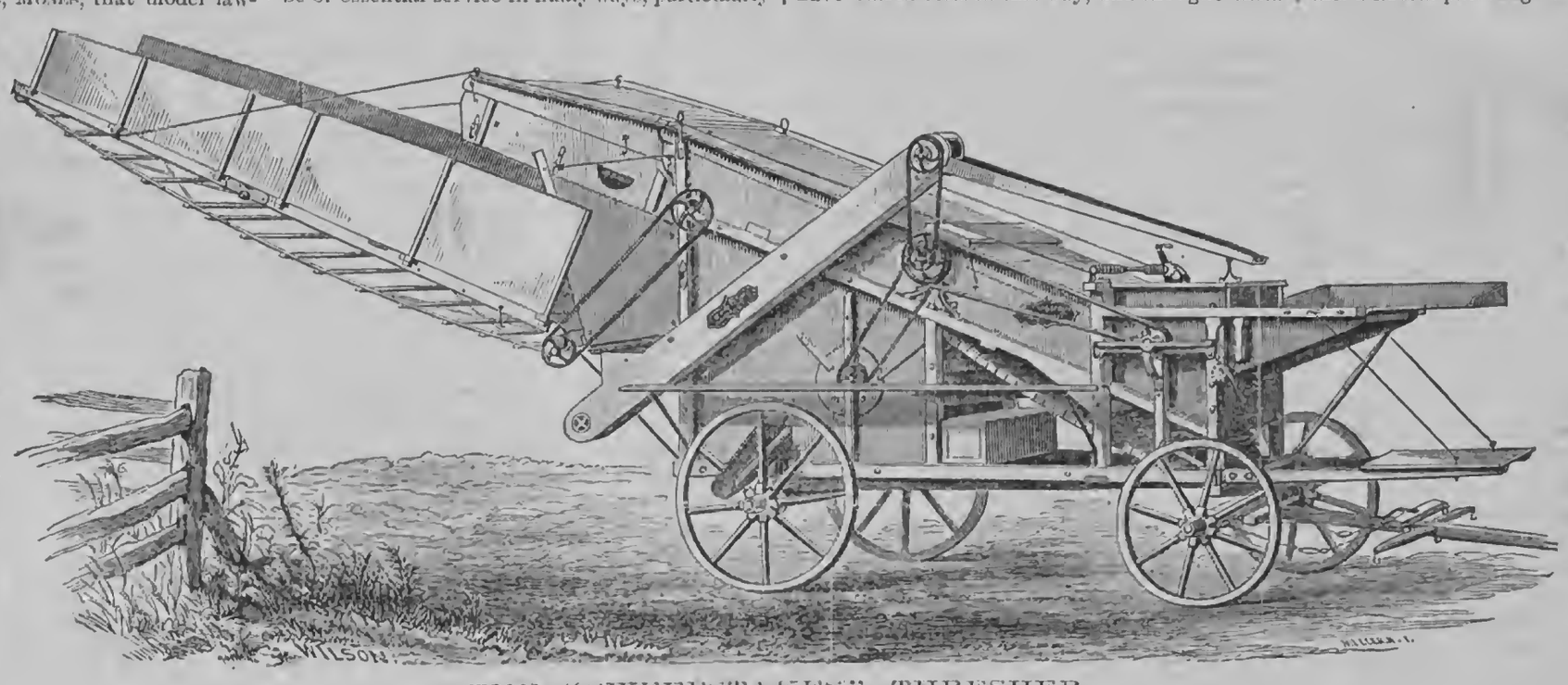
We heard a conversation last year between neighbors the lands of whose ancestors, now in their possession, had been separated by a highway, which formed their landmark. This highway had been closed for fifty years or more. No record of it had been preserved, and in the words of one of the parties, "there is not a surveyor in the State who can locate it." During the fifty years trees had grown rapidly, and the strip of land three rods wide and forty rods long which fifty years ago was not worth five dollars is now worth five hundred. Probably every reader may know of similar instances.

Now, the way to get out of these difficulties may not be clear, but how to keep out of them is plain. Never buy a piece of land except it be described by metes and bounds by actual survey, and make an examination to see that the boundmarks are where they should be. You are entitled to what you pay for and no more, neither should you be content with less.

Many have a mistaken idea that if their fence encroaches upon a neighbor's land and has stood there a number of years, it must be allowed to stay there thereafter, and that a title by possession has been gained. Any competent lawyer could soon convince them that it is not possession only, but *adverse* possession—that is, possession with some published claim—that is necessary to give title.

There are many causes of difficulty which arise where neither party is in fault. Perhaps a fence blows over in the fall. A laborer is sent in the spring to repair it, without definite instructions. The old post-holes are obliterated, and if he uses his best judgment, it is usually poor enough to make an error; or if, to avoid a stump or a stone, he varies the line two or three inches, which may in the end make as many feet, he gives it no thought, and the mistake remains undiscovered.

It will well pay the owner of a farm to have a survey made, not only of the boundaries of the whole, but of the different sub-divisions as well, and a map made of the whole; and if the topography was well delineated on the map, it would be of essential service in many ways, particularly as a guide to drainage. But of this more hereafter.



THE "SWEEPSTAKES," THRESHER.

SOILING STOCK.

Much has been written on the economy and advantages of soiling, comparatively few farmers can be persuaded to give the system a trial. A correspondent of the Southern Planter and Farmer writes:

This is a subject that will engage the special attention of farmers and breeders for some years to come. I do not say that the system will be generally adopted; but I believe that, as it becomes better known, it will meet with more favor, and be found to exactly suit the circumstances and wants of a large class of the farmers and breeders of this country. By "green soiling," or "soiling," I mean the practice of keeping animals in pens or barns, and feeding them on green food grown and cut for the purpose, instead of allowing them to run in pastures. The advantages of this plan are being freely discussed among the most enterprising, practical farmers and breeders, as well as by the leading agricultural writers. I have before me a valuable little work by Josiah Quincy, Jr., of Massachusetts, who, with his father, may be considered the pioneers of this practice in New England. I will make a few extracts. Mr. Quincy says:

"My farm being compact the annoyance of having fifteen or twenty head of cattle driven night and morning to and from the pasture; the loss of time in often turning the team and plow, owing to the number of interior fences and the loss of surface of good land capable of being plowed; owing to them and the many head lands, all drew my attention to the subject of 'soiling' and its effects. All the European writers maintained that six distinct advantages were to be obtained by the practice of 'soiling' over that of pasturing cattle in the summer season:

"1st. It saves land.

"2d. It saves fences.

"3d. It economized food.

"4th. It kept cattle in better condition and greater comfort.

"5th. It produced more milk.

"6th. It increased the quality and quantity of manure.

"Satisfied in my own mind of the beneficial effects of the practice, I adopted it, keeping some fifteen or twenty head of milch cows, with some other stock, and with entirely satisfactory success. Since then I have kept from thirty-five to fifty cows in this way; so that, in my mind, my experience is conclusive on the subject."

He says that one acre "soiled" from will produce at least as much as four acres pastured in the usual way, and that "there is no proposition in Nature more true than that any good farmer may maintain upon thirty acres of good, arable land twenty head of cattle the year round, in better condition and greater comfort to the animal, with more profit, less labor, less trouble and less cash advanced for himself than he, at the present mode, expends upon a hundred acres." He further says:—"My own experience has always been less than this, never having exceeded seventeen acres for twenty head."

Most farmers could, by this process of feeding, soon make their farms rich by the application of the manure accumulated from their stock, and there would be no necessity of purchasing artificial fertilizers. That, and the amount saved in the way of fencing, would more than pay twice the amount of any farmer's taxes. Some will ask whether "soiling" is consistent with the health of the animals? "No confinement prejudicial to the animal's health is necessary. We have animals that have been "soiled" from six to thirteen years. One cow now sixteen years old, has been thus fed for thirteen summers, and has always been healthy. We have raised colts in this way, and thought them more thrifty and quite as healthy as those raised on pasture. We regard it as promotive of health, as the animal has more equal diet—not subjected to such fluctuations of abundance and scarcity, as in pasture. It requires less food, because the animal gets all it wants without foraging sixteen hours a day over short pastures."

I feel confident, if more of our Virginia farmers would adopt this mode of "soiling" (if only for a short time), they would never want to go back to pasturing their lands again.

Owing to the scarcity of timber in many portions of Virgina, we will ultimately have to resort to some mode of enclosure other than the old fence system. And the sooner we make this change the sooner prosperity will reign triumphant.

HOW MUCH LIME PER ACRE?

Another correspondent asks: "How much lime can I apply on an acre of sandy soil with benefit?" This question admits of no more definite answer than the one published last week in regard to the application of ashes, although the two materials are entirely different in their nature and action upon the soil.

Lime, in itself, is not generally considered a fertilizer or food for plants, while potash is. Carbonate, or quicklime, as it is usually called, when applied to sandy soils, does little more than hasten the decomposition of whatever vegetable matter it contains, rendering every particle useful to the plants growing therein, and, as one of our noted agricultural writers long ago remarked, "the principle functions of lime as a manure appear to regulate the condition of the organic matter in the soil, and to facilitate its healthy decay."

Good judgment is required in all cases where lime is applied, else it may do more harm than good; but upon a light, sandy soil, containing a moderate amount of vegetable matter, five bushels of freshly-slaked stone lime would be sufficient, or ten to fifteen of air-slaked or gas lime, evenly distributed over the surface. It is better to apply lime in small quantities and frequently, than in large doses and at long intervals.

Industrial Implements.

THE "SWEEPSTAKES THRESHER."

If a man concludes to adopt threshing as an occupation, we must say we do not envy his lot when he falls into the hands of the Phillistines, or thresher manufacturers, as by the time he carefully weighs all the arguments for and against various patterns he will have arrived at a state of mind bordering on lunacy, and almost ready to buy a wheelbarrow if an enterprising agent should chance along. Sewing machines are mere child's-play by comparison, and just here is where his journal comes to his partial relief by reminding him that there are five points that go to make a good implement, and they should be constantly kept in mind, viz.:—fast threshing, thorough cleaning, superior separation, durability and adaptation. Farmers of the present generation, unlike their forefathers, don't seem to have been born with a hinge in the middle of their backs, and consequently look on a flail with that lofty pity that seems to say: "You might have been very good in your day, but the world moves."

The advantages gained by thorough threshing and cleaning of grain are so great that the wonder is farmers for a moment entertain the idea of using any but the most improved methods. They must, at no distant day, wheel into line and utilize all improvements, in order to hold their own with more progressive neighbors. To do this a liberal patronage of good threshers is imperative.

We give in this issue an illustration of the "Old Reliable" Sweepstakes Thresher, manufactured by C. Aultman & Co., Canton, O. This firm has been established since 1850, and during this period given the closest attention to the manufacture and improvement of agricultura implements. The mechanical parts of the "Sweepstakes" are made most thoroughly and substantially, and the makers claim that its utility and practicability place it among the foremost in this class of implements.

The cylinders are so spiked, that in connection with the spiked and adjustable concaves, every grain is detached from its connection with head and straw, leaving the grain perfect and uninjured. To accomplish this, a very important improvement has been made in the concave, by which it can be raised or lowered at pleasure by a crank moving and holding it at all points equidistant from the cylinder. Separating the grain from the straw and chaff without loss of grain, is one of its merits. The fan mill of the "Sweepstakes" possesses changeable wind-board, by which with a thumb-screw the direction of the blast can be changed at pleasure, adapting it to the different conditions and kinds of grain and seed.

By means of a windlass, rope and rollers, the Stacker can be hoisted and lowered at will. Instead of disconnecting the second Carrier, and laying it on the top of the machine, or elsewhere, it is now arranged to be stationery. So also of the Stacker; instead of detaching it and carrying it in some other way, it is now folded up and carried in a leaning position against the second Carrier. The "Carey" mounted power is used in connection with the "Sweepstakes."

In conclusion we may add, that many who are fond of an agricultural life, but have more mechanical than farming genius, will find that managing a thresher is not only a fascinating pursuit in itself, but it amply rewards the time and labor exponded. Not infrequently the profits of a single season make up the whole original outlay.

The Naturalist.

BEARS AT HOME.

A writer on the Zoological Gardens in London writes:—"A pretty, winding path through the shrubbery at the left of the terrace brings us down a slope to the place where the pair of white bears live. They have a beautiful stone house, covered with flowering vines, and in front a pond with a flagged path around it, on which, as we approach, the huge creatures are pacing up and down, waiting for dinner, growling savagely every now and then at the visitors who stand in tantalizing nearness, just out of their reach. Their whole domain—house garden and pond—is not only fenced in but roofed over with the strongest iron bars. Once, they say, it was only fenced: but, though the top of the fence was made of pointed spikes, turned inward, one of the bears got out early one morning and nearly killed a blacksmith who happened to cross his path; and after that they were roofed in. The white bear and his wife once had two little ones, soft, pinky creatures, but the unnatural mother killed her own children, much to everybody's disappointment. The mother bear's fur is purer, softer, whiter than the father's, whose hair looks rather yellowish when he stands close to his great snow-ball of a wife, and she seems to be generally in a fit of sulks, while he tramps about in a chronic state of active fury. They suffer terribly from the heat of an English summer, and great blocks of ice are constantly kept in the pond to make the water cool enough for their bath."

Sparrows.—A note in the Gardeners' Chronicle says that London sparrows are proverbially amongst the most "cheeky" fellows in existence, and to keep them from eating up newly-sown grass seed is an almost hopeless task.

Floricultural.

ROCKERIES.

Rockeries, as they are called, should never be placed in narrow grounds or in any grounds of quite limited extent. Not unless they can be made to mingle, so to speak, with other surroundings; not unless the beginning or ending can be made to conceal their glaringly artificial character, should they be placed in *any* grounds whatever. There is nothing that strikes the observer as so ludicrously spurious as an attempt to render objects shapely and beautiful, that in nature we behold only among the rudest, most rugged scenes. A rockery is therefore never ornamental—nay, it is never anything but a monument of untutored taste, unless unstudied clumps of vines, shrubs—or natural breaks or hills—the banks of streamlets or of lakes suggest at least the possibility of the rocks in whole or in part having existed there in a state of nature.

For those, however, who do not agree with us in these views—and that there are those who do not is shown from the many lugubrious mounds and circles of rocks to be seen in the front gardens of cities, villages and country dwellings—we desire to name a few plants which we know to be well adapted to rockeries, as well as to suggest a mode of constructing them that shall absorb the rain and in a measure retain it for future use instead of throwing it off, forming cavities and ruts between the rocks, washing away the surface soil and exposing the roots of the plants—while, except in long storms, the moisture penetrates to an inconsiderable depth and artificial watering is again required in a day or so. A rockery may be so constructed as to hold water as well as the level earth—and either this must be done or only those plants used which do not mind drouths. Such plants, however, are generally those of low stature and of a confined leafage that are late in clothing the rocks with a mass of verdure upon which in all rock-works their attractiveness chiefly depends.

As to construction—let us select flat or flattish stones as large as are available. These answer every purpose of round or thick stones and allow of greater contents. Besides, they are more easily handled and fewer go further. Mark out upon the surface of the ground the outline desired and set the stones perpendicularly, or with the tops inclining inwards, on the broadest edges so that the most acute angle shall point upwards. Let each one overlap the preceding a little. These may be held in place by sticks driven inside for them to rest against. When we have thus completed the first tier of stones (let us suppose them to average two feet in hight) fill in over the apertures and cracks between the stones or lappings with matted grass, moss, old carpets or oilcloths, and then throw in the soil (muck is excellent), making it most compact against the moss or other lining and loosest toward the middle. When we have filled in to the hight of 18 inches, place the second tier of stones (half the size of the first) so far within as to allow a sufficient margin for the first tier of plants. Proceed with the second and third as with the first—not forgetting the lining—until the last and highest surface has become so narrowed as not to admit of another tier, and the rockery is ready for the plants.

It will be observed that, constructed in this manner, the rain will freely make its way through the more porous middle soil instead of running off; that it will be held somewhat by the rubbish lining which further acts as a non-conductor to the heat from without, and that a degree of moisture may in this way be provided which removes at least one of the foremost objections to these, at best, objectionable structures that, viz., with occasional watering, they need never dry out.

The surfaces of these rockeries before they are covered with verdure or during the cold months, however constructed, are extremely unsightly. We know of one instance, nevertheless, in which this unsightliness has been in a degree mitigated by the use of paint—paint applied in the rudest manner. First the surface was given a coat of drab and before drying, was splashed, veined and inoculated with black and many colors. In a short time the weather so bedims the garishness of the coloring as to impart a natural appearance, inducing many to ask in all sincerity (as we have been assured), "Where did you procure those rocks?" Oil paint upon rocks in dry places will endure for many years.

Let us plant in the earth close to the base of the rocks, swift-growing vines. Of these we should choose first the Madeira or Mignonette Vine, *Boussingaultia basseloides*, (the tubers of which may still and even later be obtained,) whose fresh, crisp leaves, branching habit and sweet blossoms, though late, render it everywhere the most prized of half-hardy vines. Next the plain *Cobaea scandens* which, for size of leaf, affluence of flowers and rapidity of growth is not—so far as we are aware—equaled. Young potted plants may be obtained of any florist up to the 1st July or later. *Tropæolums*, *Thunbergias*, Balloon Vines, (*Cardiospermum halicacobum.*) *Clematises*, are all well adapted to our purpose. Among hardy vines for the same purpose we may mention the Honeysuckles (especially *Lonicera Belgica* and *L. aurea reticulata*). Wistarias, the blue Passion Vine, (*Passiflora cœrulea*), which, however, is *not* hardy—and *Vitis heterophylla variegata*, one of the finest ornamental vines in cultivation. The variegation of its leaf—white, rose, green—is beauty enough, and its light-blue waxen berries that mature in the fall are a rare and additional charm. The vines are more or less killed by severe cold but the roots we have never had injured—and its spring growth is so rapid that the winter destruction of the top need not be considered against it. We do not know of a prettier hardy vine or one that thrives better in rockeries whether planted at the base or among the rocks themselves.

Such hardy vines as *Aristolochia*, *Akebia*, *Tecoma*, *Periploca*, *Celastrus*, etc., etc., are not selected because they seldom make much growth the first season after transplanting and, besides, are better suited to greater hights and areas than those of the rock-works of which we are speaking.

For the pockets and crevices of the rocks in the way of vines, we should select the Cypress (*Ipomœa quamoclit vulgaris*) Vine in its three colors—white, rose and red. Cypress seeds well soaked in boiling water and planted in wet sandy earth exposed to the full heat of the sun will, as we have before stated, germinate in two or three days and, as they love heat, will soon overtake those started earlier. Nothing is prettier than their light, airy foliage or better adapted to our purpose. *Plilogyne suavis* is of late introduction and, if judged from the engravings and comments of those who offer it for sale, would also prove satisfactory. Such plants of a more or less vine nature as *Saxifraga sarmentosa*—*Tradescantias* (green, purple-variegated, white and green)—*Sedum Sieboldi*—plain and variegated *Sedum acre*—*Lysimachia nummularia* and *L. n. aurea*—*Linaria cymbalaria* and the *Vincas* need only to be named.

For the marginal tiers, we should use *Phlox subulata*—*Plumbago larpentæ* and *capensis*—a few *Portulaca* (these last may be transplanted even in midsummer)—*Polypodium vulgare* and other hardy Ferns for the shady portion—*Lobelia*—*Panicum variegatum*—*Gnaphalium*—*Koniga maritima var.*—*Aloe* and succulents, such as *Echeveria*, *Pachyphytum*—*Klenia*—*Mesembryanthemum cordifolium* and *M. c. variegatum*.

For the surface in the top of the rockery where the most striking specimens should be employed, *Agave*—*Beaucarnea*—*Aspidistra*—*Cactus*—*Yucca*—*Dracæna* would prove effective, one, several or all, according to the area to be planted.

Those who have "a good mind" to arrange a rockery, can do so now as well as at any time, and the above-mentioned plants may be easily obtained in pots—thumped out in their respective places and know not of the change.

We are not willing to offer any encouragement to the erection of rockeries—the most nondescript things ever introduced for garden ornamentation. But for the many of different and possibly better tastes, we have told (so far as space permits) what we know about them.

MISCELLANEA.

For six new plants not in commerce, says the Gardeners' Chronicle, Mr. Bull of Chelsea was placed 1st. Mr. Bull's plants were Pritchardia grandis, from the Solomon Isles, a beautiful bright green Palm with roundish, concave, plaited leaves, having a doubly-toothed edge and flat, spiny leaf stalks; Dieffenbachia Shuttleworthi, from Columbia, a small habited species, with spreading, lanceolate-oblong leaves nine inches long, of a satiny green, with a silvery central bar an inch wide; Croton elegantissimus, from the New Hebrides, a finely colored plant with yellow and red stems, long, dark green, drooping leaves half an inch wide, the basal portion of which on the costa is of a deep golden yellow; Dieffenbachia Chelsoni, with ovate, yellow, blotched leaves; Aralia splendissima, from New Caledonia, a densely leafy plant; the leaves pinnate, 1½ foot long, with about 11 pairs of opposite lobed leaflets; and Alocasia Johnsoni, from New Guinea, a species having purple, mottled stalks, furnished with short prickles arranged in groups and arrow-shaped, erect, dark-green leaves veined with red.

Swamp Azaleas (*A. nudiflora*) are now in bloom. Go and take a look in the highland woods as well as in the swamps. We knew of a lady who, though, as might be said, living in the midst of wild Azaleas, asked what they were upon seeing them in full bloom, growing in the sandy soil of a garden. She knew the flowers well—but was surprised beyond all knowledge of the plant by their beautiful display in masses under cultivation. If any kind reader wishes to place himself or herself under obligations to us, let him go to the woods and secure a load of "Pinksters" for his garden. If procured now with earth about the roots and cut down to six inches of the ground, they will form stocky plants and bloom next spring.

Novelties.—*Gustavia gracillima.*—Mr. Wm. Bull of England has succeeded in flowering this superb plant of which a sketch is given in the Gardeners' Chronicle, May 6. It is a stove flowering plant—leaves 13 or 18 inches in length by ¾ths or one inch in diameter. The flowers, remarkable for their botanical structure as for their great beauty, are four inches in diameter and of a rose-red color.

Have any of our readers ever tried to cultivate the charming little flower *Polygala paucifolia?*

The Garden.

MUSK-MELONS—NOVELTIES.

Melons thrive on hill-sides and in sandy soils. If the best results be sought, a small quantity of guano mixed with a shovelful or so of old manure and covered with soil in the hills, should be used. As soon as the seed-leaves are well developed, plaster is generally used to protect them from the melon beetle; and this is thought to act as a stimulant to the plants as, from time to time, it is washed by rains into the ground and about the fibrous roots. Mixing a little flour of sulphur with the gypsum is a more effectual protection against the melon beetles—or, indeed, sulphur may be used alone. In the first instance a much smaller quantity suffices, and in the latter, a pinch will go as far as a teaspoonful of plaster. In the same way we may use *hellebore*, tobacco ashes or aloes.

The following novelties in the way of musk-melons are offered this season accompanied by the usual high-sounding phrases. Sutton's Tom Thumb is described as the smallest yet handsomest melon in cultivation—marked with stripes of orange and claret—flesh green, juicy and delicious.

Green Climbing. This melon requires a trellis. Further, "deponent saith not."

Composite is a favorite Paris melon, netted and deeply-ribbed—orange-scarlet flesh, "sweet and brisk."

Prescott Cantaloupe. Also popular among Paris gardeners—large—thick flesh, fragrant.

Orange Cantaloupe. Medium size; productive.

Tours Sugar. Light green flesh, netted, sweet.

Algiers Cantaloupe. Hardy and productive.

We have procured the above among a goodly assortment of vegetable novelties—planted them with the consideration due to distinguished foreigners and will give our readers next Fall an impartial account of the respect to which they are entitled.

KILLING RED SPIDERS IN HOT-BEDS.

A correspondent of the Journal of Horticulture gives the following directions for killing the Red Spider either in greenhouse or hot-beds:

One of the best means of eradicating this pest, and one which I have successfully practised for many years, is by creating fumes of sulphur with the aid of heated furnace shovels. If the operation is performed with due care every spider will be killed, and not a leaf of either vines or cucumbers will be injured. If, however, the work is loosely or carelessly done injury will inevitably be committed. But of this there is no real danger, for a safety valve is always present, which if regarded will lead to satisfactory results. My mode is as follows:

On the evening of a still day, and after the house containing the spider has been closed, I secure the aid of two assistants. One heats a shovel at the fire, and runs with it to the door of the vinery. Here is placed a careful man with a pot of sulphur, which he sprinkles very slightly on the shovel, and the sulphur at first burns with a flame. That is the danger signal. In a few moments, however, the shovel cools and the sulphur smoulders, showing no incandescence whatever—that is the safety valve. At that stage he hands it to me inside the house, and I sprinkle it freely, and continue to do so as long as fumes are emitted. In the meantime other shovels are being prepared outside. In a quarter of an hour I have a light blue atmosphere, and as soon as my eyes commence smarting I leave the house.

In the morning I have invariably found every red spider dead, and every leaf alive and uninjured. The slightest incandescence of the sulphur inside the house will cause injury to the foliage, but I have never found the slightest harm result if the precautions named have been duly carried out. It is a matter on which none need err, for it is easy to perceive when the sulphur does not show a flame outside, and as easy to know when one's eyes smart inside the house. I have practised the plan for more than twenty years, and always with the same result of killing the spider and not injuring the foliage of vines, cucumbers, or melons.

CARBOLATE OF LIME FOR CURRANT WORMS.

Currant worms are still quite plentiful in many localities and should be destroyed whenever they appear. The Weekly Herald refers to the use of carbolate of lime and says now is the time to examine your currant bushes and destroy the pestiferous worms. White powdered hellebore will be found sure death to them, but Dr. E. Worcester of Waltham, Mass., states that the currant worm, so destructive to a favorite fruit, may be fully and almost immediately destroyed by the use of carbolate of lime. The doctor tried the powder in many instances during the past summer, and found that while it was fully as effective as hellebore, it was less disagreeable, less costly and perfectly safe. The method of using it is to sprinkle it over the bushes as soon as the worm makes its appearance, bringing it well in contact with the leaves, and soon the insect is destroyed. It will need but two or three applications and the work is done. In this way, for a few cents, large quantities of currant bushes may be saved and the fruit allowed to mature, and no danger whatever incurred. Neither the foliage nor the fruit is in any way injured by the carbolate of lime. A friend who tried carbolate of lime last season tells us that he found it quite effectual as long as the worms were young, but not after they had attained their full growth, while the hellebore seemed to be certainly fatal in all cases. He found that it was not necessary for the hellebore to come in contact with the worms, but when some was placed on the upper surface of a leaf it not only caused the worms on the under side to fall off, but killed them. Still, we should prefer to use the carbolate of lime, and we advise our readers to destroy all the worms with it before they get large.

DRAINING THE GARDEN.

I have two gardens—one with eastern exposure, soil rather clayey; the other nearly level, soil coarse, sandy, rather damp—land originally in pine—subsoil of both stiff clay. In wet weather soil is soggy—very cold and vegetation always backward. Base of the section granite, some flint rock and much silica. Both have been highly manured with barn-yard material—ashes, lime, cotton-seed, guano, etc., yet the land remains unproductive. In early spring and all summer a little white worm (like a maggot) is abundant in the soil and sucks the sap of all vegetables as turnips, cabbages, beets, radishes, potatoes, etc.; grass grows rank, corn, cotton and okra do tolerably well. Would like to know what treatment would be beneficial and especially how to get rid of the worm.—Sub., *Lee Co., Ala.*

Your garden evidently needs underdraining. Put in the drains at least three feet deep and about thirty feet apart. Arrange the drains so that there will be a free outlet into one pipe or open ditch, and we think there will be a decided improvement observed the first season. The small white maggots are doubtless the larvæ of some small insect, but what kind of course we cannot say. If you cannot get tile near by, stone or even board drain will answer for a few years, but the first are the best and will be the cheapest in the end. Sometimes trenching such land as you describe will prove highly beneficial, but considerable manure is required to make the surface soil rich if the land is inverted to the depth of eighteen inches to two feet.

SELECT THE BEST FOR MARKET.

In the report of the Texas State Horticultural and Pomological Association we find the following good advice to Southern growers of fruits and vegetables which is alike applicable to cultivators in other localities:

Let us commence at home to make inquiry. Are our fruit and vegetables of the very best varieties, and such as are best adapted to our soil and climate? Have we properly cultivated them, and was the season such as to bring them to the greatest perfection? Did we select only the best, (such as we would be willing to pay top prices for,) and carefully pack and ship them without delay, so they might reach market fresh and perfect? If all this has been done, and results were not satisfactory, then we must look elsewhere for the cause, feeling satisfied that it is not with the producer. But, rest assured, that just in proportion as you cannot answer the above questions, affirmatively, to yourself, just in the same proportion the fault is your own, and the remedy should begin at home.

TRAINING CUCUMBERS ON TRELLISES.

We fully agree with the New England Homestead in the following, and would add train the tomatoes on trellises also:—Cucumbers are generally permitted, or compelled rather, to grow flat upon the ground, but vines have been trained upon trellises with the very happiest results. Indeed nature never intended the cucumber for a mere surface runner, else it would not have been provided with grasping tendrils. A low trellis, keeping both vine and fruit off the ground, add largely to the yield and the quality. When space is an object, a great saving of ground may be accomplished by training upon high trellises.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

ATLAS HOTEL,
PHILADELPHIA, June 3, 1876.

As I begin to write, my attention is called to the acres of hotel of which my little room is a part, and I am led to wonder where all the people come from to fill it! And filled it certainly will be most of the time, for it is not only convenient to the Exposition, but very moderate in charges—two prerequisites for many of the visitors.

Strolling around the Centennial Grounds, I espied a member of the Centennial Guard, whose face indicated that he could answer a civil question in a polite way, and fell into conversation with him upon the organization of the body to which he belonged. Finding me really in quest of bottom facts, he referred me to the commanding officers, Col. CLAY and Major ALBERGER. The former was absent from his office, but the handsome Major was found at home, and from him I gleaned many interesting facts.

This Guard does the police duty on the grounds of the Exhibition, and, as near as may be under the civil law, is organized in true military style. Perhaps a good idea of its magnitude and importance can be obtained from the statement that it consists of one colonel, one major, seven captains, fifteen lieutenants, and one thousand and fifty-three non-commissioned officers and privates. It embraces about thirty experienced American detectives, and, in addition to that, has connected with it corps of detectives supplied by the English, French and Italian governments. Over three hundred men are on duty all the time, changing off by reliefs as is done in the army on guard duty. This may be a singular commentary upon the people who visit the Exhibition, but it is found to be quite necessary; and so efficient is this force and so watchful that, of the hundreds of instances where thefts have taken place and been reported, so far they have failed but in two instances to recover the stolen property. Among the privates are many men of education and refinement, and all are intelligent and well-behaved. One of the privates speaks thirty-two languages and formerly held the rank of Major-General in the Cuban army.

Of course many laughable incidents come under the observation of this force. While Major ALBERGER was recruiting his men, it was suggested to him that a drummer would be a good thing to have in the camp, and he accordingly sent his men out among the candidates awaiting examination to get one. A jolly-looking fellow was brought into the room, and replied to the Major's question that he had been a drummer for the last five years.

"Do you thoroughly understand drumming?" asked the Major.

"Why, certainly I do!" replied the man.

"Where and under what circumstances have you been drumming for the last five years?" added the Major.

"Oh!" replied the man, "through the Western States. I have been drumming for a large dry goods house!"

As that was not the exact kind of drummer he wanted, the man had to take a position as private.

One very well-dressed and respectable-looking woman, with a year-old infant in her arms, entered the gate one day, and, walking up to one of the guards, handed him the baby, asking him to hold it for her a few minutes till she came back. He held it, and kept on holding it, and would have held it till this time, I presume, if it had not been sent to some asylum by his commanding officer.

The detective part of the force is constantly on the lookout for thieves and pickpockets, many of whom are well known to all the experienced detectives. Not long since a lady had her gold chain cut and watch stolen in the Main Building, and did not miss it till one of the guards called attention to the hanging piece of chain. As was his duty, the guard immediately reported the case to Head Quarters, and the detectives were stationed at the various gates or turnstiles to catch the thief. In less than an hour one of them saw a notorious pickpocket passing out, whom he tapped on the shoulder, saying: "Here, give me that watch with the piece of chain hanging to it." Without a word, the thief handed over the watch. He was then taken before the Philadelphia "His Honor" and, with the aid of the Centennial "Bijah," obtained board at public expense for three years.

Apropos of the Police Court, two notorious Italian pickpockets were seen by one of the guards attempting to pick a lady's pocket and were arrested when, in very good English, they protested their innocence. The next morning before the magistrate they could neither understand nor speak a word of English, and two more stupid-looking men than they appeared to be, during the examination, could not be found. The judge seemed to think that the evidence was not very strong against them, and that a mistake had been made in arresting a couple of unfortunate foreigners who did not understand the language sufficiently to protect themselves. He was on the point of discharging them, when the commanding officer, who was in Court watching the cases that day, said quietly to His Honor: "Let me ask them a question or two and I think I can prove to you that they understand English perfectly." Upon receiving the Judge's assent, he turned to the prisoners and said in distinct English: "That's all—you can go," whereupon the two unfortunate foreigners picked up their hats and started for the door. It is almost unnecessary to say that the Judge called them back and gave them full sentence.

Many of the RURAL readers are familiar with the manner in which an army Quartermaster gets his supplies for the soldiers of the command to which he is attached, viz., by a requisition, and in the same manner the supplies for the Centennial Guard are obtained. During the early days of the Exhibition, Major ALBERGER, who was then acting as Quartermaster, walked into the office of the Centennial Commission, from whom his supplies were drawn, and handed to the dignified chief clerk a requisition. He examined it closely, read it through, and handed it back, saying that it was of such a singular character he could hardly act upon it without referring it to some one higher in authority than himself. The Quartermaster then took it to the higher authority, who scanned it closely several times, and turning to the unfortunate officer, said:

"Major, I always had an idea that you were an efficient officer and a good man; but, sir, when you hand in a requisition to me for fifteen cats, I think you need rest—a change of air! Would you like to have a furlough for a little while, Major?"

The Major, with one of his luxurious, Floridian smiles, replied:

"No, sir; I don't need a rest, nor a change of air, nor yet a furlough; but in the haste of unpacking the foreign pictures in Memorial Hall, many of them have to be left sitting against the wall while waiting for their turn to be hung, and the rats are eating them. They have already done some damage, and may do much more. If you cannot get me the cats, sir, I can procure them myself in a little time."

After looking sharply at the Major, hesitating a moment and finally comprehending the full situation, the Commissioner simply remarked: "You shall have them, Major." In less than forty-eight hours he did have them, and any of our rural visitors can see some of them around Memorial Hall when they go there. The rats disappeared and the pictures were saved, all by the remarkable requisition for fifteen cats.

When you go to the Centennial, please think well of those Guards, for they are a fine body of men and were picked out from many thousand applicants. They have severe labor to perform and so far have done it well. They have nearly broken the back of thievery and pocket-picking on the grounds, and will eventually render the Exhibition the safest crowded place in the United States.

SHORTHORN.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

THE grand exhibition of Dairy products is to take place June 26 to July 6, when the prizes will be awarded.

THE Executive Committee of the American Dairy Society will meet at the Dairy Exhibition Building, Centennial grounds, Wednesday, June 7th.

AMONG all the live stock to be shown at the Centennial Exposition, the Alligator Department is likely to be the most complete, as 350 specimens are on the way, and of all sizes from 6 inches long up to 13½ feet.

OUR old friend HARDER of Cobleskill, N. Y., has added a new name to his well-known Threshers. They are now called the "Fearless." Visitors to the Centennial will find him at M and N 7 Agricultural Hall, with machine in full operation.

Pomological.

PROTECTION FOR ORIGINATORS OF NEW PLANTS.

I CLAIM that the work of the originators of new plants is not exceeded, if equaled, in utility by that of the author or inventor, and that he is entitled to the protection of the Government for quite the same reasons. The new variety owes its origin to him, and any desirable peculiarity it may possess is precisely as much his property as the ideas of the author or the device of the inventor are theirs. Free dissemination enables others to appropriate the benefit of the variety without compensating the originator, which is unjust. He should have the exclusive right to grow, disseminate and sell his production, and this means, in reference to certain annuals, to disseminate and sell to be grown.

New varieties should be subjected to examination and trial by a competent committee, in order that "protective letters" might not be given for old sorts, worthless new ones, and those not sufficiently distinct to be identified. It would be necessary to classify plants in the statute protecting them, according to the purpose for which they were valued, and apply the protection accordingly. Thus:

Class 1. Perennial plants, valued for the seed or fruit.

Class 2. Perennial, biennial, annual plants, valued for ornament.

Class 3. Perennial, biennial vegetables, and such annual vegetables as are produced from the seed proper.

Class 4. Vegetable fruits.

Class 5. Cereals, tubers, and other annuals valued as edible and marketable products.

The purchaser of an individual right to grow a protected variety would not possess the right to sell the means of propagation, unless such means were the product for which the variety was valued. For instance, such purchase would not confer the right to disseminate plants or cuttings of varieties belonging to class 1, nor plants of perennial and seed of biennial and annual sorts included in class 2, although the flowers and foliage could be sold as ornaments. With class 4, such purchase would not confer the right to disseminate the seed apart from the product containing it. These requirements may seem arbitrary, but they are no more so than the patent laws; besides, no one would be compelled to grow the sort.

It must be borne in mind that *growing the plant* constitutes *manufacture* both of the plant and its marketable product, and the facility with which an article may be manufactured does not invalidate in the least this exclusive right of the patentee. The party, therefore, to whom the lawful disseminator sold plants, cuttings, seeds, etc., of the variety would receive from the latter a conveyance of the right to grow the sort and to sell the marketable product. If any one procured the sort elsewhere, that person could not show such conveyance when called for and would have to pay the penalty which the law imposed.

The right to propagate to obtain the marketable product would be included in the right to grow the plant, in all cases, as propagation is growth with the majority of plants, and is part of the use. Of course, growers of protected varieties could transfer the right to grow them with the real estate on which they were situated.

Originators of sorts belonging to other than class 5 would make their own royalty. The latter class comprise marketable products which are staple articles of food and the sole means of reproduction. The statute should, therefore, specify a small amount (one or two dollars would suffice) as the price to be paid the owner of the protective right for an individual right to grow a sort belonging to this class, unless that right should be purchased with seed from said owner, such amount to be paid previous to growing the plant. It should also be provided that, when the marketable product of a variety was also the means of reproduction, a sign bearing its name and the words, "Protected according to act of Congress," must be placed with such product when exposed for sale; such requirement to be enforced by a fine for its neglect.

This system of protection, while giving the people all the privileges they ordinarily want, would prevent professional propagators from despoiling originators of the pecuniary results of their labors, as they now do. The introducers of new productions would have the exclusive right to appear in print as the disseminators, and, if real acquisitions, this advantage alone would enable them to secure ample compensation. If others attempted to disseminate them under new names, they could soon be detected and made to pay a heavy penalty.

You may say, "The originators of new fruits can hold the stock as long as they choose to do so and then part with it at prices fixed by themselves." Those who have tried this plan think otherwise, and know that the originators of new fruits cannot hold the stock as long as they choose, nor part with a sufficient number at prices fixed by themselves.

A person so disposed can easily find access to another's grounds and carry off seed or cuttings of a new sort, which can then be propagated and disseminated with impunity. The Early Rose Potato is said to have been stolen and disseminated in this way. For this kind of stealing there is no remedy "short of a Congressional statute which can be enforced over the length and breadth of the land."

We have laws for the protection of birds; laws for the protection of fishes; laws for the prevention of cruelty to animals; but not one line in the whole system of American jurisprudence protecting the originator in the possession or sale of his production. You may say that this wish for protection comes from the desire of originators to put money in their pockets. Are they at all peculiar in that respect? All must acknowledge that they (the originators) have put money in the pockets of others, and especially in those of some of the noted horticulturists, and provided food which has *built up the bodies* of the nation. And what are they told is their proper and sufficient recompense? The *thanks* of the public!

JACOB MOORE.

RELATION BETWEEN CAUSE AND EFFECT.

DURING the last session of the American Pomological Society, Mr. MEEHAN related an anecdote that aptly illustrates our rashness in jumping at conclusions:

He was walking near Pike's Peak, in Colorado, when he met a fair lady with a wreath formed of a male hop vine entwined around her brow. He had never before seen the hop vine look so beautiful, and he was led to get a root to grow expressly for its beauty, and having no pole to train it on that would be enduring, he planted it at the base of a large Prince's St. Germain pear that never bore anything but hard, knotty, worthless fruit. The vine was now on the top of the tree, and to his astonishment the tree had this season borne the most perfect pears one could desire. He could not understand the influence of the hop on the health of the tree, till he looked around him on that large class of our fellow-citizens who used decoction of hops freely and as a beverage. "Then," said Mr. MEEHAN, "I understood the whole thing. Here I saw men who were always healthy—never know what disease is—hardly die, but dry up naturally and almost blow away, and then I could see how the hop had also saved the poor. [Laughter.] Don't you believe it? [Renewed laughter.] No? Well, neither do I, of course, and I offer it simply as a sample of the reasoning of the people about these very things, and of which one can hear nearly every day."

What we looked for while reading the above was that Mr. MEEHAN would find some analogy between the improvement of his pears and the hop-vine wreath about the brow of the fair lady.

Insurance Department.

CONDITION OF THE INS. COMPANIES.

THERE are quite a number of reasons for believing that the year 1875 was not propitious to the insurance interests. The official reports of the various States show that, as a whole, the companies have done a smaller and less profitable business than usual. The life companies have issued very few new policies—that is, have attracted few new members, though they have issued many small policies in exchange for old policies discontinued. There are fewer policies and less insurance in force than last year and a more marked retrogression than has been heretofore experienced. Much of this is no doubt due to lack of money and hard times; but more is, perhaps, just attributable to the conduct of a class of companies that have, for the sake of temporary gain, misused the confidence of their policy-holders. This has been done in nearly every case of re insurance and amalgamations where an exchange of policies has been required. The consequences to public confidence in the integrity of the management of life insurance will not be easily or speedily repaired. It is perhaps only just to say that the business of the really reliable companies is little affected and that they are worthy of all possible confidence.

The business of the fire insurance companies was less than in 1874, their income smaller and their losses in most instances larger. A few companies doing a local business met with few and small losses and improved the opportunity to make larger dividends to their stockholders instead of increasing their surplus. As a general rule, the "farmers' companies" have not made much money. They had always used a very low rate of premium based upon the absence of *moral hazard*—that is, the improbability that a tiller of the soil would burn his own property. This was a well deserved compliment to the farmers; but the companies had not calculated aright the chances that others might burn it for them. The carelessness, recklessness or malignity of "tramps" has, it is said, caused a great increase of loss of farm property and compelled the companies, for the sake of self-preservation, to increase their rates of premium, a requirement with which every one who wants reliable protection should cheerfully comply.

In times of commercial insecurity like the present, when the condition of a company is not readily known to any farmer, great care should be exercised in dealing with companies not vouched for by competent and disinterested parties. It is the duty of a farmers' paper to do this when required and the RURAL will do so without charge. A great number of people have been imposed upon by traveling agents who produce partisan and false statements of the financial condition of their companies, in order to foist worthless policies upon the unsuspecting. A little trustworthy advice is always the best protection and it may be had for the asking.

Domestic Economy.

FRENCH COOKERY.

MEATS should be selected with a view to the methods of cooking to be adopted. The French never boil meats unless for the purpose of making soups. They regard boiled meats as comparatively worthless and never serve them unless in some prepared form, to restore flavor and lost nutrient principles. We forget in this country that to boil food, be it meat or be it vegetables, is to extract from it, first, its volatile aroma, then its essences or juices, its nutritive power; and these go out into the hot water which is stupidly thrown away. Boiling meat or vegetables in France is to make soup, and so saving are they that even the water in which beans and cauliflowers have been boiled is always kept to serve as a basis for vegetable soup. Every liquid which has received the extracted flavor of a boiled substance is looked upon as precious, and is employed again in some form, so as not to waste the properties which it has acquired. The entire system of French cooking, both in form and practice, is to save the whole nutritive elements of every substance, to pass into the stomach, instead of allowing it to be poured down the sink spout or sending it to the pigs. The lesson taught us in this regard should be heeded. Butchers' bones, and those of fowls, which here go to the waste bucket or to the soap boiler, covered with fragments of meat and loaded internally with rich suet, are in France carefully sought for and employed in making soups. Nothing is wasted which can be used for human food. Soups are so common it may be said the nation lives on them. The average earnings of laborers in France do not exceed 30 cents a day, and yet from this pittance they continue to live comfortably. The average of health in the population is much higher than in most countries, and the average length of life is as high as 38 years.

KEEPING CIDER SWEET.

THE editor of the New England Farmer endorses the following mode of preserving cider sweet for five years:—"Leach and filter the cider through pure sand, after it has worked and fermented and before it has soured. Put no alcohol or other substances with it. Be sure that the vessels you put it in are perfectly clean and sweet. After it is leached or filtered, put it in barrels or casks filled, leaving no room for air; bung them tight and keep it where it won't freeze till February or March, then put it into champagne bottles filled, drive the corks and wire them. The best cider is late made, or made when it is as cold as can be and not freeze." We drank some cider from a barrel, filtered as above mentioned, within an hour of this writing, make in the interior of New York, which was as sweet as if only made the day before.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

An Excellent Cake.—A half pound each, of sugar and flour, a quarter of a pound of butter, three eggs, five tablespoonfuls of sweet milk, one teaspoonful of baking powder worked thoroughly through the flour. Mix the sugar and butter to a cream; add the eggs, beat briskly for three or four minutes, then add the flour and milk, stir until smooth. Flavor to suit the taste. Bake in a moderate oven.—MRS. RUSTIC.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Rice Muffins.—To one quart of sour milk, three well beaten eggs, a little salt, teaspoonful of soda and enough of rice flour to thicken to a stiff batter. Bake in rings.

Puff Cake.—Two cupfuls of sugar, one of butter, one of sweet milk, three of flour, three eggs, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of yeast powder, extract of lemon. Bake quick.

Corn Cake.—One quart of sour milk, three well beaten eggs, one teacupful of flour, yellow corn meal enough to make a batter as thick as for pancakes. Bake quickly in pans well buttered.

Rice Custard.—Into a quart of boiling water stir in two tablespoonfuls of rice flour, dissolved in a little cold milk; add two well beaten eggs to boiling mixture; sweeten and flavor to taste.

Butter Scotch Candy.—One cup of molasses, one of sugar, and one-half a cupful of butter. Mix them together, and cook until it will stiffen when dropped in water. When done pour in pans and let it cool.

Cocoanut Pudding.—To the grated meat of a cocoanut take six eggs, six large spoonfuls of sugar, half a teacupful of butter and a little soda. Line a dish with puff paste and fill with the mixture. Bake in a quick oven.

Iceland Moss Jelly.—Soak for an hour four tablespoonfuls of the moss in cold water enough to cover it. Then stir it into a quart of boiling water, and simmer gently till it dissolves; strain, sweeten to taste, flavor with juice of two lemons, and a little cinnamon if agreeable, and a glass of wine; strain into molds, and cool before using.

Gold and Silver Pudding.—One quart of milk, 6 eggs, 2 wine glasses of Sherry wine, 3 flat tablespoonfuls of flour, 1 cup of pulverized sugar. Scald the milk. Mix the flour with a little cold milk and add to it. Add beaten yelks of 6 eggs and whites of 2. Bake this as you would a custard. When cold beat the whites of 4 eggs to a stiff froth, stir the sugar in lightly, add the wine, put the frosting on the custard, brown slightly. To be eaten cold.

Boston Baked Beans.—One quart small white dried beans; parboil in salt and water. Remove from the fire as soon as they come to a boil. Then pour off all the water, put them into a stone crock, add one tablespoonful molasses, a little pepper and salt, and lay upon them a pound of nice salt pork, well scalded. Then put over the crock a tight-fitting cover, and bake in a slow oven twelve hours. When done they will be brown all through, and every bean will be distinct, without being dry.—*A. S. Blake.*

Curry Powder.—The following is the recipe furnished by a native Hindoo, according to the Chemist and Druggist, and is said to yield a fine product. The powders must be fresh and of the best quality: Coriander, fresh seed, roasted but not burnt, and finely powdered, 8 parts; Turmeric, fresh root, treated in the same manner, 3 do.; Fenugreek, fresh seed, do., 2 do.; Mustard seed, do., 2 do.; Cumin seed, do., 3 do. To this add Cayenne pepper to taste. Preferable, however, is the Indian Chili pod, a much larger species than that sold in our shops, and not nearly so hot.

Sweeping Carpets.—If brooms are wet in boiling suds once a week, they will become very tough, will not cut a carpet, but last much longer and always sweep like a new broom. A handful or so of salt sprinkled on the carpet will carry the dust along with it, and make the carpet look bright and clean. A very dusty carpet may be cleaned by setting a pail of water out by the door, wet the broom in it, knock off the drops, sweep a yard or so, then wash the broom as before and sweep again, being careful to shake all the drops off the broom, and not sweep far at a time. If done with care it will clean a carpet very nicely, and you will be surprised at the quantity of dirt in the water. The water may need changing once or twice if the carpet is very dirty.

Hygienic Information.

INFLUENCE OF VEGETATION ON HEALTH.

THE principles which the following article would inculcate are doubtless correct, but the influence of many of the plants named is purely imaginary especially that of the Upas and Eucalyptus for it has long since been proved that they do not possess the poisonous properties formerly ascribed to them, neither has the latter the antiseptic influence upon the atmosphere which many theorists would have us believe.

Our instinct leads us to delight in flowers. Their beauty and perfume have irresistible attractions for us. We have little dreamt we were thus led to surround ourselves with objects which most powerfully conduce to health. No doubt there are certain members of the vegetable kingdom which are exceedingly deleterious; for, not to speak of the dreaded *Upas*, the West Indian Manchineel, and some species of the American *Rhus*, there are some of our common sweet-scented flowers, such as the Mezereon, which have very injurious properties. But recent investigation has proved that those adornments of our gardens for the presence of which we so crave are, as a rule, endowed with health-preserving qualities. Oxygen, when highly electrified and so rendered especially vitalizing, has in recent times been distinguished by the name of ozone. This is one of the chief elements of a healthy atmosphere. Now, centuries ago it was known that certain plants acted as powerful disinfectants. Thus Herodian tells us that when, in the second century the plague raged in Italy, the physicians recommended those who crowded into Rome to go to Laurentum, because there the sweet bay-tree (Laurus nobilis) grew in great abundance and the inhalation of air impregnated with its odours was a strong preservative against infection. And the disciples of Empedocles were wont to grow aromatic and balsamic herbs around their dwellings, from the belief that they were thus guarding themselves against fevers, agues and such like. Has not, too, among us the tradition of its fever-dispelling power given the name of Feverfew to one of the strongest-scented of the composite?

Recent investigations, especially those of Professor Montegazza of Padua and Dr. Cornelius Fox, have shown that these old ideas were based on scientific truth. It is now ascertained that the quality of ozone is materially increased by the exposure to the rays of the sun of various plants, among which the most common are the Lavender, Musk, Cherry, Laurel, Clove, Fennel, Narcissus, Heliotrope, Hyacinth and Mignonette. It is interesting to know that the Sunflower, which will grow almost anywhere and could be turned to various useful purposes, is one of the most valuable of sanitary agents, since not only is it ozoniparous, but also destroys deleterious miasmata. It should be noted, as a further proof of the good influence of plant-culture on health, that, while the manufacture of ozone is an independent work carried on by the flowers alone, the green leaves are peforming their sanitary function by extracting carbonic acid gas from the atmosphere, and helping to preserve that proportion in its elements which makes it healthful. More remarkable perhaps than all is the Eucalyptus, of which we have recently heard so much, and of which we shall, probably, soon know more.

Thus the cultivation of flowers is a work not merely delightful and humanising in itself, but one which, in a way most beautiful and picturesque, confers a positive benefit on society, so great that it can hardly be overrated, especially in large towns, where there must necessarily be so much to poison and deteriorate the air we breathe.

A SIMPLE DISINFECTANT.

ONE pound of green copperas, costing seven cents, dissolved in one quart of water, and poured down a water-closet, will effectually concentrate and destroy the foulest smells. On board ships and steamboats, about hotels, and other public places, there is nothing so nice to purify the air. Simple green copperas, dissolved in anything will render an hospital, or other places for the sick, free from unpleasant smells. In fish-markets, slaughter-houses, sinks and wherever there are offensive gases, dissolve copperas and sprinkle it about, and in a few days the smell will all pass away. If a cat, rat or mouse dies about the house, and sends forth an offensive gas, place some dissolved copperas in an open vessel near the place where the nuisance is, and it will purify the atmosphere. *Then*, keep all clean.

A CURE FOR CORNS.

THERE is but one cure for corns, and that is: Take a lemon and roll it until soft; cut a thick slice and bind it on the corn on retiring at night. In the morning, if the corn is white and disintegrated pull it out with your finger nails—never cut a corn. Sometimes several applications of the lemon slices will be necessary, but the corns are bound to succumb, and you can dance the next night if you like. After you remove the corns wear shoes that fit and are not too stiff in the soles.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

For Weak Eyes.—Bathe night and morning in a solution of salt and tepid water.

A simple remedy for neuralgia is horseradish. Grate and mix it in vinegar, the same as for table purposes and apply to the temple when the face or head is affected, or the wrist when the pain is in the arm or shoulder.

A simple and effectual remedy for ivy poisoning is said to be sweet spirits of nitre. Bathe the affected parts freely two or three times during the day, and the next morning scarcely any trace of the poision will remain.

For Freckles.—Dissolve a little borax and sugar in some lemon juice and apply to the face, then wash in castile soap. The quantity of borax should be that which will cover the point of a pen-knife to the juice of one lemon.

A Cure for Pimples.—Wash the face in a dilution of carbolic acid, allowing one teaspoonful to a pint of water. This is an excellent and purifying lotion, and may be used on the most delicate skins. Be careful about letting this wash get into the eyes.

Flaxseed Lemonade.—The following receipe will be found very good for a cold:—Pour one quart boiling water over four tablespoonfuls of flaxseed. Steep—not boil—three hours; cover closely while steeping; then strain, sweeten to taste, and add the juice of two lemons, putting in more water if too thick to be agreeable.

Remedy for Earache.—The Journal of Health gives the following:—There is scarcely any ache to which children are subject, so hard to bear and difficult to cure, as the earache. But there is a remedy, never known to fail. Take a bit of cotton batting put upon it a pinch of black pepper, gather it up and tie it, dip in sweet oil, and insert into the ear. Put a flannel bandage over the head to keep it warm. It will give immediate relief.

Scientific and Useful.

WHAT CHEMISTRY HAS DONE.

DR. J. L. W. THUDICHUM, in a recent lecture "On the Discoveries and Philosophy of Liebig," delivered before the Society of Arts in London, referred as follows to the position which this latest born of the sciences has already attained:

"The youngest of the sciences or the youngest branch of science is chemistry, founded by Lavoisier and Dalton; developed by thousands of clear heads and nimble hands, it has in half a century become a recognized power in the affairs of man. It has materially improved his estate, and enlarged his mind to conceptions of an elevating nature; it has become the handmaid of almost all the elder sisters: of astronomy, teaching the composition of distant stars; of geology, teaching the composition and changes of strata and minerals; of physiology, vegetable and animal, teaching about food, nutrition, growth, changes, death and decay; of the healing art, teaching the nature of evils in the shape of disease, and the means of curing or mitigating them. This science, too, was developed by work—work physical and mental; its ways were often rugged, its endeavors misapprehended, opposed, suppressed. And the great men, whose names are inscribed upon the roll of its principal promoters will be considered by posterity as benefactors akin to Hercules, removing evils, establishing the good and true. If we cannot now inscribe their names and likenesses among the stars, and transfer them to an Olympian abode, yet we can honor them by admiring their works and lessons, by sharing and continuing their work, by, as it were, living their lives with them over again, and thus prolong their memory forwards while we prolong our own in the inverse direction. We ought to honor them out of gratitude no less than out of the desire to benefit continuously man's estate."

MEASURING INACCESIBLE HEIGHTS AND DISTANCES.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Academy thus describes an ingenious invention of Prof. E. C. Pickering, of our Massachusetts Institute of Technology:—"It is designed for measuring the distances and hights of mountains. It consists of a common telescope, with a level attached, a scale of equal parts in the eyepiece, and with a mirror of plate-glass fastened to the object, so that it can be set at any angle. Two images are seen, one through the glass, and the other by reflection from its surface, and any two objects may be made apparently to coincide by turning the mirror through the proper angle. Selecting as our object the mountain whose distance is to be measured, and as the other any convenient, well-defined point, the telescope is moved through a known distance, and the apparent change of position is measured by the scale. From this the distance may be determined with all the accuracy needed by an ordinary map. The altitude is then determined by leveling the telescope and reading the apparent elevation from the graduated scale, which is now turned round. By a second inclined level, higher mountains may be measured. It will probably equal in accuracy a large theodolite, with the advantage that it does not involve a finely graduated circle or delicate mounting, it is therefore inexpensive, light and easily used. It could be carried by any traveler, and would give the hight of a mountain much more accurately than a barometer. Further, a whole range of mountains might be measured in a few hours by this instrument, while with the barometer a single ascent often occupies several days.

BUCKLAND'S CEMENT.

THE following recipe is that used by Dr. Buckland, the famous geologist, and was employed by him in preparing a cement for uniting parts of broken fossils and for attaching specimens to blocks and trays. The ingredients are to be found in every village, and the cement is excellent, as we know by experience, having used it for years. The credit of devising it has recently been attributed to several different persons. The recipe is as follows:—Take 4 parts gum arabic, 3 parts starch and one part sugar. Reduce to a fine powder and mix well. The powder should be kept in a well-corked bottle, and when required for use mix a little of the powder with water to every ounce of which ten drops of glycerine have been added.

SUPERIOR CEMENT FOR FINE GLASS.—For mending valuable glass objects which would be disfigured by common cement, chrome cement may be used. This is a mixture of 5 parts gelatin to 1 of a solution of acid chromate of lime. The broken edges are covered with this, pressed together and exposed to sunlight, the effect of the latter being to render the compound insoluble even in boiling water.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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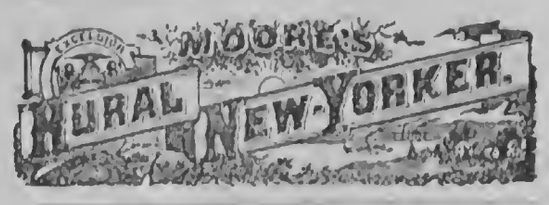


SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1876.

A GLANCE AT WHEAT.

The long reign of cotton as king of field products is yearly diminishing in brilliancy and the time seems fast approaching when wheat will wield the commercial scepter of American agriculture. There is at this day no production of the land that contains such elements of trade-vitality as the single item of wheat. It has survived the most severe financial depressions in this country and Europe and has steadily encouraged the farmer to enlarge the yield. The capitalist here and abroad is ever ready to give a solid indorsement to its value by the most liberal investments. It is of course subject to phases of inactivity and the consequent fluctuation in price, but the inevitable demand which is bound to follow consumption in any indispensable food-item, always safely adjusts this special one; a fact that is rapidly establishing a feeling of unwavering confidence among all operators in breadstuffs.

Knowing the many resources that are naturally developing the greatness of this country, it is glorious to contemplate that we are destined to become the chief custodian of "the staff of life," that the enterprising producers will thereby be the recipient of worthy remuneration. It is certainly a gratifying fact when we see the United States in only their Centennial year looming up in competition for European supplies against the historical prominence of old Egypt and the Black Sea.

For present practical purposes one point has been very strongly brought out by the previous course of the wheat market, which is that wheat is not a commodity that need be hastily parted with. "As good as gold" and "as good as wheat," are terms becoming synonymously significant. In evidence of increased cultivation, it is estimated that two and a half millions of acres of wheat are maturing for harvest in California, with a product of nearly 50,000,000 bushels expected. In the last California crop 30,248,500 bushels were harvested. Advices from other home wheat growing districts indicate both thrifty condition and promise of abundance. In the Old World the weather for the coming crop has not been generally propitious and it is conceded by the trade that a material deficiency will have to be supplied from our storing and crop. The gleam of possible national conflict in the East already lends some brightness to speculative feeling here and has had a trifling influence in the recent upward turn of quotations. Outside of such bearings, however, the situation of wheat is regarded as perfectly secure and nothing at present portends that an owners' year will be interrupted. Foreign buyers are thus early showing their confidence. The sales of the past six days—and we are just opening the period of free receipts—have largely exceeded the deliveries, amounting to about 1,500,000 bushels, chiefly for export.

This is important, inasmuch as the vigorous movement has been free from restrictive haggling. Sellers have been seldom required to press samples upon purchasers and our advanced quotations—printed elsewhere—have ruled with satisfactory steadiness. Fine quality has had much to do in quickening transactions. We are glad to see that farmers are becoming progressively alive to the fact that choice quality is the strong lever in starting an active movement in field, dairy or orchard produce; and whether prices are low or high, excellence of stock invariably furnishes easy momentum when a preponderance of low class would drag heavily.

In this connection, special attention to white wheat is being given by some of our enterprising farmers. The tendency of white to run into amber shades by repetition in same locality, has prompted the distribution of seed in various sections of the country, with the aim to obtain a reliable crop of this reliable and always best priced cereal.

THE LABORER AND HIS HIRE.

It is an old saying, that "It takes two to make a bargain." And while the truth of this is universally acknowledged in theory, how often in practice is the attempt made to abrogate it and have the bargain conform to the wishes of one—and nowhere is this more noticeable than on a farm. When a laborer engages to serve a farmer for a certain sum per day or a month, he contracts in effect if not in words, to give for the sum agreed upon his best and entire services. He makes a complete sale of his faculties and powers of mind and body so far as they can be employed in the business for which he is engaged to work. If a man is a machinist by trade, while he would not be expected, if hired as a farm laborer, to go to work in a shop as a mechanic, it would be his duty to use his knowledge and skill as a machinist so far as he could in keeping in repair the tools and machines of the farm—plows, harrows, rakes, reapers, mowers and steam engines, if such there were. If it is claimed that one capable of doing this is entitled to higher pay than an ordinary farm hand who can at best plow and hoe and drive the team afield, we assent; but assert that the claim should be advanced when the contract is made. Every one has a right to his own labor, to use it for himself and receive directly the avails of it, or to sell it to another for such a sum as is agreed upon; but when the contract is made and the labor is sold, he has no more right to withhold anything he can do than he would have to withhold any portion of a hundred bushels of wheat or a thousand pounds of cheese that he had agreed to deliver for a certain sum of money. Neither should the laborer think to quiet his conscience with the thought that he can do a fair day's work without giving his best efforts; nor that if he hoes his row as well and as quickly as his companions in the field, no more should be expected of him. What he is to do or not do is not to be measured by the doings of another, unless it be so stipulated in the bond. If his bargain is that for two dollars a day he will work as many hours at the same kind of labor as TOM, DICK or HARRY and will perform as much and as well as they do, it will be his business to see that he does just that and his employer will have neither reason nor right to ask or expect more. If you sell a day's labo and perform in the day only what you could without extra exertion do in half a day, you have stolen the value of half a day's labor from your employer just as truly as if you had taken the same value in money from his purse.

The other party to the bargain—the employer—has his duties beside the mere paying of the sum agreed. He is in duty bound to see that the labor he requires shall be performed with as much ease and as little waste of physical force as possible; and to this end the tools and implements he furnishes should be of the best quality and most improved patterns and he will find his interest promoted by having thought for the comfort of all in his employ. But the bargain made between the employed and the employer concerns them and them only. It is well, perhaps, that none other should know what it is lest there be petty jealousies aroused, as in the parable of the laborer in the vineyard, where those who had borne the burden and heat of the day complained that others who had worked less time received the same pay, seeming to forget that they had contracted for a certain sum. Very just was the reply:—"Friend, I do thee no wrong; didst thou not agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is and go thy way. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?" These grumblers were of the class that will have but one party to a bargain and that party themselves. The family is a large one and some of its representatives are to be found in almost every neighborhood.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Centennial Rhododendron Show.—The rose-tree or Rhododendron show at the Centennial Exhibition is a very fine one just now, and it is a pity that it will be over so soon. Mr. ANTHONY WATERER of Knapp Hill, Surrey, England, exhibits some 1,200 finely-grown plants from his nurseries and they attract much attention from visitors. They are shown under a large tent erected for the purpose of exhibiting such plants, and are a credit to the exhibitor, inasmuch as they had to be brought over in boxes, and after their long voyage have bloomed as freely as though growing in their native soil at home. There is an extensive variety and of several species, the flowers of all shades of colors from a pure white to a dark rich crimson. Mr. W. deserves, not only much credit for his enterprise, but the thanks of all visitors to the Centennial grounds. Mr. PARSONS of Flushing, N. Y., also makes a fine exhibition of these plants and in great variety, which are planted out in groups where the diversified colors of the many varieties add much the beauty of the grounds.

Knights Templar.—The troubles of the Crescent, are in marked contrast to the prosperity of the Cross. The Masonic fraternity have reason to feel proud of their Grand Centennial Reunion, held in Philadelphia, June 1st, to fittingly celebrate the one hundredth year of our country's independence. Sir Knights from all quarters appeared in brilliant uniforms. The number assembled can best be appreciated when we state that the procession was one and a-half hours passing a given point. To mention the names of the chief participants, would be to call the roll of honor of the most distinguished men in the Order. The exercises were concluded at the Academy of Music, by the installation of the Grand officers of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, with the most imposing ceremonies. Fair women lent the charm of their presence to this assemblage of brave men.

Profit in Farming.—There is but one way to make farming profitable and that is to find out how to produce an article for less than the price it commands in the market. While every farmer will admit the truth of the above proposition, not one in ten keeps any record of expenses in order to ascertain exactly what it costs to produce a bushel of corn or other grain or a pound of meat. When as accurate and thorough systems of bookkeeping are practiced among agriculturists as in mercantile pursuits, we shall have a better basis to make estimates of the comparative profits between the two in proportion to the amount of capital and labor expended.

Points of the Compass in Arboriculture.—The Builder revives the old and we had hoped obsolete but absurd claim, that in transplanting trees it was necessary to place the sides in exactly the same position as regards the points of the compass, and recommends that persons who transplant trees should mark the north sides of each before taking up and replace it in its natural position. "A large proportion will then live as, by ignoring this, transplanted trees generally perish." We confess to be somewhat at a loss to determine which of the two assertions made in the above note, are the most surprising, or display the greatest ignorance, the one attributing any influence to the preserving of the natural position, or that the millions of trees annually removed by our nurserymen, who pay no attention to points of compass, "generally perish."

Carbolic Acid Paper.—According to the Engineer, the carbolic paper which is now used in such quantities for packing fresh meats, &c., for the purpose of preserving them against deterioration by atmospheric or other influences, is made by melting five parts of stearine by gentle heat, and then stirring in thoroughly two parts of carbolic acid, after which five parts of paraffine in a melted form are added. The mass thus prepared, is then to be well stirred together, until it cools, after which it is applied with a brush to the paper.

RURAL BREVITIES.

IT is estimated that fully 200,000 head of Texas cattle will be pastured in Kansas this summer.

COULD a better name be invented for a boot and shoe firm than the one advertised in one of our London Exchanges, WAUKENPHAST & Co.?

TEXAS has two and a half millions of sheep and only one mill to work up their wool. Home manufactories need encouraging in the Lone Star State.

NEW varieties of potatoes are still in order, but one with leaves which would resist the attacks of the potato beetle would just now be extremely valuable.

AT a recent sale of horses at Louisville, Ky., 22 head brought $9,240, or an average of $420 each, which cannot be considered as indicating very hard times among horsemen.

TURFMEN are talking of a "coming trotter," named Billy Long, a four-year-old, who has done some fine stepping, besides having a noted parentage to back him.

AMONG the stated displays at the Centennial are Strawberries June 7-15th. Early Grass Butter and Cheese, June 13-17 and Mowing Machines, Tedders and Hay Rakes to commence June 15 and continue ten days.

IT is proposed to raise an inter-State fund by the Granges of Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey of not less than $50,000, for the purpose of establishing a wholesale Grange depot.

THE larva of the Asparagus Beetle is a small, blackish, slug-like worm, and is readily destroyed by dusting with freshly-slaked lime. We say this after a ten-years' experience with the pest.

STRAWBERRY culturists should not forget the show of this favorite fruit at the Centennial from June 7 to June 15, for it will be a long time before another such opportunity occurs to compete for such honors on a like occasion.

MICHIGANDERS are in high glee over the honors received at the Centennial on their apples; but as there were no competitors, we fail to see where the "glory" comes in. Still, the few varieties exhibited were a credit to the State and her pomologists.

IT has been frequently stated that the farming lands of the New England States were decreasing in value; but the census returns assert the contrary, showing that even in much-slandered New Hampshire the valuation of such lands has increased thirty million dollars in the past twenty-five years.

OUR poultrymen having tried the virtues of red pepper to make hens smart at laying, are now turning their attention to nettling them for the same purpose. The idea of feeding the leaves and seeds of nettles to fowls is said to have originated in Denmark; the climate being cool, stimulating becomes necessary to provoke productiveness.

IT is generally supposed that China and Japan were so thickly settled, it was difficult to procure food enough from the land and sea belonging to those countries to support their inhabitants; but now we are informed that not long since there arrived in San Francisco a full cargo of Japan rice, containing some 1,250,000 pounds. This does not show very well for rice culture in America, but does speak well for the industry of the Japs.

LINNEUS said in his time that the cow eats 276 plants and refuses 218; the goat eats 449 and declines 126; the sheep takes 387 and rejects 141; the horse likes 262 and avoids 212; but the hog, more nice in its provision than any of the former, eats but 72 plants and rejects 171. But since his day the number of species of plants discovered would more than double each of the above, both as to the likes and dislikes of the animals named.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

ECKSTEIN, HILLS & CO.'S "Phœnix Pure White Lead" is the whitest, finest; has the best body and most covering capacity of any lead in market.

THE SPARROW'S NEST.

BY F. H. W.

Have you seen a sparrow's nest
Hidden in the grass away,
Lined with feathers from her breast?
Such a nest I found to-day.

It is down among the moss
Where the tallest grasses grow,
And the clover leans across
For a little roof, you know.

When the sparrow flew away,
In the soft and downy nest
Four blue eggs I saw to-day,
Speckled as the sparrow's breast.

Low and sweet the mother sings
As she guards her treasures well,
Of the little unfledged wings
Folded in each speckled shell.

In each tiny shell to-day
Songs are hidden, like the tree
That the acorn hides away
In its folded mystery.

We shall hear these songs in May,
When we see the glancing wings
That are folded close to-day
In these little, prisoning things.

The Story-Teller.

THE CUT FINGER.

Henry was an orphan boy. His father was a fisherman, who was lost one stormy night at sea. He then went to live with his grandmother in her old-fashioned cottage. As the son of a fisherman, he always took a delight in real boats; but there were none to be seen in any direction of the village where he had come to live, so he resolved to make some. With a bit of wood and a knife he sat down, and soon had carved and rigged an entire fleet, one of which was duly launched on a bowl of water. But, alas! before the ship-building operations were complete, the knife slipped, and Harry's finger was severely cut. Like other little boys in trouble he ran to his mother, with cheeks pale from fright, though making very manly struggles to keep in the tears. A few kisses and a little soothing sympathy were very useful, and then the cut finger was shown to the house surgeon, who was no other than grandmother herself. She pronounced it very bad indeed, and prescribed the dockyards should be closed for the present, and boat-building suspended, in order that the wounded hand might get a rest and its owner a sleep if possible. But Harry did not want to go to sleep; he wanted a story, which he declared would be a great comfort to him. So when the cut finger was properly closed and bound up, the little boy lay quietly in grandmother's arms, telling his mother that he was a sick sailor in hospital, going to listen to a long story. By this gentle hint the grandmother was reminded of his wishes, and, after a lengthened pause, she began:

"Harry, I cannot tell you a story about boats, but I can tell you a little one about sheep and lambs. There was once a very good man who had a great many sheep and lambs; he was very fond of them, and showed by his kindness how much he loved them. Every morning this shepherd led his flock into a beautiful green field, where the grass was very soft and pleasant. On three sides of this field there was a thick hedge, and on the fourth a lovely clear stream ran. The only entrance was a very little gate in one side of the hedge. The shepherd did not wish any of his flock to go through the thorny hedge, knowing that the lambs especially were delicate, and that their soft wool would be torn by the briars. One day, however, when the sun was shining very brightly, a little motherless lamb began to complain in a most disconsolate manner; he was much too warm, and thought that he would try if there was any nice cool spot where he might rest at the other side of the hedge. So, preferring his own way, the foolish little lamb pushed through the bushes, the sharp thorns of which tore his white wool and hurt him greatly. He wandered on, still expecting to find the shade he had wished for, until he was suddenly stopped by his leg being caught in a snare set by some cruel boy to catch weasels.

"Now he began to be very sorry that he had disobeyed his kind shepherd: he cried and moaned, and every moment he was becoming weaker and weaker from pain. The good shepherd heard the cries, and pitied his poor little wandering lamb. He said, 'I love that lamb still: I will go and bring him *home* again.' The kind, forgiving shepherd went to the same spot in the hedge through which the little lamb had passed, and pushed his way through the thorns. The thorns tore his hands and feet, and some even pierced his forehead, and the blood streamed down his face. However, he went on because he wanted to save his little lamb. When he came to the place where the lamb was, he saw it could not stand, for its leg was broken. He therefore took it up in his arms, and, pressing it to his heart, seemed to say, 'I forgive you all.' Then the gentle shepherd set the broken leg, and put a soft ointment on the wounds of the lamb, and said, 'You will soon be well again.' The little lamb now loved his shepherd even more than before he had left the green field; and it gave him deeper grief to see the blood streaming down the shepherd's face than to bear the pain of his own wounds. The shepherd quite forgave him, and then he placed the happy lamb on his shoulder, and took him into the green field again; not through the thorny hedge, but through the beautiful little gate, and then the gate was closed that they might go out no more."

"Harry, do you know who I mean by the good Shepherd?"

"The Lord Jesus, I am sure, grandmother."

"And can you tell me any more about this good Shepherd, Harry?"

"Father used to talk to me a great deal about him, and how He once walked on the water by night and stilled a storm. Oh! if He had only come again that night to dear, dear father; but perhaps He did. . . . And father told me about the fishes that were caught, ever so many, without breaking the net; and another time about the wandering sheep. I used to say a long hymn: may I repeat a little bit for you, grandmother?"

"I shall be very glad to hear it, Harry."

So, sitting up in her lap, he began in a low, steady voice:

"Jesus my Shepherd is,
'Twas He that loved my soul;
'Twas He that washed me in His blood,
'Twas He that made me whole;
'Twas He that sought the lost,
That found the wandering sheep;
'Twas He that brought me to the fold,
'Tis He that still doth keep.

"I was a wandering sheep,
I would not be controlled,
But now I love my Shepherd's voice,
I love, I love the fold!
I was a wayward child,
I once preferred to roam,
But now I love my Father's voice—
I love, I love His home!"

"And how may we show our love to the Saviour, Harry?"

"Father used to say, by trying to obey what He tells us in the Bible."

"Just so, Harry; and if we love and obey the good Shepherd, He will guide us while we are on earth, and when we die He will take us to be with him forever in heaven, where all is lovely, and glorious, and bright; and we shall be perfectly happy there, for God will wipe away all tears from our eyes."

Little Harry now got a good-night kiss, and was carried off by his mother to the white-curtained cot in the next room, where he was soon dreaming grandmother's story over again with numerous variations, and quite forgetting the cut finger.

THE CUT FINGER; OR, A GOOD GRANDMOTHER'S STORY.

THAT AWFUL SMITH.

[Concluded from page 365, last No.]

CHAPTER V.

That night, some twenty minutes past eight, my cab charged furiously down Bond Street.

I was bound for the Grand Central Depot, *en route* to the Springs in the track of Mrs. Oswestry and Helen Wybrowe. A man in a traveling suit, with a peaked cap pulled over his eyes, took a ticket after me, and followed me on to the platform, half a dozen yards behind.

I heard him hurrying after me, and, on turning, saw that we occupied the same car and—alone!

I had dropped into one corner; my companion rolled himself into the opposite one. I lit a cigar; so did he. It was some time before I looked at him again. I was thinking what Helen's sudden departure boded me; whether I was sure of winning her, after all; and, deep in speculation of this sort, I had no eyes or thoughts for anything else.

Besides, that shapeless traveling robe, and that peaked cap that kept his face in an impenetrable shadow, would have puzzled me, even if I had had a suspicion as to who the man in the opposite corner was. And in the preparations for my sudden departure I had forgotten all about him.

So that it was not till he tore off his cap and flung aside his wrapper that I knew that Alvarez Smith and I were alone together in the car; and that he was glaring at me with all the furbons hate he felt for me in his evil eyes.

I looked at him tranquilly enough, I think; but I couldn't help feeling that the meeting was by no means an agreeable one; and that Alvarez Smith was probably as mad as any lunatic of Bloomingdale.

However, I am not easily put out, and, as I say, returned his glare with a tranquil stare, and went on smoking.

Whether he had expected his melodrama to produce more effect, and was disappointed; whether my calmness irritated him afresh, I don't know. Certain it is that he rose and came towards me with an oath.

It struck me forcibly that he was dangerous; and I gradually slipped my hand into the inner breast-pocket of my traveling-jacket, and unfastened the loop which kept a useful little revolver steady there.

There seemed likely to be a necessity, disagreeable but imperative, for shooting this man before long. And it so happened that I felt in no humor to run any risk by the exercise of an unwise forbearance towards a mad brute like this, if it came to a fight.

It appeared, though, that he had something to say before he began; for he seated himself again exactly opposite to me, and muttered hoarsely:

"So we are alone at last; you and I."

"So it seems," I returned. I saw that, if he meant to have a row, he didn't feel quite up to the mark yet, and wanted to *talk* himself into the necessary fury; so I thought I might venture to light another cigar.

He actually gnashed his yellow teeth at me. He looked so unutterably hideous, and at the same time so intensely ludicrous while he was doing it, that I laughed.

"Take care!" he screamed, shivering with wrath. "You laugh now, let him laugh that wins! *Caramba!* you have not won yet."

"No?" I inquired, insolently.

"No! curse you! you never shall."

"Bah! who says so, my good man?"

"I! I have sworn it!"

"*You?*" I sneered, rather enjoying his fury and with no mind to spare him any stab I could give him. "You? You are madder than I thought you were."

"You shall never have her! *Madre de Dios!* never!"

"You're wrong. I *shall*."

He smiled in a ghastly fashion with his white, dry lips.

"No," he said; and if his tone was calmer it was twice as *dangerous* and threatening now. "No; I shall keep my oath—be sure of that. Listen!" he went on, after a pause, and with that same forced calmness; "from the day I saw her first and each day more and more, I have loved her—this woman, who——"

"Who, from that same day, and each day more and more, has loathed and hated you," I struck in. "Well?"

I could see his yellow face turn the ashen hue of a dead man's, as that cruel taunt of mine hit home.

He covered his face with his hands, and uttered a faint, dull moan, as though he had, in very deed, got his death-hurt.

Yes; and through those quivering fingers of his, tears, that must have been wrung from him like drops of blood in his agony, forced themselves slowly, one by one. He sat there, rocking himself to and fro, saying no word for a while, but making that low moan more than once.

Thinking this matter over since, I have learnt to pity this man. Thinking of my darling's worn face and the hunted look he had brought there so often, I was pitiless enough then.

I smoked on, watching him. Presently he spoke again, as though he had only just heard those last words of mine.

"Yes; she hates me—hates me, who would fling down my life—lose my salvation for her!"

"I've no doubt. Unfortunately, neither sacrifice happens to be required. Have you anything else to observe?"

"She hates me," he went on, as though he were talking to himself and unheeding what I said. "I could bear that, though it kills me. But to know another man call her his—to know she loves this man! ah, no!"

I was beginning to get rather tired of the thing by this time, so I said:—"Don't you think we've had about enough of this? Quite, it seems to me. You've thrust yourself into a matter with which you have no earthly concern and, as you were rather amusing, I listened to you; now, you bore me; let us drop the subject."

"Not yet," he said, with a strange sort of smile; "you and I have something more to say to each other. Listen!"—for I was going to interrupt him—"you will give me your word of honor never to see Helen Wybrowe again. It will be better, believe me."

"Hang your insolence!" I said, fairly angry at this; "what do you mean?"

"Remember, you can never marry. I have sworn it."

"Bah! You mean you can beggar her? Try it."

"I mean," he said, more calmly than he had spoken yet, "I mean that sooner than you should marry Helen Wybrowe I would kill you."

"Try that, too, if you like."

"But you will promise me what I ask? You must. See; we are alone, you and I. You are in my power; nothing can save you if——"

He paused here, leaning forward toward me with his elbows resting on his knees and his evil eyes looking into mine. I smiled when he said nothing could save me from him; for I had considerable faith in the miniature six-shooter my right hand was closing on while he spoke.

"I know you would follow her," he went on. "I saw you at the station; I was behind you when you took your ticket, and I got in here after you, knowing that the hour I had longed for had come at last—when you should swear to me never to see her face again, or when I should have your life."

He ground the last three words out between his teeth with ferocious emphasis. The crisis was evidently approaching—the madman could hardly contain himself much longer. In another minute he might be at my throat and then, disagreeable as it would be, I should inevitably have to shoot him. Alvarez Smith was by no means the sort of person to stand on much ceremony with when the instincts he inherited from that Spanish creole or a mother of his were in the ascendant; and it was his life or mine, I began to think. I drew the revolver quietly out of my pocket and covered him from my knee in anticipation of his rush.

"Now," he hissed, "will you promise what I ask?"

"I'll see you in Gehenna first!"

"You will not?"

"Confound you, no! But I'll promise you this," I added, as I saw him crouching like a jaguar for his spring at my throat, "that, madman or no madman, if you lay a finger on me I'll shoot you in your tracks without further warning."

Raising my right hand quickly I covered him fairly, now. My amiable companion dropped back into his seat with a hideous Spanish blasphemy; most unexpectedly baffled and beaten.

"That's right," I said, considerably relieved to find he was not *so* mad as to have lost all fear for himself and put me under the painful necessity of slaying him; "of course you didn't expect me to be so well able to take care of myself and I suppose you've only a knife. I don't much think you'll kill me to-night."

"Oh," he snarled, "I shall kill you yet!"

"I differ with you there. My own impression is that you'll be in Bloomingdale before long. Meanwhile, let me advise you not to try this again. If you do, remember, I've warned you."

He flung a curse at me and, turning away, rolled himself up in his cloak and never moved again till the train ran into the station. Then he rose suddenly, opened the door, sprang on to the platform and disappeared.

CHAPTER VI.

"And so you ran away from me, Helen?"

It was some three or four hours after my arrival in Saratoga. I had carried the garrison by the suddenness and vigor of my assault, insomuch

that after a brief, hopeless struggle, it surrendered at discretion. My darling had spoken the words that bound her life to mine for ever. Under the summer stars, in the hush of the summer night, she and I were sitting on the balcony, I at her feet, as I loved best to sit and watch the great violet eyes turn slowly on me—at her feet, with her hand in mine again.

"And so you ran away from me, Helen?"

"What else could I do? I was so weak with you, Frank; so weak against my love. And for your sake, I felt it ought not to be. So I ran away. It was terrible work to get Amy to start that night, though! She was horribly cruel to me; she fought for you. How I loved her when she did! But I would go; and so we went."

"And then you thought you were safe?"

"Safer. Away from you, I was strong."

"And did you think you would be out of my reach long?"

She gave me a smile, delicious as a caress. Then she said:

"I thought you would come but not so soon. Not till I should have had time to harden my heart. I knew I was doing right, Frank. But I thought, too, that I might never see you again. And then —"

Her face told me the rest.

"What had you to do with right or wrong if you loved me? You were mine. How could you ever think I should let you go? Let you go, who have given me new faith, new hope, new life—made life precious to me, now—how could I? Helen, my Helen, nothing can take you from me now. You cannot take yourself from me."

From my arms where she had nestled, on a sudden she started.

"There!" she whispered, "there! Did you not see him?"

On her face, yet wet with happy tears, had come the hunted look once more; in her voice was the old fear, though my arms and my love were about her. I knew what had done this; the sight of a man for whom I was beginning to feel something of the hate that kills.

"Did you not see him?" she whispered again, shuddering even in my clasp.

"Whom?"

I knew what she would say before she said it.

"No," I answered, "I saw no one. Are you sure you recognized him?"

"Sure?" she repeated, "I saw him plainly. He stood full in the moonlight against the background of the trees. And he lifted his hand as though it held a knife. It was a threat. Frank, that man would kill you."

"Bah!"

"You don't know him."

It struck me rather forcibly that I did.

"I tell you he would kill you."

"Well, I dare say he would, if I let him. But life has grown too dear to me this last hour or two for me to let a madman rob me of it very easily. I shall take care of myself. Besides, I fancy you must be mistaken."

"Impossible, I tell you."

"I saw no one, you know. And if Alvarez Smith wants to do me a mischief, why on earth should he turn out and do melodrama in the moonlight—threaten with imaginary daggers and that sort of thing—to put me on my guard?"

"I saw him standing there," and she pointed again, straight before her.

"And how was he dressed?"

"In a sort of cloak, it seemed. I saw him throw it back when he lifted his arm."

"And then he disappeared—where?"

"Into the shadow of the trees."

That was perfectly possible. A couple of strides would take any one out of sight who had stood even in the center of the broad pathway.

If Helen had really seen Alvarez Smith, he might be hidden in that shadow even now, watching us. My blood began to stir at this.

"Some perfectly inoffensive party, I should think," I said, taking a pinch of snuff or something of that sort. However, we'll see about Alvarez Smith in the morning. Mrs. Oswestry has woke up at last; we must come in, I suppose. Don't say anything to her about this notion of yours, mind."

"Oh, Frank!" she murmured, "take care. It *was* he I saw. And he hates you."

"My darling, don't you think I shall take care for your sake, now? There! be quiet, and don't let idle fancies disturb your rest." A piece of advice which I fancy Mrs. Wybrowe hardly followed as she ought to have done.

Whether it was Alvarez Smith whom she had seen or not, and what that individual's presence in Saratoga meant, I did not waste much time, as I sat smoking far into the dawn of the coming day, in considering. After my own experience of him I felt that he was not altogether unlikely to keep his word and put a knife into me in the dark if he got the chance; but it was just that chance I did not mean him to get. I made up my mind to have five minutes' conversation with the Chief of Police next morning and then fell a-thinking of more pressing matters than Alvarez Smith—of the woman I had won and the future that was before us both; of Aunt Medusa sleeping peacefully in her catafalque at Boodle Park and dreaming of my marriage with Bella, and of how Aunt Medusa might take *this* match, of my own entanglements of all sorts and how they were to be got out of.

And satisfying myself over my last pipe that things would probably go pretty straight, I went to bed about the time the sun had risen and dreamed of Helen till Ward, who had followed me with the heavy baggage, came in just as he was wont to do in Bond street with my coffee.

I had my five minutes' conversation with the Chief before I went to breakfast. No one answering to my description of Alvarez Smith was known to have arrived at the Springs; but inquiries should be set on foot and the individual in question kept under proper surveillance, the urbane official assured me.

I greatly, though not altogether, relieved Helen's anxiety on my account by a report of my interview. She was still positive that the man she had seen in the moonlight was Alvarez Smith. Two or three days passed by however and the man in the cloak who flourished imaginary daggers was neither seen nor heard of further by us. The detective had nothing to tell me about any such person and Mrs. Wybrowe would at times half admit that she might have been mistaken after all. And then she and I had so much else to think of that she soon learned to banish her misgivings almost entirely.

It seemed, though, she had reason for them. I had been just a week in the place when the *denouement* of this story came about.

We had gone to the lake and strolled away out of sight of the boatmen, along the bank, down to which extended the low scrub and brushwood of the forest.

We had sat down on a sort of little crag which overhung the water and from which Helen had discovered a view which she was doing her best to sketch under an organized series of interruptions from me. Lying there at her feet, watching her eyes and drinking in her voice, thinking of that new life she had given me and that was precious to me for her sake, I was terribly near my death.

There was hardly a breath of air astir and yet, all at once, my hat, that was tilted over my eyes to keep off the sun-glare, rolled away lazily across the turf, flipped so neatly and lightly that I hardly felt it, off my head.

A sharp crack and a little puff of white smoke rising above a clump of brushwood, explained this phenomenon.

I saw at once what this meant. I was on my feet and half way across to the cover which sheltered my would-be assassin in a couple of bounds. Another bullet whizzed by my ear and then I had sprung into the thicket struck, by one lucky blow, a smoking revolver from the shaking hands and flown at the throat of—Alvarez Smith.

It was as well I had lost no time; he got no chance of using his knife.

I heard Helen scream and then saw her fall lifeless on the turf where we had been sitting and then I was wrestling for dear life with a madman. He had no science but he held me like a fiend. I cut him off his legs again and again; but he clung so desperately to me that I couldn't drop him. Each fresh struggle brought us nearer and nearer the edge of the little crag. I guessed what he wanted to do and put all my remaining strength into one fierce, desperate effort to fling him.

This time he went down; but my foot had slipped on the dry short turf and he managed to pull me down upon him.

I felt his arms close round me in a grip of steel as he twisted and writhed towards the edge; I heard his yell of diabolical triumph in my ears; knew that we must roll over; felt the earth slip away from me; felt a shock that seemed to stun me—and then, locked in each other's arms, the water closed over us like a thick darkness.

He must have struck against something in the fall and have been dead or stunned when he reached the water.

In a second I had wrenched myself free from that deadly grip, had risen to the surface and was striking out for the bank. Ten minutes more and I was kneeling beside Helen.

The body of Alvarez Smith was picked up next day. He had disguised himself so well while waiting his opportunity to settle matters with me as to have eluded detection by the police; but I was able to swear unhesitatingly to his identity and did, with some pardonable satisfaction.

He is believed to have left no one to exact the forfeit from Helen Wybrowe when she marries me.

"I'LL TAKE THE SHORTEST, PAPA."

BY MRS. M. S. STONE.

ONE day a gentleman entered a store, accompanied by his two little daughters.

"Buy us each a lead pencil, papa," said ADDA.

"Yes, do, papa," said MAY, entreatingly.

He studied a moment and then said, "I'll get one and divide it between you." Which he did, but contrary to his intentions one piece was longer than the other. Laying the two pieces together, he said, "One piece is smaller than the other, daughters. What shall I do?

I expected to see the pink lips pout, but instead the clear voice of little MAY, the younger of the two, rang cheerily, "*I'll take the shortest, papa.*"

The tears glistened in more than one eye for a moment, and many times since have her unselfish words echoed in my ears.

Afterward a lady came in with a little daughter. "Buy me something, mamma," said the little girl.

The frugal mother bought two figs. "One is for you," she said, "and the other is for MARY."

I knew that poor MARY'S lot in life was a sad one. All winter she had been helpless with inflammatory rheumatism, and when spring came we feared quick consumption was on her track.

The little girl eyed the figs, and as she went out filled her mouth full with one—fuller than it ought to have been.

"Why, you have taken the biggest," said the mother.

"There is hardly a bite in the other," said the girl.

"But MARY is sick," replied the mother. Yet the selfish little girl was not sorry at all.

My thoughts went back to little MAY: "I'll take the shortest, papa."

SOME characters are like some bodies in chemistry—very good, perhaps, in themselves, yet fly off and refuse the least conjunction with each other. —*Lord Greville.*

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Reading and Elocution, Theoretical and Practical. By ANNA T. RANDALL. [Cloth.—pp. 450.] New York and Chicago: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co.

Choice Readings. By A. T. RANDALL. [Cloth.—pp. 405.] Phila.: Remsen, Claxton & Haffelfinger.

MRS. RANDALL-DIEHL has had the rare fortune to induce two large publishing houses to produce a brace of books that are in all material respects identical. It is one of the curiosities of literature and a slur on the profession of elocution that a lady so crude in her ideas should be in a position to influence the youth of the country. Her exposition of the science is about as useful to young people as a dissertation on the differential calculus; and the so-called "principles" of no value whatever in forming a correct method. For instance, the writer propounds the wonderful dictum that "quality is the kind or tone of voice used in expressing sentiment," when tone is as different and distinct from quality as hyperion to a satyr. It would be an idle task to point out various blunders of a like character. The selections are mostly old and many entirely inappropriate for elocutionary purposes. In New York the book has no standing of any professional importance, and its ability to keep before the public is only another exemplification of the poetic brook, of which it is said:

"Men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever."

The mechanical execution of the books is worthy the reputation of the houses that issue them.

Ishmael; Or, Out of the Depths. By Mrs. E. D. E. N. SOUTHWORTH. [Cloth.—pp. 718.] Phila.: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

Self-Raised; A Sequel to Ishmael. By Mrs. E. D. E. N. SOUTHWORTH. [Cloth.—pp. 658.] Phila.: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

Washington and His Men. By GEORGE LIPPARD. [Paper.—pp. 188.] Phila.: T. B. Peterson & Brothers. Price, 75 cents.

MRS. SOUTHWORTH has given in the two books above a story that will prove to those who admire her writings, of great interest. We cannot truthfully say that her work is of a character to transport us to the happy realm indicated by her initials; but her publishers have ample proof that a large majority of the reading community are on an intellectual plane that enables them to thoroughly enjoy mediocre writing. May they rise above it!

MR. LIPPARD has given us historical incidents in a most attractive form, and "Washington and His Men" should be extensively read by those who do not feel equal to reading in more ambitious works a less fascinating account of heroic actions. The price at which the book is issued makes it a marvel of cheapness.

Second Appendix to Second Revised Edition, Downing's Fruit and Fruit Trees of America. [pp. 18.] New York: John Wiley & Son.

THERE are few men who possess both the ability and inclination to work as faithfully for the science of pomology as CHARLES DOWNING, the veteran pomologist of Newburgh, N. Y. He has not only revised and greatly enlarged the work left by his lamented brother, A. J. DOWNING, but continues to place our pomologists under lasting obligations by publishing these supplemental lists of new fruits, and additional information in regard to many of the old. The Second Appendix contains the descriptions of nearly one hundred varieties of new or little-known sorts, with additional synonyms to many. The list of new peaches, pears and plums is also quite extensive; all of which must be of great value to our pomologists generally.

The Scientific Monthly Magazine. Devoted to the Natural Sciences. Edited and published by E. H. FITCH, Toledo, Ohio.

No. VIII. of this new and interesting monthly is fully equal if not superior to previous issues, and well worthy of careful perusal by all students of natural history. We bespeak for it a successful career, as there is a great lack of knowledge among the masses of the very subjects treated in this new claimant for public favor. Let it be widely circulated and carefully studied, thereby filling its true mission as an educator.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM JAMES MILLER, New York:

Working People and their Employers. By Washington Gladden. [Cloth.—pp. 241.] Boston: Lockwood, Brooks & Co. Price $1.75.

C. V. RILEY, St. Louis, Mo.:

Eighth Annual Report on the Noxious, Beneficial and other Insects of the State of Missouri. By Chas. V. Riley, State Entomologist. [Paper.—pp. 190.]

HENRY T. WILLIAMS, New York:

The Pacific Tourist. By H. T. Williams. Illustrated. [Paper.—pp. 293.]

NATIONAL PUBLISHING CO., Philadelphia:

The Centennial History of the United States. By Jas. D. McCabe. With 442 Illustrations. [Boards.—pp. 925.]

NEW MUSIC FROM F. W. HELMICK, Cincinnati, O.: Mineral Springs Polka, by G. Dolfuss; Centennial March, by J. Wymond; price 25 cts.

Sabbath Reading.

"IT IS I."

MATTHEW 14: 27.

THE lone and toiling voyagers
Whose bark was on the sea,
When night hung dark above the wave
Of stormy Galilee,
In terror gazed on what they then
But dimly could descry,
Until they heard those cheering words:
"Fear not, for it is I."

The dearest, truest Friend on earth,
In that dark hour of gloom,
Seemed some pale phantom come to tell
A dire and dreadful doom;
And then from each affrighted lip
There burst the trembling cry,
That naught could still but those sweet words:
"Fear not, for it is I."

'Tis often thus with voyagers
Across life's stormy main,
Who strive to stem its rushing tide,
Yet seem to strive in vain;
The waves are white with spectral fears,
And darkly frowns the sky,
Till some sweet voice speaks softly out:
"Fear not, for it is I."

Oh, ever thus, my sister dear,
When life seems dark to thee:
When clouds enwrap a starless sky,
And storms are on the sea—
In fearless faith and joyful hope
To Christ lift up thine eye,
And heed the gentle voice that says,
"Fear not, for it is I." [*Selected.*

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

Extracts from the Writings of Rev. Thos. Brooks, an English Divine of the Sixteenth Century.

AFTER much praying, waiting and weeping, God usually comes with his hands and his heart full of mercy to his people. He loves not to come empty handed to those who have sat long with tearful eyes at mercy's door.

GOD will ever keep house with the humble soul. When once they meet they never part. There is no such way to be rich, as to be poor and low in our own eyes. This is the way to enjoy His company, in whom all treasures are.

EVERY Christian has three advocates pleading for him. The first is that divine love which is in the bosom of the Father, the second is the Lord Jesus, who is at the right hand of the Father, and the third is the Holy Spirit who is one with the Father.

GOD is never better pleased than when his people importune him in his own words, and urge him with arguments taken from his own promises. "He that spared not his own Soul, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things."

A SOUL that is rich in grace says, "Well, ordinances are not Christ, reflections are not Christ, enlargements are not Christ. They are sweet, but he is more sweet; they are very precious, but he is more precious." And thus those who are spiritually rich do outreach all others.

WEAK Christians are apt to sit down troubled and disheartened by the sin within; but they should strengthen themselves by remembering that their persons stand before God clothed in the righteousness of their Saviour. So God owns them, and looks upon them with great delight.

A HUMBLE heart cannot be satisfied with just so much grace as will bring it to glory—with just so much of heaven as will keep it from dropping into hell. It is still crying out, "Give, Lord, give; give me more of thyself, more of thy Son, more of thy Spirit; give me more light, more life, more love."

NEGLECT of private duties is the great reason why the hearts of many are so dead and dull, so formal and carnal, so barren and unfruitful under public ordinances. Oh! that Christians would lay this seriously to heart. Certainly that man's heart is best in public duties who is most frequent in private exercises.

AN idle life and a holy heart is a contradiction. A lazy Christian will always want four things: comfort, content, confidence and assurance. Assurance and joy are choice donations that Christ gives to laborious Christians only. The lazy Christian has his mouth full of complaints, when the active Christian has his heart full of comforts.

'Tis the duty to perform closet duties, but it is thy sin to rely on them, or to put confidence in them. Do them thou must, but glory in them thou must not. He who rests in his duties makes a saviour of them. Let them lead thee to Jesus, and leave thee more in communion with him, and in dependence upon him, and then thrice happy shalt thou be.

BELIEVERS, you cannot have too frequent intercourse with Jesus; you cannot have your heart too frequently filled with joy unspeakable, and full of glory, and with that peace which passeth understanding. You cannot have heaven too often brought down into your heart, or your heart too often carried up to heaven, and therefore you cannot be too frequent in closet prayer.

WE walk by faith and not by sight. Christians, you must remember that it is one thing for God to love you, and another thing for God to tell you that he loves you. Your happiness lies in the first, your comfort in the second. * * He who makes sense and carnal reason a judge of his condition, will be happy and miserable, blessed and cursed, saved and lost, many times a day—yea, within an hour.

Ladies' Portfolio.

LINES

Affectionately Inscribed to Mrs. L—Furguson.

BY KATE MERIDEN.

Not for the beauty of thy form and face,
Though these indeed to me seem very fair;
Not for thy manner, though so full of grace,
Or the dark tresses of thy wavy hair.
'Tis not for these I love thee most and best,
But for thy noble spirit true and kind,
So free from envy, and the jealousy
That works confusion on the narrow mind.

'Tis for thy soul that can appreciate
The good and great in nature and in man,
Which can amid the dust and dross of earth
Gather the pearls cast by our Father's hand.
These virtues made me prize thee first, my friend,
These were the charms that drew my heart to you;
In the Hereafter, when this life shall end,
May you still find the beautiful, the true.

MAPLE BUDS.

No. IV.—The Grumbler.

BY MAY MAPLE.

Some people seem always to be "blessed" with bad luck. For instance, there is Ezra Ezekiel; he never has any streaks of *good* luck, like his next-door neighbor, who fell heir to several thousand dollars. Ah! no. Such luck never comes to him. Instead of that, his wife and children are always sick and he seldom sees a well day himself; consequently, he finds it a hard matter to drag himself out of bed in the early morning and set about business in a right earnest way. The fact is, he is *constitutionally* tired.

He is constantly meeting with losses that try him "outrageously." No one else ever has such a time as he does, trying to keep his head above water. The horse that broke his halter and walked into the open granary and ate an overplus of grain and then laid down to die, was *never* like any other horse; he was always breaking his harness. Ezra Ezekiel knew the halter and harness were weak and untrustworthy. And *sometime* he was going to have it repaired. Of course it was not done till the best horse was dead.

Then his finest cow must get mired—just as though there was not water enough a half mile further on that she could get without trying to wade into the marsh. He always intended to build a fence around that miry place; but no one had ever lost any cattle there and he did not know why he should just now. Only that it was just his luck.

If there comes a frost in early summer his crops are always nipped a little worse than any others. If a freshet, his garden and farm are the worst overflowed; if a drouth, his crops show the bleaching and drying process the earliest.

His clothes never wear smooth and fine like other men's wardrobes. Merchants always take it for granted that he is of no consequence and so manage to pack their shoddy or second-hand clothing upon him at enormous prices.

If there ever was an unfortunate person, that one was Ezra Ezekiel. He never had anything he liked; he is always building air castles and making great bargains that are to bring untold wealth. But he is sure to fail in his undertakings. It never rained diamonds unless his tub was bottom upward and his hands tied behind him.

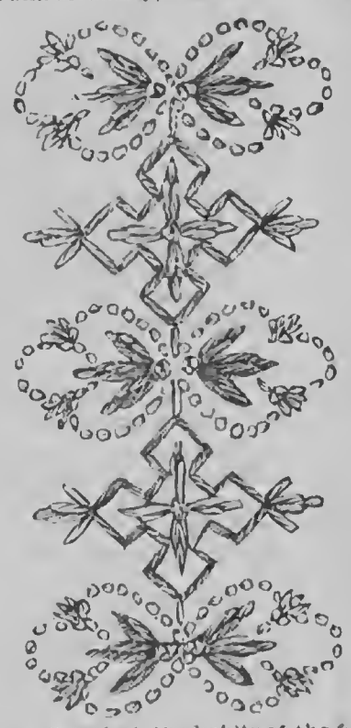
And so he must needs go through the world grumbling at his ill fortune. Thus he makes himself and all around him uncomfortable by his complaining, aimless life.

VISITING.

There are three essentials which must be understood and acted on before visits and visiting will ever fulfill the idea of the pleasure they ought to be and to give. First, nothing must be done for parade or show. No matter how rich a man may be, if he sets on his dinner table one thing, either to be eaten or to be looked at, simply for show, it is a challenge and offense. Of course, nobody is so absurd as to maintain that the rich must make dinners of herbs because the poor cannot afford stalled oxen. A very feast of good things, both for the eye and the palate, can be set out without any attempt at or any suggestion of mere parade, mere display. There are plenty of ways in which a man may advertise his wealth if he likes, without doing it in his hospitality. To do it there, or even seem to do it there, is the very essence of vulgarity and real inhospitality. To avoid, by every possible device and by the utmost tact, the bare suggestion that the guest is the recipient and not the conferrer of favors, is the first principle of entertainment. To ask a man to your house and treat him as if he were inspector of wines or tax gatherer on silver, is a piece of very coarse stupidity; and to make a very great difference between the way you live when you are alone and the way you live when you have friends under your roof, is surely a very direct way of injuring one's own self-respect, of casting an unpleasant reflection on one's own personal standard of taste.

The second essential of the ideal visit and visiting is, that the host, not the guest, set the limit of the visit. There is so false a notion in this country on this point that it almost seems as if it must spring out of a national lack of directness and sincerity. Everybody knows when he asks a friend to his house, how long he wants him to stay. There may be fifty reasons combining to make him very glad of a visit three days long, and very much inconvenienced by one longer. Honest people ought to find no difficulty in saying this and honest people take no offense at hearing it. This does away with all possibility of misconstruction on either side, with all uncertainties as to welcome, with all fear of intrusion.

A third essential of ideal visits and visiting is that there be on the part of the host no strained effort to entertain or amuse the guest, on the part of the guest, no expectation to be amused or entertained. Simply to meet for the interchange of good will and cordiality, the usual current of life



going on undisturbed, the habits of the family remaining unchanged—that is the true social visit. The man who knows how to "drop in" of an evening draw his chair up to your hearth as if it were his own, and fall into the usual evening routine of the household as if he were a member of it—how welcome he always is! The man who comes to stay under your roof for a season, and who, without being intrusive or familiar, makes you feel that he is at "home" with you, and is content in his usual fashion of occupation—how delightful a guest he is! And the houses—ah, how few of them!—into which one can go for a day or a week, and feel sure that the family routine is no wise altered, the family comfort in no wise lessened, but on the contrary, increased by his presence—what joy it is to cross their threshold! What good harbors of refuge they are to weary wanderers!

When the world mends its ways in these regards, when these essentials are fulfilled, the lost art of conversation will revive; hospitality will be worthy of its name; and housekeeping and housekeeping become, as they ought to be, the greatest pleasure a man can have.—*H. H. in the Independent.*

BORDERS—EMBROIDERY.

The two borders will be suitable for ornamenting children's frocks, aprons, &c. They may be

worked with silk or cotton, according to the material. Holland or alpaca aprons look well with borders of the kind worked with Andalusian or Shetland wool.

Reading for the Young.

WHAT THE PRIMROSE SAID.

Now, who that is wise and witty,
Will tell this little maid
The thought—(it must have been pretty)—
And what the primrose said? [*Rural, May* 13.

ANSWER.

The primrose peeped from its fragrant bud
One dewy morn in May,
To see the white clouds sailing
Like ships on the sunny bay;
But a fairer sight than snowy clouds
Or ships on a summer sea,
Was that which greeted the primrose bud
With a smile of winsome glee.

A blue-eyed maiden with golden hair
And cheeks like the rose in June,
Was smiling down on the opening bud
And singing a happy tune.
And the primrose said "What a lovely world
Were it always sunny May;
If flowers could blossom forever fair
And hearts be always gay.
But the sweet blue eyes must learn to weep
And hearts must break with woe
Till they reach the blessed summer land
Where the fadeless roses grow."

Richmond, Ind. Mrs. D. M. Jordan.

LETTER FROM UNCLE MARK.

My Dear Girls and Boys:—Having just returned from the Centennial Exhibition, I must tell you of some things I saw there. One of the most attractive features is the immense number of beautiful flowers and plants around the grounds and in Horticultural Hall. The products in Floriculture of nearly every nation in the world can be seen there, and some of them are of such a curious and singular nature and present such an unusual appearance that you would wonder how they could grow. There is the "Natural Bug Hunter" or Pitcher Plant (a great favorite with Old Daily Rural Life), which consists of a number of green, upright pitchers or hollow leaves catching water, into which various insects are lured or lure themselves and are drowned. Then there is the Cork Tree, from the bark of which our bottle corks are made; the Banana Tree, from which we get the delicious fruit of that name; the Nutmeg Tree, upon which grow the nutmegs used for flavoring our puddings and cakes—and the latter are not natives of Connecticut, as some might suppose.

In addition to these, one can see the Palm Tree, from which our palm-leaf fans are made, and still another kind of palm from which Panama hats are manufactured. Of this Panama Hat Plant there will probably be a picture in next week's Rural, so that you can see just what it looks like. Another curious thing I noticed: Many of the small plants from foreign countries (where, I suppose, they have no flower-pots) were growing in cocoanut shells, the effect of which was very pretty. Mr. Waterer, of England, has brought over an immense collection of Rhododendrons, or Laurels, of almost every conceivable color, size and shape, which occupy a separate building beside of Horticultural Hall.

To see the whole of the Exhibition in one day is an impossibility, so that I was obliged to omit going into the Main Building altogether. You will not be surprised at this, when I tell you that this one building is more than one-third of a mile long, four hundred and sixty-four feet wide, covers a little over twenty acres of ground, and is as full of curious and beautiful things as an egg is of meat. I *did* take a peep into the Ladies' Pavilion; but the flutter of laces and the rustle of silks gave my heart such a palpitating feeling that I considered it unsafe to enter. Some day I will screw up sufficient courage to go in, I hope.

I took a hasty run through Machinery Hall and saw the immense Corliss engine which drives the various machines on exhibition. It had the same effect upon me as being in Chattanooga would and seeing Lookout Mountain. Whichever way I turned it loomed up before me and was always in sight. Find out how high the house is in which you live and then, knowing this grand engine to be thirty-nine feet high, you can, by comparison, form an idea of its size. I should like to tell you much more of what I saw; but the Editor says to me in no very pleasant tones that, notwithstanding his love for the Girls and Boys, he cannot fill his whole paper with Uncle Mark's productions. So, knowing that he has much to worry and harrass him, I will forgive him for speaking sharply and save the rest for another time, when you may expect to hear more from Uncle Mark.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

"Cheek" as a Fine Art.

Dear Uncle Mark:—I'm fourteen years old. That is, when people ask me, I say I'm fourteen, and then add "going on fourteen"—so as not to tell a story—for in fact I am only two months over thirteen. But I have had more experience than most boys of this age. My mother tells people I'm not afraid of anything. I like this reputation, though it is not true. I make believe I am not afraid. I put on a bold, independent way, but look out to keep away from real trouble. I will tell the Rural Cousins that what merchants call "cheek" is one of the greatest things in life. If you don't run over people, they will run over you. The way to get the best of an argument is to talk loud—to break in upon the boy you are arguing with just before he makes a point—to insinuate, in a bold but sort of polite way, that he don't know what he's talking about, and to ridicule him when he's getting the best of you. Look a boy right in the face and make gestures when you talk. Tell him what you have studied and how much you have watched things, and frighten him into thinking you are awful smart and that he is nowhere. Modest people are soft; they never get anywhere or amount to anything. When I was nine years old, I used to be bashful and to feel ashamed when a girl spoke to me—but I began to watch the actions of men and found out that it was cheek that did it all. Shakspeare or some other poet said that "Faint heart never won fair lady"—and he was right. I think he meant to say that cheek is the great thing.—Joe. Steele, *Lake Tedehsor.*

From a Tioga Co. (N. Y.) Girl.

Dear Rural Cousins:—Having a little leisure, I thought I would have another visit with you. Our spring term commenced about the middle of April. I am attending as usual. The farmers about here are having the blues badly. It rains so much that they don't have a chance to get in their grain. I have sown nearly all of my flower seeds, and have transplanted my plants. The grass in the meadows and yard is getting real green. They are thinking of having a Centennial tea party here; I guess I shall dress in costume. It is growing late and I must close. M. A. B. are my true initials. My name is a long one, and I often wonder how I came to grow up so tall under it—there, that was a "slip of the pen," but I won't tell anything more.—M. A. B., *Richford, N. Y.*

From a Virginia Girl.

Mr. Editor:—I have been thinking of writing to the Rural for a long time, and have resolved to put it off no longer. May I be one of the Rural Cousins? I am twelve years old, and live in the village of Berkley. I go to school in Norfolk. We have a teacher for the Modern Languages, one for Music, one for Latin, one for the common English branches and one for the Preparatory Department. Who of the Rural Cousins are going to the Centennial? I want to go very much, but cannot do so. Even if there was no Centennial, I should like very much to go to Philadelphia, as it is my birthplace and my father's grave is there. —Clara C., *Berkley, Va.*

From a Pennsylvania Boy.

Dear Editor:—I have long thought I would write and tell you how we like the Rural. We have taken it one year and have commenced another. I live in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania, about a mile from a thriving village. I live on a farm. We keep some cows and sheep and young cattle. I went to school last winter. Our Sabbath school opened the first of May. We had a very promising one last year, and hope to have this.—Young Jack.

Short, but to the Point.

Mr. Editor:—This is the first year we have taken your paper, and I think it is very interesting. I have been reading the Boys' and Girls' Letters, and I thought I would try and write a few lines to the Rural Cousins. We live five miles from the Ohio River. I go two miles to school, and in stormy weather it is very unpleasant walking so far.—F. S. C.

The Puzzler.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 13.

My first is in come but not in go,
My second is in ice but not in snow;
My third is in lend but not in borrow,
My fourth is in glad but not in sorrow;
My fifth is in nose but not in eye,
My whole is a city in Italy.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. C.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—No. 4.

I am composed of 53 letters:
My 14, 22, 3, 9 is affection.
My 21, 21, 18, 8, 11, 21, 2, 26, 15 is wedlock.
My 19, 15, 4, 41, 27 is a wild animal.
My 7, 23, 13, 10, 5, 39, 20, 1, 15 means exactly.
My 6, 15, 25, 3, 31, 12, 28, 33, 30 is a man's name.
My 1, 48, 16, 42, 44, 5, 34 is a woman's name.
My 52, 47, 49, 51, 17, 41 is a man's name.
My 36, 50, 26, 35, 34, 14 40, 43 was a son of Jupiter.
My 46, 51, 40, 29, 18 is a kind of fish.
My 32, 33, 9, 15 is a part of milk.
My 53, 45, 30, 39, 13 is an animal.
My whole is a quotation from Balzac.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S. C.

TRANSPOSED FLOWER GARDEN.—No. 1.

1. Chay hint. 2. Fun cat tyd. 3. Gone ten Tim. 4. Haste tym. 5. Lima dorg. 6. Mob in luce. 7. Nice plat. 8. Peat ewes. 9. Tom fret gone. 10. Viper suncy. Isola.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

PUZZLE.—No. 2.

Spell the name of a prominent vegetable with all the letters used in one of the months.

☞ Answer in two weeks. G.

TRANSPOSITION.—No. 5.

Heset wot lnesl rea nserledt nlyo ot ecs il nya odyb anc cudr hemt.

☞ Answer in two weeks. R.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—May 27.

Botanical Enigma No. 1.—

"We may shut our eyes, but we cannot help knowing
That skies are clear and grass is growing."

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Act as Agent?—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

MESSRS. JARRETT & PALMER, the lessees of Booth's Theatre, New York, have organized and started a lightning train to San Francisco. The train consisted of locomotive, baggage and hotel car, and was to make the distance in 84 hours. Correspondents of divers English, French and American journals accompanied the expedition, so that the stranger will have abundant opportunity to descant on American enterprise. The route was over the Pennsylvania Central to Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh & Fort Wayne to Chicago, the Chicago & Northwestern to Omaha, and thence by Union & Central Pacific to 'Frisco.

The train accomplished the run in the remarkable time of 80 hours, 20 minutes.

The Bonanza Kings, Fair, Mackey, Flood and O'Brien, have a net income of $36,000,000 per annum only.

The following from Pennsylvania is a sample: The beetle which did so much damage to potatoes and other vegetation through the States last year, are already appearing in immense numbers along the Delaware and Lackawaxen rivers, and have begun their work of destruction. The injury to potatoes thus far, however, is not very great, as very few have been planted; but vegetation in general has been considerably injured.

A great conflagration in Quebec destroyed about 700 houses, and rendered thousands homeless. The St. Louis quarter is nearly demolished. The money loss is very heavy. The fire is said to have originated by children playing with matches.

Some of the tobacco-growers of Allen County have plants enough to set an average crop this year.

The third annual fair of the Kentucky Industrial Association commences at Frankfort on Tuesday, September 12.

The Madisonville Southwest says the prospect for a tobacco crop in Hopkins County is growing more favorable.

New Iberia (La.) Sugar Bowl: Such a thing has hitherto been unknown in the history of orange culture in Louisiana, but the fact is that, while on most trees a few blossoms of December and January grew into fruit and are now hanging ripe upon the trees, surrounded by half-grown green oranges, those of the size of a marble and even blossoms, on the Orange Island, the property of Mr. Joseph Jefferson, the actor, a very considerable crop has been the result of the unusual mildness of the winter.

A gold mine has been discovered on the lot of a Mr. Dickson, in the town of Spartanburg, South Carolina

A resident of Franklin Co., Tenn., recently exchanged his wife with a friend for $3, a quart of whisky and two pounds of leaf tobacco. As soon as he lost his money at a game of seven-up, drank the whiskey and chewed the tobacco, he wanted her back, but didn't get her.

The bones of a mastodon have been found in San Saba Co., Texas. It is estimated that the animal when alive must have been twenty feet high and twenty-eight feet long, with tusks sixteen feet in length.

J. B. Jones of Western New York writes us as follows:—By comparison, we find we have reason to be thankful for the outlook. Winter left us with the ground very full of water, which delayed the putting in of crops on the heavy soils of Western New York, but never have we had finer weather for the gradual drying and fitting of the soil to work. Labor has been plenty and at lower rates than heretofore. Horses, cattle and sheep are keeping up pretty well in price, as well as most farm crops, except potatoes, which hardly bring enough to pay for handling, and great quantities have been fed to cattle and horses. Wheat promises only a light crop. Oats and barley come up well, and doubtless will be heavy. Less potatoes will be planted than usual, while corn planting is going on quite extensively. The grass crop looks well, and fruit of all kinds promises a full crop. Nurserymen have made lighter plantings than usual, some not planting at all, the price of trees being below cost of production for the quality required by planters at present. Yet what seedlings have been put out seem to have started and promise well. Times are not hard, although we do not have war times and need not expect such soon again; but there is no cause for the complaints we hear of the times being hard.

Decoration day was very generally observed throughout the country.

The Dublin University crew will be represented at Saratoga.

The Martha's Vineyard camp meeting this year opens August 21.

The impeachment trial will probably be postponed until November.

April railway earnings are reported for twenty-four railroads, with about one-sixth of the total mileage of the United States. The results cannot be called favorable, as they show but a small increase over the unfavorable returns of last year. This increase is nearly 5 per cent. in the total, but less than 3 per cent. in receipts per mile of road, which were $482 last year, and $496 this year.

Mr. Henry Raworth of Aiken, S. C., is in all probability the oldest locomotive engineer in the United States, if not in the world. His first trip was made on the South Carolina Railroad out of Charleston, in 1831, and he has been on the same road ever since, a period of forty-five years.

The Florida orange crop for the present season is 25,000,000, worth on an average at the groves $15 per thousand, making $375,000. It is estimated that there are now not more than 3,000 acres of young trees from four to six years old from the bud, some bearing as many as 100 oranges the past fruit season. For the next five years it is believed the crop will gradually increase from growth of trees to 150,000,000, yielding a product of $2,250,000, or about one-seventh of the product of Palermo.

The citizens of Thomas County, Ga., propose to send an intelligent, capable man to the Northwest, who, by lecturing and the free distribution of printed information as to the resources of the country, will bring about immigration to it.

Fort Valley (Ga.) Mirror: There is a negro woman living on Mr. Glenn Vissacher's place who is 128 years old. She plowed corn during the time of the Revolutionary war; cooked for Gen. Jackson during the French and Indian wars, and is now ready to chop out cotton this centennial year.

The Vermont Democratic Convention has selected delegates for St. Louis.

Mr. Blaine is the subject of continued investigation.

The bill to reorganize the army has passed the house.

The Indian war progresses. The latest news is the massacre of a party of Cincinnati gold hunters bound for the Black Hills. Forty-nine were killed.

The business of "Spiritual Medium" is not as flourishing as it might be at present. Unfeeling, practical men have applied to the New York City Courts, praying that these persons may be compelled to take out licenses as jugglers.

The iron and steel industry of this country for the past two years is shown in the annexed table:

Products.	—1874— Tons.	—1875— Tons.
Pig iron	2,689,413	2,266,581
All rolled iron, including nails	1,839,569	1,893,379
All rolled iron, including nails and excluding rails	1,110,147	1,097,867
Rails of all kinds	729,415	792,512
Bessemer steel rails	142,914	200,863
Iron and other rails	581,469	501,649
Street rails	6,739	16,340
Kegs of cut nails and spikes	4,912,180	4,726,831
Crucible cast steel	36,323	39,401
Open-hearth steel	7,000	9,050
All other steel	6,453	12,607
Blooms from ore and pig iron	61,670	49,243

The decrease in the production of pig iron was all in anthracite and charcoal pig iron, there being a slight increase in bituminous and coke. The stock of unsold pig iron at the end of the year was 760,908 tons. The total value of imports of iron and steel during the year was $16,273,315, being a decrease of $9,327,405 from that of 1874.

Tennessee has forty cotton mills, employing 56,358 spindles, and consuming 14,443 bales of cotton.

A bill has been introduced into the Texas Legislature declaring drunkness to be a misconduct, and making it punishable by a fine of $100.

To the list of recent murders is now added that of a boy of 14 by his playmate of the same age. The murder seems to have been intentional, if not deliberate.

Sing Sing, N. Y. is becoming famous for convicts' escapes, and its prison should be a favorite with the criminal classes. The seizure of a locomotive by the runaways was better managed this time than last; instead of trying to run it themselves they compelled the engineer to do them this service. As a result two-thirds of the party made good their escape, despite urgent pursuit and much telegraphing, which, however, helped to make it an exciting affair.

Daniel Webster's estate known as "Marshfield," was sold for $5,520.

Governor Tilden has signed in all 449 bills. Last year the number was 633.

The amount of tolls received at the Albany, N. Y., Collector's office from the opening of the canals to June 1 was $8,156.76—an increase of $1,700 over those for the corresponding period of last year. It is thought the season will be a prosperous one throughout. The receipts from lumber have been very large.

All the conferences between the puddlers and the manufacturers at Pittsburgh, according to a dispatch dated June 2, had failed to prevent a lock-out, and but very few of the puddling mills in that section were at work.

Gov. Rice of Massachusetts has appointed A. L. Soule of Springfield and F. W. Hurd and C. W. Clifford of New Bedford a Commission to inquire into the expediency of revising the judicial system of Massachusetts.

A young man named Geo. Boner, while plowing corn near Newark, Ohio, recently, was struck by lightning and instantly killed. A blueish black discoloration of the body extended from the neck to the hips. On his breast was found engraven the likeness of a large tree which stood within a short distance, the branches of which projected naturally to each shoulder, forming a representation so perfect as to render the leaves plainly visible.

From the State reports prepared against the inauguration of Gov. Cheney of New Hampshire it appears that the revenues for 1876 were $503,328.19 and the expenditures $391,536.23, a net gain to the Treasury over 1875 of $26,532.29. The net indebtedness of the State is $3,629,538.49, a reduction from 1875 of $111,791.96.

King Victor Emmanuel has accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Philadelphia committee for the erection of a statue of Columbus.

Dom Pedro is at Niagara trying to find out the nominal horse-power of that miniature waterfall.

A heavy thunder storm visited Lebanon, N. H., on June 4th. Three inches of rain fell in two hours, washing out highways and doing other serious damage.

The Police Department of New York City are making a serious and sustained attack on the liquor dealers who vend spirits on Sunday. The dealers are buckling on their armor and the lawyers are happy.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs is anxious that Congress should act immediately upon the bill appropriating $300,000 for the removal of the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail bands of Sioux Indians to the Indian Territory. He is apprehensive that if their present disposition agreeable thereto is not availed of they will be induced to join the hostile tribes.

Farm hands are wanted in Michigan.

FOREIGN NOTES.

TELEGRAMS from Cuba say the insurrection in that island is increasing.

Salonica has about 100,000 inhabitants, one-half of them Spanish Jews.

Kisber, Mr. Baltazzi's horse, won the English Derby.

Winslow is still held by the British Government, pending the consideration of the American demands. Lord Cairns holds that our position is correct.

Great forest fires prevail in York and Kent counties, New Brunswick.

A special dispatch to the times from Seville says the ministerial bill abolishing universal suffrage is very unpopular there.

The harvest has commenced. Rains have destroyed the locusts, and cereals have not promised such crops for a hundred years past.

Abdul Aziz, who had been Sultan of Turkey since 1861, was deposed by his Ministers on Monday night. His nephew, Murad Effendi, being the heir presumptive, was immediately proclaimed Sultan. The immediate cause of the ex-Sultan's downfall was the discontent of the Softas (officials and attendants of the mosques), who demanded last week that the Sultan should cease to be Caliph, that is, spiritual head of the Mohammedans. The boldness of this request appears to have rendered him powerless to resist further concessions. The change is regarded with comparative favor in Europe. It is understood that the new Sultan will introduce reforms. Order is maintained at Constantinople.

Below is the official news of the death of Abdul Aziz, sent to the Turkish Embassador at Washington:

"A sad event has just painfully affected our august Sovereign and his government. Abdul Aziz Khan, the late Sultan, who for some time past, unfortunately, gave evident signs of mental derangement, having locked himself up in his apartments of the Palace of Teheragan, committed suicide by opening the veins of his arms with scissors, which he had concealed on his person.

"The Imperial government hastened to cause all the legal inquests (constation) to be made, also a detailed medical report, which will be forwarded to you very soon.

"All the Ministers, the high officers, both civil and military, will be present at the funeral of His Majesty, which will take place with the accustomed pomp and honors due to the deceased, whose body will be laid in the Mausoleum of Sultan Mahmoud."

American residents of Paris have started a subscription to raise funds for the celebration of the Centennial Fourth of July, and for placing a marble slab, with a commemorative inscription, on the tomb of Lafayette.

In the official report of Winslow's remand, the words used are "finally remanded until June 15." The use of the word "finally" seems to indicate that Winslow will be released unless the difficulty is settled by that date.

A Protestant school in the province of Ponteyerra, Spain, has been closed by order of the Minister of Justice at the requst of the clerical authorities.

The tunnel to connect England and France, under the Straits of Dover, has been commenced. The shaft on the French side has been sunk to a depth of 130 feet.

It is stated that the change of rulers is favorably received in Turkey.

The official gazette of Montenegro declares a fresh armistice is impossible, and says the insurrection will now continue in good earnest.

The Epsom Cup race, a dash of one mile, was run June 2, and was won by Dalham by a head, Wisdom second, and Mr. Sanford's American horse Mate a bad third.

News from Cuba as follows:—The town of Ciego de Avilla, in the jurisdiction of Santa Spirtu, was attacked on the night of May 26 by the insurgent leader, Maximo Gomez, with 1,000 men, most of them mounted. The place was defended by a garrison 400 strong. The insurgents were repulsed after desperate fighting, and retired without being pursued. They lost thirty killed and about seventy wounded. The Spanish casualties were two officers killed and three men wounded.

England continues to prepare for war. Ten infantry regiments have orders to be ready to start for Malta at a moment's notice.

Murad Effendi commences his royal business on a cash capital of $100,000,000, that being the amount of treasure found in the ex-Sultan's palace.

Servia thirsts for war. If gratified and beaten, Europe will exclaim: "Servia right!"

A large squadron of French men-of-war is assembled in the harbor of Toulon, in readiness to sail for the East, but no orders have yet been received for its departure.

The work of the divers at the scene of the wreck of the steamer Schiller has been given up. It was not paying expenses. Seven twenty-dollar pieces and half a ton weight of copper was recovered on the 20th of May.

The American horse, Preakness, taken to England to run in the Derby, came in a good second at the Epsom races.

There are 70,000 children living on boats in England, who receive no education.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, June 3, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	63,700	Molasses,	—
Whisky	3,852	Rice, bbls,	273
Corn meal, bbls	2,970	Cut meats, pkgs,	8,083
Corn meal, bags	1,450	Lard, pkgs,	8,400
Wheat, bush	1,791,000	Tobacco, hhds	2,336
Corn, bush	658,000	do. cases	4,336
Oats, bush	400,800	Butter, pkgs	32,270
Rye, bush	30,201	Cheese, bxs	41,100
Malt, bush	47,403	Cotton, bales	2,855
Barley, bush	10,000	Rosin	6,900
Beans, bbls	8,545	Spts. turp., bbls	1,112
Grass seed, bush	8	Dried Fruits, pkgs	117
Beef, pkgs	3,819	Eggs, bbls	16,421
Wool, bales	3,134	Peanuts, bags	1,227
Hops, bales	476	Leather, sides	85,483
Pork, bbls	531	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,850	Oil cake	7,803

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; inlaying always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 2,031 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 29,000 do.; same time last year, 10,214 do. Exports of peas past week, none; since Jan. 1st, 201,290 bush.; same time last year, 205,887 do. Quotations for the leading grades of beans have been settling throughout the week. All qualities of mediums are again marked off, with no large parcels selling. Marrows have had a favorable demand for export, but buyers would not add to their former large purchases with receiving concessions; prices show they have been successful. Pea beans and kidneys dull. Green peas again lower and difficult to place; not much doing in Canadian.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.35@1.35; fair to good, $1.00@1.15; prime mediums, $1.00@1.10; fair to good, 75@90c.; poor, 50@60c.; prime marrows, $1.60; fair to good, $1.30@1.45; prime white kid., $1.40@1.45; other, $1.15@1.30; prime red kidney, $1.20@1.25; other, $1@1.10; Lima (Cal.), $3.00. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.18@1.20; do. in bulk and bond, 85@90c.; green, $1.15@1.20; Southern S. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, ¾ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—Offerings are larger and demand small, giving a lower range of prices. Sales at 34c. for Western and 35@36c. for Southern. Exports past week, 2,150 lbs.; since Jan. 1st, 38,411 lbs.; same time last year, 31,950 do.

BROOM CORN—Is in light demand and fair supply. We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—Trade was generally broken into by the observance of Decoration Day, and butter has had a full share of the neglect incident to such periods. Receipts have been very heavy and the weather hot and unfavorable for exhibiting stock. Few dealers can report a trade that shows a good wholesale volume and the absence of round sales when supplies arrive liberally always seriously depresses the market. This week the effect has been such as to not even allow choice quality of Western or State to have its usual steadiness in upper quotations. Fine or for that matter fancy pails are obtainable almost as low as tubs. State butter will adjust itself soon as receipts will be lighter when dairymen begin to pack. Of Western there is accumulation enough to warrant low prices for some time to come. West Indian packers are buying Western pretty freely though at low figures say 14@15c. Western firkins quoted at 13@18c, for poor to fine yellow. State firkins 18@23 for poor to fair, 24@25c. for prime. Sweet cream pails range at 23@25c.

Pails, State selected, 24@25c.; do., other 20@24c.; creamery, 23@25c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 22@24c.; fair to good, 22@23c.; Welsh tubs selected, 22@23c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 20@22c.; fair to good, 19@21c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 22@24c.; fair to good, 19@21c.; Western tubs, dairy, good to prime, 17@18c.; fair to good, 13@16c.

Western factory choice, 16@17c.; do. fair to good, 14@15c.; poor, 12@13c. Grease, pure, 7@10c.

Comparative receipts and exports from June 1st.

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, pkgs.
June 1, '75, to June 1, '76	1,187,822	35,132
June 1, '74, to June 1, '75	1,018,432	53,306
June 1, '73, to June 1, '74	997,201	33,586
June 1, '72 to June 1, '73	741,812	49,113
June 1, '71, to June 1, '72	695,821	70,755
June 1, '70, to June 1, '71	571,497	27,086

CHEESE.—Prices reacted about ½c. from the extreme figures of last week and exporters have been buying a little more freely; most of the sales have been at 11¾@11¾c. for the best lots of factories.

New at 11¾@11¾c. for fine factory; 10¾@11c. for good; 9¾@10c. for fair; dn., half skimmed, 8@9c.; do., skimmed, 4@6c. State farm dairy, fair to good, at 9¾@10¾c.; prime lots, 7@9c.; Western factory, good to prime, 9¾@10¾c.; fair lots, 8¾@9¼c.

The Producers' Price Current gives the following comparative receipts and exports from June 1st:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, pkgs
June 1, '75, to June 1, '76	2,447,849	20,259,799
June 1, '74, to June 1, '75	2,041,579	100,026,701
June 1, '73, to June 1, '74	1,262,901	90,083,247
June 1, '72, to June 1, '73	1,761,221	79,180,920
June 1, '71, to June 1, '72	1,479,270	64,588,561
June 1, '70, to June 1, '71	1,369,093	53,305,475

COTTON.—Prices have been at the lowest point since the war, with a pressure to sell and generally slow export movement. June, 12c; July, 12 3-32c.; August, 12 3-16@12 7-32c.; September, 11¾@12 5-32c.; October, 11 15-16@11 31-32c.; November, 11 27-32@11¾c.; December, 11 27-32@11¾c.; January, 11 15-16@11 31-32c.; February, 13 1-16@12¾c.; March, 12 3-16@12¾c.; April, 12¾@12 7-16c.; May, 12¾@ 12 9-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	8 9-16	8 9-16	8 9-16	8 9-16
Strict ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Good ordinary	9 15-16	9 15-16	10 1-16	10 1-16
Strict good do	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Low middling	11 1-16	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 5-16
Strict low middling	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Middling	12	12¼	12 3-16	12 3-16
Good middling	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾
Strict good middling	13	13¼	13¼	13¼
Middling fair	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜
Fair	14¼	14¼	14¼	14¼

Stained.

Good ordinary	8¾	Low middling	10⅛
Strict ordinary	9¾	Middling	11⅛

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are more freely offered and easier in price. Peeled peaches unsettled and dull. Small fruits selling slowly.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; do., quarters, 10c.; Western quarters, 9c.; Southern sliced, 9¾@10c. for prime; fair lots, 9¼@10c.; Tennessee quarters, 8¼c. Blackberries, 10¾@11c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 13@14c.; do. fancy, 15@16c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12¾c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 16c. Raspberries, 26@27c. Cherries, 19@21c.

Exports of dried apples since Jan. 1st, 1,598 bbls.; same time last year, 1,911 do.

EGGS.—The market is overstocked; heavy receipts and an accumulated storing have to compete with cheap berries and garden stuff, still we have seldom reported prices for prime Western as low as they now are, buyers insisting upon a liberal loss off at that. Southern eggs are losing so heavily that the season for them ought to be regarded as over. Held Western do not count very strong either. Duck and goose eggs are seldom quoted as late as this. The weather is turning warmer, and, with a revival of the ice-cream and pastry trade, will help to work off some stock. We quote:

Near points, ₰ bbl., 16@17c.; State and Penn., 13@14c.; Western, prime, 11@12c.; do. fair marks, 10¾@11c.; Southern and Southwestern, 10¾@11c.; Canadian, 12@12¾c.; duck, 14@15c.; goose, 19@21c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₰ lb.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras, 55c.

FEATHERS quiet. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; mixed, do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—A trifle lower prices a good export trade is in progress.

For poor to very choice superfine State, $4@4.40; $4.90@5.15 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.10@5.20 for fancy do., and $5.35@7 for very choice extra; $4@4.40 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.90@5.20 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.25@5.65 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.70@7; fancy do., $7.05@7.75; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $7.50@9; round-hoop Ohio at $4.90@5.15, and trade brands of do. at $5.20@7. St. Louis, $5.10@8.25 for common to fair extra, and $6.30@9 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.25@7.25, and patent at $6.20@9.50; unsound stock at from $4.75@5.75. Southern at $5@5.25 for common to good extra, $5.30@6.15 for good to choice, $6.20@8.50 for family extra, and $8@9 for choice to fancy new parcels. Rye flour at $4.75@5.20. Corn Meal is selling at $2.90@3.25; for yellow, Western, Jersey and Penn. and $3.45 for Brandywine.

GINSENG.—Southern, $1.15@1.20; Northern, $1.15@1.20; Seneca root, 75@80c.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.—Layer raisins, $2.75; seedless raisins, $5@5.25; loose Muscatel raisins, $2.50@3; Valencia do., 10¾@10½c. Sardines, 14½@14½c. currency, for quarter boxes. Turkish prunes, 5½@5¾c.

FRESH FRUITS.—Strawberries arrive freely and prices have ran rather unsettled throughout the week. New Jersey is shipping some. Sellers have not always sold out close and stale lots have hurt prices for several days. We quote Norfolk, ₰ quart, 3@6c.; Maryland, 5@10c.; Delaware, 6@10c.; New Jersey, 7@11c. Cherries, 5@15c. for poor to fine. Gooseberries not wanted; as they depend so exclusively upon a cooking demand are never sought for as early as this when more desirable fruit is to be had; nominally, $1.50@2 ₰ bush. Russet apples are selling at $1.50@2.50 for poor to fair and $3.50@4 for prime. A few Northern Spy have kept elegantly this season; we were shown a lot that was in as fine order as when they came from the orchard. It is rather unusual to see samples of the choice sorts of apples from the last crop on sale when fruit is not for a new season. Peanuts weaker.

Peanuts—Virginia, ₰ bush., $1.58@1.67; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15. Hot-house grapes, ₰ lb., $1@1.25; do. peaches, ₰ dozen, $2.50@4.

GRAIN.—Of wheat, arrivals have been exceptionally heavy, and prices have been reduced a trifle. Exporters are buying freely—largely for the continental markets. Latest sales of No. 2 Milwaukee spring at $1.10@1.11¼; No. 3 Chicago spring at $1.07; ungraded spring at $1.15@1.20; No. 1 spring at $1.25@1.29; amber Michigan to arrive, at $1.38; white, $1.35@1.55; amber, $1.35@1.45; red $1.05@1.35. Rye at 85@85½c. for Western; 95c. for Canada; and 95@98c. for State. Corn is in large supply, but wanted freely, and prices of prime stock firm: Western quoted at 57@59c. Oats are active and firm within the range of 32@43c. for mixed Western and State, and 35@47c. for white do. The week's business in wheat exhibits sales of 1,481,000 bushels. Last week the sales were nearly 15,000,000 bushels. On Monday of this week the sales were 455,000 bushels. The supply of grain is light, that is, in transit, and accumulated at the principal points of delivery, on May 27.

	Wheat.	Corn.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.
May 27, '76	10,100,698	4,880,373	2,201,196	456,715	312,037
Same w'k, '75	11,004,061	8,139,553	2,237,043	111,043	140,575

In store in New York and Brooklyn Warehouses:

	—1876— May 27.	—1875— May 29.	—1874— May 30.
Wheat, bush	1,135,352	174,974	496,467
Corn, bush	446,103	1,305,325	125,362
Oats, bush	717,387	493,681	359,674
Barley, bush	19,715	1,163	14,410
Rye, bush	4,955	19,570	65,012
Peas, bush	7,928	.....	10,142
Malt, bush	473,906	238,628	59,702
Total grain	2,810,494	2,744,311	1,060,739

HAY AND STRAW.—Farmers are marketing surplus supplies promptly, and with the increased receipts prices are a little unsettled for the moment.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75c.; retail qualities, 85c.@$1.00; clover, 70@75c.; salt, 60@65c. Straw is quoted at $1.05@1.10 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 65@70c. for oat.

Exports past week, 710 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 26,000; same time last year, 17,000.

HIGHWINES—Held at $1.12½ with $1.10½ best.

HOPS.—Exports for the week have been only 170 bales. Brewers are buying moderately only. Prices are without change. The prospect for the growing crop in this country is highly encouraging, but reports from abroad as to the crop there are conflicting, though rather more hopeful than last year this time. We quote.

N. Y. State, 12@18c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₰ lb.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 20@21c. for light; saddle, 21@23c.; heavy, 21@22½c.; good damaged, 18@20c.

OIL CAKE.—Western brings $40 (currency) per ton and city from East India seed at $38, gold.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry is not wanted above the resources of city killers. The cheapness of live has reduced prices for all dressed. Frozen turkeys still quoted at 8 to 16c.; dressed fowls good to prime 15@18c.; fair to good 14@16c.; spring chickens, best 30@32c.; fair to good 27@30c.; turkeys 15@17c. Owing to heavy supplies, live poultry has ruled easy during the week, Western and N. J. quoting alike. We quote:

Fowls, N. J., lb, 14@15c.; do. Western, 13@14c.; Roosters, 7@8c.; Turkeys, N. J., 12@13c.; do. Western, 11@13c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, $1@1.25; do. Western, 65@80c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.50; do. Western, $1@1.37.

Wild pigeons are the main stay of the game market. Prime stall fed bringing good prices. We quote:

Wild pigeons dressed ₰ doz., 87c.@$1; do. unpicked, 50@75c.; stall fed, $1.37@1.50; Wild squab, 50@65c.; Tame do., $2.00@2.50.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products generally show a heavy decline, chiefly owing to the exceptionally free arrivals of hogs at the West. There has been a general pressure to sell. Mess pork at $18.80@18.90 for spot lots; June, $18.60; July, $18.75. Western tierced pickled hams, 12@13c. Bacon at 10¾c. for Western long clear; 10¾@10¾c. for city do. Western steam lard at $11.15 for spot and June; $11.20 for July; $11.32½ for August. Tallow at 8¾@8 11-16c. for prime. Stearine at 13@13¼c. Beef hams at $16@23 for Southern and Western. Beef at $11 for plain; $12 for extra mess.

SALT.—Ashtons at $2.50; Deakin's at $1.40@1.50; Marshall's at $1.40@1.50.

SEED.—Grass is dull; clover is quoted at 15@16c.; timothy, $2.75.

SUGAR (Refined).—Soft yellow, 8¼@9¼c.; soft white, 9¼@9¾c.; crushed and powdered, 10¼c.

SUNDRIES.—Maple sugar seems to be pushed aside for merely a catch trade; best quoted at 10c.; common, 6@9c.; syrup, 75c.@$1.

TOBACCO.—Exporters are buying moderately and there is a very strong market.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7
Good lugs	7 @ 8
Low leaf	8½@10
Medium leaf	11 @12
Good leaf	12½@13½
Fine leaf	14 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	11 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	— @—
Fillers, selections	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5¾@ 7
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes since Jan. 1st, 80,300 bbls. potatoes, or 35,000 bbls. above same date last year. Really prime old potatoes are in demand at the late improvement. New Charleston are in market. Asparagus still abundant and low. Green stuff is easy and liable to sudden decline at this season. We quote:

Early Rose, bulk, ₰ bbl., $1@1.37; Peach Blows, $1.25@1.50; Prince Alberts, 87c.@$1.12; common, 50@75c. Bermuda, $7@8; Charleston, $3@6. Southern cabbages, ₰ bbl., $1.50@2. Florida tomatoes, ₰ crate, $2@3. Bermuda, do., 5 qt. box, 90c.@$1. Md. green peas, ₰ bbl. $2.50@3. Norfolk marrowfat, $1@2. N. J., $3@3.50. Norfolk string beans, crate, 75c.@$1. Charleston, $1@1.25. Florida cucumbers, crates, $1.50@2. Chas. do., $2.50@3.50. Asparagus, per doz., 75c.@$2. Norfolk cauliflower, ₰ bbl., $1.50@2. Bermuda onions, ₰ bush, $1.25@1.50. Rhubarb, 100 bunches, $1@2.

WOOL.—Prices have again been reduced, and a freer business follows. Western fleeces quoted at 38@41c. for X and XX; 46@48c. for XXX and picklock; 48@58c. for combing; 28@33c. for extra pulled; 30@41c. for superfine pulled.

ROCHESTER, June 3.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.25; white winter, $1.25@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@45c. Corn quiet at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 20@22c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 14½@15c. Apples, bu., $1@1.75. Potatoes, bu., 25@30c. Beans, ₰ bu., 90c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $23.50. Wool, 25@33c. Hay, $10@13. Straw, $6@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed dull at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₰ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₰ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.05@6.45 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., June 3, 1876.

TRANSACTIONS in cheese this week have been brisk, and prices have advanced about ½c. on the average, though buyers claim that the market is no better than for the previous week. About 300 boxes from farm dairies were on the market, of various qualities, from that which was full-skimmed to nearly full-cream. Sales were made at 8¾@10½c. for the bulk, a few lots going below the first figure, and one or two lots reaching a trifle above 10½c.

Factories were well represented, there being about 100 salesmen, offering over 5,000 boxes. Sales commenced at 10½c., and went up rapidly to 11c., and finally reached 11¾c. The bulk of sales were made at 11¼@11½c., while one lot was reported as having been sold at 11¾c. The corresponding prices last year at this time were nearly ¼c. above the sales this week—as 25 lots were sold at 11¾c., while the balance ranged at 11@11¼c.

The delivery of butter has declined, and sales have been made at 20@23c. Hay butter ranged at 20@23c.; grass made at 24@26c.

We have advices from abroad for the second week in May. Our London correspondent says American cheese, if firm and solid, are salable at full rates, and there is a good demand for mediums and low grades. The stocks of faultless Cheddar and double Wiltshire are exhausted. There is a fair demand for new Dutch, while old is slow of sale.

The prices are for extra American, 63@65s.; fine, 62@63s.; good, 52@58s.; secondary and common, 35@45s. English cheddar brings 84@90s.; Wiltshire double, 68@78s.; Cheshire medium, 50@58s.; fine, 70@80s.; Scotch, 62@68s. Dutch cheese—Edams, new, 58@62s.; September make, 68@72s.; old Gondas scarce at 58@62s.; Derby, old, 58@64s.

The supplies of butter are good and all sorts sell as landed.

Dorsets brings 130s.; Jersey, 120@130s.; Danish and Swedish, 120@148s.; Normandy, 146s.; Friesland, 132s. Corks, 124s. No American or Canadian butter in market. Oleomargarine sells at 60@118s. ₰ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, June 3, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,034	19	3,702	6,715	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	40	514	858	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	13,964
Harsimus Cove	6,183	00	000	13,676	10,739
Totals this week	9,207	59	4,216	21,265	24,703
" last week	9,998	21	3,977	21,590	20,516

BEEVES.—No improvement in trade on Monday last, the day was a Hebrew holiday, so the Jews dealt lightly in live stock. Horned cattle sold from 9@11¾c. ₰ lb., with a few head at retail on advanced rates. Weights, 6@9¼ cwt. The market closed weak, with a few car loads of beeves unsold. The quality of these herds was generally coarse, but fat. Wednesday, trade firm without any advance in rates; prices at 8¾@10¾c.; weights, 6@9¾ cwt. Thursday, trade small at 9@10¾c.; weights, 6¾@8 cwt. Friday, the markets closed firm; sales at 9@10¾c.; weights, 5¼@9¼ cwt. From 56@58 lbs. net have been allowed on the cwt. Spanish herds, corn-fed, sold at 8¾@9¼c. ₰ lb.; Native steers at 8¾@10¾c. ₰ lb.; grade, do., at 11@12c. ₰ lb.; a few top steers at 12¼c. State oxen sold at 10c. ₰ lb. Bulls on live weight, $1@4.70 ₰ cwt. Mixed herds at 8¾@9¼c. ₰ lb.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @12¼	12 @12¼
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	11 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8½@ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10½	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade fallen off since our last weekly report; quality not so good as it has been for several days past; 16 cows sold at $15@50 ₰ head; 11 at $39@72; 9 at $55@75; 3 at $63@91—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade slow, on a heavy run of ordinary quality calves, some selling from 5@7¼c. ₰ lb. Buttermilk-fed calves sold at 6½@6¾c. Mixed lots at 5½c. ₰ lb. State calves sold at 3¾@7½c. ₰ lb.; Pennsylvania, 6@8¾c.; Jersey, 6¾@7¼c. There were no smooth quality veals to hand.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—On Monday trade opened slow in sheep at ¼c. strong off ₰ lb. on the closing rates of last week. Lambs were in yet slower demand at yet further reduced rates; sheep sold at 5@7¼c.; lambs, 7@12½c. Wednesday, no improvement in rates; sheep, 5@6¾c.; lambs, 7½@9¼c. Thursday, sales slow in sheep at 5¾@6¾c.; lambs, 7@8½c. Michigan sheep at 5¾c.; Shats, 5@6¾c.; Kentucky, 5@6c.; Ohio, 5½@7½c.; Tennessee, 5@6¼c.; Virginia lambs, 8¾@9½c.; Jersey, 9@11½c.; Tennessee, 7¾@8¾c.; Kentucky, 5@9c.; State, 7@12¾c. Friday, the markets closed weak.

HOGS.—On Monday last 25 State hogs, gross weight 5,700 lbs., were sold at $7.70 ₰ cwt.; Wednesday, 218 Ohio hogs, average live weight 191 lbs., were sold at $6@6¾ ₰ cwt.; city dressed slow at 8½@8¾c. ₰ lb.; selected light weight pigs, 9c. ₰ lb.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade slow at low rates; 32 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $11@72 ₰ head; 37 do. at $50@92 ₰ head; 51 ordinary do., $110@205 ₰ head; 11 pairs of family do., $300@550 ₰ pair; stylish do. held on sale; 11 roadsters sold at $275@357 ₰ head (these animals were not warranted sound, but had fair trotting action); 5 teamsters, not warranted sound, sold at $105@350 ₰ head; action good; city railroad horses sold at $100@175 ₰ head; city stage line horses sold at $115@219 head; a coarse quality heavy draft horses sold at $125@230 ₰ head; choice quality do. in demand, but not quoted. Seventy-eight horses arrived per Erie Railway, via Oak Cliff Station.

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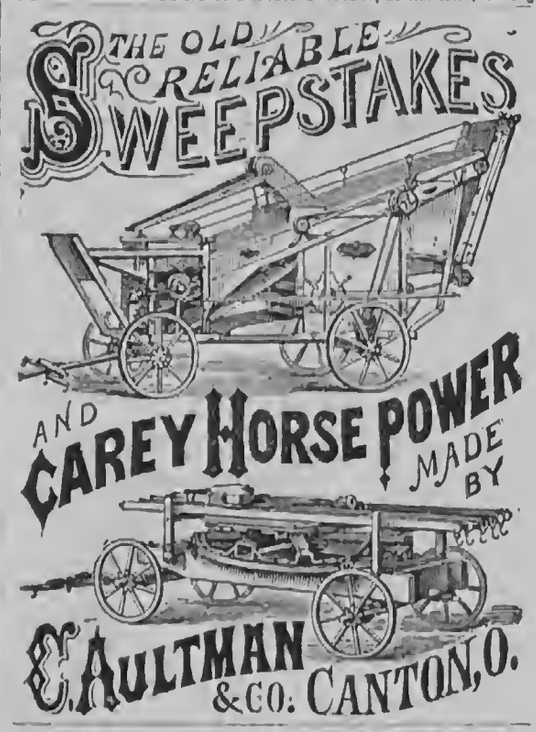

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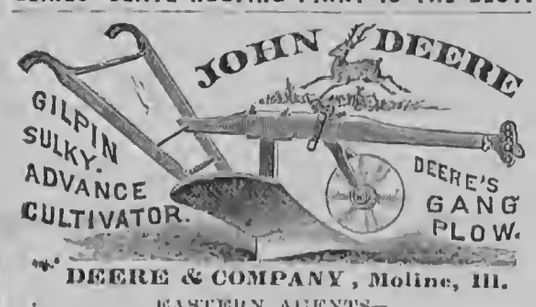

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

MR. MOODY is in Chicago.

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS is better.

RHODA BROUGHTON is engaged upon a new novel.

CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER and wife are in London, homeward bound.

THE Hon. Milo Goodrich is dangerously ill with rheumatic fever at Auburn.

A NEW edition of Starr King's book on "The White Hills" is soon to appear.

EDWIN BOOTH'S country place at Cos Cob, it seems, was sold under a mortgage.

MR. ALEXANDER STARBUCK of Waltham, Mass., is writing a history of the whale-fishery.

SECRETARY FISH'S son, Stuyvesant Fish, was recently married in New York, to Miss Anthon.

MR. D. R. LOCKE has again assumed charge of the editorial department of the Toledo Blade.

MISS COLENSO, daughter of the Bishop of Natal, is now publishing a novel in the Natal Colonist.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS has been invited to act as orator at the Fourth of July celebration in Herkimer.

JAMES PARTON will deliver the annual address at the commencement exercises of Bates College, at Lewiston, Me.

A MAGNIFICENT illustrated edition of Victor Hugo's "Quatre-vingt-treize" has recently been published in Paris.

GEN. N. P. BANKS is to command the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston at its Spring parade, June 5.

PROF. TYNDALL has received from the members of the royal institution, on the occasion of his marriage, a purse of £315.

THE Rev. Dr. Leonard Bacon has begun a series of lectures on "Ecclesiastical Law" before the senior class of the Yale Law School.

MARK TWAIN will preside at the opening of the California building on the Centennial Exhibition grounds, which takes place June 15th.

JOHN C. HALE of Hot Springs, Ark., son-in-law of Parson Brownlow, was mortally wounded by the bullet of W. P. Walsh, postmaster.

JESSE POMEROY, a rumor from Boston says, will be abandoned to his fate by the governor and council at their session on Friday next.

MISS GERTRUDE MOREHOUSE of Portland, Mich., is the first woman lawyer in that state who has received a commission as notary public.

THE Hon. Lewis S. Huntington, a gentleman well known in the United States, is likely to be the next lieutenant-governor of Manitoba.

MR. HENRY W. LONGFELLOW has rented a cottage in Bryn Mawr, Montgomery County, Penn., and will pass the summer there with his family.

BROOKS ADAMS has accepted the invitation to read the declaration of Independence at the centennial celebration of the Fourth of July in Boston.

EX-GOV. SEYMOUR has consented, it is said, to deliver the Historical Address at the Herkimer County Centennial celebration at Herkimer, July 3.

BISHOP WILLIAMS, (Protestant Episcopal) of the diocese of Connecticut, has subscribed fifty dollars in aid of the ball nine of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.

PRINCE OSCAR, the second son of the King of Sweden, has embarked at Carlscrona for the United States. He will visit the Centennial Exhibition.

THE Rev. Charles S. Robinson will deliver an address at the fortieth anniversary of the Albany Tract and Missionary society in that city to-morrow evening.

PRESIDENT PORTER of Yale College, will address the department of higher education at the meeting of the National Educational association in Baltimore, July 10th.

MRS. BELKNAP and her little daughter, the Washington Chronicle says, will leave that city in a few days and will pass the summer in some quiet village near New York.

MICHELET'S tomb in the cemetery of Pere la Chaise, near Paris, is opposite that of Casimir Delavigne, and near the monuments of Honore de Balzac, Eugene Delacroix, Charles Nodier, Boutin, and Frederic Soulie.

A PERSON living at the West has sent a letter to President Eliot, of Harvard College, asking for back numbers of "his illustrated journal," meaning the Harvard Lampoon, the comic publication edited by the students.

DR. SCHLIEMANN writes that he has just obtained a new firman for two years for Troy, and was to proceed there on May 5, to build some frame houses, so as to be able to continue the excavations by the 21st instant.

SAMUEL F. HUNT one of the most graceful speakers among the young lawyers in Ohio, is to deliver the oration at the thirtieth annual convention of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, at the Williams college chapter, in September.

MRS. N. P. WILLIS, widow of the poet, is now living in New York with her second son and two young daughters. Her eldest son and daughter are married and settled down, the former in the interior of Pennsylvania, and the latter in Exeter, N. H.

THE life of A. T. Stewart, by General J. G. Wilson, announced by D. Appleton & Co. immediately upon Mr. Stewart's death, will not be published by that house. This is understood to be in deference to the wish of Mrs. Stewart, supplementing that of her husband, that no biography of him should be given to the public.

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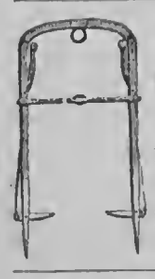

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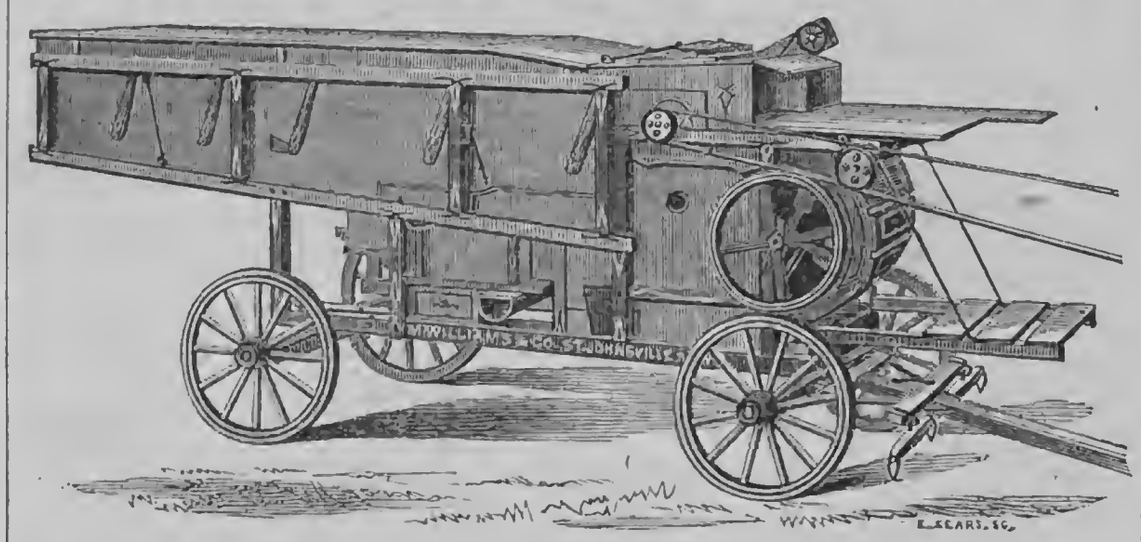

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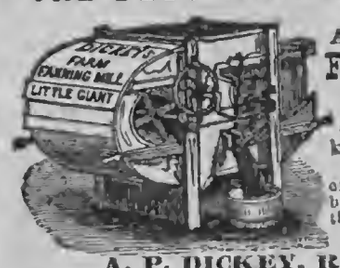

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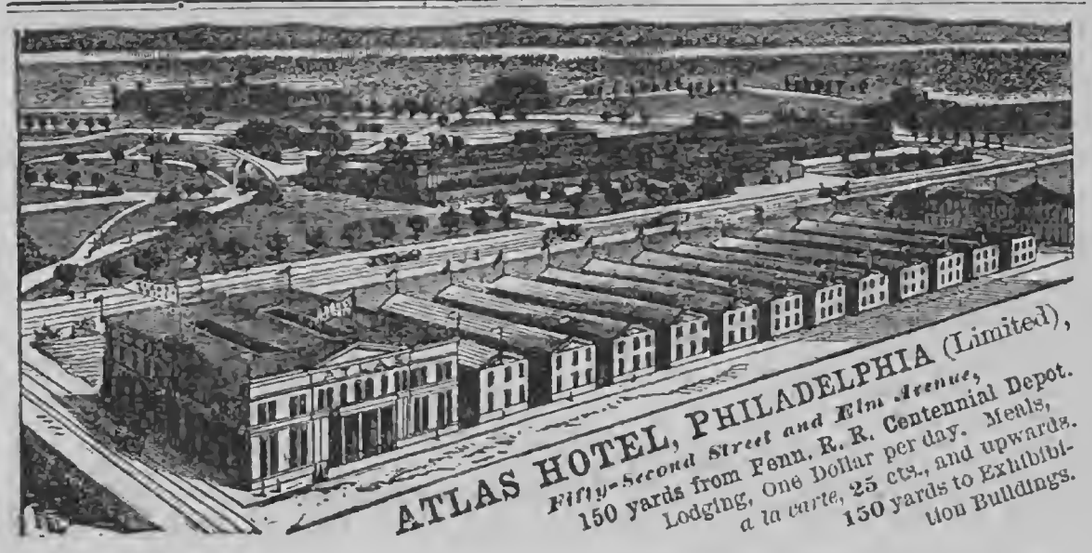

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. D. Carman, East Rockaway, L. I.—1. Paris green is a virulent poison and should not be mixed with the hands, lest it penetrate sores or cuts upon them.

2. It has been proven over and over again that it does not in any way injure the potato.

3. A tablespoonful to 2 gallons of water is sufficient—or, if preferred dry, mix it with flour in the proportion of twenty parts of flour to one of Paris green.

4. It should be applied early in the morning. If the wind blows, be careful not to inhale the mixture. A sieve is as serviceable as anything for the dry mixture, and a flowering-pot for the liquid.

A Subscriber, Binghams, Tioga Co., N. Y.—The leading English agricultural papers are the Farmer, Agricultural Gazette, and Journal of Horticulture. You need only write to the "Publishers, London, England."

James Sproat, Mass.—Upon fruit trees we have used for two years a mixture of unslaked lime, one pint; sulphur, rock salt, aloes, one tablespoonful each; wood ashes, one pint; a piece of soap three inches square to a gallon of water—all heated to boiling and applied cold with a stick having the end bound firmly with rags. They are first painted about the 1st May, again the latter part of May, and finally in the Fall. Many other mixtures may prove just as efficacious. It is a good plan to place about the earth in contact with the stem a dry mixture of sulphur, coal ashes and salt as protection against the borer.

W. J. B.—The only effectual application for destroying the Rose Slug that we know is White Hellebore root. The bushes can be dusted, when wet, with the powder, or a solution in proportion of half a pound to a barrel of water can be applied with garden syringe or watering pot with fine nose. We have never found whale oil soap, carbolic soap, tobacco, or any other article than Hellebore of any service.

A. E. M.—Plantains can be killed out from your grass plot by using the salt and lime mixture—which is really chloride of lime, and may be prepared by dissolving as much salt as possible in water and using the brine to slake lime; sprinkle the lime thus prepared thoroughly over the grass plot. It will kill the plantain and help the grass. Where the plantain is not too abundant they can be readily removed with a knife. A lively hand can go over considerable ground in an hour.

J. A. Forney, Rutherfordton, N. C.—The leaf which you send is that of *Magnolia macrophylla*. You say the flowers, measuring 8 to 12 inches in diameter, are "perfectly white." We think you will find a purple spot at the base of the petals.

Luther Burbank, Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., Cal.—1. The blotches or spots on the *Trillium* are not uncommon. *T. Sessile* is thus marked. The one you send is probably *T. cernuum*. We must have the flower to determine it beyond a question.

2. The wild Lettuce is *Lactuca elongata*. Your plant, however, does not belong to *Compositae*. The nearest that we can *guess* at it without a flower is *Claytonia perfoliata*.

3. Mr. B. writes:—"There is a gentleman of this town who has a pear tree (supposed to be a seedling) which annually bears a crop of pears which have neither seeds, core nor any hardness in place of a core. They ripen in the fall and are of good quality. Is it not a very unusual pear tree?"

In highly-cultivated fruits, the edible portion (the calyx, viz., in the pear,) is often improved at the expense of the seed—but the cavities of the pericarp or cartilaginous carpels still remain. We have never heard of any instance in which, as you state, the pears have neither "seeds, core nor any hardness in place of a core."

M. A. J.—1. The *Ricinus* is no protection whatever against moles. It has been shown that they prefer animal to vegetable food and their injury to plants is not wrought by eating the roots, but by burrowing underneath them and depriving the fibers of moisture.

2. It is probable there are fewer in your grounds than you suppose. We know from experience that one mole is capable of riddling an area of ground at least fifty feet square.

Inquirer, Kalamazoo, Mich.—It *is* essential that your lightning rod should go down in the earth to perpetual moisture. Water is a good conductor. Air and dry earth very bad conductors. If, therefore, the earth about your rod should be dry when the rod is "struck," the lightning would be as likely to choose the house as the ground.

J. Z.—A lady correspondent writes that those who are troubled with burdocks and other weeds in their lawns and gardens should try kerosene oil. The same fluid would probably kill Canada thistles. Unrefined coal oil would probably be equally as efficacious and cost less.

C. A. C.—*Hemerocalis lutea* is perfectly hardy. The flowers are bright, but not enduring, and the leaves are not very ornamental to associate with the *lancifoliums*.

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THE principal objection to female barbers is that they're too apt to turn their customers heads.

A DESPAIRING husband asks the Ledger how to elevate an ill-tempered wife. Get her ire up, we should say.

A BALD-HEADED man peddling a hair restorer was the confusing spectacle presented to Danbury recently.

VACCINATE. Politeness never hurts anybody. Small-pox will not attack you if you allow it to take your arm.

CURIOUS, but true—We know a painter whose palette has been destroyed, and yet who retains his taste perfectly.

A CELEBRATED gourmand once said, "To enjoy a stuffed turkey thoroughly, there should be only two present—yourself and the turkey."

A SANDY HILL young lady killed a polecat recently with her father's musket, and between the musket and polecat both, no young man dares to come within a mile of her domicile.

A WAG upon visiting a medical museum, was shown some dwarfs and specimens of mortality all preserved in alcohol. "Well," said he, "I never thought the dead could be in such spirits."

THE author of the following is going to Philadelphia with the log:—When Gen. Stark heard of the battle of Lexington, he was at work in his saw-mill, but he left a log half-sawed and it was never finished afterward.

A WISCONSIN editor illustrates the prevailing extravagance of the people of the present day by calling attention to the costly baby carriages in use now, while, when he was a baby, they hauled him around by the hair of the head.

PEOPLE wonder how gas companies acquire so much real estate and so many houses and buildings. Any man who burns gas understands the mystery. The company turns on the gas in a man's house, and lets it run until the gas bill gets bigger than the house; when that is accomplished the company rakes in the pile.

"Now," said the professor, as he grew animated in the discussion, "all matter constantly changes. I have changed since taking my seat here. Every single moment in my body are tens of thousands of blood corpuscles smashed to pieces and forever destroyed." Senior in the back seat (in a voice expressive of deep wonder)—"Gosh!"

A POMPOUS fellow was dining with a country family, when the lady of the house desired the servant to take away the dish containing the fowl, which word she pronounced fool, as is not uncommon in Scotland. "I presume, madam, you mean fowl," said the prig, in a reproving tone. "Very well," said the lady, a little nettled, "be it so; take away the fowl and let the fool remain."

A DOCTOR on West Adams street saved a young woman's life two months ago. When he brought round his bill the grateful father replied:—"Take her, doctor; she is yours; her heart beats only for you. Me and the old woman will come and live with you by-and-by." The son of Esculapius said he wasn't that sort of a man; that he couldn't afford it; that seeing it was him, he would take $66. "Sixty-six dollars!" screamed the pious father; "why, I could bury her for half the money."—*Chicago Tribune.*

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Tomkins.—"Why, Miss KATIE?"
Katie.—"'Cause, if you marry Sister BELL, she wouldn't leave a hair in six minutes!"

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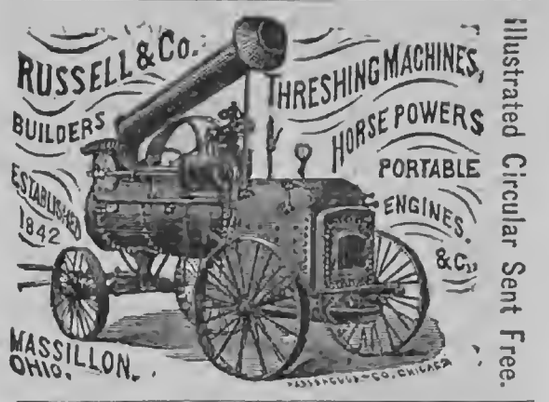

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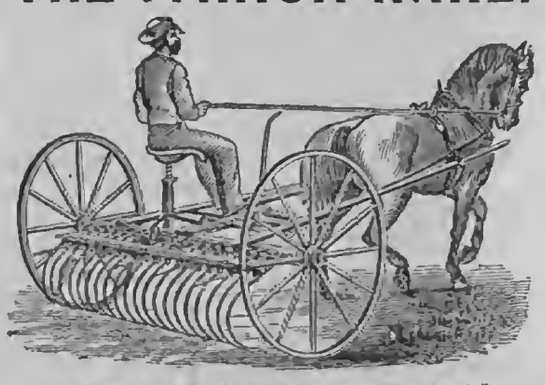

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WHOLE No. 1377.

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Industrial Topics.

SOMETHING ABOUT PALMS.

The inhabitants of cool climates know little of the value of the great family of plants known by the common name of palms. Most of us, it is true, have seen palm leaf hats and fans, but beyond this, are seldom sufficiently interested to seek further information about the plants from which they are made. But this extensive family of plants are of as much importance to the inhabitants of tropical countries as the cereals are to those of cold climates. In some tropical countries the palms supply all the necessaries of life, as well as many luxuries, such as milk, bread, wine, oil, vinegar, ink, parchment or a kind of natural paper, spirituous liquors of various kinds, besides materials for clothing and building dwellings.

The palm oil of commerce is expressed from the fruit of the Avoira palm, and there are several species which yield sago; then we have dates, cocoanuts, and many other well-known fruits which are the product of some species of palm. Abundant as are the useful species, which in some manner contribute to the necessities or wants of man, there is a still greater number that are valued only for ornamental purposes. The graceful habit and beautiful foliage of many of the smaller-growing kinds, has ever made them special favorites with those who possess suitable structures in which to cultivate such plants. In all the great botanical gardens of Europe a palm house is considered almost indispensable, and although we have no public establishments of this kind worthy of the name, still there are individuals who devote both time and large sums of money to introducing new plants of all kinds, not omitting the finest palms of the tropics.

One of the most interesting and beautiful of the ornamental species found within our territorial borders is the interesting *Pritchardia filifera*, of which we give an illustration, copied from the London Garden. It is said to grow further north than any other species of the palm tribe, and is found on the banks of the Colorado river, Arizona, also in New Mexico. It is an exceedingly graceful plant, the long, white filaments falling from the palmate leaves, not unlike, in appearance, a miniature weeping willow.

When the many merits of this fine half-hardy palm become fully known to the lovers of handsome foliage plants, it will no doubt become a general favorite, and grace many a private conservatory and garden.

PUBLIC ROADS.

It is admitted on all sides that the roads need improving, but how to go about it is the great question. It will take much labor and skill, and perseverance to make good stone and gravel turnpikes throughout the State, but it will pay in the end to build them, and the sooner we go about it the sooner we shall have them. I believe that the best plan is to make each land owner build the road across his lands, and for the following reasons:

1st. He is the most interested in that part of the road; he uses it himself more than others and would be more likely to keep it in order. It comes under his observation every day—he has a better chance to know what is wanted—he would know where to get the best material.

2d. With such a law the public highway would become one of the fixtures of the farm, and its condition would affect the salable value of the land. A good road would be a personal credit to the owner, and increase the value of his property as much as the improvement cost him.

3d. The best machines are those that are simplest in their construction, last longest, are less liable to get out of repair, are easier managed, and cost the least. I claim that it is just the same with the Road Law; the more simple it is the better for us and the road. The easiest way is to make a law requiring each land owner to build all the road across his premises—have that for a starting point or foundation, and then other provisions can be added to modify what some choose to call injustice to certain individuals, which, I think, is more immaginary than real. Still, there may once in a great while be a a case that would need to be provided for in framing a new road law. Such a rule would not be as unequal or unjust as the present one. This checks individual enterprise, while the other would give free scope to those wishing to improve their premises.

4th. There are but two ways for us to choose from; we must do the work ourselves or pay some one else to do it for us. If we build them ourselves, then we shall find employment for our teams and hands at times in the year when other work is not pressing, and, at the same time, be clearing the land of stone. We should not pay out money to strangers, but could build the road much less than for any other person. We could arrange our business so that whenever in the course of farming any stone could be moved they might be drawn and deposited in the road, and at other times these stones could be broken up and then covered with gravel. This material would be furnished by each land owner free of cost, and most men would be glad to get rid of the stone, and at the same time improve the highway. Nineteen times out of twenty, this law would equalize the road tax better than any other that has been suggested.

5th. Where there are wealthy people who own but little land, or the road does not cross their premises, then they might be assessed a money tax yearly, which should go into the town treasury, until it was needed to help others who had very much more than an average amount of road to build.

6th. All persons who now pay only a poll tax, might be obliged to work, or pay to the person on whose land they reside—the same as they now do to the pathmaster. Reader of the Rural.

PRITCHARDIA FILIFERA.

FAIRMOUNT.

The Bergen Index—a Hackensack paper—in referring to our article respecting the village that Mr. Zingsem has been for several years, and is still, erecting a short distance from that part of Hackensack, known as Upper—says:

"A representative of the Rural New-Yorker, having visited Fairmount, (the name of this village) has written of a part of what he saw there. He could justly have more fully described and more extensively praised Mr. Z.'s enterprise, for it surely is worthy, and there are few like it or similar to it in the world."

True, he *might* have. But he is satisfied with having stirred up the old-fogy, fault-finding, ride-over-each-other people of the consequential city of Hackensack to some appreciation of what this enterprising Zingsem is doing for them and for it.

WIRE FENCING.

There are many localities where no materials suitable for making fences can be obtained at a cost which will admit of their use by the farmer. Wood and stone are the materials most generally employed for this purpose, but these not being universally abundant sometimes substitutes are frequently in demand. Hedges will do, but it takes too much time to produce them, if a man is in a hurry to get a secure enclosure. Iron wire is now being employed quite extensively for fences and if not too small and then well sustained by strong posts it answers very well. Many a wire fence however, has proved to be of little use in turning stock, owing to the lack of proper materials being employed,—the idea of cheapness having led the builder to overlook the more important merit of efficiency.

We lately saw a specimen of wire fencing in Philadelphia, which seemed to combine both the useful and ornamental in a greater degree than any other which has come under our observation. It is composed of a top rail of gas pipe, iron posts and six strands of galvanized cable wire passing through the posts. This cable or double-strand wire is not only fully as strong as a single wire of the same weight, but the twisting adds elasticity which is quite important, especially when iron or stone posts are used in the erection. This cable fencing is of course more expensive than the common single wire, but it is enough better to pay for the additional cost. In answer to an inquiry in regard to the cost of this cable fencing, we have received the following reply:

Dear Sir:—In answer to your inquiry of a few days back, relative to the cost per rod of our cable fencing, if made with 2 and 3 cables high, I beg to state that the wire alone of our usual quality made of 5 strands of wire twisted into cable form and thoroughly galvanized will cost 1¾c. per foot running measure. A fence of 3 cables in hight would cost for wire cable alone 74c. per rod and the staples and screw-eye bolts for fastening to posts and straining the wire would increase the cost about 1 to 2c. per rod. If only 2 cables high the wire cable alone would cost 49c. per rod. This cable wire is heavier and of better quality than is necessary perhaps for herding purposes and is used largely for permanent fencing and when properly erected last for a life time. We could furnish a lighter article unquestionably, made of only 3 wires properly twisted, that could be sold for perhaps one-third less money, in large quantities.—Philip S. Justice, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

It is a most remarkable fact, but fact, nevertheless, that the greatest scarcity of good vegetables is frequently to be observed in farming districts. Large cities are always well supplied with the best qualities, while the rural districts are often suffering for them. This is probably owing to ignorance of the manner of their cultivation among our farmers generally, and is but a sorry commentary upon the intelligence of our rural population. Let us change all this!

Field Crops.

BLUE GRASS—HOW TO GATHER THE SEED AND WHEN TO SOW IT.

Mr. Campbell Brown has been wandering about Lexington, Ky. of late, and having picked up some information about saving and sowing blue-grass seed he writes to the Rural Sun, telling how it is done.

It is gathered when ripe by using "strippers," worked by hand or horse-power. The hand strippers are very simple, cost but two dollars and a half, and will strip from ten to fifteen bushels per day. There are two kinds of horse-power gatherers—one costing $65, gathers fifty to sixty bushels per day—the other costs $136, and gathers one hundred to one hundred and fifty bushels. The only precaution observed after gathering, is to spread out so that it may not heat in curing. An acre of fair quality yields ten to twelve, and fifteen bushels. Those with whom I talked are not in the habit of reserving fields for seed; they say it is better to let it be eaten down once, and the second growth (like clover) yields more seed. No art or skill is required in gathering. Any hand can do it.

As to time and mode of sowing, there is wide diversity of practice, each farmer claiming excellent results for his plan. One gentleman sows on wheat stubble, clover or timothy sod, *as soon as gathered*, to avoid danger of heating, relying on the fall rains to put in the seed. Another sows in the fall on clover or timothy—a third sows with timothy in the fall on wheat or other fall grain. By this method, he claims that the timothy furnishes fair pasture in the fall after wheat is cut, and during the following spring, and that the wheat and timothy shade and protect the clover while young. The oldest and most experienced man I talked with says that blue-grass will come if sowed any month in the year; he prefers fall, winter or early spring.

From a bushel to a bushel and a half is the usual amount sown—two bushels will do no harm. By sowing timothy with it, the pasture is good one year sooner.

Why can't Tennessee save her own blue-grass seed? One day's labor of one hand will save enough to sow ten acres—on this all the Kentuckians are agreed. We can never afford to buy enough from abroad to sow down all the lands that need it, though the price in Lexington, is only sixty or seventy cents per bushel.

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKES.

Our contemporary the Germantown Telegraph seems to have some personal spite against the old Jerusalem Artichoke, for it says:

"The Jerusalem Artichoke is barely fit for hogs; but this is a poor recommendation, seeing that there are plenty of cheaper and better hog-feeding articles. Even if it were much better than it is, there is still the objection of getting the roots into the ground. The frost will not destroy it, and as every piece grows, it is nearly as hard to get rid of as a lot of horse-radish."

Now, for once, neighbor, you are a little too sure of your footing, for the "frost" does sometimes destroy Artichoke Roots, even in the moderate-mild climate of New York City and its suburbs, although it is generally considered as quite hardy. F. M. Hexamer of Westchester County informed us last year that the larger portion of the Artichoke Tubers left in the ground the previous winter had been destroyed; hence he could not fill his orders for them in the spring. Hogs will not only fatten on these tubers, but stock of all kinds are fond of them; and if the potato beetle continues to increase, we may be glad to substitute the Artichoke for some of the purposes for which the *Solanum tuberosum* is now used. Then again, if the Artichoke should prove hardy in the grasshopper regions of the West, it may become a last resort in times of scarcity of other roots. It certainly is more palatable in its raw state than the common potato; and not long since we received a letter from a correspondent "out West," who said that the doctors in that section were begging for potatoes to give their patients having scurvy, brought on through scarcity of all kinds of vegetables.

There are plenty of localities where the Jerusalem Artichoke would be an almost invaluable addition to the limited list of roots cultivated, even if it is not wanted about Philadelphia.

FLAX CULTURE.

Your editorial of April 1st concerning flax culture, touches upon a matter of much interest to South West, Mo. Since the ravages of the chinch bug in 1874, but little wheat has been sown, flax being substituted therefore.

Thousands of acres were grown last year for the seed alone, the straw being used for shedding, bedding, feed, or burned to get rid of it, there being no machinery to work it up, and no market for it in its natural condition. Large quantities will be sown this season, the seed being contracted in advance, at $1 per bushel, for prime and the straw wasted, as it was last year, unless there is some way opened up for its manufacture.

Here is an opening for some capitalists to make a good thing for themselves and confer a benefit upon the farmers of the Southwest. We can supply you with flax, cheaper than Russia can, if only the machinery was here to work it up for spinning. Please call the attention of those interested in flax manufactures, to this fact. J. W. Campbell.

Bates Co., Mo.

WHO INTRODUCED THE POTATO INTO EUROPE.

Sir Walter Raleigh is generally accredited with introducing the common potato into Europe, it being supposed that he took some tubers over to Ireland on his return from this country, after visiting it, under a patent granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1584. No absolute proof however, has ever been discovered that he did take tubers or seed home with him on his return voyage from Virginia, although it has often been said that he gave his gardener tubers to plant in his garden in Youghal in the county of Cork.

Now, the only written proof of Sir Walter Raleigh having anything to do with the introduction of the potato into Europe is found in the manuscript minutes of the Royal Society of London, Dec., 1693, when we are told the President Sir Robert Southwell informed his fellows that his grandfather first cultivated potatoes in Ireland, and that he got them from Sir Walter Raleigh.

It is very strange however if Sir Walter did introduce the potato into Ireland or England in 1581 or '85, that John Gerarde, who was at that time gathering materials for his great work "The Historie of Plantes," published a dozen years later 1597, was not aware of the fact, for he gives a figure and description of the Virginia potato, but not a word about Sir Raleigh being its introducer.

The famous German Botanist Clusius obtained some potato tubers while residing in Vienna in 1588, from the Governor of Mons in the Provence Haiuault who procured them from an attendant of the Pope's legate, but none of these men mention Sir Walter Raleigh and they had probably no knowledge of him or his Virginian enterprise.

Of course it is of no particular importance to us whether Sir Walter or somebody else has the honor of being the first to carry the potato to Europe, but we mention the above facts in history to show upon what a slight foundation honors are often bestowed, especially if the recipient happens to be rated in some other particular branch of science or profession. Perhaps it is a weakness of mankind to give more than is really due to individuals who by some noble act or attribute has gained a slight distinction above his fellow laborers.

The Swine-Herd.

THE HOG PROCLAIMED KING.

"Hog and hominy," is an institution not to be despised even by those who may occasionally dine on South Down chops, and the lightest of wheaten rolls, for there is something solid and tenacious about the hog and the hominy that a laboring man can always rely upon in a case of emergency

Where there is much hard labor to be performed these two "strengtheners" of the "brawny arm," have long been popular in this country, and especially in the Southern and Western States, where working men still consider substantial food of more importance than delicacies.

Judge James H. Cox of Virginia seems to fully comprehend the situation of affairs in his own state, as well as in many other localities, in regard to the home productions of these essential articles and urges his opinions vigorously in a late number of the Southern Planter and Farmer. He says:

The opinion prevails with many—and I am sorry that it prevails with any farmer—that bacon can be bought from the Western market more cheaply than it can be raised by our farmers. I have laid it down as a settled principle, that no farmer ought to buy anything that can be raised upon his farm, and I fear that if any farmer acts upon a different principle he will in a short time come to grief. I have thought so ever since the war, and have no reason especially to change my opinion at this time, when corn can be bought at fifty cents per bushel, and we are charged from ten to fifteen cents per pound for bacon.

With good and prudent management, bacon can be raised more cheaply than it can be bought in the Richmond market, and I will tell how it can be done: The hog ought only to be allowed to pass through the farmer's hands one winter. The expensive part of raising hogs is wintering them. To do this, they should be only moderately fed with corn, but mostly fed upon brown stuff, or meal boiled with turnips or other vegetables; and in all cases the feed should be allowed, after having been boiled, to stand until it becomes sour, adding a little salt from time to time, as necessity may require. When the winter is over the clover lot must be appealed to, to be used either for soiling or being cut and fed to them in the sty. By the time the clover is exhausted, wheat will be ripe, and the scattered wheat should be either gathered with a gleaner and fed to the hogs, or they should be turned into the field to glean it for themselves. A few acres of corn ought invariably to be planted, to be fed to the hogs in the green state, so as they may have the benefit not only of the tender ear, but also of the saccharine matter contained in the stalk. This season past, and if the land will permit it, the hogs should then be turned out to gather the mast of acorns. This over, they are then ready for the fattening-pen. For fear of rogues, my hogs are kept mostly in the sty—always so at night. They are kept, in the meantime, well littered with wheat straw, pine boards, tobacco stalks, and soil from ditch banks; and after this fashion I raise more manure from 10 head of hogs than I can raise from eight horses and twenty head of cattle, and the quality of the manure is also superior. Without having made an accurate estimate, I am inclined to believe that the manure I get from my hogs will almost equal in value the feed they consume. I do not take into consideration the luxury of having my own bacon, cured according to my own taste, nor the offal arising therefrom.

What should discourage farmers from undertaking to raise and cure their own hogs? In Egypt, on the Nile, the people formerly worshipped the alligator. If we, the people of Virginia, have taste or inclination to worship any animal, it should be the hog. While as Christians we can worship nothing except the true and living God, still as Virginians we should tenderly care for the hog as the most useful animal in all our domestic economy; for his flesh, whether fresh or cured, meets our wants better than that of any other animal we can raise. He is useful from the snout to the tail, including the shoulder, the middling and the hams, not forgetting the souse from the head, or the enjoyable pig's feet. Indeed, the hog is a glorious institution, and should be lovingly regarded, and can be raised, in my opinion, with profit, and no farmer should be without him. With plenty of hog and hominy, no farmer can be in distress. Before the war it was said that "Cotton was King." The war proved, and experience since the war has demonstrated, that hog and hominy are the true kings; therefore, if homage is to be paid to any king, let it be paid to the true king.

HOGS FOR PROFIT.

Swine are usually kept for profit, even the celebrated "Learned Pig," was doubtless profitable to his owner, and it would be difficult to find any other good reason for keeping pigs, still there are various methods of reaching that very desirable point.

The Cherokee Agriculturists gives us a Southern and Western view of this question as follows:

The majority of our Southern farmers have so long accepted the belief that Tennessee and other States west of her, were the necessary source of our meat supply that it is a rare case that we meet a farmer who will admit that it is even profitable to raise his own supply, while we have substantial evidence in the thousands of tierces of imported bacon annually consumed in our section, that they are practicing this suicidal theory.

Nothing but ignorance or bad management can justify this state of affairs, for even with the commonest stock of hogs that we have ever seen in Georgia, pork can be raised on the poorest farm for 6 and 7 cents per pound, giving the farmer one-third of that amount for the labor and care necessary to keep them. We do not count the other two-thirds as an actual outlay of capital, but as merely the value of the corn fed, as it is of marketable value when gathered.

For the benefit of those who will accept reason (and those who read generally do), we propose an economical method. We first advise a good stock of hogs—the Berkshires are the best—and then by light feeding have your hogs to come up every morning and night, that you may be able to look after them, and keep them in health. If lousy, use coal-oil on them. If wormy, give them copperas, ashes and turpentine in their slop. To keep them in good health, give them salt, ashes and turpentine occasionally. Prevention is better than cure. For mange—with any kind of care, a black hog will not have any such disease.

For a permanency, every farmer should have a few acres of clover for grazing purposes, and no *farmer* will do without it. Let the hogs glean the wheat-fields, the orchards, the potato patches, the corn-fields, and in time have a few acres of peas for them to fatten on for the pen. Hogs can be porked in this section with ten bushels of corn to the two hundred pounds of meat. Tennessee or any other State cannot do better. When our farmers begin to fill their smoke-houses at home, and supply the people in town with provisions, the financial condition of the country may embarass commercial speculations, but the farmer will never lose any sleep for his part of the trouble.

FEED FOR PIGS.

A. B. Allen in his premium essay on Berkshire Swine, in speaking of the treatment and food for young pigs says:

The best food I have found for pigs for a few weeks after weaning, is as much cow's milk or whey as they will drink. Into this stir more or less, as required, of finely ground provender slightly salted, composed of six parts of oats, two of corn and one of flax seed. If the latter is not at hand, substitute oil or cotton seed meal. If milk or whey are not to be had, use pure, fresh water. If all could be cooked, so much the better.

When more convenient or economical, other food may be substituted for the above, such as pea, bean or barley meal, and unbolted wheat, rye or buckwheat flour. Shorts and bran I have found are apt to scour them at this time, especially if uncooked. The same remark will apply to vegetables, apples, and other fruit, which if fed at all, should be first steamed or boiled, and then mixed with meal. Brewers' grains and malt combs are recommended, but never having tried them for very young pigs, I cannot speak of their suitableness from my own experience. They are good for older animals.

Other kinds of food assist in producing a rapid growth of the pig, as offal from hotel tables, fisheries, slaughter houses, etc., but as few can avail themselves of these, I speak more particularly of such as is produced on the farm. Being an omniverous animal, it does not matter so much as to the kind of food given, except when put up for fattening—then it must be grain or meal of some sort entirely—provided it keeps the pig in a healthy, thriving condition. Care must be had during growth to neither stuff nor scrimp, both being alike injurious.

The Vineyard.

SUMMER PRUNING GRAPES.

Soon after grape vines have commenced growing in the spring, the first of what is generally termed summer-pruning should be done, which consists of breaking out all superfluous shoots. The shortening of the last season's canes at the regular annual pruning, in fall or winter, tends to force out latent buds, as well as to make the larger fruit buds divide—two shoots issuing from each instead of one—which would naturally be the result if no pruning was done.

Now, if this rubbing off of the superfluous shoots is neglected, we are likely to find our vines overloaded and crowded with a large number of weak, slender canes, the struggle between them for existence and nourishment being so great that none will perfect their fruit, or become strong enough to bear any the ensuing year.

Of course, all this pruning, thinning, and training is "unnatural," but we produce, by the operation, unnatural effects in enlarged and improved fruit, hence the means are justified in the result. Much as has been written of late against severe pruning in winter, or pruning and pinching of vines in summer, no system of vine culture which neglects these operations has ever proved a success for any considerable length of time with any of the improved varieties of grapes in this country or elsewhere.

The novice in grape culture, when proceeding to prune or break out the shoots in summer, has only to keep one thing in view, and that is, how many canes will be needed for next year's crop, or how many will it be safe to allow the plant to carry. As no two shoots should be permitted to start from the same point or bud on the vine, the weakest may be broken off, and the strongest, which will usually show fruit, may be left. All small, weak shoots appearing in clusters or singly on the old wood, should be rubbed off as soon as they appear, as mere number of canes or leaves does not always indicate great vigor, or tend to produce it. One good, large, healthy cane or leaf, is worth a dozen small and feeble ones. The vineyardist should keep this in view when pruning and training vines of all kinds, and try to distribute the bearing spurs and shoots as regularly as possible, in order to prevent crowding, and give each and all an equal chance to become fully developed.

This is the end sought in all the various practical and scientific systems of training vines, and it does not matter which one is adopted, success largely depends upon the equal distribution of the vital forces of the plant, and, at the same time, not overtaxing it by permitting too great a number of canes and lateral branches to remain on any one vine. It is far better to reduce the number of fruit-bearing branches below the maximum than to allow one above it to remain, for by concentration we can increase the size of the fruit enough to make up a considerable loss in numbers.

Dairy Husbandry.

EXPERIMENTS IN BUTTER MAKING.

THE following letter from Mr. H. O. FREEMAN of Chenango, detailing his experiments in setting milk on the Swedish system, will be read with interest. Mr. FREEMAN is a careful experimenter, and he has made the following record at our request:

HON. X. A. WILLARD:—When I stated to you some time since that I would give some results of the experiments in setting milk for raising cream at Ridge Mills Creamery, at which place most of my tests have been made, the promise was given in ignorance of the labor entailed thereby. But I have "bucked the tiger" and give you the report. One word in explanation, however. The object had in view has been to produce the largest quantity of butter from a given quantity of milk derived from the same herds of cows, at least expense of labor in the creamery, combined with least loss in handling the milk. With this objective point in mind, you will understand why I recommend, in places where large quantities of milk are received, the cooling of the same in vats for the purpose of raising cream, while at the same time I am satisfied that if low temperature is applied in a dairy, as under the "Swedish system" you have brought in your "Practical Butter Book" to the notice of those who read, can learn that the latter principle will produce with the care necessary to its full adoption, the most butter from the milk. You have already had explained the vats used at Ridge Mills Creamery in raising cream from milk, which are similar to those in other places where these trials have been made. In order to make the experiments *practical*, I have set not less than 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of milk at each test and carried the tests through ten days' trials, in order to meet different states of atmosphere, giving you the *average* result of these ten days.

The milk in the cooling vats that was set six inches deep required 14 per cent. more in quantity to make a pound of butter than in those vats where it was only four inches deep, in each case the vats being skimmed at the same intervals of setting, and the cream treated precisely the same in each instance.

The water used was from ample springs, the water having free access on top, sides and bottom of the milk, the latter when skimmed being perfectly sweet. The Swedish system tested at the same period was with ice water 35° Fahrenheit in temperature. The coolers used were 20 inches high by 8¾ inches in diameter, and produced 6 per cent. more in butter from a given quantity of milk than the shallow setting in vats, and as a matter of course this milk was also sweet when skimmed. But (and here comes in the "but" applicable to a large creamery) it took three hours to *properly* skim the coolers, and thereby secure all the cream, while the cooling vats were easily done in half an hour. Consequently, after trying many plans for setting milk for the purpose of raising cream, I prefer the cooling vat for creameries where large quantities of milk are manipulated; but for the farm dairy of milk converted at home into the most profitable product, I should, with ample time to devote to a methodical skimming of coolers, use the Swedish system of setting milk as you have fully explained.

Have not given the quantity of milk required to make a pound of butter in these trials, for the reason that it might appear large to some who have strictly butter cows, and have limited myself to the *comparative* production of butter under different modes of setting milk as produced in a creamery where all sorts of breeds of cattle present their milk for manufacture. I would, however, say to butter makers that, whether in the creamery or on the farm, they will be wise, in my opinion, to raise all the cream from milk while the latter is sweet. They will find the production of butter finer in quality and not less in quantity, but likely to be more, provided the cream is properly treated before churning. It is an easy matter to let the skim milk sour if so desired for hog feed, and certainly, if wanted for these, it is absolutely necessary, in my opinion, to have it sweet.

Could the same degree of cold be imparted to the milk in a cooling vat containing 1,000 pounds as rapidly as to the cooler of 25 pounds immersed in ice water, I have no doubt that the former would throw up its cream as quickly as the latter, from which I have raised all the cream in twelve hours; but I have not yet been able to reduce the temperature of milk in the vat containing 1,000 pounds as rapidly as the same quantity distributed in coolers. I am informed that patents have recently been taken out, the inventors of which claim to accomplish such a result.

I have been converted to the principle of raising cream from milk by the application of cold water applied to the shallow vats or deep coolers, and fully converted to the principle of shallow setting, as against deep setting, where ordinary spring water is used.

My conclusions are based upon *practical* experiments tested in creameries under my control in New York State and Ohio, carried through weeks of trial and upon large quantities of milk, reaching at times 12,000 pounds at a test. I, therefore, claim that they are practical. I should add, for the information of those who follow the old theory of 60° Fahrenheit for raising cream from milk wherewith to make butter (of which I was once a strong advocate), that during the tests above reported I set milk from the same herds at 60°. It took a longer time to obtain butter from such milk than the Swedish plan of setting, and the skim milk was invariably sour at the end of 24 to 36 hours, the time that most of the milk was set in the above tests.

PREPARING MILK FOR CONSUMPTION.

MR. X. A. WILLARD:—I desire to know the best way to cool milk and at what temperature for carrying around to sell. Is it advisable to cool it much below the temperature of the atmosphere, unless there are facilities for keeping it cool?

Any information pertaining to the milk business will be deemed a favor and greatly appreciated. J. P. CORBIN.

Whitney's Point, N. Y.

REMARKS:—Milk which is designed to be carried around town for sale does not require to be reduced to a temperature much if any below 60°. The more important point is to cool it as quickly as possible to this temperature, say within one hour from the time it is drawn from the cow. Milk in hot weather, unless cooled properly, decomposes very rapidly, and as cold averts decomposition, the sooner this is attended to the better condition will it be in to remain sweet and sound while being served to customers.

The practice most in vogue among milkmen furnishing milk for city consumption is to have a pool of cool water in the milk house. There is a constant flow of water in and out of the pool. The milk is placed in cans 8 inches in diameter by 20 inches deep, which are sunk in the pool, care being taken that the water comes up a little above the line of the milk in the cans. The flow of water in the pool should be sufficient to cool the milk to 60°, or a little below, in the space of one hour.

When the distance from the farm to the town is not far, we have seen milk kept in good order by being placed in the delivery can and setting it in a vat of water by the side of a penstock, the water being allowed to fall over the top of the can. In such cases the delivery cans were small. The trouble of cooling milk massed in large quantities is that the milk is not cooled evenly, the center of the mass remaining warm much longer than those portions in near contact with the water. Hence the advantage of the small cans first mentioned. By stirring the milk frequently in the larger cans, the objection referred to is partly overcome.

One of the best coolers for preparing milk for market is the English refrigerator used by brewers for cooling beer. In this apparatus a very small quantity of cold water passing upward in a very thin stream between two corrugated sheets of metal rapidly abstracts the heat from two very shallow streams of milk descending outside the corrugated metal sheets. The water is admitted at the bottom of the apparatus, and passing upward between the corrugated sheets, is discharged on the side at the top. The milk is received in a reservoir or pail provided with a faucet which regulates the flow of the milk as it falls into a metal trough perforated with holes for the purpose of distributing it along the top of the corrugated plates. In this way the milk is spread into so fine a sheet that instead of falling rapidly from step to step, it follows the corrugations of the surface, and finally at the bottom is collected in a trough and conveyed to the milk can, which is placed beneath. In this apparatus the parts coming in contact with the milk are all exposed and can be readily cleaned. If running water from springs cannot be had, well water can be used or water cooled with ice. It is a very convenient and effective cooler, simple in its construction, and is not patented. It can be made by any tinner, and will be found useful by those who are engaged in furnishing milk for village or city consumption.

In sending milk to market, either by rail or otherwise, it is of the utmost importance that it be thoroughly cooled as soon as it leaves the cow. When milk is carted from the farm and delivered to customers in town during hot weather, it is a very good plan to have the cans surrounded with coarse sacking which is thoroughly saturated with water when the teams start from the farm. The evaporation of the water keeps the milk cool, and in this way the cans are not affected by the atmosphere.

In this connection we may remark that recent experiments have shown that milk is conveyed to market in better order when the cans are completely filled, and an arrangement is now made to force the milk into the can so as to be completely full, leaving no space by which the milk can move, thereby preventing the churning so common where the cans are not completely filled.

CENTENNIAL COMMISSION — BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE.

PHILADELPHIA, June 1st, 1876.

THE American Dairymen's Association has erected, in close proximity to the Agricultural Building of the Centennial International Exhibition, a model Cheese and Butter Factory, with rooms for an extensive display of Dairy Products, and the Apparatus and Appliances used in the manufacture of the same. The Dairy House is in the form of a double L, the front portion being 116 feet long by 28 feet wide, and comprising three apartments: the center one illustrative in its appointments of the American Cheese Factory and Creamery System; the end rooms being fitted-up for the exhibition of Butter and Fancy Cheese. The wings are 64 feet in length by 30 feet in width, and are appropriated, one for the display of Foreign Cheese, the other for American. Beneath the building is a cellar of 864 square feet, for the storage of products not ready for exhibition. The whole structure is of two stories in hight, the upper floor being fitted-up with reception-rooms, offices for Committees, rooms for the storage and the preparation of products, and for restaurant purposes, it being designed to establish a Farmers' Lunch-Room in the building. Access to the interior of the exhibition-rooms will be closed to visitors, ample opportunity being given to view the display through numerous windows opening upon the veranda, which surrounds the whole structure.

Cheese and Butter will be displayed on benches, or low tables, provided free of charge. Producers may themselves assume the charge of their goods, or can place them in the care of a thoroughly capable custodian, selected by the Bureau, and paid by the Exhibitors according to a scale of prices to be established by the Dairymen's Association. The Dairy Building will be ready for the reception of Exhibits continuously from June 7th to November 1st, it being designed to have a *constant* Exhibition, a feature commending itself to the fullest support of Dairymen. To afford, however, opportunity for more active competition, it has been decided to have two Grand Exhibitions, one of Spring Butter and Cheese, June 26th to July 6th; and one of Autumn Butter and Cheese, October 17th to 21st. For the guidance of Producers, the Bureau of Agriculture has devised the following regulations:

Butter will be judged upon the relative merits as to the make, color, flavor, texture, solidity, and keeping quality. Parties exhibiting for competition must be prepared to furnish full statements as to the making of the Butter, upon printed blanks, which will be supplied.

Butter offered for competition will be in most acceptable form, if made under the following classification, applicable respectively to the manufacture of Creameries and Dairies.

Best sample of 200 or more pounds, made at any time. Best package of 35 lbs. or over, made at any time. Best package of 35 lbs. or over, made in each month respectively. Best package of 35 lbs. or over, of oldest make. Best sample of 5 lbs. in 1 lb. prints. Best sample of 5 lbs. or more, made respectively from the produce of the various breeds of cattle.

Cheese will be judged upon the relative merits as to quality, make, texture, keeping, flavor and color. Parties exhibiting for Competition must be prepared to furnish, upon printed blanks, which will be supplied, full statements as to the method of making and curing of the Cheese, and the preparation of the rennet. Cheeses must not be cut, bored, or tried in any way before being exhibited, or they will be disqualified for Competition. Awards will be made upon the various established appellations, both of Foreign and Home production. Cheese entered for Competition will be divided into Classes, respectively of Factory Manufacture, and Dairy Production of that made previous to the year 1876, and that made during the year 1876. Cheese offered for Competition will be in most acceptable form if made under the following Classifications: Heaviest Cheese of good quality. Best Cheese of 5,000 lbs. or over. Best three Cheeses of each brand respectively, between 3 and 10 lbs., between 10 and 30 lbs., between 30 and 50 lbs., and between 50 and 70 lbs. Best three Cheeses in each Class Artificially Colored. Best three Cheeses in each Class Artificially Flavored. Best Cheese in each Class of Natural Color. Best three Cheeses for Special Display in October, of not less than 40 lbs., made on the American Factory plan, in the second and third week respectively, in June, July, August and September, 1876. Best three Cheeses for Special Display in October, of not less than 20 lbs., of Dairy production, made in the second and third week respectively, in June, July, August and September, 1876.

Best Cheese of oldest make, of each appellation. Best lot of three Preserved Rennets. Best sample of Coloring for Dairy Products.

Entries for Exhibition, either continuously or at the periods of Stated Displays, can be made free of charge, upon forms, which will be furnished upon application. Producers who apply for room will receive permits for space, and official labels to be attached to the packages. Freight must be paid at point of shipment, which will secure the delivery of goods in the factory. Blank forms for the entry of products and any further information desired, may be had upon application. BURNET LANDRETH,

Chief of Bureau of Agriculture.

D. L. POPE,

Special Sup't of Dairy Section.

RELATIVE PRICE OF MILK FOR CONSUMPTION AND FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us complaining that the price of milk in his village is excessively high. He says: "Milk is not worth 3 cents a quart for cheese or butter making, at present prices for these products, while the price of milk in our village keeps up to from 6 to 8c. per quart. Why is this?"

Milk cannot be furnished for consumption in villages at the same price that it nets the farmer when taken to the cheese factory. In the first place the milkman must have cows calving at all seasons of the year, for a certain quantity of milk must be supplied daily, and as cows decrease and fail in milk from time to time, fresh calved cows will be required in order to keep up the supply. The difficulty of obtaining good cows and the risk of purchasing at these different seasons must be taken into account. The milk producer must keep up his supply at whatever season, and herein lies the great advantage of the cheese maker, for the latter produces his milk at a season of the year when it can be done at least expense, and in case of drouth he is in no wise bound to keep up the supply.

Again, during the winter months the dairyman's cows can be kept more cheaply than the milkman's, as few of them will be giving milk. With the milkman a certain amount of skilled labor or business capacity will be required, even to manage a small village milk business; and if we take into consideration the cost of delivery, wear and tear of teams and implements used, bad debts and losses from milk getting sour or not taken by customers, it will be seen that milk cannot be supplied at near the same rate as at the cheese factory. The milk business is in many ways made more perplexing than that of the farmer who patronizes a cheese or butter factory, and it would seem perfectly proper that he should be paid for this extra worry and labor. And especially is this the case where the dairyman produces his milk and has the management of a "milk-walk," or the supply of village customers.

We are not prepared to say what the relative price of milk should be, as compared to that obtained by dairymen who turn it into butter and cheese; but where the milkman engages to supply his customers with a stipulated quantity both summer and winter, a price double that obtained by the dairyman who delivers at the factory does not seem to be excessive.

PECULIAR FEATURES OF MILK.

IT is well known that the specific gravity of milk from different cows varies, and this can be readily understood, since there is great variation in the quality of milk yielded by different cows. But a rather singular feature in respect to milk is that recorded by the well-known chemist, Mr. J. A. WANKLYN, member of the Royal Bavarian Academy of Sciences. Wishing to note the difference, if any, in the specific gravity of milk drawn from different parts of the bag of the same cow and at the same time, he selected cows in a dairy that were well cared for and fed on meal, clover and other food calculated to give a good quality of milk. The milk was drawn directly into the sample bottles from each quarter of the udder, and on carefully testing them to determine the specific gravity, at a temperature of 60° Fahrenheit, the samples gave the following:—Milk from the right side front quarter exhibited a specific gravity of 1020.4, while the left side front quarter gave milk having a specific gravity of 1021.3. On testing the samples of the milk from the hind quarters of the udder, the right hind quarter gave milk the specific gravity of which was 1023.0, and the left hind quarter 1023.5.

Another sample of milk, the specific gravity of which was taken on the same day it was milked, at 60° Fahrenheit was 1020.4, while two days later the same milk showed a specific gravity of 1030.2. The experimenter says:—"From the whole course of our experiments, it appears that the first change which milk experiences is a contraction. Specific gravity 1020 becomes specific gravity 1030. The next change is expansion, and this occupies some days, which is manifested by the specific gravity sometimes falling below 1000." These experiments show that there are some curious features about milk and that there is ample room yet for investigation.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., June 10, 1876.

To those who think that the American woman is a frail being, all nerves and no muscle, a visit to the Exhibition would be a revelation. The most painstaking and indefatigable visitors are the ladies. They annihilate space without seeming effort, and the note-book is in constant use. They seem to appreciate that life is short, and that another such chance for study will not occur very soon.

The average citizen of the Republic thinks differently, however, if a conversation I overheard is any criterion. A gentleman was expostulating with the gatekeeper, trying to convince the latter that notwithstanding the Exhibition was closed for the night, he (the A. C.) should be allowed to enter. The gatekeeper held his ground like a Spartan, and was as deaf as Ulysses to the most seductive appeals.

"But, my friend," cried the A. C., "you see I have just arrived, and leave by the 8 A. M. train to-morrow. I only want to run through the grounds and buildings—to get an idea of the thing."

A mere trifle of hundreds of acres!

The Exhibition daily grows more attractive, and the various departments will soon be complete. Russia is making rapid progress with her exhibits in Machinery Hall. This building is becoming very popular with the ladies, as some of the manufacturing processes appeal strongly to their curiosity. The French have a Lyons loom (Bonet's) in full operation, showing how silk is made. A complete toilet soap works pounds away, turning out neat cakes of this useful material, which are sold as fast as made to eager purchasers. Candy makers here lay bare the secrets of their trade, and, if so disposed, one may observe the various mutations to which the sugar is subjected and turn to inspect the Jacquard loom with a paper of confectionery in his pocket still steaming from the mold. England and America exhibit this wonderful loom, which weaves the most beautiful and complicated designs with as great accuracy as if it were a human being instead of a mere machine. Further on, J. & P. Coates have imported the most striking features of the machinery used in making "best six cord," and after having seen how the thread is tortured and worried until, finally, it makes its appearance on the neat spools, and then observing the intricate motions of the needle and pin-sticking machines, one's ideas of these industries is materially enlarged, and you feel a respect for "notions" out of all proportion to the size of the articles.

A newspaper man is compelled to admit that he is a tyro in the art of "puffing," after a glimpse at the extensive "blowing" machinery on exhibition. There is one engine that manufactures hurricanes at a moment's notice, and expels a column of air so powerful that it holds in suspension an iron cannon ball.

In painful contrast to machinery of a peaceful order is the exhibit of Herr Krupp, the German gun maker. The monster 81-ton gun is now in position, after having injured, true to its instincts, seven men. It gives one an exalted opinion of oneself when he gazes at the awful instruments that are designed exclusively to facilitate the journey to another world. Germans are justified in thinking that they have the implements to improvise holocausts on a wholesale scale, but, on the other hand, and as an offset to this display, is shown their ambulance system. Those not endowed with strong nerves had better pass this horrible humanitarian scheme for scientifically patching up the shattered frames of shot-riddled heroes. The whole display is the strongest possible argument in favor of the ideas of the Universal Peace Congress, and the glory (!) of war hides its diminished before the contemplation of its horrors.

One should visit Turkey, if for nothing else than to drink *moka* coffee in its highest perfection. The recent troubles in that unhappy land have so embarrassed the Commission that they cannot unpack the exhibits for the Main Building. However, the gastronomist will find in the Turkish Cafe an Oriental divan at his service, on which he can recline, drink coffee, discuss a small glass of mastic, and revel in the delights of unadulterated Turkish tobacco, smoked through the medium of a chibouk, at a very moderate expense. The attendants are attired in the national costume, but it is rather peculiar how quickly they merge the idiom of Islam into capital French, if they, for any reason, become angered. One would think, peradventure, they came from the banks of the Seine instead of the Bosphorus.

American agriculturists should take a lesson from their European co-workers in the matter of investigating cattle diseases. The Netherlands display 18 colored casts of diseased cattle, illustrating the progress and peculiarities of the Rinderpest, or cattle plague. One half hour devoted to the careful inspection of these casts, gives a more comprehensive idea of the course and peculiarities of the disease than could be acquired by months of study through the medium of books. Here can also be seen models of dwellings for the poor, which, among other things, shows the intimate relations of the cows and hogs to the rest of the family, as they are all domiciled under one roof.

The model of the city of Paris is rapidly going to grass and unless something is done to stop the growth of weeds, those who roam over the ground in search of this city will have to call in the aid of a mowing machine.

One would naturally look for a good specimen of mummy in the Egyptian Department; but Peru displays an assortment of this article, preserved in its own juices, that is calculated to satisfy anyone's idea of artistic hideousness. A lady after viewing them for a time, said, "What are those things—do they eat them?" The attendant hastened to assure her that though well spiced, they were not good to eat.

The South American Republics are generally thought to be very backward in the industrial arts; but when we see the fine display of home made fabrics such as clothing, leather, and even the extent of the art of printing and book making, one must confess that they are not on such a low social plane and that their chief occupation is not the manufacture of high-pressure revolutions.

After having worked hard at sight-seeing, the intelligent American is inclined to agree with Hood, that he has a pair of immaterial legs and it is a great relief to step on the cars of the narrow-guage railway to be whisked to any part of the grounds at a moderate charge. This road carries the traveler to nearly all the important buildings and judging by the crowds it carries is an institution that promises to be of great value. Few who ride are aware that the cars are equipped with a novel invention in the shape of a loose wheel and patent axle, which, it is claimed, will revolutionize rail road travel. The merit of the invention as regards the public is that by the use of the wheels the car rolls smoothly; does not jerk one out of the seat when going around curves and by no possibility can progress be impeded by hot journals, such a thing being out of the question when using these wheels. To the stockholder, the Miltimore patent wheels mean increased dividends, as they save oil, cotton waste, outlast three to one the old wheels and do not tear the road to pieces. Being adapted to street cars also, we may soon expect to ride as gaily and comfortably as if traveling in a rocking chair.

Next week the interest will center in the competition of mowing machines, which will be reported fully in these columns by your sprightly correspondent "Shorthorn." YOUNG RURAL.

Industrial Implements.

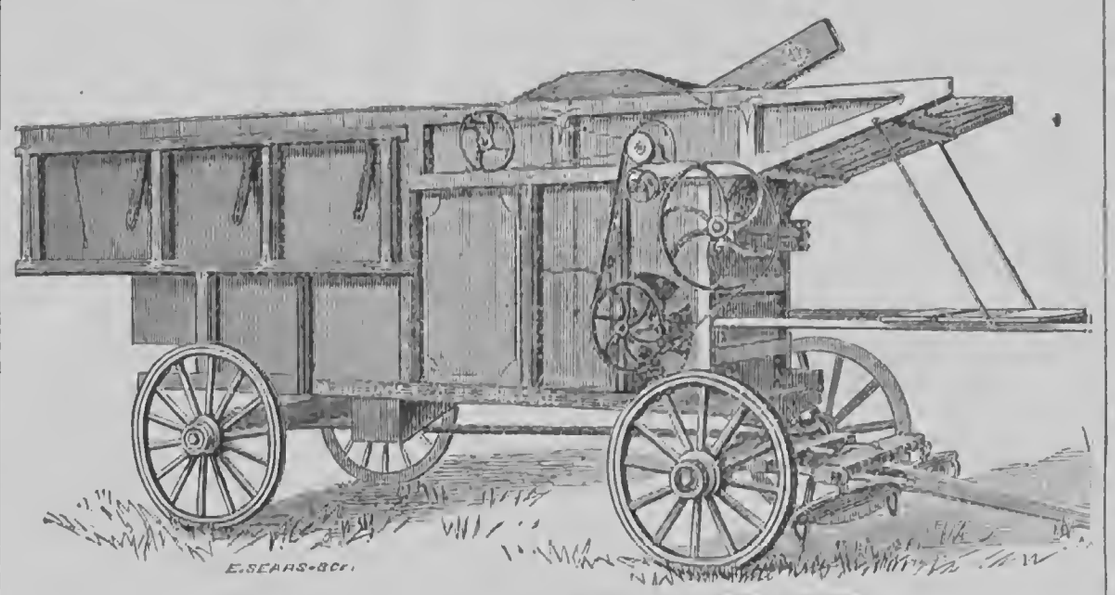
THE WILLIAMS' NOISELESS THRESHER.

THE truth of the saying, there is more than one way to do a thing, is conspicuously apparent when we consider the subject of threshing machines, or, for that matter, the entire catalogue of implements designed for agricultural uses. We have, from time to time, selected samples of threshers from among the most popular, and in this issue we give an illustration of one of two kinds made by those enterprising gentlemen, Messrs. M. WILLIAMS & Co., St. Johnsville, N. Y. Our object in these articles is to make our subscribers thoroughly familiar with the most recent improvements and progress in an industry that appeals directly to their material interests, and thus fulfill acceptably our mission as an agricultural *news*paper.

To dilate on the advantages to be derived by the use of a thoroughly efficient and practical thresher would be to cast an imputation on the good sense of farmers generally, therefore, we merely allude to this point in connection with the fact that current foreign events point to an European war, in which case, American grain will have an unusually good foreign market. The farmer, therefore, who utilizes his grain crop most thoroughly will reap the best reward. To do this, an economical thresher is the most important factor.

Our illustration represents W. & Co.'s "Undershot Thresher and Cleaner" of which different sizes are made, designed for either tread, sweep or steam power.

They call attention in their circular to the



WILLIAMS' NOISELESS THRESHER.

frame being constructed with especial reference to handling and moving from place to place. That all crank motion in the machine is counterbalanced, and does not in its movement effect the frame or interfere with mounting on wheels. This is accomplished by constructing the riddle or shaker and the grain trough or hopper underneath it so as to allow their working independent of each other, and connecting them to cranks which are opposite to each other upon the same shaft; and also adopting the same principle in the construction of the mill by dividing the labor of shaking the sieves between two opposite cranks on the fan shaft, attaching directly to the sieve, dispensing with much useless weight, admitting of a much quicker and easier motion of sieves than could otherwise be attained. The sieves have a capacity for cleaning exceeding that which the cylinder has for threshing, will run without clogging or wasting and do not require cleaning more than once in ten days when in constant use. The concave is made in sections which are fitted to slide into grooved hinges, and can be removed and blank substituted at pleasure. The toughest grain can be threshed clean without difficulty. The straw governor and sheet-iron curtain combined regulate with precision the discharge of the straw and grain from the cylinder, preventing either clogging or shooting and deliver the same to separator and tossing forks uniformly and in a thoroughly loosened condition, The governor is so constructed that there is not the least possibility of its winding with the toughest or longest straw, and works with equal certainty in every kind of grain. The separator has a perforated and slot bottom, is 12 feet long by 40 inches wide, and has a quick motion, moving straw over it rapidly and without clogging.

Two sizes, also,—30 and 34-inch cylinder—of the overshot thresher are made. In this machine the fan shaft has two cranks opposite to each other, the one moving the separator and the other the grain hopper and sieves, making a complete counterbalance of parts, and admitting of being run on wheels. The separator has a perforated bottom, is 3 feet wide by 10 feet long, and has five tossing forks. The sieves are large and roomy, are easy to adjust or change, and, it is claimed, are capable of cleaning all the grain the cylinder will thresh.

They also manufacture a three-horse power, mounted on a truck, and two-horse endless chain power. An implement for threshing grain or grass seed, and merely separating it from the straw, they make to order—a Thresher and Separator designed for farmers' use—of any dimensions required.

WILLIAMS & Co. were awarded the Bronze Medal by the N. Y. Ag'l. Society, and other prizes at different times. Any of our subscribers who send to them for information will receive it free, and of a quality and value not to be judged by its price.

WHIPPLE'S RECTANGULAR CHURN.

WHIPPLE'S Rectangular Churn manufactured by CORNISH & CURTIS, Fort Atkinson, Wis., is of recent invention and well adapted to farm dairies. It is simply a cubical box, and hangs suspended on gudgeons from the two diagonal corners of the cube. As the box is revolved the cream constantly falls from corner to corner, thus giving a more diversified agitation than when in the box churn as ordinarly arranged. It is more easily operated than the ordinary revolving box churn, and the butter forms in coarse grains, its operations in this respect being superior for a first-class product.

Around the Republic.

ARKANSAS VALLEY.

KINSLEY, Kansas, May, 1876.

ED. RURAL NEW-YORKER: During the last three months I have been examining the Arkansas Valley from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River, a distance of more than two thousand miles, for the purpose of securing reliable information concerning the agricultural and mineral resources, stock raising facilities and other attractions or disadvantages.

At a certain feast "the governor called the bridegroom, and said, men generally set forth the good wine first, and lastly the poorer quality; but you have kept the good wine until now." So it has been in the settlement and development of our country from the bleak, sterile New England coast and malarial swamps of the eastern shores of Virginia, Carolinas and Florida, toward the Rocky Mountains.

The active enterprising spirit of New England and the Northwest, secured a trans-continental railway from Boston to San Francisco in their own latitude, not because it was the best route across the plains and mountains, but because it was the shortest line between the two cities. Had Boston and the everlasting Yankees been located at Charleston or Savannah, no doubt there would have been a railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific thirty years ago, through Arkansas, Indian Territory, Southern Kansas, Southern Colorado and Arizona, following the Great Arkansas Valley from the Mississippi to the mountains in Southern Colorado, through the richest, agricultural, grazing and mineral country, in the mildest, most salubrious and healthful climate on the globe. But Boston was not located at Charleston or Savannah, hence, the best wine is last—the best country on the Continent is the last to be settled and developed; and it is somewhat remarkable that Boston railway companies are doing this great work, beginning at Chicot City, a point on the Mississippi River below Napoleon, where the Arkansas enters the Mississippi, the Little Rock, Pine Bluff and New Orleans Railway will have their road completed to Little Rock within a few weeks, and beginning at Little Rock, the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway Company will have their road in operation to Fort Smith, on the western border of Arkansas, by the first day of next July.

Then at Wichita, two hundred and twenty miles above Fort Smith, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway strikes the Arkansas, and extends westward up the Valley to Pueblo, about forty miles below the great Arkansas Canon, through which the river rushes down from the mountains.

All three of these Companies have their general offices in Boston. From what has been said it will be observed that the Arkansas Valley by July 1, 1876, will have railways extending its whole length, except about two hundred and thirty miles through the Indian Territory, and though the Indians are very much opposed to having a railway up the Valley, between Fort Smith and Wichita, it will doubtless be built within a year or two, because the products and wants of the country above and below render the building of this two hundred and twenty miles of railway a necessity. The State of Arkansas has not less than fifteen thousand square miles of the best pine lands in the United States, and more than twenty-five thousand square miles of excellent hard wood forests, including fine varieties of oak, walnut, hickory, maple, cypress, poplar, gum, etc., also very extensive coal fields of excellent quality.

While the vast plains country of Western Kansas, Eastern Colorado and Eastern New Mexico is almost destitute of timber, and no coal has yet been discovered in the valley in Kansas west of Osage City, yet the entire Arkansas Valley, between Wichita and Kinsley, Kansas, is the best farming and grazing country I have found on the Continent, because the soil is very rich, and both rain and sunshine are plenty: the winters are mild and short, and its altitude above the sea level secures a very bracing and healthful atmosphere; consequently, this portion of the valley is being settled and developed very rapidly, and must have the great surplus of timber and coal of the lower Arkansas.

Wheat in this portion of the Valley is believed to be an unfailing crop, as it has yielded from twenty to thirty bushels per acre every year since 1871.

There is good government lands within eight to twelve miles of Kinsley that may be pre-empted, homesteaded and timber-claimed; and the Railway Company's lands may be bought at from two to eight dollars per acre for cash or on long credit, within two or three miles of the town. The immigration to this region, with the great non-producing, mining and stock raising population of Colorado, which is in direct railroad communication with this Valley, insures a ready market and good prices for all the surplus farm, dairy, garden and orchard products of the Valley.

The United States Land Office is located about twenty miles east of Kinsley, and the Register informed me that 97,800 acres of government land had been entered at his office during the last three months. EXAMINER.

Floricultural.

THE PANAMA HAT PLANT.
(CARLUDOVICA PALMATA.)

THE Loudon Garden presents its readers with an engraving and an instructive account of this both useful and ornamental plant.

During the last twenty years it has acquired a vast importance as the source of the fiber used in the manufacture of the true Panama hat. A glance at the engraving will give an approximate idea of the beauty of the plant which is worthy to occupy a prominent position in all collections.

The Carludovica was introduced into Europe about the year 1808. It is a native of Bolivia, Peru, New Granada and Ecuador, and prefers damp sheltered positions in the deeply-wooded valleys of that part of South America. It is in general stemless, the leaf-stalks and flowers shooting directly from the roots. The leaves, which are mounted on a solid triangular petiole, are palmate and folded like a fan. As they increase in size, they split into three or more divisions. The leaf-disc varies in diameter from 16 to 30 inches and even more, the leaf-stalk being often six or seven feet in length. When carefully cultivated, the leaf is of a brilliant green. The flowers, although they do not constitute the chief beauty of the plant, are nevertheless singular in their way. They are monoecious, on the same spadix, the female flower being surrounded by four males. On reaching maturity, it breaks up, exposing the inside of the fruit as well as the axis round which it is placed. These parts are of a brilliant scarlet, which is rendered all the more intense by the strong contrast of the bright green surface of the spadix and of the leaves by which it is surrounded.

In Weddell's "Travels in North Bolivia," we find an account of the manufacture of Panama hats from the leaves. The Bolivians give the Carludovica the name of Jipagapa, a town in the Republic of Ecuador, which is the principal seat of the hat manufacture—"Panama," like "Mocha" in the case of coffee and "Brussels" in that of carpets, being a misnomer.

Before the leaf has begun to open—when, in fact, it resembles a closed fan—it is cut off close to the petiole, the base of which forms the center of the crown of the hat. It is then divided longitudinally into strips with the thumb nail, the thick part forming the mid-rib, being rejected. The number of shreds into which it is divided of course depends on the fineness of the hat into which they are to be manufactured.

The split leaf is next dipped into boiling water, then into tepid water acidulated with lemon juice, and lastly, it is allowed to soak in cold water for some time, and afterwards dried in the sun. Each hat is, or ought to be, made of a single leaf. The dampling and drying operations cause the shreds to assume a curled or cylindrical form which much increases their strength without injuring their pliancy. Before plaiting, the coarser qualities are damped with water, but the finest sorts are left out in the morning dew and worked on before sunrise. A hat of the finest quality, made out of a single leaf, will take several months to make it complete, and the plaiting will be so fine as hardly to be perceptible at a short distance.

The Carludovica Palmata is by no means difficult to cultivate and it is one of the most hardy species of the genus. It grows well in the damp heat of an Orchid-house where the temperature does not fall below 60°.

Like other Screw Pines—an order to which it belongs—a copious supply of moisture at the root is required all the year round, but more particularly when it is making its growth.

SUPERFLUOUS BOTANICAL TERMS.

Is not botany already sufficiently encumbered with technical terms?

Mr. SACHS says:—"According as the union takes place between (1) different varieties of one species—between (2) different species of one genus, or between (3) two species belonging to different genera—the resulting hybrid may be termed a variety-hybrid, species-hybrid, or genus-hybrid. When a hybrid is made to unite with one of its parent forms or with another parent form, or with a hybrid of different origin, the product is termed (4) a derivation-hybrid.

If we accept the above, there is no reason why we should not add many more. The hybrid united to one or another parent form or with another of different origin, is as well deserving of a substantive name as the union between any of those which he designates variety, species or genus-hybrids.

If we are ready to accept these practically worthless terms to express unions which, in a great majority of cases, there is doubt as to the actual parentage—to the exclusion of the old terms "hybrid" and "cross," which are well understood and which sufficiently express in a general way our ideas upon this subject—we might as well give up generic names and confer the honor of a specific title upon every shade of difference in plant fertilization.

Mr. S. would call a union between two species of different genera genus-hybrids. But why this when hybrid alone expresses it just as well? And why call the union between two varieties of the same species a variety-hybrid when the union is not a hybrid union and when the simple word *cross* with which we are all familiar expresses the relationship just as well?

We ask how many instances there are in which

CARLUDOVICA PALMATA.

it is positively known that seedlings have been produced from the union of species belonging to different genera? And in these well-authenticated instances (few or many) is it not a stronger evidence of an erroneous botanical classification than of the degree of relationship implied by belonging to different genera? Again we would ask how many instances are positively known in which such hybrids have been made to cross with parent forms; with other hybrid forms or with *any* other forms? Surely such rare instances may better be described by combining the old words, "cross" and "hybrid," properly so called, and to modify them with an adjective or so suited to the case. But scientific men—to their discredit be it said—seem to delight in conjuring up new and difficult words as if they were thus adding to the sum of information instead of muddling their books with a mass of nonsense to render thrice difficult that which is already too difficult; to confound the student and to discourage him from thorough study and investigation. Thus scientists check the progress of that which they seek to advance.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

Iris versicolor is now blooming in the meadows. If you stumbled upon it for the first time, it would be very likely to strike you as one of the oddest and most beautiful of flowers.

Gymnothrix latifolia.—GAMEWELL BROS. of Hackensack, N. J., left out a number of roots of this grass to determine whether they would stand the Winter or not. Last Winter was very mild, but not a root survived.

A Climbing Hydrangea.—In a late visit to the nurseries and home of Mr. S. B. PARSONS of Flushing, L. I.—to which we shall soon have occasion to refer more at length—our attention was directed to a climbing *Hydrangea* called *H. nova scandens.* It is a true climber sending out tendrils. Should its inflorescence prove like that of other Hydrangeas, it will prove a most striking vine trained over porches and the like. It was sent by Mr. HOGG from Japan.

Change of Color in Hydrangeas.—It would seem that it ought to be an easy thing to determine whether the rose-colored flowers of Hydrangeas may be changed to blue by iron, either naturally existing in the soil or artificially introduced. Some of the English horticultural journals are discussing this question and the experience of gardeners is given. As many, however, seem positively of one opinion as of the other.

We tried muriate of iron faithfully upon the hardy *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora* without the slightest effect. Cannot some of the Rural floriculturists throw light upon this question?

Entomological.

HOW TO MAKE ENTOMOLOGISTS.

IT is well known that in agricultural districts too little attention is paid to a thorough knowledge of the structure, habits and transformations of insects. Not until the Potato Beetle had committed vast depredations could the country be aroused to a sense of its mischievous power.

In every garden and on every farm are numberless enemies to destroy the crops we have worked hard for and hoped to reap. Following their tracks are parasites that live on these same insects and help to save one's fruit or grain, flowers or root crops.

How shall we, who have so many cares, rid ourselves of the pests and encourage the useful scavengers? The question is one of importance, and my answer to those interested is: Engage the children in the matter and give them credit for any discovery they may make in their researches. In every family are surely some members who best know the use of their eyes and who have an inborn taste for natural history. Offer your children a prize for the best collection they may make during a summer, and you will be surprised to see the zest with which they will work.

There is nothing better than empty cigar boxes, a few small pieces of cork and a package of pins to make a boy's heart glad, if he is inclined to catch and classify the beautiful butterflies that flit in every sunny garden. An old broom handle and a yard of mosquito netting are all that is required for a net; and it is astonishing to see with what alacrity children will run, when once fairly interested, to get "Harris on Insects," to learn the name or destructive nature of each new captive.

An outbuilding would not be any the worse were a few well-known chrysalides to take up winter quarters therein. When the moth emerges from its prison, children look upon it as one of life's miracles and learn from the mystery a pleasant and instructive lesson. There is nothing that escapes their observation, if early taught to use their eyes in this way, and many things are saved that would be destroyed and unobserved in our busy days if we had no young entomologists.

ANNIE L. JACK.

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS OF KANSAS.

Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of Eastern Kansas. By Prof. F. H. Snow of the State University of Kansas.

THIS valuable list of the butterflies and moths of Kansas is certainly creditable to the State, as well as to the compiler and author. But we tender a word of caution to the learned Professor, and hope he will receive it in as kindly a spirit as it is given; it is: that he should be careful not to place too much confidence in the honesty as well as ability of certain lepidopterists who may lend him assistance. It is to be regretted, though nevertheless true, that we have among entomologists, as well as among those learned in other branches of natural history, men who are not over-scrupulous in advancing their own claims to superiority over their fellow-workers in the same field, and these men are very loth to give credit to those to whom credit is due. Of course we do not for a moment attribute any such motives to Professor SNOW in compiling the list before us, still some one who has assisted him in identifying the species has left the unmistakable "ear-marks" of jealousy of co-laborers in lepidopterology. For instance, *Catocala Levettei*, GROTE, is a synonym of *C. Judith*, STRECKER, instead of the reverse of this, as in the list. *Catocala adoptiva*, GROTE, is a synonym of *C. Delilah*, STRECKER, and should be restored to its proper position in future lists, as well as in cabinets. A reference to the works of Mr. STRECKER and to those of Mr. GROTE will settle such disputed points as to priority of names belonging to these and other species.

Farm Economy.

PARIS GREEN AND POTATO BEETLE.

OF all the poisons and destroyers used for checking the ravages of the Colorado potato beetle, none have proved to be more efficacious or cheaper than Paris green. Whether applied mixed with fifteen or twenty parts of flour, or plaster, or merely distributed over the leaves of the potatoes with water, it is certain death to the beetles or their larvæ. No matter how small a quantity the beetles consume, if the article is a good one, it will do its work quickly and surely. The fear which many potato growers have expressed in regard to injury to the tubers likely to follow the application of such a virulent poison to the foliage of the plants, is entirely unwarranted by not only what is known of the action of this mineral substance, under such conditions, but from the thousands of practical tests made in regions where it has been used the most extensively and during a number of years.

Under the circumstances we can scarcely give better advice than first to gather all the beetles found in the potato field early in spring, thereby lessening the chances for a large brood later in the season, but as more or less will escape besides numbers coming from adjacent localities, therefore as a second precautionary measure procure a quantity of pure Paris green and have it on hand ready for use at the first appearance of the larvæ or grubs on the leaves. We have received occasional statements from our subscribers, as to the failure of the Paris green to kill the grubs, or beetles, feeding on the leaves, which leads us to believe that a pure article was not obtained or the mode of application somewhat faulty. There is no doubt that much adulterated Paris green is sold, therefore those who are desirous of accomplishing a certain object such as, for instance, of poisoning potato beetles, should purchase a pure article and of reliable parties, even if they have to pay a few cents per pound more, than for an inferior and perhaps worthless compound. F. W. DEVOE & Co., whose card appears in our advertising columns are extensive manufacturers of Paris green and furnish to their customers a pure article. Prof. GEO. H. COOK, State Geologist of New Jersey, in writing of his experience with potato beetles and the best mode of destroying them, says:

"We shall plant our usual amount of potatoes this year—from four to six acres. To diminish as much as possible the expense of protecting them from the Colorado potato bug, we shall plant only early potatoes, or those that will grow and mature in the shortest possible time. The early rose potato, which was originated by Mr. BREESE of Vermont, eight or ten years ago, has the best reputation of any variety now in general use for earliness, quality and productiveness. We shall plant this kind, and I have no hesitation in recommending it for this year's crop.

"Paris green is conceded by almost everybody to be the most effective substance for destroying the Colorado potato bug. It is poisonous, of course, and if breathed or swallowed by men or animals, it may produce dangerous effects; but there is no evidence that it gets into or in any way effects the potatoes on which it has been used. And the most careful chemical analysis has failed to detect any of the poison in the potatoes grown in the ground where it has been used.

"Paris green may be mixed up in a large quantity (forty or fifty times its weight) of water and sprinkled on the vines where bugs are seen—and this method is liked by many.

"Two or three pounds, and some say one pound, of Paris green is enough for an acre. Two applications is all that is needed for the early rose potato. And the whole expense for material and labor should be less than $5 per acre.

"I hope you will not give up raising potatoes on account of the potato bug."

HARD ON THE SEEDMEN.—The Garden (Eng.) in answering the question, "What is Seed?" answers, "Something in a Bag," and then adds, "It is rarely more than this either to purchaser or salesman."

Pomological.

ABOUT PEARS.

There are but few persons who will not agree with us in placing the Pear among the very best and most valuable of all our cultivated plants. The luscious sweetness of a well-ripened Seckel or Bell Lucrative, and the sprightly flavor of a Bartlett or Louise Bonne de Jersey are not excelled by the best productions of the tropics. Although the residents of localities where the pear thrives cannot expect to see their orchards ever beautiful with luxuriant foliage, flowers and fruit, as those who cultivate the orange and lemon; still the harvest may be prolonged by an almost endless variety, and in the end a supply laid in to fill up the interim between seasons.

Much as there has been written upon the culture of the pear, the masses do not yet seem to know what they lose by not giving to this fruit more attention. A majority of those who own gardens and farms are content with two, or at most a half-dozen sorts of pears, and these, perhaps, planted alongside of a hedge, fence, or other out-of-the-way place, where they are left to take care of themselves; and this is the reason why so many persons have come to the conclusion that pears are rather uncertain and require more care and attention than most other kinds of our larger fruits, which is not true, except in a very limited sense.

HOSENSCHENK PEAR.

The pear, it is true, does not thrive quite as well in certain localities and soils as the apple, still it succeeds over a wider range of country. It is generally claimed that pears do best on a rather heavy, compact soil composed largely of clay, and this to a certain extent is true, but they also grow well in rich sandy soils, where the apple seldom succeeds. The thousands of old pear trees on the light soils of Long Island and New Jersey are living witnesses of this fact, and while the fruit may not be quite as large or as highly colored as in what are termed more favored localities, the trees are exempt from pear blight, so disastrous to pear orchards planted on clay or alluvial, poorly drained land. It may require more care and attention in the way of mulching, manuring and culture to raise pears on a light and rather poor soil than in a compact and rich one, but the loss from blight and other diseases in the latter will more than counterbalance the expense of the former, and hence the chances for success are about equal in both.

SELECTION OF VARIETIES.

The adaptation of varieties to different soils and localities is a subject which has engrossed the attention of our pomologists for many years, but to arrive at positive conclusions in regard to each and every one of the hundreds of popular sorts in cultivation will require the close observations of succeeding generations, as it has of the past and present. But this much has, however, been discovered, namely, that certain sorts succeed over a much wider range of country than others; hence those sorts have become correspondingly popular. Among the most noted of these we may mention the Bartlett, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Seckel, Beurre d'Anjou, Howell, Urbanist, and a few others which might also be named.

Doubtless there are among the several thousand varieties under cultivation a large number that will succeed over equally as wide an extent of country as the above; but merits of this kind are only to be discovered through long and varied experience. Then again, we have many valuable sorts, the success of which appears to be only local or extending over a certain period of time. The most noted example of the latter is shown in the history of the old Virgalieu, or White Doyenne of the French. This pear, which has been praised by the pomologists of France for the past two hundred years, succeeded admirably in the Eastern States for about half a century, and then commenced to decline, the fruit cracking and becoming worthless, while the trees still remained vigorous and healthy, and as no remedy could be discovered, its culture has been almost wholly abandoned in the very regions where only a few years since it was one of the most valued and popular in the list of choice sorts. But, like the "Star of Empire," its glory moves westward, and while the orchardists in the older States are compelled to abandon its culture, those of the new take it up and find the Virgalieu one of the best of pears.

The Louise Bonne de Jersey, Flemish Beauty, Beurre Diel, Bloodgood, Madeleine and Hosenschenk are some of the best known sorts which are sometimes excellent in one locality, or even garden, and very inferior in another near by. The Hosenschenk has been disseminated under the name of "Queen of August," and although not a popular sort among pear-culturists, still there are old trees of it growing in the suburbs of New York which yield their owners a good profit. It is a moderately-large variety, as shown in the accompanying outline. In color it is a yellow when ripe, with an occasional red cheek on specimens exposed to the sun.

If it were not for some of these older sorts, which are seldom named in select lists, it is to be feared that our markets would be but poorly supplied with pears, not because the better varieties cannot be successfully cultivated, but for the reason that their culture has not been sufficiently extended.

The Naturalist.

SPONGE FISHERIES OF FLORIDA.

The following interesting article lately appeared in the Jacksonville Daily Union:

It is not easy to realize that the sponge of the toilet is but the skeletons of an immense number of sponge animals, from which the life-blood and flesh have been squeezed. The belief that it was a vegetable product was dispelled alone by the microscope. They are of the lowest known organism, standing at the very bottom of the *Protozoa*. They, like many other marine plants and zoophytes, are always found attached to rocks, and consist of a framework, sometimes horney, but always elastic, filled with a glairy, gelatinous substance, which has a disagreeable, fish-like odor. Sometimes the living sponge is tinted with beautiful colors, from the presence of coloring matter in that they feed upon. Most of those found on the Florida coast have a pinkish cast, from which, when fished up, there oozes a liquid resembling blood. The surface of the living sponge is covered with minute pores, not permanent, but apparently formed for the occasion, through which they imbibe water and the organic particles for the support of life. These pores open in irregular succession, and never twice in the same spot; they remain open about one minute, and before they open and after closing there is no trace whatever of them. All those large orifices in the sponge of commerce are for the discharge of water taken in through the minute pores. The water passing out from the orifices carries not only waste animal matter, but, as the microscope shows, gemmules and ova, for reproduction.

Professor Huxley pushed his investigation of the sponge until he satisfied scientific men that there were true ova and sperm-cells imbedded in the substance of the sponge. There are but two or three kinds of sponge deemed of much usefulness, although there are numerous genera and species of them. The West India waters produce a beautiful variety, in which the siliceous matter becomes a fibrous network, as fine and transparent as spun-glass, as many of our readers have witnessed. Sponges are always found in the seas of warm climates, and grow at a depth generally of thirty to sixty feet, though they have been found over a thousand feet below the surface. The finest and best sponges come from the Levant. The Ottoman fisheries furnish employment to 600 boats, manned by 5,000 men, whose chief grounds are on the shores of Candia, Barbary and Syria. The Greeks take many in the waters surrounding their own isle. The fishermen of these two nations gather sponges valued at about half a million of dollars annually. Sponges from the West India islands and Florida are much larger than those found in the Mediterranean, but they are coarser and command a less price.

The value of the annual product of the West Indies is in the neighborhood of $100,000. In these fisheries, sponge is taken in a manner similar to that practiced on the Florida coast, which will be described further on. But in the Eastern waters the sponge is always obtained by diving. The diver takes in his hand a large stone, to which a rope from the boat is attached, and this serves to guide him directly to the spot he wishes to go. He tears the sponge from the rock, places them beneath his arm, and upon giving a signal with a cord, is hauled up by his companions. It is a dangerous business, many lives being annually lost in these fisheries. One person can go down but three or four times a day, and they are often pulled up completely exhausted, and occasionally quite dead.

A gentleman who has been down among the sponge fisheries of Florida, has discovered that the fishing grounds cover a wide extent of surface along the coast among the "keys" and adjacent islands. The principal grounds are Rock Island, a scope of land thirty miles long by seven miles broad, lying off Taylor County, and sixty miles northwest from Cedar Keys: then from the mouth of the Withlacooche, past Martin's reef to near Tampa bay, a distance of perhaps 300 miles. Sponge fishing on this coast is of much greater magnitude and importance than is generally supposed. The number of vessels engaged is between seventy-five and a hundred, with an average crew of from five to fifteen men to each, and an average of three "dinceys" to each vessel. Dincey is the small boat used to gather the sponge, and is usually managed by two men. There are about six hundred men daily engaged in gathering when the weather is fair. Quiet weather and calm sea is always taken advantage of. These "dinceys," when likely to be called into service, are towed in Indian file at the stern of the larger vessel. Each sponger is provided with a "sponge hook," made of iron with three prongs, a socket fitting on a pole one and a half inches thick and from eighteen to thirty-five feet long: also a "water-glass," a bucket with a pane of glass fitted in the bottom. This adds to the power of vision by excluding the light from behind, enabling the sponger to penetrate with the eye at least ten or fifteen feet deeper into the water. The "sculler" propels the boat along very slowly; in the meantime the sponger sits hanging over the side of the dincey with his head at the bucket held by the hand and his eye penetrating the depths below, taking in all that passes within his line of vision. As soon as he sees his legitimate prey, he raises his sponge hook with his right hand, in which he is assisted by the sculler, still keeping his eye at the glass, grapples the sponge, then puts aside the glass and hauls it in. Frequently his sight is darkened and view obstructed by the intervention of the monsters of the deep. A huge shark, a sawfish, or perhaps an enormous devil-fish—very often large schools of beautiful fish, "Spanish mackeral," "cavallie," "sailor's choice," "pompano," pass beneath him in such numbers as to seriously interfere with his occupation. Again, his sight is regaled with lovely coral formations, deep fissures and grottoes, gem-lined within. When a dincey-load is gathered, the sponge is taken to the vessel, where they are placed, roots down, eyes up, until they are dead.

This part of sponge fishing is the most disagreeable and causes the vessel to be almost unbearable, the sponge exhuming a bloody, slimy matter of most offensive odor. The vessel having secured a full cargo, puts for port, when the sponges are taken ashore and buried in the sand in a place technically called a "crawl." It is generally constructed of a paling of oak staves driven in the sand, and the lea of some island is selected as the spot. The sponges are left a week or so longer, when the slimy flesh, as it may be called, having rotted off, the sponge goes into the crawl with a "bruiser" (a small paddle); with a few strokes on the top of the sponge, clears it from the filth and skin, after which it is strung and ready for market. The sponge on the bar grows something like a bed of cabbages or mushrooms, and presents a beautiful appearance, very dark and seemingly having eyes. The sponge reefs in deep water are called "feather bars," from the feathery or fan-like appearance of the coral very often seen growing up through the sponge, and in such places the larger sponges are generally found. The different kinds of sponge found on this coast are known as "loggerhead," "sheep-wool," "turtle-grass" and "yellow." The sheep wool and yellow only are marketable. The latter is worth 25 cents per pound, sheep wool averaging $1 per pound. There are two sponge seasons proper, during the winter and summer months; should the water continue clear, however, it then lasts all through the year. The common practice is to gather sponge on shares, the vessel getting one third and the crew two thirds, the provision bill being assessed in the same ratio. The sponges gathered in Florida waters are taken from the fishermen at Key West, Cedar Keys and Apalachicola. The amount of money paid out per annum is as follows:—At Key West, $120,000; Cedar Keys, $65,000; Apalachicola, $55,000—a grand total of $240,000.

The Apiarian.

HOW TO MANAGE BEES—SWARMING.

Rev. Mr. Makin tells in the Bee World how to manage bees during the swarming season.

Much of success or failure depends upon the ability of the bee-keeper to control the swarming impulse. If increase of stocks is desired, by far the better plan, in my judgement, is to make artificial swarms. This may be done in several ways. If empty combs can be had, a very good plan is to take about four combs containing brood, and adhering bees, and put them in a hive on a new stand, giving them a queen, or a queen cell, and filling the hive with empty combs. Such a colony will build up very rapidly. The bees may be all taken from one hive, or from three or four, as the circumstance may dictate. Another way, and a very good one, is to take one comb of brood and bees from each of several hives, and thus fill the new hive. The bees that will hatch out will make the new stock very populous in a short time. Put empty frames, or frames containing combs, in the hives from which bees are taken. In this way a very large increase may be obtained, and the stocks all kept strong. Care should be taken not to allow queenless stocks to build comb, as they will usually build drone comb.

If we want to get the largest yield of surplus honey, we do not want our bees to swarm at all. We want to keep the stocks strong in numbers, so that they may avail themselves of the honey harvest. And there is no question of more importance than this:—How can the swarming impulse be restrained? In this, as in many other things, prevention is better than cure. Two things are necessary to prevent bees from swarming. The first is to give them room for breeding and the storing of honey. If they become crowded, and forage is plenty, they will be almost sure to swarm. The second thing necessary to prevent swarming is the proper shading and ventilation of the hive. The hive should be ventilated at the top, inside of the outer cap or covering. In hot weather two or three inch holes, covered with wire cloth will be sufficient. Bees will rarely want to swarm if they have sufficient room and the hive is not too hot. When the swarming impulse once takes possession of a stock, it is not very easy to control it.

Perhaps the best cure consists in the two points above named, and the removal of the old queen and of all queen cells but one.

It is said that bees will be satisfied if allowed to swarm, and they are put in a new place and their combs given to them, all queen cells being first removed. I have never tried it, and cannot, therefore, do more than to recommend it as an experiment worth trying. I have been successful, by destroying queen cells, and giving abundant ventilation.

I clip the wings of all the queens, to prevent their going to the woods. When the bees swarm, as they do sometimes, I take care of the queen until they begin to return, and then if I want to hive them I remove the old hive, and put an empty one on its place; and as the bees begin to enter, I put the queen with them, and let them hive themselves.

To hive a swarm when in an accessible place, is a very simple and easy operation, when one knows how to do it. Set the hive conveniently near, and with a dipper, or any other convenient vessel, dip the bees up, and pour them down at the entrance of the hive. This must be done very quietly and gently. One should never be in a hurry when handling bees. You will be likely to get the queen among the first bees removed from the cluster, as she is usally in the lower part of the swarm as they hang on the tree, or on whatever they have settled. If you get the queen into the hive, the bees will be sure to follow. As soon as the bees are all in, or even on the hive, it should be removed to where it is to remain, before any of the bees have marked the location and gone away to the fields. To prevent the swarm leaving the hive, give them plenty of shade and ventilation. In all my experience I have had but one swarm to abandon its home after being hived, and it had been left standing in full sunshine on a very hot day, I was away from home, or it would not have happened.

Domestic Economy.

DISH-WATER AND DISH-WASHING.

THERE are few women who have done their own house work that will fail to appreciate the following tirade on dish-washing which recently appeared in the Household:

These are the most discouraging elements of house work! I say this awful truth because I have proved it, you have proved it, your neighbors have proved it and the stranger within your gates has sighed because of the disheartening truth. Don't anybody attempt to contradict me; don't even shake your head. I know it, and it makes me cross to have anybody make the remotest intimation that my word or knowledge admits of a doubt.

The sweeping and the dusting is discouraging enough, but there is this consolation. It is not the same dirt which you swept before.

Washing is bad enough, but the dreadful monotony can be broken by high winds, broken lines, snow squalls and scrubbing. Ironing is hard enough, but the clothes are sometimes too dry, sometimes too wet, irons too hot or irons too cold.

Cooking is awfully tame, but it is not the same flour, the same sugar, the same eggs, the same soda, the same salt, and so on to the end of the endless variety of ingredients needed. There is, too, a sort of wicked solace in the thought that while you labor to use all these articles, it creates a necessity for labor to supply the new demands. Every loaf of bread and cake, pie, every pudding, every soup, every fry is not the same dead awful same.

But those dreadful dishes! you carry them to the table and put them grimly in the old set places at morn; you take them off after breakfast and set them down, poor, white, inanimate unthinking, clayey clods by the dish-pan. You rinse them in water that looks like the liquid in which you rinsed them last.

You put them one after another in the same dish-pan, you scald the same knuckles day after day, you dip them in the same dripping pan, you wipe them with a dish towel that looks like the other five, you set the mute things in the same places on the pantry shelves, you wash the same villainous looking griddles, spiders, kettles and pans, you scrape and pumice the same "catch on places," you wash the dish cloths in the same way that your mother, grandmother and great-great-great-grandmother did, hang them on the same old nails or bushes your childhood knew, wash the dish-pan inside and out in the same old wearing way, and are done in time to put them on the same old speechless places on the dinner table.

You are fortunately or unfortunately, given strength enough to play your part in the same miserable drama again, rinsing, washing, scalding, scouring, and are in time to take the miserable hackneyed porcelain back for tea, and then there they will sit on the kitchen table by the side of the almost immortal dish-pan, staring at you unblinkingly with the same white, unthinking soulless eyes.

You rinse, scald, wash and scour again, and put the dead pictures of discouragement on the same shelves and the next morning there they sit, winking, winking, stupidly and harmlessly, staring, staring, mutely and appealingly, the same white plates, cups, saucers and bowls and away you go, ferrying them over to the breakfast table; and so on and on to the end of the century, if you are unkindly spared so long.

Hence, I repeat: Dish-water and dish-washing are the most discouraging elements of house work.

There's the occasional recreation of breaking a plate, a valuable tureen, or glass, but there comes another to its funeral; it finds its place on the same pantry shelves and tables, and is prepared to stare as relentlessly as its predecessors.

There is no change, no respite. Your folks will never learn to eat from unwashen plates and so the stolid ferrying, the grave placing, the wearying rinsing, the unending washing, the aggravating scalding, the voiceless wiping, the unblinking gazing, the inanimate grouping, the changeless bush and the ever-youthful pan will live on and on from decade to century and no machine will ever come to a successful rescue, and dish-water and dish-washing must continue to discourage, dishearten, weary and aggravate girls and women who cannot learn to be content with monotony and labor which is dead compulsion—no more.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

A Dye for Grasses Wanted.—Will some one of the lady readers give a recipe for coloring dried oats, and grasses scarlet, and oblige—M. A. H.

Chocolate Cake Recipe Wanted.—Will some one of the lady readers of your valuable paper, give through its columns a recipe for chocolate cake. —J. C.

Sweetened Rice.—One quart of milk and one small teacup of rice, boil until the rice is very soft, add the beaten yelks of two eggs, half a teaspoonful of salt, one and a-half teacups of sugar and flavoring to suit the taste. After stirring all together, turn into molds. Serve ice cold with cream. This is a cheap and delicious dessert. To obviate constant watching, and danger of burning, I put the mixture in a tin pail and set it into a kettle of boiling water renewing the water as it evaporates.—MRS. RUSTIC.

SELECTED RECIPES.

A Correction—Strawberry Short Cake.—EDS. RURAL: In my recipe for Strawberry Short Cake, I see the printers have made a great mistake, instead of a "tablespoonful" of baking powder it should have been one teaspoonful.—MRS. RUSTIC.

Breakfast Muffins.—Two eggs, well beaten with one cup of sugar and a lump of butter the size of an egg: to this, add one pint of sweet milk, with two teaspoonfuls of yeast powder worked thoroughly through one quart of flour; bake in muffin rings on top of the range or in gem pans in a quick oven.

Orange Custard.—The juice of six oranges, strained and sweetened with loaf sugar; stir over a slow fire till the sugar is dissolved, take off the scum; when nearly cold add the yelks of six eggs, well beaten and a pint of cream or milk. Return to the fire and stir till it thickens, pour into glasses and serve when cold.

A Quick Pudding.—Pour a pint of boiling milk on ten tablespoonfuls of grated bread crumbs, let them stand ten minutes; then add the yelks of four eggs well beaten, six tablespoonfuls of sugar, and two of butter, season with lemon extract. Stir well, add the whites of the eggs previously beaten to a stiff froth; pour into a buttered pudding dish and bake quickly. To be eaten with wine sauce, or cream and sugar.

Hygienic Information.

HOW TO GET RID OF A COLD.

FEW unimportant maladies are more disagreeable than a cold in the head, and how to get rid of it is a problem not always easy of practical solution. Some people resort to "sudorifics and lying in bed," others to large and frequent doses of quinine, and others to persistent and resolute dippings of their heads in cold water—the colder the better. But Dr. Ferrier, in a recent number of the Lancet, recommends a novel cure, which he has tried with excellent effect in three cases—his own and those of two other persons. The local symptoms of cold in the head—namely, watery eyes, running nose, sneezing and nasal speech—are, as Dr. Ferrier says, the chief source of annoyance and discomfort. Local treatment, therefore, seems to him to be the most rational. In the catarrh of alcoholism and in more chronic forms of gastric catarrh bismuth alone or in combination with morphia acts almost like a specific. Dr. Ferrier came to the conclusion that in nasal catarrh—*i. e.* cold in the head—the same drug by itself or with others would prove efficacious. On a certain evening recently, Dr. Ferrier says, "I began to suffer with the symptoms of cold in the head—irritation of the nostrils, sneezing, watering of the eyes, and commencing flow of the mucous secretion. Having some trisnitrate of bismuth at hand, I took repeated pinches of it in the form of snuff, inhaling it strongly so as to carry it well into the interior of the nostrils. In a short time the tickling in the nostrils and sneezing ceased, and next morning all traces of coryza had completely disappeared." Dr. Ferrier adds:—"The formula which I find on the whole the most suitable combination of the ingredients of the snuff is as follows:—Hydrochlorate of morphia, two grains; acacia powder, two drachms; trisnitrate of bismuth, six drachms. As this is neither an errhine nor a sternutatory, but rather the opposite, it may be termed an anti-errhine or anti-sternutatory powder. Of this powder one-quarter to one-half may be taken as snuff in the course of the twenty-four hours. The inhalations ought to be commenced as soon as the symptoms of coryza begin to show themselves, and should be used frequently at first, so as to keep the interior of the nostrils constantly well coated. Each time the nostrils are cleared another pinch should be taken. It may be taken in the ordinary manner from between the thumb and forefinger, but a much more efficacious and less wasteful method is to use a small gutter of paper, or a 'snuff spoon,' placing it just within the nostril and sniffing up forcibly so as to carry it well within. Some of the snuff usually finds its way into the pharynx, and acts as a good topical application if there should be also pharyngeal catarrh. The powder causes scarcely any perceptible sensation. A slight smarting may occur if the mucous membrane is much irritated and inflamed, but it rapidly disappears. After a few sniffs of the powder a perceptible amelioration of the symptoms ensues, and in the course of a few hours, the powder being inhaled from time to time, all the symptoms have entirely disappeared." This is worth knowing and remembering in the present season of hot sun and cold winds.

HEAT AND COLD IN THEIR RELATIONS TO SLEEPLESSNESS.

COLD is often a cause of insomnia. If insufficiently clad, so that the cutaneous vessels are not relaxed, sleep is rarely sound, when attained at all. It is only when stupefaction from the cold occurs that the dangerous coma-sleep comes on, which is often fatal. With many persons sleep is unfavorable if the bed be not warmed previous to their entering it. In these cases the arteriole contraction induced by the contact with the cold bedclothes does not pass readily into the opposite of relaxation, and so sleep does not come on. This state of affairs is very commonly met with among the aged, and most so in those who suffer from some form of heart disease. In such cases it is not only desirable to warm the bed and the nightclothes, but even to administer some hot fluid, all the better for containing alcohol, when the patient has got into bed, if any sense of chilliness remains. In the young and healthy the chill of getting into bed, however, is often of great service in inducing a subsequent relaxation of the cutaneous vessels, and thus conducing to more perfect cerebral anæmia and sounder sleep. Few persons will have failed to note the deep and usually refreshing sleep which follows any disturbance during the night which has exposed them briefly to cold. At other times an increase of the body-temperature is the cause of disturbed sleep sometimes amounting to sleeplessness. This is most frequently seen in febrile states, where a delirious condition takes the place of natural sleep. After the temperature has been brought down by the application of cold a fever patient will commonly fall into a refreshing sleep until a return to a fever temperature disturbs it. In slighter conditions of restlessness, associated with too great a body temperature, the dissipation of a certain amount of superfluous heat by getting out of bed and drinking a draught of cold water will usually be followed by sound sleep. At other times, throwing off some of the bedclothes will achieve the same end; though, if the amount removed be too great, wakefulness may follow from a low temperature being brought about. With some persons, if the rest is disturbed, it is sufficient to protrude an arm or a leg from under the bedclothes so as to secure more loss of heat, and sound sleep will follow

TALKING AT TABLE.

EVERY one who is at all sociable in their disposition will appreciate the following from the Journal of Health:

This is one of the very best digesters; there is no tonic known equal to it, as it is of the kind calculated to promote hilarity and good feeling generally. Most parents are prone to prohibit their children from laughing and talking at the table; it is unphysiological; it is a cruelty.

Joyousness promotes the circulation of the blood, enlivens it, invigorates it, sends it tingling to the remotest part of the system, carrying with it animation, vigor and life. The louder the little ones laugh the better: the faster they talk the better, for then they eat less in a given time, consequently chew their food more thoroughly.

Discard controversy from the dining table. Discourage all subjects which invite political or religious rancor. Let every topic introduced be calculated to instruct, to interest, or amuse. Do not let the mind run on business or previous mishaps, or past disappointments. Never tell bad news at the table, nor for an hour before. Let everything you have to communicate be, if possible, of a gladsome, joyous, hilarious character, calculated to bring out pleasant remarks or agreeable associations. On the other hand, never administer reproof at the social board to either servant or child; find fault at nothing; speak unkindly to no one. If remarks are made of the absent, let them contain some word of commendation which if repeated in their hearing afterwards, will kindle kindly feelings, and thus will thoughts of the table come across the memory in after years, when we have been scattered and some laid in their final resting-place, bring with them a sweetness of emotion which makes it a pleasure to dwell upon them.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

A Call for More Light.—A lady correspondent who signs herself "A Subscriber," would like to read more from the pen of "Hattie Hopeful" in regard to hygienic matters generally, to which we are also agreeable.

Fever and Ague.—We have heard from several persons all living in the same district—one in which fever and ague prevails—that nutmegs, from three to six, according to the age of the individual strung about the neck so as to rest upon the stomach, are used as an effective protection against this insidious, vile disease.

Scientific and Useful.

A USE FOR LOCUSTS.

PROF. RILEY assures us that the Western Grasshoppers, or Locusts, do not make a bad dish when properly cooked. But it is difficult to make our people try these insects in a culinary way, probably owing to the want of a proper education in that direction. A French physician, however, has found a new use for the Eastern Locust, which may yet create a demand for those of our own country; if so, the "Hatefuls," as the lamented WALSH used to call them, may prove a source of revenue to the Border States. The inventor of this new way of disposing of locusts is Dr. MORVAN of Dourriez, Finisterre, and it consists in preparing them in different ways as bait for fish. He also says that in America, where swarms of grasshoppers often do serious mischief, devastating large tracts of country, traps have been devised for catching these insects; but, except in a few instances, where they have been used for manure, they have not been made to serve any useful purpose. Dr. MORVAN dries the locusts in the sun, presses them into barrels, and subsequently smashes them into a paste, which is made into small balls and thrown into the sea during fishing operations. Another way is to boil the locusts before making them into a paste. This bait is of an oily nature, and is said to be eagerly devoured by the sardine or pilchard. Large quantities of cod's roe are used on the coasts of Brittany in the prosecution of this fishery; but the increasing high price of this bait has lately been a serious addition to the expenses of the fishermen, who have most eagerly availed themselves of the novel substitute. Bait is not generally used in the English pilchard or sardine fisheries, different modes of fishing being adopted by those employed in France, but in those instances where cod's roe has been tried it has been found to attract large numbers of fish. The increased demand for pilchards which the operations of the Cornish Sardine Company of Falmouth are likely to create, for the purpose of preserving fish in oil, in the manner which has found so much favor, will probably lead to the more extended use of bait, and locusts or grasshoppers will no doubt come into requisition in Cornwall, as well as in France. The experiments of Dr. MORVAN were considered so important by the French Government that 100 barrels of locusts were supplied by the Governor-General of Algeria and transported to Brittany to be tried on a larger scale at the cost of the State. The results were so satisfactory that during the ensuing fishing season the locust bait is expected to be largely used.

PEANUT OIL.

THE rapid extension of the cultivation of peanuts in North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina is due to the use now made of them for the oil they contain. According to official agricultural reports, previous to the year 1860 the whole crop aggregated only 150,000 bushels per annum, grown principally in North Carolina; last season's product reached 2,000,000 bushels, valued at $3,000,000. In a commercial point of view the oil is much more important than the nuts themselves. This oil is in large demand, and answers for many purposes as a substitute for olive and almond oils; it keeps a long time without becoming rancid. The amount of oil contained in the nut varies according to latitude and other favorable conditions and circumstances, and is proportionately large.

DAVY'S DEFINITION OF CHEMISTRY.

SIR HUMPHRY DAVY, in his posthumous work, "Consolations in Travel, or the Last Days of a Philosopher," says:—"There is nothing more difficult than a good definition of chemistry, for it is scarcely possible to express in a few words the abstracted view of an infinite variety of facts. I will give you a definition which will have the merit of novelty, and which is probably general in its application: 'Chemistry relates to those operations by which the intimate nature of bodies is changed, or by which they acquire new properties.' This definition will apply not only to the effects of mixture, but to the phenomena of electricity, and, in short, to all changes which do not merely depend upon the motion or division of masses of matter."

HYGROSCOPIC PAPER.

THE Journal of the Franklin Institutes gives a mode of preparing a useful hygroscopic paper, by PERCY SMITH. A bibulous paper is impregnated with a concentrated solution of chloride of cobalt. It is very sensitive to atmospheric variations, being blue in a dry atmosphere, changing to red when the air becomes humid. Four observations a day, made for a year, with every precaution, prove that this paper may be employed to indicate readily and precisely the hygrometric state of the air.

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EXTREMES MEET.

THE zenith of popularity among the enlightened people of this world is a dangerous moment for the thing popularized. It would seem that we waste a deal of time and wealth in erecting structures for the fun of kicking out the foundation and seeing them tumble in ruins upon the ground. We are a sort of Leyden-jar which we delight in charging beyond its capacity until it is self-discharged and all is lost. In medicine one school for the time is omnipotent—all others are worthless. In politics, there is never a middle course. The extremes of perfection and corruption alone satisfy the partisan in his appreciation of his own—in his depreciation of his opponent's party. In agrienlture a new and promising theory is lauded to the skies and becomes in a twinkling a contagion that spreads like wildfire. Really valuable, possibly, as a specific, it is paraded as a universality, and failing in this, is cast into darkness among a multitude of sympathizing relatives, there to remain until a more or less distant future shall bring it again to light—shall cut off the extremes and join together and utilize a happy medium. Thus science and progress are thumped about from pillar to post—now submerged and gasping for breath—now grasping at a straw—now tossed mountain high, but reaching a calm, unruffled surface at last. We talk of progress, we believe in progress—we strut and congratulate ourselves in the arrogance of our progress, and then we compare to-day with a hundred years ago (Ah! mark the incredible changes) and proudly march on. But our march of progress is ofttimes just a little curved—so little as to escape the detection of our high heads that can not bend for trifles, until, having reached what in the rosy distance we conclude to be the pinnacle, is found upon a closer scrutiny to be something that wears a suspiciously familiar look—indeed, an old friend, our starting point. Our progress has been marching in a circle and extremes have met.

We are reminded forcibly of the extremes to which people blindly rush while reading in current literature of our horticultural progress. The art of pruning has been elevated to an art by slow, mature and thoughtful steps. Hundreds of books have been written recording the experience of pomologists and detailing the facts that diligent study and practice have from time to time revealed, until, from their unanimity, we were ready to conclude that the bottom facts were reached and that we had but to practice the accepted rules to secure for our fruit trees health, symmetry and fruitfulness, in so far as those conditions—such as climate and soil—which could not be controlled, would permit. But we must wait yet awhile. Mr. SHIRLEY HIBBERD, an English horticultural star of a formidable magnitude, utters a dissenting note. He would plant fruit trees and leave them to themselves! He sees more beauty in the ugliest tree if developed according to its nature, than in the shapeliest tree that owes its shapeliness to the pruning-knife. No less he deems that the greatest vigor, longevity and fruitfulness are thus secured! This heretical note, so at swords' points with the best thoughts of our best pomological thinkers—ought it to have been heard outside the hall in which it was uttered? It would seem not—but as if OTHELLO'S occupation were threatened—it was reverberated from every mountain and mole-hill; it was copied by almost every paper in the land and the most orthodox of the ancient and honorable Brotherhood of Pruners hastened to point out the utter senselessness of Mr. HIBBERD'S views—just as if a theory so utterly senseless *needed any* invalidation. Can it be possible that the pruning-knife-Leyden-jar is about to discharge itself? Can it be possible that our pruning science has been marching in a circular path—so insidiously circular that we knew it not—that has at length led us within sight of our ancient starting point?

Many of our readers have read of the bitter opposition which allopathic practitioners made to HAHNEMANN'S homeopathic announcements and the fight was unrelenting for many years. Now, however, a disposition is shown to blend, in a measure, the two schools; to accept the good of either—to cast out the extremes of both. This, may be, will prove the result of Mr. HIBBERD'S heretical note, as between the prunists and non-prunists. And it is to be hoped that both extremes will join hands and march on in the one straight, middle road of true progress.

WHAT'S THE USE OF IT?

ONCE upon a time we had a very excellent neighbor whose ever-ready answer to regrets that his children should be sent to school was, "What's the good of it? Haven't I got as big a farm and as much money as any of you and all without any school learning?" But we are pleased to add that some of his children thought differently and one son became an eminent and honored member of a learned profession. There is, however, a lingering remnant of this feeling of antagonism to a thorough or even moderately good education among certain classes of our people. It is difficult to make some farmers see that a knowledge of chemistry, geology, botany, or any of the kindred sciences can be of any possible benefit to their sons who contemplate pursuing agrieulture as a profession.

The perceptive faculties, which are the first to be called into play and manifest themselves in every action of the child, are frequently and by slow degrees suppressed, until the mind's natural and strongest function, which would lead it to perceive, seek after and grasp a knowledge of things in general brought within view, withdraws as it were from the contest, accepting only that which is thrust upon its attention. The girls or boys who may show a disposition to know something of the natural history of the stone, shells, plants or perhaps Indian relics plowed up on their father's farm, often find the channels for investigation closed to them; and if they seek a knowledge of these things parents and associates set them down as rather "queer," if not half demented. Should they persevere in their investigations, the first dawn of enthusiasm is checked with the silly and to them unanswerable question, "What's the good of it?"

What is the use of a farmer knowing anything of the different kinds of grasses or the adaptation of the various species to different soils and climates, except as he learns it by long and costly experience? Does it not make some difference to him whether he knows that certain species of plants are better adapted to cultivation on limestone soils than upon granitic or decomposed old red sandstone? or shall he go through life calling the different species of clover grasses, which is often done, when it would be just as easy to know that they are not in the remotest degree related to the true *graminea* but are true *leguminosæ* and closely allied to the common garden peas and beans?

But what is the use of any knowledge for the pleasure and profit to be gained therewith? As there is no one thing more wonderful in nature than another—the blade of grass being equally as much above and beyond the comprehension of the human mind as the star millions of miles distant—why should there exist such a prejudice as is often manifested against spending time in seeking a knowledge of those things which play so important a part in contributing to the welfare and happiness of the human race? There are, it is true, some things which are of more importance to man than others, even among his own immediate surroundings; but he can scarcely find one object in the whole range of natural history from a grain of sand to a mountain range stretching across a continent, which is not worthy of his attention and from the study of which more or less good will not come. Continents are made up of mere atoms of matter, while wisdom is but the accumulation of particles of truth gathered from the great, ever-varying and inexhaustible field of nature.

THE SICK MAN'S INFLUENCE UPON AMERICAN GRAIN.

"WARS and rumors of wars" are things which interest everyone because they directly or remotely affect all. Just now the Great Powers of Europe are placed in such positions relatively to each other, that few would be surprised should the Cable flash through the waters the news of the beginning of hostilities. We think it would be difficult for these Great Powers, now alternately glaring and smiling at each other, to tell just exactly how and between whom the contest would be, should it occur; but one thing they all know and we ourselves cannot fail to see. The poor unfortunate Sick Man of the East will not be the "innocent cause" of but the "guilty excuse" for it all. Turkey's days as a nation seem to be numbered and if this could be accomplished without war and its attendant horrors, we are not prepared to say that the result would be undesirable on the score of civilization and progress. But war or no war, the price of breadstuffs has advanced and will advance and there is our gain as well as the proof of the old adage that "it is an ill wind" &c. The rumors are sufficient in themselves to induce the purchasers to hoard grain which in turn necessarily produces that demand upon which a solidly rising market is absolutely dependent. This state of things cannot be ephemeral. It must last long enough to enable the producers of this country to reach the market at a good price. Don't keep your grain to catch the top of the market; but by all means don't hurry to part with it at a disadvantage.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Minnesota Butter.—The Farmers' Union has been telling its readers some wholesome truths about the quality of Minnesota butter. There are no good reasons why butter and cheese made in the North-western States should not command as good prices as that made in the North-eastern and if it does not it is because there is something lacking in quality. When Minnesota and the farmers of other Western States learn how to turn their surplus grass and grain into first-class butter and cheese and other similar condensed products, we shall hear less complaint about high rates of freight, extortionate middlemen and hard times. Western farmers have a great advantage over their brethren of the East, even with distance to market against them; the only thing lacking is skill in turning out a first-class article and the truth of this is shown as our contemporary adds, that while Minnesota butter will not average 14c. per pound, St. Albans (Vt.) averages 35c.

The British Grain Trade.—The following dispatch to the N. Y. Herald has a strong bearing upon the grain question:—"London, June 9.—A leading grain circular says that wheat has been rather dearer in a few country markets but is generally unchanged, with an almost uniform inactivity in consequence of the Whitsuntide holidays. In our immediate district the demand for consumption is increasing and the drain would speedily make considerable impression on our warehouses but that the arrivals about equal the consumption. A number of cargoes have been taken off the coast for the continent. There was a good attendance of local and country millers at this market to-day, who purchased both red and white wheats to a considerable extent at Tuesday's extreme rates but little, if any, has been taken on speculation. Flour was steady with little doing. Corn was in fair request and quotations fully maintained."

Take a Look at the Wild Fruits.—While the various wild fruits are in season every one having the opportunity should be on the look out for choice varieties. As the greater part of all our blackberries, red and black raspberries, were found growing wild, there are good reasons for believing that others equally as good, if not better, can be discovered by a careful search through the native habitats of the plants. We would like to record the discovery of new and superior varieties of the different small fruits this summer, also choice sorts of wild plums, persimmons, crab apples, as well as chestnuts, hickory, hazel and similar nuts.

Hard Work for Boys.—There are parents, mothers especially, who are always afraid that the boys are being overworked. There is, however, little danger of this in a country like our own, where the boys partake largely of the spirit of freedom which pervades all classes from childhood to old age. Besides this, we find that the boys who worked hardest in youth not only learned to save, but reached the highest positions in society and are even more likely to live to a good old age. Hard work injures no one unless carried to great extremes.

RURAL BREVITIES.

MR. FOWLER (W. J.) writes us from Pittsford that they are having plenty of potato beetles, but are ahead of them and intend to keep ahead. The FOWLER family always have been a "leetle" ahead and we are glad to see that they intend to keep there.

DAIRYMEN should carefully read the official regulations for the Dairy Exhibition at the Centennial, on another page of this issue. Great care seems to have been taken by the managers to make it a success and it is to be hoped that the display will be in every way creditable to this growing dairy country.

THERE will be a grand field trial of harvesting machines June 27th under the auspices of the Indiana Agricultural College near Lafayette, Ind. No limit is set for the time in which the test shall be completed. The awards range from $100 to $50. The highest to be given to the best combined mower and reaper.

CHERRIES cooked with the stones in bid fair to become a thing of the past since GOODELL & Co. have placed upon the market their "Family Cherry Stoner," a neat and effective little piece of mechanism which should be in every house. The GOODELL Co. can be addressed at Antrim, N. H., or 83 Reade St., New York.

THOSE who contemplate purchasing milling property or farms would do well to put themselves in communication with GEO. E. POMEROY & SON of Toledo, Ohio, who advertise in this issue quite a selection for sale. Information on the subject would be like the old lady's pills—it would do no harm if it did no good.

S. B. JEROME & Co. of New Haven, Conn., advertise in another column small clocks for from $2 to $3.50 each. How they can manufacture good ones at that price is a mystery; but they have been well indorsed by many who have tried them and who assure S. B. J. & Co. that they are in every way equal to more expensive clocks.

Now that small fruits are abundant and likely to increase rapidly on the face of the earth it becomes a leading question, as to what kind of basket to put them in. We shall not attempt to answer this conundrum, but that sturdy gardener Mr. R. H. HAINES, Malden-on-the-Hudson, N. Y., has ideas on the subject, and what is more to the purpose he makes a basket that looks as if it must be nearly perfection. Inquiries are sure to receive a prompt and courteous reply.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

PAINT your house with the best. Every keg "Phœnix Pure White Lead" warranted fine, white, good body, and the most durable paint.

"BUSINESS" IN MISSISSIPPI.

Why, howd'y, Mahs'r Johnny! Is you gone to keepin store?
Well, sah, I is surprised! I neber heard ob dat afore.
Say, ain't you gwine to gib me piece o' good tobacco, please?
I's 'long wid you in Georgia, time we all was refugees.

I know'd you would; I alluz tell de people, white an' black,
Dat you's a raal gen'l'man, and dat's de libin' fac'—
Yes, sah, dat's what I tells 'em, an' it's nuffin' else but true,
An' all de cullud people t'inks a mighty heap ob you.

Look heah, sah; don't you want to buy some cotton? Yes, you do;
Dere's oder parties wants it, but I'd rader sell to you.
How much? Oh, jes' a bale—dat on de wagon in de street—
Dis heah's de sample—dis is cotton mighty hard to beat!

You'll fin' it on de paper what de offers is dat's made;
Dey's all de same sedtions: half in cash an' half in trade—
Dey's mighty low, sah—Come, now, can't you 'prove upon de rates
Dat Barrot Brudders offers: only twelb an' seben-eight's?

Lord; Mahs'r Jonnny, raise it! Don't you knows dat I's a frien',
An' when I has de money I is willin' for to spen'?
My custom's wuf a heap, sah; jes' you buy de bale an' see—
Dere didn't nebber nobody lose nuffin' off o' me.

Now, what's de good ob gwine dar an' a-zaminin' de bale?
When people trades wid *me*, dey alluz gits a hones' sale;
I ain't no han' for cheatin': I belicbes in actin' fa'r,
An' ebery body 'll tell you dat dey alluz foun' me squar'

I isn't like some niggers; I declar' it is a shame
De way some ob 'em swin'les—what? de cotton ain't de same
As dis dat's in the sample? Well, I'm blest, sah, if it *is!*
Dis head mus' be my brudder's sample—yes, sah, dis is his.

If dat don't beat creation! Heah I've done been totin' roun'
A sample dif'rent from de cotton! I—will—be—conform'!
Mahs' Johnny, you mus' 'scuse me. Take de cotton as it stan's,
An' tell me if you're willin' for to take it off my han's.

Sho! neber min' de auger! 'tain't a bit o use to bore,
De bale is all the same as dis heah place de baggin's tore;
You oughtn't to go pullin' out de cotton dat a way,
It spiles de beauty ob de—what, sah! rocks in da, you say?

Rocks in dat 'ar cotton? How de debbil *kin* dat be?
I packed dat bale myse'f—hol' on a minnit, 'le' me see—
My stars! I mus' be crazy! Mahs'r Johnny, dis *is* fine!
I's gone an' hauled my *brudder's* cotton in instead ob mine! [*Irwin Russell.*

The Story-Teller.

MABEL MOORE'S STRATAGEM.

It was almost like a bit of Persian poetry, that little conservatory at Bayswater, in its glow and fragrance and soft, delicious murmur of leaves. And Mabel Moore herself looked not unlike a Persian enchantress as she stood there leaning one hand on a marble vase, with the gold of the acacia plumes hardly brighter than her hair and a quiver in the heavy white lids that hid her deep-blue eyes. She was tall and finely formed, with very regular features, cheeks tinged with a faint color and an unconscious *hauteur* in the poise of her slender throat and shoulders. Mabel Moore was born to be an heiress and very gracefully she fulfilled the mission of her sunshiny life.

She was not alone, however, in the flowery fragrance of the twilight conservatory. Ernest Beckford was leaning against the door-post, twisting and untwisting a long spray of jessamine with a sort of impatient rapidity. He was a tall, manly fellow, with bright auburn hair and a face that you were involuntarily compelled to respect and like.

"Mabel," he said, almost passionately, "do you know that you are asking impossibilities?"

"Am I?"

"I cannot go to Australia without you."

"You can, Ernest, and you will."

"But, my darling, only think of it—a year's exile from you."

"Will it be any easier for me to endure, Ernest?" she asked, calmly.

"Sometimes I fancy, Mabel," he resumed impetuously, "that you don't care for me, else you would never be so willing to let me go."

"Ernest!"

"My dearest, I know I am unjust; but——"

"Now," said Mabel, "let me understand just what you wish me to do in this matter."

"I want you to marry me the day after to-morrow and go out to Australia with me in the ship that sails on Saturday."

"A very reasonable wish," said Mabel, laughing. "But, Ernest, you know I will never marry you while your mother refuses her sanction and approbation to the match."

"She does not know you, Mabel."

"That makes no difference. I shall never enter a family where I am not welcomed by every one of its members."

"But just consider how unreasonable you are, my own darling, and how entirely groundless are my mother's objections."

"She fancies me a hollow, heartless woman of the world, does she not? She is unwilling to trust her son's happiness in the keeping of a coquette, who knows nothing beyond Italian songs and French waltzes."

"Mabel, I am sorry I ever allowed you to read that unreasonable letter."

"But I am glad. No, Ernest, I have too much pride and dignity to marry you unless your mother gives her free and full consent."

"Then you do not love me, Mabel."

"I *do* love you, Ernest Beckford, better than I like to acknowledge to myself."

"Mabel," he urged tenderly, "let us cut this Gordian knot by the exercise of our own free will. Become my wife; give me the right to take you with me on the long, long journey."

Mabel Moore shook her head.

"Let us wait and see what time may bring forth," she said, archly. "And now leave me; remember that the ship sails on Saturday."

"I can't possibly go in that vessel," said Ernest; "I've many things to do."

"But if you do not go on Saturday you will be obliged to wait another fortnight and your business is so important over there——"

"Yes, I know, but——"

"Well?"

"I must get that companion for my mother—she will be entirely alone. Mrs. Carter told me she knew some one who would take the situation and I shall have to go over to Clapham to see her about it to-morrow."

"Don't let that detain you, Ernest. I think I know of a young lady who would make an excellent companion and I will send her to Beckfordville."

"Can she read aloud and has she patience and forbearance and will she be as meek as Moses?"

"I am sure she will try."

"Send her then. But, Mabel——"

"Well?"

"It strikes me you are anxious to hurry me off next Saturday."

"Ernest," she said, in a voice that quivered a little, in spite of all her self-control, "you are misjudging me. I want you to do your duty—to go and attend to the affairs of your poor uncle, whose reason has deserted him. And more than this, I want you to learn life's lesson of patience and endurance. The sunshine will come at last, if you can only wait unrepiningly."

"Little prophetess," said Ernest, drawing her fondly towards him, "I accept your auguries and I'll bear up as manfully as human nature will allow. No one ought to be discouraged who is sure of *your* love. But oh, my darling, how often I shall remember this sunset and your sweet face turned towards mine!"

"Do you think I shall ever forget it? Only wait, Ernest, and all will come right in God's own time," she answered, with her hand in his.

And thus they parted.

"Going out of town, Miss Mabel? and so early this season!"

The pretty lady's-maid stood aghast in her occupation of putting away fine laces in a satin-lined box of veined sandal wood.

"Yes. Get my trunks ready, Mildred."

"And when do we start, miss?"

"I shall not take you with me, Mildred."

"Not take me, Miss Mabel! And who is to arrange your hair and take care of your dresses?"

"I, myself."

"But, Miss Mabel—"

"I choose to go alone, Mildred," said the young lady a little imperatively. "Take away the silks and grenadines; I shall only require the muslins and one or two light wrappers."

"Miss Mabel!" exclaimed the surprised lady's-maid, holding up both hands in hopeless bewilderment, "where can you be going?"

"To seek my fate, Mildred," said Mabel, in a tone that was a curious intermingling of jest and earnest. "There—now leave me to myself."

Mrs. Beckford of Beckfordville Villa, at Richmond, was sitting alone in her comfortable parlor—musing on her far-off son with a total abstraction from all outward sights and sounds—and when all of a sudden she looked up, a pretty young person, clad in a quiet style, stood before her.

"What is it?" said Mrs. Beckford, somewhat curtly.

"If you please, madam, I am anxious to come as a companion."

"Who sent you?" demanded the lady, surveying the large blue eyes and golden bands of smoothly-brushed hair rather distrustfully.

"I learnt from a lady of your acquaintance that you wished a companion and I should like to take the situation."

"Hum-m-m," said the old lady, "what's your name?"

"Edith Moore."

"Moore—Moore? Got any relations in town—ah! at Bayswater, I mean?" demanded the inquisitress, sharply.

"No, ma'am. I am alone in the world."

"I'm glad of that," murmured Mrs. Beckford, *sotto voce*. "I couldn't stand any one belonging to the guitar-playing girl who—but never mind that just now. What are your references?"

Edith Moore drew a letter or two from her traveling bag.

"So Mrs. Carter of Clapham, knows you, eh?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Well," commented the matron, glancing over the notes, "these recommendations seem very satisfactory—I don't know—but that you may come and stay. The only objection I can see is that you're too pretty and I don't think you are really to blame for that. Take off your things."

And the roses that glowed into Edith's cheeks at this very plain expression of the old lady's sentiments did not make her any the less lovely as she untied the blue bonnet strings and laid aside the neat but simple shawl, to enter upon her probation.

More than a year had crept over the daily current of life at Beckfordville. The trees were bare and leafless, the snow lay white and deep in all the hollows and dimples by the roadside and a sharp December wind was sweeping along the Thames as the sun glowed with momentary redness ere it sank down out of sight.

"How soon it grows dark!" said Mrs. Beckford, with a little sigh. "That's right, Edith—draw the curtains; now we're comfortable!"

Comfortable indeed, they were, with the shaded lamp glowing softly on the table and the bright fire on the hearth, while Mrs. Beckford's spectacle glasses shone like twin orbs of flame and her knitting-needles glittered responsively.

Edith was sitting opposite to her, fashioning narrow white ribbon into bows for the old lady's new winter cape. She looked wonderfully pretty in a dress of sober blue merino, with a blue ribbon tangled somewhere in the braids of her burnished hair, while the delicate color on her cheeks was like the inside of a pink shell.

"What's that you were saying a while ago about going back to London, my dear?" said the old lady, suddenly turning round to Edith. "I just want you to understand that you can't go. I can't spare you."

She put one arm around Edith's neck and drew the round cheek down on her lap.

"Do you really love me, Mrs. Beckford?" asked the girl, earnestly.

"Love you, darling? I could no more get on without you than I could without the sunshine. It seems as though you belong to me. I don't know what you've done to steal my old heart away, I'm sure," went on Mrs. Beckford, musingly; "but you remind me somehow of the little daughter I once lost. You won't leave me, Edith, dear?"

There was something almost pathetic in her pleading voice as she touched her withered lips to the pure forehead of the beautiful girl.

"You'll stay and be a daughter to me in my old age, Edith? What should I do without the little feet that trip so lightly about the house and the hands that are forever busy in my behalf? Tell me you will stay, Edith."

"Dearest Mrs. Beckford," whispered Edith, with the happy crimson dyeing her cheek, "I'll never leave you; I will stay with you always. Oh, I am so glad you have learned to love me—more glad than I can tell you. But, Mrs. Beckford——"

"Well, dear?"

"There's something I want to tell you—something I have kept back from you," faltered Edith, with her fingers nervously twining themselves around the old lady's slender wrinkled hand. "Mrs. Beckford, I am——"

But Mrs. Beckford had started to her feet with a low, half-suppressed cry.

"Hush! did I not hear his footsteps? It was something more than the wind among the evergreens—it was my boy's foot upon the threshold! He has come back to me!"

She rushed to the door and threw it wide open.

"Ernest! My boy!"

And the tall stalwart figure caught her in his arms, as if she had been a little child."

"Mother, are you glad to see your wanderer back once more?"

Nor is it any aspersion on his manly dignity to state that a slight moisture was sparkling on his long eyelashes as he bent to kiss his mother's cheek! Men are but mortal, even though they be six feet high and framed accordingly.

As she drew him in he caught a momentary glimpse of the figure in the apartment beyond.

"You are not alone, mother?"

"No; Edith is with me."

"And who may Edith be?"

"Didn't you get my letters? I wrote all about her."

"I haven't seen a letter for three months."

Edith was standing where the full brilliance of the lamp shone upon her blushing cheeks and radiant hair, as mother and son entered the room together. Ernest stopped short, gazing at her in bewilderment.

"Mabel!"

"Ernest, what do you mean?" exclaimed Mrs. Beckford, doubtful whether or not her son had taken leave of his senses. "This is Edith Moore."

"She is Mabel Moore, my own affianced wife!" said Ernest, springing forward and sealing his words on lip and brow and cheek with half a dozen kisses, while the young lady, much to Mrs. Beckford's horror, made not the slightest resistance.

The next moment, however, she withdrew from his encircling arms and glided to the astonished matron's side.

"Dearest Mrs. Beckford," she said, softly, "I may tell you now what was just trembling on my lips when Ernest's footsteps interrupted me. My name is Edith, but it is Mabel too. Will you forgive me for stealing into your heart by stratagem? I knew you were prejudiced against one whom you regarded as a mere butterfly of fashion and I had told Ernest that I would never marry him without your consent. Half an hour ago I promised never to leave you. Mother, you will not send me away from you now?"

And Mrs. Beckford melted straightway before the pleading sunshine of the blue eyes.

"I always wanted a daughter," she said, "but I couldn't bear the idea of Mabel Moore, the Bayswater heiress."

"But you will love little Edith, who came to be your companion?"

"I suppose I ought to scold you for deceiving me," said the old lady; "but I—I couldn't help loving you if I were to try ever so hard—and that's the truth of the matter. There, Ernest, take her and I will ring and tell Thomas he may serve up dinner."

Ha! As though Ernest cared for anything less ethereal than Mabel just then!

"You have conquered, dearest," he said, tenderly. "My brave-hearted darling, will the devotion of my whole life compensate you for all this faithful love?"

Mabel thought it would and Mabel was right.

TRUTH, OR FICTION?

Orenburg is a town of European Russia, situated in the Ural Mountains, near the Asiatic border. About a year ago Abraham Chorkov, a wealthy Jewish inhabitant of that town, was lying dangerously sick with typhoid fever. On the 22d day of September, at midnight, a crisis set in which seemed to take a fatal course; the man suffered and struggled, and his physicians called it the agonies of death. A number of Jews were called in, prayers were offered, wax candles were lighted, and behold! the patient, who was supposed to be in the last stages, commenced to breathe freely, opened his eyes, and looked with astonishment at the surrounding scene. But the sequel has no precedent. The man soon after fell into a sleep which the physician declared to be a healthy one. In the morning he awoke, saw wife and children around him, who partly in anguish and partly in joy were waiting for his awakening. His wife, overwhelmed with joy, wanted to throw herself upon his neck, but by signs he repelled her, and demanded something in a language which none of them understood.

It should be mentioned here that Abraham Chorkov is a man of sallow appearance, tall and lean, looking like a genuine Russian Jew, with long black whiskers and beard, black eyes, and a long Oriental nose, and that before his sickness he understood no other language than Hebrew and a little Russian, being one of those illiterate Jews found in such large numbers in that part of the world. Now the man began to speak in a language unintelligible to every one around him. The physician who was summoned did not understand him. With contempt he pushed away his wife and children whenever they attempted to come near him, and the doctor gave it as his opinion that in consequence of the typhus the fellow had become insane. The despair of the family lasted for many days. His wife had, in the meantime, sent to Tamboy for his parents; but on their arrival Abraham would not recognize them, did not understand their language, and appeared to be angry that no one understood him. After a week he rose from the bed, and his wife gave him his clothes as worn by him before his sickness, the usual habits of the Russian Jews. He examined them closely and laughed heartily. He wanted to run out, but the people quickly shut the doors, fearing he would take cold. He remained in the room, pacing it with meditation. Passing a looking glass, he beheld his figure in it. He stopped before the mirror amazed, touched his curls, his big nose, his long beard, and burst out laughing, but then, all of a sudden, became quiet and earnest and in deep meditation.

His wife and parents, who had witnessed this strange behavior, looked at each other with astonishment, and it now appeared to them that the man before them was not their Abraham Chorkov, but a stranger. But Abraham's forehead bore still the black line with which he was born, so that even the physicians who had attended on the patient for nearly two months had to laugh at the idea.

Abraham Chorkov looked often out of the window, and seemed surprised at the country about him, and one day he made strong efforts to run away. The family now decided to call in the Government physician and other doctors, who, after a careful examination, pronounced him thoroughly sane. Although they understood not the tongue in which he spoke, they recognized it as a regular language, well articulated. Thinking he could make himself understood in writing, Abraham wrote a few lines on a piece of paper, which the physician read, but without comprehending their meaning. The writing is in a plain, good hand, in Latin letters, but the language was unintelligible to all, and no one could make out how Abraham Chorkov came to use Latin characters.

So things went on until it was agreed to take Abraham to St. Petersburg to the medical university to hear the opinion of the prominent scholars. As soon as Prof. Orlow heard the language of Abraham he recognized it forthwith as English. Abraham expressed immense pleasure at being enabled to make himself understood, and, after some conversation, Prof. Orlow pronounced Abraham to be a very intelligent Englishman.

"But, for God's sake!" cried his wife, "how does my husband come to be English, and how did he forget his Hebrew language?"

Prof. Orlow listened with astonishment to the story of Abraham's life, and would not believe that he had been a common, illiterate Russian Jew. He asked Abraham in English who he was and whence he came, and Abraham replied in the same language, "I am from British Columbia, in North America; my native town is New Westminster. I have there a wife and one child living, and God only knows how I came here, or to this woman."

It is easy to imagine the great amazement on all parts. The Professor declared the parties to be frauds, or that a man abduction had taken place. He called upon the Government to have the matter investigated, and the family physician of Abraham, his neighbors and others were officially examined, the examination lasting for weeks. But nothing came of the examination, the matter re-

mained as deep a mystery as ever, and the physicians contented themselves with declaring it to be a psychological puzzle, a revelation of the human soul which could not be explained. Abraham told the Professor that although his name is Abraham, it is not Abraham Chorkov, but Abraham Durham, and that he had no other desire than to go back to his family.

One morning, when his wife arose, she found his place empty—he had disappeared. The marvelous story soon reached the ears of the Russian Emperor, who forthwith ordered diligent search to be made after the lost one; but all of no avail, the man could not be found; and at last it was generally believed that he had been insane, and in his insanity had sought his death in the river Neva.

In the spring of the year 1875 Prof. Orlow of St. Petersburgh visited Philadelphia, at the request of his Government, to arrange the preliminaries of the Russian department of the Centennial Exhibition. One day, reading a newspaper, the following arrested his attention:

"In New Westminster an occurrence recently took place which caused a great sensation throughout the whole territory of British Columbia. On the 22d day of September, 1874, a fur dealer of said city was in a dying condition, suffering from typhoid fever, and no one, not even his physicians, seemed to entertain any hope as to the possibility of his recovery. Nevertheless the patient rallied and fully recovered. But, wonderful to relate the patient, who was an intelligent Englishman, had forgotten his mother tongue, and speaks a language which is understood by no one around him, but which at last is recognized by an inhabitant of the city to be a jargon of bad Jewish-German. The patient, before his sickness, a short, stout fellow and a blonde, is now thin and lean like a stick, refuses to recognize his wife and child, but insists he has a wife and several children somewhere else. The man is believed to be insane. All at once a European traveler arrives, marked with a genuine Hebrew face, and claims to be the husband of the wife of the fur dealer. He speaks to the woman in the same language her husband was wont to speak to her; he gives her, and even his parents who reside in said city, but who, of course, do not recognize him as their son, the most detailed and minutest description of bygone events, and insists upon being the woman's husband and the parents' son. The poor woman is almost in peril of her reason by the effect of the trying ordeal. She incessantly asks, 'Who is this fellow? How does he come to claim to be my husband?' When she hears him speak and does not look at his figure, she is ready to think that he is her husband; but as soon as she looks at him the spell is broken, for, surely, this stranger with the Jewish face cannot be her husband whom she had just nursed in his sickness. But the man continues to press his claim, and tells her the most secret and delicate facts, evidently known only to husband and wife."

Prof. Orlow recollected now all about the occurrence last fall, and to solve this "psychological phenomenon" he decided upon going to New Westminster. To his great surprise he really found there the same black Abraham whom half a year ago he had seen at St. Petersberg. He asked the blonde fur dealer in the Russian language whence he came, and was answered, from Orenburg; and when asked for the name of his wife, he gave the name of a Jewish woman who had called upon him with her husband, now before him, in St. Petersburg. When asked what his name was, he answered, "They call me here Abraham Durham, but my right name is Abraham Chorkov.

Prof. Orlow was struck with a strange idea. He reasoned this way: A man abduction could not have taken place; the bodies have not been changed; one is short, stout and blonde, the other thin, long and dark; and then New Westminster is 2,000 German miles away from Orenburg. Metempsychosis must have taken place.

It must be remembered that on the 22d day of September, at the midnight hour both were lying between life and death, the soul of each one must have flown into the body of the other, and thus a complete metempsychosis has taken place; that at the midnight hour of the 22d September begins the shortening of the days; that the inhabitants of the two cities are antecians, that is, if a spike were driven through the center of the globe, entering at Orenburg, it would come out at New Westminster, and that when at Orenburg it is 12 o'clock at midnight the time in New Westminster is just 12 o'clock noon.

Prominent men of science are now occupied with this most marvellous occurrence. Prof. Orlow has taken the blonde fur dealer with him to St. Petersburg, whither the woman Chorkov of Orenburg will also be brought, and further developments are now expected.

A TERRIBLE SCALP RAISER.

It was up in a saloon on West Van Buren street. He was a gaunt young man, whose face hadn't been washed for two months and who wore his hair long behind. He was attired in a slouch hat, buckskin breeches, a red flannel shirt open at the neck and a rough coat. He had four revolvers and a big knife in his belt. When four dry goods clerks came in in a group and ordered some beer, the first dry goods clerk said to the barkeeper:

"Say, John, who's that cuss over yonder?"

"That," said the saloon keeper, dropping his voice to an awe-struck whisper, "that is Buffler Ben, the Wild Trapper of the great plains. Ask him to drink. Perhaps he will."

The first dry goods clerk did so and the Wild Trapper replied:

"Wall, stranger, seein' as it's you, I will just take some fire water. As I heerd Old Red Tail say to Spotted Cloud, 'It's a mighty long time between drinks.' Here's to us," and he engulfed a dose of whisky.

"You are," said the first dry goods clerk, "connected with the trapper business?"

"In the scalp and grizzly line," said the second dry goods clerk.

"Your reminiscences of a personal character, I doubt not, would be exciting and interesting," said the third dry goods clerk.

"Truth is stranger than fiction. Take something?" said the fourth dry goods clerk.

"Wall, no," said the trapper; "I never drink when I'm off the war-trail. It kinder makes me ugly, yer see, and I'm apt to dror my cutlery. I killed seven men up to St. Jo, Mezzouri, onst—seven men that I was talking to as friendly as I mout be to you, but I sorter got riled—wall, gimme some more whisky."

"Your hand," said one of the dry goods clerks, "has often been stained with human blood?"

"Stranger, she bev. The fust time you come up and see me at my wicklup in Montana—second lodge on the right beyond the Yellowstone river—and be sure you turn to the left up by the big boulders 300 miles this side—ask any Injin and tell him yer want to see Buffler Ben and ef he don't scalp yer he'll show yer the road plum straight. I'll show yer Old Bull's Eye, my rifle. She's old Kaintuck stock (likewise the barrel) and is sixteen feet long, and whenever I wipe out a white man I make a notch on the barrel, and there's notches all the way up one side and nine feet down the other. I went up to see your graveyards at Cavalry and Greeceland. They're a good deal like my private graveyards, more posies and statutes and so on, though they ain't as spacious. Now, jist about three months ago I turned loose in a barroom down to Lafayette, Arkansaw, and the coroner was kept busy for three days after attending to seven inquests. And this was just because a durn skunk stood up at the bar and improved his mind with my conversation and never asked me if I would take——"

Here one of the dry goods clerks caught Buffler Ben's eye and he stammered out an invitation to fill her up again. Mr. Buffler Ben irrigated himself and in reply to a question concerning his solution of the Indian question, said:

"Injins! Wall, no; I never keep count of the reds I wipe out. I used to when I was young and sort of vain, but I grew out'n it. It looked too much like vanity. I suppose I've not taken the trouble to lift the har of the last 150 or 200 Indians I've killed. Before that I was kinder particular that way and took so many scalps that I bust the 'Frisco chignon market and seventeen dealers in false hair went into bankruptcy. Injins is poor trash. Gimme a whole tribe of 'em and I'll wipe 'em out as fast as I can load my revolver and put it to my shoulder."

Here he paused again and was promptly refreshed. Then he continued:

"I tell yon, boys, if you want to see the choicest country on the footstool, jest you go to them ar Black Hills. The only thing agin the country is the buffaloes. They hatch there; and when they take to flight it's awful to see them in clouds so thick you can't see the sun, and when they light they chaw up garden sass and sour apple trees and corn and railroad ties and potatoes and telegraph poles. But ther's gold in the Black Hills. I've seen it myself. When you get down to the bed-rock you strike $50 and $20 pieces and you wash out eagles and dollars in the streams and up in the roots of the grass you find small scrip and nickels. No nuggets as I know on, though I did hear at Shyan of one worth $165,000."

Thus, with anecdote and information, Buffler Ben whiled away the time. When the four dry goods clerks had settled for the drinks—their bill amounting to $6.85—he bade them an affectionate farewell and made them promise to call at his tepee if ever they were up in Montana. When they had gone out the barkeeper paid him his 20 per cent. commission on the drinks sold through his instrumentality and told him to recollect next time that it was grasshoppers that flew, not buffaloes.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A CONSCIENTIOUS DOG.

I had had this dog for several years, and had never—even in his puppyhood—known him to steal. On the contrary, he used to make an excellent guard to protect property from other animals, servants, etc., even though these were his best friends. [Mr. Romanes here adds a note, "I have seen this dog escort a donkey which had baskets on its back filled with apples. Although the dog did not know that he was being observed by anybody, he did his duty with the utmost faithfulness; for every time the donkey turned back its head to take an apple out of the baskets, the dog snapped at its nose; and such was his watchfulness that, although his companion was keenly desirous of tasting some of the fruit, he never allowed him to get a single apple during the half hour they were left together. I have also seen this terrier protecting meat from other terriers (his sons) which lived in the same house with him, and with which he was on the very best of terms. More curious still, I have seen him seize my wristbands while they were being worn by a friend to whom I had temporarily lent them."] Nevertheless, on one occasion he was very hungry, and in the room where I was reading and he was sitting, there was within easy reach a savory mutton chop. I was greatly surprised to see him stealthily remove this chop and take it under a sofa. However, I pretended not to observe what had occurred, and waited to see what would happen next. For fully a quarter of an hour this terrier remained under the sofa without making a sound but doubtless enduring an agony of contending feelings. Eventually, however, conscience came off victorious, for, emerging from his place of concealment, and carrying in his mouth the stolen chop, he came across the room and laid the tempting morsel at my feet. The moment he dropped the stolen property he bolted again under the sofa, and from this retreat no coaxing could charm him for several hours afterward. Moreover, when during that time he was spoken to or patted, he always turned away his head in a ludicrously conscience-stricken manner. Altogether I do not think it would be possible to imagine a more satisfactory exhibition of conscience by an animal than this, for it must be remembered, as already stated, that the particular animal in question was never beaten in its life.—*Quarterly Journal of Science.*

A STRANGE STORY.

A strange story comes from Spain. A detachment of soldiers some time ago discovered in a secluded part of a mountain chain a cavern which was inhabited by robbers, who had taken advantage of the civil war to ply their criminal avocation. An alcove was attached to this subterranean dwelling, the door of which the soldiers broke open. They were astonished to find the apartment decently furnished and provided with books, flowers, and even a piano. In an easy chair sat a venerable old man. The soldiers interrogated him, but obtained only incoherent replies. It has been ascertained from one of the robbers that the old man was the cashier of a banking firm at Burgos; that they had broken into the bank and stolen the safe, taking the cashier away with them in hopes that he would assist them to open it. During their retreat from the scene of this exploit, which was marked by many adventures, the intrepid old man for a short time succeeded in evading the vigilance of his guardians and secreted the safe in a place where, should he regain his liberty, he would be able to recover it. When the booty was missed by the robbers and they failed to ascertain its whereabouts, with fiendish malignity they revived the proceedings of the famous chauffeurs, namely, roasting the feet of their unfortunate prisoner in order to extort a confession. But, unhappily, the torture had a different effect. The brave old man became insane, and with the object of restoring him to reason, in the hope that when he recovered he would reveal to them the place where the safe was concealed, the robbers bestowed upon him the utmost kindness and attention.

VIOLIN PLAYING.

The difficulty of thoroughly mastering the violin—the difficulty, that is, of combining perfect execution with brilliancy of tone and perfect expression is so vast, that nothing short of indomitable patience and perseverance, united with those indispensable faculties which all good players must possess, will succeed in overcoming them. "Twelve years' practice," says a musical critic, "on the violin, will produce about as much proficiency as one year's practice on the piano." If that is so, we may well imagine that a man who, by dint of perseverance, has at length qualified himself to take his place in an orchestra, may content himself by merely maintaining his acquired skill without attempting to rival the great heads of the profession. The time which some students will devote to fiddling is almost incredible. We have known a clever man to practice every waking hour in the day, rising early and sitting up late and sparing hardly one hour in the twenty-four for meals for two years together, in the hope of qualifying himself for the leadership in a provincial orchestra which, after all, he had failed in doing. We have known men who fiddled in bed when they could not sleep rather than waste the time; and others who have carried a dumb fingerboard in their pockets in order to practice the fingering of difficult passages while walking abroad or traveling by coach.—*Leisure Hour.*

HOW TO GET ALONG.

Don't stop to tell stories in business hours.

If you have a place of business, be found there when wanted.

No man can get rich by sitting around stores and saloons.

Never "fool" in business matters.

Have order, system, regularity and also promptness.

Do not meddle with business you know nothing of.

Do not kick every one in your path.

More miles can be made in a day by going steadily than by stopping.

Pay as you go.

A man of honor respects his word as he does his bond.

Help others when you can, but never give what you cannot afford to, simply because it is fashionable.

Learn to say, No. No necessity of snapping it out dog-fashion, but say it firmly and respectfully.

Use your own brains rather than those of others.

Learn to think and act for yourself.

Keep ahead rather than behind the times.

Young man, cut this out, and if there be any fallacy in the argument let us know.

What a fine looking thing war is! Yet, dress it as we may, dress and feather it, daub it with gold, huzza it and sing swaggering songs about it—what is it, nine times out of ten, but murder in uniform?—*Douglas Jerrold.*

I never judge from manners, for I once had my pocket picked by one of the civilest gentlemen I ever met with, and one of the mildest personso ever saw was Ali Pacha.—*Byron.*

Sabbath Reading.

PRAYER.

(IMITATED FROM THE PERSIAN.)

Lord, who art merciful as well as just,
Incline thine ear to me, a child of dust!
Not what I would, O Lord, I offer thee,
Alas! but what I can.
Father Almighty, who hast made me man,
And bade me look to heaven, for thou art there,
Accept my sacrifice and humble prayer.
Four things which are not in thy treasury,
I lay before thee, Lord, with this petition:
My nothingness, my wants,
My sins and my contrition.

[*Robert Southey.*

PRECEPTS.

I have been reading this morning from the seventh chapter of Ecclesiastes. In the first chapter of the same book "the Preacher" says:—"I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know sadness and folly; I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit." After all his wisdom and fame he does not seem to be satisfied with that alone, but says in the seventh chapter, "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." Evidently he felt that it was not "all of life to live, nor all of death to die." And again, "Sorrow is better than laughter; for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better."

Here is a lesson for us who are given to levity, and a reason why we should have sorrow. "The heart is made better." It is drawn nearer to the great, throbbing heart of Christ. There is a sympathetic cord connecting our sorrows with those of the "Man of God." And "the Preacher" adds, "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth." "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." In the tenth verse he gives a word of advice to those under adversity, "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this." He furthermore adds, "Consider the work of God; for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?" "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider." "God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him." Again, "the Preacher" had need to apply his heart "to know and to search and to seek out wisdom and the reason of things." And he closes the chapter with these words, "Lo, this only have I found that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."

Methinks we have need of "applying our hearts unto wisdom," that we may know and learn of Christ in these days. What with our Presidential election and the anniversary of our nation's birth, are we not in great danger of losing sight of God? Is there not need in our hearts, individually and collectively, for a greater amount of Divine love, that we may come out of this commotion purified and better prepared to do His work?

Juda, Wis. Ray Hulburt.

MORAL CULTURE.

I think that more harm is frequently done by over than by under culture in the moral training of youth. Judicious *letting alone* is a precious element in real education, and there are certain chords which, often touched and made to vibrate too early, are apt to lose instead of gaining power; to grow first weakly and morbidly sensitive, and then hard and dull: and finally, when the full harmony of the character depends upon their truth and depth of tone, to have lost some measure of both under repeated premature handling.

I sometimes think that instead of beginning, as we do, with a whole heaven and earth embracing theory of duty to God and man, it might be better to adopt with our children the method of dealing only with each particular instance of moral obligation empirically as it occurs; with each particular incident of life, detached, as it were, from the notion of a formal system, code, or theory of religious belief, until the recurrence of the same rules of morality under the same governing principle, invoked only in immediate application to some instance of conduct or incident of personal experience, built up by degrees a body of precedent which would have the force and efficacy of law before it was theoretically inculcated as such. Whoever said that principles were moral habits spoke, it seems to me, a valuable truth, not generally sufficiently recognized or acted upon in the task of education.—*Mrs. Kemble, in Atlantic.*

THE PERFECTNESS OF GOD'S WORKS.

Upon examining the edge of the sharpest razor with a microscope, it will appear fully as broad as the back of a knife—rough, uneven and full of notches and furrows. An exceedingly small needle resembles an iron bar. But the sting of a bee seen through the same instrument exhibits everywhere the most beautiful polish, without a flaw, blemish or inequality, and it ends in a point too fine to be discerned. The threads of a fine lawn are coarser than the yarn with which ropes are made for anchors. But a silk-worm's web appears smooth and shining, and everywhere equal. The smallest dot that is made with a pen appears irregular and uneven. But the little specks on the wings or bodies of insects are found to be an accurate circle. How magnificent are the works of God!

Ladies' Portfolio.

DOOMED.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

I saw them coming down the walk;
  His arm was round her, and I heard
The hum of low and tender talk,
  So low I caught not any word.
He plucked a flower beside the path,
  And put it in her shining hair.
My brain whirled in a sudden wrath:
  What right had he to put it there?

What right had he,—a smooth-faced boy—
  To rob my life of all most dear?
My heart leaped in a sudden joy
  When something whispered in my ear:
Oh fool! to let him win away
  The love you prize, nor lift your hand!
One blow will thrust him from your way—
  Revenge is something sweet and grand!

How strange that scene! How weird and wild!
  His boyish face, her shining eyes!
The moonlight mocked at me and smiled;
  I heard the owl's forboding cries.
He bent and kissed her rose-sweet lips.
  What happened then? My brain was wild!
A flash of steel—a cry! He fell,
  And falling, spoke her name, and smiled!

What will the end be? Oh I know,
  I see a scaffold, grim and bare—
And faces, eager, white, below,—
  I hear the solemn sound of prayer!
And then,—ah then! I dare not think!
  I shudder in a strange affright!
My God! I hear the hammer's clink!
  They build a scaffold in the night!

FRIENDSHIP OR LOVE.

"Love is like a hunter, who cares not for the game once caught, which he may have pursued with the most intense and breathless eagerness. Love is the strongest in pursuit—friendship in possession."—*Emerson.*

This for the text and for the argument this: Either Emerson did not know what love was or he did not write the word with the full significance of its meaning. Probably the latter. For many of the most bitter discussions arise from a different understanding of the same word. Thus in horticulture, "hybrid and cross" are used by some as synonymous and hence arise misunderstandings and debates; so in Theology with the words "belief and faith;" and so love is often written when the meaning would be better expressed by feeling, desire or passion.

It is no more sad than true that this misconception goes further than mere words and that people often believe themselves possessed by one of these when, in fact, it is another that has control of them; and we often find those united in marriage who learn too late that they have been mistaken in regard to their own feelings. Many believe their emotions and actions engendered by far different causes than is really the case.

Nature has implanted in the sexes a desire to mate and all that nature does is to urge on the mating without regard to propriety or fitness. Nature's end and aim in all life, whether vegetable or animal, is Reproduction; and reason, judgment and the whole intellect which should be brought to bear on the question of the choice of a partner for life, is often overborne by this natural desire. When this is done, the result can but be evil; for on a proper direction and control of this desire depends more than the future happiness of those mating. It behooves them then, to understand, if possible, what love is—"Love that annihilates all time and space, all doctrines and creeds, all forms and prejudices"—love that is full and complete—and they will come to know that it is not strongest in pursuit.

It is often and truly said that the first year of married life is the most trying. It is in this year that the parties first become really acquainted with each other's faults and foibles and, if they truly love, to look leniently upon them; for marriage does not always bring out the bright side of character. Lecky says,—"The beautiful affections which had before been latent are evoked in some particular forms of union, while others are particularly fitted to deaden the affections and preserve the character.

One seldom finds a wedded mate the same as imagination has pictured. The desire to mate blinds one to defects of character obvious to others, while regard, esteem and affection magnify virtues to such an extent that the chosen one appears as near perfection as possible. When this glamour is removed by the knowledge gained from the experience of everyday life and the parties appear to each other in their true colors, it is sometimes the case that the steps taken are regretted and it is found that desire and not love has fostered the union.

That an object for the possession of which we have striven earnestly often proves valueless, is true. We grasp at an apparent reality and find only a shadow; and when we awaken to a knowledge of the truth and find that what we have is not that which was sought, love can find there no resting place. It is an utter impossibility. But the possession of that which is worthy of love increases its intensity until, at last, it comes to reach that completeness that can be attained only in the marriage relation.

A true and abiding friendship is worthy of our highest encomiums. Wherever it exists it should, if possible, be cherished and retained. But it is less than love which overshadows and embraces it. There can be no love without friendship, but friends are not necessarily lovers. With friendship abideth faith and hope; but a greater than these is Love, which "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

Will you permit the publication of a few facts? Should they elicit from any of your readers a donation or subscription, I shall thank God and them for it. I ask for no help, for if this be God's work I am sure it will prosper and need no appeal from feeble lips like mine.

Last year God put it into my heart to snatch from poverty, from haunts of crime and drunkenness, a few poor little girls. After many hindrances I established my "Home for Destitute Little Children" three-quarters of a mile from here, in a large farm-house; my new family consists of a matron, three servants and sixteen children, all but two being fatherless and all save one totally destitute.

Order, cleanliness and a love of God are impressed on their young minds by my practical and affectionate matron. The children receive a plain education and are being brought up as servants in various capacities.

I only intended to have eight girls when I began but I could not steel my heart to refuse some in a fearful condition; and I now find I have gone beyond my original estimate of expenses.

Other cases quite as sad have lately been brought before me but which, unless I can get help, I cannot take in. The cost of maintaining a child yearly will be about £18.

Any one is welcome to visit the "Children's Home." We are 19 miles from London and three miles from the station at Weybridge.

Lady Pigot writes the above to the London Times. We copy it, thinking that some of our benevolent and wealthy ladies may "get an idea" that, should they act upon it, might serve to fill up those long hours during which they are so afflicted with *ennui*.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF AFTER MARRIAGE.

"You love me no longer," said a bride of a few months to her better half in his gown and slippers. "Why do you say that, Puss?" he asked, quietly removing a cigar from his lips. "You do not caress me nor call me pet names; you no longer seek so anxiously for my company," was the tearful answer.

"My dear," continued the aggravating wretch, "did you ever notice a man running after a car? How he does run! over stones, through mud, regardless of everything till he reaches the car and he siezes hold and swings on. Then he quietly seats himself and reads his paper."

"And what does this mean?"

"An illustration, my dear. The car is as important to the man after he gets in as when he is chasing it, but the manifestation is no longer called for. I would have shot any one who put himself in my way when in pursuit of you, as I would now shoot any one who would come between us; but as a proof of my love you insist on my running after the car."

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Miss Kavanagh of Damariscotta, Me., has given $50,000 toward completing the Roman Catholic convent in Portland.

Mrs. Booth has offered her personal property, consisting of furniture and live stock, for sale to help pay the debts of her husband.

A silly Chicago woman wants a divorce from her husband because he kept secret from her before marriage the fact that he had lost by an accident all the toes of one of his feet.

So much delight was felt by the ladies of Nevada City over the completion of the railroad from that town to Colfax, that they clubbed together and furnished the passenger car with an elegant carpet, mats, curtains and spittoons.

Accustom yourself to overcome and master things of difficulty; for if you observe, the left hand for want of practice is insignificant and not adapted to general business, yet it holds the bridle better than the right, from constant use.—*Pliny.*

A wife's love is the golden chain which unites her to her husband. It has a thousand links forged by sympathy, self-respect and mutual confidence; sever but one of them and the chain is as completely broken as though a hundred were destroyed.

Woman's pluck receives a notable illustration in the case of a Holyoke (Mass.) widow. Her husband had been sick two years and had died, leaving her with two children and a debt of $400. She went to work in a mill and never lost a day. Besides doing her week's work, she took in washing for two families. Her children she placed in school and has paid their expenses, asking no help from any one. By honest hard work she paid off the debt of $400 and, besides supporting and educating two children, has put by $400 against a time of need.

In a book published in 1660 called "Courtship, Love and Marriage," there is this clause concerning leap year:—"Albeit it is nowe become a part of the common law in regard to the social relations of life that as every bisextile year doth return, the ladyes have the sole privilege during the time it continueth of making love unto the men, which they doe, either by words or lookes, as to them it seemeth proper; and, moreover, no man will be entitled to the benefit of clergy who doth in any wise treat her proposal with slight or contumely."

Reading for the Young.

TO A LITTLE INVALID.

If I knew
Where the shyest, sweetest spring flower hides its face,
Clinging to the mother earth with childish grace,
  It should be for you.

If I knew
How to charm away the blithest little bird
From the deep wood, where his happy notes are heard,
  He should sing for you.

If I knew
How to catch and hold this fresh and sporting gale,
Sweeping lightly o'er the banks of wild flowers pale,
  It should breathe on you.

If I knew
How, by some benign ministry, to bring
To your heart the heavenly secret of the spring,
  It should stay with you.

[*Mary Townley.*

A QUESTION.

We have a question to ask the little boys and girls of the Rural Brigade, not over twelve years of age. To him or to her who shall make, in a few words, the brightest answer, we engage to forward by mail a little present.

The other day, while the writer was enjoying a listless "nooning" in the shade of a tree, he noticed a wasp entangle itself in the web of a spider. The wasp endeavored with might and main to be free, and would have succeeded more than once but for the spider, which at such moments attacked it vigorously and reinvolved the wasp in its web. The struggle lasted for fifteen minutes or more, when it became evident that the wasp was helpless and conquered.

Now for the question: Ought we to have rescued the wasp from the unrelenting spider? If so, or if not so, why?

UNCLE TRUE RISES TO EXPLAIN.

My Dear Nieces and Nephews:—Did it ever occur to you to ask why the Red Sea was so called? When I was your age the question gave me no little trouble, and it was a long time before my curiosity was satisfied, as in those far-off days Science was a mere child like myself. My teacher told me it was red because it was——red! With this I had to be content. What will you say when I tell you the color is due to the presence of infinite numbers of a small plant—so small that in a square inch there are over 20,000,000?

That's a tough one isn't it? and I don't wonder you ask, How could you see or count them? Well, it's a simple matter to see them collectively, and it's their great number spreading over and beneath the surface that gives the sea its red tint. But how count so small a thing? That I will tell you in confidence was the great difficulty. We are not prone to count what we cannot see. However, a sturdy Dutchman named Leuwenhoek (some say) invented a little instrument that gave him an artificial eye of immense magnifying vision. This was the microscope; and they have gone on improving it until now, in our day, they make them of such a power that they enlarge the natural surface something like 50,000,000 times its ordinary size! Here, then, was a start, and a great victory over our eye. It was one thing, however, to see a wee mite of weed; quite another to *measure* it. To do this we invented the microscope, an instrument made of glass, on which are engraved some 1,500 lines so fine and close that the naked eye cannot see them. Of course no mere man could perform this difficult work, but Brain and Will (that wonderful firm) concluded that machinery could do it. They made an instrument so delicate that it works only in the dead of night, when the world's noise is hushed. Even the attendant dare not enter the work-room, but starts the machinery by an ingenious system of clock-work. At length the task is finished, and we are shown a bit of glass that contains in the space of *one inch* 30,000 lines! Thus equipped, the man of science goes to sea, investigates and comes home with facts that so far outdo Aladdin's wildest fancies that we may well say, of what use is imagination, since Nature so far outstrips it.

It may be wonderful to contemplate plants so small, but what do you say to animals yet more minute? The *Infusoria* of which the sea is full; those mites that sometimes convert the track of the mariner into a line of fire, and the good ship seems to be forging ahead through a mass of diamonds; these fellows are so minute that a drop of water contains millions. They would not make good aldermen, as their diameter is but 1-250,000,-000th of an inch! You don't see how they live? Why they enjoy themselves immensely; are epicures in their way, with a stunning advantage over us in that they have 200 *stomachs!* It don't seem possible, does it? but what a proof of the omnipotence of our Lord!

A curious experimenter placed a drop of water containing Infusoria under his microscope, and then another drop of water colored with carmine close by. They were brought together with the point of a needle; the little beasts seized their food with tentacles, and as they were transparent its course could be observed on its way to a stomach. And what think you they gorged themselves on; why animals even *smaller* than themselves! It is mentally impossible for us to conceive such miniature life. I should be afraid to tell you that even these creatures are attacked by parasites who burrow and re-create in the vitals of the Infusoria. But the amusing part is that if you think you destroy a monad by *dissolving* him into various parts, you will be quite chagrined to discover that instead of killing one you give birth to a colony, as each separate part is at once imbued with life; starts off on its own infusorial hook, and is to all intents and purposes quite as much an Oliver Twist as his late other self, and whose motto is: More!

At some subsequent time I will tell you more interesting particulars concerning their big brothers, the Polyps. Uncle True.

HOW TO TELL YOUR AGE.

There is a good deal of amusement in the following magical table of figures. It will enable you to tell how old the young ladies are. Just hand this table to a young lady and request her to tell you in which column or columns her age is contained; add together the figures at the top of the columns in which her age is found and you have the great secret. Thus, suppose her age to be seventeen, you will find that number in the first and fifth columns; add the first figure of these two columns. Here is the magic table:

1	2	4	8	16	32
3	3	5	9	17	33
5	6	6	10	18	34
7	7	7	11	19	35
9	10	12	12	20	36
11	11	13	13	21	37
13	14	14	14	22	38
15	15	15	15	23	39
17	18	20	24	24	40
19	19	21	25	25	41
21	22	22	26	26	42
23	23	23	27	27	43
25	26	28	28	28	44
27	27	29	29	29	45
29	30	30	30	30	46
31	31	31	31	31	47
33	34	36	40	48	48
35	35	37	41	49	49
37	38	38	42	50	50
39	39	39	43	51	51
41	42	44	44	52	52
43	43	45	45	53	53
45	46	46	46	54	54
47	47	47	47	55	55
49	50	52	56	56	56
51	51	53	57	57	57
53	54	54	58	58	58
55	55	55	59	59	59
57	58	60	60	60	60
59	59	61	61	61	61
61	62	62	62	62	62
63	63	63	63	63	63

The Puzzler.

SCRIPTURAL ENIGMA.—No. 1.

I am composed of 74 letters:

My 21, 46, 61, 14, 40, 11, 5, 31, 10, 52, 48, 45, 20, 10, 3, 38, 31 is one of the Commandments.

My 18, 73, 56, 53, 42, 15 one of the seven churches of Asia.

My 13, 23, 15, 24, 64 father of David.

My 4, 17, 31, 31, 51, 67, 8, 68, 9, 26, 49, 57 guided the Israelites through the desert at night.

My 1, 22, 44, 31, 55, 15, 39, 24, 63, 69, 12, 65 is one of the Parables.

My 6, 2, 50, 66, 19, 43, 71, 11, 32, 20, 9, 58, 31, 31, 61, 68, 62, 7, 3, 33, 48, 55, 72, 43, 44, 20, 15, 8, 9, 35, 41, 57, 31, 61, 49, 72 was the text of our last Thanksgiving sermon.

My 73, 27, 36, 28, 42, 70, 37 a city in Syria.

My 51, 47, 69, 60, 34, 74, 15, 71 a precious stone mentioned in Revelations.

My 72, 23, 58, 35, 12, 49, 48, 29, 48, 54, 74 a book of the Old Testament.

My 2, 5, 30, 51, 56 was Ishmael's mother.

My whole is a selection from Proverbs.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Eudora.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 14.

My first is in silver but not in gold,
My second is in young but not in old;
My third is in part but not in all,
My fourth is in high but not in tall;
My fifth is in reap but not in mow,
My sixth is in catch but not in throw;
My seventh is in right but not in wrong,
My eighth is in dance but not in song;
My ninth is in sign but not in name,
My whole was a river of ancient fame.

Answer in two weeks. Isola.

CENTRAL PUZZLE.—No. 1.

1. Knowledge. 2. Malice. 3. A mischief. 4. A lady's name. 5. A man's name. 6. Very unpleasant. 7. An anæsthetic. 8. A garden tool. 9. Blooming with health. 10. A false friend. Centrals form a poisonous flower, and the words are of five letters.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Little One.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—No. 5.

I am composed of 14 letters:

My 11, 8, 13, 10, 6, 9 is a beautiful flower.
My 7, 5, 3, 2 is a valuable fruit.
My 4, 12, 1, 14 was a true patriot.

My whole is a lady's name.

☞ Answer in two weeks. B.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—June 3.

Biblical Enigma No. 6.—The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

Geographical Enigma No. 2.—Let all your things be done with charity.

Charade No. 2.—Misunderstand.

Cross-word Enigma No. 12.—Sarah.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

HEAVY frosts prevailed in the vicinity of Council Bluffs, but no damage has been done. The continued drouth is seriously injuring the crops.

The ravages of the Colorado potato bug in Concord, N. H., and in adjoining towns, causes much apprehension among farmers.

The threatened strike in the Harmony Mills has been settled, the employes accepting the reduction of 10 per cent, and all returning to work.

Grasshoppers have commenced to appear in great numbers in Northern Alabama, and are occasioning great uneasiness.

The Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution says that one would not imagine that the times are very hard, judging from the amount of building going on in Atlanta at present. There is more now than at any time since the war, and some branches of business are more prosperous than ever.

There is more tobacco now in Hopkinsville, Ky., than was ever before known at one time. Some warehouses not having storage room sufficient have erected temporary sheds.

In the U. S. Court in Philadelphia, Chas. Worms was found guilty of forging the signature of Sec'y Chandler to a contract with the Interior Department for furnishing Indian supplies. Sentence deferred.

Farmers in Princeton, Ky., are gloomy about the wheat prospects in that vicinity. They do not think that more than three-fourths of a crop will be made.

The corn crop is a little backward in Woodford Co., Ky., but has come up well and will make a good yield. The wheat crop looks well, but is rather thin, and will probably not be above an average. Barley promises a very large yield. Hemp does not look so well. The cut-worm is doing very great damage to hemp on clover land.

The Nashville (N. C.) Citizen says that mica is being found abundantly in the vicinity of Mitchell, that State. Two parties there have recently sold a quantity of mica in the lump for $37,000. From one spot 20 by 40 feet, over $10,000 worth has been taken.

Wheat does not look well in Tennessee.

Good horses are selling at auction in San Suba County, Texas, at from $18 to $20. More horses than money is the reason.

The San Antonio (Texas) Express says that in Atascosa County, the dryest-looking section of Western Texas, where no rain has fallen for months, the crops are ahead of those in all other counties reported.

Henry Hulling of North Carolina, who was sent to the Penitentiary in Albany last winter for robbing the mails, has been pardoned by President Grant.

Marshall S. Smith, a clerk in the Pennsylvania State Treasury Department, and John A. Wagoner, formerly in the Auditor-General's office, were arrested for conspiracy to defraud the State of $5,000.

Winter Garden, the establishment of the Messrs. Hovey in Cambridge, Mass., is now a-bloom with hardy azaleas, which will be in flower from four to six weeks.

The Metropolitan Bank of Montreal is in difficulty. It is proposed to reduce the stock and amalgamate the concern with some other bank. Serious charges are made against the Directors by Mr. Rhodes of Quebec, who claims $10,000 damages, owing to his being deceived into buying the stock of the bank through highly-colored documents issued by the Board of Directors. He also charges the Directors with using money belonging to the bank for their own private ends.

The cut-off at Vicksburg has greatly alarmed the citizens The Vicksburg Herald admits that the river is gone, and that the only hope for a current past the city is in changing the channel of the Yazoo River, so as to bring it through Chickasaw Bayou, and thence by canal in front of the city to the Mississippi. The Herald thinks this can be accomplished at a cost of about $200,000 and adds: "The main volume of the Yazoo could be diverted through the bayou, thence into Fish Lake, and finally into the Mississippi River at the National Cemetery, by means of a breakwater at Yazoo, by cleaning and deeping the bayou, and by the cutting of a canal from the southern end of the lake to the Mississippi. The effect of the plan proposed will be to keep open a channel in the Mississippi from the National Cemetery along the river border of the whole city; and should this be practicable, the dangerous influence of the cut-off will not only be avoided, but we should be brought into closer and more direct communication with the rich and populous Yazoo basin, upon which Vicksburg mainly relies for her support."

Two hundred passenger trains went from New York to Philadelphia, on one day, on the Central road—one every seven minutes night and day.

A vessel sailed from New Haven, Ct., loaded with more than $700,000 worth of arms and ammunition for the Turkish government.

The New York and Boston division of the New York, Boston and Montreal Railroad, being the section between the Harlem River and Brewsters, in Putnam county, was sold at White Plains to satisfy the first mortgage bonds, amounting with interest to $3,230,835. It was bought by the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company for the bondholders for that amount. It is understood that a new company will be organized. The tracks of 32 miles of the road, which is 55 miles in length, are already laid. It is expected that the road can be furnished and fully equipped within three months, with an expenditure of about $800,000.

Tennessee has forty cotton mills, employing 56,350 spindles, and consuming 13,443 bales of cotton.

The whole of the ground not occupied by bones, in the catacombs, under the city of Paris, is occupied in growing mushrooms of peculiarly fine quality for the table.

Berdan, the well-known American armorer, has just sold to the Servian Government 60,000 rifles.

The sponges of France yield $240,000 a year.

In a suit for libel against the Buffalo Express by a lawyer named Reed, for $5,000 damages, the jury has awarded damages for $15.

The Morgan Line steamship Austin, from Havanna, struck a snag in the river twenty-two miles below New Orleans, sinking at once. Her cargo was valued at $80,000; she had on board 700 hogsheads of sugar. The vessel was valued at $125,000, and is a total loss; no insurance.

In the event of Turkey drifting into a European war, our trade with her need not occasion uneasiness. In the fiscal year, 1874-5, our exports to her markets amounted to only $4,244,784. Our imports from Turkey were still less, being only $579,917. Many a one of our wholesale stores does a larger business than these figures represent.

The potato crop throughout Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties, N. Y., bids fair to become the victim of the Colorado potato bug—the latter having made its appearance in large numbers.

Every year the material condition of the South grows better and better. From every State comes most cheering accounts of the crops. In many States such promising crops have not been seen in years, and, all in all, the prospect is better than in any year since the war. The last cotton crop, being marketed, has already reached to 3,813,000 bales and will probably reach 4,500,000. There has been an increase of 440,000 bales over the preceding year.

At the annual meeting of the New England Associated Press, in Boston June 7, all the officers were re-elected.

Twelve hundred lodges of the Northern Sioux are reported as moving to meet Gen. Crook.

Ex-Senator Boyce of Wisconsin addressed the General Assembly of Connecticut in advocacy of the abolition of capital punishment.

A dispatch from Carson, Nevada, says:—"The anti-Coolie men continue demonstrations, and demand the discharge of Chinese laborers, but as yet have committed no violence.

John Jay Bradely, a graduate of Dartmouth College, was drowned in Lovewell Pond, Maine.

Dom Pedro has been quietly visiting the points of interest in Boston without the slightest exhibition of ceremony.

The summer meeting of the Harvard Athletic Association was held in Jarvis' Field, Boston. The one-mile run was won by D. J. James, Class of '79, in 5 min. 35⅖ sec. The 100 yards dash was won by A. H. Latham, Class of '77, in 10¾ sec. The running high jump was won by E. C. Hall, Class of '76, who made a jump of 4 ft. 10 in. The half-mile run was won by J. Swift, Class '79, in 2:24¾. The running long jump was won by J. I. Linzel, Class of '77, clearing 18 ft. 4 in. The hurdle race was won by A. H. Latham, and the quarter-mile run by H. C. Dunham, Class of '77, in 56 seconds.

The stores of T. C. Phinney and Hutchinson & Smith, in Montpelier, Vt., were robbed, June 8, of over $1,000 worth of goods.

Syracuse, N. Y., was visited by a tremendous rain storm, June 9. It is estimated that between 4:30 and 8 o'clock 8 inches of water fell.

During a violent thunder storm at Hemlock Hollow, Wayne Co., Pa., William Huff, while peeling park, was instantly killed by lightning.

Adam Bear, a leading business man at West Camp, Ulster Co., committed suicide by jumping into the Hudson. Aberration of mind is said to have been the cause.

Samuel M. King, formerly Deputy U. S. Marshal for Middle Tennessee, was indicted at Nashville, Tenn., for obtaining money under false pretenses.

Captain A. C. Stiner, engineer on the Monitor in the famous fight with the Merrimac in the early part of the civil war, died at his home on Staten Island, after a brief illness, on Saturday.

Cincinnati claims to have in her midst 4,693 manufactories of all sorts, devoted to 231 separate and distinct industries, and turning out $150,000,000 worth of products annually.

Some idea of the immense extent to which the bridge-building interest has attained in this country may be had from the fact that some $150,000,000 have been invested in bridges since the late war.

Mr. Moody has preached in his new tabernacle in Chicago. He stated that the building and lot cost $89,207, and that $19,897,77 remained unprovided for. A collection was taken up and $12,356,73 realized.

More than six years since a New Brunswick farmer, living on the upper St. John, took it into his head to build a vessel in which to take his family to Australia. He went to St. John and there visited a ship yard for the first time in his life, and examined the build of a schooner. Returning home with a few tools and a book on navigation, he worked all the time he could get days, and studied, with the aid of his wife, his "navigation book" evenings. At the end of six years his vessel was completed. During the spring freshets he floated his craft down to St. John. At that time he had expended every dollar he could raise, including the proceeds of the sale of his farm. The craft is said not only to be a great curiosity in point of construction, but has numerous inventions never before seen on a vessel of any kind, which Mr. Draper, the backwoods builder, had studied out himself. Draper has chartered his vessel for three months, in order to get the means of taking his family on a trip to Australia. The vessel is of about fifty tons burthen.

J. P. Usher, ex-Secretary of the Interior, attorney for the Kansas Pacific Railway, has gone to Washington to testify in the Blaine investigation.

The printers of the Hamilton Manufacturing Company at Lowell have given notice to the Company that they will not accede to the present reduction of wages.

A better feeling has prevailed in the freight market in Quebec during the past week. Grain freights from Montreal have taken a start upward, which has tended to strengthen rates here.

The steamer Oriental, ashore on Harding's Ledge, Massachusetts., has been condemned as not being worth the cost of getting her afloat. She will be sold at auction. About all the cargo has been discharged.

The marriage of R. S. McCormick and Miss Katharine V. Medill was solemnized in Chicago, at the residence of Joseph Medill, editor of the Chicago Tribune. Elegance of dress and decorations characterized the occasion.

The report of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad shows the gross earnings for the year ending April 1 to be $7,665,162; operating expenses, taxes, &c. $3,687,029, a decrease in gross earnings since last year of $46,545, and an increase of net earnings of $154,723.

The following dispatch was received at Omaha from the commanding officer at Fort Laramie: "Spotted Tail, the chief of the Brules, arrived here to-day on a visit, and reports that his people are at home and will not go out on the warpath. Large numbers have gone from the Red Cloud and other agencies on the Missouri River, and are concentrating on Powder River for a fight." He reports over 1,700 lodges collected.

At the meeting of the American Medical Association in Philadelphia the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That members of the medical profession who in any way aid or abet the graduation of medical students in irregular or exclusive systems of medicine, are deemed thereby to violate the spirit of the ethics of the American Medical Association.

Resolved, That there be appointed a committee of three persons, members of this Association, in each of those States where there has been no action taken for the establishment of Boards of Health to urge upon those States the necessity of the establishment of such boards.

Henry J. Bowditch of Massachusetts was elected President for the ensuing year. After the election of other officers, the Association adjourned to meet at Chicago on the first Tuesday in January, 1877.

The commencement exercises of the Boston University School of Theology were held in Tremont Temple. Seventeen graduates received diplomas, one of them being a lady.

Steam is being tried on the street railways of Baltimore.

Secretary Chandler has entered suit against Jacob Thompson, ex-Secretary of the Interior, in the sum of $1,000,000. The warrant has been served. Jere. S. Black, it is understood, will defend Thompson.

The exhibition of the Horticultural Society at Gilmore's Garden, New York, bids fair to be the finest ever given in this city. Arrangements have been made to gather the finest specimens of flowers from private collections all over the country. The exhibition will continue afternoon and evening from June 12th to 15th. Gilmore's Band will discourse sweet music during the afternoons.

The sentence of Crozier, the Penn Yan murderer, has been commuted to imprisonment for life.

George Branebridge's portable picture saloon in Ware, Mass., fell on him crushing him so badly that he will die.

Nineteen Japanese connected with the Japanese Commission at Philadelphia visited Trenton yesterday and inspected the potteries.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal excursionists made a distance of fifty miles in one day, passing through fifty locks in 12½ hours, an extraordinary feat.

Dom Pedro has presented his check for $100 to the Fire Department of the District of Columbia.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, has met in the Knox Church, Toronto. Rev. Dr. Cook, Moderator, preached the opening sermon.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE French workmen are to leave for the Exhibition at Philadelphia on the 17th inst.

Halim Pacha has been ordered by the Sultan to go into Egypt.

The Grosvernor Mission has arrived safely at Rangoon. It is now certain that Mr. Margaray was murdered by Chinese Imperial troops.

The Public Works Department at Ottawa purposes inviting tenders for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The contracts will be awarded early next year.

Advices from Rome say that the prospect of an understanding between Spain and the Vatican is good.

A dispatch to The Post from Berlin says that Prince Hassan, son of the Khedive of Egypt, has resigned his commission in the Prussian army. He goes to Egypt, where he will be made Minister of War.

During the passage of the Serapis home to England from India, one of the Prince of Wales's tigers bit off a midshipman's hand.

In consequence of the judgment of a Bremen court, Prince Bismarck, as Chancellor, has issued a notification prohibiting for two years the circulation in Germany of the *Nordamerica*, the weekly edition of the Philadelphia *Volksblatt*.

The Spanish Premier holds that the Government must for its own safety retain the right to override the law and establish military discipline. It is evident, from this that a sense of insecurity prevails at Madrid, despite the overthrow of the Carlists.

A dispatch from Alexandria says a quarrel has arisen between the Khedive and the new Turkish Government, in consequence of which the Khedive has been ordered to proceed to Constantinople. He will arrive there shortly with his family.

Some interesting discoveries have recently been made at Rome in excavations on the Esquiline and the Monte della Giustizia. They consist of vases of baked earth, and arms and implements of a period anterior to the foundation of the city, among the former being a vessel wrought by hand from the earth of the Esquiline, and at the bottom of which are three letters of extremely ancient form. In all probability it is the oldest inscribed object that has yet been discovered in Latinum.

An ornithologist observes that in the northern countries of Europe, when the storks, soon after the breeding season, prepare to migrate southward, they make flights to test the capabilities of the young birds to accomplish the journey. When any one is found not to possess the requisite strength, it is deliberately put to death by the others. Storks feed principally on frogs, and the mother knows that the weak ones would die of hunger if left behind.

Although the statement that the Prince of Montenegro had notified Baron Rodich of the conclusion of an alliance between Montenegro, Servia, Roumania and Greece proves totally unfounded, it becomes more and more evident that Servia is drifting into war. The Turkish forces facing Servia have been reduced 27,000 men in consequence of detachments being sent to quell the Bulgarian insurrection. The Servians now under arms according to the lowest estimate number 75,000.

The *Estafette* reports that the Russian army is marching to the frontier. When it arrives at Pruth, the Servians will commence hostilities.

The Grand Vizier has issued a letter declaring: "The Porte accords full amnesty to all insurgents who will offer their submission. To give them time to do this the Sultan grants a six weeks' armistice subject to movements necessary to maintain the concentration of troops and the revictualing of Nicsic."

The Sheik-ul-Islam has forbidden the Softas to carry arms or to congregate in the public thoroughfares.

Austria, Germany and Russia have each recognized Sultan Murad in the same terms.

It is probable Winslow will be liberated June 15th, as, from the correspondence submitted to Parliament, it is doubtful that a supplementary treaty covering his case will be agreed upon by that body.

The Lower House of the Danish Rigsdag have unanimously decided in favor of the Government's demand for 2,000,000 crowns ($555,555) for the purchase of sixteen Krupp field batteries.

The funeral of M. Moulin, the French Consul who was brutally murdered at Salonica, took place in Paris, France, on June 7. The remains were buried with great ceremony and military honors, the expense being borne by the State. The Duc Decazes and deputations from both Chambers attended the funeral.

Among the twenty-four new Italian Senators created are two Jews—Isaac Artom and Julio Massarandi—the first who have ever been raised to that honor in Italy, notwithstanding that Jews have sat in nearly all the Italian Parliaments and eleven were returned at the last election.

The Queen, the Lady's Newspaper and Court Chronicle, has an interesting account of "definition bees," to which, it appears, "spelling bees" are now giving way in England.

Ricardo Menocal, Collector of Taxes in Havana, has absconded to the United States with about $400,000 in gold.

The Cuban authorities are making contracts with parties in Florida for cattle, paying $1 in gold per pound, delivered in Nuevitas.

The vote for the Duke of Connaught's establishment on his marriage with Princess Frederica, daughter of the ex-King of Hanover, will be submitted to Parliament at this session.

A dispatch to *La Republique Francaise* from Lyons reports a violent thunder-storm at Valonne.

Three soldiers of a regiment encamped there were killed by lightning, 11 paralyzed, and one blinded.

Sir Francis Hincks made a speech in reply to Sir Alexander Galt on the depression of trade in Canada. He did not agree with Sir Alexander that the depression of trade was caused by overtrading or extravagance, but rather from the reaction that had taken place after an extraordinary amount of money had been spent upon public works which created a necessity for the importation of articles required by new consumers.

The Count of Paris has gone to England to bring to France the remains of Louis Philippe, Queen Amelia, the Duchess of Orleans, the Duchess of Aumale, and the Prince de Conde. The remains will be taken to Dreaux, where they will be reinterred in the chapel built by Louis Philippe for the burial of his family. The transfer of the bodies and their reinterment will be strictly private.

Intelligence received at Ragusa on June 7 from Slavonic sources states that Prince Karageorgevic's legion defeated the Turks in the vicinity of Carkovico, Bosnia, June 3, killing 160 men. On the following day 2,300 Turks capitulated. Many insurgents have petitioned Austria to grant them an asylum, alleging that if they are refused they are in danger of starvation.

Lord Northbrook, late Governor-General of India, has been created an Earl.

The King of Greece, who was sick at Copenhagen with a severe attack or gastric fever, has recovered.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, June 10, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	79,420	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,700	Rice, bbls	406
Corn meal, bbls	4,300	Cut meats, pkgs	9,200
Corn meal, bags	1,178	Lard, pkgs	9,000
Wheat, bush	1,307,200	Tobacco, hhds	3,747
Corn, bush	384,000	do. cases	3,228
Oats, bush	270,400	Butter, pkgs	28,023
Rye, bush	83,900	Cheese, bxs	48,120
Malt, bush	42,700	Cotton, bales	9,224
Barley, bush		Rosin	7,500
Beans, bbls	3,600	Sats. furn., bbls	2,800
Grass seed, bush	50	Dried Fruits, pkgs	175
Beef, pkgs	1,336	Eggs, bbls	14,150
Wool, bales	2,070	Peanuts, bags	1,227
Hops, bales	135	Leather, sides	114,377
Pork, bbls	670	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,663	Oil cake	13,723

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very lowcut. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer lots here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,277 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 39,007 do.; same time last year, 15,000 do. Exports of peas past week, 1,751; since Jan. 1st, 326,008 bush.; same time last year, 211,325 do.

Medium beans are in a drooping condition and we note a further decline, very good marks selling at $1.00. Mediums are also easier, but the low prices lead to some business, which is a redeeming feature compared with other varieties of beans. Pea beans are quiet; while kidneys not moving, nice showy red kidneys are in fair demand part for Cuban use. Green peas lower; Canadian not quotably changed.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, $1.00@$1.15; prime mediums, $1.00@1.05; fair to good, 75@90c.; poor, 40@60c.; prime marrows, $1.55@1.57; fair to good, $1.30@1.45; prime white kid., $1.30@1.35; other, $1.15@1.30; prime red kidneys, $1.35@1.40; other, $1@1.15; Limas (Cal.), $5.00. Peas—Canadian, bbls., free, $1.15@1.20; do. to bulk and bond, 95@95c.; green, $1.10@1.20; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, $ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—There is a fair trade from bleachers, but better supplies weaken prices. Sales at 33½c. for Western and 35@36c. for Southern.

BROOM CORN.—Trade is very light, with prices unsettled.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—It is difficult to give a full and comprehensive view of prices this week. The market has been only active in spots and when that is the case it is hard to find steady quotations. At one period of the week it looked as if State butter was about to assume a stiff position, owing to light receipts and the knowledge of the fact that N. Y. dairymen have begun to pack. The hidden appearance of hot summer weather, however diminished the number of buyers and reduced the wants of regular purchasers of the high-priced grades. Fancy pails have some of their warm weather firmness but only selected parcels can be put at 25@28c., the latter for fine creameries. Western butter is still largely ahead of the wants of trade, and likely to be for a time; a large quantity has been started this way. The eastern trade is buying again but only since prices reacted. The export trade for England is using up some Western, quality being in buyers' favor at 16@17½c.

Western firkins quoted at 13@15c. for poor to fine yellow. State firkins 16@21c. for poor to fair, 25@26c. for prime. Sweet cream pails range at 22@25c.

Pails, State selected, 25@—c.; do., other 21@23c.; creamery, 25@26c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 24@—c.; fair to good, 20@22c.; Welsh tubs selected, 22@23c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 20@22c.; fair to good, 19@21c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 23@24c.; fair to good, 20@22c.; Western tubs, dairy, good to prime, 18@20c.; fair to good, 13@16c.

Western factory choice, 16@17c.; do. fair to good, 14@15c.; poor, 12@13c. Grease, pure, 7@10c.

CHEESE.—With a decline in the interior markets, the market fell off here about ½c. at the reduced figures, exporters have been operating moderately, only arrivals are liberal and freely offered. Exports past week 48,946 boxes.

New at 11c. for fine factory; 10½@10¾c. for good; 9@9½c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 7½@8½c.; do., skimmed, 4@6c. State farm dairy, fair to good, at 9½@10½c.; poor lots, 7@8c.; Western factory, good to prime, 9¼@10¼c.; fair lots, 8½@9c.

COTTON.—Exporters are buying more freely at modified prices. Closing sales are:—For June, 11 13-16@11 27-32c.; July, 11 29-32@11 15-16c.; August, 12@12 1-32c.; September, 11 31-32c.; October, 11 25-32@11 13-16c.; November, 11 23-32@11¾c.; December, 11¾c.; January, 11 27-32@11¾c.; February, 11 31-32@12c.; March, 12⅛@12 3-26c.; April, 12 9-32@12 11-32c.; May, 12 15-32@12½c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	8 9-16	8 9-16	8 9-16	8 9-16
Strict ordinary	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Good ordinary	9 15-16	9 15-16	10 1-16	10 1-16
Strict good do	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Low middling	11 1-16	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 5-16
Strict low middling	11¼	11¾	11¾	11¾
Middling	12	12⅛	12 3-16	12 3-16
Good middling	12¼	12⅜	12⅜	12⅜
Strict good middling	13	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛
Middling fair	13⅜	13⅝	13⅝	13⅝
Fair	14¼	14⅜	14⅜	14¼

Stained.

Good ordinary	8¾	Low middling	10¼
Strict ordinary	9⅜	Middling	11¼

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples are freely offered, unsettled and favoring the buyer. Peeled peaches are dull and weak. Blackberries are lower and dull. Small fruits generally inactive.

Apples—State, sliced, 10@10¼c.; do., quarters, 9¼c.; Western quarters, 9c.; Southern sliced, 10@10½c. for prime; fair lots, 9½@10c.; Tennessee quarters, 8¼c. Blackberries, 10½@11c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 13@14c.; do. fancy, 16c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 16c. Raspberries, 26@27c. Cherries, 19@21c.

same time last week, 2,191 do.

Exports of dried apples since Jan. 1st, 1,578 bbls.;

EGGS.—The supply continues heavy notwithstanding the extremely low prices. It is about 14 years since eggs were down to 12c. The comparative dates have this lamentable difference—then eggs sold, now they don't. Cheap berries and garden stuff seem to have more influence than usual in dividing up trade. Few near points arrive.

Near points, ₱ bbl., 13@17c.; State and Penn., 13@16c.; Western, prime, 11½@12c.; do. fair marks, 11c.; Southern and Southwestern, 10½@11c.; Canadian, 12@12½c.; duck, 11@15c.; goose, 19@21c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₱ lb.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras, 55c.

FEATHERS.—Sales only in a small way. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; mixed, do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—An active export trade has been reported at higher prices. The demand largely from Great Britain $4@4.50 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5@5.10 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.15@5.25 for good extra do.; $5.30@5.50 for fancy do., and $5.75@7 for very choice extra; $4@4.30 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, etc.; $5@5.25 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.30@5.65 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.70@7; fancy do., $7.15@7.75; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $7.50@9; round-hoop, Ohio, at $5@5.15, and trade brands of do. at $5.20@7; St. Louis, $5.10@5.25 for common to fair extra, and $6.30@9 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.25@7, and patent at $6.20@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.75@4.75. Southern at $5@5.25 for common to good extra, $5.30@5.15 for good to choice, $6.20@8.50 for family extra. Rye flour at $4.75@5.20.

FRESH FRUITS.—Strawberries have arrived faster than they could be used locally, while the hot weather has rendered a good many parcels unsuitable for shipment—especially the case in the stock coming from Southern points. As the shipping sales form a supporting feature in the strawberry trade, the lack of it during the past week has kept prices low. The best are now coming from New Jersey. Large fancy berries begin to show, but "fancy" buyers are scarce. Gooseberries dull. Cherries also; few fine table sorts of the latter have appeared. Russet apples nominal.

We quote apples, $1.50@2.50 for poor to fair; $3.50@3.75 for choice. Delaware and Maryland strawberries, qt., 5@8c.; New Jersey, pints, 3@5c.; hulled, basket, 2½@3c. Cherries, 4@8c.; a few from New Jersey. Hot-house grapes, ₱ lb., 75c.@$1.25.; do. peaches, ₱ doz., $2.50@4.

PEANUTS—Virginia, ₱ bush., $1.58@1.67; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, 95c.@$1.15.

GINSENG.—Southern, $1.50@1.60; Northern, $1.15@1.20; Somona root, 75@80c.

GRAIN.—For wheat there has been an unusually brisk demand for Great Britain and the Continent, and higher prices prevail. It is the general impression that Germany, France and England are short of supplies and that the business is for legitimate wants, with the war exports from abroad exerting but little influence; latest sales of No. 2 Chicago spring at $1.18@1.19; do. Milwaukee do., $1.21½@1.21¾; No. 3 Chicago do. $1.07@1.08; do. Milwaukee do., $1.13¾@1.14; ungraded do., $1.05@1.28; No. 1 Milwaukee spring, $1.30@1.31; No. 2 do. choice '71 crop, $1.28, a fancy price; 85@87c. for unmerchantable do. Rye at 86@87c. for Western; State, 96@97c.; Canada in bond, 96@97c. Corn has been active; latest sales to date were at 45@53c. for unsound mixed Western; 53@54c. for New York no grade; 57@57½c. for New York steamer; 60c. for graded mixed; 50@60c. for ungraded do., 61@62c. for steamer yellow, and 64c. for Southern do. Oats have been in good demand, partly from shipping, with prices higher, sales at 46@48c. for mixed Western and State; 44@48c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—There is a very full supply, and trade moderate giving an easy range of prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 75c.; retail qualities, 85@90c.; clover, 60@70c.; salt, 60@65c. Straw is quoted at $1.15 for long rye; 80@85c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 1,489 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 27,420; same time last year, 18,187.

HIGHWINES—Selling at $1.09¼.

HOPS.—The exports for the week are only 50 bales. Trade continues very light, with prices generally steady. A custom house broker visited all the hop concerns in this city last week to get at the stock, and reports it 6,537 bales; this is under the amount that had been generally counted upon. The reports from the growing districts are rather less favorable, some little mite of fogs injuring the vines.

N. Y. state, 11@15c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins, 8@15c.; Peachings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; California (nominal), 15@18c. ₱ lb.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 20@21c. for light; middle, 21@23c.; heavy, 21@23½c.; good damaged, 19@21c.

MAPLE SUGAR.—There has been rather more demand induced by the low prices that holders are willing to accept. We hear of lots sold at 8½c. for good Western.

OIL CAKE.—Western brings $40 (currency) per ton.

POULTRY AND GAME.—But little dressed arrives, and even that is lower. We quote fowls 13@16c.; spring chickens, 21@26c.; Turkeys, 13@16c.

Live poultry has arrived more liberally than it could be handled, mostly Western coops. Prices quite low. We quote:

Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb., 12c.; do. Western, 11c.; Roosters, 6@8c.; Turkeys, N. J., 12@13c.; do. Western, 10@12c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, $1@1.25; do. Western, 65@80c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.50; do. Western, $1@1.37.

Wild pigeons exhibit very careless packing. Some lots have turned out so poorly as not to pay freight. A prominent receiver says: "Pack fewer birds in more ice." We quote:

Wild pigeons dressed ₱ doz., 50@75c.; do. unpicked, 40@60c.; small fed, $1.12@1.25; Wild squab, 60@75c.; Tame do., $2.00@2.50, dressed

PROVISIONS.—Prices, after ruling comparatively very low, have reacted sharply and closed strong with a fair export business. Mess pork at $19.50@19.62½. July delivery at $19.60; August, $13.75. Bacon at 10½c. for Western long clear; 10¾@10¾c. for city do. Western steam lard at $11.10 for spot lots; 11.05 for June; $11.70 for July; $11.80@11.85 for August; 11.95 for September. Steamrun at 13c. for prime Western. Tallow at 8¾@8 11-16c. for prime. Beef hams at $22@21. Barreled lots quoted: $10@11 for plain mess; $12 for extra mess, and $14 for packet. Tierced quoted at $20 for prime mess, and $21 for India mess. City extra India mess at $23.

SEED.—Grass is dull; clover is quoted at 15@16c.; timothy, $2.75.

TOBACCO.—Export trade has fallen off, and otherwise but little doing.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7
Good lugs	7 @ 8
Low leaf	8½@10
Medium leaf	11 @12
Good leaf	12½@13½
Fine leaf	14 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	14 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	— @—
Fillers, selections	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5½@ 7
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

VEGETABLES.—Old potatoes are quotable for the best only. Southern are in large supply; some steamers bring 5,000 bbls. a trip. Green stuff variable and likely to rule low from this time forward. Southern green peas not wanted; L. I. and N. J. take their place. We quote:

Potatoes—Old Peachblows, bulk, 1.25@1.50 ₱ bbl.; Early Rose, $1@1.25; common, 50@87c.; Norfolk, new, $2@3.50; Charleston, do., $2.50@4. Bermuda, $5.25@5.50. Asparagus—N. J., 75@1.25 ₱ doz.; Oyster Bay, $1.25@2. Rhubarb, ₱ 100 bunches, $2@3. Southern cabbage, $1@1.25. Norfolk cauliflowers, ₱ bbl., $2@2.50. N. J. green peas, ₱ bbl., $3@3.50.; L. I. do., ₱ bag, $1.50@2.; Norfolk marrowfats, ₱ bbl., $1@1.25; Maryland, small, ₱ bbl., $2.50@3. Charleston tomatoes, ₱ crate, $2@2.50. Florida do., $2@3.; Bermuda do., ₱ 5-qt. box, 60@80c. Bermuda onions, ₱ crate, $1.25. Norfolk string beans, ₱ bbl., $1@1.50; Charleston do., ₱ crate, 75c.@1. Cucumbers, ₱ crate, 75c.@1.50.

WOOL.—The advices from the interior are of small sales of the new clip at 33@35c., and accordingly higher. Trade here is very moderate, and prices weak. XX Ohio fleeces, 40c.; No. 2 to No. 1 do. 33@36c.; XX State and Western, 40c.; pulled at 35@37c. for superfine and extra; 21@27c. for No. 1.

ROCHESTER, June 10.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.25; white winter, $1.25@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 70@75c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 20@22c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 14½@15c. Apples, bu., $1@1.75. Potatoes, bu., 25@30c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $23.50. Wool, 25@40c. Hay, $10@13. Straw, $5@10. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.; clover, $9.50@9.75. Mill feed dull at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 20c. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.50@6.30 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., June 10, 1876.

THE market this week has been dull and depressed. Cheese has declined in price from ½ to ¾c. from last week's rates. The decline came earlier than was expected, many dairymen coming to market in the full belief that sales could be made at last week's prices. The delivery of farm dairies was not far from 300 boxes, and as some of the lots were skimmed or of inferior quality, they went as low as 8 to 8c. The better grades reached from 9 to 10c., and one or two lots were sold at 10½c.

Factories were well represented, the offerings amounting to upward of 5,000 boxes. The sales commenced at 9c. and ran up to 10½c., at which the bulk changed hands. A few lots of fancy full creams sold at 10¾c., which was the highest figure reached. Quite a number of lots were sent forward on commission, and several factorymen who were not satisfied with the ruling rates refused to sell, preferring to hold over another week.

The delivery of butter was mostly grass make, and prices ranged from 20 to 21c., a few tubs of fancy creamery changing hands at 22c.

The weather has been favorable for grass, and cows are yielding good returns.

We have advices from abroad for the third week in May. Our London correspondent says the stocks of fine cheese are nearly exhausted, but secondary and inferior grades of all sorts are slow of sale at a reduction of from 2 to 4s. sterling ₱ cwt. Some American has been sold as low as 72s. ₱ cwt.

The prices are for extra American, 62@72s.; fine, 58@62s.; good, 52@58s.; secondary and common, 22@48s. English cheddar brings 81@90s.; Wiltshire double, 68@78s.; Cheshire medium, 50@58s.; fine, 70@80s.; Scotch, 68@68s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 58@72s.; Gondas, 50@62s.; Derby shape, 50@64s.

The supplies of butter are in excess of demand and pressed at a reduction of 1@2s. on the previous week's rates. Dorsets brings 100s.; Jersey, 120s.; Danish and Swedish, 120@110s.; Normandy, 136s. No American or Canadian butter in market. Oleomargarine sells at 60@110s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, June 10, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,573	91	4,081	7,671	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	26	661	1,284	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	11,418
Harsimus Cove	4,453	00	000	15,110	8,111
Totals this week	9,026	35	4,475	25,085	22,527
" last week	9,207	59	4,216	21,265	21,503

BEEVES.—Trade opened very slow on last Monday. The herds to hand were from coarse and fat to good, quality grades and sold at 9@11¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5¾@9¾ cwt. The market closed weak, with a few car loads unsold. Wednesday trade extremely slow at 8¾@11c.; weights, 6@9¾ cwt. The markets closed weak with a few head unsold. Thursday, trade small and still slow at 8¾@10c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak; sales at 8¾@10¾c.; weights, 5¾@8 cwt. From 55@57 lbs. net have been allowed on the cwt.; only a few top steers obtained 57 lbs. to the cwt. net, and two carloads of selected beeves were allowed 58 lbs. net. Native steers sold at 8¾@10c.; grass, do. at 10¾@11¾c.; the cattle sold at 12c. were too poor to influence business. Bulls on live weight, 3¾@4c.; oxen, 9@11¾c.; mixed herds at 8¾@9¾c. The quality of these herds as above quoted was from common to good, being in general coarse but fat.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @	12 @12¾
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8½@ 9¾	8½@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade slow on a light run of generally inferior quality fresh cows; 9 cows sold at $10@80 ₱ head; 7 at $45@55; 3 at $60@65; 3 at $35@75—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—As yet no smooth quality veals have been received. Buttermilk-fed calves sold at 4@5c; also at $5.75@5.87½c.; ordinary quality, 5@7½c. State calves sold at 8¾@7½c. ₱ lb.; Jersey, 6¾@7¾c.; Pennsylvania, 7@7½c.; 10 head of selected calves, 8c.; 9 head poor quality, 3½c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade unusually slow at reduced rates; the quality of the flocks to hand has not been so good as heretofore. Only one carload of woolly sheep has been received; some sold at 7½c. On Monday sheep sold at 5@6¾c.; lambs, 6¾@8c. Wednesday, sheep, 5¾@6¾.; lambs, 6¾@8¾c. Thursday, sheep at 4¾@6¾c.; lambs, 6¾@8c. Friday, the markets closed weak; sheep, 4@6¾c.; lambs, 7@8c. Colorado sheep 4¾@5c.; State, 4¾@6¾c.; Kentucky, 6@6¾c.; Ohio, 5¾@6¼c.; Michigan, 5@5½c.; Missouri, 5@5¾c.; Delaware lambs, 8@8½c.; Kentucky, 6¾@7c.; State, 6¾@8c.; Jersey, 7@8c.; Ohio, 8c.; Virginia, 7@7¾c.

HOGS.—Wednesday no live on sale. Thursday, trade in city dressed inactive at 7½@8¼c. General sales, 7¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade slow, with a larger number of sales effected; 15 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $22@72.50 ₱ head; 25 ordinary do., $115@200 ₱ head; 12 mustangs broken in part to the saddle, $75@125 ₱ head; 19 head coarse quality heavy draft horses sold at $125@235 ₱ head; 15 roadsters, with fair trotting action, $150@300 ₱ head. High-priced horses held on sale. Seventy-seven horses arrived per Erie Railway, via Oak Cliff Station.

New Advertisements.

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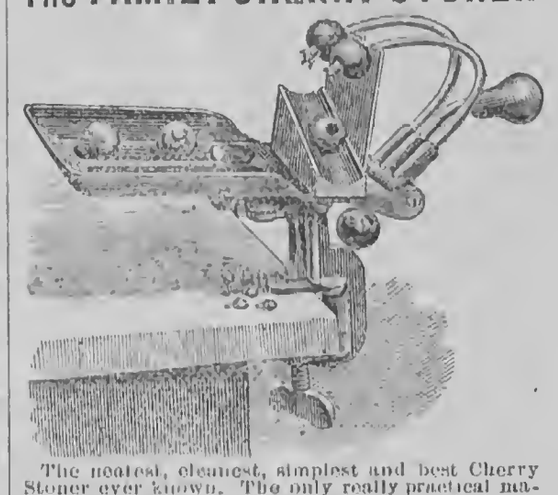

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78 Duane St., New York

PERSONAL ITEMS."

WHITTIER is now Clay. A plaster bust has been taken.

RUSKIN said that women, as a rule, have no eye for color.

P. BUG and G. HOPPER are on their way to Horticultural Hall.

PROF. HUXLEY says the horse is an evolved form of the orchipus.

IT IS said that Mr. Grau will cancel his engagement with Rossi.

THE victim of Circumstance has referred the matter to the Courts.

BRYANT has been editor of the New York Evening Post forty-eight years.

ANY one may feel that he is in the Quak-er City when that big horn blows.

WHEN stationers fail there must be a great amount of protested paper.

THE Citizens' Relief Committee of Indianapolis say they breathe freer now.

CALIFORNIA proposes to enact a law against pigtails. John or hog—which?

AH GONG made quite a noise when he was arrested for stealing in 'Frisco.

VANDERBILT should get *better*, of course, he owns a church, and runs a university.

THE Prince Imperial, it is said, will shortly make a tour through this country.

THE Duke of Edinburgh will be promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral in a short time.

A WOMAN is living serenely under the same roof with two husbands near Geneva, Ga.

MOULTON being in the salt business, may account for the profusion of brine in that late trial.

HON. JOHN M. FRANCIS of the Troy Times has arrived home from his trip around the globe.

Mr. HUTCHINS of the St. Louis Times is engaged in tanning the Hyde of the St. Louis Republican.

WHERE did the new Sultan get his degree, and a fellow of what Society is he? He registers himself, Murad F. N. D.

SEVENTEEN priests have been ordained in St. Louis, and yet the whisky thieves prefer that place to Jefferson City.

THE Poles in Switzerland are going to keep the Fourth of July, and thus increase our Alpine "stock" of patriotism.

WHAT could be more appropriate than an illuminated address to Adelina Patti by the London Throat and Ear Hospital?

A PAPER called the Jail Bird is issued from the Colorado penitentiary. It is not highflown but talon-ted, though o-pinionated.

AT this season your ideas about the weather are modified by the position of the thermometer. We find the refrigerator the best place.

MRS. MAXWELL, the Colorado huntress, who is now in Philadelphia, has killed 200 bears. She will now turn her attention to bores.

RUTABAGA says he always looks for financial news under the head of "Deaths"—to see who has paid his debt to Nature, you know.

"THE horn of the hunter is heard on the hills" surrounding the Exposition. It is the fog horn. They use it to hunt visitors off the grounds.

THERE are 30 circus companies browsing about the country, and yet Philadelphians wonder why the attendance at the Centennial is not greater.

GEN. JOE HOOKER, who went to the Hot Springs of Arkansas some weeks since for the benefit of his health has received no benefit from his treatment.

RUTABAGA says:—"This is not the time of year to pick quarrels, but it would be seasonable to 'harrow up' the feelings or 'cultivate' the affections."

KATE FIELD is said to have refused a millionaire. She is evidently wedded to her art. We trust that in due season the attachment will be mutual.

IT takes nineteen doctors' affidavits to prove that Abdul Aziz died of the scissors. And yet Europe shrugs its shoulders and hints it's sheer guessing.

"Is the Devil dead?" inquires the Religio-Philosophical Journal.

Don't think so. We heard him asking for "copy" a moment since.

THE story of Ole Bull's separation from his wife is pronounced by Mr. Blanton Duncan, in a letter to The Cincinnati Enquirer, to be without foundation. Of course!—Fiddle-sticks!

A COUNTRY newspaper in Connecticut says: "F. H. Williams, who usually sets ten acres of tobacco plants, will this year put out cabbages instead." The segars will smoke just as well.

ALBERT SMITH'S literary signature, "A. S.," was once shown to Douglass Jerrold, at which the wit remarked, "Ah, that's a fellow who never tells more than two-thirds of the truth."

A VEGETARIAN who was dodging an infuriated bull behind a tree, exclaimed: "You ungrateful beast! you toss a vegetarian, who never ate beef in his life! Is that the return you make?"

MR. SCHELL, Assistant Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, pounded a grocer who presented a bill to him. If that's his method of paying debts, it's time to announce Schell out. He must have been a green grocer.

THE report that Dr. J. C. Ayer has been taken to an insane asylum is incorrect. He has been suffering from a flow of blood to the head, brought on by sleeplessness and application to business; but the physician hopes that in a short time he will be able to sail for Europe.

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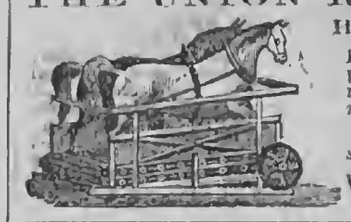

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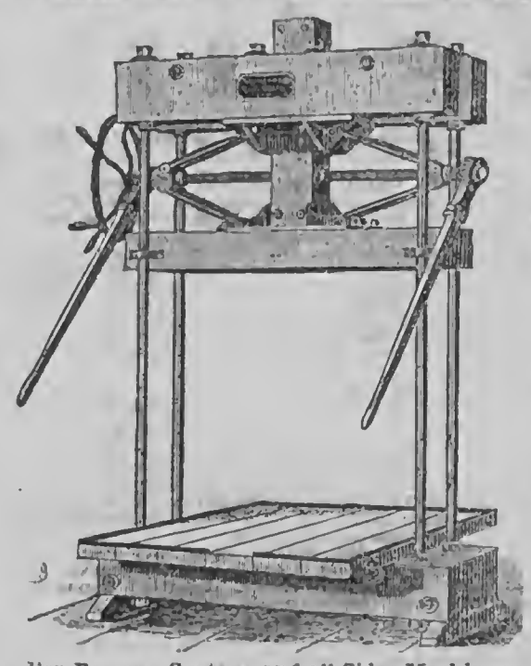

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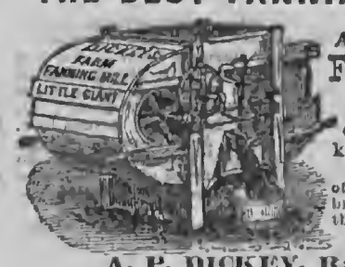

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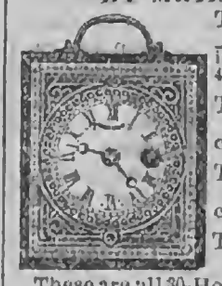

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L. E. B.—Your questions require answers too long for this column.

1. Your dog had but a fit, to which pups—especially those reared in cities, that are given little exercise and much food—are peculiarly subject.

2. Dogs never "froth" at the mouth during hydrophobia. They never fall over, never struggle as if to regain their feet. Such manifestations are positive evidence that it is *not* hydrophobia. This disease always gives a long notice. The dog is sick, stupid, restless; he cannot keep the same position a moment; he gazes fitfully at fancied objects—lies down carefully—gets up at once—rests upon his haunches, etc.

3. They have no "horror" of water during the early stages of this disease—nor, indeed, later. But the jaws ultimately become so fixed that, though they strenuously endeavor to drink, they cannot.

4. People are so ready to cry "hydrophobia" that harmless dogs in fits are driven wildly about the city, and finally killed and reported as mad.

5. To treat a young dog for fits, we would recommend you to give a light purgative and then change his food to the simplest—such as crackers, rice and milk, boiled Indian-meal, bread, etc.—and to give him regular but gentle exercise in the cool of the morning and evening.

John C. W.—If you have a desire to know how to "preserve and stuff bird skins," purchase a good work on Taxidermy and study it thoroughly before making the first attempt in that direction. In addition to what you may learn from books, it would be money and time well spent to visit some practical Taxidermist, and take a few lessons in setting up specimens. There are some very fair Taxidermists who can skin and stuff a bird neatly, but when it comes to setting up they fail to get a natural poise, either through ignorance of the bird's habits or lack of an artistic eye.

A Subscriber.—The small green lice, or Aphis, as they are generally called, which infest your rose bushes, may be destroyed by sprinkling the plants with strong tobacco water or dusting with snuff. If the plants are growing in pots, the better way would be to fumigate them with tobacco. Set the plants in a tight box or room, and throw some damp tobacco upon live coals placed in an old kettle or tin pail. Leave the plants in the smoke for two or three hours, then remove and sprinkle them well with pure water.

Bessie M.—Your mother is certainly mistaken in supposing that the small flies which first appear in spring grow to large flies when they become older, or later in the season. All kinds of flies, including the mosquito, as well as beetles and butterflies, are as large when born as they ever will be. It is the grubs and caterpillars which are afterwards transformed into the perfect insect, that grow after leaving the egg. There are four different stages in the life of an insect—first, the egg, from which comes the grub, or, as entomologists call it, the larva, the beetle growing and feeding until maturity, then changes to a pupa, in which state it neither feeds nor possesses any considerable power of movement or locomotion. From the pupa the perfect insect hatches, or comes forth, full grown. Therefore, little house or other flies never grow to be large ones.

Alexander.—The cherry stocks which you neglected to graft last spring may be budded this summer, say in July or August. It must be done before growth entirely ceases, because, after that period the bark will not peel up and permit of inserting the bud under it. The usual time for performing this operation is so soon as good, plump buds can be obtained from the tree it is desirable to multiply. The proper time for budding in one locality may not be the best in another.

James B.—Your success in seeding down a lawn at this season will depend somewhat on the weather. If it should prove dry for the next few weeks, the seed would be very likely to fail and the land produce nothing but coarse weeds. We would say, wait until cooler weather in fall, say about the first of September, then harrow and rake the surface of the ground thoroughly, sow on the seed and roll smooth. Blue grass is a good species for a lawn in your locality and soil.

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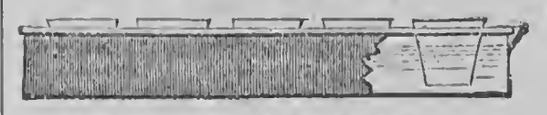

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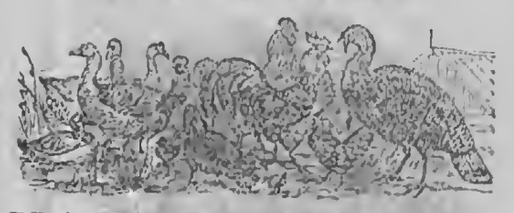

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CANDOR.

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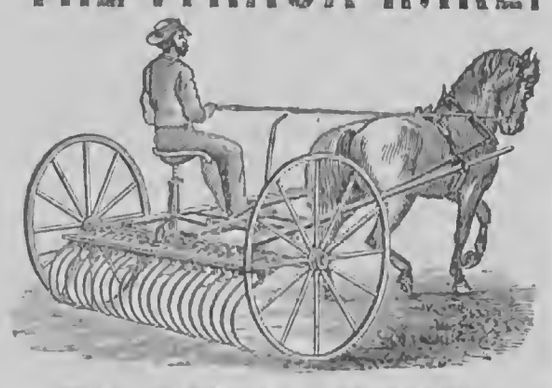

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VOL. XXXIII. No. 26.
WHOLE No. 1378.

NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 21, 1876.

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Pomological.

NEW VARIETIES OF STRAWBERRIES.

There is comparatively little doing in the way of new varieties of strawberries, and perhaps for the very good reason that there is little to encourage the experimenter in attempting to produce anything better than those we already possess. It will certainly be difficult to produce a variety larger than either the Triomphe de Gand, Agriculturist, or Seth Boyden, and at the same time retain in the new production the merits of these old and none-too-good sorts. It has been tried in many a thousand seedlings, and still the old favorites hold their own with remarkable tenacity amid their numerous competing rivals.

Among those which are classed as second in size the Wilson's Albany still holds its own as one of the most productive sorts, while the Charles Downing, which is fully equal to it in size, ranks among the first in brightness, firmness and flavor. Of course we would not wish to slight or overlook the Champion, which is of very large size when grown in a congenial soil, nor the Green Prolific, Downer's Prolific, Kentucky, Col. Cheney, and other well-known sorts for there are localities and soils where some one of these may succeed better than others; hence their local value and corresponding popularity. But the "perfect strawberry" for general cultivation throughout the whole country still belongs to the future, if we are to believe all that is said of the numerous varieties already introduced and widely disseminated. Perhaps this statement might be modified by saying that every new variety when first introduced possessed all the properties of a "perfect strawberry," but lost a number of them soon after being disseminated. At least this appears to be the case, if we are to believe what is said of them before and after distribution.

At the Exhibition of the New York Horticultural Society held in this city at Gilmore's Garden, June 14—13–15, we expected to see some excellent strawberries, and while the few sorts shown were first-rate, the number was anything but creditable to our fruit growers in the vicinity of this great metropolis. Only one new variety was presented for the consideration of the judges, and as they awarded it the premium offered for the "best new seedling never before exhibited," we give the accompanying illustration of a cluster and leaf of this new prize berry. It resembles the Wilson in size and form, but is of a bright scarlet color, instead of crimson. The flesh is moderately firm, colored throughout, sub-acid not of a rich, but agreeable flavor. Seed slightly sunken in a shallow but rather wide cavity. The fruit-stalks are strong and long enough to keep the berries well up from the ground. Leaves very large, of good substance, and of a deep, rich, glossy, green color. This new sort may become the rival of the Wilson. It was raised by Wm. H. Burgess, the well-known florist, of Long Island.

Since writing the above, we have been informed that on the second day of the Exhibition a large number of new varieties of merit were shown, but too late for competition.

SEEDLING CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES.

There is a much better chance of producing new varieties of these fruits than of strawberries, inasmuch as less attention has been paid to the production of new sorts and there are fewer in cultivation. There is really no more difficulty in raising seedlings of this berry than of our most common vegetable or grain, if one knows just how to do it and pays proper attention to the preservation and sowing of the seed.

First, the seed should not be permitted to become thoroughly dried after being separated from the pulp, although a few days or weeks of drying will not materially injure it if committed to the ground before cold weather sets in. The best method of preserving is to crush the ripened berries and then mix the seeds and pulp with sand, just enough to absorb the juice of the fruit and to permit of a separation of the seed will be sufficient.

Now, this mixture of sand and seed may be sown in the fall if the soil of which the seed bed is made is of a light, porous nature, the surface of which will not become so hard and compact during the winter and under the pressure of spring rains that the young seedlings cannot break through. A light top-dressing of sand or leaf-mold will prevent this, however, if one takes the trouble to apply it. But it is right here that we may mention a second cause for frequent failure in attempts to raise seedling currants and gooseberries.

The seeds of these fruits germinate at a very low temperature, a few degrees above zero being sufficient to excite the germs into active growth, consequently a thaw in winter of enough duration to warm the surface of the seed bed to the depth at which the seeds are placed will start the seeds. The next cold snap, however, will kill the young sprouts, and in spring neither seeds nor plants can be found. To avoid failure through the latter cause with seed sown in fall, it is always best to cover the seed bed with evergreen boughs, or some other material which will effectually shade it and prevent thawing until warm, growing weather in spring. But the safer way is to put the seed and sand after mixing in a box, and then bury it on the north side of some building or other shady place, leaving it there until spring; then take out and sow as early as the ground will permit. If sown early and covered very lightly, say not over half an inch, the plants will soon appear and make a vigorous growth before warm weather sets in. The ensuing fall the seedlings may be lifted, heeled in during winter, then planted out in spring, giving each sufficient room to reach a fruiting size and age without crowding.

Those who have these fruits in cultivation should make selections of the largest specimens this season, save the seeds therefrom, and endeavor to raise new and superior sorts, for it is only by such experiments that we can expect to make any considerable progress in horticulture.

OTHER SMALL FRUITS.

The seeds of raspberries, blackberries, huckleberries and other small fruits may be treated in the same manner as the above, and as it is very little trouble to raise seedlings, and there is always a chance of producing something new and valuable in this way, we think such experiments are worth all they cost. If every one possessing the facilities for raising new seedlings used them, our progress would be far more rapid and pronounced than it is under the present almost general neglect to make experiments in this direction.

NEW SEEDLING STRAWBERRY—NATURAL SIZE.

SEEDLING CHERRIES.

I have some 4,000 new cherries mostly in fruit this year, but a great many of them not for the first time.

Many years ago, when I became acquainted with the cultivated cherries, I was astonished at the meager list that had proved hardy in the Northwest and the inferior quality of the few that were hardy, and I determined to at least try to remedy this, or do for the hardy classes of cherries what Prof. Kirtland had done for the sweet, or tender varieties. I commenced saving and planting seeds of those varieties which had withstood our rigorous climate. Out of many thousands of seedlings grown, I selected each year a few of those that in my judgment had the appearance of giving good fruit—and an expert can judge to a great extent whether or not a certain seedling will produce *poor* fruit or not. These selections were planted in orchard; they were good, *hardy stocks* at least; so as to make a *paying* orchard, a bud or graft of each was inserted in some of our most valuable market cherries and so trained as to leave one or two branches of the seedling to fruit.

Since the planting of this orchard in 1868 I have made selections from many thousands of other seedlings, and buded or grafted them in the tops of bearing trees. Now what are the results? I made the Early Richmond (Kentish of Downing) my standard for comparison, marking nothing for propogation, unless the tree was the equal of that variety in all essential qualities, I also, in marking, made three classes, to wit, good, very good and best. I would like to stop right here, and give the Editor of the RURAL a chance to say, or guess, with his mature judgement and expertness and knowledge of fruits, how many of each class I have, and others of our pomologists as well. I think they would all go very wide of the number, and when set aright be as astonished as I was at the meagerness of the result. What acrid, miserable trash the 800 were before you came to the one of value! After tasting a few hundred of the terribly sour things it took some courage to taste the next. Out of this great mass of at least 4,000 distinct varieties, I have selected as worthy of preservation only 16—7 good, 6 very good and 3 best; and I may yet drop all but the three best, as they cover the season in ripening of the whole 16. The one variety which shows promise of great and extraordinary value, I have named Early Kentish. This is its fourth season of continued fruiting—and two of these seasons have been the worst we have ever had. It ripens its fruit in from 10 to 15 days before the Kentish (Early Richmond); in color it is dark red, almost black, heart-shaped, full medium in size, in flavor almost exactly like Early Purple Guigne, only a little more tender and melting. (If this is not good enough for a cherry of the sour class I will experiment further.) The tree is a little slender in growth, with a conical head, and it is of course absolutely hardy, having withstood 30 degs. below zero and borne fruit the next spring. The original tree stands on a very poor, hard, dry, clay soil, so it may be better every way than I have classed it. The others I will try and send you notes of as they ripen.

D. B. WEIR.

Lacon, Ill.

HOW TO GROW PREMIUM FRUIT.

THE veteran pomologist of Ohio, M. B. BATEHAM, in writing to the American Farm Journal about raising fine large fruit, says:

There is likely to be a good crop of most kinds of fruit this year, and many people will desire to grow extra specimens of some choice kinds for sending to the Centennial or their State or County Fair. This is right and commendable, and all who expect to do anything in this line should aim to do the best they can. It is no particular credit to a man if his trees or vines chance to be in good condition and produce for one season better specimens of fruit than his neighbor's, when no particular skill or care has been used on his part. And it may be that the season will prove so favorable that good specimens of fruit will be quite general, so that no praise will be due except for samples that are remarkably fine. At any rate it is the duty of each one to do his best.

The common fault with us all is greediness, in allowing trees to bear more fruit than it is possible for them to bring to the highest development of size and quality. Take the case of a thrifty young apple tree, which can bear without injury say a barrel of fruit, but it blossomed well, and enough is set to produce two barrels, unless thinned off by hand or by insects. Now the tree will carry an excessive burden through the season of heat and drouth and will fail to give full size or quality to the crop. It may yield two barrels of fruit, but the value of the crop will not be as great as that of one barrel of fine, large specimens, and besides, the tree will be exhausted so that no fruit will be borne next year.

Most farmers and fruit growers think it is too much labor to thin the fruit of a number of trees, or a whole orchard; but I have no doubt it will pay as well as any ordinary labor. However this may be, there can be no question about the advantage of thinning a few best trees when fruits are desired for exhibition purposes.

Mulching the soil—covering the surface as wide as the roots or the tops extend, with coarse manure, old corn stalks, chip dirt, or like materials, is the next important duty. Of course it is presumed that the trees are not growing in grass sward—then the mulching put on the surface in spring or early summer will be of great benefit in protecting the roots from injury by drouth. If the soil is of a mellow order, and occasionally stirred with a harrow or cultivator during summer, the mulching is not necessary where trees are standing in grass. I would not plow up the sod after the leaves have put forth in spring, as that would injure many of the rootlets; but I would mulch so heavily as to smother the growth of the grass; or if this could not be done, mow the grass early and often and leave it on the surface where cut, under the trees, so as to lessen in some degree the amount of evaporation from the soil during the heat of summer.

In garden culture of fruit trees the same hints will apply. Thin the fruit freely and early, and stir or mulch the surface of the ground during summer.

For grapes, the thinning is especially essential if large and perfect clusters are desired. Mulching the ground is not generally considered of advantage to grape vines; but it is important that the surface be occasionally stirred, and kept clear of weeds: also that the superabundant shoots be removed from the vines and the tieing up be done often.

PRUNING SHEARS AND FRUIT GATHERER.

THE accompanying illustration of a pruning shears and fruit gatherer combined, is taken from the "Memoirs of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, Vol. 2." It repre-

sents what was then called Jocelin's Patent Pruning Shears. Accompanying the illustration is a receipt for a cash sale of one of these implements as follows:

NEW HAVEN, March 27, 1810.

Honorable Richard Peters, Esq. Bought of S. Jocelin one of Jocelin's nine-inch patent pruning shears, price 4 dollars 50 cents.

Rec. Payment. SIMEON JOCELIN.

This old patent fruit gatherer and pruning shears resembles very much some supposed-to-be later inventions and we think it is fully as good. Will our Pomologists just take a look at the picture and tell us if they know of a better implement, of late introduction, that is in any respect better than the old Jocelin pruner.

Farm Economy.

CUTTING HAY.

OFTEN as the subject of cutting and curing hay has been discussed in the agricultural press it seems to have had very little effect upon the minds of our farmers. A few perhaps heed the advice given by those who have paid the most attention to the subject, but the masses still adhere to their old ideas and prejudices, cutting hay just when they get ready without regard to the condition of the grasses or other kinds of plants cultivated for forage. It may be that some of our readers will think this a rather sweeping assertion but they have only to look around among the farmers in their own neighborhood or into our larger haymarkets to see that it is the truth nevertheless.

Our best farmers as well as chemists long since decided, but not until careful investigation, that hay made from grasses or other forage plants, cut before the seed began to mature was far more nutritious and better liked by stock generally than that which is gathered later; still good early-made hay is the exception instead of the rule.

It is rare that a ton or more of sweet bright looking hay can be found in New York city markets, and we presume that it is about the same in all of our larger cities, which shows that there is something radically wrong in the time of cutting and curing hay throughout the country. The great fault, however, we believe to be found in the almost general neglect to delay commencing the hay harvest until it is impossible to make a good article out of the grasses or other plants to be secured for this purpose.

Now the amount of nutritive matter lost during the drying of herbage of all kinds is considerable even under the most favorable conditions, but the amount is greatly increased by permitting the plants to mature naturally. Grasses, clovers, and similar plants when severed from their roots in a green and succulent state contain a comparatively larger proportion of starch, sugar and gum, than when cut in a ripening condition, for in the latter much of these valuable properties are converted into wood fiber which is neither nutritious nor digestible. Meadows of mixed grasses require more attention in regard to cutting early than those composed mainly of one species.

We have noticed during the past few days meadows composed of red clover, timothy and June grass, and the condition of these three were so widely different that it would be impossible to cut the hay at a time to secure either in a proper condition. The June grass was over-ripe and the seed falling, the clover just in bloom and ready for the scythe, but the timothy had scarcely shown a sign of heading out. Now the same variation in the period of maturity of the kinds named may not be as great in all soil as in the one to which we have referred, but we doubt if they should ever be grown together for the purpose of making hay. But whatever mixture is used, or any single species, it is always best to cut early, or just when the plants are in bloom in order to make a first-rate quality of hay.

THE INEVITABLE CUT WORM.

IN the spring of 1862 or 3, I was called on by a man offering to sell trees. During our talk he told me that the cut worms crawled up his young pear trees and ate out the tips of the buds. I manifested some incredulity, for I thought I knew enough evil of the "varmint" without charging him with that. He assured me it was true, and said that he had tied around the trunks inverted paper funnels, and found the worms under them by lamplight trying to get up. I had then to believe it, but did so under protests.

A few days after I saw a neighbor looking sorrowfully at a young pear tree in his garden, and as I came opposite he asked me if I could tell what was the matter with his tree? I asked him to loosen the dirt around the trunk and see what was there. The result was three or four cut worms. I was convinced then, and during the next three or four years I had ample demonstration of the climbing propensities of the insect, having trees by the hundred nearly denuded, or rather the foliage prevented till July the year they were put out, and almost as bad the next year. At one sitting I took over fifty of these worms out of the earth under one small raspberry bush. I could see plain enough that all the progress I should make in horticulture would be crab fashion (backwards) unless I could learn or invent some method of protection from this pest. I consulted FITCH's report of 1855, the best entomological authority I then had, and found that although he claimed to treat specially of "such insects as are injurious to fruit trees" he said nothing of cut worms. But in June, of 1866, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, in the Practical Entomologist, quotes from HARRIS a mention of a climbing species of cutworm, also Mr. RILEY of Missouri as giving "an excellent account" of three varieties of these climbers, and describing them as distinct from the common corn cut worm. This was the first mention I could find in any work or essay of the then peculiar habit of this (as Prof. TRACY has since called it) "meanest thing in the heavens above or the earth beneath."

A scientific description of this insect in any of its forms, or of its different species, is not in my line, but it and myself have had a speaking acquaintance for the past twelve years, during which time I have learned much of its habits and have been somewhat successful in my warfare against it, and if I can give any information of value to my brother horticulturists and at the same time avoid the charge of egotism, I shall consider myself amply paid for this effort. I can see no difference in the worms I take from under a fallen tomato or cabbage plant, or under a mutilated grape vine or young tree, but they differ in color in both cases from pearly white to almost black (the latter with diamond stripes,) and miscegenes of all shades between, and at this time (June 1) of all sizes from very small and darkish color to very large and fat, the largest being the lightest color.

The safest protection for trees and grape vines is the inverted funnel made of roofing or other stout paper and fastened with a pin. A very good substitute, and costing less in the time of application, is the outside rim of the quart berry boxes, which are furnished for 20 cents per hundred. These are folded around the trunk or stem and pushed slightly into the earth. They are not, however, an absolute protection like the paper funnel, when put on just right, but they diminish the damage very materially, and are better adapted to small plants and vines, as they can be taken off by unfolding them, and can be straightened out and tied in bundles for another year. Scrolls of tin have been used in the same way under the impression that the worm could climb only live matter. An excellent protection for tomatoes is a bottomless box eight inches square inside, made of two pieces of six inch fencing eight inches long, and two pieces of siding ten inches long, nailed together with eight shingle nails. These will sometimes save the plants from early frost, and if left on, have some effect to keep the fruit off the ground.

Hens are an indispensible article to market gardening here in this light, warm sandy soil, the very paradise of such insects as burrow in the ground. They soon learn to run from tree to tree and from plant to plant, and are the best insect hunters in the world and these and other burrowing insects are their best food. Thus far I have spoken of this insect only in its larva state, but a very successful warfare can be made against the moth. In the latter part of June put sweetened water in small vessels (glass jars are the best) fill them up occasionally and you will be astonished at the quantity of these cutworm moths you will catch, as well as many other moths and flies. The fencing against these larvæ is an individual matter, while the destruction of them and especially the moths is a national benefit. My neighbor B. MOULTIN, scatters turnip seed over his ten acres of grape vines at the time of his latest cultivation; these turnips remain during the winter and leaf out in the spring, affording plenty of food for these poor starving cut worms before the grape vines are edible. To feed one's enemy is a good Christian principle, but in this case it is not very patriotic. As you unearth one of these sluggish worms from under a cabbage plant which he cut down the night before, you very naturally think him too lazy to move much, but view him by lamplight up four feet high on a grape vine or tree, and you will see that he can be quite nimble when hungry and under cover of darkness.

From my own observations, I conclude that there are several varieties of these cut worms, and that they all take their food at the surface of the ground if they can find it, but if not they will climb till they find buds or leaves on any tree, shrub or vine that is alive. I conclude also that the normal place chosen by the parent moth to deposit her eggs is at the foot of, and within three to six inches of something then alive, and that in early spring the young larva seeks and eats the nearest food he can find, and if neccessity compels he will go several rods for it. I have within the last ten days, found them of all the colors and sizes I have mentioned, in all such positions as I have described, at the foot of all varieties of garden vegetables, and every variety of cultivated tree, even the Lombardy poplar, whose leaves they had multilated.

I ought here to mention lest I should lead some one into error, that these wooden protections, if put around trees and shrubs in the spring, that were not protected the latter part of the summer or fall previous, will operate rather as a protection to the worm than the plant. In April of 1875, I put out thirty grape vines; they remained without protection and were badly mutilated. Early this spring I put around them the berry-box flats; on the first day of this month I found every one of the vines injured. I examined some put out and thus protected this spring, and some put out in 1874 and protected ever since and found them generally safe. After reflection I concluded that the moths deposited the eggs at the foot of the thirty vines, and the boxes shut the larvæ in, that my chickens would otherwise have raked out and devoured.

Now, I have never heard of climbing cut worms in the State of New York, though I used to see corn, cabbages and beans cut off there as now here, and by a similar worm as near as I can remember. Did they climb there and we not notice them? or have they learned the trick there, as here, of late years? We are certainly ahead of New York in some things. We had the potato bug here long before they became fashionable there.

S. B. PECK.

Muskegon, Mich., June 5, 1876.

LIQUID EXCREMENT.

How strangely we overlook the value of the liquid excrement of our animals! A cow, under ordinary feeding, furnishes in a year twenty thousand pounds of solid excrement, and about eight thousand pounds of liquid. The comparative money value of the two is but slightly in favor of the solid. This statement has been verified as truth, over and over again. The urine of herbivorous animals holds nearly all the secretions of the body which are capable of producing the rich nitrogenous compounds so essential as forcing or leaf-forming agents in the growth of plants. The solid holds the phosphoric acid, the lime, and magnesia, which go to the seeds principally but the liquid, holding nitrogen, potash and soda, is needed in forming the stalk and leaves. The two forms of plant nutriment should never be separated or allowed to be wasted by neglect. The farmer who saves all the urine of his animals doubles his manurial resources every year. Good seasoned peat is of an immense service to farmers, when used as an absorbent, and the stalls for animals should be so constructed as to admit of a wide passage in the rear, with generous passage room for peat, to be used daily with the excrement.—*Journal of Chemistry.*

Dairy Husbandry.

DAIRYING IN CALIFORNIA.

On the 20th of May last leading dairymen of the Pacific Coast assembled at the Produce Exchange in San Francisco and organized an association under the name of the "California State Dairymen's Association." This is a step in the right direction, and, judging from the numbers present and the interest taken in the preliminary meeting, a great impetus will be given to the progress of dairying in California, under the auspices of this Society.

The chief objects sought by the Association were stated to be:

1. To make a uniform and superior article of butter and cheese which will command the highest market price and force inferior grades of dairy produce down to a level with common firkin butter, thereby rendering the making of an inferior article by California farmers unprofitable.

2. To institute and provide for a series of lectures and discussions before each meeting of the Society, where each member may profit by the experience of the rest, and to invite experiments in all branches of dairying.

3. To ascertain how and by what process the most can be made out of a given quantity of milk, what breed or breeds are best and most profitable, the best mode of feeding, and what grasses produce the greatest quantity and richest quality of milk.

4. To prevent an overstock of the market by regulating the amount of butter made by the demand; converting the milk into cheese when there is a surplus of butter, which can only be done by an organization of this kind acting intelligently and in perfect harmony.

5. To ascertain the demands of other markets, as well as of our own, as to what kinds of cheese are called for. It very frequently happens that dairymen consult their own tastes rather than the desires of those who are to consume their products.

Up to the present time there has been but very little cheese made in California, the dairy sections along the coast being mostly employed for butter dairying. In 1870 we spent several days in going over the extensive butter ranch of Mr. Chas. Webb Howard and the Shafter Bros. This estate, at Point Reyes, covers some 75,000 acres, and at the time of our visit there were about 3,000 cows in milk, which were divided up into 20 dairies, averaging about 150 cows each. The different farms, or ranches, were substantially fenced in with red-wood pickets, six feet long, driven into the ground about six or eight inches apart, with a rail placed horizontally two feet from the top, to which each picket is nailed. As there is no frost here, fences built in this way, Mr. Howard informed us, would stand, without needing repair, for twenty years. About 100 miles of fence had been built upon this estate, and good roads were made over the lands so that the different dairies could be easily reached.

One great advantage which the coast lands possess for dairying is a low, even temperature, averaging about 60° Fahrenheit during summer and winter, and subject to no extremes of heat and cold like those prevailing in the Middle and North Atlantic States. The winters there are so mild that cattle do not require to be housed, and during most of the time they can procure sufficient sustenance in the field; indeed, cattle there are often wintered without a particle of food other than that which they pick for themselves over the ranches, though it is not considered good economy to allow herds to thus shift for themselves during the first part of the rainy season, as the rain washes out the nutritive elements of the old grasses, while the new vegetation springing up is flashy, or too immature to afford requisite nourishment for the thrift and well-being of the animal. Hence, in November and December it is considered good economy to eke out the pastures by giving the herds a daily allowance of fodder.

In comparing California as a dairy region, with grazing lands on the Atlantic Slope, the winter and spring months correspond with our best grazing season. From the first of January to June the grasses grow in great luxuriance, July, August and September correspond with our fall and early winter, while November and December, when stock require a little feed, may be set against our six months of cold and snowy weather. It is evident, so far as climate is concerned, so far as the storing of cattle food and the necessary breadth of land for growing such food, the advantages are all in favor of the dairy lands of the Pacific. But, on the other hand, our nearness to the markets of the world, the permanency of our grasses, our established system and skill in manufacture, must, in a measure, compensate for the rigors of the climate and other disadvantages which do not obtain in more favored sections.

In 1870 the forage depended upon, over the Point Reys estate, was the wild oats and the "bunch grass." This last is exceedingly nutritious and stock thrive upon it at all seasons, except, perhaps, at the beginning of the rainy season, when for a few weeks its nutritiousness is impaired from the causes which have been previously named.

The quality of the butter made on the Point Reys estate was very fine, which shows that the forage natural to the lands of the coast is not objectionable for making good milk.

The discussions, essays and addresses which will now be had at the meetings of the California Dairymen's Association will give us more knowledge concerning the dairy resources of the State, while the introduction of the factory system and the new processes of butter and cheese making will be of the utmost advantage in developing this interest in the Golden State.

We are glad to see that Prof. E. J. Wickson, late of the Utica Herald, but now of the Pacific Rural Press, has been chosen Secretary of the Association. His experience in the East in the management of dairy conventions will be useful in putting the California meetings on a successful footing, and we congratulate our friends on the coast that they have inaugurated a movement which will be of great value in developing an important industry for California.

SMALL CHEESES.

A correspondent writes us as follows:

"Is there a market for cheeses weighing, say from 20 to 30 pounds, and can more be realized in making small cheeses than those of the usual size made at the factories?"

Yes, there is a market for small cheeses both at home and abroad. There has always been a demand, and a large demand, for a cheese weighing from 10 to 30 pounds. There are many people who dislike to purchase cheese by the piece, because there is waste from breaking and drying; and there is so much bother in keeping up a supply for the table, on account of the necessity of making frequent purchases, that during a large share of the time there will be no cheese in the house.

Many persons do not feel willing or able to buy a large cheese, though excessively fond of this kind of food, but they would gladly take a small cheese, and would be willing to pay more for it per pound than to be constantly buying small and uncouth pieces.

Again, an original package or a whole cheese, of whatever size, can be sold by the dealer at cheaper rates than to cut and peddle it out in small parcels; and hence the large cheese, though costing the cutter less per pound than the small cheese, is rendered more expensive by cutting, on account of waste, risk and time employed in selling. Something also must be allowed for down-weight, and a 50-pound cheese, if sold out in pound lumps, will not hold out, and so the dealer must charge enough extra to make up for this deficiency.

If the market could be well supplied with small cheeses, the consumption of cheese would be greatly promoted; and if dairymen desire to see a larger home consumption, they must pay some attention to the tastes and needs of consumers and furnish such goods as they want. Much has been said, first and last, in regard to the nutritive value of cheese and its cheapness, compared with other articles of food, and it has been strongly urged as an economical and healthful article of food. All this is true enough. But dairymen seem to forget that consumers have tastes and prejudices to be gratified, and when they say, "We want a style of cheese that suits us," and dairymen pay no attention to the demand, it is not strange that many people do not get into the habit of eating cheese freely. Dairymen have yet an important lesson to learn, and that is, that they cannot ignore the home wants with impunity. They cannot send their best goods abroad and force our own people to purchase and eat inferior stuff cut up in wedge-shaped lumps.

Among the great cheese-eating nations we find a large variety of styles in which the article is placed before consumers. The great bulk of the cheese made in Holland is put up in small weights. Thus we have the Edams—a ball-shaped cheese of five or six pounds; the Gondas—a small, flat cheese, and other varieties. In England there are the Stilton and the Cheddar loaf, each weighing ten pounds or less, and then there are the Gloucester, the Wiltshire and the Derby, all cheeses of about 30 pounds weight.

What we need in America is a cheese weighing from 10 to 20 pounds, to put upon the table, from which pieces may be cut as needed for immediate consumption. This is the English fashion, and it is a good fashion, being both convenient and economical, and it insures a more palatable morsel than when cut in slices and laid on a plate. The only small cheese that has been much used in this way among us is the Pine-apple, but its manufacture is decreasing, although the price per pound which it commands in market is often double that of large cheese. Much more money can be realized for small cheeses of good flavor and quality than for the same number of pounds made up in the usual factory style.

It costs more to manufacture small cheeses and more time is required in their care than large ones, but they are more readily sold, and the extra price which they will bring more than pays for the trouble named. We know of some factories which have made a 30-pound cheese for years, and it always is in eager demand, commanding an advanced price above all factories making larger cheese.

We say, then, to our correspondent that he will have no trouble in marketing small cheeses if they are of good quality, and that more money can be realized from them than when made in the usual way; and in addition to this, such manufacture would be a help to the dairy interest by promoting home consumption.

CITY CHEESE AND BUTTER FACTORY.

We learn from the Canadian papers that an enterprise is now being agitated to build a cheese and butter factory on a gigantic scale at London, Ontario. The plans are to make an arrangement with the six railroads that center at this place to bring the milk on from all stations along the lines, and to make butter and cheese at the factory on the most approved scientific principles. The argument used for the success of such an undertaking is that in so large a factory the best talent and skill can be employed, while it opens to dairymen along the lines of the roads who are not conveniently located near factories the facility of disposing of their milk at little expense and trouble.

City factories have from time to time been suggested for the purpose of working up the surplus milk received by city milkmen. When large quantities of milk are received and a portion of it cannot be disposed of, it would doubtless be better to work it up at such a factory than to return it to farmers, since in the latter case the milk is spoiled for any purpose, except, perhaps, as food for swine.

We do not learn whether it is proposed to purchase the milk at the London factory, or whether it is to be made up for the farmers on the joint-stock plan at a certain price per pound.

There are some objections that occur to us in the running of such a factory; still it may prove a success, and we shall await the development of the Canadian enterprise and look for its operations with interest.

The Poultry Yard.

THE MARKET VALUE OF POULTRY AND EGGS.

The value of poultry and eggs raised in this country is certainly enormous, but we were scarcely ready to place as high an estimate as the Fanciers' Journal from which we take the following:

The market value and amount of poultry and eggs annually raised and consumed in the United States is immensely greater than most of us have any idea of. To say nothing of the thousands of prime "fancy" fowls and pigeons every year disposed of to amateurs, small breeders, and public exhibitors in America, the quantities of farm-poultry and eggs—including the products of the turkeys, geese, ducks, fowls and pigeons produced on this side of the Atlantic—are enormous.

There is no doubt of the truth of the statement recently made by an agricultural lecturer, that "the aggregate weight of dead poultry sold yearly in this country exceeds by many tons the weight of dead beef consumed in our markets!"

The product of poultry is continually on the increase, also. There never has been, and probably never will be any glut in the market of these desirable edibles—good chickens and fresh eggs. The price has kept steadily up to paying figures, too; and whether the times be hard or easy the change in the current value of *this* product is not noticeable.

If we were to set down here some of the figures lately given of the estimated millions of dozens of eggs sold in a single large city market, in 1875, or note the millions of pounds of chickens and other poultry there disposed of in the same year, the facts would be almost startling, and seem incredible. Yet it is true that *no* class of live stock in the country foots up in solid money value, annually, the sum that is realized by farmers, poulterers and egg dealers in the United States, at the present time, for these always desirable and readily salable commodities.

Of course the business of poultry and egg-production is disseminated over a wide field, and great numbers of persons are engaged in producing this aggregate, which is brought about in individual small quantities, monthly. But when we know that in a single county of Ohio, last year, according to official statistics there were over $430,000 worth of eggs and chickens marketed, we can fancy what the grand total value of all counties in all the States *may* be?

It is by no means a trivial business, indeed. There be those, as we hinted lately in these columns, disposed to ridicule this occupation, and the parties who follow it. But if those who incline to jest at the chicken fanciers and fowl breeders of this country would reflect upon the solid importance and large value of this interest in America, such ridicule would be turned to wonder at the real *facts* in the case.

YARDS FOR POULTRY.

One of our most experienced poultry breeders, speaking of poultry in small yards, says:

A dozen fowls would do very well in a yard 50 feet square, with a little grass plot in one corner, as fowls must have grass. This space is as small as can be used for that number, and if one cannot give that space to them, he had better buy his eggs and chickens, as fowls cannot be kept profitably without a certain area of yard room. A few fowls may be put into a smaller yard and they will lay well for a few weeks, but after a while, with the grass all destroyed, the hens will begin to lay fewer eggs and will be unprofitable. Of course, a large range is always best, but in a village one cannot do as he could on a farm. Don't forget to supply your fowls with gravel, old mortar, or ground or pounded oyster shells, as aids in the formation of eggs.

MEASURING EGGS IN FRANCE.

In France eggs are not sold as they are here, so much for a dozen, whether big or little, those of the large Brahma or Creve Coeur counting the same as the little Bretons or Bantams. The eggs brought to market are verified by agents appointed by the administration, who are called "mireurs comptours," and the eggs are submitted to three operations—first, counting to verify the number of eggs in the panniers; passing them through rings to test their size and value, and final inspection to separate the clean and fresh eggs from those stale or addled. Small eggs in the markets of Paris are those which will pass through a ring of four centimetres. Hence, French egg merchants have rings of different sizes to try the eggs.

HOW TO CATCH HAWKS.

As the season is approaching when hawks are most destructive to young poultry a method of catching and killing these marauders will be in order. It is a well-known fact that a hawk will always light on some conspicuous place close to the poultry yard from which to swoop down on his victims. Taking advantage of this erect a pole with flat surface at the top just large enough to hold a strong steel trap. Fasten this trap by a chain to a staple in the pole and await results. No bait will be needed for the hawk will be quite certain to light on the trap and be caught. A gentleman who has tried this method has succeeded in killing all the hawks in his neighborhood and can now raise poultry without loss except by accident.

POULTRY NOTES.

Guelders or Guelder Fowls.—Thos Ludford: There is a breed of fowls known by the above names also called Guelderlanes from a province of Holland lying south of the Zuyder Zee. Tegetmeir in giving what is known of the history of this breed says:—"There is no doubt whatever that the Guelders were originally a sport from the feather-crested Polish family."

We do not known the address of any one having this breed of fowls for sale.

Raising Pekin Ducks.—Mrs. L. J. P. of Salem, Oregon, writes that she desires some one of the Rural to tell her how to raise Pekin Ducks. Last year was her first attempt which proved almost a total failure, only two ducklings were raised out of eighteen. She also adds that a few years since information was asked in regard to raising turkeys and the reply received through our columns enabled her to make a perfect success of what before was almost a total failure.

Will some one having had experience with Pekin Ducks respond to the above request.

Another Cure for Gapes.—Ed. Rural New-Yorker.—I will tell you how we doctor chickens for gapes. We catch and put them in a barrel the barrel sitting on the end, then take some air slaked lime in a coarse bag, and shake on them, till there is a dust, then cover up for five minutes to breathe in the dust. Then let them go; if this does not cure try again in two or three days. When we find they have the gapes we do not put any more there, but change to another piece of ground, and we do not have any trouble for a year, and some times two years. We think the ground has much to do in giving chickens the gapes.—C. A. Davis.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

ATLAS HOTEL,
PHILADELPHIA, June 15, 1876.

FIELD TRIALS.

To see the grand competitive field trials of agricultural implements was the object of my coming here, but disappointment alone was my reward. I have, however, the consolation of knowing that I am not alone in this, for many people who have spent considerable time, labor and money in preparing for the trial, now find themselves in the same condition. The great Centennial International Field Trials will *not* take place. I presumed the readers of the RURAL would like to know why and therefore did my level best to discover the cause; but found it no easy matter. Hoping to get bottom facts I at once interviewed Mr. Burnet Landreth, Chief of Bureau of Agriculture. While I found him a very pleasant gentleman, I failed to get many facts from him as he did not desire to say or do anything which should look like disrespect to his superiors and evidently seemed to think that a full statement of facts would place the Centennial Executive Committee in no very favorable light before the public as to this one subject at least. Left to my own resources I was obliged to get them from Mr. Geddes, Superintendent of Field Trials and the exhibitors themselves who are interested in the subject.

It seems that as early as August 20, 1875, these trials became a fixed fact as will be seen by the following extract from a circular of that date.

FIELD TRIALS.—Manufacturers designing to compete in the field will be at liberty to use the machine or machines placed by them on exhibition in the Agricultural Building, or may use a less costly one, provided it is identical in construction and working parts.

August 20th 1875.

In addition to this Mr. Landreth, by authority of the Commission, hired and caused to be planted with grasses and grain, ninety-four acres of land, just outside of the city, for the purpose of these trials. For rent, labor, fertilization and incidental expenses, these lands have cost up to date the sum of $2,875.

As soon as the competition became a fixed fact, the work, pressure, influence and pipe laying with the Commission began. Quite a number of the large manufacturers who had already received many valuable awards began to do all in their power to prevent their occurrence, covertly at first and subsequently in an open and undisguised manner. These men had everything to lose and nothing to gain. Should a new implement or one comparatively unknown carry off an award, it would depreciate the value of those which *they* had already obtained. With these powerful incentives the obstructors worked like beavers. They caused the Centennial Commission to be officially and personally flooded with letters containing reasons why Field Trials should not take place. They set influential men to talk to the Executive Committee for the same purpose and did everything which men of their ability and brains (and the implement men of this country are about the brightest we have) could devise as a preventive. They seem, however, to have failed in receiving any decided expression of opinion from any of the Executive Committee and began to think that the Trials were a certainty. Nearly all this work of obstruction was done covertly and without the knowledge of Mr. Landreth who was, in the meantime, going ahead with his preparations in accordance with the original intentions of the Commission.

Finding themselves doubtful of success, a convention was called ostensibly for the purpose of devising and proposing a plan of operations by which a fair trial could be had and just awards could be made, but in point of fact entering another obstructing wedge to any trials being had. What was accomplished can now be seen, though at the time of the convention it was only partially disclosed. Still the careful preparations under the immediate supervision of Mr. Landreth, who seems to do all his work carefully and conscientiously and to perform an immense amount of it too, were steadily progressing and the following circular was issued to exhibitors:

CIRCULAR LETTER TO EXHIBITORS.

GENTLEMEN:—The Centennial Commission have provided for a field trial of rakes and tedders, and in a few days will mail you forms of entry. The rules of the Department of Agriculture will admit to the full competition only machines similar in construction to those on exhibition in the building. If you have any machines under process of construction which are not represented in the building, you may yet enter them, as I still have some room to spare in the section appropriated to hay-making machinery. I mail you an entry blank form, which you can use if you desire.

I will be pleased to receive from you suggestions of points applicable in judging rakes and tedders.

A scale of 1000 has been adopted in relation to mowers and reapers, but none yet decided upon in connection with rakes and tedders.

I also request a schedule of parts of machinery comprised in the construction of rakes and tedders, each to be tabulated and sent to the manufacturers, requesting them to affix the measurements and weights of a list to be given to the judges, to be used by them in making up the awards. Respectfully,

BURNET LANDRETH, Chief of Bureau.
Per C. HENRY RONEY.

Among the bits of information developed by my investigations, the following speaks for itself:

PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN HARVESTER MANUFACTURERS AS TO COMPETITIVE TRIAL AT THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

The undersigned, manufacturers of reapers, mowers and harvesters, believe that a competitive trial of machines at the approaching Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia would be attended with much expense and consumption of time on their part, and require their attention at a season when it is urgently needed in carrying on their regular business. They are also of the opinion that no substantial benefit can arise, either to their business as manufacturers or to the community at large, from such a trial.

The circumstances under which the trial must necessarily take place will not afford a full and fair test of the relative merits of the machines, inasmuch as the distinguishing merit of one machine over another at this day is only perceptible under exigencies of rough ground, soft ground, heavy, beaten-down grain and grass, or other extraordinary conditions. Whatever superiority one machine might exhibit over others at such trial would probably be due to unusual accuracy of construction of the detailed parts of a machine made with a special view to this trial. Such accuracy of workmanship in detail would never be exhibited in the ordinary construction of said machine.

Upon these and other grounds which will readily occur to manufacturers in this department, we express ourselves as earnestly opposed to such trial, and do hereby agree not to enter into such trial.

(Signed) D. M. OSBORN & CO.
C. AULTMAN & CO.
AULTMAN, MILLER & CO.
ADRIANCE, PLATT & CO.
RUSSELL & CO.
WALTER A. WOOD
Mower and Reaping Machine Co.

About the first of June the preparations were well nigh completed and Mr. Geddes, Superintendant of Field Trials, was sent for and ordered to go ahead with his estimate of expenses and to receive his entries. Judges were selected and their names submitted to the Executive Committee and an approbation of $10,000 asked for with the understanding that only a part of it would be used and a large part of that which was used would be returned in entry fees. It was estimated by Mr. Geddes, that about $5,000 would cover the expense and that he could safely count upon $4,000 entry fees. This would make the net expense to the Centennial Commission, but $1,000. Implements were sent to the grounds to be ready when the day arrived and a large amount of expenses was incurred in such preparations by those who had entered and intended to enter for the competition. Up to this time, as nearly as I can learn, Mr. Landreth and Mr. Geddes were totally ignorant of any intention (if indeed any such existed) on the part of the Commission to throw a straw in the way of the trials. What was their astonishment when at the eleventh hour of the last day they were informed that no appropriation would be made and no trial could take place. Then for the first time was made manifest the power behind the throne. The $2,875 already spent upon the grounds is wasted and the large sums spent by competitors are gone for naught.

In some quarters of Agricultural Hall the feeling is very bitter against the Commission for this action. Every one seems to acquit Mr. Landreth entirely in the matter. They say, however, that it is simply a fraud upon them to permit expensive preparations up to the very last minute and then render them absolutely nugatory by one arbitrary sweep—that it is evident to anyone that the financial question has not produced this result; but it is some stronger interest somewhere. Of course it places Mr. Landreth and Mr. Geddes in a position of conspicuous awkwardness without any fault of their own and the only thing left for them to do, it would seem, is to roundly abuse the Commission which neither of them will do so long as they hold appointments under it. This action I learn is only one of the snubs which the Agricultural Department has received at the hands of the Commission.

From the beginning of the preparation of the ground to the present time the high authorities seemed to have looked with contempt at anything to which was attached the word agriculture. While various side shows and feeding shops have received everything they asked with a little more thrown in for good measure, this Agricultural Department has been obliged to go through a process like pulling teeth to get even passable recognition. In the first place, their building site was placed in the extreme back part of the grounds and is about the most miserable structure of the Exhibition. It is about half the size it should be and almost literally pasted together.

An interest of as much importance as this, representing, as it does largely, that which is good in citizenship, moral in character, and productive of the wealth and solidity of the nation, should not be looked upon as entitled to less consideration than the Barnum-show part of this great International Exhibition. Yet the show part is made more prominent and receives vastly more attention from the Commission than the producing interest. They seem to think that each man who wears the badge of Agricultural Hall has "hay seed in his hair" and that they are bound to give him the go-by. The visitors, however, think very differently. One has only to watch the intelligent and solid appearance of those who are generally found in this Department to appreciate the class and kind of people who are interested in it. These people come to learn and not to be amused. The various eating houses and beer shops have for them no meaning, except as a possible convenience when constant motion has made them hungry or thirsty.

But somebody must be dissatisfied, and I suppose the Commission calculate that those people who stay at home and mind their own business, as the agricultural class do, are the safest people to snub and perhaps they will never discover their mistake. There is, however, a slight muttering of distant thunder, which may, in time, develop into a storm of dissatisfaction about the Commission. The last *camel* may break the *straw's* back, then—stand from under!

DAIRY.

The building for the Dairy display is now nearly completed and some exhibits have already arrived. In conversation with several of the Executive Committee of the American Dairymens' Association, who are in command there, they claimed that the RURAL NEW-YORKER had greatly retarded them in their work by its series of articles on the "Centennial Dairy Ring"—that it had produced a sort of distrust in the minds of many who otherwise would be exhibitors and resulted in a lack of interest in this Department. In spite of all this, however, they are working hard and intend to make the display a success. The Jewett pans are being put up and the Iron Clad people are making preparations to erect a set. The arrangement of the building seems to be a good one and Mr. Pope, the Superintendent, says he can take as good care of the perishable goods as any Butter Or Cheese man could do at home. Mr. Blanding, the Architect, is conspicuous for his activity and seems to have worked out an excellent plan with much judgment. Mr. Harris Lewis was on hand with his eyes open, as usual, and if he didn't quote Scripture so much I think he would make a fair Dairyman some of these days. When Mr. Pope sets his teeth and says he is going to have a good show in spite of all the opposition, it looks as if he meant business. Of course I cannot be expected to have much knowledge of your action in the matter of the "Dairy Ring" of which these gentlemen all complain so bitterly; but I can see that the Dairymen of the United States will never have another such opportunity to display their goods as this one is and I should advise them to send forward their exhibits and each one contribute his mite towards the success of this Department. If we are, at no distant future, to supply the world with Dairy products, as some fully believe, now is certainly the time to push that industry forward and the Centennial is undoubtedly the place to do it. Let us have something at Philadelphia which is commensurate with this rapidly-growing interest.

SCHENK'S STATION, PA., June 16th, 1876.

TRIAL FIELDS.

WITH Mr. Geddes and his old time companion, Mr. Willoston, I visited the grounds which were prepared for the Field Trials at this place. There are about fifty acres of wheat, largely Clausen, which bids fair to be a heavy crop. The ground was carefully fertilized and Gallup of the Bickford and Hoffman Grain Drill put it down. It is being staked out into plots, as the intention now is to have an Exhibition of Agricultural Implements, even if the competition has been given up. Probably the jury of that Department will attend in order that they may see the machines at work and thus form a more perfect idea of their relative merits.

The grass consists of about forty-seven acres and is now in good condition for work. The exhibition will begin, under the direction of Mr. Geddes, on the 26th day of June and continue probably for ten days. The dissatisfaction caused by the prohibition of competition in the field has not abated in the least and it does seem a very unjust thing that new implements should be shut out of all chance for possible awards. I cannot see why such men do not club together and make the exhibition competitive, leaving out such as are opposed to it altogether. Of course the grounds will be free to all: but this would not interfere with that freedom in the least.

Why Mr. Geddes did not resign as soon as the Commission showed the cloven foot on this matter would be a mystery to me did I not know that the Implement men were anxious to show their machines at work and were equally anxious that a man of his experience, judgment and fairness should manage such exhibition. To a man like him, these are powerful reasons. In conclusion, permit me to say that every machine should enter, as it is highly probable that the Jury intend to be present. SHORTHORN.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Chicago Insurance Companies.—Chicago appears to be an insalubrious locality for insurance enterprises. Four out of five—perhaps a greater proportion of the life companies started there—have come to grief rather suddenly and unexpectedly, and for causes suspiciously inexplicable, while the great fire left but very few of its fire insurance companies in existence, and not one, it is believed, of those that did a purely local business. The American comes in neither category, and is a notable exception to a too general rule. Quite recently, if the reports of the Insurance Department of Illinois are trustworthy, two more life companies—the Mutual Life and the Safe Deposit (?)—have been numbered among those that have fallen under the official ban. The former "has been weighed and found wanting" fully $120,000, it is said, to make its books balance comfortably, and the latter, perhaps, two-thirds as much. There are no tears to be shed, for these were always callow enterprises, and there are too many companies for their own and the public welfare.

Farmers' Companies.—Owing to an unexpected increase of losses during two years past, several of the companies doing a farm business have lost heavily, and, as a measure of safety and expediency, have been compelled to ask an increase of premium rates. One company that was at one time regarded as prosperous and promising suffered so severely from this cause that it has, it is said, taken the initial steps toward abandoning the business entirely. It is not yet decided what disposition will be made of the risks now outstanding, but they will, probably, be assumed by some good company. The lesson of this failure is twofold: That farmers cannot be too careful in ascertaining the actual condition of the companies asking their patronage, for there are others not much better entitled to their confidence than the unfortunate alluded to; and that since reliable protection costs money and cannot be had without money, they should be willing to pay a fair premium.

Exchanging Life Policies.—Whenever a life company quits business now under the most favorable conditions, the holders of policies are asked to exchange them for new ones issued by the reinsuring company. This is very general, but it is seldom, if ever, necessary, and never either safe or profitable to the insured, who, if they do not sacrifice the accumulations of their old policies in part or wholly, encounter other and unsuspected dangers. An instructive case was recently decided by the courts that throws some light upon the perils of this sort of business. A man insured his life for $10,000 with the Empire Mutual Life Insurance Co., stating, among other things, that he had no serious illness during several years preceding—a statement which was *then* strictly true. After two or three years, during which he had a severe illness, and of which he nearly died, the Empire reinsured all its risks with the Continental, and required an exchange of policies. The policy tendered and accepted by him was insured (as it is stipulated by express terms) upon the faith of the representations of the first (and only) application. He died, and the Company contested his claim because the statement in regard to his having had no severe illness, though admitted to be true when it was made, *was not literally true when the last policy was issued.* The worst part of the transaction—if there can be anything worse than picking technical flaws to avoid paying a widow's claim—is that the Continental would have had no such defence if the original policy had been in existence and in force, and the widow's claim was voided by the act, or in consequence of the act, of exchange. The best way to avoid such trouble is to hold on to the original document and obstinately refuse to part with it upon any terms whatever. There may be one case in a hundred where the policy holder is better suited with the second policy; but the rule is otherwise. The Company would not consent to a change, and would certainly propose none, unless with a prospect of gain, and if one party gains the other must lose.

Floricultural.

EXHIBITION OF THE N. Y. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We regret that our crowded columns prevents us from publishing a report of this creditable exhibition of flowers and plants at all commensurate with its merits.

The many residents of New York who have long felt the need of just such a society have reason to feel grateful that, though comparatively of recent origin, the Exhibition just closed at Gilmore's Garden is one that would not have disgraced the Centennial. Indeed, several of the gentlemen to whom the Centennial is most indebted are those who made the finest display here. Prominent among them were S. B. Parsons and R. B. Parsons of Flushing, N. Y.—and Geo. Such of South Amboy, N. Y.

Among the most interesting plants to the general observer of Mr. Such's collection were splendid specimens of *Nepenthes*. The pitchers of *N. Rafflesiana* were the largest and most highly colored—mottled with deep purple upon a greenish white ground, and large enough to hold half a pint. Here was also a fine *Sarracenia flava*, a *Pteris scaberula—Adianthum Peruvianum*, a robust, distinct Fern of pendant habit,—an *Ixora Javanaca flava*, resembling a Hydrangea in its flowers of deep orange.

Mr. S. B. Parsons' collection consisted of a pretty assortment of Ferns and small but rare specimens of evergreen and deciduous trees. Among the latter was a Horsechestnut with leaves as finely cut as those of a Fern,—Oaks with leaves of strange outlines, Oaks with golden leaves, Oaks with leaves of pure white and green.

Mr. John Henderson's group of *Lygodium scandens*, a comparatively new Japanese climbing Fern, attracted much attention. It consists of upward of 100 plants in pots placed close together upon a square platform, with a fountain in the center. The Ferns, about five feet high, were trained to perpendicular strings, and reminded one of a little, cool grove of green spray.

Mr. Charles Zeller of Flatbush, N. Y.—a gentleman noted for his seedling Pinks—exhibites a number of *Agaves*, *Cacti* and *Echeverias*.

John S. Bush displayed several of the highly colored *Caladiums* and a vigorous specimen of *Clerodendron Balfouri*.

Peter Hanson of Brooklyn, N. Y., presented a small *Lilium Washingtonianum* in bloom and several seedling Lilies of the *umbellatum* varieties.

In Mr. Wm. C. Wilson's exhibit we observed a small specimen of the rare *Todea superba*, a New Zealand Fern, the fronds of which, of a velvety texture and a lively green color, arch gracefully and are feathered to the base.

Among a few cut flowers exhibited by Messrs. Beach, Son & Co. of this city were several of the pretty Iris. *I. Persica* is a bronze, with blotches of bright yellow upon each of the three outer perianth segments. It was common enough "once upon a time," but is now quite rare. This, with others of lavender and white, formed a delicately pretty grouping.

Mr. I. Buchanan, whose beaming, benevolent old face was as pleasing as his plants, exhibited specimens of Orchids, among which were several of the *Calleya mossiæ*, *elegans* and *superba*. The flowers are very large, of a soft, light rose, shaded with deeper rose,—and *Vanda tricolor*, whose flowers may be said to resemble birds, beetles, fishes, reptiles, according to the fancy of the beholder.

While noting the above, we would not slight dozens of other exhibits in no way inferior; but our space is filled. We dare to hope that the N. Y. H. S. has a future that may be to Floriculture what the American Pomological Society has been and is to Pomology—and we can wish its enterprising directors no greater boon.

ANNUALS AND BEDDING PLANTS AT THE CENTENNIAL.

Later in the season the effect of many summer plants at the Centennial Exposition, now arranged in ample plots with great care and taste, will be apparent, though at present little besides this care and taste is noticeable. The earth has been dry, the specimens have made little or no growth, so that, except the ever-present Pelargonium, there is a meager display of colors—while the half-withered foliage impresses one that half of them are as likely to die as to live.

The effect of hundreds of Pelargoniums of the same color massed together is well shown in two plots, one of them filled with the rose-colored Christines, and the other with scarlet varieties. There are not less than 500 plants in each plot, each bearing full trusses of flowers. It is a glare of rose and a glare of crimson, unrelieved even by the leaves, which are curled and brown. Unusual forms and arrangements always rivet the eye, though it be for a moment only. There is nothing in this massing of a single color to commend it to general and permanent adoption. At a little distance, one sheet or blanket of rose and another of crimson would look just as well.

Another large bed is devoted to Roses of all colors, with foliage green and lively, and with flowers in every stage of development and of every color known to this queen of the floral world. They seem to have been placed with a nice regard to harmony of colors, and they show to a striking advantage the beauty which many Roses reflect upon one another, as compared with that of a single subject. The Pelargonium beds and this bed of Roses are the work of Messrs. Miller & Hayes of Philadelphia.

Mr. Thos. J. Mackenzie has constructed a large circular plot that, if we mistake not, will prove an attractive object during late summer and early fall. It is surrounded by the usual arched-iron border, first within which is a circle of Gnaphalium; next, a circle of Iresine; next, two circles of Pelargoniums—the outer pink, the inner crimson; next, a circle of Coleus; next, Abutilon Thomsoni; next, Cannas; and finally, in the center, a fine Cycad. It will be seen that whether we regard size, habit, vigor or color, this is a skillful arrangement. As the circles diminish, the plants are larger and, in the same time, will make a taller and statelier growth. The outermost circle is a silvery-gray; the next, deep reddish-purple; then green, with pink flowers; next, green, with crimson flowers; then the subdued foliage of the Coleus, the stately bronzed Canna, and finally the majestic Cycas.

Other plots are devoted to Gladioli—others to mixed bedding-plants without definite arrangement, in one of which we noticed many specimens of Amaranthus salicifolius, which, however graceful when under the extremely squeamish care it demands, will, if we may judge from our own experience, prove a conspicuous failure as it is here placed.

As if it were by a preconcerted plan, a number of the most successful Rhododendron growers of the world have united their best efforts to render this display the most extensive that has ever taken place. S. B. Parsons—R. B. Parsons of Flushing, N. Y.—H. A. Dreer of Philadelphia—Anthony Waterer and James Veitch & Sons of England are the most notable exhibitors. Those of Mr. S. B. Parsons are all perfectly hardy in Flushing—a fact that invests them with extra interest to those who desire to make selections for out-door culture from our choicest hardy varieties. Those of the Veitches, together with many other rare evergreens—hardy and semi-hardy, to which we shall again have occasion to refer—are, with the well-known liberality of this enterprising establishment, presented to the Commission.

Mr. Waterer's Rhododendron exhibit, occupies a space that would itself suffice for a country fair, is protected by an awning and comprises perhaps 1,500 specimens. As one wonderingly looks upon these plants in full bloom and without a trace of injury sustained by their journey to this country, it is difficult to say which feeling triumphs—delight over so grand a spectacle, or perplexity as to how so varied and numerous a collection of shrubs, from one to four feet in hight, could be transported so great a distance and yet tell no tale but what they had been cultivated in the very places where they stand.

We heartily wish that every one of our readers might see these plants. Every corymb consists of upward of 20 flowers, each flower is as large as a small Gladiolus, and plants two feet high bear a dozen corymbs. The central flowers are so elevated above the lateral ones as to form a perfect bouquet, each subtended by and resting upon a whorl of large, deep-green leaves. When, therefore, 1,500 Rhododendrons, averaging three feet in hight, with a range of vividly delicate colorings rarely equaled by any other class of plants, are collected together and artistically arranged, the effect is one that must be seen to be appreciated. Every Rose has its thorn, however, and the Rhododendron is not perfect. Its floral beauty is short-lived. Ere these lines can reach our readers, the Rhododendron display will be of the past.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

It is easier to get rid of weeds to-day than it will be to-morrow.

Camphor.—It has been going the rounds that camphor hastens the germination of seeds. In some instances perhaps it may—in others it does not. We planted Fig seeds side by side, half soaked in camphor, half not. There was no difference in the time of germination.

Vaccinium stamineum.—We call attention to the Deerberry that is now (June 1st) in profuse bloom. It may now be determined by its irregular branching habit, swollen joints; by its many solitary, axilary, nodding, whitish flowers of a spreading bell-shape. Later it may be known by its large greenish, bitter berries.

The Woods.—The woods at this season are grand—and we know of several old-fogy fellows that say they can more enjoy an afternoon among the trees, shrubs, ferns, flowers, grasses and shady brooks of the woods than in the Horticultural Grounds of the great Centennial. Philosophers, after a world of study, tell us there is no accounting for tastes. Perhaps if it were not for the ballast power exerted by the old fogies—Young America might find himself "up in a balloon" on a squally day.

Soloman's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), now in bloom is as pretty in the garden as it is in the woods. A simple slender curving stem two feet high, with large durable leaves arranged distichously and from every axil a hair-like peduncle that, forking, bears from one to four (generally two) vase-like, greenish-white, pendulous flowers. This plant though so different in every way, somehow reminds one of the pretty Smilax in its tidy, graceful habit. It looks well among beds of our hardy Ferns that, by the way, may with care be removed from the woods as well now as at any other time.

Edging.—A few days ago we saw a willow edging about 18 inches high surrounding a little vegetable garden. It had been made in this way. In early fall small branches half-an-inch in diameter were cut two feet long, sharpened at both ends which, being stuck in the ground, formed semicircles. Each semicircle began in the middle of the preceding one so that both together formed a net-work with a scalloped top something like the wicker-work of garden trellises. Every end seemed to have rooted during the fall and the buds had pushed so vigorously as already to have formed a thick growth that required clipping. We do not know that we have ever seen a cheaper, more easily formed or more suitable edging for such plots.

Watering.—We believe that the sprinkling of bedding plants during dry weather not only does no good but is injurious. When from using the watering pot, it seems as if the earth were wet, we shall find that it has penetrated scarcely half an inch. This can have little effect upon the roots, while evaporation carries it away at once upon receiving the first rays of the sun. The surface earth is made by artificial sprinkling hard and close thus excluding the air—forming a readier conductor of heat and offering a barrier to the ready absorption of moisture and rain when showers come—as they sometimes do—to mitigate the killing effects of drouths long continued. If we would preserve the freshness of our flower beds, and are willing to take the time and pains, they should be watered after sundown until the water is about to run off. Then wait for this to soak in and water again and again. Finally spread freshly-cut grass over the entire surface an inch thick. This does not mar, as one would suppose, the appearance of the bed after a few hours, as the color of dried grass is nearly that of dry earth and consisting of short and fine blades as it will be if cut with the lawn-mower, it very soon resembles the earth itself. A covering like this suppresses weeds and the drouth must be severe indeed to seriously affect plants thus treated. We recommend the same for fruit and ornamental trees transplanted this spring.

Industrial Topics.

BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Comparatively little has yet been done towards the manufacture of beet sugar in this country; still the few experiments made show that both climate and soil are adapted to the production of beets on an unlimited scale. All we need is a few successes to make the thing popular and then the product is sure to equal the demand. A correspondent of the Wilmington Commercial in speaking of the industry says:

The effects produced upon agriculture in France by the cultivation of beets for sugar have been astounding. Notwithstanding the high protective policy to which it owes its existence, there is no question that sugars have been cheaper throughout the world, during the last fifteen years, in consequence of the great success of this industry. The cane sugar manufacturers of the Tropics have adopted the improved processes of the beet-sugar manufacturers of Europe because so much superior to theirs, but with it all, the latter will soon outstrip them. In the cane sugar districts no other crop is to be seen, while the cattle and sheep are few; the beet-sugar districts of Europe, on the contrary, are covered with the diversity of crops; beets, wheat, rye, barly, &c., and all the cultivated grasses, every field cultivated, and the stables filled with cattle, sheep and horses. No farmer need be told which system is the most enduring. In the best cultivated districts of the Continent, the basis of it is the beet. It not only furnishes to man the article of all others that most delights the palate, but the pulp left after the juice is extracted is excellent food for cattle, the number of which is largely increased and they furnish an increased amount of manure, which, applied to the deeply plowed lands, multiplies their productiveness. On a great public occasion, a visit of the Emperor and Empress to Valenciennes, the following inscription was placed on a triumphal arch: "Before the manufacture of beet-sugar, the arrondissement of Valenciennes produced 695,750 bushels of wheat and fattened 700 oxen." "Since the manufacture of beet sugar was introduced, the arrondissement of Valenciennes produces 1,157,750 bushels of wheat and fattens 11,500 oxen." All farmers who obtain first prizes at the agricultural exhibitions are either sugar manufacturers or cultivators of the beet; it is so uniformly the case that they would be surprised if they did not secure them. A farm of eight hundred and thirty two acres, the sales of produce from which under the former treatment amounted to $8,000 per annum, with six years treatment of sugar beet culture produced $41,200 per annum. Another instance: a farm of two hundred and ninety-five acres, produced 5,225 bushels of wheat, 2,500 tons of beets, and fattened 150 head of cattle per annum. But the model farm of France is one of five hundred and fifty-two acres, which with eleven years of sugar beet cultivation produces an average of 70 bushels of oats on thirty acres. 36½ bushels of wheat on one hundred and fifty-six acres, 20 tons of beets per acre, and 3 tons of hay per acre fatten 200 cattle and 8,000 sheep per annum. In 1865 the yield of beets was 30.35 and as much as 30 tons to the acre. These farmers attribute their success as cultivators entirely to the immense amount of manure the beet pulp enables them to make, to the improved condition, and also to the increased amount of profitable service of the land consequent upon beet culture, no fallows being required. On this model farm the beet crops only were manured which were plowed in deep the previous fall, and the ground was again lightly plowed in the spring. For the succeeding grain crops a single light plowing sufficed.

Before the introduction of the sugar industry into France, farm hands, by reason of a lack of employment in winter were so continually emigrating to the city, that Government instituted inquiries to ascertain the cause, and also the best method of preventing it. Now the tendency of workmen to seek the capital is not noticed in the sugar districts, that industry giving ample and well paid employment in the summer months. Wherever the beet is cultivated in France land advances in value, and wages take the same direction. No one believes now that it exhausts and impoverishes the soil or hurts other crops; these are the prejudices of bygone years, which science and experience have banished. The quality of the wheat is better, the heads are larger and heavier, the straw stronger, and not so liable to lodge, the grain is larger, brighter, and heavier, weighing from two to three pounds above the standard. The departments in which the beet is cultivated are not grazing districts in which cattle are raised, but are pre-eminently distinguished for supporting and fattening cattle, and producing grains. To fairly estimate the full value of this root culture, allowance must be made for the undoubted facts that its culture as a rotation crop so prepares the soil that it needs not be left fallow, and so improves the wheat, that from one third to one half more is produced than before the beet preceded it; and that cattle are fattened on the leaves and pulp, are exceedingly prolific, the cows produce more abundant and better flavored milk, so that the production of sugar from the beet adds to the supply of bread and meat, and those three leading necessities of man's existence stimulate and aid each other.

HOW TIMES CHANGE.

When a boy we resided in Western New York, Orleans Co., and then a sale for cash of any kind of fruit was a rare occurance. The best of Rhode Island Greenings, Spitzenbergs and Pippins, were sold for twelve cents per bushel in trade, and we well remember trying to sell a wagon load of excellent plums, in Albion, offering them at 25 cts. per bushel, but only managed to sell one peck at that rate. A quarter of a century has, however, worked a change in that region, and from late reports of Horticultural Societies, of Western New York, we gather the following items in regard to sales of fruit from Orleans and adjacent counties.

Erie county, apples and pears, valued at				$300,000
Genese county, all fruits shipped,	do.			153,000
Niagara county,	do.	do.	do.	1,147,000
Orleans county,	do.	do.	do.	784,000

The pear crop in Genese county sold for $11,000; in Niagara county, $35,000; in Orleans county, $12,700. Apples in Genese county, $141,000; in Niagara, about $1,000,000; Orleans, $632,000. The quince crop in Genese was only $1,000 against $6,000 last year; in Orleans, $3,860. Peaches in Niagara sold for $52,000, plums $10,000. The crop of apples in Wayne county was 185,000 barrels.

Onion Coloring.—A good authority says that a decoction of the peel of onions produces a fine, rich, orange-yellow upon glove leather, which fixes itself with great permanency.

The Garden.

TOO LATE NOW, TO PLANT.

Many a family has gone without choice fruits, flowers and vegetables for years, all in consequence of the above potent but rather lame excuse. The husband and father promises that next year he will plant a strawberry bed, some raspberries, grapes, gooseberries and other small fruits for his family, but it is neglected until the buds begin to swell and the blossoms appear, then comes the ever ready excuse—"its too late now," and another year goes by and the coveted luxuries or necessities are not forthcoming. We don't mean you, of course, but your neighbor over the way who has been promising to plant an asparagus bed these ten years but has not done it, and probably never will, for the very good reason that procrastination is the thief which steals all his spare time.

It is certainly better to plant early than late in the season, but "better late than never," is an adage, which should be forcibly impressed upon every owner of a garden or farm. The asparagus, rhubarb, and other similar plants may have started and grown a foot or more, still it is not too late for planting them if all the leaves and stems are cut away at the time.

The same is true in regard to many kinds of ornamental and useful trees and plants. A little more care may be required when moving plants late in the season than when it is done early, still it can be done and a year saved by the operation.

We would prefer to plant out strawberries before they commence growth in spring, but it can be safely done in wet weather even after the fruit is fully grown or even ripe, and the plants will become well established and bear a good crop the following season.

Early beets, carrots, cabbages, lettuce, and other vegetables are usually prized more highly than late ones, still they seldom come amiss in a family at any season, especially in one which is never sure of having a supply at any time.

It's now too late for planting early peas, beans, and sweet corn, but it is not for a late crop, therefore we say drop in the seed and keep it up as long as there is a chance of the crop reaching a useful condition. The farmer and gardener should look ahead and anticipate the wants of those depending upon them for food and the comforts of life.

SEED SOWING IN WET SEASONS.

We are not generally much troubled with too much rain in this country, still there is an occasional wet season when it would be well to guard against committing errors in the management of soils, especially those which are of a compact nature. The following article on the treatment of soil in wet seasons, which we find in the London Garden, is as applicable to this country as England, and withal very good advice:

It is never advisable to go upon ground when it is wet and sodden; but when seed-time, properly so called, is about ended for the season, and the ground is still wet, such considerations have to be put on one side, and one has to adapt his practice to the exceptional state of things. To tread onion ground when the soil is the least wet is the hight of indiscretion, for it causes it to bind like clay, and when dry weather sets in it becomes a network of deep fissures, and it is altogether in a most unsuitable condition for the plants, which never come away or grow as they should. The most miserable crop of onions I ever saw were sown under these conditions. This season I simply turned the ground over with forks, and afterwards scuffled the surface over with wooden rakes to level it, drew hills, sowed the seed, and covered it over by hand with dry soil from the sheds, leaving the finishing touches with rake to be done in dry weather. Raking the surface of a seed-bed when the soil is wet is worse than digging it in that condition, for it rolls it into nodules, which the first shower of rain runs together into so impervious a crust that the seed cannot push its way through. The vegetable that suffers more than any other, however, when sown in a cloggy soil and covered in with the same material, is the Turnip. The young plants come away sluggishly, and are almost sure to fall a prey to the fly. Under such circumstances the sowing should be done as the ground is dug, no raking should be attempted, and the seed should be covered by hand, like the Onion, with dry light soil of any kind. Treated in this way they do well enough, and the ground can be stirred deeply between the rows on the first favorable opportunity. All small seeds, such as those of Lettuce, should be treated in the same manner. Peas and Beans should just have the soil drawn over them as sown, without any raking or patting. French Beans, if the soil be heavy, do much better if covered like Turnips; so also does Beet, and indeed any large seeds that do not need to be covered deeply. After the crops are fairly above ground, the adverse conditions of seed-time may be greatly compensated for by surface-stirring, doing it deeply with the hack or Dutch hoe, and when practicable by mulching. I have had to deal with soils so heavy and tenacious that they never "fell" kindly during the whole summer, if the ground were dug when wet; the sun simply baked the clods into lumps like pieces of brick. Planting any of the Cabbage tribe in such a soil was a difficult operation, and they made little progress for weeks afterwards, unless mulched with some loose material such as short grass, which is always plentiful, when they did not appear to suffer much. There is less to be feared, however, with the seed-bed in wet seasons than with those crops which require transplanting. The roots of seedlings find their way into the soil when once they get a start; but transplanted subjects take most unkindly to the ground when the soil is lumpy and wet. Cauliflowers are almost sure to "button," Lettuces to "bolt," and few things do well. Moving with good balls in all cases, and planting without squeezing the soil about the roots, and surface-stirring with the hoe afterwards, is the only plan. I am, of course, not speaking of soils which after a period of drouth have just been soaked with a good fall of rain, for then the soil is in the best condition for planting, but of soils, and particularly heavy ones, which are in a state of saturation.

"THE CHIEF END."

"The chief object of plant life is to produce seed for the continuation of its species." In one form or other, how often do we hear and read this! Spare us for a while, good writers, from a further consideration of this learned statement.

Is it the chief object of a plant to produce seed? Is it the chief object of animals to reproduce themselves? In our egotism, we believe that all things are produced for man's benefit—all things are in some way subservient to his wants. Man and the lower animals dispose of thousands of fruits of all kinds where one is preserved for seed. The leaves of all vegetable life, and the branches to a certain extent, perform a vital object in separating from the air and appropriating the poisonous emanations from the expirations of animals, and our botanies teach that in the course of time the atmosphere would become so impregnated with carbonic acid gas as no longer to support combustion.

Is not this a chief object? That the formation of seed is an important end, nobody need dispute; but it is only one of many no less important. Plant and animal life is reciprocally dependent, neither one could exist without the other. It is no more essential that the species should be continued than that animals should have food—clothing—fire—shelter. If we are told that not one of these could exist without seed, we grant it and add, that death too, is the chief end of all life since without death there could be no life. But in truth all things in nature are constituted upon the plan of utter mutual dependency, and to say that this or that is the "chief end" is only one of the many evidences of man's conceit—in which surely—as in most other things probably—he is the brightest star of contemporaneous existences.

RENEWING OLD STRAWBERRY BEDS.

In one of our exchanges we find the following paragraph, said to be taken from the advanced sheets of a new work on the strawbery by E. W Durand, Esq.: "Now, my advice is, if you can find no other place than an old strawberry bed to set out a new one upon, set out none at all, for, do as you will, you are likely to fail under the most favorable circumstances."

It's a pity that the author of the above cannot see the absurdity of such statements, in face of the fact that strawberries grew in a wild state for hundreds and thousands of years upon the same ground, neither failing or running out. Of course, in selecting a place for a strawberry bed, we would prefer new land to old, but should not hesitate to use an old bed, and without the least fear of failing to produce a good crop. Apply the proper fertilizers and there will be little danger of a failure.

This idea of the wearing out of land—degeneration of varieties and excrementitious poisoning of soils by the plants growing therein—harmonizes very well with the restlessness of our American farmers, who are continually seeking new lands and new homes, instead of improving the old, but it at variance with common sense and science.

STRAWBERRIES AS A BORDER.

The Valley Farmer says that it affords a happy combination of beauty, utility and convenience to border the garden walks with strawberries. A single row of plants, set one foot from the edge of the walk, will, if properly cared for, give a close border two feet wide the second year. Draw a line on each side after the runners begin to root, cut the edges straight and keep them so. You thus not only economize space which might not otherwize be used, and make the garden attractive, but get your fruit where it can be picked from the walks, which if properly made, of coal ashes or gravel will always be dry, and very convenient to use a stool in. Two walks thus bordered through the center of even a small garden, each way, will give a family a good supply of this most delicious of fruits.

GARDEN NOTES.

The Sterling Strawberry.—This new sort of which we have heard much is now offered to the public at a price which shows that the owner of the stock of plants believes he has a gold mine or something near it in the "Sterling."

Another New Raspberry.—The Thawack raspberry is a new sort, highly extolled by a correspondent of the Gardeners' Monthly. It originated in Missouri and is said to be a cross between the Herstine and Brandywine. Who will tell us when and how the crossing was done? More light is wanted.

Currants.—Dr. Long said at the horticultural meeting at Alton, that those who eat freely of currants will never need the doctor. He has picked forty bushels of the fruit from a fourth of an acre. They want good culture, although often grown in fence corners without care.

[The too free use of currants will destroy the functions of the stomach and produce the worst kind of dyspesia.—Ed. Rural.]

Working Gardeners.—I see people continue to advertise for working gardeners. If there is such a being as a gardener who does not work, I should like to see him and have him exhibited. Gardeners worthy of the name, whether they get their living from the profession or merely follow it for healthy excitement and recreation, cannot help working any more than a hen can help laying eggs.—*Wm. Taylor in J. of H.*

Sheep Husbandry.

AUSTRALIA AND THE CENTENNIAL.

Philadelphia, Pa,, June 10, 1876.

None of England's colonies make a more creditable show, or, in some respects, as good, as Australia. Here is a colony that is a continent of itself, and forty years ago it was, in two senses at least, a howling wilderness. Now fifty thousand men support thrice that number of women and children. The Australian colonists grow annually 12,000,000 bushels of wheat, have a commerce amounting to £9,000,000, and raise a revenue of £1,000,000. Their flock of sheep numbers over 50,000,000, and it is to this branch of industry that I gave special attention.

Queensland is on the Eastern Coast and contains 35,000 inhabitants; climate is semi-tropical on coast, with a gradual rise to an elevation of 4,000 feet above the sea's level. The rainfal averages about 30 inches.

A part of New South Wales resembles Queensland geographically, and it is from these two districts that most of the wool is exported.

There is a fine display of merino fleeces. The average weight of a fleece is seven pounds, but they decrease about one-half in washing. Sheep are worth, on an average, $3 per head, fine bucks selling as high as $50, however.

Sheep "runs" are leased at so much the mile, the price being inconsiderable. They range from 10 to 200 square miles. Good farming land is sold for $3.50 per acre. Sheep are owned in a wholesale way, some having flocks of 200,000, which are divided into smaller flocks of about 2,500, which are put in charge of a man and dogs. A shepherd's wages are about $1.75 per day, food and a cottage being part of the bargain Sheep increase per annum 80 per cent. There are a number of good photographs included in the exhibit showing different breeds of sheep, which afford an excellent means of comparison, especially as the investigator can turn to the cases and inspect the veritable fleece as represented in the photograph.

The cattle is nearly as large as the sheep interest. Short-Horns are the favorite grade.

In this connection it is interesting to note that it is a practice of breeders to slaughter vast numbers of low grade, in order that the pure blood may be preserved. The attendant told me that Australians think they have the best horses in the world, and the same system, *i. e.*, discouraging all common stock raising has been pursued in this branch with flattering results. The number of sheep in Queensland is 7,500,000, and it was given as the judgment of the attendant that the whole number in all the colonies is not less than 50,000,000, which, if true, is greatly in excess of the United States.

It would well repay the agriculturist to give the exhibit of this colony a careful visit, as in addition to their live stock, they have various woods, herbs, minerals and vegetables that are extremely interesting. It will not be many years before Australia will come into direct competition with home markets, in which case it is well to have a definite idea of the strength of our competitor. Young Rural.

WHITE SKIN OR LUNG WORMS IN SHEEP.

At a recent meeting of the Ohio Sheep Breeders' Convention, Dr. Townshend of the Agricultural College spoke of lung worms in sheep. He described these worms, which infest the lungs of sheep in large numbers, as follows:

The females are white and about as thick as No. 8 sewing cotton, four inches in length and full of ova. The males are fewer in number, of a yellow color, and only about four inches long. This was a description of these worms as found in a sheep sent to the College some two years ago, that had died with them. He said he had not had an opportunity to observe these worms at other seasons, and could not fully state their natural history. So far as his examination went, there were no young strongyli in the sheep, but all were matured. What might have been if the examination had been made at other seasons, he could not tell. It is probable that the eggs or young worms are coughed out of the air passages in the spring, and live for a time on grass or in the water to which sheep have access. In ponds and streams in early summer we may find immense numbers of little nematoid worms, evidently in an early stage, for they are sexually imperfect. We find what appears to be the same worms in the larva of several aquatic insects, such as Libellula, Agrion, Ephemera and Phryganæ. We find the worm in fish and birds, and particularly in meadow larks. Still, how they get out of the sheep and how in again, and where and how the balance of their life is spent, he could not tell, and said that so far as he was concerned this is a missing link. That trouble from them in sheep was always at one season of the year. As a remedy he recommended, first, fumigating in a close room by burning sulphur, which caused violent coughing, and then give turpentine in teaspoonful doses once a day for several days.

NEW SPECIES OF SHEEP.

From the Peruvian Andes some specimens of sheep have been received in England, being representatives of two rare and distinct breeds. The Agricultural Gazette (Eng.) furnishes the following particulars respecting them:

The first are two fine white-wooled sheep, each having four long, massive horns, two of which have a forward curve over the head, while the other two curve downward, under the eyes, giving the head a singular but handsome appearance. These are brought from Peru by Mr. J. I. Watts of Whistley, near Devizes, who discovered them, during his recent travels in the Andes Mountains, at an elevation of some 8,000 or 9,000 feet above the level of the sea, and they are reported to be very hardy. The second lot much resembles the alpaca. There are three—one male and two females—and they are thickly covered with long, dark-brown, but exceedingly fine hair or wool, which is highly prized by the native Indians for the manufacture of their more delicate fabrics. The male stands about three feet high at the shoulders. Their peculiarly formed heads, long necks, large, shaggy legs and general character will insure them a large share of attention. These also are from the Peruvian Andes, and inhabit the highest and more exposed situations, and were imported by Mr. Anthony Gibbs of London.

A FEW BIG SHEEP.

Although we make no great blow of imported stock, etc., in this vicinity, still I believe that some of my neighbors have as good sheep as anybody in the United States, and if any of the subscribers of the Rural can beat them, I would be glad to hear from them through the Rural. Mr. A. J. Brown of Jeddo, N. Y., has a Cotswold buck, weighing 309 lbs., that sheared 17 lbs., and Mr. A. E. Sweet of the same place has three yearling ewes that sheared as follows:—No. 1, weight 148 lbs., sheared 16½ lbs.; No. 2, weight 141 lbs., sheared 16 lbs.; No. 3, weight 134 lbs., sheared 14 lbs. Who can beat them?

Ridgeway, N. Y. A Subscriber.

SHEEP FOR CLEARING LAND.

It is not a bad idea, which somebody has suggested, that of introducing sheep upon newly-cleared land to keep down the sprouts and wild weeds until they die out and a better class of forage plants is introduced. There is scarcely a doubt that sheep may be employed for this purpose with profit, provided a farmer has facilities for keeping a flock at other seasons when the new pasture does not furnish the requisite amount of food.

Domestic Economy.

PICKLING CUCUMBERS.

SOME of our readers may want to know how to pickle cucumbers, and the following from the Grocer, may be of use to them at this season:

For pickling purposes the cucumber in all stages of its growth is used, from the large vegetable which is cut into slices and sold to the cheap grocery stores, to the smallest size or gherkin, which is preserved entire. In buying, selling and estimating quantities, cucumbers, whether large or small, are counted, not measured. The farmers sort the cucumbers into three sizes, small, medium and large; the factories have five sizes, viz: very small, small, medium, large, and very large. Of these different sizes 5,000 of the very small would fill an ordinary whisky barrel; 3,000 of the small; 2,000 of the medium; 1,100 of the large; and 800 of the very large. The cucumbers on being picked at their place of growth, are taken by the farmers to the salting-houses, whence they are removed to the pickle factories. Most of the salting-houses are within a few miles of where the plant is grown, as the fresh crop will not bear long transportation. Although some farmers do their own salting, in most cases the latter is a separate business, conducted on a large scale, the manufacturers buying of the salters. The pickles, on being taken from the brine, are "freshened up," that is, they are put into large wooden vats containing fresh water, to extract the salt. This water is changed three times during the freshening process, after which the cucumbers are packed in casks or bottles for sale. The best vinegar in use for pickling in this country is that made from the Western high-wines. In a vinegar made from wood the pickles soon become soft, and even cider vinegar, though the best and most wholesome for table purposes, will not preserve pickles more than a month. All the artificial vinegars made from acids fail in this respect, and from vitriol especially. Cucumbers pickled in high-wine vinegar will keep for an almost indefinite time, and will come out as good as at the first, after an interval of several years. Large quantities of very fine cucumbers and cauliflowers are imported from Holland, which country likewise supplies the London market. The pickles which are thus imported extensively into this country have the advantage of low prices, due to the cheapness of labor abroad, and, in addition to the best possible sample, with the least amount of trouble at the factory. With the requisite amount of care and attention, we can, in this country, make as good a pickle as can be made in London.

DRYING SWEET CORN.

J. M. HAYES of Lebanon, Ohio, finds a sweet corn crop more profitable than a distillery. He raises over 500 acres of this crop annually. The drying-house employs fifty persons. The fresh ears are steamed five minutes to "set the milk"—the grain is then cut off rapidly with cutters having concave faces. It is then spread on perforated zinc tables, and heat applied four or five hours from long furnaces, stirring constantly. It is then packed in barrels of three bushels each for shipment. Great care is required to have the corn just at the right age, and have it dried just enough to keep well. Four bushels of fresh corn on the cob make one bushel dried—the wholesale price of which is $20 to $22 per barrel. At fifty bushels of corn per acre, 500 acres would yield 25,000 bushels, and give over 2,000 barrels of dried corn, which, at $20 per barrel, would be $40,000.

WASHING FLANNELS AND LINENS.

To whiten flannel, made yellow by age, dissolve 1½ lbs. of white soap in 50 lbs., soft water, and also 2-3 oz. spirits of ammonia. Immerse the flannel, stir well around for a short time, and wash in pure water. When black or navy blue linens are washed, soap should not be used. Take instead two potatoes grated into tepid soft water (after having them washed and peeled), into which a teaspoonful of ammonia has been put. Wash the linens with this, and rinse them in cold blue water. They will need no starch, and should be dried and ironed on the wrong side. An infusion of hay will keep the natural color in buff linens, and an infusion of bran will do the same for brown linens and prints.

SAVE YOUR SOAPSUDS.

WHO would throw away a barrel full of soft soap or a box of hard soap? Were it not otherwise useful, it would be of great value as a fertilizer, if spread, in its raw state, about our fruit trees or berry bushes. But, after being dissolved in water and passing through the wash tub, gleaning the imperceptible elements of the best manure from soiled linen, its fertilizing power is vastly increased. Indeed we may almost say that the average soapsuds from the kitchen and laundry is worth more than the soap which produces it. Do not, then, allow your soapsuds to run away wasted while you have trees which it might benefit.

ORANGE JELLY.

ONE box of Cox's Gelatine, soak it one hour with three lemons sliced (remove the seeds) in a quart of cold water, then add one quart of boiling water, four small teacups full of granulated sugar, put it over a slow fire for twenty minutes stir often to prevent burning, then add one teaspoonful of essence of cinnamon. Take five small oranges, sour ones are the best, peel and divide them in small pieces, cover the molds with them, sprinkle plenty of sugar over the oranges, strain the jelly through a flannel bag into the molds, set in a cool place. Make the day before it is wanted for use. MRS. RUSTIC.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Macaroni and Cheese.—One-half pound macaroni broken into inch pieces; wash, put on the stove to soak till soft, then drain; grate one-half pound old cheese: put layers of macaroni and cheese, with bits of butter, pepper and salt, and three tablespoonfuls of milk; let the last layer be cheese. Bake for three-quarters of an hour.

Scalloped Veal.—Chop cold cooked veal fine; put a layer in a baking dish, alternating with a layer of powdered crackers, salt, pepper and butter, until you fill the dish. Beat up two eggs; add a pint of milk; pour it over the veal and crackers. Cover with a plate and bake half an hour. Remove the plate and let the top brown.

Hygienic Information.

DR. R. GREENE ON EXERCISE.

ONE of the great conditions of life and health is exercise, and without it health is impaired, the system becomes enfeebled and life itself shortened. Food is the life-giving principle, but it requires a certain amount of exercise to enable the economy to convert it into suitable material for use, which can be assimilated by the system.

By proper exercise the chest is expanded, the tone of the muscles improved, the current of blood quickened, and the whole system invigorated and refreshed. But exercise, to be effective, must not be excessive; must never be carried so far that the body feels fatigued, or the muscular powers exhausted, in which case more harm than benefit is the result.

It is of the most service, also, when taken at regular intervals, not by fits and starts, too much one day and the next too little but in moderate amount each day. As we gain most from that which is pleasurable, that which agreeably occupies the mind, the cultivation of a garden, or any light work, with a distinct end in view, is always preferable and more conducive to health than long solitary walks, which, because they are aimless, are often uninteresting and tiresome, and the body lacks the refreshing energy which the exercise should bring. It is absolutely necessary to keep harmony between mind and body, in order that exercise should be beneficial; and without this harmony it is not only without benefit, but in many cases is exceedingly injurious. The peculiar relations of the body and mind render it difficult to affect the body favorably in the cure of disease without a corresponding impression upon the mind. And to this fact may be attributed much of the ill-success of physicians, they treat the body and neglect the mind. Many affections are dependent alone on a diseased state of the mind. Remove this morbid condition, and the bodily affliction disappears as if by magic. So exercise, to have its health-growing effect, must have the cooperation of the mind. Every exercise for invalids in which the mind does not co-operate with the body is worse than useless, as it tends to exhaustion rather than building up.

In all such cases our first endeavor should be to get the body and mind in harmonious action, and then, when physical exercise is required, the patient should be instructed to have some purpose in his walks, such as calling upon some friend, or viewing some object of interest, so that his mind shall be taken from his walk, and he will return refreshed and invigorated.

Not only the body, but the brain, requires exercise. The brain, the great center of life, requires the stimulus of vigorous thought. The same laws which govern other parts of the system are applicable here; use strengthens, while without it the brain and, indeed the whole mental and moral character, becomes weakened; and with that weakening, the integrity of the whole physical constitution is impaired. It is a prevailing mistake that active study impairs health and shortens life, for it is only by close application, and a vigorous exercise of the powers of the mind, that a bright manhood or womanhood can be attained. Instead of debilitating, it strengthens; instead of shortening life, it prolongs it, and opens the pathway to broader culture and a higher sphere of life.

RHEUMATISM RECIPES.

THE Journal of Health has recently patiently collected all the recipes for rheumatism floating through the papers, and spreads them before its readers thus:

"Rochelle salts. Guaiacum. Rub with chloroform liniment. Sleep with your head toward the north. Nux vomica. Wear a chest protector. Nitrate of potash. Nitrate sodium. Fowler's solution of arsenic. Sleep with a big dog and give it to him. Kill a big dog, and, after taking out his intestines, put your feet where they came from. Magnetism. Galvanism. Bromide of ammonium. Iodide of ammonium. Mustard plasters. Spanish fly plasters. Bromide of potassium. Iodide of potassium. Lemon juice. Sage tea. Wear sulphur in your shoes. Hard rubbing. Oleate of mercury. Common soda. Capsicum. Radway's Ready Relief. Wear silk. Wear flannel. Wear buckskin. Gin and hemlock. Reynold's Specific. Make a necklace of the knots produced by the sting of an insect on Golden Rod, and wear it next the skin. Citrate of lithia. Exercise and keep it off. Keep as quite as possible. Colchicum. Morphine. Water cures. Angel's rheumatic gum. Pray fervently. Soft soap bandaged with flannel. Do not eat meat. Do not eat eggs or potatoes. Eat anything you please. Opium. Do not smoke at all. Smoke all you like. Take camphor. Drink nothing but beer. Do not drink anything but whisky. Do not leave the house. Take a ride out whenever you can. Carry a piece of alum in your pocket. Take Turkish baths. The Turkish bath is one of the worst things for rheumatism. De Soto spring water. Acetate of potash. Burdock seed. Bathe in hot water with pearlash in it. Bathe in cold water frequently. Do not bathe at all until you are nearly well. Catnip tea. Wrap fresh lamb's entrails around your neck. Drink brandy. Brandy is very bad for rheumatism. Sleep next to flannel. Go to Arkansas Hot Springs. Go to Doolittle Springs—to Saratoga, to Florida, to Bermuda, to the Sandwich Islands, to California, to the South of France, to Mexico, to the Azores, to South America. Wear a horse-chestnut in your left hand breeches pocket. Wear a potato in the other. Take Constitution Water. Take carbolic acid. Wrap joints with cotton, and cover with oiled silk. Glen Flora water. Get out on the prairies. High land is best for rheumatism. Balm of life. Magnetic salve. Rub with kerosene. Mustang liniment. Read Job. Put on hop poultice. Apply hop mashes. Do not swear. Put mustard poultice over the heart. Drink Friedrichshall bitter water. Seidlitz powders. Take a quart of alcohol with a dozen lemons in it. Take spirits of turpentine. Slippery elm poultice. Electric oil.

THE APPLE CURE.

A CORRESPONDENT of Laws of Life speaks highly of the use of apples as a cure for dyspepsia and while we in part agree with him that fruit is healthy and for some kinds of dyspepsia may be beneficial, in others it is about the worst food a person can take. Each one every individual must decide for themselves in such cases, but we give the opinion of the correspondents for what it is worth:

Persons suffering from dyspepsia, constipation, congestion of brain and other ills which attend on general debility, are accustomed to apply to the doctors for bitters for the stomach, cathartics for the bowels and iron for the blood. But it is generally found that the relief to the stomach and bowels induced by medicine is temporary, and when reaction takes place after stimulation, the vital organs are weaker and the patient is worse off in every respect than when he commenced the use of medicine.

I have a remedy to suggest which, although it may not be of universal application, has in my own case and that of many others who at my suggestion have tried it, brought relief after all drug remedies had failed. Apples are a natural stimulant to the stomach, bowels and kidneys, and unlike medicine, keep up when habitually eaten, a continued healthy action of these organs. Apples are not only stimulative, they are also nutritive.

The case of an invalid was cited some years ago in the New York Tribune, who lived a year on no other food than apples, and during the time gained in flesh and strength. In my own case I had been very much troubled with the "heart-burn." I tried two meals a day, to which I still adhere, graham bread and water treatment, but with only partial success. Thanks to raw apples I have no more heart-burn. I finish each meal with two or three, and the cooling effect on my stomach and indirectly on my brain, is most grateful. Formerly I was troubled with wakefulness, would lie awake thinking, unable to sleep, until late in the night. I am wakeful no more. When I commenced to eat apples as a remedy I weighed 130 lbs.; in less than two months my weight was over 160 lbs., my strength increasing as my weight. My food is now well digested and assimilated, the hue of health is restored to my cheek, in other words, I am cured.

I think if people would eat more fruit, using it wisely, and throw medicine to the dogs, it would be a great benefit to them, though it would not benefit the quacks correspondingly.

CARE OF THE FEET.

CONCERNING this subject the Scientific American very truly says: Many are careless in the keeping of the feet. If they wash them once a week they think they are doing well. They do not consider that the largest pores are located in the bottom of the foot, and that the most offensive matter is discharged through the pores. They wear stockings from the beginning to the end of the week without change, which become perfectly saturated with offensive matter. Ill health is generated by such treatment of the feet. The pores are not only repellants but absorbents, and fetid matter, to a greater or less extent, is taken back into the system. The feet should be washed every day with pure water only, as well as the armpits, from which an offensive odor is also emitted, unless daily ablution is practiced. Stockings should not be worn more than a day or two at a time. They may be worn one day, and then aired and sunned and worn another day if necessary.

Entomological.

THE AILANTHUS SILK WORM NATURALIZED.

OUR cousins over in Australia appear to have had better luck in keeping the Ailanthus Silk Worm than our own sericulturists. A late number of Town and Country, published at Sydney, says:

Some few years ago the Ailanthus Silk Worm was introduced to New South Wales and other Australian colonies. The culture of this silk worm had recently been established, with promising success, in France, and it was thought that it might prove also in Australia a profitable husbandry. Mr. Brady (of sericultural renown) for some time experimented and reported results upon the culture, but, as usual, our very apathetic people went to sleep about the matter, though for a time there seemed to be an enthusiastic desire to enter upon the new industry. Nothing has been heard of the worm, so far as the public is aware, for three or four years past. To all appearance, the notion of establishing the industry had gone to sleep forever. But the insect seems to have had more sense, for, without giving any publicity to its intended course, it has quietly and successfully naturalized itself, and thereby taught us a lesson that in many ways ought to profit us. This silk worm has found for itself a common wild plant which answers its requirements in all respects, perhaps better than the plant from which it derives its name. The other day a gentleman called at our office and left specimens of the plant and the silk worm encased ready for the harvest. The plant is the *malanthus populifolius* of Jussieu, so very common on the rocky shores and cliffs along our seaboard, and particularly in the vicinity of Port Jackson. Without man's assistance, it appears that the insect, when in the butterfly stage of its life, has selected a plant suited to its wants, and has become what may be called a natural production. In a few years it is more than probable that numbers of people may be able to support themselves by collecting the cocoons from our waste and otherwise unproductive coast and mountain lands. Our informant cannot say to what extent the worm has established itself on this tree, because he has not yet had an opportunity of visiting the most likely locality. He states, however, that on the one tree which came under his observation the cocoons were numerous, and that there was no doubt whatever that they found their way to it spontaneously. Our readers who live near the coast or on the mountains will perhaps look for the worm, and report to us the result of their search. The tree is a very common one in such localities as are already mentioned; and those who may not be able to identify it without can see the specimen, with the cocoons upon it, by calling at the office of this journal. The tree itself is of considerable interest in a botanical point of view. It may be found in a mature and fully developed condition as a tree thirty feet high and as a tree half an inch—a miniature and a giant in one. It may be often seen as a perfect tree in all respects, but less than an inch in hight, being dwarfed by limited root room. It will often be found growing in a hollowed rock, with no more room than could be found in a child's thimble. There is no doubt that the Ailanthus Silk Worm is now thoroughly naturalized in New South Wales.

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X. A. WILLARD, A. M., Little Falls, N. Y.,
EDITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DAIRY HUSBANDRY.

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WHERE IS THE GREAT WEST?

It is but a few years since what was known as "the West," comprised Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. These are now the Eastern Central States of the Union. The star of Empire kept its westward way—the Mississippi was soon crossed and Kansas and Colorado were settled. When the Mormons, driven from Illinois, found a resting place in Utah, they supposed they had gone so far beyond the farthest outpost of civilization, that Gentiles would give them no further trouble. Up to that time there had been no emigration except from East to West, for so long as reliable history bore testimony. But now began a different state of affairs. From the Pacific coast came a few pioneers across the Rocky Mountains. What had before been *West* to almost the whole world, had become *East* to thousands. Draw a line direct from the most densely populated part of Europe west to China and it passes near Portland, Chicago and San Francisco. From each end of this line multitudes are wending their way to our vast uninhabited country, where there is room and to spare.

It is estimated that all Europe has 80 inhabitants to a square mile; England has 440 and Germany about 200. One of the Provinces of China has over 800; the average of the empire is over 100. Japan has more than 200 inhabitants to a square mile. The United States and Territories (exclusive of Alaska) have over 3,000,000 square miles, with an average population of less than 13 to a square mile. Of the more densely settled States, Massachusetts has 190, Connecticut 111, and Rhode Island 167. With the same density of population Illinois would have more than England.

The "Great American Desert," so much talked of in the past, does not exist; and although considerable territory west of the Mississippi is occupied by mountains and alkaline plains, there is, comparatively, but a small portion of our vast domain that can not be compelled by proper means to contribute to the support of man. But should the great West—or the great East, whichever it may be to immigrants—ever be filled and our seaboard States, both Atlantic and Pacific, become uncomfortably crowded, Mexico on the one side and the British Possessions on the other will gladly open their doors to all comers who will apply for admission in the proper spirit.

What will be the final result of the mixture of the races and particularly of those so widely separated as are the Caucasian and the Mongolian, if they ever do mix—time alone can determine. Enough for us to welcome all whose condition will be improved by their coming among us. We know nothing of what the great future has in store for our country, but should remember that men's years are only God's moments and as He has made of one blood all nations of the earth, they should strive to live together in the peace and unity calculated to promote His glory and their welfare.

AGRICULTURE AT THE CENTENNIAL.

From our Philadelphia correspondence (on another page) we learn that the Competitive Field Trials of Agricultural Implements have been entirely abandoned and, as a poor substitute for them, there are to be Exhibition Trials at which there will be no official competition and for which there will be no judges appointed. While it seems probable that the jury appointed by the Centennial Commission to judge of that particular class of exhibits will be present, they will simply attend unofficially to see the machines in operation.

It is evident that there is something going on in the Commission of which the public are not informed. There seems to have been an exercise of influence somewhere which has brought this part of the Exhibition up with a round turn and which, if the juries are not men of stanch qualities, may result in sending the highest awards to those who have used the greatest amount of silver plating and inlaid wood upon their exhibits. We hope however, and confidently look for a better result than this. The value of a machine consists in what it can accomplish with the least expenditure of brains, time, power and money and just how this can be determined by an examination in Agricultural Hall we cannot see. Yet the jury appointed to determine this point really have no right to base their judgment upon anything which may occur in the field, where many of the machines entered for exhibition may not be taken at all or, if taken, may not be put to work, there being no obligation upon an exhibitor to take his machine to the field.

The general complaint that the Agricultural Department is and has been slighted is a matter which we confidently expected. We have heard this same sort of thing for years. Wherever these industries come in competition with others they receive the toss of the head and the elevation of the nose. The epithet "Hay seed in your hair," as applied to everything agricultural, comes so naturally from the measurers of flag stones and the denizens of brown stone fronts that we seldom look for anything else, though it *does* always remind us of the Chinese calling Americans barbarians. We are sorry, however, to see any such ideas gaining ground in the Centennial Commission, which should be both too pure and too liberal minded to permit them to gain a lodgment in their deliberations or to influence their action in the least.

As to the Dairy Exhibition we must say that it is not a matter of congratulation to us that we have, by our exposures of the "Centennial Dairy Ring," retarded the progress of the Dairy Exhibition, for such was not our intention. We *did* mean to place the gentlemen who were capturing all the offices and the whole control in such a position that they should look carefully before they used that control for their individual benefit and we believe we have accomplished it. We cannot say what they would have done if the Rural had not set the people to watching them; but if their first few meetings can be taken as a criterion, the Centennial "machine" would have been run by and for about a-half dozen men. They seem now however to be doing well and acting fairly and no one is more rejoiced than ourselves. We want this part of the Exhibition to be a success and hope every Dairyman will now put his shoulder to the wheel to help it along. While doing this they can safely depend upon one thing—that if this "Ring" business is attempted again they will hear of it through the Rural without much delay.

HOLIDAYS.

Our Puritan Fathers were taught and in turn transmitted to their children that "the chief end of man" was "to glorify God and keep his commandments;" but, in the third and fourth generation, this seems to have been entirely lost sight of. The chief end of man (and woman too) seems now to be the acquisition of the Almighty Dollar. Don't understand us to depreciate a reasonable competence and pecuniary independence, for that is one of the solid foundations of national success and progress. As a secondary object in life it should be thought of and cared for. But we arraign at the bar of public morality, that feverish, restless, insatiable desire for money which seems to take a *first* place in the minds, habits and wishes of so many. Men cannot leave their business on a holiday for fear of losing the possible gain of a few dollars. Women cannot leave their household cares on a holiday because their husbands or fathers will expect the usual attentions which they are in the habit of receiving after their day's work. Now suppose the head of the family *should* take his wife and children somewhere for a day's pleasure and *should* thereby reduce his income a few dollars by his absence from business and a few dollars more by their expenses? He would probably save the full amount in the doctor's bill before the year is out. The pleasure obtained by the pure enjoyment of an occasional holiday does not die with the day; but it is a lasting benefit and will be green in the minds of the whole family for months. If this does not seem clear to you, ask your family physician. Our word for it, if he is a fair-minded man, he will tell you as we do—By all means take a holiday occasionally and devote it wholly to pleasure and recreation.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

New York Horticultural Society.—The first exhibition of the recently organized New York Horticultural Society was held at Gilmore's Garden, June 13-15. The display of choice plants, fruits and flowers was one which did credit to the exhibitors as well as managers and they may well feel proud of their success. This first attempt of the new Society brought out hundreds of novelties and rare specimens of plants which few persons had the least idea could be found in or near the great city; and this exhibit may, we hope, fairly indicate what may be confidently expected at future shows under the auspices of the same organization. The members will doubtless do all in their power towards providing for future exhibitions of the kind; and to make them a success the residents of this great city must show their appreciation of the enterprise by a liberal patronage. Whether they will do this remains to be seen in the accounts of the Treasurer of said Society.

Don't Ask Us to Decide.—It is a mistaken but very prevalent idea, that an editor of a newspaper ought to, if he does not, know everything worth knowing in this world and likely to be found in the next. Among the many questions he is called upon to answer are those relating to the best breeds of all kinds of farm stock as well as the best fruits, flowers and grain. Now the difficulties met in an endeavor to decide in such cases are frequently quite formidable and the most prominent of them all is the fact that circumstances alter cases to such an extent that the very best in one might be the most worthless in another. Now don't ask us to decide such questions until you have narrowed them down to the smallest practical limits and then state for what purpose a thing inquired about is wanted and why.

Unity and Co-operation.—A writer in the Farmer (Eng.) thinks it will be quite difficult to get the agriculturists of England to unite or co-operate as they have done to some extent in this country through the Grange. He says:—"We ought first to get our farmers into the belief that they are units of one great whole—members of one mighty family; individuals in one most important class." This is just what is lacking in this country and even with the aid of the Grange there is not sufficient concert of action among our farmers to produce the desired advancement in intelligence or financial prosperity. However, the leaven is working and the time must come when all this will be changed for the better, but not until every farmer shall be intelligent and liberal enough to subscribe for at least one paper especially devoted to rural affairs.

The Book Department of the Rural New-Yorker, from which our subscribers have been wont to select their practical reading, has been transferred to Messrs. Geo. E. Woodward & Co., as our successors in that particular line. Mr. Woodward, long and favorably known to the book trade as a publisher of Architectural and Agricultural works having returned from Europe has taken unto himself a partner in business and intends to put upon the market for the benefit of the Rural population many good practical books of interest to our subscribers. Those who have been supplied from our office can safely deal with Messrs. Geo. E. Woodward & Co. whose place of business is 31 Broad St., New York City. This transfer is not the matter of a day's consideration; but has been contemplated for weeks and is done largely as a matter of gratitude for the noble response which has been made by old and new subscribers to the efforts of the new proprietors of this paper to make it in every way worthy of their patronage. The absence of this branch of the business leaves so much more time, brains and muscle for the paper itself. Time an Editor always needs. Brains he always proposes to have. Muscle—well, just try us, that's all.

RURAL BREVITIES.

The Great Competitive Field Trials of Agricultural implements have ended in smoke.

Cass County, Dakota Ter., boasts of a wheat field containing 10,860 acres. This will do pretty well for a starting in a new and almost unexplored country.

There is to be a meeting of horticulturists at Detroit on the 27, 28 and 29th of this month. Everybody is invited to come and bring as much fruit as convenient.

An ounce of carbolic acid, diluted with a pint of water and then sprinkled upon a few lumps of freshly-burned lime, is said to form an insecticide which is death to melon bugs or beetles.

It is said that two ounces of paraffin oil to six gallons of water sprinkled over onions will effectually destroy what is known as the Onion Maggot. This insecticide is worth trying by those whose onions are attacked.

The Editor of "Our Dumb Animals" says: "We are glad to notice that the Montreal Society is prosecuting poulterers for plucking fowls alive. One was fined $10, the other day." We should have been twice glad had it been $20.—Ed Rural.

Two correspondents of the Gardeners' Chronicle are quarreling over the botany of the Garden of Eden. When they get things settled on the Eden affair, it is to be hoped we shall be informed as to the system of grape culture practiced by Noah.

A late writer begins an essay on grape culture by asserting that "the grape is the noblest fruit that the temperate zone produces." Our peach, plum and pear culturists must feel sad to see their special pets counted out in this rather autocratic manner.

It is estimated that South Carolina, Florida, Alabama and Georgia purchase annually $54,000,000 worth of grain raised in the Northwestern States. Of this sum the producer gets but $16,000,000, the remaining $38,000,000 going to commission men and transportation companies.

British dairymen are trying to organize a Dairymen's Association after the plan of those in this country, but from late reports their efforts are lacking the proper support. The time will soon come, however, when British dairymen will see the advantages of supporting associations of this kind.

The Gardeners' Chronicle, in acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the report of the American Pomological Society, says, "The perusal of this report gives us a vivid idea of the magnitude of the Society's operations. We know nothing to approach it in Europe." This is a handsome acknowledgment of the meritorious labors of our pomologists.

Mr. Robinson, Editor of the London Garden, gives our American apple growers, or packers of this fruit, a little wholesome advice when he tells them not to put all the bad, knotty specimens in the center of the barrel, when shipping to England. We have become used to this trick and don't mind it, but our English cousins are more particular in such matters, and do not seem to enjoy the joke of being swindled.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

ASK your merchant to furnish you the "Phœnix Pure White Lead," if you would have the best, and take no other.

THE RAIN DROPS.

A FARMER had a field of corn of rather large extent,
In tending which, with anxious care, much time and toil he spent;
But after working long and hard, he saw with grief and pain,
His corn began to droop and fade because it wanted rain.

So sad and restless was his mind, at home he could not stop,
But to his fields repaired each day to view his withering crop,
One day when he looked up despairing, at the sky,
Two little rain drops in the clouds his sad face chanced to spy.

"I feel so grieved and vexed," said one, "to see him look so sad,
I wish I could do him some good; indeed I should be glad.
Just see the trouble he has had, and if it should not rain,
Why, all his toil, and time, and care, he will have spent in vain."

"What use are you!" cried number two, "to water so much ground?
You are nothing but a rain drop, and could not wet one mound."
"What you have said," his friend replied, "I know is very true,
But I'm resolved to do my best, and more I cannot do.

"I'll try to cheer his heart a bit, so now I'm off; here goes!"
And down the little rain drop fell upon the farmer's nose.
"Whatever's that?" the farmer cried; "was it a drop of rain?
I do believe it's come at last; I have not watched in vain!"

Now, when the second rain drop saw his willing friend depart,
Said he, "I'll go as well and try and cheer the farmer's heart."
But many rain drops by this time had been attracted out
To see and hear what their two friends were talking so about.

"We'll go as well," a number cried; "as our two friends are gone,
We shall not only cheer his heart, but water, too, his corn.
We're off, we're off!" they shout with glee, and down they fell so fast,
"Oh! thank the Lord!" the farmer cried, "the rain has come at last."

The Story-Teller.

THE HARVEST BRIDE.

IT had been a hot day, but the heat was past. A pleasant warmth lingered and a refreshing breeze was rustling through the thick leafy masses of the trees. All the leaves in the woods were tinted with the mellow richness of autumn and under a gleaming sky waved acres of ripe yellow corn.

Farmer Dinsdale and his son Robin were returning home after work. They had had rather a long spell of it and the perspiration stood in great drops upon their brows. They were very glad to enter the last field and to come in view of their destination, but as it was neared they walked much slower. The way was a narrow footpath. The farmer walked first and Robin followed. The path inclined over an elevation towards a stile and the elder man sat upon the stile for a rest as soon as he reached it. Robin leant his elbows on the topmost rail and looked westward. His gaze followed the wings of a windmill and his thoughts entered a little cottage hidden in a profusion of foliage fanned by the air agitated by the white wings. The farmer's position on the stile commanded a splendid landscape. The sun was sinking upon the water and the whole earth, as far as the horizon, was bright with the reflection of his glory. The brightest spot in the landscape was the farmer's great field of ripe corn. This engrossed all his attention. It was well grown and the ears were large and full. The field represented many pieces of gold and ought to be cut; but for three days no laborer was to be had and Farmer Dinsdale was sore vexed and troubled about the matter. He sat on the stile swinging his thick stick between his knees. He stared sorrowfully at his great field of beautiful corn and wondered what he should do.

"Son," said he presently, "if so be I could get yonder meadow cut, I think I would give my consent to thy marriage with penniless Bessie."

"What!" cried the son, starting from a reverie lit with Bessie's blue eyes.

The farmer smiled grimly. "I was speaking of an impossibility, of course," said he, "but it came into my mind and I must needs say it. I am so vexed to have this good corn stand three days more when it is full ripe, that I said I think I would give my consent to your marriage with penniless Bessie if you could manage to get it cut."

"You promise me thy consent, father," said Robin "and the meadow shall be cut."

"Son Robin," replied the old man, "you talk nonsense. If I cannot get hands, I wist you will not."

"Trust me," said the son, "I will use my own hands; Bessie will not take me without thy consent; so I will cut down the corn in the meadow and thy consent to our bridal shall be my wage."

The old man laughed.

"Can you cut it down in three days?" said he.

"God helping me, I will," answered Robin.

"Then, verily, thou shalt marry Bessie. But mind, she lends no hand to thy help."

"So be it," replied Robin. Then he shook hands with his father to seal the compact and they parted, the old man going away with a smile of incredulity.

Robin thought Bessie Hall, the shepherd's daughter, was the sweetest maid he knew. She was neat and comely and fair withal. She had a simple grace in every movement of her little figure and two charming dimples when she smiled. She had been well spoken of at the Sunday School and her mother called her a devoted daughter. She had innocently engaged the affections of the farmer's son; but the farmer had set his face against the match. He liked Bessie; but

BESSIE CAME BACK IN THE MORNING AND FOUND HER LOVER STILL BENT TO HIS WORK.

she was not the wife, he said, for Robin. Robin must look higher. It was true the shepherd's family was as good as his; but riches made all the difference. A good marriage might better Robin's condition in life. He was a handsome young man and the chance was not unlikely to fall in his way. Bessie was a good, affectionate lassie; but the farmer was very ambitious. He could not consent to receive her as a daughter.

He thought there was no possibility of his consent being won in the manner he had suggested on the spur of the moment and he went home laughing in his sleeve at his sons folly in indulging in such an idea.

Evening had fallen. Robin's sickle flashed to and fro and the corn fell ear upon ear at his feet. One of the farm boys followed him, gathering them into sheaves; and pretty buxom Bessie stood by looking on, finding it difficult to restrain herself from lending a hand. Robin was silent and swift over his work. He had not time to look up, when the moon came out of the clouds, accompanied by a single star and Bessie said, "It is night." When she went away he did not gaze after her. He sharpened his sickle and fell to work with a stronger will. His heart was throbbing with love. It sent new life and new strength through all his limbs as he thought of Bessie.

Bessie, blithe and bright, came tripping back in the morning. She found her lover still bent to his work. He had not failed or flagged all through the night. The farm boy slept a brief sleep on the stubble, but Robin worked on as if he had but just begun and a great heap of mown corn lay about him. He smiled as Bessie came into the field and made a short pause to eat the breakfast she had brought. Then he woke the farm boy and went on as steadily and rapidly as before.

The sun advanced to the meridian. It slanted perpendicular rays through the

"Silver beech and maple yellow-leaved,"

until the scarlet berries, the wild roses and the night-shade dropped upon the hedgerows. It gleamed upon the haymakers and the pedestrians until they called out with thirst. It was many degrees of heat in the shade, but the lovers stood out in the open field and heeded it not.

All but the bees had left off work. Once more Bessie said "Good night," and the dew gathered upon the herb. Once more the nightingale trilled forth her lay in the hay-scented air and the harvest moon rode high in the heavens. Once more the farm boy fell asleep and all the land was quiet; but love had not tired; still—still from eve till morn, from mourn till eve, Robin went on with his work, sustained by love and hope.

On the third day the farmer passed by and paused with amazement to see his corn all laid by his son's single arm. Robin was very pale. He had fallen upon the stubble and Bessie knelt by his side. She held a cup to his lips. Her eyes were full of joyful tears and a prayer of thanksgiving was upon her tongue. Farmer Dinsdale approached the group slowly. He was agitated by conflicting emotions. For a moment he was silent; then he said,

"I could not have believed in this; but since it is so, every laborer is worthy of his hire."

Then he took Bessie's hand and placed it in Robin's; so when the corn was garnered in Robin took the wife home he had chosen and she was a good wife to him all her days. Many a time did he sit by his fireside and tell his children how he had won her in the blessed harvest time and in the harvest thanksgiving she was remembered by him as a gift from the Lord with the golden corn.

The year is about to take up its bright inheritance of golden fruits. The Lord of the harvest gives us signs of great abundance. He hath visited the earth with His goodness. He hath watered the ridges. He hath settled the furrows thereof. He has made them soft with showers, and blessed the springing thereof; and songs of thanksgiving are ready to burst forth for the promise which He makes. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

E. HUNT.

MRS. VANDERDUYNCK.

LETTERS FROM ROGER FLOYD TO HOPE STANHOPE.

BY MISS E. W. OLNEY.

I.

Riverbend, June 10, 187-.

You complain, dear Holt, that in taking up our correspondence afresh since your return, I treat you with that "accursed pride of mine which has always stood in my own light." But then, don't you see, you are no longer the Holt Stanhope of old days; and how was I to guess that the confidence I gave you until you went abroad might not bore you now that you are so big a man? Besides, it is success which renders men buoyant and expansive, and I have begun to consider myself unlucky, and to shrink meanly from those who are more fortunate in making the world give them what they ask for. Not that I envy successful men—you, for instance—so don't think it. I am out of spirits, out of sorts.

The fact is, my constitution has not yet recovered from the drain made upon it during my two fatiguing years in South America. What I required was a year's utter repose. I did not get it, but set to working at my book by night and day. I was correcting the first proof-sheets while I was finishing the last chapters. When I saw it in print I fell ill, and for four months was sick almost unto death. Could I have been delirious, Holt, that might have been a comfort; but I did not lose consciousness even in my scanty feverish sleep. Every torture with which pagan and Christian alike have endowed the Inferno was expended upon me. Heaven, and perhaps my doctor, only know why I recovered; for my disease was sufficiently deep-seated and virulent to have destroyed any one; but I at length emerged into convalescence, and sat up, feebly regarding the world through the vista of a dirty fourth-story window.

You have known me all your life, and you have known me for a worker. I have hoped little, dreamed little, have studied when not actively employed; but after my sickness I felt utterly cut off from the interests of my old life. I could have drifted out of life without a regret. Relatives I have none for whom I care a dolt; my literary friends regard me with as superficial an interest as I feel for them. Study has so fully made my life, that I have neglected those interests which make existence a pleasure and death a serious calamity. But nevertheless, without wishing to do so, I grew better, and about six months after my first seizure I was on the fair way to complete health once more. I need not tell you I had no money. A poor man cannot thriftily be sick for half a year. I had lacked the sense to order myself sent to a hospital, but had paid a fabulous price for the wretched room I lived in; so that all my expenses taken together were, considering my means, enormous.

So, Holt, imagine me, like the hero of a novel, pale, gaunt, emaciated, in a garret, without money in my purse, my mind dully disinclined to exert itself, not one of my mental powers fully answering my will, and yet absolute necessity for effort staring me in the face. I thought I was equal to copying, so looked into the morning paper for a possible advertisement. I came across this:

Wanted: A resident tutor for two boys aged respectively nine and eleven. The applicant must be a gentleman by birth and education, and of unexceptionable manners, besides answering educational requirements which will be fully set forth by letter upon application to E. H., Brevoort House.

I scarcely know how I came to answer the advertisement, but I did so, half laughing at myself for my coming down in the world. The response from E. H. was curt and business-like, and the "educational requirements" were admirably set forth. I referred my correspondent to the colleges that know me, and when a personal interview was appointed, I crawled one afternoon to the Brevoort. Curiously, until I had sent up my card, the full meaning of the advertisement had failed to impress me. I am, I suppose, a gentleman by birth; that is, for three or four generations—for all I know, since the flood—the Floyds have lived respectably, have dressed well, dined well and owned family portraits. By education I am, I suppose, a gentleman, although not according to the social code which makes the education of a gentleman a smattering of the acquirements of a *roue*, a jockey, a bartender and a billiard-marker. My manners I had never considered at all; they have never known but one rule—thorough self-command and a careful observation of the wishes and requirements of those about me.

I expected one of my own sex to answer my call, but it was a lady who entered the private parlor. She introduced herself as Mrs. Hunt and her sons, my present pupils, were with her. Apparently I reached her standard. She engaged my services, offering testimonials of her husband's position and character.

"Allow me to ask," she inquired politely, "how you do me the honor of accepting this charge? Each one of the gentlemen to whom you referred me remarked that you could have a good appointment in any college in the country."

"Madam," I returned, "I am poor—my health is still delicate. My eye fell on your advertisement, and knowing myself to be at present unequal to routine, it occurred to me that I might try teaching, since besides having occupation, I should, in being a tutor, gain the comforts of a home."

"You have no home then?"

"Oh, no," I replied. "I was orphaned from my birth. I have never had a home."

That comprised my personal explanations and two weeks later I met her here and took up the charge of the boys, both lads of energy, though a pair of cubs sadly needing licking into shape before their society can be a boon.

You know, perhaps, the geography of this place. The Susquehanna is here one of the most picturesque of rivers and Mr. Hunt's grounds, extending over some twenty acres, have the stream for their boundary on three sides, thus making a charming little peninsula of the estate, which they call "Riverbend." The house is stately, although the architecture combines the faults of every style; but money has been lavished to make it an agreeable residence and nothing in the way of comfort or elegance is lacking. My employers are, in fact, monied people. Mrs. Hunt's private income is twenty thousand dollars, while her husband's wealth is something too vast for any surmise of mine. He is the great Hunt, the broker, banker, railroad man—what not?—a man noted and notorious, as astute and shrewd as he is seemingly reckless, vulgar in mind, but at his will gifted with tact and knowledge of men beyond any one it was ever my fortune to meet before. In public life he is full of *bonhomie*; in private no words can express his insolent dogmatism. I suspect his habits are the reverse of domestic, for during my six months here he has spent but two weeks with his family. Furthermore, I suspect his wife prefers that he should be with her as little as social *convenances* permit. She is anxious to make her sons gentlemen; hence her exigence in demanding breeding in their tutor. They are smart boys, born for business men and possessing few scholarly instincts, yet they study well and I have

succeeded in adding a systematic energy to their native vigor and hope much from their affectionate docility toward me. I do not, as you fancied, abhor teaching; although I confess it is an employment which makes the punishment of Sisyphus no fable. Now, dear Holt, you cannot complain of the reticence of

Yours truly,

ROGER FLOYD.

II.

June 22.

. . . . You are importunate, dear Holt, when you tell me I have not yet been confidential with you. I have not described Mrs. Hunt, forsooth! About thirty-five, I should say—a large, handsome woman, with considerable enterprise in her look and manner, a good voice and agreeable ways. I like her extremely and respect her even beyond my liking. Why, born as she was a Vanderduynck, with not only family prestige, but enormous wealth, she should have married so unsuitably, might puzzle some people. She is a woman of remarkable abilities; in fact, she quite disturbs my traditions of the sex; for she is critically truthful, never exaggerates and has an earnest mind, which can not only receive great thoughts, but can balance, weigh and adjust them for use. Until within a week I have seen her constantly; but the middle of June brought such a rush of visitors that I at once withdrew the boys to our own private quarters, out of the way of the gay people who throng halls, piazzas and parlors. Among others Mrs. Hunt's stepmother, Mrs. Vanderduynck, is visiting her. Albert and John talked constantly before her advent of "grandmamma," and I drove them in the pony carriage to meet her, expecting a venerable lady. It was a most absurd experience. At the station the boys rushed into the arms of a girlish-looking creature of certainly not more than twenty-two years and then dragged me up to introduce me to "grandmamma."

Mr. Vanderduynck, great man though he was called to the end of his life, probably lost his mind before. At the age of sixty-eight, he married this little girl, whom he left a widow a year after, with one child. She is one of those women, Holt, who make us men thank God we are neither women or married to one of them. She would be called deliciously pretty, I suppose and possesses those eyes and that smile that stir the slumbering devil in us easily; a pleading voice and manner and a running fire of impertinent nonsense always on her tongue. The pony carriage was for her and the dog-cart had followed for her luggage; but she ordered her maid and the nurse, who was holding her little girl asleep in her arms, into the phaeton and insisted upon going back in the dog-cart with us. I mounted her there, then bowed and walked home across lots. It was a four-mile walk on a hot afternoon, but I felt it to be a cheap alternative to sitting beside this brilliant young woman for a half hour. She was on the piazza when I came up and at sight of me started and ran toward me bareheaded like a little girl.

"Mr. Floyd!" she cried, as I was striking off toward the side entrance. I went up to her, hat in hand. I fear my obeisance was a trifle satirical, for she colored crimson. "I am so sorry you had that long, hot walk," she went on in a low voice and as if frightened.

"It was my choice, madam," I replied.

"But why your choice?" she asked, looking up with the open-eyed wonder of a child. "Did you dislike being in the wagon with me?" Then, meeting my involuntary smile, she flushed again. "Oh," said she, with a very grand air, "I have a bad habit of asking questions. Allow me to express my regrets that I made you lose your drive;" and with a little bow she swept back to the house.

Her coming was the signal for gayeties to begin in the neighborhood. All her suitors followed her and now fill the hotel by the river and the owners of the villas for miles about vie with each other in proffering entertainments. Mrs. Hunt entertains constantly and nothing can exceed her courtesy to her sons' tutor. I am regularly invited to all her parties, like her distinguished friend and I decline with the same high ceremony she extends to me. I rather enjoy the tumults from a distance. A band plays frequently for the enjoyment of the guests. I fancy that Mrs. Vanderduynck sings. If she does, it is quite an unnecessary accomplishment, for the rich widow is too frivolous—too adulated, of course, to really care for the great soul of music and her numerous followers would worship her just the same without any gifts of nature, so wonderfully has fortune endowed her. Think of it! she has uncontrolled possession of eighty thousand a year until her daughter marries, or is twenty-one and afterward she has the half during her life-time, with power to will two-thirds of it to suit herself at her death. Not an unpleasant investment for a marrying man and I scarcely wonder at the throng of beaux who pursue her. She either affects or really feels an interest in Albert and John and would like to draw them into her circle frequently, but I emphatically forbid it. They will, only too soon, learn social lessons from a foolish woman, but I shall allow nothing of the sort as yet. Did I tell you Mrs. Vanderduynck has a little girl? Only this morning, about six o'clock, I was setting out toward the river for my ten-mile, before-breakfast row, when I met the child in the garden. She was playing with the dogs; and as I like children when they are free from mothers and nurses, I at once ran up to her. "You love the dogs," said I. "Which one do you like best?"

The little maid glanced at me with grave brown eyes. "I love Ponto," she returned, "but I love my own little Dio best."

"Tell me about Dio," I exclaimed, sitting down upon the bench, "and afterward I will tell you about two little monkeys I had in South America."

"Tell me about the monkeys," she cried imperiously and approached and stood at my knee while I recounted various traits of our undeveloped relations who still chatter and clamber and swing by their tails in the recesses of pathless forests. She was amused and enthusiastically clambered upon my lap, quite assured of a generous welcome and sent away her nurse with a frown when she came up after her. But finally my watch showed me that it lacked but twenty minutes to lesson hour and I summoned the attendant.

"I shall tell my mamma of you," said little Cora. "When will you talk to me a great deal more?"

"Ask your mamma," I replied, "if you may go upon the river with me to-morrow morning at six o'clock, for I want to tell you about my parrot."

"Oh, I will go. Mamma will say I may go," she cried ecstatically, "for I love you so much—so much!" And, my boy, she put her little arms around me warmly and her lips to mine. I held her close a minute, then put her gently down. Am I not to weak too tell you this? But caresses have been rare with me. I cannot remember my mother and my uncle was a cold man. This child's clinging arms and tender lips made me think a little about the exquisite side of life—the experience I have never known. I even had a spasm of sentiment as I walked toward the house—I positively was imbecile enough to say to myself, "Some day, please God, I will be married and will have just such a little daughter of my own."—[To be continued.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Working People and their Employers.—By WASHINGTON GLADDEN. [Cloth.—pp. 241.] Boston: Lockwood, Brooks & Co.; New York: James Miller.

This volume contains a series of sermons to working people; but they are very unlike the orthodox sermon. As his apology or explanation of their character, the author says:

It is not unlikely that some readers may pronounce discussions such as these quite too secular for Sunday and the Church; but the lawfulness of doing good on the Lord's day is not an open question: and the Christian who does not feel the need of trying to do good in this way, who does not see the importance of bringing the truth of the New Testament to bear directly upon the matters now in dispute between labor and capital, is one with whom I do not care to argue.

The sound practical advice and good sense of these talks will commend them to every one who is not an idler or a shirk. The different relations of those who get their living by labor of mind or body are fully discussed, and the whole work is interspersed with solid chunks like the following:

The young man makes up his mind that a wife is a luxury too expensive for him to afford; and the young woman resolves that she will not marry unless there is money enough in the proffered hand to support her in good style. Thus the young woman grows mercenary and frivolous, and the young man dissolute and rakish. Every year that passes makes it less probable that they will ever enter into the family relations, and still less probable that, if they do, this relation will be a happy one. This state of things, which we witness everywhere in the middle classes, is greatly to be deplored. It is the source of a large part of the vice and wretchedness with which these classes are infested.

The American Herd Book.—Containing Pedigrees of Short-Horn Cattle, with Introductory Notes. By LEWIS F. ALLEN, assisted by WILLIAM T. BAILEY. [Vol. XV.—pp. 955.] Buffalo, N. Y.

WE are again indebted to the editor, L. F. ALLEN, Esq., for a copy of a work to which and the preceding volumes he has devoted the greater part of his life. The present volume registers bulls from No. 21,860 to 25,480, and about 5,000 cows. This of itself is sufficient to indicate the extent of this great work, of which the editor, as well as every breeder of any kind of farm stock, has good reason to be proud. The author's preface, as usual, gives a review of the condition and progress made in breeding this strain of the bovine race. The plan adopted in this (15th) volume of giving the names of the breeder, as well as the different transfers of the animals down to the latest date, in addition to the full pedigree, must commend itself to all who may desire to fully recognize and trace the life-history of any particular animal. This valuable work, which should be considered indispensable to every breeder of Short-Horn cattle, can be had of the editor, by addressing as above.

The Centennial History of the United States. By JAMES D. MCCABE. [8vo.—pp. 925.] Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis and Columbus: National Publishing Co. Sold by subscription only.

This is the season and the year when a history like this should be and will be extensively read. Our newspapers, in commenting upon various national events are constantly making allusions to those of one hundred years ago. He who is ignorant of the history of this country is wholly unfitted to comprehend the meaning of many of the gatherings and celebrations which are now of almost daily occurrence. If one has not time to make a study of this history, is it but due to himself as an intelligent citizen that he should have by him some book of reference by which he can inform himself upon any matter to which allusion may be made in current news. For this purpose, if for no other, we can safely recommend this epitome of the History of the Republic. There is hardly any event of importance during the last century which is not illustrated and this will not astonish anyone who is informed that the work contains 442 engravings on steel and wood. The work is brought down to date and contains many cuts of places and institutions as they now exist. The National Publishing Co. will give full information upon application to one of the above addresses.

Wych Hazel.—By SUSAN and ANNA WARNER. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

A NUMBER of years ago, when the "Wide, Wide World" was first published, the American public felicitated itself upon the development of a new novelist, who would add much to the literary reputation of this Republic. Upon what particular theory this opinion gained ground is still a mystery to some; but the fact is indubitable that the book was extensively read and favorably noticed almost everywhere. Now we have Wych Hazel, which, though superior to previous works in some respects, is in many ways faulty. The authors have made an impossible young woman, endowed her with wondrous beauty, untold wealth and two guardians, one of whom she marries at the end. She says the most remarkable things in the most unusually laconic manner—so much so one is reminded of numerous effusions of ALEX. DUMAS for which he was paid by the line, and many lines contained but one word each. Taken as a whole the book is interesting, and certainly points a moral.

The Pacific Tourist.—By HENRY T. WILLIAMS, Editor, with Special Contributions by various celebrated Travelers and Explorers of that Country. [8vo.—pp. 293.] New York: Henry T. Williams.

This enterprising editor and publisher has added another large item to the credit side of his account with the public by issuing this complete travelers' guide across the continent by rail. The illustrations are so numerous and excellent that one can almost see the whole journey without the trouble of going over the ground. In addition to this, the minute directions and explanations as to everything that is worth seeing are made doubly valuable by coming from the pen of so old and so excellent a traveler. Next to crossing the continent with Mr. WILLIAMS himself, commend us to his book as a guide. No one should go to the extreme West without a copy. It is a necessary part of a traveling outfit.

The Prime Minister.—By ANTHONY TROLLOPE. International Series. [Cloth.—pp. 690.] Philadelphia: Porter & Coates. Price $1.50.

THE last addition to the International Series, The Prime Minister, is a novel in Mr. TROLLOPE'S best vein. English life and manners, especially political life is portrayed with microscopic detail. FERDINAND LOPEZ, the hero, is an individual who thinks money the aim and end of existence, and the various shifts he resorts to in gaining it are horribly realistic. Those who have read previous novels by this author will, in these pages, meet many old acquaintances, among others Her Grace of Omnium, Phineas Finn and "Dear F." The printing is so clear and neat, that it is a comfort to hand the books of this series.

Broom Corn and Brooms.—A Treatise on Raising Broom Corn and Making Brooms on a Small or Large Scale. Written and Compiled by the Editors of the American Agriculturist. Illustrated. [Paper.—pp. 57. New York: Orange Judd Co.

This will doubtless prove a valuable hand-book for those engaged in broom corn culture or the manufacture of brooms. The directions for planting and culture, as well as description of varieties, are given in plain and readily-understood language, while the numerous illustrations cannot fail to be of great assistance to those who may desire to make their own brooms. An excellent treatise on a subject which is of late attracting considerable attention in the Western States, as it has longer done in the Eastern.

The Complete Poetical Works of JNO. GREENLEAF WHITTIER. Centennial Edition. Illustrated. [Paper,—pp. 293.] Boston: Jas. R. Osgood & Co. Price $1.

THE publishers have in the present volume issued the complete works of this favorite poet, with a well-arranged index and copious notes. So much has been written in praise of this poet, the BURNS of America as he might properly be called, that the reviewer can do little but express his personal preferances. The illustrations in the present volume are very creditable, and the price, $1, is certainly a strong incentive to every family of culture, but small means, to make an addition of real value to its library.

Old Acquaintance.—Barry Cornwall, &c. By JAS. T. FIELDS. [Cloth.—pp. 121.] Boston: Jas. R. Osgood & Co. Price 50 cents.

This little volume is a reprint from Harper's Magazine. Mr. FIELDS has been attacked by the mania for personal reminisence which is abroad, and has given in the brief gossips about PROCTOR and his friends many hints that should stimulate a desire to know more of these fine spirits. The style is pleasant, a trifle too gushing perhaps, but his memories are of that sentimental character inspired by personal contact. We wish we could see more books of this kind in the hands of the general reading public.

Quarterly Elocutionist.—By Mrs. ANNA RANDALL-DIEHL, Union Square, New York. [$1 a year; single Nos., 30 cts.]

ALL those boys and girls who want "pieces to speak" should thank the originator of the Quarterly Elocutionist for her efforts in their behalf. Each number has seventy-two pages of the choicest selections of prose and poetry, "from grave to gay—from lively to severe," embracing pieces suitable for readings, recitations, declamations and dialogues, and adapted for the school, parlor or platform. The four numbers each year will make a handsome volume of nearly 300 pages, containing about 100 literary gems. A valuable book for any library.

The Shepherd's Manual.—A Practical Treatise on Sheep. By HENRY STEWART. [Illustrated.—pp. 252.] Price $1.50. New York: Orange Judd Co.

THIS is a work upon which the shepherd can rely as a safe guide in all that pertains to the care of his flocks. The author is well known as one of our most careful and pains-taking agricultural writers; adding to this his long practical experience with farm stock, we could expect nothing less from his pen than what he has given us, viz., a work of standard value. With such a book as this in his hands, the novice in sheep husbandry need not go astray if he carefully consults its pages.

The Vendetta and Other Poems.—By T. B. PEACOCK. 2d Edition. [Cloth.—pp. 161.] Topeka: Published by the Author.

WE quote from the author's letter to us,—"I have given time as well as money to make this, my second edition, worthy of public acceptation, hoping it will have enough sales to recover the investment,"—to show that this material age affects even the divine afflatus of the poet. The Vendetta is a collection of verse, of which the title poem is the most ambitious. After reading this book our emotions—natural and acquired—quite overcome our power of expression.

The Coal Trade.—By FREDERICK E. SAWARD Editor of the Coal Trade Journal, New York.

This is a compendium of valuable information relative to coal production, transportation, etc., at home and abroad, of very little interest to the general reader but invaluable to those interested in coal or any of the industries in which the same is used. Mr. SAWARD'S familiarity with the trade generally is a guarantee of its correctness and the completeness of its statistics, which comprise a large part of the volume before us.

Poetry for Home or School.—Selected and Arranged by ANNA C. BRACKETT and IDA M. ELIOT. [Cloth.—pp. 320.] New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

This little volume, almost pocket size, certainly contains none but the best of poems and is distinguishable chiefly for the suitableness of the selections for home and school. If one desires the sentimental or pathetic, it is there; or if the fancy is for heroics, they also can be found. Poems for children of six or sixty can both be found in abundance.

NEW MUSIC FROM F. W. HELMICK, Cincinnati, O.:

Centennial March. By J. Wymond. Simple, and not difficult; pretty little march for beginners.

Mineral Springs Polka. By G. Dolfuss. Light and airy.

WM. A. POND & Co., New York:

Columbia's Standard. Words by George Cooper; music by S. Schoenbrun. A patriotic song, with chorus for four voices; good harmony and not difficult.

Rest, my Darling; Slumber Noir. Words by G. L. Stoul; music by David Braham. A sweet little melody, harmonious and smooth.

False Souvenirs. Lester Wallack. Notable for a conspicuous absence of melody, harmony or beauty.

"N. G." Song and chorus. Words by C. W. Denike; music by Murizio G. Giannetti. As a comic song it is a success, for it is both funny in words and in music.

Rothesay Bay. Words by Miss Muloch; music by T. S. Lloyd. A little Scotch song.

The Soldier's Return. By Henry Kleber. March time; much more stilted and dignified than musical.

O, Jubilate Deo. Adapted by Wm. H. Squires from Emmerig's Magnificat. For four voices and piano accompaniment. A good arrangement of fine music.

Music of the Pines. An Idyl. By Ed. B. Phelps. A simple melody, with a sweet grace note accompaniment woven around it like a net.

First Kiss. By George Lamothe. A graceful waltz movement.

Blow Wild and Free. Words by A. M. Smith; music by Franz Abt. The name of the composer is a guaranty for the sweetness of the song.

Evening Service. By Henry Wilson. Composed for the choir of "Holy Cross" of Troy; with organ accompaniment. Solid harmony and very appropriate.

O Hush Thee, my Baby. By C. A. Macirone. Composed for the words of Sir Walter Scott. A soft, soothing little song, of which nothing or anything can be made at the wish of the performer.

Sway the Oil Gently. Song and chorus. By David Braham. The quintessence of stupidity.

Flower Song. By Gustave Lange. A sort of capricious melody with variations; light and graceful.

BENJ. W. HITCHCOCK, New York:

The Shoemaker. Words by Hannah F. Gould; music by Henrico. A comic quartette which, like most comic songs, is most ridiculous where it is worst.

Hail Columbia. Arranged by G. J. Webb, with easy piano accompaniment. Everybody knows this National Hymn.

Marriage Bells Polka. By Emma L. Butler. Emma would have benefited the world by omitting to compose this.

March of the Minute Men. By H. Maylath. A very appropriate march for this Centennial season.

Dom Pedro March. By Fr. Meyer. Poor Dom Pedro! He is to be pitied.

The Dutchman's Visit to the Centenaial. By F. Meyer. A comic song and chorus.

America—My Country 'tis of Thee. Arranged by H. Millard. Even the children in this country are familiar with this National Hymn. This is a quartette with easy piano accompaniment.

Ladies' Portfolio.

NEEDS.

PEARL, gray and opal are the upper skies:
They need the azure of thy tender eyes.

Down western clouds the sun in splendor dips:
They need the added color of thy lips.

Waves, fresh and foaming, roll upon the sands:
They need the whiteness of thy perfect hands.

Far snow-drifts glisten, free from spot or speck;
They need the rare tints of thy lovely neck.

Over the valley ravens cleave the air:
They need the darkness of thy flowing hair.

Roses and lilies droop to fragrant death:
They need the heavenly perfume of thy breath.

Gone mad from longing, cries my soul to thee:
"I need thee darling! Grant thyself to me!"

HUMAN VAMPIRES.

The Ghastly Effects Following the Drinking of Blood as a Remedy for Disease.

BLOOD drinking has become quite popular of late years, and many invalids daily visit the abattoirs of New York for the purpose of drinking the warm life-blood of the ox. It is a fact—not so generally known, however,—that this appetite for blood increases upon those who indulge in it. Women, who at first quaff with repugnance and some horror a wine glass of the warm crimson gore, gradually acquire a craving for it, and take down a tumberful with evident relish. Parties under this blood spell almost invariably manifest a desire to try the effects of human blood. Two cases of this kind have been reported in New York. A young lady belonging to a respectable family suffered in health while devoting herself to her academical studies. Her medical attendant, who vouches for the truth of the story, suggested blood-drinking. Permission and the necessary privacy were secured at the abattoir. Salutary effects were not long in following. The pallor left her cheek, her frame became more robust, and in ten months she gained fifteen pounds in weight. From having been a pale and uninteresting-looking girl she developed radiant beauty, and she married the young assistant of the medical adviser who had saved her life. Well acquainted with the means by which she had been restored, her husband encouraged her natural curiosity respecting the effects of various kinds of blood; and probably quite as much for the purpose of his own professional information as for the gratification of her own wish, he opened a small artery in his leg and permitted her to suck the vital tide. An inordinate mania for her husband's blood forthwith supervened. He gratified the craving again and again until disgust for her became the predominent feeling of his mind; and after he had done himself a great amount of physical injury, he bade her a final adieu and sailed for Peru. The wretched young wife now lies on a sick bed, and almost entirely subsists on blood brought her from an abattoir She is a monomaniac on this subject, and had she opportunity would undoubtedly become a vampire, and banquet perpetually on human blood. The other case was that of a woman of twenty-five threatened with a decline. By the advice of a physician she took, four times a day, a tablespoonful of cod liver oil mixed in a wineglassful of blood. The woman was restored to health, but while she left off taking the oil she continued the dose of blood. At this time her husband met with an accident on the staircase of their house, by which he lacerated the back of his hand and wrist with broken glass. She rushed to him in alarm to stem the flow of blood; but instead of stemming it she sucked it until he swooned away, and lay ghastly, exhausted, and motionless as one dead. The timely arrival of the landlord prevented a fatal catastrophe. The wretched wife was alternately sucking her husband's wrist and bewailing his misfortune in heart-rending tones. Her face was smirched with blood. Her mouth literally dropped gore. The landlady at first imagined that she saw before her a terrible accident to the husband that had culminated in the suicide of the wife.

A LADY ON SLEEPING CARS.

A LADY traveler writing about sleeping cars and her experience on the same says:

A woman's toilet, to be satisfactorily performed, demands some other position than prone upon the face. Likewise, it is somewhat more agreeable to perform portions of the toilet unobserved by the multitude. Men either are not burdened with modesty, or they have minds that soar so high above the feminine that they give no thought to the embarrassment attendant upon the method and manner of disrobing one's self in those quarters. A woman carefully extinguishes herself behind the curtains, slyly unloosens the lace, envelopes herself decorously in a large water proof, not daring to lay aside her chignon for fear of a surprise, and proceeds to bestow herself away uncomfortable and depressed. The stranger in the bunk above leisurely divests himself of his outer garments, pulls off boots, loosens suspenders, and bounds into bed with graceful ease, rather enjoying the situation. I think if there could be a ladies' car for sleeping and toilet exclusive of gentlemen, it would be a great advancement in wayfaring civilization. I thought so this morning, especially when I awoke from uneasy slumbers to find the foot board fallen, and a group of serene-browed men gazing smilingly upon my sleeping beauty. Let us have separate cars, good people, and we can ask nothing more of you in the way of luxury and restful ease.

MARRIAGE AMONG THE ROMANS.

THE Romans not only rewarded those who married, but decreed penalties against men who remained in a state of celibacy. Fines were first levied upon unmarried men about the year of Rome 350; and when pecuniary forfeitures failed to insure their obedience to these connubial edicts, their contumacious neglect of the fair sex was punished by degradations from their tribe. Celibacy continued, however to gain ground in Rome; and, to counteract its effects, we find that, in the year 513 from the foundation of the city, the censors had resource to the extraordinary measure of obliging all the young unmarried men to pledge themselves on oath to marry within a certain time. In Babylon an auction of unmarried ladies used to take place annually. The virgins of marriageable ages, in every district, were assembled on a certain day of every year. The most beautiful was first put up, and the man who bid the largest sum of money gained possession of her. The second in personal appearance followed; and the purchasers gratified themselves with handsome wives according to the depth of their purses. When all the beautiful virgins were sold, the crier ordered the most deformed to stand up; and after he had openly demanded who would marry her with a small sum, she was at length adjudged to the man who would be satisfied with the least; and in this manner, the money arising from the sale of the handsome women served as a portion to those who were either of disagreeable looks, or that had any other fault or imperfection.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.

CHAPTER I.

WITH fierce energy she strode to the window, dashed back the rattling blind and peered into the inky darkness. But her burning glances failed to pierce the pall-like blackness that enshrouded the deserted streets. Tearing up the hall register and detaching the pedal from a sewing machine, she laid them on a hassock and resumed her weary watch. The storm without raged with wild fury, driving the sleet across Charles River with a force and velocity that was appalling. The night waned and she sat wan and haggard.

CHAPTER II.

An abandoned-looking man, with a crimson nose, tattered Ulster and fearful fissures in his trousers, was waltzing with uncertain strides through one of the grand avenues of the Lower Port. Ever and anon the graceless man would mutter to himself: "I—hic—wonderifthatoldwoman'sup?" Bracing himself, he reached home, and was trying to pick the door-lock with an empty flask when the door was opened from within. Then there came a wild cry for mercy, heard high above the horrid, raging elements, waking up two policemen, and—then all was quiet.—*Boston Courier.*

WE ask advice, but we mean approbation.—*Colton.*

THE devil is poor; he has no God.—*Russian Proverb.*

I HAVE known men disagreeably forward from their shyness.—*Arnold.*

I DO not wonder that egotists find the world so ugly; they only see themselves in it.—*Anon.*

CHARACTER doesn't depend on diet. The ass eats thistles and nettles, the sharpest of food, and is the dullest of animals.

POETRY is not made out of the understanding. The question of common sense is always: "What is it good for?" a question which would abolish the rose and be triumphantly answered by the cabbage.—*Lowell.*

THE girl who can put a square patch on a pair of pantaloons may not be so accomplished as one who can embroider and work green worsted dogs on blue ground, but she will be more useful at the head of a large family.

WORKING-WOMEN in France on an average earn but little more than half the wages earned by men. M. de Foville writes that to place women on a footing of equality with men they ought to earn at least two-thirds as much.

A LADY writer in the Philadelphia Item perpetrates the following: "Women never truly command until they have given their promise to obey; and they are never in more danger of being made slaves than when the men are at their feet."

THAT the nasal twang is not wholly confined to New England is proved by Spurgeon's recent advice to some young clergymen. "Moreover, brethern, avoid the use of the nose as an organ of speech, for the best authorities are agreed that it is intended to smell with."

A GENTLEMAN gave his servant-maid the following character the other day: "The bearer has been in my employ a year minus eleven months. During that time she has shown herself diligent—at the house door; frugal—in work; mindful—of herself; prompt—in excuses; friendly—toward men; faithful—to her lovers; and honest—when everything had vanished.

THE importance of the most innocent speeches and acts increases with our years, and I strive continually to direct the attention of those whom I see often about me, to the difference there is between sincerity, confidence and indiscretion; nay, that in reality there is no difference, but rather a subtle transition—which ought to be noticed, or, better still, felt—from what is most harmless to the most mischievous.—*Goethe.*

Reading for the Young.

KISS ME—GOOD-NIGHT.

DEAR mother, when my prayer is said,
Before you take the light,
Oh! lean your head so closely down,
And always kiss "good-night;"
For I am happier in my dreams,
And sleep is sweeter rest,
If I have laid my lips to thine,
And thine to mine are press'd.

One kiss, dear mother, for the love
My heart keeps warm for thee;
And one for all the tenderness
Thy sweet eyes look to me.
Kiss me forgiveness for my wrongs:
Kiss me with hope and prayer
That I shall be a better child,
And more reward thy care.

Kiss me for some poor orphan child,
To whom no kiss is given;
And next for all the happy ones,
And then for one in heaven.
Kiss me for everything I love,
The beautiful and bright;
Sweet mother, kiss me for thyself
Once more, and now "good-night."

THE PITCHER PLANT, AGAIN.

DEAR RURAL YOUNG FOLKS:—Uncle MARK, in his Centennial letter, told you of the "American Pitcher Plant," or ADAM'S Drinking Cup, as it is sometimes called (see RURAL, June 17, page 393, for illustration), but he forgot to tell you some of the most wonderful things about it.

Here, in Western New York, about Chautauqua Lake, it is sometimes found in its native haunts, and most of the green-houses keep a supply of them. Perhaps some of you remember having read of different kinds of plants which are called *carnivorous* or flesh-eating. I think there were illustrations of some of them in the RURAL not long ago. Well, the Pitcher Plant belongs to this species. If you ever have an opportunity of examining one, look carefully down its throat, and near the bottom of the cup, which contracts and becomes quite small as it nears the ground, you will find flies, bugs and sometimes small worms, in all stages of decomposition, undergoing the process of absorption into the plant,—for these plants eat and live on the insects which they entrap. You will find the inner surface of the cup lined with innumerable hooks, so arranged that they allow the unwary victim to crawl down the sides, but never to return! Over the top of the cup there is a beautiful cover, which opens and stands nearly erect during a shower, but when the rain ceases, and the sun shines, the lid closes; and the cup is always found with more or less water in it. It is probably the hope of obtaining a *drink* which lures the poor victim to his death, with no less certainty than human beings who frequent the dram shop are deluded to ruin and death. The plant has a very curious blossom, and altogether it is one of the greatest wonders of the vegetable world.

Some thirty or forty years ago the Botanical Society of the State of New York offered a prize of $50 for the most interesting and curious plant to be found in the State, together with a description of it, and a young medical student of Jamestown, who is now an old physician of that place, forwarded a specimen of the Pitcher Plant, and carried off the prize. MRS. W. C. G.

Jamestown, N. Y.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Little Agent-Friend.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—As I have read with so much pleasure the letters of the many Cousins, I thought if they would accept me I would like to become one of their number. I agree with YOUNG ARTIST about piecing quilts. I am piecing one which I would like to get done before I am fourteen, but have my doubts about doing it. Why does not YOUNG BACH answer the many letters that are written against him? Is he afraid the girls will glory over the conquest of such a boasting youth? He need have no fears, for no one would glory over such a small conquest. I wish some of the Cousins would tell me how to make a pretty bracket. I have a bird cage I made of pasteboard and straw. I got up two clubs for the RURAL, and received as my Premiums the Silver Plated Napkin Rings and the Gold Pencil Case, which I liked very much.—FARMER'S DAUGHTER.

P. S.—My papa thinks that POTATO DIGGER had horses to help him.—F. D.

From the Far West.

DEAR UNCLE MARK:—I am a little boy twelve years old. I live in Kansas. Am a farmer's son, so of course have to work pretty hard sometimes. I for one say, thank you, Uncle MARK, for offering to tell us of the Centennial. Please go and tell us what you think will interest us most of all you see. I have just read your nice letter. You tell us Uncle TRUE displeased you by not honoring the girls. I, too, have a little fault to find with him, and was just going to write and ask him to please be so kind as to offer his next premium in such a way as to give us poor Cousins on the frontier a chance—for you see long before the RURAL gets to us the city Cousins have time to read and answer his letters. However, both your letters were good, and we young folks ought to be proud of our new Uncles,—only we are sad to think dear old Uncle MARK uses tobacco in any shape. When I am a man, I don't intend to touch, taste or handle the unclean stuff; I mean to be a teatotaler. I would like to say something to the Cousins, but will only beg the girl Cousins to have a little mercy on poor YOUNG TOM. My heart aches for him.—FRANK W. G.

From the Sunny South.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—I live in Western Texas, in a land of beautiful prairies and clear, rippling brooks, noted for their huge rock cliffs and the dark, mysterious recesses of the grotto caves. It is delightful enjoyment to me to roam through rocks and climb from cliff to cliff, viewing as I go the beauties of nature. I agree with YOUNG ARTIST about piecing quilts, as well as other things of which she wrote. I think it is wasting time to cut up cloth and sew it together again. I think horseback riding among the chief enjoyments of a country life. I would like to see another letter from YOUNG NATURALIST. I am almost one myself. I have quite a collection of rocks I gathered from the caves in this vicinity. Also many curious bugs and flies; but my friends tease me about them so much I sometimes feel inclined to destroy them. I am afraid some of the girls have been too severe on YOUNG TOM; I do not want him to quit our social columns entirely. Hoping Uncle TRUE and Uncle MARK will look with favor upon my first effort, I will close.—MARY A. Y., *Rainey's Creek, Texas.*

Uncle Mark, Please Notice.

DEAR RURAL:—I have been away visiting for the past three weeks; had a very nice time. One thing interested me very much, which I will tell you. It was the day the Centennial opened. The fire bells rang 1-7-7-6, then 100 strokes, and then 1-8-7-6. I am very fond of reading. I usually read the Story Teller first, then the Girls' and Boys' Letters. Will Uncle MARK please write again?—JENNIE L. A., *Danbury, May 31.*

New York State, Again.

DEAR EDITOR:—My father has taken the RURAL a long while, and we like it very much. We have a large farm and keep thirty-five cows, which makes us much work. I like to milk, plow and drag, and do any kind of farm work. Where has YOUNG TOM gone? Have the "fair sex" beaten him down? I quite agree with CRITIC on those "tobacco distillers," and think no decent young man will use the weed.—YOUNG FARMER, *Springville, Erie Co., N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—No. 10.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—No. 7.

I AM composed of 24 letters:

My 2, 11, 16, 21, 19, 14 is a domestic animal.
My 8, 19, 14, 20, 3, 9 is an animal of the weasel family.
My 10, 5, 14, 20, 13, 6 is an agricultural implement.
My 15, 7, 20, 23, 5, 17 was miraculously restored to life.
My 17, 2, 16, 4, 7, 10 was a city of Ephraim.
My 18, 16, 12, 5, 24, 11 was a governor of Judea.
My 22, 17, 1, 2, 3, 14 was a queen of Persia.
My whole is part of a verse of the Bible.
Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—No. 3.

My first is in sail but not in row,
My second is in arrow but not in bow;
My third is in knave but not in thief,
My fourth is in pain but not in grief;
My fifth is in wind but not in gale,
My sixth is in snow but not in hail;
My seventh is in harrow but not in plow,
My eighth is in horse but not in cow.
My whole form two rivers of the United States.
☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—June 10.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 13.—Milan.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA No. 4.—Love is precisely to the moral nature what the sun is to the earth.

TRANSPOSED FLOWER GARDEN No. 1.—1, Hyacinth; 2, Candytuft; 3, Mignonette; 4, Amethyst; 5, Marigold; 6, Columbine; 7, Ice Plant; 8, Sweet Pea; 9, Forget-me-not; 10, Cypress vine.

PUZZLE No. 2.—Yam.

TRANSPOSITION No. 5.—These two lines are inserted only to see if anybody can read them.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Select Your Premiums.—All persons entitled to Premiums will please designate what they prefer and notify us how and where to forward—whether by Freight or Express—if articles are not mailable.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper*, and in Premiums to Agents.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

AFTER a very exciting session at Cincinnati, the Republican Nominating Convention has adopted a platform and named as its candidate for President, Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio, and for Vice-President, Mr. W. A. Wheeler of New York.

One hundred and fifty men went to the Santa Rosa (Cal.) jail, and took out Thomas W. Henley, who was confined there for killing James Rowell, a prominent citizen, and hanged him.

The Cincinnati Enquirer calculates that, letting 1,000 represent a woman's chances of marriage in the whole course of her life, 136 of those chances are lost when she is seventeen years old, 588 when she is twenty-one, 915 when she is twenty-seven, 992 when she is thirty-three, and the entire thousand when she is forty-five.

The gold ore found at Saccarrappa, Me., yields $15 a ton.

The unusual amount of grain being shipped from Chicago to Baltimore by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, shows that there was cause for being alarmed at the decrease of shipments to New York. In order to stop shipments at present, and get rid of a large amount of accumulated freight, the company has decided to advance freight rates to Baltimore for a short time to 20 cts. per 100 lbs.

The steamer City of Peking which arrived at San Francisco from China via Japan, brought 150 coolies. This is the first vessel to leave since the Chinese six companies here telegraphed to have further emigration stopped. The Peking brings 20,775 packages of tea, 9,200 being for New York.

The long railroad bridge at Fort Edward, N. Y. burned on the 7th inst. has been replaced.

Ex-Mayor Eastman of Poughkeepsie, has presented 500 hats to the street boys of that city.

The Archdiocesan Union of the Catholic Total Abstinence Societies at Philadelphia, adopted a resolution postponing the dedication ceremonies at the fountain in the Centennial grounds projected for the Fourth of July. The action of the union postponing the dedication ceremonies is in consequence of the refusal of the Board of Finance to let the societies march to the site of the fountain within the Exhibition grounds in a solid column.

During the excitement attendant on the parade of a circus company at Fall River, four men entered the City Treasurer's office and stole $4,317.

The wheat crop of Pickens Co., Ala., has been greatly cut by the rust. Many planters are reported as having plowed up their wheat and planted the land in corn.

The farmers have commenced haying in California. The crops will be unusually large.

The second crop of oranges is now beginning to whet the appetites of the population in Florida. There will be a large quantity for shipment between now and the first of July.

It is estimated that rice culture in Louisiana employs 80,000 people on 1,200 plantations, producing a crop worth $3,000,000, and developing business to the extent of $10,000,000. Sugar culture employs three or four times as much capital and a larger proportion of labor, producing a crop worth twelve to fifteen millions.

The chinch-bug is after Wisconsin wheat.

Marshall, Iowa, has a chicken with two heads, four beaks, and four eyes.

A horse in Talbot county, Georgia, ate six bushels of oats at one feeding.

The Liverpool Courier says the number of magnificent steamships lying idle in Liverpool and Birkenhead docks is unparalleled.

Thus far the catch and pack of salmon in Oregon is far in excess of that for a corresponding period last season.

They must have careful kitchen girls in China. That country sends to the Centennial some plates and dishes over a thousand years old.

The "General Grant" is the latest variety of cucumber.

What must they think of us in France? M. Gavardie's assertion in the French Senate that there is nothing else but politics for the workingmen's delegation to learn in the United States don't strike us as being a high compliment, to say the least.

A new rule on the Central Vermont Railroad requires every employee to take the total abstinence pledge, and dismissal is to follow a violation of it.

The Pacific Mail steamer City of Sydney, from Panama, brings news of the foundering of the Guatemallan gunboat Gen. Barreos off San Jose de Guatemala during a gale the week previous to the time the City of Sidney touched at that port—the 31st ult. The crew of the gunboat were saved, but 16 soldiers went down with her.

An effort is being made to save the Old South Church, Boston, from destruction, and a public meeting will be held in the building to prevent it.

Dom Pedro passed June 12th in Boston, visiting the schools and the Institution for the Blind. In the evening he listened to a lecture by Prof. William J. Marshall on the Yellowstone National Park.

Men representing themselves as agents for Eastern florists and horticulturists are deceiving farmers in the Territories.

Texas has a new law requiring of jurors the ability to read and write.

Miss Martin of Cincinnati had her bustle shattered by three bullets shot from a revolver by her lover.

Seventeen residences in Waterford, N. Y., are connected by telegraph wires, and the occupants gossip handily.

The Mexican Revolutionists are badly defeated.

The statue of American Girl, who fell dead on the track of the Elmira Driving Park while trotting a race on the 2d of October last, has been unveiled. The statue is a life-like and life-size bronze image of the horse. It stands on the northwest corner of the park. A granite base supports the statue bearing two inscriptions on polished panels. One reads: "American Girl; record 2:16¼; winner of 150 heats in 2:30 or under. *Monumentum aere perennius.*" The other reads: "American Girl, owned by Wm. Lovell of York, foaled in 1862, dropped dead in the free-for-all race on this track, October 2, 1875.

The Western fruit crop now promises to be the largest ever produced, and wheat never before made so good a show.

In Iowa the crops are feeling the influence of summer heat and showers, and are springing forward rapidly.

The new artesian well at Sheboygan, Wis., forces water through an inch and a-half nozzle a distance of ninety-six feet perpendicularly.

The primary school apportionment of the State of Michigan is fifty cents per scholar annually, amounting to $223,935.50, to be paid by the State Treasury during the month of June.

The Treasury now holds $343,756,050 in U. S. bonds to secure national bank circulation and $18,825,850 to secure the public deposits. U. S. bonds deposited for circulation for the week ending June 10, $18,200. U. S. bonds held for circulation, withdrawn for week ending June 10, $200,000; national bank circulation outstanding, $332,680,006; gold and bank circulation outstanding, $2,099,190.

At a meeting in St. Louis of the Mississippi Valley and Brazil Steamship Company such action was taken and subscriptions made to the capital stock as insures the success of the undertaking. Subscriptions to the stock now amount to $800,000. Steamers adapted to the trade between New Orleans and Brazil are available at short notice.

The Centennial Exhibition (Woman's Pavilion) contains the following contributions from the royal family of England:—Twenty-six etchings by the Queen, also two table napkins spun by the royal hands; a banner screen embroidered by Princess Beatrice; a table cloth embroidered by the Princess Louise of Hesse and the Princess Christian, and four drawings of flowers by the Marchioness of Lorne.

The special attraction of the Exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society was the Rhododendrons. The first prize was awarded to E. S. Rand, Jr., and the third to Joseph Clark. Besides the Rhododendrons, there was a good show of other plants and flowers, the most striking of which was a very large and finely grown plant of *Azalea Decora*, covered with thousands of crimson blooms. It was brought by C. M. Atkinson, gardener to John L. Gardner. Mr. Joseph H. Woodford made a beautiful display of hardy clematis, the varieties being Miss Bateman, Sophia, Lord Londesborough, Albert Victor, John Gould Veitch, and others. James Conley showed *Hibiscus cruentus*, a fine seedling, tuberous-rooted Begonia, and a great variety of choice cut flowers.

It is said that ninety-four plans have been sent in for competition for the building of the French Universal Exhibition in 1878. Eighty of these are by architects living in Paris. They are now on exhibition at the School of Fine Arts.

Three masked men broke into the house of Samuel Abrahams, a wealthy farmer residing three miles from Nashville, Pa., placed a halter around his neck and threatened to hang him if he did not deliver his money. After cruelly torturing Mr. Abrahams and his wife by burning their feet, the miscreants fled, taking with them $65 in money and a valuable horse and buggy.

The final competition for places in the American Rifle Team was ended on Creedmore range June 14th. The team and reserve, with their total scores, are: Farwell, 864; Hyde, 860; Weber, 843; Dakin, 835; Yale, 827; Bruce, 811; Schaffer, 808; Fulton, 806; Orebaugh, 802; Anderson, 797; Jewell, 793; Washburne, 764.

Geo. D. Lord of canal notoriety has had a stay of proceedings granted until July 10.

Jacob Nunnemacher and Christian Guenther, who were convicted of conspiracy to defraud the revenue, were sentenced by Judge Dyer in Milwaukee, the former to five months imprisonment and a fine of $10,000, and the latter to three months and a fine of $1,000. They are to be imprisoned in the county jail. Nunnemacher is a very old and wealthy citizen.

The Hamilton Print Works at Lowell has suspended operations, seven of the calico printers having refused the reduction of wages.

The trustee of the A. & W. Sprague Manufacturing company of Providence, has given orders to shut down all their many mills and print works as soon as the stock can be run out on account of the depressed condition of the market.

The corner-stone of a monument to be erected in honor of Bishop Allen, the founder of the African Methodist Church, was laid on the Centennial grounds by a delegation of colored ministers. An address was made by Bishop Jabez P. Campbell of Philadelphia. The monument is a gothic structure of marble, made in Italy, and will contain a life-size marble bust of Allen by Alfred White of Cincinnati. The cost was $7,000, and the money has been raised by contributions from the colored people throughout the country.

Eduard Field, the Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Newfoundland, died on the 8th inst. in Bermuda. His age was 76.

E. P. Hingston, the English essayist and author of a life of Artemus Ward, died on the 16th in London.

Mr. B. H. Bristow has resigned his office of Secretary of the Treasuy, to take effect in June. Private affairs claim his undivided attention.

According to recent statistics, the production of silver in the whole world in 1800 was $35,000,000, which rose in 1850 to $42,500,000, in 1854 to $47,500,000 and in 1865 to about $62,500,000. The production of this precious metal during the year 1873 is subdivided as follows: England and its colonies, $10,000,000; Norway, Sweden and Denmark, $250,000; Russia, $500,000; Austria, $1,620,000; Germany, $3,000,000; France, $2,000,000; Spain, $2,000,000; Sardinia, $500,000; Mexico, $20,000,000; Central and South America, $8,000,000; Canada, $900,000; The United States, $36,500,000, which gives a total of $85,250,000. Including the year 1873, it is estimated that the total production of silver, since the discovery of the New world by Christopher Columbus, has been $715,000,000, the largest source of accession, during late years, being due to the Nevada mines.

A daughter of Gen. D. H. Hill has been married in Charlotte, N. C., to a nephew of Stonewall Jackson.

The Bessemer steamship, which was to perform such wonders on the Channel trip between Dover and Calais, and which cost the enterprising speculators exactly $1,000,000, has just been sold for $100,000, and will hereafter be employed in some more ignoble trade.

An English journal says that rolled iron sheets, .0015 of an inch thick, have lately been made at Warrington so flexible that they bend almost as easily as paper, and yet so tough as to be torn with difficulty.

The Atlantic and Great Western Railway Company announce a further reduction for the round trip to New York, $25; tickets good for 60 days.

The Queens Co. (N. Y.) Agricultural Society have met at Mineola, L. I., and decided to open a Horticultural Exhibition at the above place June 21-22. The affair will be a novelty in this line, as in addition to the presence of the "Shinnecook" and Montauk Indians, there will be a Centennial Exhibition of revolutionary relics.

Pushing further toward the Yellowstone River, the expedition against the hostile Sioux finds no traces of them. These Summer campaigns are not apt to be of great service if the Indians choose to keep out of the way, since there is plenty of grass now to feed their ponies.

A new pest, the nature of which has not yet been learned has lately been injuring the orange and lemon trees in Southern California, attacking the roots near the surface, and causing the decay of the trees. Whether the pest is an insect or a disease is not known.

The Grand Jury have returned indictments against Richard Harrington and Arthur B. Williams, each for bribery. The first named is charged with having on the 12th of October, 1873, while Assistant United States Attorney, received the sum of $15,000 to have his decision and action in a proceeding pending before him influenced in the matter of a motion for a new trial, filed by one Hope H. Slatter, and that he did ask and receive such sum therefor. The second charges that A. B. Williams did give the sum of $15,000 to Harrington as a bribe to influence his action in the case referred to above. Hope H. Slatter is indorsed as a witness. Mr. Williams appeared before Judge MacArthur and gave bail in the sum of $5,000.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Catholics and Protestants in Belgium have joined issue and the recent election of delegates to the Chamber of Deputies was attended with riot and bloodshed.

The French oyster plantations have proved wonderfully successful. Those at Morbihan, which in 1872 yielded only 8,928,000 oysters, last year gave 21,286,000, and have produced this season 27,214,000.

The rivers in the south of France, especially the Adour and Garoune, are rising with alarming rapidity. The damage done in the eastern cantons of Switzerland by the inundations is immense. The bridge at Frauenfield has been carried away, and twelve railway lines are interrupted.

Winslow, the Boston forger, who was released by the British authorities June 15th, has been interviewed. He looks careworn but his general health is good. He says the Governor and officers of the prison were extremely kind to him during his confinement. He arose, at seven o'clock every morning, fixed his hammock, and cleaned out his cell by eight o'clock. The remainder of the day he spent in reading and in taking exercise in the yard, the jailor attending. Some time each day was spent in receiving visits. He retired regularly at 10 P. M. His meals were supplied from an outside restaurant. He intends remaining in England. Having no funds he is entirely at the benevolence of others.

He declares that the bonds were stolen from his wife and sister by the Dutch police and were sent to Boston. He will make an effort to recover their value. He declares his innocence and considers his treatment a disgrace to America. The newspapers there published persecuting articles, and he thinks himself hunted to death to please the caprice and vanity of enemies. He had no fear of the consequences of returning to Boston. Officers Dearborn and Wood have left London When Winslow left the prison he bade an affecting farewell to Brent and Gray.

There has been a riot at Gibraltar, but no details have been received. Spanish dispatches say the trouble was begun by a German sailor of the iron-clad fleet insulting ladies on the wharf. All the German sailors were confined to their ships until the fleet sailed.

The Grand Vizier has notified the Imperial Commissioners in Bosnia and Herzegovina that the reforms already granted will be maintained in their integrity.

Advices received here from Tabreez, a large walled city in the Province of Azerbaijan, North Persia, announce that the black plague has broken out in Persian Koordistan.

The cable steamer Dacia left the Thames yesterday for South America, to lay a cable between Valparaiso, La Serena and Caldera, thus completing the submarine telegraph system of the west coast of South America.

Anthoine de Gorgorza's Darien Canal project continues to gain popularity in Bogota. He is aided by a syndicate of which the Hungarian Gen. Turr, who opened the canal between the Oder and the Danube, is the head.

Hassan, the Turkish assassin, has been hanged.

The Roumanian Government has arrested several Servians.

M. Buffet's election as Senator is regarded with disfavor by the French Ministry.

In Canada, the town of St. Johns, Quebec, was nearly destroyed by fire.

In Peru, Henry Meiggs offers to complete the Oroya Railway and make a branch to the Cerro de Pasco at his own cost, provided the governments give him all the mines he may discover. The guano contract with the Societe Generale of Paris of March 30 has been suspended, and Gen. Mariano Prado is personally treating with the bondholders in Europe. Considerable property was destroyed by fire at Cuzco on the 29th of April.

Safvet Pasha has telegraphed to the Turkish Minister at Washington that he has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs by his Imperial Majesty, the Sultan.

Minister Waddington continues his progressive labors by promising France free schools. This boon was needed, since 30 per cent. of the people above the age of six were in 1872 unable to read or write.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, June 17, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	87,375	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,227	Rice, bbls	668
Corn meal, bbls	2,243	Cut meats, pkgs	6,831
Corn meal, bags	562	Lard, pkgs	4,730
Wheat, bush	329,300	Tobacco, hhds	4,653
Corn, bush	342,040	do. cases	3,806
Oats, bush	253,700	Butter, pkgs	23,420
Rye, bush	30,000	Cheese, bxs	64,287
Malt, bush	41,310	Cotton, bales	9,313
Barley, bush		Rosin	10,497
Beans, bbls	7,168	Spts. turp., bbls	2,478
Grass seed, bush	503	Dried Fruits, pkgs	60
Beef, pkgs	2,950	Eggs, bbls	10,355
Wool, bales	2,400	Peanuts, bags	336
Hops, bales	236	Leather, sides	72,649
Pork, bbls	615	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	2,182	Oil cake	10,584

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off-nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week 1,329 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 32,015 do.; same time last year, 12,800 do. Exports of peas past week, 21,240; since Jan. 1st, 414,250 bush.; same time last year, 213,900 do.

Receipts of beans exceed all expectation and with the summer weather upon us dealers have to again report weak prices for the heavy supply of mediums and marrows. For the former $1 is not regarded extreme. Marrows have a fair demand considering the recent free exports. They also are quoted extreme. Pea Beans are dull with little attractive stock. White kidneys quiet. Some further animation in choice red has put up quotations. A many common beans suitable only for feeding purposes. Canadian peas are unchanged for bulk, no free barrels here. Green peas are a drug. California Lima Beans lower. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.15@1.20; fair to good, $1.00@1.10; prime mediums, $1.00; fair to good, 75@80c.; poor, 60@50c.; prime marrows, $1.50@1.55; fair to good, $1.25@1.40; prime white kid., $1.30@1.35; other, $1.0@1 20; prime red kidney, $1.10@1.45; other, $1 15@1.25; Limn Cal.), $2.50. Black beans, $3.50. Peas--Can. $1 15@1.20; do. in bulk and hond, 95@98c.; green, $1.00@1.20; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2,70; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX is coming in more freely and prices lower. Sales at 38@35c. for Western and Southern.
Exports past week none; since Jan. 1st, 38,341 lbs.; same time last year, 34,950 do.

BROOM CORN is still neglected and nominal.
We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; green, medium, 5@6½c., red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—State butter is in light supply and the near point producers have to some extent dictated the market in the matter of pails. For strictly fancy selections 30c. has been quotable several days. Half tubs and firkins are regarded high, and the new figures send many good buyers in search of fine Western. This movement has helped Western considerably this week. While a free export demand has to some degree diminished the rather large stock. A large portion of Western butter has arrived Leaked and frequently 14@15c. has been accepted for it. The following table shows the improved reversion but the market is not over strong. Quite a number of pails that were held back when the market was low are selling at easy figures.

Pails, State selected,	27@28c.; do., other 22@26c.;
creamery,	25@30c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 26@27c.;
fair to good,	22@24c.; Welsh tubs selected, 21@25c.;
Welsh tubs, prime,	21@23c.; fair to good, 20@—c.;
Pails, Western creamery, prime,	25@27c.; fair to good, 23@25c.; Western tubs, dairy, good to prime,
	19@20c.; fair to good, 13@16c.

Western factory choice, 17@18c.; do. fair to good, 14@15c.; poor, 12@13c. Grease, pure, 7@10c.
Western firkins quoted at 13@18c. for poor to fine yellow. State firkins 13@25c. for poor to fair, 24@27c. for prime. Sweet cream pails range at 23@28c.

CHEESE.—There has been a liberal supply this week of other than choice stock; the latter are scarce; the warm weather gives us a number of lots out of condition. Exporters are taking choice stock promptly at from 10¾@11c.; other grades are irregular in price. Cheese is generally showing the severity of the hot weather upon them. Exports past week, 50,952 boxes. We quote;
New at 10¾@11c. for fine factory; 10¾@10½c. for good; 9¾@9¾c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 7@8c.; do., skimmed, 3@5c. State farm dairy, fair to good, at 9½@10c.; poor lots, 7@9c.; Western factory, good to prime, 9½@10c.; fair lots, 8@8c.
Western cheese principally Ohio, and not first-class.

COTTON.—Export movement is fair but prices fluctuate sharply, closing weak. Closing sales are:—For June, 11 15-16@11 31-32c.; July, 11 31-32c.; August, 12 1-16c.; September, 12@12 1-32c.; October, 11½c.; November, 11¾@11 25-32c.; December, 11¾@11 25-32c.; January, 11¾@11 29-32c.; February, 12 1-32@12 1-16c.; March, 12 3-16@12 7-32cc.; April, 12 11-32@12¾c.; May, 12 15-32@12¾c.
Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	S 11 16	S 11-16	S 11-16	S 11-16
Strict ordinary	9¾	9⅝	9¾	9¾
Good ordinary	10 1-16	10 1-16	10 3-16	10 3-16
Strict good do	10¾	10¾	10⅝	10⅞
Low middling	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 7-16
Strict low middling	11¾	11¾	12	12
Middling	12⅛	12⅛	12 5-16	12 5-16
Good middling	12⅝	12⅝	12¾	12⅝
Strict good middling	13⅛	13⅛	13⅜	13⅜
Middling fair	13⅝	13⅝	13⅞	13⅞
Fair	14⅜	14⅜	14⅝	14⅝

Stained.

Good ordinary	8⅜	Low middling	10⅜
Strict ordinary	9⅜	Middling	11⅛

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Exports past week 65 bbls. apples; since Jan. 1st, 1,637 bbls.; same time last year, 9,500 do.
Apples—State, sliced, 10@10½c.; do., quarters, 9½c.; Western quarters, 9c.; Southern sliced, 10@10½c. for prime; fair lots, 9½@10.; Tennessee quarters, 8¼c. Blackberries, 10½@11c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 13@14c.; do. fancy, 16c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 12@12½c. for halves, and 10@11c. for quarters. Plums, 16c. Raspberries, 26@27c. Cherries, new pitted, 19c.

EGGS.—The feeling in eggs has improved decidedly. Prices showing a steady advance throughout the week. Now that receipts favor steady prices, it is to be hoped that sellers will not advance rates so rapidly as to decrease use. Canadian begin to arrive more liberally. Southern are no longer quotable. New Jersey and near point eggs are scarce, being mostly used at the boarding houses.
Near points, ₱ bbl., 17½@18c.; State and Penn., 16½@11c.; Western, prime, 15c.; do. fair marks, 15½c.; Canadian, 15@16½c.; duck, 14@15c.; goose, 20@21c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₱ lb.; in tin, $4.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras, 55c.

FEATHERS.—The supply is light, but the demand does not call for much stock. Common poultry feathers not wanted. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; mixed, do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—Export movement has been quite liberal, but at the close a weak feeling prevails on less satisfactory advices from abroad: quoted at $4@4.40 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5@5.10 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.15@5.25 for good extra do.; $5.30@5.50 for fancy do., and $5.55@7 for very choice extra; $4@4.40 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5@5 25 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.30@5.45 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.50@7; fancy do., $7.10@7.75; winter wheat good to choice family city mill extras, $7.50@8; round-hoop Ohio at $5@5.15, and trade brands of do. at $5,20@7; St. Louis, $5.10@6.25 for common to fair extra, and $6,30@8 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.25@7, and patent at $6.25@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.75@5.75; No. 2 at $2.50@3.30 Southern at $5@5.25 for common to good extra, $5.30@6.15 for good to choice, $6.20@8.50 for family extra. Rye flour at $4.75@5.20. Corn meal selling at $2.75@3.15 for Western, Penn, & Jersey.

FRESH FRUITS.—The supply of strawberries has been large and of fine quality. Up-river "monarchs" have made an excellent display. Staten Island also sends some choice fruit. New Jersey mainly supplies the market for table purposes. Southern berries are in poor order and go to manufacturers. A few red raspberries are in, also some black caps. These are hardly wanted until strawberries run out. Gooseberries dull, with good qualities in market. Georgia peaches have sold at $5, half bush crates. Cherries begin to look well, and better prices are attributable to quality. Apples nominal. Peanuts quiet, but firm.
Apples, choice, $3.50@3.75 per bbl.; other, 1.50@3. Strawberries, N. J., ₱ quart, 5@10c.; Up-river and Staten Island, fancy do., 12@15c.; extra do., 25@30c; Small limited baskets, 2½c. Cherries, best, ₱ lb., 10@12.; common, do., 3@6c.; Gooseberries, ₱ bush., $1.50@2.
Peanuts—Virginia, ₱ bush., $1.40@1.65; Wilmington, $1 80@2.00; do. Tennessee, $1@$1.20.

GINSENG.—Southern, $1.50@1.60; Northern, $1.15@1.20; Seneca root, 75@80c.

GRAIN.—The closing market for wheat is less confident and prices have fallen off 3@4c. from the best point of the week. There is now no probability of war on the other side, and this has tended as much as anything else to limit business. Latest sales of wheat are reported at $1.04@1.08 for No. 3 Chicago spring, $1.08@1.10 for No. 3 Milwaukee spring, $1.05@1.25 for ungraded spring, $1.13 for No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.22 for prime dry No. 2 Milwaukee spring, with soft do. offered at $1.20, $1.18 for No 2 Northwest spring, $1.25@1.28 for soft to good No. 1 Minnesota spring $1.29@1.31 for No. 1 Milwaukee spring, so-called, $1.25 for No. 1 Sheboygan spring, $1.44 for white Western, $1.06@1.10 for No. 3 New York spring, and $1.10 for New York No. 2 spring. Rye at 84@87c. for Western, and 96½@97½c. for State Corn is quoted at 50@53½c. for damaged and heated Western mixed, 54@55c. for New York "no grade;" 58c. for New York steamer, 59c. for low mixed, 60@60½c. for graded mixed, 54@61. for ungraded mixed, 62c. for graded Western yellow, 60c. for ungraded Western yellow on track. Oats at 34@43c. for mixed Western and State, and 37@47c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—The market is liberally supplied and trade is moderate, with prices without change.
Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 70@75c.; retail qualities, 80@95c.; clover, 60@70c.; salt, 60@65c. Straw is quoted at $1.15 for long rye; 70@85c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.
Exports past week, 125 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 27,515; same time last year, 21,200.

HIGHWINES—Selling at $1.12, with a little better business.

HOPS.—Export this week 573 bales; this is showing a freer business than had been expected from this source; stocks are being reduced steadily and it is anticipated they will be worked down closer this year than for a number of seasons. Prices are without change, but firmly held. The quotations are:
N. Y. State, 11@18c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₱ lb.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 20@21c. for light; middle, 21@23c.; heavy, 21@23½c.; good damaged, 18@20c.

MILK.—The farmers' prices for May were 2¼@2½c, mainly 2½c. Milk is selling better at the commission platforms.

OIL CAKE.—Western brings $40 (currency) per ton.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Spring chickens are in demand; other dressed poultry has merely a hotel and steamer demand. Such stock is sent in summer by contract for near points, when not supplied by city killers. We quote:
Fowls, ₱ lb., 11@15c.; turkeys, 13@16c.; spring chickens, 26@30c.
Live poultry has ruled low most of the week, owing to heavy early arrivals. At the close prices are steadier.
Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb, 12@13c.; do. Western, 10@11c.; Roosters, 6@7c.; Turkeys, N. J., 12@13c.; do. Western, 10@12c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, $1@1.25; do. Western, 65@80c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2 50; do. Western, $1 20@1.37. Spring chickens Western, 31@23c.; do. N. J., 21@26c.
The market is almost bare of game. Pigeons arrive, but they have been coming in such poor order that buyers begin to neglect them. We quote:
Wild pigeons dressed ₱ doz., 80@90c.; do. unplcked, 60@75c.; stall fed, $1.25@1.50.

PROVISIONS.—The export movement in hog products generally is more satisfactory and the closing market is strong. Mess pork at $19.40@19 70 for job lots; $19.60 for August, $19.75 for September. Dressed hogs at 8@8½c. Bacon at 10½c. for Western long clear; Western steam lard at $11.70 for spot lots; $11.67½ for July; $11.80 for August. Stearine at 13½@13¾c. Beef hams at $22@24. Tallow at 8½@8 11-16c. Beef.—Barreled lots quoted: $10@11 for plain mess; $12 for extra mess, and $13 for packet. Tierced quoted at $20 for prime mess, and $21 for India mess. City extra India mess at $21@22.

SALT.—Quoted at $2.50 for Ashton's; Deakin's, Marshall's and Worthington at $1.25@1.40.

SEED.—Grass are not wanted in important lots; small sales at 16c. for clover, and $2.80@2.85 for timothy.

SUGAR.—Refined is quoted at 8½@9½c. for soft yellow, 9¾@10¼c. for soft white, 10¾c. for crushed and powdered, and 10¾c. for granulated.

TOBACCO.—Exporters are holding off on important lots and the business is otherwise small; prices are without change; the appearance of the crop at the West is more satisfactory and tends to quiet trade.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common logs	6 @ 7
Good logs	7 @ 8
Low leaf	8½@10
Medium leaf	11 @12
Good leaf	12½@13½
Fine leaf	11 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	14 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	— @—
Fillers, selections	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5½@ 7
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

VEGETABLES.—Old potatoes have run out well during the last fortnight and it is not likely there will be further losses on prime stock. New potatoes are in large supply and tending in buyers' favor. Garden stuff is seasonably low. New Jersey peas had a short crop. Long Island in good supply. Asparagus dull.
Potatoes—Old Peachblows, bulk, 1.25@1.50 ₱ bbl.; Early Rose, $1@1 25; common, 50@87c.; Norfolk, new, $1.50@3; Charleston, do., $1.50@3. Bermuda, $4@4.50. Asparagus—Oyster Bay, ₱ doz., $1.50@2; N. J., 75c.@1.25. Rhubarb, ₱ 100 bunches, $1.50@2.25. Southern cabbage, ₱ bbl., $1@1.25. L. I. cauliflower, ₱ bbl., $1.50@2; do green peas, ₱ bag, 50@75c.; Charleston tomatoes, ₱ crate, $2@2 50; Florida do., 50c.@$1.25; Bermuda do., ₱ 5-qt. box, 60@75c. Bermuda onions, ₱ bush., $1@1 25. Norfolk string beans, ₱ bbl., flat, 75c.@$1.25; do. round, $1@2. Long Island beets, 100 bunches, $2.50@3.

WOOL.—The result of the large auction sale of woolen goods this week has been of a more encouraging character, leading to a freer inquiry from manufacturers. Prices are without an advance, but more steadily held. The trade are awaiting with much interest the marketing of the new Western clips. We quote XX Western fleeces at 38@42c.; XXX and picklock do., 46@48c.; X do., 38@42c.

ROCHESTER, June 17.—Flour market dull; spring, $6,75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.25; white winter, $1.25@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 55@60c. Corn meal, $1.30@1.35. Butter, 20@22c. Cheese, 12@14c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 14½@15c. Apples, bu., $1@1.75. Potatoes, bu., 25@50c. Beans, ₱ bu., 90c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $23.50. Wool, 25@40c. Hay, $12@12. Straw, $5@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.; clover, $9.50@9.75. Mill feed dull at $16 for shorts, $15 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.50@6.90 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., June 17, 1876.

THE market has been rather dull this week and prices have declined. The proportion of full cream cheese has largely increased and by another week we are likely to be well rid of the skims at this market.
The delivery of farm dairies amounted to about 400 boxes and prices ranged at 8@10c., the lower rates being for lots more or less skimmed.
About 120 factories were represented, offering in the aggregate upward of 7,000 boxes, nearly 6,000 of which changed hands. The range of prices were 10@10½c., the bulk of sales going at 10¼c.
The quality of factory cheese offered this week was generally good; even the every day cheese which had been lightly skimmed showed meat and was of clean flavor and in some instances sold at a price equal with full creams. The lots offered were larger than heretofore.
There is nothing but grass butter now coming forward and the delivery this week has been light. Prices are a shade lower than for the previous week, the range being 22@24c. for the bulk, with fine lots fancy at 25c.
We have advices from abroad for the last week in May. Our London correspondent reports that new American cheese here sold at 50@58s. The stock of extra fine was exhausted and secondary sorts were pressed at a reduction.
The prices are for extra American, 62@64s.; fine, 56@58s.; good, 48@52s.; secondary and common, 18@44s English cheddar brings 84@90s.; Wiltshire double 68@78s.; Cheshire medium, 50@58s.; fine, 70@80s.; Scotch, 60@66s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 74@74s.; Gondas, 48@50s.
There is a brisk demand for butter, with an advance on Normandy. Dorsets brings 140s.; Corks, 125s.; Jersey, 108s.; Danish and Swedish, 100@130s. No American or Canadian butter in market. Oleomargarine sells at 70@94s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, June 17, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,474	21	2,183	5,683	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	51	441	1,126	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	10,527
Harshmus Cove	5,539	00	000	18,981	7,009
Totals this week	10,013	77	2,631	25,790	17,536
" last week	9,026	35	4,745	21,745	22,527

BEEVES.—Trade opened very slow on last Monday and the markets closed weak, although nearly all of the herds to hand had been sold off at noon. Prices ranged at 8¾@11c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6¾@10 cwt. The quality of the herds to hand was generally rough and not fat enough to meet the demand; in consequence, prices were off a fraction ₱ lb. on the closing rates of the previous week. Wednesday trade very dull on a moderate run of generally fair quality beeves, at 8¾@10c.; weights, 6@9 cwt. Thursday, trade small at 7¾@10¼c.; weights, 6@7¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed dull; sales at 8¾@10¼c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. By far the larger number of the herds as above quoted were sold on 5 lbs. net; one herd run down to 55 lbs. net and a few carloads of selected beeves obtained 57 lbs. to the cwt. net. Native steers sold at 7¾@9¾c.; grade, do. at 10@11c.; the cattle sold above that rate were too poor to influence trade. Oxen, 9¾c. Still-fed steers, 9@9½c.; Spanish steers, 9¾c. Bulls on live weight, 3¾@4½c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @	12 @
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	7½@ 9¾	8½@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade slow at $10@80 ₱ head; general sales at $50@55 ₱ head—calves always included. Five cows sold at $55@60 ₱ head; 10 at $50@72; 16 at $55@75; 3 at $70@80.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Although the quality of the milk-fed calves received since our last weekly report has been better than that received for several weeks past, still none of the lots could justly be quoted as of smooth quality; those same sold at 6@7¾c., with 10 head at 7@8¾c. Buttermilk-fed calves sold at 3¾@5c.; State, 3¾@c.; Jersey, 6@8¾c.; Pennsylvania, 7@8c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade still slow at rather reduced rates; the quality of the flocks to hand has been generally fair, with a few carloads of coarse quality sheep among them. On Monday sheep sold at 5@6¾c.; lambs, 7½@8¾c. Wednesday, sheep, 4½@5¾c.; lambs, 8@11c. Thursday, sheep 3@5¾c.; lambs, 6¾@11c. Friday, the markets closed weak; sheep, 3½@5½c.; lambs, 7@10¾c. Illinois sheep, 4¾@4¾c.; Ohio, 5@5½c.; Kentucky, 4¾@5¾c.; State, 5¾@5¾c.; Kentucky lambs, 8@8¾c.; Jersey, 8¾@11c.; Virginia, 7¾@8c.

HOGS.—On Monday last 140 head of Ohio hogs, average gross weight 207 lbs. ₱ head, sold at 6¾c. Wednesday no live on sale. Since our last weekly report, trade in city dressed has been inactive. Extreme range of prices, 7¾@8¾c. for hogs; light market pigs, 8¼@8¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade slow, with a heavy supply of ordinary quality horses on hand; 19 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $52@107 ₱ head; 22 ordinary do., $120@210 ₱ head; 17 head course quality heavy draft horses sold at $150@300 ₱ head; 3 pairs stylish carriage horses, $900@1,200 ₱ pair; 7 pairs family do., $300@350 ₱ pair. Forty-five horses arrived per Erie Railway, via Oak Cliff Station.

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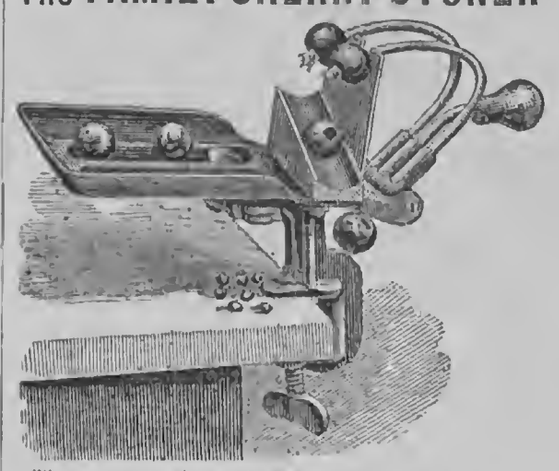

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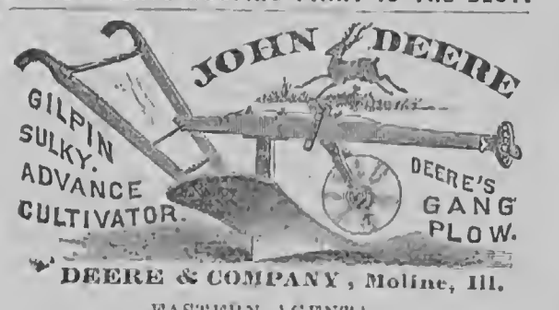

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

OLE BULL will give concerts in Paris next winter.

HON. GEORGE BANCROFT, ex-Minister to Berlin, is at Newport.

ONE hundred years ago we were fighting for liberty. Now we are fighting for bread and butter.

BESIDES the California pears on exhibition at the Centennial, there are a great many bridal pairs.

AN American girl, Julia Sinclair, has just taken her degree as doctor of medicine at the University of Zurich.

HENRI ROCHEFORT is said to be seriously ill at Geneva from dropsy complicated with hypertrophy of the heart.

AN Indiana man has planted six acres of watermelons. He has also planted a large crop of bulldogs and man-traps.

MR. GEORGE SMITH, the Assyrian excavator, is expected home very shortly from his third expedition to Mesopotamia.

MR. MOTLEY is spending a few weeks in England at the country residence of his son-in-law, Brinsley Sheridan, in Devonshire.

THE price of Circassians is lower now than at any time since the Crimean War. The fall of the Sultan has broken the market.

THE Abdul Aziz of the Western continent is not dead yet. Some may think that reference is made to Brigham Young. If they do, all right.

IF you feel sick and debilitated from office confinement, remember that out in the country they are paying $1.25 an acre for mowing grass.

MR. PIERREPONT, our new Minister to England, sails this week. He will retain Messrs. Hoffman and Cheseborough as the Secretaries of Legation.

THE death is announced of Gustav Ekmann, the well-known Swedish Iron-master, who has done much for the development of the iron industry in Sweden.

LEGISLATING is a game in which one faction tries to kill all of the bills proposed by the other side. The people pay for the game and have no fun in the playing.

EDW'D EVERETT PARKER, a graduate of Harvard, is preparing for the stage at the Boston School of Oratory. His Romeo is said to be a remarkable piece of acting.

THE sketches taken of the Prince of Wale's tour in India for The London Graphic have been sent to the Centennial Exhibition by the proprietors of that journal.

THE State of matrimony has no especial department at the Centennial, but its general display of exhibits is, in some instances, remarkably fresh and interesting.

THE woman who runs the steam engine in the pavilion at the Centennial Exposition says that the work requires far less attention than to take care of a child all day.

THE Khedive of Egypt has devoted the thirteen thousand pounds sterling, contributed to erect a monument to him, to the erection of a great public school in Alexandria, open to all nationalities.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES is the senior in years of the seven principal presidential candidates, being fifty-four. Bristow is the youngest, forty-four. Blaine is forty-six, Conkling forty-seven, Morton fifty-three.

No man can loaf around a Police Court six months and see what fun it is to fine a man $25 and get $5 of it as fees, without feeling convinced that duty to humanity calls upon him to become a Justice himself.

BROOKLYN ARGUS: The Duke of Edinburgh is off yachting in the Mediterranean, and the Duchess has gone back to her papa at St. Petersburgh. The way these two young hearts beat as one is something that Heaven cannot contemplate without a sigh.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S new title of Empress has been improved upon in Jamaica. A recent proclamation issued there commences thus: "Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith and of Jamaica Supreme Lady."

JOHN MALCOLM LUDLOW, in an English book, declares that the Declaration of Independence has been a source of infinite mischief, and that the passionate declamatory rhetoric of that document has left a stain to this hour on most of the political oratory and writing of the United States.

MRS. CRAIK, the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," is erecting a drinking fountain under a railway arch near her residence in Kent, England, and in addition there will be a constant supply of penny loaves and a money box, under the supposition that those who partake of the bread will pay for it.

"MR. MOODY was never known," says an exchange, "to give way for even a moment to anger or impatience." Then it's probable he never had occasion to take a short cut across the fields on a warm morning to catch a railroad train, and find when he got to the further end that the frugal farmer had put up a high board fence and stationed a blear-eyed bull-dog there as sole occupant.

ONE of the Indian Princes who came to Calcutta to meet the Prince of Wales died the other day from hard drink. This was the young Maharajah or Puttiala. When he was ten years old he succeeded to an income of $2,500,000 a year, and he died at the age of twenty-four, worn out by dissipation. His two great passions were buying jewels and getting drunk. His son and successor is a lad five years old.

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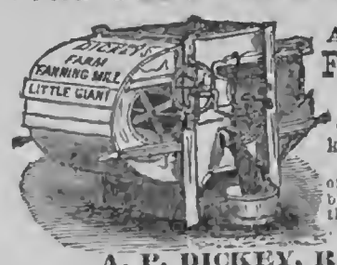

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J. D.—For pasture grasses in your locality (Ohio) and on hilly land sow several species mixed, in order to have some early and some late; besides, until after a trial, there is no telling which will succeed best. Try a mixture of Kentucky Blue Grass (*Poa pratensis*), Meadow Fescue (*Festuca pratensis*), and Red-Top (*Agrostis vulgaris*). Sow the seed early in September, after plowing and thoroughly pulverizing the surface with a fine-tooth harrow and roller. ....Girdle your black locust trees immediately and let them stand until fall; then cut down, and very few sprouts, if any, will appear from the roots. If the girdling had been done a month earlier, it would have been still better.

Delphos.—It is certainly better to keep the manure from the stables under cover than exposed to the weather, still we do not approve of keeping it under the barn or stable in a cellar, even if this arrangement is more convenient. The manure pit should be outside of the barn and not under it, as the air in stables is none too pure at best for the health of stock, without the addition of the fumes of a deposit of filth beneath....We do not know who has the kind of stock you name for sale, but a short advertisement inserted in the RURAL would probably bring the desired information.

D. R.—We can furnish a recipe for curing gapes in chickens for much less than your price, $100, and have many times done so through the columns of the RURAL NEW-YORKER. If a discovery has really been made, as claimed, you should be both willing and anxious to make it known to help liquidate your indebtedness for the hundreds of other valuable discoveries made by others and which they have given free to the public for the good of all, yourself among the number.

Inquirer—The last census returns show that over six millions of our population are engaged in agricultural pursuits, or we may say that there are six millions of farmers in the United States and Territories.

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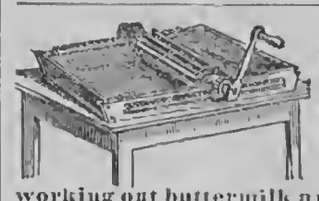

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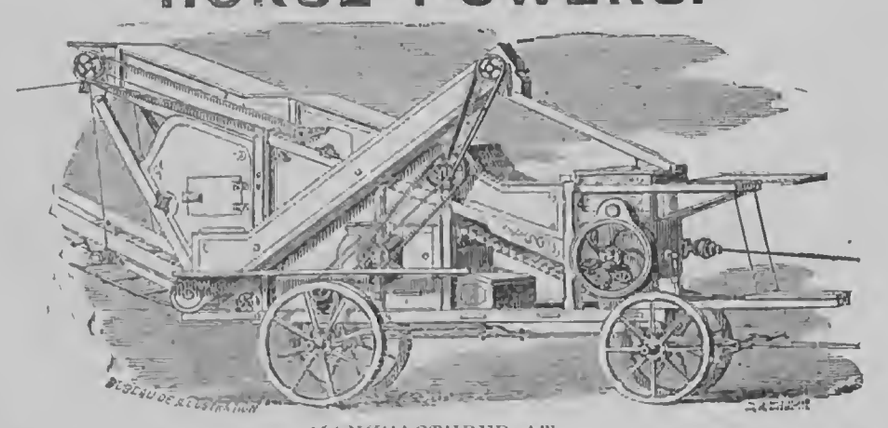

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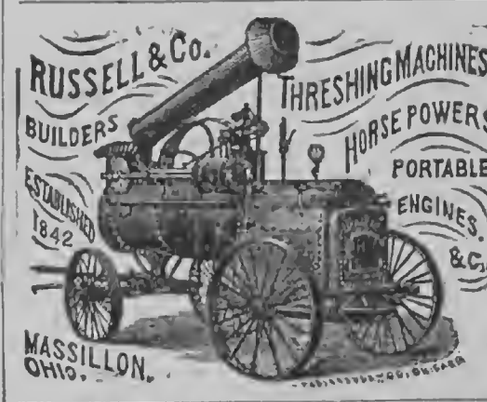

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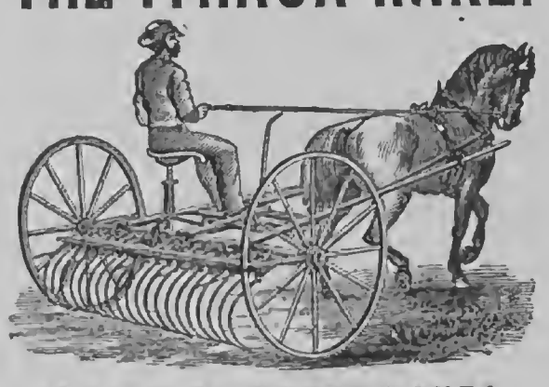

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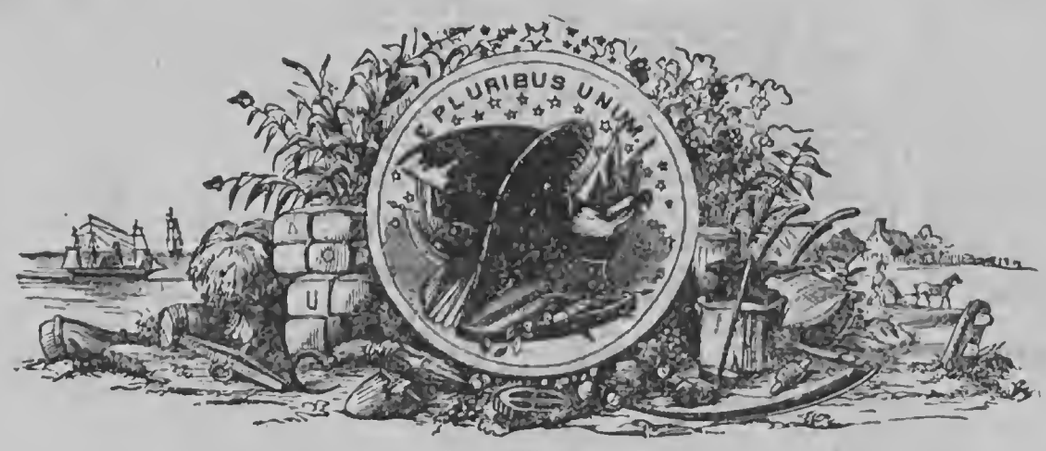

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The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

ATLAS HOTEL,
PHILADELPHIA, June 24, 1876.

SWEDEN AND HER DISPLAY.

THE Scandinavians make a very praiseworthy exhibit at the Centennial. The subject of the present letter—Sweden—in addition to the space occupied in the Main Building, has also considerable space in Machinery Hall, and one of the most attractive features of the grounds is the model Swedish School House. Before criticising her display a few facts concerning the Scandinavian peninsular will help to a better appreciation of the habits and industries of the people.

Norway and Sweden, although separate kingdoms, are governed by one ruler; and as Sweden contains about 52 per cent. of all the territory, it is but natural that a Swedish king should wield the scepter over both people. The government is divided into Lans, which are again subdivided into provinces.

The total population in 1874 was 4,341,559, the major portion of whom are engaged in agricultural pursuits, for which the country is well adapted, notwithstanding its extreme northern boundary projects into the Arctic Zone and its southern extremity is in the latitude of Greenland. The area is stated at 171,749 English miles. Eight per cent. of the land is 2,000 feet above the sea level, with gradations down to 200 feet above the level of the sea, and at this elevation agriculture is flourishing. Owing to the vast system of inland lakes and rivers, the land is splendidly irrigated, which accounts for its great fertility and, in conjunction with the influence of the Gulf Stream, makes the climate mild and salubrious. The streams are not, as a rule, navigable, being interrupted in their progress by a series of water-falls, which the people have turned to account in the manufacturing processes. It is rare to find any manufacturing industry prosecuted by means of steam power. This fact, in conjunction with the low price of labor (artisans receiving but $1.50 per day and unskilled labor about 50 cents), enables them to manufacture at prices that almost defy competition.

The farmer's worst enemy in Sweden is the frost, which in a single clear night, perhaps after a warm summer day, will destroy his brightest prospects; but it is hoped that the increase of tillage, the draining of the bogs, and like causes, will at least mitigate its severity, if not altogether prevent it. Such severe frosts are very rare in the central and southern parts of Sweden.

Mining is one of the most important departments of Swedish industry, and the working of the iron mines in particular is making constant progress by the introduction of new machinery. There were raised, in the year 1873, 19,458,339 cwt. of iron ore from the mines, besides 126,147 cwt. from lake and bog. The pig iron produced amounted to 7,987,646 cwt., the cast goods to 501,350 cwt., the bar iron to 4,125,915 cwt., and the steel to 1,290,907 cwt. There were also raised, in the same year, 1660 lbs. of silver, 26,152 cwt. of copper, and 645,631 cwt. of zinc ore. There are large veins of coal in various parts of Sweden, but no systematic working of them has as yet taken place.

The principal articles of cultivation are, in addition to the various cereals, potatoes, hemp, flax, tobacco and hops, which are generally grown in sufficient quantities for home consumption. The forests are of great extent, covering nearly one-fourth of the whole surface, and, in some spots, rising to an elevation of 3,000 feet above the level of the sea. The birch, fir, pine, and beech are of great importance, not only for the timber, tar and pitch which they yield, but also for supplying charcoal and firewood. The common fruit trees, as cherries, apples and pears, grow as far north as 60°, but the fruit seldom comes to great perfection except in the southern provinces; cranberries and other berries abound in all parts of the country.

In 1870, there were in Sweden, 418,446 horses, 1,965,800 horned cattle, 1,780,000 sheep and goats, and 351,303 swine.

In 1873, there were 2,549 factories, with a production valued at 146,869,000 crowns. Mines and mining establishments are not included in these figures. Shipbuilding forms an extensive branch of industry. The foregoing will give a somewhat accurate idea of the Swedes.

It is not too much to say that what they are and what they may eventually become, is due, in great measure, to the admirable system of education. Public instruction is gratuitous and compulsory and children not attending schools under the supervision of the government, must furnish proofs of having been privately educated. In the year 1871 nearly 97 per cent. of all the children between eight and fifteen years attended the public schools. The scheme of education is amply illustrated in the model school mentioned above, which is situated north of the Main Building and adjoining the Japanese Bazaar. Object teaching, familiarly known as the Kindergarten system, forms the basis of instruction, and such is the thorough and able manner in which it is managed, it would, indeed, be strange if the youth of the country were not perfectly grounded in the principles of education.

I would especially call the attention of the visitor to the way in which geography and the

"THE CLOCK MAKER."

A GROUP IN THE SWEDISH DEPARTMENT, IN MAIN BUILDING, CENTENNIAL.

use of the globes is taught. In the Main building a large space is given to specimens of pupils work in drawing from life, cast, &c. I was assured that these examples were taken hap-hazard with no special reference to the best of its kind. I can well believe this after an examination of the artistic pottery displayed in another part of the transept, which is entirely the work of native artists. In this collection there are vases of a beauty of form and color, so subtile and delicate that they may well have attracted the attention of the Pa. Industrial School and Museum, whose directors have purchased many examples. A couple of vases of china, of a beautiful blue, and delicately ornamented with vines and leaves in white in relief, are the gems of the collection.

While on the subject of ceramics I desire to allude to the fantastic stoves or ovens that are constructed of tiles, with polished brass doors. They stand 8 and 10 feet high, and are ornamented most elaborately in colors. Candellabra of great size, made of china are also to be seen. The finest example being a pair with 8 branches standing about 7 feet high. The bases are supported by griffins and the colors, cream and blue, are most beautifully laid on. These were purchased by Mrs. WM. ASTOR of New York for $420. They were made at the Rorstrand factory which has been in successful operation since 1726.

The geological exhibit is perfect. Large colored maps are suspended from the walls, and directly beneath them are cabinets containing specimens corresponding to the markings on the maps. One can take in at a glance the surface and sub-surface formation of the land, and turning to trophies that flank the display, in the shape of columns composed, each, of 33 blocks, observe the various marbles, granites, conglomerates and porphryry with which the country abounds. Noticeable among these are the various hued marbles and a section of *black* limestone, something unusual, I believe. The finest specimens are from Dalsland. In the alluvial deposits is found lake and bog iron ore, in quantities sufficient to pay, and being exceptionally free from sulphur, it may be seen that a very fine product is the result.

A table made of porphyry, serpentine and marble, with a center of conglomerate, is a beautiful work of art which may be secured by the pickorup of unconsidered trifles for $7,500, not including the duty.

Among the curiosities are a meerschaum pipe, carved and jeweled, which was presented to EMANUEL SWEDENBORG by his English followers; a chair made of oak taken from the sunken warship "Applet," which foundered in 1676. It is 200 years old and almost as heavy as the same bulk of iron. This chair is carved uniquely with signs of the Zodiac and is, or rather was, surmounted by two ravens. A lady admirer of POE happened along and thinking, perhaps, that a Swedish raven would do as well as any other ornithological specimen to illustrate her favorite poet, gracefully detached the unresisting bird from its perch and moved on, omitting as superfluous, any little inquiries customary under such circumstances. Fearing that more admirers of the poet might be in the vicinity, the Commissioners took the precaution to remove the remaining bird to safer quarters.

Much the same fate might befall a set of chessmen were they not secured under glass. These are the first chessmen I have ever seen that embody the idea of a great religious movement. The artist has carved one side, the white men, we will say, to represent the party of which King William and Bismark are the heads, and the subordinate men are the army and others in the protestant interest, and the Pope, cardinals, priests and friars, fight on the ultramontane side. The various expressions depicted on the faces of the latter worthies could have alone been due to a stroke of inspiration. The set is an epitome of the prevailing European sentiment on this much-vexed subject—price, $302.

A feature of no special attractiveness, except perhaps to matchmakers, (male and female) is the great quantity of Incifers. Sweden is a match-making country, and a great point to be considered is that they are safety-matches. Whether the prevalence of this industry has any effect on the moral perceptions of her people, I am, of course, unable to determine, but I am assured that marriages are prosperous, and divorce a rare exception.

The subject of our illustration is one of a group of five which are placed at various salient points in the nave, and are interesting from the fact that they are life-size and realistic representations of the people and manners of the country. Their realism is such that many are at first quite puzzled to decide if they are animate or inanimate. The groups are the work of Mr. SODERMAN, artist, and member of the Stockholm Academy of Arts. The casts are from life, modeled in gypsum, painted and embellished, with an art so consummate that, as above stated, they are the wonder of beholders.

The two figures are husband and wife, natives of the Province of Mora, which is situated in the central part of the kingdom, about 70 miles from Stockholm. Clock making is a leading industry of that section. The figures are dressed in the national costume, the man's coat being composed of sheep-skin, the wool being worn next the body. Shoes are very coarse and the ribbed woolen stockings are fastened just below the knee, with very pictorial garters. The cap and neckerchief of the woman are decorated in colors, and beads of uncouth size are the finishing touch to the daily toilet. On a side aisle is a group from the Province of Dalecarlie. The grandfather, son and wife are mourning the loss of an infant which lies in the stillness of death in a cradle over which the distracted mother is bending. The pose and expression are so true to life that many gazers are visibly affected. The remaining groups are from Leeksand, Skane and Lapland. We have a representation of the old, original Laplander, reindeer, dog, sledge, and any quantity of snow, just as we have fondly imagined the old fellow. Space forbids a further description of the groups; but those visiting the Centennial will miss a most curious and interesting sight who fail to examine the gypsum figures.

As might have been expected, the display of furs is fine and to enumerate the various kinds

would be little less than naming all that are known to commerce. P. N. BERGSTROM, Stockholm, promises to enrich his already varied exhibit by additions that are yet to be taken from the cases. Ladies bent on economy may buy a very nice sable muff for a mere trifle—say $400.

Probably one reason why the furs look so fresh and bright is because the Swedes do not lack paper in which to envelop them and keep out moths. The samples of paper, from the coarsest kinds to artistic wall paper, are entirely too numerous to mention. The book work is done neatly, and the chromo lithography attests their excellence in the making of pictures. A book of fables greatly interested me, especially the illustration of the text, where an alligator was swallowing a bull, and although one would suppose he had his mouth full, he yet is made to remark jocularly, "*Lejonet hade rant in hela sitt hufvud i odjurets svalg*," which possibly refers to the "swallow" when it homeward flies.

I must pass with a mere mention of the domestics, linens and cloths. They are very good of their kind.

Sweden is famed for its iron, which material is amply displayed in various forms. A curiosity is the turning from a soft-steel axle, which extend without break in a continuous line for upwards of a mile. It is wound about a pillar that is decorated with other specimens of iron ware. It must be the Paradise of boys, as jack-knives are sold for six cents each. The arms and accoutrements are under the supervision of Capt. WM. BERGMAN of the Royal Artillery, who was at great pains to explain all of interest in this department.

The Swedish Government has adopted the Remington rifle, and at present have three factories at work turning out firearms. So far as I could see, these samples were in no respect inferior to the work done at Ilion, N. Y.

A cannon on the principle of the Gatling gun, is said to be superior to that famous implement, and the English government has about concluded to adopt the gun of the Swedish inventor in place of the Gatling. I find it will be impracticable to note the jewelry display, carvings, or the machinery in Machinery Hall. Enough has been said, however, to convince anyone that a day in Sweden will not be a day spent in vain, and it is no small advantage to be assisted in your investigations by two gentlemen so courteous and patient under a constant fire of questions as Mr. WM. BERGMAN, Commissioner for the Army Department, and Mr. W. HOFFSTEDT, Mechanical Engineer and a member of the International Jury, to whom I am largely obliged for the above information. YOUNG RURAL.

PHILADELPHIA, June 22.

THE attendance at the Centennial grows daily and it becomes a matter of curious interest to determine to what extent, if any, the fertilizers are mixed up in the phenomenon. We all know that superphosphates have a marked influence on corn, but have they any effect on those who keep the crop covered with leather? Crossing the grounds from the Woman's Pavilion to Agricultural Hall, the visitor involuntarily stops to admire the beautiful display of the Pacific Guano Co. of Boston. The Company has been to considerable expense in erecting a gorgeous kiosk, which is painted fantastically and ornamented with numerous hanging baskets. In the immediate vicinity are a series of plantations containing growing crops, which owe their stimulus to soluble guano.

Seeing this exhibit naturally brings the subject of fertilizers uppermost in one's mind, and as it is but a short distance to Agricultural Hall, it is well worth shaping your course to that part of the building containing the fertilizer display.

Here is our old friend, L. L. CROCKER, proprietor of the Buffalo Fertilizer Works, Buffalo, N. Y., who makes a handsome display. This house has built and maintained its reputation by its scrupulously honest dealings, it being their pride to make an honest fertilizer *only*. Plant food put up in 5-lb. packages and especially adapted to the greenhouse, house plants and flower beds, is a specialty. Mr. LEE explains everything in a way that makes it clear to all.

The Bradley Fertilizer Co., BAUGH BROS., WHALTON, WHANN & Co. and many more, make meritorious exhibits.

If, however, you want to have a scientific talk on guano, and leave the hall with the impression that it is *the* greatest product in existence, just stop and have a chat with Mr. CHAS. V. MAPES, who, when at home, fastens his door-plate at No. 160 Front St., N. Y. In addition to his own fine display, he has charge of the Peruvian Government's exhibit, intrusted to him by HOBSON, HURTADO & Co., their agents in this country. It is important for farmers to know all about the new Rectified Peruvian Guano—that is to say, mixtures of acid and pure guano are made, in which the relative proportions of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potassa vary, in order to meet the requirements of different crops, and are sold on a new system, the retail price being fixed according to the analysis. Thus, if you want nitrogen or ammonia, or potassa, etc., you pay for your fertilizers according as that quality predominates, the price being governed by market quotations of these substances.

LISTER BROS., Newark, N. J., have a case filled with fine bone phosphates, and it is only necessary to go through the department to be convinced that you feel the influence of guano and are growing visibly——hungry. When a man feels in this way, it is as natural as life to go to the Atlas Hotel and consult Mr. BEILEY'S bill of fare, and on viewing the interminable passage that leads to the office, he will surely believe that guano has had something to do with the growth of this mammoth hotel. Don't go away with the idea, but step to the office and interview Mr. U. S. NEWCOMBER, formerly of the "Bingham," who will put you so perfectly at your ease that, instinctively, you will greet the other gentlemen, Messrs. R. CLARK and THOS. F. CLARK, as old friends; and just here let me say that confidence could not be better placed. A hotel with such clerks is fortunate indeed! Y. R.

FRUITS AT THE CENTENIAL:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF JUDGES.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., June 10, 1876.

HON. A. I. GOSHORN, Director-General U. S. Centennial Commission.—Sir: During the week since our last report, the following fruits and vegetables have been submitted for our examination. *Strawberries.*—David L. Peltz, Philadelphia, a seedling strawberry, grown from "Wilson's Albany," with points of excellence, but, on the whole, appears hardly equal to the parent. The same exhibitor had very fair fruits of "Monarch," "Albany," "Chas. Downing" and "Golden Queen," a round berry, rather soft, and not of high flavor.

James S. Jones, Germantown, "Jucunda," these have been generally fine this season. Mr. Jones' were very good; but not quite equal to those which have before come under the Committee's notice.

G. N. Mumma, near Harrisburg, Pa., "Cumberland Triumph," these were much finer fruits than came previously before the Committee, but not quite so high in flavor. It is a promising fruit. Also by the same, "Springdale," another seedling, raised by Amos Miller of Carlisle, darker than the other, a good solid berry, of fine flavor, also a promising new kind.

E. Satterthwaite, Jenkintown, Pa., nine kinds, all of fair average growth, and the "Jucunda" and "Boyden's 30" particularly fine,

"Chas. Dickens", through his gardener, Wm. Smith of Huner's Point, New York, plates of two seedlings. "President Lincoln" was very varied in shape, long, oval, flat and irregular, crimson scarlet, and of fair flavor.

A. M. Smith's seedling, resembling the other, but averaging much flatter, a little brighter in color and of a brisk, good flavor. These both appear to be seedlings of good promise.

H. W. Whitney, 3,620 Baring St., Philadelphia, very good "Jucundas."

Edward S. Handy, Philadelphia, "White Pine Apple," (Lenning White) remarkably good fruit of this slow-bearing but excellent variety. Also "Jucunda," very high colored, and, on the whole, the best of this variety that has been thus far exhibited.

A. H. Felton, Philadelphia, three seedlings, "Reliance," "Continental" and "Beautiful." These seedlings are not as large as some popular kinds exhibited, but are above the average of most that have come before the Committee in flavor, and, on the whole, are promising varieties—the first named perhaps the best.

H. R. Gant, Gloucester, N. J., very good "Monarchs."

S. L. Decon, Morristown, N. J., sends several kinds of good fruits.

H. Jerohmon of the Seth Boyden farm, Irvington, N. J., makes a very handsome display in fine kinds. Of "Boyden's 30" he had three crates, of forty-five quarts each, with extra fine fruit of this popular variety. He had also a box with plants, proving the healthy, free growth of this kind, and also that it will bear a long succession of fruits—a good character in a strawberry.

E. M. Durand of Irvington, N. J., nine new seedlings, called "No. 14," "Great American," "No. 33," "No. 23," "Essex," "No. 12," "Pioneer" and "Giant." They were mostly of very large size and very beautiful in color, making the best collection of seedlings so far exhibited. None of them of the highest flavor. "No. 14" is, in the opinion of the Committee, the best. The raiser regards the "Great American" as the best, taking growth, in all points, into consideration.

Rev. E. P. Roe, Cornwall, N. Y., made a very fine display of eleven kinds. Of these "Keer's Prolific," "Champion" and "Damask Beauty" are on the exhibition tables for the first time, and are equal to the average of the good kinds. The whole collection is creditable.

Peter Henderson, New York, exhibits "Boyden's 30," to show what can be had from plants set out last August. They are not as large as some of this kind that have been set before us, but still superior to many.

E. Burroughs has a dish of superior "Chas. Downings."

Rev. E. P. Roe has a gooseberry, a seedling of the European race, which, so far, has shown no tendency to mildew, which is so common with foreign varieties.

A. S. Felton, Cherries, "Black Tartarian" and "English Morello."

A. A. Outerbridge, Philadelphia, Bermuda Potatoes and remarkably fine Bermuda Tomatoes—equal to the best American production.

Special Committee of Judges. { W. L. SHAFFER. A. W. HARRISON. JOSIAH HOOPES. THOS. MEEHAN.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

LANSDOWNE VALLEY is a great center of attraction.

A LARGE mosaic from the ruins of Carthage has just been added to the Tunisian department.

THERE is a fine exhibition of coal from Ohio in the annex to the Main Building, including a block over 12 feet high.

THE Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, one of the smallest countries of Europe, has an exhibit of only three cases, one containing shoes, the other two real kid gloves.

THE American Literary Union exhibits a large collection of autograph letters, including Benjamin Franklin, General Lafayette, Professor Agassiz, and other celebrities.

THE system of teaching the blind is fully exemplified in the Pennsylvania Educational Building, and numerous specimens of handiwork from different institutions are also exhibited.

THERE is still a legal fight kept up in the Court of Common Pleas for an injunction to restrain the Mayor from spending any part of the $50,000 appropriated by the Councils for entertaining the city's guests.

THE remains of Commodore Perry's flagship Lawrence will soon be exhibited at the Centennial. It will be shipped piecemeal from Erie harbor. At the close it will be cut up and sold for chairs, canes, &c.

THE Reading Railroad Company now convey passengers from Broad Street station to the Exhibition in 16 minutes, from Ninth and Green in 22 minutes, and from Richmond in 30 minutes, for the low fare of 10 cents.

The Horseman.

OVER-BRED AND OVER-FED STOCK.

ENGLISH breeders of fine stock are beginning to question the advisability of carrying the high-feeding and close breeding to extremes as may be seen by the following from the Saturday Review:

Doubts begin to be expressed pretty freely in England as to whether high breeding has not already been cultivated to excess. It appears to be admitted on all hands that Short-Horn cattle, for instance, have decreased in size, while it seems also certain that the fecundity of these highly-bred animals is not so great as it was; for it is said that certain tribes have become celebrated for the barrenness of their females, while at the same time a delicacy of constitution has been developed which unfits them for "roughing it," and requires luxurious arrangements to preserve them in health. As in our race-horses we have, according to some authorities, sacrificed stoutness of constitution and capacity of endurance over long courses for the sake of obtaining high speed over a short distance, so in our cattle the desire for fineness of bone and rapid development of meat has brought into fashion animals which have lost many of the valuable properties of their ancestors. Such breeds cannot exist when subjected to the rough weather which prevails on the exposed hillsides and moors which are so valuable as breeding grounds and nurseries for stock; and perhaps it is for this reason that Ireland, which is prolific in cattle reared without shelter, fails to send us anything which can obtain a place in our exhibitions. No doubt Ireland possesses first-class cattle; but these are bred, sheltered and fed under the same conditions as those to be seen at Islington. And the consumers have something to say also in the matter, as there is beef and beef. They prefer, and justly prefer, the meat of the Devon or the Scot, whose young days are spent in cropping the scanty herbage of the moor or mountain, because the meat has more flavor than that of the rapidly-forced stall-fed ox, which has been crammed with corn and linseed cake from its calfhood. So that even if it be true, as the breeders of the delicate animal contend, that their meat can be produced more economically, because more rapidly than those of other races, let them remember that in losing stamina they restrict the area upon which the beast can be reared, and that we want flavor in our meat even if we have to pay a price for it.

BOTS AND HORSES.

AN article in the Farmer, March 11th, Bots and Horses, from Wilkes' Spirit, concludes by saying that "No treatment avails in effecting the removal of bots from a horse's stomach before the natural period of their exit." I venture to affirm (but only from the result of one case reported to me by a gentleman to whom I recommended its trial), that chloroform will remove and probably kill them. In the case referred to the animal discharged a large quantity of dead bots. The horse recovered.

R.—Soft soap—Teacupful; Common salt—Tablespoonful; Dissolve in warm water—one and a half or two pints, add chloroform—tablespoonful and a half or two, shake well, drench immediately.

The soft soap and salt act as purgatives: also to suspend chloroform. The chloroform may be repeated, suspended in any mucilage, as of flax seed, slippery elm, sassafras pith, gum arabic, etc.

The above prescription is unsurpassed in the treatment of colic of horses and mules.—*N. P. Scott, in Maryland Farmer.*

TRAINING A HORSE TO STEP BETWEEN THILLS.

AGRICOLA, writing to the Herald, tells how he learns a horse to step between thills.

I never draw a carriage up to a horse when he is about to be hitched before it. No matter how awkward and blundering he may be, he is always taught to step over one thill to the desired place between the shafts. Before a horse has been trained to step over one shaft the two shafts are placed on a small bench, eight or ten inches high. Then the animal is led along the side of the carriage and taught carefully to step over one shaft with the fore feet, and then to place his hind feet between the shafts. If he is awkward at first exercise patience with his stupidity, and lead him forward again and bring him around until you induce him to understand what is desired of him. A tractable animal (if his driver knows half as much as the horse) can easily be taught to step between the thills and never touch them with his feet.

The Swine-Herd.

MANGE IN PIGS.

THE Live Stock Journal says: "Mange is supposed by many to be merely a roughening of the skin, like chapping of the hands or face in human beings, arising from uncleanliness or some carelessness; but this is a mistake. It is caused by a minute parasitical insect known as *acarus*, under the skin, hence washing will not rid the insect or cure the pig. This same disease attacks our domestic poultry, and is known as the scab leg, or scurvy leg, scales of large size forming on the legs, and then underlaid with a yellowish substance resembling corn meal.

"In combating this disorder, cleanliness is first, for too much heating food, with scanty water and a dirty pen, invite the insects. When an animal is suspected of having the mange, remove it from the rest, and commence by applying to the skin a mixture of flour of sulphur and fresh lard. If the animal be constipated, which often results from feverishness induced by the presence of *acari*, give from a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful of sulphur in a feed of slop. This will gently open the bowels, besides working through the pores of the skin, and as it does, will materially assist in destroying the parasites. A strong solution or decoction of tobacco juice is a very good remedy, but it is not superior to the other. If the disease has been of very long standing, mercurial ointment is sometimes used; but as this is poisonous, we would not recommend its use. Where an animal has become impervious to the influence of sulphur, I think it best to remove him from his suffering, unless he is very valuable; and very valuable ones, rarely, if ever, get it, for they receive such good treatment that they seldom or never contract it. As a preventive, the utmost cleanliness, and a free use of whitewash in the pens and yards, and proper feeding at regular intervals, are recommended.

"Mange is infectious, and very soon spreads through the entire herd if the animal is not removed. Some claim it to be hereditary, but this is not proved.

[Sulphur put into the food, say a tablespoonful to each hog, for two weeks, will cure mange in hogs or other animals, provided cleanliness of stable and pen is attended to at the same time. We have also cured bad cases of mange in dogs and cats by putting sulphur in their food.—ED. RURAL.]

Dairy Husbandry.

MILK FEVER IN HOT WEATHER.

There is not a season but, as hot weather approaches, we hear complaints from dairymen of losing cows that have freshly come in milk. They die of "milk fever," and so sudden is the attack and so rapid the progress of the disease that often the animal is past all means of help before she is discovered to be ill. Cows in high condition and those that are large milkers are more subject to attack. One of the most prominent symptoms of the complaint is loss of power over the motion of the hind limbs, and the animal falls and is unable to rise. During the first attack the animal is restless, pawing with her feet, and she breathes laboriously. The muzzle is dry and hot, the mouth open and the tongue protruded. The countenance is wild, and she wanders about mournfully lowing. The attack occurs sometimes a few hours after calving, but often two or three days may have elapsed. Generally if a week has passed over since calving, the animal may be considered safe from an attack.

Dairymen who are accustomed to have all their cows "come in milk" early, or during cool weather, and before being turned to grass are seldom troubled with this complaint. Indeed we have rarely seen or heard of losses from this disease during March and April when the feed has been hay. But the time for calving cannot always be regulated, and as some excellent cows are kept over that come in milk during hot weather, a word of precaution as to their management will be proper at this time.

We believe that milk fever can, in most cases, be guarded against and prevented if the animal be treated properly as to diet and exposure previous to calving. And in our experience not a single case has ever occurred in the herd when the proper precautions have been observed, but when neglected losses of valuable animals have been the result.

When cows "late in calving" are turned out to grass in Spring they are apt to take on flesh rapidly, and during the "flush of feed" in June they get quite fat. Such a cow—if calving in July and left exposed to the hot sun, and with no attention to diet—will be very likely to be attacked with milk fever, and in such cases the chances are that she will die; for there is not one farmer in ten that will observe the early symtoms of the disease, or resort to remedies until too late.

The precautionary measures are, to put the cow on a rather spare diet commencing two or three weeks before calving. She should be carefully guarded against exposure to the hot sun. Our practice has been to keep the animal in a clean, well-ventilated stable, allowing her room to walk about, but restricting her to a very sparing diet during the day—a little hay or straw to pick at. She should be supplied with water as needed. Then as the sun goes down and it begins to be cool in the evening she may be turned to pasture and allowed to graze during the night. This is the ordinary treatment from day to day for cows in fair flesh and condition. If the animal be very fat, a more sparing diet may be necessary—the object being to reduce her flesh. In this case keep her out of the sun during the day and in the evening she may be turned in the yard with a regulated allowance of grass cut and fed to her on the soiling plan.

After calving she should be kept out of the hot sun for at least five or six days, and not allowed full rations if she be in high flesh.

In case of an attack the usual remedies recommended are to bleed and to open the bowels by giving Epsom salts—one pound being considered a dose. Aromatics—such as ginger or herb teas are also regarded as useful. The disease is an inflammatory one and must be treated as such. Youatt, who is regarded as good authority, says: "The bowels must be opened otherwise the animal will perish; but the fever having been subdued by a judicious bleeding, and the bowels after that being excited to action the recovery is in a manner assured. The medicine should be active and in sufficient quantity; for there is no time for trifling here. A scruple of the farina of the Croton-nut, and a pound of Epsom Salts will constitute a medium dose. For a large beast the quantity of the salts should be increased. Doses of half a pound should afterward be given every six hours until purgation is produced. If twenty-four hours have passed and purging has not commenced even after the administration of such a drug as the Croton-nut there is reason to suspect that the greater part of the medicine has not got beyond the rumen; and on account of the cuticular and comparatively insensible lining of this stomach, strong stimulants must now be added to the purgative medicine, in order to induce it to contract upon and expel its contents. Two drachms each of ginger, gentian and caraway powder, with half a pint of old ale, may, with advantage, be given with each dose of physic.

Warm water, with Epsom Salts dissolved in it, or warm soap and water, will form the best injection, and should be thrown up frequently, and in considerable quantities."

Sponging the body with cold water has been recommended as useful in allaying the fever and inflammation, but of those instances in which we have seen this resorted to the animals died. Possibly they would have been lost under any treatment, but the fact that the water seemed to produce no good effect has weakened our confidence in this remedy. "Milk fever" is a disease to be dreaded by dairymen, and every one who has cows whose time of calving occurs during hot weather should take the proper precaution to reduce their diet and keep from exposure to the hot sun previous to calving. And if the cow be in very high condition and has been kept upon luxuriant pasture a dose of physic in addition to the spare diet may be of advantage.

PASTURE SHADES FOR MILCH COWS.

The question of shade in pastures is being discussed and we regret to see it urged that shade is of no benefit to dairy stock but is, on the contrary, a disadvantage in this—that it fosters a kind of lazy inactivity and thus, by preventing a full consumption of food, lessens the yield of milk.

The advocates of "no shade in pasture," argue that the cow is simply a machine for the manufacture of milk—that to make a large yield requires a large amount of food above that needed for the support of the animal, and that when pastures are well supplied with trees or other shade, cows in hot weather seek shelter and rest and will not feed for a full yield of milk. Take away this inducement for comfort, they say, and cows will rest no longer in the hot sun than is necessary, because they will be compelled in their discomfort to move about—and thus grazing is promoted. We know dairymen of large practical experience who hold to this view of the question, and who have taken pains to remove every shade tree from their pastures. But is it a fact that cows will give more milk under such circumstances? And even though it be shown that a gain of milk can be made by removing all shade in pastures, are dairymen justified in adopting such a system?—and will not the milk of cows so exposed to the sun during intensely hot weather be injured?

So far as we can learn there have been no properly conducted experiments that prove that a larger yield of milk can be obtained from cows when they are not allowed shade in hot weather, than when they are allowed shade. It is true cows will not yield so much milk when they have the run of large tracts of timber, because in woodlands the cows crop the leaves of trees and feed upon various plants that have a tendency to lessen the yield of milk. It is quite different with shade trees scattered here and there over grass lands—they have acquired size and the branches are above the reach of cattle. We do not believe that cows deprived of shade will yield more milk than those which have it under such circumstances. All our experience in the care and management of milch cows teaches us that the more comfort you can give the animal the more milk she will yield, other things being equal; and when cows seek shade during hot weather they do it to escape the burning rays of the sun, and because it affords them relief and comfort in the same way that it does man when similarly exposed. It is a cruel practice to compel cattle to bear the intense rays of the sun during our hot summers. They need protection at such seasons and if man finds shade at times, not only grateful and necessary, there is no reason why the same rule may not apply in some degree to our domestic animals. We have reason to believe that milk is not unfrequently seriously impaired when cows have been exposed for many hours to intense heat under the direct rays of the sun. It has a tendency to make the animals feverish and hence where pastures are stripped of shade trees it is well to erect temporary shades. And these temporary shades can be made useful for enriching knolls and the poorest parts of the field that need manures; for these shades will draw the cattle to such points for rest and there will be an accumulation of droppings which will be of great utility in renovating those spots. Then by changing the shades from place to place as occasion requires these poor spots will be permanently benefitted all over the field.

Those who study to get the largest results from milch cows are careful to keep the animals as quiet and comfortable as possible. All excessive travel or labor in obtaining food, all pain, fear and anxiety are disturbing causes that check the secretion of milk to much larger extent than most people imagine.

SHRINKAGE OF CHEESE IN CURING.

The loss in shrinkage which a cheese will make during a given time while curing depends upon several circumstances, namely, upon size, shape, temperature, dryness of the atmosphere, etc.

Mr. S. Littlefield of Plymouth, Wis., who seems to have had pretty fair success as a cheese maker, has given some statistics in regard to the shrinkage of cheese while curing under favorable circumstances. He has two rooms for curing. The upper room is kept at a temperature of about 70° by a fire below. When the weather occasionally runs that room up to about 80° it is tempered with ice, and when days of that kind get rather frequent the lower room is used. He says the lower room will be at least 10° cooler than the upper. During the summer of the past year it several times reached 73°, but went above that in only two or three instances. Whenever the temperature approached 60° a fire was built, and during a large part of the autumn a constant fire was necessary.

Mr. L. makes a cheese weighing about forty-seven pounds, and he finds it will lose weight in curing in the rooms as above described at the rate of 4½ to 5 pounds on 100 pounds during the first 20 days; after this the loss in weight is ¾ to 1 pound per 100 in every 10 days. He says a careful weighing of cheese kept 30 days in different parts of the room, under a difference of 3 to 6° of temperature, the cheese in the warmer part of the room made a loss of 1 pound more on 300 pounds than the cheese kept at a lower temperature.

The shrinkage of cheese kept for long periods in badly-constructed curing-rooms is very considerable, and often much more than is imagined by those who are not accustomed to test shrinkage by resorting to the scales from time to time.

PREPARING RENNETS.

Whey is better than water for soaking rennets. The whey for this purpose should be purified by raising it to boiling heat, when the albumen and oily matter will rise to the surface and may be skimmed off. The whey is then set aside to cool, when the rennets are added, with salt, and after soaking two or three days they should be well rubbed out to extract their strength, and this should be continued from time to time for several days. Then strain the liquor off through a fine cloth into a clean stone crock, and it is fit for use. Add more whey to the rennets and soak and rub out as before, when their virtues will be nearly or quite exhausted, and the skins may then be taken out and thrown away. Rennets should always be soaked in stone jars, as the ferment penetrates wooden vessels, which soon taint, and when once tainted they spoil the rennet and cause trouble in cheese making.

The rennet jar should be set in a cool place and the liquor well stirred from day to day when dipping out the measure required for coagulating the milk. Great care should be taken to use none but good, sweet rennets, for a bad rennet soaked with a batch of good ones will contaminate the whole, rendering the liquor unfit for use.

The Herdsman.

GARGET.

Zelco writes to the Scientific Farmer. Garget is an inflammation of the milk vessels, and cows coming in high condition are very likely to show a touch of it. At this season, these organs are, so to speak, at a high service pressure. The force of the animal seems all at once to be directed to the production of milk, in expectancy of the coming calf. The organs have an excess of activity—the vessels are extended and pressed with the abundance of the incoming tide—and so long as the milk is accumulating and there is no withdrawal of it, the greater is the pressure upon the tissues; and it is this undue pressure that is in many cases the direct occasion of the ensuing inflammation. Garget may be present in an animal of otherwise perfect health. In such cases, the garget is apt to pass readily off, leaving no marks of its presence. It is but a trifle, and a strong healthy system can swallow up many little ills and make no account of them. My remedy for garget is to maintain most ample health in the animal. Cherish at the critical period all the conditions of health; and see to it that all unfavorable conditions, as drafts of air, bad water, too dry food, hard plants to lie on, a hot sun, etc., are reduced to the minimum. Put six men on one end of a rope, and then they can easily pull one man. With the best of health in the cow, garget is the one man. But let there be a little falling off in the health, let there be a little indisposition—and the cow is peculiarly sensitive at this time—and we are soon in trouble. Now and then garget, so commonly present, instead of passing off in the healthful life current, lingers and augments, until it becomes a serious evil.

When the udder is largely extended, and milk comes to the teat before the calf is come, as is not seldom the case, then it should be our office to act the calf; evidently nature is at fault and needs our interposition. I have had many cases of garget that have been somewhat troublesome; but scarcely a case where I could not look back and see mistaken treatment or more likely an omission to do something that should have been done. Feeding one's own stock, and thinking right along, about each animal, as we care for them, I hold there need seldom occur troublesome garget. It is something that is born of the artificial conditions to which the cow is subject, and preventive measures are commonly at our command. There are, however, cases when the services of a skilled veterinarian will be very desirable. The practical man will sometimes find himself at a loss either to explain the origin of the difficulty, or to prescribe a treatment. But this is an extreme of garget; and it is only such form of garget as is of frequent occurence on every milk farm, that I now refer to.

But it will be asked what shall we do, when garget is anticipated or is already present? Give a dose of epsom-salt morning and night until its action is perceived. Three-quarters of a pound is not an excessive quantity. Dissolve this in a bottle filled with warm water, then pour it down the animal's throat. Don't look her in the face now, for cough she assuredly will. This is the stomach treatment; as to the swollen udder, keep it clean by washing with soap and water.

JERSEY CATTLE.

The London Agricultural Gazette strikes the following hard blows at those who value color as a mark of pure blood.

If the value of Jersey stock is to rest on color, deterioration will surely follow of those useful qualities that are far more noticeable in the good old-fashioned parti-colored cow than that which will be found among the generality of fine, high-bred, whole-colored fawns, grays, or foxey, so-called, Jerseys. I have owned hundreds of acclimated Jersey stock, and have never, as a rule, found the whole-colored such large producers as many parti-colored ones; in fact, by far the most butter-producing cow I ever possessed was not only parti-colored, but the most ugly and ungainly beast of the lot, yet her stock have never failed to show their large butter-making qualities. The true type of a Jersey cow is, in fact, an animal that will not make meat. I do not say that this is not improved upon by acclimatization and a slight introduction of a hardier breed, of which what are termed Chichester Jersey are the best description, neither do I say that Jersey breeders on the island itself have not in some instances a breed that shows a disposition to make some flesh, and very probably may then be following up the requirements of fashion, yet I maintain that a pure Jersey should throw the bulk of her feeding properties into butter, and with little to flesh. The parti-colored good cow may have but a white spot, especially under the belly, but throughout the body the rich yellow skin, under any colored hair, will be found—black, white, or fawn. I have seen the commencement of a whole-colored herd, the property of a noble duke, to obtain which I have seen wealthy and large producing cows sold off to prevent an animal remaining with the slightest stain of other than one color.

Entomological.

THE PERIODICAL CICADA.

It will appear this summer around Alton, Ill., in Indiana and in various Southern States.

Brood X (*Tredecim*), 1862-1875.—In the year 1875, and at intervals of thirteen years thereafter, they will most likely occur in different parts of Texas. According to Dr. Smith they appeared in vast numbers in some parts of Texas in 1849, though he was not able to get any particulars.

Brood XI (*Septendecim*), 1859-1876.—In the year 1876, and at intervals of seventeen years thereafter, they will in all probability appear in parts of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois and Indiana. According to Dr. Smith they appeared from Raleigh, N. C., to near Petersburgh, Va., in 1842 and 1859; in Rowan, Davie, Cabarras and Iredell counties in the same State, in 1825, 1842 and 1859; in the valley of Virginia as far as the Blue Ridge on the east, the Potomac on the north, the Tennessee and North Carolina lines on the south, and for several counties west, in 1808, 1842 and 1859; in the south part of St. Mary's county, Maryland, dividing the county about midway east and west, in 1825, 1842 and 1859; in Illinois about Alton, in 1842 and 1859; and in Sullivan and Knox counties, in Ind., in 1842 and 1850.

The above predictions are taken from Prof. Riley's chronological history of these curious insects, commonly known as seventeen-year old locusts. It would result that, aside from the Southern States mentioned and in which we already get news of their appearance, the cicades will appear around Alton and in Sullivan and Knox counties, Ind. We shall be very glad to have our subscribers in those localities mentioned inform us as to whether the facts this year will verify the correctness of the perdictions.

Industrial Implements.

THE BOOMER & BOSCHERT POWER CIDER PRESS.

THE above cut illustrates one of the several cider and other Presses, found in the exhibit of the Boomer & Boschert Press Co. of Syracuse, N. Y., at the Centennial Exposition in their Agricultural Hall—location, column S & T 12.

The exhibits of this Department, taken as a whole, have, without doubt, never been equaled in point of variety and the most improved adaptations of mechanical methods employed in the various agricultural interests of the world. While many of these exhibits in their principal features have already become well known, yet there are others of more recent origin of such marked character as to entitle them to prominent notice and description of operation. Among these we may safely class the improvements in cider-making, the advancement in which, during the last three or four years, have, as compared with former methods, almost revolutionized the business.

The system which we here illustrate and describe, may be said, substantially, to contain a combination of the most approved methods in present use, in part or entire, by the leading cider makers of the country.

There are three principle and essential features noticeable in these improvements, to wit:—1st. The best mode of reducing the apples to Pomace. 2d. The new and improved method of laying up the cheese. 3d. The continuous application of progressive power for expressing the juice of the apples.

Briefly as regards the grinding, experience has demonstrated that the Grater, properly constructed and run at high speed, is the best known device for breaking the minute cells of the apple and insuring fineness, which condition is essential to insuring both an easy extraction and a full yield of the juice. The Grater in the exhibit referred to is simple in construction, safe in strength, with every detail of adjustment known to the wants of the business.

Both the frame and the cylinder are made of iron. The latter turned and finely balanced, may be run from two thousand to three thousand revolutions per minute, if desired. Eight steel knives, set in planed grooves across the face of the cylinder, are held in place by heavy iron bands at each end, and are arranged to be readily adjusted at any desired projection. Five concaves of flat steel springs are so arranged as to be set at any desired distance from the cylinder. A noticeable improvement is, that each one may be increased to any desired degree of stiffness. These concaves fly back when stone or other hard substances pass through, thereby preventing injury to the knives. The grinding capacity varies from 150 to 400 bushels per hour, according to speed and fineness of work.

The most noticeable feature of the exhibit, however, is the Power Press with double platform and the peculiar manner of laying up the cheese, as illustrated above, which methods are now extensively adopted by leading cider manufacturers in this country.

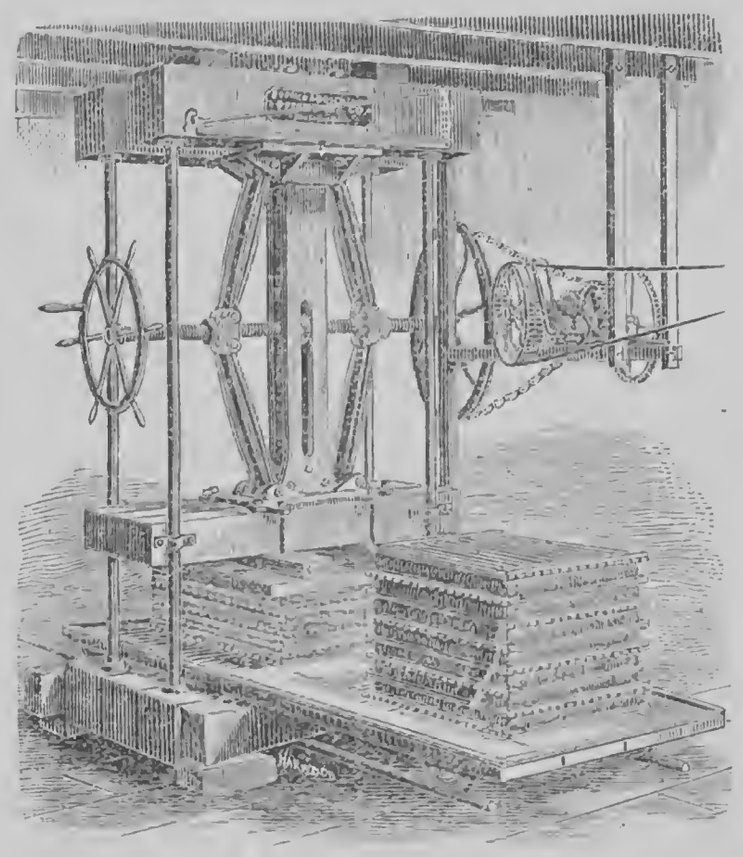
The Press in the illustration is run by power; but presses constructed upon this principle, whether worked by hand or power, are capable of great pressure.

In running down the press, the levers on each side are simultaneously drawn towards each other by revolving the right and left hand screw which passes through the nuts which hinge the levers at their center, thus forcing the platen or follower downward with a continuously decreasing movement, and consequently with a continuously accumulating power which at last becomes almost irresistible.

The double platform is constructed of sufficient length to hold two cheeses, one of which can be laid up at one end while the other is being pressed. The platform is mounted on wheels running upon a track of such length as to admit of endwise movement sufficient to bring either cheese under the follower at will. This arrangement is an important improvement, as it enables the press to be kept in nearly continuous operation—nearly doubling its capacity.

The upper platform, or covering for the top of the cheese, is permanently attached to the follower, thus obviating the continuous placing and removal of the same. The manner of laying up the cheese renders the operation of pressing clean, quick and effective. It consists of successive and regular layers of pomace, each about four inches thick and of a size adapted to the size of the press, each layer completely enfolded in cloth. These are shaped in a simple form or frame, insuring uniformity of size.

Racks made of basswood strips, one-half inch thick by three-quarter inch wide and one-quarter inch apart, are laid between the layers as they are formed. The spaces between the slots operate as channels, giving ready escape for the cider from the center and all parts of the cheese alike. By means of the provisions for free escape, the power of the press may be continuously applied so that each cheese containing ten to fifteen barrels is pressed, on an average, in one hour's time, to which is added ten to fifteen minutes more to allow for proper drainage. Additional important advantages are gained by this system, in that the cider passes from the press strained and perfectly free from dirt and particles of pomace, and also in doing away with the dirt, litter and expense incident to the use of straw.



BOOMER & BOSCHERT POWER CIDER PRESS.

Sixty to eighty barrels of cider in ten hours can be made with one press operated in this manner, with labor which formerly averaged fifteen to twenty barrels only. The machinery described will be put in practical use daily as early as the present growth of apples will permit.

Taken as a whole, this exhibit is a great advancement in cider-making appliances and machinery, and one which, in view of the general promising prospects for a large crop of apples this season, is most timely for those wishing new, or desiring to substitute more improved machinery. B.

ENTRIES TO THE CENTENNIAL FIELD EXHIBITION,

To be held at Schenck's Station, Pa., near Philadelphia, commencing June 26.

MOWING AND REAPING MACHINES.

Aultman, Miller & Co., "Buckeye,"	4	machines.
C. Aultman & Co., "Buckeye,"	4	"
Towanda Eureka M. Co., "Eureka,"	1	"
Otis Bros. & Co., "Haymaker,"	1	"
Wm. E. Kelly, "Screw,"	1	"
Eagle M. & R. M. Co., "Wood's Eagle,"	4	"
Screw Mower & Reaper Co., "Screw & Keystone,"	4	"
Walter A. Wood M. & R. M. Co., "W. A. Wood,"	5	"
Wm. F. Goodwin, "Screw,"	1	"
Warder, Mitchell & Co., "Champion,"	3	"
Whiteley, Fassler & Kelley, "Champion,"	6	"
Hilton, Buckman & Co. "Hallenbeck,"	3	"
C. H. & L. J. McCormick, "Advance,"	4	"
Johnston Harvester Co., "Johnston,"	6	"
C. Russell & Co., "Peerless,"	5	"
D. M. Osborne & Co., "Burdick & Kirby,"	6	"
Adam Pritz & Co., "Centennial Dorsey,"	1	"
Adriance, Platt & Co., "Buckeye,"	2	"
Daniel McPherson, "Marsh,"	1	"
Rochester Agricultural Works, "Meadow Lark,"	3	"
Jas. L. Spink & Co., "Meadow Lark,"	1	"
Bradley M'f'g Co., "Bradley,"	4	"
Edwin Bayliss, "Massillon,"	1	"

HAY RAKES.

Vermont Farm Mach. Co., "Gleaner,"	1	machine.
Clegg, Wood & Co., "Archer,"	1	"
Huber M'f'g Co., "Revolving,"	1	"
S. R. Nye, "Bay State,"	1	"
A. W. Coates & Co., "Coates Lock Lever,"	1	"
J. E. Wisner, "Tiger,"	1	"
W. H. Field, "Field's New,"	1	"
N. Y. Plow Co., ——	1	"
John Thomas & Sons, "Thomas,"	1	"
Wheeler & Melick Co., "Centennial,"	2	"
" " "Ithaca,"	2	"
" " "Saratoga,"	1	"
Bradley M'f'g Co., "Bradley,"	1	"

HAY TEDDERS.

James Lee, Jr., ——	1	machine.
Stuart Perry, "Perry's New York,"	1	"
Richardson M'f'g Co., "Bullard,"	1	"

HAY LOADERS.

American Hay Loading M. Co., ——	1	"
Stratton & Cullum, "Foust's,"	1	"

HAY FORKS, ELEVATORS, ETC.

J. R. Fitzhugh, Hay Elevator,	——	
A. J. Nellis & Co., Hay Fork,	——	

HORSE POWERS.

G. Westinghouse & Co., ——	1	machine.
Minard Harder, "Fearless,"	1	"

HORSE AND STEAM POWER THRESHERS.

G. Westinghouse & Co., ——	2	machines.
Minard Harder, "Fearless,"	1	"
John J. Bricker, ——	1	"
Penn'a Ag'l Works, ——	1	"

PORTABLE ENGINES.

G. Westinghouse & Co., ——	1	machine.
Penn'a Ag'l Works, ——	1	"
Chandler & Taylor, ——	1	"

PLOWS AND GANG PLOWS.

Sterns, Foster & Co., "Chicago Gang,"	——	
B. S. Benson, Steam Plowing Attachm't,	——	
Minot Ellis, Swivel Plow,	——	

HORSE CORN DRILL.

J. & J. A. Campbell, ——	1	machine.

The Poultry Yard.

AYLESBURY DUCKS.

LAST September I had forty-three Aylesbury ducks, young and old. Two years ago this spring I procured two dozen eggs from a party in Rye, N. Y., I forget his name, from which I got seven ducks. Not the fault of the eggs, however, but one hen got sick under which I had put half of them. The forty-three spoken of above came from that start.

I cannot give any account of the profit and loss but I can state some facts.

They commenced to lay about the 1st September and continued through that month and October and until the 10th November. We obtained fifty-two eggs in September and ninety-six in October but only twenty in November. They commenced again the 2d of February in which month they only laid fifteen eggs. In March I got one hundred and forty-nine and in April two hundred and eighty-six and in May two hundred and ninety-five and so far in June (the 18th) one hundred and thirty-four.

I have however forgotten to say that our spring number is only twenty-two for we have had some very fine eating during the winter from our fall flock. I can assure you that it was very toothsome eating.

Of the twenty-two we have lost two and seven are drakes. These are facts and "we *want* facts young man." Let me recapitulate—In September we got 52 eggs; October, 96; November, 20; February, 15; March, 149; April, 286; May, 295; June 18, 134. Total 1,047.

I don't think this a very bad showing, but as I have said before, I cannot state anything in regard to the profit because my fowls and ducks are all fed in common.

I have no pond of water for them to resort to, but I have some low land through which there is a wide drain to which they resort when permitted, and where we have sometimes to deny them, as our garden is in that neighborhood and they are very fond of "garden sass." I see that Mr. BICKNELL in the June number of the Poultry Bulletin, says that from two to four ducks are allowable to one drake. I think I have had too many drakes this spring and shall hereafter have only one drake for three ducks.

Young ducks are very tender and require peculiar feeding and much care. In the article above alluded to, Mr. BICKNELL says that they should be fed only cooked food, composed of the meal of corn and oats ground together in which by measure add an equal quantity of wheat bran with which mix some finely-chopped cooked meat of a cheap kind. I have not had very excellent luck this spring with my ducklings, but hope to have better now that I have adopted Mr. BICKNELL'S plan of feeding. B. Z.

Ridgewood, N. J.

WHICH IS THE MOST PROFITABLE BREED OF HENS TO KEEP?

THIS seems to be a difficult problem to solve. After ten years experience, with a number of different breeds and an almost endless variety of crosses, I have come to the conclusion that there is more in the proper management than in the breed. For five or six years, the Brahmas were my first choice but I have finally decided that some of the smaller breeds—as for instance the "Leghorns," "Houdans" or "Polands"—will pay best.

A hen weighing three or four pounds can lay one egg in a day, while a hen weighing twelve pounds can do no more. The amount of feed required to grow one chicken to twelve pounds should raise two or three smaller ones. When full grown the difference in food is less, but there is still a difference.

A laying hen will lay her weight in eggs in a very short time and requires food accordingly. A miller cannot run his mill without grain, neither can a hen, a part which some people seem to overlook.

When a person is sufficiently interested in the poultry business to pay extravagant prices for eggs of—to him at least—new breeds, he is very likely to give them extra care and attention—at least while they are a new thing—and the result is a good margin of profit, for hens will pay every time if well taken care of and the profit corresponds with the care taken.

Pleased at the result the next step he will probably send an article to the papers saying that the "Brahmas," "Leghorns," "Houdans" or whatever the variety may be, are, all things considered, the most profitable breed to keep, little thinking that the hens rejected would probably have given as good results under the same improved management.

I have kept the Bolton Grays, Polands, Dorkings, Black Spanish, Light and Dark Brahmas, Buff, and Partridge Cochins, Dominiques and White Leghorn. Each and all have their strong point, also their demerits.

One breed are good layers, but unfit for the table, another takes on flesh rapidly but lay sparingly. One kind will allow you to almost step on them and another are as wild as hawks. One bears confinement well, others not at all. And so it goes. I have not yet found the breed that is perfect in all respects.

It is perfectly proper for any person to have their pet kinds, but overstrained statements, and fixed up figures to sustain their choice should be avoided.

My average number of hens has been about one hundred and I have kept an exact account of all monies received or expended and am not obliged to depend upon what my neighbors say, or to guess at results, for the figures are before me. Feed raised has been put down as feed bought. Eggs and poultry used in the family have been reckoned as sold.

Now it is not my intention to inflict all these figures upon the RURAL readers, suffice it to say that after allowing for all mishaps and losses—that have been considerable—and for all mistakes—which have been many—the net cash profit figures up to something over nine hundred (900) dollars for the ten years. To be sure this is not as good a showing as we often read about, but is very satisfactory to me.

The manure made is also worth considering. Then the service the hens have done by destroying worms, bugs, insects, etc., is beyond estimate, as is also the great pleasure in taking care of them and the satisfaction of testing different breeds. On the whole I am well pleased with poultry keeping. NELSON RITTER.

Syracuse, N. Y.

HOUDANS.

THE English Ag. Gazette while speaking a good word for the Houdan, is quite averse to placing it first in the list:

We are frequently asked what breed of poultry is considered the best—a very puzzling question to answer without a statement of circumstances, by which we mean situation and size of run, whether eggs or chicks are the chief consideration, if beauty of plumage or a quiet easy-going disposition is of consequence. When informed on these points, it is comparatively easy to name two or three varieties of fowls which if properly tended, will satisfy the demand for "profitable poultry." At present there is a strong endeavor to force Houdans to the top of the list and there leave them permanent among fowls. We are of those who dispute their right to that position. We know, and readily allow, that their merits are great, that under trying circumstances they hold their ground and that, if considered on the table as well as producers of eggs, they will hold their own. Hardy, weighing well for their size, consequently compact and plump, quiet and with flesh of a good color, they are in the first-class but not at the top of it. Some people admire them in the yard or pen, others dislike their appearance, though "massed" or seen in large numbers they would please the eye of many who are not partial to a solitary bird. Some good judges consider that no bird looks better alone in the competition pen than a good Houdan. That is a matter of taste and we must leave every one to consult and please his own eye. Our object now is to resist the efforts of Houdan fanciers to place their favorites at the top of the list, while, as we have said, we are quite alive to their just claims upon the favor of poultry keepers.

FOWLS prefer, as well as need, good, pure, cold water, especially in warm, sultry weather.

Farm Economy.

SHEEP PASTURAGE AND WIRE WORMS.

A SINGULAR instance of the effect of pasturing sheep on land infected with wire worms is recorded by a correspondent of the Agricultural Gazette.

In answer to your corespondent, "J. C. C.," I should like to give you a case of my own this year, though I am quite at a loss to account for it. I planted a field of 4½ acres with vetches, half of it in October and half of it in March. I did not manure for them, as the ground had been well manured for the wheat crop, which was very good, without the smallest symptom of wireworm at any time. As soon as the first crop of vetches was ready, my ewes and lambs went up to them, but by the time I wanted them away they had only used up half the field, though the waggoner mowed every other land. The other half of the field I did not dare thresh for seed, as, owing to heavy snows, it was not planted till March; we accordingly mowed it for fodder. We got the whole field plowed during harvest, but being too late for turnips, we left it for wheat. In November, to the envy of my neighbors, I got the field planted well—too fine, if anything, all through. The half of the field the sheep were on looked fit to grow anything. All the wheat came up well, and to the middle of March no one land differed from another. From that time till the last week in April the wheat where the vetches had been mown went on splendidly, while to an inch of the last hurdle the other began to go off till the sight was heart-rending, and my men wanted to plant it again with April wheat. Following the advice given in your columns, I sent for a hundredweight of nitrate of soda, and about the same of salt, having well mixed them, I sowed it myself on every piece attacked by the worm. I could not even then help thinking that the folded land would still come the best if the worm could be stopped, as the blades lay close to the ground, were broad, and of a deep green color. The nitrate and the salt worked wonders, and since the field was harrowed when the seeds were sown, the whole crop has looked well, and I will now back the folded part against the other. I really believe the timely application of the nitrate and salt stopped the worm and saved the crop; but the question that "J. C. C." and I both want answered is, Why should folding sheep engender wireworm? I must admit my sheep had no cake, which is supposed to be very inimical to the worm. I never, in previous years, noticed any worm in land treated the same way. I suppose this piece of land would be called a red marl, but it is of peculiar character.

LIME AND SALT.

PROF. JOHNSON recommends for fertilizing purposes, to mix one bushel salt and two of dry lime under cover; allow mixture to decompose gradually, thus forming chemical union. For this purpose the mixture should be made six weeks before use or still better two or three months, the heap being turned over occasionally. This salt and lime mixture, when applied at the rate of twenty or thirty bushels per acre, forms an excellent top-dressing for many crops. It acts powerfully on the vegetable matter of soils; fifty-six bushels applied to turnips have produced as large a crop as barnyard manure. It is destructive to grubs and insects in the soil. Like salt, it attracks moisture from the air, and is useful against drouth. Its decomposing power is remarkable, and if three or four bushels of it are mixed with a load of muck, the latter will be thus thoroughly powdered.

THE GRASSHOPPERS ROUTED.

THE Boulder (Col.) News, says that, Mr. James Gould called lately, and added something to our stock of grasshopper lore. He says that plowing the land before the eggs hatch in the spring destroys them utterly. This being the case, the farmer has only to guard his grain fields against the incursions of those that hatch outside. This he can effectually do. Mr. Gould has put in 120 acres of grain, and has kept the 'hoppers off, depending mainly on dripping coal oil in the ditches. He has used sixteen gallons and destroyed millions. Almost as soon as they are hatched the myriads outside instinctively move for the fields of young wheat, plunging in to cross the ditch and die at the touch of the kerosene. The ditch is fixed to make eddies, and a scum of the oil floats on the surface. Mr. Gould says that with what the farmers now know about fighting the hoppers, there is no more danger from those that hatch in the spring. About those that come on the wing, late in the season, he says the remedy is to sow early, and then the crops will be out of the way before they come. A year ago it seemed as if the locust scourge might destroy Colorado farming, making a crop so uncertain that none would take the risks. Now it is certainly known how to avert all this danger. It is a most wonderful triumph of the thought of man. He has done what it seemed impossible could ever be done, and henceforth the wheat harvest will be gathered in all the Colorado valleys, year after year, in spite of the locust, thank heaven, and thank human invention, too.

At a recent horse show, we saw men from the various sections of the county, and all told the same story of unwearying diligence and triumph over the 'hopper and represent that the crops never looked more promising at this season. But the best of it is that the victory is decisive for all time as for any destruction from the locust. And the husbandman may lift up his head and rejoice that the day of his redemption draweth nigh.

Arboricultural.

THE NEW JAPAN MAPLES.

A FEW weeks since, we paid a visit to Kissena Nurseries, Flushing, L. I. The venerable Mr. S. B. PARSONS is the proprietor of these nurseries, a gentleman and a scholar too well known to need even this introduction to our readers.

FIGURE 1.

Mr. PARSONS began their propagation in 1862, 14 years ago. Specimens were first sent to him by Dr. HALL and several years after, Mr. THOS. HOGG brought a number over and planted them on the banks of the East River near Hellgate Ferry. They have there stood (those first sent) without protection and without injury for ten years. The question which at once arises in one's mind as he looks at the hundreds of bright plants in Mr. PARSON'S frames, viz.: Are they hardy? seems thus fully answered in the affirmative. But will the bright colors—as bright, indeed, as those of a *Coleus* or variegated *Pelargonium*—stand the sun? "Yes," earnestly replies Mr. TRUMPY, they are brightest in the sun!

The truth of the answer of Mr. PARSON'S well-known propagator may be tested by those visiting the Centennial, where in the plots already referred to in our Centennial floricultural articles, specimens may be seen. Planted in a full exposure to the sun and upon high ground, this may be considered a sufficient test.

Mr. HOGG has of late been sending new varieties which in the nursery are planted with the

FIGURE 2.

We saw many rare and new plants respecting which in the future, as we have done in the past we hope to speak from time to time—but the Japan Maples, the chief object of our visit, must confine our attention now.

There is no tree better known throughout our country than the Maple or one that, in one or the other of its many species and varieties, is more popular as an ornamental tree. Familiar, therefore, as they are to every eye, we were not prepared to see in these Japan Maples leaves as delicately cut and as highly colored and variegated as are many of the plants which for those reasons are cultivated and prized in the conservatory, greenhouse and garden border.

the growth is so weakly that it sooner or later dwindles away. The stock thus far used is *A. Polymorphum*, itself a slow-growing Japanese species.

The accompanying sketches are nearly *facsimiles* drawn from pressed leaves and selected so as best to illustrate types. All are simple palmate leaves, lobed, cleft, parted and divided. Fig. 2 is a divided leaf and the segments are many of them again parted or divided, the lower parts of the divisions having few of either teeth or incisions thus approaching petioles and compound leaves.

Fig. 1. The shape of this leaf, as will be seen, is not unlike many of the common Maples. But the color varies from golden-yellow to greenish-yellow and yellowish-white. One color in the same leaf runs into another and the effect at a distance is that of a light yellow.

Fig. 3, the smallest leaf, is a dark green, variegated, as shown, with rose and white, the lines of variegation being distinctly marked. Fig. 2 is seven times divided and the two lateral lower segments each twice parted. It is in color a solid claret, as dark as a Copper Beech though of a brighter hue.

Whether they will prove all that they now fairly promise remains to be seen. If they do, no prophetic powers are needed to foresee that they will sooner or later find a place in every garden of any pretension. We append a note from Mr. J. R. TRUMPY whose great and successful experience as a propagator will give weight to whatever he says:

1. I judge the Japan Maples you have seen from 5 to 8 years of age, beginning with the stock. I think, however, I could produce finer plants in five years (including age of stock, say 5 to 6 years) and a better proportion between roots

FIGURE 3.

and head than the Japan method, which aims to retard and dwarf, can produce.

2. All the covering they had last winter was a lath shade as you saw; but we have planted out in the border this year, without intention of protection and will report to you next year.

3. Until now I have not found any other stock but the Japan stock that seems to answer for them, but will further report as I am in the dark about some species.

4. Have no knowledge about their size as they may be seen in Japan, but the largest plants are from 5 to 8 feet at Mr. HOGG'S 81th St., East River. They have been unprotected these many years.

Scientific and Useful.

SALICYLIC ACID AS A PRESERVATIVE.

WAGNER recommends, in the *Deutsch Industrie Zeitung*, the practical use of salicylic acid for the preservation of articles of food, especially meat. He employs a concentrated solution of the acid in water, with which he covers the meat and preserves it in well closed vessels. In this way he says he has preserved beef, freed from fat, for a period of fourteen months. He recommends salicylic acid as an addition to lime for meat or butter, and in the preserving of fruit and vegetables, also an addition to wine and beer to prevent souring. Generally speaking, its addition to any substance undergoing acetic fermentation, (souring) retards the formation of the acid.

GLUE CRACKING.

GLUE frequently cracks because of the dryness of the air in rooms warmed by stoves. An Austrian Journal recommends the addition of a little chloride of calcium as such a deliquescent salt that it attracts enough moisture to prevent the glue from cracking. Glue thus prepared will adhere to glass, metal, etc. and can be used for putting on labels without danger of their dropping off.

Floricultural.

CENTENNIAL FLORICULTURE.

One of the happy disappointments of the Centennial is that, going there with the expectation of being crushed and beaten about, one looks about in astonishment to find that there is nowhere a crowd. The houses of exhibition are so immense, so many and so widely separated—the objects of special interest so wisely distributed, that there is no reason for a dense collection of people at any one point. Thus the floral display may be surveyed at leisure and studied without discomfort. The grand collection of plants in Horticultural Hall instead of being viewed by glimpses over other people's shoulders, or by waiting for a crowd to pass on, may be seen from one end to the other in all that collective beauty of arrangement and grouping that so enhances individual effect. In this light, airy structure—in its fragrant air, among the majestic Palms, spreading Cycads, stately Phorminms, fearless Screw-pines and sprightly Ferns—as if every tropical gem had been placed around and about, one walks in freedom and gazes with positive delight. The music seems a superfluous charm and the "savage breast" needs no soothing. As if there were too many delights, the contemplation of one must be abandoned before another can be heeded.

There are few holder looking plants than the Screw-pine, but whether we select a *utilis* or a *Veitchi*, their beauty is of that majestic order that like *Dicksonias*, *Cyatheas*, *Musas*, the finer *Dracaenas*, etc., requires commodious and costly structures and experienced care if we would develop something of their native size and elegance. But there are many of those tropical plants, several of which are mentioned further on, that may be grown in our conservatories and even sitting-rooms that would at least add variety of form, size and leaf, serving to break the monotony of the low-growing, briefly-flowering things with which we are too fond of cramming our flower-structures.

Many specimens of *Pandanus utilis* in the main part of the building, attract much attention. One of the best is ten feet high—makes four revolutions of its magnificent leaves four or five feet long, each one at its base sitting in the lap of that beneath and gradually diverging and ascending the spirally-inclined plane.

The Assaie-palm (*Euterpe edulis*) has a clean stem of fifteen feet though no larger than the wrist, spreading out and drooping gracefully at the top. *Latania Borbonica* or African Fan-palm is a stately object. The plant from which we make these notes bears twenty fans, each being not less than three feet diameter. The leaf divides mid-way, the division being a foot or more long and then again parts mid-way toward the circumference. The petioles, about six feet long, curve from the bottom by the weight of the fans so as to make them spread over a circle not less than forty feet circumference. Small specimens of this palm may be placed in almost any plant-structure and thrive quite well even in sitting-rooms.

A plant of *Euphorbia splendens* is an instance of skilful training. This contrary, prickly thing is made to cover very uniformly a wire globe four feet in diameter. It is healthy in every part, well-foliaged and blooming with its two-petaled rosy little flowers.

Cycas revoluta. A specimen of this, though not superior to several others, is marked "Owned by Robert Morris of Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War." It has a stem eighteen inches diameter and four feet high, presenting the usual appearance of having been blackened by burning. At the top is a fine spread of leaves seven feet in diameter. This Cycad is comparatively hardy and is benefited by exposure to the rains of summer. And the same may be said of the Fan palms *Chamaerops excelsa*, *humilis*, *macrocarpa* and *Palmetto*; of *Dion edule*, *Corypha Australis*, *Phœnix dactylifera*, *reclinata* and *sylvestris*, *Ptychosperma Cunninghami*. They should be kept out of doors until frost, and they may then be placed in sitting rooms for the winter, where they will endure (*C. Palmetto* excepted perhaps) the dust and gas. *Chamaerops Palmetto*, our Southern, and indeed only arborescent species of Palm, is offered in almost every European catalogue. We suppose, however, that the knowledge that we can at any time take a look at it by stepping "down South," deters our florists from giving it a place.

Horticultural Hall is not at its best yet. In one of the side houses Mr. B. S. WILLIAMS is still opening his plants, though enough are displayed to give an idea of the varied and costly characters of the collection when fully arranged. Mr. WILLIAMS is the well-known proprietor of the Victoria and Paradise nurseries of London, and few men living have, by fair dealing, intelligence and enthusiasm, shown a higher appreciation of what is due to horticulture, whether viewed as an art or a science.

The most creditable display at present is that of Mr. GEO. SUCH of South Amboy, N. J., whose plants occupy another of the side houses of Horticultural Hall.

One stage is given chiefly to tender Caladiums. "*Triomphe de l' exposition*" has a green edge, gradually changing to a metallic red in the center of large leaves, and is very showy. "*Brogniarte*" is merely veined red. "*Meyerbeer*" is silvered over the entire leaf; veins of green and rose. "*Cannarti*" is the same as "*Triomphe*," with the addition of white splashes.

One should notice the specimens of *Adiantum Farleyense* and *gracillimum* here exhibited, to know of the full grace of which those delightful Ferns may be possessed when properly cared for.

Croton angustifolium is a perfect fountain of green and golden leaves. The leaves are a *foot* long and scarcely an *inch* wide—some of them pure yellow, others striped with green. The plant is four feet high.

Ficus Parcelli is five feet high, variegated and splashed with white.

You who have heard so much of *Carnivorous* Plants; you who may have read of a newspaper suggestion that they might be utilized to destroy the Colorado potato beetle—be not surprised when, looking down into a glasss case, several specimens of the ferocious *Dionœa muscipula* look up at you with "fly-catchers" scarcely half an inch in diameter. These are *baby Dionœas*—but they inherit from birth all the ferociousness of their parents, and hence are confined in strong glass cases, so as not to endanger the fingers of incautious children or fearless grown folks!

Nowhere—either out-of-doors or indoors—do we see a sign of our distinguished nurserymen ELLWANGER & BARRY of Rochester. And there was so much to hope from them, too.

PLANT EXCHANGES.

WE see the following in the London Garden: "A pamphlet was put into my hands the other day by a botanical friend, entitled, "Rules for the London Botanical Exchange Club," that is to say, a club meant to facilitate the exchange of dried specimens of plants. My friend, however, on showing it to me, said—Why cannot something of this sort be done with living plants? And the idea seemed to me to be so good that I venture to trouble you with a few lines about it. Any one who is trying to form a collection of living plants must know how often he has more of some rare and good plant than perhaps he cares for, while another person would be glad to give in exchange for it what he would prize very highly. Indeed, exchanges among the lovers of rare and beautiful plants are not unfrequent now.

My object, then, in writing this letter is to ask if any system could be introduced like that alluded to above by which exchanges could be made more easy than they now are and those who are pursuing the same end could be brought into contact with each other. Only a small annual subscription would be required, as in the case of the London Botanical Exchange Club. The greatest difficulty would be (as in its case) in finding a secretary; but might not this office be held in turn by different members?

It would not then, I think, be so very burdensome. Lists of desiderata could be made out and there would thus be very great assistance in forming collections. At all events, if you think it worth while, I shall be glad if the idea can be ventilated in your columns. Nurserymen would have nothing to fear from it, for it never could take effect on a large scale, and it would be only among those who already have some rare and beautiful plants which they offer to others. I think it would, from one point of view, even tend to the purchase of rare and expensive plants. One could buy them with a view of exchanges after a little time, when they have been multiplied."

The Editor replies:—"We believe all attempts to establish a system of plant exchanges in this country have hitherto failed."

The floricultural readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER will remember our announcement a month or so ago offering to publish the names of plants which our subscribers wished to exchange. We received six letters. One was rejected as being an advertisement—the others were published.

We were not aware at the time of making this exchange offer that various systems had been tried and had failed in England as the editor of the London Garden's comments would indicate—and we deemed the plan an excellent one for those who loved plants and who were too poor to purchase them—a belief that was strengthened by private congratulatory letters.

Owing to changes in the RURAL management which were then under way, the announcement was made rather late for exchanges of seeds or plants and this may have caused the partial failure of our plan. In the fall, however, when seeds have been gathered—when bulbs, herbaceous and other plants have been removed to the house and when hardy things may be transported by mail or express in safety, we will again hold ourselves in readiness to publish brief lists from our subscribers. If in this way we can serve them, we shall be glad to do it. If they are not to be served in this way—why we shall not feel the worse for having tried to serve them and failed.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

The current shoots of Rhododendrons should be supported against high winds.

Eucalyptus Globulus.—Seedling plants of this flourish finely out of doors. The leaves change in color to a decidly blueish-green, the blue being almost as decided as the green. The leaves grow wider (or less lanceolate) than the sketch we gave a few weeks back—and it is altogether a pretty plant among sub-tropical subjects.

Aesculus Rubicunda, the red-flowering Horse-chestnut. Each raceme is larger than that of a Hyacinth—very much like it in general appearance and quite as pretty. The price of a good Hyacinth bulb is 25 cents. The price of a Horse-chestnut tree is one dollar. By the time the Hyacinth has exhausted itself and becomes worthless (from two to three years if planted in the ground) the Horse-chestnut in its season will be blooming profusely. Not to count its fresh, ample foliage—the shade it offers and the beauty it adds to all about—we have then and ever after, in late May or early June, scores of racemes for the single one of the Hyacinth that blooms itself out of existence in two or three springs. We do not think less of the brilliant Hyacinths—but we venture to hint to those who buy them by the dozens for winter window ornaments and who have not a tree about their homes, that, for *one* season, they get along with four Hyacinths less and invest the dollar in a red-flowering Horse-chestnut.

The Naturalist.

ANIMAL PARASITES.

PROF. VAN BENEDEN, of the University of Louvain, France, has recently written an interesting little work entitled "Animal Parasites and Messmates," in which he has contrived to compress a great deal of curious information regarding a subject much more extended than the reader not versed in modern progress of natural history would suppose. He divides the strange creatures of which he treats into three classes: First, messmates, or those who join others to make a living, or a home, or protection; second, mutualists, or animals which live on each other without being either parasites or messmates; and third, the parasites, whose profession it is to live at the expense of their neighbors, and whose only employment consists in taking advantage of them, but prudently, so as not to endanger their lives.

While it would be impossible here to follow the numerous distinctions which he draws among the members of these different classes, it will perhaps prove interesting to note a few of the most odd and novel peculiarities of the creatures belonging to each. There is a fish, he tells us, called the *holothuria*, which is a living boarding-house for the *fierasfer*, an eel-like animal. The latter is lodged in the digestive tube of his companion, and, without any regard for the hospitality which he receives, seizes, on his portion of all that enters. The angler or *baudroie* of the Mediterranean often harbors, in the bronchial sac, a kind of eel, which is abundantly able to take care of itself, but prefers to live a life of idleness and share its host's spoils. The shark is accompanied by the pilot fish, which does not, as is often reported, exist on the leavings of his larger companion, but on his own industry, and doubtless finds some advantage in piloting his neighbor.

Another remarkable fish, the *remora*, literally moors itself to the body of the shark, thus converting the latter into a vehicle, which carries him about without exertion on his part. When he becomes hungry he lets go, and hunts for prey wherever he may happen to be. This tenacity of the remora in attaching itself is taken advantage of by fishermen of Mozambique Channel in order to capture turtles and large fish. They pass through the tail of the remora a ring to which a cord is attached, and then send it in pursuit of the first passer-by which they consider worthy to be caught. The fish holds on to its prey so firmly that it only remains to haul victim and captor in by the line.

There is a crab, of the family of *maida*, which conceals itself in the substance of a polypidom; it is common in the Viti Islands, in company with a gasteropod mollusc, and both of them assume the exact color of the polypidom. This is a new kind of mimicry. Another crab appropriates a real anemone to form a living cloak to hide it from view, in order that it may spring out from the ambush to attack prey. Remarkable marine creatures are the *birgi*, a kind of crustacean which grow very large, and conceal their abdomens no longer in a shell, but in the crevices of rocks. In the East Indies they remain on land, and even climb trees. They have so much strength in their pincers that it is related that one, while stretched on the branch of a tree, "raised a goat by the ears." A family of isopods are rather dangerous messmates, it would seem, for they eat into the walls of their host's stomach and live like Sybarites on its contents.

The most interesting fixed messmates are the cirrhipedes, which cover the skin of whales, which they never quit after once choosing their abode. Each whale lodges a peculiar species, so that the crustacean messmate is a true flag, which indicates in some respects the nationality. It would not be without interest for voyagers who are naturalists to study these living flags.

Among the mutualists may be mentioned the ticks, one generic species of which has twenty species of which lives on the dog, another on the cat, and another on the ox. Fish parasites multiply so rapidly that they cover their hosts as though they took the place of scales. The cod gives lodging to a species of very beautiful shape, which in its turn affords a resting place for a still smaller organism. In the midst of the eggs of the lobster there lives an animal of extreme agility, which our authors considers the most extraordinary being ever subjected to the eyes of a zoologist. "Let us," he says, "imagine a clown in a circus, with his limbs as far distended as possible, displaying the tricks of strength and agility on a heap of monster cannon balls which he struggles to surmount—placing one foot formed like an air bubble on one ball, the other foot on another, alternately balancing and extending his body, folding his limbs on each other or bending his body upwards like a caterpillar—and then we shall have but an imperfect idea of the attitudes which it assumes and which it varies incessantly."

There is no organ which is sheltered from the invasion of parasites; even in man, *cysticerci* have been found in the interior of the lobes of the brain, in the eyeball, in the heart, and in the substance of the bones, as well as in the spinal marrow. Each kind of worm has also its favorite place; and if it has not the chance of getting there, in order to undergo its changes, it will perish rather than emigrate to a situation which is not suitable to it. One kind of worm inhabits the digestive passages; another occupies the *fosse* of the nose: a third, the liver or the kidneys. Each animal has its proper parasites, which can only live in animals having affinity to their peculiar host. Thus the *ascaris mystax*, the guest of the domestic cat, lives in different species of *felis*, while the fox so nearly resembling in appearance the wolf and the dog, never entertains the *tænia serrata*, so common to the latter animal. The same host does not always harbor the same worms in different regions of the globe. Thus the large tapeworm of *bollariocephalus*, is found only in Russia, Poland and Switzerland: a small tapeworm, *tænia nana*, is observed nowhere except in Abyssinia, and, strange to say, the natives consider their absence from the body a sign of ill-health; the *anchylostoma* is known only to the south of Europe and the north of Africa, the *filaria* of Medino in the east and west of Africa; and the *Bilharzia*, a terrible worm, has been found only in Egypt.

THE OSTRICH DOMESTICATED.

AN English settler at the Cape of Good Hope gives this account of his ostrich stock in a private letter:—"I have a flock, or herd, or covey, or whatever else you like to call it, of 27; they are perfectly tame, and will follow me all over the place; in fact, I feel sure that they were intended to be domesticated. I have only to get outside and whistle, and the whole troop comes as fast as their legs can carry them in hopes of getting some maize, which they are very fond of. They eat almost anything, but there is so much round the house and in the old lands that they scarcely require any artificial food; but I generally give them a feed of lucerne once a day, and they seem to relish it more than any thing else. They are plucked first at about eight months old, and afterwards every seven months. The feathers are not of much value, but nevertheless return 25 per cent. per annum. The second plucking brings that up to 80 per cent. and the third about 110 or more. The feathers are then prime, and the yield from each bird, taking cocks and hens together, is about £9 or £10. The price of birds two months old is £9, and I intend to make up my number to 45 this season, and when they are full grown I expect to get £750 a year for their feathers alone, without counting increase. Wild birds are very scarce within the colony, and are only to be found in numbers far in the interior, where they are also rapidly decreasing. This accounts for the price of feathers. Of course, the demand is increasing throughout the world, so that it will be many years before the domesticated birds make any marked difference in the market. No stock gives so little trouble; they thrive where a donkey would find it hard lines to live."

Domestic Economy.

HOW TO SET A TABLE.

THERE is no surer test of refinement in persons or families than the manner and style in which their food is served and eaten. Absolute and thorough cleanliness is the first requisite in the preparation and serving of food. Next to that may be placed taste and judgment in the arrangement of the table and the succession of courses. But, leaving all side issues, let us attend simply to the question in hand, "How to set the table." In the first place the sides of the table should be parallel with the sides of the room. It is simply distressing to a person with an eye to symmetry to have the table set out "askew." In the next place the tablecloth, which should be clean, white and nicely ironed, must be put on so that the middle of the cloth be parallel with the sides of the table. The plates are usually placed around the table and turned down to prevent any dust or other defilement from soiling them. Often, however, when they have been in the warming oven they are placed in a pile before the host, and after being served, handed to each guest. At the right of the plate, at right angles to the side of the table, is the knife, with the edge of the blade turned from the plate; parallel with that is the fork, with the tines turned down. The handles of the knife and fork are an inch or two from the edge of the table. Parallel with the edge of the table at the side of the plate opposite the guest is the spoon, with the bowl turned down. The napkin is sometimes placed at the right of the fork, sometimes on the plate, sometimes folded in fancy style and put in the goblet, but all the napkins on the table are in the same respective position. At the right-hand corner of the plate is a little butter receiver, of glass or of china, and a salt cellar. All the butter plates are in line, all the salts in line; so of the glasses or goblets, which are near the salts. In the center of the table is the caster, or in its stead a vase of flowers or fruit. On one side of these stands the butter; on the other sauces in bottles, pickles and relishes. In the waiter at the end of the table occupied by the hostess, at her right, are coffee cups and saucers, at her left those for tea; the slop-basin and milk pitcher are at the left, the cream and sugar basin at the right. The tea and coffee are served in urns or pots and placed in front of the hostess. In this position they are not likely to burn the hands of the one at the right of the hostess. Bread is placed at the left of each plate, or laid on the plate, or nicely cut in slices and set on a bread plate at each end of the table. Soup is always served by the host. Fish is also served by the host, unless there are two kinds, when he serves the boiled fish and the hostess that which is fried. At the top of the table is placed the roast, at the bottom the stew. Where there is but one principal dish it is served by the host. If there are three, one is placed before him, the others opposite each other near the bottom of the table. Vegetables and other dishes occupy positions between the principal dishes. As each dish is set on a mat, and if for a time removed and returned to its place again, the table once properly set is easily kept in order till the repast is over.

Puddings and pies are generally served by the hostess. It is a good plan in teaching children and servants how to set a table to draw a diagram of the table with all the dishes in place and write down the names so that everything will be plain. Paste this on the inside of the closet door and then offer a suitable reward for perfect conformity of the table to this plan. The point to be made is uniformity in setting the table, that everything shall be precisely in its place every time. The very look of a well-set table is appetizing, and when, in addition to this, the air of the dining room is sweet, the walls are pleasantly decorated with pictures, the chairs are comfortable, the hostess is lovely, sweet-voiced and hospitable, the most languid appetite is stimulated and every sense is gratified. The table may be decorated with flowers or fruit, one or both. If there are neither, napkins of delicate tints relieve the white. They may be placed in the bread tray or the cake-basket, though white is usually preferred. In some of the best families of the South, breakfast and tea are always served without a cloth, on a handsomely-polished mahogony or black-walnut table. Under each plate is a napkin fringed and worked in cross stitch with scarlet cotton where the fringe ends. Mats of white crochet with scarlet edges, receive the dishes and contrast with the dark brightness beneath them.

The above directions for "setting a table" are from a lady correspondent of the New York Tribune.

MRS. BOCKEE'S CHOCOLATE CAKE AND CHICKEN SALAD.

French Chocolate Cake.—One cup sugar; ½ cup butter; 1½ do. flour; ½ do. milk; 3 eggs; ½ teaspoon of soda; 1 teaspoon of cream of tartar. Bake as for jelly-cake paste. Mix the chocolate with water enough to moisten, after it is grated. (This is better made the day before it is used.)

Another.—Two cups sugar; 1 do. butter; 3 do. flour; ¾ do. milk; 3 eggs; ½ teaspoon soda; 1 teaspoon cream of tartar. Paste—2 oz. chocolate; 1 cup sugar; ½ cup of sweet milk. Boil half down and flavor to taste.

Chicken Salad.—To two chickens, 1 qt. sweet oil; the yelks of four eggs; ½ cup of mixed mustard; ½ do. lemon juice. Cut up the chickens; add 1½ as much chopped celery measured. Salt to taste.

ANOTHER RECIPE FOR CHOCOLATE CAKE.

ED. RURAL: In response to the call in your last issue for Chocolate Cake recipe, I send one of ours, with sample, as the value of the recipe can be best estimated thereby; the "proof of the pudding" being always "in the eating."—Two cups sugar; 1 cup butter; 3½ cups flour; 1 do. milk; 3 eggs and yelks of 2 more; 1 teaspoon soda—dissolve in the milk; 2 teaspoons cream of tartar—mix in the flour. Frosting—Whites of 2 eggs; ¾ cup of pulverized sugar; 4 tablespoons of grated French chocolate. Flavor with vanilla or to suit taste. MRS. E. T. MILLER.

[The cake received, and found excellent. The promised recipes will be very acceptable.—ED.]

HOW TO DYE MOSSES, GRASSES, AND FLOWERS.

A GERMAN paper with an unpronouncible name, tells how they dye grasses and similar articles in Germany, from whence large quantities are sent to this country:

To Dye Moss.—Green: Boil ½ lb. of alum in 4 quarts of water, and dissolve ½ lb. of finely triturated mineral-blue in it, and a dark green dye is the result. Or a very beautiful green dye may be made with indigo—carmine and picric acid, adding water to reduce it to the desired hue. As picric acid is rarely to be had of uniform strength the exact proportions cannot be given. The same dye may be used for grasses.

Black: Two ounces of logwood in 1 quart of water, ¼ oz. of alum, and 3 oz. of copperas, the whole boiled together and the moss dipped into it while hot. Or two parts of logwood and one of Fleabane, thoroughly boiled together, and a little green vitriol.

Red: The best way to make this color is to boil as much red aniline in rain-water as will produce a pretty red. The dye should be hot when the moss is dipped.

To Bleach and Dye Everlasting Flowers.—Bleaching: Put a number of flowers, which have previously been placed in a warm chamber to cause them to open, in a vessel containing a solution of chloride of lime, ½ oz. of soda, and 2 quarts of water. Cover the vessel and leave it as it is in a moderate temperature for four or five days. During this period the flowers first change to an orange color, and afterwards to a bluish-white. As soon as these changes show themselves, take the flowers out and pour off the fluid, and fill it up again, using this time only 1 oz. of chloride of lime and no soda. Let the flowers remain in this until quite white, subsequently drying them in a warm oven.

Dyeing.—Carmine: ¼ loth (about 2 drachms) of Munich lac, ¼ pint (about ½ drachm) ultramarine blue, dissolved in 12 loth (about 6 ounces) of warm water.—Rose: ¼ quint of extract of safflower, dissolved in 1 quart of cold water.—Dark blue: 1 loth indigo extract in a quart of water.—Cornflower blue: ½ loth blue aniline, 2 loth spirits of wine, in 1 quart of water.—Violet: ½ loth violet aniline, with the same proportions of water and spirit.—Light blue: ½ loth Prussian blue, dissolved in a quart of water.—Dark blue: 1 loth of catechu, boiled in a quart of water.—Light green: ¼ loth picric acid, and ½ quint of indigo in 20 loth of alcohol.—Black: as given above.—Orange: 3 loth of borax in 2 quarts of hot water, leaving the flowers to steep for some time.

The dyes for grasses, &c., are made in the same way.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Crumb Pie.—Mince any cold meat very finely, season it to taste and put it into a pie dish; have some finely-grated bread crumbs, with a little salt, pepper and nutmeg, and pour into the dish any nice gravy that may be at hand; then cover it over with a thick layer of bread-crumbs, and put small pieces of butter over the top. Place in the oven until a fine brown. Send to the table hot.

Old-fashioned baked Indian Pudding.—Take a large cup of meal and a teacupful of molasses and beat them well together; then add to them a quart of boiling milk, some salt and a small piece of butter. Let it stand awhile in the dish you are going to bake it in until it thickens, and when you put it into the oven, pour over it from half to a pint of milk, but do not stir it in, as this makes the jelly. Bake two or three hours.

Strawberry Blanc Mange.—For a quart of strawberries, take four ounces of white sugar; crush the strawberries well with the sugar. In an hour or two strain them through a seive. In a pint of boiling milk dissolve one package of gelatine; sweeten to taste; strain through coarse muslin; and mix with it one pint and a half of sweet cream; stir until nearly cold, then add the strawberries gradually, beating the two thoroughly; add the juice of one lemon. Pour the mixture into molds and set in a cool place over night.

Blanc Mange.—Dissolve one box of Cox's gelatine in a pint of boiling water; add a quart of rich milk, bring the whole to boiling heat; strain it. Put in two ounces of blanched almonds, pounded; sweeten with loaf sugar, and turn into molds. When turned from the molds, stick thin slips of almonds all over the blanc mange and dress around with whip cream.

Charlotte Russe.—One quart of sweet cream; four eggs; half a package of gelatine; a quarter of a pound of loaf sugar. Beat sugar and yelks together; add whites, beaten stiff; whip the cream light and smooth; flavor with vanilla; stir all together and strain in the dissolved gelatine. Serve in a glass dish, ornamented with lady-fingers or macaroons.

Strawberry Ice Cream.—Take two pounds of fresh strawberries, carefully picked, and, with a wooden spoon, rub them through a hair seive; add the juice of one lemon; sweeten to taste; color with a few drops of prepared cochineal; stir in one pint of sweet cream, then freeze.

Rice Balls.—Take any kind of cold meat, chop fine, and season with salt, pepper and a little parsley; wash rice and mix with it; tie up in cloths to shape balls; boil three quarters of an hour. Serve with drawn butter.

Lobster Balls.—Mince the meat with the coral, season, make it in balls, mixed with bread crumbs and butter; dip them in beaten egg, then in rolled crackers, and fry a delicate brown in hot lard, or part lard and butter.

Lobster Curry.—Put the meat of a large lobster into a stew-pan, with a blade of mace, a large cup of meat stock or gravy, a tablespoonful of cornstarch mixed smooth, with a little milk or cream. Add salt, a small piece of butter, a dessert-spoon of curry powder and the juice of one lemon. Simmer for an hour and serve hot.

English Cookies.—One cup of brown sugar, half a cup butter, one egg, two tablespoonfuls sour cream, a little soda, cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg; make hard enough with flour to roll out; cut in thin cakes.

Hygienic Information.

HOW TO BECOME HEALTHY.

A WRITER in Tinsley's Magazine gives his opinion and experience on this frequently discussed subject. He starts out by saying:

"Nobody ever repented of eating too little," was the sage remark of an old gentleman, on the verge of ninety, next to whom the writer had the pleasure of sitting at dinner the other night. The host was pressing him to eat more, and urging him in the usual phrase, "Why, you have eaten scarcely anything!" Now, it is to be assumed that the old gentleman's words indicated one of the by-ways to good health, along which he had traveled through his long life, and to which he owed his present remarkably hearty condition; so it was suggested to him, interrogatively, that he had always been a small feeder.

"Yes," he said, "ever since I was two or three and twenty; up to that time I was a weakly fellow enough; and I used to make the mistake of trying to eat and drink as much as I could, in the hope of becoming strong. All my friends and the doctors backed me in my error; but fortunately I found it out in time, and 'knocked off,' as your modern slang has it—more than half my usual amount of stimulants. I gave up the idea of making myself strong, and merely strove to make myself well, and I was content with eating just as much as I could digest, and no more. Of course it took a little time and experience to discover the precise limits. I could not adopt the golden rule of always leaving off with an appetite, because I never began with one, but by persistently erring on the right side, I got hold of one of the great secrets of life—the secret of knowing when one has enough, and after a year or two I became so much better that I used to find myself keenly ready to eat at meal-time, and by degrees, actually acquired an appetite. Then, once found, I never destroyed it, but always determinately rose with the feeling that I should like to eat more. Naturally, the temptation for awhile grew greater as my digestion grew stronger; but I was firm; I did not behave ungratefully to my stomach, and immediately presume upon its increased powers by overloading it; I did not live to eat, but only ate to live; and behold me! I have no need to be very particular as to what I eat, even at my time of life; I have only to be careful not to eat too much."

Here, indeed, is the great secret of a great deal that is amiss with many of us. We are in the habit of eating too much, more than our digestive powers can tackle, and that which is not assimilated, more or less poisons. The system becomes overcharged, and gives any latent tendency to disease within us, every faculty for developing itself. The question is not so much what to eat, as what quantity to eat; and nothing but a sharp lookout, kept by ourselves, can give us the answer.

PATENT FOODS.

THE Lancet does not place much confidence in the various patent foods, although it is very much the fashion in the present day to feed invalids, and especially children, upon foods which are either patent or of secret composition, and which are sold to the public in tins hermetically sealed. We doubt not that many of these foods are valuable preparations, and we know that analyses of samples have often shown that the contents of the canister are at least harmless. We think, however, that the public have a right to know what is the composition of the article which they are advised to give to their invalids and children, and we wish that the Legislature would enact that all patent compositions should bear a plain statement of their ingredients upon the cover. "This is sold as a mixture of chicory and coffee," in certain proportions, has become a familiar label and those who prefer the mixture to the pure article are able to gratify their taste with their eyes open, and if, upon an analysis, they find that the proportions named have not been kept, or that any other ingredient has been put in the mixture, they have their remedy at law.

We wish we could see the patent foods labeled in the same way and we think that in justice to the public they ought to be so labeled. If the public were informed that the mysterious compounds with the Greek or Latin name, or the name of some doctor appended to them were composed of "lentil flour, barley-meal and sugar," or "baked flour and Swiss milk," or "Indian corn, oatmeal and salt," they would know what they are buying and it would be possible for medical men conscientiously to recommend them; but as matters stand now, a poor woman may give a considerable price for a canister of potato starch, ground rice sweepings and sawdust which has been advertised perhaps under some enticing name and puffing statements, and she has no power of recovery at law. We do not say that such impositions occur, nor have we any particular article in our thoughts while writing this; but it is so obvious that such tricks might be practised, and the temptation to practice them is so great, that we should strongly advise our readers never to recommend or order patent food for their patients unless the composition is definitely stated on the packet.

HOW TO BREAKFAST.

LET a healthy man "break" his "fast" with a substantial meal, and not break his breakfast with irritating little nips or slops beforehand. After the stomach has at its leisure emptied itself during sleep of its contents, and sent them to repair the worn tissues and exhausted nerve force, and the blood has been purified by washing and dressing with the window open, then is the time when the most perfect of all nutritive articles, farinaceous food, can be consumed in larger quantities with advantage. Butter also, and fat and sugar, troublesome customers to weak digestions, are then easily coped with, and contribute their invaluable aid to performing the duties of the day.

For example, many persons can drink milk to a fair and useful amount at breakfast, with whom it disagrees at other hours. And the widely advertised "breakfast bacon" by its name warns the consumer against indulgence later on in the day. *Cafe au lait* and sweet creamy tea are to many men poisonous in the afternoon, though in the prime of morning they are a wholesome beverage for the same individuals. Let the vigor, good humor and refreshment then felt by a healthy man be utilized without delay in eating a hearty meal immediately after he is dressed and not frittered away in the frivolities of other occupations. Let not reading, writing or buisness—muscular, political or economical—exhaust the nervous system. The newspapers and letters should not be opened, preferably not delivered till the appetite is thoroughly appeased.

CARBONIC acid gas is heavier than atmospheric air. In ventilating our sleeping-rooms and other apartments, the ventilators should, therefore be at the bottom.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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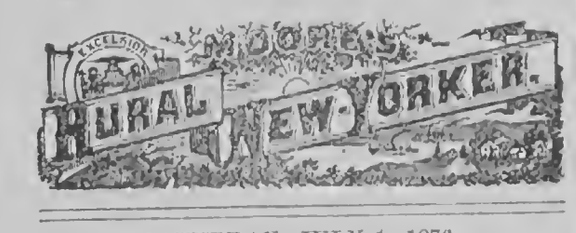

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1876.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

BELIEVING that the best of everything is none too good for the readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we are pleased to announce the completion of arrangements with a number of our most noted scientists and writers on rural subjects by which they become occasional or frequent contributors to our columns. Among those from whom contributions have already been received or promised, we name:

S. B. PARSONS of Flushing, N. Y., author of the "History of the Rose," essays on rural topics and proprietor of one of our most celebrated collections of rare exotic plants.

WILLIAM ROBINSON, F. L. S., London, Eng., Founder and Editor of the Garden and author of "The Parks, Promenades and Gardens of Paris," "Alpine Flowers," etc., etc.

Col. F. G. SKINNER, Editor of Turf, Field and Farm, N. Y., long and favorably known as one of the adepts in all that pertains to the field sports of America.

Prof. CHAS. V. RILEY, State Entomologist of Missouri, whose fame as a scientist is not confined alone to America.

HERMAN STRECKER, Reading, Pa., the noted Lepidopterist and author of a celebrated work on butterflies and moths, native and exotic.

WM. J. FOWLER, late one of the Editors of the R. N.-Y. and well known throughout Western New York as a thoughtful and practical Agriculturist.

THOS. MEEHAN, Editor of the Gardeners' Monthly, author or the "Hand-Book of Trees," etc., etc., and CHARLES DOWNING, the veteran Pomologist, kindly promise to send occasional articles.

GEO. SUCH of South Amboy, the enthusiastic collector and cultivator of rare exotic plants.

JAS. VICK, the genial Rochester florist, who has done as much as any man in this country to create and promote a love of floriculture.

JOSIAH HOOPES, the noted botanist and nurseryman and author of "The Book of Evergreens."

We hope to announce a more extended list of noted names ere long, but will commence the series already secured with an article on "American Plants." by S. B. PARSONS, Esq., which will appear next week.

IN CONFIDENCE WITH OUR READERS.

THE subscribers and readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER have probably made up their minds ere this how they like the late change in its management. Whether this change has been for the better or otherwise, it is not for us to decide, but from the many commendatory letters received and number of new subscribers coming in, both singly and in clubs, we conclude that our efforts to improve, have not been in vain or failed to be appreciated. However without desiring to apologize for any short-comings should such have occurred, nor boast of improvements, or make promises for the future, we will say that our aim is to still further improve the RURAL in all and every one of its departments. Now if its readers think we are making a paper worthy of commendation and extended circulation, will they say so to their friends and neighbors?

Look over its sixteen pages, examine the quantity and quality of the matter contained therein—note whether there is anything, which you would not be willing that your wife, daughter or sweetheart should read. Procure copies of other journals occupying a similar field and make a close and careful comparison, after which make up your mind whether the RURAL NEW-YORKER is, or is not worthy of your hearty support, if it is not, don't give it, nor ask your friends to do so, for such an act is not commendable even to extend the circulation of the best paper ever published. We ask nothing beyond our just deserts, or a penny from a patron for which a full equivalent cannot be returned, still we hope to deserve a large increase in our circulation.

The second volume of the year commences with this number and accompanying it we send the index for the first, given on an extra sheet, in order to avoid crowding upon or curtailing in any way the contents of the regular issue, as has been the former practice. While returning thanks for the liberal patronage extended to us in the past, we would remind our readers that the commencement of a volume is an excellent time not only to renew subscriptions but to ask others to join you in making up a club. A hint to our friends is doubtless sufficient on this point.

YOUNG MEN AND LIFE INSURANCE.

THE persistency of the Life Insurance Agent has become so generally understood that, on his appearance, most well-informed persons surrender at discretion. We are more ready to excuse this persistency in him than in almost any other canvasser, for we know of none other, the canvassers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER alone excepted, against whose arguments so little can be said. He has the satisfaction of knowing the right is on his side, and that if he succeeds in his efforts he is doing a favor to the insured as well as to his company and himself. All parties to any bargain should be benefited by it, although we are sorry to say this is not always the case.

Individual instances there doubtless are where it is not positively a duty for a man to insure his life, but these instances are so rare as to make them the exceptions, which, it is sometimes said, are necessary to prove any rule to be in the main correct; and from these the steps are gradual until they reach those whom it would seem are entirely inexcusable if they neglect it. Our purpose at this time is to consider one of these latter classes. This interest it is your duty to secure to her. We desire the attention of the young men who have just taken upon themselves the care and protection of a wife—and probably many who read these lines are in that happy condition. Now, to each and every one of such we want to say—By your act and by your marriage obligation you have promised to "love honor and protect" her whom you have chosen. Of the love and honor portion of the promise we take no note at present. It is the *protection* we are to consider in the present connection. Not protection only for to-day, or for next year, but through her whole life. Protection from the want of any of the necessaries and comforts of life that money can secure.

You, we assume, belong to the working class. Whether you labor in the field, the shop or the counting house is immaterial. From hard days' works come your means of support. The day you were married your wife became possessed of a *pecuniary* interest in you, estimated by legislators at $5,000. If you should be killed in consequence of the carelessness of some employee on a railroad train your wife could collect that amount as damages from the company. This sum is fixed because it is supposed the average man can earn about a dollar a day more than the cost of his economical support. The income from $5,000, well-invested, is about a dollar a day. Should you die a natural death, or, what is quite as likely, at the hands of the doctor, no damages are collectable; there are no further avails from your labor and the protection you promised is at an end.

But Life Insurance offers a way by which that protection can be continued after your death. A payment of about two dollars a week—or a hundred dollars a year, which in a good company will be decreased yearly by dividends—will insure to your wife at your death five thousand dollars. Do you say you cannot afford to pay two dollars a week for security against such a contingency? Can you afford not to do it? Ask your wife what she thinks about it and if she will be willing to economize, give up occasionally a luxury or go without something neighbors "no better off than we are" have, in order to save the amount. Give your earnings to her; let her be the investor of the family and if she be worthy the name of wife you will soon see how sacredly the two dollars a week will be devoted to the payment of the premium.

You may say, that should you live to the ordinary age of man the premium, at interest, would amount to much more than $5,000. True—but there is a possibility that you may not live ten, five, or even one year—and if you should, it is also possible that the savings of many years will be swept away by some unfortunate investment. Look around you and see how many widows of men once in affluent circumstances, are, in their middle or old age, either suffering in poverty or being supported by their children, and see if it is not best to pay something to guard your wife against such a contingency. If you are worth but an hundred dollars in the world we insist the best use you can make of it is to buy a policy of insurance on your life for your wife's security.

And there is another view to take of this matter. Such an act may prolong your own life. Many a man has worried himself out of existence by thinking, on his sick bed, of the condition in which his wife would be left in case he should die. It is a natural psychological result, and the statement that life insurance tends to lengthen the life of the insured is not paradoxical. If you are so fortunate as to be the possessor of a few hundreds, or even thousands, well invested in a farm, in stock, at interest, or otherwise, so much the better; the payment of the amount of premium will be easier. But this possession brings with it another duty, namely: the disposition of it in case of your death, and making two things which if not done, should be before you are a day older, which are—to get your life insured and make your will.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Disappointed Philadelphians.—It is said that Philadelphians are much disappointed at the scarcity of visitors to the Centennial, and as the millions who were to come to the show do not put in an appearance, the well-filled larder of good things provided for the inner man depart less rapidly than was expected. Had this great exhibition been in London, Paris or Vienna, thousands of our people would have crossed the Atlantic for the avowed purpose of seeing it; but in truth, only because it gave them an excuse for going abroad and to have this to talk about to the end of their days. Now when the greatest exhibition the world has ever seen is near by, this very "shoddyocracy" will affect to despise it because almost everybody can go if they choose to. The fact is, it is too cheap, or costs too little, to visit the Centennial to create any enthusiasm with the average American who professes to take pride in sight-seeing.

Tell Us Your Experience.—The cultivators of the soil are experimenters in the broadest sense of the term. Every seed sown or tree planted is but the beginning of an experiment the result of which belongs to the unknown future, there being nothing positively certain in regard to what follows the slightest act or operation. Now among the millions of experiments annually conducted by our readers, there must be an occasional variation in results from known causes which, if told, would be of benefit to others situated under like circumstances. We ask our readers to bear this in mind and when reading of what others have done, think if there is nothing in their experience worth telling; if so, jot it down and send it along, thereby becoming a contributor even if in a small way, to the sum total of human knowledge.

New Jersey Horticultural Society.—We are indebted to E. WILLIAMS, Secretary of the New Jersey Horticultural Society for copies of its first Annual Report. The regular minutes of the meeting during the year are given, also the address of President GEO. THURBER, as well as various essays read at the Annual Meeting in January last. The reported proceedings are creditable to this young Society and it is to be hoped that it will receive such support from the residents of the State as will enable the members to proceed rapidly and thoroughly in the good work begun under such favorable auspices.

Melon Sugar.—Although Melon sugar is no new thing, still very little of it is known in this country. Melons have long been cultivated in Southern Europe for sugar making and there is no good reason why we could not do the same and on an extensive scale, provided the manufacture of such an article was profitable. We notice that the subject is attracting some attention in California, but it may end no better than the beet-root sugar enterprises and silk-worm culture, both of which seem to hold on to life but show little vigor or profits to inventors.

A New Enterprise.—Mr. D. D. T. MOORE, Founder and late Editor of this journal, having regained his health, has established an Advertising Agency with the special object of doing business with the Agricultural, Horticultural and Grange Press. Mr. MOORE'S long acquaintance with this class of journals gives him rare qualifications for the line of business he has selected and we bespeak for him his full share of it and a prosperous and extended future.

RURAL BREVITIES.

I. W. S., Lyndonville, Vt., will greatly oblige us by sending his full address to this office.

IT is reported that the sales of cheese in the New York market one day last week, amounted to $800,000. Who will say, after this, that there is no sale for farm products?

WE learn from D. L. POPE, Superintendent of the Centennial Dairy Department, that he has received 11,000 pounds of cheese and 18 packages of creamery butter from Wisconsin.

HAY CAPS are something which every farmer needs. Address Messrs. PITKIN & THOMAS of 110 Chambers St., New York, or 71 North Second St., Philadelphia, who advertise them for sale *cheap* in another column.

PURSUANT to the plan announced by the Chief of Bureau of Agriculture at the Centennial, there was a stated display of Early Summer Vegetables and Honey in Agricultural Hall, extending from June 20 to 24. Raspberries and Blackberries will be next in order, commencing July 3d and ending July 8th.

THE grasshopper and the potato bug sink into insignificance when compared to the locust that has recently devastated the grain fields of the Spanish provinces of Badajoz and Cuidad Real. Over six thousand tons of the insects have been burned with petroleum in trenches, and 15,000 soldiers have been occupied in destroying them.

AT Point Reyes, Cal., there is a dairy farm of 45,000 acres, on which there are 3,000 cows. The farm, together with the cows, is rented in part to several tenants. They make from $1,000 to $2,000 per annum clear of all expenses. The yield from the cows is reported to be excellent; some of the butter ranches show an average of $80 per cow through the whole herd of 200.

OUR microscopists, not being satisfied with frightening people out of using brown sugar, on account of the presence of a minute spider found in it, now tell us that orange peel is inhabited by a species of coccus related to the cochineal. It's a good thing that everybody does not possess the desired time and instruments for looking into things in general, and their food in particular.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

IF you would insure good work, use only the "Phœnix Pure White Lead." Its whiteness, fineness and great body make it the most desirable paint.

SPRING-TIME AND FLOWERS.

BY MRS. E. P. MILLER.

ALL over the fields and the meadows
The dandelion blossoms have come;
The new, golden guineas of childhood,
Sun-coined in my far-away home.

Down by the swift-running brooklet
The sweet-scented violets spring;
The pitcher plant, too, in the fen-land,
And wild, yellow lily bells ring.

Along the broad lane to the pasture,
Sweet snow-drops, so coy, trail about,
While drifts in the edge of the forest,
Unlocking let finest ones out.

In the soft, springy moss of the wood-depths
The trillium and star-flowers bloom,
Spring-beauty and fair lady's-slipper,
Where cedars and balsam trees loom.

There the delicate partridge-vine is budding,
While berries of scarlet peep out;
And great snowy, wayfaring salvers
Are everywhere dotted about.

The checker-bush, too, with its younglings,
And fruitage delicious and gay,—
Our jewels of coral in spring-time,
With aroma as sweet as the May.

With aprons-full, yes, and with bonnets,
We, joyous, our treasures would bring;
O, blest are the memories of childhood,
And blest each new coming of Spring.

The Story-Teller.

LOVE AND DUTY.

BY IDA M. ALBRO.

THE clear starlight of a winter's night was softly shining on the hill-inclosed town of Webster. The great clock in the tower of the school building pealed forth the hour of four—welcome tidings to the sleepless, comforting them with the thought that the night was far spent and ere long their eyes would behold the dawn.

The solemn stillness came not back again as the clock ceased striking. Away on a hillside to the northward a farmer's dog had commenced a furious barking that acted as a signal for every yelping cur in town to join in a spirited chorus. The leader of this canine band, however, was too sensible a dog to be heard barking at such a common occurrence as the striking of the town clock. He had been awakened from his slumber by faint sounds of talking and laughter that came from a merry sleighing party far away over the hill, just returning from a midnight ride into the midst of a vast pine forest.

"Almost home," said one, as they reached the brow of the hill and looked down on the snow-clad roofs of the town.

"Anybody stop here?" asked the driver, as he drew up before a large dwelling that stood back from the street, presenting the appearance of being a stately private residence instead of that mockery of home and its comforts—a boarding-house.

"Yes; ELLEN BARTON and JACK CAMERON," a chorus of merry voices replied.

"Don't keep us waiting long, JACK," called the driver; "I want to get around home before daylight."

But JACK and ELLEN had not a care or thought for their companions. Slowly they went up the broad walk, bordered with sighing evergreen shrubbery—slowly and silently. The magic spell that held them silent was more expressive than anything words could communicate.

"Good night," said ELLEN, as they reached the door.

JACK clasped her extended hand but uttered no word of leave-taking.

"ELLEN!" That was all he said; yet that one word betrayed the tender and uncontrollable feeling that had been awakened within him for the pretty teacher who had lately accepted a position in the Webster Union School.

"JACK, we shall go on and leave you," came from the sleigh.

"May I come to-morrow evening?" he hastily asked.

She murmured an assent and entered the house with only the consciousness that never in her life had she been so happy.

But this happiness was of short duration. When she reached her room it was but a trivial circumstance that compelled her to come down from the ideal existence created by this newly-awakened feeling—down to real life again. The first thing that she saw by the light of her lamp was a letter lying on the table with the superscription uppermost—a letter that banished the blissful dream at once, leaving her painfully conscious of the demands of duty and the possession of a love which she felt must be hopeless.

The letter was from her mother. It contained nothing that was startling. It was like many other letters that she had received—written as only a widowed mother can write to a daughter who is her sole support in the feebleness of old age. A few trifling wants were made known in a manner that indicated a perfect trust in the daughter's willingness and ability to provide for them.

"O, JACK, it can never be!" exclaimed ELLEN, dropping the letter and covering her face with her hands. "How could I forget, for a single moment, that this world contains nothing for me but slavish toil and a giving up of all that makes life sweet and happy?"

Yet, as she sat there with bowed head, in imagination living over and over again the past, she could not help remembering how often she had thought that the greatest blessing of her life was ability to care for her mother and poor idiotic sister. For six years she had provided them food and clothing, every necessary of life excepting shelter. Her mother owned the house in which she lived. She had paid for it after the expenses of her husband's sickness and death had swept away the little property they had accumulated. But as the years went by, age and hard work began to tell upon her strength. When ELLEN was seventeen years of age she was summoned from school, whither she had been sent by the charity of a distant relation, with the intelligence that her mother had at last succumbed to fatigue and sickness. Then she determined that henceforth her time in the school-room would be spent as teacher instead of pupil. Thus she took upon herself the care of her mother and sister. And she now remembered how often she had thought if human strength were called to bear no heavier burden than hers had been, then she could see no cause for so much complaining of the sorrows and hardships of this world. But that was before she knew JACK CAMERON. To-night she felt that human strength could scarcely bear so heavy a burden as hers must be henceforth. She now realized for the first time how much the word, self-sacrifice, could mean. She had often confidentially told her young lady friends that she would never bring to any man, no matter how willing he might be to take it upon himself, the responsibility of caring for her mother and unfortunate sister. She had often said and told herself so still, that to the poor-house they should never go as long as she was able to support them.

"Poor-house!" exclaimed ELLEN with a shudder and she involuntarily started up and went to the window. "The very name has always filled me with a dread of which only those who have but the frail barrier, health, separating them from such a home, can form any conception."

She drew aside the curtain and stood for some time looking out of the window.

"Asylum does not sound so bad," mused she, as her gaze rested on a large building, the outlines of which were dimly visible in the pale starlight and coming dawn. "It has a more protective sound—more suggestive of comfort and respectability. What am I thinking of? How wicked I am!" she exclaimed, suddenly appalled by the thought that she was scheming to neglect the demands of duty.

"I must try and get some sleep," she said, wearily leaving the window. "The other girls can afford to spend a night for pleasure. Their time is their own and they can rest the next day."

Nine o'clock came and not for a moment had sleep rendered ELLA unconscious of the difficulty that lay in the way of her happiness. Never had the duties of the school-room been so irksome to her as they were all that day. Never had her pupils been so refractory. She could not awaken in them a particle of enthusiasm during their recitations. This sudden change was to her unaccountable; but if she had made the subject her study, she might have traced the cause home to herself. She might have perceived that it was her own discontent and distaste for the work that was reflected back to her from her pupils.

Professor COMPTON, the Principal of the school, paid a visit to her department during the afternoon. ELLEN looked upon this as an unfortunate event, for she could not bear to forfeit his good opinion of her fitness for the work in which she was engaged. It had afforded her much pleasure during former visits of the Principal to see upon his face a look of appreciation of the manner in which she performed her work. Now she hardly dared raise her eyes to his. And when she chanced to look up and saw him regarding her with such a puzzled expression on his face, the book fell from her hand and she was obliged to call forth all the self-control she was capable of exercising to prevent herself from breaking down entirely.

"Allow me to relieve you a few moments, Miss BARTON," said he, kindly; and under his supervision the pupils at once regained their usual animation.

ELLEN could not tell whether this was meant as an act of kindness or a rebuke; but she knew that she felt very grateful toward him for leaving the room as she called another class to the recitation seat.

"JACK will soon be here," said ELLEN to herself as she entered the boarding-house parlor that evening. "I must decide whether my future shall contain any happiness or whether I must drudge on and wear my life out in the school-room."

"Whether you will save your life for your own sake or do your duty," was the mocking response of conscience.

JACK came and ELLEN had not made her decision. His manner plainly showed that he considered himself an accepted lover.

ELLEN was at first powerless to disarm him of this opinion. It was only when he drew a beautiful ring from his pocket and attempted to put it on her finger, saying playfully, "Let me see how good I am at guessing," that she was able to tell him that his case was not quite won. She snatched away her hand and exclaimed with a vehemence that caused JACK to drop the ring, "It can never, never be! You do not know who my sister is."

"Yes, ELLEN. I do know about your sister. Do not think you can remain in such a gossipping town as this for any length of time without such a fact being as well known as yourself throughout the entire community;" and he stooped and picked up the ring.

"My mother expects that I will always take care of ALMA."

"Your mother wrongs you, ELLEN. Why should you spend your life for such a life as hers—a life that can benefit no one? Every county provides a home for such as she—a home that would be just as satisfying to her as the grandest mansion in the land."

"Wherever ALMA goes mother will go."

JACK couldn't immediately see a way out of this dilemma save that indicated by the thought, "Let her go, then." This he was too polite to express to ELLEN and he arose and went to the other side of the room. As he looked out toward the east through the partially closed blinds and saw the lighted windows of the asylum, the same thought occurred to him that tempted ELLEN as the morning twilight disclosed the outlines of this building.

"She might take ALMA to an asylum," said he, eagerly. "There would be no disgrace in that. Here is a popular asylum in this place. Why, the Hon. CHARLES SHELDON'S mother is there and he the richest man in town. The entrance fee for them both would be only $200. Of course they expect those that are able to work a little. ELLEN, I will pay this sum——"

"No, you will not. I can pay it myself; but I don't think mother would willingly consent to go there."

"She would be much better situated there than she now is with you so far away, and she could care for ALMA just as well at the asylum," pleaded JACK.

Although ELLEN would have felt very much aggrieved had she been accused of the fact, yet she really desired to be convinced that it would not be wrong to allow her mother to go to the asylum. And her usual good sense did not enable her to detect the fallacy of the reasoning by which she was convinced. When JACK went away the ring was on her finger and she tried to persuade herself that she was happy.

There was to be a vacation of three weeks between the winter and the spring term. It was decided that ELLEN should go home then and see how Mrs. BARTON would receive their proposition.

"It seems to me that ELLEN will be home to-night," said Mrs. BARTON, as she went to the window and looked out on the village street that appeared to be composed of equal parts of mud and snow. "It has been a long time since we heard from her, hasn't it, ALMA?"

The creature thus addressed wrung her hands, underwent various contortions of face and body, and then gave utterance to a prolonged cry that might sound to over-sensitive ears like a desolate wail for the return of lost reason.

Mrs. BARTON drew the poor creature's chair to the fire and sat down beside her to enjoy the warmth and to let her thoughts fondly linger around the dear one whose self-denial was making the pathway of her declining life so smooth and happy. She heard the heavy old stage coach coming down the street and as its rumbling ceased she started up, but half comprehending that it had stopped at her gate. She went to the window and saw that a lady was being helped out. Then she knew that her ELLEN had come home. Yet, from the very first, she felt that she was not the same ELLEN who had ever before been so considerate for her comfort. Formerly she had been very talkative, putting the utmost confidence in her mother, scarcely having a single thought that she would hesitate to make known to her. She used to have an inexhaustible fund of anecdote over which the fond mother loved to linger when, vacation over, her daughter had gone cheerfully back to resume her labor again. Now, hours would pass and she would not say a word. Mrs. BARTON stealthily watched her daughter with increasing anxiety. She knew that a change in ELLEN could not fail to affect herself and ALMA. She feared that the time had come when this daughter, her sole dependence, was her ELLEN no longer.

ELLEN intended to make known her errand as soon as she reached home, but she could not dampen her mother's joy at seeing her that first night. She would wait until the next day. But then, everything about the house that she had provided for her mother's comfort seemed to reproach her. There was the large arm-chair which she had cushioned and covered with her brown merino dress. She remembered how much pleasure that simple task had given, and she knew that her mother's gratification was derived ,not so much from the ease of the chair as the thought, "ELLEN did it for me." Every little task she had been accustomed to do reminded her of the sacrifice that she would be asking her mother to make. She frequently uttered complaints about the disordered state of the house, intending that they should form the basis of an argument that her mother was no longer fit to live alone, and thus bring into consideration her plan for their future. But she could not help observing how lovingly her mother's eyes followed her about the room, and she felt it would be cruel to bring to them the look of grief which she knew such an argument would call forth. Her task was hourly growing harder to perform, yet she must put it off till to-morrow. When the morrow came it was no easier, but she would certainly have it over with the next day. In this manner each day passed and the evening before the day she was to return to Webster came. "It must be now or never," thought ELLEN.

The hours were slipping away. ALMA had long ago been put in bed. It was almost their bedtime. ELLEN often glanced toward her mother, who sat with closed eyes rocking to and fro in her chair. ELLEN could not remember that she ever felt afraid of her before. Yet, if the proposition she wished to make contained any wrong, the wrong would be done by herself and her mother would be the sufferer. She fancied that she could already detect the shadow of some secret sorrow resting upon her face, darkening the peaceful expression it usually wore.

"Mother, isn't the care of ALMA becoming too much for you?"

"Who will take care of her if I don't?"

ELLEN ignored this thrust and recklessly proceeded to make known her errand.

"I didn't know but you would consent. I've been thinking it would be better for you to take ALMA to an asylum than to live here alone. There is no one in Webster——"

"ELLEN, you needn't tell me any more!" exclaimed Mrs. BARTON. "Yes, this is what you have come home for. You are tired of taking care of us. You think that I will die before ALMA does and if you get us off your hands now you won't have to take care of her or let her go to the poor-house when I am gone. I hope and pray that she may die before I do. Oh, ELLEN! I have always depended on you. You have told me so many times that you would take care of ALMA. She would do it for you, I know, if you were in her place and she in yours. She was a brighter child than you before she began to have those fits and the sweetest tempered little thing I ever saw; and you would see her suffer rather than deny yourself! ELLEN, what has changed you so? Do you want to get married?"

"Yes, mother, I am going to be married," replied ELLEN, her voice tremulous with suppressed passion. "Many people seem to think that it is mere play to teach school; but there is no employment more wearing upon life than that of those teachers who conscientiously feel the responsibilities resting upon them. If my health should fail we would all have to go to a worse home than you will find at the asylum. And then perhaps I would receive only reproaches because I could labor no longer."

"Forgive me, ELLEN," exclaimed Mrs. BARTON, her disappointment having given place to that submission to the will of Providence by which she was sustained when the strong hands and loving heart on which she depended were forever stilled and she knew not how she could care for her young children. "I am old and childish and you must not mind what I have said. You have always been so cheerful and uncomplaining, I had come to regard as our right that which you did from your own unselfishness. Your life shall no longer be a sacrifice. Tell me about the asylum."

ELLEN told her mother what were the terms on which they could enter the asylum and all she knew concerning life there.

"Don't you think you could be happy there, mother?"

"Yes, if you are happy and ALMA has good care I can be happy anywhere."

Then ELLEN told her mother what she should have told her at first—about JACK CAMERON. After that, no matter how dark life at the asylum might appear to Mrs. BARTON, she would endure any amount of torture rather than utter one word of complaint that would lessen the happiness of her daughter.

ELLEN returned to Webster thinking that in a few months she would be freed from the routine of the school-room. But the thought that this was to be her last term of imprisonment did not afford her as much happiness as she had anticipated. She felt that the ties which bound her to a teacher's life would be severed with some regret as well as gladness. She had become warmly attached to her pupils and it gave her much pleasure to know that she had won the respect and confidence of their parents. She knew that she owed much of her success to Prof. COMPTON, who had so kindly and wisely advised her and, although she had ever stood in a sort of reverential fear of him, yet she knew that she had no friend more true than he would ever be to her—such a friend as he was to every one whom he could aid in any way. It was this friendly way toward the pupils and those qualities that awaken respect and reliance, rather than any superior ability to govern, that gave him his influence in the school.

ELLEN felt that the time was passing too swiftly away notwithstanding the happy release its close would bring to her life.

"Only one day more," thought she one afternoon as she left the school building for her boarding place.

Little feet came pattering along the walk behind her and a little hand was thrust within her own.

"Why, MYRTIE, not gone home yet? Where have you been?"

"To the asylum, to see Grandma SHELDON. She gets awful lonesome, if there are so many there, and tired, too. Miss BARTON," said the eager child, as she still kept hold of ELLEN'S hand and skipped in front of her to peer into her face, "don't you think Uncle CHARLES ought to be ashamed of himself to poke grandma off to the asylum after he got all her money? Mamma says if he won't take her away from there she shall, if she has to take in washing to support her."

They had now reached the boarding-house and MYRTIE stood on tiptoe for a good-night kiss.

"I am no better than your uncle, MYRTIE. If you knew, you would not care to kiss me," thought ELLEN.

ELLEN felt sad ere she was overtaken by MYRTIE. Now she knew that she was unhappy; and when she reached her own room she found more unhappiness awaiting her. She found another letter lying on her table—a letter from her mother. Mrs. BARTON had seldom written during this term and ELLEN keenly felt the difference between these letters and the ones she used to receive. They were fraught with just as much affection, but the trustful dependence was gone. Not a single want had she made known. This letter was unlike any she had ever received. It contained something she had never expected to hear from her mother. Mrs. BARTON wrote as follows:

"DEAR DAUGHTER:—I write to let you know

that ALMA is dead. Perhaps I ought to have sent you a dispatch, so that you might have come to the funeral; but I thought it would only be an unnecessary expense. I wish you could have seen my poor child when she was dying. She did not speak; but just before she died she fixed her eyes upon my face, not with the old vacant look, but they were full of peace and love; and oh, ELLEN, she looked so grateful! I felt repaid for always keeping her with me. I shall go to her, ere long, and then we will together watch for our ELLEN'S coming—the dear sister and daughter who has sacrificed so much for our own sakes. Dear ELLEN, I am perfectly willing to go to the asylum and grateful to you for providing me a home there. I shall be ready when JACK and you come for me. Good-by till then——"

"O mother, forgive me," cried ELLEN. "I have made a great mistake. My life was not represented by the money that I gave for poor ALMA'S support. God be merciful to me if I have labored so unworthily that the only result is the compensation I have received."

ELLEN did not grieve over ALMA'S death. How could she, believing as she did that now reason was again restored to her? But her grief was caused by the thought of the duty she would have left undone had ALMA lived. Of one thing she was sure—nothing should ever again tempt her to neglect her duty to her mother. If JACK really loved her he would allow her mother to spend the few remaining years he had to live in their home. But she would never ask it of him. If he did it, he would do it of his own free will."

"Gentleman in the parlor to see Miss BARTON," announced a servant.

ELLEN took the letter in her hand and descended to the parlor. JACK sat looking out of the window and did not notice the entrance of ELLEN until she stood by his side.

"It is going to be a lovely evening for a drive," said he. Then suddenly perceiving the traces of tears upon her face, he exclaimed, "What is the matter, ELLEN?"

For answer, she gave him her mother's letter.

"Why do you grieve because she is dead?" said he, after he had read it. "She is now much better off and the world has lost nothing by her leaving it."

"For her sake I am not sorry she has gone; but mother will be very lonely now and I don't think I ought to let her go to the asylum," said ELLEN, as she stood with downcast eyes, slipping the ring back and forth on her finger.

"ALMA'S death need make no difference about your mother's going to the asylum," said he, impatiently.

"She will never go as long as I can work and take care of her," ELLEN replied.

"Choose between us, then. If you love your mother better than you do me——"

"I do love her better. Take your ring, sir;" and she hastened from the room, and as she entered the hall nearly ran against Prof. COMPTON, who had just passed by the open window and heard the terms proposed by JACK and the quick response, "I do love her better." Although he was sorry to have acted the part of eavesdropper, yet his spirits rose many degrees when he heard ELLEN make this declaration.

The next morning before the pupils began to arrive, ELLEN went to Prof. COMPTON'S office and asked him if a teacher had been engaged to take her place. Upon his replying in the negative, she timidly made known her desire, if there were no dissatisfaction, to retain the situation.

"I will guarantee you the situation as long as you are content to remain with us," said he. "We have all been so disheartened at the prospect of losing you that we shall know better how to appreciate your efforts in the future."

"I shall endeavor to be more worthy of the confidence reposed in me," said she, and turned to leave the room, for she could not keep back the tears which the kindness of his voice had caused to well up in her eyes.

Mr. COMPTON, desiring to make known his sympathy for her suffering, gently detained her by placing his hand on her arm and said:

"Miss BARTON, the decision that I unintentionally heard as I passed that open window, made me very happy. I could not bear to give up my faith in you. Believe me, nothing in life can afford you so much happiness as your devotion to your mother and sister."

At an early hour on the succeeding day, ELLEN left Webster to return to her mother the unselfish daughter she was before she knew JACK CAMERON. In the car sat a gentleman with a sweet and blushing little lady by his side and even the most ignorant old bachelor of the ways of lovers would not fail to conclude that they were enjoying their bridal tour. ELLEN sat just behind them, noticing their tender glances and thinking of the difference between her journey home and what it was to have been. Yet she was conscious of feeling more contented and light-hearted than she had felt for a long time and she really believed that it was on account of the termination of her engagement with JACK CAMERON. She began to doubt that she ever loved him. And, after carefully thinking over her life of the past few months and trying in vain to analyze the subtle feeling termed Love, the only definite conclusion at which she could arrive was:—"Love and Duty ever go hand in hand. If love from heaven came, it cannot be love for which people sometimes neglect their duty."

The June evening was chilly and damp; yet, Mrs. BARTON had allowed her fire to go out. She had wrapped a shawl about her, thinking that she must be saving of the wood that ELLEN had worked so hard to buy. She felt very sad and lonely; for, strange as it may appear to some, the death of ALMA caused her as much sorrow as the loss of the brightest and sweetest of children brings to a mother's heart.

The stage came rumbling down the street at the usual time; yet, so absorbed was Mrs. BARTON with the past, she was not conscious of hearing the familiar rumbling of its wheels until it once more drew up at her gate. Before she fairly came back to the present and was wondering what it could mean, ELLEN came running in and she was clasped in her arms.

"Where is JACK?"

"JACK didn't come," replied ELLEN, with the old roguish sparkle in her eyes.

"Are you not married? Haven't you come for me?"

"No, I am not married. Yes, I have come for you—but not to take you to the asylum. When I go back to Webster at the commencement of the autumn term, you will go with me and we will rent some rooms and live together."

ELLEN was again the strong one and Mrs. BARTON cried like a child, as though all the grief she had kept in check for her daughter's sake must be wept out before this new joy could enter her heart.

ELLEN returned to Webster and the schoolroom, content with her lot in life. The burden that she relinquished for the sake of JACK CAMERON was now a most joy-affording task. It was very pleasant to be welcomed home each night by the love-light in her mother's eyes.

As the weeks went by ELLEN became slowly conscious that it was not wholly a newly-awakened enthusiasm for the work that made her duties in the school-room so pleasant. Yet, when Prof. COMPTON proposed that they might not only be partners in promoting the welfare of the school but also partners in all the joys and sorrows of their lives, she declined to enter into such a partnership. She would not commit that fearful mistake a second time, although her love for CHAUNCEY COMPTON exceeded the feeling she once possessed for JACK CAMERON, as the love of a true heart for what is true exceeds its love for what is false. But Mr. COMPTON'S faculty for persuading was fully equal to that of JACK CAMERON. ELLEN was convinced that in this case love would not conflict with duty.

"You never seemed to suspect," said he, "that JACK CAMERON caused a shadow to be cast upon my life as well as upon that of your mother?"

"I never suspected that I was at all connected with your happiness," ELLEN replied. "But I often wonder what led you to care for me at first."

"I think it was the story of your devotion to your mother and sister."

"But I cannot conceive why every other feeling did not give place to contempt when you learned of my intended desertion of them."

"A mother's love is not lessened by the mistakes her child commits. The love that causes man and woman to be united as husband and wife, should be as true and unselfish as a mother's love for her child. To know that you were happy would ever have been the greatest desire of my life; and my cross would have been my inability to contribute to your happiness."

Mrs. BARTON was for a few years a happy inmate of their home. Then, one vacation time, at the close of a bright spring day, she went home to watch for her ELLEN'S coming in the Father's house on high.

MRS. VANDERDUYNCK.

LETTERS FROM ROGER FLOYD TO HOPE STANHOPE.

BY MISS E. W. OLNEY.

[Continued from page 414, last number.]

III.

RIVERBEND, July 10.

I AM just getting back the impetuous strength of my old college days. I builded wiser than I knew when I accepted this aimless sort of life for a year or two. My illness showed me the futility of working too hard and its futility. Suppose I spend two years here and then, at thirty, go out into practical life again. I shall have gained strength and interest; I shall scarcely have lost time, nor shall I have weakened my powers of application. But you, you sentimentalist, you tell me you are glad to see that I can love a child; that you desire nothing so much as to have me give my too self-sustained, too self-burdened heart into somebody else's keeping. Who wants it? Men of opposite experiences and separate destinies from mine can talk of hearts and consolations. Still, do you remember our wilhom philosopher, Burton, when he quotes from some book of curious lore, telling of a boy who was brought up by a monk never to hear of women, of whose existence he never dreamed until one day, when he was about eighteen, he met three girls in a wood. On recovering from the vision he inquired what manner of things they were, and his preceptor informed him they were fairies. A year after, when he was asked what was most beautiful of all he had hitherto seen in the world, he replied without hesitation, "The fairies that I saw last year in the wood."

Now, Holt, the most beautiful sight I have ever seen in the world I see now every morning at six o'clock. Mrs. Vanderduynck and her little girl come down to the river bank, and I put them in the boat and row them up to black rock and back before my half-past seven o'clock breakfast. It all happened in this wise. I began by taking little Cora out. I carried her one morning across the meadow in my arms to Water Lily pond, and we pulled our arms full of lilies; and then I let her sit on the side of the skiff, and dabble her little white feet in the water all the way home. This sort of thing went on for a week; then, four mornings ago, I found Mrs. Vanderduynck, the mamma, sitting on the bank with Cora on her lap, when I came out of the boat-house. She approached me timidly.

Have I ever given you any idea of the rich widow? She married at seventeen, and now, at twenty-two, is of course in the first prime of her beauty. She is tall, quite to my shoulder, but has a *mignon* way with her which makes her look small—in fact, when I have seen her in the house I have thought it owing to her skirts that she looked so grandly, for she wears them trailing after her like a court dame's. In the boat she always appears in a white walking dress (made short enough to display the feet and ankles of a Canova's Venus) and a broad-brimmed straw hat. She understands the art of dress: everything tells on her. I, who know as much about a woman's appointments as a kangaroo, find myself noticing the set of her gloves, the ruffles about her wrists, and the knot of silk at her throat. She has long, sleepy, brown eyes, which always seem a shade too pensive and wistful for the laughing face; her forehead is low and broad, and golden hair waves and crisps off from it in a manner suggestive of art; but as I have seen her, on warm mornings, bare her hands and wet her hair and brow without other effect than making the gold curls more perfect than before, I suppose nature endowed her with this wonderful hair. Her complexion is pale, but there is no monotony to its clear pallor, for she is always flushing and paling.

As I say, she came up to me timidly that first morning. "How do you do?" said she, putting out her hand. "I could not sleep, and when I heard Cora telling nurse that you were to take her rowing, I jumped up and dressed, and have come to implore you to let me be of the party."

"I am most honored," I rejoined, kissing Cora; and then, handing them both into the boat, I pushed it off, jumped in took off my coat, and struck out at once. Cora chattered madly as usual. I willed myself to be unconscious of the coquettish-looking figure in the stern. I told the child stories. I laughed at her lisps. I finally let the boat drift while I took her on my lap to hear her repeat some French verses I had taught her the day before. I think Cora had good time. Of her mamma's enjoyment I was no certain; and when on our return she asked me she might accompany us next morning, I assented, feeling, I confess, a little ashamed of my churlishness in not addressing her; so when, the following day, she exclaimed at some wild roses and convolvuli by Black Rock, I leaped from the boat and secured them for her. What do women mean by blushing furiously at a small attention? I should fancy that a widow satiated with passionate homage might receive an ordinary civility like mine without quickened pulsation. To say I do not find this intercourse pleasant would be a pointless falsehood. Artificial coquette though she may be later in the day, Mrs. Vanderduynck is as fresh as dew-washed roses at six o'clock in the morning.—[To be continued.

THE MULE.

THE mule is the most unhealthy animal in the world—unhealthy to have around.

He is continually possessed of a yearning desire to stretch himself—especially his hind legs.

We have known this yearning to make trouble in several families.

He is also possessed of great healing power.

No man ever sees a mule kick him.

The man is usually seized with obscure visions just at that juncture.

We have seen a man get up after a mule had kicked him (very rarely though) and swear with both hands uplifted that he didn't believe the animal had stirred a peg—he looked so immovable and unconcerned.

A mule is a very "quick" animal.

Great quantities of this substance lie hidden beneath his toe-calks.

As a great explorer, the mule is equal to Stanley.

When he goes exploring for a man he always finds him.

The safest place to stand by a mule does not exist.

The mule is a very headstrong beast.

He is likewise exceedingly heelstrong.—[*Josh Billings.*

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM SCRIBNER, ARMSTRONG & Co., New York:

Sans-Souci Series. Men and Manners of America One Hundred Years Ago. By H. E. Scudder. [Cloth.—pp. 320.] Price $1.50.

T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, Philada.:

Consuelo. By George Sand. [Paper.—pp. 254.] Price 75 cents.

Massacre of Glencoe. By G. W. M. Reynolds. [Paper.—pp. 205.] Price 75 cents.

E. P. DUTTON & Co., New York:

Roadside Poems. Edited by Lucy Larcom. [Cloth.—pp. 263.] Boston: Jas. R. Osgood & Co. Price $1.

S. C. GRIGGS & Co., Chicago:

Two Years in California. By Mary Cone. Illustrated. [Cloth.—pp. 238.] Price $1.75.

JAMES R. OSGOOD & Co., Boston:

The Complete Poetical Works of Henry W. Longfellow. Illustrated. Centennial Edition. [Paper.—pp. 287.] Price $1.

BAKER, PRATT & Co., New York:

The Pilot and his Wife. By Jonas Lie. Translated by Mrs. Ole Bull. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. [Cloth.—pp. 336.] Price $1.50.

MAGAZINES FOR JULY:

Record of the Year, Atlantic, Harper's, Scribner's, Galaxy, St. Nicholas, Music Trade Review.

Sabbath Reading.

"THE PENNY YE MEANT TO GI'E.."

THERE'S a funny tale of a stingy man, [worse,
Who was none too good, but might have been
Who went to church on a Sunday night,
And carried along his well-filled purse.

When the sexton came with his begging plate,
The church was but dim with the candle's light;
The stingy man fumbled all through his purse,
And chose a coin by touch and not by sight.

It's an odd thing now that guineas should be
So like unto pennies in shape and size,
"I give a penny," the stingy man said;
"The poor must not gifts of pennies despise."

The penny fell down with a clatter and ring!
And back in his seat leaned the stingy man.
"The world is so full of the poor," he thought,
"I can't help them all—I give what I can."

Ha, ha! how the sexton smiled, to be sure,
To see the golden guinea fall into the plate!
Ha, ha! how the stingy man's heart was wrung,
Perceiving his blunder, but just too late!

"No matter," he said; "in the Lord's account
That guinea of gold is set down to me.
They lend to Him who give to the poor;
It will not so bad an investment be."

"Na, na, mon," the chuckling sexton cried out:
"The Lord is na cheated—He kens thee well;
He knew it was only by accident
That out o' thy fingers the guinea fell!

"He keeps an account, na doubt for the puir;
But in that account He'll set down to thee
Na mair o' that golden guinea, my mon,
Than the one bare penny ye meant to gi'e!"

There's a comfort too, in the little tale—
A serious side as well as a joke;
A comfort for all the generous poor,
In the comical words the sexton spoke.

A comfort to think that the good Lord knows
How generous we really desire to be,
And will give us credit in his account
For the pennies we long "to gi'e." [*Anon.*

THE SANHEDRIN.

FROM Smith's Bible Dictionary we learn that the Sanhedrim (accurately Sanhedrin) was the supreme council of the Jewish people. In the Mishna, or collection of Jewish laws and traditions, the Sanhedrin is traced to the seventy elders associated with Moses in the government of the Israelites, Num. 11: 16, 17. Others hold that the council arose after the return of the Jews from Babylon. From the New Testament we learn that it consisted of chief priests, elders and scribes, Matt. 26: 57, 59; Mark 15: 1; Luke 22: 66; Acts 5: 21. The number of its members is usually given as seventy-one. While in session the Sanhedrin sat in the form of a half circle, the eldest one of the number on the right. He was called "father of the house of judgment." This council acted as a judicial body and as an administrative body, in the arraignment of false prophets and in dealing with other important matters. So it arraigned Jesus, Peter, John, Stephen, Paul, as impostors, teachers of error, deceivers of the people. At this time, however, its jurisdiction did not extend further than the arrest, trial and condemnation of the one convicted of violation of ecclesiastical law. The execution of the sentence belonged to the Roman procurator.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

To repent of sin is as great a work of grace as not to sin.

As if you could kill time without injuring eternity.—*Thoreau.*

Spiritual hungerings and thirstings are satisfied only with spiritual things.

GOD esteems men's deeds by their minds, not their minds by their deeds.

THE true Christian is ever ready to receive on himself the blow aimed at the cause of Christ.

PRAYER is the opposite of anxious care, because in the prayer man commits the care to God.—*Olshausen.*

SATAN promises what he never gives—lasting pleasure; and gives what he never promises—everlasting pain.

SOME persons pass their wretched days like so many swine; they never look up to heaven till God lays them on their back.

EMINENCE is not reached by a frantic struggle. The road to it is much more commonplace. He that would dazzle must first dig.

SURELY they do not truly love Christ, who love anything more than Christ. Grace is given to trade with. It is given to lay out, not to lay up.

DON'T live a single hour of your life without doing exactly what ought to be done in it, and going straight through it from beginning to end.

IF my Lord would come and take me to himself, my joy would be first that I would be forever near him, and then that I should never wound him again by sin.—*Anon.*

YOUR disposition will be suitable to that which you most frequently think on; for the soul is, as it were, tinged with the color and complexion of its own thoughts.—*Marcus Antonius.*

HE who loveth his wife like himself, and honoreth her even more than himself; who leadeth his sons and his daughters in the path of integrity, and who provides for their settlement in early life; to him may be applied the Scripture passage, "Thou shalt know that peace shall adorn thy tent."

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE WOODPECKER.

BY MRS. LAURA S. HAGNER.

TAP! tap! goes the woodpecker's busy bill,
Tap! tap! on the old oak tree—
He hunts small game
With his tongue of flame,
For a woodman bold is he!

"'Tis the early bird gets the worm," he cries,
As he springs from his nest at morn,
And his note so shrill,
The woodlands fill,
Like the hunter's bugle horn!

In their chambers dark,
'Neath the moldering bark,
The ant and the grub lie still—
But he hurries them out
With a terrible shout,
And gobbles them up at will.

Nature's own red-republican,
He sings, and steals, and fights,
And from the fir tree's highest limb
Harangues about "his rights."
For 'tis a melancholy truth,
Not in Bird-land alone,
That they who trample others' rights
Still clamor for their own.

ATTRACTIVENESS IN WOMEN.

PERSONAL attractions most girls possess, at any rate in a sufficient degree to render them attractive to somebody; for, although there are standards of beauty, yet these do not prevail with all people. The following sensible article from a leading paper in the West will apply to the ladies here as well as to the women of the locality for which the article was intended:—"There is something wonderful in the difference of aspect which the same face wears to different beholders. Probably the philosophical explanation of this is that which is hidden from all becomes immediately and instinctively apparent to the eye of love. How can a moderately good-looking girl increase her attractions? By culture. She must cultivate her mind. An ignorant, illiterate woman, even if she attracts attention, cannot retain the interest of an intelligent man. She must do this by reading, by study, reflection, and by familiar conversation with the best and most highly educated persons with whom she comes in contact. But the heart must be cultivated as well as the head. "Of all things," exclaimed an elegant and refined gentleman—"of all things," give me a softness and gentleness in woman." A harsh voice, a coarse laugh; trifles like these have suddenly spoiled many a favorable impression. The cultivation of the heart must be real, not feigned. A woman who studies to appear rather than to be good and generous, seldom succeeds in deceiving the other sex in these respects. She who in truth seeks earnestly to promote the happiness of those around her is very apt soon to obtain admirers among men. Above all other requisites in a woman is conscientiousness. Without this one touchstone of character, no matter what her charms and acquirements, she can not expect to command the lasting regard of any man whose love is worth having."

THE EMMA MINE HEIRESS.

A CHICAGO letter to the Graphic says:—The lady after whom the Emma Mine is named is a boarding pupil at Miss Grant's finishing school for young ladies, in North Dearborn St., an aristocratic stone mansion, with an air of exclusive gentility about it. She is a tall blonde, with a satin-smooth, ivory-tinted skin, and light, waving brown hair, which was coiled in a loose, classic knot at the back. Her dress was a simple Marie Louise blue. A long scarf of black lace was tied about her throat. She was guiltless of the smallest piece of jewelry, and her long, slender fingers were unadorned by a single ring. A soft fringe of curling hair outlined a low, wide brow. This was Emma Chisholm, sole daughter of the house and heart of Robert Bruce Chisholm of Elgin, Ill., a few years ago half owner of the Emma Mine, now a retired capitalist. I explained my visit to Miss Chisholm, who laughed merrily and said:

"Well, I have always eluded an interview, and all those newspaper reports have been solicited from papa and the boys. I found the notoriety of the mine unpleasant at first, but I do not mind it now. Three years ago I visited the mine, and I enjoyed the trip very much, especially the ride from Salt Lake City to Alta, the little village at the mine. I found the miners enjoying a brand of cigars called 'The Little Emma,' and they actually had my picture on the box!"

The young lady laughed merrily at the recollection. She further added that she was only ten years old when her brother William named the mine after her as a voluntary peace offering, as she was constantly importuning him to "come home to his dear Emma." She was born in Eastern Minnesota, May 6, 1859.

LANGUAGE OF FINGER-RINGS.

IN the case of a gentleman wishing to marry—literally "in the market" with his heart—he wears a plain or chased gold ring upon the first finger of the left (or heart) hand.

When success attends his suit and he is actually engaged, the ring passes to the second finger.

After marriage it passes to the third finger.

If, however, the gentleman desires to tell the fair ones that he not only is not in market, but he does not design to marry at all, he wears the signet upon his little finger and all ladies may understand that he is out of their reach.

With the fair sex the "laws of the ring" are:

A plain or chased gold ring on the little finger of the right hand implies "not engaged;" or, in plain words, "ready for proposals, sealed or otherwise."

When engaged, the ring passes to the first finger of the left hand.

When married, the third finger receives it.

If the fair one proposes to defy all siege to her heart, she places the rings on her first and fourth fingers—one on each, like two charms to keep away the tempter. It is somewhat singular that this disposition of rings is rare!

THE JAPANESE CENTENNIAL BUILDING.

THE Japanese building on the Centennial Grounds, which commands a large share of attention from visitors, is now entirely completed and is occupied by the Japanese officials. The building is beautifully furnished throughout in a style corresponding with the better class of residences in Japan. The floors are laid with costly carpets of peculiar design and the furniture presents a rich, unique appearance. The panelings of the doors, recesses, &c., are frescoed or painted in the most delicate and artistic manner, representing birds, flowers, &c., and highly ornamental screens, such as are used in Japanese parlors or reception rooms occupy places in the angles of the various rooms. The walls are handsomely papered and the windows are furnished with a peculiar style of paper in lieu of glass and which is protected from the weather by means of wooden blinds which pull in or out from the walls of the rooms. An air of elegance and comfort pervades the entire interior and the building will be an object of great interest during the Exposition.

A YOUNG WOMAN WORKING WHILE ASLEEP.

WE take the following singular case from the Brookport (Ind.) Journal:—A young lady of this city who was preparing for a journey had a dress made for the occasion, and as the time for her departure approached she was considerably annoyed lest it should not be done in time. The dress came when promised, however, but there was something about it that did not exactly suit her, and the matter still burdened her mind. The evening previous to her intended departure she put the dress away and tried to dismiss the matter from her mind, but does not seem to have succeeded. When she arose the following morning she found her dress ripped apart, not a seam of the whole garment remaining sewed, and not a cut or tear in the material. As no one had access to it but herself, she was forced to conclude that she had arisen in her sleep and ripped it apart.

FEMALE CLERKS IN WASHINGTON.

IT is remarked of the female clerks in the Washington departments that they might set up an aristocracy of their own if they so desired. Widows or daughters of army and navy officers of the highest rank, daughters and granddaughters of former members of the Cabinet, of Senators, Supreme Court Justices and of Presidents, are to be found among them. The granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson has a clerkship. The daughter of Andrew Jackson Donaldson (the adopted son of Andrew Jackson) was born in the White House and educated in Berlin, and is now a clerk in the Post-office Department. The daughter of Chief-Justice Taney is (or was) a clerk in some Government bureau, and so was the daughter of Robert J. Walker, formerly Secretary of the Treasury. These are but a few instances where names might be cited.

WHAT IS BECOMING TO WEAR.

ON the above subject, Cassell's Family Magazine says;—If you are a brunette, avoid neutral tints and wear only positive colors; but do not tire your friends with everlasting scarlet, under the idea that nothing else becomes you. A blonde, in the bloom of youth, may wear light grays and browns; but if on the shady side of forty, she should, like her brunette sister, adopt only positive colors, as washy, weak coloring is only becoming to extreme youth and fairness. The new deep reds are very pretty, and so are the greens, and may be used for bonnets in shades with great advantage.

THE Sioux Indians name their pappooses after events transpiring at the time of their birth. As illustrative of this peculiar trait, Red Cloud is known to have taken that name from the fact that the western sky was overspread with red clouds at the moment of his birth, while the bringing of a captive horse with a spotted tail gave the now great chief the singular cognomen of Spotted Tail. Sitting Bull received this name because a buffalo bull was, by a lucky shot, thrown upon its haunches, in plain sight of his mother's tepee at the natal hour; while the cavortings of a fractious pony furnished a name for the redoubtable Crazy Horse.

A WOMAN in Paris has perfected a new method of picking pockets. She enters the omnibus with a very pretty and beautifully-dressed baby, seats herself close to the likeliest passengers, and works under cover of baby's ample drapery. After succeeding in her pilfering design, she pinches the baby so that it cries fearfully, and then leaves the omnibus suddenly, remarking that she must buy candy for it.

Reading for the Young.

My man John
To sea is gone
All in a wicker cradle;
The cradle creaks,
The cradle leaks,
But John has got a ladle.

LETTER FROM UNCLE MARK.

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:—Can any of you tell me why it is that, as people grow older, they become more observant of occurrences by which they are constantly surrounded? If the conundrum is too difficult, give it up; for I don't want you to think very much unless you feel so inclined, and the question will certainly start you thinking. Well, after all, observation is the great channel of education.

Passing through the Centennial grounds last week, my thoughts were very naturally turned upon the thousands of people by whom I was surrounded, and I sat down in a convenient place just to observe them as they passed. My location was near the main entrance, and the time was about sunset, when the exit from the grounds was greatest. One general characteristic of a large majority of them pleased me. It was the utter absence of anything like personal decoration. While they were mostly well dressed, they seemed to have made their toilets with a view to comfort instead of ornamentation. I noticed among the ladies a predominance of flat-soled, low-heeled shoes, made for walking and not for looks; also many linen dresses which looked cool and comfortable. The tendency is generally the other way at such Exhibitions. One lady as she passed me remarked that she had been all through China, and should never have believed that so various and such beautiful things could come from such a country. And this started my mind on another train of thought: Why should not China produce a *greater* variety of beautiful things than we can? Is it not an older nation by thousands of years? Were the Chinese not a civilized nation thousands of years before England was inhabited by anything but barbarians? Take a look at your history of China and see for yourself.

In what is called the U. S. Government building can be seen many things of interest to all the girls and boys whose fathers were soldiers in the late Rebellion. The manufacture of muskets and cartridges is carried on there the same as in the various U. S. arsenals. Besides this, there are hundreds of different kinds of implements of war and machines for the destruction of human life. Why will people go to war? It seems to be a very unsatisfactory way of settling differences. Yet the most civilized nations of Europe are even now making preparations for a possible war. Well, I'll give you my idea of why they do it. When people are young they frequently give way to angry feelings, and think ill of their companions for some actual or imaginary wrong which has been done. As they grow older these feelings grow stronger and often of more frequent recurrence, so when they become grown these passions become the sources of wide breaches between friends and quarrels between enemies. Nations, too, which are mere collections of human beings, are swayed and governed by the same angry feelings, and they result in warfare. Sometimes a defensive war is necessary to prevent the bad from overcoming the good, just as it is sometimes necessary for a good man or boy to defend himself against a wicked person. But there are few wars or even quarrels between individuals which could not be avoided if the angry passions were controlled and kept in subjection. Therefore I should advise all my young friends to learn at once to keep their tempers in subjection. If, when you feel anger rising, you will stop to think, you will generally be able to control yourself, and once having done it you will find it much easier the next time. What I have said may sound very like a sermon, but being human myself I know from experience that I never did a thing in anger in my life that I was not sorry for afterwards. Just try it yourself. The next time your sister, brother or mother (for mothers sometimes, when troubled with family cares, do speak crossly) says that to you which makes you feel angry, stop to think and give a pleasant reply. You will find that you have defeated them and gained a victory over yourself.

There, you see, I started to tell you about the Centennial, and in my earnest desire to make you avoid some of the pitfalls from which I have been obliged to drag myself during my long life, I have preached you a little sermon. Never mind; it is like the Irishman's cap: it will fit all the heads that are not too large or too small for it.

I am glad to see that Kansas boy calling Uncle TRUE'S attention to the poor chance he gave the Western boys for his prize. You see he is pretty old and probably did not think of the effect the answers would have. JENNIE L., I certainly shall give you more Centennial and less sermon the next time. In the meantime I don't want that editor to be cross to me as he was before for writing such long letters, so I will have to say good-by, and you shall soon hear again from UNCLE MARK.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From the Keystone State.

DEAR EDITOR:—I think the RURAL is just splendid—nothing less. My brother CHARLIE takes it, and we all like it very much. Most of the Cousins tell about their pets, but I have none except a dear little brother who eclipses all. Now about YOUNG TOM: We did not take your valuable paper last year, so I did not see his letter, but I think I can excuse him on the plea that his lady-love has jilted him, and so he takes vengeance on all womankind for her sweet sake. I love to go to school. My favorite studies are Elocution, Music and Drawing. I delight in literature. My favorite authors are LONGFELLOW and SHAKSPEARE.—ALICE, *Erie Co., Pa.*

P. S.—Some of the Cousins add a postscript, so I will to keep them company. Girls or boys who go to our great Centennial, please let us hear of some of the fine curiosities you see.

A Lecture from E. J. S.

DEAR COUSINS:—It is raining this afternoon, and I will write to my RURAL Cousins. So, Uncle MOORE has retired from the Editorial chair. Well, I'm sorry, *very sorry*. Father's farm is looking very well now. Oats are heading; gardens are very good; potatoes are up; beans, peas and other vegetables are thriving also. I suppose R. H. C. is too busy to write to the RURAL. Do write again, ROBERT. Don't think I'm a boy, as I'm only a girl. ANNA M.: I'm waiting very impatiently for your answer. That other Canada *boy*, J. M. S.: What is the reason you don't write, sir? When you (not particularly you, J., but all of you, nearly,) write *one* letter that seems to satisfy you. I will close by asking *all* the Cousins to write to the dear old RURAL.—ELLEN J. S.

The Boy who has Pets.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—As I have read many letters from the girls and boys, I thought I would try. I have not so many pets as most of the Cousins. I have a goat two years old, and two hens and a rooster which came from England. I do not live on a farm, but we have nearly enough stuff to stock a farm. I can milk a cow, feed the chickens, and do almost as much as a boy that lives on a farm. I go to school, winter and summer, and like it very much.—GEO. B., *Corning, N. Y.*

From the Southern Tier.

ED. RURAL:—It is a long time since I have written to your dear old paper, and as you were so kind as to print my last one I will write again. I was very much pleased with YOUNG ARTIST'S letter, and think she must be a very nice young lady. Has Cousin JOHNNIE joined the list of offended ones, like YOUNG BACH, YOUNG TOM and DEW DROP? I hardly think that can be.—WILL DE B., *Delhi, N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

CURTAILMENTS.

1. CURTAIL to yawn, and leave a chasm.
2. A color, and leave a dot.
3. A city of Massachusetts, and find an auction.
4. A board, and leave a plot.
5. A city of Illinois, and leave a voice.
6. A city of Michigan, and leave a river of Egypt.
7. A city of Minnesota, and leave change.
8. Yeast, and leave to depart.
9. A Western lake, and leave bad weather.
10. To partake of a fluid, and leave a river of Austria.
11. A lawyer's writing, and leave a river of England.
12. Finished, and leave a river of England.
13. A dress material, and leave a river of Spain.
14. Went under the water, and leave a river of Austria.
15. Arrived, and leave a river of England.
16. To explode, and leave a river of Italy.
17. A river of England, and leave a pier.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

BIBLICAL SQUARE-WORD.

1. A MOUNTAIN which overlooked the promised land. 2. An ancient country. 3. A ferocious wild animal. 4. A wicked king of Israel.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

CENTRAL PUZZLE.

1. A CHICKEN'S drumstick. 2. Part of the head. 3. Part of a man. Words of three letters. Centrals form part of your head.

☞ Answer in two weeks. B.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—June 17.

SCRIPTURAL ENIGMA No. 1.—"The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA No. 14.—Euphrates.

CENTRAL PUZZLE No. 1.—Nightshade.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA No. 5.—Letta Adams Bell.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In these matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

RAILROAD fares are now regarded as having reached their lowest point—$20 to St. Louis and back during the Convention. Despite the reduction of freights and fares so that they scarcely pay the running expenses of the roads, there has as yet been no notworthy increase of traffic.

No prospect is yet apparent of the breaking of the deadlock on the Appropriation bills. The Army, Navy and Post Office bills are among the number that the two Houses are unable to agree upon. The Legislative, Executive and Judicial appropriation is also in a crisis; but something is likely to be done about that, since otherwise the salaries of members of Congress will stop. Congress itself has no thoughts of stopping. The resolution passed in the Senate to take up the impeachment trial on July 6, instead of postponing it till Fall, insures a long session for both Houses, as they must both hold over during the trial.

It was Prentice who declined to discuss the question of woman suffrage in his paper, because he had considered woman from the creation as a side issue.

A number of shrimps were found lately at the bottom of a gold claim in Melbourne, the depth being 300 feet. They were totally blind, and, though active enough at the bottom, died when brought to the surface.

Venezuela exhibits forty varieties of fruit preserved in their natural state in alcohol; also tree sap, possessing the color, taste, and, it is said, all the nutritive properties of cow's milk.

A convention of representatives of all the national banks of the country was held at Willard's Hall, Washington, June 2. They propose pressing before the Committee on Banking and Currency the consideration of certain bills before that Committee, and to make a final appeal in relation to the abolition of the war taxes on the capital and deposits of State and National Banks. The call for the Convention says: It is believed that a representative from every bank in the country, so far as possible, before the Committee, will virtually amount to a national demonstration, and result in the total abolition of these taxes imposed in consequence of a war necessity. That situation no longer existing, the general stagnation of trade and commerce, together with the depressed institutions of the country, are making the present bank taxes absolutely unbearable, and which, if not promptly repealed, must end in the dissolution of a large number of banking institutions, and the withdrawal of banking capital as an investment throughout the land.

The most terrific hail storm known in that section passed over the South Canadian River, June 21. The course of the storm was from West to East and varied in width from a half to two miles. Timber was blown down, trees entirely stripped of leaves, and every species of vegetation in its track was destroyed. All the glass in dwellings and passing trains was broken. The damage done is immense and cannot be estimated.

Dom Pedro visited Newport and took a glimpse at the Torpedo Station, where he was honored with a sub-marine salute of 22 torpedoes. He is not ready to admit that Brazil is behind us in this branch of warfare.

The Polo Club, late of New York, have transferred their operations to Newport. Polo is the old game of "shinny," the players being mounted on ponies.

The Commencement exercises of Brown University, at Providence, R. I., were inaugurated on June 19.

New York is to have a large fresh and salt water aquarium, similar in principle to those in Paris and at Brighton, Eng. How the little fishes will swim!

Grand torchlight procession in Philadelphia on the evening of the 3d, and the military to be permitted to risk sunstroke on the morning of the Glorious Fourth!

A disturbance has occurred at Mount Pleasant, near Port Gibson, La. The negroes, following the example of the whites, organized a band of regulators and ordered a Democratic negro to leave the place. Refusing to leave, he was attacked and killed by the regulators. The constable and a posse attempted to arrest the murderers, but were driven off. The Sheriff of Baton Rouge, with a posse, went to Mount Pleasant and captured 14 negroes, including the murderers.

The reunion of the Army of the Cumberland will take place in Philadelphia July 6 and 7. Gen. Sheridan will parade. The Academy of Music has been engaged.

Gov. Tilden has pardoned Charles and Mary Fisher, sentenced Nov. 16, 1874, in the County of New York, the former to seven years and the latter to five years' imprisonment in Sing Sing. It now appears satisfactorily to the prosecuting officer that they are innocent of the crime charged against them.

The belles of Seville have adopted a new and ingenious device. They keep long India-rubber speaking tubes in their rooms and drop them to their lovers, who are thus enabled on the lower level of the street to feel their dames' breath on their cheeks and to whisper soft nothings into the fair one's ears.

Since the trade in human hair has been so much injured in Paris by the reports that the tresses displayed in shop windows came from the hospitals, or from the heads of dead persons, many Parisiennes insist upon having the hair cut off in their presence. The dealers are, however, equal to the emergency. They bring up their Breton girl in full costume. She cries as her locks are cut, and the buyer is satisfied. Usually the girl is an imposter, and the hair fastened to her head by an artful process.

A whirlwind at Salt Lake, the other day, lifted a hot house, with its floral and vegetable contents, from its foundations, and carried it up into the air five hundred feet above the city. When released it came down with a crash on an open lot.

Judge Sawyer, of the United States Circuit Court of California, has decided that the Civil Rights bill is unconstitutional as far as it applies to theaters, on the ground that they are private property. The decision was given in a suit of a negro against the manager of a theater, because he was refused admittance.

There are 662 miles of water pipes in the City of Philadelphia, and the city has 74 drinking fountains.

Mr. Bramwell, the well-known English engineer, asserted, recently, before the Society of Arts, that railway accidents are frequently aggravated by applying the brake power too sharply.

Vanderbilt University, at Nashville, Tenn., has received another gift of $300,000 from Commodore Vanderbilt. The total amount given by him to that institution is $1,000,000.

About 12 o'clock P. M. June 19, a fire broke out in the engine-room of the propeller John Taylor, lying at the dock of the Athens and Schenectady Railroad, opposite Athens, N. Y., and the flames rapidly extended to the other vessels at the dock and to the depot building, which were almost totally destroyed. The vessels burned were the John Taylor, the barge Hercules, loaded with sugar, and the Canal boat Stephen Warren, with a cargo of merchandise. These vessels belonged to the line of John H. Starin. A canal boat belonging to Smith Betts was damaged slightly. The large depot, 1,600 feet long, built at great expense by Daniel Drew, and known as the "White Elephant," was nearly destroyed, with its contents, including freight. One hundred freight cars standing on the track and loaded with flour, corn, oats, and tobacco, were totally consumed. The depot belonged to the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company. All the books and papers of the railroad company and of Starin's line were saved. The loss is about $400,000.

At Robinson, Ill., a desperate murderer who attacked and nearly killed the Sheriff when locking up the prisoners, was taken out of jail by a crowd and hung.

The water in the canal at Sault Ste. Marie began rising about 10 o'clock on the morning of June 24th, without any apparent cause and reached a greater hight than has been known for many years.

Albert Curtis, son of Judge Curtis of Ashland, Ohio, was shot and instantly killed on his ranche near Laramie City, by a man named Chandler. The shooting grew out of a difficulty between the two.

Two of the northern spans of the railroad bridge across the Missouri River at Kansas City, were burned last Friday. The loss is estimated at $100,000. It will probably take two weeks to repair the bridge.

Samuel W. Strough, a farmer and a prominent citizen of Jeff. Co., N. Y., was struck by lightning and instantly killed. His horse was also killed, but a neighbor who was riding with Mr. Strough was not injured.

President Raymond of Vassar College preached his baccalaureate sermon June 25.

The new Masonic Hall, Buffalo, was dedicated June 24th with imposing ceremonies. James W. Husted, Grand Master of the State, officiated. Monroe and Cyrene Commanderies of Rochester and Batavia Commandery took part.

The insurance companies have effected arrangements with the town of St John's by which the fire risks will in future be much less than formerly. They intended to withdraw from the town unless these arrangements were agreed to.

A new air line to Boston, by way of New Haven, Middletown and Willimantic, Conn., will soon be completed and in running order.

A princely visitor from Europe arrived lately in the person of Oscar Charles Augustu, Duke of Gothland, and son of the King of Sweden, who comes as a midshipman on board the Swedish corvette Narrkopsing. His father gave express instructions that the young prince, who, by the way, is only 17 years old, should accept no attentions other than those befitting his subaltern rank in the navy, and he therefore goes about with his fellow officers without the least ceremony.

The forthcoming wedding of the daughter of Mr. Dannfelt, the Swedish Commissioner, to Mr. W. Christopherson, the Norwegian Commissioner, creates a good deal of interest in Exhibition circles. The marriage will take place next Thursday in the Jury Pavilion on the grounds.

William Wilkins Glenn, a prominent citizen, and for several years one of the proprietors of The Baltimore Gazette, died in Baltimore, June 25, at the age of 51 years.

Hugh J. Jewett has filed a report as receiver of the Erie Railway Company for the month of April. Including $380,397.96 cash on hand at the beginning of the month, he states his total receipts for the month at $2,134,276.81, his total payments at $1,829,270,85, leaving a cash balance on hand for May of $305,005.96. The receiver's notes and certificates of indebtedness outstanding on April 30, were $1,170,000.

Telegraphic orders from Washington have been received at the Torpedo Station at Newport to stop all work and discharge all hands. Only two men are retained as watchmen and to keep the machinery from rusting.

A special dispatch to The Eagle, from West Point, says 300 cadets, with a band, will leave there on the Mary Powel for Jersey City, where a special train will be in waiting to convey them to Philadelphia, where they will go into camp, returning July 7.

An inward bound steamer reports passing Capt. Johnson in his dory, the Centennial, Tuesday week, eastward of Cape Sable.

The arrangements for celebrating the Fourth in New York City are being made on a scale of unparralleled grandeur. Torch light processions, fire works, various societies, the military and the butchers in a solid column numbering 8,000 men will parade.

The utter inability of the conference committees to agree on the disputed points in the appropriation bills, is now admitted. This makes the dead lock between the Houses again complete. The danger that several of the Government Departments, including the Post-Office, will be obliged to stop their operations after June 30, looms up more ominously than before.

A great international rowing match between four of the London Rowing Club and a crew of four of the best oarsmen of the Frankfort-on-the Main Ruder Gesellschaft took place on the Thames course, from Putney to Mortlake. The Londoners, who were the favorites at long odds, led off at starting, and won easily by eight lengths. Both boats carried coxswains.

The fund for the bust of Thomas Paine, to be placed in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, amounts to $695.93. The sum needed is $1,200.

An order has been issued by Gen. Sherman providing that the Centennial anniversary of the Independence of the United States be observed by the army as follows: At each military post and camp provided with artillery and ammunition a salute of 13 guns will be fired at the dawn, and also at the close of the day, and a national salute will be fired at meridian. Post commanders will prescribe such additional inexpensive observances, such as parades, &c., as they may consider appropriate to the occasion. They may also, at their discretion, participate with their commands in any civic or military ceremonies taking place in the vicinity of their posts to which they may be invited.

Of the 16 University races, Harvard has won 9, Yale 3, and other colleges 4.

Owing to the hard times and low freight rates, vessels out of Chicago and Milwaukee are loading too deep. The owners and masters want to take every bushel possible, and in their eagerness to get a sufficient quantity to pay expenses are really overlading. This is not the case with small and medium-dimensioned craft alone. The larger sail vessels and propellers are following the same course, and unless some check is put upon the practice there will be serious disasters.

In speaking of the situation in the Indian country, Gen. Sherman states that the attack of the Sioux on Gen. Crook's command indicates that those Indians are very determined in their warlike operations. He thinks that the offensive movements from Forts Abraham Lincoln in the Northeast, Fetterman in the South and Ellis in the Northwest will result in very effective punishment of these proud and refractory savages.

Mr. Cox's pilgrimage to St. Louis has cost him the Speakership pro tem. of the House. He was elected some time ago, and had he remained in Washington he would have held the place until the Speaker, Mr. Kerr, resumed his position. Mr. Sayler of Ohio, who is a skillful parliamentarian and also very popular with both Republican and Democratic members of the House, was on Saturday, June 24, on motion of Mr. Holman, elected to the position of Speaker pro tem., made vacant through the absence of Mr. Cox.

There is a good deal of talk now regarding the Belknap impeachment trial, not that anybody feels any interest in the trial itself, but on account of the time necessary to devote to it. It seems to be the opinion that it will, after all, be postponed until November, the House making the request of the Senate.

FOREIGN NOTES.

HAMBURG is to have a new town hall at a cost of $1,500,000.

French apartment flats are being erected extensively in London.

A fire occurred recently in the clock tower of the Canterbury Cathedral.

A very handsome Exchange in the Renaissance style has been built in Dresden.

An Art and Industrial Exhibition for North Wales is to be held at Wrexham.

Angling in the Thames is now very successful, the river being stocked with fish.

Lord Hylton, formerly a Conservative "whipper-in," died recently at Reigate.

A Shakespeare Memorial Theater and Picture Gallery are to be built in Stratford.

The Spanish fleet has been ordered to join the English fleet in the Mediterranean.

The body of M. Moulin, the French Consul murdered in Salonica, has reached Marseilles.

The new buildings of the National Gallery are now completed and will shortly be hung with pictures and opened to the public. The old galleries contain 800 pictures; the new ones will have 500.

A boa-constrictor was captured aboard the ship Surprise, in the London docks, recently. It is supposed that she crawled aboard at Natal to hear the music of a concertina. She entirely cleared the ship of rats and vermin during the voyage.

A special dispatch from Berlin to the Pall Mall Gazette says that one captain and six lieutenants of the Chinese army have arrived there accredited by China and bearing a request to be allowed to serve in the Prussian army for the purpose of studying the German military system. The request has been granted.

Count Louis Joseph Narcisse Marchand is dead.

Gen. Freiherr Alexis von Koller, Austrian Minister of War for the whole Empire, has resigned.

Since the withdrawal of the British man-of-war Ariel from Whydah, the King of Dahomey again refuses to pay the fine recently imposed by the British Commodore, Hewett, for maltreating a British subject.

In London the Americans are actively preparing to celebrate the Fourth with due honor. Minister Pierrepont, who left here recently, will no doubt arrive in good time to take part in the celebration and thus invest it with greater importance. Dean Stanley has declined on account of his recent bereavement, to attend the banquet, but offers to conduct Americans through Westminster Abbey, showing them the tombs of the illustrious dead connected with this continent who repose there.

There comes from Turkey and the adjoining States the customary crop of incidents. Austria continuing her timid policy, has resolved to "intern" 20,000 refugees in Croatia to prevent them from aiding the insurgents. Servia has called out part of her reserves and is almost ready to begin hostilities. Mukhtar Pasha has, according to the Turkish report, relieved Niesic and thus rendered that fortress safe, until in the usual order of things it is again invested. At the capital all is transquil, the Sultan being busy putting the finances in order. The situation thus portrayed is not in itself alarming, but it indicates that there are elements at work which portend grave disturbance.

In Denmark, the Folkething or Lower House has passed a vote of want of confidence in the Government and closed the session. The King is no doubt glad to be rid of the refractory legislators on these terms. Being in accord with the people they could have been more troublesome had they desired to restrain the Government from engaging in expensive armaments.

The impending recall of Gen. Ignatieff, the Russian Ambassador, from Constantinople is confirmed.

Some of the 500 boys on the British ironclad Caledonia, stationed at Davenport as a training ship, tried to sink the ship the other day because they had been punished. Several feet of water were in the hold before it was discovered. There will be a court of inquiry.

It is reported that General Ignatieff, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, has been recalled, and that Prince Orloff will succeed him.

Matthew Noble, the sculptor, is dead. He designed the "Wellington Mounment" at Manchester, which cost $35,000, and executed other works of merit.

Kiamil Pasha, ex-President of the council of Ministers, is dead.

A dispatch from Berlin announces that the Powers, and especially Germany, insist on the serious prosecution of the parties who are really responsible for the murders at Salonica. The Porte appears not to be inclined to satisfy the demand.

Brent, the forger, who was released five days ago, has given up all claim to the money he had and will probably return to America.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

DEAFNESS RELIEVED. — No Medicine. Book free. G. J. Wood, Madison, Ind.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, June 24, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	81,060	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,000	Rice, bbls	485
Corn meal, bbls	3,450	Cut meats, pkgs	7,553
Corn meal, bags	912	Lard, pkgs	7,522
Wheat, bush	1,287,425	Tobacco, hhds	4,046
Corn, bush	543,500	do. cases	3,903
Oats, bush	378,550	Butter, pkgs	27,650
Rye, bush	101,240	Cheese, bxs	82,508
Malt, bush	42,871	Cotton, bales	9,122
Barley, bush		Rosin	6,498
Beans, bbls	6,898	spts. turp., bbls	1,796
Grass seed, bush	200	Dried Fruits, pkgs	44
Beef, pkgs	1,557	Keys, bbls	11,200
Wool, bales	2,742	Peanuts, bags	152
Hops, bales	770	Leather, sides	70,248
Pork, bbls	600	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,350	Oil cake	7,000

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of gnomer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week 1,013 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 31,651 do.; same time last year, 12,809 do. Exports of peas past week, 1,951; since Jan. 1st, 45,135 bush.; same time last year, 216,201 do. Mediums have a fair trade without any improvement following. Marrows are in larger supply through late receipts, and the export trade at present does not support rates. White Kidneys dull. Red Kidneys better for selected. Pea beans bring full prices, when lots are picked out. Cundalan Peas are in full demand for small lots. No barrels here, bulk are firm. Green peas extremely low. Black or Turtle soup beans quoted at $4 per bushel. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.15@1.20; fair to good, $1.00@$1.10; prime mediums, $1.00; fair to good, 75@80c.; poor, 60@70c.; prime marrows, $1.45@1.50; fair to good, $1.20@1.10; prime white kid., $1.30@1.35; other, $1.00@1.20; prime red kidney, $1.50@1.55; other, $1.15@1.25; Lima (Cal.), $2.50. Black beans, $1.00. Peas—Canada, in bulk and bond, 90c.; green, $1.00@1.10; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, $ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX—Has but little demand from bleachers, with prices unsettled and easy. Sales at 33@34c. for Western; 35c. for Southern. Exports, past week, none; since Jan. 1st, 65,044 lbs.; same time last year, 31,941 do.

BROOM CORN is sparingly dealt in, with prices unsettled.

We quote Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c; green, medium, 5@6½c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—There has been steady demand enough to support prices for State, but quotations cannot be rated firm. At this season trade is apt to be fickle, as the market can be easily overstocked. Holidays and vacations vary the daily or weekly consumption especially in high grades of stock. Weak figures may affect the market at short notice any time from now until after the Fourth and sellers are in no way inclined to reserve the offering. State butter arrives more liberally than usual for the period; the crop shows a large early end and buyers should be humored as far as keeping up steady use will permit. Unless unforeseen circumstances shrink the yield, an unusually heavy make may be depended upon. It will be well if the summer make can be worked down, even if moderate figures have to be accepted. Summer butter, as a general thing, after it has carried to the busy fall season, has to be marked under fine fall is abundant enough to give the latter anything like an easy tone. As the shipping of dairy products points to comparative cheapness, the natural course of the market should not be further injured by allowing an unwieldy surplus to accumulate either here or in the country. Some of our contemporaries place considerable stress upon the possibility of an enlarged shipping demand. Of late years the export business has been a precarious stuff to lean upon. Such buyers want a large margin; when they operate speculatively and can force a favorable bargain, stock presses the seller. If State should go down to a point that would allow European exports, Western would be apt to be held back; but as holding back does not use up crops, we think it always advisable for the producer to cater to that outlet which furnishes regular business, and the past two seasons have shown the capacity of our populous cities and their environs to consume the enlarged make of the country. During the week Western butter has sold well for best and poorest, the medium grades neglected. Prime yellow firkins are wanted for Southern export. English shippers are paying 16@16c. for Welsh and firkins that are all right. They seem to want a better grade this year than usual. We quote State as before; sales mainly at the inside figure; large buyers can do a shade better than even these rates. Western is marked up for all good serviceable retailing lots. Selected Western tubs, 20@22c. We quote:

Pails, State selected, 27@28c.; do., other 22@26c.; creamery, 25@30c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 26@27c.; fair to good, 23@24c.; Welsh tubs selected, 24@25c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 21@23c.; fair to good, 20@—c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 23@25c.; Western tubs, dairy, good to prime, 18@20c.; fair to good, 17@16c.

Western factory choice, 18@20c.; do. fair to good, 14@15c.; poor, 12@13c. Grease, pure, 7@10c.

Western firkins quoted at 15@18c. for poor to fair, 20@25c. for poor to fine, 24@27c. for prime. Sweet cream pails range at 23@28c.

COTTON.—Export movement is very slow, and prices generally weak. The closing prices are: For June, 11 15-16@11 31-32c.; July, 11 15-32@11 31-32c.; August, 12 3-32c.; September, 12 1-32@12 1-16c.; October, 11¾@ 29-32c.; November, 11 25-32@11 13-16c.; December, 11 25-32@11 13-16c.; January, 11 29-32@11 15-16c.; February, 12 5-32@12⅜c.; March, 12⅝@12 5-16c.; April, 12 13-32@12 7-16c.; May, 12 29-32@12⅝c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	Ala.	Orleans.	Texas
Ordinary	8 11-16	8 11-16	8 11-16	8 11-16
Strict ordinary	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Good ordinary	10 1-16	10 1-16	10 3-16	10 3-16
Strict good do	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Low middling	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 7-16
Strict low middling	11¾	11¾	12	12
Middling	12⅜	12⅜	12 5-16	12 5-16
Good middling	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
Strict good middling	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛
Middling fair	13½	13½	13½	13½
Fair	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛

CHEESE.—Receipts have been large, and have comprised a freer quantity of choice factories. Exporters have been operating quite freely, paying 11c. for best factories, which is an advance since Tuesday last. Latterly the sales have been very liberal. The cable quotes 51s. 6d. for new cheese. Anything a trifle off in quality or heated has to be sold comparatively low. Exports past week, 88,217.

New at 10¾@11c. for fine factory; 10@10¼c. for good; 9@9½c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 7@8c.; do., skimmed, 3@5c. State farm dairy, fair to good, at 9¼@10c.; poor lots, 7@9c.; Western factory, good to prime, 7¾@9c.; fair lots, 6@8c.

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Business still drags; prices generally reduced, it is very hard to sell even small lots.

Apples—State, sliced, 8¼@9c.; do., quarters, 8¼@ 8¾c.; Southern sliced, 8@9c. for prime; Blackberries, 9@9¾c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 10@12c.; do. fancy, 11c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 11@11½c. for halves and 10c. for quarters. Plums, 14@15c. Raspberries, 25@26c. Cherries, 17@18c.

Exports past week 43 bbls. dried apples; since Jan. 1st, 1,679 bbls.; same time last year, 9,505 do.

EGGS.—At one period of the week it looked as though the market was about to relapse, but it recovered again, and at the close there is a firm feeling. The probability is that a liberal business will attend the Fourth of July wants. Let it be remembered that no vim in the demand will warrant the shipment of poor stock. At present the condition is good, but there have been many complaints. We quote:

Near points, ₱ bbl., 19@20c.; State and Penna., 18@18½c.; Western, prime, 17c.; do. fair marks, 16½c.; Canadian, 17@17½c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₱ lb.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras 55c.

FEATHERS still continue quiet. Common poultry feathers not wanted. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; mixed, do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—Exporters are doing but little, with the supplies liberal and freely offered at $4.50@4.10 for poor to choice superfine State; $4.50@4.90 for very common to fair extra do.; $4.95@5.00 for good extra do.; $5.05@5.15 for fancy do., and $5.20@5.75 for very choice extra; $3.50@4.10 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.90@4.95 for shipping extra do, the inside price for inferior, and $5.00@5.50 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras, $5.55@6.30; fancy do., $6.25@7.75; white or wheat good to choice family city mill extras, $7.50@8.75; round-hoop Ohio, $4.75@4.95, and trade brands of do. at $5.00@7.00; St. Louis, $5.00@6.20 for common to fair extra, and $6.25@8.75 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.10@6, and patent at $5.75@9. Southern at $4.85@5.15 for common to good extra, $5.20@6.00 for good to choice, $6.05@8.50 for common to choice family extra. Rye flour at $4.75@5.15. Corn meal, $2.65@3.10 for yellow Western, Pennsylvania and Jersey, and $3.32@3.40 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Those who have not had the advantage of location of New York since fruits and, berries have developed such special cultivation can hardly realize the splendid appearance of our market now when compared with former periods. A few years ago, plates and small baskets of fancy berries were scattered among prominent places, such as prize shows or high-priced hotels, generally accompanied with the legend, "Hands Off," and the usual remark of "too handsome to be eaten." Now we have a daily supply of full crates of varieties that used to be shown as merely choice samples. We know of places that handle really commercial lots of Monarchs of the West, Jucundas and Boyden's No. 30. In quantities large enough to render it necessary for cheap prices to be adopted so as to close them out. The general run of strawberries has been elegant, but the grower will not average as good prices as for last and other years. Fruit, with other things, has to run in the descending scale these scarce-money times. Cherries are in large supply, but many gardens have been wetted and the crop is not so handsome as it might be otherwise. Scarcely any have brought good figure, though Black Tartarian, Madeiras and other fancy table sorts have been included in the supply. A few more Georgia peaches have arrived without giving satisfaction; quoted $2@3.50 for small, sparsely-filled crates. Gooseberries are in better demand. Florida watermelons are abundant for all purposes at this early season. Delaware Black Caps and Red Raspberries are now quotable, also a few Blackberries. Apples are quotable for special use. A few ice-preserved Russets are quoted at $1. We quote:

Apples, choice, $1.50@3.75 per bbl.; other, 1.50@3 Strawberries, N. J., ₱ quart, 6@8c.; Up-river and Staten Island, fancy do., 12@15c.; other, 8@10c.; extra, do., 20@25c.; Small hulled baskets, 2½c. Cherries, best, ₱ lb., 7@8c.; common, do., 3@5c.; Gooseberries, ₱ bush., 11. Seedling, $1.50@2; Eng., $3@4. Florida watermelons, ₱ 100, $25@45. Black caps, ₱ qt., 9@10c. Red raspberries, 14@16c. Currants, large, ₱ lb., 7@8c.; do., small, 10@12c. Whortleberries, ₱ bush., $3@5.50. Peanuts held at following prices: Virginia, ₱ bush., $1.10@1.12; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, $1@$1.20. Hot-house grapes, ₱ lb., 75@$1.25 for black Hamburgs.

GINSENG.—Southern, $1.50@1.60; Northern, $1.15@ 1.20; Seneca root, 75@80c.

GRAIN.—Wheat values have been steadily declining, with the foreign markets dull and depressed and but little doing. Latest sales of amber Michigan at $1.20; No. 3 Chicago spring, 95c.@$1; No. 3 Milwaukee spring, $1.06@1.10; No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.30; No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.13; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.16 @1.18; New York "no grade," 88@90c.; fair Iowa spring, $1.15½; No. 1 spring, $1.28@1.30; winter red Western, $1.15; No. 2 white Michigan, $1.25; ungraded spring, $1.03@1.23. Rye at 82@85c. for Western and 90@96c. for State. Corn closed more active and strong; sales at 57@60c. for mixed Western. Oats are more active; sales, 32@42c. for mixed Western and State and 35@45c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—Arrivals are liberal of hay, demand slow and prices weak. Straw is fairly active and at full prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 70@75c.; retail qualities, 80@95c.; clover, 60@70c.; salt, 60@65c. Straw is quoted at $1.15 for long rye; 70@85c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 800 bales. Since Jan. 1st, 28,300; same time last year, 22,800.

HIGHWINES.—Quoted at $1.13@1.14.

HOPS.—There is a very fair trade considering the period of the year. Exporters have taken 334 bales and there is more doing from the home trade. There is no change to prices. The quotations are:

N. Y. State, 10@17c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Ohio, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₱ lb.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Maple sugar, 7@9c. Cider, 14c. Cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins, clipped, 25@30c.; unclipped, $1.50@2.25. Lamb, 55@60c.

OIL CAKE.—Western brings $40 (currency) per ton.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Country dressed poultry is nominal, quoted as follows:—Fowls, 16@17c.; Spring chicks 27@32c.; Turkeys 12@15c. The higher rates are for choice iced parcels. Live poultry is selling well, spring chickens are now largely used at near by excursion points. The scarcity of game tends to force the sale of fine fowls and chickens. We quote the advance:

Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb., 14@15c.; do. Western, 13@14c.; Roosters, 6@8c.; Turkeys, N. J., 12@14c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, $1@1.25; do. Western, 65@80c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.25; do. Western, $1@$1.37. Spring chickens—Western, 23@24c.; do. N. J., 25@26c.

Prime stall fed pigeons are reliable; the demand is about over for pigeons. Woodcock will be marketable after July 3d. We quote:

Picked flight pigeons ₱ doz., $1.12@1.25; do. stall fed $1.62@1.75.

PROVISIONS.—Heavy products generally more active on export account, and at strong prices. Mess pork quoted at $19.35@19 10 for spot lots, $19.35 for July, and $19.50 for August. Bacon at 10½c. for long clear, and 11 3-16c. for short clear; Western steam lard at $11.40 for spot lots; $11.45 for July; $11.60 for August; $11.72½ for September. Western steam at 13¾c.; Tallow at 8⅝. Beef hams at $22@23. Beef.—Barreled lots quoted: $10@11 for plain mess; $12 for extra mess, and $13 for packet. Pierced quoted at $20 for prime mess, and $21 for India mess. City extra India mess at $21@22.

SUGAR.—Refined is quoted at 8½@9¼c. for soft yellow, 9⅝@10c. for soft white, 10⅛c. for crushed and powdered, 10⅜c. for granulated, and 10⅞ for cut loaf.

SEED.—Grasses are quiet; clover quoted 16c. and timothy $2.80@2.85.

TOBACCO.—Trade is very slow, and supplies are accumulating. No change made in prices.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7
Good lugs	7 @ 8
Low leaf	8½@10
Medium leaf	11 @12
Good leaf	12½@13¼
Fine leaf	14 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	14 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	— @—
Fillers, selections	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	6½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5½@ 7
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

VEGETABLES.—Prime old potatoes are in demand and many lots have kept admirably, particularly Peachblows. New are quite salable at the moderate price. Tomatoes run poor and have a wide range. Charleston cucumbers are no longer wanted. Green stuff is generally low and abundant.

Potatoes—Old Peachblows, bbls., 1.25@1.50 ₱ bbl.; E. Rose, bulk, 75c.@$1; common, 50@75c.; Norfolk, new, $2.50@3; Charleston, do., $3@3.50. Bermuda, $4@4.50. Asparagus—Oyster Bay, ₱ doz., $1.50@1.75; N. J., 75c. @1. Rhubarb, ₱ 100 bunches, $1.50@2.25. Southern cabbage, ₱ bbl., 75c.@$1. L. I. cauliflower, ₱ bbl., $1@3; do. green peas, ₱ bag, 50@75c.; Charleston tomatoes, ₱ crate, $1@$2; Florida do., 50c.@$1. Bermuda do., ₱ 5-qt. box, 60@75c. Bermuda onions, ₱ bush., 75c.@$1. Norfolk string beans, ₱ bbl., flat, 75c. @$1.25; do. round, $1@2. Long Island beets, 100 bunches, $2@2.25. Potato onions, ₱ bbl., $2.50@3. L. I. string beans, ₱ bbl., $1@1.50.

WOOL.—The market since the auction sale of goods has shown an improved position. Manufacturers have been brought into the market for freer quantities and there has been no trouble in sustaining full unchanged prices. The chief business is necessarily in new clips of California and Texas, on account of the small offerings otherwise. Great interest is attached to the marketing of the new Western clips; thus far on the parcels to hand in the interior prices have ruled too high to admit of extensive contracts; a continuance of the present feeling in the goods marked would probably lead to more liberal views among manufacturers, respecting prices.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—			
XXX and Picklock	41	@	46
XX	40	@	45
X	40	@	43
No. 1	40	@	42
No. 2	38	@	40
Course	33	@	37
Combing	52	@	55
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—			
XX	30	@	35
X	30	@	35
No. 1	35	@	37
No. 2	33	@	35
Course	30	@	33
Combing	48	@	50
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—			
XX	30	@	35
X	30	@	35
No. 1	30	@	35
No. 2	28	@	33
Combing	45	@	50
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—			
Washed fleece	35	@	37
Unwashed	22	@	27
do. combing	33	@	37

TUB-WASHED.

Choice	42	@	45
Fair	36	@	40
Inferior and burry	30	@	37

PULLED.

New York City—			
Extra	30	@	34
Super	33	@	35
Lambs	28	@	33
Western super and extra	28	@	32
Country			
Extra	34	@	37
Super	31	@	37
Lambs	17	@	23

NEW MEXICAN AND COLORADO.

	Superior.		Average.	
Washed	25	@ 26	21	@ 23
Unwashed	20	@ 23	18	@ 21
Black	16	@ 19	15	@ 17

OREGON AND SOUTHERN STATES.

Unwashed clothing, average quality	25	@	27
do. combing, do.	30	@	33

CALIFORNIA.

Spring clip, fine	20	@	25
medium	20	@	25
low grades and burry	12½@		16
Fall clip, A 1	12½@		15
low grades and burry	10	@	12½

TEXAS.

Fine Eastern	20	@	21
medium	20	@	24
Fine Western	18	@	20
medium	16	@	18
Inferior	11	@	14

FOREIGN WOOLS,

Cape of Good Hope	33	@	35
Buenos Ayres Merino and Mestiza	—	@	33
Montevideo Merino and Mestiza	—	@	—
Australian clothing	10	@	—
combing	—		—

ROCHESTER, June 24.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.25@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.25; white winter, $1.25@1.35. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 55@60c. Corn meal, $1.30 @1.35. Butter, 19@21c. Cheese, 12@13c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 14½@15c. Apples, bu., $1@1.75. Potatoes, bu., 25@30c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $20.50. Wool, 25@40c. Hay, $9@12. Straw, $5@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.; clover, $5.50@6.75. Mill feed dull at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.50@6.40 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., June 24, 1876.

ANOTHER dull market this week for cheese and with no material change in prices from last week. The offerings from factories amounted in the aggregate to upward of 7,000 boxes and sales began to be made at 10c. for the lower grades. This was increased to 10½@10¾c., about 35 factories selling at the latter figure. The highest price reached was 10¾c., at which 18 factories changed hands. We quote lowest price, 10c.; highest, 10¾c.; average, 10⅜c. Several factories sent forward their goods to be sold on commission and one or two lots were sold on private terms.

The delivery of farm dairies amounted to 100 boxes, the range of prices being 7@10c., according to quality. One large lot of farm factory sold at 10½c.

There was a light delivery of butter from farm dairies which sold at 20@22c., while creamery in return pails brought 23@24c., only a few tubs reaching the latter figure.

Grass is now abundant in pastures and the herds are making good returns.

We have advices from abroad for the first week in June. Our London correspondent reports the new American cheese at hand as selling at 55@58s. Cheese of fine qualities is sought after but secondary sorts are difficult to place. We quote:

The prices are for extra American, 60@62s.; fine, 54@58s.; good, 46@50s.; secondary and common, 20@44s. English cheddar brings 50@93s.; Wiltshire double; 64@78s.; Cheshire medium, 50@53s.; fine, 70@80s., Scotch, 60@68s.

Normandy butter sells well, but other descriptions turn in favor of buyers. Dorsets brings 136s.; Corks, 123s.; Jersey, 106s.; Danish and Swedish, 100@130s.; Normandy, 136s. No American or Canadian butter in market. Oleomargarine (or artificial butter) sells at 80@90s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, June 24, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	3,493	24	2,854	4,106	000
Forty-Eighth St	00	24	374	722	000
Fortieth St	000	00	000	000	10,534
Harsimus Cove	3,227	00	000	11,038	8,562
Totals this week	7,119	45	3,127	15,866	19,096
" last week	10,013	77	2,627	25,790	17,636

BEEVES.—Trade opened very slow on last Monday in horned cattle; the run being light, the markets closed firm, with none of the herds unsold. Prices ranged at 8¾@11c. ₱ lb.; weights, 1508¾ cwt. The quality to hand was from coarse to good, the herds being in general heavy and fat. Wednesday trade slow, with prices off ¼c. ₱ lb. on Monday's rates. The quality of the herds was from common to fair and they were sold off at 8@11c.; weights, 5¾@9¼ cwt. Thursday, trade as usual, small at 8@10½c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed dull; sales at 8¾@10½c.; weights, 6¾@7¾ cwt. From 66@68 lbs. has been allowed net. General sales on 56 lbs. to the cwt. net. Native steers sold at 8@10¾c.; grade, do. at 10½@11c.; these animals sold at higher rates were disposed of at retail. The best herds to hand have been slaughtered and shipped for the London market. Oxen, 9@9¾c. Bulls on live weight, 4@4¾c. Stall-fed steers, 9@9¾c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	12 @	12 @
Fair	11 @11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poorest	8 @ 9¾	7¾@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10¾	9½@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade slow; 9 cows sold at $45@62 ₱ head; 1 at $53; 1 at $62.50; 1 at $35—calves always included. Some few head of poor quality cows could not be sold.

VEALS AND CALVES.—The quality of the calves to hand continues to be from poor to ordinary, in general course. Buttermilk-fed calves sold at 3@6c.; course quality calves, 5@6¾c.; ordinary quality at 6¾@7¾c. No smooth quality veals to hand. State, 3@6¾c.; Jersey, 6¾@7¾c.; Pennsylvania, 7@7¾c. Trade slow.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—The quality of the flocks to hand since our last weekly report has been inferior to that heretofore received, ranging from poor to fair. Trade has been slow, with general sales in small lots. Monday sheep sold at 4¾@6¾c.; lambs, 6¾@9c. Wednesday, sheep, 3@6¾c., lambs, 8@10c. Thursday, sheep 4@6c.; lambs, 7@10¾c. Friday, the markets closed weak; sheep, 4¾@4¾c.; lambs, 7@ 9¾c. State sheep, 3@6c.; Ohio, 4¾@5¾c.; Kentucky, 5@5¾c.; Colorado, 4¾@4¾c.; Virginia, 3@4¾c.; Jersey lambs, 9¾@11c.; State, 8@10c.; Kentucky, 6¾@8¾c.

HOGS.—Trade in live very small, a few head having been sold at 6¾c. City dressed inactive at 8@ 8¾c. for hogs. Market pigs, 8¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—The sales of high-priced valuable horses have been so few during the past week as not to influence trade. Twenty-two head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $15@95 ₱ head; 30 at $58@100 ₱ head; 17 ordinary, $120@210 ₱ head; 13 coarse quality heavy draft horses, $150@275 ₱ head; 8 saddle horses, quality inferior, $20@285 ₱ head; 9 roadsters with fair trotting action, $25@379 ₱ head; 2 ponies, $80@115 ₱ head. Fifty-nine horses arrived per Erie Railway, via Oak Cliff Station.

New Advertisements.

WIND MILL.
HALLADAY'S STANDARD.
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Pump water from WELL, SPRING or RIVER, and force it to any height or locality, for HOUSE, GARDEN, BARN or STOCK use; also grind feed and meals, saw wood, &c. Greatest invention of the age. A wind mill that does not blow away. Perfectly self-regulating. A solid wheel with no loose sections or joints. Can not freeze up or get out of order. AWARDED 96 1st premiums. Illustrated Circulars free.
Eclipse Wind Mill Co., Beloit, Wis.
Eastern office, A. J. COCHRAN, 76 John St., N. Y.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

ELKANAH BILLINGS, F. G. S., the distinguished Canadian geologist, is dead.

REV. DAVID ADKINS of Williamsburg, Ky., is in jail for murdering a widow of his congregation.

DR. LE MOYNE, a philanthropic citizen of Washington, Pa., has constructed a furnace for the purpose of cremation.

A MONUMENT to Luther is to be erected at Ersleben, Germany, his native town. The Emperor has given 3,000 marks toward it.

PRESIDENT FOSS will preach the baccalaureate sermon at the next Commencement of Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn.

WHEN a man awakens from a chloroform trance in a dentist's chair, can he be said to be in a trance-end-dental state of mind?

FLETCHER HARPER, of the well-known publishing firm, has been elected President of the Board of Trustees of the Homœopathic Insane Asylum.

A QUAKER school in Baltimore was addressed the other day by Rhoda Lamb. A lady with that name must certainly have some peculiar hobbies.

AN Oregon hotel clerk is missing; and the singular feature of it is that a guest's pocket-book containing $915 disappeared about the same time.

A JUDGE in sentencing a man to death, observed:—"Prisoner at the bar, you will soon have to appear before another and perhaps a better judge."

ANOTHER tramp, named Frank Benson, started from Northampton, Mass., to walk to Philadelphia, a distance of 250 miles, in eight days for a purse of $500.

WOMAN has many advantages over man. One of them is that his will has no operation till he is dead, whereas hers generally takes effect in her lifetime.

A TOMBSTONE in Kansas City is said to bear the following touching tribute:

"With a yell and a whoop,
He died of the croop."

"WHAT is Heaven's best gift to man?" asked a young lady the other night, smiling sweetly on a pleasant-looking young man. "A horse," replied the young man with great prudence.

You are indebted to the good sense of the Empress Josephine for the privilege of wiping your nose on a handkerchief instead of the palm of your hand. She introduced handkerchiefs.

THE following attractive advertisement appears in a Boston newspaper:—"A lady in Claremont, New Hampshire, of Emersonian thought and sentiment, desires to secure summer boarders."

UGLY TRADES.—The ugliest of trades have their moments of pleasure. Now, if I were a gravedigger, or even a hangman, there are some people I could work for with a great deal of enjoyment.

DURING the session of a County Court in the Interior, a witness was asked if he was not a husbandman, when he coolly replied, amidst the laughter of the court, "No, sir, I'se not married."

You can now buy a paper collar with a picture of George Washington on each end. The time is at hand when a man earning but $6 a week can have pictures all over his shirt. Let us be joyful.

"No man was better inoculated to prejudge pork than my husband was," says Mrs. Partington; "he knew what good hogs were, he did, for he had been brought up with 'em from his childhood."

"I thought the derned thing was a water cooler," remarked a fat lady from the country the other day, when a Centennial policeman ordered her to "stop fooling" with a Babcock fire extinguisher.

"UNCLE" DANIEL CURTIS, the oldest postmaster in the United States, died at his home in North Dorset, Vt., on the 17th ult., aged 87 years. He was first appointed postmaster by President Jackson.

A POOR Californian, named Patrick Brown, (Frenchman, judging from the name,) has been jailed for sixty days and fined $120 for merely maiming a Chinaman with a stone. Can such things be?

"IF there is anybody under the canister of heaven that I have in utter excrescence," says Mrs. Partington, "it is the slanderer, going about like a boy constructor, circulating his calomel upon honest folks."

THE latest thing in "strikes" is the strike of the grave-diggers in Liverpool. They insist on having shorter hours, forgetting, perhaps, that it is to the shortening of others' hours they owe their having the means of subsistence.

THE prevailing disease among New York artists is paralysis of the right wrist, which compels them to learn to use the brush in the left hand. Hereafter, when one finds the cow in a farm-yard scene on the wrong side of the milkmaid, it will be easier to understand than it has been heretofore.

A CUBAN lady left by will $30,000 to be invested in lottery tickets. The proceeds of the prizes were to be devoted to the erection of a magnificent church. The trustees purchased the tickets, but failed to discover any connection between religion and lucky numbers. The church will not be built.

QUEEN VICTORIA was recently requested to help a Wesleyan bazaar in a letter shrewdly addressed to her as "Empress Victoria." The concise reply was: "Sir T. M. Biddulph is desired to acknowledge Mr.——'s letter, as addressed to the 'Empress Victoria,' and to say that the title is not applicable to the Queen. The Queen is unable to subscribe to purely local objects."

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SEVEN SIZES HAND MACHINES.
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D. H. WHITTEMORE, Worcester, Mass., makes a machine that at once pares an Apple, slices off and separates. Warranted satisfactory. Price, $1 and $1.50 each. Sold by Dealers.

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The only satisfactory Wire Fence known.
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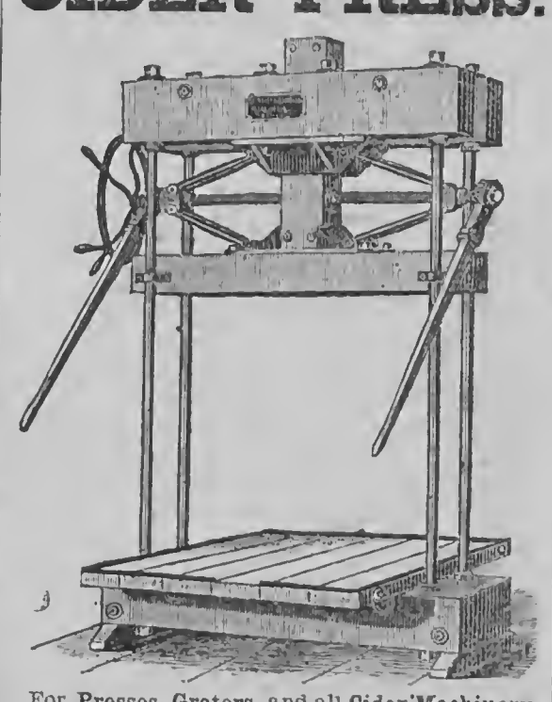

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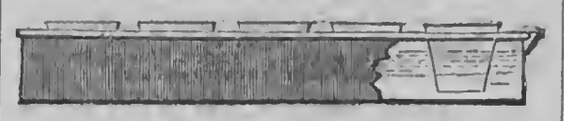

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

I. B., Brooklyn.—We know of no other way to increase the Clematis but by layering. Cuttings will not strike. Seeds germinate in about one year. Jackmanni is a deep, vivid blue and a strong grower.

A Subscriber.—You want to know the "easiest and best way to kill out elderberry bushes from a pasture where the ground cannot be plowed." The same question is frequently asked in regard to destroying various other noxious shrubs and plants, such as Canada thistles, milk weed, burdocks and scores of similar pests, which are more or less tenacious of life. Now there are two effectual methods of destroying plant-pests on land, where the plow and harrow cannot readily be brought into service, and the first is to cut off the plants at the ground, then apply crude petroleum, salt, oil of vitrol or some similar substance, to the covered stems and roots. A liberal application of either of the above will kill the roots of almost any known noxious weed or shrub; but this may be too costly and the farmer must resort to cheaper means; if so, he has only to remember that no known plant inhabiting our northern climate can exist or any considerable time if deprived of foliage, hence, to be certain of killing the roots, permit no leaves or stems to grow. In some instances it will require frequent and persistent removal of leaves and stems during an entire season, or longer, to utterly destroy the roots of Canada thistles; but this course, if persisted in, never fails to produce the desired results. The elderberry bushes you desire to kill out should be cut down close to the roots immediately. This may be done with a grub hoe, then as soon as sprouts appear again, remove them in the same manner. If this plan is continued during the season, few plants will be found alive next year. Tanners' bark may be used for mulching apple, or other trees with safety, and usually with benefit.

J. F. R.—The hickory galls sent were badly decayed when they reached this office, but are probably the same as found in various localities throughout the country. In fact there are a large number of species of these gall-producing insects which infest the hickory, but the history of only a very few of them has as yet been written. We could not attempt to name the different species, even if perfect specimens were sent us, as this particular order of insects has never received much attention at our hand.

J. J.—The so-called Conover's Colossal Asparagus is not a distinct variety, and, even if it had been one at the start, the method of propagation pursued, *i. e.*, raising the plants sold under that name from seed, utterly precludes the possibility of perpetuation of the claimed distinct characteristics. Would anybody think of claiming that the seed saved from a plant of the Linnæus, Colossal, or Prince Albert Rhubarb, would invariably produce plants identical with the parent variety? Well, this is just what *is* claimed for the colossal asparagus, but it is simply the common old sort given extra room and culture, which probably has, to a certain extent, added something to the vigor of the plants and seedlings therefrom.

John.—It will take a long time to make people call things by their right names, and we doubt if that period in our history ever arrives. A Mud Turtle is as nearly related to a horse as a bug is to a beetle, and still there are persons who will persist in showing their ignorance by calling the Colorado potato beetle a *bug*, just as some writers on agricultural topics, in referring to the various species of clover, speak of them as "these grasses."

J. S.—Yes: we have heard that horses used in cultivating potatoes were being poisoned by the Paris green applied to the vines to kill the Colorado potato beetles. It is said that the poison gets on their legs and they lick it off, and are thereby fatally injured. This is a very good story to start on its rounds, and will doubtless help sell some of the new patent mixtures, which are said to be sure death to the beetles and not poisonous to the larger animals, and we are inclined to think it cannot be traced to any more reliable source. That dead horse, killed by licking Paris green from his legs, is probably a myth, but the last time we heard from him he was being buried in New Jersey.

There have been some desperate efforts made to prevent potato-growers using Paris green and to substitute therefor some of the lately-introduced patent or secret mixtures, which nobody knows anything except the manufacturer, and this horse story is one of them. We have a letter from one of our correspondents, who says that he tried one of those new patent mixtures and the beetles seemed to like it, taking the leaves and composition as though there was nothing there intended to injure them.

Geo. J.—We must confess our ignorance of what you term "ticky horses." Presuming that the ticks are some insects peculiar to the South, we would advise washing the animals in a weak solution of carbolic acid, or soap suds made of carbolic soap, which can be purchased at almost any druggist's.

A. L.—Put some cayenne pepper mixed with a little cream on the cows udder or bitter aloes and we think she will soon give up drawing her own lacteal fluid. If this does not break her of the habit by putting a wooden rack about the neck which will prevent her reaching the udder.

Jos. A. Hess, W. Va.—"You will please name the enclosed weed. It was brought to this country some years ago in clover seed from some of the States north of us. It is the worst weed we have ever had to contend with, and is spreading rapidly over our country. Please give its common as well as its botanical name, also its history, if it has one."

Lepidium Campestre is the weed you send—a pepper grass of the mustard family. As troublesome as it is with you, it is rare over other parts of the country. It is a European species but sparingly naturalized.

A. E. A.—We do not see that "hardihood" and "hardiness," though of the same root, can with propriety be used synonymously as applied to plants. The accepted signification of hardihood is intrepidity and audaciousness—a mixture of bravery and impudence. That of hardiness is power of endurance. We should decide, therefore, that the catalogue which speaks of a plant as possessed of "great hardihood" uses the term incorrectly.

J. G. H. Griffin, Ga.—The changeableness of the "Shah" *Coleus* and of Chameleon is the rule and not the exception. We have never found either to be constant. Three-quarters of the summer-growth is the usual bronze leaf with the simple green or gold margin. Others may cultivate them true to name in every leaf, but we have never seen such plants outside of greenhouses. Thanks for your kind expressions respecting the RURAL. Wishing now and always to avoid all boasting, we are yet working for it with all our "might and main" and nothing could gratify us more than to know that every one of our subscribers is, like you, a friend as well.

Jas. M. Lancaster, Oville, Ellis Co., Texas.—"I send specimen of wild flower for a name. In Texas it bears the name of Texas Plume. They are very hardy annuals—will grow in any kind of soil—hight four to six feet—are very beautiful with their long plume-like flowers. I can furnish some seeds to RURAL readers in the fall if they will send postage."

On the part of our readers, we thank our correspondent for this offer. The plant is showy and desirable. *Ipomopsis (Gilia) coronopifolia* and Standing Cypress are the botanical and familiar name. It is a biennial.

Mrs. M. E. M. Paradise, A. S.—If you will send us flowers of the plant, we will give the name. The leaves alone, as a rule, are not sufficient. Send us several flowers as well as a twig.

D. B.—We are not aware of the Bommer method of making manure being practiced to any extent in this country. Why we do not know, but probably because farmers generally are negligent about such matters, seldom making a compost heap of any kind, much less doing the thing in a scientific manner.

J. C.—Neither the eggs or grubs of the Colorado potato beetle live in the ground or elsewhere over winter, but the perfect insect or beetles do, and come forth in the spring in time to lay their eggs and feed upon the first sprouts of potatoes appearing above ground.

J. C. B.—Orchard grass seed may be saved in the same manner as timothy, oats or wheat, either be cut with a cradle and bound in bundles or mown and threshed as soon as well cured, The better method however is to cut and tie in bundles and then thresh with flail or machine.

C. D., Pa.—We would not advice the silver maple for street planting in exposed situations. Its growth is so rapid that the long branches of the current season's growth are frequently broken from the stem by even moderate winds. To make its naturally long shoots and scanty foliage assume a more compact and dense habit severe annual shortening-in is necessary. Treated in this way the tree is far more ornamental as well as less liable to injury from winds—or from being broken down by their own weight.

H. C. C.—We will leave it to our correspondents to answer your question, to wit.: "Which is the best butter worker." Who will tell us?

A. B. New Jersey.—The Bartlet Pear is marked by the Am. P. S. with one and two stars for various sections of this state. In Bergen Co., we know of instance where it cannot be made to thrive though given greater care than Seckels, Louise Bonnes, Winter Nelis, Duchesse d'Angoulome, Superfine and others growing in the same grounds. But as a rule it flourishes in New Jersey either as a standard or a double-worked dwarf. It does not do well as a dwarf. Yes.—The Duchesse succeeds well in this state and, indeed, in almost every other state.

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Wit and Humor.

TWO ARISTOCRATS.

"BILLY," said one newsboy to another recently, as they thronged the sidewalk in a mass awaiting the advent of the Evening Republican, "wot's the matter o' yer complexion? Ain't yer health good, my dear?"

"It's disserpashun, cully," was the prompt reply. "Wot with operrers an' late hours in the spring, an' these swell parties just now, an' high livin', I'm a roonuin' my coutertooshun. I ain't wot I wuz in my younger days, I tell yer!"

"Jest ez I thought, Billy; yer must let up. Didn't I see yer makin' a call ez I directed my coachman ter take a little turn through Loocas place yesterday, and didn't yer have a bookay?"

"I 'spose 'twas me yer saw. I take 'er a $5 bookay now an then. 'Smy style, yer know."

"Wa'al, it's all right, Billy, it's all right; but don't yer be throwin' yerself away! Yer too much uv a ornament ter sercicty, yer be, ter waste yerself."

"Oh, I know my vally. Don't yer be alarmed. Hitch up yer britches an' have a partager, cully."

And then the two scions of a bloated aristocracy sat down on the curbstone together, and smoked a couple of cigar stubs with great dignity and considerable labor.—*St. Louis Rep.*

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THE first successful Granger—Ce-crops.

THE bull-frog was the first circulating greenback, and the entire breed have been notorious inflationists ever since the flood.

ALL in St. Louis. Her name was Marie Meyer and his was Helper Bogg. He wanted to marry Marie and helper through the mire.

"Is your house a warm one, landlord?" asked a gentleman in search of a house. "It ought to be," was the reply; "the painter gave it two coats recently."

NEW MEXICO is to be admitted into the Union under the name of "Montezuma." A more appropriate name, considering the prevailing weakness of the inhabitants would be "Three-cardmontezuma."—*Chicago Times.*

EDITORS have discovered by long and careful observations that the best way to save a man's life when he is sick is to expend a good deal of labor in the preparation of an elaborate biographical sketch to be used in case of death. The victim always gets well.

"THE boy may walk," said a Brooklyn pedagogue to the class in grammar. "Parse 'may walk.'" "'May walk' is a verb," said the first boy, "delightful mood, pluperfect tense, singular number present, and has for its object sponge cake and ice cream, understood."

THIS is the season when, as they fondly linger at the gate, he says in tones tremulous with the ecstacy of love, "Darling, my own precious darling, one fond kiss before we part!" and a sharp voice from the up-stairs window calls out, "Sarah Jane you march into the house. To-morrer is washin' day, and you ain't a going to lay abed till noon, now I tell you!"

VERY STERN PARENT INDEED.—"Come here sir. What complaint is this the schoolmaster has made against you?" Much Injured Youth—"It's just nothing at all. You see Jemmy Hughes bent a pin, and I only just left it on the teacher's chair for him to look at it, and he came in without his specs and sat right down on the pin, and now he wants to blame me for it."

"MY wife tells the truth three times a day," remarked a jocose old fellow casting a mischievous glance at his "better half." "Before rising in the morning, she says, 'Oh dear, I must get up, but I don't want to!' After breakfast, she adds, 'Well, I suppose I must get to work, but I don't want to.' And she goes to bed saying, 'There! I have been on the move all day, and haven't done anything.'"

THE Norristown Herald seasonably says: "Young man, if you should see your girl gazing intently at your feet don't shift them about uneasily, or draw them up and sit upon them, under the impression that she is overwhelmed by their immense size. She is merely taking their measure mentally for a pair of slippers, on the toes of which she intends to work a blue dog with a green tail and scarlet ears."

HARD TIMES.—The carpenters say they don't get enough to pay their *board*. The shoemakers that it takes their *all* to keep them at work, and their *sole* dependance is of their *last* job. Tailors have determined to give their customers *fits*. The hatters have kept a *head*. The gasfitters go in for *light* work. Bakers say they *need* more, and don't like to see so many *loaf*-ers. Butchers have to work at *killing* prices. The business of the paper makers brings them to *rags*, while that of the printers is *quoin*-less.

A WATERING-PLACE INCIDENT.

Swell—"Aw, beg pardon! But I believe you dropped this!"

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The Horseman.

KIS-BER, THE WINNER OF THE DERBY.

Racing in England is almost as uncertain a game as similar sports in this country. However much sporting men guess or even bet upon their favorite "nags," they are frequently disappointed, as there is always a chance of some new and comparatively unknown horse coming in at the eleventh hour to carry off the highest of English laurels. This seems to have been the case the present year, for the old favorites, which were backed by the supposed-to-be-knowing ones, found a successful competitor in a Hungarian colt which received his name only a few days before the race. Kis-Ber (signifying "the home farm,") is one of three imperial stud farms of Austro-Hungary, of which the other two are Babolna and Mezohegyes, situated on the rich black soils of the great Alfold or Tiefeland of Lower Hungary.

Each of these estates are under the care of a Colonel or Major of the Austrian army and all the work done by soldiers. The home farm of Kis-Ber (pronounced Kishbere) is in charge of Colonel Zoest assisted by an English groom, and to the latter our English cousins may be indebted for the loss of their laurels, although they have the satisfaction of knowing that this now famous winner is the son of Buccaneer, horse well known to the English public, hence he is really more English than Austrian after all. But the owners of Kis-Ber were not content with his great achievements in England, but crossed the Channel and entered him for the Grand Prize of Paris, 115,000 francs, which he carried off much to the disgust of the French turfmen, judging from the comments and growls appearing in the press. Kis-Ber is described as a superb animal, dark bay with elegant limbs, small feet with a single white spot on his back. He has that calm aristocratic look belonging to racers, and pronounced by his admirers the greatest horse now living.

The Frenchmen, however, are now urging a quibble in regard to bets made and lost against Kisber, for it seems he was entered for the race as an English horse, but it leaked out that he came from Hungary, although of direct English blood; therefore, losers have a chance of getting rid of paying the lost stakes. They say that since Kisber is an Austrian horse, those who backed the French horse against him are not obliged to pay, as it was not an English horse that won. This is but one of the various ways which turfmen have of doing things to please themselves.

The most that our readers can take any interest in, is the name and history of such a magnificent specimen of the noble race as shown in Kisber. For the spirited portrait of this now noted animal, we are indebted to the Illustrated Sporting New-Yorker, which is one of our most enterprising, as well as handsome, sporting journals, and really worthy of liberal patronage.

KISBER, WINNER OF THE "DERBY" AND THE "GRAND PRIZE OF PARIS" THIS SEASON.

Field Crops.

IMPROVEMENT OF POTATOES.

An article in the *Revue Horticole* translated, and published in the Farmer (Eng.) contains some points worthy of attention by our American farmers, as the same principles which govern the growth of this tuber in Europe are also potent here. When we want to regenerate any particular kind of potato, or still more, to prevent its degeneration, it is of the first importance to make a judicious selection of parent plants. Several means may be adopted to this end. For example, the choice of the largest possible tubers which represent well the marked features of the variety, since the too frequent setting of small tubers tends to deterioration. Another plan is to choose the seed, when digging up the crop, from the well-furnished roots, and select the tubers which are most typical of the special variety under treatment.

The shape of the tuber need not be too much considered. Some people imagine that tubers which differ from the usual shape of the kind to which they belong, are of necessity degenerate specimens, but this is an error. Tubers may be not exactly of the shape characteristic of the variety, and yet produce well-shaped potatoes in the following year. As a rule the shape of various kinds of potatoes differs according to the nature of the soil in which they are cultivated. For example, it is generally supposed that the "Marjoulin" ought to be long and narrow; nevertheless, some light sandy soils produce it in a swollen, and sometimes even rounded form, though it turns out long and narrow if grown in stiff soil. It is a general physiological fact, common to almost all plants, and specially marked in the case of the potato, that if they are planted early every year, their precocity increases, whilst by reversing the course of action the contrary effect is produced, and they tend to become later in attaining full growth. The same result appears if we plant successively in a cold soil. In this case they become later in arriving at maturity, while the contrary happens if we select a warm ground. Again it is almost certain that if we take the first buds that are developed on a potato for planting, the crop will be earlier than if we planted with the second buds, or still more with those of a third germination. It results from all this, that amongst the various precautions to be taken in attempting to maintain or even improve any variety of potato, a judicious choice of tubers for planting is of especial importance.

The employment of seeds properly so called, might also perhaps be resorted to, sometimes advantageously so. But how often must we not sow before we get good types, and good varieties as a result? Still, notwithstanding its uncertainty, this method should not be neglected. It is generally believed that certain kinds of potatoes, such as the "Marjoulin," neither flower nor run to seed. This again is an error. All potatoes will flower and yield seed when they are very strongly manured and are in a condition of exuberant vegetation; but it is none the less true that there are some varieties whose natural strength leads them to flower and seed more freely than others.

HOP CULTURE IN ENGLAND.

Hop cultivation is singularly precarious work. According to the Brewers' Guardian, the hop prospects of 1876 are not of the brightest in the Kentish district. Taking the plantations throughout, the hop land has not been so well done as usual this year, either as regards cultivation or manure. The wet season hindered the former, and "shortness of cash," it is said, has somewhat affected the latter. Everything connected with hop production, says our contemporary, is at a "top price:" trade on the other hand is dull and declining. Landlords have also in some instances raised the rents enormously. The weather has been dead against hop-growing for now nearly two years. The vine is now fully a fortnight late, and is of a yellow hue, owing to the prevailing cold nights and biting east winds. The fly, however, has not been so busy as usual after cold springs, but it is unfortunately expected to commence its work of destruction as soon as the wind abates and warm weather sets in. "When the rigor of this arctic spring has somewhat modified," says the Guardian, "which, some say, will not be until the 'turn of days,' it is quite likely that there will be a sprinkling of fly, which will cause infinite trouble on account of the delicate state of the vine and its predisposition to disease. All hop-growers, therefore, are strongly advised to get their washing engines ready, and their soft soap purchased for the enemy that is lying *perdu* in every part of the hop-growing area. The aphis has also appeared in the roses. The plum-trees are infested with their peculiar fly. The apple blossom, beautiful with its white and pink petals, has caterpillars lurking within. Filberts and Kent cobs have the maggot. All the foes of the florist, fruitgrower, and farmer are up and doing, but the hop fly alone waits for its pasture grounds to shew a few more green or juicy leaves. It is very early to predicate, and it would be presumptuous to speak positively upon the chances of the coming hop crop, but it is believed that it will not be a large one, and this belief is held by the majority of growers, and those who watch the signs of the times, who had records of past seasons for comparison, and who watch the shadows cast before coming events."

COLORADO POTATO BEETLE.

I see that you of the East are agitating the question of how to get rid of the above named beetle, and a little of our experience may be of service:

The first beetles were seen at this place in 1867; their numbers were few and no one tried to fight them. But in the spring of 1868 when they came out and watched for the potatoes to come up, people began to think of destroying them and various methods were tried such as hand-picking and burning or scalding, sprinkling the potatoes with kerosene, with plaster, salt, bone-dust, Paris green, ashes and I don't know how many more things were tried. Sprinkling with kerosene killed the beetles, also the potatoes; dusting with plaster had no perceptible effect; the same with ashes and bone dust; where salt was used heavy enough, potato and beetle both disappeared; where Paris green was used clear it usually killed the vines and beetles and gave the person who applied it sore hands, and if applied on a windy day often made him sick. In spite of this war, potato fields were "sear and brown," in early fall and the next year but few, the more persevering ones, planted any potatoes and the beetles, not finding wholesome food enough to satisfy their wants, took tomatoes, melons, squash and sometimes young corn and finally took to the woods, and oak trees by the thousand were stripped of their leaves and were as bare as in winter.

They crept into the houses and were all over, in your clothes, among your books, in the curtains, carpets and everywhere. They tried to cross the Bay and were washed ashore by the millions till the whole beach was a crawling, nasty mass of live and dead beetles. The stakes for the fishermens nets were always covered with them. They would often crawl by the hundreds up the sides of the vessels and on every floating thing a colony would be found. Those few who kept at it found that by mixing Paris green with four or six times its bulk of flour or plaster it lost much of its dangerous properties and could be safely used in a duster. They were rewarded by getting $2 per bushel for their potatoes that fall. We now fear them much less than a drouth.

Paris green may be mixed with twenty times its bulk of flour or plaster and applied in a duster or one teaspoonful may be put in ten quarts of water and applied with a sprinkler.

Fort Howard, Wis. A. M. Van Auken.

NARROW-LEAFED PLANTAIN.

Enclosed find leaf and seed-stalk of what we call in this vicinity "Narrow-leafed Plantain" by some Black Plantain, and others have called it Canada Plantain, but the correct name to me is of secondary importance. My object in writing is to have the mystery of its origin cleared up.

Until about six years ago I never saw a plant of it in my cultivated fields and only very rarely one in pasture. At or about the above time, it began to appear in my cultivated fields, and since then it has been gradually increasing, so that at this time we have serious fears that it will increase beyond our ability to stop it by weeding.

I have been on the place where I now am for 28 years and for 25 years have not bought and put on my farm a pound of clover seed and in timothy seed we should have seen it if it had been there. The reason of my not buying clover seed is because I have raised and used it bountifully. I have a theory of my own and I wish further light on the subject.

My theory is that as new plants are at times coming into existence and the proper time having come for this, it had its origin that way. If not asking too great a favor, I would like for you to give this a place in your valuable paper in order to get the views of others on the point in which I am somewhat in the fog. J. B. Koon.

Auburn, N. Y.

The species of plantain sent is the old and very common *Plantago lanceolata* a narrow-leafed plantain. It is not produced spontaneously but came from Europe many years ago and has been gradually spreading over the country. The Indians used to call Plantain, "the white man's foot" because it came into the country with him and appears along roads and foot-paths. It is easy to account for its appearance in your fields without seeking for any spontaneous or evolution theory.

Farm Economy.

AN ABOMINATION IN THE SOUTH.

A WOMAN'S OPINION OF GUANO.

A great plague is upon us, and famine and rapine bid fair to follow in its wake.

Already our poor houses and prisons open to receive wretches who have fallen victims to the scourge.

Many stout-hearted, strong-handed "tillers of the soil," and wealthy land-holders, are beginning to quail before it, for its fatality is great among them; and desolation is imminent in many of their households. And yet no means are taken to rid us of the pest. On the contrary, we encourage its growth, and spend annually thousands and thousands of dollars to keep it in our midst. We had rather suffer bankruptcy than cast it from us, and, though like the dread judgment, it crushes us to earth, still we cling to it, and madly throw ourselves before it, and the detestable stench of it is as "sweet-smelling incense" to us. My reader, this great affliction is known in the agricultural world as Guano. It infests our warehouses, is strewn upon the earth, and the very air is filled with it.

As a general thing, those of our agriculturists most lacking in energy are the greatest sufferers from this plague. For instance, a man possessed of acres and acres of land, that have descended from one ancestor to another for ages past, quietly smokes his pipe and gazes around him in lazy contentedness, from the ingathering of his crop in the fall until planting time in the spring. He has, perhaps, half a dozen negro farm hands under his control, besides white tenantry, and about fifty head of stock. All the winter, white and black men are lounging around in idleness, and horses, mules and cows are standing knee-deep in that, which, if properly composted, would greatly increase the value of his land.

If the stables and stock-pens are ever cleaned out, their contents lie unused, or are carelessly strewn over the nearest field.

At length the buds upon the trees begin to appear, the birds begin to sing, and planting time is at hand. It is too late to properly break up the land now, and there is no home-made compost, so the master of all these broad acres hies him to town, confers with the agents of several Guano Companies, and the consequence is, his farm forces are hauling ton after ton of this abomination when they ought to be plowing—plowing deep, and richly preparing the land for the future crop. The land is plowed, or rather scarified, Guano strewn, and sown, and then our "intelligent Southern Planter" retires—no more to appear upon the field, trusting his crop to Guano, white hirelings and negroes.

The man and brother, with his family, consisting of wife and many children, must be, in his parlance, "run." The employer must stand for his white laborer, else he can not make a crop, and in too many cases he, as well as Cuffee, come out in debt after the crop is made. So after Guano and provision bills are paid, there is very little left for employer and employed.

One wealthy (!) planter smokes his pipe in gloomy ill-nature, frowns at his wife, if he has one, complains of her extravagance, and after a time, perhaps sends her to the wash tub or cooking-stove.

Cuffee and his white fellow-laborer are not so badly affected. They can go over on the adjoining farm the next year and be "run" again, and Boss must either hunt new hands or go into a law-suit to keep those already in debt to him. He buys more Guano, smokes a great deal, and waits for the next crop to be made, instead of taking hold of the plow handles himself and showing a little of the independence so erroneously attributed to him.

If Southern men, as a class, were half as independent as Southern women, how much greater would be our prosperity and how much happier our homes. M. Jayere.

WORKING ROADS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

I notice that the subject of roads is being discussed more or less in the columns of the Rural New-Yorker. It is certainly one in which all residents in the country should feel deeply interested, and there is nothing a stranger admires more while traveling through our rural districts than good roads. We have here in Pennsylvania a township law, which I think is the only plan that is likely to end in bettering the condition of our roads.

The law authorizes the election of three commissioners, one holds his office one year, the next, two years, and the third, three, thereafter one being elected annually. The roads are laid out in half mile sections and numbered. These sections are sold to the lowest bidder at auction, the purchaser being bound to keep each in repair, build bridges, culverts, or whatever may be required to make a good road.

The commissioners decide how wide the roads shall be, as well as establishing the grades, etc. Anyone having cause to complain of the condition of the highways, makes his complaint to the commissioners having that particular division in charge. The commissioners, in turn, notify the contractor, who must make the necessary repairs within six days, failing to do this, men are hired and the said repairs made at the contractor's expense.

We are now working roads under this system for the seventh year, and of course it costs less each year to keep the roads in repair, and the sale each spring is correspondingly lower than in the previous one. There may be objections to this system, for dishonest commissioners will work in collusion with dishonest contractors. But, upon the whole, we think it is about as good a one as can readily be devised, and I would recommend it to other localities for trial.

Washington Co. S. Baker.

WIRE FENCING, AGAIN.

In your issue of June 17, I noticed an article on "Wire Fencing." It is very true, as you say, that "many a wire fence has proved of little use in turning stock." The common wire fence has become almost worthless at the West for that purpose, and is fast being superceded by the popular fence known as the Barbed Wire Fence, which I consider altogether preferable to any fence now in use, and one that will effectually turn stock.

It is generally made of two small steel wires twisted together, with a wire barb twisted securely in at intervals of about five inches. The barb projects about one inch on each side of the wire or cable, and made pointed at each end. They are so twisted in that they are very strong and stiff. The cable is well covered with asphaltum varnish to keep from rusting, and is said to be much stronger than the common plain wire. It is fastened to posts in the usual way—with staples. In the words of a farmer that has it in use: "Stock just let it alone." With three wires for a fence, neither man nor beast can get over or through it. No animal will ever touch it but once. Two wires are sufficient to turn cattle or horses.

It is sent to market on wooden reels, and the best way for distributing it, preparatory to making fence, is to insert the tail-board rod of a farm wagon and unreel it by driving the wagon along by the fence. It costs 20 cents a rod, single cable, or 60 cents per rod for a fence of three cables for the wire. Some of the Western Rail Road Companies are fencing their roads with it, using cast-iron posts, made especially for that purpose, thereby doing away with all danger from fire. C. W. Hammond.

Monroe, Mich.

Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP AND QUICK RETURNS.

Quick returns are what most business men endeavor to obtain especially in trade or in any kind of mercantile pursuit and it would seem to follow that quick returns were advantageous to agriculture also; thus as sheep bring wool annually and can be managed so as to make a quick return in meat too, doubtless sheep-husbandry will continue to be increased till every farmer will own a good stock and insure a good remunerating income.

I may be wrong, but think the killing of so many lambs in proportion to sheep has an injurious effect on sheep raising generally. It is true that the demand for lamb instead of mutton causes farmers to sell what is a ready sale and what brings likewise a quick return, but this system of selling so many lambs necessitates the keeping of old ewes and wearing them out till they are good for nothing as mutton.

The only ripe meat from the old fashioned general sheep keeper being lamb brings a dislike for mutton as it seems little more than skin and bone.

Now if a quick return of mutton and wool could be had the same as the English farmer has, there would be no stock raised or any crops grown which would pay like the raising of sheep and the growth of mutton and wool. There, in England, by refusing to sell lambs and by using rams of such breeds as produce good mutton and fleeces, an annual good income is maintained and there is no loss by old toothless ewes and poor dirty wool.

When crops are grown for the purpose of being converted into mutton and wool and when sheep are made to sell for ten dollars each on an average for mutton, the farms they are received and fattened on will increase in fertility, growing such an abudance of food that the income will increase in every way, of course the time for giving hay and food of any kind in the winter in the South will eventually cause that to be the chief mutton and wool district.

Working Farmer.

Dairy Husbandry.

ENGLISH DAIRYING.

The Spread of American Ideas Abroad, and Their Effect on the Dairy Interests of the Country.

THE impression generally prevails that the factory system has not proved a success in England. It is true that the first efforts to establish factories in Derbyshire met with considerable opposition, and the prediction was quite current among dairymen in various parts of England that the system was not adapted to the conservative ideas of British dairymen, and hence the attempt to introduce it in the kingdom would prove a failure. The first factories in Derbyshire, it is admitted, were started more as experiments than as permanent institutions. But the system has been steadily gaining ground, and England now numbers 30 factories, the bulk of which are very prosperous, and others are being talked about and projected.

DAIRY ASSOCIATIONS.

As an outgrowth of what has been done, the leading dairymen of England have been agitating for the past year the practicability of inaugurating dairy associations on the plan of those in America. It is proposed by the friends of this movement to have a preliminary meeting at Birmingham during the Show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and we have no doubt the proper steps will then be taken to establish a dairymen's association which will be national in character, with branches located in the great dairy centers of England, Ireland and Scotland. Mr. J. P. SHELDON of Derbyshire, in a recent letter to us, asking information concerning the plan of organizing associations in America and the manner of their working, gives some insight in regard to the

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE DAIRY IN BRITAIN.

He says there are considerably over a million and a half of milch cows in England alone, not to mention those of Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Of this large number, it is computed that *one-third are devoted to cheese making*, the remaining two-thirds producing milk for the towns and cities. The annual value of the produce of these cows is probably about thirty millions of money (pounds sterling), or one hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

DAIRY PRODUCTS DETERIORATING.

He thinks the proposed dairymen's association would influence this great interest—this important industry—in a marked and beneficial manner; and he remarks that it will scarcely be disputed that, at all events, the cheese making branch of the dairy in England has deteriorated in the quality of its productions, and this deterioration, he thinks, may be traced in part, and is owing to the system of "high farming" which has become so general, and which has brought with it influences that are seen in the increased difficulty which ordinary dairymaids experience in successfully handling milk in the process of cheese making. There has consequently arisen a distinct want of diffusion of scientific knowledge and means by which these increased difficulties may be encountered and overcome.

HOW DAIRY PROGRESS IS MADE.

This statement of difficulties is undoubtedly true, and the organization proposed, aided by the researches of scientific men, as well as by the experiences of practical cheese makers, would be a powerful medium for the dissemination of knowledge which could not possibly fail to very favorably affect the quality of English cheese. Many useful and important facts now having only a local influence would be collected at the annual meetings, and would afterward be distributed and made available to the entire cheese-making community of the kingdom, in the interest of which all persons would be cordially invited to contribute the information they may possess.

Mr. SHELDON says the lack of unity and intercommunication which at present unfortunately exists among cheese makers is felt to seriously hinder the progress and development of cheese making as an art, and this desirable unity the organization would seek to promote and cultivate.

Whenever a body of men band themselves together in pursuit of a given object, that object is almost invariably attained; but disunited, however sincerely they may strive after progress, it is at best partial, desultory and uncertain. But not cheese making alone, all dairy farming—butter making, the supply of milk to the towns and cities, the breeding of cattle for the dairy, and agriculture generally—would come in for a due share of attention; and it will not be denied that all these branches of rural industry are open to improvement and expansion.

THE EFFECT ON THE DAIRY INTEREST OF AMERICA.

Fears have been entertained that the introduction of factories in England and the progress of t dairy knowledge abroad, to be attained from the inauguration of dairy associations, will be a disadvantage to the dairy industry of America. This opinion, it seems to us, is a narrow view of the question. The true welfare of the dairy lies in the spread of intelligence—a knowledge of better methods of handling milk for the production of dairy goods, improvement in the care and management of cattle, of dairy farms, and of every branch of business connected with this industry.

In regard to the science of the dairy, it is quite probable we should learn as much, indeed more, from the English than they would from us. It would be greatly to our good should dairy associations be established in Britain, for we then should get the results of some of the best practical farmers in the kingdom, together with scientific investigations in regard to the dairy from well-known scientists.

Our advantage over English dairymen lies in the cheapness of our lands as compared with theirs, and this is an advantage which will remain to us in any event. In regard to the economy and science of farming, we can hardly claim an equality with Britain; and hence we think the inauguration of dairy associations will be a most decided advantage to us. Besides this, a rivalry in the production of fine goods will stimulate our manufacturers and dairymen to do their best, and as our goods improve in quality and palatableness, consumption will be increased both at home and abroad, and thus our dairymen will be the gainers financially.

ENGLISH DAIRY PRODUCTS DECREASING.

Mr. SHELDON refers to what is undoubtedly a fact in regard to a decrease in the production of cheese and butter in England. He says the consumption of milk in the towns and cities, with the increased facilities for transportation, is constantly making inroads on the cheese and butter dairies of the kingdom, and so rapid is this increase in the consumption of fresh milk that the time is not far distant when cheese and butter will only be made in considerable quantities in outlying districts, and hence the great bulk of these products needed in England must be supplied from America and other countries. To this may also be added another element to decrease dairy production—the meat supply, which is becoming more and more difficult, and which, on account of the high prices, is holding out better inducements to the farmer than dairying.

It will be seen from what we have said that our dairy interests are not likely to be unfavorably affected by anything which may be done in England, but, on the other hand, larger and larger quantities of cheese from year to year will be demanded. Let us increase our knowledge of handling milk and in manufacturing; let us do everything that is reasonable for the improvement of our dairy products, depending on *that* for success, rather than bewailing the spread of intelligence or in the endeavor to confine the dairy industry within certain prescribed and narrow limits.

As England is our best foreign customer, it will be important for our dairymen to keep well informed in regard to the progress of the dairy in that country—to keep watch of everything the English may do which would be likely to affect the dairy industry of America.

SCALDING MILK FOR BUTTER.

WILL you please inform me whether scalding milk in spring and fall adds to the keeping qualities of butter? and if so, do you think that any more butter can be made by so doing?

Some of our dairymen are making experiments with the freezing process, but with no marked success, and as you may be somewhat familiar with this matter, I should be pleased to have your opinion in regard to it.—WELL. J. HICKOX, *Oneida, N. Y.*

REMARKS.—The scalding of milk in the spring and fall will add nothing to the keeping qualities of the butter, at least we never could discover any such characteristic over butter properly made by the cold process. The keeping qualities of butter depend, for the most part, on having good milk to commence with, and then in working out and expelling the buttermilk thoroughly and not injuring the grain of the butter. Of course the cream must be obtained within a reasonable time and be properly churned; for if the latter be imperfectly done and a portion of the unchurned cream be incorporated with the butter while working, it will be injured in its keeping qualities.

One leading advantage in scalding milk in the spring and fall is to facilitate the rising of the cream and the churning of the butter, and more especially so under the old system of setting the milk in small pans and where none of the modern appliances are provided. Under such circumstances there will not unfrequently be an advantage in scalding the milk during the spring and fall, and as the cream rises with more facility and is more easily churned, the butter product also will be likely to be increased. But if the scalding process be compared with modern processes, where milk can be properly cooled and the temperature not allowed to rise or fall according to the state of the atmosphere, the scalding process will have no special advantage in regard to the quantity of the product or its keeping qualities. It may be observed, however, that with milk sometimes affected in its constitution at those seasons of the year, by which the churning is rendered quite difficult, we have found it to be improved in this regard by scalding.

We have obtained cream by allowing the milk to freeze. When milk is set aside and allowed to cool rapidly and freeze, the cream is thrown up very perfectly, and may be removed by scraping off with a spoon or other instrument until the blue milk appears; and although nearly the whole of the cream in the milk may be obtained in this way, the freezing seems to affect the keeping qualities of the butter, at least such has been the result in our experience. A quite different result in this regard is obtained when milk is treated under the Swedish process, the cooling being carried to a few degrees above freezing. Mr. HARDIN, who uses a refrigerator box for cooling the air where the milk sets, says he has come to the conclusion from his experiments that 49° Fahrenheit is the best temperature for obtaining the cream, quantity and quality being taken into account. The milk in his process is set in cans from 12 to 20 inches deep by 8 inches in diameter. The ice shelf is in the top of the box, and a space of one inch is left open on each side of the shelf to allow the air to pass around the ice. The drippings of the ice are utilized to the extent of four inches in the bottom of the box. The cans are made with a perforated rim in the bottom to allow the water to pass under them, and they have a cover to prevent the drippings from the ice getting into the milk. This plan is gaining favor among butter makers, and we should prefer either this or the Swedish plan to that of allowing the milk to freeze, while the latter plan would be practicable only in cold weather.

We have never practiced the heating of milk during summer for butter making, except as an occasional experiment, and for this season of the year we should recommend cooling either with water or with water and ice, on the plans to which we have referred.

The Poultry Yard.

HOW TO RAISE CHICKENS.

Last fall I purchased 15 late June pullets, a cross of White Brahmas. They commenced laying early in the winter and continued until the first of May. I had from them over 60 dozen eggs.

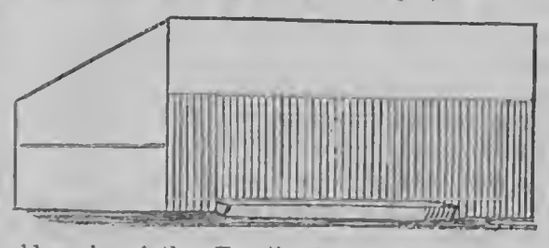
My hen house is partitioned off in one end of my stable, double boarded, and not very warm.

Their feed during the winter was bran and Indian meal, mixed with sour milk, fed cold, and stood by them all the time. When the mixture became frozen, I warmed it on the stove. I kept chopped cabbage by them all the time, and fed two or three times a week with chopped onions.

I gave them no water, but kept snow in easy reach. I fed no animal food, kept a box of road dust for them to wallow in, slaked lime and old plaster.

Now for my mode of raising chickens. Last winter I read in an eastern paper a short account of how to raise chickens without a mother. It struck me as quite the right way.

I made what I call a step-mother, a box 2 ft. long by 16 inches wide and 1 ft. high out of thin stuff, partitioned off on the back end 8 inches, (as per diagram) lined the sides with paper, over that



old woolen cloth. For the top a piece of paper box, cushioned with long, coarse wool made into tufts stitched on the end inside to drop down to about 4 inches of the bottom, so it will raise or fall as the chickens stand or sit.

In such a box there will be room enough, until they are two or three weeks old, for 300, when they should be transferred to a large coop with shed roof, to set out-of-doors in warm weather.

The boxes should have plenty of hay, chaff, road dust and ashes, and fine gravel or coarse sand to eat and wallow in.

On the back end of the boxes there should be a strip 4 inches wide, the width of the box, hung on leathern hinges to let down. Clean out the litter once in two or three weeks.

I make a coop 6 ft. square, pickets 2 ft. long out of lath, nailed on to narrow strips, and close enough together to keep the chicks from getting through, raise it a little to let the chicks go out and in in mild weather.

The first of last March I commenced setting hens, sixteen in all. The first hen I set has hatched four broods, just fifty chickens, and is now hatching her fifth. Three of them hatched three broods each, some two, and others one. As soon after the chicks are hatched, and they are strong enough to take off, I remove them, put in clean straw and fresh eggs.

I don't know how long a hen will sit without abandoning her nest. I probably shall before I get through with the one now sitting.

I have had hatched 220 chicks and have lost of that number only five. To raise chickens in the winter or early spring in this way, it is necessary to have stove heat in the day time; in the night they will be comfortable enough. I fasten them in their coops at night to keep them from skunks, cats and rats. I feed my hens and chicks wheat bran and Indian meal, with loppered milk exclusively—no whole grain.

There is not a hen louse about my hen roost that I can discover. A quart or two of kerosene oil in a dish, sprinkled on their roosts and sides of their house with a clothes broom, and dusting with flour sulphur on the sitting hens and in the nests, will keep away all lice. Sprinkle sulphur on the roosts and sides of the boarding.

To a person who takes an interest in chickens, it is pleasant to see them in the morning rush out of a large, airy room, in an outbuilding, after being fed, fly, chirp and run in all directions, and when they are hungry to see one or two hundred in a drove starting to their feed boxes. I can sell my half-grown chickens now for as much as I could get for them next fall. P. BOWEN.

Erie County, N. Y.

SCURVY LEGS ON FOWLS.

AMONG the many remedies given for this disease the following from the Poultry Nation is probably as good as any in use:

Remedies for this unsightly malady are often given, but in answer to numerous inquiries we give the treatment we are at present using, when necessary. It is simply to anoint the legs and toes of affected fowls twice a week till cured with a mixture composed of carbon oil, one gill; sulphur, one-half ounce; stir well together, and add one gill of fish or lard oil and thirty to forty drops of pure carbolic acid. Stir well before using, and apply with a brush or cloth, soaking it well in. Scaly or scurvy leg is caused by a minute insect that burrows in the skin under the scales of the shank of fowls' legs. The insect is invisible, except under the microscope, and is similar to the "sheep scab" and "itch" parasite. The first indication of the disease is a slightly-roughened appearance of the inside of the shank, near the hock joint. It develops rapidly till the scales are entirely destroyed, and replaced by irregular, enlarging, warty excrescences, encrusting the whole shank from the hock to the toes. The application of our remedy will kill the cause, and the crust will crumble away, leaving the leg smooth; but once destroyed, the natural scale can never be restored. This disease is infectious by contact and inoculation. It is not apt to spread among fowls where their perches are often saturated with carbon oil, or when under treatment for it. It is most swiftly and surely transmitted by hatching hens and mothers to small chicks. Breeders cannot be too careful in selecting hens for maternal duties having no trace of the affection. A little thoroughness on its appearance will make an easy cure.

EGGS RESISTING COLD.

THE degree of cold which a hen's egg can bear without losing its power of development has lately been investigated by M. Colasanti. Having first observed that salt water at ordinary temperature did not affect the development of eggs, he buried some eggs in a freezing mixture of ice and ordinary salt. Of any three or four treated thus one or other always breaks its shell; and the contents both of these and of the unbroken ones were found solidly frozen. After remaining one or two hours in the mixture (the temperature of which quickly went down to—7 deg. to—10 deg. for 30 to 40 minutes, rising again to—4 deg., or—5 deg. by the end of the second hour), the unbroken eggs were taken out, washed and dried and placed in the hatching oven, having a temperature between 36 and 40 deg.; and after ten days they were examined. In every case a normal embyro was found to be developed, without the least trace of anomaly. They were in all respects like the normal embryos of eggs that had been placed in the hatching oven without previous exposure to cold. M. Colasanti, remarks that the fact is in harmony with a large number of other natural history facts, which altogether show that the germs of organisms possess a considerably greater power of resistance than the completed organisms themselves.

Industrial Implements,

THE BUFFALO PITTS THRESHER.

Visitors to the Centennial will find an Art Gallery in Agricultural Hall, as well as elsewhere. We refer to the very fine display of Implements designed to assist the farmer. Manufacturers have indulged in silver plating and similar embellishments, until the machines are as pretty as pictures. Looming up like giants among the lesser machines, stand the threshers, and the golden grain so much talked about has threshing appliances no less gilded.

In Sections T and S, Nos. 7 and 8, stands a 36-inch cylinder Buffalo Pitts Thresher, which we deem worthy of illustration and explanation; to be appreciated, however, it sho'd be seen. Mr. Bronson, who is in charge, is specially fitted to explain its merits, and our readers cannot spend a part of their time to better advantage than in listening to this courteous and persuasive gentleman expatiate on threshers in general and the "Farmers' Friend" in particular.

The Buffalo Pitts Grain Threshers, manufactured by Mr. James Brayley at the Pitts Agricultural Works, Buffalo, N. Y., have the reputation, not only in the United States, but throughout the grain growing *World*, of being superior implements and second to none. The materials, workmanship and finish of Mr. Brayley's exhibit at the Centennial, satisfies us that this reputation is deserved.

THE BUFFALO PITTS THRESHER.

Everything about the machine indicates *strength and durability* of materials, *simplicity and perfection* in construction, the finish and ornamentation being *decidedly rich and tasteful*. We heard testimony to the excellent qualities of the Buffalo Pitts from threshermen and farmers on a visit to the "big show." In particular, we noted one old farmer who says he is still using a thresher bought of Jno. A. Pitts (the founder of the Pitts Ag'l Works) in 1843 and that *it is in good running order yet*.

These machines are furnished with solid steel cylinder shafts which in the band machines are extra heavy, having double bearings with pivot point boxes and self-oilers. This fits them for use with water or steam power.

We noticed, too, that the girts which brace and stiffen the frame are much larger than used in other machines of the same size. This stiffening of the frame prevents the twisting of shafting and gearing out of line and must save a great deal in expense of repairs.

The concaves that were formerly in two pieces are now cast in three, occupying the same amount of space as formerly. Each of these concaves have holes for two rows of teeth making six rows altogether that can be used, if necessary, in threshing tough grain. When grain is dry and in good order, the concave can be taken out and a grate substituted. Those who have been used to making these changes in the old way can fully appreciate this improvement. The diameters of the pulleys and shafting have been enlarged, thus avoiding straining the belts and requiring less power to do the work. The grain is separated from the straw as it passes from the cylinder on the main, or first carrier and over an open raddle.

The great length of this raddle and the use of the new "Patent Agitator," seems to make a perfect separation of the grain from the straw.

The newest and most important feature is the shoe or "End Shake" which has a *longitudinal* motion, that is, it is agitated lengthwise of the machine. This motion is communicated by means of eccentrics and pitmans that are attached to the under side of the shoe and is driven by a belt from the fan-shaft on the outside. The shoe runs without noise or jarring the machine.

It is claimed that by this contrivance grain or flax can be cleaned fit for market without changing anything except the sieves; which have to be given the proper pitch. The blinds, must of course be also adjusted.

We wish also to say a word concerning something novel in the threshing machine here. It is a small thresher and separator (without cleaner) for the use of those who raise small grain crops, and desire to do their own threshing at their leisure. Its construction is simple and durable, and the implement looks as if it would perform all that is claimed for it. Mr. Brayley will send catalogues and particulars free to all who may apply for the same.

If it were possible for our friends intending to visit the Centennial to so time their arrival as to be present at the Thresher trial, they would have a rare opportunity for comparison and judgment on the most noted machines in the country.

Floricultural.

AMERICAN PLANTS.

BY S. B. PARSONS.

This is the term given in Great Britain to a class of plants which are supposed to grow better in peat soil. It is a class indispensable to every garden small or large and the culture of which is presumed to require especial care and expense. So general for many years, has been this impression that a middle-aged English, Scotch or Irish gardener can scarcely be found who is not perfectly convinced that no good plants of this class can be grown without peat and shade. There is no greater fallacy. Those who have watched the Horticultural Journals of England for the past ten years have noticed the gradual inroad of doubts on this point. Year by year the opinion of intelligent men has found expression and many of the best cultivators now openly assert that any good open garden soil, with plenty of humus, will grow Rhododendrons and Azaleas as well as the best peat-lands of Surrey. While claiming only an equality in adaptation of these different soils, many go still further and assert that plants grown in peat cannot, without injury, be transplanted to ordinary soils and thus prefer to obtain plants grown in the latter.

If such is becoming the opinion of intelligent men in England, it applies with tenfold force to this country. Under our hot sun, in our exciting air and variable temperature, differing entirely from the moist and equable climate of England, this equality of adaptation in the soil is positively injurious. The failure of Rhododendrons in many parts of the country is doubtless owing to the peat culture to which so many of our gardeners steadily adhere while the success of the same plants in small suburban gardens whose owners know nothing of peat attests the soundness of our position. The struggling efforts of foreign Rhododendrons to establish themselves here is due in a great measure to their having been grown in peat soil. Many who admire these beautiful plants are deterred from using them by the idea that they require especial soil and especial culture. To encourage these we have enlarged upon this point and our opinion is based upon an experience of thirty years.

Let them be planted as are Roses and any good shrubs and the result will justify the soundness of our opinion. Of this class of plants the Rhododendron stands deservedly at the head. Its broad rich green foliage keeping its color and freshness in winter as well as summer would alone entitle it to the first rank. But when June comes and each branch clothed with these broad leaves is crowned with a cluster of flowers large enough for a hand bouquet and of varied colors, white, lilac, blue, mauve, pink and scarlet, superlatives are exhausted in describing their beauty.

Of the brilliancy of the late English tent exhibition of these plants in Philadelphia there could be but one opinion and with connoisseurs but one regret—that nearly all these high colors belong to varieties not hardy in this climate. In the climate of England such beautiful varieties as *Alarm*, *John Waterer*, *Concessum* and others are perfectly hardy, but in our climate they will endure neither summer nor winter. I am writing now of the latitude of New York. At Baltimore some of the high-colored varieties would bear the winter but the hot summer would test them severely. Out of 150 of the best English sorts which we have tested in every way for 20 years there are scarcely more than a dozen or fifteen which we can pronounce absolutely hardy and reliable under all circumstances and some of these varieties are not known in England because they are seedlings originating in this country.

As the character of Abraham Lincoln stands out in bold relief among the eminent men whom America has produced, so the Rhododendron *Abraham Lincoln* stands far in advance of all its congeners. Its leaf is solid, hard and pre-eminently hardy, its flowers well-shaped, compactly placed and of a rich rosy-crimson. Being a seedling produced at Flushing some years must elapse before it will be abundant. Next come *Grandiflorum* and *Everestianum* the first a light-bluish crimson, the second bluish-lilac crimped. They are both valuable not only for their well-tried hardiness but also for the facility with which they set on buds. They have long been and will continue to be two of the most popular sorts. Then come *Album elegans* a standard-growing sort with large white flowers very slightly tinted, *Candidissimum* the nearest approach to a pure white. *Album grandiflorum* white and blush, *Bertie Parsons*, a favorite Flushing seedling with a soft delicate pink-mauve color, *General Grant* another Flushing seedling of a lively scarlet, *Bicolor* a dark rose color, *Celestinum* with a bluish rose-tint, *Delicatissimum* white and blush with a very superior foliage. *Purpureum crispum* a purple crimped variety. *Purpureum elegans*, a fine purple, *Roseum elegans*, a fine rose color. There are some other varieties among the English sorts which future years may prove hardy. At this time those who plant the varieties we have named may feel sure of satisfactory results, while those who are misled by high colors or charming maculations and go outside of those varieties embark upon a sea of uncertain hopes.

The future of Rhododendron culture here must rest largely upon American seedlings many of which are in process of testing. With the sorts now known it is a safe rule that the lighter the color the more tender the variety.

HARDY AZALEAS.

This plant is one of the most valuable grown. Although deciduous and wanting in the rich foliage which characterizes the Rhododendron, its brilliant bloom of white, orange, pink, scarlet and the various shades of each give it a charm and a refinement of character not known to the more robust beauty of the former. Its excellence grows upon the owner and each year it gives him an added pleasure. Like the Rhododendron it can be transplanted at any season when the ground is not absolutely frozen and no plant is adapted to a wider range of soil and climate. No garden small or large can afford to be without it and on lawns the finest effect is produced by planting in masses.

Among the best of these will be found *Bouquet de Flore*, pink and white, *Concinna* dark orange, *Graf Von Maran* rosy-white and double, *Mirabilis*, lilac, *Narcissiflora*, double and fine yellow, *Peincellata stellata*, straw and salmon color, *Pontica imperialis*, large yellow and *Punicea*, crimson-scarlet. Here again Flushing seedlings occupy an important position and among these the best are *Dr. Gray*, scarlet-orange, large, *Dr. Kirtland*, deep-rose crimped, *Flushing-Queen*, deep-salmon, very fine, *Wm. C. Bryant*, deep-pink. There are also some new varieties from Japan possessing remarkable beauty. They belong to the *Mollis* family and are supposed to be hardy.

The *Kalmia latifolia*, more commonly known as *Laurel*, is one of the most hardy and beautiful plants. Its foliage is evergreen, its habit compact and its bloom most abundant. When planted in masses its effect is almost brilliant. It is adapted to a wide range of soil and climate and grows abundantly in valleys and on hillsides where peat is never known. Like the Rhododendron it blooms better in the sun while its foliage is darker in the shade. It sports very much, sometimes nearly white and sometimes bright pink. There are several species, but the *latifolia* is by far the best. The *Kalmia* is indispensable for every garden. The *Rhodora Canadensis* is but little known. It bears an abundance of purplish flowers early in the spring before the leaves appear and is very valuable for its earliness. Its native habitat is New England and New York and it may thus be relied upon for its hardiness.

The *Andromedas* are also little known. They are all small shrubs except *A. arborea* or Sorrel Tree, which is deciduous and grows to be a second class tree. Its foliage is bright and glossy, the new leaves have a delicate pinkish-bronze tint in the Spring and clothed in the brightest colors in Autumn. *A. mariana* or *Kill-calf*, is a small shrub of great beauty with clusters of large pink flowers like the Lily of the Valley. *Andromeda floribunda* is an evergreen shrub forming its bloom buds in the Autumn and blooming very early in the spring. It is very beautiful but somewhat difficult to manage. *A. catesbaei* and *calyculata* are both good and worthy of a place in any garden. The *Magnolias* are also cultivated in peat in Europe, but it is so well understood in this country that they flourish better in common soil that we will defer their description for another paper.

Flushing, N. Y.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

Forcing.—At the last meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Mr. Hovey said that he had placed Verbena cuttings in wet sand in a temperature of 80 or 90°, and they rooted immediately—certainly by the next morning.

Mr. Wilder said that he had rooted Verbena cuttings in thirty-six hours, soon after hot water was first introduced for propagating beds; but not many plants root so easily.

Trailing Arbutus.—James Cruikshanks remarked that no one had yet succeeded in making *Epigaea repens* look well in cultivation.

Mr. Rand said that he had been successful in growing it in his Rhododendron beds, but that Mr. C. was right as to its culture in ordinary garden soils.

[Is Mr. Rand still successful in its cultivation; if so, what is the soil of his Rhododendron beds?]

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

IN THE GRASS FIELD
AT SCHENCK'S STATION, PA.,
June 27, 1876.

"WHERE is Mr. Getty? I want to see Mr. Getty right away!" The perspiration was streaming down his face, his shirt collar wilted, coal dust and cinders in every crack and crevice of his physical anatomy, and his general appearance was that of a railway traveller on a hot summer day. Having expressed the question and the wish in the one breath he had left, he looked around helplessly upon the knot of gentlemen standing near him for a reply. Finally one of the group interrupted the operation of wiping the perspiration from *his* face long enough to inquire if he knew whom it was he wanted to see. "Why, yes, Mr. Getty, the Superintendent of this Agricultural Machine Exhibition." Then a light burst in upon the group, and the same one replied, "Oh! It's Jim Geddes you want to to see. That florid gentleman talking over there, busy about those mowers, that is your man." Then, turning to his companions, who were all using their handkerchiefs upon *their* perspiring faces, he said, "That's a good joke on Jim. Some call him Getty, some Giddy, and some Gurdy, but it's Jim Geddes they mean all the time." This was one of the little incidents which were of constant occurrence upon the field of trial, which should properly be named the second Gettysburgh.

All the RURAL'S readers have seen mowing machines, reapers and hay rakes; but probably very few of them have seen a dozen or so of each drawn up in line of battle, "eager for the fray." Now "fray" is not the proper term here, for the Centennial Commission, in all their mighty wisdom, have "frayed" the thing all out and left a comparatively empty show. It must be distinctly understood that this thing is in no sense a *trial*, but simply an *Exhibition*. The man who exhibits his implements in Agricultural Hall on the Centennial grounds and does not come here at all, is, in strict justice, as much entitled to an award as the one who sets his machine to work here and does yeoman service. But most Agricultural Implement Manufacturers are proud of their productions, and want to show to the whole world and his brother what can be done by them,—hence this *Exhibition*.

Quite a number of the jurors were present on the ground to-day, and the mowers were started off, without much method and with no prearranged plan. Mr. Landreth and Mr. Geddes, with his steady Lieutenant, Mr. Williston, did all they could to make the Exhibition pleasant, both to Exhibitors and visitors; but, as there was no objective point, it seemed up-hill work. So far I fail to see exactly what the whole thing is about.

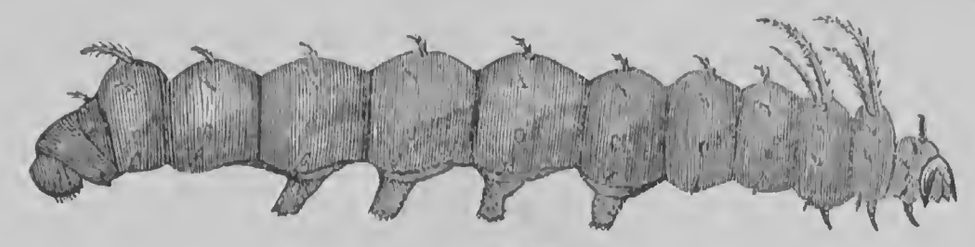
June 28.

Now I begin to get a glimmering of an idea of what all this thing means. No awards, no premiums, no trial, a report—perhaps—well, it must be an immense machine pic-nic. Yes, that is just what it is. Capt. Landreth seems to enjoy it hugely. On the field he is ubiquitous. Mr. Coleman of England, the Chairman of the Jury, called for a roller. Like everything else required of the Superintendent, it was at once furnished. It was then started into the grass and the various machines were each in turn started in after it.

Now I don't know whether I ought to begin telling you the things I don't understand, for fear your paper would not be large enough to hold them all; but certainly I cannot fathom the object of this move. If it was to show just how poorly the best machine could cut under adverse circumstances it was a perfect success. Perhaps, however, they always roll their grass in England just before cutting, and then run their machines the same way as the roller to make those heavy English horses thoroughly earn their oats each day. Some one of the Implement men suggested (and they are always making ridiculous suggestions of some kind) that it would be a good idea to yoke a pair of oxen to a loaded stoneboat and send them in ahead of each mower. It had one good effect, however, for it thoroughly waked up the exhibitors.

As soon as it became generally known that this plan was the order of the day, the number of little impromptu machine and blacksmith shops which were established along the line was something surprising. Nuts were unscrewed, bolts taken out, and a general click, click, click, started over the field. None of them seemed desirous of shirking this test (?); but it seemed to all a novel idea. In the meantime the sun was growing no cooler very fast, and in the face of it all, the jurors and spectators were industriously following the implements up and down the swaths. As this was a part of the show, and didn't cost anything, I took a little myself, but it didn't wear well and I soon transferred my share to more favored individuals. Forty-seven acres of solid sunshine, ninety-eight to the square inch, never *did* agree with me very well at this season of the year.

There is one noticeable feature, however, of this Show—everybody is good-natured and well-behaved, even the newspaper correspondents—ahem! Mr. Coleman, the representative of Mrs. Victoria Rex, works very industriously, if not methodically. Mr. Oldendorff, whom the Argentine Confederation some years since imported from the domain of Kaiser Wilhelm, seems to be



THE CATERPILLAR.

making his examinations very conscientiously, and in connection with our own juror, Mr. Bruce of Oregon, is endeavoring to find out which is the best machine. With the jurors representing Brazil, Spain and Japan my interviews were very naturally so limited that I could hardly form an opinion as to what they were doing. They all took notes in their respective native tongues, but of course I was too polite to read these.

To-day the dynamometer test was the order of the day. Some of the exhibitors were astonished at their light draft, and some others never said a word about it; in fact, you wouldn't think, from their conversation, that there had been any such test. Of this medicine, however, they each took a dose. The instrument used was that of Baldwin & Eichenmeyer.

In the afternoon a meeting of exhibitors was called for the purpose of making arrangements for the Harvester Trial in the wheat field next week. A committee was appointed, and they reported a plan of drawing lots for spaces. Just before the adjournment Capt. Landreth gave notice that on the 6th of July a meeting would be held at the wheat field for the purpose of organizing an Association of Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, which should have for its object a closer intimacy and more friendly interchange of ideas among them. This is a step in the right direction. Heretofore, at exhibitions and trials, there has been a system of competition, or rather a lack of system, which has been frequently the reverse of pleasant. Of course on these occasions large interests are at stake and feelings are apt to run high. Should an Association of this kind be formed, however, rules and regulations for trials, modes of test and scales of points could be adopted, which could be used at all trials and exhibitions, and the competitors and exhibitors would know exactly what would be expected of them. Had such a code of regulations and scales been in existence to-day for use on this field, I will venture to say that there would have been much more satisfaction among all present. This body of men cannot do better than to associate themselves together in a society, and cultivate those relations which will certainly be fruitful at once and beneficial at all times.

A large hay field is not of itself necessarily ornamental; but come to dot it over here and there with Centennial Guards in their blue uniforms and red stripes, the eye is satisfied and relieved. I suppose these guardians of the peace were considered necessary among so many manufacturers; but I fear the only peace they actually had to take care of was their piece of bread. Lieut. Bennett's urbanity, however, rendered all guarding unnecessary.

This afternoon the grass was fast becoming hay when Perry's Tedder, the only one on the ground, was called into requisition. It did its work well and made almost as much stir among the grass as the action of the Centennial Commission did among the manufacturers.

Then came Satan——no, the hayrakers also. These were watched with much interest by the jurors, and would have been thoroughly tried but for the sudden appearance of what Mr. Geddes termed an American *zephyr*, but what Mr. Coleman maintained to be a *typhoon*. What was the judgment of the tents and flagstaffs, I cannot tell, but they were certainly "down on it." It is unnecessary for me to say that at this particular juncture the little affair was adjourned for the day.

June 29.

Hay rakes to right of them,
Hay rakes to left of them,
Hay rakes in front of them,
Rolled and thundered,
Stormed at with shot and ——

Well, there were not six hundred of them, but a goodly number. Mr. Coleman took the rakes and Mr. Oldendorff the rest of the mowers, and the work of the picnic went merrily on. I meandered around among the groups of rake owners and inventors and listened to what they had to say. That is the way to learn, and I believe I have learned it. Each individual machine is a little better than either of the others. That is what I learned from their conversation, and they must know all about it. One says, "We've got it, boys!" another, "I've scooped that field, fellows!" Now, if this is not convincing proof of my position, what is?

The morning was devoted to rakes and the noon hour to the gentle discussion of good cheer, after which the solid, substantial work of the first part of the Great Implement Picnic was finished. The world will never see its like again, unless the great Centennial Commission of 1976 cause everybody to believe there is going to be a great Competitive Field Trial and then April-fool them again about the first of May, as they did this time.

There was still a piece of grass standing of about fifteen or sixteen acres. For this, the machines were brought out in line and all put to work. Nineteen of them started off almost simultaneously, and if ever grass fell in double-quick time, it went down then. About forty minutes served to render the grassy prairie a level plain—I almost forgot to say—then we all went home.

Taken all in all, the Great Picnic was a success. Of course it would be out of place for me to say, in advance of the report of the Jurors, which implements did best or which were particularly worthy of mention. I am very much in the position of the old toper when a friend refused his proffered drink because it was bad, and he said, in plaintive tones: "Don't say that—there ain't none on it bad, some's better nor others; but there ain't none on it bad." So with the machines exhibited—none of them were bad, though some were better than others

Among the most interesting features of the exhibition were those of Hay-loaders, Hay-forks and Conveyors. These are comparatively new implements in their various improvements and late inventions, and attracted much attention. Many of the other machines have developed new features, all of which will probably be covered by the Jurors' report, and will eventually be of great advantage to the farming constituency. I am sorry to say that very few of the Bucks County people attended this Great Exhibition, held at their very doors. Why will people refuse to learn when teaching is almost thrust upon them? As it is not my day, I cannot even answer this conundrum myself.

SHORTHORN.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

WE noticed Wilbur's Direct Draft Eureka Mower at the great exhibition of mowers in the field. This implement is something of a new departure in mowing machines, having the "cutter bar" placed between the wheels. They are thus enabled to use a six-foot cutter bar and secure a direct draft by gearing each wheel. In operating the machine, one horse walks in the grass while the other has the cleaned track. The machine did excellent work, and although it has been in use for eight years, the mower is not as well known as it should be. Its merits demand, and will, we think, eventually command inspection and investigation very generally. The manufacturers are sanguine, not to say enthusiastic, on the score of its merits and publish a challenge to all side draft machine makers to mow 50 acres, the Eureka agreeing to forfeit $1,000 if they do not show a superiority in the competition on the prominent and vital points in cutting and gathering hay.

THE DOUBLE HARPOON HAY FORK made by the Pennock Mfg. Co., Kennett's Square, Pa., looked as familiar as the grass itself at the Field Trial near Schenck's Station. This admirable implement is among the exhibits of this Company at Q-12 Agricultural Hall, where Mr. JACKSON will always be found ready to explain its merits.

In the present instance the fork was subjected to a severe test by the Committee and came out of it brilliantly. The fork has gained a wide reputation during the past six years and received the indorsement of leading agriculturists. Being simple, strong, convenient and durable, with no exposed parts to be injured through coming in contact with beams, etc., it penetrates the hay with ease, compressing it with an even pressure from top to bottom, and is consequently specially adapted to fine, short and brittle hay, unbound hay, barley, etc.

From the manner of its hold in the hay, the forkful being wide and comparatively shallow, separates the hay from the load with considerably less power, placing it easily in the mow. In its manufacture constant supervision and care is exercised to have every fork perfectly made and fitted up. The materials used in its construction are the very best throughout. The wrought iron used is the very best refined, and the malleable iron is made by the best manufacturers. At the New York Fair (Sept. 1870) this fork was awarded the First Premium and Bronze Medal.

ON WEDNESDAY, at the Implement Exhibition, when one of our six or seven-foot mower-men saw, for the first time, the roller standing in his plot of grass before his machine, he turned his eyes inward for an instant, then exclaimed: "I'm ruined." One of the Jurors, standing by, said to him: "Young man, there is no medal in that machine." Sic transit glorious Wednesday!

Entomological.

THE ROYAL HORNED CATERPILLAR AND REGAL WALNUT MOTH.

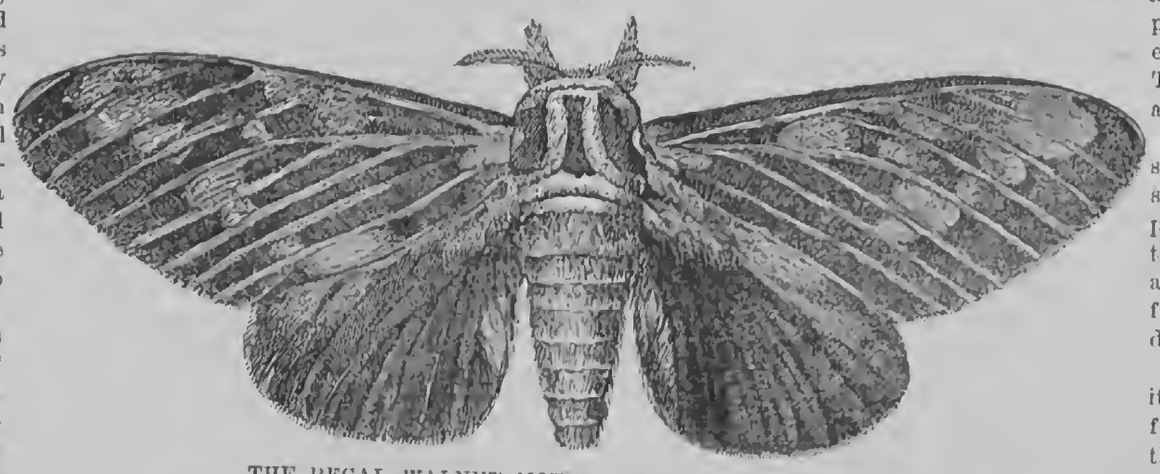
THIS is one of the most beautiful of our North American insects. Its scientific name is *Ceratacampa regalis* [FABR.] It is never plentiful, although found sparingly over a very wide range of country. Although it has received the common name of "Walnut Moth," the caterpillars do not confine themselves to the Black Walnut, but feed upon the leaves of the Hickories, Butternut, Persimmon, and some species of the Sumac. The moths usually appear the last of June or early in July (Fig. 1). The fore-wings are olive colored, ornamented with several yellow spots and veined with blood-red lines; the hind-wings are orange-red, with two large, irregular, yellow patches before and a row of wedge-shaped, olive-colored spots between the veins behind; the wings expand from five to six inches. It is altogether a magnificent insect, and so rare that collectors seldom allow a perfect specimen to escape.

The female moth deposits her eggs on the leaves of the trees named above, but only lays a very small number; hence the scarcity of this insect. The young caterpillars at first are nearly black, but change their colors at each molting, until at last they reach their full size (as shown in Fig. 2), and are then truly formidable in appearance, although really harmless. Their general color is green, with a slight yellowish tinge. The ten long horns on the fore-part of the body are orange-colored, with tips and points black.

These caterpillars are solitary in their habits, seldom more than one or two being found on the same tree. Mr. ABBOT tells us that this caterpillar is known among the blacks of the South as the "Hickory Horned Devil;" and it is not at all strange that the ignorant should give it some frightful name, or attribute to it the power of doing a person bodily harm.

When the caterpillar has reached full maturity it descends to the ground, burying itself in it, forming an oval chamber, wherein it casts off the prickly skin and becomes a chrysalis. It remains in this state until the following year, when the moth emerges, the transformation being completed.

If any of our readers should happen to find one of these caterpillars this season, they need not be over anxious to destroy it, as our entomologists would prefer that the number should increase rather than decrease, as they are none too plentiful in cabinets, nor are they likely to be for some time to come.



THE REGAL WALNUT MOTH—CERATOCAMPA REGALIS.

Pomological.

BLACK-CAP RASPBERRIES.

It is only within the last fifteen or twenty years that the black-cap raspberries have become sufficiently popular to warrant their cultivation for market. Previous to the period named, the few reaching our city and village markets were gathered from the woods and old, neglected fields and clearings, and frequently this fruit was little more than a cluster of hard seeds, held together with a small quantity of almost juiceless pulp.

We have, however, no one species of wild fruit which shows the effect of culture more quickly than the black raspberry, especially in the increased quantity of the pulp surrounding the seed. Moisture at the roots during the time the fruit is growing and ripening is quite important, hence the benefits to be derived from a deep, rich soil, free from weeds. The latter condition secured either by frequent stirring of the surface or covering with some kind of mulch.

YOUNG PLANTS BEST.

The plants will grow and fruit for many years, but the largest berries are always secured from the young and vigorous, the decline coming with the third or fourth season's crop. Of course, by giving the plants a rich soil and good after culture, the decline in quantity and size of the fruit may be exceedingly slow, but, as a rule, the renewing of the plantation every half dozen years, or setting out a new one upon fresh soil, would be a more economical system to pursue than to attempt to restore an old one after it once commences to decline.

While it is doubtless true that the black-cap raspberries will thrive in lighter and poorer soil than the red varieties, still they show the effects of high culture as quickly and give as good return therefor as any of our cultivated fruits.

CHOICE OF VARIETIES.

The Doolittle was one of the first which attracted any considerable attention, and is to-day one of the very best of the thirty or more sorts in cultivation. The plants are vigorous, hardy and prolific, and the berries as large as any variety, ripening at the same time or as early. Davidson's Thornless is an excellent very early sort, the canes having few or no thorns upon them, but are less vigorous than the above, and not quite as hardy.

The Seneca is a valuable variety, coming in a few days later than the Doolittle, perhaps a trifle larger and the canes fully as vigorous, but no more prolific. The berries are of a shining black color, covered with a very thin light bloom, hence they are not likely to look stale, if gathered when wet with dew or slightly rubbed on their way to market.

The Miami, or Mammoth Cluster, as it is known by both these names, is one of the very largest and latest sorts in cultivation. It is an excellent variety, extending the season of this fruit about ten days beyond that of the Doolittle. The berries are covered with a dense bloom, which helps to give them a stale appearance when sent a distance to market, or if gathered in damp weather.

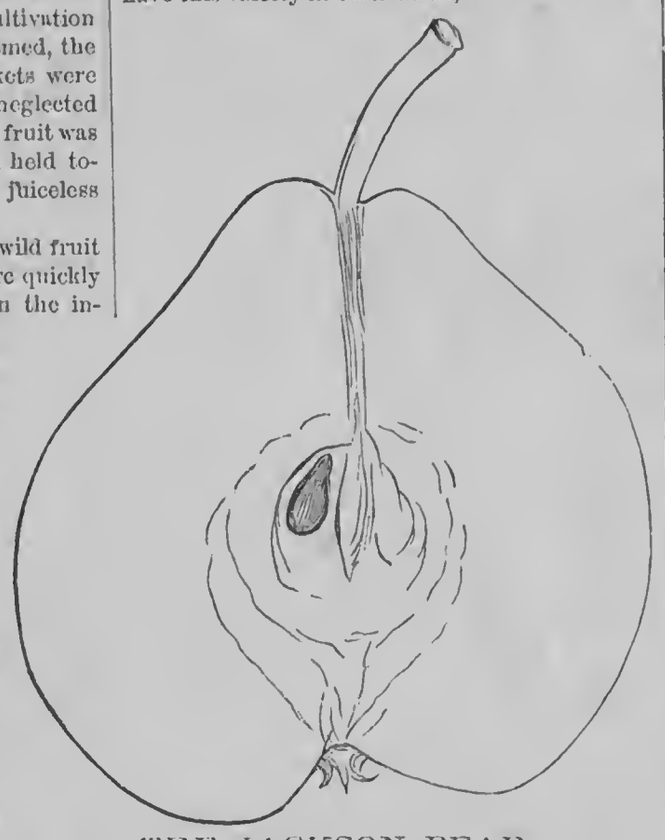
The four sorts named above fill up the season from the earliest to latest and possess all the good qualities known to belong to this fruit, still there are, perhaps, other sorts equally as good. The Ontario resembles the Mammoth Cluster, but no better, if as good. The Surprise is a large and excellent sort, its principal distinctive characteristic is its more conical-shaped berries. Fay's Thornless is also an excellent sort, similar to the Doolittle, ripening at the same time, but the canes are less thorny. Then there are several light yellow berries, spotted with red, but these are more valuable as curiosities than for use.

THE JACKSON PEAR.

It should not be taken as conclusive proof that a variety of fruit originating in a cold climate must, as a natural consequence, be more hardy than one of the same species raised in a milder one. Still, if we were lacking for fruits to be cultivated in Vermont, we should prefer to trust those sorts which originated in the Northern States than in the Southern.

The Jackson Pear, of which we give an accompanying outline, originated in New Hampshire, and is considered a valuable sort for the New England States. Downing describes it as follows: Free, vigorous and productive. Young wood, dull reddish brown. Fruit, medium, obovate short pyriform, pale yellow, somewhat russeted. Stalk, long and curved, fleshy at its junction, inserted in a slight cavity. Calyx, small and open, set in a rather deep, abrupt basin. Flesh, white and juicy. Flavor, brisk and vinous. Good to very good. Ripens the last of September. How extensively this pear has been propagated and disseminated we have no means of knowing, beyond the few reports occasionally appearing in local papers; still it may have been planted largely in the New England States.

We should be pleased to hear from those who have this variety in cultivation, in order to learn if it continues to hold out as good as the above description would indicate.



THE JACKSON PEAR.

SUMMER PRUNING OF FRUIT TREES.

A correspondent of the Journal of Horticulture gives the following very excellent reasons why trees of certain kinds should be pruned in summer.

The summer-pruning of fruit trees when well and timely done promotes health, vigor and fertility—it maintains a just balance between wood growth and fruit growth, promoting yet restricting such growth in the best and highest degree. It prevents waste of vigor, devoting the precious sap out of which every part of the tree is formed—stem, leaves, buds, blossom, fruit—to the formation of a wood growth short-jointed, sturdy and robust, bristling with blossom buds. Thus the growth is turned to its legitimate purpose, the production of fruit of the highest excellence in the greatest possible abundance in a given space. How is this done? I have before now tried to explain the process, but the inquiries of "F. J." convince me that I must be more explicit.

Let us begin at the beginning. All fruit trees have branches; let us take one of them and explain its treatment, and the lesson will be applicable to the entire tree of whatever form it may be. Now the branch has two distinct growths, the main or leading shoot forming the branch itself, and the lateral or side shoots forming the spurs. The annual elongation of the leading shoot should not exceed 18 inches nor be much under a foot according to the habit of the tree, very robust growth reaching the maximum, slender growth being confined to the minimum, even within its limit. Neither of these lengths consists of one clean shoot but of parts of two growths. The first part or spring growth being pruned or picked off at 6 or 9 inches; and the second or midsummer growth, left to grow unchecked till the beginning of September, is then twisted at a point slightly beyond the prescribed length, and the end left attached to the branch and hanging downwards till it is removed in the pruning.

What is our object in this part of the process? Just this—to induce a prompt formation and an even distribution of internal growth or side shoots along the entire length of the branch, to which end we pinch off the tip of the spring shoot, and so checking the upward flow of sap we divert it into other channels, as is shown by the increasing size of each leaf and the lateral bud at its base which so promptly follows the pinching. But we do more than this, for we gain at least a year in every season of growth, no mean result of our manipulation being that we induce the tree to do the work of two seasons in one; and in the treatment of young trees we may go even further than this, and claim to effect the the work of several seasons in one by the rapid formation of fruiting buds which we induce.

In our treatment of the side shoots we proceed upon the same principle, only with this advantage—that as each extension is limited to about an inch, often less, we are enabled to effect a little more by proceeding in this way. When the shoots are long enough to have become somewhat stout and stable at the base they are shortened to one or two eyes, which in a very favorable season push into growth so promptly that the second growth may also be pinched in a similar manner, and then the third shoots are left like the leading shoot till September, and twisted downwards near the base.

There are two points of importance here to which I wish to draw especial attention. First, the young shoots are not pinched till they are tolerably stout at the base, hasty and indiscriminate pinching inducing a crowded, weakly, barren growth and totally defeating the object in view; but then I much fear that those who do their work in such a heedless fashion are a sort of purblind folk with no particular end or aim in view; they have been told that summer pinching is good for the trees, and so they pinch and pinch, but injuriously.

The other point is this—whether the second growth may be pinched or left to grow unchecked till September, when it is twisted downwards, must depend entirely upon the season itself. With a very forward spring a third shoot becomes really possible, and certainly be had; but in a late season like the present it will be much wiser to rest content with two distinct growths, pruning the first and twisting the second, for if a third growth is encouraged this year the result will probably be an abortive crop of weakly unripe shoots which with the wood from which they spring would have to be pruned entirely away, and thus instead of sturdy well-ripened spurs bristling with plump buds, we should have a lot of miserable stumps and destroy the work of an entire season.

These hints apply very generally and with considerable force to the fruits enumerated at the head of this paper. They should, however, be regarded as elastic, exceptional cases so frequently arising which must be treated solely upon their own merits. The work is an interesting and withal a profitable one, and I am obliged to "F. J." for the opportunity he has afforded me of entering more fully into its details.

William Parry, of New Jersey, is always getting up something new and good. His Monarch of the West strawberry has scarcely been allowed to establish itself before it is followed by another, this season, we believe for the first time, called the "Star of the West." It is of very shapely appearance, round and plump, and must speak for itself. Then there is upon the carpet, the "Delaware Raspberry," the fruit of which grows to a good size, which will we presume, be tested this season.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Around the Republic.

MORE PRAISE OF KANSAS.

I have received numerous letters of inquiry in regard to this country since the publication of my articles in your paper, asking for further particulars concerning this locality, its healthfulness natural resources, etc.

Nature has done all that man could wish to make the Arkansas Valley one of the first agricultural States in the Union. You will find, by referring to the map, that Kansas occupies the middle spot of North America, equally distant from the Atlantic on the East and the Pacific on the West, thus occupying a central position on this continent.

To such advantages of situation on the very highway between two oceans, are added a soil of unsurpassed richness and a fascinating, undulating beauty of surface, with a health-giving climate calculated to nurture a powerful and generous people, worthy to be a central pivot of American institutions.

I have found by a three years' residence in South-western Kansas, that all that has been written in regard to this country can be more than realized by proper management.

Our crops are looking very promising. The wheat harvest has already been commenced, and by next week will become general. Our streets are thronged with farmers who are hauling home their harvesters, reapers, etc, preparatory to making a general onslaught on the wheat fields next week.

It is surprising to see the amount of farm machinery that is taken out of this town daily, and it would bother some of your Eastern farmers to know what they were to do with it all on this "great American desert," which has only been settled up about five years. But then when you go out into the country and behold the broad fields of grain ripening for the harvest, and realize the very few hands that we have to cut and take care of it, you will be convinced that were it not for the machinery it would be impossible to do our harvesting in season.

We have been having garden products on our tables for the past two or three weeks, and now potatoes and green peas are in our markets. To one like myself, who has been used to living at the North, these early vegetables are delightful.

When I see the broad acres spread out here for man's benefit, running to waste for the want of the hardy yeomanry of the North to till them, and knowing, as I do, that it will yield an abundant return for men's labor, it grieves me to see the toiling millions in our Eastern cities and villages, who are living, as it were, from hand to mouth, hardly keeping soul and body together, when here they could earn in a few years a home for themselves and children, and thus secure a good support for their declining years.

Wages are good, and every available man can get employment the year round at fair terms. A man with a good team of say three horses and two yoke of cattle, with a breaking plow, can earn his $6 per day and get all the work he can do; or can make more money by running a Reaper, Harvester or Header through the harvest season. I must close, but will give you further facts in regard to this country as time and opportunity offer. B. M. House.

Newton, Kansas.

Our correspondent is needlessly bestowing sympathy upon the "toiling millions" in "Eastern cities," who live from hand to mouth, for they certainly do it, if at all, from choice and not through any necessity or compulsion.

Better wages are paid to laborers of all kinds in these very cities and villages than in any other place on the globe, besides, there is more uncultivated lands in the Eastern States, and good rich lands at that, than will be used in the next century, and all in consequence of a scarcity of skilled and efficient laborers to occupy it. We see hundreds of these poor, toiling millions as we go to our office in the morning. They are sitting comfortably on seats in the shade of trees in the city parks, while their wives probably are sweating over washtubs or sewing in garrets and their boys blacking boots to find wherewith to purchase food, and this is the way nine-tenths of the poor, abused working-classes of over-crowded cities look for work and can't find it. We are inclined to think that neither Kansas nor other Western States have any use for such people.

A GLIMPSE OF TEXAS.

In your "Around the Republic," will you please to take in this interesting slice of "Uncle Sam's" *terra firma* in one course of your flying trips. Many of us are anxious for said visit, and fearing that the all-absorbing Centennial may divert your attention, I thought you might pardon me for taking the liberty of jotting down some little items of interest to those who might be looking around for a future home in some locality more inviting than their present one, or those whose surroundings may be such as to compel them to seek a locality where less capital will secure a desirable home.

Permit me to give a few condensed facts as to what may be found and realized in Texas.

The climate of Texas cannot be excelled for its mildness and healthfulness, and perhaps has not its equal in the Union, unless California may come up to its standard.

The temperature of winter for four years past, (mean average) 85°—Ther., highest, 40°; lowest, 22°. Except the winters of '73 and '74, 9th of January, the extremes of 16° was reached. The summer heat is an average of 68°—extremes 98° and 48°. Summer heat always tempered by Gulf winds, and our cold days in winter are but few—not more than ten or fifteen days, and are produced by heavy North winds of from one to three days' duration, and as soon as North winds abate, warm spring weather prevails.

Grass and garden vegetables flourish all winter. There has not been a day in the last four years (except January of '74) that a goodly number of vegetables, fresh from the garden, could not be obtained for the table, and beef and mutton of good quality from native grasses.

Two crops of Irish potatoes, three of turnips, two of cabbage per annum, and sweet potatoes are taken from the ground the year round. The Lima bean does not rest from its labors but three months in the year.

The numerous herds of cattle and sheep driven out of Texas have no taste of any other food but grass, and never were in an inclosure but at breeding time.

But to shorten my remarks. We are now digging our first crop of Irish potatoes. Onions are gathered, and berries have been in use for two months past. Plum pies are now on docket. Roasting ears of corn coming in—corn in silk. Oats cut and in stack. Wheat, do. or threshed out. Much hay in rick (first crop). Figs and peaches full grown. Broom corn heading out—we make two crops of brush from one planting of this crop. Good railroad transportation. Market at home. Plenty of good lumber—price, $25 per 1,000 feet. Cheap lands—all tillable. Price of lands, from $2 to $4 per acre. Plenty of timber and prairie. Good water and plenty of it. Settlements, schools and churches all over the State. Texas is sparsly settled nearly all over, and everybody is land poor, and anxious to sell some of his lands to get neighbors and money to pay taxes. Taxes low. Good free school system. A paradise for men of small capital—a heaven for men of large capital.

Gonzales, Texas. D. Beach.

Hygienic Information.

EATING BEFORE SLEEPING.

Mr. W. Barker writing to one of your city cotemporaries takes pretty strong exceptions to a brief note which appears in another journal to wit:

"It is a mistake to suppose it is unhealthy to sleep after eating. Man is an animal, and all animals guided by instinct sleep immediately after eating." And from the same article:—Peasants as a rule enjoy robust health; supper is their heartiest repast and they go to sleep immediately after their last meal. Mr. B. disputes the assertion that peasants as a rule are healthy, and further on disputes also *in toto* the assertion that peasants (or farmers) do generally go to sleep (to bed) immediately after eating the last meal of the day.

Now did friend B. never suspect that the unhealthiness of farmers of the present age might be caused by sleeping on an empty stomach, contrary to nature's laws and the natural habits of the whole animal creation? The babe wakes and the mother understands its call for food, and knows that when that is obtained it will go to sleep and not before. The child is sleepy after supper and would follow the practice into manhood and old age of thus retiring, were not artificial habits forced upon him by the usages and conveniences of society. The old man whose working days of mind or muscle are over falls back upon nature and sleeps after dinner as well as after supper. Man in as near a state of nature as we can find him, eats his principal meal just before sleeping.

The half civilized white hunter and voyager and soldiers on the march do the same. Surveyors and land hunters in the uninhabited regions and overland travelers to the great West learn to eat light till camped for night and hardly move after eating. There may be exceptions to these rules, but ten to one you will in such cases find them like friend B.'s neighbors unhealthy, because they have been too long lured or forced into unhealthy habits.

Neither do I hold with Mr. B. that we can learn nothing of value to us from the natural habits of the lower animals. They rest and sleep during digestion. A colt, calf, lamb or pig, does not sleep when hungry. Teamsters on long journeys and many of the most intelligent farmers and loggers in the pine woods have learned to give their teams their heaviest meal at night.

I admit, that when wearied with labor some time should be given for rest before taxing the stomach with a full meal, but it is a matter settled long ago by careful and scientific experiment that digestion goes on more quietly and perfectly and is accomplished in less time when resting and sleeping than at other times. I admit also the fact, that bad dreams, nightmares, apoplexy and death have followed excessive or irregular late suppers, and I advise any one disposed to indulge a gluttonous appetite that he had better do it in broad daylight, for ailments generally are exacerbated at night.

"Man is the creature of habit" and when artificial habits have with him "become a second nature," it may be dangerous to meddle with them. These injurious, late suppers are however generally in excess of the fixed habits and natural wants of the body.

I am well aware that Mr. Barker in his censure of the sentiments expressed above but speaks the sentiments of the public generally, and that his charge of heresy is not without foundation, but those who have read the history of the rise and fall of public opinion for the past fifty years must know that much that was once popular opinion has since proved to be popular error, as well in hygiene as in many other things.

The most strenuous advocate of nocturnal starvation of the present age was the late Dr. Hall of the Journal of Health, who recommended to eat nothing after three o'clock P. M. but he, though good authority in most matters knew little of country life and habits, and died I think at mid-age, and if he died for the want of sufficient nutriment with plenty before him, he is not the first martyr of the kind.

A physician lately published a remedy for sleeplessness as practiced by himself, and that is to eat onions before going to bed. I hailed this as a straw indicating a change in public opinion: probably the eating of any other palatable food would have produced the desired effect. I also hailed the opinion expressed as above as a whole bundle of straws pointing the same way. The correspondent notes correctly the habits and healthfulness of the rural population of the New England States of 50 to 60 years ago, at which time and place if the word dyspepsia was seen or heard, the dictionary would have been required to learn its meaning. Mr. Barker represents the practices, opinions and sanitary condition of the farmers of the present age who come in from the field at six p. m. to tea and go again to work, and at dark or after go supperless to bed and have dyspepsia and other diseases, the effects of modern improvements in hygiene.

Setting aside all statistics, instincts and natural habits, and reasoning alone from physiological facts as known and established and generally admitted, how could we reason ourselves into the belief that man or any other animal is the better off, for sleeping on an empty stomach? The blood is the life of the animal and in all efforts of the mind and body it flows in increased quantities where most wanted, to the brain to the muscles, the lungs, the heart or the stomach; it never was intended to work all these organs in full force at the same time. The lungs and heart never entirely suspend their action, but in sleep they and the brain and muscles have a partial rest, labor less hard, and give the stomach, then prepared to work, all the blood and vital force necessary for its use. Dyspepsia has run an even race with the modern reforms in the habits of living, and is likely to win in the end if the latter does not bolt the track.

Now my friend Barker, if this meets your eye and you should wish to discuss this matter further, we will do it in good humor and I will, if you wish, cite to you many changes of current opinion, occurring within the past fifty years on hygiene and the treatment of disease, equally strange with the change that is to happen on this subject of late suppers. Changes, too, not alone among the illiterate, but with the scientific and professional. S. B. Peck.

Muskegon, Mich., June 8, 1876.

SEASONABLE ADVICE.

The Health Board of New York at a late meeting adopted the following report of the Sanitary committee on the prevailing disease of infants, and ordered 20,000 published and distributed:

Never neglect looseness of the bowels in an infant. Consult the family or dispensary physician at once and he will give you rules about what it should take and how it should be nursed. Keep your rooms as cool as possible; have them well ventilated and do not allow any bad smells to come from sinks, garbage-boxes, gutters, etc., about the house where you live. See to your own part being right and complain to the Board of Health, 301 Mott street, if the neighbors' houses are offensive. When an infant is cross and irritable in the hot weather a trip on the water will do it a great deal of good, and may prevent cholera infantum. Do not allow your children to eat unripe or dried fruit. An infant under a year old should not have any fruit except by a physician's orders. In very hot weather dress your children in thin clothing and bathe them with cool water one, two or more times a day.

Children under ten months to a year do not need anything but the breast or good milk. Cow's milk, when pure, is made like mothers' milk by adding one-third water to two-thirds milk and warming to blood heat and a little over one and a quarter ounces of white sugar to a pint of the mixture; but in the city a good deal of the milk has plenty of water and too little cream. If you do not nurse the child see that the nursing-bottle tube and mouth-piece are kept in clean water when not used. The addition of a little soda will keep them from turning sour. If the baby does not thrive well on cows' milk consult a physician and take him some of the milk you are using, or bring it to 301 Mott street and the Board of Health will examine it for you.

SUN STROKE IS CAUSED

by excessive heat, and especially if the weather is muggy. It is more apt to occur in the second, third or fourth day of a heated term than on the first. Loss of sleep, worry, excitement, close sleeping rooms, debility, abuse of stimulant, etc., predispose it. It is much more apt to attack those working in the sun, and especially between the hours of eleven o'clock in the morning and four o'clock in the afternoon. On hot days wear thin clothing and have sleeping rooms as cool as possible. If working indoors where there is a strong heat see that the room is well ventilated. If working in the sun wear a light hat; not black, as it absorbs heat, and put on the inside of it a wet cloth or green leaf. Frequently lift the hat from the head and see that the cloth is wet. Do not check perspiration, but drink what water you need to keep it up, as perspiration prevents the body from being overheated. Have, wherever possible, an additional shade, as a big umbrella. When much fatigued do not go to work, rather be excused from work after 11 o'clock in the morning on very hot days, especially if the work is in the sun.

If a feeling of fatigue, dizziness, headache or exhaustion occur, cease work at once; lie down in a shady, cool apartment and apply cold cloths to, and pour cool water over, head and neck. If anyone is overcome by the heat, send at once for the nearest good physician. Give water, or cool black tea, or coffee, if 'able to swallow.' If the skin is hot and dry, spring water over the body is good and apply to the head pounded ice in addition.

BEWARE OF OPIATES.

In order to induce natural and healthful sleep such methods are to be adopted as will abstract an excess of blood from the brain. This may be accomplished by exercise, which draws off the blood to the more weary organs; while a well-ordered digestion demands the blood that keeps the brain in too great an activity for the stomach; where it is needed. To sleep well, too, according to Dr. Ferrier, one must, if possible rid himself of all care, anxiety and disturbing thoughts as the natural season of repose approaches. A brisk walk toward the close of the day, and when the brain has been overtaxed, is commended to us. But Dr. Ferrier warns us—and it were well if he could be heard everywhere and heeded—from opiates as "dangerous ground." They do not produce sleep so much as torpor. If you cannot get sleep by methods which nature itself dictates, he says, it is full time to call in the family doctor.

Domestic Economy.

WASHING VEGETABLES.

We find the following floating about and although somewhat on the "extreme order" still it contains some hints worthy of attention.

Those who value fresh vegetables and sweet salads will have none washed in the garden. Neither the one nor the other should be washed until they are just about to be cooked or eaten. Even potatoes lose flavor quickly after being washed; so do carrots and turnips; while water will speedily become tainted in summer in contact with cauliflowers and cabbages, and thus destroy their freshness and flavor. The case is still worse with salads. If washed at all, it should be only before they are dressed, and they should be dried and dressed immediately. Nothing ruins the flavor of vegetables and renders good salading uneatable sooner than water hanging about them. If lettuce are quite clean, they make the best salad unwashed; but if washed the operation should be done quickly, and the water instantly shaken out, and the leaves dried with a clean cloth. But alas! how often are they cut and washed in the garden in the morning, and pitched into water in the scullery sink until wanted. What French *artiste* would be mad enough to rinse out his salad juice and then recharge his lettuces and his endives with semi-putrid-water?

The best practice is simply to remove all superfluous earth by scraping or rubbing, and all rough tops or leaves by cutting. Enough tender leaves may still be left on cauliflowers and broccoli to overlap the flowers. Salad should be sent in from the garden with most of the outside leaves and main root on. The tender leaves are easily tainted and injured by exposure, and if the chief root is cut off sharp, much of the juice oozes out at the wound. When vegetables and salading have to be bought from a town green-grocer, the conditions are altogether different. Not only washing, but soaking often becomes requisite to restore something like pristine crispness.

DIRECTIONS FOR KALSOMINING.

Buy the best bleached glue, if the walls are to be white or some light tint (if dark, it is immaterial, so the glue is clean), and use it in the proportion of a quarter of a pound to eight pounds of whiting. Soak the glue over night, in the morning pour off the water, as it simply swells while soaking. Add fresh water, put it in a pail, and set that in a kettle of boiling water. When dissolved, stir it into the whiting, adding enough water to make it, after mixing, of the same consistency as common whitewash. It may be tinted any color, and is applied with a whitewash brush. If the color is rubbed smooth in a little water and then mixed with the wash, it will be more even. If the walls have been previously whitewashed, scrape away all that will come off, and wash with a solution of white vitriol—two ounces in a pail of water. The vitrol will be decomposed, forming zinc white and plaster of Paris, to which the kalsomine easily adheres. It is important to dissolve the glue in a hot water bath, for if scorched by too great heat, its tenacity is impaired or destroyed.

COOK AND HOUSEKEEPER.

A good cook is not the one who uses the most and richest ingredients, regardless of the expense; but she who studies economy, and is able to concoct a delicious meal from scanty materials.

To be a successful housekeeper, a woman requires as much system and tact as she would to carry on any other business. It is in this particular that so many of our foreign "help" prove unsatisfactory.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Chocolate Cake.—Mr. Editor, I see through your paper, (the Rural) a recipe wanted of chocolate cake. Here is an excellent one, and never fails, if followed by rule. 1½ cups of sugar, 1 ditto sweet milk, 2 tablespoons melted butter, 2 teaspoons cream tartar, 1 ditto soda, 1 pint of flour, whites of 3 eggs, bake as jelly cake. Frosting for inside.—Whites of 1½ eggs, beat to a froth, and add ½ cup of sugar, ½ cup of grated chocolate, flavor with vanilla. Frosting for outside.—½ cup of grated chocolate, 1 ditto brown sugar, ¼ wine glass water, boil until it will harden in water.—Mrs. J. L. G.

Chocolate Marble Cake for J. C.—One cupful of butter, two cupfuls of sugar, one of sweet milk, three of flour; whites of five eggs; two teaspoonfuls of cream tartar and one of soda. Take one teacupful of the latter and stir into it one large spoonful of grated chocolate, wet with a small tablespoonful of milk, fill a cake-dish about one inch deep with the white batter, then drop in two or three places a spoonful of the dark mixture; continue this until the batter is all used.—Mattie Hiatt, *Winchester, Ind.*

Scientific and Useful.

THE SODA MINES OF WYOMING.

The soda consumed in the United States is now imported from England. During the year 1875 about 200,000 tons were used, costing $12,000,000. There is a prospect now, however, that the time will soon come when not only the consumption of this country can be supplied from the production in its own borders, but that enough can be mined to supply the world. The deposits lately discovered, says the Omaha Herald, and for which land patents have been issued lie on the north side of the Sweetwater River, in Carbon County, Wyoming, about 55 miles north of the town of Rawlins on the Union Pacific Railroad. The soda is found in a clerystalized state, solid as ice. The deposit is something over 400 acres in extent and of unknown depth, and estimated to contain enough soda to supply the world for a thousand years. The mineral is a carbonate of soda, containing a small quantity of common salt and sulphate of common soda. Analysis has shown it to be of about the same purity as soda ash of commerce. The owners it is said, will immediately commence to build a railroad from the deposit to connect with the Pacific road. A capital of $1,500,000 is to be employed, and to fully utilize these deposits there will be employment for 2,500 persons.

FURNITURE POLISH.

If you wish one of the simplest and best, get a pint bottle and fill it with equal parts of boiled linseed oil and kerosene oil; any druggist has the former; mix and apply with a flannel, and rub dry with a second flannel. It will remove all scratches and white marks made by bruising. Destroy the rags or keep in open sight, as oiled cloths have been known to ignite spontaneously. Have used this for years.

STRENGTHENING SACKS.

A German paper recommends the following recipe for making sacks stronger and more desirable:—Take a proportion of two pounds of oaken ashes to two and three-quarter gallons of boiling water, let the mixture boil for an hour, and pour off the liquid, in which the sacks are to be soaked twenty-four hours. It is said that this process "tans" the vegetable fibers in the sacks, just as hides are tanned."

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL NOTES.

Glue.—A teaspoonful of saltpetre added to a large potful of glue will effectually prevent it from smelling; besides, it causes it to dry faster and harder than it would without it.

A New Mucilage.—The Journal de Pharmacie states that if, to a strong solution of gum arabic, measuring 8⅓ fluid ozs., a solution of 30 grains sulphate of aluminum dissolved in ⅔ oz. water be added, a very strong mucilage is formed, capable of fastening wood together, or of mending porcelain or glass.

To Preserve Wood, Skins, Woven Tissues, &c., from the Attacks of Insects, Decay, &c.—The first step is to form a metallic soap insoluble in water by means of a metallic solution, such as the sulphates of alumina, copper or iron, and a soluble soap, like that of Marseilles, or even a rosin soap. This may be done either hot or cold, stirring well to effect the mixture. In the hot process the insoluble soap melts.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

ANDREW S. FULLER, Editor.

ELBERT S. CARMAN, - - Associate Editor.

X. A. WILLARD, A. M., Little Falls, N. Y.,
EDITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DAIRY HUSBANDRY.

G. A. C. BARNETT, Publisher.

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SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1876.

COUNT THE COST.

In business circles, if it becomes known that a person is careless about his accounts, that he does not make a practice of taking an inventory of his stock on hand, his accounts due and debts payable, and completely and accurately balance his books, to know how he stands with the world, his credit becomes impaired and, as a rule, his failure is inevitable.

If a manufacturer should commence business and have in view only the fact that he must sell his goods for a price as low as or lower than his neighbors receive for similar wares, without estimating their cost, his margin of profit would be enormous to prevent his soon finding himself with less money than he commenced with.

At a book trade in New York a few years ago, APPLETON & Co. declined an offer for 500,000 copies of Webster's Spelling Book which was only one-eighth of a cent below their price. They knew what the book cost them to make and were not satisfied with the profit that would be left after the deduction of that small amount.

The proprietor of one of the largest bakeries in New York insisted on having his accounts so concisely kept that his books were balanced daily at 12 o'clock. The superintendent of every department at that time rendered an account of what flour and other material had come into his hands, what remained and what products he had delivered to salesroom. The superintendent of the salesroom accounted for everything received; if sold, how and to whom; and if on hand, a regular account of stock was rendered. The bookkeeper was required to tabulate these reports and to add to them the estimate of the day's expense for rent, labor, wear of machines, interest on investments—everything, not even the sweepings were neglected, and every night the proprietor was furnished with an abstract. That man acquired a reputation for giving better bakers' products for the same money than any other baker in New York. He died about two years ago and, as might be supposed, left a large fortune, every dollar of which he had made by industry, economy and strict attention to the small details of business.

While the farmer cannot calculate the cost of his productions so closely as the manufacturer, that should be no reason why he should not do so as well as he can. But how many can tell what it really costs him to raise ten acres of corn, wheat or potatoes and how, if he does not know the relative expense of production, can he know which is the most profitable for him to raise?

A collector of Internal Revenue for a rural district comprising four or five townships, told the writer that in all his district he found but one farmer who pretended to keep any account with his farm and he was a physician, who had retired from practice, and few were found who had any idea of the amount of farm product consumed by the family. It seems to us that a little more thought and care in these matters would be of great advantage, both by way of economizing and of directing labor to those channels where it pays best.

And in this connection we beg to say a word to wives and daughters. It used to be an old saying in Yankee land that it was the man's business to bring home the money and the woman's to see that it was used judiciously and economically. But there is a sad want of knowledge of domestic economy in the land and no school is more needed than a school for housekeepers. Who can tell how much it costs to make a loaf of bread or half a dozen pies—whether it is more economical to use eggs for food or sell them at the market rates—how much a pound of beef will lose in roasting or boiling? There are a hundred of these little domestic conundrums that could be studied to advantage. We doubt if there be one who reads this that can tell even the approximate value of the provisions he consumes in a year. What difference does it make if we know or not? Just this—that with a thought about it will naturally come the endeavor to get the best results from the expenditure of the least money. It is the little things that count. Two and two make four. We made that axiomatic expression to a young lady a few days ago, in reference to certain minor expenditures. "I know it," said she, "but it don't seem as if it did." She took the idea at once. Remembering the cost of every article, we see the sum total in a different light.

We might continue this subject by looking at it in its various aspects and may take it up again some time. We have so far had in mind the cost of material things. The cost of habits would give room for much moralizing. The cost of smoking the first cigar, for instance; who can calculate it—whether considered pecuniarily, physically or morally?

PROFITS OF RURAL PURSUITS.

LARGE fortunes are not as frequently made in farming and other rural pursuits as in what are generally termed commercial enterprises conducted in our larger cities and villages and as an offset to this it may be truthfully said that fewer are lost after having been accumulated. The gain in almost every occupation of man corresponds with the risks taken, and if the farmer has a less number of chances to make a fortune than the merchant, or stock-broker, he also runs less risk of losing what little he may have gained. But from the frequent complaints which reach us from the country we must conclude that there are a great number of discontented persons among our rural population as well as among those residing in cities. The question, however, which concerns ourselves and a majority of our readers most is, which of the two classes are really the worse off under the present depression of trade, or as it is generally termed "hard times?"

It is doubtless the fact that the method of counting profits of country and city people are quite different. The city man who labors for a living looks upon the net returns of sales after deducting first cost and expenses of conducting his business, although this may be consumed in his own personal expenses or that of his family. The farmer however counts only the clear gains, over and above what has been used for himself and family during the year. This is not a fair way of making up the account, or making a comparison with city people who have no greater amount of capital invested in business.

Now the farmer usually lives in his own house, therefore has no rent to pay to exacting landlords, he also has his horses and vehicles to carry himself and family to mill and to meeting without extra cost, luxuries which few men in a city with five, ten or twenty thousand dollars invested in business can seldom afford. Then, again, the farmer is not obliged to put his hand into his pocket every time a head of lettuce, cabbage, or peck of potatoes is wanted in the kitchen. Stale vegetables, adulterated milk, addled eggs and a thousand other necessaries which the residents of cities meet daily, are or should be unknown in the country.

It is also well to take into the account the freedom of country life from the thousand of petty annoyances which cannot be avoided in cities. If farmers' wives, as is often claimed and perhaps justly so, do work harder than their sisters in the cities, they are compensated for it in part at least in seeing their children grow up more robust and healthy, through the inhalation of a purer atmosphere and a wider field for exercise. It is however, still a mooted question whether the city woman does not as a rule labor as hard as those of the country to meet the demands of society in which she moves. It may be difficult to get everything to work as smoothly and evenly as we would all desire, still the advantage and disadvantages of location, as well as occupation and position in life are about equal when sifted of all extraneous matter.

IMPLEMENT EXHIBITION.

FROM our Centennial Correspondence on another page we are enabled to judge how far short of the original intention this Department of the Exhibition has fallen. It seems to have been a struggle of the manufacturers to bring their important interest to the notice of progressive people against the attempt of the Commission to hide this light under a bushel. The manufacturers went into the thing with great earnestness and a full desire to forward the objects of the International Exposition so far as time, money and labor *of their own* would accomplish it. The Commission attempted to snub them; but fortunately the large majority of them belong to a class of intelligent, shrewd, straightforward sort of men that don't snub worth a cent.

Fully appreciating the old adage, that "half a loaf is better than no bread"—denied the privilege of a Competitive Field Trial, they went into the Field Exhibition (the next best thing) with enthusiasm and numbers which plainly bespoke for them a steadiness of purpose not easily balked by official stupidity. The Chief of the Agricultural Bureau too, is not a man to be easily turned from a good purpose by trifling obstacles. Let him continue to maintain his Department in the face of official obstructions hereafter as he has done in the past and he will come out of the affair in November with flying colors, which will be a striking contrast to the position of many of those managers who are neglecting the objects of their appointment in their general quarrel over their finances.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

June Lilacs in Brooklyn.—There is nothing more gratifying than to read the lines of a writer whose words impress you with the feeling that he knows whereof he speaks. You feel that you are in the company of a master and surrender at once all thought of previously-attained knowledge to give place to his teachings. "Here," you say, "is one to whom homage is due. His writings combine the results of accurate observation and cultivated reasoning." But would such an one have written the lines we cut from the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Eagle for June 27: "The city just now is one vast flower garden and wherever one turns the *odor of lilacs* and sweet-scented clover greets the senses." That writer is a little worse than the average who do the floriculture for our daily papers. But it is probably his misfortune, rather than his fault, that he don't know what lilacs are and that the last of June is not the time when they appear to the best advantage.

Cheap Postage on Plants.—At the late meeting of the Nurserymens' National Association, Mr. J. S. HUBBARD of New York moved that a committee be appointed to communicate with Congress and endeavor to get a reduction on third class matter, but as Western men do not worship or stand in awe of their representative in Congress, one of them Mr. D. B. WIER of Illinois offered the following:

Resolved, That we, the nurserymen, florists and seedsmen of the United States, in Convention assembled, demand it as our right of the Congress of the United States, that the rates of postage on seeds, cions, plants, etc., be restored to the rate of 1 cent for each 2 ounces.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

This has the ring of true metal, and if our people would demand more of their public servants and cringe less with suppliant petitions for relief, when oppressed, political demogogues might be taught to do their duty with becoming good manners.

The New Raid on Pruning.—Our uneasy theorists among horticulturists have had a rather dull time for several years past and the late tirade of SHIRLEY HIBBERD of England upon the general practice of pruning trees, has given the discontents something to talk about. We rejoice over this one foreign convert to Apostle SAUNDERS, old time theory of no pruning for fruit trees, still we believe that the old farmer was about right, when advised to pinch back his blackberry bushes to make them bear big berries, replied—That's so! I can remember when I lived down in Dartmouth that we always found the biggest blackberries on the bushes that the old cow browsed off in spring. We had much rather have an old cow loose in our garden than to put it in charge of one of these non-pruning gardeners.

Smoke Injuring Grape Vines.—For many years the vineyardists on the banks of the Hudson, who happened to be located near brick kilns, have complained of the injury to the vines from smoke. We now learn that M. C. HUSSON has addressed a paper to the French academy of sciences on this subject, showing that vineyards in close proximity to lime kilns are frequently badly injured by the smoke therefrom, and in many instances the fruit became so impregnated with noxious odors as to be unfit for making wine. Those who are cultivating vines near brick or lime kilns, or manufactories from whence much smoke is given off, may have occasion to look into this matter if bad flavors are discovered in their vines.

RURAL BREVITIES.

A POUND of copperas dissolved in a gallon of water, is said to be sure death to currant worms and even more efficacious than white Hellebore.

THE great racing event of the year, in England, the Derby, has passed and the victory won by an "illustrious stranger" from Hungary called the Mineral colt, but hereafter to be known as Kisber, after the estate where he was bred in Austro-Hungary.

THE San Juan Guide is the name of a bright little sheet published at Topeka, Kansas, the first number of which is received. We have no doubt it will prove an efficient guide to those who may seek homes in the West, as well as teach its readers how to live and prosper.

"MOON'S BEE WORLD" is what the boy's would call a "stinger" among the bee journals. Its correspondents are "live men," and some of them "brag" of their lovely crop, and are ready to back up their opinions with something more substantial than words. Its a pleasure to see men in earnest in whatever they undertake, even in beekeeping.

WE are indebted to BEACH, SON & Co. of this city, for a bunch of fine lilies, composed of the gorgeous *Lilium auratum* (or Japan Golden-banded) and that old and universal favorite, the *Lilium candidium*. Our editorial sanctum was made redolent with the refreshing fragrance of these gorgeous flowers, and we return many thanks to the donor.

THE first meeting of the National Nurserymen Association, was held at Chicago, June 14 and 15, passed off with satisfaction to all parties concerned. Nurserymen from most of the Northern States were present and discussed matters of importance to the trade, which will doubtless result in a more fraternal feeling among the members if nothing else.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

THE "Phœnix" brand Pure White Lead is corroded by the only true method, known as the "Old Dutch Process," and is sold with the positive assurance of absolute purity.

FREEDOM.

Of old sat Freedom on the hights,
The thunders breaking at her feet:
Above her shook the starry nights;
She heard the torrents meet.

There in her place she did rejoice,
Self-gather'd in her prophet-mind,
But fragments of her mighty voice
Came rolling on the wind.

Then stept she down thro' town and field
To mingle with the human race,
And part by part to men reveal'd
The fulness of her face—

Grave mother of majestic works,
From her isle-altar gazing down,
Who, God-like, grasps the triple forks,
And king-like, wears the crown;

Her open eyes desire the truth.
The wisdom of a thousand years
Is in them. May perpetual youth
Keep dry their light from tears;

That her fair form may stand and shine,
Make bright our days and light our dreams,
Turning to scorn with lips divine
The falsehood of extremes! [*Tennyson.*

Modes and Manners.

FASHION ITEMS.

NEW YORK, July 5, 1876.

NEVER, I think, has there been so much variety in dress. Women seem to have discovered that they have minds capable of developing original ideas and fashion has ceased to be an equalizing machine designed to grind down and efface all originality. In the Centennial year (could one write upon any subject without dragging in that poor word?) the style is the woman, and in the patterns appearing on this page I have endeavored to select those that can be the most readily modified to meet individual requirements. No. 4402 is an overdress of the favorite "Jewess" shape. Overdresses of this style are made, usually of either Swiss, organdies, light Cashmeres, or grenadines. White Swiss trimmed with bands of

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blue silk or ribbon, and fine knife plaitings of the material might be worn with silk of any neutral tint and thus make a very pretty house dress. Organdies, grenadines and other thin goods are trimmed with the material and lace. It is not the least of the advantages of this overdress that it can be so arranged as to make a partly-worn silk dress look very pretty and stylish.

The model is made of white dotted Swiss and trimmed with velvet. It is adjusted by means of a dart in each side of the front, together with a curved seam in the center of the back. The front and back of the waist portion, instead of meeting in the usual manner under the arm, are curved inward to a point several inches below the waist line, where the parts are joined. Three upward turning pleats are laid at the commencement of each side seam and tops fastened beneath them and tied together, confine the drapery at the back. The skirt of the back is shaped in two points and the center seam is discontinued about half way from the waist line. The pattern comes in 13 sizes for ladies, from 28 to 46 inches, bust measure. It requires seven yards of 27-inch wide material for a lady of medium size. Price of pattern, 35 cents. Although the polonaise is slowly regaining its old popularity, yet the pretty and convenient overskirt holds its own and is as as often seen on leaders of fashion as the polonaise. Still, I predict that the polonaise will eventually triumph.

The model of a close-fitting overskirt (No. 4409) is made of tucked cambric and the entire garment is composed of a single breadth fitted to the figure by darts. The ends of the breadth, instead of being joined at the back, are sloped off like a sash and a slight drapery is produced in front of each sash end by shallow upward-turning plaits near the lower edge. Beneath the belt and clusters of plaits are fastened tapes which are tied at the back. From the lower edge fall ruffles of plain cambric which are laid in plaits where they cross the tucked portions and gathered at the plain spaces. Cambric, Swiss or lawn worn over silk or grenadine skirts, makes a very tasteful garment. If plain material is used, the effect of

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tucked goods may be produced by laying clusters of tucks before the cutting is done, or more elaborately by inserting Swiss or Hamburg embroidery and bordering them with edging. This shape is also adapted to light woolen goods. The pattern is in nine sizes for ladies; waist from 20 to 36 inches, requiring 3¾ yards of material already tucked and measuring 27 inches in width, or six yards purchased plain, to be tucked before cutting. Price 30 cents.

The circumscribed limits of this article precludes anything but a mere mention of materials, but I hope to revert to this subject in the near future. I may say that the preference this season seems to be for light woolen materials such as the countless varieties of camel's hair goods. Pearl-gray and dark *ecru* are the most prominent shades. Some charming effects result from stripes which shade from the faintest to the darkest tint, and are thrown into relief by a ground almost white. The Llama, which is a mixed, loosely-woven stuff, light, and possessing good wearing qualities, makes up prettily and economically. DeBeiges now come in the new stripes and plaids. Grenadines are losing their popularity, although the new Algerines and batistes are, properly speaking, grenadines.

Cambrics and prints are striped and plaited in the same patterns and colors as mohairs and camel's hairs. They make up handsomely and are popular for street wear. The predilection for light woolen goods grows apace, and as they are now made as light as gossamer and require no weekly renovation, perhaps their popularity rests upon a sensible basis.

"Every woman her own hat maker," is the wail of milliners, and as in everything else that pertains to dress this season, there is no arbitrary style. It has at last dawned on us women that the style of face must be consulted if we desire becoming head gear. Fig. 4 sits very far back on the head. The rim is round and flat, bound with silk, and a silk coil encircles the low crown, form-

FIG. 8.

ing standing loops at the right side; a cluster and ostrich tip completes the outside decoration; a coil of silk forms the face trimming.

No. 6 is too familiar to need much description. It comes in the various straws but is, of course, most elegant when made of French chip.

No. 8 is the popular gipsy hat. The front rim is caught back by a full coil of lustrous silk; a loop of the same separates two plumes, one of which is the same shade as the loops and falls over a third tip, which is dark, like the one drooping over the face; a wreath of fine blossoms passes about the crown at the right side and falls gracefully over the back. Dark silk also encircles the crown, the ends terminating under the plumes at the front. This shape comes in Dunstable straw, which is quite pretty and less expensive than chip.

Our old friend, the inverted soup-plate shape, is still among us and I hope will *wear* as well as your correspondent FROLIC.

The Story-Teller.

MRS. VANDERDUYNCK.

LETTERS FROM ROGER FLOYD TO HOPE STANHOPE.

BY MISS E. W. OLNEY.

[Continued from page 14, last number.]

IV.

RIVERBEND, July 15.

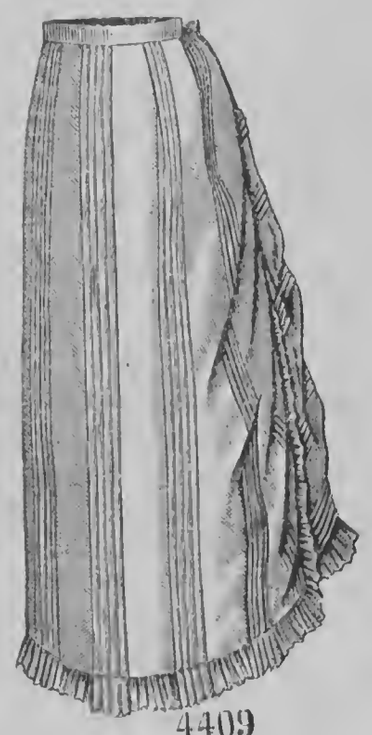
I HAVE your letter, dear Holl. You consider me, then, in peril. My coolness is an artificial crust upon smoldering volcanic fires is it, needing but a single convulsion to desolate my whole nature? What I lack is, you assure me, a rational attachment. You warn me to resist this woman as I resist the devil; for everything in our acquaintance conspires to rouse my imagination and to unchain passion. To add to the self-contempt your letter invoked, Mrs. Hunt just came in and interrupted me and we had a peculiar interview. She entered the school-room and in a friendly manner sat down here opposite me at the desk. She had a new study to propose for Albert; then, after a pause, said;

"Mr. Floyd, will you be good enough to consider me a faithful, admiring and attached friend while I speak to you?"

"You wish to say something to me for my own good," I returned with a smile.

"You are satirical," said she, with dignity; "but you do not guess my respect for your character and acquirements, my real liking for you as a gentleman."

"Do not keep me in suspense," I exclaimed. "No words of yours will ever call forth a satirical response from me, Mrs. Hunt."



4409

"I do not want you," she murmured, leaning toward me and speaking earnestly, "to become the victim of a coquettish woman. Mrs. Vanderduynck is a thorough coquette, besides being very charming. Your early morning rows on the river with her are the theme of conversation among my guests and you are called 'Mrs. Vanderduynck's caprice.' I admire you too much, Mr. Floyd, to be willing to have you in a false position. Besides, I look at the matter with the experience of a woman who knows the world and I fear for your heart. What can prevent you falling desperately in love with this beautiful young creature?"

I sprang to my feet and paced the floor for a few moments; then, mastering my anger, I went back to her.

"You are very good, Mrs. Hunt," I said with apparent coolness, "but your womanly love of romance has led you astray. I am not given to sentiment. I am here as your son's tutor and, believe me, not a thought, not a wish beyond my position has ever found place in my mind. I owe it to you as my employer to assure you on this point. Your solicitude concerning me has arisen from a total misconception of my character. As for the lady you have mentioned, if it is possible for me to surmise upon the laws that control gossip, her name will never be mentioned in connection with my own in future." She regarded me steadily.

"Pardon me," said she, rising. "How can I ask you to forgive me?"

"I thank you deeply," I returned and bowed over her extended hand; then opened the door for her and closed it behind her, returned to my desk to resume my letter to you. But that was four hours ago. It is now two o'clock and my letter is not yet finished.

If you hear of anything in my line that opens congenial employment for me, will you be good enough to let me know at once? To think of my exposing this frank young girl (for she is no more) to the tattle and gossip of the people who have watched us from their lace-trimmed pillows, overwhelms me with shame and despondency; for a man's remedy is not mine to give. I cannot protect her from the world's laugh. I cannot— But something too much of this.

V.

WEDNESDAY, MIDNIGHT,
RIVERBEND, Aug. 15.

You did not spare my feelings in your last letter, but until to-night I have laughed at your augury that the end is not yet between Mrs. Vanderduynck and myself. For since Mrs. Hunt's

FIG. 6.

conversation with me concerning the matter, I had not once looked into her face. My rowing was discontinued and I took long walks instead. I passed her once on the lawn with a salute and pretended deafness when she spoke my name softly. It seemed unmanly, but what was I to do? She is too young, besides being too well placed in the world to indulge in friendships with shabby tutors. But perhaps she pities me—good God! perhaps she pities me. I am five feet, eleven inches tall; my weight is one hundred and thirty-five. I have muscles which are recovering their

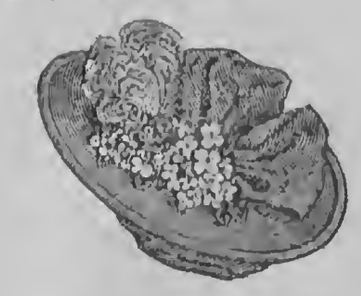


FIG. 4.

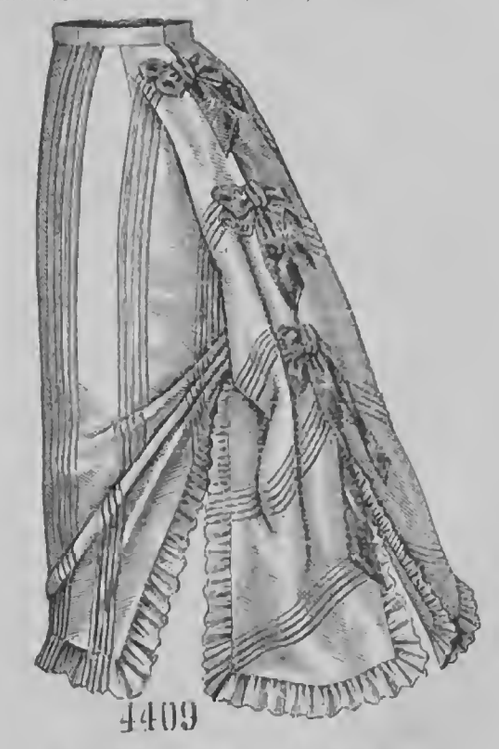
native iron; nerves that are guiltless of a tremor—yet perhaps she pities me because I am clever and yet wear at times a frayed, white-seamed coat. I don't pretend to understand women. I'll just tell you the story of this evening and leave you, with your preternatural power of detecting motives, to discover what she means!

The house seemed unusually still at six o'clock to-night. I was waiting for the boys to come in from their croquet, to ring for tea. I was tired and worn out with the heat and felt an unreasonable petulance which of late frequently assails me. I sat in my armchair, my hands clenched, my eyes closed, when suddenly something jumped on my knee. It was not the greyhound but little Cora, whom I had not seen for three weeks. I took her to my breast with real pleasure. I stroked her fine soft hair like spun gold; she held up her face to be kissed and I pressed my lips to the little rosebud mouth again and again. Tears came into my eyes—I suppose because I had been feeling lonely.

"Naughty Mr. Floyd," she cried, clinging to me, "why do you never take me in the boat any more? I love to go with you in the boat and so does mamma! Mamma says Mr. Floyd is too clever and too proud to go on talking to silly children like her and me. Are you so proud, Mr. Floyd?"

"No, dear," I responded tamely. She jumped down, still holding my hand in her own. "Come," said she, "come;" and she dragged me away unresistingly down the stairs to a little room off the library which Mrs. Hunt calls her boudoir. I had expected to see that lady, but it was Mrs. Vanderduynck who rose from the sofa where she was sitting between the boys and offered me her hand with drooping eyes and trembling lips.

"I am going to have a tea-party," said she shyly, in the softest voice, while I held her hand; the daintiest trifle of a hand, flolt, satin to the touch,



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carved alabaster to the sight and laden with rings. "I stayed at home from Judge Stone's dinner-party," she continued presently, drawing her fingers away when she found me apparently unwilling to release them. "Everybody is away except ourselves. Is it not nice?"

"Delicious," I returned, rather bereft of reason,

standing and watching her movements as she hovered over the tea-table.

"Sit down then," said she laughing, "and Cora and I will feed you and the boys."

Now, Holt, I stand in such mortal terror of your condemnation that I am going to tell you the cunningness of the temptation which induced me to break my plighted bond never to speak to Mrs. Vanderduynck again. Imagine the time and the scene. Sunset. A small room luxuriously furnished in pale-green silk, its French windows opening wide upon the terrace, a charming middle distance of flowery slopes, the river beyond, with its border of weeping willows now swaying in the evening breeze. But all that was accessory; the riveting point of the picture was this:—A lady fair and young bending over the tea-table. She was dressed in what I have heard Mrs. Hunt call Nile green, a most exquisite tint; and in this toilette, softened by delicate laces that trimmed and draped both waist and skirt, these impalpable web-like laces alone covered neck and arms. A necklace of lusterless Roman gold, with innumerable little lockets attached to it, encircled the throat and on her wrists were broad bands of the same workmanship, with little chains or charms or lockets attached—something that went tinkling and chiming among the teacups. I was in for it. I leaned back in my chair and watched her insatiably. I had never before begun to realize her beauty. She treated me well, my boy. I drank innumerable cups of tea; I ate and allowed the boys to eat a variety of comestibles which I should condemn at a school-room meal. I listened to her talk; it was charming, tender and piquant in a breath. As she flew from one to the other of us with the cream jug or the sugar basin, she reminded me of a bird with her incessant, graceful motions, her air of intense interest. In fact, she invested each trifling service with a fascination which you require to feel in order to appreciate; or, develop it out of your own moral consciousness you cannot, you luckless old fellow!

Once she was dropping sugar in my tea when the *breloque* of her bracelet chimed against my spoon. "They are so troublesome," she murmured, putting her disengaged hand upon the chain. "But then," she added laughing, "I suppose you wonder why I wear them since they are so troublesome."

"No," said I, "no. They take my fancy." Our eyes met. Hers fell.

"Is this equal to a lonely tea in the school-room?" she asked softly.

"Not in one way."

"In which way?"

"I may desire to take tea like this to-morrow night. Now my school-room teas involve no afterthoughts, no regrets."

"There is to be a ball to-morrow night," said she, soberly. "I shall sleep all the afternoon in order to feel fresh for it."

"I realize that this pleasure cannot be repeated," I returned; "in fact, therein lies part of its charm."

"You do not believe in recurring pleasures."

"This is a miracle and miracles do not repeat themselves."

"You are too clever for me, I suppose," she said, with her peculiar, indefinable charm of sad eyes and laughing lips, "for I do not understand you. For instance, why did you give up your morning rows? Had they become insufferable after Cora and I robbed them of solitude?"

"Do not think it for a moment," I cried, impetuously; but then, remembering how my tongue might betray me, I remained silent. The servants removed the tea-table, the children went back to their croquet and we were left alone. The sun had gone down, the full moon hung in the east. It was so still that, as we stood together in the open window, we could hear Roaring Brook three miles away. I had nothing to say but much to feel. She was simple and unembarrassed in her manner and talked quietly about Cora and my boys. "Let us go down to the river bank," said she, finally; "and then when we come back I will send Cora to bed and if you like I will sing to you."

I assented. She carelessly gathered up her trailing skirts and walked down the path with her hand upon my arm. I had rarely been on the grounds at that hour and their beauty astonished me. I said so.

"What do you generally occupy yourself with in the evenings?" she asked. "I often see a light in the school-room till past midnight."

"I write a great deal."

"Books? I know you have written one book. I have read it since I came here."

"That was praiseworthy of you, for you must have found it very dull. I am writing a book, but I do little about it at present. I write just now that I may make money."

"For what?" she questioned timidly. "Are you going to marry?" She blushed furiously, Holt, as she asked this.

"Oh, no," I replied with a half laugh; "I shall probably never marry. I am anxious to lay by two thousand dollars or so, that I may devote some time to my book in foreign cities. I cannot complete it here."

She looked a little weary and we returned. She called Cora, kissed her good-night and sent her off with the nurse. The boys went docilely to the school-room for their hour of study before bedtime and Mrs. Vanderduynek and I stood together again in the window. The moonlight lit the rose-bordered terrace now, and though the west was still golden, day was over. "Shall we have lights?" she asked.

"No," I said, opening the piano; "lights would spoil this. Come and sing."

She sang for an hour. I resigned myself to the spell of her voice—not alone to that sirenic power, but to the pleasure of being close beside her. I was so near her that her dress touched my feet and when she turned, the silks and laces fluttered across my knee. The music wound into my inmost soul and stole away its strength. I no longer felt loveless and lonely. How could I, with the most beautiful woman in the world beside me—music in my ears whose suggestions made youth a pleasure, existence a thirst—a passion? But I smiled at myself within myself—a dreary smile full of cynicism; still it showed me I was not wholly a slave in thrall, though my blood ran quicker than usual in my veins and my stoicism was sleeping somewhere, lulled by unexpected happiness. The clock struck ten at last and I rose. "Must you go?" she whispered. "We have had a pleasant evening, have we not?"

"We have indeed," said I. "You are used to pleasant evenings, but I—I never had such an evening before in my life." I spoke quite coolly, Timon; put no warmth into that speech of mine, for there was none in it. I did not go quite then. It was so pleasant outside we strolled about the grounds once more.

THURSDAY NIGHT, 2 O'CLOCK.

I went to bed last night, after writing the foregoing, in a tumult of feeling, and slept little. I laughed at my quickened pulsations as I lay there in the dark and gave myself a holiday from my task-mistress Reason for twenty-four hours of passionate folly. They are not over yet; before they slip away I am going to look them once more in the face. Sitting by Evelyn's side last night (she incidentally told me her name was Evelyn and in ardent dreams one does not like to call his goddess by so long and grotesque a name as Mrs. Vanderduynek), I felt that man is made to love. A thousand ardent impulses quickened me; they did not vanish with her presence, but haunted my sleep and met me when I awoke this morning. Mrs. Hunt begged a holiday for the boys, as her ball came off to-night, and the day was like a fete to them, as the house and grounds were under the arrangement of workmen and decorators. Mrs. Hunt had insisted that I should be present at the ball and this morning I formally accepted the invitation. Having nothing to do, I unloosened my boat from her moorings and determined to spend the day as the fit seized me. Why should I not enjoy a fool's paradise one day, since I felt the power to turn out the insurgent passion to-morrow and reinstate reason in her domain?

I came home toward dusk. The Chinese lanterns were all lighted as I came up from the river and the supper tent was a miracle of brilliance and tasteful decoration. I hastily gained my own room, rang for my tea and read a novel for an hour in utter forgetfulness of my real life and its requirements. At half-past nine I dressed. As I drew on my gloves I was asinine enough to be glad that the figure in my glass was correct in outline and style; and with the fire born of happy thoughts lighting up my face, I was even good looking. I was glad, as I say. The youth I had believed forever gone had returned with its enchanting demons to tempt me and I wanted to be no withered Faust, but a Faust young and *debonair*. It neared half-past ten when I descended the stairs. The band was playing delirious waltzes that seemed the language of my own passionate longing. I found Mrs. Hunt in the little parlor off the long drawing-room.

"I consider myself quite honored," said she graciously. "Had I the time I would ask you to walk through the rooms with me, but the people are not yet all here. You must speak to Mrs. Vanderduynek. She is in the other room dancing, I suppose."

I walked through the crowded halls and entered the drawing-room. I am not used to such assemblages and for a quarter hour the foamy sea of gauzy dresses, white shoulders, floating curls, cavaliers in dress suits and with courtly smiles on their moustached faces, dowagers in yellow lace and diamonds, surged about me without my gaining a sufficiently clear vision to see what I was seeking. Half a dozen gentleman moved on from the punch bowl in the hall and grouped together in the doorway, carelessly rattling on.

"Decatur is no end of spoons on her," said one, in that clear and concise English which distinguishes fashionable young men.

"That's so," remarked another, "and he is taking his innings to-night, apparently. I declare it's too bad to see how she plays with him."

"Not a bit of it," remarked a third. "It's a fair fight. She knows that he is a notorious fortune-hunter and she has a perfect right to despise such devotion. She's a good little creature at heart."

"She's got on the pearls to-night!" interposed the first speaker. "Jove, how they shine! Look at Winthrop! What fools she makes of men!"

"Nature was beforehand with her in Winthrop's case. It's my turn soon. Tom, I heard about her being sweet on Mrs. Hunt's tutor. Is he here to-night?"

"Dunno. Seedy fellow, I suppose. Tutors always are. Rich women always adore shabby fellows out at elbows."

"*La caprice d'une grand dame*," sneered somebody whom I longed to throttle, and then they all crossed over to Mrs. Vanderduynek, who had paused under the arch. She was superbly handsome. She was dressed in some black gauzy stuff, with silver lilies, embroidered, I suppose, all over it. She was in what social parlance denominates full dress; arms, neck and shoulders were bare and on bosom and wrists hung large, fair, lustrous pearls. The waltz had flushed her and her eyes were dark, liquid, dangerous. Twenty men were grouped about her and she was talking with a sort of electrical life and animation. I knew she was aware of my vicinity, for she had turned once to meet my eyes, but her own had drooped with sudden timidity. I felt no shyness; in fact, I felt an almost ungenerous desire to triumph once over these elegant young men who surrounded her with incessant and graceful homage. I left my position, took advantage of a temporary break in the circle and edged my way so close to her that I could hold out my hand.

"Good evening, Mrs. Vanderduynek," said I, coolly meeting her pleased glance. "I have come to ask you for a waltz." She flushed and smiled.

"I had kept this for you," she returned; "and though my book is so mixed up that I expect all my friends will cut me to-morrow, still this is decidedly yours, Mr. Floyd."

She nodded to the men about her and took my arm. "I was so afraid you were not coming down stairs," she whispered, her face close to my shoulder. "I have been watching for you for an hour."

I merely looked down at her. Words seemed poor.

"Do you really waltz?" she went on. "I suspect it was a ruse of yours to send those men away from me."

"Indeed I waltz," said I. "I could never have dared otherwise to despoil you, for I know you love dancing."

The band commenced a sighing, delicious strain. I put my arm about her and we moved away together. The music changed all too soon for me and a quadrille followed. "Let us go upon the piazza," said my partner, "for I am warm—so warm." We passed through the open windows and joined the promenaders there.

"How well you waltz!" she murmured. "I should never have suspected you of such an accomplishment."

"Even bears dance," I rejoined, "but I should never have learned unless a Spanish woman had insisted on teaching me in spite of myself."

She laughed peculiarly. "A Spanish woman! Ah, thereby hangs a tale!"

"Not a romantic one, Mrs. Vanderduynek. Some two years ago I was detained with a sick friend in the doctor's house in Huannaco and the physician's wife—a little ugly woman of forty—was so fond of waltzing she insisted on my dancing two hours every evening with her." I spoke coldly. I was too conscious of undue excitement not to be afraid of unloosening my tongue; but a pause ensued which was bad for me. Her little hand was on my arm; her bare shoulder touched my sleeve. She looked up at me and smiled! "Stay a moment," said she, as we reached a distant, deserted corner of the piazza. "Listen to the music! Ah, how I love waltz music! Those are the 'Blue Danube' waltzes! Is it not a lovely ball? I never enjoyed one so much. Nothing fails me to-night. It is my birth-night, did you know it?"

"No."

"Yes. I am twenty-three years old. Sometimes I feel old—very old—but to-night I feel young, with a long life of happiness before me. Look at the moonlight! And do you smell the tuberoses? Is it not beautiful?" She had uttered these words in a low whispering voice which thrilled me as it caressed my ear. I could not speak, for if I spoke I should have told her what I had no wish to tell her. My silence apparently surprised her. "I cannot understand you to-night," said she. "Sometimes you seem to be my friend, but now, when I am so happy, you appear so indifferent—so cold."

"Indifferent, cold," I echoed, and laughed a bitter laugh. She drew back from me, slightly loosening her hand from my arm and regarding me wonderingly. As she moved, by chance her fingers touched mine. I had too thoroughly resigned myself to passion's sway for the last twenty-four hours not to be its slave now. I caught her hand before it could leave mine and pressed it to my breast; then covered it and the delicate, braceleted wrist and rounding arm, with kisses. I confess my folly. It was a barbarous action; but she should have learned before this what such a man as I is made of. Her drawing-room admirers—men who have drained passion to the dregs—may languidly palter with such temptations. I could not. The moonlight gleamed on the pearly shoulders and arms. I remembered our waltz. She called me cold when I was ardently alive to each perfection of that exquisite face and form, and a second Prometheus, I determined to dare heaven's vengeance for such sacred fire. She was quite helpless and trembled violently.

"Do not accuse me of coldness for, where you are concerned, I am just so cold and indifferent!" I muttered, releasing her at last. "I will take you back to the drawing-room. It is not safe for you to be out here alone with a madman." Her sweet face was bent down upon her bosom; she looked as shy as a girl of sixteen. Had she found courage, I think she would have spoken; but her lips were too tremulous to form the words which I saw fluttering there. I sighed. I must have kissed her lips had I stood there longer, Holt, for there was timid but eloquent passion in her whole mien. But I took the little hand, put it on my arm and led her back along the piazzas to the parlors, where I left her standing under the arch where I first found her. That was an hour and a half ago, my friend. The band is playing the "Blue Danube" waltzes again down stairs.—[Concluded in next No.

BUDDAH'S COMMANDMENTS.

By gentleness, 'overcome anger; by good, evil; by liberality, greed; by openness and truth, dissembling and falsehood.

Speak the truth; yield not to anger; give, when asked, of the little thou hast; by these three steps thou shalt go near the gods.

A man slothful, saying many good things but not doing them, is like a herdsman counting the kine of others, but owning none.

Sabbath Reading.

SOMEWHERE.

SOMEWERE—somewhere a happy clime there is,
A land that knows not unavailing woes,
Where all the clashing elements of this
Discordant scene are hushed in deep repose,
Somewhere—somewhere (ah me, that land to win!)
Is some bright realm, beyond the furthest main,
Where trees of Knowledge bear no fruit of sin,
And buds of Pleasure blossom not in pain.
Somewhere—somewhere an end to mortal strife
With our immortal yearnings; nevermore
The outer warring with the inner life
Till both are wretched. Ah, that happy shore!
Where shines for aye the soul's refulgent sun,
And life is love, and love and joy are one!

[*John G. Saxe.*

BIBLE ALBUMS.

BIBLE Albums induce the young to study their Bible, and they make a pleasant occupation for invalids. The process of making the album is to cut out pictures from books, newspapers and magazines, and, having found Scripture texts to illustrate the pictures, paste them in the album, putting the text immediately under the illustration. The one above all others who has done a commendable work in popularizing Bible Albums is Lady Juliana Walker of London, the third great-granddaughter of William Penn, the Quaker. Besides setting an example herself, she has induced her friends to make these albums, and the thanks of patients in the London hospitals have been her reward. Many, on a sick-bed, who have no strength or inclination to read the Bible, will look at a Bible Album, and thus a text of Scripture may fasten itself in the memory. Lady Walker, in addition to her interest in Bible Albums, is now engaged in promoting the flower mission in London. One calling at a certain hour of the day might find her occupied in preparing hampers of flowers for the poor, attaching to each bouquet a text of Scripture, which she calls a bouquet-holder. Lady Walker is anxious that Bible Albums may be introduced extensively into our own country. For this purpose she has sent to a lady in Brooklyn two albums, tastefully bound and beautifully ornamented, the result of much careful study. Under some of the pictures are twenty or thirty suitable texts. The texts, in many cases, with the accompanying illustrations, are better than an ordinary sermon. The picture of a suffering invalid is found over the words, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." A fine wood-cut of Durham Cathedral, in England, is aptly described by a verse in Proverbs, "The rich and poor meet together. The Lord is the maker of them all." A whole page is devoted to shells, sea-weed and fishes. The accompanying verse is, "And the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee." A large elephant, though not very accurately, is yet suggestively described by the verse, "Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory." One page is devoted to what the Bible says of trees, giving the names of trees and the illustrative texts. On another page is the music of the Bible, showing the names of the instruments used and the occasions of their use. Several pages are given up to women and their work. The picture of a beautiful woman makes a universally accepted fact of the clause, "It is not good that man should be alone." Beneath this text are the following lines:

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

"The rights of women! What are they?
The right to labor and to pray;
The right to comfort in distress;
The right, when others curse, to bless;
The right to love when others scorn;
The right to comfort all who mourn;
The right to shed new joy on earth;
The right to feel the soul's high worth;
The right to lead the soul to God,
Along the path her Saviour trod—
The path of meekness and of love,
The path of faith that leads above,
The path of patience under wrong,
The path in which the weak grow strong.
Such woman's right, and God will bless
And support or give success."

Scenes in Christ's life, and prominent biblical characters and epochs are vividly portrayed in these albums, so that the young, the sick or any one can often acquire from them in a half hour what they would fail to learn in days.

BISHOP WHIPPLE gives an account of some tableaux given by a tribe of Western Indians for his amusement. They were intended to show three phases of an Indian's existence—the wild, the civilized and the Christianized. The curtain rose first on a party of aborigines, in a dark forest, nearly nude—this was the native state; the second showed to his delighted eyes the same actors, dressed as semi-savages, armed with rifles and pistols, and grossly intoxicated. The third was composed entirely of women, who sat meekly attired in black alpaca dresses. They were evangelized.

To hold truth for untruth is always a loss, even if the matter immediately in question is trivial. The prejudice may arise from some unperceived defect in ourselves; and the letting in of the new light may be a step in the course of self-improvement. But, further, such a misapprehension may possibly hinder the acceptance of some ulterior truth, which is of real importance. Thus the diligent festering of a candid habit of mind, even in trifles, is a matter of greater moment than appears at first sight.—*Dean Howson.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

COMFORT.

I HAVE professed to love thee, MARY mine;
Mine still, to cherish, comfort and protect;
To give thee, from my heart's interior shrine,
All that I can, and duly not neglect.
You have believed my words, and hold me true
As LANCELOT, the brave Round Table Knight,
Who nothing less than highest honor knew;
May I ne'er grow less worthy in your sight.
And I have promised, should an evil day
Ere dawn upon you (which the fates forefend),
To be to you a comfort and a stay,
Alway and everywhere till life shall end.
Such promise I will keep: but still I pray
You may be saved from every harm alway.

But if there come a time, as come there may,
When sudden tribulation smites thine heart,
And thou dost come to me for help and stay
And comfort—how shall I perform my part?
How shall I make my heart a resting place,
A shelter safe for thee when terrors smite?
How shall I bring the sunshine to thy face,
And dry thy tears in bitter woe's despite?
How shall I win the strength to keep my voice
Steady and firm, although I hear thy sobs?
How shall I bid thy fainting soul rejoice,
Nor mar the counsel of mine own heart-throbs?
Love, my Love, teaches me a certain way,
So, if the dark hour come, I am thy stay.

I must live higher, nearer to the reach
Of angels in their blessed trustfulness,—
Learn their unselfishness ere I can teach
Content to thee, whom I would greatly bless.
What woe were mine, if thou should'st ever come,
Troubled but trusting unto me for aid,
And I should meet thee powerless and dumb,—
Willing to help thee, but confused, afraid.
It shall not happen thus, for I will rise,
God helping me, to higher life, and gain
Courage and strength to give thee counsel wise,
And deeper love to bless thee in thy pain.
Fear not, dear Love—thy trial hour shall be
The dearest bond between my heart and thee.

A LADY ON LADIES.

WOMEN have their own place both in nature and society—a place beautiful, important, ennobling and delightful, if they would but think so. But with the curse of discontent resting on them from the beginning, they prefer to spoil the work of men rather than try to perfect their own. Say, of their own special work, what is perfected to such a degree of excellence as warrants their leaving it to take care of something else? The servant question in all its branches annoys and harasses everyone; but this, essentially a woman's question, a circumstance of that part of life which is organized, administered and for the larger proportion fulfilled by women, is confessedly in a state of chaos and disorder, paralleled by none other of our social arrangements. The extravagance of living, of dress, of appointments, which is part of the servant disorder—because maids, being women, will trick themselves out in finery to attract as much admiration as their mistresses; and men, being animals, will gorge where their masters feast—whence do these come save from women, rulers of society, regulators of modes and fashions as they are? Do the husbands order the dinners or decide on the length of the train or the fashion of the dress? If the ladies of Britain chose that the rule of life should be one of noble simplicity, beautiful, artistic, full of meaning and delight, the false ornament and meretricious excess with which we are overweighted now would fall from us and the servant question among others, would get itself put straight. It is a matter of fashion, not necessity, and the *mot d'ordre* comes from above. But where is the spirit of organization, the resolutions to meet difficulties, the courage of self-control, through which alone great movements are made and great reforms led? The women who want to influence the councils of the empire, to have a voice in the making of laws which are to touch and reconcile contending interests, to help in the elucidation of difficult points, the administration of doubtful cases, see the servants standing in a disorganized mob at the gates of the social temple and are unable to suggest anything whereby they may be reduced to order and content. But at the same time the women who complain of their own stunted lives and who demand leave to share the lives and privileges of men, deny the right of their maids to live up to a higher standard as far as they themselves are concerned and hold the faith that service should mean practically servitude.

It is not the fathers who use the schools for their daughters—not the governors who draw up the programme of what is to be taught there—not men who decide that what boys can attain only by long years of close application, girls may knock off by a few months' "classes"—nor yet men who think it indelicate for women to teach a girl the most ordinary, the most necessary facts in physiology, on the one hand, but who send her into the dissecting room with a crowd of youths, on the other. Whatever girls' schools may have been, women alone have made and ordered them. If the women who mould and regulate the lives of women; and if the answer is, Mothers make their girls what men desire them to be, is there not a counter reply: Are not all men the sons of women? The miserable thing called a polite education has been and is emphatically the work of women; that more miserable thing called a fine lady is still more emphatically her work and creation; and the fast woman—the girl of the period—is by no means the work of man's hands or brain. But with all this cry for education, the higher teaching formulated and offered of late has not been taken advantage of by women for its own sake so much as for the practical use of which it may be hereafter. Women as rule do not care for knowledge *qua* knowledge. On the contrary, they prefer ignorance. There is not a sentimental craze, not a superstitious fancy, not an unworkable crotchet, which does not count its woman advocates by hundreds, where its men supporters are in units; and their attitude toward science and free thought generally is lamentable. The very shriekers who have shaken their skirts at all the restraints of sex have not emancipated themselves from the thraldom of illogical crotchets and weak superstitions—rather the contrary; and more than one subject could be named on which they have shown themselves totally unable to reason, to reflect, and good only for hysterics all around.—*Mrs. Lenton, in Belgravia.*

CONSCIENCE.

THE idea of a *civil* conscience! It is a good joke—an excellent joke. All the consciences *I* ever heard of were nagging, badgering, fault-finding, execrable savages! Yes; and always in a sweat about some poor little insignificant trifle or other. Destruction catch the lot of them, *I* say! I would change mine for the small-pox and seven kinds of consumption, and be glad of the chance. Now tell me, why *is* it that a conscience can't haul a man over the coals once for an offense, and then let him alone? Why is it that it wants to keep on pegging at him, day and night and night and day, week in and week out, forever and ever, about the same old thing. There is no sense in that, and no reason in it. I think a conscience that will act like that is meaner than the very dirt itself."—*Mark Twain, in Atlantic for June.*

POISON IN LADIES' HAT TRIMMINGS.

THE other day a lady had a hat sent home from a milliner's and put it on to take a drive. On her return she was very much surprised, and not a little alarmed, to find a painful, and by no means ornamental, eruption covering her forehead. As her hat was well forward it occurred to her that that might have connection with the cutaneous difficulty, and so she had the lining stuff analyzed by a chemist. The dye-stuff was found to be very poisonous.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

MISS CHRISTINA ROSETTI is investigating the analogies between the works of Spencer and Dante.

A LOUISVILLE fashion writer says:—"Overskirt cut bias and pinned back was the prevailing style in the fashionable churches yesterday."

THE Harvard Professors in chemistry, mineralogy and botany, certify that in these studies girl students are in no way inferior to the men.

THE MOMENTOUS QUESTION.—Augustus: "Now, Emily, do you love me or do you not?" Emily—"Well, if I say I don't, shall I have to return your presents?"

MRS. GOVERNOR HAYES is described as a modest, intelligent, cultivated and sprightly woman, with a pair of laughing eyes which are black and bright.

FASHIONABLE wedding notices in some sections of the country mostly conclude thus: "At the conclusion of the ceremony, the happy pair left by rail for Philadelphia."

A MASSACHUSETTS matron in taking leave of her newly-married daughter, said:—"Remember, Lucy, that the first principle in cleaning house is to make everybody as uncomfortable as possible."

A MARQUETTE CO. (Mich.) lady attended a circus recently and was so charmed by the grace of the acrobats that she attempted to imitate them on her return home, but unfortunately sprained both her wrists in turning her seventh successive somersault.

THE ladies of Austin (Nev.) have started a "Lying Club." The following story was told at a recent meeting of the association by a young lady who was an applicant for membership:—"A few days ago a wood-tick got into my knee and in order to get it out it was found necessary to rig a block and tackle to a post and fasten the rope to one of the legs of the creature, and it then took the combined strength of four men to hoist it out of the flesh." The application was accepted without debate.

MARY CLEMMER, in a recent Washington letter, says:—"We are approaching that line in the thermometer when from a natural law human affections cease and even woman ceases to be a lovable being; for I persist that a woman with a perspiring face, in a sticky muslin, fighting flies, is not a lovely or a lovable being. It is merely a question of weather when the capacity for romance ceases and the power of human affection dies out of the human heart. Surely it must be easier to be affectionate at the North than at the South Pole.

THE FAN LANGUAGE.—A book has been published at Berlin entitled "The Fan Language," which gives the usual sentences in the vocabulary of love and friendship, with appropriate directions as to their expression by means of the fan, such as "You have won my love"—the right hand points with closed fan towards the heart. "When may I see you?"—touch the right eye with the closed fan. "I would like to be ever near you"—fan the person in question with the open fan. "Be quiet; we are watched"—hold the closed fan over the mouth. "Dare I hope to win your love?"—unfold the fan wide with a quick movement. "Do not be so cold"—move the closed fan backward and forward with the right hand. "Do not be so jealous"—rest the closed fan against the right eyebrow. Pretty nonsense this for simpletons!

Reading for the Young.

BLESS THE BABIES!

BLESS the babies, one, two, three,
Bless the babies, all there be;
Bless them for their cunning ways,
Bless them, for the *baby pays!*

Bless the babies, daughter, son,
Bless the babies, every one;
Bless the little creatures dear,
Heaven's blessed cherubs here.

Bless the babies! Who can tell
The half we love 'em, or how well?
Their little mimic voices ring
Like garden birds', in early spring.

Bless the babies, bless their ma's,
And graciously remember pa's;
Bless the babies! Yes, we will,
And Heaven help to bless them *still.*

"Linden-Wold," 1876.

A WORD TO THE BOYS.

I WISH to say a few words to our RURAL boys. Boys, I do not purpose in these few words to preach you a sermon, but simply to have a talk with you, and shall endeavor to correct some erroneous ideas I know to be entertained by many young men and boys of our rural districts.

You sometimes think your rollicking farm life dull, monotonous and extremely laborious, and long for a situation as clerk in some kind of an establishment in the city. If I should tell you that your life on the farm is of the two much the easier, you would undoubtedly think it very strange. But I do say so; for such is the case. Could you but look in upon some of the clerks employed in many of the dry-goods establishments in our cities, and see the labor performed by them in their daily rounds, no words would be needed to convince you of this fact. Your labor is varied; 'tis walking, riding, driving and other changes, all of which are almost indispensable to proper muscular development and good health, and very unlike the closely-confined, monotonous occupation of daily standing behind a counter or sitting at a desk from the rising of the sun till near midnight ere your labor is completed and rest comes.

But I hear some young man say, "I will go to the city and make my fortune, rise to honor and opulence, instead of staying here on the farm and working hard to make a little." Young man! banish that idea. When you do away with such thoughts you will have laid more certainly the stepping stone that leads to ambition's goal. Do not think because you were born on a farm that you surely will not rise to honor and independence. Remember what POPE says:

"Honor and fame from no condition rise,
Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

Ah! that's it, "Act well your part." Act it well on the old farm, and in times like these, when fortune smiles one moment and frowns the next, upon the farm is the place to stay, where you are comparatively safe from the ever-changing whirlwind and the contaminating influence of the Metropolis. A FRIEND.

The Lake Country.

FROM AUNT MAGGIE.

MY DEAR LITTLE FOLKS:—I don't suppose that you were aware that Aunt MAGGIE had been reading your letters these long years with so much interest, but when I read Uncle MARK'S letters saying he would tell about the Centennial, I must respond, for I cannot attend the great Exhibition. Tell us, Uncle MARK, all you can; it will be read with great interest.

I do not approve of the use of tobacco. I think that if all young ladies would be firm in their resolutions, young men would quit all dissipation. But it is natural for us to be forgiving; at least, I have had a great deal of it to do.

My pets are, first, my children, then my plants and flowers. One of my pansies measures one inch and three-quarters one way and one and one-half the other. I think all the little girls should grow pansies. I have a fuchsia six feet high, full of beautiful flowers; it is of the Speciosa—a winter-blooming variety. Good-by, little ones.

AUNT MAGGIE.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

Inquiry from a Young Florist.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—I want to tell you of my room, flowers, pets, etc., if the kind Editor will permit me. I have a north room, carpeted with rag carpet that I made myself. (I did not weave it, but earned the money to pay for warp and weaving.) I have in it a bed, stove, organ, stand and several pictures. One is a medley of flowers, made from colored plates taken from Floral Guides; another is a medley of colored plates, which is admired very much. I have a zephyr wreath in a glass box that I made. I wish, dear Cousins, you would write more about flowers, for I love them dearly. I have a good many flowers in summer; two I think are very nice, for their oddity. They are annuals and very hardy. I never saw them advertised in any catalogue. One is called "Snow on the Mountain;" it is a variegated plant and grows eighteen inches high. The leaves are all one height and form a circular head, perfectly flat, with lily white flowers all over the leaves. The other grows something like catnip, but each stem is completely covered with green cups, six in a circle around the stem, and six thorns beneath the cups; has a small white and blue flower in each cup. The whole plant is fragrant. I have counted 190 cups on a single stem and twenty stems on a plant. I wish the Editor would tell me what it is. I had fifteen kinds of pansies last summer, but roses and fuchsias are my favorite flowers. Will some one tell me whether English Ivy would stand out on the north side of a house through winter in Northern Indiana? also what are the best vines with which to cover a south porch?—MARION, *Vine Cottage, Noble Co., Ind.*

[YES, English Ivy will stand out if grown in shade. For good vines for a porch take the Japan Golden Honeysuckle. If MARION will send specimen we will answer her other question.—ED.]

A Kanuck's "Pets."

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—As I see so many letters from the boys and girls in your paper, I thought I would write and tell about my pets. My father is a Canadian farmer. We had some pets that I thought we did not need. They were very mischievous things and infested one of our barns. They were rodents, and since New Years we have been killing them. We fixed a trap door so as to catch them on the floor, and with our dog the first night we killed nineteen. We would go in with a light and clubs and play shinney with them. They would bite our boots and run up our clothes. Occasionally the neighbors would come and help us. We have killed over 200; one poor fellow had a bob-tail. I think I have said enough in regard to rats. Hoping that the RURAL Cousins will laugh as heartily as we did while killing them, I am, truly,—C. E. S., *St. Mary's, Ont.*

A Wolverine's Opinion.

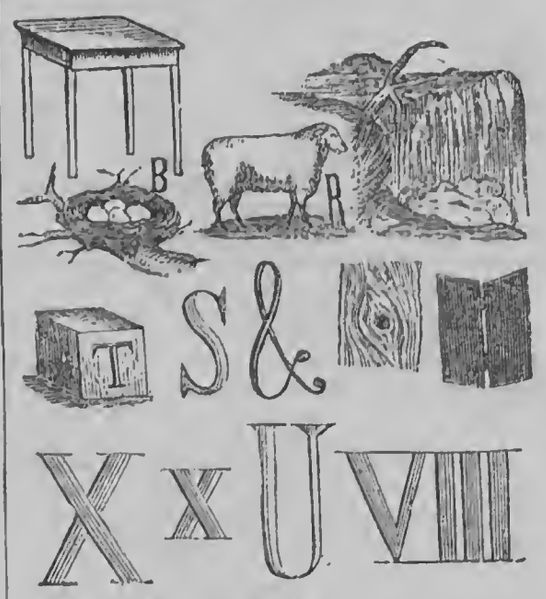
DEAR UNCLES TRUE AND MARK:—As I have a few leisure moments I think I will pay you a visit—on paper. I read JOE STEELE'S letter, and I think he is about right; only I dislike to see a fellow with too much cheek. But I suppose it is the nature of all of us Yankees to have a great deal of it. One thing before I leave off: There is a fellow that lives near me who had a great deal of cheek, so much, in fact, that he had to go to Ann Arbor to have it cut off—only it wasn't the kind of cheek you mean; it was a bunch or swelling. Have any of the RURAL Cousins a collection of antique curiosities? I have about ten different kinds of Indian arrow heads, belonging to different tribes; one stone hatchet and several old coins and pieces of petrified bone.—A. B., JR.

Poor Young Tom!

DEAR RURAL:—I think criticising YOUNG TOM has been run into the ground. I suppose *some* think they could not write a letter without mentioning him. I move we let him rest at present. Will YOUNG POTATO DIGGER please give his hight in his next letter? I am exactly five feet high; will be fifteen this month.—JERRY POSTAL.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



☞ Answer in two weeks.

CENTRAL PUZZLE.

1. AN article for the wash-stand. 2. A city of New York. 3. A city of Italy. 4. A city of Prussia. 5. A river of Germany. 6. A country of Asia. 7. A city of Ecuador. 8. A city of Peru. 9. A city of Belgium. 10. A city of France. 11. A river of Africa. 12. A city of England. 13. A city of Belgium. Words of five letters, with centrals forming a lake of New England. MD.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

1. A CITY of Palestine. 2. A city of Roumania. 3. A city of Arabia. 4. A division of Africa. 5. A city of Zanguibar. 6. Lying beyond. 7. Part of Great Britain. 8. A scarf. 9. A city of Sardinia. 10. One of the Shetland Isles. 11. A town of Northern Russia. 12. A certain breed of cattle. 13. A city of Mexico. 14. A lake of Sweden. 15. A city of Spain. Primals and finals for two U. S. Presidents. LITTLE ONE.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—June 24.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS NO. 10.—Trifles light as air, are to the jealous confirmation strong.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA NO. 7.—The law of the Lord is perfect.

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA NO. 3.—Arkansas and Savannah.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In these matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE Centennial Ocean Yacht Race was won by the schooner America in the first class, and the sloop Arrow in the second class. The yachts started from Sandy Hook to sail to Cape May and return. The America and Alarm were entered in the first class and the Arrow and Gracie in the second.

Pennsylvania has 235 beer breweries; Wisconsin, 232; Ohio, 210; New York, 203; California, 202; Illinois, 165; and Michigan 149.

The measles are raging as an epidemic in the vicinity of Plano, Ill., there being over one hundred cases reported last week.

The number of graduates at the Naval Academy this year is forty-one, and among the first five, or star graduates, is B. T. Walling of Ohio.

The results so far from the prosecution of the Whiskey Ring may be summed up as follows: Value of property seized, $1,500,000; assessments, $1,409,000; suits on official bonds, $250,000. There has been turned into the treasury $600,000. There have been indicted 95 distillers and agents, 2 supervisors, 5 revenue agents, 2 collectors, 8 deputy collectors, 40 guagers, 15 storekeepers, and 19 other persons. There have been 110 convictions and 17 acquittals. These suits were inaugurated May, 1875.

A Connecticut farmer finds guinea hens the best potato bug destroyers he has tried. He keeps twenty of these fowls, and they do their work thoroughly.

Paper napkins and paper handkerchiefs are among the novelties being exported from the East. They are sheets of fibrous mulberry paper, so well known on our tea packages, in size about seventeen by twenty inches, are very soft and flexible, and are printed with a neat border.

More than 5,000 people have gone to the San Juan mining region in Colorado this summer.

A fire that broke out in H. W. Johns' roofing factory at Hunter's Pont, N. Y., injured the stock and building to the extent of $48,000, destroyed Bridge's hammer factory at a loss of $15,000, and Young's blacksmith shop at a loss of $2,000, and injured Newrorandt's pottery and the Long Island City pottery.

Under the Confederation, the public debt of Canada has increased $53,000,000, the imports have exceeded the exports by $140,000,000, and the tonnage has greatly decreased.

Cholera infantum is killing babies in Baltimore at an unprecedented rate.

Abundant rain during this month has made the hay crop in Eastern Vermont the best for many years.

The potato bug is gaining the mastery over gardeners in Dorchester and West Roxbury, Mass.

A coal bed has just been discovered in Hamilton County, O., of sufficient thickness to be worked remuneratively.

The Presbyterians have established a mission among the Pueblo Indians of Laguna, New Mexico. At the first meeting, held by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson and others, two interpreters were required, one to translate English into Spanish, and the other to put Spanish into Indian.

The supply of seeds for distribution at the Agricultural Department is exhausted.

The cotton area under cultivation at present is reported by the various cotton exchanges and by the Department of Agriculture in percentages which would amount to about 8,960,000 to 8,975,000 acres, against 9,250,000 acres in 1875. The crop was planted a few days later than the last, and there has also been more rain in some sections than was needed. The condition of the crop is reported less favorable than at the corresponding date last year. The food crops were probably never more promising, and the present prospects are that the yield of all the earlier cereals will be the largest known. Of the late cereals, such as corn, it can only be known that the acreage is of the largest breadth. There are hazards surrounding them all, but the situation was never more gratifying. The California wheat exports will be about 200,000 tons larger than last year, a gain of nearly fifty per cent. So far, there is no crop of which we have knowledge, reported otherwise than favorable, with the exception of leaf tobacco. The latter has recently been "coming out" to a surprising degree, and with as good weather conditions as the present, there will probably be a good average acreage planted after all.

The men who have been flooding the country with counterfeit money have at last been trapped in Brooklyn, N. Y. Geo. White, one of the most skillful engravers in the country, was arrested and plead guilty.

Rains in Georgia have been very heavy, and have done almost fatal damage to crops.

The Democratic National Convention met at St. Louis and nominated for President, Samuel J. Tilden of New York, and for Vice-President, Gov. Hendricks of Indiana.

The President has signed the bill retiring Col. W. H. Emory with the rank and pay of brigadier general.

Seven of the officials sentenced and imprisoned in Indiana because of complicity in the Whisky Ring have been pardoned by the President.

The delegation from the French Trades Unions has arrived in New York and been enthusiastically received by fellow workmen.

The Brazilian hymn composed by the famous maestro, Gomez, and dedicated to the American people by the Emperor of Brazil, was publicly heard in Independence Square, Philadelphia, on the 4th inst. There were 250 musicians and a chorus of 1,000 voices, under the leadership of Mr. P. S. Gilmore.

No successor to U. S. Treasurer New has yet been appointed.

It is probable that the celebration in New York City on the night of the 3d and morning of the 4th of July was the most brilliant pageant ever seen in this country. An energetic committee had been arranging the details for weeks, and although the smallness of the contributions of money disappointed them, they nevertheless organized the scattered elements that might otherwise have made a thousand petty celebrations into one great military and civic torchlight procession and a general illumination of the city. The ending of the nation's hundredth year and the beginning of the hundred and first was celebrated with a grand burst of cannon, fireworks and music at the last stroke of the midnight bell. The response of the people to the expressed desire of the committee that they illuminate their houses with lanterns and transparencies was very general, and notably so on the line of the procession. The procession reached Union Square at midnight, and at the down stroke of 12 o'clock, in accordance with the programme, a 10-inch gun was fired from Fort Columbus. This was the signal for all the bells and chimes in the city to join in with the general rejoicing. The singing of national hymns at the grand stand in Union Square now commenced by the united singing societies and was kept up for fully an hour with a spirit that did not tire. Fireworks and allegorical representations kept up an incessant display at the same time, after which the procession broke up. The celebration was resumed at the Academy of Music at 11 o'clock on the morning of the Fourth, where Dr. Storrs of Brooklyn delivered an oration and William Cullen Bryant's hymn and Bayard Taylor's "Song of Seventy-six" were sung. But this was but "a drop in the bucket" of the proceedings on that day in New York. The City Hall, the court houses and other public edifices were grandly illuminated on the nights of the 3d and 4th. Flags were displayed on all public and many private dwellings, and the shipping in the harbor was absolutely hidden with bunting. Almost all the German, Irish, Scotch and other shooting, sporting and social clubs and societies vied with each other to surpass all former efforts in the brilliancy of their excursions, picnics and merry-makings. The Tammany Society held a grand pow-wow in their wigwam, and the Young Democracy had a most pleasant time in Irving Hall. Eighteen German societies had a concert in Jones' Wood on Sunday, July 2, and to provide against police interference they purchased 1,000 kegs of lager for the occasion. Nearly all the principal business houses in the city remained closed from the morning of the 1st till the 5th of July, that their employes might have much needed recreation and amusement by partaking in the general rejoicing. The Central Police Office and all the subordinate stations were decorated on the 3d and 4th, in compliance with a general order issued by the Commissioners. The above summary of the proceedings in this city on the 3d and 4th of July are necessarily brief, but they will serve to give our readers an idea of the superb magnificence of everything in this great city to do fitting honor to the celebration of the hundredth birthday of the nation.

The great eight-oared race at Springfield, June 30, was won by the Yale boys. The victors have well earned their laurels and their adversaries are not disheartened. A more plucky race, under the circumstances, has seldom been rowed. The attendance was principally local.

The nest of counterfeiters, just arrested in Brooklyn, Congdon, Conklin and White, had their plans laid to put afloat fifteen or twenty thousand dollars on the Highland National Bank of Newburgh. Congdon had organized the best system of dealing that has ever been broken up and it is asserted that he had facilities to get rid of $500,000 in time, had he escaped detection. For every bank White was instructed to make a new set of plates. It takes four plates to print a bill. The first impression taken is the green border, after which the vignette is printed; then the face is printed with the name of the bank left blank. It is next numbered and stamped with seal. The counterfeiters' work was not slighted in any particular. The vignette plate that was found in White's house had been sent there for repairs, as one of the legs of Columbus was crooked.

John C. Schwartz, former Secretary and Cashier of the German Up-town Savings Bank, New York City, was arraigned in the General Sessions recently on an indictment for embezzling $52,921 of the bank's money. He pleaded guilty and accepting his promise to disclose the names of others implicated with him, Recorder Hackett remanded him for sentence.

A dispatch received June 30 from Fort Laramie says there is a report from Red Cloud that Indians coming in bring news of another fight with the Northern Indians—the troops engaged not being Gen. Crook's—and that a village was entirely destroyed.

The adjustment of the differences between the two branches of Congress respecting the general appropriation bills is considered by all parties to be merely a question of time. The salary and compensation features are the main points at issue. The difficulty with the Indian appropriation bill arises from the provision of the House for the transfer of the Indian Bureau from the Interior to the War Department. The two Houses having passed a joint resolution making temporary provision for carrying on the Government, the apprehension of embarrassment by the delay in passing the general appropriation bills is entirely removed.

Willie Morgan, son of State Senator Morgan, and Victor Monroe, son of a prominent citizen of Hernando, Miss., were drowned in Harman Lake on the 30th ult., in attempting to save the life of a companion. Two other young men narrowly escaped a similar fate before the youth for whom Morgan and Monroe lost their lives was rescued.

It is understood that a new experiment in socialism is to be attempted shortly. This time in Virginia on the banks of the Potomac, on a domain consisting of some seven thousand acres of land, including finely cultivated farms with many thousand fruit trees and a valuable water-power. This place has been secured at a cost of about $30,000. The projectors of the new movement are Swedenborgians, Spiritualists and Come-outers, who are recruited from every section of the country, and who have an abiding faith in the possibility of realizing the dreams of Fourier, Brisbane and Owen upon this continent. The immediate leaders are Mr. Samuel Leavitt of New York and Mr. Charles Sears of the Co-operative Farm, Silkville, Kansas. A monthly magazine entitled the Eclectic and Peacemaker, published by Leavitt, is the organ of this new scheme, which will naturally excite a great deal of interest in certain circles. The projectors of this new community believe in the sanctity of marriage and regard both the Shakers and the Oneida Communists as social heretics.

It is reported from Washington that Gen. R. D. Mussey, a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, has placed in the hands of J. Proctor Knott, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, a memorial charging D. C. Humphreys, one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, among other things, with being totally unfit mentally for the position of Judge, in that he is ignorant of law, incapable of logical reasoning, and given to feeble, vapid, disconnected utterances upon the bench, devoid alike of legal point and common sense; that he is frequently intoxicated while on the bench; that he has sat in at least one case where he had a direct pecuniary interest in the result; and that generally by his conduct as a Judge he has hindered justice, rendered himself a public laughing-stock, and brought discredit upon the court of which he is a member.

Internal revenue receipts, were $423,381.81; customs receipts, $569,960.07; national bank notes received for redemption, $874,801, to June 30.

Mr. Randall, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported a bill providing for the expenses of the government. It provides that for ten days after the 30th day of June, unless appropriation bills shall have previously passed, it shall be lawful for the several departments of the government to use any unexpended balances which may exist for the service of the current fiscal year.

Speaker Kerr is said to have become quite despondent in regard to his health, though his physician does not agree with him and expresses strong hopes of his ultimate recovery.

Eleven tons of cucumbers from Jacksonville, Fla., in one day.

The Nautical School-ship St. Marys has left Glen Cove for a summer cruise among the Azores.

Gen. J. R. Hawley of Connecticut has been reelected trustee of Hamilton College, and the Rev. Dr. W. E. Knox of Elmira was elected trustee in the place of Gen. John Jay Knox, deceased.

John J. Astor and Wm. B. Astor propose to erect a magnificent altar in Trinity Church, New York, as a memorial of their father, the late William B. Astor. It is to be built of Caen stone, white marble and alabaster, relieved by gold and mosaic. Y. C. Withers, after whose design it is to be built, will sail early in August for England for the purpose of ordering the work.

Commander Charles A. Babcock, commanding the Ironclad Cannibus, died suddenly in Newport, R. I.

South Carolina's Treasurer announces that, in consequence of the payment of a large portion of the taxes in bills of the State, made receivable for taxes by a decree of the United States Supreme Court, there is but $25,000 in the State Treasury available to pay $73,000 of interest on consolidation bonds due, leaving a deficit of $45,000 to be provided for by the Legislature next November.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Two guns belonging to the Spanish Armada, which have been under water for 288 years, have been recovered off the Scotch coast by a diving party.

Miss Harriet Martineau, the well-known English authoress, died June 27, at her residence, the Knolls, Ambleside, England.

Kangaroo skins are becoming an important article of traffic in Australia, where they are said to yield the toughest and most pliable leather.

Dr. Patrick Black of London has published a book with the original title of "Essay on the Use of the Spleen, with an Episode of the Spleen's Marriage—a Physiological Love Story."

Letters from Spain state that the vineyards and cereal crops in Andalusia are marvellously productive and promise a yield of barley unknown for a 100 years. In Ciudad Real and Banajor the cereal crops have been wholly destroyed by the locusts. In Badajoz 60,000 arrobas (an arroba is twenty-five pounds) of locusts have been burnt with petroluem in trenches. This shows the fearful extent of the plague. More than 15,000 troops are occupied in their destruction.

A Rawul Pindee correspondent informs the Times of India that a gentleman who recently arrived there from Cashmere gives an appaling account of the extent and fatality of the cholera epidemic now raging in that country. According to his statement the inhabitants are dying by hundreds, and the disease has spread throughout the valley.

An illustration of the value of timber on waste lands in the Highlands is afforded by a sale of wood which took place on the estate of the Earl of Cawdor, in Natrushire, the other day. In 1820 two hills on the Cawdor property of about 300 acres in extent, and of almost no agricultural value, were planted with fir and other trees, and after successive thinnings, the sale of which realized large sums, the remainder of the wood on this waste land during the fifty years is stated to be equal per acre to the return for the best arable land in the country.

Capt. Souter of the Intrepid, from Davis Straits, whale-fishing, reports that while anchored in Isabella Bay he found it necessary, in consequence of the great body of ice coming down, to proceed in shore. After sailing some distance he came into a fine, commodious, natural harbor, not marked on charts. There was nothing to show it had ever been entered before. Capt. Souter and other officers left in a cairn a writing indicating the discovery. Splendid water was found, and there was less of the arctic appearance about the locality.

Some Arabs, digging among the ruins of the great temple of Karnac, Egypt, came upon a sandstone cist buried in the debris, inside of which was the sculptured figure of a female hippopotamus in green basalt. The monument, including the slab, is three feet high, and is admirably carved and polished. A long inscription in hieroglyphics runs along the back, and another is cut on the slab in front of the figure. The inscriptions contain the names of Psammetichus I., his queen and daughter, and also of a hitherto unknown king.

In the British House of Commons a petition wound on a roller, three feet in length and two feet in diameter and signed by 102,000 persons, was presented, praying that no further advances be allowed to members of the royal family until a full statement be made of its present income.

The anxiety respecting the relations between China and England continues. The British Minister declines friendly intercourse with the Peking officers, and the Chinese of all classes are in great alarm. There are 4,000 British troops in Burmah prepared to cross the frontier in case of need.

The Standard's Vienna dispatch says Servia's strategetical plan is to hold the Turks in check at Nitsch until Montenegro, who is somewhat distrusted, joins the movement. Two hundred cannon have been mounted at Kragujevacz. Sclavonic advices assert that the Russian Grand Duke Vladimir is in Servia incognito.

The Paris correspondent of the Standard reports that a regular war panic prevailed on the Bourse, recently, founded on the belief that it would be impossible to confine the war between Turkey and Servia to the limits of the Ottoman Empire, and that a collision between Russia and Great Britain would eventually result.

The members of the Irish Rifle Association, to constitute the eight for the annual competition for the Elcho Shield, will consist of the six who made the highest individual scores at the Wicklow competition, namely: Messrs. Wm. Rigby, Fenton, Fulton, Johnson, Smyth and Miner, and two others to be selected by them. Wilson and Ward, or John Rigby will probably be the men chosen. The Irish team to go to America has not been decided

upon yet. The score on the competition for the Gildersleeve cup is not yet officially calculated, but Fenton is believed to be the winner by a splendid score, with Johnstone second.

Hairullah Effendi, who played so important a part in the overthrow of the Sultan Abdul Aziz, is that mollah who, in 1867, accompanied the deceased monarch to Europe in the quality of a second chaplain. With that sovereign he visited Paris, Vienna and London and everywhere showed the greatest interest in the political and social institutions of Europe. He is about 35 years of age. According to information received from Constantinople by the Tages Presse, Hairullah was not an instrument in the hands of the conspirators who deposed Abdul-Aziz, but was himself the soul of the movement.

India papers report that the Emperor of Abyssinia has 30,000 Egyptian troops prisoners and that he will not give them up until the Khedive has paid a ransom of two millions sterling.

Mr. Gladstone continues his alternating labors with the pen and the ax. A fortnight ago he completed a paper on "Modern Religious Thought," which appeared in the Contemporary Review for June; after which he set to work and cut down a beech tree, the trunk of which measured 13 feet in circumference. This task he accomplished in less than six hours and according to the opinion of professional wood cutters, in a thoroughly workman-like manner.

The Pera correspondent of the Times, in a letter dated June 23 says:—"The new Sultan of Turkey, Murad Effendi, is overwhelmed with the difficulties of his position, and, it is reported, contemplates abdicating in favor of his younger brother. The Turks are actively preparing to meet a Servian attack. The camp on the Bosphorus opposite Therapia, where they intended to assemble in considerable force, has been broken up, and every available man is being forwarded to the front. It is reported that the Government has formed the desperate resolution of enlisting eighty thousand Bashi-Bazourks throughout the empire, who, if they cannot do as much as soldiers, may prevent the spread of the insurrection by a constant menace of a general massacre of the Christians. Gen. Ignatieff, the Russian Ambassador, embarked his children aboard a Russian dispatch boat for Odessa on the 29th ult. The General himself and his wife remain, but the wives of the secretaries of the embassay have been sent to a place of safety. The reported recall of Gen. Ignatieff is not confirmed. Insulting and threatening letters reach him daily from various quarters, and he is certainly exposed to imminent danger. Zealous Mussulmans regard the Government's resolution to suspend the sentence of the Salonica authorities as evidence of subserviency to the European powers, from which an aggravation of their hostile feelings toward Christians may be justly apprehended. The aspect of things becomes more serious every day.

An elaborate monument has been erected at the Chatham dock-yard in England to commemorate the French prisoners of war who died there in the early part of the century. The monument bears this inscription: "Here are gathered together the remains of many brave soldiers and sailors, who, having once been the foes and afterward the captives of England, now find rest in her soil, remembering no more the animosities of war or their sorrows in imprisonment. They were deprived of the consolation of closing their eyes among their countrymen they loved, but they have been laid in an honorable grave by a nation which knows how to respect valor and to sympathize with misfortune."

Recent reports from the south of France, relative to the condition of the mulberry trees and the rearing of silk-worms, are not favorable. The former, struck by the frost, give no sign of vegetation in the neighborhood of Valence (Drome), and the proprietors who had hesitated to sacrifice the latter, have been compelled to do so from the absence of leaves for food. At Saint Ambroix (Gardi) the trees were still without buds, and the eggs not yet hatched are offered at a very low price. The same state of things exists at Uzes. In the Vaucluse it is reported that a number of mulberry trees are dead, and the proprietors are closely pruning those which were most severely attacked by the cold.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

DEAFNESS RELIEVED. — No Medicine. Book free. G. J. Wood, Madison, Ind.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, July 1, 1876.

THE main features of trade this week might be condensed in a single paragraph. New points have not had a chance to develope as the centennial fever has been steadily increasing and in its intensity has affected all local commerce. Patriotic preparations for the moment paralyze interest in common place matters. One sober old store-keeper assured us that "sky-rockets were the only items that have any possibility of going up, and that any thing to show actively must have powder in it." Seriously the spirit of celebration was perhaps never so general and the liberal business in decorative or noisy expression must for the time being absorb funds usually devoted to more substantial purposes.

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Receipts of beans are very heavy for the season and the general market is almost at a stand still. Prices unchanged.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.15@1.20; fair to good, $1.00@$1.10; prime mediums, $1.00; fair to good, 75@80c.; poor, 40@50c.; prime marrows, $1.45@1.50; fair to good, $1.25@1.40; prime white kid., $1.30@1.35; other, $1.00@1.20; prime red kidney, $1.30@1.35; other, $1.15@1.25; Lima (Cal.), $2.50. Black beans, $4.00. Peas—Canadian, in bulk and bond, 95c.; green, $1.00@1.10; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BUTTER.—Even if the period had not the interruption of an important holiday it would be difficult to do much better trade in the style of weather we have been melting under. Our previous remarks are still admirable. Summer should be kept in easy consumption, though it is detrimental to quality for shipments to be made while the weather is so excessively warm. Prices for State are somewhat unsettled and the inside line best expresses what limited business is doing. Western is low and gets a good share of the demand. Sales as before chiefly for low and finest grades. Foreign exports have withdrawn.

Pails, State selected, 27@28c.; do., other 22@26c.; creamery, 25@30c.; half firkin tubs, prime, 26@27c.; fair to good, 23@24c.; Welsh tubs selected, 24@25c.; Welsh tubs, prime, 21@23c.; fair to good, 20@—c.; Pails, Western creamery, prime, 25@27c.; fair to good, 23@25c.; Western tubs, dairy, good to prime, 18@20c.; fair to good, 15@16c.

Western factory choice, 18@20c.; do. fair to good, 14@15c.; poor, 12@13c. Grease, pure, 7@10c.

Western firkins quoted at 17@19c. for poor to fine yellow. State firkins 19@25c. for poor to fair, 24@27c. for prime. Sweet cream pails range at 25@28c.

CHEESE.—The English advices are rather against the market, offering but little encouragement for free shipments. The full shipments of last week have probably assisted to the tame feeling abroad. Arrivals are running large, and receivers manage to keep them from accumulating materially by pressing them at easy figures; this applies to other than the choicest grades. For best lots of factories 11c. is quite steadily held, they showing less freely in the supply and being mostly wanted; 10½c. represents a market for about fine, mod and anything under this goes off relatively lower than usual.

Now at 10¾@11c. for fine factory; 10@10¼c. for good; 9@9½c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 7@8c.; do., skimmed, 3@5c. State farm dairy, fair to good, at 8¾@9¼c.; poor lots, 7@9c.; Western factory, good to prime, 7½@8½c.; fair lots, 6@7¼c.; do. cheddar, choice, 9¼@9¾c.; do. flat, choice, 9@9½c.

COTTON.—Export movement is slow, and there is a very dull market otherwise. Quotations are:

11¾@11 29-32c. for July; 12c. for August; 11 15-16@11 21-32c. for September; 11 25-32c. for October; 11 21-32c. for November and December; 11 13-16@11 27-32c. for January 11 31-32@12c. for February; 12⅜@12 5-32c. for March; 12 9-32@12 11-32c. for April; 12 13-32@12 17-32c. for May.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	8 9-16	8 9-16	8 9-16	8 9-16
Strict ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Good ordinary	9 15-16	9 15-16	10 1-16	10 1-16
Strict good do.	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Low middling	11 1-16	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 5-16
Strict low middling	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Middling	12	12⅛	12 3-16	12 3-16
Good middling	12¼	12⅜	12⅜	12⅜
Strict good middling	13	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛
Middling fair	13⅜	13½	13⅜	13⅜
Fair	14¼	14⅜	11½	14½

Stained.

Good ordinary	8¾	Low middling	10¼
Strict ordinary	9¾	Middling	11⅛

DRIED FRUITS.—The general market is weak and very dull. It is difficult to sell even lots, in which way there are offerings in instances under quotations:

Apples—State, sliced, 8¼@9c.; do., quarters, 8¼@8⅝c.; southern sliced, 8@9c. for prime; Blackberries, 8@9c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 10@12c.; do. fancy, 11c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 11@11¼c. for halves and 10c. for quarters. Plums, 11@15c. Raspberries, 25@26c. Cherries, 17@18c.

EGGS.—Prime Western and Canadian have worked up to very satisfactory prices, and with the present rate of receipts the new figures are likely to be supported.

Near points, ₱ bbl., 20c.; State and Penna., 18c. Western, prime, 18¼@19c.; do. fair marks, 17¼@18c. Canadian, 18¼@19c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₱ lb.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras 55c.

FLOUR.—Export movement is very light, the markets abroad depressed, and it is hard to move even small lots on home trade account, prices are unsettled and weak. The quotations are:

Poor to choice superfine State, $4.50@4.90 for very common to fair extra do.; $4.95@5.00 for good extra do.; $5.05@5.15 for fancy do., and $5.20@6.75 for very choice extra; $3.50@4.00 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.50@4.85 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.00@5.50 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras, $5.55@6.80; fancy do., $6.85@7.75; winter wheat good to choice family city mill extras, $7.50@8.75; round-hoop Ohio, $4.75@4.95, and trade brands of do. at $5.00@7.10; St. Louis, $5.00@6.20 for common to fair extra, and $6.25@8.75 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.10@6, and patent at $6.75@9, unsound stock at from $3.25@5.50; No. 2 at $3.25@3.00; Southern at $4.85@5.15 for common to good extra, $5.20@8.00 for good to choice, $6.15@8.50 for common to choice family extra, and $8.00@8.75 for choice to fancy new process. Rye flour at $4.75@5.15. Corn meal, quoted at $2.00@3.00 for yellow Western, Pennsylvania and Jersey, and $3.25@3.35 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Strawberries are about gone; the end of the supply is coming from Owego and Oneida. These State berries have been quite a feature for several years. This season the weather is rather warm for the journey and prices are low. Antwerps and Red Brandywine raspberries are in demand. The latter are now commercially and make a favorable entree. Fifty cases of California apricots have arrived. They are remarkably large and showy but poor in flavor. Southern apples have slow sale this year. The crop of fine cherries has been light. Florida watermelons are in fair demand; a few are expected from Galveston, Texas. Currants are in good demand. Russet apples nominal at former figures.

Strawberries, State, ₱ quart, 10@25c.; Eastern, 10@16c. Cherries, best, ₱ lb., 9@12c.; common, 4@7c. Gooseberries, Eng., ₱ bush., $3@5, small $1. Seedlings, $1.50@1.75; common, 75c.@$1. Black caps, ₱ qt., 8@10c. Antwerps, thirds, 8@10c. Red B., ₱ quart, 8@10c. Currants, small, ₱ lb., 4@5c.; do., cherry, 6@10c. Watermelons, ₱ 100, $25@35. Whortleberries, ₱ bush., $5@5.50. Wild Blackberries, ₱ qt., 6@8c.; cultivated, 12@15c. Peanuts—Virginia, ₱ bush., $1.40@1.65; Wilmington, $1.80@2.00; do. Tennessee, $1@$1.20.

GRAIN.—For wheat the market has been very depressed, yielding in prices from day to day, and a very slow export movement. English markets have been very dull, with fair stocks on hand there and easy prices. The slightly more unfavorable political situation abroad, is without influence here as yet; latest sales for No. 3 Chicago spring, 95c.@$1; No. 3 Milwaukee spring, $1@1.04; No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.14; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.14@1.17; Ungraded spring, $1@1.12; No. 1 spring, $1.20@1.30; rejected spring at $1; winter red Western, 93c.@$1.12; amber State, crop 1874, $1.33. Rye at 82@84c. for Western and 90@95c. for State. Corn is more active at steadier prices; sales at 57½@60c. for mixed Western; 60c. for steamer yellow. Oats sell slowly at 33@42c. for mixed Western and State and 34@45c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—The demand is always more or less restricted at periods around the Fourth. The juvenile patriot is not over particular about the landing place of his crackers or lighted punk. And buyers who require a large supply of such combustible commodities as hay and straw will not load up until the precurious enthusiasm subsides.

Supplies still run liberal, and the feeling is weak on hay, but in straw sufficient going on to steady prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 80@95c.; retail qualities 80@95c.; clover, 50@55c.; salt, 60@65c. Straw is quoted at $1.15 for long rye; 70@85c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

HIGHWINES.—Quoted at $1.12½.

HOPS.—Exporters show less indications to operate this week, and trade from brewers is moderate only. There is a feeling now to await definite intelligence respecting the new crop. Prices are steadily held. The quotations are:

N. Y. State, 10@17c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₱ lb.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 20@21c. for light, 21@23c. for middle, 21@23½c. for heavy. 19@20c. for good damaged.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Both dressed and live poultry have a good movement under the extra call for the Fourth. We quote:

Dressed Turkeys, 15@17c. for choice and 12@14c. for other. Spring chickens, 28@33c. Fowls, N. J., 12@15c.; State and Western, 10@11c.

Live Poultry—Spring chickens, 25@27c.; Fowls, 13@15c.; Roosters, 5@6c.; Turkeys, 13@15c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1; do. Western, 50@65c. Geese, State and N. J., $1.75@2.25; do. Western, $1.25@1.50.

Stall-fed pigeons higher, at $1.87@2 ₱ doz.; flight, $1@1.25.

PROVISIONS.—There is increased export demand and a stronger general market. Mess pork quoted at $19.75 for spot lots, $19.70 for July; $19.80 for August. Bacon at 10¾c. for long clear, and 11½c. for short clear. Western steam lard at $11.62½ for spot lots; $11.57½@11.60 for July; $11.70 for August; $11.80 for September. Western sloaring at 13½c.; Tallow at 8 9-16@8¾c. for prime. Beef hams at $22@24. Beef at $10@11 for plain mess; $12 for extra mess, and $13 for packet. Tierced quoted at $20 for prime mess, and $21 for India mess. City extra India mess at $20@21.

REFINED SUGAR.—Quoted 8¾@9¼c. for soft yellow; 9¼@10c@c. for soft white; 10¾c. for crushed; 10¾c. for powdered; 10¼c. for granulated.

RICE.—Carolina quoted 5¾@6c. for fair; 6¾@6¾c. for good; 6¾@6¾c. for prime; 6¾@7c. for choice.

SEED.—Nothing doing in grass beyond small lots prime store. Quoted at 16c. for clover; timothy, $2.80@2.85.

TOBACCO.—Exporters are doing but little and supplies accumulate. Prices are a little unsettled on other than prime grades, but best lots not urgently offering.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7
Good lugs	7 @ 8
Low leaf	8½@10
Medium leaf	11 @12
Good leaf	12½@13½
Fine leaf	14 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	14 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	— @—
Fillers, selections	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5½@ 7
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

VEGETABLES.—Prime old potatoes are in good demand. New Norfolk sell steadily. In green stuff Long Island chiefly supplies the local market. We quote:

Potatoes—Prime old Peachblows, $1.25@1.37 ₱ bbl.; other not wanted; Bermuda, $1@1.50; Norfolk, new, $2@2.75. L. I. green peas, ₱ bag, 50@75c.; do. string beans, ₱ bag, 75c.@$1. Spinach, bbl., 25@50c. Cauliflower, ₱ doz., 50c.@$1. Cabbage, ₱ 100, $2.50@4. Norfolk white squash, ₱ bbl., $2@2.50; Charleston marrows, do., $2. Southern tomatoes, ₱ crate, $1@2.

WOOL.—The market continues to show a fairly active business on manufacturing account, favored by a little freer movement in the goods market, with prices generally steady.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
XXX and Picklock	44	@ 46
XX	40	@ 44
X	40	@ 42
No. 1	40	@ —
No. 2	38	@ 40
Coarse	33	@ 37
Combing	52	@ 55
New York, Michigan and Wisconsin—		
XX	30	@ 35
X	30	@ 35
No. 1	35	@ 37
No. 2	33	@ 35
Coarse	30	@ 33
Combing	48	@ 50
Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
XX	30	@ 35
X	30	@ 35
No. 1	30	@ 35
No. 2	28	@ 33
Combing	45	@ 50
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
Washed fleece	35	@ 37
Unwashed	22	@ 27
do. combing	33	@ 37

ROCHESTER, July 1.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.26; amber winter, $1.18@1.23; white winter, $1.23@1.33. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 55@60c. Corn meal, $1.30@1.35. Butter, 19@20c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 11@12½c. Apples, bu., $3@3.50. Potatoes, bu., 25@30c. Beans, ₱ bu., 60c.@$1.10. Mess pork, $22 00. Wool, 20@35c. Hay, $8@12. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3., clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed dull at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $19 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $3@3. Coal, $6.50@6.90 for stove.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., July 1, 1876.

THE cheese market this week has been dull, but the prices of the previous week were well sustained. Not far from 400 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on delivery and changed hands at 8@10c.; the bulk of sales ranging at 9@10c. Farm dairies have improved greatly in quality; still, we are not quite free from lots that are partly skimmed.

Factories were well represented and there was a large offering, amounting in the aggregate to upward of 8,000 boxes, nearly all of which changed hands. Buyers command trade by paying 10¾c.; then 10¾c. was freely offered, at which a number of sales were made. The best factories held firmly at 10¾c. and the fanciers insisted upon 11c.; but this last was about ½c. above the views of buyers. Nearly 3,000 boxes sold for 10¾c., 800 at 10¾c. and 3,500 at 10¾c., and one lot was reported at 11c.

The delivery of butter was light and composed wholly of grass-make. Farm dairy in Welch tubs brought 22@23c. and creamery in return pails, 24c.

The weather has been warm and showery and grass is growing finely in pastures and meadows.

We have advices from abroad for the second week in June. Our London correspondent reports the new American cheese at hand as selling at quotations. Fine cheese is scarce and secondary is easier.

The prices are for extra American, 62@64s.; fine, 54@58s.; good, 46@50s.; secondary and common, 20@44s. English cheddar brings 80@94s.: Wiltshire double; 66@78s.; Cheshire medium, 56@58s.; fine, 70@80s., Scotch, 60@68s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 53@58s.; Gouda, 48@50s.; Derby shape, 48@52s. ₱ cwt.

Dutch and Jersey butter are lower, while on the contrary Normandy cleared at full rates and still higher prices are asked for delivery. Dorsets brings 136s.; Jersey, 100@104s.; Danish and Swedish, 100@136s.; Normandy, as landed, ranges at 110@140s. There is no American or Canadian butter in market. Oleomargarine (or artificial butter) sells at 80@94s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, July 1, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,821	10	2,203	5,310	000
Forty-Eighth St.	00	55	301	434	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	13,247
Harsimus Cove	1,741	00	000	9,161	9,654
Totals this week	8,562	95	2,507	15,705	22,901
" last week	7,419	45	3,227	15,956	19,098

BEEVES.—Trade opened very slow on last Monday with a moderate run of generally fair cattle; prices were sustained, but the markets closed weak, with several carloads of beeves unsold. Prices ranged at 8¾@10½c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@8¾ cwt. Wednesday, trade very slow, with prices at 8¾@10c.; weights, 6@7¼ cwt. Thursday, trade both small and slow at 7¾@10c.; weights, 5@8¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed fair at 9¾@10c.; weights, 6¼@8¾ cwt. From 55@57 lbs. has been allowed net. The quality of these herds as above quoted has been generally coarse but fat, and have ranged from poor to fair, with a few top steers of good quality. Spanish herds sold at 7¾@8c.; stall-fed steers, 8½@10¾c. Native steers sold at 8¾@10c.; grade, do., including a few of the last to hand, which were sold at retail, fetched 10¾@11¾c. Oxen, 9¾c. Mixed herds, 9@9½c. Bulls on live weight, 5¾@6½c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	11¾@	12 @
Fair	10¾@11¾	11 @11¾
Poor	9¾@10½	10 @10¾
Poorest	7¾@ 9½	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10½	9¾@10¾

MILCH COWS.—The fresh cows to hand are not of sufficient good quality to meet the demands of the trade, which is slow; 3 cows sold at $50 ₱ head; 9 at $40@65; 9 at $55@70; 6 at $60@75—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—The quality of the calves to hand has been generally coarse; no smooth quality veals has been received. Buttermilk-fed calves sold at 4@5½c.; ordinary quality at 5@6c. State, 4@8c. General sales, 6¾@7¾c. Jersey, 7@8c.; Pennsylvania, 7½@8c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade has been slow, with general sales in small lots. Lambs were few of sale but also in small lots. Monday sheep sold at 4@5¾c.; lambs, 6½@7¾c. Wednesday, sheep, 3@6c.; lambs, 6½@9¾c. Thursday, sheep, 4@6c.; lambs, 7@10½c. Friday, the markets closed weak: sheep, 4¾@6c.; lambs, 6¾@9¾c. State sheep, 5@6½c.; Colorado, 4@4½c.; Kansas, 4c.; Kentucky, 4¾@5c.; Ohio, 5¾@6½c.; Virginia lambs, 7@8½c.; Ohio, 7c.; Delaware, 9c.; Jersey, 9@10¾c.

HOGS.—Monday last 95 Ohio hogs, average gross weight 247 lbs. ₱ head, sold at 6¾c. Wednesday, one carload do., 190 lbs., 6¾c. Trade in city dressed inactive at 7¾@8¾c. General sales, 8@8¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade slow and small: 19 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $80@100 ₱ head; 20 ordinary, $150@175 ₱ head; 11 roadsters with fair trotting action, $270@390 ₱ head; 1 pair stylish carriage horses, aged, $700; 7 pairs family do., $325@500 ₱ pair; 1 pair heavy draft horses, $500; stage line horses, $150@200 ₱ head; street railroad horses, $82@115 ₱ head. Seventy-six horses arrived per Erie Railway, via Oak Cliff Station.

New Advertisements.

WANTED Men to travel and sell goods to dealers. No peddling. $80 a month, hotel and traveling expenses paid. MONITOR MANUFACTURING CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

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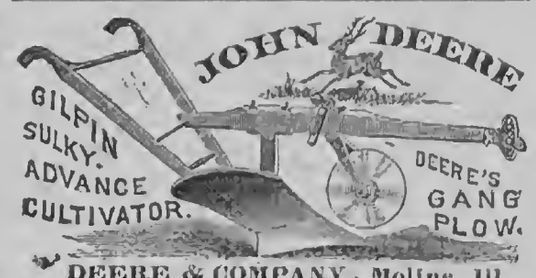

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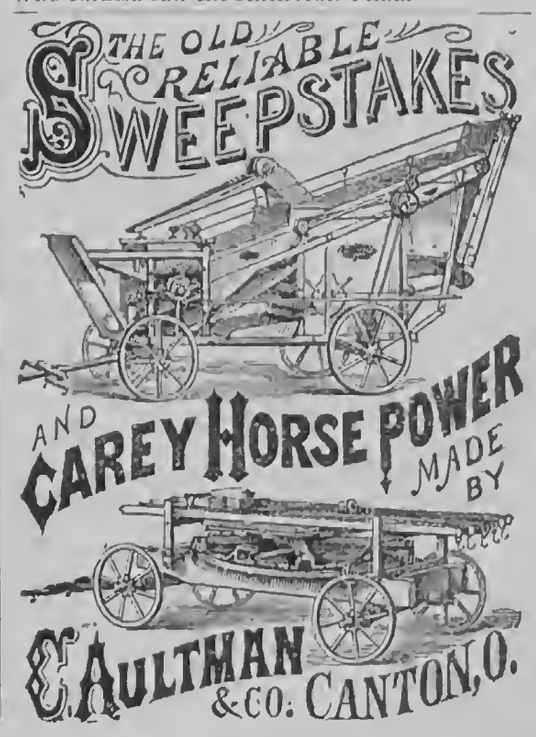

PERSONAL ITEMS.

SECRETARY MORRILL is sixty-one.

BRIGHAM YOUNG is failing fast.

JEROME B. STILLSON of New York is seriously ill in Buffalo.

MR. JOHN G. WHITTIER is visiting friends in Portland, Me.

ISAAC NEWTON and Isaac Watts are among the Centennial Judges.

ABOUT $100,000 have been given to public charities by Mrs. A. T. Stewart since the death of her husband.

LOUIS J. JENNINGS is writing London letters to the New York World. It would be superfluous to say they are good.

THE glorious times are coming when a fellow can go out and roll in the hay—and roll all over a hidden nest of eggs.

WHILE in Boston, Dom Pedro obtained a photographic picture of the Boston Post building, the birthplace of Franklin.

THE N. Y. Herald says that the catcher of the Chicago base ball nine acquired his skill by practicing with a mule's hind leg.

M. ONIMUS writes for the Revue des Deux Mondes. Wonder if he's any related to that voluminous writer, Ann Onimus?

M. QUAD is authority for the statement that a Chicago fireman can dress in 19 seconds. All he does, though, is to reel on his hose.

FOR singing at the commencement exercises of Bowdoin College, Aug. 2, Miss Clara Louise Kellogg is to receive $500 and expenses.

HORACE WHITE, late of the Chicago Tribune, will deliver the Fourth of July oration at Beloit, Wis., where he was born and educated.

WE have reliable information that Joseph Pawnee-no-pah-she has been elected Governor and Chetopah chosen Head Counsellor of the Osages.

CLERGYMEN in the Shetland Islands are expected to live on three dollars a week, and not to be too particular about collecting even that promptly.

"JACOB served seven years for Rachel: Bob Schenck two years for Emma; Jack won, Bob lost"—is the way in which the Chicago Courier puts it.

GEN. SHERMAN will in a few days take possession of the diamonds belonging to his daughter, Minnie Sherman Fitch. They have been in this city for about a year.

A MAN whose wife never travels with him, has arranged about her attending the Centennial. He has decided to go to this one himself and allow her to attend the next.

A MAN who has evidently been victimized writes: "Fifteen thousand dollars in gold will now buy an American lady a decent outfit to be married in, and there's no use talking about prices going any lower."

"JANE EYRE" has been translated into Italian, and bears the strange title, "*Il Marito della Demente*"—"The Crazy Woman's Husband." Two of Miss Muloch's novels have also been translated into Italian.

THERE is a man residing near Berlin, Wis., who weighs 440 pounds. He is unable to work, and in warm weather is in the habit of spending several hours each day in the river, where he floats like a life-preserver.

AN Emperor, a Prince and a select party of Philadelphians were permitted to see the great Exhibition on Sunday, and everybody else was kept outside the gates. Is this the great American republic?

A TRIBUNE correspondent says that William and Mary Howitt "are *ardent spiritualists*." It can't be so. They are leaders of the temperance movement and don't drink any ardent spirits whatever. So, there!

A PROVIDENCE girl's expressive description of the Centennial Show is thus given in the Press:

PHILADELPHIA, June, 1876.

DEAR MOTHER:—Oh! Oh!! Oh!!! Oh!!!!! O-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-h!!!!!!!!!

Your affectionate daughter, MARY.

MR. DREW GAY, a London correspondent, has recorded the heroic deeds of the Prince of Wales in a book of travels called "From Pall Mall to the Punjaub; or, With the Prince in India." He should have given the Punjaub work to an American joker.

ANNA DICKINSON returned to Boston last week and will remain there till the opening of the next dramatic season, when she comes here to appear in "A Crown of Thorns" and other pieces, some of them standard ones. She will take lessons of Mr. J. C. Cowper. In the winter she will make a tour of the principal cities of the Union, having been engaged ahead till next June.

THE first Lord Lyttleton was very absent-minded in Company. One day at dinner he pointed to a particular dish and asked to be helped out of it, calling it, however, by a name very different from that which the dish contained. A gentleman was about to tell him of his mistake. "Never mind," whispered another of the party; "help him to what he asked for, and he will suppose it is what he wanted."

MISS KATE FIELD writes from London to the Louisville Courier-Journal that "the two young elephants—twins in fact—brought home by the Prince of Wales are now rejoicing in the name of Moody and Sankey, and are the recipients of pious attentions from admiring multitudes. What irreverent person baptised the twins I have not yet found out, but they bear up under the dispensation wonderfully well."

How very, very wicked it is for a man to lie at the point of death.

THE Rev. Mr. Spurgeon is to visit the United States in the autumn.

RHEUMATISM is always a joint affair, and yet there is only one party to it.

AN old curmudgeon says that the ladies have a "decoration day" every Sunday.

THE sting of a bee carries conviction with it—it makes a man a bee-leaver at once.

DR. J. G. HOLLAND and his family are staying at the Lake View House, at Litchfield, Conn.

"KATE FIELD is coming home shortly to marry an American critic." Who is the Petruchio?

DEPUTY SECOND COMPTROLLER WILLIAMS of the Treasury, has resigned, to take effect July 1.

THE late Sultan Abdul Aziz ended his life with what many editors begin theirs—the scissors.

THE literary societies at Bates College are to have an oration from James Parton this week.

THROUGH the death of an Italian count, Verdi, the composer, has fallen heir to Paganini's fiddle-bow.

"CLAMBS, shugar and other groceries for sale here," is a sign on a Ninth Avenue store, New York.

AN American girl, Miss Julia Sinclair, has received the degree of M. D. at the University of Zurich.

GEN. CAMPANHA, who accompanied Napoleon I. in his Russian campaign, died at Lisbon a few days ago.

BILL JOHNSON went to sea in a dory. If the craft had been stronger, this story'd been longer—probably.

THE Governor of California has gone to the Yosemite Valley on a tour of inspection. Don't blame him.

HARRISBURG (Pa.) clergymen announce that they will no longer marry any one without cash on the nail.

MR. H. W. RAYMOND, the talented son of the founder of the N. Y. Times, is to enter the lecture field next season.

THE Emperor of Germany has given 3,000 marks toward the erection of a monument to Luther at Esleben, where Luther was born.

GRACE GREENWOOD rode on a cow-catcher. Her impressions are summed up in the impressive remark, "I shall never do that again."

JOHN B. GOUGH has so far recovered from his recent illness that he will attend the temperance celebration at Concord, N. H., Thursday.

WILLIAM PENN is an Osage chief. His sign manual is an X. His name is attached to the new Constitution of the Osage Indian Nation.

THE new fast mail train has been dubbed "The Widow," by some postal service attaches, because it fetches the mails much quicker than any other train.

THE young Napoleon recently called upon the Czar of Russia and was well received. That young man, if he lives, will yet cost a good many cable dispatches.

IT is reported that Harriet Hosmer is coming to the Centennial. She is worthy of a niche in the Temple of Fame; she has never, we believe, been called Hattie.

THE historian Froude, who has prophecied the future greatness of South Africa, practices what he preaches by sending his son to the Cape to become a farmer.

PROF. WALKER, of Yale College, the ex-Superintendent of the United States Census, is strongly urged by the Boston Post as the successor of the late President Stearns, of Amherst College.

THE French are beginning to grow tired of furnishing the world plays for nothing. "She Stoops to Conquer," under another name, or slightly *adapted*, has been produced upon the Parisian boards.

THEY are going to erect an equestrian statue to Philip Augustus in Paris. This they ought by all means to have done long ago. Philip Augustus—let's see, he was the man who—but no, it couldn't have been, either.

BECAUSE Montreal, Canada, built an office for the Witness, a newspaper in that city, at a cost of $100,000, and presented it to that paper free of charge, every paper in the country is talking of moving to Canada.

MR. PAGE M. BAKER, editor and proprietor of the New Orleans Bulletin, which journal he originated, announces its sale and withdrawal from all connection with it. He is succeeded by Mr. Richard Weightman, who has assumed editorial control of the columns of the Bulletin.

THE "Bryant Vase" described in the July Harper's, is a fine thing; but the artist made a sad mistake in representing Bryant the journalist copying an article out of another paper. There are two objections to this: 1, He wouldn't do such a thing; 2, If he did he'd do it with the scissors.

DONN PIATT doesn't seem to like the Cincinnati papers. He writes of the solemn old Gazette that is edited by the ghost of Charley Hammond, and the Daily Iniquity, called the Enquirer, and the Morning Sneer, vulgarly known as the Commercial, and the Evening Times, recognized organ of sixty thousand educated idiots.

EX-MAYOR EASTMAN of Poughkeepsie, says an exchange, gave 500 of the street boys of that city a straw hat each, with these words pasted inside the crown:—"Don't drink intoxicating liquors, don't swear, don't chew, don't smoke. Be industrious, work hard, study hard, play hard, and you will never be hatless. With the best wishes for your future welfare."

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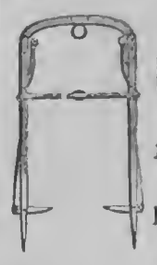

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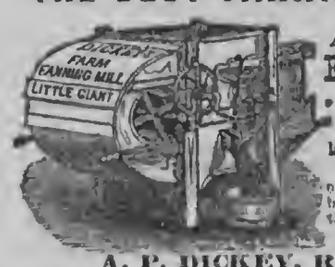

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Appleton's Journal	6 65	5 65
Danbury News	4 75	4 00
Fireside Companion	5 65	4 65
Frank Leslie's Boys and Girls	5 15	4 25
" " Lady's Journal	6 65	5 65
Harper's Weekly	6 65	5 65
" Bazar	6 65	5 65
*Hearth and Home	5 15	4 35
Waverly Magazine	7 65	6 50
[RELIGIOUS.]		
Independent	5 85	5 20
Illustrated Christian Weekly	5 15	4 50
Methodist	5 65	4 50
Presbyterian	5 30	4 65
Presbyterian (John Knox Engraving)	5 90	5 40
The Advance	5 65	4 20
Watchman and Reflector	5 85	4 85
[MISCELLANEOUS.]		
New York Witness	4 15	3 40
" " Sun	3 85	3 35
" " Evening Post	4 15	3 40
" " Tribune	4 65	4 00
" " Nation	7 85	6 85
Chicago Times	4 65	3 90
" Inter-Ocean	4 30	3 60
Cincinnati Commercial	4 80	3 80
" Enquirier	4 65	3 90
" Gazette	4 65	3 90
" Times and Hand-Book	4 75	3 90
Detroit Free Press	4 65	3 90
" Tribune	4 65	3 90
*Louisville Courier-Journal	4 65	3 90
Springfield Republican	4 65	3 95
St. Louis Times	4 15	3 50
Selentific American	5 85	5 20
Toledo Blade	4 65	3 95
Toronto Globe	4 65	4 00

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RURAL NEW-YORKER,
78 Duane St., New York City.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us: still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

X., Maple Grove.—"How long does it require for Clematis seed to germinate and when should it be sown?" ANS.—As soon as ripe—July, August and September, according to variety. Some will germinate the ensuing winter—most will not germinate until the next fall. A uniform temperature and moisture are desirable.

Amateur Gardener.—Yes, "big feed" does have much to do with big strawberries, still we usually get a good variety to begin with. But food is the great renovator and improver of both plants and animals, even to mankind, for the half-starved man or woman cannot long disguise the fact from the most casual observer.

Young Entomologist.—You need have no fear that all the species of insects will be discovered before you become qualified to commence describing or giving a history of them. Out of the eight or nine thousand species of North American beetles described, the life history of scarcely one hundred of the number is fully known. Besides this, there are hundreds—yes, thousands—of new species which are still undescribed and unnamed. In other orders there is even more work awaiting the coming entomologist than even among the *Coleoptera* (beetles); therefore, should you live a hundred years and labor constantly in this field, there would still remain enough to be done by those who may come after.

Young Farmer.—Utah and all the adjacent region of country is well adapted to stock-raising, but it is idle to talk of giving them no protection in winter or laying up any forage for them during the same season. An occasional winter may pass in which it will not be absolutely necessary to feed stock, but there is never one so mild that shelter from cold storms would not be required for both the comfort and health of the animals. It is said that 4,000 head of stock perished last winter in Utah alone in consequence of deep snows, cold weather and a scarcity of food. There is no safety in depending upon pasturage in winter for stock anywhere on the great Western plains or on the mountains, no matter who may express an opinion to the contrary.

Teamster.—You make a great mistake in regard to your rights on the highway, when asserting that if a man desires to pass you "he has the privilege to do so if he can." We conclude you mean by this that you have the right to remain in the center of the road, and if it happens to be a narrow one, compel any one who may desire to drive a little faster than yourself to take to the ditch in order to "pass on ahead." The "law of the road," however, would compel you to turn out, if requested to do so, giving one-half to the man who may desire to pass on, in overtaking you, as well as meeting when going in a contrary direction. There is a great deal of misunderstanding about such matters; but a little common sense ought to teach a man that civil and obliging manners must come very near being the written as well as unwritten law of the road.

J. G. H., Griffin, Ga.—We wrote to Mr. PETER HENDERSON, asking as to the changeableness of the *Coleus*, "The Shah." He replies as follows:

"'Coleus,' 'The Shah' and 'Chameleon' are rather uncertain as to keeping true to character. I had probably not more than one-fourth of my plants last summer that were planted out, held to their markings, which they did throughout the entire season; but all the rest ran back to the plain color. So far, I cannot yet say what will 'set' the markings." Mr. HENDERSON'S remarks are, in effect, the same as those we expressed last week. We do not believe there ever will be a Shah or Chameleon so fixed as to hold its diffused, undecided colorings, while the plants are permitted to make a healthy, vigorous growth. We have tried Chameleon ever since its introduction, propagating only from the most highly-colored shoots. These would remain true during the winter, but the spring and summer growth has always been as ten of the old Coleus to one of the "Chameleon," and this is the experience of several others of whom we had made inquiry. We have had little experience with the "Shah," but, from the undefined character of its markings, we venture to place it in the same box.

A., Bristol, R. I.—We should do our painting, whether Averil Chemical or ordinary lead paint be used, in mid-spring or mid-fall. Excessive heat or excessive cold in different ways, seriously affects its value and durability.

R. S. (1.) Cuttings of the Weeping Willow will strike now. Make them two feet long—or longer if you choose—and insert them in rather moist earth or muck, in a shaded place, six inches deep. Press the earth firmly about them. (2.) Such cuttings, of course, will not stand the same degree of cold that they would if struck in the spring. (3.) If planted in moist ground, they will, in three years, grow to trees twenty feet high.

S. C., Meadville.—The fact that your "Australian Pine, planted this spring, has not yet pushed its buds," is not proof that it will die. We have known them to remain dormant until the next spring, and we have known them to commence growth as late as Sep. 1st. It is not, we presume, advisable when the season is so far advanced, to stimulate growth, as you suggest, "by digging about the roots and watering them profusely," since the young and tender leaves and wood would probably be killed, if next winter should prove one of severity. Better leave the tree to itself and retard growth. If transplanted evergreens do not turn brown and lose their leaves by mid-summer, they may be considered out of danger, even though not one bud has pushed.

Cherry Grower.—The small, cylindrical, brown beetle, about an eighth of an inch long, found boring into the bark of your cherry tree, is one of the numerous species of Scolytus inhabiting this country and preying upon various kinds of trees. The specimen sent was so badly smashed that we cannot determine the species, although enough was left for us to recognize the genus to which it belongs. The only way we know of preventing the attacks of the bark beetles is to keep the stems and larger branches of the trees whitewashed or smeared with soap.

Gardener.—The currant bud-mite referred to as doing so much damage in Europe has not to our knowledge appeared in this country. If any of our readers should discover its presence in their currant bushes, we hope they will send us specimens.

Young Voter.—The custom of voting to elect officers or magistrates to govern or make laws for the people is of very ancient date; in fact, it would be difficult to determine just when, where, or how it originated. But you and other young voters may not know that the ballots used by the ancient Romans were beans of different colors. A white bean cast for a candidate was a vote in his favor; a black one against him; and from this custom, it is supposed, originated the one of blackballing obnoxious candidates applying for admission to secret or other societies.

Young Coleopterist.—You can obtain small pocket lenses, suitable for examining common insects, at from 50c. to 15 or $20. One of the cheaper kind will probably answer your purpose very well and be of great assistance in making examinations of the smaller species, as well as the organs of larger kinds.

School Girl.—Yes, we do make a distinction between the words "branch" and "limb," even though some of our dictionaries fail to do so. Poets and novelists are allowed considerable license in the use of words, but as you desire to know why we do not call the *branch* of a tree a *limb*, we give it—it is because we think it an incorrect way of speaking. The distinction made may be somewhat arbitrary, still it is just as well, if not better, to confine the word "limb" to the animal kingdom in ordinary conversation and when writing upon subjects relating to natural history, as to use some other and less correct name. We notice that our best and highest botanical authorities do not call the *stem* of a tree or shrub the "trunk" or "body," neither do they say "limb" when referring to a "branch." Hence, when speaking of the principal parts of a tree, we use the names root, stem, branch, twig, leaves, etc., and say limbs when referring to the legs of horses, cows, reptiles or insects. The arms and legs of a man are his limbs, and no one would think of speaking of them as his branches, still it would be just as correct as to call the branches of a tree its limbs.

C.—"Are coal ashes good for Raspberries and Blackberries?" ANS.—It is the very general opinion of chemists and horticulturists that coal ashes contain no elements that can be of benefit to plants. We sometimes fancy, however, in spite of such opinions, that coal ashes exert a highly beneficial influence upon certain plants (among them the Raspberry and Blackberry), and that, like gypsum, which, under certain conditions, seems to have no effect whatever, and under others most marked effects, their action and adaptation are little understood. If their effects were due solely to the small quantity of wood ashes usually mixed with coal ashes, most plants would be improved by their application. Such, however, is not the case. If their action were purely mechanical, loosening the soil or serving as a mulch, most plants in soils requiring such mechanical action would be benefited, but this is not the case. That coal ashes in nineteen instances out of twenty are useless, or even sometimes injurious, we do not dispute. But in the twentieth instance it may, we believe, prove of great service; and in this place, speaking from experience alone, we think the above species of the genus Rubus will be found.

Market Gardener.—It is a very old and common belief that the free use of lettuce induces sleep. COLUMELLA, who wrote his great work on Roman agriculture more than eighteen centuries ago, said:

> "And now let lettuce, with its healthful sleep,
> Make haste, which of a tedious, long disease
> The painful loathings cures."

The belief in the sedative properties of lettuce is certainly old enough to have become fixed, even if not very potent.

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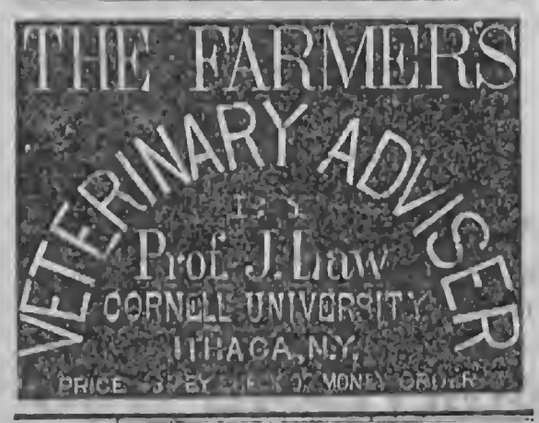

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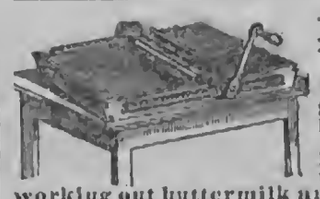

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Are you going West, North or Northwest?
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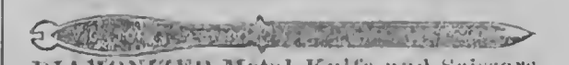

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER is one of the readable, useful, family papers, equally in demand by the lady in her conservatory, the matron with her household, the farmer in his field, the stock raiser among his animals, and the young folks around the evening lamp.—*Lawn of Life.*

Wit and Humor.

"NOBLESSE OBLIGE."

INTERLOCUTOR.—"Who's that showy woman who talks and laughs so loud, and digs people in the ribs?"

Interlocutrix.—"Oh, that's the Duchess of Bayswater. She was a Lady Gwendolen Beaumanoir, you know!"

Interlocutor (with warmth)—"Ah! to be sure! That accounts for her high-bred ease, her aristocratic simplicity of manner, her natural and straight-forward—"

Interlocutrix (putting up her eye-glass).—"By the bye, pardon me! I have unintentionally misinformed you; it's Mrs. Judkins. She's the widow of an alderman, and her father was a cheesemonger in the New-cut!"

Interlocuter.—"*Dear* me!—ah!—hum!—er—hum!—ha! That *quite* alters the case! She is very vulgar, I *must* say—*awful!*"

[N. B.—It *was* the duchess after all].—*Punch.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

MEN of stamp—Postmasters.

THE national gait—Investigate.

A PROFESSION easel-y learned—The artist's.

A FLAGGING industry—The paving business.

A VERY narrow aperture—The crack of a whip.

MOVING for a new trial—Courting a second wife.

How to violate the tenth commandment in two letters—N V.

WHAT all would fain have and many feign to have—Money.

DOMESTIC Magazines—Wives who blow up their husbands.

WHY should you never tell secrets in a cornfield?—Because all the stalks have ears.

WHAT bird is likely to take most care of his toilet?—The cock, because he carries a comb.

MASTER—Now where did the Cyclops live? Youth—In Cyclopædia, please sir. Master—Go down.

IF a young lady wishes to encourage her lover, the best thing she can do when he gives her a squeeze is—*to repress* him.

"THE horse bit his master;
How came it to pass?
He heard the good pastor
Say, 'All flesh is grass.'"

IRASCIBLE gent (to waiter)—"They say there's nothing like leather, don't they?" "Yes, sir." "Then it's a lie, for the steak is!" (Waiter evaporates.)

"YOU are a nuisance! I'll commit you!" said an offended judge to a noisy person in court. "You have no right to commit a nuisance," said the offender.

AFTER a play a young Frenchman said to his friend. "I could play the lover better than that myself." She replied:—"Then, why in conscience don't you?"

A SHREWD old Yankee said he didn't believe there was any downright cure for laziness in a man. "But," he added "I've known a second wife to hurry it some."

AN editor at a dinner party, being asked if he would have some pudding, replied in a fit of abstraction:—"Owing to a press of more unimportant matter, we are unable to find room for it."

IT was Lord Houghton who, when a lady, more beautiful in her own eyes than those of the world, was boasting that she had had hundreds of men at her feet, remarked in an undertone "Chiropodists."

AN Irish agricultural journal advertises a new washing machine under the heading—"Every man his own washer-woman," and in its culinary department says that "potatoes should always be boiled in cold water."

A MERCHANT went home the other night and said cheerfully to his wife:—"Well, my dear I have failed at last." "Oh, that's good!" exclaimed the wife with a radiant face; "Now we can go to the Centennial, sure."

SOON, very soon, that delicious interval will arrive when the war-worn city pastor takes his needed recreation, and the young man in holy orders occupies his vacated pulpit in search of earthly distinction and a rich wife.

A CAPTAIN caught an Irish boy in the middle watch frying some pork and eggs he had stolen from the ship's stores, to whom the captain called out:—"You lubber, you, I'll have none of that!" "Faith, captain, I've none for ye," replied the lad.

FRANK BUCKLAND is, as usual, industrious as ever; he has discovered another hybrid—knows it can be easily acclimatized in this country, and has done well for years. It is a cross of the bee (not a spelling one) and a bug; he proposes to call it "humbug."—*Sporting Times.*

TWO VIEWS OF THE SAME SUBJECT.

Quaker Landlord.—Thee are good to thyself, JOHN, and if thy boarders are reasonable, thee will have cause to be glad of the Centennial.

Boarder.—There he goes. It's easy to see we have the herbs and he the contentment. Wants me to play shadow to his sun dial. Followed him yesterday two miles to get a good square *smell*, that I might not forget what a good dinner was like.

CORTLAND WAGON MANUF'G. CO,
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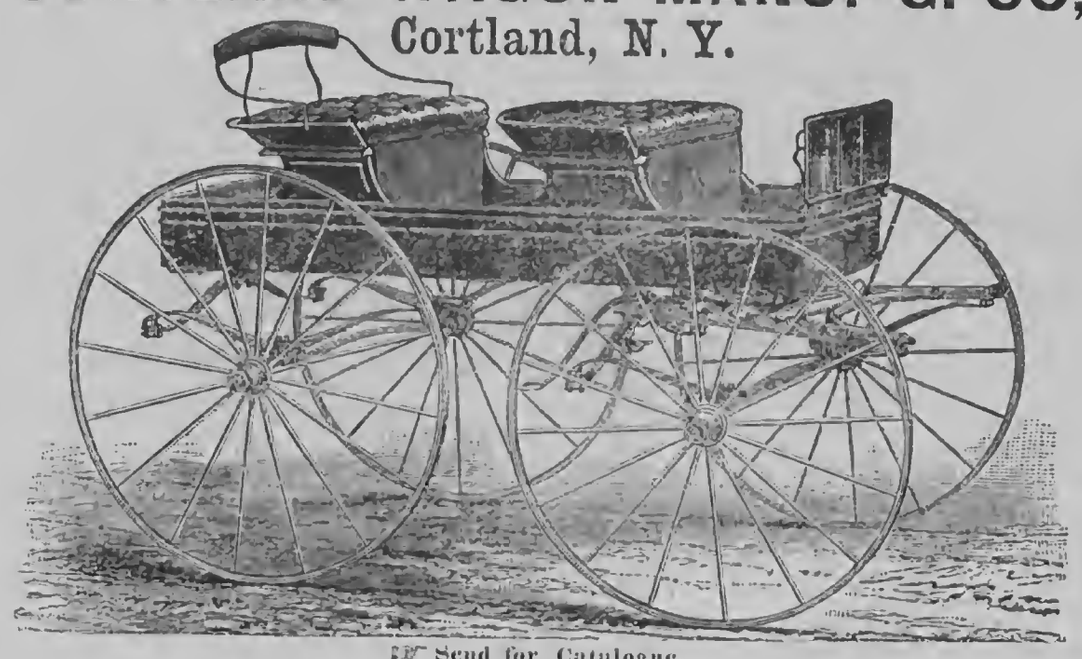

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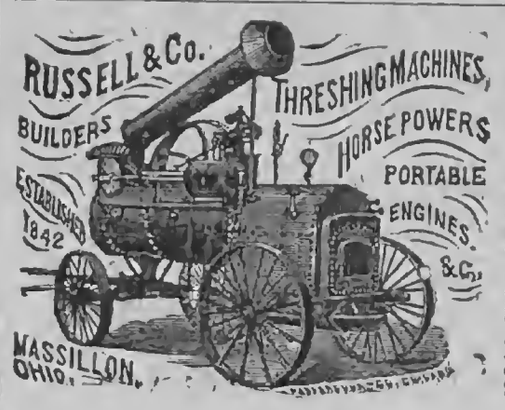

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EXCELSIOR

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

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Floricultural.

ARUM DRACUNCULUS.

The Arum Dracunculus, of which our sketch is from life, has never received an extravagant amount of praise either for its beauty which is of the monstrous sort, or for the odor which it possesses in an eminent degree and which it is pleasanter to describe by telling what it is not than by what it is. Many naturalists suppose that it is the fragrance of flowers as well as their bright colors that attracts the insects necessary to their fertilization. In the instance of the Arum, the velvety-purple of its spathe may alone suffice, else it must be supposed that odors that are offensive to the human olfactory are agreeable to that of the insect—a supposition that is not, however, improbable when we consider how variously the same odor affects different persons.

We find in the experimental grounds which are now devoted to the Rural New-Yorker where the Arum is now blooming, that the goblet-shaped bottom of the spathe which surrounds the stamens and pistils of the spadix, is partly filled with various insects which feed upon the pollen. The nut-like pistils are crowded about the base extending an inch or more upwards where they meet the stamens. It is very easy for the insects to creep up the rough surface of the pistils and feed upon the pollen; but above the stamens, the spadix is naked and slippery so that they find it a troublesome if not an impossible matter to escape in this way. Equally difficult is it for them to creep up the inflexed sides of the swollen part of the spathe. After an inch or so of progress, they lose footing and fall to the bottom where they exist in numbers sufficient to crush or smother one another. As the spathe of this Arum consists of a leaf, the edges of which are not joined together, the swollen bottom allows water to escape, otherwise in this plant as in the pitcher and other so-called carnivorous plants, the insects would be drowned and an opportunity afforded to our infinitesimal botanists to investigate whether in this, as in those, the putrid animal bodies were not "dissolved by this subtle fluid and converted into plant-food."

Symplocarpus foetidus or Skunk Cabbage—*Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Indian Turnip—*Peltandria Virginica*, the Arrow Arum—*Calla palustris*, the Water Arum—*Orontium aquaticum*, Golden Club—and *Acorus calamus* or Sweet Flag are all hardy natives and well suited to semi-aquatic or wild gardens. The Skunk Cabbage is something to laugh at when mentioned as a garden ornament, yet we see leaves no bigger, no more vigorous, no prettier, that grace "sub-tropical" beds that are taken up every fall and carefully looked after until another spring. Shame upon the fellow who, regardless of "What's in a name" and, looking through his nose instead of through his eyes, should have dubbed this plant both specifically and generically with names so far removed from the romance of flowers as to have condemned it "forever and a day" to the meadow and swamp.

Speaking of the Wild Garden—it is with real pleasure that we are enabled soon to present our readers with a long and interesting original article upon this subject from the pen of the Editor and Founder of the London Garden, Mr. William Robinson—a gentleman who, through many years of devotion to horticulture, has never wearied of reminding his readers "how far Nature's ways of displaying the beauty of vegetation have been diverged from in the adoption of a few varieties of plants for culture on a vast scale, to the exclusion of interest and variety and too often of beauty and taste."*

* Gardens of Paris by Wm. Robinson.

But to return to our deserted *Arum Dracunculus*. It averages two feet in hight and consists of 6 or 8 curly leaves pedately or hastately parted, on long petioles which are spotted like a leopard-skin with dull brown. The spathe is one foot or more in length, of a vivid, glossy, red-dish-purple inside, deeply veined and green outside except the edges which are also purple.

The Caladium, Calla Lily and many of our finest hot-house plants are sisters of the Arum. One of the showiest is the brilliant *Anthurium*, elegant specimens of which may now be seen in Horticultural Hall of the Centennial Exhibition.

CINNAMON VINE. INDIGO PLANT.

In your notes in Horticultural column of Rural you think it probable that the "Cinnamon Vine" is the same as the well-known "Madeira Vine." Since making my inquiry of you I have received a few words from a friend which I think clearly make a distinction between the two Vines. Below is what my friend has to say about it:—"It will certainly prove a great favorite when better known. It hails from Japan as many of our best plants and shrubs do. The Vine grows from a tuberous root which increases in size from year to year, some of them attaining the weight of several pounds, and as the roots increase the vine is much larger and stronger and of very rapid growth. It is perfectly hardy in central New York, farther north I do not know anything about it. I would say it is easily propagated from the little spherical tubers which form upon the vine. A well grown specimen will grow about 25 feet in a season. The blooms are most deliciously fragrant filling the air for some distance around with a spicy fragrance which suggests the name of Cinnamon Vine. It can also be cultivated within the house with the greatest of ease and will no doubt be a great acquisition to our climbing class of plants. The vine has no tendrils with which to cling to its support but like the Madeira Vine will twine around any object for support such as a pole, cord or trellis. Fragrance, hardiness and ease of culture are its most desirable qualities. Do not know of any roots for sale at present, but I presume some florists have them." Perhaps you may get some information from the above—at least, I hope you will. I will still endeavor to get one of the vines, and then we will see.

THE ARUM DRACUNCULUS.

You seem to be well pleased with wild plants. We have a few in our section that would attract your attention if you were here. Near my home are several plants of *Baptisia*, or as some prefer to call them Indigo plants, which are well worthy a place upon any floral grounds, but I presume if China or Japan were named as its native home, they would be sought as a great novelty, providing a round price were placed upon them. Perhaps the most noticeable one of the class is *Baptisia leucantha*—it is really grand in appearance at present time, having attained a hight of four feet and bearing an erect raceme of large, pure white flowers. The flowers are in form like the common pea but somewhat larger. But the most noticeable part is the immense raceme; only think, 30 inches in length—this the central one—the others are of various lengths, the number of buds and flowers being about 120. The plant is a strong grower of dark-green color which turns a little black in drying. The seed-pods are all inflated and are somewhat of a curiosity to many. We have one or two more of the *Baptisia* in our section, but this one *B. leucantha* is most conspicuous. Who is there that cultivates this grand native plant? I intend to save seeds from several plants for the Rural Brigade if any should desire them. I would like to see them in the possession of all who have a taste for our native plants.

Oregon, Mo. J. W. Maple.

[Send us a leaf, flower or root—or all, if you can, of what you call the Cinnamon Vine.—Ed.]

SEEDLING DAHLIAS.

Mr. Maple of Oregon, Mo., writes us that he has just finished transplanting Seedling Dahlias and expects to have some new and distinct kinds of his own as the result. "The seeds were sown in hot-bed on 1st of April, and I look for nine-tenths of them to bloom this season. I prefer growing Dahlias from seed to many of the coarse-growing annuals, such as *Zinnia*, &c. I have been at a loss to know why the growing of the Dahlia has not been more strongly recommended by the Old Rural and other floricultural papers;—yes, and why some of our seedsmen who persist in saying they will not bloom until the *second year* should not give them a trial and become convinced of the error of their way. I give my Dahlias the same care that I do early cabbage plants; and who is it that cannot raise cabbage plants? No one, I hope.

"To get the *best seed* has been a great trouble to me. I always select the very *choicest mixed*, and the result is variable in the extreme—about one-half prove double, though many have an objectionable color. Will report this fall of my success."

[We are always glad to get the results of actual experience.—Eds.]

Striking Pinks in Water.—A. D., in Garden, says it has recently been found that Pink pipings strike freely tied up in small bundles and placed in water. When the roots are well developed, the pipings should be pricked out into a frame or under hand-lights until they are strong enough for moving into pots or borders.

Industrial Topics.

HOW TO REVIVE INDUSTRY; OR, THE CAUSE AND CURE OF "HARD TIMES."

BY WILLIAM J. FOWLER.

Excessive cost of production is the cause of "hard times." When labor ceases to be profitable because the product is not worth what it costs to produce it, the consequent idleness of millions of men and women results in a proportionate decrease of national wealth. This must in time be felt in a greater or less degree by all classes of citizens. How to produce most cheaply is, therefore, the problem in all industries. To this end all skill and labor-saving machinery are directed. But in the present depression in business ordinary skill fails to secure the just reward of labor. We are told that "the hand of the diligent maketh rich." This is true in ordinary times, but now we find men working diligently and becoming more involved in loss. Under such circumstances it is their duty to make political economy a part of their business and give some attention to removing the burdens from productive industry. A large majority of our industrial population now fully appreciate the importance of this subject.

Industry has for many years labored under unusual burdens. First of these is enormous taxation, all of which is ultimately paid by the productive industry of the country. The State, Federal and Local taxes amount to more than seven hundred million dollars a year. This is more than the volume of our currency. If the tax gatherer could hold all the money paid to him for one year, there would be none left for business, and before the close of the year he would be compelled to take property "in kind" in payment of taxes. Part of this enormous burden on industry is a legacy of the war; but much may be lessened by economy in administration.

The protective tariff imposes a heavier burden on industry. The avowed object of "protection" is to make an artificially-dear market for the manufacturer to sell in. But this dear market increases the cost of production, and is thus a tax on all industry. Even the manufacturer finds that the high price of everything he buys takes away the profit on what he sells. Increased cost of production excludes him from the foreign market—sometimes neutralizes the tariff for his protection and exposes him to ruinous competition from his foreign rival. The burden on all classes diminishes their power to buy. With decreased, because costly, production, there is an apparent excess of products from inability to sell them. Hence there is stagnation in business, men are thrown out of work, and the country steadily grows poorer. The great agricultural industries are most injured. The tariff increases the cost of what the farmer buys. The prices of his crops are fixed by competition with the products of other counties in the London and Liverpool markets.

Depreciated currency adds to the cost of production, and is thus much such a tax on industry as is the tariff. Like that, it excludes American producers from the foreign market, and also like that is especially injurious to the farmer. His crops are produced under the high prices of a depreciated currency, but they are sold on a gold basis. Is it any wonder that farming is unprofitable under this double burden?

How to bring the greenback to par is the foremost question for American statesmanship to solve. We need a currency as good as gold in order to produce as cheaply as possible. There is no talismanic charm about the glittering metal. The substantial benefit of having money redeemable in gold is that it insures to our producers the same standard of value that is used in other countries. Gold itself we cannot have as currency, for the country is much too poor to afford it. There is no large accumulation of gold here, and we cannot accumulate it. All that our mines produce is needed to pay interest on our national debt held in Europe. We can only get more gold by working harder and producing more that will exchange for it. Until the country is a good deal richer we must be content with a greenback currency, kept as near par as possible. When we revive industry by removing its burdens, bind up the wounds of the war and repair its losses, the great natural advantages of our country will bring an influx of wealth and give us a specie currency just so soon as it is best we should have it. Any attempts to force this process by purchasing gold to resume specie payment before the country is prepared will prove futile. The London gold market is as sensitive to any rude approach as the apple of the eye. Try to buy gold in any large amount, and the Bank of England will at once put up its rate of discount high enough to forbid further purchases.

Much is said about the depreciation of the currency, as if this were the chief cause of our financial depression. No doubt it has aggravated it; but it is more the sign of the poverty of the country by reason of the war, high taxes and other burdens on industry. Men do not say that a fever patient is dying because of parched lips and tongue. These are only symptoms of the disease. Our depreciated currency is only a symptom of the poverty of the country. Producing more wealth is the only remedy. Men talk about an excess of paper money. There is no reason to believe that our currency is excessive. In the present unnatural condition of industry, no one can tell how much currency the country needs. Business paralysis has made it seem that there is an excess of money. The same cause has made an apparent excess of all productions. With a revival of industry we shall probably find that there is not currency enough. Increase wealth and the currency question will settle itself. When we have the wealth we shall have the gold also, for other countries will seek to exchange it for our productions. Just now England is the great gold center of the world, partly because England has enjoyed a longer peace than any other great country, and is, therefore, richer. We have greater natural advantages than England, and a revival of industry will speedily change the current of specie toward instead of from us. By removing the burdens from productive industry we can insure profitable employment for all and increase our productions fully one thousand million dollars per year. The enforced idleness of men who would gladly work has cost the country during the last three years more than the amount of our national debt. The country is so much poorer by this paralysis of industry, and so much the less prepared to resume specie payments. Decrease taxation—make it possible to produce cheaply, and the country will progress to a specie standard without injury to any productive industry.

No plan for specie resumption is practical which does not take into account the effect on the business interests of the country. Contracting the currency will only increase the depression of industry. The destruction of greenbacks will not give us gold, but leave us no money whatever and no means of exchange except barter—a return to the methods of barbarism. Yet this violent and unnatural policy, which will cripple the industry of the country by withdrawing the means for conducting it, is seriously proposed. Leading financiers tell us that this will release us from all financial evils and prepare the way for "better times." Such men hope to become wealthy in a financial revulsion which would bankrupt ninety-nine hundredths of the business men of the country. They are only paralleled by Mrs. Brom Brice, a worthy dame who lived in Westchester County sixty or seventy years ago, and who used to go down the Hudson to New York to sell her truck. Returning from an unsuccessful expedition, she spitefully said that she wished everybody was dead and "then she would go to New York and sell butter!" Much that passes for statesmanship and financial wisdom in these days is stolen from Mrs. Brom Brice.

Mere talking for specie resumption accomplishes nothing. Fixing a date and doing nothing to make resumption possible is equally absurd, besides being a threat of a forced and unnatural resumption, and so injurious to all industrial interests. Men who talk most for "hard money" may really be doing least to secure it. When the two sons were called to work in the vineyard, the first said, "I will not," but afterward repented and went. The second said, "I will go, sir," but went not. It matters little what men do about the currency. Whoever advocates the removal of the burdens from industry is doing the best to bring the country to a specie basis. (Another excellent and practical way is to go to work in some productive industry.) When Abou Ben Adhem asked to be written "as one who loved his fellow-men," he little thought that his name would "lead all the rest" in the list of "those who loved the Lord." But so it proved.

It is comparatively little that the Government can do directly for the currency, but it can and should own the greenback by making it fundable in a long-time, low-rate, gold-bearing bond. A fifty-year bond at 3.65 per cent. would at once be worth 90, or more, and as the country became richer would steadily advance to par. When those greenback bonds were par, of course greenbacks would also be par, and without any derangement to business interests. The greenback was originally exchangeable for all United States bonds; but this provision was long since repealed, and since then the poor greenback, like a foundling on a doorstep, has been left to shift for itself. It is strong proof of popular confidence that the disowned greenback has kept so near par as it has. Making it fundable in a long-time, interest-bearing bond is an act of justice already too long delayed. Besides, nothing which the Government can do to the currency will have so good an effect in preventing those violent fluctuations which are the bane of business and industrial activities.

The high rates of interest are another heavy burden on industry. The Government originally demoralized the interest market early in the war by its 7.30 bonds. Still later, its 6 per cent. gold bonds yielded an interest of 12, 15 or more per cent. in currency. The high rates of interest paralyzed legitimate industries. Then began the era of speculation. The profits of the farm, of the shop and of the manufactory would not pay as much interest as could be had by investing in bonds. Only speculators could afford to borrow money. After a feverish whirl of speculation, we find the industries of the country stranded, and enforced idleness saps the foundation of individual and national wealth. The paralysis of business has accumulated idle capital in the money centers, where it is held by men who eagerly look for some financial revulsion which will bring the country to "hard pan." They all hope, like Mrs. Brom Brice, to grow rich "when everybody is dead"—or ruined. In the mean time farmers, manufacturers and mechanics find it as hard to get money as ever. Rates of interest to them are still kept up, stimulated by the high interest which the Government is still paying on its non-taxable bonds. This evil can be partially remedied by funding the seven hundred million 6 per cent. bonds now due in a thirty or forty-year 4 per cent. bond. The saving of 2 per cent. interest on this sum will be the least of its advantages to the country. Its immediate effect will be a reduction of interest on all loans, putting the rate back to the old-fashioned 6 or 7 per cent. common before the war, doing something to relieve the industries of the country, as raising the rate did to embarass them. This great measure of funding the debt at 4 per cent. is, however, only possible by decreasing taxation and in the various ways I have suggested removing the burdens on industry and promoting the prosperity of the country. The revival of industry will add one thousand millions of dollars a year to our national productions. This is the wealth we now yearly lose by enforced idleness. Possibly a still heavier loss may be found in the humiliation of thousands by grinding poverty, who, with a fair chance, might have been industrious and self-respecting citizens.

Pittsford, May 24, 1876.

The Herdsman.

INTERNATIONAL LIVE STOCK EXHIBITION.

The Bureau of Agriculture, International Exhibition, is receiving applications for the assignment of stalls for the display of Horses, Neat Cattle, Swine and Sheep. The live stock show will be made in serial order, commencing with horses, Sept. 1st to 14th; dogs, Sept. 4th to 8th; neat cattle, Sept. 21st to Oct. 4th; sheep and swine, Oct. 10th to 18th; poultry, Oct. 27th to Nov. 6th. No charge will be made as entry fee, nor for the use of stalls, which will be of first-class character in all respects.

The stock yard is of sufficient area to allow the construction of 700 box stalls for horses, each 14 feet square, these to be afterwards divided for cattle, by longitudinal partitions, into 1,400 stalls, each 7 x 14, all of ample elevation and security. The stock yard is immediately alongside of the tracks of the Pennsylvania Rail Road, which, by its connections, is able to transport animals from almost any part of the Union direct to the Exhibition Grounds.

The stock yard will be thoroughly well watered, and lighted by gas, and under the constant charge of a company of Centennial guards. All the prominent transportation companies agree to return, free of freight, animals sent for exhibition upon which full rates were paid in the first instance. Exhibitors, or their agents, will be required to assume the entire charge of horses, neat cattle, sheep and swine, and be alone responsible, although the Commission will do all in its power to provide for the comfort and safety of the animals. Attendants upon stock may sleep in the stalls, or can find ample room at the numerous hotels and taverns in the immediate vicinity. Hay and straw will be furnished by the Centennial Commission free of charge. Roots and grains will be sold at depots upon the ground in the stock yard. The prices charged will be simply those of actual cost, the attendants upon stock drawing the daily supplies upon coupon tickets, which will be sold from the office and furnished to the attendants by their employers. Each breed of well-established character in the various families of live stock will constitute a distinct class, under which awards will be made as provided for in classifications.

Though it is not purposed by the officers of the Bureau of Agriculture to have competition between immature animals, still young animals may be stalled with their dams, that the transmission of valuable qualities may be shown. In this view, breeders are particularly requested to make exhibition of succeeding generations of animals in direct geneology. Single animals and herds, entered for competition in any class, must be the bonafide property of the individual in whose name they are entered. This rule does not, however, prevent State Centennial Boards and Associations from entering for display flocks and herds made up from the stock of various owners.

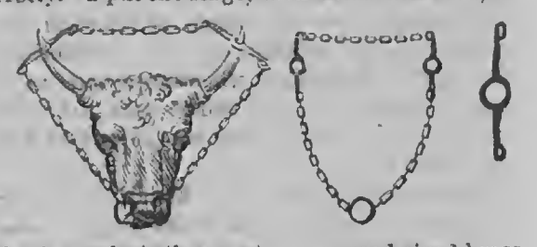
Every animal in its class, as to breed, sex and age, possessing points of excellence, will be reported upon more or less fully, according to its inherent and comparative merit. Exhibitors, whose stock receives the commendation of the Judges, will be presented with a diploma, specifying the typical features of each animal, and supplementary to the diploma, will be presented the uniform bronze medal of the Commission. Of more value than either the diploma or medal, will be the special report over the signatures of the Judges, presented to each exhibitor of meritorious animals, stating fully the reasons why they awarded him a diploma and medal; thus a feature will be developed never before attempted. The Judges on each class will also make a general report upon the characteristics of each breed, especial reference being made to animals exhibited of superlative merit. These reports will be embodied with the reports of Judges on other groups, and be highly valuable for reference in the future. Numbers alone will distinguish animals in the show yard preceding the inspection by the Judges, afterward full opportunity will be given to exhibitors to display their cards and trophies. Animals may be sold at private or public sale during the exhibition, and within the yard: but no animal will be allowed to be removed prior to the evening of the closing day. Special premiums from societies and individuals must be awarded through the hands of the Centennial Commission. During the season of the display of cattle, opportunity will be given, if desired, to exhibit the butter characteristics of the various milking breeds. Churns can be readily had and a room secured for the exhibition of the process of butter making and the qualities produced.

During the display of sheep, a room will be provided for the exhibition of fleeces, to which it is trusted breeders will not fail to contribute. Classification lists and entry forms will be forwarded on application to the Bureau of Agriculture, Centennial Commission. Entries will close on the first day of August.

HOW TO RING A BULL.

Since reading in the Rural last fall about that fight a farmer in Michigan had with an ugly bull, although I admired his courage and perseverance in bringing the animal under subjection, I thought that the old adage of an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure was worth a trial.

Having an Ayrshire, three years old, who showed some symptoms of being cross, I went to the blacksmith shop and ordered a ring, made with two arms about two inches in length and the hole in the ring just large enough to slip on the horn near the tip, but loose enough to work freely. I put the rings, with arms attached, on



the horn first, then put on a good-sized brass knob securely, so the rings could not get off, then I attached a piece of metal chain from the ring in his nose to the lower end of the arm of the ring on the horn, then from the top end of the arms I put a chain across from one arm to the other, and from the lower end of the other arm to the ring in his nose.

I have used it on my animal for several months and it works very nicely indeed. He can not hook fence, cattle or anything, for the moment he presses on any part of the chain, it pulls on his nose and he retreats immediately, keeping him under control very easily.

The small bars with hole in the center, which are put upon the horns, are five inches in length and one-fourth in thickness. The chain is linked into each end, as shown in the accompanying figures.

J. D. F. Woolston.

Preble, N. Y.

High Price of Short-Horns.—The high prices at which some of the fancy Short-Horns sell in England shows that there is no falling off in the interest of this old and very popular breed. At Mr. Groom's sale in England lately, a heifer, less than four years old, was run up to $17,500 in gold. Another, still younger, sold at $4,500. What think our farmers about raising such stock, which cost no more to keep than the poorest and cheapest breed.

Dairy Husbandry.

SAGE CHEESE.

An Illinois correspondent inquires as to the best process for making sage cheese. He says: "A gentleman from Chicago tells me sage cheese is not often found on the market, and it commands four or five cents per pound more than common cheese. Is there a market East for such cheese, and how is the sage raised to give the cheese a mottled color?"

Sage cheese is made very much like our common factory and farm dairy cheese, except in the flavoring and coloring. To obtain the flavoring, the sage is steeped in warm water and the liquor strained through a cloth, and is then added to the milk in the vat at the time of putting in the rennet. If it is desired to give the cheese a green, mottled color, the juice of green corn leaves or clover is used for coloring. The leaves are bruised in a mortar or other vessel, so that the juice may be easily expressed, and this is mingled with a portion of the milk taken from the vat immediately after the rennet has been added, and is allowed to coagulate by itself. The two portions of milk, after coagulation, are then "wheyed off" separately, and when the curds are in proper condition for salting they are mixed together.

The green curds being thus intermingled with the white, give the mottled appearance to the cheese, which is often considered essential to the lovers of sage cheese. It may be remarked, however, that the coloring adds nothing to the flavor of the cheese and is for the gratification of the eye alone.

There is always a limited demand for sage cheese in nearly all our markets, and the supply is, so far as we have observed, much below the demand. We believe considerable quantities of this kind of cheese could be sold if it was on the market and at prices that would well pay for its manufacture. Sage cheese is more expensive to make than common cheese, but as it always brings an extra price that more than pays for the trouble and expense of making, it would seem to offer inducements to dairymen for manufacturing in much larger quantities than at present. As a general rule, American cheese is confined too much to one variety. There are several kinds of cheese that are in demand, more or less, and which could be made in limited quantities at a profit; and if the market were well supplied with these varieties, home consumption of cheese would be promoted, and thus the trade would be benefitted in all directions.

We presume there is a market for sage cheese abroad, but the supply has always been so small in this country that none, so far as we know, has been exported. We should advise our correspondent to consult leading dealers in cheese at Chicago and other markets in Illinois, as possibly he may be enabled to obtain a contract for the manufacture of all he can produce, and while we venture the opinion that sage cheese will also find a market at the East, we must add this cautionary advice, namely: that he must not depend simply upon the flavoring of sage to sell the cheese. Sage cheese, to be salable, must be what the cheese-mongers call "rich in meat," that is to say, with plenty of butter-fat in its composition, and in other respects to be well made, showing the quality and other characteristics of fine goods. Poor stuff, having no merit beyond the flavoring of sage and the peculiar mottled coloring of green, will not be sufficient to make it sought after in the market; but, on the other hand, it would soon be discovered as a fraud, and prove in the end a bad investment for both maker and dealer.

MILK AFFECTED BY DISEASE AND OTHER CAUSES.

When animals are suffering from disease the composition of the milk which they yield is quite different from what it is when the animals are in health. In some diseases there is a marked tendency of the fat globules to aggregate. This is the case when cows are affected with the foot and mouth disease where the fat globules also are much larger than in healthy milk, and in advanced stages of the disease they rise to the surface, not as cream, but as pure butter fat. A change is also seen in the envelopes of the butter globules—the thin, firm covering, the particles of fat presenting a glaring, mucus-like appearance, and is intensely refractive.

It is only quite recently that the milk of animals affected by disease has been studied, and it has been found to present changes in composition in a more marked form than had been supposed. All such milk is more or less charged with disease, and there can be no doubt that when the milk of sick cows is used in the manufacture of butter and cheese, it carries its poison to those articles of food. Care should be taken to exclude the milk of ailing cows from human consumption. During hot weather milk is often injured by over-driving cows—by racing them in pastures with dogs—by beating or otherwise maltreating them in the stables at milking time, and all this is done often under the impression that no harm comes from it, so far as the milk is concerned.

The practice of using a dog to bring cows to the stable for milking is a very bad practice and should be abandoned, not only on account of the less quantity of milk which results from such driving, but especially the injury done to the milk. Cows in milk should be driven very leisurly at all times, but more particularly in hot weather and when their udders are crowded with milk. Fast driving then is often very painful to the animal, and not unfrequently some of the blood vessels are ruptured by the strain on the parts, causing bloody milk to flow for days thereafter. We have seen cows seriously injured, simply from being over-driven in this way, and in numerous instances floating curds and other troubles in working the milk for cheese can be traced to the same cause. The subject is an important one, which may well occupy the attention of dairymen during the hot weather, when milk is more difficult to be kept sound than at other seasons.

KEEPING MILK SOUND FOR LONG PERIODS.

Some weeks since, we gave an account in the Rural of experiments made by Prof. Kolbe of the University of Leipsic in regard to the properties of salicylic acid as an antiseptic and antiferment, and the suggestion was offered that it might possibly prove of value in the preservation of milk. We now have accounts of another antiseptic, which, according to the experiments of S. Sewin, appears to be more potent than salicylic acid.

This substance, Thymol, is obtained by distillation from oil of thyme, and occurs in white, highly-aromatic crystals. When dissolved in hot water in the proportion of one part per 1,000, it forms a fully-saturated solution, possessing a neutral reaction. The Popular Science Monthly, which translates from a foreign journal a brief summary of Sewin's experiments, says that 0.1 per cent. of this solution is sufficient to prevent fermentation in sugary liquids, no matter what the proportion of sugar and yeast. "Milk, to which a small quantity of thymal solution was added, did not begin to show signs of coagulation till twenty days later than milk with which an equal quantity of water had been mixed. Filtered white of eggs, in contact with the air, was found to grow putrid in three or four days, whereas white of eggs, with which thymol-water had been mixed, gave not the slightest indication of putridity after eleven weeks. The same results were obtained in treating pus with water and thymal; pus so treated at once lost its putrid odor and continued to be odorless for five weeks, or until it had become dry."

If a substance, operating as an antiseptic and antiferment, could be found which, when added to milk in certain quantities would preserve it, and at the same time contain no properties injurious to health, a desideratum much to be wished would be reached.

It is true our present knowledge, in regard to the causes which hasten the decay of milk, is much more extensive than it was a few years ago; and although proper attention in guarding against these causes will enable the dairyman to keep his milk in sound condition for sufficient length of time to turn it into the products of the dairy, still we need some means for preserving milk that is used for human consumption in cities and villages. Immense sums are annually lost in milk spoiled, either on the hands of the dealer or consumer, and we hope the time is not distant when there shall be discovered a safe, cheap and effective method for keeping milk sound and in its natural state for long periods.

THE GERM THEORY TO BE INVESTIGATED.

The St. Albans (Vt.) Advertiser, of recent date, contains the following:

It is with much pleasure we learn that during Dr. Cressy's recent visit to Vermont, Mr. Bliss, whose guest he was over the Sabbath, perfected an arrangement with him to prepare especially for the next wintor meeting of the Vermont Dairymen's Association, an exhaustive paper upon the germ theory. Dr. Cressy has made the subject of disease germs a special study for many years, and has, at much expense, collected for his library every known work upon the subject. It has become so common an occurrence for tyros and quacks in dairy practice to charge every undesired result to some hidden germ, that a thorough elucidation of the character and effects of germs has come to be one of the urgent needs of the times, and the dairy public are to be especially congratulated that the Secretary of the Vermont Association, who seems on the alert for the development of truth and the dissipation of every obscurity of doctrine, has been so fortunate as to enlist in this cause so able an investigator as Dr. Cressy.

We are reminded in this connection that we should have noticed before the fact that Mr. Bliss secured, some time since, the services of Prof. X. A. Willard, A. M., the well-known writer and lecturer on dairy and agricultural topics, as orator for the annual meeting of the Association, which will be held in Montpelior, October 25th, next.

SELLING BUTTER AT HIGH PRICES.

Mr. Editor:—I saw in the Rural an article, April 23d, p. 263, where a man received 55c. per lb. for his butter, also in a May No. where a lady gets 40@45c. for hers in the South. She did not state where. I would like to have the address of those places in full, so that I, with the rest of my fellow-dairymen, can enjoy the profits of butter making.—Mary Stamp Babcock, *West Dresden, Yates Co., N. Y.*

We frequently get letters like the above, asking the names of parties who pay an extra price for butter. Our correspondents do not always give us names, and when they are given, they sometimes request us not to make them public, as the trade has been worked up at some time and trouble; and it would hardly be considered fair for third parties to be thus publicly led to these special fields to compete by underselling.

We may say, however, for the benefit of our correspondent and others similarly situated, that there are many persons in cities and villages who are willing to pay an extra price for butter, and often a price very much above the market rates, if they can be certain of being regularly supplied with an extra article, freshly put up, and in neat, cool packages. Much, and indeed the bulk, of the very high-priced butter that we have reported from time to time, is made up in pound prints, neatly stamped, wrapped in cloths of immaculate whiteness, and packed in refrigerator-pails or boxes, so that it goes to the consumer as rosy in flavor and as perfect in form as when it left the hands of the manufacturer.

It is delivered at frequent intervals, generally once a week, always on time, always perfect in texture and flavor, and upon these conditions the fastidious customer is willing to pay what is often regarded by many as a "fabulous price." This is the secret of high rates above market values, and if any of our correspondents who have the skill of making a "gilt edged" article desire to realize more than the regular market rates, they must select their customers and work up a trade in the manner referred to. Choice butter, properly packed and sent to market at the right time, will always command a better price than a poor article; but there is no general market where extraordinary rates are reached in a regular way.

EXPERIMENTS IN SETTING MILK.—PRIZE OFFERED.

The Vermont Dairymen's Association, under the management of its excellent Secretary, Mr. O. S. Bliss, has done important service for the dairy interest of Vermont. Mr. Bliss has been indefatigable in his labors to make his Association second to none in the land. The winter conventions have always been largely attended, and no effort has been spared to secure addresses from men well known for their practical and scientific attainments in the various branches of the dairy. These, with the discussions, have been worked up by Mr. B. in a series of reports which are of great value to dairymen.

Last year valuable prizes were offered by the Association for the best samples of butter and for essays on butter and cheese making, and for next winter Mr. B. announces the following. He says:—"The Allen Oil Safe Co. having donated to the Vermont Dairymen's Association one of their Dairy and Family Refrigerators, worth $60, the Association offers it as a prize, to be awarded by a competent jury at the next winter meeting to the person furnishing the best and most instructive report of experiments conducted this season with a view to determine the most profitable depth, temperature and other conditions of setting milk for the production of cream and butter. Competition for this prize is open to the world. Reports must be sent to the Secretary of the Association on or before the first day of January, 1877, and will become the property of the Association for publication, under the rules of the Association, whether prize winners or not."

Mr. Bliss further says:—"The officers of the Association, believing this to be one of the most important questions now before the dairy public for solution, will spare no pains on their part to secure the fullest and most exhaustive experiments, and to this end they invite the cordial and earnest co-operation of all persons interested. They would be glad if the Association had the means to superadd to this a second and third or even a fourth prize for the same object, and they hope that through the generosity of some friend, or friends, they may, before the expiration of the season, be in a situation to do so."

THE CHEESE OF AUVERGNE.

There are several varieties of cheese made in France, which differ essentially in character from that commonly made in this country. A variation in the process of cheese making, or in the quality of material used, gives great diversity of quality to the product. Some of the plans adopted on the Continent of Europe must appear novel to our skilled factory managers. Thus, for instance, the cheese of Auvergne is made by coagulating the milk while fresh from the cow and without the addition of artificial heat. After the whey has separated from the curds and they have attained a somewhat firm consistency, they are placed in a tub, and a man kneads them with his feet.

This operation lasts about an hour to an hour and a half, and the kneaded mass is then left to ferment for forty-eight hours. It is then salted, put into molds and pressed, after which the fresh cheeses thus obtained are put into a cellar, where they are carefully looked after and frequently rubbed with a wet cloth. The cheese made by this process is said to be excellent by those who have acquired a taste for it, though with our English ideas in regard to cleanliness, a knowledge of the kneading process would not be likely to add piquancy in the eating.

Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP IN AUSTRALIA, &c.

It appears from your correspondent at Philadelphia that in Australia sheep are kept in numbers running one million for every one thousand men, which sounds strange when the comparative number of men and sheep are reckoned in the United States. It would be interesting to know in what way Australia is superior for sheep breeding purposes especially to the Southern States and have somebody explain why wool could not be grown to pay better than cotton.

Cotton is an exhausting crop while wool is the reverse; cotton requires much manual labor while wool needs little.

I note an advertisement for a company to stock land belonging to a railroad, a million acres, which is extraordinary if no swindle, for with the unemployed capital said to be in the possession of capitalists it seems complete imbecility to allow land to be useless which pays the millionaires more and safer interest than aught else, besides giving them a standing in the country equal to that of the Marquis of Westminster, the Duke of Bedford, &c. in England.

What are they afraid of?—Want of knowledge of sheep husbandry is the first thing, want of confidence in the judgment and the integrity of a Land Steward and the utter ignorance of the way to organize an establishment without being compelled to superintend the details of the business, what rubbish! it is absurdity to start a grand undertaking of this kind without doing it in a thorough business like way but it is childish to go to work with men who have failed in all their own endeavors whether in agriculture or otherwise.

Why should not the fine land and beautiful South with its lovely winters be utilized? Why should Australia keep fifty millions of sheep and our State with nearly a similar climate lie idle? why should the little Island of England support a population so extraordinary dense and likewise grow more wool than one hundred such areas would.

I think it is true that England, France and Australia, either one of them grows double the wool America does, it is also true that the United States does not grow half enough wool for her own factories and in addition there is more cloth and woolen goods imported than are manufactured. What an unaccountable and most outrageous folly such a law as protection is for it decidedly defeats its own ends, and how perfectly ridiculous to protect the article which Americans wont grow. Pshaw!—In ten years I could export and bring into this country double what cotton ever brought and save the millions that now are paid for foreign wool and foreign woolen goods besides which all the land devoted to sheep and other stock raising would annually improve.

Working Farmer.

LONG WOOLED SHEEP IN THE UNITED STATES AND ENGLAND.

Will some of the writers who are continually harping about long wools not doing well in New York and Pennsylvania say why they do very well in Canada, which is much colder and also how it is there is no complaining about their being inferior to Merinos in Kentucky where it is hotter, it appears extraordinary that such rubbish in argument should be allowed in good papers as 20 or 30 sheep being as many as a farm should have upon it.

How is it that not only on the same continent in the extreme cold of Canada, mutton from long wools is sought to go to New York City as being so superior to the New York and Pennsylvania, fed mutton and the duty of 20 per cent and heavy freights is paid after which a profit for the importers is added and yet the best hotels reject the meat fed by those who decry long wools? and again as before stated long wools are not written down or changed for other breeds in Southern States. It is repeatedly stated that long wools cannot be kept in large numbers, yet England is no larger than New York State and there are one hundred long wools in England for every Merino in the State of New York. In England there are a thousand sheep herds to every one in Pennsylvania.

Genuine Shepherd.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

CENTENNIAL FIELD EXHIBITION,
SCHENCK'S STATION, Pa.,
July 6, 1876.

NOTWITHSTANDING the thermometer ranges among the nineties and a breeze is something to be caught on the fly, the Harvesters and Jurors are hard at work. This morning's sunrise found the wheat field ready and all preparations made for the exhibition to begin, as it had been arranged to start early, with a rest during the heat of the day, resuming in the afternoon.

Apropos of this field. It is situated on the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in the town of Bridgewater, at what is known as Schenck's Station. It comprises between forty-six and forty-seven acres, and contains the following (eleven) kinds of wheat:

No. 1, Jennings; 2, Dichl; 3, Fulty; 4, Mediterranean; 5, Shumaker; 6. Clawson; 7, Treadwell; 8, Muskingum; 9, Post; 10, Russian; 11, White Rodgers.

Last September it was prepared and the grain put in by S. N. Gallup, Genl. Agent of the Bickford & Huffmen (Farmers' Favorite) Grain Drill.

Of Mr. Gallup it was said on the ground today that he would make an excellent salesman if it were not for the impediment in his speech. Any one who knows him will at once recognize the correctness of this assertion.

The preparation of the field with fertilizers is a somewhat interesting experiment. A portion of it was fertilized by 900 lbs. to the acre of Superphosphate, composed of Nitrogenous, Phosphatic and Pottassic, component parts, prepared expressly by Geo. E. White of New York, under the supervision of Mr. Landreth, put in by a broadcast seeder and harrowed in in advance of the grain drill.

Another portion of about 6 acres was prepared with the same material, applied in the same way after the drill. This did not produce as much by four or five bushels to the acre as the first, showing the advantage of a thorough incorporation with the soil, the volatile principle being fixed. A still more remarkable example of the complete incorporation with the soil was shown in a piece of 4 acres, where the material was applied by the use of a fertilizer attachment, the superphosphate being brought in direct contact with the seed and buried to a greater depth than with the harrow. On this piece only 240 lbs. to the acre were used, and the results were quite equal to the best of the other portions. It is quite possible, however, that the permanent results may be better where the 900 lbs. to the acre were used. This remains to be seen.

Had not the time been fixed for to-day, it would undoubtedly have been well to harvest the crop several days sooner; but, of course, the time for the exhibition had to be fixed, and the weather was the matter of uncertainty, which had to be taken as it came. It came very warm and exceedingly dry, rain being a thing almost unknown for a week past. The wheat for sowing was supplied gratuitiously by David Landreth & Sons of Philadelphia, as was the grass seed for the hay field by P. B. Mingle & Co. of the same city.

The Jurors had at first contemplated coming here last night and starting early this morning; but they telegraphed a countermaud and did not arrive till nearly 11 o'clock. Immediately upon their arrival, however, they consulted Mr. Landreth and Mr. Geddes and made a start upon the trial of Reapers. The first lot drawn was the Walter A. Wood Reaper and Automatic Binder.

The Binder, whoever gets perfection in it, is the coming implement and deserves some mention. When a machine is built which will, with the aid of two horses and one man, reap and bind the grain as fast as it is usually cut, it will save the labor of at least two and more often three men, who must follow the ordinary harvester, to bind. And the advantage is not alone in the saving of labor, but in the economy of time as well, which is frequently an important item in uncertain weather. And I am, for these and many other reasons, led to believe that he who gets the successful automatic binder is the coming man in the implement business.

The Walter A. Wood Harvester and Binder, under the direction of the Jurors, was started into the wheat and did its work with eminent success. This Company also displayed their chain and sweep-rake machines. Aultman, Miller & Co. then sent into the wheat their Buckeye with the Miller Table Rake, which is well worthy of special mention.

They also exhibited the working qualities of their Buckeye Combined Mower and Reaper. The Champion Mowing Machine Co., Warder, Mitchell & Co. and Whitely, Fassler & Kelly worked a full line of Champion Reapers of all styles and sizes. The Screw Mower and Reaper Co. sent in two Combined machines. McCormick & Co. started off a harvester with self binder, which failed to do its work.

At a subsequent attempt, it did quite as badly, and I hardly think the great father of all the reapers is quite up to the younger members of his implement family in the matter of binders. This firm also exhibited the working of their Harvester and Advance Reaper. The Bradley Mfg. Co. exhibited their new Self Rake Reaper. This implement did excellent work, and nearly every man on the ground spoke well of its work. It is an exceedingly light draft machine and has many novelties in its construction well worth the attention of the harvesting community. The Rochester Agricultural Works sent in two combined machines.

D. McPherson showed a new Binder attached to a Marsh Harvester. It seemed to work with reasonable certainty, and would probably have done much better had it been supplied by a different reaper. The Johnston Harvester Co. exhibited five implements, including their new Iron Harvester and Combined Mower and Reaper. They did good work and seemed to please the Jurors, who followed them with much attention and interest. Of course the Dewey family and the Sherwood family were constantly on hand to forward the interests of the Company.

July 7.

ANOTHER hot day and no Juror, except Mr. Coleman, till 10 o'clock. The representative of Her Britannic Majesty, however, made an early start and went at once to work. The implements were ready, and he went it alone for a couple of hours.

Adriance, Platt & Co. exhibited the Buckeye Combined Sweep Rake. The interest in this machine was in no wise lessened by the presence of our long-time and genial friends Mr. Moffatt and Mr. Brown, both of whom extend their knowledge of men and things way beyond machines to hospitality. C. Aultman & Co. exhibited the same line of implements as those entered by Aultman, Miller & Co., viz., "Good Buckeyes." C. Russell & Co. sent in three Peerless Reapers, of the work of which none could complain. D. M. Osborn & Co. worked a Kirby Reaper, a Wheeler No. 6, and a Wheeler with a Gordon Binder. This Binder did fair work and shows the opening for great improvement. By judicious expenditure of money in experiments and careful calculation, this firm will probably some day produce better results. The Eagle Mower and Reaper Co. put in a Wood's Eagle Self-Rake Reaper which did splendid work. The Jurors are not men to express their opinions upon the ground, but they seemed to be well pleased with this implement, and gave it careful attention and minute examination. It is one well worthy of remark. Edwin Bayliss exhibited a Massilon Harvester providing for two human binders, who were comfortably situated on the machine for binding as the grain came to them. Two men, who were green at the work, were mounted on the machine, and by the excellent arrangement of the apron they were enabled to bind as the machine traveled. This apron is one which can be depended upon always. The Royce Reaper was tried in the field and did fairly; but in the attempt to get light draft the inventor seems to have sacrificed many other qualities very essential to a Reaper.

The last tried was the South Australian Reaper, which was exhibited by Mr. Samuel Davenport, the Commissioner from South Australia, who stated that while he did not intend for an instant to compete with any of our American machines, he simply wanted to show us an implement which is very effective where it is used at home. It was a "header," which partially threshed the grain as it passed through, discharging its load of partially threshed grain every few hundred yards. This was the only foreign implement on the ground, and while it did not accomplish any great results, it excited much interest. If all implements could be exhibited by such courteous and gentlemanly people as Mr. Davenport, it would be a step of progress.

This display was followed by a general exhibition of binders, during which recorded results were substantially repeated. The Harvester Trial then became a thing of the past and went into history.

To close up the exhibition in a becoming manner, a meeting of exhibitors was called, at which a resolution of thanks for careful attention and assiduous labor to Mr. Coleman and his co-jurors was passed, also a similar resolution to Mr. Landreth and Mr. Geddes for their untiring efforts to make the occasion not only a pleasant one, but one at which justice and fairness to all was the special feature. It was then deemed by many present a fitting occasion to organize an Association of Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, and therefore a Committee on Permanent Organization, consisting of Messrs. Whiteley, Bayliss, L. Miller, Moffatt, Kirby and Frank Wood, were appointed. They were instructed to report at an adjourned meeting to be held at the Agricultural Hall, Centennial Exhibition Grounds, on the 26th day of September next. At this meeting it is proposed to form a permanent Association for the purpose of an Annual or Semi-Annual Convention, in which all manufacturers of agricultural implements of any kind are invited to take part. I think this is one of the best movements inaugurated this year. If the preliminary difficulties can be overcome, a valuable organization can be completed, and I should advise every manufacturer to join the movement.

During the day I had the pleasure of a conversation with Dr. Kennedy, President of the Philadelphia Polytechnic School and a member of the Advisory Board of Agriculture at the Centennial. He agrees with my previous opinion in relation to the treatment of the agricultural interests at the Exhibition, and says that, in urging that same position upon the Commissioners, he was met with the astounding proposition that such a course was deemed fair because the rural population were the lightest subscribers to the Centennial stock.

Now, if the subscription to Centennial stock is to be the measure of manhood in that institution, I think your readers may count themselves fortunate that they were the ones. I am free to confess that even with my previous probing of this part of the Great International Exhibition, I was unable heretofore to guess at as contracted an idea as this seems to develop. Truly we live in a broad and liberal age, and the foreign visitors, by measuring the extent of the concessions and spaces at Philadelphia, can easily arrive at the amount of each man's subscription to the Centennial stock. This is a point for me which may be useful in the future. We live but to learn and each day brings its new lesson.

SHORTHORN.

THE WALTER A. WOOD BINDER.

THE first machine started in the Centennial Field Exhibition was the Walter A. Wood Harvester with the Lock Binder attachment. The ordinary harvester carried the grain to the Binder, where it was compressed by two arms and held while a third arm surrounded it with wire, and on its way made a perfect twist knot. In this shape the sheaf was discharged from the machine in good order. The Binder being independent of the rest of the implement, was carried backwards and forwards by a lever in the hands of the driver, so that it was capable of binding the center of the sheaf of the shortest barley equally with the longest rye, and had another lever by which the size of the sheaf is regulated at will.

The whole working of the machine was thrown out of gear by a simple foot lever, and the Binder could be entirely detached from the harvester for transportation without taking out a bolt. It bound both the small sheaf of two or three straws and the largest one ordinarily required. One of the many objections to all binders where wire is used, instead of the grain itself, seems to be the wire in threshing. Mr. LOCK, the inventor, has constructed a pair of shears by which he can, with one hand and one motion, seize, cut and hold the binding wire at the thresher and, feeding a sheaf to the thresher, throw the wire to any required spot or receptacle. This he claims to be entirely unnecessary, as, in his opinion, the wire is no detriment to proper threshing. He has constructed it, as he says, merely to save the trouble of combating the prejudice against the wire. I am informed that the Walter A. Wood Co. have expended a fabulous sum of money in perfecting this Binder, and Mr. Locke says he has now one thousand of them in successful operation in the field.

This Company deserves the greatest credit for their enterprise and farsightedness. I recollect when I was in Rochester, two years and a half ago, seeing this binder on exhibition. At that time I desired to inform the RURAL'S readers of the progress that was being made for their benefit, but was told that the Binder was not yet in a satisfactory condition to be put out to the world, and no special mention could be made of its merits till it had been fully tested and had satisfied its inventor and owners. Since then assiduous labor and lavish expenditure have accomplished much, and now this Company are prepared to put their new Binder to the world as an instrument which *will do its work*. Much credit should be given to men who are willing to take such risks for the benefit of their fellows, and if, in doing good to the world, they profit themselves pecuniarily, who will begrudge them their gain? They have been working quietly but surely, and have not given the results to the public till they themselves were satisfied that they had constructed something which would be a lasting benefit to mankind.

THE MILLER TABLE RAKE.

AMONG the numerous improvements displayed at the Centennial Harvester Exhibition was the Miller Table Rake, manufactured by Aultman, Miller & Co. of Akron, Ohio, and C. Aultman & Co. of Canton, Ohio. It is an implement made upon an entirely different principle from any other now before the public. Attached to the Western Buckeye is a reel which strikes the grain squarely in front of the cutter bar and not diagonally, as in the case of the ordinary reel rake. Upon the table of the machine is a device which revolves horizontally, seizing the gavel, carrying it around the outside of the table and discharging it on a line parallel to the cutter bar. Thus discharged, the grain is not twisted and is compressed ready for binding, with the butts all even. It also has the additional advantage of carrying the grain so gently as to avoid loss, which so frequently occurs with dry grain in ordinary harvesting. The manufacturers claim for it not only light draft and easy adjustment, but the greatest economy in its use in the field. It can be adjusted equally well to high or low stubble, and the results in either case will be equally satisfactory. They have manufactured and sold large numbers of them, notwithstanding the novelty of the implement, and everywhere that it has been used it has given satisfaction. These firms are among the most enterprising in the West, and bid fair to make for themselves and their Table Rakes a success which will be lasting.

Last year this Rake was brought out for the first time and we can, after a year's trial of it, safely repeat what we then said of it: "The Buckeye Reaper, with the newly introduced Miller Table Rake, has surprised even its warmest friends by the excellence of its work in even the most unfavorable circumstances. It picked up lodged and tangled grain and left it in fair condition for binding. The Miller is not a reel rake, and hence works satisfactorily in windy weather."

W. ANSON WOOD'S NEW EAGLE REAPER.

THE new single wheel "Eagle Reaper," of the Eagle Mower and Reaping Machine Co. of Albany, N. Y., made a good showing in the Centennial Field Exhibition. This is a comparatively new machine, and has been in the field for the past three seasons only. Its enterprising manufacturers have already sold over 2,000 this year. The machine is light and compact. It is geared direct from the driving wheel and transfers to the cutting apparatus and rake by the same shaft. The speed is regulated by side pinions, the lifting gear and telling apparatus being controlled by easy reach of the driver. The size of the gavel is regulated by a foot lever.

The rake, patented by Mr. WOOD in Jan., 1875, is automatic, or controlled by the driver at his option. The natural movement of the rake is brought about by an offset from the rake head, the connecting rod being upon an independent center. It clears the drive wheel and gives the requisite speed to the rake and beaters. The Eagle M. & R. M. Co. have a number of their implements on exhibition at T-18, Agricultural Hall.

This implement was obliged to be submitted to the closest scrutiny of the Jurors, who carefully noted its many excellent points and expressed by their manner a thorough satisfaction as to its working qualities. It was so easily handled that no defect could escape notice, had there been any, and we anticipate that the Jury will report upon it in such a way that the manufacturers will congratulate themselves upon having put themselves to the trouble and expense of making this exhibition.

Scientific and Useful.

BETTER THAN PARIS-GREEN.

FARMER KENT has 1½ acres of potatoes. He uses a shingle about 16 inches long and 5 inches broad, narrowed at one end to suit the hand. Sometimes he uses a whisk-broom, which answers the purpose just as well, being light and broad. With these, two men get over the potato patch in one day. The plant is struck on one side with the shingle or broom, and the beetles fall off into shallow, wide tin pans held in the left hand. During last week one bushel of beetles were in this way collected as the result of one day's labor of two men. Farmer KENT prefers this method of extermination to the use of Paris green.

ELASTIC VARNISH.

As an excellent and easily manufactured varnish for wicker-work, Mr. F. Rhein recommends the following composition:—One part of good linseed oil boiled down to a sirupy consistency, and mixed with twenty parts of copal. This mass is then diluted with oil of turpentine to the proper thickness. The varnish dries easily, and remains elastic, so as not to crack by the bending of the basket.

SMELL OF PAINT.—To get rid of the smell of oil paint plunge a handful of hay into a pailful of water and let it stand in the room newly painted.

The Garden.

THE PEST OF THE HENERY.

We believe that most of the ills with which hens are afflicted are caused by lice, and that if the houses were periodically whitewashed and the nests sprinkled with sulphur, snuff, tobacco, ashes, hellebore or any other substance distasteful to these vermin and harmless to the hens, diseases would prove the rare exception and not the rule. The rule is for farmers to neglect their hens until they are stupid with lice, and go about with their feathers ruffled up as if it were, as, indeed, probably it is, misery to move, before any measures of relief are deemed necessary. The old adage that prevention is better than cure, or, a stitch in time, etc., is here especially applicable. It is an easy matter to prevent lice, but a very difficult matter to exterminate them. Even when by the use of insecticides and other applications the hens are somewhat relieved, constant care is afterwards requisite to prevent, by the rapid increase of the vermin that remain, the return of consequent disorders.

Poultry alive with vermin are pitiful sights, and reflect anything but credit upon those whose duty it is to look after them. The chicks raised by unclean mothers suffer from the day of their birth till that of their death. They are never sprightly and healthy; they are always the first to be taken down with the prevailing endemic or epidemic; they, therefore, need a great deal more care and, finally, are less profitable than those which live in clean houses and lay and sit in tidy nests. The question as to whether hens will thrive when shut up, and the subsidiary one as to how many may be confined in a given space, cannot be answered except, in the experiments, the hens be kept pure—for freedom, to infested fowls, is their sole chance of life.

The writer confined from nine to sixteen hens in a city enclosure, twenty by four, (80 sq. ft.) for two years without the loss of a hen and with very little sickness. The house was six by four, ventilated at the bottom only and otherwise closely boarded, securing warmth in winter and, sheltered from the sun by a grape vine, comparative coolness in summer. The rest of the enclosure was lath. From four to six inches of gravelly sand was given every two or three weeks and the old removed. Grass was given as often as it could be cut from a small grass-plot. Raw meat was given twice a week. Burnt clam shells, ashes and lime were given as often as convenient, though not as often as required. The house was often whitewashed—the material of the nests frequently changed and the nests dusted with sulphur. They were fed upon the scrapings of the table—wheat, corn, oats. Water was given daily and oftener during hot weather.

An account was kept of the cost of these hens for the first year and the value of their eggs. We have lost this account, and can only state our impression that it proved that hens *can* be confined and remain healthy too, and that they can be made profitable even in cities.

We suggest to those who have lousy hens and chickens to part with every one of them, and to thoroughly cleanse the houses and yards in every part, and begin with a fresh pure lot. Those who have had to do with poultry all their lives may deem this shallow advice; but we know from what we see that these shiftless, untidy, unkind modes of keeping fowls are handed down from father to son, and that many farmers do not ever give a serious thought to persistent cleanliness. Hens will, in a manner, "take care of themselves," and so in a large majority of cases they are left to do. But the plan, viewed with an eye to profit, is "a penny wise and a pound foolish," and, viewed with any other eye, it is a cruelty to animals.

WHAT TO DO WITH NON-HEADING CABBAGES.

A writer in the American Agriculturist says: Last fall I was mourning over an unusual number of half developed cabbages, which were only fit to be fed to the cows, and mentioned the fact to a Dutchess Co. farmer, who is in business in New York, and has lately bought a farm near us, asking if his crop turned out badly. His answer was, that he had no more soft heads than he wanted, or to effect that he would feel disappointed if he had not a considerable number. Now we, neither of us, raise cabbages for market, but for our own consumption mainly, and I was utterly at a loss to know what he could do with a quarter of his crops that failed to make heads.

He told me that he dug a wide trench, so deep that after some top soil was thrown in he could set the cabbages out in the trench as close as they could stand, and their heads would not come up level with the top of the ground. When planted, he covers the board with boards and some brush, corn-stalks, salt-hay and earth on the top, keeping it open at the ends or elsewhere until cold weather and then covering it in close, He said they would all have firm, solid heads in the spring.

I tried it, and at the time I write (April) we are enjoying the best cabbages we ever ate. They are rather small to be marketable, say 4½ to 6 inches in diameter, solid and sound, crisp and tender, as delicate as cauliflowers, and what is more remarkable, I never know when we are going to have cabbage for dinner until I see it upon the table. The great objection I have to this most wholesome and delicious vegetable is, that it usually fills the house with its perfectly detestable odor, so to have cabbage without this drawback is worth all the trouble it costs. If these winter-headed cabbages could once become known in the market, I am confident that their merits would command for them a ready sale all through the spring. The cabbages in market at this season are very poor. They are very apt to be slightly decayed, will keep but a little while, as they wilt at once, and soon after rot. I wish now that I had enough to test the market with, but I have not, and write this partly in the hope, that somebody will do it next year.

GARDEN NOTES.

Pruning Melon Vines.—Few persons practice pruning cucumber, melon and other similiar kinds of vines, still it is just as beneficial if properly done as the annual prunings of the grape and other woody plants. The pruning should be confined, however, to the pinching off of the ends of shoots only.

Parsley-seed that has been kept several years comes up sooner then new seed; unless, indeed, the new seed has been taken from the plant before it was fully ripe, and sown immediately.

The Poultry Yard.

TRANSPLANTING VEGETABLES.

During the month of July, farmers and gardeners in the Northern States either sow the seeds or transplant many kinds of late vegetables. The operation is always more or less precarious, on account of the great heat at this season and the infrequency of showers. Cabbages, beets, turnips, celery and similar vegetable plants are generally removed from seed-beds at this season, and although not difficult to make live, still a certain amount of care is required to prevent severely checking their growth. Of course everyone will try to select a moist, cloudy day in which to transplant, but this cannot always be had, and as the operation cannot be delayed beyond a certain period, other precautionary measures must frequently be adopted. If rains do not come, then prepare the ground in the best possible manner, and by frequent stirring and deep culture, a moderate supply of moisture can be secured even during a severe drouth. Soil stirred in the evening will usually absorb from the air and retain considerable moisture, while land not moved will become as dry as powder.

When further delay in transplanting is likely to endanger the crop, give the plants as they stand in the seed-bed a thorough soaking with water. Then in a pail, half barrel or other water-tight vessel, or even a hole in the ground will answer, fill with water and mix in a quantity of rich unctious earth of a clayey nature, until it is of the consistency of thin mortar. Now lift the plants carefully, remove two or more of the larger leaves by pinching off with thumb and finger, and when a handful is thus prepared, dip the roots in the mud, or puddle, as usually termed. If the puddle is of proper consistency, the roots will be entirely coated over and excluded from the air, which, of course, prevents wilting for a time. The removal of two or three of the largest leaves also assist greatly, as it checks the rapid evaporation of the moisture of the plants, and the effect is the same as removing a portion of the branches of trees when transplanted.

This preparation of the plants may be done during the day, and even twenty-four or more hours previous to setting out, if more convenient, provided they are put in boxes and set in a shady place. Just at night or late in the afternoon is the best time to set out plants in a dry time, because, during the few hours of shade which follows, the roots will, in a measure, become fixed in the earth and be all the better prepared to withstand the call upon them for moisture by the leaves during the following day.

In transplanting it is always safe to set a little deeper than when the plants were growing in the seed-beds, and pack the earth very firmly about the roots. If cutworms are likely to trouble the plants, inclose each stem in a small slip of paper, passing an inch below and to the first leaves above the ground. Common brown wrapping paper is best for this purpose, but old newspaper will answer, and if cut up into pieces of the required form and size, the slips can be put on very rapidly, and will cost less than filling up vacant spaces caused by cutworms or replanting an entire field, as is often necessary where these worms are very abundant. In setting out cotton and tobacco plants, the paper protectors may often be employed to great advantage, especially where the common surface cutworms are plentiful. The climbing cutworms will crawl over and above the paper bands, unless smeared on the outside with some obnoxious substance.

After plants are set out, the frequent stirring of the soil must be continued, if the weather remains dry, and in hot weather it will do no harm and much good. A little care in these matters will usually prevent a failure, even during unpropitious weather.

PLUCKING FOWLS ALIVE.

Among the "Rural Brevities" in the Rural is an extract from "Our Dumb Animals," to which is added the wish that the fine had been double that imposed.

Plucking fowls alive is in the opinion of every right-thinking man a cruel, unfeeling act; but there are many people wicked enough, notwithstanding the protests of those who are more humane, to persist in the horrid practice every year. In all the former Slave States the custom was, and still is, almost universal, the negroes having been taught by their owners before their freedom to do it on their own account, and the planters have it done as heretofore, some of them as often as three times in a year. It makes one's flesh crawl to see the poor, ragged animals moping around after the operation!

The former slave owners are not the only people in this country, however, who practice this outrageous custom. There is a race who complain of being trodden under foot and plucked of every right of freedom at home who on coming to this country soon become the owners of poultry and pull the feathers from the poor creatures while alive.

Putting aside the contemptible cupidity of those who strip the feathers from poultry for the sake of the trifle they are worth, it is a most foolish practice. I never yet saw any nice flocks of geese or ducks which raised young and paid well when plucked, whereas where the geese are not plucked there will be so many goslings raised to geese that the feathers plucked from them after death amount to many more than could have been had by plucking live ones.

Avarice in this case overreaches itself, and any one of observation can see this assertion fully verified in the South, where there are as many ganders as geese kept, and where, also, the people won't believe that a gander will take to and sire goslings from more than one goose.

This most barbarous custom was stopped in England before I left there, but here the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals confines its action to cities, allowing the country to commit ten times the cruelty perpetrated in places where so many eyes are watching.

On page 407 you have an article in regard to the "Raising of Pekin Ducks." Any other kind of ducks may be raised by placing them where they can have easy access to a vessel of water let into the ground and a stone or stones put in, so that they may get out whenever they wish, and feeding them with a little meal, wetted. It is also better to allow them full liberty to follow their mother, or placed so they can land, having their foster mother (the hen) around to pick up worms and other slugs in ditches or puddles.

Our ducks, turkeys and chickens never did better than this year. They are taken away from the regular run of the old fowls when hatched and placed with their mother on the edge of a belt of trees, the coops being under the trees and the hen having liberty after the first day, but being inside the coop at night.

A Working Farmer.

CARE AND FEED OF FOWLS IN SUMMER.

We have at this season to consider the feed for our fowls. Corn is usually the standard with farmers and amateurs. I like it in cold weather, but in warm weather I cannot get as many eggs by its use as I can with wheat, wheat bran, or even oats.

Wheat is splendid feed at any season. I have often found that when I had fed wheat for some time and began to feed corn again that the chickens would, after picking a few grains, stop and come up to me, and when I went to the next yard they would follow to the gate, as if they wanted something else.

Oats make a fair summer feed, and are worth per bushel, perhaps, half as much as wheat. Wheat screenings, when from a merchant mill making a crack article of flour, are worth all they cost, but those from custom mills are not usually of much value.

Barley is invaluable for fattening fowls, those fed on it readily bringing 2 to 5 cents per pound more than those fattened on corn. It is, however, open to the same objections as corn as a summer feed.

Wheat bran is a fine summer feed, and if one can get that from which but one grade of middlings has been taken, it is the more valuable.

Corn and oat meal, mixed, takes the place of corn meal as a feed for young chickens and other young fowl.

But the feed which we prefer to all others is as follows:—Boil two bushels of potatoes in a barrel kettle, and when the potatoes are done so as to crush easily, mash them well and add 40 pounds of bran and 20 of mixed corn and oat meal. The heat of the potatoes will cook the meal and bran well, and when cold it will cut like mush. It is the best possible feed for young fowls, and for old ones also.

Turnips may take the place of potatoes, and any medicine or stimulant required may be put in it. I usually give red pepper once a month in winter, and oftener if they flag in laying.

A. M. Van Auken.

The Naturalist.

THE LATEST IDEA IN PETS.

A MUD TURTLE WADDLES ROUND AFTER A LITTLE GIRL.

A lady, writing to the Arcadian, relates the following regarding one of the oddest pets that ever existed, and which belonged to a little girl of her acquaintance: A visitor met this little girl at the gate last summer with what she supposed was a lunch box under her arm. To the lady's surprise a snake-like head ran out a little way from the lunch box, and the pet turned out to be a common mud turtle. Some one had brought the creature home a year or so before and let it loose in the garden.

When the children began to play there, out from its hole came the turtle, and singling out this child gave evidence of intelligence beyond belief.

The turtle was called Pedro, and the little girl had but to call that name two or three times at the back door to see the old box waddling up from the bottom of the garden directly. Any one else approaching or attempting familiarities, the clumsy feet were drawn promptly in and the wise old head retired within its shell, and no sign of life would Pedro give.

But let the child take it, the claws closed round one of her fingers, and the head, run out to its fullest extent of neck, would be waggled against her with every token of love a turtle could give.

There came a time during the summer when the little mistress was sick. The mother, sitting in the dusk, thought she saw a dark object moving in the room, and shortly after, hearing a bumping on the stairs, went out and found out it was Pedro returning to his hole in the yard

Each day for weeks, with the opening of the outside door, in would walk Pedro. The girl generally found him waiting on the steps.

He would go to the stairs, stand upright in a corner, and setting his little feet into the stair above, pull himself up. This operation he would repeat until he reached the landing. If the door into the sick child's room was closed he waited patiently to be allowed to enter.

When taken up and laid beside its mistress it made no effort to move, but lay for hours with its solemn head wagging from side to side.

At night it waddled off to the stairs, and then the racket commenced. As it fell off each step in clumsy fashion it sounded like that famous clock in the Ingolsby legends that went hopping after Mr. Ap. Jones.

THE CROW—THE FARMER'S FRIEND.

The following from Our Dumb Animals, is quite in accordance with our own experience with the every abused crow.

The poor crow finds every man's hand against him, notwithstanding the service he does to those who till the ground. If they do not kill him on sight, it is only because he is usually a match for even the most sharp-sighted gunner. He is quite as fond of bugs and worms, and little field mice and young snakes, as he is of the farmer's corn. He is a good policeman about the farm-house and drives away the hawk, who can do twice the amount of mischief *he* is guilty of. He hunts the grass fields and pulls out the caterpillars and all manner of pests, and probably saves many other crops, if he is hard on the corn.

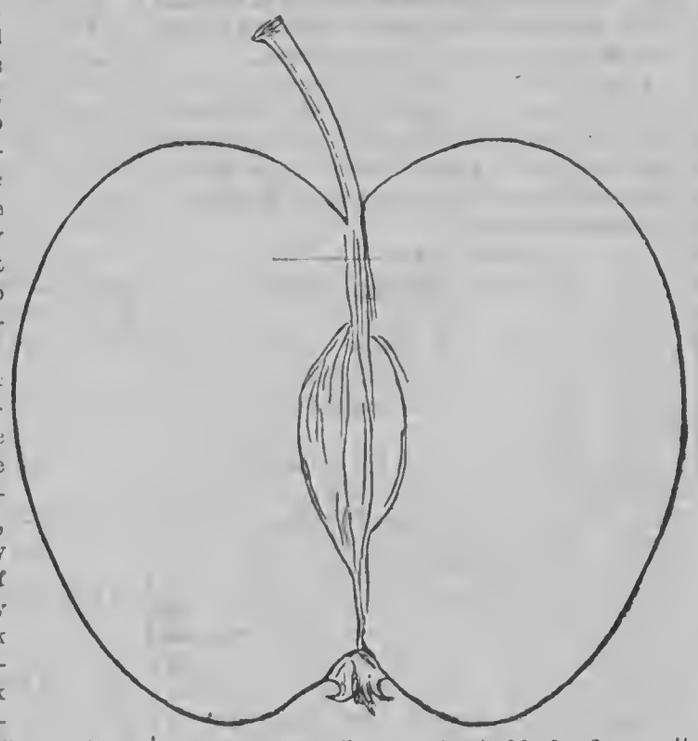
A gentleman had a tame crow who trotted out after him as he went out to wage his annual war on the squash bugs. His sable attendant put his head on one side and watched him a few minutes, as if to see how he did it. Comprehending the business at last, he went for those bugs with a will, and cleared the patch in fine style. He took it for a business the remainder of the season, insuring a fine crop.

The late wonderful shower of meat in Kentucky was, it is affirmed, real meat after all.

Pomological.

BRITTLE SWEET APPLE.

Sweet apples are not general favorites among our people, still those who do like sweet sorts want the very best which can be had. Of course we expect that there will be a difference of opinion on this point, and some will call a juicy, moderately sweet apple superior to one containing a great deal of saccharine matter, but rather dry. The Brittle Sweet, of which we give the accompanying outline, is but slightly known, but is such an excellent sort that some of our readers may wish to give it a trial, hence our calling attention to it at this time.



Its origin is unknown. The tree is moderately vigorous and very productive. It is, however, one of the best in cultivation. Fruit above medium, roundish, approaching conical. Color, pale yellow, shaded, splashed and marbled over nearly the entire surface, with shades of light and dark crimson red, many small gray and white dots. Stalk rather short, slender. Cavity regular, broad, moderately deep. Calyx closed. Segments small, often recurved. Basin small corrugated. Flesh yellowish, crisp, tender, juicy, with a peculiar honeyed sweet, and slightly aromatic. Core rather large. Very good. October and November.

FIG AND ALMOND CULTURE.

The cultivation of the various fruits adapted to the climate of the Northern States have been extended until our markets are fully supplied with all, very few if any being imported. But the same cannot be said of the Southern States, for although the climate seems to be especially adapted to the culture of the fig, almond, orange, lemon and other tropical fruits, still we look in the main to foreign countries for a supply.

Why should we import millions of dollars worth of figs, and almonds, while the Southern States could readily supply our markets? Is it for the want of a proper knowledge of their culture and lack of energy or scarcity of labor? Of course it is not for us up here in the North to answer these questions, as apples, peaches, pears and similar fruits mainly occupy our attention. But it does seem to us that the people of the Southern States ought to be able to supply us with such easily grown fruits as figs and almonds, as cheaply as they can be purchased abroad counting in the cost of exchange, freight, insurance and other unavoidable expenses.

THE ALMOND.

Some of the varieties of the almond succeed near y as far north as the most hardy sorts of the peach, but these are rather inferior, besides there is really no certainty of obtaining a crop. The finest sorts like the Long Hard-shelled and Ladies Thin-shelled are rather tender and can only be depended upon in warmer climate, say from North Carolina and southward.

These varieties are as readily propagated and cultivated as the peach, and the trees are not only quite similar but are liable to the attacks of the same diseases and insect enemies. A warm dry soil is best, and if quite rich so much the better, not only for securing a good crop of fruit but long life to the trees.

The finer varieties, such as we have named above, may be propagated by budding upon seedling almond stocks, or upon the peach and plum, the latter being preferable in localities where the peach-tree borer abounds. The plum stock however has a tendency to make the trees somewhat dwarfish, in habit, but this is not objectionable so long as the vigor and productiveness of the tree is not impared by its use.

When the almond is ripe the flesh or pulpy covering of the nut dries and cracks open permitting the former to drop out. A man who raises almonds is not obliged to send them forward to market on a certain day, as with peaches, else lose his crop, but they can be gathered and held for weeks or months if necessary in order to secure a good price, and this is an advantage which should tend to increase their culture, especially in localities not contiguous togood facilities for reaching the markets in our larger cities.

THE FIG.

This is another fruit especially adapted to the climate of the Southern States, and of which large quantities are imported from foreign countries.

There are many varieties, some of which grow to twenty or thirty feet high, others are mere low spreading bushes. They are all readily propagated from cuttings of the shoots or roots, planted in a warm situation either out of doors or in a hot bed. The young plants when one or two years old, should be set out ten to fifteen feet apart according to the habit of the variety, and in a good rich soil, as the fig is a rank grower and gross feeder and it would be difficult to make the soil too deep or too rich. Good after culture is also required, and if the soil is naturally porous mulching should be applied in spring to prevent the trees suffering from drouth.

Low, moist soils are not suitable for figs, as it encourages late growth in Autumn and the frosts of winter destroy the young immature shoots. Pinching off the ends of the young shoots in summer is as beneficial to the fig as the grape as it hastens the maturing of the wood and increases the size of the fruit.

Figs are consumed but sparingly in their natural state in this country, but are dried and packed away for use later in the season, or sent to market.

There are various methods of drying figs; those coming to our markets from foreign countries are dipped in hot lye and then dried on frames in the sun, after which they are packed in boxes, or baskets made for the purpose. A better way to prepare figs is to let them remain on the trees until thoroughly ripe, then gather and immerse them in hot or boiling syrups made of clean white sugar for five or ten minutes, take out and dry in an oven or fruit drying kiln. If prepared in this way they will not be so likely to be infected with insects as when dried in the sun. There are dozens of excellent varieties of the fig propagated by our nurserymen both north and south the descriptions of which can be found in their catalogue. As the fig tree does not ripen its fruit all at one time the drying may be continued through several weeks or months, and there need be no hurrying to gather the crop, nor in sending it forward to market, hence like the almond its culture is peculiarly adapted to the needs of those residing away from our principal thoroughfares of the Southern States.

The Vineyard.

THE STOPPPING OF GRAPE VINES.

The readers of the Rural New-Yorker are probably aware that we believe in thorough and scientific pruning of plants as well as thorough culture of the soil in which they are growing. Therefore it is not strange that the following article which appeared in a late issue of the Farmer, (Eng.) should attract our attention.

It has been said that the highest art of good writing or speaking is that of knowing when and how to stop. Be that as it may, assuredly the skillful stopping of grape vines is a most important feature in their successful cultivation. And notwithstanding all that has been written on the subject, there are yet those who do not know what it means, and many more who do not understand how to do it. This paper will be devoted to the attempt of making the matter clear to both. To stop is to stand still. Animal life may do this voluntarily, vegetable life or growth cannot be arrested during its progress without compulsion. Hence, the stopping of grape vines implies the application of force. Force is of many kinds, moral, mental, physical. The first is an affair of motives, the second of reason and the third of force. And it is only the last that can be applied to vegetable life and growth. A man walks or runs, he stops, that is, he ceases to move; the act is voluntary. A horse runs away, the driver pulls it up; the animal stops by compulsion. The stoppage is as complete and perfect as before. This is analogous to the training of a shoot. It is pulled up, stopped from going further in one direction that it may be trained or led in another. A hare bounds across the mead, the sportsman fired at its head, it stops—a mutilated thing; in can go no further minus its head, or with a wounded one. The last is the nearest illustration to the stopping of grape vines. It is, in fact, a forcible stoppage by the removal of the head of each shoot or growing branch.

Stopping being then, the removal of the heads of the growing shoots, the next step is to determine what shoots are to be stopped, and to what extent this beheading should be carried.

The leading shoots of vines, as a rule, are not stopped. These shoots may be one or many, according to the system of training adopted. On the restrictive mode of training—that is one root and one rod, or one vine plant to each rafter—there is but one leading shoot. The highest branch on the vine is led on further to furnish more ground, until the vine reaches from the wallplates to the roof of the house. Even after all the rafters and roof area are furnished, these leading shoots are generally encouraged to grow freely for a time without stopping, and to run down the back wall or anywhere. A free growth ahead is useful in developing new and strong roots at bottom, and in bringing up a full and vigorous current of nourishing fluid to the whole of the fruit-bearing branches and leaves of vine plants. Hence, chiefly, the reason why the leading shoot or shoots are, as a rule allowed to run on without stopping. Occasionally, however, they are stopped to gain additional strength or compactness of growth. But this is so different to what is generally meant by the stopping of grape vines, that it will be better, for the sake of lucidity, not to confound it with it.

Of course, too, vines trained on the extensive system—that is, one vine for two or more rafters, for the half or the whole of a house—have many leading shoots, all of which should be treated in the same way as the one leader of the restricted vines—that is, allowed to run on without stopping, for the good of the plant or the providing of new wood for the fuller furnishing of the house. But all the side shoots or fruiting branches should be stopped a leaf or joint in advance of the bunch of fruit. The bunches shew at different distances from the main stem of the vines, from two to five leaves from the base of the current year's shoots; the bunches are first developed. As soon as a leaf is produced beyond the bunch, the head of the shoot should be stopped short. This is generally done with finger and thumb. the young shoot being brittle and easily removed by a pinch; or a sharp knife may be used, the latter, however, being seldom employed by professional gardeners.

This beheading of the fruit-bearing branches a leaf in advance of the bunch, is the first and chief stopping, and may be generally called the stop. It arrests every growing branch, and throws back its strength on itself. It is held to add to the vigor and size of the bunch, as well as the fineness of the foliage. But, of course, growth is irrepressible, and though thus easily stopped for a time by the removal of its growing points, it soon starts again and grows afresh. These fresh growths involve the necessity for fresh stoppings. It thus happens that the stopping of grape vines becomes a process rather than a single act. The simplest mode of stopping is to make it periodical, say, once a fortnight or three weeks throughout the growing season. By thus overhauling growth at regular intervals, the vines have no time to run into wilderness or confusion, and there is also less waste of growing strength.

The method of future stopping are varied by circumstances. Some leave an additional leaf at each futher stopping, as long as room can be found for them. It is safe and good practice to leave a few more leaves. If all subsequent stoppings are carried right back to the point of the first or primary one, the buds between the bunch and the base of the shoots are apt to burst into growth, and if this breaking extends through all the buds, the finest for fruiting next year may be sacrificed by excessive repression now. But a few more leaves left to develop beyond the first stop will generally prevent this, and may also furnish a useful stock of leaf force in close proximity to the bunch of grapes.

But in almost all cases some of the buds between the bunch may break into growth. These must then be also stopped short back to the bottom bud, or to the leaf on the bearing shoots. Summer pruning should in fact be prevented by constant stopping, which may be defined as a skillful device for the prevention of pruning by arresting superfluous growth almost before it is made. The more skillfully stopping is performed the less superfluous growth will there be to remove.

By persistently stopping back to a leaf or two in advance of the bunch, all overcrowding of the foliage is prevented, and only as many fine leaves are retained as can be fully exposed to light and air. One fine vine leaf, with room enough to perform its functions, is worth a dozen or more of small leaves crowded together. In fact, proper stopping concentrates growing force into fewer channels, and so adds as it were momentum to its power. It is the fine foliage that lays the germs of fine bunches and also feeds them with better and more for food. The buds on the base bear a close relation to the leaves in size and vigor. And it is not too much to say that the bunches of the one year are the products of the leaves of the preceding one.

In the process of stopping all tendrils should also be removed from vines. As under cultivation vines are generally tied in position and supported by artificial means, it is alike a waste of force and material to allow them also to manufacture their own ties in the form of tendrils. Those produced on the bunches should be removed at the earliest moment; and if stopping is commenced in time and persistently prosecuted throughout the season, there will be a few tendrils developed, for the points moved will also include most of the tendrils.

Arboricultural.

TREE PLANTING IN CALIFORNIA.

In California everything is done on a large scale if at all. Grape vines are planted by the hundreds of thousands and wheat fields extend to thousands of acres, and their groves of forest trees are what in the East would be called extensive forests.

Of late Californians have commenced the planting of forest trees and this too, upon the same extended scale which marks all their operations. The Blue Gum tree at present being a general favorite, we are given an inkling of the manner of handling this tree in a late number of the Los Angeles Express.

On the Laguna ranch, seven miles from Los Angeles, Mr. H. H. Spencer contracted with Col. R. S. Baker to plant 75,000 Blue Gum (or Eucalyptus) trees in a field of a 100 acres. Mr. Spencer secured a large quantity of seed from Australia, and planted it in boxes at his place on Hill street. As soon as the plants began to shoot he transferred them to other boxes, placing them in exact and equal distant rows, with a view to transplanting them in the ground as he is now doing. Mr. Spencer invented a machine by which the tree is lifted from the box, with all the earth surrounding it, and injected as it were, into a hole made by a similar machine in the ground where it is to grow.

Mr. Spencer's contract with Col. Baker requires him to plant 75,000 trees. The ground was first plowed and then rolled. Five wells were sunk, one at each corner of the field and a large one in the center. These are supplied with force pumps by which the water is raised into tanks. A fine quality of water is struck in each of these wells at a distance of about three feet from the surface. The grove is laid out with drives from the entrance, facing the county road, to each of the wells on the boundaries, and these are connected with avenues converging to the large central well. An open circle, about 120 feet in diameter, is left at this well, where the Colonel intends to lay out arbors and grounds for picnics, etc.

HOW THE WORK IS DONE.

The trees are planted in rows running paralled with the county road. They are laid out in quincuncial rows, each quincunx of trees occupying a square of 12 feet. Thus a line 252 feet in length, marked out every 12 feet, is stretched and fastened to pegs. Men with spades then dip out a gutter of earth and sink a cross cut two inches from the line. This marks the exact spot where the tree is to be planted. Men then come along armed with the planting machines. They first take out a plug of earth about six inches deep and an inch and a half in width, with one of the machines which is without a tree; then they insert a planter containing a tree into the hole, push down the cylinder with the thumb, and presto, the tree is adjusted in its place. Then follows a man with a heavy cast iron pounder, opened in the center and rounded at the end to a convex shape. The tree passes through the central apertire, the pounder is pressed to the earth, and when withdrawn the dirt is closely packed around the plant and left in the shape of a bowl. Then a man comes along with water and fills the bowl. Some time afterwards dry sand is spread over the moisture surrounding the plant, and it is thus preserved from insects, which will not remain in dry sand, while the process of evaporation is retarded by this surface layer. We timed the men while they were planting a line of trees, and find that it took them just one minute and a half. At this rate they can plant 6,300 trees a day—that is, a gang of men consisting of 17, engaged immediately and incidentially in the work. The average is about 6,000 trees per day for such a force so that from the time of getting fairly at work it would take about 13 days to plant the 75,000 trees contracted for. There are portions of the field where the process of planting is not so easy as in that we have described. At some points the earth is baked almost hard to a considerable depth. Here

AUGUR HOLES ARE BORED.

By men with the Champion posthole auger, to a depth of about two feet, where moist soil is met. This hole is filled with water from carts that are kept constantly moving between the tanks and the holes. The water soon softens the walls of the holes and disappears. They are then filled with a fine loam, and in this the trees are planted. This portion of the work is slower than any other, but a large gang of men are employed with augurs and rapid progress is being made.

Mr. Spencer took us to portions of the field where trees had been planted over a week, and we found them getting along vigorously.

Hygienic Information.

ABOUT SNEEZING.

There is no good reason why a sneeze may not be a good or bad omen as well as many other signs in which a large number of persons put more or less faith. The Cornhill Magazine sums up the sneezing question pretty thoroughly as follows:

The belief in evil spirits affords the best explanation for a set of customs no less curious than disagreeable and ridiculous. We allude to the world-wide superstitions connected with spitting and sneezing. Many Englishmen spit if they meet a white horse, a squinting man, or a single magpie, or if inadvertantly they step upon a ladder or wash their hands in the same basin with a friend. In Lancashire boys spit over their fingers before beginning to fight; travelers on leaving home spit on a stone and throw it away; market people spit on the first money they receive in the day. Swedish people spit thrice if they cross the water after dark, and even the esthetic Athenian used to spit if he met a madman. So the savage New Zealand priest spits on two sticks, which according as one of them falls uppermost are to foreshadow the result of a coming battle. Indeed, this unpleasant habit seems a universal charm for bringing good luck or for averting bad; but for what conceivable reason than that the mouth was once regarded as the portal by which evil spirits got into a man and by which alone they could be forced to make their exit. The Messalians used to make spitting and nose blowing a part of their religion, for they hoped thereby to free themselves from the demons with which they fancied the air to be full. This single case contains, probably, the key to all the others.

But why should sneezing be so generally regarded as a bad omen, and one to be averted if possible by felicitations and blessings? One explanation is, that as it was the sign of returning convalescence during the plague at Athens, congratulations were offered when the crisis was past; another, that during a great plague which raged in Germany in the sixth century, and began its fatal course with a fit of sneezing, it was usual to exclaim, "May God help you now," as soon as the sad death signal was heard. But the custom is of far wider extent and older lineage than such explanations imply; and the only possible hypothesis is one that adapts itself to all races and all times. In New Zealand a mother repeats a charm when her child sneezes, lest any evil result in consequence, and English nurses do just the same. In the Netherlands a sneeze gives a witch power over a person, unless some one invokes a blessing from heaven, and in these facts probably lies the real explanation. For, taking into account that every bodily derangement is regarded by savages as possession by evil spirits, and that sneezing is always the precursor of those temporary bodily derangements, often very severe, which we know as "colds," may it not be that in those early times, when to precede is the same as to cause, a sneezing fit was set down as the sign or cause of such an approaching possession, and charms employed to counteract its effects?

If a cold was ever held to be a bewitchment, we can understand the use of charms and blessings at the earliest stage of the premonitory symptoms. As an involuntary act a sneeze would, like all other natural phenomena, be a portent significant of, and entailing a series of consequences; and in course of time, as men improved in observation and distinctions, it would grow to be even auspicious under certain circumstances. Thus in our own country it is a good sign on some days of the week, but a bad one on others; and in Scotland an infant is under fairy spells until it sneezes, a belief as apparently connected with the absurd idea of the incapacity of idiots to sneeze.

In Greece, also, the distinctions drawn about it raised sneezing to an art; for while it was unlucky in the afternoon, or when food was being cleared away, or if it occurred three times, or more than four, or on the left-hand side; if it occurred among persons of deliberation, or two or four times, or in the morning, or on the right-hand side, it was accounted a lucky omen. We read that Themistocles, by a judicious sneeze on the right-hand side, persuaded his soldiers to fight, and Xenophon, by a similar act in the middle of a speech, was elected general. And on another occasion a sneeze from a linesman just before a battle was considered so ominous that public prayers were deemed necessary in consequence.

FRUIT AS FOOD.

Dr. M. L. Holbrook a good while ago in speaking of Fruit as Food said: There is one other value in fruit which I cannot pass over in this connection without notice. One of the common diseases of children is worms in the bowels. If a child's digestion become impaired and the gastric juice become weakened or defective in quantity by overeating or bad food, the whole alimentary canal becomes clogged up and filthy, and furnishes nests for such worms as will breed there. In this weakened condition of the system, they cannot be destroyed by the process of digestion, and hence great harm comes from them. Now, it is an interesting fact that fresh ripe fruit is the best preventive for this state of things. Dr. Benjamin Rush pointed this out a hundred years ago. He made a series of experiments on earth worms, which he regarded as more nearly allied to those that infest the bowels of children than any other, with a view to test their power of retaining life under the influence of various substances that might be used as worm medicines. The results proved that worms often lived longer in those substances known as poisonous than in some of the most harmless articles of food. For instance, in watery solutions of opium they lived eleven minutes; in infusion of pink root, thirty-three minutes; in claret wine, ten minutes; but in the juice of red cherries they died in six minutes; black cherries, in five minutes; red currants, in three minutes; gooseberries, in four minutes; whortleberries, in seven minutes; and raspberries, in five minutes.

From these experiments Dr. Rush argued that fresh, ripe fruits, of which children are very fond, are the most speedy and effectual poisons for worms. In practice this theory has proved to be correct.

If we eat and drink hot and exciting materials the blood becomes inflamed, the nerves exasperated, and the brain sends out thoughts that are base and mean. If we would do away with those foods that only influence the passions, and substitute more fruit in their place, we would need less restraint on wrong doers, for our heads would be clearer, our blood cooler, our nerves steadier, our impulses more subject to reason, and life would be a hundred per cent. truer and better than it is to-day.

The above is timely and, we believe, good advice.

INDIAN CORN AS FOOD.

No one doubts the value of Indian corn as food for man and certain kinds of animals, but we have long noticed that our Hygienic authorities seem to forget that "what is meat for one person may be poison for another," therefore it is not every healthy laborer who can eat corn or corn meal no matter how scientifically it is prepared, without ill-effects. It may be rich and nutritious as claimed by our most celebrated chemists, and so are peas, beans, pork, or the blubber of the whale, but it does not follow that everybody, or under all circumstances such kinds of food may be consumed with impunity. A late writer in the Journal of Chemistry, says:

"Indian corn is one of the most important and healthy articles of human food that a beneficent Providence has bestowed upon man; and to its high nutritive value is due in a large degree the strength and vigor of the race of men who laid the foundation of this great republic. It was much more largely used fifty or one hundred years ago than now, as fine wheat flour, for some not well-founded reason, has usurped its place in bread-making. In the several forms, however, of hulled corn, popped corn, hominy, samp, corn starch, maizena, etc., vast quantities are consumed by all classes of people."

But can the writer of the above show us that the first or second generation of Englishmen who landed upon our shores and fed upon Indian corn were any stronger or longer lived than their grandfathers? Or are our corn-fed people of to day more vigorous, healthy or likely to be longer lived than those who eat no corn on this or the other side of the Atlantic?

If corn is not as extensively used now as it was "fifty or one hundred years ago" the change has probably been made for good and sufficient reasons, and among them the fact that our people can get something which they like better, just as the ancient Britons gave up their acorn bread as soon as there was wheat, barley and other kinds of grains produced in sufficient quantities to supply their wants.

As to the palatableness of, and nutritious properties of corn, as claimed by the writer referred to above, we agree with him, provided a person likes this kind of food, and the stomach readily assimilates it for the proper nourishment of the body. He says:

Meal from Indian corn contains more than four times as much oleaginous matter as wheat flour, more starch, and nearly as much nitrogenous material; consequently in all cold climates it is admirably adapted to sustain the system by furnishing heat-forming compounds. The oil gives warmth, the nitrogenous principle gives muscular strength. The combination of elementary compounds in Indian corn renders it alone the mixed diet capable of sustaining man under the most extraordinary circumstances. It holds the elementary principles which constitute the basis of organic life. In this particular it is more remarkable than any other vegetable production known to man. There is a large number of dishes of which corn meal forms the basis, which are exceedingly palatable. What, for instance, is more delicious than cold corn-pudding cut in slices and fried in sweet butter and lard? Hot corn-cakes, when properly and skillfully made, are almost universally regarded as a luxury, and Boston brown bread is famous everywhere in the country. The reason why corn-meal is not more largely used at the present time is that it is quite difficult to obtain it of dealers or grocers in a perfectly pure and sweet state. Millers grind the corn as it comes from the West, mixed with portions of the cob and saturated with dust and dirt, and this is sold for kitchen as well as for stable use. If good, sweet, corn is properly ground in an old-fashioned stone mill after being winnowed to free it from dust, a meal will result of a rich golden color, and no dish can be prepared from it which will not be palatable and most nutritious. Farmers who go into the market to purchase corn and meal for their animals should understand the great difference in nutritive value between what they can raise and what they purchase.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

All Reinsurances Declared Illegal.—Between the decisions of the courts on the one hand and the ingenious devices of certain companies on the other, the holders of their policies are promised no end of disquietude and insecurity. From first to last, more than a score of badly managed life insurance companies have abandoned an unprofitable business, most of them making some sort of arrangement to reinsure their risks. This was thought to be a better arrangement than that adopted by the remainder that are being, at great expense and with exasperating slowness, wound up by their receivers. Whatever confidence may have been felt in the various contracts of reinsurance is fearfully shaken by the opinion of Justice Gilbert in the case of the Craftsman and Hope Life Insurance Companies. The opinion of this Court was that the reinsurance of the Craftsman by the Hope, as well as the subsequent reinsurance of the Hope by the New Jersey Mutual Life Insurance Company, was illegal; that all the proceedings taken shall be reversed and the business of all these companies placed just where it was before any steps were taken toward reinsurances.

This decision embodies a principle of very wide application: that a company cannot legally terminate its existence as a corporation; cannot legally put itself into a condition in which it cannot complete its contracts and obligations, and that all action in this direction is unlawful. This rendering applies equally well to every case of wholesale reinsurance, for in every such case the retiring company, by turning over its assets to another company, made the fulfillment by itself of its contracts impossible; and if this decision, which is very sweeping and emphatic, is sustained by the higher courts, to whom appeal will, of course, be taken, it will very seriously affect the *status*, if not the validity, of a quarter of a million of policies, and involve the whole matter in nearly inextricable confusion.

The readers of the Rural will remember that we have always most strenuously opposed the whole scheme of reinsurance, amalgamation and exchange of policies, as being fraught with untold dangers for everybody, and especially for payers of premiums and their families.

Surplus and Premium Rates of Farm Insurance Companies.—The farmers' companies were, as a class, not very fortunate in respect to losses last year. Many of them lost heavily—too heavily, in fact, when the non-hazardous character of their risks is taken into account. The reasons for this are not so obvious as the fact itself, that the proportion of loss to premium of the farm property insurance was nearly double that of all the companies taken together. We note such ratios as 56, 68, 66, 63, 54, 75, 76, 82 and 63. The average of these percentages is not far from 70 per cent., leaving less than 30 per cent. for expenses and nothing whatever for profit, interest and surplus, while the average loss of all the New York companies did not exceed 35 per cent., and that of many of them was only a trifle. There were companies that lost only 07, 08, 10, 07, 05, and one as little as 04½ of the premiums received. The surplus above liabilities follow these figures very closely, some having a very small margin indeed, and only one a percentage of surplus equal to the average of all the companies without distinction. These not very flattering results may be traced to a mistake in the matter of premiums. These have been for many years too low, and unless they are raised to a paying and safe rate, these companies cannot prosper as they deserve. A fair rate is the price of absolute security. A low rate purchases insecurity, uncertainty and perhaps disaster.

Postponed Indefinitely.—The Legislature of this State has again adjourned without, so far as is known, inaugurating any of the measures of reform so confidently promised by the Committee on Insurance. A variety of bills have been presented, but none of them have become laws. There was at one time a strong hope that the companies would be permitted to invest their funds where the highest rates of interest could be realized, instead of being restricted to this city and its immediate vicinity, and that a non-forfeitable law, somewhat similar to that of Massachusetts, would be enacted. But these sanitary measures, together with a number of others only less needful, have failed to become laws.

Domestic Economy.

CURRANT JELLY.

Fill a porcelain preserving kettle with currants well picked over, but not stemmed, set it over the fire until the currants are thoroughly heated, when cool strain through a jelly bag and measure the juice, return to the fire, and boil briskly for twenty minutes, then add one pound of loaf sugar to each pint of juice, stir until thoroughly dissolved, pour into glasses or bowls, and seal when cold. My practice in making jelly, is to use the currants so soon as ripe—not delay one day; if allowed to get fully mature or as commonly termed "dead ripe" there is more difficulty in making good jelly. Mrs. Rustic.

TO BOIL A HAM.

Let it boil slowly for the whole of an afternoon and then let it remain in its liquor over night. Hams thus boiled are far more tender, juicy and sweet than when boiled a shorter time and at once removed from the water.

To Devil Ham.—Cut up fried ham in small bits not larger than peas. Add tomato catsup, a teaspoonful of whisky, one of Worcestershire sauce and a small quantity of flour-water—then heat to boiling. It is just an appetizing delicacy for these warm days. Mackelroy.

HOW TO COOK GREEN PEAS

Wash and put them into enough boiling water to nearly cover them, add one teaspoonful of sugar, a lump of baking soda the size of a large pea, to every quart of peas, when tender, add a good lump of butter, salt to taste. Send to the table with the water in which they are boiled. Omit the sugar when cooking the Champion of England variety. I would suggest to my "city cousins" who are unable to procure peas fresh picked from the vines, to try this recipe and I doubt not they will pronuce it delicious.

Mrs. Rustic.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Beef Cakes.—Chop pieces of roast beef very fine, mix in grated bread crumbs in proportion of one-third crumbs to two-thirds beef; season with pepper, salt, chopped onions and parsley; moisten with a little of the drippings or catsup; a little cold ham or tongue will improve them; make in flat cakes, and spread a coat of mashed potatoes on the top and bottom of each. Lay a piece of butter on every cake and set in a quick oven to brown. Other cold meats may be prepared in the same way.

How to Cook Codfish.—Put the fish to soak in cold water over night. In the morning remove it into fresh warm water, and set by the fire. Half an hour previous to its being dished up, change into fresh water, and simmer over the fire nearly to boiling heat, but no higher. This management does not draw out, but revives and enlivens the nutritious substance in them; and leaves the fish tender and delicious.

Fresh Meat Griddles.—Chop bits of any cold roast meat, season with pepper and salt, make a griddle batter, put a spoonful on a well buttered iron, then a spoonful of the chopped meat and on this another spoonful of the batter. When cooked on one side turn—when done, send to the table hot. They are very nice for breakfast or lunch.

Jumbles.—Take six eggs; a cup and a half of sugar; one of butter; beat to a froth; add flour enough to roll; flavor to taste; cut out with a large tumbler, and cut out the middle with the top of a small canister, to leave a perfect ring. They should be rolled in powdered sugar, and baked in a quick oven.

Cookies.—Two cups of sugar, one half cup of butter, one cup of sweet milk, one teaspoonful of baking powder, flour enough to roll, carraway seeds if liked. Mix the baking powder thoroughly through the flour.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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SKILL, OR NATURAL ADVANTAGE?

Is it skill or natural advantages of the locality which insure a man success? We are inclined to think it is more frequently the former than the latter, although there are few persons who can be made to confess this, inasmuch as it would disarm all grumblers and leave them helpless upon an altar built of their own shortcomings and weaknesses. Of course we are not inclined to ignore disasters, which do sometimes befall the most industrious and worthy men and women.

A man may be struck by lightning or have his property swept away by floods or fires; but these are occurrences which would be considered exceptions to the general disadvantages to be met in the ordinary channels of business. But if we leave out of the question what may be termed the accidents likely to befall mankind, it will be found that success in life depends more upon the man or woman, than anything which can be discovered in their surroundings, no matter where, or under what circumstances they may be placed. Men must not all expect to secure the wealth of an ASTOR or STEWART, or count their acres and herds by the ten or hundred thousand, like some of our Western farmers and stock raisers; for these are exceptional cases of vast accumulations so far above the average, that they are scarcely to be taken into account when speaking of what the ordinary farmer or business man is capable of doing, provided he possesses the required skill and industry.

We have only to look about us to see hundreds of worthy examples of what men and women may do in the way of rising in the estimation of their fellow beings, as well as in gaining moderate wealth through their own individual exertions. Poverty and adverse circumstances of various kinds may have stood in the way at the outset of their career, but these have all been pushed aside by an indomitable will and perseverance, with a certain amount of skill which can neither be analyzed nor described.

Some persons call success under adverse circumstances, "luck;" but we might as well call the dollar earned by the day-laborer a "find," for both come through a legitimate channel, equally open and accessible to all who may choose to enter and labor therein. Just as soon as a man or woman commences to earn one cent a day or week more than they spend, that moment do they commence to be successful in life. It frequently requires as much forethought, skill, industry and self-denial to save a penny per diem, as it does a dollar; but the principle is all the same, and if persisted in, a person is sure to win in the end.

Now the man who works for a stated salary can better guage his expenses to correspond with his income, than one following a business liable to fluctuations; therefore the latter should be the more careful of the two, but as a rule he is not, because it is *so pleasant* to predicate final results upon occasional successes in any business.

Well, says the farmer, how about my calling, which is one of the most uncertain of all uncertainties—at least we think so; wheat frequently fluctuates to the extent of a dollar a bushel in a year and the price of other products goes rambling up and down to almost as great extremes. All this is true, and your only safety is to base all estimates for future operations upon the lowest figure; then a rise in price will put you just so much ahead, and right here comes a test of the skill of which we have been speaking.

If you cannot raise a crop of corn, wheat or potatoes for less than it commands in market—no matter what the price may be—then better give up farming at once. Do not say that this or that cannot be done, for by looking about, you can see that it *is* done, and the very men doing it are gaining steadily against, what others might call, an inexorable fate. Perhaps some of our readers residing in Nebraska, Kansas and Minnesota, may ask us how much money there is to be made in raising corn at ten or fifteen cents a bushel? Not much if the corn is sold in bulk as gathered from the field. But why should a man sell corn at such prices when, with a little skill and additional labor he can convert it into butter, cheese, lard, pork, beef, eggs, poultry—all of which are wanted in our Eastern markets if not in the Western. By doing this the excess of freight on a bulky over a cheap article is avoided.

Nebraska butter and cheese will fetch as much per pound in New York, Boston or Philadelphia, as the celebrated Orange County, provided it is just as good. Reputation is worth something in the markets of the world, but not without accompanying merit. If the farmers of the Eastern States can afford to pay sixty cents to one dollar per bushel for corn and a corresponding price for other kinds of food for their stock, the Western man should certainly be able to compete with him while the cost of freight upon condensed articles between the two sections is so low. It seems to us that if there is any advantage in locality, it is in favor of the Western farmer. Still, those residing in the older States complain least of hard times and low prices. Is it skill or natural advantages which causes this difference?

THE FIELD EXHIBITION OF REAPERS.

FROM our Centennial Correspondence we discover that the recent Exhibition of Reapers attracted much attention and developed many good results. Novelties in this class of implements were numerous and interesting and the whole affair was of much more importance to our readers than was generally anticipated. No one can read the report and the articles descriptive of the machinery without appreciating the fact that immense labor and sums of money are annually expended in experiments, many of which are fruitless, while others produce results amply compensating for all failures. The great feature of this year is the automatic Binder, of which there are several now in the field.

We are sorry to see also a further report upon the causes of the evident neglect of the Agricultural interests at the Centennial. If this argument of the light subscription to Centennial stock by the Rural population is the prevailing reason in the Commission, we regret that such a set of men were ever appointed. Perhaps our correspondent has not reached the root of the matter yet; but if he has and this is the actual cause of the general snubbing to which this Department has been obliged to submit, our readers will fully understand with whom they have to deal. The Harvesting Trial was a success so far as it could be made one by the Exhibitors, who did most of the work and bore most of the expenses individually. A new idea seems to have struck the Centennial Managers in relation to the Live Stock Exhibition, for, as will be seen by the regulations printed on another page of this issue, they are extremely liberal and make it an attractive feature of the Exhibition and one very inviting to breeders and exhibitors generally. Perhaps they read the papers occasionally and begin to discover that they have made a mistake in putting in the background the solid producing industries of this country. Live and learn, gentlemen! We are none of us too good or too old to do that.

THE MONTANA MASSACRE.

OUR readers have been made aware through our news columns, of the disastrous defeat of our soldiers by the Indians in Montana and the massacre of General CUSTER and more than three hundred soldiers under his command. The announcement struck the whole community with surprise, horror and indignation. Surprise, that so gallant and heretofore victorious a General should have been deceived to his death; horror at the thought of the outrages and mutilations our brave men received at the hands of these Indian devils; and indignation at the imbecility of a Government that, by inaction and dishonesty, has given a cause for hostilities on the part of the Indians. We do not propose to go into heroics over the noble red man. Mock humanitarians and pseudo philanthropists may have the field to themselves without our interference. Nor are we desirous of combating the generally-received idea that all things are created for some good end. But we admit that our mental vision is not sufficiently acute to see of what good to themselves or to anybody else are the American Indians. They fill a place in the history of the world—but apparently that place is now wanted and they must give way. We are believers in Manifest Destiny to the extent that reconciles us to the idea of their entire and speedy extermination. A race that, in so long a time as it has been known, has made no progress, has not shown one particle of inventive talent and that proves incapable of civilization, is certainly of but little use in this world. It is possible transplanting may be of service to them and that in their happy hunting grounds of an unknown future they may attain mental and spiritual growth. The chance is worth something and the sooner they try it the better it will be for all concerned. The cave dwellers and inhabitants of the Lake regions and all other prehistoric races who have gone before, will doubtless give them welcome and we shall gladly hand them over to such illustrious company.

We are not disposed at this time to glorify the Caucasian so much as to claim that GOD made the world and all that is on it for his especial use and pleasure. We know as little of what is to come after as what has preceded us. The law of the survival of the fittest, which we think is now so well understood and conceded as to require no argument, shows conclusively that the Indian must give way, and his entire extermination is only a matter of time.

But with all this there is something to be said for the Indian of the present time and in the present state of affairs. So far as they have rights, those rights have been disregarded. They have been cheated, abused and deceived, and it is not at all surprising that they take their revenge. Even civilized nations, in the full light of the Gospel and in spite of all the moral and religious teachings of a thousand pulpits, have been known, for less cause than have these Sioux, to make war in which were sacrificed not only three hundred but three hundred thousand lives. Let us give the Indian his due. The vilest worm will turn to sting you if attacked and an Indian if not in the fullness of manhood, is more than a worm.

The end is not yet. There will be more fighting—vindictive, revengeful fighting—in which many more lives will be lost and much money spent which could be put to a better use. But it will not be all in vain if it shall teach us, nationally and individually, this truth—that most of the great troubles in the world have their root in dishonesty—and instill in us a desire to do justly, to love mercy and walk humbly.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Drouth.—While in the Western and some of the more Northern States there has been a superabundance of rain the present season, we are are hereabout (in the vicinity of New York) experiencing the severest drouth known to our oldest inhabitants. Meadows and lawns are burnt to a crisp and shade trees dying by the thousands, all for the want of rain. In a recent visit to Philadelphia we saw hundreds of acres of meadows and pasture lands adjacent to the railroads, all burnt over, having taken fire from sparks blown from locomotives; and in several instances beautiful lawns and shade trees growing thereon had been destroyed by fire from the same source. Along with the scarcity of rain the heat is also oppressive—98 to 104 degs. in the shade is about how the mercury has ranged for the past two weeks.

Honey at the Centennial.—If we are not misinformed, the bee-keepers were quite anxious to have honey recognized by the Centennial Commission as one of the *great* and *sweet* products of the land. Their wishes were gratified so far as regards an opportunity to show what they could do with the "nectarine product;" but the time set for the display has come and gone and not one ounce of honey was exhibited. How is this, Apairians? Will you do any better next fall, at the time set apart for Special Display, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1? We will wait and see!

The Basket Worm.—A very destructive insect known by several common names, such as Bag or Basket Worm, but scientifically, *Thyridopteryx ephemeræformis*, has appeared in immense numbers in parts of Marshall and Maury Counties, Tenn. The cedar trees in the regions referred to are said to be literally covered with these worms, which soon strip them of every leaf and of course death ensues. These worms often appear in the Eastern States and in gardens as well as forests, generally confining their ravages to the common Arbor-vitæ.

RURAL BREVITIES.

ALL who are interested in the Exhibition of Live Stock at the Centennial, should read carefully the regulations upon another page of this issue.

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science meets at Buffalo, N. Y., next month—the day not yet fixed. Scientists will please take notice and get their "papers" ready and send in the title of the same to F. W. PUTNAM, Salem, Mass.

THE so-called Japan Pea, advertised extensively for field culture at the South, is almost worthless except to plow under green for manure. We say let it alone, unless wanted for the purpose named or for feeding to hogs, and for the latter purpose corn is cheaper and better.

THE Cork Oak appears to succeed as well in California as in its native country. Trees planted in 1861 and since pruned up, are now twenty-five feet to the lower branches. The bark on these trees is from one and a half to two inches thick, and the peeling process may soon commence.

BEACH, SON & Co. send us a flower of *Lilium Auratum Virginalis*. It differs from the type in the possession of brighter and wider golden bands and in having few spots which are of the same color. For those who delight in Lily culture and who aim to possess all which thrive without protection, this is a charming variety.

THE Executive Committee of the Michigan State Agricultural Society are reported to have declared that the trials of speed at their annual fairs could not be attempted without bringing in all the objectionable features of gambling incident to regular horse trots, and have decided to abolish it accordingly. Illinois has followed suit.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

THE best house painters prefer Eckstein, Hills & Co.'s **"Phœnix" brand Pure White Lead** to any other in the market, because it is whiter, finer, and will cover more surface.

THAT CALF.

An old farmer, one morn, hurried out to his barn,
Where the cattle were standing, and said,
While they trembled with fright—"Now which of you, last night,
Shut the barn-door, while I was in bed?"
Each one of them all shook his head.

Now the little Spot, she was down in the lot,
And the way the rest did was a shame;
For not one, night before, saw her close up the door,
But they said that she did all the same;
For they always made her bear the blame.

Said the horse, Dapple gray, "I was not up this way
Last night, as I now recollect;"
And the bull, passing by, tossed his horns very high,
And said, "Where's the one to object,
If I say, 'tis *that calf*, I suspect?"

"It is too wicked now," said the old brindle cow.
"To accuse honest folks of such tricks;"
Said the cock in the tree, "I am sure 't wasn't me;"
All the sheep just said "bah!"—there were six—
And they thought now *that calf's* in a fix!

"Of course we all know 't was the wrong thing to do,"
Cried the chickens; "Of course," mewed the cat;
"I suppose," said the mule, "some folks think me a fool,
But I'm not quite so simple as that;—
Well, *that calf* never knows what she's at!"

Just then the poor calf, who was always the laugh
And the jest of the yard, came in sight;—
"Did you shut my barn-door?" said the farmer once more:
And she answered, "I did sir, last night,
For I thought that to close it was right."

Now each beast shook his head; "She'll catch it," they said,
"Serve her right, for her meddlesome way."
Cried the farmer, "Come here, little bossy, my dear,
You have done what I cannot repay,
And your fortune is made from to-day.

"Very strangely, last night, I forgot the door quite,
And if you had not closed it so neat,
All the colts had slipped in, and gone straight to the bin,
And got what they ought not to eat;—
They'd have foundered themselves upon wheat."

Then each beast of them all, began loudly to bawl,
The mule tried to smile, the cock crew,
"Little Spotty, my dear, you're the favorite here."
They all cried, "We're so glad it was you!"
But *that calf* only answered them, "boo!"

[*Phœbe Cary.*

The Story-Teller.

MRS. VANDERDUYNCK.

LETTERS FROM ROGER FLOYD TO HOPE STANHOPE.

BY MISS E. W. OLNEY.

[Concluded from page 29, last number.]

VI.

RIVERBEND, August 30.

Your letter, in answer to my confession of accursed folly, was a sensible one, Holt, and a logical one, too. But talk to me no more of a wife—of a fireside—of sweet home joys. Speak rather of effort and the results of effort. Undoubtedly it is pleasant to be free to introduce romance into one's life; but I am not one of those men born to tread on roses.

But I will confess this much, Holt:—Were Evelyn poor and obscure, she should have been taken to my heart forever that night of the ball. I do not suppose that mine is a character formed to make many women happy, yet I could make her happy. I am not a visionary fool, yet I know I could make her happy. But she has eighty thousand a year, Holt, and I—I at my best can make about three thousand. A gulf divides us. It is now improbable that I shall ever see her again. She has gone to Newport and the boys tell me she sails for Europe in October. Be it so.

You wished me to tell you the sequel to the night of the ball. Did you not then understand that that was the final close—that further evolvements were rendered impossible by the fact that when I went to bed that night I had turned my back upon the allurement that was emasculating me? I rose betimes next day. I knew the boys would be peevish and fretful after their late hours and their unaccustomed indulgence at supper. Accordingly, to turn their thoughts, I proposed an excursion to the quarry and took them five miles to see the curious geological formations lately exposed there, of which I have already sent you an account. I found an invitation from Mrs. Hunt to take tea with herself and Mrs. Vanderduynck on my return, but I sent a courteous refusal. Next morning the boys and I grappled with study in good earnest and for the next five days I scarcely left the schoolroom until dusk. One afternoon, as I was setting copies for Albert, I discovered that one of my sleeve buttons had vanished and remembered at once that I had heard something fall as I crossed the terrace after going to the garden to pick fruit at luncheon; so accordingly I dispatched John to search for it. As he went out he opened the door upon Mrs. Vanderduynck, who had, I fancy, been standing outside waiting for courage to knock. She now entered timidly and addressed me without raising her eyes to my face, asking if the boys could drive with her to O——.

"I have no objection," I returned, going on with my writing. "When do you wish to set out?"

"I ordered the ponies at three o'clock," said she.

"Go then, Albert," I remarked, "and tell John that I will find my stud myself and then both of you get into your best clothes as speedily as possible."

Albert leaped out of the room, rejoiced to get rid of his writing lesson. I was *vis-a-vis* with Mrs. Vanderduynck.

"Have you lost your sleeve button?" she asked, breaking a stiff silence.

"Yes," said I; "my cuffs are rather worn by washing and the button-holes are too large;" and I matter-of-factly held them up for her inspection.

"Let me mend them for you," she exclaimed, laughing. "I will run and get my work-basket." And she left the room without giving me an opportunity to speak, returning in about three minutes and at once came up to me with her thimble on her finger and a threaded needle in her hands. I, not to be outdone in artlessness, held out my wrist to her. She mended the place skillfully. I was restless under her presence, yet betrayed nothing. We were quite silent. I looked out of the window, having glanced but once at the little fingers so near mine and tried not to shiver when now and then they touched each other.

"There," she cried finally, "that is better."

"Yes," said I; "that is much better and besides that, it was very good of you to take so much trouble."

"I like trouble for my friends," she murmured, coyly.

"And we are friends?"

"I had hoped so, Mr. Floyd," she answered very softly, looking up with wistful eyes, "but you take small account of my friendship. It is I who am not your equal. It is a condescension for you to be my friend."

"Do not exaggerate," I said exactly as I speak to the boys when they are too highflown. "I dare say that in the kingdom of heaven we may be equals, but certainly nothing can be more different than our spheres on earth."

"The horses are at the door," she said, with assumed calmness, "and I hear the boys coming down stairs. I wish you a very good afternoon, Mr. Floyd."

She left me. When the blood she had sent surging to my heart stopped boating so violently, I went out and found my sleeve-link.

The boys came back each with a pale face and a headache and finally confessed that they had gorged unchecked at a confectioner's where their "grandmamma" had given them permission to eat whatever they fancied while she drove about all alone, for she had been very silent and sad for all the way—"Not jolly like grandmamma at all, you know," Albert added, indignantly. Mrs. Hunt came into the school-room herself next morning to ask me to dine with her at five o'clock and when I refused she asked if I had reason to be offended either with herself or Mrs. Vanderduynck. "Certainly not," I returned.

"Why, then, do you refuse all invitations to meet either of us?" she pursued, with a keen glance. I returned her look with a half smile and was silent. She came up to my desk and put her hand on my arm. "Mr. Floyd," said she softly, "I once told you that my stepmother was a coquette. I wronged her in saying so. I think now that she is not only no coquette, but that she is one of the most frank and warm-hearted of women."

"I quite agree with you," I returned coolly. "I never considered Mrs. Vanderduynck the least of a coquette." Mrs. Hunt laughed.

"Come and take tea with us to-night at eight o'clock," said she, good-naturedly. "I shall accept no refusal. I insist upon your joining us in the boudoir after you are through with the boys." I assented of course and in the evening met the ladies in the little room off the library. Little Cora sat beside me while I drank my tea and finally dropped off to sleep, her head against my knees, her arms clasping my legs. The conversation, although conventional, was sufficiently interesting, as we were discussing some new books. Mrs. Vanderduynck said little, but looked more lovely than ever. She was in black, with some shining gauzy white overdress and her golden hair was bound in a Grecian knot. She wore not a single ribbon or jewel—in her hand she held a rose which she played with incessantly and with her fitful color and her drooping eyes and modest manner, she looked barely sixteen. After a time she went into the next room and sitting down at the piano she sang in a soft low voice. I think all the airs she chose were adieux. Little Cora slept on. I felt dreary, Holt, dreary. Mrs. Hunt was tranquil and gracious and took up some work when the tea things were removed.

"Don't trouble yourself with the child," said she. "Go in and hear Mrs. Vanderduynck sing."

"Thanks," I returned. "I can hear her with perfect distinctness here." Mrs. Hunt began talking about the young people who had been staying with her—told about the flirtations which had culminated in engagements beneath her roof.

"Apropos," said she, "I have a suspicion that you are engaged to be married, Mr. Floyd."

"Not at all," I replied, meeting her keen glance calmly. "On the contrary, I have never yet asked a woman to marry me."

"But you wish to marry ultimately," she suggested. The music ceased. I could see the slender yet voluptuous outline of the white-draped figure posed in a listening attitude.

"I may many years hence," I returned, phlegmatically, "provided I find the wife I need."

"What would she be? Some miracle of beauty doubtless."

"Quite the reverse. I fancy she would be plain. I should choose a woman who would be my companion in a laborious life; who could, if need be, follow me into the wilderness, cook my food, endure fatigue, think little of herself but much of me; be cheerful under hardships and able to inspire my depressed soul with courage and serenity."

"You are right," interposed Mrs. Hunt, laughing. "The wife you describe must needs be plain; she——"

"But it is too much to ask of any woman," said I, with a half laugh; "hence, I expect to go through life alone. I doubt my capacity for loving a plain woman. As for a beautiful one whom I did love, I should prefer that she should be more fittingly enshrined than in the life of a man like me, who is not only poor but will always be poor—whose profession denies him emolument."

"A clever man like yourself, Mr. Floyd," said Mrs. Hunt in the pleasant tone of a woman who wishes to stroke you the right way, "a man like yourself, of good family, of personal accomplishments, high culture and in your way rare ability, ought not always to be poor. You should marry a rich woman whose money would enable you to devote your life to scientific research and pursuits which help on the cause of humanity."

I looked up and saw Mrs. Vanderduynck's pale face and gleaming eyes. Little Cora had awakened. I took her in my arms and pressed my lips to hers. I did not ask myself whence came the passion which fevered the caress. All this before I answered.

"Mrs. Hunt, my wife must take everything from me. I could accept nothing but herself from a woman."

"Yet if you loved a rich woman—what then?"

"My passions wait upon my will," said I, rising. "Marry a rich woman I could not and would not." I carried Cora to her mother's side. "I understand you leave for Newyort to-morrow, Mrs. Vanderduynck," I went on, looking anywhere except into her face, "and I will bid you good-by, with the hope that you may enjoy your visit."

She said nothing; did not even lift her hand toward me from her lap, where it lay clasping the other. I took it gently in my own. It was tremulous and cold. I did not press it, merely touched it; then I clasped Cora in my arms again and strained her to my breast.

That was the end, Holt. I did not look up next morning when the carriage rolled past the schoolroom window where I was sitting.

VII.

RIVERBEND, October 27.

I was in New York four days last week, dear Holt, and was sorry to learn that you were in Washington. Had you been in town I should have presented you to the woman I am to marry some three months from now. She is anxious to meet you and will herself ask you for all the letters I have written you concerning her; so, my boy, if you think my wife will quarrel with me for them, I advise you to read them well before that time comes. I confess that I feel a trifle shy about telling even you of the change in my life. For a change it is, radical and entire, and I had, moreover, committed myself to a contrary course.

After Mrs. Vanderduynck went to Newport I gave myself up to study. I was sick of theorizing—I needed facts. I took up the Russian language and refreshed myself by reviewing my mathematics. The house was dull. Mrs. Hunt went to the White Sulphur Springs and the boys and I had the place to ourselves except for a week, when Mr. Hunt brought a set of choice *convives* to rouse the echoes night after night and lame the horses by day. When we were again alone I used to wander aimlessly about the deserted rooms. It was a foolish practice, for it made my stifled passion almost burst its prison in its frenzied efforts for liberty, when I went into the little parlor where I had last seen Evelyn.

Late in September Mrs. Hunt returned. She looked at me curiously. I had changed, she remarked. "How so?" I demanded. She could not tell. She had been in Newport for a week, she went on to say, visiting Mrs. Vanderduynck in her pretty seaside cottage. Poor thing, she was so ill!"

"Ill?" I ejaculated.

"Yes," said Mrs. Hunt, meeting my startled glance coldly. "I think she is just in that state of health when it is quite easy for a young woman to die of some disease for which hereditary traits have predisposed her."

"What has put her in that state of health?" I inquired gravely. "She seemed thoroughly well when she was here."

Mrs. Hunt played with her bracelets but said nothing.

"She sails for Europe on the 20th," she resumed, after a pause, "and will spend the winter at Nice with my sister."

I asked no more. Mrs. Hunt's words and manner haunted me. I wished that she had been more explicit, for absolutely the impression she had left upon my mind was that my darling was suffering on my account. What a bond slave a man is, Holt, so soon as he leaves the domain of incontestable facts and goes to wondering, hoping, fearing! I could not sleep nowadays unless I tired myself out by violent exercise. If I took my pen to write, no train of thought could hold me from drifting into revery. Evelyn pursued me in fancy. I had a vague, diffused, melancholy feeling about my heart constantly—in fact, I was a confounded spooney. I did not dream of seeing her again, for the boys had showed me the handsome presents she had sent with a farewell letter.

Time passes, even for infatuated idiots, and presently it was the 16th of October and Evelyn was to sail on Saturday. Mrs. Hunt came into the school-room one afternoon with a telegram in her hand. "Mr. Floyd," said she, "would you mind driving over to the station to meet Mrs. Vanderduynck? I have a dispatch saying that she will be here at 3.25. The men are all busy and I scarcely dare to trust the boys."

"I thought Mrs. Vanderduynck was on the point of sailing for Europe," I gasped.

"So she is," returned Mrs. Hunt, "but she comes up for a night to bid me good-by. Will you go?"

"Certainly," I assured her, "and I will take the boys in the brett. They are good boys to-day and deserve a treat."

"Wouldn't it be better to go alone in the phæton?" suggested Mrs. Hunt, softly.

I dissented drily and presently was driving to the station with the boys crowded on the front seat with me. We met Mrs. Vanderduynck. I was more than composed; I was apparently ossified. I took her bags, offered my arm to her, put her in the carriage with Albert next to her and then John and I mounted in front and we set off home. I was driven by demons that night. No sooner had we reached the house than, after handing her from the brett, I gave the reins to the groom and set off on a long walk over to see Prof. Walker and his new fossils just brought from the West and did not return until eleven. I entered quietly, intending to go up stairs at once, but Mrs. Hunt came out of the drawing-room and called me in. Mrs. Vanderduynck was sitting by the table and the lamp screen completely shaded her face; but as the light fell on her hands crossed in her lap, I saw that they were thin and that the poor little wrists seemed a third smaller than they had been in the summer. I sat down at once and began to talk about Walker's fossils. I was master of the occasion. Neither woman dared oppose me. I congratulated Mrs. Vanderduynck upon her plans for a gay European winter. I told Mrs. Hunt I had seized that opportunity for my twelve-mile walk to the Professor's, because I knew that the two ladies would have a thousand things to say to each other and that I should be in the way; then, rising, I declared myself tired and hungry and added that I was going to ask Thomas for a biscuit and a glass of wine; and I left the room, going up stairs presently, humming a tune as I followed the butler as he carried a tray of refreshments. I never thought of touching to the schoolroom. Albert and John did not want to have lessons next morning because grandmamma was going away at twelve o'clock; but I told them that if their mamma or grandmamma had wished it, they would have asked a holiday for them. So the lads docilely went to work and the morning progressed as usual.

At half-past ten a knock came at the school-room door and the servant said that Mrs. Vanderduynck asked if the boys might come to her room for half an hour. "My respects to Mrs. Vanderduynck," I returned, "and will she not come to the school-room to see the boys? They want to show her their new desks." I wanted to see her, Holt, but I wished to see her protected by my pupils, who would rob the situation of embarrassment for me at least. She entered timidly. She was dressed in a dark-blue traveling dress and its simple cut made her figure look very slight, while her face seemed thinner and paler than of old. She spoke to me respectfully but did not look at me. Her whole manner was very gentle but very dignified. She went up to the boys' desks and sitting down, held each by the hand while she talked to them. This was the last then, I thought within myself drearily. In an hour she would be gone and I should never see her again. I opened my books and turned the leaves while the group across the room prattled on. She was telling about Cora, whom she had left behind her in New York. "I am sorry you did not bring my little friend," said I, interrupting presently. She turned and looked at me and our eyes met. She tried to speak but could say nothing and blushed painfully. My heart beat so fast it almost stifled me; but I crossed the room. "Boys," said I, authoritatively, "I wish to speak to Mrs. Vanderduynck a moment. Go out on the lawn and stay until I call you in."

They obeyed, open-eyed—Albert with his tongue thrust in his cheek, each scenting the meaning of the situation. Mrs. Vanderduynck was very white and trembling as I went to her and took her hand.

"I have something to say to you," said I, fixing my eyes on her face and compelling her to meet my glance. "Perhaps it would be better for me to continue silent; but I am only a man, Evelyn, and I cannot meet such a look as you gave me then and not speak. I love you. I love you better, far better than anything else in the world. I never loved a woman before and I never can again. Were you poor and obscure like me, it would be the happiness of my life to offer you my service—to win you for my wife if I could; to work for you and to carry you through the world without your feeling a care or pain. But now——" I paused. Warm delicious color had vivified her face and in her eyes shone pure content.

"But now?" she whispered softly, putting both her hands in mine. I flung them from me, for in their touch lurked all the magnetism which can rob a man of self-control. I felt weak—weak as water. I went over to my desk, sat down and leaned my head upon my hands.

"But now?" she said again.

"But now," I resumed in a stifled voice, "how can I ask you to marry me? It seems a baseness for me to try to win you when I have so little to give you."

She was close beside me now. "Forget my wealth," she said simply; "forget your pride. Look up a moment." I looked up. She put her arms about my neck, her cheek to mine, her lips were at my ear. "I love you," she whispered. "I love you so dearly, Mr. Floyd."

Heaven had come down to me, Holt, and I accepted heaven.

Half an hour afterward we were still at my desk. I was in my chair; but she was on my knees, the sweetest, frankest, loveliest child in existence. "Suppose I had not come yesterday," she was saying.

"Suppose nothing," I returned, "which can make me out the wretchedest man in existence. I believe in fate."

And so do I. I believe just now that the world was made just for Evelyn and for me to live in; that the flowers bloom for our sakes; that the moon shines for us; that the stars move in their courses to guide my darling across the deep seas.

She told me all about herself; how, when she was seventeen, her father had wished her to marry Mr. Vanderduynck, who had offered himself to her; how she had refused, until a month later her father lay dying, a broken-hearted bankrupt, and had told her he should not rest in his grave unless he left her with a protector. She spoke of her brief married life; of her dejection and apathy in being bound to a man who loved her madly, but who failed to inspire anything but a gentle commisseration in her heart and a self-horror that she could not respond to his devotion with anything more than childlike docility; of her child's birth when she was not yet eighteen; of her husband's death shortly after; then her three awful years of seclusion, when she was haunted in her loneliness by the thought that she had failed in a wife's duty by not loving her husband. At last she told of her going back into the world again, where she was besieged by every form of flattery and homage; how she easily read the meaning of the men who wanted her money; of how lonely she felt still; of how little she cared for all the gifts fortune had so lavishly bestowed on her; and then she whispered of her meeting me! However undeserving you may be, Holt, I hope you will some time know the exquisite flattery of hearing from the lips of the woman you love that you seemed to her from the first sight all that she most longed for in the world. But I shall never tell the rest of what my dear child told me during our three hours' talk. Her train had been gone an hour before either of us thought about it. Then, as we looked at our watches, she laughed and blushed. "I will go to town with you myself by the early train to-morrow," said I then. "But tell me, Evelyn, about your health. You have grown pale and thin, rosy though you may be now." She clung to me shyly.

"I was so unhappy," she whispered; "nothing seemed to me worth living for when you told me you would not marry a rich woman. I wanted to fling my wealth away as I once flung those cameo studs. Do you remember, Roger? I could not sleep, I could not eat. I hoped I should die, I was so tired of everything!"

[You won't know what my answer to that was, Holt.]

"I shall be well now," she observed, presently.

Mrs. Hunt came in just as we were blushing at the thought of going down stairs together.

"I came to inquire," said she, smiling, "if I might have the boys to go over to—— with me. Since you ordered them to the lawn they sit there on the bench like two Casablancas, and tell me they cannot stir till you give them leave."

"Give all the world a holiday! dear Mrs. Hunt," cried I. "Guess what has happened?"

"I know," said she, kindly, "and it is the most sensible thing for yourselves, as it is the pleasantest thing for me." She kissed Evelyn warmly, then gave me her hand, which I carried to my lips. "Suppose you come to luncheon now," she continued with her perfect tact, "and then, Mr. Floyd, don't you want the phaeton for a drive? By the time you come home you will be ready to talk our plans over with me in my dressing-room."

We lunched. Then I drove Evelyn to the lake and we strolled around until it was within an hour of dinner-time. The servants stared and grinned when we came back and the boys exploded with laughter in the alcove as I went up stairs. Truly, Holt, a man needs to be pretty well in love to endure the tame-bear feeling he has when first engaged. But although I caught myself smiling idiotically at times, I rather enjoyed it—particularly Evelyn's singing in the evening and the little talk we had together on the sofa before she went to her pillow. I brought her to town next day. She stopped at the Brevoort and I at the Everett, that our secret might not be known to the world.

Saturday she and Cora sailed. She did not want to go, nor did I wish her to cross the ocean without me; but it was decided to be better on all accounts that she should join Mrs. Winslow in Nice, where I shall go in January, at which time we shall be married, then to settle down quietly at once in Paris. Cora likes me extremely for a papa, she affirms—almost better than mamma; for mamma is a woman, and she prefers men.

[*From the Galaxy.*] ROGER FLOYD.

A SURPRISE PARTY (!)

THE night chosen for the undertaking proved to be a lovely moonlight one. The troops assembled near Kearny's headquarters about nine o'clock in the evening, and leaving all impediments in the way of blankets, overcoats and unnecessary accouterments behind, we soon began our silent march to the front. It was known that the Confederate pickets were posted four or five miles in advance; but before marching half that distance a halt was ordered and additional precautions adopted to preserve secrecy in our movements. From that point we pursued our way as quietly as possible, no one being allowed to speak above a whisper. Sometimes, instead of following the road, we made our way through paths in the forest, feeling our way as cautiously as if masked batteries—then the *bete noir* of the average volunteer—were bristling from behind every bush. The cracking of a twig in the distance or the stumbling of one of the leading files over a concealed log, was sufficient to cause the entire column to halt and with bated breath peer into the darkness of the forest in vain endeavor to discover a foe whose presence at that particular time was not desirable.

In this manner we continued our course, at each step the tension on our nerves (to describe it by no other name) becoming greater and greater until we resembled in enlarged form some ludicrous stage picture in which the alarmed family, aroused from their beds by noise of imaginary burglars, come stealthily, timidly into the room, staring in all directions to discover the disturber of the household and ready to drop all weapons of defence and seek safety in flight at the first real cause of alarm. So it was with us. Inexperienced, magnifying the strength and terrible character of our unseen foes, dreading surprise, we had worked ourselves up to so excitable a condition that all that was necessary to terminate our anxiety as well as the expedition, was to confront us with an undoubted enemy. We were not to undergo much longer delay. The house about which the picket was posted and which was to be the object of our attack—a surprise, if possible—was located at one end of a long lane, at the foot of which we now found ourselves. A brief halt was made, final instructions from our leaders were whispered from ear to ear, and again we moved forward. Owing to clouds we could only receive partial benefit from the moon; sufficient, however, to discern in the distance at the head of the lane a clump of trees, within which the house was said to be located.

As we silently made our way up the lane, moving in column of fours, with not a skirmisher or advanced guard thrown to the front, every isolated tree or even the farmers' herd grazing in the fields near by were sufficient to make us halt and determine whether or not we were being "flanked." Frequent discoveries of our errors in this respect might have inspired us with some little confidence, but at that moment we surely heard human voices up the lane in the vicinity of the house. Of course we halted. It did not impress me that we were engaged in a military undertaking; on the contrary, it struck me as resembling upon a large scale some boyhood scheme involving a movement upon a neighboring orchard or a melon patch, and the time had arrived, just before crossing the fence, when the impression prevails that the owner of the orchard and his dog are on the lookout. Halting to listen and distinguish the voices again, a silence ensued, during which the clouds cleared away, permitting the moon to shine forth and light up the whole scene, and enabling the enemy's pickets to take in at a glance who and what we were.

"Who comes there?" rang out on the still night air; and without waiting for an answer bang! bang! bang! went three muskets. It was a sorrowful waste of ammunition to fire three muskets when one would have answered as well. I am sure that while we may have all been facing toward the house when the first shot was fired, we was not only facing but moving in the opposite direction before the sound of the last one reached our ears. I presume, too, that the fellows who fired the shots ran, in the opposite direction, faster than we did—that is, if they were disposed to be active. But all chance to effect a surprise having been lost, our party did not propose to expend either time or ammunition in furtherance of the object of the expedition. We beat a hasty if not precipitate retreat and returned to our camp in less than half the time it had required to march from there. The same officers and men who participated in this little affair, if charged with the same duty one year later, at a time when they had become more familiar with the operations of war, would have in all probability succeeded in capturing and bringing away as prisoners the entire picket guard and its immediate reserve.—*Gen. Custer in June Galaxy.*

DISCOURAGING.

A DETROIT youth of thirteen sold fifty pounds of old iron and a piece of lead pipe a few days ago and received enough money to carry out his long-cherished idea of establishing a weekly newspaper which should represent the interests of every section of Michigan. He was willing to commence low down and work up, and he established an office in the cellar of his father's house, purchased two quarts of "pi," hired his sister as an apprentice, and work was begun on his first number. The boy had an idea that an independent journal would pay best, and his first edition, which consisted of seven copies of a sheet about as large as an envelope, was devoted to items of a personal nature. It was rather a family sheet, also, seven of the eight items in it being hits at his father and mother, and the lone one was a bit of advice to his school teacher. While he was out hunting up advertising and soliciting subscribers his father laid the type away to shoot cats with, his mother kindled the fire with the wooden press, and when the editor and proprietor returned he was given a woodshed interview and then wedded to the handle of a lawn mower. He was yesterday "hollering" over the alley fence to one of his friends that he couldn't be crushed out nor frightened off the track by no bloodthirsty mob, but the prospect for a new paper is dubious.—*Free Press.*

BISMARCK'S PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM an interesting letter from Count Bismarck to his wife, July 9, 1866, published with his sanction, we extract the following:

"The Austrians stand in Moravia, and we already have the audacity to mark our headquarters for to-morrow at the position they occupy to-day. If they bring up their Southern Army we shall yet, with God's help, beat them. General confidence prevails. Our men deserve embracing (*sind zum Kussen*), every one of them; brave to death, so quiet, obedient, polite, with an empty stomach, wet clothes, little sleep, loose boot soles, kind to all, no plundering or burning, paying for all they can, and living on moldy bread. There must be a deep foundation of God's fear in our men, else they could not be all that. The King exposed himself very much on the 3d, and it was as well I was with him, for the warnings from all others were of no avail and none would have dared speak as I did at last, when I was successful, whilst a knot of ten cuirassiers and fifteen horses of the Sixth Regiment were weltering in their blood close to us and the grenades were whizzing most alarmingly about the master. The most dangerous of them did not burst, fortunately. Still, I like this better than if he were too cautious. He was enthusiastic about his troops and justly so, and thus he did not seem to notice the whistling and cracking near him, seated as quiet and comfortable as on the Kreuzberg, and always finding fresh battalions whom he could thank and wish good evening to. But now he has been lectured so much about it that in future he will take better care of himself."

ANCESTRY OF THE PEN.

THE earliest mode of writing was on bricks, tiles, oyster-shells, stones, ivory, bark and leaves of trees; and from the latter the term "leaves of a book" is probably derived. Copper and brass plates were very early in use; and a bill of foefiment on copper was some years since discovered in India, bearing date one hundred years B. C.

Leather was also used, as well as wooden tablets. Then the papyrus came into vogue, and about the eighth century the papyrus was superseded by parchment. Paper, however, is of great antiquity, especially among the Chinese; but the first paper mill in England was built in 1586 by a German, at Dartford, in Kent. Nevertheless, it was nearly a century and a half—namely, in 1713—before Thomas Watkins, a stationer, brought paper making to anything like perfection.

The first approach to a pen was the stylus, a kind of iron bodkin; but the Romans forbade its use on account of its frequent and even fatal use in quarrels, and then it was made of bone. Subsequently, reeds, pointed and split, like pens of the present day, were used.

HOW OPINIONS ARE FORMED.

THERE is probably nothing that so obstinately stands in the way of all sorts of progress as pride of opinion, while there is nothing so foolish and so baseless as that same pride. If men will look up the history of their opinions, learn where they came from, why they were adopted, and why they are maintained and defended, they will find, nine times in ten, that their opinions are not theirs at all—that they have no property in them, save as gifts of parents, education and circumstances. In short, they will learn that they did not form their own opinions—that they were formed for them, and in them, by a series of influences, unmodified by their own reason and knowledge. A young man grows up to adult age in a Republican or Democratic family, and he becomes Republican or Democrat in accordance with the ruling influences of the household. Ninety-nine times in a hundred the rule holds.—*Dr. J. G. Holland.*

AN ACT OF HEROISM.

WE have much pleasure, says the Builder, in recording an act of courageous self-control and presence of mind. Two workmen were engaged fixing a lightning conductor on the summit of the steeple at Ville-sur-Ourthe, in Belgium. To accomplish this it was necessary that one of the workmen should stand on the shoulders of his companion. While in this position, a violent gust of wind made him spill some molten lead, which fell on the hand and forearm of his friend. Notwithstanding the sudden intensity of the pain thus inflicted, the victim of the accident had the courage to remain motionless while the lead burned its way into his flesh. He knew that the slightest movement might suffice to precipitate his companion from a hight of 70 feet into the street below, and he bravely endured the pain rather than imperil the life of his fellow-worker. M. A. Karls, slater, at Anthisne, is the hero of this brave deed, and his name is worthy of public record.

SHAM MEERSCHAUMS.

MEERSCHAUM shavings and dust are used when compressed for making inferior or imitation pipes; 41,100 weight of this waste are annually consumed in Vienna in the production of pipes, cigar-holders, &c., and the imitation has been carried to such perfection that connoisseurs sometimes find it difficult to distinguish these articles from similar ones of the genuine substance. Of the meerschaum itself, 12,000 cases (each weighing fifty or sixty pounds and worth $175 a case) are used up in Vienna alone. In working up the shavings and dust into materials, about sixty women are employed in Vienna in sorting, sifting, washing and cleansing the refuse and rubbing it through silken sieves.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM WEED, PARSONS & Co., Albany:

"Geo. Washington Brown." A Satire, by Vox. [Paper.—pp. 75.] Price 25 cents.

JAMES LAW, Ithaca, N. Y.;

The Farmer's Veterinary Adviser. By James Law. [Cloth.—pp. 426.]

Sabbath Reading.

MY TREASURES.

BY RAY HULBURT.

I AM standing to-day on the evergreen bank
O'erhanging the River of Time;
In the distance behind me are memories rank—
Before me the future sublime.

About me are twining the affections of old,
Like tendrils of new-grown moss;
While pictures of silver and threads of gold
Are gleaming amid flakes of floss.

As I stand on the banks of this beautiful shore,
Now washed by the Waters of Life,
I find fresh among the bright treasures of yore,
The pearls of the present are rife.

And my heart wells upward, toward the Great White Throne,
As I glean of these rubies so bright,
And I offer to Him who sitteth enthroned,
My treasures for His World of Light.

ONE ALONE.

BY MRS. HATTIE F. BELL.

I HAVE been thinking to-day of a sweet little girl of five summers, who once visited at our house. She was a dear little prattler, and her cheerful voice made music for us all those long summer days, when her light feet danced through the rooms of that old house at home. I have not seen her for many a year, and if she is still on earth she has outgrown those happy days of childish bliss, and stands to-day crowned with all the blushing honors of sweet sixteen, to help her on through young-ladyhood. I presume she has forgotten all about me, but there has ever been a sweet, fresh memory of her in my heart, imprinted there by the circumstance which now leads me to write this sketch, thinking perhaps the thought may cheer some one, as it has me many a day.

I remember so well just how she looked that morning, as she sat on the floor by the little, low chamber window, in her long, white night-dress, and looked out into the tall, old locust trees, that every year had kept creeping nearer and a little nearer, until now they fairly looked straight into my room, and nodded an airy greeting to me every morning, with a sort of musical accompaniment, tapped out in broken time with their long, trembling fingers upon the window pane. I never in my life saw an angel, but I think she must have looked like one, if ever mortal did, that morning, with her fair hair floating away over her shoulders, and her large, brown eyes, so thoughtful and so beautiful, withal.

"Cousin HATTIE,"—I turned as the sweet voice echoed my name,—"Cousin HATTIE, if everybody in the world should die—all the men and women, and all the little boys and the little girls—everybody but just one man, what do you suppose would become of him?"

It was a strange question, and something I had never thought of,—this idea which she, in her child-wisdom had advanced. I paused to think of some wise and fitting reply, as became my maturer years; but the little questioner was again all too quick for my slow thoughts, and with a satisfied smile said, "Oh! I guess JESUS would take care of him. Wouldn't He?"

Dear little MAY! Of course I assured her He would. And I could not resist the impulse of rushing up to her and half smothering her with kisses, while my eyes grew so moist and dim I could scarcely see the old locusts that still kept nodding and bowing to us through the open window. They looked as if they had all suddenly dipped their heads under water.

This beautiful lesson, that that baby-teacher unconsciously taught me that bright June morning, I have never forgotten, and it comes to me often afresh, in all its sweet simplicity. How true it is that JESUS cares for each one of us *alone*, and that *for one* He would have died as soon as for the multitude. Oh! if we can only have the sweet trust and unquestioning faith of innocent childhood. Even when left alone by earthly friends, and all we've cherished and loved, yet our dear, Heavenly Father, we know, will ever, in His goodness, be sure to "take care of us."

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

THERE is no outward sign of courtesy that does not rest on deep moral foundation.

HEAVEN is a state of entire acquiescence in the will of God, and full sympathy with his purposes.

HE who thinks he has enough of the Holy Spirit will quickly find himself vanquished by the evil spirit.

A WELL grounded assurance is always attended with three fair handmaids—love, humility and holy joy.

THE generality of men expend the early part of their lives in contributions to render the latter part miserable.

THERE is not a sin a saint commits but Satan would trumpet it out to the world if God would give him leave.

PRAYER is nothing but the breathing that out before the Lord that was first breathed into us by the spirit of the Lord.

HE who will not improve two talents shall never be trusted with five, but he who improves a little shall be trusted with much.

THERE is a difference between consecration and sanctification. The former belongs to us, the latter to our faithful God. We cannot have the latter without the former.

Ladies' Portfolio.

HIE AWAY.

Hie away, hie away!
Over bank and over brae,
Where the copsewood is the greenest,
Where the fountains glisten sheenest,
Where the lady-fern grows strongest,
Where the morning dew lies longest,
Where the blackcock sweetest sips it,
Where the fairy latest trips it:
Hie to haunts right seldom seen,
Lovely, lonesome, cool and green,
Over bank and over brae,
Hie away, hie away!

[*Sir Walter Scott.*

MR. RUSKIN ON FEMALE ATTIRE.

In a late number of *Fors Clavigera*, Mr. Ruskin advises his girl readers as follows.—"Dress as plainly as your parents will allow you, but in bright colors (if they become you) and in the best materials—that is to say, in those which wear longest. When you are really in want of a new dress, buy it (or make it) in the fashion; but never quit an old one merely because it has become unfashionable. And if the fashion be costly, you must not follow it. You may wear broad stripes or narrow, bright colors or dark, short petticoats or long (in moderation), as the public wish you; but you must not buy yards of useless stuff to make a knot or a flounce of, nor drag them behind you over the ground. And your walking dress must never touch the ground at all. I have lost much of the faith I once had in the common sense and even in the personal delicacy of the present race of average English women, by seeing how they will allow their dresses to sweep the streets, as it is the fashion to be scavengers. If you can afford it, get your dresses made by a good dressmaker, with the most attainable precision and perfection; but let this good dress-maker be a poor person living in the country, not a rich person living in a large house in London. Learn dress-making yourself, with pains and time, and use a part of every day in needle-work, making as pretty dresses as you can for poor people who have not time nor taste to make them nicely for themselves. You are to show them in your own wearing what is most right and graceful, and to help them to choose what will be prettiest and most becoming in their own station. If they see you never try to dress above yours, they will not try to dress above theirs."

WHAT A WEAK WOMAN CAN DO.

She can sit at the open window of a railway carriage with a stiff northeast wind blowing in, that chills every one in the vicinity to the marrow, for two hours, in a thin muslin dress, without flinching.

She can dance or waltz down the captain of a marching regiment, and at the 11 o'clock supper put away lobster salad, ice cream, champagne, cake and coffee without flinching, sufficient for a week's nightmare to a strong man.

She can comb her hair all back so as to leave the roots to the full play of the December breeze, and wear a bonnet on top of a chignon, leaving ears and head exposed with impunity with the thermometer at ten degrees below zero.

She can pull over a thousand dollars' worth of dry goods for the investment of fifty cents.

She can study music for ten years, sufficiently to enable her to perform excellently, when not in the presence of those who desire to hear her.

She can balance herself on the ball of her great toe and shoe heel, the size of a dime, all day in the public streets without falling.

She can occupy three seats in horse car and be utterly oblivious that any of her own sex are standing up.

She shows unusual strength and firmness in the holding of real estate, solitaire diamonds, and other valuable property which her husband places in her hands previous to his compromising with his creditors at twenty cents on a dollar.—*Boston Com. Ad.*

A FRENCH ACTRESS WHO MAKES PASTIME OF SCULPTURE.

The last work (in the Paris Salon) I shall speak of is called "After the Storm." An old Breton peasant woman is seated on the seashore, her dead grandson on her knees, whom the waves have cast upon the beach, where she discovered him. The wind has blown her cloak and her chemise from her shoulders; the face, furrowed and despairing, is gloomily directed at the corpse; grief has added fresh wrinkles to those left by age on the troubled face still showing vestiges of former beauty. She is tall and robust, the child slim and rigged. The work is heartrending from its truth and sorrow. This strange and powerful work is sculptured by Sarah Bernhardt, the great actress of the Theater Francaise. It seems like a challenge thrown at the world of sculptors. Its effect is such that its traducers, unable to deny its ability, absurdly attribute it in turn to all the great sculptors of the day. The work produced considerable sensation before its appearance in public, and the sculptors desired to see this artist as she worked upon this group whose realism is so overwhelming. This work has been one of the great preoccupations of artistic Paris, and I have written of it in detail because it is at one and the same time a great sculpture and a great problem, for it is not yet two years since her engagement at the Theater Francais permitted the artist to begin the work; and those who have seen her at it are unable to explain the strange caprice of nature which permits a slim and pallid woman to be at the same time a great sculptor and a great actress.—*Letter in London Times.*

WOMAN'S WOUNDED AFFECTIONS.

Washington Irving wrote:—"As the dove will clap its wings to its side and cover and conceal the arrow that is preying on its vitals, so it is the nature of woman to hide from the world the pangs of wounded affection. With her the desire of the heart has failed. The great charm of existence is at an end. She neglects all the cheerful exercises that gladden the spirits, quicken the pulse and send the tide of life in healthful currents through the veins. Her rest is broken; the sweet refreshment of sleep is poisoned by melancholy dreams; 'dry sorrow drinks her blood,' until her feeble frame sinks under the last external assailant. Look for her after a little while and you find friendship weeping over her untimely grave wondering that one who but lately glowed with all the radiance of health and beauty should now be brought down to 'darkness and the worm.' You will be told of some wintry chill, some slight indisposition that laid her low; but no one knows the mental malady that previously sapped her strength and made her so easy a prey to the spoiler."

LOVERS' MISTAKES.

Many a man lives with a woman half a lifetime without suspecting that the wife of his bosom has really forgotten more than he ever knew. Many a carpet-knight, who plumes himself upon his wonderful skill in smashing hearts, is being mentally measured and intellectually turned inside out by the smiling girls whom he thinks he is captivating. Many a veteran beau, who pulls on his gloves to depart, feeling proudly conscious of having made a profound impression upon the susceptible soul of the belle who has endured him for the evening, would be wonderfully enlightened, if not edified, could he hear the sigh of relief which escaped her lips when the clang of the door announced his departure.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

The wife makes the home, and the home makes the man.

Out of 117 ladies in Michigan University, only four have taken to law.

The 200 women painters studying at Cooper Institute have earned $5,000 in the past year by painting pictures.

A writer on fashions says that New York young ladies still let their hair cascade over their foreheads in lunatic fringe.

Girls of Fulton County, Ill., had a sheep-shearing match the other day, and the winner sheared thirteen sheep in two hours.

Said an old Salt Lake City lady the other day: "A cord of wood 'd last us for a year, if I waited for my old man or my lazy boys to split it."

Miss Whateley's mission at Cairo employs a head native missionary, six male and six female teachers and a Bible woman. There are 150 boys and 130 girls in her schools.

A book entitled "Woman Created an Image of God" is now being published by Miss Aasta Hausteen, who is an enthusiastic worker for woman's rights in Norway. She is a daughter of the celebrated Prof. Hausteen.

Paris ladies who do their own needlework have adopted thimbles with a pebble inserted as a top. The agate, cairngorm, onyx and crystal are the most popular, as they look very pretty in their setting of silver.

Miss Antoinette Polk, a daughter of the late soldier-bishop of Tennesee—Leonidas Polk—and niece of the late President Polk, was a belle, last winter, of society in Rome. She is "The One Fair Woman" of Joaquin Miller's latest romance.

An Eastern young lady lately received the following note, accompanied by a "bucket of flours:"—"I send you bi the boy a bucket of flours. This is like mi luv for u. The nite shade means keep dark; the dog fenil means I am your slave; rosis red posis pall, my luv for u shall never fade."

The Paris fashion inventors are determined to make woman's life a burden to her. One of the journals of that city says that no glove will be tolerated in good society this season with less than twenty buttons, while another declares that in less than five years knee-breeches and six-inch skirts will be the fashionable street dress for ladies.

French statistics show that woman is six times less criminal against person, four times less criminal against property, and twice less hardened a criminal than man. The recently published record also proves that maternity is a better shield than paternity against bad life. Of 1,000 female criminals 261 are mothers, and of 1,000 male criminals 324 are fathers.

All the tired young men will now be for freeing the women. Susan B. Anthony, in her last speech, spoke substantially as follows:—"She thought that when the new dispensation were come a woman could woo a man and relieve him of the trouble of asking a certain question. Then a woman possessed of wealth and having a beautiful home and surroundings might be loved by a modest, poor young man, with a too high sense of honor to beseech her to share his poverty and she could say, 'will you?' etc., and relieve him of superfluous entreaty and give him a good home at the same time."

Reading for the Young.

A RHYME OF ONE.

You sleep upon your mother's breast,
Your race begun,
A welcome, long a wished-for guest,
Whose age is One.

A baby-boy, you wonder why
You cannot run;
You try to talk—how hard you try!—
You're only One.

Ere long you won't be such a dunce;
You'll eat your bun,
And fly your kite, like folk who once
Were only One.

You'll rhyme, and woo, and fight, and joke,
Perhaps you'll pun;
Such feats are never done by folk
Before they're One.

Some day, too, you may have your joy,
And envy none;
Yes, you, yourself, may own a boy
Who isn't One.

He'll dance, and laugh, and crow, he'll do
As you have done;
(You crown a happy home, tho' you
Are only One.)

But when he's grown shall you be here
To share his fun,
And talk of days when he (the dear!)
Was hardly One?

Dear child, 'tis your poor lot to be
My little son;
I'm glad, though I am old, you see,—
While you are One.

[*Cornhill Magazine.*

A BARBEROUS STORY.

The following humorous account of the way German barbers treat their victims is supposed to be written by a California boy to his home people:

I had my hair cut yesterday for the second time since I have been here. The barbers here must be licensed as professional torturers by the Government. I will describe the *modus operandi*, and I think that you will agree in my opinion of them. They seat you on a chair and then tie a kind of night-gown around you, taking care not to tuck it in at the neck, and then they commence operations with a grand flourish of a big pair of shears, which look large enough to cut your head off. They then proceed to cut the hair at the back part of the head. This is done in an artistic manner by pulling a couple handfuls of hair out by the roots and reducing the person being operated on to a state bordering on insanity. After having made the patient sufficiently nervous they begin operations around the ears. They go along pretty smoothly for a few seconds—just long enough to delude the poor fellow into the belief that his sufferings are at an end, when down comes the shears onto his ear, cutting off the tip and extracting a howl of pain and rage from the sufferer. The barber smiles blandly and assures him that it is nothing, only a scratch, and also tells him that he should have dodged the shears. The poor fellow now concludes that he will do his best to dodge the next cut, and successfully eludes six or seven well-directed blows, when the barber resolves on strategy. He gets directly behind the chair, places the shears in his right hand near the right ear of the person, then taps the left ear smartly with his first finger of the left hand. The victim immediately throws his head to the right to escape the expected blow on the left, when down comes the shears on the right ear, cutting a good-sized chunk off, at sight of which the barber sets up a shout of delight and dances around the room in a state of the greatest satisfaction.

He now proceeds to finish you off by cutting the front part of the hair, and every lock that he cuts off he throws directly in your face. Expostulation is useless, for the minute you open your mouth to say anything, you get a handful of hair thrown in, which effectually prevents further utterance. When he has entirely finished cutting your hair he takes as much as he can hold in both hands and deliberately thrusts it down your back, and under pretense of blowing the loose hair from off the coat-collar and neck he blows it further down. Then he releases the sufferer and receives his money with a polite bow and shows him to the door very nicely, leaving the person to wander home in a thoughtful mood and saying naughty words which are expressly forbidden in the Ten Commandments.

"GOD KNOWS ME, ANYHOW."

Frank had beautiful long hair hanging over his shoulders, and his parents were very proud of his appearance. One day he got his mother's scissors, went to the looking-glass and cut off all his fair locks. His father and mother were much displeased with him for so doing, and resolved to punish him in this way:

When they were at the dinner-table, his father pointing to him said to his mother, "What little boy is that?"

"I'm your little Franky, papa," he at once said, not giving his mother time to reply.

"Nonsense," was the father's answer, "my little Franky has beautiful long hair; I would not give my Franky for a dozen boys such as you."

Franky now turned to his mother and said, "Ain't I your little Franky?" but mamma only shook her head.

Matters were now looking serious, and Franky, becoming alarmed, could not make any progress with his dinner. He now appealed to his brother, and asked if he were not little Franky, but his brother only shook his head.

He was becoming very unhappy at the thought that father, mother and brother no longer recognized him, and at last burst into tears, saying as he did so, "Well, God knows me, anyhow."

Tears were now in other eyes as well as Franky's. Those who are near and dear to us may no longer own us, but if we are His children, "God knows us."

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From Up the Hudson.

Dear Mr. Editor:—I have been very much interested in the letters which the boys and girls have been writing for your paper, so I thought I would write one myself. I live on a farm a short distance from a large city, where my father has an office and I attend school. We go in and out on the cars every day. I take music lessons, and have lately learned to make wax flowers and like to make them very much. During the spring and summer I have very pleasant times playing croquet and riding horseback. I have a very nice saddle-horse by the name of "Rosa." Perhaps some of your readers would like to know how to make an imitation papier mache stand. Take a small stand of any shape, paint it black, glue bright-colored pictures all over it, leaving but little of the stand to show; then it has to be sized and varnished, and it makes a very pretty stand. I may perhaps be tempted to write again, telling you something of Cooperstown and Saratoga Spa, which I visited last summer.—Violet.

From an Eastern New York Girl.

Dear Cousins:—I am attending school this summer. I have three sisters and one brother, and we have a great deal of enjoyment with each other and with our young playmates. I have been visiting at my aunt's, and while there I attended a wedding. I feel very grateful to Uncles Mark and True for the intellectual treat contained in their letters.—Louise W., *Greenwich, N. Y.*

From a Fair Cousin.

Dear Rural Cousins:—I have thought for some time I would like to write and tell you how much I enjoy your letters and how well we all like the Rural. Father has taken it for nearly twenty years. I am a farmer's daughter, and live in the country three miles from Oneida Lake. I think that it is much pleasanter than living in the city. —Eve T., *Oswego Co., N. Y.*

From Schoharie Co., N. Y.

Dear Friends:—I live on a farm. My father takes the Rural, and we like it very much. I like to read the Boys' and Girls' Letters; I find them very interesting. I go to school in the winter and stay at home during the summer to work.—F. S., *Richmondville, N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

HIDDEN BIRDS.

1. Do not whip poor Willie this time, for my sake!
2. It is very easy to kill deer.
3. The fourth rush light only remained burning.
4. Come, little Kit, embrace me.
5. At the marriage of Cana, rye whisky was not used.
6. While sailing on the Umpqua, I lost a point lace parasol.
7. Come, Mag, pies are next in order.
8. I have lost my cat; Birdie thinks it was poisoned.
9. Jesse, Agulhas is a dangerous cape for sailors.
10. My dear mother, Carey's chickens were caught by a fox.
11. Have you read Clark's Commentary.
12. That hedge is of haw, Karl, my boy.
13. At noon the fish seemed to have a gold fin, Charles.
14. I love the solemn night, in gale or with summer zephyr.
15. Tubal, bat Ross Gay's ball, and thereby win the inning.

Bobo, link your chain to Rollo's collar.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Little One.

MELANGE.

1. Behead a river in the United states, and find a title.
2. Curtail the river, and find a fruit.
3. Syncopate the river, and find a sound.
4. Transpose the title, and find a Shakspearean king.
5. Transpose the fruit, and find to gather; again, and find to diminish.
6. Transpose the sound, and get a jump; again, and get an inclosure; again, and find an excuse.
7. Behead the excuse, and get a meadow.
8. Curtail the title, and find a part of the body.
9. Syncopate to gather, and get a blow.
10. Behead the inclosure, and get a liquor.
11. Curtail the fruit, and obtain a vegetable.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Isola.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—July 1.

Curtailments.—1, Gape—gap; 2, White—whit; 3, Salem—sale; 4, Plank—plan; 5, Alton—allo; 6, Niles—Nile; 7, Preston—presto; 8, Leaven—leave; 9, Rainy—rain; 10, Drink—Drin; 11, Deed—Dee; 12, Done—Don; 13, Silk—Sil; 14, Sank—San; 15, Came—Cam; 16, Pop—Po; 17, Wharfe—wharf.

Biblical Square-word.—

N E B O
E D O M
B O A R
O M R I

Central Puzzle.—Ear.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In these matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

ADVICES are to hand confirming the news, and furnishing details concerning the fight between U. S. troops and a body of Sioux warriors June 25. It seems that a detachment of the 7th Cavalry under Gen. Custer was executing their part in a plan of combined attack and came upon some 4,000 Sioux near the Little Big Horn. The savages were in superior force and excellently armed. Custer rushed impetuously to the attack with five companies. The peculiarities of the field of battle left no alternative but fight, once engaged. After a heroic struggle the entire attacking force was annihilated. Gen. Custer, Col. Custer, Col. Yates, Col. Keogh, Col. Cook, Lieut. McIntosh, Lieut. Hodgson, Lieut. Smith, Lieut. Porter, Lieut. Harrington, Lieut. Calhoun, Lieut. Reilly, Lieut. Sturges and 269 men were slain.

Mr. Manager Lynde has opened the case for the people in the Belknap impeachment trial.

The colossal statue of Independence, which is being executed by M. Bartholdt for the purpose of serving as a lighthouse in the harbor of New York, will be finished, it is hoped, in time to be exhibited in Paris during the proposed exhibition in 1878. The wrist of this gigantic statue has been moulded lately. It took 200 sacks of plaster for its composition, and it weighs 5,075 kilogrammes. The Chronique states that it is intended to send this pretty little specimen of the intended statue to Philadelphia this summer. After the exhibition it will be brought back to France.

We have again to chronicle a fatal storm in Iowa. Dubuque and Rockdale are the severest sufferers. Houses, bridges, roads have been obliterated. Owing to the bursting of a millidam in addition to the torrents that poured down for three hours the village of Rockdale 27 miles from Dubuque is almost totally demolished. Nineteen dead and over forty missing is the sad commentary.

Mr. Morrill ex-Senator from Maine has accepted the Treasury portfolio.

The House Committee on Privileges and Elections adopted a report in the contested case of Breaux against Darroll, of Louisiana, giving the seat to Darroll; also, in the case of Butts against Mackey, of South Carolina, the committee report no election in either case, which ousts Mackey, the sitting member, from his seat.

Newspapers can be sent after July 1st at the rate of one cent for three ounces, instead of one cent for every ounce, as at present. The new postal law does not alter the postage on books, circulars, medicines, etc., hence it remains at one cent per pound.

The Wilmington (Del.) Commercial estimates this years' peach crop at 1,500,000 baskets.

Twelve States were represented by their Governors at the Centennial on the Fourth.

A novel feature of the celebration at Oswego was a grand sham naval engagement.

New Orleans manufactures 200 tons of ice daily, and Philadelphia 25,000,000 yards of carpet annually.

The senate, by a unanimous vote, has passed concurrent resolutions to complete the Washington monument.

Five hundred Scandinavians are on their way to join Brigham Young and Mormonism.

We should like to give Bayard Taylor's Poem as recited at Philadelphia on the Fourth, but its great length would preclude the announcement of current news of more present value to our readers.

California Apricots are in market.

Rochester, N. Y., is very mad because their fire works were such a fizzle. The papers speak of the display as the "pin-wheel" show, &c. and commiserate the long suffering tax-payer.

Mortimer F. Johnson, one of the early settlers of Rochester, N. Y., is dead.

Colorado will vote for President this year.

The New York Board of Health denounces black hats as provocative of sunstroke.

The first annual sale of trotting stock at the Fashion Stud Farm took place at Trenton, July 6. There was a good attendance and the sale was quite lively throughout. The stock brought good prices. C. H. Kerney, of New York, bought a yearling colt, Brown Star, sired by Gen. Knox, for $830, and Bay Star, a yearling colt out of Lucy, sired by Jay Gould, for $825. Mr. Robbins, of Philadelphia, bought Brown Star, dam Rosalind, sired by Gen. Knox, for $650. The rest of them ranged from $200 to $400. Twenty-seven head were sold.

There were over 50,000 paying visitors to the Philadelphia exhibition, the day after the 4th,—or more than in any day before.

The damage from bugs and other causes in wheat in Wisconsin is confined to small areas, and the yield will be large. Corn will fall below the average. The yield of oats, barley and rye promises to be unusually heavy.

Only 13,000,000 feet of lumber have been cut on the Androscoggin this year, against twice the amount last year.

The Moravia (N. Y.) Register says that a blight has appeared upon the fruit trees in that section, particularly the apple, which is likely to seriously affect the production of the fruit, if not the life of the tree.

The new whipping-post law in California for brutal husbands has not yet resulted in any floggings, the justices of the peace shrinking from the foolish barbarism. The case of one Reynolds, sentenced to receive twenty-one lashes, has been appealed, and the question of constitutionality will be raised. The State Constitution says, "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines enforced, nor shall cruel or unusual punishment be inflicted."

A contractor bargained to build a house in Scranton, and means to earn and get the pay; but the other party changed his mind, and is determined that the work shall not be done. Every day the contractor has framework put up by a large force of workmen, and every night the owner of the ground hires an equal number to clear away the timber. The expense to the contestants is great, but each is satisfied because he expects that the law will make the other pay the cost; and the workmen are contented because most of them are employed on both the night and the day job.

The race of American horses against the time of 150 miles in seven hours, made by Peralto, with mustangs, took place Monday week, at New York, John Murphy, the well known jockey, riding. Murphy won in fine style—time six hours and fifteen minutes.

Mr. W. H. Sanford's annual sale of thoroughbred yearlings has taken place at his farm near Lexington, Ky. Thirty-six head realized $25,095, an average of $697, making it the best sale that has ever taken place in the United States. The highest prices were paid by O. H. Bernard of New York, for a bay colt by imported Henely, $3,325; same for chestnut colt by imported Henely, $3,305; A. Cammack of New York, for a bay filly by imported Henely, $2,700.

A boys' newspaper in Indianapolis is ten cents a year, and "anybody sending three names and thirty cents will receive a set of jack-stones."

A scheme for the complete exploration of the silver-lead region of Lake Superior is on foot.

Chicago finds itself on the brink of a chaos which threatens more damage to that city's credit than even the great fire. It has no money in the municipal treasury, the police and fire departments cannot be paid because people will not pay taxes, owing to a state law which gives no compelling power to the authorities.

Foreign born women who intended to vote for school commissioners in Minneapolis, Mo., forgot to get naturalized, and so lost the privilege.

The following congratulatory letter from the Emperor of Russia reached this country too late to be presented to the President by the Russian Minister on July 4, and has since been presented:

MR. PRESIDENT: At a moment when the people of the United States celebrate the Centennial period of their national existence, I desire to express to you the sentiments with which I take part in this celebration. The people of the United States may contemplate with pride the immense progress their energy has achieved within the period of a century. I especially rejoice that, during this Centennial period, the friendly relations of our respective countries have never suffered interruption; but, on the contrary, have made themselves manifest by proofs of mutual good will. I therefore cordially congratulate the American people, in the person of their President; and I pray that the friendship of the two countries may increase with their prosperity. I embrace this occasion to offer to you, at the same time, the assurance of my sincere esteem and of my high consideration.

Ems, June 5, 1876. ALEXANDER.

To His Excellency, Gen. Grant.

Castle Garden, N. Y., has been destroyed by fire. In view of the historic importance of the edifice, we give unusual space to a description of the building:—Castle Garden was one of the very few remaining landmarks of old New York. Its history is linked with that of the city, and its traditions still linger in the memories and hearts of those who have enjoyed themselves there, or first found shelter on this continent within its walls. Originally constructed on the north side of the Battery as a fort in the system of fortifications to defend the city from the attack of Indian and invader, it served its purpose, and when its services as a fort were no longer needed, its grim visage was smoothed, and pleasure took possession of the halls formerly trodden by soldiers. On the heavy granite foundation which constituted the fort, a tall and commodious wooden structure, circular in form, and crowned with a cupola, was erected. Its attractive situation, and the fact that it was the only public building of any consequence at the time, made it to old New York what the Academy of Music is to the present day. Jenny Lind first sang to delighted American audiences within its walls, and Jullien, then prince of orchestra leaders, waved his baton there. Fairs and festivals succeeded each other, and the building was occasionally varied by a grand ball or occupied by a public meeting. The Marquis de Lafayette, upon his return to the United States in 1824, when the American people were in the full enjoyment of the independence to which he had so largely contributed, was received there with the highest social distinction and amid a blaze of patriotic enthusiasm. The wealth and fashion, youth and beauty of the metropolis were there to greet him, and the event was one never to be forgotten in the annals of old New York.

When the lower part of the city began to deteriorate and staid old Knickerbockers preferred the vicinity of Bleecker St. to the charms of Bowling-green, the Battery began to lose caste, and Castle Garden prestige. The beauties who had once lounged on the balcony which overlooked the delightful waters of the Bay, now began to find fault with the old temple of social pleasure. It had lost favor, and Broadway began to furnish fresher attractions, and Castle Garden, as a pleasure resort, was doomed. It passed through several hands, and when the city authorities resumed an active control of the structure it was determined to convert it into a depot for the reception of the thousands of emigrants who began to flock to these shores. Placed under the control of the Commissioners of Emigration, it grew in usefulness year by year. What it gained in utility, however, it lost in beauty. Heavy wooden shoes echoed through the building once ruled by Catharine Hays, and strange tongues now made Babel where the dainty nothings of old New York were exchanged. Rude partitions replaced cushioned seats and stalls, and dingy painting contrasted painfully with the bright colors of the olden time.

As the emigration continued to increase, so did the facilities provided for the care of the emigrants. The auditorium was divided into spaces for telegraph offices, exchange bureaus, a post-office, and bureau of information. Lavatories of considerable capacity, and retiring rooms and offices were arranged. Great sections of the building were reserved for the seating of emigrants, and there they were left until the arrival of their friends or their departure to their destinations. Interpreters were provided, and employment bureaus established for both sexes. All unauthorized persons were excluded, and the shameless frauds which had been practiced upon emigrants were stopped. Outside of Castle Garden the landing which had been used by pleasure-boats now did service for the emigrants. Vessels plied between the wharf and the ocean steamer, and the emigrants and their baggage were received and examined within the jurisdiction of the Emigration Commission. As business increased a few plain wooden buildings for offices were erected outside of the old fort, and those, escaping destruction, furnished loding places for immigrants.

Five hundred and sixty acres of the battlefield of Perryville, Ky., have been advertised for sale by the Commissioners of the County Court. This is one of the historic battlefields of the war.

Gov. Hayes has written his letter of acceptance.

Official returns made to the Bureau of Statistics show that during the month ending June 30, 1876, there arrived at the port of New York 14,030 passengers from foreign countries. Of this number 10,558 were immigrants, 2,453 citizens of the United States, and 1,019 persons who did not intend to reside in the United States. Of the total number of immigrants 6,003 were males and 4,555 females. The countries or islands of last permanent residence or citizenship of the immigrants were as follows:—England, 1,704; Scotland, 291; Wales, 28; Ireland, 1,837; Germany, 2,566; Austria, 744; Sweden, 734; Norway, 623; Denmark, 151; France, 246; Switzerland, 154; Spain, 96; Italy, 283; Holland, 78; Belgium, 18; Russia, 617; Hungary, 43; Poland, 82; Turkey, 7; China, 24; Canada, 13; Nova Scotia, Barbadoes and Bermuda, 10 each; New Brunswick, 3; Venezuela, 12; Liberia and Cuba, 14 each; Sicily, 19; Russia-in-Asia, 83; East Indies, 7; Gibraltar, 5; Arabia, 9; Greece, South America, Peru, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Egypt and India, 2 each; Portugal, Brazil, United States of Colombia, New Granada, West Indies, Mauritius, Guadaloupe, Madeira and born at sea, 1 each. The total number of passengers who arrived at New York during the quarter ending June 30, 1876, was 59,936, of whom 50,461 were immigrants. During the corresponding period of 1875, 53,923 passengers arrived, of whom 45,566 were immigrants.

Peter has an imitator, in some respects, in the person of Henry Dussault of Georgia, who walks on the water of the Oswegatchie river. His faith is in tin shoes, five feet long, a foot wide and a foot deep.

The Blaine investigation has been resumed.

The following is Gen. Terry's official report of the battle near the Little Big Horn:

It is my painful duty to report that day before yesterday, the 25th instant, a great disaster overtook General Custer and the troops under his command. At 12 M. of the 22d he started with his whole regiment and a strong detachment of scouts and guides from the mouth of the Rosebud. Proceeding up that river about twenty miles he struck a very heavy Indian trail, which had previously been discovered, and pursuing it found that it led, as it was supposed that it would lead, to the Little Big Horn. Here he found a village of almost unlimited extent, and at once attacked it with that portion of his command which was immediately at hand. Major Reno, with three companies, A, G and M, of the regiment, was sent into the valley of the stream at the point where the trail struck it. General Custer, with five companies, C, E F, I and L, attempted to enter about three miles lower down. Reno forded the river, charged down its left bank, and fought on foot, until finally, completely overwhelmed by numbers, he was compelled to mount, recross the river, and seek a refuge on the high bluffs which overlook its right bank.

Just as he recrossed Capt. Benteen, who, with three companies, D, H and K, was some two miles to the left of Reno when the action commenced, but who had been ordered by Gen. Custer to return, came to the river, and rightly concluding that it was useless for his force to attempt to renew the fight in the valley, he joined Reno on the bluffs. Capt. McDougall, with his company (B), was at first some distance in the rear with a train of pack-mules. He also came up to Reno. Soon this mounted force was nearly surrounded by Indians, many of whom, armed with rifles, occupied positions which commanded the ground held by the cavalry. Rifle pits were dug and the fight was maintained, though with heavy loss, from about 2:30 o'clock of the 25th till 6 of the 26th, when the Indians withdrew from the valley, taking with them their village.

Of the movements of Gen. Custer and the five companies under his immediate command scarcely anything is known from those who witnessed them, for no officer or soldier who accompanied him has yet been found alive. His trail from the point where Reno crossed the stream passes along and in the rear of the crest of the bluffs on the right bank for nearly or quite three miles; then it comes down to the bank of the river, but at once diverges from it as if he had unsuccessfully attempted to cross, then turns upon itself, almost completing a circle, and closes. It is marked by the remains of his officers and men and the bodies of his horses some of them strewed along the path, others heaped where halts appear to have been made. There is abundant evidence that a gallant resistance was offered by the troops, but they were beset on all sides by overpowering numbers.

The officers known to be killed are General Custer, Captains Keogh, Yates and Custer; Lieutenants Cook, Smith, McIntosh, Calhoun, Porter, Hodgson, Sturges and Reilly, of the cavalry; Lieutenant Crittendon of the Twelfth Infantry, with Acting Assistant Surgeon De Wolf, Lieutenant Harrington, of the cavalry, and Assistant Surgeon Lord are missing, Captain Benteen and Lieutenant Varnum, of the cavalry, are slightly wounded. Mr. B. Custer, a brother and Mr. Reed, a nephew of General Custer, were with him and killed. No other officers than those I have named are among the killed and wounded and missing.

It is impossible yet to obtain a reliable list of the enlisted men who were killed and wounded, but the number of killed, including officers, must reach 250. The number of wounded is fifty-four. The balance of the report will be forwarded immediately. A. H. TERRY, Brigadier General.

So great has been the heat of the sun that the First New Jersey Brigade, who were in summer encampment, have been compelled to return to their homes. Over 200 men were prostrated, some fatally.

The Fitchburg, Mass., House of Correction has been consumed by fire.

A Chicago surgeon, called in the night to perform an operation, put the necessary instruments in a bag and started. A policeman stopped him, examined the contents of the bag, refused to believe that they were not burglar's tools, and arrested the surgeon.

The general fees of lecturers are about as follows:—Bayard Taylor, $125; Mrs. Scott Siddons, $150; Bret Harte, $125; Theodore Tilton, $150; Carl Schurz, $200; Nasby, $100; Mrs. Livermore, $100; Susan B. Anthony, $60; Ann Eliza Young, $100; Mark Twain, $200; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, $75; Lillian Edgarton, $75; Dr. J. J. Villers, $75; Thos. Nast, $150.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard is now in the possession of two or three watchmen and a company of marines, all the hands, including the band, having been discharged.

The Sea Cliff camp-meeting has been formally opened.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Paris exhibition in 1878 will cover Trocadero Heights and the Champ de Mars, and these places separated by the river, will be connected by two bridges across the Seine. Paris has voted $24,000,000 for improvements.

Servian troops having fired at an Austrian vessel on the Danube, the Consul-General of that power, has demanded satisfaction, meanwhile the Montenegrins are neutral, deeming it the better

part of valor to wait and see what the Servian chance of success is before pronouncing for them.

The French Ministry has been defeated in the Chamber of Deputies and Convicts who have the inclination and ability may now write for the papers. Dissensions are reported among the Republicans.

There are in London 8,000 children dependent on poor law relief, having either no homes at all, or no shelter but wretched dens that cannot by any euphemism be called homes.

Brittish employers purpose reducing wages in the cotton and coal trades.

The Emperors of Austria and Russia had a friendly interview in Bolicmia.

The following is a translation of a letter of congratulation sent by King William to the United States:

William, by the grace of God, Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia, etc., etc.

To the President of the United States:

GREAT AND GOOD FRIEND: It has been vouchsafed to you to celebrate the Centennial festival of the day upon which the great Republic over which you preside entered the rank of independent nations. The purposes of its founders have, by a wise application of the teachings of the history of the foundation of nations, and with insight into the distant future, been realized by a development without a parallel. To congratulate you and the American people upon the occasion affords me so much the greater pleasure, because, since the treaty of friendship, which my ancestor of glorious memory—King Frederick II.—who now rests with God, concluded with the United States, undisturbed friendship has existed between Germany and America, and has been developed and strengthened by the ever-increasing importance of their mutual relations, and by an intercourse becoming more and more fruitful in every domain of commerce and science. That the welfare of the United States and the friendship of the two countries may continue to increase is my sincere desire and confident hope.

Accept the renewed assurance of my unqualified esteem. (Signed) WILLIAM.

(Countersigned) VON BISMARCK.

Berlin, June 9, 1876.

Isaac Butt, the Home Ruler, will move for the pardon of Fenian convicts in the House of Commons in the near future.

M. Casimer Perier the distinguished French Statesman is dead.

Advices from Mexico report the death of Gen. Santa Anna.

The Turks claim to have defeated the Servians near Novi-Bazar. The Turkish troops are reported to have crossed the Drina.

Reports from the seat of war in Europe are so conflicting that it is quite difficult to summarize the progress of the fray. Christians and Turks claim victories in identical localities. The last fight at Saitschar is officially claimed by the Turks.

An explosion of firedamp has occurred at l'Hopital Colliery near Saint Avold, France. Forty-two persons were killed and 47 seriously injured.

During the debate on the budget in the Congress, Madrid, Senor Morales, a Deputy from Navarre, moved an amendment excepting that Province from the general system of taxation. Senor Cadvros del Castillo, on the part of the Ministry, opposed the amendment, and it was rejected by a vote of 117 against 11. The result is regarded as a vote of confidence in the Government, and as deciding the question of the "Fueros."

A Dublin correspondent telegraphs that the Irish Ride Team will sail for New York in a steamer of the White Star line about the 21st of August, embarking at Queenstown.

The Merchants' Shipping bill passed through the committee in the House of Lords. Lord Carlingford expressed gratification that the Government had adopted the Canadian deck-load rule, thus avoiding any clashing with the Canadian law.

The question of postponing the International Exhibition of France, fixed for 1878, is seriously considered.

The Japanese make bricks of such quality that they pay freight on them for 9,000 miles, pay twenty per cent duty, and sell them in San Francisco at a profit.

It is said that the Pope, in his nice white clothes, with his fresh, healthy face, handsome hands, and thoroughly well-kept appearance, looks like a hearty, fat baby, just out of the morning nursery toilet, and the white skull cap and silvery hair to add to this illusion.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, July 8, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	63,500	Molasses	83
Whisky	—	Rice, bbls	145
Corn meal, bbls	—	Cut meats, pkgs	10,193
Corn meal, bags	—	Lard, pkgs	7,930
Wheat, bush	754,000	Tobacco, hhds	4,443
Corn, bush	534,100	do. cases	3,450
Oats, bush	266,000	Butter, pkgs	23,611
Rye, bush	41,000	Cheese, bxs	59,313
Malt, bush	64,000	Cotton, bales	6,585
Barley, bush	12,000	Rosin	14,517
Beans, bbls	64,000	Sots. turp., bbls	2,262
Grass seed, bush	100	Dried Fruits, pkgs	21
Beef, pkgs	855	Eggs, bbls	8,161
Wool, bales	1,297	Peanuts, bags	669
Hops, bales	827	Leather, sides	68,335
Pork, bbls	867	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,415	Oil cake	12,278

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week 633 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 34,857 do.; same time last year, 15,057 do. Exports of peas past week, 7,585; since Jan. 1st, 230,100 bush.; same time last year, 218,250 do. Hot weather, heavy receipts and a moderate demand do not help prices for beans of any description. Marrows show an important decline during the past fortnight, and Mediums and all others are quoted at the extreme. Canadian peas are quiet at quotations.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.15@1.20; fair to good, $1.00@1.10; prime mediums, 90@95c.; fair to good, 70@80c.; poor, 40@50c.; prime marrows, $1.30@1.35; fair to good, $1.10@1.20; prime white kid, $1.20@1.30; other, $1.00@1.10; prime red kidney, $1.20@1.40; other, $1.15@1.25; Lima (Cal.), $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.75@4. Peas—Canadian, $1.18@1.20; do. in bulk and bond, 95@98c.; green, $1.00@1.10; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—Demand small and prices are unsettled and easier. Sales at 34c. for Western, and 34½@35c. for Southern. Exports since Jan. 1st, 38,350 lbs.; same time last year, 40,100 do.

BROOM CORN—Is hard to sell and easy in price. Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; medium, green, 5@5½c.; red and red tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—Trade has not revived from the lull that attended the national celebration and we can only report low nominal quotations. Fancy pails and finely kept half tubs have a daily trade in a small way; of the 21@22c. stock there is some accumulation. Receivers discourage shipment while the weather is so extremely detrimental to transportation choice creamery and other fine fresh made butter is not plenty; want of rain begins to be severely felt in our close eastern sections; Other points report rich pasturage and the indications are that there will be an unprecedented yield. Western butter is abundant and largely damaged in quality owing to the intense heat, and when the recent invoices are opened there will be many rejections.

We quote:—Choice pails, 24@25c.; prime, 23@24c.; poor to good, 18@22c.; creamery pails, choice, 25@26c.; good, 24@25c.; sweet cream pails, 20@24c. State firkins, choice, 24@25c.; fair to good, 21@23c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 23@24c.; fair to prime, 20@22c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 22@24c.; other, 18@21c.; Western creamery, choice, 23@24c.; other, 21@23c.; do. firkins, best, 16@17c.; other, 12@14c.; dairy tubs, choice, 18@19c.; other, 12@14c.; factory choice, 16@17c.; other, 11@14c.

CHEESE.—Receipts have been smaller this week, yet a very depressed feeling has existed. The advices from the other side have been unfavorable and exporters have bought very sparingly, with the prospect of carrying over more than usual, a nervous feeling prevails as regards prices most marked on other than fine lots. Best factories are 10½, but about fine can be had at 10 and anything under this relatively low. The quotations are:

New at 10½@10¾c. for fine factory; 9@9¾c. for good; 8@9c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 5@7c.; do., skimmed, 3@5c. State farm dairy, fair to good, at 7½@8½c.; poor lots, 5@6c.; Western factory, good to prime, 7@8c.; fair lots, 6@7c.; do. cheddar, choice, 8½@9c.; do. flat, choice, 8½@8¾c.

Exports past week, 62,024 lbs.

COTTON.—Export movement is very light and prices unsettled and lower. Latest sales are:

11 19-32c. for July; 11 13-32@11½c. for August; 11 9-16@11 19-32c. for September; 11 11-32@11¾c. for October; 11½@11 23/32c. for November and December; 11 13-32@11 7-16c. for January; 11 9-16@11 19-32c. for February; 11 23-32@11¾c. for March; 11 27-32@11 29-32c. for April; 12@12 1-32@12c. for May; June, 12¾@12 5-32c., barely steady.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	8 5-16	8 5-16	8 5-16	8 5-16
Strict ordinary	9¼	9¼	9¼	9¼
Good ordinary	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 13-16	9 13-16
Strict good do	10¼	10¼	10¼	10¼
Low middling	10 13-16	10 15-16	11 1-16	11 1-16
Strict low middling	11¼	11¼	11¼	11¼
Middling	11¼	11¼	11 15-16	12 15-16
Good middling	12¼	12¼	12¼	12¼
Strict good middling	12¾	12¾	13	13
Middling fair	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾
Fair	14	14¼	14¼	14¼

Stained.

Good ordinary	8¾	Low middling	10
Strict ordinary	9¼	Middling	10¾

DRIED FRUITS.—Important trade is at a pause, and it is difficult to sell even small lots, with prices weak generally.

Apples—State, sliced, 8½@9c.; do., quarters, 8½@8¾c.; southern sliced, 8@9c. for prime; blackberries, 9@9¾c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 10@12c.; do. fancy, 14c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 11@11¾c. for halves and 10c. for quarters. Plums, 14@15c. Raspberries, 25@26c. Cherries, 17@18c.

EGGS.—When stock is extra fresh sellers can do a little better than our extremes, but the general market is dull and prices have fallen off. The supply is not heavy, but the weather is against holding, and there are many ready sellers. We quote, loss off:

Near points, 17½@18c.; State and Penn., 16½@17c.; Western, prime, 16c.; do. other, 15@15½c.; Canadian, 16½c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₱ lb.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras 55c.

FEATHERS.—Common poultry feathers not wanted. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; mixed, do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—Advices from the other side are tame, and there are free sellers here at easier figures. $3 40@4 10 for poor to very choice superfine State; $4 70@5 00 for very common to fair extra do.; $5 05@5 10 for good extra do.; $5 15@5 20 for fancy do., and $5 25@5 75 for very choice extra; $3 40@4 10 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4 70@5 05 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5 10@5 50 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5 55@6 80; fancy do. $6 85@7.75; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $7.50@8.75; round-hoop Ohio, $4.80@5 00, and trade brands of do. at $5.05@7.00; St. Louis, $5.10@5.20 for common to fair extra, and $5.25@8.75 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.25@6.00, and patent at $5.75@9.00; unsound stock at from $3.25@5.50; No. 2 at $2.25@3.00; city mill at $5.00@6.00. Southern at $4.95@5.15 for common to good extra, $5.20@6.00 for good to choice, $6.05@8.50 for family extra. Rye at $4.75@5.15. Corn meal, Western yellow $2.60@3.00 and Brandywine $3.25@3.35.

FRESH FRUITS.—The supply of summer fruits is large and varied, including contributions from the the Pacific coast. California peaches did not carry well. The pears—quoted $1@2 per box—were not of an inviting quality. Norfolk peaches quoted $2.50@3 per crate. Southern apples are in good demand when prime. Cherries are running out. We quote:

Norfolk apples, crate, 75c.@$1.25; do. bbl., $1.50@3.50. Wilson blackberries, quart, 13@15c. Dorchester do., 8@10c. Common do., 3@5c. Whortleberries, bush., $2@3.50. Raspberries, Antwerp, 3ds, 4@5c.; do. Brandywine, 3@4c.; do. Black-Caps, 3@5c. for fair to good, and 7c. for choice. Cherries, 5@10c. Gooseberries, $1@1.50 per bush. Currants, small, 3@6c.; do. cherry, 6@8c. Florida watermelons, $25@40 per 100. Hot-house grapes, lb., 75c.@$1 for Black Hamburg. Peanuts—Virginia, bush., $1.40@1.65; Wilmington, $1.50@1.60; Tennessee, $1@1.20.

GINSENG.—Southern, $1.50@1.60; Northern, $1.15@1.20; Seneca root, 75@80c.

GRAIN.—For wheat prices have been reduced daily since our last, with dull markets abroad and but little doing here. Latest sales for ungraded spring, 95@98c.; No. 3 Chicago spring, 95@98c.; No. 3 Milwaukee spring, $1@1.04; No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.10@1.13; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.12@1.16; very good No. 1 Minnesota spring, $1.25; soft, $1.16@1.17; No. 3 winter red Western, $1.10; New York no-grade winter red Western, 90@92c.; amber State, $1.35. Rye at 80c. for Western, 90@92c. for Canada. Corn is lower and dull; sales at 50@52c. for unsound mixed Western; 48c. for hot do.; N. Y. steamer, 56@56½c.; ungraded mixed, 54@58½c.; low mixed, 57½c.; mixed, 58c.; N. Y. No. 1, 58½c.; white Western, 61c. Oats sell slow and easy in price; closing sales at 28@31c. for unmerchantable; 32@41c. for mixed Western and State; 35@45c. for white do.; 32@33c. for New York rejected; N. Y. No. 3, 30½c.; N. Y. No. 2 white, 37c.; N. Y. No. 2 Chicago, 39½@40c.; mixed Western, 30½@40c.; white, 33@41c.; white State, 43@45c.; mixed State, 40@41c.

HAY AND STRAW.—The market is liberally supplied and prices unsettled favoring the buyer.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 65@70c.; retail qualities 80@85c.; clover, 50@55c.; salt, 60@65c. Straw is quoted at $1.15@1.20 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 55@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 191 bales; since Jan. 1st, 29,923 do.; same time last year, 24,717.

HIGHWINES.—Quoted at $1.12.

HOPS.—This has been a very dull week, partly owing to the holidays, but in most instances attributed to a disposition to hold off awaiting developments respecting the new crop. Prices generally held as before. The quotations are:

N. Y. State, 10@17c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₱ lb.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry is quoted in a moderate way as follows:

Fowls, 14@15c. Spring chickens, 26@30c. Turkeys, 14@17c. Prime live fowls and chickens is in good demand. Turkeys show. Ducks fine. Young Geese inquired for.

Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb 15@16c.; do. Western, 14@15c. Roosters, 8@10c.; Turkeys, N. J. 13@14c.; do. Western, 13@14c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, $1@1.12; do. Western: 60@70c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2 50; do. Western, $1@1.75. Spring chickens—Western, 31@33c.; do. N. J. 23@25c.

Woodcock opened at 90c@$1.00 ₱ pair and have delivered to 60@75c. the latter for state. Baited Wild pigeons ₱ doz. $1.25@1.37. Stall-fed ₱ doz. $1.50@$1.75.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products generally are slow of sale, exporters, in most instances holding off; but there does not appear especial pressure to sell. Mess pork quoted at $20.20 for spot lots, $20 for July; $20.10 for August. Bacon at 10¾@10¾c. for long clear and 11¾c. for short clear—the latter very scarce. Western steam lard at $11.55 for spot lots; $11.20 for July and August and $11.60 for September. Western stearine at 13¾c. for prime. Tallow at 8¼c. for prime. Beef hams at $22@24. Beef at $10@11 for plain mess; $12 for extra mess, and $13 for packet. Tierced at $19 for prime mess, and $20 for India mess. City extra India mess at $20.

SEED.—Nothing doing in grass beyond small lots prime store. Quoted at 16c. for clover; timothy, $2.80@2.85.

TOBACCO.—There is a better export demand and firm prices.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7
Good lugs	7 @ 8
Low leaf	8½@10
Medium leaf	11 @12
Good leaf	12½@13½
Fine leaf	14 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	14 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	— @—
Fillers, selections	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5½@ 7
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

VEGETABLES.—Few good L. I. potatoes have yet arrived and Southern still leads the trade. Dry weather has cut down all supplies from near points. We quote:

Potatoes—Bermuda, ₱ bbl., $4@4.50; Norfolk, $3@3.50; L. I., $2.50@3. Green corn is early and plenty; 75c.@$1 ₱ 100 for Burlington. Charleston tomatoes, ₱ crate, 30@40c.; Norfolks arrive heavily—the Norfolk steamer had 7,000 crates; quoted at 50@75c. L. I. green peas, ₱ bag, 75c.@$1; do. string beans, wax, ₱ bag, $1.50@1.75. do. cucumbers, $1.25@1.50 ₱ 100; Norfolk do., ₱ bbl., $1.50@2.25. Cauliflower, ₱ bbl., $1.50@3.50. Cabbage, ₱ 100, $7@8. Potato onions, $1.50@2.50 ₱ bbl. Va. white onions, $2.50@2.75.

WOOL.—Prices are as last week. There has been very little done, chiefly owing to the holidays.

ROCHESTER, July 8.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.26; amber winter, $1.18@1.23; white winter, $1.22@1.33. Oats, nominal at 35@40c. Corn quiet at 55@60c. Corn meal, $1.30@1.35. Butter, 19@21c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 11@12¾c. Apples, bu., $1@1.75. Potatoes, bu., $1@1.25. Beans, ₱ bu., 50@90c. Mess pork, $22.00. Wool, 20@35c. Hay, $8@12. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed dull at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $19 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c. Wood, hard, ₱ cord, $8@9. Coal, $6.50@6.90 for stove.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, July 8, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,736	8	1,647	6,261	000
Forty-Eighth St.	7	13	440	1,318	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	12,704
Harsimus Cove	4,725	00	000	17,837	10,029
Totals this week	8,468	21	2,087	25,316	22,733
" last week	9,502	89	2,507	15,713	22,895

BEEVES.—Trade opened fair on last Monday on a moderate run, but towards noon sales became difficult and the markets closed weak, with several herds unsold. Prices ranged at 8@10¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 6¾@9 cwt. Wednesday, trade slow at ¼c. reduction on Monday's rates; prices at 8@10¼c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt.; quality from poor to fair. Thursday, trade small at 8¾@10c.; weights, 5@8 cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 8¾@10c.; weights, 6@8 cwt. From 55@57 lbs. has been allowed net. Spanish herds sold at 8@8¾c. Native steers sold at 8¾@10c.; grade, do., 10@10¾c.; selected steers on retail, 11@11¾c. Bulls on live weight, 4@4¾c.; oxen, 9@9½c.

COMPARATIVE RATES.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	11¾@	11¾@
Fair	10¾@11¾	11¾@11¾
Poor	9¾@10½	9¾@10½
Poorest	8 @ 9½	7¾@ 9½
Gen. selling rates	9¾@10½	9¾@10½

MILCH COWS.—Trade slow and generally effected in lots that had been held over. Thirty cows sold at $60@65 ₱ head; 10 at $50@62; 10 cwt., $65@170; 8 cows at $42@50 ₱ head, calves included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Buttermilk-fed calves sold at 4@5c.; ordinary quality at 5@7¾c.; smooth quality veals in light receipt and sold at 8c. State calves, including 8 head of veal, sold at 4@8c.; Jersey calves sold at 7@7¼c.; Pennsylvania, 7@7¾c. Trade slow at above rates.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Sheep very slow of sale at ¼c. ₱ lb. reduction on our last quotations. Good quality lambs in fair demand. Monday, sheep, 5@5¾c.; lambs, 6¾@10c. Wednesday, sheep, 4¾@5¾c.; lambs, 6¾@8¾c. Thursday, sheep, 4¾@5¾c.; lambs, 6¾@9¾c. Friday, the markets closed slow; sheep, 4¾@5c.; lambs, 6½@8¾c. State sheep, 5@6c.; Kentucky, 4¾@5c.; Ohio, 4¾@5c.; Michigan, 4¾c.; Illinois, 5¾@5¾c.; Virginia lambs sold at 6½@10c.; Jersey, 7@8¾c.; Kentucky, 6¾@8¾c.

HOGS.—A few head of Ohio hogs stood over on sale for several days and were then disposed of on private terms. City dressed not quoted until noon on Wednesday; when they opened, trade improved on a light run. Friday, sales fair at 8@8¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade did not exist on the early days of this week; later on, sales were effected as follows:—One pair stylish carriage horses, $1,400; 3 pairs family do., $100@525 ₱ pair; 11 head roadsters, with fair trotting action, $280@295 ₱ head; 20 head of poor quality light harness horses sold at $15@90 ₱ head; 15 ordinary, $132@195 ₱ head; 7 course quality heavy draft horses, $115@175 ₱ head; 1 brougham horse, quality course, $300.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., July 8, 1876.

THE occurrence this week of Independence Day operated against the delivery and marketing of dairy products. This has been the general rule on Fourth of July week for several years past, and but few transactions were expected.

The delivery of farm dairies was about 100 boxes, which sold at 9@10c., only one or two lots, however, reaching the last figure.

Factories were well represented, but the majority of salesmen present came to the market more to learn the ruling rates than to sell. The delivery of factory cheese on Monday amounted to nearly 1,000 boxes. A part of this went forward on commission, and a part was sold at prices to be regulated at next week's sales. The market was dull and buyers did not care to offer much above 10c. A few lots have been sold at this price, and 10¼c. was the highest rates reported, though the best factories refused to sell below 10½c.

There was a light delivery of butter, that from farm dairies bringing 22@23c., according to quality, and no creamery in market.

Grass is abundant in pastures, the frequent showers favoring its growth.

We have advices from abroad for the third week in June. Our London correspondent says that new American cheese sells as fast as landed and is likely to be in request for some weeks to come. The quality of that to hand is good. Fine old American cheese is wanted and 70s. is paid for it. The reports of new English cheese are discouraging, both as to make and quality, owing to the backward season. Dutch cheese is slow of sale. We give prices as follows:

American, extra fine, none in market; fine, 60@68s.; good, 40@58s.; secondary and common, 25@35s. English cheddar brings 84@96s.; Wiltshire double, 70@78s.; Cheshire medium, 51@61s.; fine, 76@84s., Scotch, 60@66s. Dutch cheese—Edams, new milk, 56@58s.

Friesland butter sold at an advance of 12s. ₱ cwt., but Normandy went at a reduction of 4s. Other descriptions are firm at previous rates. Dorsets, 136s.; Jersey, 106@112s.; Danish and Swedish, 112@130s.; Normandy extra, 112@132s. There is no American or Canadian butter in market. Oleomargarine (or artificial butter) sells at 80@96s. ₱ cwt.

New Advertisements.

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For one or two Horses. Low cut, light draft, simple, strong and durable.

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For all conditions of grain—lodged or standing. Lightest, Cheapest and Best in use.

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BATAVIA, ILL.

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36th ANNUAL

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Copies of the premium list and blank forms for entries will be sent by mail to all applicants.

Competition for premiums open to all, but all entries must be made personally or by letter, at the Society's office, in Albany, on or before August 12th, excepting entries of fruits and flowers, which may be made up to 10 o'clock A. M., on Tuesday, Sept. 12th. Address STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, Albany, N. Y.

GLINES' SLATE ROOFING PAINT IS THE BEST.

WANTED Men to travel and sell goods to dealers. No peddling. $80 a month, hotel and traveling expenses paid. MONITOR MANUFACTURING CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

EDWIN BOOTH will make Chicago his home.

SAY, "I will," and some day you will conquer.

HENRI ROCHEFORT has dropsy and heart disease.

MARK TWAIN is out in favor of a land of plenty and plenty of land.

O'DONOVAN-ROSSA has collected over $10,000 for the "skirmishing fund."

MORE costly than a rare vase—a base-ball pitcher at $2,000 per year.

MR. SANKEY, the singer, is a guest of Gen. Clinton B. Fisk, at Seabright.

CHICAGO pickpockets "work" funerals, and make a dead sure thing of plunder.

THE French Amateur Society of San Francisco have given Fechter a benefit.

TAXIDERMY for parents—If you want to preserve your children do not stuff them.

"No matter what you do all the week, if you go to church Sunday," is a bad motto.

ABOUT the greediest thing known is a fowl eating corn; it takes a peck every time.

THAT new London drink, "stout and bitter," is now called "mother-in-law" for short.

IT is rumored that Miss Bennett, sister of J. G. Bennett of the Herald, is about to become a nun.

THE Empress of Germany thinks that women should have more to do with politics than they have.

MISS ABBOTT, the Boston singer, importuned the Pope to bless her voice, and he instead advised her to pray.

JOSEPH ARCH, the British reformer, has been elected President of the Agricultural Laborers' Association of England.

OF the Americans on the staff of the commander of the Egyptian expedition into Abyssinia, three were killed and eight wounded.

INSURANCE companies in several cities sent out postal cards upon which advice as to preventing fires on the Fourth was printed.

ROBERT BUCHANAN, the poet, has received a verdict of $150 damages against the London Engineer, for alleged libels contained in revisions.

EX-SECRETARY BRISTOW will not go to Europe, as has been reported, but will spend the summer at some Eastern resort, with his family.

CAPT. MACKENZIE and Mr. Alberoni, the two leading chess-players of New York, will play a blindfolded match for the championship.

MURAD V. of Turkey is described as good looking pasty-faced, thirty-six years of age, with a fat nose, a small moustache and a tendency to plumpness.

A SON of old John Brown lives on Jay Cooke's island of Gibralter, in Lake Erie. His hair is the style and color of that seen in the paintings of the Saviour.

A COUSIN of Commodore Vanderbilt is an editor in Rochester. The Commodore has offered him a place as brakeman, but he wants to be a baggage-master.

THE will of Wm. B. Astor has been proved in England, where the personal estate is £400,000, which appears to have been invested in British consols.

A FASHIONABLE but illiterate lady, who was traveling on the continent, in writing to a friend, said that she had just seen the "museum of iniquities" in Genoa.

OLD Gen. Taylor couldn't speak but one Spanish word, and that was *vamos*. He used to make frequent use of it, and the Mexicans used to frequently *vamos*.

BAYARD TAYLOR is writing editorials for the Tribune. His lecture subjects this winter will be "Schiller" and "Ancient Egypt. He will make one Western trip.

A CAMDEN man lugged a butcher-knife around for two hours, offering to kill anyone who said he wasn't Moses, of Biblical fame. Every one said he looked just like Moses.

"MARY," said a mother to her little girl, "if I was a little girl like you, I should pick up all those chips." "Well, mamma," answered Mary, "ain't you glad you are not a little girl?"

RURAL hospitality in Spain is highly spoken of. A stranger can't take lodgings at any country inn, they say, without a certainty of being immediately waited upon by any number of big bugs.

"ISN'T that a beautiful piece of music?" said one of Mrs. Clogger's female boarders, as she turned from the piano. "I like it very much," replied Jones; "particularly those long rests that occur through it."

MISS EMMA CAMERON, a beautiful young lady of twenty summers, will keep house for her father, Secretary of War Cameron, who has taken the house in Washington lately occupied by Attorney-General Pierrepont.

THE cavalry branch of the army of Greece numbers eleven men, nine horses, one old omnibus from New York, and a buck-board for the Colonel. The horses are now being shod, and the cavalry placed on a war footing.

THE Rev. Dr. Armitage, of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in New York, prophesied that in 1976 men will be more used to sitting by the side of women in nominating assemblies than they now are to sitting by the side of negroes in Congress.

DOM PEDRO saw a saw saw at the Centennial, the other day, and probably realized that he never saw a saw saw as that saw sawed in all his see-saw existence. It was a circular saw, and, so far as he saw, "sawed" round even faster than he could see himself.

BLIND TOM is making a tour of the Pacific States.

A LONG BRANCH hotel has twelve acres of flowers.

A KENTUCKIAN married the divorced wife of his son.

LAWRENCE BARRETT'S real name is Larry Brannigan.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE is laying water-pipe in Boston.

YALE COLLEGE has made Gen. Sherman a Doctor of Laws.

MOST lecturers have stopped talking and gone to fishing.

DOM PEDRO planted a small tree near Washington's tomb.

THE Mikado of Japan has had a gorgeous carriage built in London.

HE was twenty-one years old, she sixty-one, and they were married in Concord.

JOHN B. GOUGH will Blunder 130 times on the platform next winter, at $200 a Blunder.

THE Rev. Dr. Cuyler says that the pulpit is more influential in this country than in any other.

PARADOXICAL—Eleven young ladies have just been made Bachelors of Art at Elmira, New York.

MRS. WOODHULL gives a practical illustration of reform. She has suspended the publication of her paper.

EX-SENATOR SCHURZ and his family are located in Montgomery County, near Philadelphia, for the summer.

WHETHER you work for fame, for love, for money, or for anything else, work with your hands, heart and brain.

Two thousand two hundred dollars per season is what Chicago is willing to pay for a prime base-ball pitcher.

THE Spanish Republican orator, Emilio Castelar, is expected to visit the Centennial Exhibition this summer.

THE £200 a year for the poet laureate of England is reality, but the "pipe of sherry" was done away with in Southey's time.

Two girls were carrying between them a pail of milk, in Carsville, Va., when a stroke of lightning killed one and stunned the other.

ANDREW JOHNSON, JR., only living son of the late ex-President Johnson, an editor of the Greenville (Tennessee) Intelligencer, is in feeble health.

COL. D. R. ANTHONY, the Leavenworth editor who was nearly shot to death last year, is making a tour of the Rocky Mountains with his wife.

ONE of Abdul Aziz's $60,000 wives is looking around Constantinople in search of a home with a quiet family where plain sewing will pay her board.

EMPEROR WILLIAM received 41,371 presents from his subjects last year. They included books, charts, works of art, table delicacies and other things.

CHERRIES are ripe enough now to tempt the robins, and the robins are ripe enough to tempt the cats, and there's a lively time in gardens all the while.

MISS JOHNSON is a Georgia singer whose voice "falls upon her hearers like silver spray upon a sea of molten gold dotted with floating diamonds and precious pearls."

A FIJI ISLANDER became so enamored of Mrs. Scott Siddons during her stay in New South Wales that he offered purchase her of her husband for six bunches of bananas.

TALMAGE advances the idea that a watering place is not the spot where one would be apt to experience religion, although there is no place where it is needed more.

A WESTERN paper coarsely calls the Chinese immigration a beat. Regarding him as a vegetable, we should prefer to speak of him as a queue-comer.—*Norwich Bulletin.*

CAPT. COOK, of the Yale crew, says the rowing of his men has been seriously interrupted by college exercises. Professors will please see that this does not occur again.

EDWIN ADAMS has it on his mind to bring home at least twenty-five Australian dogs with him. He concludes that the midnight bark of the American cur lacks Shaksperian softness.

A LOVING British wife's postscript to a letter addressed to her husband in New York: "Dear William, I have perused the police reports and morgue returns every day, hoping to see your name."

SUNSTROKES are not caused by the heat of the sun, is the latest decision of high medical authority. They say that a person can have one while sitting on the veranda with his feet in the air.

THE Rutland (Vermont) Globe objects to having Deacon Jacob Estey, of Brattleboro, for the Republican candidate for Governor, because he writes "God's blessing" with a small "g" and a capital "B."

A MAN never really understands the doctrine of total depravity till he has worn a pair of white pantaloons to a picnic and sat down on a plate of custard pie. An event of this kind will simplify a whole system of theology.

"IN Eastern lands," when the government wants to get rid of a troublesome subject, he is invited to dine with the chief local official, and word is sent to his family that "his dinner did not agree with him," after which he passes into history.

THERE is too much of this centennial reading. When the fact is disclosed that George Washington had a street fight with a political opponent and was knocked down by him just as a common man might have been, it is time to stop searching through the records.—*Louisville Courier Journal.*

Implements and Machinery.

$1,000 Challenge $1,000

Wilbur's Direct Draft Mower is the lightest draft Mower in the world. Will cut more grass than any side draft Mower. Leaves grass in better position to cure. Enables the farmer to make a better quality of hay—is the most economical Mower the farmer can use. The Eureka shows a new *departure*—a new principle. It shows many points of superiority over side-cut machines. We challenge side-cut machine manufacturers to mow 50 acres with us, in competition, on the above points, for $1,000.
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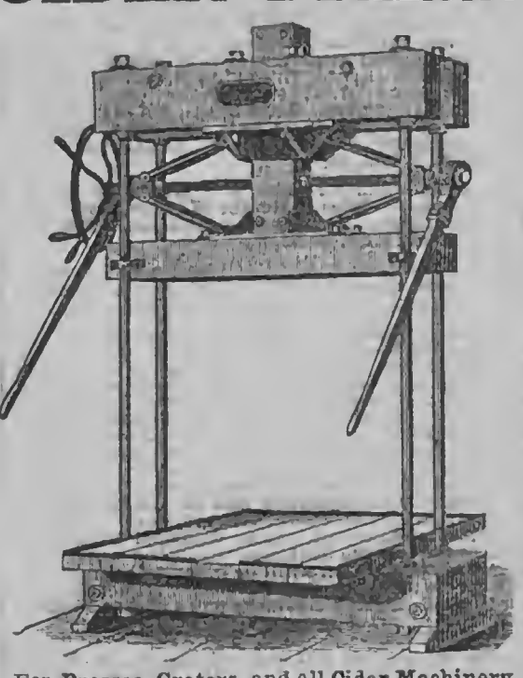

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Descriptive Catalogue sent free.
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See COATES LOCK LEVER, on page 353.

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25 FANCY CARDS, new styles, with name, 10c; 50 Centennial or Bon-Ton Cards, with name, 20c.; 25 Snowflake or Embossed Cards, with name, 20c.; 20 Acquaintance or Scroll Cards, no name, 10c., post-paid, J. B. HUSTED, Nassau, N. Y.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—This king of Agricultural papers has entered upon its twenty-sixth year, under the most favorable auspices. It is the determination of its publishers to furnish a brighter and better paper than ever. In style, type, matter and editorial ability, there is no paper of its kind that at all compares with it.—*Trempealeau (Wis.) Republican.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. Haughton, Minn.—The plant you send for name is *Anemone Nuttaliana.*

Kilmarnock Willow and Mahaleb Seed.—Can you tell me the secret of budding the Kilmarnock Weeping Willow and sprouting imported Mahaleb Cherry seeds? I have been connected with the largest nursery in the West, and during the last 18 years I have known hundreds of dollars and much time to be spent on the above, all of which has resulted in total failure. The only stand I ever saw was about 40 quarts of native Mahaleb seed that I planted three years ago—planted as soon as gathered.—A. D. F., *McLean Co., Ill.*

It is very likely that the cause of your failure to succeed in budding the Kilmarnock Willow was in not obtaining the right kind of stock. The stock used for this purpose by our nurserymen is the Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), and we think if you get this species and then bud while the sap is flowing freely there will not be much difficulty in making them take. There is no more difficulty in making Mahaleb Cherry Seed grow than the native species or the Mazzards and Morellos, provided they are fresh and sound when obtained. But the imported seed is frequently one or two years old when sent out, or it is kept very dry, instead of being mixed with some material to keep it moist. There is no reason why the imported seed should not be as good and germinate as freely as that raised in this country, still we know from experience that much of it is worthless when received, through carelessness in preserving.

Haines.—Your statements are altogether too general and too sweeping to be either credited or received as *exact* truth. For instance, you say that the Colorado *bugs* (we suppose you mean beetles) "are here in great numbers, destroying all the *trees.*" Now, you cannot mean that the genuine Colorado potato beetles (*Doryphora 10-lineata*) are eating up the leaves or in any way injuring forest or orchard trees. Have you not made a mistake? Then again, you say, "Nothing would destroy them (the beetles) but the sparrow," and that this bird "is such a great feeder it destroys all worms, bugs and millers." Now, this is rather strong language, crediting the sparrow with good deeds which we do not think he ever performed. When you find any species of the sparrow, native or foreign, eating and destroying potato beetles and "all kinds of worms," we hope you will call in a number of witnesses and have the thing settled beyond dispute. Sparrows do eat some kinds of insects, but not all, nor one-tenth of all, of our commonest species.

Naturalist.—The minute worm found in pork and known as *Trichina spiralis* was discovered and named by Prof. R. OWEN, the celebrated naturalist of the British Museum, some forty odd years ago, and therefore it is not, as you suppose, a discovery of recent date. The name of the genus, *Trichina*, is from the Greek, and means thrice hairy, or made of hair, and the specific name, *Spiralis*, was fastened upon this worm by Prof. OWEN, probably, because the first specimen he examined was rolled up in a spiral form.

Cedar Apples.—Will you allow a subscriber's wife to ask a question in regard to the excrescences or balls that appear on cedar trees? You perhaps know to what I allude—a hard, knotty, green-looking protuberence that, in wet weather, shoots out a red, jelly-like substance. I have been told they will destroy the cedars. I have a hedge of large trees covered with these balls. Do you think they will kill the trees? What produces them and what are they called? Please answer and you will much oblige—S. A. B., *Sumter Co., Ala.*

A number of years ago, Dr. FITCH, in his entomological reports to the N. Y. State Agricultural Society, stated that these cedar apples were galls produced by some species of gall flies. But the late BENJAMIN WALSH, in the second volume of the "Practical Entomologist," informs us that they are not caused by insects, but are in reality "Epiphytous Funguses," or a kind of mushroom, like many of the lichens and mosses found on the stems and branches of trees. These cedar apples commence their growth early in the season and come to maturity soon after the weather gets warm in spring. At this time, says Mr. WALSH, and for more than a month afterward they are white and fleshy inside, whereas the old last year's specimens which still hang on the trees are rust-red inside and of a hard, dry, spongy texture. After a few warm, moist days in the early part of summer, the new cedar apples put forth from their surface many filaments, about one-fourth of an inch long, bearing upon their surface a quantity of rust-red powder which consists of "spores," or seeds of the fungus. These fungoid excrescences are sometimes so very abundant that they check the growth of the trees. But to get rid of this pest it is only necessary to cut off all that are found from year to year, before they mature, and scatter the "spores," which answer the place of seeds in the higher order, or what are termed flowering plants.

Coleus—Shah and Lady Burrill.—I see by the RURAL of July 1 that a correspondent wishes to know the reason of his "Shah" Coleus not growing variegated, as he expected. Last year I procured the "Shah" of two different florists, and they were both very inferior and not worth growing. I then procured the "Lady Burrill," and the plants were properly marked even when small. Hence I believe there is a difference between the "Shah" and the "Lady Burrill," and that your correspondent received the former from some florist, who, not having the true variety, sent out what he had.—A FLORIST.

T. T. objects to the appearance of whitewashed trees and asks how it can be colored? Use lamp-black or soot. With these a dull color may be made so nearly that of bark that the stems do not show they have been whitewashed.

T. R. J., Rockville, N. Y.—"I am building a new house and laying out my grounds. I prefer to plant my evergreens, raspberries, blackberries, currants and fruit trees this fall. I have had no experience in planting, and have asked many friends whether fall or spring is best. Some say one, some the other. Will you advise me? Also, if not asking too much, please give names of the best plants named above."

Ans. There is no question that has been harped upon more than that of whether to plant in spring or fall—and needlessly, as we think, since it is one which climate determines. In the South, fall—in the North, spring is the best time. In the latitude of New York, as you say, some prefer one, some the other, and this, whether advisable or not, depends upon exposure, since New York may be considered the extreme northern limit for fall planting. We should never choose fall for transplanting evergreens. Raspberries and blackberries, if transplanted in the fall, should be well covered with litter.

For evergreens, we name Hemlock and Norway Spruce, Balsam Fir, Siberian Arborvitæ. Apples—Baldwin, Tompkins Co. King, Early Harvest, Fall Pippin, Rhode Island Greening, Roxbury Russet. Pears—Bartlett, Seckel, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Clapp's Favorite, Winter Nelis, Lawrence. Raspberries—Franconia, Herstine, Davison's Thornless, Philadelphia. Blackberries—Kittatinny, Lawton. Currants—Cherry, Red Dutch, White Grape.

E. Ritter says:—"A good deal has been said in the RURAL against sprinkling plants during dry periods. The drought with us is terrible—Do you say I must not water bedding plants? Wherein does sprinkling from a watering pot differ from a shower?

Ans.—It differs in being confined to a small space—in forming puddles the weight of which presses upon the soil washing the finer particles between the coarser ones and creating a close muddy bottom that at once stiffens under the sun's rays. When once this fine powdery surface has been formed, subsequent waterings penetrate less readily—the air is excluded from the roots—the earth is made a better conductor of heat and becomes hot enough to scald the fibrous roots and the plant suffers accordingly.

When the earth is dried out as yours is, it requires a surprising quantity of water to reach the roots. And even then the parched earth surrounding the plant that is watered very soon absorbs it, so that the watering amounts to only a temporary stimulant, which, when thus rapidly withdrawn, leaves the plant less vigorous than before. It is often recommended to remove the surface earth, fill the hollow with water, and then replace the earth loosely. Even this plan is with many plants injurious. We have thus killed young Magnolias in a day or so, though other newly transplanted subjects have been benefited. We ask Mr. RITTER to try for himself the experiment. Take two Balsams or Pelargoniums—water one, leave the other to the drouth, and mark the results.

Neophyte.—Will you kindly inform me through your "Answers to Correspondents," what is the matter with my Madeira Vines? The leaves are constantly filling with holes without, so far as I can see, apparent cause.

Madeira Vines will stand a deal of dryness but are impatient of much moisture. If your vine is in a pot, examine the drainage and see that it is ample and then let it dry out for a day or so. Keep the earth afterwards barely moist. We have seen Madeira Vines thriving in rockeries while many other plants were drooping for want of rain.

C., N. J.—"Will you please tell through the R. N. Y. what is the matter with these grapes?" ANS.—In seasons of drouth this often occurs, viz.: the protrusion of the seed beyond the skin. It would seem that the seeds develop at the expense of the pulp and finally burst through the skin, which cannot proportionately expand for want of sap.

G. B.—You can rid your grounds of Purslane by pulling it up by the roots. A single leaf or particle of stem will take root, so that, whenever broken or cut in two, two plants will take the place of one.

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Back Numbers of this Year (from Jan. 1) can be furnished to all new subscribers, but we shall not send them hereafter unless specially requested. Those who desire can begin with any number, however.

Wit and Humor.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A HASTY man never wants woe.

THERE is nothing half so sad in life as the spectacle of an auctioneer attempting to sell $15,000 worth of goods to an audience whose aggregate and tangible assets foot up thirty cents.

AT a restaurant, the other day, a man inquired, reading from a bill of fare. "What is this sirloin of beef a la financiere?" "I suppose that is cut from the stock exchange bull," replied his friend.

"A SETTLER"—Hairdresser—'Air's rather thin on the top, sir. We can 'ighly rec— Customer (gayly)—Yes. Can you recommend any stuff which will—ah—remove the r'mainder? (Operator tacet.)

WHY should the beehive be taken as a symbol of industry? Not a bee is to be seen all winter long, while the cockroach is up at 5 o'clock in the morning and never goes to bed till midnight. Let's change this thing.

"WELL, you know, Bobby, your eye's very inflamed; you can't go out with Tommy Brown till that speck of dust's out of it!" Bobby (anxious to be off)—"I'm all right—I know it's out now; (earnestly) I—I think I heard it fall!"

THE original Ulster overcoat was invented at Valley Forge. It consisted of a bed blanket, with holes to put the arms through, and a mule's halter for a belt. Washington's was a manly form, and he never looked so inspiring as when he wore this ample garment.

IT is a delicious sight to see a Milwaukee man toying with the lobe of his sweetheart's ear—so white, so soft, so different from an elephant's. Delicious, likewise, to watch him wrap it two or three times around his neck, and pressing his chin lovingly upon it, hear him murmur those magic words, "Yum! yum!"

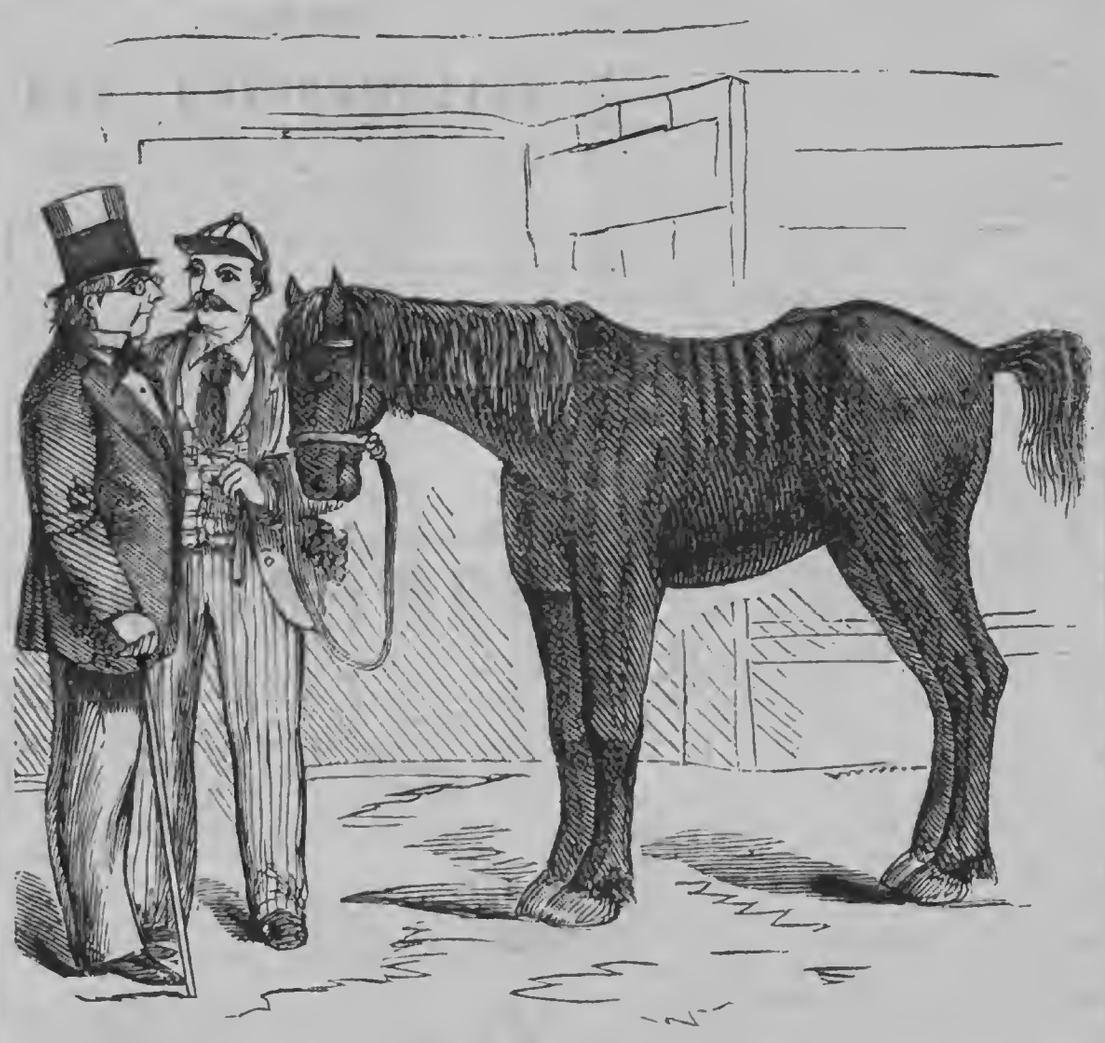
"ARE you going to make a flower-bed here, Judkins?" asked a young lady of the gardener. "Yes, miss, them's the orders," answered the gardener. "Why it will quite spoil our croquet ground." "Can't help it, miss, them's your pa's orders. He says he'll have it layed out for horticulture, not for husbandry!"

ON board the Cunard steamers the church service is read every Sunday morning. The muster-roll of the crew is called over, and they attend service. A gentleman one day said to one of the sailors, "Are you obliged to attend public worship?" "Not exactly obliged, sir," replied Jack, "we should lose our grog if we didn't."

A NEW almanac contains the following valuable chronological points:

Mo. | 12 | Mr. Wilkins died 1834. His wife wore half mourning. Moon in ☞ * ¶ |.
Tu. | 13 | Very low tide—shoes. Sun in apoplexy. Five million years ago to-day base ball was invented.
W. | 14 | The Bostons will play another club. Expect hot weather about now.

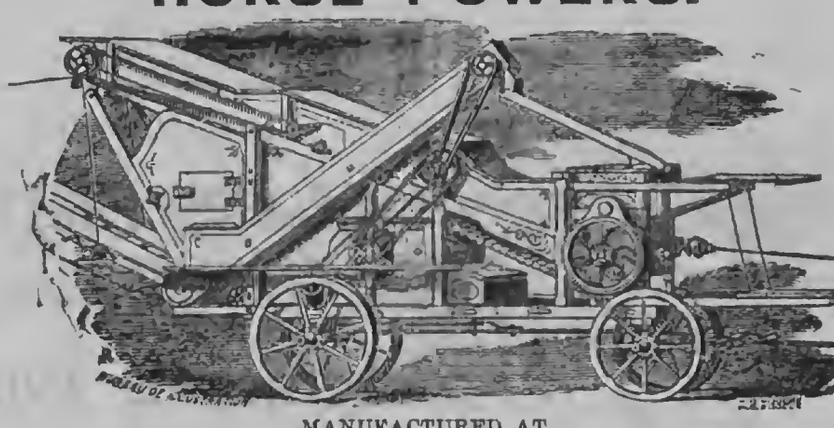
"EVERY man," said Mark Lemon one evening at his club, "has his peculiarities, though I think I am as free from them as most men, at any rate I don't know what they are!" Nobody contradicts the editor of Punch, but after a while Albert Smith asked:—"Which hand do you shave with, uncle?" "With my right hand," replied Lemon. "Ah," returned the other, "that's your peculiarity; most people shave with a razor."



VERY LIKELY.

Jockey to Doubtful Buyer.—"You may not be abble to see his points! But I tell oon he's got lots of em! You'd go a long ways before you'd find another hoss like him."

The Buffalo Pitts Threshers
AND
HORSE POWERS.



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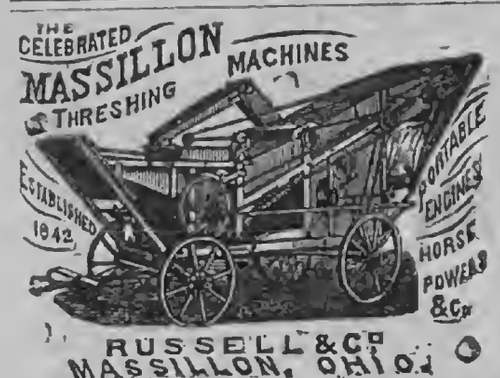

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Around the Republic.

WILD SCENERY OF THE FAR WEST.

THE Far West—now termed the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Slope—is a region of country of which we know very little a quarter of a century ago. But the discovery of the rich mineral treasures buried therein has attracted thousands to explore this hitherto almost unknown land, these again being followed by greater numbers of curiosity-hunters and pleasure-seekers. There is probably no region of country of the same extent which furnishes such an abundance of materials worthy of investigation, or that is richer in natural scenery than the ranges of mountains beginning in Colorado and Wyoming and extending westward to California.

It may be a little more fashionable to visit Europe and explore the Alps than it is to cross the Plains and view our own grand mountains, with their stupendous peaks, covered with perpetual snow, or deep canons, extensive parks, beautiful water-falls and crystal lakes, but we maintain that for grandeur of scenery and all that goes to make a country worth seeing, whether for health or pleasure, this continent cannot be surpassed. Of course it is not every one whose circumstances will permit them to visit those (of late) much-admired and frequented regions, still those who are compelled to stay at home can now get a glimpse of the Great West through the many excellent sketches of our artists, and perhaps none are presented in a more convenient form, or are more truthful than those given in the "Pacific Tourist and Guide," by H. T. WILLIAMS, to whom we are indebted for the accompanying view of Lake Tahoe.

This beautiful sheet of fresh water is 22 miles long and 10 wide, on an average, and about three-fourths of it lies in California and one-fourth in Nevada. It has an elevation above the sea of a mile and a quarter and has been sounded to the depth of 1,645 feet. Through glacial action in past ages, ice must have been piled to the hight of 3,400 feet in the valley of this lake. The water in Lake Tahoe never freezes and is generally as smooth as glass and clear as crystal, permitting trout to be seen and pebbles counted at a depth of 50 feet. Its water changes color to a beautiful emerald or indigo blue, according to the depth, and when disturbed by the fierce mountain winds, its waves lash the shore with foaming fury. A neat little steamer, capable of accommodating 200 passengers, is provided to take tourists around the lake.

Glenbrook is the name of the village which is the business center of this region, and the accommodations for tourists are ample and excellent.

It is the business center of the whole region that borders the lake. There are two hotels, the Glenbrook and Lake House, with excellent accommodations at very reasonable rates. The name Tahoe, given to the lake, signifies in the Indian language "Big-Water," the same as applied to the ocean. There are many points of interest in the vicinity, notably Shakespeare Rock and Cave Rock. The only drive of any note in the neighborhood is from Tahoe City to Sugar Point—the cost of making roads in that region being in most instances enormous.

Those of our readers seeking pleasure in travel should not omit a journey to this lake of the mountains, situated as it is among some of the grandest scenery on this continent.

LAKE TAHOE, IN CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA.

Industrial Topics.

FRENCH SILK-WORMS ON THE OSAGE ORANGE.

ALTHOUGH an enterprise both feasible and promising, sericulture has, up to the present time, met with but little encouragement in the United States. With the exception of what is known as "the *Morers Multicandis* fever" of forty years ago, and the equally profitless Californian excitement of more recent date, the subject has never received any general attention, and as a national industry has never been fairly tested.

Among the obstacles in the way of rearing the silk-worm is the delay necessary to grow the species of Mulberry upon which it feeds. I have thought, therefore, that were it generally known that the Osage Orange—of which almost every Western farm boasts its hedge—is almost, if not quite, equal to the Mulberry as silk-worm food, this neglected industry might receive a fresh impulse and our American silk factories be able in time to obtain their supplies of raw silk at home, instead of importing, as at present, from France and Italy.

The discovery that the worms will feed upon the Osage Orange (*Maclura aurantiaca*) is no new thing. It was made many years ago in France, but as there was at that time and in that country no advantage to be gained by the substitution of the Osage Orange for the Mulberry, but little importance was attached to the experiment.

A few years since Mr. SAMUEL GLOVER of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and a Mr. SAMUEL CORNARY of Utah published accounts of the successful rearing of silkworms on the Osage Orange. These experiments attracted the attention of our State Entomologist, Prof. RILEY, who, the following spring, procured eggs from Utah, and, assisted by the writer, reared a large number of the worms upon the new kind of food.

The worms experimented with proved, however, to be of the Syrian race, which are extremely hardy, but whose cocoons, though of a beautiful gloss and strong fiber, are nevertheless valueless for reeling, on account of their loose and flossy texture. It still remained to be seen whether the French and Chinese varieties would thrive upon the unaccustomed food. Accordingly, at the suggestion of Prof. RILEY, I began, in the spring of 1872, a series of experiments with the best French and Japanese varieties, with the view of testing the matter thoroughly.

The worms hatched about the middle of April and were placed at once upon the opening buds of the Osage Orange, which they ate with avidity. They continued to thrive until the third molt, when symptoms of Pebrine, or Silk-Worm Cholera, which has been such a scourge in Europe, manifested itself among the French varieties. The disease soon became so malignant that by the time the worms were ready to spin nine-tenths or more had perished. Pebrine is contagious, and was soon communicated to the Japanese worms, and they, together with a few of the Syrian variety that were kept in the same room, died in great numbers. A few cocoons, however, of each variety were obtained. These were large and firm and in no wise inferior to those of Mulberry-fed worms. The moths were allowed to issue and gave a plentiful supply of eggs, which were placed in a cool, dry cellar for preservation.

In the spring of '73 the worms hatched several days later than those of the previous year, but the season being unusually cold and backward, their growth was retarded by a scant supply of food for the first ten days. The disease did not attack them until about the time of the last molt, and by carefully separating the infected from the healthy, upon the first appearance of sickness but few fell victims. The cocoons were of good quality, though not so large as those of the preceding year.

Since that time I have regularly raised a small number of the worms every spring, and not a trace of their peculiar disease has manifested itself. The worms have been uniformly healthy and hardy, and have produced good cocoons, those of the French and Japanese White Annuals being firmest and strongest.

These experiments certainly prove the entire practicability of rearing the finest varieties of silk-worms upon the Osage Orange—a discovery of importance, not only to the future silk-growers of this country, but possibly to those of Europe, where the decadence of the Mulberry is already causing some anxiety. They would also seem to indicate that a change to the new food plant is a remedy for the dreaded disease which has during some years threatened the entire silk crop of Europe. Whether a change of food simply would effect a cure, or whether, in the case of my worms, climatic influences operated largely in their favor remains, of course, to be proven.

An experiment in the production and manufacture of silk which is now in progress in Kansas is worthy of general interest. About eight years ago Mr. E. V. BOISSIERE, a French capitalist, came to this country with a colony of his people and established himself in Franklin Co., Kan., laying the foundations of the town of Silkville. Here he erected a factory for the manufacture of velvet and other ribbons, procuring his supplies of silk from his native land, but designing eventually to produce them at Silkville. To this end he set out at once over ten thousand trees of the White Mulberry, which have made rapid growth and are already capable of feeding a vast number of worms.

I have just learned that Mr. BOISSIERE has returned from a recent visit to his native land, bringing with him the apparatus for reeling silk from the cocoons, the first, I believe, that was ever introduced into this country. Prof. RILEY has desired him to carefully test the merits of the silk produced from Osage Orange. Should it compare well with that produced from Mulberry, a new and important industry will be opened without delay to those who have upon their farms hedges of Osage Orange.

The labor involved in the production of cocoons is but slight, and may easily be performed by young children and delicate women, and would not, therefore, interefere with the duties of ordinary farm laborers.

The worms begin to spin in about a month from the date of hatching, and in six weeks all duties connected with them for the year would have been performed. The worms require but slight protection from the weather. Indeed, I believe in this climate (Central Missouri), were it not for the birds, they might be scattered over our hedges and left to shift for themselves, and the cocoons in due time be gathered like fruit from among the branches. I have several times tried them in this way, and they thrived remarkably, in spite of gales and frequent showers, as long as the birds permitted them to live; but as they approached maturity, their white color rendered them so conspicuous that none survived long enough to spin. MARY E. WURTFELDT.

Kirkwood, Mo.

HOW TO PAY DEBTS WITHOUT MONEY.

IN many portions of the country the cry of "hard times" and scarcity of money is raised, and although it is frequently asserted that there is plenty of money to purchase all commodities offered for sale, yet practical experience demonstrates the fact that a great many needful and useful articles will not command ready money, except at great sacrifice in price. This is especially true of all kinds of mechanical articles, as well as some kinds of farm produce. One great pressure of the times is for money to liquidate present liabilities, and whatever might be said against going into or being in debt the fact is there is a vast amount of local or neighborhood indebtedness throughout the country, and it often causes considerable hard feelings as well as litigation when, after running a long time, it remains of necessity unsettled.

There is a way that considerable neighborhood indebtedness might be canceled, by concert of action through a Grange, or local organization of some kind, by exchange of claims and commodities. There should be a Secretary to keep account of debts and credits of the members and effect the exchange. It might be somewhat on this principle: Suppose A owed B and B owed C and C owed D and D owed A; in this case, if the amounts were equal all round, the whole line of debts might be canceled without the use of any money. But if A, being a family man, owed C, who was a shoemake, and C owed B, who was a merchant, and B owed D, who was a farmer, and D did not owe A anything, but wanted a plow, an exchange might be effected to the mutual satisfaction and relief of all parties without the exercise of any money. The above diagram shows how an account might be stated and kept by the Secretary, which might be enlarged to accomodate all parties to the organization. It shows at a glance a summary of debits and credits as they exist among the members. The perpendicular names being Dr. and the horizontal Cr., the square where the names meet showing the amount of the debt in dollars. B. W.

	A Founder.	B Merchant.	C Shoemaker.	D Farmer.	E Blacksmith.	F Doctor.
A	+		3		4	
B	5	×		3		
C		4	×		6	
D	4		5	×		
E		6			×	4
F	3			4		×

Angola, Ind.

Entomological.

IS THE COLORADO POTATO BEETLE POISONOUS?

ALMOST every insect when it first appears in more than usual numbers in a locality is accredited with possessing either beneficial or noxious properties. The Colorado beetle has not escaped this notoriety and many cases of supposed poisoning have been reported as the consequence of handling or killing this insect. Prof. RILEY in his eighth annual report gives some of the results of investigations in this direction from which we extract the following:

To investigate the matter, a quantity of the bugs collected from fields near Buffalo, where no arsenic had been used, was submitted to distillation with salt water, so as to allow of an increased temperature. Under this process, about four ounces of liquid were procured from one quart of the insects. This liquid was perfectly clear and emitted a highly offensive smell; it proved of alkaline reaction on account of the presence of a certain quantity of free ammonia and carbonate of ammonia.

Again, an equal quantity of the bugs was used to prepare a tincture made as follows: Absolute and chemically pure alcohol was condensed upon the live bugs; after a digestion of twenty-four hours the alcohol was evaporated at a gentle heat. The tincture so obtained had a decidedly acid reaction, was brown in color and was not disagreeable in smell.

To ascertain the effect on the animal system of the liquid and the tincture above described, a number of frogs were procured for the experiment. About one-half cubic centimeter of the liquid and the tincture each was introduced separately into the stomach. Neither the liquid nor the tincture produced any apparent effects. The vivacity of the frogs so treated continued unimpaired, notwithstanding the complete retention of the doses.

Again, two fresh frogs were submitted to a hypodermic injection of the liquid and the tincture, in the hind legs, by means of an ordinary hypodermic syringe. The injection of the distilled liquid was unattended by injurious results. A slight disinclination, at first, to use the hind limbs was shown also in the case of another frog, which was treated hypodermically with pure water, to check the results obtained.

The injection of the tincture, however, proved fatal to the subject. A few moments after the operation, the leg operated upon seemed to become paralyzed, and the heart stopped beating within thirty minutes afterwards, by which time the other two hypodermically treated, seemed to have completely overcome the effects of the operation.

The tincture, though highly concentrated, contained but a small quantity of animal acids. * * * The acids being found to be present in such small quantity, the conclusion is unavoidable, in the light of the present experiments, that the bugs are not poisonous.

The experimenters conclude that the reported cases of poisoning result rather from the arsenic used in destroying the insects, or from carbonous oxyd produced by incomplete combustion, when large amounts of the beetles are thrown into a fire. It is to be hoped that the experiments will be continued, 1st, because they by no means cover the whole ground: 2d, because, so far, they admit of the opposite conclusion to which the experimenters arrived. Until we have learned what the active principle is which produces the physiological effect that has been well attested, and the precise conditions under which it acts, the experience recorded in my last report will go for more than such experiments. The active principle, as there stated, is most probably volatile, and the processes described in the above experiments very probably had the effect to liberate the poison. Boiling is well known to destroy many organic poisons in this manner, or by decomposition, and the green tuber, the fruit and haulm of the common potato, lose their poisonous qualities by being so treated. In obtaining tinctures, whether by percolation of the powdered material or as described in the experiments, the poisonous principle may, further, not be extracted; it may be coagulated by or insoluble in the alcohol, and it is quite essential that we know the nature of the vessel employed.

In conclusion, the physiological effects of a poison may differ vastly as between cold and warm-blooded animals; the tincture is admitted to have contained an acid (which may be the poisonous principle) and to have killed a frog; and the possible injurious effect of the fumes from burning the insects granted. I therefore find no reason to change the views expressed a year ago, and it is worthy of note that Prof. A. J. Cook of the Michigan Agricultural College, from experiments somewhat similar to those of Messrs. Grote and Kayser, has arrived at opposite conclusions to those which these gentlemen came to.

THE CODLING MOTH.

THAT the depredations of the progeny of this insect have become the most serious obstacle to the raising of fruit in general seems now universally admitted, and the question, "What shall be done in the way of remedy?" is frequently asked, and the various plans of defence are being discussed with a seriousness that augur success should the remedies proposed only become generally adopted.

An understanding of the habits of breeding, transforming and hibernating is essential to success in the destruction or prevention of any insect. In this the entomologists teach us much that is valuable, but in their eagerness to give them their true names in a foreign tongue, trace their origin, and give their true order and class, they are apt to overlook the part most important to the sufferer by their depredations: the means to head them off or destroy them. The means for the latter purpose that have been most successful thus far have been the providing of artificial hiding-places for the larvæ to occupy while changing to a pupa, in which place they can be easily and rapidly destroyed, and the most successful device has been bands of paper or cloth (woolen cloth is preferable) put around the trunk. The bands can be easily taken off, the worms destroyed, and the bands replaced.

The writer of this article claimed, some two years since, to have discovered or first promulgated a habit of this larva overlooked by the entomologists, which, in addition to the bands mentioned, opened the way for a most complete destruction of this pest. I claimed to have made experiments which proved to my entire satisfaction that this larva having destroyed the vitality of an apple, leaves it during the night and enters another, thus destroying many during its larva life. This fact being admitted, a remedy is readily suggested: to pick off frequently all wormy apples and destroy them. I have, however, never discouraged the use of the bands as an adjunct, for many will escape the picking and complete their larva life.

To record all the opposition this theory has met with, the many experiments made by me and other laymen, all the latter tending to its confirmation, would be foreign to the object of this article, which is to request through the RURAL that those raising apples that are thus injured should make the following experiments: First, take out a half or full-grown worm, place it by the side of a sound apple and cover them from the light; examine next day and see if the worm is not inside. Second, in order to show whether this is not done, as a last resort rather than as a habit, pick off a quantity of wormy apples, say 20 to 50, so as to be sure to get a number that have the worms still in them, put them in a box and let them remain in two or three days, or until they are a little wilted; then put in a few sound apples, mark and count them and cover up for a few days, and then see if the fresh ones are not occupied.

Now is the proper time to make these experiments, as the emigrations become less frequent as the fruit increases in size. Reports through this paper will reach me. I shall be happy to respond at any time to any questions asked, and at another time may give a complete history of the experiments of myself and others in this matter. S. B. PECK.

Muskegan, Mich., July 7, 1876.

The Herdsman.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF LIVE STOCK.

ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES OF THE JUDGES.

I. AWARDS shall be based on written reports, attested by the signatures of their authors.

II. Reports will be based upon inherent and comparative merit, the elements of merit being specifically mentioned.

III. The Judges assigned to each Group will choose from among themselves a Chairman and a Secretary. They must keep regular minutes of their proceedings. Reports recommending awards shall be made and signed by a Judge in each Group, stating the grounds of the proposed award, and such reports shall be accepted, and the acceptance signed by a majority of the Judges in such Group.

IV. The reports of the Judges recommending awards, must be returned to the Chief of the Bureau of Awards not later than ten days after the close of the Exhibition, in each Group.

V. Awards will be finally decreed by the United States Centennial Commission, in compliance with the Act of Congress of June 1, 1872, and will consist of a special report of the Judges on the subject of the award, together with a Diploma, and a uniform Bronze Medal.

VI. In addition to reports on the merits of individual exhibits, the Judges of each Group will be expected to render a report general in its nature, summarizing the Exhibition in their Group, and indicating the recent progress noted in breeding, rearing or training.

VII. Vacancies in the corps of Judges will be filled by the authority which made the original apointment. No Exhibitor can be a Judge in the Group in which he is a competitor.

VIII. The Chief of the Bureau of Awards will be the representative of the United States Centennial Commission in its relations to the Judges; upon request he will decide all questions which may arise during their proceedings in regard to the interpretation and application of the rules adopted by the Commission relating to Awards, subject to an appeal to the Commission.

A. T. GOSHORN, Director-General.

FRANCIS A. WALKER, Chief Bureau of Awards.

FEEDING AYRSHIRES.

MR. C. C. HOLTON, Rochester, lately read a paper on Ayrshire cattle before the Western New York Farmers' Club, in the course of which he said:—I find by repeated experiments, that my cows, while in milk, require about 21 pounds of hay or its equivalent, per day, with the addition of 5 pounds of sugar beets or the same of potatoes. The only carefully conducted experiment which I have made, bearing upon the subject of profit, was with the cow, Daisy, weight 900 pounds, in which from March 15th she gave 4,322 pounds of milk in 26 weeks, which being made into butter gave 257 pounds, and was sold at 35 cents (or $86.40), 5 per cent. of milk being butter. I recently purchased four grade Durham cows, in the fall, not larger than my largest Ayrshire, and commenced with the same feed, viz:—21 pounds per day, which I found necessary to increase to 33 pounds, which proved to be the quantity required. Two and a quarter tons more in the year would be consumed by the grade than by the Ayrshire. My present stock bull, whose weight is 1,500, is fed the same rations as my cows in milk, viz:—21 pounds of hay and 5 pounds boiled beans.

The Apiarian.

MISCHIEVOUS STATEMENTS EXPOSED.

ENGLISH apiarians frequently have cause to complain of the boasting of their cousins on this side of the Atlantic, and we are always ready to help them when they have the truth for a basis. In fact we had a little rather have our English friends point out our faults than virtues, because in the former we may have a chance to learn something and it keeps us from becoming egotistical. A correspondent of the London Journal of Horticulture thinks some of our American bee-keepers are inclined to brag a little, and perhaps exaggerate somewhat when making statements in regard to the profits of bee-keeping, and in this we agree with him, and hope he will keep knocking at these inflationists, or, a less elegant phrase, gas-bags, until they learn to talk reasonably, a part of the time at least. But we will let him tell his own story:

"If the statement of some American bee-keepers, which 'B. & W.' quoted in last week's Journal, be facts, and not fancies, the question of hives is comparatively a very important one. If the statements referred to represent facts, our bees are lazy, useless creatures, comparatively speaking. In 1863 Mrs. Tupper had two Italian stocks which yielded 200 pounds of honey, while fifty-six stocks of common bees did not yield an ounce. At a convention of American bee-keepers in 1866, it was unanimously admitted that the Ligurians are superior to common bees. After making these statements, 'B. & W.' favors us with the opinions of the editor of the 'American Text-Book of Bees' as to the superiority of Ligurians. They possess greater individual strength, fly with less fatigue, work when other bees are idle, suck honey from flowers which others do not visit, work more steadily during the season, breed earlier in spring and later in Autumn, cast off earlier and larger swarms, live longer than common bees, are always so busy that they have no time or inclination for robbing, and they dethrone their queens and prepare successors before old age overtakes them. Hence Italians are seldom queenless. They are more peaceful, graceful, beautiful, attracting many visitors.

"Does anybody in England believe this American trumpery? I do not think that it would be possible to find a respectable person in either England or America that would indorse the mischievously extravagant statements of this American editor. Even 'B. & W.,' who has quoted them, says that he has overdone it by claiming too many good points, and the wish has been father to the thought. Some ten years ago we had one or two quack dealers in England, who said as many extravagant things about Ligurians as this editor. Things have changed a little, and we are not now favored publicly with a list of their excellences. And even in America, in a convention of bee-keepers, held some years after 1866, the year referred to by 'B. & W.,' the question of the superiority of Ligurians was discussed by the most able men of that country; and, so far as I could judge, the bulk of disinterested evidence was not in favor of Ligurians, and objections were made by honest men to their bee journals being edited by dealers or interested parties.

"Ligurian bees have been in this country about twenty years: why then go to America for evidences of their superiority? Is there nobody who can prove their superiority in this country, where the weather greatly hinders other bees? Has honey been obtained from them when common bees could not work? I am visited by respectable bee-keepers from all parts of the country, and those who keep Ligurians, as well as those who live where they are kept, tell me that they are no better than common bees. I am not prejudiced against them in any way, and shall be pleased to see evidence of their superiority from any trustworthy quarter; but nothing but facts are admissable as evidence. When these are produced I will speedily rid my garden of lazy bees, as my object in bee-keeping is profit. We shall be abundantly gratified if satisfactory evidence be presented to the readers of this journal and the bee-keepers of Great Britain that a superior bee is among us. In my search for evidence of the superiority of Ligurian bees I have been unsuccessful for ten years. Perhaps we shall be more fortunate during the present season."

Dairy Husbandry.

CONCERNING MILK AND THE CAUSES INFLUENCING ITS COMPOSITION.

THE investigations of HENRY A. MOTT, Jr., E. M. Ph. B., of New York, on the subject of milk, are of interest. Mr. MOTT sends us a small pamphlet of which he is the author. It treats upon the "comparison between the milk of the African race and that of the Caucasian," and we shall refer to Mr. MOTT's investigations, the results of which he has embodied in this pamphlet, because the facts brought out will, in a general way, apply to the milk of animals, and may thus be made useful to dairymen.

Milk is a product of the blood, and of all the secretions which are elaborated from the blood there is none which comes so near it in chemical composition, and hence we find all the chief characteristics in the formation of milk to be similar in animals and the human race.

CONDITIONS INFLUENCING THE COMPOSITION OF MILK.

Among the prominent conditions that influence the composition of milk the age of the subject may first be considered. Chemists who have analyzed the milk of cows of different ages have observed the fact that the heifer, or young cow, yields a milk containing less water and more milk solids than that of the old cow. This is an important fact which dairymen should understand, as from it some practical lessons may be learned in regard to the age at which cows should be turned. If the fact is well recognized that the milk of aged cows is much less valuable than that yielded by younger animals, it is a strong argument in favor of turning milch stock in due season, because, in addition to the depreciated value of an old cow for meat, that of her milk must also be taken into account, and the two together make it evident that considerable losses are sustained by the dairyman who makes a practice of keeping cows until they break down or fail on account of age. In England the custom among the best farmers is to turn cows into meat when they have arrived at from seven to eight years of age. In this way a good price is realized, because the animal may be easily put in flesh, but if kept until she has grown old, as is often the practice among dairymen in this country, she is not considered worth fattening and is sold for a mere trifle.

Mr. MOTT refers to a series of experiments made by VERNOIS & BECQUEREL in regard to age as influencing the composition of milk, and on this point they arrived at the following conclusions:—"That the milk of a woman between fifteen and twenty years of age contains less water and more milk solids (especially fat and mineral salts) than a woman between thirty-five and forty years of age, and that with respect to these two constituents they seem to vary gradually with the age of the woman." VERNOIS & BECQUEREL found 13.015 per cent. of *milk solids*, of which 3.738 per cent. was *fat* and .18 per cent. inorganic salts, in the milk of a white woman between fifteen and twenty years of age, while in that of a white woman thirty years of age there were only 11.191 per cent. of *milk solids*, of which 2.864 per cent. was *fat* and .144 per cent. inorganic salts. The same relative difference was found by MOTT in the composition of the milk of colored women of different ages. Thus he found in the milk of a colored woman sixteen years of age 15.01 and 15.11 per cent. of *milk solids*, of which 5.12 and 5.15 per cent. was *fat* and .41 and .42 per cent. inorganic salts; and in the milk of a colored woman of eighteen years he found 13.54 per cent. of *milk solids*, of which 4.05 per cent. was *fat* and .69 per cent. inorganic salts. In a colored woman of thirty years of age he found only 11.75 per cent. of *milk solids*, 2.54 per cent. of *fat*, and .31 per cent. of inorganic salts.

It will be seen, therefore, that the milk from colored women depreciates with age in milk solids (especially fat and mineral salts) in about the same proportion as the milk from white women.

THE COMPOSITION OF MILK DIFFERS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE UDDER.

A few weeks since we gave the results of some experiments in analyzing milk taken from different quarters of the cow's udder, in which the remarkable fact was shown that milk drawn from the right side front quarter exhibited a specific gravity of 1020.4, while the left side front quarter gave milk of a specific gravity of 1021.3; the right hind quarter gave milk of a specific gravity of 1023.0, and the left hind quarter 1023.5. The milk was drawn from the different parts of the bag of the same cow and at the same time, the animal being well cared for and fed on meal clover and other food calculated to give a good quality of milk. Now Prof. MOTT finds a difference in the composition of the milk drawn from the different parts of the breasts of the same women, his analysis of milk from colored women showing that the milk of the right breast is richer than that of the left in the proportion of 1.06:1 for the minimum and 1.13:1 for the maximum. He refers also to the experiments of LOUIS SOURDAT, in which it is shown that the milk of the right breast is much richer than that of the left breast of the same woman, in proportions which are 1.20:01 for the minimum and 1.74 for the maximum. SOURDAT found that the right breast secreted the most fat—1.40:1 (minimum) and 9:1 (maximum). MOTT found the proportion of fat in favor of the right breast 1.20:1 (minimum) and 1.50:1 (maximum). SOURDAT found the caseine in favor of the right breast 1.90:1 for the maximum, and MOTT only 1.02:1 for the maximum.

These differences in the composition of milk are singular, to say the least, and physiologists, so far as we are informed, have never attempted to explain the causes.

INFLUENCE OF COLOR ON THE RICHNESS OF MILK.

Another peculiar feature in respect to the composition of milk is that it varies in richness according to the color of the subject from which it is produced, thus, in the human race, the milk of brunettes being richer than that of blondes. Mr. MOTT gives a table drawn from the different analyses made by L'HERITIER, in which the most marked differences are presented, as in the following:

	Blonde.		Brunette.	
Water	89.20	88.15	85.33	85.30
Milk solids	10.80	11.85	14.67	14.70
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Fat	3.55	4.05	5.48	5.63
Caseine	1.00	0.95	1.62	1.10
Milk sugar	5.85	6.40	7.12	7.00
Mineral salts	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.45

"It will be seen," he says, "from these analyses that the milk solids in the milk of the blonde was only 10.80 per cent. and 11.85 per cent., while in the milk of the brunette the milk solids amounted to 14.67 and 14.70.

"If a mean of all the analyses made by L'HERITIER bearing on this point be taken, the difference between the amount of solid constituents in the two cases would be less marked, but they still show quite a difference, the average ratio being 12.0:13.4. The researches of VERNOIS and BECQUEREL indicate a greater proportion of most of the solid matters in the milk of brunettes, with a very slight difference in the proportion of butter in favor of the blondes. The milk of brunettes contained 4.65 per cent. of milk-sugar; of blondes, 4.47 per cent. And they found 0.3 per cent. more caseine in the milk of brunettes than in that of the blondes."

In the following table he gives the comparison between the milk of the African race with that of the Caucasian:

CONSTITUENTS.	Colored woman's milk; average of 12 analyses.—*Mott.*	White woman's milk; average of 89 analyses.—*Vernois & Becquerel.*	White woman's milk; average of 14 analyses.—*Simon.*	White woman's milk; average of 14 analyses.—*Tidy.*
Water	86.34	88 908	88.36	87.806
Milk solids	13.66	11.092	11.64	12.194
	100.00	100.000	100.00	100.000
Fat	4.03	2.866	2.53	4.021
Caseine	3.32	3.924	3 43	3.523
Milk sugar	5.71	1.361	4.82	4.265
Inorganic salts	0.60	0.138	8.23	0.285
	13.66	11.092	11.64	12.194

It will be seen by comparing the analyses given in this table that the milk of the African race (or colored woman) is far richer in milk solids—particularly milk sugar, fat and inorganic salts—than the milk of the Caucasian race (or white woman).

AN INTERESTING QUESTION.

A question of some interest is suggested from the above, and this is, does the color of animals have any influence on the quality of milk yielded? We know that milk varies in quality in different breeds, and indeed in different animals of the same breed; and it has been observed, also, that cows yielding very rich milk have a yellow skin. Indeed, so generally understood is this last characteristic, that yellowness of skin has come to be considered a sure indication of a good butter cow. But does the color of the hair indicate any peculiarity in the composition of the milk? So far as we are informed, we do not think that any investigations have been made in this direction, though among a great many farmers there is a prejudice against black-haired cattle as yielding an inferior quality of milk. But if the rule applicable to the human race in regard to the conditions influencing the quality of milk hold good also in animals (and it does seem to do so in most respects), then black-haired cows would yield milk containing more milk solids than white cows.

It will be seen from what we have said that there are some curious things concerning milk which are not well understood even by those who have paid considerable attention to the subject. By increasing our knowledge and extending our investigations concerning the nature of milk and its production, we are enabled to make a practical use of points which often appear at first sight to be of little importance, and with this view we refer the questions here discussed to the attention of dairymen.

SALTING THE MILK INSTEAD OF THE CURDS.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us that he has seen it suggested that cheese can be salted with best results when the salt is added to the milk instead of the curds, and he inquires "whether this plan has any advantages, and how much salt is required per gallon of milk."

We are not in favor of salting cheese by adding salt to the milk, for several reasons, among which may be named the large quantity of salt required and the spoiling of the whey for feeding purposes.

It is true the salting of the milk distributes the salt evenly through the mass and avoids the labor of mixing the salt with the curds; but these advantages are not sufficient, it would seem, to recommend its adoption among dairymen, and if the value of the salt and whey be taken into account, the gain by this practice would hardly balance the loss. We have tried salting the milk, but have not discovered that any improvement is made in the quality of the cheese, nor do we know that any improvement is claimed by such manner of salting.

The usual quantity of salt required for salting cheese when it is applied to the curd is from 2 7-10 to 3 lbs. of salt for 1,000 lbs. of milk. Now, if the salt was added directly to the milk before coagulation, it would require at the rate of about 3¼ oz. salt to the gallon, or over 20 lbs. of salt for the 1,000 lbs. of milk, or about 17 lbs. more salt than is required when the usual process of salting the curds is adopted. The whey, of course, retains the large remaining portion of salt, and most probably, therefore, could not be used in any quantity for the feeding of pigs or other domestic animals.

Some ten or fifteen years ago the salting of cheese by applying it to the milk was highly recommended by certain dairymen, and although many cheese-makers were induced to try the plan, they soon abandoned it, and of late we have heard but little of its advantages.

In salting cheese in the curds, care should be taken to have the salt free from lumps. It should be passed under a roller or ground in a mill made for the purpose, for unless it is reduced to a finely divided state it will not be likely to be evenly distributed through the mass—a point which is always essential in salting cheese.

TROUBLE IN BUTTER-MAKING.

WE are in receipt of many letters at this season in regard to the making of good butter. Several of our correspondents tell us that the butter comes soft, or it won't come at all, no matter how long churned, or that it is full of whitish specks when it does come, and so on to the end of what might be a long chapter. Now, to all these inquiries we must say it is the high temperature that is causing so much trouble. Keep the milk and cream cool and out of direct currents of air, and your troubles, or at least the greater part of them, will disappear.

The Vineyard.

PRUNING GRAPE VINES.

THE first practical ideas that were given to the American public, in regard to pruning grape vines, came principally from German vine dressers, who had been accustomed to tying the vines to stakes, in the valley of the Rhine, where the varieties grown require close pruning. They did not take into consideration that our native vines, or many of them, were by nature entirely different from those grown in Germany, and require a different system of pruning; consequently, the rules laid down twenty-five years ago, were to tie vines to stakes, one stake about six feet high to each vine, and then to confine their growth, by close pruning, to these stakes. This system was found to be radically wrong with our own thrifty-growing varieties, as the Concord, Hartford, Prolific and many others; and it has been abandoned by those who understand how to obtain the largest crops from such varieties.

I will illustrate the fallacy of this close pruning system on the Concord, which will apply to the most of our native varieties. Suppose that two vines be planted, which I will call No. 1 and No. 2. Number 1 I will supply with a trellis, as large as may be required to afford the vine to be extended upon it, so far as it would be *profitable*, in view of the quantity of grapes that it would produce, say twenty feet long by ten feet high. In three years, in good soil, the vine would, if pruned properly, cover such a trellis, and would produce not less than fifty lbs. of grapes, all ripened to perfection. This is no theoretical view of the case, as I have proved from practical experience.

Now, I will give a trellis to No. 2, six feet high and eight feet long, and confine it to those dimensions, and the third season it would produce about ten lbs. of grapes—not more, I am confident. This fruit would not be any better in size and quality than the fifty lbs. grown on No. 1. Vines produce fruit in proportion to the extent of their canes grown the previous year, where the soil is rich and where their roots can expand freely. Two or three vines, trained to a trellis twenty feet long and six feet high, would not produce over about ten lbs. each, if the canes are cut back to that space; nor would they produce any more grapes than a single one, if attached to a trellis twenty by ten feet. This fact shows that some of our native grape vines are capable of being extended over a large trellis, and do not require close pruning in order to yield large crops of perfect fruit.

Suppose that a large premium should be offered for the largest yield of Concord grapes to the acre, giving the grower from three to five years to plant his vines, and bring his system of training and pruning into a fair practical test? I would proceed as follows: The land being heavily manured with well-rotted stable manure, and a heavy coat of bone flour, I would set the vines in rows eight feet apart, and eight feet apart in rows, and give them a trellis twelve to fifteen feet high, the rows running North and South to let in the sun in the middle of the day at least. The object being to obtain the greatest product of grapes in a given year, I should not consider the expense of such a trellis at all. I claim that the higher a trellis is, if the vines are not too much shaded, the more grapes we can obtain. This rule, of course, only applies to thrifty-growing vines.

Now, if my elucidation as above be correct, as I claim, on what basis rests the rule so frequently published in the Agricultural papers, to "cut back," and to "pinch back" the canes of grape vines, till there is not much left of them! You cannot make a vine extend its roots over a radius of ten or twelve feet, while you refuse to let the canes expand over five or six feet. If you cripple the top you also cripple the roots of a vine; and I think that grape growers will learn in time to allow nature to have a little more to say in pruning than they hitherto have allowed.

In summer pruning it is right to remove shoots that are of feeble growth, and especially such canes as are found growing up around the bases or collars of the vines. At this season of the year, when most of the canes have made their full growth, the ends of the smaller fruit-bearing canes may be cut back to within two leaves of the fruit, if such canes grow out at right angles with the trellis, as a matter of improvement in the appearance of your grape arbor or trellis; but I doubt very much that the grapes mature any better for so doing. If it be a fact that the fruit on one cane will be improved by cutting it back to within one or two leaves of the grapes, does it follow that the grapes on all the canes would be benefited by cutting them all back in like manner? And if it benefits the fruit to remove a portion of the leaves of the vines, why not benefit it still more to remove them all?

Thirty years ago, physicians were in the habit of drawing a pint of blood from every patient—no matter what his disease was, he must be bled! The consequence was, that they gradually drew out the living principle of the unfortunate people who fell into their hands. Many grape growers are now doing the same thing to their vines. They think that if a certain amount of sap runs through a cane bearing fruit, that if a portion of that cane be cut off, the entire vitality of the cane when uncut will be diffused through what remains of it. Mistaken idea! You may take two canes, each five, ten or fifteen feet long, and each bearing three clusters of grapes. If you cut one off to within a foot of the fruit, the grapes on the uncut cane will ripen just as early, and will be as good, if not better, than those on the cane that is cut off. The reason is, that the roots of the vine supply all the sap that the grapes and canes require; and, by cutting back canes, the fruit receives no more nourishment than it did before the canes were cut, because it can receive but a certain amount. The only way to improve the size and quality of grapes is, when a vine is heavily fruited, to thin out the clusters, and this should be done in June. My theory, as regards close pruning, cutting back fruit canes, etc., may not apply equally to all varieties; but I think if we enrich the soil more, supply higher trellises, thin out our grapes and prune moderately, we shall all get better crops of fruit than to adopt the close pruning system.

Linden, N. J. T. B. MINER.

[THE above, from an esteemed correspondent, gives the opposite of an article which appeared in this department, entitled:—"Stopping Grape Vines." Our readers, after reading both sides of the pruning question, will be better able to decide which to adopt than if only one were given in our columns. Of course they are well aware that we are in favor of close pruning and summer punching of grape vines, still we like to see all mooted questions freely discussed.—ED. RURAL.]

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, July 15, 1876.

WALKING leisurely through Agricultural Hall, my attention was attracted by the all-embracing arms of ye wind mill of yo olden time which stands in the center of the main aisle about two-thirds its length from the entrance. The improvements in wind mills and their application to farm uses at once suggested themselves to me and I set about finding the modern examples of this prototype. One would naturally expect to find such an important exhibit placed conspicuously and in a manner that would furnish easy access to visitors. Not so, however. The Commission, with a fatuity or maliciousness that passes understanding, wandered about the premises, and after having tumbled down a ravine (now being filled with refuse) and clambered over a hill or two, came to the extremity of the grounds—the jumping-off place, so to speak—and ascertaining that a wind mill exhibitor would have to dig about seventy feet for water, and after erecting his mill would be placed in a nice, quiet, out-of-the-way corner, secure from visitors or intrusion of any kind, they concluded that they had performed their duty in a way that was, at least, quite satisfactory to themselves. The more one observes the doings of this wonderful Commission, when it is a question of agricultural affairs, surprise is aghast that such little heads can carry all they know!

The wind mills represented on the grounds are Halliday's, The Eclipse, Storer's, The McGregor, and the Hartford Automatic—all in constant operation.

The more one investigates the subject the greater becomes the conviction that the farmer does not adequately estimate the importance of this motor as a labor-saving machine on the farm. It is a saving of time and money, not to mention the convenience to be able to leave a trusty mill grinding away, like the mills of the gods, slowly but surely, while other and more pressing work is being performed, knowing meanwhile that the labor is being done as certainly as if you had an expensive engineer guarding your interests.

Again, it is very important to have a constant supply of pure water where cattle are kept, and this can be done for least expense with a wind engine. One instance is noted where a farmer had a herd of sixty cows that required the attention of two men constantly until a wind mill was erected. Then the men were dispensed with and the herd increased until it numbered ninety. Dairymen will be the first to admit that without a steady flow of good spring water it is useless to attempt to carry on butter-making operations as now conducted, never dreaming that a locality without spring facilities can be converted into a good dairy district by constructing a capacious reservoir, starting the wind mill, and thus secure a steady flow of water through the dairy. The water can, moreover, be drained back into the well after performing its appointed task and be reused constantly. Here is economy at both ends. The same reservoir serves as the means of embellishing the grounds, fountains being supplied by water which, once used, repasses by means of an overflow drain back to the well. I have merely stated a few of the uses, as they have occurred to me, to which the wind mill can be put, not pretending to go into an exhaustive essay on the subject.

Southern farmers are learning that by the use of the wind mill rice culture is once more becoming profitable on a small scale, it being an easy matter to flood fields and hull the rice. Formerly, to hull rice, it was necessary to transport the crop some distance, where milling facilities were abundant; but that has all changed, because of the fact that, appropriate gearing being attached to the wind engine, the planter can start his mill, lock the door, and go away content, as night and day the work goes on without attention and at the minimum of expense. In this connection it would be well to say that there is on exhibition in Agricultural Hall an improved Rice Huller, which is constructed of an adamant substance (emory, I believe), which enables the planter to hull his rice to the best advantage. It is cheap, and claimed to be durable.

It is scarcely necessary to dilate further on the importance of this subject to farmers. I would urge, however, that those visiting the Centennial give this exhibit their earnest attention, feeling sure that they will receive much practical and instructive information from the gentlemen who have the department in charge. Foreigners are enthusiastic over our wind mills and are much more astute in their questions than are Americans interested in the subject. This is the more peculiar, seeing that their own mills are so primitive. Our makers will probably have an opportunity to spread their wings in foreign lands, as the result of this close investigation and competition.

Y. R.

THE RECORD OF A BARBARIAN.

July 17, 1876.

THAT Russia is a remarkable country all will admit, and straightway the reader, I presume, will revert in memory to geograpoical reminiscence, commiserating the low moral and intellectual tone of her millions of inhabitants, while imbued with a wholesome wonder at the vast extent of territory under the sway of one monarch. It is the real estate aspect of the subject that the most often occurs to the uninformed, contemplative mind, when speaking of all the Russias. In this category, paraphrasing the late Artemus Ward, "of whom I was which," I judge are ranged nine-tenths of intelligent Americans. It is only necessary to see this country's display at Philadelphia to frankly admit that an effete (?) despotism is capable of successful endeavor in the arts of civilization that is simply astounding. This progress is the more instructive from the fact that, as a nation they have accomplished the hitherto impossible feat of getting into their own boots, and lifting themselves up by the straps! This simile seems the best to express the fact that Russian art is *sui generis;* that it owes nothing to the example of older civilization, but has constructed its art, as the German did his camel, from inner consciousness.

Although the last nation to get its display in shape, owing to an accident in transportation, its space in the Main Building is much the most unique, and in many respects quite the best, in the Exhibition.

Wandering among the show cases the visitor is dazzled by a wealth of gold and silver tissues, inwrought with velvet and damask, in patterns quite unfamiliar, on the one hand, while the maze of Malachite tables, mantels and set pieces is like a vision of a new kind of golconda. The Malachite, crude and worked, is the gem of the display to wonder-seekers, and one is reminded of the point and force of the anecdote related of a Rothschild who was displaying to a Russian prince a superb set of jewelry of this material, counting on the beholder's wonder and admiration, when the prince cooly remarked, "Yes, quite pretty; I have a *door* just like it!" When I say that the price of a small Malachite center table is $7,000, one can be properly astounded, as was, no doubt, the great Hebrew.

In art silver work they are no less expert. Indeed, the finest *repouse* work in the Fair is credited to this nation, which, until its advent, was awarded to the Americans. And this is the work exclusively of native artists, from national designs. Appreciating its merits, our Messrs. Tiffany & Co. have secured some of the most striking designs for models, while that veracious institution, the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, with an intelligent enterprise worthy of all praise, has not been a laggard in appropriating striking examples of Muscovite genius in various departments.

Failing illustration, I cannot give an idea of the exquisite texture and artistic coloring of their silks, the entirely unhackneyed forms of beautiful jewelry, the incomparable collection of valuable minerals, and it only remains to add that in ordinary materials and subjects, even to manufactured rubber goods, they show proficiency that leaves the beholder in dumb surprise.

Americans "point with pride" to their educational system, but I must sadly confess, as compared to the apparatus and system displayed by the Podagogic Museum, we do not even know the rudiments of the art of teaching. I regret that space will not permit the publication of a synopsis of their scheme, or even a brief mention of the methods of the system. In machinery thoroughness and finish is apparent on all sides. The trophies of iron will delight those skilled in metallurgy, while the beautiful models of machinery, iron-clads, docks, army accoutrements, etc., are very interesting. Russian inventive genius has antedated our "type-writer" and improved on it;—a type-writer being on view which not only prints words, but can set its own music to fit them as fast as the ideas are originated in the composer's brain.

In Agricultural Hall I found the exhibit no less complete and interesting. The traditionary muscovite is not a cleanly fellow; but here are great blocks of soap, mottled and plain, of a size that would seem to warrant the notion that they were compounded for the express purpose of washing away all traces of original sin, or at least for the sole use of a family of Cardiff giants. If sealing-wax is any indication, the Russ must also be a great letter writer, and the national spirit adheres by a superior quality of home-made Port land Cement.

The Agricultural and Horticultural establishment at Ouman show cocoons and spun silk in admirable profusion, and iron minimum is converted into a chemical paint which I have yet to see surpassed. The Schlippe Chemical Works of Moscow prepare and exhibit chemicals and poisons, in a form that would seem to rob suicidal death of half its inconveniences. It is only necessary to add that in Russia the ladies are great smokers to convey an idea of the confusing array of cigarettes that are adapted to all without distinction to race, color or previous condition of servitude. This people is nothing if not national, which is exemplified in the universal dish—sour cabbage soup, which has been solidified like our condensed preparations. It is an appetizing dish—to those who have stomachs like a Russian, or who have no aesthetic objections to a flavor of rancid oil supplemented by coal gas.

The cereal products are fine, as are also the fruits, nuts, etc., while forest tree culture is amply illustrated with specimens of bark, tree seed and segments of wood contributed by the Society of Forest Tree Industry. It is related how Peter the Great, whose private and individual tipple was brandy, was quite severe on inebriates, forcing high and low to sweep the streets when caught in a state of intoxication. It seems to have had no appreciable effect on the tastes of his subjects, judging by the extensive display of spirits and wines. The Brandy Distilling Co. of Karzan have a brand of "American brandy," the only instance noted where the stranger has made an impression on their customs. It is a powerful impression, too, about 93° proof. One brand has the suggestive appelation: "doppelt Korn," (doubled corned?) while a warning is conveyed in the bottles of currant wine by their incrustation of pebbles. They probably contain a fiery liquid, whose effects are to make one "*stone* blind ——!

It may not be generally known that gingerbread is dear to the national palate—not our ginger-bread, but an article that more resembles cocoanut-cake in appearance. It is shown in great quantity, and looked so tempting that I yearned to be on a committee to pass upon its merits.

Fertilizers, isinglass in all stages of preparation, and a most curious display of the wares in use among the peasantry complete an exhibit that, taken altogether, is more original and better worthy careful study than that of any other foreign country at the Centennial.

YOUNG RURAL.

Industrial Implements.

THE BENEFIT OF WIND MILLS.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER.—Since the publication in the Illustrated Christian Weekly of a view of my seed farm, a prominent feature in which was a wind mill used for raising water, I have had a great many letters asking the kind of mill used, amount of water it would raise, whether it kept in order, &c. I have answered scores of such letters, but thought that perhaps a few facts on the subject in the RURAL might save others as well as myself some trouble, and would not be entirely devoid of interest to most of your readers.

In about the center of my grounds I have a pond, covering two acres, and supplied with water from a neighboring spring. A ravine runs through my farm, some 30 feet or more in depth and from perhaps twenty feet to several hundred in width. The pond is in the widest part of the ravine, and consequently about thirty feet below the general surface of the soil. A little stream constantly runs into the pond and one of the same size flows from it over a fall of several feet.

In transplanting time, we are usually troubled with severe drouth, and there is scarcely a season but some crop suffers materially for want of water, I thought if I could only get the water raised thirty feet and distributed over the ground it would be a great blessing, and as I had just returned from Holland, where I had seen thousands of wind mills pumping water, concluded to give the matter a trial.

One of my customers in Wisconsin manufactures wind-mills, and on a letter sheet which he sent me I noticed a picture of a wind mill, called the *Eclipse*, so I wrote him to procure all the information possible on the subject. The result was that I purchased a mill, 16 feet in diameter, erected it near the pond on the bank of the ravine. The water is pumped into large tanks, elevated above the ground twenty feet, and from these tanks the water is distributed through iron pipes all over my grounds, I am now in a measure independent of the clouds.

The mill is self-regulating, and therefore is no trouble, has not been out of order once since its erection three years ago, and the amount of wind we get and consequently water, is really surprising. We have never lacked for water once, and often have to stop it to prevent unnecessary pumping and waste of water.

I am quite sure wind mills can be profitably used by farmers not only in raising water, but in other farm work. In one view at *Schiedam*, in Holland, I saw three thousand wind mills all said to be engaged in grinding grain for the celebrated Holland Schnapps. I had before thought that this stuff was made of Juniper berries.

I said my mill needed no care, but it does simply need oiling.

JAMES VICK.

CHAMPION MILK-PAN AND COOLERS.

THE way to make the best butter is by using a good milk-pan and practical cooler, in addition to the other helps that all admit are necessary. The competition among butter-makers is quite as brisk as in other pursuits, and it becomes a momentous question how to secure the best pan and cooler at the least cost. We merely propound a conundrum which can be solved by those interested if they refer to advertisers announcements in the RURAL'S columns. The fact, however, of the "Champion Milk-Pan and Coolers" made by WILLARD & HAMMOND, Randolph, N. Y., having taken the first premium at the N. Y. State Fair, and that they have 1,500 in use, brings them prominently before the dairy public, and, as is our custom, we take occasion to briefly recapitulate the salient points of the apparatus as set forth by the makers.

It is claimed by them that but one-fourth of the labor expended in the old method is required to manipulate the milk—an item that appeals with direct force to the farmer's wife. Moreover, that more milk is produced, and of an equal if not superior quality, which means increased home comforts, by realizing a better price for the merchantable article to the extent of 15 per cent profit.

The pans and coolers are arranged in sets of four single pans within one large water pan, divided by partitions, permitting the water to circulate around one or all the pans, as the operator may elect. The set is arranged in a wood frame, is constructed of the best tin and painted on the outside, so as to prevent rust. The circulation of the water is constant and thorough. Many other points of excellence possessed by these ingenious milk-pans and coolers can be better appreciated by a personal inspection than by any written description.

The pans and coolers merit investigation, and we recommend our numerous subscribers who are interested in the dairy to procure full particulars from the makers, who will readily supply information gratis.

Farm Economy.

SAVE THE LOW-MEADOW HAY.

THERE are hundreds and thousands of acres of low meadows and swamps in the Eastern States producing a heavy crop of sedges and wild grasses, which would make a passably-good hay, if cut early and while in a succulent condition. But the greater part of this available forage is permitted to go to waste, or left until so ripe that it is worthless for fodder, then perhaps a small portion is gathered for bedding stock or mulching in the garden.

Can our farmers afford to waste this fodder, is a question for them to answer, although we think not, especially while good hay commands twenty to thirty dollars per ton in our city markets. We do not refer to grasses on the salt meadows near the sea shore, but to inland swamps and boglands, of which there are large quantities in almost every State in the Union, and large quantities near the older cities where everything of the grass kind commands a high price.

These bog grasses, if not wanted for fodder, will pay for collecting and spreading over the barnyard or in the stables to be tramped down and converted into manure. But thousands of tons of this valuable material is annually wasted, and we have seen more than one farmer's animals suffering for food in winter, and they could have been made happy with a stack of this very material, which, their owners will tell us, was not worth the gathering. It is to be presumed that no reader of the RURAL NEW-YORKER belongs to this class of farmers; but should there be none who are negligent in such matters, there may be some to whom a hint to cut their low meadows *early* will not be amiss at this time.

A HINT TO FARMERS.

FARMERS, write for your Agrteultural papers. Don't say "I can't" until you have at least made an effort. With all due deference to the Editors, the most interesting reading, to me, is the correspondence. In this we get all kinds of notions and all shades of opinions. Here is the great opportunity of gaining information.

When people of exactly the same views come in contact there is little to be learned. When we are *rubbed against*, then it is that the strongest arguments are brought out. The flint unused is worthless; it is only when it is struck against the steel that the sparks fly. Write and give *your own* experiences; but at the same time let us all be as charitable toward others as possible, giving all alike credit for good intentions.

Syracuse, N. Y. NELSON RITTER.

The Naturalist.

THE BRIGHTON AQUARIUM.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Forest and Stream, gives a very entertaining description of some of the curiosities to be seen in the Brighton Aquarium:

Just now the eggs of the octopus, or devil fish, may be seen in the various stages of incubation. And I may say here that the octopus is now one of the leading attractions, or "star performers" of the aquarium. The specimens here were taken off the coast of Jersey, and, therefore, may be supposed to be the little brothers of that giant devil fish which figures so largely in Victor Hugo's "Toilers of the Sea." In fact, Victor Hugo made the fortune of the octopus. But for him this marine curiosity might have dwelt in obscurity until now. The keeper kindly fed some of them for my benefit. Small crabs were dropped into the tank, and the little victims came tripping down through the water in their sidelong fashion, dancing to their horrid doom. As soon as the devil fish espied the crab he unfolded and stretched out his horrible arms, drew it under his body and sucked out its life. It was a sickening sight. The specimens here are not very large, their bodies being about the size of a man's fist, and their arms would stretch perhaps two feet across. One of these devil fish, placed in one of the octagonal vases for better inspection, sometimes escapes at night through the meshes of the wire netting over the top, a space only two inches wide. This would seem to be impossible, but the fact that these fish have only one bone in their bodies—it is in the head—and that one about the size of a nickle, explains how it may happen. The night watchman in his midnight rounds stumbles over something on the floor, stoops and picks up—a devil fish! The sea water is pumped by a steam engine directly from the sea into reservoirs constructed under the floor of the building, and thence conveyed to the tanks through pottery pipes by the same means. These reservoirs are capable of holding 500,000 gallons of water, which quantity can be pumped from the sea in about ten hours. The water in the tanks is constantly aerated and kept in motion by a stream of compressed air, supplied to the bottom of tanks through glass or rubber tubes. The circulation thus afforded is found to be preferable to the more costly system of pumping adopted by other aquaria, as it allows each tank to be heated independently of its neighbors. The whole of the tanks, forty-one in number, are numbered consecutively, and at the side is given the popular names of the fish plants and zoophytes which each contains.

I cannot attempt to enumerate here all the various fish and marine plants that this great aquarium contains. Some large tanks are given up to the zoophytes, anemones, jelly fish, corals, sponges and the like, of which there are most beautiful specimens. I saw a lovely tree coral from the Red Sea, and some of the beds of anemones look like a rich pasture of flowers.

The most attractive and popular feature of the aquarium just now is the sea lions from California. They are two young ones, and were received a month ago, two others having died on the journey. They are about half-grown animals, and now seem to be very healthy. Excursion trains run down from London, bringing large crowds to see them. They are quite docile, even affectionate, towards their keeper when he enters their cage, uttering a sort of dog's bark of delight whenever he approaches them. They are fed upon herring several times each day. The department of crustacea, lobsters, prawn, shrimp, barnacles is very well represented, and the gentle ascidian, which, according to the evolutionists, was our early ancestor, is here to be seen struggling up—or down—into a member of Congress. The present curator of the aquarium, Mr. John Parnaby, formerly of the Trentdale fisheries in Cumberland County, is quite well known among our own fish culturists, having visited our country several years ago. I avail myself of this occasion to acknowledge his courtesy to me on my visit to the aquarium. He accompanied me throughout, showing me all its varied mechanism, and allowed some of the fish to be fed for my amusement. Mr. Parnaby is one of the best practical fish culturists in England. One of the most important facts connected with this enterprise is, that, as an investment of capital, it has proved a "good thing." Mark this, ye men of Wall Street, it pays splendidly. The Brighton Aquarium was chartered by a special act of Parliament in 1868, and, therefore, does not require the inevitable word "limited" to be tacked to its title—with a capital of half a million dollars. It has paid ten per cent. to its stockholders, and the stock now stands at fifty per cent. premium in the market. The success of this one—the first in this country—has been so great that others are springing up, notably the Westminster Aquarium in London, near the Abbey of that name, which is to be on a very magnificent scale.

When it can be demonstrated that Aquariums pay so handsomely as a financial scheme it is probable we shall soon see one in Central Park or Boston Common. The Brighton Company is enlarging and improving its property in many ways. The roof of the aquarium has hitherto been laid out into a beautiful garden, replete with flowers and plants of every description, admitted to be the most delightful marine promenade on this coast, it being in full view of the sea; it is now undergoing a change. A large portion is to be converted into a skating rink, not of real ice, but of asphalt, to be used with the parlor skates, a kind of amusement that is very fashionable in England just now. A large cafe is to be fitted up on a portion of the roof for summer use. These extensive improvements involve a large outlay and new stock has been issued to raise the money. This has been taken by the old stockholders, so that there is no question that such shows pay well in this country. The admission fee is one shilling. Shall we not soon see an aquarium like this in America?

PROTECTING BIRDS IN FRANCE.

THE schoolmasters of France have had a new duty assigned them, *i. e.* to teach the children to protect the birds. M. Waddington, the Minister of Public Instruction, has just addressed a circular to the Prefects of Departments in France, on the subject of the preservation of insect-eating birds. He calls attention to the alarming increase in the ravages committed by insects of late years, and to the fact that this may be chiefly ascribed to the wholesale slaughter of the birds which prey upon them. The Minister requests each Prefect to call the attention of every schoolmaster in his Department to the subject, and to instruct them to teach the boys under their care how to distinguish between insects which are useful in agricultural districts, and to encourage them to destroy the one class, and carefully protect the other.

The evil effect of the destruction of birds, either by trapping them, or by taking their nests, is to be clearly pointed out to all the children, and they are to be reminded that under an existing law, they, or their parents are liable to considerable pecuniary fines if detected in such offences. M. Waddington also suggests that when occasion offers, the parents themselves might be reminded of the ulterior loss to which they are subject by permitting such destruction, and he desires the encouragement by schoolmasters of societies for the protection of useful animals among their pupils, such as have already been established in some parts of France, with the best possible results. By this official communication, the claims of small birds to protection will at once be brought home to each individual schoolchild in France; and though "boys will be boys" there, as elsewhere, it may be hoped that such an appeal to their good sense, or their fears of punishment, will do much to terminate a system of destruction which is as often due to mere ignorance or thoughtlessness, as to their innate love of mischief.

HOW THE OYSTER BUILDS HIS SHELL.

MR. FRANK BUCKLAND, who conveys instruction more agreeably than any naturalist of the day, thus explains the manner in which the oyster builds his shell. The body of an oyster is a poor, weak thing, apparently incapable of doing anything at all. Yet what a marvelous house an oyster builds around his delicate frame. When an oyster is first born he is a very simple, delicate dot, as it were, and yet he is born with his two shells upon him. For some unknown reason he always fixes himself on his round shell, never by his flat shell, and being once fixed he begins to grow—but he only grows in summer. Inspect an oyster shell closely and it will be seen that it is marked with distinct lines. As the rings we observe in the section of the trunk of a tree denote years of growth, so do the markings of an oyster tell us how many years he has passed in his "bed" at the bottom of the sea.

Suppose the oyster under inspection was born June 15, 1870, he would go on growing up to the first line we see well marked; he would then stop for the winter. In summer, 1871, he would more than double his size. In 1872 he would again add to his house. In 1873 and 1874 he would again go on building, till he was dredged up in the middle of his work in 1875; so that he is plainly five and a half years old. The way in which an oyster grows his shell is a pretty sight. I have watched it frequently. The beard of an oyster is not only his breathing organ, *i. e.* his lungs, but also his feeding organ, by which he conveys his food to his complicated mouth with its four lips. When the warm, calm days of June come, the oyster opens his shell, and by means of his beard begins building an additional story to his house. This he does by depositing very small particles of carbonate of lime, till at last they form a substance as thin as silver paper, and exceedingly fragile. Then he adds more and more, till at last the new shell is as good as the old shell. When oysters are growing their shells they must be handled very carefully as the new growth of shell will cut like broken glass and a wound on the finger from an oyster shell is very often poisonous.

WAS IT INSTINCT OR REASON.

THE New England Homestead, tells us the following story and asks was it instinct or reason?" We would say a little of both added to what is seldom placed to the credit of the lower animals namely experience. But here is the story:

As a farmer in a neighboring town was getting in his hay, he noticed an unusual commotion among the swallows, which had built a long row of nests under the eaves of his barn. They appeared greatly excited flying rapidly about and filling the air with their cries of distress. As the load of hay upon which he was riding passed into the barn, he saw that a young swallow in a nest directly over the door had caught its neck in a crack between two shingles and was unable to liberate itself. He stopped his team and set the young bird free restoring it to the nest. Upon his return to the barn with his next load of hay noticing that the swallows were quiet, he examined the crack, and found they had filled it completely with mud, so that no matter how enterprising or how foolish the young swallow might be, he could not again endanger his life or the peace of that community by any experiments upon that crack.

Scientific and Useful.

CHEMISTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

THE following article, by D. D. Worthington in the Maryland Farmer, may interest our readers as showing the dawn of scientific agriculture. With chemistry itself but little over one hundred years old, and with its application to agriculture less than forty—when we consider all that has been accomplished in this brief period—surely the future is full of bright promises for him who shall cultivate the soil availing himself of all the lights which scientific progress shall work:

"Chemistry as a regular branch of natural science, is of comparatively recent origin, and can hardly be said to date from an earlier period than the last third of the past century. * * From the very nature of chemistry it was impossible that it should take a truly scientific form until the *balance* was applied to it," which was first done by Lavoisier a little more than one hundred years ago.

In the opinion of many of our ablest writers on the subject, there cannot be, without the application of chemistry, scientific agriculture; and hence, agricultural chemistry forms a prominent part of the regular course of instruction in all schools in Europe and America, founded for the purpose of promoting agricultural knowledge.

In the year 1840, Liebig first began to investigate the secrets of vegetable and animal life. He had at that time attained great fame as a scientific author and teacher, and was excelled by none except the illustrous Berzelius.

The chemical laboratory founded by him attracted to it students from every part of the globe. He was first to discover the intrinsic connection between the plants and the mineral ingredients of the soil and to work out the discovery into a system.

Many years before his day, however, it was observed that sulphate of lime and other minerals were placed on fields with good results, but no one ever imagined the *necessity* of returning in some form the mineral ingredients carried off by crops. Under Liebig's direction many experiments were made, and the result proved beyond doubt the close connection between vegetable life and the mineral ingredients of the soil.

The following is an abridged account of his experiments made near Giessen: —"During the years 1845 to 1849, I made a series of experiments on the action of the different mineral manures, on a piece of land of about ten English acres, which I purchased from the town of Giessen. Previous experiments, which I had made in my garden in the town, had yielded no result. Whatever I might add to the soil, I was unable to trace any perceptible effect from any of my mixtures. The only cause that I could discover for this apparent want of efficacy was the composition of the soil of my garden, which, by previous cultivation and manuring, had become so rich in mineral constituents, that the addition of a relatively insignificant quantity of these substances, became, when compared with amount already present in the soil, quite inappreciable. This induced me to purchase the land alluded to, a sand pit to the east of the town, which I found to surpass all others in the whole district in its nearly complete barrenness for the ordinary crops. I do not believe that in a whole year, there grew naturally on whole ten acres as much grass as would have sufficed for a single sheep. I filled with the natural soil a number of flower-pots, in which I sowed wheat, barley and red clover, and manured each with some single mineral manure. In none of these did the plants get beyond flowering.

"Messrs. Schwarzenberg & Co. were so obliging as to prepare for me, a quantity of mineral manure, which was spread uniformly on the land. With the exception of the stable manure used for two lots, no ammonical manure, and no animal substance was applied to any part of the field.

"It was indispensable that some years should elapse, before the constituents of the manure could be rendered soluble, and thus diffused throughout the soil. * * * The fertility of the soil steadily increased, so that in the fourth year, the lots excited the admiration and wonder of all who had known the original state and quality of the land. * * * I consider myself as perfectly justified in concluding, from my experiments, that on ordinary farms provided we give to the soil the proper physical quality and composition, there may be, by degrees, such an amount of ammonia collected, or condensed, as to be more than sufficient, with the available mineral constitutents present in the soil, to obtain the maximum of produce for each soil."

The cost of the experiment, however, was over $3,000, and of course was regarded with ridicule, by "practical" farmers, and was given as an example of the absurd results following scientific experiments.

The object was not immediate pecuniary gain, but knowledge; knowledge, which at some future day, would be profitable.

Fifty years ago, sulphuric acid was handled by the professional chemist only, and even by him with dread; now it is used on farms, on a large scale, by men only one degree above common laborers. Notwithstanding the vast strides made in the past half century, our real knowledge of chemistry in reference to agriculture is very limited, and the special branch of applied science offers a fine field for further investigation.

MAKING WAX FRUITS.

MANY of our lady readers will doubtless wish to try their hands at wax fruit making this summer and the following on the subject from the Journal of Chemistry may be of assistance:

Closely allied to wax flower making is that of wax fruit, some specimens of which are marvelous for the faithful imitation of nature. Here molding or casting is of more importance than in flower making, seeing that accuracy of form is the chief desideratum. Most kinds of imitative fruit are shaped in double molds, one for each half, and, if the fruit is irregular in its curvatures, a tripartite mold may be needed. Say that an orange is to be imitated in wax, a smooth, damp surface of sand is prepared, into which exactly one-half of a good orange is carefully pressed. A cordon or border of tin or stiff paper is built up around it about half an inch distance from the orange on all sides; plaster of Paris in a cream-like consistency is then poured into the cell thus made so as to fully cover the orange; when quite firm enough to handle, this plaster half-mold is taken up and the orange extracted; the orange is turned over in the sand and another half-mold is made in a similar way. Whether fruit is cast solid or hollow, depends mainly on the size; if large the mass would be heavy and much wax wasted by solid casting; in this case a core of some rough material is fixed in the middle of the mold, which gives a cavity to the middle of the fruit.

Soft kinds of fruit, such as plums, cherries and ripe pears, and some hard and unyielding fruits, require special management to extricate them from the half-mold without injury to the fruit on the one hand or to the mold on the other. Pomegranates, medlars, pine-apples, etc. require molds in more than two parts. Occasionally elastic molds of glue are found advantageous. Generally speaking, the color of the wax employed is that of the lightest parts of the fruit, the deeper tints being afterward laid on with brush and pencil. The chief pigments employed are such as burnt and raw umber and sienna, chrome yellow, red lead, Prussian blue, carmine, lake, etc., greens being produced by various mixtures of blue and yellow.

Certain small varieties of fruit, such as grapes and currants, are made of glass bulbs, carefully blown to the proper shape; these are fixed by wax to wire inserted into holes, and are then dipped into melted wax of the proper color, a very thin coating of which gives the proper kind of semi-transparency to the glass and at the same time a smoothness of surface not inaptly resembling that of the natural fruit. The fastening of the various fruits to imitative stems, leaves, leaflets, etc., is an affair of wires, silken thread, strips of green paper, white flock, arrow-root-paste, gum-mastic, varnish, with other simple materials and tools used in artificial flower-making.

Floricultural.

THE WILD GARDEN IN AMERICA.

By William Robinson, Founder and Editor of the London Garden.

You have done me the great honor to request that I should write an article for the RURAL. I do so with pleasure, the more so because I have for a long time past found much precious matter in its pages and an aim as regards taste and style in gardening with which I heartily sympathise. It has occurred to me, in thinking over subjects likely to interest your readers, that a short article on the "Wild Garden," from an American point of view, would be as useful as any, mainly because I know something about the subject. Probably many of your readers will ask, "What *is* a wild garden?" and with your permission I will try to explain it. When I came to London, about fifteen years ago, "flower-gardening" had but one mode of expression only, viz: "bedding out," and that in its harshest form, ribbons, borders and solid masses of flowers of one color and one hight. The old hardy flowers had been completely swept away; the various and once popular race of so-called florist's flowers were rarely or never seen. As a consequence, gardens were indescribably monotonous to any person with the faintest notion of the inexhaustible charms of the flower world. This kind of flower-gardening has the same relation to true art in a garden which the daubs of color on an Indian's robe have to the best pictures. In fighting some years later, in the various journals open to me, the battle of nature and variety against this terrible daubing, I was occasionally met by a scorn and a ridicule of the old-fashioned mixed border which the bedding plants had supplanted. Now, a well-arranged and varied mixed border may be made one of the most charming features in a garden; but to so form it requires some knowledge of plants, as well as good taste. Nevertheless, the objection was just as concerned the great majority of mixed borders; they were ragged, unmeaning, and even monotonous.

I next began to consider the various ways in which hardy plants might be grown wholly apart from either the region of the bedding plants or that of the mixed border, and the wild garden, or garden formed in the wilderness, grove, shrubbery, copse or rougher parts of the pleasure garden, was a pet idea which I afterward threw into the form of a book with this name. In nearly all our gardens we have a great deal of surface wholly wasted—spaces in the shrubbery frequently dug over in the winter, plantations, grass-walks, hedge-rows, rough banks, slopes, etc., which hitherto have grown only grass and weeds, and on these a rich garden flora may be grown. Hundreds of the more vigorous and handsome herbaceous plants that exist will thrive in these places and do further good in exterminating weeds and preventing the need of digging. Every kind of surface may be embellished by a person with any slight knowledge of hardy plants—ditch-banks, gravel-pits, old trees, hedge-banks, rough, grassy places that are never mown, copses, woods, lanes, rocky or stony ground.

The tendency of gardeners has always been to suppose that a plant from another country than their own was a subject requiring their attention, not thinking that the conditions that occur in such places as I mention are, as a rule, quite as favorable as those that obtain in nature throughout the great northern regions of Europe, Asia and America. Here your common plants of the woods of the Eastern States are considered rarieties and coddled accordingly to their destruction. It is quite a phenomenon to see a flower on the little Yellow Dog's Tooth Violet, which I remember seeing in quantity among the grass in your noble Central Park. When one has but a few specimens of a plant, it is best to carefully watch them. But I have no doubt whatever that an exposed and carefully dug garden border is the worst place to grow many wood and copse plants (I mean plants that grow naturally in such places), and that in many cultivated situations here the American Dog's Tooth Violet would flower quite as freely as at home. Your beautiful little Mayflower Epigæa repens we have never succeeded in growing in our best American nurseries, as they are called, which grow your Rhododendrons and other flowering shrubs so well. I have no doubt, however, that if a number of young plants of this were put out in a sandy fir-wood, under the shrubs and pines, as I have seen them in New Jersey, we should succeed at once. Your beautiful Trillium grandiflorum is usually seen here in an open border, and it is always beautiful; but I once saw a plant in a shady position in a shrubbery, in rich, moist soil, quite two feet through and two feet high!

I mention these things to show that the wild garden may even have advantages from the point of view of cultivation. The advantages and charms, however, are far more than I can allude to in this article. One, however, I must point out, and that is the facilities it affords us for enjoying representations of the vegetation of other countries. Here, for example, the poorest soil in the most neglected copse will grow a mixture of golden rods and asters, which will give us an aspect of vegetation everywhere seen in American woods in autumn. This to you may appear a very commonplace delight; but as we have nothing at all like it, it is welcome. Besides, we in this way get the golden rods and asters out of the garden proper, in which they used to overrun the choicer plants and where they did much to disgrace the varied border. So in like manner you may in New England or New Jersey make wild gardens of such of our English flowers as you fancy. For example, the now numerous and very handsome varieties of our Primroses, Polyanthuses and Oxlips would probably succeed better with you in moist places in woods or partially shaded positions than in the open garden; but I naturally have no experience on this point. There can be no doubt, however, in which position they would look best. But let us suppose for a moment that there was no other object for the wild garden in America than growing the many lovely wild flowers that inhabit the land, it is sufficient. Here some of your wildlings are the darlings of our rock-growers, though we are far from possessing all the bright flowers and graceful trailers that adorn the bogs and woods and heaths of Eastern America. It would be most wise, in case of possessing a little bit of wood or copse adorned naturally with the trailing Partridge Berry and the rosy Lady's Slipper) (*Cypripedium acaule*), which I noticed so plentiful in some places, to preserve the spot as a wild garden and add to it such home and foreign beauties as one could obtain.

It is impossible in this letter to speak of the various types of wild gardens, but the opportunity which the system offers for embellishing cool, shady places is one which should make it interesting to the people to whose language belongs the term "shade trees." Usually flower beds and borders are in the full sun—a very proper arrangement in a cool country. But even in our climate there are in the warm months many days in which the woodland shade is sought in preference to the open lawn and when the fully-exposed garden is deserted. Many plants, too, love the shade, and we only require to plant the most suitable of these to enjoy a charming wild garden. It need not be pointed out to Americans that a vast number of herbaceous plants naturally inhabit woods. In America, where shade is such a necessity, the wild garden in the shade will be the most refreshing retreat near the country house. In it many of the plants common in the gardens of all northern countries will flower in the spring. For the early summer months flowers of a somewhat later period will be selected, as, for example, the later Irises—lovely hardy flowers, not, I fancy, sufficiently appreciated in America as yet, the tall Asphodel A. ramosus, the Day Lilies (*Hemerocallis*), the Solomon's Seal and some of its allies, the Veronicas, tall Phloxes, the great Scarlet Poppy (*Papaver bracteatum*), Sympbytums in variety;—these are are all free-growing and admirable plants for the wild wood-garden. Mulleins (*Verbascum*), Salvias, Harebells (*Campanula*), Willow herbs, tall Lupines, Baptisias, Geraniums, Galegas, Euphorbias, Meadow Rues, Columbines, Delphiniums, and the latest wind flowers (*Anemone*). Later still and in the sunny days would come the various beautiful, everlasting peas, various fine plants of the Mallow tribe, the Phytolaccas, Statice latifolia and other vigorous kinds, the Globe Thistles, Acanthuses, the free-flowering Yuccas, such as Y. flaccida and Y. filamentosa, the common Artichoke, with its noble flowers; and in autumn, a host of the Golden Rods and Michaelmas Daisies.

These are so common in America that adding them to the wild garden would probably be considered a needless labor; but the substitution of the various really beautiful species of aster for those commonly found and of inferior beauty would well repay the "wild gardener," if I may use the term. In case it were thought desirable in making a wild garden in a shady position to grow plants that do not attain perfection in such positions, they might be grown in the more open parts at hand and sufficiently near to be seen in the picture. The effects afforded by the bolder types will suffice in many cases.—[Conclusion next week.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

Another Swindle.—A friend writes:—"I saw in Fulton Market last week a huge pile of bulbs marked "Spanish lillies five and ten cents each—will blossom in about three weeks"—in the midst of which was a splendid specimen of *Amarylis Johnsoni* labeled "Spanish Lily in bloom."

There are people so wanting in knowledge of plants as to be unable to detect this fraud at a glance, and I have no doubt many who invested their dimes are now waiting impatiently for the appearance of the splendid flower they picture in their imagination; and when the flower appears (if any do appear) we hope they will restrain their indignation as well as did the Pennsylvania farmer who in view of the devastation of his fields by the potato beetle, feelingly remarked: "the spirit almost moveth me to eject vehemently sundry phrases sometimes used by the profane when under undue excitement."

[Years ago when they were first offered in the streets, we purchased one of these Spanish Lillies. It bore a mean, narrow, white-petaled little flower not worth a cent. Many people have to learn by disappointment that it is best not to purchase plants (especially bulbs) thus offered. Hundreds if not thousands of these worthless things are sold every season, and if this lesson of disappointment can be learned for ten cents, perhaps it is a pity to expose the fraud.]

Phormiums.—In the transactions of the M. H. S. it is mentioned that *Phormium tenax var.* (New Zealand Flax) was exhibited in flower for the first time by Mr. SARGENT. A mat was shown made from the fiber of this plant by the native Maoris of New Zealand prepared and woven with no other apparatus but water and stone.

The chairman deemed the variegated form one of the most beautiful of all variegated plants.

Mr. HOVEY said the common green variety did not seem to be very generally known. It can be grown without protection as far north as Charleston, S. C., and also in Ireland where it was grown by a nurseryman for strings which were made by merely tearing the leaves into strips. Mr. H. has used it in this way himself in a half green state and found it very strong.

It might be grown all through the Southern States. It does not require the protection of a greenhouse, but may be kept over winter in a cellar or cold frame. The roots are fibrous, so that it need not be potted. It has a fine effect on the lawn, where it should be associated with yuccas, agaves and similar plants. Although the variegated form is very beautiful, it was a question whether, if all plants were variegated, the green form would not be considered quite as beautiful. It is novelty which gives value to many plants. The plain green *Phormium*, with its tall, erect, sword-like leaves, is a grand sub-tropical plant.

Mr. BUSWELL believed the public taste was running wild on variegation. While some plants, from the breadth of their foliage and distinctness of variegation, were objects of beauty, others were so variegated as to appear at a little distance as if they were dying.

Cold in its Relation to Hight.—According to the Belgique Horticole, the intensity of cold at night diminishes up to a certain hight. This phenomenon was tested by M. MARTINS by placing thermometers in the Botanic Garden, and at various hights on the cathedral tower. In clear nights the increased warmth at a higher elevation is the most perceptible; in dull nights there is little or no difference. The reason of the great injury inflicted on the lower branches of shrubs etc., is thus accounted for. [We had thought it was the lower portions of shrubs that suffered least. The ground becomes heated during sunshine and the thermometer after sundown would show a higher temperature near the ground. Later by radiation the ground will become cooler than the air—a circumstance to which is ascribed the deposition of dew and frost. Mr. MARTIN'S tower experiments were not needed to prove that cold air is heavier than warm air. But it is a question whether the mutual radiation of the earth and the lower branches of trees and shrubs does not preserve a higher temperature within the radius of action, than the difference in temperature between lower and higher strata of air where there are no shrubs or trees.]

A Disguised Plebeian.—As an instance of how we are prone to prize the most common plants if grown in a manner to disguise them, we give the following from an old periodical:—Many years ago I had my office in Chambers Street, and having one day a good, large potato, I put it in a pot filled with earth, and then placed it in the window. It soon started into growth and kept on until the vine reached the top of the window and ran across to the other side. Hundreds of people in the course of a week would stop and look at that vine; occasionally one would venture in and ask for a cutting of that handsome vine, and act which added greatly to my amusement; for the idea that any one should be so ignorant as not to know a potato vine was certainly an amusing commentary on the intelligence of our citizens. It was a fact, nevertheless, and but one person ever came near guessing the name of my potato and he called it a tomato vine.

Rhus Cotinus.—There is no shrub more pleasing during its flowering and fruiting period than the Smoke Tree. The clouds which almost envelop it at this time pass through several changes of color, and this varies in different plants and, we think, is influenced by different soils and situations. Side by side, the "smoke" of one tree is the most tender pink; in another gray: in another the freshest, softest green, shaded with deeper tints as the growth is more matured. The green changes to rose and the rose to green, and all finally to gray its last tint as it is ofttimes its first. It is but here and there a fruit, resembling a pouch like the Shepherd's Purse, is formed—and these are enshrouded in the light feathery bracts that constitute the "smoke" from which the tree derives its familiar and highly appropriate name. These bracts, which botanists regard as abortive flowers, exist in compound racemes a foot in length terminating every stem.

Prince's Pine is now blooming in shady woods—a pretty little plant with leaves as leathery as those of a Kalmia of a dark-green color and a cuneate-lanceolate shape. These are in whorls of four to six upon half-creeping stems. The flowers—half an inch in diameter—are whitish with prominent purple stamens. They bloom in umbels of four or more raised upon long, naked peduncles and drooping from slender pedicels. It is good for ferneries or Wardian cases or among low creeping things in shady parts of the garden.

Mr. Leo. Grindon says, speaking of hybridizing and crossing Rhododendrons:—It shows, in the most pleasing manner, how floriculture, the first and finest of the fine arts, the most benevolent and the most civilizing, literally helps to "make the whole world kin."

Will not the London Garden tell us something of the Japanese Maples?

Arboricultural.

TO THE MIDDLE-AGED.

LET the following words of A. J. DOWNING be acted upon by the middle-aged as well as the young during our Centennial year. The fall will give all procrastinators an opportunity:—We Americans are proverbially impatient of delay, and a few years in prospect appear an endless futurity. So much is this the feeling with many, that we verily believe there are hundreds of our country places which owe their bareness and destitution of foliage to the idea, so common, that it requires "an age" for forest trees to "grow up."

The middle-aged man hesitates about the good of planting what he imagines he shall never see arriving at maturity, and even many who are younger conceive that it requires more than an ordinary lifetime to rear a fine wood of planted trees. About two years since, we had the pleasure of visiting the seat of the late Mr. LOWELL, whom we found in a green old age, still enjoying, with the enthusiasm of youth, the pleasures of Horticulture and a country life. For the encouragement of those who are ever complaining of the tardy pace with which the growth of trees advances, we will here record that we accompanied Mr. L. through a belt of fine woods (skirting part of his residence), nearly half a mile in length, consisting of almost all our finer hardy trees, many of them apparently full grown, the whole of which had been planted by him when he was thirty-two years old. At that time, a solitary elm or two were almost the only trees upon his estate. We can hardly conceive a more rational source of pride or enjoyment, than to be able thus to walk, in the decline of years, beneath the shadow of umbrageous woods and groves, planted by our own hands, and whose growth has become almost identified with our own progress and existence.

ARBORICULTURAL NOTES.

Larch Seedlings.—The Lawson Seed and Nursery Co., in England, is said to have commenced the present season's trade with 30,000 000 one-year-old Larch Seedlings, which were nearly all sold the first of March. The seed from which these plants were raised was all gathered from native trees in the Tyrolese Mountains, and it is said to be far preferable to that saved from trees in Britain. We seldom find the Tyrolese or European Larch producing good, fertile seeds in this country. The cones are abundant, but are generally filled with immature, shrunken seed.

Borders for Flower-Beds.—Tile act as a dam and hold the water. Dwarf-box and other perennial plants harbor noxious insects, and are more or less difficult to keep clear of weeds. The best edging for flower-beds is a good, clean and well-kept sward of some of the finer grasses. If it is not practicable to cut flower-beds out of a grass-plat, then employ some low-growing perennial, herbaceous or annual plant for edging.

Domestic Economy.

METHODS OF COOKING.

BY J. C. BUCKMASTER, F. C. S.
[Lecturer to British Science and Art Department.]

Boiling.—In boiling a piece of meat the vessel should be large enough to allow the meat to be entirely surrounded and covered with water, and sufficient to last the whole time of cooking. If the lid be kept on, the meat will be cooked in less time and with less fuel. Clean, soft water, when it can be obtained, should always be used, and filtered if necessary. If you wish to secure all the juices and flavor of the meat it should be put into boiling water, and then stood aside to simmer at a temperature not exceeding 190 degrees. Quick boiling will harden the tenderest piece of meat. The scum, which is chiefly coagulated blood and the dirt of the saucepan, should be carefully removed. The addition of a little cold water four or five times, in quantities of not more than a gill, will assist the raising of the scum. The time necessary is about a quarter of an hour to twenty minutes for a pound. Fresh-killed meat requires rather longer time than meat which has been hung a few days. A piece of string or tape, tied around the meat with a loop, will enable you to remove it from the saucepan without sticking the fork into it, which is always to be avoided, because the juices and flavor then go into liquor.

Stewing is a gradual simmering. It may be done in a saucepan over the fire, or in a stone jar which will stand the fire, with a lid fitting steamtight. The common red jar is not to be recommended; it does not stand the heat, and the glaze, which is a composition of lead, often gives way in the presence of salt. Stone jars are preferable to metal saucepans; they can be easily cleaned and they retain the heat better. For stewing, select clean meat, free from blood. The quantity of water should be about a quart to a pound of meat; but this liquor will be very rich, and it can easily be reduced, if necessary, with warm water. Add about a teaspoonful of salt to a quart of water; I think the salt is best added towards the end of the cooking as the tendency is to harden the meat. Peas boiled with salt pork will remain hard throughout the cooking. Bring the water gradually to the boil, remove all the scum, and let the contents simmer till the flavor of the meat is absorbed in the liquor. Remove all the fat, which can be eaten with bread, or used for puddings or frying.

All and every kind of meat can be used for a stew. They may be used together or separately according to taste or convenience. The better the meat, the better the stew; but by careful stewing the coarsest and roughest parts will become soft, tender and easily digested; which would not be possible by any other cooking. All the gristly parts—feet, shanks, knuckles—should be stewed. There is no other way of cooking these parts to advantage. They require time, and this is often the difficulty and objection; but what is to prevent a woman, when the family are all sitting round the fire in the evening, thinking about to-morrow's dinner? The fire which warms the children will also cook their dinner. The great vice of most women, not only among the poor, but among the middle classes, is that they never think of cooking till they feel hungry. Trimmings of all kinds of meat can sometimes be purchased cheaply.

A woman who has but little to spend should watch her opportunities. Sheep's feet, the shank bones of legs of mutton, and pieces of bone and gristle are often thrown away as useless. We used formerly to send ox-tails to the tanyard, and even now how much goes there which could be turned into good food. Twopence or threepence spent in the purchase of bones—although containing little meat, they contain 30 per cent. of gelatine, and may be made to yield excellent food; large bones should be broken into small pieces, and allowed to simmer till every bone is white and dry. I have said nothing about flavoring, or thickening or adding vegetables. As a rule, all vegetables, except potatoes, may be cut into slices and cooked in the stew; or, if preferred they may be cooked separately, and added afterwards. Carrots, turnips, parsnips, swedes, cabbages, leeks, onions, celery, beet-root, vegetable marrow—any or all of these may be used in a stew.

Roasting.—I believe I am regarded as a sort of heretic on the question of roasting meat. My opinion is that the essential condition of good roasting is constant basting, and this the meat is not likely to have when shut up in an iron box; and what is not easily done is easily neglected. Make up your fire, not by shooting on a scuttle of coal, but laying on the coal with your hands, using an old glove. Arrange the lumps of coal so that the air passes freely into the fire. By this arrangement you may avoid stirring the fire, which should be done as little as possible. Just before putting down the meat (which may be suspended by a piece of worsted, if you have no other arrangements) clear up the fireplace, and throw to the back of the fire all the cinders and a little small coal slightly wetted. This will prevent waste of fuel, and throw the heat where you want it—in the front. If you have a meat screen, place it before the fire, so as to get moderately heated before the meat is hung to the fire. Heat reflected from bright metallic surfaces never dries or scorches the meat. Arrange the dripping-pan so that no ashes can fall into it, and just as far below the meat as will enable you to baste it easily. If you have a little dripping or stock, put about a gill into the dripping-pan for basting. Place a newspaper on the floor; this will keep your hearth clean.

There is a right and a wrong way of hanging a piece of meat to roast. The thickest part should hang a trifle below the center of the fire; and if this can be best done by hanging the shank of a leg of mutton downwards, do so. The time required for roasting will be modified by circumstances; and different kinds or qualities of meat require somewhat different treatment. The time usually allowed is from fifteen to twenty minutes for a pound. Before removing the meat from the fire, press the lean part with the thumb; if the meat yield easily, or if the meat steam to the fire, it is done. Never sprinkle salt over the meat till about a quarter of an hour before it is ready. Pour away the dripping before using the salt, because fat used for puddings and pies and frying is better without salt. You may dredge a little flour over it, and every part should be of a nice pale brown; if any part be scorched or blackened you have failed in your cooking. Pour off the dripping, leaving in the pan the pure gravy free from fat. Have a gill or half a pint of the stock or broth, or water, ready; pour it into the dripping-pan, rinse it round, strain it into the dish, and send it to table as quickly as possible. Some cooks tie a piece of dripping or butter paper on the meat.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Johnny Cake.—One pint of sour milk, a small teaspoonful of baking soda, a tablespoonful each of sugar and butter, a half teacup of Graham flour, and corn meal to make a stiff batter. Bake half an hour in a quick oven.

Wafers.—Two eggs thoroughly beaten, a small pinch of salt. Mix stiff with flour, knead well, roll very thin, boil in hot lard.

Mrs. Rustic.

A Correction.—Eds. Rural: In my recipe for chocolate marble cake, instead of taking one teacupful of the batter, you have it latter.—Mattie Hiatt, *Winchester, Ind.*

SELECTED RECIPES.

Sweet Bread.—Parboil the sweet breads and let them get cold, cut them in pieces about an inch thick; put on salt, pepper and sage; then dip them in the yolk of eggs and fine bread crumbs. Fry them a light brown in boiling lard.

To Cook Cold Meat.—Put the meat into a chopping bowl, cut it fine, season with salt, pepper and a little onion; add half a pint of drawn butter. Fill a tin bread pan two thirds full; cover over with mashed potatoes which has been salted and has milk in it; lay bits of butter over the top and set it into an oven for fifteen or twenty minutes.

Cocoanut Pudding.—Grate the meat of one cocoanut. Roll very fine, and sift through a coarse sieve, five Boston crackers; mix this with the grated cocoanut, add a pint and a half of boiled milk and three tablespoonfuls of butter, just softened enough to beat; or, instead, one pint of thick, sweet cream. Beat six eggs—yelks and whites separately; add a cup of sugar; beat all well together; and bake like a custard. Eaten hot or cold.

Summer Sandwiches.—Take half a pound of butter, three tablespoonfuls of mixed mustard, three tablespoonfuls of nice sweet oil, a little white or red pepper, a little salt and the yelk of an egg; braid those together very smoothly, and and let it cool. Chop very fine some tongue and ham. Cut the bread thin; spread over the meat, then the bread, and press it together very hard. Trim off the edges, that the sandwiches may be all one size.

Pan Dowdy.—Pare and slice tart apples enough to fill, about two inches deep, a flat earthen or tin pan. To three quarts of apple add one cup of sugar, one grated nutmeg, one cup of cold water, and butter the size of a walnut. Cover this with plain pie-crust (have the crust about an inch thick), and bake slowly two hours and a half; then cover and set where it will keep hot one hour. Serve with sugar and cream. When done, the apple will look red. Do not break the crust into the apple after baking, as by this means you spoil the pastry. If you wish to have it richer, cover with puff paste.

Hygienic Information.

CHRONIC INVALIDISM.

Society, as at present constituted, is the unfortunate possessor of a constituency which may be dubbed a chronic nuisance. We do not propose sitting in judgment upon every cry of pain and anguish, nor do we plead ignorance of the vast amount of suffering with which the world teems. Without pausing, however, to discuss the question as to whether this state of affairs is brought about by a special dispensation of providence, or due to a flagrant disregard of the laws of health, we desire to record our protest against a class of individuals who are continually harping upon their many ills, imaginings and suppositions, with an eloquent pertinacity which would put to shame the professional efforts of a life insurance solicitor.

Every ache and pain, no matter how insignificant or transitory receives due consideration in the shape of the better portion of the day spent in bed, supplemented by a careful and minute diagnosis of the case delivered to the first unfortunate with whom he comes in contact.

If it happens to be our humble self we make up our mind to one of two things—either there is a morbid craving for sympathy or they have nothing else to do. If the former we are constrained to be lenient to the extent of mourning over their short-sightedness; if the latter we exclaim in language perhaps more expressive than elegant, *for pity's sake shut up!* If such people were ever inclined to take advice we would suggest that they desist from their present occupation and turn their talents in a direction in which they would at least command respectful considerations. When a person asks from the fullness of his heart, how you do, don't abuse the kindness by pouring into his sympathetic (?) ear a flood of lamentations and complaint. It only gives occasion for the application of a rather dubious compliment, which by-the-way is far too current new-a-days—"What an intolerable bore that person is."

If you are really ill it is not necessary to be untruthful, but do try and be as cheerful as possible. It would be a matter of world-wide interest if a statistician could be found competent to compute just what proportion of human suffering was superinduced by fear and imagination; how much due to ignorance of the fundamental rules governing the care of the body, or how much from a willful disregard of them and from hereditary and other sources.

Certainly it must be assumed that for every effect there is an adequate cause, and we claim that a very large percentage of ill-health is directly traceable to a morbid condition of the mind. There may be a thousand and one causes for this anti-normal state, as for instance, care, excitement, anxiety, worry &c. but we honestly believe that the principal cause arises from this continual, never-ceasing harping upon ones bodily ailments. It does you no good; on the contrary it only serves to aggravate what little reality there may exist, working under all circumstances incalculable mischief. It certainly isn't edifying to your neighbor to be obliged to listen patiently to such a gloomy recital. The brain is the great head and seat of health. To no other organ do the sympathies of the body so readily respond, and it is only necessary therefore to remember this fact to fully appreciate the absolute necessity of keeping the head clear and the mind conditioned.

Take a reef in your sanctimonious countenance, indulge in a smile, if only semi-occasionally, and our word for it, you will find something better to do than whining over your ills and aches.

Ridgewood, N. J. F. J. W.

NUTRITIVE PROPERTIES OF FRUITS.

That fruits, as a rule, have but small nutritive value has long been known. Every school-boy finds out for himself how soon hunger returns after a most liberal indulgence in his neighbor's orchard. Recently, the well-known chemist, Dr. Fresenius, has carried out a series of analyses with a view of determining the proportion of anhydrous albumen contained in various common fruits. In the following list he gives the number of parts of the different fruits he analyzed that are required to supply one part of albumen in the form of nutriment for the body:—Cherries, 117; English rounct apples, 192; currants, 222; grapes, 120; blackberries, 196; gooseberries, 227; apricots, 120; queen mother plums, 200; strawberries, 161; common plums, 210: pears, 385; raspberries, 183; peaches, 210; and white dessert apples, 254. Hence it follows that very nearly 4 lb. of pears would be required to yield as much albumen as is contained in an egg of 50 grammes weight, the per-centage of dry albumen in the egg being but 14 or 15 per cent. According to Professor Voit, of Munich, a man in ordinary work requires every twenty-four hours for his nutrition as much albumen as is contained in eighteen eggs, *i. e.*, 118 grammes; so that if it were required to give him the necessary amount in the form of pears, no less than 72 lb. *per diem* must be eaten. Notwithstanding these startling disclosures, the value of fruit as an article of diet, is not to be despised. Not only is it most easily digestible in itself, but by reason of the acid which all its varieties contain (though oftentimes so disguised by sugary matter as to be imperceptible to the taste), it aids in the digestion of other substances which are less amenable to the action of an ordinary stomach. But those persons who intend becoming vegetarians—especially if they have a falling for pears, and expect to grow fat on them—should be sure that their stomach capacity is sufficiently large before they entirely forswear the use of fish, flesh and fowl.

Insurance Department.

THE TRAVELERS LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY.

While most insurance companies are content to make annual exhibits of their condition and affairs, and some perhaps would very much prefer to make none whatever, the Travelers persists in publishing its semi-annual statements with characteristic punctuality. Whether this is a recognition of the right of its policy holders and the public, or whether the company has always a record it takes pride in publishing so frequently, the fact remains that it has made out twenty-five of these half-yearly balance sheets, and each has been an improvement upon its predecessors.

All through these hard times, when new business has been so difficult that many companies make little or no efforts to obtain it, the Travelers has invariably shown at the end of each year an increase both of policies and insurance in force, as well as a continuous growth of assets. This time we take pleasure in chronicling an increase of a quarter of a million in assets and nearly fifty thousand in surplus, with a corresponding advance in every other direction. To do this at all is creditable; to have done this during the first six months of 1876, in spite of competition and all the unpropitious surroundings is, it appears to us, evidence of masterly management. One thing has made this achievment less difficult, the Travelers has done nothing to impair, and everything to strengthen public confidence in the ability and integrity of its management. Consequently, it has always done (not a great, nor brilliant, nor smashing, but) a good, steady and safe business, a business satisfactory to all parties. No doubt the definiteness and concise plainness of its policies have done much to promote permanency. Everybody can understand a policy that promises so much insurance for so much money, that disdains to tickle the fancy with ambiguous promises and dividends, and at a time when so many of these fallacies have been exposed, it is only natural that something permanent and definite should be preferred. The Travelers is one of the best of companies. There are not many that merit, in any particular, an unqualified and hearty indorsement; but the Travelers does, and has our best wishes.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Suicide and Life Insurance.—It is yet a mooted question, it appears, whether, whatever the conditions of the policy, the act of suicide invalidate the claim. In a recent case before the United States Circuit Court, at St. Paul, Minn., when the suicide was confessed, and the policy specially stipulated that the claims should be void in case the insured died by his own hand, sane or insane, the judges "thought that the question was of too much importance, in view of the general prevalence of life insurance, to be decided by any other than the court of final resort." The judges differed in their opinions whether the stipulations of the policy were or were not contrary to public policy. This is only one of a score of just such opinions so diverse in their character as to leave the matter only a more hopeless entanglement than ever. As a matter of equity, as well as public policy, it would appear that no party should, because of the act of another and irresponsible party, lose the indemnity purchased and paid for.

Panning out very Poorly.—The losses of the great fire in Chicago utterly destroyed nearly all the fire insurance companies of that city. The process of winding them up and paying, as far as their resources permitted, the claims against them, has been as tedious as the results have been unprofitable. Only three out of twelve companies involved paid as much as two per cent., and only one, the Republic, more than fifty per cent. And this comparatively handsome dividend was obtained chiefly from assessments levied upon stock holders who had paid in a portion of their stock, the remainder being represented by their notes, from which it appears that note assets, though often uncomfortable things for the stock holders, sometimes poor, as in this instance, are a sure reliance for the insured. They have one great advantage in that they cannot be readily wasted in imprudent management, though it may cost some time, trouble and expense to turn them into cash.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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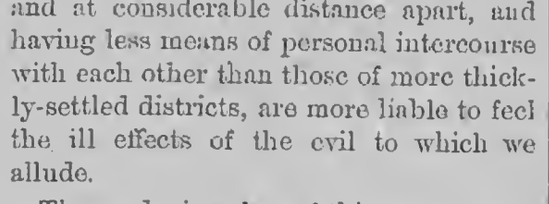

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1876.

POLITICAL DUTIES.

WHILE the RURAL NEW-YORKER is not the organ of any political party and has nothing to do with political contests in any shape or form, the present is deemed a good time to say a few words upon a subject which nearly concerns the head of each of the thousands of families at whose fireside the RURAL is a weekly visitor. And what we have to say applies equally to the people of any and every political stripe and belief and is specially addressed to the rural population, who, living as they do in comparative seclusion and at considerable distance apart, and having less means of personal intercourse with each other than those of more thickly-settled districts, are more liable to feel the ill effects of the evil to which we allude.

The producing class of this country represent its wealth and solidity and comprise a large majority of all the voters. Yet in the office-holding fraternity this class develops such a sorry minority that we are compelled, by the striking contrast, to ask ourselves if it has become an absolute necessity that Farmers should be represented in the various legislative bodies by their Lawyer or their Doctor—a class of men, than whom, as a rule, no one knows less of the real wants and actual needs of a rural constituency. But these sorts of men are the *talkers* of the world and generally put themselves forward to do the representing for the *workers* of the world. They become the law makers and law executors who consent to accept for their labor (?) a trifling compensation which comes out of the pockets of the law abiders. From a beginning in the representative business, they extend their trade till they become the PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN, than whom America cannot boast a more voracious, hungry, unconscionable and unprincipled animal. If this by chance should meet the eye of one of these animals he will probably laugh and grow fat over it, for no one better than he knows the facts of the case. If one of this breed of animals happens to be a candidate for office, inquire what his business is and you will be informed that he held office—and before that he was an office-holder and before that he was an employee of some branch of government. Is he in a pecuniary position to sustain the expenses of election and live while receiving such small pay? Oh! certainly. He is well off. How did he acquire his wealth? Well!—he has been a politician for years. Here you have the bottom facts. Here is the secret.

Much has been said about the terrible Pest, the Potato Beetle. Many poisons have been used for its extermination and numerous murderous plans have been concocted for its destruction; but if these people who are doing all this would only turn their attention to some social exterminator of the Professional Politician, they would soon find themselves amply compensated for their neglect of the potatoes by a greatly increased crop of reduced taxes and honest public improvements.

Much has also been written and said about overproduction being the cause of hard times. Now, there never has been in this country any such thing as overproduction from which such results could accrue except in cases of Grasshoppers, Potato Beetles and Politicians. The two first will be eradicated in course of time and the last you have now in your own hands.

During the present campaign, especially in case of town and county officers, industriously prepare your political Poison, in November next charge the polls in a body, and once and for all rid yourselves of this voracious pest, compared with whom the Western "Hopper" is a dyspeptic and the stripe-back potato chap is devoid of appetite. Once rid of this incubus it matters not to which party you belong, you *must* come out all right, in the end.

FAITH AND BELIEF.

DEAR RURAL:—In an article published a few weeks ago, you incidentally refer to the fact that the use of the words Faith and Belief, synonymously, has occasioned controversies and disputes. If it never had before, it has since the publication of the article, and some of the disputants will be very much pleased if you will point out the particular difference in their meaning. The writer is very sure that as they are used in such sermons and religious teachings as has come under her particular notice, it is difficult to understand how they differ.—J. A. W.

DESIRING always to grant all reasonable requests of our readers and thinking that others may be interested in the question, we are very glad to respond. But in connection we will say that the other words, Assent and Knowledge, are so often used with nearly the same meaning as Faith and Belief, we are inclined to give them a consideration in our answer.

As a simple illustration of what we mean we will suppose that a person coming into a house where you are sitting, makes the simple remark that it rains. Without thought or question you are impressed that it does rain, merely because he says so, and you *assent* to his remark. But immediately you notice his coat is wet; your reason comes to help and you say, This wetting is undoubtedly caused by rain, and you *believe* his statement to be true. Now, if you go to the door and see the water falling and feel it on your face or hands, you *know* it rains. But neither of these—Assent, Belief or Knowledge—is the result of or is in any way like *faith*. Should we try to reduce what we mean to a dictionary form of definition, we should put it more in form as follows:

ASSENT is the admission of the truth of a statement or proposition without subjecting it to any proof either of further evidence, reason or experiment.

BELIEF is confidence in the truth of a statement or proposition, after having examined the evidence so far as possible by the aid of Reason.

KNOWLEDGE.—When we have the testimony of our senses used in conjunction with our reason to attest the truth of evidence supporting a statement or proposition, we may be said to know it.

FAITH.—"The conviction of the truth of testimony" would be generally received as a brief and comprehensive definition of Faith as generally used; but as Assent, Belief and Knowledge may be all thus defined, it seems to be not satisfactorily concise. LOCKE says, "Faith is the assent to any proposition on the credit of the proposer." This may be used as well to define Assent and Belief and is not, it seems to us, sufficient.

FAITH is the conviction of the truth of a statement or proposition of which, from our nature, it is impossible for us to attain knowledge or to logically prove or disprove—as faith in the absolute; in the ultimate first cause of all things; in GOD.

In further explanation, let us quote from HERBERT SPENCER'S "First Principles of Philosophy," (p. 98,) where he says:—"Though the absolute cannot in any manner or degree be *known* in the strict sense of knowing, yet we find that its positive existence is a necessary datum of consciousness; that so long as consciousness continues, we cannot for an instant rid it of this datum, and that thus the *belief* which this datum constitutes has a higher warrant than any other whatever."

Whether one has faith in anything is conclusively shown in whether he is willing to govern his actions so that they shall be in accordance with his professions.

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Instructive Reading.—We expect to commence, next week, the publication of a series of articles treating on the Acquisition and Division of the Territory of the United States. So much of the history of America previous to the Revolution, will be given, in a condensed form, as is necessary for a complete understanding of the claims made by different Nations to American territory at that time. This will be followed by a recital of the causes that led to the erection of new States from the territory acquired since the Declaration of Independence, by treaty and purchase—and an account of the changes of boundaries and jurisdiction of some portions belonging to the Original thirteen States. In most of the histories with which our readers are familiar these changes are usually stated merely as facts without giving reasons therefor. The causes thereunto moving are often highly entertaining, and we err in judgment, if these articles are not pronounced by old and young alike, to be full of interest and instruction.

Neighbors Breeding a Nuisance.—The Colorado potato beetle is likely to cause some special legislation, inasmuch as there are scores of farmers who will plant potatoes and then not kill the beetles which feed and breed thereon. We have seen a number of instances of this kind the present season and as soon as the beetles have devoured the leaves of one field they immediately take to another, if it is in condition to supply them with food. Now it is a question which must sooner or later be decided in our courts, whether a man has the right to feed millions of this pest for a time, and then let them loose upon his neighbors' fields, who up to that time may have kept his potatoes clear of both beetles and larvae. A man has no more moral right to breed insects to prey upon his neighbors' possessions than he has wolves, bears, or other larger animals. If our laws do not afford the necessary protection then some should be made to meet the case in point, and that too very speedily.

That Dead Horse Again.—The old horse that was poisoned by licking Paris green from his legs while working among potato vines which had been sprinkled with this substance, must have many lives for we hear of him first in one town then in another, but it seems difficult to get any nearer than some neighbor who don't believe in poisoning the potato beetle, because *his* neighbor a half mile or mile away had a horse killed, &c.—the same old story over again. This horse reminds us of a certain boy who has been stung to death by the 17-year locust, (an insect which has no sting) for the last fifty years and still keeps on getting killed every time these big flies come around.

The Cost of Keeping an Herbarium.—The Massachusetts Horticultural Society have been discussing the question as to whether it was advisable for it to collect and keep an Herbarium for the use of its members, during which it came out that it cost something to keep a collection of dried plants as well as to procure one. The GRAY Herbarium at the Cambridge Botanic Garden requires the constant labor of three persons, one at least of whom must be a competent botanist, consequently calling for an annual outlay of several thousands of dollars. Cabinets of specimens of natural history are grand instructors, and always desirable on that account, both for individuals and societies; but the cost of keeping is frequently more than the making or price paid when purchasing. Our city young men often find out to their sorrow that the same is true in regard to keeping fast or even slow-going horses.

The Price of Pork and Corn.—One of our Western cotemporaries gives a table assuming to show what it costs to produce a pound of pork from corn at various prices per bushel. For instance, if corn is 50 cents a bushel pork costs 6 cents a pound. Now the question will arise upon what particular breed was this table of estimate founded, for there should be a great difference between the long-legged racers, so common in some parts of the country and the Berkshires or Poland Chinas, else wherein comes the merits claimed for the latter? The question for the farmer to decide, is what particular breed will give the greatest quantity and best quality of pork for a given quantity of food.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THE merits of the "Signal Service Barometer," made by H. W. POOL & Co., will be found fully set forth in our advertising columns.

THE Official Regulations issued by the Director-General which will govern the Live Stock Exhibition, will be found on another page. All exhibitors should read them carefully.

THE shipping of dressed meat from this country to Europe, bids fair to become a successful and money making enterprise. The people on both sides of the Atlantic are interested in this trade and we hope it will prove beneficial all around.

THE Pigeon fanciers are having some fine sport of late in racing with their finest birds. This is much better than Pigeon shooting, and we commend the "Carrier" to those who desire amusement, which need not result in cruelty to animals and certain debasement to the perpetrators.

THE statement which has been pretty extensively circulated that the Chinese employed at North Adams, Mass., have been dismissed and are to be sent back to China is untrue, and no doubt the story was started by some member of the Trades Union who would like to take their places.

VISITORS to the Centennial should not fail to call at the Kansas and Colorado State building, where there are many interesting things to be seen and none more so than the superb collection of natural curiosities collected by the indefatigable Naturalist, Mrs. M. A. MAXWELL of Boulder, Colorado.

EVANS' ADVERTISING HAND-BOOK, Centennial Edition, is the most gorgeously picturesque affair of its kind we have yet seen. After seeking for information in its pages, which will be found in a compact shape, it will be a cheerful diversion to take one more glance at that wonderful title page. T. C. EVANS, 252 Washington St., Boston, Mass., is responsible for this convenient Hand-Book.

PRACTICAL BOOKS upon subjects interesting to the Rural population, such as Architecture, Manuring, Dairy Husbandry, Live Stock, &c., should be a portion of the worldly possession of all our readers. We have just received from GEO. E. WOODWARD & CO. of 31 Broad street, New York, their new Catalogue, containing a full descriptive list of such works. All who are interested in them should send for the Catalogue.

IN the article descriptive of the Reaping machine of The Eagle Mowing and Reaping Machine Company of Albany, N. Y., published in last week's issue our typos (those scoundrels who always stultify Editors, you know,) made us speak of "telling" apparatus instead of the "tilting" apparatus. This is a *telling* joke on the scribbling department and justice to W. ANSON WOOD, the inventor of the Machine, compels us to *tell* about it, if we can do so without having a *till* with our printers.

DURING the last week in the RURAL Publication Office one day the air grew thick, darkness settled upon the earth like unto night and the signs portended some mighty convulsion of nature. To guess at the cause would have been useless so, waiting for some explanation, we were suddenly enlightened when we observed the appearance on our threshold of Jones of Binghamton—skates and all. The heaviness in the atmosphere was elucidated and we once more breathed freely. This latter sensation however, was considerably increased when we learned that he was to leave for home the same day. Verily, New York is a beautiful place to go away from at this season of the year.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

THIRTY-NINE years' experience in the manufacture of White Lead, warrants us in stating that our **"Phœnix" brand Pure White Lead** cannot fail to give entire satisfaction. Eckstein, Hills & Co., Cincinnati, O.

BABETTE.

ALONE; and the golden waters
Are rippling to the west,
And the chime from St. Roch's belfry
Dies on the ocean's breast,
And the dimpled waves are rocking
The fishers' barks to rest.

"Babette! Babette!" the mother calls,
Far up above the strand,
"Bring in your father's nets, my child,
And lend your little hand
To turn the wheel; nor linger there
So long upon the strand."

The sun is sinking in the sea
In crimson robes and gold;
A chilly breath the ocean stirs
And roughs her ringlets gold;
It feels to her like a farewell kiss
From lips now dead and cold.

The yellow light is on the wall,
The sea wall old and gray
With weed and lichen mantled all
In sober-hued array.
The children on the pier above
Are laughing in their play.

The quaint, old, red-roofed clustered town
Looks downward on the wave;
That sea from which her wistful eye
Some answer seems to crave;
That sea which took her love away
And gave her back a grave.

Oh, eyes that once so lightly laughed!
Oh, sad, sweet lips apart!
Once crushed with passionate kisses when
He held her on his heart.
That day she stood this wall beneath
To see her lover start;

To say again the last "God speed,"
And wave her 'kerchief white,
And smile in hope—ah, God, who raised
Those breakers wild and white,
And bade the tempest to arise
And rage that livelong night,

And smote the little quiv'ring bark,
And tore the planks in twain,
Deal gently with the broken heart
Of her who all in vain
Poured out her soul in fervent prayer,
Her love to see again.

No, not in vain. The morning dawned,
The sunshine glittered fair,
And bathed in light a battered corpse,
A gleam of golden hair—
God only heard the cry of her
Who found him lying there. [*Scotsman.*

Modes and Manners.

FASHION ITEMS.

NEW YORK, July 19, 1876.

CAMBRICS having once more become popular for street wear, it may not be amiss to give my readers a few hints as to the best way to do them up. In the first place cambrics—or, for that matter, any washable material—should not be washed in very warm water. Some of the best French cambrics will bear steaming, but as to ordinary goods, take Punch's advice to people about to marry, "Don't!" Do not rub soap directly upon the fabric, as it will be quite as likely to obliterate the color as the dirt. If two articles differing in color are put in the water together, the one containing the stronger dye will make the other colors appear mixed and indistinct. Cambrics should be rinsed in two waters after being removed from the suds, and dried quickly; but they should not be hung directly in the sun, as many of the colors worn this season are injured more in this way than by being wet. Starching should be done when the fabric is about half dry, as it will retain its stiffness better and iron more easily. By dissolving two ounces of gum arabic in a pint of boiling water and pouring a little of the preparation into the starch, any difficulty about ironing will be obviated.

The "pull-back" has certainly had its share of abuse, not unjustly, perhaps; but our modification of this foreign idea bears no resemblance to the extremes of the style across the sea. To such lengths, indeed, has it been carried, that the wearers now have their under-clothing "molded" to the form, and a fashionable promenade is quite as useful as regards the study of the human form divine, as the studio of a GEROME or a gallery of

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statuary. Let us hope the good sense of our countrywomen will forbid any such display on our streets.

I have selected for illustration a seasonable costume that verges on neither extreme and one that is very suitable for summer and fall wear. It is eminently appropriate for the street, making also a pretty traveling dress. The model is made of de Beige, being simply trimmed with the material and machine-stitching. The skirt corresponds to a pattern numbered 4413 (price 35c.) and hangs gracefully with most of its fullness falling at the back. The gores are sloped in such a way as to throw the drapery backward without the assistance of shirrs or tapes; while the back portion and side back gores are just long enough to sweep the ground gracefully. No decoration is used upon the skirt, though trimming could have been added without destroying its symmetry. The bottom is faced underneath for a finish and the skirt is lined, so that the shape will be well supported. The upper edges of the back breadth and side-back gores are gathered to the belt, but a plait turning backward over the side-front seam is laid before the remainder of the top is attached.

DRESS FOR SUMMER AND FALL WEAR.

The overskirt may be used for a walking-skirt if the drapery be omitted, as it is cut just like many of the short round skirts, with a front and side gore and a wide back breadth. The latter is gathered to the belt but the gores are joined plainly. A facing is sewed to the back edge of the side gore and a wide back breadth. The latter is gathered to the belt but the gores are joined plainly. A facing is sewed to the back edge of the side gore underneath about a quarter of a yard below the belt and is also sewed three times between the edges, so that four shirrs are formed. Tapes are passed through the shirrs and, after being drawn as closely as desired, are tied at the bottom of the facing so that they may be lengthened if required. Other tapes are tacked at the top and bottom of the facing and tied across to regulate the drapery. No decoration, except a piping below a row of stitching, is used to complete this overskirt, but that, as will be noticed, makes a very pretty finish.

The pattern for the overskirt is numbered 4397, which the RURAL will also furnish on receipt of 30c., the price. Cambric, lawn, organdie, etc., can also be made up in the pattern with pleasing results.

The sack is in one of those stylish shapes which are always certain to gain extended favor in fashionable circles. It has deep, square fronts that are perfectly loose and a half-fitting back which is quite short and jaunty. A dart takes the place of the usual under-arm seam, while the joining of the back and front is located so far toward the back that it seems to be a side-back seam. The front closes as far as the waist-line with buttonholes and buttons, while a Byron collar completes the neck and rolls over a lace-edged tie. The sleeves are in coat shape and are finished with pretty, round cuffs, the edges of which are decorated with piping and stitching to correspond with the rest of the garment. The pattern used in cutting the sack is No. 4398 (price 30c.) and is appropriate for any material, whether suit goods or cloakings.

The chip hat is a very jaunty affair, sitting well back on the head and flaring more at one side than at the other. It is faced underneath with velvet, while the outside is fully trimmed with loops of soft silk intermingled with roses.

Of late lingerie has assumed a very prominent part in fashions and justly, as nothing gives a prettier finish to the toilet than some one or other of these fichus, collarettes, bows or ties. Although insignificant in themselves, yet they seem to be the "*je ne sais pas quoi*," which gives a distinguished and stylish look to a costume; the last touch, here and there, that the painter gives his picture, not distinguishable by themselves, but quite the thing wanting to enhance the effect of the completed canvas. I have selected one of the prettiest, the "Cardinal Cape," which seems to be, this season, the general favorite. Description is almost superfluous, the illustration so admirably explains the article.

The pattern, No. 4099, is furnished in ten sizes (bust measure 28 to 46 inches) and costs 20c. A cape for a lady of medium size will require seven-eighths of a yard of goods 27 inches wide, or they can be made of lace, "bugles," or anything light and graceful that the individual taste of the wearer may suggest. Originality in fashion is always desirable, provided it does not tread on the grotesque.

In trimmings no decorations have so long remained popular as shirrings and knife-pleatings. They are seen almost as profusely this season as they were in the beginning of their popularity, the only apparent change being perhaps, a slight diminution in the quantity of shirrings used. Box-pleated flounces too, are appearing, and though they are but the revival of an old style they are welcomed as a change. Combination suits have box-pleated flounces edged with a band of the lighter shade both at the top and bottom, and set on the skirt above a pleated or shirred ruffle, or else one flounce laid in close box-pleats and not more than three inches wide. Sometimes two side-pleated flounces are used, each having a band of the contrasting shade let in above the hem; or a flounce, gathered so as to form a puff with a tiny standing ruffle for the heading, crosses the back breadths, while a side-pleating completes the remainder of the skirt trimming.

To return to the decorations used upon worsted over-dresses. Besides the deep facings mentioned a new worsted fringe appears. It has a netted heading at least two inches wide, to which worsted balls are attached by very short loops. Two widths were shown upon different suits, in a decided as well as an indefinite gray or dust color. It is a very stylish finish and is deservedly popular.

For white cambrics and piques, large quantities of Hamburg edgings are used, while for Swiss muslins Italian lace is almost exclusively adopted. Smyrna lace is also becoming popular for decorating outside garments of white or cream color, but it is too expensive to come into very common use. Plain lawns and organdies are trimmed with ruffles and pleatings of the same edged with Valenciennes lace; but the remaining patterns are all furnished with fancy woven borders, that are either pleated, gathered or sewed plainly to the lower edges of the over-garments and flounces, individual fancy directing the disposition in every instance. Many of the French prints and cambrics are provided with similar borderings, which form very pretty contrasts, especially in those dark-blues now so prevalent. There is one very noticeable feature about these fabrics in stripes and plaids, and that is the reverse side is frequently finished so that it may be utilized for such decorations as pipings, cordings, etc.

Unfortunately, I have again over-written the space allotted me and must, perforce, close this article abruptly. FROLIC.

The Story-Teller.

EGG HUNTING.

BY M. D. BRINE.

SLAP—DASH, down the dusty road comes TIM, the hotel chore boy, urging poor, lean, many-ribbed Dobbin to his utmost speed. The boy's short, fat legs are flying ungracefully from each side of the animal, and his loose jacket seems uncertain as to which portion of the dumpy figure it was first intended to fit. On they came, the horse and rider, and now Mrs. GREY drops her broom, forgets the dust upon the kitchen floor and rushes to the gate with wondering eyes.

"Seen anythin' of a little gal reound these parts?" yells TIM, excitedly.

"Yer ain't crazy, be ye, TIM BLAKE?" is her reply; "s'pose I hev; no cause fur you to scare honest folks in this way a dashin' down the road like all possessed."

"G'up! g'long!" is TIM'S only response, and Mrs. GREY chokes with the dust kicked up by the flying Dobbin's loosened shoes.

"Never did see the beat of that are boy!" mutters the farmer's wife, turning back to her broom and vigorously attacking the kitchen floor again.

Meanwhile TIM is out of sight and a farmer with two hungry little sons comes down from the meadow, expecting every minute to hear the welcome toot of the dinner-horn. And hark! there it sounds clearly on the soft air. And the three thus summoned quicken their steps to find the wife and mother awaiting them in the doorway.

"Guess what's happened, mother!" cry the two boys in a breath. "Little gal's lost up to the hotel. Awful time! every one's hunting her up, and—and—oh, luddy!"

Between the two, who interrupt each other during this narrative continually, Mrs. GREY comprehends the cause of TIM'S strange, mad gallop and puzzling question.

"La, now! that TIM BLAKE rid by here like mad a while ago and I larfed at him when he asked if a gal was round here. As if enny one didn't know I *never* had a darter—only boys, more's the pity!"

"Wall, you see, wife," says the farmer, dipping his face in the clear, cold water placed in the basin before him, "you see, me and the boys was a turning of the hay in the upper medder, when (another duck of his head) we see a crowd runnin' up the road yonder (rub, scrub with the coarse towel that made his bronzed face shine) JACK, he run over and asked the matter. (There, TOM, dump this water; give us a kiss now, mother) and found out that Mis' Sumbody or ruther up to the hotel—city lady, you know—had lost her young 'un—gal 'bout five year old or so. A lot of hulkin' thieves, gipsies, had been prowlin' round there, and folks said she'd mos' likely been took off by 'em. Anyhow, the lady's in an awful condition of scare and takin' on to kill. Now then for dinner! come boys."

Meanwhile at the hotel a half-frantic mother wept and bewailed the loss of her baby—the darling who had never before left her side, scarcely her arms. Everything pointed to the belief that the child had been stolen by gipsies, for one of the latter had been scoffed at and insulted by the servants that morning, and it was supposed the woman had thus revenged herself. So TIM BLAKE had been sent in one direction while others started

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in haste along other routes; but the day wore on and one by one the searchers returned without news. At three o'clock the stage came rumbling up and the driver, in answer to inquiries, said he "had seen a lot of thievin' vagabonds a good piece beyond the toll-bridge, but didn't see no child with them." The mother wept afresh at this discouraging news. "Where could her darling MARY be wandering? O! *who* would find her lost baby?" Thus she implored in piteous tones while the sympathizing crowd of boarders (and hangers on, as are always to be found at a hotel,) tried various ways to comfort her. But five o'clock came drear-

lly soon and still no news of little MAY, when TIM BLAKE at last returned and told his story as follows:

"Yer see, I flew like blazes arter them scoundrels—(here, you BOB HUNT, you just let my 'orse be, will you?) and by'n'by I seen 'em near MARSTON'S place, t'other side the tavern. (I say, stop that now, BOB, or I'll make ye!" kicking a soiled bare foot at the small-sized BOB WHITE, who was slyly tickling the mounted orator with a straw. "Aud I sez, sez I, 'Hold up, gyps!' and they sez, a turnin' round, 'Hold up yerself, yer scarecrow!' but TIM BLAKE can't be scared by such as them, no sir! And sez I back again, 'You just gin up that ere young 'un what don't belong to yer—so, now! And—and——"

"Then they licked you, TIM BLAKE, yer know they did, 'cause yer trousers is all torn—I see 'em," interrupted the hero of the straw, pointing to a portion of TIM'S clothing that betrayed his rough usage from the hands of the gypsies.

"Pooh!" cried TIM, growing red in the face. "I was sartain they hadn't no child and so I turned my 'orse home agin. Wait till I catch you alone, BOB! sure's I live and breathe, so now!" with which awful threat TIM slunk out of sight and poor Mrs. BLOSSOM was borne fainting to her room.

Another start was taken after the lost child and other mothers with pitying hearts and arms closely folded about their own safe little ones whispered softly together in an adjoining room.

"Come boys, fly about spry now. Get them eggs from the white hen's nest; heard her cackle more'n an hour ago. We'll get the market eggs in and father'll take 'em over airly in the morning. Fly now—off with you!"

Off they were in a trice, those two frolicsome boys, bare-footed, bare-headed, and brown as berries. Clickety-clack, down the road again and Mrs. GREY beheld another messenger from the hotel.

"Gal found?" screamed she.

"No, *marm!*" he called in reply, and was out of sight in a twinkling. The farmer's wife looked after her own sturdy little chaps as they chased each other to the barn and a tear glistened in her eyes as she thanked GOD for her treasures.

Cackle, cackle, cackle! How the old hens fly from one beam to another, angrily resenting the search after their property, while the young raiders clamber from hay-loft to hay-loft, filling their caps with the white treasures and pelting straw at each other gleefully.

And what is this that suddenly lifts itself from the far corner of the fragrant hay-loft and shakes itself from hay and straw? Only a little golden head, where curls are clustered thickly and tangled with hay. And a pair of blue eyes peep out from the gloom and shadows of that distant corner, silently wondering what is going on.

"What's that, TOM?" whispers JACK, grabbing his brother's pocket.

"Ain't yer 'fraid now, you coward?" sneers TOM; but nevertheless, he himself is backing down the ladder, JACK on top of him, and together they start for the house.

And thus presently was found the lost child. It was supposed that the gypsies had not dared carry her far away, but had drugged and placed her unobserved in Mrs. GREY'S loft and during all the search for her she was quietly sleeping there, guarded only by the staid old hens and in blissful ignorance of her mother's anxiety.

"A wonderful egg hunt!" exclaimed the farmer, when he carried in his own arms the little one to her mother. And JACK and TOM grew bashful suddenly because the pretty MAY BLOSSOM kissed them.

ONE OF THE JURORS.

RUTABAGA was discussing his customary morning meal of turnips, peanuts and water, when he received a portentous-looking envelope ornamented with variegated and picturesque seals. He had only that very morning paid his tax, killed a life insurance agent and hamstrung a book canvasser; therefore, he was at a loss to account for this intrusion on his rural solitude.

Being the descendant of a Swedish vegetarian, he never did anything inconsiderately or in a hurry—never pulled a subject up by the roots, as it were. Calling Mrs. R., he directed her to grasp the letter with the tongs and hold it over a slow fire until the seals melted, remarking that he would leave too many friends in a cold, uncharitable world if this missive should happen to be a dynamite trap of that impudent book agent. In any event, it would do no harm to be cautious and let Mrs. R. experiment. He had the best authority for considering woman as a helpmeet. As his fondest hopes were not realized and the package did *not* blow a certain person to immortal smash, he grasped the letter testily and learned that the committee, &c., had the honor, etc., to inform MARCUS CICERO RUTABAGA that he was and hereby is named a juror on the "Lightning Rod Competitive Trial Jury," and must at once repair to Philadelphia and await cloudy, threatening weather. The inclosed check would defray present expenses.

Bidding his wife an affectionate farewell, he was soon among a crowd of applicants for free passes on the grounds. Not moving briskly in the line the pert young clerk shouted, "Come! your turn-up, old man!" RUTABAGA acknowledged the compliment gracefully, saying he did have the honor to be descended from that branch of the vegetable kingdom, and receiving his pass, proceeded to the meeting of his Committee.

R. is not a linguist, but he grasped the hands of his foreign associates in five languages fluently and was at once on a peace footing. They went at once to business and visited the ground set apart for the trial. The day being bright and clear, it was decided not to have a trial but to examine into the merits of the various rods. Their catalogues enumerated only 1,219 firms exhibiting this sweet boon of an advanced civilization, so that their labors were comparatively easy considering the known habits of reticence of those engaged in this traffic.

RUTABAGA first examined the points of "The Concentric Twist and Patent Seducer" rod. The agent showed how the twist so confused the lightning once caught, that it ran into the ground thoroughly demoralized by its billion turnings and buried itself a hopeless, gibbering idiot, while their "patent seducer" points were never known to fail. Placed on churches, they had been known to materially increase the probabilities of success of prayers for rain. If Mr. R. would kindly give his address, he should be convinced of its merits by familiar observation. The agent looked as if the address was all that was needed to make his happiness complete. R. gave it and turned to an inspection of the exhibit of the "Concentrated Power and Motor Rod Co." This appliance was more specially adapted to manufacturing purposes. The electric fluid, by ingenious mechanism, was husbanded and made to drive machinery, run clocks, &c. If Mr. R. would kindly, &c., &c. He did, and just had time to investigate before lunch the "Nickel-Plated Defender and Utility Rod." "This rod was a platinum wire only," said the agent, "nickel-plated, as you see;" experience having demonstrated that the flash prefers, like death, a shining mark. The wire is run over each window, making a perfect burglar alarm; extended along fences, being the only sure cure for tramps; attached to beds as a remedial agent of unknown value for rheumatism; attached to infants and infirm people it will visibly affect them; and by extending the wire among the shrubbery in fanciful forms, the owner has a never-ending pyrotechnic display; the electricity constantly accumulating in a reservoir furnishes ozone, and completely changes the climate of malarial localities; it raises bread, houses, Cain, and is the only perfect remedy for sleeplessness. Would Mr. R. kindly?" &c., &c. He did, and in the afternoon went through the remaining list which, however, were of the usual kind, no noteworthy features.

RUTABAGA received a note from his wife saying the house was being beautifully ornamented; one side looked like rock candy, the other like a mass of plated ware, while the interior was as a spider's web for ingenious meshes. R. felt that he did not live in vain. No storms being reported, a requisition was made on the Signal Service and Probabilities instructed to have a first-class sirocco the following day promptly at 12 M.

We draw the veil; it being necessary only to add that the awards are in some confusion, a quorum of jurors not being present to render the report. The bodies of the Danish, German and French jurors were sent home in rosewood caskets at the expense of the Commission.

RUTABAGA'S illumination on the Fourth was the most dazzlingly brilliant for miles around. Mrs. R. is gathered to her fathers. The tramps are marching on to glory and R. has advertised for sealed proposals for a new barn, house and fences, to be built during his absence at the Hot Springs. He is writing a treatise on "Lightning Rods and their Uses," with practical illustrations.

TIMIDITY OF GREAT MEN.

TURENNE, being asked whether he was frightened at the beginning of a battle, said:—"Yes, I sometimes feel great nervous excitement, but there are many subaltern officers and soldiers who feel none whatever!" Conde was much agitated in his first campaign. "My body trembles," he said, "with the actions my soul meditates!" Frederic the Great, at Molwitz, gave but little promise of ever becoming a soldier. It is reported of one of the ablest friends of Washington that, in his first battle, his nerves quite gave way, and that he had to be held to his post by two soldiers; it was as if the hero's legs tried to carry him off in spite of himself. It is obvious to remark that distinguished men, whose nerves have thus completely broken down, may thank their stars for being distinguished. Much is forgiven them, for they did much service. Had they been common soldiers, they would have received as little indulgence for the automatic action of their feet as the poor receive for the malady of kleptomania.

There is, however, a special reason why allowances should be made for generals whose presence of mind has failed them. A private has only to shut his eyes to danger and to confront it with that *chien de courage* of which a great commander spoke with envious disparagement. But the skilled courage of a general is a virtue of a very different order. He must, as it were, have two selves. In deliberation, he must calculate the exact amount of danger to which he exposes his troops, and then, in action, the calculation must be erased from his mind. He must often say to himself, "Peace, peace," when he feels that there is no peace; and, by a sort of military faith he must fight as seeing a safety which is invisible.

It is true that Nelson exclaimed, "What is fear? I never saw it." But, at the time, Nelson was young; and against his remark may be set the saying of Charles V., when he saw written on a tombstone, "Here lies a man who never knew fear!" "Then," observed the Emperor, "he can never have snuffed a candle with his fingers;" or, as we should say, such a man can never have felt the first touch of the forceps of a dentist. Charles V., no doubt, spoke from a commander's point of view; and he may, like other commanders, have felt the difficulty of emulating the happy fearlessness of his soldiers.—*Fortnightly Review.*

The Literary World.

THE JULY MAGAZINES.

BEING a season of congratulations, we feel inclined to felicitate ourselves on our periodical literature. Compared with their prototypes, the English magazines, our monthlies have improved on the original method to such an extent that, really, we cannot understand how our English cousins can brook their inferiority. In matter, make-up and illustrations, we transcend all rivals.

Dr. HOLLAND appears to have views on the subject of magazines, and notwithstanding the current number of Scribner's Monthly in its twenty-four articles and departments, contains a more than usually interesting amount of matter, he, in conjunction with Messrs. SCRIBNER & Co., intend to paint the lily by issuing a "Midsummer Holiday Scribner," that shall comprise 160 pages profusely illustrated and be specially suitable as a specimen of the designers', engravers' and printers' arts. Not content with this effort, they propose extending the scheme, that it may embrace St. Nicholas also. These numbers will be in every respect noteworthy. The regular magazine reader will, of course, not fail to secure a copy. It will well repay casual readers to secure these special numbers.

HENRY JAMES, Jr.'s, new novel, "The American," grows in interest and the editor of the Atlantic, not content with this evidence of taste and enterprise, gives us in the July number a paper from the pen of C. D. WARNER. From "Joppa to Jerusalem," which throws new light on a segment of the Eastern question. An "Old Woman's Gossip," sustains its interest, while HOLMES' "How the Old Horse Won the Bet," is quite too good to be true. We should like to see "The State and the Railroads" issued in pamphlet form and very generally circulated.

Harpers' is the most tantalizing of magazines. The first number was undoubtedly good, all succeeding ones better, and we anxiously await an opportunity to chronicle the contents of the best. Alas! they continue in the comparative rut until it would seem improvement could no further go, when—presto! another month quite eclipses all former effort. The Magazine issued on the day next preceding the millennium will undoubtedly be the best; until that time they will be just stubborn enough to go on improving.

The Galaxy for June is, in one sense, a memorial number, containing, as it does, the late Gen. CUSTER'S article on "Battling with the Sioux on the Yellowstone." The now-familiar Centennary poem is, of course, the leading article. "July 4th, 1876," by J. M. WINCHELL, is brimfull of metrical patriotism. J. T. HEADLEY'S "WASHINGTON'S Headquarters at Newburgh," gives an interesting account of a locality around which cluster some of the most notable Revolutionary memories. ALBERT RHODES gives his experiences of "Life Among the Bedouins." Mr. RHODES is the *caviare* of magazine writers and always contributes articles that are a positive relish. "What Makes the Poet?" is a conundrum Mr. JNO. BURROUGHS answers. If he would tell why nine-tenths of our female population imagine there is a dearth of the article in newspaper offices, and straightway set about restoring a poetical equilibrium, it would assuage an ever-increasing wonder. RICHARD GRANT WHITE has "A Word with MAX MULLER" on the stupidity of attempting to introduce a phonetic spelling in place of our usual orthography. We are astonished to hear that Mr. WHITE has never heard of Bishop FRENCH'S "Study of Words," in which the same position is taken as that advanced by Mr. W. but, we think, more cleverly urged. No well-conducted magazine could exist, we presume, without "souvenirs" of some kind, and SHELDON & Co. have netted their "Man of Letters," who tells what he knows of defunct celebrities. All-in-all, the current number is very interesting.

"Wide-Awake" is more subdued than heretofore, the brilliant cover having been replaced by one of a more serious tone. Its contents are just as rich and varied as usual, which leads us to say that the youth of the present generation are more than fortunate in having two such journals as "Wide-Awake" and "St. Nicholas" to supply their mental pabulum.

Mr. FRANK MOORE is making a grand success of his "Record of the Year," which is not surprising with such a liberal firm as Messrs. CARLETON & Co. to carry out his ideas.

There is no good reason why every man should not have a private picture gallery when he can secure that superlative publication, the "Aldine," for the sum of $5 per year. To those who are confined to the city, it is a positive gratification to study the landscape in the last number. In fact, an "Aldine" and copies of Dr. KANE'S "Arctic Regions," would almost create an atmosphere that could bid defiance to the most ambitious flights of the thermometer.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM G. W. CARLETON & Co., New York:

Horse-Car Poetry. Reprint. [Paper.—pp. 14.] Price 5 cents.

GEO. R. LOCKWOOD, New York:

Bachelder's Popular Resorts and how to Reach Them. Illustrated. [Paper.—pp. 389.] Cloth, $1.50; Paper, 75 cents.

MCMORRIS & GANS, Philadelphia:

How to get Rich in California. [Paper.—pp. 137.]

TRADE REVIEW PUB. Co., 860 Broadway, N. Y.:

Music Trade Review.

Sabbath Reading.

PRAYER FOR HELP.

O HELP us, Lord! each hour of need
Thy heavenly succor give;
Help us in thought, and word, and deed,
Each hour on earth we live.

O help us when our spirits bleed
With contrite anguish sore;
And when our hearts are cold indeed,
O help us, Lord, the more.

O help us, through the prayer of faith,
More firmly to believe,
For still the more the servant hath,
The more shall he receive.

O help us, Saviour, from on high;
We know no help but thee;
O help us so to live and die,
As thine in heaven to be. [*Milman.*

SUBMISSION.

THERE is one little word that it takes us all our life to learn. We begin the task when, as little children, we first hear the word "must."

It is hard, even then, for the childish hands to leave untouched the coveted object; still, as the years pass on and on and we put aside our childhood, with its innocence and happiness, and take up the burden of life for ourselves, we find this first lesson of our youth yet unfinished. We have yet to learn the full meaning of that word, Obey. It was easier in childhood, because then we felt more the need of some higher power to direct our steps; while now, we so often let go the hand that leads us through the darkness of to-day, that we may come out in the light and glory of to-morrow, choosing rather to "Walk alone by night," finding at the end only the "outer darkness."

Again and again do we refuse to obey and then, when we find the folly of our own wisdom, we come back to the arms ever willing to receive us. When our lips have learned to frame the words and our hearts to feel, "Thy will, O GOD, not mine, be done;" then is life's greatest lesson learned. But oh, how many times before we finish that lesson will lips quiver and eyes grow dim! We are of "earth—earthy," and the heart will cry out when its cherished idols are broken; but

"The paths that have once been trod
Are never so hard for the feet;
And the lessons we once have learned
Are never so hard to repeat.
Though sorrowful tears must fall
And the heart to its depths be riven,
With storms and tempest we need them all
To render us fit for heaven."

RUTH MORE.

THE BOOK OF JOB.

I CALL that, apart from all theories about it, one of the grandest things ever written with pen. One feels, indeed, as if it were not Hebrew; such a noble universality, different from noble patriotism or sectarianism, reigns in it. A noble book; all men's book. It is our first, oldest statement of the never-ending problem—man's destiny and God's ways with him here in this earth. And all in such free, flaming outlines. Grand in its sincerity, in its simplicity, in its epic melody and repose of reconcilement. There is the seeing eye, the mildly-understanding heart; true eye-sight and vision for all things; natural things not less than spiritual. Sublime sorrow; sublime reconciliation; oldest choral melody as of the heart of mankind; so soft and great; as the summer midnight; as the world with its seas and stars. There is nothing written, I think, in the Bible, or out of it, of equal literary merit.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

WHOSO keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

WHATEVER withdraws us from the power of the senses, whatever makes the past, the distant or the future predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings.—*Dr. Johnson.*

To sin against knowledge is a much greater crime than an ignorant trespass; as the crime which is capable of no excuse is more heinous than the fault which admits of a tolerable plea.—*Justin Martyr.*

THE husks of emptiness rustle in every wind; the full corn in the ear holds up its golden fruit to the Lord of the harvest; a good man's faith is manifested by his labors, standing not in words but in the demonstration of the spirit.

GOD'S ways seem very slow, sometimes. What we would see done waits long for the doing and we grow impatient. But if we believe in God we should possess our souls in patience. In his own good time every thing will come right.

TRIBULATION may come as a flood into the church; we may be disappointed even in the brethren; but those who have the eye fixed on Christ "hold on their way;" the word which they have heard and which they keep is a strong link binding them to Him, which is more than all else to them.

CHRISTIANITY is the true citizenship of the world; and universal peace and the free exchange by all lands and tribes of their several peculiar goods and gifts, are possible only as all are grouped around and united by the cross of a common Redeemer and the hope of a common heaven.—*Wm. R. Williams.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

IN SILK ATTIRE.

THESE are my lady's parlors,—
These dim, delightful rooms,
Gorgeous with well-bred splendors
And soft, artistic glooms,
Warm with harmonious colors,
And pleasant with faint perfumes.

The curtains are marvels of broidery,
Wrought skillfully, stitch by stitch.
The carpets are woven roses,
Moss-like and deep and rich,
And the marble face of Clytie
Looks out from her draperied niche.

The flowers are hot-house darlings,
Exacting, dainty and rare,
Tuberoses, and rich camellias,
Stately and waxen fair—
More the work of the florist
Than of nature's earth and air.

Think of the brave, bright asters
Fringing the autumn leas,
Of the golden rod with tresses
Tossed by the wild fresh breeze,
Lifting their common faces
Among such flowers as these!

The rude plebeian daylight
Dares scarcely to venture near,
But tempered by careful shading,
And timid from bashful fear,
With soft half-tones and touches
Makes tenderest twilight here.

And the queen of all this splendor
Sits shrined in her luxuries,
Her hands, unsullied by labor,
Are folded in graceful ease,
Showing no harsher contact
Than the touch of ivory keys.

Hush! do you envy my lady
Her treasures from many lands,
Her costly and rich surroundings,
Her white wrists' jeweled bands,
The diamonds which star her bosom,
And glint on her waxen hands?

No—covet her golden leisure,
Her freedom from petty cares,
From the burden of small denials
Which many a spirit bears,—
But never her soft inaction,
Nor the robes and gems she wears.

The vain, unused existence
She wears like a flowery wreath
Were chains to a soul more noble;
It would fret and strive beneath
The burden of useless living
As a dagger wears its sheath.

[*Florence Percy.*

INTERCEPTED LETTERS.—II.

NEW YORK, ——— —, ——.

DEAR MARY:—Forgotten you, mavourneen! As well might you intimate that the gracious orb of light, otherwise the Sun, had exhausted his supply of illuminating material, and that it had become my pleasant duty to enlighten a gloomy planet by the iridescence of my luminous optic.

You need pay no attention to this little flight of rhetoric, dear; rush of words to the brain. Our family appears to have streaks of this kind, otherwise, as you know, we are harmless lunatics. It is a real shame I have not answered your lovely letters. I have started a million times at least, but where's the use?—the moment I sit down to write I want to say so many things, and the bother of it is I think of them all at once, and a whole paper mill doesn't seem sufficient to supply material for my burning thoughts, and——let's see, where was I? Oh! and the fact is, Rosebud, I just want to see you, and have a good, long talk.

Been to Philadelphia? You unsophisticated fraction of rural economy, do you imagine I could live ninety miles from that perfectly gorgeous show and not take a glimpse at it? Ah! MARY, that same Centennial is the modern apple that will prove the destruction (financial, I mean, of course) of tons of the 19th century EVES. Of all the pomological temptations I ever encountered this is, as that horrid, vulgar TOM says, the "king pin." I don't know what it means, but it's expressive, anyhow.

Oh! I forgot. I saw the Doctor there, too. He didn't ask about you, of course not. I say, Chickadee, if you don't hurry up and dispose of that young fellow, I'll surely put some stubby old antiquary on his track and have him impaled in a cabinet as the best specimen extant of a perambulating corkscrew. The way he can draw information out of one is past belief. But I fancy I have paid him. I told him you were, at last accounts, receiving sealed proposals by every *male*, and that if he liked I should be pleased to furnish him with blank forms and specifications. I flatter myself he went off with a bee in *his* bonnet! You see, dear, I can't marry you myself, and next to the subscriber I don't know a more eligible *man* than the Doctor. And you must marry, so I may have you near me. My! how we could wind the dear boy around our fingers, couldn't we? Gracious! how I am raving. I started to tell you about the Centennial.

Papa, you know, is just the dearest, best, kindest-hearted and altogether lovely parent a girl could wish, so I just put my arms about his neck and said that his little girl was longing to see some friends in Philadelphia, and that TOM might, just as well as not, take me——well! you know how it is yourself. That wretched TOM again! I declare, he is corrupting me dreadfully. He had the impudence to say I was learning to talk "slang" like an angel. However, to the Centennial we went, and we had a glorious time. I haven't seen anything but the Main Building. TOM says there's lots of other interesting things to look at—which assertion I must take on trust. My dear! I tell you solemnly, and I wish you to embalm the words in rose leaves and hand them down to your children's children, the heart of woman—I mean the mind—never reveled in such exquisite sights since—well, since away back in the Silurian Period. I don't know when that was, exactly; but never mind, you know what I mean. Such laces, such coral, and oh, those dear, funny Japanese vases! I did an awful thing. I have not slept since. I was standing in front of a case of exquisite lace in the French department, admiring a flounce. Such a flounce! I shan't describe it. I presume, alas! you'll see it one day. Well, there I stood, Argus-eyed, devouring its beauty, when who should come along but that hateful FLORA FLOYD. She's perfectly made of money, you know, and seeing me admiring the flounce said to the attendant, "How much is this trifle, please?" Trifle, forsooth! "Eight hundred dollar, madame, and eet ez vera sheap."

My blood was up, and I just said, coolly, "I'll take it." TOM gazed at me in open-eyed wonder; asked, under his breath, if I felt well, and was I in the enjoyment of my usual senses? I tossed my head, gave my address to the salesman and walked on. The FLOYD could just have eaten me alive. She fairly glared at me. I couldn't have resisted this chance to take her down, if I died for it. But perhaps I wasn't considerably frightened when I reflected on what I had done! What would papa say? By-and-by I stole back softly, and took a furtive glance at the case, trying to persuade myself it was all a dream, anyhow. No, only too real! There was the flounce, twice as large as life, and on it a great horrid card, saying "Sold to Miss —— of New York." My heart went down 29° and I wanted to go home. I can't write any more. The thought of that flounce unfits me for everything, but it *is* a relief to tell somebody what a goose I have made of myself.

Write and tell me you think I was perfectly justified in acting as I did. It will reassure your distracted BLANCHE.

OUT-DOOR EXERCISE FOR MOTHERS.]

CONSIDER it your religious duty to take out-door exercise without fail each day. Sweeping and trotting around the house will not take its place; the exhilaration of the open air and change of scene are absolutely necessary. O I know all about "Lucy's gown that is not finished," and "Tommy's jacket," and even "his" coat, his buttonless coat, thrown in your lap, as it to add the last ounce to the camel's back; still I say, Up and out! Is it not more important that your children, in their tender years, should not be left motherless, and that they should not be born to that feeble constitution of body which will blight every early blessing? Let buttons and strings go; you will take hold of them with more vigor and patience when you do return bright and refreshed; and if every stitch be not finished at just such a moment (and it is discouraging not to be able to systematize in your labor, even with your best efforts), still remember that "she who hath done what she could" is entitled to no mean praise. Your husband is undoubtedly "the best of men," though there are some malicious people who might say that that is not saying much for him. Still he would never, to the end of time, dream what you were dying of; so accept my advice, and take the matter in hand yourself.

DRESSING EXPENSIVELY AT $10 A YEAR.

THEY tell an anecdote at Washington of a certain Congressman who proclaimed that a rigid system of economy must be practiced, as the various failures here, there and everywhere had dwarfed the amount of his annual income.

"But what am I to do for party dresses?" asked the anxious wife.

"Leave that matter to me, my dear, and I will arrange it to your satisfaction," soothingly replied the legislator.

Calling in a reporter, he set before him a tempting array of edibles, with wine enough to send warmth through his veins and generous throbs to his heart-strings.

"Now, my friend," said the M. C., "I want to employ you to describe my wife's dresses this winter—or rather, she will describe them, and you can insert the descriptions in your various papers. Here's $10 for your trouble, and a seat at our table when you're hungry."

The result is that Mrs. M. C. appears clothed in such gorgeousness as was only known to Solomon in all his glory; yet her wardrobe is exceedingly circumscribed.

AN OLD-TIME GIRL.

WE saw her on Fourth street yesterday. She wore a neatly-fitting, plainly-cut and modestly-trimmed calico dress. Her modest face beamed with youth and beauty beneath the graceful folds of a gauzy green veil, and her rosy cheeks shone through it like a pair of large cherries. She didn't carry one-half of her dress in her hand high up to gratify the vulgar gaze of blackguards or to draw forth ludicrous and ungentlemanly remarks of corner loafers. Nor was she pinned back so tight she couldn't step, and her heels didn't kick her tiller as high as the small of her back. She didn't walk like a mule with a loose set of harness on and flies bad. No; she wasn't dressed in a style calculated to attract the attention of any but true gentlemen, and of these she commanded the utmost respect, and it was paid her by all who, in meeting admired her.—*Courier-Journal.*

Reading for the Young.

GOOD NIGHT!

WHAT do I see in baby's eyes?
So bright! so bright!
I see the blue, I see a spark,
I see a twinkle in the dark—
Now shut them tight.

What do I see in baby's eyes?
Shut tight—shut tight.
The blue is gone, the light is hid—
I'll lay a soft kiss on each lid.
Good night! good night!

[*Mrs. Dodge, in St. Nicholas.*

ABOUT SEVERAL THINGS.

MY DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:—I don't think either myself or Uncle MARK could sufficiently express the pleasure it gives us to hear from our young friends. And yet, at the same time, it is one of my greatest disappointments to begin a charming letter and after reading with increasing interest down to the last page, to learn that my young correspondent is so unfortunate as to have absolutely no name! I judge parents must be in the habit of omitting so important a ceremony as baptising their children, or the names have been such hard ones as to quite discourage the use of them by their offspring. I have recently heard of a young fellow, about 24 hours old, who will have to struggle through this life and be known as AMERICAN CENTENNIAL ADAMS. Now he will have a good excuse in suppressing all but the initials. I do seriously protest, however, that it is not fair to write letters to us, and round them off with a tantalizing JACK or MARY. I leave it to yourselves if I do not set a fair example by unblushingly printing *my* name, with the "handle" and all requisite appurtenances. Ought you to do less? Therefore, resolved, that the Rural Legion do henceforth write their full name and address on all letters for Uncle TRUE'S private satisfaction, *not* for publication. If you do not favor me in this particular, I shall consider you do not intend your letter for me, but that you have something strictly private to communicate to the waste basket and I will promptly turn it over to my capacious friend, striving not to violate private correspondence by glancing at its contents. There!

The Editor says next week he will publish some of the answers to the question about the Spider asked in RURAL of June 17, and at the same time designate who, in his opinion, has given the most comprehensive and appropriate answer. I have taken advantage of this confidence to say to you that there is but one week of grace and those wishing a very nice plant should lose no time in submitting *their* idea of what was the proper thing to have done. Last warning! Going—going—! You will all know how it has "gone!" next week.

I have been very sensibly touched by the often repeated aspiration of my neices and nephews that they might become journalists. All seem to think, though, that it would be the merest pastime for a camel to prance through the eye of a needle by comparison to the tribulations of a beginner in the field of letters. This is all wrong. We often lose the good we might attain by fearing to attempt. I well remember with what fear and trembling I contributed my first article to current literature and with what great awe I approached the big man whose name, Editor, appeared to endow him with superhuman attributes. I have since learned that the genus Editor is usually made of quite an ordinary quality of clay, not unfrequently cracked in the baking, and without the beautiful handle that adorns the article would be quite a common jug after all.

It is, however, our pleasant fortune to have a nook in the RURAL all to ourselves, and I propose with your gracious approbation and co-operation, to have a little magazine in which we shall be exclusively interested. My idea is to give the outlines of a subject which I shall expect you to work out and elaborate, using the best English at your command. I shall select and print the essay I deem the best, taking pains to point out its merits and defects, as a guide to future competitors. You can have no idea until you try, how improving to your mental faculties an exercise of this kind is. Now I trust all my bright young relations will meet me half way in this project, to the end that *our* column may be made positively the most enchanting department for young and old in the whole paper. The initial subject will be,

JOANNE OF ARC.

Most of you are familiar with the life of this brave young girl, who accomplished more and more heroically than most any woman mentioned in history. I want a brief sketch of her birth, early life, the events that led to her espousing the cause of her crownless monarch; the peril and vicissitudes of her subsequent career; how she accomplished her object; her reward; treatment at the hands of her captors; with a closing paragraph on the effect of her life and career on the moral and political fortunes of her country. I have no objections to your looking up facts, dates, etc., when your memory fails you in this regard; but I cannot tolerate for a moment anything that savors of copying. Have the language your own, and the comments must be the result of your reflections on what you may have gleaned from history. It only needs your hearty assistance to make our little scheme a brilliant success. That such it may be is the earnest wish of

UNCLE TRUE.

THE most laudable ambition is to be wise, and the greatest wisdom is to be good.

ORIGIN OF THE "HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT."

THERE is a poem at the end of the Book of Passover Services used by the Jews, says Clodd, in his "History of Religions," which some among them regard as a parable of the past and future of the Holy Land. It contains ten verses, each ending with the refrain, "A kid, a kid." After telling how a cat came and ate the kid, and a dog came and bit the cat, and a staff came and beat the dog, and so on, it concludes thus:

Then came the Holy One, blessed be he,
And killed the Angel of Death,
That killed the butcher,
That slew the ox,
That drank the water,
That quenched the fire,
That burned the staff,
That beat the dog,
That bit the cat,
That ate the kid,
That my father bought
For two pieces of money:
A kid, a kid.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Bay State Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—This is the first time I have attempted to write for a paper. I think it is the best of papers. We have taken the RURAL for five years. We take several others. I am a farmer's daughter. I live on a 75-acre farm. We keep nine cows and two horses. I can harness and drive them. I am not as smart as "WILD CRAB," to milk twelve cows. I have one sister; her name is LOTTA; she is seven years old. Our pets are three goats; we harness them in a cart and have fine drives with them. We have a cat and a dog; their names are Buff and Shef; two rabbits and two birds. I notice all the Cousins write their ages. I will write mine. I am thirteen years old. I go to school. I study Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, Writing and Music. I notice the Cousins do not say much about plants. I am very fond of flowers. I have quite a number of house plants. I hope to be one of the Cousins. —PANSY, *Brockton, Mass.*

From a Pennsylvania School-Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—I live on a farm four miles west of Erie City. I attend school and like it very much. Have any of the girls gotten up a Leap-year party? If they have, I would like to have them write and tell me how they prospered. We take the RURAL, and I think it is a very good paper. I look for the Boys' and Girls' Letters almost the first thing. I have not yet seen any letter from West Mill Creek, so three of my schoolmates and myself thought we would write, hoping, if accepted, to see them all in one paper. I close, wishing to be considered one of the RURAL cousins.—RILLA E. M., *West Mill Creek, Erie Co., Pa.*

The Puzzler.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

MY first is in cream but not in milk,
My second is in cotton but not in silk;
My third is in dome but not in spire,
My fourth is in ream but not in quire;
My fifth is in cold but not in warm,
My sixth is in snow but not in storm;
My seventh is in rose but not in thorn,
My eighth is in wheat but not in corn;
My ninth is in month but not in week,
My tenth is in modest but not in meek;
My eleventh is not in think but in guess,
My whole is what every one should possess.

☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

HIDDEN RIVERS.

1. I COME with a merry heart my friends to greet.
2. I love to stay in the house.
3. Give me air enough to breathe.
4. It sounded like a benizon. At least, to me.
5. I cannot pull up that weed. Can you?
6. He underwent the operation. How brave!
7. I have friends in Trenton.
8. Can you eat fat ham escalloped? 'Tis fine.
9. Napoleon died at St. Helena.
10. Did you ever see a Moor?
11. My baby plays in dust and dirt.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

1. A low, dwarf tree. 2. A cap, or other head covering. 3. A domestic animal. 4. A lake in the Eastern States. 5. An Oriental city. 6. A beautiful flower. 7. A flag or banner. 8. A kind of gun. The initials give the name of an American general, and the finals that of an English general of the Revolutionary War.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE.

My first is in Harry but not in Oscar,
My second is in Claude but not in Oliver;
My third is in George but not in Samuel,
My fourth is in Horace but not in Lemuel.
My whole is a boy's name.

☞ Answer in two weeks. MD.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—July 8.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—Be honest, understand your faults and nothing extenuate.

CENTRAL PUZZLE.—Winnipiscogee.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—Primals, John Quincy Adams; finals, Millard Fillmore.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In these matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

It is reported that native quicksilver has been discovered on the banks of the Mississippi, a few miles below New Orleans.

We have 80,000 miles of telegraph line and 74,000 miles of railroad.

The regulation American flag has thirty-eight stars now.

Oranges and pineapples are floating ashore at Long Branch, much to the delight of the summer visitors.

San Francisco complains of the immense number of unemployed clerks, salesmen and other men of that class now crowding the city, and besieging business men with their appeals for work.

We have 6,000,000 farmers, 1,200,000 trades people, 2,700,000 mechanics, 2,600,000 professional men, 43,000 clergymen, 40,000 lawyers, 126,822 teachers, 62,000 doctors, 2,000 actors, 5,200 journalists, 1,000,000 laborers and 750,000 domestic servants.

There are one hundred and sixty-two driving parks in the United States. The value of the property held by these associations is estimated at $5,000,000; and that of the horses entered in a single year at $15,000,000.

The San Antonio (Texas) Herald says the stage drivers between that city and Kingston are to be provided with umbrellas to hold over the stage robbers in case it rains, while they are robbing the mails and relieving passengers.

A Minneapolis (Minn.) woman recently found a little package that contained seventeen diamonds secreted in a desk that once belonged to her great-grandfather.

On Governor's Island there is a grave of a soldier who served his country forty years in the hope of achieving a lieutenancy, and died with his moderate ambition unappeased.

A squad of twenty policemen who had been sent to quell an anticipated violation of the peace at the new reservoir now building in Albany took refuge from a thunder-storm in a tool-shop on the 12th inst., when the building was struck by lightning and all were more or less affected, though none were fatally hurt.

The Rev. J. S. White has been fined for violating a Kentucky law which requires lecturers who charge for admission to take out licenses.

Judge Keith in Chambers, at Warrenton, Va., has appointed John S. Barbour receiver of the Virginia Midland Railroad, in the suit of Graham and others, entered at Alexandria on the 17th of June.

Mr. John Phelps, President of the National Cotton Exchange of America, in pursuance of resolution adopted by the convention last July, has issued a call for an International Cotton Exchange Convention, to meet at the Langham Hotel, London, on the 9th of August next. Nine delegates have been appointed to represent the American Cotton Exchange.

A special dispatch from Crisfield, Somerset Co., Md., dated the 11th inst., says: Yesterday morning, about six o'clock, Mr. W. C. Handy, residing on his farm near this town, was assaulted by four masked men, who forced him to open his safe, from which they took about $4,000, mostly in gold coin. They left, after gagging and binding Mr. Handy and his sister, who were the only occupants of the premises. Mr. Handy says he can identify one of the robbers. About three years ago Mr. Handy was robbed of $3,000 in a somewhat similar manner.

The employes at Castle Garden are engaged in removing the refuse created by the fire, and 25 laborers have cleared the space formerly devoted to the baggage-room. The steamship Oder brought 71 immigrants, who were cared for at the Garden over night. Mr. Jackson, the Superintendent and Treasurer, estimates the loss by the fire at between $40,000 and $50,000.

The agent at Duluth, of the line to which the propeller St. Clair belonged, gives the following as the list of the persons lost on that vessel whose bodies have been recovered: Judge Edward, Capt. Miller, and Neil Leitch of Marquette; David Lawrence and G. H. Beardsley of Ontonagon; Mr. Eaton, an explorer from Big Rapids, Mich.; L. D. Collins, S. Stewart and Alexander Shea of Duluth; Richard Shickeleton, clerk, of Detroit; two Frenchmen, firemen, belonging at Duluth, and one unrecognized passenger.

Gov. Tilden has commuted to imprisonment for life the sentence of Albert Fredenburgh, who was to have been hanged on Friday next for the murder of Orlo Davis in Gray, Herkimer Co., in June, 1875.

Ninety-nine replies from 57 counties in Georgia report the character of weather, July 1, extremely seasonable to the growing cotton crop—more so than the same period last year. No change is reported in acreage. Stands are represented as uncommonly good, the plant forming the blooming well. The condition, on the whole, is remarkably fine, and, with few exceptions, better than last year. The general tenor of the reports exhibit an unprecedently good prospect, the crop being free of grass and weeds, and the plant being vigorous. Twenty-six replies from 14 counties in Florida reports favorable weather, the stand good, and plant forming well. The prospect of a large yield is encouraging. No change is reported in acreage.

The bishops of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church have appointed Friday, Aug. 3, as a day of fasting and prayer.

Among the participants in the parade of the Roman Catholic Total Abstinence Societies in Philadelphia on the 4th of July was a deputation of Chippewa and Menomonee Indians, who came East in charge of their missionary, Father Chebel. Their home is in Northern Wisconsin, where they have attained a considerable degree of civilization. "During their stay," says The Philadelphia Ledger, "they conducted themselves with perfect propriety, and made a very favorable impression on all who came in contact with them."

The Teachers' Convention, State of New York, met at Albany, July 14. Several interesting papers were read and discussed.

At Freedom, Pa., a small town on the Ohio River, 24 miles below Pittsburgh, a rain storm occurred, July 13, which did great damage and was destructive of human life. Crow's Run, which empties into the Ohio at this point, was swollen into a river in size and the houses along its banks were flooded. A house owned and occupied by Thomas Lighthill was swept away, and his wife and four children were drowned.

The constant rains during the past few days in Middle and Southern Ohio have caused considerable damage. A waterspout near Londonville destroyed a number of wheat fields, carried off 100 head of sheep and washed out several hundred feet of railroad track, in some places to the depth of eight feet.

To the list of 22 asteroids discovered by him, Dr. C. H. F. Peters of Litchfield Observatory (Hamilton College) adds two variable stars. These stars are called variable because they vary periodically their brightness. In a letter to The Herald, dated July 12, he says: "The first one is in 15h. 14m. of right ascension, 19° 55′ south declination, now near its maximum of brightness (between seventh and eigth magnitude the 13th inst, of a ruby color); the second one, in 16h. 1m., right ascension, 21° 10′ south declination, is fast waning, only just visible now in our telescope, but was 10th magnitude in the month of May last. The whole number of stars now recognized as variables is about 150—almost exactly the same as the number of known asteroids."

The Indianapolis Journal says that the indications are that the rainy season in that section has closed and that they will now have a period of clear and dry weather. If the supposition prove true, the crops will not have suffered very materially from the rains of the past few weeks and abundant harvests may reasonably be expected. Wheat, which in the vicinity of Indianapolis is probably all cut and shocked, may have suffered some. Corn has only suffered, if at all, by the rank growth of weeds, from the impossibility of working it. The Journal is sanguine that if the rain cease for a while this can be remedied and that there will be nothing to hinder an immense crop of this important cereal. The smaller crops all promise well, as do all kinds of fruit, except peaches. So far from there being any cause for discouragement, says the Journal, the prospects are still good for an immense and remunerative return in nearly all branches of husbandry.

Seventeen days of dry, hot weather ended in the thunder-showers of the 11th inst. The violence of the previous night's storm was fairly proportioned to the long continued drouth. The torrents of rain have fallen upon earth so parched, that in all our parks the grass seems to have been actually burned away. Perhaps the most remarkable of the features of this "heated term" is the report from localities in New Jersey of fires in the soil itself. Very probably in these cases the surface earth has been very largely composed of vegetable material, and perhaps is land rescued from previous swamps. Old residents of the city will compare this year's heat with that of former years, and doubtless pronounce it inferior to the extraordinary summers of their recollection. They will recall the three hot weeks of June and July, 1835, when men's minds were also ablaze with the fever of speculation; the hot weather at the date of the Croton celebration, which made its promises of cool water the more welcome; the dry, scorching weeks of 1846, from the latter part of June to the 9th of August; the three months of hot weather in 1856, when all the grass disappeared and there was almost a famine in feedstuffs; the summer of 1864, when for five weeks not a drop of rain fell, it is said, in the whole State of New York. Other years might be instanced of briefer but equally excessive heat; and although 1876 will go on record as among the worst in respect to sunstroke mortality, its 154 deaths in three days do not surpass the fatality of the hottest of recent summers, 1872.

It is proposed to modify the tax on tobacco.

The following is the full text of the joint resolution for the issue of silver coin, which has passed both Houses of Congress and now goes to the President for signature:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury under such limits and regulations as will best secure a just and fair distribution of the same through the country, may issue the silver coin at any time in the Treasury to an amount not exceeding $10,000,000 in exchange for an equal amount of legal-tender notes, and notes so received in exchange shall be kept as a special fund separate and apart from all other money in the Treasury, and be issued only upon the retirement and destruction of a like sum of fractional currency received at the Treasury in payment of dues to the United States, and said fractional currency, when so substituted shall be destroyed and held as part of the sinking fund, as provided in the act approved April 17, 1876.

SEC. 2. That the trade dollar shall not hereafter be a legal tender, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to limit from time to time the coinage thereof to such an amount as he may deem sufficient to meet the export demand for the same.

SEC. 3. That in addition to the amount of subsidiary silver coin authorized by law to be issued in redemption of the fractional currency, it shall be lawful to manufacture at the several mints, and issue through the Treasury and its several offices such coin to an amount of subsidiary silver coin and of fractional currency out standing, shall in the aggregate not exceed at any time, $50,000,000.

SEC. 4. That the silver bullion required for the purposes of this act shall be purchased from time to time at the market rate by the Secretary of the Treasury with any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, but no purchase of bullion shall be made under this resolution when the market price shall be such as will not admit of the coinage and issue as herein provided without loss to the Treasury; and any gain or seigniorage arising from this coinage shall be accounted for and paid into the Treasury, as provided under existing laws relative to subsidiary coinage, provided that the amount of money at any one time invested in such silver bullion, exclusive of such resulting coin, shall not exceed $200,000.

Six companies of the Sixth Infantry, under Gen. Miles, passed through Atchison, Kansas, on their way to the Sioux country.

James L. Wilson, Treasurer of the District of Columbia, left Washington two weeks ago, and the District Commissioners have discovered by an examination of his books that he has embezzled nearly $7,000.

The trial of Munley, at Pottsville, for the murder of mining boss Sanger has closed, the jury rendering a verdict of murder in the first degree.

At Ithaca, N. Y., Theodore Deschner killed Andrew Smith for being too intimate with Mrs. Deschner. The murderer gave himself up to the police.

In Pittsburg, W. C. McDonald went to the house of his father-in-law, where his wife had been staying for some time, and after some angry words drew a revolver and shot her and himself. Both are believed to be fatally wounded.

A fire in St. Louis has destroyed the iron foundry of Shickle, Harrison & Co., and the greater portion of the nut and bolt factory of H. E. Moran & Bro. The aggregate loss is $55,000.

Three warehouses, 3,000 empty barrels and eight cars loaded with refined oil at the Cosmos Oil Refinery, near Pittsburg, were burned. Loss $25,000.

The steamer Champion was burned on Lake St. Clair. Loss $25,000

Mr. Rogers, General Sewell (the successor of Yaryan), and ex-Congressman Kellogg of Connecticut, are mentioned in connection with the succession to Mr. Pratt.

The President nominated James S. Delano of Illinois, to be Deputy Second Comptroller of the Treasury; John Kelly, Collector of Customs at Willamette, Oregon; Thomas B. Shannon, Collector at San Francisco; Charles A. Santmeyer, Appraiser of Merchandise at Cincinnati; Thomas W. Bennett, Governor of Idaho and William H. Howard, Surveyor-General for Arizona.

General Sherman and Secretary Cameron had an interview with the President in relation to the Indian war.

An unusually large number of Congressmen are ill, some of them seriously, from the effects of the heat.

Henry Watterson accepts the Congressional nomination almost unanimously offered him by the Democrats of the Louisville District. It is understood that the Republicans will nominate ex-Secretary Bristow against him.

Monroe Heath was elected Mayor of Chicago by 8,250 majority.

The Emperor and Empress of Brazil sailed for Europe in the steamship Russia.

A large meeting in aid of the Old South Church fund was held in the hall of the Merchants' Exchange, at Boston. Addresses were made by Edward Everett Hale and Wendell Phillips.

The members of the Hebrew Convention, in session at Washington, paid their respects to the President. Mr. Simon Wolf introduced them as "citizens of the United States engaged in the good cause of education—a cause in which the President was known to take great interest." The President in reply, complimented them and their convention and wished them success.

In the U. S. Senate, the House bill to amend the Pacific Railroad acts was read by title, and, after some discussion as to the propriety of referring it to the Committee on Judiciary or the Committee on Railroads, went over at the expiration of the morning hour. Mr. Hamlin presented the credentials of James G. Blaine, appointed U. S. Senator from Maine, in place of Lot M. Morrill, resigned, and they were placed on file. Mr. Thurman, from the Judiciary Committee, made a written report in reply to a resolution of the Senate of January last directing an inquiry into matters relating to the Pacific Railroads. The report was accompanied by a bill to amend the Pacific Railroad acts. The bill was placed on the calendar and the report ordered to be printed. Mr. Logan moved to take up the House bill for the equalization of bounties, so that it would be the unfinished business for the next morning hour, but the Chair decided that it could not so come up, but must be taken up by a vote each day. Mr. Logan then moved to make the bill a special order, but objection was made by several Senators. The joint resolution authorizing the President to accept the services of volunteers against the Indians, was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. The Senate then went into session as a Court of Impeachment. When legislative business was resumed, the Post Route bill was taken up and made the unfinished business for the next day. Mr. Windom, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the bill providing for the construction of the Washington Monument, and it was placed on the calendar.

In the House a resolution in the Louisiana contested case, reported by the Committee on Elections, was adopted, declaring Mr. Darrall, the sitting member, entitled to his seat. The bill for the sale of Fort Kearney reservation in Nebraska was passed. Mr. Hoskins of New York introduced a bill to prevent the overloading of vessels carrying freight and passengers. The bill opening the Black Hills country to settlement was recommitted. Mr. Thornburgh, from the Appropriation Committee, reported a bill appropriating $200,000 for the establishment of military posts on the Mussel Shell and Yellowstone rivers, and it was passed. The bill regulating promotions of commodores on the retired list of the Navy was also passed. Mr. Hewitt of New York, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported back the resolution censuring Gen. Schenck for his connection with the Emma Mine business while Minister to England. It was adopted without a division. The Speaker presented a communication from the Argentine Congress, congratulating the Congress of the United States on the Centennial Anniversary of American Independence. The bill for the protection of the Rio Grande was debated in Committee of the Whole. The Senate amendment to the bill in relation to leave of absence of army officers was concurred in.

The conference committee on the Sundry Civil bill have settled all but twenty-one of the points of difference. There were 214 points on which the Senate and House disagreed.

The Senate confirmed James N. Tyner as Postmaster-General, to succeed Mr. Jewell.

The destruction of Castle Garden has caused the narration of many reminiscences of the ancient building and of old New York. Originally built in conjunction with a battery by the Dutch settlers as a work of defence against the British and other foes, it was captured by the British and was given the name of Fort James. The Dutch having regained possession of it, the structure was named Fort William Hendrick. Upon the dethronement of the Stuart dynasty by the English, the residents of the embryo metropolis seized the fort, and for two years it was an object of interest in the war which agitated the people here and abroad. Gov. Fletcher made the fort the headquarters of the desperate men who preyed on the commerce of the New World. Bellamont's rule later redeemed it from the odium of the Fletcher administration. When John Montgomery became Governor, the fort took the name of Fort Clinton. Governors and officials occupied it, until during the Revolution it was used by Lord Howe, the commander of the British forces. After the Revolution it was hoped that New York would be the seat of the Presidential mansion, and with the purpose of erecting a structure worthy of the new nation, the old Governor's mansion at the fort was destroyed. The hopes of those interested in the subject were frustrated, however, as the national capital was placed in the District of Columbia. The stockades, outer defences, etc., were leveled, and the Castle became a fortification merely in name.

The Consul-General of Italy has sent to the Treasury Department, on behalf of the Italian Society for salvage, $408 in gold, to be distributed to the families of the life saving crew on Curri-

tuck Beach, North Carolina, who lost their lives in March last while attempting to save the crew of the Italian bark Nuova Ottavia.

The citizens of Monroe, Mich., (Gen. Custer's native city,) have taken steps toward erecting a magnificent monument to the memory of that brave officer and his comrades.

The Central and Pennsylvania roads have notified the Postmaster-General that the Fast Mail Train will be discontinued unless the remuneration is increased.

The 21st annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and Canada met in Toronto. About 500 delegates were present.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The Spanish Government is trying to raise money by giving the customs receipts of Cuba as security. Forty million dollars are needed, and it is expected that Cuba will yield one-fifth of that sum, while the remainder will be subscribed in Spain. The Havana merchants have made up $3,000,000. The planters are to meet and see what they can do. The scheme is considered a forced loan, and is rendered necessary by the desperate state of the Cuban finances.

The Servian prospects are improving. Advices from Belgrade state that the Turks have withdrawn from the right bank of the Drina, with the view of defending Novi-Bazar, which is threatened by General Zack. The heroic defense of Saltschar has been succeeded by the retreat of the Turks to Widdin, where they have been followed by the Servian skirmishers, who have occupied several villages, the people having flocked to their standard. Attention is, however, concentrated mainly on the Servian army, which is advancing on the Turkish forces at Nissa. It is reported in Paris that the General is hemmed in by the Turks but this is very improbable.

Sidney Smith made an eloquent plea against locking passengers into railway cars in 1842—thirty-four years ago—and still the locking-in evil continues, and the English cars are more crowded and uncomfortable than ever.

Official dispatches announce that the Turks have withdrawn from the right bank of the river Drina. The Servian army of the Timok has occupied several villages, and reconnoitered the country to Widdin, to which place the Turks have retreated. The population of the district have risen and joined the Morava division of the Servian army.

The Servians under Gen. Benifan fought a superior force of Turks seven hours on the 7th inst. at Kruschevas. The Turkish loss was considerable. The Servians lost slightly, captured some flags, a quantity of arms, and occupied several villages.

The English ironclad "Thunderer," one of the most formidable in the Navy, exploded a boiler. The following is the latest from Portsmouth in regard to the disaster:—Twenty-five of the crew are dead. The bodies are shockingly mutilated, the flesh being stripped from the limbs by the escaping steam. The forward stokehole, where the explosion occurred, is divided from the after stokehole by water-tight bulk-heads. The stokers in the latter were protected from the fragments caused by the explosion, but were literally boiled alive by the steam.

The following telegrams will give an idea of the Turkish situation up to the time of writing:

From Semlin:—"The Servian Gen. Tchernayeff is near Nisch. The Turkish Gen. Abdul Kerim has made Widdin his base of operations and threatens Gen. Tchernayeff's rear. The latter's headquarters have been moved back to Agodina."

From Constantinople:—"The Visehigrad Division in Bosnia crossed the Servain frontier yesterday and routed the Servians near the town of Xonterdeman, which was captured and burned."

From Ragusa:—"The insurgent Gen. Peko Paulovitch defeated the Turks near Klek. The Turks lost 150 killed and 15 taken prisoners. The insurgent loss was small."

From Belgrade:—"The Servian Gen. Leschjanin energetically renewed the attack upon Osman Pasha, compelling him to abandon his intrenched positions before Saltschar."

From London:—"Earl Derby received a deputation on the Eastern question, consisting of 40 members of Parliament and 571 gentlemen from all parts of the kingdom. The Right Hon. John Bright presented a memorial in favor of strict neutrality except where it may be possible to interpose friendly offices to mitigate the horrors and to hasten the close of the conflict."

The Turks attacked the Servian camp at Sohtchanitcha, near Novi Bazar. The Servians were defeated and fled.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, July 15, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	84,372	Molasses	—
Whisky	1,699	Rice, bbls	352
Corn meal, bbls	5,500	Cut meats, pkgs	7,908
Corn meal, bags	350	Lard, pkgs	4,210
Wheat, bush	1,185,390	Tobacco, hhds	4,732
Corn, bush	1,031,504	do. cases	3,400
Oats, bush	500,500	Butter, pkgs	21,167
Rye, bush	59,200	Cheese, bxs	91,962
Malt, bush	25,180	Cotton, bales	7,760
Barley, bush	9,000	Rosin	10,700
Beans, bbls	2,312	Spts. turp., bbls	2,281
Grass seed, bush	764	Dried Fruits, pkgs	13
Beef, pkgs	2,686	Eggs, bbls	7,462
Wool, bales	1,660	Peanuts, bags	300
Hops, bales	212	Leather, sides	60,647
Pork, bbls	357	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,338	Oil cake	9,603

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off-nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week 1052 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 36,006 do.; same time last year, 17,239 do. Exports of peas past week, 1,474; since Jan. 1st, 426,980 bush.; same time last year, 221,641 do. The low prices for prime mediums and marrows have brought out a few speculative buyers, but there is no real demand that tends to work down the liberal supply. Mediums when very firm at the low price. Marrows still quoted at the late decline. Pea Beans are scarce. The prolonged hot weather has hurt a good deal of stock. Canadian peas are quiet. Green peas have dropped further. Red kidney beans are fairly active. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.25@1.30; fair to good, $1.00@$1.10; prime mediums, 90@95c.; fair to good, 70@80c.; poor, 40@50c.; prime marrows, $1.30@1.35; fair to good, $1.10@1.20; prime white kid., $1.20@1.30; other, $1.00@1.10; prime red kidney, $1.30@1.40; other, $1.15@1.25; Lima (Cal.), $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.75@4. Peas—Canadian, $1.18@1.20; do. in bulk and bond, 95@98c.; green, $1.00@1.10; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, ℔ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—The deliveries at this market are somewhat larger, and prices are easier. Sales at 33@31c. for Western and Southern. Exports since Jan. 1st, 38,350 lbs.; same time last year, 12,318 do.

BROOM CORN.—Is neglected and about nominal. Brush, short green, 8½@10c.; hurl, green, 8½@10c.; medium, green, 6@6½c.; red and red tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—A summer month is generally a dull one, but this season has been attended with such an almost unprecedented spell of hot weather that sellers could hardly do business if a demand existed. It is impossible to show stock at any advantage and the buyer has to have the assurance that the packages will "cool off" right, even in the moderate purchases they are making. Strictly fine State butter is not plenty as shipments have been restricted owing to unfavorable weather. Western butter arrives sparingly, but there is enough here to establish a low rate. Exporters are using low quantities. We repeat quotations under grades mostly nominal.

We quote:—Choice pails, 24@25c.; prime, 23@24c.; poor to good, 18@22c.; creamery pails, choice, 26@27c.; good, 24@25c.; sweet cream pails, 20@24c. State firkins, choice, 24@25c; fair to good, 21@22c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 23@24c.; fair to prime, 20@22c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 23@24c.; other, 18@21c.; Western creamery, choice, 23@25c.; other, 21@22c.; do. firkins, best, 15@17c.; other, 12@14c.; dairy tubs, choice, 18@19c.; other, 12@14c.; factory choice, 16@17c.; other, 11@14c.

CHEESE.—This has been a slow week in this market. Liverpool fell off early in the week, with pretty full arrivals there. This discouraged shippers, and they were operating only as decided bargains were available. Further depression resulted on the liberal arrivals towards the close. Some sales of strictly fancy were made at 10½c., but 10¼c. at the close is a full rate, and transactions at 10c. Anything off from fine is at low figures relatively, and especially difficult to sell.

New at 10@10½c. for fine factory; 9@9½c. for good; 8@9c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 6@7c.; do., skimmed, 3@5c. State farm dairy, 9@9½c.; good to prime, 7½@8½c.; fair to good, 6½@7½c.; poor lots at 5@6c.; Western factory, good and prime, 7@8c.; fair lots, 6@7c.; do. cheddar, choice, 8½@9c.; do. flat, choice, 8½@8¾c. Exports past week, 89,134 boxes.

COTTON.—Export demand has been very slow and prices easier.

July, 11 11-16c.; August, 11 11-16c.; September, 11 7-16@11 15-32c.; October, 11 9-32@11 5-16c.; November 11 3-16@11 7-32c.; December, 11 7-32c.; January, 11 11-32@11⅜c.; February, 11½@11 17-32c.; March, 11 21-32@11 23-32c.; April, 11 13-16@11 27-32c.; May, 11 31-32@12c.; June, 12⅛@12 5-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	Ala.	Orleans.	Texas
Ordinary	8 5-16	8 5-16	8 5-16	8 5-16
Strict ordinary	9⅛	9⅛	9⅛	9⅛
Good ordinary	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 13-16	9 13-16
Strict good do	10¼	10¼	10⅜	10⅜
Low middling	10 13-16	10 15-16	11 1-16	11 1-16
Strict low middling	11⅛	11¼	11⅜	11⅜
Middling	11⅜	11½	11 15-16	12 15-16
Good middling	12¼	12⅜	12½	12½
Strict good middling	12⅝	12¾	13	13
Middling fair	13¼	13⅜	13⅝	13⅝
Fair	14	14⅛	14¼	14¼

Stained.

Good ordinary	8⅜	Low middling	10
Strict ordinary	9⅛	Middling	10¾

DRIED FRUITS.—There has been a light inquiry from the West this week for apples at outside prices; beyond this, there is nothing doing and appended prices must be regarded nominal.

Apples—State, sliced, 8@8½c.; do., quarters, 7½@8c.; Southern sliced, 8@8½c. for prime; Blackberries, 8½c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 10@12c.; do. fancy, 13c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 10@11½c. for halves and 9@9½c. for quarters. Plums, 12@13c. Raspberries, 23@24c. Cherries, 15@16c.

EGGS.—The market has ruled weak and prices are falling. The weather was never more severe upon stock and in the anxiety of sellers to close out quotations have been quite irregular. Losses in count have been very large during the past few days and the best marks have lost the confidence of buyers. We quote, loss off:

Near points, 17½@18c.; State and Penn., 16½@17c.; Western, prime, 14½@15c.; do. other, 14c.; Canadian, 15½c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ℔.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras 55c.

FEATHERS.—Nominal. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; mixed do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—The market has never been, probably, in worse shape than during the past week. While receipts were running liberal, demand was very light and the long spell of warm weather leading to fear of stock spoiling led to a pressure to sell, which sent prices down daily sharply. On the low grades exceptionally low prices were accepted.

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3@3.50; $4.25@4.75 for very common to fair extra do.; $1.80@4.90 for good extra do.; $4.95@5.10 for fancy do., and $5.15@6.50 for very choice extra; $3.00@3.90 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.00@4.75 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $4.80@5.25 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.30@6.50; fancy do, $6.55@7.50; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $7.25@8.50; round-hoop Ohio, $4.40@4.80, and trade brands of do. at $4.85@6.75; St. Louis, $4.90@6.00 for common to fair extra, and $6.05@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.00@5.75, and patent at $5.50@8.75; unsound stock at from $2.50@5.50; No. 2 at $2.00@2.75; city mill at $4.80@6.15. Southern at $4.65@5.00 for common to good extra; $5.05@5.75 for good to choice; $5.80@8 for common to choice family extra; $6.05@8.50 for choice to fancy new process, extra, the latter an extreme. Rye at $4.70@5.15. Corn meal, $2.60@3.00 for yellow Western, Pennsylvania and Jersey $3.25@3.36 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Fresh fruit is in good variety if not good in quality. Unwholesome stock is destroyed by the Sanitary police. Prime Norfolk apples have a demand and prices are better with improved quality. Early pears are slow of sale. Currants are in large supply. Raspberries are low, as most of the crop is dwarfed by dry weather. California apricots are offering with a few plums. The former are insipid and the latter too green. Blackberries are abundant and fine. Low prices use up a good many. Watermelons selling better. Of cherries only a few sour remain. Peanuts are in better demand.

Norfolk apples, green, ℔ bbl., $2@4; Red A.'s, $5@6. Wilson blackberries, quart, 12@14c. Dorchester do., 6@8c. Common do., 3@5c. Whortleberries, bush., $3@4. Raspberries, Antwerp, 3ds, 4@5c.; do. Brandywine, 3@4c. Currants, small, 8c.; do. cherry, 5@7c.; black, 9c. Watermelon, $20@55 per 100. Hot-house grapes, lb., 75c.@$1 for Black Hamburg. Peanuts—Virginia, bush., $1.50@1.80; Wilmington, $1.50@1.90; Tennessee, $1@1.20. Southern peaches, crate, $2@3. Sugar pears, ℔ bbl., $1@3.

GRAIN.—This week has shown an unusually depressed feeling in the wheat market, supplies of which were large. Foreign advices discouraging, and, in consequence, but little doing, while with the very warm weather injuring stock, there was a pressure to sell, which sent prices down to 2@3c. daily, and for soft grades, on two days, there was a decline of fully 10c. Latest sales for No. 3 Chicago spring, 88@90c.; No. 3 Milwaukee spring, 90@91; No. 2 Chicago $1.03@1.04; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.05@1.10; ungraded spring at 98c.@$1.25; No. 1 spring at $1.13@1.20; inferior to fair winter red Western at 70c.@1.05; No. 3 Northwest at 90c. Rye at 60@70c. for Western; 70@80c. for State. Corn is lower; sales at 42½c. for hot mixed Western; 48@52c. for unsound do.; 54½c. for low mixed; mixed, 52@53½c.; N. Y. steamer, 52@53½c.; N. Y. No. 1, 55@58c.; N. Y. yellow, 50c.; steamer yellow, 55c.; ungraded mixed, 53@56½c.; choice Kansas mixed, 56½c. Oats are in large supply and lower; latest sales at 32@40c. for mixed Western and State; 32@45c. for white do.; 25c. for New York rejected; N. Y. No. 2, 33½c.; N. Y. No. 2 white, 32@34c.; N. Y. No. 1, 38c.; mixed Western, 31½@38½c.; white State, 40@46c.; No. 2 Milwaukee, 28½c.

HAY AND STRAW.—Supplies are liberal and prices easy.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 65@70c.; retail qualities 80@95c.; clover, 50@65c.; salt, 60@65c. Straw is quoted at $1.10@1.15 for long rye; 75@80c. for short rye; 60@65c. for oat.

Exports past week, 687 bales; since Jan. 1st, 30,610 do.; same time last year, 25,614.

HIGHWINES.—Quoted at $1.13@1.13½

HOPS.—There has been very little doing this week. A lot of 800 bales has been shipped to London, but beyond this no export movement. Brewers do not seem to be short of supplies notwithstanding their increased trade over the very warm days latterly. Prices generally are quite steady. The crop accounts from nearly all sections here are very encouraging, while from the other side they are poor and unless there is a change for the better abroad, we are likely to be called upon again this season liberally. The quotations are:

N. Y. State, 10@17c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ℔ lb.

MILK.—The farmers' settlement price for June was 2½@2¾c. Supplies have been moderate from near points, but abundant from points on the Erie road. The weather has been good for milk use, but prices are feeble. Cans of 40 quarts not often exceeding $2.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Live poultry is scarce and bringing good prices. At one time during the week prime fowls brought 20c. We quote dressed fowls, 16@20c. Spring chickens, 26@30c. Turkeys, 14@18c.

Fowls, N. J., ℔ lb 17@18c.; do. Western, 17@—c. Roosters, 9@10c.; Turkeys, N. J. 13@16c.; do. Western, 13@15c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, $75c.@1; do. Western; 60@70c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.50; do. Western, 60@70c. Spring chickens—Western, 22@24c.; do. N. J. 24@25c.

PROVISIONS.—This has been a poor week as regards amount of trade in this market, and easy prices have prevailed. Mess pork quoted at $20.15 for spot lots; $20.10 for August and $20.25 for September. Bacon at 11⅜@10½c. for long clear. Western steam lard at $11.15 for spot lots; $11.20 for August $11.30 for September and $11.42½ for October. Western stearine at 13¾c. for prime. Beef hams at $22@24. Beef at $10@11 for plain mess; $12 for extra mess, and $13 for packet. Tierced quoted nominal for prime mess, and India mess. City extra, India mess at $19.

SUGAR.—Refined is much higher ... soft yellow 9½@10½c.; soft white ... at 11⅛c.

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ℔ lb., Southern, $1.25@1.30; Western, $5; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, 14@18c. ℔ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. unclipped, 50c.@$1. lamb skins, 50@65c.; green hides, 6@6c.

TOBACCO.—Supplies run liberal and demand slow, but prices are not changed.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7
Good lugs	7 @ 8
Low leaf	8½@10
Medium leaf	11 @12
Good leaf	12½@13½
Fine leaf	14 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	14 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	@—
Fillers, selections	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	6½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5½@ 7
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

VEGETABLES.—New potatoes are in active demand for good stock. Norfolk raised are losing badly on steamer, owing to the hot weather. L. I. are not running extra large this dry term. Near points garden stuff is crowding out Southern, particularly in tomatoes. We quote:

Potatoes—Norfolk, $2.50@4 ℔ bbl.; L. I., $3@3.75. Green corn, ℔ 100, 50c.@$1. Charleston tomatoes, ℔ crate, 75c.; Norfolk, $1@1.25; N. J., $2.50@3. Marrow squash, ℔ bbl., $1.25@1.50; yellow crook, $1.75@2. string beans, ℔ bag, $1.50@1.75. Norfolk cucumbers, ℔ bbl., $1.50@3; Long Island, ℔ 100, $1.50@2. Long Island cabbage, ℔ 100, $1@3. Cauliflower, ℔ bbl., 50c.@$1. Southern potato onions, $1.50@3; white, $2.50@2.75.

WOOL.—The auction sales of woolen goods have given a little tone to the market manufacturers figuring on larger lots and more of a disposition to operate generally. Prices are now quite firmly held.

ROCHESTER, July 15.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $6.75; white winter, $7.00; double extra, $7.25. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.10@1.20; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.30. Oats, nominal at 35@38c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 19@21c. Cheese, 11@15c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 11@12½c. Apples, bu., $1@1.75. Potatoes, bu., 80c.@$1. Beans, ℔ bu., 50@80c. Mess pork, $20.50. Wool, 20@30c. Hay, $8@13. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.90@3.; clover, $9.50@10. Mill feed dull at $12 for shorts, $11 for shipstuffs, and $17 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ℔ bbl.; to New York, 32c.; to Albany, 25c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., July 15, 1876.

THE light delivery of cheese last week had the effect of throwing an unusual quantity on the market this week. The offerings from factories have been the largest of any time during the season, amounting in the aggregate to upward of 13,000 boxes, the larger part of which changed hands. The market was dull, the excessive hot weather operating in part to depress prices. Sales ranged on factory from 9½ to 10c.; the bulk going at 10c. It was reported that a few lots of fancy reached 10½c., but buyers claimed that 10c. was top price. About 500 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on delivery, the range of prices being from 8½c. to 10c., according to quality.

The hot weather tells on the delivery of butter, which has been quite light this week. Farm dairy butter in Welch tubs brought from 20c. to 22c., and creamery in return pails sold for 23c. The frequent rains keep up the supply of fresh feed in pastures, and cows are making good returns.

We have advices from abroad for the fourth week in June. Our London correspondent reports that fine old English cheese is scarce and wanted. Fine new American sells as landed, the last week's shipments all going at 58s. The finest to arrive can now be bought at 66s., which is a lower price than at any time last season. Prices are quoted as follows: New American, extra fine, 56@58s.; fine, 52@54s.; good, 40@50s.; low grades now in market. English Cheddar sells for 86@96s.; Wiltshire double, new, 76@78s.; Cheshire medium, 46@54s.; fine, 76@86s.; Scotch, 56@60s. Dutch cheese now in market.

The favorable weather for the home make of butter tells on the market. Continental butter is slow at quotation, but in the substitutes for butter: the supply is not equal to the demand. The quotations are as follows: Corks, 110s.; Dorsets, 136s.; Jersey, 100@110s.; Danish and Swedish, 100@130s.; Normandy, 132s. No American or Canadian in market. Oleomargarine, or artificial butter, brings from 60s. to 94s. per cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, July 15, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,698	25	2,770	9,476	000
Forty-Eighth St.	120	36	357	1,036	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	9,531
Harsimus Cove	5,106	00	000	13,717	6,203
Totals this week	8,804	61	2,087	24,229	15,734
" last week	8,468	21	2,087	25,316	22,733

BEEVES.—There was a slight improvement in trade in horned cattle on Monday last; no actual advance in prices could be reported, however, though the tone of the market was better and it closed quite steady. Prices ranged at 8½@11c. ℔ lb.; weights, 6@9 cwt. Wednesday, trade slow but firm at 9@10¾c.; weights, 6@8 cwt., strong. Thursday, trade as usual, small; prices were 8¾@11c; weights, 6½@8¾c. The markets closed weak on Friday at 8¾@10½c.; weights, 5¾@8½c. From 55@57 lbs., net., have been allowed. General sales at 56 lbs. net. Spanish herds sold at 8@9¼c. Native steers sold at 8¾@11c.; grade, do., 10@11c.; selected lots at retail, 11½c. Mixed herds sold at 8@9¼c. Bulls, live weight, 3¾@4¼c.

MILCH COWS.—No improvement in the quality of animals on hand, and as a consequence no advance in rates, which ranged, on a moderate run, at $32@75 ℔ head; general sales at $50@65. Nineteen cows sold at $50@70 ℔ head; 15 at $45@60; 9 at $32@50; 8 at $55—calves always included.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade extremely slow in sheep and moderately active in lambs. Sheep sold at 1½@6c. ℔ lb. on Monday last, some lambs sold at 6¾@10c. ℔ lb. Wednesday, sheep, 4½@5¼c.; lambs, 6¾@9c. Thursday, trade slow, sheep, 3¾@5¾c.; lambs, 5½@9¼c. Friday, the markets closed slow; sheep, 4@5¼c.; lambs, 5½@8¼c. The quality of the flocks, as above quoted, has been from common to good, only a small number of poor lambs come to hand. State sheep, 4¾@6c.; Kentucky, 4½@5¼c.; Ohio, 4½@5½c; Indiana, 5@5¼c. State lambs sold at 6¾@7¼c.; Maryland, 10c; Kentucky, 8@9c.; Jersey, 8¾@9½c.; Virginia, 7½@10c.

HOGS.—There have been no live hogs on sale since our last weekly report. City dressed have been more free of sale at advanced rates. Heavy hogs sold at 8¾@8¾c. ℔ lb., light. Market pigs at 9c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade easier at current rates. Forty-two head, poor quality, light harness horses sold at $40@72 ℔ head; 23 head do. at $50@95 ℔ head; 13 ordinary quality, do., sold at $115@200 ℔ head; 3 pairs stylish carriage horses sold at $500@700@1,350 ℔ pair, 2 pairs being aged; 10 head roadsters, with fair trotting action, $270@340 ℔ head; 7 pairs family carriage horses sold at $300@500 ℔ pair; 5 head, same quality, for single harness, $200@300 ℔ head; 5 saddle horses, quality poor, sold for $110@200 ℔ head.

[SPEC]IAL NOTICES.

DEAF[NESS] ... RE[LIEVED]. — No medicine. ...ok free. G. ... Wood, Madison, Ind.

New Advertisements.

What will the Weather
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The Boston Traveller says:—"We carefully inspected the above-described Signal Service Barometer, and find it to be as stated by Messrs. Pool & Co., who are honorable and reliable."

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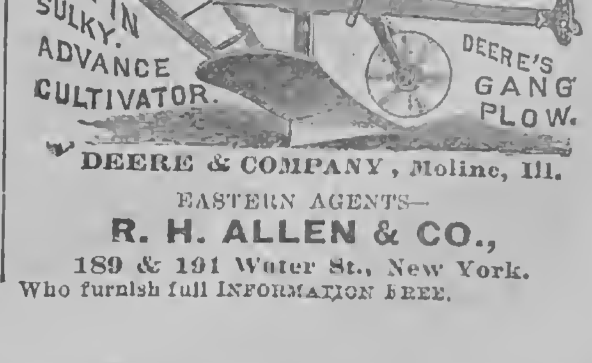

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

WHERE does a "leading physician" generally lead to?

IN the Servian Army the cooking is done on Balkan ranges.

A SIXTY-YEAR-OLD Berks County (Pa.) lad has just cut a new tooth.

UNLESS your eyesight is good, never search for the flag by the dawn's early light.

IT costs a man only $25 to horsewhip a woman in Newton, Mass. Nice place.

A NEW poem by Mr. Swinburne will be published in the London Athenæum shortly.

"POVERTY and a lost boy" is the whole story of Charlie Ross's father at present.

YALE is to have a billiard saloon. That's her method of attending to the p's and cues.

CLARA LOUISE KELLOGG sang the "Star Spangled Banner" at New Hartford, Conn., on the Fourth.

CHARLES MATHEWS, when asked if he had seen Cork, replied:—"No; but I've seen many drawings of it."

MAGGIE MITCHELL will retire from the stage at the end of the year. Her health is said to be much impaired.

AN auctioneer once advertised a lot of chairs, which, he said, "had been used by school-children without backs."

"LIVY and Let Livy" was the text of Orator Chang How at a mass meeting in San Francisco the other evening.

AN exchange has discovered that every dog can't have his day, because there are so many more days than dogs.

AN excursion was advertised in Boston "to go down the bay and see the water once cut by the keel of the Mayflower."

THEY have kissing fairs in Iowa. They charge ten cents a kiss and won't let a fellar bear on and roll his eyes much either.

AN English woman advertises herself as corn-cutter to the Royal family. She practices on "the light fantastic toe."

YOUNG SWELL:—"I should like to have my mustache dyed." Polite Barber:—"Certainly, did you bring it with you?"

CUCUMBERS have been unjustly abused. If they are pickled when small and tender, and—thrown to the hogs they will hurt nobody.

"MAN," says Adam Smith, "is an animal that makes bargains. No other animal does this—no dog exchanges bones with another."

CHARLES LAMB, when speaking of one of his rides on horseback, remarked that "all at once his horse stopped, but he kept right on."

CURRAN was once asked by one of his brother judges, "Do you see anything ridiculous in this wig?" "Nothing but the head," was the reply.

A TEXAN genius purposes to eclipse centennial pedestrians and wheelers of barrows by riding steer-back from Austin all the way to the Exposition.

AN exchange notes that MacMahon is visiting Nancy, and that Kaiser Wilhelm is hobnobbing at Ems. Great gallants are these European potentates.

MRS. CLUPPINS thinks as there's a T wrong in them Sofas. The Ottomans and Sofas are more likely to be mixed up together on the Turkey carpet.

IOWA has a religious sect whose chief idea is that every man should have two wives. Now let some one start the idea that every woman should have two husbands.

IF Custer had made a successful attack and wiped out the entire Indian camp—men, women and children—would it have been a "butchery" or a "glorious victory"?

MAPLESON, the London opera manager, not satisfied with his new laurels as inventor of an army tent, has come out as editor of his play-bill sheet called "The Minstrel."

IT is curious how great men differ. Joaquin Miller thinks the Americans laugh too much, and Eli Perkins says they never laugh at all—at least over any of his productions.

A CAPT. AHLSTROM has swum down the Danube from Vienna to Pesth, without any apparatus, remaining thirty-nine hours in the water, and scarcely stopping to rest.

SPILKINS says that when the crisis comes in Herzegovina, he hopes the Karageorgovitches, the Bescovitches, and all the other itches will be ready to come up to the scratch.

IT will cost you only three or four hundred dollars to go to Wagner's four-days' opera after you get to London or Paris. The opera begins Sunday, and ends Wednesday night.

AFTER years of solitary confinement, the art treasures of the late A. T. Stewart are attainable to the public. Mrs. Stewart has lent seven of the finest paintings for an exhibition in New York.

CHERRIES are green enough now to pick, and the small boy will soon be going around with his hands clasped across his equator, looking as if he didn't care how soon the Republic went to pieces.

DOM PEDRO has become so attached to Mr. Hazleton, the railroad conductor who has accompanied him in his journey through this country, that he intends to secure his services for a tour in Europe.

WARM weather, unripe cherries and political perplexities impose such burdens upon human patience that it is very rare now for a man who goes down on an orange peel to get up and hurrah for his Creator.

COL. J. H. RION of Winnsborough, S. C., has in his possession the diploma of John C. Calhoun as LL. D., issued by Yale College, Sept. 10, 1822, signed by Jeremiah Day, President and Elisha Goodrich, Secretary.

CAPTAIN EADS, the jetty engineer, has terrified the New Orleans contractors. His new channel for the Mississippi is a success, and their dredges will soon be left several miles out in the country by the changing stream.

PEOPLE who go to sleep on housetops this warm weather, would greatly oblige if they would roll off before midnight, as the performance at a later hour renders it almost impossible for the reporters of the morning papers to gather reliable details.

SAYS the New York Mail, "The heaviest of the heavy Boston swells at Swampscott weareth a white linen suit and white straw hat, which hath a blue ribbon band. He looketh at the wave through one eyeglass and remarketh, 'Boofull, by Jove!'"

EVERY person in France consumes on an average daily five lucifer matches, so that 4,600,000,000 matches are consumed monthly by the entire population. It would be curious to know how many this nation of smokers consumes in the same period.

NO one has a right to charge Americans with being lazy. Some one advertises in a St. Louis paper that he will labor at any work for a dollar per day, wait six months for pay, and then collect the money so gently that no hard feelings will be engendered.

NOW is the time for lovers to get spooney over ice-cream, she taking a few pretty dabs at his vanilla and he borrowing a taste of her chocolate. This process inspires confidence in the day when they will be throwing corn beef and cabbage across the table.

A FEW weeks since a Chicago drummer saw a young lady plowing a field in Macoupin, Ill. He stopped to ask, "When do you begin cradling?" "Not until the heads are better filled than yours," was the sententious reply. The young man passed musingly on.

MISS ANNA DICKINSON has completed her new play. It is written in five acts, and each illustrates the fortunes and persecutions of a Jewess in a different country—England, France, Germany, Russia and the United States. Miss Dickinson will play the Jewess.

THE poor, untutored savage respected a dead newspaper correspondent in the Custer massacre, and left him as he fell, clothed and unmutilated; but, for all that, doubtless no newspaper correspondent will care to be assigned to the front in the Indian country at present.

EMMA W. HYLAND, a young girl of Lowell, Mass., stimulated by the offer of a prize made by a weekly newspaper, has succeeded in writing ten thousand two hundred and eighty-seven words on a postal card. The reward will scarcely pay for the injury done to her eyes.

"I NEVER can enjoy poetry when I'm cookin'" said an old lady who dropped in on us recently. "But when I step out to feed the hogs and hist myself onto the fence, and throw my soul into a few lines of 'Capt'n Jenks,' it does seem as if this airth was made to live on after all."

THEY have at least one cheerful volume in the prison library at Mazas and several other French prisons. A "Suicide's Album" is kept, which is constantly open to the inspection of the prisoners. It depicts in the most vivid manner the agonies of those who have attempted or committed suicide to defeat the ends of justice.

AT one time Daniel Webster had a difficult case to plead, and a verdict was returned against his client. One of the witnesses came to him and said, "Mr. Webster, if I had thought we should have lost the case, I might have testified a good deal more than I did." "It is of no consequence," replied the lawyer; "the jury did not believe a word you said."

ONCE upon a time, the Dean of Westminster, going to the Abbey, put his gloves into his hat. On returning home after his discourse he said to his wife, "Somehow the congregation seemed to gaze upon me to-day with a peculiar interest while I was preaching." "I do not wonder," replied Lady Stanley, "for during your entire sermon your gloves rested on the top of your head."

THE Duke de Morny received an application for employment from a young man who came well recommended. "I do not know how to find you a place; my household is full." "Your Grace," said the young man, nervously fingering his hat, "I sadly need work." "Well, suppose I make you my hair-dresser?" The applicant colored, and replied indignantly, "I do not seek a sinecure."

THE latest story of a brave though child-like form, faithful at the post of duty, comes from Ohio. He was the son of a village editor, and, having discovered a broken rail just outside of the town, sat for five hours on a fence near by waiting for the train, so that he might be the first to carry the particulars of the accident to his father! Such devotion to the parental interest is very affecting.

"NOT approving the cost and unnecessary display ordinarily attending funerals," wrote Gibson Young, editor of the Ballston (N. Y.) Democrat, just before his death, "I desire to be placed in a chestnut coffin, oiled, but not painted. This is to be enclosed in a white pine or black walnut box. I hope none of my family will wear mourning—a useless expense and a miserable fashion. Above all things, see that every measure be resorted to proving that I am *dead*, DEAD, before placed in a coffin."

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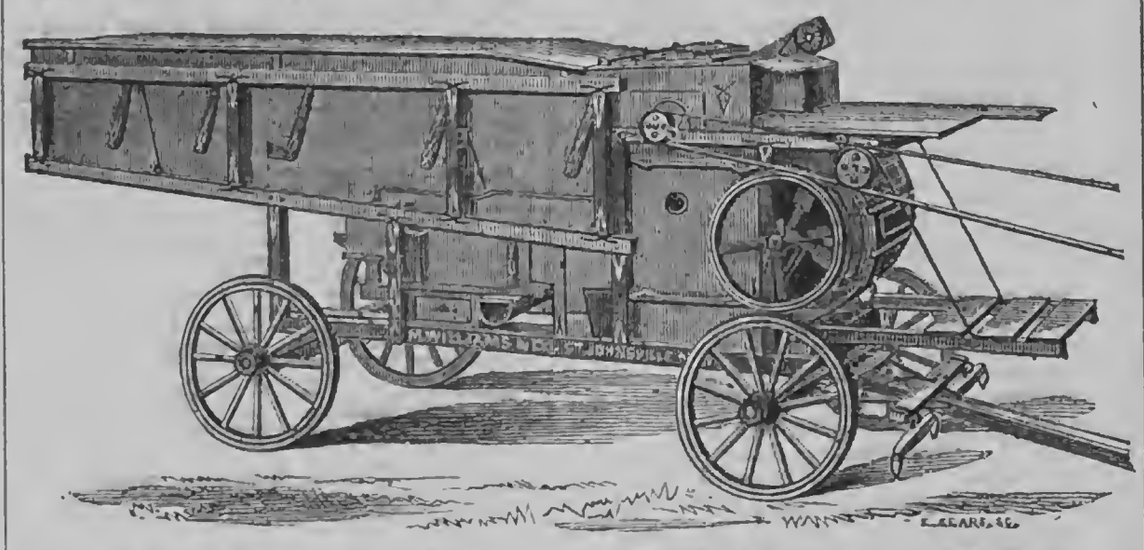

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See COATES LOCK LEVER, on page 353.

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Manufacturers of Agricultural Implements,
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WINTER-BLOOMING PLANTS
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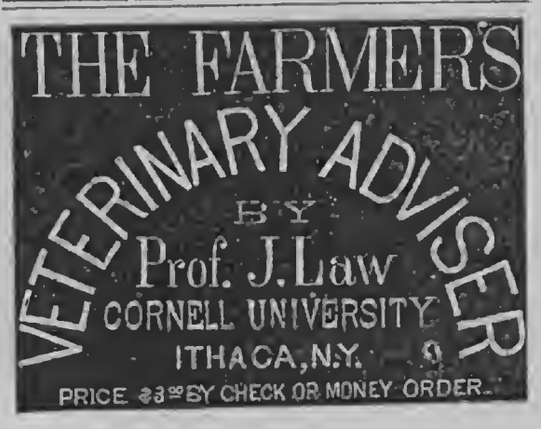

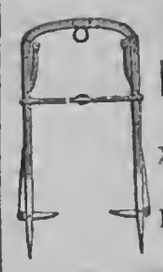

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" " Nation	7 85	6 85
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Cincinnati Commercial	4 80	3 80
" Enquirier	4 65	3 90
" Gazette	4 65	3 90
" Times and Hand-Book	4 75	3 90
Detroit Free Press	4 65	3 90
" Tribune	4 85	3 90
*Louisville Courier-Journal	4 65	3 90
Springfield Republican	4 65	3 95
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Scientific American	5 85	5 20
Toledo Blade	4 65	3 95
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The papers marked with a * give to each subscriber as follows:—DEMOREST'S, a choice of two Chromos; "The Captive Child" or "The Old Oaken Bucket;" HEARTH AND HOME offers 12 Etchings; the COURIER-JOURNAL gives a coupon for their Distribution of presents.

ADDRESS
RURAL NEW-YORKER,
78 Duane St., New York City.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B., Brookline.—All plants contain lime. If your soil is destitute of it, a liberal application will prove of benefit.

Liebig's view that its chief effect is that due to its liberating soda and potash, is not questioned to-day. We advise you to use a bushel of quick-lime upon the bed twenty feet diameter, which you say has been heavily manured every spring with stable manure for the past six years—and yet does not seem suited to many plants. We presume too much manure has been used and that the soil has become soggy. The quick-lime will "sweeten" it. If naturally clayey, sand, also, may be added with the lime.

H. C., Norwich, Ontario.—No. 1, which you have marked: "Hardy shrub, growing four or five feet high," is *Spiræa sorbifolia*. No. 2, marked: "Hardy Perennial, grows twelve to fifteen inches high," is a hardy *Gladiolus*. You will find the underground stem a small corm. No. 3, which you have marked: "Hardy perennial, grows four or five feet high," we cannot determine. The flowers are so small that, as they are pressed quite flat, the essential parts cannot be made out. We fancy it is an umbelliferous plant, and might determine the genus and species if we had the fruit. Please send another specimen, in moist cotton, with leaf and fruit.

C., Detroit.—Some leave Tulips in the ground for several years undisturbed—others take them up as soon as the foliage dies in the summer (usually middle of June), separate the bulbs, place them in cool, dry places and replant in the fall. The young bulbs, in this way, have a chance of growing faster than when crowded together in the soil. Our own preference, however, is to take them up, separate and replant at once, since a little neglect, or a room too close or warm, will, before we know it, cause sprouting and decay.

It is not sufficiently borne in mind that bulbs are weakened just in the proportion that they sprout, and that the sprout itself is only a part of the vitality of the bulb, since having no roots and being out of their element, there is no other source of nutriment.

2. The early-flowering Tulips bloom ten days before the late sorts, and are very desirable in a Tulip-bed, though the late sorts are more prized for the beauty and diversity of their markings.

3. If the former be planted in earth, moss or water, in early September, they will bloom in December. For a succession of bloom during winter, plant every week.

Young Miner.—The laws governing the locating of mines is somewhat variable, or in other words, not the same in all the States and Territories. The Act of Congress, in 1872, fixes the limit of the length of a mining claim to 1,500 feet—the width being fixed by local authorities. In some of the mining regions, 50 feet on each side of the vein is allowed—on others 150, or 300 by 1,500 feet is the size of a claim. After a claim is made on the lode, located and staked out, the claimant is required to do $100 worth of work upon it annually, in order to hold or keep his title good, according to law.

Young Housekeeper.—You need have no fears about being poisoned, or injured in the least, by using water passing through lead pipe. If the water should be used after being confined days or weeks in the pipe, it would not be as pure and healthy; but water passing through lead pipe once, even if the pipe was a half mile long, would not be poisoned. Ordinary spring or well water, passing through lead, has no appreciable effect upon it, as proved by instances where the same pipe has been used two hundred years for such purposes and still remained intact. The great hue and cry which our would-be wiseacres have made of late about lead poisoning from the use of water passing through lead pipe is, to use a vulgar phrase, all "bosh."

A Subscriber.—If you cannot get the mills in your neighborhood to grind cotton seed, why not purchase a small farm mill and do your own grinding by horse power. Perhaps some of your neighbors might be induced to join you in the enterprise. If you have large quantities of cotton seed and desire to use it in feeding stock, it would pay to get a mill. Almost any dealer in farm implements, advertising in the RURAL NEW-YORKER, will supply you with the article required.

Chestnut Burr.—The long, slender catkins, so abundant on the chestnut trees when in bloom, are the staminate (male) flowers, which drop off entire when matured. But a close examination of the terminal twigs of the same branches will disclose minute embryo burs, upon the apex of which the pistillate (female) flowers are situated. The staminate flowers are a thousand times more numerous than the pistillate, also more conspicuous, the why or wherefore of all this abundance and display, we leave for our theoretical naturalists to determine. The flowers of the various species of the pine show an equal, or even greater disproportion in the sexes, while in some other families of plants the order is reversed and the pistillates are far the most numerous.

Housekeeper.—The art of preserving vegetable or animal substances in air-tight vessels, as practiced so extensively of late years, originated in the early part of the present century. The Agricultural Society of France, by a resolution passed June 21, 1809, made an appeal to the whole nation for information upon this subject of preserving fruits in a more natural condition than had been before practiced. In response to this announcement, one Mr. APPERT made known his discovery and experiments, which were essentially the same process by which our canned fruits are put up at this day. The process of Mr. APPERT consisted principally of—1st. In inclosing in bottle, or glass jars, the substances to be preserved. 2d. In corking or hermetically sealing up the bottles. 3d. In submitting the inclosed substances to the action of boiling water in a water bath, for a greater or less length of time, according to their nature, and in the manner pointed out with respect to each kind. 4th. In withdrawing the bottles from the water-bath at the proper time. Mr. APPERT's excellent treatise upon the subject was translated into English, and an edition of it published in New York in 1812. But it has long since gone out of print and is now a scarce book, although we are fortunate enough to possess a copy.

Farmer.—Almost every one of the dozen or more species of our native hawthorns will make a better hedge than the Osage orange, or even the honey locust, if—and provided—the plants are not attacked by that well-known and common insect the two-striped *Saperda*, or apple-tree borer. The first settlers in Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey were delighted with the prospects of finding a superior hedge plant in our common White Thorn, but they soon found that the above-named borer was the great "If" in the way of perfect and complete success. If you have any doubts on this point, just give the Hawthorn a trial and be convinced.

Bee-Keeper.—It is undoubtedly the fact that the honey-bee does, under certain circumstances, attack and destroy large quantities of fruit. We have known them to destroy bushels of peaches and grapes, and they were not assisted to make the first holes through the skins of the fruit by wasps, as many apiarians assert. The idea of accusing wasps puncturing fruits and asserting that the honey-bee cannot, is simply absurd, because the mouth of the two insects is almost identically the same in structure, as has been shown over and over again by our highest entomological authorities. It is only rarely that the honey-bee will touch our ordinary sweet and juicy fruits, but when a colony once makes a raid on a peach orchard or vineyard it is very destructive.

James L.—The small, cylindrical, brownish beetle, a little over an eighth of an inch long, which you found boring into the bark of a hickory tree, is the four-spined Scolytus (*Scolytus 4-spinosus*, SAY). This is a great pest in some localities, often destroying hickory trees of large size and in considerable numbers. We do not know of any practical method of destroying this pest, except to cut down the trees as soon as it is discovered that they are attacked, and then strip off the bark before the larva or beetles mature. The months of August and September are the proper time to do this, in the Northern States.

W. W. H.—We presume there are breeders of Plymouth Rock Fowls who have birds and eggs of this breed for sale, but we have no positive proof of the fact; besides, men who know how to do business generally advertise in papers likely to reach parties desiring to purchase. We have received a half a score or more of letters within the last two days, the writers asking for the address of breeders of the Plymouth Rock Fowls, but as we see none advertised in our columns, we are at a loss to give a positive answer to any and all desiring this breed.

Sarah Barber, Castalia, Ohio.—(1). Will you be so kind as to tell me what to do for my Geraniums? The first I see that anything ails them, the leaves will wither and die. It will not affect but part of the plant at first. There will be life in the stalk but the leaves will all fall off. My plants have the sun all day. The soil is limestone. (2). Will liquid manure hurt Geraniums? I use it made of fresh horse manure but weak, and don't let it touch the leaves. (3). Are whale oil soap-suds good for Geraniums? If I could write as some can, I would ask lots of questions. I wish the ladies would say more about their flowers.

(1). We should say that your soil is too hard—too clayey, and that herein lies a part of your trouble. If the roots when the Pelargoniums were placed out-of-doors, were not cleared of the old pot-soil and straightened out, this would aggravate the trouble. We advise you to loosen the earth over the roots and to mix sand with it—to discontinue (2) the use of manure-water and (3) whale-oil soap-suds. The first is needless and the second positively harmful.

Agents Wanted.

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White Leghorns
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Chicks of both of the above for sale next fall.
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Ridgewood, Bergen Co., N. J.

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Of WATERTOWN.
Assets Jan. 1st, 1876.....$1,058,040 16
Pays all Losses by Fire and by Lightning.
This Company is confined by its Charter to insure FARM PROPERTY and PRIVATE RESIDENCES *only*, and in over 23 years has never *insured* or *lost* a dollar except on this class of Property, and has never lost $5,000 by any *one* fire sweeping, or otherwise. Insure where there is an ABSOLUTE certainty of getting your money in case of loss.
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Real Estate.

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HOMESTEAD.
This paper is full of reliable information about Kansas, her climate, soil, products and progress. Contains a nice map of the United States, and a fine view of a prosperous Colony from Pennsylvania.
It is a faithful guide to the best and cheapest body of lands in the West. 5,000,000 acres for sale.
For a copy, send your address to
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Land Commissioner Kansas Pacific Railway,
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VIRGINIA FARMS.—Tracts of 30 to 300 acres; good improvements. Also houses and lots in the growing town of Ashland, Hanover Co., on R. R. from Washington to Richmond; healthy, delightful climate; great bargains. *T. J. Wooldridge*, Ashland, Va.

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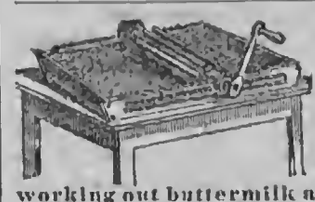

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Works 30 lbs. in less than 5 minutes, thoroughly working out buttermilk and mixing the salt.
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Chestnut St., cor. 15th,
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Have you any thought of going to California?
Are you going West, North or Northwest?
You want to know the best routes to take?
The shortest, safest, quickest and most comfortable routes are those owned by the Chicago and North-Western Railway Company. It owns over two thousand miles of the best road there is in the country. Ask any ticket agent to show you its maps and time cards. All ticket agents can sell you through tickets by this route. Buy your tickets via the CHICAGO & NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY for San Francisco, Sacramento, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Cheyenne, Denver, Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs, Yankton, Sioux City, Dubuque, Winona, St. Paul, Duluth, Marquette, Green Bay, Oshkosh, Madison, Milwaukee, and all points west or northwest of Chicago. If you wish the best traveling accommodations, you will buy your tickets by this route, and will take no other.
This popular route is unsurpassed for Speed, Comfort and Safety. The Smooth, Well-Ballasted and Perfect Track of Steel Rails, Westinghouse Air Brakes, Miller's Safety Platform and Couplers, the celebrated Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars, the Perfect Telegraph System of Moving Trains, the regularity with which they run, the admirable arrangement for running Through Cars from Chicago to all points West, North and Northwest, secures to passengers all the COMFORTS IN MODERN RAILWAY TRAVELING. *Pullman Palace Cars* are run on all trains of this road.
This is the ONLY LINE running these cars between Chicago and St. Paul or Chicago and Milwaukee. At Omaha our sleepers connect with the Overland Sleepers on the Union Pacific Railroad for all points west of the Missouri River.
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The only line running Hotel Dining Cars out of New York. A ride of nearly a thousand miles without leaving the car to eat, drink or sleep!

Wit and Humor.

A PAIR OF WITS.

CHESTERFIELD and Voltaire, born in the same year (1694), were warm and life-long friends. Whatever may have been the erratic Frenchman's vagaries and miffs, for he never had a friend whom he did not at some time abuse. Lord Chesterfield, was too much of a gentleman to take offence, or even notice.

On a certain occasion the two friends were in company at a grand ball in Paris, given by the king's favorite. Chesterfield stood by a marble pillar, gazing upon the brilliant assemblage of ladies, when Voltaire accosted him:

"My lord, you should be a judge in such matters. Now, seriously, do you not think our French ladies the most beautiful you ever saw?"

"Upon my word," replied Chesterfield, with a nod and a smile, "I am not a judge of paintings."

Not long afterwards Voltaire crossed over to England and was present one evening at a party given by an English nobleman in London. A lady in the company, sparkling in jewels, and highly roughed, was particularly attentive to the noted Frenchman, engrossing most of his discourse. Chesterfield, observing, came up and tapped his friend on the shoulder.

"Be wary, monsieur, or you will be captivated."

"No fear, my lord," quickly returned Voltaire. "I am not to be captivated by an English craft sailing under French colors!"

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A GOSSIPY place—"Tell City," Indiana.

WORN wagon wheels ought to be re-tired.

"BELLES," call a great many people to church.

MANY a man worth a million is utterly worthless.

A POOR place for a hungry pig—The trough of the sea.

JOE hates a hypocrite. It shows
Self-love is not a fault of Joe's.

WHEN is a scheme like the third of a yard? When it's a-foot.

PAWNBROKERS generally prefer customers without redeeming qualities.

MOTHER Eve was the first bellringer. She used to ring the chimes for Adam.

WHAT letter would make every flower alike? W would make all flowers wall flowers.

BANKERS ought to prosper. They always take so much interest in the business, you know.

OH, for a lodge in the garden of cucumbers!
Oh, for an iceberg or two at control!
Oh, for a vale which at midday the dew cumbers!
Oh, for a pleasure trip up to the pole!

MANY a young man would like to be Neptune just to have such a number of smacks upon his face.

WHY should it be easy to break into an old man's house? Because his gait is broken and his locks are few.

AN author says that one of the uses of adversity is to bring us out. This is true, particularly at the knees and elbows.

THE following epitaph is from a tombstone in Indiana:

Under This sOd oUr Babie liEs.
iT neither cRies nOR holErs,
it lIved JUst t WeNtY 7 dAys,
anD cost uS $40.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA has potato-bugs, and as the worthy husbandman in drab wanders about his garden he remarks feelingly to his wife, "Verily, Martha, the spirit almost moves me to eject with vehemence sundry of the quaint phrases common with the lost ones of the world's people."

"TOMMY, my son, fetch in a stick of wood." "Ah! my dear mother," responded the youth, "the grammatical portion of your education has been sadly neglected. You should have said:—"Transport from that recumbent collection of combustible material upon the threshold of this edifice one of the curtailed excrescences of a defunct tree."

ALL the papers are establishing branch offices at the Centennial. The Smithville Weekly Ink-Slinger having announced that its agent would be found on the grounds daily to receive news and subscriptions, the rival paper in Smithville maliciously exposes the fact that the agent in question keeps a soda water stand in addition to his journalistic duties.

IT is said that if a man is walking for health and enjoyment, four miles an hour is the best gait. This may be true as regards health, but for enjoyment we remember one night when it took us over four hours to walk a mile. It happened, however, that the old folks had gone to camp-meeting, and she had the night-key, and as far as health was concerned we didn't really care if it took all night.—*Norwich Bulletin.*

WARM WEATHER EXERCISE.

Tom—"Hello, boys! Where yer going?"

Boys, on old nag—"Why, we're going ter take a turn in the Park, with the rest of the *upper-ten!*"

CORTLAND WAGON MANUF'G. CO,
Cortland, N. Y.

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BUILDING PAPER!
FOR SHEATHING, ROOFING, DEAFENING, CARPET LINING, AND PLASTERING

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From Aug. 1, 1876
TO
JANUARY 1, 1877.

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OF THE
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FOR
ONE DOLLAR!

Agricultural Centennial News a Specialty

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78 Duane St., New York.

25th Semi-Annual
STATEMENT
OF THE
TRAVELERS INS. CO

HARTFORD, CONN., JULY 1, 1876.

ASSETS.

Real Estate owned by the Company	$ 90,038 21
Cash on hand and in Bank	184,727 45
Cash in hands of Agents, or in transmission	75,421 03
Loans on First Mortgages Real Estate	2,154,077 50
Deferred Premiums	59,329 37
Accrued Interest	93,859 82
United States Government Bonds	571,570 00
State and Municipal Bonds	137,011 00
Railroad Stocks and Bonds	215,180 00
Bank and Insurance Stocks	560,734 00
Loans on personal and collateral security	10,000 00
Total assets	**$3,924,991 38**

LIABILITIES.

Reserve, Four per cent. Life Department		$2,412,367 46
Reserve for re-insurance, Accident Dept	$187,228 47	
Claims unadjusted and not due, and all other liabilities	186,242 00	
Total liabilities		**$2,785,837 93**
Surplus, as regards policy-holders		**$1,139,153 45**

Surplus as above, on four and one-half per cent. reserve, N. Y. standard, **$1,389,390 19.**

JAS. G. BATTERSON, President.
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Arboricultural.

PARSONS' SILVER FIR (Picea Parsonsiana).

Of the many species of evergreen trees known under the name of Fir, there are none more grandly beautiful than those found on the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Slope. The Great Silver Fir (*Picea grandis*) of California is well worthy of the name bestowed upon it by the much-lamented Douglass. It grows to an immense hight in its native clime, in some instances reaching an altitude of over 250 feet, and the stem 15 to 20 feet in circumference. Like most of our native forest trees, it varies somewhat in its general characteristics, giving us what the botanists term natural or local varieties, and among these there are none more worthy of consideration than the *Parsonsiana*, or Parsons Silver Fir, named after the well-known Parsons Brothers, nurserymen, of Flushing, N. Y. The accompanying illustration was taken from a handsome specimen growing in their grounds, but it gives only a very vague idea of the grandeur and beauty of the living tree. The leaves are long and slender, and the smaller branches have a fern-like appearance, which seldom fails to call forth expressions of admiration. At this season the bright green leaves on the opposite sides of the young branches slightly curve inward and upward toward each other, reminding one of the ribs of a vessel when first set to the keel, before being covered, giving to the whole tree a most unique and graceful appearance.

Specimens in our own grounds have withstood the cold of the past five winters without any material injury, and there is little doubt of the hardiness of this fir all through the Middle States, and probably in many portions of the Northern. It has been in cultivation a sufficient number of years to give us a pretty good opportunity to learn its merits, as well as afford the nurserymen a chance to propagate a stock of the trees for sale, which some of them have done; therefore they are not now so rare or high-priced as to prevent persons in moderate circumstances purchasing a specimen or two if they so desire.

SPORTS OR FREAKS AMONG EVERGREENS.

Every person who may have an opportunity of selecting evergreens from seed-beds or from the forests should be constantly on the lookout for what the nurserymen call freaks or sports—that is, peculiar and distinct variations from the original type of the species. By a little care in this direction, some very distinct varieties are frequently secured.

Some of the very best and most attractive evergreens in our own grounds were secured in this way, among which we may mention a dwarf Norway Spruce 20 years old and not three feet high, but five or six broad; a golden-tipped Arbor Vitæ—a real gem in its way, also a silver-tipped variety, which promises to be a worthy acquisition; also, several very compact sorts and a slender drooping-branched variety. Some ten years ago, among one lot of hemlock seedlings, we noticed one which appeared to be very compact and quite distinct from all others. It was taken out and planted by itself, and to-day it is one of the most unique specimens in our grounds.

But we did not commence to write this article for the purpose of telling what we have done, and only mentioned the above to show what others may do if they will only keep their eyes open and have willing hands to respond to the call.

Pines, spruces, firs, and other kinds of evergreens, as sowed in nursery seed-beds or in the forests, are more or less inclined to vary. Some will be more compact than others. The branches of one will grow upright, of another quite drooping, or perhaps somewhat in a spiral form. There will also be variations in the length and color of the leaves. All these varieties can be readily assorted by a practiced eye, and most of such departures from normal types will remain permanent, giving the cultivator an opportunity of securing a diversity of form without being obliged to plant a great number of kinds. One of the most serious errors committed by those who have not studied ornamental gardening is the planting of rows or groups of trees all just alike, or as near alike as "two peas." Now, just the opposite of this would, in nine cases out of ten, produce far the best effect and be more satisfactory to all concerned, and this is one reason why we seek for the oddities or freaks among seedlings of all kinds.

SPECIMEN TREE OF PICEA PARSONSIANI.

Pomological.

WHETHER IT WERE BETTER TO PRUNE.

Here is a subject upon which many words have been expended and will be, possibly, till the end of time, or at least as long as horticultural journals exist and horticultural writers are put to it for something to write about!

It is an ill wind that blows no good, and these worthy upholders of a noble art are fortunate in having to deal with questions so irrepressible—so diffusive and gushing that though corked up to-day securely in one part, they break loose to-morrow in another.

It seems to us that pruning is a question that every person, guided by soil, climate, situation, as well as by the habit and constitution of the plant, must decide for himself; and that no rule for, against or intermediate can be written which the practitioner may wisely follow without corresponding alterations ofttimes so sweeping that the rule has no application whatever. The theory of following nature is an easy theory of immense apriori force—but it is one frequently, if not always, departed from when we come to adapt Nature's ways and productions to the needs of men. Their habitations, their clothing, occupations, food, drink, associations all prove this. Our very methods of sowing seeds, of propagation, of grafting are unknown to nature and these methods have been devised by the necessities of ingenious man to provide for himself those conveniences and luxuries of life of which in detail nature is profoundly ignorant. In her unlimited bounty, she spreads over all soils her vegetable productions adapted thereto. She has made no provisions for high civilizations. She has provided the raw material in rich abundance and bade man utilize it to his increasing, more refined and exacting needs or fancied needs. Thus, man clears the field of its native wood—and concentrated food, as we may term it, is cultivated instead. As populations become more numerous, local tracts of land in a state of nature can no longer supply them with the means of supporting life. As land becomes impoverished, manures are collected—are manufactured and thus the farmer upon a few acres may supply himself with all that is necessary, instead of traveling over extensive areas, as he would be obliged to do, for a scanty subsistence if things were left in a state of nature.

This localization of the products of the earth necessitates changes corresponding to the extent to which nature has been departed from. The little garden by such deviations is provided with its dwarf pears and peaches—its Paradise apples Myrobolan plumbs, Mahaleb cherries—its grape vines etc. and is thus made to produce in considerable quantities what, in a state of nature, it never could have produced at all. It would seem that nature in its superabundance and distribution of every thing had in this way, by its very subserviency to art, provided for the increase of man, for his segregation in villages, towns and cities, and spreading settlements over the face of the earth. Here, says the farmer or suburban proprietor, I have an acre which I propose to turn into an orchard, and in which I propose to plant all fruits which are suited to this climate and to this locality, with which to supply my family. Every step is an utter departure from nature. The ground is heavily manured—20 apple trees—20 standard, 20 dwarf pears—20 peach trees—half-a-dozen cherries and plums—berries of all kinds are here planted. The highly enriched soil induces a correspondingly luxuriant growth, and this growth is restrained by pruning to any desired form and within any desired limit. These fruit trees, rendered prematurely prolific by artificial means, come into bearing in half-a-dozen years instead of 15 or 20, as would have proved the case had they been natural seedlings. Are these art methods promotive of early decay? Doubtless some are, as when we join one species to another by grafting. Perhaps some

are not. Let us take the grape vine concerning which the prunists and non-prunists are very decidedly, if not equally divided—the wild vine of the woods. It is fair to presume that the greater the extent of branches, the greater nutriment is required for support, and that as the root-growth is limited and the branch-growth is not—there will come a time when the branches and leaves will demand more sap than the roots can supply, and the inevitable result is that portions must perish. And this death of what nature reared in her own way is by nature killed. Had the knife been used by the pruner's hands before this inequality between root and branch existed, would the life of the vine have been shortened? We believe there are few advocates, however, of not pruning the vine at all. They oppose *excessive* pruning. They oppose "cutting vines all to pieces." But this is vague, since a vine in a soil capable of supplying all it needs, will make a ten-fold greater growth than one planted in a soil that is nearly destitute of vine food. That vines can be injured—indeed killed—by excessive pruning, there can be no doubt, since the vilest weeds may be exterminated by persistently depriving them of every leaf or bud as soon as it appears. It would seem, therefore, that the degree of pruning in the instance of the vine should be determined by the richness of the soil, the cultivation it receives and the vigor of the variety. For the rest, it is evident that if pruning be carried to an extent to interfere with the reciprocally-full action of root, stem and leaf, the vine must be weakened sooner or later and its life be shortened accordingly. What we have said of the grape applies as well to the orchard. Our orchard is an artificial one. We induce premature fruit; we induce a far greater quantity of fruit in a far less space; we induce by artificial means a quicker, more luxuriant growth. And to confine the results of all these artificialities within the meager space devoted to them—*pruning* is our first, our chief resort.

Pruning may be defined as one of those methods by which man is enabled to adapt the fruits of the earth to a limited space and to his short life-time. He cannot afford to wait half his life for an apple to bear so he embraces art and turns a cold shoulder upon nature who, perfect as are her ways in all other aspects, is yet disdainfully regardless of the value of man's time!

If we could know just exactly the food and the quantity of it a given tree requires, and the situation and climate best adapted to it—doubtless, if we observed these conditions, we should raise a tree that would live and thrive to witness several returns of our great Centennial. But in this we derive no instructions from nature. She scatters her seeds indiscriminately as if all land were alike fertile—and an apple seedling is as likely to appear between two rocks as in the middle of a fertile wood or field.

Take us back years and years, oh! Nature—place us in the midst of virgin soils and bestow upon every man a thousand acres, a hundred laborers, a perfect climate and a life-time of not less than two hundred years—and then we promise our non-prunists to follow nature to the letter as nearly as our intelligence can interpret her.

"A LITTLE LEARNING" NOT ALWAYS "A DANGEROUS THING."

The gentleman who tells the following prefers that his name should not be given.

The Major, as we may call him, began the cultivation of fruit trees three years ago, and, being then as he is now an advocate of doing well whatever he undertakes, planted them in large holes filled in with earth—cut them back, as books instruct, so that the tops should be proportionate to the roots and, knowing well the havoc of the borer in his section, washed them then and afterwards periodically with material that, after much reading, he concluded would prove most offensive or poisonous to this destructive insect. About a month ago, while going over them as usual, he discovered a round hole in one of his apple trees, as round as a bullet and of the size of a pea, about three inches above the ground. It was the first he had ever seen.

As from season to season his fruit trees were unmolested, he had grown to feel confidence in the virtue of his wash and, indeed "master of the situation," so far as it was likely to be contested by the apple borer. Now he recalled with what pride he had pointed out to neighbors and friends the clean, unsheathed bark of his trees, and, condemning his wash and lamenting the hours of labor in its application as utterly worthless, it was with feelings of shame, resentment and anger that he hastened for a wire with which to punch that borer to death. "There is but one remedy" he remembered to have read; "punch them to death with a strong, flexible wire."

The Major was astounded at the dimensions of the cavity. It extended downwards six inches—upwards one inch, with a varying diameter. He punched away with the vehemence of an injured, exasperated person.—He punched himself out of breath and into a perspiration. Then, rather as an act of sweet revenge than one which was necessary to doubly insure the borer's destruction, he mixed carbolic acid, sulphur, tobacco and water, forming a dose as strong as he dared to use, and, with a syringe, squirted the cavity full to overflowing.

Whatever he may have read respecting the ways of the borer was somewhat vague in his mind, so that in the evening of that day, he seated himself, with a pomological work in hand, to add to his entomological lore in general, as it relates to pomology, and to refresh his memory as to *saperda bivittata* in particular. Thus he read in an extract from Dr. Fitch: "The beetle comes abroad in June, and drops its eggs under the loose scales of the bark, low down, near the surface of the earth. The worm which hatches therefrom, eats inward through the bark till it comes to the wood. It continues to feed and enlarge its cell under the bark for about twelve months. Its jaws have now acquired sufficient strength for it to attack the solid heart wood of the tree, and it accordingly bores a cylindrical hole from the upper part of its cell, upward in the solid wood to a length of three or four inches or more. . . . These operations being completed, it throws off its larva skin and becomes a pupa, usually at the close of the second summer, or about fifteen months after it hatched from the egg. In this state it lies through the winter, and changes to its perfect form the following spring, but often continues to lie dormant several weeks after its final change, until the season becomes sufficiently warm for it to come abroad. Awakening then into life and activity, it crawls upwards, loosening and pulling down the chips and dust that close the upper end of its burrow, till it reaches the bark. Through this it cuts with its jaws a remarkably *smooth round* hole, of the exact size requisite to enable it to crawl out of the tree."

"The hole, then," reasoned the Major, "through which I punched for fifteen minutes and then squirted full of the carbolic mixture, was that through which my borer had escaped! Well, a little learning, I conclude, would not have proved, in this instance at least, a very dangerous thing. The eggs, too, may have been deposited before the tree was removed from the nursery—so that though my wash could not have prevented the hatching of the eggs, nor the worm from penetrating the bark in this instance, it yet, perhaps, has prevented the deposition of eggs upon the other trees." The Major's faith in the virtue of his wash is fully restored, and he now calls the attention of his friends to this hole as a warning to examine all fruit trees as soon as they are received from the nursery.

APPLES IN WISCONSIN.

Editors Rural:—In traveling through several counties of Southeastern Wisconsin during the month of June, I was surprised at the general failure of the Apple trees. Out of several hundred orchards that I passed, only one seemed thrifty. This was located on the northern incline of a gravelly bluff and appeared to be in good condition; but even this one lacked the look of vigor and strength one beholds in our Eastern trees.

In most cases, from one-third to two-thirds of the trees were entirely dead. It is probably safe to predict that for apple-growing Wisconsin is a failure.

Another noticeable feature was the fact that in nearly every instance the trees were in grass and the trimming had been entirely neglected. Whether the failure of the trees was the result of improper care, or whether this neglect was caused by the owners' getting discouraged, was, of course, impossible for me to decide. At all events, I would just like either to trim and cultivate these trees, or else cut them down and rid the country of their unsightly appearance. They appeared in sad contrast to the fine fields of corn and wheat that could be seen on every hand.

Nelson Ritter.

Syracuse, N. Y.

Farm Economy.

CROPS IN ARKANSAS VALLEY.

The people of this part of Kansas have been very highly blessed this season by abundant and timely rains, and crops of all descriptions have been a success as far as they have matured. Our wheat crop has been secured in excellent condition and will average about with last year's crop. Oats, barley, rye and all the small grains are out of all danger from drouth or insects. Rye has long been harvested of which we can show some tall specimens measuring in many instances from six to seven feet, corn is looking splendid many pieces being tasseled and silked out and standing higher than a man's head. The prospect never looked better for a large yield of that cereal. Irish potatoes are ripe and turn out well, and in fact vegetables of all kinds are yielding abundantly.

We have not been irritated with any destructive storm, as has been the case in may parts of the West, but have been highly favored in that respect. In fact I have not known since my residence here any very great destruction of property by wind or storm in this section. Our farmers are looking cheerful and I can notice a marked improvement on their faces as compared with the "hopper year" when many of them were losing their all by that destructive insect. They have learned an important lesson which they are not slow to improve—that is, to diversify their crops and to put them in early thus giving them a chance to mature long before the drouth or insects appear.

Our people are making extensive preparations for putting in a large quantity of winter wheat this season, which they have learned by experience can be raised with success throughout the whole of Southwestern Kansas. Our winters are mild and well adapted to growth of winter wheat, as it never winter-kills or heaves out, we having no frosts in the ground, as is the case further north. It matures early, and is harvested long before the possibility of injury from insects.

We have many extensive wheat raisers in the Arkansas Valley, but none of whom have succeeded better than our friend, Hon. Joseph Ross, who came from Pittsburgh, Pa., and purchased a section of land from the A. T. & S. T. R. R. Co. for $7.75 per acre on eleven years' time and seven per cent. interest. In 1874, had 50 acres broken and sown to wheat, with the following results:

Breaking	$3.00	per acre	$150.00
Stirring	1.50	" "	75.00
Harrowing	25	" "	12.50
Seed, 75 bush	1.25	" bush	93.75
Drilling	25	" acre	12.50
Harvesting and stacking	2.00	" "	100.00
Threshing 1,250 bush	05	" bush	62.50
			$506.25
Cost of land, 50 acres, at $7.75 per acre			387.50
			$893.75
1,250 bush. of wheat at $1.15 per bush			$1,437.50
Net profit			$543.75

Judge Ross has just harvested a field of 600 acres, and will seed 1,000 acres to wheat this fall. The Judge is only one of the many of monied men who are improving the country and making the prairie to blossom like a rose, and getting good returns for the money invested.

Arkansas Valley, Kansas. B. M. House.

CHEMICAL AFFINITIES—SUPERPHOSPHATE.

We take the following from a sensible paper by Mr. H. F. French read before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

What we call chemical affinities and chemical combinations, are mere names for what we do not comprehend. Phosphoric acid and lime will combine in two proportions only. Two atoms of each form phosphate of lime. Three atoms of phosphoric acid and one of lime from superphosphate. Nobody can tell why they may not as well combine in other proportions. To change phosphate of lime, which is said not to be readily soluble, into superphosphate, we make use of the chemical affinities of the substances. We have seen that in phosphate of lime, the phosphoric acid and lime are chemically combined in the proportion of two and two. They form a sort of equal union or marriage—one bone if not one flesh. Now to break up this union and entice away from the phosphoric acid the lime, which may be regarded as the weaker vessel, we bring into her neighborhood an object of stronger affection or affinity. Sulphuric acid and lime are found to have a stronger affinity for each other than phosphoric acid and lime, and by adding sulphuric acid, we entice away a portion of the lime, forming the new combinations, sulphate of lime and superphosphate. Why these affinities exist, and why these new combinations are formed, it is as difficult to explain, as why one young gentleman and lady have a stronger affection for each other than for all the world beside.

What new combinations take place in the soil after our fertilizers are applied, we can only guess, and many substances produce effects entirely beyond our comprehension. Two hundred pounds of gypsum applied to an acre, have on some soils produced an almost magical effect; yet I suppose chemistry has thus far failed to solve the mystery. It is thought that the elements that compose gypsum do not enter into the composition of the plants, but its effect is due to its chemical action upon other nutritive elements, probably potash and magnesia, rendering them available to the growing crop. Liebig says that he found by experiment that a solution of gypsum in contact with arable soils underwent decomposition, and formed combinations quite contrary to the ordinary affinities as observed in the laboratory.

Lime for Potato Beetles.—Farmers who object to using Paris green on their potatoes for the purpose of killing the potato beetles, can in a great measure keep this pest in check by the free use of lime. If a little carbolic acid is added it will be still more efficient in destroying the larvæ.

Field Crops.

KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS.

There are doubtless many farmers who think what is termed Kentucky Blue grass thrives only in the State from whence it receives one of its common names. But the facts are, that it thrives in all of the Northern and Middle States, and we have no doubt as the following would seem to show, that ere long some of our Western prairies may be transformed into grand Blue grass pasture.

The best farmers in the Blue grass region of Kentucky, generally regard an acre of this grass, equal in value to an acre of corn.

When we take into consideration the cost or value of the labor in raising an acre of corn, the value of the Blue grass will be more fully appreciated.

The intelligent farmer will make his Blue grass pasture sustain a larger number of stock the year round in better order than the same number of acres of corn.

There is no crop which requires more intelligent management for profit than this grass. As it remains green and nutritious during the winter, there is no necessity for cutting and curing, and it is almost valueless for hay. To insure a good sward, it should never be mown, and as it heads several times during the year, one acre well set and allowed to seed will be sufficent to set a large pasture in a single season by allowing stock to graze upon it when the seed is ripe, and have access to shade woodland and water adjoining.

The writer of this lived in the Blue grass region of Kentucky from 1837 to 1849, and during that time, carefully observed the management of those pastures which gave to Kentucky a world-renowned reputation.

The success of the Alexanders, Van Meters, Vileys, Williams, and other renowned stock raisers of Kentucky, depended largely upon this important grass.

One of the Van Meters of Bourbon County purchased a farm at a $100 per acre. There was not quite one-fourth of the farm in Blue grass. The balance had been cultivated in hemp and corn. The wood land as is usual there, was well set in Blue grass, and afforded the winter food for the stock usually kept on the farm.

Van Meter raised no grain upon this farm, and by allowing his Durham cattle to graze upon the seeded Blue grass and roam at will over the adjoining fields, the whole place was in an incredible short time well set in grass by confining the cattle to one pasture at a time, leaving the others to seed and form a mass of succulent, juicy, rich food, a foot deep, literally a mass, a mat for fall and winter use, a larger number of cattle were kept fat the year round, than was formerly kept by the old process of raising corn on a part.

Moving to Western Missouri in 1849, I found many of these Blue grass farmers and their sons in Ray, Clay, Lafayette and Jackson counties, Clinton County, north of Clay, was a prairie sparsely settled, and little if any Blue grass in the county.

The farmers of Clay and Ray, where Blue grass abounded, made frequent visits to Clinton Co. and in a short time Blue grass was seen growing in patches on the roadside, and years after spreading over thousands of acres of unimproved prairie land, that was supposed to be unsuited to the growth of this most valuable of all grasses.

Ten years after I visited Topeka and other portions of Kansas, where repeated efforts were being made to start Blue grass and all seemed discouraged and disappointed.

Now, June 1876, this grass is found in nearly all the lawns about the residence and unfortunately before it is sufficiently set to form a heavy and rich sward, is being mown and the seed carried off in indifferent hay.

From the foregoing it will be readily seen, that I regard as the most successful and about the only successful way to seed Blue grass pastures, is to start a patch with care, then by grazing stock upon it and allowing them to roam over the pasture, scatter the seed and thicken up the sward.

Blue grass is especially valuable for winter grazing, and where the prairie is fenced up, it is important to have two Blue grass pastures; keeping one exclusively for winter use, alternating each year. By industriously and persistently pursuing this plan, a few years, Kansas will become celebrated as the great Blue grass region of the *West*.

Ed. D. P.

Dairy Husbandry.

AVOIDING THE WASTE OF BUTTER IN CHEESE MAKING.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us that he has difficulty in cheese making. "The top layer of milk in the vat after coagulation is, at times, very soft and tender, and in cutting and working the curds the oil or butter passes off in the whey." The chief reason for this, we presume, is that the milk is not well stirred at the time of adding the rennet, or perhaps the temperature of the milk is too high and too little rennet is used, and thus the cream accumulates to excess in the top layer of milk. After the rennet is added to the milk and up to the time coagulation begins, the buttery part, or the cream of the milk, is obeying the law of gravity and is gradually making its way toward the surface—some even, if the coagulation be delayed, collecting so as to form a stratum of cream. The curd of "whole-milk" consists of all the caseine or cheese proper of milk, as well as of most of the butter. Now, it is the caseine which imparts to curd its consistence and firmness. In the upper strata of milk, the coagulation of which has been retarded, the proportion of butter far exceeds that of the caseine, and the consequence of this is that such curd is soft, easily broken, fatty, and is difficult of being made into cheese. Rennet acts exclusively upon the caseine of the milk and not upon the butter, the globules of which become imbedded in the caseine in the act of solidification, and in this mechanical way are made to form part of the curd.

Now, from this explanation some useful, practical suggestions may be drawn. Thus, since warmth hastens the ascent of the butter, the temperature of the milk should never be raised above that necessary for the formation of the curd. Further, every precaution should be taken to insure the speedy coagulation of the curd, not only by the due regulation of the temperature, but also by the use of rennet of sufficient strength and quantity, so as not to prolong coagulation an unreasonable length of time. Lastly, before the addition of the rennet, the milk should be well stirred, so as to mix as far as possible with it any butter which may have risen to the surface, for when the cream has once risen and formed on the surface of the milk it is difficult to diffuse it by agitation through the fluid in the same uniform manner in which it was originally suspended. In spite of all our endeavors, much of it will soon rise again to the surface; and hence we see how, with improper or rough manipulation, the waste of oily particles is liable to occur in passing off with the whey.

The difficulty of returning to the milk all the cream that has once risen and incorporating it with cheese in the process of cheese making is well demonstrated in the lately-invented method for improving skimmed milk for cheese making. In the process referred to, about 30 lbs. of butter are taken from the milk and the skimmed milk is treated with a cheaper fat. Now, in this process a larger quantity of rennet than for ordinary full milk cheese is used, in order that the coagulation may be perfected in the shortest space of time and thus catch the oily particles in the caseine and hold them in the cheese. The oil is thoroughly mingled with the milk by stirring the mass, and then the rennet is added; but although the coagulation is rapid, it is found that the skimmed milk will not absorb, or take up, much more than 12 lbs. of fat in the 1,000 lbs. of milk which originally contained 30 lbs. And the reason for this doubtless is because in returning the fat to the milk it cannot be distributed through the particles of caseine in the minute form that the butter globules obtain originally in the milk In cutting and working the curd the larger fat particles are laid bare of their covering of caseine, and thus mingle with the whey and pass off during the manipulation of the mass. It will be seen, therefore, in full-milk cheese making, a point of great importance is to keep, as far as possible, the cream from rising.

It will be observed, also, that where there is an excess of fat that has accumulated in the upper layer of milk with a corresponding loss of fat in the lower layers, the curds will not be of uniform consistency. And even though they be afterward mingled together in the stirring and salting, yet we shall find there will be lumps of quite fat curd distributed unequally through the curds deficient in fat, and this will have a tendency to affect the cheese unfavorably while curing. One of the arts of making fine cheese is to have every portion of the curd of the same texture and consistency when it goes to press. The fermentation or curing process is then carried on alike, and we have uniformity in texture and flavor. But if soft particles of curd be mixed up with those of firmer texture, it will be seen there will be a lack of uniformity in the fermentation, while excessive portions of fat in separate lumps will have a tendency to become rancid, and thus the cheese must soon get "off flavor." We are convinced that much of the "off-flavored" cheese comes from this source.

The temperature of the milk when ready to set with rennet should not be above 85°, and it should be thoroughly stirred at the time of adding the rennet, so that all parts of the milk be uniform in consistency. Then if coagulation is perfected before the cream has a chance to rise and accumulate in the top layer, and if the cutting and working of the curds be carefully conducted, the trouble complained of by our correspondent will be avoided. The use of an agitator in the milk during the night is to be recommended, as it prevents the cream from rising and at the same time keeps the milk in good order.

The points we have named are important ones to be considered in the manufacture of cheese, and by attention to them, we are persuaded, serious troubles will not unfrequently be avoided.

INFORMATION FOR THE JUDGES UPON BUTTER AND CHEESE.

CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION,
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., July —, 1876.

A SPECIAL exhibition of Autumn Butter and Cheese will be held from Oct. 17 to Nov. 1. The Dairy Building will be ready for the reception of exhibits at any time prior to the latter date.

Butter will be judged as to the make, color, flavor, texture, solidity and keeping quality. Cheese will be judged as to quality, make, texture, keeping, flavor and color.

Each exhibitor is requested to supply answers to the questions upon the accompanying blank form, and to transmit the form, when filled out, to the Bureau of Awards.

If the space left opposite the several questions is found to be insufficient for a satisfactory statement in reply, the answers may be written on separate sheets of paper, numbered to correspond with the questions. A. T. GOSHORN,
FRANCIS A. WALKER, Director-General.
Chief Bureau of Awards.

BUTTER QUESTIONS.

1. What breed of cows produced the milk? 2. What was their winter food? 3. What their summer food? 4. How deep was the milk set? 5. Were large or small pans used? 6. At what condition was the milk and cream when the milk was skimmed? 7. Was the cream churned when sweet or sour? 8. If sour, was it slightly acid or very sour? 9. Was the butter gathered in the churn, or was it left in a granulated condition? 10. How often was the churning done? 11. Was the buttermilk washed out or worked out? 12. How much salt and what kind was used? 13. Was the butter worked more than once? 14. How soon was the butter worked and packed after churning? 15. Was the butter colored, and if so, with what? 16. How was the package prepared? 17. With hot or cold brine? 18. Is the butter creamery or dairy butter?

CHEESE QUESTIONS.

1. Was the cheese made from one milking or two? 2. Has any cream been added to or taken from the milk, and if so, to what extent? 3. At what temperature was the milk set? 4. How soon did coagulation take place? 5. How soon was the curd cut? 6. How were the curds cut, if with knives horizontally or perpendicularly, or both? 7. How fine was the curd cut?—Do you depend upon breaking and cutting, or on cutting only? 8. Was all the cutting done at one time? 9. How high did you heat, and what time did you take to raise it to that temperature? 10. Was the curd raised to the highest temperature by one continuous heat or by several applications? 11. Was the whey drawn as soon as raised to the highest temperature, or left on until the curd was ready to go to press? 12. Was the curd allowed to pack, or was it kept stirred and in granular form? 13. Do you use a curd mill? 14. By what rule do you decide when the curd is ready to go to press? 15. How much salt was used to the 100 lbs. cheese or curd, and what kind of salt? 16. At what temperature was the curd put to press? 17. Was the milk colored, and if so, with what? 18. How much milk was required to make first cheese? 19. At what temperature was the cheese cured? 20. At what date was it manufactured? 21. From what breed of cows?

THE MILKING BARN IN HOT WEATHER.

A LARGE number of dairymen need to make improvements in their milking barns. The milking barns which are thought to be most convenient by dairymen of long experience are arranged with doors opening at the end of the stable, the cows taking their place on either side, their heads turned outward, and with a wide, open space between the two rows of animals. The herd enters the stable at the wide doors in the center of the end part of the building and the animals take positions on either side, and thus one man is enabled to make secure in the stanchions a large herd in a very short space of time. If wide doors are arranged on both ends of the building, and if it stands so as to get the sweep of prevailing winds through the center of the stable, the animals and milkers may have a tolerably cool place in hot weather during the time of milking. But in many cases the barn is so located and the ventilation so imperfect that the heat and animal odors are almost intolerable through the hot months. Such a state of things causes great discomfort to both milkers and animals, besides doing great injury to the milk.

We have referred heretofore in these columns to the bad character of milk from overheated cows. Fast driving from pasture to a hot, stifling stable—there to swelter and breathe over and over the air vitiated by the odors and emanations of a large herd—is not likely to be a favorable condition for nice, sweet, healthy milk. Now, in order to remedy the bad construction of such stables, long, horizontal openings are made in the sides of the building directly in front of the cows' heads. These are hung with doors which are raised in hot weather, thus giving ample ventilation immediately in front of the cows. We have seen milking barns so arranged that almost the entire side of the stable could be thrown open or closed at pleasure, and such stables are a great relief during hot weather, affording comfort to man and beast and amply paying the cost of the improvement by the better quality and quantity of the milk yielded. A cool, clean, well-ventilated milking barn is one of the luxuries connected with dairy farming during our intensely hot summers, and no progressive farmer can well afford to be without one.

SUBSTITUTE FOR RENNET.

LINNÆUS says that the solid milk of the Laplanders is prepared by pouring it warm and fresh from the cow over a strainer on which fresh leaves of the Pinguicula vulgaris, or Gouk's hose, have been laid. The milk, after passing among them, is left for a day or two to stand, until it begins to turn sour. It throws up no cream, but becomes compact and tenacious and most delicious in taste.

It is not necessary that fresh leaves should be used, and even a small portion of the solid milk will act upon that which is fresh after the manner of yeast. The Pinguicula belongs to the family of Butternuts.

There are a number of other substitutes for rennet; but we do not hear of any of our dairymen making experiments to discover whether any one of them can be used with better results in cheese making than the dried stomach of the calf.

The Herdsman.

DIGESTION IN RUMINANTS.

OF late there has been so much discussion in regard to Mr. MILLER'S proposed system of "meal feeding alone," for cows that it may be well to keep in mind the structure of the digestive organs of ruminants in general. We have no doubt of the fact that Mr. MILLER has kept his cows alive for months on corn meal and water alone, and he and the advocates of his system may do so again, still it is a species of cruelty which few men would tolerate even though they would make a little by the operation. At a meeting of the Eastern Pennsylvania Experimental Farm Club, Dr. C. B. MICHENER in reply to questions relating to the effects of exclusive meal feeding according to the MILLER system said:

The cow has not the power to direct food to the first or third stomach at pleasure, but its destiny depends almost entirely on its bulk. Again, when cows eat rapidly and with their heads held low, most, if not all of the food then eaten goes to the paunch or first stomach. Of course from the vermicular motion of the stomach some of the food finds its way into the third, through the second stomach, in a very short time. Now one reason why food that has been remasticated passes directly into the third stomach is this, if thee has not noticed, and undoubtedly thee has, the cow, when about to swallow her cud extends her nose and head, seemingly on purpose, though manifestly by instinct, to straighten the direction of the esophagus. This traction of the stomach, through the tension of the esophagus, brings the esophagal groove more directly in contact with the opening of the esophagus into the rumen. From this connection a continuous passage is made to the third stomach, and it is through this passage that the food reaches the third stomach after having been rechewed. Do not think that those who advocate meal feeding exclusively have any very good reasons to offer on their side of the question. They admit that a cow thus fed does not chew her cud.

As I showed in the article I sent thee, this act of rumination is positively essential to healthy digestion. Again, to have rumination you must have bulk and quantity of food. This you cannot get unless your meal is mixed with some coarse, bulky substance. As to throwing out of use entirely the paunch, I think it would be well for us, with our finite minds, to recognize the wisdom of the Infinite One, by carefully studying the functions of these different compartments and not pretend to more knowledge than our Maker, and discard entirely one or more of these stomachs. In the manifold the food does not pass from one compartment to another directly but is taken up between these leaves; is triturated, drops back into the channel and may again be hooked up by the next compartment, and so on. Some of these compartments have at their base little sub-compartments, made by a very narrow leaf or fold.

Where we have "Impaction of the third stomach" as a disease, *per se*, then this condition of impaction is due to the cause thee mentions. This stomach very frequently becomes impacted during acute febrile attacks, and is at times a very serious complication. The tendency to impaction of the many plies during any febrile disease, has led me to adopt the practice of administering a full dose of cathartic medicine—1½ to 2 pounds of Epsom salts—at the very commencement of the attack, whether the condition of the bowels calls for it or not, and thus far I have had only favorable results from this plan of treatment. During fever, all the secretions of the body are checked, hence this tendency to "impaction." To recapitulate:—1st, coarse, bulky food chewed for the first time, passes into the first stomach; 2d, fine moist food passes, some into the first and a greater portion directly into the third stomach. 3d, remasticated food (from this mechanical condition, aided by the position relative to the mouth of esophagus and commencement of esophagal groove, produced by the extension of head and neck) passes directly through the esophagal groove into the third stomach.

SHORT-HORNS FOR MILK.

THE breeders of fancy stock sometimes get some good hard blows dealt them by the good old practical farmers who fail to see why they should pay a large price for a cow's grandfather's reputation, but we have not seen a more sensible thrust at the "fancy" for a long time than the following by J. S. LATIMER, in a late number of the National Live Stock Journal:

The very sensible inquiry of John Cook, with your remarks thereon, in the last number of The Journal, and his and your suggestions in regard to what the farmers want in the way of cattle, brings to my mind the many letters and inquiries I have received:—*e. g.*, "Have you any Short-Horn cows that are good for milk?" "Have you any cow for sale that a farmer could buy at a fair price, that will give milk enough to raise her calf, and furnish some for family use?" "Have you any cows that will raise their own calves?" Dozens of such inquiries as the above are made, especially at the fairs (as any one knows who has attended them and shown cattle). I was not a little amused at a veteran pair of well-to-do persons, that had raised a large family, and accumulated a goodly share of this world's goods, at a fair in Henry county, Ills., where a grand display of several leading herds of this part of the State were on exhibition. After looking with much interest over the many very fine animals, and asking many questions as to their merits, they seated themselves near, in the shade, the old lady remarking (to her better half), with a significant look and gesture, "Them cattle are purty to look at, but they're no 'count for *milk*—won't *raise* their own calves—have to have some old *scrubs* to suckle their calves. They'd be purty cows for a young pair, like we was 40 years ago, to start with. How would we have raised all the boys and girls that we have, without *milk?* You've *got* to have *milk* to raise calves and pigs, and *children, too*, old man!" *That's so.* There is no use of dodging the question, and the true answer.

What do we want cattle for? Rich men and lords can afford to have them for pedigrees and playthings, but the toiling masses of farmers will not and dare not, overlook the useful, practical and essential qualities of the Short-Horn cow. And if the breeders of America would comprehend the real wants and wishes of the American farmer, and quit breeding for pedigree alone, and breed for the true merits of cattle—beef and milk—instead, as is now the disposition, of breeding for pedigree, without any of the above qualifications, then, and not until then, shall we see the farmers enlisting *en masse* in the enterprise. I will say, for the benefit of Mr. Cook and others, that I have always found the Short-Horn cow equal, if not superior, to any other for milk and butter; and I believe that amongst the old and reliable families of cattle, where they have been bred for the useful qualities (as they should be), you may yet find cows that have no superiors at the pail. I have at least three families in my herd, and all the fault I find with them is, they give too much milk. I have had no other than thoroughbred cows on the farm for three years past, and have only milked what I had to—that is, what the calves would not take—and, at this time, from 8 cows (4 of them heifers), raising 9 calves, we are getting four pailfuls per day; and I have never sat down to my table without having an abundance of nice butter, and plenty of milk and rich cream, which I think a good thing for *children*, as well as *calves* and *pigs*, all three of which are strictly essential on a well-regulated farm.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

CENTENNIAL FIELD EXHIBITION, }
SCHENCK'S STATION, Pa., July 19, 1876. }

THE inhabitants of Bucks County must by this time have become accustomed to warm weather, as they have had nothiog else for a number of weeks past. Another "scorcher" opened this day. The Jurors on Agricultural Machinery arrived upon the ground at 10:30 this morning, finding everything in order for a start at the the tests to which they intended to submit the implements. The first thing in order was to set the Dynamometer, and while this was being done I took the opportunity to look about me. The scene was no common one. At one end of a 46-acre square field were ranged at convenient distances apart a dozen or so threshing machines, with four or five small portable steam engines. Beside several of the threshers were large stacks of grain awaiting its time to be passed through the quickly-revolving teeth. Here and there a train of horses could be seen attached to large hay wagons, and numerous attendants upon the implements, teams and engines were running hither and thither making preparations for the trial. One of the most attractive and interesting features of the whole affair, however, was the two Road and Farm Locomotives, manufactured by Aveling & Porter of Rochester, England, sent here in charge of their General Agent for the United States, Mr. W. C. Oastler, No. 43 Exchange Place, New York City. Superintendent Geddes, in one of his moments of leisure (I think he had about four such moments each day), remarked to me that he had no idea what he should have done without those locomotives. They seemed to be capable of going anywhere that a horse and wagon could and of doing twenty times the work. One of these locomotives was started off toward the middle of the field, placed in position and used to supply power for testing the threshers. The other was coupled to the threshers and brought them to the spot for testing. They turned in almost their own length, and were capable of putting the heaviest machine in position with the greatest ease. The engineer of the locomotive which was used for this purpose made no mistakes and never got confused. He made his steam horse do its work every time.

Since I first saw these engines, I have been astonished that so few of them have been utilized in America. Mr. Oastler informs me that he has but fifty-five in use in this country, and I am quite positive that one could be used on all our large Western farms profitably. But we shall come to them in time.

The testing apparatus being set, the Westinghouse Ten-Horse Power Thresher was started off on its 2,000 lbs. of grain, which it finished in 16½ minutes. This was followed by the Farquhar Thresher, which finished the same task in 18 minutes and 10 seconds. Then the Geiser Thresher passed through its 2,000 lbs. in 22 minutes. Of course it took much more time to set the machines and get them to work than it does to tell of it, so that the day was mostly consumed with these three tests. The Jurors returned to Philadelphia, leaving a crowd of tired exhibitors and employes, together with a few lazy newspaper reporters.

July 20.

AT 6 o'clock A. M. every indication gave excellent promiso of a "piping-hot" day, and I assure you we were not disappointed. The rays of the sun were simply scorching, and shade was a thing entirely unknown in the field. I could have gone to a neighboring orchard, but should then have missed my pleasant task of following the Jurors about, and should also have lost all the witticisms of friend Coleman, the British representative.

The Jurors had this morning dwindled in numbers to three, of whom that untiring Britisher was, of course, one. If he labors as industriously in his position of Agricultural Editor of the London Field as he has done at these trials or exhibitions, he must make one interesting department at least. SHORT-HORN.

LIST OF SPECIAL PRIZES.

By the Jersey Cattle Breeders' Association, for the best Jersey herd, $1,000.

By the Pennsylvania Ag'l. Society, $1,000, to be given in prizes as follows:—For the best exhibition of Cereals, $100; do. Forage Plants, $100; do. Feeding Roots, $100; do. Herd of Short-Horn Cattle, $100; do. Jersey Cattle, $100; do. Swine, $100; do. fleece of Long-Wool Sheep, $100; do. Short do., $100; do. Middle do., $100; do. display of Poultry, $100.

By Memphis Cotton Exchange, for the best bale of cotton from the States of Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee, $1,000.

The N. Y. Agricultural Society offers free transportation on all of their prize animals.

By B. K. Bliss & Sons, for the best display of potatoes in pecks, $200.

By D. Landreth & Sons, for the best display of vegetables at stated periods, $100.

By Mr. Landreth, for the best essay on Forestry, $75.

By Peter Henderson & Son, for the best essay on the Cultivation of the Cauliflower, $50.

By Peter Henderson & Son, for the best essay on the Cultivation of Celery, $50.

By the Produce Exchange of Philadelphia, for the best cheese, $150.

Four $50 prizes for Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Swine that have used the American Cattle Food—$200 in all. By the Proprietor.

By the Pennsylvania Poultry Society, for——, $150.

Cup by Forest and Stream, for ——, $100.

Cup by Detroit Gun Club for best Setter from State of Michigan, $100.

By Philadelphia Sportsmen's Club, in two prizes—one for best Setter of any breed one year and over, and the other for best Pointer of any weight one year and over, $200.

Cup by Chicago Field for ——, $50.

Cup by C. S. Wescott for second best Setter bitch of any breed over one year, $50.

By Frank Roan, for the best imported English Setter, $50.

Cup by Charles E. Tucker for the best Cocker Spaniel, $20.

Silver Mounted Field Whip by Jno. Krider, for the best bred American Setter of——.

Silver Dog Whistle, by Capt. A. H. Clay, for second best American Setter of——.

Silver Collar by Frank Roan for the best *Dachsund* (German Beagle).

By N. E. Bee-Keepers' Ass'n for the best and most meritorious display of Comb and Extracted Honey and Wax, $35.

By the N. E. Bee-Keepers' Ass'n for the best essay on How to Keep Bees Successfully during the Winter and Spring, $25.

By the Dealers of New York City, for the best sample of hops, $50 and $25; second best sample, $30 in gold; third do., $20 in gold.

These prizes amount to over $5,000. Further particulars hereafter.

WISNER'S TIGER RAKE.

AT the great Centennial Exhibition of Hay Rakes at Eddington, last month, the first rake sent in was "*Wisner's Tiger*," made by J. W. STODDARD & Co. of Dayton, Ohio, and exhibited by WISNER himself. To show the ease of handling this implement, WISNER had a boy, nine years' old, to operate the rake. The Jurors gave it a thorough examination and were well pleased with its work. The boy, at short notice, easily adjusted the rake to suit the different wants of the Committee.

At the trial of reapers, held later at Schenk's Station, the enterprising inventor of this rake, after the trial was over, with one machine and a change of horses, raked the 46½ acres of stubble in 11 hours. The gleanings were held separate and threshed in the barn by Heebner's Giant Thresher. Mr. STREETER, the owner of the crop, reported as the result about 56 bushels of good wheat, equal to any in the stack. It was in good condition and clear from dirt, which was more than could be expected when consideration is given to the very dry condition of the ground and the trampling which it received from the crowd of visitors to the exhibition. Mr. STREETER expressed himself much pleased with the result.

HEEBNER'S THRESHER AND HORSE POWER.

THE *Giant* Thresher, run by the *Superior* Two-Horse Level Tread Power, (HEEBNER & SONS, Lansdale, Pa.,) was tried in Mr. STREETER'S barn. Their first work was on the gleanings raked by *Wisner's Tiger*. In this they showed well. They were then given the full test by the Committee, and threshed their 1,000 lbs. of straw in 15¼ minutes, (this straw was heavy, but not well filled). The work was well done, the wheat being cleaned with very little cutting and only a slight waste, thus making an excellent show among the numerous machines exhibited. The Committee appeared to be satisfied with the work. The cheapness of this implement and its good work, specially recommend it to the farmers generally.

CENTENNIAL NOTES.

Dairy Products.—Mr. LANDRETH, Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture, announces that special displays of dairy products will be held during the first week, respectively, of August and September. The August exhibition will comprise only Cheese; the September exhibition, Butter, as well as Cheese, the cooler weather then permitting a display. The exhibition of the present month having been such a full success, it is anticipated that equal energy will be diplayed to assure the exhibitions of the two next months. Awards will be made at these times in accordance with the rules of the Commission.

Bench Show of Dogs.—The Commissioners have decided to hold this show on the 4th of September, instead of the 1st, and close on the 8th. This is decidedly a wise course to pursue, as many owners of valuable dogs would not have sent their animals had they to remain for the long period of eight days. Medals and Illuminated Diplomas, certifying the points of all meritorious dogs, will be given. Entries close on Aug. 1. A very large show is expected.

Industrial Topics.

REPLY TO POLITICAL DUTIES.

MR. EDITOR:—If you wanted a pair of boots, would you employ a tailor to make them? Would you send for your minister to draw a legal document, or to your lawyer when wanting advice about any of the ills that flesh is heir to? Or would you not, rather, if you wanted the best service, employ, in hope of obtaining it, such persons as have made a life-long study of the particular trade or calling. How could you expect the best farmer in the country to be able to make the calculations necessary for the proper erection of a woolen mill, or the most distinguished physician to superintend a cheese factory. An engineer can run a locomotive; but a farmer's boy could beat him in running a furrow. Jack at all trades and good at none is usually correct. To know his business, trade or profession as he should, as he must, to be of real service to himself and to community, one must give to it his best thought and his best work. His highest endeavor must be to stand at the head of his class, and with all his exertion, he will be fortunate if he does not find himself far below the place where he knows he ought to be.

But, do you ask, what is all this about? Please to read your leading Editorial in RURAL of July 22d, and see what you say about Professional Politicians, and admit to begin with that what you meant was political quacks. What is politics but the science of government; and what study opens a wider field in which a man can use all the brains he is favored with for the good of the commonwealth. A good government is the great desire of all good people, and how to obtain and secure it, should be among the first thoughts of the American citizen. A government "for the people, of the people, and by the people;" a government that will require every citizen to do his duty, while it sees that he is protected in his rights; a government that shall stand erect before all other governments and compel respect.

In order to make hats, coats or boots, one must devote a considerable time in learning the art. An understanding of the science of medicine requires many years of study and experimental practice. A young lawyer is looked upon with distrust. Experience and judgment, which are the results of years' of hard study, are demanded, before we commit a cause to the hands of an attorney. The science of Government, politics is beyond and above all these, and would you expect it to be understood by those who have given no thought to it? Would you call the architect, the farmer, or the machinist, however skillful they may be in their own departments, to adjudicate a question of international law?

No, Mr. Editor, the great want of this country is politicians, statesmen—men educated for the business, from their youth up.

We have many celebrated physicians in the country; but there are more quacks. We have lawyers equal in talent and acquirements to those of any other country, and pettifoggers in great abundance. We have but few politicians; but we have many who take for themselves the name—many asses who robe themselves in lion's skins and succeed in deceiving the public—only because the public are easily deceived. The science of politics should be so disseminated that such deceptions would be impossible—that the citizen shall demand from the politician as good and honest service as he does from any other person, and be able to judge intelligently, whether it be or not rendered. A great trouble is, what goes current by that name is not politics, any more than a greenback is money. "Let names go for what they are worth," said ASTOR. People go down in Wall Street and cheat one another, and they call that business. Office seekers, thieves, leaders of rings, gamblers, men wanting in the first principles of moral honesty, write Politician on their foreheads, and the unwashed, uneducated bow down and worship.

What we want, what we must have, is sufficient information and intelligence among the people to distinguish the true from the false, and, as the servants of this people, men who shall give the honest labor of their lives to the service of their constituents, after having fully prepared themselves to be Professional Politicians. L. A. R.

Scientific and Useful.

PETROLEUM AS A PROTECTION AGAINST INSECTS.

A CORRESPONDENT of an English paper writes that he "has tried a number of experiments, extending over a course of years, which satisfy him that paraffine oil is something more than a substitute for the best guano. His garden having been overrun with rats and mice, he had to sow double quantity of peas and beans, and sometimes to sow these twice over. Last year he sowed 22 pounds of beans and 6 pounds of peas without any manure, but he previously soaked the seeds for a short time in paraffine oil. None were touched; every pea and bean germinated and the crop was enormous. Formerly his onions were attacked by maggots, and his turnips by fly; but during the last eight years he watered between the rows with a mixture of 2 ounces of paraffine oil with 6 gallons of water. Both maggots and fly immediately disappeared, and the crops became extremely large and fine. He recommends that seeds of all kinds should be sprinkled with the oil before sowing, or that a certain portion of paraffine oil should be poured over dry earth or sand, and this prepared earth should be sown as guano. He believes that such earth is a powerful manure as well as a remedy for wire-worm, grub and all garden, field and vinery pests. He states that grain sprinkled with the oil is quite safe from all birds as well as insect vermin. For watering green vegetables, he recommends a mixture of two wine glassfuls of paraffine oil and six gallons of rainwater, and states that this will do no injury to the plants, but that the growth succeeding its application is something wonderful, and that onions and carrots should be watered with this when one inch long."

The American Manufacturer, in commentary upon the above, says:—The idea that any form of petroleum is of any value as a fertilizer is entirely erroneous. Petroleum contains nothing that can be of use as plant food, unless all heretofore accepted theories upon this subject are rejected.

But there is much in favor of the idea that its use as a protection against insects, will prove beneficial. It is a fact that its touch causes almost instantaneous death to any of the smaller insects, and it is quite reasonable to suppose that a field over which it had been sprinkled would be abandoned by them. Great care should however be exercised in its use. All the lighter, more volatile products, such as gasoline, benzine, or common kerosene should be rejected, for the reason that any of these will kill a plant as quickly as a bug. We should advise any who feel disposed to test the value of petroleum for this purpose to use some of the heavy lubricating oils, and instead of applying it in a liquid form, to saturate some earth with it, and when quite dry sprinkle it over the ground around the plants, but not on them. Used in this way it may be of value, and it is not too late to test its merits fully the present season.

Sheep Husbandry.

HEAVY FLEECES.

SEEING an article in your issue of June 24th, signed a Subscriber, and giving the weight of some sheep belonging to Messrs. SWEET & BROWN of Jeddo, Orleans Co., N. Y., and wishing to know if any of the subscribers of the RURAL can beat them, I send the following:

Mr. JAMES OSMOND, residing three miles north of Suspension Bridge, Niagara Co., N. Y., has a flock of Leicester sheep, and I will give you the weight of a few of them. No 1 is a two-year old buck, weight 310 lbs.; No. 2 is a three-year old ewe, having two lambs, weight of ewe 310 lbs. Her lambs weigh, one, 105 lbs., the other, 105 lbs., and were 3 months 24 days old when weighed; the ewe shearing 15 lbs. No. 3 lamb, 3 months 4 days old, weight 110 lbs.; No. 4 yearling ewe, 142 lbs., sheared 16⅓ lbs.; No. 5 yearling ewe, 150 lbs., sheared 16 lbs. The yearlings were one year old, May 1st., 1876.

If any of the readers of the RURAL, or Messrs. SWEET & BROWN, can beat them I would be pleased to hear from them through the RURAL. Inclosed please find specimens of wool.

A SUBSCRIBER.

[Samples of wool received. Were extra choice in quality and length.—ED. RURAL.]

ADMINISTERING MEDICINE TO SHEEP.—Place a piece of wood in the mouth so as to hold it fully distended, and confine it there by tying the straps over the back of the head. By holding up the head of the sheep and inserting a horn or tube through a hole in the wood, fluid can be poured into the throat without difficulty.

The Horseman.

TO CURE RINGBONE.

THE Veterinary Editor of the Prairie Farmer in answering a correspondent as to how to cure a ringbone says:

Procure an ointment composed of one drachm of bimodide of mercury, mixed with six drachms of simple cerate. Shorten the hairs which cover the enlargement, and apply little by little, one half of this ointment, by smart friction. This had better be done in the morning, and the horse kept tied short until evening, that he may not interfere with it. Next morning, by aid of a soft sponge and lukewarm soap suds, wash all off gently, and when dry, anoint the place with a little sweet oil, once a day for two days, then wipe clean with a soft dry rag, and apply the balance of the blister. Proceed as after the first blistering, and thus repeat the blistering four or five times. The horse may then be turned out to grass for a month or six weeks. If after that time, lameness still remains, the blistering may be repeated as before. In recent cases, this treatment will most generally prove sufficient. However, obstinate cases will certainly occur, where it may become necessary to use the firing iron, as a last resort. It should be remembered, that no mode of treatment will ever remove the bony enlargement. All that can be accomplished by treatment is, to allay the existing irritation, and stay the progress of the disease.

CAUSE OF MEGRIMS IN HORSES.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Vetorinarian says that he has been in practice as a veterinary surgeon for thirty years, and he has taken pains to astertain the cause of megrims. On examining the horse's eye immediately after or during the attack, he has found it exceedingly convulsed and acted upon by spasmodic affection of the muscles, a symptom that could not be present if the disease arose from distension of the arterial vessels of the brain. He has never seen a saddle horse affected with this complaint, and all the cases he has seen occurred when the sun was shining brightly, or by moonlight when snow was on the ground.

He had a favorite pony which was subject to megrims. He removed the winkers from the bridle and the pony never showed any symptoms of them afterward. It occured to him then that the reflecting of the sun upon the winkers falling directly on the optic nerve, was the cause of this extraordinary complaint. Since that he has had many patients affected with megrims, and in every case he has ordered the winkers to be removed, or if they were not to have the horse's eyes shaded with a piece of leather three or four inches wide, extending in front from one winker to the other. In every case this treatment proved successful. He feels satisfied, from the symptoms he has always observed in megrims, that the brain is not the seat of difficulty.

GALLED SHOULDERS AND BACKS.

DURING the hard work of seed time, farm horses are, in some seasons more than in others—in wet and warm seasons—subject to galled shoulders and backs, which when not attended to, are apt to produce troublesome sores. The skin is not only abraded by the collar and saddle, but irritated and inflamed; and if the irritation is kept up, an ichorous discharge takes place, which is difficult to heal without giving the horse rest. When a saddle-gall is observed, the harness should be looked to, and the pressing points which have caused the sore should be relieved. A lotion should then be used to anoint the bruised parts every night, after they have been washed with warm soap-suds, and dried with a soft cloth. The following is a useful application:—Take hot lime shells of the bulk of two quarts, and pour upon them two quarts of cold water; and after they have intimately combined, pour off the liquid into a dish. Add to this liquid five wineglassfuls of linseed oil and two ounces of fine powdered sugar of lead, dissolved in a little water. Stir them together, and then bottle and cork up for use. After the bruises have been washed in the evening, anoint them with this liquid with a feather until the wounds heal.

LINIMENT FOR HORSES.

R. S. STEELE writes to the American Farmer's Club:—"Some time ago I was a good deal worried with a couple of horses which had sore backs. I tried various remedies without success, and was beginning to despair when the following receipt came to my notice:—'The inner bark of white oak bark boiled down in an iron kettle (never use a brass one) until it is as black as ink; while boiling drop in a piece of alum about the size of a hen's egg.' This liniment is to be applied with a sponge, and is good for any sore or bruise; in fact it is a safe thing to keep in one's barn ready to use when occasion requires. As I found this so useful, I venture to send it for the benefit of others who may not be in the possession of anything as good. I think it is also an excellent plan in warm weather to clean the collars often with castile soap."

TO KILL BOTS IN HORSES.—A teaspoonful each of alum and copperas, pulverized fine and then put into one pint of cider vinegar, it is said, is a sure remedy for bots, giving relief to the animal in less than ten minutes.

The Vineyard.

THE GRAPE PHYLLOXERA.

THE *Phylloxera*, or grape louse as it is generally called, seldom attacks the leaves of our ordinary varieties especially those belonging to the

Vitis Cabrusca species, such as Isabella, Concord and Catawba, but its favorite for leaf-gall work is the Clintons, upon which it is frequently found. The galls produced are very minute and scattered irregularly over the surface as shown in the accompanying illustration. These galls contain the larvæ or full-grown lice, which are supposed to pass from the leaves to the ground and there attack the roots. We make this brief note of the *Phylloxera* for the purpose of calling the attention of our readers to the gall-producing form of this pest, the present season, noting upon what particular variety of grape it appears. If galls are found upon other sorts than the Clinton, we should be pleased to receive specimens of the same, as in our own grounds no other varieties are attacked, or at least have ever shown galls upon the leaves.

THE GRAPE, AGAIN.

THERE are so many ways of cultivating the grape, published in different periodicals, that one gets perfectly bewildered.

Having just read an article in the RURAL, copied from an English paper, and indorsed as your sentiments, I am constrained to enter my protest against such a barbarous treatment of summer pruning.

I tried the plan for several years, and, as a result, had a great crop of half ripened, imperfect fruit—whole bunches of which entirely decayed during the process. As an experiment, I adopted the reverse plan of leaving the entire growth of the summer, after having, when the buds started in spring, rubbed off the smallest twin bud, also any other buds less than 6 or 8 inches apart. This does not allow an over-abundance of vine, or any matting of the leaves to hinder the circulation of air and light. The finest ripened fruit is always partially excluded from the rays of the sun.

I am well satisfied, from the fully-matured and perfect bunches and the delicious sweetness compared with close pruned vines—that every leaf and branch is needed and I carefully save every shoot that has grapes upon it. If any shoots are weak and unfruitful I remove them.

My practice is to trim in autumn after the first hard frost. I remove the old wood much as possible leaving 6 canes of present summer's growth which are the largest and most thrifty, and as near the base of the vine as can be found. These canes are shortened to a distance of 8 or 10 feet and tied to the wire trellis, right and left. All of the other wood is cut out, being probably fully nine-tenths of that which is on the vine.

This comprises all of the triming needed for the whole year, with the exception of removing the extra buds in spring. Of course we go through the vineyard often to see if any thing is amiss, and to admire the magnificent bunches of fruit as they are growing, but we scrupulously avoid handling them, as Dame Nature has provided a delicate bloom for a covering, which if rubbed off destroys the luscious ripening process.

We have tried this way of pruning for 5 years and never yet failed to have an abundant, well-ripened crop. A fruitful vineyard of choice grapes is one of the superlative comforts of home life. A SUBSCRIBER.

Chappaqua, July 13, 1876.

Around the Republic.

THE OTHER SIDE OF KANSAS.

THE legends of chivalry furnish the tale of two knights, who quarreled and fought because they could not agree about the color of a shield which (after they had well pommeled each other) they found had its two sides of different colors. Your correspondent from Kansas sees life in the Arkansas Valley on one side only. This side he holds up to public gaze to the exclusion of much that he can not help but know, if he has lived here three years. He and I are neighbors.

I have been here over five years, and if my powers of observation are only half as good as his, I should know nearly as much about this country as he does. It is not because he does not tell the truth that I accuse him, but because he does not tell the whole truth.

He says "Nature has done all that man could wish, etc." and "That we are equally distant from the Atlantic and Pacific." That this country is beautiful has never been denied by any who have seen it. It is reasonably fertile; but 35 bushels of corn or oats per acre is an average crop. Twenty of wheat is considered very fair. We raise fine Irish potatoes; but 100 bushels is the most an acre will yield in its natural state. Garden vegetables come early; but very few grow as abundantly in the most of the Eastern States. For instance, in the East string beans will yield a succession of crops from the same stalk; here, as soon as they come into bearing, they begin to dwindle, turn yellow and die. I have not found an individual, thus far, who has succeeded in raising celery worthy the name. Anything that constant high winds and hot, dry weather will injure will not grow here without extra care. Our great distance from the leading markets in the East and West, prevents us from realizing paying prices for our produce.

Of all those whom I know as citizens here five years ago, probably less than two-thirds remain, and many remain from compulsion rather than choice.

More farming implements are sold than are really needed. Agents are selling on time, and when pay-day comes and the innocent-looking papers which those thrifty farmers signed are enforced to the extent of taking the team or, maybe, the roof that covers his family, then will there be much distress. Money is worth from 15 to 24 per cent. per annum, secured by unencumbered real estate.

His estimate of wages is too high. I have a neighbor who hired himself and two spans of mules at $3 per diem, to travel with a thresher. There is scarcely a family in the East anywhere who work as hard as people do here, that live on fare as scanty and coarse as do the farmers in this valley. PHILO.

WE fear that an earthly Paradise is not to be found even in the far West, however much it may be sought by Eastern people. It is always well to get a glimpse of the shady side of a picture as well as the sunny, and we thank "PHILO." for affording our readers this opportunity.—ED. RURAL.

NOTES FROM ONONDAGA CO.

EDS. RURAL:—The season has been quite wet so far. Grass is a good crop. Potatoes are doing well, but the "beetle" is very troublesome. Apples set full, but are dropping off more than is desirable. In addition the "twig blight" is upon us to quite an extent. Who will give us the cause and cure for this malady? Pears will give a very poor yield. Many pear trees were killed last year by blight, and those left do not seem inclined to bear fruit. There are plenty of cherries for the birds and some left for those who can afford the time to pick them.

Strawberries have been very plenty and cheap; the main crop selling for 7 cents. Those who expected to get rich in one year raising strawberries, will feel somewhat disappointed. The Wilson still stands at the head of the list for productiveness.

Raspberries are looking finely and at this date (July 3d), just beginning to ripen. They promise to be cheap also.

Grapes have set more heavily than usual and are ten days ahead of last year. So much rain causes a rank growth of vines and will (in my opinion) retard the time of ripening. I prefer hot, dry, weather for grapes, especially in the latter part of the season.

Currants are not raised to a very great extent, and those who do grow them must deal heavily in White Hellebore.

Looking over crops as a whole, the year promises to be a very fruitful one and farmers have much to rejoice over. NELSON RITTER.

Syracuse, N. Y.

The Garden.

CABBAGES THAT DO NOT HEAD.

IN your issue of the 15th inst. you have an extract from a contemporary on the subject of the proper treatment of non-heading cabbages; my advice is, Do not have any such.

I have made some experiments on the cabbage crop by the application of a small quantity of sulphate of soda (Glauber's salts) at the rate of 200 lbs. to the acre, sometimes putting it in with the other manure used in preparing the land, and sometimes sprinkling it around the plant before hoeing, applying one-half to three-quarters of a teaspoonful to the hill. The result has always been an increase of more than twenty-five per cent. in weight in good hard heads over and above the portions of the field not so treated. The sulphate of soda is a cheap material even when purchased in small quantity from the local apothecary for experiment—the wholesale price being only 2½c. per lb.; the retail price should not be over 5c. per lb.

The dealers in chemicals and fertilizers sell it in its crude condition at $25 per ton, or 1¼c. per lb. when one barrel or more is purchased. This is as valuable for agricultural purposes as the crystalized article.

The use of this chemical on the cabbage was suggested by observing that the ashes of that plant showed by analysis a large percentage of sulphuric acid and of soda. The acid and the base combine in sulphate of soda in proportion as follows:—Nineteen parts soda and twenty-four parts sulphuric acid. This is without fractions. G. E. W.

CAUSE OF INJURY TO PLANTS FROM FREEZING.

DURING our late visit to his grounds (a report of which was given in the RURAL) Mr. HENDERSON gave the following item of experience:—In October a number of cabbage-plants—lot us say 1,000—had been planted in cold frames—to be kept over winter. About the time that they recovered from the effects of transplantation, another thousand plants were set in an adjoining frame. Before these latter had time to recover, a severe frost occurred. Now it would be supposed that the first thousand—which were erect and vigorous, having started to grow—would suffer less than the second thousand which were still drooping and wilted. Not so—the established plants suffered most. So marked, indeed, was this difference in the effects of the frost upon the two lots of plants, that the first or vigorous lot, were mostly killed, while the wilted lot were unhurt. Hence, Mr. HENDERSON reasons, as the injury wrought to plants by freezing is caused by the distension and disruption of the tissues, the less sap, the less injury.

Industrial Implements,

MACHINERY FOR FARMERS.

THE last twenty or thirty years have wrought a great change in the outfit of a farm. Then the plow, the hoe, scythe and sickle were the leading and most important implements used. Now the outfit of machinery for a successful farmer presents a list of machines that, in the olden time, would have been considered visionary. The mower, reaper, seed-planter, sulky rake, feed cutter, threshing machine, grinding mill, steam cooking apparatus and steam engine are only a part of the modern appliances required. The steam engine is rapidly becoming one of the necessary attachments, and no machine used by farmers is by them so little understood. To buy a poor engine is greater folly than to buy poor horses for the plow, and as we cannot expect that every farmer can be a judge of the steam engine, we would advise him to buy only of manufacturers of known reliability for good work, experience and honest dealing.

State to the manufacturer the duty you will require of it, and let him select the size best adapted to that duty; by so doing, you will avail yourself of the experience and judgment of the manufacturer and make him responsible for the fitness of the machine to the duty required. The engines and machinery made by LANE & BODLEY, Cincinnati, Ohio, are reliable in every particular, and their farm machinery among the best in the market. Their works are large, and completely equipped to turn out any of the class of work made there in the best and most economical manner.

They will send, on application, their illustrated catalogue of steam engines and the report of the Board of Experts of the Cincinnati Industrial Exposition of 1875, showing the comparative merits of different engines tested at that time. Messrs. LANE & BODLEY were awarded Gold Premium, $200, and Gold Medal on their stationary steam engine and $100. gold, on their portable farm engine.

Floricultural.

THE WILD GARDEN IN AMERICA.

By William Robinson, Founder and Editor of the London Garden.

[Concluded from page 58, last No.]

THERE are many phases of wild gardening which I would like to speak of as suitable for America, particularly that on rocks in New England, where they abound, and on river banks, which I noticed so very fine on the Hudson and other rivers; but perhaps the following description of what has been done here in one case will suggest what is attainable with you. It may be as well to explain that OXON is a cavalry officer who hardly knew a plant five years ago. He is heir to a property in Oxfordshire, and happening to meet with my "Wild Garden," then just published, he fancied he could carry out some of the ideas in it, and did so with the result which I will try to describe below. It is scarcely necessary to add that a person really acquainted with hardy plants and their various habitats would possess an enormous advantage over one like OXON. I noticed some parts of his wild garden—the very best parts—shady hollows, with rich leaf soil, entirely unplanted because they could not be seen from the grass drive. They were the very spots where the Trilliums, Blood-root, Maiden-hair Fern and other beautiful American wood plants would have been at home. I saw the garden for the first time on the 27th of May.

OXON had no favorable or inviting site with which to deal; no great variety of surface, which makes attempts in this direction so much easier and happier; little variety of soil, which might enable plants of widely different natural habitats to be grown; only a neglected plantation with rather a poor gravelly soil and a gentle slope in one part, and little variety of surface beyond a few gravel banks thrown up long before. The garden is, for the most part, arranged on each side of a Grass walk among rather open ground between trees on the one hand and rather shady ground on the other. The most beautiful aspect at the end of May of this singularly ungenial spring, which has not allowed the Peonies to unfold here yet, is that of the German Irises, with their great Orchid-like blossoms seen everywhere through the wood, clear above the grass and other herbage, stately and noble flowers that, like the Daffodils, fear no weather, yet with rich and delicate hues that could not be surpassed by tropical birds or flowers. If this wild garden only teaches this effective way of using the various beautiful and vigorous kinds of Iris now included in our garden flora, it would do good service. The Irises are perfectly at home in the wood and among the Grass and wild flowers; I have never before seen them to such advantage. By-and-by, when they go out of flower, they will not be in the way as in a "mixed border," tempting one to remove them, but grow and rest quietly among the Grass until the varied blossoms of another year well repay the trouble of substituting these noble hardy flowers for some of the familiar weeds that inhabit our plantations. In the wild garden the fairest of our own wild flowers may be happily associated with their relatives from other countries. Here the sturdy bell-flowered Scilla (S. campanulata) grows wild with our own Bluebell (S. nutans); the white and pink forms also of the last-named look beautiful here associated with the common well-known form. The earlier Scillas are of course past; they are admirably suited for the wild garden, especially S. bifolia, which thrives freely in woods. The Lily of the Valley did not inhabit the wood before; therefore it was pleasant to thin out some of its over-matted tufts in the borders and carry them to the wild garden, where they are now in fullest beauty. It is associated with its tall and stately relation, the Solomon's Seal, which I never saw to such perfection as in this wild garden, the partial shade suiting it. The Solomon's Seal, which is usually effective when issuing forth from fringes of shrubberies, is here best arching high over the Woodruff and other sweet woodland flowers, among which it seems a giant, with every leaf and stem and blossom full of lines of beauty. The additional vigor and beauty shown by this plant when in rich soil well repays one for selecting suitable spots for it. The greater Celandine (Chelidonium majus) and its double form are very pretty here with their tufts of golden flowers; they grow freely and take all needful care of themselves. The same may be said of the Honesty, the common forms of Columbine, and Allium Moly, an old-fashioned plant, and one of the many subjects at home in the wild garden, and which are better left out of the garden properly so called.

The myriads of Crocus leaves dying off without the indignity of being tied into bundles, as is common in gardens, the dense growth of Aconite and Snowdrop leaves, of colored and common Primroses and Cowslips, suggest the beauty of this wild garden during the past spring. The yet unfolded buds on the many tufts and groups of the numerous herbaceous Peonies promise noble effects in June; so do the tufts of the splendid Eastern Poppy (Papaver orientale), and the Lilies and Sweet Williams, and Adam's Needles, and many other subjects that will show their blossoms above or among the summer grass in due time. One of the most beautiful and free-growing order of plants among those most suitable for the wild garden is the Borago or Forget-me-not Order; among the best of these here at present are the Caucasian Comfrey (Symphytum caucasicum) and red-purple or Bohemian Comfrey (S. bohemicum), which is very handsome here. And what lovely effects from the Forget-me-nots—the Wood Forget-me-not and the Early Forget-me-not (M. dissitiflora)—are here! where their soft little clouds of blue in the Grass are much prettier than tufts of the same kind surrounded by the brown earth in a prim border. Here the pushing of the delicate Grass blades through the blue mass and the indefinite way in which the fringes of the tufts mingle with the surrounding vegetation are very beautiful. The only noticeable variation of surface is that of some gravel banks, which are properly covered with Stonecrops, Saxifrages, and the like, which would, as a rule, have a poor chance in the Grass. Surfaces that naturally support a very sparse and dwarf vegetation are valuable in a garden, as they permit of the culture of a series of free-growing Alpine and rock plants that would not be able to hold their own among Grass and ordinary weeds and wild flowers. One of the happiest features of this wild garden results from the way in which dead trees have been adorned. Once dead, some of the smaller branches are lopped off and one or more climbers planted at the base of the tree. Here a Clematis, a climbing Rose, a new kind of Ivy, a wild Vine, or a Virginian Creeper, have all they require—a firm support on which they may arrange themselves after their own natural habit without being mutilated or without trouble to the planter, and fresh ground free to themselves. In this way the more vigorous of the new Clematises may be grown to perfection. What an admirable way, too, of growing the many and varied species of Clematis: as beautiful as those with flowers as large as saucers. Even when an old tree falls and tosses up a mass of soil and roots the wild gardener is ready with some subject from his mixed border to adorn the projection, and he may allow some choice Bramble or wild Vine to scramble over the prostrate stem. A collection of Ivies grown on old tree-stems would be much more satisfactory than on a wall, and not liable to rob each other at the roots and interfere with each other in the air. Ferns are at home in the wild garden; all the strong hardy kinds may be grown in it and look better in it among the flowers than in the "hardy Fernery" properly so called. Even more graceful than the Ferns, and in some cases more useful because they send up their plume-like leaves very early in the year, are the giant Fennels (Ferula), which grow well here and hold their own easily among the strongest plants. The common Fennel is also here, but it seeds so freely that it becomes a troublesome weed and shows a tendency to overrun plants of greater value. This reminds us of certain subjects that should be introduced with caution into all but the remotest parts of the wild garden. Such plants as Heracleum, Willow Herb, and many others that overcome all obstacles, and not only win but destroy all their fellows in the struggle for life, should only be planted in outlying positions, islands, hedges, small bits of isolated wood or copse, where their effects might be visible for a season, and where they might ramble without destroying. In short, they never should be planted where it is desired to encourage a variety of beautiful subjects. Rabbits—dreaded vermin to the wild gardener—are kept out here effectually by means of wire fencing. The presence of these pests prevents all success in the wild garden. It would be well if one could keep out slugs by the same simple means.

To succeed well with the wild garden, one should have a good collection of hardy flowers from which it can be supplied. OXON has formed an excellent one, consisting of about eleven hundred species, mostly arranged in borders. From these, from time to time, over-vigorous and over-abundant kinds may be taken to the wilderness. In a large collection one frequently finds species best suited for the enjoyment of full liberty in the woods.

I need hardly point out, in conclusion, how agreeable the work of the wild-gardener is, or what a pleasant source of interest and amusement it is to a lover of flowers.

The Garden Office, London, June 4, 1876.

EXCHANGE.

SARAH BARBER, Castalia, Erie County, Ohio, writes:—I was sick when you put your Flower Exchange in the RURAL this spring, and did not know whether I should be able to see to my flowers or not. I will save White Candytuft—Double Rocket Dwarf Larkspur (two colors, pink and purple)—German Pinks (Heddewiggi and laciniatus)—Snapdragon. These I would like to exchange (in the fall) for Double Portulaca—Oriental Poppy—Campanula—Perennial Alyssum—Myosotis—Perennial Linum. We have as nice a bunch of Carnation Pinks as I ever saw; I this morning counted 110 perfect blossoms on it. There are more buds; some have withered and some have been picked; they are a bright scarlet and as double as can be.

FLORICULTURAL NOTES.

Walks, says the Gardeners' Chronicle, should not be hoed. Hand-weeding and rolling in showery weather is the best method and by far the most economical—the process of hand-weeding being formidable in name only.

The following, from the same journal, we have already noted in our Centennial floriculture:

The fine collection of Hollies, Rhododendrons, Conifers and other evergreens exhibited by the Messrs. VEITCH at the Centennial Exhibition has been presented by the firm to the Fairmount Park Commission. The donors gave the British Centennial Commissioners authority to select an institution on which to bestow the gift, and Col. SANDFORD and Prof. ARCHER, with excellent judgment, as the Philadelphia Ledger says, selected Fairmount Park. We trust that the shrubs may long remain as a memento of British horticulture and international good feeling.

Weigelas as Biennials.—M. LEBAS, in the Revue Horticole, advocates a new method of cultivating Weigelas. Observing that the flowers are produced on last year's wood and that the plants have a tendency to produce numerous shoots from the base, he recommends that the shrubs be considered as biennial and that they be cut down after flowering, so as to favor the development of the shoots at the base.

The Naturalist.

CARRIER PIGEONS.

AN interesting lecture on the utilization of the homing or carrier-pigeon was given at the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, recently, by Mr. Tegetmeier. After describing the origin of the pigeon *voyageurs*, the methods of training for the long *concours*, or races, the powers of flight, extending to upwards of 500 miles a day, the lecturer described the details of the pigeon post used during the siege of Paris, and stated that at the present time every fortress and fortified town in Germany was provided with flights of trained pigeons by which communications could be sent into a town if invested by a hostile force. He then proceeded to describe the latest application of the homing faculty of these birds—namely, the establishment of communications from light ships to the shore, so that by the use of the maritime code of signals, two or three letters stamped on the wing would convey the intelligence that assistance of any kind was desired, and would provide a means of communication when no other method was available. The experiment is being tried, in the first instance, at Harwich, and as soon as a sufficient stock of birds has been reared, it is proposed to keep relays on board the adjacent lightships, so that in case of a second wreck like that of the Deutschland, requests for assistance could be immediately conveyed to the authorities at Harwich.

BATS AND INSECTS.

WE make the following extract from a recent number of the London Farmer:—In the winter of 1875-76, a large number of dead, and, for the most part, hollow trees in the Thier-garten of Berlin, were felled and cut up for firewood. As a consequence of this measure, many thousands of bats, hybernating in these natural retreats, and awaiting the return of spring to renew their energetic campaign against insect vermin, were necessarily destroyed. It is needless to point out here the great utility of these harmless little creatures; any one possessed of the slightest smattering of natural history must be well acquainted with the fact. The question to be considered is how such a needless destruction of useful animal life may be best avoided. Numerous observations have fully shown that bats in a state of hybernation can endure any degree of cold without injury; but that if once disturbed while in this state they are extremely susceptible to change of temperate, and but rarely survive the disturbing intrusion on their sleep.

Baron Nolde writes to a German contemporary, suggesting that such trees as form the resting place of bats should be felled only in the warm months of the year, while their inhabitants are in a state of activity, and able to seek fresh shelter for themselves. The only objection in this place he can anticipate is, that labor is more easily and cheaply procured in the winter than in the summer months. But granting this, it by no means follows that felling such trees in winter is in the long run the cheaper plan. The importance of the bat in the economy of nature has not been properly recognized. He cites the case of a forest belonging to the Crown in illustration of this point. Well-grown oak trees being required for naval purposes, a notice was issued that none should be felled until the receipt of special orders. Long after the trees had arrived at maturity, the notice remained unrevoked, and they were suffered to run on to a state of decay. This being reported to the higher authorities, orders came to cut down the trees for firewood. The work was undertaken in the depth of winter; thousands upon thousands of hybernating bats died from disturbance and exposure, and the ultimate result was the total destruction of the whole forest, for in the second year after their extermination the damage done by caterpillars—which up to this time had never been specially remarkable—attained such an enormous development as to render the felling of the whole plantation the only practicable course to be pursued.

PINE TREE PRODUCTS.

THE pine forests of Europe are utilized to a considerable extent. There are two establishments near Breslau, in Silesia, one a factory where the pine leaves are converted into what is called "forest wool" or wadding; the other an establishment for invalids, where the waters used in the manufacture of this pine wool are employed as curative agents. Two cases of these products were shown at the last Paris and Havre Exhibitions, which contained various illustrations in the shape of wool for stuffing mattresses and other articles of furniture (instead of horse hair), vegetable wadding and hygienic flannel for medical application, essential oil for rheumatism and skin diseases; cloth made from the fiber; articles of dress, such as vests, drawers, hose, shirts, coverlets, chest preservers, etc., and other useful applications.

For the preparation of the textile material, an ethereal oil is produced, which is employed as a curative agent and as a useful solvent. The membranous substance and refuse are impressed into blocks and used as fuel; from the resinous matter they contain, they produce sufficient gas for illuminating the factory in which the manufacture is carried on. We have seen garments for sale in this city said to be made from the spines of the pine, and recommended for the cure of rheumatism.

STRANGE INSTANCE OF FELINE AFFECTION.

A LIVERPOOL gentleman, who visits Oldham occasionally, states that a curious incident occurred the other day at a gentleman's house in that town. A cat belonging to the house had recently given birth to three kittens, two of which it was found necessary to drown, and the mother was left with only one. About the same time two chickens, just hatched, were placed in a basket on a table and covered with a piece of flannel. Shortly after they were put there one of the chickens was missed and for a long time could not be found, but ultimately, to the surprise of every one, it was discovered snugly nestled with the remaining kitten in the soft fur of the cat, and chirping with evident satisfaction. It was removed to its basket and a watch set upon the cat, which, after a while, was seen to go to the basket, gently lift out the chicken by the down and feathers at the back of the neck, jump off the table, and carry it away to where the kitten was, without hurting it in the least. This instance of ultra-natural affection is the more remarkable because on ordinary occasions the cat is a savage one, and has a bad reputation for destroying chickens, pigeons and other birds, in the neighborhood.

THE ORANGE INSECT.

ORANGE eaters may be glad to know that the insect found beneath the small brown scales on the rind of the orange is a species of coccus—a tribe of insects allied to the well-known cochineal, and the scale is the cast skin of the larvæ. Underneath this shelter the insect may be found in various stages of growth, its different metamorphoses being gone through without any change of position. Sometimes the scale conceals a group of eggs in the process of hatching, sometimes larvæ more or less developed; in other cases it covers the perfect insect, in which the sexes are widely different, the male being furnished with ample wings, while his less favored spouse is evidently destined for a sedentary life at home. The insect was noticed and described by the late Mr. Richard Beck, in 1861, in the "Transactions of the Royal Microscopical Society," and the description, with a plate of the metamorphoses given in The Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science, Vol. I., new series. These insects are easily obtained, though not on every orange.

Domestic Economy.

CANNING AND PRESERVING IN OUR GRANDMOTHER'S TIME.

Doubtless many of the readers of the Rural New-Yorker have an idea that the preserving of fruits, meats and similar articles, in what is termed a natural condition, is something new, or belonging entirely to the present generation. It is certainly true that such things have come into more general use within the past fifteen or twenty years than ever before, besides, much has been learned in regard to the manipulation of the same, in order to be perfectly successful, still there were no secrets connected with the various processes, even in the beginning of the present century, as we will endeavor to show from an old work on the subject published at the period named. For instance, much has been said about the great discovery of Gail Borden in condensing and preserving cream and milk. But let us see what the author of our old book says about it:

Preserving Cream.—I took five *litres* of cream, taken with care from milk of the preceding evening. I condensed it in the water-bath to four *litres*, without skimming it. I took off the skim which was formed above, in order to strain it through a boulting cloth afterwards, and let it cool. After having taken off the skim which had risen while cooling, I put it in half bottles, observing the usual process, and let the water-bath boil for one hour.

At the end of two years this cream was found as fresh as if prepared the same day. I made some good fresh butter with it; making from four to five ounces of butter from half a *litre* of cream.

Green Peas.—The *clamart* and the *crochu* are the two kinds of peas which I prefer, especially the latter, which is the most juicy and sweet of all, as well as the earliest, except the *michaux* (Hastings), which is the first pea, but this kind is not fit to be preserved. I gather the peas when they are not too young and tender, for they are apt to dissolve in water during the operation. I take them when they are of a middling size. They are then in a more perfect state, and have an infinitely finer taste and flavor. I shell them as soon as they are gathered. I separate the large ones, and they are then put in bottles, the bottles being for that purpose placed on the stool before mentioned, in order that as many peas as possible may, by shaking the bottle, be made to go into them; I then cork the bottles, etc., and put them in a water-bath, which is made to boil for an hour and a half, if the season be cool and moist; and two hours in a dry and hot season; and I terminate the operation as before.

I also put in bottles the larger peas which I had separated from those which were more delicate. These, also, I put into the water-bath, which I let boil according to the season, two hours, or two hours and a half.

Pears.—When the pears are peeled and cut into quarters, and the pips with their husks are taken out, I put them into bottles, etc., in order to place them in the water-bath. I carefully attend to the degree of heat they have to receive, which, if they are of a kind usually eaten raw, should not be more than sufficient to make the water-bath boil. When the preserve consists of pears usually stewed or bolted, then I let them remain boiling in the water-bath five or six minutes. Pears which have fallen from the tree require a quarter of an hour's boiling, etc.

Chestnuts, Truffles and Mushrooms.—I pierce chestnuts at the point with the point of a knife, as if I meant to roast them. I put them in bottles, and give them one boiling in the water-bath.

Having well washed and brushed the truffles, in order to take away all the soil, I cut off the upper part gently with a knife. Then I put them into bottles, either whole or in pieces, according to the diameter of the neck. The remainder I put in bottles apart. The whole being well corked, etc., I put them in the water-bath to receive an hour's boiling, etc. It is not necessary to recommend that the truffles should be sound and recently gathered.

I take Mushrooms fresh from the bed, well formed and firm. Having peeled and washed them, I put them in a saucepan on the fire, with a piece of butter or some good olive oil, in order to make them eject their liquor. I leave them on the fire till this liquor is reduced one half. I withdraw them in order to let them grow cool in a pan; after which, I bottle them and give them one good boiling in the water-bath.

Broth, or Jelly.—I composed this jelly according to the prescription of a physician, of calves' feet and lights, red cabbage, carrots, turnips, onions and leeks, taking a sufficient quantity of each. A quarter of an hour before I took this jelly from the fire, I added some sugar-candy with some Senegal gum. I strained it as soon as it was made. After it was cold it was put in bottles, which were corked, tied, wrapped up in bags and put in the water-bath, which was kept boiling one quarter of an hour, and this jelly was preserved and remained as good as it was the day on which it was made.

HOW TO COOK SPRING CHICKENS.

It is generally conceded that chickens merely split open and broiled, are dry and unsavory eating. I, therefore, give to the housekeepers of the Rural my recipe, which has been pronounced good by many. Clean the chickens nicely; cut them down the back; break the breast bone; wash, and wipe them dry; season them, both in and outside, with salt and pepper; place them in a dripping-pan with a little water; put it in a quick oven until they are a delicate brown on both sides; baste them frequently with butter; renew the water as it evaporates. When the chickens are done, remove to a hot dish; add a little more water and a teaspoonful of flour to form the gravy. Serve the gravy in a sauce-tureen, or in the dish with the chickens.

Mrs. Rustic.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Fish Fritters.—Take the remains of any cold fish; remove all the bones; add bread crumbs and mashed potatoes in equal quantities. Mix half a teacup of cream with two well-beaten eggs, a pinch of salt and pepper; beat all together; cut into small cakes and fry in boiling lard. Serve hot.

Corn Fritters.—Take half a dozen ears of sweet corn, grate it from the cob as fine as possible; three well-beaten eggs; a tablespoonful and a half of flour; season with pepper and salt; melt equal portions of lard and butter in a frying pan; when boiling hot, drop in the mixture, a spoonful at a time. Fry brown, and send to the table hot.

Squash Fritters.—One pint of cooked squash; one pint of sweet milk; two eggs well beaten; a little salt, and sufficient flour to form a stiff batter; fry in boiling lard. Work a teaspoonful of baking powder thoroughly through the flour.

Knuckle of Veal with Green Peas.—Three pounds of veal; one quart of water; bring it slowly to a boil; take off all the scum with great care. When it has simmered for an hour, add a quart of green peas, and season to taste.

Hygienic Information.

REPLY TO "DIETETIC HERESIES No. 2."

The time is past when one can convince by bare assertion, however frequently repeated, and the race of men who can prove a theory without giving reasons, has become extinct. The idea of injury from sleeping on a full stomach, or during digestion, is, I think, of modern origin. I certainly never heard of such a thing in my youth; the whole family of nine, of which I was one, ate supper and went to bed, the women frequently, if not generally, left the dishwashing till morning. In my former article I mentioned that many changes of opinion on the subject of hygiene, and in the treatment of disease, had taken place within the past fifty years, some of which I will now mention, and as I cannot do better, will quote from an article written six years ago by one who has made the laws of health a life study.

"I know it is claimed by the most orthodox physicians that diseases change with time, with latitude and with age. I know that certain diseases are peculiar to certain climates, districts and temperaments, but I am convinced that diseases do not change half as much as the fashions of their treatment—I say fashion, for what else can I call it? Fifty years ago, physicians prohibited cold water in fevers. Whoever of the faculty prohibits it now would be amenable to malpractice. Forty years ago, bleeding was the first and most reliable remedy for interual inflamation: now for the same diseases, by the same orthodox physicians, the same treatment would be sapping the foundations of life. Forty years ago we were told that we ate too much: now the same faculty claim that many of our diseases are the result of insufficient food. Forty years ago we slept too much: now we are cautioned against insufficient sleep. In our childhood we were encouraged, for the benefit of our health, to rise early: now we are advised not to rise before the sun, not because it bespeaks ill manners, but because that when he rises he dissipates the germs of agues, chills and cholera. Fifty years ago, where fruit was plenty, one-half of juvenile ills were the effects of eating fruit: now, where fruit is scarce, three fourths of the same ills are for the want of it. I set down naught in malice. I am convinced that the science of medical treatment is progressing, and that these changes are mainly for the better, and I honor the medical faculty for inaugurating them, but I warn them that there are other changes to be made, and other teachings to prevail, before medical science becomes perfect, or the Goddess Hygia shall rule supreme."

I make these quotations not by the way of proof of the correctness of my position, but to show that however popular an opinion may be, it is liable, in the course of time, to turn out an error. What are the reasons given against sleeping during digestion? Surely the charges of "error, bad advice, untruth, subterfuge and nonsense" are not reasons, nor did I ever see or hear a reason that had the influence of a feather's weight, to hinder me from taking my best-relished meal, or lunch, at 9 to 10 P. M. and going at once to bed and to sleep. The charge of heresy I admit. Why not? Galileo was a heretic of the rankest kind. Columbus was a heretic. The whole list of Protestant churches was a string of heretics.

Friend Barker, you are right in not being convinced by the citation of individual cases. They do not prove a generality. By them we can only prove that there may be exceptions to sweeping rules. Statistics gotten up with care and precision, are good proof in drawing conclusions of health and longevity as affected by occupations and habits. But in the statistics you mention, I think you are wrong in classing farmers as laborers, as they are in the census classed separate. I quote from the Genesee Farmer of 1858, which I think is good authority:

"That the life of the farmer is healthful, has frequently been shown by tables of comparative longevity, and one of these for Massachusetts shows that their lives exceed the general average by twelve years, and go nearly nineteen years above that of the common laborer, and eighteen above the average of those engaged in mechanical pursuits.

A most appropriate question to raise in our own minds in settling for ourselves this matter is, what are the natural instincts of man in relation to the times of eating and sleeping. As to the first, there can scarcely be a doubt that it is when nature calls, neither can the fact be questioned that man feels less inclined to action after eating a full meal.

Heat is to the animal the great source and pabulum of life and action. When the stomach has work to do, it calls away from the brain, muscles and lungs a portion of their heat, and the consequence is less inclination to voluntary action and increased inclination to sleep. Then the brain and voluntary muscles rest, the lungs and heat slack up, the inspirations and pulsations are less frequent.

In reply to "Dietetic Heresies No. 3," which has just reached me, I will add that I am well aware that quotations favoring friend B.'s position might be added to infinity, and that his is the popular side of the question at this time. Nevertheless there are strong indications of a change in popular sentiment on this and some other matters relating to health.

If friend B.'s own case is in his favor as he reports it in one of his articles, mine is also in mine. Laboring with both brain and muscle for fifteen years, I ate very little meat in the morning, none afterwards till 9 P. M., just before going to bed. Since then, with less effort of brain, I have eaten meat at noon, but often more at 9 P. M. This was not an experiment with me. I had, since my boyhood, boarded in a fashionable manner for years; but when I became a householder, the change was made from a deep conviction of its propriety, deduced from a study of animal physiology and an observation of the instincts of nature, and its correctness has, in my own mind, become proved and substantiated by practice. I have been out in the open air every day for the past fifty-six years, never had a symptom of dyspepsia, and now challenge any man of my age, 71, to run a race with me.

Muskegon, Mich. S. B. Peck.

CARE OF THE HAIR.

A writer in Harper's Bazar says: To get and retain beautiful hair you must attend to daily brushing it, occasionally washing it, and periodically trimming it, and striving at all times to keep the general health up to the average.

Now as to brushing. The skin of the head, like that of every other part of the body, is constantly being renewed internally, and these are removed by means of the body brush. But it is not so easy to brush the hair as one might imagine. Few hair dressers, indeed, know very much about it. The proper time for the operation then, is in the morning, just after you have come out of your bath, provided you have not wetted your hair. Two kinds of brushes ought to be found on every lady's toilet table, a hard and a soft. The former is first to be used, and used well, but not too roughly; it removes all dust, and acts like a tonic on the roots of the hair, stimulating the whole capillary system to healthy action. Afterward use the soft brush—to give the gloss, from which the morning sunshine will presently glint and gleam with a glory that no Macassar oil in the world could imitate. Whence this gloss? you ask. Why, from the sebaceous glands at the root of the hair, nature's own patent pomade, which the hard brush does not spread.

Secondly, one word on washing the hair. This is necessary occasionally, to thoroughly cleanse both head and hair. One or two precautions must be taken, however. Never use soap if you can avoid it; if you do, let it be the very mildest and unperfumed. Avoid so-called hair-cleansing fluids, and use rain water filtered.

The yolks of two new-laid eggs are much to be preferred to soap; they make a beautiful lather, and when the washing is finished, and the hair thoroughly rinsed in the purest rain water, you will find when dry that the gloss will not be destroyed, which an alkali never fails to do. The first water must not be very hot, only just warm, and the last perfectly cold. Dry with soft towels—but do not rub till the skin is tender—and afterward brush. Be always careful to have your brushes and combs perfectly clean and free from grease, and place other brushes on the table for friends of yours who happen to be Macassarites.

Pointing the hair regularly not only prevents it from splitting at the ends, but renders each individual hair more healthy and less attenuated—if I may apply the term to hair—and moreover, keeps up the growing process, which otherwise might be blunted or checked. Singeing the tips of the hair has also a beneficial effect.

It will be seen that I am no advocate for oils and pomades. My advice in all cases is to do without them if you possibly can, for by their clogging nature and overstimulating properties they often cause the hair to grow thin and fall off sooner than it otherwise would. Let well alone.

One word in conclusion, about dyes. Avoid them if you be your own friend. Hair dyeing is very satisfactory, as far as dead hair is concerned, but on the living head its perfect success is a chemical impossibility. As to hair restorers, those are not simply stainers, but depend upon the action of the light, chemically altering and oxidizing the application after it has been used—their incautious use, I must add, is fraught with great danger.

NEURALGIA AMONG WOMEN.

A physician of a London hospital writes to the British Medical Journal:—"There is no recognized reason why of late years neuralgia of the face and scalp should have increased so much in the female sex, as compared with our own. There is no doubt that it is one of the most common of female maladies, one of the most painful and difficult of treatment. It is also a cause of much mental depression, and leads more often to habits of intemperance than any other. This growing prevalence to neuralgia may to some extent be referred to the effects of cold upon the terminal branches of the nerves distributed to the skin; and the reason why men are less subject to it than women may to a great extent be explained by the much greater protection afforded by the mode in which the former cover their heads when they are in the open air. It may be observed that the surface of the head which is actually covered in man is at least three times that which fashion allows to women; indeed, the points of contact between the hat or bonnet and the head in the latter are so irregular as practically to destroy any protection which might otherwise be afforded.

CURE FOR EPILEPSY.

A writer in the Cincinnati Gazette recommends a cure for epileptic fits which he has proved himself, after suffering more than twenty years. The following is the remedy:—Take of bromide of potassa two and one half ounces, dissolved in one pint of rain water. Dose, a teaspoonful three times a day, before eating. Should your throat become sore, weaken it. If it should make you dizzy-headed, reduce the dose. Some constitutions will not bear it as strong as others. There is no danger in the above remedy if you are careful.

Infected Clothes.—A correspondent of the Manchester Guardian warns readers of the danger of ordering clothes from tailors whose workmen work at their homes, where contagious disease may be raging. Recently a friend ordered a suit of clothes from a Manchester tailor, and soon after he had begun to wear them symptoms of scarlet fever appeared. He found that the journeyman who had made up his clothes had scarlet fever in his house at the time.

Treatment of Burns.—In the treatment of burns in the Charity Hospital, New York, when of a superficial character, a preparation consisting of two parts of collodion and one of olive oil has been found to be very efficacious. When the burn is of an extensive character, gasoline proves of decided benefit. The advantage of gasoline is that it is of the right consistence, and does not become rancid.

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A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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A NEGLECTED SOURCE OF WEALTH.

WITH all our boasted progress in the various industrial pursuits, succeeding generations will doubtless marvel at lack of industry and gross stupidity. This may not be a pleasant view to take of our situation or be very complimentary to the general intelligence of those upon whose inventive genius and labors the nation depends for its stable wealth. Still, while we may not be able to discover our own shortcomings, those who come after us surely will, however much we try to avoid leaving what are termed the great works of the age incomplete.

If there is any one industry in which, as a nation, we take more pride in than another, it is in the development of our natural resources; and while we have good reasons to be proud of what has been done in this direction, there is still room for regret that some have nearly or quite escaped notice or serious attention. One of the most prominent of these is the almost total neglect of employing the water in our thousands of brooks, ponds and rivers for irrigating purposes. Here is a source of wealth which might be made to yield greater returns than all the gold and silver mines of the Continent, but for the lack of proper appreciation or skill to employ it, this incalculable source of wealth is permitted to pass by our very doors in its idle meanderings from mountain tops to the sea. There is scarcely a season passes at some period of which a severe drouth does not occur, when an abundance or even a small supply of water applied artificially to the land would not insure a bountiful crop; and while every farmer and gardener will admit this to be true, there seems to be a general apathy among this very class of our people in regard to this subject of irrigation.

It is true that we do occasionally hear of an instance of low meadows being flooded and the enormous yield of hay gathered therefrom in consequence; but their numbers are so few as to be scarcely worthy of record. We are reminded at this time of an extensive region of country adjacent to this great city of New York and extending to the northwest fifty or more miles, which is now suffering from one of the severest drouths ever known. Crops of all kinds have been cut short, gardens and lawns burned up, and ornamental trees and shrubs dying by the thousands—all for the want of a little moisture; and still there is not naturally a better watered region in the country than this one to which we refer. A man can scarcely travel a mile in any direction without crossing small and large never-failing streams; but we doubt if a single attempt has ever been made to utilize the water in these brooks for irrigating purposes.

The land lying contiguous to these streams could, in many instances, be irrigated by taking the water directly therefrom and distributing it in ditches; but where it is needed most is upon the high ground, where it cannot be taken without more or less expense in the way of pipes and power for elevating it; but the cost of these is really of but little moment when compared with the benefits derived therefrom.

A wind-mill is probably the cheapest power known for this purpose, costing scarcely anything for attendance when once put in position and, if properly constructed, very little for repairs. There are few localities where there is not wind enough to pump all the water required for ordinary purposes, provided a good, capacious reservoir is furnished to hold the surplus raised at times when artificial applications of this element were not required.

More than one farmer and gardener have said to us during the drouths of the past half dozen years, that their losses in a single season would more than pay for the cost of the necessary apparatus to irrigate their entire land; but they continue to defer the preparations for preventing such losses in the future, vainly hoping for more favorable seasons.

There is more gold in the little streams which are found in such abundance throughout the Eastern States than in the gravelly beds underlying those of the Rocky Mountain regions; and what is more, it will cost a far less sacrifice of health and capital to obtain it; but we can do little more than to tell where it is to be found, leaving the collecting to those who possess the requisite skill and facilities for drawing upon this inexhaustible source of wealth.

FOLLOWING A LEAD.

A CORRESPONDENT of the N. Y. Times, writing from Philadelphia about the opening of the Centennial Exhibition, reports the remarks of one of the German officials who expressed surprise at the appearance of the crowd:—"Mein Gott! One hundred thousand people and no peasantry!"

He is not an exception. The difference in appearance between an American and a European gathering is apparent to all. When JENNY LIND rode from the steamer to her hotel that bright Sunday morning of her arrival in America, the throngs that crowded around the carriage attracted her attention. "Mr. BARNUM," said she, "I see no poor people."

A German friend of ours, who came some years since, said that which struck him as most singular when he passed across the Battery was, that the drivers of the carriages in waiting, almost without exception, wore white shirts and were reading newspapers. It is certainly a thing of which, as a people, we may be proud, that there are no classes and but few individuals, who are so far down in poverty as to be unable to dress decently.

But among the crowd in Philadelphia there were peasants—farmers, mechanics, day laborers—all honorable men and respectable citizens, neither better nor worse on account of their avocations. For the day they laid aside the hoe, the hammer and the hod, and donned their best apparel, all of which, we venture to say, was paid for. These are not the classes that make tailors' bills.

But he who in an American crowd or in any American society undertakes to judge of a man's position from his dress, makes a mistake. Our people do not take the advice given by one of SHAKSPEARE'S characters, "Costly thy raiment as thy purse *affords*," but make their dress rich and expensive without regard to the purse and whether they can afford it or not. At church, in society, on the street, the millionaire and the man not worth a penny in the world are dressed alike. The wives and daughters of men who are living on their incomes wear no finer silks and no more expensive jewels than do those of men of moderate means, much of whose earnings and profits are all spent for useless extravagance.

It is fact so patent, it requires no argument; we all see it every day. And the corollary—the direct inference is that too much money is spent in this country on dress. But who shall say what one may or may not wear? Shall the miller always wear white and the farmer gray, and the gardener blue clothes? We are not advocates for uniforms for the different professions, trades or classes; nor would we limit the price that should be paid for dress. The advice in the quotation given above is sound; let every man dress as he chooses if his purse affords it. There are, however, only a few who dress in accordance with their own ideas of the fitness of things; fashions must be followed as nearly as may be, and what another wears is an example for us. We imitate when it is both useless and foolish and strive to do as others do when we need the money we might save for other purposes.

These remarks we make about dress may, with propriety, be applied to almost every department of living—houses, furniture, ornament, food. There is too much striving to ape the habits of those who have more money than we have, and it is this aping—spending money for things not necessary because somebody else has them—that keeps so many in comparative poverty. There is no country in the world where the common people can obtain a good living for so little labor as in this; and when we begin to spend our money for what we need only, instead of for what we want, from that moment we shall begin to accumulate what will feed and clothe us and ours when we have arrived at an age that we should be excused from further labor.

To secure this end, a good supply of will power is necessary. It is not an easy thing for a man—and it is a harder one for a woman—to declare independence and not be governed by what *they* wear, or have, or do, or say. But such declaration is necessary in many cases. And there are but few, and that few not worthy of notice, who will not at heart commend the action of those who endeavor to regulate their expenses with due regard to their income. If there is one class of our readers to whom more than to another, we would impress these ideas, it is the young—those whose habits are yet to be formed and the formation of which is of the utmost importance to them. Their motto should be, "Economy and Frugality," and they should ever bear in mind the remark of Mr. MICAWBER:—"An income, twenty pounds, an expenditure, nineteen, nineteen, six, result happiness; an income twenty pounds, an expenditure twenty nought six, result, misery."

RURAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Fair of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society will take place at Albany, Sept. 11–15, this year. Some have expressed the opinion that the Centennial Exhibition will largely contribute to the scarcity of exhibitors for 1876; but we are satisfied, from conversations with many of the regular and new exhibitors, that this Fair would not be missed by them on any account. Its popularity, which is increasing every year, is probably due largely to the liberal treatment to be relied upon from the heads of the various departments as well as the certainty of a crowd of visitors during the time the Fair is open. Copies of the Premium List and blanks for entries, can be had by addressing "State Agricultural Society, Albany, N. Y." Early entries are safest and best.

Depreciating Value of Silver.—Not long since everybody seemed to be anxious to have silver circulate as of old, most persons having become tired of the far too often filthy paper fractional currency. But now that silver has become abundant it depreciates in value, and for aught we know it may soon not be worth as much as old iron. It is a clean and good-looking circulating medium however and not likely to burn up or blow away, and for our part we like the change, having had enough of rags and nickel. But if silver is to be thrown out of use because of its abundance, why may not gold meet the same fate at some future day. It is difficult to say what may happen, still we hope even our financial Gods will not deprive us of a good hard currency that can be made to jingle when one needs such music.

Protect the Purchaser.—Of late there has been some discussion in the Rural Press in regard to the subject of patenting new fruits and plants in order that the originator may derive more benefit from his production. This may be quite correct from the producers standpoint, but it seems to us that the purchaser very frequently needs more protection in order to prevent being swindled, when buying new and untried sorts. Perhaps the two might be combined, and the originator be compelled to submit his productions to rigid trial before disposing of any stock and the public warned against purchasing new plants until they had received the endorsements of commissioners appointed to investigate and report upon the same.

Small Fruits at the Centennial.—From what we can gather out of the reports made by the committee appointed to examine the fruits shown at the Centennial, the exhibit is very mean indeed and would not be creditable to a country town. The show of small fruits, such as strawberries and raspberries, seems to have been confined to a few new seedlings, of no especial merit, in fact a greater variety and a better show can be seen almost any day in the market stalls of our larger cities and villages. Why this neglect of the Great Centennial by our fruit growers is something we do not pretend to understand, but the fact is painfully apparent.

"Political Duties."—An esteemed correspondent takes exception to our leader of last week on the above named subject, and as we believe in giving both sides of all questions of importance, his very able reply will be found on page 72. It is however, but fair to state there is really no difference of opinion between ourselves and L. A. R., the point taken is mainly in the manner of expressing it.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THE spicy letter of our Centennial correspondent "SHORTHORN," came too late to appear in full this week but the remainder will be given next week, with some additional interesting matter on the same subject.

A NEW and heretofore unknown pest is reported to have appeared among the orange groves of Southern California. It is supposed to be a species of plant lice, and attacks the roots, causing the death of the tree.

THE "Wheat-head Army Worm" *Leucania albilinea* is said to be quite plentiful in some parts of Kansas and doing considerable injury to wheat. It attacks the heads of wheat and rye, eating out the soft kernels leaving the chaff empty.

THE physiologists have at last come to the conclusion that long life in man is not the result of any particular care which persons take of themselves but it is hereditary, the decendents of METHUSELAH standing far the best chance for a long time.

COLTON & Co., 172 William St., New York, have just issued a fine Map of Turkey, which will be of great service to those desiring to read understandingly the accounts of the war now going on. They will send copies by mail on receipt of twenty-five cents.

NOTHING gives us greater pleasure than to chronicle the enterprise and good judgement of a contemporary. The Illustrated Weekly, July 15, gives a taste of this quality that should be a cause of just pride to proof reader and publisher, not to mention the artist who *composes* the pictures. For instance on the first page is a portrait of "The late Brigadeir General G. A. CUSTER," while the biographical notice tells about the achievements of "Major General CUSTER." On the last page is a spirited picture of "Yachts off the Long Island Coast in a Squall." The yachts are *all* of the English Cutter model, of which we have but *one* example in our whole fleet, and in transferring and adapting the picture from an English periodical, the artist has omitted to haul down the English flag and substitute American colors in their stead. With these trifling exceptions the picture is as perfect as if drawn by a special artist on the spot. Again we say such intelligent enterprise is beyond the power of words to praise.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

HUNDREDS of testimonials, from all sections where the **"Phœnix" brand Pure White Lead** has been sold, certify to its great superiority over all other paints.

THE HEN AND THE HONEY BEE.

A LAZY hen—the story goes—
  Loquatious, pert, and self-conceited,
Espied a bee upon a rose,
  And thus the busy insect greeted:

"Say, what's the use of such as you,
  (Excuse the freedom of a neighbor,)
Who gad about and never do
  A single act of useful labor?

"I've marked you well for many a day
  In garden blooms and meadow clover;
Now here, now there, in wanton play,
  From morn to night an idle rover.

"While I discretely bide at home
  A faithful wife—the best of mothers,
About the fields you idly roam
  Without the least regard for others.

"While I lay eggs, or hatch them out,
  You seek the flowers most sweet and fragrant,
And, sipping honey, stroll about,
  At best a good-for-nothing vagrant!"

"Nay," said the bee, "you do me wrong;
  I'm useful too; perhaps you doubt it,
Because—though toiling all day long—
  I scorn to make a fuss about it!

"While you, with every egg that cheers
  Your daily task, must stop and hammer
The news in other people's ears
  Till they are deafened with the clamor!

"Come now with me and see my hive,
  And note how folks may work in quiet;
To useful arts much more alive
  Than you with all your cackling riot!"

[From the German, by John G. Saxe.

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

BEFORE the discovery of America by COLUMBUS in 1492, all the undiscovered world—from Cape Bojador, on the western coast of Africa, easterly to the Indies—had, by successive Popes, been conceded to Portugal; but in 1493 Pope ALEXANDER the VI., fearing the discovery of COLUMBUS under the patronage and in the interest of Spain, would lead to a conflict of authority and desiring to prevent all difficulty between the nations, decreed that all the world west of a line drawn from the North Pole, passing through a point 100 leagues west of the Azores, should belong to Spain; while Portugal should hold all east of that line, which was not at that time known and in possession of other powers. Other nations soon became dissatisfied with that allotment, questioning the right of the Pope to act in the matter. Then, as now, it was national as well as individual practice

"For those to *get* who have the power,
And those to *keep* who can."

The doctrine of right by discovery was soon admitted and other nations became eager to join in the search for new possessions, in the hope of obtaining treasures of gold, silver and precious stones, in which all unexplored countries are supposed to abound.

We will not stop to discuss if MADOC, son of OWEN GWYNETH, Prince of North Wales, did in 1170 visit North America; or if in the Tenth Century the Northmen landed on the New England coast, as believed by many, but of which BANCROFT says there is no clear historic evidence to establish the probability. Historians agree that JOHN CABOT or CABOTA, an Italian sailing under British authority, found the North American Continent in or about the latitude of Labrador in 1497. The next year his son SEBASTIAN made an examination of the coast so far south as Chesapeake Bay, thus giving the right of prior discovery to that portion of the Continent to Great Britain.

Portugal, although then ranking first among maratime nations, sent but one expedition to the New World. In 1501 CORTEREAL coasted about 600 miles below latitude 50°. He enticed some Indians on board his ships whom, on his return to Portugal, he sold for slaves.

The French caught fish off Newfoundland in 1504, but VARRAZZANI was the first explorer sent out by that nation. He, in 1524, coasted from North Carolina to Nova Scotia. In 1534 JAMES CARTIER entered the Bay of Chaleurs, New Brunswick. He afterward landed at Gaspe, where he raised a cross and took possession in the name of the French King. The next year he sailed up the River St. Lawrence so far as the Isle of Orleans. Here he left his ships and proceeded up the river with boats to another island on which was a high hill. This he climbed, and finding the view from its summit extended and beautiful, he named it Mont Real—now Montreal—Royal Mountain.

Domestic difficulties—of both religious and political nature—prevented France from engaging in discovery, exploration or colonization for many years, and it was not until 1603 that an attempt to colonize Canada was made. Then SAM'L CHAMPLAIN made his first expedition and selected Quebec as the site for a fortification. On his return to France the same year he found the Sovereignty of Acadia had been conferred on a Calvinist named DE MONTS, whose patent covered all territory in America between latitudes 40° and 46°, which included both Philadelphia and Montreal. An expedition was fitted out and the first permanent French settlement in America was made at Port Royal—now Annapolis—in Nova Scotia, in 1604 two years before the English arrived at James River, Va. DE MONTS examined the New England coast as far southward as Boston. Jesuit priests arrived in 1612 and enlisted the Indians between the Penobscot and Kennebec rivers as allies of France and a settlement was made on Mt. Desert Island.

Meantime CHAMPLAIN had returned to Quebec, ascended the Sorrel River, discovered the lake that bears his name and succeeded in establishing French supremacy in Canada which was retained for more than a century.

While the French were thus establishing themselves in Canada, the Spanish were advancing their explorations in the south. PONCE DE LEON, a companion of COLUMBUS on his second voyage, who had accumulated riches while Governor of Porto Rico in ways not entirely consistent with the rules of honesty, was ever ambitious and energetic. Tales of a fountain, the use of whose waters would bestow perpetual youth, he had heard and believed. Gold and precious stones were said to abound in its vicinity. Here, he thought, was an opportunity to drink of the elixir of life, to amass immense riches and attain an empire in a new country. He sailed from Porto Rico in 1513 and on Easter Sunday (Pascua Florida) saw the land and named it in honor of the day. A landing was made a few miles above St. Augustine. Supposing it to be an island, search was made for a passage westward. He doubled Cape Florida, named the Tortugas (Turtle) Islands and returned to Porto Rico. He again visited Florida in 1521, to take possession of the country, but was killed in a conflict with natives.

Spanish ships in 1519 visited the Gulf of Mexico and examined its coast, mapped the position of the outlets of the Mississippi and reached Vera Cruz, where CORTEZ had been some years before. Two ships from St. Domingo in quest of slaves, touched the shores of South Carolina in 1520.

In 1525 an expedition in search of a northwest passage, under command of STEPHEN GOMEZ, entered the bay of New York and examined the coast of New England. This section on old Spanish maps is designated as Gomez Land.

In 1528 NAVARREZ entered Tampa Bay, and directing his ships to meet him, went overland to St. Marks. Failing to find his ships there he constructed rude boats and in them proceeded westward. After passing one of the mouths of the Mississippi the boats were separated by a storm. One, commanded by CABEZA DE VACA, was thrown ashore near Galveston, and one by CASTILLO a little further east. Of the fate of the others nothing definite is known. CABEZA made friends with the Indians and learned their language; and in 1534, with three others—all that remained alive—escaped from the natives and started inland. They went through Texas north to the Canadian River, then westwardly to the valley of the Rio Grande del Norte; thence still westward until in 1536 they reached the Pacific in the vicinity of San Miguel. Here other Spaniards had settled, having come by way of Mexico, then called New Spain.

Reports had reached the Governor of New Spain of seven cities of Cibola lying northward beyond the desert that were very rich in silver and gold. To find these, exploring parties were sent out, one of which in 1540 ascended the Colorado River to a point 100 miles above the present boundary of the United States, about the same time another party struck the same river still further north, and still another discovered a canon of the Colorado. Others went further east and the country was searched from Kansas to the Pacific but none of the seven cities of Cibola were found. Disappointed in their search for this northern Peru, they all returned to New Spain (Mexico) in 1542.

In 1537 FERDINAND DE SOTO was appointed Governor of Cuba, with power over all the Floridas. This comprised all the territory of the eastern United States of which the Spaniards had knowledge. Selecting 600 applicants for fame and fortune from the many who applied, he sailed for Cuba. On his arrival two Indians gave him glowing descriptions of the wealth of the mainland and DE SOTO, leaving his wife to govern in his stead, sailed for Florida. Confident of success he sent his ships back to Cuba and took up his march inland. He had a regular army of horsemen and infantry fully equipped, accompanied with extensive baggage trains. They left the bay of Spirito Santo in June, 1539, and reached the Flint River, not far from the bay of Apalachicola, in October of the same year. Turning northward they probably visited Upper Georgia and possibly North Carolina, in search of gold, of the abundance of which they were continually told; but their efforts to find it were fruitless. Leaving the head waters of the Savannah—or its branch, the Chattooga—they went westward and after many delays struck the Mississippi River in April, 1541, at about latitude 35°. They crossed the river and ascended the western shores to near New Madrid, from whence a party was sent to explore further north. They reported having found a barren country. DE SOTO then went west and northwest to the highlands of the White River in Arkansas, 200 miles west of the Missouri. Thence they went south to the Tunicas, near the hot springs and saline tributaries of the Washita. The next spring (1542) they followed the Washita to its junction with the Red River and thence to the Mississippi. Here DE SOTO died. His body was wrapped in his mantle and at midnight buried in the middle of the river. His followers fearing to embark on the river, thought to reach Mexico by land and traveling thenceward, in July found themselves in the neighborhood of Natchitoches. The Red River was so swollen as to render it impassable. They followed down its stream, again reaching the Mississippi, where they built boats in which they descended the river, reaching the gulf in July, 1543.

In 1547 LOUIS CANCELLO, a Dominican, received permission to undertake the Christianization of the natives of Florida. The attempt was unsuccessful and civilization was, for a time, abandoned. Spain nevertheless, by virtue of the various expeditions beforementioned, claimed title to all of North America so far as Canada and Newfoundland. The Chesapeake Bay was named on Spanish maps in 1549 as the Bay of St. Mary; but there is no record of its discoverer nor of any Spanish exploration of the vicinity.

So late as 1560 no permanent settlement had been made on the Atlantic Coast of North America. In 1562 COLIGNY, desirous of establishing a refuge for the Huguenots (or Protestants) of France, obtained from CHARLES IX. permission to send out a company that landed near Port Royal, S. C. There they built a fort and gave to it and the surrounding country the name of their sovereign CHARLES—or CAROLUS—whence Carolina. The enterprise was a failure and the fort was soon abandoned.

In 1564 COLIGNY sent another colony, who selected the St. Johns River for their place of debarkation. Here also they built a fort named, as the other, Fort Charles. But dissensions soon arose. The colonists were wanting in moral principle; mutinies were frequent. Some of the most turbulent demanded and received permission to return to France. But no sooner were they at sea than they commenced acts of piracy against the Spaniards. The remainder of the colonists were about to abandon the enterprise when RIBAULT arrived from France with more emigrants and full supplies. Success then seemed certain.

But the Spaniards were jealous. They claimed the country not only by right of discovery, but also by concession of the Pope, and would not think of relinquishing it with its supposed immense wealth to the French, and especially to French Protestants. So MELANDEZ was sent in 1565 with a large force to break up the colony. On the day consecrated in the Romish calendar to St. AUGUSTINE, he sighted the coast and entering a harbor he gave it the name of that saint. Sailing thence northward he soon found the French ships at anchor, which, not being prepared for battle, escaped by cutting their cables and putting out to sea. The Spaniards returned to St. Augustine where they landed, proclaimed PHILIP II. King of all North America, and laid the foundation for the town of St. Augustine Sept. 8, 1565, 40 years before an English colony was established at Jamestown. Houses are still standing in St. Augustine that were built long before the first settlement in Virginia.

The French now determined to make an attack on the Spanish, hoping to surprise them before they had made ready for defense; but a fearful storm arose which dispersed the fleet and wrecked every ship, from which most of the crews were so fortunate as to escape. Learning this, the Spanish made an immediate attack on the French fortifications which were easily taken. Most of the colonists as well as the captured sailors were murdered, "Not as Frenchmen, but as heretics."

The French Government, occupied with its difficulties at home, paid no attention to this outrage on its subjects; but retribution soon followed. Two years after, in 1567, DOMINIC DE GOURGES at his own expense fitted out three ships, with which and 150 men he surprised the Spanish at the mouth of the St. Johns River and gained possession of the place formerly occupied by the French colony. Being too weak to maintain their position he returned to France after hanging all the prisoners and placing over them an inscription, "I do not this as unto Spaniards, but as unto traitors and murderers." France disclaimed any connection with this transaction and relinquished all claim to Florida.

The first English colonial charters in 1606 gave to two companies all the land from Cape Fear to Halifax, except a small territory in Acadia (Nova Scotia) then in possession of the French. By this time, not only had the concessions of the Popes become null in public opinion, but the right by discovery was exceedingly weak. Actual possession was nine points in the game, and no nation then, any more than at present, had scruples about claiming and taking all they could hold. To one of these, known as the London Company, was given the exclusive right to the country between latitudes 34-38°, from Cape Fear to the mouth of the Potomac. To the other, known as the Plymouth Company, territory between latitudes 41-45°—from the southern extremity of Connecticut to the northern line of New York. The country between these grants from 38° to 41°—being left for settlement by both Companies, provided they came no nearer to each other than 50 miles.

In all the early charters the western limits, if any were fixed, were the Pacific Ocean—sometimes called the great South Sea—which was then supposed to be but a short distance from the Atlantic. Under the charter of the London Company Virginia was settled and was governed well and liberally until 1624, when the Company was arbitrarily dissolved by King JAMES, through actions of judges who were his creatures and ready to do his will. Virginia then became a royal colony.

In 1632 CHARLES I., then King, granted to Lord BALTIMORE a charter for the country bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the 40° parallel, the Potomac River from its mouth to its source and a line drawn due east from Watkin's Point to the Atlantic. This territory was made a royal province and named in honor of HENRIETTA MARIA, wife of King CHARLES I. Thus were the limits of Virginia circumscribed on the north.—To be continued.

IF we look upon life as a gift of days, one at a time, all its duties can be done, all its burdens borne.

The Story-Teller.

ONCE A COWARD.

CHAPTER I.

IT was one evening after we had come in from shooting that she said it. I remember that. I remember, also, how cheerily the library window at the old hall gleamed out to welcome us, making a ruddy stain on the wet gravel. Didn't it look cosy, too, after a long, tiring day spent in tramping through heavy turnip fields and stiff wet stubble! And yet there was a cosier thing than that before us soon.

My cousin Helen's face! It beamed out on us, a lovely picture framed in the dark, heavily-carved doorway, a bright, glowing face set against a bright, glowing background like the portraits of some mediæval saint; a glorious face always, but when, as now, bringing the full light of its moist blue eyes and flushed sweet smiles to bear on its fellow-creatures, utterly irresistible.

One of our party—Ducie of Enderbeau—did not attempt to resist it. So completely, indeed, had that gentleman fallen under my cousin's yoke that I daily expected to hear that, out of sheer gratitude for his worship, the young lady had promised to return him that "love, honor and obedience" which we find mentioned in the common prayer-book; nor would the tidings have displeased me. I don't know how it would have been if I had wished to marry Helen myself; but when a fellow has got a dear little girl of his own waiting for him he can afford to be magnanimous about his cousins. He turned into the library at once, saying something to Helen as he passed her which made the flush deepen pinkly in her fair cheeks, and Tom Jackson and I followed.

I fancy it was Devereaux's absence which turned the conversation on him. Jackson never could bear him and said so, adding, like the broad, outspoken Yorkshireman he was, that the fellow had no more courage than a rabbit; "actually winced every time a gun went off near him." One of the girls rather objected to this; but Mary Jackson took her brother's part and gave us an amusing instance of Devereaux's want of courage in some mountain adventure they had enjoyed together. She made us all laugh by the way she told it, and it was then Helen exclaimed, with a scornful curl of her pretty lips.

"I am sorry you told us. I never liked Captain Dovereaux, but I detest a coward."

Girls, when of impetuous dispositions, sometimes use stronger expressions than they have any idea of. The bitter word *coward*, flung like a shot into the middle of our little group by a girl, produced a momentary silence; and I began to feel annoyed with our fair cousin for forgetting that Devereaux was our guest and to meditate giving her a private lecture.

To my unutterable surprise Ducie saved me the trouble by taking the reins into his own hands and bringing up the spirited offender with a jerk. He had been leaning against the mantelpiece, gazing down at her with a sort of dreamy admiration in his dark eyes; but now he straightened himself as suddenly as if the shot had struck him and spoke in a dry, hard tone, which must have been quite new to his beautiful young hostess.

"Do you think that is a fair term to apply to the gentleman in question, Miss Curtis?"

Helen stared. She was not used to rebukes from her lover and instantly resented this one by as dry and hard an answer.

"After what Miss Jackson has just told us? Yes, Mr. Ducie, I do."

"Then I think you are very wrong, if you will allow me to say so."

"You do not want to be allowed——" Helen began haughtily; then flushed up and softened, like a regular woman, into a personal appeal. "But I could hardly make allowance even for you, Mr. Ducie, whom we know to be a brave man, if you did not hate cowardice at least as much as I do."

"I do—*hate* cowardice," he answered, with an unwonted emphasis which struck us all. "So much so, that I do not even like to hear the word applied to a man who probably does not deserve it."

"But if he does?"

"You have no proof that Captain Devereaux does."

"Not Mary's story? Oh, Mr. Ducie," (getting angry again and her blue eyes flashing impatiently,) "you cannot bring me to look at bad things with simple indifference. The word may be ugly, the thing is much uglier; and not even your eloquence (very scornfully) could make me regard a coward with any feelings but pity and contempt."

Mary Jackson, whose tongue had provoked the quarrel, rose uncomfortably, saying it must be time to dress, and fluttered away, Tom Jackson and his pretty wife following. Then, to my great joy, Helen, seeing herself left alone, rose to depart likewise, and was turning to the door when Ducie stopped her.

"One word," he said, speaking with a sort of forced calmness. "Putting this nonsensical story of Miss Jackson's on one side, would you call a man a coward because his courage has failed him signally in one solitary instance?"

I bit my lip. I saw Helen was on her mettle; and, indeed, her answer proved me right.

"Decidedly I should. I judge a man's heart by what he does, not by what he says; and the more sudden the call the more surely he acts according to his natural instincts. One greater than you or I said of His disciples, 'By their fruits ye shall know them;' and I—when I see a man do a cowardly act, I know he must be a coward at heart.

You are making yourself special pleader in a very bad cause, Mr. Ducie. Pray let us drop the subject. You forget" (drawing up her head like an offended queen) "that my father died before Lucknow and therefore it is not likely that his daughter should have any sympathy for a coward."

"I am sorry for it," he said, gravely. "I should have thought the fact carried its own punishment heavily enough without. Miss Curtis, it wants ten minutes yet to the dressing-bell. May I tax your patience for half that time while I tell you a story?"

"Certainly," she said, and sat down again with a little air of offended surprise.

"Two years ago," Ducie said, "a friend of mine and his servant were traveling in South America. The former went abroad for his health—not that he was ill when the anecdote I am going to tell you took place. You will please not make that excuse for him—he was perfectly well and he took his servant with him because the lad was so attached to him, such a faithful, true-hearted fellow, that he could not make up his mind to leave him behind. It was scorching hot weather; such heat as you may expect in a country which lies on the southern border of Brazil; and my friend used to go every morning to bathe at the Plaza Ramirez, a large, unsheltered bay about a mile and a half from the town. A beautiful stretch of sand it was; the best bathing place in the neighborhood, and yet a very dangerous one, for if you went outside a certain number of yards you were liable to get entangled in one of two or three conflicting currents which, in a dead calm, you could see curling about within each other like harmless sea serpents but which, if they caught you in their strong embrace, would assuredly carry you out into the Atlantic unless you happened to be a strong and clever swimmer.

"Well, one morning my friend and John Barton, his servant, went to bathe as usual about seven o'clock—a late hour in those climates, Miss Curtis, where most people start at five and where the sun is almost strong enough to roast the brains in your head by eight. As a natural consequence, they found themselves alone at the plaza, having met most of the Montevideans returning.

"My friend went in first, leaving Barton to watch his clothes, lest any of the small fry from the negro hamlet of washerwomen above the bay should come down and appropriate the articles; and when he had sufficiently refreshed himself and emerged on to the sands again, Barton went in for a similar enjoyment. It could not possibly have been five minutes later. He had barely got into his clothes when he heard a piercing shriek from the water and turning, saw that Barton had disappeared. The next moment, however, the lad's head rose to the surface about a dozen yards from the shore and he cried out, 'Master, help! The cramp! Help!' before going down again like a stone.

"Of course you think the master dashed in and dragged him out. It was not much to do for this faithful fellow who served him so well and left his home and friends rather than leave him. He did no such thing. He hesitated and his limbs turned to ice and every drop of blood in his body to water. Like a wave there rushed over him the thought that he could not swim a stroke—that he was encumbered with his clothes—that Barton was a stronger man than himself—that once in the current, with a drowning man's clutch at his neck, they must both inevitably be swept out to sea and perish. It was only a moment; then the lad's head rose again. For one second his eyes caught his master's face in a look of wild, despairing appeal, and maddened by the situation my friend rushed—not into the water, but up the bank, shrieking for help to the men who drive the sand carts along the brow of the bay. Before he had gone two yards—before they even heard him—Barton sank for the third time and—all was over.

"Sheer physical fear, a spasm of unconquerable cowardice which he had never felt before in his whole life and which, finding him utterly unprepared for it, completely overmastered the man's entire nature, had in that one miserable minute cost the life of his faithful servant and darkened his own forever.

"There's not much more to tell you. It was just the turn of the tide. Within twenty minutes of the affair the waves flung poor Barton's dead body within reach of the man who might have tried to save his life and did not. The 'peons' helped him to carry it up the bank and lay it on the sand cart to bring it into town. I believe it was buried decently next day. They told me so; but before then I was ill, raving with a sun-stroke which——"

"You!" The word leaped from my lips in a cry of horror. "Ducie! You don't mean that you have told us of—that you were that——"

He turned and looked me in the face.

"Yes, Fred, I was that man; I, whose 'pluck' people are so fond of praising."

There was a dead silence.

CHAPTER II.

"That is all. I never told any one before. I don't think I could act in the same way again; but God knows. Only you see I cannot bear other men condemned when I remember——" He broke off with a sort of gasp and added, hurriedly, "I wish to heaven I had never needed to tell you, for of course I know what you think of me now."

He looked at Helen; but she never raised her eyes, and I answered quickly:—"I wish you had not, Ducie. There was no occasion for it. But I am very sorry for you—from my soul I am, old fellow."

I would have given him my hand; but though he said, "Thank you, Fred," as if he meant it, his eyes never left Helen's face. She had never moved or looked up once, since he began. I feel sure now, that she knew, from the commencement, that he was speaking of himself; but it was only when he said "I was the man," that her face, which had been white to the lips, flushed scarlet, as though the threatened blow had fallen; and such a look came over it—a look of pain unutterable, of bitter shame, of unconquerable disgust—a look which, but to see once in the face of the woman we love, might well make the voice break and the heart sink, as Ducie's did then.

We all met at dinner as if nothing was amiss. Mary Jackson and I were, I think, rather more lively than usual; and even Tom made himself so pleasant to Cis Devereaux that my dear old father said it did him good to hear such a clatter of voices. Ducie was very silent, it is true, and Helen's face was colorless as a Guernsey daisy; but she spoke and even smiled whenever appealed to and none but myself remarked that when Ducie held the door open for the ladies after dinner, she drew the silken folds of her dress together and passed him without a glance, as something too foul for notice. His face was whiter than hers when he sat down again.

Next day we parted. I was busy all the morning over farming accounts and did not know Ducie was going till the dog-cart was at the door and he came in to bid me good-by. Then I saw he was much agitated and urged him to stay, using Helen's name.

His lips quivered, but he only said:—"I have already seen your cousin. Good-by, Fred, and thank you for all your kindness."

Five minutes later he was gone. I said nothing but I went to look for Helen, and found her moping in the library, with a face like a ghost and red rims to her eyes. She mumbled something about a headache. I waived the remark loftily and taxed her with having refused my friend. She reddened like a rose and said, haughtily, that she had done no such thing. He had not had the presumption to ask her.

"Presumption!" quoth I; "and to ask a little vixen! Ah, well, you have sent him away; and, what's more, will never see him again!"

At this she paled and panted a little. Then flushed up again and answered:

"Oh yes, we shall, and quite as soon as we want him, I dare say. Oh! how can you care for him, the cruel, dastardly— Oh!"

This made me angry, for I don't like hitting a man when he's down; and the vision of poor Ducie's handsome face, with the haggard, beaten look on it, as he shook his head to all my hospitable hopes of soon seeing him again, rather haunted me. So I set myself to bully Helen by way of retaliation; told her she was a proud, self-righteous girl, who didn't deserve to be loved at all; that she had, probably, sent a fine young fellow to the bad; that she had no right to judge anybody; that if Ducie had acted a coward's part two years ago he had taken a hero's last night; that I doubted very much whether she would have the courage to stand up and blacken herself forever in the eyes of any one she loved; that I couldn't, and that it was a braver and nobler deed than saving ten men's lives.

Would you believe it? In the middle of my abuse she suddenly burst into tears and, instead of quarreling with me, throws herself into my arms and sobs out:

"Oh, Fred! so it was. Oh! I never thought of that; and I told him—I told him—— Oh, dear! oh, dear!"

"What did you tell him?"

"I told him I never wished to see him again, because he could never do anything brave enough to blot out the memory of that dreadful, dreadful day."

"And what did he say?"

"He said, 'You never shall.' Oh, Fred, Fred, what shall I do?"

"Do? Write and tell him you are very sorry and ask him to come back again;" a piece of sensible advice at which Helen springs up, dashes away her tears and says, indignantly:—"Thank you, Fred, I have not quite lost my self respect yet, even if your friend has lost his," and marches off to her own room.

Was it the day before Christmas Eve that the Governor told me Lord de Laine had proposed to Helen and been refused? I think so—I'm not sure. Anyway, it was that day that I first noticed the girl's white face and spoke to her of Ducie. Her sweet eyes flashed up instantly and she answered:

"Would you like to have him here this Christmas?"

"My dear, you told him never to come again."

"Then I was wrong, for it is not my house" (hypocritically).

"You are mistress of it and I'll have no friends here whom the mistress cannot welcome."

She blushed up high, put her hand on my arm and said enthusiastically:

"All your friends are welcome to me, Fred. Please write and ask him at once."

I did so. Shall I ever forget her face when the answer came? Mr. Ducie had sailed for the Cape three days before in the royal mail steamship Tamar.

We all know the end of that good vessel; how she encountered hard weather off the Azores; how she sprung a leak, which no pumping day and night could bring under; how the boats were hoisted out with just enough seamen to work the oars; the passengers lowered into them one by one, women and children first, men afterward, in perfect discipline and order; and how, when all were full, the captain, standing on the poop-deck, gave the last command to pull away out of the vortex of the sinking ship; and the men in the boats, obeying, saw the gallant vessel, with captain, crew and officers standing hand in hand, brave and resolute to the last, settle heavily down in the deep trough of the waves and disappear forever from mortal ken.

Ah, me! all English hearts were thrilling with the story in those days. It makes mine ache now to recall it.

The boats reached the Azores in safety two days later, without having lost a soul but it was not for months, not till every inquiry had been made, not till I had gone down to Southampton myself and interrogated the rescued passengers one by one that we heard how, when the boats were all but full and there was only one passenger to descend, one of the crew cried out in despair, "Oh, my little wife and child!" and the passenger, a tall, dark-eyed young man, turned to him and said, "Take my place; there is no one belonging to me at home," and had stood by the captain's side at the last moment and waved his hat to his friends in the boats in a cheery good-by.

I found out that sailor and he gave me a scrap of paper which he said the gentleman had torn from his pocket-book and given him as he went over the side. It was to Helen and contained these words:

"God bless you! I have earned my right to meet you again—in heaven at least.

"A. P. DUCIE."

Two years later Helen left us to keep that meeting; and when she was dead I saw the first smile on her pale lips which had ever shown there since she sent her lover away to prove that a man may die a hero's death, though in life he has once been a coward.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF ENGRAVING.

"LINE" engraving is of the highest order. All great engravings are done in "line"—simply straight lines. Next comes "line and stipple." "Stipple" means dots—small dots, like this ..... These small dots are used to lighten up the high parts of the face or drapery. It is very hard to engrave a face in lines simply, and only master engravers have ever undertaken it. The masters understand and practice both "line and stipple."

Claude Mellan engraved, in 1700, a full head of Christ with one unbroken line. This line commenced at the apex of the nose and wound out-and-out, like a watch-spring, until it ended in the border of the picture. Mezzotint engravings are produced thus:—The steel or copper is made rough, like fine sand-paper. To produce soft effects, this rough surface is scraped off. If you want a white place or "high light," in your engraving, scrape the surface smooth and then the ink will not touch it. If you want faint color, scrape off a little. Such engravings look like lithographs.

Etching is adapted to homely and familiar sketches. Almost all the great painters were etchers. Etching is done thus.—The copper or steel plate is heated and covered with black varnish. The engraver scratches off this varnish with sharp needles, working on the surface as he would on paper with a pencil. Nitric acid is then poured over the plate and it eats away at the steel and copper wherever the needle has scraped off the varnish. Whenever the varnish is removed with spirits of turpentine the engraving is seen in sunken lines on the plate.

DANGER OF STIMULANTS.

THAT man is nothing less than a deliberate suicide who drinks tea, coffee or ardent spirits of any kind, to induce him to perform a work in hand when he feels too weak to go through with it without such aid. This is the reason that the majority of great orators and public favorites die drunkards. The pulpit, the bench, the bar, the forum, have contributed their legions to drunken habits. The beautiful woman, the sweet singer, the conversationalist, the periodical writer, has filled but too often a drunkard's grave. The best possible thing for a man to do when he feels too tired to perform a task or too weak to carry it through, is to go to bed and sleep a week if he can; this is the only true recuperation of brain power; the only actual renewal of brain forces, because during sleep the brain is, in a sense, at rest—in a condition to receive and appropriate particles of nutriment from the blood which take the place of those which have been consumed in previous labor. Mere stimulants supply nothing; they only goad the brain, force it to a greater consumption of its substance, until that substance has been so fully exhausted that there is not enough left to receive a supply; just as men are sometimes so near death by thirst and starvation, that there is not strength enough left to swallow anything, and all is over. The capacity of the brain for receiving recuperative particles sometimes comes on with the rapidity of lightning and the man becomes mad in an instant; in an instant falls into convulsions; in an instant loses all sense and he is an idiot. We repeat, that there is renewed force for the brain only in early and abundant sleep.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM HARPER, BROS. & CO., New York:
The Intellectual Development of Europe. By Jno. W. Draper. Revised; 2 volumes. [Cloth.—pp. 438.]

S. BRAINARD'S SONS, Cleveland, O.:
The Musical World for July.

NEW MUSIC FROM F. W. HELMICK, Cincinnati, O.:
Tilden's Grand March, by C. A. Noel. If Washington was Living Now; song; words by S. N. Mitchell; music by C. E. Prior. All Tied Back; serio-comic song. Mardi-Gras March, by F. Hardway.

MAGAZINES FOR AUGUST:
Harper's, St. Nicholas, Scribner's, Atlantic' Demorest's Fashion Monthly, Phrenological Journal, Record of the Year.

Sabbath Reading.

YOU AND I.

SWIFTLY o'er life's troubled current
We will fly,
Bearing all its toils and dangers,
You and I.

Storms may gather, tempests lower
O'er our sky;
Steady, firm, we'll guide our life-barque,
You and I.

Heaven's broad bay we'll safely enter,
By-and-by;
In its port we'll cast our anchor,
You and I.

And within that Golden City,
Built on high,
Hand in hand we'll walk together,
You and I.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE GENUINENESS OF THE BIBLE.

WE find the Bible as the inspired writers left it—as much so as any ancient writings that have come down to us from the distant past. The present Bible is the same as the Bible of the primitive church. This is an interesting subject and ought to gain the attention of all. In the words of a great author, "The integrity of the records of the Christian faith is substantiated by evidence in a tenfold proportion more various, copious and conclusive than that which can be adduced in support of any other ancient writings."

There are more printed copies, and a greater number of manuscripts that have come down the stream of time, and there are more versions of the Scriptures than any book in the world.

It was a noble omen for the future progress of printing that the first book ever issued from the press was the Bible. The Vulgate Latin Bible was published in 1455, and (if I mistake not) it stands unsurpassed by the latest efforts of typography. The wonderful, useful and honorable art of printing effectually prevents the corruption of the text. And the MSS. of all ancient writings, sacred and profane, are now in the safe custody of the press. Since the invention of printing about one hundred different editions of the Hebrew Bible and three hundred and fifty of the Greek Testament have been published, and millions of copies in all languages multiplied.

When the Bible was first printed there were manuscript copies in most of the public libraries of Europe. Nearly 2,000 of these MSS. have been collated in forming the text of the Bible. In the case of the Greek and Latin classics ten or twenty MSS. are deemed sufficient to form an accurate text. The most ancient MS. of "The Father of History," as Herodotus is called, dates back only to the tenth century, and only fifteen MSS. of this ancient author have been collated, and yet the genuineness of the writings of Herodotus is established. Some MSS. of the Hebrew Bible date back to the eighth century. The Alexandrian MS. of the Old and New Testaments dates back to the eighth century, and the Vatican MS. to the fourth century; also the Sianiticus to the fourth century. The Codex Regius belongs to the fifth century. One MS. of Virgil dates back to the fourth century. But the MSS. of the ancient classics date from the fifteenth to the tenth century, so that in antiquity as well as numbers they are greatly inferior to the MSS. of the Bible.

When we reach the time of the earliest MSS. we come up with the quotations from the Bible by different writers, some friendly to and some opposed to it. The quotations are made in the very words of the Scripture. And in one hundred and eighty writers (whose works are still extant) we have quotations from the New Testament so numerous that Dr. Bently has collected nearly all the New Testament from authors who flourished before the seventh century. The Old Testament text in like manner can be gathered out of the Targums (ten in number), running back to the first century. These Targums are translations of ancient Hebrew into Chaldee-Hebrew, the original Hebrew having ceased to be the spoken language of the Jews after the Captivity of Babylon.

The ancient versions also establish the genuineness of the Bible. A version of the Bible was made into Slavonic or old Russian in the ninth century. In the fourth century into Gothic, Ethiopic and Egyptian. Also the Vulgate by Jerome between 382 and 405. The Perlicto Syriac version was made early in the second century. Still more ancient are the versions of the Old Testament made by Aquila, Symmachus and Theodotian, and the version of the Seventy or Septuagint made in Egypt under the Ptolomies, begun 282 and ended 150 B. C.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

A FIRM religious belief creates new hopes when all earthly ones have vanished.

WHAT God effects through the powers with which he has endowed man is no less his work than the heavens and earth are.

A HOUSE uninhabited soon comes to ruin, and a soul uninhabited by the Holy Spirit of God verges faster and faster to destruction.

IF thy conscience blame, though ever so little, despise it not, nor neglect the secret check; 'tis a messenger from heaven sent to summon thee to thy duty.

PRIDE is an extravagant opinion of our own worthiness; vanity is an inordinate desire that others should share that opinion.

Ladies' Portfolio.

SCANDAL.

When the cannibal savages after a fight
Make a feast on the bodies of those they have beaten,
The grisly repast yields a keener delight
From the knowledge that every unfortunate wight
Would have deemed it the deepest disgrace to be eaten.

Though the custom is fast dying out in Fiji,
As the influence of Western example increases,
In civilized countries you often may see
A circle of friends in the highest of glee,
All lustily picking a neighbor to pieces.

And the best of it is that the neighbor is not,
As in islands barbaric, a person deceased;
His flesh has been baked in no caldron or pot;
They don't even trouble to serve them up hot;
For the victim still lives in the midst of the feast.

Some good-natured friend, p'r'aps, may make him aware
Of the nature of these hungry monsters' employment;
And though in reply he may stoutly declare
That such vivisection won't hurt him a hair,
Yet he writhes at the thought of their fiendish enjoyment.

Still one comfort remains. In the isles of Fiji
No possible vengeance is left for the victim;
He is cooked and defunct. But in Europe he's free
To seek satisfaction; and sometimes we see
That he wounds in exchange for the wounds which have pricked him.

Then beware, Mrs. Smith; beware, lovely Miss Brown;
Young Jones, whisper nothing that isn't quite true;
Be a little more careful of others' renown,
For Thompson in yonder recess has set down
With Miss Green, and is quietly cutting up you.

[*Belgravia.*

HOW TO PRESERVE THE TEETH.

BY A FAMILY DOCTOR.

Personally I have always had the greatest aversion to medicine—that is, to taking it. Oh! prescribing it to others is quite another thing.

A tooth is composed of three different structures, or tissues—viz., the main portion, which is called the ivory or tooth-bone; the enamel, which forms a crust, as it were, over the whole exposed portion of the tooth. This enamel it is which gives to the teeth their chief beauty, or pearly appearance; it is most beautifully seen in the teeth of young dogs. The third structure is the cementum; this covers the roots, fangs or unexposed portions of the teeth. Every tooth is hollow in the center, being filled with what is called the pulp—a collection of cells, blood-vessels and nerves, which are conducted to this hollow or central portion by a minute canal, which runs up through the roots of the teeth. This is all you need bear in mind, for our present purpose, about the structure of the teeth.

It may seem very hard, but it is none the less true, that we are only allowed two sets of teeth to last us a whole lifetime, and if we need any more we are to apply to the dentist for them. It is the object of this paper to show you how you can preserve your own natural teeth, and thus be independent of any dentist.

I have heard of babies being born with a fully-developed set of teeth; I have heard a great many things which I do not believe. Before telling you the time at which you are to expect the appearance of the milk teeth or the permanent teeth, let me try to explain to you the names they generally go by in medical phrascology. The incisors are what are commonly called the front, or cutting, teeth; behind them are the canine teeth—the pointed ones—we all know those; behind the canines are the first and second bicuspids, or anterior grinders—very handy teeth indeed; pity it is they should usually be the very first to decay. Behind these again come the first and second molars—back teeth, or big grinders; and last of all, and furthest back, come the third molars—the *dentes sapientæ*, or wisdom teeth, so called because they seldom appear before we are twenty-one, and either married quite, or thinking about getting married. The lower posterior molars have only two roots or fangs, and quite enough, too, you will be inclined to think when you are having one pulled; but the molars in the upper jaw have three fangs, and sometimes four—it is terrible to think of!—and you need twice as much nerve and courage to have one of them taken out. Now, an adult has, altogether, thirty-two teeth, and a child or young person has only twenty.

"Cleanliness is next to godliness," runs the proverb, and I've heard a man make this remark, who positively was rubbing his face with a wet towel, because he was too lazy to wash it. Will nothing ever convince men and women that, in order thoroughly to enjoy the *mens sana in corpore sano*, they *must* go in for thorough and complete ablution by bathing every morning of their lives? But if people are for the most part neglectful of their skin, tenfold more so are they of their teeth.

If you, young lady, are only careful of your teeth now, and cultivate habits of cleanliness as regards them in the way I shall point out, I can promise that you will have them still good, and nearly intact, when you are an old woman of ninety going on two sticks.

Not only is digestion interfered with, from improper mastication of the food, but cases of dyspepsia may often be traced to this cause, combined with carious or decaying teeth, which actually poison the food that was intended for the nutriment of the body.

The tooth-brush is as much an indispensable article of the healthy toilet as is the hair-brush itself. Tooth-brushes should not be too hard, as they injure and sometimes indurate the gums; neither should they be too soft, else they are useless. *In medio tutissimus ibis.*

There is one thing which a great many people seem to forget, and that is that the inside and the crowns of the teeth, too, want cleaning as much as the outsides, although the outsides only are seen. You ought, therefore, to provide yourself with both outside and inside tooth-brushes, which can be easily procured at any respectable druggist's. Never buy a cheap article; it is dear in the end. Avoid India-rubber tooth-brushes; and remember always to rinse the brushes in cold water after using. Perhaps it may be an additional inducement to the reader to be careful in cleaning the teeth, to inform him that parasites of a very ugly form indeed take up their abode in the human mouth where cleanliness has been neglected.

Brush the teeth at least twice a day, and after every meal it is a capital plan to rinse the mouth with pure cold water—no, not rose-water.

A tooth-brush crescentic in the formation of its surface is a handy one, so also are those right and left-handed ones with beveled edges, as they do not injure the gums.

What tooth-powder is best? Well, the simpler it is the better, and some people very wisely use nothing at all but pure bicarbonate of soda. This is excellent, although the taste is objectionable. Avoid tooth-pastes as a rule, and all powders the composition of which you are not acquainted with; they often put a beautiful pearly surface on the teeth at the expense of the enamel. Here is a simple powder and a good one:—Prepared chalk, half an ounce; orris root and magnesia, of each one-quarter of an ounce—mix. If the teeth be much discolored, get your druggist to add a little powdered cuttle-fish. Camphorated chalk is also very simple, and as good as simple. Rinsing the mouth occasionally with a wash of half an ounce of tincture of myrrh to six ounces of pure water, is a good preservative for the gums.

Neglected teeth, especially in some delicate states of health, are said to secrete "tartar." This is no secretion, but a deposit of the salts of the saliva. If there is much of it, the teeth must be scaled by a proper dentist; if not, brushing the teeth with a soft brush, dipped in weak acetic acid, will have the desired effect.

Some people are afflicted—for it is an affliction, and a very great affliction too—with a foul breath. This may arise either from the lungs, a disordered stomach, or from ulcerated throat or gums, or from decayed teeth. Be the cause what it may, no time should be lost in applying to a properly qualified medical man, to have that cause removed, or something much worse may follow. A solution of chlorinated soda, used as a gargle or wash, will sweeten the breath temporarily; but, depend upon it, this is merely trifling with what may turn out to be the symptoms of some severe disorder.

Be very careful in your choice of a dentist. There is no trade more overrun with quackery—dangerous quackery—than that of dentist.

Never attempt to crack nuts with your teeth. You may crack the teeth instead, and some day, when you have forgotten all about the nuts, you will probably be surprised to find the half of one of your best teeth drop off.

Avoid toothpicks as much as you can. Use a quill if anything. Never under any consideration use a pin. Do you know what may happen if you do? Why, *odontalgia, caries, gomphiasis, odontophlegmone* and *odont*— Oh, don't? well, I won't; but you mustn't use pins for toothpicks; you wouldn't like to have *rhizodontrypy* performed on you, would you?

Give you a cure for toothache? Well, I'm sure I wish I could. You see toothache is of various kinds, and arises from various causes. If the teeth are decayed, they had better be cleaned and stopped, and they will last you for life. If the toothache proceeds from inflammation, rinse the mouth frequently with a strong solution of bicarbonate of soda in hot water; take a strong aperient in the shape of Epsom salts; stop the tooth with cotton-wool steeped in chloroform, creosote, oil of cloves, cajeput oil or tannic acid in ether. If you think it proceeds from neuralgia, take an aperient and several large (3 or 4 grain) doses of quinine, and continue the quinine three times a day, in one-grain doses, for a fortnight after the toothache has gone. It ought to be comforting to know that if attention is paid to the state of the stomach and general health, if plenty of exercise is indulged in, if we are temperate in eating and drinking, and *take our morning bath* pleasantly, neither toothache, foul breath nor spongy gums will ever be our unhappy lot; and, as an Irishman would say, the only tooth-powder we'll want will be clear cold water.

One word in conclusion to so-called "martyrs with toothache." Get the tooth out. Don't hesitate a moment. Go to the most respectable dentist within a radius of ten miles and ask him to extract the offending molar.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Anna Dickinson can do everything well in her play except the part where she throws her arm around the man and shouts, "I love you—*I* love you!" In this she shows a lack of experience.

All honor to woman: the sweetheart, the wife,
The delight of our firesides by night and by day;
Who never does anything wrong in her life,
Except when permitted to have her own way.

At a little gathering the other evening a young man asked a lady whether, if his small brother was a lad, he was not a ladder, and she kindly said she thought he must be, she could see through him so easily! It is pleasant to be a young man.

Reading for the Young.

SNOW-FLAKES.

Whenever a snow-flake leaves the sky
It turns and turns to say "Good-by!
Good-by, dear cloud, so cool and gray!"
Then lightly travels on its way.

And when a snow-flake finds a tree,
"Good-day!" it says, "Good-day to thee!
Thou art so bare and lonely, dear,
I'll rest and call my comrades here."

But when a snow-flake, brave and meek,
Lights on a rosy maiden's cheek,
It starts—How warm and soft the day!
'Tis summer!" and it melts away.

[*M. M. D., in St. Nicholas.*

THE WASP AND THE SPIDER.

A wasp entangled itself in the web of a spider and the spider attacked it. The fight lasted fifteen minutes when the wasp was conquered. "Ought we to have released the wasp?" This is the question (or as much of it as need be given) asked in the Rural of June 17. We promised to send a little present to the boy or girl under twelve years of age that should make the brightest answer.

Well, dear little boys and girls, it quite puzzles us, among many answers, to determine which *is* the brightest and although seemingly a little matter, we think it one that should be most carefully and fairly decided.

Some of the answers are very funny. For instance, A. Rouse replies:—"No. You ought to have killed them both."

Allie says:—"Yes. Why? Because it is wrong to let one insect hurt another."

Davie E. Pine replies:—I think you ought not to have taken the wasp away, for if you had done so, it might have stung *you*.

Mattie E. Saunders thinks "the wasp ought not to have been released because he went there of his own free will and accord; therefore let him get out the best way he could or take the consequences."

Anna McMillen is both funny and highly poetical. She says:

"I think you were right
Not to meddle with the fight;
For if you had entered the ring,
You'd got for your trouble a sting!"

Mamie McMillen's answer is thoughtful and excellent. Indeed, had a second prize been offered, we should have awarded it to her:—"You should have released the wasp, for 'blessed are the merciful—for they shall obtain mercy.'"

Nellie Wood of Fair Haven, Vt., replies as follows:—"Yes. 'Do unto others as you would that they should do to you.'"

We decide, upon our conscience, that we deem this answer the "brightest." And so little Nellie Wood, with many hopes that this may be the least of the many prizes that you may draw in the future, we send you by mail a plant of the new Pelargonium "Happy Thought."

A SUGGESTION WORTHY OF ATTENTION.

Dear Rural Girls and Boys:—Now I suppose you will wonder who I am and what I have to say. You may possibly think that I might just as well be silent, but I think you will be patient with me and read what I want to say to you; and if any of you act upon my suggestion, I shall feel amply repaid for my effort in your behalf.

Some of your letters are very interesting, and I always read them eagerly; but I will confess that I often put down the paper with feelings of disappointment, and for this reason: I am passionately fond of flowers, and have long been looking for a letter telling us something about them. I doubt not that many of you love flowers as well as I do, and know more about their cultivation, habits, etc. Don't you think you could write much about them that would be read with delight by some of your friends?

Doubtless many of you cultivate flowers—some of you, perhaps, quite extensively—and could tell us some things very useful to beginners. Then, too, if you are studying Botany, you can give us many good hints—telling all about the wild flowers that grow in the forests near your homes. I am not much of a botanist, but I like nothing better than going to the woods with my basket after plants and flowers, then analyzing them and studying their habits, peculiarities, etc. How eagerly I seek for new varieties—new to me, at least.

I have found several this spring that I never saw here before, though they are very common in some localities; the sweet little Trailing Arbutus I look for in vain. Year after year have I searched for it, but I have never found it here. Claytonia Caroliniana is indeed a Spring Beauty, and its rarity in this locality makes it doubly precious. It is a delicate little flower, requiring sharp eyes to discover, unless looking for "little things." The fragrant Hepaticas and large Bath Flowers you are all doubtless acquainted with. They are so conspicuous you cannot help seeing them, especially the latter. And now the Azalea or common Swamp Pink is delighting all lovers of wild flowers. Its bright, pink blossoms and delightful perfume make it a general favorite. There are many others equally worthy our attention, and time spent in acquiring a knowledge of flowers will never be misspent.

When we feel pretty well acquainted with them, they preach such graceful, truthful little sermons, that will almost unconsciously make us purer and better. Many lessons they teach us, if we are but willing to learn, and in their cheerful, unselfish lives set us good examples, and point us to the Land where flowers do not fade. Mab Morris.

MAXIMS FOR A YOUNG MAN.

Never be idle. If your hands cannot be usefully employed attend to the cultivation of your mind.

Always speak the truth.

Keep good company or none.

Make few promises.

Live up to your engagements.

Keep your own secrets if you have any.

When you speak to a person look him in the face.

Good company and good conversation are the very sinews of virtue.

Good character is above all things else.

Never listen to idle or loose conversation.

Your character cannot be essentially injured except by your own acts.

If any one speaks evil of you let your life be so virtuous that none will believe him.

Drink no intoxicating liquors.

Ever live, misfortunes excepted, within your income.

When you retire to bed think over what you have done during the day.

Never speak lightly of religion.

Make no haste to be rich if you would prosper.

Never play at any kind of game.

Never run in debt unless you see a way to get out again.

Never borrow if you can possibly avoid it.

Be just before you are generous.

Keep yourself innocent if you would be happy.

Save when you are young, to spend when you are old.

Never think that which you do for religion is time or money misspent.

Read some portions of the Bible every day.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

HIDDEN TREES.

1. Ella, burn umber for the coloring.
2. Will Amelia be sociable?
3. A full arch was carried away by the storm.
4. Did he give you an opal, Minnie?
5. You will own your child.
6. Our Pal met Tony Graham yesterday.
7. I love ye with fervent devotion.
8. While in camp horrible sounds were heard.
9. Do not be echoing the distant sound.
10. The man with the mace dared not play.
11. "As pence make pounds," etc.
12. In yonder chest nuts you will find.
13. Otho rang every bell we passed.
14. You came up as I came down.
15. Did you ever drink spruce beer?

☞ Answer in two weeks. Little One.

SYNCOPATIONS.

1. Syncopate a bird, and leave a domestic animal.
2. An article of food, and leave an article of furniture.
3. A vehicle, and leave a domestic animal.
4. A coin, and leave a stamp.
5. Distress, and leave a household utensil.
6. A watercraft, and leave a small animal.
7. A burden, and leave a boy.
8. An article of food, and leave an ornament.
9. A machine for measuring time, and leave a fowl.
10. An article of clothing, and leave a dwelling.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Isola.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I am composed of 12 letters:

My 7, 10, 6, 12 a kind of earth.
My 4, 3, 8, 5 is a weight.
My 7, 11, 9, 1, is a small net.
My 1, 2, 11, 5 is a kind of earth.

My whole is the name of a noted historian.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Berbix.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—July 15.

Hidden Birds.—1, Whip-poor-will; 2, Killdee; 3, Thrush; 4, Kite, 5, Canary, 6, Quail; 7, Magpie; 8, Catbird; 9, Sea-gull; 10, Mother Carey's chickens; 11, Lark; 12, Hawk; 13, Goldfinch; 14, Nightingale; 15, Albatross; 16 Bobolink.

Metagon.—1, Pearl—peal; 2, Pearl—pear; 3, Pearl—peal; 4, Earl—Lear; 5, Pear—reap—pare; 6, Peal—leap; 7, Plea—lea; 8, Earl—ear; 9, Reap—rap; 10, Pale—ale; 11, Pear—pea.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In these matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE latest advices from General Terry's command represent him as waiting for reinforcements and show the difficulty of communicating with General Crook. The report of Sitting Bull's death is not credited by Colonel Hughes, who brings this news from Terry's headquarters. Apparently the Indian campaign is at a standstill, and it is to be feared that the war will last many months unless the army is strengthened sufficiently to make the advance effective.

The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics furnishes the following statement of our imports and exports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876. The returns for June not being all in, the figures for that month are partly estimated:

Domestic exports of merchandise, specie value	$522,000,000
Foreign exports of merchandise, specie value	14,000,000
Total	$536,000,000
Imports of merchandise	460,000,000
Excess of exports over imports	$76,000,000
In the previous year the imports exceeded the exports by over	19,000,000
A favorable showing in 1876, as compared with 1875, of about	95,000,000
Our exports of specie and bullion in 1876 exceeded the imports by	53,000,000

The apple tree blight is unusually prevalent this season.

There are 250 sick children now in the Sanitarium at Sea View, on the Long Branch Railroad. They have been gathered from tenement houses by district visitors and the dispensary physicians. Most of them are sent there for a week, and it is wonderful to see the improvement made by generous diet, fresh air, sea-bathing and the abundant opportunity for rest and recreation. Life comes back where it seemed to be on the point of ebbing away, and strength is restored to pinched, weak limbs. The good work is under charge of the ladies of the West Side Relief Association, and they are untiring in their endeavors to so carry on the work as to decrease the infant mortality of our city. Just now they are specially desirous of enlarging their accommodations. By their present plans they are able to accommodate 400 children, and they are anxious (having the room there) to extend it till their colonies number 1,000. The expense of the present establishment is about $100 a day—a small amount in comparison with the good results achieved. Contributions for the Sanitarium may be sent to Henry King, Chairman, No. 403 West 29th St., or to Henry Bergh, Fourth Av. and 22d St.

Plowing in unbroken furrows six miles long can be seen in Fargo, California. The teams start in the morning and make one trip across an entire township and back before dinner, and the same in the afternoon, making twenty-four miles' travel every day.

The Boston City Directory, which has just been published, contains 129,308 names, a gain of 2,539 over last year. In preparing the volume 29,843 names were erased and 32,382 added.

The Buffalo Express predicts that the suspension bridge over the Niagara River is going to fall, one of these days, not from any defect in construction, but simply because iron suspended, either horizontally or vertically, ultimately becomes granulated and brittle, and in this state breaks easily by vibration, while to this change in structure is to be added the inevitable weakening of the iron by the alternate contraction by cold at a temperature of 22° below zero, and the expansion by a heat of 90° above zero.

Out of 244 business failures in Massachusetts during the first six months of the present year with an aggregate liability of $7,436,478, Boston contributed 164, the total liabilities of which were $7,426,200. This, so far as the State is concerned, is a gratifying decrease over the corresponding period of last year.

The difference in weight and cost of the rolling stock of the broad and narrow gauge railroads has been calculated as follows:—A locomotive, baggage car, Pullman palace car and four passenger cars on the Eastern Road give capacity for 230 passengers, weigh 138 tons and cost $63,000; one locomotive and six passenger cars on the Revere Beach & Lynn Road give capacity for 272 passengers, weigh fifty-eight tons and cost only $18,000. The difference in the cost of the roads is still more marked.

New Braunfels, the county seat of Comal Co., Texas, is a thrifty German settlement of about 5,000 population. With the industry and energy characteristic of that element, they have made that city so productive as to be almost independent of the outside world. Its woolen fabrics are of the finest quality. It has water-power adequate to almost any demand that may be made, and the vicinity will doubtless rival Lowell in a few years.

The Donaldson (La.) Chief says reports from the crops are of the most favorable and encouraging nature. The showers of the past fortnight have proved a great blessing, the more appreciated for having been so long delayed. The stand of plant cane has been and still is improving, while stubble is in a condition of advancement and luxuriance seldom attained. Corn, too, is doing well, and the general agricultural prospect is very fine indeed.

The first express train from Boston to Chicago passed through the Hoosac Tunnel July 17.

Crop Reports—Alabama: Cotton worms troublesome in Lowndes Co. Concerning the weather read as quoted:—"In this warm weather the country roads are of powdered dust; the bushes are as heavily white as if covered with hoar frost; the winking frog sits disconsolately where once was a puddle, but where is now a baked, cracked patch, and over it hangs a bouquet of motionless butterflies."

California: Wool clip disposed of with unusual rapidity. The grape crop is exceedingly promising. The vintage will, without doubt, exceed in quantity as well as quality any ever before gathered on the Pacific slope. The fruit supply is now very great, and the markets are glutted with apricots, peaches, berries, etc. The apricots are very fine and exceedingly plentiful, selling at about $1 per bushel, or 75 cents a basket. Canners are now actively engaged packing fruit in quantities.

Mississippi: For the first time in their history, red oats have the rust. It is confined to the low lands.

Crop reports are in many places less favorable. It is the same old story—drowned out in one place and parched up in another.

Dom Pedro, the Emperor of Brazil, has arrived at Queenstown, and, if he is true to his instincts, he is already examining the social and political condition of Ireland.

The Saratoga races were began July 25, much good sport was anticipated and realized. These races have a charm of their own, and Saratoga may be called the American Ascot.

Concerning the recent floods, we have the following from Shreveport, La. The weather is clear. The thermometer marks 97 degrees. Many plantations on the west side of the Old River are overflowed, and fears are entertained that all on that side will be submerged. The heavy rise here has alarmed the planters along the river immediately below here. The upper river at Fulton fell thirteen inches. The impression here is that every plantation between Fulton and the head of the raft is under water, though nothing has been heard from any of them since high water cut them off from the hills.

Wisner Murray, has died of pistol wounds received at the hands of R. H. Berdell. This is the sequel of the Goshen tradgedy in which three men assaulted their neighbor and kinsman with a view to punishing him severely for insulting his wife, and their relation.

A terrific gale passed over Lake Memphremagog on the afternoon of July 20th. The steamer Lady of the Lake, having 1,400 persons on board, narrowly escaped a serious disaster. The steeples of the Methodist Church, with its bell, was torn from the roof of the church and carried the whole length of the building. Trees were torn up by the roots, and great damage was done to crops.

The latest from Utah is that a choice party culled from Brigham Young's Danite Band of "Destroying Angels" waylaid and tried to murder Jno. C. Young a reporter on the Daily Tribune. The young man is a nephew of Brigham, and is extremely obnoxious to his uncle as the above would seem to indicate.

There has been an unusual immigration of California stock men to Arizona.

The Free Church Association of Philadelphia wishes to stop the sale of seats in churches.

A Methodist journal says that there are 4,173,047 members of the Methodist Church in the world.

The Committee of Conference on the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill have informally agreed upon a basis for settling their principal disagreements, as follows:—The reduction in the number of clerks to be about two-thirds of the number originally proposed by the House; the heads of the Executive departments to determine the classification of their respective clerical forces, and this conference committee to recommend that the salaries be fixed accordingly. The committee adjourned until Monday the 24th inst., and in the interval inquiries are to be made and information collected in the Executive departments, which it is hoped will lead to a final agreement on the basis above suggested.

Gen. Longstreet is to succeed Mr. Packard as U. S. Marshall for Louisiana.

Speaker Kerr is rapidly improving.

The largest single sale of blankets yet recorded were auctioned in New York city the 21st inst., 25,000 packages were sold realizing $400,000. The prices were lower than those obtained at similar sales last season.

The following telegram from President White explains itself:—Prof. Fiske, Cornell University. Fifty guns fired this afternoon. Give my congratulations to all and regrets that I cannot be with you.—A. D. WHITE, Syracuse, July 19th. The Cornell boys were again victorous at Saratoga this year, carrying off all the honors. It is unusual, in fact unprecedented for one college to win the University, Freshman and single-skull races at one and the same meeting. It is a glorious day for Cornell, and we congratulate Capt. Ostrom, the President, the faculty, everybody in fact. 'Rah for Cornell!

A liberty pole one hundred and seventy feet high made of jointed cylinders of Bessemer steel was erected a few days ago in Cleveland, O.

J. J. T., Atlanta, Ga., says:—Crop prospects are quite promising. Though the mercury ranges from 76 to 94° in the shade, corn, cotton, millet and other field and garden crops indicate good health and sturdy growth. Irish potatoes are matured and the yield abundant; they are selling in our market at 50c. ₩ bush. We are now putting in our second crop of potatoes on the same soil, which we find superior in quality to the first, and it keeps better in winter. During this and next week Rutabagas will be mainly planted, some persons preferring to sow seed in August. Never was our market more abundantly supplied with fresh vegetables, all of which sell at low prices. Rains are timely and ample for maturity and continued growth of early and late field and garden plants. Pear and apple culture has received an almost deadly blow this season. Blight set in early and held on long. Many of our finest trees are dead. But very few pear trees have escaped an attack.

A considerable portion of Shelburne Falls village, Mass., has been consumed by fire.

Congress still in session.

Work is to be resumed at once in the mines around Scranton, Pa.

To such straits have the poor been reduced in the neighborhood of Jersey City that the Mayor felt compelled in his Annual Message to warn the community of the imminence of bread riots.

About 5 o'clock on the evening of July 20 lightning struck and fired two receiving tanks at Dilke Station, on the West Philadelphia Railroad, containing 41,000 barrels of oil. The tanks are the property of Marcus Bronson of Titusville, Pa., and are used by and connected with the Union Pipe Company. The next morning another tank, containing about 20,000 barrels, situated about 200 feet from the burning tanks, was fired by an explosion which threw burning oil all over it. The loss of the tanks subjects the patrons of the line not having balance with the company to an assessment of about 10 per cent.

C. D. B., Port Ontario, N. Y., July 13, says: Haying has commenced, but the weather is uncertain,—has been very wet the past two weeks and some hay has been damaged, but little going into the barns without wetting. Crops of all kinds look well and the country beautiful. Potato beetles plenty and impertinent.

Prof. Marsh of Yale College has contracted with Dr. Field of Springfield, Mass., for the use of certain lands near that city, and has workmen engaged in quarrying out "bird tracks," some excellent specimens of which have been secured.

The Rev. John D. Blair, a leading member of the Newark Methodist Episcopal Conference, died July 18. He was one of the first Methodist ministers to California and established two churches in San Francisco.

A passenger train on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad which left Pueblo for Denver encountered another of the many water spouts that have broken in Colorado Territory this season. When some ten miles out from Pueblo, Conductor Glascott noticed a a cloud of unusual appearance in the sky, seemingly hanging over the road and advancing in the direction of the train with great velocity. The next minute the entire train was enveloped in a deluge and the cars were flooded to a hight that covered the seats. The train was slacked, but the cloud had disappeared almost as suddenly as it had come, and it was then observed that portions of the track in front of the train had been swept away. In this emergency the train was backed to Pueblo.

On the afternoon of the 20th, a dreadful catastrophy sent a thrill of horror through this community. The details are so sad and peculiar that they possess more than a local interest. The yacht "Mohawk," owned by Mr. W. T. Garner, Vice-Commodore of the N. Y. Yacht Club, was preparing to leave her anchorage, off Staten Island, for a cruise down the bay. Mr. Garner, his wife, wife's brother, Miss Helen Hunt, Miss May and others formed the party. They left the Club House in the gayest spirits, and in less than five minutes after reaching the yacht, a squall arose, struck the vessel, and immediately twenty odd persons were precipitated into the seething waters, five of whom, including Mr. and Mrs. G., were drowned. The "Mohawk" was, in all respects, perhaps the most perfectly appointed, as she was undoubtedly the largest yacht in the world.

Divers subsequently went down into the vessel and succeeded in securing the bodies of the unfortunates, who were found, with two exceptions, buried under a pile of furniture and lead ballast. Mr. G. was about 40 years old, the senior partner of the firm of Garner & Co., one of the largest cotton and print mills firms in the country. His fortune is variously estimated to amount to from twenty to thirty millions of dollars.

At the inquest the two quartermasters of the yacht gave very decided testimony against the sailing master, Capt. Oliver P. Rowland, charging him with incompetency. They made no great impression on the jury, who exhonerated Rowland. Subsequently the yacht was raised and the position of her sails, which were fastened in the same position as when she went down, would seem to justify the criticism of the sailors, and things do not look so well for the captain as they might. Altogether it is a sad occurrence, and has deeply affected this community.

Senator Logan, who has charge of the bill for the equalization of bounties of those who served in the late war for the preservation of the Union, expects to have it considered by the Senate before the final adjournment. This bill passed at the last session of Congress an hour or two before the adjournment, the vote upon it in the Senate being a tie; but the late Vice-President Wilson gave the decisive vote in the affirmative. The President did not directly veto the bill, but simply allowed it to fall for want of his signature.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE condition of the English and Scotch operatives in the mills is growing worse, and the reduction of wages is likely to become general. This will be followed by strikes and great suffering, and in the end the workmen will be worsted. The business depression is so severe it is to be feared that only starving labor will revive it.

The largest balloon ever dreamed of is the one that M. Godard purposes to make in Paris. It is to be over 100 feet in diameter, and will weigh 6,500 pounds. It will be held to the ground by a strong cable 2,000 feet long, and will take up fifty persons at one time. It is designed to contribute to the entertainment of the Exposition of 1878.

A Berlin mechanic has invented a steam velocipede which is said to answer admirably. The engine is heated with petroleum and, being placed on the two back wheels, does not interfere with the convenience of the driver.

They have got the mustang fever in England. A London paper advertises a "remarkable match against time," in which "Leon, a famous Mexican horseman, lasso thrower and ranger," would endeavor to ride ten mustangs one hundred miles in five hours.

The Bank of England clips every light sovereign that it receives. The weighing is done very quickly, 3,000 an hour being weighed by one machine. In 1875 the bank weighed £22,160,000 worth of coin, and rejected £840,000.

The London Farriers' Company offer a prize for the best essay on "The Veterinary Treatment and Practical Shoeing of Horses."

The Grecian Government is preparing a protest, should the Porte fulfill its intention of establishing a colony of 70,000 Circassians near the Greek frontier.

A special dispatch from Paris says the city of Paris loan has been covered seventy times over. Paris alone subscribed fifty times the required sum.

News from the seat of war in the East is of a very conflicting character, each side claiming victories.

Austria and Russia have addressed communications to the Powers respecting the recent meeting of the Czar and the Emperor Francis Joseph at Reichstadt and its results.

The following news is official:—"The Servian division which entered Turkey by way of Yenevaroch, was dispersed on the 12th inst. Seventy Christian families who fled from the neighborhood of Merrowitza with the Servian troops, surrendered after the defeat of the latter and were restored to their homes.

The latest telegrams from various sources are as follows:—A Berlin special says:—"At the Salzbury interview the Emperors William and Francis Joseph agreed that the maintenance of the policy of non-intervention was impossible in view of the massacres and bloodshed occurring."

All the powers except Russian have declared Roumania's demands unreasonable.

The Servian Minister, Milokovicz, has gone to Bucharest on a secet mission.

The Sclavistic committee in Moscow has issued an address solemnly promising a general uprising of Russians and armed intervention if the Servians are defeated.

A Belgrade mob has insulted the Austrian Consul-General.

The following news from Constantinople is official:—"A force of 5,000 Montenegrins attacked the Turkish post at Banzana. The Montenegrins, after a sanguinary engagement, fled to their intrenchments. They had 200 killed."

PARIS, July 23.—The rumor that the Emperor William had formed at Salzburg an unfavorable opinion relative to the maintenance to the peace of Europe, is denied. In well-informed circles it

is asserted that the Emperors exchanged the most pacific assurances at their conference.

The London Standard's correspondence at Osman Pasha's camp, twenty-five miles from Widdin, writing on Sunday, the 23d, says:—"All is quiet at present. The Servians remain on the Servian side of the Timok River. Cannon shots are occasionally exchanged, but the Turks will not probably attack until a general advance is made all along the line.

The Standard's Widdin telegram says the Turkish irregulars attacked the Servian camp at Bregova on Saturday morning. The fighting still continues.

The Standard's Vienna telegram says the persons who insulted the Austrian consul at Belgrade were employed by the Servian police.

Ten Turkish gunboats have been placed between Widdin and Floreutin on the Danube.

Intelligence from Sclavonic sources announces that the Servians were defeated near Beljina on Thursday. Mustapha Djelaldin Pasha and Sohlizeki Pasha, with seven battalions of infantry, four companies of cavalry and eight guns, attacked the Servians in their intrenchments at Raska, before Beljina, and after a four hours' sanguinary combat the Servians fled. The Turks captured four guns and four small forts.

The Paris *Journal des Debats* publishes a special dispatch from Semlin which affirms that the Servians were defeated before Beljina, and that Gen. Olimpic's line of retreat is cut off. The news of the Servian General Tchernaveff's defeat at Nissa and his withdrawal to Alexinatz is confirmed.

[Nissa (Nish, Naissus) has at all times been an important point of convergence. It is in the midst of a plain, evidently the basin of a large lake in remote ages. This plain forms a triangle, the point of which lies near the Servian frontier, where the Nishawa flows into the river Morava. The plain is fertile and well watered, but it is thinly inhabited, and contains more Arnaut and Circassion than Bulgarian settlements. The view of Nissa corresponds little to the ideas awakened by its military importance. The fortifications, partly erected by the Austrians during their occupation in 1737, are by no means imposing. The citadel lies on the right bank of the Nishawn, somewhat higher than the town on the left, and is connected with the latter by a fine bridge. A wall with six bastions connected by curtains surround the citadel, which is also provided with moats and ravines.]

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

The Centennial Trial of Mowers, Hay Rakes, Tedders and Loaders was held in our meadows, at Eddington Station, June 26th, 27th and 28th, 1876. Many Rakes were in competition. We examined their working closely, as we desired to buy. We decided to and did each buy a Wisner's Tiger as, in our judgment, its work was greatly superior to any other Rake on the field. Mr. WISNER received a large number of Rakes, all of which were sold at the close of the trial. Few if any Rakes of other styles can be sold in this locality another year.

GEO. W. EBERT,
PATRICK KILLIAN.

Eddington, Pa., July 11th, 1876.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, July 22, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	57,920	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,241	Rice, bbls	127
Corn meal, bbls	5,716	Cut meats, pkgs	8,662
Corn meal, bags	479	Lard, pkgs	2,151
Wheat, bush	368,630	Tobacco, hhds	3,873
Corn, bush	941,900	do. cases	6,981
Oats, bush	288,200	Butter, pkgs	15,853
Rye, bush	10,357	Cheese, bxs	93,614
Malt, bush	56,407	Cotton, bales	6,731
Barley, bush	9,013	Rosin	5,583
Beans, bbls	2,724	Spts. turp., bbls	962
Grass seed, bush	6	Dried Fruits, pkgs	5
Beef, pkgs	1,566	Eggs, bbls	6,653
Wool, bales	3,520	Peanuts, bags	733
Hops, bales	431	Leather, sides	73,230
Pork, bbls	643	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,193	Oil cake	8,284

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,527 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 37,535 do.; same time last year, 18,138 do. Exports of peas past week, 40,077 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 467,026 do.; same time last year, 225,810.

Strictly speaking, there is no bean market. Now and then a round sale is reported, but it is induced by the very low prices that are ruling, even for prime, well kept stock. It is thought a good deal of stock will turn out moldy or otherwise unsalable, owing to the extreme heat. Mediums are quoted at 95c. as extreme. Pea beans and white kidneys are quiet; red kidneys have a fair trade; few are prime enough to bring more than $1.10. There has been quite a movement in Canadian peas, which has stiffened the price. Green peas very quiet.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, $1.00@$1.10; prime mediums, 100@95c.; fair to good, 70@80c.; poor, 10@50c.; prime marrows, $1.33@1.37; fair to good, $1.10@1 20; prime white kid., $1.20@1.30; other, $1.00@1 10; prime red kidney, $1.30@1.40; other, $1.15@1.25; Lima (Cal.), $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.75@4. Peas—Canadian, in bulk and bond, 95@85c.; green, $1.00@1.10; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, $ bbl., $6.

BUTTER.—Supplies are moderate as the hot weather has checked shipments, especially of State. There has been a fair volume of trade during the week, buyers having been out of market so long they have been forced to replenish stock. The scarcity of fine makes upper grades rather firm but there is no immediate prospect of high prices. The dry weather impoverishes the yield in the river and adjacent counties; besides the contracts and demand for pure cream for table use are very large this season. Some large creameries which formerly gave us a regular supply of fresh summer butter are relieved of the trouble of churning by the enlarged wants of this city and Philadelphia. Sales of Western have been quite liberal for European export. We would not advise heavy receipts from any point until butter can be at least carted from the stations with safety. The weather has been so hot that samples could be almost poured out. After butter has been in such soft condition it is difficult to harden it back to its full former good quality. At the close we may remark that the new prices for choice are firm.

We quote:—Choice pails, 26@27c.; prime, 24@25c.; poor to good, 18@23c.; creamery pails, choice, 27@28c.; good, 25@26c.; sweet cream pails, 25@26c. State firkins, choice, 26@27c.; fair to good, 22@23c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 25@26c.; fair to prime, 20@22c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 23@24c.; other, 19@21c.; Western creamery, choice, 24@26c.; other, 21@23c.; do. firkins, best, 16@17c.; other, 12@14c.; dairy tubs, choice, 18@19c.; other, 12@14c.; factory choice, 16@17c.; other, 12@13c.

CHEESE.—The market has been in very poor shape this week. With the very warm weather arrivals large and in good part out of condition, together with lower and weak English markets, and disinclination in consequence among exporters to operate unless at low figures much reduced prices have been made. The bulk of the business has been at 9@9¼c. for best factories chiefly at the lower figures, with anything off from the almost at once to 8c.

Now at 9@9¼c. for fine factory; 8@8½c. for good; 7½@7¾c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 5@7c.; do., skimmed, 3@5c. State farm dairy, 8@8¾c.; good to prime, 7@8c.; fair to good, 6@7c.; Western factory, good and prime, 7@8c.; fair lots, 6@7c.; do. cheddar, choice, 8@8¾c.; do. flat, choice, 8@8¾c. Exports past week, 75,404 boxes.

COTTON.—There has been very little done for shipment through the week and prices generally weak; closing prices are:

July, 11 23-32@11¾c.; August, 11¾c.; September, 11¾@11 21-32c.; October, 11 13-32@11 7-16c.; November, 11 5-16@11 11-32c.; December, 11 1-32@11¾c.; January, 11 15-32@11¾c.; February, 11¾@11 21-32c.; March, 11 25-32@11 13-16c.; April, 11 15-16@11 31-32c.; May, 12 3-32@12¼c.; June, 12¼@12 9-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	8¼	8¼	8¼	8¼
Strict ordinary	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16
Good ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Strict good do	10 5-16	10 5-16	10 7-16	10 7-16
Low middling	10¾	10¾	11	11
Strict low middling	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 9-16	11 9-16
Middling	11 11-16	11 13-16	11¾	11¾
Good middling	12 3-16	12 5-16	12 7-16	12 7-16
Strict good middling	12 11-16	12 13-16	12 15-16	12 15-16
Middling fair	13 1-16	13 3-16	13 5-16	13 5-16
Fair	13 15-16	14 1-16	14 3-16	14 3-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	8 5-16	Low middling	9 15-16
Strict ordinary	8 7-16	Middling	10 15-16

DRIED FRUITS.—The market is depressed and very dull. There was some movement in apples early in the week on Western account at steady rates, some which only small lots placed.

Apples—State, sliced, 8@8½c.; do., quarters, 7¾@8¼c.; Southern sliced, 8@8½c. for prime; Blackberries, 8¼c. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 10@12c.; do. fancy, 13c. Unpeeled peaches, new, 10@11¾c. for halves and 9@9¾c. for quarters. Plums, 12@13c. Raspberries, 24@25c. Cherries, 15c.

EGGS.—Prices are better for eggs, but the advance is not enough to compensate for the heavy losses that are showing in the count of all marks. Some of the late arrivals have not paid freight expenses. There was never before so severe a season for this perishable product. Canadian stock is the most sought for. Remote Western are not looked at. To-day weather cooler. We quote, loss off:

Near points, 21@22c., State and Penn., 19@20c.; Western, prime 18 [illegible] do other, 16@17½c.; Canadian, 18@18½c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras, 75c.

FEATHERS.—Quiet. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; [illegible] do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—Prices are lower and a very depressed market. A good many parcels are placed at almost any reasonable price, on account of the injury by the warm weather, and a pressure to sell generally.

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3@3.90; $4.5 [illegible]4.40 for very common to fair extra do.; $4.50@5.00 for good extra do.; $4.60@5.00 for fancy do., and $5.05@6.50 for very choice extra; $3.00@3.90 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.00@4.50 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $4.55@4.75 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $4.80@6.50; fancy do. $6.05@7.05; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $7.25@8.50, round-hoop Ohio, $4.40@4.80, and trade brands of do. at $4.85@6.75; St. Louis, $4.90@6.00 for common to fair extra, and $6.05@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.00@5.50, and patent at $5.25@8.50; unsound stock at from $2.50@5.00; No. 2 at $4.90@2.70; city mill at $4.80@6.00. Southern at $4.55@5.00 for common to good extra, $5.05@5.75 for good to choice; $5.80@8 for common to choice family extra.

FRESH FRUITS.—This part of the season is never a favorable one for fruit. Buyers have had by this a surfeit of berries and trade is not apt to be general for green apples and windfall pears with the weather prompting special care in diet. Virginia had but few peaches to send this season. Maryland is sending a few crates of Hale's Early and Early Beatrice—new. Blackberries are fine and very cheap. Whortleberries are in good demand. Watermelons are active when prime; the early arrivals are not first-class this season. California fruit will come along regularly. The latest offering was of plums at $5@9 ₱ box for Washington and Magnum Bonum. A few good early pears are in market. Apples are abundant and very low. Peanuts dull. We quote:

Apples, Sweet Bough, ₱ bbl., $1@1,50; sour, do., $1@1,50; Red Astrachan, $1.50@3; common, 50@75c. Pears, best, $3.50@3; small, $1@2.75. Peaches, crate, choice, $3@4; other, $1@2.50. Blackberries, cultivated, ₱ quart, 12@15c. Raspberries, Antwerp, 3@4c.; Philadelphia, 4@5c. Whortleberries, ₱ bush., $2@2.50. Currants, small, 4@5c.; do. cherry, 6@8c.; black, 8@9c. Muskmelons, ₱ bbl., $1@3. Watermelons, Georgia, $30@50 per 100; North Carolina and Virginia, $10@25. Hot-house grapes, lb., 75c.@$1 for Black Hamburg. Peanuts—Virginia, bush., $1.50@1.75; Wilmington, $1.50@1.90; Tennessee, 90c.@$1.05.

GRAIN.—The market for wheat has probably never been in worse shape than during the past week. With advices from the other side of dull and steadily declining markets and no orders of consequence coming to hand, in connection with the warm weather, which has injured supplies in store materially, there has been an unusual pressure to sell while it was almost impossible to sell, and the result, very low prices. Latest sales are:

No. 3 Chicago spring, 80@85c.; No. 3 Milwaukee do., 83@85c.; No. 2 Chicago do., 93c.; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1; No. 1 spring at $1.12@1.18; soft, $1.11; small lots winter red Western at 85@87c.; new amber Delaware, $1.20. Rye at 50@71c. for Western; 75@78c. for Canada and 70@78c. for State. Corn is unsettled and fairly active; latest sales at 60@13c. for hot and heated mixed Western; N. Y. steamer, 50@51c.; 53½@54c., chiefly for export at the latter price, for New York graded mixed, and 49@55c. for ungraded; N. Y. No. 1 mixed, 53½c.; 55@56. for high mixed and yellow. Oats are lower and dull; latest sales at 25@33c. for mixed Western and State; 32@45c. for white do., including New York No. 2 at 30½c.; N. Y. No. 2 white, 32c.; N. Y. No. 1, 38c.; mixed Western, 32@35c.; State, 36@38c.; white Western, 31@43½c.; State, 40@ 0c.

HAY AND STRAW.—Supplies are more liberal of new and prices are weak. Straw is moderately active and unchanged.

Baled hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60@65c.; retail qualities 80@95c.; clover, 50@55c.; salt, 55@65c. Straw is quoted at 80@90c. for long rye; 60@65c. for short rye; 45@60c. for oat.

Exports past week, 714 bales; since Jan. 1st, 31,324 do.; same time last year, 27,026.

HIGHWINES.—Is hard to sell, and lower; quoted at $1.12¼.

HOPS.—There is very little doing. Export trade has come to a pause, and brewers are doing but little. The warm weather has had effect upon the vine in some sections, and there are reports of injury by lice, not sufficient damage, however, to cause material concern. We quote:

N. Y. State, 10@17c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₱ lb.

OIL CAKE.—Western selling at $30 per ton.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 19@20c. for light; 21@23c. for middle; 21@23c. for heavy.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Very little dressed arrives while the weather is so hot. Good live fowls have a fair demand. Chickens are active for hotel use, but a large supply puts them lower. Turkeys not wanted. We quote dressed fowls, 17@20c. Spring chickens, 25@30c. Turkeys, 11@18c.

Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb 17@18c.; do. Western, 17@—c. Roosters, 10@12c.; Turkeys, N. J. 13@16c.; do. Western, 13@15c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, $50c.@1; do. Western: 60@70c.; Geese, N. J., $2.00@2 50; do. Western, 1.25@1.75c. Spring chickens—Western, 20@24c.; do. N. J. 21@22c.

Game is not active. Woodcock quoted at 75@85c. ₱ pair for Western and State. Stall-fed pigeons, $1@1.50 per doz.

PROVISIONS.—There is a very depressed market. This is owing to the demoralization in the West, where the market has worked partly in sympathy with the break in wheat values. Mess pork quoted at $20 for spot lots; $19.80 for August and $19.90 for September. Bacon at 10¼c. for long clear. Lard at $11.25@11.35 for spot lots; $11.30 for August; $11.42½ for September. Stearine at 13½c. for choice Western. Beef hams at $30 for choice. Southern tallow at 8½c. for prime. Beef at $9@10 for plain mess; and $10@12 for extra mess.

SALT.—Quoted at $2.50 for Ashton; $1.25@1.40 for other brands.

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ₱ lb., Southern, $1.15@1.30; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, ordinary to refined, 14@18c. ₱ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. unclipped, 50c.@$1; lamb skins, 60@65c.

TOBACCO.—There are very full stocks here but, notwithstanding export trade for the present is light, prices are held as before.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6 @ 7
Good lugs	7 @ 8
Low leaf	8½@10
Medium leaf	11 @12
Good leaf	12½@13½
Fine leaf	14 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	14 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	— @—
Fillers, selections	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5½@ 7
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

VEGETABLES.—The best potatoes are now from Long Island; quoted $2.75@3.50 ₱ bbl. Virginia are used up. New Jersey quoted at $2.50@2.75. Garden truck not active; prices weak for anything plenty. We quote:—Green corn, ₱ 100, 60c.@$1. Norfolk tomatoes, poor, 50@75c. ₱ crate; Long Island, bush., $1.25@1.50. Marrow squash, bbl., $1.50@2.00; yellow crook, $1.50@2. Wax beans, bag, $2.50@3; Lima do., bag, $4@6. Cucumbers, L. I., ₱ 100, $1.50@1.75. Turnips, Russia, ₱ bbl., $1@1.25. Cabbages, L. I., $6@10 ₱ 100. Potato onions, $1.50@2.50 ₱ bbl.

WOOL.—There has been very little done this week; this has been owing chiefly to the prolonged auction sales of goods taking attention of the trade, together with the fact that the prices realized for goods were not altogether up to the mark anticipated, with the absence of important business the market is left in an entirely nominal position, a few lots of new Western fleeces have been received for which 31@36c. quoted for X and XX Ohio; 29@31c. for Mich.; and 30@32c. for Wisconsin.

ROCHESTER, July 22.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $6.75; white winter, $7.00; double extra, $7.25. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.10@1.20; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.30. Oats, nominal at 35@35c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 13@21c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 13@14c. Lard, 11@12½c. Apples, bu., 75c.@$1. Potatoes, bu., 80c.@$1. Beans, ₱ bu., 50@90c. Mess pork, $20 50. Wool, 30@36c. Hay, $8@13. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.30@3.; clover, $9.50@10. Mill feed dull at $12 for shorts, $14 for shipstuffs, and $17 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, July 22, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	4,656	23	2,553	4,814	000
Forty-Eighth St	000	49	852	1,755	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	12,254
Harsimus Cove	4,595	00	134	17,396	5,982
Totals this week	9,251	72	3,419	23,965	18,236
" last week	8,801	61	2,087	21,223	15,731

BEEVES.—Trade on last Monday was still more slow, and prices reduced yet another ½c. ₱ lb. on the closing rates of the past week. Sales were effected at 8½@10½c. ₱ lb., with $1 off ₱ head on the top prices; weights, 1¼@10 cwt., strong. The herds to hand were from poor to good, being generally coarse but fat. Wednesday, trade stationary, scant, at 8@10½c. ₱ lb.; a few car loads remained unsold at noon. Thursday, trade very small, at 9@10¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 4½@8½c. Friday, prices were 7@10½c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5½@8c. From 55@57 lbs., net, have been allowed. By far the larger part of the herds to hand were of coarse quality, but, being fat, obtained 56c lbs., net. Texan steers, very lean and coarse, sold at 7@8c. ₱ lb. Native steers sold at 8@10c., including 100 head of Kansas cattle that sold at 9½@10½c. ₱ lb. Grade steers very scarce, sold at 10½@11c. ₱ lb. Bulls, live weight, 4@4½c. Oxen, quality rough, sold at 8½@9½c. ₱ lb.

MILCH COWS.—Trade still slow, and quality not good enough to meet the demand. Sixteen cows sold at $40@50 ₱ head. Nineteen cows at $50@65 ₱ head. Twenty-three cows at $55@75 ₱ head. Nine cows at $60@70 ₱ head—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—On a heavy run of ordinary quality calves, sales have been slow at 5@7¾c. ₱ lb. Smooth quality veals scarce and in fair demand at 7¾@8½c. ₱ lb.; buttermilk-fed calves slow at 3½@5c. ₱ lb.; grass-fed, do., very dull, quality being poor, at $4@6.75 ₱ head. State calves sold at 3½@7½c. ₱ lb. State veals at 7½@8½c. ₱ lb. Pennsylvania, 7@8½c. ₱ lb., including a few calves. Virginia calves, 6c. ₱ lb. Jersey veals, 8½@9c. ₱ lb.; Pennsylvania, do., 8c. ₱ lb.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade extremely slow, with a decrease of ½c. ₱ lb. on both sheep and lambs, Monday last, sheep sold at 4@5½c. ₱ lb.; lambs at 5½@8½c. Wednesday, sheep, 3½@5½c.; lambs, 5½@8½c. Thursday, sheep, 3½@5½c.; lambs, 7¼@8½c. Friday, sheep, 4@5c.; lambs, 6¼@7½c. The markets closed weak; quality of these flocks, as above quoted, has been from coarse to good. Ewes and bucks sold at 3½@4½c. ₱ lb.; State sheep, 4@4½c.; Kentucky, 4½@5½c.; Ohio, 4½@5½c. Canada lambs, 7@7½c.; Kentucky, 6¾@7½c.; Jersey, 7½@8½c.; Virginia, 6¾@8c.; State, do., 6¾@7¾c.

HOGS.—A few head of Ohio hogs, live weight, were sold at 7½c. ₱ lb.; city dressed, on a more liberal supply, have fallen off in rates and in demand. Prices have been 8¾@8¾c. ₱ lb., light pigs included.

HORSE MARKET.—The extreme heat of the weather has caused a great depression in city trade prices of horses sold. They have been on the basis of our last report, but quotations have been so few that we withhold those obtained. Thirty horses arrived ₱ Erie Railway via. Oak Cliff Station.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., July 22, 1876.

THE market continues dull, with another notch downward in the scale of prices. The extremely hot weather and the fact that cheese is liable to get out of order if held at the factories doubtless have their influence on the trade. The delivery of farm dairies was about 500 boxes. Sales were made at 8@9 c., only a few choice lots reaching the last figure, the bulk of sales going at 8½@8¾c. Factories were well represented, the offerings aggregating upward of 10,000 boxes, a large share of which changed hands; prices ranged from 9 to 9¾c., only a few fancy lots bringing the latter figure. The bulk of sales was at 9¼c., which was considered top price.

The weather is too hot for the shipment of butter, and the delivery this week has been light. The rates paid for farm dairy butter have ranged from 20 to 22c., and for creamery 23c. was offered, but no sales were reported.

Farmers are busy at the hay harvest, and the crop is said to be much lighter than last year. Pastures are excellent and cows are doing well for the season.

We have advices from abroad for the first week in July. Our London correspondent reports the quality of American cheese as good and prices unusually low. American cheese now monopolizes the great bulk of trade and warehouses are well cleared. English cheese of fancy quality is scarce and dear. We give quotations:

American, extra fine, 56c.; fine, 52@54s.; good, 44@48s.; common and low grades, 36@40s. English cheddar sells for 84@96s.; Wiltshire double, 70@78s.; Cheshire medium, 45@56s.; fine, 76@80s.; Scotch, 60@66s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 56@58s; Gondus, 52@54s.; Derby shape, 30@32s.

The warm weather tells unfavorably on the foreign stock of butter, which has been pressed on buyers at comparatively low rates. There is rather more doing in Irish butter. We give prices as follows:

Clonmels, 124@126s.; Corks, 127s.; Dorsets, 136s.; Jersey, 104@108s.; Normandy, 116@126s.; American and Canadian, 90@100s. Oleomargarine, or artificial butter, sells for 74@104s. ₱ cwt.

The following letter from Utah speaks well for "Wisner's Tiger" Horse Rake:

"SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, July 14.

"JOHN STODDARD & Co., Dayton, Ohio—Gents: I have sold out my entire car-load of 'Wisner Tiger' rakes and want more. The 'Tiger' takes the lead here most emphatically.

"Yours, HOWARD."

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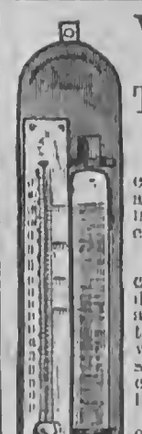

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The Signal Service Barometer
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FARMERS

can plan their work according to its predictions. It will save 50 times its cost in a single season. There is an accurate thermometer attached, which alone is worth the price of the combination. Will send it express paid to any address on receipt of $2. Send Money Order or Registered Letter.

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The Boston Traveller says:—"We carefully inspected the above-described Signal Service Barometer, and find it to be as stated by Messrs. Pool & Co., who are honorable and reliable."

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Copies of the premium list and blank forms for entries will be sent by mail to all applicants.

Competition for premiums open to all, but all entries must be made personally or by letter, at the Society's office, in Albany, on or before August 12th, excepting entries of fruits and flowers, which may be made up to 10 o'clock A. M., on Tuesday, Sept. 12th. Address STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,
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PERSONAL ITEMS.

WESTON'S latest failure was in Scotland.

NILLSON is getting stout. Cary says it is porter.

KAISER WILHELM received 41,371 presents last year.

EVERYTHING is well done these days—in fact, baked!

DOM PEDRO is a Brazil nut that the toadies cannot crack.

FREEPORT, Ill., has a minister who delivers sermons in rhyme.

VICTOR HUGO is worth half a million dollars, and is as egotistic as he is rich.

ONE of the hostile chiefs is called "Rye Face." He is the flour of the Sioux.

TENNIE CLAFLIN says that she and her whole family have become Catholics.

EUROPEAN fashions in dress are followed at the court of the Japanese Emperor.

BRYANT is worth $500,000, and is said to be the richest as well as the oldest poet.

A GALLERY for portraits of artists, painted by themselves, is projected in Paris.

OVER three millions of visitors have reviewed the curiosities of the Centennial display.

CAPT. GILDERSLEEVE will command the American rifle team in the Centennial matches.

THE actor Irving and the poet Tennyson have been shaking hands and visiting together.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS has been re-elected President of the Harvard Board of Overseers.

SOME people spend all their time adding ciphers to the left side of existence. Now there is Keeley.

EMPRESS VICTORIA throws a stone round-handed and sharpens a lead pencil with a pair of scissors.

MRS. MOYER of Strausstown, Pa., who is eighty years of age, walked seven miles to lead a dance.

A SALT LAKE MORMON has returned from the Sandwich Islands with five young Hawaiian wives.

A CHICAGO fruit dealer announces Fifteenth-Amendment berries for sale. Can he mean blackberries?

"WEEHAUKEN" MILLER has torn himself away from Newport to languish around in Burlington, Vermont.

CAPT. WEBB announces his intention of swimming across the North Channel from Port Patrick to Belfast.

MRS. SWISSHELM writes that in Germany it is the rule for gentlemen to bow first in the matter of recognition.

IT is understood that Mr. Geo. B. McCartee will succeed Judge Burnam as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

AT the funeral in Boston of William Seaver, a disbeliever in any religion, Bryant's "Thanatopsis" was read.

HARRIET MARTINEAU prides herself on the fact that her cook-book was the most popular work she had written.

A NEW YORK young man wants some one to show him a spiritualistic trick that he can't unravel, for 25 cents.

DON CARLOS is tall, handsome, swarthy of complexion, with dark hair, dark moustache, and a very small imperial.

CAPT. COOK of the Yale Crew, will turn author, it is said, and write a book explaining his system of rowing and training.

THE Rev. Mr. McKibben acted as umpire for a game of base ball in St. Paul, and his congregation was thereby displeased.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Troy Times says that Miss Bennett is the richest American woman who ever chose a convent life.

A THREE-YEAR old boy fell into an empty cistern in Kansas City, broke his arm, and lay two days before he was discovered.

A DWARF in Ningpo, China, is so small that his brother carries him in a basket, and opens the cover for those who pay to see.

DIO LEWIS has observed that a lady will eat four times as much corned beef and cabbage when alone as when anybody sees her.

DON CARLOS loves to squander money at gambling. He recently left $100,000 in New Orleans and Mexico in that way, it is said.

THERE are 5,200 journalists in the Union, and only one in ten of them credits what he clips from the others. This is a sad showing.

A PARIS gardener put romance into his suicide by hanging himself from a weeping willow, his feet touching clusters of immortelles.

THE London Lancet says that no woman dies of fright. Her corset is laced so tight that she can do no more than utter one yell and fall over.

A MINNEAPOLIS woman found a package containing seventeen diamonds secreted in a desk that once belonged to her great-grandfather.

THERE is no truth in the report that the Harvard library was being destroyed by white aunts. The Boston ladies treat books with reverence.

THERE are 40,000 Turks in prison for debt. The Sultan will probably relieve them and enroll them in the army, pardoning their indebtedness.

A TOWN in Kansas is called "Woman's Waste," because an Indian legend says that an Indian once killed his wife there for wasting buffalo meat.

THE few men who are still earnest advocates of the theory that lager beer does not intoxicate, still cling fondly to the good old custom of winding the clock, at 2 A. M., with a hair-brush.

FRENCH ladies now allow cigars and other free and easy ways in the drawing-room, in order to keep the gentlemen there, who it was found were rapidly preferring stables and clubs.

MR. ILIFF, the cattle king of Colorado, is assessed in Weld County alone for 16,000 head of cattle. For sixty miles along the Platte one sees no brand but his.

EMMA PIERCE, a Montreal actress, bravely rescued a child from under the feet of runaway horses, and was rewarded with two ponies and a phaeton.

A LOUISIANA wife tried to poison herself because her husband, in a prayer-meeting, had fervently said amen to the petition of a girl of whom she was jealous.

BAYARD TAYLOR rather likes the "pullbacks" of the period. In his poem he said to Liberty:

"——but keep thy garments pure;
Pluck them back with the old disdain."

THE Pope is said to have $3,870,000 standing to his credit in the Italian treasury. It is the accumulation of the annual sum of $645,000 allowed him by the Government.

THE Professor of Medicine at King's College, London, recommends a total change of diet without the aid of medicine, as an efficacious method of treating nervous diseases.

THE Sioux Indians have to stop fighting and go back to the reservation for more ammunition. N. B. The ammunition on the reservation is furnished by the Government.

LONGFELLOW visited Wellesley College the other day, and eight girls rowed him across the lake in a way that made the old poet wish he was a gay young man multiplied by eight.

A BEAUTIFUL photo-miniature of the late Charlotte Cushman, by Miss Lizzie Cummings, in Memorial Hall, is daily surrounded by a crowd of the admirers of the great actress.

THE new Sultan of Turkey spends the greater part of his time at Yildis Kiosk (the Palace of the Stars), which is cooler and quieter than Dolmabagtche, and is surrounded by delightful gardens.

There's a place that is warmer than this,
Where never a collar can stand,
Where you only can bubble and siss—
Will you come to that beautiful land?

THE right-hand assistant of the savage Sitting Bull is said to be a half-breed Sandwich Islander, who speaks a half-dozen modern languages, and all the Indian dialects, and is a man full of cunning.

MR. AIR is the name of an hotel clerk, and it isn't inappropriate either.—[*New York Commercial Advertiser.*] Don't Boreas with any more like that, or we may come to "blows."—[*Norristown Herald.*

A BROTHER of Charles Bradlaugh has just been converted from atheism to Protestantism, and is holding open-air meetings in London, which are said to be as interesting as those held by Moody and Sankey.

WHAT a mother lacks in skill she makes up in enthusiasm when she cuts her boy's hair. The back of his head may look like thunder, but every scollop is a bright vision of devoted affection to the understanding mind.

THE following, from a Chicago source, may be received with some reserve:—"Last Tuesday, while a St. Louis young woman was putting on a pair of ball-slippers, she found a missing sealskin jacket in the toe of one of them."

"MY SON," said an affectionate mother to her son, who resided at a little distance and expected in a short time to be married, "you are getting very thin." "Yes, mother," he replied, "I am, and when I come next I think you will see my rib."

THE songstress, Ilma de Murska, "married, widowed and robbed" in Australia a few weeks since, is united again in the bands of wedlock—this time also in Australia, and to Mr. John Hill, another pianist. Some people can't keep unmarried.

MLLE. ALBINI, according to the London papers, is to be married at the close of the present London opera season, to Mr. Ernest Gye, son of her opera manager. She has been engaged to him for three years past, and he accompanied her in her operatic tour to this country.

Now is the time when the college graduate comes into the newspaper office to know if he can't get a job as a dramatic critic, correspondent at the Centennial or in Europe, city editor, managing editor, or, if nothing else is vacant, he would take the proprietorship.

MR. FREEMAN, the well-known English literateur, visited Sille-le-Guillaune not long ago to obtain materials for his "Life of William the Conqueror," and, being mistaken by an astute *garde champetre* for a Prussian spy taking notes with sinister intent, was arrested and had some difficulty in regaining his liberty.

IF you have money to invest, don't put it in New York real estate. Prof. Merriman states that by a reversion in polar conditions in ten thousand years from now New York will be two hundred and fifty feet under water. And no man could live two hundred and fifty feet under water many weeks without catching a dangerous cold.

MR. HOTCHKISS, one of the ablest of Connecticut journalists, retires from the Hartford Courant, and is to be connected with the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company. Nominally the city editor of the Courant for fifteen years, he was so versatile and so vigorous that he overflowed into other fields, and was to a very large extent its State editor and often its political editor also. He is a good deal of politician anyway, and is not likely to keep his fingers off the wires in his new life.—*Springfield Republican*

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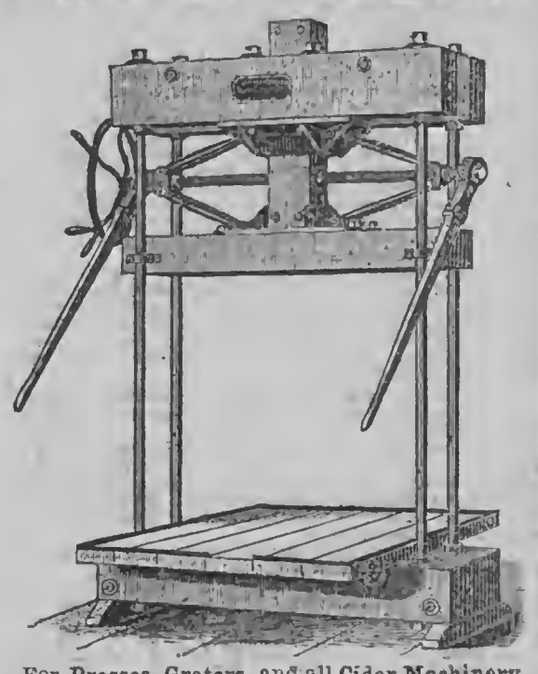

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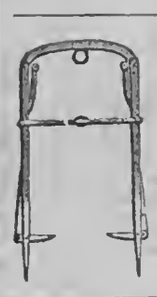

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Florida Orange Grower.—The small white, cottony excrescences, or specks, found on your orange trees contain the well-known Mealy bugs, which are often very destructive to plants cultivated in greenhouses, as well as to orange and lemon groves in the South. They are readily destroyed by syringing the trees with water heated to 130° Fahrenheit, or by applications of high-proof whisky or alcohol. The latter may be applied quite rapidly with a brush, and it is neither an expensive nor tedious operation, if performed before the trees are entirely covered with this pest.

Subscriber.—The only American work on Beet Root Sugar-Making with which we are at all familiar is that of E. B. GRANT, published by LEE & SHEPARD, Boston, Mass. This book contains much of the practical information which you would find in the French works on the subject.

Young Farmer.—There are, it is said, 2,260,000 farms in the United States, and as the greater part are owned by men, we can safely estimate the farmers of the country at two and a half millions. But if we count grown-up sons and hired laborers upon the farms as "farmers," then the number should be at least multiplied by three.

Miss B. R.—We cannot tell why your RURALS reach you so irregularly. They are mailed from this office "on time" each week. Our system of mailing is so perfect that it is impossible to miss a subscriber's name. We presume that P. O. clerks are frequently none too good to "cabbage" so good a newspaper as the RURAL NEW-YORKER. Hence copies frequently fail to reach our subscribers.

Young Bee Keeper.—It may seem strange to you that intelligent men and women should be so superstitious as to believe that selling a swarm of bees would surely bring "bad luck" to the family of the seller. Still we can remember when not to believe in such nonsense was almost equal to being a scoffer at sacred things, and it was also quite a common custom for the heads of the house, either the husband or wife, to visit the apiary after a death in the family and inform the bees of the solemn occurrence. We have been gravely assured by believers in such mummery that to neglect to inform the bees of a death in the family would surely result in the abandonment of every hive. There are bee keepers not a hundred miles from this great city who still steadfastly adhere to the above superstitious beliefs and practices.

Emigrant.—The statistics to which you refer, giving the number of inches of water falling in rain during the year, are no guide whatever in determining the humidity of the climate or its adaptability to the growth of vegetation. These tables do answer very well as advertisements for land agents and that is all. One State may receive fifty inches of rainfall, another twenty-five, and at the same time the former have such a dry climate as to be unfit for agriculture, while the latter will be called a moist and delightful one. You may notice that vital points in all these statistics is kept out, viz., how, when and what kind of weather follows the showers. A half inch of water falling in a gentle rain, continuing two or three days, followed by still weather, is worth more and will do more good than three inches falling within one or two hours and succeeded by high winds. Then again; rain, to be of most value to the agriculturist, must fall during the growing seasons of plants and not when everything is in a dormant state. It also often occurs that the amount of rain falling in one part of a State is far in excess or less than in another; and this is especially the case in the larger States which extend over a distance of several hundred miles east and west or north and south—for instance, New York, Illinois and Kansas. The meteorological station where the measurements are made may be favorably or unfavorably situated for giving a fair average.

Marcus.—I live ten miles from N. Y. City in New Jersey. I wish to make my walks about the house hard, without much cost. Will you tell me, through the RURAL, how I can do it?

ANS.—This is a question which we have often asked ourselves without ever receiving a satisfactory reply. Coal ashes, sand, such as is used for mortar, and clay in the proportion of rather more sand than coal ashes—the difference made up with the clay—all well-mixed together and laid at least four inches deep, will become very compact and hard. Macadamized paths are to be recommended in point of cheapness. Collect all the stones you can. Place the large in the bottom and fill in with the smaller ones, covering, as above, with sand, ashes and a little clay.

J. W. B.—We were aware that you had offered the *Dioscorea batatas* as the "Cinnamon Vine," and we have already said that this immediately suggested itself upon reading the description of our Mo. correspondent. But familiar names are frequently no guide whatever in determining botanical names, as in the instance of the Wandering Jew, which has been given to upwards of seventy-five different plants.

We thank J. W. B. for his inclosures.

X., Brooklyn.—I have read or heard that a goblet, if filled with water, might be inverted if a piece of paper were placed over it. This I have tried many times without success. Is it a fact? If so, tell me why I cannot succeed.

ANS.—It *is* a fact. The goblet must be filled so that every particle of air be excluded between the water and the paper. Then holding the left hand upon the paper, invert it as quickly as possible with a sweeping, circular movement, and carefully remove the hand. Of course tender paper, or paper that at once absorbs the water, will not answer the purpose. The philosophy of the thing is simply that the air presses equally in all directions. If the column of water in the goblet were heavier than the pressure of the atmosphere upon the same area, the water could not thus be held.

A., Binghampton.—"A friend and myself disagree as follows: He thinks for ventilating a sleeping apartment the window should be raised at the bottom. I think it should be lowered at the top. We have agreed to submit it to the RURAL."

ANS.—The exhalations from the body are more or less impregnated with impurities, and these, as soon as they lose the heat of the body, are heavier than the air and sink therefore, and mingle with the lower air. It is so with the breath, which is more or less charged with carbonic acid gas, which, being heavier than atmospheric air, sinks to the floor. Hence the bottom of wells will not support combustion.

Heated air is not necessarily impure. The impression that it is, is probably derived from the fact that the air near ceilings, or in the upper tiers of public buildings, seems hot and oppressive. In winter we desire to preserve the heat; in summer we desire to get rid of it. For the latter, therefore, both top and bottom ventilation should be secured—the top for the heat to pass off; the bottom for the impurities. In winter, we should say, that bottom ventilation is alone desirable.

A Rural Reader, Northville.—The leaves you send are those of *Iberis*. The minute flowers were so pressed that, except for the leaves which in this genus bear several distinctive marks, we could not have determined even its generic name.

Let us here beg the attention of our friends who may have occasion to forward plants for names. In tracing plants, not only the dried flower but the essential parts of the flower are necessary, viz., the calyx, petals, stamens, pistils and ovary. Placed within the folds of a letter, these parts are usually as flattened as tissue paper when they reach us, and it is next to impossible to distinguish those parts. If our correspondents would place the flowers, leaves, etc., in a paper box, or indeed in a little cotton, so as to prevent the parts from being glued, as it were, together, it would save us a deal of trouble and time. Let our correspondents feel assured that we are always happy to name plants, when we can. If, however, they would observe the above precaution, we could ofttimes name the variety and specific name, which, without this precaution, we can not pretend to do.

Young Reformer.—It is certainly commendable to try to bring about a reform in the matter of bad habits, but do not be too sure that you are right and that all who disagree with you are wrong. For instance, you claim that if "the $30,000,000 worth of tobacco annually produced could be struck out of existence, the country would be all the richer and better for the loss." But if you will stop a moment to think of the hundreds and thousands of men, women and children who are made happy with the money earned in raising and manufacturing the filthy weed, you must see that there are blessings accompanying the evil. Perhaps you may say, "Let them raise corn, wheat, potatoes and other more useful plants, in place of tobacco." True enough; but this would bring the prices of those necessaries still lower in the market—a result which might cause more distress among our agriculturists than you or any one else would like to see. The great trouble with "young reformers," as well as old, is that they are mainly what we may term "one-idea" people, lacking the talents which would enable them to take a broad and comprehensive view of any subject in all its bearings. In other words, they get the idea into their little heads that their special mission on earth is to cause everybody to think and act in accordance with their notions of propriety, whether right or wrong.

Emily.—The plant marked A. is *Rivina humilis*. It grows from seeds very readily. B. is *Teucrium Canadense*. The other plant we could perhaps name, if you send the leaf and stem—but your description of the flower applies as well to a hundred others. Perhaps it has formed seeds; if so, send them.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

Traveler's Guide.

JOHN CRUMP, - - Proprietor,
Chestnut St., cor. 15th,
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AT the Eden trading-post the devil was Subtler.

HEARTY laugh—One that gets down among the ribs.

THE most inquisitive of ancient divinities—Tellus.

SUSPENDED Animation—A spider hanging at the end of a web.

A BORN chiropodist—The boy who is always at the foot of his class.

A MAN'S credit must be bad indeed when he can't borrow trouble.

WHEN parents yield up their daughters in marriage they do it with miss-givens.

"'Tis false," as the girl said when her lover told her that she had beautiful hair.

WHY is dew like a falling star? One is mist on earth and the other missed from heaven.

THE extreme hight of misery is a small boy with a new pair of boots and no mud puddle.

THERE is a great falling off of little boys who try to ride on the behind end of a street car.

WHY may a tipsy man fall into the river with impunity? Because he won't drown as long as his head swims.

IT isn't safe now to set any man to watch a straw in a claret punch unless you stand by and help him watch it.

THE man who will starve to death with strawberries at seven cents a quart has no ambition worth mentioning.

AN author said that one of the uses of adversity is to bring us out. That is true, particularly at the knees and elbows.

WHILE one hymn book is good enough for a pair of lovers, it takes two to supply them with music after they are married.

"MAMMA can a door speak?" "Certainly not, my dear." "Then, why did you tell Ann, this morning, to answer the door?"

"THERE! that explains where my clothes-line went to!" exclaims an Iowa woman, as she found her husband hanging in the stable.

INGENIOUS youth—"Oh, yes I dare say she's very clever and all that, but I hate clever women, and so I've come to talk with you!"

IT was when Tennyson stopped to scratch his back against a gate post that he sighed, "But, oh, for the touch of a vanished hand."

"MADAM," said a gentleman to his wife "let me tell you facts are very stubborn things." "What a fact you must be," quoth the lady.

WHEN a black ant crawls up inside the tenor's pantaloons on Sunday, the simplest solo requires such an effort of will as few people have any idea of.

TOM MOORE compares love to a potato, "because it shoots from the eye." "Or rather," exclaimed Byron, "because it becomes all the less by paring."

"Is the moon made of green cheese, youngster?" "No, sir, certainly not." "How do you prove that?" "Oh, easy—the moon was made before the cows."

A COMPOSITOR, setting up a report of a horse race, said the "fool-sellers were busy," instead of the "pool-sellers." But it did not alter the sense of the paragraph much.

IN the window of a shop, in the obscure part of London is this announcement. "Goods removed, messages taken, carpets beaten, and poetry composed on any subject."

AN old edition of Morse's geography says: "Albany has four hundred dwelling houses and twenty-four hundred inhabitants, all standing with their gable ends to the street."

A MEMPHIS prisoner, who hated to see two lawyers disgrace the court-room by fighting, walked out, and was unfortunate enough to get lost. He has not been heard of since.

WE believe in manly sports. Can anything be more imposing than to see 500 or 1,000 athletes sitting on hard benches in the broiling sun watching a game of base ball between two hired nines?

RECENTLY on Canal street, a member of —— church inadvertently stepped on a banana skin, and as he skated off to the gutter he knocked great chunks out of the third commandment.—*N. O. Picayune.*

A NORWICH man calls himself on his card a "temperance boot maker." The need of temperance boots is apparent, for though they're not generally drunk, it's a notorious fact that they're often very tight.

EXTREMELY KIND.

TOM (who has taken his cousin fishing for the first time)—"Now, SAM, just put your finger in and loosen that third hook."

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CIDER MILL

will grind more Cider from the same weight of apples than any other mill in the world. Send for Circulars.
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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

VOL. XXXIV. No. 6.
WHOLE No. 1384.

NEW YORK CITY, AUG. 5, 1876.

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The Poultry Yard.

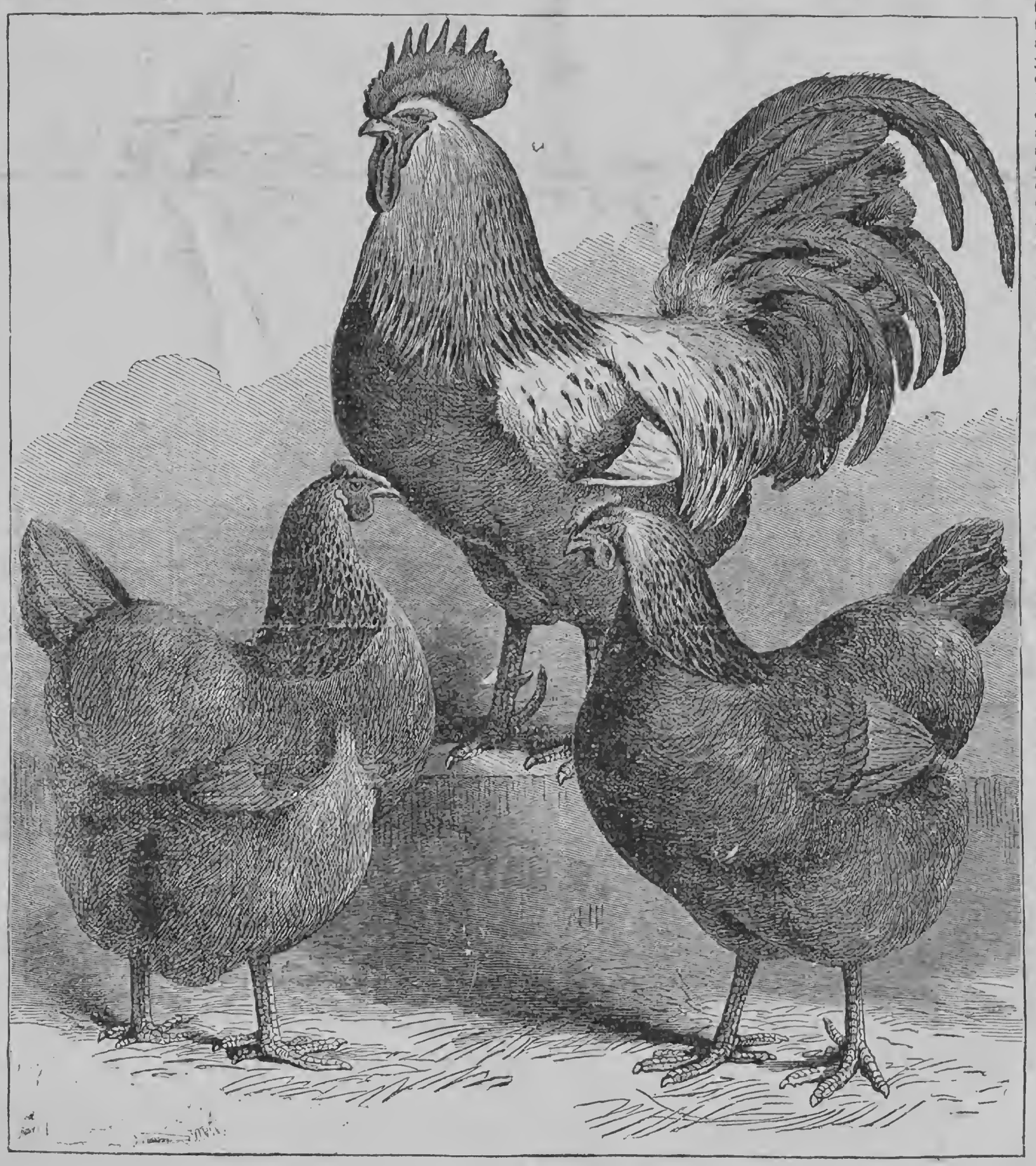
THE DORKING FOWL.

THE Dorking fowl is one of those breeds which do not well bear close confinement, but delight in rambling over a large yard or farm. Hence it is not so generally a favorite with those who have limited grounds as the heavier Asiatics. This breed, it is claimed, is descended from fowls brought to Great Britain by the Romans in the time of CÆSAR; but of the truth of this there is certainly room for doubt, and the same may be said of the reputed origin of some of the different strains or varieties of the Dorking which of late have become so popular both in Europe and America. One of the handsomest and best of these is what is called the Silver Gray Dorking, a trio of which are shown in the accompanying spirited illustration. Some of our American poultry breeders claim that this fowl is a composite of the old White Dorking and the Light Brahma, or other closely-related Asiatic breed; but whatever its origin, it is certainly a handsome and valuable fowl, ranking high among the best for both flesh and eggs.

TEGETMEIER, the well-known English authority on poultry matters, says of the Silver Grays: The distinguishing colors of the cock are a perfectly black breast, tail and larger tail coverts; the head, neck, hackle, back, saddle, and wing bow, a clear, silvery white. Across the wings there should be a well-marked black bar, contrasting in a very striking and beautiful manner with the white outer web of the quill feathers and the silvery-white hackle and saddle.

In the hens of this beautiful variety the breast is salmon-red, passing into gray toward the thighs. The neck is silvery-white, striped with black; the back, silvery-gray, with the white of the shafts of the feathers distinctly marked. The wings should also be of a silvery or slaty gray and as free as possible from any tendency to redness. The tail should be dark-gray, the inside being very nearly black.

This fowl is decidedly one of the most useful of all for table purposes, as not only is its flesh extremely delicate, but it is produced early and in great abundance. The proportion of meat to bone is probably greater than in any other breed. As layers the Dorkings do not excel, and a wide range, as we have already said, is necessary to keep them in good health: but when furnished all the requisites, there are probably few breeds which are more valuable.



A TRIO OF SILVER GRAY DORKING FOWLS.

SOMETHING ABOUT FOWLS.

I PROPOSE to write a few articles in regard to keeping fowls for the benefit of those of your readers who have not been through a regular course of experience and to help those who are not "fanciers," but who may, under various conditions, wish to keep fowls and are not acquainted with the merits of different breeds to meet their individual circumstances.

A great many persons, not being well informed, make mistakes which bring them troubles they little dreamed of at the time, but which leave a lasting impression on their memories, and perhaps bring some of their old neighbors' failures into bold relief before them. This subject has been thoroughly investigated during the last few years, and it is now well known that fowls have not only different habits of laying and setting, but of disposition and health. Some are impatient of confinement and will not thrive if restricted in their habits, except by great care of feeding. Some are subject to diseases of one kind and others of another; therefore, after a man has decided what breed of fowls is the best for him to keep, he can make himself acquainted with their different characteristics, and as all perfections cannot be found combined in one breed, let him be content to keep such fowls as are best adapted to his circumstances. For instance, a person having a small garden surrounded by those of neighbors would commit a great folly were he to procure Game fowls Dorkings or Hamburgs, to raid all over his neighbors' grounds, not but what they can be kept, and in health, in properly-constructed quarters, by good care and feeding; but as they are restless and lively, requiring so much extra care, it is best to discard them and keep such fowls as Brahmas, Cochins, or Plymouth Rocks These can be kept in a small place, not requiring a high perch or roost. A fence two to three feet high will keep them in. They do not seem to require that change of food that fowls of greater vivacity do. They exert themselves but little to catch insects in summer, and in feeding on meat in winter they do do not possess a craving for it and will leave it sooner than other breeds; but still, if confined, they must have all the varieties of food to keep them in health. They will *thrive* upon it, commence laying in January and continue through the winter. They will also sit and hatch their own young, and are quite careful mothers, but, from their great weight, often kill a chick by stepping on it. They save many chicks, however, through their very quiet disposition, that other fowls would lose and destroy by their impulsive restlessness.

In laying qualities, the Brahmas have a little the best of Cochins, except Black Cochins, this latter bird being a little better layer than other Asiatics, which is probably due to a cross that originally brought the black color and also improved their laying qualities. The Light Brahma is also considered by most breeders a better layer than the Dark; but as the difference is very slight, one may please his own fancy. I shall not at this time describe the standard of feathering of different breeds, but will leave that for future papers. I shall merely say of feathering, that in the Black Cochin it is harder to maintain that peculiar Cochin form and fluff feathering that other Cochins possess, they not generally feathering as well on the legs. All of the above fowls are a beautiful class, and, being so very gentle and docile, they absorb one's interest in them.

Plymouth Rocks are a comparatively new breed, combining the hardiness of the Asiatics (which are the hardiest of all fowls) with the better laying qualities of Dominiques.

H. HALES.

A DUTIFUL SON.

WE are all familiar with the old joke of a

cock laying and sitting, but I actually have a case of a cockerel setting. I had an early brood of Gray Dorkings hatched by a Dorking hen. When big enough, the old hen gave them the slip in the usual way; but one son did not like being thrown on the world in that way, so he kept track of his mother. In a short time she laid again, in a stolen nest under an evergreen tree, where she commenced to sit again the second time, and the cockerel sat on the nest with her the most of the day, occasionally running off to get a feed and back again, remaining all night. My wife discovered the nest by his bright, large comb sticking out from his mother's feathers. In due time the eggs hatched and the hen strutted around with her new family and their big half-brother, who was very careful not to tread on the chicks. He certainly did his share when his mother called the chicks to partake of anything nice, but I am quite unable to say in what capacity he regards himself, whether as brother, step-brother, or father to the chicks.

Ridgewood, N. J. H. HALES.

SELECTING YOUNG POULTRY.

ONE of the most important things for breeders of first-class Poultry, is to pick out their young birds that are in any way defective; and to keep only the most promising ones. It is trying work for Amateurs to kill off any of their young pets, but if they cannot be otherwise disposed of, it must be done.

This is work that few Amateurs will do thoroughly until experience teaches them the great necessity of such a duty. There is always a large percentage of young stock of all breeds that do not come up to the desired standard; although in the hands of experienced breeders it is less than it would be otherwise and when a particular strain is worked for, many have to make way for their more favored companions. But let not the young breeder be discouraged; the killing off of a few of the defective birds makes more room for those that are left and gives them a better chance in the battle of life. It is well to be sure to make the selection yourself. If done by proxy, perhaps the wrong heads may come off. H. H.

Industrial Societies.

ANNUAL FAIR LIST.

STATE, PROVINCIAL, &c.

World's Centennial, Philadelphia	May 10, Nov. 10
Agricultural Congress, Philadelphia	Sept. 12
Alabama State Grange Fair, Montgomery	Oct. 24, 28
American Institute, New York	Sept. 6, Nov. 11
California, Sacramento	Sept. 18, 23
Central New York, Utica	Sept. 5, 8
Central Ohio, Mechanicsburg	Sept. 19, 22
Central Ohio, Orville	Oct. 11, 14
Chicago Ind. Exposition, Chicago	Sept. 6, Oct. 9
Connecticut, Hartford	Sept. 12, 15
Illinois, Ottawa	Sept. 4, 9
Indiana, Indianapolis	Sept. 25, Oct. 18
Iowa, Cedar Rapids	Sept. 11, 15
Kansas City Exposition, Kansas City, Mo.	Sept. 18, 23
LaSalle, Ottawa, Illinois	
Maine, Portland	Aug. 29, Sept. 7
Mechanics' Industrial, San Francisco	Aug. 8
Michigan, Jackson	Sept. 18, 22
Minnesota, St. Paul	Oct. 3, 6
Nebraska, Lincoln	Sept. 25, 29
Nevada, Reno	Sept. 11, 16
New Hampshire, Manchester	Oct. 3, 6
New Jersey, Waverley	Sept. 18, 22
New York, Albany	Sept. 11, 15
Northern California, Marysville	Oct. 9, 10
Northern Ohio, Cleveland	Sept. 11, 15
Northeastern Iowa, Dubuque	Sept. 2, 4
Ohio, Columbus	Sept. 4, 8
Oregon, Salem	Oct. 9, 15
San Joaquin Valley, Stockton, Cal	Sept. 25, 29
Southern California, Los Angeles	Oct. 5, 14
Southern Ohio, Dayton	Sept. 25, 30
St. Louis Ass'n, St. Louis, Mo	Oct. 2, 7
St. Joseph Ag'l. Exposition, St. Joseph	Sept. 25, 30
Texas, Austin	Nov. 14, 18
Virginia, Richmond	Oct. 31, Nov. 3
Western New York, Rochester	Aug. 29, Sept. 3
West Virginia, Clarksburg	Sept. 19, 21
Western Ohio, Piqua	Oct. 3, 6
Wisconsin, Milwaukee	Sept. 11, 16

COUNTY AND DISTRICT—NEW YORK.

Aunsville and Lee, Tuberg	Sept. 25, 27
Antwerp, Jefferson	Sept. 5, 7
Booneville, Oneida Co	Sept. 5, 7
Brookfield, Madison Co	Oct. 2, 4
Broome, Whitney's Point	Sept. 6, 8
Camden Industrial, Camden	Oct. 2, 4
Carthage, Jefferson Co	Sept. 15, 15
Cattaraugus, Little Valley	Sept. 19, 21
Chautauqua, Jamestown	Sept. 19, 22
Chemung, Elmira	Oct. 5, 7
Columbia, Hudson	Sept. 26, 28
Duchess, Washington Hollow	Sept. 19, 21
Edmeston and Burlington, Edmeston	Sept. 12, 14
Erie, Hamburg	Sept. 12, 15
Essex, Westport	Sept. 6, 8
Franklin, Malone	Sept. 26, 28
Fort Covington, Franklin Co	Sept. 19 21
Galen, Wayne Co., Clyde	Sept. 27, 29
Genesee, Batavia	Sept. 13, 14
Gouverneur, St. Lawrence Co	Sept. 6, 8
Greene, Cairo	Sept. 20, 21
Hamilton, Earlville	Sept. 27, 29
Herkimer, Herkimer	Sept. 12, 14
Hudson River Park, Poughkeepsie	Oct. 3, 6
Iroquois, Cattaraugus Reservation	Sept. 25
Jefferson, Watertown	Sept. 20, 22
Lewis, Lowville	Sept. 19, 21
Madison, Hamilton	Sept. 27, 29
Maine, Broome Co	Sept. 26, 28
Montgomery, Fonda	Sept. 19, 21
Moravia, Cayuga Co	Sept. 26, 28
Niagara, Lockport	Oct. 5, 7
Oneida, Rome	Sept. 18, 22
Oneonta Union, Onconta	Sept. 26, 28
Onondaga Northwestern, Baldwinsville	Sept. 21, 23
Onondaga Valley, Onondaga Co	Sept. 26, 27
Onondaga Indian, Onondaga Castle	Sept. 20, 24
Ontario, Canandaigua	Sept. 20, 21
Orleans, Albion	Sept. 29, 30
Oswego Falls, Oswego Co., Fulton Station	Sept. 19, 22
Oswego, Mexico	Sept. 12, 14
Otego, Otsego Co	Sept. 28, 30
Otsego, Cooperstown	Sept. 25, 27
Phœnix Union, West Phœnix	Sept. 26, 28
Raeket and St. Regis Valley, Potsdam	Sept. 19. 21
Redwood, Jefferson Co	Aug. 30, Sept. 1
St. Lawrence, Canton	Sept. 13, 14
Sandy Creek, Richl'd, Orwell; Sandy Cre'k	Sept. 13, 15
Sangerfield and Marshall, Waterville	Sept. 26, 27
Saratoga, Saratoga Springs	Sept. 5, 8
Schenevus Valley, Schenevus	Sept. 19, 21
Schoharie, Schoharie	Oct. 3, 5
Schuyler, Watkins	Sept. 14, 16
Seneca, Seneca Falls	Oct. 3, 5
Sherburne, Chenango Co	Sept. 18, 20
Skaneateles, Onondaga Co	Sept. 20, 21
Steuben, Bath	Sept. 27, 29
Suffolk, Riverhead	Oct. 3, 5
Tompkins, Ithaca	Sept. 11, 13
Trenton, Oneida Co	Sept, 12, 14
Unadilla, Otsego Co	Sept, 30, 22
Valley Point, Cuba	Sept. 25, 29
Vernon, Oneida Co	Sept. 30
Warrensburgh Union, Warren Co	Sept. 12, 15
Washington, Sandy Hill	Sept. 5, 8
Winfield, Herkimer Co., West Winfield	Sept. 18, 20
Yates, Penn Yan	Sept. 22, 25

MASSACHUSETTS.

Barnstable, Barnstable	Sept. 19, 20
Berkshire, Pittsfield	Oct. 3, 5
Bristol, Taunton	Sept. 26, 28
Bristol Centre, Myrick's	Sept. 13, 15
Deerfield Valley, Charlemont	Sept. 21, 22
Essex, Danvers	Sept, 26, 27
Franklin, Greenfield	Sept. 28, 29
Hampden, Springfield	Oct. 3, 4
Hampton East, Palmer	Sept. 21, 22
Hampshire, Amherst	Sept. 26, 27
Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden, Northampton	Oct. 4, 6
Highland, Middlefield	Sept. 14, 15
Hingham, Hingham	Sept. 27, 28
Hoosac Valley, North Adams	Sept. 19, 21
Housatonic, Great Barrington	Sept. 27, 29
Marshfield, Marshfield	Oct. 4, 6
Martha's Vineyard, West Tisbury	Oct. 8, 4
Middlesex, Concord	Sept. 27, 29
Middlesex North, Lowell	Sept. 27, 28
Middlesex South, Framingham	Sept. 19, 20
Nantucket, Nantucket	Sept. 27, 28
Norfolk, Readville	Sept. 28, 29
Plymouth, Bridgewater	Sept. 20, 22
Union, Blandford	Sept. 19, 20
Worcester, Worcester	Sept. 21, 22
Worcester North, Fitchburg	Sept. 26
Worcester Northwest, Athol	Oct. 3, 4
Worcester South, Sturbridge	Sept. 7, 8
Worcester Southeast, Milford	Sept. 27, 28
Worcester West, Barre	Sept. 28, 29

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Contoocook, Hillsboro' Bridge	Sept. 19, 20
Connecticut River Valley, Claremont	Sept. 5, 7
Cheshire, Keene	Sept. 19, 21
Grafton, Plymouth	Sept. 26, 28
Hillsborough, Nashua	Sept. 12, 13
Merrimack, Concord	Sept. 20, 21
Oak Park Ass'n, Greenfield	Sept. 11, 15
Strafford, Dover	Sept. 12, 14

OHIO.

Allen, Lima	Sept. 28, 29
Ashtabula, Jefferson	Sept. 26, 29
Athens, Athens	Sept. 21, 23
Auglaize, Wapakonetin	Sept. 27, 28
Belmont, St. Clairsville	Sept. 12, 14
Brown, —	
Butler, Hamilton	Oct. 3, 6
Carroll, Carrollton	Oct. 3, 6
Clarke, Springfield	Aug. 22, 25
Clermont, Boston	Sept. 12, 15
Clinton, Wilmington	Sept. 12, 15
Columbiana, New Lisbon	Sept. 26, 29
Coshocton, Coshocton	Sept. 26, 29
Crawford, Bucyrus	Sept. 26, 29
Cuyahoga, Chagrin Falls	Sept. 6, 8
Darke, Greenville	Sept. 19, 22
Defiance, Defiance	Sept. 19, 22
Delaware, Delaware	Sept. 26, 28
Erie, Sandusky	Sept. 19, 22
Fairfield, Lancaster	Oct. 11, 14
Fulton, Wauseon	Sept. 27, 29
Gallia, Gallipolis	Sept. 27, 29
Geauga, Burton	Sept. 20, 22
Greene, Xenia	Oct. 4, 6
Guernsey, Cambridge	Sept. 25, 28
Hancock, Findlay	Oct. 4, 7
Hardin, Kenton	Oct. 11, 14
Harrison, Cadiz	Oct. 3, 6
Hocking, Logan	Oct. 5, 7
Huron, Norwalk	Sept. 26, 29
Jackson, Jackson C. H	Sept. 14, 15
Jefferson, Smithfield	Sept. 27, 29
Knox, Mt. Vernon	Sept. 26, 29
Lake, Painesville	Oct. 4, 6
Lawrence, Ironton	Sept. 12, 15
Licking, Newark	Oct. 3, 6
Logan, Bellefontaine	Oct. 3, 6
Lorain, Elyria	Last week in Oct.
Lucas, Toledo	Sept. 25, 25
Mahoning, Canfield	Oct. 3, 5
Marion, Marion	Oct. 3, 6
Medina, Medina	Sept. 19, 21
Meigs, Rock Spring	Oct. 6, 7
Mercer, Celina	Sept. 19, 22
Miami, Troy	Sept. 20, 23
Morgan, McConnelsville	Sept. 20, 22
Morrow, Mt. Gilead	Sept. 20, 22
Muskingum, Zanesville	Oct. 3, 7
Ottawa, Port Clinton	Sept. 26, 28
Paulding, Paulding	Sept. 26, 28
Pataluska Ag'l. Soc., Pataluska	Sept. 26, 29
Perry, New Lexington	Sept. 20, 22
Pickaway, Circleville	Sept. 19
Preble, Eaton	Sept. 26, 29
Putnam, Ottawa	Oct. 3, 6
Richland, Mansfield	Oct. 3, 6
Ross, Chillicothe	Sept. 12, 15
Sandusky, Fremont	Oct. 3, 6
Shelby, Sidney	Sept. 19, 22
Stark, Canton	Sept. 20, 30
Summit, Akron	Oct. 3, 6
Trumbull, Warren	Sept. 12, 14
Tuscarawass, Canal Dover	Oct. 3, 6
Union, Marysville	Oct. 3, 6
Van Wert, Van Wert	Sept. 21, 23
Warren, Lebanon	Sept. 20, 22
Washington, Marietta	Sept. 26, 29
Wayne, Wooster	Sept. 27, 30
Williams, Bryan	Sept. 27, 29
Wood, Tontogany	Sept. 26, 29
Wyandot, Upper Sandusky	Sept. 26, 29

INDIANA—(DISTRICT.)

Edinburgh Union, Edinburgh	Sept. 18, 23
Bridgeton Union, Bridgeton	Aug. 28, Sept. 3
Fountain, Warren and Vermillion, Covington	Oct. 3, 6
Gosport, Gosport	Sept. 5, 9
Henry, Madison and Delaware, Middleton	Aug. 15, 18
Knightstown Union, Knightstown	Aug. 29
Loogootee, Loogootee	Sept. 11, 16
Mitchell, Mitchell	Sept. 25, 30
Middle Fork, Middle Fork	Sept. 4, 8
Mooresville, Mooresville	Aug. 29
Northeastern Indiana, Waterloo	Oct. 10, 13
Peru Driving Park, Peru	Sept. 11, 15
Remington, Remington	Sept. 22, 25
Russelville, Russelville	Aug. 21
Thorntown Union, Thorntown	Sept. 18, 23
Switzerland and Ohio, East Enterprise	Sept, 12, 15
Worthington Industrial, Worthington	Oct. 2, 6

INDIANA.

Allen, Fort Wayne	Sept. 11, 15
Bartholomew, Columbus	Sept. 12, 16
Boone, Lebanon	Sept. 4
Cass, Logansport	Sept. 4, 9
Carroll, Delphi	Sept. 26, 29
Clinton, Frankfort	Sept. 11
Clay, Brazil	Sept. 11, 16
Daviess, Washington	Sept. 12, 16
Decatur, Greensburg	Aug. 22, 25
Delaware, Muncie	Aug.—last week
Elkhart, Goshen	Oct. 18, 21
Franklin, Brookville	Sept. 5, 8
Fulton, Rochester	Sept. 14, 16
Grant, Marion	Sept. 26, 29
Greene, Linton	Sept. 26, 30
Gibson, Princeton	Sept. 18, 22
Hamilton, Cicero	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Harrison, Corydon	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Hendricks, Danville	Aug. 22, 26
Henry, Newcastle	Aug. 22, 25
Huntington, Huntington	Sept. 26, 27
Jackson, Seymour	Sept. 12, 15
Jasper, Rensselaer	Sept. 12, 15
Jay, Portland	Sept. 19, 22
Jefferson, Madison	Sept. 25, 29
Jennings, Vernon	Sept. 12, 15
Knox, Vincennes	Oct. 19, 21
Kosciusko, Warsaw	Sept. 26, 30
La Grange, La Grange	Sept. 27, 29
Madison, Anderson	Sept. 5, 8
Marion, Valley Mills	Sept. 7, 9
Morgan, Martinsville	Sept. 12
Noble, Ligonier	Sept. 19, 22
Parke, Bloomingdale	Aug. 22, 25
Perry, Rome	Oct. 2, 6
Pike, Petersburg	Sept. 4, 9
Posey, New Harmony	Sept. 12, 15
Porter, Valparaiso	Sept. 27, 29
Putnam, Greencastle	Aug. 14, 20
Randolph, Winchester	Sept. 19, 22
Ripley, Osgood	Aug. 15, 18
Rush, Rushville	Sept. 12, 15
Shelby, Shelbyville	Sept. 5, 9
Stark, Knox	Sept. 25, 30
Sullivan, Sullivan	Aug. 29, Sept. 2
Tippecanoe, Lafayette	Aug. 28
Tipton, Tipton	Sept. 5, 8
Vermillion, Newport	Sept. 5
Vigo, Terre Haute	Sept. 19, 23
Warren, West Lebanon	Sept. 4, 9
Warrick, Boonville	Oct. 10, 14
Wayne, Centreville	Sept. 5, 7
Wells, Bluffton	Sept. 25, 28

ILLINOIS.

Boone, Belvidere	Sept. 19, 22
Brown, Mt. Sterling	Sept. 5, 8
Bureau, Princeton	Sept. 12, 15
Carroll, Mt. Carroll	Sept. 19, 23
Cass, Virginia	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Champaign, Champaign	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Christian, Taylorville	Sept. 25, 29
Clark, Marshall	Sept. 21, 23
Clay, Louisville	Sept. 12, 15
Clay, Flora	Sept. 26, 30
Coles, Charleston	Sept. 12, 16
Crawford, Robinson	Sept. 19, 22
Cumberland, Majority Point	Sept. 6, 9
DeKalb, Sycamore	Sept. 17, 20
DeWitt, Clinton	Aug. 15, 18
DeWitt, Farmer City	Aug. 22
Douglas, Tuscola	Sept. 19, 22
DuPage, Wheaton	Sept. 12, 14
Edgar, Paris	Sept. 5, 9
Edwards, Albion	Oct. 3, 6
Effingham, Effingham	Oct. 3, 6
Fayette, Vandalia	Sept. 27, 30
Ford, Paxton	Sept. 19, 22
Ford, Gibson	Sept. 12, 15
Franklin, Benton	Sept. 26, 29
Fulton, Avon	Sept. 26, 29
Gallatin, Shawneetown	Oct. 2, 5
Green, Carrollton	Sept. 26, 28
Grundy, Morris	Sept. 26, 28
Hardin, Elizabethtown	Sept. 20, 23
Henderson, Biggsville	Sept. 26, 29
Henry, Cambridge	Aug. 28, Sept. 1
Jackson, Murphysboro	Oct. 11, 14
Jasper, Newton	Sept. 26, 29
Jersey, Jerseyville	Oct. 10, 13
Jo Daviess, Galena	Sept. 26, 29
Jo Daviess, Warren	Oct. 3, 6
Kane, Geneva	Sept. 12, 15
Kane, Elgin	Oct. 4, 7
Kendall, Bristol	Sept. 12, 14
Knox, Knoxville	Oct. 3, 6
Lake, Waukegan	Oct. 2, 7
Lawrence, Lawrenceville	Oct. 4, 7
Livingston, Pontiac	Sept. 19, 20
Livingston, Fairbury	Sept. 12
Logan, Lincoln	Aug. 21, 25
Logan, Atlanta	Aug. 29, Sept. 2
Macon, Decatur	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Macoupin, Carlinville	Sept. 19, 22
Marion, Salem	Sept. 12, 15
Marion, Centralia	Sept. 19
Marshall, Wenona	Sept. 25, 28
Mason, Havana	Sept. 26, 29
Massac, Metropolis	Sept. 26, 29
McDonough, Macomb	Sept. 4, 9
McHenry, Woodstock	Sept. 26, 29
McLean, Bloomington	Sept. 5, 8
Menard, Petersburg	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Mercer, Aledo	Sept. 18, 21
Montgomery, Hillsboro	Sept. 26, 29
Montgomery, Litchfield	Sept. 19. 23
Morgan, Jacksonville	Aug. 22, 25
Moultrie, Sullivan	Sept. 19, 22
Ogle, Rochelle	Sept. 20, 22
Peoria, Peoria	Sept. 12, 15
Peoria, Pineknayville	Oct. 4, 6
Pike, Pittsfield	Sept. 26, 29
Pope, Golconda	Oct. 4, 7
Putnam, Hennepin	Sept. 19, 21
Randolph, Chester	Oct. 17, 20
Rock Island, Rock Island	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Sangamon, Springfield	Sept. 18, 22
Schuyler, Rushville	Sept. 5 6
Shelby, Shelbyville	Sept. 26, 29
Stark, Toulon	Sept. 26, 29
St. Clair, Belleville	Sept. 12, 15
Stephenson, Freeport	Sept. 13, 23
Union, Jonesboro	Sept. 12, 15
Vermillion, Catlin	Sept. 26, 29
Vermillion, Hoopeston	Sept. 12, 16
Vermillion, Danville	Sept. 19, 22
Wabash, Mt. Carmel	Sept. 25, 29
Warren, Monmouth	Sept, 12, 15
Whiteside, Sterling	Sept. 12, 15
Whiteside, Morrison	Sept. 12, 15
Will, Joliet	Aug. 28
Williamson, Marion	Oct. 3, 6
Winnebago, Rockford	Sept. 12, 15

IOWA.

Adair, Greenfield	Sept. 27, 30
Audubon, Exira	Oct. 3, 5
Black Hawk, Waterloo	Sept. 27, 29
Buchanan, Independence	Oct. 3, 5
Cass, Atlantic	Sept. 5, 7
Cedar, Tipton	Sept. 12, 14
Cherokee, Cherokee	Sept. 6, 8
Chickasaw, New Hampton	Sept. 27, 29
Clarke, Osceola	Sept. 27, 29
Clayton, McGregor, (Nat'l)	Sept. 27, 29
Davis, Bloomfield	Oct. 4, 6
Decatur, Leon	Oct. 4, 6
Delaware, Manchester	Sept. 26, 29
Des Moines, Burlington	Sept. 19, 22
Dubuque, Dubuque	Sept. 4, 8
Emmet, Estherville	Sept. 12, 13
Floyd, Charles City	Sept. 28, 30
Greene, Jefferson	Sept. 13, 15
Grundy, Grundy Center	Sept. 13, 15
Harrison, Little Sioux	Oct. 4, 6
Henry, Mt. Pleasant	Sept. 5. 8
Howard, Cresco	Sept. 26, 28
Jackson, Maquoketa	Sept. 26, 29
Johnson, Iowa City	Sept. 26, 29
Jones, Monticello	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Keokuk, Sigourney	Sept. 26, 29
Kossuth, Algona	Sept. 28, 29
Louisa, Wapello	Sept. 26, 29
Lucas, Charlton	Sept. 19, 21
Lyon, Rock Rapids	Oct. 4, 6
Madison, Winterset	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Mahaska, Oskaloosa	Aug. 29, Sept. 1
Marion, Knoxville	Sept. 26, 28
Marshall, Marshalltown	Sept. 5, 8
Mills, Glenwood	Sept. 5, 8
Mitchell, Osage	Sept. 28, 30
Monroe, Albia	Sept. 12, 14
Muscatine, Muscatine	Sept. 26, 29
Northern Iowa, Bismarck (Postville)	Sept. 19, 22
Page, Clarinda	Oct. 3, 7
Plymouth, Le Mars	Sept. 20, 22
Polk, Des Moines	Sept. 5, 8
Poweshiek, Brooklyn	Sept. 21, 23
Ringgold, Mt. Ayr	Sept. 28, 30
Scott, Davenport	Sept. 4, 8
Story, Nevada	Sept. 27, 29
Union, Afton	Oct. 4, 6
Union District at West Liberty, West Liberty	Sept. 19, 22
Union of Cedar at Mechaniesville, Mechaniesville	Sept. 19, 23
Van Buren, Keosauqua	Sept. 19, 22
Wapello, Ottumwa	Sept. 19, 21
Winneshiek, Hesper	Sept. 19, 21
Woodbury, Sioux City	Sept. 19, 23

KENTUCKY.

Bourbon, Paris	Sept. 5, 10
Eastern Kentucky, Mt. Sterling	Aug. 1, 4
Eminence Agricultural, Eminence	Aug. 15, 19
Harrison, Cynthia	Aug. 22, 26

The Horseman.

THE HORSES OF NORMANDY.

THE Pall Mall Gazette in correcting some errors in regard to the history of this noted breed says:

In alluding to the results that have followed the importation of late years into the United States of French horses for stock purposes, an American journal observes that the imported Normandy sires are a cross between the Arab and the primitive type of the Norman horse, possessing the stoutness, elegance and docility of the former, and the commanding size and strength of the latter. This description of the lineage of the Norman horse of the present day is scarcely in accordance with the accepted history of the production in France of this now well-known breed of horses. For though the Arab horse has been undoubtedly the regenerator of the indigenous breeds of the South of France, it does not appear that he has had much, if anything to do with the amelioration of the horse of Normandy. The improvement of the Norman horse must in common fairness be attributed, not to the blood of the desert, but rather to that of the English "turf." Of this blood, powerful agent as it is, it cannot be said that if it does no good it does no harm, and it thus happens that its injudicious employment of late years, owing to an exaggerated predilection in France for the English thoroughbred horse as a sire, is especially instructive to those who occupy themselves with horses, as affording an example that in horse-breeding, as in other matters, it is possible to have too much of a good thing. In the old time when armoured knights tilted at each other on horses equally clad in mail, the type of the Norman horse was to be found in two breeds, the Merlerault and the Cotentin. Both of these breeds enjoyed a certain reputation, and as roads and wheeled carriages followed in the track of civilization, one came to be preferred for draught and the other for the saddle. These were the Norman breeds which French breeders more than a century ago thought they might improve by the importation of stock from England. At that time English horses were fast rising in renown; but the first batch of them which arrived in Normandy consisted of large, heavy animals, and very coarsely bred to boot. They were thus powerless to stamp the indigenous breeds with hereditary mark of either a lasting or favorable character. The next importation from across the water was of a very different stamp. It consisted of twenty-four half-bred sires, and so satisfactory was the result of this experiment that the names of several of them affixed to their descendants were household words in the mouths of French breeders for many years afterwards. This was the first decisive step taken in the amelioration of the Norman horse, and these twenty-four sires brought over from England by the Master of the Horse of Louis XVI. may be considered as undoubted ancestors of the race then and ever since by the French the Anglo Norman breed of horses.

Unfortunately, much of the good that had resulted from the introduction into Normandy of these half-bred sires was undone by the abolishment of the Government breeding studs in 1790. And, as during the First Empire the English horse-market was closed to France, the breed commenced rapidly to degenerate. In 1830, the year from which it may be said that the blood of the English thoroughbred horse commenced to be mixed with that of the Norman horse, it was perhaps as sorry an animal as could well be seen. He had a thick, ugly and heavy crest, sunken withers and bad short shoulders. His back was hollow, and he was never well ribbed-up. His hind quarters were of all shapes, sometimes straight, sometimes rising aloft *en pupitre*. The hocks, frequently blemished, stood out from under him, making the line of the hind legs that of a sickle. A freak of fashion of former days had made a Roman nose an equine perfection, and so the Norman horse of 1830 rejoiced in a Roman nose. What with this curved line in front, and the sickle-shaped line of the hind legs behind, the animal was said to have looked as if placed in a parenthesis. Added to all these exterior defects he had a bad constitution. He was a soft unthrifty horse, and subject to all sorts of hereditary diseases, which he only threw off with difficulty. In the course of twenty-five years this ungainly brute, still the horse of Normandy, is pronounced to have become a good animal, and as handsome as good. Smaller, but altogether of better quality than before, he was useful either as a hack or a hunter. The larger bred ones did as well as carriage horses. A rich bright bay was the predominant color of the Norman horse of the Second Empire, and a few were gray or sorrel. This remarkable improvement of the old Norman breeds is wholly attributable, according to French authorities, to the blood of the thoroughbred horse of England rationally and judiciously used. But according

to these same authorities the Norman horse of more recent days is the commencement of an exaggeration of the system which had such good results. The cross too often repeated has undone much of what was done in former years, and, through the persistent use of the imported thoroughbred horse as a sire, instead of judicious resort to best shaped of home-bred animals, the Norman horse has become too high-bred and weedy, and therefore not so useful for the every-day wants of those who breed him. The present result of the importation of these high-bred Anglo-Normans into the United States is reported to be satisfactory, and this result, bearing in mind their lineage, might have been presumed to follow their introduction into that country. The produce where it loses in elegance and grace will probably gain in compactness and soundness and freedom from hereditary infirmities.

HORSE SHOE AND SHOEING.

THE following excellent advice on the above subject lately appeared in Forest and Stream.

On an average horses require shoeing once a month. The length of time a shoe will wear depends much on the kind of service a horse is doing, and on the kind of road he is daily traveling. A team horse in heavy draught does not wear out as many shoes as one used in a hack; quick motion grinds shoes down more rapidly than slow use. Some pavement is harder on shoes than an ordinary road, while the friction of a gravelly road wears them away rapidly Wooden pavement is but a little saving to the wear and tear of shoes, for the grit and dust which become impacted in the interstices of the wooden block grind away shoes like the friction of an emory wheel.

The hind shoes wear out first, and there is more strain and friction on them than on the fore-shoes. It is impossible and improper for a horse to wear shoes more than six weeks, for the growth of the foot shortens the shoe, as well as changes the shape otherwise. The neglect will cause the shoe to encroach upon the soft textures of the foot and produce lameness.

The greatest amount of custom to the blacksmith comes from the teamsters, expressmen and livery men. Omnibus and railroad companies have their own forges and do their own shoeing.

The process of making a horseshoe is familiar to every school boy, who has often lingered at the smithy door and listened to the wheezing of the asthmatic bellows and when the foot is paired, wondered that it did not bleed. Again, he has seen the strong-armed workman pluck the piece of glowing metal from the bright fire, and with the hammer give it repeated blows, and give it shape by curling it over the anvil point. Heating again and again, the iron he pounds maliciously, causing the hissing sparks to fly in all directions, until at length a shoe is formed complete.

This tedious process is superseded by machinery, and now like a doughnut a shoe is cut out of a sheet of steel, shaped, creased, and punched precisely as if done by hand. More shoes can be made by machinery in one day than a blacksmith can make by a forge in a week, and, equally as good too, in all respects.

The matter of horse shoeing is of great interest to owners of horse flesh, for every one has an idea how the shoe should be shaped and fitted to enable the beast to travel to his notion. If he overreaches, interferes, or stumbles, the blacksmith is held responsible. It is true a skillful mechanic can do much to remedy these evils. There are but a few practical mechanics who have sufficiently studied the foot of the horse. It is not enough to know the anatomy of the foot, and where to insert a nail not to cause pain, but the foot should be studied in the state of nature before the mechanism of man has by artificial appliances distorted it. The shape of the hoof of the wild horse, or of one who has never been shod, should be taken as a model. The foot is then properly balanced, neither too long nor too broad, but it has adjusted itself to nature, and the muscles and tendons are not strained by travel. Confinement and unskillful shoeing changes the anatomical relations of the foot, and the best judgement of the mechanic is often taxed to correct the growing deformity—from unskillful shoeing. When a reasoning, skillful mechanic is found the horse is safe in his hands, for he only preserves the normal shape of the hoof, and adjusts the shoe to protect it.

The frog in the hoof of the horse is placed there for a particular purpose, and should not be cut by the shoer. If this is allowed contraction and lameness will follow. The shape and weight of the shoe should be accommodated to the purposes for which they are designed. The track horse requires a shoe lighter and without corks, while the draught horse must have a heavy, broad shoe with corks to enable him to obtain foothold and travel with the least possible strain. The sporting horse should be shod lightly, with a swell at the heel and toe; the best nails should be selected, and care used in clinching, for the casting of the shoe during the chase is of great inconvenience, and might throw the horse and jeopardize the limbs and life of the rider.

Dairy Husbandry.

THE DAIRY IN WISCONSIN.

THE Secretary of the Wisconsin State Dairymen's Association, Mr. D. W. CURTIS of Fort Atkinson, sends us the fourth annual report of the Association for the year last past. Wisconsin is among the States where dairy farming has but recently been introduced, but under the factory system this interest has been rapidly developed, and now occupies a very prominent place in the list of the agricultural industries of the State.

We have personal knowledge of the soil and climate of Wisconsin, having at various times made extensive journeying over the State, and we are well satisfied that its soil and climate are adapted to dairying. Hence it is no surprise to us that the business has been pushed forward so rapidly within the last few years.

THE PRESENT CHEESE PRODUCT OF WISCONSIN.

According to the statement of President HIRAM SMITH in his opening address at the late Dairymen's Convention at Sheboygan Falls. Wisconsin made a cheese product in 1871 of 13,000,000 lbs., and during 1875 the increase was estimated to have been a little over 20 per cent., making a total production for the year last past of 15,000,000 lbs. The increase in Sheboygan County in 1875 was not less than 33 per cent., being a total production for that county of 1,000,000 lbs.

In referring to the progress of dairying in Wisconsin, Mr. SMITH draws a comparison between his own State and that of Ohio. He says that in 1870 the production of cheese in Ohio, according to the twenty-fourth annual report of the Ohio Dairymen's Association, was 22,200,000 lbs., and for Ashtabula County — the banner county for cheese in that State — it was 3,000,000 lbs. So that, with the present rate of increase, it is in the near future when Wisconsin will exceed Ohio in the extent of her dairy products.

DAIRY FARMING — PAST AND PRESENT.

Mr. SMITH refers to the dairying in Northern New York in 1835. He says that about this time there began to be a steady increase in the production and demand for cheese. "It was the custom for each farmer to make his own cheese, or rather, his wife did the making, and a woman who could not make the cheese, get it to press and all washed up in time to get dinner by 12 o'clock for the men was called a pretty "poor stick," and a man having such a wife received the pity of the whole neighborhood. If there is anything that shrinks a man's manhood, it is neighborhood pity, especially pity for any supposed deficiency in his wife. The cheese were held all summer and sold in the fall; the June and July cheese usually bringing a penny per pound more than those of September and October make. There was a disposition to pay for an article in proportion to the time expended upon it. The trade is now reversed—that is to say, cheese twenty days old will bring more money than cheese twenty weeks old. And although cheese then sold for the low price of 3½ to 6 cents per pound, yet by close economy and nutiring industry dairymen prospered, and they continue to prosper, if prosper at all, by the same hard terms."

WHY DAIRY FARMING PAYS BEST.

Mr. SMITH has a word to say concerning the prevailing opinion that dairy farming pays better than other branches of agriculture. It is mainly for the reason, he thinks, because it furnishes continuous employment. He says that if wages were paid by the hour, it would be found that dairymen work as cheap as any other class of laborers. While the receipts of a dairy farm are usually more than for grain raising, yet it is no more than just that it should be so, when we consider the increased cost of stocking such a farm and the additional hours of labor; and herein consist the chief advantages of dairy farming, that it furnishes steady employment and its receipts can be relied upon with a good degree of certainty.

"A dairy farmer is more likely to live within his means than a grain farmer, whose receipts may vary from $3,000 to almost nothing; for, after all our figuring, it is the net profits saved that make or unmake prosperity."

Besides the annual reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, the pamphlet before us contains addresses on "The Value of Milk," by H. L. DOUSMAN; "Care and Feed of Cows," by W. C. WHITE; "Best Market for Cheese," by C. H. WILDER; "The Patron and his True Interest Considered," by W. D. HOARD: "Dairy Fairs and their Results," by H. C. DRAKE; "Dairying in the Northwest," by G. E. MORROW; Statistics of the Dairy Fair of 1875, with the discussions on a variety of topics brought before the Convention and other matters of interest to dairymen. The Report is very nicely printed and is to be commended for the good taste with which it is got up, as well as for the valuable information scattered throughout its pages.

MANUFACTURE OF WHEY BUTTER—THE CHEDDAR SYSTEM.

THE whey being drawn from the cheese while sweet, is run off into tanks of tin or lead, which are about 2½ feet high, the bottom resting on the floor. At the Brailford Factory, where cheddar cheese is made, the tanks are built of blue brick, cemented. Here the whey lies until next morning — in all about 22 hours — when it is skimmed with an ordinary cheddar skimmer, either perforated or not. The cream is then poured into tin cans for the purpose of scalding. These cans, holding about 10 gallons each, are placed in a boiling vat, partly full of water, which is run up to 212° Fahrenheit by steam. The steam is turned on till it gives the water no more than a gentle, simmering motion. At this stage a handful and a half of salt is added to about every five gallons of cream, and the whole is stirred often with a small paddle. When the cream has ceased to rise and is fine and free from the thickness which before characterized it, the time which it occupies being, as a rule, from 20 to 30 minutes, the scalding is completed. It is now removed and placed in tin cans, holding about 10 gallons each, with small, brass faucets at the bottom. The cans are only made about half full of cream, and are then filled by adding to the cream clean, sweet, cold spring water. It is then left at rest until the next day, or about 24 hours, when the whey and water will have settled to the bottom and the cream, separated from all its impurities, will be on top. The water is now drawn out through the faucet until the cream is reached, when it may be turned into the cream jar, being stirred from time to time until ready for churning. The churning and working of the butter are performed in the ordinary manner, as for cream raised from milk. Whey butter made under this process is not much inferior to butter from milk, and has sold in the English markets for only 2 to 3 cents per pound less than good cream butter. During last season the whey butter made at the Brailsford Factory (Derbyshire) sold at from 42 to 43 cents per pound, while first-class cream butter commanded in the same markets from 44 to 46 cents. This method of making whey butter differs from that usually employed in America, and will be of interest to our dairymen.

SHEEP AND COWS PASTURED TOGETHER

SINCE the decline in the price of cheese, some of our dairy farmers are advocating the introduction of sheep upon their farms in connection with the dairy, and it is suggested that sheep and cows may be kept together upon the same pasture with advantage. The reasons given are that grasses left or refused by cows will be eaten by the sheep, and thus there will be less waste on account of tufts and patches of grass left by the cows to mature and to become hard and woody. And again, the droppings of the sheep over the surface of fields render the soil more fertile and increase the productiveness of pasturage. Sheep also, it is said, serve a good purpose in keeping horned cattle healthy.

Some of the reasons given may be all true enough, and yet sheep in any considerable number, it is believed, ought not to be pastured with milch cows. Sheep, as is well known, pick out the finest and best grasses, leaving those that are coarse and less nutritious for the other stock. Milch cows pastured with sheep, when the latter are in considerable number, it has been observed, yield less milk and milk of poorer quality than when the two classes of animals are pastured separately. The reason is obvious. If the best and more nutritious grasses be selected and eaten down close, leaving the poorer grasses for the cows, it is evident they cannot make such good returns as they would upon a more favorable diet.

The best pastures for milk are those which will make the most beef. Old pastures, as is well known, are much better for fattening than recently reseeded grounds. The old turf is filled with a greater rarity—with finer and more nutritious herbage, from which meat can be made—than the coarse and flashy feed of new pastures, and it is upon such pastures that the most and the best quality of milk is produced. Now, any class of animals like sheep, that "bite close" and select out the more nutritious of the grasses, must to a certain extent leave the balance of the food comparatively poor in quality. Sheep, it is true, will often eat plants that are left by cows, and if they would always or wholly feed upon the food left by the cows, doubtless there would be an important gain in pasturing the two varieties of animals together. But in practice we find the sheep preferring the best herbage, and as they bite closer than cows, they can always keep the advantage when pastured together.

The idea of keeping sheep on dairy farms is not a bad one at this time by any means, but we should prefer that they be pastured by themselves or with young cattle, and not with the herd of milch cows. The character of pasturage for the production of milk of superior quality is imperfectly understood by many dairymen, and there can scarcely be a doubt but that the delivery of milk at factories from different farms in many instances operates unequally, since the poor milk is credited alike with the richer.

FEEDING CORN MEAL TO COWS.

MR. MILLER who has of late brought himself into very conspicuous notice by claiming that cows will do well in winter by being fed entirely on corn meal, is getting some pretty severe criticism from farmers and scientists. Mr. T. B. MINER, one of our occasional correspondents has a word to say on the subject in the Weekly World from which we copy the following:

The feeding of Indian meal to cows has been practised in the United States since the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620. Mr. Miller's experiment in feeding meal only shows what all farmers knew before, that cows will exist on corn meal alone for a while, but to claim that he has made a discovery that will prove to be a great benefit to stock-breeders and farmers generally is in my opinion absurd. The natural food of cows is grass and hay, and to deprive them of such food, even if they could be made to live on something else that is cheaper, carries with the act a degree of inhumanity that is repulsive to farmers.

The report of the committee of the Western New York Dairymen's Association on Mr. Miller's system of feeding does not "set at rest the question of its practicability," beyond the simple fact cows will exist some two months on corn meal alone. Mr. Miller claims that three quarts of Indian meal is equal in value to twenty pounds of good hay to feed to cows. Nobody will deny to him the right to feed this meal instead of hay if he pleases to do so, but farmers are not going to be foolish enough to attempt to winter cows on meal alone. Cows actually require in the winter twenty pounds of hay per day and about three quarts of meal of some kind, or roots of equal nutriment to thrive and be in good condition, and a score of "reports" of committees and "explanatory letters" from "professors" cannot and will not change that fact.

Mr. Miller thinks that he has made a "new discovery" in this meal feeding matter. Some thirty years ago a man by the name of Graham also made a "new discovery," which was that mankind would be in better health, and live longer, by eating no animal food. Then the "Grahamites" appeared in large numbers; but where are they to-day? Gone to that bourne whence no traveler returns, Graham being the first victim. Every few years we see men riding some foolish hobby, which shortly "subsides" to make room for something else.

Mr. Miller bases his arguments on the alleged great saving in wintering stock to feed corn meal alone. Now, as he undoubtedly is acute as to expenses, suppose that he tries my "discovery" on himself, which is that a man can actually be kept in a healthy condition and with sufficient nutriment to sustain life on corn meal made into a pudding daily, and not to cost over $5 a year! I will agree to supply him with enough of this meal to sustain him in health one year for that sum. He would require a gallon or two of molasses to give his pudding a nice flavor, but nothing else as food would be needed. Here, Mr. Miller, is a chance for you to save over $100 a year in your own food, and probably $500 on that of your family, if you adopt my "discovery." Will you do it? Not at all, because you would say that such a diet is inhuman and cruel, while you can see your poor cows deprived of their hay, and suffer the loss of their cuds to save a few cents daily!

Mr. Miller showed that cows will live and not appear to be injured by feeding each three pounds of meal per day for about two months. But that short time is no test of the merits of the system. They would also live and be in equally good condition if fed on bran or roots for that short time. No, Mr. Miller your "great discovery" is not going to revolutionize the system of feeding cows in winter at all. Farmers know what the virtues of corn meal are, and they will continue to feed it or other meal moderately to their cows in connection with hay, as they have done for centuries past.

POWDER FOR HARDENING BUTTER IN HOT WEATHER.

AN English butter maker of large experience, who is now on a visit to this country for the purpose of looking over our cheese and butter dairies, gives us the following information concerning a method in practice among the best butter-makers of England for hardening or rendering butter firm and solid during hot weather. Carbonate of soda and alum are used for the purpose, made into a powder. For 20 lbs. of butter, one teaspoonful of carbonate of soda and one teaspoonful of powdered alum are mingled together at the time of churning and put into the cream. The effect of this powder is to make the butter come firm and solid and to give it a clean, sweet flavor. It does not enter into the butter, but its action is upon the cream, and it passes off with the buttermilk. The ingredients of the powder should not be mingled together until required to be used, or at the time the cream is in the churn ready for churning.

The Centennial.

THE DAIRY AT THE CENTENNIAL.

RUMORS expressive of various shades of discontent have unhappily accumulated of late, concerning the model (?) Cheese and Butter Building in the exhibition grounds.

I have been willing to pass unheeded *ex cathedra* statements by those who may have considered themselves put upon, knowing full well that the moral epidermis of specialists is more delicate than a hot-house sensitive plant. Latterly, however, nebulous dissatisfaction has crystalized into positive arraignment and, as a correspondent with an eye single to the interests of a leading class journal which has carefully and, I may add, successfully fostered our dairy industry, I have conscientiously gone into the merits of the subject and propose to give herewith the result of my investigations.

Although the United States is a large producer of dairy products, it will be a matter of surprise to those who have not looked into the subject to learn that, as a people, we eat but very little cheese, comparatively speaking. The excellence of the product has had no effect in causing its general use. Dairymen were pecuniarily cognizant of this and hailed the Centennial as an opportunity for modifying the public taste. It is evident, then, to popularize cheese, it was of the first importance to secure a vantage ground for the display that would attract, not especially the agricultural class, who understood its importance, but the masses who would come to see from motives of curiosity and leave with ideas and prejudices favorable to a more general consumption.

Such a display would have been appropriate in Agricultural Hall, but practical men urged the difficulty of keeping in good order, in such place, products that require special treatment in regard to equable temperature, and a committee of gentlemen identified with the dairy interest met in council and decided to erect a building on the grounds that should meet all requirements and in addition be a model butter and cheese building, where all might see the *modus operandi*.

The building is erected. It stands in a kind of basin, with high land to one side, where it should have been placed. Forming three sides of a square, the plan designed two sides for wings in which are to be placed the cheese displays, while the third side is the main building in which are rooms for a butter exhibit and space for the cheese and butter apparatus; a part of the second story is devoted to offices, sleeping apartments and a restaurant. For the money expended I think a better structure should have been made. There is also a cellar, which Mr. Arnold says "proved to be inadequate to the task of cooling properly," which is mild and humane language. "Proved to be inadequate to the task," is a verdict that would fit in other quarters besides the cellar. The room that was to be an exemplar in cheese making fails ludicrously. It contains a few cheese vats, a press, and a boiler and engine adjacent thereto. It is about as strong a suggestion of the mode of making cheese as the bore of a gun is of the velocity of a bullet, It is a model of nothing, if not of how not to do it.

The same may be said of the neighboring apartment, devoted at present to promiscuous churns, a small refrigerator of butter and a few milk pans. The corner room is intended for a butter exhibit. There is no butter to be seen at present, because the room was so hot the butter had to be removed, or it would have run away of its own accord. The Commission failed to keep up the supply of ice, and the temperature rapidly grew as warm as the indignation of the exhibitors.

There has been displayed in the Canadian wing of the building 303 cheese; in the American a larger quantity, including 7 from Ohio, 19 from New York, and some 200 from Wisconsin. The heat, we know, has been excessive, and, as far as I can see, there are in these wings positively no artificial means to control the temperature with a single exception, and the Wisconsin lot has fermented, or puffed, deteriorated in quality, and, according to the statement of Mr. Reall, been withdrawn under protest, sold at a loss, and the owner, Mr. Hazen, about to assess damages. The Canadian cheese has fared better. The inquisitive visitor at present cries aloud, but in vain: "Where is your butter and cheese?" The restaurant is the only flourishing product remaining. The prices are reasonable, the service as bad as it well could be, and the apartments reserved for the preparation of food positively unclean.

It has been asserted that the ventilation, and other means for controling temperature, is all wrong and very bad. I think it is a mistake to say so. The ventilation, in my judgment, is entirely too good. The air from all out of doors has unrestricted access to all indoors, and the only party who does not hold a sinecure is the orb of light, otherwise the sun. Latterly, Prof. Wilkinson has attempted to modify this state of things by applying his patent ventilating duct. It is a failure; but granting his principle to be right, it is hardly to be expected that one can modify the whole circumambient ether, as it were, with 160 feet of a hole in the ground.

It was, I am informed, distinctly understood at the meeting of the American Dairymens' Association, that a building should be furnished capable of controlling the temperature, and holding it at from 60 to 70°, and, on this assurance, subscriptions were taken, otherwise exhibitors would have made a display in Agricultural Hall and avoided the extra expense. In view of these facts, it is pertinent to inquire the reason of this state of affairs, and who, if any, are responsible for it.

Previous to the opening of the Exhibition there assembled in Philadelphia committees of dairymen, who at once were divided into sub-committees after the manner of the polyp, and imitating the peculiarities of this little creature, each particle severed from the main trunk, at once assumed the functions of an entity, and proceeded to business with an entire disregard to harmonious action that was more curious, than entertaining. It would be a work of supergation to detail the perplexities and bad blood engendered by actions that would have created no surprise in amateurs fresh from a so-called Business College.

The Executive Committee of the A. D. A. was composed of Messrs. Pope, Scoville, Lewis, Hawley, Shull, Blanding and Reall. There may have been more, there is certainly one less, as Mr. Reall has resigned, and expressed his reasons for doing so in vigorous Anglo-Saxon. On these gentlemen developed the important duty of selecting a suitable plan for the dairy building. They are all experts in dairy matters one of them a sapient authority on Holy Writ. Such qualifications should have produced a structure that in point of merit would have been as it were gilding refined gold. They may for aught I know think the present storeroom answers this description.

The building as it stands is the product of Mr. Blanding's brain, with modifications. Professor Wilkinson also submitted plans that were carefully returned. The desideratum was, as before stated ventilation, perhaps some plans are in a fair way to receive that sweet boon. Mr. Pope paid his respects to the Centennial Commission and presented Blanding's plan estimating the cost of construction at $10,000. As near as I can ascertain Canada had subscribed $2,000, private contributions amounted to several thousand, and the N. Y. Legislature had appropriated $8,000 for the Centennial display of State cheese under the direction of the N. Y. State Dairymen's Association; Hon. X. A. Willard Prest., J. Shull, Sec. This fact seems to have an important bearing. About this time the RURAL threw some light on various transactions in dairy matters and was soundly scolded for trying to spoil a nice show from motives the reverse of exalted. I have seen the nice show and hope your correspondent's motives at least have become aerated and consequently more exalted.

Affairs progressed, and it became necessary to have some money. There were some nine or ten thousand in New York that only required, to secure possession, the call for a meeting of the Executive Committe of the N. Y. State Dairymen's Association by its President, Mr. Willard, and a vote to have the Treasurer disburse it. No such meeting was ever called, yet the money was secured all the same, which is strong proof of the business capacity of the Committee. It appears that Mr. Secretary Shull called a meeting—indeed several meetings were held—when, finally, Messrs. Shull, Scoville, Lewis, Hawley and Blanding met and conferred on Mr. Shull the power to draw the State appropriation and dispose of it in the interest of the New York display. The Executive Committee of the Association consists of ten members, including the President and Treasurer. These gentlemen were never at any of these meetings officially, and in fact at no time was there a quorum. The consent or approval of the Treasurer of the Association has *never* been received by these gentlemen as an indorsement of their acts, and it is now clearly a legal question if the parties concerned are not severally responsible for the funds thus appropriated.

The reason of this anxiety to have Mr. Shull handle the money I cannot explain, unless it was because Shull, Lewis and Hawley of the Executive Committee were also the Auditing Committee, when it is very plain that there would be less friction, a better understanding, and business expedited in fact, when the money could be received and paid out by one man in a dual function.

In speaking of such clever management, that reflects credit on the astuteness of all concerned, I can only wonder that the building is so poor—that is, that some consider it so feeble, you know. I feel constrained to say a word in praise of Mr. Pope, also, who merely receives a pittance at present for his labors as Superintendent. As he truly observes, "After all, money is not everything!" He neglected his large interests in Ohio, which, in the present condition of the cheese market, was true abnegation, and while he must have been losing money daily in his usual avocation, he accepted his present trust without remuneration. Such sacrifice recalls the Spartan who would rather let the wolf gnaw, etc., than allude to the delicate circumstances of its acquisition.

I know a parallel on the Committee, viz., Mr. Blanding, who waived his fees as architect and became a simple contractor, agreeing to put up the structure after his plans, at his own expense, and taking his chances for being reimbursed out of the fund to be appropriated. Had it not been for these gentlemen, where would our building have been? I don't know what the structure has cost as it stands, but Mr. Blanding, in a letter to Mr. Pope reporting progress, says he figures the cost at something over $9,000, but it would be well to strike the Commission for about $12,000. In Prof. Wilkinson's last plans estimates were $7,300.

Mr. Reall states that a model cheese factory in Illinois cost $5,000, and gentlemen who have seen this building have returned to New York expressing the opinion that $6,000 would be a large price to pay for a similar one. However, these gentlemen did not perhaps consider the difficulties to be overcome in fetching lumber to an out-of-the-way place like Philadelphia.

Credit is due to endeavor, although unsuccessful. The managers are earnest in their efforts to start the display forward, and I notice that B. B. Moon has a letter in Herkimer Co. Journal urging factory men to be patriots. I think, myself, that it would be entirely safe and patriotic to send along a few cheese about the latter part of September. Mr. Moon, I understand, is interested to the extent of 75c. per hundred on all the cheese he can divert to Philadelphia. I forgot to ask Mr. Pope if Mr. Blanding's charge of 75c. would be added, making it cost about twenty per cent to handle a patriotic cheese.

A very interesting query has been suggested by a friend here, which the committee might care to answer in an individual capacity. It is, how and from whence are the members of various committees to be paid necessary traveling expenses. The Auditing Committee can take care of themselves, of course, in this particular, as Mr. Lewis would say to those who have much shall be given, but would not the restaurant fund be well applied in this direction? YOUNG RURAL.

CENTENNIAL FIELD EXHIBITION,
SCHENCK'S STATION, Pa., July 20, 1876.

MR. JOHN COLEMAN arrived this morning at eight o'clock and went to work in earnest. The first machine set was the Doylestown Jr. and what with slipping of belts and several other disabilities, it made but a sorry show. It was a small Thresher and vibrated much with the steam power. Complaint was made of the power and a general investigation followed which resulted not only in the total rejection of the Dynamometer but the whole record and tests of threshers theretofore made. To begin anew on such a day was not an entirely delicious prospect; but our Brittanic friend came here to test these machines and intended evidently to do so, a plan was then arranged for the steam machines to be fed 2,000 lbs. and thread machines 1,000 lbs. each, time and weight of grain and waste to be taken and general results to be noted. Thereupon another start was made and continued with an energy worthy of a poorer cause. Then it was that Boss Geddes displayed his executive ability. For an hour or so he was as ubiquitous on that field as a borrowed horse and buggy could make him. The Wheeler and Mellick was ready and tested in a short time and was followed in quick succession by others with results shown in the following table:

NAME.	Power.	Weight of Unthreshed Grain, lbs.	Time, minutes and seconds.	Weigdt of Grain, lbs.	Weight of Waste, lbs.	Elevation of Horse-power, degrees.	Speed: No. revolutions of drum.
Wheeler, Mellick & Co.	2-Horse—Tread	1,000	19	327½	22	14¾	1,200 / 900
Minard Harder	2-Horse—Tread	1,000	18:30	320	19	14	1,200
Ellis "Champion"	1-Horse—Tread	1,000	34	319½	7¼	15½	
Heebner & Sons	2-Horse—Tread	1,000	15:15	305	30	15	1,050
G. Westinghouse & Co.	10-Horse—Steam	2,000	15:30	628½	13	..	1,040 / 975
Geiser Manufacturing Co.	10-Horse—Steam	2,000	13	630½	15½	..	1,300 / 1,100
Hultzizer & Lazalere	2-Horse—Tread	1,000	14:58	305	35½	15	1,200
A. B. Farquhar	6-Horse—Steam	2,000	14:30	593	22½		1,400
G. W. Westinghouse	2-Horse—Tread	1,000	19:30	297½	14½	16	1,000

Those which had been tested the day before had to be again brought forward and no one of their owners seemed at all displeased with the arrangement, as everybody seemed to have the impression that the first trial was hardly trustworthy.

The table given above shows the order in which threshers were tried, but as the grain did not run uniform, it is scarcely to be relied on as an exact test. Here again the action of that sapient body the Centennial Commission was shown in all its fair (!) proportions. The test not being made obligatory on all to compete, but a small section of representative makers were present, which had the effect of detracting from the importance of the trial.

In the meantime the sun grew not warmer but hotter and hotter. About midday the engineer of one of the Aveling & Porter Locomotives, was sun struck and carried off the field. This incident set many people to thinking and those who considered themsevles in danger of a similar contingency sought the shade of a neighboring orchard or left entirely. Not so our indefatigable juror from Yorkshire however, for he kept right on with his tests till six o'clock, when the last thresher had been tried.

The evening previous, one of Baker's Rotary Compressors and Blowers had been sent down for the purpose of testing the powers of the various portable steam engines. It weighed nearly 4,000 lbs. and it became a problem with Boss Geddes how to get it placed in position in the field. Happening to think of the Farm Locomotive, he suggested to Mr. Oastler the idea of using it for that purpose. Hardly sooner said than done—a crane, which came with the Locomotive, was affixed to the forward end and the steamer run out to the car on the siding. Chains being let down and fastened under the Blower, the throttle was opened a little and up came the Blower, swinging in the air. By one move of the hand-the steam was connected with the drivers and off went Locomotive, Blower and all, as if a thing of life. Halting at the place designated, the Blower was dropped at the exact spot desired, and the weight of this part of the programme was off the car and off the mind of the theretofore perplexed superintendent at one and the same time.

SHORTHORN.

Farm Economy.

PURSLANE.

IT might be supposed that there are few farmers who are not pretty well acquainted with all that pertains to Purslane, the commonest and most persistent of weeds.

During a recent visit to a wealthy farmer on the south side of Long Island, we asked him and four others of his household and in his employ, separately, what the flower of Purslane was like? The first replied that he did not know it ever bore a flower; the others replied that they had never seen it. If, therefore, we are to judge farmers as a class by these Long Island specimens, the above supposition would prove a mistake. It is, however, the exception not the rule for any of us closely to observe weeds—especially low trailing ones—that exist in great abundance. The flowers, too, are small, of a greenish-yellow color that, opening not until the sun is well up, close before noon.

Purslane loves heat. The roots being annual, the plant does not appear until the first of June—earlier or later as the season is early or backward. It grows slowly at first, very rapidly about and after the latter part of June at which time it begins to bloom. Each plant bears daily let us say twenty flowers, and each flower matures from 100 to 150 seeds, by actual count, as black as powder and as fine as white sand, in a capsule called botanically a pyxis. In two or three days this pyxis, which is conically round and a quarter-of-an-inch in depth, splits in two and the seeds are scattered far and wide. All who have hoed or hand-pulled this weed must have noticed that when destroyed before the first of July, it is slow to reappear. When hoed after the first of July, millions of little plants (seedlings) appear in a few days after. The practice is to hoe or pull Purslane only when it has so spread over the ground as to interfere with useful plants. It is then left in heaps to wither in the sun, or, as often occurs, to root again; or it is thrown upon the manure heap there to shed its millions of seeds, or else, finally, it is fed to the pigs thence to reappear in the soil fertilized by this manure. Instead of this, if farmers or gardeners would make thorough work of pulling up Purslane just before the flowering period—except for the seeds that blow from neighboring premises, another weeding would prove unnecessary during the season; and two seasons would suffice for its entire eradication.

If each Purslane plant will average twenty flowers daily and each flower will bear at least 100 seeds, it is easy to see that our cultivated lands will be filled with young Purslanes at this season of the year just in the proportion that the first plants were permitted to bloom and go to seed.

Portulaca grandiflora and its varieties are the bright, beautiful flowers of the garden. *Portulaca oleracea* is the Purslane weed. The seed capsules are essentially alike and those of the former may be examined instead of the latter if more convenient to do so.

Floricultural.

"CINNAMON VINE."

UNDER this name, in RURAL, July 15, your correspondent describes exactly the *Dioscorea Batata*, or Chinese potato, except that he errs in saying the roots increase in size from year to year. A larger root usually forms each successive year, but it is grown anew—the old one decaying and furnishing food for the new ones. It was introduced in this country some twenty years ago as an edible, but having the habit of growing deep in the earth and wrong end up, as it would seem, takes the position of a reversed parsnip. It is very difficult to dig, and the culture of it for food was abandoned soon after it was commenced. I have had it for many years as an ornamental vine, which, for luxuriance of growth and beauty of foliage, I know of none better. One I planted in Northern Connecticut, many years ago, still lives. The cinnamon-like fragrance has often been noticed, and if we must have another than the botanical name, it may be called Cinnamon Vine with less impropriety than the common names usually given to plants.

L. A. R.

Since receiving the above communication, Mr. MAPLE has forwarded us a small plant, showing L. A. R. to be right in his conjecture. This yam has been so often referred to in the RURAL, (under Daily Rural Life) that though Mr. MAPLE's description at once suggested the *Dioscorea Batatas*, we yet deemed the plant too well known to have puzzled our Western friends, who have been at some pains to ascertain its name.

It has grown in the RURAL grounds for a number of years, and fully merits the praises of our several correspondents. Up to early June its growth is confined to single stems, with leaves a foot apart. By this time it will have attained a hight of at least ten feet, when, if the terminal bud be pinched out, slender laterals will freely appear, and its habit will strikingly resemble that of the Madeira Vine (*Boussingaultia basselloides*).

One day last June, we marked a shoot that had not yet thrown out laterals, and found its growth eight inches in twenty-four hours. June 12, a single stem had reached the hight of thirteen feet.

We give a sketch of the leaf, which is fleshy, almost leathery;—of the male flowers, which, as will be seen, are not in the least showy, and of the fruit, which is a membranous capsule. The male and female flowers are borne upon different plants.

SOME HINTS TO BEGINNERS IN PLANT-GROWING.

BY GEO. SUCH.

EVERY florist who is desirous of being considered a reasonably good-natured man must occupy no inconsiderable amount of his time in answering questions with regard to the treatment of plants. Most of the questions come, of course, from amateurs, and the burden of complaint is generally that the plants which were received in apparent good health only a few days before, are beginning to wilt and have a sickly appearance, and in fact are behaving in a manner quite at variance with the kind treatment they are receiving in their new home.

Plants are not like men, who may be all smiles in the morning, and without any other cause than "pure cussedness," may be disgustingly bilious and disagreeable in the afternoon; if plants sulkily hang their heads, there must be some good reason for their dissatisfaction, and a helping hint towards ascertaining the cause of the trouble, may perhaps be of interest to some of your readers.

Most florists, to economize space, and also for the purpose of keeping the transportation charges within reasonable bounds, grow their plants in pots of the smallest possible size; consequently the earth in these pots becomes crammed with roots and exceedingly hard. The person receiving the plants is usually struck with astonishment at their pot-bound condition and at once shifts all into pots at least one size larger. This, if well done, is a proper thing to do; but in many cases the work is not well done—the earth in the fresh potting being so loosely put about the old ball of roots that when the plant is watered, the water runs rapidly away through the fresh, open soil, and leaves the earth in the old ball just as dry as snuff. The same thing often happens in transferring pot plants to the open ground, especially if the plants are of large size and the roots fibrous and delicate; unless the ball is well soaked in water before being put into the ground, and unless the earth is carefully packed about the roots, the dry ball so well resists moisture that the plant is liable to die from want of water, even in the midst of abundant rains.

Another and a very common cause of partial if not complete failure in out-door gardening, is owing to the fact that the planting is not made at a proper depth. Canna roots, if put just under the surface, make a growth quite insignificant as compared to the stately masses of foliage thrown up by roots, covered from four to six inches deep. Bulbs are especially liable to suffer from this surface-planting, Gladiolus bulbs and Lillies being at times so lightly covered with soil as to be unable to withstand even a few days of dry weather.

CHINESE YAM OR CINNAMON VINE.

Plants cultivated in the house often suffer from being put into pots very much too large for them. The mass of soil, which is quite out of proportion to their needs, by frequent watering soon gets into such a sour and sodden condition that the roots rot away completely and the plant dies. Even when the amount of soil is not greater than the plant needs, it is quite an easy matter to give too much water to succulents, such as the Cactus family, the Agaves, Crassulas, and others of like habit. In fact these plants when at rest, as most of them are during winter, need scarcely a drop of water and to water them with a free hand at such a time is a mistaken kindness sure to end in their destruction. Some zealous folks not only give too much water, but when from day to day they see the plants taking on a still more sickly look, strong manure is added to the water in such quantities as would clog the digestion of even an onion. There is about as little sense in this treatment as there would be in giving turtle soup to an invalid incapable of assimilating the plainest broth. Not that the use of manure water is to be condemned, for judiciously applied, it is of great benefit, contributing wonderfully to the fine cultivation of most plants.

Many persons lay too much stress, I think, on special mixtures of potting soil, and are apt to attribute want of success to the fact of its being too sandy, or too heavy, or to its containing an insufficient amount of peat. While the choice of a special and proper soil is undoubtedly of advantage, it is not of the vital importance that some persons claim. Most of the old gardeners—and a few even of the more modern—use as much precision in the mixture of their potting soils as a druggist would in making up a prescription, and they insist that any deviation from these rules of mixture would be fatal to success.

It would be easy to give a hundred examples of the folly of this claim, but one will be quite enough. I will mention the case of the Amaryllis, a plant that, since few grow it well, would seem to require very special care as to soil. But see how easily satisfied it is in this regard: LOUIS VAN HOUTTE,* a celebrated grower, uses "pure leaf-mold mixed with some sand"; another equally celebrated cultivator, who has taken many prizes, insists upon the use of nothing but peat. English gardeners, for the most part, recommend a light loam, enriched with old manure; but within a month, one of the best, if not the very best of the English growers of Amaryllis, says he is convinced that the best soil for this plant is a very strong clay loam. Happy patients, who in spite of the disagreement of these learned doctors, all thrive!

One of the points to be remembered by those beginners who grow plants in pots, would seem therefore to be that the mixture of soils is as nothing compared to the keeping of the soil in a healthy condition, free, on the one hand, from the sourness arising from excessive watering, and still not so dry as would be uncongenial to the growth of the roots. Careful observation will soon show when the plant needs water, and then it should be given—not a few drops on the surface, but in such quantity as to soak through the ball of earth thoroughly. The other points of importance are the temperature and the degree of moisture in the air. The temperature is especially to be considered, for it would be folly to attempt to grow a Camelia in a hot-house, or to leave *Cyanophyllum magnificum* suffering in the cold.

South Amboy, N. J.

* Deceased.

GLADIOLI—SUGGESTIONS.

GLADIOLI do not need to be staked, except to support them in case of exceptionally high winds. Especially is this true where they are planted as closely together as they may be without detriment. The leaves of the Gladiolus are not very ornamental—the only word that can justly be spoken against this splendid flower; but where each plant is tied to a stick, its appearance is still further marred. Not at least is it necessary to support them until the buds begin to break. Then a light, unpainted stick—almost a switch indeed, if it can be stuck in the ground without breaking—suffices. Garden stakes in common use are much larger than necessary. We do not know, until we have tried it, how slight a support will hold plants during the strongest winds of summer. The bulbs are not, as a rule, planted deeply enough, though this must of course be varied to suit the soil. For large bulbs in sandy soil, six inches are not too deep. This secures moisture to the bulbs during drouths, and serves the additional purpose of supporting the stem. If our readers have not planted their bulbs deeply enough, soil may be thrown upon the surface where they are massed, thus producing the same effect.

Where drouths prevail, drenching the beds with water and covering with grass will improve the flowers and prolong the flowering period, though where they are growing in full sunshine, such heat as has prevailed for two weeks past, whether the ground has been moist or dry, will scorch the buds and wither the petals in a day. Yet we have never found that the Gladiolus thrives best in shade or partial shade. The finest displays we have ever seen were upon rich sandy soil in full sunshine. The leaves and corms will stand both sun and drought—it is the flowers alone that suffer.

We remind our readers that now is the time to mark flowers for seed, or to cross selected flowers with a view of producing finer strains and more pleasing colors and markings.

Field Crops.

REAL VALUE OF GOOD NATURAL GRASS LAND.

WHEN it is so repeatedly stated that England is more than half in permanent grass, that within a few years a great deal more has been taken from the plowed portion never to be cultivated by the plow or turned over again, it ought to be convincing as to the profit from grass being more than from grain, and if a small island so overpopulated as to require an immense importation of human food can increase her area of perpetual grass, there must be a vast advantage in leaving undisturbed by cultivation all the best land. Yet, here in America, all the fine tracts of the blue and other native grasses, which are well known to fatten cattle and sheep, or, in fact, every grass-eating animal, are broken up and plowed for the purpose of taking all the plant food which the grass feeds on, to grow wheat to send away, thus impoverishing the country. For the money received for all the wheat does not enrich the inhabitants, as they have to pay all of it, and more added, to buy wool and cloth and clothing of all kinds, which wool would make, if the grass and virgin soil was spared to grow wool instead of wheat.

Let that quack farmer, Mr. MECHI, come over to this continent and see the havoc made by the plow, and he would never more blame the landowners of England for their zealous protection of the meadows and pastures. Could anything be stronger proof of the real value of good natural grass land than the fact of farms having more than half grass, or fully two-thirds as mowings and pastures, being always more sought after than others. Moreover, it is notorious and beyond contradiction that a good farmer with capital, renting a farm of say from 300 to 500 acres, with about the proportion of grass land stated, which he can never plow, is better situated than any who have all arable farms, and also, it can be added, in making more money than any farmer on this side of the ocean who owns his land. This is worth consideration, for he pays more in taxes, has no protection, and his rent at least $10 per acre.

Good natural grass land in America, if not violated and robbed of its plant food, would pay well, for all the animals raised by its aid, all the butter, wool or meat produced are nearer clear profit than aught else, and men of capital who would, like English noblemen, hold this uninterruptedly in grass, only using such as was not so well adapted for permanency, would not have a quantity of unsalable, exhausted soil on their hands. In the West, and especially in the Southwest, there are men who are what is termed "land poor." They own a great many acres, which they have rented to laboring men on shares, and some at money rental, but in either case, the land gradually becomes weaker, and after a few revivals of clover, the deepest, best soil succumbs, and poverty results to the soil and to all owners who have not invested the cash as received.

WORKING FARMER.

ABOUT HOPS.

AT a meeting of the Maidstone Farmers' Club, (Eng.) the other day, Mr. Joseph Barling of Maidstone, referring to the opinion of some writers that the quality and quantity of lupulin in the hops was supposed by some to be affected by the presence of the male seed upon the female flower, said:—Last year the season was wet when the hop was in burr, and it might have been noticed afterwards that it did not contain its usual number of seeds. He opened a number of hops and found some seeds in each, but a great many were missing. Those who charged the farmer with neglect in not cultivating the male hop, would probably have said at once that this lack of seed was caused by the absence of a sufficiency of male plants, but further examination showed that there was no want of lupulin, but the rain had washed away its proper receptacles, in the glutinous matter formed to hold it. After contending that hops in a carefully cultivated ground, where there were no male plants, would do better than those in a less carefully tended plantation where they might be found, Mr. Barling said a question to be decided was whether the impregnation by pollen was the only means of fructification. There was ground for believing that those very grains of lupulin which were so early developed on the young hop were exactly identical, both in form and impregnating power, with the pollen of the male plant.

Supposing there was a hop-garden with no male plant within a mile, and the hops produced seeds which weighed as much as any other, the question arose whether the offspring of these so impregnated seeds—impregnated with lupulin instead of pollen—would produce a plant with the characteristics of one or two parents. In all probability it would only produce the characteristics of the hop on which the female blossom and the impregnating pollen grow; and this was a question of importance, because the hops that were now cultivated had all been selected for some special quality observed in them. The only way to determine this would be to go through a course of isolated cultivation and study, extending probably over several years, and there was so much doubt as to the result even then that he was not surprised that hop planters had been backward at trying the experiment. A brief discussion followed, in which the opinion was generally expressed that the so-called male hop was little better than a weed, and useless to cultivate, and Mr. Stonham assured the Club that on his best grounds there was not a single plant of the kind.

POTATOES.—Save the small potatoes for there will be a scarcity in potato beetle regions.

Pomological.

PROPAGATING PLANTS BY BUDDING.

Budding and grafting, and similar methods of propagating plants, have been practiced for many centuries, and a full description of how the work is performed has been given in thousands of horticultural works, as well as in millions of periodicals distributed throughout the civilized world. Still, each succeeding generation requires a repetition of the same, just as each has to begin with the alphabet if it would learn to read or make further progress in literature.

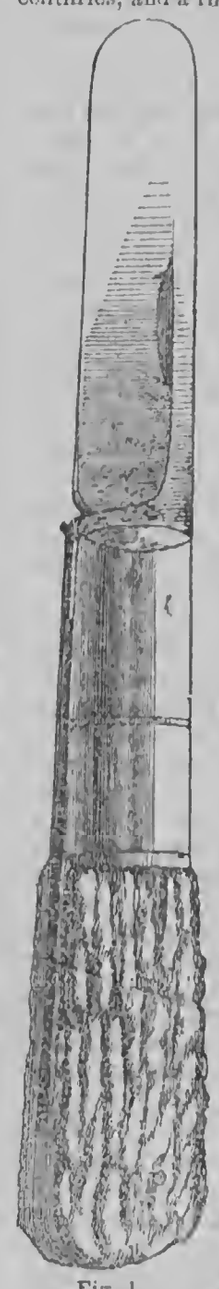


Fig. 1.

Every year, as summer approaches, we receive inquiries in regard to propagating plants by budding, which is conclusive proof that there are many young men, and perhaps old ones, who are still in need of information on this subject, and it is these whom we particularly address at this time.

WHAT IS BUDDING?

The art of budding is the taking of a bud with a small portion of the adjoining bark from one plant and inserting it under the bark of another, or into some part of the plant from which it was taken. The general principle which governs the operation is that there must exist an affinity between the plant from which the bud is taken and the one upon which it is placed, and the nearer the relationship the more readily will it unite and the more permanent will be the union.

The peach, plum, cherry, and similar stone fruits will not unite with the pear, apple, or quince; therefore, in propagating by budding, as well as by grafting, we are compelled to keep within certain limits, although the possibilities of the operation may not be as yet fully determined. But for all practical purposes, we may say that the nearer the relationship between the bud and the stock into which it is inserted, the better will be our success.

The peach may be budded on plum stocks, and plums on the peach; but for general culture, each on its own seedling stock is preferable. Pears are also budded upon thorn, apple and quince stocks, for the purpose of making the trees assume a more dwarfish habit, and the tall-growing species of apple budded upon low-growing; but in each and every instance the same rules hold good in performing the operation.

Fig. 2.

In budding, it is very important that the bark of the stock should part readily from the wood, and to secure this it is necessary that the operation should be performed when the flow of sap is abundant, because if the bud were inserted at any other time it would not find the nourishment that it requires for its support. But very often instances arise where good judgment is needed to avoid budding too early in the season; as well as too late, as some kinds of stocks in certain seasons grow so rapidly that buds inserted very early will be overgrown by the bark and young wood and destroyed. In budding the peach and cherry, especially when growing in very rich soil, this sometimes occurs when the operator is in too much haste to get his work done early in summer.

THE BEST TIME FOR BUDDING.

The question is frequently asked, "Which is the best month in summer for budding?" but no exact time can be given which would suit all localities. The condition of the stock must be our only guide to this part of the operation. It is better, however, to wait until the most vigorous growth is past, but not entirely ceased, before budding. The stocks may be in proper condition in the latitude of New York City in the month of July, but we have delayed budding cherry stocks until the middle of September with the best results. As a rule, however, the greater part of the budding done in the Northern States is during the latter part of July and August.

MATERIALS USED IN BUDDING.

A small knife is necessary for preparing the buds for insertion, as well as for making an incision in the bark of the stock, together with a quantity of some material to tie around the bark to hold the bud in place. There are various styles of budding-knives in use, some with long, thin, ivory handles, with which the bark on the stock is raised to admit the bud, but what is called the "American Budding-Knife" (shown in Fig. 1) is the one principally used in this country, and is preferable to any other. It is simply a small pocket-knife with a thin blade, round at the end. The cutting portion extends about one-third around the end of the blade and about two-thirds of its length, leaving the lower part dull.

The material commonly used for tying in the buds is called "bass," and it can be procured at any seed store, or from bass mats. It can also be obtained from the bark of basswood trees by stripping it off in spring and immersing it in water until the inner portions separate into thin layers. The thin bark of other kinds of trees may also be used for this purpose, and even thin muslin, woolen yarn, or candle wick, the kind of material not being of so much moment as the convenience in using it.

SELECTING BUDS.

In selecting buds the young shoots of the present season's growth are generally preferred, and they should be taken from the most healthy, but not always the largest shoots, the object being to obtain plump, well-developed buds, not those too old and partially overgrown with bark, nor those too young and soft. The leaves should be removed as soon as the shoot is taken from the parent plant, but in doing this it is well to leave a portion of the leaf-stalk attached to the twig (as shown in Fig. 2, which represents a shoot from a pear tree trimmed for use). The soft, half-formed buds at the terminal end of a shoot, if there are any, are usually rejected, also those at the base, if not plump.

Fig. 3.

HOW TO INSERT A BUD.

Take the branch in the left hand, with the small end toward the body, insert the knife blade a half inch below the bud, cutting through the bark and slightly into the wood, passing it under the bud and bringing it about the same distance above it, thereby removing the bud with the bark and a thin slice of the wood underneath (as shown at *c*, Fig. 2); then, if using the American Budding-Knife, let the forefinger clasp the lower part of the blade as it is held in the right hand, make a horizontal incision in the stock first, and from this an incision downward, about an inch long and only through the bark; lift up the edge of the bark by passing the back of the blade up to the horizontal incision without removing it; then lift the edge of the other side in a similar manner. The two incisions will make a wound in the stock resembling the letter T (as shown in Fig. 3). If the bark parts freely from the wood, it will not be necessary to pass the blade under the bark the entire length of the incision at the edges near the upper end. While doing this the expert budder will hold the bud in his left hand, and at the moment the knife is being withdrawn from the wound the lower part of the bark to which the wood is attached will be inserted and thrust down into place and the whole operation performed in less than one-fifth of the time it takes one to describe it. If the upper end of the bark of the bud does not pass completely under the bark of the stock, it must be cut across so as to join the cross incision in the stock. The bud is then tied in by winding the stock with bass or other kind of string, leaving the point of the bud and leaf-stalk uncovered.

Of course the operation may be varied in many ways, but the above is essentially the general mode of operation. The twigs may not be larger than a knitting-needle in some cases, as for instance, in budding the Weeping Cherry and the branch or stock into which they are inserted, but slightly larger; or, as is frequently the case with Magnolias, the buds are taken from branches as large as a man's finger and inserted into stocks an inch in diameter, and the same care, to insure success, is required in all cases; but the stock should always be a little larger than the branch from which the buds have been taken.

After the buds have united with the stock (which usually occurs in two or three weeks, or less), it is well to cut the ties, in order to admit of expansion, especially if the weather is favorable to the continuance of growth. Buds set in the summer and fall are expected to remain dormant until spring, at which time the stocks above are cut away, which forces them into growth. Sometimes the buds will start in the fall. When this occurs, the young growth is very liable to be killed by the cold of winter. This is one reason why budding too early in the season should be avoided. By a few experiments and close attention, almost any boy or girl can learn to bud almost any kind of woody plant from a rose bush to an apple tree; and more is the pity that all do not try, for it is both a pleasant and profitable pastime.

TWO SURPRISE RASPBERRIES.

We notice in one of our exchanges that a Mr. H. G. Breese of Hoosick, N. Y., has introduced a new Raspberry under the name of "Surprise." It is said to be a dark-red variety of the Black-cap species, and, as usual with such things, the originator claims for it numerous and wonderful merits. Of this, however, we have nothing to say, but would remind Mr. Breese that the name "Surprise" for a raspberry of the *Rubus occidentalis* species was long since used by Mr. Samuel Miller for one of his seedlings, which, by the way, is one of the best of its class. It would be a very foolish proceeding, to say the least, for Mr. B. or any one else to duplicate this name "Surprise," and especially to have it bestowed upon two varieties of the same species. We hope Mr. Breese will select some other name for his new raspberry, and thereby avoid the confusion which is certain to follow if the present name be retained.

THAT NEW GOOSEBERRY.

Not long since we received a small box of gooseberries from E. P. Roe, raised upon his place "up the Hudson." If the berries sent to us were really of pure native blood, then we should consider the variety a very promising one; but if a seedling from a foreign sort, it is scarcely worth a name, for there are hundreds far superior.

We want to know more of this sort before giving an opinion. From what native sort is it a seedling, where were the seed sown, and what care, if any, was bestowed to prevent any seed of a foreign sort getting in among them? Then again, has the plant a foliage resembling any of our species, and if so, which one? Mr. Roe may have one of the best and most valuable native gooseberries ever seen in this country, but we cannot "enthuse" over it without knowing more about its parentage and appearance.

Sheep Husbandry.

COLLIE DOG TRIALS IN ENGLAND.

Denounce the dog as much as we may, man will cling to him as he does to man, through all vicissitudes of life or persecutions of either race. There appears to have ever been a bond of affection between men and dogs which no change of time or circumstances can break, hence it has become a saying that "love me, love my dog," are synonymous terms, and however much men may differ in opinions in regard to the economic value of dogs in general, they are like the poor "who are ever with us," hence we believe it is policy on our part to make the most of the canine race whether viewed upon the whole as a curse or blessing. In Great Britain the dog is a recognized member of society in good *social* standing and his education receives due attention in order that he shall fill the position with credit to himself and master.

Now if our streets are filled with miserable mongrel curs, and the farmer's flocks worried with sheep-killing brutes, men are at fault not the dogs, for they only exhibit their natural instincts just as we do in defending ourselves and property against their attacks. But to change all this it is not necessary to kill off all the dogs or deprive man of his company, but merely to select higher and more useful types, and then attend to their early education. If our farmers would pay some attention to the importing of good shepherd dogs they need have little fear of the sheep-killing breeds.

But to awaken an interest in these matters we need a few exhibitions of the skill of dogs in managing sheep as frequently shown in the dog trials on the other side of the Atlantic. The late exhibition of Collie dog trials at Alexandria Park in England, gave a very fair idea of what this sagacious and valuable breed may do when properly trained. A report of this trial appeared in the Standard, from which we make a few extracts:

An interesting trial of collies at work—some 20 or 30 entries having been made—has been going on during the past week. Pens half a mile apart in the park were employed. The dog standing with his master at the empty one was directed by word towards the other, in which were three sheep (fresh from the hills), and these were unpenned as the dog approached, and had to be driven and penned within the hurdles half a mile off.

"The man and dog walked together along the racecourse until the sheep were sighted, when he gave a sign or a word to his four-footed companion and the intelligent brute at once started off at a gallop, and sought first to drive the sheep down the hill towards his master. When he had succeeded in doing this the man walked towards the pen and the dog drove the sheep after him until they were near enough to cooperate in getting the sheep inside. Twenty minutes was the maximum time allowed, the prizes being won by those which succeeded in penning their sheep in the shortest time, while those which failed to pen within the allotted time were disqualified. It was not difficult to discover that dogs and sheep were working under great disadvantages, and animals which have no doubt a well-deserved reputation on their own hills failed to distinguish themselves under totally novel conditions, though enough was demonstrated to make it apparent that these collie trials are likely to become a very interesting annual performance. Though a space of ground was marked off by ropes and stakes, which were respected by the spectators, the sheep felt under no restrictions, and the poor collie, therefore, that had been used to the clear view of a Welsh hill side, with no human being but his master within miles of him, had to dodge his charges among visitors and round plantations, which frequently hid them altogether. The sheep were many of them very wild and ran like deer, their disinclination to proceed in the direction of the pen being increased from the main flock being in full view and thus stimulating the natural ovine tendency to rejoin companions. In several cases, on the dog nearing the three sheep, the nimble and independent wethers scattered and galloped in different directions out of sight, when the collie, after an honest attempt to bring them together, seemed to conclude that it was hopeless to complete the task in 20 minutes, so he philosophically dropped it altogether and trotted back to his master. Some of the trials of wethers behaved in a manner more in accordance with the gregarious traditions of their race, and when in addition to hanging together they happened to start in the right direction down hill, the first portion of the dog's work was easily and speedily done. The marvelous sagacity of the breed was seen when the sheep were near the pen and the dog had to overcome their natural disinclination to enter. Not only did the animal in this position obey every sign and word of his master, but he would exercise what might almost be called his own reason and discretion in the mode of carrying out his master's wishes in a fashion that was astonishing. Success, however, depended altogether on the behavior of the three particular sheep. One famous dog, named Handy, which won the champion prize two years running in Wales, was very unfortunate in this respect. He succeeded in getting them to the pen in splendid style, but nothing could induce the brutes to enter. They broke away a score of times and after a display of ability worthy of his high reputation, poor Handy failed to accomplish the task within the 20 minutes. The most successful performance was that by a dog named Maddie, belonging to Mr. John Thomas of Bala. Favored by tractable wethers she succeeded in a little over four minutes. A famous dog named Boy did the work in seven and a-half minutes. Another called Laddie took nine minutes and two others, Pentre and Tweed, 12 minutes each. There were 19 entries for the All-Aged Stakes, and these were tested."

FOOT ROT IN SHEEP.

When foot rot has been for some weeks neglected and the sheep continue on soft ground, which favors the superabundant growth of degenerate horn, it becomes confirmed and difficult of cure. The secreting textures persist in pouring out lymph and weak, faulty horn, instead of the tough, firm, protecting covering of the healthy foot. The first step, however, must be to (with a strong, sharp knife, while the hoofs are soft) carefully cut away all loose, unsound horn. Where the hoof is extensively affected, this cannot be done all at once; two or three operations will be necessary. Fungus is got rid of by using butter of antimony, mixed with equal parts of impure carbolic acid, diluted with two or three parts of oil. Copper sulphate ointment, in the proportion of one to four of fatty matter, is used in some districts.

Domestic Economy.

HOME KEEPING.

It is seldom that we have read anything which smacks so much of genuine truth as the following from the Western Farm Journal, and we would commend it to those who may think keeping a home is a less responsible or noble occupation than filling a niche in any other position in life.

With what enthusiasm the young housekeeper enters her clean, bright, attractive kitchen. With what a glow of delight she engages in her duties. Everything is new, pure, untarnished. The sunshine gleams in rows of bright tin, the shelves are free from even a hint of dust, and the surface of the china is smooth and polished. The tea-kettle sings cheerily away on the stove. How delightful is work with such surroundings. How keenly and with what alacrity she enters upon her duties. With what dispatch the work is disposed of. How foolish in her once to dread housekeeping.

But there comes a time when all this is changed. No longer the bright surface of the tin and kitchen utensils reflect the rays of the morning sun. They are too dingy and dirty to reflect anything. As she opens the door of her cupboard, disorder and uncleanliness stare at her from every corner. Spots of grease disfigure the kitchen floor, and the stove is, in appearance, far, very far from suggesting a fit place for the preparation of anything one would wish to eat.

She realizes then that vigilance is the price of cleanliness and order as well as liberty. Then the thought comes with bitterness, perhaps, that it is a daily hand to hand fight with dirt and disorder that must be maintained to secure surroundings in which work can be done cheerfully and successfully. Then as she brightens the tins, cleans the cupboard and scrubs the floor, she feels the drudgery of house-work. It will be acknowledged that to go over the same round of duties every day, week in, week out, for months and years, becomes tiresome. To cook, wash dishes, sweep, dust, and perform all the multifarious tasks pertaining to housekeeping, savors very much of drudgery, indeed *is* drudgery.

But while you, my friend, wield the scrubbing-brush, flourish the broom or mop, and envy those in other departments of labor their immunity from household drudgery, know that there is drudgery pertaining to all employment, a drudgery more exhausting, more unceasing than yours. There is a thrill of exquisite joy in the soul of the poet when a new and beautiful idea comes to him, but the working out of that thought in expression, is labor of the severest kind.

"But then he has a poem," you say, exultingly, "and I only a clean floor." Only that and nothing more. You have much more. For I imagine your efforts will not end with the cleaning of your floor, but the lesson you learn there will show itself in other departments until you possess what should be the highest aim of every woman, a well-ordered household, a neat, attractive, delightful home.

A home! Is not that as good as a poem? People can live and thrive without poetry, but the lack of homes has been the ruin of many.

To make a home, all the little details of every-day life, that sometimes seem so small, so trifling, so far beneath the dignity of intelligent womanhood, duties that the veriest drudge can perform, are of importance.

Successful home-making is one of the problems of the age. If you, oh! patient housewife, in your quiet corner of the world, unobtrusively working, practically solve the question which taxes the intellects of the wise and gifted, solve it by entering heartily and cheerfully into all the details of your work, have you labored in vain? And if this be repeated in the thousand homes of our land, will not the foundations of our nation stand so strong and firm that all the opening flood-gates of evil will not be able to prevail against them?

Lift up your head, then, toiling on; magnify your office. Place yourself, as you have a right, among those who are doing the noble abiding work of the world. Exalt your lowly duties to the level of your high conception of what a home is and what it means. Then no work will seem mean, no duty trifling. Then we will hear no more of the drudgery of house-work than of the drudgery of painting a picture, or writing a poem.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Tomato Soup.—Two quarts of beef stock, two onions, one carrot, one turnip, a sprig or two of parsley. Peel and cut the vegetables fine. Boil them in the stock one hour, then strain the stock carefully—not allowing any of the vegetables to pass through the seive. Add two quarts of peeled tomatoes; boil three-quarters of an hour. Then, in a large saucepan, put two tablespoonfuls of butter, and heat until it is a light brown. Take this from the fire, add it to the stock; put in one tablespoonful of sugar, three tablespoonfuls of flour, made smooth in a little cold water; stir well until it boils; skim, and send to table in a soup tureen.

Potato Soup.—Boil eight potatoes and one good-sized onion until tender; strain through a seive; add one quart of milk, salt and pepper to taste, and nearly one teacup of butter; put all in a saucepan and let it come to a boil. Serve hot.

Chocolate Pudding.—One-half cake of chocolate, grated; one-half pint of soda-cracker crumbs; butter the size of an egg; one pint of milk; white of six eggs well beaten; sugar and salt to taste. Boil in a mold one hour. To be eaten hot with cream, or wine sauce.

Apple Pudding.—Eight apples grated; the same quantity of stale bread; three eggs; one and a half pints of milk; sugar and flavoring to taste. Bake one hour in a slow oven. To be eaten with cream.

Egg Blanc Mange.—Two-thirds of a box of gelatine; one quart of milk; one cup of sugar; six eggs; salt and flavoring to taste. Put the gelatine into the milk; set it on the back of the stove until it is dissolved, then add the sugar; beat the yolks of the eggs until they are very light; add a gill of cold milk to them when the milk on the stove is scalding hot; put the eggs in; stir constantly until it is done, which will be in a few moments. If allowed to remain on the fire too long it will curdle. Take from the fire and continue to stir it gently until it is quite cold, then put the mixture into a mold and set on ice. To be eaten with cream.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Breakfast Cakes.—One pint of sweet milk; two tablespoonfuls of butter; one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder, worked thoroughly through flour enough to make a batter not very stiff. Bake in gem pans in a quick oven.

Graham Bread.—Just before retiring at night, dissolve a yeast cake in a teacup of tepid water; add fine flour to make a batter; cover, and set in a warm place. The first thing in the morning, add nearly a pint of tepid water; one teaspoonful of salt; a half teaspoonful of baking soda; two tablespoonfuls of sugar; one teacup of fine flour, and Graham flour enough to make a stiff batter; put the mixture in a bread pan; set it in a warm place until sufficiently light, (which should be about two hours). Bake in a moderate oven.

Veal Cutlets.—Cut the veal in good, fair slices; salt and pepper them; have ready a generous supply of hot butter, or part butter and lard, in which to fry them. When the meat is nearly cooked, dip each slice in a well-beaten egg, then in rolled crackers; return to the fire until they are a delicate brown. Send to the table hot.

MRS. RUSTIC.

Raised Biscuit.—One pint of sponge; coffee-cup of lard or butter; knead, and put to rise. When light, make out and raise a little while the second time, and bake in quick oven. As splendid as biscuit can be.

Cream Pie.—For the cake, two cups of sugar; piece of butter the size of two eggs; four eggs; two spoonfuls cream of tarter; one of soda; three cups of flour. Bake in jelly-cake pans, or in a single cake, and split as one chooses. For the cream, one pint of milk; two eggs; a cup of sugar; half a cup of flour. Beat the eggs, sugar and flour together; pour in the milk and put over fire until it thickens, stirring all the while; flavor to taste. When cold, spread between layers of cake. This is a fussy recipe, but excellent.

Lemon Jelly.—One package of Cox's gelatine; add one pint of cold water; juice of six lemons; let them stand one hour; then add one quart of boiling water; two lbs. of white crust sugar; strain, and put to cool.

Summer Mince Pie.—Four crackers; one and a half cups sugar; one cup molasses; one cup cider; two-thirds cup of butter; one cup chopped raisins; half cup currants; two eggs, well beaten; brandy and spice to taste.

Lemon Pie.—One lemon; two-third cup of powdered sugar; two eggs; three tablespoonfuls of flour; one teacup of milk; grate rind of lemon; put the rind and juice of lemon, the yelk of the eggs, sugar and flour together; add the milk the last thing; line a deep tin plate with paste; and pour the custard into it. When cooked, spread over the top the whites of two eggs, beaten to a froth, with four tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar; meringue flavored to taste, generally with vanilla. Return to oven and bake to light brown.

A. M. S.

Warts.—Tie a hair or fine silk thread tight around the wart; wear it until the wart drops off; then rub caustic deep into the place. Result, a cure.

Hygienic Information.

SLEEP.

While speaking of the importance of persons sleeping in order to keep up the strength of the body, Dr. N. Green says:

"Thousands of busy people ruin the health, and many die every year for want of sleep. It may be that some are injured by too much sleep; but, an excitable people and in those of intense business habits, there is far more mischief done from want of sleep. Sleeplessness often becomes a habit and is very injurious to health. It sometimes results from disease, showing unmistakable evidence of a breaking down of the mental powers, and is often a precursor of insanity. When it does not reach that sad result, it is still full of peril as well as of suffering. Thousands of men have been indebted for bad bargains, for lack of courage and ineffectiveness, to loss of sleep.

Healthy and natural sleep repairs the wastes which the waking hours have made. It rebuilds the system. The night is the repair shop of the body. In the relaxed condition of the system during natural sleep, every part is silently overhauled and all the organs, tissues and substances are replenished. Waking consumes, sleep, replaces; waking exhausts, sleep repairs.

We live by a process of destruction. Force in the human body is manifested by the decomposition of its component particles. Life manifests itself as a result of chemical decomposition of particles, and as these particles or cells are destroyed or devitalized, they must be removed, and their place supplied by new cells.

During the daytime the amount of vital force expended counterbalances, or rather uses up, the material prepared by digestion and assimilation. But at night, when the expenditure of force in voluntary life is at its minimum, not only is the blood freed from the impurities of worn-out and broken-down particles, but new tissue is formed and the body gains in weight. We grow mostly during sleep; for then the products of nutrition, which during the day are used in replacing the constant waste of the system, are employed in building new tissue.

That the system may be properly repaired during sleep, the material must be received and digested during the day. Food to be in a proper condition to supply and rebuild the system, must be taken and digested during the waking hours. That digestion may go on during sleep cannot be doubted, as any organ of the economy may, for a time, be forced to perform more than its normal amount of labor. But the stomach, often being kept constantly at work during the day, requires rest at night, and can be recuperated only during the hours of sleep; and although digestion may go on, such sleep will be disturbed and unrefreshing. The brain and nervous system are also built up and restored only during sleep.

A man has as much force in him as he has provided for, by sleep and the proper assimilation of food. The quality of action, especially mental activity, depends upon the quality of sleep and nutrition.

Such being the necessities of the case and the inexorable law of Nature, it behooves us, as rational beings, to study and obey the laws that govern our physical and mental organization. The importance of sleep, as a recuperative agent, has been almost entirely overlooked; and many, even among the learned, act as if they thought sleep of but little consequence and the time so spent lost. But Nature has decided otherwise. The integrity of neither body nor mind can be long maintained without sleep. Health, happiness, strength of mind and personal beauty, are as dependent upon sleep as upon any other requirement of the animal economy.

MILK DIET.

"I find by experience," says E. N. Chapman, "that lime water and milk are not only food and medicine at an early period of life, but also at a later, when, as in the case of infants, the functions of digestion and assimilation have been seriously impaired. A stomach taxed by gluttony, irritated by improper food, inflamed by alcohol, enfeebled by disease, or otherwise unfitted for its duties, as is shown by the various symptoms attendant upon indigestion, dyspepsia, diarrhœa, dysentery and fever, will resume its work and do it energetically, on an exclusive diet of lime water and milk. A goblet of cow's milk, to which four tablespoonfuls of lime water have been added, will agree with any person, however objectionable the plain article may be, will be friendly to the stomach when other food is oppressive and will be digested when all else fails to afford nourishment. Of this statement I have had positive proof in very many cases. "The blood being thin, the nerves weak, the nutrition poor, the secretions defective, and excretions insufficient, the physician has at hand a remedy as common as the air, and as cheap almost as water. In it all the elements of nutrition are so prepared by Nature as to be readily adapted to the infant or the adult stomach, and so freighted with healing virtues as to work a cure when drugs are worse than useless.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Insurance Supervision.—We have little faith in the possibility of useful results from legislative interference with the management of insurance companies and less still in the protective appliances of the existing system of State supervision. Two years ago we shared the common delusion that the State could control the companies by means of a special department and certain unexplained inquisitorial means, and could, and did, guarantee the continued solvency and fair dealing of the companies entitled to license. Observation has shown this to be a very mischievous mistake, which putting all the companies on the same footing injured the better and enabled the worse to obtain patronage without deserving it and betray a confiding public. There are few if any instances in which the departments have interfered successfully to prevent failure and fewer perhaps of successful appeal by aggrieved policy holders, though honest, earnest and capable Superintendents have done all they could and excited our sympathy by lamenting the futility of their endeavors to catch rogues who were stronger than the law and shrewder than the law makers. No good company has been made better by the hampering requirements of the insurance code, nor bad one renovated by its coercive measures.

A Great Luxury.—It does not cost much to purchase necessities, the things indispensable to mere animal life. The heaviest outlay goes for things that promote happiness by pleasing the taste and gratifying the ambition. A life insurance policy is not a physical necessity to the head of a family. He may exist without it but if he is a conscientious man, one who loves his family, who fears that his life may end before he has made ample provisions for them he can buy more content and serene happiness by investing money in a policy with a first class company than in any other known way. It is the price of serenity through life and content on the death bed.

Increase of Capital.—Several leading fire insurance companies propose an increase of capital. This is a move in the right direction which we cannot too highly commend. It does not matter much to the policy holders whose security is enhanced by every additional dollar, whether there is an increase of stock capital, of capitalized surplus or surplus reserved; so long as it is a dollar more of money to pay losses with and available for that purpose it is a matter of indifference to us, and should be to the insured, what technical name it goes by. We should like to see all the companies double their resources.

Entomological.

THE CRANBERRY WORM.

A correspondent of the Tribune writing from Ocean Co., N. J., reports that what is locally known as the fire-worm recently attacked a number of cranberry plantations in the vicinity of Tom's River, N. J., and the work of the pest has been very destructive. In conversing with a number of growers, I learn that the loss caused by the ravages of the worm during the past six days will probably amount to $20,000, and this is thought to be a by no means exaggerated estimate. One grower estimating the crop of one bog by that of last year, when the field was scarcely an average, says his loss cannot be less than $2,000, and his bog is only one of many. In Jackson and Brick townships—where the area of cranberry land under cultivation is larger than in other sections of the county—the worm has not yet appeared, and until the present drouth became serious, the prospect for a large crop was thought to be unusually favorable. It is now (July 8) more than two weeks since there has been any rain in these localities, and as a consequence, many of the plantations are suffering greatly, especially the savanna lands, where the young fruit is being generally pinched. If the drouth should continue another week, the effect will be to materially reduce the prospective crop, as well as to operate unfavorably upon the size of the fruit. It is reported that the worms are now in Berkley and Lacey townships, but that Eagleswood and Stafford have not been visited by them. These localities have been favored with showers since the more northern portions of the country have had rain, and are not suffering so much for the want of water. There are not, of course, any indications of scald as yet, but an examination of the young fruit shows that about the usual percentage of it has been stung. Grapes are rotting somewhat, and the raspberry, blackberry and whortleberry crops have been greatly injured by the drouth. If rain does not come very soon the blackberry crop will be an utter failure, as the fruit is now drying up on the bushes.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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PREPARING FOR THE FAIRS.

On another page we give a list of state and local fairs to be held during the autumn months. A few words in commendation of these useful organizations, as well as the patronage which they should receive at the hands of the public is quite opportune at this time. It is to be regretted that agricultural and horticultural societies receive far less patronage than their importance demand, not only from those persons whose calling makes them most directly interested, but from the public at large. The residents of cities and villages who are not tillers of the soil, seldom consider themselves interested parties when there is to be an exhibition of the products of the farm or garden, or that these shows call for any special attentions or support on their part, hence they take little interest beyond the opportunity of whiling away an hour or two among the cattle, cabbages and roses or to see the fun at the plowing match, or horse trot, forgetting, if not particularly interested as producers, they cannot avoid being so as consumers.

They may not care who raises the largest or best beets, or makes the best butter, or how it is done, but the fact of its being done cannot fail to interest them. For these reasons if nothing else, every individual should consider himself personally interested in the products of the soil. The residents of our cities and villages often complain of the poor fruits and vegetables which they are forced to purchase in market in the absence of better, but few of them ever think that any change could be made through their direct influence, as it doubtless never entered their heads that supply follows demand.

If those who desire the best of everything will learn what to ask for there is little doubt of its being furnished and there is no better place of obtaining this information than at the hundreds of agricultural and horticultural fairs held annually throughout the country. If you would have your butcher keep Southdown mutton, Short-Horn beef, Aylesbury Ducks, Brahma fowls, or any of the choice breeds of poultry noted for their fine flesh, go to the fairs and learn their respective valuable properties. Ignorance on the part of consumers in not knowing what to ask for, tends to perpetuate the same in producers, as well as to discourage attempts at improvement which would be beneficial to both. These two classes need to come together and get acquainted, and not leave their individual interests entirely in the hands of a "go-between" known as the middleman or commission merchant. A little time and money spent by the residents of our cities in going to country fairs, would be very beneficial all around, both financially and fraternally.

The farmers and other residents of the country who are presumed to take especial interest in exhibiting their products, do not always do their full duty in keeping up the associations to which they do or should belong. There are often trifling petty jealousies which interfere sadly in securing harmony between managers and exhibitors—failures resulting where great successes might have been obtained under a different state of affairs. Personal feelings and favors should be laid aside as much as possible at such times and all unite as one man to work for the good of the community. It must not be expected that each exhibitor can obtain a prize where there is sharp competition, and every one should feel it his duty as well as pleasure to make the best show he can and, if beaten, be thankful that there is something to be learned and still room for improvement.

If a neighbor can make better butter or cheese than yourself, do not be vexed at learning the fact, but strive to find out how it is done and then try him again at the next Fair. Do the same with fruits, grain—in fact, all kinds of farm products—but of all things, do not let conceit get the better of judgment, provoking a disclaimer against fairs and a withdrawal of your support of the association.

Furthermore, do not fail to send something to the fair, even if there is not the slightest chance of winning a prize; but show a good will and a liberal heart by doing all you can to help make up a grand exhibit. Take the wife and children along and urge upon your neighbors to do the same; and when arriving on the grounds don't go about finding fault or telling everybody that you have better sheep, cows or other stock at home than there is on exhibition, and had you thought neighbor BROWN was going to show his vegetables, you would have beaten him, with plenty to spare. Instead of this, look smiling, praise everybody for what he or she has done in the way of making a show. If fault is found with the assistants on the grounds or managers, do not join in with the grumblers, but put in a "smoothing" word, and as much as hint that the time was short in which to make all the necessary arrangements and that there is a limit to human efforts.

Go to the fairs, one and all, is our advice to the readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and make each and every one a grand success in this, our Centennial year.

WHY NOT TRY IT?

If people would learn to be more skeptical and less confiding, truth might in a great measure take the place of error. But it is so much easier to accept a statement as truth than to investigate and *know* it, that a majority of persons choose the former, absorbing what is generally termed knowledge just as a sponge does water, taking in the impure as readily as the pure, possessing neither a desire or power of making a selection. This is especially the case in most things pertaining to "Rural Affairs," hence the repeated and constant circulation of the most nonsensical and ridiculous statements in regard to the habits of plants and animals, as well as the influence of the planets on the same.

Now, we do not believe any man ever conducted a series of experiments for the purpose of determining whether the moon had any perceptible influence upon plants or animals on this earth, without coming to the conclusion that all assertions in the affirmative were erroneous, or so near to it as not to be worthy of a moment's consideration. If the believers in the moon's influence would only stop to think that they are in an infinitely small minority—taking mankind as a whole—and that 999 out of every 1,000 persons in the world pay no attention to such signs, and still they succeed just as well or better, than those who take them as a guide.

But it is not altogether of these mysteries which have been handed down from father to son until they have become "bred in the bone" that we complain of, but of the hundreds of minor items of knowledge which seem to pass current, few questioning their truthfulness. Time and time again have we heard it stated that the seed of the common cress, or cheat, would not germinate; while the men making the statements could have convinced themselves of this error by sowing a few seeds in a flower pot filled with sand, if they did not care to trust them in the open ground. Hundreds of times has it been said that cions of peach, apple, plum and similar fruits, if set in a stock top-end down, would produce fruit having neither core nor seed. Practical men have tested this method of grafting and learned that inverting of a cutting or cion has no influence whatever on the fruit, and those who still persist in repeating such errors probably do not want to know the truth. Grafting peaches upon willows in order to produce stoneless fruit, is another process recommended by persons who never tried it, nor do not know that the peach fails to unite or grow upon the willow.

Similar errors are promulgated in regard to the various domesticated animals as well as plants and insects, many of which might readily be disposed of by the slightest investigation. What sense is there in believing that snakes will not crawl over an ash stick, or ants cross a white chalk mark or a ring of salt, when it is so easy to prove that such statements are fallacious? There can certainly be no harm in trying to learn the truth even if you fail, provided no risk is run in making the experiment.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A CORRESPONDENT asks:—"When SARAH ELIZA JONES and JOHN SMITH are married what, thereafter, is the proper and legal name of the lady?"

It is always presumed that a woman loses nothing but, on the contrary, gains by marriage. She certainly gains another name. We are not aware at what period in history this custom was introduced, but evidently it was not until after Bible times. It is now universal in Christian lands although, so far as we know, there is nothing in any marriage service, with one exception, relative to it. That exception is the sensible, beautiful and impressive form used by the Society of Friends, or Quakers, in which the woman formally assumes the name of her husband.

When the absurd custom of giving a girl a multiplicity of Christian names has been followed, it is deemed best that she drop, at marriage, all but the one by which she has been generally known. This, with her surname—or more properly sirename—and that of her husband become and are thenceforth her proper and legal name. In the case above named the lady would probably discard ELIZA and add SMITH, writing as her signature, SARAH JONES SMITH.

Women are often known only as the wives of their husbands, having their individuality blotted out at once, and many of SARAH'S friends would be likely, following a custom, to address their letters to her as "Mrs. JOHN SMITH." This should not be done. The Christian name of the husband ought never to be used in connection with the wife except when both are spoken of at the same time; then it may be as "Mr. and Mrs. JOHN SMITH," or "JOHN SMITH and wife," but never as "JOHN SMITH and lady."

We are aware that it has become quite common for married ladies to use their husband's instead of their own Christian name, on their visiting cards and, when so unfortunate as to become widows, to assume their own again; but we could never see any good reason for it unless it was for the purpose of announcing whether or not they were in the matrimonial market. We may be reminded that in society, the Christian name of not one married woman in twenty is known but to her most intimate acquaintances. We admit that is the case, except among the Friends, and answer, More's the pity. When we hear a man spoken of as "Mrs. ROBINSON'S husband," we at once infer that his intellectual status must be considerably below the average if he can shine only by reflected light, and we are at a loss to understand why a woman should not be allowed to stand up on her own merits rather than be spoken of as if she were merely an appendage to a man.

She should retain her Christian name because she has always been known by it, her family name from respect to the family she has or should have left and for convenience of genealogical research, and take the name of her husband's family, of which, henceforth, she is part and parcel; and all people should have sufficient respect for her to recognize the fact that, although by her marriage she became, in the eyes of the law, a thing, she did not entirely surrender her individuality but still remains a person.

RURAL NOTES.

Names of Oranges and Lemons.—It is a lamentable fact that of the thousands of different varieties of the oranges and lemons, which reach our markets or cultivated in different parts of the world, comparatively few have ever been described or given distinct names. Florida oranges, Havana oranges, names which really mean nothing, for the fruit bearing them may have never come from either of the localities named and if they had, it would not convey any idea of their qualities any more than apples from Maine or New York would indicate name or quality of this fruit. The great want of Southern pomology is a good and thorough treatise on nomenclature, something after the style and scope of our Northern standard pomological works. Tropical fruits of all kinds are in a sad state of confusion in regard to names and no real and steady progress can be assured until it is cleared up by a master hand. The extreme Southern States should take this matter in hand and secure the services of some man who is capable of giving to the world an authoritative work on the subject.

Cotton Spinning in the South.—Much as the people of the Southern States neglected home manufactures in days gone by, they have at last waked up to their importance, especially to the using of the raw staples instead of sending them abroad to enrich the capitalists of other localities and countries. This is clearly shown in the spinning of cotton, the great staple of the South, for while in 1869 only 14,561 bales were worked up at home, the number had increased 144,066 in 1875. This is a good showing, although only 3½ per cent. of the cotton raised has been manufactured at home, the remainder having been sent abroad to give employment to foreign capital and labor. Further progress in the way of home manufactures is needed to bring peace and plenty to the South as well as North.

The Dairy Building.—In another column will be found an interesting letter concerning the management of the Dairy Building at the Centennial. Events are rapidly justifying our strictures as editorially expressed a few months since; and while we sincerely deplore a state of affairs so inimical to an important Agricultural industry, we could not logically expect a different result from the practical application of false views and, to express it mildly, careless direction of an important trust.

RURAL BREVITIES.

WE learn that FRED. MATHER, Superintendent of Aquaria, Centennial Exposition, has resigned.

"OUR COUNTRY."—We are obliged to omit the continuation of the Historical article this week—but it may be expected regularly hereafter.

THE Editor of the New England Farmer owns up to having been sold by a tree peddler. He purchased some genuine Versailles currant bushes which, when they came into bearing, produced small, sour, white fruit. We could tell a story twice as good as that played upon us by a nurseryman in good standing not a hundred miles from Boston.

TWO LETTERS.

HIS.

If you were dead and in some silent valley
A red wild rose were blooming on your grave,
In some lone fen where idle breezes dally
And somberly green willow-branches wave:

With willing feet I oft would stand above you,
And with sad eyes your moss-grown name spell out,
Thinking that once each said to each "I love you,"
In those far days before we dared to doubt.

But no, you are not dead; the world adorns you,
Kneels at your feet and calls your face divine;
Praises your beauty, worships till it bores you,
Knows not and cares not that you once were mine.

Edith, I care not that your blood is flowing
In splendid radiant cheek or dainty wrist;
That on your supple throat there still is glowing
A queenly coil of pearl and amethyst;

Our love is dead, so you are dead thrice over,
Though on your face have dropped no mourner's tears;
And you and I, who once were maid and lover,
Are further sundered than the furtherest spheres.

But stars and spheres—
Oh! what a silly letter
A plain and prosy man will sometimes write.
I'm sentimental, and you can't do better
Than laugh at me, once more, with all your might.

The fact, you see, is this: I can't forget you;
In all our quarrel I alone was wrong;
And I've been blue enough since last I met you,
A month ago; it seems ten times as long.

Oh! Edith, could I only go and see you,
And tell you all the things I want to say!
I cannot give you up; I will not free you;
I love you, Edith. May I come to-day?

HERS.

Why, Tom, dear Tom, of course you may—
You see I call you Tom again;
So please come over right away,
You oddest, truest, best of men.

To tell the truth, I've pitied you,
And you've, most likely, pitied me;
But then, you know, it wouldn't do
To let the world my pity see.

You men, of course, are very wise,
And think you know a woman's heart;
But bats and owls have brighter eyes
Than you to understand her art.

You were just hateful, though, that night;
But I'm afraid I made you so;
Tom, drop our quarrel out of sight—
Forgive, forget, and let it go.

Well, Tom, I'll not write any more,
Although, indeed, I've much to say;
My music master's at the door,
So *au revoir*, and come to-day.

P. S.—You frighten me to death
With "willow," "valley," "grave" and "fen.
Dear me! I almost lost my breath!
Tom, don't you *dare* do so again!

[*Chas. F. Richardson.*

CLOUDS.

In some sections of country where rain has been more "honored in the breach than the observance," as it were, it may revivify the memory of the oldest inhabitant—not to speak of the rising generation—to explain what a cloud really is. When at last they do make an appearance, they will be recognized at once.

The clouds illustrated are known scientifically as Fracto-cumulus, and are the forerunners of approaching storms. The artist, I see, has designated the clouds alphabetically thinking, perhaps, that he will entrap me into a scientific explanation, which is quite foreign to my intention.

I wish merely to impress it on my readers that these Fracto-cumulus, as soon as an invisible storm has broken out in the distance move ahead with great rapidity, almost grazing the highest buildings and tallest trees; borders excessively torn; clouds of a whitish color. They are visible day and night. In the Antilles they produce the disagreeable winter rains and in Europe March storms; in this country they produce water in large quantities—in fact, are quite wet, so to speak.

It is not generally known that a cloud was the first umbrella, and came between the Sun and Earth during a heated discussion between these parties, which, of course, resulted in a decided coolness. Their appearance at sea gives the same warning to sailors that a commotion in the nursery gives to mothers—that is, they forebode a *squall*. It is superfluous to state that these clouds are never seen in the Desert of Sahara, and for the last two months in some sections of New Jersey, a race of skeptics has sprung up with mushroom rapidity, who firmly believe there is no such thing as rain clouds; nothing being certain but taxes and the potato beetle.

The Fracto-Cumulus are the only clouds which do not produce halos; but they do produce complete coronas, or segments of arcs, according to the extent of the fragments which traverse the lunar disc. These coronas are prismatic, but having a blue internal tint—a tint analagous to the feelings of the farmer when he sees his corn turning yellow but gazes in vain for a glimpse of the aforesaid "Fracto." I wish at some future time to have illustrated and describe striking snow and ice clouds. They are very beautiful and unique, and including an interesting work on the Polar regions about the most seasonable, cool and altogether delightful reading and pictures that one could have at this season.

FARCEUR.

The Story-Teller.

THE DULL SCHOLAR.

BY IRENE CHILSON.

It was a cheerless morning the first week in May, that I wended my way to the little schoolhouse in N——, which was to be the scene of my labors for the next four months. I always dreaded the first day, and this morning my mind seemed

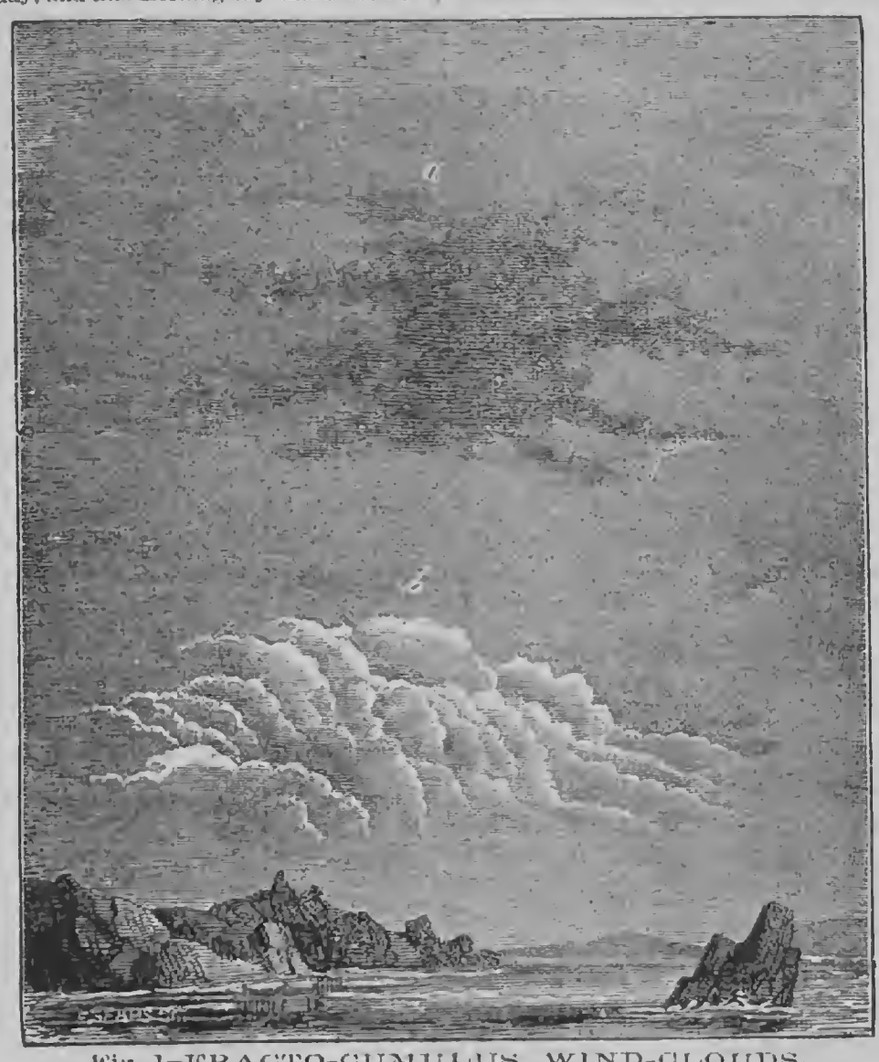


Fig. 1—FRACTO-CUMULUS WIND-CLOUDS.

in keeping with the weather and I could not help wishing that the house would be empty when I arrived. The task would be easier I thought, of meeting and greeting the scholars if I could be there to meet them as they came in singly or in little groups. But no; as I reached the house a chorus of youthful voices reached my ear, and as I lifted the latch and entered, a hush fell over the little circle which surrounded the stove and the whispered murmur, "It is the new teacher—it is the new teacher!" was the only sound which greeted me.

I bowed smilingly to the little group and laying aside my hat and shawl, went up to the stove, in which a bright fire was glowing, and held my fingers for a moment over it.

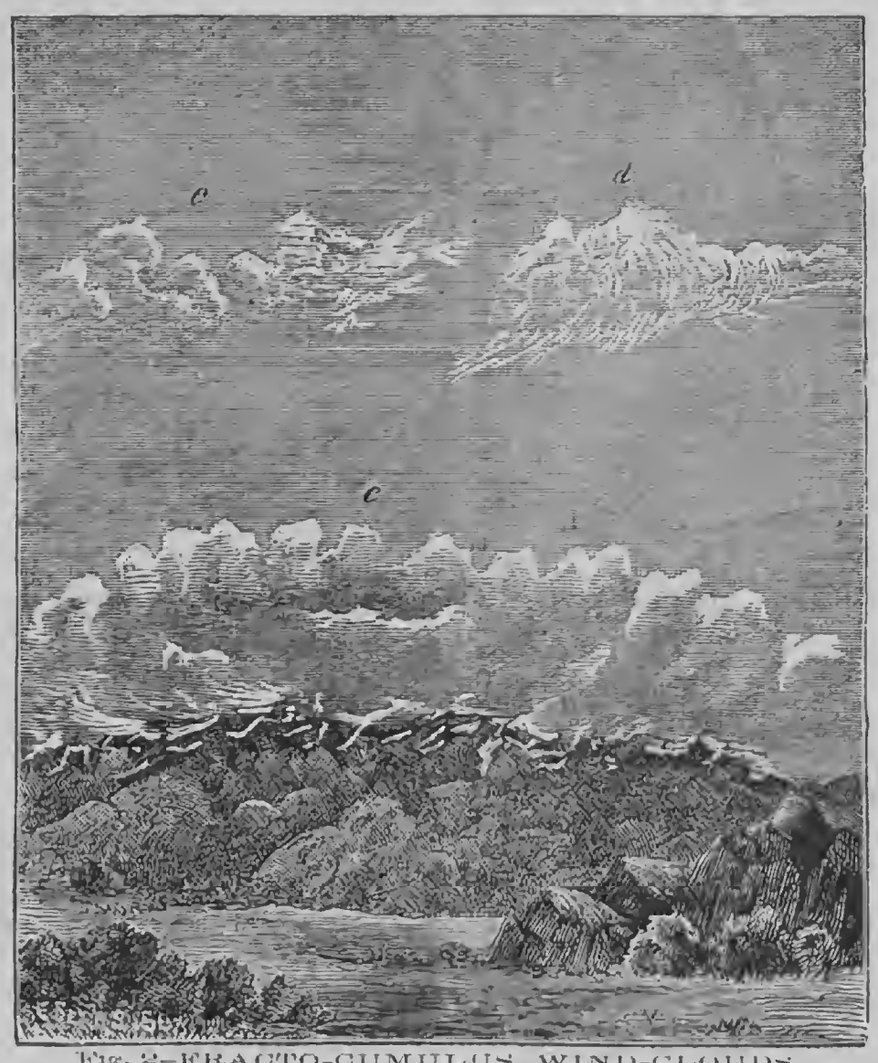


Fig. 2—FRACTO-CUMULUS WIND-CLOUDS.

"This is a very nice fire," I remarked. "I am glad some one has taken the pains to build it."

"CHARLIE built it because he said the new teacher would be cold this chilly morning," said a little bright-eyed boy of six summers, the first who had spoken.

"And who is CHARLIE, that I may thank him?" I asked, laying my hand on the little fellow's head.

"O! it's CHARLIE STEELE. He's gone back home to get his books; he forgot them."

"He always forgets them, he's so dreadful dull," said a little girl who was standing near me.

"Not so very dull is he when he has thought to build such a good fire?" I asked, smiling.

"O, teacher, you can't think how dull he is," said a third voice, which belonged to a curly-headed girl of ten. "He reads in the Second Reader and has to spell out all his words, and he is twelve years old too! O, my! you can't think how dull he is."

"And the more he studies the more he doesn't learn," broke in another childish voice. They were evidently determined to make me understand the hopelessness of the case.

A touch of the bell brought the scholars to their seats, and taking my Bible from my basket I read a short lesson and commenced the exercises of the day.

Half an hour later the door opened and a boy, whom I took at once to be CHARLIE STEELE, entered, and swaggering across the room, took his seat. A suppressed titter ran around the room and knowing glances met mine, which seemed to say, "This is he, this is CHARLIE STEELE." And truly, his appearance was anything but prepossessing. His clothes were pitched on awry, his shirt collar unbuttoned, his hair uncombed, his face and hands unwashed. I saw all this at a glance, while I kept on with my instructions to a class of little girls as if there had been no interruption.

When the Second Reader class was called CHARLIE took his place with them. He was much taller and older than any of his class and had an awkward, half-bashful, half-ashamed manner, which seemed to say that he felt degraded in occupying a position in a class so much younger than himself. When he came to read he was much embarrassed and cast furtive glances and made a dodging motion as if he expected to be beaten, which pained me exceedingly.

His spelling was no better than his reading. He missed nearly every word and the two studies were all he pursued.

"Did you ever study Mental Arithmetic, CHARLIE?" I asked.

"No, ma'am; I haint no book."

"Mother thinks he ought not to study it till he has learned to read and spell better," his sister explained.

By this time I had learned that two neatly-dressed, bright-looking girls, one older and one younger than himself, were his sisters; and a little boy of eight years, who could read readily in the Third Reader, was his brother.

The third day at noon, I sat down to ponder what was to be done with my dull scholar. It did not seem to me so much dullness, but I could not make out what it was. He had a sullen, dogged expression of countenance, which I thought might be the result of the treatment he received—for it was evident enough that the scholars (his brothers and sisters not excepted) all thought him but a little removed from an idiot. I resolved to go home with him that very night and study the case there. While I was musing the door opened and CHARLIE entered and advancing to the window, looked sullenly out.

"Why are you not playing with the rest of the scholars, CHARLIE?" I asked.

"They don't want me with them," he replied.

"And why not, pray?"

"I expect it is because I'm so dull," he answered.

"You are not really dull, are you, CHARLIE?" I asked, as I came to his side and placed my hand upon his head.

"That's what they all say."

"All who?"

"The scholars and everybody."

"But you don't mean to be dull?"

"I can't help it. I'd give anything, Miss TRACY, if I was like the other boys, but I ain't and never shall be. Nobody likes me and if I tried ever so hard to learn and to be good, they'd just laugh at me and knock me round, and call me a booby and all sorts of names, and it's no use trying," and he burst into tears.

I was encouraged. "There is some good in him, after all," I said to myself, "and I'll see if it cannot be brought out."

"CHARLIE," I said, kindly, "I know you can become a different boy, and if you will try I'll help you."

"But do you really think that I could, Miss TRACY?"

"I'm sure of it. We will see what can be done, anyway. I am going home with you to-night and we will talk about it, but it is school time now."

During the afternoon exercises I often encountered CHARLIE'S eyes fixed upon me with a wistful, imploring look. It was evident that he was unused to kindly words and I took courage. But, though he seemed to study hard, his reading and spelling were not much improved.

I went to Mr. STEELE'S that night and was very kindly met and treated. I soon saw that my dull boy was treated as an inferior, both by parents and children. That he *was* inferior in many respects to the other children, I did not doubt; but why that inferiority, if it existed, should be increased by injudicious treatment, I could not understand. Not that he was treated unkindly or with harshness, but he was kept in the background and if he chanced to speak, which was seldom, it was painfully evident that the other members of the family were mortified. And in truth his words and manners were awkward enough, even more so than at school. If he moved, some unlucky stool or chair was sure to be upset, as if by magic. If, at the table, he reached his plate to be helped, over would go some unfortunate cup of tea or glass of water, greatly to the annoyance of the mother, who was constantly reminding him to be careful.

In the evening Mr. STEELE remarked, "I am afraid, Miss TRACY, that you will have a task with our CHARLIE here."

"I do not think that there is anything bad or vicious about the boy," I replied.

"O, no; nothing of the kind; but he is so excessively dull. No one has ever yet been able to teach him anything. The rest of the children learn easily. Why, little FREDDIE here, as you must know, is a much better scholar; but CHARLIE never seems to make the least advancement, though he has been kept steadily in school ever since he was four years old."

"Perhaps you sent him to school too young. Many people think it an injury, instead of a benefit, to put children in school at such a tender age," I ventured to say.

"Not younger than the rest," he replied; "but he seems to have no faculty for learning. I should have withdrawn him from school and set him to work, were he good for anything in that line; but he dislikes work as much as he does study."

All this was said in the presence of the child, as well as in the presence of the whole family. Presently I stole a glance at CHARLIE, who was sitting uneasily in his chair at a little distance from me, and the look of utter discouragement that rested upon the face of the neglected boy awoke all my sympathy and sent the hot blood surging to my temples, and I longed to take him by the hand and comfort him.

I had found the key to the whole mystery. If the parents looked upon the child as a subordinate and treated him as such, the children would, as a matter of course and, as a consequence, others would do the same; and it was not to be expected that teachers would interest themselves in such a neglected specimen of humanity unless,

indeed, they were actuated by a broader sense of duty than many of them seem to be. Poor fellow! how my heart pitied him.

That night I prayed long and earnestly that I might have wisdom to discern and understand the way in which to lead the youthful footsteps of my pupil, and that I might have the love and patience and perseverance requisite to my task; and before I slept I felt that my prayer would be answered.

I had no opportunity to speak again with CHARLIE till the next noon. It was a bright, sunny day, and as soon as the scholars had eaten their dinners they were off to the woods to gather wild flowers. When they were gone CHARLIE came to my side with a most dejected, woe-begone expression of countenance.

"What is it, CHARLIE?" I asked cheerfully.

"O, Miss TRACY," he began, "you said yesterday that you thought I might become a different boy, but I guess you don't think so now."

"Indeed I do," I replied with warmth. "I am more than ever convinced of it. I never yet knew a boy by the name of CHARLIE but could be made something of, and I know you are not an exception. Now, if you will try very hard, I think that in a month's time, were I to introduce you to CHARLIE STEELE, you would scarcely know the boy."

He smiled faintly and said:—"I don't see as there is much chance for a fellow. Everybody hates me and kicks me around. It is the first time I have ever been in school three days without having had a dozen whippings. Everybody thinks me such a dunce that I'm sure there is no use trying."

"Not everybody, CHARLIE. Whatever anyone else may say or think, I don't believe a word of it. Why, only think! some of the very best and smartest men we have were at your age as backward and awkward as you are. Why, it really seems to me as if I could look away into the future and see Mr. CHARLES STEELE occupying a position of honor and usefulness among his fellow men that any man might be proud of. Now will you not try for this?"

I noticed that his eye brightened while I was speaking, but his voice trembled as he said:

"I wish father and mother thought as you do, Miss TRACY. There would be some use in trying, then."

"Never mind, CHARLIE. They will come to think as I do before this term closes if you really try to improve. Now, will you consent to do just as I direct?"

"I would do anything to please you, Miss TRACY; you are the only friend I have."

"O! but you must not give way to such thoughts. You must not think anything about what people think of you till you have learned to command their respect. It may take some time, but if you are patient and persevering, I know that you will succeed at last. Now, in the first place, I want you to come here to-morrow morning with your face and hands as clean as soap and water can make them—with your hair neatly brushed, your shoes blacked and your clothes tidily put on, and be sure you are in the school-room five minutes before nine o'clock. Will you, CHARLIE?"

"Yes ma'am, I will. I can do all that just as well as not."

"Well, that will do for the first lesson. We will see how well you accomplish it," I said, looking at my watch and proceeding to ring the bell; but CHARLIE lingered by my side as though he wished to speak.

"Do you want anything?" I asked.

"Miss TRACY, would you just as lief that I read alone?" he asked timidly. "The class all laugh at me so when I make mistakes."

"We will see," I replied.

When it was time for the second class, I took a book from my basket, saying, "I have a new lesson book in which I would like CHARLIE STEELE to read, but in that case it would be necessary that he read alone. Would you be willing to gratify me, CHARLIE?"

"Yes, ma'am," he replied, with an appreciative smile.

"I'm awful glad, Miss TRACY," said little six-year-old MARY WELLS, "'cause he reads so slow and keeps us waiting."

"Well, never mind, MARY; you ought not to speak out in school unless you are spoken to."

The next morning CHARLIE was at the school-house before me and the change in his appearance was really surprising. He was neatly and cleanly attired, and much of the dull, listless expression had gone out of his face and in its stead I could plainly see that a spirit of interest was awakened.

"Well done, CHARLIE!" I said; "this is a good beginning. Now get your Speller and let me give you a lesson for the day before the other scholars arrive. The lesson is long, but it is not very hard Will you try to master it?"

"I will try hard, Miss TRACY," and he did. He scarcely took his eyes off the book the whole morning, and when his class was called upon to spell he only missed one word. I then gave him short lessons in Orthography, and at the end of the first month he had mastered the numbers, abbreviations, and in the multiplication table. And in all that time he had never once been late at school or untidy in his appearance; and more than that, he had gained confidence in himself and won the respect of his school-fellows.

That night he lingered after the rest of the scholars had retired, to ask:—"Don't you think, Miss TRACY, that I might learn to write?"

"Wait a moment," I said; and going to my desk I penned a little note to his mother, requesting that CHARLIE be furnished with a mental arithmetic and writing materials.

They came promptly; and I stayed half an hour every night after the school was dismissed, to teach him how to use them. When once he got started he advanced rapidly—more rapidly than any scholar in school; and at the end of the second month a Geography was added to his list of books. This he studied at home and came every morning prepared with his recitation.

"Why, Miss TRACY," his father said to me one day, "by some process or other you have converted our dull boy into a bookworm. The transformation is really wonderful."

Well, the time came at last for school to close. I think I never enjoyed a term as I did that. I had worked hard and was rewarded with a sweet consciousness that my labors had been attended with success. It was with real regret that I parted with my pupils, and especially with CHARLIE; but he promised me that he would never relapse into his former listlessness.

"There will be no need, Miss TRACY, for nobody laughs at me now, and it is much easier to learn than I supposed. It was all because I had got discouraged and didn't try."

Soon after I left N—— I removed with my parents to another part of the State. That was eighteen years ago. Last month I was spending a week with an old friend in the town of B——. One day a little girl of my hostess was ill and a physician was called. I happened to be in the room when he came. After a little time he addressed me with:

"Pardon me, madam, but may I inquire if your name is EVELYN TRACY?"

"That was my name formerly," I replied, "but I do not recollect having met with you before."

"My name is CHARLES STEELE," he replied, rising and taking my hand.

"What! not little CHARLIE STEELE that used to be one of my pupils in N——?"

"The very same—your dull CHARLIE," he replied.

"This is really a pleasant meeting," I said, as soon as I had recovered from my surprise sufficiently to speak. "I had not expected such a pleasure. I have never heard a syllable from you since I left N——."

"Well, if you will accept an invitation to tea this afternoon, I will drive over for you. My wife will be very happy to entertain you, and we will have an opportunity to talk over old times."

"With the greatest pleasure," I replied.

When he was gone I inquired of my hostess what she knew of my friend, and she informed me that he had commenced practice in the town six years before and had been as a physician eminently successful, but of his former life she knew nothing; and I, in turn, related to her the story which I have just repeated to my readers.

The carriage came in the afternoon and in a few moments I was set down at the door of a neat and tasteful cottage just in the outskirts of the town.

"I would not have my residence in the busy part of the town," said the doctor, "because I wished my family to enjoy the luxuries of the sunshine and pure air."

"This is a most delightful place," I said, "and every way preferable to a residence in the heart of the town."

At the door a sweet-faced lady met me, whom the doctor introduced as his wife. She led me into the parlor, saying:—"I am most happy to meet the lady to whom the doctor says he owes all his success in life."

"I am afraid he gives me more credit than I deserve," I replied.

"Where are the children?" inquired the doctor, when he came in a moment later.

"They are up stairs; I will bring them down," said the lady, as she left the room. In a moment she returned with two beautiful children. The doctor arose and leading them to me, placed the hand of the eldest in mine, saying:

"This is EVELYN TRACY STEELE and this is CHARLIE. May he never be as dull as was his father."

"The doctor will insist that he was the dullest of boys. It isn't true, is it, Mrs. WALTON?" asked Mrs. STEELE.

"He knows I never thought him dull," I replied.

"Do you remember, Miss TRACY—Mrs. WALTON, I mean—of once telling me that it seemed as if you could look away into the future and see me occupying a position of honor and usefulness in the world?" asked the doctor.

"I do not remember," I said, "but I must have been blessed for a moment with a prophet's ken."

"Well, that prophecy, or whatever it was, has been the making of me. I have kept it before my mind through all my years of study and preparation. It has been an incentive to me in many an hour of darkness and discouragement, and I have always lived in hopes that I should one day have the privilege of thanking you for those months of unwearied labor which you bestowed upon me when every one else thought me an irreclaimable blockhead."

We spent a few hours most delightfully; and when, in the evening, I returned to the home of my hostess, I felt as if I had not lived wholly in vain—as if my feeble labors had been, in one instance at least, crowned with success and blessing.

I have penned this little story, hoping that the eye of some overworked teacher, who is discouraged with the dullness of her scholars, should chance to light upon it, she may find in it an incentive to perseverance in her labors, with the hope that the reward so grateful to the toiler may come at last. Or, if some boy or girl who is not remarkable for the quickness of perception, should chance to read it or hear it read, they too might be encouraged to struggle onward and upward, step by step, till their weary feet should overcome every obstacle and difficulty in the way that lead to honor, usefulness and happiness.

A MARVEL OF LITTLENESS.

An incident happened in Machinery Hall, recently, which is well worthy of recording, as it exhibits the unparalleled advancement of American genius in small as well as in great things. While a large throng of visitors from all countries were standing silently around the mighty Corliss engine, watching its gigantic movements with feelings partly of delight and partly of awe, a tall, gentlemanly-looking personage, who afterward gave his name and address as Levi Taylor of Indianola, Iowa, joined the crowd and with the others paid unspoken, yet eloquent homage, to the wondrous monster before him. After watching the motions for a few moments the gentleman passed around to one side and extracting from his pocket a small tin case took from it what looked like a diminutive alcoholic lamp and, striking a match, started a miniature flame and placed the contrivance on the corner of a platform which surrounds the mighty steam giant from Rhode Island. At first glance nothing could be discerned over this lamp but a small excrescence which looked more like a very juvenile humming bird than anything else; but a close inspection showed that what was mistaken for lilliputian wings was the fly-wheel of a perfect steam engine, and persons with extra good eyes could, after a close examination, discover some of the other parts of the curious piece of mechanism. This engine has for its foundation a twenty-five cent gold piece, and many of its parts are so tiny that they cannot be seen without a magnifying glass. It has the regular steam gauge and, though complete in every particular, the entire apparatus weighs only seven grains, while the engine proper weighs but three grains. It is made of gold, steel and platinum. The fly-wheel is only three-quarters of an inch in diameter; the stroke is one-twenty-fourth of an inch and the cut-off one-sixty-fourth of an inch. The machinery, which can all be taken apart, was packed in films of silk. It is to be hoped that this wonderful piece of work may be placed on exhibition alongside of its grand antithesis, but it is now probably too late to make an entry.—*Philadelphia Press.*

CITY OF BAGDAD.

DR. NEWMAN, in his "Babylon and Nineveh," just published by the Harpers, after a fine description of the old city of Bagdad, says:—"The only article imported from the United States and sold in the bazaar of Bagdad is petroleum. It is entered at the port of Alexandria, on the Mediterranean, and transported a thousand miles on the backs of camels. It is one of the marvels of this marvelous age that our petroleum is everywhere to be found in the Levant and the Orient. It lights the dwellings, the temples and mosques amidst the ruins of ancient Babylon and Nineveh. It is the light of Bagdad, the city of the 'Thousand and One Nights;' of Orfah, the birthplace of Abraham; of Marden, the *Mactus* of the Romans; and of Damascus, the 'Gem of the Orient.' It burns in the Grotto of the Nativity of Bethlehem, in the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, amidst the pyramids of Egypt, on the Acropolis of Athens, on the plains of Troy, and in cottage and palace on the banks of the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn." Dr. Newman proceeds to indicate how the consumption of our product might be greatly enlarged in Persia and the surrounding countries. He says, "It is the opinion of good judges that a lucrative trade might be established between the United States and the port of Bagdad via the Persian Gulf. Were the price lessened by a cheaper transportation, American petroleum would find a ready market in the towns on the Persian frontier, and would thence be carried to the villages and cities in the interior of the empire. It would be in general demand in the towns on the Tigris and Euphrates, and the quantity consumed in Bagdad and the adjacent country would be incalculably increased."

CHINESE WATER CLOCKS.

THE Chinese appreciate foreign watches very much and are especially fond of looking at their works; but though they are in some parts very skillful in imitating many European appliances, we do not think that they have yet succeeded in manufacturing watches for themselves, at any rate not to any extent; and during a residence of several years in various parts of the country, we never met with a single specimen, though we have often found Chinamen quite capable of repairing foreign watches. The native methods of telling the time are the clepsydra, incense stick and sun-dial. With regard to the first-named, Dr. Bridgman tells us that in the south of China it is formed of six water pots arranged in successive order, one above another, and from which, through small perforations, the water gradually drops; the lowest vessel of all, which receives the water, has a wooden cover with a hole cut in it; in this hole an index is inserted, on which are marked "periods" of time. Then, as the water in the vessel fills one degree, the index floating on its surface rises one quarter. The periods of time (shih chen) into which the Chinese divide the day and the watches of the night are all indicated by this means. These water clocks seem to have varied in construction at different times; the water pots were originally made of brass but are now wooden.

IT is difficult to explain some of the great problems of nature. It is estimated that it takes eighteen centuries to form a foot of coal, but it is a well-known fact that a ton left out on the sidewalk will usually shrink fifty per cent. or more in a single night.—*Norwich Bulletin.*

Sabbath Reading.

OUR MINISTER'S SERMON.

THE minister said last night, says he,
"Don't be afraid of givin';
If your life ain't worth nothin' to other folks,
Why, what's the use of livin'?"
And that's what I say to my wife, says I,
There's Brown, the mis'rable sinner.
He'd sooner a beggar would starve than give
A cent towards buying a dinner.

I tell you our minister is prime, he is,
But I couldn't quite determine,
When I heard him a givin' it right and left,
Just who was hit by his sermon.
Of course there couldn't be no mistake
When he talked of long-winded prayin',
For Peters and Johnson they sat and scowled
At every word he was sayin'.

And the minister he went on to say,
There's various kinds of cheatin',
And religion's as good for every day
As it is to bring to meetin'.
I don't think much of the man that gives
The loud amens at my preachin',
And spends his time the followin' week
In cheatin' and overreachin'.

I guess that dose was bitter enough
For a man like Jones to swallow:
But I noticed he didn't open his mouth,
Not once, after that, to holler;
Hurrah, says I for the minister—
Of course I said it quiet—
Give us some more of this open talk,
It's very refreshin' diet.

The minister hit 'em every time,
And when he spoke of fashion,
And riggin's out in bows and things,
As woman's ruilin' passion,
And coming to church to see the styles,
I couldn't help a-winkin'
And a-nudgin' my wife, and says I, "That's you,"
And I guess it set her thinkin'.

Says I to myself that sermon's pat,
But man is a queer creation,
And I'm mneh afraid that most of the folks
Won't take the application.
Now, if he had said a word about
My personal mode of sinnin',
I'd have gone to work to right myself,
And not set there a-grinnin'.

Just then the minister says, says he,
"And now I've come to the fellers
Who've lost this shower by usin' their friends
As a sort o' moral umbrellas;
Go home," says he, "and find your faults,
Instead of huntin' your brothers',
Go home," says he, "and wear the coats
You tried to fit for others."

My wife she nudged, and Brown he winked,
And there was lots o' smilin',
And lots o' lookin' at our pew,
It sot my blood a-boilin'.
Says I to myself, our minister
Is gettin' a little bitter,
I'll tell him, when the meetin's out, that I
Ain't at all that kind of a critter.

[*New Haven Register.*

BIBLE NAMES.

IN the old times people called a pearl a "margaret." In an old Bible I once read about the pearl of great price, but it was called a "precious margaret." I read this to a little girl named Margaret, and she was very happy to find her name in the Bible. All the Marys and Marthas and Ruths and Abigails and Graces and Charitys can find their names in the Bible, you know.

There was once a dear girl named Griselda, who had many things to do for her mother. People called her "patient Griselda," and she was pleased to find a story with that very name in an old book. My name is not in the Bible. I wish it were. The names of my three little girls are there; but there is a better place than the Bible in which to have your name written. It is the Lamb's Book of Life. You may read about it in the Revelation.—*Apples of Gold.*

GOLDEN THOUGHTS.

SIN forgiven is peace restored.

HE is a great orator who persuades himself to do that which he ought to do.

IT is backward and downward with the wicked—it is onward and upward with the righteous.

WE cannot be too thankful even for small mercies, but we may be too troubled about small miseries.

IF there be any good in thee, believe that there is much more in others. It hurteth thee most of all to prefer thyself even to one.

I FEAR that I adore His comforts more than Himself, and that I love the apple of life more than the tree of life.—*Rutherford.*

YOU love Christ, and your love draws you after him, away from sin, upwards and along the mountain track of purity and duty.—*Dr. Budington.*

To individual faithfulness, and to the energy of the private conscience, God has committed the real history and progress of mankind.—*James Martineau.*

IF it is winter in our souls, it is because we have turned away from God and His love. If it is night it is not because God has gone away from us, but because we have gone away from Him.

WHEN the sun of the believer's hopes, according to common calculations, is set, to the eye of faith it is still visible. When much of the rest of the world is in darkness, the high ground of faith is illuminated with the brightness of religious consolations.—*Buckminster.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

ONLY GOING TO THE GATE.

Like a bell of blossom ringing,
  Clear and childish, shrill and sweet,
Floating to the porch's shadow,
  With the fainter fall of feet,
Comes the answer softly backward,
  Bidding tender watcher wait,
While the Baby Queen outruns her,
  "Only going to the gate."

Through the moonlight, warm and scented,
  Love to beauty breathes his sigh,
Lingering, to leave reluctant,
  Loth to speak the low good-by;
Then the same low echo answers,
  Waiting love of older date,
And the maiden whispers backward,
  "Only going to the gate."

Oh, these gates along our pathway,
  What they bar outside and in!
With the vague outlook beyond them,
  Over ways we have not been.
How they stand before, behind us;
  Toll gates some, with price to pay;
Spring gates some, that shut forever;
  Cloud gates some that melt away!

Just across their slender weavings
  Troth-plight happy bands have crossed:
Yet its locks have rusted ruddy,
  Or its key in night-shade lost.
Over latches softly falling,
  Good-by prayers have dropped like dew;
Little gateways, softly shutting,
  Yet have cut a love in two.

So we pass them going upward
  On our journey, one by one,
To the distant shining wicket
  Where each traveler goes alone;
Where the friends who journey with us
  Strangely falter, stop and wait;
Father, mother, child or lover,
  "Only going to the gate." *Ethel Lynn.*

ENJOY WHAT YOU HAVE.

"O DEAR! the *times!* these *dreadful* times! Why, mother, am I *never* to have another new book, or another picture in my room? Those FOSTER girls might have their Cashmere laces and four-buttoned gloves in welcome, if I could only have the new books."

"ELSIE, my child, these *are* dreadful times, but there's a *lesson* in them."

"I have all the lessons *I* want to learn in school."

"I hope the lessons you learn at school will so discipline and strengthen your mind that you will be able to learn *Life's* lessons more easily. The one great lesson I wish you to learn *now* is this: Enjoy what you have. What a fund of entertainment in the Stereoscope—how varied and suggestive are the pictures. With the aid of the Encyclopædia, your History and your Geography too, what wonderful things would be brought to view. It would prove a never-failing source of delight and enjoyment. You have only to go to the parlor [illegible] this evening to see the magnificent scenery gas-ligh[illegible] and foreign lands, all illuminated by [illegible]

"There, too, are [illegible] the well-filled shelves and [illegible]. Run your eye over [illegible]tered through the house. I think you[illegible] scat- many there that you had forgotten were in the library. My daughter, your mind would grow nobler, did it come in contact oftener with the thoughts of those gifted authors (both men and women) of the past, as well as the present time.

"ELSIE, why not, in this Centennial year, read IRVING'S Washington? After reading a few such books, I think you would cease sighing for every new novel. One, occasionally, mixed with such reading, could not harm you, but would serve as recreation. But Retrench is the order of the day, and we can retrench in novels better than other things. We will be thankful if our *daily wants* be supplied, and doubly grateful if we may retain what we have.

"Now see how much of this lesson you can learn during your vacation. Once learned, it is for a lifetime. Very many are bearing heavy burdens just now, and ours, by no means, is a light one; but we will try to face the times with a cheerful, Christian courage, and so outride the storm. Indeed, 'the land mourneth,' but our country is a vineyard of GOD'S own planting, and He will not overthrow the work of His hands."

W.

GRACE AND GRAMMAR.

WHEN one reads of ancient Athens and how its young people were first sent to study grammar under competent masters, to the end that Athenian youth might attain a thorough knowledge of "the whole beauty, energy, number and cadence" of their language, and as a result, how general became the culture and fine taste of the people, so that even a shepherd woman took one Theophrastus to task for the mispronunciation of a single word, one can hardly suppress a fit of psychic squeamishness at thoughts of our modern, slipshod, down-at-the-heel, out-at-the-elbow style of dressing up our ideas. Double negatives, disagreement of cases, singulars for plurals, adjectives for adverbs, rough-and-tumble treatment of final consonants, hammering out "u" into "oo," flattening "a" into "e," *et id omne genus.* Now, it may be asked, if an angel were to alight in your pathway and offer to bless you, would you insist upon having the benison in good English? Probably not. Angels' visits are confessedly, few and far between.

But the young ladies, those seraphim of the earthly type, are always with us. They sit near us in the theaters, beside us in the stages, around us at the concerts. They grace the salon, they piece out with bright colors the home circle and family gathering.

They're not silent monitors. On the contrary, out of the abundance of their hearts come many and wonderful things. "In her tongue is the law of kindness," and "her lips drop sweet smelling myrrh."

But what of all that if she says "Good mornin'" and "Good evenin'?"

Suppose she come, like Queen Sheba, "with a very great train," and fail to put objectives after her prepositions, will it not mar the glory of her coming?

Seriously, should a woman be called "graceful" who continually stumbles over her final consonants and says "Lemme go," "a good 'eal," "firs'-rate," "han' me that blottin' paper?"

It's a pleasant thing to hear from the lips of Araminta—your heart's own delight—that she resolutely declined young Phipkins's invitation to the theater, but when the artless maid half closes her eyes and murmurs, "If he'd came for me in a golden chariot I wouldn't have went!" you don't feel so comfortable, so negligently at ease, as you were before that last remark of Araminta's.

Women should not deceive themselves. The most uncouth, illiterate man knows what elegant and correct English is, *when he hears it.* He may not be able to string three words correctly himself; but he sniffs the harmony of a rounded sentence from afar. It is instinctive. See how workingmen hang upon the lips of an orator! Of his meaning they know little or nothing, but the "energy, number and cadence" they catch.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

IN Queen Elizabeth's time a journeyman mason was paid only five shillings and sixpence a week, and he didn't go about airing his financial views, either.

"WHY is it," queried Quiz the other day, "that when you notice a young married man who is bald-headed, you turn to look at the muscular power of his wife's hands?"

THE Bengal Government has appointed a native lady inspector of the female schools in Calcutta. She is the daughter of a Bengalee clergyman. This is the first instance of any appointment of the kind.

MARRIED women generally get their letters when the time comes to pack away their husbands' overcoats for the summer, and perhaps they will also find two or three which the gentleman had been asked to mail the fall previous.

"YES, madam," he remarked, "woman's place is her home, amid her children and her household duties, while the father toils for bread," and then he picked up a bat and thought he'd go over for an hour or so and see what was going on at the base ball ground.

Two ladies were admitted this year to the class in Roman law at the University College, London, and at a late examination one of them stood first and the other third in the class. The first mentioned had already distinguished herself in political economy and jurisprudence.

THEY were discussing a young girl whose beauty makes her a social sensation, but who, whether son, sees [illegible] lacks a fortune or for some other reason, [illegible] ally. "She makes [illegible]itors declare himself formally [illegible] said one. "True," said another, [illegible]quests she desires," [illegible] woman, "but she would give all her slaves for one [illegible]ter."

Two ladies, desirous of asserting the rights of their sex, astonished the citizens of Freyburg, Me., a few days ago, by appearing with hoes in their hands and insisting on commuting a highway tax, for which they had been assessed, by working on the highways, which is one of the privileges of the male taxpayer in some towns in Maine.

THEY have erected a monument to Moll Pitcher down in Pennsylvania—to "Captain" Moll Pitcher, who swore big, masculine oaths and fought like a whole regiment of Hessians. And what think you? In enduring letters chiseled into the marble this gentle, soft, timid creature blushes and shrinks from the gaze of the nineteenth century as Mollie!

How doth the little busy B.
  (By B. I mean a Belle,)
Improve each shining hair to see
  If she can't catch a swell!

How skillfully she plaits each tress,
  How neatly folds her pads,
And lets a curl flow down her back
  To tempt us artless lads! [*Judy.*

THEY had a good deal of trouble with the Aztec woman attached to Barnum's circus in Providence. It seems she wanted her salary raised to $7 a week, but they told her if they did she would also be obliged to appear as the Siberian malefactor, and she said she would go back to Limerick first and take in washing again at two shillings a day, and they were obliged to compromise by bringing her out as the fascinating Odalisque of the Orient.

TALK about conceit as much as you like, it is to human character what salt is to the ocean; it keeps it sweet and renders it endurable. Say rather, it is like the natural unguent of the sea-fowl's plumage, which enables him to shed the rain that falls on him and the wave in which he dips. When one has had all his conceit taken out of him, when he has lost all his illusions, his feathers will soon soak through, and he will fly no more.—*Holmes.*

Reading for the Young.

PUNKYDOODLE AND JOLLAPIN.

Oh, Pillykin Willykin Winky Wee!
How does the Emperor take his tea?
He takes it with melons, he takes it with milk,
He takes it with sirup and sassafras silk.
He takes it without, he takes it within;
Oh, Punkydoodle and Jollapin!

Oh, Pillykin Willykin Winky Wee!
How does the Cardinal take his tea?
He takes it in Latin, he takes it in Greek,
He takes it just seventy times a week,
He takes it so strong that it makes him grin;
Oh, Punkydoodle and Jollapin!

Oh, Pillykin Willykin Winky Wee!
How does the Admiral take his tea?
He takes it with splices, he takes it with spars,
He takes it with jokers and jolly jack-tars:
And he stirs it round with a dolphin's fin;
Oh, Punkydoodle and Jollapin!

Oh, Pillykin Willykin Winky Wee!
How does the President take his tea?
He takes it in bed, he takes it in school,
He takes it in Congress against the rule.
He takes it with brandy and thinks it no sin;
Oh, Punkydoodle and Jollapin!

[*Laura E. Richards, in St. Nicholas for Aug.*

RUNNING IN DEBT.

I DWELL on this point, for I would deter others from entering that place of torment. Half the young men in this country, with many old enough to know better, would go into business—that is, into debt—to-morrow, if they could. Most poor men are so ignorant as to envy the merchant or manufacturer, whose life is an incessant struggle with pecuniary difficulties, who is driven to constant "shinning," and who, from month to month, barely evades the insolvency which sooner or later overtakes most men in business; so that it has been computed that but one man in twenty of them achieve a pecuniary success. For my own part I would rather be a convict in the State prison, a slave in a rice swamp, than to pass through life under the harrow of debt. Let no young man misjudge himself unfortunate, or truly poor, so long as he has the full use of his limbs and faculties, and is substantially free from debt. Hunger, cold, rags, hard work, contempt, suspicion, unjust reproach, are disagreeable, but debt is infinitely worse than them all. And if it had pleased God to spare either or all my sons to be the support of my declining years, the lesson which I should most earnestly seek to impress upon them is, "never run in debt." Avoid pecuniary obligations as you would pestilence or famine. If you have but fifty cents and can get no more for a week, buy a peck of corn, parch it and live on it, rather than owe a dollar! Of course I know that some men must do business that involves a risk, and must give notes or other obligations, and I do not consider him in debt who can lay his hands directly on the means of paying, at some little sacrifice, all he owes; I speak of real debt—that which involves risk or sacrifice on one side, obligation and dependence on the other—and I say from all such, let every youth humbly pray God to preserve him evermore.—*Horace Greeley.*

A TRUE STORY OF A DOG.

LONG ago, in a house in a far-off town, which an iron-handed industry has since made all her own, [illegible] the once pleasant fields, thickening the clear str[illegible] and driving the birds who sang by it and the woods which sheltered them further and further back, while she grinds and clangs away incessantly to the tune of pounds, shillings and pence, a little child was one day left unknowingly to her own devices. Her mother and the two handmaids who formed that small household were intent on some domestic business and thought her safely bestowed. This little maid, however, in the meantime determined on improving her acquaintance with the fire—that charming and wonderful element which sent out such pleasant warmth and cheery light in the winter evenings, and made such fantastic shapes to please her in its dying embers, that, warned against it though she was, it could not surely but prove a kindly playmate. The brilliant, treacherous flames soon took advantage of her innocence, and would have formed for her, as for many other children, a fiery chariot to the heavens,—and what child is not the gainer thereby when life means but the heartache to so many?—when one of those shining guardians to whom children must be especially dear, if only because so like themselves, touched with quick instinct of the danger the dumb beast of another guardian near, faithful though lowly—a large brindled dog, aptly enough named Keeper, and chose him for a messenger. The father of the child, about to leave the house, saw the dog, bounding and panting, rush up to him and away again with little heed, a second time approach, again to be unheeded; but when a third time the excited animal appears, seizes his coat, and tries to tell his trouble,—feeling that something unusual must have happened, the master quickly follows him, to find his little girl on fire, and to extinguish the flames.

That little girl, this long time grown a woman, yet remembers dimly, as she tells the writer of this anecdote, crying over the pain of the daily dressing of her burns, has another dim remembrance of a large dog running at her side, but a lively one of the tradition in her family. What wonder that, with a heart full of compassion to all God's creatures, she has ever felt a special fondness for the race of her preserver, and hailed with gratitude the first efforts to find home and shelter, or, if needs must, a speedy end to pain for those poor waifs and strays who used to be so common in our streets, and whose pleading eyes speak the more because they have no outlet in language, nor, except by such services as that here recorded,—and recorded, let me add, in how many instances elsewhere!—can acknowledge our kindness in more substantial fashion than, as some dog-lover has expressed it, a wag of tail.—*Giovannina, in Animal World.*

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a West Virginia Girl.

MR. EDITOR:—I often see letters from Virginia in your paper, but never saw one from our parts, so I thought I would write. My father until lately has been managing a salt furnace for my grandpa, but has given it up and is now engaged in farming on a small scale. Last year we had the largest and earliest strawberries of anybody near us. Papa takes great delight in exhibiting his fowls to all visitors. He has a large hen-house and some of the finest breeds. Among others are the Gray Dorkings, Black Spanish, White Chinas and Light Brahmas. We have two splendid Alderney cows; from these we make butter and use the cream on the table. Mamma has a fine Calla which has been in bud for nearly two months, but never has openened; on examination we have found that the top of the bud is withering. What is the cause? Is it that the shoots which have sprung up have prevented it from blooming? We were told not to trouble them at all until it had bloomed, and then to separate it.—ANNA R., *Kanawha Salines, West Va.*

From a Vermont Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—I suppose I may be allowed to use that title with the rest. I already feel quite well acquainted with some of the Cousins, though I have never seen them. I live up among the hills of Vermont, and though rather rough it is very pleasant here. I attended school last term and intend to next. The school house is nearly a mile from here. It is a pleasant walk in summer, but in winter is rather cold. Oh, I nearly forgot to give my age, and that is very essential. I am fourteen; am rather tall and slim; have light brown hair, blue eyes, and skin to correspond with hair. I will not say anything about this letter being too long, for fear of incurring YOUNG TOM's displeasure. If this does not meet its fate in the waste basket, it will greatly encourage —JENNIE M. A., *N. Pomfret, Vt.*

From a Northern New York Boy.

DEAR UNCLES:—I think the Boys' and Girls' Column was never as good as it is now. I hope you will continue to take charge of it for a long time. Your letters are interesting and instructive, and we like to have you write long ones; so tell the Editor not to be so cross with you. I suppose many of the Cousins will go to the Centennial. I should like to go very much, but cannot. However, we can read about it in Uncle MARK's letters.—HARRY.

The Puzzler.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 71 letters:

My 13, 3, 6, 20, 17, 51, 5, 11, 13, 35, 55 is worthy of trust and confidence.
My 71, 59, 28, 22, 26 is the body of a tree.
My 50, 2, 12, 29, 40, 58, 55 is a day of the week.
My 10, 4, 23, 52, 27 is a girl's name.
My [illegible], 44, 56, 57, 14 is to propose.
My 7, 52, 8, 18 a carpenter's tool.
My 9, 15, 23 is not gay or cheerful.
My 16, 22, 20, 21, 53, 68 is unsound of mind.
My 19, 18, 20, 27 is a flower.
My 30, 33, 34, 45, 36, 19, 20 are welcome visitants to us when far from home.
My 24, 25, 59, 26, 32, 69, 65, 53 is one who is skillful in hitting a mark.
My 20, 28, 66, 35, 68, 59 was a celebrated reformer.
My 32, 31, 2, 3 is not sweet.
My 20, 41, 42, 36, 67 is not sour.
My 36, 22, 12, 46, 55 is one who hates another.
My 37, 38, 39, 40 is a long way from being called bad.
My 70, 47, 48, 68, 64, 22 is a well-known bird.
My 49, 43, 54, 7, 56 is a nag many people are wont to ride.
My 63, 60, 61 is a kind of ware used in all households.
My 62, 58, 54 is to talk idly.

My whole is a true quotation.

☞ Answer in two weeks. B. M. N.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

1. A COMMON exclamation. 2. A mason's tool. 3. Part of a ship. 4. A precious stone. 5. A French coin. The initials and finals give the name of an American officer of the Revolutionary War.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—July 22.

CROSSWORD ENIGMA.—Common sense.

HIDDEN RIVERS.—1, Witham; 2, Ouse, Tay; 3, Aire; 4, Bew; 5, Tweed; 6, Derwent, 7, Trent; 8, Thames; 9, Lea; 10, Amoor; 11, Indus.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—Initials, Schuyler; finals, Burgoyne.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE.—Hugh.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of those every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In those matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE schools of Milwaukee have cost during the past year $153,000. The salaries of male teachers are $1,100, of females, $500. The cost of instruction per capita is a trifle less than $16.50. The committee on German report that the effort to systematize the study of the German language in the public schools during the past year has been a great success. Acting upon the request of the superintendent of schools, the teachers of German at the beginning of the present school year formed themselves into an association, and, in connection with the committee, drew up a graded course of instruction, which was adopted by the Board at the regular meeting in September last, and went into operation immediately thereafter.

A telegram from Fort Fetterman, Wyoming, July 26, says:—It was Gen. Crook's intention originally to renew operations against the Sioux upon the arrival of the wagon train and additional infantry, but the fatal results attending Gen. Terry's expedition has suggested the propriety of adding the eight companies of the 5th Cavalry under Col. Merritt, at or near Fort Laramie, to this command. The wagons and infantry arrived on the 13th inst., but there are yet no certain tidings of the whereabouts of Col. Merritt, who, on the 16th, went in pursuit of a body of Cheyennes. The weather has been very warm for the past week or ten days, drying up the pasturage very materially. This drawback to the sustenance of the cavalry has been increased by the Indians setting fire to the grass, burning large tracts of it, and rendering camps inconvenient if not dangerous.

It is believed that the main body of the Sioux have left the valleys and foot-hills and taken up more secure positions in the Big Horn Mountains proper, where game is more plentiful and the grazing more fresh. The alternative is therefore forced upon Gen. Crook either to move upon them at once or consider the summer's campaign a desultory and indecisive affair. It is not improbable that the Sioux have resolved to keep to the main chain of mountains, and swing around south toward the head of Powder River, and debouch on the plains toward Fort Fetterman.

Gen. Crook's command consists of 15 companies of cavalry and 19 of infantry, numbering about 1,200 soldiers, a few half-breed scouts and citizen volunteers, and the 200 Snake allies, in all not over 1,400 fighting men. With this force, however, he feels that he can at least hold his own, and, with Gen. Terry's command in reserve, something definite can probably be effected. It is not unlikely, therefore, that this command will march over to the main fork of Tongue River at once, where the wagon train will be put in park. With the pack train carrying from 15 to 20 days' rations, a rapid march toward the enemy will probably be made within a day or two. The Sioux are either scattered already or are in force on the head-waters of the Little Big Horn and Ash Creek, near the Mountain line, not more than 40 miles distant.

The Sioux cannot move their families and effects through the rough mountains as rapidly as the soldiers can follow them, hence they must either make a stand or leave them behind after the fight is under way. The Snake Indian allies are of this way of thinking, and are almost as anxious for an advance as any other portion of this command. The pack train of 380 packs is the best organized affair of the kind on the continent, and is in a condition to follow the enemy over any trail they may select and make a good fight besides, so that the command will be enabled to remain in the rough-est mountains an indefinite period.

It is hoped and expected that a band of Utes and possibly a band of Bannock allies will join the expedition before the next move. These Indian allies, however, are only voluntary aids, and are looking for what plunder they can capture. Owing to their superstitious notions, they are not altogether trustworthy unless success is continuous from the first. Evidently a short time only will elapse before the entire command will be put to the test.

At an early hour on the morning of July 26th, several hundred unemployed workingmen assembled on the esplanade in Fountain-square, Cincinnati. After listening to speeches from Samuel Cary and others upon the deplorable condition of the workingman, &c., they went in procession to the city buildings to demand of the Mayor "bread or blood"—as announced by one of the leaders. Upon the arrival at the building, no one seemed willing to wait upon the Mayor with the demand, and after a half hour's waiting and discussion the crowd was dispersed. The Mayor had been apprised of their coming, and had placed a strong guard of policemen around the buildings.

Sidney A. Berlhoir, aged thirty years, a son of a respectable Orange County farmer, ended a spree at Middletown on the 25th ult. by taking morphine, dying the next morning. He had previously made several attempts at suicide, on one occasion digging his grave.

President Phelps, of the Educational Association, says that the establishment of a great museum is likely to be forced upon this country by the generosity of foreigners in contributing to the educational department of the Exhibition. He mentions Austria and Japan as likely to donate their exhibits for such a purpose, and Dr. Da Motta, who has charge of the Brazilian exhibit, intimates that this will be the probable disposal of it.

John S. Baker of Boston has accepted the nomination for Governor of Massachusetts on the prohibitory ticket.

John and William Young, who were sentenced to be hanged on June 21 for the murder of Abel McDonald, but who on May 28 escaped from Cayuga jail after a murderous attack on the jailer, were discovered the morning of the 26th ult., hiding in a barn, and recaptured. The convicts fired on the police when they appeared. It is reported one of the Youngs was shot through the arm.

A tornado passed over the northern part of the country near St. Louis, Mo., July 29, doing a great deal of damage to outhouses, fences, trees, crops, etc. A little girl named O'Toole was killed.

The terms upon which Prof. Seelye accepts the Presidency of Amherst College are said to be as follows:—He is to have $4,000 salary, without any perquisites; to continue also the duties of Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy, and to have the liberty to complete his present term in Congress. All of these details are in accordance with his own wishes.

A serious conflagration in Millbury, Mass. has damaged property to the extent of $160,000.

The coal miners of St. Claire and Madison counties, Ill., held a mass meeting in St. Claire County, and resolved that after Aug. 1 they will not mine coal for less than three cents a bushel. As much the largest part of the coal consumed in St. Louis comes from the counties named, the prospect are fair for a coal famine.

The Indian Bureau claims it is not responsible for the distribution of arms and amunition to Sitting Bull.

Gen. Sheridan advises that the cavalry be recruited up to their full strength.

Unfounded reports received at St. Louis state that Gen. Crook has suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Indians on Goose Creek.

Runners who have come in to Red Cloud Agency are said to have come from Crazy Horse's band, and state that that Chief, with a portion of his band, had left Sitting Bull's domains and are en route to the agencies, avowedly to treat for peace. The turning over of the agencies at Red Cloud and Spotted Tail has been made without any difficulty.

CHICAGO, July 30.—The committee appointed to investigate the condition of wheat in the elevators report that it is in good condition, except about a dozen bins which contain warm wheat.

Col. Wharton, Gen. Bristow's law partner, has been removed by the President from the office of U. S. District Attorney of Louisville. He was very active in the whisky prosecutions.

A thousand Germans settled in Russia are reported to have emigrated to America last week.

A nickel mine has been found in Seymour, Conn., and the metal is said to be in paying quantities.

The bill to provide for the completion of the Washington Monument, as passed by both houses of Congress, appropriates $200,000 for that purpose, payable in four equal annual installments, and provides that before any portion of the money shall be expended, the Washington National Monument Society shall transfer and convey to the United States all the property, easements, rights and privileges belonging to that corporation.

It also permits that society to continue its organization for the purpose of soliciting and collecting money and material from State associations and the people in aid of the completion of the monument, and acting in an advisory and co-operative capacity with the commission charged with the duty of completing the work, which commission consists of the President of the United States, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, the Architect of the Capitol, the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, and the Vice-President of the Monument Society.

The Conference Committee on the General Appropriation bill seem to be in no great hurry to report it. They will probably arrange to pay the President's salary to the end of the term, while the salary of the next President will be left an open question. Salaries of Congressmen are to be fixed at $4,800.

It is estimated that there is about $20,000,000 in gold coin in circulation in California now against half that amount at the time of the panic.

FOREIGN NOTES.

IN France, out of a population of 36,000,000, only two million live on the revenue of accumulated wealth, the balance depending on the produce of labor.

In order to secure for themselves a suspension of Sunday labor, a number of the men employed by the Liverpool Omnibus Company have taken out a summons against the manager for breaking the Sabbath day.

The famous city of Sebastopol does not now contain more than nine thousand inhabitants, who vegetate in the midst of crumbled walls, living by a wretched commerce, which hardly brings them in bread.

The tomato, which a few years ago was a fancy article in the London markets, is now in increasing demand, and they are quite common even early in the season. Paris and Lisbon are the chief sources of supply. The climate of England is not suitable for its successful cultivation in the open air.

A Vienna special says it is said that the Turkish Embassador there has confidentially stated that the Porte declares some of the most important of Roumania's demands are inadmissible. He refuses to discuss the cession of the mouth of the Danube, as that question equally concerns the other powers.

A Ragusa special says that a private letter from Mostar announces that the Montenegrins were retiring to their own frontier after attacking Nevesinge.

There is a rumor, says a Vienna special of the London News, that a majority of the Softas and Ulemas have resolved to urge Sultan Murad to resign. Murad and the Ministers have agreed that the resignation shall take place at the close of the Servian war. The Sultan's brother is mentioned as successor.

A Belgrade dispatch says a disguised Turk has been arrested at Gladova. He had several packages of poison on his person, and it is supposed he intended to poison wells in Servia.

A Constantinople correspondent of the Times says considerable excitement prevails in Crete, Greece and Roumania. The Turks are convinced that the war will not be localized, and expect hostilities with Russia.

The Standard's Paris special says the Temps has a dispatch from Vienna stating that the municipal authorities throughout Austria have been instructed to prepare for the mobilization of the army at a moment's notice.

The Times's Berlin special says the Democratic society of Frankfort-on-the-Main presented, on the Fourth of July, an address in honor of the Centennial to the American Consul, strongly reflecting upon monarchical institutions. The Consul refused to accept the address. The Society thereupon complained to the American Minister, Mr. Bancroft Davis, who replied that it was inadmissable for an American representative to meddle with party politics.

The whereabouts of the Prince of Montenegro are unknown. It is believed that the battle a few days since at Banzana, where 5,000 Montenegrins attacked a Turkish post and were repulsed with heavy loss, was fought to cover the withdrawal of the main Montenegrin army.

Twenty-five thousand Roumanians are said to be concentrated on the Danubian frontier. The Turks are guarding the opposite bank. Shots were exchanged before Ostrow. It was reported that a Turkish patrol entered Roumanian territory and pillaged some houses. A conflict is apprehended.

At last accounts, all was quiet on the Timok, but as Abdul Kerim, the Turkish commander-in-chief, has arrived at the seat of war, it is probable hostilities will be promptly resumed on a large scale. The Servians are dispirited, but there is a ray of hope for them in the report that 25,000 Roumanians are concentrated on the Danubian frontier, and that shots have been exchanged with the Turks. Gen. Zach's success is also encouraging, since it is a step toward gaining control of the narrow strip of Bosnian territory lying between Servia and Montenegro. Were this secured by the Servians, the Turks would be cut off from communication with Bosnia.

Telegrams received from Paris July 29, state that numerous partisans of Karageorgewitch have been arrested.

Mr. Pesther Lloyd, the British representative in Servia, is endeavoring to induce Prince Milan to make an offer of reconciliation to the Porte before final operations take place.

The Echo, in its Berlin dispatch, says:—"Prince Nikita intends to resign the chief command of the Montenegrin army."

Slavic advices announce that the Turks are preparing to attack the Montenegrins before Podgoritza, in order to open the road to Niesics through Montenegro.

The Italian Senate, by a vote of 114 to 102, has adopted the bill for establishing free warehouses at seaports. The object of the bill is to establish a system of bonded warehouses, and not as heretofore stated, for allowing the delivery and consumption of goods without payment of duties.

A Rome special says Cardinal Antonelli's life has latterly been in danger from a complication of gout and rheumatism. He is now pronounced out of any immediate peril.

The Government powder magazine at Toulouse, France, has blown up, causing great loss of life.

The Pall Mall Gazette, in an editorial article on the extradition question, says:—We are still of the opinion that the scandal of Winslow's liberation might have been avoided, or the responsibility attaching to England considerably lightened, had a different attitude been assumed at an earlier stage of the proceedings. As far as this case is concerned Lord Granville had the best of the argument, but regarding future cases there is an undoubted force in Lord Derby's plea that as soon as a conflict of views was manifested the extradition arrangement could not be too soon revised.

The article quotes Lord Derby's exposition of the American and English contentions regarding their reciprocal rights and duties under the treaty, and continues:—We should have supposed, to anybody approaching this question with an unbiased judgment, doubt about which theory would be the most rational would be hardly possible. The two simple principles of universal acceptance—one, that civilized nations have a common interest in repressing crime; the other, that men are justifiable according to the procedure of the country of their allegiance and no other—would seem to supply ample material for a decision in favor of the American view. The rival theory appears to us utterly untenable except upon the assumption which has no natural formation in justice or international duty, that a refugee acquires new rights as against the courts of his own country by the mere fact of having escaped from a foreign land. It is as the first public movement toward the overthrow of an exaggerated theory of refugee criminals' rights, which has so strangely grown up of late years, that we welcome the speeches of Earl Kimberley and Earl Grey in Monday's debate.

The Royal Scottish Academy has sustained a loss in the death of Robert Thornburn Ross, who died on July 13 through inflammation of the lungs. He was born in Edinburgh in 1816.

The people of Edinburgh are going to build another memorial to the Prince Consort. Meanwhile, Albert the Gilt continues to be an object of awe and wonder to Hyde Park visitors.

In China the first railroad has been opened for traffic, and is regarded with favor by the people, who enjoyed for one day the American luxury of traveling as "dead-heads." This line, which is only five miles long, connects Shanghai and Kangwan. It was built on the narrow guage system, with British capital, and is finally to extend to Woosung, a further distance of five miles. In time we may expect to hear that the stock of the Nanking and Peking Railroad has been with La Hung and that Prince Kung is constructing Canton and Swatow Chung for the coal new field for American enterprise. As a success of the first line must be deemed gratifying. The Chinese need only a Winans or a Meiggs to establish, soon, a vast railroad system.

The total of attendance on all schools in the Argentine Republic is 117,203, the school population being 459,122. In Chili the attendance is 83,812, the school population 590,941. In Brazil there is a school population of 2,945,000 and the school attendance is 155,058. These Brazilian figures refer only to education in the provinces.

It is said that so popular are the normal schools in Canada that at the one which has been in operation longest there are constantly from 500 to 600 more applications for admission than can be granted. Each male teacher in Canada is by law required to pay into the fund for superannuated teachers $2 every six months, one-half of his total contribution being refunded to him in the event of his quitting his profession.

The Argentine Republic is making fair progress. In his recent address to Congress, President Avellanda said that the nation is now in the enjoyment of profund peace, that wheat-growing had quadrupled within the last five years, and that the exports of 1875 were greater than those of any previous year. The President also observed that the Government expenses had been reduced $4,000,000, and that three railroads had been open for traffic since October. Considering that the Argentines have not escaped "hard times,," this report is satisfactory.

The Madrid correspondent of the Independance Belge says the Jews of the United States have addressed to the King of Spain a petition praying him to restore to the descendants of the Jews expelled by kings of former ages their civic rights and religious liberty. It remains to be seen whether the Ultramontanes will permit the Government to extend the benefits of Article 11. of the new Constitution to the Jews.

In Wesel there is a restaurant keeper, twenty-seven years old, who measures around the waist five feet four inches and weighs over 400 pounds. When the landwehr was lately mustered to attend artillery practice, no uniform could be found that he could get on, and being absolutely good for nothing so far as activity was concerned, he was granted his dismissal, which he very willingly accepted.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, July 29, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	66,703	Molasses	—
Whisky	1,970	Rice, bbls	443
Corn meal, bbls	3,855	Cut meats, pkgs	12,544
Corn meal, bags	511	Lard, pkgs	4,020
Wheat, bush	533,113	Tobacco, hhds	3,877
Corn, bush	851,380	do. cases	4,172
Oats, bush	236,750	Butter, pkgs	26,614
Rye, bush	47,481	Cheese, bxs	85,430
Malt, bush	19,500	Cotton, bales	4,747
Barley, bush	5,280	Rosin	15,543
Beans, bbls	2,000	Spts. turp., bbls	3,201
Grass seed, bush	400	Dried Fruits, pkgs	13
Beef, pkgs	1,013	Eggs, bbls	7,884
Wool, bales	2,501	Peanuts, bags	1,294
Hops, bales	200	Leather, sides	47,039
Pork, bbls	1,345	Sugar, hhds	25
Tallow	1,318	Oil cake	7,103

AQUILA NON CAPIT MUSCAS.—And so with the RURAL; we always dislike to shoot at small game. Yet there are times when patience must give place to justice to our readers as well as to our efficient staff of reporters. We are sometimes forced to print a word or so of protection.

We were about to speak of a pernicious parasite of the press, known as the "circular," which, when an extra advertisement permits, swells into the pompous title of "review." A little yellow specimen of these "reviews" recently—perhaps ignorantly, perhaps dishonestly—garbled one of the RURAL'S valuable commercial reports, and misrepresented the facts by referring to a back date in order to make up a topic for its later paragraph. That is all.

The publication in question proclaims to be issued by the best house in the city! This is indeed modest; especially as current intelligence would naturally inform any reader that first-class merchants have no time to dabble in amateur journalism. It may be that the unfortunate pseudologist who perpetrated the paragraph had luminous visions of a gratuitous notice, if a paper of the RURAL'S prominence could be ensnared into a controversy. "Perish the thought." Such seekers of notoriety remind us of an applicable old story:—"Bless us, what a fat gentleman," said a certain king; and the corpulent party retired satisfied, as he could then truthfully say that royalty had spoken of him.

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,117 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 33,712 do.; same time last year, 18,261 do. Exports of peas past week, 300 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 467,952 do.; same time last year, 228,329. Receipts of beans are light and so far as the demand is concerned, if they should come for a time the market would take on a better shape. Stored lots have a bad reputation since the heat of the past month and fresh supplies also suffer from the established impression as to unsoundness. Mediums are unchanged except for a few parcels of perfect keep. Marrows of fine exporting grade are scarce and though they are higher, the improvement is not in keeping with their special position. Red Kidneys keep up a trade. White Kidneys and pea beans are nominal, the latter are very unsuitable in quality for best Eastern buyers. Canadian peas are in light stock. Other peas quiet and unchanged.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, $1.00@$1.10; prime mediums, 90@$1.; fair to good, 70@80c.; poor, 40@50c.; prime marrows, $1.37@1.40; fair to good, $1.15@1.25; prime white kid., $1.20@1.30; other, $1.00@1.10; prime red kidney, $1.35@1.45; other, $1.15@1.25; Lima (Cal.), $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.75@4. Peas—Canadian, in bulk and bond, 70@—c.; green, $1.00@1.10; Southern B. E., 2-bush. bag, $2.65@2.70; split, ₩ bbl., $6.

BROOM CORN.—Ranges 7@9c. for best and 3@4½c. for other. Market dull. Crop reports favorable; reported unusually large.

BUTTER.—The cool days of the past week brought out a rush of buyers and the receipts did not supply the sudden wants of trade. There is an abundance of butter here but it has gone through so many deteriorating phases of melting and cooling that buyers almost totally disregard it; while for that matter holders have refrained from showing it to any good class of trade. Retailers have consequently run short of fine or desirable stock and the first chances to replenish have created a firm tone in prices. We say tone only because at this season the regular requirements of the local trade are moderate and with good shipping weather it will not take long to stock the market and summer trade is not price-supporting only when there is a scarcity. Choice pails and creamery have shown the most firmness, 30c. having been readily paid for selections. Fine state tubs for the moment are also strong at the new figures, but must be strictly sound and sweet to bring the extreme. Western fresh receipts are stiffer in price but are mainly unchanged. Exporters are still working off stock but insist upon concessions for round parcels; these best payments have been 16@17c. There is quite an enlarged outlet for butter to our immediate neighborhood, including river towns owing to the decreased local yield during the drouth.

The following useful hint we clip from the Producers Price Current.—"We recommend shippers and packers of western butter in tubs to carefully assort their packages into invoices so that the latter will run straight and uniform in color, seasoning, flavor and style. To show the importance of this we mention that where the packages are not uniform the contrast of quality increases the defects. For instance a lot of butter of fair color, if it contains a few packages of deep yellow, will by the contrast be light colored; whereas if the deep yellow packages were separated the lot might not be objected to on the score of color."

We quote:—Choice pails, 27@28c.; prime, 25@26c.; poor to good, 19@23c.; creamery pails, choice, 28@29c.; good, 26@27c.; sweet cream pails, 27@27c. State firkins, choice, 26@27c.; fair to good, 22@23c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 26@27c.; fair to prime, 20@22c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 24@25c.; other, 19@21c.; Western creamery, choice, 25@27c.; other, 21@24c.; do. firkins, best, 16@17c.; other, 12@14c.; dairy tubs, choice, 18@19c.; other, 13@14c.; factory choice, 18@17c.; other, 13@14c.

CHEESE.—Early in the week trade dragged, with rather an easy feeling, as regards prices, but with the country sales showing comparative ready sales and indications of lighter arrivals, there soon set in a steadier feeling, which was further enhanced by the better position of the market abroad. Business towards the close became quite active in fancy factories, and the grade is probably well sold up this week—9¼c. was the best general rate, and indeed some parties claim this the best price they obtained at the close, although the principal transactions now are at 9¼@9¼c., showing a rise of one-quarter cent on the figures current the previous week. Shippers are unusually careful in their selections, pretty generally anything under strictly fine. Respecting good, and grades under the market, can scarcely be called in any better shape than last week, but slightly favored perhaps by the cooler weather. They are, however, very difficult to sell, and show about the same wide difference of rates referred to recently. The quotations are:

New 9¼@9¾c. for fine and fancy factory; 7¾@8c. for good; 6¾@7¼c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 4@6c.; do., skimmed, 3@4c. State farm dairy, 8¾@8¾c.; good to prime, 7@8c.; fair to good, 5¾@6¾c.; Western factory, good and prime, 6¾@7¼c.; fair lots, 6@7c.; do. cheddar, choice, 7¾@8c.; do. flat, choice, 8@8¼c. Exports past week, 92,539 boxes.

COTTON.—Export demand is still slow and otherwise but little doing; closing prices are for

July, 11¾@11 29-32c.; August, 11 29-32@11 15-16c.; September, 11 23-32c.; October, 11½c.; November, 11 13-32@11 7-16c.; December, 11 7-16@11 15-32c.; January, 11 19-32@11¾c.; February, 11¾@11 25-32c.; March, 11 29-32@11 15-16c.; April, 12 1-16@12 3-32c.; May, 12 3-16@12 7-32c.; June, 12 11-32@12¾c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	8 5-16	8 5-16	8 5-16	8 5-16
Strict ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Good ordinary	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 13-16	9 13-16
Strict good do	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Low middling	10 13-16	10 15-16	11 1-16	11 1-16
Strict low middling	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Middling	11¾	11¾	11 15-16	11 15-16
Good middling	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾
Strict good middling	13¾	13¾	13	13
Middling fair	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾
Fair	14	14¾	14¾	14¾

Stained.

Good ordinary	8¾	Low middling	10
Strict ordinary	8¾	Middling	10¾

DRIED FRUITS.—There is no improvement in demand, and prices as before. Desirable lots of apples are in small stock.

State, sliced, 8@8¼c.; do., quarters, 7¾@8¼c.; Southern sliced, 8@8¾c. for prime; Blackberries, nominal. Pealed peaches, good and prime Georgia, 10@12c.; fancy, 13c.; unpealed peaches, new, nominal for halves and for quarters. Plums at 12@13c. Raspberries, 24@25c. Cherries, 14c.

EGGS.—The strong and upward tendency of our markets here a short period ago has made country shippers industrious in picking up stock and sending what could be spared from other cities. The addition, however, did not strike the market at a favorable period, for the extra demand began to subside a week ago and the general inquiry at the close is tame. Ice-house eggs are not generally a success. They sink in quality very suddenly after exposure to natural temperature.

Near points, 20@21c., State and Penn., 19@19¾c.; Western, prime, 18c.; do. other, 17@17¾c.; Canadian, 17¾@18¾c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Oil Peppermint, in glass, $3.75 ₩ lb.; in tin, $3.25. Spearmint, in glass, $3.50; in tin, $3. Wintergreen, $3. Sassafras 75c.

FEATHERS.—Quiet. We quote prime live Western geese, 52@55c.; other do., 35@45c.

FLOUR.—The market is recovering from the depressed feeling which existed for so long a period. Exporters are now buying more generally and there is a better home trade demand. Quotations are:

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3.35@4.20; $4.35@4.50 for very common to fair extra No.; $4.60@4.65 for good extra do.; $4.65@5.00 for fancy do., and $5.05@6.50 for very choice extra; $3.35@4.20 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.40@4.65 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $4.70@4.80 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $4.90@5.00; fancy No. $5.05@7.25; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $7.25@8.50; round-hoop Ohio, $4.35@4.80, and trade brands of do. at $4.85@5.75; St. Louis, $4.80@5.00 for common to fair extra, and $5.05@5.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.00@5.60, and patent at $5.30@5.50; unsound stock at from $2.15@5.10; No. 2 at $2.25@3.15; city mill at $4.60@5.90.

FRESH FRUITS.—Apples are arriving freely from all sections and cheap rates are ruling, even for fine and seasonable table varities. Common summer pears are also low and seldom touch the extreme. California embellishes the market with a car or so per week of plums and Bartlett pears. The last invoice of the latter was most too ripe for steady prices. The plums are fine and showy including the Damne purple and Columbia gaged. Peaches are in daily supply, but do not give satisfaction being generally hard and of deceptive color. Our older fruit dealers very correctly state that "taste is spoiled for good early markets through the mistake of growers sending in stock that will disappoint the expectation of consumers. Blackberries have a good demand at the close and have latterly realized good figures. Raspberries had a short season. Whortleberries sell readily, it is noticeable that the call for these berries improves yearly, restaurants using them very freely. It seems to be a poor season for Watermelons they open poorly and sales are slow, about the only prime ones we have seen thus far was a small lot from Texas. Southern muskmelons not wanted, New Jersey more than supplies present wants. Virginia grapes it is said will be a success this season. The Cranberry crop will be a light one at both the East and New Jersey though the promise opened good. The West also reports probable injury to the crops. Peanuts have not had their customary demand, but as the stock is not large and the new crop not expected to be heavy prices are fairly firm.

Apples, Sweet Bough, ₩ bbl., $1.50@2; sour, do., $1.00@2.25; Red Astrachan, $2@3.50; common, 50c.@$1. Pears, California Bartlett, ₩ box, $5@5.50; Southern, fancy, crate, $3@4; Ball, bbl., $3@4.25; sugar, $1@3; Cooking, $3@3.50. Peaches, Maryland, fancy, crate, $4@4.50; other, $2@3.50. Plums, California, box, $5@6. Blackberries, ₩ quart, 10@20c. Whortleberries, ₩ bush., $1.75@2.25. Currants, red, 6@7c.; white, 7@8c.; black, 7@8c.; cherry, 10@12c. Muskmelons, New Jersey, ₩ bbl., $3@4. Watermelons, Georgia, $15@35; Virginia, $8@20; Texas, $30@40. Peanuts—Virginia, prime, ₩ bush., $1.65@1.85; Wilmington, $1.50@2; common, 90c.@$1.25.

GRAIN.—For wheat, prices have reacted about three to five cents per bushel from the lowest prices, with the cooler weather and stronger demand. Latest sales are:

No. 1 Milwaukee spring at $1.15@1.17; No. 1 Sheboygan at $1.20, afloat; small lots of No. 1 Minnesota spring at $1.10@1.15 for soft to prime; 92@97c. for very soft to very good steamer lots No. 2 Milwaukee spring; 95c. for fair to strictly prime No. 2 Chicago, chiefly at 98½c.@$1 afloat, and 97c. in store; 82@85c. for No. 3 Milwaukee hot and soft, and 75@83c. for do. Chicago; 90c.@$1.15 for very soft to choice ungraded spring. Rye at 50@63c. for Western; 55@58c. for State. Corn is higher and fairly active; quoted at 58½c. for poor steamer to best sail lots ungraded Western mixed; 52@54c. for fair to prime steamer, and 50@51c. for poor do.; 55@57c. for yellow western; 46@52c. for hot, warm and damaged. Oats are higher and partly active; sales at 35@38c. for No. 2 Chicago; 43@47c. for white State.

HAY AND STRAW.—Supplies of new hay are liberal, and the trade buy moderately with prices easy.

Sale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60@65c.; retail qualities 80@95c.; clover, 50@55c.; salt, 55@65c. Straw is quoted at 80@90c. for long rye; 60@65c. for short rye; 45@50c. for oat.

HIGHWINES.—Bring $1.13 per gallon.

HOPS.—There has been rather more doing this week. The purchases include about 400 bales for export. Prices are steadily held. Advices respecting the crop are more unfavorable. It is thought that the yield per acre will fall short about ⅓ as compared with last year, but the increased acreage planted will probably make up a good part of the deficiency. We quote:

N. Y. State, 10@17c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₩ lb.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 19@20c. for light; 20@23c. for middle; 21@23c. for heavy; 17@19c. for good damaged.

OIL CAKE.—Western selling at $38.50 per ton.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The few lots of dressed that arrive are weak in price, cheap coops of live giving us a pretty free offering. We quote fowls, 13@18c. for scalded and picked; best sprlug chickens, 22@24c.; other, 15@19c.; turkeys, 13@16c.

Live poultry is abundant and lower. We quote spring chicks, near points, 17@18c.; Western, 16@17c. Fowls, N. J., ₩ lb 15@16c.; do. Western, 15@—c. Roosters, 9@10c.; Turkeys, N. J. 12@15c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1; do. Western, 50@60c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.25; do. Western, 1.25@1.50.

Best woodcock are a shade higher. State quoted at 70@75c.; Western, 65@70c. Stall-fed pigeons, $1.25@1.50; do. squab, 75c.@$1; tame live pigeons, ₩ pair, 30c.

PROVISIONS—Of hog products there has been a pressure to sell, while demand has been light for exporters. Mess pork quoted at $19.15 for August and $19.30 for September. Bacon at 10¼c. for long clear. Lard at $11.12½ for spot lots; $11.02½@11.05 for August; $11.15@11.17½ for September. Stearine at 14½c. for choice Western. Beef hams at $30 for choice. Southern tallow at 8 5-16c. for prime. Beef at $8@11 for plain mess, $12 for extra mess, and $13 for packet, the outside prices for small lots choice. Pierced quoted nominal for prime mess and India mess. City extra India mess at $19.

SALT.—Quoted at $2.50 for Ashton; $1.15@1.40 for other brands.

SUGAR (Refined).—Soft yellow, 9¼@10¾c.; soft white, 10¼@11¼c.; hard, 11¾@11¾c.

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ₩ lb., Southern, $1.15@1.30; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, ordinary to refined, 14@18c. ₩ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. unclipped, 50c.@$1; lamb skins, 60@65c.

TOBACCO.—There has been a very good export demand for Kentucky leaf and a fair trade in seedleaf, with prices well maintained.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Cents.
Common lugs	6¾@ 7
Good lugs	7¾@ 8
Low leaf	8¾@10
Medium leaf	11 @12
Good leaf	12½@13¾
Fine leaf	14 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	14 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Seconds	— @—
Fillers, selections	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5½@ 7
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes are scarce and firm. For a novelty, Western new will be here very early, owing to the diminished crops of L. I. and N. J. We quote the latter $3@4 ₩ bbl. Corn and tomatoes have a good demand. Cabbages scarce and high. We quote:

Green corn, ₩ 100, $1@$1.25. Norfolk tomatoes, 50@75c. ₩ crate; Long Island, bush., $1.25@1.50; New Jersey, do., 75c.@$1, ₩ crate. Marrow squash, bbl., $1.75@2.00; crook neck, $1.75@2.25. Wax beans, bag, $3@3.50; Cucumbers, L. I., ₩ 100, $1@1.75; do. N. Y., do., 50c.@$1. Turnips, Russia, ₩ bbl., $1@1.25. Cabbages, L. I., $6@10 ₩ 100. Potato onions, $1.50@2.25 ₩ bbl.; white do., $2.75@3.

WOOL.—A slight improvement in trade, but yet no especial life, the recent auction sales of goods, being dispiriting. The disposition among manufacturers is to buy only to provide for urgent requirement. Sellers on the other hand in consideration of current low prices are not inclined to press business.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
XXX and Picklock	40 @	42
XX	35 @	38
X	35 @	36
No. 1	34 @	35
No. 2	30 @	32
Common	30 @	31
Combing	50 @	52
New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin—		
XX	30 @	33
X	30 @	32
No. 1	30 @	34
No. 2	28 @	30
Common	27 @	30
Combing	50 @	52
Iowa, Vermont and Illinois—		
XX	30 @	32
X	30 @	32
No. 1	30 @	32
No. 2	28 @	30
Combing	45 @	47
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
Washed fleece	28 @	32
Unwashed	20 @	24
do. combing	32 @	34

ROCHESTER, July 29.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $6.75; white winter, $7.00; double extra, $7.25. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.10@1.20; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.20. Oats, nominal at 35@38c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 19@21c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 15@16c. Lard, 11@12½c. Apples, bu., 50@75c. Potatoes, bu., 85@90c. Beans, ₩ bu., 50@90c. Mess pork, $20.50. Wool, 20@30c. Hay, $8@13. Straw, $5@8 Timothy seed, $2.00@3.; clover, $5.50@10. Mill feed dull at $13 for shorts, $14 for shipstuffs, and $17 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₩ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., July 29, 1876.

THE heated term has given way for a spell of cooler weather, much to the gratification of dairymen and dealers who are interested in the movement of butter and cheese. But notwithstanding the favorable weather for shipping cheese, trade is dull and prices declining. Between 300 and 400 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on delivery this week and sales ranged at 8@8¼c., extra lots only reaching the latter figure.

The offerings from factories aggregated 10,000 boxes and upward, the larger part of which changed hands, some being sent forward on commission.

Prices were about ½c. lower than for the week previous, 9c. being "top price," though 9¾c. was reported for two lots exceptional sales and hardly to be named as market rates. The range of prices therefore may be quoted at 8¾@9c., the bulk going at the last figure. Quite a number of factorymen held over their goods for another week.

There was a light delivery of butter; that from farm dairies bringing 21@22c., and creamery in return pails 23c. Since the decline in the price of butter and the hot weather, we notice some of the creameries selling at this market, are holding back their goods under the impression that rates will advance.

The weather has been favorable for the hay harvest and farmers are well up in their work. Pastures are excellent for the season and cows are reported to be doing finely in every direction.

We have advices from abroad for the second week in July. Our London correspondent says American cheese clears as landed, especially fine and the lower sorts. The arrivals are expected to be of good quality and prices are thought to be at the lowest. The weather has been too hot to handle English cheese, old or new. The quotations are as follows:

American, extra fine, 56c.; fine, 52@51s.; good, 42@50s.; common and low grades, 30@40s. English cheddar sells for 76@90s.; Wiltshire double, 62@68s.; Cheshire medium, 45@51s.; fine, 72@84s., Scotch, 60@68s., Dutch cheese—Edams, 56@58s.

The intense heat has had a tendency to check the trade in butter. The supply of oleomargarine has fallen off and a supply is not expected if the weather continues hot. We give prices:

Dorsets, 136s.; Jersey, 104@106s.; Normandy, 112@122s.; American and Canadian, 90@105s. ₩ cwt.

Oleomargarine, or artificial butter, is not in market and quotations are not given.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, July 29, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,172	15	1,945	4,973	000
Forty-Eighth St.	8	26	217	627	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	11,677
Harsimus Cove	4,950	00	134	10,526	9,665
Totals this week	9,130	41	2,162	16,126	21,432
" last week	9,251	72	3,419	23,905	18,236

BEEVES.—Trade opened slow but firm on Monday last. The quality of the herds to hand was from course to good, being in general scarcely fair. Prices ranged from 8¼@11c. ₩ lb.; weights, 5¾@6 cwt. From 55@57 lbs., net, were allowed. The markets closed without any herds remaining unsold. Trade opened fair on Wednesday, but closed weak at ¼c. ₩ lb. reduction on the closing rates of the previous Monday, while the herds to hand were very generally coarse, ranging from poor to good, and selling at 8@10¾c. ₩ lb.; weights, 5@8 cwt. On Thursday trade was small at 7@10¾c. ₩ lb.; weights, 4¾@8 cwt. Friday the markets closed slow, prices having been 8¾@10¾c. ₩ lb.; weights, 5@9¾ cwt. From 55@57 lbs., net, were allowed; general sales on 56 lbs. net. Spanish herds, grass fed, sold at 7@8c. ₩ lb.; Native steers sold at 8@10c. ₩ lb., grade do., 10@10¾c. Oxen sold at 9@10¾c. ₩ lb. Mixed herds, 9@9¾c. ₩ lb. Bulls, live weight, 4@4¾c. ₩ lb.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	11¼@	11¼@
Fair	10¾@11	10¾@11
Poor	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾
Poorest	7 @ 9¾	7 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	9 @10¾	9 @10¾

MILCH COWS.—We have no change to note in this branch of trade. The cows to hand are not good enough to meet the demand, and sales, therefore, are slow at low rates. Nineteen cows sold at $40@55 ₩ head, 23 at $50@35, and 10 at $30@42—calves always included.

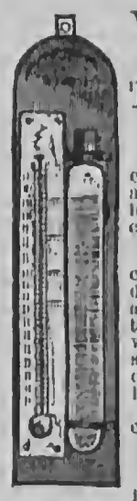
VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals in fair demand at 7¾@8c. ₩ lb. Ordinary quality calves in heavy supply and slow of sale at 5@5¾c. ₩ lb. Grass fed calves of coarse quality sold at $4@8 ₩ head. Buttermilk-fed calves sold at 4@5c. ₩ lb. State veals sold at 7½@8c. ₩ lb. Slate calves at 4@6c. ₩ lb. Jersey calves sold at 8¼c. ₩ lb. Jersey veals at 8c. ₩ lb. Pennsylvania veals at 8c. ₩ lb.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade very slow in sheep and lambs of ordinary quality, with a fair demand for those of good quality. We quote sales of sheep Monday last at 4@5¾c. ₩ lb., and sales of lambs at 5¾@8¾c. Wednesday, sheep, 4¾@5¾c.; lambs, 8¾@8¾c. Thursday, sheep, 4¾@5¾c.; lambs, 6¾@8¾c. The market closed dull on Friday; sheep, 4¾@5¼c.; lambs, 6¾@8¾c. Ohio sheep sold at 4¾@5¾c ₩ lb.; State do., 4¾@5¼c.; Kentucky do., $5@5.40 ₩ cwt.; Indiana do., 4¾@5¼c. ₩ lb.; Canada lambs, 7¾@8c. ₩ lb. Kentucky do., 6¾@8c.; Jersey do., 8@8¾c.; Pennsylvania do., 7¾@8¾c.

HOGS.—There have been no sales of live hogs since our last weekly report. City dressed limeline at 8¾@9c. ₩ lb., weights, from 200 lbs. up to 110 lbs. down ₩ head.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade is still languishing. Nineteen poor quality light harness horses sold at $75@105 ₩ head; 29 ordinary do. at $120@200 ₩ head; 13 roadsters with moderate trotting action sold at $207@320 ₩ head; 30 course quality heavy draft horses sold at 100@195 ₩ head. No sale of valuable horses reported.

New Advertisements.



What will the Weather

BE TO-MORROW?

The Signal Service Barometer

WILL TELL YOU.

It will detect and indicate correctly any change in the weather 12 to 24 hours in advance. It will tell what kind of a storm is approaching, and from what quarter it comes—invaluable to navigators.

FARMERS

can plan their work according to its predictions. It will save 50 times its cost in a single season. There is an accurate thermometer attached, which alone is worth the price of the combination. Will send it express paid to any address on receipt of $2. Send Money Order or Registered Letter.

Agents wanted—send stamp for Circular. **H. W. POOL & CO., 835 Broadway, New York.**

The Boston Traveller says:—"We carefully inspected the above-described Signal Service Barometer, and find it to be as stated by Messrs. Pool & Co., who are honorable and reliable."

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We offer to the fall and spring trade of first-class stock:

	₩ 100.	₩ 1,000.
150,000 3 & 4 yrs. Apple Trees	$10 00	$70 00
5,000 3 & 4 yrs. Standard Pear	30 00	280 00
10,000 2 & 3 yrs. Standard Pear	25 00	250 00
5,000 3 yrs. Dwarf Pear	18 00	150 00
25,000 2 yrs. Dwarf Pear	16 00	150 00
35,000 2 yrs. Cherry, largely E. May	16 00	150 00
10,000 1 yr. Peach	8 00	60 00
40,000 2 & 3 yrs. Grape Vines, in variety		
40,000 1 yr. Grape Vines, in variety		
10,000 Evergreens, in variety		

Also a large stock of Small Fruits, Roses, &c. We solicit the attention and correspondence of all persons who are in want of first class stock.

August, 1876. **MOORE, HEMM & CO., Sidney, Ohio.**

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Sows all kinds of Vegetable Seeds with regularity. The STANDARD machine. REMODELED for 1875. Combines the best points ever produced. Simple, durable, *easiest handled*, OPEN WHITE SEED CONDUCTOR SHOWS THE SEED DROPPING. Give satisfaction. Circulars Free. Made by E. E. LEMMON & Co. 32 S. Market St. Boston, Mass.

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

FLORIDIANS are eating native figs.

MAY is a good time to begin Pair Culture.

COLONEL FORNEY is at Martha's Vineyard.

THE latest in England is buttoned stockings.

SIR CHARLES DILKE will not come to America.

ROBERT BUCHANAN, the English poet, is thirty-five.

WHEN tramps ask for bread, Iowa farmers give them a stone.

IT takes a good sermon to stop flirting until meeting is out.

IT is a hard thing to say nothing when nothing ought to be said.

FRANK WALWORTH is not only insane but very dangerously ill.

THERE is one thing that don't mind pinching, and that is snuff.

WE shall miss Sitting Bull. We are glad that the man who shot him didn't.

WENDELL PHILIPPS risks everything but his scalp in behalf of the Indians.

BOSTON is to have a Sunday paper edited by ladies. We hope for the best.

THE Emperor of Brazil's hotel expenses in this country are said to have been nearly $40,000.

SEVEN thousand four hundred English soldiers in India refuse to drink spirits or malt liquor.

WHY not nominate Samson and Hercules, they could surely "carry" the State of New York?

ONE who knows says that the worst-behaved children in the country are those at the watering-places.

CHARLES CAMPBELL, the Virginia historian, died a few days ago in the Staunton asylum for the insane.

AMERICA has 2,000 actors—all endeavoring with commendable zeal to become Booth's, Salvinis and Cushmans.

AN Iowa paper, speaking of a sale of short horns, says, "they were stylish cattle," Beef *a la mode*, as it were.

NEWPORT, Vt., on the Fourth had music by a drum corps, each member of which was over ninety years of age.

NO man knows how attractive his home is until he offers it for sale, and reads what an estate agent says about it.

VANDERBILT is trying hard to recover, but his physicians stay by him all the while and don't give him half a chance.

A HORSE committed suicide in Lake Village, N. H., the other day by drowning himself. He was sick and became despondent.

SERGEANT JOHN RYAN of West Newton, who was reported killed in Custer's fight, has written home that he was with Reno, and is well.

CHARLES BRADLAUGH has a brother who is holding open-air religious meetings in London, which are largely attended and successful.

AN Indiana man has been down with so many complaints that he can't consistently be sick any more unless some one invents a new disease.

"THAT'S very cheap," remarked a Trenton woman, when the magistrate find her $5 for abusing her pastor as he passed her on the street.

GEORGE ELIOT thinks that the world would be a very poor affair if it contained nothing but common sense. It would certainly be a very empty one.

VERY intellectual women are seldom beautiful. —New Haven Register. Now add, if you dare, that very beautiful women are seldom intellectual.

THEY call Mr. Iliff "Old K. K. K.," which means "Cattle King of Colorado." He owns 16,000 head, and for 60 miles along the Platte no brand but his is seen.

IN the ice factory at Galveston, Texas, the workmen go about dressed in the thickest woolen clothes as they move about among the columns of solid ice.

MRS. J. W. HARPER, wife of the eldest son of Fletcher Harper, Jr., died at her home at Irvington, N. Y., from the effects of prostration produced by the heat.

"MY native city has treated me badly," said the drunken inhabitant of a place celebrated for its whisky, "but I love her still." Probably her still was all that he did love.

AT the end of an Indiana marriage ceremony, the bride advanced gracefully to the clergyman, and requested him to announce the hymn, "This is the way I long have sought."

UPON the death of a woman who was a chronic borrower, an unfeeling neighbor observed, "She won't be buried there a week before she'll be calling on the other tenants for their flowers.

"TO you, my young friends," said the President of a Western College to his graduating class, "to you, we give a glorious future." "A present would be more acceptable," screamed a voice in the crowd.

THE Hessian fly is doing much damage in Iowa, and a Keokuk paper inquiringly asks whence this new post-origi nated? Why everybody ought to know that it was Washington who made the Hessian fly.

TWO Jews were distinguished, one for his skill in pugilism, the other for his fondness of the fair sex. A gentleman, on being asked to what tribe they belonged, answered, "I don't know; had they not been Jews, I should have supposed one of them to be an 'Amorite' and the other a 'Hittite.'"

A gentleman from California is now in Chicago negotiating for the purchase of a full-sized canal schooner to take a cargo of black walnut lumber from Chicago to San Francisco, via the St. Lawrence and Cape Horn.

THERE is no such word as fail in the vocabulary of the Tennesseean. One of them is going to eat a half bushel of strawberries in half an hour on a bet, or leave a widow and seven fatherless children to dig stumps for the neighbors.

CLARA BAUER, who was quite well known as a novel writer in Germany, died in Breslau on June 29. She had passed years of her life in Russia, and her last novel, "A Document," is said to be an able portrayal of the best Russian society.

WHEN a 200-pound darkey woman throws herself into a centennial rolling-chair and pays over her 60 cents for an hour's ride the gloom that settles over the gentlemanly white attendant's face can be felt from one end of the grounds to the other.

SOME people were talking with Jerrold about a gentleman as celebrated for the intensity as for the shortness of his friendships. "Yes," said Jerrold, "his friendships are so warm that he no sooner takes them up than he puts them down again."

MR. E. A. SOTHERN, who is in Philadelphia, is extremely ill from the effects of the heat. He has been threatened with congestion of the brain, and his condition now is quite serious. His physician says he may not be able to play for some time to come.

CURRAN, being angry in a debate one day, put his hand on his heart, saying, "I am the trusty guardian of my own honor." "Then," observed Sir Boyle Roche," "I congratulate my honorable friend on the snug sinecure to which he has appointed himself."

DE RUDIO, known to fame as a lieutenant in the United States army, who figured conspicuously here in the election of 1874, and as a co-conspirator with Orsini and Pierl in the attempt to assassinate Napoleon III. in 1857, is one of the survivors of Custer's command.

THE Burlington Hawkeye is inclined to harbor the conviction that, "No man can realize the geological history of creation, the slow, regular development and shaping of things in the slow unfolding centuries and ages, until he has watched a gang of men at work on the streets."

AN Englishman who had let his barber's account run for twenty years was confronted, the other day by a bill for nearly £32, the barber charging a penny a day. The man refused to pay the amount but offered to settle at the rate of £200 per acre of surface shaved. His face was measured and his bill then amounted to £73 7s. 8d.

MISS ALLISON, the engineer of the machinery in the Woman's Pavilion at the Centennial, is reported very ill in consequence of overwork and anxiety. Better take the dangerous toy out of the girl's hands, lest she faint away at some critical moment, and the Woman's Pavilion and its cause be started heavenward by steam.

MISS MULOCK mentions four professional pursuits in which women can now support themselves in England—teaching, painting or sculpture, literature and public entertainment. In America we have added the medical profession to the list, as has been done also in France. The University of Michigan and some other institutions graduate a few lawyers also each year.

LOUIS XIV., who loved a concise style, met on the road as he was traveling into the country, a priest, who was riding past; and, ordering him to stop, asked hastily:—"Whence come you? Where are you going? What do you want?" The other, who perfectly well knew the king's disposition, instantly replied:—"From Bruges. To Paris. A benefice." "You shall have it," replied the king, and in a few days presented him to a valuable living.

THE late Miss Martineau left an injunction in her will, the Birmingham Post says, against the publication of any of her private letters. A London correspondent of the Leeds Mercury also writes, "I understand that Miss Martineau had not only completed her autobiography previous to her death, but she had also had it printed and corrected. The work will form two volumes, and will be illustrated by a number of woodcuts. All that remains to be done, in fact, is to have the sheets bound and issued by a publisher."

ABDUL AZIZ'S private collection of jewelry valued at six million Turkish pounds, has been seized and turned over to the Finance Department for sale. One piece is a coffee service; that is to say, a coffee service according to Oriental ideas, neither coffee-pot, sugar bowl, nor cream jug, merely a salver, with twelve cups and saucers, the former being about the size of an egg-glass, but all in solid gold, each piece incrusted with brilliants and emeralds, and the whole cost £10,000, or about fifty-one thousand dollars in American currency.

THE Alexandria Sentinel says that the following letter from Gen. Custer to the Confederate cavalry general, Rosser, was entrusted by Custer to a farmer near Spottsylvania Court House, after a brief engagement between their respective commands, to be delivered to Rosser:

Dear—: You expose yourself too much on the field, old fellow. I recognized you yesterday, and with difficulty saved your life by stopping my fire. Don't do so again, but live to laugh over old times, after the war, with your friend,

G. A. CUSTER.

P. S.—I whipped Fitz Lee on Wednesday, and intend to give you a good dressing the first chance I get in a fair field.

Rosser read the letter to his staff, and laughingly remarked, "it was just like Fanny."

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*Louisville Courier-Journal	4 65	3 90
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

(1) Will you please describe a bug? (2) Are all insects having four wings beetles? (3) Is this wingless creature, now destroying potato vines, a grub, bug, or an embryo beetle? If the latter, will it pass through the pupa state, or will the wings gradually grow on it? BOREN.

(1) It would be somewhat difficult to give you a correct idea of the difference between the order of *Hemiptera* or true bugs, and *Coleoptera* or beetles, in the limited space which can be spared in these columns. But we will say that the two grand divisions of Hemiptera are composed, 1st. Half-winged bugs, called *Heteroptera*, having the basal half of the front wings coriaceous, or leathery, for instance, the common stinking or squash bug, bed bug, etc. 2d. Whole-winged bugs or *Homoptera*, having all four wings of a uniform membranous nature, folding straight down the back when at rest—for example, the common tree-hopper. By procuring some illustrated elementary work on entomology, you would soon be able to distinguish bugs from beetles, moths from butterflies.

(2) No; all insects having four wings are not beetles, for, in fact, beetles have only two true wings, with a pair of shields to cover them, hence the name of the order *Coleoptera*, which means shield-winged insects. There are some species of beetles which have no shields, or elytra, as these organs are termed, while there are others having very full and perfect elytra, but no membranous wings, consequently they are unable to fly.

(3) The wingless grubs, or more properly, *larvæ*, of the Colorado pest, after feeding and growing awhile, rests for a few days in what is termed the *pupa* state, then bursts its pupa skin and comes forth a true and very perfect beetle, with two membranous wings and two horn-like shields, or elytra, upon each of the latter. There are five black lines, making ten upon all, hence the scientific name of *Chrysomela* (*Doryphora*), 10-lineata. To speak of one of these insects as a *bug*, is as incorrect as it would be to call a turtle a horse. Still, men who know better often call them bugs, in order to be understood.

G. W. N.—You can obtain the Transactions of the American Pomological Society by addressing the Treasurer, THOMAS P. JAMES, Esq., inclosing four dollars, thereby securing a biennial membership.

"Barry's Fruit Garden," price, $2.50, or "Thomas' American Fruit Culturist," price, $3.75, are both excellent works, and would no doubt suit you.

Subscriber.—We have had no experience in making vinegar from sorghum sirup, therefore will ask some of our readers to answer your question.

C. E. A.—The branches and young twigs of your apple trees are probably afflicted with what is termed apple-tree blight. The cause of this malady is unknown, but is often quite destructive. Cut off all affected twigs as soon as the leaves begin to turn brown, as this will sometimes check the spread of the disease. You will find on another page an answer to your question in regard to budding trees.

R. V. D.—You should watch our advertising columns for information about game and other kinds of fowls, as that is the place we have to look for such articles when in want. At present we do not know who has this breed for sale.

Nurseryman.—The reason why your single, lone Box-Elder or Ash-leaved maple tree has no seed in the pod is because it is a pistillate (female) tree and there are no staminate (male) in the immediate neighborhood. This species of maple bears its two sexes of flowers on separate trees, hence both must be growing in close proximity, in order to obtain perfect seeds. We have a very large pistillate tree in our own grounds, which is loaded with the keys or seed vessels every year, but they are empty, not a germ ever appearing in one of them, for the reason given above.

A. C. asks if we deem plants in a sleeping apartment injurious to health. She says that her husband objects to her plants being in their bedroom, where there is a sunny window, and insists that they shall be removed at night. She herself has read that plants purify the atmosphere.

ANS.—It is now well known that plants give off carbonic acid gas as well as absorb it—that they absorb oxygen as well as liberate it—but that the quantity of oxygen absorbed and of carbonic acid gas liberated, is decidedly less than the quantity of oxygen liberated and carbonic acid gas absorbed. This, however, can only be said of healthy plants in a state of growth and exposed to the sun's rays, which are essential to decompose the gas in the leaf which retains the carbon and liberates the oxygen. A plant may grow in the dark, but its growth destroys it. Light and heat are essential to its nutrition. When we consider the imperfect light that sleeping-room plants get; when we consider their white, yellow, decaying and dead leaves—the stagnant moisture of the pots and earth in them, we doubt if they do not in a majority of cases, more poison the air than purify it. At best or at worst, however, it is probable that they do so little of either that Mr. A. C. need not put you to the trouble of removing your plants nightly; and the less *you* say about their *beneficial* effects, the more nearly you will approach to what seems a rational view of the question.

E. Cutler asks: (1) "What is the cause of water boiling? (2) Why does steam, after it leaves the teakettle, burn the hand even worse than boiling water?

ANS.—Any chemistry answers these questions more fully and accurately than we can answer them in brief. The pressure of the atmosphere is 15 lbs. to the square inch. Water, at about 212° at the surface of the earth, overcomes the pressure and boils. The atmosphere varies in its pressure—hence the boiling point varies also. The agitation of boiling is caused by the formation and bursting of steam bubbles which formed at the bottom of the kettle, rapidly make their way through the body of water like so many balloons. (2) Water is never raised above 212°, because the continued heat which would otherwise raise its temperature higher, becomes latent in steam. This when it condenses upon the hand gives out its latent heat, and the burn is therefore more intense than that from boiling water.

Marion, Noble, Co., Ind.—Have the kindness to send to Floricultural Editor your name. Your letter, published in RURAL of July 8, is lost. The flower is *Moluccella laevis*. We have an article written upon it to be published next week.

Amateur., Jamesburg.—It has been my intention this season to attempt experiments toward improvement in small fruits—blackberries and currants particularly, both by cultivation and seedlings. Your article, in June 24th, gave me just what information I needed as to treatment of seedlings, though I have already an oddity under way of my own. Will you be good enough, through your "Answers to Correspondents," to reconcile two statements in that article that have puzzled me. You say: "The seed should not get thoroughly dry," etc., and again: "When cold weather sets in, bury in the ground," etc. Now what bothers me and the information I should be grateful for is this: (1) I have splendid specimens saved, shall I cover them in sand at once? (2) If so, how shall I keep the seed till cold weather begins? An answer to the above will greatly oblige a constant and enthusiastic reader.

I have marked one or two bushes of native blackberries growing near me, which are of superior merit as to taste, productiveness and size of fruit, and this fall I intend to see what cultivation will do for them. One bush is of such excellence that I think it will prove valuable.

ANS. (1) Yes. (2) Place in box, and bury seed and sand in the ground, or place in a cool, dark cellar.

Seedsman.—We have read the new section of the Postage Laws as passed, but fail to see that nurserymen and seedsmen are benefited thereby, for there is not a word in it referring to seeds, plants, cuttings and similar articles—in fact, like most acts passed relating to postage matters, it is just indefinite enough to leave everybody in a muddle as to what it does mean and afford each and every postmaster an opportunity to construe the same to suit himself.

Pear Grower.—There is no need of applying Hellebore or other poisons to pear trees in order to get rid of "slugs" on the leaves. Dusting quicklime over the trees will destroy this insect quickly and as effectually as anything known. The larvæ of the different species of saw-flies, usually known as "slugs," which infest various kinds of trees, all yield readily to lime.

L. H. R.—The cluster of purple flowers left at the RURAL Office for a name, are those of the *Cleome grandiflora*. It belongs to the *capparidaceæ*, or Caper family. It is a tall-growing plant and the flowers quite showy, hence frequently met with under cultivation.

Anna R., West Va.—Mamma has a fine Calla which has been in bud for nearly two months, but never has opened; on examination we have found that the top of the bud is withering. What is the cause? Is it that the shoots which have sprung up have prevented it from blooming?

ANS.—No, we think not. Do you give it enough water? Is the soil loose so that water can reach the roots? Is the drainage perfect so that the water does not become soggy and sour? When you can give an affirmative answer to the above, your Calla will thrive.

W. B. J.—Polianthes is from two Greek words, meaning City and Flower, and was applied to a class of plants usually grown in city gardens—one species of which is the Polianthus tuberosea. In refering to this species, it has become common to discard the name of the genus altogether, distort the pronunciation of the balance and call it Tuber-rose or Tube-rose.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Traveler's Guide.

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CUTTING a Finger—Amputating a limb.

THE only eats worth any money—Ducats.

BLIGHTING dew—The due of a mortgage note.

PERSONS of extended views—Panorama painters.

A DIFFICULT lock to pick—One from a bald head.

A WEDDING Trip—Stumbling over the bride's train.

A BARE assertion is not necessarily the naked truth.

WHAT class of persons may be said to lie the most?—Sluggards.

THE happiest paper in the United States is an Indianapolis daily. It has but one "want."

CRUSTY says the list of marriages in the newspapers ought to be put under the head of "ring frauds."

WHAT is the difference between a good penman and a sailor? One crosses the T's and the other the C's.

PROFESSOR of Rhetoric.—"What important change came over Burns in the latter part of his life?" Senior—"He died."

IT is said that figures won't lie; but the Detroit News thinks the figures of some women are very deceptive to say the least.

AN experienced boy says he regards hunger and the school-master's rattan as about the same thing, as they both make him holler.

IN reading a hymn to be sung one Sunday afternoon, a New York minister recently said: "You may omit the fourth verse. I don't believe it's true."

AN exchange remarks that "some people are wholly unable to appreciate delicate irony." We have observed this ourselves, particularly in the case of washerwomen and shirt bosoms.

"Is there much water in the cistern, Biddy?" inquired a gentleman of his servant-girl, as she came up from the kitchen. "It is full on the bottom, sir; but there's none at all on the top," was the reply.

"MA," exclaimed a Chicago youngster, as he gazed longingly into a bakery window, "what nice pie-ous men bakers are, ain't they?" The mother immediately invested in enough pastry to shut the child's mouth.

A DISSIPATED old negro in Montgomery, Ala. while watching the monkeys in the menagerie in that city, spoke thus:—"Dem children got too much sense to come outer dat cage; white folks cut dar tails off, and set 'em to votin' and makin' constitewtions."

AN Irishman in Iowa was bitten by a rattlesnake, but the liberal use of a neighbor's whisky cured him. The next day he was seen walking slowly on the prairie, and looking earnestly for something. He was asked what he was looking for, "For the boite of a snake," was the reply.

AN odd bit of dialogue occurs in a French novel:—"Where is your husband?" asks a gentleman. "He went to buy a cigar," replies the lady. "Has he been gone long?" "Eighteen years." "He is quite right," remarks the gentleman, philosophically; "he wants to choose a good one."

A WESTERN tailor advertised:—"Wanted—Two or three girls to put on pants." Dr. Mary Walker called next morning and said:—"Now bring on your pants and don't look." The tailor explained, and she left with a sorrowful air, vowing that she would send him a grammar as soon as she got home.

A *soi disant* naturalist was boring Hook with the distinctions in formation and habits between two animals of the same *genus*. Hook, who neither knew, nor wished to know anything about it, exclaimed—"It flashes on me now"—I see the distinction—"it's just the same in swine!" "The same?" cried the astonished naturalist. "Yes," said Hook, "you know some *pigs* are *driven*, and some *pigs* are *led*.

THE kicking propensities of the mule are certainly exaggerated. As we write, a farmer over by the tobacco barn is pulling one around to his place in front of the wagon by the tail. What gentleness the faithful creature exhibits! How meekly he submits too the superior will of his master! How—ah! by the way, the man is evidently an accomplished acrobat—that double somersault he threw over the wagon was very skillfully executed, indeed.

IS THE CENTENNIAL TO END IN SMOKE?

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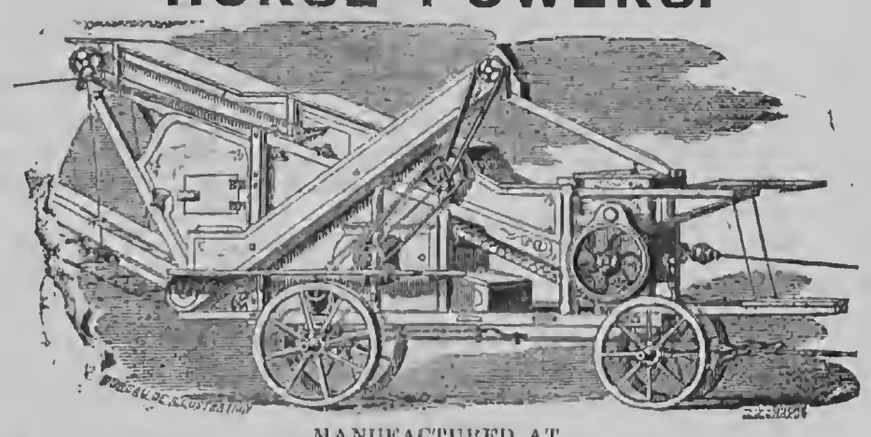

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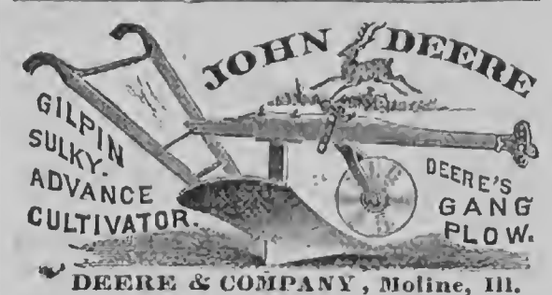

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EXCELSIOR

RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

VOL. XXXIV. No. 7. WHOLE No. 1385. | NEW YORK CITY, AUG. 12, 1876. | PRICE SIX CENTS. $2.65 PER YEAR.

[Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1876, by the Rural Publishing Company, in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.]

Rural Architecture.

CONVENIENT COTTAGES.

While we do not go so far as the author of a certain book on agriculture as to assert that "a man is known by the house he lives in," still it is our belief that there is a *something* in a residence which gives an inkling of the tastes and social standing of the owner.

The cottage shown in the illustrations on this page will be found to contain a very conveniently-arranged plan of rooms adapted to the use of a moderate-sized family. However doubtful may be the propriety of the use of the French roof in the city, there is no doubt that it offers some splendid points of fitness for country or suburban houses in our climate. Supposing the sides to be built in the usual way of setting up such roofs and a proper space to be allowed between the roofing and the ceiling of the upper story, large air spaces are secured, which are of great value in avoiding, in the rooms inclosed by the roof, those extremes of heat and cold which form so disagreeable a feature of our climate. The use of some one of the various forms which the French roof assumes among us also furnishes one of the readiest means of ornamenting the construction of dwellings. Perhaps there is no other feature in which so great a variety of design may be so easily attained as in the dormer window; and the outline of the roof itself is also capable of many modifications. It is impossible to give any general rule for comparing the cost of such roofs with that of the Italian roof, as much depends upon the number and style of the dormers, but it is usually something more than the cost of the same hight of vertical wall. The cottage represented in our design should be set with the principal entrance facing the east, in which case all the rooms would at some time during the day receive the sunlight.

The floor plans, though presenting nothing specially novel, are believed to afford good accommodations — in fact, more than are to be found in houses of a more flashy style of architecture. The principal floor of this design is elevated three feet above the surface of the ground, and is approached by the front steps leading to the platform. The hight of the first floor is 11 feet, the second is 10 feet, and the cellar 6 feet, in the clear. The porch is so constructed that it can be put upon either side of the house, as may suit the owner. The cottage can be built in a substantial manner, with cellar throughout, for about $3,000.

In the planning of low-priced houses, every consideration is too often made secondary to the cost, and those very features which render homes attractive, healthful and delightful are so far lost sight of that their importance is never rightly estimated until the house is occupied and it is too late to think of those changes which, for a comparatively small additional sum, would never have been needed. "A penny wise and a pound foolish" is the adage which is peculiarly suited to low-priced dwellings of the present time. Let us hope that readers of the Rural who contemplate building will bear the adage in mind, and leave nothing undone that may be cause for after regrets.

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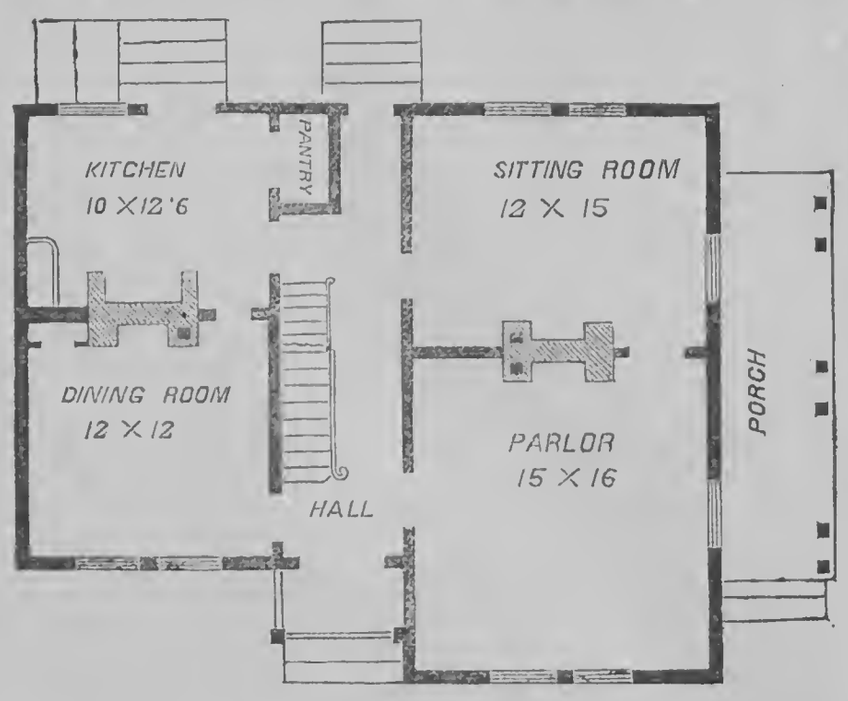
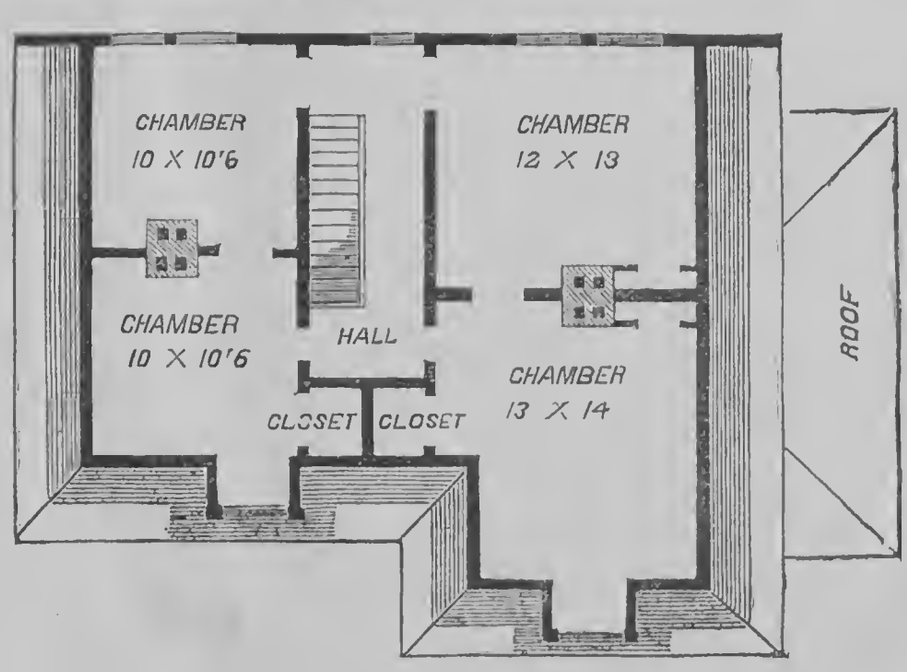


First Floor.



Second Floor.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND DWELLINGS.

In the official English digest of the census of 1871 there are materials for making a comparison of some important features in the social statistics of Great Britain and the United States. The relation between population and the number of inhabited houses in any given locality has always been held to have a direct bearing upon the sanitary condition of the community. But a house is a rather variable unit to commence with, for, as the English digest puts it, "the ordinary house varies in size and structure in town and country—in its cubical contents, in its hearths, in its doors, and in its windows; so that, to give a correct view of the accommodation which houses afford the population, a special inquiry is indispensable." It is only, therefore, with certain qualifications due to varieties of structure that a fair comparison can be made between the relative proportions of population and inhabited houses in different countries, or in different parts of the same country.

The English census enumerators were instructed to class as a "house" all the space comprised within the external and party walls of every separate building, and precisely the same method was adopted here. Apart from the very decided differences existing between the town architecture of the two countries—differences which tell unfavorably against the United States—it may fairly be concluded that whichever country has the smallest proportion of people in each dwelling has, so far, a sanitary and moral advantage over the other. In both countries the growth of wealth and intelligence has, at each succeeding census, found one of its most convincing proofs in the diminishing proportion of persons to houses. The English census of 1814 showed that there was an average of 5.45 persons to every dwelling in the country, while the census of 1871 shows that the proportion has in sixty years been reduced to 4.98 persons to each dwelling. In 1850 the census enumerators of the United States found a proportion of 5.94 free persons to each dwelling, while in 1870, despite the addition of the former slaves to the enumeration, there were but 5.47 persons to a dwelling.

The official digest from which we have quoted affords some instructive data for comparing the relative density of the population of London and that of New York. As has been frequently pointed out in these columns, the over-crowded condition of the dwellings on this island is without precedent in this or any other country. There are in New York 14.72 persons to each dwelling. The American cities which come nearest to this figure are the following: Fall River, Mass., 9.96; Cincinnati, Ohio, 8.81; Brooklyn, N. Y., 8.64; Lawrence, Mass., 8.40; Jersey City, N. J., 8.37; and Worcester, Mass., 8.35.

In the British metropolis there are 417,767 inhabited houses to a population of 3,254,260, being in the proportion of 7.79 persons to each dwelling. With an average density of population which is exceeded by nine large cities of this Union, London has no separate districts where the poor are huddled into so small a compass as they are in several of the wards of New York City. There are six wards in it in which there are upward of twenty persons to each dwelling.

THE WASH-HOUSE.

For the benefit of our friends building farm houses, in which comfort and convenience are desirable to the "help," as well as general cleanliness to the household, we give the following observations of the late Mr. Loudon, taken from his Encyclopædia of Architecture:

"The wash house should be well lighted; and therefore, when united with other offices, it should, if practicable, be made a corner building, and have windows on two sides. Instead of portable round tubs, which are the most convenient of all the forms that could be devised for washing by hand, oblong troughs, about three feet in length, eighteen inches wide at the top, one foot wide at bottom and eighteen inches deep, should be fixed round the two lighted sides of the room. Each trough should have a hole and stopper in the bottom, and close under

these holes should be a gutter, common to all the troughs, which may convey away the waste water to the manure tank. In one corner or side of the room the boiler should be placed, and over it a supply pipe from a cold-water cistern. Pipes may be conducted from both the cold-water cistern and the boiler, so as to deliver, on turning the faucets, cold or hot water, at pleasure, into each trough.

"The floor of every wash-house ought to be very carefully paved, with an inclination of an inch to a yard toward one corner, in which there ought to be a trap drain leading to the manure tank. This inclination, which will hardly be perceptible to the eye, or recognized in standing or walking, will yet be most useful, by directing all the water which must occasionally be spilt on the floor to the point where it will be carried off. Close under the ceiling there should be several openings communicating with the outside air, to carry off the steam, and in the bottom of the door there ought to be corresponding openings to admit fresh air. Both openings should have shutters sliding in horizontal grooves, with hooks in them, so as to admit of their being easily drawn back or pushed forward."

Pomological.

THE HUCKLEBERRY.

Our readers must remember how often in these columns huckleberry cultivation has been urged. We read with pleasure an essay upon this wholly neglected fruit, read before the New Jersey State Horticultural Society, by Mr. C. W. IDELL—extracts from which we give below regretting that our space prevents its entire publication:

While Horticulturists are busy propagating and introducing new varieties of fruits, I leave it to them to sound their praises, while I call your attention to one of our own natives that has been neglected, yet in quality is far superior to many species they have been enthusiastically extolled as being the perfection of rich and desirable culture. I have never known this fruit to be cultivated or the least attempt made to bring it under the bonds of civilization, although many writers have concluded it could be done. The fact is, God has distributed this little berry too freely over our State for us to appreciate its excellence and possibility of improvement.

Strawberries once grew wild only, but in such limited quantities that in order to supply the demand they had to be cultivated; the same with the blackberry: only a few years since a cultivated blackberry was unknown, all were found wild in the woods or fields, yet as the demand increased the supply decreased, and only through a course of experimental cultivation the Lawton, Wilson, Kittatinny and Dorchester were discovered, and sent forth to gratify the palates of all lovers of these fine varieties: but the huckleberry has been neglected to such an extent that it is known only by the botanical names of its genus and several species, and the rude, common names given by the inhabitants of the country in which it grows.

On looking into the history of the fruit, we find that it grows wild in many countries beside our own. It is found in the mountains of Scotland at an elevation of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea, and is a native of Northern Europe, but these are of kinds sparingly found in this country, if at all, none of our market species being known in Europe.

In this country they are widely diffused from Canada to the mountains of Georgia the common name among the country people, and in the market, is huckleberry; but some fastidious persons think this is vulgar, and a corruption of whortleberry, which they regard as the polite name—not being aware that this is itself a corruption of "Myrtleberry," the name by which the fruit was known in Europe in early times, so we have myrtleberry, whortleberry, hurtleberry and huckleberry, one being quite as correct as the other, but general usage has hit upon the most easily spoken—huckleberry. The Saxons call it the hurtberry, the Germans heicle, or heathberry.

The twigs and bark are astringent, and have been used for tanning. The bark is slightly stimulating. Spirits of a high intoxicating nature have been made from the fruit. A very pleasant drink can also be made from it; and I once gave some of the juice to a manufacturer of medicated wines, to test and compare with the blackberry, and he informed me "that he considered it far superior in its medicinal qualities." Leaving aside the general and specific peculiarities of this good and useful berry, I will confine this article to our own State in order to condense and make it more instructive and interesting.

The first to ripen are those borne by bushes about two feet high. These grow on the higher and dryer portions of the land, and some say that when the surface is rolling the fruit attains larger size. These are a small sweet blue berry, and are covered with a fine bloom, and being hard carry well.

The "swamps," so called from their growing in the swamp lands referred to, ripen next in order, and are the largest and richest of all varieties. Some of them grow as large as the common black-heart cherry, are sweet, and very juicy, and are also covered with a bloom equal to that which covers the Concord grape. They are very tender in their richness, which causes them to carry badly.

The next in order of ripening is the common variety, with which you are mostly acquainted; it is medium in size; color, light blue; sweet; without bloom, and is a good marketing berry.

Another variety is medium in size; very hard; black and glossy and is known by the name of "Cracker." It has a tart flavor, and full of seeds, which crack as you eat them, hence their name. They are not popular with the native consumers, but owing to their solidity they are sought for by the shippers of this fruit to send to distant cities, where they do not have the privilege of selecting other and better kinds.

A later variety is called the "Bill," or "Dangleberry; they are large; of a bright blue color, slightly acid, and quite juicy; they grow on long stems, hence their name "Dangle."

The peculiar feature of the fruit is, that when picked with the stems on, they keep dry; but when separated, the juice oozes from the berries, and in warm weather soon sours them.

The latest variety is called "Shiny Blacks," on account of their being so glossy. They are a trifle tart, but large and possess a good flavor, and last until the frost destroys them.

While I have called your attention to the leading varieties, and the names by which they are known, I believe that many others might be found by a close observer.

This fruit begins to ripen by the first of July, then a succession of ripenings take place the entire season until killed by the frost.

The first arrival of huckleberries in the New York market is eagerly sought for, and is frequently sold from $10 to $12 per bushel; but as the quantity increases the price gradually declines until it reaches $4 per bushel, when large quantities are received and sold at this price, and were it not for the interference of other fruits, I question if the price would fall below that figure; but a large crop of peaches seriously interferes with them, as well as all other kinds of fruit.

Permit me to call your attention to other items of interest connected with the gathering and shipping of this fruit before it enters the market for consumption. As the fruit grows wild, all are free to go when and where they choose to gather it: consequently thousands of persons, mostly women and children, find it a source of much pecuniary benefit.

Mr. David Rogers, of Cedar Creek, Ocean county, New Jersey, a veteran carter, to whom I am indebted for much valuable information, informs me that he knew of a family of seven persons, mostly children, who made $25.00 per day for two weeks in succession by picking berries, and quite a number of girls to make $5.00 per day; and it is a very common occurrence for a mother with her family of from five to six children, to gather from three to five bushels per day. Of course, the receipt of each was in proportion to their market value, yet in the early part of the season they frequently sold their berries at from $5.00 to $6.00 per bushel. Now, what these persons did, others could do also; and it shows conclusively, that a large amount of money is yearly earned by these people by picking this fruit.

In an interesting letter from Mr. Rogers, he says:—"If you wish to see a happy set of laborers, take a ride with a carter through his district when he goes to gather berries, and see the group of smiling, happy faces, that crowd around the wagon to exchange their berries for the money, for you must understand this point—they don't trust. True, they look happy, and are, but many of them dress in unique if not beautiful style, but their dress is adapted to their work, and when you see these young women with torn dresses, or perhaps with a pair of pants on, made of strong drilling, you would not realize that they were the same beautiful girls that you saw on Sunday at church, dressed in the richest of silks, as closely pinned back as any Broadway belle; yet they are the same, and they are the women whose price is above rubies, many of whom now adorn the homes of men of wealth and refinement."

As the fruit is scattered over such a large surface of country, the mode of gathering and marketing it is peculiar. It is done by a class of persons called "Carters." Previous to the ripening of the fruit, these men provide themselves with a number of boxes, which contain either eight or sixteen quarts each. The sixteen-quart boxes are made without lids, but have a narrow strip across the top, in order to prevent one from dropping into the others and damaging the fruit; at the same time it answers as a handle to the box. The eight-quart boxes are generally packed in skeleton cases, with lids, each case containing either four or six boxes. When the fruit is sold these boxes are returned to the shipper, to be refilled.

In the beginning of this shipping business they made use of any ordinary box containing from 16 quarts to one and a half bushels, and occasionally three bushels would be sent in one package; but this system necessitated the measuring of the fruit, which in time created dissatisfaction among the shippers, owing to the shrinkage in the measure reported as sold, from the quantity sent; gradually the present system was introduced, and the two kinds of boxes are now used by all the large shippers in the State.

These carters select a portion of the "Pines," which they call the route and meet the pickers at a named point and at stated hours, and buy their fruit. The plan is adopted for the convenience of both parties, and it saves time and fatigue to each; yet these pickers are not so isolated that they cannot or do not learn the price paid by other carters.

When the carter has gone his round and gathered his load of fruit, he proceeds with it to the nearest depot, and ships it to market, where it is generally sold by the box, not measured, as that would injure it.

Persons accustomed to go into the woods and pick these berries for home consumption, cannot bear to eat them after they reach the cities, on account of their being "mussed." I know no more appropriate word for the condition they are in, for they are not mashed. I do not wonder at them; but when we consider the jolting and handlings they receive, you will not be surprised. Let me, at the close of this article, call your attention to these changes, not merely out of curiosity, but to show you why fruit should be handled more carefully by transportation companies than it is. First, the pickers place them in their baskets; then they are measured, turned out in the boxes of the purchasers, then carted around over roots and stumps, until all are loaded, then to the depot, where they are placed in the cars, then on the boat, then on the dock, then on the carts, taken to the store, where they are again placed on the wagons, to be carted over the stones of the city. These are the least of the handlings they receive, for in many instances they are re-shipped to other cities, to undergo another series of changes of like character.

In conclusion, permit me to say to you, gentlemen, fruit growers of New Jersey, that I think it will add largely to your credit, and to the honor of the State, to take a greater interest in this fruit, which adds so largely to the wealth of the sections in which it grows; and if this paper will be the means of calling your attention to it, I shall feel myself amply repaid for my efforts in their behalf.

AN EARLY PEACH.—From a tree on our grounds we picked a ripe peach of the Beatrice variety on the 12th of July. Can any one beat this for earliness? The peach is very showy and delicious.—F. K. PHŒNIX, *Bloomington, Ill.*

Around the Republic.

IN OLD CONNECTICUT.

DEAR RURAL: If you will look on a map of Connecticut you will see, midway of the State, longitudinally, and but a little below its northern limit, a township, denominated "Bloomfield," but why thus named, it passeth the knowledge of man to tell.

When your correspondent was yet a lad—endeavoring, in the schoolhouse on the hill, by the aid of masters and mistresses, variously as the seasons changed, to fathom the mysteries of Webster's Elementary Spelling-Book—that territory had not attained the dignity of a town, but was divided between and formed portions of the towns of Windsor, Farmington and Simsbury. Separated from each and all of them by high hills or sandy plains, the inhabitants were permitted, for church government, schools, etc., to act by and for themselves, and were constituted a parish, to give name to which, each of the towns aforesaid contributed a syllable, which in the aggregate made Win-ton-bury, a name with a reason for it, which there is not for the present one, nor for those of half of the places in the State for that matter.

There are a few exceptions near at hand, as Tariffville, a manufacturing village, established when a protective tariff aided American industry in that line. Rainbow—from a curve in a river. Spoonville—where spoons were made, and a few others. But here, as elsewhere, names, copied from other places without a show of reason, or given in hopes of perpetuating the name of some man, predominate. They may be more euphonious and high sounding, but a name with a reason is far preferable, though it be as outlandish as Burnt Corn, Bad Ox, Sorrel Horse, or Shoe Heel, all of which designate post-offices in the United States.

Perhaps I say too much about the name; but I was born in Wintonbury, and in Wintonbury got my start toward manhood, and now, when I come back to the old homestead, after many years, it seems as if it would be better if I came to Wintonbury instead of Bloomfield.

But the people have changed as well as the name, and now I find, within a radius of half a mile, in a population of nearly two hundred, but two who lived here forty years ago. Many have died; many have gone away. Girls have followed the fortunes of husbands not to the manor born; and boys have sought fame and fortune in other lands. Their native soil offers little inducement for them to remain; but the business circles of our large cities and the rich farming countries of the West show that industry and enterprise were not wanting, and that larger fields gave opportunities not to be found at home which were not neglected.

Than the Connecticut River Valley, of which Bloomfield forms a part, none lovlier can be found. And than this no better specimen of a quiet inland farming town need be looked for. A few houses, amid which are churches, stores, shops and the Rail Road Station, constitute the village, which occupies nearly the geographical center of the township. The remainder of its population, numbering about fifteen hundred, are scattered over its whole extent. As a rule, all are farmers, and each owns and cultivates his own farm, which is usually comparatively small, and the township is so completely interlaced with roads as to suggest to a stranger that every man has his own private drive-way to meeting.

I propose to ruralize here a few weeks, and in leisure moments to indite epistles, which shall speak of men and things as I find them in this, to me, most beautiful section of beautiful New England.

L. A. R.

Bloomfield, Conn.

MORE PRAISE OF KANSAS.

UNDER this heading are some very pertinent facts following Mr. B. M. HOUSE's remarks.

In addition to their and your exposure of the toilers who "sit in the shade," etc., allow me to suggest that "the broad acres spread out for man's benefit, running to waste," had far better remain in their untilled condition, at least three-fourths or more ought to be held sacred from the plow, and, instead of being ruthlessly despoiled by men who run over all the best land, cropping year after year and giving no return, it should be in the possession of men of capital, who would keep all the fine grazing portions for raising and fattening mutton and beef, for growing wool and making butter, too, if it was found the prices paid equally well with production of meat, and horses could likewise be a proportion of the live stock raised.

Here, in the East, the former virgin soil of al the most fertile valleys and best uplands have been "subsoiled," and so ignorant are some land owners of the necessity of having soil full of plant food and rich and strong, that in advertising their farms they say, as a recommendation, the new land has been subdued, and then in an other part of the paper, where the weakened soil has been lauded, there will be some farmers bewailing the unsuitability of the country for permanent grass, and others complaining that some rough hillside pasture is good for little.

Common sense, if brought to bear on the subject, will explain the matter thoroughly, as any one can know, by inquiry, that all the fine meadows and rich pastures in England are in the best districts, where, under no circumstances, no excuses or misrepresentations, can the plow be brought into use for turning the sward (sod) under—the farms are most valuable which have the greatest proportion of old grass land on them. The arable fields on a large farm, where there is much more permanent grass in comparison, are always in a fertile state, as they are helped by receiving more manure than is their due, whereas, to hear what Americans say and see what they write, one would suppose grass land, perpetually kept in pasture or for mowing, was kept up at the expense of the plowed portion of the farm.

If Kansas land, which Mr. B. M. HOUSE describes as running to waste, was held by men of means, who would raise meat, wool, etc., on the natural grasses which fatten the buffalo and the deer, and the "hardy yeomanry," debarred from tilling what is already like the blue grass regions of Kentucky in condition to make meat, etc., without costly cultivation, it would be much better for the future of this run-down and impoverished country.

Here, in Kansas, are millions o acres where the grass is wasted for want of stock to eat it, while in Eastern States, are farmers who won't believe there is any permanent grass in the States or on the continent, and who represent that the grass lands of England are kept up and supported by the plowed portion when it is notorious that the contrary is the case, and I here distinctly deny that pastures are usually or generally manured, or that plowed land is robbed for them.

W. F.

Dairy Husbandry.

CHEDDAR CHEESE-MAKING AT FACTORIES—THE ENGLISH METHOD.

Those who have kept the run of our English market reports will have observed that English cheddar cheese is quoted regularly from 20 to 30 shillings sterling per hundred weight more than the best American factory. This is a wide difference, amounting to from 8 to 9 cents currency more per pound for English cheddar than for extra fine American.

The history of manufacturing our factory cheese will show that step by step as we have adopted particular features of the cheddar system our cheese has been improved in texture and flavor and is more suited to the English markets.

England doubtless has some advantage over us in climate and the better condition generally of milk for manufacture, but as our knowledge of requisites in cheese making is increased, these should teach us how to overcome the disadvantages named.

Mr. John Oliver of Derbyshire, England, who has been visiting us, says he thinks as good cheddar cheese can be made in this country as in England. He managed a factory in Derbyshire, England, last year, making his cheese on the cheddar plan and selling it at a greatly advanced price over that made on the American plan, and he has proposed to test his views by making a few cheddar cheese at our factories in Herkimer County, and thus by forwarding the goods to England in connection with the best cheese made on the American plan, at the same factory, allow the difference, if any, to be determined in the English markets. In our interview with Mr. O., he kindly furnished us with notes upon cheddar cheese making at factories, from which we make up the following points:

THE NIGHT'S MILK

is delivered and put in vats—about half the quantity in each that will be required for it when set for coagulation. Then set the agitator at work and turn on cold water around the milk, cooling it down during the night to between 60 and 70° Fahrenheit, according to the state of the atmosphere. The aim of the maker should be to regulate the cooling by the indications of the thermometer used for giving the heat of the air in the manufacturing room. If the latter shows a high temperature, cool the milk to a lower temperature; if low, cool the milk less, using less water, or using it a shorter time.

IN THE MORNING DELIVERY

the rakes (agitator) should not be removed from any vat until the whole quantity of milk for that vat is in it. The mixture of morning's and night's milk may be left—if time is not a matter of consequence—for a longer stirring with the agitator, exposing it to the air. It is clear that to rob the milk of animal heat and odor by exposure to the air is necessary or accessory to the production of a fine flavor in cheese. If it be practicable, let the milk both of morning and evening be carried from a weighing-can on an elevation of 8 to 10 feet and allowed to fall a distance of 4 or 5 feet into the vat through a strainer. If this latter be done, the former suggestion need not be carried out. Now remove the agitator and heat the whole mass to from 78 to 82° F.—this also being regulated by temperature of manufacturing room, stirring the milk all the time with a breaker, not violently, but sufficiently to expose it to air and prevent cream rising.

RENNET

is now added, and in the use of rennet the golden mean should be obtained—neither too much heat and not enough rennet, nor too much rennet and not sufficient heat, the action of each being totally different in character.

SOUR WHEY

is also added—this depending upon the state of the atmosphere and season of the year, less being used in summer than in spring and autumn, as acidity originated by using sour whey is developed more rapidly by heat than in cold weather, though more applied heat will not produce in the milk the same change as sour whey. The amount used ranges from one quart to two or three gallons for every five hundred gallons of milk under different circumstances. No general rule can be given.

IN COLD WEATHER

it is well to cover the vats at this point with cloths, to assist the coagulation, though the cloths should not be thick or very close in texture, in order that the air may have fair access to the milk, the cloth acting like a respirator.

THE WINDOWS

should be closed if near the milk and no heavy draft of air be admitted at this stage, nor, unless in summer, should they be opened again until the commencement of the cooling process. The room should be ventilated by small louvres near the ceiling and as far removed from the milk as possible, the aim being to preserve the air fresh and cool without permitting it to influence by retarding the developing process in the manufacture. At the expiration of from 45 to 60 minutes the curd should be formed and fit to operate upon.

THE CHEDDAR KNIFE

is now used. It differs from the American knife, there being but two blades set six inches apart. The curd is cut across in square checks of 6 inches each way, and no horizontal knife used.

THE SKIMMING DISH,

which resembles somewhat a common skimmer, now comes into use. With it the blocks of curd are turned over very slowly, causing them to split into small pieces and cutting as little as possible. The use of this instrument and the breaker must be learned by practice and oral instruction. After going over the whole vat two or three times, gradually increasing in speed, the skimming dish is laid aside and

THE CHEDDAR BREAKER

is brought into use. This is a shovel-shaped implement, with a long handle, the part corresponding with the blade of the shovel being of wire, passing through a light frame of steel with sharp edges. The breaker is held at first in a slanting position and worked slowly about, being careful to keep it under the surface for some time after starting and gradually increasing the speed according to the state of the curd. If the curd is getting too hard, the motion of the breaker should be quicker, but if there should appear a danger of white whey, its action should be slower.

The old rule—a reliable one for the prevention of white whey—is that the cheese maker should be able to see the reflection of his figure in the whey;—as long as such is the case there need be no fear of a white whey. After breaking the curd down to the size of large peas, the steam is applied and

SCALDING

commences, the breaker now being turned over to scour the bottom of the vat and prevent the curd from sinking. The heat should be gradually applied and at the close of the process be of from 95 to 100° F., this being regulated by the state of the curd and atmosphere in summer. The scalding need not be so high as in the colder season, as the after stirring, being prolonged, completely separates the whey, and if a greater heat was given to the mass, the acidity would develop too rapidly when the curd is piled.

THE AFTER STIRRING

is for the complete separation of the whey, and is continued until the curd feels "shotty" or powdery, and when rubbed between the fingers does not adhere, but rubs apart in small particles and feels dry. It must also have no free cream. If there is any, under ordinary circumstances it will come out on rubbing or squeezing it, and a little more stirring must be given. When stirred sufficiently, it then is allowed to sink to the bottom of the vat under the whey and acidify for half an hour. Then the whey is drawn by a siphon and the curd piled in a mass at the top, or upper end of the vat. On cold days it must be covered, to assist in keeping in the heat and aid in developing the acidity, but if fairly warm, it is much better without. After lying for about a quarter of an hour the mass is cut into two or three large blocks and turned over, in order that it may drain further and allow the upper and more exposed portions to acidify also. When the acidity is sufficiently developed, which is entirely a matter of judgment and experience, cooling begins.

COOLING.

The curds are now torn or cut in large lumps and laid on the bottom of the vat to drain. After a short time, when the outside of the curds is getting dry, they are torn in halves and spread again. Soon after they are put on the drying boards, which are arranged on the tops of the vats, and torn in smaller pieces at short intervals until the sheets of curd are about 6 or 7 inches square over the surface and an inch or so thick. When a fine, brown tinge comes on the curd and it is dry enough, it must be ground in a mill and salted at the rate of one pound of salt to fifty-six gallons of milk or pounds of curd and put to press.

PRESSING.

Here it remains until the following morning, when it is bandaged and returned to press and remains under pressure until the second morning, when it is taken out, ironed over the surface with a hot iron and sent to the curing room to cure. It will take about six weeks with a fair temperature (70° F.) to cure. Ironing cheese has its own peculiar virtues;—it makes it "fly-proof," hardens the rind slightly, and yet leaves the rind free to perspire, which is an important requisite in the curing process.

Since writing the above we have had another interview with Mr. Oliver, who has been testing the cheddar process as above described at some of our Herkimer County factories. He says the milk of Herkimer contains more solid elements than that of Derbyshire, and that he is enabled to make a larger proportion of curd from a given number of gallons than he can from English milk. He reports that he is able to work the cheddar system here to his satisfaction, and he believes the cheese made on this system will command a much larger price in England than that made after the usual American plan.

The subject discussed will be of interest to dairymen, and we ask from them a careful reading of what we have written.

MILCH COWS IMPOVERISHING PASTURES.

There must be a deal of ignorance, misapprehension and misrepresentation on this subject, for I am well acquainted with thousands of acres of grass land which have been grazed by cows, from whose milk butter has been made, without having experienced the slightest deterioration—in fact it has improved in many respects, and has never been manured or dressed by any fertilizer, but on the contrary has largely contributed in helping to fertilize the arable parts of the farms in more ways than one. For instance, every autumn, or during the open winter season, the bunches of coarse grass, the ant hills and every tuft of herbage not looking as it should do are cut out of the sward, and carts come round and take all this matter to make bottoms for dunghills on the plowed land, to be afterward mixed up when the heaps are turned over, as all manure is in England before being applied; also, where the dairy fields have been brought to a fine, even face and the surfaces require no clearing in the way stated, carts will go around and take away the droppings, which are picked up with a fork and thrown into the carts. In my time, I am ashamed to say, I have seen these cakes of dung hauled to the homestead and used as fuel in the back kitchen of the farm house.

The land I am alluding to lies from Banbury, Oxfordshire, to Daventry, Northamptonshire, and from the latter place on to Newport-Pagnel, Buckinghamshire, and the burning of the cow dung I witnessed between Aylesbury and Bicester. None of this land has been plowed for more than a hundred years, and some of it for a much longer time, though a good deal of it has been plowed some time, as is evidenced by the ridges of the lands, which vary in different localities from 11 to 15 yards in width, and are 3 or 4 feet higher at the ridges than at the furrows, in consequence of the old practice to plow one way.

I have farmed grass lands, etc., in the cheese-making districts of England, also, and have dairied for fourteen successive years on a fine estate, where the finest of double Gloucester cheese was manufactured, and I sold the cheese, six tons at a time, in market at Stow-on-the-Wold. The pasture on which I made this cheese had been in grass, without any plowing, since 1632—two hundred years, and perhaps longer—and that had not run down, but was so rich that the grass grew very heavy. Many nettles also grow among the grass, and to cause their destruction I mowed and made hay in alternate years, cutting three tons of hay per acre and mowing the first week in June; and this alternate mowing and grazing did not injure the set of grass, but improved it, although no returns were made in measure, excepting by wintering part of our flock of breeding ewes upon it, for it is customary to clear up all the grass left by the cows when they are put in the straw yards or placed in the cow stables for the winter. Some sheep racks are moved about the dairy fields and a little hay given early in the morning.

As some Englishmen are scattered here and there over the United States, and a few have been in the agricultural districts and witnessed the dairying there, it would be easy for any one to satisfy himself by inquiry about the permanency of the dairy fields, which are all old, long-ago-established grass. But it is not general to mow a dairy field, and is seldom done, as mowing will reduce the fertility, and very much so, if the grass gets old before it is cut. In the case mentioned by me, the grass was mowed so very young that it had not fed much on the soil, gaining its chief support from the atmosphere, and then the ewes which lay on the grass in autumn and winter, eating hay at daybreak, returned more in their droppings than they took from the land in grass.

In questions of this kind argument should be cool and with a view to get at the truth, not to support one set of men's ideas nor another's theory; and here I would call on every fair, honest mind to think whether it is not generally admitted and if he does not himself believe that herbage, up to the time it commences to form seed, takes very little from the soil; therefore, in grazing, if it can be cropped off without ripening stems or seed, the fertility is not decreased, and all the manure voided by the animals adds to the plant food, so that instead of the land being impoverished it annually becomes richer. But look at the case if the grazing is done in the accepted American way, where half the grass is left to ripen and thus suck the fertility out of the ground, and the dung and urine which the cattle would drop on the land while eating this moiety of the herbage is lost, thus robbing the soil, and the dead-ripe old thatch makes the pastures look very bad, besides which the cattle do not leave it regularly, and the thick mass in places, instead of benefiting the set of grass by shade, completely kills all the fine, shorter grasses, just as heavy crops of sown herbage are known to smother and totally destroy weeds. Thus all the sweet dwarf grasses which make a network of thick-set bottom grass, and which, though not two inches high, shade the ground ten times more effectually than the tall grass, is destroyed and the bare ground exposed between the thinner set roots of the timothy.

A pasture grazed according to the practice in the United States and one according to the prevailing custom in England puts the contrast as strong as that between two pieces of wood land—one from the tall trees has nothing under, and from tree to tree all is bare and harsh, no dews, no damps. On another piece of wood land indiscriminately cut off and kept down there is such a thick-set brush that it is one mass of living, green, tender twigs, etc., through which the rays of the sun cannot penetrate nor the air circulate fast enough to dry the soil. Thus under this thick dwarf herbage there is genuine shade, and the bluish-green leaves, twigs and stems, full of sap, are in striking contrast to the bare, withered-looking surface under the tall trees.

The ridiculous custom of yarding cows at night is a great injury to a pasture, because of the loss to the land in the manure thus taken away, and then in this country sheep are put on the pastures and fetched up at night, and often driven home out of the rain, so that pastures are robbed enough, without reckoning the butter and cheese as coming from them.

The fact is, there is no genuine, old, natural pastures in the Eastern States on land suitable for rich grass; and in the West, directly the timber is all cleared off and the blue grass, with other natural varieties, begins to flourish and gives evidence that it would make a permanent green sward that would not run out, the owners plow it up and crop the land with corn and wheat, till the soil is unfit for making the kind of pastures which will bear breeding and grazing at any season and will not run out under the roughest usage.

A Working Farmer.

THE CITY MILK TRADE.

On the authority of the New York Herald, the milk dealers of New York have entered into a combination to advance the price of milk and are charging twelve cents a quart for it to consumers, while the producers or farmers who furnish the milk to the dealers get only four cents a quart. This is an abuse which ought in some way to be remedied. We presume that no one will object to the dealers making a fair profit in their business, but a difference of eight cents per quart between the purchase and sale of the article is evidently a monstrous abuse upon a large number of persons in New York who cannot well do without milk and who find it difficult to provide the necessaries of life from day to day. We shall not argue in this connection that a considerable portion of this difference between the purchase and sale of milk should go to the milk producer. The farmer does and will complain that four cents per quart is small pay for producing milk, and it must be confessed the profit is by no means large. Still, when the low price of dairy products is considered, where the cheese dairyman realizes only about two cents per quart for his milk, the four cents obtained by the milk farmer would seem comparatively large, and from which a fair margin could be saved above expenses.

The city milk trade, as now managed, is not to the advantage of either farmers or consumers. Both parties are made to suffer, and the only relief to be hoped for is in an organization among farmers whereby the business of selling directly to the consumer may be inaugurated and controlled by the farmers themselves.

We hope, therefore, that the proposition by the milk producers of Orange County to combine and purchase wagons and sell milk in opposition to the present dealers in New York will prevail. Even if the farmers obtain no more for their milk than the present price, such an organization and movement on their part would be to their advantage, because in the present state of affairs they are under the complete domination of the city milk dealers, who dictate prices, make deductions for milk spoiling on their hands, and practice other impositions from which there is no escape single-handed. Let consumers be charged fair prices, but extortionary rates should be resisted and put down in the way proposed.

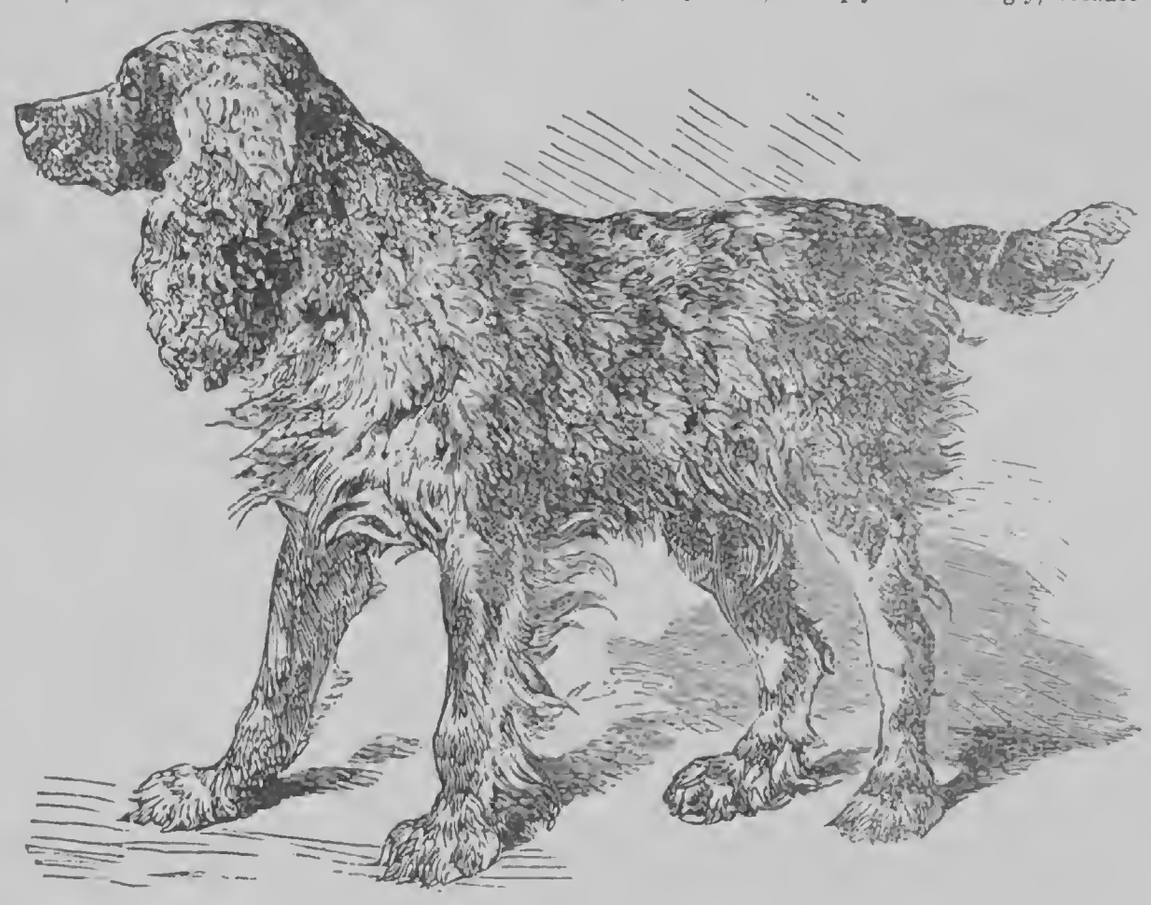
Milk in August.—Pastures are usually short during the month of August, and if cows are not fed extra the flow of milk will be correspondingly lessened. It is much easier to keep it up by feeding than to restore it after it has decreased to any considerable extent.

The Naturalist.

HYDROPHOBIA—THE SPANIEL.

It will scarcely be denied that the dog is one of the most, if not the most, affectionate of the lower animals. He loves his master. There is no other animal half so affectionate—half so kind to children—half so companionable to man. Were it not for the bane of hydrophobia, dogs would be generally welcomed in this their legitimate place. That dogs are liable to hydrophobia, we have no wish to dispute; but that the disease exists to the extent that many suppose who, disliking dogs—indeed all animals in the shape of pet companions—have no interest or desire to believe otherwise, we greatly doubt. One of the meager but sensible conclusions of the excited, desultory and hasty investigations made several years ago when, it will be remembered, hydrophobia, its cause, cure etc. created the liveliest speculations, seems to have been that only dogs left to take care of themselves—only dogs wholly neglected; alive with vermin, half of the time without food or drink, were ever attacked with this terrible disease. We need not discuss this. Certain it is that the whole race of dogs, however useful they might be made to man—however faithful and intelligent as companions, are held in light esteem because of the exceeding dread which the very name of hydrophobia engenders.

Among those dogs that are the least liable to rabies, the correct name for this malady,—among those strongest in their affections and fidelity to child and man; among those the most courageous and serviceable as watchers as well as the most tractable and docile is the Spaniel—a life cut of which we give herewith.



THE SPANIEL.

There are worthless dogs—aye, worse than worthless, and among them we class the sickly, yelping, lawless, untidy poodle that how high soever the periodical fever against dogs in general may rage, is ever as safe as "a bug in a rug" under the affectionate wings of his adoring mistress. We wish, too, that every savage, untrained dog that runs about the farmers' grounds to bark at one, to snarl at or bite another, might be shot, hung or drowned. But, good reader, while the poodle and snarling cur are tolerated, we presume to speak a good word for the spaniel—for the setter and pointer—for the Newfoundland—for *any* dog that is capable of being taught sufficiently to reveal noble instincts and qualities and to prevent him from resembling too closely the poodle on the one hand and the untutored, ferocious farmers' cur on the other.

We need not beg the farmer to change this; to procure spaniels or other intelligent dogs and to train them so that they may become, as it were, guardians and companions of the family and *not* the pests of the neighborhood. The farmer in some things is very set. But we will say to the ladies that there is no living animal that is demoralized hopelessly by their caresses except the poodle and that they, therefore, put to a bad use that which is conducive to unqualified and unlimited good when lavished upon more appreciative objects!

TAMING THE HUMMING BIRD.

Humming Birds are usually exceedingly delicate therefore quickly killed if handled at all roughly. But while few will succeed in trying to tame them we are pleased to know that it has been done—at least so says the Popular Science Monthly.

The ruby-throat has sometimes been tamed. Mr. Webber, in his "Wild Scenes and Song Birds," says, after several unsuccessful attempts, at last "I succeeded in securing an uninjured captive, which, to my inexpressible delight, proved to be one of the ruby-throated species, the most splendid and diminutive that comes north of Florida. It immediately suggested itself to me that a mixture of two parts of loaf-sugar, with one of fine honey, in ten of water, would make about the nearest approach to the nectar of flowers. While my sister ran to prepare it I gradually opened my hand to look at my prisoner, and saw to my no little amusement as well as suspicion that it was actually 'playing possum'—feigning to be dead, most skillfully. It lay on my open palm motionless for some minutes, during which I watched it in breathless curiosity. I saw it gradually open its bright little eyes to peep whether the way was clear, and then close them slowly as it caught my eye upon it. But when the manufactured nectar came, and a drop was touched upon the point of its bill, it came to life very suddenly, and in a moment was on its legs, drinking with eager gusto of the refreshing draught from a silver teaspoon. When sated it refused to take any more, and sat perched with the coolest self-composure on my finger, and plumed itself quite as artistically as if on its favorite spray. I was enchanted with the bold, innocent confidence with which it turned up its keen black eyes to survey us, as much as to say: 'Well, good folks! who are you?' By the next day it would come from any part of either room, alight upon the side of a white China cup containing the mixture, and drink eagerly, with its long bill thrust into the very base. It would alight on my fingers, and seem to talk with us endearingly in its soft chirps." Mr. Webber afterward succeeded in taming several of the same species. He gave them liberty occasionally, and they returned regularly. At the time for migration they left for the winter; but the next spring they sought their old quarters, and accepted the delicious nectar kindly provided for them, and by degrees brought their mates.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF THE REINDEER.

Mr. Lamont, an English sportsman and member of Parliament, who has made many summer yacht voyages to the arctic seas, says that the reindeer in Nova Zembla is much larger and wilder than in Spitzbergen, and he is disposed to believe that the smaller and tamer variety found in the latter island is allied to the reindeer of Norway and Lapland. As these animals are noted for their wandering habits, Mr. Lamont conjectures that they may have made their way originally into both islands from the continent, over seas not usually frozen, but which then happened to be so. It is a curious fact, however, that although Nova Zembla is much nearer the continent of Europe than Spitzbergen is, the reindeer there are of the wild and large American type, while those of Spitzbergen more nearly correspond to the European variety.

INTELLIGENCE OF ANIMALS.

The exaggeration of the alleged intelligence of animals has called forth some severe criticisms from Mr. St. George Mivart, F. R. S., an able writer on evolution and kindred topics. Although an advocate of the evolution hypothesis, he refuses to regard the higher nature of man as having been developed from the mind of brutes. An examination of Mr. Darwin's cases, showing to the satisfaction of that eminent naturalist that brutes possess reason, fails to convince Mr. Mivart. On the contrary, he thinks them wholly without it; and a strong argument is drawn from the fact that those animals which most resemble man physically, are by no means mentally most like him. Thus, dogs, horses and elephants are quite as intelligent as the gorilla. Attention is also called to the fact that greatly as dogs enjoy the heat of a fire in cold weather, and frequently as they see wood put on to maintain it, they never put any on the fire themselves, though usually quite able to do so.

SALT IN SEA WATER.

Prof. Chapman of University College, Toronto, has published an interesting paper on the "purpose" of the saltness of sea water. After giving reasons why he does not accept the usually received opinions, he urges the theory that the object is to regulate evaporation. If any temporary cause renders the amount of saline matter in the sea above its normal value, evaporation goes on more and more slowly. If the value be depreciated by the addition of fresh water in undue excess, the evaporating power is the more and more increased. He gives the results of various experiments in reference to evaporation on weighed quantities of ordinary rain water, and water holding in solution 2.6 per cent. of salt.

Industrial Topics.

THE POLITICS OF AGRICULTURE.

BY F. G. SKINNER,
Field Editor of the Turf, Field and Farm.

Ed. of Rural New-Yorker:—Having honored me with a request to write for your excellent journal, I comply most willingly, because I have always held the Rural New-Yorker to be among the very ablest papers in its special field, but I find a difficulty in the way. Though I have been more or less intimately connected with the agricultural press ever since my father, the late John S. Skinner, founded the American Farmer, just fifty-six years ago, I am somewhat at a loss for a subject, unless I venture to run against and perhaps wound what seems to me the deep-rooted prejudices of almost every journal in the country devoted to rural pursuits. It does appear to me that in their anxiety to secure patronage, most of these journals have renounced their independence to become a species of political hermaphrodites, for while they pile up precept upon precept on the best modes of fattening bullocks and hogs and the cultivation of field crops, they avoid, as they would the pest or the murrain, any allusion to what we will call the politics of agriculture, for fear of losing the support of the political partizans on one side or the other. A majority of our farmers will leave their plows to rust in the furrow and neglect their own affairs, and work with a zeal, which, properly directed, would insure their fortunes, to secure the election of some political partizan demagogue who has no interest in common with theirs, and who thenceforth becomes their master, and yet it is as evident as the noonday sun, that the legislation of the country, both State and Federal, is controlled in the interests of all great industries, except in those of that, greatest of them all, the agricultural industry.

It cannot be denied that the law-givers of the country are the creatures of the great railway and other corporations, the iron masters and the mill owners, and that to these, mere vermin upon the lion's mane of agriculture, the ignorant or careless farmers are mere hewers of wood and drawers of water.

The American journals devoted to rural economy are exceedingly numerous, and many of them are conducted with marked ability. Nothing of value to the cause they represent, either abroad or at home, escapes their vigilance. Through their advocacy the powers of steam have been made tributary to agriculture. The reaper and the mower, and the tedder and the horse rake, and many other toil-saving implements have come into general use, and our advance in all the processes of cultivating the earth has been prodigious; but has the average production per acre advanced in the same ratio? We are compelled to confess it has not. So far from it, we are obliged to acknowledge, that the wheat crop has declined, within fifty years, from an average of twenty bushels to the acre to ten, while in England it has increased in the same ratio. Nor have we anything to boast of in improved crops of the national grain—Indian corn. In despite of the senseless prizes annually offered by our agricultural societies for the last fifty years for the greatest number of bushels of maize produced to the acre, *without reference to cost*, we doubt whether any prize crop of recent times has excelled that 354 bushels and 69 quarts on three acres—or 118 *bushels and 2 quarts to the acre*, made by Mr. John Stevens at Hoboken, sixty-nine years ago.

To what are we to attribute these unsatisfactory results in the average yield of our fields, notwithstanding the wonderful improvements in our machinery and implements? Several reasons may be assigned for it, among them ignorance of agronomic science, and more particularly of chemistry as applied to agriculture. Next, I should fancy, is too great a tendency to adopt English methods, which are unsuited to our climate. How many homilies have been preached upon the importance of root culture, and more particularly turnips, and how much toil and money have been wasted upon root culture, which, while it constitutes the very basis of successful culture in the moist and temperate air of the British Islands, is the most precarious of crops in our sun-burned arid climate, unless we can have recourse to irrigation, that, with us, the most neglected though the most fruitful of all the agronomic arts; and, finally, the fatal ambition of a vast majority of our people to cultivate great breadths of land without adequate capital.

But let us suppose my assumptions to be all wrong and that our farmers do get from the soil its fullest returns, of what avail would this be if they neglect the politics of agriculture and resign the legislative power into the hands of rival if not hostile industries?

Possibly the instituting of the Granges may be a step in the right direction—a step towards that self-assertion and co-operation, without which fat bullocks and hogs, heavy fleeces and crops, are of but secondary importance, and without which the agricultural must ever remain tributary to all other industries.

There are two other topics which, if I could spare the time from my own paper, I should like to write upon, and which have not received from the agricultural press the consideration which their vast importance deserves—I mean the fence laws and irrigation, the one inflicting upon the agricultural interest a burthen of almost inconceivable magnitude, and the other offering to it a source of fertility and wealth beyond the dreams of avarice.

Field Crops.

CURING ALFALFA HAY.

Alfalfa which is better known in the Eastern States as Lucerne, has since the settlement of California attracted more attention than ever before, although one of the oldest forage plants know in the history of agriculture. Its popularity on the Pacific coast has prompted some of our farmers on the Atlantic slope to experiment with this plant, and the following from the Sacramento (Cal.) Union in regard to the cutting and curing of alfalfa hay may interest them:

There has been, and is yet to some extent, a prejudice against alfalfa hay as a winter feed for stock, especially horses. The principal cause that gave rise to and kept up this prejudice is to be found in the fact that the farmers did not understand when to cut it, or how to cure it, or perhaps, antecedent to either of these causes, we might mention another:—that they did not know how to sow the seed. The seed was sown too thinly on the ground and the plants grew large and coarse and woody. Then this coarse growth was allowed to stand before cutting, till the plants had blossomed, and sometimes till the seeds had formed. In this condition the stems had become more like wood than clover hay, and the leaves had fallen off, leaving what was then called alfalfa hay more like a bundle of sticks than hay.

Then again, it was formerly the custom of farmers to allow this over-ripe grass to lie in the sun and dry till it had neither color nor nutriment in it, and till even the seed that had formed on it had shelled out. Experience with this hay has taught farmers many valuable lessons as to its management. First they have learned that the seed needs to be sown very thickly on the ground, so that stems of the grass will grow small and slender. Secondly, they have learned that the grass, to make good hay should be cut just as it is coming into blossom, before, in fact, it changes its color from green to blue. Thirdly, they have learned that as soon as the grass is well wilted in the sun it should be raked up into winrows and then put into ricks and allowed to complete the curing in this condition.

By cutting the clover while thus green and treating it as thus indicated the fresh, green color is preserved, the hay is kept in a soft and pliable condition, and all the nutriment is preserved, and the hay is relished and eaten by stock of all kinds with the same zest that they eat the fresh growing clover. The hay while in the rick, if put as suggested, goes through a sweating process that changes the juices to starch and sugar, and that fastens all the leaves to the stem, so that in future handling none is lost. Alfalfa hay cut and cured in this way is actually more valuable for cows, horses or sheep than the best wild oat, or wheat or barley hay that can be raised, and is a good feed to winter hogs on. If cut when too ripe, and cured in the sun, alfalfa hay is not worth as much as poor wheat or barley straw; in fact it is hardly worth anything.

Floricultural.

CONFUSION OF BOTANICAL TERMS.

Our remarks as to the improbability of hybrids ever having again been crossed or hybridized, and the impropriety of using the terms "hybrid" and "cross" synonymously, as well as respecting the unnecessary and senseless increase of botanical terms proposed by M. Sachs—having been copied by the London Garden, are supported, we are glad to see, by Mr. P. Grieve; and we hope others will follow until the terms be used so as more accurately—we think we might say, truthfully—to express the union which by artificial fertilization is *known* to have taken place; until, indeed, the indiscriminate use of the word hybrid be discarded from the catalogues of seedsmen and horticulturists.

Mr. Grieve says: It is stated (see p. 37, Garden, Rural, p. 393.) that when a hybrid is made to unite with one of its parent forms, or with another parent form, or with a hybrid of different origin, the product is termed a "derivation hybrid." I am induced to ask if anyone of your readers can kindly point out to me an instance of this circumstance having taken place. As far as my experience goes, I have always found it to be impossible to induce a hybrid to form a union with any other plant, sterility appearing to be the unvarying accompaniment of hybridity. The terms "hybrid" and "cross" would appear to be frequently considered as synonymous, and applied indiscriminately. This should certainly not be done. Hybrid should never be applied to productions originating between different varieties of the same species, which are generally, if not always, fertile, while those originating between different species of the same genus, as well as those of more rare occurrence between different genera, are, I believe, invariably sterile. Should instances, however, be known where such is not the case, particulars regarding them would doubtless be interesting to many.

EXCHANGE.

To Marion.—I have been reading the description of some of your flowers, in the Rural New-Yorker, and feel very much interested in them, especially the one with cups around the stem. Would like to exchange with you this fall and get some of the seeds of it. I have the Euphorbia, or Snow on the Mountain, besides a good many other handsome annuals. Will name some of them: Asters, Balsams, Cockscombs, Coreopsis, Clarkias, Cacalias, Larkspurs, Nasturtiums, Sweet Peas, Portulacas, Marvel of Peru, Whitlavias, Verbenas and Zinnias, besides some Everlastings. If you would like to exchange for any of these, address Mary Waley, *Poquonoc Bridge, New London Co., Conn.*

[Mrs. Waley refers to "Molucca Balm" or Shell flower.]

MISCELLANEA.

Ligustrum tricolor, the three-colored Privet, either as a house plant or for the garden is a pretty shrub. It is not strictly three-colored. The new leaves are green and purple. As the leaves get age, the purple changes to yellow or buff, the variegation then resembling that of the variegated *Vinca* or Periwinkle. It is budded upon the common Privet, *L. vulgare*—was imported from Scotland three years ago, though it is now in the hands of several American nurserymen and will soon be offered for sale.

Seedling Deutzias.—Our readers will remember the seedling Deutzias to which we called attention last fall as being easy of cultivation. We raised about fifty from seeds of the double flowering Deutzia. About a dozen have borne double flowers, one pure white, the others variously marked with red upon the outer petals of different shades. But there is not one that differs notably from those already well known. We, nevertheless, advise our friends to procure seeds this summer (they are ripening now), as, aside from any hopes of obtaining varieties, we know of no easier or quicker way of obtaining shapely, flowering plants.

We have never been so well pleased with the double-flowering Hollyhock as this season. Suggestive of the old Hollyhock that is too common to be worth much care, we find that the most improved strains of the double varieties are little known in gardens even of considerable pretensions. Among these latest strains, the lemon-colored seems the most lasting, the most double and florif'erous. The flowers resemble rosettes made of yellow tissue-paper—not a very lovely resemblance, perhaps, but one fully appreciated during our late drouth, when many both homelier and prettier flowers fizzled entirely.

Lilium Humboldti bears the brightest orange flower we have ever seen, and among the orange-colored lilies we give this the preference. The petals are recurved the same as in *L. superbum*, but larger, of a more uniform color and speckled less decidedly. The habit is tall, slender but strong, and the pyramidal racemes of flowers need no support. After several years of trial, this is our first success.

L. Washingtonianum also bloomed with us for the first. The flower is white, with narrow petals. Long life and an exceeding popularity to it. One at a time is enough for us.

THE SATELLITE SPHINX MOTH.

NOTES.

We see that at Kew (England) the shrub Fremontia Californica stood out last winter in safety, and the Gardeners' Chronicle says that "it is unfortunate that its increase is attended with so much difficulty, being one of the finest of flowering shrubs." We purchased a quantity of seeds of this plant last fall—sowed a part, and gave the rest to several friends. Ours did not germinate. We have not heard from our friends as to their success.

Entomological.

THE NEW YORK WEEVIL.

In the accompanying illustration we give a life-size portrait of what is generally known as the "New York Weevil." The term "weevil" being by common consent, or long habit, applied as one of the common names to all the numerous members of the great Curculio family (*Curculionidæ*), whether an inch or more in length, like the palm weevil (*Rhyncophorus cruentatus*, Fab.), found so abundantly in the South, or the minute rice weevil (*Calandra Oryzæ*, Linn.), all appear to get weevil attached as a terminal name, hence we hear of plum weevils, grain weevils, hickory weevils and so on without end. But when we come to speaking of insects in a manner to be understood by the scientific world generally, some more definite appellation is required in referring to any particular species, as common names of things seldom range over a very extended region of country, hence are extremely indefinite and uncertain in their application.

N. Y. WEEVIL.

This New York Weevil was described by Forster, the naturalist, who received specimens from this country, he bestowing the scientific name of *Ithycerus noveboracensis*, the latter or specific name meaning "of New York," he doubtless receiving specimens from this State. Although now generally known in this country as the New York Weevil, it is probably less numerous in this State than further west, where it sometimes does considerable injury to peach and other fruit trees by eating off the bark from the tender twigs. It is supposed to breed in the young branches of the Bur Oak and the Pignut Hickory, at least Prof. Riley says he has found the female depositing her eggs in the twigs of these trees.

This beetle is of the size and form shown, and of an ash-gray color, with small black spots, and we think will be readily recognized from our illustration. It is a regular "hard shell," difficult to kill by any application to the plants which it infests, consequently the best way to rid an orchard of this pest is to go over the trees, whenever it is known to be about, and gather them by hand.

LARGE GRAPE-VINE CATERPILLAR.

Eds. Rural: I send you by the same mail as this, and in a tin box with some vine leaves, a large worm, which I found feeding upon my grape-vines. It seems to be a voracious feeder, as this specimen had already eaten up at least a dozen leaves. X. P.

Sussex Co., N. J.

The caterpillar arrived in good condition—thanks to careful packing. We recognize it as the larvæ of the Satellite Sphinx (*Philampelus satellitia*, Linn.), an insect which infests plants belonging to the grape or vitis family. These caterpillars, or worms as they are generally termed, grow to a length of three or four inches, and nearly as large as a man's finger. They vary somewhat in tint, but are usually of a cream color, with a shade of reddish brown or pink. When these worms reach full maturity in autumn, they leave the vine and crawl into the earth and there cast off their caterpillar skins, entering what is termed the chrysalis stage, in which it remains until the following spring, when the last transformation takes place, coming forth a large and beautiful moth, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

The colors of this moth are a light olive gray, variegated with dark olive green. Soon after the moths appear in spring, the females commence depositing their eggs singly upon the leaves of the plants upon which the caterpillars feed. These caterpillars assume different colors at each molt. At first they are of a green color, with pink sides, and at the caudal extremity there is a long, pink horn, which grows shorter at each successive molt, until at last it disappears entirely. This insect, although a voracious feeder, is readily kept in check by gathering the caterpillar, as they are so large few need escape notice in looking over the vines in summer, at the time of cultivating or pruning.

The Poultry Yard.

KEEPING POULTRY.

In my last, I treated of small places, where few fowls could be kept, and that if desired, such as needed no netting over their yards to keep them in. I now propose to treat of fowls that can be kept in confinement under ordinary circumstances, in a tolerably sized yard, at more profit than the Asiatics, which lay larger eggs and more of them in proportion to the food consumed, for instance such breeds as the Leghorns, Spanish, Houdans and Dominiques. The Bantams also thrive in such a place. The white Leghorns stand high on the list of profitable and prolific layers, their eggs being of large size and fine quality. This breed thrives well with ordinary care, withstands a tolerable degree of cold, lays well in winter, does not usually sit, is contented in confinement and is altogether a hardy American bred bird.

Size and vigor of bird should be preferred for use in preference to monstrous combs and very white ear lobes, and this holds good with the brown Leghorns, which are also neat and handsome fowls, but whether as hardy and vigorous as their white brothers and sisters, remains to be proved. This is a very popular breed just now, but the different strains vary a great deal.

Spanish fowls (now a neglected breed) if kept in a good warm place, succeed tolerably well in confinement. Where the winters are not very severe, they are one of the best for laying large eggs. The birds are very beautiful except at moulting time when they cut a very shabby figure. For weight and quantity of eggs against weight and quantity of food, it would be hard to beat them; they are of gentle habit and are also non-sitters.

Houdans are a deservedly popular fowl, being good layers, not quite up to the above breed in that quality, but surpassing them all in one very essential quality, that is for the table, being a fine flavored fowl, fleshy and juicy. To hold its own this breed requires more room and a little more attention than the first named varieties, not being quite as hardy, but it is a fine, square heavy fowl.

Dominiques, although longer residents of this continent and generally accepted as an American breed, do not make as good a record as the Leghorns, but it is a breed that can be much improved by proper care, as the shows of late have demonstrated. Henry Hales.

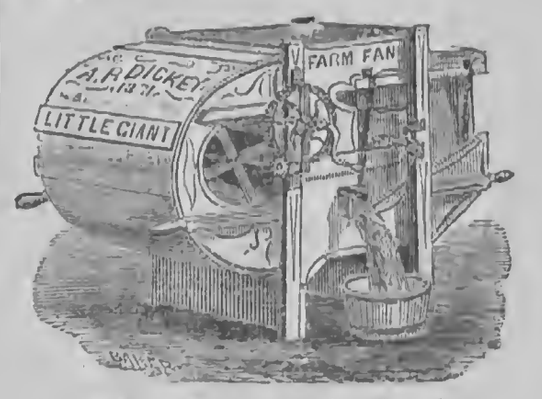
Chicken Cholera is more prevalent this season than ever known before.

Industrial Implements.

DICKEY'S FARM FANNING MILLS.

We illustrate this week a farm fan which we saw at the Centennial, and which seems to possess merits that place it among the front ranks of this class of implements. The substantial way in which it is put together; the honest and thorough workmanship which adapts means to ends with a perfect economy and directness of purpose, make it an admirable thing to have in the barn. Judiciously used it is capable of saving its original cost each year.

Mr. A. P. Dickey, Racine, Wis., is, we might say, one of the pioneers in the manufacture of fanning mills, and the acquired experience of thirty years' incessant toil in this branch of industry has been rewarded; its product, the "Little Giant," combines all improvements to date. They are made of nine sizes, suitable for the wants of every person, and having a capacity for cleaning from 40 to 400 bushels per hour. They are furnished with all necessary extras for cleaning small seeds and every kind of grain. They are easily operated; separate foul and refuse matter from oats, wheat, barley and other grains with great ease; are economical and durable.



The arrangement for cleaning flax, clover or timothy is very perfect, the sieves being produced with blinds and screw boards to shut off the wind and regulate the wind at pleasure. A special feature of this fan is the Macphail Hurdle and Spout, which is furnished with the mill at an additional charge. This effects a further separation of matter rejected from grain being cleaned, and spouting out at the side and end of the Hurdle any oats or other grain remaining, thus saving the labor of cleaning the tailings.

This improvement is an especial feature of this mill, no other, we believe, being thus equipped. We deem it unnecessary to dwell on the advantage of fanning mills, believing farmers are aware of the economy attending their use. They raise the grade of wheat from a lower to a higher standard, and prepare grain for seeding in a most thorough manner. Mr. Dickey will send circulars and information free concerning his manufactures.

THE ECONOMIZER.

This compact little boiler and engine, with which our readers have become familiar through our advertising columns and elsewhere, is deserving of a more extended notice than a mere announcement. It differs in many particulars from the light motors designed for the use of small manufacturing industries. The "New Idea," as Messrs. Whitman & Burrell, Little Falls, N. Y., designate their invention, is, at will, a portable or stationary engine. It comprises a horizontal boiler, made of the best material, and ready for work as soon as it reaches its destination, needing no preparatory mason work for foundations, etc. Its heating surface is admirably adapted for producing power at the minimum of cost, and the arrangement of fire box, flues, etc., is such that the operator can regulate the generation of steam so as to use just enough to do the work in hand, whether the engine is called upon to exert its full capacity or only a fractional part of its power; the expense of fuel being governed accordingly. The fire being entirely surrounded by water, no fire tile is necessary, and the arrangement of the flues makes "scale" an impossibility.

The various attachments, such as the "waterback," patent adjustable cut-off, Judson governor, improved heater, and above all, its compactness, make the "Economizer" one of the best engines for farmers, dairymen, and factorymen. It would be impossible to give a more detailed account of the apparatus in the circumscribed limits of this notice, but what has been said should stimulate curiosity sufficiently to encourage our readers to send for circulars, which explain the "new idea," fully accompanied with pertinent illustrations.

Time is never wasted when spent in investigating the claims of improved machinery, especially when it has a direct bearing on one's own occupation. No progressive agriculturist will hesitate to admit that the time is upon us when a steam engine is one of the requisites of modern farming.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

CENTENNIAL FIELD EXHIBITION, }
SCHENCK'S STATION, Pa., July 21, 1876. }

Early this morning the genial face of Brother Coleman appeared upon the field. He was accompanied by Mr. John B. Waring, of the Delamater Iron Works at New York, inventor of Waring's Air Compressor, and one of the best of America's mechanical engineers. Mr. Waring had conducted the trials with the Dynamometers on the previous days, and was one of the first to advise the rejection of the tests as not perfectly trustworthy. This was Waring's day. As he had kindly consented to come here, upon the solicitation of Mr. Landreth, the latter, in conjunction with Mr. Geddes, resolved to get the full worth of his money out of him. But Waring had seen service before and was not to be caught napping, so, dropping his coat and such other surplus clothing as came within the rules of stag society, he pitched in. It was what might be called steamer day. The Portable Engines were one by one attached to the Locomotive and placed in position to be attached to the Blower for testing.

The engines on the ground that were put to the test were the "Best," made by John Best; the "Eclipse," Frick & Co.; the "Phœnix," Chandler & Taylor; and the "Farquhar," A. B. Farquhar. The Eclipse was notable for its fine, mechanical finish, and all expressed their admiration at the excellence of the work performed by it. The Best may be all its name implies, but as it was its first appearance, little can be said as to what it will do in the future. The Phœnix worked very nicely and gave every evidence of being a first-class machine, well adapted to the work for which it is designed. How are the figures arrived at? By an ingenious contrivance called a Blower—a term which, applied to this useful piece of mechanism, is in one sense a misnomer, as it performs its task without any blatant fuss—wind is generated by a series of fans, set in motion by gearing, which force an air current through a small aperture into a rubber tube that is attached to a registering face which records the power by inches. The belt of the engine driving-wheel is slipped on to the wheel of the Blower, and the power is accurately registered on the index above mentioned.

After attaching the engine to the Blower by a long belt, the water being at 150° temperature, 10 lbs. of soft wood, 10 lbs. of hard wood and 100 lbs. of soft coal was weighed out and administered in one dose to the engineer, who then started the fire. The time between that and a pressure of 50 lbs. of steam was recorded, and the amount of water used during the test was also measured and recorded. At 50 lbs. pressure the fun began. Brother Waring then took out of his vest pocket a little silver-plated instrument (a revolution counter) and his watch. The former he inserted in the end of the shaft and the latter he held in his hand, right under his immediate eye. Whether he held his breath or not, I don't know; but I did, which was quite as good. He then consulted the thermometer arrangement attached to the Blower. I let my breath go again, and he wrote something on a piece of paper. This ceremony he repeated every few minutes while the engineer was at work.

During the continuance of the regular trials there was a sort of brevet trial going on under the auspices of Mr. Bruce, who tested to his apparent satisfaction the Silver & Danings Power Straw Cutter, which cut 500 pounds of straw in 11 minutes. The power applied was their two-horse tread, which was hardly sufficient, as with more power better time could have been made. Messrs. Ross & Co. unfortunately broke some of the gearing of their Straw Cutter in bringing it out, so that it could not be tried. The Common Sense Straw Cutter had no representative present, and, therefore, Mr. Bruce passed it by.

Mr. Kibler had the only Fan Mill on the grounds.

Last night there arrived a Russian Threshing Machine and Portable Engine. Both were about twice or thrice the size and weight of our largest ones. Bro. Geddes was in a quandary as how to unload them from the car and get them to the field. Again Mr. Castler, with his locomotive, came to the rescue.

While the steam engine trial lulled, Mr. Coleman tested the powers and efficacy of the Russian Thresher, or Beater, which was of six-horse power, manufactured by Lilpop, Raw & Loewenstein, at Varsovie, Russia. It had a 60-inch cylinder, 2 feet in diameter, with 12 beaters. The concave was very peculiar and gave a large rubbing surface. The construction was entirely different from that of any of our home machines; it was set on low wheels, about 7 feet apart, adapted to the Russian roads. Our British Juror doffed his surplus clothing, mounted the feeding table and fed to his heart's content. You know the English people are fond of feeding, and he was only gratifying his national proclivity at the expense of unnecessary dignity. The machine did good work, however, and brought the grain out in excellent condition.

The steamers were all tested, except the Russian, and, as night was falling, it became a question whether anything further should be done. The trial was over except this one engine, and at it they went despite the darkness and lateness, both of which, however, finally compelled them to give it up and adjourn till to-morrow for this one engine.

July 22.

The Russian Portable Steamer, which arrived on the grounds late yesterday afternoon, was tested this morning. This engine was much heavier than anything seen in this country, being built with low wheels, wide apart, similar to the thresher tried yesterday. It has an upright tubular boiler with a wooden jacket, inclined compound crank engine, and combined pump and heater. The pump is worked by an eccentric from the main shaft. Its weight is about 8,000 pounds. The machine is made by the same parties that exhibited the Russian Thresher, or Beater. It broke down twice before the final test could be made, which mishaps were accounted for by their not having a competent engineer. The boiler showed great capacity for producing steam, and on time beat the American machines shown the day before.

As a whole the trial was an exceedingly satisfactory one to all concerned, and the various officials were so well pleased with their work that they even bid a pleasant good-by to the newspaper reporters, among whom was

SHORTHORN.

ATLAS HOTEL, }
PHILADELPHIA, July 29, 1876. }

As I gaze drearily at the postal-card before me, it seems as if I had labored in vain, for lo! a lady correspondent writes, it appears, to the New York office to the effect that she does not so much wish to know what is noteworthy in the Exhibition as how to get there, what to do, where to lodge, and so on *ad infinitum*. The lady, too, is a constant reader, regular subscriber, or something of that kind that leaves an impression of continuity on the mind, and it is strange indeed that she should have failed to read the letters in RURAL of May 13, 20 and 27. These letters were prepared with great care and contain information that covers the whole ground, giving time-tables, fares, price of lodging, etc., etc. As Mr. Mantilini would say, one has there the "domnition total" of the expense of the trip, not including extras. It may be as well to again summarize the main points.

To begin: When you have decided to come to Philadelphia, procure from the nearest railroad agent all the details of which he is possessed concerning routes. If he don't seem to know much about it, compel him to ascertain: it's his business. Buy "excursion tickets" if they will permit you to remain as long in Philadelphia as you wish. They are much the cheapest. All trains land you within 50 feet of the main entrances to the grounds, and among a shoal of hotels that in price and accommodation are as various as the colors in the historic Joseph's coat. I assume at once that you do not desire to pay $4 and $5 per day, and will not mention the "Trans-Continental" or "Globe" as eligible. The "Boarding-House Agency" will billet you all over Philadelphia in private houses. Their way of doing business is fully explained in the letters referred to above. It is not a good plan to get too far away from the grounds, because of the time wasted in going to and from them. If I were to advise a friend whose income had a modest habit of shrinking, I should say go to the "Atlas." Why? Because it is about two hundred feet from one entrance to the grounds; lose no time. Lodging is $1 per day, which entitles you to one bed in a small room containing two beds, from 9 A. M. until the following morning at the same hour. As long as you remain you will have to renew your right of possession daily by investing in a coupon and paying a dollar. Single gentlemen use rooms containing four beds each, while on the other hand ladies who happen to travel unaccompanied by male escort, have quite a number of rooms set apart for their exclusive use in a wing of the buildings remote from the masses. Such rooms contain one bed only, when desired. This is a good arrangement and, judging by the number of ladies who are viewing the wonders of the world *solus*, a popular one. The clerks of the Atlas, Messrs. Matt. R. Clark and Newcomber, are courteous and painstaking gentlemen who are successful in their endeavors to make all comfortable, being especially considerate of the wants of those who have no "men-folks" to transact the business part of pleasuring. Of one thing all may be assured: Loneliness is out of the question, with 5,000 guests to whom you can express your opinions. Music enlivens the tedium of the evening. In fact, strains from a piano are wafted along the immense restaurant with your soup, for instance, and, like the poor, remains with you until the last spoonful of a water ice disappears. Speaking of the restaurant, I should say that your food will be a separate item of expense. The restaurant connected with the Atlas is well managed by Mr. Rielly, and the prices charged are reasonable, as the food is good. Any further information is within the reach of all by addressing "Atlas Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa."

My lady correspondent further asks, "What is the correct thing to wear?" I shall refer this question to the Fashion correspondent, "Frolic," who has been here and can tell all about it. I should say that the chief article of female attire was a note-book. Every lady here seems to have relegated her memory to paper, and it is quite apparent there's a "chiel amang us takin' notes," I sincerely trust *not* to "prent" them.

Ladies have great method in their madness, and it is most amusing to observe them at the hotel after the day's sight-seeing is accomplished. One will tell another about the wonders of Agricultural Hall, and suddenly remembering an item, dive for the note-book and write (perhaps):

"There's carts and gigs,
And pins for pigs,
There's dibblers and there's harrows,
And plows like toys,
For little boys,
And illegant wheelbarrows."

Speaking of Agricultural Hall, it's not a little odd to observe what an interest the ladies take in all that relates to the farm, and even in Machinery Hall—where

"There's staym ingynes
That stand in lines,
Enormous and amazing,
That squeal and snort,
Like whales in sport,
Or elephants agrazing,"

—they seem to enter into the spirit of the thing and take notes as industriously as if a record of the display was the one thing needful to cause them to remember it forever and ever. Perhaps it is, and——

YOUNG RURAL.

Sheep Husbandry.

ROQUEFORT SHEEP AND CHEESE.

Those of our readers who have eaten cheese made from the milk of goats or sheep will scarcely fail to be interested in the following on the subject, condensed from the Geographical Magazine:

The animal is remarkable in appearance, with a flat and narrow breast, very poor shoulders and legs, immense sides, and a vast development of milk. The lambs are weaned so early, for commercial reasons, that they never grow into a fine form, and when sold at a certain age are worth no more than a few francs. Nevertheless for the production of Roquefort cheese their milk is matchless. An experiment was made some years ago with the merino breed, but it failed altogether. Few have any idea of the subtleties involved in, or of the pains bestowed upon, this manufacture. To them all else gives way; it is a landscape of sheep—400,000 of them, from the most bleating infancy upward. The ground is gray with them, and when at their prime they are worth a guinea apiece. Nowhere is the "silly sheep" so tenderly watched over; he is fed with plenty; in winter he eats dried grapes carefully preserved, and drinks water whitened with barley flour; he is taken out for an airing when the weather is fine, and coddled like a Turk when it is cold. But the summer is the grand season, though he is still under some restraints. For instance, he must finish with one plot of herbage before beginning upon another, and it is amusing to look on while he, with perhaps a hundred other greedy rebels, tries to evade the crook. The flock is never led far at a time, for fear of tiring and distressing it; no barking dog or brutal boy is permitted to frighten it; its thirst is quenched at pure pools with "the chill taken off" by the sun: but the assertion often made that aromatic and balsamic plants enter largely into the pasturage is erroneous. It is not to a quantity, but to a fine quality of milk that the cheese farmer looks, and, as might be expected the traditions of this industry are its laws. One is not to let the sheep associate with oxen or goats. They are the aristocracy of Larzac, and keep other creatures at a distance. It is milking time morning, though it will be milking time again in the evening. Hundreds—thousands if you could see them—swarm in the sweet meadows, each carrying a very short-legged baby-looking stool, each catching a victim. But the pretty dairy-pail of Holland, of snow-white wood, with glistening copper hoops, is represented here by an ugly iron pot, lined with tin. Once full, it is hurried off to the farmhouse, skimmed strained, warmed to a degree according to the state of the weather, though never above boiling point, thrown into enormous deep vase-shaped pans and left to accumulate its cream. With a keenness of judgment only to be acquired by a life-long and even perhaps an hereditary experience, the dairyman distinguishes between the quality good for butter and the quality good for cheese. Then the morning and the evening milk are blended, and a number of young damsels, laughing like the girls of Chusium, stir these innocent caldrons with willow sticks. After that the covers are put on, and "mother of cheese" is left to take a little rest not, however, before the due proportion of rennet has been added. I do not feel bound to follow the entire series of operations, the breaking, the squeezing and filtering of the curd, the molding, milling and draining, but was interested in what followed—the rubbing of the new cheeses with moldy bread, which indeed, enters into the composition of the cheese and helps to give it the green ripeness that is essential. They are next arranged on grooved shelves, allowing whatever milk remains to run off; they are turned twice a day for about a week; then they go to the drying room, a twilight excavation among the caves of Chambalou, always facing the north, exquisitely clean, with metal or canvas blinds to keep out the dust and flies, and fitted with linen-covered shelves, where the cheeses remain, kept warm by pails of boiling water in incessant relays, until pronounced ready for the cellar. But they are far from being done with yet. I may as well say a word, however, concerning the moldy bread. The highest importance is attached to it. It is made "on the premises," from the finest wheat or winter or March barley, with a large quantity of the strongest yeast, kneaded beyond a necessity, except in the cheese-maker's eye, baked thoroughly, deprived of its crust, pounded in a mortar, allowed to be in a damp place until every crumb is touched, sifted and so prepared, it actually grows through the cheese like a plant. Indeed, the botanists have given it a name. On the passage from the drying vaults to the cellars the same delicate care follows the Parisian's *bon bouche*; it is packed with as much solicitude as though it were Venetian glass, in cases of special construction, and loaded in vans slung below the axles instead of above them, so that the crust may not be broken by the joltings of the wheels. And the transit must be made by night, so that the heat of the sun may not afflict these tender tid-bits. Arrived in the "scale chamber," they are examined, like the wounded after a battle; the spoiled put aside, the rest weighed, all registered. The rejected go to the farm proprietors, whose families do not mind eating them. But for the others maturity has not even been attained. They must be salted, that is a handful of salt is spread over one surface, and twenty-four hours later over the other. Then, two days elapse, and the salt not already absorbed is rubbed in with the roughest of Dutch drapery. Another two days, and still these persecuted cheeses are upon the rack, this time under the edge of a knife. First of all, a white outer coating of glutinous matter is removed, its thickness varying with the season. There is a second scraping immediately afterward, also white, which is eaten by the poorer classes. That ceremony being accomplished, the judges are called in to classify the products of the Roquefort farms. There is one of a Roman order which is above suspicion, and, therefore not classified at all. Next come the first and the second qualities, which, like Eastern slaves, after being inspected, have to undergo a sort of shampooing, and to be dressed. They dress themselves however. They put on a yellow, or a white, or a reddish covering of must, which is sold for a few farthings a bushel, as food for pigs, but this outburst—so capricious is the temporary Roquefort cheese—is renewed at intervals of from eight to fifteen days, and a joyous industry it seems to be.

A month or somewhat more passes over, and Roquefort is ready for the market. The ripest is selected, of that season. Last season's prime is kept, like old port, to get another crust, which should be red in color, and, when scraped off, a luxury of the farmer's table. September, is the month. The cheeses are then slightly shriveled, pungent in taste, just what the epicurean artisan of the faubourgs likes to keep a bit of, like a tobacco quid in his mouth, while he swallows his litre of wine. The distribution begins. Another packing takes place in round wicker baskets, willow hampers and boxes. Vain to attempt defrauding the Parisian palate—as well try to palm off oak apples for olives. Sheep's milk is not the same everywhere, and tradesmen of a high class, in France, never dream of deceiving their customers upon the point. They announce in their windows, *fromages, façon de Roquefort*, as who should say gilt, not gold. The true cheese, the unimpeachable and immaculate Roquefort, meanwhile, is being scattered from the humble little Aveyronnaise town to the four winds of heaven and earth.

THE only effectual cure for a sheep-killing dog is a large dose of leaden bullet from the barrel of a rifle with plenty of powder to give it force.

Domestic Economy.

BIDDYISM.

THE discussion of the servant-girl question has monopolized, to an alarming extent, society's small talk. Nay more, it has invaded the home circle, is served at breakfast, dinner and tea, and forms not an inconsiderable element in the entertainment of visitors. It was our painful duty to call on Mrs. A. the other evening. Well knowing her weakness, we went fully determined to steer clear of the all-absorbing topic, but, it must be confessed, not without misgivings as to the result. If our memory is not at fault, the conversation opened in the usual way, with a few desultory remarks in reference to the weather.

From this seasonable subject we rambled on, aimlessly to all appearances, until it was about time to take our departure. It did look as if our fondest hopes were to be realized, when in an unguarded moment we inquired after Mr. A.'s health. The old lady laid aside her spectacles, and with an energy far surpassing any previous efforts, replied: "Poor Mr. A. has retired much earlier than usual this evening, completely tuckered out. Do you know he has spent the better portion of the day hunting after a Biddy? Our beauty left us this morning without a moment's notice, and here I have been the whole livelong day fretting and stewing among pots and kettles, until I'm completely exhausted. To think that after doing so much for them that they should serve us so, the ungrateful wretches! But I couldn't stand the impudent huzzy's slack any longer. Now, there is Mrs. F., she never has any trouble with her help. I don't understand for my part how she manages so well."

All my diplomacy vanished as dew before the morning sun. The dear, old soul had found her level at last and didn't we catch it—whew! She rattled on, regardless of time and consequences; told us all about the vast army of BRIDGETS and MARY ANNS, which at one time or another, had infested her household; expatiated on the phenomenal good luck of Mrs. So-and-so in keeping girls; explained why Mrs. B. had to change her help every week—in fact told all she knew. What she didn't know she surmised, and what she didn't surmise wasn't worth hearing!

We merely cite this instance as an infinitesimal fraction of every day experience. To say the least, the whole subject is loathsome and disgusting, fit only for circulating among the class from which it emanates. BRIDGET is one of the evils necessary and incidental to housekeeping, but how much common sense does it require in order to appreciate the fact that the male portion of the community do not care as a rule to be bored almost to distraction by such an abomination?

We venture to say that such a thing was never known as two women getting together without discussing "my" servants, or if they didn't happen to have any, somebody else's, which amounts to about the same thing, and sometimes a good deal more. Who is particularly anxious, after coming home from a hard day's work, to listen to the croakings of a lot of old gossips about Mrs. W.'s help? Surely, the man who can relish such a dish must have a remarkable constitution. From the petted wearer of silks and satins to the humble occupant of a calico wrapper, it is pretty much the same. All seem imbued, to a greater or less extent, with a craving after this detestable and nauseating subject. Some there are who have nothing else to occupy their minds, and consequently must have something to talk about. Others wish to impress upon your mind how many servants *we* keep, while not a few it must be regretted, use the subject as a common sewerage for the dissemination of gossip and scandal. One-half the time consumed in comparing notes with Mrs. B., if spent in some profitable, refining occupation, would make the whole household more cheerful and the community at large happier by far.

Anything under the sun but this intolerable Biddy question. Try science, art, literature—anything in fact, but if you can't find something suited to your caliber, put on a knowing look and keep silent. You will then be credited with something you never dreamed of possessing. After all this advice, if you will persist in so demeaning yourself as to degenerate into discussing every servant girl in the place, don't be offended if, in anguish of spirit we cry out lustily, Peace, ho! F. J. W.

WE sympathize with our correspondent, and know from painful experience whereof he speaks. But we are also quite well aware of the fact that women who possess the ability to properly direct in household matters, seldom have any difficulty in obtaining and keeping good servants. Or, to put it in other words, the Lady of the house makes good servants out of the crude materials, imported or otherwise.—ED. RURAL.

FRIED SQUASH.—Slice thin, dip in egg, then in flour and fry in butter.

A NOVEL SMOKE HOUSE.

ONE sees very strange sights sometimes, and I am disposed to tell your readers how some people smoke their hams in winter, here in Minnesota. The snow falls to a great depth occasionally and drifts deeper yet, in places. Said a farmer to me last winter, "the very nicest hams we have had, were smoked in that snowdrift over yonder." And sure enough, there were props put up at each side of the large hole, for support to the poles to hang the meat on—a board door and the smoke house was ready for use. Simply a very large hole dug in one side of a snowdrift.

MRS. JULIA M. WHEELOCK.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Spiced Currants.—Three pounds of sugar to seven pounds of currants, one teaspoon each of ground cinnamon, allspice and cloves, a pinch of red pepper if liked. Boil a half hour. Very nice to eat with meat.

Pickled Apples.—Three pounds of sugar, seven pounds of apples quartered and cored, one pint of vinegar. Steam the apples till a fork will go through them readily. Then make a sirup of the sugar and vinegar and pour over them while hot. Stick a clove or two into each quarter. Very nice.—FARMER'S WIFE.

Fried Cauliflower.—Boil and mash, season with pepper and salt. To one medium-sized head, add a half pint of milk, two well beaten eggs, and flour enough to make a batter. Put a spoonful at a time in a pan of hot lard, or better, butter, and fry a light brown on both sides. A good breakfast dish.—MRS. RUSTIC.

Centennial Pudding.—One pint buttermilk, three tablespoonfuls of cream, one teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of salt. Indian meal and wheat flour, equal parts, enough to make a not very thick batter; bake in the usual way. After baking split it open, spread with butter, and apply fresh raspberries. To be eaten with sweetened cream.

Graham Gems.—One cup cream, one cup sour milk, one teaspoonful soda, one tablespoonful molasses, salt, one cup wheat flour, two cups graham flour. Bake in gem tins.—JENNIE.

Baked Potatoes.—To eight or ten sliced potatoes, put two quarts of rich milk in a deep pan, butter, the size of an egg, a little salt—bake two hours—serve hot.—MRS. J. M. W.

Hygienic Information.

EARLY BREAKFAST.

IT may be some consolation to those who are obliged to take early breakfast that so good an authority as DR. HALL descants in this wise upon the subject:

Breakfast should be eaten in the morning, before leaving the house for exercise, or labor of any description; those who do it will be able to perform more work and with greater alacrity than those who work an hour or two before breakfast. Besides this, the average duration of the life of those who take breakfast before exercise or work, will be a number of years greater than those who do otherwise. Most persons begin to feel weak after having been engaged five or six hours in their ordinary avocations; a good meal reinvigorates, but from the last meal of the day until next morning, there is an interval of some twelve hours; hence, the body, in a sense, is weak, and in proportion cannot resist deleterious agencies, whether of the fierce cold of midwinter, or of the poisonous miasm which rests upon the surface of the earth, wherever the sun shines on a blade of vegetation or a heap of offal.

This miasm is more solid, more concentrated, and hence more malignant, about sunrise and sunset, than at any other hour of the twenty-four, because the cold of the night condenses it, and it is on the first few inches above the soil in its most solid form; but as the sun rises, it warms and expands, and ascends to a point high enough to be breathed, and, being taken into the lungs with the air, and swallowed with the saliva into the stomach, all weak and empty as it is, it is greedily drank in, thrown immediately into the circulation of the blood and carried directly to every part of the body, depositing its poisonous influences at the very fountain head of life.

The older merchants of Charleston may remember that when deadly fevers prevailed in hot weather, they dared not ride into town in the cool of the morning or evening, but mid-day was accounted safest.

If early breakfast was taken in regions where chills and fever and fever and ague prevail, and if, in addition, a brisk fire were kindled in the family-room for the hour, including sunset and sunrise, these troublesome maladies would diminish in any one year, not tenfold, but a thousandfold, because the heat of the fire would rarify the miasmatic air instantly and send it above the breathing point. But it is "troublesome" to be building fires night and morning all summer. It being no "trouble," requiring no effort, to shiver and shake by the hour, daily, for weeks and months together.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

Ague.—If you are made miserable with chills and fever, dissolve 15 grains of citric acid in a cup of hot coffee, and drink it just before the chill attacks you. It has been known to cure the worst cases of this disease.

Remedy for Nose Bleed.—Take equal parts of burnt alum, white sugar, and white of an egg. Mix well, make a swab by rolling cloth hard the size of the nostrils, saturate the mixture, and insert in the nostril. The bleeding will immediately cease.

Cure for Burns.—Charcoal has been discovered to be a sure cure for burns. By laying a small piece of cold charcoal upon the burn the pain subsides immediately. By leaving the charcoal on one hour, the wound is healed, as has been demonstrated on several occasions.

Sun Cholera Mixture.—Take equal parts of opium, red pepper, rhubarb, peppermint and camphor and mix them for use. The dose is ten to twenty drops in three or four teaspoonfuls of water. "No one," says the Journal of Commerce, "who has this by him, and takes it in time, will ever have the cholera."

Laugh at a cheese diet as you will, Prof. Peck says that in this country, where cheese is used least, it requires one physician to every five hundred persons, and in Switzerland and foreign countries, where it is used most, it only requires the practice of one physician for ten thousand persons.

Erysipelas.—I have found sour milk, buttermilk, or whey therefrom, an excellent remedy to apply for the erysipelas as a wash. Also to apply glycerine twice or three times per day; it has a soothing effect. I have many times applied the milk hot and found it allayed the inflammation better than cold applications, and far less troublesome than poultices. MRS. J. M. N.

Felons and Rusty Nails.—Elder Evans, the Shaker, says: For the past ten years we have treated felons with hot water, and with unerring success. No cutting, no blistering, no anything, but immersing the finger, hand, or even the whole arm if necessary, in water as hot as can be borne, until the pain is gone and the core is loosened and drawn from the bone. When rusty nails have produced wounds, the same course has been pursued. If on the hand or foot, keep it in hot water.

Rheumatism in the Joints.—When the joints are stiffened with rheumatism or a settled cold, the following applications are capital and enable the sufferer to move with ease:—Cut into small bits (or grate it) one ounce of castile soap. Add a heaping tablespoonful of red Cayenne pepper. Have these in a small pitcher and then pour on to them half a pint of boiling hot water. Stir until all is dissolved and add a little cider brandy or alcohol when bottling. An application of the above brings the blood in a glow to the joints. Rub a little sweet oil on to relax the muscles.

The Apiarian.

THE BEE KEEPING INDUSTRY.

THE following exhibit of the bee keeping industry from the Industrial Motor, appears to us to be rather strongly put in round numbers, still it may be true. There is however one very important point left out and that is the annual losses by those who are unsuccessful, which according to some estimates amounts to about as much as the entire profits. It is doubtless true however that the honey interest of this country is one of such growing importance as to be attracting the attention of a great many capitalists. Honey promises fair to become a source of national wealth. It is estimated that 70,000 of our people are engaged in apiarian pursuits, some of them having sold last year from fifty to one hundred thousand pounds each, the product of their own bees. It is said that the income of I. S. Harbison, the great California honey magnate, derived from the sale of surplus honey, is more than $25,000 per annum, over and above all expenses. In this State, Capt. Hetherington of Cherry Valley, sold last year 58,000 pounds from his own apiaries. Adam Grim of Jefferson, Wisconsin, as much more. In fact, we might go on enumerating individual instances of the profitableness of this industry until we filled a whole column. But perhaps a better idea will be conveyed by more general figures. The 70,000 bee keepers of this country own on an average a little more than 28 hives apiece, or in round numbers two millions in all. Twenty-two pounds of honey to the hive is considered a reasonable yield of surplus, worth 25 cents per pound = $8,800,000 for the crop. The wax produced is estimated at 20,000,000 pounds, worth at least $1,000,000, making the grand total revenue presented us by our industrious little friends, annualy, $14,800,000. We annually export $1,200,000 worth of honey and $700,000 worth of beeswax.

The late Mr. Quinby, a most reliable author, in his work on bees, claimed that on an average every acre of ground would yield one pound of honey. The State of New York alone has 30,000,000 acres, yet she has never gathered more than 400,000 pounds. Just think of the loss! Honey being a sort of volatile oil evaporates if not gathered and "wastes its sweetness upon the desert air." Mr. Harbison says that the honey thus lost annually in California is of more value than the gold gathered! The profit realized by the keeping of bees averages from one to two hundred per cent. on the capital invested. It is a business anybody with limited means can carry on. Students frequently support themselves by keeping bees. Poorly paid ministers have often depended with more confidence for their daily bread upon these little industrious creatures of God than on their parishoners. There have been but two or three real progressive steps taken in bee culture since the days of Huber. In 1852 the Rev. L. L. Langstroth invented movable comb hives, by which we are able to buy those neat little boxes or caps we see at the grocer's. Later on came the extracting machine, which throws the honey from the combs by centrifugal force, leaving the combs intact so they can be put back into the hives and refilled by the bees. The greatest invention, however, has been reserved for this year.

Most every one has noticed how delicately and perfectly formed the honey combs are, so much so that no one ever dreamt they could be successfully imitated. But it has been done. Dr. John Long has constructed a machine that turns the combs out mathematically correct. The editor of "Gleanings in Bee Culture," says in his comments on these combs that "the finest specimens of comb made by the bees look cheap and awkward when compared to them." That our readers may be better able to appreciate the value of this invention, we will say that three-fourths of their time, the bees are busied making their combs and this, too, in the very honey-harvest time. Only one-fourth of their time is consequently being spent in gathering and storing the honey. Now that the combs are to be furnished them, and this three-fourths of their time saved and devoted to gathering in the wasting honey, the revenue from honey and wax will be enormously increased, is it any wonder that this little insect has been the chosen symbol of saving industry for years?

PARASITES ON BEES.

THE Rural World reports that at the last meeting of the St. Louis Academy of Sciences, Prof. C. V. Riley, the President, read a communication from G. W. Barnes of San Diego, Cal., in relation to parasites found upon bees in that State. The parasite was described as the color of a flaxseed and easily distinguished by the naked eye. It appears usually under the wing of the bee, and adheres with considerable tenacity. It occasionally crawls all over the bee, and is quite agile in its movements. The bees afflicted with the vermin become agitated and move rapidly over the comb, frequently dying of injuries. The parasites were first noticed there last year, and have again appeared this season, giving considerable trouble in large apiaries. Specimens of the insects afflicted accompanied the letter, and Prof. Riley said the parasite was the larva of the blister beetle. It was well known that these larva attach themselves to bees and were thus carried into the hive, where they usually left the grown bee and attacked the larva. Prof. Riley had not before heard that these insects injured the fully developed bees. The information was valuable, if reliable.

BEE ENEMIES.

DADANT in his Bee Book says:—"Never put a swarm of bees in an old hive, as there will almost certainly be the eggs of the honey-moth deposited in the crevices of the hive, which will hatch out and probably destroy the swarm. Nothing is more to be dreaded by the bee keeper than the moth, and when they once gain an entrance to the hive the bees appear as if powerless to expel them, although they will seize them savagely at the entrance. When moths have savagely at the entrance. When moths have once established themselves in a hive, and the maggots begin to eat their way through the combs, the sooner the bees are fumigated and put into another hive the better, as for them to remain with the moth maggots will be certain destruction to them. Moths as well as the large sing may be taken in great numbers, late on summer evenings, by spreading a mixture of sugar, home-made wine and rum, on the walls or the stems of trees.

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SATURDAY, AUG. 12, 1876.

IT HAS A GOOD INFLUENCE.

THIS remark is often made in referring to the acts of individuals or a community, and we have only to regret that it is not more frequently the *motive* which prompts one and all in giving support to any scheme proposed for the public welfare. There seems, however, to be a little touch of fate attending any undertaking, no matter how good, pure and humane it may appear; just as the child in his free, rollicking feats over the green sward, crushes the life out of scores of innocent and beautiful creatures, all unknown though it may be to him or his older companions. The taking the lives of the insects cannot be called evil; but their fate, while the fun of the frolic, along with the exercise, may have a good influence upon the child's health and character.

We might, were it necessary, enlarge upon this subject of injury to one creature for the purpose of seeing a corresponding benefit to another; but every observing, thinking person, must have discovered that it is one of the inexorable laws of nature, consequently not to be gainsaid or avoided. Of course the influence of an act may extend far beyond the realms of human understanding; still we can usually see far enough to know whether it is beneficial or otherwise to those with whom we are associated, and this is what concerns us most.

In illustration of this point we call to mind the introduction of the English sparrows into this and other Eastern cities a few years since. Before that time a bird flying in the streets of New York was something seldom seen, and when by accident or otherwise one did appear, the boys of all classes—from the lowest ragmuffins up to the residents on Fifth Avenue, would to use a common phrase, "go for the poor thing" with sticks, stones or any missile at command. The result was that the children had no more idea of the natural rights of the feathered tribe than wild Arabs, and to capture and kill a bird or other harmless creature, was an act worthy of commendation. But when a few sparrows were let loose in our streets and the *fiat* went forth that they were to be protected by the aid of numerous policemen's clubs, there came a marvelous change in the demeanor of the youth of our city, and the rights of the birds were immediately respected. In fact, there has arisen a fraternal feeling between the children and the birds, and we doubt if one of the wildest of our wild "Street Arabs" would not resent an injury to one of the sparrows as soon as to one of his human companions.

Leaving out of the question all the good the sparrows may have done in ridding our city of noxious insects, as well as the almost intolerable nuisance of having such a vast number of birds nesting and scattering filth about dwellings and sidewalks, the influence of association upon each succeeding generation of children is worth a thousand times all the good they may have done in other directions, or the harm done to property. The children of our larger cities have been taught one great lesson in kindness if they never receive another.

The transition from sparrows and their influence upon the young, to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is both natural and easy, and we make it all the more cheerfully as the latter is undoubtedly the greatest reformatory and humanizing organization in existence, and should receive the support of every man and woman who believe they have a soul and that animals can experience pain. It is not so much for the beast of burden that we would plead—for they can, at most, but suffer and die—but the man who is permitted to maltreat them with impunity gradually descends in the scale as a human being until, at last, he reaches a lower plane than the most ferocious brute. Immediate gain is an incentive to great cruelty with those who have no higher aspirations than to satisfy their own animal needs and passions, and from free indulgence in maltreating beasts of burden it is but natural that the same disregard for pain or life would be extended to human beings. This is so well known that neither facts nor theories are required in support of the assertion, and we have only to follow the man who is cruel to animals to his home to find the evidence of cruelty to his family; consequently we repeat, that the Society named is worthy of the support of every man and woman in the land, because it has a good influence upon those who are bad enough now, but would be far worse without it.

Cruelty is a passion which can be encouraged, increased and transferred from one generation to another until it becomes hereditary in a family or nation; hence the importance of checking the hydra-headed monster by force, if necessary.

PLAGIARISM.

ALL thefts are not alike in degree of wickedness. It is a question whether a mother who steals a loaf of bread for her hungry child is guilty of any sin whatever. In this view, the degree of culpability should be estimated not by the value of the thing stolen, but by the necessity which constrains a person to steal it. Necessity, therefore, and the degree of selfishness prompting the act are the measures of the wickedness of theft. Whence it follows that stealing in one of its most inexcusable forms is that in which an able-bodied individual choses this as his means of livelihood—as his business. One of the meanest phases of this contemptable business is plagiarism. There are many journals in this country that would no sooner steal a newspaper article than they would a dollar. There are others who steal articles precisely as if there were no sin or even disgrace attached to such an act.

The sphere of journalism—presumably—is to teach. Some journals select special fields—agriculture, horticulture, science, literature; but all of them, whatever their usual field, set themselves up, more or less conspicuously, as teachers of morality. With what consistency they can teach morals with stolen material is a question that answers itself as soon as asked.

There are two fashionable forms of literary theft to which we wish to call especial attention. One is that of stealing ideas—clothing them in original language and presenting them as their own. The other is to copy an article with the *writer's* name, without any mention of the journal in which it first appeared and for which it was written. Thus, JONES writes an article for the RURAL. JONES either gives it or sells it to the RURAL, and this article in either case is just as much the RURAL's property as the paper upon which it is printed. JONES, having given away or sold this property, has no longer any claim to it whatever. Now the Alaska Farmer copies it, appending JONES' signature alone as if that gentleman had either given or sold it to the Alaska Farmer, and this, of course, is the impression produced and intended to be produced in the minds of the readers of that paper. Mr. JONES is in no way censurable, and, as has often happened to many other JONES', may open his eyes in surprise to find his name and composition in papers to which he has never and would never have contributed.

As to whether this class of plagiarists—and we may comprise under it another and larger class who steal without *any* credit—as compared with those who steal *ideas* alone, disguising them beneath synonymous language, are the more reprehensible, judgments may vary.

Our own impression is that, if the hair is to be split at all, a liberal judge would view with less severity the out-and-out thief than he would the sneak who with infinite, shame-faced pains seeks to smooth over all tell-tale tracks. Yet if individual instances were fairly investigated, it may be, that in either class it would be found that the degree of culpability was so softened by circumstances as to approximate the case of the poor woman who stole a loaf for her child, in that the editors were either obliged to steal or starve. This being proven, a hopeful proceeding would be the renunciation of editorial duties in favor of earnest physical application either in practical agriculture or the lesser mechanic arts.

Another discreditable method of copying articles though it cannot be considered a plagiarism, is that of crediting the copied article to "Ex." (Exchange). A. borrows a sum of money of B. He acknowledges he borrowed a sum of money; he uses it for his own benefit but fails to pay it back. The paper that borrows does not steal—it merely fails to pay back that which it borrowed. It is a good rule never to seek the company of those with whom we would blush to be seen if among our most respected friends. Is is just as good a rule not to borrow of those to whom we are ashamed publicly to acknowledge our indebtedness.

We do not wish in any way to be personal. In truth it is to avoid the necessity of being personal that the above is written. We will freely say for ourselves that, while the RURAL NEW-YORKER is gratified to have its articles republished with due credit, it cannot afford to have them stolen—and if it could so afford, would still deem it a duty to denounce this form of theft even more severely than other forms, inasmuch as those who perpetrate them have not the excuse of ignorance or of those evil influences of the associations to which other professional thieves in most instances are from boyhood subjected.

We have from time to time collected a quantity of extracts which have been stolen from our columns exemplifying the types above alluded to. And we give respectful if not affectionate notice that if those journals do not speedily mend their ways, we shall publish their names without fear or favor and without further warning.

RURAL NOTES.

Heat in New Jersey.—A minister communicates the following to the Pacific Rural Press. It may seem an exaggeration; but remember a minister wrote it and if his word is not sufficient and ours will add anything, we are ready to make an affidavit to its exact truth:—"For four weeks we have had not one drop of rain. For over two weeks the thermometer has reached 90 every day. My beautiful garden "sass" is completely burnt up. The mossy turf in the front yard bears the appearance of a much-frequented beer garden. The flower beds are like last Christmas' decorations. The thermometer in my study got so high last night that it is now suffering from acute and merited delirium tremens. We boil eggs by immersing them two minutes in the well. Black broadcloth burns spontaneously between here and the post-office. Ice is 75c. a hundred. It melts at the rate of 100 a minute. Collars starched to the verge of imporosity are reduced in five minutes to spissitude. Incrassated linen cuffs languish in half that time. STEPHEN H. TYNG, Jr., told me that he used seven clean shirts last Sunday! [This alone we cannot vouch for.] We are obliged to keep the baby in the refrigerator. A two hours' drive brings milk to the door in the shape of Dutch cheese. The butchers deliver only roasted roasts." A delicious rain has changed all this—the baby has been taken out of the refrigerator and New Jersey breathes again.

Cooking as a Science.—An eccentric millionaire in Massachusetts proposes to found an institution for educating "servants and cooks," at least so runs the announcement. But if this be his object then the institution should be located in Ireland instead of America, for it is always well to go to the fountain head of supplies when seeking improvement and purification. If the gentleman desires to improve American cookery let him found a popular institution for instructing women who do not expect to become servants, but wives and managers of households, thereby qualifying themselves to direct and teach their servants the gastronomic art. "A skillful master makes skillful workmen," is as true here as elsewhere.

A Quiet Excursion.—Within fourteen miles of this city, on the line of the N. Y. & N. J. R.R., grow immense quantities of blackberries now ripe and ripening. They are most abundant upon the west bank of the Hackensack river. We suggest to our city readers that they go thither for a day of recreation. After picking all they need of blackberries there are pleasant little groves and belts of shady trees in the coolness of which what remains of the day may be quietly spent. Or there is the river in which to bathe. Would not this be pleasanter, more sensible than visiting the "professional" groves in which a crowd of people, lager-bier and ice-cream are among the chief attractions?

RURAL BREVITIES.

WILL MRS. ANNIE H. FROST please favor Editor of RURAL with her present address? We should also like to hear from MRS. C. H. CRESSWELL.

NEWS.—The London Garden says, "The Potato bug has *again* made its appearance in America." Alas, that the blessed period of its disappearance should have escaped us!

THE Kansas Farmer says, "No high official in Kansas has ever suffered the penalty of the law for his crimes committed while in office, from County Treasurers up to United States' Senators." Kansas must be a grand place for official rogues or rogues in office.

WE learn from the Syracuse Journal that the veteran Pomologist, F. R. ELLIOTT, attempted suicide in that city a few days since, but whether for the purpose of getting a little free advertising or because he was really sick of this mundane sphere, is beyond our range of knowledge.

THE lottery swindlers are likely to come to grief, as the Post-office Department instructs postmasters that circulars relating to lotteries should not be delivered but destroyed. This may hurt some of those highly respectable journals which depend largely upon the lotteries for support.

A VIRGINIA PLANTER, in preparing beds for sowing tobacco seed, uses kerosene oil instead of wood. He says that applied to the soil with a watering-pot, it costs less than wood and is fully as effectual in destroying weeds, insects, and putting the soil in the best condition for the reception of the seed.

A TEXAS Grange recently passed a resolution instructing the secretary to burn all lottery circulars sent to the Grange, and also requests all members receiving them to treat them in like manner. To this resolve let the Patrons add a refusal to subscribe for or in any way support a paper which admits advertisements of lotteries and they will save thousands of persons from the sin of gambling.

THE question as to whether some kinds of snakes protect their young by permitting them to pass down their throats, is still being discussed very vigorously among the naturalists of Great Britain. Perhaps these wise men might get a sight of an old black snake taking down a dozen young ones without inconvenience, if they would spend a summer on the borders of some of our big swamps. Country boys are too familiar with this "snake-swallowing" for protection to have any doubt about it.

TO A GRASSHOPPER.

TINY, pea-green harlequin!
What of wonder can describe
All your odd, gymnastic tribe,
To the kangaroo akin?
Unless Darwin goes amiss,
With his queer hypothesis.

Chirping chimer, clover climber,
Insect athlete! never stumbling,
In your ground and lofty tumbling.
Strange it is a thing so fragile,
Should be so extremely agile.

Go it, then, spasmodic leaper!
Seize your pleasure while you may;
Blow your horn and have your day;
When the primrose days are over,
And all dead are vines and clover,
That austere, remorseless reaper,
Time, will turn us all to hay!

When October,
Like a varlet,
Robs the woodland's summer dress;
And the maple, blushing scarlet,
As the ruffian winds disrobe her,
Shrinks in timorous distress;
When no longer leans the lily
By the mill pond's mossy edge,
And an influence damp and chilly
Blasts the rose and daffodilly,
And the vines along the ledge
When the cricket
Leaves the thicket
To creep under kitchen rugs.
Then, O mountebank of bugs,
Unique acrobatic vaulter,
Your frail powers will fail and falter;
And some chill, autumnal morning,
Lying, dying,
Without warning,
You will find it useless trying
Leaping, creeping, singing, flying;
With some early robin waiting,
Cool and calm, and aggravating,
Like some grim and hungry wizard,
Obviously deliberating
When to pop you in his gizzard.
Farewell butterflies and clover,
Death is fate the wide world over.

[Golden Rule.

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

(Continued from page 77.)

THE Plymouth Company were unsuccessful in establishing any settlements or inaugurating any enterprise of importance, and in 1620 King JAMES I. incorporated the Duke of LENOX, the Marquises of BUCKINGHAM and HAMILTON, the Earls of ARUNDEL and WARWICK and others, to the number of forty—noblemen, knights and gentlemen—by the name of the Council of Plymouth, in the County of Devon, "For the planting, ruling and governing of New England, in America." The patent covered "All that part of America lying between the 40° and 48° of latitude and from sea to sea." From this Company the different colonies of New England received their titles, which were approved and confirmed by the throne.

In 1628 the Massachusetts Bay Colony received a grant of all that territory lying within three miles north of the Merrimac River and three miles south of Massachusetts Bay and Charles River and from ocean to ocean.

The Plymouth Colony in 1630 received a grant covering lands between the Cohasset River on the north and the Narraganset on the south, and also of lands on the Kennebec.

It remained a separate Government until 1688 when, by charter of the King, it was united with Massachusetts Bay.

The original patent of Connecticut was granted by the Plymouth Company in 1630 to the Earl of WARWICK, and in 1631 he conveyed all the territory extending west from the Narragansett River, southwesterly toward Virginia 120 miles by the coast, and in all the breadth thereof to the western ocean. This has been construed to embrace as far north as Worcester, Mass.; south, including all of Long Island, and west in the same breadth from Narragansett River to the Pacific Ocean.

It is not necessary for our present purpose to examine the reasons for the making and changing the dividing lines between the colonies, the title of Great Britain to the country granted by the treaty of 1783 being all that is pertinent to our present inquiry.

In 1609, while CHAMPLAIN on behalf of France, was exploring Northern New York, and JOHN SMITH under English authority, was examining the various rivers of Virginia, HENRY HUDSON, an Englishman, in a vessel called the Half-Moon, fitted out by the Dutch East India Company, coasted along the Atlantic Coast in search of the much-desired northwest passage to India. Passing northward from the Virginia Capes, he entered Delaware Bay and afterward went through the Narrows into the bay of New York and up the river that still bears his name. On his return to England he was forbidden by the Government to continue in the employ of the Dutch Company; but having forwarded to them an account of his voyage and glowing descriptions of the country, a ship was sent out to trade which, meeting with good success, was soon followed by others.

In 1614 a rude fort was built on Manhattan Island and forts and trading houses erected up the river as far as Fort Orange, now Albany, and a company—the Dutch West India Company—was formed. Colonization was not anticipated, only trade. The States-General granted the Company authority over the country from Cape May to Nova Scotia and named it New Netherlands. Thus it appears that this territory was then claimed by French, English and Dutch.

In 1635 about thirty families of French Protestants, or Walloons, who had gone to Holland to escape persecution, concluded to emigrate to the New World. Some went up the Hudson or North River; others settled in Brooklyn near where is now the Navy Yard, on a bay—or bought—which was called the Walloon's Bought, since corrupted to Wallabout. The land adjoining from its general rolling character, so different from Holland, was called Breuken Land—now Brooklyn.

The agent of the Company located on Manhattan Island, which had been purchased from the Indians for $24. A few cottages were erected at the south end and honored by the name New Amsterdam.

In 1638 a colony of Swedes settled on the shores of the Delaware, on territory that had been purchased of the Indians by the Dutch and was claimed by them, as well as by French and English, by right of discovery. This colony, after seventeen years, was compelled to submit to Dutch rule.

In 1664 CHARLES II., ignoring the rights of Holland as well as those of the people of Connecticut under their charter, gave to his brother, the Duke of YORK, the entire country from the Connecticut to the Delaware. The Dutch were not aware of this until an English fleet was in the bay, Long Island in possession of the English, and recruits from New England had pitched their tents in Brooklyn. Making a virtue of necessity, the Dutch surrendered—New Amsterdam was named New York; Fort Orange, Albany. Once again the Island of Manhattan was under Dutch dominion. During a war between England and Holland a Dutch fleet sailed up the harbor and the colony was New Netherlands; but with the return of peace, a little more than a year after, English authority was acknowledged and the Dutch dominion in New Amsterdam terminated.

From this time English supremacy on the Atlantic coast was universally acknowledged.

Religious enthusiasm carried the French into the heart of America. Soon after CHAMPLAIN had made permanent settlements in Canada and had carried his explorations as far south as Central New York, by his invitation numerous Jesuit missionaries went to Canada with the desire and design to Christianize the natives. Going westward we find Father ALLONES in 1665 among the Chippewas, whom he soon claimed as subjects of France. He had among others as an assistant in his labors, JAMES MARQUETTE, a zealous Jesuit, a faithful worker and a good man. The Indians south of the St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, did not welcome the missionaries, but those on the northern shores received them kindly.

In 1671 NICHOLAS PEROT appeared at St. Marys, on the stream that joins Lakes Superior and Huron, just as MARQUETTE was about to leave that place to explore the Mississippi River, of which he had heard from Indians. PEROT bore authority from the French King to convene a general council of Indians at St. Marys. They assembled from all the sections the Jesuits had penetrated—from the eastern waters of the St. Lawrence and from beyond the Mississippi—and were informed that their father, the King of France, had taken them under his paternal protection and that thenceforth they were his subjects. A cross was raised to typify Christianity and beside it was planted a post on which was placed the arms of France.

The expedition to the Mississippi was, in consequence of this meeting, postponed till 1673, in which year JOLIET, MARQUETTE and five other Frenchmen, with two Indians as guides, reached the Wisconsin River and followed it to its junction with the Mississippi, down which they proceeded, making their first stay on the Iowa side near the mouth of the Des Moines. Again embarking they floated below the mouth of the Arkansas, and so far that they were satisfied the river flowed into the Gulf of Mexico. Returning, they entered the Illinois River, which they ascended to its source, and thence proceeded by way of Chicago and Lake Michigan to Green Bay.

In 1682 LA SALLE left Chicago and descended the Illinois and Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico, claiming dominion of the whole valley of the Mississippi for France and naming it Louisiana, in honor of Louis XIV.

In November, 1698, LEMOIR D'IBBERVILLE sailed from Canada with nearly 200 colonists, intending to make a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi, and in January, 1699, he anchored before the Isle of Santa Rosa. At Pensacola, on the opposite shore, 300 Spaniards from Vera Cruz had, a short time before, built a fort. Finding this preoccupation he sailed westward, touching Massacre or Dauphin's Island, southwest of Mobile Bay, and soon after discovered the mouth of the Pascagoula River. Leaving there most of his colonists IBBERVILLE, with a few men in boats, went in search of the mouth of the great river, which they found by following a current of muddy water in which they saw logs and branches of trees floating. He then went up the Mississippi to the mouth of Red River, where he was given a letter addressed to LA SALLE, which had been preserved by the Indians fifteen years and given to him, the first white man they had seen after its reception.

As the shores of the Lower Mississippi were marshy, the idea of settling on the river was abandoned and the colony remained at the mouth of the Pascagoula, there establishing the first French settlement on the Gulf of Mexico. True, DUMONT in his "Memoirs of Louisiana," says "the first settlers of Louisiana were Canadian voyagers who had got some goods from citizens of Quebec to go and trade among the Iroquois and Hurons; but after using them as their own they were afraid to return home after such a piece of business and, reaching the Illinois, they descended the river St. Louis, now Mississippi, and landing on Massacre, or Dauphin Island, settled there." None of the other authorities I have examined mention this, and as the Island is so far from the mouth of the Mississippi, it is highly probable DUMONT is mistaken in his locality, if not in his facts.

The French now had possession of the entire length of the Mississippi and a line of fortified trading posts were soon established, extending from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico. Spain asserted a right by discovery to the lower Mississippi Valley, but the possession of France was paramount.

Louisiana, as claimed by the French in 1730, included the entire valley of the Mississippi and of its tributary streams on either side. This embraced all country west of the Alleghanies, including the head waters of the Monongahela, Allegheny, Tennessee, Kane and Cumberland Rivers. The southwestern limit was the Bay of St. Bernard and the Perdido River was its eastern boundary on the Gulf.

Strenuous efforts were made by the French to extend their power throughout the valley of the Ohio. The Indians were not happy under this state of affairs and caused much trouble, while the English colonists viewed with alarm the approach of the French toward their settlements and the occupation by them of lands included in charters granted by the British crown which, it will be remembered, in most cases, covered the country from ocean to ocean. Continued collisions, together with other causes, led to a war between the two nations declared in 1754, which continued eight years, and notwithstanding Spain joined with France against Great Britain, the latter power, by gaining one after another the French strongholds in Canada and the stations and military posts in the valley of the Ohio, finally compelled France to seek peace at the cost of the loss of her dominions in America, while Spain at the end of the war, beside other losses, found England in possession of Havana.

In 1763 France ceded to Great Britain all of Canada and its dependencies and all the territory she possessed east of the middle of the Mississippi River from its source to the Ibberville, thence through the middle of that river and lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the sea, leaving the city of New Orleans and the island on which it stands out of the cession, but declaring the navigation of the Mississippi from the Gulf upward, free to both nations. At the previous date (1762), by secret treaty France had ceded to Spain all of Louisiana not described in the cession to Great Britain just mentioned.

In 1783 Spain gave Great Britian all of Florida in exchange for the re-possession of Havana. Thus England became possessed of all east of the Mississippi except the city and island of New Orleans, which was the extent of her American possessions at the breaking out of the Revolution in 1775.—[To be Continued.

The Story-Teller.

BIBBS---A LOVE STORY.

CHAPTER I.

THERE was no doubt about it—John Weare was perfectly wretched that night. He had quarreled with Jennie Bell and he wasn't going to make it up. The fact was, she gave herself too many airs and he didn't mean to stand it any longer. He didn't care if she *was* pretty—that was no reason why she should let half-a-dozen fellows hang about the shop or stroll in one at a time and, leaning on their elbows, chatter and smirk and smile over the counter; cadets and officers too, wild young fellows, who only did so for their own amusement and would no more dream of marrying her than they would of inviting her to the ball that was coming off next month. To be sure, he was only a common cavalry soldier; but then he had been in the service a good many years now, had an excellent character and a good trade at his back and, moreover, his father had died not long since, and there was the cottage all ready for Jennie to walk into and they might settle down at once if she'd only be sensible.

Jennie acted as shop-woman for her sister, Mrs. Evans. A very poor little shop it was, very small and badly stocked, for Mrs. Evans had only managed to get a few pounds' worth of things with what had been subscribed for her in the garrison after the fever had carried off her husband. The speculation answered pretty well at first, for many of the officers' wives, knowing what an industrious woman Mrs. Evans was, made a point of buying their tapes and cottons and sticks of sealing wax of her. Then Jennie's pretty face was behind the counter and the shop was filled from morning to night with officers and frisky young cadets and the original customers took flight—though Mrs. Evans did not know it, for she, believing the business was safe in the keeping of Jennie, worked hard at the dressmaking (she had three children to support and the shop alone would not do it.)

The officers were not profitable customers, for they only went to flirt with Jennie under the excuse of buying a penny paper or perhaps asking for a time-table. Jennie made the most trim and pretty and obliging of shop-women and the place itself was always a pattern of neatness; but the officers' wives did not care to go and buy their threads where they were evidently interrupting a flirtation, and so the business continued to fall off and Mrs. Evans began to get quite uneasy about it. Jennie—pretty, kind-hearted, thoughtless Jennie—had no idea that she had anything to do with it, or she would have sent every one of her admirers off at a pace that would have astonished them. She had been only too delighted, after her brother-in-law died, to come from Devonshire and live with her sister at Woolwich—not only because she was very fond of her sister, but also because she had wished many times to see John Weare again. She had made his acquaintance when her brother and he—for they had been in the same regiment—were stationed at Plymouth and she had paid them a flying visit with her father.

John had told her then that he was tired of the service and wanted to settle down, and she inwardly thought that he could not do better than ask her to settle with him. He had been very attentive when she came to Woolwich and gradually established himself on the footing of a lover, till he found the shop always filled with officers and cadets. At first he was shy of appearing before his superiors, then he got jealous and at last angry; for he felt and knew that they meant her no good and besides, it was doing real injury to the business of the shop. At last he spoke his mind, and told the coquettish Jennie what he thought and was snubbed for his pains.

"If you think I don't know how to take care of myself, Mr. Weare, you are much mistaken, and I don't want any one to tell me what's right or wrong. I know myself."

"Well, Miss Jennie, I didn't mean to give offense. I only told you what I thought."

"Then you might have kept your thoughts to yourself," she said, with a little toss of her pretty head—"unless they had been nice ones," she added. He heard the aside and picked up his courage.

"It's awfully hard, too, when one that cares for you really can't get near you," he pleaded.

Just then Jennie caught sight of Captain McGee, a tall and handsome man, with long whiskers and a red nose, coming in the direction of the shop with a big bunch of flowers in his hand. She had heard John Weare's last words; but she was secretly of opinion that "he ought to have come up to the scratch before," so she thought a little jealousy might do him good.

"Oh, here comes Captain McGee!" she said, in a delighted tone.

"Well, he's just the biggest blackleg in the service Jennie, and if you take my advice you'll send him off sharp."

"I believe you are jealous, Mr. Weare, and telling stories about the captain; he is always very polite to me," and she smoothed her pretty hair and arranged the trifles on the counter.

"Oh, he's polite enough, no doubt."

"And he's bringing me some flowers."

"Now look here, Jennie; are you going to take them?"

"Of course I am."

"Well, then, good-by."

"Good-by," she laughed. Of course she knew he wouldn't go.

"Jennie, he'll be in directly and I shall be off; but you must choose between him and me. If you are going to keep on talking to him, I shall never come in the place again—so which is it to be?"

"The captain."

"But I am not joking. I'll never see you again."

No more am I joking; so good-by."

"Good-by"—and he went.

CHAPTER II.

He kept resolutely away for a whole month—never once went near the place. If Jennie wanted him, she might send for him or get her sister to invite him to tea, as she had done before. But John Weare was not sent for, neither was he invited to tea, and his spirits began to wax low.

"If she'd cared a dump about me she'd have got in my way somehow before this—trust a woman," he thought.

The idea of not being cared for, even to the extent of a dump, was not cheerful. That night he strolled carelessly by the shop, but on the opposite side of the way. Nothing was to be seen of Jennie. He walked on in a brown study and went deliberately by the shop with only one eye, however, turned in its direction, but not a sign of Jennie. He went on to the barrack in a dejected frame of mind.

"It's an awful pity—such a nice girl; and the cottage all ready for her to step into and me ready to retire from the service and a good trade at my back; it's too bad, and all along of that Captain McGee, too. And the fruit in the garden (of the cottage) all ripe and no one to pick it."

The very next morning John Weare walked deliberately into the shop and asked for a penny newspaper and had the felicity of being served by Mrs. Evans.

"Quite a stranger, Mr. Weare," she said; but that was the only remark she made, and for the life of him he could not screw up his courage to ask for her sister.

That night John Weare was miserable.

"She can't care a rush for me," he thought and marched all over the town and nearly to Greenwich and back, in his excitement.

The next day was a lucky day for John. He came across Bibbs. Bibbs was Mrs. Evans' eldest boy. No one knew what his real name was or why he was called Bibbs; but he was never called anything else.

"Bibbs," said John Weare, "come and have some fruit;" and he carried him off in triumph to the cottage and stuffed him with gooseberries till he couldn't move and with black currants till his

mouth was as black as a crow. Then he carried him inside and stood him on the table and sat down before him.

"How old are you, Bibbs?"

He thought it better to begin the conversation with a question.

"Five and a half. Is that your sword up there?"

"Yes. Who gave you those bronze shoes, Bibbs?"

Now he knew that Jennie had given them to him, but he so wanted to hear her name.

"Auntie. She's going away soon," he added. "Let me look at your sword now."

"Where is she going to?" he asked, in consternation.

"Devonshire. Do let me try on your sword."

"Why is she going?" he asked, with a sick feeling at his heart.

"She's ill, I think; and she's always crying now. One day she was crying over the silver thing you gave her and kissing it like anything."

The "silver thing" was a little heart of about the size of a shilling, which he had bought at Charlton Fair last October and timidly requested her to accept.

John Weare jumped up and showed Bibbs his sword and carried him on his back all over the place and entreated him to have more black currants, in his delight. But Bibbs declined.

"Aunt Jennie's going to bring me some from Eltham to-night."

So Jennie was going to Eltham, was she? John Weare took Bibbs home, and on his way presented him with a white woolly lamb that moved on wheels and squeaked and a monkey that went up a stick on being gently pushed.

"Crying over her silver thing!" said John Weare. "I'll go and hang about the Eltham road till I see her and beg her pardon."

And he went and Jennie met him and pouted and declared she hadn't once thought of him and then broke down and cried. And John begged her pardon and declared that he had been a heartless brute; and then Jennie contradicted him and said it was all her fault, and told him how Mrs. Dunlop, the colonel's wife, had one day walked in and told her in the kindest possible manner that she was spoiling her sister's business, for the ladies who had been interested in her welfare kept away on account of Jennie's flirting propensities, which filled up the shop with idle officers who were always in the way; and how she had been so ashamed and wretched and so cut up at the desertion of John Weare, that she had determined to go back to Devonshire.

"But you won't, now?" he said, as they leaned over the stile leading to the Eltham fields. "You'll get ready at once and we'll be married as soon as possible, before the fruit in the garden is spoiled?"

It took a long time for him to talk her into it—about three-quarters of an hour; but then she was very happy at heart and chatted like a young magpie, and told John how she had snubbed Captain McGee and had thrown all his flowers out of the window.

"And it really was all through that dear Bibbs that you waylaid me to-night?" she asked.

"Certainly."

"Why, but for him I might never have seen you again."

"Perhaps not."

"I'll give Bibbs a regular hug when I get home," she thought; and she did. And the day before she was married she bought him a rocking-horse, which he delights in to this day.

HINTS FOR THE TRAVELING SEASON.

At this season many persons contemplate traveling; to do so with the largest amount of comfort and advantage—physical, social and mental—the following suggestions are made:

Take one fourth more money than your actual estimated expenses.

Acquaint yourself with the geography of the route and region of travel.

Have a good supply of small change, and have no bill or piece higher than ten dollars, that you may not take counterfeit change.

So arrange as to have but a single article of luggage to look after.

Dress substantially. Better to be too hot for two or three hours at noon than to be cool for the remainder of the twenty-four.

Arrange, under all circumstances, to be at the place of starting fifteen or twenty minutes before the time, thus allowing for unavoidable or unanticipated detention on the way.

Do not commence a day's travel before breakfast, even if that has to be eaten at daylight. Dinner or supper, or both, can be more healthily dispensed with than a good, warm breakfast.

Put your purse and watch in your vest pocket and all under your pillow, and you will not be likely to leave either.

The best if not entirely secure fastening of your chamber door is a bolt on the inside; if there is none, lock the door, turn the key so that it can be drawn partly out, and put the wash-basin under it; thus, any attempt to use a jimmy or put in another key, will push it out and cause a racket among the crockery, which will be pretty sure to rouse the sleeper and rout the robber.

A sixpenny sandwich eaten leisurely in the cars is better for you than a dollar dinner bolted at a "station."

Take with you a month's supply of patience and always think thirteen times before you reply once to any supposed rudeness, insult or inattention.

Do not suppose yourself specially and designedly neglected if waiters at hotels do not bring what you call for in double quick time; nothing so distinctly marks the well-bred man as a quiet waiting on such occasions; passion proves the puppy.

Do not allow yourself to converse in a tone loud enough to be heard by a person two or three seats from you; it is the mark of a boor if in a man, and of want of refinement and lady-like delicacy if in a woman. A gentleman is not noisy; ladies are serene.

Comply cheerfully and gracefully with the customs of the conveyances in which you travel and of the places where you stop.

Respect yourself by exhibiting the manners of a gentleman and a lady, if you wish to be treated as such, and then you will receive the respect of others.

Travel is a great leveler; take the position which others assign you from your conduct rather than from your pretensions.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

The Literary World.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Historical Jews of Nazareth. By M. SCHLESINGER, Ph. D. [12mo.—pp. 98; $1.] New York: Chas. P. Somerby, 139 Eighth street.

THERE are books which are *con*structive and books which are *de*structive—books which, if they pull down one cherished faith, proffer what is believed to be a better one, and books which simply deny, asserting only the everlasting No. Such is the work under notice. The writer is the rabbi of a prominent Jewish congregation at Albany, N. Y., and as Jewish theological works are rather scarce—at least with us—we read the work carefully, but ended it with a feeling of intense disappointment.

It is not within the province of this paper either to attack or defend any system of theology, and we must confine ourselves mostly to a statement of his views, with brief comment, that our readers may learn what an educated Jew really does believe in.

He traces the vitality of the Jewish race to their "Messianic idea." We doubt whether that is the true name for the "idea" that is most powerful in swaying the Jewish mind and would suggest that, if the thought be a true one, he has not probed it to its depths. They believe they are to be the saviours of the world, he says; yet, what have they done, since Christ was born, to save it? Here and there many have arisen and made themselves famous among men, but the mass have only a physical vitality, and because of smaller numbers and a *positive distinction* to proselyting—refusal to become the savior our author says they believe they are to be—without influence on the mental condition of the world. Nor do we perceive any indication that either by increase of numbers or intelligence they ever will have influence—or that they have desired, or do, or will desire, such influence.

Asserting the might of the idea of a *coming* Messiah, he resolutely shuts his eyes to the far grander results following a belief in the Messiah that *has* come. Asserting the obscurity of CHRIST'S birth and the insignificance of his first followers, he sees nothing wonderful in the millions who now believe in him. Jewish history has nothing like it. The people who received the law from Sinai were many times more numerous than the disciples of CHRIST were a hundred years after his death. What are their relative proportions now? If there be such force in the Messianic idea, does it not seem as if the Christian and not the Jew, had perceived and realized it?

Possessing a spirit of *scientific* research—the usual euphemism for universal skepticism—and seeming to forget (we all of us do forget at times) how much the prejudices of his whole life unfitted him for a fair judgment, he eagerly strikes hands with the German rationalist STRAUSS, who once boasted, "we have advanced from knowing a little about CHRIST to knowing nothing," and does not perceive that he has joined himself to a company who will take the arguments he uses and turn them against *his* faith—saying the supernaturalism he denies in CHRIST is as absurd in MOSES—that if the miracles of CHRIST lack evidence, so do those Jewish history is full of. While to the CHRISTIAN he is an unbeliever, the school he has joined sneer at his credulity.

As was to be expected of a man so trained and using such teachers, our author finds nothing remarkable in the life of CHRIST. JOSEPHUS does not mention him; therefore, though several Pagan writers do, it is of no consequence. He cannot believe the magi had any supernatural intimation of CHRIST'S birth, but believes *they learned it from the stars*. He thinks JESUS was a common man; yet, even if we reject supernaturalism and read his life as a simple history, we shall find none like it, and we once heard an infidel say, "If the gospels are true, they reveal a wonder; if not true, who could have devised a character so impossible of human conception?" But, like our author, he was content to wonder at the lie rather than accept the truth. Our author finds nothing supernatural in CHRIST'S miracles. He sees marvelous virtue in faith. "Those who believed were easily cured." He does not perceive that faith still has power, for men are men still. He sees nothing remarkable in his death and contemptuously dismisses the resurrection as witnessed only by MARY MAGDALENE "a nervous, amorous, excited woman," and "MARY saw him," all the evidence the disciple had. He does not seem to have read the last chapter of LUKE'S Gospel.

He asserts that PAUL is the real founder of Christianity, the Gospels being written either to support or oppose PAUL. He says the Book of Revelations is an attack on PAUL.

We must close. The book is a remarkable one as to its utterances, not its spirit. We do not think it will unsettle Christians; if it should, he offers no substitute for Christianity. His last few words, asserting that Christianity is being absorbed by Heathenism, are only an illustration of what absurdities "scientific" men can be guilty of. There are no facts to prove this now; doubtless they can be invented when needed.

Two Years in California. By MARY CONE. (8vo.—pp. 228; price, $1.25.) Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.

THE author thus vigorously cites the evidence of her impartiality:—"There has been much that was partial and untrue written in regard to California. The writer lays no claim to infallibility, but does claim that during two years spent in California, she made an honest effort to see things as they really were and has tried to describe them as they appeared. Bought up by no corporation, never dead-headed, protected by insignificance from all ovations whatsoever, there was nothing to cast a glamour over the eyes or bias the judgment except so far as the loving-kindness of friends brought content to the heart and opened pleasanter and fuller facilities for seeing and knowing."

With this principle in view the author has produced rather a remarkable book than otherwise—remarkable for a woman. It contains a mass of statistics which are so interwoven with interesting facts and pleasant reading as to lose all their dryness. No one who reads the work carefully can fail to have an excellent idea of both the advantages and disadvantages of a residence in California, which is to-day a comparatively unknown region to many of our Eastern people. That the State has exceptional advantages to the agriculturist there can be no doubt and nowhere have we seen these more clearly set forth than in this work. It is beautifully illustrated and printed in clear type on handsome paper. The publishers have done their part well.

The Pilot and his Wife. A Norse Love story. By JONAS LIE. Translated by MRS. OLE BULL. [8vo. —pp. 336. Price, $1.50. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.

To the more Southern reader—the denizen of a warmer climate—there is always something refreshingly strong in the literature of the colder climate. The people seem to be—nay, are made of sterner stuff, probably the result of a more sterile land and the habit of conquering the greater obstacles which Nature has thrown in the path of their existence. Among the most vigorous of the Scandinavian writers is JONAS LIE, the author of the work before us, which has been so well rendered into English by the translator. To the lover of our modern "gush" served up in novels of the present day, we should say throw it aside as somewhat heavy and stupid; but from those who read for information as well as amusement it certainly merits a perusal. The glimpse of Scandinavian low life must be truthful, and is an interesting study. The character of the reckless, stern old fisherman, with quite as much bad as good in his composition, is so finely drawn that one's interest is held throughout.

Achsah. By Rev. PETER PENNOT. (8vo.—pp. 368; price, $1.50.) Boston: Lee & Shepard.

THIS is another novel from the pen of a Minister of the Gospel and, like a majority of such works, largely made up of church matters and church people. Of course it is but natural that the author should write about that which he knows most; but it seems quite unnecessary for him to follow the great fault of nearly all ministers' novels, viz.,—the exaggerated contrast between the good and bad in daily life to such a degree as to amount almost to a double caricature. While this is an interesting story and is smoothly written, we wish his good people had been a little less good and his bad people a little more like others. Upon the whole, it is far above the average novel of the present day and certainly points an excellent moral. Some orthodox people may think it a trifle too liberal; but the world develops each day and never retrogrades. The work is illustrated with good and appropriate wood cuts, some of which quite enter into the author's spirit of excessive good and bad.

Roadside Poems for Summer Travelers. Edited by LUCY LARCOM. (Pp. 263; price, $1.) Boston: Jas. R. Osgood & Co.

THE tendency of modern bookmakers is toward compilation and a reputation for excellence of selection has now become almost as desirable as one for good writing. Material is always at hand and the light readers in this busy era are generally glad to have their mental food culled for them. Hence the active demand for such little volumes as the one before us. Originally designed for a pocket companion to the mountain traveler, the editor seems to have drifted naturally into selections suitable for all times and places. Glimpses of what is best and purest in nature from the pens of the greatest English and American Poets are here reproduced. A glance upon any page cannot fail to convey to the mind of the reader food for enjoyable thought. The convenient size of the work will render it a welcome comrade to travelers.

The Complete Poetical Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. [Large 8vo. pp. 281.] Price, $1.50. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.

THIS is one of the Cheap Editions of the Poets published by this enterprising firm. They should have the thanks of the middle class in this country for the inauguration of so commendable an undertaking. Of course it is unnecessary for us to say anything of LONGFELLOW, for who is not familiar with his works? This edition is an honor to its publishers, and how they are able to make and sell a book exhibiting such careful preparation, excellent typography, beautiful illustrations and mass of matter for a dollar, is to us a mystery. But they have done it in this instance and promise to do likewise with other writers, so that we must wish them success.

Sabbath Reading.

"IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."

So long as rain and sunshine fall,
The blossom shall not fail
Which friendship seeks when friends must part,
To give with her farewell;
And long as any breath of spring
Within our hearts shall stir,
We shall not ask, How fair? how sweet?
But only say, From her.

To-day I found some withered leaves,
Once fragrant, fresh and fair,
I held them tenderly and smiled
At what was pictured there,—
Smiled happily, and looked away
Behind the bygone years,
And saw the waves upon the sand,
And heard the boatmen's cheers.

And saw the blue sky overhead
With white-sailed clouds bedight,
And wore them on my breast again
And said again, "Good-night."
"Good-night;" and then I folded them
With precious things away.
To me they are not withered leaves
But sweet-souled words to-day.

"Good-night," and with my treasure safe
My tryst with God I keep,
And read his word, and pray, before
I lay me down to sleep,
Dear Christ, forgive the wayward feet,
And stay the failing hands,
And guide to pastures fresh and sweet
Thy little straying bands.

Still in the wine we drink thy blood,
And eat the broken bread;
And still our sacred vows renew
With bowed and reverent head.
Still may we hold thy gift of peace,
And, sweet as morning light,
Hear once again the tender tones
That gave our souls good-night.

[*Addie L. Wyman.*

FAITHFUL MEETS SHAME.

Christian.—Met you with nothing else in that valley?

Faithful.—Yes, I met with Shame; but of all the men that I met with on my pilgrimage, he, I think bears the wrong name. The other would be said nay, after a little argumentation, and somewhat else; but this bald-faced Shame would never have done.

Chr.—Why, what did he say to you?

Faith.—What? why he objected against religion itself. He said it was a pitiful, low, sneaking business for a man to mind religion. He said that a tender conscience was an unmanly thing; and that for a man to watch over his words and ways, so as to tie up himself from that hectoring liberty that the brave spirits of the times accustom themselves unto, would make him the ridicule of the times. He objected, also, that but few of the mighty, rich or wise were of my opinion; nor any of them neither, before they were persuaded to be fools and to be of a voluntary foolishness to venture the loss of all for nobody else knows what. He, moreover, objected to the base and low estate and condition of those that were chiefly the pilgrims of the times in which they lived; also their ignorance and want of understanding in all natural science. Yea, he did hold me to it at that rate also about a great many more things than here I relate; as that it was a shame to sit whining and mourning under a sermon, and a shame to come sighing and groaning home; that it was a shame to ask my neighbor forgiveness for my petty faults, or to make restitution where I have taken from any. He said, also, that religion made a man grow strange to the great, because of a few vices (which he called by finer names), and made him own and respect the base, because of the same religious fraternity: and is not this, said he, a shame?

Chr.—And what did you say to him?

Faith.—Say? I could not tell what to say at first. Yea, he put me so to it, that my blood came up in my face; even this Shame fetched it up, and had almost beat me quite off. But at last I began to consider, that that which is highly esteemed among men is had in abomination with God (Luke 16: 15). And I thought again, this Shame tells me what men are; but he tells nothing what God, or the word of God, is. And I thought, moreover, that at the day of doom we shall not be doomed to death or life, according to the hectoring spirits of the world, but according to the wisdom and law of the highest. Therefore, thought I, what God says is best, is best, though all the men in the world are against it. Seeing, then, that God prefers his religion; seeing God prefers a tender conscience; seeing they that make themselves fools for the kingdom of heaven are wisest, and that the poor man that loveth Christ is richer than the greatest man in the world that hates him; Shame, depart, thou art an enemy to my salvation.—*Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.*

CONSCIENCE is the voice of the soul, the passions are the voice of the body. It is astonishing that these two languages contradict each other, and then to which must we listen? Too often reason deceives us; we have only too much acquired the right of refusing to listen to it; conscience never deceives us; it is the true guide of man: it is to man what instinct is to the body, which follows it, obeys nature and never is afraid of going astray. —*Rousseau.*

Too many only see Christ in a book, as we see places in a map: but to come right—to enjoy him—this is delightful and saving.—*Rutherford.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

HOME.

THERE is a land of every land the pride,
Beloved by heaven o'er all the world beside;
Where brighter suns dispense serener light,
And milder moons emparadise the night;
A land of beauty, virtue, valor, truth,
Time-tutored age and love-exalted youth.

The wandering mariner, whose eye explores
The wealthiest isles, the most enchanting shores,
Views not a realm so bountiful and fair,
Nor breathes the spirit of a purer air;
In every clime the magnet of his soul,
Touched by remembrance, trembles to that pole;
For in this land of heaven's peculiar grace,
The heritage of nature's noblest race,
There is a spot of earth supremely blest,
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest,
Where man, creation's tyrant, casts aside
His sword and scepter, pageantry and pride,
While in his softened looks benignly blend
The sire, the son, the husband, brother, friend.

Here woman reigns, the mother, daughter, wife,
Strew, with fresh flowers, the narrow way of life!
In the clear heaven of her delightful eye
An angel guard of loves and graces lie;
Around her knees domestic duties meet,
And fireside pleasures gambol at her feet

Where shall that land, that spot of earth be found?
Art thou a man?—a patriot?—look around;
Oh! thou shalt find, howe'er thy footsteps roam,
That land *thy* country, and that spot *thy* home!

[*James Montgomery.*

HE WAS RICH.

A FEW weeks since a pleasure yacht was capsized in New York harbor and five of the persons on board were drowned, Mr. GARNER, the owner of the yacht, and his wife being among the number. This accident was in itself no more appalling than hundreds of others which are duly chronicled in the press from week to week, still within a few hours after its occurrence our city papers were filled with staring head lines, such as "HEART-RENDING CALAMITY—*Terrible Accident in New York Harbor*," etc., etc., followed by a brief account of how it occurred and a long eulogistic personal history of Mr. GARNER, ending by informing the public that he *was rich*. The illustrated papers posted off their artists to obtain portraits of the gentleman named and his wife, which duly appeared in their columns, they not forgetting to inform their readers that the deceased *were rich*. Even the very waters which rolled over the sunken yacht and its precious burden, and the dozens of small craft filled with idlers listless hovering about, were duly sketched for the delectation of the people. For a week or more following the disaster column after column of our daily papers were filled with accounts of it, not the smallest scrap pertaining to Mr. GARNER'S wealth being omitted.

In the search for the good deeds of the deceased it was discovered that he paid the men who catered to his personal comforts and pleasures "liberally"—a glorious thing to do, and judging from the comments of the daily press of this city, one might suppose it was the first instance on record of a man spending money freely to gratify his own personal pleasure. But in addition to the hundreds of columns filled with eulogium of this rich sportsman and the manner in which he met his death, nearly every church in New York and Brooklyn bowed to Mammon, and their pastors feelingly referred to his loss—and all because he *was rich*.

Scarcely a day passes in which some worthy person does not meet death in fully as tragic a manner as did Mr. GARNER, but a line—a paragraph at most—is all that the press bestows to their memory or good deeds in life, unless they happen to be wealthy; if so, the eulogium is drawn out to correspond with the length of the purse of the deceased!

Of course we have nothing to say in regard to the virtues of those who lost their lives in the ill-fated yacht, never having heard of them before their death, and for aught we know they may have been the very "salt of the earth," but neither vices nor virtues were named in the vivid accounts given of the catastrophe in the press of our city, but the burden of it was, bonds, stocks, landed property and great wealth—all of which seemed to stimulate the facile pens chronicling the sad event. Neither would we undervalue wealth or the talents a man must possess to accumulate and keep a store of this world's goods, in order to provide for his own wants and those depending upon him for support; but this long-continued laudation and bowing down to Mammon, as in the case under consideration, is, to say the least, disgusting, and unbecoming a people who claim to appreciate and exalt personal integrity and individual worth above gold.

What a lesson to our young men and women. Does it not say to them, as plain as words and actions can say, seek and obtain wealth above all things else! Get money, and your name and fame shall be heralded throughout the length and breadth of the land, and when death comes you will be remembered in prayers offered up from a thousand pulpits.

Is it any wonder, under such a condition of society, that men become corrupt and women stoop to intrigue and infamy to obtain that which possesses the power to silence calumny and open the gates of praise? CRITIC.

A MAN who takes a wife for the sake of her money rears ill-behaved children.

SUNDAY FLIRTATION.

IN a certain sense all attractive females are flirts. True, there are women about as good looking as the rough side of a horseradish grater, who read with glasses and eat with porcelain teeth, and yet flirt. There is an excuse for them. They are obliged to snap at the first chance like hungry wolves. But girls who don't have to jump at chances flirt because it is pretty business. True, it is pretty, and it is right. That is the only way she is to find out what her beau, possibly her future husband, is like. A man always approaches a girl dressed in society politeness, and it is the girl's duty to pierce this thin coating of sugar and plum, and learn what is beneath. She cannot accomplish this without flirting. Sunday is a blessed day for this semi-religious work. It is like an after-dinner hour. The men are gallant, the ladies melted out from the weekly stiffness, impulses are a-top, the key of the conversation delightful soprano, and the old people are snoozingly satisfied in the cool back room, or lazily content in church. In the evening the moon gives light enough to see the palpable shafts of a woman's glance when her head is bent forward. A woman's face never looks well by moonlight with the chin salient, unless it is when the young man has a few of his fingers engaged in supporting it. When the head is bent downward the girl can look out of the tops of her eyes. A man at all interested will wither like a cabbage leaf in August before the glance of a woman shot from the tips of her eyes. Again on Sunday the heart appears peculiarly soft and tender. There is a pathetic sadness in the associations which the heart takes. And this is in the woman's favor. She should lean away from levity. No man ever made any progress in loving while a woman was laughing. Nothing will sink into his soul like that subdued contidingness of tone on sad topics. A man may be worldly, but of all things he dislikes it is worldliness in a young girl. If you have any piety crowd it up on Sunday evenings. Better brush up on it in the morning.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

AN old man in a house is a terror; an old woman is a pearl.

HE who marries a woman congenial to himself is loved by the Almighty.

HE who has no wife lives without comfort, without help, without joy, and without blessing.

WHEN a man loseth his wife, the world around him groweth dark, the light in his tent is dim, and the light before him is extinguished.

To write a good love letter you ought to begin without knowing what you mean to say, and finish without knowing what you have written.—*Rousseau.*

Two ladies contended for the precedence at the court of Charles V. They appealed to the monarch, who, like Solomon, awarded, "Let the elder go first." Such a dispute was never known afterward.

A YOUNG lady of Georgia is six feet two and a-half inches high, and when her young man sings, "Thou art so near and yet so far," he can throw more feeling into the song than any other man in the State.

WOMAN AS A CRIMINAL.—French statistics show that woman is six times less criminal against person, four times less criminal against property, and twice less hardened a criminal than man. The record (recently published) also proves that maternity is a better shield against bad life than paternity. Of 1,000 female criminals 261 are mothers, and of 1,000 male criminals 324 are fathers.

MARY MAPES DODGE, in her new book "Theophilus and Others," has the following model preface:

"These tales and talks, most of which have appeared in various periodicals, are now at the urgent solicitation of friends, etc., etc., etc.

"Their preparation has enlivened hours of, etc., etc., etc.

"If this little volume shall, etc., etc., etc.

"In conclusion the author begs, etc. etc., etc. "M. M. D."

A BROOKLYN girl having been visited for some months by an exceedingly bashful gentleman brought on the wished-for climax by the following ruse. He made an afternoon call and after a few minutes waiting she rushed into the parlor equipped for the street and said hastily, "I am in a great hurry—have an engagement with a lady friend, and if you came for the purpose of proposing marriage you must be quick about it." Wedding early in the fall.

THE literary women of England have entered a protest against the apartment allotted to them in the British Museum. The approaches to it are narrow and unsightly, in marked contrast to the broad passages and stairways leading to the other departments. The room itself is dingy, dimly lighted and in uncleanly order. The ladies maintain that the museum belongs to the nation and that they have a right to as comfortable and elegant a reading-room as that accorded men. They announce, too, that they intend to prosecute the affair until they get justice.

REFERRING to the closing of the first year of instruction at the Smith Woman's College in Northampton, Mass., the Springfield Republican says: "Ten months of experiment have shown that women students are as capable of advanced study as are men, and it is the college's proud record that all of the students who have boarded on the institution grounds, go to their homes in as good health as when they came, and that some are much better. There has been but one case of sickness among them, and that was really contracted before the pupil entered.

Reading for the Young.

NATHAN NOBB,
Oh, what a job!
Always walked on his head;
His mother would sob
To his brother Bob,
And his father took to his bed.

They made him a boot
His head to suit,
But a horrible thing must be said,—
His hair took root,
And began to shoot,
One day, in the garden bed!

So there he stands
With the help of his hands
And a little support from his nose:
The gardener man,
With the watering-can,
Says, "Gracious, how fast he grows!"

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a West Va. Genius.

GOOD MORNING, COUSINS:—"Why—where did you come from?" I hear some of you exclaim. I will tell you. I live in West Virginia, in a small village on the banks of the West Fork River. My father is proprietor of a large flouring mill. I am going to school, and, like YOUNG ARTIST, "am still young enough to attend common school." About making quilts: Girls, I will give you my opinion, and not charge you one cent. I think there is not the least use of it—cutting up calico just for the pleasure of sewing it together again. Why not spend your time at something better? Let YOUNG ARTIST tell the girls that plan she has for spending time better than making quilts. We have an organ, and I have been taking lessons. I am having a nice pleasure boat built, and I want some of my Cousins to give me a name for it—a real nice one. What shall it be? YOUNG ARTIST, in her letter, says, "We may not be as conceited as our boy-cousins," &c. As if we boys are conceited! The idea is preposterous! And let none of our Cousins again speak of "noble manhood" in such "degrading" terms. Boys! boys! awake! Don't you see the girls are "half crazy" to hear from you? Come out and say what you want to; and don't be "backward." We *can* and *must* "hold our own" with the girls. Let us have a "lively campaign" this summer. YOUNG BACH, how can you sit there, and let the girls say what they please about you, without saying a word? Stand up and let them know what you are made of. Show them that you are not afraid. They need not think they can "preach decorum" to us; if they do try, we will make a noise and not listen to them. I think I shall attend the Centennial, and perhaps you will hear from me. Well, I must draw my letter to a close, for I fear it will be too lengthly. Let me hear from all of you soon, and perhaps you will again hear from—YOUNG EDITOR.

P. S.—My reason for signing my name Y. E. is, that I print a small amateur paper. I will send YOUNG ARTIST a copy of my paper, provided she will send me one of her works of art, which, if I receive, I will highly extol in my paper.

From an Iowa Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—It is a long time since I wrote to you, but I have not much time for writing as I go to school and have to study very hard. I promised to describe the place in which I live; but before I do so I wish to say, in answer to CRITIC, that the reason girls bestow their smiles and favors on "tobacco distillers" is, they can find nothing better. But I intend to wait for something better, if I have to wait a lifetime. I always said I never would go with a beer keg stopped with a cigar, or lock arms with a whisky jug corked with a plug of tobacco. The printer made me live in Iowa City instead of Tama City, which is my home. Now this is not a city, but an incorporated town of about 1,500 inhabitants, situated on the north side of the Iowa River, on the C. & N. W. R. R., 170 miles west of the Mississippi River. About three and a-half miles west of the town is a large dam, which turns the water into a canal or race which carries it into a reservoir covering about forty acres. This reservoir is situated southwest of the town, and on its banks, and run by the water which it contains, are a foundry, machine shop, tub factory, flouring mill, carpenter's shop and pump shop. These have all been built within the past year. In the eastern part of the town is our large school house, which cost about $16,000. We have an excellent school of six departments, with a principal and six assistants. I attend the higher department. We have many nice buildings for so small a town. There are two banks—the National and the Bank of Tama. The latter has a marble front. In the north part of the town are two very nice buildings—finer than are generally found in towns of this size. They are large brick dwellings, costing about $16,000 each. But I am making a short story long, so I must close. SCHOOL GIRL, *Tama City, Iowa.*

A Query.

DEAR EDITOR:—I like to read your valuable paper, especially the puzzles and letters from boys and girls. I did not chance to see TOM'S letter, but from what I can make out from the replies, he gave the girls a blowing up about fashions. I think girls pay more attention to fashions than boys do. But I know that any person can get along as well without fashions as with them. If I dress neat, and clean and suit my own taste, I care but little for latest fashions or style, or people that admire them. I am lame, and cannot work much on the farm. Can any of our Cousins tell me which are the best kinds of ducks to raise, and what is the meaning of deboitement?—WALTER P., *Ills.*

From a Connecticut Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—We take six papers, but we all like the RURAL and think it the best of any. I go to school this summer; we have a lady teacher, and I like her very much. I study Arithmetic, Geography, Reading, spelling and Writing. I have a diary and write in it every night. I am eleven years old. I have two brothers and two sisters older than myself. I have a little nephew six months old; he is very cunning. My father is a farmer. We have four little calves and a good many little lambs. I have a tame sheep.—EMMA V. B., *Newtown, Ct.*

A New Recruit.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been reading the letters from the girls and boys, and am going to try my hand at it. I am sixteen, and live on a farm. I would tell R. E. M. that I have been to one leap-year party, and expect to go to another next week. It is real fun. I have no pets but have a very nice piano, and am fond of music. There are a great many young folks here, and during winter we have grand times. Please accept me as a cousin. LENA B. C.

From a "Blue Grass" Boy.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been thinking for a long time of writing a letter to the RURAL, but have not attempted until now, and I hope you will print my first letter. My father has taken the RURAL for about twelve years, and he says he cannot do without it. I live in the country, four miles from Carlisle. I enjoy reading the Story Teller and the Boys' and Girls' Columns very much.—R. H., *Carlisle, Ky.*

From Ohio.

DEAR EDITOR:—Pa has taken your paper two years; we missed it one year, but find we cannot get along without it. I live on a farm in Ohio and go to school. I have a little mute sister. We intend to send her to school in the fall.—YEKIE.

The Puzzler.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 61 letters:

My 5, 11, 15, 38, 30, 18, 31, 9, 26, 40 a town of Connecticut.

My 37, 1, 2, 23, 22, 8, 44, 18, 19, 32, 3 a town of Quebec.

My 53, 28, 6, 13, 21, 4, 23 a town of New Hampshire.

My 20, 12, 23, 49, 35, 10, 33, 48 a city of Massachusetts.

My 51, 29, 55, 7, 45, 57, 52, 36, 38, 20 a mountain peak of Vermont.

My 14, 59, 17, 47, 24, 29 a city of New Hampshire.

My 41, 42, 43 a city of Burmah.

My 16, 61, 33, 44, 12, 66, 50, 58 one of the Fiji Islands.

My 60, 61, 51, 19, 26, 25, 61, 54 a river of Australia.

My 37, 16, 40, 11, 27, 34 a city of Abyssinia.

My whole is a text showing the importance of prayer.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composes of twenty-five letters:

My 3, 22, 7, 20, 14 a small fruit.
My 5, 15, 19, 11, 24 an aromatic plant.
My 7, 9, 18, 8, 1 a blacksmith's tool.
My 14, 12, 6, 1, 16 a rapacious bird.
My 18, 24, 9, 21, 10 a planet.
My 20, 17, 22, 2, 23 a European city.
My 25, 4, 12, 22, 13 a voracious fish.

My whole is a proverb.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—July 29.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—

Some err in that, but numbers err in this,
Ten censure wrong for one who writes amiss.

HIDDEN TREES.—1, Laburnum; 2, Laurel; 3, Larch; 4, Palm; 5, Willow; 6, Palmetto; 7, Yew; 8, Camphor; 9, Beech; 10, Cedar; 11, Aspen; 12, Chestnut; 13, Orange; 14, Upas; 15, Spruce.

SYNCOPATIONS.—1 Crow—cow; 2, Meat—mat; 3, Cart—cat; 4, Dime—die; 5, Pain—pan; 6, Boat—bat; 7, Load—lad; 8, Bread—bead; 9, Clock—cock; 10, Coat—cot.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—Lord Macaulay.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In these matters he aim will not be to make them so scientific that hey may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE cotton worm has appeared unusually early in Mississippi.

Kansas expects to make $20,000 worth of silk this year.

New gold mines have recently been discovered on Beaver Creek, fourteen miles west of La Grande, Oregon, and between that point and Senator Jones' celebrated Camp Carson gravel mine.

Galveston, Texas, is now shipping wheat direct to Liverpool at 20c. per bushel.

In England, theatres are being converted into skating rinks, while on this side of the Atlantic the reverse is the case, the large rink at Newark, N. J., being now in the course of transformation from its present condition to that of a first-class theater.

Mr. John Bell of England has written a pamphlet proving the United States of America to be the Messianic World Kingdom. It is painful to reflect, in this connection, that the Messianic World Kingdom is the seat of the whisky ring.

A band of Cuban insurgents captured a convoy with $60,000 in gold, recently, near Villa Clara.

Tramps are said to be becoming so numerous along the Central Pacific Road in Nevada that conductors and brakemen are scarcely a match for them. It is feared that if they continue to go in gangs, armed guards will have to be sent with the trains to protect passengers.

Governors Tilden and Hendricks have published their letters of acceptance.

D. F. Welling, the editor and publisher of the Warwick Advertiser and the Orange County Crusader, Chairman of the Prohibition State Committee and a prominent temperance reformer, has been missing since Saturday. His financial affairs are in a bad state, and the office was to be sold last Saturday under a mortgage. He assigned some book accounts to secure indorsements.

Colorado is now a State, making the thirty-eighth in the list.

There is now no obstacle to an early adjournment of Congress. If the session, however, should be prolonged, the fair inference would be that the honorable members are afraid to go home. Some of them have been out rather late.

In Canada the hay and oat crops are very large, but wheat has suffered severely, owing to the great heat. There are fair crops of peas and Indian corn, but fruits are less abundant. The general result appears to be satisfactory, and will stimulate Canadian trade.

The Senate of the United States has recorded its decision in the impeachment trial of ex-Secretary Belknap. On the first article the vote stood 35 for conviction, 25 for the discharge of the accused for lack of jurisdiction. On other articles the vote stood 36 and 37 to 25 and 26. The negative votes were explained by those who cast them with two exceptions. It was stated in nearly every instance that the negative decision was based, not on the question of guilt, but on that of jurisdiction exclusively. Senator Jones of Florida refused to vote.

A detail of fifty more convicts from Auburn has been made to the Elmira Reformatory. This leaves the population of the prison at 1,365. Forty-one men were discharged in July, and forty-nine go out this month. Sixty-six men were received during the last month.

Fifteen Chinamen went up in a waterspout in Nevada last week. They were in a tent on a hillside near Eureka when the water broke upon them. Six were swept down the canon, and their bodies have not been found. One was carried two miles, but still lives.

The Centennial buildings were well constructed after all. They were subjected to a severe test by the recent storm, but there were few leaks. The sieve-like roof of the Art Annex let in water, and the Japanese silkworms, the Italian confections, and the Canadian birds were slightly injured, but the damage in the Main Building, Machinery Hall, Memorial Hall and the other structures was trifling.

There are 40 cotton mills in Georgia, and they have been in active operation during a very dull season. Tennessee has taken great strides in manufacturing, and throughout the South the drift of capital is toward industrial pursuits. The farmers, too, have not only adapted themselves to free labor, but have also planted new crops, adopted wiser methods of cultivation, introduced improved agricultural implements, and begun to sow grasses and raise stock. The South is learning manufacturing, stock-raising, and scientific farming in the hardest of hard times, and scarcely knows whether it is going backward or forward.

The report of the committee from the U. S. Senate, which investigated the affairs of Mississippi, will be made soon.

On the return trip from Deadwood, Wyoming Territory, on Aug. 6, the stage was attacked by Indians at Indian Creek. The stock was stolen, the mail bags cut open, the coach destroyed, and one passenger wounded. A camp of 15 Indians was surprised and attacked at Old Bridge Ferry, forty miles north of Fort Laramie, by a party of herders.

The Athens depot, N. Y., has again been burned.

The latest number of the American Journal of Science and Art contains a highly interesting paper on Dinitroparadibrombenzols and their derivatives, on Menonitroparadibrombenzols, on Alphadinitroparadibrombenzol, and on Natriumhydrate solution's action on the Alphadinitroparadibrombenzol, producing as it does a Nitrobromphenol. In the experiments which led to the adoption of these Aristophanesian words "a violent action set in, during which it was found advisable to remove the burners." We are not surprised.

A further importation of improved live stock is to be made into New-Brunswick at the expense of the Province.

The (Chicago) Evening Telegraph, Mr. Storey's evening paper, which started eight weeks ago, has published its last issue.

The Cheyenne Sioux request of the Government a cessation of hostilities against Sitting Bull with a hope of effecting a peace with him.

The House has passed a bill repealing the Resumption act of 1875 by a vote of 106 to 86; another bill was passed providing for a commission to consider the question of a double standard of value and the practicability of resumption.

Commodore Vanderbilt's condition improved, and his physicians and friends think he may possibly live for weeks.

Mr. Mullet has now 31 Republicans and 2 Democratic Senators on his petition for reinstatement as Supervising Architect of the Treasury. The President is known to be very friendly to him, but it is understood he has said he would not interfere with Secretary Morrill in filling that important office.

The President has signed the joint resolution prohibiting the supply of special metallic cartridges to hostile Indians; also, the act to further authorize the Commissioners of Indian Affairs to purchase supplies for the Indian Bureau in open market; also the joint resolution providing for the restoration of the original Declaration of Independence.

A Boston correspondent of a New York paper gives an interesting account of the anniversary meeting of the Society to Encourage Study. It is doing an excellent work in stimulating study among young women who have ended their school days but not their desire for learning. The high class of studies that have been pursued in many instances by members of the society is especially noteworthy. Might not a similar organization do good service among young men, especially with clerks in mercantile business, whose tendency is to drop all studies and lose the bulk of the knowledge they have acquired at school?

Sultan Murad's condition is pitiable indeed, if accounts from Constantinople are true. A correspondent of the *Messager du Midi* sends to that paper a letter purporting to have been written by the Sultan's physician, which says that "Murad is dying from delirium tremens, brought on by hard drinking, principally absinthe, reckless debauchery, remorse for his uncle's death, and dread of a Russian invasion, or attacks on his palace by Mussulman fanatics."

The receipts for a year's license fees from gamblers in Virginia City were $29,000. The money is collected monthly, and gambling is in no way restricted.

A circus wagon containing sea lions was backed into Lake Winnebago, Wis., to give the animals water, when suddenly the doors flew open and the lions escaped. As one of them has by this time a litter of young ones, it is likely that a colony of the animals will grow up in the lake.

The skull race for the championship of Halifax Harbor in which the competitors were Warren Smith and Obed Smith of the Fishermen's crew, and John Brown, was won by Warren Smith, making the distance, three miles, in 23 minutes.

The Dominion Government has refused to commute the sentence of O'Neil, the New Brunswick murderer. He will therefore be hanged on Thursday next.

Bruce Younger, a cousin of the notorious Younger brothers, has been arrested on suspicion of being one of the gang who robbed a railroad train near Otterville, Mo.

A tornado passed over Rhomere Township, Cass County, Missouri, destroying several dwellings and seriously injuring the crops and farm produce. Two people were killed.

Chief Justice Monell, of the Superior Court of New York, is dead. He was a good jurist, and highly esteemed on personal grounds.

The second day of the Maine State camp meeting at Sebago Lake opened with an increase in numbers and enthusiasm. The forenoon was devoted to reports of the reform work in the different parts of Maine and New England. Owen B. Chadbourn of Saco, J. K. Osgood, E. W. Stetson and others gave very interesting accounts of the great work being done.

Mrs. P. W. Prescott's large Westborough barn and contents were burned by a tramp. Insured for $2,100. The Reform School boys did good service at the fire.

The power of mineral water is demonstrated by the new springs at Saratoga, the Diamond and the Magnolia, the latter near the High Rock. A nail dipped in the water will pick up needles. At a recent trial by a young man he picked up and drew away, not only a needle, but the young lady to whom it was attached. Since then young ladies pronounce this spring superior to the old cathartic waters.

Two bales of cotton were received at Savannah last week, one of Georgia and the other of Florida growth. The Georgia bale was sold at 15 cents per pound, while that from Florida brought 15 1-6 cents.

Competition for the selection of a Canadian rifle team to compete at Creedmoor is in progress. The members of the Austrian team to take part at Creedmoor will participate in the matches of the Ontario Rifle Association, which commences at Toronto on the 29th.

A new relic of Washington! A lady in Newburgh has in her possession a piece of the tablecloth the Father of his Country ate on at Morristown. She gives this account of it in the Newburgh Journal:—"Gen. Washington gave it to the washerwoman, and by accident it got scorched. When she returned it to him there was a young lady present by the name of Eunice Lindsly, and he gave it to her. And when she married she made a wedding skirt of it. It was the fashion in those days to wear skirts and shortgowns. One of Gen. Washington's generals gave the same lady her wedding ring. She lived and died in Westtown, in the town of Minisink. Mr. Edmund Cocks's wife was a granddaughter of the lady spoken of. She gave the piece to me. She was formerly of Newburgh, but now of New York."

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Herald furnishes this interesting news:—"The proposition to give President Grant a pension for life has become a subject for discussion among Congressmen, and it looks as if an effort to that end might be made next winter. Members of the House are talking the matter over."

Col. Sellers to the front! Great gold discoveries in Vermont.

There are 12,000 men and boys in San Francisco looking for work. If the surplus capital that is now locked up in railroad and mining stocks were used to bolster up manufacturing, the unemployed might earn a living.

The early settlers at Saratoga mixed biscuits with Congress water, using neither cream of tartar nor saleratus, so great was its effervescing quality at that time. The pillars of Old Union Hall at Saratoga were overgrown with tomato vines—then considered poisonous, and called "love apples." Boys and girls, on their way from school would stop there and throw the red apples at one another.

J. S. Poland, Captain of the 6th Infantry, writes from Headquarters, Military Station, Standing Rock, D. T., under date of July 24, to the Adjutant-General, Department of Minnesota, giving an Indian account of the battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25. The account does not differ essentially from the reports already published. It says, however, that Sitting Bull was neither killed nor personally engaged in the fight. He remained in the council tent directing operations. Crazy Horse, with a large band, and Black Moon, were the principal leaders on the 55th of June. Kill Eagle, a chief of the Blackfeet, at the head of some 20 lodges, was at this agency about the last of May. He was prominently engaged in the battle of June 25, and afterward upbraided Sitting Bull for not taking an active personal part in the engagement. Kill Eagle has sent word that he was forced into the fight, and that he desires to return to the agency, and that he will return to the agency if he is killed for it. The report concludes as follows:

"There is a general gathering in the hostile camp from each of the agencies on the Missouri River, Red Cloud's and Spotted Tail's, as also the Northern Cheyennes and Arrapahoes. They report, for the special benefit of their relatives, that in the three fights they had with the whites they have captured over 400 stand of arms, carbines rifles, and revolvers not counted; ammunition without end; and some sugar, coffee, bacon and hard bread. They claim to have captured from the whites this summer over 200 horses and mules. I suppose this includes operations against the soldiers, the Crow Indians and the Black Hills miners. The general outline of this Indian report concurs with the published reports. The first attack of Reno's began well on in the day. The Indians report about 300 whites killed, and do not say how many Indians were killed."

A report from another source says the Indians obtained from Custer's command 392 carbines and revolvers. I have, since writing the above, heard the following from returned hostiles: They communicated as a secret to their particular friends here information that a large party of Sioux and Cheyennes were to leave Rosebud Mountains, a hostile camp, for this agency, to intimidate and compel the Indians here to join Sitting Bull. If they refuse, they are ordered to "soldier" them, beat them, and steal their ponies.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE new French postage stamps are now in circulation. They represent Commerce with the caduceus and Peace with an olive branch joining hands over a terrestrial globe, upon which is put a number indicating the value of the stamp.

The zither is fast coming into fashion in London drawing rooms, and, it is said, threatens the exclusion of other now popular instruments.

The proprietors of the Paris newspapers which were fined for libel on the Jesuit College have appealed from the judgment of the court.

Queen Isabella has informed King Alfonso that she has decided to take no part whatever in the political affairs of the Kingdom.

TORONTO, Aug. 1.—The fourth annual meeting of the Canadian Labor Congress was opened here this afternoon. A large number of delegates are present. A motion was carried advocating universal suffrage.

TORONTO, Aug. 1.—The Globe to-day publishes the second series of crop reports from all parts of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The reports show that the sanguine anticipations indulged in a month ago have not in some respects been realized. The hay crop is enormous and the quality excellent. The root crop gives good promise; the instances where it is not reported as doing well are few. The too stimulating effects of the weather have been prejudicial to barley, the berry in many places being thin and light, and the crop is expected to turn out an inferior one. But this state of things is by no means universal, and in many instances the appearance of the barley, now rapidly ripening, is said to be most satisfactory. On the whole, the barley crop may not be very much, if at all, below the average.

In proportion to the area planted of oats, the crop will be a very heavy one. The storms have in many sections done some injury to struggling grain, and here and there the frost is said to have affected the oats, but the yield will be, both as to quality and quantity, above the average. Indian corn, where early planted, and in fairly favorable situations, is looking well, and will be a good crop. Potatoes are promising well, and will yield apparently an abundant return. Colorado beetles do not seem to be much less numerous than formerly, but the means taken to insure their destruction, and the extraordinary growth of the plant, have greatly frustrated their ravages. Peas have been injured by storms, and the season generally of late has not been very favorable to their development, but the crop will probably turn out on the whole a fair one. The crop of flax, so far as it is cultivated, is also reported on favorably. Of fruits the crop will be small. There seems to be literally no plums, and peaches will be scarce. Cherries have been more abundant, but small fruits, both field and garden, have been much injured by rains. The intense heat of the weather, accompanied by rains and a close, humid atmosphere, have during the past month done immense damage to wheat.

The negro Cooba, one of the most prominent Cuban insurgent leaders, has been killed in ambush near Sagua.

The Montenegrins are armed with the Kraka rifle.

Sultan Murad had at one time the reputation of being a hard drinker.

The Softas in the Turkish service carry a green bag having a long Arabic inscription in red letters.

The Red Republicans control the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies, and are of course friendly to Servia.

Great Britain has about 50,000,000 Mohammedans in her East India Empire. Her Christian subjects there do not number quite 900,000.

Selim Pasha, killed at the battle of Urbiza, had been nearly a year engaged in war against the Herzegovinians.

The Circassians, who are in part responsible for the Bulgarian atrocities, migrated into Turkey between 1860 and 1864 to the number of 150,000.

A dispatch from Ragusa says that Mukhtar Pasha, with the remainder of his army, variously estimated at from six to nine battalions, had arrived at Trebigne, having evacuated Bilek immediately after the battle of Urbiza. The Ottoman authorities admit their defeat in that battle, and also the following losses:—Selim Pasha, killed, and Osman Pasha, taken prisoner, together with two colonels, three lieutenant-colonels and seven majors. Two battalions of infantry and one of chasseurs were destroyed to the last man, and all the other battalions suffered more or less. The Turkish loss was between 5,000 and 6,000. The number of Turkish inferior officers killed is enormous. The pursuit was continue to the walls of Bilek. Corpses were lying thickly in the road be-

fore the citadel. Besides the artillery and trains, the Montenegrins captured 400 horses and an immense number of arms. The Turks were greatly outnumbered.

The Montenegrins are besieging Trebigne.

The Servians defeated an Egyptian division.

After five days' fighting the Servians have abandoned Gurgusovatz.

A new Ministry has been formed in Roumania.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Aug. 29, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	58,725	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,841	Rice, bbls	317
Corn meal, bbls	3,335	Cut meats, pkgs	6,174
Corn meal, bags	1,223	Lard pkgs	5,561
Wheat, bush	1,269,251	Tobacco, hhds	3,217
Corn, bush	149,360	do. cases	5,373
Oats, bush	207,900	Butter, pkgs	25,081
Rye, bush	1,02	Cheese, bxs	105,329
Malt, bush	62,026	Cotton, bales	5,065
Barley, bush	—	Rosin	18,122
Beans, bbls	5,632	Sps. turp., bbls	2,765
Grass seed, bush	6	Dried Fruits, pkgs	95
Beef, pkgs	458	Eggs, bbls	6,150
Wool, bales	3,971	Peanuts, bags	1,163
Hops, bales	519	Leather, sides	73,324
Pork, bbls	1,342	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,10	Oil cake	5,825

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off-nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 566 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 32,273 do.; same time last year, 18,534 do. Exports of peas past week, 2,255 bu.; since Jan. 1st, 470,201 do.; same time last year, 228,947 do. The bean market has suddenly improved, and holders are generally quoting strong prices for sound or useful parcels of both mediums and marrows. The latter show the best advance, being now quoted at $1.50. Exporters are operating freely, and have secured most of the above quantity at $1.45, free on board. This has increased use for mediums since the weather cooled off, and the Eastern trade is forced to use some, owing to the scarcity of good beans. White kidneys have had some sale. Red kidneys have quite a steady, price-supporting demand. Canadian peas quiet. Green peas dull. No Southern B. E. in market. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, $1.00@$1.10; prime mediums, $1.10@1.10; fair to good, 80@90c.; poor, 40@50c.; prime marrows, $1.45@1.50; fair to good, $1.25@1.35; prime white kid., $1.20@1.30; other, $1.00@1.10; prime red kidney, $1.40@1.45; other, $1.15@1.25; Lima (Cal.), $2.75@3. Black beans, $2.75. Peas—Canadian, in bulk and bond, 97@—c.; green, $1.00@1.10; split, ₽ bbl., $6.

BUTTER.—There is still only a limited supply of fine table butter and sellers have no trouble in closing out all of the creamery and fine pails that arrive. Fine half tubs are also scarce. A good many lots are sent in as fine which have not that standard. Summer buyers however who are willing to pay full prices are very fastidious and sample very closely. After leaving good table grades there is little call for State, and many lots will have to be held for a time with losses on the July shipments. Of Western butter there are two selling grades the best and the poorest. Holders of Western have acted wisely this season in encouraging an export outlet. The market has been cleared of many lots that would have hung on indefinitely. The comparative table we annex shows the export to be about three times the quantity taken last year up to this date. For Europe in addition to the English demand some German buyers are operating.

Comparative receipts and exports from June 1st.

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, lbs.
June 1, '76, to Aug. 1, '76	205,785	1,115,926
June 1, '75, to Aug. 1, '75	15<,902	414,750
June 1, '74, to Aug. 1, '74	175,749	1,179,999
June 1, '73 to Aug. 1, '73	183,707	695,707
June 1, '72 to Aug. 1, '72	128,068	813,032
June 1, '71, to Aug. 1, '71	119,111	1,163,757

We quote:—Choice pails, 28@30c.; prime, 25@26c.; poor to good, 19@23c.; creamery pails, choice, 28@30c.; good, 26@27c.; sweet cream pails, 22@27c. State firkins, choice, 26@27c; fair to good, 22@25c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 26@27c.; fair to prime, 20@22c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 27@28c.; other, 19@21c.; Western creamery, choice, 25@27c.; other, 22@24c.; do. firkins, best, 16@17c.; other, 12@14c.; dairy tubs, choice, 20@21c.; other, 13@15c.; factory choice, 16@17c.; other, 13@14c.

COTTON.—With reports from the South of apprehended more serious damage to the crop by worms, prices are higher and strong. Quoted 12 3-16@12-7-32c. for August; 11 15-16@11 31-32c. for September; 11¾@11 25-32c. for October; 11 21-32@11 11-16c. for November; 11 11-16@11 23-32c for December; 11 27-32@11⅞c. for January; 11 31-32@12c. for February; 12⅛@12 5-32c. for March; 12 9-32@12 5-16 for April; 12 7-16@12 15-32c. for May; 12 19-32@12⅝c. for June; for July, strong. August, ⅛c; September, 5-32c.; October, 5-32c.; November, ⅛@5-32c.; December, 5-32c.; January, 3-16c.; February, 3-32c.; March, ⅛@5-32c.; April, 5-32c.; May, 5-32c.; June, ⅛c.; July, 5-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	8⅝	8⅝	8¾	8¾
Strict ordinary	9⅜	9⅜	9½	9½
Good ordinary	10	10	10⅛	10⅛
Strict good do	10⅝	10⅝	10¾	10¾
Low middling	10 1-16	10 3-16	11 5-16	11 5-16
Strict low middling	11⅛	11⅛	11¼	11¼
Middling	12	12⅛	12 3-16	11 3-16
Good middling	12⅝	12⅝	12¾	12¾
Strict good middling	13	13⅛	13¼	13¼
Middling fair	13⅜	13½	13⅝	13⅝
Fair	14⅛	14⅛	14½	14½

Stained.

Good ordinary	8 13-16	Low middling	10⅜
Strict ordinary	9⅜	Middling	11⅜

CHEESE.—Early in the week there was quite a firm feeling generally and ⅛c easily made on strictly fancy factories, with reports of some ordered lots up to 10c., but it soon became evident that pretty full supplies could be looked for through the week, and this led to indifference among exporters. When the heavy arrivals by Thursday's cheese trains came along, on top of the very fair receipts previously, the market became completely demoralized, and it was impossible to sell, unless at decided concessions; this was the case more with grades running on the choicest. The bulk of the business has been at 9@9¼c. for about fine and the ordinary run of fancy; on some special brands 9⅜c. is held, but this rate is now extreme. Very good sold as low as 8¾c. A larger quantity will be carried over this week than for some little time, and the feeling at the close is weak.

New 9⅜@9¾c. for fine and fancy factory; 7½@8c. for good; 6⅛@7⅛c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 4@6c.; do., skimmed, 3@4c. State farm dairy, 8½@8¾c.; good to prime, 6@7c.; fair to good, 5⅛@6⅛c.; Western factory, good and prime, 6⅞@7⅛c.; fair lots, 6@7c.; do. cheddar, choice, 7⅞@8c.; do. flat, choice, 8@8⅛c.

Comparative receipts and exports from June 1st:

	Rec'ts, pkgs.	Exp'ts, lbs.
June 1, '76 to Aug. 1, '76	659,613	30,138,462
June 1, '75 to Aug. 1, '75	717,823	31,775,598
June 1, '74 to Aug. 1, '74	665,985	35,177,251
June 1, '73 to Aug. 1, '73	711,220	36,873,020
June 1, '72 to Aug. 1, '71	570,164	25,535,324
June 1, '71 to Aug. 1, '71	424,604	22,126,183

DRIED FRUITS.—Small lots of new Southern apples are coming forward, but in poor order, with quartered at about 8⅛c. The inquiry is very light and the crop promises large. Peeled peaches are dull. Supplies are well controlled. Blackberries bring 7c. and are in light demand. We quote:

Apples—State, sliced, 8@8½c.; do., quarters, 8@8½c.; Southern sliced, 8@8½c. for prime; Blackberries, nominal. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 10@12c.; fancy, 13c.; unpeeled peaches, new, nominal for halves and for quarters. Plums at 12@13c. Raspberries, 24@25c. Cherries, 11c.

EGGS.—This usually readily-selling item in summer has an unsteady time this season. Just as soon as prices begin to show any real hardness buyers withdraw and light receipts become unmanageable when a new extreme is pressed for. For the moment prices are firmer than at our last, but much depends on prime quality for outside prices.

Near points, 20@22c., State and Penn., 20@20½c.; Western, prime, 18½@19c.; do. other, 17@18c.; Canadian, 18½@19c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the latest revised quotations:

Oil peppermint, glass, $3.75; do. tin, $2.90; spearmint, glass, $3.50; do. tin, $2.75; wintergreen, $2.80; sassafras, 35c.

FEATHERS.—Quiet. We quote prime live Western geese, 53@55c.; other do., 25@40c.

FLOUR.—There has been a good, liberal demand for exporters and the home trade, and prices are higher and buoyant. We quote:

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3.65@4.35; $4.50@4.60 for very common to fair extra do.; $4.65@4.75 for good extra do.; $4.80@5.35 for fancy do., and $5.30@6.50 for very choice extra; $3.65@4.35 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.60@4.75 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $4.85@5.85 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.75@6.60; fancy do. $6.75@8.25; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $7.50@8.50, round-hoop Ohio, $4.55@4.95, and trade brands of do. at $5.00@6.85; St. Louis, $5.06@6.10 for common to fair extra, and $6.15@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.50@7.10, and patent at $8.50@9.00; unsound stock at from $2.50@5.75; city mill extra at $1.50@5.90; No. 2 at $2.40@3.35. Southern flour brings rather better prices, with, however, less doing. Sales 1,400 bbls. We quote as follows:—Common to good extra, $4.65@5; good to choice, $5.05@8.75; common to choice family extra, $5.80@8; choice to fancy new process, extra, $8.05@8.50, the latter an extreme.

FRESH FRUITS.—The fruit market indicates our entrance into the last month of summer by an abundant display of fruit of mature size and improved quality. Of apples there is now a good assortment of ripe, early sorts, and sales are more readily effected. Prices rule low, as they do not obtain much of a start until peaches have had their term. Peaches are daily running better, some of the desirable sorts begin to appear, among which are Troths. This season will be a profitable alternation for Delaware owners, and they indeed deserve one, after handling the immense and unremunerative crops of 1875. New Jersey orchards, also, will be helped by the light growth of the South. California pears and plums are counted upon for regular arrival, and sales are encouragingly active. The products of the Pacific nurseries have become ensconced in an undisputed niche in our pomological display; growers, shippers and consignees cannot be too highly commended for the evident pains they take to make the establishment a worthy one.

This branch of trade requires the attention and exertion of wealthy and enterprising merchants to develope it, and their efforts are certainly praiseworthy. Pears, after many experiments, can be landed here successfully; but plums and grapes have, to some extent, baffled the attempt to put them in market right, owing to their tender nature. But it seems that even these will have to succumb to determination and ingenuity. This season, one of our assiduous firms, Messrs. Davis and Sutton, has utilized the celebrated Allegretti Refrigerators with marked success, delivering this week 800 boxes of White Egg, Duane's Purple and other choice plums. Grapes will now have a thorough test in shipment. Watermelons unusually bad. Blackberries in good demand for preserving or table use.

The Producers Price Current says:—We are glad that there is a movement among dealers in apples to prevent the use in this State of the "pony barrel," a package of uncertain and irregular size the design of which is to cheat the community. In this effort the dealers will now be aided by the law, the last legislature having made it an offence, punishable by fine, to use or make for the purpose of using for the sale of apples, quinces or potatoes, a barrel holding less than 100 quarts, dry measure. At the same time efforts are to be made to induce fruit growers to use only the flour barrel of 106 quarts. The 100 quart barrel is only a lesser fraud than the "pony barrel," It originated as a chest and became so general that the legislature sanctioned it for certain uses, which it never should have done. We hope that the next legislature will pass an act prohibiting the use in this State of any barrel for dry packing holding less than 106 quarts. As a means of inducing apple growers to use for the large crop of this season only the flour barrel, it is proposed that the standard prices shall be for apples in barrels of that size and that 25c. less shall be paid for the 100 quart barrel, with a further discrimination of 25c. or more against the "pony barrel," in addition to the prosecutions under the Act.

Apples, Sweet Bough, ₽ bbl., $1.50@2; sour, do., $2.00@2.50; Red Astrachan, $2@2.50; common, 75c.@$1. Pears, California Bartlett, ₽ box, $4@6; Southern, fancy, crate, $3@5; Bell, bbl., $3@4; sugar, $1@3; Cooking, $1@2.50. Peaches, Del., extra, crate, $4@4.50; do., fair to good, $2@3.75; do., Ruskin's, $1@2.25; N. J., preservation, 50c.@$1. Plums, California, 20 lb. box, $4@5. Blackberries, ₽ quart, 10@22c. Whortleberries, ₽ bush., $1.75@2. Muskmelons, New Jersey, ₽ bbl., $2@2.50. Watermelons, Georgia, $15@25; Virginia, $8@15. Peanuts—Virginia, prime, ₽ bush., $1.65@1.80; Wilmington, $1.50@2; common, 90c.@$1.25.

GRAIN.—Wheat has advanced and is very strong, with increased export demand. Sales of prime No. 1 Milwaukee spring in store at $1.22; prime No. 1 Sheboygan, $1.25; No. 1 Minnesota spring, $1.15@1.18; No. 2 do., 98c.@$1.07; No. 2 Chicago spring in prime order $1@$1.05; No. 2 Northwest, $1.05; No. 3 Chicago spring, 84@85c; ungraded spring, 85c.@$1.05; amber Michigan, new crop, to arrive, $1.27; amber Delaware, new crop, choice, $1.28; white Tennessee, new, choice, $1.35. Rye depressed; prime Western, 64@66c.; State, 72@75c. Corn has been active and strong; sales at 54@55c. for ordinary steamer to sail lots of ungraded; chiefly sail grades at 57½@58c. for prime afloat and 57c. in store; steamer mixed ungraded at 55@57½c.; New York steamer mixed at 56c., and by steamer at 51c.; yellow Western at 58@59c.; hot and heated sold at 50@56c. Oats are active and favor the seller; sales at 37@50c. for fair to choice sound No. 2 Chicago; 41@41½c. for mixed State, and car lots do. up to 45c.; white State, 45@47c., and 50c. for strictly fancy; No. 2 Milwaukee quoted at 38@39c. bid, with up to 41c. asked for choice blowed and screened, and white Western at 41@45c.

HAY AND STRAW.—There is a better business, although receipts at full prices are without change.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60@65c.; retail qualities 60@90c.; clover, 50@55c.; salt, 55@65c. Straw is quoted at 80@90c. for long rye; 60@65c. for short rye; 45@60c. for oat.

Exports past week 121 bales; since Jan. 1st, 31,765 do.; same time last year, 28,667 do.

The crop is said to be the best cured that has been known to commerce for many years.

HIGHWINES.—Are held higher with small receipts, quoted at $1.15.

HOPS.—Trade is still very light, on other than strictly prime lots which have a fair sale. Prices generally steady. The crop prospects are more favorable and in all probability there will be an average crop. We quote:

N. Y. State, 10@17c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c., ₽ lb.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 19@20c. for light; 20@23c. for middle; 21@23c. for heavy; 17@19c. for good damaged.

MILK.—Has ruled very low, having been in over-stock almost every day. It has sold at the unpaying prices of 50c.@$1.25 for cans of 40 quarts, with a great deal returned. Commission men at the Harlem platforms suggest that farmers hold back at least one-quarter of the mess until the cool weather subsides.

PROVISIONS.—For hog products generally there is a hardening market on the better statistical position, and increased export demand. Mess pork quoted at $19.60 for spot and August and $19.70 for September. Bacon at 10½@10¾c. for long clear. Lard at $11.50 for Western steam on spot; $11.50 for August; $11.55 for September. Tallow, 8 5-16@8⅜c. Stearine at 14½c. for prime Western. Beef hams at $31 for choice Western. Beef at $9@11 for plain mess, $10@12 for extra mess, and $14 for packet, the outside prices for small lots choice. Tierced quoted nominal for prime mess and India mess.

POULTRY AND GAME.—We quote fowls, 13@18c. for scalded and picked; best spring chickens, 18@22c.; other, 16@18c.; turkeys, 13@17c.

The market is easy for live. We quote spring chicks, near points, 16@17c.; Western, 15@16c.

Fowls, N. J., ₽ lb 15@16c.; do. Western, 13@14c. Roosters, 9@10c.; Turkeys, N. J. 12@15c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1; do. Western, 50@90c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.25; do. Western, 1.25@1.50.

Woodcock scarce. State quoted at 90c.@$1; Western, 80@90c. Stall-fed pigeons, $1.25@1.50; do. squab, 75c.@$1; tame live pigeons, ₽ pair, 30c.

SALT.—Quoted at $2.50 for Ashton; ground, 9c.; $1.15@1.40 for other brands.

SUGAR (Refined).—Declined a trifle. Soft yellow, 9⅜@10⅜c.; soft white, 10⅝@11⅜c.; hard, 11⅝@11⅝c.

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ₽ lb., Southern, $1.15@1.30; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, ordinary to refined, 14@18c. ₽ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. unclipped, 50c.@$1; lamb skins, 60@65c.

TOBACCO.—Supplies are liberal, but exporters are buying more freely and at firm prices.

NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	6 @ 6½	7 @ 8
Good lugs	7½@ 9	8½@ 9½
Low leaf	9½@10½	10 @11
Medium leaf	11 @12	12 @13½
Good leaf	13 @14	14½@15½
Fine leaf	15 @16	17 @19

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1874.

	Cents.
New England wrappers, shipping lots	10 @12
Wrappers, medium	14 @18
Wrappers, fine	25 @35
Selections	— @ —
Seconds	8 @10
Fillers	5 @ 6
Seconds and fillers, shipping lots	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania, assorted lots	11 @18
New York State assorted lots, common	7 @ 9
Ohio, assorted lots	5½@ 7½
Wisconsin	5½@ 7

CROP OF 1875.

New England fine seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	7 @ 8
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania assorted lots	14 @15
Ohio assorted lots	5½@ 6
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—A light Eastern crop of potatoes is sending stock from a good many remote points, Kentucky, Ohio, and even Missouri contributing. Good onions sell well. Sweet potatoes are now quotable. We quote potatoes, ₽ bbl., $3@3.75; sweet do., $4.50@6.

Green corn, ₽ 100, 75c.@1.50. Long Island, bush., $1.25@1.50; New Jersey, do., 75c.@$1, ₽ crate. Marrow squash, bbl., $2@2.50; crook neck, $1.75@2.25, Wax beans, bag, $3@3.50; Cucumbers, L. I., ₽ 100, 50c.; do. N. Y., do., 50c.@$1. Turnips, Russia, ₽ bbl., $1@1.25. Cabbages, L. I., $6@10 ₽ 100. Potato onions, $1.50@2.25 ₽ bbl. Lima beans, ₽ bag, $2@2.50.

WOOL.—There is a more active market on demand from manufacturers, and a firmer feeling as regards prices. XX new Ohio fleeces sold at 38c., but at the close 2c. advance above this rate asked; X and XX, together, sold at 36@37½c.; Eastern Texas at 17@24c.; spring California, 18@23c.; Wisconsin unwashed fleeces at 23c.

ROCHESTER, Aug. 5.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $6.75; white winter, $7.00; double extra, $7.25. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.10@1.20; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.30. Oats, nominal at 35@38c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 19@21c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 15@16c. Lard, 11@12½c. Apples, bu., 50@75c. Potatoes, bu., 80@90c. Beans, ₽ bu., 50@90c. Mess pork, $20.00. Wool, 20@30c. Hay, $8@10. Straw, $8@8. Timothy seed, $2.90@3; clover, $9.50@10. Mill feed dull at $12 for shorts, $14 for shipstuffs, and $17 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₽ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 5, 1876.

THE Little Falls dairy market for the week ending Aug. 5 was more brisk and prices at the opening tended upward, so that before the market closed a ⅛c. over figures of last week was reached.

The delivery of farm dairies amounted to about 400 boxes, most of which sold for 8½c. A few lots went for 8@9c., while one lot was run up to 9½c. through the competition of buyers.

The sales of factories footed up considerably more than those of last week. Some 10,500 boxes were disposed of at the following prices:—Ten lots, 808 boxes, on commission; 2 lots, 300 boxes, 9⅜c.; 12 lots, 1,705 boxes, at 9⅜c.; 76 lots, 7,589 boxes, at 9½c.; 12 lots, 1,205 boxes, at 9¼c.; 1 lot, 30 boxes, at 8⅞c.; 4 lots, 315 boxes, at 9c.; 2 lots, 104 boxes, at 8½c. A few packages of butter sold at 22@24c.

We have advices from abroad for the third week in July. Our London correspondent says:—English cheese is very quiet. American of fine quality sells very readily and are not in large supply. Some extra fine are expected this week. Medium and low sell as landed. Dutch are thought to have reached their lowest. Quotations are as follows:

American, extra fine, 54@56s.; fine, 53@54s.; good, 46@50s.; common and low grades, 36@40s. English cheddar sells for 76@96s.; Wiltshire double, 56@68s.; Cheantre medium, 4?@56s.; fine, 60@76s., Scotch, 56@68s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Aug. 5, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	4,419	27	1,887	9,513	000
Forty-Eighth St	14	65	372	691	000
Fortieth St	000	00	000	221	9,605
Harsimus Cove	5,063	00	000	15,294	8,436
Totals this week	9,496	82	2,259	25,719	18,041
" last week	9,130	41	2,162	16,126	21,342

BEEVES.—Trade opened fair on Monday last at 8½@10¾c. ₽ lb., with a few select head at 11c. ₽ lb. sold on retail; weights, scant, 8 cwt. at 9c.; quality generally coarse, with the top steers all shipped for England. Wednesday, trade opened slow and closed weak at ⅛c. ₽ lb., reduction on the closing rates of the previous Monday; prices were 7½@10½c. ₽ lb.; weights, 5½@8½ cwt. Thursday, trade small at 7½@10¼c. ₽ lb.; weights, 4⅞@8½ cwt. Friday the markets closed weak at 8½@10½c. ₽ lb.; weights, 5⅞@9 cwt. From 55@57 lbs., net, has been allowed; only a few selected steers obtained 57 lbs. to the cwt., net. Spanish herds, grass-fed, sold at 7½@8⅛c. ₽ lb.; Native steers sold at 8@10½c., ₽ lb., grade do., 10½@11c. Oxen sold at 7½@9c. ₽ lb. Mixed herds, 8@9½c. ₽ lb. Bulls, live weight, 4@4½c. ₽ lb.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	11 @	11½@
Fair	10⅛@10⅜	10¾@11
Poor	9½@10½	9½@10½
Poorest	7½@ 9½	7 @ 9½
Gen. selling rates	9½@10½	9 @10½

MILCH COWS.—Sales slow; quality inferior. Twelve cows sold at $35@48 ₽ head. Sixteen cows at $45@60. Twenty-three cows at $50@65. Eight cows at 55@75—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals scarce and in fair demand at 8@8¾c. ₽ lb. Buttermilk-fed calves, coarse but fat, in fair demand at 5c. ₽ lb., also at $7@8.50 ₽ head. Ordinary quality calves slow of sale at 6@7½c. ₽ lb. The veals and calves to hand were almost exclusively quoted from central New York.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade fair, but no advance in rates; quality also fair, with a good top. Monday last sheep sold at 4½@6c. ₽ lb., lambs at 6⅞@8c. Wednesday, sheep, 4½@6c.; lambs, 6⅞@8½c. Thursday, sheep, 4½@6c.; lambs, 6⅞@8½c. Friday, sheep, 4⅞@5½c.; lambs, 6½@8c. State sheep, 4½@5c.; Kentucky do., 4½@5½c.; Indiana do., 4½@5c.; Canada do., 5½@6c.; Michigan do., 4½@5½c; State lambs, 7@7¾c. ₽ lb.; Maryland do., 7½@8c.; Canada do., 8@8½c.; Kentucky do., 6½@8c.; Jersey do., 8@8½c.; Virginia do., 7@7½c.

HOGS.—No sales of live hogs. City dressed slow on a light run; extreme range, 8⅝@8⅞c. ₽ lb. for hogs from 200 lbs. up to 160 lbs. down ₽ head. Market pigs, 9c. ₽ lb.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade slow, with a number of sales in inferior quality animals, and valuable horses held on sale. Forty-two head, poor quality, light harness horses sold at $50@100 ₽ head. Thirty-one head, ordinary quality, $125@200. One coarse quality brougham horse, $275. Nine head, coarse quality, heavy draft horses, $190@250. Two saddle horses, quality poor, $125@150. Nine pairs family carriage horses $300@525 ₽ pair. Two pairs stylish carriage horses, aged, $50.@675 ₽ pair.

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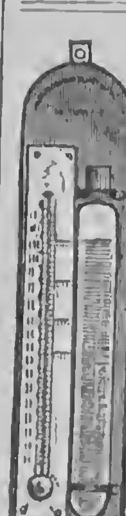

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

VON BU OW is lying dangerously ill in Germany.

"BACHELOR of oars" is Cornell's latest degree.

THE widow Van Cott says she has converted 20,000.

THE Rev. Samuel Butcher, Premier Bishop of Ireland, is dead.

MR. MORTIMER COLLINS, the English poet and novelist, is dead.

PROF. HAYDEN hopes to complete the geological survey of Colorado this summer.

"THAT Crazy Horse of the press" is what the Richmond Whig calls the Herald.

IT is proposed to send an amateur brass band to Montana and make the Indians go West.

A ROCKY MOUNTAIN editor describes the hanging of two murderers as a "necktie festival."

THE Rev. W. S. Perry, formerly an Episcopal clergyman in Nashua, has been elected Bishop of Iowa.

THE Athenæum describes the Turk as an infidel who believes in God and finds his enemies in the Christians.

SITTING BULL proposes to winter in Canada, and the Canadian authorities call for troops to guard its frontier.

DON CARLOS'S recent heroism in a dentist's chair only confirms our belief that he is a gentleman of noble extraction.

JAY COOKE'S Island of Gibraltar, in Lake Erie, is wanted by the State Medical Society of Indiana, which is trying to buy it.

THE reports of Sojourner Truth's death are met by a counter-report that she is living in Michigan. But, that's just about as bad.

AT Lansing, Mich., recently, a young man named Harris caught in Grand River a bass with a full grown live mouse in it.

S. L. EVANS of Salt Lake, has within three months married the mother and the aunt of a wife that he already possessed.

WHETHER or not the rain falls upon the just or upon the unjust, depends upon the fact as to which one has the best umbrella.

THE Turkish Commander Suleiman Pasha avows his intention to annihilate the Servians, or to Divan-quished in the attempt.

SAYS an Omaha obituary:—"He was a splendid penman, a systematic bookkeeper and a systematic drinker." It explains everything.

TWO young men have just fought a duel in New Orleans, but the grazing of one arm by a bullet was sufficient bloodshed to satisfy them.

A SPECIAL from Rockbridge, Alum Springs, Va., says that Speaker Kerr's symptoms are very unfavorable, and his condition is regarded as critical.

AN exchange says that Texas watermelons weigh fifty pounds apiece. We've seen some that weigh more than that, *i. e.*, after you've eaten them.

IT is now definitely settled that Moody and Sankey will begin their labors in Chicago about the first of October, and in Boston about New Year's.

IT was rather personal in a California newspaper man to chronicle the purchase of a mule by a brother editor as "a remarkable instance of self-possession."

THE Emperor of the Moors, it seems, has been selling hundreds of his rebellious subjects into slavery, and several thousand more of them still remain bound in Morocco.

WENDELL PHILLIPS put the paint on very much as an Indian does, but he doesn't wear the ring in his nose as gracefully as the native red man. That's what gives him away.

WATER can't kill a Chinaman. One went up in a Nevada water-spout the other day, landed two miles away, and coolly got up and inquired what had become of his chop-sticks.

ON one of the bodies found on Custer's battle field, that of a German soldier named Ackerman, there were no fewer than seventy-five wounds. All the limbs had likewise been hacked off.

MR. MOODY'S church in Chicago was dedicated last Sunday week. It cost $67,000, and is all paid for—a condition which Mr. Moody insisted should precede its dedication. The lot cost $22,000 more.

A HARTFORD boy who has arrived at the Black Hills writes home that men are making $40 per day there, and hopes his family won't write often, as he has to pay fifty cents for every letter he receives.

THE correspondent of a weekly newspaper complains of the bias so frequently shown by county J. P's. How can we wonder that so much so-called justice is biassed when it is administered biasses?

REFERRING to the base slander that the Woman's Pavilion at the Centennial is very dirty, the Rochester Democrat asks, in an angry tone, if one can strike for freedom and do housework at the same time?

MAJOR F. DAWSON of Upper Arracan, of the Survey Department of India, killed the largest tiger known, on the 23d of May last. The tiger's body, from shoulder joint to root of tail, measured 8 feet 7½ inches.

IN 1759 George Washington, in sending to London for some goods, put upon the memorandum "9 pounds of sugar candy." This must have been during George's courting days, and the peanut crop was a failure that season. He would have ordered gumdrops, but they had not yet been invented.

A NEW YORK lemonade dealer is said to have increased his sales largely from having been seen twice to drink his own lemonade, but it is not told whether he was seen to take an antidote immediately afterward.

A BOYISH novice in smoking turned deadly pale and threw away his cigar. Said he, "Thar's somethin' in that air cigar that's made me sick." "I know what it is," said his companion, pulling away. "What?" "Tobacker."

A MARRIED man from L'Anse, Mich., at Waupaca, Wis., arranged with a pretty Swede girl to elope with him, and gave her $200 to purchase an outfit. She took the money, told the scamp's wife about it, went home and stayed there.

A HUNDRED years ago when you called on a girl she kissed you good-by. Now if you suggest anything of the sort her father calls you into the library and asks you what you are worth. Are we a nation? And is this progress?

CHURCH fairs work as follows:—Some ladies borrow money from their husbands, buy materials and make up fancy articles, which they give to the fair. They then change places, borrow more money and buy the articles back again.

CAPTAIN GENERAL JOVELLAR, it is rumored, has sent in his periodical resignation. We thought it was about time for him to begin to hanker after his regular trip to Spain. Possibly he wants to participate in the approaching nuptials of Alfonso.

AT one of the great hotels of Chicago the waiters politely hand each guest a morning paper after he has given his order for breakfast. This keeps about sixty papers moving around for three hours or so, and pays in popularity more than it costs.

A COCKNEY at the Falls of Niagara, when asked how he liked them, replied:—"They are 'andsome, quite so; but they don't quite answer my hexpectations; besides, I got thoroughly vetted, and lost my 'at. I prefer to look at 'em in an hengraving, in 'ot weather, and in the 'ouse."

A FELLOW-FEELING ought to make Queen Victoria kind to the Sultan. It is estimated that in her Eastern dominions the Empress of India rules over 896,858 Christians and nearly 50,000,000 Mahometans. She has nearly 10,000,000 more of Mahometan subjects than the Sultan himself.

IT is not generally known that Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes is the inventor of the common hand stereoscope. Such is the fact, however, and his work has been given to the world without the protection of a patent. He has an immense collection of stereoscopic views from all parts of the earth.

MEMBERS of the Yale College Class of 1853 are just now coming to the fore. A. H. Bishop is the Republican candidate for Governor of Arkansas; H. C. Robinson will be the Republican candidate for Governor of Connecticut, and E. W. Seymour will, in all probability, be his competitor on the Democratic ticket.

A YOUNG lady at a Worcester church, whose bustle became loosened, rid herself of the troublesome article so neatly that even the young man who accompanied her did not notice any change in her form. Those who were in the aisle behind were not so blind however, and gave it a wide berth as they passed by.

THE report that Miss Thompson, the young English artist who painted the "Roll Call," has forsaken military for sacred art, is pronounced anything but correct by the London Academy. Miss Thompson could not turn Roman Catholic, being such already, and she is now engaged on a pieture of the battle of Inkerman.

ATTENDANCE at the Centennial is not as good as it was. Boarding-house keepers who started out early in the season with roast beef and plum pudding for dinner every day, and were very particular about who they took, now understand all the mysteries of hash manufacture, and chase up every man with a valise in his hand for two squares from the depot.

THIS world is full of bitter disappointments and sudden trials that break upon us like thunder from a cloudless sky, but at no time is the soul of patient, much-enduring man so hardly tried as when he goes to shave himself in a great hurry Sunday morning and discovers at the first pull that his wife had opened a can of peaches with his razor Saturday night.

AN Italian now stopping at the Irving House, Philadelphia, has a wooden monument three or four feet square in his possession, on which is an immense number of figures representing various stages of the world's history, from the creation to the crucifixion, showing great skill and patience, and revealing by the aid of a glass some fine work. This affair is said to be seven hundred years old.

OF all the celebrated lovers of George Sand, two only survive—Jules Sandeau, the first love of that passionate, undisciplined heart, and Prince Napoleon. Jules Sandeau, who is the first novelist who ever gained by reason of his novels alone a *fauteuil* at the Academy, is still a very fine-looking man, bald and stout it is true, but still of a pleasant and comely presence, and of peculiarly graceful and winning manners even for a Frenchman.

IT will be news surprising to many to learn that the brave General Custer was of foreign birth. He was born in Ispringen, near Prorsheim, in Baden, Germany, and emigrated when a child with his parents, who settled in New Romely, Harrison County, O. Formerly his name was written "Custar." Since his return from a trip to Germany, however, he appears to have written "Custer," his original family name, however, being Kuester.

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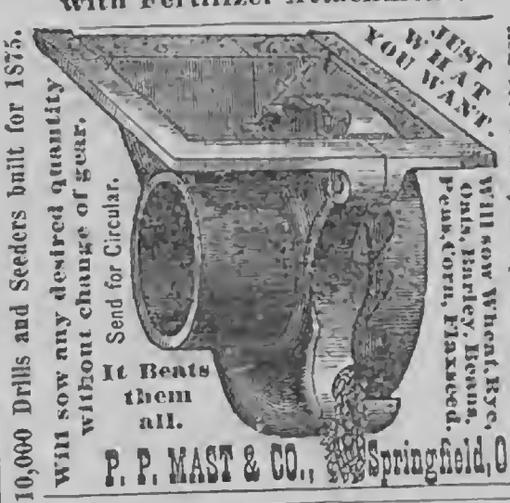

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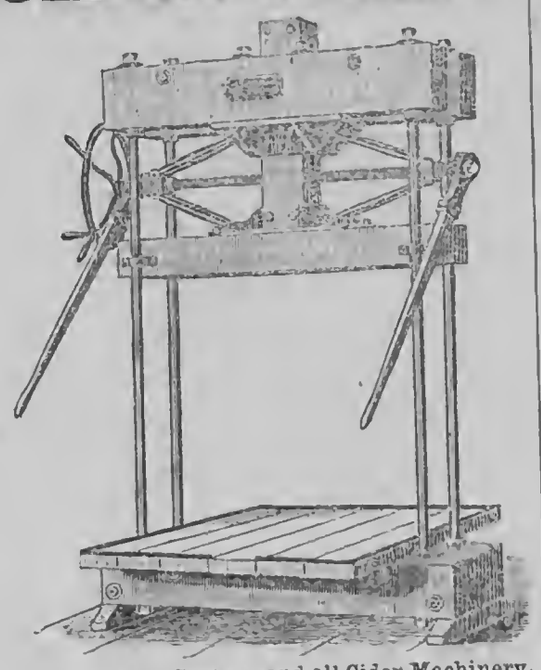

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—With its full corps of editors, and a new publisher of energy and ability, the management propose to celebrate the quarter-centennial of the pioneer RURAL in such a manner as to augment its popularity and usefulness. For a first-class, lively paper, containing matter of interest for all classes, take the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and do so at once, for the paper never was better, and its prospects never brighter.—*Freeport (Ill.) Journal.*

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

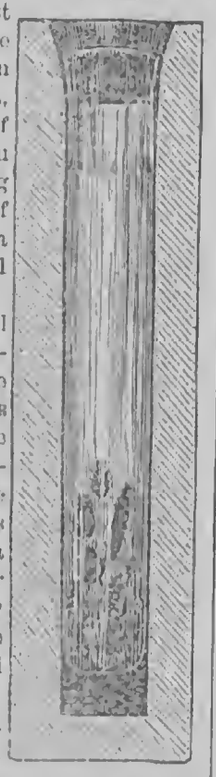
Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—The RURAL contained many good recipes for jelly cake, chocolate cake, etc., etc., but if some one will be kind enough to give a remedy for that pest of our house, the "red ant," we would be very much obliged. This persevering intruder is into the sugar barrel, the cake box and jelly cup, in fact everywhere. We have tried magnetic powder, sage leaves and black pepper, but they do not have the desired effect. Water will do, but who wants a small lake in the store-room, and the cake box or sugar barrel on stilts? As I am very fond of all the good things, I *do* hope some one will send a sure remedy. ANDE.

We fully sympathize with our correspondent and her long-looked-for something which would drive away the pests and, at the same time, not be disagreeable to have about. Camphor will keep them out of a tight vessel, but is of no use in an open store-room. Creosote, benzine, and similar liquids which would drive away the ants, are not to be tolerated in rooms where anything eatable is stored. Perhaps some of our correspondents can give a sure preventive, if so, let them send it along.

Mrs. D. C. Hobart, Homer, N. Y. (1) My pinks look as though they were frost bitten. I find a small white worm in the joints. Will you tell me, through the RURAL, the cause and the remedy, if there is any? Also (2) will you describe the Night-Blooming Cactus, plant, color and size of flower? Does it grow like a common kind called Hen and Chickens?



ANS.—(1) We cannot tell what the worm is without seeing it. For those who have occasion to send us specimens of this nature, we suggest the use of the accompanying simple contrivance. Bore a hole in a piece of wood as large as the vial. Pour in the vial a little alcohol upon the worm or insect. It may then be sent by mail in perfect safety and the specimen may be determined with certainty.

(2) The Night-Blooming Cactus is a native of the West Indies. The flowers expand by night and endure but a few hours. Sepals, brown without—yellow within. The petals are white, an inch diameter. The stems are cylindric or angular. Botanical name, *Cereus grandiflorus*. The name of Hen and Chickens is *Sempervivum tectorum*—perfectly hardy, growing from walls or roofs. The "chickens" are the runners which it sends out from the axils of the leaves. House-leek.

A. M. Van Auken.—The grub found boring into your tomato plants is probably the larva of *Gortyna nitela*, GUEN, but the specimen sent was completely dried up and past recognition. We cannot suggest any preventive beyond digging out and killing the grubs whenever found.

Inquirer.—The double Tiger Lily, except as a novelty or to complete assortments, is in no way more desirable than the old single form. It increases just as fast, and will doubtless sell, in a few seasons, for the usual price of such bulbs. The present price is $1.00 per bulb, to be procured of most florists and seedsmen.

Dyspeptic.—It is quite true that our hygienic authorities, in the main, agree in denouncing hot bread of all kinds and at all times; but we also believe most of them speak, from theory instead of experience or a positive knowledge. Of course we are not disposed to advocate the use of hot bread in preference to cold, still we have good reasons for believing that there are as few dyspeptics among those who use new and hot bread every meal in the year as those who never touch it. Anyone who has been among the hardy frontiersmen, know how rare it is to see stale or cold bread of any kind eaten, and it would be difficult to find a dyspeptic among them. New bread, hot soda or other biscuits, may not agree with one person's stomach, and, at the same time, be not only harmless, but agreeable and healthful to another.

J. W. Maple.—We are not positive as to the identity of the insect which you refer to under the name of the "Ground or Blue Apis," but presume it is one of the numerous species of Aphides or plant lice. For those species which infest plants above ground, there is nothing which will destroy them sooner, and at the same time not injure the plants, than tobacco water. This might also be used for drenching the root-inhabiting species, or kinds, as the case may be. Lime water and a moderately strong solution of potash will sometimes kill these pests.

A Temperance Deacon.—The loss of the recipe for making the Rev. Mr. BOWDITCH'S "Sacramental Wine" is not an irreparable one, for we have preserved it and here it is: "Take any kind of ripe grapes and boil with a small quantity of water until reduced to a pulp; strain through fine muslin, and to every gallon of juice obtained add from three to four pounds of common sugar; then boil the juice over again, and pour, while hot, into airtight jars or bottles, which must be closely sealed. The wine will begin to ferment in a few days if exposed to the air." But we are at a loss to know how any sensible man, or committee of men, could be bamboozled into thinking such a slop had any of the properties of wine. Rye straw, or bread might, with as much propriety, be called rye whisky, as boiled, sweetened, unfermented grape juice be called wine, and it is an insult to a Christian to offer him such trash at the communion table.

Apiarian.—FRANCIS HUBER, the naturalist, who made so many discoveries in regard to the habits of the honey-bee, was born in 1750 and died 1830.

F. Pine.—I send you a Cactus for name. It is seven years old—has never bloomed. Can you tell me how to make it bloom?

ANS.—It is *Opuntia Peruviana*. We have one five feet high that, like yours, has never borne a flower. We can only say that this plant requires dryness and heat. Give it sandy loam, rubbish, broken bricks, and no water during the entire winter. In the spring, plant it in a sandy, hot place.

M. A.—In the front part of our grounds is a sandy elevation upon which nothing will grow, that is, in the way of shrubs and trees. We have tried young Maples and Horse-chestnuts and evergreens among trees, and among shrubs the Deutzias, Dogwoods, Hydrangeas and others that I can not think of. You will greatly oblige us by mentioning three or four species of trees and shrubs that *will* grow.

You should first dig large, deep holes and fill in with good soil. Try then, in the way of evergreens, any of the Pines, such as the Austrian, Scotch or White, or the Red Cedar, Juniperus Virginiana. Any of the Locusts, such as the Moss Locust, Robinia Bessoniana or R. viscosa The beautiful Laurel-leaf Willow, we believe, would thrive in such situations. Among deciduous shrubs you may try the common Privet—Forsythias—Spiræa Prunifolia—standard Honeysuckles, such as Lonicera Leddebouri, L. Xylosteum, Fortuni, Standishi—Lycium barbarum and the Japan Quinces.

Rural Reader, Northville.—It has occurred to us that the plant you sent for name may be a *Polygala*. Will you favor us with a specimen of flowers placed in a little box or wrapped in a bit of cotton?

Jno. G. K. Kulle, Lovettsville, Va.—I have been budding the Kilmarnock Willow a dozen years without the least success—have budded early and late and all through the season. The stocks I bud on are from sprouts of the stem of a tree I bought budded with the Kilmarnock, and resembles it in foliage considerably, and I suppose it to be the proper stock for it. (2.) Why is it our Alternantheras lose every vestige of their line markings when bedded out? We have a number of varieties and all behave alike. Our soil is a good clay loam. (3.) Please also tell me how to propagate Daphne odorata. It seems exceedingly difficult to manage.

ANS.—*Salix caprea* (Goat Willow) is the best stock for the Kilmarnock and that almost exclusively used. The best time for budding is during the second and third weeks of July. The best time for grafting is about the end of April. Grafting is preferable. We do not see how you could bud "all through the season," since buds are not always developed and are only fit to be used—as you must be aware—at certain periods.

(3.) *Daphne Indica alba* (*odorata*) may be easily struck if the wood is not too old. The plants from which cuttings are taken should be vigorous, and cuttings of the *ripe green* wood may be taken in March. You will find no trouble in November if the cuttings be not too strong and well ripened. Easily raised from seed.

(2.) Why *Alternantheras* lose their colors, it is impossible to say. It is so with all variegated plants, more or less. The variegation is more tender than the green, and so disappears when subjected to the heat, dryness, etc., of midsummer weather.

S. A. Pinney, Emporium, Pa.—I wish you would inform me who I could write to in the city of New York that could give me information in regard to digging Ginseng roots and as to how it should be prepared for market.

ANS.—The roots may be dug now or later. You have only to remove the fibers and stems and dry in the sun.

A tincture is made by adding the roots and berries to alcohol.

All wholesale druggists purchase the roots.

ANS.—It may be found in *Hort Belge*, 1836, p. 97, that M. MECHAM received in 1812 seeds of Pavia from North America, which were sown by M. CARMUZET in the Paris Garden; and among the plants which came up was one different from all the others, which is the Aesculus rubicunda of the gardens. It flowered in three years. It is singular that the Horsechestnut is not more freely raised from seeds.

NOTE.—Several letters remain over for next week.

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Wit and Humor.

THOUGHT SHE KNEW.

THE passengers in the sleeping coach were just dozing off when something howled out:

"Ow—wow—wow!"

"Great dragons, there's a young one aboard!" growled a fat man from his upper berth. "I'll bet a hundred dollars none of us can get a wink of sleep to-night."

"Wow—wow!" whined the child.

"There he goes again!" growled the fat man. "I never travel but what I run across some one's howling offspring."

"Who's that talking?" called the mother of the child in a loud voice.

"Me!" answered the fat man.

"Why didn't you either leave that child at home or stay home yourself!"

"Are you talking to me?" demanded the woman.

"Yes, ma'am, I am! I say its a shame to bring a sick child into a sleeping car to disturb twenty or thirty people."

"Are you a father?" she asked.

"No, I hain't."

"Nor a mother?"

"No, ma'am."

"Well, sir," she said, as she poked her head out between the curtains, "when you've been the mother of eleven children, moved forty-eight times, lived in nine different States, and worn one corset right along for seventeen years you'll begin to think you know your business. I think I know mine and if this baby want's to howl he's going to do it, if I come over there and kick a ton and a half of conceit out of you."

WEALTH WITHOUT ITS ANXIETIES.

THE newsboys who gather about in the afternoon awaiting the publication hour of the Evening papers are either fairly rolling in wealth or their conversation is to some extent imaginative. Said one of them to another.

"Billy, did yer buy that $50 plaid summer suit I seed yer lookin' at in a winder Saturday?"

"No, Blinkey, I didn't take it in. Ther was only one watch pocket in the trowsers an' a allus carries two tickers, one ter c'rect t'other by."

"But yer ain't goin' ter wear yer army britches all summer, be yer, 'specially when yer go driven evenin's?"

"No, Blinkey, my dear, I ain't," was Billy's grave reply, "but don't yer worry about me, It's silk undercloz as preserves, my precious health. Silk's the thing, Blinkey."

THE FAVOR HE ASKED.

THE San Antonio (Texas) Herald says:—A few days ago, a prisioner, with a face on him that excited much remark, on account of the meanness of his expressian, was brought into the district court to be sentenced to Huntsville for stealing some clothes off a line. As he was known to be a very slippery character, one of our handsomest and most vigilant deputy sheriffs took a seat by his side. After awhile the prisoner leaned over and whispered to the officer: "Won't you do me one little kindness." The officer promised to do so, with one of the kindest smiles we have ever seen in a court-house. The prisoner whispered:—"Then, sit a little further off: I'd rather pay a hundred dollars than have people take me for a deputy sheriff."

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

BAD farming—Baby farming.

ALWAYS in debt—The letter B.

JUST the place for babies—Rockaway.

GOOD tune for an old smoker—Spittoon.

A MOVING tale—That of a bull in fly time.

HANDY for a double-scull race—The two-headed girl.

AN Indian occassionally makes an arrow escape.

CAN chiropodists be said to practice the heeling art?

THE grocer's motto—"Learn to labor and weigh "t."

APT to make children ugly-tempered—Living on a cross street.

"I WISH I was a pudding, mamma." "Why?" "'Cause I should have a lot of sugar put into me."

THERE may be recipes to cure the potato bug, but there is nothing so sure as to blindfold him and back him under a pile driver.

AS soon as the novelty wears off, sententiously observed Mr. Bloggs, a man never wakes up a baby for the purpose of making it laugh.

QUILLS are things that are sometimes taken from the pinions of one goose to spread the opinions of another.

THE NEARER THE BONE THE SWEETER HIS REVENGE.

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RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

VOL. XXXIV. No. 8.
WHOLE No. 1386.

NEW YORK CITY, AUG. 19, 1876.

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Floricultural.

MOLUCCA BALM.—SHELL FLOWER.
(Moluccella laevis.)

Last fall we received seeds from a correspondent labeled "Shell Flower—Molucca Balm." He described the plant as being so odd and pretty that we planted them at once. They germinated quickly, grew vigorously with little care, and were planted in the open ground the latter part of May—soon after which they began to display the remarkable characteristics for which they are distinguished. Two weeks ago we lifted one of these plants, placed it in a pot, had it photographed and engraved, and now present to our readers the result—gratified that we are thus enabled to call general attention to a plant that, from the admiration and curiosity it has excited in the Rural grounds—in the Rural office, and while we have been carrying it, or branches of it, hither and thither, promises to be received with no ordinary favor. That it may be raised from seed as easily as a Balsam, Zinnia or Pansy; that it will thrive during the severest drouths as well as a Cactus or Sedum, and requires a soil no richer than either; that it does not need to be tied up or supported by stakes, the branches being strong enough to support themselves the same as if they were hard-wooded, are items which may give confidence in the above prediction.

We may say that the district of country in which the Rural grounds are located have suffered during this season from the most protracted and damaging drouth ever known to the oldest residents of that locality. It has been impossible to keep tender annuals alive except by copious nightly waterings. The grass of many lawns has been burnt to death, root and blade. Many shrubs not easily affected, such as Deutzias, Privets, flowering Plums, Viburnums, have drooped, lost their leaves and died. Deciduous trees and evergreens transplanted this spring have, with few exceptions, been either killed or so badly scorched that they can never recover—and the sight of old Norway Spruces and Arbor-vitæ trees dead and dying is not uncommon. Meanwhile the Moluccas, growing in a bed elevated one foot above the surrounding level and not once watered, have flourished as if every element of their well-being were amply supplied. With the engraving upon this page of the entire plant, and one of its several members upon the fourth, our readers by the aid of the following description may gain as clear an idea of the Molucca as if it were growing beside them. For sections of flower, etc., see page 120.

The hight of the plant figured is two feet two inches. The stems are square, rounded at the edges, of a light green color and smooth. They are opposite, spreading out and curving upward like the arms of a candelabrum. The nodes at the base are two inches apart, growing closer at the top, which ends in a tuft of leaves and tiny cups. Three cups (Fig. 1) spring from the axils of each leaf. As the leaves are opposite, there are six—sometimes seven—crowded in a whorl. Upon the tallest stem there are fifteen whorls (ninety cups), so that it is literally covered with them. Underneath each cup are three slender spines half an inch in length (Fig. 1). The cup or calyx, as it must be considered, is very smooth and entire, except at the edges, where it presents five mucronate points corresponding with the clefts of the lips of the corolla. It is of a light green color, prettily veined with whitish-green, recalling the reticulate leaves of the Golden Honeysuckle (Fig. 1).

Within the calyx first appears the white, velvety bud (Fig. 2), resembling a button, that unfolds into a flower (Fig. 3), which is white and purple, included within the calyx (Fig. 1) and little more than half its length. Besides enduring but for a day or so, it is scarcely discernible at a distance and adds a trifle only to the appearance of the plant. After the fall of this corolla, we have the fruit (Figs. 5 and 6), consisting of four separable nuts or achenia—first of a bright green, changing to a dark-brown color when ripe. The leaves are few, Fig. 4 representing the larger lower leaves—Fig. 7 the upper or smaller ones. The petioles are rather long and they have the peculiarity of twisting unequally, so that the surfaces of the leaves, instead of being horizontal, rest horizontally, perpendicularly, and at every intermediate angle. Perhaps more rest perpendicularly, presenting the edges to the sky and earth, than in any other position, a peculiarity existing in but very few plants.

There are two species of *Moluccella*, viz., *laevis* and *spinosa*. The latter differs from the former in possessing purplish stems, smaller leaves, smaller cups with seven spiny points, and in being less hardy. This is a native of the Molucca Islands—hence the name of the genus; but *laevis* is a native of Syria.

MOLUCCELLA LAEVIS.

Our readers would like to know to what extent this plant has been and is cultivated. We cannot tell them. We find it mentioned in Philip Miller's Gardeners' Dictionary, published in 1758, and in recent botanies generally. Yet we cannot find it offered in any catalogue either of this country or of Europe, and we know of but one individual besides the correspondent who sent us the seed that has the plant in cultivation. We have ourselves about twenty plants, and the seeds are carefully saved as they ripen. These we hope in some way to distribute among our Rural readers, of which, in order to avoid unnecessary correspondence, we will give timely notice.

NOTES.

One of the employes of the R. N. Y. brought into the office the other day five Dahlia flowers upon one peduncle. They were so crowded together that they could only be distinguished by the greenish center petals of each.

The Scarlet Lobelia, or Cardinal flower, is just now making the swamps, ditches and low grounds throughout the Northern States, brilliant with its showy plumes. It has few rivals in color, although not very compact or elegant in form.

We found in a ramble last week a quantity of the little Orchid, *Goodyera pubescens*, now in bloom. The minute flowers, about fifteen of which are crowded in a raceme upon a scape a foot or less high, are just as interesting in a very small way as are those of the Cypripedium on a larger scale.

We see in the Gardeners' Chronicle that a correspondent sent the editors two trusses of the blooms of the Hydrangea, cuttings of which were taken from the same plant and both of which had received the same treatment in every respect—having been potted in ordinary turfy loam, leaf-mold and sand, and watered with pure spring water. The editors state that one was quite pink, the other pure blue. If no mistake was made as to the cuttings, this goes to prove that iron, the soil, etc., have nothing to do with changing the pink to blue in the flowers of Hydrangeas, in spite of the mass of supposed facts that from time to time has been published in substantiation of this theory.

Perhaps Hydrangeas are divided among themselves, some preferring blue, some pink. Perhaps they are mixed as regards these two colors, sometimes manufacturing one—sometimes the other. Perhaps in being lifted from one position, to which they have become endeared, to another—they grow melancholy and ——blue. This last, as we study upon it, seems plausible, and we respectfully offer it as our explanation of the phenomenon.

EXCHANGE.

I noticed in the Rural of July 8 a letter by "Marion, Noble Co., Ind.," giving a description of a plant, and in which she asks for the name. I raised it years ago and called it "Shell Flower." I have since lost the seed, and have anxiously looked through seed stores and catalogues for years, but in vain. So you may know how delighted I was on reading this description. As the little shells skeletonize beautifully, I am most anxious to procure some of the seed, and determined, as the writer of the letter alluded to did not give her post-office address, to write to you immediately, begging you, through the medium of your paper, to let her know my address, which is "L. Hinder, Kalamazoo, Mich." If she will be kind enough to send me a few seeds, I will return the compliment by sending her some of several kinds that perhaps she has not yet seen.

Around the Republic.

FROM OLD CONNECTICUT.

DEAR RURAL:—The western boundary of this township, as stated by me in a former letter, is the summit of a range of hills from 600 to 1,000 feet above the Connecticut River, which is, in a direct line, some nine miles distant. These hills, known as Talcott Mountain, are of trap rock, which have, by some igneous eruption, been thrown up through the old, red sandstone, and trend from Mount Tom in Massachusetts southwardly to East Rock, near New Haven. The eastern side descends quite abruptly (but not so much so as not to be generally cultivatable) for nearly two miles, at which point the trap formation is lost sight of, and from whence there is a quick succession of hills and valleys, which regularly diminish in size until, in the eastern part of the town, a sandy level is reached, which continues to the river. Thus, within the limit of a single township, or a little more than six miles, we have a variety of soil and formation not often comprised in the same distance. First, on the eastern side, sand with but little loam, followed by a moderately heavy loam with clay subsoil, then a loamy gravel, and finally rocks and stones in abundance. This gives opportunity for great diversity of agricultural pursuits, although the productiveness of either portion is not so great as to give the farmer desired results without his strict attention and unremitting labor.

The most valuable production here, as in all New England, is grass. No farm can be kept in good condition without an ample supply of barn-yard manure, to obtain which the larger number of acres the farm contains are kept in grass, which is fed out to stock in winter. But little hay is sent to market, it being generally believed that he who sells his hay robs his farm, for even if the money it produces be expended for phosphates, guano or other fertilizers, the result in the end is not so favorable as if the hay be fed out on the farm. Stock raising, as a business, does not seem to be largely engaged in. There is but a small proportion of the land that is not worth more for culture than for pasturage, and it is thought more profitable to buy cattle two or three years old in the fall for winter feeding than to raise younger stock.

The season seems unusually early, and most of the grass was cut before the 1st of August. The crop was rather better than average and was housed in good condition. But hay making now is different than when I was young, when, with scythe, and fork, and rake, man and boy must toil and sweat "from morn till dewy eve," often commencing in June, before the grasses were nearly ripe, and frequently continuing into September, when the stalks were so dry and hard that the scythes would ring out their notes as clear and sharp as the triangles in an orchestra.

From the window where I write I can see where was once a field of about eight acres, in which my grandfather had accomplished a prodigious feat that I have often heard related as a marvel of wonder and proof of his uncommon energy. When the grass was fully ripe, on a favorable day, he put sufficient hands at work to cut, cure, gather and house all the product of that field in a single day! Think of that, ye modern farmers, who leisurely mount your mowing machines and, after a not wearisome ride over a few acres, exchange for a tedder, and afterward for a rake, riding about the while and dividing the labor with your horses; and not quite such division either as the Irishman had who wrote to a fellow countryman that if he would come to America he would get him a job where all there was to do was to carry bricks to the top of a building, and the fellows up there would do all the work. But speaking of division of labor suggests a query: Why is it that in storing or mowing away hay the boys are always put in the hottest place? I see a roof now under which thirty years ago I toiled and sweat and inwardly cursed (I was a boy then), and in my recollection that is the hottest place I ever heard of, unless it be Philadelphia or the foreign place TALMAGE talks about, but which is not mentionable in polite society.

Indian corn (why can't you educate the public to call it *maize!*) is cultivated to a limited extent. Every farmer needs a little for his pigs and poultry, but every bushel raised in town doubtless costs more than it would sell for in market. But the argument in favor of growing it is, admitting a certain quantity to cost a hundred dollars, and it could be purchased for ninety, where will the farmer get his ninety dollars with which to pay for it?

I find a question still unsettled that was discussed when I lived here, namely, If it be more profitable to raise corn on the light, sandy soil (known as the plains), which is easily worked and produces ten bushels to the acre, or on the heavier soil, that produces four or five times as much, the latter costing a hundred dollars an acre and the former ten dollars.

As with corn so with other ordinary farm crops, rye, oats, potatoes, etc., but little is raised except for home consumption. The money-producing crop of the town is tobacco, of which a large amount and superior quality of Connecticut seedleaf is raised. I will write more fully about this at another time. Just now I want to go to the station to see a party off for the Centennial, with which are two of my oldest friends—one aged 81, the other 83, both practical and successful farmers, who are still able to "drive the team a-field" and do a pretty good day's work if circumstances required. L. A. R.

Bloomfield, Conn.

Farm Economy.

THE LIGHTNING-ROD NUISANCE.

EVER since Benjamin Franklin made his experiments in capturing electricity, timid persons have wanted some kind of a kit and string hanging over their heads on a thunder storm and this weakness has been taken advantage of by the peddlers of lightning-rods. How these men have fattened on others fears is told by the Chicago Times in a vein both humorous and instructive. From this time till frost comes, look out for the advent of the lightning-rod man. He will call at the house and enquire for the owner, and is never so happy as when informed that he is absent. This gives him an opportunity to scare the women folks, who are very likely to be "afraid of thunder." He will represent the danger of living in a house that has no lightning-rod attached to be so great that they will not "sleep nights" till one is put up.

Having talked for an hour, he will leave a tract, half of which is devoted to statistics of mortality from lightning, and the other half to the advantages of the celebrated patent, spiral, tubular, double-and-twisted thunder-exterminator. He calls again in a week and expresses his surprise that the house is standing and its occupants are alive. The head of the family is ready for a trade, for he fears that the female member of his household will die of fright if the house be not equipped with a lightning-rod before the next thunder cloud appears. He signs a skillfully-worded contract, by the terms of which he obligates himself to pay so much per foot for a sufficient amount of rod to protect the building he occupies. Of course the lightning-rod man being on expert at the business is constituted sole judge of what length of rod is necessary. He roughly guesses that about fifty feet will be required. The next visit is for the purpose of putting up the celebrated lightning-demolisher and thunder-tamer.

A survey of the house is now made for the purpose of seeing how many feet of rod the signer of the contract can be forced to pay for. You may depend on the lightning-rod man to figure this very fine. He understands how to bend the rod round the eaves of this house, how to carry it to the extreme corner, and how to attach it to the most distant chimney. He is engaged in selling rods by the yard and he has no notion of disposing of a scant pattern. When measured up with all its crooks and turns it is found to be about three times as long as originally supposed. If this was the only swindle connected with the transaction there would be less cause of complaint. But it is not the only one. The rod is generally sold for four or five times as much as it cost.

Most of the claims for the efficiency of the rod, the ability of the point or points to attract lightning, and for its peculiar method of attachment to the building are fraudulent. Some smart fellow got a patent on some peculiar turn or twist in a piece of fragile metal that could not support itself and used it for the purpose of selling an article almost entirely useless.—Every electrician knows that the fewer turns, twists, curves, angles and joints there are about a lightning-rod the better it is for the purpose for which it was designed. The truth of the matter is there has been no essential improvement on the original lightning-rod as brought out by Dr. Franklin. That was a straight continuous bar of wrought iron secured to a building by attachments of wood or metal. It was a very inexpensive and simple contrivance, but it conducted electricity better than most of the new-fangled humbugs that have taken its place.

The cheapest way to procure a good lightning-rod is to buy a bar of round iron three-fourths of an inch in diameter and of the requisite length to reach ten feet above the highest point of the roof, to extend over the roof on the most direct line to the ground and to continue into the earth till permanent moisture is reached. This can be secured to the chimney, the roof and walls of the building, by means of iron staples. The tip of the rod should be cut in the form of a screw so as to fit in a polished point that can be obtained in almost any hardware shop. Sometimes points may be obtained that will fit over the end of the rod. Instead of a round iron bar a strip of iron one inch wide and a fourth of an inch thick, may be used, and in some respects it is superior. This strip may be pierced with holes and tacked directly to the building and chimney, or it may be secured by staples, or by pieces of iron bent over it and secured by screws. Whichever kind of conductor is used, it is advisable to paint it of the same color as the house, so it will not act to disfigure it. The paint will protect it against the action of the air and rain, and will not essentially injure its conducting power.

At present, all persons versed in the laws that regulate the passage of electricity look with disfavor on any attempts to insulate a rod by means of pieces of glass. On the other hand, they advise connecting the rod directly with the building, and particularly with metal eave-spouts or other metal surfaces about the exterior of the building. The old idea that electricity only passes over the surface of a substance is abandoned. It is now accepted as a fact that electricity in motion pervades the entire substance of the object through which it passes. This dispenses with the argument in regard to tapes and ribbons of metals as conductors of electricity. The matter that demands most attention in putting up a lightning-rod is the connection it forms with the earth. This is the thing to which lightning-rod men give the least care, as digging in the hard earth is not the kind of occupation they prefer. It suits their purpose better to sink a crowbar into dry sand and drop the end of the bar into it. The end of rod should reach permanent moisture, or else it should extend into a pit filled with charcoal, coke, or scrap iron, either of which constitute very excellent conductors of electricity.

CROSS BREEDING OF GRAIN.

THE "Report of the Department of Agriculture, for May and June," forms a pamphlet of nearly 100 pages, and is in most respects a very commendable production. The reports on the condition and prospects of the growing crops are quite full and satisfactory; and the statistics and diagrams exhibiting the amount, value and progress of agricultural production in the various States, etc., are highly creditable to the industry and talents of the worthy statistician of the Department, whose laudable aim has evidently been to make this report a Centennial document which American citizens should take pleasure in putting into the hands of visitors from other countries who desire information respecting the resources, productions and progress of this country.

But every intelligent American who reads the article on p. 191 2, written by the Commissioner himself, on "Cross-Breeding of Grain," will blush for the ignorance of the man who occupies such high position; and before handing the Report to any foreign visitor, will tear out the article, which is a disgrace to its author and the Department of which he is the official head.

After a couple of paragraphs, which amount to nothing, on the subject of farmers' changing seed of grain, the Commissioner goes on as follows:

"Another maxim which farmers generally accept as an axiom is, that by sowing wheats of different qualities together, that they will so hybridize as to produce a mixed breed; while even a little observation would teach them the error of this conclusion, and that each grain produces its own like, and that really no hybridization takes place at all, and that the mixture of seed produces the unmitigated evil of mixing wheats which perhaps ripen at different periods, or perhaps require different treatment when they come to be reduced to flour. A little study of the nature of plants would seem to be necessary to a knowledge of their proper treatment during their growth. Of the flowers of plants, some are male and some female. In some the staminate and pistillate flowers occupy different parts of the same plants, as in Indian corn. In the larger number of plants the male and female organs mature at the same time in the same flower; and of these some are subject to self-fertilization, and others to cross-fertilization. Such plants as peas, beans, wheat and barley have the male and female organs within themselves, and are not subject to cross-fertilization, and therefore it is that wheats do not mix their qualities at all by being planted together; and as it is objectionable for other reasons, it should never be done. The leaf or flower which protrudes from the glume of wheat is neither an anther, a pistil, nor a stamen, and neither emits nor receives the fertilizing pollen."

The lack of botanical knowledge betrayed by the foregoing would disgrace a country school boy, fifteen years' old, of the present day. Any person of "even a little observation," who has noticed a field of wheat when in bloom, has seen the anthers hanging outside the spikelets of the heads, and when in right condition, the pollen from these anthers may be seen carried by the breeze, like fine dust, over the field, thus settling upon the heads, and reaching the tips of the little feathery pistils which at such time protrude outside the glumes, for the purpose of fertilization. In this way "cross-breeding" is readily accomplished by natural means, or it can be done easily by art, and has been the means of producing a multitude of different varieties.

Lake County, O. TRITICUM.

The Garden.

AGAIN ABOUT MOLES.

I AM the "subscriber" who asked how to rid my grounds of moles, and was answered in the RURAL of June 24th. I hope that the gentleman who invented the mole trap will yet be rewarded, and the public benefited by its further sale. I noticed in the RURAL last spring a statement in regard to moles which I do not think is correct, at least I am sure it is not entirely so. It was said that the mole was an insectiverous animal. That it subsisted upon grubs &c., and did not disturb plants except to cut a hole through them when they happened to be in its way. At that time, I sent the RURAL a parsnip which a mole had hollowed out, by ascending its interior. I lately found an isolated hill of potatoes in my squash patch, which was dying. The moles had eaten up its roots *entirely*, tubers and all.

Howard Springs, Tenn. L. H. BELL.

REMARKS:—Some of the ways of moles are past finding out. Two and three years ago, our grounds were alive with them. The sod was riddled—borders and cleared plots for flowers resembled maps of mountainous regions and it was found next to impossible to cultivate annuals at all. Castor-oil plants, Cannas, Balsam, Petunias, Snapdragons were so undermined that between resetting and being upset, many were killed and the rest dwarfed and harmed. A weeping Birch was so undermined as to lose its foliage and a Norway Spruce would have died had not their excavations been refilled. We used almost everything (as we then stated) that we knew or could hear of to poison or to drive them away without decided effect and finally, in despair, left them to do their worst. Strange to say, last year we were troubled with them very little and this year not at all. We have never even conjectured why they thus suddenly quit our premises after having given every evidence of an attachment the sincerity of which we were too hopeless to doubt.

But to answer our correspondent:—Through the whole period during which our grounds were infested, we never once had evidence that they eat a plant, root or vegetable fiber. That they seem to select the roots of plants in their runs is true enough—but this may be because they are attracted by the moisture from artificial watering, and the worms that in such moist and rich spots, congregate. That they do not eat such vegetables as parsnips and potatoes, we give as proof the following:

"I caught" says a correspondent of the Tribune "a mole in October, and imprisoned it in a box 12 inches square, slats across the top, with 5 inches earth in the bottom. I put in some slices of potato, turnips, parsnips, carrot and beet and left them three days, but nothing of them was eaten. I then put in some grub worms and some earth worms, which were devoured ravenously, the half-starved mole taking them from my fingers. I then left it two days longer, then put in some corn, which was eaten. I did not go to it again for three or four days, but when I went it was dead. It died rather than eat vegetables."

How does our correspondent know that moles hollowed out the parsnip which he sent to the RURAL? How does he know that moles eat up his potatoes "tubers and all"? Did he see them *in flagrante delicto?* Otherwise we should charge this work to ground mice or even to grubs rather than to moles.

As to the trap. We wrote a letter of inquiry to the inventor and manufacturer, who replied that having many irons in the fire, he was unable to spare the time required to place it in the market. Perhaps it is different now. The trap, a somewhat large, clumsy contrivance would cost not less than five dollars at retail, manufactured in its present shape. But it is very effectual and we should say that the "public would be benefited by its sale" and the inventor "rewarded."

NOTE.—Let it be understood that it is not the present writer but "Daily Rural Life" who owns the trap which with him has proven so effectual; and it is he who is responsible for having raised many hopes (judging from the letters received) destined, as we think he well knew at the time, to be dashed all to pieces.

We have our opinion as to people who enjoy such trifling with the needs of those who help to support them—and our readers will have theirs!

THE CURRANT WORM.—I mean the green worm about half an inch long that feeds on the leaves of the currant only when it can find none of the gooseberry. Having read that the imago hibernates in the earth near the stem of the bush, I plastered early in spring with lime mortar a radius of 6 or 8 inches intending to bury them beyond resurrection. That season I saw but one and none after for three seasons.—P.

Dairy Husbandry.

MANAGEMENT OF MEADOWS IN DAIRY SECTIONS.

Dairymen not unfrequently complain that their meadow lands do not yield satisfactorily for a succession of years—that the grass is inclined to "run out" after being down three or four years, and hence plowing and re-seeding has to be resorted to. It is true there is great difference in soils, some being of a character that will not hold grass permanently or for any considerable length of time under ordinary treatment; but the complaint to which we refer applies particularly to lands in good dairy sections which are well adapted to grass. We may, therefore, refer to some of the causes that operate against the productiveness of meadows, and more especially as some faults in management apply to the season close at hand. In the first place we may remark that many meadows are badly injured in their productiveness and permanence by allowing the grass to mature too far and ripen its seed before cutting. When grass is allowed to become fully ripe before cutting, it makes heavy drafts upon the soil and rapidly impoverishes it if not kept up by frequent applications of manure. The effect upon the land is similar to successive crops of grain, not quite so rapid, perhaps, in its exhaustive effects, but still sure and constant. When grass is cut early and before it has matured, there is less woody fiber, it is more rich in the elements of nutrition, while at the same time it draws less upon the soil. Here is often the first great mistake in the management of meadow lands. Another very prevalent fault, and one following closely upon the heels of the hay harvest, is the pasturing of meadows. In many instances the cows are turned upon meadows before the grass has acquired sufficient growth to shade the roots of the plants, and by allowing the herd to eat down the grass and expose the roots to the hot sun—not unfrequently, too, during drouths—the roots of the plants are burned out and destroyed, more or less, and hence the succeeding crop is lessened. We have seen meadows of timothy, in very dry seasons, nearly destroyed from this treatment, the hungry animals pulling the bulbous roots out of the ground in large quantities. Then, again, meadows are often pastured to excess, and as cold weather comes on, with no growth of leaves to protect the roots, the winter frosts complete the work of destruction, and hence plowing and re-seeding must be resorted to.

Many persons neglect to top-dress and manure meadows under the mistaken notion that grass lands can do very well without it. We are opposed to feeding off of the aftermath of meadows. It should be left to protect the roots of the plants during the hot days of August and September, as well also as a covering blanket for winter. It is much better for the farmer to grow corn fodder for the supply of fall feed than to depend upon the afterfeed of meadows, and in the long run it will be found to be much cheaper. There is many a farmer that would consider the aftermath at ten dollars an acre excessively dear and more than he could afford, and yet we have often seen more than that loss made by feeding off the meadow in fall, and thus reducing the yield of grass the following year. In some instances when the aftermath is very heavy it may be advisable to allow the cows to bite off the tops off the grass and to trample it down late in the season, but it never ought to be eaten down close if a permanent meadow and large yields be expected.

Again, some farmers are accustomed to pasture meadows in spring. This is a very bad practice, and no meadows under such treatment can be expected to yield full crops. There is another fruitful source of poor meadows lying back of all the faults we have named, and which may be mentioned in this connection. We refer to the poverty of the soil at the time of putting down to grass and the imperfect manner of preparing the ground and seeding it. If lands by long cropping and frequent plowing become worn and exhausted of their fertility, and are thus turned to grass without enriching with manures, heavy crops of grass ought not to be expected. And yet this is the condition in which many meadows are put down. The land having been worn out for grain is, as a last resort, thrown into grass, and then if the grass fails to be enduring, the result is attributed to some inexplicable cause. Many meadows that are yielding less than a ton to the acre, and which are said to hold grass poorly and to be "running out," it will be found, owe their trouble to the cause we have named. The land originally was well adapted to grass, but, worn and starved of fertilizing elements, it refuses to yield beyond its capacity. Lands designed for permanent meadows should be put in good heart at the time of seeding, and attention should be paid to a thorough and complete working of the soil, so that it be in fine tilth for the seed bed. If the land has been worn and manures cannot be plentifully supplied at first, frequent top-dressing during the first few years after seeding should be resorted to, and in this way the soil will be recuperated and the grass abundant and enduring. Great losses are annually sustained on account of neglect and improper treatment of meadow lands, and we call the attention of dairymen to the points we have enumerated because they are common faults which demand correction.

CURIOUS PROCESS FOR MAKING CHEESE.

Among the curious methods for the manufacture of *fine cheese*, the process adopted by Mr. Joseph Harrison of Derbyshire, England, will be of interest. The curds are not scalded, no heat being applied after the milk is set for coagulation. The expulsion of the whey, or its separation from the curds before being put in the hoop and under press, is being accomplished by a process quite different from anything known in practice in this country. But what will be surprising, perhaps, to most of our factory cheese makers is the fact that the cheese made under this process is of the finest flavor and quality and sells in the best markets of England for "top prices" on a par with English cheddar, which ranges from twenty to thirty shillings higher than American cheese.

LEADING POINTS IN ITS MANUFACTURE.

The following are the leading points in the process:

The milk, when collected, is set at a temperature of about 80° Fahrenheit, with sufficient rennet to produce thorough coagulation in from forty to sixty minutes. The cheese is made twice a day—that is, from the morning's and evening's milk separately. After coagulation is perfected and when ready for manipulation, the breaker or cutter is passed up and down through the mass until the curds are broken into small lumps about the size of a hazelnut. The operation of the breaking is at intervals of a few minutes. After standing for the whey to form, a pressing plate pierced with holes and fitting the tub is used and pressure applied to the curds. Faucets are arranged in the tubs at different hights, and through these the whey is drawn off as it rises through the holes in the pressure plate. The curds are left under pressure in the tub until in the judgment of the operator it is ready for the next process. This consists in cutting the outer edge of the circular mass of curd into blocks with an implement similar to a mason's trowel. These blocks of curd are piled in the center of the tub and pressure again applied until the whey is sufficiently expelled, when it is crushed up with the hands and put to press. It remains in press five or six days, being turned from time to time and receiving a fresh cloth. Then it is taken out of press and rubbed with salt on the outside every day for a few days, or until it is sufficiently salted. The cheeses are from 3½ to 4 inches thick, and from 15 to 16 inches in diameter, weighing about 30 pounds each.

Such are the general outlines of the improved process for making Derby cheese. The cheese is rich, with a peculiar, clean, sweet flavor, and from its great excellence commands the extreme prices we have named.

It will be seen that the method employed for freeing the curds from whey differs materially from the ordinary practice in this country, and from it we learn the fact that the making of good cheese is not confined to one particular process, but that the same result is reached by very many and diverse methods, and much doubtless is due to the skill and judgment of the maker in all processes.

ANALYSIS OF BUTTER.

Everyone knows that there is a great difference in the richness as well as flavor of butter, but the why and wherefore is not so easily found out. The chemists have taken hold of this subject, and it is possible that we may through their aid have some light thrown into the butyraceous abyss. The following from the Agricultural Gazette is one step in that direction:

A report has been made to the Board of Inland Revenue by the Principal of the Chemical Laboratory, Somerset House, on experiments conducted by him for the analysis of butter. One hundred and seventeen samples were tested, the result being that while a few samples were found to be very poor in quality, and a few others exceptionally rich, the great bulk examined were found to possess considerable uniformity of composition, the principal variations being apparently due to a difference in the method of manufacture, the different seasons of the year when made, and the various modes of feeding. As might be expected, some of the poorest butters were produced by and obtained from small farmers in Ireland, at a time when there was very little grass and food was scarce. It was also noticed that the butter was relatively poorer in its essential constituents when the food was chiefly cotton and oil-cake than was the case when roots and grass formed the staple food. A noticeable feature in the results recorded is the great variation in the quantity of water in the different butters, the lowest being 4.15 per cent. and the highest 20.75 per cent. The Devon and Dorset butters, which usually stand so high in the market, were found to contain in nearly all cases a high percentage of water, and one which was procured from the dairy of a private gentleman contained as much as 16.90 per cent., and a second sample, recently obtained from the same source, contained 15.70 per cent. Another point of interest was in some measure elucidated, and which has reference to the deterioration which certain butters undergo when kept in small quantities in glass or earthenware vessels. It was found that while some of the finest and best prepared butters undergo little or no change, there is in others a gradual disappearance of the characteristic principles of butters, and a consequent assimilation to the constitution of an ordinary animal fat. This change, which appears to be due to an incipient fermentation, and is generally accompanied by the development of fungi, is probably caused either by the use of sour cream or by insufficient care in making butter.

ENGLISH METHOD OF PACKING BUTTER PRINTS FOR MARKET.

The Derbyshire method of sending butter to market is quite different from anything practiced in this country. The dairy farmers put their butter up in half-pound prints neatly stamped. Instead of boxes or pails for packing, they use stout willow baskets. These are made especially for the purpose, and are arranged to receive from 20 to 30 prints in each layer, and several layers of prints are placed one above the other. The layers of prints just fit the basket in rows 5 by 6 or 4 by 5, so as to avoid shocking and bruising by moving from their position as placed in the basket. The baskets are very nicely made, the sides rising up from the bottom perpendicularly, and being made sufficiently strong to retain a true and even shape. From 15 to 30 pounds of butter are packed in each basket, according to the size of the dairy or the amount of butter to be sent to market from time to time. In other words, the baskets are made of different sizes to accommodate the dairy, and they are completely filled with prints when sent to market. The following is the manner of packing:—First, a fine, white, dry cloth is laid over the basket, and upon this is placed a wet one of fine white cotton. They lay dock leaves over the bottom. The dock leaf has a stalk running through its length, thus rendering the back of the leaf uneven, while the face of the leaf is flat. The stalk, therefore, must be carefully drawn off with a knife, care being taken that the leaf is not split. Now wet the prepared leaves and place them in the bottom of the basket, and upon them place a layer of butter prints, then a layer of leaves, and so on until the basket is filled, finishing with a layer of leaves. The ends of the cloths are now turned down over the whole, and it is complete. The basket should hold five half-pound prints in depth. In this way the butter goes to market in the neighboring city or village, sweet, rosy, and in firm condition, the same as it leaves the dairy.

CLAY FOR SANDY MEADOWS.

Can I improve a field when the soil is sandy and washy by adding clay? I wish to make a meadow of it.—J. Ames.

Sandy lands that are yielding poorly may be improved often at little expense by top-dressing with clay. We have seen meadows made to yield largely simply by dressing with a thin coating of clay hauled from an adjacent bank and scattered over the field during winter, where, by the action of frost and the spring rains, the clods were reduced to a condition to be easily broken and further distributed over the surface.

Heavy clay lands are often benefited by dressing with sand or sandy loams. Fields are often located at a short distance from deposits of clay or sand, and may be permanently benefited by top-dressing in the way suggested. Sandy and leachy soils that are not retentive of manures may thus be often so ameliorated as to be made very productive and at comparatively little expense if deposits of clay are near at hand.

A few years ago a farmer living in the valley of the West Canada Creek had a large field of sandy land which was so unproductive as to be considered of little value. The land was plowed in the fall, and during winter the farmer set his teams drawing clay from a bank near the creek and close at hand. In the spring the clay was distributed over the surface as evenly as possible and harrowed in, and the field was then sown with grain and seeded down to grass. A good meadow was thus obtained, which proved productive for a number of years, though only a light coating of manure was applied from time to time, the field getting no better treatment in this respect than other parts of the farm where the soil was stronger and better.

We have no doubt the field referred to would receive benefit by an application of clay, and we should take the risk of making the experiment on a small scale, to say the least; then, if the improvement and cost of adding clay proved satisfactory, a more extensive surface could be treated.

The Herdsman.

MILKING MACHINES.

A writer to the North British Agriculturist writes: Allow me to state that I tried what I believe to be the ordinary milking machine, in a dairy of 55 Ayrshire cows about nine years ago. I first ordered one, and was so well pleased with its apparent efficiency that I at once ordered a few more, and the greater part of the milking was done for about a week with them, when I found out that the yield of milk and weight of curd had been gradually decreasing the time they were in use, so I at once put them aside and resumed hand-milking, when the yield soon increased to what it formerly was. This has been my experience of milking machines, and I consider their failure mainly caused by the total absence of any mechanical action on the teats or milk vessel, and not to the smallness of the tubes, as supposed by Mr. Littlejohn—a very simple defect which, if it existed, could easily be remedied. The young of all mammalia when sucking, by butting with their nose and pulling, bring a considerable amount of mechanical force to bear upon the teats and vessel. For instance, who has not observed a young pig when it could find nothing in the teat butt and rub with its little nose all round about it till it got its reward? In these days of dear labor, when the most indifferent class of dairymaids can scarcely be got either for "love or money," the Highland and Agricultural Society would be doing a duty that would be highly appreciated by all dairy farmers were they to offer a handsome premium to the inventor of a thoroughly efficient milking machine.

EXPERIENCE vs. THEORY.

A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph in giving advice about building barns recommended putting in many windows, but next week he is informed by Mr. R. Hecker: "that during fly-time stables can hardly be kept too dark, except at feeding time for a few minutes to enable the men to see. A million and more of flies may be in a thoroughly darkened stable yet will not move, hence neither annoy the animals, defile feeding material, nor soil windows. The time will come, for large farms at least, when steam will in summer drive circulation of air by a fanner through the cattle-houses. Not a fly will be seen there and far less disease obtain. There is no doubt that during summer much beef could be and should be made by bullocks comfortably warm, but untormented by flies or excess of sunlight. More milk, butter and cheese likewise will result if cows are shielded from flies and very hot (through too much light) stables. They are machines needing quiet if they are to yield plenty and good milk.

The Horseman.

HORSES PULLING AT THE HALTER.

A horse can pull more backwards by a strap over the top of his head than he can pull forward by the breast and when he has learned this he will break almost any single strap of leather but this is not the worst of it, there is great danger of his injuring himself as well as doing injury to the harness or carriage when loose. There is much less danger of injury by tieing him with a strap around the neck when he cannot or will not exert as much force. A handy way with a carriage horse is to have a strong two inch strap with a strong buckle fastened to an iron ring. This can remain on the horses neck then have in your buggy a new strong rope with a large knot on one end that will not pass through the ring. Draw this through the ring when you tie him and he will try the strength of it but a few times. Such is my experience.

S. B. Peck.

PROTECTING HORSES FROM FLIES.

A French pharmaceutical chemist has discovered a way to protect horses from attacks of flies, according to a London medical paper. His invention consists in rubbing the horses, especially on the part most subject to attack, with a little concentrated oil of laurel. There is not the slightest danger in its use, and the cost is said to be very small. Another repellant suggested by the same person, is a solution of sixty grammes (one pound and five ounces avoirdupois) of assafœtida in two glasses of water, and one of vinegar. If horses be well washed with this, not a fly will settle upon them, as the odor of the assafœtida drives the flies away. This drug has no deleterious qualities as an external application, and may be used unhesitatingly.

Pomological.

THE DECAY OF FRUITS.

At a recent meeting of the *Gesellschaft naturforschenden Freunde zu Berlin*, Dr. Brefeld reported the results of his investigations on the decay of fruits. He says it is a universally recognized fact that a rotten apple will infect a sound one with which it may be in contact. We cannot conceive infection in the absence of an active agent producing it, and calling forth and determining the form of this phenomenon. These investigations embraced the examination of rotten fruits of various kinds from the most widely diverse localities, and at different seasons of the year. The tissue was invariably found to be exhausted and withered, the cells had lost their turgidity, the contents were contracted, and the cell-sap dispersed in the inter-cellular spaces. With certain exceptions, alluded to below, Brefeld found the entire mass of cells permeated in all directions by the easily seen spawn of fungi, but the threads were merely interlaced among the cells, never piercing the cells themselves. The fungi present belong to very common molds of two distinct kinds; one with broad dense tubes without partitions, the other with narrower, frequently septate tubes, both being very much branched.

The former consisted mainly of Mucor stolonifer more rarely of M. racemosus, and the latter of Botrytis cinera and Peuicillium glaucum. There seems to be no doubt that these parasites are nourished by the cell-sap which has escaped into the inter-cellular spaces; but the most important question for elucidation was whether these fungi are the cause of decay, or simply accompanying conditions. To determine this point, several series of experiments were undertaken with the pure fungus and perfectly sound fruit. Spores were thickly sprinkled over sound fruit, and, to make the experiment more conclusive, the spores are conveyed to the fruit in water and the fruit afterwards placed under a bell-glass in a moist atmosphere. As might have been expected, the fruit remained sound, the spores failing to germinate altogether, or germinating only very sparingly. In consequence of the absence of a nourishing fluid, the spores possessed no power to attack the tissues of the fruit.

A second series of experiments was instituted, in which the spores were dipped in a nourishing solution of fruit pulp, in which they could germinate and form a mycelium, and this was laid on sound fruit with a pencil. Soon some of the fruits began to show here and there, in the least protected places, symptoms of decay, spreading with varying degrees of rapidity over the whole fruit. Nothing was easier to observe than that the penetrating fungus was actually the cause of the decay. Another set of experiments more fully proved this to be the case. Some sound apples were artificially wounded, and infected with the spores, which grew and spread in the the same manner. Other sound, bruised, but not infected apples showed no symptoms of decay.

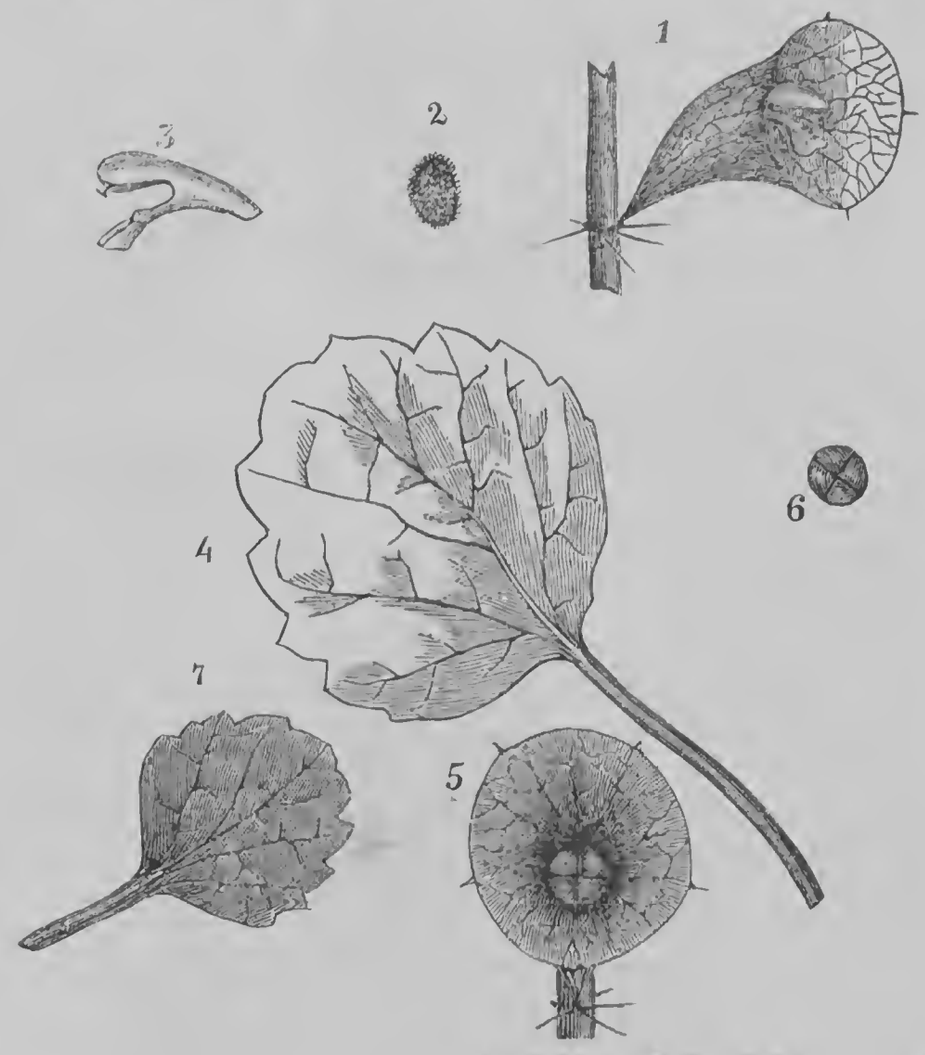
From a large number of experiments it was found that the more unripe the fruit, and the denser its tissue, the less power the fungus had of taking possession of it; but with the increase of saccharine matter, and the decrease of acids, the fruit becomes more susceptible. Unripe fruit artificially infected with fungus did not decay, as the fungus did not find a suitable host. Concerning the relative growth of the fungi named above it was found that Mucor stolonifer was by far the most rapid. Pears infected with the fungus become thoroughly decomposed in a few days, and, strange to say, no outward trace of it is usually discernible before the whole interior is destroyed.

Now arises the question, Do fungi always cause the decay of fruit? This is easily answered in the negative, for many pears, and in a still more striking manner the Medlar, exhibit a kind of spontaneous decay, equally as rapid in its course as is the case where molds are present. This kind of decay is what we find in a "sleepy" pear and a blet medlar, in which, according to Brefele, there is no fungus present. Otherwise the decomposition of the tissue proceeds in exactly the same manner in both cases. The foregoing extracts fully confirm practical experiments, and suggest the means for preventing the spread of these insidious organisms—the molds—in the fruit room.

ALMOND CULTURE IN CALIFORNIA.

Our cousins on the other side of the mountains are becoming quite elated with their success in almond culture and we can only wish them success in this direction.

The San Luis Obispo Tribune has been at some pains to investigate the condition of almond culture in that county. It says:—"A few trees have been planted in almost every yard and orchard, but in no single instance have they been planted in numbers to constitute an orchard. The nearest approach is upon the place of J. P. Andrews, about three quarters of a mile from the court house. Here we find a little cluster of sixteen trees now seven years old. These trees have their third full crop upon the boughs, which is a sight to gladden the heart of man. Mr. Andrews informs us that two years ago, when the trees were but five years old, the



PARTS OF MOLUCCELLA LAEVIS.—(SEE FIRST PAGE.)

gathered crop was one hundred pounds to the tree.

Last year, owing to overbearing the previous year, it was fifty pounds to the tree. This year it is far in excess of two years ago, from the fact the trees are much larger, but we will call the present crop one hundred cents per pound for California soft shells, will give $17.20 as the annual cash returns per tree. With 100 trees to the acre, bearing equally well, we should have a cash return of $1,720.

The cost of production could not in any case exceed twenty per cent. of the product, which deducted, leaves a clear profit of $1,376. This is better than the best orange orchard in the world. It may be urged that we cannot rely upon these returns. All we can judge by is what has been done and here we have three successive crops to base our calculations upon. Those inclined to doubt the profits of this business should go to Mr. Andrews' place before he gathers his crop and judge for themselves. We are willing to cut down the crop to 20 pounds and then we can see ten times the money in almonds that there is in barley, wheat or sheep and with little more labor."

ALMOND CULTURE IN SANTA CLARA VALLEY.

A correspondent of the Rural Press tells his story in regard to the success of almond culture in Santa Clara Valley.

In the southwestern portion of this valley there are several quite extensive orchards of the almond tree, which, so far as I have observed are doing very well. Of these, the orchard on the Spring Brook ranch, near Los Gatos, is the most prominent as to size, location and thorough culture, as far as my observation has extended.

While driving in this neighborhood last week I was so attracted by the beautiful dark green appearance of this plantation, the uniform size of the trees in their straight rows, and the general neatness of the whole place as seen from the road, that I opened the big gate and drove down the avenue through the orchard to the dwelling house, which is pleasantly located about half a mile from the road at the foot of the hills, and near the fine springs that have suggested the name of the ranch. Here under the shade of some fine trees in the yard I had the pleasure of meeting the proprietors of the property Messrs. Gardener and Neff, of Placer county, from whom I received the following information in regard to their almond enterprize:

The orchard, which is of the Languedoc variety of almond, covers an area of

ONE HUNDRED ACRES,

and numbers 20,000 trees. Although only two years old from the nursery last winter, they are so large and well grown as might well surprise anyone who might see them, not acquainted with the wonderful productiveness of our climate and soil. The whole plantation is on gravelly, though level foothill land, and the cultivation has been thorough, not a weed or blade of grass could be seen from the drive. Mr. Neff informed me that their men go through the whole plantation six times a year with the most approved tools for cultivation. By this frequent disturbance of the soil moisture is retained near the surface of the land the whole summer through.

It would seem that a few more years will settle the question as to whether almond culture can be made profitable in this portion of the valley, if indeed there remains any question on the subject. Everything so far looks favorable for the best results. The trees are healthy and grow remarkably well under good cultivation without irrigation, and come into bearing very early, as may be seen by many of these young trees. The proprietors estimate the crop of nuts this year at 10,000 pounds—pretty good for trees less than three years old from the nursery. The only drawback to realizing large crops every year is late spring frosts, but in this locality the probabilities are that no serious trouble will come from this source. There are several other almond and walnut orchards in this neighborhood, which I wish to notice in some future letter.

The Poultry Yard.

KEEPING POULTRY.—No. 2.

I now come to breeds of fowls that require still more room than those named last week. These are Game, Dorking, Hamburgs and Polish fowls. Let it be remembered that I have not advocated keeping any fowls in confinement, but simply stated the breeds that will best endure it. I will also say again, that almost all can be kept within circumscribed limits, but some require a great variety of food and more care than others, and sooner get out of condition.

The breeds last mentioned do well with their liberty, on farm or lawn, and make a brilliant show. What can be more beautiful than a fine lot of Game fowls running at large on a grass-plat, with their neat forms and close, clean feathering, the embodyment of life and vigor. See the brilliant eye and dauntless carriage of the cock, combined with his bright plumage. I will say nothing of the vulgarity connected with some people's ideas of this breed, and hope my readers will think no more than I say.

Of the Dorkings, a sufficient description of the Silver Gray was given in the Rural recently; the same description holds good for the Gray or colored, except color. Much the same for the White, they are smaller than the Colored, and perhaps a little tenderer. In the Hamburg, we have a delightful bird, with its fine, rose comb, widely different plumage—some almost as brilliant as any of the feathered tribe. What can be handsomer than Golden Penciled or Spangled Hamburgs; or the beautiful, delicate Silvers? The peculiar clearness and sprightliness of this breed make them admired by all who appreciate the beautiful. They almost equal the Pheasant in this respect, and are often referred to under this misnomer. As layers, this breed surpasses all others, except the Polish. Perhaps some fanciers may differ with me on this point, but I am only giving my own experience. I found the Polish, while they had full range on a good run, the best layers I ever kept.

Of the Leghorns and Hamburgs there is but little difference, but I think the Hamburgs have the advantage in number but not in size of eggs, all the conditions being the same.

The Polish fowls equal the Hamburgs for beauty in the Silver and Golden kinds, and branch into equally as great a number of varieties, such as white, black, and also black with white top-knots. Contrasted with their horned, coral-like combs, they make a very noble appearance. I saw a trio, a few days ago, owned by a member of the Bergen Co., N. J., Poultry Association, that reminded one of times when brilliant feathering and beauty of form were not always shown in competition with bones, fluffy, intestinal fat, and diminutive combs and tails.

VERMIN AMONG POULTRY.

At this season of the year insects increase rapidly, and it requires a little active vigilance to keep them in check. To exterminate them, it is necessary to understand enough of their nature to go to work so as to make sure of your prey. There are at least two distinct kinds of parasites on fowls, and what will destroy one will not affect the other. One kind lives on the bodies or feathers of the fowls, and is a louse. These may be got rid of by dusting. See that the fowls have dry ashes and sand, to which add flour of sulphur. Some fowls running at large will not use the place assigned to them for dusting, in which case, watch for their favorite dusting hole and put in some sulphur. If confined, supply them in their house or run. I have had fowls that could not be induced to dust in a box. A good way is to have a shallow box and sink it partly in the ground, so that the inside looks a little below the floor level, when they will take to it more readily. A little sulphur in soft food is also good occasionally.

The other parasite that infests the henery is a mite or minute spider. It should never be confounded with the louse, as dusting does not affect it, for it does not live on the fowl, but in cracks and crevices of the house, nests and perches, coming out while the fowls are roosting at night, preying on the fowls and returning to their hiding places. If they are allowed, through neglect, to get too numerous, they then overrun the nests and roosts. There is only one sure remedy for this pest, and that is, fumigation. Stop all the openings of the house as tight as possible. Start a fire in a small charcoal furnace with a few pieces of coal, (this can be done outside). Lay on a good handful of dampened tobacco (cigar makers' refuse stems will do) for the top layer. Put about half a pound of roll-brimstone, broken up; set it in the house; shut up for two or three hours. Whitewash nests, which should be all portable, adding carbolic acid in the wash, and you will make a clean job of it. This should be done twice or more in a year. If fowls are kept where fumigation is not possible, then use crude petroleum, or kerosene. Apply with a brush to all parts of the house.

FEEDING YOUNG POULTRY.

The great secret of raising very large birds of such breeds as are desired for show or premium birds, lies in careful feeding at this season of the year, while the chicks are growing and feathering rapidly. When the weather is very hot and the birds, like most of us, feel a little lazy, they frequently get down in condition, and to prevent this, feed them well with soft, easily-digesting food and they will keep growing wonderfully. Wheat is good food for growing chickens—it makes more bone than corn and gives them a robust constitution. Let them have all they will eat of grain and soft food twice a day, such as boiled rice and a little soaked bread. Such feeding would be too strong for old fowls making them too fat for laying. Always keep plenty of fresh water at hand. The difference between such fed chickens and those that are left to shift for themselves will astonish the negligent breeder.

The same treatment holds good for early broilers; they will come to maturity long before neglected chicks and pay their owners better. This may seem unimportant to some, but let anyone who wants very large fowls try this method and they will be satisfied with the result.

H. Hales.

That Dutiful Son Again.—Recently I described a dutiful son that helped his mother to hatch her second brood of chicks. His mother, after running with her chicks the usual time, made up her mind to dismiss them to *start for themselves*. She commenced at her oldest son first; but he would not stand that sort of treatment and showed fight; they had several battles. His mother finally became so disgusted with his behavior that she deserted him and her family and took lodgings on another part of the farm. The cockerel keeps with the chicks, and at night plays mother as best he can. H. H.

Arboricultural.

THE RHODODENDRON.

A well known genus of evergreen shrubs or trees belonging to the natural order Ericaceae, the Heath family. In floriculture, probably no shrub is more distinguished or has, of late, received more marked attention than the Rhododendron—a plant, so unique and stately in form, with its broadly-lanceolate dark-green foliage fresh at all seasons, fairly enchanting when in the month of June each branch from its scaly bud unfolds a large cluster of beautiful flowers, of the richest colors and most delicate tints and penclings imaginable, a perfect bouquet in form, that is certainly deserving of a place in every collection.

For its absence in so many of our gardens and pleasure grounds, with its beauty and general characteristics so universally recognized, no other reason suggests itself to our mind than the erroneous belief, still prevailing among amateurs and gardeners, of its expensive and difficult culture.

The culture of Rhododendrons, however, is very simple, as much so as that of the Rose. They delight in a cool and somewhat moist soil, any good garden soil thoroughly mixed with well decomposed leaf mold will grow them to perfection. A partial shade is desirable, but by no means necessary. It will prolong the flowering season and add to the freshness of the foliage during hot and dry weather.

The best time for planting is previous to the opening of their leaf buds, but they may be lifted with safety at any time from early spring until late in the autumn. If transplanted during the summer season a cloudy day should be chosen for the operation; the soil for the reception of the plants should be well prepared, the lifting and moving be done with care and when the specimen is safely lodged, with its roots carefully distributed and covered with the fine, fresh soil, the plant should be watered thoroughly so that the soil may settle firmly between the roots—then finish nicely around the stem and cover the whole surface with a mulching of straw, hay or any other coarse cooling material and sprinkle the foliage well and repeatedly over head, for several evenings in succession, should the weather be dry and hot. On approach of cold and freezing weather a covering of the roots with dry leaves, of some six inches in thickness, will prove beneficial. A bed or group of this charming plant, once established, requires no further care than the keeping of the soil free from weeds and an occasional enriching with thoroughly decomposed manure or leaf mold.

On my own grounds I have cultivated for a number of years, the following hardy varieties, with continued success and pleasure: Grandiflorum, light crimson; Everestianum, lilac; Album elegans, white, most delicately tinted; Candidissimum, pure white; Bicolor, dark rose; Delicatissimum, blush and white; Purpureum elegans, purple; Roseum elegans, rose; Celestinum, blush tinted; Azureum, purple; Abraham Lincoln, crimson. W. R. Bergholz.

Huguenot Park, New Rochelle.

A NEW FUNGUS ON THE PINE TREES.

New species of parasitic plants are being discovered as well as new insects, in fact our naturalists need not be idle for the want of novelties to engage their attention. In a late number of the Pacific Rural Press we find the following in reference to a new parasitic plant attacking the Pines of California:

Dr. H. W. Harkness, who is devoting the summer to scientific studies in the eastern counties of the State, has discovered a new fungus on the young pine trees, which promises to harm the trees and of which our readers should be forewarned. In a communication to the San Francisco microscopical society, Dr. Harkness writes as follows: I have to-day forwarded for the society's cabinet a specimen of *Peridermium*, a fungus which is attacking the small pine trees in the vicinity of Colfax, at which point Mr. Moore and myself discovered it on the 26th of May last. On the 20th inst. I again visited the locality for the purpose of noting the changes which had occurred during the interval. The fungus belongs to the genus *Peridermium*, order *Æcidacie*, and appears both on the branches and stems of young trees of the *Pinus Ponderosa*, generally forming a complete circle around the tree, its sporidia appearing as a zone of bright orange yellow. The spores first germinate beneath the cuticle, which it destroys. Owing to the irritation of this presence, an abnormal thickness of the cambium is produced, which, in turn, gives place to an excessive growth of wooly fiber. This process being repeated from time to time, a large bulbous expansion is soon formed, so that, as often as occurs, a stem of but an inch in diameter is enlarged to that of four or five. Above this bulb the further development of the stem is retarded or arrested altogether, its place being supplied by a dense tuft of minute branches.

As no reference to this fungus is found in any of the books at my command, I am inclined to the belief that it is a new variety. Yesterday I received a letter from Prof. W. G. Farlow, of Cambridge, Mass., in which he says: "I send you a specimen of *Peridermium*, which is attacking the *Pinus Ponderosa* of this vicinity. Do you find it in California?" As the specimen

RHODODENDRON CŒRULA GRANDIFLORA.

sent by the Professor agrees in every essential particular with the one sent to the society, it would appear that the fungus is attacking the forests in the Eastern as well as the Western portion of the United States. But one other variety of *Peridermium* is yet known upon this coast, and that is found upon the foliage of the *Pinus Insignis*, growing in the Golden Gate park, San Francisco, in the month of January last. This variety we then identified as *P. Pini*, which so far has not produced any special damage.

In the vicinity of Colfax the fungus appears to be limited to an area of but a few acres in extent. Within that area, however, it is destroying the young growth, and should it become generally disseminated, it bids fair to do great harm to the timber trees of this coast.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Centennial Exhibition,
Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 12, 1876.

The Centennial Committee of the American Dairymen's Association held a meeting to-day at the Butter and Cheese Factory on the grounds. There were present Messrs. Pope, Shull, Lewis, Ward, Harris, Gold, Peters, Hawley, Reall, Caswell and Blanding. The session was not quite as pleasant as an ordinary tea party, but some of the time it was much more lively. The principal topic of conversation was the resignation of Mr. John H. Reall and his character. In justice to the Committee, I must say that, notwithstanding the position heretofore taken by the Rural in relation to this body, a cordial invitation was extended to its representative to be present during the whole proceedings. Mr. Scoville read the official copy of Mr. Reall's resignation, whereupon a motion was made that it be accepted. This opened the ball, and the debate lasted from about 11 A. M. till nearly 3 P. M., with a half-hour's intermission for the purpose of inner refreshment.

Now, whether or not Mr. Reall or his character or his doings have been and now are of sufficient importance to entitle them to the continued volley of abuse and vituperation which they received at the hands of this Committee, is to me an unanswerable conundrum. He has made serious charges against some of the Committee, and says he is able to prove them. He has not only expressed a doubt of their perfect veracity, but has otherwise impugned their personal integrity. Mr. Lewis seemed, by his speeches, to be of the opinion that Mr. Reall was not worthy of such attentions as he was receiving, and then proceeded to give him about a half an hour of solid, round abuse, during which he took occasion to hint in the broadest terms that his word was of less value than his bond, if such a thing were possible. Calling the Scriptures to his aid in quotation, as usual, he held up poor Reall in no enviable light. Scoville was extremely anxious to have a committee appointed for the purpose of reporting that Reall was a bad man and Scoville was a good man. In this he was joined by Mr. Hawley, who for once did not say anything about salt. Peters seemed to want an investigation to expose anything wrong if such could be found. Mr. Pope took the same position, and so did Mr. Gold. There seemed to be several present who did not. Scoville and Hawley tried very hard to get Mr. Caswell to say that the Dairy Building was all that could be desired; but Caswell, who cared nothing for the internal fight of the Committee, would not say anything of the kind. He *did* say that he was satisfied, so far as he was concerned, with everything except that, being the only exhibitor of any account, he did not like the idea of coming so far from home to compete with himself alone.

The larger part of the session was occupied in abuse by the Committee of Mr. Reall, and by Reall of the Committee. I have seen a boys' debating club during my school days behave with much more dignity than did these sapient representatives of the dairy interest of this great country. But everybody finally came to be tired out, and the question upon the acceptance of the resignation was put and the acceptance passed. A set of resolutions telling what an excellent building they had erected and what fine fellows they themselves were was then passed with no debate, and the wise Committee dissolved their session perfectly satisfied with the expression they had given of their own opinion of themselves. Taken in connection with the previous acts of this ponderous body of representative men, I suppose it was the best they could do under the circumstances.

So far as I was able to see, the whole day's work (?) showed absolutely no practical solid result, was undignified in the extreme, was in the worst possible taste and fully justified the position taken by the Rural in relation to this whole Centennial Dairy affair. The only redeeming action which I could discover in these proceedings was the open-handed courtesy extended to the press upon the suggestion of Harris Lewis and, had this movement been headed by anyone else, I might say in this connection that I feel bound to "give the Devil his due," but of course I don't desire to steal Lewis' thunder in the way of quotation. Reall made a very weak fight; but the odds were heavily against him. There was Pope with the history of this whole matter at his tongue's end; Hawley, who can wake up in the middle of the night and talk against time; Lewis, who has the Scriptures at his back; Shull, who has great capacity for looking wise; Scoville, who evidently means some day to be President of the United States or Emperor of all the Russias; Peters, who smiles so luxuriously; Ward who, like his namesake, is so very funny; Mr. Gold, who is thoroughly in earnest and Blanding, whose tongue seems to be quite as sharp as his wits if not sharper.

During my wanderings yesterday for items of interest, I stumbled upon one very excellent one. Through the united working of Dr. Kennedy, Capt. Landreth and the State managers of New Jersey, the latter State is to set apart a certain day (I believe the 24th of this month) for visiting the Exhibition. Arrangements have been made with all the railroads for reduced fare from all parts of the State to Philadelphia. The Governor and other State officials are to be present. Speeches to be made, collations to be disposed of and a general jollification is to be the rule. This is to be called the New Jersey Centennial Day and will doubtless be the means of permitting many people to visit the Exhibition who would not, under ordinary circumstances, feel able to bear the expense. This is a very excellent idea and should be adopted in every State in the Union. Little trouble would be experienced in getting the reduction of fares over the various roads for a concerted movement like this and many poor people would be vastly benefitted by the visit.

It is said that Col. Clay, the efficient commander of the Centennial Guard, is about to resign to accept an appointment under the N. Y. State Government and will be succeeded by Capt. Hodges, whose quarters are now in the Main Building. The important part in the Exhibition borne by this body of men fully warrants the appointment of so worthy an officer as Capt. Hodges has shown himself to be.

Short-horn

Sheep Husbandry.

LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS.

The acuteness of the sheep's ear, it is said, surpasses all things in nature that I know of. The ewe will distinguish her own lamb's bleat among a thousand, all bleating at the same time, and making a noise a thousand times louder than the singing of psalms at a Cameronian sacrament in the fields, where thousands are congregated—and that is no joke either. Besides, the distinguishment of voice is perfectly reciprocal between the ewe and lamb, who, amid the deafening sound, run to meet one another.

There are few things which have ever amused me more than a sheep shearing, and then the sport continues the whole day. We put the flock into the fold, set out all the lambs to the hill, and then send the ewes to them as they are shorn. The moment that a lamb hears its dam's voice it rushes from the crowd to meet her, but instead of finding the rough, well-clad, comfortable mamma which it left an hour or few hours ago, it meets a poor, naked, shriveling—a most deplorable-looking creature.

It wheels about, and uttering a loud, tremulous bleat of perfect despair, flies from the frightful vision. The mother's voice arrests his flight—it returns—flies, and returns again generally for ten or a dozen times, before the reconciliation is perfect.

NEW METHOD OF CLEANING WOOL.

Les Mondes describes M. Paulines' new method of cleaning wool for which such important advantages are claimed. According to this, a current of air of thirty or forty degrees temperature is passed through the raw wool, followed by a current of hydrochloric acid gas, previously dried and cooled. In this way the wool is not affected, but any vegetable substances adhering to it are speedily and entirely decomposed. After this has been effected, a current of air is passed through to dispel the hydrochloric acid gas and the temperature is gradually raised to one hundred and thirty degrees, to complete the destruction of the various vegetable matters. This being done, a current of air charged with ammoniacal vapor is then passed through, in order to get rid completely of any remaining traces of hydrochloric acid, and the operation is completed.

Salt for Sheep.—Salt is the very best curative for parasitic diseases among sheep, and it also answers every purpose as a preventive.

The Centennial.

CONCERNING FARM WAGONS.

North-east of Agricultural Hall stands a rude wooden structure, hastily constructed, for the accommodation of farm and other wagons which could not be accommodated in the carriage annex.

It is unfortunate that many special exhibits should have fared so badly at the hands of the Centennial Commission. Surely the wagon industry is no inferior in importance to that of carriage manufactures, yet the annex designed for this special display near the Main Building was quickly appropriated by those who catered to luxurious rather than practical needs, and valuable space, that might have been better used, is occupied by flash drawing-room cars and street vehicles of the same class, that do not, I think, come appropriately under the head of carriages. The addendum mentioned above, to accommodate the overflow of exhibits, was built when all the most commanding positions had been secured, and the result is a structure that stands completely out of the line of travel, and could easily be mistaken for cattle sheds or some other inferior object.

The visitors attracted there are, as one may well believe, not as the locusts for number, and on the occasion of my visit, the sole occupants of the annex were the janitor, a small dog, a Dutch shoemaker, who said he was not interested in wagons, a policeman and the reporter. We were not, therefore, uncomfortably crowded. Many would-have-been exhibitors learning the facts, declined sending their wagons, which had been constructed at heavy expense. Who would go to large expense, where the product of such labor is placed under a shed that is rarely visited? Some, especially Kansas makers, have taken advantage of the State display to put their wagons in their State buildings, where they are observed and criticised by thousands.

Some makers have, however, arisen superior to the instincts of trade and sent forward their products, which, by the excellence of their construction and appearance, serve to lighten up the effect of the otherwise forlorn shed. It occurred to me to inquire into this matter, and learn, if possible, why this interest, which turns out yearly hundreds of thousands of wagons and employs a capital of millions, should have been thus neglected.

It seems that Mr. Pettis, who had charge of the carriage annex, found he could not accommodate the numerous entries and turned the surplus over to Mr. Landreth, Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture. Mr. L. found he had a white elephant on his hands, as there was no space, positively, in Agricultural Hall where they could be accommodated. The only thing to be done, then, was to build a shed and put them under some sort of cover. What was anybody's business was nobody's business, and though Mr. Landreth is free of all blame, the same may not be said of Mr. Pettis or his superiors. No signboards or other direction serve to show visitors where this exhibit may be found, and the official catalogue, even, does not mention its existence.

And this is a specimen of the way many industries, important to the agriculturist, have been managed! It's a great Fair, but is it fair?

Young Rural.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

[OFFICIAL.]

To Editor of Rural New-Yorker.—Sir: The Transportion Companies, under the standing arrangements with the Centennial Commission, will return free, from the International Stock Yard to point of original shipment, all stock upon which full freight was paid in the first instance. A circular will be issued in a few days by the Bureau of Transportation, giving detailed instructions upon the manner of shipping stock to the Exhibition. The prizes offered for competition by the Commission consists of four objects—the three latter being given to each exhibitor of meritorious animals.

First. General reports upon breeds, reference being had to animals exhibited of superlative merit.

Second. Special reports upon all animals of high typical development, under the original classification as to breed, age and sex, both as applied to single animals and herds and flocks.

Third and Fourth. Diploma and Bronze Medal of the United States Centennial Commission. The Diploma and Medal will be the same to all who are fortunate enough to receive them; but the Special Reports will differ according to merit, and will be highly valuable to breeders—more so, indeed, than any prize of money or plate, as that can be lost or stolen, and at best can only be seen by a limited few, while the Report can be used without limitation.

The entries made up to the 20th of August will be incorporated in the Official Live Stock Catalogue. The entry books will, however, remain open after then and up almost to the opening day of each serial show—the disadvantage of late entry resting upon the exhibitor in not securing place in the catalogue.

All animals occupying stalls assigned them can, though of late entry, be brought before the Judges for competition, examination and report.

Canada will show 600 head of horses, cattle, sheep and swine, 150 of each group, and they are carefully selected by a special committee appointed by the Canadian Commission. English exhibitors will show over 100 head, under the auspices of the English Commission, and English-bred stock consigned to American agents will more than treble that number. One American agent has entered one shipment of 146 sheep, the consignment of three breeders of high reputation. Among the lot are included the prize ews, and a greater part of the prize rams of Cotswold at the late Royal Agricultural Show. It behooves Americans to be upon their guard, else the award will go over the border, if not over the sea. Burnet Landreth, Chief of Bureau.

Philadelphia, Aug. 5th.

A. T. Goshorn, Director-General U. S. Centennial Commission.—Sir: Since our last report the following pomological and vegetable products have been placed on exhibition:—On July 14, a series of seedling peaches by H. M. Engle of Marietta, Pa. These were called Downing Seedling No. 11, Saunders, Musser Seedling and Wilder. They were said to ripen in the order named—the Wilder being not quite ripe, though the largest and finest-looking fruit. They are all of excellent flavor, very juicy, slightly clinging to the stone, and are as large as the average of early peaches. The flavor of the Musser was particularly good. The Hale's Early has hitherto been our best early peach. Some of these were exhibited from the same orchard, and were not grown to half their mature size. We regard these new varieties as especially worthy of commendation.

Dr. Chas. Seidhoff, Hoboken, N. J., exhibits several plates of currants and English gooseberries, grown by grafting these varieties on the American Missouri Currant. It is claimed that they will not mildew when grown on this stock, and if so, the employment of this stock will be of immense advantage to the fruit growers of America, as the English gooseberry can only in a few instances be successfully grown on its own roots. This is, however, but the second season of this trial in the United States. We can only say that as exhibited before us the fruit was entirely free from mildew and of very superior quality, and the idea seems to warrant a favorable report from us.

W. Dunn Rogers of Moorestown, N. J., exhibits a plate of handsome-looking potatoes called "Lawton."

Dr. W. H. Morague of Palatka, Fla., very large oranges grown in Florida; an enormous citron, measuring 10 by 8 inches; pomegranates; and a grape named the "St. Augustine," approaching the old Elsinbury, but superior in the size of bunch and flavor. Also Orange Flower Water and Orange Wine. The former we regard as of extra fine quality, and the last as an agreeable desert wine of a full orange flavor, and both articles worthy of a special commendation.

On July 20th, Mr. J. S. Collins, Moorestown, N. J., some superior Wilson's Early Blackberry.

Mr. Mexer of Bridgeville, Del., the Wild Goose Plum. This is an improvement on the Wild Chickasaw—much superior to the wild original. This particular one was oblate in form, and nearly approaching the finer foreign varieties in flavor. This variety is unnamed.

A plate of raspberries from D. Liebeig of Green Springs. Belle de Fontenay Raspberry, from P. Stackhouse, Milestown, Penn. On account of a great tendency to produce suckers, and the plants thus crowding out one another, this variety but seldom produces good crops. These berries were unusually fine, and of a delightful flavor.

The Fruit Growers' Society of Ontario make a remarkably fine exhibit, chiefly of currants and gooseberries. Of gooseberries there were 45 plates; 31 of currants; one of Indian Cherry (Amelanchier botryapium). The gooseberries were largely of the European race, showing how well, in comparison with the United States, Canada is suited to this class. There were, however, many dishes of American varieties, notably: Houghton, Downing and American cluster, and these rather larger than are usually grown on the continent of America. Among these were some plates of the original "American Gooseberry," *Ribes rotundifolia*, showing how surprisingly the American race has been improved.

The currants were above the average of American-grown currants in size, the black varieties especially. One plate had berries three-quarters of an inch in diameter.

The raspberries had all spoiled by their long journey, except one plate of Arnold's Seedling No. 7, and this was somewhat decayed. So far as we could judge, we incline to regard it as a variety of high promise. It is represented to have been, in the first place, a cross between the common White Cap and some Red variety, and this again crossed with the Hornet, giving this seedling as the result. We wish to make honorable mention of this superior collection.

W. L. Schaffer, A. W. Harrison, Josiah Hoopes, Thomas Meehan, Judges of Special Pomological products.

A. T. Goshorn, Director-General U. S. Centennial Commission.—Sir: During the past week the Fruit Growers' Society of Ontario have added to their already admirable collection 13 plates of raspberries, 37 of currants, 15 of gooseberries, 14 of cherries, 4 of apples. The whole is, by far, the best exhibit of small fruits made so far, and, when the superior quality of many of the products is considered, deserves the highest commendation.

Mr. Seth Snelling of Milwaukee, Oregon, exhibits two seedling cherries, one he calls "Black Republican," but which is already known to cultivators as the "Luelling." It is a very handsome fruit, dark black, of good flavor—64 of them weighing one pound. The other, "Royal Ann," has been before the Judges earlier in the season. These were much larger, measuring one and a half inches long by one inch in diameter, and 48 to the pound. Their beautiful appearance attracted much attention from visitors, and deservedly so.

Messrs. Kuhn & Co., Rochester, N. Y., made a display wholly of American gooseberries, showing the improvements made in this native fruit. The Houghton Seedling is still the best flavored, though the earliest of the improved kinds. The later ones, Downing Mountain Seedling and Smith's Improved, are all larger in size, and approach, in this respect, some of the foreign kinds, though all are inferior to them in flavor. The exhibit is instructive, and, as such, commendable.

The first apples of this season's growth exhibited in a mature condition are from W. W. Dillard, Fort Scott, Kansas, grown by Joel Teague of Barton Co., Kansas. They are Red Astrachan, 21 weighing 11 pounds, which is about the average of first-class specimens of this variety. The flavor, also, is equal to the best specimens of the same variety grown in other States.

From the same exhibitor are specimens of onions, weighing about 11 oz. each. Coming so far and in such excellent condition, and in advance of other exhibitions of apples, the Judges especially commend them.

W. L. Schaffer, A. W. Harrison, Josiah Hoopes, Thos. Meehan.

The Bench (dog) show at the Centennial is in a forward state of preparation. Three hundred entries have been made, and the number increases daily. Those intending to send dogs should do so on or before Aug. 20, at which time the entries close.

Mr. James Geddes has taken charge of the Stock exhibit, and thanks to his energy, the prospects for a good display are assured.

The Naturalist.

THE GROUND MOLE.

Why invent traps to kill them? They eat nothing but insects, so says the highest authority.

We care not whether high or low "authorities," declare that ground moles eat *nothing* but "insects," the assertion is simply false, and any man who possesses skill enough to catch a live mole can prove it to be so. Without at this time going into any argument on this mooted question, we will simply state one fact easily determined by our highest authorities or any body else and that is, the ground mole will devour earth or angle worms when in confinement or at liberty, and these worms are *not insects*. Furthermore, this *worm, Lumbricus terrestris*, is the mole's principal animal food, if our own personal observation has not led us far astray. But leaving the food out of the question, a vigorous ground mole will lift up and kill a row of plants in far less time than a thousand of our most noxious insects, not excepting grasshoppers and potato beetles. It is to be feared that our "authorities" who talk so glibly about the "useful mole," know little of cultivating gardens infested with these pests. One season of gardening with a dozen moles per acre, would satisfy them to dispense with these secret subterranean assistants.

ONE FOX OUTWITTED.

The Giant's Causeway, says the Derry (Ireland) Standard, a few days since was the scene of a combat of the most extraordinary nature. Some carrion had been deposited on the rocks near the sea, and a fox, evidently with the intention of making a meal of one or two ravens, which had been attracted to the spot by the putrid meat, curled himself up apparently asleep, close to the carrion. The ravens, however, regarded him with suspicion for some time, and finding that Reynard was not likely to sheer off, and probably, unable longer to withstand the effects of what to them was a grateful and seductive aroma, they, by their threatening attitudes, left little doubt in the minds of the numerous spectators that they intended to bring matters to an issue. The two ravens eventually advanced, and one of them took his stand at Reynard's head and the other at his tail. The latter led the attack by assaulting Reynards brush, the other immediately afterward following suit by a powerful tap on the head. Reynard feigned indifference to these polite attentions during a few rounds, trusting no doubt, that his persecutors would become emboldened and indiscreet, and at the same time place themselves within his reach.

Indiscretion, however, is not a prominen characteristic of the *corvus* family, and, after a few more applications alternately on the head and tail, the position became uncomfortable, and the fox began to show fight; but the ravens followed up the assault, first snapping at one end, then the other. It is stated that the warfare was carried on for more than two hours in this way, and, on the whole the balance was against the fox, which, in the words of our contemporary, "was much draggled and weakened but became more reckless as the fight waxed hotter. At this juncture they had worked or fought up to the edge of the rock on which the carrion had been deposited. The raven at the enemy's tail again tickled him, and after doing so the one at the head gave him a fearful pinch, upon which the fox turned upon him in great fury. The one at the tail again performed, and during the passage of the fox after the other raven, gave him a sound outward thud, accelerating his speed so much that he lost his balance and tumbled headlong into the water, amid the plaudits of the spectators and the exulting croaks of the ravens."

ABOUT SPARROWS.

The North British Agriculturist is strongly in favor of sparrows and speaks thus in praise of these little birds:

How much longer will there be sparrow clubs and sparrow prizes? They must be the result of want of observation. A new light broke in upon my bailiff yesterday as he saw flights of sparrows busily engaged on our field of green peas, appropriating the "louse" which was injuring the plant and stopping its growth. I am a great believer in birds and poultry as farmers' friends and this belief has been produced, not only by reading the opinions and facts of others, but from 30 years of close observation of their habits. My gardener was an inveterate enemy to birds, and destroyed their nests in my shrubbery, and in consequence there was always a complaint of grub and other destructive insects; but, when I put a firm veto against the destruction, my garden was well filled with uninjured produce. In fact, if you have grub and insect in your garden, stock it with birds or poultry, and you will no longer complain. In very dry weather, when worms and insects are scarce, you must protect your fruit. Just now I see lots of my poultry among the young mangold or the tares, "appropriating" my enemies. But I have so often said that my best corn crops are within 50 feet of the fowl-house, where the crops from the day of their sowing until harvest undergo poultry examination, that I will not again trouble your readers with details. One must have confidence with only a bushel an acre of seed wheat at their mercy. Let me warn those who do away with all their hedges that there should be belts or shrubberies, not only as breeding places for birds, but also as shelter from strong prevailing winds.

TOASTING A GORILLA.

The scientists of Hamburgh seem to be inclined to indorse and keep alive Darwin's philosophy on the "Descent of Man," from some race of monkeys. They sent to Africa for a live gorilla which lately arrived in good health, and doubtless in possession of all his original native talents. But now a correspondent of Land and Water, writing from Hamburg, has given some further details of the appearance at that place of this youthful specimen of the "man of the woods" on his way to Berlin. Although Mr. Pongo (as he is called) lived on vegetables only in his wild state, he has now acquired a taste for cooked animal food. He has already conformed sufficiently to the rules of European civilization to partake of everything that the bill of fare of a well-appointed table on board steamer or a hotel contains. The grim humor of the Hamburg scientists in respect to their visitor is peculiar. At a social meeting of the Geographical Society of the town, held a short time ago, and at which the members of the Loango expedition—Dr. Falkenstein, Dr. Pechuel-Loesche, Soyaux, and Lindner—as well as Master Mr. Pongo were present as guests, the health of the latter was proposed by the Secretary of the Society, and drank with all honors by those present, it being probably "the first time that a gorilla was toasted by his descendants," says the writer. Dr. Falkenstein returned thanks on behalf of the hon. member of the "Afri an Society." Verily the Berlin and Hamburg philosophers are amusing people.

Domestic Economy.

MEALY AND WAXY POTATOES.

An examination of the potato with a microscope has proved the relative worth of the mealy and waxy kinds of this useful vegetable. On examining a thin slice, it is seen to be almost entirely composed of cells, which are sometimes filled with, and sometimes contain clusters of beautiful little oval grains. The grains remain unchanged in cold water; but when it is warmed they dissolve in it, and the whole becomes a jelly, and occupies a larger space than it did in the form of grains. When a potato is boiled, then each of these cells of which it is composed becomes a little vessel full of jelly; and, if there be not a great quantity of starch in the cells, it may be gelatinized without bursting them. But, if the number of grains or their size be very great, the cells of the potato are broken on all sides by the expansion of the little masses of jelly, and the appearance of mealiness is produced. Hence we see that mealy potatoes are the most valuable and waxiness denotes a deficiency of starch or nourishing matter.

BOILING VEGETABLES.

When peas, beans and other legumes, do not boil easily, it has been imputed to the coolness of the season or to the rains. This popular notion is, however, erroneous. The difficulty of boiling the vegetables soft arises from their imbibing a superabundant quantity of gypsum during their growth. To correct this, throw a small quantity of sub-carbonate of soda into the pot along with the vegetables, the carbonic acid of which will seize upon the lime in the gypsum, and free the legumes from its influence.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Boiled Pickled Cabbage.—Wash the cabbage thoroughly, cut the heads into quarters, boil in salted water until tender; stick whole cloves scattering over each quarter, then put them down in layers in a jar or tub, add a few red pepper pods, cover with good cider vinegar. The boiling before pickling is a decided improvement upon the usual way of pickling raw cabbage at least, so says a friend, who ate it at my table over twenty years ago. Mrs. Rustic.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Pickled Onions.—Boil small onions after they are peeled until they are half cooked in salted water; then, while hot, drop them into jars or bottles of spiced vinegar.

Tomato Catsup.—One bushel of ripe tomatoes, wash thoroughly, then boil until soft. Squeeze through a sieve, add one quart of vinegar, half a pint of salt, one ounce cloves, one of allspice, half an ounce of cayenne pepper, two ounces mustard seed, boil the whole three hours.

Sweet Pickled Cucumbers.—Pare and cut in quarters, ripe cucumbers. Remove the seeds; then to one quart of vinegar put three pounds of sugar, and spices to suit the taste. Scald the vinegar and spices together, pack the cucumbers in a jar and pour the vinegar over them boiling hot.

Another.—One-half peck of tomatoes, two tablespoonfuls each of salt and pepper, half a tablespoonful each of ground mustard, allspice, cloves; one pint of vinegar. The tomatoes must be cooked until soft and put through a sieve. Then add the other ingredients and cook until it thickens, then put it in bottles and seal.

Still Another.—To make one-half gallon: One gallon of skimmed tomatoes, two tablespoonfuls of salt, three tablespoonfuls of mustard, one-half tablespoonful of cloves, one tablespoonful of allspice, one single handful of horseradish, and one quart of sharp vinegar; stew four or five hours; then strain, bottle and seal closely. The removal of the seeds is entirely optional.

Pickled Cauliflower.—Break off the flowers, put a layer of them in a jar and sprinkle salt plentifully over them; then another layer of the cauliflowers; then salt and so on. Let them remain twenty-four hours, then wash off the salt and drain dry, pack them in a jar and pour spiced vinegar boiling hot, over them. In four or five days heat the vinegar again and pour boiling hot over them.

Spiced Tomatoes.—Take a bushel of ripe tomatoes, skin and boil them well, then add a teacup of salt, two tablespoonfuls of black pepper, one tablespoonful of cayenne pepper, an ounce each of ground mace, clover, allspice, and cinnamon if agreeable to the taste, mix well. Put the tomatoes in jars and when cold, run mutton suet over them, and tie strong paper over the tops; or better put them in air-tight jars of glass.

Pickled Tomatoes.—Take tomatoes before they are thoroughly ripe. Mix in a stone jar an ounce of mustard, half an ounce each of cloves, allspice, pepper and nutmeg; with half a jar of good cider vinegar. Lay in the tomatoes with a dozen peeled onions of medium size, cover close. They will be fit for use in a month. The onions may be omitted if not agreeable to the taste. Half a pound of sugar added to the vinegar is an improvement.

Another.—Chop fine a peck of green tomatoes, mix in a teacup of salt, let them stand twenty-four hours; then put them in a colander with a heavy weight on top for an hour, or until the brine is all pressed out, spice to taste with cloves, cinnamon, allspice and pepper, mix in a liberal allowance of white mustard seed, pack down in a jar, and cover with hot vinegar in which has been dissolved one teacup of sugar. They will be fit for use in a few days.

Hygienic Information.

POISONOUS PAPER.

Eds. Rural.—Perhaps it will be a benefit to some of your readers to call their attention to this subject. The Health Commissioners of the State of Michigan in their Reports for 1873 4, call the attention of the public to the poisonous colors in wall-papers, especially the bright green, though not confined to that color, as containing arsenic in various quantities from 1 to 6 grains to the square foot; and many cases are given of the bad and sometimes fatal effects of sleeping in rooms the walls of which are covered with such paper. The Commissioners have placed in the principal libraries of the State bound books containing nearly one hundred specimens of different samples of this poisonous paper, in many of which no green can be detected.

As for myself, I ever have had a horror of wall-paper, not suspecting, however, that there was poison in the color, but suspecting and believing that the mold and decomposition of the paste used was unhealthy. Some three years since, I was taken, by slow degrees, with a dull and disagreeable feeling in the head, with a throbbing pulse, which continued for more than two years, being more in winter than summer, and worse at night than during the day. As the trouble in the head was one of the symptoms described in the report mentioned, I might have thought of arsenical paper, but we had neither wall nor curtain paper in the house, and nothing green, as we thought, (ourselves excepted) but old paper boxes in the attic. So we looked for other causes, and the Dr. thought it might end in hypertrophy of the heart. From an article in a newspaper, relating similar symptoms produced by the use of a green lamp-shade, then was brought to my mind, what had not occurred to it before, that I had used an arsenical lamp-shade from a few minutes to as many hours per night for several years. The shade suddenly and the bad symptoms more deliberately disappeared and the hypertrophic symptoms no longer existed. S. B. Peck.

HINTS ON DISINFECTANTS.

The following timely hints on disinfectants from the Boston Journal of Chemistry should be heeded by housekeepers:

If household drainage were always what it ought to be, we should have small need of disinfectants, but, unfortunately, defective drains are the rule and faultless ones the rare exception. In cold weather the former may not in all cases prove seriously mischievous, but with the advent of the dog-days they are almost certain to become dangerous to health. The seeds of disease and death which may remain dormant in winter spring up into rank growth and bear their baleful fruit under the fostering heat of summer. If the cause of the evil cannot be immediately removed—and often it cannot be—the next best thing is to neutralize it by means of disinfectants. If the poisonous growth cannot be rooted up, its fatal fruitage may be blasted in the bud. The drain that cannot be rebuilt or repaired until a more favorable season, may be rendered inoffensive and innocuous by the free use of cheap but potent disinfectants, like carbolic acid and its compounds. A few dollars invested in these may save hundreds of dollars in doctor's bills, or inestimable loss in health and life. No household should be without a supply of them in hot weather, for even where the drainage is supposed to be perfect, it is well to be prepared for the contingency of some unforeseen defect or disarrangement.

Those of our friends who go to the country or seaside for a summer vacation, will do well to bear in mind the peculiar perils of such places. Of late years, the close of the traveling season has brought its reports of typhoid and other epidemics from not a few of the watering-places and summer resorts. Pestilential drains and poisoned wells have spoiled all the "sweet influences" of pure mountain air or bracing ocean breezes. Forewarned is forearmed, and all who leave home for country or sea-shore should think of these things at the start. It may save them many painful reflections after their return. Do not go to a place where the drainage and other sanitary arrangements are not unexceptionable; or, if you cannot be sure on that point, see that there is a good supply of disinfectants on the premises, even if you have to furnish it yourself. A few bottles of the saturated solution of carbolic acid will be no costly or heavy addition to your luggage, and they may save the health of a whole household. The epidemics that have prevailed in country boarding-houses and hotels might often have been prevented by such forethought on the part of a single inmate.

After all the discussion of the comparative merits of disinfecting agents, and the many "powders" and "fluids" that have been patented and advertised, carbolic acid and its compounds, like carbolate of lime, which were among the first to be recognized as really safe, effective, and cheap agents for the purpose, still retain that well-earned reputation; or rather they have gained steadily in favor, while many of their vaunted rivals have passed into merited oblivion. When they have failed to give complete satisfaction, it has been because a poor or sophisticated preparation, with more odor than disinfecting power, has been used. A genuine article from a trustworthy manufacturer has never disappointed those who have tested it.

EFFECT OF MEDICINE ON THE TEEEH.

Dr. J. E. P. Hodson calls attention in the New York Medical Record to the fact that in any illness involving a feverish condition, the fluids of the mouth are constantly as intensely acid, as respects the teeth, as in any medicine administered by the physician; and, moreover, from the high temperature of the buccal cavity at such times, the power of these acids for evil is greatly augmented. Further, a direct consequence of these conditions is the especially rapid fermentation and decomposition of all food lodged between and around the teeth, and the consequent elimination of other deleterious acids, "all forming a mighty power, under which it is not surprising that tooth-structure should melt away like dew before the sun. It is indeed a very surprising thing that any tooth should live to tell the tale."

Dr. Hodson asks, therefore, a little attention to this matter, and recommends rinsing the mouth with liquor calcis, diluted according to the sensitiveness of the mucus membrane, and flavored with a few drops of winter-green or peppermint to make it agreeable; or to rub creta prep. freely about and between the teeth, and allow it to remain during the night; or, if the patient be able to use the tooth-brush, to add a small quantity of sodæ bicarb. to the usual tooth-powder (for this purpose only, and not for general use); or, in short, the employment of any of the manifold methods of neutralizing the acid condition which may be most accessible at the time.

He says that the tube through which acid remedies are usually directed to be taken does not prevent them from regurgitating upon the teeth in the act of swallowing, so that it practically accomplishes very little of the object sought to be attained by its employment; but if, in addition, the mouth be immediately and thoroughly rinsed with the solution of lime above referred to, or a solution of sup. carb. soda, the evil effects of any acid remedy upon the teeth will be entirely obviated.

In the exhibition of strong alkalies, on the other hand, which lay hold of the gelatinous constituents of the teeth, the fluids of the mouth during illness are usually so pronouncedly acid as to entirely neutralize this condition: but if otherwise, a slight rinsing with a very dilute, simple acid, like tartaric or citric, will accomplish the result desired, though the effect of these remedies upon the teeth is scarcely worthy of consideration, so entirely will the matter of their neutralization take care of itself.

EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL, MEAT, ETC., IN SUSTAINING FATIGUE.

Dr. E. A. Parks writes in the London Practitioner:

"The experience gained during the Ashantee campaign showed that total abstinence improved the health, and that alcohol, though apparently beneficial when given with food after the day's march was done, was injurious while on the march, the reviving effect passing off after, at the utmost, two and a half miles' march had been accomplished, and being succeeded by languor and exhaustion as great or greater than before. When again resorted to, its reviving power was less marked; and its narcotizing influence was often traceable in the dullness, unwillingness to march, and loss of cheerfulness of the men. Meat extract, on the contrary, in quantities of not less than half an ounce at a time, was not only powerfully reviving, but sustaining, and so was coffee, though to a considerably less extent. This evidence in favor of meat extracts is of great value at the present time, when their power to act either as food or stimulants is so much disputed. The sustaining power of thin gruel, made from boiled oatmeal, during heavy work, is well shown in one of the appendices. This agrees perfectly with the observation of Alpine travelers, that small quantities of food at short intervals prevent exhaustion, and with our own experience that, although unaccustomed to exercise, we could carry a knapsack for thirty miles a day without fatigue by simply taking something to eat every two hours."

HYGIENIC NOTES.

Children's Drink.—Arrowroot made into a pap, with fresh milk and some water, is the best thing for a baby. It is as good as the best breast milk. Oatmeal is better for larger children. Sweeten the arrowroot with powdered sugar, not too sweet. But it is so dear; $1 a pound for the best.—Ker.

Drink for the Sick.—Two teaspoonfuls arrowroot in a quart pitcher, with a little cold water; three tablespoonfuls white sugar, juice of one lemon and part of the rind; stir all quickly while pouring boiling water until the pitcher is full. Drink cold.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Litigations with Life Insurance Companies.—There has been quite an increase of litigations with life insurance companies within a couple of years. This has been caused in a great measure perhaps by the hard times, which have pressed very heavily upon the finances of third-class companies. Much of this litigation has been of a novel kind, and the decisions rendered by the courts have done much to define the (hitherto ill understood) relations of insured and insurer.

A company has succeeded in evading the payment of a death claim by establishing (what was not denied) that the statements of an applicant, though strictly true when made, were not true when the policy was issued. Another company is sustained by the courts in forfeiting a policy on which payments had been suspended in pursuance of an agreement with the agent, at the time of application, that if payments continued until that time the policy should be nonforfeitable. And yet another company seeks to avoid payment because the last premium was paid partly by note instead of cash—an arrangement by no means unusual and one almost universal, and to which in this case the company has assented.

The records of the courts are full of a variety of such cases where the decisions rendered ignore all parole agreements and understandings with the agent and are based upon the letter of the policy.

The most instructive lesson to be learned from all this is, that the contracts of a certain class of chronically litigious companies are full of traps for unwary and unskillful people, and that in order to transact any kind of business with their agents with safety, it is necessary for the applicant to understand the scope and limit of the agents' authority and powers considerably better than the agents themselves.

Number of Companies.—Two hundred and fourteen companies insuring property against loss by fire are authorized to do business in the State of New York, and perhaps a hundred more are not admitted or have not applied for admission. These are joint-stock companies. The number of mutuals, or companies assessing the means of payment of losses and expenses cannot be conveniently ascertained, since these companies are not compelled everywhere to report their condition or business, and many of them are very small affairs, confining their business to a single county or to a very limited territory. Many of the mutual companies confine their business to farm and other detached property, and a very few are managed with tolerable skill and economy.

In dealing with them it should be remembered that whatever may be claimed on the score of cheapness, the policy holder is not only insured, but is also an insurer and stockholder, liable for his share of the losses to an unlimited extent, and not merely to the extent of the note he gives, and that, too, for part losses and expenses, as well as those which may be incurred during the holding of his insurance. In other words, he takes an *unlimited* amount of stock in a company and agrees to permit other people to run it. This is not "business," nor prudence. Better far buy so much insurance from a sound, reliable stock company and pay cash for it.

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DECISIONS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.

We are all more or less liable to acquire the habit of deciding subjects brought before us without possessing any positive knowledge relating thereto. To think, believe, have an opinion based upon what some one has told us, often passes current as personal knowledge, and it is this readiness to take mere assertion second-hand which, more than anything else, prevents progress in rural pursuits.

It is the belief of many that the king-bird is very destructive to bees; but how many know it to be a positive fact? The crow is accused of feeding upon the eggs of smaller species of birds, also to pick out the eyes of chickens and other fowls; but it would be interesting to have one of the crows' accusers cross-examined upon oath and see just how much he did know, as well as the nearness of the two parties at the time of the occurrence. It is not every crow that will permit being approached so near as to be caught sucking eggs, picking out the eyes of other birds, and like rascalities; and the witnesses against them who could testify in the affirmative, and of their own personal knowledge, we opine are not numerous.

Certain species of insects have often been accused of doing great damage to plants by persons who did not know that it was impossible for them to do harm to vegetation of any kind; while others supposed to be harmless were the real depredators, the mistake arising from a want of knowledge to enable the owner to see aright. Not many years since we heard an aged and very intelligent gentleman declare before an assemblage of farmers, that butterflies were eating up all the cabbages in his neighborhood. When his statement was questioned, he reiterated it with emphasis; but every entomologist knows that butterflies have no jaws or mandibles for eating vegetables, but the larvæ or caterpillars have, hence the gentleman referred to had seen the former hovering over the cabbage plants and "supposed" they had been eating the holes found in their leaves. It is not well to strike in the dark, or accuse without knowledge even the insects which crawl at our feet, for there is danger of injuring friends as well as foes.

The same caution in regard to various operations upon the farm are necessary in order to avoid mistakes both in words and deeds, and it is well to know something of the nature of particular plants before believing or asserting that one species may be changed into or bring forth another, as in the case of wheat turning to chess, as thousands of our farmers believe is not only possible but that the transformation actually occurs every year. But we did not commence to write a homily upon superstition and prejudices, but merely to caution our readers against giving a positive decision before knowing, remembering that he who keeps pace with true knowledge walks slowly.

DAIRYMEN'S SQUABBLE.

The report by our Centennial correspondent this week, of the meeting of the Ring Committee at Philadelphia seems to vindicate fully the first position taken by the RURAL in relation to this body. A business meeting was called and the whole day consumed in the calling of bad names, and the exhibition of general dirty linen. A resolution was offered to appoint a committee to investigate the charges made by Mr. REALL and the public press (meaning of course the RURAL NEW-YORKER) and it was voted down and hustled out of sight at once. This we expected. A majority of this wise body do *not* want an investigation. They have no idea of submitting their conduct to examination by an impartial committee, and this action of voting down the investigation is an excellent indication of which way the wind blows.

The Dairy Exhibition is, to be sure, a total failure, but these gentlemen square themselves back in their seats and throw the whole responsibility of it upon the RURAL. Good, gentlemen! We appreciate the compliment and shall in future make excellent use of the influence with which we are credited to put our editorial foot (and it is no dwarf, either) upon everything that smacks of wrong, and save our readers and patrons from harm every time we are as successful in discovering it as we were in this Dairy matter. We wanted the exhibition to be a success; but not at the sacrifice of all principles of honesty and fair dealing. We were anxious that our progressive Dairymen should show to the world those improvements which have been inaugurated here in such rapid succession during the last few years. But that can only be done through the medium of a fair, impartial body of men, who have no axes to grind, and no interests of their own to forward in the exhibition which they have charge. The Centennial Commission have left this whole display in the hands of the committee appointed for that purpose, and the public can now see how they have performed their duties. We are very fearful that material changes will have soon to be made in the personel of this committee if ever a successful exhibition is to be had. The horse may be led to water but he cannot be made to drink. So the dairyman may be provided with conveniences, but he cannot be forced to exhibit; and certainly all the resolutions which this body may pass commendatory of their own conduct, will not convince the public that they are all right, in the face of their past acts. We call upon those members of the committee who are forwarding their personal interests at public expense to resign for that reason, and upon those who are not, to resign because they are in bad company. This we believe is the only course which can save the Dairy Exhibition from becoming a reproach and a laughing stock.

THE POSTAL FRAUD AGAIN.

For nearly two years our people have been subjected to great annoyance by the advance of rates of postage on third-class mail matter. Without the least notice the rates were doubled and our hundreds and thousands of seedsmen and nurserymen who had promised in their catalogues to send out their goods at certain rates, found themselves unable to do so on account of this advancement. Since this change, which cannot be characterized by any more fitting name than a swindle and a direct insult to the entire agricultural community, the Rural press, of one accord, joined in denouncing the act and in demanding the restoration of the old rates upon seeds, plants and cuttings. In response to these demands we were promised a reconsideration; in fact, a bill was introduced for the purpose of restoring the old rates of one half cent per ounce, as formerly and it was reported upon favorably, and soon we read in the daily papers that it had been passed by Congress and received the signature of the President.

So fully had the impression gotten abroad that there was to be a full restoration of the old rates, that a number of our contemporaries announced it as a fact, naming the articles which could be sent through the mails, such as seeds, plants and cuttings, at the rate of one half cent per ounce. But when the act appeared in the official organ of the Post-Office Department, the illusion was dispelled; for the only change made is to permit the sending of books, magazines, advertisements, sheet music, &c., at one half cent per ounce, and all other third-class matter, such as seeds, plants, &c., at double these rates. This is the kind of attention Congressmen generally pay to the wishes and welfare of the residents of the rural districts; and while we point out the fraud perpetrated, it is for them to right their wrongs through the ballot box, being careful that traitors to their interests are permitted to stay at home.

RURAL NOTES.

Politics versus Farming.—One of our subscribers in Connecticut after trying to get up a club for the RURAL NEW-YORKER writes:—"I wish you would give those farmers a rap who will study politics and subscribe for political papers to the exclusion of agriculture and agricultural journals, and all the while keep prating "that farming don't pay." We would be very much pleased to comply with so sensible a request, if there was any likelyhood of its doing any good, but unfortunately the class of men referred to are "wedded to their idols" and ignorance, and as they do not take, or read the RURAL our words, however forcibly expressed, would be of no avail. It is nevertheless true that the old idea "that any fool can succeed as a farmer," is far from being extinct, else the RURAL NEW-YORKER and a hundred other similar journals published in the United States would have ten to twenty times their present patronage and circulation.

Grasshoppers on the Plains.—We hear that the grasshoppers, or Rocky Mountain Locusts, are again making occasional visits to the gardens and fields of Colorado and Minnesota; but no move is being made by the Government to ascertain whether their depredations can be avoided or not. A few thousands of dollars were asked of Congress last year to pay for the services of a competent committee of Entomologists to investigate this locust matter; but it was refused on the score of economy, while the pests proceed on their devastating raids, destroying millions of dollars' worth of private property; not an effort being made to save it. Millions can be had to prevent the raids of the Sioux, but not a cent to check the ravages of the grasshoppers, which have driven thousands of our Western pioneers to the brink of starvation. Consistency, thou art indeed a jewel!

What They Eat in Paris.—Under the general name of "Poultry," there was sold in Paris in the course of 1875, 5,656,779 chickens, 2,106,610 tame rabbits, 1,583,317 pigeons, 706,389 geese, 695,648 ducks, 479,816 turkeys, 126,539 kids, 28,660 lambs and sucking pigs, 14,956 guinea fowls, 21,014 kilogrammes (about 22 tons) of goose livers, 11,617 kilogrammes (about 11 tons) of cocks' combs, 9,308 kilogrammes (nearly 10 tons) of ducks' livers and 121 kilogrammes (more than 2 cwts.) of chickens' kidneys. Altogether, the game and poultry sold during the year represented a weight of 21,064,569 kilogrammes, (more than 21,000 tons), which is equivalent to an annual consumption of about 25 lbs. for each of the 1,851,000 inhabitants of Paris.

Another Binder.—G. E. W., Jr., in the Nation of the 10th inst., seems to have discovered something at the Centennial. After speaking of the different classes of Agricultural Machinery as such, he proceeds to say:—"The crowning success in this branch of the art seems to have been achieved by another machine, where the straw is not only carried up from the binding-table, but where, by the unaided action of machinery driven by the forward movement of the reaper, the gavel is actually bound with wire and thrown to the ground." Will Brother WARING tell us which of these machines he refers to? WALTER A. WOOD & Co. have Lock's Binder, then there are the MCPHERSON, GORDON and MCCORMICK Binders, all on exhibition. Which is the "another machine?" Take another look in Agricultural Hall!

The Rural as an Advertising Medium.—We publish below one of many letters of this stamp that we have received this season, showing that the RURAL, as of old, still holds its own as one of the best advertising mediums in the country:—"For years we have advertised the Halladay Standard Wind Mill in the leading agricultural journals of the country and for some time past, to satisfy our own curiosity, have given each paper credit as named by our correspondent, and we find that the RURAL NEW-YORKER has brought us more letters than all others combined save one.—U. S. WIND ENGINE & PUMP Co."

RURAL BREVITIES.

We have inquiries for Incubators. Who will tell us which of the many in market is best, or if any of them are worth the trouble of testing.

The AMERICAN RURAL HOME, in copying our careful and exhaustive list of Fairs, gives us credit, being an honorable exception to the majority of the agricultural press.

NEW GRAPES are again in order, and we hope those having choice novelties in this line will not forget that the RURAL NEW-YORKER office is a good place to send things of this kind which possess merit.

If any reader of the RURAL NEW-YORKER has ever found or can find Bermuda grass (*cyrodon dactylon*) bearing seed, we should be pleased to receive a sample. A goose quill full will answer our purpose.

From the number of invitations received to attend Fairs this fall, we conclude that the RURAL readers are anxious to see all their friends, and we return our thanks for courtesies extended and intended.

The California Horticulturist informs its readers that the American Pomological Society publishes "every year" one of its valuable collections. This will certainly be news to the members of this Society, who have always been content with a volume once in two years.

ANOTHER interesting Centennial letter from our correspondent "SHORT-HORN," will be found on the fifth page, having been received too late for insertion in our regular Centennial Department. He finds that the muddy waters of the Dairy pool are still in need of a filter.

It is reported that the town authorities of Chico, Cal., have passed an ordinance declaring the honey bee a nuisance without the corporate limits, owing to its occasional habit of destroying fruit. What have our Apiarians to say to this attack on the honey-making or gathering insect?

The fine collection of insects exhibited by the Canadian Entomological Societies at the Centennial Exhibition, are rapidly losing their colors owing to exposure to the light. The Entomologists or Entomological Societies of the United States do not make a show, simply for the reason that they could not afford to see their choice specimens destroyed.

Our old roadside weed as well as petted occupant of "Grandmother's Garden," the Prickly Comfrey, is now being commended as a valuable forage plant—at least, the English journals say that it is attracting considerable attention in Great Britain. It would not be at all surprising if Comfrey and Jerusalem Artichoke should yet take a high rank among our valuable field crops.

A disastrous hailstorm on the 23d of July struck the northern suburbs of London, Eng., doing a great amount of damage to growing crops and particularly glass structures. All kinds of green-growing plants were cut down and even fruits upon the trees were cut into shreds. The nurserymen and gardeners suffered severe losses, so much so that subscriptions are being raised for their relief.

ERTEL'S Portable Hay Press is something novel and original in this line which should command investigation at the hands of farmers. Those who bale hay understand the importance of having it done well and cheaply. Where it is a question of the saving of money, it behooves our readers to learn the particulars of the process. GEORGE ERTEL, Quincey, Ill., issues a free pamphlet explaining this press fully. Send for it.

HAVING been somewhat censured for the seeming harshness of our note in last week's RURAL, when referring to the attempted suicide of F. R. ELLIOTT, in hinting that it might be an advertising dodge, we beg leave to call the attention of our kind-hearted critics to the fact that the gentleman has since published a card in a Rochester paper over his own signature, admitting that said act gave him as much free advertising as he could have obtained for $300 in cash.

MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES.

BY F. H. W.

THERE is an old maxim I wish you would read,
And when you have read it, its counsel would heed:
"Make hay while the sun shines;" you see it is old,
And yet it is worth a whole bag full of gold.

So work while the sun shines, and never delay
The work to be done on a sunshiny day;
For if you put off till to-morrow's begun,
The day may be wet, and your work go undone.

Make hay in life's sunshine by doing good deeds
To those who are round you with many great needs,
And the good deeds you do in the sunshine of life
Will strengthen your heart in the heat of the strife.

AMERICAN SCENERY.

THE engraving on this page, which we are enabled to give our readers through the courtesy of Mr. HENRY T. WILLIAMS, is a faithful representation of a very striking bit of American scenery. The American Canon is, perhaps, the grandest natural view on the line of the Pacific Railroad, and approaching it suddenly the scene is so overpowering as to mock description. At a distance of two thousand feet above the quietly-flowing American River winds the track of the iron horse around curves and rocky promontories that might well instill fear into the stoutest heart. To quote the language of Mr. WILLIAMS:—"Westward is seen the chasm where light and peak and summit hang loftily over the little vale. Southward is a sea—yea, an ocean of mountains—and the observer, seemingly upon the same level, is bewildered at the immensity of Nature's lavish display of mountain wonders; night comes on and the hights catch the soft light of the moon as it shines and twinkles across and among the tops of the pines, lighting up the open canons and rendering still more deep the contrast with the shady glens—the snow fields, cold, white and chilling, with ever-changing turns of the railroad, make the evening ride, beyond a doubt, the most pleasurable that ever falls to the lot of the sight-seer. The tourist must stay up long—see for yourself all the beauties of the Sierras, while there is the least possible light; Emigrant Gap, Summit, Donner Lake, Blue Canon—all are delightful, and the lover of scene pleasures must not forsake his window or the platform till the midnight hour finds him at Truckee."

There is scarcely a person traveled or untraveled, who has not heard of the Sierras or "saws," and some of the most popular recent literature has its scenes laid among these mountains and the wonderful country adjacent thereto. Description, however, fails to convey an adequate idea of the sublimity of most of these scenes.

Speaking of the effect of moonlight, Mr. WILLIAMS says:

"Just at evening, when the sun casts its last glorious rays across the mountains and lights up the peaks and snowy summits with splendor, the train arrives at Cape Horn, and the thrill of interest of the excited tourist will never be forgotten. Take a good look from the point, westward down the grand canon of the American River. Step toward the edge of the cut and look down the fearful precipice, which is often broken ere it reaches the lowest descent of 2,000 feet. It is a scene more famous in pleasure travel than any yet known."

Prof. HAYDEN, in his printed report of the survey of the Colorado, gives descriptions of canons, mountain fastnesses and relics of extinct civilizations, that read more like the emanations of brilliant fancy than stern reality; and as one pursues the pages with breathless interest, still the wonder grows that we have within our national boundary a country which for variety, extent and sublimity of scenery, would be the everlasting fortune of some country beyond the seas, where it would be enormously advertised and all wealthy Americans would surmount every obstacle to gaze upon its wonders and patriotically sigh over the fact that his country did not contain such a clime. Truly, we do not half appreciate our fortune in this respect.

One fact strikes the American tourist with full force in his journeyings toward the setting sun, and that is, wherever he goes there will he always find the ubiquitous "Jons." The Chinaman has oozed into the most out-of-the-way places, and his entire willingness to do twice the labor for half the pay demanded by the Caucassian, naturally causes him to be looked upon with sentiments of wholesome disgust. Those among us who are "born tired," cannot brook such proceedings, of course. As cooks the Chinese are superior. The author says of them:

"Americans who dine with the Chinese are surprised at the perfection to which they carry their cooking. During a recent Chinese banquet in San Francisco, an orange was laid at the plate of each guest. The orange itself seemed like any other orange, but on being cut open was found to contain within the rind five kinds of delicate jellies. One was at first puzzled to explain how the jellies got in, and giving up that train of reflection, was in a quandary to know how the pulpy part of the orange got out. Colored eggs were also served, in the inside of which were found nuts, jellies, meats and confectionery. When one of the Americans present asked the interpreter to explain this legerdemain of cookery, he expanded his mouth in a hearty laugh and shook his head and said, "Melican man heap smart; why he not find him out?"

Reading of such scenery, every true American may feel a just pride in the wonders of this marvellous country; and when the traveled tourist prates of the Rhine, Alps and Mediterranean, we can match the scenes, and the grandeur of our scenery causes them to pale their ineffectual fires.

GIANT'S GAP, AMERICAN RIVER CANON.

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 109.]

ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES.—The original boundaries of the United States as defined by the treaty of 1783 were as follows:

"Commencing at the northwest angle of Nova Scotia—viz., the angle formed by a line drawn due north from the source of the St. Croix River to and along the highlands that divide the rivers that empty themselves into the St. Lawrence River from those that fall into the Atlantic Ocean—thence down the middle of said river to latitude 45°; thence due west to the Cataraguy (now Upper St. Lawrence River); thence along the middle of said River to Lake Ontario; thence through the middle of Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron and through the middle of the water communications of said lakes to Lake Superior; thence through Lake Superior northward of Isles Royal and Phillpean to the Long Lake; thence, through that lake and its water communications to Lake of the Woods, to the most northwest part thereof; thence due west to the Mississippi River; thence through the middle of the Mississippi River to the northermost part of the 31° of north latitude; thence due east to middle of the river Apalachicola or Catahouche River; thence along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint River; thence straight to the head of St. Marys River and along the middle thereof to the Atlantic. Then by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy to its source and from its source directly north to the aforesaid Highlands, comprehending all islands within twenty leagues of the coast of the United States between lines drawn east from the terminal boundary line at Nova Scotia and East Florida, except islands now or heretofore within the limits of the Province of Nova Scotia."

At this time only six of the States had definite bounds. These were New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. Massachusetts claimed, under charter, all between 41° and 48° throughout the main lands from sea to sea and the territory of Maine. Connecticut held that her charters and grants covered territory between lines drawn in continuation of her north and south bounds to the "Great South Sea." Virginia claims were founded on the grant to the Virginia Company in 1619 all between the Ohio River and the continuation of her southern bound, as well as a large tract north of the Ohio; and still further, by right of conquest, much territory now comprised in the States of Indiana and Illinois, having in 1778, without aid or direction from the Congress, sent a force under Gen. GEO. ROGERS CLARK into that territory—then in possession of the British—to prevent, if possible, further Indian forays on her Kentucky border. This expedition in that year took Kaskaskia and the year following captured Vincennes and the fort near by, pushed across the country to the Mississippi and erected a fortification on that river.

North Carolinia claimed the territory now comprised in the State of Tennessee as well as a strip twelve miles in width adjoining the southern bound of Tennessee. When the line between South Carolina and Georgia was established, it was found that a tract twelve miles wide adjoining North Carolina, remained to the former State, while all south of that westward was claimed by Georgia.

Soon after the confirmation of the treaty of 1783 the six States with defined boundaries made petition to Congress that whereas they had contributed both men and money to the prosecution of the war and thus aided in securing the territory beyond the mountains to the Federal Government, they should be entitled to receive some advantage therefrom. The question was warmly debated in Congress and resulted in a request from that body that the States claiming ownership in said territory should relinquish their claims thereto to the General Government of the United States and proposing that the proceeds of the sales thereof should be used to pay the public debt which, with some reservations, was finally acceded to.

There had been much dispute between Massachusetts and New York as to territorial rights, which was settled in 1781 by the relinquishment of the former State of all jurisdiction within the present limits of the latter reserving, however, the right of soil and pre-emption to all land lying "west of a meridian line drawn from the 82d mile post in the Pennsylvania line," excepting some reservations on the Niagara River. This line commenced at the now southeast corner of Steuben County, strikes the western shore of Seneca Lake and reaches Lake Ontario at Sodus Bay. All west of New York claimed by Massachusetts was ceded to the United States in 1785.

In 1786 Connecticut ceded her rights in all the territory west of Pennsylvania (having previously relinquished title to all east to Pennsylvania and New York) except in a tract in the northeast part of Ohio, comprising 3,666,000 acres, still known as "The Reserve." Of this, in 1792, 500,000 acres were given to citizens of Connecticut whose property had, during the Revolution, been burned by the British. This tract was known as the Fire Lands.

In 1795 the remainder of the Reserve was sold to the Connecticut Land Company for $1,200,000. This money was made a permanent fund for the support of public schools of the State of Connecticut. Jurisdiction in this Reserve was surrendered to the General Government in 1807 and was immediately transferred to Ohio.

The claims of New York to any portion of this western territory appear not well founded; but to prevent any future misunderstanding, as well as to fix her western boundary, in 1780 deeds of cession were made of all right in and to lands west of a meridian drawn through the west end of Lake Ontario. It is supposed there is a reason for all things, but I have never been able to learn why this point was chosen from which to determine the bounds of New York.

In 1784 Virginia relinquished all claims to territory north of the Ohio River reserving, however, the right to locate boundary lands between the Scioto and Little Miami Rivers, if it should be found she had not sufficient territory south of the Ohio and in 1785 ceded all south of that river. In 1790 North Carolina gave up what is now Tennessee.

In 1787 South Carolina ceded the 12-mile strip before mentioned, and in 1802 Georgia relinquished her rights to whatever was west of her present bounds, receiving the territory between her northern limits and Tennessee.

In 1786 the western line of Pennsylvania was determined to be a meridian drawn from the southwest corner of Pennsylvania to the territorial line and the line between Pennsylvania and New York to be in its western part and mainly on the 42d parallel. This left a tract belonging to Government triangular in form containing a little over 200,000 acres entirely detached from any other Government lands. Pennsylvania desiring a port on Lake Erie, purchased this "heater piece" in 1788 for 75c. an acre.

Most of these cessions and transfers were accompanied by some restriction or conditions, which it is not necessary for our purpose to notice. Thus the Government of the United States became possessed of all territory between the western limits of the interior States and the Mississippi River, which was subsequently given Territorial Governments and finally erected into States.

—[To be continued.

The Story-Teller.

TOO LATE.

BY MAY MAPLE.

I WAS the youngest of the family, consisting of the parental heads and eleven children. Start not, gentle reader, at the idea of so numerous a progeny; a large family was, at the time of my advent, the pride of our ancestors. But I was destined to be the "black sheep" of the flock. I was not like the rest of the youngsters, and "*Too Late*" must have been stamped with lines of flame upon my brow from the very first hours of my existence. Even in my infancy I was troubled with a consciousness that I was not petted and tended like the firstlings of the flock. Ah! I was too late to be a rarity; and as I was usually in good health and therefore good-natured, it was quite unnecessary to bestow much attention upon me. Thus I was left for hours in the little pine cradle to amuse myself as best I might.

As years passed I never ceased hearing the words, "JUNE, you are too late;" "JUNE, why will you always be late?" or, "JUNE, do be quick for once in your life."

Try as I would, I never could be quite up to time. If sent on an errand, I invariably started off on a run, determined to please my dear mother, of whom I was passionately fond. But before I could return some bright-winged bird or rare flower, a running brook or laughing breeze, a fleecy summer cloud or fairy castle, would set me to loitering by the way, and instead of returning immediately, I would be absent for hours ere I would become aware that time was fast flying beyond recall.

I was seldom in season at school; therefore, there was a long list of "tardy marks" against my name. Yet, strange as it may seem, my lessons were always marked perfect. And now I have to regret the hours wasted, when I might have made such large additions to my stock of knowledge. For I learned rapidly, never spending over fifteen minutes on a lesson; so the rest of the time was in a manner wasted. But fancy was busy weaving delicate webs and embroidering them with delightful visions of a grand and noble womanhood. I could not realize that it was necessary to improve the moments as they went sweeping by, in order to develop a lofty character and to stamp nobility upon the brow. I did not think it needful to gather up the fragments, and thus much was lost. Ah, these fragments! how much of life's pleasures aye, its best joys, are tossed away with the fragments. Our understanding must be broad and deep if we would improve all the gifts the great Father has bestowed upon us. Careless of all these things, the time for making the most of my opportunities passed away and I heard the time-bells chime out the words, "too late."

When I had walked under the blue canopy of heaven fifteen years, I became very anxious to have a flower garden. My cousin FLORENCE had one, and it was always a rare treat to visit her grounds. The paths were delightfully clean and no weeds were ever allowed to make themselves at home in their society of the superiors. I was sure it would be a pleasure to take care of the flourishing plants and gaily-tinted flowers.

My indulgent father gave me a plat of ground and a well-filled purse with which to purchase choice seeds, also a set of handsome garden tools. For days I worked faithfully, fitting the ground, arranging beds and sowing seeds. At last the work for the time was completed and I had only to watch and wait for the appearance of the tiny green leaves. For a week I visited my garden daily, only to see the clean, brown earth laid out like patchwork in circles, diamonds, squares and triangles, with miniature valleys between.

About this time I went to visit my grandmother and was absent three weeks. On my return I took the earliest opportunity to visit my garden. I was almost in ecstacy to find so many thrifty, beautiful plants, to give me welcome greetings. I also discovered various weeds trying to put on airs and appearing quite as vigorous as their more aristocratic neighbors. I thought I could destroy this unwelcome guest at any time and thus for days I quieted my conscience until I heard my brothers laughing about "JUNE'S procrastination beds," and declaring that the plants ought to grow, as "they were in feed up to their eyes."

I resolved at once to put the garden in order. But alas! I had waited too long. When I removed the weeds many of the plants were uprooted, and the few that remained drooped and withered when left without the protecting shade of the weeds. My flowers were not numerous that season, and my garden was pointed 'out as "one of JUNE'S failures."

A few years slipped by with only the chugrins common to a large class of people; and then my aged grandmother was taken suddenly ill and desired my immediate presence. My sister JESSIE, who was two years my senior, volunteered to accompany me. I had always been the old lady's favorite, notwithstanding my glaring faults, and she had frequently declared that the pretty village home which she possessed was to be mine when she was laid away in the churchyard beside her husband.

JESSIE and I left home together on our way towards the depot. We had gone nearly half the distance when I discovered that my purse was missing. I turned to retrace my steps with JESSIE'S advice to "hurry," ringing in my ear. Several minutes were taken up in hunting for the missing purse, for I had quite forgotten where I had put it; but at last it was found and I returned almost with flying feet and reached the depot in time to see the train moving off and my sister's handkerchief fluttering from the car window. No other train was due till evening, so I was obliged to go home and wait until night.

When on the following morning I reached my grandmother's cottage, I found the house shrouded as it seemed, with a solemn stillness. The dear old lady was dead and her will had only been made a few hours before her departure to the better land, and it was made in favor of my sister JESSIE, because "she was always *prompt*."

I was scarcely twenty years of age when my father was borne to the silent city and the family left without a provider. Then it was that I began to realize how precious those hours were which I had spent in listless dreaming.

I was offered the situation of preceptress in our village seminary; but I knew too well that my qualifications were not such as to warrant success; I must therefore be satisfied with the more humble station of assistant teacher.

During the second year of my labors I became acquainted with HARRY LEE. He possessed a handsome face, majestic form, and was easy and graceful in manner; wealthy he was not, yet he was far from being poor; he had studied to be a physician and was already winning laurels by his skillful practice. His good name was above reproach and when, after six months' acquaintance he told me that he loved me and asked me to become his wife, I believed that heaven was very near to us; for I loved HARRY LEE with a devotion that was next to idolatry. And so our vows were plighted. It was now leafy June, the beautiful month after which I was named. For three months I lived in a sort of paradise; my life was rose-colored. My wakeful hours were filled with unalloyed happiness, and when I slept I dreamed of joys that could scarcely be surpassed. But this great joy could not last; already there had been slight clouds—silver-lined, but clouds nevertheless—of difference between us; indeed, they were so small, that I had not deemed them worthy a second thought, forgetful that "trifles light as air make our weal or woe."

There was to be an excursion party to visit Niagara and HARRY invited me to accompany him, saying it would be necessary for us to be at the depot promptly at nine o'clock: he wished me to be entirely ready when he called for me, as business would detain him until there would only be sufficient time to procure tickets and get seats with the company. Almost the last words he said as he parted the evening previous were, "JUNE, be sure to be *ready* when I come in the morning."

Before I retired I laid out, as I thought, every article of my wardrobe that I should need for the occasion determined, for once in my life, to be prompt. Morning came and I made haste to prepare myself for the journey. There was nearly half an hour to spare when I pronounced myself ready; my hat and wraps were conveniently near—I could put them on while he was coming down the street. I seated myself by the window to await his appearance, that I might finish my preparations as soon as I could catch a glimpse of him. For perhaps three minutes I kept my eyes upon the street and then I caught sight of a book on the table near me in which I was deeply interested. I picked it up—and that was the last I remembered of HARRY or his injunctions until I heard the gate swing.

Putting on my hat and shawl scarcely occupied two minutes, and then my gloves—but they were not to be found: after a hasty search here, there, everywhere, turning everything top to bottom, bottom to top, I found them at last in a paper just as I had brought them from the store. Of course it took some time to fit them and when I joined HARRY I had kept him awaiting a full quarter of an hour. We reached the depot just in time to see company and train disappearing swiftly round "the curve." HARRY left me at my own door, bidding me a cool "good morning," and passed on towards his office. That evening's mail brought me a highly-perfumed note, which read as follows:

"MISS DAVENPORT:—Please consider our engagement broken; we could never live happily together. I confess I have no disposition to treat your continual delays with martyr-like endurance. If to-day's disappointment were the first, I would not reproach you. But it is useless for me to numerate the times, and just as useless for you to make any apologies. I shall take the evening train for the Old World. May you be happy, is the sincere wish of HARRY LEE."

And thus ended my bright dreams of happiness. My pillow was wet with bitter, scalding tears; grief and remorse brought no sunshine to my heart. Must I be always haunted by those two small words? Must they dash every cup of joy from my lips? Dark, wild thoughts of putting an end to such a useless life filled my mind. The early rising sun peeped in to my chamber and found me raving in delirium; and for weeks I was unconscious.

When at last I began to recover and was told how very near to death's portals I had hovered, I only wished they had let me die. There were long days of convalescing, when I had plenty of time to form new resolutions for my future course of action. But while I found it a pleasure to *resolve*, to perform was quite another thing.

Again I took up the thread of life and for a time filled the warp with work promptly done. But not many months elapsed ere Nature asserted herself, and then there were skips and loops, thin places in the web that would not bear close inspection. I was living in dreamland again and allowing my garden to be overrun with the vile weed of procrastination. Again I received a lesson—or rather a chastisement—for my delinquencies.

On entering the recitation room one morning in midsummer, I found upon the table a note addressed to "MISS JUNE DAVENPORT, teacher." Upon reading the missive I found that my services were to be dispensed with at the close of the week. I was so frequently "too late," the committee had thought best to hire another assistant in my place. What was to be done? I could not get another situation immediately; to ply the needle I had no taste except for myself. Thus for weeks I was undecided and of course perfectly miserable.

At last I determined to go out to service; better that than idleness. As if to further my plan I saw an advertisement in the morning paper. A certain family were in need of good and efficient help, for which good wages would be paid. I would apply immediately.

I had nearly completed my preparations for the walk when I spied a humming-bird and a small company of butterflies apparently having a bit of a confab over a flower bed in the garden just outside my window. Mistress Humming-bird declared, to all intents and purposes, that that plat of flowers was for her especial sipping. While Madame Butterfly and her set declared they had occupied that ground long before she came from the sunny South. For nearly half an hour the debate lasted, Mistress Humming-bird descending from her perch in the jasmine with a swoop, a buzz and a squeak, to dive with her long beak at the defenceless butterflies every time they dared to alight on a sweet-scented flower. It was a matter of firm perseverance on both sides; but Miss Humming-bird's patience held out till she had driven the last enemy from the field, and then seated herself with much complacency upon her favorite perch, to arrange her glossy plumage in the most exquisite style. The battle had lasted ten minutes. I drew on my gloves and bent my steps toward the residence of Mr. STANLEY. Upon arriving there I was told that the place had been supplied a few moments previous. I only had to swallow my disappointment as best I could.

At last I was glad to accept a very inferior situation and small wages. I soon wearied of the drudgery, with the continual frettings of Miss HUNTER, and when I received an offer of marriage from Mr. CARROL, who had wealth, position and a pleasing address, I determined to accept the offer and thus provide myself with a home and comforts. We were married and, for a time, my lines seemed to have fallen in pleasant places. I was just congratulating myself on my opportune promptness, when I learned that my husband was a professional gambler, and I had been brought up under the good old Puritan rule.

Alas! "too late" rang out on the still evening air, and the morning's dawn did not forget to whisper it in my ears. I had married in haste, with but little consideration as to congeniality. I could only make the best of life and hope that I might influence him to give up the dreadful business, even though it caused us to walk in the alleys of poverty. My husband was invariably kind to me, and for this I was grateful. We were blessed with one child, a beautiful boy; on him I lavished all the love of motherhood. I made an idol of the beautiful clay and on no account would I have him crossed. CHARLEY must do as he liked and have whatever he wished.

His father tried sometimes to show me how foolish I was and how poorly I was fitting him to fight the battles of life; how selfish and willful he would be as he approached manhood if allowed to grow up under my present course of training—but all to no purpose; I would not listen to his counsel. I never permitted him to attend the public schools until he was twelve years of age, for fear of his being hurt by the children or reproved by the teacher. But at this early age he was my equal in nearly all the common branches. He was quick to learn and had within him grand possibilities. But my days of sorrow were coming nearer. I was sowing seeds that would come up and pierce me with thorns; yes, "sowing the wind to reap the whirlwind."

When CHARLEY was scarcely fourteen years of age, in a fit of anger he drew a pistol and shot one of his companions, threatening to shoot another if he interfered. "I'll let you all know that my word is not to be disputed," said the wayward boy with flashing eyes and livid features.

Not till the verdict of "Guilty of murder" was rendered did I realize fully what I had done. My darling, my only son, sentenced to a life of solitary imprisonment for a long term of years, that would in all probability end only with life. Oh! how I entreated to be sentenced with him; and when this was not permitted, I begged with bowed form to take his place; surely I was the first cause of all this trouble. I would willingly endure the punishment. Even the privilege of accompanying him to his cell was denied.

When I visited him for the last time, how my heart bled for the erring, repentant boy. Embracing me, he exclaimed:

"Oh, darling mother! I do not wish to reproach you; but if you had only taught me obedience, I should not have transgressed the commands of GOD; I should then have learned to control my temper and respect the rights of others. But it is too late now. I know that you love me, though there is blood upon my hands. My sentence is dreadful but just. I should scarcely dare to have it otherwise; for who knows how soon I might be guilty of the same crime again? There is no hope for me. When I am angry, no one is safe that is in my power. So I must give up all there is in life worth living for; all my high aspirations and thoughts of human greatness, good impulses, must all culminate in the criminal's cell."

The form of my child was convulsed with pent-up grief and I—how could I comfort him? Surely, no sorrow was like unto my sorrow. Amid tears, sobs and groans, I was torn from my beloved idol.

My husband was used to scenes of violence. But when his own son was brought to the prison cell, it was more than he could bear. "Too late," chimed out on the still air of our quiet rooms. "Too late" was each made to see the failure of our lives. We could only repent and pray that it might not be too late for ourselves and our loved one to seek the pardon of Him who chastiseth in love and "Who removeth us far as the east is from the west our transgressions from us," when we earnestly seek his face.

THE COMFORT THERE IS IN AN EGG.

"The spring is coming," I said to my wife the other morning. My wife replied that she "could not discover it."

"This egg justifies me in declaring that spring is coming. I don't mean to say that the daffodils have made their appearance—I base my opinion on the arrival of this egg. Hens, my dear, know more than you think about the seasons. They have their spring-time fancies, and one of their fancies is to lay eggs. Sometimes one will drop an egg in mid-winter, even as a happy afterthought is occasionally uttered by a merry fellow after the feast is over and the ashes are raked up in the fireplace."

My wife interrupted me to say that she didn't like me to tell her anything about it.

"Eggs," I said, "are historical. The subject carries us back to the time when the goose was in the habit of laying 'golden eggs,' and had it not been for the avarice of one person, who slaughtered that goose in the hope of rapidly making a fortune, that breed might have descended to the present time and those golden eggs would have greatly assisted in paying the income tax."

LOVE as if you should hereafter hate, and hate as you should hereafter love.—*Chilo.*

Sabbath Reading.

ON "THE OTHER SIDE."

Oh heart, my heart, how strange to yearn no more
With weepings bitter for thy long-lost peace;
How strange to find thyself at Heaven's door
Where tears forever cease.

In the fair country where sin enters not,
And where abideth everlasting rest,
Think you, my soul, your sins shall be forgot,
And ye be blest?

No more, no more, to hunger there for love,
No more to thirst for blessings long desired.
"Thy face is foul with weeping," but above
Thou shalt be satisfied!

What shall it be to find all fair within,
Pure as the angels in the highest Heaven;
To feel no more temptation, and no sin
That needs to be forgiven:

No more repining—no more vain regret;
No longing to lie down and fall asleep?
Oh heart, my heart, how strange when ye forget
The way to weep!

Oh, light divine that shineth from His face,
In the fair country that doth need no sun!
Oh, happy soul, be thankful that thy race
Is well nigh run?

Roll golden sun—roll swiftly toward the west;
Down happy day when many woes shall cease;
Come quickly, Lord, thy people wait the rest
Of Thine abiding peace.

INFLUENCE OF GOOD WORDS.

"WHEN that devoted missionary, Robert Moffat, was in England, he told an amusing story of a poor African who lived near one of the missionary settlements and whose dog, by some accident, had got possession of a Testament in the native language and tore it to pieces, devouring some of the leaves. This man came to the missionaries in great dismay and laid his case before them. He said that the dog had been a very useful animal and had helped to protect his property by guarding it from wild beasts and also in hunting and destroying them; but he feared it would be useless for the time to come.

The missionary asked him how this was and why his dog should not be as useful as formerly. As for the injury done, that was but an accident and the Testament could be replaced by another copy. "That is true," said the poor man; "but still I am afraid the dog will be of no further use to me. The words of the New Testament are full of love and gentleness; and after the dog has eaten them it is not likely that he will hunt or fight for me any more."

COULD many a parent foresee what God in mercy hides—the unhappy fate and fortunes of his child—when its life is trembling in the balance and his heart, as he hangs over the cradle, trembles for the issue—he would hesitate to pray God to spare, to turn aside the impending stroke. Though the parting is bitter and it wrings his heart to watch the ebbing, the dying agonies of the infant's life, he might be dumb, opening not the mouth; accounting it better, much better, his child should die and go to heaven than live for the fate before it.—*Dr. Guthrie.*

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

WORTH, and not wealth, is a nation's safety.

WHEN love is warmest, praise is longest—the heart helps the tongue.

WHAT can grace not do? for it raised saints even in Cæsar's household.

EVERY man is born for heaven; and he is received in heaven who receives heaven in himself while in the world, and he is excluded who does not.—*Swedenborg.*

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve thee with a quiet mind.—*Episcopal Prayer Book.*

PRAYER is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the soul to God through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Spirit, for such things as God has promised.—*Bunyan.*

HE that knoweth how to live inwardly and to make small reckoning of things without, neither requireth places nor awaiteth times for the performance of religious exercises.—*Thos. a Kempis.*

WE shall find difficulties in all great enterprises; if we are sure we have begun them from God, we may securely cast all events upon his providence, which knows how to dispose and how to end them.—*Bishop Hall.*

UNSOLVED PROBLEMS.—"What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?

WILT thou not go home, my child? Away, for the danger is pressing! go home to God and get out of trouble. Array thyself in such garments as will please the Lord! Get ready, O pilgrim, for thy eternal home.—*Hedinger.*

IF you can really make a man believe you love him, you have won him; and if I could only make people really believe that God loves them, what a rush we would see for the kingdom of God! Oh, how they would rush in!—*D. L. Moody.*

FOR some are too proud to forgive themselves till the forgiveness of God has had its way with them, has drowned their pride in the tears of repentance and made their heart come again like the heart of a little child.—*George Macdonald.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

LINGER NEAR ME, LITTLE TREASURE.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

Linger near me, little treasure.
When I have you by my side
I forget all care and trouble,
And that ill may life betide.
I remember only, darling,
That the one I love is near;
In the sunlight of your presence
All the shadows disappear.
Linger near me, little treasure.
Oh, how rich a man am I!
Not a king on earth is richer,
For no gold your love can buy.

Linger near me, little treasure.
Let me look into your eyes,
Where the sweetest violets blossom
Underneath the summer skies.
Put your hand in mine, my darling,
And believe the words I speak,—
Never any rose was fairer
Than the roses of your cheek.
Linger near me, little treasure.
Oh, how rich a man am I!
Not a king on earth is richer,
For no gold your love could buy.

Linger near me, little treasure,
While the days are passing by;
Meet me with a kiss at nightfall,
And the lovelight of your eye.
Oh, my darling, life without you
Would a dreary journey be.
Let me keep you always near me,
For you're all the world to me.
Linger near me, little treasure.
Oh, how rich a man am I!
Not a king on earth is richer,
For no gold your love can buy.

WOMAN'S PLACE IN NATURE.

MAN'S place in nature seems to be pretty clearly defined. In spite of the fact that he "is descended from a hairy quadruped, furnished with a tail and pointed ears, probably arboreal in its habits," and that he "still bears in his bodily frame the indelible stamp of his lowly origin," he is the best thing that we know; and when we formulate a God we are obliged to make him a man. It is the Father, the Saviour, to whom we pray, not to abstract force—which, however, is the sign of the power by which we live; it is man whom we worship in his ideal, man whom we credit with these possibilities of godhead, and the attainment of absolute perfection, great gravitation, electricity, nor yet the protoplastic cell. This, then, is his place, in spite of his descent—the highest expression of embodied intelligence known to us; in his perfection, according to his idea, a God. And woman? Up to this time civilized society has been for the most part founded on the principles that the greater includes the less, that two halves make one whole, and that man has meant also woman. Sex has been looked on as complement, not antagonism; and the laws regulating the division of labor and the appointment of duties have rested on the recognition of differences, and the belief that by those differences and their free exercise we come to harmony. Man has been man and woman woman, and hybrids have not been encouraged. But we have changed all that now. Tired of the uninteresting division made by nature and society into well-defined men and women a third sex is rising into social being: and we have to find a name and place for those odd men-women, those creatures of intermediate class, who are planting their feet in the middle distance between the two extremes, calling loudly on men and gods to witness their daring—and their transformation.

Retaining nothing of the one sex but its form, gaining nothing of the other but its rough-hewn license and abandonment of inconvenient delicacy, these men-women are the analogues of those queen compounds which make the despair of scientific classifiers. How can we call them women when they have rejected as the signs of their shame every mental and moral attribute by which women have hitherto been known, and for which they have been loved? But how are they men when they have nothing of the bodily strength, the mental power, the logical faculty by which these govern and make themselves respected? What can we say to women who voluntarily fling themselves into circumstances where they know that they will lose their tenderness, their modesty, their unselfishness, their devotion? who voluntarily renounce all the sweetnesses of womanhood, persistently deride its characteristic virtues, and spurn its appointed duties? who see in life only an arena where victory is to the strongest, and where "each for himself" is a cry that makes a louder echo than those old-fashioned versicles about doing unto others as we would they should do unto us, and in honor preferring one another. What can we say to them when they think womanly unselfishness a mark of mean-spiritedness? Motherly affection a mere animal instinct shared with the brutes, and not ranking higher than that of the brutes? Maidenly modesty a confession of mental inferiority taught by long ages of oppression by tyrant man, and which it is incumbent on the emancipated to throw off without delay, as a slave throws off his fetters, a prisoner escapes from his cell? Where place them—those women who, in Paris and elsewhere, study anatomy and pathology side by side with young men, and who hold the fact that they feel neither shame nor repugnance, a proof of their superiority to prejudice, not of their callousness to womanly delicacy and their abandonment of self-respect?—those women who are ready to discuss in public the most revolting subjects, and to handle without disguise the most delicate details?—those women whose highest ambition it is to be notorious, and to whom the quiet modesties, the unobtrusive usefulness of home, are the ultimates to which dreariness and degradation can go? Can we call them women in one single spiritual or mental essential?—and as little men!—*Belgravia.*

PET NAMES.

THE pupils of the Quebec Normal School presented Lord DUFFERIN with an address on the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes, to which his Excellency replied as follows:

We who are anxious about the future of our country must have great satisfaction in considering that there should exist in the various Provinces of Canada such an admirable machinery as is provided by these Normal Schools for the diffusion of an atmosphere of cheerfulness, elegance, purity and intellectual activity in the homes of the Nation; this is especially true as applied to the women teachers of our schools, for it is on them that we must depend for the maintenance of a proper standard of good manners, of refinement and high moral tone of which these qualities are the outcome, and I trust you will always remember that the execution of this portion of your functions is not less imperative upon you than are the other branches of the profession.

And in relation to this particular part of your duties there is one peculiarity I have observed in this country, though not indigenous but imported, which I think you might use your influence advantageously to correct. I observe that it is an almost universal practice upon this continent, even on public occasions, in prize lists, roll calls, and in the intercourse of general society, for young ladies to be alluded to by their casual acquaintances, nay, even in the newspapers, by what in the old country we would call their "pet" names, that is to say, those caressing, soft appellations of endearment with which their fathers and brothers and those who are nearest to them strive to give expression to the yearning affection felt for them in the home circle. Now, it seems to me to be a monstrous sacrilege, and quite incompatible with dignity and self-respect due to the daughters of our land, and with the chivalrous reverence with which they should be approached even in thought, that the tender, love-invented nomenclature of the fireside should be bandied about at random in the mouths of every empty-headed Tom, Dick and Harry on the street whose idle tongue may chance to babble of them.

For instance, in the United States, before her marriage, I observed that Miss Grant, the daughter of the occupant of one of the most august positions in the world, was generally referred to in the newspapers as "Nellie," as though the paragraphist who wrote the item had been her playfellow from infancy; and even Lady Dufferin, I see, has become "Kate" in the elegant phraseology of a United States magazine, though how Kate could have been elicited from her Excellency's real Christian name I don't know. Of course this is a small matter to which I have alluded, but it is not without significance when regarded as a national characteristic. After all, the women of this continent are ladies as refined, high-minded and noble-hearted as are to be found in any country in the world, and the sooner we get rid of the vulgar solecism the better, and the first place where the correction should be made is in our school lists, which are official documents, where young ladies should be entered in their full Christian names, and not in their nicknames, as I have often seen done.

THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

THE Emperor of China is six years old. His mother and grandmother—the two Empresses regent—are anxious for his early education. He will study in the Jou-King room of the imperial palace; Hong-Toung-Hoet and Hia-Toung-Schian will be the tutors to instill into his majesty's mind all the necessary sciences. He will learn the Mantchou and Mogol languages and literatures at one and the same time, with riding, archery, swimming, plowing, and other bodily exercises. The prettiest part of the business, however, is, that from the day his education begins there will be appointed for his majesty a companion destined to receive all the floggings incurred by the imperial boy, and the 14th of May is considered by the astrologists as the most propitious moment for his education and these floggings to commence.

SERENITY OF CHRISTIAN FAITH.

An English lady observed an aged German peasant stooping in his little patch of ground, all his earthly possession, to pick the pears which fell from its one tree and said to him:

"You must grow weary in such labor at your time of life, so bent and humbled with infirmity."

His reply was a good example of the serenity which true faith induces:

"No, ma'am. I have been in my time God's working servant. He has promoted me to be His waiting one. One of these days, when I fall as these pears as falling, He will pick me up."

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE LACES.—The New York custom-house storekeepers have received orders to sell by auction the famous laces that were made for the Empress Eugenie. After the fall of the French empire, the owner brought them to this city in search of a purchaser, and the government confiscated them as smuggled goods. The laces are worth $20,000. One of the pieces is a dress for which the late A. T. Stewart offered $5,000.

Reading for the Young.

WHAT LITTLE TOT DOES.

BY MRS. LORETTA E. TURNER.

Monday I take my little tub,
And fill with soap and water;
And my dollies clothes I rub, rub, rub.
Ma calls me her good daughter.

Tuesday I heat my tiny iron,
And smooth my dollies' dresses;
Dress them up nicely in clean clothes,
And comb their silken tresses.

On Wednesday mama cuts some work
And I sew it neat and tidy,
And mama comes and kisses me
And says I'm a little lady.

Thursday I to the kitchen go,
Help mama do the baking;
And bread or cake, or pies or tarts,—
I make what she is making.

Friday I give my dolls a feast,
Then take them all out walking;
You'd laugh to hear the funny things
They say when they are talking.

Saturday we have a merry time,
Some game or merry frolic,
Unless a dolly is taken sick
With toothache or the colic.

Sunday I read some little book
Until the bells are ringing,
With mama go to church and hear
The sermon and the singing.

No. Fairfield, Ohio.

IMPORTANT!

IT gives us pleasure to announce that in this and subsequent issues the READING FOR THE YOUNG will occupy three full columns, instead of two as has heretofore been the custom. This step has been taken after mature reflection and deliberation, and is due solely to the active and increasing interest taken in this department since the assumption of their editorial duties by the new management. The columns will be under the combined direction of Uncles MARK and TOBE, who will augment rather than relax their efforts to make the department interesting, instructive and alive with topics of contemporaneous interest.

IT is a source of no little pride to the Editors to note the improvement in the tone and style of the letters from our young Cousins, and the gratifying accounts of their progress in educational pursuits. Many note as among their accomplishments a skill in drawing, and it would seem to us that examples of their workmanship would be a very appropriate contribution to these columns. If, therefore, the artistic cousins will kindly mail sketches on paper, *the width of this column*, we will duly consider their merits, and if able productions, have them drawn and engraved on wood and inserted. Do not imagine you are unequal to the task, but send your sketches and permit us to judge of their availability.

IN conclusion, let us hope our young friends will appreciate the spirit of this concession, and redouble their interest in what is intended solely for their edification and improvement. From time to time we promise new features, which will be veritable surprises, and it will be no fault of the gentlemen who have kindly volunteered to devote their services to your interests if this department do not equal in interest that of any publication in the land. Co-operation will secure this end. With best wishes we remain, your sincere friends,

THE EDITORS.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

A Cousin has been There!

O NO, am not sorry I went, though it was a most uncomfortable jam. When I thrust my head from the window on the morning of the 10th, the sight of weeping clouds did not deter me, for I had not hurried all the way from the Green Mountains to be defeated in my purpose now by a few showers; so with waterproof and overshoes we were soon standing at the corner waiting for a car, and for aught I know we might have been standing there till this time, for a person felt thankful seven cents worth for the privilege of hooking one toe on a corner of the step, leaving the body hanging out into space. Not caring to assume such a position, as the clouds had cleared away, we trudged on through the crowd and entered the grounds about nine o'clock. Secured an excellent position midway between the Main Building and Memorial Hall, but in half an hour the crowd was so dense there as to endanger life. Fortunately, after a long struggle we escaped to the opposite side of the broad walk, then being but a few feet from the cavalcade of invited guests. But for the constant chatter of the crowd the words of Bishop SIMPSON'S prayer might have been understood at our distance, as his deep, full voice reached us. Then attention was again directed to THEODORE THOMAS, who wielded the baton in a decidedly expressive manner, seeming to impart action to the thousand singers following his motions in such perfect accord. The solo of MYRON WHITNEY was—to say the least—grand. I was agreeably surprised at the appearance of Dom PEDRO. He looks like a man of sterling worth, was dressed plainly and greeted friends with an easy self-possession. The Empress is a small, plain-looking lady, but with a genial smile that softens the features. But few were allowed to follow the President and party to Machinery Hall. We were among the fortunate number, having a commanding position near the huge engine and where we could distinguish the movements of the party. Mr. COULISS explained to the President and Emperor the movement of the handles, and the instant they turned them we could hear the steam starting on its long, rapid journey, and the huge, powerful machine began its labors amid excited cheering of the spectators. Think of the strong arms of that one machine controlling all the rest in that huge building. Didn't I long to be a boy for about three seconds to throw up my cap and hurrah! After that a portion of the party made its way to the Women's Pavilion, where the Empress started the machinery in that building; the remainder scattered about the grounds without further restraint. There is much to be seen at every step one takes; but as I am expecting to visit the buildings occasionally, if it will be of interest to the RURAL readers I will wear my thinking-cap and on my return home try to recall some things observed.—C. ESTELLE P.

The True Dignity of Labor.

READING occasionally articles by various writers on the "Farm Boy Question," I thought I would give my opinion on this subject, based upon experience. It is plain to see that these gentlemen never experienced real farm work, and therefore know nothing of our troubles. Such insinuations as "Be happy, boys," and "Be proud that you can do dirty work," and that you have the unlimited privilege of being out in the scorching sun all day hoeing or plowing, and occasionally getting a kick from an ox or a prod of his horns, and other flattering remarks are volunteered freely. The most of us, I am certain, look upon this as empty talk, and the effects of such *animations* are, that a great many grow up conceited and presumptious over nothing but merely having the honor of being a hard-working farmer's boy. My object is to try and lift off this stone of *solicitude*, by relating how I obliterated my troubles and became contented.

A year ago I used to apologize, as Prof. M. M. BALDWIN calls it, at every opportunity, for having taken to the gardener's trade, and thought if I only lived in a city I would be admitted into good society, i. e., fashionable society, and so enjoy life. Occasionally meeting my schoolmates—some in a store as clerks, others studying law, and I a gardener—would increase my troubles fifty per cent., and at last it came to an explosion. I was persuaded to attend the "Commercial College" in our city, to acquire a practical business education, which would *involuntarily* place me into a responsible financial position; but soon found out that this branch of science was too well taken care of, so I gradually calmed down and saw that I had been much better off than a great many bookkeepers, and quietly resumed my position as apprentice. Now let me tell you where we make the mistake. The majority of us young gardeners and farmers are alone to blame for not being happy; this desire of being admitted into intelligent company is the principal cause. I know we imagine that farmers and gardeners are nowhere admitted into fashionable society, which is the fact; but they and we can shine in society as well as men of other professions, if we only possess the required education. Manners and more than ordinary education are the passwords of such societies. If we possess these we need not apologize. Now I could associate with those young ladies and gentlemen who once were the cause of all my troubles, but I give my botany lessons and landscape drawing the preference. I never feel so contented as when engaged in them. Devote your leisure time to something scientific, and strive rather to be numbered among the prominent men of *our* time; *then* society will open its doors to receive you, and feel honored if they can say they had you (once a farmer's boy) to tea.—R. C. P., *Po'keepsie, N. Y.*

[WE cordially give our young friend an opportunity to ventilate his opinions, and the *peculiar* nouns and adjectives with which he graces his communication. Has the other side anything to say on the subject?—ED.]

City Living and City Thinking.

A GREAT weakness in people of large cities is their extravagant vanity and squeamish avoidance of anything pertaining to the "rude and unrefined" customs of rural life; and it is therefore not surprising to note among the great masses of metropolitan youth how few are acquainted with the blessings of Nature's world or the advantages of country living. I am an exception among the young of "Babylon" who addresses himself to the important subject of "Rural Life," and naturally have come to favor it, while I abhor the life of misery and vice a metropolitan existence is heir to. I am also quite an observer and rather "old fashioned" for my age. Indeed all are, however puerile, in this great city, or they "could not earn their salt." Shrewdness and tact are the jewels that accomplish it all. I have learned by being thus observing that flattery, falsehood and trickery constitute the basis of business and society among promiscuous multitudes; that the public punishes with a hand of iron the very crimes which it furnishes, and that indiscreet childhood follows fast in the actions of its older society, and is too often led to the goal of destruction.

In learning thoroughly to hate city life I have infinitely learned to love God's country. Wise men have learned to do so before me. CINCINNATUS relinquished a life of luxury and ease for his humble farm and plow. WASHINGTON rightly believed "agriculture to be the noblest work of man:" and GREELEY defended rural life with all the vigor of his pulssant pen. My anticipation of a noble rural life has endowed me with strength to bear up under present miseries and delights my young imagination with lovely visions. Ah! how oft have I wished for the eloquence of a DEMOSTHENES to praise it beyond all subjects next to

the greatness and mercy of JESUS! Inglorious indeed are they who cannot love GOD's country and learn love, peace and harmony from its abundance of works. The graceful L. MARIA CHILD has said: "I have sometimes thought that flowers were the alphabet of angels, wherewith they write mysterious truths on hills and fields, in a cipher which mortals are too dull to apprehend." Have you not thought so too, dear reader?

I could say much and never tire in praise of my darling theme. I could tell you how much greatness the shady vale and verdant river side has fostered, had it not been told before in language as eloquent and sublime as GOD's thunder-voice speaks to the Red man of the prairies. So I will only add, never be eager to mingle in metropolitan life, but remember in your prayers the miseries and foot-falls in the uncertain path of your city cousins.—W. C., *New York City.*

From Mademoiselle.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you please introduce me to the Cousins of the RURAL? Happy to make your acquaintance. Grandfather takes your paper this year and I have fallen quite in love with it. First I will tell you about my home, a pleasant one. I live on the bank of a stream whose waters are "Black." In the summer there are four small steamers which pass quite often, and as I write I hear the whistle of the locomotive as it comes thundering into the station. I admire flowers and cultivate them. Among those which I most admire are the heartsease and rose. I would say in behalf of N. K. that I think that YOUNG PENNSYLVANIAN very impertinent, and I think that we, as Cousins (should I become one), ought not to insinuate that the other tells an untruth, until we know it to be so. I will admit that A. R. M. is right in regard to girls' tongues being hung in the middle; but, Sir, is it more than right that Providence should provide a way for us to keep even with the opposite sex? If I could have a chat with him perhaps he could write more on the subject of tongues. Perhaps you would like to know how many years I have seen. Am not under nine or over sixteen. I can say one thing certain—I never saw a Centennial year before. I am also learning to draw. Some people are foolish enough to flatter me (as well as Y. A.) by telling me I have a talent for it, and I one day hope to reach the acme of that art. If the Editor is kind enough to print this, the Cousins may get another letter from—MADEMOISELLE GERALDINE.

From Cousin Nellie.

DEAR RURAL:—I was surprised and very much pleased to receive the plant you sent me last week. I think it beautiful and wish to thank you for it many times, as also for your kind wishes in the RURAL. Yours—NELLIE WOOD, *Fair Haven, Vt., July* 31, 1876.

[MISS WOOD answered successfully question in RURAL, June 17.—ED.]

The Puzzler.

TENNYSONIAN ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 93 letters:

My 11, 93, 66, 22, 89, 19 "the lily maid of Astolat."

My 92, 59, 37, 45, 7, 48, 82, 37, 16, 77, 31, 12, 2, 38 a celebrated English poet.

My 9, 40, 60, 3, 52, 68, 5, 84, 33, 17, 21, 87, 4, 63, 58, 49, 88, 14 a poem by the author of "Idyls of the King."

My 70, 78, 44, 77, 23, 47, 83, 72, 39 a knight of the "Round Table."

My 13, 53, 85, 79, 65, 28, 91, 17, 69, 80, 87, 61, 10, 54, 55, 46, 17, 49, 57, 48, 86, 50, 17, 28, 8, 69 a famous poem.

My 51, 76, 20, 27, 56, 38 was a magician.

My 59, 41, 62, 71, 15, 17, 63, 32, 89 the "King of Camellard.

My 1, 52, 81, 22, 73, 90, 25, 38, 24, 82, 42, 55, 46, 64, 19, 74 a poem by Alfred Tennyson.

My 9, 18, 60, 29, 56, 38, 67, 21, 35 or "Songs of the Wrens."

My 61, 6, 31, 23, 36, 75 a character in "The Princess."

My 51, 30, 26, 34 "Queen rose in the rosebud garden of girls."

My whole is a selection from Enoch Arden.

☞ Answer in two weeks. EUDORA.

MYTHOLOGICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 39 letters:

My 4, 30, 1, 18, 34, 36, 24, 9, 3, 26 one of the three Graces.

My 6, 14, 38, 33, 24, 12, 2, 24 the wife of Admetus.

My 25, 8, 35, 13, 11, 19, 23 a daughter of Latinus.

My 21, 16, 34, 5, 37, 10, 24 a Phryglan king.

My 17, 2, 25, 32, 36, 15, 30, 24 a son of Laomedon.

My 31, 7, 39, 14, 35, 33 the number of difficult labors imposed upon Hercules.

My 27, 6, 10, 20, 24 Sylvan deities.

My whole is what the nymph Echo did because slighted by Narcissus, whom she loved.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S. C.

SQUARE WORD.

1. A SINGING bird. 2. A tropical plant. 3. A beautiful flower. 4. Part of a ship.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Aug. 5.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt."

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—Ethan Allen.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In these matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

ALDERMAN CULLERTON of Chicago, convicted of complicity of whisky frauds, has had his imprisonment remitted. Pardon by the President.

The Canadian Indians are peaceful, and are not joining Field Marshal Bull, as reported.

Says the (Mo.) Reformer: "A Democratic Governor and a big corn crop, both of which Missouri is sure to have this fall, will still keep her in the front rank.

Below is a list of the date of State elections as compiled by the New York Times. It may be useful for reference.

Arkansas will elect State officers on Monday, September 4; Congressmen on Tuesday, November 7.

California will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, November 7. State officers will next be chosen in September, 1879.

Colorado will elect State officers and Congressman on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Connecticut will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Delaware will elect Congressman on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be elected in Nov., 1878.

Florida will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Georgia will elect Governor on Wednesday, Oct. 4; Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Illinois will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Indiana will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Iowa will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Kansas will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Kentucky will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be chosen on the first Monday in August, 1879.

Louisiana will elect State officers and Congressmen on Monday, Nov. 6. Five proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State will be voted upon at the same time.

Maine will elect Governor and Congressmen on Monday, Sept. 11.

Maryland will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be chosen in Nov., 1879.

Massachusetts will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Michigan will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Three proposed amendments to the constitution of the State will be voted upon on the same day.

Minnesota will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be chosen in Nov., 1877.

Mississippi will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be chosen in Nov., 1877.

Missouri will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Nebraska will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Nevada will elect Congressman on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be chosen in Nov., 1878.

New Hampshire will elect Governor and Congressmen on Tuesday, March 13, 1877.

New Jersey will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be elected in Nov., 1877.

New York will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Two proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State will be voted upon the same day.

North Carolina will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Certain proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State will be voted upon on the same day.

Ohio will elect minor State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Oct. 10. The regular election for Governor will next occur in Oct., 1877.

Oregon will elect Congressman on Tuesday, November 7. The next election for Governor will occur in June, 1878.

Pennsylvania will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be chosen in Nov., 1878.

Rhode Island will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers on Wednesday, April 4, 1877.

South Carolina will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Tennessee will elect Governor and Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Texas will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be chosen in Nov., 1877.

Vermont will elect State officers and Congressmen Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Virginia will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be chosen in Nov., 1877.

West Virginia will elect State officers and Congressmen on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Wisconsin will elect Congressmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7. State officers will next be chosen in Nov., 1877.

The paper money of the United States has to be renewed once in three years.

The Pennsylvania Railroad and the Adams Express Company are delivering New York papers in Chicago twelve hours in advance of the mail.

It is proposed to make the Nebraska line of the Burlington & Missouri R. R. a branch of the Union Pacific.

It is proposed to sell all the Indian ponies captured, as the best means of solving one difficulty of the Indian question.

They fear an Indian war in Texas.

The jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi have proved successful. Vessels drawing eighteen feet pass through without difficulty.

In the Alabama State election the Democratic ticket was successful.

Numerous examinations have been recently made by the New York Board of Health to test milk fresh from the cow. The evidence is conclusive that milk which falls below the standard has been watered after leaving the dairy.

About three per cent. of the Indian population are now in arms against the Government.

Rice culture in Louisiana employs 30,000 people, on 1,200 plantations; produces a crop worth $3,000,000, and develops business to the extent of $10,000,000.

The fifth annual session of the National Agricultural Congress will be held in the Judges' Pavilion on the Exhibition grounds on Sept. 12, 13, and 14.

A corporation has been formed in the District of Columbia, to be known as the "Woman's National University," for the purpose of affording to women a thorough knowledge of the sciences, divinity, medicine and law, both in theory and practice.

Baltimore is striving hard to outstrip New York and Philadelphia in the exportation of petroleum.

San Francisco is in a panic over small-pox. Over 400 cases were reported last month. The disease has yielded in the East to the stamping-out process, and it is manifest that there is some mismanagement not far from the Golden Gate. At a recent meeting of the Councilmen a physician remarked casually that small-pox patients very frequently strayed into the vaccination wards.

The Centennial Exhibition has entered upon the second half of its term. During the past three months the aggregate attendance, dead-heads excluded, has been nearly two millions. The financial success of the undertaking is already assured. The Exhibition has been excellently managed from first to last, and foreign visitors will return to their homes with increased respect for the Yankee talent of organization.

The first wire of the Brooklyn Bridge will be successfully suspended from tower to tower. The rope is three-quarters of an inch in diameter; it is made of fine chrome steel wire, and is delivered in four coils, each containing 3,000 feet and weighing about 3,150 pounds. Each coil was wound on a large drum four feet in diameter, through which a spindle was passed, and from this the rope was reeled by means of a cable passing over pulleys on the summit of the tower and connected to an engine in the yard. The other sections of the "working rope" will be placed in position in a similar manner, and the ends will then be carried to the Brooklyn anchorage. The rope will be carried across the river early next week and attached to the anchorage on the New York side. There will be a "working rope" at each end of the piers, each forming an endless cable passing around pulleys at both anchorages.

The sentiment in favor of remonetizing silver is growing in Congress.

The following is the text of the proposed amendment to the Constitution:

ARTICLE XVI.

SEC. 1. No State shall make any law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under any State. No public property, and no public revenue of, nor any loan of credit by or under the authority of the United States, or any State, Territory, district or municipal corporation, shall be appropriated to or made, or used for the support of any school, educational or other institution under the control of any religious or anti-religious sect, organization or denomination, or wherein the particular creed or tenets shall be read or taught in any school or institution supported in whole or in part by such revenue or loan of credit, and no such appropriation or loan of credit shall be made to any religious or anti-religious sect, organization or denomination, or to promote its interests or tenets. This article shall not be construed to prohibit the reading of the Bible in any school or institution, and it shall not have the effect to impair the rights of property already vested.

SEC. 2. Congress shall have power by appropriate legislation to provide for the prevention and punishment of violations of this article.

Prof. Peters has discovered another asteroid.

The sale of Short-Horns owned by George M. Bedford, near Paris, Ky., was attended in Cincinnati by some 1,500 or 2,000 persons. The celebrated bull, Fourteenth Duke of Thorndale, sold for $17,000; another bull sold for $6,000. In all, 21 bulls were sold for $20,205. Forty-eight cows and heifers, and three extra calves, brought $37,640, averaging $788 for females, and about $1,200 for bulls. The prices were not satisfactory to the owner, who stopped the sale when only $300 was bid for Oneida, Duke of Goodness. The owner stated that the sale would proceed when about $1,500 was bid for the animal. About 40 animals were not sold.

James G. Hill of Boston, who has been for two years Assistant Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, and for several years previous a draughtsman in that bureau, has been appointed Supervising Architect. The appointment is made by the Secretary of the Treasury, and is not subject to confirmation by the Senate.

The series of three races for the possession of the Queen's Cup has been again decided in favor of America. The Madeline, our representative yacht, has beaten the Canadian yacht Countess of Dufferin, her competitor in two of the three races. The first race was over the usual course of the New York Yacht Club, and our yacht was victorious, with something over ten minutes to spare. The second race, twenty miles to windward and return, was even more brilliantly won,—twenty-seven minutes to spare. Even the America, which won the cup twenty-five years ago, outsailed the British yacht, and nearly vanquished the victor. The Countess of Dufferin is of Canadian build, on the American model, and sailed the race with an American crew and sailing master, owing her propelling power to canvass made and fitted in New York.

The Catholic Telegraph contains an article from Archbishop Purcell, addressed to the people of the United States, relative to the attitude of the Catholic Church toward the public school system, in which he declares that the Church has no disposition to interfere with the system.

Speaker Kerr is reported as growing worse.

The jury in the case against Kehoe, chief officer of the Molly Maguire order in Schuylkill County, Pa. and Canning, chief officer of Northumberland County, with six other prominent members of the organization, found them all guilty of assault and battery with intent to kill William Thomas. McHugh, who turned State's evidence, was recommend to the mercy of the court. These same men, with several others, will be put upon trial soon for conspiracy to kill William and Jesse Major at Mahanoy City.

Detachments of the Wheeler expedition are leaving Washington daily for the field. This work of exploration and survey, technically known as the United States geographical surveys west of the 10th meridian, will be carried on during the remainder of the year in New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada and California. The sections of country to be explored are contiguous to "Finished Territory," surveyed by this body or by Clarence King in previous years, and the triangulation will be an extension of systems already completed, to which it will be joined.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Turks have captured and burned Gurgusovatz. Saitschar is occupied also. Servia reported to desire peace. The Servia war loan is a failure.

Stanley, the African explorer, has been heard from at last. He is still in the vicinity of Victoria Nyanza, has had innumerable fights with the natives, and is as scientifically pugnacious as ever.

Look out for bad five-dollar bills on the Hampden National Bank of Westfield, Mass.

From all quarters the account of the crops is encouraging. The drouth at the East has done some injury to root crops and vegetables, and the grasshoppers have made bad work of it in Minnesota, but otherwise the outlook is very favorable. If the prospect of war in Europe comes to fruition, the farmers will have reason to remember the Centennial year with gratitude. If there is no war, bread will be cheap, and that will be some consolation, anyhow.

The project of turning the ruins of the baths of Diocletian into a palace of fine arts is strongly opposed by the Vatican.

The Greeks have been called to arms.

The catch of herrings in Annapolis Basin, N. S., is very large this season. Many already have been smoked and shipped.

Gen. Tchernayeff has been superseded in the command of the Servian army.

There are now upward of thirty-six theaters in London.

Turkey and Servia are to fight it out; no mediation is contemplated at present.

Gen. Antitch attacked Dervish Pasha near Slenitza, and after three days' fighting the Turks were defeated.

Ristics, the Servian Premier, is preparing a note to be sent to the Powers, giving an account of the atrocities committed by the Turks in Servia. The latter are accused of mutilating the wounded and of burning villages and carrying petroleum in their knapsacks for the purpose.

Advices from Paris report: "Subscriptions will be opened on the 22d of August for an undertaking, with a capital of $6,600,000, to establish and work a new telegraph cable between Paris and New York. The Government has granted to M. Pouyer-Quertier the right to establish this communication."

President McMahon and wife narrowly escaped a fatal accident during a ride from Versailles to Paris.

The Sultan is better, and his complete recovery considered certain.

The Standard's Berlin special says the Porte has positively declared it is willing to negotiate for peace whenever the Powers are disposed to intervene; but is not willing to agree to an armistice before the entry of the Turks into Belgrade.

The latest news in regard to the Eastern war is comprised in the following dispatches:

RAGUSA, Aug. 12.—Eight thousand Turks landed at Antivari on Thursday, the 10th inst. They were going to Pedegoritza. The Prince on Montenegro has delayed his march toward Slenitza, the point of junction of the Servians, for the purpose of operating against Djelaledin and preventing relief to Moukhtar Pasha.

BELGRADE, Aug. 13.—A bulletin published here denies that the Servian Col. Antitch has retreated, and declares that he maintains his position.

Prince Milan has arrived here from Delegrad.

The Turkish forces attempted on Tuesday last to break through the Servian lines at Javor, but were completely repulsed. Nearly all of them were killed.

Gen. Ranco Olimpics maintains his offensive positions on the Drina. Banja, which has been strongly fortified, is held by Tchernayeff's army, while Col. Becker's army occupies the mountains on the Timok and Morava lines.

It is expected that Prince Milan will proceed in a few days to inspect the army on the Bosnian frontier.

Thirty thousand Bulgarians, principally old men and women, have taken refuge in Servia.

The atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria and Servia are reported as beyond description.

Surgeons and officers are arriving at Belgrade from all countries. One legion of volunteers bearing the name of the Princess Natalie has gone to the seat of war.

Gen. Zach's wound will necessitate amputation.

It is believed a battle is imminent in the neighborhood of Banja.

Gen. Leschjanin, with the bulk of his forces, has taken up a position near Brestowatz.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Servian army has decided not to abandon the Morova valley without a decisive battle.

A Russian lady at Berne, fired a pistol at Prince M. Gortchakoff, the Russian Minister to Switzerland. The Prince escaped unhurt, and the lady was arrested. The attempt is attributed to political motives.

A model office-holder is Peng Yu-ling, Imperial Commissioner of Naval Forces. He is said to make a scrupulous return to the Emperor of China, at the end of every year, of every cent that remains over from his salary after paying the barest necessary expenses. At stated intervals he offers his resignation on the ground that he cannot help seeing official corruption.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Aug. 12, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	68,426	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,756	Rice, bbls	247
Corn meal, bbls	3,080	Cut meats, pkgs	7,213
Corn meal, bags	756	Lard, pkgs	8,519
Wheat, bush	425,470	Tobacco, hhds	4,134
Corn, bush	348,050	do. cases	5,290
Oats, bush	326,050	Butter, lkgs	24,000
Rye, bush	700	Cheese, bxs	79,125
Malt, bush	46,570	Cotton, bales	8,034
Barley, bush	—	Rosin	12,450
Beans, bbls	6,400	Spts. turp., bbls	1,825
Grass seed, bush	400	Dried Fruits, pkgs	102
Beef, pkgs	749	Eggs, bbls	7,760
Wool, bales	3,737	Peanuts, bags	800
Hops, bales	470	Leather, sides	69,190
Pork, bbls	1,122	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	2,031	Oil cake	5,118

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the loading incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 447 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 39,725 do.; same time last year, 18,769 do. Exports of peas past week, 577 bu.; since Jan. 1st, 470,788 do.; same time last year, 230,110 do. Both medlums and marrows have been quiet; sellers are generally quoting as before. Medlums are not offering freely; the supply is fairly liberal, but many of the best marks are speculatively held. The export of marrows has been small, but sellers look for an early revival of business. Pea beans are dull; no improvement in quality. There is some demand for white kidney. Red are quiet for the moment; recent small though steady sales seem to have stocked purchasers. Crop reports thus far are not favorable for a large yield, and the fact prevents a pressure to sell well-cured lots in store. Limas dull. Canadian peas are very quiet; quotations almost nominal. The low tone for green peas has moved off several round lots; prices still low. Black beans doing better again. We quote:

Beans—Prime pea, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, $1.00@$1.10; prime mediums, $1.05@1.10; fair to good, 80@90c.; poor, 40@50c.; prime marrows, $1.45@1.50; fair to good, $1.25@1.35; prime white kid., $1.20@1.30; other, $1.00@1.10; prime red kidney, $1.40@1.45; other, $1.15@1.25; Limas (Cal.), $2.75@3. Black beans, $1.75@4.00. Peas—Canadian, in bulk and bond, 97@—c.; green, $1.00@1.10; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BEESWAX.—Small lots of choice have been taken at 33@34c.

BUTTER.—The butter market is running in its usual summer groove—fine qualities leading the sales. A return of hot weather has checked shipments, and the scarcity threatens an advance. The strongest feeling is in pails, but fine State firkins and half tubs, especially the latter, beginning to feel the heaviest effect of a lightly-supplied market. The general trade for State is in a better shape than might have been expected, owing to the accumulation of stock that became unsalable through the severe heat. As it is, the steady export demand for cheap Western has reduced the supply of that grade, and market men who have use for under qualities of stock, are working upon the grades of State that were picked one side. We pay low prices, truly, but with the crop that is yet to come forward, the cleaner the market can be kept from drugging sorts the better it will be for producer and merchant. Western creamery sells close to State.

We quote: Choice pails, 28@30c.; prime, 25@26c.; poor to good, 19@23c.; creamery pails, choice, 28@30c.; good, 26@27c.; sweet cream pails, 22@27c. State firkins, choice, 26@27c.; fair to good, 22@25c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 27@28c.; fair to prime, 20@22c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 27@28c.; other, 19@21c.; Western creamery, choice, 27@29c.; other, 21@26c.; do. firkins, best, 16@17c.; other, 12@14c.; dairy tubs, choice, 21@23c.; other, 13@15c.; factory choice, 18@20c.; other, 15@17c.

CHEESE.—The warm weather has led a good portion of the supplies to be under line in quality, and for such grades low prices have prevailed. For factories, with the accompanying moderate offerings, better rates have been made. Selling at 9¼@9¾c.; closing at the highest rate.

New 9¼@9¾c. for fine and fancy factory; 7½@8c. for good; 6¾@7¼c. for fair; do., half skimmed, 4@6c.; do., skimmed, 3@4c. State farm dairy, 8½@9c.; good to prime, 7@8c.; fair to good, 6@7c.; Western factory, good and prime, 7@8c.; fair lots, 6@7c.; do. cheddar, choice, 8@8½c.; do. flat, choice, 8¼@8½c. Exports past week, 80,055 boxes.

COTTON.—There is a more general inquiry, and with reports of damage to the crop by worms, prices are higher. Quoted at 12 7-16@12 15-32c. for August; 12 3-16@11 7-32c. for September; 11 13-16@11 27-32c. for October; 11 23-32c. for November; 11 23-32@11¾c. for December; 11 27-32c. for January; 12@12 1-32c. for February; 12 5-32@12 3-16c. for March; 12 5-16@12 11-32c. for April; 12 15-32@12½c. for May; 13⅛@12 21-32c. for June; 12 25-32@12 3-16c. for July.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 3-16	9 3-16	9 3-16	9 3-16
Strict ordinary	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16
Good ordinary	10	10 7-16	10 7-16	10 7-16
Strict good do	11	11	11 1-16	11 1-16
Low middling	11⅜	11½	11⅝	11⅝
Strict low middling	11 15-16	12 1-16	12 3-16	12 3-16
Middling	12 5-16	12 7-16	12½	12½
Good middling	12 13-16	12 15-16	13 1-16	13 1-16
Strict good middling	13 5-16	13 7-16	13 9-16	13 9-16
Middling fair	13 11-16	13 13-16	13 15-15	13 15-16
Fair	14 9-16	14 11-16	14 13-16	14 13-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 3-16	Low middling	11⅜
Strict ordinary	10⅛	Middling	11½

DRIED FRUITS.—Small lots of new apples have been received from Virginia, of medium quality only, selling at 5½@7c. for quartered. New pitted cherries bring 11c; otherwise, nothing doing.

Apples—State, sliced, 8@8½c.; do., quarters, 8@8¼c.; Southern sliced, 8@8¾c. for prime; Blackberries, 7@7½. Peeled peaches, good and prime Georgia, 10@12c.; fancy, 13c. unpeeled peaches, new, nominal for halves and for quarters. Plums at 12@14c. Raspberries, 24c. Cherries, 14@14½c.

EGGS.—It has been a quiet week in eggs. A large share of the consumption is cut off by the absent portion of our population, and the cream and pastry trade is not a strong, steady dependence. Prices are lower and pretty liberal receipts, with hot weather, will be apt to further depress them; even Canadian have a wide range, and near points are low. We quote:

Near points, 19@20c.; State and Penn., 18@18½c.; Western, prime, 16½@17c.; do. other, 16@16½c.; Canadian, 15@17c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the latest revised quotations:

Oil peppermint, glass, $3.75; do. tin, $3.90; spearmint, glass, $3.50; do. tin, $3.75; wintergreen, $3.80; sassafras, 35c.

FEATHERS.—Quiet. We quote prime live Western geese, 53@55c.; other do., 25@40c.

FLOUR.—There has been a good export demand and prices are higher and strong.

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3.75@4.35; $4.50@4.60 for very common to fair extra do.; $4.65@4.75 for good extra do.; $4.80@5.35 for fancy do., and $5.40@6.50 for very choice extra; $3.75@4.35 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.10@4.70 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $4.75@5.25 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.75@6.60; fancy do. $6.75@8.25; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $6.10@7.15, round-hoop Ohio, $4.55@4.95, and trade brands of do. at $5.00@6.35; St. Louis, $4.75@6.00 for common to fair extra, and $6.15@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.50@7.15, and patent at $6.50@9.00; unsound stock at from $2.50@5.75; city mills extra at $5.55@5.80; No. 3 at $2.25@3.35.

FRESH FRUITS.—There is a fair display of peaches. Several days during the week we have had an offering of 75 car-loads from Delaware. The larger portion is poor, but some fine varieties begin to show, including York's and Crawford's. New Jersey peaches do not pay for shipment. Peach-growing districts in all parts of the country report a light crop. Apples are overstocking the market, and, as most of them are perishable, prices are very low. Southern grapes are variable in price—many in poor order. California plums sell well for fancy use. Southern slow of sale; the preserving demand is later on. We have seldom watermelons so low. Whortleberries are greatly in excess of the wants of any trade, and hardly pay for cultivation and shipment. Pears are in good supply and easy in price. The market is full of odds and ends in the way of small baskets of fruit, for which there is only a chance sale. Peanuts have declined. We quote:

Apples, Summer Pippin, ₱ bbl., 75c.@$1.25; Red Astrachan, $1@1.50; common, 50@75c. Pears, California Bartlett, ₱ box, $4@5; Southern, fancy, crate, $1.75@2.50; Bell, bbl., $2@2.50; sugar, $1.50; Cooking, $1.20@1.75. Peaches, Del., extra, crate, $1.50@1.75; do., fair to good, 50c.@$1.25; do., baskets, 50c.@$1.25; N. J. premature, 25@50c.; Plums, California, 20 lb. box, $3@5. Whortleberries, ₱ bush., 50c.@$1. Muskmelons, New Jersey, ₱ bbl., $1.50@3. Watermelons, $8@13. Peanuts—Virginia, prime, ₱ bush., $1.70@1.75; Wilmington, $1.50@1.70; common, 90c.@$1.25.

GRAIN.—For wheat, with the warm weather and a good deal of poor stock offering in consequence and light export demand, prices are lower; sales of steamer grades No. 2 Milwaukee spring at 92@95c.; No. 2 Chicago spring, 97c.; prime No. 1 Milwaukee is wholly nominal and Minnesota at $1.15; No. 1 Sheboygan spring, $1.19 for prime afloat and $1.17 delivered; ungraded spring, 85c@$1, the latter price for very good; fair and good red Western at 92@95c. for shipment; very choice new crop amber Indiana at $1.28@1.30. Rye depressed; quoted at 50@65c. for No. 2, 75@78c. for Canada, and 55@75c. for State. Corn is firm and fairly active; latest sales at 53@58½c. for steamer to very choice mill ungraded Western mixed, and in steamer ungraded at 55@55½c. for fair to very good; 57@58c. for New York mixed; 54½c. for New York steamer mixed; 60½c. for New York steamer yellow; 58@58c. for hot and warm; Southern yellow from dock sold at 60@61c.; Southern white in store sold at 61c. Oats are active at 36@37c. for No. 2 Chicago, and 40@41c. for mixed State.

HAY AND STRAW.—Receipts have fallen off, while demand is fair and prices steady.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60@65c.; retail qualities 80@90c.; clover, 50@60c.; salt, 55@65c. Straw is quoted at 75@80c. for long rye; 60@65c. for short rye; 50@70c. for oat.

Exports past week 250 bales; since Jan. 1st, 32,015 do.; same time last year, 29,038 do.

HIGHWINES.—Lower; held at $1.11.

HIDES.—There has been a more active inquiry for choice lots, for which prices are higher, with sales at 19@20c. Medium grades are without change. Reports from England are more favorable, but from the Continent unfavorable.

N. Y. State, 19@20c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Oils, all growths, 4@6c.; California (nominal), 15@18c. ₱ lb.

MILK.—Warm weather has improved the demand for milk and prices are working upward. Last week's rates were 75c.@$1.50 per can of 40 quarts. Extra care should now be taken to cool milk well before it leaves the farm. There have been many losses by souring.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry in good order, and that grade is not plenty at this season; quoted as follows: Dry-picked chickens, 18@22c.; scalded, 16@19c.; dry-picked fowls, 16@18c.; scalded, 14@16c.; turkeys, 13@17c.; very few at the latter wanted.

Live fowls and chickens have arrived heavily, and as Western is thin and rough sales are slow. Ducks are firm. New Jersey fowls sell readily at the extreme. We quote spring chicks, near points, 15@16c.; Western, 11@16c.

Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb 11@15c.; do. Western, 11½@12c. Roosters, 7@8c.; Turkeys, N. J. 14@16c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1; do. Western, 55@70c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.25; do. Western, 1.25@1.50.

Woodcock lower and sell well since they declined. Stall-fed pigeons also easier. State quoted at 85@90c.; Western, 75@87c. Stall-fed pigeons, $1.12@1.25; do. squab, 75@87c.; home live pigeons, ₱ pair, 30c.

PROVISIONS.—Export trade is very light and prices have ruled lower. Mess pork quoted at $19.10 for spot and $19.20@19.25 for August and September. Lincn at 10c. for long clear. Lard at $11@12½ for Western steam on spot and for August; $11.25 for September; $11.32½ for October. Stearine at 11¾@11¾c. for prime Western. Beef hams at $21 for choice Western. Beef at $5@11 for plain mess, $10@12 for extra mess, and $13 for packet, the outside prices for small lots choice. Tierced quoted nominal for prime mess and India mess.

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ₱ lb., Southern, $1.15@1.30; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, ordinary to refined, 11@18c. ₱ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. unclipped, 50c.@$1; lamb skins, 30@65c.

TOBACCO.—There has been an active demand and prices are strong.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	6 @ 6¼	7 @ 8
Good lugs	7½@ 9	8½@ 9½
Low leaf	9½@10½	10 @11
Medium leaf	11 @12	12 @13½
Good leaf	13 @14	14½@15½
Fine leaf	15 @16	17 @19

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England tine seconds	12½@11
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania assorted lots	11 @25
Ohio assorted lots	5½@ 6
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes have declined under the heavy arrivals from the West. A good many arrive in bad order, showing a great lack of care in barreling. Sweet potatoes are lower; they begin to sell. Tomatoes are scarce and high. Other garden truck lower, with a dull trade. We quote potatoes, ₱ bbl., $2@3; sweet do., $3@5.

Green corn, ₱ 100, 50@75c. Long Island, ₱ bush., $1.25@1.75; New Jersey, do., $1@1.50 ₱ crate. Marrow squash, bbl., $1.75@2; crookneck, $1.50; Wax beans, bag, $1.50@1.75; Cucumbers, L. I., ₱ 100, 30c.; Turnips, Rusia, ₱ bbl., $1.50@1.75. Cabbages, L. I., $3@7 ₱ 100. Potato onions, $1@3 ₱ bbl. Lima beans, ₱ bag, $1@1.50. Egg plant, ₱ 100, $6@8.

WOOL.—There has been a good brisk business on demand from manufacturers, and at the advance of 2c. ₱ lb on Western fleeces and spring California. X and XX Ohio fleeces quoted at 38@40c.; do. State and Western, 33@36c.; combing, 52@55c.; pulled, 30@35c. for super and extra.

ROCHESTER, Aug. 12.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $6.75; white winter, $7.00; double extra, $7.25. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.05@1.08; amber winter, $1.05@1.10; white winter, $1.10@1.20. Oats, nominal at 30@33c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 19@21c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 15@16c. Lard, 11@12½c. Apples, bu., 10@50c. Potatoes, bu., 60@75c. Beans, ₱ bu., 50@90c. Mess pork, $20.10. Wool, 20@30c. Hay, $8@11. Straw, $5@8. Timothy seed, $2.30@3.; clover, $9.50@10. Mill feed dull at $12 for shorts, $14 for shipstuffs, and $17 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 12, 1876.

INTENSELY hot weather is again upon us, and the market has been dull and weak. Buyers seemed to have great hesitancy in operating and preferred to take cheese on commission. A considerable amount was shipped in this way. About 500 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on delivery, and sales were made at a range of from 8 to 9¾c., the bulk going at 8½@9c. A large amount of factory cheese was offered, but as far as could be estimated only about 5,000 boxes were sold, the rest going forward on commission. The prices ranged from 8¾c to 9¾c., and nearly a thousand boxes changed hands on private terms, which means that the figures are to be fixed on next market day. Something over 5,500 boxes went at 9c.

The extremely hot weather tells on butter and but little was delivered this week. We quote tubs from farm dairies at 23 to 25c., and creamery at 24 to 26c.

We have recent advices from abroad. Our London correspondent says the extreme heat prevents the delivery of English cheese. American cheese, being in boxes, can be removed without injury. This, coupled with the low price, makes all qualities in good demand. Dutch cheese is dearer. We give quotations as follows:

American, extra fine, 55@56c.; fine, 53@54s.; good, 50@52s.; common and low grades, 36@48s. New English cheddar brings 70@96s.; Wiltshire double, 120@138s.; Cheshire medium, 90@94s.; fine, 78@78s., Scotch, 56@90s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 52@54s.; Gondas, 49@52s.; Derby shape, 54@58s.

Fine butter is scarce and Normandy is open price. Oleomargarine is preferred to secondary sorts. We quote:

Choumels, 130@132s., Corks, 124s.; Dorsels, 110s.; Jersey, 110s.; Frossland, 120s.; American and Canadian, 90@100s. ₱ cwt. Oleomargarine, or artificial butter, is quoted at 60@100s. ₱ cwt., according to the quality.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Aug. 12, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	5,013	28	2,236	9,832	000
Forty-Eighth St	31	54	571	1,578	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	100	11,452
Harsimus Cove	6,433	00	000	18,102	7,637
Totals this week	11,512	82	2,807	29,512	19,089
" last week	9,496	83	2,259	25,719	13,011

BEEVES.—Trade in horned cattle opened very slow on Monday last at further fractional reduction on the closing rates of the previous week. There was a heavy run to hand, the quality of which was from poor to coarse and fat. Prices ranged from 8@10½c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5½@9 cwt. The markets closed weak, with several herds unsold. Wednesday, trade very slow; prices, 6¾@10½c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@9¾ cwt. Thursday, sales slow and few; prices, 5¾@9½c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@9¾ cwt. Friday the markets closed weak at 8@9½c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@8¾ cwt. From 51@57 lbs., net, has been allowed; general sales on 53@56 lbs. net. The herds as above quoted were largely composed of grass-fed cattle. These being unfit for slaughter, depressed the markets. Quality ranged from poor to good. The herds direct from the plains sold at 6½@8½c. ₱ lb. Native steers, grass-fed, at 7@8¾c. ₱ lb. Native, do., part corn-fed, at 9@10c. ₱ lb. Grade, do., 10¼@10¾c. ₱ lb. Eleven cents ₱ lb. was given on cehll for a few selected head of corn-fed cattle. Bulls, live weight, sold at $2.70 cwt. Oxen at 8@9c. ₱ lb., net weight.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	11 @	11¼@
Fair	10¾@10¾	10¾@10¾
Poor	9¾@10¼	9¾@10¾
Poorest	8¾@ 9¾	8 @ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9¾	9¼@10¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade very slow, with one car load of fair quality cows returned to the country to await a better market—cows, calves included, sold at $30@$5 ₱ head. General sales, $50@60. One cow with calf sold at $70.

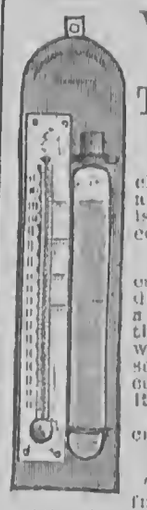
VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals scarce and in fair demand at 8@8½c. ₱ lb., with a few selected head at 9c. ₱ lb. Calves, part grass-fed and part buttermilk-fed, slow of sale at 5@6¼c. ₱ lb., also at $6@8.50 ₱ head. Ordinary quality calves slow, at 5@7c. ₱ lb. State calves sold at 6@7c. ₱ lb. State veals at 7½@8½c. Jersey veals, at 7½@9c. Pennsylvania veals at 7½@8½c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade remains moderately firm in sheep, but has fallen off nearly ½c. ₱ lb on lambs. The quality of the flocks to hand has been from coarse to good. Monday last sheep sold at 4@6¼c. ₱ lb., lambs at 6¾@7¾c. Wednesday, sheep, 1¾@6c.; lambs, 6@7½c. Thursday, sheep, 4@6¼c.; lambs, 6½@7½@. Friday, the markets closed dull; sheep, 1@5¾c.; lambs, 5¾@6¾c. State sheep, 4@6¼c.; Kentucky do., 1¾@5c.; Ohio, 4¾@6¼c.; Indiana do., 1¾@5¾c.; Virginia lambs, 6@7¾c; Jersey, 7@7½c.; Missouri, 6¾c.; Ohio, 7@7¾c.; Kentucky, 6¾@7¼c. Two carloads of Colorado sheep, $4.80 ₱ cwt.

HOGS.—No sales of live hogs. City dressed slow on Monday at 8@8¾c. ₱ lb., held at these rates up to Wednesday afternoon and closed on Friday at 7¾@8¼c., trade being inactive.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade remains slow but steady; inferior quality horses are chiefly dealt in; high-priced horses have not been quoted. Forty-two head poor quality light harness horses sold at $55@60 ₱ head, with one animal for $105; 23 ordinary quality, $115@175; 9 coarse quality heavy draft horses, $150@225; 3 pairs do., $400@420 ₱ pair; 11 pairs family carriage horses, $330@600 ₱ pair; 5 head course quality brougham horses, $225@375 ₱ head; city railroad horses, $95@130 ₱ head; stage line horses, $135@195 ₱ head.

New Advertisements.



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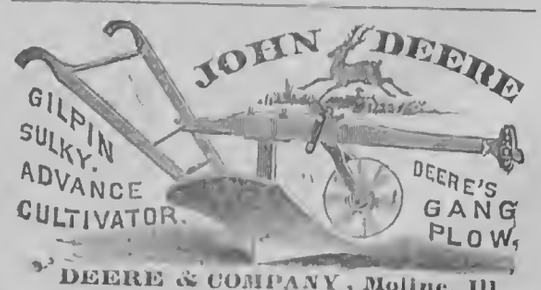

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

HAMILTON FISH is sixty-seven.

JOHN C. FREMONT is in New York.

THE Earl and Countess Dufferin are in California.

MR. WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT is at Cummington, Mass.

DIME-NOVEL writers are making millions out of Sitting Bull.

MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN is at present sojourning in Denver, Col.

M. OFFENBACH will publish a book entitled "Offenbach in America."

MISS ANNA E. DICKINSON will play in Washington the last week in August.

MISS LOUISA M. ALCOTT will soon see her works canonized in a Tauchnitz edition.

THE Emperor William will leave Ems and go to Wagner's music festival at Bayreuth.

MRS. BRICK POMEROY is going to make her debut in New York as Lady Macbeth shortly.

FIRE wasn't burning brisk. Kerosene. Amanda Sprout, aged ten. Sprouting in a better country.

THE average wealth of the Mormons is $140 each and their average families twenty-eight children.

GENERAL TOM THUMB recently exchanged his sloop yacht Maggie B. for a solitaire diamond valued at $3,000.

MRS. GENERAL CUSTER and the widows of Cols. Yates and Calhoun will reside at Monroe, Michigan, for the future.

PROF. HUXLEY goes to New Haven to inspect Professor Marsh's collection of Black Hills fossil remains. *Bon voyage.*

VERDI'S "Aida" has been translated into Russian, and is to be produced next season at the Marien Theater, in St. Petersburg.

A SISTER and daughter of Hon. John C. Breckenridge, formerly Vice-President of the United States, are visiting at Watkins, N. Y.

THE Black Hills miners are discussing the school question, and mapping out a new Territory, at the expense of Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

A "CREMATION FURNACE" which is being built by a physician on "Gallows Hill," near Washington, Pa., will shortly be completed and ready for perdition.

A MICHIGAN wild cat, accompanied by six well-grown kittens, recently besieged a dwelling, and imprisoned the entire family for a period of several hours.

GEN. SHERMAN is of opinion that if Samson had had Wendell Phillips's jaw, instead of the jaw of an ass, he might have slain three times as many of his enemies.

DON'T put your head out of the car window. A Boston man who tried it the other day on the Old Colony Railroad managed to sneeze away a handsome set of teeth.

A PHILOSOPHER asserts that the reason why ladies' teeth decay sooner than gentlemen's is because of the friction of the tongue and the sweetness of the lips.

MR. B. P. SHILLABER (Mrs. Partington) is recovering from the attack of rheumatism which has confined him to his house for some time. He is now able to sit up.

THE first birth at the Exhibition occurred in the Main Building The second in a bed of geraniums on the Horticultural grounds. The first was of kittens, the second of rabbits.

GEN. W. H. F. LEE, eldest son of General Robert E. Lee, turned his sword into a pruning hook after the war, and is now one of the most substantial farmers in Fairfax County, Va.

THE man who cannot wonder, who does not habitually wonder and worship, were he president of innumerable royal societies, is but a pair of spectacles behind which there is no eye.—*Carlyle.*

COL. W. S. GRIDLEY of Jackson, Mich., is preparing a history for the Centennial of all the persons born in the United States during or before the year 1776, who lived to reach the age of 100 years.

HERE is another. Miss Sarah Harvey of Hartford, incited thereto by the fame acquired by Miss Hyland of Lowell, has written 3,157 words on a postal card, being 1,000 more words than the Hylands.

THE king grasshopper was caught at Owatonna, Minn. He was two inches and a quarter in length, five-eighths of an inch across the back, and one and three-quarter inches in circumference.

THE King of Bavaria, instead of being the slender, spiritual-faced youth the photographs make him, and that Eugenie kissed in 1867, has grown shockingly fat, and rarely appears in public.

LAST SUNDAY was the kind of a day when a man wonders why some arrangement is not made by which he can send his new clothes to church while he remains at home to enjoy the secular privileges of the refrigerator.

A PETRIFIED boat which belonged to King Philip's fleet has been found in a cave on the coast of Spain. When the musical ex-Queen saw it she immediately struck the scale and sang "Do-ry! My fos-sil-ar-ma-do!"

THE Rev. J. W. Whitfield, Green Island, N. Y., is a faithful preacher, a skillful maker of mathematical instruments, a careful astronomer, a studious entomologist, a powerful painter a painstaking sculptor and an average poet.

GEN. DIX is writing his autobiography.

GETTING sunstruck is like getting anything else; a man must move around very lively to accomplish it.

THE most delicate method of giving a girl a "key" to your feelings is to send her a "lock" of your hair.

THE young man who gets up early these cool, delicious mornings to practice on the organ has a large circle of acquaintances, but no friends.

THE best way to learn geography now-a-days is to get up a war. It is thus we have learned all about Abyssinia, Khiva, Atchinee, Ashantee, Herzegovina and Servia.

A SKIPPER of a down East coaster, named the Hyena, was recently asked what his vessel was named after. His honest and sober reply was, "I don't know, I expect some great man in Congress."

PROFESSOR—What, can't you translate that passage? You must be very ignorant of the simplest knowledge of Greek. Student—I'm not as ignorant as you—he coughed, and after a pause added—think I am.

INDIAN customs seem to be reaching East. Old-Man-Afraid-of-His-Wife came home late the other night and crawled under the bed, but was persuaded to leave his reservation and become one of the Sore-Heads.

THERE is a man in Denver who can't go swimming on account of a big Newfoundland dog which he owns. The dog keeps a close watch on him, and every time the gentleman takes a plunge in the lake the dog drags him out.

IT is a pitiable sight to see a woman, who but one short year ago possessed an angel's sweetness of disposition and a child's artlessness of character, watching at the head of the stairs at two o'clock in the morning, with a towel-roller in her hand.

"WHAT kind of a picture would you prefer, miss," inquired a Newark photographer of a young lady customer.

"Well," was the reply, "take me with an expression as if I were writing a poem on the Centennial."

A TRAVELER staying over night with a Texan farmer whose estate was miles and miles in extent, said to him:—"You must have begun life very early to accumulate such an estate as this." "Yes," replied the farmer, "I began life when I was a mere baby."

"MRS. SAGE, I should like to know whose ferry-boats these are that I tumbled over in the hall?" "Ferry-boats, indeed, sir! Those are my shoes! Very polite of you to call them ferry-boats!" "Didn't say ferry-boats, Mrs. Sage, you misunderstood me—fairy boots, I said my dear friend."

"Playest thou at croquet?" says the aristocratic maiden at Newport. "Yeth," answers her Polo gallant; "yeth, once in a-while, but its awfully dull after mustangs, you know!" And the maiden told her mamma that he was rude to speak about mustangs in connection with croquet.

A CLERGYMAN who goes in for elegance of paraphrase did a fine thing lately in ringing the changes upon "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." "He that is accessible to auricular vibration," said he, "let him not close the gates of his tympani." If that isn't hifalutin', then what is?

THE Misses Atwood of Fryeburg, Me., have worked out their highway taxes, handling their hoes with graceful diligence. Their neighbors are said to have been "astonished and amused;" but, in Boston, ladies may be seen every day sweeping the streets with their long dresses, and nobody is entertained or shocked, apparently.

IN Vienna the handsome tenor kissed the soprano; the lady complained, and the management said: Mr. Tenor, behave. The next evening he wanted to kiss her again (in the play) and she said, "I will excuse you from the kiss." He said in revenge, "Thank God for that." The house sat appalled, the soprano waltzed off the stage, and Mr. Tenor is minus one ear and several teeth.

CONSIDERABLE so-called slang is classic. "Escaped with the skin of my teeth" is from Job. "He is a brick" is from Plutarch. That historian tells of a king of Sparta who boasted that this army was the only wall of the city—"and every man is a brick." We call a fair and honest man "a square man," but the Greeks described the same person as *Tetragonos*—"a four-cornered man."

THE Paris papers tell a pleasing story of Mme. Buffet and of Mrs. Augustus Craven, the author of "The Story of a Sister," who, as everybody knows or ought to know, is a French woman. She had sent a copy of her book to Mme. Buffet, who, meeting her shortly afterwards, said to her: "Oh, let me congratulate you on your book; it is charming. The deathbed of your father is really delicious."

THE Sultan's fourth wife is an English shop-girl. Her aunt had a store at Pera, and summoned her niece from England to help her in trade. The girl was pretty and attractive, and soon learned the Turkish language. One day she went to the harem of Prince Murad to deliver some articles which one of his wives had ordered, and she never returned.

No sooner do we hear of the building of a new and apparently impenetrable ironclad than it is followed by an account of a more destructive weapon of offence. After reading the account of the trial of a new American missile which took a splinter off the cheek of a book agent at a hundred rods, we imagine that the English will conclude that their ironclad navy is a miserable failure.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

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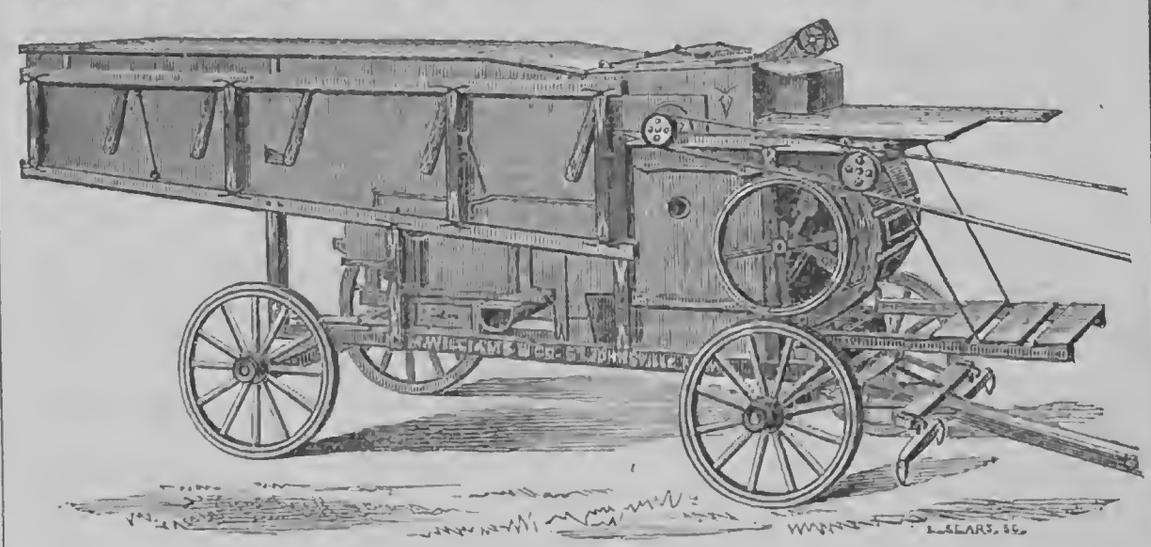

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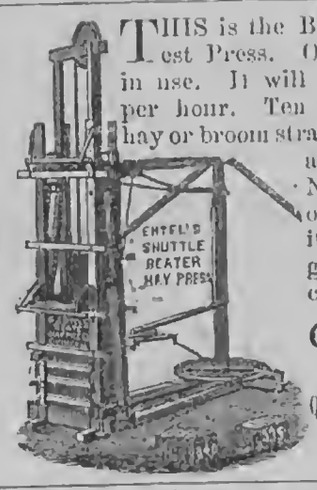

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Farm Help and Sundays.—Is the question in order referring to the rights of farm help on Sundays? I would like to ask your opinion on the subject. Is it an established rule among farmers generally to allow help to act their own pleasure on that day, or is it understood that all necessary chores must be attended to as on week days?—E. H. F.

It should be, if it is not, an established rule that farm help must do all necessary chores on Sunday the same as any other day. Cows require to be fed, watered and milked on Sunday the same as any other day of the week, and if it had been intended by their Creator that these operations should not be performed on a certain day, the functions of the animals would have been suspended during the designated period. If a man drives his horses to church, somebody must harness them, and when they return they must be unharnessed and fed, and it makes no difference who performs the task, it is work of a certain kind. Again, we will suppose a man keeps fifty cows and hired help to care for them, would it be reasonable to suppose that the proprietor or some of his family, who may know nothing of caring for such animals, must step in and relieve the hired man on Sunday? Although we, as a Christian community, agree to abstain from unnecessary labor one day in seven, it does not follow that the demands of nature must be neglected. In our own experience with hired help on a farm, we have never had a man refuse to take care of the same animals on Sunday that he had in charge on week days; but where there are several hands kept, they usually arrange to give each other "off days," one doing the usual work of two or three on one Sunday, and his associates doing the same for him in return. But to avoid all misunderstanding upon such points, it is well to make a definite bargain with hired help at the commencement of the season.

Ed. Rural:—On page 113 of the Country Gentleman's Annual Register of Rural Affairs for 1855, J. J. THOMAS says that lightning rods should not be fastened to buildings with glass insulators, but that they should be made of seasoned and painted wood. He says that glass is no protection after it becomes wet, and that the metallic fixtures that fasten it to the building have a tendency to attract the electricity to the building, etc. Now, I have a high house in an exposed situation, as regards lightning, and have just attached my rods by means of glass insulators and zinc staples. This I considered safe, but would like your opinion in RURAL. Is Mr. THOMAS correct?—L. H. BELG.

We have always considered Mr. J. J. THOMAS a very safe counsellor in matters pertaining to the farm and garden, but what he said in the "Annual Register of Rural Affairs" about the lightning rods is in our candid opinion rather against him—not but what his directions for putting up the rods are all right, but we cannot agree with him in regard to the value of lightning rods as a means of protection. We have always considered that a building was a *little* safer without a rod than with it, consequently have never had any experience in their efficacy or as to the best method of insulation. Our best authorities disagree on these points, and we are perfectly willing to let them. You will find on another page an interesting article on lightning rods in general, and how peddlers of this article manage to dispose of their wares.

C.—Will any of your medical subscribers or readers answer the following questions? My motive in asking them will appear when I say that I live in a malarial district and several members of my family have suffered from chills and fever:

How late in the afternoon upon clear days is it considered safe to venture out of doors? Does the malarial poison collect or condense near the earth as soon as, from the loss of the sun's rays, it becomes cooler than the atmosphere? Is it the sun's rays that dissipate the malaria? If so, ought one never to venture out upon cloudy days?

Most of the books I have read upon the subject caution against the evening air. Is not the morning air as dangerous? If not, why not?

REMARKS.—We join with our correspondent in asking information of those who have made such questions a special study. It is one in which every person is in a greater or less degree interested.

In an article by CHARLES P. RUSSEL, M. D., which we shall publish as soon as space permits, we find the following:—"It is most dangerous when the sun is down, and it (the malaria) seems almost inert during the day. It seems almost providential that the same agency which is so potent in its production should be the principal instrument of its destruction. Exposure in the open air after sunset, or until *several hours after sunrise*, should be avoided. It is generally regarded as having a specific gravity heavier than that of air, but this is by no means certain. It is doubtless rendered heavy by combining with night-fogs and dews, but upon their being dissipated by the sun, it rises into the air and probably becomes inocuous by wide diffusion and dilution."

Mary Waley.—When is the best time to start slips of Geraniums, Verbenas, double Feverfew and Fuchsias for winter blooming? ANS. The sooner the better.

Will shore-sand answer to root them in? ANS. Nothing better, if you wash the salt out.

How will it do to start all together in a box and transplant into pots after they are fairly rooted. ANS. It will do very well.

Should plants be started in the house or in open air. ANS. That depends upon the plant. Those above mentioned may be rooted out-of-doors, if sheltered from rain and sun and uniform moisture be provided. We should prefer to manage them in the house.

Will Stocks grow from slips? ANS. Ten-weeks' Stocks are annuals. The Intermediate and Biennial, or Brompton Stocks, will bloom in early spring, if the seed be sown at once and the plants lifted before frost. Cuttings of the last will root—but the plants are never so vigorous and the spikes are short.

I have a bed of seedling verbenas; will they continue to bloom if the roots be removed to the house before frost? ANS. No, they will not amount to anything. Better pot layers that have not bloomed.

Charles Lindsey, Waukegan.—The following recipe for dyeing Grasses and Mosses is a method recommended by the London Journal of Horticulture and adopted in Germany, and is, doubtless, as good as any:—Boil half a pound of alum in four quarts of water, and dissolve half a pound of finely triturated mineral blue in it, and a dark green dye is the result. Or a beautiful green dye may be made with indigo, carmine and picric acid, adding water to reduce it to the desired hue. As picric acid is rarely to be had of uniform strength, the exact proportions cannot be given.

To Dye Black.—Two ounces of logwood in one quart of water, quarter ounce of alum, and three ounces of copperas, the whole boiled together and the moss or grass dipped into it while hot. Or two parts of logwood and one of Ieabano thoroughly boiled together and a little green vitriol.

Red.—The best way to make this color is to boil as much red aniline in rain water as will produce a pretty red. The dye should be hot when the plant is dipped.

C. E. Lindsay.—I have a Portulaca that bears upon the same stem flowers that are all crimson, and others that are crimson striped with pink. They are great curiosities to me. Did you ever see anything of the kind? ANS.—We saw such flowers to-day. We have them also half-crimson, half-white. It is indeed seldom that the variegation is the same in any two flowers.

Of the plants you send to us for name, the one with the bright yellow, Clover-like head is *Polygala lutea*, growing in sandy plains from New Jersey to Florida. The other is *Plantanthera ciliaris*, the yellow-fringed Orchis. This grows mostly in the swamps of Canada and the United States, but it is not common.

Squash Bug.—We have never found anything which would destroy the Squash Bug (*Coreus tristis*) without injuring the vines. Paris green, as applied to potatoes for killing the Colorado potato beetle, will kill the bugs, but one does not like to apply such poison to squashes that are to be used for food. Carbolic acid has also been recommended for this purpose, but not having had occasion to use it, we cannot speak from experience as to its efficacy. Our Eastern agriculturists say that lime slaked in water impregnated with carbolic acid is certain death to all such insects, and we give the recipe for all it is worth.

L. M. W.—We have seen samples of the paper barrels to which you refer, but do not know the price, or where they can be had. If they are of any practical use and can be made cheaper than wooden barrels, we should think the manufacturer would advertise them.

Horseman.—The latest and probably the best work issued in this country on the treatment of the diseases of domestic animals is that of Prof. JAMES LAW of Cornell University, entitled "The Farmer's Veterinary Adviser."

J. T. H. Brady.—Please give the botanical name of the sweet little shrub inclosed. I have cultivated it over 50 years under the name of Lemon Verbena.

ANS.—It is Aloysia y citriodora.

Wire Fence.—CALKINS BROS. of Chicago, Ill., keep the wire fencing for sale, but we do not think they have an agency in this city, at least no notice of one has been sent to this office.

Rural Reader.—Accept our thanks for sending other specimens.

It is *Polygala polygama.*

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Wit and Humor.

THE COLOR QUESTION.

"Midas am you notesin' de strong hole what cullur am takin' an de conjections ob the publik mind?"

"Can't say dat I 'zactly 'preciates what you was conferrin' to Pete."

"Midas you hab 'lowed the interes' ob yoh miud to res' pon de sto' windows; hab you not?"

"I has ruminated pon de dry goods windows; yes Peto, but what am you 'proachin'?"

"Well, Midas, I will commence wid de lowes' one of dem tings an' 'luminate de fac.' You am aware that stockin's am de lowest of dry goods, an' dat's whar I gits the logic. You 'member dat de prevyus question was in favor ob white as de color. By stickin' pins in yoh meni'ry you 'rives at de pint when de public mind am waverin' on de subjec', an' dey put color in de heel an' toe; by reflectin' on de sto' windows you finds dat stripes am de fav'rite by a largo majority. You follows de conflecksbuns ob de young folks ob de country an' you finds dat solid color rules. Dem's de sentiments ob de risin' generations, an' de questions am, won't de next President be a cullud puson?"

SUDDEN SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL.

There was no preaching in this town last Sunday, and all in consequence of a practical joke perpetrated by a lively young girl. The young girl, inspired by the world, the flesh and a little devil, mixed, sat down, late on Saturday evening, and sent a note to each of the pastors. The missives were on tinted paper and written nicely. They each contained these words:—"All is discovered—fly." Nine of the proachers fled to St. Louis, and three went West. There is a sensation in town larger than a man's hand.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A pickpocket works on abstract prineiplos.

A fiendish act—The demon-etization of silver.

Old age appears to overtake a fast man soonest.

When the heat increases, the thermometer rises to oxplain.

Accommodating a friend with a fifty dollar note is an ex-L-hnt way of getting rid of money.

At a recent dinner of shoemakers, the following toast was given:—"May we have all the women to shoe and the men to boot."

One fellow when he saw a female woman step into the Buffalo ear, said they'd better change its name to Shecargo. The wretch!

A Georgia colored man has indulged in but twenty minutes sleep per night for the last 5 years and the poultry in that neighborhood are in the same fix.

A man called on a dilatory debter, and politely said:—"If you pay me the amonnt of your bill immediately, you'll oblige me; if not, I shall have to oblige yon."

It is just as hard work to get any kindling wood split as it ever was; bnt over sixty young men of Rome are ready to go West and avenge the death of Custer.

Won't there be fun after the Indian war is over and Sitting Bull takes a turn around among the newspaper offices to find out who wrote those articles!

An Optical Illusion—A chandler having had some candles stolen, a person bid him bo of good cheer, "for in a short time," said he "I am confident they will all come to light."

"It was pitched without," said the clergyman, and an old base-ball player who had been calmly slumbering awoke with a start and yelled "foul." The first bass came down from the ehoir and put him out.

A fashion exchange says that "the jabon is now generally used by married ladies." This would indicate that a harmless but incorrect method of spelling jawbone is now prevalent in polito society.

Wasn't it rough, on Ella, just as she was telling Frederick, at lunch, how ethereal her appetite was, to have the cook bawl out, "Say, will ye have yer pork and greens now, or wait till yer feller's gone?"

If an old woman in a red cloak were to overtake a fierce ram in a narrow lane, what transformation would take place? Tho ram would turn to butter (butt her), and the old woman into a scarlet runner.

"Where's the bar?" asked a dirty-looking stranger of tho bell-boy of a hotel the other day. "What kind of a bar?" asked the latter. "Why, a saloon bar, of course; what do you suppose I mean? "Well," drawled the boy, "I didn't know but you might mean a bar of soap!"

YOUNG AMERICA'S IDEAS OF SELF-MADE MEN.

Johnnie.—"I say, mother, thought you said Uncle George was a self-made man?"

Mother.—"Yes, I did; but why do you ask?"

Johnnie.—"Well, I thought he ought to have made more hair on his head, that's all." (Sensation.)

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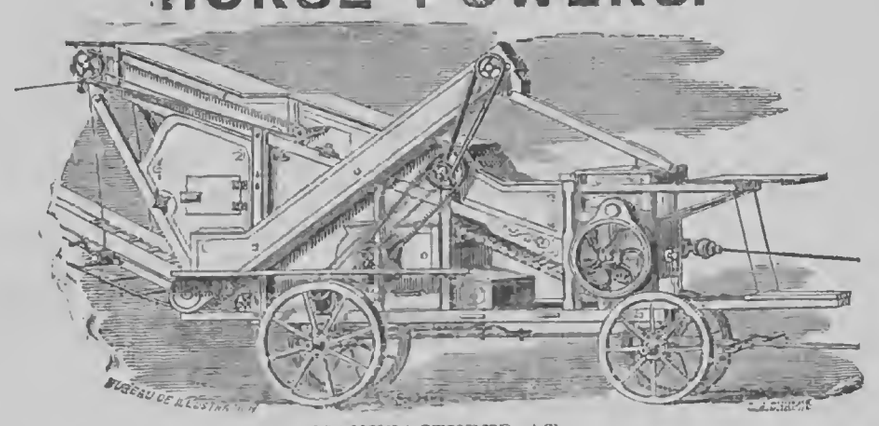

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Horticultural.

NEW AND OLD RASPBERRIES.

It is said that all strawberries are *good*, but some are a little better than others. And the same may be said of raspberries. Of course we speak for the majority in expressing this opinion, for there are persons who cannot see, or taste, any good in either of these extensively cultivated and almost universally admired fruits. But what most interests the majority of those who have gardens, is to know which are the best varieties now in cultivation. This, however, is a difficult question to answer, inasmuch as the best for one locality and climate may not be the best for another. In addition to this variation in adaptation of varieties to localities there is a wide difference of opinion in regard to quality, which may be attributed to individual tastes. One person seeks sweet fruits, another acid, while a third delights in a musky flavor of certain kinds, consequently it requires just the wide range found in nature to suit all tastes. But the adaptation of varieties to climate and soils, is a serious barrier to the wide distribution and cultivation of many kinds of fruits, and with none is it more apparent than with the raspberry. The wild species are found over a very wide range of country, but generally most abundant in situations protected from severe cold in winter and the hot scorching rays of the sun in summer.

Our horticulturists have been raising new varieties of the raspberry for the past century or more, vainly endeavoring to produce one in which are combined all the valuable properties belonging to this fruit; and while much progress has been made towards the production of such a a sort, still it has not as yet appeared among us. Very excellent varieties we certainly have in abundance, among which sorts are found adapted to almost all soils and climates, hence few persons owning gardens and desiring to cultivate raspberries need fear a failure if a proper selection be made.

The ordinary farmer who, perhaps, does not possess the skill of the experienced horticulturists in cultivating fruits, or has not the time to spare for giving the best and most careful attention to his plants, will succeed best with our hardy native varieties, and while they may not be quite as large, or possess, in every instance, the exquisite flavor of the foreign they will, as a rule, give the best satisfaction.

The black-caps, as they are termed, are not only very hardy and prolific, but succeed in a variety of soils and over a wider range of climate than the red sorts. They thrive in the extreme Southern States, where it is next to impossible to keep a variety of our wild red raspberry, (*Rubus strigosus*), alive. The canes, also, are so very hardy that they grow throughout the entire Northern States and in the Canadas.

There is, perhaps, some choice in the different varieties, but the Doolittle, Large Miami or McCormick, (now called by some Mammoth Cluster), known twenty or more years ago, have no superiors among the latest introductions. Surprise, Seneca, Fay's and Davison's Thornless are excellent and well-known varieties. The yellow-caps are ornamental and of fair quality, but none of them are as good or valuable as the blacks.

NATIVE RED VARIETIES.

We have tested upon our grounds nearly everything offered to the public in the way of native red raspberries, therefore can speak from experience as to their merits.

The *Kirtland*, which was one of the first of our native sorts cultivated for market purposes, is still a favorite with many on account of its earliness, firmness, good flavor and brilliant color. The berries are rather small, however, to successfully compete in market with the foreign sorts, but elsewhere it will probably always command a ready sale at remunerative prices.

Wilmington, also called by the Indian name, *Susquco*, is another native sort long known to cultivators of small fruits in the Eastern States. The berries of good size, globular, firm, bright color and good flavor. The plants are somewhat dwarfish in habit, and unless the ground among them is covered with some kind of mulch in summer the berries are liable to get splashed with mud during heavy rains. The canes are very hardy and seldom sustain injury during our coldest winters.

Turner.—This is a variety of recent introduction, and said to be very popular among the fruit growers of the Western States. It is certainly one of the most vigorous and productive sorts in cultivation, but with us the fruit is not as firm as the *Wilmington* or *Kirtland*, although as large as the former and about equal to it in flavor. It will doubtless become a popular sort in the North-west, if not in the East.

Cuthbert.—This is a new and promising variety, but we have not tested it sufficiently to speak positively as to its merits.

Elm City, *Stoever*, *Allen's Red Prolific* and *Bristol* are old sorts which have been discarded by a majority of our fruit growers. A few, however, hold on to the first and think it worthy of cultivation.

Herstine.—This is, we believe, the only one of some four or five promising sorts known as the Herstine Seedlings, which has gained even a slight local reputation. The Herstine Seedlings were supposed to be pure native sorts, or at most but slightly tinctured with foreign blood, but unfortunately those described and disseminated show more of the *Rubus Idæus* characteristics than of the *R. strigosus*. This is especially the case in the one bearing the name of their originators, viz., the *Herstine*. It is, however, a handsome variety and valued highly by many cultivators. The accompanying illustration of a branch loaded with fruit was drawn from life and fairly represents this variety in both form and size. Some of our raspberry culturists report the *Herstine* perfectly hardy as far North as Central and Western New York; others consider it tender even in much warmer latitudes; but all this difference may arise from the soil in which the plants are growing, or the care bestowed, for it is a well-known fact that a vigorous late growth in a raspberry cane increases its chances of passing safely through the winter. This is a peculiarity of the raspberry which applies to but few other plants, for with most kinds we look for a full ripening of the wood in order to insure hardiness.

THE HERSTINE RASPBERRY.

Field Crops.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

DEAR RURAL:—It is in the Valley of the Connecticut River, through both Connecticut and Massachusetts, that most of the tobacco known as Connecticut Seedleaf is grown. Hereabouts that raised on the eastern side of the river is, as a rule, of finer leaf and lighter color than that which is grown on the western side, varying as does the soil; for it is a maxim with tobacco growers that as is the color of the soil so is the color of the crop, and a quite light, sandy soil, well enriched, gives the best results.

There are probably 150 acres of tobacco, rather more than less, grown in this town, in lots varying in size from a few square rods to six or seven acres. The plants are raised from seed sown early in the spring in beds properly prepared for the purpose, and from which they are transplanted to the field.

If the place selected for tobacco culture be in grass, it is usually, but not necessarily, plowed in the fall, and replowed and thoroughly harrowed in the spring. For the best results the soil should be plowed deep, well pulverized and properly prepared with barn-yard manure, the quantity limited only by the supply, thoroughly mixed therewith by plow and harrow. When the land is moderately rich and manure is scarce, it is sometimes the practice to apply it in furrows, which, being covered, establish the places for rows. Guano and prepared fertilizers are sometimes used to advantage, but barn-yard manure is preferred.

When the plants have leaves about as large as a silver dollar they are fit for setting, and usually between the 10th and 20th of June rows are prepared in the field by throwing up light furrows three feet and a half apart, on which the plants are set two or two and a half feet apart in the rows, giving five or six thousand plants to an acre. The plants should not be allowed to dry at all after taking from the seed bed, and some think it best to keep them in water until they are set in the ground. All prefer to set them when the ground is moist, and unless immediate and frequent showers occur, it is necessary to water them occasionally until root growth is established. Such plants as fail to grow, or, after starting, are eaten by the cut-worm, which is the first enemy to attack them, are re-set. Weeds must be kept down, and more labor is expended in keeping the ground clean and loose than for any other crop.

The tobacco worm commences his ravages when the plant is about half grown, and requires direct and personal attention. He seems proof against all poisonous or offensive applications, and no wonder. If he can thrive on tobacco, the nastiest of all growing things, how can it be expected that he will succumb to anything else? The only effectual treatment in his case is with the fingers and foot. A sudden and violent death is his fate. And we can but mourn for him when we remember that, repulsive as he is in form and feature, if left to carry out his natural instincts, he might rid the world of an abomination. It is said that this worm and man are the only creatures that will eat tobacco. We can forgive the worm, for it is his nature. Man with much difficulty acquires what King JAMES very properly called "the damning, wicked practice," and ought to be ashamed of himself.

In six or eight weeks after setting, with a favorable season, the flower buds appear, the stalks having attained a growth of six or seven feet. The plants are then "topped" by breaking them off at about half their hight. By this the whole strength of the plants, much of which, without topping, would go to perfect the seed, is thrown into the portion that is left. The leaves rapidly increase in size, and from their axils side branches, called suckers, immediately start. These are not allowed to grow, however, no matter how persistently they attempt it.

In about ten weeks from setting the tobacco will begin to ripen. Experience and judgment are required to determine just when to cut it. This is best done with a saw prepared for the purpose, and with which the stalk, often more than two inches in diameter, is severed close to the ground at one stroke. The plant is allowed to fall on the ground to wilt, which seems to toughen the leaves so that they can be handled without breaking. If cut at midday a hot sun will burn and completely spoil them before they can wilt. After wilting they are taken to the barn or shed and suspended by the buts, at such distances as will admit of a proper circulation of air, until cured.

Several methods of hanging are practiced. Some place the plants alternately on either side of a pole, holding them in their places by tying twine around the buts and over the pole; others string them on thin board or lath, which is passed through the buts, or have hooks inserted in lath on which to hang the plants. When lath are used, it is sometimes the practice to hang the plants in the field on temporary frames for several hours, or if the weather permits, for a day or two, that they may wilt as much as possible before taken to the shed.

After several weeks the evaporation of the water will have left the leaf thin and silky and the leaf stem hard. Then, when the atmosphere is in such a state of humidity as to give the leaf sufficient dampness and consequent pliability, that it may be handled without breaking, the plants are taken down and laid in piles, buts outward and tips overlapping, to await a convenient time for "stripping." This is done by taking the plant by the but in one hand and picking off the leaves with the other. When a handful or a "hand" is gathered, the leaves are fastened together by winding one about the buts of the rest. Either when stripping or afterward, and before putting into hands, the leaves are sorted into wrappers, seconds and fillers, and are valuable in the succession as named.

The hands are packed in boxes of convenient size to handle, in which they go through a process known as "sweating," during which the hands seem to approach putrefaction, but finally dry out again, and are thinner and more silky than before. They are then ready for the manufacturer.

Most of the crop raised here is sold after stripping to packers, but some prefer to sweat their own crop.

Probably there is no other crop that increases in weight so much in so short a time as tobacco. Plants whose entire growth occupies only about ten weeks after setting often weigh eight or ten pounds, with leaves measuring from 36 to 40 inches in length and 20 to 24 in width, and exceptional leaves are often found very much larger. It is evident, therefore, that it must be very exhaustive to the soil, and perhaps if its culture should be long continued on the same ground it would impoverish it. But the experience of the last forty years in this vicinity shows no such result, but rather that, with proper rotation, it is not injurious. The absolute necessity of manure for its production is an incentive to the farmer, and hundreds of tons more are made each year than would be but for this necessity. Many ditches are cleaned out, hummocks cut off, weeds and coarse grasses gathered, all of which go to increase the manure heap, and more stock is fed than would be if no tobacco was raised. No manure, no tobacco; no tobacco, no money crop, are here well understood facts. That tobacco draws largely on the potash in the soil cannot be denied, but there are other constituents of which it uses sparingly. It scarcely touches lime.

This is not a wheat-growing region, but in instances where wheat has succeeded tobacco nearly or quite as good a crop is made as would be expected from the same soil and preparation had no tobacco been first raised. Grass is often sown after tobacco, and a strong sod with good crops for years thereafter attest that tobacco does not take all the virtue from the soil, although the grass thus grown is not at first as good as that from a well-kept meadow that the plow has not desecrated for many years.

The cost of raising an acre of tobacco, it is estimated, is as follows:

Plowing and harrowing	$6 00
Manure	100 00
Plants and setting	15 00
Cultivating	10 00
Topping, worming, and suckering	10 00
Cutting and hanging	20 00
Stripping and packing	20 00
Total	$181 00

I make no account of the use of the land, which is more than paid for by its increased fertility.

A ton of cured leaf is not an extraordinary crop, but 1,500 pounds may be a full average. Prices vary with the state of the market, the best wrappers sometimes selling as high as 50 cents a pound, and at others for not more than 25 cents, while seconds are much less, and fillers but nominal in price. The average of all the crops for the past ten years would not be more than 28 cents per pound. This gives for 1,500 pounds $420, which leaves, after deducting the cost of producing as before given, $237 for the net profit of an acre.

But it is still questioned by some if tobacco raising is not enriching the farmer of to-day at the expense of those who come after him; if in a succession of years more value cannot be obtained by ignoring tobacco and raising other crops; or in other words, if more life-sustaining products cannot be raised by increasing as much as possible with the manure made, the fertility of the whole farm, and using its results in still further enriching the soil. We have, as stated above, a profit of $237 from an acre of tobacco, beside leaving the acre richer than before. If with this money fertilizers are bought and applied to the rest of the farm, will it be richer than if the labor and manure expended on the tobacco had been given to e grass and other crops? The farmers here think yes, and thei experience of many years seems to prove it. Are they mistaken?

From the sowing of the seed bed till the crop is sold and the money pocketed there is continual risk and anxiety. Drought may interfere with the setting of the plants or with their immediate growth; the cut-worm may render it necessary to re-set many after the rest are well started, which, if they grow, render the field spotted and unequal in time of ripening; tobacco worms and sometimes grasshoppers may eat holes in the leaves, rendering the best only fit for seconds; a heavy wind may break many leaves; a hail storm may in 15 minutes entirely ruin the whole crop; a protracted rain may drown it, as the roots cannot be submerged more than 12 hours without utter ruin. When safely housed it may not cure well—it may rot on the poles, and when finally packed it may not sweat out good. But here, as in all other business, there seems to be a definite relation between risks and profits, and he who chooses to ride on the fast train of travel or money making, must take the chances of a smash-up.

L. A. R.

Bloomfield, Conn.

Farm Economy.

WESTERN FARMING.

IT occurs to me that a few thoughts concerning farming in the West may serve a good turn to many readers of the RURAL who are coming from the East—at least I am positive that my accumulated experience would have benefited me materially could I have had it earlier.

A large proportion of those who come to open up farms are men who have had little or no experience in farming previously, and they generally succeed the best, for they have no theories—adapted only to some other latitude that must be thrown overboard.

The great mistake is to suppose that the road to success can best be traversed with a plow. If one desires to make grain raising the business of his life, he can scarcely do worse than come here. We cannot compete with some other States in producing wheat, or even corn, and yet very fair mixed crops are raised. It does not pay to raise grain to ship. Wheat should be raised simply for home consumption. Corn should only be sent to market changed into hogs, cattle and wool. Where the deer and antelope love to dwell, sheep are raised with little care. Where vast herds of bisons have fled, our native cattle thrive.

The greatest curse to the Nebraska farmer today is a superabundance of first-class farm machinery purchased "on time." If the capital locked up in headers, harvesters, grain drills, etc., were in sheep, we could soon laugh at the locusts. It will pay to ship wool, it will pay doubly well not to ship it, but manufacture goods at home. Streams of water are waiting to set a million spindles humming, and the operatives will help to consume our surplus grains.

It is a fact that I cannot account for that cattle, other than Texas, command a price almost equal to that price in Michigan, while the cost of production is comparatively nothing. Look at this? A good quality of hay can be had for the cutting. During the six months that crops are in the way, viz., from May to October inclusive, stock is herded for one dollar per head, the owner being relieved of all care of them, even to the giving of salt.

R. H. CRANE.

Harlan Co., Neb.

POTATO BEETLES.

WE have been troubled with potato beetles in our section for six years, and have learned to so manage that we get plenty of potatoes in spite of them. Hand-picking is of no account when the beetles are plentiful, though we tried it at first. We find the best method is to take Paris green in the proportion of a teaspoonful to a gallon of water, and let the most careful hand on the premises have the job of sprinkling the vines with a watering-pot. In the middle of the day, after the dew is gone, the beetles are most hungry. If it is showery, so that the poison will be likely to be washed off directly, we wait for a more fitting time. For late potatoes, like peach blows, it is sometimes necessary to go over the vines three times—the early ones not as often. Wait until the young larvæ are hatched out, and go to work, before applying the poison. For a large field it saves time and labor to draw a barrel of water out on a stone boat.

FARMER'S WIFE.

WIND MILLS ON FARMS.

EDS. RURAL: I notice that you speak very highly of wind mills. As a working farmer I, too, think that a wind mill is a very profitable thing for a farmer to own and very convenient—at least it has proved so to me. I have worn out one mill of the old-fashioned kind, and a year ago bought an Althouse & Raymond mill, made by the Curtis Manufacturing Co. of Albion, N. Y. This mill pumps all the water needed for my live stock and to irrigate an acre of land used as a garden, and furnishes enough, besides, for a fountain in my front yard. In addition to this, I cut feed for my cattle in winter. It has a 12-foot wheel, and cost me about $126, and in one year I think the mill has paid for itself ten times over.

I am going to get a larger mill, one that is geared, to use to grind feed. I think it will pay. I am not interested in the sale of this mill or any other, and I presume that there are many others as good as this one, but I give my experience, and if it is worth anything to brother farmers, I shall be glad of it.

I find it very profitable to cut my fodder in the winter. My stock seem to do better; eat what is given them without wasting. I would like to ask if a milk and cheese house should be shaded. I have one, and, for some reason, milk does not keep good in it. It stands where the sun shines on it all day. Would it be a benefit to set trees around it?

JAMES KNAPP.

Rochester, N. Y.

[IT will certainly benefit the milk room to give it shade. Plant the trees this fall, and use those of good size.—ED. RURAL.]

The Poultry Yard.

KEEPING POULTRY.—No. 3.

AFTER a novice has decided what breed he will keep, the next thing to be taken into consideration is, of whom or where they can be obtained. On this point I will offer some advice that will, if followed, save the beginner time and many a failure.

Do not buy a trio or more of fowls that are of one brood, or even related, as most fowls are in one yard. Many persons start in this way and go through one year of mortification at not raising but few if any chicks. Having paid a high price for first-class birds, and perhaps built a new house for them, it is but natural that the purchaser should consider himself entitled to some return, and if it does not come, he is inclined to blame the one from whom he purchased his stock. All his dreams of fine broods of chicks running about to delight his eye vanish, and this dampening process often causes the novice to throw up breeding of fowls with disgust, except he is one of those persistent fellows who will pocket his losses and begin again.

Why not begin aright and save yourself trouble? First, find responsible dealers in breeds that you desire and procure the hens or pullets of one, and the cocks or cockerels of another, and even then it is well to ascertain whether the fowls of both parties are related. If they are only remotely related, there is not much to risk. But look out to get all clean-feathered, lively birds. See that the cock is full of life and vigor. To run with pullets, a cock is best; if with hens, a fine young cockerel is considered best.

This is the best time of the whole year to buy stock cheap; many breeders have now ceased breeding for the season and desire to dispose of their old stock to make room for the new and, as he hopes, improved young ones. An. Another breeder is, perhaps, for want of more room, overrun with young cockerels, and will often sell them for half the price he would in October, or later, and yet pick out good birds. Most breeds will now show what degree of perfection they will most likely attain, except the Asiatics, in which size is the great desideratum. If the purchaser intend starting for prize birds, he must have weight in Asiatics; if he have not prizes in view, then he can buy half-grown stock at a very moderate sum and from excellent strains; care will bring the rest.

Many an old breeder will fall into this mistake of breeding a trio of relations, finding it difficult to obtain fresh blood of as good points, taking the chances with them; the results are so inferior that they determine to do so no more, but continue for the reasons named. Some writers go so far as to advocate inbreeding, but it must be under peculiar circumstances, which do not usually present themselves, that success can be obtained by such a course; but the inexperienced had better not try inbreeding, for if they do, it will cost them many a disastrous and perplexing failure.

H. HALES.

CURE FOR CHICKEN CHOLERA.—We are indebted to a subscriber's wife, says the Gadsden Times, for the following cure for this disease: Mrs. Moore says:—"Last year I lost upward of 100 chickens. I tried every remedy I could hear of without success. This year I gave my chickens a feed or two every week of onion tops, boiled and mixed with meal, and kept a little sack of tar in the trough, and found it successful—have not lost a chicken. My neighbors and the tenants on our place have lost nearly all they had by this disease.

Dairy Husbandry.

A CHEESE FACTORY IN CONNECTION WITH THE MILK TRADE.

The proper manner of managing the city milk trade has been a question that has long agitated the milk farmers, as well as those engaged in the sale of milk after it leaves the farmer's hands. According to the general testimony of those who produce milk, great abuses have been practiced from time to time upon the milk farmers by the milk contractors, or those who take the milk from first hands and who virtually control the city milk trade. It is claimed that these contractors unite together to control prices; that they do indeed fix the rates at which the farmer shall sell his milk, and often the price is made so low as to leave producers but a slender margin above the actual cost of production. Now, the question may occur here as to whether the same privilege of combination does not obtain among farmers as with contractors, and hence the farmers, having the product in their own hands, have not altogether the advantage in fixing the rates on their milk. Many, at first thought, would be more ready to charge the farmers with combinations than the contractors. But however plausible in theory this may seem, it does not prove to work well in practice. The milk producers are many, and they do not readily form combinations or hold together. Individual interests and peculiar circumstances surrounding the former and his calling are powerful levers to break up the best-arranged combinations, while, on the other hand, the contractors are few; they have one interest; they have control of the milk routes; they are familiar with the trade; they are directly on the ground of operations and are too strong for the farmer, who, with the multiplicity of his avocations at home, his need of ready money, and his fear of losses on a most perishable product, all make him yield to the situation. Of course he grumbles lustily, but, seeing no safe way out of the trouble, is obliged to submit. But the fixing of prices is not the whole of his troubles. When there is an oversupply of milk in the market, the contractors begin to complain of bad milk, the surplus being often returned or dumped in the city sewers and the loss charged against the producer. There are other petty annoyances to which the milk farmer is subjected, and from which relief is sought. Indeed, the burden of all these troubles has become so onerous of late years that the milk farmers have held conventions from time to time and various plans have been suggested to obviate the grievances complained of; but little good has come from them.

Recently we had an interview with Mr. A. R. Gove, of the firm of Paige & Gove of Boston, who are wholesale dealers in milk in that city. Mr. Gove gives us the general plan on which his firm conducts operations, and by which it is claimed the milk trade can be operated with more satisfaction to farmers, and in fact to all parties interested. The firm contracts for milk direct from the producers and sells to the milkmen, who supply customers. The milk comes largely from New Hampshire and is put up in 8½-quart cans, which are packed in ice on the cars and are received at the depot in East Cambridge, near which the firm have a cheese factory for working up all surplus milk. The milk, being packed in ice, arrives in good order, and is sold on the arrival of the cars to the milkmen, who run their various milk walks and supply their regular customers. All surplus milk, or that which cannot be sold, goes to the factory and is there converted into cheese. This, it will be seen, avoids loss, since, if the milk was returned to the producer, it could only be used as a feed for hogs, and would not much more than pay for the trouble of handling.

Paige & Gove receive daily about 600 cans of milk, or somewhere near 1,200 gallons. Their contract with the farmers is for six months, as follows:—In April, 29 cents per can of 8½ quarts is paid; during May, 27 cents; in July, 26 cents; in August, 30 cents; in September, 31 cents. The contract also makes allowance for surplus milk, or for that worked up at the factory, since in turning the milk into cheese it nets considerably less than when sold direct for consumption. The firm gets on all milk sold about 10 cents per can more than the price paid to producers, which is not considered more than a fair remuneration for rents and other expenses connected with the business, together with the risks of bad debts, the contractors of course selling the milk on their own account.

We are told that this plan gives general satisfaction, and indeed it seems to be a great improvement over the old way, as it relieves the milk farmer from many of the annoyances connected with the business when thus conducted. Of course the fixing of rates is the most serious point to be adjusted, and when the contractors are disposed to pay the farmer fair, living prices for his milk, there can be no further differences to be settled.

The prices agreed upon under the contracts of Paige & Gove, it will be seen, are not far from 3½ cents per quart. This, perhaps, by most milk producers would be considered low, still it is fully one cent per quart more than the cheese dairyman is realizing from his milk, and the decline in prices must be taken into account.

Some such plan as that described could be advantageously introduced, it would seem, for conducting the milk trade in other cities than Boston. Possibly an improvement on this plan would be for the milk farmers of a district to form an association and erect a factory on their own account and thus trade directly with the milk peddlers through an agent or salesman appointed by and under the control of the association. They could then dictate a higher rate for their milk. But this plan also would have its drawbacks, since it would involve a more complicated machinery in the business, while the liability of mismanagement by the agent and the loss from selling to irresponsible parties must be considered. In fine, as the whole business would not be likely to be managed so closely and profitably by an agent as by men who were directly interested in the sale of milk on their own account, the net profits might be no better than on the Paige & Gove plan.

There is no trade that demands a more thorough reformation than the city milk trade. Consumers have rights as well as farmers; they should have a good article at fair rates, and whether the trade be managed on the plan of Paige & Gove or through an association, as suggested, it is the duty of those having control to see that the rights of consumers be protected. We are opposed to all exorbitant and excessive prices for farm products. The farmer and the merchant should be fairly remunerated, but all combinations to extort unreasonable values from the consumer should be discouraged and broken up.

We should be glad to hear from our friends in New England concerning the Paige & Gove plan of conducting the milk trade, and will our esteemed friend Wetherel of the Boston Cultivator, who has been guarding the Boston milk trade, tell us how the plan named is working?

HOT WEATHER MILK AND FLOATING CURDS.

The intensely hot weather of the past few days is causing trouble at the cheese factories, and floating curds are not unfrequent even in the best regulated establishments. We enjoin upon dairymen the necessity of more than ordinary care during this hot weather in cleansing dairy utensils, and in every department of the dairy extreme neatness should be observed. Let no foreign matter fall in the milk while milking. Let the pails and cans be thoroughly washed after use with *boiling* water, and see to it that there are no accumulations of dried milk in the corners or crevices of these utensils, because these particles of filth are active ferments which develop with wonderful rapidity under the high temperature of the weather we are now having. But especially let dairymen have a care in driving cows leisurely to the stable at milking time. A great share of the floating curds now making their appearance may be traced to the rapid driving of some herd or herds, thereby overheating the cows and rendering the milk feverish and bad. The milk of four or five cows which have been raced in the pasture by dogs just previous to milking will set 600 gallons of milk in active ferment and will cause the curds to float during this intensely hot weather, even though precautions be taken in cooling down the milk at night.

At the Old Fairfield factory yesterday (Aug. 8) we saw Mr. Fairchilds' method of treating "floaters." No change in the process of manufacturing from that employed for cheese made of good milk, except in the development of acid, which is carried along considerably further than for ordinary cheese. Mr. F. says he wants the acid developed so far that the curds will "*spin*" from an inch and a quarter to an inch and a half under the hot iron test. Then let the curds lie exposed longer after salting, and after pressing for a time, remove the hoop and allow them to be exposed to the atmosphere a short time; then, on returning to the hoop and under press, an additional quantity of whey will be expelled, which otherwise would not come out until fermenting in the dry room.

Mr. F. has been quite successful in his treatment of floating curds this season, and he showed us several cheeses made from very bad milk. These cheeses had cured down nicely and were of very close texture, and though not equal in flavor to those made from perfect milk, yet with no strikingly marked peculiarity to arrest the attention of dealers or cause them to suspect that the curds had been "floaters." It is always well to know how to treat floating curds, but it is better to take the proper steps to have milk in good order, so as to avoid its making a floating curd. Floating curds, it may be remarked, are salted a little higher at the Fairfield factory than ordinary curds. Such cheeses may at a certain age pass in the market without serious objection, but they lack keeping qualities, and are sure, sooner or later, to show the *cloven foot*.

CUTTING CHEESE ON THE COUNTER.

Grocers that sell cheese by the pound object to those of large size on account of the waste in cutting on the counter. In the usual manner of cutting, each piece separated from the cheese has a sharp angle. A portion of this wedge is apt to break into crumbs, while the whole sharp angle is not in the right shape to make a nice appearance for the table. This defect has always been noticed by consumers, and especially by retailers, who cut and sell small quantities of cheese. Those accustomed to buy cheese at the counter in small quantities will have observed how difficult it is to carry home a thin wedge of cheese without breaking a portion into crumbs, thus rendering it unsightly for the table and entailing loss. In England this is a serious objection to large cheeses, and hence the demand for those of smaller size, which may be quartered and then subdivided in an opposite direction, which is the usual method of cutting cheese on the block in that country, to avoid crumbs and waste. A grocer of our acquaintance, who is an extensive dealer of cheese at the counter, suggests a method of cutting cheese to obviate the difficulty referred to. He has practiced it during the past two seasons with entire success, and its adoption may be of advantage to retail dealers generally. The plan consists in cutting into the cheese half way from circumference to center, and from this point turning the knife and cutting at right angles partly across the cheese, and then turning the knife again and cutting to the outer edge, taking out about an eighth of the cheese. Thus we get a block of cheese free from the objectionable angle and which may be subdivided into pieces as desired. The same course is to be observed in taking out other sections of the cheese, and when the whole outer portion has been removed there remains the center piece, which is in an octagon shape and can be cut into pieces as desired without loss. The suggestion appears to be a good one, and can without doubt be adopted with advantage to cutter and customer.

Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP AND SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

Paper read at a meeting of the Vermont Board of Agriculture by A. R. Perkins of Pomfret, Vt.

The possession and keeping of any of the choice and valuable varieties of sheep will be of little avail unless it is accompanied with good sheep husbandry.

It is essential to good sheep husbandry for the owner or shepherd to believe that only by good care and attention to the sheep he can succeed well in the business or make it pay. The shepherd should be a person who is fond of sheep, and it should be his delight to care for them. He should believe that the time spent in caring for and the food given them is neither lost nor wasted.

Another essential point in good sheep husbandry is to keep the sheep in a thriving, healthy condition in all seasons of the year. If our sheep are losing flesh and running down, we can, during such time, get but little pay for keeping them. At such times the wool grows but little, and it is weak and unsound. To expect to raise a good quantity of good wool upon a sheep that is poor in flesh, is like trying to raise a good crop of grain upon poor soil.

Good sheep husbandry costs less than poor, and pays threefold more. Good sheep husbandry consists in a great measure in doing the right work at the right time. Thus, if we shear sheep, do it in season; do not let them wear their fleece a month after it has become burdensome to them. June is one of the best months in the year for sheep to thrive if they are shorn. It costs less to house a flock of sheep that are just shorn before a storm than it does to cart them to the barn when they are benumbed and chilled. It costs less to mend the fence before the sheep get in the habit of being unruly, as we call it. It costs less to cut and cure the hay in season and when the sun shines than it does to do it out of season and in rainy weather. If from any cause our hay is poor it costs less to feed some grain in season than it does to let them lose flesh and get poor and then spend our time in nursing and doctoring them. I think there is a proverb, which is, that good food is cheaper than doctors. Without pursuing this subject further, I repeat that good sheep husbandry costs less than poor, and pays threefold better.

A flock of sheep require but little care during the summer months except that they have plenty of good feed and salt, and are seen to that none of them are sick or diseased. The principal work to be done in this season is to raise a suitable quantity of roots, etc., and cut in the proper season, and cure well and store the necessary supply of hay and grain. Roots, apples and pumpkins are necessary to some extent for the sheep in winter, not only on account of the nourishment they contain, but to supply the lack of green feed and to keep the sheep in a healthy condition.

The cutting of the hay in proper season, and curing well and storing the same, is one of the essential points of good sheep husbandry. If from any cause we fail to do this our sheep, the next spring, are usually poor and weak, and we have bad luck in raising lambs, the sole cause of which is that the sheep during the winter have been eating poor hay, and vainly endeavoring to obtain from the same their necessary amount of nourishment, which the hay did not contain. Course and rank timothy makes fair sheep hay if it is cut a few days before it begins to blossom and is well cured.

Nearly all kinds of low lands and swamp hay is good sheep hay if cut in season and well cured. Sheep prefer a variety of good hay instead of being confined to one kind only.

Lambs should be weaned when they are four months old and turned into good feed. If they are fed daily, in addition to good grass and hay, one pint of oats and shorts apiece until they are turned out to grass the next spring, they will have a good start toward making a sheep with a good constitution. I belive it to be a fact that if we would raise sheep with good constitutions, we must supply them liberally during their growth with that kind of food that will furnish them with the necessary amount of bone, muscle and strength.

Sheep, and lambs in particular, should be housed during cold storms in the fall and be fed with hay, which they should learn to eat before they are entirely deprived of grass. All kinds of sheep, and breeding ewes in particular, should come to the barn in good condition in the fall. This is necessary in order that they may be able to well develop their lambs. All kinds of sheep should be allowed to run out upon the ground daily in the late fall and early winter as long as the ground is bare. This is necessary for their exercise, which promotes health, strength and vigor. A reasonable amount of exercise is necessary for sheep during the entire winter and spring. Sulphur and ashes should be fed to sheep with their salt during the winter. Sulphur is healthy for the sheep and is offensive to vermin.

The ashes are also healthy and are essential for breeding ewes. I presume that some of you have seen lambs that when they were first dropped were strong; their dams gave a good quantity of milk, yet in a few days the lambs would begin to droop and finally die. If you were to open the stomachs of such lambs, in some cases you would find them packed and distended with hard curds which were the cause of their death. The remedy for this is to feed the breeding ewes with some kind of a mild alkali like ashes for some time previous to their lambs being dropped.

Sheep should be turned out upon the ground daily as soon as there is a spot bare that is large enough for them to stand upon, for the air in their pens and stables is generally impure, and no amount of good feed will supply the lack of good air and exercise.

There are various diseases which sheep and lambs sometimes have, and troubles to encounter in breeding sheep. There are causes for all of these. It should be one of the studies of the sheep breeder to learn what those causes are and and avoid them; when we do that we shall have good luck in sheep husbandry.

Brother sheep breeders of Vermont, we have had of late a dark night of depression in our business. During this time Victor Wright, Edwin Hammond, Judge Colburn and Nathan Cushing have passed beyond this life. They were some of the pioneers and landmarks to us in sheep breeding. We remember their many acts of kindness with gratitude. Their loss we deeply deplore. Their flocks of sheep have to some extent been scattered—some of them have been sold and gone to distant lands, carrying with them a good reputation for Vermont sheep. Other flocks of sheep have during this time gone down because of neglect and and false theories of breeding. Other flocks of sheep have been scattered because their owners had not much depth or root within themselves, and when the hour of adversity and reproach came, they withered and gave up the business. There are many persons who have in the past and who will in the future stand by the business. Brothers, be not discouraged, for the night, although long and dark, is disappearing. Already unmistakable signs of returning prosperity greet us on every hand. Let us rally to our work, which is to show the world by our acts and deeds that the fine wool sheep breeding of Vermont is neither waxing cold nor disappearing, but that its course is onward in the march of improvement.

Scientific and Useful.

VEGETABLE LEATHER.

The English Mechanic says: Under the title of "Improvements in the Manufacture of Vegetable Leather," a patent has recently been obtained in Great Britain for an invention which promises to utilize certain waste or cheap products. Fucus of several species and Laminaria are well-known sea-weeds, as plentiful on the sea-coast as grass in the fields, and waste textile materials of vegetable origin are still in sufficient abundance to find profitable employment in the manufacture of this "leather."

Sheets of carded wadding are manufactured with cotton waste or cotton itself, according to the quality required to be produced, uniform in thickness, length, and width, which sheets are placed on polished zinc or other metal plates, then the wadding is coated with a concentrated decoction of "fucus crispus" or pearl moss, or other fucus or mucilaginous lichen (rock moss), or any other similar mucilaginous substance may be employed. The metal plates require to be kept hot, in order to allow the mucilaginous decoction to penetrate thoroughly into the filaments of the cotton. The sheet is then dried quickly, thus giving to the surface applied to the metal plate a glazed or polished appearance resembling the gloss of ordinary leather. The sheet thus prepared is passed between two heated cylinders or rollers perfectly polished, having a space between them the exact thickness required to be given to the sheet to be produced.

Great pressure is required in order to press and felt all the filaments of cotton thoroughly together, and thereby render the thickness of the sheet uniform. The sheet is then coated with boiled linseed oil, and dried in the open air, or by means of artificial heat. When the sheet is dry a coating of thin vegetable wax is applied, according to the use to which it is to be adapted, and the sheet is softened by passing it through heated fluted rollers, by which means it is softened in a uniform manner; it is then passed through other polished rollers, according to the quality of the leather required, either plain, morocco, embossed, glazed, or otherwise, and it is then bronzed, silvered, gilded, or varnished, and finished in like manner to ordinary leather. French, vegetable, or similar leather thus prepared is waterproof, and easily stamped. Elasticity is given to vegetable leather thus produced by placing the sheets impregnated with the decoction of fucus or other mucilaginous substance between two plates perfectly adjusted, having the design embossed or in intaglio. Great pressure is then applied to the plates, and the dried sheet is then passed through rollers, which, by flattening the embossed parts, form a smooth surface, which is then treated as above stated, and becomes elastic after the oil is dry. Pressure may be also successfully applied before the leather is impregnated with siccative oil. The materials can be made white in the manner previously described, by selecting very white fucus, and by bleaching the oil to be used, and various colors from the lightest to the darkest may be obtained. If the leather thus produced is required to be inodorous it is only necessary to wash the oil in a weak solution of chloride of lime.

A method of preparing vegetable leather of this character for use as cheap sole leather consists in thickening the decoction of fucus or mucilaginous lichen with cotton waste or dust until it becomes a thick paste. The paste is then run into molds or blocks, and is pressed by means of an hydraulic press, in order to form solid blocks of any suitable thickness, which are then dried and cut by saws or otherwise into plates or sheets of the ordinary thickness of sole leather. Those plates or sheets are then soaked in boiled linseed oil, and when dry are pressed again between polished metal plates.

Besides the use of cotton waste and dust, all kinds of textile materials and their waste, especially cocoanut fiber waste and dust, may be employed in the manufacture of vegetable leather suitable for carpets or floorcloth of novel and superior quality. This new or improved "French vegetable leather" can be used in place of natural leather, and may be employed for covering tables, chairs, sofas, traveling-bags, for the lining or bodies of hats, caskets, carriages, harness, military equipments, slippers, bookbinding and various other purposes.

SOMETHING ON VENTILATION.

In Rural of July 1st, I notice the two following sentences:—"Carbonic acid gas is heavier than atmospheric air. In ventilating our sleeping rooms or other apartments, the ventilators should therefore be at the bottom."

It is now a well-established law, that gases diffuse equally through each other in any given space, though of different densities. It is therefore not in harmony with science to say that, because carbonic acid gas is heavier than air, the ventilators should be at the bottom. If there be any real advantages in having them at the bottom, I believe it to be due to the modifying influences which currents have on the equal diffusion of the gases, they being unfavorable to it. Some importance attaches, therefore, to the position of the ventilator in order to secure the most healthy exchange of air.

In a climate like ours, the science of ventilation is of necessity, associated with the subject of artificial heat. The old idea of admitting the pure near the bottom and having its place of exit on a high level has been abandoned. In this case, the air entering at the bottom would tend in the first instance to ascend on account of its rarefaction (*i. e.*, if, as we are presuming, the source of heat be a hot air tube), and thus establish a slight current in the upward direction. The air approaching the top would evidently not have been equally diffused throughout the apartment, and finding an aperture at the top, would at once escape. The atmosphere of the lower portion of the room, would as a matter of course, be colder and more or less stagnant.

The reverse of the above method is now universally recognized as being the most practicable, *i. e.* with the ventilators at the bottom and the place of exit for the air being on a lower level than the place of entrance. Here again, allow me to say the reasons for having them here, are not to be explained on the grounds intimated in your paragraph which I have quoted above. But in point of explanation I would adduce the following:—The air entering the apartment would tend, as in the former case, in an upward direction, but there being no outlet at the top, the current entering is almost immediately broken: it now obeys the law of diffusion of gases, warming and purifying the atmosphere of the apartment. At the same time the air most charged with carbonic acid gas and other products of inspiration, is escaping at the bottom, so that, owing to the drafts or currents of the ventilator, the most vitiated air was to be found at the lowest point of the room; the purest next above, (due to the entering draught) reaching perhaps to the hight of about 3 feet above the level of the floor, while the more equally diffused, and on the whole, healthiest air of the apartment, would be contained in the area above this point.

Where recourse must be had to the windows, it is desirable to secure a sufficiently rapid exchange of air with as little draft as possible. The best method of securing this, is by opening as many of the window sashes as practicable in a room, but only relatively as much as it would require one to be raised or lowered.

If the weather is cold, or one is sensitive to a draft, a very satisfactory plan is to take a board, equal in length to the width of the sash and an inch or more in thickness, placing it immediately below the lower sash, to prevent it lowering. This brings the upper edge of the lower sash above the lower edge of the upper sash, thus leaving an aperture through which air rushes into the room, not directly, however, but necessarily in an upward direction. No draft is felt by this method, and yet an abundance of fresh air can be thus introduced.

Sleeping rooms can be very satisfactorily ventilated by the last mentioned mode, by thus avoiding the pernicious results of drafts. Sleeping chambers should, as a rule, also have a transom over the door with a revolving window. Door-sills are unfavorable to proper ventilation, and should therefore be abandoned. Fearing I have already tresspassed on forbidden ground, *I'll drop.* J. M. A.

[It is true that when gases of different densities are mixed that they do not tend to separate, forming different layers—but the "velocity of diffusion" is very different, the law being that it is inversely proportional to the square roots of the specific gravities of the gases, (see Draper's Kane, p. 267). The specific gravity of carbonic acid is 1,521, and hence when disengaged, accumulates in all cavities within its reach and may cause fatal accidents to animals who enter unadvisedly. In volcanic countries (idem p. 486), caverns are frequently occupied to the level of their surface by this gas, exhaled from the ground; and an experiment often tried, to amuse the traveler, consists in walking into such a cavern with a dog, which, holding the head near the floor, is almost instantly asphixiated by the layer of carbonic acid, while the men, whose heads are above its level, breathe pure air; the dog, on being thrown immediately into a neighboring pond recovers from his stupor.

The high specific gravity of this gas and its slowness of diffusion, are well shown by the familiar experiment of placing a lighted taper at the bottom of a jar containing air, and taking in the hand another jar containing carbonic acid. On inclining this jar, the heavy gas pours over the edge, nearly as water would do, into that in which the taper is placed and, falling to the bottom, extinguishes it.

When we consider that a healthy man spoils in twenty-four hours, by respiration, 720 cubic feet of atmospheric air, that is, a mass of air eleven feet square and six feet thick (idem p. 268) and that respiration goes on within a foot or so of the floor, our correspondent may conclude that bottom ventilation *is* quite "in harmony with science" for the very reason that carbonic acid is heavier than air.—Eds.]

The Swine-Herd.

PROF. LAW ON HOG CHOLERA.

Prof. Law of Cornell University, in commenting on one of the many "sure cures" for hog cholera, says:

When tried in a sufficient number of cases, and extending over a series of years, all these boasted specifics have hitherto broken down. Examples, which might be very greatly extended, imply that a sound mixed diet is of great importance in maintaining a healthy activity of the various organic functions and a vigor to a large extent antagonistic to this and other diseases, and that a somewhat similar immunity may be secured by the use of tonics, antiseptics and gently stimulating agents. But if we rest our faith upon any or all of these as sure cures or preventives, we shall only pave the way for disappointment whenever the disease takes on an unusually malignant type. Thus, in spite of the protective power of a partially milk diet, as above mentioned, how often does the disease prevail most disastrously in the herds of cheese and butter factories, and, notwithstanding the good effects of an occasional meal of flesh, we find the most extensive losses among pigs that are largely carnivorous (flesh-eating) in their habits.

Keep your hogs clean is good advice. Protect them from the hot, reeking bed of manure and close sleeping place, where the emanations from decomposing dung, urine, straw and other organic matter are added to those of their own skins and lungs when huddled together in great numbers. See that both food and water are clean—that is, free from disease germs and from the microscopic particles of decomposing organic matter, which, within the system as well as outside of it, furnish appropriate food for the disease, poison, and favor its increase, while they depress the vital powers and lessen the chances of the virus being thrown off. No less important is the purity of the air, since the delicate membrane of the lungs, perhaps more than any other, furnishes an easy mode of entrance for any injurious external matter. Finally, purity of the blood can only be maintained by a healthy functional activity of all the vital organs, which insures the perfect elaboration of every plastic constituent of the blood and the excretion of all waste matters that have already served their purpose in the system.

By perfect cleanliness the poison, even if generated or introduced, will be virtually starved out as surely as an army in a closely-besieged fortress. But it will be observed that this implies the separation of sound from diseased animals and the free use of disinfectants (solutions of sulphate of iron and chloride of lime, fumes of burning sulphur, etc.) to purify the air and other surrounding objects, as well as the simple clearing away of filth. And it is here that pork raisers are most frequently at fault. Fifty or a hundred pigs are allowed to crowd together in a filthy manure heap, a rotten straw stack, or under a barn subjected to the droppings of other animals, as well as their own products. Their feeding troughs and drinking water are so supplied that they can get into them with their filthy feet, and they must devour the most obnoxious matter or starve. If under this abuse disease is developed, the healthy are left with the sick, as "they will all have it any way," and the result is usually a clean sweep.

When hog cholera exists, the sick should be placed by themselves under a special attendant and under the free use of disinfectants; the healthy should be carefully watched, and on the first sign of illness, as increased temperature, to be ascertained by the introduction of a clinical thermometer into the rectum, they should be at once taken from the herd and carefully secluded. This, with active disinfection, will enable the owner to cut short an outbreak and save, perhaps, the great majority of an already infected herd.

EPIDEMIC IN SWINE.

Time and again we have urged that the National Legislature should assist in suppressing noxious insects, which were likely to overrun the whole country, or an extended region thereof; but we are compelled to admit that few of our contemporaries joined us in urging the importance of such a measure.

The millions of dollars annually lost by the depredations of potato beetles, cotton worms, cabbage worms and bugs, and many other similar destructive insects, could, in part at least, be saved by the dissemination of a knowledge of their habits and the enforcement of laws for their suppression. Now, what is true of insect enemies is also true of epidemic diseases, which, in the main, are caused by parasites belonging to the animal or vegetable kingdom, hence we heartily agree with the National Live Stock Journal in what it says in regard to the duty of the Government in such cases.

We cannot urge too strongly the importance of scientific investigation into the nature of the various obscure diseases in swine, which have for several years past created such havoc in the pens of Western breeders and feeders. The loss which has been from this cause entailed upon the West, is almost incredible. A prominent banker in one of the richest counties of Iowa recently informed us that he had sufficient data to satisfy him that more than one-third of the hog crop of his county, last year, was lost by the ravages of hog cholera, and he placed the cash value of the property thus lost at not less than $100,000. When it is remembered that this is an estimate made by a prudent, careful man, accustomed to weighing facts and figures carefully, and who was never known to let his imagination get the better of his judgment, and that his estimate is for a single county alone, some idea of the extent of the damages inflicted by this disease—if it be a single disease—may be formed.

It appears to us that the duty of the general government, of our State agricultural societies, and of agricultural colleges in the premises, is imperative. If our Agricultural Bureau at Washington would undertake the work of making a thorough scientific investigation into the nature and causes of these various obscure and epidemic diseases in swine, instead of wasting the appropriations lavished upon it in distribution of the commonest sort of common seeds to the seediest sort of seedy Congressmen, and who have no higher interests to subserve than the securing of their own re-election by these cheap favors, some substantial good might result.

Scientific inquiry, extensively applied, and perseveringly followed, in various parts of the country, may reasonably be expected to result in wresting from nature the secret causes of this terrible scourge: and these once discovered, the remedy will be forthcoming. It is a crying shame upon our boasted enterprise and intelligence that not one dollar has been expended by our general or State governments, nor by our State Agricultural Societies or colleges, in the investigation of this subject. Ream upon ream of paper has been wasted in publishing accounts of the ravages of this disease; but the efforts thus far put forth to ascertain its nature, or arrest its progress, have been about upon a par with the injunction of the ancient Roman who called upon the people to "run to your houses, fall upon your knees, pray to the gods to intermit the plague!"

We have had full enough of this, and insist that it is time our National Bureau of Agriculture should do something to redeem itself from the contempt in which it is held by all intelligent agriculturists. Let a commission of men distinguished for their scientific and practical knowledge, be appointed to investigate this subject thoroughly. Let them go into the regions of the country where these diseases are prevailing, and subject all the conditions of climate, food, water, soil, confinement, breeding, etc., to the most rigid investigation.

Arboricultural.

CAMPHOR TREE.

Dr. Paul Maisonneuve has published an exhaustive history of Dryobalaneps aromatica, the Camphor Tree of Borneo. It embodies a brief summary of what has been written by various authors relating to this tree and its products, and the result of Dr. Maisonneuve's researches to ascertain where and how the camphor is formed. There are two products, the oil of camphor and the solid or crystallized camphor. The former is found in quite young trees, but the latter only in trees of a considerable age, and only in the central part or pith. The main facts observed in all the series of examinations of different parts of the plants, says the Gardeners' Chronicle, are these:—1. All the young parts abound in a reddish juice, which disappears almost completely by the time these parts are three years old; and, 2, numerous cavities are found in all parts of the plant. These cavities increase in number, and afterwards in size, by fusion, eventually becoming a vast system of channels, forming a communication between the most distant parts of the tree and the center of its trunk. The medullary rays, too, always contain a colored juice. From these facts Dr. Maisonneuve thinks we may draw two legitimate conclusions. First, that the oil of camphor is formed, and remains as such in all the young parts; and, second, that arrived at the center of the stem it absorbs two extra equivalents of water, and is then, partially at least, deposited in crystals, forming the true Borneau camphor, the chemical composition of which is, according to Pelouze, C 20, H 18, O 2.

Floricultural.

THE DROUGHT—ITS LESSONS.*

The degree of hardiness of any plant can only correctly be ascertained when it is in full health and when it grows in a soil and situation to which its nature is suited. Insufficient knowledge of these is the cause of the conflicting statements which are published respecting the same plant in isothermal sections.

The efforts of drought are frequently mistaken for those of cold. Deprived of moisture, it is deprived of food and thus half starved, though lingering through the summer, it succumbs to the severity of winter. Excessive richness as well as excessive poverty of soil may cause the death of plants during winter by inducing a superabundant, exhaustive growth, which they can neither mature nor support.

But we have trees and shrubs, herbaceous plants and annuals that are adapted to every variety of soil and condition of weather, and it is a knowledge of such adaptation that enables some—let the season be what it may—to preserve their gardens in comparative beauty.

The present summer, the hottest and dryest we have ever experienced, has wrought great mischief in those grounds wherein such relations have been entirely ignored, and only those who presume to believe that a liberal and prompt expenditure of money can be made fully as effectual in the reparation of damages as horticultural observation and study, will fail to be instructed by its stinging lessons.

It is true the present season has been exceptional and severe droughts local—but it is just these exceptional seasons that we should provide against in the selection and distribution of our so-called hardy plants. Let extremes of heat or cold, wet or drought occur but once in ten years—it suffices to kill or sadly disfigure the beautiful forms of many trees and shrubs that under our care have grown from babyhood to full maturity, and that constitute, it may be, those very objects of our grounds to which we have become most attached. In many affairs of life we may be guided by rules—in this phase of horticulture we should be guided by exceptions.

While now we see plants green and vigorous, growing in sandy soils or high, dry situations, whether in private grounds, in woods or fields, we may safely conclude that the same varieties are as well adapted to the highest, dryest parts of our own grounds and that, after cultivating them for years, they will not in their mature beauty be destroyed by drought, either directly or by being so weakened as not to be able to endure the cold of the ensuing winter. So, likewise, when we see plants suffering in such situations, we may be sure that they are not adapted to each other in any other locality. This is but one of the lessons of the drought; but it is well worth the learning, and requires but little inconvenience or effort.

To apply these remarks to floriculture, we have found that many plants that it has been deemed necessary to water daily during the dry, hot weather of other summers, have fared just as well during the present drought without being watered at all. We may point out especially *Plumbago capensis*, that though placed in the upper tier of a rockwork, exposed to the sun nearly all day and never watered, has bloomed more profusely than ever before, while the foliage is perfectly green and healthy. Had we watered this plant as in previous seasons, the impression could not be avoided that its preservation was due to the water and not to any special adaptation of the plant to the dryest of situations. Thus we are enabled to add one of the most charming of plants to the scanty list of those which are perfectly adapted to rockeries.

The *Eucalyptus globulus*, seeds of which were sown last December 3d, is now three feet high and of about the same breadth, with widely-spreading branches, and opposite, nearly sessile leaves that, in those two respects, recall the Honeysuckle. Though this has received no water, there is not one discolored leaf upon our several specimens, and the glaucous bloom that covers the young wood and leaves gives it a most refreshing appearance among the half-withered things about. We have already said, in a previous article, that the new shoots are furrowed and sharply four-angled. These furrows and angles gradually disappear until the ripened wood is as smooth and round as a ring. The bluish-green bloom of the new shoots is readily rubbed off with the hand, and should it be moistened with perspiration, they instantly present the appearance of being suffused in blood. No insect has disturbed our plants, and we should think that the *Eucalyptus globulus*, cut back from year to year, would become a favorite among tender sub-tropical plants, particularly where the plot is located in a dry situation.

As enduring droughts remarkably well, though worthy of general cultivation for other reasons, we call attention to *Plumbago Larpentæ*. This is an old, hardy, half-herbaceous shrub, to which, never having ourselves seen or cultivated it before this season, we have never before referred. It is as distinct from *P. capensis* as two plants of the same genus can well be. Its habit is compact—leaves small, spathulate, and flowers of a deep violet, in dense heads. The flowers are the size of the Verbena and like them, salver-shaped. There is but one thing that mars its beauty, viz., the flowers do not open simultaneously and they persist after their beauty has faded and form no very bright surrounding to those blooming after. Its hardiness (we know this from hearsay, merely,) compactness, endurance of drought, and possession of a color with which our gardens are never surfeited, are, however, characteristics that may commend its use to all—if not for the showiest of our borders, at least for those parts most liable to suffer from drought.

Among vines less commonly cultivated that thrive in dry places is the Mountain Fringe (*Adlumia cirrhosa*). The leaflets of this vine are peculiar, bearing no petiolular attachment and being every one of a different shape. Common in our Western woods, where it is found mostly in wet places, a dry position is the last to be thought of. It is a biennial, and its growth the first season bears no resemblance to a vine, but rather to a fern, having thrice-pinnate leaves and variously lobed little leaflets. Beside *Plumbago capensis* in the rockery, it flourishes finely.

All of us know of the Matrimony Vine (*Lycium vulgare or Barbarum*), and many readers will exclaim: "We know enough of it!" It should, indeed, be excluded from companionship with all other plants, on account of its spreading roots, which take possession of the ground and throw up suckers for an unwarrantable distance. But it is a gem in its place. Planted under the eaves of houses—at the base of old stumps and rocks—upon sandy banks, or in those out-of-the-way corners, which it is desirable to fill with verdure that will require little or no care—nothing is better. A single specimen of this shrub, for it is not a vine, grows in our own grounds close to a brick foundation, entirely exposed to the sun from morning till night, without having received one drop of water for three months or more. It is cut back every spring, so that with the bushy form thus forced—the drooping branches and its contrast of small and large leaves—so entirely is it the right plant in the right place, that from despising it as it was once grown among other things, we now prize the Matrimony Vine as all of us finally prize plants that fully respond to all that is asked of them.

A sickly plant, however rare or costly, is far from ornamental, and grounds which are planted without regard to adaptation of soil and situation, will fail to realize the expectations of the most tasteful arrangement.

Taste, alone, may correctly point out where trees and shrubs should be planted, either as single specimens or in groups; where the flower borders and beds should be located; where the lawn should be unbroken in its velvety green; where vistas should exist to lend the charm of mystery and picturesqueness to all. But a knowledge of the conditions under which plants alone can mature their fullness of beauty, is indispensable to the development and permanence of the design.

A part of this may be learned by an observance of the effects of droughts.

* The local drought confined to a circumference of about fifty miles in Bergen Co., N. J., is referred to.

NOTES.

The comparatively new Hydrangea *H. paniculata alba* is now beginning to bloom. The lower florets are opening, and it will be several weeks before all, to the uppermost, will have opened. Then the immense thyrses endure till hard frosts.

This shrub, as we become better acquainted with it, disappoints in no particular. It is unqualifiedly hardy, and is the Queen among flowering shrubs for the rest of the season if not for the whole season.

Cuttings from the half-ripened wood strike freely; but old wood, if we may judge by our failures, is worthless. We refer the reader to our full description of this Hydrangea in a late Rural, no statement of which need be corrected now.

Aquilegia cœrulea.—I would, with great confidence, introduce to the notice of lovers of really beautiful flowers the above charming and most desirable hardy plant. I have several patches of it, which I obtained from one packet of seed. They were sown in an open border the first week in April, 1875, and received ordinary attention during the following months; early in April of this year a plentiful supply of flower-spikes made their appearance, and since then no lack of flowers has been produced. I enclose some blooms for your inspection. I have submitted it to many ladies and gentlemen of refined taste, have used it for many purposes, and with satisfactory and pleasing results. It is more like some lovely Orchid than a hardy plant, and where not grown should be secured.

Thus writes a correspondent of the London Gardeners' Chronicle. The editors say that they share their correspondent's opinions. *We* say that we share the opinions which the editors of the G. C. share with their correspondent.

Our friends, Hoopes Bro. & Thomas claim to have introduced this plant into cultivation a few years since. They say it greatly improves with age in the size and numbers of its flowers. The color of the bloom is white and violet-blue. It is quite hardy. Those who cannot wait two years for it to bloom from seed, may purchase the roots.

Abutilon boule de niege reveals this season another good trait, viz., it does not require artificial watering, and blooms as incessantly in dry as in wet weather.

The Centennial.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

A. T. Goshorn, Director-General U. S. Centennial Commission.—Sir: The pomological exhibit of the week has been especially marked by a contribution of Early Apples from Dr. J. A. Warder, President of the Ohio State Horticultural Society. It embraced no less than 44 varieties, all in remarkably fine condition. Many of the varieties are not well known to orchardists, and this fact renders the exhibition a particularly instructive one. The Iowa State Agricultural Society made an exhibit of 30 kinds of Early Apples, chiefly from one grower. The size and beauty of these apples show how well the soil and climate of the State are adapted to the culture of this fruit. Some of the Red Astrachans measured 12 inches in circumference. The same Society exhibited a plate of Clapp's Favorite Pear, not quite ripe. Henry D. Welsh, Philadelphia, a plate of the Kohlenkamp Plum, a large oval variety, usually of superior qualities, but these were not quite ripe. Abraham Barker, Philadelphia, Dearborn's Seedling and Rostizer Pears. Joseph Shaw, Glen Rock, York Co., Pa., a seedling plum called Lincoln. It is about 2 inches long by 1¾ wide, of a light brown color, and of medium quality. S. C. Brown exhibits from the farm of David S. Brown fruit of the Harrison Pear. The fruit is no larger than a pigeon's egg and not worth propagating for its fruit, but it derives its interest from having been brought as a seedling in a flower-pot from England by Capt. Samuel, a relative of Harrison the regicide, in 1665. The tree is, therefore, over 200 years old, and is still in perfect health. Thomas J. Beans, Burlington, N. J., exhibits three varieties of peaches, handsome in appearance, but not quite ripe.

(Signed)
W. L. Schaffer,
A. W. Harrison,
Thos. Meehan,
of Board of Judges on Pomological Products.
Philadelphia, Aug. 12.

The following are the entries for the Bench Show:—9 Fox Hounds; 4 Harriers; 7 Beagles; 7 Dachshunds; 5 Greyhounds; 1 Bloodhound; 13 Imported English Setters; 128 Native English Setters; 18 Imported Irish Setters; 50 Native Irish Setters; 1 Imported Gordon Setter; 33 Native Gordon Setters; 12 Pointers, over fifty pounds; 38 Pointers, under fifty pounds; 2 Retrievers and Chesapeake Dogs; 1 Irish Water Spaniel; 2 Retrieving Spaniels; 13 Cockers; 1 Springer; 2 Mastiffs; 4 St. Bernards; 8 Newfoundlands; 5 Siberian or Ulm; 1 Dalmatian or Coach; 15 Sheep Dogs; 6 Bull Dogs; 10 Bull Terriers; 5 Fox Terriers; 8 Black and Tan Terriers; 10 Skye Terriers; 4 Scotch Terriers; 1 Broken haired; 3 Dandy Dinmonts; 5 Toys; 4 Pomeranian or Spitz; 2 Poodles; 22 Miscellaneous.

Gus. Smith of the Marysville (Cal.) Appeal has been spending some weeks at the Centennial. His baggage comprised a peck of lead pencils and some note books about the size of bank ledgers. By this time the Marysville people must have the whole Exhibition. If, however, he should have left any of it at Philadelphia, it would be well for visitors to hurry there, for fear he might come back and take the balance. Let us also in this connection express our commiseration for the readers of the Appeal, as we know how it is ourselves; too much Centennial is as bad as the itch.

Would it not be better for manufacturers of Agricultural Exhibiting Implements at the Centennial to wait until after the report of the committee of Jurors is made, before putting out circulars purporting to give the full test and opinions of said committee, as has been done by several of the Harvesting Machine and Seed Manufacturers? The report of the Jurors is strictly private, and has been sent in to the Centennial Committee for consideration.—Obed.

Among the articles exhibited by Canada is a lead pencil 7½ feet long, 2½ feet thick, and weighing 1,870 pounds. It is a long piece of plumbago, and was taken from a mine eighteen miles from Ottawa.

In the New York State exhibit is a large eagle made entirely of gold pens.

The Vineyard.

RAISIN MAKING IN CALIFORNIA.

The Yolo Mail gives the following in regard to the progress of raisin making in California:

We spent an hour at the home of Mr. R. B. Blowers of Woodland, Yolo County, and secured from him much information concerning the grape and raisin business. Mr. Blowers is not so extensive as he is thorough in his work. He has spent time, labor and means in it, and has been abundantly rewarded for his expenditure. He stands the equal, if not the superior, of any man in the United States in producing raisins. It has been decided that his raisins are superior to any in the Eastern market, or we might say in the world. He recognizes but one variety of grape—the Muscatel—as pre-eminently a raisin grape. Of this variety he has about 25 acres, and about two acres in other choice varieties to the number of 25.

There is method in all he undertakes, and he first studies the art of production. He prunes his vines tolerably early, and believes in systematic irrigation. Not content with the liberal supply of water which Nature gives during the winter, he taps the canal, fills the ground with water, and then again after the rains, or about the first of June. This water serves two purposes: It destroys the insects that infest the soil and adds at least one-third to the production, both in quantity and quality. This he did last winter, and the masses of bunches and innumerable clusters which weigh down the vines at the present time evince the wisdom of this work. His vines promise a yield at least one-third greater than ever before.

Last year he sold for table use $2,259 worth of fresh grapes—about 900 crates of which were sent East. He also furnished over 100,000 cuttings, mostly of the Muscatel variety, to parties in this and other States. Aside from this, he made 1,500 boxes of raisins, weighing 20 pounds to the box. These he readily disposed of to San Francisco merchants, who say that they are superior to any foreign raisins in the world. The estimate he places upon the present crop is that it will, after furnishing the usual amount for table use, make between 4,000 and 5,000 boxes of raisins. To meet the demands of the second crop he is about to build a drying-house. The rains come before the second crop is fully dried, and in this drying-house he will finish up the second crop. The first crop is sun-dried, which he claims as the best mode of drying.

Let no one who reads this suppose for a moment that all this is done without labor or expense. Mr. Blowers is an inveterate worker, and aside from his own labor he employs from the first of September to the middle of November 15 to 20 laborers, at a cost of from $1,200 to $1,500, which he pays in gold. He produces an article on which there is no discount, and demands pay in a currency not subject to discount. There is nothing "shoddy" in his business. He has a grape called the Emperor which he promises to ship in good condition to any part of the United States. It is a fine table grape, and delicious to the taste.

SCUPPERNONG WINE.

Several years ago we questioned some of the statements made by correspondents of the Southern press in regard to the value of the Scuppernong Grape for the manufacture of wine, and were pretty roundly scolded for so doing, but without being convinced that we were in error.

Mr. O. Taylor, writing from Florida to the Prairie Farmer, touches upon wine making at the South and from Scuppernong grapes as follows:

"I can't see how it is possible to get a cheap wine made out of Scuppernong grapes in Florida, as each grape has to be picked up one at a time and examined, and how that can be done at the present price of labor I cannot imagine. A cordial may be made by putting sugar in unripened grape juice, the grapes being shaken from the vines; but that cannot be called wine. Let any one try a wine cellar in the sand of Florida, and see how many bottles will survive one summer's heat. I will feel thankful when I know that there is as much fruit in the State as the children can eat. At present they go hungry for fruit."

If we are not mistaken, Mr. Taylor has had considerable experience as a horticulturist further north (Virginia), therefore he is fully competent to decide which of the two regions is better adapted to grape culture, as well as on the merits of the most noted sorts.

Another New Grape.—T. S. Hubbard, Fredonia, N. Y., sends us a bunch of a new and very early grape which has been named the "Fredonia." Mr. H. says that it is 15 to 20 days earlier than the Hartford and is about the same as the latter in quality. We think this variety promises well for a very early sort.

Landscape Gardening.

PICTURES ON GRASS.

This is the title of an essay read before the Ohio State Horticultural Society by FRANK J. SCOTT, author of that able work Suburban Home Grounds.

It has been many a day since we have read anything upon landscape gardening or kindred subjects with so lively an interest. Its chief object is to show the value of grass as an element of beauty in the home grounds—in the showing of which many pleasing and original ideas are happily expressed. Those who have traveled in the South during summer and have seen to what an extent the absence of green grass mars the picture, let it be ever so striking otherwise, will the better be enabled to appreciate Mr. SCOTT's views. We copy as much of it as our space will permit:

A picture, as we commonly use the word, is that disposition of objects which makes upon the mind a very pleasant or an unusually vivid impression.

The instinct to frame pictures in the mind is what makes all nature picturesque to some eyes; and for the lack of that gift, or the culture which awakens it, all the world's pictures are blanks to others. The art of seeing or discovering pictures that are near us all the time, often staring us in the face when we will not see them, is an art not lost but only rarely used. If you will take an empty picture frame and put it in front of your child's head, it will surprise you to see how handsome the child looks in it. What a fine picture! You are not in the habit of thinking of each child as a picture. Or, put the empty picture frame in the window, close the light around it, then stand back and look through, and you will sometimes be astonished to find how much of a picture this before unthought of bit of a window view makes.

The use of the study of drawing is mainly in this, that it teaches us to observe the pictures that abound on the earth and in the air all around us; for any bit of nature separated from the rest to concentrate attention upon it, and framed to still further convey the impression of individuality, is usually styled a picture.

When one stands on the border of a great desert looking to a far horizon through air that is all tremulous with the heat of a torrid sun, in the glare of that quivering light each object, as it stands outlined against the sky, is fairly burned into the memory. The vividness of its relief, its solitariness, and the golden light that bathes it, all combine to fix the scene indelibly on the mind. Whatever object the eye rests upon amid such surroundings looms up in the imagination with increased importance by reason of its isolation. There is nothing to distract attention. Whether it be a camel, a horse and rider, a bleached skeleton, or a far-off caravan, the whole world around seems subsidiary to it. Viewer and object are both on the summit-level of the globe; and, simple as the object may be, all the expanse of desert around is but the glowing monotone of a canvass to bring that object into high relief. That object is, therefore, fixed in the mind as a picture.

Whoever has seen our great western plains in a state of nature will remember the peculiarly vivid impression he receives of whatever objects break their vast monotony. On that vastest of deserts, the sea, when it is calm, objects that are mere specks on the wide expanse of water fix the attention of the observer with an instantaneous and engrossing interest.

It is the power of a simple plain surface to rest the eye, and to attract it to what rises out of that surface or borders it, which makes the simplest object a picture when seen on the desert or the ocean. I call attention to this fact as a key to the treatment of pictures of still life generally, and in the present instance to pictures on grass. If you will remember some stream or lake bordered by rocks or grassy slopes or over-hanging trees, how, on its glassy surface, in the tranquillity of summer, it mirrors every thing on its banks, and more than doubles the beauty of all its borders, and then remember the same water ruffled by winds and devoid of power to reflect a single beauty of its shores, you will have an apt illustration of the power of the plain surface to develop pictures.

Closely shaven or closely fed grass is beautiful in itself, like clear and placid water. It is more beautiful than a sheet of water in this, that it delights the eye by its color, and that it may rise and fall in undulations of light and shade without losing the smoothness of its surface. It is like the water-mirror, inasmuch as the objects which lie upon it or rise out of it are revealed with delightful distinctness, and their shadows fall upon it in the forms of the original objects, not mirrored, but suggested by grotesque variations.

It is, then, from the surface of a monotone, resting and agreeable to the eye, that most pictures are to be built up; and when done, the monotone base is essential to the effectiveness of the picture.

The most widely-diffused crop of the world is grass; the most useful of crops is grass; and shall I not be justified in claiming that it is also the most beautiful of all? I am of those who believe that the beautiful and the useful walk generally hand in hand, and in the natural order of things should be inseparable. Does the hunter seek game? In what covert does he find it but where trees grow and flowers bloom and—

"Green grow the rushes, O?"

Does the pioneer seek rich land? Will he not choose that where the oak is grandest, the hickory loftiest, and the undergrowth the most varied, or on prairie where the grass grows strongest, and the wealth of vigorous flowering plants betokens the varied nourishment below? Does he seek a mountain farm? Will he then not be drawn to some green spot on the hills that smiles under the morning or evening sun, and be sure, as he goes toward it, that where the sun decks the earth with that color she is there the sweetest, and warms quickest in the wooing? Does the burly grazier hunger for great profits on beef? He must then make a landscape lovely with the tramp of his herds. Rich must be the pastures, and fine trees must shade his cattle, and brooks must water them. With only beef and hides in his thought, beauty will environ him, and hide his rudeness in his own creations as the ivy does the rugged oak it lives upon; and the traveler will gaze as he passes on the beautiful fields, with their trees and herbs and brook, and see a landscape there. The painter will follow and put a choice bit of it on canvas, loving his work as never another may; or, perhaps touching so sweet a strain of nature that half a nation will see his work reproduced in wood-cut or in chromo, conveying into a thousand homes the pleasant emotions of the traveler and the painter as they were attracted to the grazier's fields by those pictures on grass.

Weeds will typify work undone; corn and hay are work being done; but the velvety grass is nature's smile of content with work achieved and happiness earned. It is mother earth's afternoon dress, in which all company is welcome. A few flowers for its trimming are better than a myriad in the wilds. Flora and Sylva are courtiers enough to know that they appear to best advantage on the velvet carpet which the grasses weave. A tree that would be unobserved in a grove, is lifted into majesty if it stands alone in the pasture field or the park; a common shrub, which, choked among other bushes, would be unnoticed, may be a vernal grace personified if allowed to spread with free abandon over such a carpet; and still both groves of trees and masses of shrubs are infinitely finer *en masse* also, if relieved by a spread of unbroken lawn of extent proportioned to their extent and size.

I have alluded to the fields of the farmer and the grazier as particularly adapted to pictures on grass. Every old farming country should inevitably grow to form an infinite variety of park pictures, broader and more varied than those of city parks, but it is not to these principally that I most love to call your attention. I would bring home to the owner of every *small* home having a rood of ground about it the capability for pictures on grass which such places afford. I never tire to think of those old lines of Milton—

"Hard by a cottage chimney smokes
From between two aged oaks."

That is a picture; the green sward is understood. For there are no cottages under aged oaks in velvety old England without a green sward setting. Paint the cottage, and the aged oaks on guard above it, but without the green sward they are as absurd as pictures of a ship under sail and no water under her. The sward in one case and the sea in the other are equally essential to the picture.

I have written it before, and it will bear repeating, that every man's home ground and house may be so arranged that they will be the part of a pleasing picture. We are doing better and better every year in this direction, yet how much is every where and continually lost in spattering the canvas with colors before we have any conception of the pictures we want, even in our mind's eye. How often trees or external views have made pictures ready for us to frame and they are unseen, and the improver sets heartily to work blotting them out or marring them with new paints called evergreens, shade trees, and florists' flowers, which in ignorant zeal are spread around as a donkey might paint with his tail. That style is not so much practiced as formerly, and there is a growing intelligence among us in a nebulous state which has a faith and a hope that a home may be made a picture every time, and that few are too poor to frame it with some sort of sylvan decoration. Just now there is great monotony in the forms and styles of home-ground pictures, and they are not often good enough to be chosen by artists for studies; still we are aiming in the right direction and make progress.

There is one fault common to many a fine home at the present time, where ample grounds and well-kept grass and fine trees *almost* make a picture, yet leave a sense of stiffness and priggishness on the mind that makes one doubt if all that carefully worked up show of house, grass, trees, and flowers is really beauty or not—really a picture, or only an unsatisfactory suggestion of a picture. Something must be wrong there, something wanting. What is it? I will venture the suggestion that in nine cases out of ten it is because the house rises naked out of the grass. There is no setting. Now, a home is a nest, the nest of one human family. It should nestle amid those things which have a disposition to nestle around it. Whoever saw an old wall or fence that the vines did not find and clamber over? that the blackberries and wild roses did not find a home in or near to? The foundation wall of a dwelling house is just another place for the best of these things. The house should rise out of a fringe of shrubs and vines which will bend over the grass on one side, and climb up the walls on the other. Only when in deep mourning will a tasteful woman leave her dress bare of all trimming at the neck. Half mourning permits a little fringe of linen or lace there. But our fine places are of more severe taste and exhibit the barrenness of deep mourning all the time.

I know that this absence of foliage against the house is defended on the plea that it is unhealthy to have much shade and foliage near the walls and the windows. Granted as to the shade, undoubtedly the deep shade. The complete embowering of houses under trees, as seen in the old style of New England homes, was unwholesome and gloomy. I would have none of it. But we need not keep our clothing at arms length from our bodies because some people have become delicate by wearing too much. It is easy enough to get all needful sun and air without any sacrifice of beauty. Shrubs may be planted on the flanks of steps, at corners of the house, and between the windows, where no light need be obscured or walls dampened by them. Small shrubs may go under the window-sills, and vines everywhere; while trees of heavy shade may be kept at a respectful distance. If the vines get in the way, how easy to lop off their superfluities.

A house that rises out of such a nestling as I have indicated will look at home in its place; the lawn will stretch away from this moss edge of shrubbery next to the house wall, and bring all the environment of shrubs and trees, young and old, into harmonious relations with the house, even if they be not picturesque enough in character to delight the eye as a picture. For the lack of this sort of setting many mansions of the larger class, with grounds in most respects fairly laid out, rise as cold and stiff amid their bright surroundings as a step-mother among another's brood of children.

But all this is about great scenes or great places. I imagine some one to say: But what have you to suggest to the great mass of people who have only small houses and narrow lots to improve, but who would like to have their home pictures on grass as well as their richer neighbors? It is precisely this branch of the subject which I would most gladly illustrate; but, unfortunately, words weary the hearer when used to describe the simplest form of mechanical work. Set about describing by words the commonest processes of work, the forming of a horse-shoe, for instance, or modeling in clay, or the more intricate processes of making carpets, and who would follow the words or learn from them? We must stand by the blacksmith, the modeler, the carpet maker, and follow their actual work step by step, and that, too, for months or years, before we can do their work.

We all want fine homes. We enjoy them ourselves, and we enjoy them ten times more when we know that others enjoy them. It is the blessedest wonder of the world that while we seem to be working with entire selfishness for ourselves alone, we are in fact working for everybody around us just as well. Your house, good friend, that you toil half a life time to build, every neighbor owns with his eyes. You want it to be just as handsome as your estate will allow, for you know they are all looking at it; and though you would deny them any property in it, you nevertheless feel so instinctively that they have, that you act on the idea, and try to satisfy them.

In truth, there are few things in life that we call our own which are worth owning if our neighbors are not part owners with us. Far more than one-half of all our expenditures are for the satisfaction or the delight of the eye alone; and not our own eyes only, but the eyes of all the community around us—our critics or admirers; for what is beauty, if not to be admired? or, as the poet has better expressed it,

"Small is the worth of beauty,
From the light retired."

To give pleasure to others is among the highest of human virtues, and I know of no higher satisfaction than to realize that so many who are not thinking of us at all, and do not even know us, yet do us a thousand favors for which we can be grateful. Even the successful cheat will some how blossom for us; for he may build a superb edifice whose architecture, to use the admirable simile of Madame de Stael, is "frozen music." We all feel the rhythm of its symmetry, and its lights and shadows, dividends or no dividends. Shall we not be grateful to the builder? Need we ask from what source of decay the rose draws its nourishment while we are enjoying its perfume and its beauty? Let us, then, be pleased to feel that we do not work, that we do not build, that we do not plant all our lives long for ourselves alone, however selfish we may be or appear to be; but that we work and build and plant that others may see our good works, *and that we may see others admire them.* All things that endure longer than ourselves are blessings to some body after we leave them; and when we act as if nothing is worth having which the great ego can not have exclusive possession of, the public is justified in wishing for one more first-class funeral, that the possessor of wealth who cared not to create beauty while living may at least brighten the verdure of the grass above his bones.

The Apiarian.

SOME NONSENSE ABOUT BEES.

It is seldom that we care to criticise anything which may appear in the columns of the various journals devoted to bee keeping. It is supposed, however, that specialists are better qualified to speak and write intelligently upon subjects to which they have paid particular attention than those who have not, but occasionally the reverse of this seems to be the result, and the hobby-horse with his rider gallops rough shod over both science and common sense.

This is the kind of a man we take the Rev. J. W. SHEARER to be, who has been contributing to the pages of the Bee Keepers' Magazine. The "game may not be worth the powder," but an article from his pen in the August number of the periodical named, contains some statements which are sufficiently amusing to be worth notice, even if they are not instructive, beyond showing what nonsense a man will write.

Generally, the class of writers to which we refer, begin their epistles by a reference to the first day of creation, or seldom at a later period than when ADAM and EVE left the Garden of Eden, and the Rev. J. W. SHEARER, unfortunately, is not an exception to the rule.

The title of his article is: "Enemies and Diseases of Bees," and the cause of these he evidently attributes to the sins of ADAM and EVE, for he says: "Since the curse pronounced upon sin, enmity is found not only between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent, but throughout nature the various classes of creatures all have their enemies and enmities." "When we reflect upon this thought, we see around us in these God-given instincts a part of the practical outworking of the curse pronounced against the earth for man's sake."

Now if our Reverend Gentleman will get some child's Entomological Primer, and read it carefully, he may learn that the reason why one insect preys upon another is because it was created to do just this very thing, and can no more help it than it can help breathing to live. The Ichneumon fly deposits her eggs in the body of some other insect, because she cannot perpetuate her species in any other manner, and when the gentleman endeavors to make out that these natural habits are the result of any act of our ancestors, he oversteps the bounds of truth, common sense, or traditional history. But we will leave him to believe whatever he chooses in this matter, and hastily glance at paragraphs further on.

In speaking of the "Bee Moth," he says: "The 'Moth Miller' is the peculiar enemy of the hive." Now, the terms "Moth" and "Miller" are synonymous, and are applied indiscriminately to hundreds of different species of both night and day flying lepidoptera. Some persons speak of them as moths, and others as millers, just as some farmers call their male sheep "rams" and others "bucks;" but no one knowing the animal would think of using both names and saying my ram buck sheep, which, however, would be no more ridiculous than calling either of our common species of Bee Moth (*Galleria*) a "Moth Miller."

Mr. QUIMBY, from whose work the Rev. S. appears to have drawn largely in writing the article in question, calls the larvæ of this insect the "Moth Worm," which is not an objectionable term, because the injury is done by the worm, or larva of a moth.

But we cannot spare the space to follow our would-be scientific apiarian through all his devious and doubtful wanderings, while drawing

good, practical sense from QUIMBY, to help fill up, adding nonsense to make the article appear original. There are, however, some few preventives of noxious insects which our essayist should have added to his list to make it complete, and among them an "ash stick cut in the full of the moon and hung up in the cellar, or your bedroom, will keep moths out of the orchard or apiary," and we will warrant it to be just as effectual as the following, which our Reverend Gentleman gives for ants: "Leaves of tansy, catnip or black walnut will drive them away. Pulverized borax scattered on the floor or in a cupboard will cause them to leave. Fine salt, or wood ashes, will have the same effect. But perhaps the best and most effective way to keep any sweets from ants is to make a good wide chalk mark around the jar, or on the legs of the bench upon which they are placed, as ants cannot cross a chalk mark. Hives may be thus protected by making marks around the legs of the stands, but they must be renewed after every rain. In the house the chalk mark will last for some time."

Following this, we have some "twaddle" about wasps, mice, bears and spiders, and are also advised to kill all toads (which, by the way, are the gardeners' and farmers' best friends,) found about the apiary, but the *rara avis* of this whole list appears in a sentence, in which we are told that the "Death's head Moth is not much known or troublesome in this country." Well! well! *Not much known?* We guess not. And when the Rev. J. W. S. finds a genuine Death's head Hawk-moth, (*Acherontia atropa*), sucking sweets from a hive in this country we hope he will favor us by capturing it and sending to the RURAL NEW-YORKER office, for it would be a welcome addition to the editor's cabinet, which only contains specimens of this moth caught in Europe. The Rev. J. W. S. sadly needs a vacation, and when he gets one it is to be hoped he will brush up his theology if it is as rusty as his entomology.

Domestic Economy.

STOVE PIPES AND SHED ROOFS.

Now I do not pretend to say that stove pipes are better than a chimney, or so good, but as it often becomes necessary to use them as substitutes for chimneys, they may be so adjusted as to become something else than a source of torment, as they usually are to the women folks, when they extend from shed roof, by the addition of a few extra joints of pipe—according to the hight of the main building—securely fastened to the roof with strong wire. It may seem a simple thing which everybody is supposed to understand, but that will do not I have abundant proof, as I have seen more than one housekeeper beclouded in smoke every time the wind changed from certain directions, and, indeed, have had some experience of that kind myself, which I do not care to repeat. And I have seen various devices for removing the evil, some of which are unsafe from fire, though they effect the desired object. But there is another annoyance from stove pipes, for which I know no remedy—except to always use good dry wood—and that is, the dripping of condensed vapor from the pipe. Has some one a remedy for that?

JULIA M. WHEELOCK.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Peach Preserves.—For every pound of peaches dissolve a pound of refined sugar in a little water; when skimmed clear, add the peeled peaches; boil until tender; remove them carefully that they may not break; boil the sirup down until thick enough; then put back the peaches for a few moments to mix all together; put into air-tight jars and seal while hot. If the fruit is cut in halves or quarters, crack the pits of half the peaches and boil in the sirup; then strain and cook in the usual way. The flavor of the pits adds very much to the deliciousness of the preserves.

Peach Cobbler.—Pare nice, ripe, juicy peaches, lay them in a deep baking dish, with plenty of sugar, and a tablespoonful of flour rubbed smooth in a little cold water. Cover the top with a crust made of one teacup of sweet milk, a little salt, one heaping tablespoonful of butter, one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder, worked thoroughly through flour enough to make a soft dough. Rub the butter through the flour; add the milk; mix quickly; roll out an inch thick, and bake in a moderate oven. To be eaten with cream and sugar, or wine sauce. A crust made as the above is far more wholesome and digestible than ordinary paste made of water and *abominable lard.* MRS. RUSTIC.

Utility.—Amid all the vast trouble and expense of dressing now-a-days, I am astonished and pleased to see the common-sense white or marbled table cover so much in vogue, which can be wiped off with a clean cloth, and thus be made fresh and clean at each meal. Put on your damask linen when you choose, but when there is necessity of economizing the washing, these enameled covers are much nicer than I thought before using them. I at first told JENNIE I could not admit them on my table; but now approve of them. AUNT FLORA.

Wanted—Method for making Medley Pictures.—Will some lady reader of the RURAL explain the modus operandi of making medley pictures (to be framed) from small steel engravings, and greatly oblige a subscriber. B. M. F.

A Recipe for Brandy Peaches Wanted.—Will some lady reader of the RURAL give a recipe for brandy peaches, and oblige a constant reader of its columns. J. C.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Peach Jelly.—Wipe the down well off your peaches, which should be free stones, and not too ripe, cut them in quarters, crack the stones, and break the kernels small. Put the peaches and kernels into a covered jar; set them into a kettle of boiling water, and let them boil till they are soft; strain them through a jelly-bag; allow a pound of loaf-sugar to a pint of juice; put the juice into a preserving kettle and boil fifteen or twenty minutes briskly; then add the sugar, and let it dissolve; skim carefully; pour the jelly into glasses; when cold, cover with thick paper.

Ginger Wine.—Boil together for half-an-hour seven quarts of water, six pounds of sugar, two ounces of the best ginger, bruised, and the rinds of three good-sized lemons. When lukewarm, put the whole into a cask with the juice of the lemons, and a quarter of a pound of sun raisins; add one spoonful of new yeast, and stir the wine every day for ten days. When the fermentation has ceased, add half an ounce of isinglass and half a pint of brandy; bung close, and in about two months it will be fit to bottle.

Sugar Beer.—Mash one peck of bran in ten gallons of boiling water for two hours; draw off the wort, add seven pounds of moist sugar, and boil it with a quarter of a pound of hops; then cool it down and add a little yeast; it may be put into the cask next day, and in three days more it may be bunged down. At the expiration of six or eight days it will be fit to drink.

To Obtain a Soap for Removing Grease Spots.—Dissolve in half a pint of water half a pound of washing soda, put in two pounds of good hard soap, cut in slices, and boil until a homogeneous mass is formed; then add alcohol, camphor, ether, and liquid ammonia, half an ounce of each, and mould it into cakes.

Grill Sauce.—Take one gill of good gravy, mix it with one tablespoonful of mushroom catsup, one of French mustard, a few chopped capers, a little grated lemon peel; add a thickening of butter and flour and a few drops of lemon juice; simmer till quite hot; pour over the grill and serve.

New England Corn Cake.—One quart sour milk, three eggs, one teaspoonful of soda, one teacup of flour, yellow corn-meal enough to make a batter as thick as pancake. Bake quickly in pans well buttered.

Hygienic Information.

SHALL WE EAT PORK?

MOST people will say "no, if we can get beef, mutton, poultry or wild game, or, in fact, any other popular flesh." I do not, myself, think it the most desirable meat, especially if eaten under protest, and still the elements of the fat part of it being mainly oxygen, hydrogen and carbon, are among the most important ones in the foods of all carnivorous or omnivorous animals. They are the elements of sugar, which is one of the most important compounds in the foods of young mammals and young edible plants.

But, says one, it produces scrofula. It is true that that or some other foods, or some peculiar habits, produce this disease sometimes in persons, and that is all that anybody knows about it, so far as I can learn.

It is said that the devil entered the swine when cast out of the insane men. True, but those swine were all drowned in the sea, and, since that time, there is more evidence of his presence in many of the human species than in swine.

Says another: "Fat pork does not furnish the materials to form bone, muscle, tendon or hair;" [don't put it on your heads, then, under the name of bear's grease.] I admit that it does not furnish lime, phosphorus, nitrogen and sulphur, but it does furnish materials fully as essential in our economy, the heat-producing elements; for man may live many days without food; but the moment his fuel fails, as in consumption, he dies. I by no means advocate an exclusive pork diet. Man is omnivorous and he needs acids, and the food which furnishes them or their elements is essential to his health; especially does he need them to assist in the digestion of flesh.

The appetite of a healthy man calls for a mixture of the carbonaceous and nitrogenous foods; he wants pork with his beans and peas; butter, gravy, or cheese with his bread and vegetables. A taste for this combination is evidence of health, especially if he labors in the open air and produces sensible perspiration. Says another: "He does not need heat-producing foods when laboring in the harvest field." These would seem to be prima-facie evidence that when the summer heat is up to the nineties, we do not need heat-forming foods; but "facts are stubborn things." In old times in New England I have often seen old harvest hands come in to dinner, with garments wet with sweat, and eat a hearty dinner of fat salt pork and potato, with perhaps a little vinegar or a pickle, and have often heard them say: "This is the best standby for such weather and work as this;" and it has been a saying with some: "Fat pork and old cheese are the most reliable food for hot weather." Now, how is this? In the absence of any authority for an explanation I will attempt it.

There can be no doubt that that kind of food which produces heat will, when the body is heated up to a certain degree, promote sensible perspiration—the means provided by nature for taking off any excess of heat above what the body can bear. This is a safety valve, without which, no man can endure the labor of harvest under our broiling suns, and I see no way of accounting for the good effect of carbonaceous food to the hard out-door laborer in hot weather except that the extra heat it produces is more than compensated by the extra evaporation from the perspiration it causes. Of the good effects of a diet consisting partially of fat meat, under such circumstances, and especially when relished, I have not a shadow of doubt; but I do not believe in eating pork or any other food when not relished; but it is well for farmers who dislike it, and to whom it is a more convenient and less expensive food than any other meat, to ascertain whether this dislike is natural or is the effect of prejudice, for if only the latter, it may be overcome.

I know that with myself there have, especially in youth, been times when I relished it and times when I did not, and I presume such is the experience of many farmers' boys; and I have noticed that often those who generally dislike it relish and eat it with avidity after sickness, when the fat of the body has been greatly reduced. As to this particular kind of meat, I am not aware that it is any less healthy than any other meat if as well relished, though I know that the contrary opinion is held by many. That the elements contained in fat meat are essential to sound, vigorous health, I quote from the New York Observer of April 15, 1858.

"A prominent physician of one of the Eastern States has the following in his report to American Medical Association relative to the diet:—Of all persons between the ages of 18 and 22, more than one-fifth eat no fat meat. Of persons at the age of 45, all except one in 50 habitually eat fat meat. Of persons who, between the ages of 15 and 23, avoid fat meat, a few acquire an appetite for it and live to a good old age, while the greater portion die with phthisis before 35. Of persons dying with phthisis between the ages of 15 and 45, nine-tenths, at least, have never used fat meat. Most persons who avoid fat meat also use little butter or oily gravies, though many compensate for this want by a free use of those articles, and also milk, eggs and various saccharine substances, but they constitute an imperfect substitute for fat meat, without which, sooner or later, the body is almost sure to show the effects of deficient colorification."

At another time I may say more on this subject, for I consider it an important one.

Muskegon, Mich. S. B. PECK.

EVERY MOTHER OUGHT TO KNOW IT.

So said my neighbor, after having suffered for several days from a painfully swollen breast, and having used the following prescription with the best result. Take of best castile soap (best laundry will do) one-quarter of a pound; shave fine; mix with sweet milk and a little sugar; heat till melted; then cool a little; spread on a thick cloth; place upon the breast, while yet warm, in the form of a poultice; melt over or put on a new poultice, if one does not entirely relieve the pain and swelling. Try it, mothers who are thus afflicted. A. F.

POISONED FACE.—My little grandson had such a badly-poisoned face that he could not see, so I led him into my room, and I hardly knew what to do for it, but while I was preparing an application to kill the poison, I applied common glycerine, in order to soothe the little fellow in the quickest manner, when he immediately fell asleep so sweetly that I laid by the other preparation and waited to see the result, which was far better than I expected. When he awoke, he opened his eyes comfortably, and needed no other preparation to effect a perfect cure. A. F.

Around the Republic.

SHADY SIDE OF TEXAS.

ED. RURAL:—In the RURAL NEW-YORKER of July 8, I noticed a communication from my neighbor Dr. BEACH entitled "Glimpses of Texas," giving a view of Texas as seen through his "glasses," while in an adjoining column there appeared a very glowing account of Texas. Now, after pondering over both articles, I fell to musing on the subject, wondering why it was that correspondents should so universally fall into the habit of painting their surroundings in such glowing colors.

It must be that they always put on their highest magnifiers when writing for the press, else their other set of glasses are always out of repair or broken when needed for such labor.

Something of this kind must have happened the low-power spectacles of Dr. BEACH, for he never could have intended to give any one a magnified idea of the productions or the climate of Texas, still he must in this instance have overlooked the old axiom that "circumstances alter cases." For instance, he says "Texas cannot be excelled for healthfulness." Well, I will take a look at this assertion through my own glasses and see how it appears to me.

Here is a man from one of those bone-yards of the world, viz., the swamps of Louisiana. His cheeks are ruddy; he has the glow of health in his eye; he walks erect and declares this is the healthiest country in the world. Furthermore, he must write it to "all men," for it is the truth as seen through his glasses.

But now another man comes upon the scene who is from the Northeastern States. He has plenty of this world's goods and is doing well, with a large family in excellent health; he has plenty of books to read, churches and schools are near by; but a hard winter makes him discontented after reading the glowing description of some far-off land where the climate is but little less than a genial spring throughout the entire year. He reads all this, perhaps, in the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and his wife and children listen with interest to the tale, and a family council soon decides that the best thing to do is to sell out and go, and this is done at a great sacrifice, for it will not pay to take old furniture, however good or valuable, to such distant regions.

In good time they reach the "promised land," and the man either rents or buys a farm and goes to work. All is well for a time and the family satisfied, for it really appears that they have made a wonderful bargain; but in June or July another change comes over the scene and the hydra-headed monster *Malaria* stalks forth, and soon father, mother and children look as though they had taken a "saffron bath," and the congestive chills which follow are anything but pleasant, if nothing worse results, as malarial fevers seldom end by leaving the entire family alive. The father soon becomes disheartened with departing health and strength, and he curses the day he first heard of Texas.

I have had an opportunity of seeing both the bright and dark sides of this region of country, and therefore do not speak at random.

Again, Dr. BEACH says "the numerous herds of cattle and sheep driven out of Texas have had no taste of other food than grass; but why did not the Doctor tell us that in the winter of 1873-4 some herds of 1,600 head came out in the spring with less than half of their number alive, and that hundreds and thousands of cattle perished in that winter from starvation caused by a scarcity of food in consequence of a drought the season previous?

Last summer we had no rain from the 25th of April until the 7th of August, and the whole country has been buying corn from the North at $1 per bushel.

The Doctor also talks of wheat as though he had plenty, but I will venture to say there has not been fifty bushels raised in the section in which he lives during the past four years. North and west of here they raise some, and in a few locations in the State fair crops of this grain are raised. Then he tells us that he raises two crops of Irish potatoes in a season, three of turnips and two of cabbages. I have planted $15 worth of Irish potatoes, and two bushel baskets would hold all I ever raised, and none larger than hickory nuts, and I consider myself a fair farmer, but not a rich one, or perhaps as successful as some who count upon things not obtained but expected.

It is an exception to the general rule to raise good vegetables, while apples and similar fruits are almost an impossibility. Peaches dry up in summer or are cut off by frosts in spring. Now, I am not disposed to say there is nothing good in Texas, but simply wish to give a view of the country as seen through *my* glasses, knowing that I have plenty of neighbors who see it in the same light. L. Q. Z.

Gonzales, Texas.

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THANK YOU.

IT is surprising how much a little oil of politeness lubricates the wheels of society, making the whole vast amount of intricate machinery move easily and with little friction. No matter whether at home, in business, or in social intercourse with those in our service, friends and acquaintances, the result is the same. And when such good results obtain with so little expenditure of thought or labor, is it not strange that their attainment is not more often made the object of our attention. A kind look or word often makes it a pleasure for us to do that which, otherwise, would be a task or duty performed with the feeling of *must* resting heavily upon us.

A child leaves its play to obey an injunction to shut the door much more readily if spoken in a kindly tone, and preceded or followed by "Please:" and the gratification we receive when we have done any little service for another is greatly increased if it be acknowledged by a simple "Thank you." Perhaps we are satisfied the feeling is there, but to have it expressed is always pleasant. "JOHN," said a mother to her little boy, "did you thank the lady who gave you the orange?" "Yes, mother," was the reply, "I thanked her, but I didn't tell her so." A while ago a train of the Hudson River Railroad on which the writer was a passenger, stopped at one of the smaller stations and a joyful party of young people entered. Vacant single seats seemed plenty in the car, but they appeared desirous of keeping very near each other, as was natural, and seeing that we could aid them in the matter we arose and addressing a buxom, rosy-faced lass who stood near said, "Take this seat, please; perhaps we can find one elsewhere." She looked gladness and replied, "Wal, likely's not you can." We doubt not there was plenty of "Thank you" in her heart, but its expression in words would have been eminently proper.

There are persons who, apparently, feel as if one doing them a favor or a kindness must know their estimate thereof, and to whom vocal expressions of thankfulness seem fulsome and a waste of words. This is a mistake that sometimes leads to serious misunderstandings. We once heard it said of a young lady, "She receives a favor as if it was a right to which she was entitled by reason of some quality inherent in her organization, and for which she is not under the least obligation, either for the deed, or the kind feeling that actuates it." An intimate acquaintance with the lady enables us to know how far from fact this seeming is; still, we can but feel that this lack of proper recognition of friendly acts is a fault in her character that should be conceded.

Suavity, agreeableness, politeness, can be lavishly sprinkled along our daily walks with great advantage. No matter what rank, station or position one occupies, or what is to be said or done, these qualities are never without their good effects. On the farm or in the workshop, the respect of the employer is gained by pleasant words, and an order or direction from him loses none of its force for being put in the form of a request.

It was said of HENRY CLAY that his manner was so agreeable, he could refuse a request and send the applicant away with kinder feelings toward him than many could after granting the desired favor.

Nor should the spirit of politeness be confined to words only. There are little things to be done one for another, that add immensely to the happiness of the human family. What STERNE calls "The small, sweet courtesies of life," things which, of minor importance in themselves, can be done in such a way as to brighten everything around and, like Mercy, bless him who gives and him who takes. And this should be a maxim for young and old, "Never, when it can be avoided, say or do anything that will not add to the happiness of some one or more of those around you." Show that you care for others by giving them better attention and having their pleasure and comfort always in mind.

The school in which these lessons should be first taught is home; and unless they are taught here, it is seldom they are ever perfectly learned. And home is the place where they should be put in practice, so soon as the child can speak, or before. The language of the mother is copied by the child in all its words, forms, accents and tones; her acts are looked upon as entirely proper, and to follow her example, both in word and deed, becomes so much a part of the child's nature as to be difficult of change in riper years. Here a mother's influence is easily exerted for good or ill. Little things have a lasting power, and there is much truth in the simple lines:

"Little words of kindness,
Little deeds of love,
Make this earth an Eden,
Like the heavens above."

"SKINNERS."

A GENTLEMAN, not long since, in reply to our question of the cause of so many poor looking farms in his section of the country said, "These farmers about here have been skinning their land for a good many years and now their land is skinning them." The truth of the remark was so apparent, that we could not fail to recognize it at once. Unfortunately, this skinning process is not confined to any particular section of the country nor any one set of farmers. We find it more or less wherever we travel, and always deplore it. Our informant continued:—"There is more good manure and labor wasted every year on the farm before us than would be required to keep the place constantly up to its original standard and value. That place, fifty years ago, was worth one hundred dollars an acre and now it would be difficult to get fifty for it."

There is nothing more certain than that land will soon wear out by this process of "skinning," and yet so many of our farmers fail to look ahead far enough to see it. Adjoining the farm of which we were speaking was another, and while the lay of the land appeared to be no better and its original natural advantages no greater, it was in a thrifty condition and yielded its owner a good living and something for a rainy day. "Now there," continued our friend, "is a farm cultivated by an intelligent man who reads and studies his business, and gets not only the benefit of his own experience but that of others. His neighbors used to laugh at him for his experiments; but now they try to find out his "secret," as they call it, of getting the larger crops. One of his neighbors watched him plant his corn one year for the purpose of discovering how he secured a crop double that of his fellow farmers in that section. He discovered that he mixed the little red corn with it in the proportion of about a quart to the bushel. He had the secret, and immediately did the same himself. Alas, for human hopes! He did not increase his yield, and was obliged to fall back on nature by saying that the other farm was better than his own. And such, indeed, was the fact; not by nature, however, but by proper cultivation and renewing."

Let us suppose that poor farm No. 1 had not cost its owner a cent in fertilization and renewing in fifteen years and that good farm No. 2 had cost its owner in the same time fifty dollars per acre for that purpose; No. 2 is, to-day, worth fifty dollars per acre more and has uniformly produced much heavier crops, which were the net profit of the extra cultivation. Even if the careless farmer had actually put aside the money which the other put into his land, (a thing that seldom happens in such cases,) still the careful cultivator would come out ahead at the end of fifteen years.

Few men would think of entering one of the learned professions without years of preparatory study and constantly keep pace afterwards with the progress made by the rest of the world in his particular profession. Yet we will venture to assert that neither law, medicine nor ministry can ever present as many difficulties at every step nor as many daily obstacles to complete success, as the cultivation of the soil. Still, who ever thinks of educating a man to be a farmer? What need is there of a boy knowing more than his father knew before him about farming? Did not his father pay off the mortgage on the place, accumulate a snug little sum to care for him in his old age, and give his children a start in the world? All very true! But if, by a little extra care, study and thought, he could have accumulated more and, instead of causing two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before he could have caused *five* to grow, he would have but done his duty and faithfully performed the trust imposed upon him by his Creator.

One of the best commentaries we have heard upon the section of the country spoken of and upon "skinning" generally, was inadvertently made by a man who had given up farming as unprofitable. Some one very rudely remarked upon his bent form and stoop shoulders. "Ah," said he, "treat that tenderly, for I got that in trying to make a living out of a hundred acre farm in this part of the country." And this man as a farmer was a total failure. He worked incessantly and studied and read none, and so he was a failure.

RURAL NOTES.

Plagiarism. — "My attention was lately drawn to the manner in which plagiarists sometimes escape detection, and then occasionally get detected at last. I saw 'Experience with Bees,' (written by JULIA M. WHEELOCK, who has written for no other paper but the RURAL NEW-YORKER, whose 'Experience with Bees' was published during the summer of 1875,) credited to the Patron's Helper. I suppose this mistake to have occurred by no credit being given when the first 'copy' was taken from the RURAL NEW-YORKER, which must have been a violation of courtesy among journalists. It makes no difference with the writer, but the question is, Is it right?—J. M. W." We had our say upon this subject a week or two since, and have nothing further to add except reminding our correspondents and readers generally that if ever the day comes in which there is no pilfering, honesty will be too cheap and common to be fully appreciated.

Cats vs. Robins.—A correspondent of the Maine Farmer is very indignant that so many people will keep cats, and says that if it was not for the cat, "we would have in a few years fifty robins where we now have one." He then proceeds to show the great good which this bird is capable of doing the farmer in the way of killing various kinds of insects. In direct opposition to this claim a correspondent of the Country Gentleman asserts that if the law which now protects the robin and other insectivorous birds is not soon repealed, or the robin be excepted, the cultivation of small fruits will have to be abandoned in Central New York. He also urges that a bounty be offered to encourage the killing of robins, as they are known to be fond of berries and other small fruits. The doctors in this instance disagree and, we ask, "Who will decide?"

Selecting Seed Wheat.—Farmers throughout the country should be thinking of their seed wheat. There is nothing gained by sowing a poor article, and a man had better pay double the ordinary market price for seeds which are plump, sound, and free from cockle and other foul seeds. If there is danger of insect depredations or the land is not very rich, then soaking in bluestone or brine may often be resorted to with benefit. But in regard to sowing wheat early or late, there must be some judgment used, for in localities where the Hessian fly abounds, late sowing is about the only preventive.

National Agricultural Congress.—Those of our readers who can make it convenient to be in Philadelphia on Sept. 12–14, should do so and attend the meeting of the National Ag. Congress. Addresses will be delivered by the President of the Society, Hon. W. C. FLAGG of Illinois, Secretary G. E. MORROW of Iowa, JOSEPH HARRIS of New York, X. A. WILLARD, Dairy Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, J. R. DODGE of Washington, Dr. E. L. STURTEVANT of Massachusetts, L. F. ALLEN of New York, and other prominent agriculturists from the different States of the Union.

RURAL BREVITIES.

E. GRISAR & Co., San Francisco, Cal., send us with their compliments, the S. F. Journal of Commerce and Price Current. Thanks.

VICK, the chartered Seedsman and Florist of the Flower City (Rochester), is again "around," as will be seen by his Autumnal announcement in this paper.

THE wholesale fruit dealers in Chicago propose to get up a Show this fall that will eclipse anything of the kind ever seen in this country. We wish them success.

MR. CHAS. RAY, Moravia, N. Y., is now, substantially, the Moravia Citizen, having submerged his individuality in the potent "we." Both himself and paper are good "Citizens."

THE Methodist Church of Greeley, Col., is engaged in agricultural pursuits, it having this season forty acres of wheat, with which it hopes to pay off a portion of its debts. This is more commendable than holding church fairs, at which gambling of various kinds is encouraged and permitted.

THE NEW YORK PLOW CO., 55 Beekman St., N. Y., make a timely announcement in another column concerning their Cast-Iron Cider Press Screw. To those who know this Company, it is needless to speak in regard to the excellence of their manufactures. A perusal of their Catalogue (which will be sent *free*) may suggest various wants.

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of The Liverpool Critic, published at Liverpool, England, by Messrs. ORCHARD & ANDERSON. Both the gentlemen were formerly connected with the Leader of the above city. They make a bright, readable paper, although a weekly journal, there is no "a" in Critic, and it can, therefore, never become weakly.

THE food "alarmists" having scared many persons out of the practice of using brown sugars by reporting that they were in the main full of a species of mite, a would-be scientist is now trying to make us believe that refined sugars are poisonous. What next, gentlemen? We await patiently further discoveries, and in the meantime are thankful that "we still live!"

FLOODING our sanctum with its opulent rays comes the Golden Dawn, from San Francisco, Cal. It is an excellent Dawn, being devoted to the fair. DORA DARMOORE and ADA HUTCHINS are Publishers and Proprietors. Miss DARMOORE coins her brain, while Miss HUTCHINS, by her business tact, deflects the Dawn, yclept Golden, into the cash drawer. Success to them!

A BAND of 800 Mormons, recently arrived from Europe, have started for Utah via the Pennsylvania railroad. Some of the men have as many as eight wives. So says an Exchange. But it would be interesting to know from what country these Mormons came and where a man, outside of Utah, is permitted to marry eight wives. Truth and common sense should rule, even when talking about the Latter Day Saints.

A VISION OF A HOT DAY.

I saw a tutor take his tube
The comet's course to spy;
I heard a scream—the gathered rays
Had stewed the tutor's eye.
I saw a fort—the soldiers all
Were armed with goggles green;
Pop! cracked the guns; whiz! flew the balls;
Bang! went the magazine.

I saw a poet dip a scroll
Each moment in a tub;
I read upon the warping back
"The dream of Beelzebub."
He could not see his verses burn,
Although his brain was fried,
And ever and anon he went
To wet them as they dried.

I saw the scalding pitch roll down
The crackling, sweating pines,
And streams of smoke like water spouts
Burst through the rumbling mines;
I asked the firemen why they made
Such noise about the town;
They answered not, but all the time
The brakes went up and down.

I saw a roasting pullet sit
Upon a baking egg;
I saw a cripple scorch his hand
Extinguishing his leg;
I saw nine geese upon the wing
Towards the frozen pole,
And every mother's gosling fell
Crisped to a crackling coal.

I saw the ox that browsed the grass
Writhe in the blistering rays;
The herbage in his shrinking jaws
Was all a fiery blaze;
I saw huge fishes, boiled to rags,
Bob through the bubbling brine,
And thoughts of supper crossed my soul;
I had been rash at mine.

Strange sights! strange sounds! O fearful dream!
Its memory haunts me still;
The steaming sun, the crimson glare
That wreathed each wooded hill.
Stranger, if through thy reeling brain
Such midnight visions sweep,
Spare, spare, O spare thine evening meal,
And sweet shall be thy sleep.

[*Oliver Wendell Holmes.*

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 125.]

VERMONT.—The territory now known as the State of Vermont, offered little inducement for early settlement. The mountains were climbed and the valleys crossed by New England men during the wars with the Canadian French, at which time the French, the Indians and the English occupied it in turn, or as was sometimes the case, together. Massachusetts laid claim to some portion of the territory and in 1716 made some grants. In 1724 a few settlers took possession and made the first settlement on the Connecticut river, building Fort Dummer, where is now the south-east corner of Brattleboro. Their example was not largely followed. On the establishment of the boundary line between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, it was declared to run due west until it met His Majesty's other governments. This left Fort Dummer outside the jurisdiction of Massachusetts; but the then Governor of New Hampshire, BENNING WENTWORTH, assumed that the jurisdiction of his State extended as far west as did that of Massachusetts—*i. e.*, to within twenty miles of the Hudson river; and acting on this assumption, he granted to some friends a tract of land, including the present town of Bennington, named in his honor. He afterward made further grants, to friends and others, for a consideration, and as he always reserved from each township, beside a lot for the church, 500 acres for himself, together with certain fees and other emoluments, it is supposed he made a very good thing of it.

After the peace of 1760 and the abandonment by the French of all the Mont Verd region, immigration commenced and before 1768 138 townships had been located and settled. The whole country at that time was known as the New Hampshire grants.

As early as 1763 New York began to look upon the territory with a covetous eye, and hunting up musty records found that by charters of CHARLES II. in 1664–74, New York extended from the west bank of the Connecticut river to the Delaware. Massachusetts and Connecticut had never respected this charter, as previous ones gave them territory much further west. Proclamations were made by the Governors of New York and New Hampshire respectively, which resulted in nothing, as do proclamations usually. New York appealed to the King and, it is said, fortified the appeal by forging the names of the principal settlers to a petition, and in 1764 His Majesty declared the west bank of the Connecticut *To be* the boundary line between the two States.

Then arose a quarrel as to what *to be* meant. New York claimed it was the same as always has been, and declared the grants made by New Hampshire invalid, claiming not only jurisdiction but absolute fee of the land, and commenced suits of dispossession and ejectment against the settlers.

At this point New Hampshire retired from the game, leaving the settlers to play it alone, and they were equal to the task. They had among them some representative men as SETH WARNER of Revolutionary renown, ETHAN ALLEN, of "The Great JEHOVAH and Continental Congress" memory, and others of the same stamp—bold, daring, fearless; believing implicitly in the right, caring nothing for the majesty of the law when they believed the law unjust, and depending on themselves and the truth against the world.

They did indeed make their representations to the King, showing they had purchased and paid for their lands in good faith, and finally obtained his order to New York to discontinue proceedings; but the order was disregarded, and New York passed a law making it a criminal act punishable by death, for a settler to make any opposition to her claims. ALLEN, at the request of his fellow settlers went, with a lawyer (INGERSOLL of Connecticut) and proofs of purchase to Albany, hoping for a fair hearing; but the case was already decided even before the hearing commenced. The courts were in the interests of speculators and, not only defeated but ridiculed, ALLEN left the court exclaiming, "The gods of the valleys are not the gods of the hills."

The settlers saw nothing was left for them but to protect their rights in their own way. The officers, who were soon sent to dispossess them, were met by the settlers. Those who promised to desist and return home were not harmed; but those who endeavored to carry out the objects of their mission were soundly flogged with beech switches. This was called affixing the beech seal to the deeds of their property. Soon no officer dared show himself to the Green Mountain boys, and the Governor of New York offered by proclamation £100 for the capture of ALLEN and £50 each for several of his chief supporters. They replied by proclamation, offering £5 for the Attorney-General of New York, adding they thought that sum all he was worth.

As the troubles increased officers were more roughly handled and New York cited ALLEN and his companions to appear for trial and informed them that, failing to appear, they would be adjudged guilty and sentence be passed as if they were present. They replied with a notice that if any officer or other person should attempt to arrest them, he should suffer immediate death—"By authority of the Green Mountain boys." And so the quarrel continued until the breaking out of the War of the Revolution, which gave to New York matters more important to attend to.

The settlers then (in 1776) petitioned Congress to be admitted to the Confederacy, but New York opposing, the admission was denied.

In 1777 they declared themselves independent of all Governments, adopted a Constitution, and claimed the territory bounded on the west by Lake Champlain and the Hudson river so far south as the Massachusetts line. Not belonging to the Confederation, they were not looked upon by the British Government as a revolted colony, and the leaders were repeatedly solicited by British officers to join them. But they steadily refused all offers of position, preferment or emolument. They were not to be bought.

In 1781 Congress offered them admission but with bounds somewhat curtailed. The offer was refused and the people remained independent until 1790, when New York began to desire a settlement and offered to surrender jurisdiction and all claims to land within the present limits of the State on receipt of $30,000. The offer was accepted and in 1791 the State of Vermont was admitted to the Union. In consequence of some misunderstanding, the present boundary lines were not definitely fixed until 1812.

KENTUCKY.

West of Virginia was a large territory known to the Indians as Kentucky—meaning, in their language, "The dark and bloody ground." Of this region but little was known previous to 1769. BUTLER, in his history of Kentucky, says: "In their frequent peregrinations and trading expeditions through the vast territory between the Ohio and Tennessee rivers, the first traders, hunters and explorers never found within that extent of country a single wigwam or modern Indian village. The Indian settlements nearest to the frontier border of the Carolinas and of southwest Virginia were on the Scioto and Miami in the north and on the waters of the little Tennessee in the South. From these points the various war or hunting parties issued to engage in the one or the other pursuit, as the passion or the opportunities of their expedition might lead. Here the Choctaws, Chickasaws or Cherokees of the south used to engage with the various tribes of the Miami's Confederacy of the North; here they indulged their passion for hunting in the profusion of game afforded by Kentucky and Tennessee. That part of these two States embraced within the boundaries mentioned was one great park, where the skill of the uncivilized hunter was practiced in a central theater upon which the desperate conflicts of savage warfare and bloody rivalry were perpetrated.

"By common agreement this whole country seems to have been reserved for these purposes from permanent occupancy, and so much was it exempted from settlement that south of the Ohio and north and east of the Tennessee it is not known that a single village was settled by the Indians. Yet no situations have generally delighted savage tribes so much as the margins of water courses, the opportunities of navigation and of fishing inviting to attract them to such spots. Some known and acknowledged inhibition must have, therefore, prevented settlement and possession of this great Mesopotamia. What was it? On this subject tradition and history are alike unsatisfactory."

Although some portions of Kentucky had been visited by white people previous to 1769, no attempt at any systematic explanation had been made until that year, when DANIEL BOONE—and a year later Col. JAMES KNOX—entered the territory. The former with a party traversed the north and middle regions, and KNOX with his companions, visited the middle and southern part. Both companies remained about two years and returning spread such accounts of the fertility of the soil through the western settlements of Virginia and North Carolina as to incite others to visit that country, particularly those who, having served throughout the late war, were entitled to bounty lands that were to be located upon the western waters.

In 1774 Col. RICHARD HENDERSON purchased from the Indians a large tract of country south and east of the Kentucky river, embracing lands which are now portions of Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. He immediately set about colonizing it; formed the Transylvania Company and by various means induced immigration. BOONE was employed as surveyor and in 1775 Boonsboro was located and founded. In the same year BOONE was joined by his wife and two daughters, who were the first white women that ever stood on the shores of the Kentucky.

The affairs of the Transylvania Company were progressing happily when the Legislatures of the States of Virginia and North Carolina took the matter of the purchase into consideration and determined that the right of jurisdiction and if not the fee, then certainly the sole right to purchase Indian territory vested in the State adjoining, and that while the sale by the Indians to HENDERSON extinguished their title, it gave none to him. Consequently, the settlers who had purchased from HENDERSON or the Company, found themselves in an unpleasant position. They had parted with their money but had secured no land. After considerable negotiation, it was determined that whereas HENDERSON had benefited the States by extinguishing the Indian title, the States should quit claim to the purchasers from him, and he should retain the money he had received.

This arrangement having been made immigration, which had for a time nearly ceased, again commenced. In 1776 Kentucky County was formed. In 1780 three counties were made which were in 1783 erected into into a Judicial District with a Civil and Criminal Court.

As population increased necessity for a government separate from Virginia became apparent and a petition for the same was presented to the Virginia Legislature in 1787. But little objection was made and a grant of separation was voted, dependent on the action of a convention of Kentucky to be called and the consent of the Federal Congress.

And now arose much confusion, consequent on Spanish claims to the navigation of the Mississippi river which, as it involved the whole of the Mississippi Valley, will be considered at length a little further on.

Kentucky for several years was in a curious condition. Indian forays, which were frequent, were devastating her frontier settlements, and Virginia gave no assistance toward preventing them—in fact, paid little attention to the settlers in any way. Several conventions were called, but for one cause or another, adjourned without effecting any result; but at last matters had reached a point where action could no longer be postponed, and the eighth convention was called in 1890 which, on the 4th of February, 1791, formally accepted the terms of an act of separation that had been passed by Virginia at the earnest request of President WASHINGTON, and Kentucky was admitted by Congress to be a State of the Federal Union on and after the first day of June of that year.—[To be continued.

The Story-Teller.

A RIDE IN THE FLUME.

THE following account of a ride in a flume by Mr. WILLIAMS, in the "Pacific Tourist," is sufficiently exciting to answer the requirements of the most exacting romance. We give it in his own words:

The flume is a wonderful piece of engineering work. It is built wholly upon trestle-work and stringers; there is not a cut in the whole distance and the grade is so heavy that there is little danger of a jam.

The trestle-work is very substantial and is undoubtedly strong enough to support a narrow gauge railway. It runs over foot-hills, through valleys, around mountains and across canons.

In one place it is 70 feet high. The highest point of the flume from the plain is 3,700 feet, and on an air line, from beginning to end, the distance is eight miles, the course thus taking up seven miles in twists and turns. The trestle-work is thoroughly braced, longitudinally and across, so that no break can extend farther than a single box, which is 16 feet; all the main supports, which are five feet apart, are firmly set in mud-sills, and the boxes or troughs rest in brackets four feet apart. These again rest upon substantial stringers. The grade of the flume is between 1,600 and 2,000 feet from the top to lower end, a distance of 15 miles.

The sharpest fall is three feet in six. There are two reservoirs from which the flume is fed. One is 1,100 feet long and the other 600 feet. A ditch nearly two miles long, takes the water to the first reservoir, whence it is conveyed 3¼ miles to the flume through a feeder capable of carrying 450 inches of water.

The whole flume was built in ten weeks. In that time all the trestle-work, stringers and boxes were put in place. About 200 men were employed on it at one time, being divided into four gangs. It required 2,000,000 feet of lumber, but the item which astonished me most was that there were 28 tons—or 56,000 pounds—of *nails*, used in the construction of this flume.

To the lower mill, as the road goes, it is about 40 miles from Virginia City. Although I had already ridden this distance, yet I mounted a horse and rode two or three miles to the top of the mountain, where I had one of the finest valley views that come to the lot of man. Miles and miles below, the valley was spread out with spots and squares of green crops growing and barren wastes of sand and sage brush reaching in a long stretch to the base of another spur of the Sierras. The City of Reno occupied a little spot on the plain; from my mountain it seemed like a city of toy houses built on Nature's carpet.

Upon my return I found that Mr. Flood and Mr. Fair had arranged for a ride in the flume, and I was challenged to go with them. Indeed, the proposition was put in the form of a challenge—they dared me to go.

I thought that if men worth $25,000,000 or $30,000,000 apiece, could afford to risk their lives, I could afford to risk mine, which was not worth half as much.

So I accepted the challenge and two *boats* were ordered. These were nothing more than pig-troughs, with one end knocked out. The "boat" is built, like the flume, V-shaped, and fits into the flume. It is composed of three pieces of wood—two two-inch planks 16 feet long, and an end-board which is nailed about 2½ feet across the top.

The forward end of the boat was left open, the rear end closed with a board—against which was to come the current of water to propel us. Two narrow boards were placed in the boat for seats and everything was made ready. Mr. Fair and myself were to go in the first boat and Mr. Flood and Mr. Hereford in the other.

Mr. Fair thought we had better take a third man with us who knew something about the flume. There were probably 50 men from the mill standing in the vicinity waiting to see us off, and when it was proposed to take a third man the question was asked of them if anybody was willing to go.

Only one man—a red-faced carpenter, who takes more kindly to whisky than his bench—volunteered to go. Finally, everything was arranged. Two or three stout men held the boat over the flume and told us to jump into it the minute it touched the water and to "hang on to our hats."

The signal of "all ready" was given, the boat was launched and we jumped into it as best we could, which was not very well, and away we went like the wind.

One man who helped to launch the boat fell into it just as the water struck it; but he scampered out on the trestle, and whether he was hurt or not we could not wait to see.

The grade of the flume at the mill is very heavy and the water rushes through it at railroad speed. The terrors of that ride can never be blotted from the memory of one of that party. To ride upon the cow-catcher of an engine down a steep grade is simply exhilarating, for you know there is a wide track regularly laid upon a firm foundation, that there are wheels grooved and fitted to the track, that there are trusty men at the brakes and, better than all, you know that the power that impels the train can be rendered powerless in an instant by the driver's light touch upon his lever. But a flume has no element of safety. In the first place, the grade cannot be regulated as it can on a railroad; you cannot go fast or slow at pleasure; you are wholly at the mercy of the water. You cannot stop; you cannot lessen your speed; you have nothing to hold to; you have only to sit still, shut your eyes, say your prayers, take all the water that comes—filling your boat, wetting your feet, drenching you like a plunge through the surf—and wait for eternity. It is all there is to hope for after you are launched in a flume-boat. I cannot give the reader a better idea of a flume ride than to compare it to riding down an old-fashioned eave-trough at an angle of 45°, hanging in mid-air without support of roof or house, and thus shot a distance of 15 miles.

At the start, we went at the rate of about 20 miles an hour, which is a little less than the average speed of a railroad train. The reader can have no idea of the speed we made until he compares it to a railroad. The average time we made was 30 miles per hour—a mile in two minutes for the entire distance. This is greater than the average running time of railroads.

The red-faced carpenter sat in front of our boat on the bottom as best he could. Mr. Fair sat on a seat behind him and I sat behind Mr. Fair in the stern and was of great service to him in keeping the water, which broke over the end-board, from his back.

There was a great deal of water also shipped in the bows of the hog-trough, and I know Mr. Fair's broad shoulders kept me from many a wetting in that memorable trip.

At the heaviest grade the water came in so furiously in front that it was impossible to see where we were going or what was ahead of us; but when the grade was light and we were going at a three or four-minute pace, the vision was very delightful, although it was terrible.

In this ride, which fails me to describe, I was perched up in a boat no wider than a chair, sometimes 20 feet high in the air, and with the ever-varying altitude of the flume, often 70 feet high. When the water would enable me to look ahead, I would see this trestle here and there for miles, so small and narrow and apparently so fragile, that I could only compare it to a chalk-mark upon

which, high in the air, I was running at a rate unknown upon railroads.

One circumstance during the trip did more to show me the terrible rapidity with which we dashed through the flume, than anything else. We had been rushing down at a pretty lively rate of speed when the boat suddenly struck something in the bow—a nail, or lodged stick of wood, which ought not to have been there. What was the result? The red-faced carpenter was sent whirling into the flume, ten feet ahead; Fair was precipitated on his face and I found a soft lodgment on Fair's back.

It seemed to me that in a second's time Fair, himself a powerful man, had the carpenter by the scruff of the neck and had pulled him into the boat. I did not know that, at this time, Fair had his fingers crushed between the boat and the flume.

But we sped along; minutes seemed hours. It seemed an hour before we arrived at the worst place in the flume, and yet Hereford tells me it was less than ten minutes. The flume at the point alluded to must have been very near 45° inclination.

In looking out before we reached it, I thought the only way to get to the bottom was to fall. How our boat kept in the track is more than I know. The wind, the steamboat, the railroad never went so fast. I have been where the wind blew at the rate of 80 miles an hour and yet my breath was not taken away. In the flume, in the bad places, it seemed as if I would suffocate.

The first bad place that we reached—and if I remember right, it was the worst—I got close against Fair. I did not know that I would survive the journey, but I wanted to see how fast we were going. So I lay close to him and placed my head between his shoulders. The water was coming into his face like the breakers of the ocean. When we went slow, the breakers came in on my back; but when the heavy grades were reached, the breakers were in front. In one case Fair shielded me and in the other I shielded Fair.

In this particularly bad place I allude to, my desire was to form some judgment of the speed we were making. If the truth must be spoken, I was really scared almost out of reason; but if I was on the way to eternity, I wanted to know exactly how fast I went; so I huddled close to Fair and turned my eyes toward the hills. Every object I placed my eye on was gone before I could clearly see what it was. Mountains passed like visions and shadows. It was with difficulty that I could get my breath. I felt that I did not weigh an hundred pounds, although I knew, in the sharpness of intellect which one has at such a moment, that the scales turned at *two hundred*.

Mr. Flood and Mr. Hereford, although they started several minutes later than we, were close upon us. They were not so heavily loaded and they had the full sweep of the water, while we had it rather at second-hand. Their boat finally struck ours with a terrible crash.

Mr. Flood was thrown upon his face and the waters flowed over him, leaving not a dry thread upon him. What became of Hereford I do not know, except that when he reached the terminus of the flume, he was as wet as any of us.

This only remains to be said. We made the entire distance in less time than a railroad train would ordinarily make, and a portion of the time we went faster than a railroad train ever went.

Fair said we went at least a mile a minute. Flood said we went at the rate of 100 miles an hour, and *my* deliberate belief is that we went at a rate that annihilated time and space. We were a wet lot when we reached the terminus of the flume. Flood said he would not make the trip again for the whole Consolidated Virginia Mine.

Fair said that he should never again place himself on an equality with timber and wood, and Hereford said he was sorry that he ever built the flume. As for myself, I told the millionaire that I had accepted my last challenge. When we left our boats we were more dead than alive.

We had yet 16 miles to drive to Virginia City. How we reached home the reader will never know. I asked Flood what I was to do with my spoiled suit of English clothes. He bade me "good night," with the remark that my clothes were good enough to give away. The next day, neither Flood nor Fair were able to leave their bed. For myself, I had only strength enough left to say, "I have had enough of flumes."

A NEWSPAPER'S STORY.

One day, about three in the afternoon, a middle-aged gentleman ran up the steps of a handsome house, in a handsomer city street, and asked the servant who opened the door if Miss Neville was at home. Being answered in the affirmative, he sent in his card. Written upon it was the name —William Belmore.

The servant, having shown him into the front parlor, took the card upstairs and returned with the information that Miss Neville would be "down in a moment," and in a moment Miss Neville herself entered. She was a beautiful young woman of three-and-twenty. She was dressed stylishly and bore herself with an air that showed she was used to society.

She held in her hand a newspaper, around which was folded a wrapper, directed to herself, which she had taken from the hall table as she passed. She had only glanced at the direction and as yet not opened it. That paper was myself—I had just arrived from Washington.

At her entrance Mr. Belmore arose and advanced, holding out his hand. She gave him hers, which he certainly kept a moment or so longer than was necessary. He was a tall, well-built man enough, fifty years of age, with gray side whiskers and a high nose.

Of course as a newspaper and one devoted to fashionable intelligence, I have great experience in love affairs. I saw at a glance that Mr. Belmore was in love with Miss Neville and that he intended to offer her his hand and heart at some time. After they had conversed awhile, I knew that he had resolved to do it that very day. She knew it too, when he had remarked:

"My dear Miss Neville, I have something very particular to say to you."

He began by telling her that she was beautiful. Then he told her that he loved her. Then he mentioned the amount of his property and real estate and asked her if she would marry him.

She thanked him in a very well arranged speech, at the end of which she declined his offer.

When she had done this there was a silence. Mr. Belmore broke it by making an inquiry:

"Would she ever change her mind? Might he not hope that, having thought his offer over, she would view it in a better light?"

She replied that it was not a question of time and that she certainly should not change her mind. She hoped, however, that he would always be her friend.

At that he grew very angry, though he tried not to appear so; and in a moment he arose to go.

She bowed him to the parlor door and he went out into the hall, into the vestibule, and to the front door. There a new lock, which was the torment of every stranger, baffled him. He stood a prisoner between the two doors, vainly struggling to open either of them for five minutes.

In this space of time Miss Neville had seated herself in a great arm-chair and taken me out of my wrapper. As soon as she did so her eye rested on a paragraph, on each side of which were placed two pencil brackets.

There were not fifty words between them; but as she read I felt myself begin to tremble in her hands.

"Is it possible?" she cried; and tears arose to her eyes; and just then a faint sound in the hall attracted her attention.

Mr. Belmore had managed to open the inner door and stood at that of the parlor.

"I beg a thousand pardons, Miss Neville," he said, "but I cannot manage to—to get out of the house as rapidly as, doubtless, would be agreeable to you."

He was very angry at this time and the marks of two red hot tears of rage and grief—middle-aged tears—were on his cheeks. I don't know whether she saw them, but he noticed those in hers and the change in her face.

"I regret that I should have distressed you," he said, "I—I—I hoped to make you as happy as a different answer would have made me."

As he spoke she put me down upon the table and advanced to him.

h" Would a different answer have made you appy?" said she.

"That I asked the question is sufficient proof of that," said he.

"Then be happy," said she, and held out her hand.

I never saw so happy a man since I was a newspaper.

He took her hands and put them to his lips.

"If it had not been for the door-lock, my dear," he said, "how miserable I should be this moment!" Bless the door-lock! The angels must have been watching over me when I grew so stupid over it—eh, darling?"

"I am glad you came back," said she.

"And don't cry. It's all over. I did not go away," said he.

"Just let me cry a little while," said she.

"What has happened to-day will never happen again, you know. It is only for once."

"Yes, it's not likely to be done over again," said he. "And to think I might have gone off. They always told me that ladies said 'no' when they meant 'yes;' but I did not believe it until to-day."

And after a while he took his leave, well satisfied.

They are married now, and he often spoke of that day. He says that but for the door-lock he might have been a miserable bachelor, for he should never have asked her a second time for what she had once refused. She always smiles on him when he says that. All the world knows the story of the door-lock and how she changed her mind while he was opening it, and it is quite amusing and romantic; but no one knows about me. I am quite an old paper now, for I bear date 1872. I lie in a little box in which is a photograph, four letters and a ring. The box is always locked but the pencilled brackets have not faded out yet, and between them lie these words:

"One of the most elegant weddings of the season took place yesterday at St. ——'s Church, where Captain Leslie Rawden was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to the young and beautiful society belle, Miss Eva La Croix, the heiress of one of our wealthy merchants, Mr. C. La Croix. The happy pair have started on a tour to Europe."

The letters on the inside of the ring are, "L. R. to A. N."

Women do change their minds very unexpectedly, but I don't think that it was the patent lock that was the cause of Mr. Belmore's happiness, and I'm a newspaper of great experience.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

The Farmer's Veterinary Adviser; A Guide to the Prevention and Treatment of Diseases in Domestic Animals. By James Law, Professor of Veterinary Science in Cornell University, Etc., Etc. [Illustrated; pp. 426.] Ithaca, N. Y.: published by the Author.

Every man who has the care of animals requires some safe adviser in case of accident or disease making its appearance among them. Scientific or thoroughly educated veterinarians are comparatively few in this country and the farmer, with rare exceptions, must depend upon his own or neighbor's skill and knowledge of the treatment required in such cases; consequently, any aid which can be derived from books is generally acceptable, and this we believe, is the place the work before us is designed to fill. After a careful examination of it we are satisfied that it is worthy of the highest commendation and a book that no farmer can afford to do without. We notice with pleasure that the author has avoided the use of purely scientific and unfamiliar terms wherever it could be done without in any way making himself less clearly understood by the reader. The work is also quite opportune, for diseases of domestic animals have increased of late years or old ones assumed new forms, thereby leaving our old authors far in the background and their works of little value as advisers. Prof. Law's work ought to find its way into every farmer's library and that too, right speedily, not only as a profitable investment but to prevent cruel treatment as practiced by many owners of stock.

History of the Intellectual Development of Europe. By John William Draper. Revised Edition. [2 vols.—12 mo.; $3.] New York: Harper Bros.

In his treatise on "Human Physiology" (one of the best works of the kind ever written) Dr. Draper wrote of man as an individual. In this work—which may be properly considered as a continuation of the other—he treats of man as related to society, of which he forms a part.

In considering the growth of intelligence, it is argued that nations and individuals, as well as all physical things, are governed by law; that physical agencies control all organisms, not excepting man; that social advancement is as completely subject to natural law as is bodily growth, and that, like men, it has its succeeding stages from infancy to old age, passing also through ages of credulity, inquiry, faith, reason and decrepitude, and that the members of communities, like those of families, are usually found in different stages of progress.

There are few authors who combine so well as does Dr. Draper the power of accumulating facts with the faculty of presenting them so fully and clearly. He arranges his topics with such relations to each other as to lead the reader easily from step to step in his argument, and elucidates the truth of his philosophy in language so concise and style so simple as to be readily comprehended.

The favor with which the work has been received in Europe may be judged from the fact that the first edition was translated into French, German, Russian, Polish, Servian, &c.

How to Get Rich in California. A Compilation. [Paper—pp. 137. Price 50c.] Philadelphia: McMorris & Gans.

California is an attractive subject. It has, in fact, attracted a great many subjects who have asked the question this book essays to answer. The common experience has been that very hard work in allopathic quantities was about the surest way to accomplish the object. The book under notice is crammed with statistics and matter that addresses itself directly to the practical man. El Dorado is a shifting phrase, and the gold mines that attracted the Argonauts of '49 have been variously modified, until a sheep ranch, a vineyard, agriculture and, in the case of "John," family washing have proved to be real sources of wealth, which are not so fleeting and uncertain as "prospecting." Those intending to cast their lot on the Pacific Slope will find this book serviceable.

Bachelder's Popular Resorts and How to Reach Them. By J. B. Bachelder. [Illustrated. Paper—pp. 389. Price, 75c.] New York: Geo. R. Lockwood.

Mr. Bachelder is again in the field with his popular book, as profusely illustrated as ever, and so replete with good advice that we are tempted to believe that the Persian proverb is all wrong. It says Heaven sent ten bushels of talk to earth, nine of which were given to women. The compiler must hold a lien on those nine bushels. The talk is practical and cannot fail to be of service to those who contemplate folding their tents and taking an outing. We wish we were among the number.

The Galaxy for September will contain a biographical sketch of General Custer, written by Captain Frederick Whittaker of the cavalry service; also a continuation of General Custer's "War Memoirs." The publishers of the Galaxy received copy from General Custer just before his death, and his "War Memoirs" will be continued in several numbers of the Galaxy. Ex-Secretary Wells will also contribute articles in the next two numbers of the Galaxy on "The Nomination and Election of Abraham Lincoln." Also articles by Richard Grant White, Albert Rhodes and J. H. Siddons, together with several interesting short stories and poems.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From J. W. Schermermorn & Co., New York:
- Elements of English Grammar. By S. W. Whitney, A. M. (Cloth.—pp. 160.) Elements of Latin Grammar. By G. Fischer, LL. D. [Cloth.—pp. 236.] Price $1.25. The Mask of Comus. By Jno. Milton; edited by H. B. Sprague, A. M., Ph. D. Schermerhorn's Monthly for August.

Lee & Shepard, Boston, Mass.:
- The Chinese Problem. By L. T. Townsend, D. D. (Paper.—pp. 86.) Price 50 cents.

State Printing Office, Sacramento, Cal.:
- Chinese Immigration: Testimony taken before a Committee of the Senate of the State of California. (Paper.—pp. 173.)

F. W. Case, Secretary, Madison, Wis.:
- Transactions of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society for 1876. (Cloth.—pp. 199.)

D. Appleton & Co., New York:
- American Cyclopedia, Vol. XVI.

Magazines for September:
- Galaxy, Harper's, Scribner's, St. Nicholas, Atlantic Monthly, Wallace's Monthly.

Sabbath Reading.

O HEAD, SO FULL OF BRUISES.

O head, so full of bruises!
Brow, that its life-blood loses!
O great humility!
Across his face are flying
The shadows of the dying:
'Twas suffered all for me!

O back, by scourges plowed!
O soul, by sorrow bowed
Upon the accursed tree!
He hears the bitter scorning:
'Tis night, without a dawning:
'Twas suffered all for me!

Eye, that in darkness sinketh!
Lip, that the red cup drinketh!
Hands, bound to misery!
See, from his feet forth streameth
The fountain that redeemeth!
'Twas suffered all for me!

And now he speaks: oh hearken,
While clouds all nature darken!
"Lama Sabacthani!"
His head is bent, and droopeth,
To such a death he stoopeth!
'Twas suffered all for me!

DEITY IN FORTY-EIGHT LANGUAGES.

The following list, comprising the name of God in forty-eight languages, was compiled by the well-known French physiologist, Louis Burger, in the following manner—One day, as he was walking along the streets of Paris, he heard a voice beseeching him to buy some nuts. Upon looking back he discovered that it was the voice of his old barber, who was gaining a scanty living by selling nuts on the street. To aid him, he hastily made out and gave to the barber the following list:

Hebrew—Elohim, Eloah.
Chaldaic—Ellah.
Assyrian—Eleah.
Syriac and Turkish—Alah.
Malay—Alla.
Arabic—Allah.
Language of the Magi—Orsi.
Old Egyptian—Tuet.
Armorian—Teuti.
Modern Egyptian—Teun.
Greek—Theos.
Cretan—Thios.
Æolian and Doric—Ilos.
Latin—Deus.
Low Latin—Diex.
Celtic and Gallic—Dia.
French—Dieu.
Spanish—Dios.
Portuguese—Deos.
Old German—Diet.
Provencal—Diou.
Low Breton—Done.
Italian—Dio.
Irish—Dia.
Olalu Tongue—Deu.
German and Swiss—Gott.
Flemish—Goed.
Dutch—Godt.
English and Old Saxon—God.
Teutonic—Goth.
Danish and Swedish—Gut.
Norwegian—Gud.
Sclave—Buch.
Polish—Bog.
Pollaeca—Bung.
Lapp—Jubinal.
Finnish—Jumala.
Runic—As.
Zemblain—Fetizo.
Pannonian—Istu.
Hindostance—Rain.
Caromandel—Brama.
Tartar—Magatal.
Persian—Sire.
Chinese—Pru sa.
Japanese—Goesur.
Madagascar—Zamar.
Peruvian—Puchecammac.

By the sale of these lists the barber was enabled to make as good a living, if not better, than M. Burger himself.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

One may be sincere without being safe.

Forbidden pleasures, though loved at first, are loathed at last.

To be blessed with happiness we must be beautified with holiness.

He that would commune much with God must commune little with the world.

Resignation is putting God between one's-self and one's grief.—*Madame Swetchine.*

None can enter by the heavenly gate above who do not enter by the narrow gate below.

Though we must never be weary of the Lord's work, the sooner we weary of Satan's the better.

In this simple fact, that we cannot accurately foresee the future, lies a refuge from despair.—*Lewes.*

The thing which an active mind most needs is a purpose and direction worthy of its activity.—*Bovee.*

That which makes death so dreadful is the consciousness of sin and the fear of damnation.—*Heubner.*

There will not be a tear in heaven—there will not be a smile in hell; there will be no weeping in the former, and nothing but weeping in the latter.

Ladies' Portfolio.

ARRIERE PENSEE.

He wraps me round with his riches,
He covers me up with his care,
And his love is the love of a manhood
Whose life is a living prayer.
I have plighted my woman's affections,
I have given my all in all,
And the flowers of a daily contentment
Renew their lives ere they fall.
And yet like an instrument precious
That playeth an olden tune,
My heart in the midst of its blessings
Goes back to a day in June—
To a day when beneath the branches
I stood by a silent stream,
And saw in its bosom an image,
As one seeth a face in a dream.

I would not resign his devotion,
No, not for a heart that lives,
Nor change one jot of my condition
For the change that condition gives:
I should mourn not more another,
Nor more for another rejoice,
Than now when I weep at his absence,
Or welcome his step and his voice.
And yet, like an instrument precious,
That playeth an olden tune,
My heart in the midst of its blessings
Goes back to a day in June—
To a day when beneath the branches
I stood in the shadowy light,
And heard the low words of a whisper
As one heareth a voice in the night.

THE CHOICE OF A WIFE.

Next to choosing the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour and guide, the most important choice a young man can make is that of a *wife*. Yet this most eventful step is too often regarded from first to last in the most trivial aspect. With many it is the merest matter of fancy or boyish caprice. Sometimes a wife is sought for the sole gratification of carnal desires. Sometimes marriage is viewed entirely as a shrewd pecuniary speculation. Indolent, extravagant young men sometimes intrigue through a marriage-vow for a wealth they are too lazy or too thriftless to earn by honest toil.

On the other hand, many an ambitious parent has sought to purchase a splendid "establishment" with the sweetest charms that heaven has bestowed upon a daughter. What baser bargain can be consummated than when a woman consents to sell her person without her heart to a rich suitor? Only one man should be rich enough to win my daughter: it is he who can offer a love without a rival, and a character without a stain. True religion, common-sense, industrious habits and a warm heart—when a young man can offer *these*, no daughter who is worthy of such a prize will be likely to "say him *nay*."

With what a rash recklessness do millions rush into momentous engagements that yield the inevitable retribution of domestic misery! How few seek by prayer for Divine guidance when choosing the companion of their heart, their home, their destiny! Far oftener is it passion than prayer that controls this great decision. The gratification of a fancy, the excitement of a courtship, and the frolic of a wedding, are frequently the only preparations for the serious realities of a wedded life.

Boyish caprice and girlish romance look vastly different in human eyes when they have crystallized down into the permanent forms of daily existence under the same roof, at the same table and fireside, year in and year out, for summer and winter, for sickness or health, for better or worse, clear on to the doorway of the tomb. When the novelty of wedded life has worn away, and perhaps the beauty of the fair face that inspired the early passion has faded, then there must be something *solid* left behind, or marriage is a mockery, and its coveted happiness but a dream. There must be mutual confidence, mutual respect, unity of aim and old-fashioned love: there ought to be also a union of hearts in the love of Christ, in closet devotions and at the communion-table. (1. Cor. vii. 39; 2. Cor. vi. 14.)

When those are the qualities of a nuptial union, it is a marriage "*in the Lord*." It "shineth more and more" from the auroral dawn of first love "unto the perfect day" of rich and ripened bliss. When young hearts are wedded in Christ they are wedded for heaven. It is a delightful act for a Christian minister to join such hearts and hands together; but the words sometimes stick in his throat when he attempts to pronounce a benediction on a marriage which neither common-sense nor conscience have had a share in bringing about. His *fee* seems to come out of Judas' bag.

The admirable Philip Henry sought the hand of an only daughter in a somewhat prominent family. Her father said to her, "This young man seems to be an excellent preacher, but I do not know whence he came."

"True," replied the daughter; "but I know *where he is going*, and I want to go along with him." The marriage proved eminently happy, and one of the children was the famous commentator.

When his own son Matthew and his daughters asked his consent to their marriage, he said, "Please God, and please yourselves, and then you will be sure to please me."

At their weddings he saluted them with a fatherly kiss, and said, "Other people wish you much happiness, but I wish you much *holiness*: if you have that, you are certain to be happy."

No two steps in a man's life are so solemn as those which join him to Christ's church and join him to a wife.

Marriage is an ordinance of God. It has often proved a "saving ordinance" to others who had no other tie to Christianity. The men whom a wise marriage has saved (with God's blessing) are innumerable. The men whom reckless, wretched marriages have ruined,—are their histories not written in the "Book of the Chronicles" of prayerless homes and impenitent death-beds?

Happy are those who, like Aquila and Priscilla, are united in the Lord! Happy are they who walk the life-journey, all the safer and all the happier for walking it hand in hand, keeping step to the voice of duty and of God. Wedded in time, they are wedded for heaven, and will sit down together with exquisite rapture at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.—*T. L. Cuyler, D. D.*

AN ANTI-SLANG SOCIETY.

The "Reform Club" is the title of a new organization in the West End, organized by young ladies for the purpose of discouraging the use of "slang phrases" in conversation. At a recent meeting, while a member was addressing the society, she inadvertantly made use of the expression "awful nice," and was called to order by a sister member for transgressing the rules.

"In what way have I transgressed?" asked the speaker, blushing deeply.

"You said it would be 'awful nice' to admit young gentlemen to our deliberations," replied the other.

"Well, wouldn't it be?" returned the speaker; "you know you said yourself no longer ago than yesterday that—"

"Yes, I know; but you said 'awful nice.' That's slang."

"Well," said the speaker, tartly, "if you are going to be so awful nice about it, perhaps it is; but I wouldn't say anything if I were you. Didn't you tell Sallie Spriggins, this morning, to pull down her basque?"

"No, I didn't," retorted the other, her face growing crimson; "and Sallie Spriggins will say I didn't. She won't go back on me."

"This is a nice racket you are giving us," cried the President, after rapping both speakers to order. "Let us ask, what is the object of this society?"

"To discourage slang!" cried a dozen voices.

"Kerect," said the President, "go on with the funeral."

A member rose to explain that she had been fined at the last meeting for saying "awful nice" herself, but she hadn't the stamps to pay it now—would settle, however, in the sweet by-and-by.

"That'll be all right," said the President; "pay when you have the ducats."

Another member asked if a young lady could say "old splendid" without subjecting herself to a fine.

"You bet she can't," said the President, who was the original founder of the society, and therefore appealed to when any nice question was to be decided.

"Then," said the speaker, "I move that Miranda Pew come down with the dust, for I heard her say that her beau was just old splendid."

Miranda's face was in a blaze as she cried, "Well, if my beau was such an old hair pin as your fellow is I wouldn't say it."

"Shoot the chinning," cried the President; "will you never fumble?"

But the confusion was too great to be allayed. Miranda's blood was up; some sided with her and others against her, and amid the Babel that followed could be heard such exclamations as "dry up," "nice blackberry you are," "wipe off your chin," "hire a hall," etc., when a motion to adjourn was carried "by a large majority."—*Wheeling Times.*

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Poets know, and statesmen ought to know, it is by sentiment when well directed—as by sorrow when well used—great nations live. When sentiment dies out, and mere prosaic calculation or loss and profit takes its place, then comes a Byzantine epoch, a Chinese epoch, decrepitude and slow decay.—*Kingsley.*

The every-day cares and duties which men call drudgery are the weights and counterpoises of the clock of time, giving its pendulum a true vibration, and its hands a regular motion, and when they cease to hang upon the wheels, the pendulum no longer swings, the hands no longer move, the clock stands still.—*Longfellow.*

They had company to tea. The table was set out splendidly. The biscuit were as white and light and flaky as snow, and the cake was just lovely. The company were delighted with everything, and were enjoying themselves hugely and getting the *modus operandi* of making the biscuit, which were too lovely for anything, when the infant of the household unfortunately whispered, "Ma, why don't you have such a tea when there ain't company?"

A Detroiter of liberal education, says the Free Press, has been greatly annoyed because his wife and other women are not better posted on history and other matters connected with the growth or welfare of the country. The other day he carried home a big history, and handed it to his spouse with the remark, "There, Mary, I want you to commence at page 1, and see if you can't learn something." She agreed to become his pupil, and when he come home to supper he found her reading away, hair down, slippers on, all the fires out but one, and no sign of supper. "Why, how's this?" he inquired. "Are you sick?" "Sick! No." "Well, where's my supper?" "I don't know anything about your supper," she replied, as she settled back in her chair, "but I can tel you about the first discovery of Florida."

Reading for the Young.

LETTING THE OLD CAT DIE.

Not long ago, I wandered near
A play-ground in the wood,
And there heard words from a youngster's lips
That I've never quite understood.

"Now let the old cat die," he laughed.
I saw him give a push,
Then gayly scamper away as he spied
My face peep over the bush.

But what he pushed, or where he went,
I could not well make out,
On account of the thicket of bending boughs
That bordered the place about.

"The little villain has stoned a cat,
Or hung it upon a limb,
And left it to die all alone," I said;
"But I'll play the mischief with him."

I forced my way between the boughs,
The poor old cat to seek,
And what did I find but a swinging child,
With her bright hair brushing her cheek.

Her bright hair floated to and fro,
Her little red dress flushed by,
But the loveliest thing of all, I thought,
Was the gleam of her laughing eye.

Swinging and swaying back and forth,
With the rose-light in her face,
She seemed like a bird and a flower in one,
And the forest her native place.

"Steady! I'll send you up, my child,"
But she stopped me with a cry;
"Go 'way! go 'way! Don't touch me, please—
I'm letting the old cat die!"

"You letting him die!" I cried, aghast—
"Why, where's the cat, my dear?"
And lo! the laughter that filled the woods
Was a thing for the birds to hear.

"Why, don't you know," said the little maid,
The flitting, beautiful elf;
"That we call it 'letting the old cat die,'
When the swing stops all of itself?"

Then swinging and swinging, and looking back,
With the merriest look in her eye,
She bade me "good-day," and I left her alone,
A-letting the old cat die.

WHICH WAS THE BRAVE BOY?

BY LILLIE E. BARR.

"Our cow has got a new calf."

This statement was made by a small boy who had been sitting on the fence nearly five minutes, looking very hard at his neighbor's little boy, who was busy digging in the garden.

"What's it like?" asked the neighbor's boy, dropping the spade, in order to ask the question from the vantage ground of hands in his pockets.

"Oh, it's red, with some white into it."

"We've got a new baby," answered the other, rather proudly.

"Oh, babies aren't half as nice as calves; besides we've got a baby too, only she's grow'd a little big."

"But our baby ain't a 'she;' it's a *he*," said the boy, decisively.

"Oh!"—and the tone implied that the circumstance of sex might make up for the inferiority of babies to calves, in point of interest.

"What's your name?" said the little digger, lifting his spade in order to lean upon it after the fashion of men; mine is Francis Judson, but they call me Frankie."

"Mine is Thomas Black; mother calls me Tom, but the fellows call me Black. I wear suspenders; do you?"

"No," said Frankie,—feeling very much as if it was a mean kind of thing not to have arrived at that dignity—"but mother says she is going to get me a pair, right away."

"How old are you? I'm twelve, going on thirteen."

"I'm ten, very near indeed.

"Oh!—have you got a fishing line?"

"Yes," answered Frankie, feeling his spirits rising in the pride of this acquisition, and almost forgetting the default of the suspenders; "I've got a bully line."

"Will your mother let you go a-fishing?" asked Tom.

"I'll go and ask her if you'll wait," said little Frankie; and in a few minutes he returned with her permission. The two boys set off for the river and were soon the very best of friends; for Frankie looked up to Tom, who was a boy "going on thirteen" and wearing suspenders. Besides Tom had volunteered the information that he "was very brave, and afraid of nothing, or no one, not even the district schoolmaster." Indeed, the impression left on Frankie's mind by a relation of Tom's school-room experiences was, that the schoolmaster was rather afraid of Tom. But then Frankie was a quiet little fellow, playing a good deal with girls, and, as Tom rather scornfully declared, "quite tied to his mother's apron strings."

Frankie readily allowed the general superiority of Tom; and indeed felt, after listening an hour to Tom's adventures, that Tom Black, in point of pluck, was little inferior to Jack the Giant-killer. Towards sunset the boys strung their fish and rose to go home, Tom being quite amused at Frankie's fear of a lizard which he suddenly came upon. He admitted that he believed "the creatures were quite as poisonous as snakes, but he'd got quite used to them;" and then he told one or two of his adventures in which lizards of extraordinary size figured.

In the middle of one of these stories he stopped suddenly short, and stood looking up the lane with terror-stricken eyes; for coming at full speed down it was a large dog with his tongue lolling out, and every sign about him of ungovernable agony or passion.

Oh, Frankie, run! That's Gibson's Ponto, and he's got the hydrophobia. I heard father say so this morning; and O dear! there's little Trotty Attwood just behind us. Come on, Frankie, or you'll get bit,"—and without a moment's delay Tom bounded over the fence and fled across the field.

But Frankie looked first at the dog running so swiftly towards him, and then at little Trotty who, all unconscious of danger, was coming slowly with careful steps up the lane, carrying a pitcher half full of new milk in her two little sun-browned hands. In another moment he had reached the child, and before she could speak had fairly thrown her over the fence. He had barely time to leap to the other side himself when old Ponto fell down in a fit almost on the spot where he had stood with the child a minute before.

"You've spilt all my milk and broked my nice pitcher, and you're a weal bad, wicked boy, Frankie Judson," said little Trotty, picking herself up, and looking with no small indignation at poor Frankie, who sat pale and trembling on the grass.

"Never mind, Trotty; I've saved you from a mad dog, I have. Come, let me take you home quick;" and Frankie, springing to his feet, ran with the child in his arms as fast as his trembling legs would carry him to Mrs. Attwood's.

Mrs. Attwood's look and kiss quite repaid Frankie; yet he was very happy when his father patted him on the head, and his mother, with happy tears in her eyes, called him her "brave little lad." Yet even with these commendations added to his own satisfaction, he was not indifferent to the fact that Thomas Black, who was "going on thirteen" and wore suspenders, called him "a real plucky little boy," and introduced him as such to all "the fellows" who were the leaders of Boy Society in Thomsonville Center.

THE BOY, THE BEETLE AND THE DOG.

The minister gave out his text and droned along monotonously through an argument which was so prosy that many a head by-and-by began to nod, and yet it was an argument that dealt in limitless fire and brimstone, and thinned the predestinated elect down to a company so small as to be hardly worth the saving. Tom counted the pages of the sermon; after church he always knew how many pages there had been, but he seldom knew anything else about the discourse. However, this time he was really interested for a little while. The minister made a grand and moving picture of the assembling together of the world's hosts at the Millennium, when the lion and the lamb should lie down together and a little child should lead them. But the pathos, the lesson, the moral of the great lesson were lost upon the boy; he only thought of the conspicuousness of the principal character before the on-looking nations; his face lit up with the thought, and he said to himself he wished he could be that child, if it was a tame lion.

Now he lapsed into suffering again as the dry argument was resumed. Presently he bethought himself of a treasure he had, and got it out. It was a large black beetle with formidable jaws, a "pinch-bug" he called it. It was in a percussion-cap box. The first thing the beetle did was to take him by the finger. A natural flip followed, the beetle went floundering into the aisle, and lit on its back, and the hurt finger went into the boy's mouth. The beetle lay there working its helpless legs, unable to turn over. Tom eyed it, and longed for it, but it was safe out of his reach. Other people, uninterested in the sermon, found relief in the beetle, and they eyed it too.

Presently a vagrant poodle dog came idling along, sad at heart, lazy with the summer softness and the quiet, weary of captivity, sighing for change. He spied the beetle; the drooping tail lifted and wagged. He surveyed the prize; walked round it; smelt of it from a safe distance; walked round it again; grew bolder, and took a closer smell; then lifted his lip, and made a gingerly snatch at it, just missing it; made another and another; began to enjoy the diversion; subsided to his stomach with the beetle between his paws, and continued his experiments; grew weary at last, and then indifferent and absent-minded. His head nodded, and little by little his chin descended and touched the enemy, who seized it. There was a sharp yelp, a flirt of the poodle's head, and the beetle fell a couple of yards away, and lit on its back once more. The neighboring spectators shook with a gentle inward joy, several faces went behind fans and handkerchiefs, and Tom was entirely happy. The dog looked foolish, and probably felt so; but there was resentment in his heart, too, and a craving for revenge. So he went to the beetle and began a wary attack on it again; jumping at it from every point of a circle, fighting with his fore-paws within an inch of the creature, making even closer snatches at it with his teeth, and jerking his head till his ears flapped again. But he grew tired once more, after a while; tried to amuse himself with a fly, but found no relief; followed an ant around, with his nose close to the floor, and quickly wearied of that; yawned, sighed, forgot the beetle entirely, and sat down on it! Then there was a wild yelp of agony, and the poodle went sailing up the aisle; the yelps continued, and so did the dog; he crossed the house in front of the altar; he flew down the other aisle; he crossed before the doors; he clamored up the home stretch; his anguish grew with his progress, till presently he was a woolly comet, moving in its orbit with the gleam and speed of

light. At last the frantic sufferer sheered from its course and sprang into its master's lap; he flung it out of the window, and the voice of distress quickly thinned away and died in the distance. * * * Tom Sawyer went home quite cheerful, thinking to himself that there was some satisfaction about divine service when there was a bit of variety in it. He had but one marring thought; he was willing that the dog should play with his pinch-bug, but he did not think it was upright to carry it off.—*Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer."*

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

Robert to Ellen.

DEAR EDITOR:—It is some time since I wrote to the RURAL—not since Mr. MOORE resigned the editorial chair; so, with my best wishes to his successors, I will proceed to comply with ELLEN J. S.'s request and chat with old friends through the RURAL'S columns. Well, ELLEN, you say you are *only* a girl, and it strikes me you must be a sensible one, because you don't do as most of your sex delight in doing—place yourself above the boys either by merit or conceit, I don't know which; but I am your firm friend from this out, as the Irish say. As to YOUNG TOM, I think he ought to throw another "bomb" into camp that would startle the whole tribe that are battling against him. We had busy times in this section through seeding time; owing to the wet weather last fall, plowing was pretty much behind hand, and in the commencement of seeding we had a long wet spell too, so things had to be put in a hurry; but the appearance of the crops at this writing promises a bountiful harvest, at least to those that wrought their farms well; as to those that did not, I think they will not fare so well,—but I heard one of those that owe their poor crops to their bad management say, one time, "Sure, the LORD will provide."—ROBERT H. C., *Wellesley, Ont.*

From Cousin "Jim."

DEAR UNCLES AND COUSINS:—I have never written for a paper before, but since I read Uncle TRUE'S letter I have concluded I would try. I am a farmer's daughter, and live in the southern part of New York State. My father owns 140 acres of land, and keeps twenty-two cows and five horses. I am fourteen; weigh 114 pounds, and am four feet ten and a-half inches tall. I help my father out of doors a good deal in haying time. I can ride on the hay tedder, drive the pitchfork, and I have done almost all of the raking this summer, and last spring I rode on the roller a good deal. I have never learned to milk, or to harness a horse yet, but maybe I shall some time. My father's hired men call me JIM. I guess they call me so because I work out of doors so much. Hoping to merit your approbation, I will close.—COUSIN J.

From the Peninsula State.

DEAR RURAL:—As I have never been admitted to the circle of Cousins I cannot say "Dear Cousins," but hope soon to be able to. I will try and draw a portrait of myself. I am of medium hight, have dark hair and eyes, and am what the girls would call rather a good-looking fellow. Don't call me vain, for I am not a bit. I live in a handsome little city, about eighty miles from Detroit. There is a very fine school-house here. It is a handsome building, both inside and out, and a great many girls and boys from out of town attend school here. It seems to me that the Cousins are getting tired of writing, or has YOUNG TOM frightened them all away? Write again, TOM, and don't let the girls have the pleasure of thinking they have driven you off.—ROB ROY.

The Puzzler.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 58 letters:

My 9, 2, 14, 46, 21, 23, 7, 56, 36, 12, 41, 21 is a city in Pennsylvania.
My 55, 18, 47, 47, 21, 56, 3 a city in New York.
My 5, 19, 4, 8, 30, 17 a lake in New York.
My 23, 31, 22, 6, 25, 48, 33 a village in New York.
My 15, 11, 21, 27, 10, 29 an island west of Long Island.
My 13, 45, 23, 26, 28, 22 a river in New York.
My 29, 32, 1, 20, 21, 16, 9, 42, 24, 14, 52, 32 one of the United States.
My 50, 44, 29, 27, 9, 34, 56, 14, 35, 52 a city in Vermont.
My 16, 49, 53, 43, 37, 39, 57, 21, 23 a lake in Maine.
My 58, 40, 7, 46, 38, 32, 52 an island belonging to New York.
My 4, 17, 54, 51, 2 a bay that indents Long Island.
My whole is a Bible text.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S. C.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 16 letters:

My 3, 16, 10, 13, 2 is a large and bright constellation.
My 4, 9, 7, 8, 15 one of the mechanical powers.
My 11, 12, 3, 1, 6 part of a wheel.
My 11, 5, 13, 3, 12 a sail vessel.
My 14, 13, 7, 6, 2 was a deity for whom a day of the week was named.
My whole is a proverb.

☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Aug. 10.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.—"The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.—"Light gains make heavy purses."

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In these matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

DEATH OF HON. HENRY S. RANDALL.

THE HON. HENRY S. RANDALL, LL. D., for many years editor of the Sheep Husbandry department of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, died at his late residence in Cortland Village, N. Y., on the 14th instant, in his sixty-sixth year. This announcement will pain many RURAL readers throughout the country, by whom the deceased was esteemed as a man of ability, honor and unswerving integrity. Dr. RANDALL has long been widely and favorably known as a public man and author, and especially as a writer and authority on the subject of Sheep Husbandry. He was born in Madison County in 1811; graduated at Union College at the age of nineteen, and was soon after admitted to the bar, but ere long ceased the practice of his profession for more congenial pursuits. During his notable career, Dr. RANDALL held various positions of honor and responsibility, the duties of which he discharged with signal ability and fidelity.

In 1843 he was appointed County Superintendent of Public Schools, an office he most worthily filled. He was elected Secretary of State in 1851 and held that office in 1852 and 1853. As Superintendent of Education was not then a separate office, the duties now performed by that official were discharged by Dr. RANDALL, who exhibited remarkable qualifications for the position. Taking a deep interest in the common schools, he initiated various measures which redounded to their great advantage. Indeed he was a life-long friend and advocate of universal education, and ever active for its promotion and elevation—as manifested by his introducing a bill for compulsory education while a member of the Legislature and other acts to enhance the rudimentary knowledge and sound intelligence of the people of the State and Country. The last political office held by deceased was that of Member of Assembly in 1871, to which he was elected in a district usually strongly opposed to the party he represented—showing his personal popularity and the esteem in which he was justly held by his fellow citizens.

Dr. RANDALL was in many respects a notable man, and has left the imprint of a noble, useful and well-spent life. But it is as an author, and mainly on practical subjects, that his work has been most valuable and enduring. His works on Sheep Husbandry long ago rendered him *the* authority on that subject. The first, "Sheep Husbandry in the South," was published in 1849, and soon became and long continued popular. His next was "Fine Wool Husbandry," an important contribution to Agricultural Literature. But his greatest and most popular rural work was "The Practical Shepherd," published at this office. This was brought out during the war, but had a rapid and large sale—the demand for it being so great that upwards of twenty thousand copies were sold as rapidly as they could be supplied. It is still a standard authority and in demand. Dr. RANDALL was a careful and scientific breeder of fine-wooled sheep, but so conscientious and unselfish that he would never mention the fact in his works or the RURAL in any manner which could be construed into an advertisement of his choice flock. His ability and popularity among breeders and flock-masters is attested by the fact that he was for many years, and from their organization, President of both the National and New York State Wool Growers' and Sheep Breeders' Associations. Indeed, no man in America, and probably none in the world, has done so much to enhance the interests of Sheep Husbandry as he whose decease is now most regretfully chronicled.

But Dr. RANDALL'S successful labors as an author were not confined to practical subjects. A ripe scholar and fond of literary, scientific and historical research, he achieved triumphs in other than practical fields. The great literary work of his life, and the one in which he took much pride, was the "Life of Thomas Jefferson," published by the APPLETONS in three volumes. This is the standard biography of JEFFERSON, and exhibits the ability, accuracy and painstaking care and research of its accomplished author, for whom it alone establishes an enviable literary reputation. He was also author of "First Principles of Popular Education," "Public Instruction," and other valuable treatises.

Dr. RANDALL possessed a personal magnetism, charm of manner and kindness of heart which secured the confidence and esteem of all who made his acquaintance. A contemporary truly says he "was in every sense a true gentleman, genial as he was courtly, with no foes but hosts of friends." Dr. RANDALL leaves a wife and three children—one son and two daughters. One of his daughters is the wife of Judge FOLLETT, and the other of Dr. MOSHER of Norwich, Chenango Co. The decease of such a man will not only be mourned by his family and a large circle of attached friends, but regretted throughout the country, for the loss is national.—D. D. T. M.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

ORDERS have already been issued from the War Department to hasten the work of recruiting the 2,500 additional men for cavalry regiments under the bill which was passed on Tuesday last. The standard for recruits heretofore in existence, requiring that they should be 5 feet 5 inches high and weigh not more than 155 pounds, has been changed, and it is now provided that any can be accepted who are 5 feet 3 inches high and do not weigh more than 175 pounds. The principal recruiting stations are at New York, St. Louis, Boston, Chicago, Buffalo and Indianapolis. Branch offices will be opened in several Western cities to secure the required number as soon as possible. The recruits will be immediately equipped for service and sent forward to the regiments in convenient squads. It is expected by the authorities at the War Department that the entire number will be recruited in two or three weeks from this time.

Millions of grasshoppers are prospecting in the Black Hills.

Twenty-eight paintings have been lent to the Yale Art School for exhibition, and 36 casts from Grecian sculptures have been purchased abroad.

The Revenue districts have been changed and modified.

The President denies the truth of the report that Secretary Robeson before leaving for Rye Beach placed his resignation in the hands of the President.

The prospects are that the railroad war is soon to be ended by mutual agreement.

Judge Stone of Colorado, who was forcibly taken from the train near Boulder recently, was sent over the mountains to Golden City, and thence to Denver. He is uninjured, as the men only wanted him to keep him from holding court and qualifying a receiver for the Colorado Central Railway. The Governor of Colorado called out two companies of soldiers to enforce, if necessary, the order of the Court. A reward of $5,000 for the arrest and conviction of the kidnappers of Judge Stone has been offered.

Gov. Villagrana of Lower California telegraphs to the Mexican Consul in San Francisco, Cal., that there is a general uprising of the Indians along the Colorado River and in the adjoining country against the Mexicans. Governor Villagrana is en route to San Diego, Cal., to procure arms and munitions of war. He declares that the situation is critical.

A severe hail, rain and wind storm passed over Wayne Co., Pa., the other night, unroofing many houses, blowing down chimneys and fences, and badly damaging the corn and crops.

The Providence Tool Company is busy on a contract with the Turkish Government for 600,000 Peabody Martini rifles, and is turning out 666 finished rifles a day. The contract is now about half filled.

The St. Louis ghost, which has lately made all the old ladies in North Market street hide their heads in terror under the bedclothes, proves to be an old maid's cat suspended in mid-air by means of a dozen small balloons, and extremely vocal.

Much excitement prevails along the Delaware river, in regard to the violation of the fish laws by riparian owners, who insist in putting eel weirs in the river, thereby destroying thousands of young black bass every night. Several weirs have been removed surreptitiously, and it is threatened that if all are not removed by the owners, they will be removed in the same manner.

The Rev. Wm. A. Cornell, who lived at Freedom Plains, near Poughkeepsie, hanged himself in the woods near his residence, the 17th inst. He is supposed to have been temporarily insane. Mr. Cornell graduated at Brunswick College, and was a minister of the First Reformed Church.

The President has approved the sentence of the naval court-martial held at San Francisco, of which Rear-Admiral Rogers was President, and which sentenced Paymaster R. C. Spaulding to be dismissed the service. The charges were neglect of duty in allowing his clerk, Mr. Pinney, to control Government funds and convert them to his own use, and to issue orders and give receipts for property never received by the Government. Paymaster Spaulding, therefore, ceases to be an officer of the United States Navy.

Secretary Chandler has appointed the following gentlemen as the Commission to treat with the Sioux Indians, as provided for in the Indian appropriation bill passed by Congress at its last session: B. C. Bulls of Iowa, George W. Manypenny of Ohio, A. G. Boone of Colorado, Newton Edmunds of Dakota, Bishop H. B. Whipple of Minnesota, A. S. Gaylord of Michigan, Assistant Attorney-General of the Interior Department, S. D. Hinman, interpreter, and Charles M. Hendley of Washington, D. C. Mr. Gaylord will act as legal advisor to the Commission, and represent the Interior Department. The Commission will start at once, and will meet in Omaha on Monday, the 28th inst.

Little Dick Gamelia, whose dangerous acrobatic performances were stopped in this city by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, is now at the Crystal Palace, London.

The priest at the Roman Catholich Church at Cambridgeport, Mass., forbade the use of fans during his services. His congregation disobeyed the order, and two men were ejected. A lawsuit is the result.

An old pop-corn pedlar named Emery, at Old Orchard, Me., was so much chagrined at losing his basket, through violating the camp ground rules, that he crawled under a locomotive, and put his neck on the rail close to the wheel, clinging so persistently that several men had hard work to get him out.

The Columbus (Miss.) Index believes that Tweed is living in that city.

The newspapers are full of reports of suicides in all parts of the country. Various causes may be assigned for this access of the self-destruction mania—among them the hard times, the scarcity of employment, and the extreme heat of the summer. Unfortunately, one such case in a locality usually produces another, while the newspapers keep up a succession of the melancholy reports.

Nevada has again been visited with the meteorologic phenomena of cloud-bursts. Heavy rains have prevailed all over Nevada, but the cloud-bursts, as two years ago, seem to have been confined to the eastern portion of the State. The recent calamity near Eureka has been the more destructive, and it is a little singular that the phenomenon should have occurred within a few minutes of the same time as that which, two years ago, on the same day of the month, caused such a destruction of property.

The following report is from H. E. E. R., Hosensack, Pa.:—During this summer we have had a very dry spell. Grain was middling good. Apples in abundance. Hay crops were very light; pasture is scarce and butter is advanced—at present 40c. at the station, express not paid to Philadelphia. The weather is yet very warm—some days from 83° to 93° in the shade. Corn looks a great deal poorer than last year.

The Thames crew and Scotch Rifle Team are on their way to the Centennial.

Six Fenians have escaped from Fremantle Prison, Australia, and have arrived in New York on the brig Catalpa. There is great rejoicing among the faithful.

Newport, R. I., has been the scene of several games of "Lacrosse," the Indian-Canadian game, which will doubtless become as popular as base ball in this country.

Mr. Michael C. Kerr, Speaker of the House, died at Rockbridge Alum Springs, Va., Aug. 19, after a lingering and painful illness. He was born at Titusville, Pa., March 15, 1827. When twenty-five years old he moved to New Albany, Ind., and from thence till the time of his death his life was an active and laborious one. He dies universally esteemed. Both friends and foes, politically, unite in honoring his memory with generous praise. That he dies a poor man is taken as good proof of his integrity, and no blemish sullies the record of his long political career.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Russian Telegraph Agency, in reply to speeches made in the English House of Commons lately, to the effect that Russia was stronger in 1853 that she is now says:—"The *Golos* shows that Russia, who, in 1853, had an army of 600,000 men, now has 1,340,000 as a peace armament, and 2,500,000 in time of war."

The appointment of Gen. Berthaut to be French Minister of War, vice Gen. de Cissy, is officially published. Gen. Berthaut, as general of a division of infantry, was one of the most capable officers in the army, and his selection confirms the principle of making the War Department non-political.

Dr. Mudney, an Austrian physician at the head of the sanitary service of the Servian armies, has addressed an appeal to the Austrian army surgeons, asking them in the name of humanity, to obtain leave of absence and come to his aid. He promises them rare opportunities for acquiring practical knowledge in their profession; as the present war, he says, for cruelties of every kind, stands unique in the history of wars.

When a dyer's wife in Leith, Scotland, recently entered the bedroom where three of her children—aged 14, 9 and 4—were sleeping, she was horrified to find their faces covered with blood and the bed-clothes bespattered. The children had been attacked during the night by a rat, which they had vainly endeavored to catch on the previous

evening. It had bitten the cheeks of the two little boys and more severely the forehead of a girl, who lost a large quantity of blood.

The most powerfully-armored ship afloat is the Thunderer, which met with such a terrible accident recently; but two gunboats have just been finished on the Tyne which will be fitted up by the Armstrong firm with machinery working a 38-ton gun. Compared with the Thunderer the gunboats, built for a foreign government, are diminutive; yet each little vessel will carry a gun capable of piercing the thickest armor now on the seas. The smallness of these martne wasps will be their greatest protection, and the steam power will be so applied that not only the gun but also the vessel, will be under the complete control of the artillerist.

The Scottish National Memorial to the late Prince Consort was unveiled in Edinburgh the 17th inst. Her Majesty the Queen performed the ceremony of inauguration. In the afternoon Her Majesty received an address, inclosed in a gold and silver casket, from the Magistrates and Council at Holyrood Palace.

The Pacific mail from Hong Kong, via Yokohama, brings Chinese advices to July 15.

Messrs. Grosvenor and Baber, Commissioners to Yunnau, arrived at Shanghai July 3, having been during their absence in constant communication with Sir T. Wade, the British Minister.

The departure of Mr. Wade from Peking, and the establishment of the British Legation at Shanghai greatly startled the Chinese authorities, who first made efforts to persuade him to return, and afterward proposed to send the Viceroy of Nanking to reopen negotiations with him. Wade is understood to have rejected all overtures, and to have announced that troops were already summoned from India, although a peaceful settlement appears to be desired by most of the intelligent Chinese leaders.

There is unusual activity in military preparations, and the army of Tientsin is concentrating.

A famine prevails in the northern provinces producing disastrous consequences. Thousands of deaths from starvation occur daily. Rice has been ordered from the south and from Formosa, and the Peking authorities have given 100,000 taels and 1,000,000 catties of rice for the relief of the destitute. Hamlin College contributes 1,000,000 piculs of rice, and Li Hung Chang, Viceroy of Chihli Province, also sends 1,000,000 piculs of rice. It is not believed, however, that any efforts can check the calamities this year. The first rain in nine months fell on July 2.

The British House of Commons fought so hard over the Education Bill on the 3d inst. that they did not suspend hostilities till it was broad daylight on the morning of the 4th. There were then 197 members present, the Speaker was tired to death and everybody looked seedy, when the House adjourned till 2 P. M. on the same day.

In the first six months of this year twenty-eight new operas were produced in Italy.

To guard against fire in Westminster Abbey there is an order forbidding the use of any lights but lanterns, and of any matches except those which strike on the box only.

A London law compels organ-grinders to cease playing whenever told to do so by a resident of the disturbed neighborhood.

The Rev. Arthur Watson, a Protestant clergyman at Killowen, near Kenmore, Ireland, has murdered his wife by shooting her, she being under the influence of drink when he shot her.

Dispatches from Gen. Tchernayeff to Prince Milan report that his army is perfectly reorganized and ready to assume the offensive. An extraordinary Cabinet Council was held recently, Prince Milan presiding, at which it was resolved to continue the war to the last extremity. The Prince of Montenegro, understanding that the Turks intended to invade Montenegro from Albania, has left his brother-in-law, Vukovich, in command of the troops in Herzegovina, and has marched with eight battalions into Montenegro, whence he will invade Albania, where the Catholics promise him support.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Aug. 19, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	78,575	Molasses	280
Whisky	2,293	Rice, bbls	8,160
Corn meal, bbls	1,000	Cut meats, pkgs	5,166
Corn meal, bags	700	Lard, pkgs	8,519
Wheat, bush	183,630	Tobacco, hhds	3,714
Corn, bush	415,000	do. pkgs	6,885
Oats, bush	142,450	Butter, pkgs	21,700
Rye, bush	1,273	Cheese, bxs	67,836
Malt, bush	14,250	Cotton, bales	6,904
Barley, bush	1,500	Rosin	10,723
Beans, bbls	7,300	Spts. turp., bbls	1,610
Grass seed, bush	1,386	Dried Fruits, pkgs	258
Beef, pkgs	445	Eggs, bbls	7,900
Wool, bales	2,750	Peanuts, bags	820
Hops, bales	540	Leather, sides	66,698
Pork, bbls	1,519	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,356	Oil cake	3,130

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEESWAX is lower, with rather freer supplies and a slow inquiry. Quoted, 31@32½c. for Western and 32@32½c. for Southern. Exports past week, 250 lbs. Since Jan. 1st, 43,025 do.; same time last year, 51,850. do.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 890 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 40,612 do.; same time last year, 10,093 do. Exports of peas past week, 577 bu.; since Jan. 1st, 472,016 do.; same time last year, 231,743. Quotations for beans generally hold up remarkably well, considering the light demand of the past fortnight. Buyers of mediums regard prices high, and purchase only for actual wants. Marrows are quoted 5 cents easier than at our last. There was a movement to mark them down, but the limited stock of prime gives holders considerable independence. Crop advices indicate a smaller curing than for last year, and holders prefer to carry their best stored lots to a period when the fact may favor them. Prime pea beans would sell if here. White kidneys doing decidedly better. Red kidneys steady and firm. Black beans quiet. Canadian beans quiet and nominal at 97c. Hence the recent removal of sound lots of green peas the market is stiffer.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.25@1.30; fair to good, $1.00@1.10; prime mediums, $1.05@1.10; fair to good, 80@90c.; poor, 10@50c.; prime marrows, $1.45@1.50; fair to good, $1.20@1.30; prime white kid., $1.40@1.50; other, $1.15@1.25; prime red kidney, $1.10@1.15; other, $1.15@1.25; Lima (Cal.), $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.75@4.00. Peas—Canadian, in bulk and bond, 97c.—c.; green, $1.10@1.15; split, ₱ bbl., $6.

BUTTER.—A steady demand and light supplies have kept prices in sellers' favor. The strongest feeling is in fine pails, creamery very firm. Half tubs of fine table grade are closed out upon arrival. The outside trade prefers half tubs or a style of package not returnable. The trade is to be congratulated upon the favorable movement that has worked down the under grades of stock. A very dull summer was feared at the opening and the bad condition of stock resulting from the unusual heat threatened to clinch an unprosperous period. But judicious shipments from the interior and a timely export demand have put the market in a better shape than might have been expected. Foreign buyers are now paying more; money for nice sound parcels and the comparative scarcity of such stock makes quicker dealing with market men whose trade requires them to be close buyers. Fine and fancy grades are not likely to react until safe weather enlarges shipments. In a mild way 32c. has been made for creamery. Nothing of poor remains below 14c. When pails are all quality they have to get into line with other rejection; hence the wide range.

We quote:—Choice pails, 29@30c.; prime, 25@27c.; poor to good, 15@24c.; creamery pails, choice, 30@31c.; good, 27@28c.; sweet cream pails, 25@30c. State firkins, choice, 26@27c.; fair to good, 22@23c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 27@28c.; fair to prime, 22@25c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 26@27c.; other, 19@22c.; Western creamery, choice, 28@30c.; other, 25@27c.; do. firkins, best, 19@20c.; other, 13@16c.; dairy tubs, choice, 21@24c.; other, 13@15c.; factory choice, 18@20c.; other, 14@14½c.

CHEESE.—This has been comparatively a dull and unsatisfactory week, chiefly owing to the poor quality of the bulk of parcels arriving, the warm weather working seriously on the grades. Exporters have been less inclined to operate, and on fancy factories prices have been shaded: 9¾c. represents the general market rule for this grade, but a number of lots of about it if not quite fine have been obtained at 9@9¼c. Other parcels which usually sell within ¼c. of the price of fine are now nearly 1c. lower, on account of their showing very freely in the supply, with the light demand. Quotations are:

Fancy factory, 9¾c.; fine, 9@9¼c.; good and prime, 8@8¾c.; fair, 7@7¾c.; do. half-skimmed, 5@6c.; do. skimmed, 3@4c. State farm dairy, fancy, 8¾@9c.; good to prime, 7@8c.; fair and good, 6@7c. Western factory, good and prime, 7@8c; fair lots, 6@7c.; do. cheddar, choice, 8c.; do. flat, choice, 8@8¾c. Exports past week, 59,528 boxes.

COTTON. There has been a fair export demand, but with the Agricultural Bureau Department's report of the crop being more favorable than had been expected, there has been more of a pressure to sell, leading to lower prices.

Quoted at 12 5-32@12 3-16c. for August; 11 13-16@11 27-32c. for September; 11¾@11 17-32c. for October; 11 13-32@11 7-16c. for November; 11 13-32@11 7-16c. for December; 11¾@11 17-32c. for January; 11 11-16c. for February; 11 27-32c. for March; 12c. for April; 12 5-32@12 3-16c. for May; 12 5-16@12 11-32c. for June; 12 15-32@12 ½c. for July.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9¼	9¾	9¾	9¾
Strict ordinary	10	10	10	10
Good ordinary	10⅜	10⅜	10½	10⅜
Strict good do.	11 1-16	11 1-16	11 1-16	11 1-16
Low middling	11 7-16	11 9-16	11 11-16	11 11-16
Strict low middling	12	12¼	12¼	12¾
Middling	12¾	12¾	12 9-16	12 9-16
Good middling	13¼	13	13⅜	13⅜
Strict good middling	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜
Middling fair	13¾	13¾	14	14
Fair	14⅜	14⅜	14⅜	14⅜

Stained.

Good ordinary	9¼	Low middling	10 1-16
Strict ordinary	10 5-16	Middling	11 9-16

DRIED FRUITS.—There is nothing doing in the old stock. New Southern quartered apples in little better supply, but are hard to sell over 6c. Some choice new North Carolina sliced were offered at 9c. Peeled peaches, of new crop, range from 13 to 15c., the latter difficult to get. Cherries are held more firmly; quoted 14½c. with some lots, however, held off the market at this rate.

Apples—State, sliced, 8@8½c.; do., quarters, 7¾@8¼c.; southern sliced, 7¾@8c.; fancy do. at 10⅜@11⅞c.; do., new quarters at 6½c. Blackberries, 7@7½c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 13@15c., as to quality; unpeeled peaches, new, nominal. Plums at 13@15c. Raspberries, 21c. Cherries, 14½@15c.

Exports past week 114 lbs. dried apples. Since Jan. 1st, 2,007 do.; same time last year, 10,100 do.

EGGS.—We have seldom seen the egg trade so disordered in a summer season as it has been for the past fortnight. One prominent conflicting feature is the unbooked-for large receipts, while the low prices that most sellers are willing to have for Western are not inducive, as stock is losing heavily. Of course the sales are fully "loss off," but when good State marks are accessible at 16@17c., buyers prefer them for the present light demand, especially while fruit is in demand. We learn there has been a large liming in N. Y. State this season. We quote:

Near points, 17@18c., State and Penn., 16@17c.; Western, prime, 14c.; do. other, 12@13c.; Canadian, 13@14c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the latest revised quotations:

Oil peppermint, glass, $3.75; do. tin, $2.90; spearmint, glass, $3.50; do. tin, $2.75; wintergreen, $2.80; sassafras, 35c.

FEATHERS.—Quiet. We quote prime live Western geese, 53@55c.; other do., 25@40c.

FLOUR.—The warm weather last week has seriously interfered with trade, leading to purchases only on urgent requirements, and with free supplies prices have ruled weak. The closing market shows a little more strength on reports of continuous rains abroad and the effect upon the trade there.

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3.50@4.25; $4.30@4.60 for very common to fair extra do.; $4.65@4.75 for good extra do.; $4.80@5.15 for fancy do., and $5.30@6.40 for very choice extra; $3.50@4.25 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.35@4.55 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $4.60@5.10 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.50@6.50; fancy do. $6.75@8.25; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $6.00@7.00, round-hoop Ohio, $4.50@4.85, and trade brands of do. at $5.00@6.75; St. Louis, $4.60@5.90 for common to fair extra, and $6.15@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $4.50@7.10, and patent at $6.40@9.00; unsound stock at from $3.25@5.60; city mills extra at $5.50@5.90; No. 2 at $2.25@3.25. Corn meal is lower. Yellow Western, Pennsylvania and Jersey, $2.60@2.85; Brandywine, $3.15@3.30.

FRESH FRUITS.—Peaches are arriving large and handsome, but, although the supply is a moderate one, prices have to be tempered to suit the means of buyers. When baskets start at over one dollar, even choice fruit is apt to be left over at noon. The glut, however, is over, and with the prospective return of our absent families, the end of the crop is likely to do well. A helping feature to the peach market is the sales of general sorts for preserving. N. J. peaches are running poor and small. Apples are still in overstock, and low prices are ruling even for fine qualities. California Bartletts are turning out soft; hence the wide range. N. J. Bartletts are arriving, but hardly in a quotable quantity. Watermelons were seldom so cheap. Plums open low. There is a good assortment of grapes, but few are fine enough to bring full prices. We quote:

Apples, best, ₱ bbl., $1@1.25; do. common, 50@75c. Peaches, Delaware, fancy, ₱ basket, $1; plain, 50@75c.; crates, 75c.@$1.25; N. J. peaches, baskets, 25@50c. California pears, ₱ box, $1@1; do. Bartletts, ₱ crate, $3@4.50; other table pears, ₱ bbl., $3@4; cooking pears, $1.50@2. California plums, good, ₱ box, $3@4; best, ₱ bbl., 7@8; other, $5@7. Grapes—Hartford, Ives and Concord, ₱ lb., 4@7c.; Delaware, 8@10c.; Martha, 12@15c. Whortleberries, ₱ bush., $1.70@2. Nutmeg melons, ₱ bbl., $1.50@2.25. Watermelons, ₱ 100, $5@12. Peanuts dull at $1.40@1.60 for Virginia; common, $1@1.35.

GRAIN.—Wheat has been very much depressed, the sales having been the smallest for a similar period ever known in this market. Prices have ruled lower and very irregular; a little more confidence comes at the close on a little better position of the English market, based upon possible injury by rainy weather there. Latest sales are of prime No. 1 Sheboygan spring, in store, $1.17½; No. 1 Minnesota spring, very good, afloat, $1.15; fair steamer No. 2 Milwaukee spring, 98c., with good lots to $1; No. 2 Chicago spring, 95c.@$1; new crop white Kentucky, $1.20. Rye at 63c. for Western, 83@85c. for Canada, in bond, and 75@76c. for State. Corn has a fair export demand; sales at 55@56c. for steamer to very choice and ungraded Western mixed; 56@55c. for hot and warm; Western yellow, 55@56c.; Southern, 55@56c.; do. white, in store, 60c.; white Western, 63c. for a car lot; New York steamer yellow, 58c. Oats have a fair inquiry at firm rates. Latest sales are No. 2 Chicago, 35@40c. for warm to strictly prime; mixed Western at 37@43c., the latter for fancy; No. 2 Milwaukee, 37@38c., in store, for fair and prime lots; white Western, 35½@45c. for car lots; new crop white State, fair, 40c.; fancy lots, 43c.; mixed State, 39@41½c., and 38½@40c. for warm do.

HAY AND STRAW.—The market may be now regarded as quite steady, with increased demand for all grades.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60@65c.; retail qualities 70@90c.; clover, 50@60c.; salt, 55@65c. Straw is quoted at 65@75c. for long rye; 60@65c. for short rye; 50@60c. for oat.

Exports past week 513 bales; since Jan. 1st, 32,568 do.; same time last year, 30,300 do.

HIGHWINES.—Lower; held at $1.12½.

HIDES.—There is less doing, but a firm feeling as regards prices. Small lots of new come in daily and are taken at 30@35c. There is no change in the tenor of despatches from abroad or the interior respecting the crop.

N. Y. State, 10@20c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins; 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c. ₱ lb.

OIL CAKE.—Western selling at $33.50 per ton.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed poultry is almost nominal. Chickens only showing any improvement. Dry-picked chickens, 20@24c.; scalded, 17@21c.; dry-picked fowls, 15@17c.; scalded, 13@15c.; turkeys, 13@17c. Live poultry is in large supply, and dealers have to accept low prices. We quote spring chicks, near points, 17@18c.; Western, 14@16c.

Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb 14@15c.; do. Western, 10@12c. Roosters, 6@8c.; Turkeys, N. J. 13@15c.; do. Western, 12@14c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1; do. Western, 55@70c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.25; do. Western, 1.25@1.50.

Game is quiet. Stall-fed pigeons, $1.25@1.37; do. squab, 87c.@$1; tame live pigeons, ₱ pair, 30c.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products generally have been depressed. Mess pork quoted at $18.25 for spot and $18.25 for September. Bacon at 9¾c. for long clear. Western steam lard at $12.75 for spot, August, September and October. Stearine at 13½c. for prime Western. Beef hams at $30 for choice Southern. Beef at $9@11 for plain mess, $10@12 for extra mess, and $14 for packet, the outside prices for small lots choice. Tierced quoted nominal for prime mess and India mess. City extra India mess at $10.

SALT.—Ashton quoted at $2.50; Higgins & Dean's, $1.65@1.70; other brands, $1.15@1.40.

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ₱ lb., Southern, $1.15@1.30; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, ordinary to refined, 14@18c. ₱ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. unclipped, 50c.@$1; lamb skins, 60@65c.

TOBACCO.—There are very fair supplies, but prices hold up well on a fair export demand.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	6 @ 6¼	7 @ 8
Good lugs	7¼@ 9	8¼@ 9¼
Low leaf	9¾@10¾	10 @11
Medium leaf	11 @12	12 @13¼
Good leaf	13 @14	14¼@15¾
Fine leaf	15 @16	17 @19

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England fine seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7¾
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	5½@ 6
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes are scarce again and prices are higher. We shall be apt to have a fluctuating market until late sorts appear. Sweets have declined and there is a better demand. Tomatoes lower.

We quote potatoes, ₱ bbl., $3.25@3.75; sweet do., $3@5. Green corn, ₱ 100, 50@75c. Long Island Tomatoes, ₱ bush., 50@60c.; New Jersey, do., 30c. Marrow squash, bbl., $1@1.25; Wax beans, bag, $1@1.50; Cucumbers, L. I., ₱ 100, 30c.; Turnips, Russia, ₱ bbl., $1.50@1.75. Cabbages, L. I., $4@8 ₱ 100. Onions, $1@1.75 ₱ bbl. Lima beans, ₱ bag, $1.25@1.75. Egg plant, ₱ bbl., $2@2.50.

WOOL.—There is a liberal inquiry from manufacturers and a very strong market: XX Ohio fleeces bring 38@40c. easily, and some parcels are held up to 42c. Spring California is selling at 35@36c. Eastern and Western Texas at 25@32c.

ROCHESTER, Aug. 19.—Flour market dull; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $6.75; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.05@1.08; amber winter, $1.05@1.10; white winter, $1.10@1.20. Oats, nominal at 30@33c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.50@1.75. Butter, 18@19c. Cheese, 10@12c. Eggs, 14@15c. Lard, 11@12½c. Apples, bu., 50@60c. Potatoes, bu., 55@65c. Beans, ₱ bu., 70c.@$1. Mess pork, $20.50. Wool, 20@30c. Hay, $8@11. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed strong at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c., to Albany, 25c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 19, 1876.

THE market continues dull, though perhaps not quite so depressed as it was last week. Cheese is suffering very much in consequence of the warm weather, and buyers do not care to handle any more than they can readily dispose of. Prices have not advanced, though the general tone of the market is somewhat improved. The receipts in New York have been light, and the cable denotes more firmness in the English market. Ninety-seven lots, amounting in the aggregate to 10,033 boxes, of factory cheese were sold at from 8¾ to 9¾c. extreme, the bulk selling for 9¼c. About 420 boxes of dairy cheese were disposed of at from 7 to 8½c., most of it going at from 7½ to 8c.

Our advices from abroad are to the first week in August. Our English correspondent says:—English cheese is so heated that it cannot be handled. Dutch slightly dearer. American comes to hand in good order and is much improved in quality; a brisk sale for finest and a good demand for intermediate. The following are quotations:

American, extra fine, 53@54c.; fine, 50@52s.; good, 46@48s.; secondary, 36@44s. English cheddar, 70@80s.; Wiltshire double, 60@66s.; Cheshire medium, 44@56s.; fine, 64@72s.; Scotch, 56@60s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 52@54s.; Gondas, 49@52s.; Derby shape, 54@56s.

Arrivals of Continental butter are short. Market, though not fierce, is firm. Quotations are:

Channels, 130@132s.; Corks, 124@143s.; Jersey, 100@112s.; Friesland, 124s.; Normandy, 110@140s.; American and Canadian, 90@100s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Aug. 19, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	5,995	7	1,718	11,082	000
Forty-Eighth St	28	29	278	2,419	000
Fortieth St	000	00	000	000	10,243
Harsimus Cove	5,891	00	000	16,474	10,611
Totals this week	9,914	36	1,996	29,893	20,854
" last week	11,512	82	2,807	23,513	19,089

BEEVES.—On a moderate run of fresh cattle trade was extremely slow on Monday last; prices ranged from 6¼ to 10½c. ₱ lb.; weights, scant 56@11¼ cwt. The quality of the herds above quoted was from poor rough grass-fed steers to smooth quality corn-fed steers; general quality course but fat. The market closed weak, with several herds unsold. About 500 carcasses of beeves were shipped for London, England, since our last report. Wednesday, trade slow on a light run, with several car loads of poor quality steers remaining unsold when the markets closed at noon; prices were 5½@10¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, scant 56@8¼ cwt. Thursday, trade small at 56@10¼c.; weights, 56@8 cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 6@10c.; weights, 55@8¼ cwt. From 50@57 lbs., net, have been allowed to the cwt.; general sales on 55@56 lbs. net. Spanish herds direct from the Plains sold at 5½@7¼c. ₱ lb.; grass-fed native steers, 6½@8¼c.; part corn-fed do., 8½@9¼c.; grade do., 10@10¼c., with a few selected at 11c. Bulls, live weight, sold at $3.30@3.75 ₱ cwt. Dry cows sold at 8¼c. ₱ lb.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	11 @	11½@
Fair	10¾@10¾	10¾@10¾
Poor	9¾@10¾	9¾@10¾
Poorest	5¼@ 9¾	5¾@ 9¾
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9¾	9 @10

MILCH COWS.—Trade still slow. One dealer sold 15 springers at $50@55 ₱ head; also, 11 fresh cows at $50@55 ₱ head; 12 do. at $50@60; 6 do. at $55@65—calves included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade fair in smooth quality veals at 7@9c. ₱ lb.; course quality calves, part grass-fed and part buttermilk-fed, sold at 5@8½c. ₱ lb., and at $6@9.50 ₱ head. State calves were largely on the markets. State veals sold at 7@9c. ₱ lb.; Jersey do., 8@8½c.; Pennsylvania do., 7½@9c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last sheep sold at 4@6¾c. ₱ lb., lambs at 5¾@7¾c. Wednesday, sheep, 4½@6¾c.; lambs, 6@6½c., with mixed flocks of sheep and lambs at 5c. ₱ lb. Thursday, sheep, 4@6¼c.; lambs, 4@7c. Friday, sheep, 4¾@5¾c.; lambs, 6@7¼c. Trade has been slow, but firm; quality from coarse to good. State sheep sold at 4@6¾c. ₱ lb.; Ohio do., 4¾@5¾c.; Michigan do., 5c.; Canada do., 5¾@6c.; Kentucky do., 4¾@6c. State lambs sold at 5¾@7c. ₱ lb.; Kentucky do., 6@6½c.; Canada do., 6@6¾c.; Jersey do., 7@7½c.

HOGS.—There were no live hogs on sale the past week. City dressed, on a light run, advanced in price, but did not sell more freely. Rates were 8@8¾c. ₱ lb., all weights included.

HORSE MARKET. The return of intense heat has again depressed city trade in horses. Nineteen poor quality light harness horses sold at $58@95 ₱ head; 11 ordinary quality do., $100@135 ₱ head; 9 roadsters, with fair trotting action, at $225@375 ₱ head; 7 heavy draft horses, $200@235 ₱ head.

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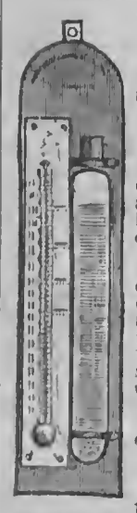

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

HENRY A. WISE is seriously ill in Richmond.

THE Rev. John Cotton Smith is at New London.

MR. WHITELAW REID is at Shelbourne Falls, Mass.

EARL and Countess Dufferin are at San Francisco.

EX-SECRETARY BRISTOW will soon go to Rye Beach.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT has spent $200,000 in yachting.

BISHOP HAVEN is enjoying life at Martha's Vineyard.

THE King of Siam has just sent M. Thiers an elephant.

AN accomplished Indiana girl calls hay "grass *a la* mowed."

SENATOR BURNSIDE of Rhode Island, has recovered his health.

R. C. NEWELL, "Orpheus C. Kerr," is reported in very poor health.

EDWARD EGGLESTON, the story-book writer, is camping out at Plymouth, Vt.

SIR ROSE LAMBERT PRICE has given five pounds toward the Custer monument.

THE Emperor of Brazil is going to Ephesus, to visit the site of the Temple of Diana.

IT transpires that young Leander Richardson was not killed by the Indians after all.

LORD LYTTON only suffers from indigestion, which does not interfere with his work.

MISS M. C. CLEVELAND, niece of the late Horace Greeley, will enter a convent in the autumn.

THE Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, our Minister to Germany, is on his way home for a short visit.

"PA," said a little fellow to his unshaven father, "your chin looks like the wheel in the music box."

AUGUST BELMONT won $12,650 in the Long Branch races, and the Lorillards $11,000 between them.

MR. DISRAELI has accepted a peerage, and will leave the House of Commons for the House of Lords.

DISRAELI, in one of his novels, calls a peerage "a refuge for incompetency, or a step toward the grave."

SOME Chicago ladies have been managing a yacht race. The sails were cut bias and trimmed with real lace.

GEN. JOE LANE is living in a small frame house on a spur of Rogue River Mountain, in Oregon. He is eighty-three years old.

OLIVE LOGAN has recently taken a run over to London. She speaks of Mr. Pierrepont's after-dinner speeches as "charming."

BOTH young Andrew Johnson and Henry Clay, sons of the "great commoners," were defeated at the recent election in Kentucky.

THE Rev. Henry M. Field, editor of the Evangelist, who has just completed a tour of the world, is now at his home in Stockbridge, Mass.

ABSENT-MINDED people leave all sorts of things in the street cars. Somebody left a cage and a bird in one of the New York cars recently.

THE Rev. George H. Hepworth of New York, has assumed the debt of his church, amounting to $125,000. Hepworth must be worth a heap.

A MAGAZINE writer asks: "Do birds die a natural death?" As birds do not employ physicians, we can see no good reason for asking that question.

THE Richmond, Va., police are all under the weather. It is in consequence of a free watermelon that weighed one hundred and twenty pounds.

BOSTON uses six thousand dozen bottles of lager a day, while the saloon custom has much increased, though the sale of stronger liquors has much fallen off.

STOP-WATCHES are getting to be very common. You can buy a watch in Rochester which will stop most all the time for about five dollars.—*Rochester Democrat.*

MRS. ROBB of Corpus Christi, is called the "Cattle Queen of Texas." She owns 75,000 acres of land, on which 15,000 head of cattle are fattened for market each year.

MARK HOPKINS, the venerable ex-President of Williams College, with his family and a few friends, are having a sort of private camp meeting at Ball Mountain, Mass.

A TELEGRAPHIC despatch from the West states that "Mrs. Abraham Lincoln is starving at Boulder, Colorado." Make the word "staying" and it tells the story exactly.

"FOR man," says Talmage, "marriage is the only estate that is right." And if he marries a society woman, he is lucky at the end of a year if he finds he has any estate that is left.

"TANNERS never die and always grow rich," is the sententious ending of an editorial in a New Orleans exchange, setting forth the peculiar facilities of that place as a location for tan-yards.

HE bought a cheap coat of one of the gentlemen from Jerusalem, and he observed next day that it was made of two kinds of cloth, or else it had faded from some previous wear and tear. He went to the dealer with fire in his eyes. The dealer looked at the garment without surprise, and at the wearer with extreme wonder. "Vy, mine goodness!" he said, "you been wear de goat in de sun! You think him mant of sheet iron, hey!"

THE mad extravagance of ladies of fashion in their present style of dress may properly be termed a new form of *delirium tremains.*

SARA BERNHARDT, the great French actress, has installed her coffin in her bedchamber in her new hotel near the Parc Monceau. This unique piece of furniture was made at her order two years ago.

A TRAIN of 110 cars, carrying 5,000 passengers, passed over the Pennsylvania Central Railroad from Pittsburg to Philadelphia last Wednesday. It was the largest passenger train ever run over this road.

THE Catholics in Boston have wisely decided to discontinue the hiring of carriages for funeral processions except for the chief mourners, and to give the money which a costly funeral requires to the widow and children.

FIRST School-girl (sweet eighteen)—"I *am* so tired of walking along by twos and twos in this way! It's as bad as the animals going into the ark!" Second ditto (ditto ditto)—"*Worse!* Half of *them* were masculine!"

A SARATOGA correspondent who doesn't seem exactly satisfied with the way hotels are run in that village, advises visitors to bring Herring safes with them. There is, certainly, something suggestive about that advice.

G. SMITH, the Assyriologist, has discovered on the Euphrates what he believes to be the site of Carchemish, the Capital of the Hittites, a city which promises to yield as interesting and important remains as Nineveh itself.

PROF. HUXLEY is 51 years of age, is of medium hight, compactly built, with very dark complexion, small black eyes, dark hair and side whiskers tinged with gray. In manner he is affable, good-humored, and exceedingly unpretentious.

THE new tongue to the thirteen thousand pound bell of liberty at Philadelphia, was forged at Winsted, Conn. The tongue weighs four hundred pounds, and takes the place of the one hundred and fifty pound clapper, which was too light.

THE firm of A. T. Stewart & Co. has lately made $1,000,000 by a rise in the value of raw silk. Before the death of Mr. Stewart he was induced to buy up large quantities of silk in anticipation of a rise, and the wisdom of his purchases is now apparent.

CAPT. RICHARD KELLY of Falmouth, England, has received from the President of the United States a handsome telescope suitably inscribed, as a reward for his bravery and humanity in rescuing the crew of the American brigantine H. F. Eaton in Atlantic mid-ocean in 1871.

MR. JAMES ELBERT POWELL, the managing editor of the Saturday Evening Post of Philadelphia, will lecture during the coming season on "Plebe Life at West Point." He is the youngest platform speaker in the United States, and has been well received by audiences in the South and West.

THE time for husking bees comes soon. The husking bee is a delightful entertainment given by the farmers, and is generally attended by eighteen young men, who kiss each of the girls in the house seven times, husk four ears of corn, and go home as soon as they have disposed of what cider they can find.

HON. C. OSCANYAN, late Turkish consul general, has a new lecture for the coming season on "The Women of Turkey, or Domestic Life in the East." He will be accompanied by four *hanmums*, or ladies, who assist him in his delineations of the various phases of social life in the East, by appearing in appropriate costumes representing different characters, and forming picturesque tableaux.

AT last, thanks to science, the baggage-smasher has met his match. He undertook the other day to handle one of the new vulcanized fibre trunks in his usual playful manner, by turning it two or three somersaults and then slinging it twenty feet, but it rebounded unhurt, struck him on the *os frontis*, and the doctor says he don't think he can get him out again inside of three months anyway.

IT is related that while Dom Pedro was at Newport, R. I., he made a request to have Oliver Caswell—an educated deaf and blind mute of whom he heard—visit him. The request was complied with. When Mr. Caswell was brought before the Emperor, he exhibited a small basket made by his own hands, in proof that he was not a drone, but could do something towards a support for himself. The Emperor was so touched by the incident, that he ordered the basket to be filled with gold pieces.

THERE is no truth in the statement, which has appeared in many English papers, that a number of members of the British House of Commons were going out in a body to the Philadelphia Exhibition, and that a steamer had been placed at their disposal by the White Star Line. The story arose out of a practical joke on the part of a few members. One member being asked whether it was true that a Parliamentary deputation was going by the White Star Line, said: "Oh, no! by the Canard!"

IT is very easy to write long articles, profound with medical learning and wisdom, advising people, as they value health and life, to avoid "hurrying" and "excitement" during the heated term; but when a man is only ten feet away from a pet-land gentleman cow, and sixty-five feet away from the nearest point in the pasture fence which they are both heading for with all the intensity of purpose that can actuate living creatures, who is going to stop and feel his pulse to see whether he is in more of a hurry than is warranted by the laws of hygiene?—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

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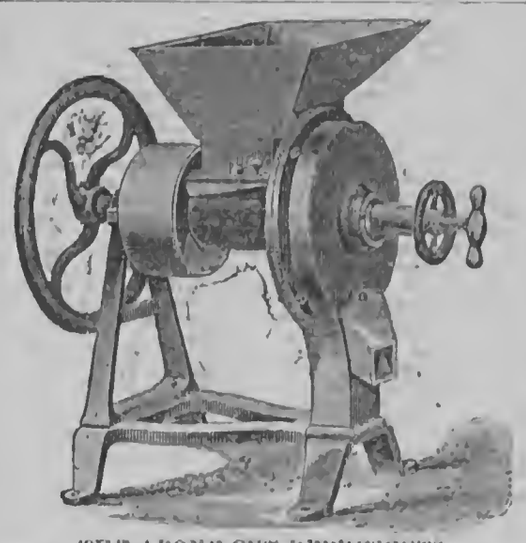

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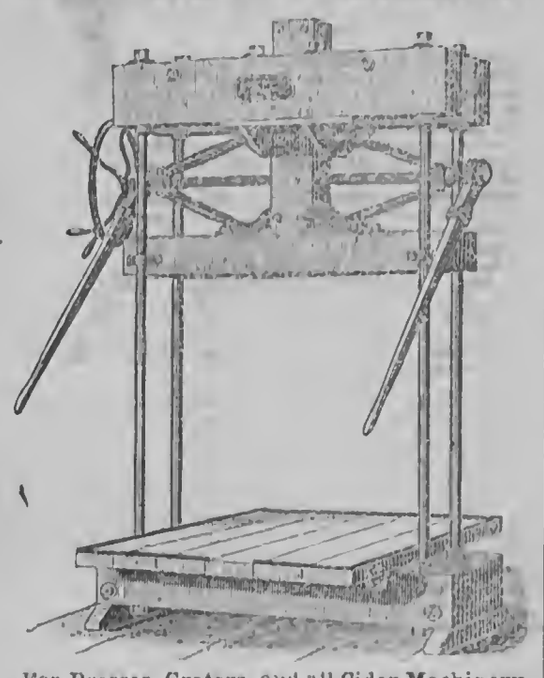

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" " Sun	3 85	3 35
" " Evening Post	4 15	3 40
" " Tribune	4 65	4 00
" " Nation	7 85	6 85
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" Inter-Ocean	4 30	3 80
Cincinnati Commercial	4 80	3 80
" Enquirer	4 65	3 90
" Gazette	4 65	3 90
" Times and Hand-Book	4 75	3 90
Detroit Free Press	4 65	3 90
" Tribune	4 65	3 90
*Louisville Courier-Journal	4 65	3 90
Springfield Republican	4 65	3 95
St. Louis Times	4 15	3 50
Scientific American	5 85	5 20
Toledo Blade	4 65	3 95
Toronto Globe	4 65	4 60

The papers marked with a * give to each subscriber as follows:—DEMOREST'S, a choice of two Chromos; "The Captive Child" or "The Old Oaken Bucket;" HEARTH AND HOME offers 12 Etchings; the COURIER-JOURNAL gives a coupon for their Distribution of present

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Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. N. Lynn.—We do not know of any farmer having the "Clawson Wheat" for sale; but you might find it at some of our seedsmen. Try DAVID LANDRETH & SON, Philadelphia, Pa.

By this mail I send in paper box a section of a running vine. It had no tendrils, nor does it climb like many other vines spirally on poles or strings; but its leaves are used as claws to fasten itself to any object in reach which it can grasp. A single plant, at this season of the year, will completely cover and hide any unsightly object, as a brush-heap, stone-pile, shrub or fence, etc. Will you please give us a name for it?—I. W. BRIGGS.

The vine sent us is *Clematis Virginiana*, also known by several common names, such as Travelers' Joy, Virgin's Bower, etc., etc. It is a native climbing vine, growing abundantly in swamps and along the banks of streams, attaching itself to support by its petioles, which are given off in pairs, serving the purpose of tendrils, as seen in the grape and many other similar vines. The flowers are small, white, and borne in cymes, which make a very handsome appearance during the blooming season. But the most remarkable feature of this plant is the fruit; the long, feathery tails attached to the seed, separating like tufts of cotton or wool. It is a beautiful vine, although common, and well worthy a place in every garden.

J. W. B.—Grape-vines can be grafted, and sometimes it is an object to propagate them in this manner. But it is too late for grafting this season, and before the time comes around for performing the operation, we will endeavor to give an exhaustive illustrated article on the subject. If we should do so now, we fear that many of our readers would forget all about it before the time arrived for grafting, and then they would ask for a repetition of directions.

E. W. C.—To keep sweet potatoes over winter in the Northern States, the essentials are to dig carefully, dry the tubers thoroughly, then pack in dry sand, chaff or leaves, and place in a temperature of 60 to 80°. A warm room is preferable to a cellar, as the latter will seldom be warm and dry enough to prevent rotting.

A Reader.—The large insect you send is commonly known as the Harvest Fly, although in some localities it is called a "locust," but its correct name is *Cicada*. HARRIS, in his "Insects Injurious to Vegetation," named it *Cicada canicularis*, but some of our entomological authorities think this species is not different from the one described many years ago by THOMAS SAY, under the name of *Cicada pruinosa*. It is a common insect, and its "drumming" may be heard during the months of August and September, and is far from being pleasant music, especially when they are abundant.

C. E. R.—We do not know who has a young Short-Horn bull for sale, but presume an advertisement in our columns would bring the information.

As to plowing sod for a corn crop next season, we would advise waiting until spring, then turn it over and plant. This is the usual practice, and we think the best way to manage sod land to be planted with corn.

H. E. E.—It is too late now to think of sowing Hungarian grass this season, as it is an annual, like corn, and will not withstand the winter. Every spring we have something to say on the sowing of fodder plants, Hungarian grass among the number, hence you have only to watch our columns devoted to field crops to obtain the desired information, and, at the proper season, making use of the same.

Pattie, Orange, N. J.—Your question as to extracting the perfumes of leaves and flowers, is answered by a little note in an English paper, the Journal of Horticulture:—Jasmine, Rose, or any other flowers may have their scent preserved by the following mode: Place them between thin layers of cotton wool, dipping these into the finest olive oil, and sprinkling a small quantity of fine salt on the flowers alternately until an earthen or wide-mouthed glass vessel is quite full. Tie the top close with a bladder, and place the vessel in a south aspect exposed to the heat of the sun, and in fifteen days when opened a fragrant oil may be squeezed away from the whole mass, little inferior, if Roses are made use of, to the dear and highly-valued otto or attar of Roses.

Mrs. M. Glidden.—Please tell me in the RURAL how to treat my Amaryllis. It is three years old, has never blossomed. The leaves were broken off last year, but fresh ones are now eight or ten inches in length. Some say that the small side bulbs should be removed or it will not blossom. Must I do so? ANS.—Doubtless the bulb was weakened by the leaves being pulled off. You say it is three years old. It is scarcely time for it to bloom. Removing the offsets will not effect its blooming.

Successful Amaryllis culture depends upon the following: In its season of rest, place it in a temperature between 40 and 50°, and keep it dry. During its growing period, give it warmth and moisture. Any garden soil mixed with sand and leaf-mold will suit it.

Mary B.—I wish to know how to pursue the study of botany without the aid of a teacher. Am familiar with the technical terms of the different parts of a flower, such as sepals, petals, stamens and ovaries, but cannot trace and know nothing about the orders. Is it possible for any one to obtain a botanical knowledge without a great deal of time and labor, and what books are required? I am a teacher of music, and have often thought that, were I proficient in botany, it would greatly aid me in earning a livelihood. By answering the above you will oblige.

The study of botany we believe to be one of the most useful, as well as refining, of the sciences, and we would that we might inspire that belief in every girl and boy in the land. It is not that dry study that so many deem it. Either the pupil is at fault, or the teacher has not his heart in his work. We do not know of a book more plain or comprehensive than "Gray's Garden Botany."

Commit to memory nothing that you do not fully understand, and if possible procure specimens of plants to examine as you study. By so doing you will find that an otherwise perplexing lesson is rendered simple. Tracery requires care, thought, and a critical examination of the parts of flowers, which are ofttimes so small as to require the use of a magnifying glass. The practical botanist is familiar with the distinctive marks of all the orders, and is thereby enabled to determine at once to which it belongs; and it is with these distinctive marks and the terms expressing them that the pupil has first to occupy himself. We should say, with your present knowledge of botany, that two hours a day of diligent study for three months would enable you to trace ordinary plants of the garden and woods;—this does not include grasses, ferns or mosses. You will find upon examining a flower of any given order what its distinguishing characteristics are; for instance, take the order Compositæ. This comprises nearly one-ninth of all the flowering plants, and is distinguished at once by its capitate flowers and united anthers; the Labiate, or Mint family, with its square stems, bilabiate corollas, ovary deeply four-parted, forming four little nuts, or achenia—all distinct marks and readily recognized. And so on with most other orders.

The beginner is prone to exaggerate the difficulty of committing to memory the terms of botany; but sooner or later he finds his mountains have resolved themselves into mole-hills. We are in need of botanists, and have no doubt that were you proficient in this study, you could command a situation in some one of our many schools that would well repay for your time and study. Such knowledge might also profit you in connection with the agricultural and horticultural press.

Wm. Taylor.—Will you tell me, through the RURAL, why salt mixed with ice or snow, producing salt water, causes cold? Is not the liquid warmer than ice?

ANS.—No, it is colder than the ice. The freezing point is lowered by this combination. When a solid body is made to liquefy without the aid of external heat, the heat which is essential to liquefaction must be abstracted from contiguous bodies which are thus made colder. The degree of cold is, in a great measure, proportionate to the rapidity of liquefaction. The principle is latent heat. If we take a pound of ice at 32° and a pound of water at 172°, the temperature will be found, when the ice is melted, but 32°. A quantity of heat (140°) sufficient to maintain the water at 172° has thus disappeared or become latent. It has been absorbed by the ice, and the temperature of those bodies supplying the heat is proportionately lowered.—Give us seasonable questions, good readers. Why tantalize us with thoughts of freezing mixtures with the thermometer at 90°?

A Rural Reader.—Blue Grass Seed may be sown in the fall at the same time and in the same manner as other hardy species. Some farmers sow it with their rye and wheat, others delay sowing until spring, putting it in with oats or spring wheat, but we prefer fall sowing for all of the hardy grasses. If it is not desirable to sow grass seed with grain, put it in alone, and early enough to insure a firm hold of the soil before cold weather. Sowing grass seed alone is not in general favor among farmers; but we have practiced it for years, and with such good results that we should be loth to return to the old double-crop system of seeding down a meadow.

Two to three bushels of Blue Grass seed should be sown per acre to insure a good stand, and very lightly covered. A light brush made of a branch of a tree, and drawn over the ground, will cover the seed sufficiently. Alfalfa, or Lucerne, as it is called, should be sown in spring, as the young plants are quite tender, and would scarcely withstand the cold of a Missouri winter. Sow broadcast and about fifteen pounds to the acre early in spring, and cover with a brush. After the plants have become well established they may be hardy enough to withstand the climate in your locality.

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VIRGINIA FARMS.—Tracts of 50 to 500 acres; good improvements. Also houses and lots in the growing town of Ashland, Hanover Co., on R. R. from Washington to Richmond; healthy, delightful climate; great bargains. *T. J. Woodridge*, Ashland, Va.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—With its full corps of editors, and a new publisher of energy and ability, the management propose to celebrate the quarter-centennial of the pioneer RURAL in such a manner as to augment its popularity and usefulness. For a first-class, lively paper, containing matter of interest for all classes, take the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and do so at once, for the paper never was better, and its prospects never brighter.—*Freeport (Ill.) Journal.*

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Wit and Humor.

A RATHER COOL PROCEEDING.

An old man entered a saloon and thus addressed the barkeeper:

"Mister, will you please be so kind as to give me a lemon?"

"What do you want with it?" asked the barkeeper.

"Wall, I just thought I would ask you for one seeing that you had a pretty big stock on hand. Come, old fellow, wont you give me just one?" and he gave the mixer of liquors a sly nudge in the ribs.

"Yes, I guess I can give you one," was the answer.

The old man smiled, expressed his thanks and went out. In about half an hour he returned.

"Well, what has brought you here this time?" asked the barkeeper.

"Oh, mister you are so kind I thought may be you might n't object to giving a poor old man a glass of ice water; won't you?"

"Certainly, sir. I will give you a drink of water," was the ready answer, and the barkeeper poured out a glass for him.

"If you would only just be so kind as to put a little sugar in the water now, I should ——"

Before he could finish the sentence the sugar was placed in the glass by the obliging barkeeper, whose curiosity was aroused to know what was going to be done with the sweetened water. The old man drew a chair out to one side, sat himself down and placed the glass between his knees; then drawing a pocket knife and the lemon he remarked—"Well, pardner, I'm just going to have the best drink this hot day you ever see."

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

The chief of hum-bugs—the mosquito.

"Ma, dear," said an intelligent pet, "what do they play the organ so loud for when church is over? Is it to wake us up?"

The letter L represents fifty. Why does it also represent nine hundred and ninety-nine? Because L just precedes M, which represents one thousand.

"Was it your eldest daughter, madam, that was bitten by a monkey?" "No, sir; it was my youngest. My eldest daughter had a worse misfortune—she married a monkey."

An exchange remarks that "some people are wholly unable to appreciate delicate irony." We have observed this ourselves, particularly in the case of washerwomen and shirt bosoms.

It is said that the old Romans also loved office. But they never had the feeling which an American constable has—never felt that their shoulders carried over half the burdens of government.

A poet, after looking about over life, has come to the following conclusion:

Oh, I wouldn't live for ever—I wouldn't if I could;
But I needn't fret about it, for I couldn't if I would.

"Now, there's a finished gentleman for you," said a fireman, as he gazed upon the pieces of the engineer that had been scraped up and gathered to his fathers, after his last attempt to run a train on nothing.

A Western paper says:—"Talk about the wind blowing the grasshoppers away! One of them faced Monday's gale for an hour, and then yanked a shingle off a house for a fan, saying it was awfully sultry."

The disgusted Britisher who concluded that the American national tune was the spit-toon, is revising Shakspeare for young Yankees. He has got as far as—"'Tis true, 'tis spitty, and spitty 'tis, 'tis true."

Mc Crispin—"Quite right to get a pair of shoes Molly. Your foot 'll look illegant in leather." Molly—"But sure I can't pay for them till Christmas." Mc (after a thoughtful pause)—"Troth, and it's a pity to hide such a purty fut, acushla."

Popular Hymnology.—Mistress with a ritualistic turn: And how did you like the festival service, Martha. Martha (from the country): Lor, mum, it wor beautiful! There was a lot o' men and boys a marchin' round and round the church with flags and a-singin' "Onward Christy Minstrels!"—*Punch.*

At the Hudson depot, the other day, a negro named Punch sat down on a quarter of a pound of powder and some matches in his pistol pocket. The matches ignited, the powder exploded, the basement of the african's trowsers disappeared, and in an instant the quondam wearer was butting his head into the ceiling.

Women are going into the insurance business, and when a comely woman enters a man's office, hitches up her chair, places a fair hand on his arm and begins to talk about policies, he feels as though his life ought to be insured pretty soon. And this feeling is greatly augmented should his wife chance to drop in unexpectedly during the interview.

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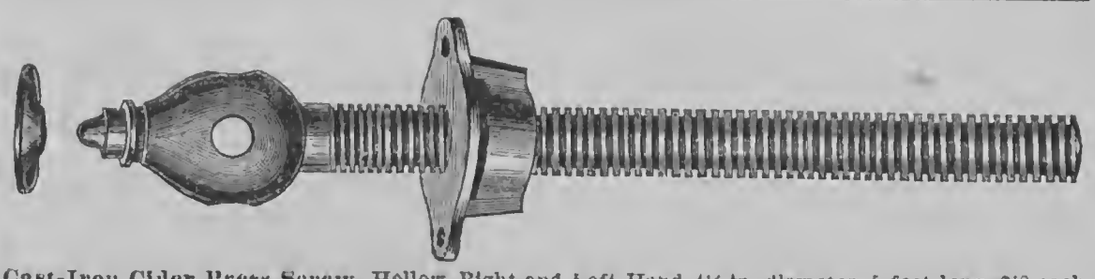

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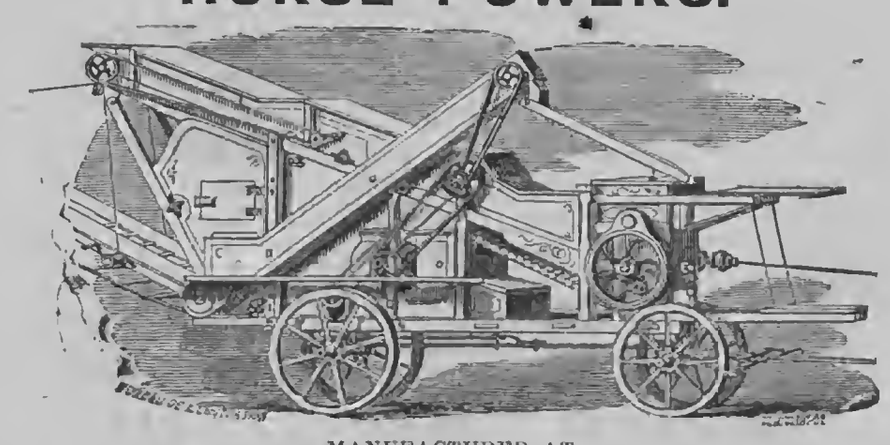

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EXCELSIOR

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

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Arboricultural.

THE WEEPING SOPHORA.

Among the many superb weeping trees suitable for places of limited extent, the Sophora has few superiors. It is a native of Japan. It was introduced into European gardens more than a century ago and has long been known in this country, still comparatively few good specimens are as yet to be found in our public parks or private pleasure grounds. In fact, we might say that a really well grown specimen is an exception to the general rule.

A few years since we had the accompanying illustration engraved from a sketch made by our own artist of a noble specimen of this tree growing in the grounds of S. B. Parsons & Co., Flushing, N. Y., and we now opportunely reproduce it in connection with an article by Mr. Mr. Parsons on "Horticultural Education," which appears in the present issue of the Rural, and will be continued in the next. The original or parent species of the Sophora Japonica is an upright-growing tree, reaching a hight of 40 to 50 feet, and producing large bunches of rather small, yellowish, pea-shaped flowers late in summer. The wood is very hard and compact, and it is thought might be used as a substitute for boxwood in wood engraving. The bark exhales a peculiar, strong odor, and it is stated in *Nouveau du Hamel* that it has a peculiar effect upon those who work in the wood while it is green. Loudon states that this was first discovered by a turner, who, while at work on a piece of the wood recently taken from the tree, was seized with colic, which obliged him to leave off. The following morning he resumed his work, and the same thing having occurred to him again, he sent for a neighboring turner, and afterwards for two others, who were all alike seized with colic.

In an old French work on forest tree culture the Sophora is mentioned as rivaling the Robinia Pseud-Acacia (our common locust tree) in robustness of habit and rapidity of growth, and even surpassing it in the durability of its timber. In view of the fact that of late years our common locust tree is being destroyed by the well-known Locust borer (*Cyllene robiniæ*), it might be well for arboriculturists to test the *Sophora Japonica* as a promising substitute, especially in the Middle and Southern States. The seedlings and the seeds could be obtained quite cheaply from nurserymen abroad, if not in this country.

There are several varieties of this species of Sophora, but all are chiefly valued for ornamental purposes. The best and most highly prized is the Weeping Sophora, or *S. pendula*.

The specimen from which our illustration was copied is about 15 feet high and the branches extend nearly or quite 20 feet, forming underneath a commondious and elegant bower. The leaves are dark green and pinnate, as shown in the sketch of a greatly-reduced twig in the right hand upper corner of our illustration.

The variegated Sophora is also a pretty variety, but, being rather delicate, is not considered worthy of much attention. The Weeping and other varieties are grafted upon stocks raised from seeds or cuttings of the original species.

In addition to the Japan Sophora, we have at least three species native of North America, but unfortunately they are all natives of the warmer parts. The *Sophora tomentosa* is a low-growing shrub, 4 to 6 feet high, with yellow flowers. It is a native of South Florida and west to Texas. The Showy Sophora (*S. speciosa*) and the Silky Sophora (*S. sericea*) are also found in Texas, from whence we have received seed from our correspondents. But the Japan species grow to a larger size than our natives, and are altogether preferable for ornamental purposes, even for the South, still it would be well to try the native species, as some of them might prove of value in the more genial and protected localities.

THE WEEPING SOPHORA.

Landscape Gardening.

HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION.

BY S. B. PARSONS.

I approach my subject with the embarrassment, one must always feel in endeavoring within the compass of a few columns to glance even at the wide field to go over, which required years of Loudon's laborious life.

I shall attempt only to throw out a few hints based upon the experience of some thirty years or more of country life, every day of which has brought with it the necessity of some thought upon landscape gardening and trees and flowers.

In a new country like ours the efforts of men, whose muscle is their only wealth, are first devoted to the production of grain and other articles which are essential to support life. When their labor has produced more than they need themselves, and money begins to flow in from their surplus produce, the higher gratifications of the palate are desired. Then they plant fruit trees and when these produce they become connoisseurs. Hence it is, that all over our country we will now find men of ordinary education and limited means, who will discuss the merits of favorite varieties of apples, pears, grapes, or other fruits as understandingly as men of the highest culture and with the largest opportunities which wealth gives. Beyond this gratification of the palate, however, men of ordinary taste and culture rarely go, and it is reserved for a higher civilization to imitate nature by developing art, to cultivate the aesthetic elements of country life and to surround country homes with the highest constituents of natural beauty. I think it is safe to assert that as an art, landscape gardening is higher than either painting or sculpture. The sculptor must have a quick perception of form, a knowledge of anatomy, and a power to throw his ideal into material shapes.

The painter needs these with an added appreciation of the effect of colors. The landscape gardener needs them all, with the exception of anatomy, and also needs much more. He must have an intimate acquaintance with all trees and plants; must be familiar with their forms at full age and with the shades of color in their foliage; must know whether their roots grow on the surface like the elm or deep like the hickory, and must know also the nature of the soil which they require. He must also be a good surveyor, understand thoroughly the principles of drainage and have a general acquaintance with vegetable physiology. He should also know, like the sculptor, how to materialize his ideal, how to make a gay, charming place, a quiet subdued one, or a park of baronial pretensions. He should have a quick eye for natural beauty, and an ability to harmonize his plans with the general features of the country in which they are executed. He should also have a quick imagination and a readiness to look forward into the vista of half a century and see what then will be the development of his plans, what forms his groups will then have assumed and what the shape of the noble trees which he planted when saplings. A landscape gardener should also be a rural architect, for it is essential that entire harmony should exist between the dwelling and the grounds, that the plans for each should come out of the same brain. He should know the relative strength of different woods and stone and brick and iron, and should be familiar with all the appliances of luxury, which science has unfolded for man's pleasure. He should be able to take the cream from all science and, uniting it with the highest kind of art, make himself an artist as much superior to the painter or the sculptor as the majestic tree or budding leaf or brilliant flower is superior to the pigments or marble with which they work. These materialize

their ideal through dead matter; our artist does the same through living, growing, vital forms. The work of one remains the same through centuries; that of the other develops new beauty every year.

The year before COLUMBUS discovered America, he walked about the Escurial gazing upon its beautiful pictures. In the country of his discovery, a young oak was then lifting up its forehead to the sun. The pictures are now the same that they were or have grown dim by age, while the young oak has budded and grown year by year into a sturdy tree, under whose wide spreading branches my children shout and play to their heart's content. Is not he the highest artist who works with these living, growing, vital materials?

To make my thoughts more clear, I will tell you how I would educate a boy for landscape gardening and rural architecture, provided I could have his time at my control, between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five. Assuming that at fifteen he has enough of Latin to read Virgil and enough of Greek to read Homer, I would place him for two years at chemistry in our scientific school, connecting with it the modern languages. At the end of this time he would be able to analyze any soil and tell its constituent parts as accurately as the merchant tells the constituents of the cloth he sells. Knowing what is deficient in any soil he could apply the needed fertilizing elements. The preparation of the soil is the first step in landscape gardening. His third and fourth year should be occupied by the general course in the scientific school, where he would obtain a good knowledge of surveying, of architectural drawing, including linear perspective, of botany, mineralogy, geology and civil-engineering. All these would be of great aid in his profession. Botany is of course essential. Surveying and topographical drawing are equally so.

In laying out a place, the first thing to be done is to survey it and mark the precise position of every tree upon it. The next thing is to prepare a map of it, and after careful examination of the ground to lay out the roads and paths. These can then be made by inferior hands. Drains must also be made, and there are many other things to be done which would require the knowledge to be gained only in a course of civil-engineering. For the fifth year I would place him with a skillful architect, where he could more thoroughly apply the instructions he had received at the scientific school. The sixth and seventh years should be passed in some nursery establishment, where the variety is as large as possible and where his eye would be thoroughly educated to the peculiarities of each tree or shrub. This period should be marked by close reading and study on vegetable physiology, arboriculture and kindred subjects.

The winter half of the eighth year I would send him to the Tropics, to the shores of the Amazon, to the valley of Caracas and to the passes of the Cordilleras and to Central America, where he can see nature in her finest combination of grandeur and beauty. No one can thoroughly appreciate the capabilities of plants unless he has seen the wonderful luxuriance of tropical vegetation. No sight of my earlier days dwells so vividly in my memory, as that of some of these scenes. The summer half of the eighth year could be usefully occupied with the lectures at Edinburg, on vegetable physiology. There is here an excellent botanic garden, and the students have the opportunity of study from living specimens, and of listening to lectures illustrated by numerous diagrams. It appeared to me to be as thorough a course in vegetable physiology as could be desired.

The ninth and tenth years could be profitably occupied in traveling. A rapid trip to India and Persia would give a knowledge of the peculiar, yet beautiful architecture of those countries. A winter in Italy and Greece would be essential to the formation of correct architectural taste, a few months would be sufficient for the rest of Europe and not less than six months to England. For the highest existing development of art in the imitation of nature, England is an epitome of the whole world, and a landscape gardener need desire for this purpose no other country. He has there the finest study possible under every beautiful phase which the combination of taste and wealth can furnish. Two or three summers could be very profitably spent there in studying the finest places.

Our student however, is desirous of speedy practice in his profession and cannot spare these three summers. His taste however, can be further cultivated by devoting his seasons of recreation in each year, to traveling in the most beautiful parts of our own country, thus making himself familiar with nature in all her forms. Mt. Desert, the Adirondacks, the Alleghanies, the prairies and oak-openings of the West, each afford a different and attractive study. Now you will doubtless say that few men are able to do these things; few men can afford to sustain a son in such a course of study for ten years. Except the traveling however, it is no more expensive nor does it require more time than the study of the law. He will come out of this training, a thoroughly well-skilled man in all the requisites of his profession, and if wealthy gentlemen who own costly country places, could be made to appreciate such ability, his profession would be remunerative. That in time they will so appreciate it I do not doubt, but what are the facts now? Do you not think that such ability ought to ensure an income of three thousand a year, or ten dollars for every working day in the year?

Yet the fact is, that nearly all those who are forming costly country places—men who do not hesitate to give a thousand dollars for a horse, or two thousand for a shawl—think that such a charge would be exorbitant, for merely laying out grounds or planting trees, and would be perfectly shocked at the idea of paying in addition to this for plans which cost much labor of competent draftsmen.

One of the most enterprising gentlemen I know, who, by an unusual combination of wealth and taste, has made twelve acres of land the most beautiful place in America, tells me that it is often comical to witness the expression on the faces of wealthy gentlemen who visit them, when he shows them his new trees a foot or two high, costing perhaps twenty-five dollars each. They look at the tree, then at him, think him extravagant if not crazy, and then go to the city and buy a piece of furniture for five hundred dollars, that would be as truly beautiful and useful at fifty. The fact is, that these men have spent their best years as merchants, they have no scales wherewith to weigh such improvements, and they can neither realize nor understand their value.

An appreciation of art follows wealth however, and I do not doubt that any who has courage to undertake such a course of training, would find the profession of a landscape gardener remunerative. But while pleading for an artist, I do not wish to forget the thousands who cannot afford to employ such a man, but who must lay out their ground themselves, aided by the intuitive taste which every wife or daughter has, in a greater or less degree. For these I will endeavor to throw out such hints as may be useful.

There are two things which are essential in all places, plenty of air around the house and entire seclusion by hiding your boundaries. Therefore no trees should be sufficiently near the house to shade it. The sun is a great purifier, do not shut it out. To increase the apparent size of the grounds and to insure seclusion, all your boundaries should be planted with evergreens. These will afford a dark and rich back ground against which can be embroidered all the finest trees and shrubs. If the place is occupied the whole year, a large part of the planting should be evergreens, if only for the summer, it should be mostly deciduous. When we reflect that for at least half the year in our Northern and Middle States, deciduous trees are without foliage we will see how important it is to plant for the winter; to select trees which are in full beauty at that season, and which will give the fresh greenness of summer to the winter landscape. This it is, which in winter constitutes so great a charm in English pleasure-grounds, where the eye will rest on the glossy greenness of the Laurel, the Kalmia, the Rhododendron, and other hardy evergreen plants.

I have mentioned two desiderata in all grounds, sun and ventilation around the dwelling. A third one is equally essential, plenty of open turf space. Do not plant trees or shrubs according to the old rule, which was to throw a handful of potatoes in the air and to plant a tree where each one fell. Plant in groups and masses, leaving broad expanses of clear turf over which the eye can pass, catching glimpses of cozy nooks and arbors and vistas. I am, however, becoming rather discursive, and will reserve practical details for another article.

The Apiarian.

FACTS ABOUT BEE KEEPING.

IN the RURAL of Aug. 12 is an article on bees, from the "Industrial Moter," that contains statements tending to deceive people who have had no experience in bee keeping. The article says: "It is estimated that 70,000 of our people are engaged in apiarian pursuits." This "estimate" has no substantial proofs to rest upon; and was a mere "guess" of a writer in one of our bee papers about a year ago. I think that 15,000 is nearer the truth, judging from a long experience in bee keeping in several States. "Some of them," says the Moter, "sold, the last year, from 50,000 to 100,000 pounds of honey each, the product of their own bees." No man can keep in one place over 80 to 100 families of bees; and estimating the average quantity of honey that each would annually produce at 22 lbs., the Motor's figures, it would require 4,500 families of bees to produce the 100,000 lbs., and to be located in about fifty different places, not within three miles of each other. Nobody has any such number of apiaries; and the above quotations, and the assertion that Mr. HARRISON of California has a net income from bees of $25,000, are not reliable. Bee keeping, however, in California is vastly more profitable than in the Atlantic States; and the yield of honey there ought not to be cited as proof of what can be done here.

"The wax produced is estimated at 20,000,000 lbs.," says the Moter. Now, wax is only made from combs in hives where the bees die, and a hive full of combs will not generally produce over one pound of wax. There are, according to the Moter, 70,000 bee keepers in the United States, averaging 28 hives each, (I will now allow the Moter's figures to show the humbuggery of its article from its own words) making 1,906,000 hives in the entire country; and if every family of bees in this country, even taking the extravagant numbers of the Moter, should die, and their combs be made into wax, there would be only 1,900,000 lbs., while the Moter says the amount is 20,000,000, made from the combs of only such families as perish during the year! This is a sample of the nonsense and falsehoods that are being spread over the land, by parties interested in selling hives and bees. I think that 100,000 families of bees would cover all that exist in the United States, out of California.

The Moter continues: "The profits realized by keeping bees averages from one to two hundred per cent. on the capital invested. It is a business anybody can carry on. Students frequently support themselves by keeping bees; and poorly-paid ministers often depend more on these little, industrious creatures than on their parishioners." Yes, the profits are sometimes one or two hundred per cent; but quite as often the beginner fails to get any profit for years, or loses a part, or his entire stock of bees. I resided, some years ago, near Hamilton College, Oneida Co., N. Y.; and a student brought 70 families of bees there to "support himself," and at the end of four years, all his bees had died but five or six families. A student or a clergyman may, in some cases, make a little money by keeping bees; but I think more lose their investments than make money by them. As a fair illustration of what occurs to half the beginners in bee keeping, I will state a case. When I removed from Oneida Co., N. Y., to New Jersey, I gave a clergyman, who had retired from active duty in his church, 22 hives of bees to keep on shares, and at the end of three years he had only four families left, and in one of the best localities for bees in the State. The great trouble is to *winter* bees successfully. Bee-houses, cellars, and all other places are subject to losses in winter, and no kind of hive or management has been discovered that enables bee keepers to winter their bees safely under all circumstances. Mr. QUINBY, the noted apiarian, lost as large a percentage of his bees, before his death, as other bee keepers; and it is, perhaps, safe to say that one-half of all the bees in the Northern States die every severe cold winter, and that we now have no more bees in this country than we had ten years ago.

Another example of the false statements floating about in the papers in regard to bees, is the assertion of the Moter that "a machine has been constructed that turns out combs mathematically correct;" and then it goes on to talk of "the great gaining of time to the bees it is to furnish with ready-made combs superior to those made by the bees!" Now, Mr. Editor, what can we do with such lying writers? The only artificial combs made in the United States are simply comb *foundations*, and are only used as guides for the bees when they commence their combs. They have no cells—only indentations on each side. A little strip, say half an inch wide, may be secured in honey boxes as an incentive to the bees to come up into them, and to build combs for surplus honey; and this is all they are good for. The fact that they are made of pure wax, disqualifies such foundations from being used, except in very small strips as guides, because no one would like to eat pure bees-wax in his comb-honey, which naturally is a very different thing from manufactured wax.

There is a bright and a dark side to bee keeping. A great deal depends on the locality. Where white clover does not exist extensively, bee keeping would be a hazardous business; and even in the best localities it is not a business that any person can depend on to make a living. One may succeed, and he may not. He may prosper for some years, obtain a large number of families of bees, and a very severe winter may destroy nearly all of them. Even warmly-built winter bee-houses are not safe in very cold winters.

Now, suppose that we, in imagination, call on 100 men who have been, or now are keeping bees in movable comb hives in a good locality for bees—men who keep from five to fifty families—we find that ten of them have lost all their bees, and have given up the business in disgust. Twenty have fewer families now than they had five years ago. Thirty "hold their own" from year to year, the increase of each season about equaling their winter losses, and the balance have increased their stocks somewhat. "What is the cause of your losses?" "O, sir, our cold winters." "Have you made money by bee keeping?" "Some seasons we make a little, and in other seasons nothing. Mr. —— and Mr. —— are very successful. They had about a thousand pounds each of cap honey last season, each having about 50 families."

We will now call on Mr. ——, who has 600 families. "How many differently located apiaries have you, sir?" "I have eight—keep a man to attend to each in swarming time." "Do your bees increase much?" "I get a good many swarms some seasons, but I don't increase my stock, taking out winter losses. In fact, to tell the truth, I had more bees five years ago than I have now." "What are your annual net profits on your 600 hives?" "Year before last I cleared about $1,000; last year was a poor season for bees, and I just came out "whole;" this year I shall probably clear five or six hundred dollars. Bee keeping, sir, is not the fortune-making business that we read it is in the papers."

Probably a trip among the bee keepers would result somewhat as I represent the case above.

Linden, N. J. T. B. MINER.

AN apiarian of Maryland has secured a beautifully-marked breed of bees which he names the Albino. The markings are these:—Beautiful yellow bands; from the bands to the end of the bee is quite white, or a bright silver color; heads dark velvet color, differing from the Italian.

Insurance Department.

INSURANCE NOTES AND NEWS.

Exchanging Insurance Policies.—At least one-third of all the life insurance companies in existence five years ago have since abandoned the business. Most of them made some sort of arrangement to re-insure their risks. The remainder are winding up in various degrees of insolvency. The failure of these companies caused a great deal of irreparable loss to their policy holders. Many of the insured were in bad health and could not be again insured with other companies. The same thing may occur again whenever the business of a company ceases to be profitable. Such is and has been the case for years with several of them. They would close out their business at any time if opportunity offered or could be created. When they do so a repetition of the old evils may be expected unless some preventive measures are taken. The greatest injustice is sometimes practiced in exchanging policies from one company to another. Every policy has a certain value. The laws prescribe the amount of this value and the company is required to have an equivalent sum to the credit of each policy. This value usually increases rapidly year by year, consequently those which have been longest in force are most valuable. When a policy lapses the company gains and appropriates the sum to its credit. The same thing occurs whenever it is voluntarily surrendered, as in the cases where they are exchanged from company to company. The profit to the companies and loss to the policy holders is made by giving a new policy having little or no value in exchange for an old and valuable policy. Millions of money have been made in this way. Companies that are doing a profitless, if not actually a losing business, are preparing to re-insure for the sake of the illicit gains to be made. The only way to forestall this kind of enterprise and to protect one's self from something closely allied to robbery, is to refuse peremptorily to exchange either company or policy. There can be no compulsion in this matter. One or other of the companies must carry the risk, and if *all* the risks of the retiring company are assumed and guaranteed nothing is gained by exchanging, though a great deal may be lost. There is always a deposit of a hundred thousand dollars with the State authorities that cannot be withdrawn while there is one policy in force. This is the best of security and becomes greater in proportion as other people's policies are exchanged. Therefore, hold on to your policy. Pay the premiums promptly before they are due. Pay by draft or postal order so as to have something to show that you have done your duty. You *know* nothing about the value of your policy, nor that of the one offered in exchange, therefore don't swap. If you are strongly tempted by the apparent desirableness of the offer write the *kind* of policy you have, the number of thousands insured, the annual premium paid, the notes, if any, given, the age at which it was taken and the present age, also as nearly as you can the kind of policy offered you and send it to the RURAL. In reply you will receive the advice of one skilled in these things, honestly given, and *wholly without charge*.

Dairy Husbandry.

CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF OUR DAIRY PRODUCTS.

If there is anything more than another which is a distinguishing characteristic of the English merchant and stamps his superiority over that of other nations, it is his commercial enterprise. English trade extends in all directions and embraces a most wonderful variety of products. England imports largely from many countries to supply her own wants, and so familiar are her merchants with the markets of the world, that they know where to buy cheapest and where to sell at the most profit. One would, at first thought, hardly suppose that a people requiring an immense supply of food products from abroad for its own consumption would also engage in supplying other markets than its own, and yet such is the fact, and so thoroughly do the English merchants understand the needs of foreign markets that a brisk and profitable trade is not unfrequently obtained in exporting the very goods which they have imported.

In dairy products England is our best customer, and it is doubtful whether our own merchants are any better, if indeed they are so well, informed in regard to supply and demand and other circumstances likely to affect prices as the English shippers. At any rate, the prices for our goods are largely controlled by the English dealers, and a decline in cable quotations has a wonderful effect in shaping sales, not only on the goods to be exported, but on those used for our home consumption. It has come to be a truism that the 100,000,000 pounds of cheese which England annually takes from us controls the price on the 300,000,000 pounds produced; and this must be necessarily so, for if the shippers are buying our best cheese at from 9 to 10c., it cannot be expected that home dealers will go into our principal markets and pay two or three cents per pound more than the regular rates made to the foreign trade. We never have been fully satisfied with the manner in which the export trade in dairy products has been conducted. In many instances there is a lack of capital among our merchants, and they do not buy so much on their own account and seek an outlet for the goods, but their office seems to be rather that of an agent who buys for his principal, the English shipper. He often takes heavy risks, and is satisfied to get a small commission for his services. Heavy houses like those in London and Liverpool are not very often found in this country, and many of our merchants do not seem to be ambitious to open trade outside of old and established channels. Of course it is a comparatively easy matter to sell directly to the English shipper and take such profits as the times and circumstances warrant, according to the London or Liverpool standard; but we cannot expect to get as good prices as if we should go into all the markets of the world. So long as we tie ourselves exclusively to one market and allow others to select the best places for trade, we must expect to take a lower level in the scale of trade, since those who purchase from us buy to make money, and if they cannot get goods low enough to clear a margin above freights and handling, they are not going to engage in the trade.

But why not treat directly with all nations requiring dairy goods, instead of allowing others to occupy this place? English statistics show that England exports both cheese and butter, but the general impression is that all the dairy products made in Britain and all that is sent there is consumed by the British people. Large quantities of European butter are sent to South America. A favorite brand in Peru and Ecuador and other States along the Western coast is that made in Denmark. The Danish butter made for the South American trade is put up in tin packages, with the covers soldered so as to exclude the air. These packages weigh from 6 to 20 pounds. The tins are coated on the outside with a peculiar red-colored varnish, and so excellent is the butter and so well is it preserved in these packages that a red-colored package of the Danish style is considered a good guarantee of quality and meets with ready sale. Danish butter brings what some of our dairymen would consider a very high price. Very little, if any, is sold less than $1 per pound, and according to Prof. SKOELSKEE of the Royal Agricultural College in Copenhagen, who is now in this country, a much larger price than that named is often realized for it. Danish butter also goes to China and India, where it brings correspondingly high rates.

Now, we see no reason why the United States should not supply the whole South American trade. We certainly ought to ship butter to South America as quickly and as cheaply as either the English or the Danes. At the prices named there certainly ought to be a handsome profit for somebody, and perhaps after our trade was fully established some of this profit might stick to the hands of our dairymen. One thing, of course, it would be important to do, and that is—fine quality and proper packing must be insured. We must confess that American butter is not always up to the proper standard of quality, though our best butter makers can, and do, make as good as any in the world. Shippers, therefore, would need to have some system of inspection, some guarantee that the quality and packing were in every respect perfect, otherwise there would be liability of reduction in the present established prices; for the crowding of any market with a mixed quality of goods put up after a certain style and brand must soon ruin the reputation of the trade and give foreign butter a preference.

Danish and Swedish butter has of late acquired high reputation on account of its excellence and uniformity. This has been partly due to the system of making and partly to the system of packing and inspection, whereby nothing is allowed to be sent abroad to foreign markets that can be classed as inferior. The poor butter is used for home consumption, being sold, of course, at a reduced price, according to quality. The care taken in shipping a uniform and excellent article has given Swedish butter a high name in England, and it is frequently sold in the London market at a price equal, if not superior, to the best English make.

ESTABLISHING AN AMERICAN HOUSE ABROAD.

American dairymen are obtaining comparatively low prices for their goods — both butter and cheese—and it is a question whether something is not due for this state of things to our system of marketing. If our merchants were more enterprising in opening up other channels of trade, it is believed better prices could be realized. We need to extend our trade to all the markets of the world, dealing directly with those markets, instead of allowing another nation to make a profit on our goods in them. It has been suggested that an American house be established in Liverpool and London for the receipt and disposal of American dairy products in England, and efforts have from time to time been made to induce some of our well-known cheese merchants to go abroad and establish such a house. Indeed, it has been proposed that a number of leading factories should unite together to keep such a house well supplied with cheese, either to be sold on commission or by an agent in the employ of said factories. In such case, it will be seen, the factories would ship their goods direct, dispensing with the middlemen, who now take a considerable share of the profits.

It has been urged that an American house could not be successfully established in England, that the English cheesemongers would combine to overthrow any such project; but it is not easy to see why an American house could not be made successful in that country. If our factories had confidence in those having the management of such an institution and sent it their best goods, those goods would be wanted and could be sold, despite any combination of London or Liverpool dealers. Should prices decline much further, it is not improbable that some such organization will be formed and the attempt made to sell goods from first hands, or direct from the factories, through their agents in England. We can name more than one leading factory which is willing and anxious to enter into such an arrangement, and the only question of success would be the selection of certain men as agents who from their well-known business relations with dairymen have obtained their confidence. The project is by no means a visionary one, and in time, we doubt not, will be tried.

KEEPING BUTTER FOR FAMILY USE.

A CORRESPONDENT inquires for a good butter package for family use. He says:—"The wooden tubs and packages, or at least all those I have tried, leave an oldish taste to the butter next the wood when butter is kept in them for several weeks. Stone crocks keep the butter sweeter than wood, but they are awkward things to handle, and are also very liable to get cracked and broken."

The Tilton Package figured in the "Practical Butter Book," page 145, is not open to the objections complained of. It is an iron package, the inside enameled with porcelain, and has a metallic lid. It is provided with a bail to facilitate handling, and can be used for other purposes besides butter. We have been using one of these packages during the past year for keeping butter for family use, and we find the butter always sweet on the sides of the package; in fine, the whole mass keeping sound and in good order. In this package there is no soakage or leakage; the porcelain lining gives off no taste, while the air is excluded, or cannot pass through the sides and bottom, as it not unfrequently does where wooden packages are used. We are now (Aug. 17) using butter made and packed in one of these packages during the spring, and although butter made at that season is not regarded as the best for keeping during the hot months, still we find it sweet and sound, with no appreciable difference in flavor from the time it was put down. It is well to have butter (not intended for immediate use) covered with brine, or with a cloth on which is spread a thin layer of salt, the great point for its preservation being to exclude the air as perfectly as possible. Butter, to keep for any considerable length of time, must, of course, be properly made. If the buttermilk is not thoroughly expelled, it will be short-lived and soon acquire a rancid or "oldish" taste, which latter expression, we take it, means an early stage of rancidity.

COMPOSITION OF AMERIGAN FACTORY CHEESE.

PROF. CALDWELL of Cornell University has been making some analyses of American cheese. In the several samples of whole-milk cheese obtained from different parts of the country, he finds the several constituents in the following proportions:

FACTORIES.	Water.	Ash.	Fat.	Caseine, Sugar, &c.
N. Y. Factory Cheese, No. 1..	31.41	3.53	37.88	27.18
N. Y. Factory Cheese, No. 2..	35.68	3.60	35.15	25.57
N. Y. Factory Cheese, No. 3..	35.24	3.23	35.68	25.85
N. Y. Factory Cheese, No. 4..	34.73	4.05	35.57	26.65
Mass. Factory Cheese, No. 1..	34.18	3.02	35.92	28.88
Mass. Factory Cheese, No. 2..	33.05	3.73	34.19	29.53
Me. Fac. Cheese, Jersey milk	28.11	2.71	41.03	28.15
Wisconsin Factory Cheese..	35.40	3.34	34.05	26.12

Most of these cheeses, it will be seen, contain a pretty large percentage of fat, and especially is this the case with the Factory Cheese No. 1, the amount being nearly 39 per cent., while the Maine Factory Cheese made from Jersey milk is only about 2 per cent. richer, it containing a trifle over 41 per cent. of fat.

Comparing the analyses above with the composition of a very fine cheddar cheese analyzed by Prof. VOELCKER, and which Prof. V. says was one of the finest cheeses he ever examined, we find that the American cheese is richer than it by nearly 4 per cent. of fat. The following is the composition of the Cheddar Cheese as given by VOELCKER:

	Water.	Ash.	Fat.	Caseine, Sugar, &c.
Extra Cheddar Cheese..	33.92	3.85	33.15	29.18

Prof. CALDWELL, we notice, arrives at the same conclusion as that given by VOELCKER, viz., that a chemical analysis is no true test of the quality of a sample of cheese, and this fact is fully borne out by the observation and experience of others, it being well known that some manufacturers will make what *appears to be* a richer and better cheese from milk lightly skimmed than other manufacturers can make from whole milk. And VOELCKER remarks that "one of the chief tests of the skill of the dairymaid is the production of a rich-tasting and looking, fine-flavored, mellow cheese from milk not particularly rich in cream."

On comparing the analyses of CALDWELL with those of VOELCKER on American cheese, we find that the average percentage of water in CALDWELL's samples is a little larger than those of VOELCKER'S, and this is doubtless attributable to the difference in age of the respective cheeses. We regret that Prof. CALDWELL has not seen fit in his report to give a more particular description of the several samples of cheese analyzed, as regards taste, mellowness, and apparent richness under the tongue.

The Herdsman.

WATERING COWS IN THE STABLE.

THE following excellent hints on watering cows from the Live Stock Journal is worthy of attention at this season, when preparations can be made much cheaper than during cold weather:

In answer to a number of inquiries, we propose to give, even at this unseasonable period, some considerations upon this subject. It is an improvement worthy the consideration of all dairymen. There is really every argument in favor of watering cows in stalls that can be given for feeding them in stalls. It is as important that they should be able to drink without molestation as to eat in peace. Every one knows that master animals take a pure delight in keeping the weaker ones away from the spring or watering trough. These underlings must wait till the others go away, and in cold weather this exposes them too long, and frequently they go without water in consequence. Accidents also happen from their slipping on the ice that accumulates around the watering place. Then, water given in stable may be moderated in temperature, so as not to chill the animals like ice-water in the cold air. The water drawn in a comfortable stable will seldom be below 50 degrees. There have been many ways devised for supplying cattle with water in stable, but most of them have a separate trough for each animal, which must each be cleaned separately. It is important to simplify and save labor in all ways. By making a trough in the shape of a V the whole length of the stable, and placing it directly in front of the cows under the manger, so that the lid to the trough may form a part of the bottom of the manger, water may run in at one end, and the cows drink as it passes them, any surplus being drawn off at the other end.

This being a straight, smooth trough, it can be swept and cleaned from end to end as fast as a man can walk. It may be made from pine plank, 1¼ inch thick; one side ten inches, and the other 11¼ inches wide, the one nailed upon the edge of the other, the ends being halved together and white lead put in the joints. The ends should be nailed with fourpenny bradclinching nails. The lid should be hung on the floor side with a rubber cloth hinge, which being flexible, is not injured by wet, and will prevent any bits of hay or dirt from going through into the trough. The other side of the lid should have a strip of 1¼ inch hoop-iron nailed on the upper side, and lapping over one-half inch, to prevent food from going into the trough on the side. The trough and lid should be painted inside and out with two coats of raw linseed oil and oxide of iron before the lid is hung. These lids being sixteen feet long, are thrown open on a long trough in a minute. The side of the manger next the feeding floor should consist of a plank 10 inches wide, set on edge. This makes, when the lid is shut, a plain, straight manger, easily cleaned. To prevent the cows from hooking each other, or reaching after each other's feed, fasten a plank a foot wide in the center between them, reaching into the manger, and cut a half-circle from the lower end, so that the lid will open.

The water to be used in stable may be brought in pipes, and drawn by a cock into the trough, the fountain being an elevated spring, or a reservoir, the bottom of which is higher than the trough; or, it may be pumped.

There is practically, not much difficulty in supplying the water in stable. We use a reservoir of 15,000 gallons, only fifty feet off, brought by a pipe and drawn by a cock. This reservoir is filled, partly by a pipe from a dam 300 feet away supplied by surface water, and partly from the roof.

LUNG DISEASES IN FARM STOCK.

PROF. LAW in his new and admirable work "The Farmer's Veterinary Adviser" in speaking of lung fever and other diseases in farm stock, says:

"The disease ought to be rooted out by measures executed by the General Government and defrayed out of the public treasury. Little good must be looked for from isolated action by States, counties, townships, or individual owners; the danger threatens the entire country, and for the general safety all must pay. It is absurd to expect the unfortunate possessor of sick animals to beggar himself for the public good. There should be destruction of the sick, partial remuneration of the owners, thorough disinfection under professional supervision, and the most perfect control and constant inspection of all suspected herds and places until the malady has been eradicated from the land. This is the most insidious of all other animal plagues, the one which now most urgently presses for active interference, and which, if neglected, will bring a terrible retribution in the future." Free trade in cattle between Britain and the continent, by conveying contagious diseases to the former country, has occasioned a loss to the British people of $450,000,000 in 30 years; so it will be seen that Prof. Law's recommendations are amply borne out by facts.

Our present regulations in regard to glanders and farcy are very unsatisfactory, as in many States there is no law to prevent the conveying and selling of glandered horses. This condition of things brings about very bad results, as within our own experience the purchase of a glandered horse by a company running a large number of horses introduced glanders into their stable, and the extension of the disease was not checked until after thirty sound and valuable horses became infected; and the company considered itself fortunate in not sustaining still heavier loss. If Prof. Law's recommendations in regard to the prevention of glanders lead to better legislation in the premises, the annual losses from this cause will be greatly reduced. Though we have dwelt chiefly on that chapter of the "Veterinary Advisor" which treats of contagious diseases, on account of the great public interest which attaches to many of them, the succeeding chapters are not less interesting to keepers of live stock, as due attention is bestowed upon all the minor maladies to which horses, cattle, sheep and swine are subjected. The author's extensive knowledge of veterinary literature and his varied practical experience have been happily utilized by describing diseases concisely and in language intelligible to all.

The Centennial.

LIVE STOCK ENTRIES AT THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

THE following entries have been made up to the date of going to press:

PENNSYLVANIA.—Sheep, D. L. Archer, Burgettstown; Swine, E. A. Ashbridge, Wellestown; Horses, F. L. Birchard, Birchardville; Jas. B. Baker, Jr., Thorndale; Sheep, C. H. Beall, Independence; Cattle, J. H. Bronson, Guthrieville; Ayrshires, Sheep and Swine, T. S. Cooper, Coopersburg; Jerseys, Geo. Callaghan, Angora; Horses, Colin Cameron, Marietta; Steers, Job Darlington, Chester; Horses, Mark Devine, W. A. Greenwood, Philadelphia; Sheep, J. C. Gist, Independence; W. A. Herriot, Oakdale Station; Horses, Lewis Harringer, A. Jenks, Philadelphia; Fat Oxen, W. S. Keefer, Chambers; Horses, W. S. Kennedy, Lancaster; Devons, J. B. Longnecker, Union Deposit; Jerseys, Chas. Lafferty, Philadelphia; Swine, A. W. Leigh, Branchtown; Pony, Wm. Mickle, Indiana; Heifers, Miller & Son, Spring City; Guernseys, E. Michener, Carversville; Jerseys, Wm. Massey, Philadelphia; Horse and Short-Horns, Thos. McKean, Easton; Horse, McKean & Hullick, Easton; Jerseys, Hugh McIlvain, Philadelphia; Horse, James Nichols, Honesdale; J. S. Parker, West Chester; Goats and Sheep, Robert Perrine, Patterson's Mills; Sheep, Perrine & Cunningham, Patterson's Mills; Jerseys, John Patterson, Glenmore; Horse, J. G. Pfantz, Lancaster; Jerseys, Eastburn Reeder, New Hope; Swine, J. C. Roberts, West Chester; Steers, Jacob Rupp, Parmersville; Horse, J. S. Stewart, West Chester; Jerseys, Chas. L. Sharpless, Philadelphia; Steers, J. Schamberg & Co., Philadelphia; Swine, J. Shaner, West Chester; Horse, R. C Schenck, Philadelphia: Devons and Jerseys, Sam'l L. Sharpless, Philadelphia; Ayrshires, Thomas Tasker, Philadelphia; Horse, J. H. Taylor, Philadelphia; Horse, S. Van Fleet, Watsontown; Jersey, Chas. Whilling, Philadelphia; Swine, Francis Worth, Philadelphia; Bull, J. C. White, Swatara; Sheep and Swine, Ewd. Waters, Kennett Square; Sheep, Thos. E. Wade, Rocksboro; Horse, H. M. Yeargeo, Alburtis; Horse, Isaac Yost, Lancaster; Horse, Gov. Hartranft, Harrisburg.

NEW YORK.—Ayrshires, Samuel Bradley, Adamsville; Jerseys, G. S. Camp, Oswego; Horses, Thomas Coleman, Sheldrade; Sheep, William Chamberlain, Redhook; Horses and Jerseys, William Crozier, Northport; Devons, Walter Cole, Batavia; Herefords, Clarkson Bros., Potsdam; Horse, D. W. Edwards, Seneca Falls; Devons, James Hilton, New Scotland; Short-Horns, Thomas L. Harison, Morley; Jerseys, Thomas J. Hand, Sing Sing; Fat Ox, John Hadstead, Carlton; Sheep, J. O. Joslin, Tiashoke; Horses, A. R. Murdock, Auburn; Ayreshires, James Miller, Penn Yan; Guernseys, C. H. Matteson, Hudson; Devons, B. F. Peck, East Bethany; Sheep, H. H. Parker, Otego; Horse, S. Parsons, Orange; Jerseys and Sheep, W. L. & W. Rutherford, Waddington; Ray Bros., Holeage; Bull, Smith Spencer, Kiantone; Horse, W. E. Smallman, Malone; Short-Horns, J. R. Stuyvesant, Poughkeepsie; Sheep, E. Townsend, Pavilion Center; Cattle, G. F. Taber, Patterson; Dutch Cattle, Unadilla Co., West Edmiston; Swine and Jerseys, Waterbury & Freeman, West Chester; Short-Horns, C. F. Wadsworth, Genoseo; Bull, Ira Young, Jamestown.

CONNECTICUT.—Horse, Robins Buttoll, Norfolk; Jerseys, Samuel Colt, Hartford; Oxen, J. C. & G. F. Capen, Bloomfield; Ayrshires, John Diamon, Diamon Stock Farm; Jerseys, Thomas Fitch, New London; Oxen, Augustus Hamilton, Watertown; Sheep, G. C. Hitchcock, New Preston; Devons, O. B. King, Watertown; Jerseys, Horatio J. Lathrop, Suffield; Horses, W. J. Osborne, Ausonia; W. B. Smith, Hartford; Jerseys and Alderney Cattle, J. R. Starr, Litchfield; Ayrshires, S. M. & D. Wells, Wethersfield; Jerseys, Jas. B. Williams, Glastonbury.

MARYLAND.—Sheep, A. P. G. Cumming, Mt. Washington; S. R. Crosbie, Cantonvillo; Oxen, H. H. Dnyskinack, Brick Meeting House; Sheep, W. H. Decourcy, Queenstown; Horses, Baldwin Kufty, Princess Ann; W. H. Jenefer, Baltimore; F. Morris, Oakland Mills; Herefords, John Merryman, Hayfield; Horses, James H. Powers, Hamilton; Benj. W. Woods, Germanstown.

NEW JERSEY.—Jerseys, Silas Betts, Bloomfield; Swine, W. H. Cole, Clinton; Jack, L. Lieman, Jersey City; Cattle, Chas. S. Taylor, Burlington; W. S. Taylor, Burlington; Bull, H. Van Bureu, Shrewsbury; Ox, Geo. Wilder, New Egypt; Horses, F. G. Walbert, Jersey City; Whitmack & Hall, Somerville; C. P. Williams Summit.

WISCONSIN.—Sheep, P. Craig, Caldwell's Prairie; O. M. Cook, Waukesha; Chas. Clark, Whitewater; L. Jale, Waukesha; Humlert Bros., Caldwell's Prairie; Geo. Laurence, Waukesha; Horse, Geo. Murray, Racine; Sheep, John H. Paul, Waukesha; E. A. Perkins, Mukuanago Co; Bull, J. P. Switzer, Madison.

OHIO.—Horse, M. H. Cryer, Salem; E. B. Hoge, Flushing; Swine, E. & J. McKleever, Bloomsburg; L. E. Paroth, Washington; S. H. Todd, Wakeman.

ILLINOIS.—Herefords, H. Burleigh, Fairfield; William Constable, Will Co.; Swine, H. C. Castle, Wilmington; Herefords, E. L. Miller, Beechor; Sheep, J. L. Newman, West Jersey; Herefords, William Powell, Beecher; Horses, Jas. R. Perry, Wilmington; Horses, Bruno Gansel, Hyde Park; Swine, J. G. Longshore, Wilmington.

VERMONT.—Sheep, H. C. Bindwell, Bridport; Horse, A. O. Cummings, Montpelier; Sheep, L. P. Clark, Vergennes; A. E. Tuller, Pomfert; R. G. Hill, Elmore; Jerseys, Peter Leclair, Winooski; Sheep, A. E. Perkins, Pomfert.

KENTUCKY.—Horse, W. L. Dills, Cynthiana; Short-Horn, B. B. Groom & Son, Winchester; Horse, R. Penniston, Lexington.

MASSACHUSETTS.—Jerseys, T. Allen; Horses, L. A. Hitchcock, Boston; Ayrshires and Swine, Herbt. Merriam.

MISSOURI.—Sheep, Sam. Archer, Kansas City; Steer, Michael Leo, New Floronee.

VIRGINIA.—Short-Horns, Sam'l. Frank, Bucksmills; Horse, L. Terrell, Hewlet.

KANSAS.—Short-Horns, Geo. Grant, Victoria.

RHODE ISLAND.—Jerseys, J. C. Brown, East Greenwich.

MICHIGAN.—Devons, R. G. Hart, Lapiere.

GEORGIA.—Goats, R. Peters, Jr., Calhoun.

SOUTH CAROLINA. — Horses, Wm. Gurney, Charlestown.

CANADA.—Horses, 40 exhibitors; Cattle, 50 do.; Sheep, 50 do.; Swine, 40 do.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

ISAAC NEWTON and Isaac Watts are two Centennial Judges.

A MACHINE in Machinery Hall makes a barrel without the aid of hands.

VENEZUELA exhibits specimens of the sap of the celebrated "cow-tree."

A LARGE mosaic from the ruins of Carthage is on view in the Tunis Department.

MARYLAND illustrates the manner in which oysters are caught in the Chesapeake.

JOSEPH NEWMAN has arrived from San Francisco with a group of 6,000 live silkworms.

THE night signals now in use in the United States Navy were invented by a woman, and can be seen at the Woman's Pavilion.

UNDER Agricultural Hall is a large and full wine cellar, 300 feet long, having a department for each wine-producing country.

SPECIMENS of wooden nutmegs and of wooden hams made from the Charter Oak are exhibited in the Connecticut reception room.

IN the Chinese Court there is a bedstead valued at $4,800. The carving upon it required the labor of twenty Celestials for five years.

A SAGE palm, the specimen of which once belonged to Robert Morris before the Revolution, attracts much attention, and was contributed by Jacob Hoffner of Cincinnati.

THERE is to be a grand "La Crosse" tournament in Philadelphia between a club of 12 picked players from the Iroquois Indians and an equal number of Canadian gentlemen.

THE original coat-of-arms which hung in the Connecticut Assembly over the Speaker's desk at the time of the Declaration of Independence is placed in the Connecticut building.

THE system of teaching the blind is fully exemplified in the Pennsylvania educational building, and numerous specimens of handiwork from different institutions are also exhibited.

THERE is a canoe of ash, from the Indians of Vancouver's Island. It is 60 feet in length and 8 in breadth, with not a chinck nor joint discernible. It is dug out with stones and gouges.

THE prompt delivery of luggage cannot always be effected, and ladies visiting the Centennial should carry with them in a hand-bag such toilet and other articles as are required for immediate use.

PORTUGAL makes an interesting exhibit in Agricultural Hall of the products of her African and East Indian colonies. It includes grains, spices, palm nuts and oil, coffee, sugars, gums, and a variety of native implements.

A LARGE refrigerator is now shown in the Government Building, containing strawberries, fresh salmon, and other perishable articles, embedded in cakes of ice, that can be seen through glass, remaining unchanged day after day.

THE stem of the great Santa Barbara grape vine attracts the attention of many visitors. It is about eighteen inches in diameter at the largest point, and nearly as large elsewhere, a portion of the roots and branches being left on the vine.

THE State Board of Charities of New York has on exhibition in the parlors of the New York State building four portfolios containing photographic plans and views of all the various buildings devoted to public charities in different parts of the State.

A CURIOUS reaper from South Australia is shown in Agricultural Hall. There are no knives about it, the heads of grain being knocked off after passing between long fingers by bars upon a revolving cylinder and deposited in a great bin.

ONE of the most curious articles in the women's department is a whistle made from a pig's tail. Over this strange exhibit are inscribed the following lines:

"There's a proverb as ancient as Scotland's thistle;
That out of a pig's tail you can't make a whistle;
We believe we've accomplished the wonderful thing,
And all who may wish can make this tail sing."

It is presumed that this whistle was made by a lady.

THE Philadelphians plume themselves upon the exceeding elegance and beauty of the surgical instruments manufactured in that city and now on exhibition—the lovely forceps and the charming splint which is spoken of as "a boon of comfort" to many a sufferer, to say nothing of the hip-joint apparatus and the vest for broken ribs. This must be a very pleasing part of the show.

A MODEL in metal of Independence Hall has been placed under a glass covering in Memorial Hall. Scale, three-eighths of an inch to the foot; weight, 1,200 pounds. It is an exact reproduction both of the interior and exterior of the Hall. Outside it is of German silver, oxidized with red gold. Inside are miniature copies of the 160 portraits in the Hall, with models of the furniture, desks, &c.

THE New York State Agricultufal Works, Wheeler & Melick Co. Albany N. Y. Proprietors, have sold to the Japanese Government the *entire* lot of machines exhibited by them at the Centennial Exhibition, consisting of Railway and Lever Horse Powers, Threshers and Cleaners, Threshers and Shakers, Feed Mills, Cider Mills and Presses, Dog and Pony Powers, Horse Rakes, Horse Pitchforks, &c., &c.

THE resignation of Messrs. WING and THORNE of New York, as members of the Advisory Board of the Centennial Live Stock Exhibition, is an occurrence to be deeply regretted by all exhibitors. The reasons however, which impelled this step are still more to be deprecated. The gentlemen speak for themselves. "We were informed that our nominees for judges would be appointed by the Commission. We carefully selected representative men, breeders of repute, who were experts and non-exhibitors, to judge the different classes—three for each class or breed—except in some of the minor ones, where two or three classes were combined. This list was sent in to the Commission for their confirmation. The only response was the appointment by the Commission of judges chosen by themselves, entirely ignoring our classification and appointments—in meantime having made no communication with us whatever. With these facts before us, it is evident our assistance is not required farther by the Centennial Commission. And as we decline to have our names associated with such gross mismanagement, we hereby resign all connection with the Advisory Board of Agriculture of the Centennial Commission."

A MODEL OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT HELL GATE. The southeastern corner of the Government Building contains a model of the excavations now being made in the reef at Hallett's Point, Hell Gate, New York. The model represents a portion of Long Island at that place, with houses, trees, etc., and near the point are the machine shops, engines and engine houses erected for the purpose of keeping tools in repair and compressing air and the motor of the drilling machines. In front is the coffer dam, constructed to keep back the water during the work, and inside of this protection can be seen the shaft which was sunk into the rock below. Beyond the dam is a perfect topographical representation of the reef which has proved so disastrous to navigation, and if water from the East River only could be made to flow above this the counterpart would be perfect. By an automatic contrivance the upper portion of this rock can be raised so as to show its catacomb excavations, and gazing beneath this the visitor can at a glance obtain a clear conception of the magnitude of the work. The roof is something less than one inch in thickness, and represents by its scale ten feet, which is the thickness of the rock above the excavations. Between the roof and the base are a large number of columns or pillars left in the excavations which were made by tunnelling in radiating lines from the shaft, and interseeting those with smaller tunnels. These supporting pillars are so slender that with the roof, three acres in area, there will be 30,000 cubic yards of debris to take up after they are broken by explosions, for over 50,000 cubic yards were taken out in working the excavations. All this part of the work is now complete after an average of four years of labor, and 7000 holes have been drilled in the pillars and roof, so that little remains to be done except to lay the wires and prepare the explosives for the grand finale, which will take place early in October. The explosive to be used will consist of one, or perhaps several, of the preparations of nitro-glycerine, which will be simultaneously ignited by electricity; but even with 7000 charges of the most destructive compounds known to science the force of the detonation will be much less than is generally apprehended. It is well known that a vast collection of individual explosions have less effect at a distance than one-fourth the same power concentrated at one place, and in addition to this fact the excavation will first be flooded with water, which will serve the double purpose of tempering the holes and deadening the concussion. When the roof and pillars are broken the debris can soon be removed, and then there will be at this point twenty-six feet of water at low tide, and thirty-one feet at high tide. As the Sandy Hook Channel has only a depth of twenty-seven feet at high water, and as several hours' time can be saved by entering at Mountain Point and passing through Long Island Sound, the new channel will probably become the favorite course for European vessels.—*Philadelphia Press.*

The Horseman.

CANADIAN HORSES IN ENGLAND.

A CORRESPONDENT of a London journal writes that a number of Canadian horses, purchased in the neighborhood of Toronto and Montreal, have been brought over to England with perfect safety and with a very profitable and encouraging result, and says:

"I went down to Worcester Park, a charming suburban village in Surrey, a few miles from London, where the stables are situated in which the horses are located. The animals were all in what I call capital condition, a little 'above themselves' perhaps, but not so fat as horses are generally made in England by the dealers before sale. The importation was a private speculation, and the importer intends to sail for Canada in about three weeks to purchase another lot. Almost all of the first lot have found purchasers very readily here, although the market for horses is falling a good deal from the prices of the last three or four years.

"The animals were suitable to all purposes, and were all warranted sound and quiet to ride or drive. The average cost price in Canada was $120, and the selling average here has been £55, or $275. The price there is hardly a criterion of what a horse would fetch here, but of this lot only a dozen remained unsold when I visited Worcester Park, though many of the sold lots still remained at the stables. One fine, upstanding bay horse that was bought near Toronto for $102 was sold to a gentleman for a brougham horse for £63. He was, in horse dealers' slang, the 'pick of the basket,' and made the top price. He looked very like taking to the timber business, if properly schooled for a hunter. All the sales were made to private buyers.

"The horses were shipped from New York, owing to the boat from Montreal breaking down. They came in the Wyoming of the Guion Line, without a scratch, in a patent apparatus which economizes room on shipboard and secures safety to the animals. The cost was $50 a head from Montreal to London, including every expense.

"It is the opinion of many judges who have seen this lot of horses that Canadian-bred animals are better suited to the English market than those of Kentucky. As they are the first lot of American horses ever landed in London, they have been visited by many persons interested. The Glasgow tramway cars have been partly horsed by American-bred cattle, but none of these horses are yet employed by the General Omnibus Company, who are ready to buy to any extent if the right sort is offered to them at the right price. The Company have for three or four years been paying about £35 per head for horses of a rough and useful wear-and-tear stamp.

"Such was the interest felt in this consignment that the Agricultural Hall management expressed a desire to have them on view at their establishment. Owing to the Horse Show, however, this was impracticable till most of the lots had found purchasers. It is very likely, however, that the next arrivals will be shown there."

SUNFLOWER SEED FOR FOUNDER.—Sunflower seed are recommended for foundered horses. It is said that a pint of whole seed mixed with the food as soon as it is discovered that a horse is foundered will effect an almost immediate cure. The seed will do no harm even if they should not do the animal any good. Hence the remedy is worth trying.

The Garden.

WHIFFS FROM CANADA—CURRANT PICKING.

It is the first week of August and the black currants are ready to pick. One field contains three acres, in the fourth year of full bearing, and is chiefly cultivated by plow and harrow and the wheeled grubber, the bushes being eight feet apart each way. So this bright Monday morning we begin the picking, each person taking a row. Afar off is the shining river, the quiet farm houses, and I sit in the maple avenue and enjoy the pleasant air while superintending the work and emptying the baskets as brought in.

The children, who always help at this work, are making great haste at the start, but now and then I am obliged to show JAMIE and STANTON that they must not grab the berries in an indiscriminate manner, but lift one branch at a time, and pick the currants carefully by the stem with thumb and finger. Have no trouble in procuring help for this business, and pay girls who assist us fifty cents a day without board. The French Canadians, as a class, prefer out-door work when young, and are expert with a hoe or at weeding a garden; but picking currants is so nearly allied to their favorite wild raspberry gathering that they are quite anxious to be hired. A steady girl can pick about a bushel and a half per day, and we prefer to pay them in this way instead of by the gallon, as we, having picked a day ourselves on trial, know what can be done, and it saves haste or carelessness and skimming over the bushes, as might be done otherwise.

The morning air is sweet, and every breath is fragrant with the perfume of the garden flowers that is wafted here and there through the maples, and mingles with the scent of new-mown hay, the strong sweetness of the heliotrope and the tender mignionette.

Methinks in the trees the birds are holding solemn conclave, and judge us to be a host of giant invaders bent on plunder as they flit to and fro in their anxiety, for have they not till now held undisputed possession of the field? and we owe them our sincere thanks for the way in which they have kept our bushes from the caterpillars, and if after a meal of moths they did make a little dessert of currants, let us not complain. No stronger proof is needed of their value in horticulture than the fact that in gardens where the birds are protected there is no need of hellebore; while in exposed situations, two waterings does not save the bushes.

As soon as the fruit is gathered, the work of cleaning the ground will begin, and when thoroughly done, each bush is dosed with a shovelful of hard wood ashes, procured for this purpose from a steamboat running in the vicinity. This is brought home in the winter season, when labor is cheap, and stored from damp in an enclosed shed. We value this manure highly as tending to keep down weeds, being rich in the needed food for the plants and keeping out insects that have a tendency to burrow at the roots of the bushes. ANNIE L. JACK.

IMPROVED WEEDING HOE.

H. M. ENGLE sends us his "Improved Weeding Hoe," with the request that we shall give it a thorough trial, and report.

Compliance with this request was found to be a pleasant task, since it is the most efficient weeding implement that we have ever used. The shape of the hoe is that of an isosceles triangle with a nitch in the acute angle. This triangular blade is joined by its center to the neck of the handle, diverging somewhat from a right angle, so that the edges are adapted to different work. If we would up-root weeds—cut them off—level uneven places, or merely smooth a path without breaking the surface, a turn of the handle gives the edge best suited to the work. This oblique blade also enables the operator to rest himself while continuing to hoe, since, according to the edge used, he may bend over, as with the ordinary hoe, or stand perfectly erect. They are manufactured in all sizes from the ladies' garden hoe to that best adapted for field work.

CHOICE CABBAGE SEED.

DEAR SIR: I send you for examination by this mail a sample of cabbage seed, grown by my brother on Puget Sound, Wash. Ter. The soil and climate there seem to be adapted to the growth of cabbage and cabbage seed to their greatest perfection. As far as tried in the Eastern States, plants from these seeds have invariably kept far ahead of those from seeds grown here, and have produced beautiful cabbage. In order to have it further tried in all sections, we will send a sample package free to any cabbage grower who will give it a fair trial, upon receipt of his address plainly written on back of a postal card. The variety sent is *Follier's Early Drumhead*, which we have bred up to a point of excellence that we believe to be surpassed by no cabbage in the world. J. F. TILLINGHAST.

La Plume, Luzerne Co., Pa.

GARDEN NOTES.

We know of tomato-plants that were manured with hen manure nearly five feet high at this time (Aug. 15). They are supported by hoops nailed to perpendicular stakes. Others, manured with horse manure, growing beside them are two and a half feet high. The latter, however, are bearing twice as many tomatoes as the former, and they are fully as large.

The Poultry Yard.

FOWLS FOR FARMERS.

THE principal object in keeping fowls, like most other stock, is profit, and the question for a farmer to decide is, "Which is the most profitable for me to keep?" Some farmers have a decided prejudice against all pure-bred stock, but it does not occur to them that all the improvements in their cattle, horses, pigs and poultry, compared with what they were fifty years ago, are all due to the patience of those who have worked to bring them to a higher state of perfection. In regard to keeping fowls in large quantities on farms, I have known farmers to start out with a prejudice against improved breeds and undertake to keep a large stock, thinking that they would do better with the old small, bony, hungry, sparsely-feathered dunghill fowl than they could do by obtaining a stock of an improved strain.

I do not advise farmers to keep entirely pure-bred birds, for there are none that are highly bred but what are a little weaker than a cross in some point, either in laying, feathering, constitution, or rapid development; in other words, all the perfections are not to be found in one breed. For instance, two varieties that are long in maturing, when crossed, will produce chickens that will feather and outgrow either of the parent stock at a given age and make early broilers. I do not mean to say that they can be made to weigh as heavy as the Brahmas with time and care, but Brahma crossed with Dorking, and some others, will make a broiler before either a pure-bred fowl or a common dunghill, showing that the farmer is equally interested with the fancier in having pure blood to cross with.

In the Eastern or Northern States we must have fowls that can endure the cold winters and *lay*. The Brahmas would, perhaps, be the breed if they did not keep one eye on the corn crib and on the gate to see who is coming to feed them, all summer as well as winter, for, as Josh Billings says of ducks, "they always have a little appetite left;" but they also have merits of the greatest value, such as size, winter laying, hardiness, and being good mothers. The latter quality is a little too good in their setting propensities and could well be improved upon.

Now, if a farmer desires to make eggs a specialty, he wants to retain those merits and add to them by inter-breeding with great egg producers, such as Leghorns and Hamburgs. I know several farmers who have crossed the light Brahmas with white Leghorns with excellent results, the fowl thus produced laying very well all through the winter, and when they want to thin out their stock they have good-sized fowls for market. Leghorns being non-sitters, the cross thus produced will sit and rear their own broods. About one-quarter Brahma blood, to harden and infuse sitting qualities into the flock, is enough.

After the first cross, which would be half of each sort, and is best produced with Brahma cocks and Leghorn hens, next year breed this cross with Leghorn cocks and you will have them about right. As some chickens will revert back to the original types, experience will teach the breeder which ones to remove first when he thins out. The Leghorn is the hardiest great layer. Their eggs are also large, and are thus beginning to be known in New York markets, being quoted as Leghorn eggs. No doubt the size has led to this. Much is expected of the Brown Leghorn. It has not yet, however, stood the test of time that the White has, but is a great favorite, and I know parties who will test their comparative merits on a large scale this fall. There are other good crosses, such, for instance, as Houdans with Leghorns, and Hamburgs with Brahmas. Leghorns, after their first cross, are very good. Dorkings with either Leghorns or Hamburgs are good for farm purposes, but the first-named are the strongest and more able to resist the cold weather of winter. The latter is a most excellent breed for California or any mild, high country.

If you desire to raise chickens for killing, I would advise a cross between Brahma hens and Gray or Colored Dorking cocks, they maturing the quickest of any, as I have found by experience. I have had large pullets laying in September when less than five months old. I have found that if kept to a first cross they grow better than to breed back to either side.

Houdans and Brahmas are said to produce quick-growing chicks, and I have no doubt they are a good selection, as either cross will much improve, not only the growth, but also the flavor and delicacy of the flesh. HENRY HALES.

QUERY ABOUT PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

A NEIGHBOR of mine has some Plymouth Rock fowls, for which he paid a good price. Last spring he was quite successful in raising chickens, and he is very proud of them. I have some light Brahmas, having no pretensions to purity, mixed up with Dominiques and common fowls. Some of the chickens raised from this mixture are so similar in appearance to my neighbor's fancy Plymouth Rocks that I cannot distinguish any dissimilarity. Are not mine as good as his? What is the difference? Please tell me.—W. HAYES, *Staten Island, N. Y.*

Plymouth Rocks may resemble your fowls pretty closely, for this breed is without doubt a cross between the Brahmas and Dominiques. The shape of the body is characteristic of the first, and the color and single comb are from the latter, but by examining your stock closely you will see there is not the uniformity in the chickens that there is in those of your neighbor. See if the legs of all your stock are free from feathers and of a pure yellow color, their combs upright and the featherings evenly barred. Your chickens, when bred from again, will revert back to Brahmas and Dominiques, while those of your neighbor will breed true. The reason of this is because they have been selected time after time until the principal characteristics, as you now see them, have become fixed. This is the way that most of our distinct breeds of fowls have been produced. H. H.

Scientific and Useful.

A PRACTICAL TEST FOR VINEGAR.

HOUSEKEEPERS in cities often find it very difficult to obtain good vinegar, besides an article which may appear to be pure to the palate, will not stand a chemical test in this respect. The American Grocer gives a few hints on detecting adulterated vinegar, which may be of use to some of our readers:

We have frequently been asked for some simple and practical method of testing the purity and strength of vinegar. Of course, to ascertain just what and how much adulteration is in vinegar, a chemical analysis is necessary, but for obvious reasons this is not obtainable by retailers generally. The most common adulterant, however, is acid, which is added to increase the strength, and to detect this the pickle manufacturers have a simple test that is infallible, and shows the slightest trace of that article. Each pickle manufacturer keeps a small vial of the solution of muriate of barytes, obtainable for a few cents at any drug store. When a sample of vinegar is offered he turns out a wine glass about half full and adds about ten or twelve drops of the muriate of barytes. If the vinegar is pure it will show no change. If it contains acids it will gradually turn to a milky hue, according to the quantity of acids in it.

To show the nicety of the test we give an instance that lately happened:—A farmer brought in a sample of cider vinegar which, as he had made it himself, he knew was absolutely pure. On testing it, it showed a faint milky cloud, indicating that there was acid of some kind in it. Not being able to explain it, he went home and tested each barrel and found it all so. After patient investigation he finally found that he had used water from a cistern supplied from a roof having copper gutters to carry off the water. We also tested, this week, a sample of imported bottle white wine vinegar, bearing a name known all over the world, and this also showed a slight trace of acids, added probably to increase the strength.

To test the strength of vinegar, the simplest way is to find how many grains of bi-carbonate of soda a troy ounce of vinegar will neutralize or dissolve. As retailers do not have scales sufficiently delicate to weigh out small quantities the best way is to take a sample of vinegar to a druggist and have him weigh out one ounce. Then if the vinegar is said to be 30 grains strength, weigh out 30 grains of bi-carbonate of soda, and if the ounce of vinegar will neutralize the whole of it and take no more, it is 30 grains of strength. The strength of vinegar, therefore, is determined by the number of grains of bi-carbonate of soda a troy ounce will completely neutralize.

LEATHER IN ONE HOUR.

IN the good old time when a pair of boots were expected to last the wearer a year or two, it required almost that time to tan the leather. But quick tanned, quick worn out, has become the rule, but we are likely to do away with all the slow processes both in producing and consuming judging from what we read of a new discovery in tanning as reported in the Commercial Bulletin:

Wonderful are the changes that have been effected of late years in the manufacture of leather by the use of chemicals and machinery, in place of the old-fashioned tan-pits and the slow manipulation of the currier and tanner. If some of our old leather manufacturers could be resurrected,—men who were accustomed to soaking their hides for years and turning them assiduously at certain seasons,—how they would stare to see the present process! But every day we hear of something new in this direction. A joint stock company was recently formed in Detroit for the purpose of tanning leather in one hour! We give the information for what it is worth; but it certainly does look like sleight-of-hand. The process is a chemical one, performed by the action of certain inexpensive materials, the compounding of which in the right proportion is a secret. It is claimed that robes, tanned with the hair on, are soft as the finest wool; hides of the deer, horse, dog, etc., are smooth and soft, while calf and kip show the texture and grain which good shoemakers most admire. No bark is required except a little to give the proper color to the leather. Bark is worth $8 to $9 a cord, and about 200 cords are required to tan 1,000 hides by the common method. Two cords would be sufficient to give the proper color to the same number of hides, and the saving in this item will be enormous. We understand that the company are turning out from 2,000 to 3,000 hides per month. How the article is wearing we have not been able to ascertain, but shall watch the result with interest.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL NOTES.

The mucilage used by the Government for postage stamps is composed of:—Dextrin, 2 oz.; acetic acid, 1 oz.; water, 5 oz.; alcohol, 1 oz.

Alum and Plaster of Paris, well mixed in water and used in the liquid state, form a hard composition and is a good cement.

Industrial Societies.

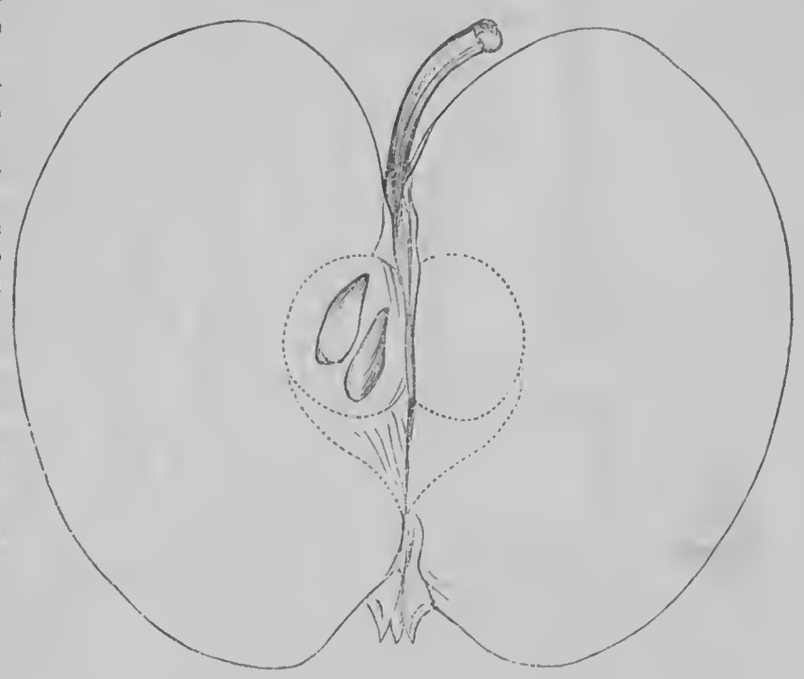
SUPPLEMENTARY FAIR LIST.

MAINE.		
Androscoggin, Lewiston	Sept.	26, 28
Aroostook, Houlton	Sept.	28, 29
Kennebec (Eastern), China	Sept.	7, 8
Kennebec, Readfield	Sept.	3, 5
Knox (North), Appleton	Oct.	3, 5
Oxford, South Paris	Oct.	3, 5
Sagadahoc, Topsham	Oct.	10, 12
Somerset Central, Skowhegan	Sept.	26, 29
Waldo, Belfast	Sept.	26, 28
Waldo and Penobscot Union, Monroe	Oct.	4, 5
Piscataquis Central, Foxcroft	Oct.	4, 5
VERMONT.		
White River Valley, Bethel	Sept.	5, 7
CONNECTICUT.		
New London, Norwich	Sept.	19, 21
Danbury, Danbury	Oct.	3, 7
Fairfield, Norwalk	Sept.	26, 29
Middlesex, Middleton	Sept.	26, 29
Orford, New Haven Co	Sept.	27
Tolland, Rockville	Sept.	27, 28
Windham, Brooklyn	Sept.	19, 21
New Haven, New Haven	Oct.	4, 5
TOWN FAIRS.		
Meriden	Sept.	20, 22
Milford	Sept.	26, 28
Ridgefield	Sept.	27, 28
Woodstock	Sept.	12, 14
Falls Village	Sept.	12, 13
Guilford	Oct.	11
Torrington	Oct.	4, 5
Woodbridge and Bethany	Oct.	4, 5
WISCONSIN.		
Waupaca Ag. and Mech. Ass'n, Waupaca	Sept.	26, 28
Lodi Union, Lodi	Oct.	3, 6
Waupaca Co., Weyanwega	Oct.	5, 7
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac	Sept.	26, 29
S. Wis. and N. Ill. Ind. Ass'n, Beloit	Sept.	13, 14
Rock Co., Janesville	Sept.	5, 8
Waukesha Co., Waukesha	Oct.	3, 6
Marquette Co., Montello	Sept.	20, 21
Pierce Co., Prescott	Sept.	22, 23
Beaver Dam Ag., Mech. and Stock Ass'n, Beaver Dam	Sept.	20, 22
Walworth Co., Elkhorn	Sept.	26, 29
Green Co., Monroe	Sept.	27, 30
Berlin Ag. Ass'n, Berlin	Sept.	26, 28
Trempeleau Co., Galesville	Sept.	19, 21
Eastern Monroe Co., Tomah	Sept.	20, 22
Sheboygan Co., Sheboygan Falls	Sept.	26, 22
Door Co., Sturgeon Bay	Sept.	29, 30
La Crosse Co., West Salem	Sept.	26, 28
Juneau Co., Manston	Sept.	20, 22
Grant Co., Lancaster	Sept.	27, 29
Jefferson Co., Jefferson	Sept.	19, 22
Dane Co., Madison	Sept.	19, 22
Boscobel, Boscobel	Oct.	4, 6
German Ass'n, Sheboygan	Sept.	25, 28
Richland Co., Richland Centre	Sept.	20, 22
Buffalo Co., Lincoln	Sept.	20
Crawford Co., Seneca	Sept.	20, 22
Vernon Co., Viroqua	Oct.	3, 5
MISSOURI.		
Platte, Platte City	Sept.	5, 10
Boone, Columbia	Sept.	5, 9
Saline, Marshall	Sept.	5, 9
Montgomery, Montgomery City	Sept.	5, 10
Lewis, La Grange	Sept.	14, 15
Jackson, Kansas City	Sept.	18, 24
Pike, Louisiana	Sept.	19, 23
Pike, Charleston	Sept.	26, 30
Adair, Kirksville	Oct.	1, 8
St. Genevieve, St. Genevieve	Sept.	5, 9
St. Francois, Farmington	Sept.	12, 16
Jefferson Co., DeSoto	Sept.	5, 10
KENTUCKY.		
Industrial Ass'n, Frankfort	Sept.	19, 22
Vermillion Co., Catlin	Sept.	26, 29
" Ag., Hoopstown	Sept.	12, 16
" Ag., Danville	Sept.	19, 22
Wabash, Mt. Carmel	Sept.	25, 29
Warren, Monmouth	Sept.	12, 15
Wayne, Fairfield	Sept.	19, 22
Whiteside Co., Sterling	Sept.	5, 8
Ag., Morrison	Sept.	12, 15
Williamson, Marion	Oct.	3, 6
Winnebago, Rockford	Sept.	12, 15

Pomological.

RAMBOUR PAPELEU APPLE.

This is one of the very good apples which have originated in Russia. Most of the varieties from this source have proved to be hardy and valuable for the more Northern States, and the *Rambour Papleu* promises to be no exception to this rule.



The tree is very vigorous and productive. Fruit large, roundish oblate, conical, deep rich yellow, spotted striped and splashed with shades of rich red and small russet dots. Flesh yellowish-white, rather coarse, breaking, sharp subacid; excellent. Season, November to January. The accompanying outline is from an average specimen when well grown. This variety gave promise a few years since of becoming quite popular and we should be pleased to hear from those who have had experience with it as to their success.

APPLES IN WISCONSIN.

I noticed in a late number of the Rural, an article under the heading, "Apples in Wisconsin." In which the writer conveys the idea that the raising of apples in this State is a failure. Now Mr. Editor, I claim that apples have, and can be raised successfully in Southern Wisconsin. The writer has an orchard of perhaps 75 or 100 thrifty bearing trees, and out of the whole lot not more than 10 have been replanted since it was first set out 15 years ago. In this country nearly every farmer raises his own fruit. I have now in my mind two large orchards of perhaps 600 or 800 trees each, and should you ask their owners to day if apple raising in Wisconsin was a failure, their answer would be no! Does a farmer expect a harvest without sowing grain. Neither can he reasonably expect to raise apples unless he takes good care of his orchard. Orchards need care as well as a horse or cow. A man that will set out an orchard and not prune or cultivate—let the borer get in and take no care of it whatever, ought to fail. I say again that apples can be grown in Wisconsin.

Respectfully Yours, O. D. H.

THE SURPRISE RASPBERRY.

I notice in the Rural New-Yorker of Aug. 5, in speaking of the introduction of a new red Raspberry to which this name has been given, you refer to the fact that the name of "Surprise" had already been used for a Black Cap variety, and give the credit to Samuel Miller as the originator. I think this variety was not a seedling grown by Mr. Miller, but an accidental wild variety discovered in a fence-corner at Hermann, Mo., by Geo. Husmann, who named it "Surprise," on account of the surprise the large size, peculiar shape, productiveness and excellence of the fruit created in his mind when he first saw it. I have often wondered why some of the prominent Raspberry growers have not taken some pains to grow, and *push* this variety, for I believe it would prove valuable, and take a high place as a standard and reliable fruit among Raspberries of its class. I know no other Black Cap having the pointed or conical shape of the "Surprise," nor one which I believe would be more valuable in cultivation. Now I beg that none of your readers will write me for plants of the "Surprise," for I have none for sale; nor do I know that Mr. Husmann has any. I make those remarks however, hoping it may induce Mr. Barry, or some of our large raspberry growers to rescue from undeserved neglect, a fruit that may be found valuable for general cultivation.—Geo. W. Campbell, *Delaware, Ohio.*

We stand corrected on the origin of the "Surprise" *disseminated* by Mr. Samuel Miller, but found by Mr. Geo. Husmann; also join our correspondent in commending it to the attention of the cultivators of this fruit.—[Ed. Rural.

PRONUNCIATION.

Dr. J. A. Warder in his essay read before the Ohio State H. S., says "unfortunately for those who desire to strive toward perfection in this matter of foreign names, our teachers have sometimes sadly misled us, as is illustrated in the word *Beurre*, which so frequently recurs in lists of French pears. It should not be pronounced *Burray* as we have been taught, but *Burr*."]

[How is this? The French word Beurre—the final letter accented—means butter-pear. It is pronounced *Beuray*. The French word Beurre not accented means butter and is pronounced *Beu-r.*]

Floricultural.

PANSIES.

BY AN OLD GARDENER.

A bed of Pansies! Did you ever observe the expression of Pansies' faces? There is not one that is sad, though no two are alike. All are jolly. Some wear a wise look of irony, as if to say: "Behold the depth of my knowledge!" Others wear a labored look of sanctimoniousness, as if they had to bite their lips to refrain from laughing outright. Some wear the look of an owl—serious, comic, wise. They form a miniature encampment of crazy, pantomimic fairies.

"Fairies black, blue, yellow and white;"

of upstart caricaturists, and the conversion of every wise look, that mortals put on, into ridicule, is their specialty and delight. Even the pistil deprived of its leaves resembles a skeleton-bust and head that has laughed itself into a chronic state of scorn—or a scornful state of chronic laughter. Is there another flower that one can look upon and enjoy a smile at its expression?

But it is only those Pansies that present a contrast of colors that seem thus to live for the gratification of their sarcastic mirth. The dark-colored or self Pansies have no faces, and, of course, no sardonic expressions—but they make it up in the almost unequaled richness of their velvety shades.

"King of the Blacks," the type of a hundred dark varieties, is as black as its name indicates I have grown this Pansy so black that a silk hat beside it seemed faded. Some of these have a tiny yellow eye, encircled by a tiny band of deep-blue that blends into the black, forming a flower that should be examined under a glass. I have raised others of the most intense shades of blue—from as nearly black as blue can be, to a shade lighter than the sky. Others have presented the same range in purple. Beds of Pansies of the same color are not uncommon now-a-days. Early in the season was one in the Centennial grounds that attracted some notice. They were Blacks—evidently selected plants—all in full bloom and bearing large flowers, in which, without a close scrutiny, no difference in shade could be detected. The bed was fairly black and green. My own Pansies—or rather those that I still prize most—were raised years ago from seeds, the parents of which received a first prize in an English horticultural exhibition.

We have every season since cultivated them with care, marking and selecting seeds only from the best marked and largest flowers. It is the only way, not only by which Pansies can be improved, but by which they can be made to hold their own in this country.

But no matter how choice our seeds, we need never hope to raise large flowers unless the plants be kept moist and shady. They cannot endure our summer sun—and no amount of preparation of soil—of watering, of mulching will insure large flowers from June till September when thus exposed. Up to the 1st of June and after Sep. 1st till frosts, the plants will thrive in any good soil and produce fair-sized flowers, even if not shaded. But during this period, shade, moisture and richness are positively indispensable, and all who attempt their cultivation regardless of these provisions will surely meet with disappointment.

The north side of a building and as far from it as the shade extends, is the best place to make the bed. Dig at least a spade deep and fill in or mix with old manure, decayed sod or soil from the woods, with a sufficient quantity of sand to prevent it from becoming too compact. Sow seeds in the house in boxes or pots, the latter part of February, an inch apart. (Nothing is gained by sowing seeds now. We have but the unnecessary trouble of protecting them through the winter.) They will germinate in ten days. Prick out and plant in the prepared bed, as soon as spring opens, about ten inches apart. They will scarcely need artificial watering until summer. But then whether the season be moist or dry—it must be given. A constant moisture will secure fair-sized flowers during July and August. And to this rule, a single exception will cause a noticeable diminution in their size. Many of your readers may know how finely the Pansy thrives in the moist climate of England. Even in the way I have directed, we cannot equal their flowers in size, because they grow in a moist air which, during the hottest of our weather, we cannot supply. A shady position—one that receives the sun not after nine in the morning, or before five in the evening—and preserving the soil uniformly moist are the nearest approach we can make. In this way we may, it is true, fail to produce flowers four inches in diameter—a size I have often read about in catalogue harangues, but have never seen, even in the best of Spring conservatory plants; but our own have averaged from 1½ to 2 inches throughout the summer, and with this result, as compared with what I *have* seen, I am well satisfied.

There are many lovers of herbaceous plants who are especially fond of this captivating flower, who have failed in its successful cultivation, because its requirements have not been provided. As you have never given the Pansy a very liberal space, I have made bold to do so, as it is a most particular favorite of mine.

Permit me to say, however, Editors of the Rural, that I have read your paper for nearly sixteen years and that I have never liked it so well as of late months. Its vigor, originality, avoidance of all words that might grate upon delicate feelings, the evident pains with which every department is worked up—entitle it, in my poor estimation, to an ultimate success greater than it has ever achieved. An Old Gardener.

[We thank An Old Gardener, with whom we have not the pleasure of being acquainted, for his agreeable Pansy article, and hope to hear from him again. We have, indeed, neglected the Pansy and hundreds of other fine old plants; but only because others have been deemed of paramount interest.

Let us say that his kind words as regards the R. N. Y. are but one instance of many that we have of late received. Such expressions encourage us to every effort of which we are capable for the future. But our best friends will agree with us that their publication would constitute one of those forms of "demnition" self-praise, the seeming necessity for which in American journalism is greatly to be deplored.

Excuse us then, kind friends, if, when such flattering expressions occur in the body of articles intended for publication, we cut them out for our own private edification.—Eds.]

MISCELLANEA.

Removing Aquatic Plants.—We paid a visit to the banks of the Guadalquiver—no, it was the Hackensack (a name scarcely less liquid and euphonic, is it?) and there procured several roots of *Pontederia*, one of the most charming of water plants; of the Swamp Rose Mallow, the gem of the meadows; of the Cardinal Flower, etc. These were removed with a quantity of muck adhering about the roots and placed in a part of our Wild Garden. This, from its situation upon a sloping bank of one of the loveliest little lakes in the world, we have designated as The Palustер—not to call up needless thoughts of mosquitoes and miasmata, which, upon our conscience, positively are unknown here. They all thrive—(the *plants* are meant of course, not the mosquitoes and miasmata)—and we believe this to be the best way of establishing aquatics in suitable parts of one's grounds.

Balsam Edging.—We have lately seen Balsam planted as an edging. Three hundred plants, more or less, were employed in this way. They were all pure white, very double and of the Camellia sort. These double white Balsam are very useful for floral, table, or hall displays. Saucers, plates, low baskets of any size may be used. Fill with moist sand and press to an oval shape. Little hollows may be made with the fingers in which to insert the base of the flowers. Arrange them so that the petals everywhere touch and so as to conceal the edges of the vessel. The center may consist of more prominent flowers of any color, and the whole relieved by sprays of Smilax, Myrtle or other enduring green leaves. The same sand will serve as long as need be, if washed out occasionally, and it is less trouble to arrange flowers in this way than in the usual boquet form, where the stems are cut long, tied together and immersed in water.

Pelargonium Seed.—It is now a good time to collect the seeds of bedded Pelargoniums. The hot season which has retarded leaf and stem growth, has been favorable to the production of flowers and seeds—though quite unfavorable to the beauty or endurance of the trusses.

The seeds, if sown out-of-doors in little prepared beds (one foot square is large enough for fifty) will, by frost, form little plants that may easily be potted and cultivated in the house through the winter. Thus treated, they will bloom when turned out in the spring as early as old plants.

From such seedlings, symmetry of form and inferiority of flower are alike certain.

NOTES.

James Vick thus cozily expresses himself in his No. 4 of the Floral Guide just received: "Four bushels of Grass to the acre for a quick, good lawn, and anyone who sows Rye or Oats or Turnips with the seed to *protect* it, ought to be sent to the lunatic asylum."

Why have you no Lawn? Too late. The hot, dry weather of June set in before the seed had obtained any root-hold of the earth. If you sow in Spring, do it as soon as the ground can possibly be got ready. A little White Clover it will be well to sow with the grass, and a few ounces of Sweet Vernal Grass will give a Vanilla flavor to an acre. Do I suppose the seed you sowed for grass seed was pretty much all weeds? No, not at all likely. You have a crop of weeds, to be sure, but suppose you had planted Corn or Potatoes instead of sowing grass seed, and had not used the hoe, don't you think you would have had a pretty good crop of weeds? Most of our soils are thickly seeded with seeds of many kinds of weeds.

EXCHANGE.

M. T. Wills, Oregon, Mo.—I am so pleased with your announcement of last spring regarding the exchange of seeds, plants and bulbs that I take this opportunity of availing myself of it.

I have bulbs of *Lilium auratum*, also a native Lily [you should give the name.—Eds.] that I wish to exchange for any other kinds of Lily bulbs the Rural friends may have to exchange, Or I will exchange for other hardy bulbs, such as Tulips, etc., as long as my stock holds out.

Around the Republic.

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT KANSAS.

Editor Rural New-Yorker: Permit me, through your columns, to say a few words in answer to my friend "Philo," who claims to be a neighbor of mine, although I never met him, to my knowledge. He seems to carry the impression that I have failed to tell the whole truth in regard to this country, and have only presented the bright side of the picture. He admits most of what I say in regard to the country—that it is beautiful, rich and fertile, and holds a central position in the Union, all of which are facts that cannot be denied, but opposes me on the average yield of crops which I had not mentioned in my article referred to.

It would seem that my neighbor must have taken his data from a class of farmers that are represented in every country as well as in Kansas, who farm to the halves, and think that all that is required to raise a crop is to work the ground in an indifferent way, and after that leave the crop to take care of itself. My observations have been very close while in this country, and have never known a crop to fail here from any deficiency in the soil or climate when properly gotten in and attended to, and am of the opinion that the average yield of all the cereals here in Kansas is far ahead of most of the other States in the Union, which can be demonstrated by statistics. I am surprised to hear my friend talk as he does, and never heard so low an estimate of the average yield of our crops before, and concluded that he must belong to that class of croakers of which we have many in these parts.

I will agree with him that we got rid of at least one-third of that class at the time of the great "hopper raid," two years ago, who rushed East to get under the protection of their wive's relatives, but were very glad to get back to Kansas again as soon as they were furnished with means to do so. Corn will yield from 50 to 100 bushels per acre, by proper care.

Wheat he admits to average 20 bushels, which he says is fair, yet I have known instances where 50 and even 60 bushels have been taken from an acre. We had numerous instances last season

where 80 bushels of oats had been raised on an acre, and yet "Philo" fails to get but 35.

As for Irish potatoes, we have raised good crops for the last two years, which have yielded as good a quality and about as much per acre as you would get at the East. We have the advantage over the east in that we can raise many vegetables here that cannot be produced there. For instance, the sweet potato grows here luxuriantly, and is raised with as little trouble as the Irish potato can be at the North. I will agree with "Philo" that beans have not proved as successful here as in the East, but conclude the reason is because the soil is too rich and new, and that we shall have to wait for that crop until our land gets "poor enough to raise white beans on."

I must differ from my friend in regard to our being at a great distance from the leading markets of the East and North, but think that we are very highly favored with a good market for our surplus produce. Our wheat crop brought on an average last season $1.15 per bushel, which is a fair price, in view of the fact that this is a natural wheat-growing region and it yielded abundantly here. We have one of the best markets in the world, from the boundless mineral regions of New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona, which, from their great mining resources, will always consume a large percentage of our surplus grains; besides, we are now shipping large quantities of flour to the East, manufactured here from our own wheat. Our coarse grain can be fed here and then sent to market in the shape of cattle and hogs, which will help us out in that respect. I am acquainted with persons who came here five years ago and took homesteads, who had barely enough to pay for the filings on their claims, who can now take $5,000 for their improvements. I have failed to meet with any parties who "remain here from compulsion rather than choice," and think my friend must be mistaken in that respect, from the fact that property has advanced, within the past two years, more than fifty per cent. Real estate is in good demand, and no one wishing to sell can long be deprived of an opportunity to do so. As for farm implements, &c., being sold in excess I have had a very good opportunity of knowing that to be false, as the farmers who have made the purchases are, in every instance, capable of fulfilling on their part without distressing their families, as claimed by my friend, and in this country where machinery can be used so successfully, it will pay to purchase it.

As to wages I shall take issue, as I have a neighbor who, with a three-horse team, broke 70 acres in four weeks, for which he received three dollars per acre. Labor has been in good demand ever since our recovery from the great grasshopper raid of 1874, and there has been no time since then but what men could get fair wages. Our mechanics are all employed, and it is a hard matter to find enough to do the work at this time.

We have three stone and brick business houses in course of erection in our city, with a half-dozen more that will be put up this season. These, with the numerous dwellings that are being built, make business very lively here in Newton. Grain buyers have already commenced operations, and all conspire to put on a lovely and prosperous aspect. B. M. HOUSE.

Domestic Economy.

MYSTERIES OF THE KITCHEN, AGAIN.

MRS. H. F. BELL.—Dear Friend: I felt that you were truly that when you kindly responded to my cry about ginger cookies. I thank you for your confidence about pot-pie, and I believe I can help you, for I love it, too, and moreover, can make it and have it good

I have not stood with my elbows on the table and my feet crossed under it watching my mother perform the mystery of making good pot-pie in vain. We lived on a farm then, and she always used butter and pure cream for the crust; but I buy my few pints a day, therefore have no cream. I generally use baking powder, and make the crust just as you do for soda biscuit. Roll it very thin and cut it in small square pieces. I have the chicken in the kettle cooked tender by this time, with sufficient gravy around it, properly seasoned with butter, pepper and salt, also have boiling water in tea-kettle to add if necessary. I then drop in one piece of dough after another until there is a layer covering the meat. Put on a close lid, and let it boil three minutes, and then put in another layer and let it boil, and so on until all is in. Then let it all boil fifteen minutes and it is done.

My crust is always light and nice. Please try it. I do not believe there will be any left to throw at the chickens when they scratch up your flower beds. If there is, don't use it for that, but fry it in butter for your husband's breakfast the next morning.

Mrs. L. E. N. of the Big Village may try it, too, if she wishes, and see if I am pot-pie, minus gumption. To her let me add a word of caution. My experience proves that things pitched together are seldom good, unless presided over by a *genius*. So be careful. I hope you will not think me ungrateful when I say I did not try your recipe. I do not intend to attempt ginger cookies for mouths to come; but JOHN'S mother did, and sent us a basketful one day for lunch. They were good, and I appreciated her kindness, but this act was only a shadow of all the precious things she does for me. Adieu. I fear the editor would enjoy this subject better in a more visible form. MRS. M. L. S.

DEAR MR. EDITOR: Whew! what a muddle your printer has made of the Domestic Recipes in the RURAL of Aug. 19th. I am as mad as a hornet, (very unladylike, I admit, but nevertheless true,) and Mr. RUSTIC thinks I had better let off some of my indignation at once, else I will not sleep a wink to-night.

I always supposed it was a rule for the printer "to follow copy," which has not been done in this instance, by a long way. Now I want you to distinctly understand that if my "Originals" get so mixed up with "Selected" again, I shall resign my space to a more calm and amiable old lady, for I cannot, and will not, have my nerves so disturbed.—MRS. RUSTIC.

[WE beg our fair correspondent's pardon, and will endeavor, in the future, to make the "Imp," who is supposed to be at the bottom of all mischief, walk straight in the RURAL office, especially when handling copy of Domestic Department.—ED.]

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Dried Sweet Corn.—As it is now the season for drying sweet corn, I send my process: Pick the corn the night beforehand; husk it in the morning, in order to give it the benefit of the fire while morning's work is being done up. Cut the corn from the cob. It dries quicker not to scrape the cob with the knife afterwards. Put it into pans and set it in the oven, with the doors open, if the fire is brisk. Stir it often until it is thoroughly scalded through, spread it in the sun and these sultry August days soon finish it up. When sufficiently dry, put up in paper bags and hang near the fire some time, as it is apt to gather dampness. Some complete the process by the fire entirely, but it requires more attention. The object in scalding it and hurrying the drying is to prevent the corn souring. In good weather a batch can be finished in twenty-four hours. Many housekeepers do not know the luxury of having dried sweet corn for a winter dish. To cook it, soak over night in cold water, then simmer on the stove until tender, then season like succotash, with cream and butter. The Minnesota sweet corn is the best and earliest variety we have ever tried.—FARMER'S WIFE.

Lemon Pies.—Here is mother's recipe for two lemon pies: Three lemons, four eggs, eighteen tablespoonfuls of loaf sugar, two tablespoonfuls of melted butter; beat together the yolks of the eggs, ten tablespoonfuls of sugar, the juice of the lemon, the grated rind of two lemons, add the butter and a little grated nutmeg. Bake in an under crust until the paste is done. Take from the oven and spread on icing, made from the whites of the eggs and eight tablespoonfuls of sugar. Return to the oven till they are a delicate brown.—C. A. B.

Pot-pie good as Mother's.—Take new milk, two spoons of sweet cream, and yeast enough to raise. I begin at seven o'clock in the morning making them into biscuits, and let them raise. Cut them apart, and not have the kettle crowded; and if any are left, I steam them (some think these the best). Put in a few potatoes to stop the boiling, and cook half an hour. I never have soggy ones. Be sure and mix them hard enough. —FIFTY-FIVE, *Salem, N. Y.*

SELECTED RECIPES.

Handy Chow Chow.—Chop together, very finely, a head of cabbage, six green peppers, six green tomatoes; add two teaspoonfuls of mustard, one tablespoonful of salt, a little cloves and allspice, and vinegar to wet it. It will keep a long time.

Tomato Salad.—Take ripe tomatoes and cut them in thin slices; sprinkle over them a small quantity of finely-chopped green onions; add salt, pepper, vinegar, and oil, if liked. The oil should be in the proportion of three tablespoonfuls to one of vinegar. Serve with any roast meat.

Stuffed Tomatoes.—Get them as large and firm as possible; cut a round place in the top of each and scrape out all the soft parts; mix with stale bread-crumbs, corn, onions, parsley, butter, pepper and salt; chop very fine and fill the tomatoes carefully; bake in a moderately hot oven; put a little butter in the pan, and see that they do not burn or become dry.

Fricasseed Tomatoes.—Place the tomatoes in a stone jar, and put it into a steamer. When they are tender, beat them to a pulp and put them into a stewpan with a little onion (which has been minced and stewed in butter until it is tender), a seasoning of pepper and salt, and some chopped parsley; simmer the mixture for a few minutes, and serve it very hot. It is good either alone or served in the dish with chops, or other meat, sausages, or fish of any kind.

Hygienic Information.

AN IMPORTANT REPORT ON DISINFECTANTS.

THE London Times, in noticing the sixth report of the medical offices of the Privy Council, comments upon an article by Dr. BAXTER and says:

A great number of very careful experiments were made with a view to test the disinfecting properties of the so-called disinfectants commonly used. Evidence was adduced to show that carbolic acid, sulphur, permanganate of potash and chlorine are all endowed with true disinfectant properties, though in very varying degrees. The effectual disinfectant operation of chlorine and permanganate of potash appears to depend far more on the nature of the medium through which the particles of the infective matter are distributed than on the specific character of the particles themselves. A virulent liquid cannot be regarded as certainly and completely disinfected by sulphur unless it has been rendered permanently and thoroughly acid. No virulent liquid can be considered disinfected by carbolic acid unless it contains at least two per centum by weight of the pure acid.

When disinfectants are mixed with a liquid, it is very important to be sure that they are thoroughly incorporated with it, and that no solid matters capable of shielding contagion from immediate contact with its destroyer overlooked. Aerial disaffection, as commonly practiced in the sick-room, is either useless or positively objectionable, owing to the false sense of security it is calculated to produce. To make the air of a room smell strongly of carbolic acid by scattering carbolic powder about the floor, or of chlorine by placing a tray of chloride of lime in a corner, is, so far as the destruction of specific contagia is concerned, an utterly futile proceeding.

The practical result of these experiments goes to prove (1) that dry heat, when it can be applied, is probably the most efficient of all disinfectants; (2) that the old plan of stopping up crevices and fumigating with sulphur and charcoal is more efficacious than any other proceeding with more modern disinfectants; (3) that the use of carbolic vapor for disinfecting purposes should be abandoned, owing to the relative feebleness and uncertainty of its action.

ANOTHER REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM.

THE Medical Brief reports that Dr. Maclagan has used salicine in rheumatism. He employed it in eight cases, and arrives at the following conclusions:

1. We have in salicine a valuable remedy in the treatment of acute rheumatism.

2. The more acute the case, the more marked the benefit produced.

3. In acute cases, its beneficial action is generally apparent within twenty-four, always within forty-eight hours, of its administration in sufficient dose.

4. Given thus at the commencement of the attack, it seems sometimes to arrest the course of the malady as effectively as quinine cures an ague, or ipecacuanha a dysentery.

5. The relief of pain is always one of the earliest effects produced.

6. In acute cases, relief of pain and a fall of temperature generally occur simultaneously.

7. In subacute cases, the pain is sometimes decidedly relieved before the temperature begins to fall; this is especially the case when, as is frequently observed in those of nervous temperament, the pain is proportionally greater than the abnormal rise of temperature.

8. In chronic rheumatism salicine sometimes does good where other remedies fail; but it also sometimes fails where others do good.

The dose employed was from ten to thirty grains every two, three, or four hours, according to the severity of the case. Fifteen grains every three hours Mr. Pemberton conceives to be a medium dose for an acute case.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

Scrofula.—A tea made of ripe dried whortleberries and drank in place of water is a sure and speedy cure for scrofula difficulties, however bad.

Good for Prickly Heat.—Cream of tartar one ounce, flour of sulphur one ounce; take a teaspoonful three times a day in half a tumbler of cold water. Vegetable diet and cold bathing are desirable.

Remedy for Poison.—If a person swallows any poison whatever, or has fallen into convulsions from having overloaded the stomach, an instantaneous and very efficient remedy is a heaping teaspoonful of common salt, and as much ground mustard, stirred rapidly in a teacup of water, warm or cold, and swallowed instantly. It is scarcely down before it begins to come up, bringing with it the remaining contents of the stomach; and lest there be any remnant of a poison however small, let the white of an egg, and sweet oil, or butter, or lard—several spoonfuls—be swallowed immediately after vomiting; because these very common articles nullify a larger number of virulent poisons than any medicines in the shops.

Farm Economy.

WAGES IN OLDEN TIMES.

THOSE who think the laborers at the present day are poorly paid, may derive some consolation from the following which we copy from Fraser's Magazine:

On April 10, 1504, the Justices assembled at the Chapter House agreed upon a new rate for servants' and laborers' wages, according to the statute of the fifth year of Elizabeth. It may be noticed in passing that "William Strode, High Sheriff," appears in the middle of the list of names of those present, not as having any precedence over the others. In modern times the sheriff, as is well known, takes no part in the business of sessions. The maximum rates of wages were as follows:

No baliff of husbandry, "chiffe hyne" (chief hind), or miller, was to take above 53s. 4d. by the year and his livery, or 13s. 4d. for the same.

No common man servant of husbandry, between the ages of sixteen or twenty, was to take above 30s. by the year, and after the age of twenty above 40s.

No woman servant under the age of fourteen was to take any wages but meat, drink and clothes; from the age of fourteen to eighteen, not above 12s. and livery, and 6s. for the same; and after the age of eighteen, not above 16s. 8d. and livery, or 6s. 8d. for the same.

No woman "laboring at hay" was to take above 2d. a day and meat and drink. In corn harvest, 3d. and 7d. respectively, and all other work 1d. or 5d.

All laborers at task work might take as they could agree.

All husbandry laborers were to take from All-hallowtide (Nov. 1) till Candlemas (Feb. 2) but 3d. a day with meat and drink, or 7d. a day without. From Candlemas till All-hallowtide, 4d. or 8d. respectively, except when mowing corn or grass, for which they might take 6d. or 12d.

Master-masons, carpenters, joiners, plumbers, helliers, plasterers and thatchers, having servants or apprentices according to the statute, and able to take charge of the work, were to take by the day, with meat and drink, not above 6d., or 12d. without.

Other masons, carpenters, etc., were to take not above 5d. or 11d., and apprentices and boys not above 2s. or 6d.

A pair of sawyers were to take not above 12d. or 2s.

The rates of wages were settled yearly at the Easter sessions, and proclaimed by the Sheriff; but they do not seem to have been altered during the rest of the reign of Elizabeth. In October, 1601, we find an order that all constables are to ascertain the names of all masters and servants that give or take more wages than those appointed, and report them to the Justices, and five sub-committees are appointed specially to attend to this matter in the different districts.

The most remarkable point in these tables of wages is the slight difference they show between the wages of agricultural laborers and those of men employed in the building trades. A farm laborer earned 4s. a week for three-fourths of the year, and 3s. 6d. for the remainder. In the corn and hay harvest he received a shilling a day, which was equal to the wages of what is called a "master-mason." A journey-man mason earned no more than 5s. 6d. a week.

ARTICHOKES FOR FODDER.

ED OF RURAL:—My experience with the Artichokes, this year, is as follows:—The roots were in the ground near a ravine that runs by my lot. They sprouted very soon in the spring, and furnished good green food for my cows in advance of everything except my winter rye. A second growth was mown some time ago and the shoots are running up again. The tubers are not large, seldom an inch in diameter; but are often quite long. A neighbor tells me that he killed them in a field, last year, by repeatedly mowing the stalks. My opinion is that they will not be killed in that way, unless they are cut down very low and in the summer. I shall prize mine as a means of supply of green forage in the first of the season.

I have just dug my early Vermont potatoes. They are about the best in quality, when first used, of any potato I have ever tried. They grew to good size, but the quantity was relatively small. This is the first season they have been planted here. N. C.

PROBLEM.—How "the purification of cities by the fertilization of the country" can best be effected.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 2, 1876.

DON'T BE DISCOURAGED.

One who ceases his struggles in despair while swimming, immediately sinks unless floated by foreign aid; and this is the general result in all the affairs of life. If a man, in falling or jumping overboard from a vessel, has some buoyant article attached to his body, or one is thrown him afterwards, he may be able to float many hours even with little hope of a rescue in the end; still, resolute courage and great hope will generally do much toward preventing total exhaustion and loss of life.

Now what is true in case of accident, is equally efficacious in preventing serious disasters in business. The man who walks boldly forth among his associates, putting his own shoulder to the "wheel of fortune," helping to prevent its revolving the wrong way and thereby becoming a wheel of misfortune, stands a far better chance of succeeding in all his undertakings than the one who becomes discouraged at every obstacle thrown in his path. It is certainly quite natural that a man should step more briskly and look more cheerful when fortune smiles upon him than when she frowns, but he will seldom gain anything by heeding the latter.

Never before have the people of this country been placed in a more peculiar and anomalous position than they find themselves at this time. There is an abundance of all the necessities and luxuries of life, for there never have been greater crops, taking the whole country together, than in this, our Centennial year; in fact, the great ship of agriculture seems to be so heavily laden that there is no known power at this moment capable of giving her a rapid motion. We have no occasion to "go down to Egypt for corn," as our granaries are full and enough to spare; but the horn of plenty appears to be full the country over, hence customers are scarce.

This state of affairs is certainly somewhat irritating to those who have money obligations to meet; but it is better than a famine, or very short crops. Ever so low prices for labor and all manufactured articles, is in part, if not wholly compensated by the abundance of food; for without the latter, there can be none of the former. We hear of many of our farmers who say they are about discouraged at the low rates and slow movements of farm products generally; but despondency will certainly do no good, while the opposite may; consequently, we say, hold on; sacrifice as little as possible; reduce expenses wherever practicable; weed out unprofitable animals, but do not kill off whole flocks of sheep because wool is low, or dispose of cows on account of a depression in the price of butter and cheese. The prices of farm products are always open to fluctuation from year to year, and the man who can hold to a steady cause is certain to reap the benefits of high rates which will offset any losses occurring through a glutted market. It is the old story of the race between the hare and the tortoise—the one who proceeds slowly but steadily is far more likely to win than he who undertakes to make frequent changes in order to fill the sails of his craft with every passing breeze. Wool, beef, butter, cheese, corn, cotton, wheat, and similar staple articles, are always in demand, although the price may fluctuate; still, the producer knows that they are necessities which no freak of fancy or fashion can rule out of the list or drive from market. Hold on and be not discouraged, is the best panacea for dull times and low prices of farm produce.

SUMMER VISITORS.

About this season of the year many of our Rural friends are congratulating themselves that the time has arrived or is near at hand for their relatives and friends from the city to wend their way homeward. This may seem to be an extreme statement; but its truth will strike directly to the heart of many an overworked farmer's wife and daughters who generally have to bear the brunt of this annual immigration. Not only is it a pleasant and physically profitable thing to do, this going to the country, but it has become the "fashion" among denizens of large cities. And what better place is there on earth to go to than Uncle Henry's on the farm? Then, too, Aunt Sarah makes such delicious pies and cakes, both so appetizing after the sweet home-made bread and fat poultry. And eggs and milk are plenty and cheap, not to mention the fresh-made butter. Aunt Sarah however, has the other side of the picture. Uncle Henry has just begun to pay off the mortgage on the farm and must economize in every way. Hired help is too great an expense to be thought of so long as Aunt Sarah and the girls have willing hands. He would like to give the girls greater educational advantages; but the thing of vital importance is to get the mortgage paid off and rid himself of its burden of principal and interest. The schooling would require more money and additional help in the household duties to replace the hands which are folded during study, so that the girls must work. Poor Aunt Sarah, feeling that half a loaf is better than no bread, saves the girls all she can and thereby increases her daily burden, already too great for her strength.

Things are just moving nicely and the sales are producing money with which to lift that mortgage on the farm, when a letter is received from Cousin Maud, saying that "Ma, Jennie, Charley and I will all make you a nice visit and stay all the month of August, and Pa will come up on Saturdays and stay over till Wednesdays of each week. Won't that be nice and won't we have a jolly time?" Yes, Maud, it will be nice and you will have a jolly time; but what will Aunt Sarah and the girls be doing all the time? They will first put all their blessed heads together and resolve themselves into a thinking committee of ways and means upon extra bedrooms and bedding for the accommodation and comfort of the expected guests. Then the provisions must be looked to. When Uncle Henry comes in at night he receives information of the intended visit with equivocal pleasure; but Ma and her children are his sister, nephew and nieces and what can he say? What ought he to say? He ought to say exactly as he would say to his own immediate family, "While I am trying to pay off the mortgage upon my farm, I must practice such strict economy that my circumstances will not permit my entertaining you this summer." But this requires too much courage for him, so he gets one of the girls to write Maud that they will be delighted to see them all.

The month of August arrives and with it the visitors. A warm welcome is extended and then Aunt Sarah and the girls go into the feeding business on a large scale, the additional cost of which would pay for the girls' schooling and the hired help to take their places. Pa comes too, each week, and while he is with them the horses must be taken from their farm work and used for pic-nics and riding parties. Aunt Sarah and the girls sit up half the night preparing the next day's lunch. This process is repeated every little while, for "It is so delightful, you know, to let the children enjoy the pure air and see the country." Well they come, they see, and they conquer, all because Uncle Henry had too much pride and lacked the courage to tell the truth to his own sister.

While this picture is not true in all cases of visits to relatives and friends in the country, it is too frequently the case and should be well considered by all city people before making their annual playtime a matter of severe labor and expense to their rural friends. The best way, after all, is to pay your way wherever you go and go but seldom where that privilege is denied you through a mistaken sense of courtesy or hospitality.

"HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION."

Mr. Parsons in his interesting article under the above title, published elsewhere, deems ten years not too long to acquire a sufficient knowledge of landscape gardening. It is a truth, however, that while a great majority of our people, satisfied with proclaiming their love of flowers and plants, are not willing to give the time necessary to distinguish by name one from another, or any thought to the great necessity that exists in this money-grabbing land, of establishing horticultural institutions of learning—there is little need of the thorough landscape gardener; little encouragement for him to peruse the varied and expensive courses which are essential to a comprehensive understanding of this noble art.

It is true, as Mr. Parsons says, that wealthy people are ready to pay $500 for a piece of furniture that would be as truly beautiful and useful at fifty; but when the garden and grounds are to be laid out, the smallest, meanest allowance is made. Trees, shrubs and flowers are selected and purchased as if the purchaser were blindfolded. They are stuck in the ground here and there, without the slightest care or knowledge of their forms in maturity or the situations in which alone they can thrive. Such plantations, though it is true they add a species of beauty and finish to the home—since trees and shrubs, however wretchedly selected and distributed, are objects of beauty—must, nevertheless, fail to afford that lasting delight and satisfaction which an educated taste would have secured.

Our people in most of the other trades, arts and sciences, are the peers of older countries—but in all that pertains to floriculture, arboriculture and landscape gardening in their every branch, we are pitifully behind—pitifully indeed, when we consider the quiet gratification, the inspiriting, exalting effects—the moral tendencies of homes so surrounded with verdure as to show artificiality in its studied concealment alone. The shade of trees, the luxuriance of their healthy growth, the beauty of a pleasing presentation of their many shades of green; choice though never profligate displays of flowers—as concentrated manures must in measured quantities be spread over fields of soil—together constitute one of the most fertile sources of life's purest pleasures.

We would feel proud if the Rural New-Yorker could be made instrumental in cultivating a love of this art proportionate to the enlightenment of our people in other branches of tasteful, useful and moral learning; and pursuant to such an aspiration, our first and deeply respectful request would be that our scores of "Rural" namesakes would, under their headings of "Floriculture," "Landscape Gardening," "Arboriculture" and "Horticulture," fill their columns with other subjects than those of Dahlias, Hyacinth glasses, Hedges, Weeping Willows, Hybrid Potatoes and Artichokes.

RURAL NOTES.

The Locusts Again.—Once more the Rocky Mountain locusts have commenced devastating extended regions of country in Colorado, Nebraska and Minnesota, contrary to many assurances that such a visitation was not at all likely for several years to come. Gov. Pillsbury of Minnesota has published a letter in answer to one from some prominent gentleman of the State, asking for advice, in which he says, "I believe the the time has arrived when an organized and determined effort for their extermination," &c.; to which we say amen. But would it not be well to know something of the source from whence these pests come, and endeavor to "nip them in the bud," instead of making an attack upon the full-fledged insect? After a few more millions of dollars' worth of property has been destroyed, perhaps State or National aid to the amount of a few thousands can be secured to enable a commission of intelligent practical entomologists to investigate and report upon this subject.

The Drought.—From Germany, Holland, England, Ireland, and some parts of France, we have the same news of a drought which, in some instances, has seriously affected the cereal crop. In addition to all this we are informed that "In consequence of the continuance of the drought in China, the imperial authorities prayed fifteen times with great ceremony for rain. As rain did not come, an edict was issued forbidding the slaughter of animals for three days, it being supposed that the harmony between heaven and earth would thereby be re-established."

Holding for High Prices.—As an instance of the disappointment some persons are liable to experience from holding their produce for high prices, we note that tobacco planters in Ohio who refused 9c. a pound for 1874–75 are now selling the same stock at 4c. It is far the best policy, take one year with another, to sell a crop soon after it is ready for market than to hold it over a season and run the risk of loss and still lower prices.

RURAL BREVITIES.

Geo. Grant of Victoria, Kansas, will exhibit some fine live stock at the Centennial.

Mrs. Cresswell will greatly oblige us by giving her street number, as letters fail to reach her.

Nearly as often as once in three years a drought can confidently be expected, and yet its coming finds everybody unprepared for the emergency, which is now almost a periodic certainty.

Sales of Short-Horns this season show no falling off in the general appreciation of the breed. The demand for them in Japan is likely to open a new market and aid in keeping up prices.

The Canada Farmer says it has heard nothing but favorable reports of the "Gold Medal Wheat" this season, and we should be pleased to hear from the readers of the Rural New-Yorker in regard to this variety.

Subscribers will please accept our thanks for the many kind expressions of commendation which we are daily receiving through the mails and also our assurance that the Rural's watchword, "Excelsior," shall be constantly before our eyes.

The loss to the French vineyardists this year, through the depredations of the *Phylloxera*, or grape louse, is estimated at $27,000,000. A reward of $60,000 is offered by the French Government for a cheap and efficient destroyer of this pest.

Whether to plant this fall or to wait until next spring, is a question that soon must be decided. We again remind our readers that the opportunity to plant Centennial trees is fast drawing to a close—an opportunity that will probably not occur again in some time.

Some of our readers may remember that a grain was advertised and distributed in 1870 under the name of "Montana Rye;" the same thing is now offered by certain parties as "Nevada Rye." We should be pleased to hear from any one who has had experience with this grain.

The weekly press now seem to be following in the Rural's wake upon the treatment of Agriculture at the Centennial. We notice that several sleepy contemporaries have actually discovered that something is wrong in Philadelphia. Go ahead! friends! Perhaps by 1976 you will discover that there existed such an institution as the "Centennial Dairy Ring."

Where is Europe's boasted civilization, when Turkey, under its immediate nose, is permitted to exercise brutality, cruelty and barbarity, in its Servian war, of a kind which would put to blush the most ferocious North American savage? Tortures which the fiendish ingenuity of the old Spanish Inquisitors never dreamed of are said to be not the exception but the rule with the Turkish soldiery.

THE OLD SCISSORS' SOLILOQUY.

I am lying at rest in the sanctum to-night—
The place is deserted and still—
To my right lie exchanges and manuscripts white,
To the left are the ink and the quill—
Yes, the quill, for my master's old-fashioned and quaint,
And refuses to write with a pen.
He insists that old Franklin, the editor-saint,
Used a quill, and he'll imitate Ben.

I love the old fellow—together for years
We've manured the Farmer's Gazette,
And although I am old, I'm his favorite shears,
And can crowd the compositors yet.
But my duties are rather too heavy, I think,
And I oftentimes envy the quill,
As it lazily lays with his nib in the ink,
While I'm slashing away with a will.

But when I was new—I remember it well,
Though a score of long years have gone by—
The heaviest share of the editing fell
On the quill, and I think with a sigh
Of the days when I'd scissor an extract or two
From a neighboring editor's leader,
Then laugh in my sleeve at the quill as it flew
In behalf of the general reader.

I am being paid off for my merriment then,
For my master is wrinkled and gray,
And seldom lays hold of his primitive pen
Except when he wishes to say:
"We are needing some money to run this machine,
And subscribers will please to remit;
For the last load of wood Jones brought us was green,
And so knotty it couldn't be split."

He is nervous and deaf, and is getting quite blind,
(Though he hates to acknowledge the latter.)
And I'm sorry to say it's a puzzle to find
Head or tail to the most of his matter.
The compositors plague him whenever they see
The result of a luckless endeavor,
But the darling old rascal just lays it to me,
And I make no remonstrance whatever.

Yes, I shoulder the blame—very little I care
For the jolly compositor's jest,
For I think of a head with the silvery hair
That will soon, very soon be at rest.
He has labored full long for the true and the good
'Mid the manifold troubles that irk us,
His only emolument, raiment and food,
And—a pass now and then to the circus.

Heigho! from the past comes a memory bright
Of a lass with a freshness of clover,
Who used me to clip from her tresses one night
A memorial lock for her lover.
That dear little lock is still glossy and brown,
But the lass is much older and fatter,
And the youth—he's an editor here in the town—
I'm employed on the staff of the latter.

I am lying at rest in the sanctum to-night—
The place is deserted and still—
The stars are abroad and the moon is in sight
Through the trees on the brow of the hill.
Clouds hurry along in undignified haste
And the wind rushes by with a wail—
Hello! there's a whopping big rat in the paste,
How I'd like to shut down on his tail!

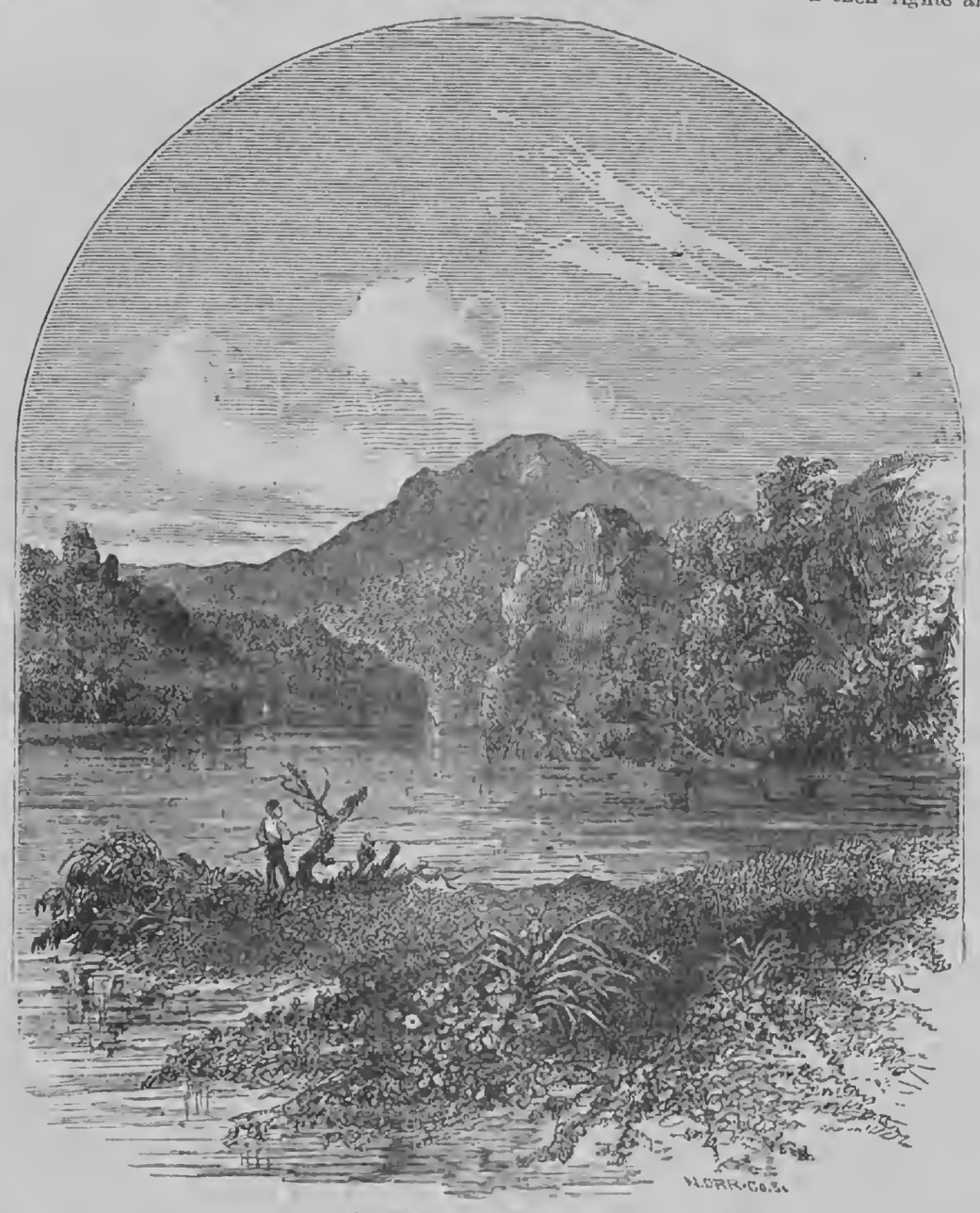
[*Parmenas Mix.*

AMERICAN SCENERY.

Having given a series of cuts illustrating scenery in the famed Far West, we give this week views of characteristic bits of scenery near the Atlantic.

The Juniata River, which wends its devious way through Pennsylvania, presents a succession of exquisite views, and nowhere, perhaps, can the lover of still life indulge his fancy as fully as among these sylvan scenes.

On the other hand, the "Scene in Lake Superior Country" approximates to the wild beauty of the Yellowstone Park. The cool, limpid streams and fresh mountain breezes of the northern peninsular of Michigan, have offered strong attractions to the lover of nature as also the insatiable sportsman. In brief, wherever we go in our most favored country, exquisite scenes open up before us that differ in beauty only in degree. When the famous New Zealander, of Macauley, shall have turned his steps hitherward and stamped our scenery as the "Authority" of his hyperborean judgment (?) we Americans may finally realize that there are marvels of natural scenery existing in our midst that are uncqualled by the famed European localities.



ON THE JUNIATA.

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 141.]

Spanish Claims to the Mississippi River.—Soon after the treaty of 1783 between Great Britain and the United States, Spain made claim that her treaty with Great Britain in 1730 conveyed to her the country bounded as follows;—"A right line should be drawn from the eastern angle of the Gulf of Mexico to Fort Toulouse, in Alabama; thence up the river Louishatchie from the mouth of which a right line should be drawn to the Fort of Quesnassie; thence by the course of the Hiawassa to the Tennessee; down the Tennessee to the Clinch; thence in a right line to the Cumberland; down which to the Ohio. All west of this Spain claimed and maintained that its possession gave them the sole ownership of the Mississippi from latitude 31° to its mouth. The country thus claimed embraced parts of Kentucky and Tennessee and nearly all of Mississippi and Alabama.

The United States claimed all described for her in the treaty of 1783 and the free navigation of the Mississippi. Spain had occupied a considerable portion of the country on the river for several hundred miles above 31°, while an active trade had sprung up in the settlements in the Ohio valley, the natural outlet for which was down the Mississippi River. Spain established posts on the river and forbade the passage of any boats unless they had first paid such imposts and taxes as it was thought fit to demand. Payment of these taxes were in many instances refused, in consequence of which cargoes were seized and confiscated and persons fined and imprisoned. At this the feelings of the people of the entire West were aroused.

SCENE IN LAKE SUPERIOR COUNTRY.

Meantime, the Spanish Government was negotiating with the Federal Government for a settlement and in view of some concessions favorable to the older portions of the Union, Mr. Jay, then Secretary of Foreign Affairs, proposed to *forbear* to use the Mississippi River below 31° for twenty-or thirty years, while still claiming to use the right acquired by the treaty of 1783. In favor of this plan were the seven Eastern States; opposed were Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas.

The spirit of the Western people, unused to restraint of any kind, was impatient. They believed they asked no more than their rights and those they were determined to maintain. The feasibility of the plan of fitting out an expedition to seize New Orleans and take possession of all Spanish territory east of the Mississippi, with or without Federal aid, was openly discussed.

At this period Col. Wilkinson visited New Orleans and obtained some concessions from the Spanish Government by which the rigor of the laws was somewhat relaxed. There are differences of opinion as to whether he acted in entire good faith—whether or not he was intriguing for his own aggrandizement, to separate the West from the Union and establish a Southwestern Confederacy. But it is evident he had not the interests of Spain in mind; although his policy appears to have been to prevent antagonism and promote harmony between the Western settlers and Spain and, for a while, there was a feeling against the Federal Government that might, with little influence, have been wrought up to a point of separation. But this was of short duration. Spain drew the lines closer and the Western people again became antagonistic.

Meantime settlers crossed the claimed Spanish lines and the Court at Madrid was warned that the American ambition on the subject of territory would not be appeased, and that the only true policy was to attempt the dismemberment of the Union. This advice was well received and the actions based upon it resulted in a series of controversies that extended through many years.

And now war broke out between France and Spain and French emissaries endeavored to incite the West to invade Louisiana. Spain knowing of this, sought to counteract it by holding out inducements for and inviting disunion, promising aid therein on the one hand and threatening to close the navigation of the river forever if such disunion was not effected.

At length, wearied with the matter, Spain expressed a willingness to negotiate, and a treaty was concluded in 1795 which, it was supposed, covered and settled the whole question.

But Spain could not be satisfied, and again proposed that a new South-western Government be established, but without effect. With the free use of the Mississippi the West had no occasion or desire for dismemberment; the boundaries were soon fixed, the posts surrendered as had been provided for in the treaty, and the contest that had kept the country in a state of ferment for more than ten years, was at an end.

TENNESSEE.

Early in 1769 people from North Carolina formed the nucleus of the first white settlement in Tennessee. This was in the Watauga country. It was really only an enlargement of a settlement of Virginia near by and was supposed to be within the limits of Virginia. Others soon followed and some pushed further into the wilderness. This was about the time Boone went to Kentucky. The settlement on the Watauga soon received additions from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, and became the center of a settled territory of considerable extent.

In the meantime political difficulties arose in North Carolina. A number of men calling themselves "Regulators," opposed the Government in what they claimed, and is now believed justly, illegal taxation; but not being able to sustain themselves, they crossed the mountains and, beyond reach of the officials, were gladly welcomed at Watauga. Doubtless their enmity to the Government, added to the fact that the settlement was so far distant that it received neither aid or protection from it, hastened the action which in 1772 was taken, eventuating in a determination to pay no further attention to the laws of the province but to govern themselves, which they did through a board of five commissioners elected by the settlers. A lease for eight years was obtained from the Cherokees for "all the country on the waters of the Watauga," and the laws of Virginia were mainly adopted as their basis of Government. In the same year the boundary line between North Carolina and Virginia was declared to be in latitude 36° 30′—this fixed the line between Tennessee and Kentucky.

In 1775 the Indians ceded to the Watauga Association all the lands lying between the Kentucky and Cumberland Rivers, and early in 1776 the Association was, on petition, annexed to North Carolina as a District and was allowed to send a delegate to the Provincial Congress. The District was named Washington—the first time, I think, any territory was so honored.

In 1777 Washington District was made into a County. The Henderson purchase—before spoken of (see Kentucky)—extended into the Watauga District and, for a time, occasioned considerable trouble.

In 1784 North Carolina passed an act ceding to the United States her title to lands west of the mountains, embracing the now State of Tennessee, then divided into four counties—Washington, Sullivan, Greene and Davidson—reserving jurisdiction and sovereignty until the conditions of cession should be accepted, but no further consideration repealed the act the same year. The settlers in the country thus ceded and not ceded, feeling that North Carolina had virtually abandoned them and having need of an active government, called a Convention, by the action of which they erected themselves into an independent State and called it the "State of Franklin." Thereupon they were declared by North Carolina to be in revolt and were both entreated and commanded to return to their allegiance. But the new State continued to exist until 1788, when its Governor (Sevier) was arrested on a charge of high treason. While on trial, by the aid of friends he escaped from the court room. Meantime, the State had ceased to exist and the territory was once more under the jurisdiction of North Carolina. Sevier was subsequently pardoned and was the first member of Congress from the Mississippi Valley.

In 1789 North Carolina again voted to cede the territory to the United States, subject to the land warrants already issued which covered a greater portion of it, and also to the restriction that no regulation should be made by Congress tending to the emancipation of slaves. Congress accepted the cession in the same year and soon after passed a law for the government of the Southwest Territory, which included Tennessee and Kentucky. Much excitement was caused in Tennessee, as elsewhere in the Mississippi Valley, by the Spanish claims relative to the navigation of the Mis-

sissippi—elsewhere spoken of—but no definite action was taken.

In 1795, by an enumeration of inhabitants, it was found the territory contained more than the number required before they could be entitled to a State Government. A Convention met at Knoxville, January, 1776, which formed a Constitution, and in June of the same year Tennessee was admitted to be one of the sixteen United States of America.—[To be continued.

The Story-Teller.

SPIRITUAL RAPPINGS.

BY GERALDINE GERMANE.

"DEAR me! I wonder why CHARLIE doesn't write. It's been more'n a week since I've heard from him and I'm afraid something is the matter," said CARRIE, as she threw herself on the carpet beside me.

We had been upon the hillside—or, more properly, mountain side, it being at the northern extremity of the Alleghanies—to drive the cows home for milking, and lingering about the old barn and then among the hollyhocks and marigolds in the dooryard, we came in at twilight with the romance of a many-hued mountain sunset upon us and, being weary with our upland tramp, untied our sun-bonnets from our shoulders, took off our shoes and stockings, and sat down on the floor with our knees on a level with our chins to rest and chat when, as girls *will* at every opportunity, CARRIE began about "her CHARLIE."

"Haven't heard from him in more than a week?" I repeated; "I'd like to know how often you expect to hear from him?"

"Why, I've had a letter from 'im as often as every other day since he's been gone. You know he went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to study for a doctor, and is going to stay a whole year. It seems like an age and as though he was a great way off, an' when he went away I told 'im maybe he'd never come back. 'O, yes, I shall,' said he, trying to cheer me up; 'you know we've always been together *so* much.' 'But what if you shouldn't live to come back—what if you should die way off there 'mong strangers?' said I. 'Why, then my spirit shall come back and hover 'round and talk to you,' he said, laughing. I don't see, for my part, how he could laugh, for I felt as solemn as a church and as dismal as a churchyard to think of it. Do you believe, GERRY, there is any such thing as a person's coming back to visit their friends after they're dead?"

"Well, I don't know but they might, but I guess it's very seldom they do, and I don't believe anybody ever saw or heard them."

"Then you don't believe in spiritual rappings?"

"No, indeed."

"It was bad enough," she continued, "to have CHARLIE go away; but my thinking he might never come back made me feel ten times worse, and I told him he must be sure and write very often and if he was sick or anything happened to him to be sure and let me know it, so that I could go to him, and I don't see why he has waited so long about——"

Rap, rap, rap, right under the floor where we were sitting.

"What's that?" said CARRIE, with wide open eyes.

"Guess it's rats," said I, rocking back and forth lazily.

"No, tisn't; for there isn't a rat about the house."

"Then you must be better off than most people."

Rap, rap, rap, rap.

"For mercy's sake! GERRY, what is it?"

"I wouldn't wonder if 'twas a cat in the cellar."

"No cat could go in there; there are two outside doors, shut and barred and the windows are grated so that no earthly thing could get in!"

Rap, rap, rap.

"O, it's spirits, it's spirits!" she said, in an awe-struck whisper. "CHARLIE's dead! O, CHARLIE's dead! and his spirit's come back, just as he said it would."

"A'n't your mother or father down cellar?" I asked, faintly.

"O, no, no! They've been abed this half hour and are sound asleep by this time," in the same whisper.

Rap, rap, rap.

"What *shall* we do! O, what *shall* we do?" and CARRIE's face grew whiter and whiter and her eyes stood out farther and farther.

"Go to bed," said I, trying to appear unconcerned; for I wasn't going to let her know that I was frightened.

"You don't catch me going to bed with that rapping right under us!" she said, excitedly.

"Pshaw! it won't rap through the floor, and if we go to bed and get to sleep, we shan't hear it any longer; and whatever it is, it may rap as long as it pleases."

Rap, rap, rap.

CARRIE said nothing; she only trembled from head to foot and grew more ghastly in her terrible fright. I felt as though I would like to be protected by the bed clothes and said, "Let's go to bed."

She shook her head.

"Then let's go and see what it is," I said, in as brave a voice as I could muster.

"Mercy! I wouldn't stir out of this room for anything! I wish the door was locked," she whispered.

"Well, I'll go," said I, rising up.

Rap, rap, rap, rap.

"O, don't leave me! don't leave me alone!" she gasped, clinging to my skirts.

"Then go and get your father to see what it is. It must be *something*, and we can't stop here all night and listen to it."

"O, 'twouldn't do any good; he couldn't find 'em—it's spirits. It's CHARLIE'S spirit, and he's dead!" she moaned.

"Fudge! CHARLIE would have more manners than to go thumping about and scaring folks in this way!" I impatiently exclaimed, "and I shall go if you don't;" and I moved determinedly toward the door.

"O, don't! O, GERRY, don't!" and she clung to me like a dead weight, trying to hold me back; but I kept on through the hall and the long, dark dining-room, groping my way with one hand and dragging her after me with the other, until I came to the bedroom where her father and mother were making the air resonant with their sonorous breathing. They were sleeping so soundly that I had many misgivings in regard to waking them; but, hoping that under the circumstances they would excuse me, I said feebly, "Mr. WESCOTT, Mr. WESCOTT!"

The only answer was a lusty snore, which wound up with an exhalation that sounded like hot air bubbling up through a kettle of boiling mush, and I repeated, louder:

"Mr. WESCOTT, Mr. WESCOTT, there's spirits in the cellar."

"Yes, yes," he murmured. "I know some folks call it speerits; "but it's nothing but blackberry wine, with a leetle cherry brandy in it. It's perfectly harmless. My old 'oman made it herself, an' it won't hurt ye, even if yer a Good Templar an' hev signed the pledge; per-fect-ly—harm-less; p-e-r-f-e-c-t-l-y—h-a-r-m-l-e-s-s."

Then he turned over, grunted like an over-fed porker, and began to snore again.

I was about to give up in despair, but I could still hear that rap, rap, rap, rap, sounding from the subterranean depths and, determined to have the mystery solved, I said, "CARRIE, you wake 'im up."

Being in the presence of her parental protectors had somewhat restored her; but whether she was afraid of rousing the wrath of her sire at the same time she aroused his senses, or of perpetrating a joke at her own expense, I know not. I only know she whispered, "I dusn't; you tell 'im." So I called yet louder:

"Mr. WESCOTT, Mr. WESCOTT, there's something in the cellar. CARRIE and I have heard it ever so long," I added, by way of explanation.

"E-e-h—something—in—the—cellar, d'ye say?" said he, rubbing his face and eyes and stretching up his arms as though to make sure that it was himself and not one of his neighbors that had been awakened. "Light a candle, CAROLINE, an' go 'n see what 'tis."

"O, father, I don't want to."

"Don't want to? Why, you ain't afeerd, I hope. Ef yer be, GERRY 'll go with ye."

"Why, father, I wouldn't go down there for anything; it's spirits, I know 'tis, for it rapped three times, and they always rap three times."

She did not tell him it was CHARLIE'S spirit.

"More likely it's them JONESES a stealin' pork; it's 'bout time for 'em to be 'round. I'd jes like ter ketch 'em at it!" he said, rising up excitedly. "GERRY, you light the candle; it's on the kitchen table. CAROLINE'S got so much speerets in 'er head, I don't spose she'd ever git it lit."

By the time I had the candle lighted the old man had sprung out of bed and hurried on his nether garments. His better half, disturbed by the unusual commotion, rose up to a sitting posture and putting both hands to the top of her head, as if to see if that and her night-cap were in place, said sleepily:

"What's the matter, SOLOMON? Where yer goin' to?"

"Thieves an' robbers," said SOLOMON, rushing through the kitchen toward the cellar door.

"Thieves an' robbers! land o' gracious, thieves an' robbers!" screamed the old lady, rolling off the bed as fast as her corpulence and rheumatism would permit, and rushing after him with her night-dress and cap all awry. "Take yer gun, SOLOMON—take yer gun, SOLOMON; you'll be killed as sure's preachin!" and running to a corner she grabbed the clothes stick and, thrusting it down the cellar stairs, shouted, "Here's yer gun, SOLOMON, here's yer gun; you'll be killed as sure's preachin'!"

Although SOLOMON did not avail himself of the proffered weapon, he was not killed but came back uninjured with the family cat in his arms which, by feline tactics, had crept into the cellar unobserved before the doors were closed, made a raid upon a tub of soap grease and, squeezing herself under the loose board cover, in the operation of gnawing and pulling at the scraps and bones, had moved it up and down against the tub, making the spiritual rappings. SOLOMON put the cat out of doors.

His better half gave a quick glance at her night dress and clothes stick, slipped the latter behind the pantry door and with "Land o' gracious! how scart I *was!*" waddled back to bed.

CARRIE and I slunk back to the spare bedroom and "slowly and sadly laid us down."

P.S.—The next day CARRIE received a long, loving letter from CHARLIE and his spirit was yet in the body, with no prospect of an untimely departure.

P.P.S.—She didn't marry him though, but mated with a practical, thorough-going young farmer as much unlike him as possible; and I don't believe people who write to each other every other day and are so very much engaged, ever *do* get married.

HARD TIMES.

BY N. M. H. M.

THE RURAL in a recent issue says:—"If people would learn to be more skeptical and less confiding, truth might in a great measure take the place of error. But it is so much easier to accept a statement as truth than to investigate and *know* it, that a majority of persons choose the former, absorbing what is generally termed knowledge just as a sponge does water, taking in the impure as readily as the pure, possessing neither a desire or power of making a selection."

And was there ever a time when thinking for one's-self was more essential than now? The "hard times" are upon us with iron gripe, and it behooves every man, woman and child to find out the cause. Do not, in this emergency, depend upon what somebody else says, but think for yourself. Do not take for granted that your newspaper must be right; you know how strong the inducement to please one's party or patrons, and how small a thing may serve to make falsity appear to be truth; so think for yourself, and in this thinking be not prejudiced. Remember always that there are two sides to every question, and that those who see it in one light present it according to their view, while those who see it in another will give it an entirely different aspect.

Therefore, do not trust to the investigations or representations of others but think for yourselves, and in order to form an unbiased judgment, keep your minds always open to Truth, and then carefully consider both sides of the question, using such light and help as may be had from the reading and listening to the best thoughts of the best minds on both sides.

Now, as regards the "hard times," all admit that there must be a *cause*. All have thought about it, because it is driven home into the very bone and marrow of many thousands and is felt with more or less severity by millions more. But how many have thought or *tried to think* for themselves, as to the *cause* of all this dread suffering?

One man—or set of men—says that Inflation is the cause; another says it is Contraction; one says it is over-production, which came as a result of inflation; another says it is anti-consumption, which necessarily followed contraction. One says it is over-issue of greenbacks; another that it is the removal and destruction of greenbacks. One says it is "soft money," and another, that it is the attempt to enforce "hard money"—and so each set has their own theories.

But it is a fact that many of these men who are loudest and strongest in their advocacy of a certain theory, admit, when you talk plainly with them, that they themselves have never tried to think the matter out, but have accepted the ideas of somebody else; and by tracing it back, we finally learn that the original thinkers upon these matters are very few and that they, from motives which may be either true or false, either philanthropic or selfish, have led the masses who, like a flock of sheep, will follow, pell-mell, along whichever path their leader takes.

Everybody has heard of the Resumption Act, by which Congress authorizes the removal of greenbacks and the resumption of specie payments, as the saying is. Everybody knows that it is the hard money men, the contractionists—those who say the panic is due to inflation, to soft money, etc.—that proposed and carried this bill through Congress and are fighting for it to be pushed on to the end. Everybody knows, too, that it is those who are in favor of greenbacks and who think the panic due to their contraction, that are fighting against the Resumption Act and looking for its repeal.

But how many have ever read and thought upon this same Act and its bearings, promises and demands? I venture to say not one in ten thousand of the forty millions in the United States *know for themselves* anything about it! and yet it is of vital import to all. It has in it either the elements of happiness and prosperity or of suffering and ruin. It will coin for us all the delights of home and all the enjoyments of life, or sap our very life-blood till only bitter waters are found flowing in our veins.

Do not pass it by as something that belongs only to the consideration of politicians. It belongs to you, reader, and to me. It involves the welfare of each member of the great United States' Firm, and each one should look to it that he be not deceived and ruined. Each should know for himself what course with regard to it will secure the greatest good to the greatest number.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM M. B. HILLYARD, McComb City, Miss.:

The New South, The Future Home of The Immigrant. Compiled by M. B. Hillyard. [Paper—pp. 203; price, 35c.]

TRADE REVIEW PUB. CO.:

The Musical Trade Review.

MAGAZINES FOR SEPTEMBER:

Phrenological Journal.
Record of the Year.
Woodward's Architecture, with Hints and Notes on Building. A quarterly magazine published by Geo. E. Woodward & Co., 31 Broad street, New York.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Annual Descriptive Catalogue of Bulbs and Other Flowering Roots, with directions for their culture and management. J. M. Thorburn & Co., 15 John street, New York: 1876.
Illustrated Descriptive Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Roses, &c., &c., cultivated and for sale by Richardson & Kelsey, Geneva, N. Y.
Wholesale Price List of Grape Vines, Fruit Trees, &c. Autumn of 1876. T. S. Hubbard, Fredonia, N. Y.
Wholesale Price List of Bronson, Hopkins & Co. Geneva, N. Y. For Fall of 1876.

Sabbath Reading.

MEMORIES.

WHEN the gray twilight softly spreads
Her robe o'er earth and sky;
When the far mountains' shady heads
Are lost to human eye;

When the tired bird at eve has sought
Sleep in that tuneless bower;
When the last bee wings homeward, fraught
With the forage from the flower;

When the dark pinewood dimly shows
Its deepening tints of green;
When in the west with crimson glows
The sunset's closing scene—

I watch the glimmering shadows kiss
The threshold of the night,
And o'er my heart's soothing bliss
Falls in the waning light;

And grosser thoughts that sternly cling
To life's dull, sober day,
Leave me, as swallows on the wing
Flit from our sight away.

And soft as ripple on the lake,
Within my bosom rise
Half-whispered yearnings, that awake
A thousand memories—

Sweet memories, that only come
To woo my waking dreams,
When twilight shrouds the woodlands dumb,
And slumbers on the streams—

Of faces that I loved of yore,
And songs that loved ones sang,
And children's voices—heard no more—
That through the greenwood rang.

O spirit treasures, ye are mine,
And to my heart belong,
Yet linger not till I repine
Or sing a sadder song;

But leave me while I still have power
To catch the sunny glow
Wafted from memory's blissful bower—
The shrine of long ago.

[*Chambers's Journal.*

A NEW DECALOGUE.

THE following, from the Elmira Gazette, is a satirical application of the commandments that, if rightly pondered, contains wholesome counsel:

I.

Thou shalt have no other God but Gain. Trade, labor, husbandry and all other brokerage, shall be his profits.

II.

Graven images and pictures other than greenbacks and fractional currency thou shalt not make. These shall continue to be unlike anything elsewhere, in the heavens above or in the earth beneath; and to them, therefore, thou mayst bow down thyself unto the thirty-third and thirty-fourth generation, using up in their pursuit all thy soul, thy health and thy neighbor as thyself.

III.

Thou shalt not mistake any other God for the aforesaid, such as Religion, True Worship, Charity, Virtue, Obedience, Truth; for Gain, being a jealous God, requires all your time, strength, health, soul and body, and will show no mercy upon those who keep not his day-book, ledger and cash books.

IV.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it wholly to thyself.

V.

Honor thy children, bowing down to them and worshipping them, giving them what they least require, that their days may be the shortest in the United States of all lands whatsoever.

VI.

Thou shall not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

VII.

Thou shalt commit adulterations with almost everything in the earth beneath, and especially by the waters which are throughout the world.

VIII.

Thou shalt steal whenever an official opportunity offers. Making a Cæsar of thyself, thou shalt render unto him all the money that is brought unto thee.

IX.

Thou shalt forever forbear all witnesses against thy neighbor; let thy time be consumed needlessly in public service, and be afterwards, also, witness against thee.

X.

Thou shalt acquire so much by the foregoing commandments as not to covet thy neighbor's house and lot, nor any other real or unreal estate of his whatever.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

GRACE and glory are inseparably joined—he that gets the one may be certain of the other.

IT is backward and downward with the wicked—it is onward and upward with the righteous.

WE cannot be too thankful even for small mercies, but we may be too troubled about small miseries.

THERE is a Bible in the University of Gottengen written on two thousand four hundred and seventy-six palm leaves.

NO man ever yet forgot by trying to forget; but he is on the highway to forgetfulness when he tries to remember.—*Miss Braddon.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

MAUD MULLER.

(A Travestie.) After Whittier—a long distance.

BY BROWNE.

MAUD MULLER on a bright May day,
Was planting peas in Jersey clay,
Beside her stood the unctuous jug,
The sunbeams shone upon her mug,
Till dawned upon as sweet a smile
As e'er lurked 'neath a dollar tile.
Thus working on without a sigh
She saw a milcman drawing nigh;
'Twas Grimes, a Justice of the Peace,
Coming to buy a flock of geese.
He, seeing Maud, did soon commence
To tie his muleflesh to the fence.
Beatified he stood to gaze,
Then asked her for a drink, bekase
He'd eaten codfish balls that morn.
Maud didn't look on him with scorn,
But handed him the milk, the same
Soon floated to the Judge's wame,
And then that Justice of the Peace
Asked if her father 'd sell some geese.
She said her pa she knew would sell
The brood of the boss goose, Floribell.
'Twas getting near the dim twilight,
So Grimes was asked to stay all night.
That night they acted much like pards,
Drinking cider and playing cards,
Till old Grimes, feeling loud and gay,
Said in a rather feeling way:
"Muller, old boss, now I'll be blowed
If I wouldn't like to marry Mowd."
Muller him by the collar caught,
And pounded well his dome of thought.
He grasped him by the pants and blouse,
And bounced him head-first from the house.
Maud wept that night till half-past ten,
And never saw the Judge again.
She wed with one unskilled in lore,
And children play around the door.
And now she says with tear-dimmed lids:
"These might have been the Judge's kids."
No matter unto whom allied,
Woman is seldom satisfied,
For looking back to some sweet scene,
She sadly sighs, "It might have been.
Or else she loud and long will buzz:
"By Gosh, it hadn't ought to was."

THE RULES OF CROQUET.

EVERY one who plays croquet, knows the disagreeable results of the diversity in rules and method of play among different players. The books which have been written on the subject are also at variance and as there is nothing but the author's or publisher's name to give authority to either book about the game, the partisan of either side of any disputed question can readily find printed support for his views. What is needed, is a set of rules which shall have some positive authority, or shall represent the combined wisdom of some considerable body of experts in the game, and not merely the opinions of any one person. A reasonably complete and sensible code having such sanction ought to be generally adopted, for the sake of harmony.

The English croquet clubs held a conference in January, 1870, at which a code of laws was adopted which are characterized by simplicity, good sense and straightforwardness. The rules have since been revised by the votes of the clubs represented in the conference, and seem worthy of universal adoption. We have been guided by them for three seasons and like them better and better. The principal points are as follows:

1. NO "BOOBY."—Rule 4.—The striker's ball, when placed on the starting-spot and struck, is at once in play and can roquet another ball or be roqueted whether it has made the first hoop or not."

2. THE TURN.—"A player, when his turn comes, may roquet each ball once, and may do this again after each point made."

3. NO TIGHT CROQUET.—"In taking croquet the striker is not allowed to place his foot on the ball." There has been a gradual abandonment of the "tight" or "foot" croquet, and a growing opinion that the "loose" or "roquet-croquet" is fairer and more scientific. At first, the foot was *obliged* to be on the ball. Then, in the treatises of Mayne Reid and the Newport Club, the loose croquet was allowed to the rover only. Afterward (Bradley's rules) the method was optional. Now, we have the scientific stroke as the only one admissible. All the rules about the flinch and the rover are now unnecessary.

4. CROQUET IMPERATIVE AFTER ROQUET.—"A player who roquets a ball must take croquet, and in so doing must move both balls." This sets at rest all question about "declining."

5. BALL IN HAND AFTER ROQUET.—When a ball strikes another it instantly becomes "in hand," and must be taken up and placed beside the roqueted ball in order to take croquet. "No point or roquet can be made by a ball in hand." For example, if the red ball, in commencing its turn, hits the blue and rolls on through a wicket, the wicket is not made, because the ball was in hand from the moment it struck the blue. Again, if the red should by the same blow hit first the blue and then the yellow, he could croquet only the blue, but would have the privilege of striking at the yellow afterward and croqueting it if hit. You may therefore stop a ball which has roqueted another without the risk of its owner saying, "If you had not stopped my ball it would have made the wicket."

6. WRONG PLAYING.—When a ball is played out of turn, or the wrong ball used, or a foul stroke made, the general principle is that the points so made are lost, and the remainder of the turn is forfeited and the adversary may elect whether the balls shall be replaced or remain where they lie. But, if the adversary plays on without claiming the penalty, the false play holds good. Specific rules are given for the various cases under this rule.

There are a number of little special rules in the game as usually played, which destroy the symmetry of the game. It is a mistaken idea that complication of rules makes it "more interesting." This is shown by the fate of all such contrivances as the crossed hoops in the center, little bells on the wickets, etc. No croquet player who understands the game thoroughly and can play the "split-shot," the "follow," and the "hold-back," needs any such aids to give interest to the game. The following are some of the usages referred to which are omitted from the English code:—1. Taking "two shots" or a "mallet's length" as a reward for running two wickets at the same blow. The two wickets are, like virtue, their own reward. 2. "Spotting" a ball which has struck the turning stake. It should play from where it lies like any other ball. 3. The idea that a ball must move six inches to constitute a stroke. Who can measure the distance traversed by a rolling ball? If it is moved at all, it is a stroke.

Finally, if you play by these rules or by any other, remember to be strict in matters of law; but always defer to the observation of others in matters of fact.—*Scribner's.*

REFINEMENT.

REFINEMENT is not fastidiousness. It is not luxury. It is nothing of this kind. It is far removed from excess or waste. A person truly refined will not squander or needlessly consume anything. Refinement, on the contrary, is always allied to simplicity and a judicious and tasteful employment of the means of good and happiness which it has at command. It seeks to divest itself of superfluities and aspires continually to the utmost possible purity. Refinement leads to personal cleanliness and elegant neatness, good taste and simplicity in dress. All "loudness" or "flashiness" is repugnant to its spirit. In its home and surroundings—whether palatial, affluent or humble—the same chasteness and natural grace are maintained. The abode of genuine refinement and a mere pretender to it, are very different. In the former you will find no excess, gaudiness, or false glittering; but the latter abounds in it. In personal manner, refinement is most conspicuous. A man of refinement is always polite without flourish, gentle without effeminacy, and considerate without stiffness. Display and ceremony are not identical with refinement and are poor substitutes for it. There is, of course, no refinement like that of the heart, which impels its possessor to show on all occasions a thoughtful and kindly regard for the feelings of others. No adherence to etiquette can compare with it for the spontaneous observation of true and gratifying politeness.

A WARNING TO BACHELORS.

BOTTLEBURY will never dive into a creek to save another woman from drowning. He saw a red-haired girl named Sparks tumble in the other day off a boat and he instantly plunged in after her, caught her by her dress and swam to the shore with her. As soon as they were on dry land Miss Sparks gave a hysterical scream, flung her arms around Bottlebury's neck and fainted. Just then the father came up with the rest of the family and, perceiving the situation, he dashed up to Bottlebury, grasped his hand and said, "Take her, my boy; take her! It is hard to give her up—it wrenches her old father's heart; but she is yours. Bless you, my children—bless you!" Then Mrs. Sparks cried and said she hoped Harriet would be happy. The little Sparks manifested their emotion by climbing up Bottlebury's legs and pulling his coat tails. Then Harriet came to, and laying her head on his shoulder, whispered, "Kiss me, darling!" Bottlebury, amazed and indignant, tore himself away and flew. He was arrested that afternoon on charge of breach of promise, and on the trial the jury gave the broken-hearted Miss Sparks $200 damages. Bottlebury has intimated to his confidential friends that if any other warm-haired woman intends to fall overboard near him, she will find it to her advantage to learn to swim.

BOOKS FOR A HOME.

Books are not made for furniture, but there is nothing else that so beautifully furnishes a house. The plainest row of books is more significant of refinement than the most elaborately carved sideboard. Give us a home furnished with books rather than furniture. Both, if you can; but books at any rate. To spend several days at a friend's house and hunger for something to read, while you are treading on costly carpets and sitting on luxurious chairs and sleeping upon down, is as if one were bribing your body for the sake of cheating your mind. Books are the windows through which the soul looks out. A house without them is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up his children without surrounding them with books, if he has the means to buy them. It is a wrong to his family. Children learn to read through being in the presence of books. The love of knowledge comes with reading and grows upon it. And the love of knowledge in a young mind is almost a warrant against the inferior excitements of passion and vice.

Reading for the Young.

MANAGING A MULE.

You, Nebuchadnezzah, whoa sah!
Whar is you tryin' to go, sah?
I'd hab you for to know, sah,
I's a-holdin' ob de lines.
You better stop dat prancin';
You's pow'ful fond ob dancin',
But I'll bet my yeah's advancin'
Dat I'll cure you ob your shines,

Look heah, mule! Better min' out—
Fus' t'ing you know, you'll fin' out
How quick I'll wear dis line out
On your ugly, stubbo'n back.
You needn't try to steal up
An' lif' dat precious heel up;
You's got to plow this fiel' up,
You has, sah, for a fac'.

Dar, *dat's* de way to do it!
He's comin' right down to it;
Jes' watch him plowin' t'roo it;
Dis nigger ain't no fool.
Some folks dey would 'a' beat him;
Now, dat would only heat him—
I know 'jes' how to treat him;
You mus' *reason* wid a mule.

He minds me like a nigger.
If he was only bigger
He'd fotch a mighty figger.
He would, I *tell* you! Yes sah!
See how he keeps a-clickin'
He's as gentle as a chicken,
An' neber thinks o' kickin'—
Whoa dah! Nebuchadnezzah.

Is dis heah me, or not me?
Or is de debbil got me?
Was dat a cannon shot me?
Hab I laid heah more'n a week?
Dat mule do kick amazin'—
De beast was spil'd in raisin'—
By now I 'spect he's grazin'
On de oder side de creek.

[*Irwin Russell.*

A WORD TO THE GIRLS.

"I'LL tell you how, CLARA: don't say anything to your mother about it if she is so particular, but just tell her you are going to call on me—that won't be telling a lie, you know. We can go over from our house, and she'll never know the difference."

In spite of haste I turned to take a second look at the dainty, girlish forms thus plotting to enjoy forbidden pleasure. They were young—not more than seventeen, if that—and there was something in the tasty arrangement of CLARA'S toilet that indicated a mother's watchful care. The speaker was more richly dressed, but there was a wrinkled, neglected look in her whole attire that plainly showed the absence of a mother's refining hand. When I saw the restless, undecided look on CLARA'S face it was with difficulty I restrained myself from speaking. I wish now that I had said to her just what I say to all girls who are tempted in like manner, Don't! Do not, under any circumstances, or at any time, do that which will cause you to shrink from telling mother. But above all things, do not stoop to meanness or deception.

Now, my dear girl-friends, think of me as one among you. I am not such an ancient girl as some of you imagine—not old enough to keep out of mischief that a watchful mother would have prevented. I have to learn by bitter experience. They say that Experience is a superior teacher. I do not doubt it, still, I would rather go to school where I knew punishment was certain every day in the week than to sit dreading it all the time and only get it once a fortnight.

Experience often hardens the nature—develops the cold, harsh, sarcastic qualities which should be kept buried till we are old enough to know when and where to use them. Mother is the queen of home, and all of you who are so blessed should be proud, willing subjects. As I write my gaze is involuntarily directed to the wall. Yes, the eyes are watching me—they follow my every motion, whether near or distant in the room. It is only a shadowy face and form prisoned in its frame, yet I would risk my life to save it from harm. It is all I have of the dear one waiting for me in the "Bright Beyond." Even you who have been called to say the last good-by can remember mother's kind admonitions, and the dear, grave tone of voice in which advice was given. I have not even the fond remembrance of tender care and caress, but ah—I know what it is to feel the need of all this. Sometimes, when I grow weary and wicked, I lay my cheek close to the dear lips and pray God to aid me in my endeavor to become like her; then all the hard, rebellious thoughts vanish, and I start again with new resolves.

But 'tis a hard battle we girls fight alone. It needs a mother's wise, firm hand to direct, and a mother's stern experience to point out the various snares that are lying so thickly about our pathway. Sometimes there are dear friends who attempt to aid us, but no one so thoroughly understands our nature—no one feels so deep an interest in our welfare—as mother. Hard work, trouble and multitudinous cares wear hard on the mother's mind, and she may at times seem stern and indifferent, but I tell you, girls, there is a large, generous heart there beating for you, and a depth of love known but to the Creator. So, if you are pondering a hard, knotty question, take it to mother, and abide by her decision. If you are about to take any step out of your usual course, whether of minor or supreme importance, let mother's superior wisdom guide you. Remember the years of laborious care given to your interest and command even your thoughts to be filled with respect for her. We all know that a mother's heart seeks a thoughtful, unceasing affection from her offspring, and sadly to be pitied is the heart unable or not willing to respond.

C. ESTELLE PEIRCE.

ALL ABOUT SALT.

WE never appreciate the advantages we possess. This may not strike you as an original remark, and indeed I do not reserve the right of translating it. Perhaps it might even be termed, with justice, a platitude, but it is remarkably true. I doubt whether it ever occurred to any one that it was nice to be able to breathe, unless asthma, or fog, or a fishbone, or a rope, or some other impediment to free respiration drew his attention to the fact. Living people can remember the time when no one placed any particular value upon water, which ranked with air as a thing too common, too necessary to be grateful for. The nearest pump or well supplied it in profusion, clear, sparkling, wholesome, free from "organic matter." In like manner we of the present generation think lightly enough of salt, and can hardly appreciate the distress which would ensue if it became scarce or dear, or if the progress of civilization poisoned it.

Salt is an essential constituent of the blood, from which it is constantly drawn by the secretions—you know how briny tears are—and therefore it must be supplied. It is the only mineral food of man. To understand the necessity for it, we must turn to the experience of travelers who have taken long journeys through regions where cannot be procured, and who are restricted all the while to a vegetable diet. For there is salt in all animal food, so that after a certain period of privation the freshest meat tastes strongly of it, and is exceedingly grateful in consequence. Explorers who have neglected to supply themselves with a sufficient stock of the mineral, speak of their yearning after it in terms which we should have fancied applicable to the want of water alone; and this is not merely due to the force of habit, for the natives show an equal appreciation of it, and the little children, in places where salt is rare, will eat it with the avidity which the boys and girls of other countries show with regard to sugar. All animals are likewise fond of it, and will lick a lump whenever they get the chance.

When we consider, in addition to this natural need of salt, how useful it is for the preservation of food which must be wasted without it; when we remember how dependent the poor especially are upon salt pork and fish, we can form some estimate of the hardness, nay, of the positive cruelty of the laws which should tax it so highly as to create an artificial scarcity.

Salt is found in vast masses more or less pure among rocks of all geological ages, but principally in the New Red Sandstone. The subterraneous streams percolating through the strata where it lies become impregnated with it, and form the brine springs from which the supply of salt has from earliest times been drawn.

In 1760, some persons trying for coal at Marbury, England, came upon the beds of rock salt from whence the brine springs issued, and ever since it has been excavated in blocks, by mining and blasting, like any other mineral. In some places the rock salt is found at great depths, in others near the surface—nay, it crops above it, for there is a hill of rock salt some hundreds of feet high in Spain; and the island of Ormuz, in the Persian Gulf, is composed of it. The finest salt, however, is obtained from the brine springs. The impregnated water is pumped up into a reservoir, and thence conveyed by pipes into the salt pans—large, shallow, iron receptacles, arranged with flues underneath them, so that sufficient heat may be applied to cause the water to pass off in steam, leaving the salt deposited. The more rapid the evaporation, the finer the quality: so to produce table salt the brine is caused actually to boil; while a temperature of a little over 100° is sufficient for the coarser kinds, which are used for the preservation of fish, etc., and are deposited in large crystals. When the water has evaporated, the salt is gathered out of the pans into vessels, where it is left awhile to drain, and then stored in apartments which are kept carefully dry. It is estimated that every pint of brine yields about six ounces of salt. Rock salt cannot be sold in blocks as it is quarried; even the best is mixed with too much foreign substance for that. So it is first dissolved in water, when whatever matter is insoluble sinks to the bottom. The liquid is then strained off, and treated like the other brine.

The famous Salsburg district, in Germany, includes the Hallein, Hallstadt, Berchtesgaden and other mines. The salt is a monopoly of the Austrian Government, and it brings in upwards of ten million of dollars a year. A visitor to the Berchtesgaden mine describes the manner in which the salt is obtained so clearly and concisely that I am tempted to quote his very words:

"If pure rock salt, or nearly so, it is merely quarried into blocks, and then conveyed to the entrance of the mine. If, however, it is imbedded in earth, clay, marl or gypsum, the process is more curious and complicated. Galleries are first cut through the limestone rock to the soft beds of salt, where a small chamber is excavated. One set of pipes is then conveyed into this chamber from above, and another set from the chamber to the foot of the mountain. These are closed at the bottom by a valve, which can be opened at pleasure, and are in communication with other pipes or tanks. When these preparations are complete, the water is turned on, and the chamber completely filled. The roof and sides gradually crumble and fall away, the salt dissolves in the water, and the earth and rubbish sink to the bottom.

The chamber is kept constantly full; and when the water becomes sufficiently impregnated with salt, which usually happens after a lapse of from three to six weeks, the valves are opened, and the lower set of pipes brought into use. The floor is then leveled and hardened, and other preparations being complete, another inundation follows. Every chamber is again and again used, until from some cause, as the partition between two chambers becoming weak, the room is rendered unsafe or valueless."

The brine, when drawn off, is treated as before described. Where briny springs or strata of rock salt are not available, the substance is obtained from the sea. This process is very simple, consisting merely in collecting the water in shallow pits dug on shore, and leaving it to evaporate. When this has taken place, the salt deposited is carried away to sheds, and there piled in heaps, to get rid of the chloride of potassium, which melts and runs off. The salt is then redissolved and crystallized.

There is another way of obtaining salt from the sea, namely, by a freezing process, when, on the ice being removed, a very strong brine is left, from which the salt is obtained by boiling. But such salt is impure, containing chlorides of aluminum, of calcium and of magnesium, and the use of it is therefore apt to give scorbutic diseases.

Besides its value as an article of food, and for the preservation of meat and fish, salt is an excellent manure, which is rather a curious fact, considering that it was a custom with particularly spiteful conquerors to raze cities, which they took at very great cost, to the ground, and then sow the earth with salt, to insure perpetual desolation. I do not know that the mineral is applied to many other purposes; there are people indeed who build their houses of rock salt, but that is in very dry countries, like Arabia, where there is little fear of a sudden shower dissolving their homes.

Salt mines are always objects of curiosity to strangers visiting their neighborhood, since the glittering nature of the walls and roofing causes them to be capable of brilliant effects. The mines of Wieliszka, in Poland, must be well worth seeing, some of the chambers being 300 feet high. In our country the large mines at Syracuse, N. Y., and Saginaw, Mich., are too well known to need description. L. H.

The Puzzler.

HISTORICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 28 letters:
My 5, 1, 11, 5, 7, 13, 21, 9, 12, 3, 3, 2, 5, 13, 16, an eminent composer of music.
My 6, 14, 23, 25, 22, 12, 3, 3, 24, 28 a Revolutionary general.
My 18, 27, 8, 10, 2, 1 the originator of vaccination.
My 26, 19, 17, 17 a modern writer of music.
My 15, 2, 8, 13, 20 a Virginia statesman.
My 5, 12, 3, 4, 3, 11, 9 a great astronomer.
My 18, 16, 15, 10, 17, 19, 22 a President of the United States.
My 6, 12, 13, 1, 6, 17, 19, 28 a noted abolitionist.
My 1, 6, 3, 24, 27 a Confederate general.
My 5, 7, 2, 14, 23, 2 a German poet.
My 17, 16, 5, 11, 3 a Union general.
My 17, 12, 8, 14, 25, 12, 10, 28, 25 a Mexican general.
My whole should urge us to serve God.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Little One.

HIDDEN FRUIT.

1. The cur ran twice as fast as the nag.
2. Mag, rap every time you call.
3. If I go, you shall go too.
4. Hand me the map, please.
5. Some who joined the church err yet.
6. I call this cheap lumber.
7. Do you go to ma to ease your mind?
8. That stylish looking chap, Ric Otherly is a flirt.
9. You would look well in a turban, Ana.
10. Dy you know what number Ryan's is?
11. Such cheap ear-rings cannot be good.
12. Brother Ira is in Philadelphia.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

My first is in sane but not in mad,
My second is in trample but not in pad;
My third is in well but not in sick,
My fourth is in you but not in Dick;
My fifth is in hound but not in eat,
My sixth is in pitcher but not in bat;
My seventh is in skin also in skull,
Two large cities (of the U. S.) form my whole.

☞ Answer in two weeks. A. B., Jr.

TRANSPOSED AVIARY.

1. Ohod fling. 2. Big drum himn. 3. Finger shik. 4. Hinge lating. 5. Gilt rans. 6. Og pine. 7. No calf. 8. Slow law. 9. Tan shape. 10. Tripe gard. Isola.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Aug. 19.

Tennysonian Enigma.—
"So passed the strong heroic soul away.
And when they buried him the little port
Had seldom seen a costlier funeral."

Square Word.—
L A R K
A L O E
R O S E
K E E L

Mythological Enigma.—Pined away until nothing was left but her voice.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the Rural New-Yorker, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the Rural still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In those matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

The series of races in the International Regatta at Philadelphia have been inaugurated by a four-oared race between the Atlantas, Columbias, Beaverwycks and Vespers. The Atlantas and Columbias won the heats, and are, accordingly, candidates for final honors. The single-scull heats were won by Akerman and Courtney.

Fish of all kinds is very scarce and bring prices high in the New York markets.

The Republican (N. Y.) State Convention have nominated E. D. Morgan for Governor and S. S. Rogers for Lieut. Governor. Mr. Morgan was nominated on the first ballot. The convention was held at Saratoga Springs.

Clouds of grasshoppers are flying over Kansas in a southerly direction.

The mint in San Francisco coined in July $4,606,000, the most ever done in a month.

The remarkable bird-track slab uncovered at Turner's Falls, Mass., measures 118 feet square, and contains eight large tracks going in one direction, and nine in another. The slab will be taken to Yale College.

The new 4½ per cent. Government Loan is successful.

Heavy fighting is reported at a point north of the Black Hills. Losses large on both sides. Results favorable to the troops. Report not, however, confirmed.

Reduction of coinage at the Mints is reported.

Jos. R. Underwood, ex-U. S. Senator from Kentucky, is dead.

The English catalogue at the Exhibition has been generally commended for its completeness. There is one omission: the huge rats in the Main Building, which are supposed to have been imported with the British exhibits. Possibly they came from Norway; evidently they are not home-bred; undoubtedly they would, if introduced, make the international dog show still livelier.

Twenty thousand citizens of New Jersey celebrated Jersey Day at the Centennial.

The Grangers' estimate of the surplus wheat in California this season is 600,000 tons.

Later intelligence reports Yates as having won the single-sculls, and the Atlantas as claiming the four-oared championship at Philadelphia.

A grand tournament is being arranged by the young men of Richmond, Va., to be held at the fair grounds next month, for the benefit of the Lee monument fund.

Georgia has forty cotton mills in successful operation, running full time, and paying handsome dividends.

The Blackfeet in Canada give Sitting Bull the cold shoulder when he entreats them to join him in his warlike enterprises. With characteristic insolence he threatens them with severe punishment as soon as he has finished with the Americans. The Indian subjects of the Dominion have always been treated as subjects and not as enemies or independent tribes. It is hard to drag them into a war. Our Government has issued elaborate instructions to the Sioux Commission. It might have added one clause: Study the consistent Indian policy of the Canadians.

The tramp as a tramp is a horrible nuisance, but the tramp as a train-wrecker is a devil incarnate. The dastardly attempt to wreck an express train near Rochester amply justifies the stern measures which the New York Central Railroad has taken to protect its line. Other railroad corporations ought to be quite as wary.

The coal combination existing between the large coal producing companies has been ruptured, and the article is expected to decline largely in price.

The Summer school of natural history of the late Prof. Agassiz on Penikese Island having been abandoned, the property has reverted to Mr. John Anderson. He proposes to make it his Summer residence again.

Under instructions from the Attorney-General, all pending whisky prosecutions are to be taken up and disposed of at the next terms of courts having them in charge. There are a number of persons under indictment who have not yet been put on trial. These are to be arraigned as soon as possible. In the cases of those who have pleaded guilty, District-Attorneys will be instructed to move for sentence.

The instructions to the Sioux Commission, appointed under the recent act of Congress, relate the provisions of the act, after which the letter of instruction calls attention to the fact that Congress has expressed its determination to appropriate nothing further for the subsistence of the Sioux Indians unless they shall agree,

First: To relinquish all right and claim to any country outside the boundaries of the permanent reservation established by the treaty of 1868.

Second: To relinquish all right and claim to so much of their said permanent reservation as lies west of the 103d meridian of longitude.

Third: To grant a right of way over the permanent reservation to that part thereof which lies west of the 103 meridian of longitude, for wagon and other roads, from convenient and accessible points on the Missouri River, not exceeding three in number.

Fourth: To receive all such supplies as are provided for by said act and by said treaty of 1868, at such points and places on their said reservation, and in the vicinity of the Missouri River, as the President may designate.

Fifth: To enter into such agreement or arrangement with the President of the United States as shall be calculated and designed to enable said Indians to become self-supporting.

The following order was sent to nearly all Indian agencies by the Indian Commissioner:

Washington, D. C., Aug. 22, 1876.

Sir: You are advised that all sales of arms or ammunition to either whites or Indians by parties holding license as Indian traders issued by this office must be stopped instantly. You will promptly notify your traders, and will be vigilant in seeing that no violation of this order is allowed. If any instance of such violation occurs, you will revoke the license of the offending party, and report the case to this office for further action.

A case of yellow fever is reported from Boston.

An interesting and valuable case of what is called hydrophobia has occurred at St. Louis. Miss Mary E. Cruthis was bitten by a large Newfoundland dog about a year ago. The abrasion of the cuticle was very slight. Eighteen days after the bite the patient exhibited all the symptoms of hydrophobia, except frothing at the mouth. After an illness of a fortnight she recovered, seeming to be entirely well; but last week the attack was renewed, and at the last report Miss Cruthis was at the point of death.

It is not often that an actor is also a scientific scholar and an orator. Mr. Henry Edwards of the California Theater, San Francisco, has shown himself to be all of these—having delivered, at the opening of the Eleventh Industrial Exhibition of the Mechanics' Institute—at Wade's Opera House in that city, on the 8th inst.—an oration on "Iron, and its Relations to Civilization," which is fraught with learning, practical ideas and a broad appreciation of a great subject, and which is expressed with the true eloquence of earnestness and simplicity. The most ringing passages in the oration are those descriptive of the multifarious uses of iron, the sad condition which the world would lapse into without it, and the future that awaits mankind in the further development of its utility.

The main building of the Soldiers' Orphans' School at Phillipsburg, Beaver County, 25 miles below Pittsburgh, on the Ohio River, has been totally destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at $20,000; partially insured. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Large fires are reported in the woods around Andover, Mass.

The union of the two great branches of Episcopal Methodism in the United States, which is foreshadowed in the address of the joint Board of Commissioners, is one great religious event of the Centennial year.

The steamship Erie has arrived in New York with a large importation of sheep from England. There were thirty-five Lord Walsingham Southdowns, twenty Cotswolds from the Royal Agricultural College, twenty Oxfords and fifty Berkshires. The Oxfords and Berkshires are the property of T. S. Cooper, the Pennsylvania breeder, and the others are for exhibition in Philadelphia.

The wharves and bulkheads in the neighborhood of the towers of the East River bridge were thronged on Aug. 25 with people eager to witness the first passage of a human being from Brooklyn to New York by the new route. At 1:20 a large flag, 30x20 feet, was hoisted on the Brooklyn tower, and a few minutes later another was displayed from the tower upon the New York side of the river. In the mean time everything was put in readiness on the towers and piers for the attempt, and at 1:25 Master Mechanic E. F. Farrington, the person who was to make the trip, took his seat in the "boatswain's chair," which was made fast to the "traveler rope." This chair was a board two feet long by ten inches wide. It was hollowed out in the middle so as to make a better seat, and in each corner was a hole through which a half-inch rope, four feet long, passed upward. Knots on the ends of these four ropes kept them from slipping through the holes, and supported the board. The ropes were tied together at their upper ends, and were made fast to the "traveler rope." The start was made from Brooklyn. Chief Assistant-Engineer Martin standing near the front and on the top of the anchorage pier, controlled the running of the engine in the yard below by signals with a red flag which he held in his hand. He regulated his signals to the man in charge of the engine, by those which he received from the towers and New York anchorage, made by men stationed on them for the purpose. The starting signal was given at exactly 1¾ o'clock, and in another second Mr. Farrington was swinging over the tops of the houses between the anchor pier and the tower. Hearty cheers went up from those assembled below. When about half way between the anchor pier and the Brooklyn tower, Mr. Farrington raised himself from a sitting to a standing position in the chair, and taking off his hat waved it to the people who were cheering him. The first part of his journey took three and one-half minutes, and was concluded amid the enthusiastic cheers of all beholders. Its successful termination was announced by the firing of a gun on the New York bulkhead. Mr. Farrington was received upon the tower with congratulations and expressions of admiration. The workmen moved the chair over to the river front of the tower, and when it was again in readiness Mr. Farrington embarked once more, and amid the good wishes and hand-clapping of those on the tower, he was launched into the space between the piers over the river. His appearance was the signal for everything in the shape of a steamboat to make all the noise in its power. The shrieks of the whistles and shouts of the spectators were deafening even to persons at the great height of the summits of the towers, and Mr. Farrington waved his hat again and again in reply to them. The trip between the towers occupied six and one-half minutes, and the reception of the courageous traveler upon the New York tower was more enthusiastic, if possible, than on the Brooklyn tower, while the people upon the wharves joined in the vociferous welcoming. In a few seconds the third stage of the journey (from the New York tower to the anchor pier) was begun. This occupied about the same time as the first stage, and was equally successful. Although it was practically certain that the rope would support a much greater strain, as it must, or it would be useless, it was necessary that some one should go out on it, and the master mechanic thought it best that he should prove himself willing to do a thing which he will soon call upon his men to do. His trip gives courage to the men, proving to them that it is without any real danger.

A quantity of trees and ferns were sold at auction, recently, by Young & Elliott, N. Y. About 3,000 plants from Dallas Bros., Bridgeport, Conn., brought fair prices. A large Adiantum Farleyense sold for $27, and a Latania Borbonica, 14 feet high, for $55.

The heaviest rain known in Wheeling, W. Va., for several years, fell on the night of Aug. 24. The houses on Main St. were flooded, causing an immense amount of damage to merchandise in cellars. Bridges in the southern part of the city were carried away and many corn fields seriously damaged.

Eight hundred ounces of gold dust arrived in Cheyenne, Aug. 25, from the Black Hills. A solid piece of quartz was consigned to the Pacific coast for exhibition. It bristles all over with pure gold. The piece weighs about 25 pounds and it is estimatee contains $100 in gold. This is from the Alpha mines. The telegraph line, which has been making slow progress, owing to the absence of an escort for the working parties, is now making headway. All the poles are set to Hot Creek, 50 miles beyond Laramie, and the work of stringing the wire has begun. The first communication over it was sent on the night of Aug. 24 from Platte River. The Black Hills Pioneer, published at Deadwood, gives very encouraging news in regard to the gold prospects in and about the Black Hills.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Intelligence received from Belgrade announces that the war party have finally obtained the ascendancy. Besides dispatching Col. Montverde to Belgrade, urging the continuance of the war, Gen. Tchernayeff sent Prince Milan dispatches, undertaking to regain lost positions, to drive the Turks completely out of Servia and to carry the war into Turkish territory. He also formally protested against Prince Milan's pacific leanings. The Servian ministers supporting Gen. Tchernayeff, the Prince at length yielded and ordered the hostilities to continue. Both parties claim victories before Alexinatz.

The King of Dahomey again threatens to kill all the English in his kingdom.

It is said the Prince Imperial of Austria will make a two years' visit to this country.

It is officially announced that the Servian troops under Gen. Horvatovich recaptured Gurgusovatz and occupied Tresibaba on Aug. 23d.

The officers implicated in the murder of the foreign consuls have been formally degraded before the public, and salutes were exchanged between the forts and the foreign men-of-war in the harbor of Salonica.

A special dispatch from the Bucharest correspondent of the Daily News, who accompanied Mr. Schuyler in his tour of investigation, says Mr. Baring's report of 60 villages burned and 12,000 persons killed by the Turks in Bulgaria does not include the outrages committed in the district north of the Balkans nor in the district of Sophia. Forty villages were burned north of the Balkans and 70 south. Mr. Schuyler has not yet completed his investigation; but he estimates the number of the killed at 60,000 in the district of Philippopolis alone. The regular troops are more cruel than the Bashi-Bazouks. No doubt the massacres were committed with the sanction of the authorities. Outrages continue to occur.

The Bishop of Lincoln is of opinion that the Almighty ought to be especially invoked in behalf of Servia against the Turks, and has issued a prayer for his clergy in which the deliverance of our fellow Christians and the Eastern churches is asked for.

London is now supplied with "Marseilles butter." It is produced at a large stearine candle factory in Marseilles, equals in appearance the finest Epping or Dorset, and keeps well.

The elections of Presidents of the Councils-General of France have resulted in the choice of 5 Constitutionalists, 4 Monarchists, and 39 Republicans. The Republicans have gained seven seats.

Advices from Madrid state that three Spanish gunboats are being sent to Chinese waters at the request of the Spanish representative at Peking. This step is either taken to support the Spanish demand for the restitution of a vessel stranded at Formosa, or for fear of complications arising from the recent attack on the French missionary chapel at Ning-Kong-Foo.

Prince Milan wants peace. He admits that he is beaten, but holds that the military honor of Servia has been upheld by the six days' fighting at Alexinatz. This avowal may end, amid gloom and disaster, the campaign begun so boastfully eight weeks ago.

There are rumors that a political conspiracy has been discovered in Pampeluna, Spain. It is stated that arrests have been made. The garrisons of the Upper Navarre have been re-enforced.

Soundings for the Channel tunnel to connect England and France will be finished by the end of August. The engineers report that the results are very satisfactory.

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[OWING to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents," so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for Advertisers," or "Answers to Correspondents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers, and we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements; and, such other matter as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want and the want is indicative of its need.]

JAMES BROWN, Otsego Co., N. Y., and several others, want to know the address of a reliable dealer in game fowls.

R. H. B., Vermont, wants a good swivel plow. We refer him to the advertisement of Everett & Small, in this issue.

JOHN STEWART, Bergen Co., N. J., wants a plow for low muck ground that will scour easy.

R. C., Liverpool, Ohio, wants the address of some responsible dealers in fine poultry, as he is about to start a large hennery.

H. M., Allegany Co., N. Y., wants to know where Osage Orange Seeds can be obtained, cheap and reliable.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Aug. 26, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	71,600	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,0?6	Rice, bbls	208
Corn meal, bbls	3,67?	Cut meats, pkgs	7,335
Corn meal, bags	65	Lard, pkgs	3,550
Wheat, bush	179,750	Tobacco, hhds	3,055
Corn, bush	411,[illegible]	do. pkgs	1,385
Oats, bush	157,75?	Butter, pkgs	30,?72
Rye, bush	8?0	Cheese, bxs	69,856
Malt, bush	31,025	Cotton, bales	5,031
Barley, bush	50?	Rosin	2,383
Beans, bbls	5,612	Spts. turp., bbls	2,152
Grass seed, bush	3,92?	Dried Fruits, pkgs	425
Beef, pkgs	1,489	Eggs, bbls	17,064
Wool, bales	1,920	Peanuts, bags	653
Hops, bales	45?	Leather, sides	69,989
Pork, bbls	1,52?	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	2,370	Oil cake	6,356

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done: but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off-nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEESWAX.—Prices are a trifle easier, with a slow trade; sales at 31c. for Western and 31c. for Southern.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,300 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 41,911 do.; same time last year, 19,807 do. Exports of peas past week, 1,488 bu.; since Jan. 1st, 472,514 do.; same time last year, 262,?6?. The demand for medium beans is light; the inquiry is somewhat larger, but buyers, finding higher prices for choice, will not operate freely. The export demand for marrows has revived, and last week's figures are quite strong. White kidneys and pea beans have pretty well run out of stock. Choice red kidneys remain steady; poor, uneven tail lots hard to sell. Further crop reports point to a lighter yield this season. Lima and bush beans nominal. Canadian peas dull at 97c. for bulk and bond, and $1.11 ℔ bbl., free. Green peas being brisk at $1.10@1.1?.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.2?@1.30; fair to good, $1.00@$1.10; prime mediums, $1.0?@1.10; fair to good, 80@90c.; poor, 10@?0c.; prime marrows, $1.45@1.5?; fair to good, $1.20@1.30; prime white kid., $1.40@1.50; other, $1.15@1.25; prime red kidney, $1.40@1.45; other, $1.15@1.25; Lima (Cal.), $2.75@?. Black beans, $?.75@4.0?.

BROOM CORN is neglected and nominal; short, green brush and hurl, 6@8c.; green medium at 5@6c.; red and red tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—State butter has ruled very strong throughout the week. At one time sellers were tempted to demand daily advances. The position of the market during light supplies and fine, cool weather, would have warranted holders in running up figures; but we are rather close to fall for the market to be tampered with, and the present feeling in the trade is to not strain quotations beyond what we advance them this week. The feature of the week is the heavy demand for export use. About all of the old stock of Western has been taken out of market. The exports for the fortnight ending today, are nearly 20,000 pkgs. This is a style of trade that has not favored our market for a very long period. It is not unlikely that low grades of State will find a similar outlet if prices can be made to suit. Some lines of Welsh have been already taken at 25c.; but this is above the grade or view of the general export operators. Pails are not running uniformly fine, and only selections will bring the extreme, but more could be used at full prices. Some of the interior dairy districts now complain of drought, but they have had a long making season, and a good fall yield must not be despaired of yet. Chautauqua Co. is sending some fine, small, fresh-made invoices. Western shippers should not omit cloth in top of firkins. Prime packed Western firkins, 19@20c. for good.

We quote:—Choice pails, 29@30c.; prime, 25@27c.; poor to good, 15@24c.; creamery pails, choice, 30@31c.; good, 28@29c.; sweet cream pails, 25@30c. State firkins, choice, 27@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 27@28c.; fair to prime, 23@26c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 26@27c.; other, 22@24c.; Western creamery, choice, 28@30c.; other, 25@27c.; do. firkins, best, 20@21c.; other, 14@17c.; dairy tubs, choice, 21@23c.; other, 14@16c.; factory choice, 19@21c.; other, 14@16c.

CHEESE.—There has been a stronger export demand for fancy factories, and this grade is a trifle better in price, most sales early were at 9¼c. closing at 9⅜c. The other grades are without change, they being but little wanted.

Fancy factory, 9⅜@9½c.; fine, 9@9¼c.; good and prime, 8@8½c.; fair, 7@7¾c.; do. half-skimmed 5@6c.; do. skimmed, 3@4c. State farm dairy, fancy, 8@8½c.; good to prime, 7@8c.; fair and good, 6@7c. Western factory, good and prime, 7@8c.; fair lots, 6@7c.; co. cheddar, choice, 8c.; do. flat, choice, 8@8½c. Exports past week, 84,900 boxes.

COTTON.—There has been a fair export demand at easier prices. The closing prices are:

Quoted at 11 29-32@11 15-16c. for August; 11 25-32@11 13-16c. for September; 11 17-32@11 9-16c. for October; 11 13-32@11 7-16c. for November; 11 13-32@11 7-16c. for December; 11 17-32@11 9-16c. for January; 11 11-16@11 23-32c. for February; 11 27-32@11⅞c. for March; 12 1-32@12 1-16c. for April; 12 7-32@12¼c. for May; 12 ⅜@12 12-32c. for June; 12⅜@12 17-32 for July.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	Ala.	Orleans.	Texas
Ordinary	9 3-16	9 3-16	9 3-16	9 3-16
Strict ordinary	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 11-16	9 11-16
Good ordinary	10 3-16	10 3-16	10 3-16	10 3-16
Strict good do.	10⅝	10⅝	10 13-16	10 13-16
Low middling	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜
Strict low middling	11 11-16	11 13-16	11 15-16	12 15-16
Middling	12 1-16	12 3-16	12⅜	12⅜
Good middling	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 13-16	12 13-16
Strict good middling	13 1-16	13 3-16	13 5-16	13 5-16
Middling fair	13 7-16	13 9-16	13 11-16	13 11-16
Fair	14 5-16	14 7-16	14 9-16	14 9-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	8 15-16	Low middling	10⅝
Strict ordinary	10	Middling	11⅛

DRIED FRUITS.—There is a light business in job lots of apples at easy prices, quoted at 8@9c. for new Southern quarters. New peeled peaches have sold at 13@15c. as to quality.

Apples—State, sliced, 8@8½c.; do., quarters, 7¾@8½c.; southern sliced, 7½@8c., fancy do. at 10½@11½c.; do., new quarters at 6½c. Blackberries, 7@7½c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 13@15c., as to quality; unpeeled peaches, new, nominal. Plums at 13@15c. Raspberries, 24c. Cherries, 14½@15c.

EGGS.—During the past week the market lost some of its late blue tinge, and though prices have not advanced to ordinary summer firmness, a revived inquiry and better holding weather have given sellers more confidence. The surplus of Western have been marked down. State and New Jersey are wanted. Lots of long collection, however, will not bring the highest rates.

Near points, 17@20c., State and Penn., 17@18c.; Western, prime, 15@15½c.; do. other, 14@14½c.; Canadian, 14@15½c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the latest revised quotations:

Oil peppermint, glass, $3.75; do. tin, $3.90; spearmint, glass, $3.50; do. tin, $2.75; wintergreen, $2.50; sassafras 35c.

FEATHERS.—There has been no movement for many weeks. We quote prime live Western geese, 50@[illegible] do., 30@40c.

FLOUR.—The export trade has been moderate only through the week, and larger supplies coming to hand have forced easier prices.

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3.50@4.25; $4.30@4.60 for very common to fair extra do.; $4.60@4.75 for good extra do.; $4.80@5.15 for fancy do., and $5.30@6.40 for very choice extra; $3.50@4.25 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.30@4.55 for shipping extra do., the inside price for interior, and $4.80@5.50 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.00@6.50; fancy do. $6.75@8.25; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $6.00@7.00, round-hoop Ohio, $4.50@4.85, and trade brands of do. at $5.00@6.55; St. Louis, $4.60@5.00 for common to fair extra, and $6.15@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $4.50@7.10, and patent at $6.40@9.00; unsound stock at from $1.25@5.60; city mills extra at $5.50@5.90; No. 2 at $2.50@3.25. Corn meal—Yellow Western, Jersey and Pennsylvania, $2.60@2.85.

FRESH FRUITS.—Delaware peaches continue to run fine in quality, and though receipts are moderate, sellers have to humor buyers in the plain fruit or that which arrives late in the day. A few New New Jersey run fine, but the dry weather has pinched the crop pretty badly. Apples are extremely cheap, sellers feeling the surplus of even fine fruit in the absence of a shipping demand. Pears are in rather full supply but it is early for free sales. Bartletts thus far have run poor, and where one barrel brings $6 or $7, a half dozen will not exceed the range of $3 or $5. Southern Bartletts not wanted. Crab apples are a neglected item; in fact, they have been for several seasons past. California fruit is not favoring producers this end of the season; almost all of the last arrival of plums and pears was in bad order. Grapes are abundant and low. Plums are improving in quality; poor ones hard to sell. Melons of all kinds low but salable. We quote:

Apples, best, ℔ bbl., $1@1.50; do. common, 62@75c. Peaches, Delaware, fancy, ℔ basket, $1@1.50; fair to good, 50@ 6c.; crates, 75c.@$1.50; N. J., ordinary, baskets, 30@75c.; a few fancy, $1.25@1.50. New Jersey Bartletts, ℔ bbl., fancy, $7; other, $3@5; Southern, $3@6; other good table pears, $2.50@4; cooking pears, $1.50@2; California B. Clairgeau, ℔ box, $1 California plums, ℔ box, choice, $3@9; good, $4@7; poor, $4@5. Grapes—Delaware, ℔ ℔., 8@10c.; Martha, 12@15c.; Concord, 6@7c.; Hartford, 5@6. Whortleberries, ℔ bush., $1.50@1.75. Nutmeg melons, ℔ bbl., 50c.@$1. Watermelons, N. J. and Baltimore, ℔ 100, $8@16. Peanuts dull at $1.40@1.60 for prime to fancy Virginia; common, $1@1.30.

GRAIN.—Although the receipts of wheat are very small, with a light export demand, prices are unsettled, favoring the buyer; the closing transactions are of No 2 Milwaukee spring, steamer grade, at 99c.@$1.03 for ordinary to about good; No. 2 Chicago spring, steamer, at 9?c.@$1; Milwaukee spring, $1.02; new No. 2 red Western, $1.13; very good old amber Michigan, afloat, $1.15; prime new crop red Western, for shipment, $1.15. Rye at 68@70c. for No. 2 Western. Barley is quiet; a car lot of new four-rowed State sold at 75c.; for new crop late September arrivals 90c. offered and up to 95c asked. Corn has a fair export demand at steady prices; latest sales 51@58c for steamer to very choice and ungraded mixed Western, chiefly at 57@58c for good to choice sail, afloat; steamer ungraded, 55@56½c. for about fair to prime afloat, in dull at 56c.; 50@56c. for hot, and 53@55c. for warm; yellow Western at 60@61c., yellow Southern, 59@60½c. white do. on dock, 59c.; New York steamer yellow 59c., New York No. 1, 58c. Oats are in active demand and firm in price; latest sales of No. 2 Chicago quoted at 30@40c. for about fair to prime; new white Western, 35@42½c.; No. 2 Milwaukee fair 38c.; mixed state in store, 40@41½c; new mixed Western, poor to good, 33@38c.; white State, 42@45c.; new crop white Pennsylvania, 38c.

HAY AND STRAW.—Supplies are liberal, but demand is good and prices firm.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60c.; retail qualities 70@90c.; clover, 55@60c.; salt, 55@60c. Straw is quoted at 65@75c. for long rye; 50@55c. for short rye; 40@50c. for oat.

Exports past week 310 bales; since Jan. 1st, 32,678 do., same time last year, 30,725 do.

HIGHWINES.—Higher; held at $1.14@1.14½.

HOPS.—There are small sales of the new crop at 25@35c., according to quality. The general market is moderately active.

N. Y. State, 10@20c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins, 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c. ℔ ℔.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The quality of dressed is still variable, and it is difficult to quote regular prices for fowls. Chickens doing fairly. We quote:

Dry-picked chickens, 20@24c.; scalded, 17@21c.; dry-picked fowls, 16@17c.; scalded, 13@15c.; turkeys, 13@17c. Live poultry is arriving heavily enough to keep prices tame. Still, cheap figures send a good deal into town. We quote spring chicks, near points, 17@18c.; Western, 11@14c.

Fowls, N. J., ℔ ℔. 14@15c.; do. Western, 12@13c. Roosters, 7@8c.; Turkeys, N. J. 13@15c.; do. Western, 1?@14c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1; do. Western, 65@70c.; Geese, N. J., $1.75@2.25; do. Western, 1.25@1.?0.

Grouse will be quotable next week. Woodcock and pigeons unchanged. Stall-fed pigeons, $1.25@1.?7; do. squab, 87c.@$1; tame live pigeons, ℔ pair, 30c. State woodcock, pair, 90c.@$1; Western, 80@90c.

PROVISIONS.—The market generally has been very much depressed and lower. Mess pork quoted at $?.?5 for spot, September and October. Dressed hogs at 7⅜@8½c. Bacon at 9⅝c. for long clear. Western steam lard at $10.95 for spot, August and September deliveries, and $10.42½ for October. Stearine at 13½c. for prime Western tierced. Tallow at 8¼@8 7-16c for prime. Beef hams at $29 for Western. Beef at $9@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, $11@12 for packet, the outside prices for small lots choice. Tierced quoted nominal for prime mess and India mess. City extra India mess at $18@19.

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ℔ ℔., Southern, $1.15@1.30; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, ordinary to refined, 11@18c. ℔ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. unclipped, 50c.@$1; lamb skins, 60@65c.

TOBACCO.—Export trade is fairly active and prices are well maintained.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	6 @ 6½	7 @ 8
Good lugs	7½@ 9	8½@ 9½
Low leaf	9½@10½	10 @11
Medium leaf	11 @12	12 @13½
Good leaf	13 @14	14½@15½
Fine leaf	15 @16	17 @19

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England fine seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	5½@ 8
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—The market is low for potatoes and Western which have been our dependence for the past few weeks, now have to divide up with State and nearer points. Sweets are tending lower. Garden stuff generally favors buyers.

We quote potatoes, ℔ bbl., $2.50@3.; sweet do., $3.50@4. Green corn, ℔ 100, 62@$1. Long Island Tomatoes, ℔ bush., 25@37c.; New Jersey, do., 50c. Marrow squash, bbl., $1.00; Wax beans, bag, $1@1.25; Cucumbers, L. I., ℔ 100, 30c.; Turnips, Russia, ℔ bbl., $1.25@1.75. Cabbages, L. I., $5@? ℔ 100. Onions, $1@1.50 ℔ bbl. Lima beans, ℔ bag, $1.00@1.25. Egg plant, ℔ 100, $4@?.

WOOL.—There has been a liberal inquiry from manufacturers and prices are very strong at an advance. X and XX Ohio fleeces quoted at 40@42c.; Michigan, 38½c.; Eastern Texas, 17@20½c.; Western Texas, 15@23c.

ROCHESTER, Aug. 26.—Flour market active; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $8.75; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.?0. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower. Milwaukee club, $1.10@1.18; amber winter, $1.00@1.05; white winter, $1.05@1.15. Oats, nominal at 30@35c. Corn quiet at 5?@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 18@20c. Cheese, 10@12c. Eggs, 14@15c. Lard, 11½@12½c. Apples bu., 5?@60c. Potatoes, bu., 6?@65c. Beans, ℔ bu., 70c.@$1. Mess pork, $21.00. Wool, 20@25c. Hay, $8@11. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed strong at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ℔ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 26, 1876.

THE tone of the market this week is improved and trade is more brisk than for several weeks past. The cool weather and the greater safety in shipping have doubtless had their influence in rendering trade more active. The prevailing drought and the shortening of the crop of cheese over a wide extent of country is now being considered, and is one of the elements which must enter into the trade. About 500 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on delivery, and sales were made at from 7 to 9c. the bulk going at 8¾ to 8⅞c.

The offerings from factories were large, reaching 13,000 boxes and upward, about 10,000 of which changed hands. The sales ranged from 9 to 10⅛c., the latter being an extreme price. The bulk of sales may be quoted at from 9¼ to 9½c.

We have recent advices from abroad. Our London correspondent says American cheese sells well and the stocks at the wharves are about clear. Imported are firm. New English cheese of good condition is in demand, and Dutch cheese is firm. We give quotations:

American, extra fine, 51@55c., fine, 52@53s.; good, 46@50s.; secondary, 36@41s. English cheddar, 70@83s.; Wiltshire double, 61@72s.; Cheshire medium, 60@68s.; fine, 66@76s.; Scotch, 56@70s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 54@58s.; Goudas, 50@54s.; Derby shape, 54@58s.

The butter market steadily advances, with a prospect of still higher rates. The prices are given as follows:

Clonmels 130@134s.; Corks, 133s.; Jersey, 100@114s.; Limericks, 118s.; Do sets, 150s.; Friesland, 130@133s.; Normandy, extra, 14 s.; American and Canadian, 100@110s. Oleomargarine (artificial butter) sells at from 90 to 100s. ℔ cwt., according to quality.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	3,893	21	1,766	10,470	000
Forty-Eighth St	36	35	912	3,428	000
Fortieth St	000	00	000	000	10,152
Harsimus Cove	4,787	16	28	11,685	7,352
Totals this week	8,716	72	2,696	25,583	17,501
" last week	9,914	86	1,995	29,393	20,854

BEEVES.—Trade on Monday last returned to the same condition as it had been on the previous Monday as to facility of sales, but no improvement on last Friday's rates. The herds to hand ranged from poor to good, being generally coarse grass-fed cattle. Prices were 5½@10¼c. ℔ ℔., with 3 head sold at retail at 11c.; weights, scant 5½@ cwt. Wednesday, trade fair at 7¼@10½c.; weights, 5@8½ cwt. Thursday, trade small at 7½@10c.; weight 5@8½ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 7@10½c. weights, 5½@8½ cwt. From 55@57 ℔s., net have been allowed general sales on 55@56 ℔s. net. Spanish herds direct from the Plains sold at 6½@8½c. ℔ ℔., grass-fed native steers, 7½@9¾c.; part corn-fed do., 9@10c.; grade do., 10¼@11c. Bulls, live weight, sold at $3.80½@3.56½ ℔ cwt. Oxen sold at 7½@8½c. ℔ ℔.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	11 @	11 @
Fair	10¼@10¾	10½@10¾
Poor	9½@10¼	9½@10¼
Poorest	5¼@ 9	5¼@ 9
Gen. selling rates	8 @ 9½	8¼@ 9¼

MILCH COWS.—Trade slow, with a large proportion of the lots to hand unsold; quality generally inferior. Nine cows sold at $40@55 ℔ head. Eight cows at $50@65. Three cows at $65@69. Two cows at $70@72. One cow for $8?.—Calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Coarse quality calves sold at 3½@6c. ℔ ℔., with a few head at 6¼@6¾c. ℔ ℔. Grass-fed calves at $5@10 ℔ head. Smooth quality veals at 7@9c. Trade slow and the animals to hand not cleared off. St. to calves sold at 3½@6¼c. State veals at 8@9c; Pennsylvania do., 7@8¾c.; Jersey do., 7¼@9c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last sheep fell off in feeling and lambs improved about ¼c. ℔ ℔ on all degrees of quality. Sheep sold at 4@5¼c. ℔ ℔., and lambs at 5¾@7¼c.; mixed flocks, 5@5¼c. Wednesday, sheep 4@5¾c.; lambs, 5@7¼c., trade being fair, but not active. Thursday, trade small; sheep, 4@5½c.; lambs, 5@7c. Friday, the markets closed weak; sheep, 4@5½c.; lambs, 5@6¾c. Kentucky sheep sold at 4@6c.; Virginia do., 4@5¼c. State do., including bucks, 4@6¾c.; Ohio do., 4¾@5c.; Indiana do., 5c.; Pennsylvania do., 5@5½c., ℔ ℔. Canada lambs, 6⅞@6¾c.; Jersey do., 7@7¾c. Kentucky do., 6@6½c.; Virginia do., 5@6c.; State do., 5@7c., ℔ ℔.

HOGS.—One single deck of Ohio hogs, average live weight 222 ℔s. ℔ head sold at 6@8½c. ℔ ℔. Trade in city dressed inactive on a light run; extreme range, 7½@8½c. ℔ ℔.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade easier in inferior quality horses. Valuable animals generally held on sale. Thirty poor quality light harness horses sold at $55@79 ℔ head; 31 do., $80@95 ℔ head; 31 ordinary quality do., $110@195 ℔ head; 39 coarse quality heavy draft do., $92@200 ℔ head; 1 choice quality horse, $350; 1 pair of horses, $600. 17 roadsters, with moderate trotting action, but not warranted sound, $200@350 ℔ head; 2 pairs stylish carriage horses, $1,200@1,800 ℔ pair.

New Advertisements.

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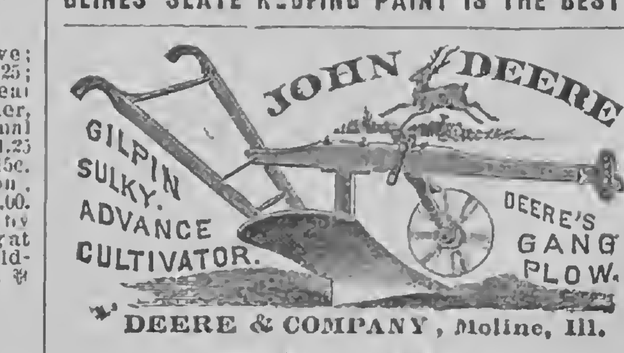

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

GEORGE ELIOT'S father was a Dissenting clergyman.

COFFINS for birds, cats, dogs and other pets are sold in New York.

A CHINESE epicure affirms that rats' hams are perfectly delicious.

DANIEL WEBSTER'S old yacht, the Lapwing, is still afloat at Marshfield.

PRESIDENT ELIOT of Harvard College is yachting along the coast of eastern Maine.

A VERMONT jury now decide for the third time that larger beer is not intoxicating.

PROF. PETERS is now discovering planets and asteroids to order. Any more left, Professor?

N. B.—"Colonel Anthony" nominated for Governor of Kansas is not Susan B., it's her brother.

PICKLES, said to be superior to cucumbers, are put up in Florida from the pith of the palmetto roots.

A. S. ABELL, proprietor of the Baltimore Sun, is seventy years old, and is said to possess $10,000,000.

COLONEL VEST of Missouri, expects to be elected, provided, of course, there are no breeches in his party.

THE dory Centennial is safe on the other side. Now for the next seeker after fame at the risk of his life.

QUEEN ISABELLA, when leaving Paris for Spain, sent $1,000 to the Prefect of the Seine for the poor of the city.

SENATOR BAYARD received the honorary degree of LL.D. at the recent commencement of Delaware State College.

CHARLEY ROSS will be big enough to find himself one of these days, consolingly observes a New Orleans paper.

GEN. SICKLES, ex-Minister to Spain, has sold his establishment in Paris, preparatory to returning to America.

BOSTON CORBETT, the soldier who shot Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Lincoln, is now a hatter in Cleveland, Ohio.

THE Brooklyn Argus suggests that the reports of the atrocities in Bulgaria read like one of Morton's speeches.

MRS. W. H. F. LEE, daughter-in-law of the late General R. E. Lee, is reputed to be the handsomest lady in Virginia.

THE cable across the East River is one of the "sights" which Centennial visitors are expected to describe when they return.

EDITH MAY, the Survivor of the Mohawk disaster, is spoken of as "the most observed and handsomest lady" at White Sulphur Springs.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S speech said nothing so very gracefully that it is a pity she can't live forever and repeat the performance twice a year.

GEORGE W. SMALLEY is mentioned as a possible editor of the Tribune—after Mr. Reid steps down and out and the tall tower is struck by lightning.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON makes almost as much money from his apple-orchard, which he manages with rare ability, as he does from his books.

THE Hon. Joseph R. Underwood, ex-United States Senator from Kentucky, died at his residence in Bowling Green, yesterday, aged 86 years.

WHEN a Saratoga lady called her son to account because he had a golden hair on the lapel of his coat, he explained that his girl had put a head on him.

GEORGE H. LEWES writes very little now-a-days. Well, why should he, with a wife making $80,000 a year? If anybody can afford to be a philosopher, he can.

THE ice-cream and soda business is a little off, and thicker clothing for morning and evening is called for. But the warm weather isn't over, by any means.

THE aristocratic tastes of Newport sojourners were gratified the other day by the presence of five noblemen, who took part in a single figure of the German.

SOL SMITH RUSSELL, the comedian, who is playing with the Berger family, is to be married next month to a daughter of William L. Adams ("Oliver Optic") of Boston.

JOSEPH PITMAN, the last survivor of Napoleon's custodians at St. Helena, has died in England in his ninety-third year, having been a pensioner for full fifty years.

IT is said the Emperor William of Germany will have been seventy years in military life on New Year's Day, 1877. He entered the army before he was ten years old.

DEALERS in military equipments are not generally warlike men, and yet, in making out their bills for regimental outfits, they never hesitate to charge bayonets.

THE passion for croquet is increasing in the rural mind. Two Western New York girls, during the absence of materfamilias, sawed off the tops of their bedposts, for balls.

THE Italian Minister of Public Instruction, on the re-opening of the Chamber of Deputies, after the recess, will bring forward a bill establishing elementary education in Italy.

MISS MOLLIE C. MORTON, the Louisville belle, with whom the Grand Duke Alexis fell so madly in love, has gone and married J. B. C. Lucas, one of the rich Lucases of St. Louis.

THE heart of Gen. Butler leaps with joy at the thought that the American flag, which he manufactures, protected the Fenian prisioners. He believes in the protection which the flag affords, and that other protection which the nation affords his bunting.

OIL wells are so thick that, in some parts of Pennsylvania, it isn't safe for a stranger to venture forth alone after dark without a liberty pole strapped across his shoulders.

MR. G. W. SMALLEY, the London representative of the New York Tribune, and Mr. Halstead of the Cincinnati Commercial, are visiting in Springfield, the guests of Mr. Bowles.

PROF. HUXLEY reaches this country just in time to settle the controversy as to whether a mosquito dips its siphon into a Jerseyman for the purpose of extracting his blood or his applejack.

A LITTLE girl was asked what was the meaning of the word happy. She gave a very pretty answer, saying, "It is to feel as if you wanted to give up all your things to your little sister."

"How to Get Rid of a Cold" is being discussed by the country papers. Put a little nitro-glycerine up your nose, then hit it with a sledge hammer, and the cold will never trouble you again.

MONSIGNOR CAPEL, preaching lately at St. Alexander's Church, Bootle, on the confessional, said that he had never heard in confession the "least thing that might not be proclaimed on the housetops."

LA SPELTERINI, the adventurous woman who has been walking across the Niagara on a tight rope, is said to be something of a blue stocking, speaking five languages and reading Latin and Greek.

JUSTICE has recovered her eyesight at last. A lightning-rod man fell from a ladder in Laurel county the other day, and was so completely demolished that it is thought lightning must have struck him.

GRINNELL, Iowa, has hit upon a happy plan for the treatment of tramps. A gang of them were put to work on a new church, and ever since that they and their friends have given the place the grand good-by.

A CURIOUS book is about to be published. It was written by a Chinese mandarin, and records his impressions during a visit to England. Its title is, "Ah chin Le on the Civilization of the Western Barbarians."

THE Bostonian is not naturally a holy being, but he very justly flares up when he goes into a photograph gallery and is informed by the operator that in order to secure a good likeness he must first wash his face.

SERGEANT BATES has done a good many acts of daring bravery in his life-time; but we'll venture a new hat that he daren't walk into the rooms of the American Embassy at London and ask if "Mr. Munson Pierpont" is in.

WE have no doubt of it. Neuralgia in the faces and heads of women is largely on the increase, and the physicians say it is due to the inferior protection afforded by the mode in which women now cover their heads.

SANTANTA, the aged Kiowa chief, now confined in the Texas Penitentiary, was so overjoyed on hearing of the slaughter of Custer and his command that he begged to be allowed to go to the assistance of Sitting Bull, and could hardly conceal his rage when his request was denied.

A NEW LONDON vessel was recently boarded at sea by the Colorado beetle in such numbers as to necessitate a closing of the hatches. Upon being informed, however, that there were no potatoes on board, the bugs merely gave the captain a reprimand, and started out to wait for another vessel.

ACCORDING to a Louisville paper this is the way a Kentucky candidate for office greets a voter: "Howdy, howdy, howdy?" "Howdy?" "How do you do?" "Tollable." "How's all?" "Tollable." "Your folks well?" "Tollable: how's yourn?" "Tollable." "All for me, this time?" "Sorter tollable."

WHEN the last rose of summer
Is faded and gone,
And the blue-bottle hummer
Lies dead as a stone:
When the mud-bugs and slingers
Take umbrage and go;
Oh! tell us, why lingers
The wild mus-qui-to!

A MAINE Universalist minister, advertising for a lost pocket-book containing $8, said:—"The person who has it knows whose it is, because my name is in it, and if honest will return it. If not, he will, of course, keep it and accept my advice to use the money for the purpose of a stool of repentance that is charged with ignitible brimstone."

PHILADELPHIA people complain that the Thomas concerts are not well attended in that city. It is the fault of the Thomases themselves, then. We and our neighbors own four, of the ordinary woodshed variety, and when they give a concert at night every man within two miles of the house gets up and cries and swears, and wrings his hands and walks the floor, and we haven't kindled a fire this summer with anything but the strange bootjacks we pick up in the back yard every morning.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

COLONEL H. C. BROCKMEYER, the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant-Governor of Missouri, had a classical education at Brown University; went west; lost his money by a bank failure; then for three years lived in a hut of his own building in the woods, supporting himself by shooting game; then learned the trade of a moulder, and, after saving $800, went back to his hut, bought a section of land and lived there for several years, at a cost of $12.50 a year. He is a master of six trades, and introduced smoking into the Senate of Missouri.

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the only Plowing Machine that has proved a perfect success in all kinds of soil. Any kind of plow can be attached. The plowman rides and handles the plow with ease, regulating the depth and width of furrow. The draft for the team is materially less, and the ordinary laborious mode of plowing is reduced to one of comfort and ease.

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FLAX, TIMOTHY, MILLET, HUNGARIAN and like seeds, are threshed, separated, cleaned and saved, as easily and perfectly as Wheat, Oats, Rye or Barley.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer. It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.*

Young Buggist.—The great shining black and lazy beetle which you found in an old rotten stump and send us in a box, is the Horned Passalus, (*Passalus cornutus*). We give the accompanying portrait to help some other young bug or beetle hunter to recognize him. This beetle is not injurious to vegetation, but might with propriety be termed beneficial, for it helps to convert old half-rotten logs and stumps into vegetable mold, which, in its turn, becomes the food of growing plants. It does not attack dry timber, but only that which is so far decayed as to absorb and hold considerable moisture. They are very common in almost all parts of the country and there is scarcely a State in the Union from which we have not received specimens of the Horned Passalus.

C. W. Mallory, Smith's Ranch, Cal.—From week to week I notice "Answers to Correspondents," and as I desire information, I take the liberty to address you, asking name of plant inclosed. I send leaf and seed stalk. Stock seem to be very fond of the plant. The plant in this dry country keeps green the entire year. Can you tell me where I would be likely to obtain the seed? Do you think it would be good for milch cows? I have only a few plants, and cannot obtain seed in this vicinity. Please answer by letter or through the RURAL, at your earliest convenience, and greatly oblige an old subscriber to your valuable paper. ANS.—*Plantago lanceolata*, the Lance-leaved Plantain. This weed is a pest with us, though it is seldom we meet this species with so wide a blade. The familiar names are Rib Grass, English and Buckhorn Plantain.

Medical works say that the leaves are saline, bitterish—the roots sweetish. It has been recommended in ulcers of various kinds and in tumors of a scrofulous character. It is still used as a vulnerary and as a dressing for blisters and sores.

THURBER'S Darlington says:—The seeds being nearly the same size and weight as those of the red clover, they cannot be readily separated—and thus the two plants are disseminated together in the culture of clover. Nearly all kinds of stock eat this Plantain freely, and it has even been cultivated expressly for a sheep pasture; but it is generally much disliked in Pennsylvania.

SHAKSPEARE says in *Romeo and Juliet:*

Rom.—Your *Plantain leaf* is excellent for that.

Ben.—For what, I pray thee?

Rom.—For your broken *shin.*

Ben.—Why, ROMEO, art thou mad!

We know not how healing it may be for ulcers and broken shins—but as to its cultivation, we commend you to patience. Having it already among you, a few seasons will supply all the seeds, if not all the plants, that you will need for any purpose whatsoever.

Subscriber.—Are all varieties of Dracænas raised from canes? If *D. indivisa* is raised from seed, where can it be procured? Also, where can the canes be obtained? Is *Latania Borbonica* raised from seed? If so, where can it also be had? What is the difference between Tacsonias and Passifloras? Please answer through RURAL. ANS.—We do not suppose you can procure canes of Dracænas without purchasing the plants. The whole stems are stripped of leaves and placed in sand-beds. Each joint or node will form roots in a month or more. Or the canes may be cut up in pieces two or three inches long and treated in the same way. Or they may be propagated by tying moss about the stems, a very good method likewise of shortening their legs when this has become necessary by the lower leaves falling off. They are not all raised from canes. *D. indivisa* may be raised from seed, which, with those of *Latania Borbonica*, are offered by several English seedsmen—E. G. HENDERSON of London, for instance.

Tacsonias and *Passifloras* are species very nearly related under the order *Passifloreæ.*

B. A. C., Titusville.—I wish to remove an Arbor Vitæ hedge from the southern to the northern boundary of my premises. The hedge is three feet high and was planted three years ago. Will you advise me when to transplant and if it be necessary to provide new soil for the new trench? How deep ought it to be made. ANS.—It might be transplanted now, if great care were exercised and the plants sufficiently watered, but not later. We advise you to wait until early spring. It is not necessary to provide new soil, though advantageous to do so if obtainable without too much trouble and cost. The trench should be dug at least two feet deep. Use your best soil next to the roots. Preserve balls of earth about them if possible.

H. E. M.—I have a cellar floor which was cemented six months ago. The cement does not set thoroughly. What would you advise? What proportion of sand and cement is best? Is there any choice in sand? ANS.—A mistake sometimes made by inexperienced persons in the use of cement is that too large quantities are mixed at one time. The result is it sets before all can be used. It is a good deal more trouble to mix cement in small quantities than it is in large. Hence indifferent or ignorant workmen adopt the easier course. Supposing the cement used to be fresh and good, three parts of sand are not too many for one of cement. It should be mixed rapidly and used as soon as possible. Coarse, sharp sand is the best. Lifeless, clayey sand is quite inferior.

We would advise you to procure freshly-made cement, coarse, sharp sand, and mix in the above proportions, viz., one part of cement to three of sand, and spread it over your cellar as it is—being first careful to wash the old surface as clean as possible.

Young Farmer.—The Beet-root sugar industries in this country are in a better condition this season than they have been for several years past, but we would advise you to proceed slowly if intending to invest a large amount in this enterprise. Better visit the manufactory at Freeport, Ill., or even go to California and see what has been done there. You will thus learn the mistakes of others, and with this knowledge can avoid making the same yourself. Of course it looks well on paper to say that 3,000,000 pounds of sugar were manufactured from beets at Sacramento, but these simple statements give us no information as to the cost or profits.

Smoker.—It may be true, as has often been stated, that during the visitation of "the great plague" in London in 1664-5 the tobacconists all escaped the scourge, but that would not be a reasonable excuse for a person or people to use the weed when there was no plague about. It is well known that smoke is a preventive, in a measure at least, of contagious diseases, and the Londoners at the time named used fumigation with good effect. But whether the smoke from burning tobacco is any more efficacious than that from other weeds or from wood is a question not as yet fully decided.

Florist.—Double tuberoses frequently revert back to their single form. This usually occurs when the tubers are planted in a poor soil, or in seasons of severe drought, but the young offsets from such bulbs will produce double flowers if given sufficiently stimulating manures. The single flower is the natural one, the double having been produced by high culture.

Inquirer.—We have often seen notices in the Western papers of a fruit called "Solanum, or Nightshade Berries," but in none of them was the scientific name of the plant given. Now, the name "Solanum Berry" may be appropriately applied to the fruit of any of the hundred species of Solanaceæ, among which are the potato, tomato, egg-plant, Jerusalem cherry, peppers, and so on almost without end. We suppose, however, that the plant to which the correspondents of our Western contemporaries refer is some one of the half-dozen or more species of *Physalis*, or Ground Cherry. The old *Physalis Alkekengi*, or Strawberry Tomato, which was introduced here from Europe many years since, has had some reputation as an edible fruit, and the plants have run wild in some localities. The *P. viscosa*, or Clammy Ground Cherry, grows wild all over the Western and Eastern States, the berries being yellow and somewhat clammy when ripe. It is a sweetish fruit, frequently eaten by children, and is harmless. Perhaps this is the "Solanum" so much talked of; but we can only guess at it, because there are a half-dozen other species with somewhat similar fruit.

W.—What is the difference between Pelargoniums and Geraniums? Are they so mixed up that the one cannot be determined from the other by hybridization? ANS.—No, they are *not* mixed up by hybridization, and it is the fault of catalogues that this ambiguity exists. We gave the distinctions in an article which will be found in our issue of May 8, 1875, and to which W. is referred. We need only add that *all* of the tender plants offered by florists under the name of *Geraniums* are *Pelargoniums.*

PLEASE NOTICE.—The note at the head of these columns has been rendered necessary for the reason that we are constantly receiving questions and other communications not accompanied with the writers' name or address. Not only are the name and address essential to protect us from imposition, but it is not unfrequently the case that we wish to communicate with our correspondents.

Hereafter our friends may know that we shall not answer questions or publish MSS. unless the above requirements be complied with.

Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

To Market Gardeners.

We call the attention of all interested to the Bloomsdale Early Market Cabbage, of which we this season offer seed at $5 per lb.—also the Jersey Wakefield at $3—raised by ourselves and of *superior quality.*

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☞ Our list of Seasonable Seeds will be mailed to all who apply.

30,000 APPLE TREES, VERY FINE, 5 to 7 feet, leading varieties, at $60 ₩ M. Also Cherry, Plum and Pear Trees.
Address BRYANT BRO'S, Dansville, N. Y.

EVERGREENS FOR HEDGING.

Fine and reasonable. During the month of September is a good time to transplant Evergreens. Also general nursery stock for sale. Address
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Apples, including Tetofski and Marengo, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Currants, Wild Goose Plums, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Strawberries, etc.
We are prepared to offer inducements, and solicit correspondence.
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CENTENNIAL SEED WHEAT—CLAWSON and FULTZ Varieties the best. Send stamp for sample and description. B. L. WOOD,
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JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y.

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White Leghorns

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VIRGINIA FARMS.—Tracts of 30 to 300 acres; good improvements. Also houses and lots in the growing town of Ashland, Hanover Co., on R. R. from Washington to Richmond; healthy, delightful climate; great bargains. *T. J. Wooldridge*, Ashland, Va.

Traveler's Guide.

CALIFORNIA.

Have you any thought of going to California?
Are you going West, North or Northwest?
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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—With its full corps of editors, and a new publisher of energy and ability, the management propose to celebrate the quarter-centennial of the pioneer RURAL in such a manner as to augment its popularity and usefulness. For a first-class, lively paper, containing matter of interest for all classes, take the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and do so at once, for the paper never was better, and its prospects never brighter.—*Freeport (Ill.) Journal.*

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—This king of Agricultural papers has entered upon its twenty-sixth year, under the most favorable auspices. It is the determination of its publishers to furnish a brighter and better paper than ever. In style, type, matter and editorial ability, there is no paper of its kind that at all compares with it.—*Trempealeau (Wis.) Republican.*

Wit and Humor.

REVENGE!

CHAPTER I.

"This, then, Miss Banks, is your final answer."

"Irrevocably so," was the proud reply.

CHAPTER II.

They made a pretty picture standing in the doorway of her father's mansion; he, the Captain of the Melon Stealers, tall, strong of limb, and the hero of his little first base in many a hot-contested game. She, the fair daughter of the banker, who had wagered the entire assets of the bank and the deposits of many a poor man on the return game between the Moth Eradicators and the home club on the following day. Our hero's answer came hot and quick:

"Then," cried he, "to-morrow's setting sun will shine upon the beggar daughter of a ruined man! It rests with me to throw the game on which your proud father's wealth is staked. You have to-night settled your own fate. So be it. Good night."

And turning himself seven times round on his heel, at the same time boring a large hole in the hall carpet, Mose Fitz Allen was gone.

CHAPTER III.

Prominent among the immense crowd assembled on the grounds is the pale face of Amelia Banks. The Moth Eradicators are at the bat on the last half of the ninth inning, with two men out and one man on the third, and the score stands 53 to 53. "Will that man get in?" is the breathless question which pervades the scene. Mose Fitz Allen, standing on the first base, mutters, "Now for revenge! Now do I give the thing away! Ah!" and his face was, distorted with passion, like a mud ball dried in the sun. "Two strikes!" yells the umpire. The batter must hit it next time. He does hit it, and a fly mounts and descends beautifully to Fitz Allen. "Take it, Mose!" goes out from the throat of Banker Banks and from hundreds of his friends. "Not if Mose is thoroughly acquainted with himself," is his low response, as the ball passes through his hands and the man on third goes home. Score, 54 to 53.

CHAPTER IV.

Two months later finds Amelia Banks taking in plain sewing, her father the janitor of the Oil Exchange, and Mose, though somewhat troubled in mind, still taking his beer.—*Oil City Derrick.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A FEATHERED fraud—the gull.

BUSINESS CIRCLES—The wheels of trade.

WHEN a half dozen people are to dine upon a quarter of lamb, what's the proper time to dine? Why, a quarter before six, of course.

REPARTEE.—"Please accept a lock of my hair," said a bachelor to a widow, handing her a large curl. "Sir," she replied, "you had better give the whole wig." "Madam," he responded, "you are very biting indeed, considering that your teeth are porcelain."

"LOOK here, 'Squire, whar was you born?" inquired a Yankee of a five minutes' acquaintance. "I was born," said the victim, "in Boston, Tremont street, No. 44, left hand side, on the first day of August, 1820, at 5 o'clock in the evening. Physician, Dr. Warren; nurse, Sally Benjamin." For a moment the Yankee was bewildered by the thoroughness of the reply, but only for a moment, and he said, "Yeas; waal, I calculate you don't recollect whether it was a frame or a brick building, du yeou?"

A CERTAIN Cincinnati wag lately distinguished himself in New York. Dining at a noted restaurant, he read on the bill of fare a request to the guests to report "any want of attention." He sent for the landlord and with an aggrieved air pointed out the notice. "Has there been any want of attention?" queried the landlord. "Has there!" echoed the wag, indignantly; "I should think there has. I have been here 15 minutes and no one has had the politeness to ask me to take a drink!" Boniface, fully appreciating the joke, at once opened a bottle of champagne.

CRUMS FOR EDITORS.—"Tommy, my son, what are you going to do with that club?" "Send it to the editor, of course." "But what are you going to send it to the editor for?" "'Cause he says if anybody will send him a club, he will send them a copy of his paper" The mother came near fainting, but recovered herself sufficiently to ask, "But, Tommy, dear, what do you suppose he wants with a club?" "Well, I don't know," replied the urchin," unless it is to knock down subscribers as don't pay for their papers. I suppose there are plenty of such mean people." That boy stands a chance for the Presidency, if he lives.

1776. 1876.

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RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

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Field Crops.

COMFREY AS A FORAGE PLANT.

SEVERAL of our foreign exchanges have of late had considerable to say about the value of Prickly Comfrey (*Symphytum asperrimum*) as a forage plant. Specimens were exhibited at the late Royal Show at Birmingham, Eng., and it is reported that they attracted considerable attention. One of our exchanges, in commenting upon the exhibit, says that "it is expected to take a very prominent place among forage plants, and is said to have produced 120 tons per acre, and to be a great preventive of foot-and-mouth disease."

It is spoken of as a *new* plant, although it is known to have been introduced into England from the Caucasian mountains in 1749. Now, while we have no desire to create a furore over this claimed-to-be valuable forage plant, still it is probably well enough to let our readers know that there is a prospect of its becoming, to a certain extent, popular in this country. We cannot, however, speak quite so enthusiastically of it as a correspondent of the English Live Stock Journal, who says that it "will, without doubt, become one of the best summer forage plants grown, if not *the* best, both in quality and quantity."

Why this plant has remained so long almost entirely neglected by our agriculturists is rather surprising, inasmuch as nearly all the "Farmers' Cyclopedias" published during the past fifty years speak highly of the nutritious properties of this species of Comfrey. Both its roots and stems are very farinaceous, and are greedily eaten by our pigs and sheep. The root is tuberculated, thick and fleshy. The stems are somewhat prickly and grow from six to ten feet high. The leaves are rough-stalked, heart-shaped, broad, tapering to a point, and of a bluish-green color. The flowers are cylindrical, with a campanulated inflated limb, and have a changeable bluish-red color, and appear continually throughout the entire summer.

The propagation is very simple. The roots being taken up in spring, cut into very small pieces and either sown in drills or planted in hills, as with the common potato. The leaves and stems are relished by cows, and may be used instead of corn for soiling, as they impart no bad flavor to the milk. The leaves are said, by Dr. GEORGE JOHNSTON, to give a grateful flavor to cakes, and to be, when boiled, an excellent vegetable. They should be gathered while young, when they form a good substitute for spinach.

Prof. JAMES BUCKMAN, who has made many valuable observations on grasses and other plants especially serviceable to the farmer, observes that while this plant was growing in his garden, he used to amuse himself by taking branches of it to the cows, and that it was highly amusing to see how soon they surrounded him and how eagerly they ate the plants. Dr. VOELCKER, who analyzed this Comfrey, both in its fresh and dry state, declared it to be his opinion that it was a very nutritious forage plant.

Probably many of our readers are familiar with what is called the Common Comfrey, so frequently seen by the roadsides and in old gardens in the Eastern States. This Common Comfrey is known botanically as *Symphytum officinale* or, to put it in plain English, Medicinal Comfrey. The roots contain a large quantity of mucilage, and are frequently employed for the same purposes as flaxseed, slippery-elm bark and gum arabic to allay irritation of the throat, or, to use an old phrase, "griefes of the lungs."

The flowers of the Common Cymfrey are of a dirty-yellowish color, and those of the Prickly a blue and red, which is sufficient to enable one to distinguish the two species, if there were no other marked characteristics, still it is the opinion of some very good authorities that they are one and the same, or that the Prickly Comfrey is only a variety of the Common.

Prof. BUCKMAN on this point says: "On introducing the *S. asperrimum* to my botanical garden, it struck me that notwithstanding the latter is known as a Caucasian species, which was introduced as a garden plant on account of the beautiful color of its flower-bells, yet that the former scarcely presented those marked differences which should belong to species. I therefore determined to plant some specimens of *S. officinale*, concluding that if I could get a plant from the waterside to grow in an upland district, remote from water, so great a change of circumstances would at least exert great influence upon its growth. Accordingly, a plant with white bells was introduced into the botanic garden, which at once grew abundantly, and, the following year, was subdivided into several sets which flowered; but this season, the flowers became stained with a dull, reddish-blue tinge, and each season great changes have gone on in this plant, so that, in fact, in the summer of 1853, it was scarcely distinguishable from the Prickly Comfrey."

There is little doubt of the identity of the two species, and if any of our readers have either growing in their neighborhood, we should be pleased to receive leaves and flower of the same, in order to pursue our investigation further in this direction.

PRICKLY COMFREY.

BLOOMSDALE SEED FARM.

MANY readers of the RURAL who annually procure seed from the various dealers, have little conception of the immensity of the plan upon which they are produced or the great care, skill and study exercised in their production. As an example we cite the business of D. Landreth & Sons, the well known seedsmen of Philadelphia. The head of this firm, Mr. David Landreth, is a hale, hearty old gentleman of nearly eighty, whose kindly disposition beams upon every feature of his face. Spending the larger part of his time upon the Bloomsdale Farm among the growing crops and in enjoyment of the elegant surroundings of foliage and lawns, would tend to civilize the savage and how much more the one who was born and reared for no ordinary niche in the social world. One of the most active members of the firm is Burnet Landreth, lately so well known as Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture at the Centennial Exhibition, whom many Exhibitors and visitors have cause to thank for his untiring energy, his extreme courtesy and his never failing watchfulness in that department while it has been resting under a cloud of neglect and adverse prejudice at the hands of the Commission, which would have long since discouraged a less determined and conscientious worker.

But of the farm. A drive around it was sufficient to demonstrate Messrs. Landreths' skill and ability in its management. The long perfect rows of vegetables must afford intense satisfaction to any observer who enjoys the beauty of mathematical exactness, and their extent was impressive even to one accustomed to seeing vegetables raised on a large scale. Two hundred acres of cabbage, two hundred more of turnips, sixty acres of onions, the same of beets, forty acres of tomatoes, and other varieties in proportion—it would seem that these might furnish seed for the nation.

The object of greatest interest, however, was the experimental field, containing eighty varieties of small grains in cultivation. The seed for these grains was collected at a great expense of time and money, much of it having been imported directly from Greece, France, Russia and other foreign countries. Below we give a list of the varieties, with the numbers of the plots and dates of planting:

Sown September 20th, 1875.—1, Clawson; 2, Deihl White; 3, Treadwell; 4, Shumaker; 5, Muskingum; 6, Post; 7, Arnold's Gold Medal; 8, Mediterranean; 9, Fultz Winter; 10, Michigan Wick; 11, Jennings' White Winter; 12, White Rogers. Sowed September 21st.—13, Tappahannock; 14, Amber; 15, Kentucky; 16, Arnold's Hybrid; 17, Red May; 18, Louisiana. Sowed September 29th.—19, Grecian White; 20, Silver Chaff Fall; 21, Rough Chaff; 22, Hertz White; 23, Victoria; 24, Hallet's Pedigree Hunter's White; 25, Chidam; 26, Fenton; 27, Trump; 28, Kessingland; 29, Browick; 30, Lomis; 31, Golden Drop; 32, Nursery; 33, Hallet's English Pedigree; 34, Russian; 35, Dolt; 36, Walla-Walla; 37, April; 38, Red Russian Bearded; 39, Chila; 40, Oregon Club; 41, Clawson. Sowed November 1st—42, Landomer; 43, De Frankenstein; 44, De Culm; 45, Regenere de Klapkebrun; 46, De la prevote ou du prieure; 47, Empereur; 49, Siegle nhover de Valdin. Sowed October 18th.—54, White Rye; 55, Winter Rye. Sown in greenhouse December 9th.—50, Crimea; 51, Besavobia; 52, Padolic. Sown in greenhouse January 19th, 1876.—53, Arnold's. Sowed April 12th.—56, Milo de Grece; 57, Abevie de Grece; 58, Drynia de Grece Vil; 59, Elutei. Sowed April 19th.—58½, Golden Drop Manitowoc; 59½; Spring.

Barley sown April 11th, 1876.—60, Probsteier; 61, Oregon; 62, Australian; 63, Ushank; 64, Cheyney; 65, American; 66, Hallet's Pedigree Chevalier; 67, Page's Prolific; 68, Scotch Chevalier.

Oats sown April 12th, 1876.—69, Probsteier; 70, Holbeck's Pedigree Canadian; 71, Oregon, 72, Virginia Winter; 73, Mississippi; 74, Hallet's Pedigree, Black Tartar; 75, Excelsior; 76, Sandy; 77, Hull-less. Sowed April 12th.—78, Waterloo; 79, Potato; 80, Extra Early English Manitowoc.

The seeds were planted in drills eighteen inches apart, and were carefully cultivated with the horse hoe—one-eighth of an acre being devoted to each variety. Of wheat, the seeds for Nos. 42-52 inclusive, were imported from France, and Nos. 56-59 from Greece, No. 20 was from Rennie of Toronto, and 21 from H. & W., Lon-

don; 58½ was from Manitowoc, Wis., and 59½ from A. L. Murdock of Massachusetts. The different varieties presented very marked differences in both appearance and quality. The Clawson, No. 1, seemed to be decidedly the best, the straw being strong, the stools large, and the heads long, well filled and heavy. Hallet's Pedigree, No. 24, was also very fine, some of the heads measuring eight inches in length. The seed for this lot was raised by Mr. Landreth in 1875. Hallett's Pedigree, No. 33, was from seed imported from England, and the crop was not nearly so good as No. 24. The same difference was noticed in several other varieties, the crop from raised seed in this country being much better than that from the same variety imported last year. The French varieties were most of them badly winter-killed, and promise to be of but little value.

Walla-Walla, No. 36, was from Oregon, from a crop which yielded eighty-five bushels per acre, but the change of climate seemed to weaken its vitality, and the heads were poor and scattering. The Oregon Club, No. 40, was also badly injured. April, No. 37, is a spring wheat but was sowed in the fall. Most of it was killed by the cold, but the few remaining heads were very good. Dolt, No. 35, a wheat which originated in Pennsylvania, appeared to be nearly or quite the best of the native varieties.

The Hallet's Pedigree wheat, oats and barley are the result of many years of selection and cultivation by Major Hallet, of Brighton, England, and show the beneficial results of careful treatment, all of them being far above the average.

The firm of Landreth & Sons is the oldest in the seed business in America, having been established nearly one hundred years ago, and they are as well the largest seed growers in the world, cultivating nearly two thousand acres of vegetables yearly. The Bloomsdale farm is only one of the four owned by the firm, the others being located in New Jersey, Virginia and Wisconsin. These different farms are devoted to the cultivation of such seeds as may be best perfected in the different localities. About four hundred hands are constantly employed, while at particular seasons this force is largely increased.

Twenty-one tenement houses have been erected on the Bloomsdale farm for their accommodation, so that the workmen form quite a community by themselves. A large portion of the manure for the home farm is brought from Philadelphia by boats, but in addition to this supply, steam mills have been erected for grinding bones and manufacturing commercial fertilizers, which are used for special crops. In 1815, over $20,000 was expended for manures for the home farm, besides which thirty men and five boats were engaged in collecting Menhaden fish on the coast of Virginia the annual application on that plantation being about 7,000,000 fish.

Eleven large barn-like structures are used at Bloomsdale as drying houses for seeds, and all the implements used are manufactured on the farm.

The residences of David Landreth and his son, Burnet Landreth, stand on a thirty-acre lawn, fronting the Delaware river, and are among the most pleasantly located suburban residences we have ever seen. The grounds are beautifully laid out, and are planted with one of the finest collections of trees in this country. The entire collection embraces over twelve hundred varieties, and is especially rich in conifers, having many large and finely grown specimens of varieties which are extremely rare in this country.

Farm Economy.

PURE AND IMPURE WATER.

If there is any one subject connected with agriculture which requires more attention than another it is that of pure water for stock. We believe that many of the virulent diseases known under such names as Black-leg and Murrain of various kinds frequently if not always have their origin in impure water which the animals are compelled to drink. In many localities in this country a "mud hole" filled with stagnant rain water is the only source of supply for farm animals during the long hot summer, and it is no wonder that diseases of various kinds follow such treatment. The Farmers Gazette in treating of this subject tells some wholesome truths which it would be well for our farmers to heed. Although we have had of late some rain, which has certainly done much good, there is still a great scarcity of water in many pastures. We do not think that sufficient care is usually taken to provide against such a contingency, or to husband supplies of water, when these are apt to fail in seasons of drought. We know that some maintain that sheep do not require water when on grass; but this is a great mistake, especially when the weather is so excessively hot and parching as we have recently experienced

During a hot, dry summer which occurred some years ago we found that in an extensive sheep grazing district ewes and lambs were in much better condition when they had full access to pure, running streams than was the case when the sheep pastures were not so well provided; the grass in both cases being in an equally burnt-up condition. But even when the weather has been cooler, the want of pure water in abundance tells on the health of sheep, just as it does on the health of cattle; and as over-wet pastures have their own peculiar diseases, in like manner over-dry pastures engender disease which not unfrequently is attributed to other causes.

A friend of ours, who took an interest in such matters, measured, one hot summer the water consumed daily by a lot of cattle, and as it had to be pumped for them, the quantity used was easily ascertained. The result of his observations was that thirty-six head of cattle consumed daily about 900 gallons of water. Now, bearing this fact in mind, what must be the state of cattle carried by railway and steamboat, when they are confined for twenty-four hours, and in some instances for periods varying in length up to sixty hours, without getting a drop of water all the time, not to speak of the terrible shaking which cattle experience during a journey by rail, and the fatigue caused by their being unable to lie down? Is it possible that animals treated in this way can arrive at the end of their journey in a healthy state, or that their flesh can be in a wholesome state for use as human fo ?

Every medical man knows that impure water is a fertile source of disease in human beings, and innumerable outbreaks of disease of a typhoid nature have been distinctly traced to this cause. In India the use of impure water is certain to be followed by choleraic disease. In the fatal march from Mhow the connection between the outbreak of cholera in the troops and the quality of water they drank was easily perceived. Nothing but the raging thirst, which well nigh maddened the men, would have tempted them to drink the water procured on the line of march. But they were forced to choose between an intolerable craving for water and running the risk of catching choleraic disease, and they chose the latter. Within twenty-four hours nearly all who had indulged freely in drinking the impure water were prostrated with cholera, and died in the proportion of eight to ten.

There does not exist two sets of sanitary principles, one affecting human beings and the other the beasts of the field. Impure water, imperfect ventilation, dirt, damp, and scarcity of food exercise injurious influences on the health of our domestic animals, just as these agents do in the case of human beings; and every practical man should therefore seek to remove those sources of evil as speedily as possible. A correspondent, who resides in a western county, states that it is most distressing to see cattle driven daily for miles along the dry, dusty roads in order to reach water; and if numbers of those cattle should afterwards succumb to disease, it will not be difficult to discover the cause. Splenic apoplexy is frequently caused by impure water, and also by an insufficient supply of water, even when it is pure. This is a blood disease, runs its course with great rapidity, and is exceedingly fatal. Hyposulphite of soda, given in the water which the animals drink, in doses of from two to four ounces, according to the size of the animal, will be useful as a preventive; but, of course, it can only be used when the cattle drink from troughs.

FROM FIELD TO TABLE IN ELEVEN MINUTES.

The citizens of Carollton, Mo., have been employed in ascertaining in how short a time wheat can be taken from the field and put down in bread on the table. The Miller's Journal prints a letter signed by the judges, county officials, editors and other citizens of Carrollton asserting the truth of the following experiment which they watched with watches in hand. The statement is as follows: "The undersigned citizens of Carrollton and vicinity certify that at a trial made this day for the purpose of ascertaining the time in which bread could be made from wheat taken in the field standing, the following time was made by J. F. Lawton, proprietor of the mill: Commenced cutting with reaper at 3:01 P. M.; finished cutting, 3:02; began threshing at 3:02½; finished one bushel at 3:03¼. Commenced grinding at 3:04¾; finished at 3:06¾. Mrs. Lawton began making bread at 3:08; finished at 3:08½. Griddle cake baked at 3:09¼; and biscuit baked and eaten at 3:12; the whole accomplished in 11 minutes. The reaper and thresher and the mill were thoroughly cleaned out before the trial commenced and not a particle of flour was used that did not come from the wheat cut in the above trial. The witnesses kept separate time and in the result all time agreed."

If this can be done in so short a time, why need any one be hungry? All a man would need to cook his own breakfast on a journey, would be a field of wheat, a threshing machine and a flour mill. We commend the above to be printed in the next edition of the "Tramp's Guide" as a recipe for a hasty breakfast.

The Poultry Yard.

KEEPING POULTRY.—No. 4.

After procuring the fowls desired, the next thing, if not already done, is to build a suitable house for their accommodation. This need not be an expensive one, even for health and comfort. Many an amateur fancier has enjoyed his first attempt at building a small domicile for his favorites, as much, or more, than others have done by spending their time in idle leisure. I can look back with pleasure on some of my best holidays being spent in such work. The best situation for the building that circumstances afford is to be sought, whether it be in a small yard in town or a large one in the country.

I shall not at this time give a plan of a poultry house, as it would only suit a few cases, but I shall give such general hints as need to be considered in all well-arranged buildings, large or small. It should not be exposed to northern or western winds any more than can be avoided. Never have openings or runs with such exposures in cold latitudes. East, southeast or south should always be chosen for the front, with glass, when possible, in the east and south sides, but never in the roof, as this would admit too much heat from the sun in summer, and in our severer latitudes the cold in winter at night, even though a house be built never so warm.

A good, warm roof should be on all poultry houses. If not protected by a higher building or hillside, bank up the two cold sides with earth and sod them. It is painful to see what little attention is paid to this kind of protection through all the Eastern States, while a mere trifle of outlay in money and but slight labor would make the fowls comfortable. If fowls are worth keeping at all, they are worth taking proper care of, and will repay the extra attention given to their comfort.

It is a singular fact that while fowls make a great many more expressive sounds than any other animal, they have not *one* note with which to call attention to their want of food or care. The horse neighs when he desires anything, the cow moos, the pig grunts, the cat mews, and the dog whines, but the innocent, harmless fowl has never a note, out of all its variety, with which to chide man for his neglect. Be it ever so badly treated, it can only look up imploringly in his face or, if at liberty, run after him. This fact alone should inspire vigilance on the part of poultry keepers and cause them to look well to the wants of their fowls. The material for the house can be such as is near at hand.

If stones are plenty, use them, as there is nothing better for the foundation and walls than rough stones laid in mortar, and they make a house both cool in summer and warm in winter. If stones are scarce and gravel handy, the walls can be made of concrete. To build a concrete wall, it is necessary to set up side boards in which to run the mortar and gravel.

Where the winters are not cold, earth houses may be used to advantage, having the aid of side boards in building the walls as you would for concrete. The method is thus described by Mrs. Elizabeth Watts:

"A foundation of brick or stone must be used, which can be brought about nine inches above the ground. The proper earth is neither sand nor clay, but partaking of both. Clay, chalk, or any calcareous earth are bad for the purpose. The earlier in the season the building can be done the better it will be for drying. The wall is made by ramming in the earth while damp, supported during the process by a mold formed of two planks or inch board of the required length of wall, twenty inches wide, formed of two breadths, strengthened by cleats nailed outside. Cross-bolts fix these planks together, two, near each end, with as many inches between the two boards as the wall is to be thick—say 14 or 16 inches. The bolts have large heads at one end to fix them, and eyelet holes and cross-pegs at the other. Place the planks above the foundation, bolt them together and fit bits of board into the ends, to prevent the material running out there, the little boards fitting in between the top and bottom bolts and making, with them, the mold into a sort of box. Then work up well the earth, a little at a time, mixing in cut straw or similar material to bind it. When used, it should have just moisture enough to adhere together under the pressure of the thumb and finger. Ram in no more at a time than will make an inch and a half when well rammed. The rammer for this work should not be more than an inch and a half wide.

"When the earth is well rammed down and reaches as high as the mold will allow, take out the cross-bolts, remove the planks and fix the mold further on. The bolt at one end being fitted into the hole by that at the other, only one end board is required.

"When each layer of the wall is completed the mold must be placed higher, fitting the bottom bolts into the holes left by the top ones, and after each course pour over the surface (in order to make the next course adhere, and also to give a good appearance) a small quantity of thick grout composed of one-fifth part lime and four of earth.

"Before the walls dry, the holes left by the bolts must be carefully stopped up with mortar composed of one-fourth lime and three-fourths earth. If the same mixture be used for the wall, it will become dry and almost as hard as stone."

By using gravel, lime and sand (one barrel of lime to one load of sand, instead of earth), we have a fine concrete wall, fit for any building.

If boards be used for building the walls, tarred paper or felt placed between the outside weather boarding and the inside sheathing will make it much warmer. Plaster on lath is still better, and makes a very clean wall. A very small house, one board thick, can be made warm in winter by lining the inside with straw, lath being nailed over the straw to protect it from the fowls.

It would be well to think over these general principles, so that when one gets a plan for a house he can at once go to work. I shall next speak of interior arrangements. H. Hales.

POULTRY EXHIBITIONS.

Dear Rural:—The time will soon be at hand when the usual annual Poultry Exhibitions will be held all over the country. The managers of each are, of course, anxious to secure the best stock, and to that end offer great inducements in promised premiums; but the manner in which many of these Exhibitions have been conducted of late years would seem to prove that securing the birds for show was their first and principal aim, and the carrying out of their self-imposed obligations toward those who sent valuable fowls and complied with all the rules laid down for their guidance a secondary consideration, if they did not ignore them altogether.

Intending exhibitors should think over these matters in time, as fowls can only be shown at a limited number of Fairs. Sometimes two or three occur simultaneously, and it is important to fanciers that they send their stock where they will get fair play. I fear that there has been a squeamish reluctance on the part of the poultry press about saying much relating to this matter. But does that make things better? Does it not tend rather to confirm, or even increase, such unjust proceedings? Are not exhibitors as much the patrons of the poultry press as officers of poultry societies, and are they not equally entitled to fair consideration at its hands?

Without naming any particular Society, a few facts illustrating specimens of their management last season will suffice. One Association offered two thousand dollars in premiums, but when they were awarded they amounted to no more than four or five hundred dollars. Many fine pens of fowls coming from a distance were not awarded first premiums, although every way worthy, but were given second premiums. Was this economy or was it something worse? Another Association, whose liberality, according to its printed programme, was to eclipse everything ever before done in this country, compounded with its exhibitor. Another takes money to make *combination* premiums (a better name could not be found), gives one near exhibitor all this combination in three installments, first, second and third, all to one variety of fowls in three pens, or first, second and third regular premiums, overlooking the pens that took first and second premiums in same breeds of another variety, equally eligible, and which had contributed their quota to the same combination premiums. When an inquiry is made of the officers, they answer by coolly sending on the list of awarded prizes, but do not condescend to give any explanation. Another noted Fair (and a finer lot of Asiatics than those exhibited at it were never in each other's company) paid not one cent in premiums, the fault being laid to the dishonesty of one of its officers. But is it probable that he could have had all the money offered in premiums and at the same time a surplus sufficient to pay expenses of the Exhibition?

Would it not be more to the interest of all concerned to offer smaller premiums and pay them promptly and honestly? As your valuable journal at all times takes to the side of truth and justice in whatever form it comes, without fear or favor, I will ask you whether any body of men have a right to publish a list of offers to exhibitors, before making the requisite arrangements to carry out and meet all obligations, as many good and worthy Societies do year after year? At all, or nearly all, of these Exhibitions a pretended point is made to make all happy who may visit them, and the officers well know how to do it, allowing none to go away dissatisfied, harmony being the main support of all institutions

A Subscriber.

Dairy Husbandry.

THE BRITISH DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

IMPROVEMENTS AND POSSIBILITIES IN DAIRY HUSBANDRY

The British Dairymen's Association seems now to be assured, and from the effort there is being put forth in England to make it useful, it will without doubt prove a success. On Aug. 4 an adjourned meeting was held in the Town Hall, Derbyshire, and Mr. SHELDON, a well-known agriculturist, read an interesting paper showing the advantages to be derived from such an Association and what was hoped to be accomplished through it.

Mr. CROMPTON, the Chairman of the meeting, referred to the growing trade in fresh milk for village and city consumption, from which it would appear that a vast demand had lately sprung up for this article of food. He believed the sale of milk would continue to grow under the development of the factory system, and it would be a far more paying thing than the manufacture of cheese. Those factories which were near the railways and had easy access to the telegraph would be able to show a very successful balance sheet at the end of the year. The plan of connecting factories with the milk trade seems to be of considerable advantage and is of recent origin in England. The plan is to have factories in near proximity to the railway station and delivery depot, and a telegraph dispatch is sent daily from the city to the manager of the factory, giving notice of the quantity of milk required for the day. On some days a much larger quantity of milk is needed than on others, but by having the daily requirements telegraphed there is no loss, as the milk not wanted for city consumption is not forwarded, but is made into cheese at the factory.

Why could not this plan be made to work successfully in America? If the milk farmers organize and build a factory near the depot where milk is to be delivered on the train, and if the orders for milk be made on the factory from time to time by telegraph, the arrangement would be carried on with less trouble to farmers, with less loss on account of surplus milk left over from time to time in the city, while a saving would be made on the freight of such milk. The plan would seem to have important advantages over that of locating factories in the city at the end of the route, an account of which was recently given in these columns.

Mr. SHELDON, in his paper which was read at the Derby meeting, speaks of the great apathy and indifference of English farmers in regard to improvement in dairy husbandry. As this will without doubt be changed when the Association gets in good working order, Mr. S. says it must not be supposed that the object of the Society will be confined to cheese making alone. It will embrace a much broader field, and among the branches of dairying which will come under consideration, there will be, in addition to cheese making, "butter making, the supply of milk to towns and cities, condensed milk manufacture, the marketing of dairy products, the feeding of cattle and the raising of stock, together with other matters and details connected with the above subjects." He thinks that only in a few instances can cheese making be regarded as having come at all near to perfection, and that some people declare that the cheese produced to-day in England is, as a rule, inferior to that which was made half a century ago. In support of this opinion he cites the views expressed by Mr. JOSEPH ASTON of Cheshire, who says:

"It is lamentable to witness the apathy and indifference which are manifested by a great number of cheese makers upon a subject in which they ought to take a deep and an abiding interest. There is a great lack at the present time of intelligence, energy and skill on the subject of dairying. For a number of years nearly all other branches of farming and husbandry have been advancing, but it is very questionable if any improvements have been made in cheese making. I presume it will be admitted by all aged and experienced judges that the bulk now manufactured is of an inferior quality and much more perishable in its nature than it was fifty years ago."

Mr. WALKER, another practical dairyman, observed that cheese making had got to be a more difficult and less paying process every day, in proof of which he said that his wife, who had made cheese for a long time and who had formerly manufactured it at considerable profit, now found it almost impossible to make it in a manner that would pay. They found it almost impossible to make it so that they could derive a profit from it. He thought the transit of milk to London and other chief towns was open to great improvement, and if that improvement could be effected, it would largely benefit farmers generally. He had but just returned from the Royal Agricultural Show at Cork, Ireland, and found great pleasure in inspecting the butter, of which there were some very fine samples, the very best being only from 28 to 30 cents, gold, per pound. But the Irish farmers at the present time found that butter making was not at all profitable. Although they had a great breadth of land, they could not afford to buy stock to put on it; and what was to become of the land in the future he did not know, nor did he think they did.

The facts brought out in the foregoing remarks very plainly show, we think, that the public generally has of late years been educated in its taste for *fine goods*. We presume the facts are not that the art of butter or cheese making is not so well understood as formerly in the districts referred to, but that the great improvement in America and other countries has raised the standard of dairy goods, and that in certain dairy sections in England the dairymen have not kept pace with this march of improvement. The introduction into England of a better class of foreign goods has educated the people to like better things than formerly, and hence the difficulty in suiting consumers with a comparatively inferior article, and hence such goods do not pay. It is the same in America, and we not unfrequently hear people remarking that the cheese of thirty or more years ago was altogether better than that now produced. They forget that their taste has been educated, and that as we have improved in the quality and make of our dairy products, an improved taste is not satisfied with anything common, but is continually seeking for something that is better and better. If it were possible to reproduce to-day the best cheese of thirty years ago with all its peculiar characteristics, the lovers of good cheese, under our present standard of taste, would be surprised that they could ever have liked so inferior an article as that of olden time.

The same rule may be applied to many other things than our dairy products. As wealth increases our whole style of living has underwent a change, and what was considered almost perfection thirty years ago is now found to be far down in the scale of common and inferior things. Hence the importance of being up and doing, in order to be well abreast of the improvements that are being made from day to day; and this is especially so in regard to dairying. The general standard of our goods has been raised, and what a few years ago was tolerated is now considered "worthless trash" and is not wanted in the markets.

With all due respect to our English friends, we must express the opinion that the art of dairying has remained nearly stationary over a considerable part of England (though not in some counties, like that of Somersetshire), and what has tended more to this state of things is the lack of intercommunication among farmers in the different counties and the peculiar systems of cheese making in different counties, which have been persistently adhered to. The advantage there from a British Association, by which dairymen from the whole realm may be brought together to compare notes and discuss the merits of different processes of manufacture, as well as on other branches pertaining to dairy husbandry, must be very great; and we look forward to a spread of intelligence and a flood of light on the subject which will be of value to dairymen on this side of the Atlantic.

And now that British dairymen have adopted the American plan of conventions, we hope there will be no narrow views on either side to prevent the spread of intelligence and intercommunication between the dairymen of the two countries, but that both countries make common cause in progress, so that this branch of industry shall be developed and brought to a high state of excellence. We believe there are possibilities connected with the dairy which are to be reached and which must raise this branch of industry to a much higher plane than that now occupied by those most successful and experienced in the business.

SETTING MILK.

THERE are patent pans sold here, some of which are intended to set the milk 6 inches deep and others 4 inches, but we are inclined to think that shallow setting produces the most butter. Which in your opinion would be the best pan to buy, the deep or shallow setting pan? —SIXBURY & BLODGET, *Lowville, N. Y.*

Whether it is best to set milk deep or shallow for butter making will much depend upon the method employed for reducing the temperature of the milk and the degree to which it is reduced. Thus upon the Swedish system it is claimed that the best butter is obtained by setting the milk in ice water and reducing the temperature to about 35 or 38°. HARDIN'S method, which is a modification of the Swedish system, cools to 49° by using a refrigerator box and cooling the air in the space where the milk stands. Some of our "fancy butter" makers of large experience say they can get as much and better butter on the HARDIN plan than they can by shallow setting. In both these methods the milk is set about 14 inches deep, but it is not massed in large quantities, the cans for holding the milk being only 8 inches in diameter by 18 to 20 inches deep.

The large pans are generally made to take the entire mess of milk from the dairy at one milking, and in cooling the temperature of the milk is reduced by flowing cold water in the reservoir under the pans. Where the cooling is effected in this way with spring water, it is better not to mass the milk in large pans, as there is more liability of its not keeping sound as long as when spread out thin and in smaller quantities. For this reason we should prefer shallow setting, as giving the best results in the two pans.

We have assumed, it will be seen, that the pans are of the same character and the cooling effected on the same principle with cold spring water. Possibly the pan designed for milk to set 14 inches deep may have some features about it different from what we have supposed, as, for instance, cooling with ice and water by flowing the latter in a vat resting on top of the milk. We, therefore, state only the result to be obtained with the different patterns of large pans as they have been commonly used. In these the general experience of butter makers is that shallow setting gives the best returns. We may remark in this connection that the question of deep and shallow setting is a mooted one, and each system has its advocates. Under different circumstances and conditions there is a difference in favor of one or the other, but without doubt, under favorable circumstances for each, an equal amount of butter from a given quantity of milk can be obtained from either plan.

NOVEL MILK HOUSE.

LAST summer while traveling in California we visited the Napa Valley. The weather was intensely warm during the day, though cool at night. About seven miles north of Napa City Mr. JESSE GRIGSBY has a butter dairy, and the following plan for controlling the temperature in his milk house is given by the Napa Register. It says the dairy, though small, is one of the cleanest and best arranged in the State. The milk house is constructed with a view to coolness and perfect ventilation, and consists of a building within a building:—"The outer is a frame house, 14 by 26 feet, and is one story high, and within this is another house, 10 by 18 feet, the walls of each building being quite thick, with a free passage-way between the walls and roofs of the houses. In the inner house are the racks on which are placed the pans of milk." The dairy consists of 23 cows, which are now fed in a barley field about one-third of each day, and are then turned into a large field of alfalfa, where pure water is plenty, and as a consequence, says the editor, "the cream from the milk is very rich and the butter is of a superior quality."

During our stay in California we took notes on quite a number of dairies which we had hoped before this to give in the RURAL. We regret having missed seeing Mr. GRIGSBY'S dairy, as we should have been glad to have examined this novel dairy house and tested his better.

THE DROUGHT AND FODDER CORN.

THOSE dairymen who made ample provision for soiling their stock by raising a crop of corn fodder are now, during the severe and protracted drought, reaping the benefit of their forethought. Pasturage at this writing (Aug. 24) is scanty, brown and dried up over a wide extent of country, and in many instances where cows are receiving no extra feed the shrinkage of milk has been very large. Many farmers, for lack of other forage, have been feeding hay, and this must reduce the winter supply, which at best is below an average quantity in Central New York. Dairymen who have been led astray by the foolish advice of such men as HARRIS LEWIS, who for some years has been strenuously preaching against the raising of corn fodder, stigmatizing it as an almost worthless crop for soiling, will now have ample opportunity to compare the yield of milk from those herds which have their daily rations of fodder corn with those herds which get no such extra feed. Farmers who are feeding corn fodder are now able to keep up the flow of milk from their herds to the usual quantity, and so far as we can learn there has been no fault found with its quality, while on the other hand the half-starved cows on the scanty and brown pasturage, with no supplementary food, are yielding milk that is quite inferior.

In feeding sowed corn it is always well to have the rations cut some hours in advance of the time of feeding, in order that the stalks may be exposed to the sun's rays and wilted. It may be remarked in this connection that cows ought not to be allowed to run down thin and shrink in their milk at this season, and where corn fodder or some other green crop has not been provided for soiling, wheaten bran mixed with ground oats will be found to be a good feed both for producing milk and keeping up the condition of the animal.

Seasons like this carry a convincing argument in favor of the value of corn fodder as a soiling crop to bridge over the defects of scanty pasturage; and we hope those who are feeding fodder corn as a supplementary forage will make a record of results as compared with those who are depending wholly upon pasturage, because the crop ought to be grown more extensively than it is by dairymen.

The Herdsman.

STRANGE CATTLE DISEASE.

EARLY in the month of May, '76, the firm of J. S. AMES & BRO'S. of Hawley, Pa., bought fifty head of Kentucky steers in the St. Louis market. Those cattle were carred and shipped to them from there and arrived at their place all safe and sound, and as fine a lot of cattle as one would wish to see. Those cattle were put in pasture with a number of our native cattle and all did well together.

The pasture is new land and seeded nicely with clover and timothy, and is well provided with shade and living springs of water, which afforded them plenty of cool drink, besides a nice brook ran through the pasture. The pasture itself contains between two and three hundred acres. Up to August 15 the herd all grew nicely and their owners were about to ship them to New York when one cow, a native was found to be sick. She was taken from the herd and well cared for. She became gaunt and thin, refused water and food, hung down her head and appeared very dumpish, showed no symptoms of poison whatever. Her urine was dark as blood, but thin and not clotted. Upon close examination it was found that the cow was infested with a strange tick or bag, of a dark blue color and in shape like a wood-tick or sheep-tick, only larger and longer.

Those bugs bored themselves into the creature so deep, and adhered so strongly that in pulling at one it was as likely to pull apart, leaving the head in the animal as it was to pull off entirely. Medicine was immediately given the cow for bloody urine and tobacco tea, used externaly to remove the bugs but to no avail, for in about forty-eight hours from the time she was noticed to be unwell, the cow died.

By this time more of the native cattle showed the same curious disease, and every available means was tried but to no avail, each one that was taken died, some natives and some Western.

Upon opening the body it was found to be fearfully inflamed internally, and to appearance the animal had been fairly burned to death by an inward fever. All medicines however powerful, seemed to have no effect whatever upon the cattle after having taken the disease.

Up to this time, August 28, fourteen head have died out of the herd. What the disease is remains a mystery, whether the blood becomes poisoned by the bugs (which one would rather doubt) or whether it is a new disease, remains a mystery. Learned cattle physicians and horse doctors are puzzled, no one has ever seen anything of the kind in this place. Up to this time nothing has been found which will have any effect upon the animal internally, nor has any thing been found, not even rank poisons, which will remove the bugs from the animals.—C. H. W., *Hawley, Pa.*

IF any of our readers can throw any light upon this cattle disease, we will be pleased to hear from them.—ED. RURAL.

WHAT IS PURE BLOOD?

AT the recent Short-Horn Breeders' Convention, President WELSH of the Iowa Agricultural College said:—"While coming here to-day, I was thinking of the important subject, How long shall a thoroughbred animal be bred by crossing with a scrub before becoming pure blood? In England they cross four times with the female and five with the male. We take a half-blood and cross with a pure, and at the fifth cross we have an animal with thirty-one parts pure blood to one part scrub—that is, if we compute the crosses arithmetically—but when we take into consideration the fact that the pure blooded animal is prepotent over the scrub, then the animal has but a minute portion of scrub blood. When a pure-blooded Short-Horn bull is crossed with a scrub cow the result cannot be computed arithmetically, for the prepotence of the thoroughbred animal over the scrub controls to a greater or less degree the value of the progeny."

LICE ON CATTLE.

DUST them over with earth, sand is the best but any earth is effectual. This is the remedy that nature teaches them to use and when they can get to the ground they will take care of themselves if not too poor and weak! So writes one of our old correspondents.—ED.

Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP AND WOOL.

We are indebted to J. R. Dodge, Statistician to the Department of Agriculture, for a copy of the "Report on Sheep and Wool at the Vienna International Exhibition in 1873." Although it has taken three years for this report to pass over the line of "red tape" and reach the public, it is, nevertheless, a valuable compilation, and we thank the author just as earnestly as we would have done had it appeared more promptly, because we presume the delay in publication has been through no fault of his. In speaking of the different breeds of sheep exhibited, Mr. Dodge says:

The merino families of sheep greatly predominated, as they do in all countries in which wool rather than mutton is the aim of the breeder. England, with a dense population to feed and lands of high price, sent only long and middle wools. Germany contributed mainly Merinos, thorough-bred and cross-bred, pure bloods and the ameliorated "land sheep" of the country, with a fair proportion of the various breeds of English mutton sheep. France sent only the Rambouillet Merino, which is the nearest approach to the meat-producing types of Great Britain yet attained by the wool-yielding race of Spain. Italy was represented only by the Bergamask sheep, an ungainly race, bearing a medium wool, and characterized by long legs, long and pendulous ears, and white face and fleece. There were no living representatives of South America, Africa or Australia, but the wool from those countries in the Exposition was nearly all of the Merino type.

The predominance of Merinoes of the various families was very marked among continental exhibitors. Of the 377 animals from Germany, 291 were of this blood; 27 were Southdowns; 26 Oxfordshires; 8 Shropshires: and the remainder Suabian, Franken, and "Haidesnucke." A still larger number of Merinoes, though not averaging so high in purity of blood and other points of excellence, are found in the Austrian contribution—not less than 322 being entitled to this distinctive name from the predominance of Spanish blood. The Southdowns appeared to hold the next place in public estimation, having 68 Austrian representatives, with a strong strain of Down blood in no less than 25 placed in the merino class, and Cotswold-Downs, Southdown-Paduaner, and Southdown-Birki. The Zackel race and "Gadegast" sheep complete the list of 467 animals entered. Hungary presented 322 merinoes and grades in a list of 431, the black Siebenburger, the Wallachian, Zackel, Zigara, and other natives, constituting the remainder.

While this predominance of a single race is so evident, it is true that a tendency has been felt for years, growing stronger yearly, toward a larger infusion of English blood, and a greater comparative importance to meat-production; and the result of this exhibition, most of the English representatives being distributed for breeding-purposes, will be a manifest strengthening of this tendency. The improvement of Merinos, so marked in the last twenty years, has been in the direction of larger yet more compact frames, enlarged flesh-taking capacity, and earlier maturity, with a coarser but heavier and more profitable fleece. Not less active than in the United States, for a generation past, has been the effort to mold the original flocks to suit the changed demands of the woolen manufacture and the pressing requirement for meat. The examination in detail of the material of the exhibition of the several countries will illustrate these aspects of sheep-breeding in Europe.

England.—The Southdowns take the lead in point of numbers, with 40 animals; 20 from the flock of Lord Soudes, Elmham Hall, Norfolk; and as many from the Merton flock of Lord Walsingham. The former represented a flock of 1,200 pure-breed Sussex Downs, founded in 1823, and distinguished for symmetry and thriftiness. They were sold to go to Hungary, Galicia, North Germany and Russia. The latter, from a flock of world-wide renown, were sold to the Archduke Albrecht for his estates in Austria; to Count Fries, Czernahora, Moravia; Baron Magnus, Drosha, Saxony, and to breeders in Russia. The Elmham Hall rams yield fleeces of 8 to 10 pounds, and those of Merton Farm are quite as heavy.

The Cotswolds numbered twenty-six in three entries. Those from the Agricultural College Farm, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, twelve in number, representing a flock of 200 ewes and 60 rams and 180 fattening sheep, illustrated well the especial aims of breeding at the college farm, viz., a heavy fleece, depth of flesh, and great hardiness. The fleeces weigh from 13 to 20 pounds. The rams are in great request for cross-breeding with Southdowns, Hampshires, and mountain sheep, to give length to the fiber and weight to the fleece. There were also eight from Mr. T. Beale Brown, Salperton Park, Gloucestershire; and six from Thomas Fulcher, Elmhall, Norfolk.

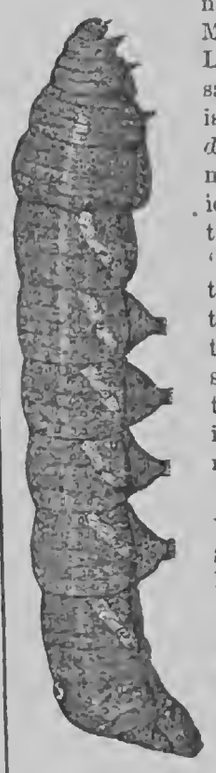
Germany.—The Merinos of Germany have been greatly modified in later years by crossing, so that it might be impossible to find a flock with the precise characteristics of twenty years ago, though bearing the same name. The Electoral, Negretti, and Rambouillet are mingled according to the whim or judgment of the breeder, the better to suit his views of the demands of the market for wool or meat, and the result is the loss of the distinctive character of the originals. The spindle legs have been shortened, the flat ribs rounded, the bald head covered, and the very fine super-Electoral fleece has been displaced by longer, coarser, and more abundant wool, which brings more money at a slightly reduced price per pound.

Entomological.

GRAPE-VINE CATERPILLAR.

I send, inclosed in a tin box, a few caterpillars found eating the leaves on an Isabella grape-vine. Please tell us through the Rural New-Yorker what they are?—Jeff Glidden, *Orleans Co., N. Y.*

The caterpillars sent are the larvæ of the moth figured on page 105, August 12, of the present volume of the Rural New-Yorker, under the name of the Satellite Sphinx Moth (*Philampelus Satellitia*, Linn). We may, however, say right here, that this moth is, without doubt, the *P. Pandora* of Hubner, as the former is a native of South America, the confounding of the two species by Harris in his "Insects Injurious to Vegetation" having been perpetuated by most of our late authors. But the fruit grower is seldom interested further than to know the common names of insects and how to check their ravages.



The specimens you sent were only about one-third grown, or a little over an inch long, and upon the caudal extremity there was a long pink horn which would have grown shorter at each successive moult until at last disappearing entirely, the full-grown caterpillar appearing as shown in the accompanying portrait of a medium-sized specimen. As we have already stated in the Rural of Aug. 12, these caterpillars descend to the ground in the fall and pass the winter in the pupa state, provided no accident or enemy prevent. But in all the specimens you sent us, the presence of an enemy was quite apparent, and not one of the number could ever have passed another moult, much less reached maturity, for they were literally alive with parasites. These parasites are a very minute black fly which deposits its eggs upon the body of the caterpillars, they hatching very soon and the grubs therefrom pass under the skin of the caterpillar, eating out the fleshy parts, but do not penetrate to the vitals, as in that case they would kill their victim all too soon to serve their purpose.

In the meantime the caterpillar feeds away, trying to lay up flesh or fat for its own future use, but all to no purpose, for the score of little parasitic worms hidden under its skin takes every particle as fast as deposited. Matters proceed in this manner for two or three weeks; caterpillars are eating the grape-vines while the little grubs, which are eventually to become flies, are eating up the caterpillars from within, all unseen though they may be to human or other eyes. The fight is a desperate and silent one, but numbers in this case count more than individual strength, and the larvæ of the little fly is sure to conquer the huge caterpillar of the Sphinx Moth. When the little grubs within the moth are ready to make a change, they come out through little holes made in the skin of the caterpillar upon which they have been feeding for so many days or weeks, but instead of bidding adieu to their now almost helpless victim and departing hence, they make him serve a still further useful purpose. Each little grub as it comes forth, from its subterranean labors stops upon the back of the caterpillar, throws out a few silken lines to make its hold secure and then proceeds to enclose itself in a neat little cocoon of the finest and softest white silk. These little cocoons are about an eighth of an inch long and one sixteenth in diameter, and they are frequently so numerous as to cover the entire back and sides of the infested caterpillars. The specimens received from Orleans Co. were covered with the cocoons of this parasite and many of the little flies had hatched out during the journey and escaped when the box containing them was opened. It is scarcely necessary to state in conclusion that whenever a caterpillar is found upon grape-vines, tomatoes or other plants, with small white cocoons upon its back it should not be disturbed, because not only is its fate already sealed but the little parasites if let alone will destroy thousands more of the same and perhaps of other species.

This is but one of the many reasons, why we have so frequently said that a man needs to know something of entomology in order to be able to fight insect foes intelligently and effectually.

The Apiarian.

HONEY, HONEYCOMB AND WAX.

It is a mystery to many why honeycomb is worth from $2 to $4 per pound; and yet it is true, when we take into account that it is made from honey, of which it requires twenty-five pounds for a swarm of bees to make a pound and a quarter of nice honeycomb.

The Cincinnati Gazette explains the matter as follows:—The bee fills itself with honey, and when combs are to be made, the larger part of the swarm will form or cluster themselves into a festoon or bunch in the hive, and by so doing they get up a proper temperature of heat, which causes the honey already in the bees to secrete into wax, and pass through the little flaps, or pockets, on the under side of the abdomen, in the shape of small, white scales, which we can often see quite plentiful on the alighting board. These scales are taken off of each other by the bees themselves, and while it is in a soft, pliant consistency, they make their combs, first forming the very thin sheet which serves as a partition between the two sets of cells.

If we would take the proper calculation of the value of honey, and the amount that a good busy swarm can gather daily, we will find it takes about twenty days for bees to fill their hives with the necessary amount of comb, which if clean will weigh one and one-quarter pounds. We have found, in some instances, when the honey harvest was good, that bees will collect and bring into their hives five to twenty pounds per day. I have often known a good strong stock to gather fifty pounds in the long days of August, when the white and Alsike clover were in full bloom.

Now, dear readers, let us make a fair calculation in this matter, and we will find that at five pounds per day the bees will gather and store one hundred pounds in twenty days. This, at twenty-five cents per pound, would be twenty-five dollars. Suppose we had plenty of nice combs in good movable frames, to have exchanged with our bees, as they filled up, in place of forcing them to build new, and using up the precious nectar in making combs, which to say the least of it, would not be less than fifty pounds of honey. At the price above named it amounts to $12,50; and now reduce this one-half, and we see very clearly that honeycombs are far more valuable than the wax that might be made from it, which sells at twenty-five to thirty cents per pound. The best yield that can be made from an ordinary class of old comb is a single pound of wax to one and one-fourth pounds of comb, which makes a difference against the wax of $6.25.

I have given you the facts in the case; will you study the matter over, dear reader, and forsake the old-time system of bee-keeping, and try to reform in this, the most pleasant, if understood, of all kinds of business, that an invalid, especially, and ladies with small capital, might engage in with profit?

HONEY-BEES AND MUSIC.

It has often been asserted that insects do not hear, upon no better foundation than that entomologists have been somewhat at loss to find organs which correspond to ears in other and larger animals. The following from the London News, has a direct bearing upon the subject and seems to point to an affirmative answer to the question:

The question whether bees have the power of hearing is a mooted point among naturalists. Sir John Lubbock has tried experiments with his bees in order to elucidate the matter. Thus he has played the violin close to his bees, he has tried a dog whistle, a shrill pipe, a tuning fork, and shouting, but no noise seemed to disturb them in the least. Nevertheless, a curious occurrence took place a few days since at Windsor. Col. Stewart, commanding officer Second Life Guards, reports that a few days since, when the regiment was returning down the Long Walk from a field day, a swarm of bees, attracted by the music, followed the regiment into barracks, flying about over the heads of the band. On arriving at the barrack-yard the band formed up to play the regiment into barracks; the bees followed their example, formed up also and settled on a branch of a tree over the heads of the bandsmen. They were at once taken prisoners by the corporal of the guard, and are now hived in the barrack-yard. The distance over which the bees followed the band was more than a mile. We have heard of spelling bees, but these are musical bees with a vengeance. It is a common practice in the country to collect bees by means of rattling a warming pan with a piece of iron, or shaking a stone in a tin kettle, and the idea that bees will follow sounds is as old as Virgil.

BASSWOOD FOR BEES.

Every bee keeper is probably aware of the fact that bees, in regions where the common Basswood or Linden tree abounds, gather large quantities of the finest honey from these flowers. Knowing this, we often thought it strange that farmers did not plant these trees more abundantly for shade and ornament about their grounds. Early autumn—so soon as the leaves are ripe or begin to fall from the trees—is as good a time as any to transplant these trees.

The Naturalist.

MAN NOT DEGENERATING.

In a caustic article, on the alleged degeneracy of mankind, the London Spectator says:—There is not the slightest evidence anywhere that man was ever bigger, stronger, swifter, or more enduring, under the same conditions of food and climate, than he is now.

As to bigness, the evidence is positive. Modern Egyptians are as big as the mummies who were conquerors in their day, and modern Englishmen are still larger. There are not in existence a thousand coats of armor which an English regiment could put on. Very few moderns can use ancient swords, because the hilts are too small for their hands. Endless wealth and skill were expended in picking gladiators; and there is no evidence that a man among them was as big or as strong as Shaw.

No skeleton, no statue, no picture indicates that men in general were ever bigger. The Jews of to-day are as large as they were in Egypt, or larger. The people of the Romagna have all the bearing and more than the size of the Roman soldiery. No feat is recorded as usual with Greek athletes which English acrobats could not now perform.

There is no naked savage tribe which naked Cornishmen or Yorkshiremen could not strangle. No race exists of which a thousand men similarly armed would defeat an English or German or Russian regiment of equal numbers. Nothing is recorded of our forefathers here in England which Englishmen could not do, unless it be some feats of archery, which were the result of long training of the eye, continued for generations.

The most civilized and luxurious family that ever existed—the European royal caste—is physically as big, as healthy, and as powerful as any people of whom we have any account that science can accept. Thiers' Frenchmen is Cæsar's Gaul in all bodily conditions, with an increased power of keeping alive, which may be partly owing to improved conditions of living, but is probably owing still more to developed vitality. There is no evidence that even the feeble races are feebler than they became after their first acclimitization.

The Bengalee was what we knew him twelve hundred years ago; and the Chinaman was represented on porcelain just as he is now before the birth of Christ. No race ever multiplied like the Anglo-Saxon, which has had no advantage of climate, and, till lately, no particular advantage of food. Physical condition depends on physical conditions; and why should a race better fed, better clothed and better housed than it ever was before, degenerate? Because it eats corn instead of berries? Compare the Californian and the Digger Indians. Because it wears clothes?

The wearing of clothes, if burdensome—which the experience of army doctors in India as to the best costume for marching makes excessively doubtful, they declaring, unanimously, that breechless men suffer from varicose veins, as men wearing trousers do not—must operate as a permanent physical training. You carry weight habitually. Because they keep indoors? Compare English professionals with Tasmanian savages, living in identically the same climate, but living out of doors.

The conditions of civilization not only do not prohibit Captain Webb, who would have outwalked, outswam, or strangled any German that Tacitus ever romanced about, but they enable him to live to seventy instead of dying at forty-five, as two thousand years ago, he, then probably a slave, bred for the arena, would have done.

That the human race, even under the best conditions, advances very little in physical capacities, is true; but then it is true, also, that those conditions are fatal to the most powerful of the old improving forces, the survival of the fittest. Still an advance is perceptible in vital power; and we question whether a Greek swimmer would ever have crossed from Dover to Calais just as strongly as we question whether the ancient world ever possessed a horse which would have achieved a place at Epsom. Why should men grow feeble in civilization any more than horses?

Floricultural.

A SIMPLE METHOD OF STRIKING CUTTINGS.

THERE is no time in the whole year better than the present for making and striking cuttings of shrubs, bedding or other plants of which we desire to increase our stock. The following is the simplest and most efficacious method we have ever tried. It is, in fact, so easily managed that we hope our young friends who have never thought of "striking cuttings" before, will give it a trial. By following our simple directions, and the means are within the reach of all, we are reasonably confident that their efforts will be crowned with a success that will encourage to further exertions in the gay and delightful field of floriculture.

A flower-pot eight inches in diameter answers as well as any other size, though of the two, a larger rather than a smaller is to be preferred. Place an inverted flower-pot saucer within the pot, of a size large enough to rest about midway or a little below. This serves the threefold purpose of (1) perfect drainage, of (2) affording a firm base for the sand, and of (3) dispensing with a greater body of sand than can be of any use. Of course other drainage material may be used if saucers are not at hand—but we prefer the saucer for the reason that it has given us better success. Aside from any philosophical causes as to its greater efficacy, its use is less trouble than to half fill the pot with broken crocks, stones, moss or what not; it is a cleaner method; the weight of the pot is less, and that it is more effectual in practice, will appear to others as it has to us upon giving both a fair comparative trial. When there is bottom heat, perfect drainage is of little moment, since the immense evaporation caused by the heat and shallowness of the boxes generally used, render it unnecessary. But without bottom heat, unless the drainage is perfect, the water very soon stagnates and the resulting acids cause the cuttings to damp off at once.

With the space in the pot beneath the inverted saucer empty, let us fill to the brim above with *coarse* sand, as coarse as is ever used for mortar—first sifting and washing it until thoroughly cleansed. Place it on a rack or stand in a window which receives the morning sun until noon and saturate it with water. Another saucer or some other vessel will be required to receive it as it passes through. We need not, as when flat boxes are employed, so much fear watering too much, because the water passes freely away and can never become "sour." It is only *necessary*, however, to preserve the sand constantly moist.

Our readers have, many of them, heard of the "saucer" plan of propagation, which merely consists of any saucer filled with sand and water, in which the cuttings are placed and given as much sun as possible. But the plan is a poor one, and we might better never attempt to root cuttings in this way of plants which are prized, for in most instances failure may be counted upon.

An eight-inch pot will accommodate twenty uttings. Make them from two to five inches long, depending, of course, upon what they are. At this season of the year more leaves may be permitted to remain upon them than earlier in the season, when the sun is higher and the air less cool and moist. Use a sharp knife, and make smooth cuts just beneath the joints or nodes—strip off the leaves nearly to the top and insert them about an inch in depth.

The development of new leaves or buds will generally indicate the proper formation of roots, when the cuttings are to be pricked out (for which purpose a teaspoon is very suitable) and planted in small pots of rich, sandy soil.

One of the greatest drawbacks to the thrifty growth of house plants is the use of clayey soil that, becoming hard—almost solid in fact, is impervious to both air and moisture. The plant *must* suffer, and all the doctoring in the land is not going to help it while thus strangled.

As to the number of leaves to be left upon a cutting, a little experience is required to determine. If too many are left, the cutting is exhausted and the formation of a callus (which is simply the healing over of the wound) and roots is retarded. If all the leaves are cut off or too few are left, the same effect is produced, though from a quite different cause. No better hint can be given than that the drooping of the leaves for any length of time after the cuttings have been inserted, is an indication that they have too many. Where a leaf is too large it may be cut in two, as in the case of *Aristolochia sipho* (the Dutchman's Pipe), *Hydrangea quercifolia*, etc.

Many soft-wooded and all other plants of which green cuttings are taken, are benefited by drying a few hours before insertion in sand. Thus a partial cicatrization occurs and the passage of the sap through the cut is interrupted.

Our readers will not ask us to give a list of the plants that may be propagated in the way we have described, because, among those generally used, either tender or hardy, for bedding purposes or for shrubberies, those that cannot be so propagated are the exception, not the rule.

RHEXIA VIRGINICA.

MEADOW BEAUTY is the familiar name of this. Our object in calling attention to it is to show how differently in this country and in England

the plant is estimated. It is blooming now, and may be found in most meadows throughout the country.

The stems are about two feet in height, for the most part unbranching. They are round, with four vertical foliaceous wings, which make them seem angular. The leaves, sharply-toothed and hairy, grow nearly perpendicularly, prominently three-reined, as shown in the cut. The anthers are long, tapering, of a golden-yellow color. The flower somewhat resembles *Geranium maculatum* in color and size, but it is very perishable, dropping off if touched. This, with the conspicuous urn-shaped calyx, is fairly shown in the engraving.

Of this plant which, strange to say, has never struck us as worthy of being introduced into the garden, the Journal of Horticulture (London) speaks as follows:—"Rhexia Virginica was introduced to our gardens as far back as 1759; the plants of this species require care and skill to cultivate them successfully. Rhexias are but little known and less cultivated, and are seldom met with. There are only four or five kinds enumerated in some of the best works we have, but they are a race of plants of great beauty and ought not to remain longer in the background. It requires time to get them established, and, except for increase, the plants should not be disturbed. They are summer-blooming plants of great beauty, and ought to be much more cultivated than they are at the present. When well grown and caught in condition, they would prove telling plants for exhibition purposes in collections of hardy herbaceous plants."

And the Garden praises it as follows: "*Rhexia Virginica*. This rare and beautiful perennial is now in blossom in the only nursery about London, where it grows freely—viz., OSBORN'S at Fulham. It is a little *Melastomaceous* plant that ventures far north over the American bogs.

EXCHANGE.

B. H. CRANE, Orleans, Neb.—I like your idea of exchange. I shall have, in their season, for exchange, seeds of *Euphorbia marginata* or Snow on the Mountains; *Verbena Montana* (perfectly hardy here) and *Negundo aceroides* or Box Elder.

Plants—*Schrankia uncinata* or Sensitive Brier; *Yucca angustifolia*; *Opuntia vulgaris* or Prickly Pear, and *Mammilaria macromeris*. I can also furnish the curious with seeds of *Solanum rostratum*, the plant on which the Colorado Beetle fed before he put himself on a potato diet. Not noted for beauty. The above are all wild. From my garden I can furnish Cannas and Tuberoses.

HYDRANGEA.

A GENUS of shrubby plants belonging to the natural order Saxifragaceæ, and natives of North America and Asia. This is an old and well-known family of plants, first brought to Europe from China in 1790, of very easy culture, requiring a deep, rich soil, delighting in a cool and partially shady situation, and, as its name indicates, in an almost unlimited supply of water.

Among the native species we have the *Hydrangea arborescens*, *quercifolia*, *radiata* and *canescens*, all desirable shrubs, blooming during June and July, and perfectly hardy. The most interesting species are, however, those introduced from China and Japan, the oldest and best-known of which is undoubtedly the Hydrangea hortensis, bearing large globular heads of rose-colored flowers, sometimes changing to blue, and equally well adapted for pot-culture or the open ground. If grown out-of-doors, it requires some slight protection during the winter months. [It is not hardy with protection.—ED.] A well-cultivated plant, under favorable circumstances, will produce hundreds of corymbs during one season. For decorative purposes we know of no better plant. Var. Imperatrice Eugenie is a beautiful plant, with tricolored petals of white, rose and blue. Var. Macrocephala, is of a delicate rose color, with very large individual flowers. Thunbergia flor. Persica is a very pretty dwarf-growing species, with peach-colored flowers, and a very free bloomer.

Otaksa is a variety producing immense trusses of rose-colored flowers in great profusion. The *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora* is, however, the most magnificent of all, a shrub from eight to ten feet high—[*Hydrangea paniculata* will never attain the height of *eight* feet in this climate—nor have we ever seen a panicle 18 inches in length.—ED.]—with panicles of flowers from twelve to eighteen inches in length, at first of a pure white, gradually changing to a bright pink and rose color, retaining their beauty until destroyed by frost in December.

Single specimens, under good cultivation, will support a hundred large panicles of flowers, and planted in groups, produce a most gorgeous effect. Its profuse blooming, fine habit and perfect hardiness, makes it one of the most desirable flowering shrubs in cultivation. W. B. BERCHOLZ.

NOTES.

Lilium Krameri, of which a colored plate, is given in the London Garden, Aug. 12, was sent to England from Japan by Mr. KRAMER. It was at first thought to be a form of *L. auratum*, but it is now deemed distinct as well one of the most beautiful of Lilies. It is the size, judging by the plate, of a small *auratum*, but has no spots, and is of a delicate rose color, though in this it varies from white to purple. It will probably prove as hardy as other Japan Lilies.

I have had many opportunities of intercourse with cottage gardeners in various places, both in town and country, but I never yet knew one who truly loved his garden who frequented public-houses. The two are altogether antagonistic. When a man takes up with one he loses all taste for the other.—*E. Hobday in London Garden.*

Read the above twice, gentlemen—you who waver between the two and—take your choice.

It may be questioned whether any man ever truly loved his father, mother, wife or children who frequented "public-houses"—so difficult is it to "serve two masters." The RURAL'S advice is to one and all—Give the public-house a Cold Shoulder; love your family and—your Garden. There is no antagonism here.

Scientific and Useful.

WHERE THE HEAT COMES FROM.

AMONG the many "theories" advanced by scientists in regard to transmission of solar heat to this earth, the following from Dr. ADAM MILLER of Chicago appears to come nearer common sense and within the range of reason than any we have ever read:

The extraordinary hot weather we have endured for several weeks past may well excite an inquiry into the probable cause of the unusual range of the thermometer during this time.

According to the old and long-established theories, that the sun is an intensely-heated body, whose flames are supported by some combustible materials; or the more recent theory, that heat is a "mode of motion" produced by a contraction of the mass of the solar orb, and that heat produced by either of the above named theories is radiated from the sun to all the planets of the solar system, and that it diminishes as the square of the distance increases, we would be led to conclude that just at this time there is either an extra amount of meteoric matter falling upon the sun, or an unusual force of contraction going on in his substance, and consequently causing him to pour an unusual amount of heat upon our earth.

But, unfortunately for this theory of heat radiation from the sun, it is not true, notwithstanding the great names that have given it their support, and the ingenious arguments offered in its favor. What are the most plausible theories worth, when they are contradicted by plain stubborn facts in physical science?

Among the facts that confront the theory of heat radiation we may name the following:—1. The space between us and the sun is cold beyond any degree known to terrestrial inhabitants, and heat could not radiate through this cold space to our earth. 2. We are now about three millions of miles further from the sun than we were on the 21st of December. 3. Heat does not pass through distant space like light or sound, and has a very limited sphere for operation from its source. 4. If heat diminishes as the square of the distance increases from the inner to the outer planets, Mercury would be in a state of fusion, and the comets that have passed inside of the orbit of Mercury would have been dissipated into an invisible gas, and the outer planets and comets, in their passage from the sun, would be bound in perpetual chains of frost and ice—neither of which is the case. 5. It is not true that the aqueous vapour of our atmosphere absorbs much of the sun's heat before it reaches our earth; for the higher regions of our atmosphere are colder and increase in cold as you ascend from the earth's lower plane till you reach its highest mountains, where vegetation is impossible in consequence of perpetual frost and snow, even in tropical climates.

The cause of solar heat, then, must be looked for on a different principle from that of radiation from the central orb of our solar system. Heat is not an entity with an independent existence. It is dependent upon some cause, and may be produced by mechanical action, friction, or compression of material substances, or by chemical action. My theory is that heat is produced by the passage of the rays of light through our atmosphere, which is in the form of a concave-convex lens, and the different degrees of heat and cold are proportioned to the varying angle at which these beams from the sun pass through this refracting medium. The variation of temperature is caused by the different electrical conditions and the different degrees of density or rarity of the atmosphere at the same inclination of the earth to or from the sun. An artificial concavo-convex lens, resembling the form of the atmosphere, will give us positive proof of the variation of temperature with the different angles at which light passes through the lens. The seven different colors of the solar spectrum show the difference of refrangibility in the rays of light in proportion of 453 to 727 from extreme red to extreme violet in undulations, which indicate different chemical properties, and it is not unreasonable nor unphilosophical to conclude that heat will result from a crowding of these rays of light into a smaller compass by the action of the concavo-convex lens. If heat came to us by direct radiation from the sun, the obliquity of the rays of light in the winter in passing through the atmosphere would not increase their distance over the direct rays in a summer over 200 miles, and this does not sufficiently account for the difference of temperature between summer and winter, considering that we are, as already stated, three millions of miles nearer the sun in the winter than we are in the summer. We are, then, led to the conclusion that our solar heat is produced by the refraction of our atmosphere, and the dense and vaporous condition for some weeks past has increased this refracting power to an unusual extent, and this is the cause of our heated term.

WATERPROOF BLACKING.—Dissolve an ounce of borax in water, and in this dissolve gum shellac until it is the consistency of thin paste; add lampblack to color. This makes a cheap and excellent blacking for boots, giving them the polish of new leather. The shellac makes the boots or shoes almost entirely waterproof. Camphor dissolved in alcohol, added to the blacking, makes the leather more pliable and keeps it from cracking. This is sold at 50c. for a small bottle. By making it yourself, a dollar will buy materials for a gallon.

The Swine-Herd.

CALOMEL FOR HOG DISEASE.

CALOMEL was at one time supposed to be almost a specific for all the disease which "flesh is heir to," and while this remedial agent will probably never go out of use it has lost some of its popularity. We notice that a correspondent of the Southern Farmer recommends calomel for disease of swine and we give his experience.

Last fall I had a litter of eight choice pigs somewhat similarly attacked. They became scabby about the eyes and bones of the head, would eat mincingly, purge, cough, dwindle—and all died in from one to three weeks after the attacks, although I used various remedies, none of which seemed to have any good affect. Soon after these all died, one pig of another litter was attacked, and as an experiment I gave it about fifteen grains of calomel, and it got well immediately, and none of the others became affected. This spring, the same sow which lost all her pigs last fall, had another litter, and when a few weeks old they began with the bad symptoms, and two died before I thought of the calomel. I gave it to four others affected, and all got well. From these experiments and their success, I deem their publication worth the attention of the farmers. I notice the same disease prevails amongst pigs in Ohio and other localities, and I have great faith in calomel as a remedy, be the disease what it may.

Landscape Gardening.

HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION.

BY S. B. PARSONS.

In continuation of my remarks last week on "Horticultural Education,"—We will suppose that a man has bought his place and desires now to know what to do. The first thing is to put his ground in perfect order. The stumps of old trees should all be taken away, and all rocks reserved for creeping and climbing plants. Then get Allen's largest plow, with the requisite chains, put to it four yoke of strong oxen and plow twice in the same furrow. In this way you can thoroughly stir the soil to the depth of twenty and sometimes twenty-four inches. Then put on as much manure as you can afford and cross plow it again to the same depth.

The grounds are now ready, and your evergreen belt on the boundaries can be planted either between the first and middle of September, or in May. If planted before the autumnal rains, they will get well settled in the ground before winter. The best three trees for this purpose are Norway Spruce, White Pine and Austrian Pine. They all grow quickly and will make a screen quickly. This being done, other evergreens or deciduous trees can be planted either singly or in groups. Masses of shrubs can also be thrown in, care being taken to have the planting rather on the edges than in the middle of a lawn, and keeping open from the house a clear view of a broad expanse of turf. Of evergreen trees, the most desirable for general planting are the following, which I will describe in the order of their merit.

Abies excelsa or *Norway Spruce.*—There is no evergreen so well adapted as this for a variety of purposes. It bears transplanting better than any other, grows rapidly, has a drooping habit at all times, and is very beautiful in the spring when the young shoot, of two or three inches in length, droops down below the line of the older branch. Its color then is very delicate, and there is a soft, feathery richness about it which is very beautiful. It is excellent for a belt; it bears trimming well and makes a good hedge, while for grouping in threes and fives, it is unrivalled. Neither sun nor cold, drought nor moisture seems to affect it, and it is a tree which will always give satisfaction.

Abies canadensis or *Hemlock Spruce.*—This is a little shy of transplanting and, therefore, is not so valuable as the Norway Spruce. It is also somewhat impatient of the cold winds of winter. To guard against this, when small, it is well to plant on the North and West sides a screen of Norway Spruce five feet apart. These can be removed when the Hemlocks have grown sufficient to endure the wind. I have sown 800 feet of Hemlock belt on my own grounds, which have been so sheltered, and they are now the admiration of all who see them.

Those who have traveled in Northern New England, cannot have failed to notice the extreme beauty of the Hemlock when it has had room to develope. It is safe to assert that this is the most beautiful, coniferous, hardy tree yet known. It has none of the stiffness of its congeners; but is varied and picturesque in its outline, and preeminently graceful. It will bear cutting well, and is adapted to situations where a mass of trees is wanted, through which a view can be cut when they become too large.

It preserves a rich green throughout the winter, drooping gracefully over a smooth lawn; but in the spring and early summer is in the greatest perfection, when its young leaf-buds rest like flowers upon the rich darkness of the old foliage, reminding one of Raphael's picture of the young child resting his head against his mother's cheek. If planted two feet apart, and when two feet high, carefully trimmed for a few years, it will form a close hedge of great beauty.

Abies alba or *White Spruce* has the same general character as the Norway Spruce, but is more dwarf, more compact, and grows more slowly. A fine specimen is a beautiful object, and the glaucous tint of its foliage produces a striking effect. It is a tree which should be in every lawn.

Pinus Strobus or *White Pine* is an old and well-known evergreen. A native of Maine and other Northern districts. It is perfectly hardy. It grows with rapidity in any situation, and will make a thick screen quicker than any other tree. It has always been a favorite of mine, for near my father's house was planted one which I climbed when a child; and when a man, gave me pleasure by the musical sound of the wind among its branches—like the beating of waves upon a distant shore.

Pinus excelsa or *Bhotan Pine* is similar to the preceding in its general characteristics; but its longer leaves and light glaucous foliage give it a softer appearance. It is perfectly hardy, grows with great rapidity, and when sold, its abundance enables nurserymen to sell it at as low rates, it will be greatly preferred to White Pine. It is particularly adapted to situations where it is desired to obtain the effect of distance by the introduction of light foliage. In England, it is stated by some, to be the only evergreen which is thoroughly hardy against the winds which blow upon the sea coast.

Pinus Austriaca or *Austrian Pine* is valuable for its strong, robust habit, its rapid growth, and its persistent green, without any of the rusty hue which many evergreens assume in the winter. It is very valuable for belts or masses, and a single specimen, with room to spread, will attain great beauty. It is somewhat shy of transplanting, and requires care in removing.

Pinus sylvestris or *Scotch Fir* is like the above in general characteristics. Its points of difference are less robust branches, more glaucous foliage, and somewhat less rapidity of growth. Like the preceding, it is very hardy, and adapted to exposed situations. It also retains its color well in the winter.

Pinus cembra or *Siberian Stone Pine.*—This tree rarely grows more that 50 feet; but is close, compact, of fine color, hardy under any circumstances and very symmetrical. It is of slow growth, but its close foliage and symmetry make it one of the most beautiful evergreens. When properly appreciated, it will be always recognized as scarcely second to any in desirable qualities.

Around the Republic.

FROM OLD CONNECTICUT.

He who is born and bred in a city knows nothing of the delights the country imparts to those whose earlier recollections are of the fields and rocks, and trees and mountains, by which he was surrounded. And there are few who spend their early years in their native country town who entirely outgrow the impressions and influences its surroundings made upon them. A return, after years of absence, is only to renew acquaintance with natural objects, which, while they have been out of mind, have never been forgotten. True, the hills, down which in winter they used to guide their little sleds, seem not so high as they once were; and the rocks, from whose summit a leap was proof of great courage, have apparently sunk into the ground, or by the rains and frosts of years been worn to the dimensions of moderate-sized boulders; and the stream in which they sailed their little boats and fished for minnows with a pin-hook, can be erased with a step, they are all there still—the hills, the rocks and the stream—and a moment's reflection shows they have not changed. The trees, alone, have outgrown us. Little sprouts that could have been severed at a blow with a Barlow knife, are now trees giving shade and comfort; while those that were fully grown, are gone, passed away, as we shall soon pass, leaving our places for others. "Well," says George Eliot, "a human life, I think, should be well rooted in some spot of a native land where it may get the love of a tender kinship for the face of earth, for the labors men go forth to, for the sounds and accents that haunt it, for whatever will give that early home a familiar unmistakable difference amidst the future widening of knowledge."

That the general surroundings of a country life give to the young a more healthy moral tone than those of a city, is too generally acknowledged to require argument: and while we are too well aware that there is more than enough of sin and evil among all classes and conditions of people in the country, there is still more of fellow feeling and neighborly kindness than in cities. There are so few homes in the city, places to which one becomes really attached, from any thing there is about them in themselves, that the retention of only a very few becomes in any manner essential to our happiness. And those who, from choice or necessity, are frequently removing from one domicile to another, cannot gather around them the thousand little things that, valueless in themselves though they be, serve to give a feeling of home growth and permanence, while the continual change of habitation prevents the formation of those neighborly acquaintances which seem to add so much to the enjoyment of life, for can I believe that there is the same family love and attachments of children to parents, and to each other, when they are reared in the city?

But, perhaps, we are creatures of circumstances, or, as Dr. Draper would have it, of law; and where the tide takes us we must go, struggle and buffet with it as we may. Still, it seems proper that we should endeavor to choose that which we think the best for us, and, under all circumstances, to do that which we believe will serve to insure our own highest happiness, or to put it more laconically, look out for number one.

With this bit of moralizing, which seems to have pressed for utterance this morning, I will pass on to remark:

Riding about town considerably during a few days past, I have noticed that the crop of apples is not so good this season as in some years. The soil in the western portion of the township under the mountain is well adapted to fruit culture, and here apple trees seem quite full; but there is not a large crop. The Golden Sweet, which is a native of this vicinity, were abundant. They are gathered early in August, and sold this year for about one dollar per barrel. Pears seem to be growing in abundance, and, I am told, their culture is much easier and more certain than in former years.

Have you any theory to explain why, in the same location and apparently under the same circumstances, there seems to be times when, for a series of years, certain fruits will do well, and then for a long time all attempts at their cultivation be total failures? Twice, within my recollection, in this immediate vicinity, peaches, large and luscious, and almost without measure, could be raised with very little care. Several years intervened between these times, and since the last Peach Cycle, if I may so call it, it has seemed impossible to coax a tree into bearing.

There are those who hold that when the necessity for any change arises, a way for making it will be found out. Years ago much wood was taken from this township to feed the fires of the Connecticut river steamboats, which, together with the amount consumed for the ordinary purposes of cooking and eating, exhausts the forests quite as rapidly as growth renewed them. When railroads were built, a new demand for fuel was made. This, together with a constant increase in population, requiring a larger supply for domestic purposes, created quite an alarm, and the old farmers prophesied that in twenty years there would not be enough timber left for fencing purposes. But the fuel famine has not yet come. Steamboats and railroads no longer burn wood; and the hearthstones of our fathers have given place to ranges, grates and hot-air furnaces. Coal has, to a great extent, taken the place of wood for fuel, and, with the exception of large timber, which seems to have diminished—having been used for ship timber—there is probably as much growing here to-day as thirty years ago—at least its price in market has not increased out of proportion with other commodities.

Within sight from my window are three churches. They used to be called Meeting Houses—only the places of worship belonging to the Roman Catholics and their, as then thought, junior brothers, the Episcopalians, were called Churches—which belong respectively to the Congregationalists, the Methodists and the Baptists, and the congregations are usually numerically in the order named, filling only about one-third of the sittings provided. From a population of 1,500, scattered over 40 square miles, three large congregations could not be reasonably expected. The result is, neither society is well supported, the largest paying the minister but $1,000 a year (with promised donations). The worthy man who administers to the Methodists, subsists and supports a wife and six children on a salary of $800, and house free of rent; while the Baptists, few in number but fervent in faith, contribute still less to him who furnishes them with their spiritual sustenance. He preaches, and intelligent members of these churches will no doubt agree that there are no differences among them in point of doctrine so great as to necessarily defeat the main object, and that all worthy members will probably cast anchor alongside in the desired haven at last. If they could agree to unite, there would be one good congregation where there are now three small ones, and the amount of money expended by the three societies would, if used by them jointly, better serve to accomplish the ends all seem to have in view. If the people had three roads to their market town, when one could be made to accommodate them as well, rather than be to the expense of keeping the three in tolerable repair, it would not be long before two of them would be given up and the remaining one kept in first-rate condition. But man is a stubborn animal, as contrary as a pig, as mulish as a mule, and is sometimes blind to his own interests, both physical and spiritual.

L. A. R.

Bloomfield, Conn.

The Vineyard.

SOME PROMISING NEW GRAPES.

Both cultivators and consumers of grapes have long felt the need of some really good light-colored sorts—something which would, in part at least, take the place of the exotic varieties generally raised under glass. The Anna Rebecca, Allen's Hybrid, and similar sorts, which were highly extolled years ago, have almost, if not entirely, passed out of cultivation, and we are still waiting to have their places occupied by better sorts of the same color. The Martha was a step in the right direction, coming of a hardy stock; but it failed to meet expectation, being inferior in quality and appearance, consequently it will probably be numbered among the superseded sorts. Next in promise came the "Lady"—a very handsome early white grape—seedling of Concord. We received specimens of this variety from Mr. Geo. W. Campbell of Delaware, O., last year, and again this, and we are well pleased with them, the samples showing earliness, large size of berry and good quality, which is certainly a promising outlook for this comparatively new grape. We also understand that the vine is hardy and the foliage tough enough to withstand mildew in ordinary seasons. The Lady grape, therefore, may be set down as promising well for general cultivation.

The Concord having become one of the most popular black varieties for general cultivation, numerous efforts have been made to raise from it a white sort possessing all the excellent properties of the parent, and while we are scarcely prepared to say that it has been accomplished, we can assert that some who have experimented in that direction have come very near obtaining the desired results. Among the promising white seedlings we have seen are several raised by the veteran ex-editor and pomologist, T. B. Miner of Lincoln, N. J. He has something like a dozen white sorts, all from the Concord and raised without any attempt at hybridizing or crossing with other species or varieties, which give promise of great excellence, not only in the quality of the fruit, but in the hardiness and vigorous growth of the vines.

Without attempting a description of either of these sorts, we will say that we had the pleasure of testing the light-colored varieties last year, and were highly pleased and somewhat surprised at their excellence, considering that they were of pure native blood. We shall have more to say of them when we find time to visit and inspect the original vines, but meantime will mention that one named the *Eugenie* was fully ripe this season on the 15th of August. It is one of the sweetest white grapes we have ever tasted. The *Pauline* is another excellent sort, ripening a few days later and coming nearer to being a *white* grape than most of those classed under this head. If these new white grapes raised by Mr. Miner from seed of the Concord do not fill a vacant niche, then appearance and quality of fruit are not to be considered trustworthy guides. Mr. M. has no vines of any sort for sale.

Domestic Economy.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Graham Gems.—I wish to give you my recipe for Graham Gems. I saw a recipe in the Rural, a few weeks since, for "nice" Graham Gems, which contained buttermilk, cream, molasses, soda, and I don't remember what else, and I said to myself: "Why will people take the most healthful article of food and fix it up in that way, making it very unwholesome, when it can be made so simply." I make mine simply of sweet milk and Graham flour; one cup of milk to one even cup of flour; if made thicker they will not be light. But if this rule is followed, and the oven and gem-pans are hot, they will be like mine, *light as a feather*, and much more delicious than when made with saleratus. They do not need salt.—Mrs. E. J. F., *Warren, Maine.*

[There is a great diversity of opinion in regard to what is or is not considered wholesome. For our part, we do not know why buttermilk, cream, molasses and soda should be any more unhealthy in "Graham Gems" than in cake, if they suit the palate better with these additions. What's the objection?—Ed.]

Crab-Apple Preserves.—Weigh the apples, and with an equal weight of refined sugar make a sirup; wipe the apples, and be sure to remove all of the calyx; prick them; put them into the sirup and boil till tender; when soft, take out and let them drain on a sieve; when cold, place them in jars; boil the sirup until quite thick, then pour over the fruit, and when cold, seal.

Crab-Apple Jelly.—Fill your preserving kettle with apples, then cover with water; boil until they are very soft; when cool enough, squeeze through a thin towel or coarse muslin. To each pint of the juice, add a half pound of loaf-sugar: return the juice to the fire and let it come to a boil before adding the sugar, then boil two or three minutes; pour off into glasses or bowls; when cold, lay fine white paper upon the jelly and fasten thick paper over the bowls with mucilage or paste. Quince jelly can be made in the same way.

Peach Marmalade.—The fruit should be finely flavored and thoroughly ripe, but perfectly sound; pare, remove the stones, weigh; put the peaches over the fire in a preserving kettle, and boil until very soft with a few of the kernels; stir them often to prevent burning; remove them from the fire, mash to a pulp, and add three-quarters of a pound of refined sugar to each pound of peaches; return to the fire and

boil briskly five minutes; skim carefully any scum that may rise. It should be a smooth paste. Put up in jelly glasses; lay soft paper over the marmalade, and seal up.

Sweet Pickled Pears.—To seven pounds of fruit, make a sirup of four pounds of sugar and one quart of vinegar; peel the pears, cut out the calyx, and stick cloves into them, say half an inch apart; boil the pears in the sirup until tender; take them out and drain on a sieve: when cool, place in jars; boil the sirup fifteen or twenty minutes longer, then pour over the fruit: when cold, fasten thick paper over the top.

MRS. RUSTIC.

Recipe for Canning Pumpkins Wanted.—EDS. RURAL: Will some of your lady readers of the Domestic department give me a recipe for canning pumpkin so it will be fresh in the winter or spring?—MRS. E. J. W.

[Will some of our lady readers respond and oblige.—ED.]

To "Anib."—To drive away ants—black or red—I sprinkle fine salt all over the pantry shelves, also occasionally wash them out with hot salt water. They hate salt as much as they love sugar. I have heard that tobacco dust is also very good for this purpose.

A wet sponge, sugared, will collect them, then throw it in hot water.—C. H. C.

Another.—My remedy for that pest, the "red ant," is kerosene. If they go in the cupboard, I rub it on the shelves. In a few days they will be gone, then you can wash up with hot soap-suds. You can rub kerosene on the outside of barrels or large jars. I, for one, think kerosene can be tolerated better than "red ants."—MRS. H. H. ANDREWS.

Hygienic Information.

MALARIA.*

The terms *malaria* and *miasm* in medicine include the causes of a large class of affections—what are known more particularly as *zymotic* diseases, which depend upon a variety of specific organic poisons whose essential nature, composition, and form, are mostly inappreciable as yet by scientific research. The general understanding, however, of these terms, is more limited; and, in conformity with the popular idea, I shall in the present paper confine their application to the cause of those wide-spread disorders, *intermittent* and *remittent* fevers—the former of which is so well known as "chills and fever" or "fever and ague."

"Time out of mind," as Watson remarks, "it had been matter of common observation that the inhabitants of wet and marshy situations were especially subject to these definite and unequivocal forms of disease." The same natural agencies which are now at work elaborating, evolving, and disseminating malaria must have been equally in operation ever since the surface of the earth assumed its present condition. Vast and remote wildernesses that have never known human presence teem, as of yore, with deadly exhalations that almost preclude the bold attempts of enterprising man to lay bare their secrets. There are some parts of India, as Bishop Heber informs us, which even monkeys and other wild animals instinctively desert between April and October of each year. The tigers go up to the hills; the antelopes and wild-hogs make incursions into the cultivated plains; and those persons, such as *dak-bearers* and military people, who are obliged to venture into the marshy jungles, agree that not so much as a bird can be heard or seen in the frightful solitude.

Taking the United States census of 1870 as a guide for our own country, we find malarial fevers forming a very important feature of the mortality-tables. They are most fatal in Florida, Louisiana and Texas. Next in order follow Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, Kansas and Nevada. In another group distinguished by a somewhat less mortality we find New Mexico, the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana. Those States marked by the lowest mortality are the New England and Middle States, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. In California there is a considerable ratio of mortality, diminishing easterly in Utah, and northerly in Oregon and Washington Territory, while it augments largely toward the south in New Mexico. Since the census was taken, however, that is, since about 1869, there has been noticed an evident extension of the subtile miasmatic agency over regions previously exempt from it, in the Middle and New England States. The increase of mortality by this cause in New York City has been notable, but can scarcely be attributed entirely to local influences. In 1868 there were registered in this city only 98 deaths from malarial fevers. In 1869 they rose to 128; in 1870, to 213; in 1871, to 291; and in 1872, to 348; an increase of 350 per cent. in four years. Since then some diminution in their fatality has occurred. They occasioned 282 deaths in 1873, 295 in 1874, and 275 in 1875.

Let us now consider under what circumstances malaria may be produced. Although it cannot be denied that there are peculiar localities where, with apparently every presumed condition existing for the development of malaria, that poison is entirely absent, yet the concurrence of malarial emanations with such conditions in innumerable places establishes beyond a question their direct relation. The *essential* element in the production of malaria would appear to be *vegetable decomposition;* and, in order that this process shall ensue, the simultaneous operation of *air, moisture,* and *a certain high range of temperature,* is absolutely required. Localities, therefore, where such combination occurs, are prolific of malaria. Of this character are swamps and morasses, alluvial deposits, loose, porous, sandy, and argillaceous soils, or deep, loamy, marly lands underlaid by impermeable strata affording capacity for the retention of moisture, regions exposed to periodical or occasional inundation, places left bare by the subsidence of lakes or drying up of streams, and particularly areas subject to the intermingling of salt and fresh water—as salt-marshes into which fresh streams discharge, or regions liable to tidal overflow and recession.

The exhalations from marshy tracts are recognized by their effects upon the human system throughout the world; and the fact that marshes bear a causative relation to malaria has been demonstrated in numerous instances by the disappearance of fever after thorough drainage and cultivation, and its reappearance upon their being allowed to relapse into neglect. The favorable effect of drainage and cultivation is owing both to the systematic removal of water near the surface, and most probably also to the absorption by the growing crops of the products of organic decomposition. On the same principle Prof. Maury succeeded in antagonizing the noxious emanations from a marsh surrounding the observatory at Washington by planting it thickly with sunflowers, which seem to possess an extraordinary absorbing power. Sebastian is inclined to believe that the *Calamus aromaticus* which grows in some swamps has a similar neutralizing quality. Swamps covered with water are not so dangerous as those partially dry, the layer of water serving as a protection against the access of air and heat to the vegetable matter underneath.

A certain continuous range of temperature seems essential to the development of malaria, which is almost unknown beyond 60° north and 57° south latitude, and during the cold season in the temperate zone. [There are localities where intermitting fevers are even more common in winter than in summer in the temperate zone.—EDS.] According to Hirsch, it prevails up to various degrees of latitude and average annual temperature. It is the average summer temperature, however, that is of account, and the northern limit of this lies between the isotherms of 59° and 59.8° Fahr., giving a prolonged temperature sufficiently high to insure vegetable decomposition.

The alluvial soil along the banks of rivers and at their deltas, as those of the Ganges, Nile, Orinoco, and Mississippi, gives rise to fevers of a very malignant type. Their banks are subject to overflow, and frequently have a clayey subsoil, presenting an obstacle to percolation—thus upon the river's receding into its ordinary channel its banks remain damp below the surface, and disease is generated by the sun's agency. A like process annually takes place in the extensive plains and table-lands formed of alluvium washed down from mountain-ranges during the lapse of centuries, and having few actual marshes. Profuse rains, succeeded by dry hot seasons, render such regions exceedingly insalubrious during certain periods of the year. Somewhat similar in character are the oases of the Desert of Sahara, which abound in malaria. Hirsch describes these spots as consisting of trough-like depressions in a rocky or highly-hygroscopic soil, the receptacle of subterranean waters, and covered with a layer of alluvium, the surface of the oasis. In this the fierce heat of the sun causes cracks and deep rifts in the earth, which give free vent to the miasm evolved from beneath.

Localities subject to the intermixture of salt and fresh water are particularly prone to malaria. The Maremmas of Italy afford examples of this on a large scale. The Maremma of Lucca consists of three basins formerly dotted over with ponds and pools. It had been for centuries frequently overflowed by the sea-tides which intermingled with its fresh ponds. Malarial fevers ravaged it and rendered it almost uninhabitable. To the wayfarer who was so imprudent as to spend a night of August or September within its desolate bounds, the penalty was almost certain death. A remedy for this deplorable condition of things was long sought. A proposition had been made in 1714 by the engineer Rondelli to attempt the exclusion of the sea. Renewed in 1730 by Manfredi, and six years later by Zendrini, a mathematician of Bologna, the idea was finally carried into execution in 1740. The initial attempt was made upon the principal and most unhealthful basin. A sluice was constructed at the entrance of the canal of Burlamacca through which the waters of the sea penetrated into the basin to its central pond. The flood-gate was so arranged as to act like a valve, shutting by the pressure of the rising tide and opening when it fell. The success of this enterprise was so complete that in the following year the miasmatic diseases which had never failed to show themselves annually did not reappear, and the whole district was rendered salubrious. It was at this period that the village of Viarregio, previously abandoned and composed only of a few fishers' huts grouped at the foot of an old tower where galley-slaves were confined, became a place of fashionable resort during the summer for the aristocracy of Lucca. This fact of a region's being rendered healthy by the exclusion of sea-water is curious, but made more decisive still by its counter-proof. In 1768–'69 fevers suddenly sprang up again as bad as ever in the same territory. Upon the cause being investigated, it was found that the sluice had become deranged and the mixture of waters had been re-established. Upon the flood-gate being repaired, the malaria was again extinguished. The same occurrence happened in 1784–'85. The sluice having been neglected, there took place in 1784, out of a population of 1,900, the enormous number of 1,200 cases of malarial fever and 92 deaths. In the following year there occurred 103 deaths. The trouble was remedied in the same manner as before. The other portions of the Maremma were rendered healthy later, by sluices successively established at different points. Such a remarkable result necessarily attracted public attention. Leopold II., Grand-duke of Tuscany, was particularly impressed by it, and he conceived the great idea of improving the whole Tuscan Maremma in the same manner. It was an immense undertaking which he contemplated—an actual transformation of a large part of his dominions—and it redounds to his glory that he succeeded, in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles, by the means described, and a properly-directed system of canalization and field-culture, in regenerating a very considerable portion of his territory.

It is not difficult to account for the generation of malaria under such circumstances as those just mentioned. The minute forms of vegetable life with which both fresh and salt water teem require their own special element for continued existence. The intermixture of salt with fresh water introduces a new element with which the life maintained in each separately is incompatible. The surface of the soil consequently after every invasion and retirement of the tide exposes to the action of the heat a mass of defunct vegetable material spread out over an extensive area, and in most favorable condition for speedy decomposition.

Besides the localities enumerated, malaria is apt to be induced or intensified in a region wholly or comparatively exempt from it before, during the disturbance of large extents of soil, as in the construction of canals, roads, railways, fortifications and dikes, rooting out of timber, preparation of virgin land for cultivation, etc. Vegetable organisms previously hidden and protected underground are thus brought to the surface and exposed to the agencies of putrefaction. Laborers engaged in such works and the neighboring inhabitants soon suffer. The "polders" of Holland, those parts reclaimed from the sea by the erection of dikes, are of this character, and the workmen engaged on them are attacked with malarial troubles of great severity. In this country such instances are common. We have an example at our very doors in the increase of malarial fevers which accompanied the opening of the new boulevards, and the engineering excavations of the Harlem Railroad. After such works have been completed, however, it is not unusual for the vicinity to be restored to healthfulness.

It must be acknowledged that occasionally miasmatic fevers appear and disappear without there having occurred any perceptible changes in the relations of the soil. Such circumstances were reported to the Pennsylvania State Medical Society as having been noticed in 1856 along the Juniata River. Reports to the Connecticut State Medical Society also mention the appearance of miasmatic disorders without any recognized cause in portions of the State previously exempt from them.

An impeded outflow which raises the level of the ground-water has been productive of an immense spread of paroxysmal fevers. Demster, Taylor and Ferguson, have reported such to have been the case in portions of India. The severe and fatal fevers prevailing in Burdowan, Lower Bengal, during the last fifteen or twenty years, have been coincident with obstruction to the natural drainage from mills, and blockage of water-courses. The same cause has doubtless operated to a great extent in producing the fevers of Bloomingdale, Manhattanville, Yorkville and Harlem. The establishment during the past five years of extensive subsoil drains in those portions of New York has had a visible tendency to diminish the area of malaria. A similar result on a large scale has been noticed in Lincolnshire and other parts of England, where many malarious tracts have been rendered quite healthy by similar measures, having for their object the lowering of the subsoil water-level by an increased outflow.

With regard to the question, "Can drinking-water act as a vehicle for the introduction of malaria into the animal system?" *a priori* it seems reasonable to suppose that such may be the case. If malaria, be it a gaseous substance or an accumulation of minute organisms, cannot pollute water, it differs essentially from other materials of similar form with which we are better acquainted. But, in fact, we have positive proof that malarial fevers may be due to drinking impure water. In 1834 there returned to Marseilles from Bona in the ship Argo 120 soldiers, of whom 103 were seized with various forms of malarial fever after drinking marsh-water taken on board at Bona. On the other hand, the sailors of the same vessel, who had pure water, and 780 men embarked on two other vessels, remained well. The few soldiers on the Argo not attacked had purchased their drinking water from the sailors. Against such positive evidence as this the statement of Finke that in Hungary and Holland marsh-water is drunk without injury is of little value.

The stratum of air overlying typical malarial marshes has been examined with particular care. It has been found to contain an excess of carbonic acid—watery vapor in large quantity—often carburetted hydrogen, and occasionally free hydrogen, ammonia, and phosphuretted hydrogen. If the marsh contains sulphates, sulphuretted hydrogen is present. Its organic matter blackens sulphuric acid—gives a reddish color to nitrate of silver—has a flocculent appearance, a peculiar odor, and affords evidence of ammonia. These various examinations, though interesting, bring us no nearer to a solution of the question, *What is the nature of malaria?* All of the many substances and forms thus far observed in malarial localities may be found equally in districts perfectly salubrious.

That it gains access to the system principally through the respiratory organs is quite certain. What we really do know of it has reference more particularly to its mode of action. It is most dangerous when the sun is down, and it seems almost inert during the day. It appears providential that the same agency which is so potent in its production should be the principal instrument of its destruction. It loves the ground, where in many regions it is so concentrated and deadly as to destroy the incautious sleeper on the earth almost as quickly as the most noxious gas. Hence it is generally regarded as having a specific gravity heavier than that of air, but this is by no means certain. It is doubtless rendered heavy by combining with night-fogs and dews, but upon their being dissipated by the sun it rises into the air and probably becomes innocuous by wide diffusion and dilution. It is intercepted by impediments, such as walls and groves of leafy trees, which obstruct the winds that bear it. Perhaps the latter also neutralize it by absorption. It is likewise neutralized and probably absorbed in passing over a considerable body of water—especially salt water. The distance necessary to effect this result naturally varies with circumstances—force of winds, concentration, intensity, and abundance of the poison itself. According to Blanc, in the channel between Bevoland and Walcheren, 3,000 feet of water rendered it inert. In China, three-quarters of a mile, and in the West Indies, one mile, have been required to be effectual.

Recognizing the facts mentioned, the precautions to be observed against malaria are quite obvious. In built-up cities we are protected by pavements and sewers to a great extent, and probably also by the character of the atmosphere, which is artificially warmed by radiation at night, and impregnated with gases, which, though injurious in other ways, are antagonistic to malarial emanations. But in malarial suburban and country districts it is otherwise. There certain precautions are necessary. If possible, elevation of a dwelling place, at least 500 feet above the source of the miasm, is to be recommended in temperate climates, and from 1,500 to 2,000 feet in the tropics. If this be not practicable, thorough subsoil drainage, filling up of low and moist grounds, covering the earth with closely-cut herbage, belts of umbrageous trees interposed between the dwelling and the point of danger, but at a sufficient distance to permit free ventilation, and the access of sunlight; doors and windows opening principally away from the malarial quarter; the house, if possible, to be raised on pillars or arches a few feet above the ground, otherwise a sub-cellar thoroughly cemented—all these are measures of primary importance. The sleeping apartments should not be below the second story, and should be provided with open fireplaces in which on damp or chilly nights a little fire may be kindled. Exposure to the open air after sunset, or until several hours after sunrise, should be avoided. As whatever tends to lower the vital powers predisposes the individual to malarial invasion, personal hygiene is indispensable. It should of course be dictated by common sense, with the object of establishing and maintaining, in the words of the old maxim of the sanitarian, *mens sana in corpore sano.*

*Extracts from a paper read before the New York Public Health Association.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 9, 1876.

DO NOT DECEIVE YOURSELF.

It is claimed, and doubtless with truth, that the chief reason why the Chinese have remained so far behind Europeans in the fine arts and higher branches of science, is the consummate vanity they possess, which induces them to look with contempt upon the real knowledge of every other nation. The ignorant pretender thinks he understands everything that comes in his way, while our greatest philosophers know that their ignorance outweighs all their accumulated knowledge. LOCKE's advice on this point is worth repeating and remembering: "Our knowledge being so narrow, it will perhaps give us some light into the present state of our minds if we look a little into the dark side and take a view of our ignorance which, being infinitely greater than our knowledge, may serve to the quieting of disputes and improvement of useful knowledge."

Now would not this be a good lesson to learn and heed in relation to all matters pertaining to rural pursuits? for it is just possible that a man who thinks he knows all about certain breeds of animals or kinds of fruits, grain or vegetables, has yet something to learn, and is deceiving himself by refusing to investigate or to look upon the opposite side to that upon which he has been wont to gaze. It is certainly surprising to note how tenaciously a person will cling to an error after it has been shown to be such, if a change is likely to interfere with his pleasures or profits.

As a familiar example of how some persons deceive themselves, we may mention the manufacture of what are termed home-made wines. It matters little what they are made of—whether grapes, gooseberries, currants or elderberries—the principles are all the same and the results vary only in degree, some being stronger than others. Such beverages are almost as common and popular among country folk as the higher-priced wines are among the residents of our larger cities and, for aught we know, just as good and wholesome; but the objective point is that thousands of persons deceive themselves into believing that they do not contain any intoxicating properties—in other words, that they are really pure and free from alcohol. Many a time have we heard the good farmer or his wife say, this currant, or other "home-made" wine, is "pure, and does not contain a drop of spirits, for I made it myself."

Now the persons making such statements may be perfectly honest and truthful to the extent of their knowledge of the facts of the case, and yet at the same time they are grievously deceived in supposing such home-made beverages contain no intoxicating properties. Cane-sugar through fermentation, produces rum at the rate of about one pint to a pound, and it makes little difference whether fermented in connection with elderberry, currant, or the juice of any other fruit, the rum is in the mixture, however well it may be disguised to the palate. The effect upon the human system is the same as though drank in its pure state or diluted with water.

Many a sample of good, generous currant wine, contains twenty per cent. of alcohol or New England rum, although not a drop of anything was added to the juice but "three or four pounds of sugar;" consequently, every time one drinks a glass of it he takes one-fifth of a glass of rum. For our own part, we could never understand wherein there was any difference, morally, between offering a friend a glass of home-made or other wine and a glass of rum, whisky or brandy, except one's vanity may be tickled and the rum deceit give zest to flavor. Would not it be more honest and manly to offer the pure undisguised article than the deceptive one, and would not the young men and women be far more likely to reject the rum than the wine, and thereby never acquire the taste for strong drink? Are not fathers and mothers deceiving themselves in this wine making business, owing to an indisposition to look on the dark side taking, as LOCKE says, a view of our ignorance? Let us be honest with ourselves in such matters and not permit vanity and conceit to get the better of our judgment, and thereby shut out the light which is freely offered to those who should be capable of receiving it.

LOCAL VALUE OF THINGS.

THE stubbornness of mankind is probably exhibited more conspicuously in the unwillingness to admit that a thing may be of great value to one person and quite worthless to another. Or, to express the idea in other words, a thing may have a local value far above its general worth.

The ignoring of this fact is frequently the cause of much bickering among individuals and nations and of more or less unhappiness generally. But we have no need to go far away from home to find abundant examples of this local valuation of things important and unimportant.

A dog may, under certain circumstances, be actually worth to his owner more than a first-rate horse or a half dozen cows. Still, few other persons could be induced to take the animal as a gift; but the arbitrary ruling of a statute law would, perhaps, ignore any individual or local valuation.

Certain breeds of farm stock are known to be far more valuable in particular localities than others, depending upon local circumstances, of which those residing outside of what may be a circumscribed region of country can know little, and still the latter are generally ready to express an opinion as to the folly of the former in placing a value upon their own property.

Fast horses with records of 2.20 or less, may be in demand among a certain class of men; but of what earthly use are they to those who have work to do on a farm in the way of plowing or hauling loads to market? It is an old saying, that "A thing is worth what it will fetch in market, and no more;" but there are many exceptions to this rule, and the local value of things in general come under this head. The camel may be a very useful animal in Africa and the elephant in India; but who, in this country, could be induced to take either and keep it for use or ornament?

This same principle holds good in all the various phases of rural life. The apple, pear, peach, grape or other fruit which may prove to be of inestimable value in one state or location, may be almost worthless in another. Of course, we are not to believe that the old Pound pear is as sweet and delicious in California as the Seckel is in New York—no matter who or how many persons might make such a claim for it. Still, if the Pound pear is found to succeed where the Seckel does not, then we would be bound to own that it was the most valuable of the two sorts, for a certain locality or under certain conditions. We may feel like pitying a person who is compelled to eat Scuppernong and Fox grapes because he cannot raise Delawares or Ionas; but the circumstances may be such that the former are more valuable, locally, than the latter. There is, however, no need of pursuing this subject further, as the man using his reasoning powers will readily perceive how absurd it is in him to place a valuation upon things of which he must necessarily know little or nothing.

RAILROAD RISKS.

IT is stated that JOHN BRIGHT once said that the safest place in which a man could put himself was inside a first-class railway car. This, perhaps, is not absolutely true, but it is much nearer the truth than might at first be supposed. We do not realize the immense number of people who ride in cars nor the number of miles traveled.

The last report to the Massachusetts Legislature relative to the railroads in that State, contains much valuable and interesting information, some of which has been used by CHAS. FRANCIS ADAMS, Jr., in the preparation of articles published in the Atlantic Monthly. From this source we learn that in proportion to the number carried the accidents to passengers in the "good old days of stage coaches" in France during forty years, were, as compared to those of the present time on railroads, as sixty to one. Adjusting the stage risks in France to the modern travel of Massachusetts, eighty passengers should be killed and eleven hundred wounded every year by railroad travel in that State, which is fifty times more than the actual average. More were killed and wounded in Massachusetts fifty years ago by stage travel than at present on railroads.

It must be remembered that these remarks refer only to those who are subjects of accidents which are entirely beyond their control. Deaths or injuries arising from carelessness or inattention of the sufferers are not considered. Employees of railroads become so accustomed to being in places of danger as to take risks that are entirely unnecessary; and people will persist in walking on and driving across tracks without regard to the repeated warnings, and if the result of their acts be suffering or death, it is not properly chargeable to the railroad system.

During the fifteen years from 1861 to 1874, inclusive, there were 350,000,000 passengers carried by railroads in Massachusetts, of which thirty-nine were killed and two hundred and fifty injured—or less than one in each 8,900,000 killed and one in 14,000,000 injured. For each death 115,000,000 miles were traveled, and for each death and injury not resulting in death, more than 18,000,000 miles.

During the four years, 1872–75, 130,000,000 of passengers journeys over 1,700,000,000 miles of railroad were made within the limits of the State, in which only one person was killed and but forty-two injured. With the same risk, if a person was born upon a railroad car and traveled five hundred miles a day, he would be about two hundred and twenty years old before meeting with an accident involving any personal injury.

In comparison with the above facts, Mr. ADAMS goes on to state that during the year 1874, in Boston alone, fifteen persons were killed by falling down stairs, twelve by falling out of windows, fourteen burned to death, and seventeen by having been run over in the streets.

We take pleasure in presenting the above statistics to our readers, because many whose duties are principally near their homes, in the shock given them by reading some railroad accident, forget to what extent travel is made, and we know further that many of these people when they do take a seat in a car of the best-conducted road, suffer intensely from a nervous fear during the whole of their journey. Facts, like the above and a little thoughtful consideration thereof, may do much to allay such apprehensions.

RURAL NOTES.

Georgia State Hort. Soc.—On the 16th and 17th August, it was my pleasure to attend a Convention of Horticulturists in the city of Macon and during these days we perfected the organization of the Georgia State Horticultural Society upon a firm, satisfactory basis. P. J. BERCKMANS, President, Augusta; J. S. NEWMAN, Sec'y, Atlanta. Besides garden products, many of which were very fine, we had on exhibition over 300 plates of fruit, comprising 40 varieties of apples, 35 of pears, 25 of peaches, 25 of grapes, 6 of plums—many of which were quite creditable. In view of the lateness of the season, the general failure of our best fruits, the very short notice of the meeting, the exhibition was regarded as an unlooked-for-success. President BERCKMANS delivered an address, a copy of which I inclose. You will be pleased with it, I trust. I also inclose a copy of the second day's proceedings, except the report on exhibition of fruits and vegetables.—J. J. TOON. [We are always pleased to hear of the formation of new Industrial Societies, and especially Horticultural and Agricultural.—ED. RURAL.

A Word from Advertisers.—Advertisers rarely give, voluntarily, such flattering testimony as is contained in the letters below. It is very gratifying to the management of this journal to know that our advertising columns are such a true index of the wants of our subscribers:

NEW YORK, Aug. 28, 1876.

GENTLEMEN:—We have advertised in your paper for upwards of six years, and during that time we received more letters and applications for the celebrated Borel & Courvoisier Watches from persons and dealers who wrote and informed us that it was by having seen the advertisement in RURAL NEW-YORKER, than in any other journal. We are free to say that our advertisement in your paper paid us better than any other medium we employed. We shall advertise in the RURAL again this fall and winter, and hope that it will lead the van as formerly. Yours,
QUINCHE & KRUGLER.

RANDOLPH, N. Y., Aug. 28, 1876.

GENTLEMEN:—Inclosed find check for our bill for advertising in the RURAL NEW-YORKER. Please acknowledge receipt of same and oblige. We are well pleased with the investment and will patronize your paper another year. Respectfully yours, WILLARD & HAMMOND,
M'f'rs. of Champion Milk Pan and Cooler.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THE oyster shell bark louse, which is so common upon apple trees in the Eastern States, has made its appearance in California upon pear trees.

FARMERS residing in the "Burnt districts" of the East this season, should sow rye this fall for early spring pasture, as the grass is likely, from present indications, to be exceeding short and thin next season.

THE Grangers of California are again shipping their wheat direct to Eastern markets in vessels chartered for the purpose, thereby taking all the risks themselves and saving the middleman's commissions.

PARTIES desiring trees, plants or bulbs, are referred to ELLWANGER & BARRY's advertisement, now appearing in our columns. Their establishment is recognized as one of the largest and most reliable in the United States.

SMALL hogs of from 200 to 300 pounds' weight command a better price in English markets than larger ones; which certainly shows that the pork eaters on the other side of the Atlantic know the difference between a coarse and fine-grained article.

IF the Judges at the Centennial Exhibition on Live Stock and other Agricultural and Horticultural products are not fitted for the positions they hold, the Chief of the Agricultural Bureau should not be held responsible, but the old "Fogys" among the Commission.

THE South publishes a long and labored article to prove that white men *can* labor in hot climates with as little inconvenience and injury to health as the negroes, thereby assuming what few have ever denied; but the most important question to be answered is, "Will they? or do they?"

THE manufacture of a tobacco sheep wash is carried on quite extensively in Liverpool, Eng., and it is said one company has boiled down more than a ton per day. Into the tobacco water is put sulphate of copper, turpentine and salt, the mixture being employed for destroying scab on sheep; but gardeners use it as a general insecticide.

CALIFORNIANS are talking of opium-poppy culture in the State and thereby supplying the Chinese population with the home-grown article. The only question to be settled in connection with the production of opium anywhere in this country, is whether labor can be had sufficiently cheap to enable the producer to compete with other nations.

AIR CASTLES.

CASTLES in air,
Castles in Spain,
Dream-mansions fair,
Over again
Build we in youth
Only to see
Turret and wall
Crumble—Ah, me!

Dreams of the past
Too fair and bright,
Aye, sweet to last,
Haunt me to-night—
Pale ghosts of dreams
Cherished how long?
Till Youth's young May
Died like a song?

Four precious ships
Sent o'er life's main,
Love, Wealth and Fame,
Ne'er came again.
Only one ship
From that lone sea,
Freighted with Faith
Came home to me.

Moored in Hope's bay,
Anchors made fast,
On Christ, my stay,
Peace—*rest*, at last.
Argosies fair
Laden with gold,
Never can buy
Christ's love untold.

[*Emma May Buckingham.*

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 157.]

THE TERRITORY NORTHWEST OF THE OHIO was in 1787 erected into a District, with a Governor, Legislative Council and House of Representatives. The act of Congress provided for the formation from this Territory of three and not more than five, States. The Western State to be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Wabash Rivers, and a line due north from Post Vincent on the Wabash to the Territorial line, thence by said line to Lake of the Woods and Mississippi River; the Middle State to be bounded by said direct line, and the Wabash from Post Vincent to the Ohio River, by the Ohio, by a meridian line from the mouth of the Great Miami to the Territorial line, and thence west on said line. The Eastern State to be bounded by the last-named direct north and south line, the Ohio River, Pennsylvania and the Territorial line—reserving the right, if Congress pleased, to form one or two States in that part of said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan; and providing that when either of these Districts should have a population of 60,000, it might apply for admission to the Union. It was further provided that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude (except for crime) should exist in this Territory; but also providing that slaves escaping and found within the Territorial limits should be returned. The population of this section increased rapidly.

In 1796 Wayne County was established, embracing what is now Northwest Ohio, a large tract in Northeast Indiana, and all of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. In 1799 there were 5,000 free male inhabitants and eight organized counties. A Territorial Government was adopted and WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON elected the first Delegate to Congress.

In 1801 the Territory was divided into two Governments by a line from the mouth of the Kentucky to Fort Recovery, and thence north to Territorial line. East of this line the Government already established was continued. The Territory was named Ohio, (the beautiful,) with the seat of Government at Chillicothe. West of the line a similar Government was established, embracing all of the northwest except Ohio, and the Territory named Indiana.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Previous to the adoption of the Federal Constitution the Congress had no stated place of meeting. Sessions were held at New York, Trenton, Annapolis, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Lancaster, York, and Princeton. It became evident that a permanent place of meeting should be selected and suitable buildings erected, not only for the sessions of Congress but for the offices of the various departments of Government, and that this place should be under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government and not subject to the control of any State. With this end in view an article in the Constitution provided that Congress should have power "To exercise exclusive legislation over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may by cession of particular States and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of Government of the United States."

In 1789 the question of location was discussed, and it was agreed that it should be situated with reference to the center of wealth, population and territory, having also in view ease of access by navigable waters and a due regard to the situation of the Western country. Various places were named, among which were Philadelphia, Germantown, New York, Harrisburg, Wright's Ferry, (on the Susquehanna, thirty miles above the head of navigation,) Peach Blossom, (ten miles lower down,) Wilmington and Baltimore. Southern members favored a location to be selected on the Potomac, and preferring the present site of Washington—then called "Connogocheague." Pennsylvania offered to give $100,000 toward the erection of buildings if located in that State. Delaware, Maryland and Virginia each agreed to surrender right of jurisdiction to the required land should a location within their boundary be chosen.

Considerable discussion was had in which much sectional feeling was exhibited, but no decision was arrived at until July, 1790. At that time the Assumption bill was pending in Congress. This bill provided for the assumption by the General Government of the debts incurred by the several States during and for the prosecution of the war. It was warmly supported by most of the Northern members and by those from South Carolina who represented the States most to be benefited by its passage, but who were in a minority. At length, two of the "Potomac" members, so-called, agreed to change their votes and support the Assumption bill if, in consideration thereof, enough "Assumption" members would vote to locate the seat of Government on the Potomac as to secure a majority therefor. This was done and both bills were passed—the latter, however, with the agreement that Congress should continue to meet in Philadelphia until 1800, that time being supposed necessary for the selection of a proper situation and the erection of suitable buildings thereon.

OHIO.

In 1802 Ohio was admitted as a State. The Constitution and ordinance of admission, containing a proviso that if the north line of the State as determined by the ordinance of 1787 should not be so far north as the north cape of Maumee Bay, then the north line of Ohio should be a line drawn from the south end of Lake Michigan to said north cape of Maumee Bay. This was done to include Toledo, the best harbor of Lake Erie, and gave Ohio the strip of territory adjoining Michigan, with an average length of eighty miles and six miles wide, and a triangular tract in the northeast corner of the State embracing 700 square miles—all north of the line of 1787.

In connection with the early history of Ohio an incident occurred that shows what great results are sometimes produced by trivial causes. In 1788 or soon after, Judge SYMMES established himself with quite a colony at North Bend, on the Ohio, about fifteen miles below Cincinnati. Here he laid out a spacious city, to which he gave his name. About this time a detachment of troops were sent, with orders to erect a fort between the Miamis. Influenced probably by the Judge, they halted at North Bend and commenced their search for the best site for the fortification. Unfortunately for the Judge, the officer in command met and immediately became enamored with a beautiful black-eyed woman, wife of one of the settlers. The husband being a man of peace and apparently aware of the powers of the sons of MARS over the average woman, with great discretion retreated, abandoned the locality and removed all his household gods, wife included, further up the river, where he supposed he could rest securely at Cincinnati. North Bend immediately lost all charms for the gallant officer. No place suitable for a fort could be found and, beside, as he reported to the Judge, he thought the fortress should be located nearer midway between the two rivers and, at any rate, he would commence no building before examining further up. So the troops were put in marching order and moved up the river. An admirable location was found at Cincinnati and the erection of Fort Washington was forthwith commenced. The settlers at North Bend followed the troops, and thus the pretty face of a woman was the means of transferring the site of the commercial emporium of Ohio from the place where it was first established to the location it now occupies.

It is to be regretted that history records no further facts relative to the lady. But perhaps it is better so. You of imaginative minds may from this beginning work out a romance to your liking. Choosing your plot for yourselves, you may make of it Tragedy, Comedy or Farce, as you will.

LOUISIANA.

The French were never satisfied with the transfer in 1762 of their possessions in America to Spain and had never lost sight of their countrymen subjected to Spanish rule; and now Spain, having become involved in the European war, was obliged to yield to the wishes of the French and NAPOLEON determined to restore to France her ancient dominion in Louisiana and after negotiation, by treaty confirmed in 1801, Spain ceded to France the territory with the same extent it had when before in possession of France. In return, NAPOLEON promised to settle upon the Duke of Parma, son-in-law of the Spanish King, the sovereignty of the kingdom of Tuscany, with the title, "King of Etruria."

NAPOLEON made great preparations to take possession. A force of 25,000 men was collected and a fleet made ready to take them to America. But

"The best laid plans of mice and men
Gang aft agley."

The English were not entirely satisfied that the destination of this force was America and, as a matter of prudence, concentrated a powerful fleet in the British Channel, effectually checking the project of the French. Then NAPOLEON began to fear that so soon as Louisiana was again declared a French Province, this fleet of the English would at once sail for the Mississippi, blockade all entrance, and taking possession, proceed to conquer and occupy it. He could, as then circumstanced, ill afford to spare men and means to protect it, and much as it hurt his pride and ambition, he determined to sell the whole territory to the United States before his enemies should wrest it from him, thus weakening England by strengthening America. Both parties being desirous of consummating the arrangement, terms were soon agreed upon, and in 1803 a treaty was signed by the agents of each power by which, in consideration of $10,000,000 to be paid to France and $5,000,000 to be paid to American citizens in discharge of claims against France for spoliations and an agreement to submit to the ceded territory all goods duty free for twelve years, NAPOLEON obligated France to give possession in six months.

Spain was indignant at the transfer and claimed that by the deed of cession from Spain to France, it was agreed that the territory should never be alienated from France. This matter was, however, amicably settled, and in November 30, 1803, Spain made formal delivery to France, the French flag was raised and for a few days the country was again under French rule; but on the delivery of the country to the United States December 20, 1803, the tri-color slowly descended, meeting the Stars and Stripes at half-mast. When the sale was completed BONAPARTE is said to have remarked that by that act the power of the United States was forever established, and that England had now a rival that would sooner or later dispute her supremacy on the sea and humble her pride.

The purchase of Louisiana more than doubled the area of the United States, and settled forever the vexed question of the navigation of the Mississippi. Amicable relations could not have been long sustained with any nation holding possession of New Orleans and the Delta of the Mississippi. Nor would entire harmony have been possible with with any trans-Mississippi Government. What this country now is is owing largely to this territorial acquisition; and this was consequent, in large degree, to the clearness of foresight, soundness of judgment and energy of prosecution, of that Democratic-Republican, than whom, in his time or ours, none has lived wiser or better —THOMAS JEFFERSON.

ORLEANS.—In 1804 Congress erected the whole area purchased from France into two Governments. All south of Mississippi Territory and a line commencing at the Mississippi River and running on parallel 33° to the west bound of the country ceded by France, was named the District of Orleans. The form of Government was similar to that of the Northwest Territory, having such modifications as were required to adapt it to population of a foreign origin.

LOUISIANA.—In 1812 Orleans—after much discussion as to the constitutionality of making States from acquired territory—was admitted to the Union and named Louisiana; and the territory lately bearing that name was called the Missouri Territory. Shortly after Congress extended the limits of the State to embrace the Florida Parishes, giving boundaries as at present—Pearl River on the east and Iberville's line (so-called) on the north.—[To be continued.

The Story-Teller.

A SPECIAL CONSTABLE.

BY CHARLES READE.

Two women, sisters, kept the toll-bar at a village in Yorkshire. It stood apart from the village and they often felt uneasy at night, being lone women.

One day they received a considerable sum of money bequeathed to them by a relation, and that set their simple souls all in a flutter.

They had a friend in the village, the blacksmith's wife: so they went and told her their fears. She admitted that theirs was a lonesome place and she would not live there, for one, without a man. Her discourse sent them home downright miserable.

The blacksmith's wife told her husband all about it when he came home for his dinner.

"The fools!" said he, "how is anybody to know they have got brass in the house?"

"Well," said the wife, "they made no secret about it to me; you need not go for to tell it to all the town—poor souls!"

"Not I," said the man; but they will publish it, never fear; leave women folks alone making their own trouble with their tongues."

There the subject dropped, as man and wife have other things to talk about beside their neighbors.

The old women at the toll-bar, what with their own fears and their Job's comforter, began to shiver with apprehension as night came on. However, at sunset the carrier passed through the gate, and at the sight of his friendly face they brightened up. They told him their care and begged him to sleep in the house that night.

"Why, how can I?" said he. "I'm due at ——. But I will leave you my dog. The dog was a powerful mastiff.

The women looked at each other expressively. "He won't hurt us, will he?" sighed one of them, faintly.

"Not he," said the carrier, cheerfully. Then he called the dog into the house and told them to lock the door, and went away whistling.

The women were left contemplating the dog with that tender interest apprehension is sure to excite. At first he seemed staggered at this offhand proceeding of his master—it confused him; then he snuffed at the door; then, as the wheels retreated, he began to see plainly he was an abandoned dog; he delivered a fearful howl and flew at the door, scratching and barking furiously.

The old women fled the apartment and were next seen at an upper window screaming to the carrier:—"Come back! come back, John; He is tearing the house down!"

"Drat the varmint!" said John, and came back. On the road he thought what was best to be done. The good-natured fellow took his great coat out of the cart and laid it down on the floor. The mastiff instantly laid himself on it. "Now," said John, sternly, "let us have no more nonsense; you take charge of that till I come back, and don't ye let nobody steal that there coat nor yet t' wives' brass. There, now," said he kindly to the women, "I shall be back this way breakfast-time, and he won't budge till then."

"And he won't hurt us, John?"

"Lord, no. Bless your heart, he is as sensible as any Christian; only, Lord sake, women, don't you go to take the coat from him or you'll be wanting a new gown yourself, and maybe a petticoat and all."

He retired, and the old women kept at a respectful distance from their protector. He never molested them; and, indeed, when they spoke cajolingly to him he even wagged his tail in a dubious way; but still, as they moved about, he squinted at them out of his bloodshot eyes in a way that checked all desire on their part to try on the carrier's coat.

Thus protected, they went to bed earlier than usual. They did not undress; they were too much afraid of everything, especially their protector. The night wore on, and presently their sharpened senses let them know that the dog was getting restless; he sniffed and then he growled and then he got up and pattered about, muttering to himself. Straightway with furniture they barricaded the door through which their protector must pass to devour them.

But, by-and-by, listening acutely, they heard a scraping and a grating outside the window of the room where the dog was, and he continued growling low. This was enough; they slipped out at the back door and left the money to save their lives; they got into the village. It was pitch dark and all the houses black but two; one was the public house, casting a triangular gleam across the road a long way off, and the other was the blacksmith's house. Here was a piece of fortune for the terrified women. They burst into their friend's house. "Oh! Jane, the thieves have come!" and they told her in a few words all that had happened.

"La!" said she, "how tiresome you are! Ten to one he was only growling at some one that passed by."

"Nay, Jane, we heard the scraping outside the window. Oh, woman, call your man and let him go with us."

"My man—he is not here."

"Where is he, then?"

"I suppose he is where other working women's husbands are—at the public house," she said, rather bitterly, for she had her experience.

The old women wanted to go to the public house for him; but the blacksmith's wife was a courageous woman and, besides, she thought it was most likely a false alarm. "Nay, nay," said she, "last time I went for him there I got a fine affront. I'll come with you," said she. "I'll take the poker and we have got our tongues to raise the town with, I suppose."

So they marched to the toll-bar. When they got near it they saw something that staggered this heroine. There was actually a man half in and half out of the window. This brought the blacksmith's wife to a stand-still and the timid pair implored her to go back to the village. "Nay," said she; "what for? I see but one—and—hark! It is my belief that the dog is holding of him."

However, she thought it safest to be on the same side with the dog, lest the man might turn on her. She made her way into the kitchen, followed by the other two, and there a sight met her eyes that changed all her feelings, both toward the robber and toward each other. The great mastiff had pinned a man by the throat and was pulling at him to draw him through the window, with fierce but muffled snarls. The man's weight alone prevented it. The window was like a picture frame, and in that frame there glared, with lolling tongue and starting eyes, the white face of the blacksmith, their courageous friends' villainous husband. She uttered an appalling scream and flew upon the dog and choked him with her two hands. He held and growled and tore until he was all but throttled himself; then he let go and the man fell. But what struck the ground outside, like a lump of lead was, in truth, a lump of clay; the man was quite dead and fearfully torn about the throat. So did a comedy end in an appalling and most piteous tragedy; not that the scoundrel himself deserved pity, but his poor, brave, honest wife, to whom he had not dared confide the villainy he meditated.

The outlines of this true story were in several journals. I have put the disjointed particulars together as well as I could. I have tried hard to learn the name of the village and what became of this poor widow, but have failed hitherto. Should these lines meet the eye of any one who can tell me, I hope he will and without delay.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES UPON CHARACTER.

THE influence of physical comforts upon us is far more considerable than we think, or would like it to be thought, perhaps. Let the most prayerful mind be ever so bent upon service to its Maker, its litany, its confessions of wrong-doing, and yet, in the very midst of its devoutest desires for amendment, the chilling frost of an uncongenial place or posture will nip the stoutest protestations in the bud. Temporal inconvenience, in nine cases out of ten, assuredly takes the upper

hand where spiritual prostration essays to acknowledge itself. However devotional the character of our mind, however we may make the best intentions to observe a lively faith in God's Holy Word," not to let it sink into mere hebdomadary letter-worship, clogged by the constant round of repetition, yet, should hard-backed seats beset us, should it unfortunately chance that a preacher's voice is droning or monotonous, these will, spite of an earnest endeavor to fix the attention, more or less affect our thoughts, and otherwise dispose of them. Even the flicker of an elusive sunbeam, or a dazzling fugitive mote, will have more influence in unsettling the mind of a would-be conscientious listener than any moral truth that is being poured out before him, and to which he would fain persuade himself to attend.

Among the lower classes, how very often it is to be remarked that physical comforts are more effectual in softening their character than the wisest words of the most judiciously-selected tracts. What, say they, is the use of trying to cure our souls, to ask us if we are true Christians, when our children are starving and we ourselves in cold and nakedness? Mere creature comforts will do more for ourselves and for them than any bare words or a holding up of exemplary lives. Among the women, too, more particularly, a brave burial and a worthy funeral is apparently more a matter of concern than even the loss they have sustained. All the comforting assurances with which kind neighbors ply them fail to create half as much personal satisfaction as the fact of their dead having a "decent" interment.

Of all the physical conditions most conducive to a rough but ready estimate of the character of any new acquaintance, or to give you an appreciable understanding of the neighbor besides whom you chance to take a seat, and which is as quick a process of discovering the "inner man" as any I know, is most certainly a dinner. A good dinner is a very safe criterion by which to form an opinion of another; and, let me add, a bad one will do equally as well. Whatever there is of good in a man—wit or humor, consideration or want of consideration, his pet foibles or his peculiar ambitions, will all manifest themselves and creep out bit by bit here and there, and proclaim the man despite himself, though, to be sure, you may be excluded from a certain share of unequable temper and such minor failings as are more specially reserved for home use, or rather home buse.

LENGTH OF MODERN CAMPAIGNS.

The great social feature of the present day is "pace;" everything goes ahead and armies must conform to this rapid order of things. Accordingly, military operations and results which used to occupy years are now compressed into months, it might almost be said weeks. The war of 1859 was declared by Austria on April 26; the first action, Montebello, was fought on May 19, and the war finished at Solferino on July 24. In 1866 the Prussians virtually declared war by crossing the Austrian frontier on June 23, and in seven weeks the latter power was forced to come to terms at the very gates of her capital. Prussia received the French declaration of war on July 19, 1870. On Sept. 2 France's last army in the field was destroyed at Sedan, and the last shots were fired on Feb. 2, 1871.

Here, then, we have at once an immense saving of life. The long delays, which meant for the soldier exposure to the weather and to sickness; the defective communications, entailing insufficient food; the slowly dragging campaign, with all its privations and hardships—all these fertile sources of disease and death have vanished, or are vanishing. It is true that the French soldiers both in and out of Metz suffered terribly from want of proper food and supplies; but it must be remembered that their administration was exceptionally bad and the very magnitude of their defects will prevent a repetition of them. Let us, for comparison, take one or two instances from the wars of the first Napoleon. Here is the state of his army during the invasion of Russia in 1812, not after but before meeting the enemy otherwise than in small skirmishes:

"From the want of magazines and the impossibility of conveying an adequate supply of provisions for so immense a host, disorders of every kind had accumulated in a frightful manner on the flanks and rear of the army. Neither bread nor spirits could be had; the flesh of over-driven animals and bad water constituted the sole subsistence of the soldiers, * * * and before a great part of the army had ever seen the enemy, it had undergone a loss greater than might have been expected from the most bloody campaign. When the stragglers and sick were added to the killed and wounded, the total reached 100,000."

Again, Massena entered Portugal in October, 1810; spent weeks and weeks in futile examination of the lines of Torres Vedras; and re-crossed into Spain on April 3, 1811, "having lost 30,000 men by want, sickness and the sword." As the only action of any importance that occurred during the retreat was that of Barrosa, at which the French loss was under 1,000, the reader can estimate for himself what proportion of the total loss was due to "want and sickness." These are but two instances out of many that might be quoted, but enough. Such protracted neglect and suffering would be impossible in these days, for the simple reason—if for no other—that the soldier is now much too expensive an article to be squandered in such a wholesale manner.

PERILS OF STAGE BALCONIES AND BOATS.

Do you see that lovely little balcony jutting out from that second story window of the scenery? Of course you do, for as you look the prima donna steps gracefully forth and warbles a song to the stars. You envy her picturesque surroundings and imagine that she stepped through the casement out of a dainty boudoir. Not a bit of it. With trembling limbs she scales a shaky ladder, treading on her dress at every step and mentally blessing the carpenter. Her maid holds her train and the stage manager and one of the chorus guide her uncertain footsteps. Everything is dark and gloomy before her eyes. In a moment she steps out upon the balcony and faces the applauding audience with an angelic smile upon her countenance, while she wonders if the props are perfectly secure and whether the whole thing will come down and cripple her for life. Then she sings her song and steps out upon the little platform and backs down into the arms of her mother, who wraps a shawl around her shoulders, while the maid again takes up the train and the three run into the dressing-room to get out of the way of the draughts.

Another thing the audience dote on is a chorus song without accompaniment—sort of impromptu, you know. But they should see the preparations made for the impromptu. The boat is about leaving the wharf and the sailors stand round to sing a parting song. The leader, who is generally an excitable German, gets them together, and the audience wait in pleasant expectation. He counts one, two, three, and gives the pitch. "Mein Gott! a tone below!" and he rushes away with his fingers in his ears, while the men sing on as lustily as though they were on the right track, and the audience says, "How sweet!"

In "The Star of the North," when Catterina goes to the wars, she gets on board a boat and sails away. It looks beautiful from the front, where everything seems so real. All there is like a boat is a painted side. She steps upon a platform on rollers and is pulled along by a couple of stalwart scene-shifters standing in the wing. Sometimes the rollers want greasing and stick so that no pulling will budge them; then the singer, if she has presence of mind, steps upon the stage and wriggles out with as little of the motion of walking as possible. One night, when Miss Kellogg was playing "Somnambula," as she was crossing the bridge the planks broke, not in the usual way, but really, and left the gentleman who was leading her along on the other side standing in bold relief before the audience—dress coat, crush hat and all. Fortunately no harm came of the accident.

One night, Mr. Lawrence Barrett and Miss Marie Gordon were playing a part on top of a tower some twenty feet above the stage, and while they were up there, something cracked and the whole thing swayed to and fro like a ship at sea. The props had not been made firm and, had the actors not luckily got down in time, they would have been killed, or worse. I shall not repeat what Mr. Barrett said to the stage carpenter.

TEACHING A SMART DRUMMER THE GOOD OLD ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

As a newly engaged commercial traveler was about starting on a commercial trip from his place in Chicago, the other day, he suddenly turned to his employer, a grave old merchant, and inquired:

"I say, boss, what shall I do when I get out of soap?"

"Soap?" said the old man, "why, save your samples and you won't get out."

"But I mean what shall I do when I get out of grease?" continued the young man.

"Grease—grease?" pondered the old man, "why, you don't need any grease; you are not working for a lubricating estab——"

"Oh, but you don't understand me," chimed in the youthful employee, rather embarrassed. "I mean, what shall I do if I run out of spondulix—stamps—wealth?"

"Spondulix—stamps—wealth?" echoed the mystified merchant, looking at the young fellow over his glasses, to see if he had gone crazy.

"Yes, currency—greenbacks," exclaimed the drummer, "cash money, you know?"

A light seemed to dawn on the old gentleman's mind at this moment, for gazing upon the creature before him with a look of contempt and pity, he broke forth:

"Young man, what are you giving us? I rather guess you needn't go out, for I don't believe your class of customers could get along very well with you—they all speak English. Pull down your vest, step up to the cashier's desk and get your sugar. Now cheese it, cully, you're bounced."

And that is the way the high-toned kid got bounced—all through the pernicious habit of slinging slang.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

RECIPE FOR A "PATHETIC" POEM.

The following recipe for a "pathetic marine poem" appears in a new English book:—"Take one midnight storm and one fisherman's family, which, if the poem is to be a real success, should be as large and as hungry as possible, and must contain at least one innocent infant. Place this last in a cradle, with the mother singing over it, being careful that the babe be dreaming of angels, or else smiling sweetly. Stir the father well up until he disappears. Then get ready immediately a quantity of cruel, crawling foam, in which serve up the father, directly on his reappearance, which is sure to take place in a hour or two, in the dull, red morning. This done, a charming saline effervescence will take place among the remainder of the family. Pile up the agony to suit the palate, and the poem will be ready for perusal."

THE SALARIES OF GOVERNORS.

New York pays to its Governor an annual salary of $10,000, which is the highest paid in the Union. Louisiana pays $8,000, California $7,000, Nevada $6,000. Eight States—Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin—pay $5,000; Maryland $4,500. Three States—Alabama, Georgia and Ohio—$4,000. Arkansas, South Carolina and Florida pay each $3,500. Kansas, Indiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey and Tennessee pay each $3,000. Illinois, Iowa and Maine pay each $2,500. West Virginia $2,700. Connecticut $2,000, Oregon $1,500, Delaware $1,300, and Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont pay their Governors respectively a salary of just $1,000.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Haydon's Life, Letters and Table Talk. Edited by R. H. Stoddard. Sans-Souci Series. [12mo.—cloth; pp. 311. Price, $1.50.] New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co.

The success of the "Bric-a-Brac" Series has, it seems, justified the publishers in issuing these volumes, which differ from their prototypes only in degree. Mr. Stoddard has displayed his usual good judgment in selection, but the reader who takes up the life of Haydon in a careful spirit and diligently follows its suggestions, will shortly be plunged into a sea of art matters and gain an idea of the most interesting period of British art which, while giving pleasure, will certainly not be gained sans-souci.

Haydon was an iconoclast and broke idols with true English fervor and completeness. To him more than to any one is the British nation indebted for the Elgin marbles. He perceived their excellence and maintained his views against the combined Royal Academy, with Mr. Payne Knight thrown in as a sort of compensating balance. His career was one long struggle, mainly because of his own fractiousness, and while personally he was severely treated, his influence on the Academy and art generally in Britain was most salutary.

As an instance of his tremendous energy, it may be mentioned that Haydon had chosen subjects and contemplated composing and painting 38 pictures. In view of the fact that he was painstaking to a most minute degree and that he lived to finish but nine or ten, may give an idea of the possibilities he contemplated. His first picture, "Dentalus," was painted in and out several times, and Fuseli found fault with it on the ground that it "looked too much like life." Soon after he saw the Elgin marbles. "The first thing I fixed my eyes on," he writes, "was the wrist of a figure in one of the female groups, in which was visible the radius and the ulna. I was astonished, for I had never seen them hinted at in any female wrist at the antique. I darted my eye to the elbow and saw the outer condyle visibly affecting the shape, as in nature. I saw that the arm was in repose and the soft parts in relaxation, as in nature. My heart beat! If I had seen nothing else I had seen enough to keep me to nature for the rest of my life." This decided him and was the turning point in his career.

The volume under notice is divided into three parts—Life, Letters and Table Talk. The letters are sprightly and give evidence that he was quite as skillful and much more sensational with the pen than the brush. Some of his observations are piquant to a degree, as "Fuseli said to me once that people generally went to church in proportion to their profligacy. I had it on the tip of my tongue to tell him that I wondered he did not go every day."

"One of the greatest annoyances in life is the remarks of common minds when criticising great works. Such people always miss in great works the very things their minds would not have left out. They never think it possible for a man of genius to have left them out *by choice*. Oh, no! They imagine such things never occurred to his conception, and thus they chuckle over illusive imperfections with a self-congratulatory air of conscious superiority."

One bit of advice would have saved him a deal of trouble had he had the wit to take his own medicine. It says:—"Never disregard what your enemies say. They may be severe; they may be prejudiced; they may be determined to see only in one direction; but still in that direction they see clearly. They do not speak all the truth, but they generally speak the truth from one point of view; so far as that goes, attend to them."

The anecdotes related of various celebrities are in many instances capital. Brief, the book is exceedingly readable and typographically sustains the reputation of the house that issues it.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From John E. Potter & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.:

The Father's Story of Charlie Ross, with portraits, fac-simile letters from the abductors, &c., &c., by Christian K. Ross. [Cloth—pp. 431.]

J. M. Stoddart & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.:

Our Behavior. A Manual of Etiquette and Dress of the Best American Society. By Mrs. E. B. Duffey. [Cloth—pp. 320.]

Magazines for September:

Musical Trade Review.
Wide-Awake.
The Laws of Life.

Sabbath Reading.

THE OLD PASTOR'S DISMISSAL.

"We need a younger man to stir the people
And lead them to the fold,"
The deacons said: "We ask your resignation,
Because you're grown so old."

The pastor bid the deacons out in silence,
And tenderly the gloom
Of twilight hid him and his bitter anguish
Within the lonely room.

Above the violet hills the sunlight's glory
Hung like a crown of gold,
And from the great church spire the bell's sweet anthem
Adown the stillness rolled.

Assembled were the people for God's worship:
But in his study-chair
The pastor sat unheeding, while the south wind
Caressed his snow-white hair.

A smile lay on his lips. His was the secret
Of sorrow's glad surcease;
Upon his forehead shone the benediction
Of everlasting peace.

"The ways of Providence are most mysterious,"
The deacons gravely said,
As with wondering eyes the people crowded
About their pastor—dead!

"We loved him!" wrote the people on the coffin,
In words of shining gold:
And 'bove the broken heart they set a statue
Of marble white and cold.

The end? Ah, no—the undiscovered country
Somewhere in the brightness lies;
Though only stars may be discerned
By man's shortsighted eyes.

[*Elizabeth Cummings.*

REMINDERS.

BY MRS. HATTIE F. BELL.

"Rev. —— received twenty-five hundred dollars from his congregation the other day, to remind him he was fifty years old." Did he? That was a very happy reminder, I should judge. I wonder who, among us all, would refuse to receive such reminders, as year after year bears away our freshness and youth and gives old Father Time renewed license to scamper helter-skelter over our faces, leaving his ungraceful footprints at every corner and scrawling his crooked autograph in indelible distinctness in horizontal furrows upon every brow. Twenty-five hundred dollars! I'm sure that's more than a dollar for every wrinkle that fortunate fifty-year-old divine possesses or could ever count on his benign face with the aid of a microscope. We all have such a direful dread of growing old, we are not very apt to relish anything that suggests the fact to us, however remotely, and we try to conceal, as much as possible, the slightest appearance that would hint to any one the bare possibility that old age is creeping on and we are leaving our youth behind us. But oh! who could frown upon such a timely reminder as this! Would you? I'm positive I wouldn't if I should ever be so old. I wouldn't object to one even now; but I'm not a minister nor even a minister's wife, (though I am sister-in-law to a couple of the profession,) so I do not expect my down-hill journey to be smoothed by any such startling event; but what a blessed thing it would be if every pastor had so appreciative a people! Why don't every church remind its pastor he is fifty years old in this pleasant way? Or at thirty, or forty, I presume the reminder would not come amiss. Not that every church could give twenty-five hundred dollars, but even a small amount would gladden the heart and cheer the soul of some faithful pastor and give him new courage and inspiration for a year to come. Alas! how many prefer rather to remind their minister he is growing old by keeping him upon so meager a salary that want stares him in the face and reflects its own image thereon, and the poor man has only to look into the mirror when he combs his thin locks, to behold a very forcible reminder that he is growing old. They perhaps give him a bread-and-butter donation, where they carry their own supper and eat it all up before they go away, leaving a half bushel of chicken bones and a few unleavened biscuit, and they nod their wise heads and say, "I don't see but that he ought to get along, now." Get along? Yes, he does get along. He gets a long account drawn up with the doctor, for sour biscuit can't be traded off for flannel and chicken pie won't buy children's shoes. And then, after toiling and wearing himself out uncomplainingly for such an unthankful, unappreciative people, he some day receives another gentle reminder that he is growing old. They "Want a smarter, younger man, some one who will keep up with the times." As if any man could keep up with the times or keep up at all, under such a pinching and grinding process and such a desperate struggle for life! But I'm glad there is at least one church in the land who appreciates its pastor and who will not groan for the next half century because of this extra "lift" in thus happily reminding him of his fiftieth birthday.

Heaven bless that people—I was going to say, Heaven bless that pastor. But he is blessed in having such a people, so I will only add, Heaven bless us all and give us grace to appreciate our blessings before they brighten in a fast, long flight.

Religion finds the love of happiness and the principles of duty separated in us; and its mission—its masterpiece—is to reunite them.—*Vinet.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

RAMBLES IN AN OLD GRAVEYARD.

DEAR RURAL:—

"Of comfort no man speak;
Let's talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs."

And particularly of epitaphs. And firstly I want to enter a protest, in the name of respect and propriety, against the people hereabouts for the want of proper care and attention to the grave-yards. Here is one,—the most neglected,—that in this Centenary year at least should, by its age, be entitled to sufficient attention to cause the elder trees, whortleberry bushes and blackberry vines to be kept out and the weeds and grass cut sufficiently often to render access to the graves practicable, in which only a few lots are kept with care, attesting the fact that those buried therein have left behind some relative or friend to whom their memory is dear. And these exceptions only serve to make the neglect of the remainder more apparent. This, too, in a community including many who seem to believe it possible for the spirits of the departed to visit and communicate with them relative to mundane affairs. Is is not preposterous to suppose they would hesitate to make a row about this insult to their memories, if they had the power and opportunity.

In another yard or cemetery, as I find they are all called now, which is of more recent dedication and more pretentious, the same general neglect obtains, but not to the same extent, while the fact that it is owned by a corporate company, of which each lot-owner is a member, and that there is money lying idle in the treasury, only awaiting proper direction for expenditure, to put and keep the whole grounds in good condition, seems to fix the blame more directly, and to hold up the officers of the company as the persons toward whom the finger of scorn should be pointed. I might have omitted all this but from the fact that I know other rural communities sin in the same direction, and indulge a hope that their attention may be called to the error of their ways.

Individually, I don't believe in grave-yards, funerals, mourning costumes, or any of the fashionable services or ceremonies attendant on that change which we call Death. But this is not a place for an essay on the subject.

At the risk of scratched hands and torn clothes, I recently forced my way through the obstructions to some of the old head-stones with which I was familiar long ago. Some of them have fallen on the ground, and are nearly covered with the accumulated remains of the grass and weeds that grew above them years ago; some are broken in half, and others, still standing, are so far from perpendicular as to give no promise of retaining their position through the frosts of another winter.

Near one corner of the yard is a plain, red free-stone, about two feet square and two inches in thickness, which bears the following legend:

Here lies ye
Body of LUCE the
Daughtr of Sergt
Isaac Skinner who
Died Febry ye 22rd
1739-40 aged 18 year
this was the first Perso
that was Buried Here

The custom of putting both the old and new year for a date until March was continued in New England until long after the time above named.

Many of the stones bear, beside the name and age of the person for whom they were erected, a few lines of counsel, admonition or advice; some of whom, from their frequency, seem to have been quite popular—as these:

"Behold and see as you pass by,
As you are now so once was I,
As I am now so must you be,
Prepare for death and follow me."

It is said some wicked fellow once wrote under this inscription:

"To follow you I am not content,
Until I know which way you went."

"Afflictions sore long time I bore,
Physicians were in vain—
Till God did please to give me ease
And take away my pain."

"Friends and physicians could not save
My mortal body from the grave,
Nor can this clay confine it here
When Christ shall call me to appear."

The following, although inscribed with no regard to orthography or measure, was evidently selected by one of higher poetic feeling:

"Life's a journey! Man the rugged path with hope and fear alternate travels on; but ere his journey half is o'er grim death like villain in the dark lets fly his quivering dart; the traveller falls."

"Death is a debt to nature due,
Which I have paid and so must you."

and many others common elsewhere.

Others bear the evidence of originality in their composition or arrangement—as these:

"No. I'll repine at death no more,
But with a *cheerful gasp* resign
To the cold dungeon of the ground
These dying, withering limbs of mine."

"My flesh shall slumber in the ground
Till the last trumpet's joyful sound,
Then burst *the chains of sweet surprise*
And in my Saviour's image rise."

"Ah fled forever from my view,
Thou partner of my soul adieu."

"Farewell my friends who are alive,
Who visit my abode;
I wish you all to live in love
And make your peace with God."

"When I was young I did die;
Why not you as well as I?"

"In youthful bloom death laid me down,
Here to await the trumpet sound;
Repent, repent now you have time,
For I was taken in my prime."

"Cease, friends, to mourn your tender parents' fate,
But think of death before it is too late."

"In blooming youth death called on me
To leave my friends and family;
At his command I then must go,
And bid adieu to all below."

The epitaph of HEZEKIAH GOODWIN, A. M., and Minister of the Gospel, aged 27 years, was, as certified on his head-stone, composed by himself on his death-bed, as follows:

"How short, how precarious, how uncertain is life! How quick the transition from time to eternity. A Breath, a Gaspe, a groan & lo, we're seen no more. And yet on this point, oh alarming thought, on this slender point swings a vast Eternity."

We do not see precisely where the point is to which reference is made—whether it is Life, a Breath, a Gaspe or a groan—but perhaps it is as clear as could be expected. Possibly death-beds are not the best places on which to compose epitaphs.

It is fairly inferable that the Widow SAMANTHA COOK had a talent for epitaphs. Mr. PINNEY COOK was presumably her husband, as his grave is beside hers, and a stone adjacent marks the resting place of a son of PINNEY and SAMANTHA COOK, but on three others, which I have always been told were inscribed by her direction, the record is, "Daughter of Widow SAMANTHA COOK," and gives no clew to the personality of the male progenitor. Nor does that for herself inform us of whom she was widow.

On one of these stones—that of Mrs. ALMA MEACHAM—is a condensed biography, thus:

"Sixteen years I lived a maid,
Two years I was a wife,
Five hours I was a mother,
And so I lost my life.
My babe lies by me, as you see,
To show no age from Death is free."

The next stone says of MIRA COOK:

"One day in health I did appear,
The next a corpse fit for the bier."

SAMANTHA'S is equally brief:

"Friends and brothers see where I lie.
Remember you are born to die."

This for the husband is more elaborate, as is eminently proper:

"What sudden terror death doth bring!
It takes the Peasant and the King:
Then prepare beath one and all
For to be ready when God doth call."

The stone for a young lady of 24 years bears this couplet:

"Sleep safe, *sweet babe*, till Jesus comes
And raises all from sleeping tombs."

It is seldom that more information relative to different persons is condensed in the same space than in this:

"In memory of Mrs. ELESABETH NEWBERRY, Relict of Capt. Roger Newberry, who died in the Cuban Expedition, A. D. 1741, in the 35 year of his age. Eldest daughter of the Hon. Roger Wolcott, Esq'r, sometime Governor of the Colony of Connecticut. She died the 6 day of July, A. D. 1775, in the 70 year of her age."

I wish it were possible to transfer to your columns specimens of the handiwork of the artist whose designs ornament some of these head-stones. I doubt if anything equal in absurdity has ever been cut. The hieroglyphics of Egypt, although sometimes uncouth, have a meaning, but if any sense pertaineth to these, it is past the finding out of the present generation. Their uncouthness haunts me while I write, and I am inclined to think it was the remembrance of them, more than the fear of ghosts, that used to impel us boys to keep our courage up by whistling when passing at night.

If there was more originality in monumental inscriptions, they might give valuable assistance to the historian who shall endeavor to set forth the Progress of Religious Ideas in New England. It is somewhat noticable that even in the days when almost the entire community professed to believe in the everlasting torment of all save the elect,—"the chosen seed of Israel's race,"—condition after death was seldom referred to on tomb-stones.

Perhaps it is true, what a good orthodox lady once remarked to a Baptist friend of mine, while at a burial, "We are all Universalists at funerals."

L. A. R.

Bloomfield, Conn.

WHAT IS A BACHELOR?

ADAM with a choice of Eves.

A mule that shirks his regular load.

A wild goose in the air, hissed at by tame geese in the farm-yard.

A wise child, who declines to buy sugar candy by the hundred weight.

WHAT IS LANGUAGE?

GOLD leaf to blazon knowledge or cover ignorance.

A servant who too often is master.

A large issue of notes, sometimes on a small basis of capital.

A chain which unites men, yet keeps them disunited.

Reading for the Young.

MOTH-ER MOUS-EY'S LECT-URE.

My dear lit-tle mice,
You're old e-nough now
To get your own liv-ing
If I tell you how.

The times are so hard,
That I need all the bits
I find for my-self—
You must live by your wits.

Do you see that square door?
And the nice toast-ed cheese
On the end of that wire?
Keep a-way from it, please.

Last even-ing your aunt,
And your young cous-ins four,
Saw that cheese and went in
Through the wide o-pen door.

I watched a long time,
But they nev-er came out;
For this is the trap
That you've all heard about.

Now prick up your ears
And hear what I say:
Never taste of a thing
That is left in your way.

But when, snug-ly hid,
You find a rich cake,
Or a nice, cream-y cheese,
Then a good din-ner make.

So will your days pass,
With-out a mis-hap,
And you'll live to old age
In spite of the trap.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

A Pretty Parlor Amusement.

RURAL COUSINS:—A clever little trick occurs to me which a year or so ago I enjoyed greatly perpetrating upon some of my young friends, and I doubt not you will enjoy it too unless they chance to know it already. Try first your papa. Ask him for five cents; then produce five cents yourself. If not the possessor of so large an amount, one cent each will answer.

"Now, papa," you say, "If you answer to the first question I ask 'No,' both pennies are mine. If you answer 'Yes,' both pennies are yours. Will you agree to that? I assure you there is no catch."

Your papa will of course agree to so fair a proposition—anybody would.

"You agree, do you, papa?"

Papa answers that he does.

"Now," you say, as if the thought suddenly occurred to you,—"*But have you not seen this trick before, papa?*"

In nineteen instances out of twenty the answer will be No!

Both pennies or five cents are yours.

What do you think of this trick, RURAL Cousins?—JOE STEELE.

Thanks for the Extra Column.

DEAR EDITOR:—As I was reading your paper to-night I saw the notice saying we (the young folks) could have one more column in the RURAL. And as I was so pleased with it, I could not help sitting down to write a letter of thanks for it. I have written two letters to you before, but as I saw only the first in print I suppose that Uncle TRUE did not receive the other. As there are a good many new Cousins, I suppose I will have to tell my age and residence over again. I am twelve years old, and I live not far from the village of Amsterdam, in the Mohawk Valley. I have one sister and two brothers younger than myself. I attended a Centennial Picnic about two weeks ago, near the Schoharie Creek. It was on the farm of my great-grandfather, and there was only one aunt living there (out of a large family), and she was ninety-three years old. O dear! I came near forgetting it, i. e., to thank you for your kindness to us little folks.—ROMPING MINNIE, *Amsterdam, N. Y.*

A Firebrand Among Us.

YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—I will not say Cousins, for I fear that when you have read this you will not be willing to admit me as a Cousin—some of you at least. But I have been wanting to speak for so long that now I must have my say. First, I would say that I think CRITIC is a perfect gentleman, and he ought to win the admiration of all the ladies. Second, I don't at all agree with YOUNG ARTIST about piecing quilts. One don't regret the time one spends in cutting cloth in pieces to make ruffles, knife plaiting, etc., and I think piecing quilts is the best invention ever made. Of course people have a right to their own opinion, of which I am very glad. Third, YOUNG EDITOR, I think you are very accommodating indeed. How much did Y. A. give you for taking up on her side? You can hold your own with her easily, you agree so nicely. SCHOOL GIRL is very sensible, and she has my regards. Perhaps you would like to have me describe myself, to see what sort of a girl I am. Well, I can do it, so here goes: I am about five feet tall; have dark hair, eyes and complexion; am in my teens, and will be for several years to come. Let me hear your opinions—you cannot frighten me by any of your words. Excuse this lengthy scolding. Now is your time, Y. A. and Y. E.—BELLE E. F., *Maplewood Glen, Ills.*

[WILL my spirited young friends brook this taunt? No, never! If YOUNG EDITOR is made of the true stuff he will respond with a "leader" that will define his position in vigorous Anglo-Saxon.—UNCLE TRUE.]

A Typo in the Field.

How do you do, Cousins? I know some of you are ready to ejaculate, "Well!—where did you come from?" I can easily answer your inquiry. I live in Illinois, south of Chicago, on a farm of about 400 acres. I am a printer by trade, but am rusticating at present. I think it is a jolly life for those who choose to make it so. Uncle has taken the RURAL for over 18 years. He takes 12 papers, of which I think the RURAL is the best, as it has an interesting column for everybody. I watch the Young Folks' column with interest. Our Young Editorial Cousin gives us quite a spicy little article, but I don't exactly agree with him. He "can't see the use of cutting up calico just for the pleasure of sewing it up again," but let me ask, why do you distribute your "form" of type after you have had the trouble of setting it up? Why simply for this—you want to show your patrons something new from old material. Don't try to discourage the girls from learning to sew, for it may some day prove beneficial to somebody if not Y. E. He goes on to say the girls "need not think they can preach decorum. If they try we will make a noise and not listen to them." Now I say that if our manners are not what they should be, who is more qualified to give a reproof than the fair sex?

I, like Young Artist, am "in my teens." I should like to correspond with Y. A. if agreeable, as I have also a natural taste for drawing and think I could give her some valuable information on that subject.—YOUNG PRINTER.

From a Floriculturist.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—I always read the letters from boys and girls, and noted the one about writing and telling of our flowers. I love flowers *ever so much*, and I like to read about them. I have a real nice Botany which I study every spring. I have an Oleander which is in bloom, and I think the flowers are handsome. Such a delicate perfume and beautiful color! Then I have some Morning Glories; they have blue and pink, white and pink, and white flowers on them. One or two vines have dark purple flowers with bright crimson edges. These are the prettiest, I think. Mother has a Portulaca which has crimson flowers on one side and pink and crimson striped on the other. Isn't that strange? Of running house plants we have only two, a Wandering Jew and a Madeira vine. The former grew finely, and had beautiful, glossy green leaves. I thought ever so much of it. But all at once the leaves grew whitish, and one day mother found some ants and little black bugs in the soil it was in. She cut it almost all off, changed the soil and put it out of doors. It is now growing nicely. The Madeira vine we trained over the window, and it grew nicely. But one day there came a great wind (they are common here in Jersey) and broke it off down almost to the roots. I felt almost sad enough to cry over it. I had lots of flower seeds, but had no place to plant them. The hens scratched up almost all my Flowering Beans, and ate up nearly all my Morning Glories at first; they recovered though, and grew real fast. They are as high now as the string goes. The hens tipped over my pan of Portulacas and broke them all up. I am twelve years old, weigh 122 pounds and am five feet, six and a-half inches high.—CORA A. L., *North Vineland, N. J.*

One More Recruit.

DEAR UNCLES:—I was just reading over the letters from the girls and boys. It made me think I could write too. I have made several attempts, but did not succeed. I live on a farm in St. Lawrence Co., about four miles from the St. Lawrence River. I am thirteen years old, and milk from six to eight cows twice a day. I go to school, summer and winter. We keep seventy-three cows, one Short-Horn calf, six horses, one colt, fourteen hogs, fourteen pigs, one dog, three cats, and I don't know how many kittens. We do the most of our work by machinery; use a hay loader, horse fork, mowing machine; churn with a sweep power, and use a churn that holds more than 100 gallons. We are having a dreadful drought in this section, and grasshoppers are very thick and destructive. Some of our neighbors are cutting their grain green on account of them, and are not going to thresh at all. I think this will do for my first attempt.—A. J. D., *Massena, N. Y.*

[I THINK A. J. D. should feel encouraged to continue. For a first attempt his letter is a success, combining as it does news and clear statements. —UNCLE TRUE.]

Early Snow.

DEAR UNCLES:—As you were so kind as to publish my first letter, I thought I would write again. I had begun to despair of ever seeing it in print, but on opening the RURAL of April 15, lo! it met my gaze. Whereupon I took heart and have ventured to throw myself for a second time upon your mercy. I wish "Young Naturalist" would write again, also Miss "Dew-Drop." "Dew-Drop," make your tongue wag to the best of your ability and if "Young Bach.," the saucy fellow, says anything about it (your tongue) I will come to your aid and help defeat him. Father says that perhaps "Young Bach." is only treasuring up all you have said to him girls, and that by-and-by he will bring matters to a grand climax and write a letter that will send us all down into the valley of humiliation. But I do not think he is capable of it, any way.—SNOW DROP, *Norfolk Co., Va.*

From Ulster Co., N. Y.

DEAR FRIENDS:—I have been reading with a great deal of interest your letters for the past few

months, and find them very interesting. As I had not seen any from Ulster Co I thought I would contribute my share. I think the Editor is very kind to let us have a nook all to ourselves, where we can converse with each other and have a general good time. I would like to tell you something of my studies, but have only time to say that History and Grammar are my favorites. In addition, I take lessons in swimming, rowing and driving. I am not skilled in the finer arts as are some of the cousins. I have a taste for drawing, but lack the patience. I can crochet very nicely. Perhaps you will think I am boasting when I tell you all I can do. But if I should tell you all I can *not* do, it would more than overbalance that which I can do. I like "Young Artist," and would like to see another letter from her. Of course I like you all, so you must not take offence. Brevity being the soul of wit, I will close.—MAY BELLE EVERSON, *N. Y.*

A Wild Crab.

DEAR EDITORS:—As you were so kind as to publish my other letter, I thought I would write again. How many of the Cousins have been to the Centennial? Many of the girls are smarter in school studies, but they cannot beat me working out-of-doors on the farm. I drove on the reaper again this summer. I have had enough to keep me busy all the time, as we are building a new house. We have been told by some that it is the largest house they have seen for a farm residence. I guess my letter is as long as the majority of them, so I will close, hoping to see my letter printed.—WILD CRAB.

Still They Come.

UNCLE TRUE:—I have been thinking for a long time of writing a letter to the RURAL, but have not attempted it until now. I hope you will print my first letter. My father is a farmer. I live six miles from Webster City. I go to school three months in summer and four in winter. I am 16. I am a reader of the RURAL and like it. Please accept me as a niece.—IDA M. C., *Webster City, Iowa.*

Brief, But to the Point.

MR. EDITOR:—I take your paper and am very much pleased with it. I get some very valuable information from it. I have been reading the letters from the girls and boys. I am 15 years old. I go to school and study various things.—A. BRYAN, *Monterey Co., Cal.*

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

DECAPITATIONS.

1. DECAPITATE a kind of grass, and leave an admirer.
2. Anything counterfeit, and leave a kind of meat.
3. A ship, and leave a noose.
4. A pattern, and leave sufficient.
5. A domestic animal, and leave a preposition.
6. An article of furniture, and leave competent.
7. A character in music, and leave a musical instrument.
8. A common implement, and leave a hut.
9. An article of furniture, and leave a filament.

☞ Answer in two weeks. O. S.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 21 letters:

My 9, 13, 6, 19 is a model.
My 1, 10, 16, 13, 20 an index.
My 4, 9, 17, 21 to dispute.
My 2, 14, 7, 16, 6, 12, 3 grass.
My 8, 11, 17, 7, 20 a trap.
My 5, 3, 18, 15, 20, 7 soft.

My whole is the pride of every American.

☞ Answer in two weeks. W. W. P.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

1. AN afternoon siesta. 2. A man of the Bible. 3. A lake of Ireland. 4. A river of England. 5. A city of Birmah. 6. A merry play. 7. A town on Long Island. 8. A country of India. 9. A loch of Ireland. Both primals and finals form fruits.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Aug. 26.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.—Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.—Knowledge is power.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

As we are now entering upon the second volume of the Twenty-seventh year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it would be well for the proprietors to say to subscribers and agents that a more prosperous time than the present has not been seen in this office for many a year.

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times" which has been echoing through the land, the rural population seem to be able to take their paper. It may not be known to many of you that at the end of each year and half-year a newspaper changes a large number of its subscribers. Some old ones discontinue and their places are filled with new, so that while the list does not diminish in numbers, the changes frequently amount to many hundreds.

There were hundreds on our list whose subscriptions expired with the last number in June, and of these every one has *renewed* but *six*. This is something unprecedented in the annals of a newspaper office, and is the most flattering indication to the new management that their strenuous and laborious efforts to make a *good* paper are fully appreciated. With such encouragement as this, subscribers and agents may rest assured that nothing which time, labor and money can procure will hereafter be omitted to make the RURAL still better than it is.

The Literary Departments will be kept up to their standards of excellence and morality, while the Practical Departments will continue to be made up of the most straightforward common sense which can be obtained. In these matters the aim will not be to make them so scientific that they may not be readily understood by every one; but it will be our constant endeavor to publish that which is *absolutely correct*. Now, all that is needed is for each subscriber to get another and our list will at once be doubled.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

GEORGE ADAMS, the young man who so successfully played the role of the hero in the late averted railroad disaster at Fairport, has been arrested in Buffalo, N. Y., the evidence of his being the author of the outrages having been worked up by Special Detective Hugh Bottles of the New York Central Railroad. After his arrest he made a full confession. He alone, it seems, misplaced the switch which threw the train from the track of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad on the 11th ult., whereby the engineer and fireman were badly scalded and the engine completely wrecked.

A serious accident occurred to the steamship Colon of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. She broke a shaft in mid-ocean, the assistant engineer and an oiler were killed, and the vessel was towed back to this city.

A granite block weighing thirty tons was recently taken from the quarries near Hallowell, Me., and one weighing forty tons is soon to be brought out. It will require forty oxen to move it from its position.

A prize fight between two Philadelphia pugilists, Weedon and Walker, took place at Pennville on the New Jersey shore, on the 31st ult. It is said the Sheriff made an attempt to interfere, but was restrained by the mob. After 62 rounds Weedon was declared the victor. After the gang had left Penn's Grove they seized two small boats and put the principals on board of them. It is said that Weedon was landed at Chester, Pa. Early in the evening the dead body of Walker was found at the salt wharf at Greenwich Point. An investigation by the police disclosed the fact that a row-boat containing three men was seen about the wharf, and it is supposed that the men, in the boat placed the body ashore. Weeden was arrested in New York Sept. 1st and taken to Philadelphia.

The Tribune's La Crosse special gives details of a terrible explosion of the boiler of a steam thresher working at the farm of C. J. Jones, near Chatfield, Minn. The machine was in full operation when the explosion occurred. The engineer, Mr. Lawton, was blown 160 feet, his body breaking off a tree top twenty feet from the ground, and was instantly killed. Charles Arnold, the band cutter, was literally torn to pieces, and portions of his body scattered all around the separator. William Burnett, the measurer, had the top of his head taken off by a piece of the boiler. Everett Jones, the feeder, had a leg and an arm badly broken. The boiler was blown a distance of 200 feet.

Captain Turtle's detectives have successfully worked up the case of the bank robbery in Rensselaer, Ind., and have arrested three men—James Filkins, alias Martin, Martin Davis of Chicago, and N. V. B. Warner, a saloon keeper at Rensselaer.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE impending change of rulers in Turkey was carried into effect on Aug. 31. In virtue of the decision of the Sheikh-ul-Islam, who is head of the Mohammedan Church and supreme interpreter of the law, Sultan Murad V. was deposed and his brother, Abdul Hamid, placed in power. The deposed Sultan was incapable of ruling because of mental infirmities. The new Sultan, it is thought, will be a vigorous ruler. He is in his thirty-fourth year and sound in health. The Turkish Minister at Washington has received the following dispatch, dated Constantinople, Aug. 31, from the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs: "The cruel disease of which the Sultan Murad Khan has been suffering ever since the tenth day of his accession to the throne, which aggravation has been constantly increasing, having put him in the manifest impossibility to take any more the reins of the Empire, in virtue of the Fetvah (decision) rendered by his Highness the Sheikh-ul-Islam, and conformably to the laws regulating the exercise of the sovereignty in the Empire, His Majesty the Sultan Hamid, presumptive heir to the imperial throne, has been to-day proclaimed Emperor of Turkey."

Abdul Hamid, the new Sultan, who has succeeded his infirm brother as ruler of the Ottoman Empire, is the second son and fourth child of Abdul Mejid, who was Sultan from 1839 to 1861. He was born Sept. 22, 1842. He is the 35th Sultan of the line of Osman, and will be known as Abdul Hamid II. His life has been quiet and uneventful. His mother died young, and he was adopted by his father's second wife, herself childless, who is very wealthy, and has made him heir to all her property. During the lifetime of his father, he, as well as his elder brother, the deposed Murad V., led a merry life, his every wish and fancy being indulged to the utmost, his education chiefly consisting in being diverted by the amusements and tricks devised for his entertainment by the numerous slaves surrounding him. His initiation into all the depravities of harem life was unusually early and complete; but his vigorous constitution withstood the effects of the excesses that undermined his brother's health, and when he married he was a strong, hardy lad. He accompanied his uncle, Abdul Aziz, and his brother Murad to the Paris Exhibition in 1867. He picked up a few French sentences on this journey, but this was not all the good it did him. He acquired a taste for political geography, and in his kiosk on the Sweet Waters, which he has hitherto inhabited regularly every summer, he has a very extensive and comprehensive collection of maps, military, geological, and statistical, the studying of which constitutes his favorite pastime. He also contracted a fondness for European manners and dress, the result of which is that he gets all his clothes from Paris, and has introduced French customs and demeanor into the daily existence of all those by whom he is intimately surrounded.

Abdul Hamid inherited from his father a small palace on the Sweet Waters. He has resided there with his wife and two children, a boy of six and a girl of three years, quite contentedly, eating at the same table, and playing with the little ones. He has a fondness for tame animals, as well as for stuffed ones, and has devoted much time and money to the collection of a choice assortment of handsome weapons. He is an orthodox Turk, and a resolute opponent of the "Young Turkish" party—being, in fact, an "Old Turk," but not, it is said, one of the fanatical sort. There is no question of his being a much abler man, mentally and physically, than his brother who has just been deposed. The only symptom of Orientalism in his own personal appearance is in the fez, which he dislikes, but still continues to wear, because it is the necessary token of his nationality. He is represented as taking a deep interest in the working classes and their condition, is said to be measurably free from the special vices of Turkish princes, is neither a drunkard nor a spendthrift, and lives a quiet, domestic life, with his one wife-in-chief, although, in accordance with the tenets of his religion, he owns a number of female slaves, or odalesques, as they are called.

A dispatch from Constantinople, Sept. 1, says the deposition of Murad occasions no excitement or disturbance. The deposed monarch has been assigned the Teheregan Palace as a residence. Abdul Hamid, the new Sultan, was yesterday received by the Ministers and functionaries at the Topcapen Palace, where he was proclaimed Abdul Hamid II.

The entire city was illuminated at night in honor of the new Sultan. The Turkish and foreign ships in the harbor were decorated with flags. The ceremony of girding Abdul Hamid with the sword of Osman is announced for the 9th inst.

Giuseppe Mantegazza, sixth Marquis of Liscate, charged with forgery, fraud and falsification in forging the names of King Victor Emanuel, Prince Humbert of Savoy and the British Consul at Florence to a number of bills of exchange, has been convicted and sentenced to eight years' penal servitude.

A Ragusa dispatch says that Dervish Pasha had reached Podgoritza with a strong detachment of Egyptians and Arabians. The Turkish force at Podgoritza is now formidable. It has 54 guns. The Prince of Montenegro's headquarters and army are between Danilloograd and Grahoca.

The Standard's special correspondent at Belgrade asserts that Gen. Leschjanin shot himself purposely; that the Servian reports of victories are inconsistent with each other and mostly imaginary, and that English correspondents have been obliged to take the war news, cut and dried, from the Servian Press Bureau.

Philip Phillips, the "Singing Pilgrim," now in London, has sung through India and Australia.

Official intelligence received announces that the Turks were defeated at all points on the right bank of the Morava and subsequently taken in flank and put to flight. Their bridges over the Morava were destroyed. The Servians occupied the Turkish intrenchments on the right bank of the Morava.

Beef and mutton cost about three cents a pound in Servia, a turkey fetches a shilling, a pair of fowls may be had for six cents, and a draught ox only costs from $10 to $12. Native tobacco and wine are similarly cheap, but bad.

A fire broke out in the western end of the City of St. Hyacinthe, Province of Quebec, at 1:30 P. M., Sept. 3, which, fanned by a high wind, swept the lower part of the city out of existence, the St. Hyacinthe, Quebec and National banks, Post-Office, Market, Court-House, factories and over 80 wholesale and retail stores being among the buildings destroyed. The people had no time to save anything, and by 7 P. M. 600 houses had been consumed. Montreal sent a steam fire-engine by special train at 7:30 P. M., but was too late to be of much service. Hundreds of families are now homeless and without food. The loss is roughly estimated at $2,000,000. The Royal, Stadacona, Quebec, Provincial and Royal Canadian insurance companies are heavily interested. St. Hyacinthe is a post town of Canada East, and is the capital of the County of St. Hyacinthe. It is about thirty miles east-northeast of Montreal.

WEEKLY OUTLOOK.

G. T. complains that prayers for rain are of no avail in his locality, but omits to state the locality. We desire crop reports, but, to be serviceable, County and State must accompany information.

From G. W. G., Christian Co., Mo. In this County the crops are good. There seems to be a plenty of everything. Money is scarce; but the soils have yielded us an abundance of superior wheat and corn. The prices rule low. Tobacco is growing finely. The fruit crop, too, is superior. We have a good country—very fertile and very healthy. We have a good many New York people, also many excellent German and English families. There are splendid opportunities to get homes here. Lands are cheap, fertile and handsomely located. I shall be glad to give information about this country to any person who may contemplate coming here.

Lands for Sale.—One of the choicest farming sections in the country is in Southwest Missouri; and the many people throughout the East and West who are meditating a move cannot do better than settle in this territory. They should, at least, take a tour of inspection; and if, when satisfied with the advantages of the country, they care to purchase, free transportation to the lands will be furnished by the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company. There are now 1,200,000 acres for sale in Southwest Missouri, embracing first-class stock farms, excellent agricultural lands, and the best tobacco region in the West. Short winters no grasshoppers, good markets, and a healthy country are the most striking advantages. The land sells at from $2.50 to $10 an acre, with easy payments. For full particulars about these choice lands, write to A. L. DEANE, Land Commissioner, St. Louis, Mo.

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[OWING to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents," so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for Advertisers," or "Answers to Correspondents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers (and we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements) and such other matter as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want and the want is indicative of its need.]

R. N., Atlanta, Ga., wants Ayrshire Cattle.

M. E. R., Astabula Co., Ohio, wants Game Fowls.

M. A. Y., Lowden, Iowa, wants a first-class Brick Machine.

R. G., Fairfield County, Conn., wants full-bred Cotswold Sheep.

G. R. B., Manchester, N. H., wants a number of Pure-Bred Game Bantams.

H. A. W., Bucks Co., Pa., wants a cheap and good Ten-Horse Portable Farm Engine.

H. E. V., Clay Co., Va., wants a good Cider Press. We refer him to advertisements in this issue.

H. M. B., Franklin County, N. Y., wants a Chilled Iron Plow, and would like to know which is the best.

R. H. G., Walla Walla, Washington Territory, wants a good Farm Wagon and wishes to know which is the best. We cannot say, as there are now several good wagons manufactured that are sold throughout the country. Some of these manufacturers should advertise.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Sept. 2, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	72,200	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,175	Rice, bbls	650
Corn meal, bbls	1,900	Cut meats, pkgs	5,627
Corn meal, bags	330	Lard, pkgs	2,884
Wheat, bush	205,389	Tobacco, hhds	3,194
Corn, bush	186,291	do. pkgs	5,377
Oats, bush	107,707	Butter, pkgs	—
Rye, bush	9,709	Cheese, bxs	66,111
Malt, bush	11,974	Cotton, bales	4,715
Barley, bush	—	Rosin	11,370
Beans, bbls	6,208	Sats, turp., bbls	2,026
Grass seed, bush	9,188	Dried Fruits, pkgs	635
Beef, pkgs	1,161	Eggs, bbls	5,593
Wool, bales	1,329	Peanuts, bags	251
Hops, bales	134	Leather, sides	46,430
Pork, bbls	1,007	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,093	Oil cake	6,663

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off quill points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEESWAX.—Is slow of sale and at easy prices: Western quoted at 30½@31c.; Southern at 31@31½c. Exports past week 4,017 lbs.; since Jan. 1st, 55,341; same time last year, 58,821 do.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 963 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 42,811 do.; same time last year, 34,824 do. Exports of peas past week, 1,589 bu.; since Jan. 1st, 474,023 do.; same time last year, 231,314. There has been a decided and sudden improvement in beans, and the market has ruled very strong since its occurrence early in the week. The drop is known to be below the smallest recent estimate, and both interior and city holders are firm. A few samples of new are in market; quality good, but of stunted growth. Green peas steady. Canadian weak.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.15@1.25; fair to good, $1.20@$1.30; prime mediums, $1.25@1.30; fair to good, $1@1.15; poor, —@—c.; prime marrows, $1.70@1.75; fair to good, $1.45@1.60; prime white kid., $1.55@1.60; other, $1.25@1.50; prime red kidney, $1.50@1.55; other, $1.25@1.40; Lima (Cal.), $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.75@4.00. Canadian peas, bulk and bond, 86@87c.; free bbls, $1.14. Green peas, $1.15; split do, $6.

BROOM CORN is depressed and dull. Nothing sensational has transpired in reference to the new crop. From the way the market has run during the past year, almost any yield would seem abundant. Nominal quotations are 5@8c. for short green brush and hurl; 5@6c. for green medium and 3@4c. for red and red tipped.

BUTTER.—The market is not quotably changed, yet the feeling is easier and it is not improbable that a shade in buyers' favor for State will be brought about by the threatened accumulation of stock. We say threatened because trade is somewhat quiet, and the new month will be apt to give us larger daily supplies. Besides buyers can now take longer lots and will of course hesitate at paying the extreme rates that have become current for summer sized parcels. Exporters have again operated heavily. In fact, transactions for their use have exceeded any period from June 1st to date, during the last five years. The market is well cleaned up of under grades, and an agreeable feature is the attention foreign buyers are giving some lines of State. All good serviceable lines of Western have a ready sale at the prices. Some apprehension is felt about the fall yield as pasturage is not looking well in many sections where late made stock is a specialty.

We quote:—Choice pails, 20@—c.; prime, 20@28c.; poor to good, 15@24c.; creamery pails, choice, 30@31c.; good, 28@29c.; sweet cream pails, 25@30c. State firkins, choice, 27@28c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 27@28c.; fair to prime, 23@26c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 25@27c.; other, 22@24c.; Western creamery, choice, 23@26c.; other, 20@27c.; do. firkins, best, 20@21c.; other, 14@17c.; dairy tubs, choice, 21@23c.; other, 14@16c.; factory choice, 19@21c.; other, 14@16c.

Comparative receipts and exports from June 1st.

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, firk.
June 1, '76, to Sept. 1, '76	328,120	25,362
June 1, '75, to Sept. 1, '75	255,114	7,005
June 1, '74, to Sept. 1, '74	241,181	21,618
June 1, '73, to Sept. 1, '73	299,388	11,295
June 1, '72 to Sept. 1, '72	176,122	11,814
June 1, '71, to Sept. 1, '71	179,409	21,828

CHEESE.—There is an advance this week of ½c. on all grades. The demand has been very fair, and fancy factories are closely sold up, with no marked accumulation of other grades. The markets abroad were weak early, but they have since reacted. The cooler weather placing the supplies in better order has led as much as anything else to the improvement. Quotations are:

Fancy factory, 10@10½c.; fine, 9¾@—c.; good and prime, 8¾@9¼c.; fair, 7@7½c.; do. half-skimmed, 5@6c.; do. skimmed, 3@4c. State farm dairy, fancy, 8@8¾c.; good to prime, 7@8c.; fair and good, 6@7c. Western factory, good and prime, 7@8c.; fair lots, 6@7c.; do. cheddar, choice, 8c.; do. flat, choice, 8@8¼c. Exports past week, 64,526 boxes.

Comparative receipts and exports from June 1st:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, pkgs
June 1, '76, to Sept. 1, '76	1,015,464	45,769,285
June 1, '75, to Sept. 1, '75	1,133,765	52,801,085
June 1, '74, to Sept. 1, '74	991,288	57,867,033
June 1, '73, to Sept. 1, '73	999,637	54,553,607
June 1, '72, to Sept. 1, '72	868,558	40,341,565
June 1, '70, to June 1, '71	741,532	36,998,713

COTTON.—There has been a good business in spot lots on export and spinning account, but the favorable crop advices have led to easier prices. The latest quotations are:—September, 11 19-32@11¾; October, 11 7-16@11 15-32c.; November, 11 11-32@11¾c.; December, 11 11-32@11¾c.; January, 11 15-32@11¾c.; February, 11 21-32@11 11-16c.; March, 11 27-32c.; April, 12@12 1-32c.; May, 12 3-16c.; June, 12¾c.; July, 12¾@12 17-32c.; August, 12¾@12 11-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Strict ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Good ordinary	10 3-16	10 3-16	10 3-16	10 3-16
Strict good do	10¾	10¾	10 11-16	10 11-16
Low middling	11	11¼	11¼	11¼
Strict low middling	11¼	11¼	11¾	11¾
Middling	11¾	12	12 1-16	12 1-16
Good middling	12 3-16	12 5-16	12 7-16	12 7-16
Strict good middling	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾
Middling fair	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾
Fair	13 15-16	14 1-16	14 3-16	14 3-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	8¾
Strict ordinary	9 15-16
Low middling	10 5-16
Middling	11 3-16

DRIED FRUITS.—New apples are more plenty, and at easy prices. New Tennessee quarters have been placed at 5¼c.; Virginia quarters, 5@6c., according to quality. Peeled peaches are dull; sales in small lots at 14¾c. for prime. Unpeeled peaches are neglected. Cherries and blackberries are firm at the advance.

Apples—State, sliced, 8@8¼c.; do., quarters, 7¼@8c.; southern sliced, new, 7¼@8c.; choice do. at 8@9c.; do., new quarters at 5@6c. Blackberries, 7@7¼c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 13@15c., as to quality; unpeeled peaches, new, nominal. Plums at 13@15c. Raspberries, 24c. Cherries, 16c.

Exports, past week, 281 bbls. dried apples; since Jan. 1st, 2,441 do.; same time last year, 10,857 do.

EGGS.—Have done well most of the week, falling off a little at the close. The markets will not stand heavy receipts; the intervals of warm days keep buyers away from market.

Near points, 20@23c., State and Penn., 20@21c.; Western, prime, 19c.; do. other, 18@18½c.; Canadian, 18@18½c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the latest revised quotations:

Oil peppermint, glass, $3.75; do. tin, $2.90; spearmint, glass, $3.50; do. tin, $2.75; wintergreen, $2.80; sassafras 38c.

FEATHERS dull; prime live geese, 50@55c.; mixed, 35@60c.

FLOUR.—There has been a liberal business from English shippers, brought about mainly through the scarcity of desirable lots of wheat. On shipping grades better rates are made. The general market is stronger and fairly active. We quote:

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3.50@4.25; $4.35 4.65 for very common to fair extra do.; $4.70@4.80 for good extra do.; $4.85@5.15 for fancy do., and $5.20@5.50 for very choice extra; $3.50@4.25 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.30@4.60 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $4.65@5.15 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.20@6.50; fancy do. $6.55@7.50; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $6.00@7.25, round-hoop Ohio, $4.50@4.85, and trade brands of do. at $5.00@6.75; St. Louis, $4.90@6.00 for common to fair extra, and $6.05@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.60@7.10, and patent at $6.50@9.00; unsound stock at from $2.25@5.60; city mill extra for West Indies at $5.00@5.85; do. English brands, $4.65@4.80; do. trade and family brands, $5.25@5.50; No. 2 at $2.20@3.25. Corn meal—Yellow Western, Jersey and Pennsylvania, $2.55@2.35, Brandywine, $3.25@3.30.

FRESH FRUITS.—Apples have improved, owing to fine quality and the reduced quantity of peaches. Bartlett pears are still cheap. A good many arrive in green condition and a large class of buyers do not know how to put them through the requisite course of ripening, preferring to wait for even nursery lots later on. Several consignments of California pears are here, all shipped to ripen. Sales are forced, and that means irregular prices. The supply includes some large American Russets. They are rather tough-skinned, but their delicious honey-flavor compensates for that fault. The range for California pears is $2.50@3 ₱ box; but their condition is so tender that most all buyers return for reclamation. A good showing of California Golden Drop plums are quoted at $3@3.50 ₱ box; State and Western low. Grapes slow of sale. Melons are doing better. Peaches steady under moderate receipts. Choice yellow brings $2 quick.

Apples, best, double-head bbls., ₱ bbl., $2.50; good to prime, near-by, $1.25@1.75; common, 75c.@$1.25. Peaches, Delaware, fancy, ₱ basket, $2; fair to good, 70c.@$1.50; fair to extra, crate, $1@2.50; N. J., ₱ basket, 30c.@$1.50. Pears, Bartletts, Southern, ₱ bbl., $3@5; Seckel, $3@5; Flemish Beauty, $3@4; cooking, $1.75@2. Plums, California, choice, ₱ box, $3@4; fancy, ₱ bbl., $3@3; good, $7@8; poor, $5.50@6.50. Grapes, Delaware, ₱ lb., 10@14c.; Concord, State and Jersey, 5@8c.; do. Southern, 4@6c.; Hartford, State and Jersey, 4@7c.; Southern, 3½@4½c. Whortleberries, ₱ bush., $1.20@2. Nutmeg melons, Jersey, ₱ bbl., $1@1.50. Watermelons, N. J. and Baltimore, ₱ 100, $8@20. Peanuts have moderate sale when prime; prime to fancy Virginia, $1.10@1.60; common to fair, $1@1.35.

GRAIN.—For wheat the meager supplies of prime lots have limited business. The foreign advices are favorable, but the orders come untimely for sound lots. For these full rates can be made. For the lower grades lower prices are made; latest sales of ungraded spring at 94c.@$1.05; No. 3 Chicago spring at 85c.; No. 2 soft Milwaukee spring at $1.01; new ungraded spring at $1.05; fair No. 1 Minnesota spring at $1.10; old winter red, in store, at 99c.; new winter red Toledo at $1.16; fair old white Michigan at $1.13, and fancy new amber Michigan at $1.27. Corn has been in large supply, and lower; latest sales at 50@53c. for heated and warm, in store and afloat; 53@54½c. for steamer mixed; 55@56½c. for ungraded mixed, the latter for choice; 57@57½c. for Kansas mixed; 54c. for graded western mixed; 56c. for steamer yellow; 57c. for yellow western; 58½c. for southern yellow, on dock; 54c. for white western, and 56½c. on dock for white southern. Oats have been in good demand and at higher prices; sales at 35@42c. for mixed Western and State, and 36@45c. for white do.; mixed Western, in store, at 40½c.; new white Western at 40@45c.; new State at 45c.; No. 2 Chicago, in store at 42c.; No. 2 Milwaukee quoted nominally 41@42c. Rye at 73c. for new Western for first half September.

HAY AND STRAW.—There is a good business in prime hay at firm prices. Shipping lots are hard to sell. Straw is in active demand and favoring the seller.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60c.; retail qualities 70@90c.; clover, 55@60c.; salt, 55@60c. Straw is quoted at 70@75c. for long rye; 50@55c. for short rye; 50@60c. for oat.

Exports past week 31 bales; since Jan. 1st, 32,909 do.; same time last year, 31,020 do.

HOPS.—New do not arrive sufficiently as yet to warrant important dealings; in a small way, 25@35c. made. Last year's growth of the better grades have been closely sold up. The market has probably never been in better shape to enter on a new crop. From EMMET WELLS' Weekly Circular, we take the following:—"We have shipped to London during the year, in round numbers, 50,000 bales. In the fall and winter of 1868 and 1869, the shipments were heavier than during the past year; but the business of that season was entirely of a different nature; then hops were shipped and consigned at random, while last year very few hops were exported except on special order from there and at stated prices. The price paid here for good shipping hops during the past year average about 15c. ₱ lb. Very few growers realized even these figures, most purchases being under 15c. The new season gives promise of a much better state of things. Contracts and purchases have already been made for a few thousand bales as high as 25c.; this improvement over last year's opening price is based upon a partial failure of the German crop and a comparatively light crop in England. Early estimates put the new English crop at ⅓ths less than last year; that of Germany ½d of last year's. We will, therefore, be likely to have a call from Germany as well as from England for hops." The quotations are:

N. Y. State, 10@20c.; Eastern, 8@15c.; Wisconsins, 8@15c.; Yearlings, 8@10c.; Olds, all growths, 4@6c.; Californias (nominal), 15@18c. ₱ lb.

POULTRY AND GAME.—There has been a fair trade in live in fowls and chickens; turkeys, ducks and geese active for Jewish holidays. We quote Spring chickens, near-by, ₱ lb., 16@17c.; do. Western, 15c. Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb 15@16c.; do. Western, 14@15c. Roosters, 8@10c.; Turkeys, N. J. 14@15c.; do. Western, 14@15c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1; do. Western, 65@75c.; Geese, N. J., $2.00@2.50; do. Western, 1.37@1.75.

Dressed poultry nominal. We quote:

Dry-picked chickens, 17@21c.; scalded, 12@17c.; dry-picked fowls, 16@18c.; scalded, 14@16c.; turkeys, 13@17c.

Grouse and partridge are now legally salable. The former have brought 75c. and the latter 90c.@$1 per pair. Woodcock are not so much inquired for now that grouse and partridge are offering, and therefore rule lower. Wild pigeons are no longer arriving in sufficient quantity to be quotable.

Partridges, ₱ pair, 87c.@$1; grouse, do., 75c.; woodcock, State, do., 75@85c.; Western, do., 70@75c.

PROVISIONS.—There is a very good export demand. Mess pork quoted at $16.75 for spot lots, $16.55 for October, and $15.50 for December. Bacon, long clear, 9⅝@9¾c.; short do., 9¾c. Western steam lard at $10.15 for spot, September and October, $9.55 for November and $9.42½ for December. Stearine at 12¾c. for prime Western. Beef hams at $26@28 for choice. Tallow at 8¾@8 7-17c. for prime. Barreled beef at $8@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, $11@12 for packet, the outside prices for small lots choice. Tierced quoted nominal for prime mess and India mess. City extra India mess at $19.

SEED.—Small lots of new have been received. Timothy, car lots, $2; flower seed, $1.40@1.43.

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ₱ lb., Southern, $1.15@1.30; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, ordinary to refined, 14@18c. ₱ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. unclipped, 50c.@$1; lamb skins, 60@65c.

TOBACCO.—The export demand has been brisk and at strong figures. The quotations are:

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	6 @ 6¾	7 @ 8
Good lugs	7¾@ 9	8¾@ 9¾
Low leaf	9¾@10¾	10 @11
Medium leaf	11 @12	12 @13¾
Good leaf	13 @14	14½@15¾
Fine leaf	15 @16	17 @19

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England fine seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7¾
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5¾@ 7
Pennsylvania assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	5¾@ 6
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes are now coming from all parts and prices are tending downward. Choice Eastern Early Rose only bring $3. Complaints are still being made about the careless packing of Western. Sweet potatoes low, but the improved quality keeps them active. Corn is in good demand. Tomatoes have advanced. We quote:

Early Rose potatoes, choice, $2.75@3; fair, $2@2.50. Western do., $2@2.50; Sweet do., $2.75@3. Onions, red and yellow, $1.25@1.75; white, $2@2.25. Marrow squash, ₱ bbl., $1@1.25. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $6@10. Tomatoes, ₱ bush. 50@90c. Corn, ₱ 100, $1@1.50. Wax beans, ₱ bag, $1@1.25; Lima do., 75c.; shelled do., ₱ bush, $3. Egg plants, $1. Russia turnips, $1@1.25.

WOOL.—There has been a liberal margin from manufacturers, and prices are again ½c. higher. X Ohio fleeces selling at 40c. and XX do. 42c.; pieklock, 46@48c. Unwashed Western fleeces sold at 24@25c.; Western do., 29@33c. including N. Y.; State fleeces, 33½c. Spring California at 17½@28; Oregon at 28c.

ROCHESTER, Sept. 2.—Flour market active; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $6.75; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower: Milwaukee club, $1.16@1.18; amber winter, $1.00@1.05; white winter, $1.05@1.15. Oats, nominal at 30@33c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 20@22c. Cheese, 10c@12c. Eggs, 15@16c. Lard, 11¾@12¾c. Apples, bu., 50@75c. Potatoes, bu., 65@75c. Beans, ₱ bu., 70c.@$1. Mess pork, $21.00. Wool, 20@25c. Hay, $8@11. Straw, $5@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed strong at $16 for shorts, $13 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Sept. 2, 1876.

THERE has been a more active market this week for cheese and prices have advanced a trifle. The general impression is that we have seen the lowest rates for the season and that fine goods will advance, and this opinion is predicated upon the fact of drought prevailing over an extensive area and the consequent shrinkage of the cheese crop.

About 500 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on the market and sales were made at 7@9¾c., the latter figure having been reached by only a few lots. The bulk of sales may be quoted at 8@8¾c.

The offerings from factories were estimated at 12,000 boxes and upward, the larger part of which changed hands. Sales were made at 9c., 9¼c., 9¾c., 9¾@10c., while the highest price reached by "fancy" was 10¼c. The bulk of sales may be quoted at 9¾@10c.

The weather is cooler, but the delivery of butter this week has been light. Farm dairy butter in Welsh tubs sold at 23@24c., while creamery was reported to reach from 25c. to 27c.

We have recent advices from abroad. Our London correspondent says fine English cheese is in demand. The low price of American cheese secures a large consumption; extra fine is short and sought for. We give prices as follows:

American, extra fine, 51s.; fine, 50@52s.; good, 46@48s.; secondary, 36@44s. English cheddar, 76@82s.; Wiltshire double, 63@72s.; Cheshire medium, 50@58s.; fine, 66@76s.; Scotch, 56@64s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 52@54s.; Gondas, 50@52s.; Derby shapes, 52@54s.

Butter is in good demand and the tendency of the market is upward. The quotations are as follows:

Cloonmels, 130@132s.; Corks, 132s.; Jersey, 100@120s.; Dorsets, 150@154s.; Friesland, 128@140s.; Normandy, extra, 100@140s.; American and Canadian, 95@100s. ₱ cwt.

Oleomargarine (artificial butter) sells at from 90s. to 96s. ₱ cwt., according to quality.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 2, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,996	10	1,905	11,883	000
Forty-Eighth St.	37	26	513	3,312	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	3,818
Harsimus Cove	4,582	00	000	15,001	9,039
Totals this week	8,615	36	3,418	30,181	18,887
" last week	8,715	72	2,696	25,583	17,504

BEEVES.—Trade opened on Monday last slow but firm, the run of horned cattle was light, and all to hand were sold off from 7¾@10½c. ₱ lb.; weights, 4¾@8¾ cwt. The quality of these herds were generally coarse, the aggregate being grass-fed. Wednesday, trade was slow on a light run; quality generally very coarse; prices, 7¾@10¼c., weights, 5@8 cwt., Thursday, trade small at 8¾@10c.; weights, 5¾@8 cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 7¾@10¼c.; weights, 5¼@8¾ cwt. From 58@57 lbs., net, have been allowed; general sales on 56 lbs. net. The quality of these herds were from poor and rough grass-fed animals to coarse and fat steers. Only a very few good quality steers came to hand and these were all sold off at retail on a small advance on above quotations. Spanish herds, grass-fed, sold at 7¾@8¾c. ₱ lb.; grass-fed native steers, 8@9c.; part corn-fed do., 9¾@9¾c., with tops at 10c.; grade do., 10¼@10¾c.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	11 @	11 @
Fair	10¾@	10¾@10¾
Poor	9¾@10¼	9¾@10¼
Poorest	7¾@ 9	5¾@10¼
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9¾	8 @ 9¾

MILCH COWS.—Trade so small and slow that dealers withhold quotations. Two cows sold for $70@72 ₱ head—calves included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade slow in coarse quality calves and moderate in smooth quality veals. Calves, part buttermilk-fed, sold at 3¾@5¾c. ₱ lb. Grass-fed calves at $5@12 ₱ head. Smooth quality veals at 7@8¾c. ₱ lb., with a few selected animals at 9c. State calves sold at 3¾@6¾c.; Pennsylvania do., very coarse and heavy, at 3¾@4c. State veals at 7@8¾c.; Pennsylvania do., 7¾@8¾c.; Jersey do., 7¾@9c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade slow but steady in sheep. Lambs slow and declining in value. The quality of the flocks to hand has been from coarse to good—in general fair. Monday last sheep sold at 4@5¾c. ₱ lb.; lambs at 5@7c.; mixed flocks, 4@6c. Wednesday, sheep, 4@5¾c.; lambs, 5@7c. Thursday, sheep, 4½@6¾c.; lambs, 4½@6¾c. Friday, the markets closed firm; sheep, 4¾@6¾c.; lambs, 5@6¾c. State sheep, 4@5¾c.; Michigan do., 4¾c.; Pennsylvania do., 4@5c.; Ohio do., including mucks, 4@5¾c.; Canada do., 5¾@5¾c. Canada lambs, 6¾@7¾c.; Kentucky do., 5¾@6¾c.; Virginia do., 5@7¼c.; State do., 5¾@6¾c.; Jersey do., 7c.

HOGS.—Ohio hogs, live weight, 260 lbs. ₱ head, sold at $6.57½ cwt. State hogs, 207 lbs. ₱ head, sold at 6¾c. ₱ lb.; only 41 head were sold in all. City dressed trade active on a light run, which causes rates to advance; 7¾@8¾c., extreme range, save a few selected pigs at 9c. On the close of the sales, rates were weak.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade easier in inferior quality horses. Fifty poor quality light harness horses sold at $30@100 ₱ head; 20 do., $50@95 ₱ head; 43 ordinary quality do., $110@175 ₱ head; 40 coarse quality heavy draft do., $115@182 ₱ head; 10 pairs family carriage horses, $325@495 ₱ pair; 11 ponies, $12@200 ₱ head; 8 roadsters, with moderate trotting action, $200@400 ₱ head; 1 pair light carriage horses, aged, $700.

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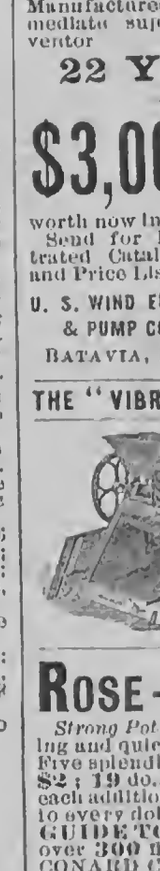

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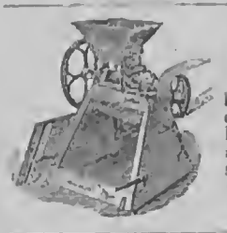

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

SPEAKER KERR was a Master Mason.

FEW children go to Saratoga Springs.

IN England the stylish beverage is snowed milk.

MISS BRADDON, the novelist, is to go on the stage.

NINE railroads are in process of construction in Texas.

A NEW theater in New Zealand was opened by Ilma di Murska.

YOUNG ladies in blue flannel in Wisconsin swim across half-mile-wide lakes.

SENATOR EDMUNDS is ill and has gone to Canada, away from State committees.

BEN BUTLER in his new role of a "widow," makes the country laugh all over its face.

IT is rumored in London that Father Hyacinthe is about to enter the Church of England.

ROSES have done blowing this season, and so have members of Congress at Washington.

"I HAIN'T heern one this year," laments Mrs. Partington, "not one Bacchanallan sermon!"

RANDOLPH ROGERS, who goes back to Rome next month, thinks of returning to Washington to live.

LONGFELLOW:—"The sunshine of life is made up of very few beams that are bright all the time."

A RECENT fancy makes car-rings of black velvet and watered ribbon, held in place by small buckles.

SEVENTY car loads of machinery, for the cotton mill now building at Atlanta, Ga., were received there recently.

GEN. LEW. WALLACE is writing a new novel. His first attempt, "The Fair God," has reached its sixth edition.

CÆSAR conquered the world, but he could not hit a fly on his nose three times in five, any more than the rest of us.

THE jail at Exeter, N. H., is so full of prisoners that there is talk of organizing chain gangs for work on the streets.

A RICH vein of coal has been discovered under an Alabama cemetery. It is supposed to be of the buy-tomb-inous kind.

SPECIMEN postage stamps from Persia and Iceland have just been, for the first time, received at the Washington Department.

MR. LARKIN G. MEADE, the sculptor, and his sister the wife of Mr. W. D. Howells of The Atlantic, are cousins of Gov. Hayes.

IT is reported that, while Alfred Tennyson is a spiritualist, Mrs. Tennyson is not, and forbids all mention of the subject at her hearth.

SAN JOSE, Cal., has been sued by a Fourth of July orator, who wants $1,000 for speaking his piece, while the city offers him but $10.

A COLORED woman has received the appointment of postmistress at Terry, Miss., in the place of Mr. Seals, a white Democrat removed.

AN insectologer has discovered that the best time to examine the wonderful architecture of the hornet's nest is after the hornets have moved out.

WHAT effect does cutting off a dog's tail have on his locomotion? It has no effect on his carriage but stops his waggin'.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

PRESIDENT and Madame MacMahon were run away with recently, and were saved by a prompt and active grocer, who jumped at the horses' heads.

A PRIZE of $500 is offered by the Georgia State Agricultural Society for a preventive or cure of hog cholera; and another of $200 for chicken cholera.

A GREAT exhibition of sacred objects will be opened in the Vatican on May 21, 1877, in celebration of the jubilee of the Pope's elevation to the Episcopate.

"WHAT does 'Good Friday' mean?" asked one schoolboy of another. "You had better go home and read your 'Robinson Crusoe,'" was the withering reply.

PH. D. is the title under which the studious dame, Madame Sophie Goldsmith, has been received by the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Zurich.

JOSEPH PITMAN, the last survivor of Napoleon's custodians at St. Helena, has died in England in his ninety-third year, having been a pensioner for full fifty years.

SEEDY tramp—gazing at a railroad hand bill: "Through without change! That's the line for me," and he proceeded to ensconse himself in an empty freight car.

THE Sultan begins to think of getting well, and, according to official report, one symptom appears to be that he is "becoming communicative, as he was in his youth."

A PHYSICIAN advertises in the Meriden, Conn., newspapers that he has no power over his appetite for alcohol, and that he will prosecute anybody who sells him any.

A SIXTEEN year old boy robbed his employer in Philadelphia, and went to Chicago, where he spent the money so riotously that the police arrested him on suspicion.

A BILL passed by the Texas Legislature, authorizing Sheriffs to shoot any person against whom any offence is alleged, if he should fail to halt or surrender when called upon, was vetoed by Gov. Coke.

INDIGNANT husband—I suppose I have the liberty of speaking my mind? Truthful wife—Yes, John; but if you had nothing but your mind to speak, you'd be always dumb.

AT a medical examination a young applicant for a physician's diploma was asked:—"When does mortification ensue?" "When you propose and are rejected," was the reply.

MR. GEORGE NORTON, an Italian of English descent, and who was formerly an editor of the *Eco d' Italia* of this city, is now prominent and popular among the journalists of Rome.

THE best men know that they are very far from what they ought to be, and the very worst think that, if they were a little better, they should be as good as they need be.—*Froude.*

MR. WILLIAM BLACK, the brilliant English novelist, is in this country on a visit of two months. He is now at Saratoga, and will visit Niagara and Boston before returning to New York.

WHEN Dom Pedro was in this city, Fall River sent its Mayor and another citizen to induce him to pay a visit, but the mission failed, and the Common Council hesitates about paying $256 for the expenses.

THE handsomest Hebrew roll in the United States—the five books of Moses written on parchment—has been presented by Sir Moses Montefiore to a Bostonian, and was dedicated on the 8d of September.

A BOOK agent was recently shot in Texas, whereupon the Worcester Press heartlessly and malignantly remarks that "there is a universal demand all over the country for more book agents—in Texas."

MISS PITMAN is a cousin of the King of the Cannibal Islands—that is, King Kalakaua—and she swims exceedingly well off the coast of Martha's Vineyard this summer, and is reverentially called "the Island Princess."

AMONG the arrivals by the steamship St. Laurent from Havre was M. Charles Limousin of the Paris *Journal des Debats*, a notable addition to the list of European journalists and writers whom the Exposition has brought here.

OVER the new Earl of Beaconsfield all the London papers pour forth what Willis termed "platitudinous commonplaces." They agree in stately language that his promotion is the crown of his career—and so shelve him.

THE son of the washerwoman with whom Byron lived in Venice, before he resolved to study the Armenian language as a means of avoiding dissipation, is now the proprietor of the Hotel de Lepre, a well-known restaurant in Rome.

"I CAN scarcely breathe, because I have stuffed so many of my diamonds in the waist of my dress. I cannot wear them all at once, and I am afraid to leave any in my room." Thus spake a watering-place belle the other day. Isn't it sad?

THE Rev. Dr. Cuyler, who has been to the Adirondacks, complains of a signboard that he saw there, near the grave of John Brown, which said:—"To John Brown's Home—fresh trout, chickens, and lodgings always supplied!"

A STRANGE marriage took place at New London recently. When the ceremony was finished, the bridegroom refused to fee the clergyman or to allow his wife to be kissed, and told her to go her way and he would go his, which they both did.

HERR WAGNER appears to have enthusiastic literary tastes. He was so delighted with a Life of Schopenhauer, lately published by an English lady, that he sent her a ticket for the Bayreuth performances—not a small item by any means.

THE following was written on the window of an inn, in 1714:

"Who'er has traveled life's dull round,
Where'er his stages may have been,
May sigh to think he still has found
His warmest welcome at an inn."

LOW-NECKED dresses are the fashion at the Buckingham Palace entertainments; but a Countess recently wrote to the Lord Chamberlain that her shoulders had grown so thin during long illness that they were not "really fit to be seen," and she was allowed to violate usage.

PROF. SUMNER intends to read a paper on the commercial crisis of 1819, at the coming meeting of the Social Science Association, over whose deliberations he will preside. David A. Wells is to discourse on a subject of more immediate interest, the Cause and Cure of the Present Hard Times.

BERNARD MCNULTY of Everett, Mass., has for three months been inciting boys to steal, and then informing the police where the plunder could be found. By this means he has kept the village excited, and got himself and the boys imprisoned. No sane motive for his conduct is apparent.

THE Dowager Lady Lytton, the widow of the novelist, and in her youth the black-browed, scowling, Oriental beauty, Miss Wheeler, has published a volume of meditations with the somewhat sentimental title, "Shells from the Sands of Time." Therein she discusses with satisfaction what she calls the "stuckupativeness" of the modern servant.

MR. ROBERT BROWNING, who is not celebrated for sweet humility, in his new volume, "Pacchiarotto," calls the British reviewers "chimney-sweeps," and gets in return this rap among others from The Saturday Review:—"He challenges all who presume to form and express an independent judgment of his poems in language so unprovoked, so unreasonable, and so coarse that it would be almost an act of cowardice not to answer his defiance."

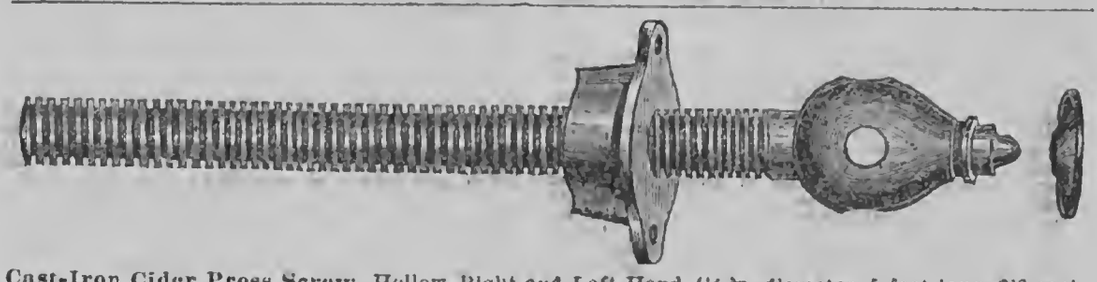
Implements and Machinery.

Centennial Year of American Independence,

SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

We will call and see you next July and assist at your CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. By the same opportunity bring you samples of the Celebrated Watches, manufactured by our countrymen, the MESSRS. BOREL & COURVOISIER of Neuchatel, for INSPECTION and EXHIBITION. These Watches are favorably known throughout the U. S., having been sold by our local agents in almost every City, Town and Village the past ten years. Their reputation for accurate performance is universally acknowledged. They are manufactured in Gold and Silver Cases, Stem and Key Winders. These Watches have superior quality of Nickel Movements, Chronometer Balances, Breguet Hair Springs, Tempered, Hardened and Isochronised for R. R. use, fine Ruby Jeweled, set in Clinton, and warranted to perform with the regularity and accuracy of a chronometer. Ask your Watchmaker to see them before purchasing those of other makers, as we have been authorized to sell them at a reduction from former prices.

QUINCHE & KRUGLER,
SALESROOM: 15 MAIDEN LANE, N. Y., Up Stairs.
Only Wholesale Agents for the Manufacturers. Jewelers wanted to act as Agents.



Cast-Iron Cider Press Screw, Hollow, Right and Left Hand, 4½ in. diameter, 5 feet long, $18 each.
Cast-Iron Cider Press Screw, Solid, Right and Left Hand, 4 in. diameter, 5 feet long, $15 each.
Cider Mills, $15, $20, $25 and $35. Castings for Power Mills, $26.
☞ Presses all sizes. Prices from $7 to $85.
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$15 Shot Gun

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OSBORN'S SULKY PLOW,

the only Plowing Machine that has proved a perfect success in all kinds of soil. Any kind of plow can be attached. The plowman rides and handles the plow with ease, regulating the depth and width of furrow. The draft for the team is materially less, and the ordinary laborious mode of plowing is reduced to one of comfort and ease.

The Meadow King Mower,

and other Agricultural Implements.
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White Leghorns
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Chicks of both of the above for sale next fall.
Address THOS. T. WALTON,
SEC'Y BERGEN CO. POULTRY ASSOCIATION,
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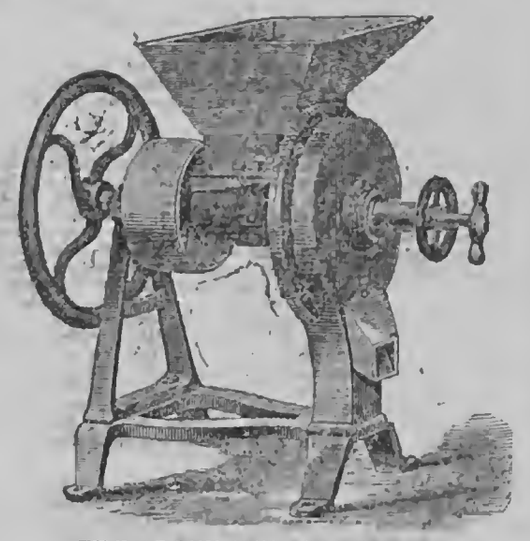

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This mill will grind corn and cob rapidly, course and fine; also, all other kinds of grain or seed. Capacity, **10 to 20 bushels per hour.** It is made entirely of iron, except the hopper. It is strong, durable, and not liable to get out of repair. It will grind more feed with less power than any other mill in the market. This is no humbug. We warrant it to do what we claim. Agents wanted everywhere. Price $40, delivered on cars at Springfield. Address
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☞ We also manufacture 4½ horse-power Vertical Portable Engines, suitable for running these mills, or for any other purpose for which power is required. Price $260.

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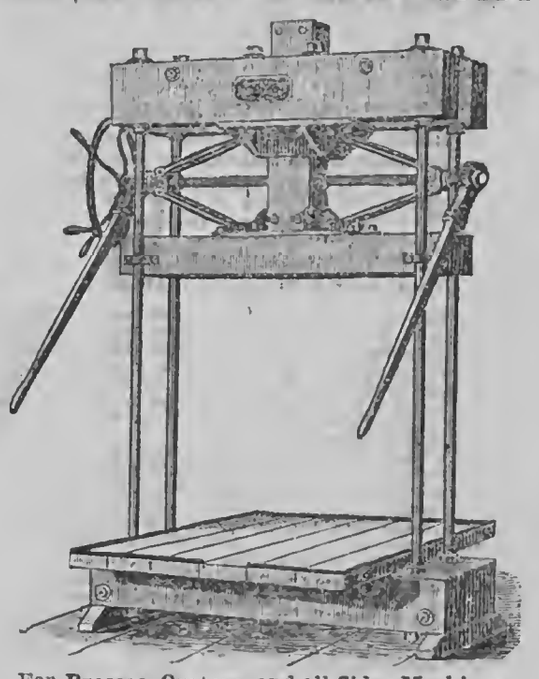

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—With its full corps of editors, and a new publisher of energy and ability, the management propose to celebrate the quarter-centennial of the pioneer RURAL in such a manner as to augment its popularity and usefulness. For a first-class, lively paper, containing matter of interest for all classes, take the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and do so at once, for the paper never was better, and its prospects never brighter.—*Freeport (Ill.) Journal.*

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.15, including postage.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer. It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.*

Inquirer.—You have in several articles used the words endosmose, exosmose and osmose, in speaking of the effects of frost upon trees. Will you please explain them? ANS.—The word osmose embraces the other terms. It is the tendency of two liquids of different densities to mix when separated by permeable membranes or tissues. If, for instance, sugar or salt be dissolved in water in a glass tube and a bladder be tied over the mouth and inserted into another vessel of pure water, it will be found not only that the pure water enters the tube, but that the denser liquid of the tube passes through the membrane into the water. And this interchange continues until both are of the same density. The passage of the pure water into the tube is called endosmose, and the passage of the salt or sweet water into the other is called exosmose. The upward course of the sap is induced by evaporation from the leaves and stems, which, tending to produce vacuums, is reproduced by those beneath until the roots are called upon to act. Thus the movement of sap in the spring is accelerated. But osmotic movement occurs in all directions, and has, perhaps, less to do with the pressure of the atmosphere.

The rationale of these forces in their relations to the processes of plant life are but imperfectly understood.

Farmer Boy.—If you will send us a specimen of what you call the "Grain Weevil," we shall endeavor to give the scientific name, together with whatever is known of its history and the method of destroying it. But as there are many kinds of insects which attack stored grain, some being moths and others beetles, it is absolutely necessary that we should see a specimen of the insect in question before attempting to give any special information in regard to the same. To speak of all kinds of insects which invest grain as "the weevil" is as incorrect as it would be to call all farm animals "the horse," and yet hundreds do talk in this loose manner without being aware of their error.

C. F. B.—No, never transplant evergreens in the fall if it can well be avoided. It may sometimes do to move evergreens in the fall where they can be handled with a ball of earth left around the roots, but otherwise to transplant such trees in a cold climate at that season would be almost certain death.

W. B. A.—The immense hornet or wasp with yellow legs and wings and three bands of yellow across the top of its abdomen is one of our large burying wasps, known as *Stizus speciosus*. It frequently captures *Cicadas*, insects much larger than itself. We will have something further to say of this insect in our Entomological columns shortly.

Unbeliever.—There are persons who believe that wheat will turn to chess, and it would be very difficult to change their belief. We have met farmers who claimed that oats, if sown in the fall, would all change to chess, and lately an account comes to us from California of one field of wheat turning to timothy, and another of 140 acres turning to chess, while a volunteer crop of barley turned to red clover. Now, our own belief in this matter is that one change is just as likely to occur as another, and we would as soon expect to see a field of barley turn to clover as wheat to chess. There is no more use in trying to account for strange "beliefs" than there is for curious "tastes."

C. B.—There can be no doubt that lawns which are shaven short by the lawn-mower through spring and summer become impoverished, and the addition of manure or of fresh soil is rendered, sooner or later, necessary. The cut grass should not be raked off, and the use of the lawn-mower should be discontinued so early in the fall as to admit of a considerable growth before hard frosts. This serves as a mulch during the winter and, by its decay, as a fertilizer the ensuing season. Before the last cutting, all plantains and weeds should be pulled up by the roots and all bare places mellowed and sown with lawn seed.

Rockland.—The plant you send is sometimes called Sour Grass. The leaves do possess a rather pleasant acidity. It is readily recognized by its halberd-shaped leaves. It may be kept down by the lawn-mower—otherwise pulling it up by the roots must be resorted to. The botanical name is *Rumex acetocella*. It belongs to the Buckwheat family, *Polygonaceæ*.

C. D. B.—Your weed economy is faulty, we think, or we should find place for your article. If plants extracted from the earth their entire nutriment, all cultivated lands, not manured, would soon become exhausted. But inasmuch as plants draw from the atmosphere a considerable amount of food, it follows that if the entire plant be returned to the soil, the soil will be a gainer by just so much as the plant was fed by the air. If you burn your weeds, you save the ashes and lose the combustible constituents. If you leave them upon the ground where pulled up, simply a slower combustion is the result.

J. O. Bogart.—We cannot now give full directions as to building an ice-house. They may be found in old issues. Let us say, however, that the material, cost, etc., are secondary considerations, unless you care more for ornament than for service. The finer the material used for packing between the walls of an ice-house the better, provided it is not of a cohesive nature. Hence pulverized charcoal is one of the best. There is nothing whatever gained by having the house under or partly under the ground. Indeed the freest circulation of air about the structure is essential, since the material used as a non-conductor loses this power to a great extent the moment it becomes wet or even damp. Dampness forms a communication between the particles which should be separated by dry air. Dry saw-dust is very good and cheap. But unless the walls are air-tight, it absorbs moisture and becomes worthless. It should always be well dried in the sun before being packed. Many suppose that a northern exposure is best for ice-houses. So it would be if the use of non-conducting substances were unnecessary. But unless the ice-house be constructed with exceeding care, the dampness of such places not exposed to the sun penetrates the non-conducting substance and renders it next to useless. The effects of sunshine and free air cannot reach the ice in a properly-constructed house, and they exert a drying and preserving influence upon the material to which we must look for its preservation.

T. D. C., Dentonsville, L. I.—For a strictly ornamental hedge we cannot recommend the Rose of Sharon, *Hibiscus Syriacus*, though it is a beautiful plant and blooms late in the season, when choice flowers are scarce. It is not quite hardy enough for your section.

We prefer the Kittatinny to the Lawton Blackberry, because it is sweeter and hardier. The berries are not quite so large.

L. G.—Rhododendrons are incomparable in their season of bloom—but they are not adapted to places which it is desired in a measure to conceal by an exuberance of foliage. They bloom more profusely when partly exposed to the sun—though the foliage is perhaps improved by shade.

It is our opinion that they are preeminently suited to clusters. Their form is too skeleton-like for single specimens.

(2.) Running Roses are very frequently employed as vines for verandahs or the sides of houses. They are the last plants we should use for this purpose. Too many insects are fond of rose leaves, and unless great care and a deal of trouble be taken, they are eaten up as soon as they are well developed—and the plants present anything but a pleasing appearance. We should prefer the Wistaria, American Ivy, Honeysuckles, *Akebia quinata*, all of which are perfectly hardy, may be trained to suit the taste, and are not liable to suffer from insect depredations.

(3.) We recommend for three grape vines The Lady (a seedling of Concord—white), Concord (black), Roger's No. 1.

Will Mr. FRANK J. SCOTT send his address to the RURAL NEW-YORKER?

Mrs. W. V. B.—I would like to inquire through the RURAL if the large, green worms found on tomatoes are poisonous. Many folks think they are and destroy their vines in consequence. These worms are very numerous on our vines. I cannot think they are poisonous, as they live and grow on nothing but tomatoes, still I would like to be certain. To what kind of a butterfly do they change? I have tried to keep some, but have not as yet succeeded. I would be glad to find out if not too much trouble and would be grateful for any information tending to solve the above queries. ANS.—They are not at all poisonous. In the fall these worms descend to the ground and change to a chrysalis, in which state they remain until spring, when they come forth a large moth, known as the five-spotted sphinx moth (*Sphinx quinquemaculata*).

PLEASE NOTICE.—The note at the head of these columns has been rendered necessary for the reason that we are constantly receiving questions and other communications not accompanied with the writers' name or address. Not only are the name and address essential to protect us from imposition, but it is not unfrequently the case that we wish to communicate with our correspondents.

Hereafter our friends may know that we shall not answer questions or publish MSS. unless the above requirements be complied with.

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Dutch Bulbs, New and Rare Plants, &c.
Souvenir du Congres; Beurre d'Assumption; Pitmaston, Duchesse and other new Pears.
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CENTENNIAL SEED WHEAT—CLAWSON and FULTZ Varieties the best. Send stamp for sample and description. B. L. WOOD,
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The Autumn No. of Vick's Floral Guide, Containing descriptions of Hyacinths, Tulips, Lilies and all Bulbs and Seeds for Fall Planting in the Garden, and for Winter Flowers in the House—just published and sent free to all. Address
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Spring Avenue Gardens.
WINTER-BLOOMING PLANTS
A C. Y.
Carnations, Smilax, Neapolitan Violets, Bouvardias, Chinese Azaleas, Lily of the Valley. All the new and most desirable Geraniums and similar plants. Also, a great variety of the common and fancy Hardy Evergreen Trees, as low as they can be purchased of any trustworthy dealer.
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LARGE STOCK. LOW RATES.
STANDARD PEAR TREES A SPECIALTY.
AGENTS WANTED. Address
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NIAGARA NURSERIES, Established 1839.

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VINEGAR. How made in 10 hours from Cider, Wine or Sorghum without using drugs. Name paper and address
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Wit and Humor.

FORCED TO BE A LIAR.

An agent for the sale of a new kerosene lamp chimney called into a house on Chestnut Street the other day, says the Detroit Free Press, to make a sale. He satisfied the woman that it was a good thing, and then she asked:

"How much kerosene will it save?"

"I think it will save some," was his evasive answer.

"What per cent. of fuel will it save?" she next demanded.

"Why—why—what has fuel to do with a kerosene lamp?"

"All right, you can go," said she. "There was a man along here yesterday with a chimney, which he warranted to save half the oil and forty per cent. in fuel, and you can take your goods and go home!"

He sold one of his chimneys in that house, but when he reached the street great beads of perspiration stood on his forehead, and he said: "She wanted to be lied to, and I lied, and now I've got to keep on lying and lose my soul for the sake of selling lamp chimneys!"

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

An accomplished tooter—The fish-wagon man.

Just the place for drummers—The town of Fife.

Very properly, Mr. Swap edits a Kentucky exchange.

A good place to send refractory children—Whip-pany, N. J.

Most of the ordinary school slate-pencils come from Pencil-vania.

When a man writes "a running hand," can he be called a "race-y" correspondent?

Epitaph upon Richard Button, Esq.:

Oh, Sun, Moon, Stars, and ye Celestial Poles!
Are graves then dwindled into *Button-holes?*

A father bent on instructing his three-year-old son said:—"If you had three apples and should give me one, how many would you have left?" "I wouldn't do it pa," was the prompt reply.

At a young ladies' seminary, during an examination in history, one of the pupils was interrogated, "Mary, did Martin Luther die a natural death?" "No," was the reply, "he was excommunicated."

The King of Holland is not a miser. The other day, when a laborer stopped the royal carriage from going in the river, the King handed him forty cents, and smiled a smile worth thirty-five cents more.

A country editor is responsible for the suggestion that in this degenerate age it would be well to have church-wardens and deacons each provided with a bell-punch when they pass around the contribution boxes.

Intelligent housemaid—"Oh, please, miss, there was a young gentleman called when you was out. He didn't leave no card, miss, but I can show you who he is, 'cause there's three of his photygraphs in your album."

A Glasgow antiquary recently visited an old castle, and asked one of the villagers if he knew anything of an old story about the building. "Ay," said the rustic, "there was anither auld story, but it fell down lang syne."

A Frenchman who has lived in America for some years, says:—"When they build a railroad the first thing they do is to break ground. This is done with great ceremony. Then they break the stockholders. This is done without ceremony."

Hard Times.—"These are pretty hard times, I tell you, sir," complained a tramp, drawing the back of his hand across his eyes while he shut the other upon a donation of 10 cents. "Lots of families who'd never thought, a year ago, that they could mix up biscuit without cream, now use water," saying which, he sorrowfully wended his way to the nearest barroom.

Paris Kentuckian:—Last Friday, when the chain gang was at work on our square, one of the darkeys was approached by a rural acquaintance, who asked:—"What do you have that ball chained to you for?" "So that no derned country nigger can steal it from me," replied the darkey, and went on reducing the size of the limestone rocks in front of him with his hammer.

Brooklyn Argus:—A simple peasant from the wilds of New England was alighting from the cars at the Washington depot, in company with a friend, when the latter pointed out the first distinguished looking person he saw, and exclaimed:—"Look, George! there goes one of the greatest statesmen in this country," "Dew tell!" ejaculated the simple peasant. "How much has he stolen?"

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R. Evans

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Entomological.

AILANTHUS SILK-WORM MOTH.
(Attacus Cynthia.—Drury.)

The oft-repeated attempts to rear the genuine silk-worm (*Bombyx mori*) with profit, together with the inglorious failure of those engaged in the enterprise, are probably well known to the readers of the Rural New-Yorker. Perhaps we might, for the sake of "keeping peace in the family," qualify the above by saying *all attempts in former years*, because in Kansas and California there are at the present time parties engaged in sericulture who claim to be meeting with fair, if not great success. But there has always been so much of the "speculative" element introduced with every attempt at producing silk in this country, accompanied by exaggerated statements of prospective profits, that close-calculating, practical men, who, of all others, are most likely to succeed in any new enterprise, became distrustful and would have nothing to do with it.

The principal difficulty, however, in the way of making sericulture a success in this country, even where the worms thrived and food could be raised in abundance, was the high price and scarcity of labor, and these barriers, in a great measure, still remain, and another has of late appeared in the form of a disease among the worms, which, from present indications, will become quite formidable. Sericulturists, however, having had such poor success in their attempts to rear with profit the small and rather delicate *B. mori*, or true silk-worm, it was but natural that they should endeavor to find larger and more robust species. Such were known to be quite numerous in China and Japan, and it was quite an easy matter to import a few eggs of the most promising and give them a trial. The first to be introduced into the Eastern States was the Ailanthus silk-worm (*Attacus cynthia*). Although this insect was known to the missionaries in the East for a century, besides being described by Drury in 1773, its habits were unknown to the scientific world until 1857. In 1861 it was introduced into Philadelphia by Dr. Thos. Stewardson, who found no difficulty in rearing it in confinement or upon the Ailanthus trees growing in the streets of that city. It soon became disseminated in nearly all of our Eastern cities and in some of the Western, for wherever the Ailanthus tree thrived this insect seemed to be at home. Two broods could readily be reared in a season in the Middle States, and there was for a while every appearance of success in this new enterprise. But when the cocoons had been produced, it was found that there was one serious obstacle in the way of utilizing them. The silk of which they were composed was not only inferior to that of the old Mulberry worm, but the threads were attached together with such a tenacious gluten that they could not be successfully unwound.

A few experiments sufficed to show that the Ailanthus silk-worm was a failure in so far as being of any practical utility. It increased, however, very rapidly, and soon was looked upon as a nuisance, for the great, green, spine-covcovered worms stripped the leaves from the Ailanthus trees planted along the streets for shade, and many of them falling to the sidewalks, were crushed by the passer-by. In the fall and winter the bare twigs of the trees were ornamented by thousands of the long, silken cocoons, from which there issued the following spring a large and handsome buff-colored moth, ornamented with white malkins, as shown in the accompanying illustration. The rapidity with which this insect multiplied for the first few years after its introduction was equalled only by its almost total disappearance from those cities where it had been the most abundant. This was especially the case in Brooklyn, N. Y., where it almost totally destroyed the Ailanthus trees one season, and the next it could scarcely be found. The destruction of this moth was attributed to the presence of the English sparrow, and while we are willing to concede that they helped in the matter, we are quite satisfied that some parasitic enemy played the most successful part in reducing the number. We are more inclined to believe it was a parasite that destroyed the Ailanthus worms a few years since, from the fact that the worms are again becoming numerous in localities where the sparrows are very abundant. Since the introduction of the Ailanthus, other large species of silk-worms have been obtained from Japan, among the most noted of which we may name the Yama-mai (*Attacus yama-mai*) and Pernyi (*Attacus Perni*). These are both oak-feeding species. The silk they produce is coarser, but stronger and more valuable, than that of the Ailanthus worm. There have been several importations of the eggs of these species, but few succeeded in obtaining any cocoons, as the worms were attacked by some disease before reaching maturity.

The late rise in the prices of silk, caused by the spread of disease among the silk-worms in nearly all silk-producing countries, not excepting China, will doubtless lead to further experiments with the larger species we have named above, and perhaps with some of our native kinds, for we have several which produce a strong thread, although difficult to unwind; but Yankee ingenuity may yet devise some means to unravel their tangled cocoons, or at least to make a good article of corded silk therefrom. One of the most common, as well as largest, of our native silk-worms is the Cecropia silk-worm (*Attacus Cecropia*). The moth is of immense size, the wings spreading nearly or quite six inches. The principal or ground color is a dusky brown, with hind margins clay-yellow, and near the middle of each wing there is an opaque, kidney-shaped white spot, as shown in Fig. 2 on page 184. The cocoons of this moth are generally found attached to some twig of currant bush or other shrub, where they remain all winter. The usual size and form is shown in Fig. 3, on same page. The silk of which these cocoons are formed is exceedingly tough, and, as we have said, cannot be unwound by ordinary processes, but it can be corded and utilized in this way. There is no telling what may be done with this and other native species of silk-worms in the future; but we can experiment, watch and wait for further developments.

AILANTHUS SILK-WORM MOTH.

Arboricultural.

THE NEWER CONIFERÆ.

BY JOSIAH HOOPES.

Believing that there is a growing demand for the newer and rarer species of Evergreens belonging to the great natural order Coniferæ, the following has been prepared for the purpose of assisting those whose individual experience has been limited. It is not intended to embrace all the most beautiful kinds known to botanists, nor yet the many elegant forms of our older species, that have been recently introduced to notice.

The idea of the writer, in short, is to introduce a few leading species of trees that have proven hardy, reliable and attractive for the past few years, under all the vicissitudes of climate to be found in the Middle States. It is the result of his own personal experience, and may possibly differ from that of other equally as observing growers.

Commencing with the true Spruces, we must give the preference so far to *Abies orientalis*—a species which every lover of the beautiful must admire for its many points of excellence. It grows quite rapidly after once becoming established; forms a perfect, conical outline; is very dense in structure, being supplied with numerous small branchlets; in color, a bright, glossy green; has never been injured in this locality, to my knowledge, within the past twenty years, and the stock of trees now in the country enables our nurserymen to dispose of them at reasonable prices. This valuable species comes to us from the coast of the Black Sea, where it grows to a large size and furnishes an excellent quality of timber. It is closely allied to, and may possibly prove identical, botanically, with, the *A. obovata*, although the two trees can be distinguished, when young, in the nursery rows.

One of the most distinct, and at the same time one of the rarest species in our collections at present, is the *A. polita* of Siebold. In growth it is somewhat in the way of the common Norway spruce, but botanically it is closely related to the *A. morinda*, from which, however, it is readily distinguished. The foliage in our climate changes during summer to a pale, yellowish green, although in Japan, whence it comes, the color is said to be of a pale, glaucous green. It is of moderately-rapid growth, forming a pleasing outline, and so far has stood the test of our trying winters with unvarying success.

The best specimen of this tree to be found in cultivation, outside of its native country, is, perhaps, in the fine collection of Japanese noveltics belonging to the Messrs. Veitch of London, England, the result of one of the expeditions of the lamented collector, John Gould Veitch. Fine young plants, however, may now be seen in several places in this country, and rarely in a few of our more expensive nurseries.

Another attractive species from Japan, and equally as valuable as any heretofore tested, is the very rare *A. alcoquiana*. It forms a tree of the largest size on the Island of Nippon, where it is found, with the foliage deep green above and silvery glaucous below. This is another of the introductions of J. G. Veitch which have proven valuable in this country. After an impartial trial of five or six years, I have no hesitancy in pronouncing it hardy, even in a young state and without protection of any kind. It bears a strong resemblance to our own Western Menzies spruce, not only in the numerous glaucous leaves, but in the shape and character of the cones as well, thus forming another link in the chain that binds together the trees of the old and new worlds.

The other Japanese spruce, known as *A. microsperma*, is, perhaps, untested in this country to any extent. The short time, however, that it has been in the possession of our cultivators, as well as the general appearance of the trees, leads us to believe it will form another hardy conifer for our lawns. It is a medium-sized tree in the way of *A. alcocquiana*, and very beautiful in its growth and outline.

Taking all the recommendable characters of a first-class conifer into consideration, I do not know

of a single one among the newer and uncommon species that is better adapted for general culture in this country than the *Retinispora pisifera*. It may be stretching a point somewhat to term it new, but it is, nevertheless, comparatively scarce in our nurseries, as well as in our private grounds, and certainly deserves great praise for the admirable manner in which it behaves. This very handsome tree strictly belongs to the Cypress (*Cupressus*), but on account of the resinous coating of its seeds has been given to another genus by SIEBOLD. It is a native of the Island of Nippon, in Japan, where it attains to a medium-sized specimen, of slender growth, exceedingly graceful in outline, with dark-green leaves, marked underneath with silvery, glaucous bands. It grows compact and conical in form, and, with generous cultivation, quickly makes a fine specimen. During the years it has been known in this country it has given universal satisfaction in regard to hardiness, and indeed so reliable has it proven that hedges of it are now being tested in various places, which, if successful, will certainly be very attractive at least.

A closely-allied species, *R. obtusa*, is more open in growth, with long, pendulous branches and larger-sized fruit; it also forms a tree of 100 feet in hight on the Island of Nippon, in Japan, where it is so plentiful as to constitute large forests. It is equally as hardy as the preceding, and is destined to become one of our most popular ornamental trees in the Middle States. Its rapid growth, graceful form, beautiful color, entire reliability and excellent timber are all of the highest order. The value of this species for ornamental purposes will in time be duly appreciated, as it seems to combine all the requisites found in our American Arbor Vitæ or Hemlock Spruce.

The Retinisporas are all beautiful, without any exception, and for the most part hardy and reliable, unless in extremely trying winters, but as this article is intended only to call attention to noted species, the many handsome forms grouped under this generic title will have to be passed over in silence.

Another section of the Abies, which has been classed by some botanists as the *Picea* or Silver Firs, contains very many beautiful species. The larger portion of these appear to be well known to our experienced tree-growers at least, but there is a class of planters looming up who wish to know something more about the recent behavior of the most attractive of these, and to such I desire to say, make a note of the *A. Nordmanniana*—a tree that fills the bill in every particular. I am pleased to see that it is becoming quite well known in some sections, and wherever this is the case, it is, as a matter of course, highly appreciated. It improves on acquaintance, as the glowing promise of its youth is more than verified in the tree of more mature growth. From the ground up it is a dense mass of the deepest green verdure, which neither the cold of winter nor yet the heat of summer can impair.

But it will not do to linger long among the Firs, as an extended article might very readily be written on them alone. A few words, however, on some of the rarer species may not prove amiss. The Siberian Silver Fir, or *A. Pichta*, is among our valuable evergreens, although rather slow in growth, and it never grows to a large size. It is, however, of a very dark tint of green, exceedingly compact in form and entirely hardy, three features of the highest importance in a specimen for the finished, well-kept lawn.

As I approach the Conifers of our Pacific Slope, and even of the Rocky Mountain range, I feel a diffidence, amounting in many instances to reluctance, to urge their claims, notwithstanding their beauty is of the highest order of merit. But the term variable applies with so much force to the whole list that to recommend a single species for all localities, even in the Middle States, would be, sooner or later, to have one's knowledge called in question, especially at the close of a severe winter marked by sudden and extreme changes of temperature.

The *A. nobilis*, *A. grandis* and *A. magnifica*, as their specific names denote, are all of the highest character as regards ornamental trees, but not entirely unobjectionable as to reliability. The latter of the trio is from the summits of the Sierra Nevada, in California, and is generally known there as *A. amabilis*, although entirely distinct from that rare and unreliable tree. I may remark here, as I have previously said, that as a rule the trees, shrubs and plants generally of our far Western country are not at all adapted to the East, and, on the other hand, those from Japan, our antipodal representatives, are for the most part of the greatest utility in this climate. There are exceptions, of course, to each, but the rule is a good one.

A. Cephalonica, a native of the Black Mountains of Cephalonia, is mostly satisfactory, notwithstanding that, during very cold weather, the leading shoot is frequently destroyed. When well grown; it is among our most beautiful specimens.

A. firma, from Japan, is succeeding admirably, much to the astonishment of cultivators, who notice the peculiar, spongy character of its young wood, and the seemingly unripe condition of the same at the opening of winter; yet, despite these, it mostly comes through all right, and presents one distinct character, unlike any other species of the genus.

The most pertinent question in respect to the *Pinus*, or Pine family, is not whether the species are hardy, so much as whether they are exempt from disease. Some peculiar form of blight appears on many of the Pines, confining itself, to all outward appearances, to the foliage, which first becomes spotted, then brown, and finally fall from the twigs. Another and more decisive form of blight is that noticed in the Bhotan Pine, or *P. excelsa*, where large branches, and perhaps the main trunk, become diseased and soon present the appearance as if struck by lightning. These causes have prevented many enthusiastic cultivators from devoting much attention to the genus, and especially those from the Pacific Coast.

Among the rarer species, although far from new, might be classed as entirely reliable the Swiss Stone Pine (*P. cembra*). It has its drawbacks, however, although none that should be considered as serious faults. In growth it is very slow, perhaps more so than any other species, but the beauty of its form and color fully compensates for this. Of the richest shade of green, prettily diversified with the silvery glauconsness of the White Pine section, a profuse foliage and numerous short, stout branchlets, it is no mean competitor in the front rank of hardy, valuable conifers.

In introducing the Japan Pines to notice—and yet they should not need an introduction, owing to the years that have elapsed since VEITCH disseminated them—I desire to say that in this country they are comparatively unknown. But these species are succeeding admirably in the few localities where they have been tested, and really lead us to believe that we may depend upon them. However, we have been taught such a bitter lesson by their near relatives, our own Western species, that we cannot recommend them without reserve.

Belonging to the "Strobus," or White Pine group, are the *P. Koraiensis* and *P. parviflora*; to the three-leaved section, *P. Bungeana*: and to the two-leaved, or Austrian pine group, *P. Massoniana* and *P. densiflora*. They all withstand the severities of our winter without protection, at least such has been my experience.

The forms of *Thuja occidentalis* are now almost innumerable and the nurserymen's catalogues are becoming overburdened with names, and yet we have but one rare species to offer to our readers. This, the *T. Standishii*, was introduced under the name of *Thuiopsis*, but its fruit, which appeared a short time since, gave it a true position at once. It has proven quite hardy, and is a very pretty plant. Its rarity with us debars us from speaking as to its appearance as a tree, but the grace and beauty of the young plants are of a high order of merit. It was discovered by FORTUNE, near Yeddo, in Japan.

The *Sciadopitys verticillata*, or, as it is frequently termed, the Umbrella Pine, is a remarkably distinct and unique Conifer. The leaves, which are arranged in whorls at the ends of the shoots, are long and handsome, and, to crown all, it appears to be quite hardy and is readily grown in any good soil. It is of very slow growth and requires some stimulus in the way of old, rotted manure.

But one species of Yew strikes us as coming under the list of rare Evergreens, and that is the *Taxus cuspidata*, notwithstanding there are many rare and showy varieties of the Common English Yew that are well worthy of a place in collections. This attractive plant has behaved so well for several years that too much cannot be said in its favor. When every other Yew died in our arboretums a few winters since, this alone stood the test without the loss of a leaf. It comes from Japan, where it forms a large, deep-green bush, round and dense in structure, with quite distinct leaves.

The Junipers do not at present suggest anything to recommend, and yet their claims should not be neglected. There is a wide field here open to the experiments of the curious in these matters, and I doubt not but the coming generation of planters will find novelties that we have overlooked.

Patient and systematic planting is the only course open to the enthusiastic lover of these trees, taking nothing but practical experience as the means of obtaining knowledge in regard to hardiness and adaptability to the vicissitudes of our variable climate. May the laborers increase and reap the rich reward awaiting them, notwithstanding the many failures that meet them at every step!

SPEAKING of Keir Gardens, the Gardeners' Chronicle mentions a Horsechestnut of no great hight, but remarkable for the spread of its branches, which bend down to the soil, take root and rise again.

The Garden.

WATERING AND MULCHING AFTER TRANSPLANTING.

WE received from a nursery this spring the following Magnolias, viz., *Norberliana*, *tripetala*, *acuminata*, *Halleana*, *Soulangeana*, *conspicua*. They had been growing in pots through the winter; all were in leaf, several in bloom when planted out-of-doors. Not until the drought became severe did any show signs of flagging. Having many plants that needed daily watering, we concluded to water and mulch only those of the Magnolias of which we had no other specimens. The top earth about *Halleana* was first removed so as almost to expose the roots—then water was given as fast as it soaked into the ground until evident that it was saturated to a depth beneath the lowest roots. The earth was then replaced and a light covering of grass spread about the stems, forming a circle three feet in diameter. The injurious effect of the watering was apparent the next day. The leaves, previously drooping a little, now drooped entirely, and the plant died straightway. It was the same with *Soulangeana*. *Conspicua*, treated in the same way, lost its leaves, though it has since formed new ones and is still alive. *Norbertiana*, after the mulching, partially developed a new bud or so, which soon withered, however, and the whole plant, like *Halleana* and *Soulangeana*, died. *Tripetala* and *acuminata* were not watered or mulched. *Cordata* is likewise doing well, though both watered and mulched—but it was crisp and erect before those operations.

It is impossible to say to what extent the previous condition of these Magnolias may have caused the above results. Those in flower would naturally have been the first to suffer, and both *Halleana* and *Norbertiana* were in full bloom. But we are the more ready to believe that watering and mulching wrought harm, since analogous results have occurred to us before, after transplanting Magnolias. Other shrubs, Paul's *Crataegus*, *Prunus triloba* and *Hydrangea quercifolia*, we may also instance as having shown a marked decline after mulching. But in all cases with which we have had to do either in this or in previous seasons when watering and mulching have proved harmful, it must be borne in mind that the subjects had already begun to droop from the effects of heat and dryness.

Our conclusion is not against mulching and watering. We have faith in their efficacy to assist plants which have been set out in the spring through droughts, if applied before they show signs of having suffered and if the watering and mulching be renewed as often thereafter as the continuation of the drought seems to render necessary.

All plants have the power of adapting themselves to certain degrees of unusual dryness or moisture. Thus, in the former, the stomata of the leaves are closed, so as to retard exhalation and enable the individual to retain that which is supplied by the roots. In the latter (moisture), the stomata are wide open, so as to exhale the extra moisture not needed in the processes of the plant's growth. It would seem that the benefits of rain after protracted dryness, arise as much from moistening the air as by furnishing the roots with water. If, during drought, a given plant be watered, it may be supposed that the thirsty roots appropriate as much of it as the leaves and branches need. But the air surrounding the leaves and branches remains as dry as ever. The stomata remain closed, and the parching sun-rays of the ensuing day scald these leaves, as it were, by almost boiling the moisture confined in their cells.

Watering and mulching are helpful only to vigorous plants. To those which are weakened by removal, both should be given before the ground is dry, or the sun hot—indeed before the buds are well opened. If then the season prove wet, the mulch may be removed. But in the sickly plant, they suddenly force an action beyond its powers. It is like taking a sick person from his bed, obliging him to exercise and take food adapted to functions of a system full of vigor. Shade is the first requisite of a plant suffering materially from drought. It should be our first care to *retard* evaporation; to rest the system; to lessen those conditions which exact continuous and lively action until new roots are formed—until one by one new leaves are developed and an equilibrium is restored between the co-operative actions of root and leaf.

Now if we plant out Magnolias in full leaf (the same principle holds good, though less apparent, if the leaves are not developed) they will do well enough, perhaps, so long as the ground is moistened by rains. But as soon as it becomes dry, we have a leaf-surface proportioned to a free action of the roots, and as these are imperfectly established in the new soil, the leaves, deprived of a sufficiency of sap, can no longer sustain themselves and they droop. To give an abundance of water and mulching at this stage, at once aggravates the evil by demanding of the leaves a vigorous action of which they are incapable.

What we have said of the Magnolia may just as well be said of all other trees and shrubs which are sensitive to removal, and more particularly of those which bear large leaves.

We have attempted to show (1) that watering and mulching to be serviceable, should be given before the leaves droop. That (2) it must be continued as long as the drought lasts. That (3) to water and mulch after the leaves droop generally proves fatal. That (4) shade is a first necessity to a drooping plant.

MUSHROOM CULTURE.

EVERY gardener has his own ideas and practice in cultivating mushrooms, but a correspondent of the American Grocer tells his experience, which is interesting as it is somewhat different from the methods laid down in the books.

Early in October I procured a supply of fresh horse-droppings clear of straw. In order to keep the manure from getting wet, I place it under a shed daily as gathered, and turn frequently. During preparation, the temperature should not be allowed to rise over 125 degrees, and may be kept in check by turning and tramping. When the temperature begins to fall, I mix the manure with good fresh loam, in the proportion of one part loam to six parts of manure. This compost I place in my beds, which are about twelve inches deep, and pack it hard with a mallet to within two inches of the top. A thermometer inserted in the material soon marks the temperature as high as 120 degrees, and within ten days it will fall to 80 degrees, when the spawn should be inserted. I am careful to get the best fresh spawn, which I trowel-in, in pieces about the size of a pigeon's egg, eighteen inches apart all over; press them down, and even the surface of the beds. A week afterwards I cover the bed with one and a half inches of turfy loam, taking care, however, to leave a narrow space along the center uncovered with loam, for a few days, to admit of evaporation from the compost. The work is now finished by throwing over the beds a little hay. When it is necessary to moisten the bed, I use water at the temperature of 95 degrees, in order not to chill it. I also sprinkle the floor to maintain a humid atmosphere. In from six to eight weeks the mushrooms begin to show themselves, when I remove the hay. In picking the crop I do not use a knife, but twist the mushroom round, freeing it from the roots: I do not approve of cutting, as the stem that is left in decaying frequently destroys the small mushrooms near it. When the beds get exhausted and the supply fails, I give a liberal application of water heated to 120 degrees, in which I put a little salt. This so stimulates the bed that a second crop of mushrooms, often as good as the first, is the result.

The mushroom is largely used abroad in the manufacture of catsup, &c.; here it is less known. When found growing wild, great care is requisite to distinguish it from other fungi, which it closely resembles, and which are poisonous.

WOOD ASHES FOR THE SQUASH.

EARLY in the spring, the twigs of apple trees too small for kindling wood, together with rubbish of all sorts that had been collected during the winter, were placed in a heap in the vegetable garden and burnt. The ashes were used as manure for various things, while upon the spot where the twigs and rubbish had been burnt a hill of the Butman Squash was planted. Another hill of this squash was planted ten feet from the first and manured with a small quantity of the ashes alone. A third hill was planted ten feet from the second with horse-manure only. July 20, the growth of the first hill (ash-heap) was three times as great as that of the last (horse-manure). The growth of the second hill was twice that of the last. We had hoped to report later as to the fruit. Squash grubs have squashed these hopes.

STANDARD CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES.

LOVERS of the Currant and Gooseberry have reason to feel jolly over the success which seems to attend grafting them upon the Missouri Currant (*Ribes aureum*), which is not liable to the attacks of the borer. Besides, they are exempt from mildew. And thus by a single, happy hit the two great drawbacks to currant and gooseberry cultivation have been overcome. The beauty of these little trees when loaded with their pretty berries, as displayed at the Centennial, is of itself enough to insure their general cultivation. It would be well for those who intend experimenting with grafting currants to bear in mind that there is a great difference in the varieties of the Missouri Currant, some making better stocks than others.

Dairy Husbandry.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CHEESE DAIRYING.

Reference has heretofore been made in these columns to the growing diversion of the milk product of Great Britain toward direct consumption, rather than to the manufacture of butter and cheese. It is stated on good authority that since the plan of conveying fresh milk to towns and cities by railway, and especially since there has been more knowledge disseminated in regard to the preservation of milk during its transit and delivery to consumers, there has been a large increase in the trade, and the result is that the cheese and butter dairies of the country have been encroached upon to meet the increased demands of fresh milk consumption. Again, the increase of population in Great Britain is another element that has drawn largely, and must continue to do so, upon the milk supply of the country.

The furnishing of fresh milk for city consumption is more profitable to dairy farmers than to manufacture it into butter and cheese. The transition, then, from the latter to the former is more easily brought about so far as the dairyman is concerned, since he will naturally seek those channels for his product which yield the most profit. The question which is now agitating the dairy industry of England is a better method of preserving milk and in regulating the milk trade, from time to time, so that there shall be little or no surplus milk on the market; and to avoid losses on this account factories at the railway depots where farmers deliver their milk are suggested. On this plan the quantity of milk needed from day to day in the different milk walks of the city is telegraphed to the respective factories furnishing said walks, and this prevents the transit of surplus milk, leaving it to be converted into butter and cheese at the factory. By the free establishment of such factories at convenient points along the railways, it is believed the consumption of milk in cities and large towns will be promoted, because a regular and unlimited supply can then be had. Anything likely to affect the quantity of butter and cheese made in Britain must be of interest to American dairymen, because her main dependence for cheese is upon America.

We have before us an abstract of the official returns showing the number of cows and heifers in milk in Great Britain for the years 1874 and 1875, respectively. From these returns it appears that there has been a decrease of milch stock in the kingdom from 1874 to 1875 of fifty thousand cows. The number of cows and heifers in milk in Great Britain in 1874 was 2,273,797. In 1875 there were only 2,223,241. Of this number England had in 1875 but 1,595,296; Scotland, 396,833; Wales, 261,082.

We have no statistics at hand showing the percentage of the milk product used directly as food in Great Britain. In 1870 it was estimated that 41 per cent. of the entire milk crop of the United States was used directly as food. The number of milch cows then in the United States was about 11,000,000, or nearly five times the number at present in Great Britain. In 1870 the population in England and Scotland was upward of 25,300,000 souls, and to-day it is 32,000,000 in the United Kingdom. It is evident, therefore, if milk was used as freely in Britain as it is in the United States, a very large share of the milk product would be consumed as food. Hence we are inclined to the opinion that the views expressed by persons in England who are familiar with the milk trade, that cheese dairying must gradually decrease in that country, is not without foundation; and this must be more apparent when we consider the low price at which American cheese has been placed before the British consumer. The English dairyman finds cheese-making by far the least remunerative of any branch of the dairy. Indeed, it is only by making the *high-priced* cheese that he is able to get anything like fair returns for his capital and labor. A correspondent from one of the best dairy districts of England, in a letter under date of Aug. 8, says:

"Cheese is much lower than last year—say 3 cents per pound. Low qualities are scarcely salable at any price. Farm dairy cheese is averaging about 50 shillings per cwt., while some of it is as low as 30s. English factory cheese is fetching 60 to 72 shillings per cwt. American cheese of fine quality can be bought at 45 shillings, and the finest at 47 shillings, in this county. Beef and mutton are the only agricultural products that keep up in price. They are from 8 to 11 pence per pound (16 to 22 cents). Wool is very low—say 35 shillings for mixed lots. I know a farmer who has several years' wool on hand, for one of which he once had 62 shillings offered."

He remarks further:

"English farmers are becoming desperate. On one nobleman's estate they are giving up the farms wholesale and are emigrating, because the landlord would not reduce the rent. If things go on this way much longer, the price of land will be seriously affected. I am afraid we are helplessly drifting into one of the most serious crises English agriculture has known for a long time. What the end will be no man can tell, and it is painful to speculate on it. At present there is no silver lining to the cloud discernible."

This state of things, it seems to us, must have an important bearing on the cheese trade of America. The gradual abandonment of cheese dairying; the high price of meats, which must have a tendency to promote a larger consumption of cheese, the cheaper animal food, cheese, being used instead of meat by the working classes—all these must indicate a larger demand from Britain for American cheese, while at the same time they promise a permanent trade in dairy produce for us, thus giving a sure outlet for all surplus likely to be made in this country for years to come. American dairymen have had serious fears in regard to the over-production of cheese; but we have always found a market in England for our surplus, and generally at very steady prices.

Some anxiety has been expressed by American dairymen in regard to the future of our cheese industry, and especially has this been the case during the present year, when cheese has ruled at comparatively low prices. We have deemed it, therefore, of some importance to place before our dairymen the foregoing facts and arguments, believing, as we do, that there is no branch of farming that promises more permanence and that is liable to less fluctuation in prices than the dairy and its products. We have referred only to the foreign demand, but much can be said in favor of our position when the needs of our home consumption are taken into account. As our population increases, larger and larger drafts are made from year to year for fresh milk for city and village consumption, while the demand for butter is so enormous that it keeps the rapid increase of cheese dairying within due bounds. Of course it must not be expected that the high rates of a number of years past can be had, but we may confidently look to no lower prices than those which ruled before the war, and our dairy industry was then quite as prosperous as any branch of farming.

THE GREAT DAIRY SHOW AT FROME, ENGLAND.

There is to be a grand Exhibition of Cheese and Butter at Frome, in Somersetshire, Eng., on Sept. 27. The Show will be held under the auspices of the Frome District Agricultural Society. The Dairy Shows in Somersetshire have attained a wide reputation in Great Britain as among the best in the kingdom. Somersetshire is the county where the famous cheddar cheese originated, and which for years past has furnished the English markets with some of the highest priced cheese of English make. To take a prize at the Frome Show is deemed a great honor by dairymen and cheese-makers, and a prize means something beyond the gold that is awarded, because the Judges who make the awards are chosen from among the most noted experts in England. Their decision, therefore, carries weight with it, and to receive a prize at Frome carries a reputation to the dairy in all the markets of England. They do things differently in the mother country from what is often the practice here in our agricultural Shows. In England the Judges are selected in reference to their thorough knowledge and ability to judge of the merits of articles coming under their notice, and they command the confidence of the agricultural community. In this country a knowledge of the matter to be adjudicated is often considered of little moment, and the spectacle at our great Centennial Exhibition in regard to this matter, in some of the departments, must be a surprise to foreign exhibitors and should be a humiliation to us. The Country Gentleman, in criticising one of the departments at our Centennial Exhibition, very aptly remarks as follows:

"Ornamental Judges at $1,000 each, with three experts for work, constitute an arrangement so peculiar to the present emergency as to be worthy of record, to say the least." Again, to the opinion expressed by a friend that "instead of scolding the management," we should rather "scold those whose apathy from the first has been in such marked contrast with the earnestness shown in other departments," the Country Gentleman says:—"We venture the possible hypothesis that the case might have been different if the management had been such as to command the confidence of the agricultural community. 'As ye sow, so shall ye also reap,' is a maxim borrowed from farming by high authority and continually verified in practice."

This, in our view, touches the head of the matter, and is a subject which the managers of other Shows than the Centennial can well consider with advantage, because the awards as now given often mean nothing, except it be a clever decoit to mislead, which is quite well understood by some of the parties interested, to say the least.

The money prizes offered at the Frome Show amount to nearly £200 sterling, or $1,000 in gold, exclusive of the sweepstakes, open to all the world, in which the exhibition of the best four cheeses of any make or size takes two-thirds and the second one-third of the sweepstakes, the Society giving half the amount of the second prize to the third best. If some of our American factories could make an exhibit at Frome and be so fortunate as to take a prize, it would be a great triumph for American dairying and of very great advantage to the factory, giving it a reputation which would be worth in the future something more substantial than the mere premium awarded.

THE DROUGHT AND THE FALL MAKE OF CHEESE.

It is a long time since the dairy industry of New York has suffered so severely from drought as during the present year. Pasturage is scanty in all directions. The meadows afford little or no after-feed, and to add further to the trouble, water on many farms has failed, or is in such small quantities that stock does not get a full supply. In many instances cows are driven long distances to water, or teams are employed to haul water for the herds. Many farmers who have neglected to provide sowed corn or some other forage crop have been obliged to feed hay and grain to keep their animals from starving. Under this condition of things, it must be evident that the milk product is much below the average of other seasons, and it is estimated by good judges that the cheese crop of the State will fall below the average of other years from a quarter to a third of the entire quantity produced.

Our advices from England are that drought has been prevailing there and is more severe than has occurred at any time during the last twenty years, and of course the average yield of milk must be less than in other years. In view of these conditions, it is confidently believed by those most competent to judge that the price of dairy products must advance on the full make both of butter and cheese. With the shipment of cheese up to Aug. 30, the hot weather or "off-flavored" stuff will be mostly disposed of and factories will be in condition to hold their goods during the cooler weather without detriment. Our September and early October cheese has been always of finer quality than that made earlier in the season, and it is always sought after by shippers and merchants when making up their winter stocks. Hence there is every reason to believe that higher rates must be paid than for the summer cheese, or the factories will refuse to ship freely, at least of their finest goods.

The excessively hot weather has very clearly shown the necessity of better curing rooms—rooms so constructed that the temperature can be controlled and not allowed to go above 70° Fahrenheit. There has been a large amount of over-heated cheese which, on account of its defective flavor, could not be sold at full prices. The most of this cheese has now gone forward, and the make from this time out, or until the November frosts send the herds into winter quarters, will be of fine quality, and must be sharply sought after both at home and abroad. The tendency, then, of the market is upward for all first-class cheese, though we can hardly expect the advance will reach the prices of last year.

Farm Economy.

ANOTHER NEW FORAGE PLANT.

It is hoped that among all the new forage plants talked about of late, that some of them will prove of value. Here is one which is said to be taking precedence of all others in Northern Georgia, at least so says the Eufaula News.

During the session of the Agricultural Convention at Gainesville, we made the pleasant acquaintance of Mr. S. W. Brooks, a delegate from Brooks county. He carried to the Convention samples of a forage plant which is now extensively cultivated in Brooks and some of the adjoining counties of Georgia and Florida, and which is now in great esteem there for its valuable properties. He calls it "Indian Clover," or "Beggar Weed." It bears a resemblance to the plant which we call "Beggar's Lice," and produces an adhesive seed very similar to that weed. But as it is cut for forage when in bloom and before the seed hardens there is no trouble on this score. The seed is sown in drills, about as thick as cotton seed, though the drills are only two feet apart. The plant grows to the hight of four and even five or six feet, and has a bushy top full of leaves very much resembling the foliage of the field pea. They are evidently fully as palatable and nutritious as the pea leaves, and do not fall off like the latter. To the human taste, the dried leaf is sweet, agreeable and succulent, and its fragrance is as pleasant as that of clover. Mr. Brooks says that when this provender is put in a trough with other kinds, the mules will push the oats and fodder out of the way to get at the "Beggar Weed." For milch cows it is especially valuable, being rich and juicy and eagerly devoured by them.

The yield of this plant is very great. It may be cut three times in a season, growing up repeatedly from the old stumps, and yields many hundreds of pounds to the acre. The samples which Mr. Brooks carried to Gainsville were of the second cutting of this year, and he will certainly get one and perhaps two more cuttings. It is not a perennial, but the seed must be planted each year. It produces well on poor lands, but of course does better on rich soils. Horses, mules and cattle will eat it up clean, stalks and all, and thrive on it.

We have in our office a bunch of this forage, obtained from Mr. Brooks, and invite our farming and other friends to call and examine it. If its appearance, taste and smell do not all please them, we shall be greatly mistaken. Mr. Brooks authorizes us to say that he can furnish small quantities of the seed to persons desiring and ordering it—not exceeding enough to plant one acre to each applicant. As he will have to employ hands to gather the seed, he must charge for them. His post-office is Quitman, Brooks county. We believe he is a merchant of Quitman.

COMMON-SENSE AND SCIENCE.

A sailor, remarks Archbishop Whately, will, perhaps despise the pretensions of medical men, and prefer treating a disease by Common-Sense; but he would ridicule the proposal of navigating a ship by Common-Sense, without regard to the maxims of nautical art. A physician, again, will perhaps contemn Systems of Political Economy, of Logic, or Metaphysics, and insist on the superior wisdom of trusting to Common-Sense in such matters; but he would never approve of trusting to Common-Sense in the treatment of diseases. Neither, again, would the architect recommend a reliance on Common-Sense alone, in building, nor the Musician, in music, to the neglect of those systems of rules, which, in their respective arts, have been deduced from scientific reasoning aided by experience. And the induction might be extended to every department of practice. Since, therefore, each gives the preference to unassisted Common-Sense only in those cases where he himself has nothing else to trust to, and invariably resorts to the rules of art, wherever he possesses the knowledge of them, it is plain that mankind universally bear their testimony, though unconsciously and often unwillingly, to the preferableness of systematic knowledge to conjectural judgments.

There is no class of individuals that display more respect for science in every species of industry except their own than farmers—and no others seem to disdain the application of science to farming as much.

When they can be induced to believe that the principles of science are just as applicable to farming as they are to medicine, to Architecture, to Astronomy or Chemistry—then Agriculture may throw up its hat in joy!

PASTURING MEADOWS.

I have several times seen it stated in agricultural papers, (and I think in yours) that meadows should not be pastured. My experience teaches me directly to the contrary.

On my farm I have a meadow in which there are some trees that I value, and therefore do not pasture it. On the opposite side of the fence are two other meadows of precisely the same character of soil, into which I turn my cows, oxen and horses as soon as the hay is taken off, where they remain until taken up for the winter.

On these two meadows I invariably cut a larger and better crop of hay than in the one not pastured. All the meadows having had the same cultivation and the same manure when cultivated. The trees in the first named meadow are too few to have any noticeable influence on the crop. You say "Tell us your experience." Here you have mine. Yours truly, R.

Montana, or Nevada Rye.—In a late issue you ask any one who has had experience with Montana Rye to make it known. I invested one dollar in this wonderful grain that was said to produce (I think) a hundred or more bushels to the acre and weigh much heavier than wheat. The grains were very large and I thought I had made a most desirable acquisition, but, alas for human hopes! I was doomed to a sad disappointment. How the seed was produced is a mystery to me. I did not succeed in getting one grain. To sum up, this much-vaunted Montana Rye proved, in my experience, to be even a greater humbug than the famous Egyptian Corn.—C. A. Havenstrite, *Luzerne Co., Pa.*

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WESTMINSTER HOTEL, Philadelphia, Sept. 7.

WHEN in the year 1869 I first saw American horses, they struck me as being coarse and weedy, since then, from the frequent and continued importation of clean-bred foreign stock, a great improvement has been effected, still there is a vast field open for further enterprise, which, if only properly directed, cannot fail to be of both national and individual profit. The American horse-breeder, in the aggregate, is wonderfully prone to commit grievous errors in crossing.

After one hundred years of existence there is not, as yet, such an animal as a pure-bred American horse. The American race-horse is the Anglo-Arabian—neither more nor less. The American trotter is rapidly progressing to be a clean-bred horse; but his nobility of blood comes from the Anglo-Arabian. The American cart horse is a mongrel for excellence; he is a horse, but of what family, race or geneology, no one cares to keep a record. To keep breeds pure should be the aim of every breeder. Half-bred animals, as individuals, are frequently of high value; but half-bred or cross-bred stallions are a drawback to the race. They cannot be depended upon to reproduce their own good qualities. It is otherwise with mares, half-bred and cross-bred dams being frequently of great value and producing animals of rare excellence when the sire has been a clean-bred horse. Colts bred at hap-hazard are a bad investment of time and money, as numbers of the horses on exhibition here to-day testify in inferiority of action and appearance.

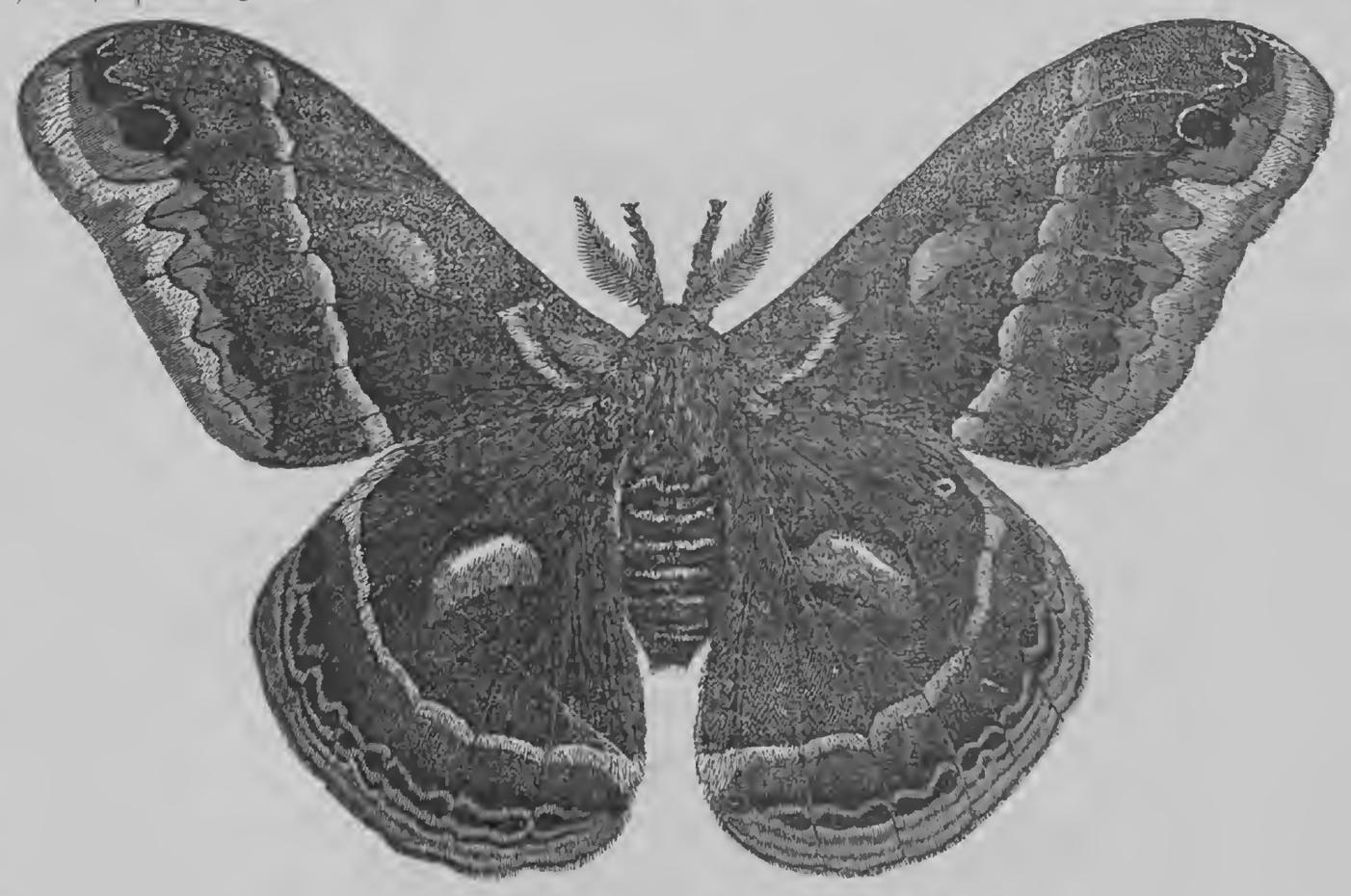
The official catalogue gives the entries as 220 in number, all of which are exhibited by American or Canadian owners. First on the published list is the name of Princely Leamington, now twenty-three years old and the sire of almost countless winners. It is truly patriotic of his owner, Aristides Welch, Esq., of Chestnut Hill, to exhibit him, as the reputation of the horse could not be improved by any reward given by any Judge. The sire of Longfellow and of Miss Alice, of Lyttleton and Lynchburg, can well afford to rest on his fame.

To attempt to describe this noble animal would simply be to portray just what a race-horse should be. Leamington is a well-put-together machine, endowed with great beauty, rare intelligence and unflinching courage, and the worthy progenitor of a worthy race. His son, Lyttleton, stands near him, as game a little horse as ever looked through a bridle. Mr. Welch also exhibits Lida, the dam of Conqueror; Maiden, the dam of Parolo, and Maggie B. B. These three mares have foals at foot by Leamington. The entire lot speak well for the stable economy of Chestnut Hill farm.

Col. Jenifer, of Virginia, exhibits The Jenifer Arabian, a lovely type of the desert horse. He is gray, almost white, with a head and neck fit for model—a straight, short back, and clean sinewy legs, like steel. This horse is from the Sahara, and has all of the elasticity of action peculiar to his race. There is no fear that he will ever need any of those hideous trappings worn by low-bred horses to shield them from the ill effects of natural malformation. Col. Jenifer is most sanguine in his hopes of the success of the dessert blood as a cross. He looks back to the days of the Godolphin Barb or Arab, as he may have been of his cotemporary, the Dorley Arabian, and more recently to the success as sires of the Byerly Turk and of other eastern horses imported into the British Isles. It is not too much to say that the descendants of these same animals are the most magnificent horses in the world and will, probably, never be surpassed. There are already three foals of the Tenifer Arabian on exhibition, one of them is out of the clean-bred, imported Percheron mare Rosa Bonheur. His is of great promise.

Among other thorough-breds is Terror, an animal whose good qualities are dual. He is pretty and fast. Sharpcatcher, an Anglo-Arabian, bred in Canada, is a useful stallion to get carriage or saddle horses. Close to his box is that of Queen of the Dominion, a bay mare, neat and compact and full of fire. Young Peacock, a Cleveland bay and a beauty, is certain to get stylish carriage horses, if bred to mares of his own family; but I have small need of approval for half-bred Cleveland bays. Another stallion, a dapple brown, miscalled a Cleveland bay, is a handsome animal, with more of the cut of a charger or hunter about him than of a carriage horse. He is named Emperor, and is said to have been bred, or, at least, owned by the Emperor Napoleon III.

The matched pairs of carriage horses shown are of moderate excellence: as on the specimens of the American trotter, none of the cracks of the trotting turf having been sent out to grace the Centennial show. The French horses are all exhibited by American owners, and do not, as a class, speak much for the good judgment of the men who selected them. The mare, Rosa Bonheur is far away—the best of the lot. There is one thing I cannot understand, it is why any

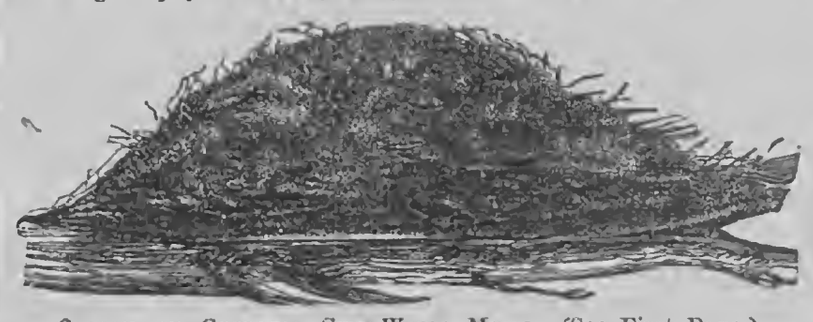


CECROPIA SILK-WORM MOTH.—(See First Page.)

man in his senses should cross the Atlantic to bring back a brute of a Norman or Percheron cart horse, famous for flat feet, hog eyes, clumsy shoulders, coarse manes and heavy tails, when he could go to the vale of Clyde and there buy a handsome dapple brown with small, short ears, large clear eyes, flat short legs, a strong back and clean-cut hock, and a temper and courage equal to pulling anything in the collar. Even an Eastern country draft horse is superior to a French horse. The cost would be about the same and the risk and trouble less. The cross-bred heavy draft horses possess among them many individual good qualities, but I was grieved to find several stallions among them. It is this aimless crossing and re-crossing that hinders the improvement of the horse—nay, it does even worse: it produces mongrels, nondescript things, valueless except as mere drudges. As good a horse as I have seen is one possessed by Lord Logan. He was begotten by a Clydesdale sire out of a highly-bred English mare. She had been a charger in the British cavalry service, and must, from the appearance of her son, have been a good one, as well as a beauty. The Judges have not given their decisions as yet. Their decrees will not be known before next week.

If there is much to criticise in this Centennial Horse Show, there also is much to hope from it, though it is cause for regret that foreign breeders did not exhibit. The Norfolk trotter could have made a brave show, so in another wise could the Orloff trotter, and British saddle horses with imported riders could have been rendered objects of education, as well as of interest. The youth of America are slow to get into the saddle, and a fair example of good horsemanship would be a proper incentive in the right direction.

The show of dogs is large; it numbers 557 head, and is, with a very few exceptions, a discredit to the country at large. The fox hounds on exhibition are sad, deplorable-looking brutes, whereas a well-bred English or Irish fox hound is an animal of great physical beauty and power. With



COCOON OF CECROPIA SILK-WORM MOTH.—(See First Page.)

head erect and sniffing the breezes of his native island home, with a stiff country and game fox before him, woe to men and horses if they would follow and are not good and true—the riders pledged to their snaffles to never alight, the horses able for flood and field. The show of spaniels is very large and contains in its ranks one good brace of red, Irish setters. Among the retrievers the best is a curly, red, Irish water spaniel. Some of the Scotch terriers are perfect beauties, but then they are all imported, except the pups of one little lady, which were dropped here a few hours after her arrival. In greyhounds I only saw one worthy of notice. He is a promising pup, ten months old, of the admired blue color, and with a head and neck beautiful as a girl's. America exhibits one charming canine, a Chesapeake Bay ducker. He looks to be water and weather proof, and is both intelligent and comely. There are three English bulldogs here which, in charm of countenance, are only to be compared to the famous dog of Bill Sykes. They are fresh from home, are undershot, and though friendly in demeanor, have a lurking devil in them ready to spring upon an open or concealed foe. No farmer should be without one of these clean-bred bulldogs, for as a protection, being faithful, they are better than a squad of police or a brace of six-barreled revolvers. The shepherd dogs known as collies are a most interesting and intelligent family, not only the clean-bred, but the half-bred between the Scotch Colly and the Esquimaux, and there are some good ones here, the best of which, however, is a brace of puppies. One superb Newfoundland dog attracted my admiration. He was accompanied by his son, out of a Mt. St. Bernard dam. The son is not as handsome, nor does he give promise of being as powerful, as the sire. Here again, as in horseflesh, American taste runs riot. Dogs are dogs; pedigree is nothing. One pointer pleased me not a little. He was strong and active, also handsome. There was not one truly handsome specimen of the Garden setter, and yet these black-and-tan dogs are stanch before the gun and work well in heavy land. They are stronger and more lasting than the English variety, and in power of scent and endurance are hardly second to their Hibernian cousins. Some of the toy terriers were very pretty and obtained a liberal share of admiration from visitors. One tiny Skye was as charming as a Skye could be, and that is a vast amount of praise. The pugs, though pretty, jolly-looking little fellows, were not high-bred of their class.

So much for the Horse and Dog Show of this Centennial year. M. M.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 8, 1876.

Now is the time to go to the Fair, and the traveling community are fully alive to the fact. The trains come into the depot with the frequency of street cars, and the crowds that flock into the grounds remind one of a visitation of grasshoppers. This is delightful from the tradesman's and tavern-keeper's point of view. The prospect of gathering shekels is once more bright, and the india-rubber capacity of the "mammouth" hotels is being severely tested. The fire that has swept the entire row of edifices facing the main building leaves a hiatus that is more pleasing to the surviving landlord than words can express. I regret to say that in almost every instance the Ishmaels who control the boarding-houses have raised their prices with their prospects, and all the high, moral talk about the innocent stranger being cared for as cheaply and as well as if under his own vine and fig tree is pure delusion.

The cheapening of the price of admission one day in the week (Saturday) has had a stimulating effect on the local attendance. Philadelphia and its environs turn out "by a large majority" on these occasions and, much to the disgust of the refreshment purveyors, take the precaution to fetch along, in baskets, a bountiful lunch. One of the most amusing sights is to stroll about the grounds and see these *al fresco* parties arguing with sandwich and beer, and totally oblivious of everything but their own present enjoyment.

On the border of the lake lies a model in bronze of the hand that is to adorn the statue of Liberty to be erected in New York harbor. Some idea of its size may be derived from the fact that I saw two of these cheap parties taking their luncheon inside the wrist and fingers of this stupendous hand. When the statue is in place, it will be no longer necessary for sea captains, when in want of a forcible anathema, to confine themselves to the beard of old Neptune, as they can with equal telling effect swear by the hand of the Statue of Liberty.

The trial of the steam fire-engines during the week has attracted a great many who are interested in the subject, as well as hosts of idlers. Some fire companies came from the interior to see how the machines worked.

There was a quantity of water wasted and a large amount of coal, smoke and nastiness scattered about. The trial concluded, the owners of the engines are watching each other with sly, mysterious airs and waiting nervously for the Jurors' report.

Now that the reports have all been sent in and it is daily expected that the Commission will publish the awards, there is intense excitement among exhibitors. In some groups feeling runs very high, and the most serious charges are bandied about implicating Jury, Commission, exhibitors, correspondents, and any one who can possibly come within the circle of the influence of the opposing interests. There will be some exciting reading in newspapers as soon as these little differences are adjusted in public.

Foreigners, as a rule, do not take kindly to the country, and not a few amusing jokes have been circulated at their expense. It is said that one of our British cousins finds the trunk check system very hazardous because, as he said:

"When you deliver your luggage, y' know, you get a bit of brass; but if you lose the bit of brass, you lose yer luggage, y' know. Blarsted country!"

Affairs in Agricultural Hall are very quiet at present, the main attraction being the stock yards, which you have a special correspondent reporting, and I will not encroach on space.

YOUNG RURAL.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

THE Jaquard Loom in Machinery Hall is a wonderful piece of mechanism.

FOREIGNERS marvel at our ice-boats, and it is said that Russians think of trying our models.

IN the carriage annex is a narrow gauge railroad car made for Dom Pedro. Its fittings are luxurious.

THE Main Building, after the close of the Exposition, it is reported, will be moved to Chicago, to be used there as a grand union railroad depot.

THE life-raft afloat on the lake looks like two enormous sausages tied together. It is very buoyant, and is a useful apparatus for saving life.

THE north third of the Main Building is occupied mainly by domestic paper and muslin exhibits. It will be a saving of time to skip that part of the Fair.

A PATENT rowing contrivance consists in having the oars so cut and braced that the rower can sit with his face in the direction the boat moves, while the oars make the usual stroke. It is a capital thing for duck hunting.

THE woods of Japan, of which there appeared to be about a hundred sorts, are conveniently and tastefully arranged, each specimen being a short plank, a portion showing the natural texture, and another part varnished, with a shorter slab attached with the bark, and a dried and pressed specimen of the leaves and growth added.

Two car-loads of fruit from the State Grange of California have arrived at the Exhibition and are now being unpacked in the Pomological Building, east of Agricultural Hall. A quantity of fruit from Nebraska has also just arrived. The consignments include apples, pears, peaches, quinces, apricots, gauges, plums, nectarines and grapes They are in excellent condition, and will form a feature in the display opening this week, which will be the finest ever made in the United States.

EVERY one should see the necklace purchased

by the Emperor of Brazil in the Italian Department, Main Building, if only to judge of Imperial Brazillian taste. Americans think it is ugly. One does the correct thing, if one goes to the Vienna bakery, drink the coffee, eat the bread, roll your eyes, and declare it is the loveliest nectar you ever tasted. The display in the photographic annex proves that the Polish women are about the handsomest in the world. They are pretty, and no mistake. Don't think a brick tile is terra cotta, because it is yellow.

Horticultural.

BLEEDING OF GRAPE-VINES.

A FEW of our vineyardists have labored assiduously to prove that what is termed "bleeding" of grape-vines was in no way injurious, just as the doctors, a few years since, assured their patients that drawing blood from the veins of a human being was an almost infallible panacea for all kinds of diseases. Happily, however, for the human race, the latter barbarous practice has almost ceased, and it is to be hoped that all good gardeners will endeavor to prune their grape-vines at a season when the sap is not likely to flow from the wounds made.

Any vineyardist who will experiment for the purpose of ascertaining the results of a loss of sap through untimely pruning, may soon be convinced that it does so, even if no serious ill-effects are observed.

Wm. P. BROOKS of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has been experimenting for the purpose of ascertaining the effects of bleeding upon grape-vines and communicates the results to the Scientific Farmer as follows:

The question, whether bleeding injures the grape-vine, has of late attracted the attention of many; some, on account of the extreme tenuity of the sap, being led to conclude that its passage through the vine was perhaps only a mechanical process, or, at least, that it was of little consequence to the plant, being mostly water. I shall not attempt to answer this question authoritively, for this can be done only by one who has carefully and repeatedly made the experiment; but will simply give a short account of a few investigations as to the composition of the sap of the vine, which I have recently made at the suggestion and under the direction of Prof. Goessmann, drawing a few conclusions from the results obtained.

The sap tested was collected on warm days in May, before the foliage expanded, by cutting off the end of a vigorous shoot, and carefully catching what dripped from the vine in bottles. The first test made was with an ordinary hydrometer for the specific gravity; but though this was doubtless a little greater than that of water, I was unable to obtain a result which I could express in figures, with the instrument used. Evaporation to dryness, and heating the residue at from 100 to 110 degrees Centigrade, showed 125.6 mille-grammes of solid matter in 100 cubic centimeters of sap. This proves that, although almost imperceptible with the hydrometer, the sap does contain a considerable amount of something in solution, and when it is considered how weak solutions of plant food must be, that they may be taken into the tissue of the plant without injury to it, it will at once be seen that, if the solid matter contained in the sap is composed of elements which can nourish the plant, it is, as may be said, its very life blood.

A pressure of other work prevented me from determining quantitatively what this solid matter was composed of; but I proved, beyond a doubt, the presence of phosphoric acid, lime, magnesia, potash and nitrogen. Each of these principle elements of plant food then being present, and apparently in large quantities, it certainly cannot but be injurious to allow the sap containing them to run from the vine.

The injury, of course, must be in proportion to the amount of sap, and thus of plant food lost, and a certain amount lost from vines growing on a poor soil, must show injurious effects more plainly than the same amount lost from vines growing on a rich one; for the possibility of repairing the loss in the former case is not so great as in the latter. Thus the injury in any case is a matter of degree; the loss of a small amount of sap producing no more injurious effect on the vine than the loss of a small amount of blood from a slight cut on the human body; but the loss of as much sap as will run from a vine pruned in late spring, would undoubtedly be injurious in a high degree.

The safer way is to prune either in autumn, or so early in the spring that the end of the branches may dry, and close over the pores before the sap starts. It takes no longer to prune at the proper time, and it is a period of as much leisure as any.

PERSIMMONS WANTED.

BELIEVING that among our many wild varieties of persimmons there are some worthy of cultivation, we would be pleased to receive specimens, or at least descriptions, of any really promising and distinct sorts which the readers of the RURAL may happen to know. The persimmon belongs to a very reputable family of fruits and a little search may bring to light something quite valuable in the way of varieties.

LIMONIA TRIFOLIATA AS A STOCK FOR THE ORANGE.

S. B. PARSONS, Esq., writing to the Sub-Tropical about orange stocks, says:—It is asserted by some and doubted by others that this plant sometimes called *Citrus trifoliata*, is hardy in Siberia. I have been among the doubters, but last week saw in the open ground in New York Central Park, a flourishing plant which had stood unprotected two winters, one of which was exceedingly severe.

I know by my own experience, after trying faithfully both lemon and orange stocks, that the *Limonia trifoliata* is the only one on which the little Rumquat orange will grow. I have no doubt that all the citrus family will grow upon it, and intend to test it thoroughly with some 165 varieties which I have. If successful, the hardiness of this stock will be of great value, as we shall then have our groves upon roots which are absolutely safe against frost even as severe as that of 1835.

It may possibly dwarf the orange so that we can plant four times as many on an acre and pick the fruit from the ground. However this may be, we have in its hardiness an absolute quality, the value of which cannot be overrated.

FITTONIA ARGYRONEURA.—(See Page 186.)

Scientific and Useful.

TOMATO LEAVES—SINGULAR PROPERTY.

I PLANTED a peach orchard, writes M. Siroy, of the Society of Horticulture, Valparaiso, and the trees grew well and strongly. They had but just commenced to bud when they were invaded by the curculio (*pulgon*), which insects were followed, as frequently happens, by ants. Having cut some tomatoes, the idea occurred to me that, by placing some of the leaves around the trunks and branches of the peach trees, I might preserve them from the rays of the sun, which were very powerful. My surprise was great, upon the following day, to find the trees entirely free from their enemies, not one remaining, except here and there where a curled leaf prevented the tomato from exercising its influence. These leaves I carefully unrolled, placing upon them fresh ones from the tomato vine, with the result of banishing the last insect and enabling the trees to grow with luxuriance. Wishing to carry still further my experiment, I steeped in water some fresh leaves of the tomato, and sprinkled with this infusion other plants, roses and oranges. In two days these were also free from the innumerable insects which covered them, and I felt sure that had I used the same means with my melon patch I should have met with the same result. I therefore deem it a duty I owe to the Society of Horticulture to make known this singular and useful property of the tomato leaves, which I discovered by the merest accident.

CACTUS PAPER.

As the supply of paper making materials give out in one place another source is found, but who would have supposed that the miserable cacti of the Western plains would have ever been turned to any good use. But here is what Dr. BOBB writes to the Presbyter about this plant in connection with paper making:

"In California there are mountains covered with cactus—thousands of acres that even the gnats avoid, so dense are these vegetable porcupines. The cactus deserts have been regarded as worthless. But we are learning not to judge hastily that anything is worthless that God has made. Capt. Walker of Soleday, has just started a ninety horse-power engine, crushing cactus into pulp for making paper. He sends twenty tons of this prepared fiber every week to Geo. W. Childs of Philadelphia, the publisher of the Daily Ledger in that city. Mr. Childs has a paper mill of his own, and will use the cactus pulp from the deserts of the Pacific slope instead of straw. Hitherto, California has imported nearly all of its paper from the East. But this discovery will lead to the erection of paper mills here, and the production of paper so cheaply that it will bear shipment to the Atlantic coast. The supply of cactus in our mountains is almost unlimited, and probably its use may even reduce the price of paper in the markets of the world.

"Such facts are interesting in themselves. The idea that the wild, almost untrodden slopes of the Pacific are to furnish the material on which books and newspapers are to be printed—that intelligence, genius and learning are to depend for their diffusion upon the desert thistles which are regarded as a pest, is startling. But it suggests the question—What next?"

NEW FIREPROOF BUILDING MATERIAL.

THE question of a fireproof building material seems as if it were about to be solved, if statements made at meetings of the Institute of British Architects may be accepted as evidence. The material is concrete. An instance was mentioned of a building which had been completely gutted by fire; but the walls, constructed of Portland cement concrete, with ironwork imbedded therein, "withstood the fire perfectly, and were the only parts that did withstand it." It has been proved by conflagration and by experiment that iron doors will not resist intense fire. They warp and eventually crumble away, while concrete doors remain unaffected. It would now be possible to construct a warehouse or any other building entirely of concrete, for stairs, window-frames, door-frames, and indeed nearly every part may be finished without the use of wood. In St. Paul's Cathedral that portion of the dome open to the public is shut off from the other part by fireproof doors of concrete.

The Naturalist.

ABOUT BIRDS.

EARNEST INGERSOLL gives in Scribner's Monthly the following interesting item of information about the structure of birds:

The most prominent fact about a bird is a faculty in which it differs from every other creature except the bat and insects—its power of flying. For this purpose the bird's arm ends in only one long, slender finger, instead of a full hand. To this are attached the quills and small feathers (coverts) on the upper side, which make up the wing. Observe how light all this is: in the first place the bones are hollow, then the shafts of the feathers are hollow; and, finally, the feathers themselves are made of the most delicate filaments, interlocking and clinging to one another with little grasping hooks of microscopic fineness. Well, how does the bird fly? It seems simple enough to describe, and yet it is a problem that the wisest in such matters have not yet worked out to everybody's satisfaction. This explanation, by the duke of Argyle, appears to me to be the best. An open wing forms a hollow on its under side like an inverted saucer; when the wing is forced down, the upward pressure of the air caught under this concavity, lifts the bird up, much as you hoist yourself up between the parallel bars in a gymnasium. But he could never in this way get ahead, and the hardest question is still to be answered. Now, the front edge of the wing, formed of the bones and muscles of the fore-arm, is rigid and unyielding, while the hinder margin is merely the soft flexible ends of the feathers: so when the wing is forced down, the air under it, finding this margin yielding the easier, would rush out here, and, in so doing, would bend up the ends of the quills, pushing them forward out of the way, which, of course, would tend to shove the bird ahead. This process, quickly repeated, results in the phenomenon of flight.

THE GUANO CAVES OF AMERICA.

THE following has been sent to the editor of the Liverpool Courier:

SIR:—I have read with much interest your article on "Bat Guano" deposits in the United States of America. It is a subject to which I have given a good deal of attention, and have personally inspected several of these cave deposits in Tennessee, which were worked by the Confederate Government for saltpeter during the war.

These caves, however, are not to be compared with the deposits in Texas for richness in ammonia, nitric and phosphoric acids, owing to the fact that in Tennessee and Alabama there are frequent rains. This generally causes a stream to run through these caves, which washes out the ammonia, nitrates and phosphates from the deposit, and mixes it with other substances carried down by the water. Now in Texas there is but little rain; there are no streams in the caves, and the consequence is that many of the bat deposits in Texas are superior to much of the Peruvian guano now supplied. I have Dr. Voelcker's (the greatest authority on these matters) analysis of several samples of these deposits. He reports them to contain from 5 to 10 per cent. of ammonia, 10 to 15 per cent. of nitrate of lime, and a large quantity of phosphate of lime—in one case as high as 48 per cent.—with a large proportion of it soluble phosphate of lime, the value ranging from £8 to £11 a ton. W. J. M.

Floricultural.

WARDIAN CASES.

Wardian cases, properly constructed and cared for, are among the most beautiful of our winter plant adornments. The cases may be purchased of florists from ten dollars upwards, complete—or plans, in keeping with the windows in which they are to be placed, may be given to cabinet makers and constructed according to order. Those, however, whose purses are not upon friendly terms with their inclinations, may, if gifted with some mechanical skill, construct these cases for themselves, which, though less artistically finished, will serve every purpose, so far as the plants are concerned, just as well. In their construction, perfect drainage is first to be insured. Suppose we make our Wardian Case twenty inches long, fifteen inches wide for our first essay. The outside box should be at least six inches deep, with a moulding to receive the glasses, resting upon castors so that it may readily be moved.

The inside of this box must receive a dense coating of paint to arrest decay, and slant a little, thus inclining the water from the drip of the glass, as well as from the inner box, towards one end, where an outlet tube must be provided. Within this, and separated from it by little blocks of half-an-inch thickness, is the second box for the soil and plants. Now, in order to produce perfect drainage, this should be carefully lined with zinc, perforated with several holes also lined with zinc. Then cover the bottom with bits of charcoal, these with moss, and then fill with soil composed of three parts of mold to one of coarse sand.

The top glass may be placed so as to slide for ventilation or be removed entirely for half-an-hour or so each day. We may then in a few days after furnishing the case expose it to all the sun which a south window receives during the winter. Of course the amount of ventilation and exposure to sun must be regulated by the plants selected and by the temperature of the room.

The earth should be kept moist—never wet—the same as if the plants were growing in a greenhouse. As a considerable share of the moisture is confined by the glass, it will be seen that watering must be rarely and sparingly given.

Many use looking-glasses for the back of the case, which, in appearance, doubles its size.

Those who desire Wardian Cases for next winter, must busy themselves about it at once. Our woods will supply all the plants needed, and for our first attempt, they are perhaps better than the more showy tropical specimens that generally require more skillful management.

Let us mention first the Rattlesnake weed (*Hieracium venosum*). This is a low-growing, prettily-veined Composite plant to be found in most dry woods.

Chimaphila umbellata, the Prince's Pine, also common in the same localities, at once suggests itself as suited to Wardian Cases. Its stems are half-creeping, leaves leathery, serrate (almost erose sometimes) and of a deep-green color. The umbel is raised on a peduncle about four inches high, and bears four or more whitish flowers three-quarters of an inch diameter, with purplish stamens.

The *Goodyeras, repens, pubescens, Menziesi*—there is no striking difference between them;—the Trailing Arbutus (*Epigæa repens*), a shrubby little beauty, are all common in many highland woods. Several of the *Equisetaceæ* (Horse tails); of the Club Mosses (*Lycopodiums* and *Selaginellas*) and of the more delicate hardy Ferns make up a pleasing variety. But let us guard against planting too thickly. It is better to be patient in the beginning and pleased after awhile, than satisfied at once and disgusted when, from crowding and growth, a struggle for life begins and the luxuriance of our Fern Case ends.

Of the Ferns we may mention *Cystopteris fragilis, Aspidium fragrans, Asplenium pinnatifidum* and *ebenoides, Polypodium vulgare, Adiantum pedatum*.

Among tender plants adapted to Ferneries or Ward Cases (we may use the words synonymously for our purpose) almost any florist's catalogue offers extensive lists.

We have only space to refer to one of the very best, viz., *Fittonia argyroneura*, of which the illustration on page 185 is a correct sketch.

PREMATURE "FALL LEAVES."

The leaves in this drought-begirt locality are already displaying their fall tints—not only here and there, but as numerously as they are to be found in ordinary seasons, two weeks later. What is frequently attributed to frost may, therefore, be seen to be the natural termination of the life of the leaf which, owing to heat and dryness, has done its work a little earlier and a little less liberally, perhaps, than usual.

The leaf of a plant might well be selected as an emblem of fidelity. It labors every moment of its brief life for the benefit of the tree upon which it grows and, as soon as it ceases to be of service, disconnects itself, falls and decomposes—still serving the tree after death by its decomposition as in life it served it by separating its food from the atmosphere.

EXCHANGE.

Washington Ter., Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co.—Your kindness in putting the "Flower Exchange" in the Rural I am sure will be appreciated by all who have a love for flowers. I have quite a variety of flowers seeds, which I would send with pleasure to anyone who would care to have them. I will give a short list, viz., three varieties of Candytuft, twelve of Petunias, six or eight of French Poppies, (which are *beautiful* if they are *only* Poppies), five or six different colors of Zinnias, all colors of Moss, and three or four of Phlox. I would like some ornamental Grass and Immortelles, also Snapdragons.

I saw a piece in the Rural advising or favoring the culture of Huckleberries. I will try planting some seeds according to directions, and if you wish it, will write you my success. [By all means.—Eds.] We have planted a great many Cotton-wood trees here and they seem to be infected with borers of some kind. They eat out the heart of the trees, and then during some wind storm down will come some of the trees. It is very discouraging to plant trees and have them destroyed and not be able to prevent it. No one here has found a preventive.

Mrs. M. A. Ross.

NOTES.

At page 172, Sept. 11, of last year, may be found a sketch of the pretty double Ivy Pelargonium, named Konig Albert. It was introduced by Mr. Cannel, is pink in color, with deep carmine streaks down the center of the upper petals. We see now that Mr. Bull of Chelsea has raised seedlings from it, just as double as their august parent, of various colors.

Tricolor Seedlings.—We have germinated upwards of fifty seeds of the yellow-disked Pelargonium "Happy Thought," and not one of the seedlings has shown the faintest sign of variegation. Were Happy Thought a seedling instead of a sport, doubtless a percentage would have shown variegation.

Let those of our readers who are raising seedling Tricolors, bear in mind that unless the first leaves (cotyledons) are variegated the plant will not be—and upon this test they may implicitly rely. All those, therefore, bearing first leaves of a solid green, may be pulled up at once. Thus, as not more than one-quarter of Tricolor seeds will prove variegated, much time, labor and patient waiting will be saved.

Drought.—The drought in Bergen Co., N. J., is the most severe ever before known at this season. The air is blue with the smoke from the fires of meadows and woodlands, and the watercourses that never have failed before are as dry as a chip.

Nature's Wild Gardens.—There are few floral displays more beautiful than those which may now be seen in many meadows. The royal purple of the Iron-weed—the bright yellow of the Golden-rods—the white of the Wild Clematis (*Virginiana*)—the pink of the Asclepias—the crimson of the Cardinal Flower present a blaze of beauty that, unstudied, unarranged though it be, is rarely equaled in our most tasteful, costly grounds. Let those who have in view the planting of Wild Gardens visit such places. If they fail to get an idea or so, let them abandon the Wild Garden and devote themselves to in-door decorations.

GERMINATION OF SEEDS.

It was proved, says Nature, a short time ago, that several kinds of seeds will germinate between pieces of ice. A full investigation of the lower limit of temperature at which plants may germinate has recently been made by M. Haberlandt (*Centralblatt fur Agriculture Chemie*). The experiments were upon Wheat, Rye, Barley, Red Beet, Rape, Lucerne, Poppy, and many other seeds. Several hundred seeds were employed of each species, and every fourteen days the seeds were taken out of the ice-chest, whose temperature was kept constant between 0° and 1° C., and examined in a space whose temperature was under freezing point. In forty-five days a decided beginning of germination was observed in eight different species (which are named). In four months it had continued to progress in a minority of these: the rest had stopped. In fourteen species there was no germination. M. Haberlandt is of opinion that those seeds which can germinate at a lower temperature than others, and thus by artificial sowing in cold spaces a means is to hand of obtaining species soon ripe and needing little heat. Of all the seeds which had remained for four months in the ice-case, only a few were found capable of development when brought into a warmer temperature of 16° C. (61° F.).

The Vineyard.

HOW TO MAKE WINE.

Some varieties of grapes are better adapted for wine than others. The Catawba is grown in Southern Ohio extensively for wine making, and for 20 or 30 years was the only grape grown extensively in the United States for that purpose; but it is too late a grape for higher latitudes. The Clinton, Delaware and Concord are now grown as wine grapes, and some other varieties.

A grape to make pure wine, without the addition of sugar or spirits, that will not become acid, should contain sufficient saccharine matter to produce from 12 to 14 per cent. of alcohol; a good wine generally contains from 10 to 14 per cent.

This article is for the benefit of grape growers who desire to make a half barrel, or more, of wine, and I cannot recommend anyone to make less than 10 or 15 gallons, as it should be kept in a keg or a barrel, in order to be well fined.

Three barrels of grapes—as they are picked with the stems—will make a barrel of pure juice, or *must*, as it is called; and one barrel, or three bushels, will make ten gallons. When one prefers to add to the must, two pounds of sugar to the gallon—any of good quality—good wine can be made of almost any variety of grape; and if a gallon of spirits be added to 10 of must, besides the sugar, a little water may also be added, and the wine will keep well, and it will suit the American palate much better than wine made of the pure juice.

But there is an objection, with many, to using either sugar or spirits, and such people must be satisfied with a wine like the German Rhine wines—that Germans consider to be good, but Americans will often call very poor, being somewhat acid, and disagreeable to the palate. But why should even temperance people object to the addition of a little alcoholic spirits, precisely the same that the grapes naturally contain? If we make a "pure" wine of grapes that contain 14 per cent. of alcohol, what would be the difference in a temperance man's point of view if we make it 20 per cent? There is none, except in *degree*, and the wine that is used for common purposes is no more a "pure" wine than that made by adding sugar and spirits, only that it contains less alcohol.

The only alcoholic spirits adapted to the use of wine making, is what is called "pure spirits" by the makers and venders. It is of the same "proof," or strength, as brandy, whisky and rum, but it is perfectly tasteless, or without flavor, and it is used by rectifiers to adulterate the more costly liquors. It is now worth about $1.50 per gallon in quantities of five or ten gallons, and is only sold by wholesale liquor dealers. By using two pounds of sugar to the gallon of must, a good wine can be made of grapes that are not perfectly ripe; but the general rule is to leave the grapes till they are fully ripe, if the climate will admit this, then pick them and throw out any decayed berries, and mash them with the stems in a tub or barrel, if you have no wine mill; but the vessel must be perfectly clean and sweet. A whisky barrel sawed in two at the bung, well soaked, to draw out any whisky flavor it may contain, makes good tubs to be used in wine-making, but never use a tub that has been used for washing clothes.

A good masher is made of a piece of inch and a quarter plank, with a strip nailed on at about ten inches from the end on each side, forming an angle like the letter V inverted, with the handle of the mashers extending as far as these side pieces, by which three mashers are brought upon the grapes at once, each about four inches wide. About a bushel of grapes may be mashed at a time, then empty the pomace and juice into another tub, and so pound till all the grapes are mashed. Some wine makers leave the mash and juice 24 to 48 hours, in order to draw out of the skins a brighter color; and the stems of the grapes, by thus leaving the mash, impart a flavor to the wine that some people like.

The next operation is to express the juice, or must, and with a wine mill this is easy; but a barrel of wine, at least, can be easily expressed by putting about a peck of the mash into a strong cotton bag, as open as cloth can be found. Tie a cord around the end of the bag, then lay it upon a clean board placed on a tub, and press out the juice with the hands. But to do the pressing more effectually, make a lever, and secure the end, so that a good "purchase" can be obtained, then lay the bag on the board, or perhaps a plank would be better, over the tub, then place a small piece of board upon the bag and then apply the lever, and you will thus be able to express the most of the must, and then, if you please, you may put water upon the expressed pomace, mix it well, let it stand 24 hours and then go over the process of expressing again, but in this case sugar must always be added—two to three pounds to the gallon—to insure the wine from becoming acid the next season; but if one gallon of "pure spirits" to ten of must be used, only two pounds of sugar to the gallon will be required, presuming that you mix but about one gallon of water with the pomace to four of pure juice expressed. The "pure spirits" should not be turned in till the operation of the fermentation, which should be managed as follows:

Having procured your cask (iron-bound wine casks are best), clean it thoroughly, put in a key-faucet—the key to be kept in a safe place, so that no one can occasionally "try" the quality of your wine—then set it where it can remain fermenting, in the coolest part of your cellar, raised about a foot from the floor or ground. Fill the cask to within a few inches of the bung, so as to give the wine a chance to ferment, putting in the bung and having a gimlet-hole at the side of it, so that air may easily escape, and at the end, of about six inches, put in a spile tight, to be removed at the end of six hours to ascertain whether the fermentation has ceased, which may be known by the compressed air escaping, and if none escapes, either fill up the cask with "pure spirits," if you conclude to use it, or with some must reserved for that purpose.

Nothing more is to be done to your wine, and it will be fit for use after the next June; but the older the better. I have found no detriment from leaving the lees (sediment) in the cask; but some men "rack" off their wine after the second fermentation, which takes place as soon as warm weather commences the first season after it is made; but it is so slight that the spile does not have to be loosened. In all cases the wine will fine itself, and become beautifully clear in a few months.

I may here add that there is but little high-priced wine imported into the United States that has not been "doctored" before shipping it, by adding enough sugar and "pure spirits" to give it a body; and temperance men who do not object to "pure" foreign wines as a beverage, need not object to drinking American wine made on the same principle, as it is quite impossible to make wine from American grapes that will be drank by ladies unless sugar be used; and the use of a small quantity of spirits enables one, in all cases, to make wine that will not become acid. But still I would say to all grape growers, make only *pure wine*, if your grapes will do it, and the wine not become acid, if you will be satisfied with such a quality. American wines, "the pure juice," are generally considered to be "no better than sour cider" by most of our native citizens.

T. B. Miner.

Linden, N. J.

THE CHAMPION (OR TOLMAN) GRAPE.

The "Champion" or "Tolman's Seedling" is the first grape in the market in Central and Northern New York. It is very early, but not otherwise commendable.

The above extract is taken from the Syracuse Daily Journal, of Aug. 30. I agree with the writer, except as to its "being very early." I have the "Tolman" (or Champion) and the Hartford Prolific, growing side by side, and, with me, it is not as well ripened as is the Hartford. It turns a dark color some two weeks before it is fully ripe, and can be sold to persons who do not know the difference between a ripe and unripe grape.

It was on sale in our market about the 20th of August, green and sour enough to "set the children's teeth on edge" for several generations to come. Dealers say that the first and second baskets sold freely, but after that the demand for grapes suddenly ceased. Nearly every dealer that I have seen has now (Sept. 4th) a basket of stale "Champions" that will finally have to be thrown into the gutter. It is a serious mistake for growers to sell this inferior grape in this unripe condition, as it greatly injures the market for the balance of the season.

Consumers are slow to learn the difference between this and those of a better quality. When dealers and consumers learn to leave this variety "severely alone"—as I fully believe they will at no distant day—then persons who raise good grapes will be able to get a fair compensation for their crops. I believe that this "Champion" has reduced the price of all other varieties of grapes in our market at least one-third for this season.

Probably it is a well-known fact that the "Tolman Seedling" originated near this city some eight or ten years ago, and after making a poor record, it has been rechristened the "Champion;" and, as a correspondent of the Country Gentleman truly says, "if a premium was out for sour grapes, this name would be very appropriate." When known and condemned under this new name, let us hope it will not "turn up" under any other guise.

Nelson Ritter.

Syracuse, N. Y.

RESPECTING THE PHYLLOXERA.

M. Maxime Cornu remarks upon the great difference between the changes produced in an organ still possessed of cambium or growing tissue and in an organ whose development is

completed, the elements being already formed and having now only to grow. When a Phylloxera attacks a very large root the effect is confined to the corky rind only, which becomes inflexed and thickened. On a slender root the cambium or growing tissue may be influenced by the puncture of the insect at some little distance on either side of the wound. In this case there is a formation of new tissue both on the outer and the inner side, and a swelling or hypertrophy results. When the insect attacks a rootlet it chooses by preference the vegetative point—there the elements are already formed, and have only to grow in certain directions, and assume their definite size. At the point of puncture the elements are arrested in their development, while the rest of the body of the root grows; hence, an inflexion and curvature at this point. The tissue whose growth is arrested is in contact with cells still growing actively; it therefore receives nutritive substances, which it does not use for itself, but stores them up in the form of starch. If the insects are numerous on the vine, all the rootlets are affected and ultimately die, the plant can then no longer absorb. It is then from its own stores that it draws the materials necessary for the ripening of the fruit and the production of new roots.

Domestic Economy.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

To "J. C."

Brandy Peaches.—The fruit should be gathered before quite ripe; rubbed with a flannel to remove the down, pricked with a large needle to the pit in several places. Put them in cold water and boil them very gently until tender. Take them carefully out, and drain them. Make a sirup of three-quarters of a pound of fruit, add a pint of the juice in which they were boiled, and a pint of brandy. When the peaches are cold lay them in jars and pour the sirup over them.

Another.—Make a thin sirup of loaf-sugar. Pare the peaches a few at a time, or just enough to cover the bottom of the preserving kettle; boil until tender, remove them to a large platter, and cover immediately with a towel to prevent the air from discoloring them; proceed in this manner until all are cooked. When the peaches are cold place in glass jars, put a small teacup of sugar to each jar and fill up with white brandy. These are delicious.—Mrs. Rustic.

Piccalilli Pickles.—Will you ask your correspondents, who furnish so many recipes, if they cannot send one of the "Piccalilli pickles," for the benefit of a young housekeeper.

[Will some one of our correspondents please take notice and reply.]

SELECTED RECIPES.

Plum Preserves.—Plums may be preserved nice with the skins on or off. If on, they should be pricked at the top and bottom with a large needle. If you take them off turn boiling water over them. Prepare a sirup of a pound of sugar for each pound of plums, lay in your fruit to simmer, not to boil; let them remain in a scalding state until soaked through, at least two hours. Then skim out and boil the liquor down about an hour. It must be thick to keep well. The flavor will be much improved by boiling in the sirup half a pint of the kernels cracked.

Preserved Pears.—Cut the pears in half and take out the cores. Place them over the fire and boil them in a little water until they are just soft enough for a fork to penetrate them. Take them out and place them on a dish to drain. To each pound of fruit allow a pound of loaf-sugar; add the sugar to the water in which the pears were boiled, put in the fruit with the rind and juice of a fresh lemon. Boil the pears gently for fifteen or twenty minutes; take them out of the sirup, lay them on a broad dish until cold; then place them carefully in glass jars. Boil the sirup until thick enough, pour it over the fruit hot, and seal up.

Grape Jelly.—Take the grapes when ripe, put them over the fire in a preserving kettle, stir with a wooden spoon until all have burst, and the juice flows freely from them; strain through a thin towel, measure, then return the juice to the fire, boil thirty minutes, add three-quarters of a pound of loaf-sugar to each pint of juice, let it boil up, take off any scum that may rise. Pour into glasses; when cold, seal up.

Peach Pudding.—Scald two tea-cups of milk; stir in one tablespoonful of corn-starch wet with a little cold milk, beat the yelks of four eggs very light and add to the corn-starch when cool; beat all until light and smooth. Put a layer of ripe peaches pared in the bottom of a well-buttered baking-dish, sprinkle over a little sugar and pour the mixture over them; bake in a quick oven ten or fifteen minutes, whisk the whites of the eggs very stiff, add two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, spread over the pudding, return to oven until it is a delicate brown. To be eaten cold with cream.

Peach Batter Pudding.—Pare the peaches, set them closely together in a baking dish; make a batter of four eggs, the yelks and whites beaten separately; one pint of milk, six tablespoonfuls of flour mixed until perfectly smooth with the yelks; add a little salt, turn in the milk and then the whites; stir all together and pour over the peaches; bake slowly until done. To be eaten warm with wine sauce.

Hygienic Information.

PORK DIET.

Eds. Rural:—With your permission I have a little more to say on this question of a pork diet. One of the most important subjects for the working farmer to study is health, for without it labor is drudgery, but with it, if not in excess, and well rewarded, a pleasure. I think it not so much matter what we eat in a sanitary view as how we behave or rather how we treat ourselves and what are our surroundings.

The attention of the state health commissioners of some of the states has for a few years past been specially paid to these home matters, and the results of their investigations, as reported have shown that what we drink and breathe contain more of the seeds of disease than what we eat. This is not strange if what hygienists tell us is true, that miasma and other malaria affect the system only through the lungs and that some poisons may pass harmlessly through the stomach that would be fatal if introduced directly into the blood. As I have said in a former article fat pork though not containing *all* the elements necessary as food for the support of human life, does still contain in abundance some of the most essential ones and chemistry detects no essential difference in the fat of the different animals or their products with, butter, cheese and eggs. It is all carbon, hydrogen and oxygen in about the same proportions the difference in appearance being mainly in color, odor and consistence.

Cod-liver oil being nothing more nor less than animal fat is or has been a popular medicine in consumption or rather as one physician said to me, "not a medicine but a food" and when we understand that consumption is literally a burning up of the fat of the body and that as physiologists tell us that fats and oils are not materially changed by digestion, we can plainly see that a prescription of fats and oils in this disease is very appropriate. An acquaintance of mine though able to walk about town, was said to be in the last stages of consumption. I asked him what remedies he was taking? Cod-liver oil, was his reply. What food does your physician allow? Almost anything I like except fat pork. What is your own opinion of this prescription as to diet? I asked Why, says he, I thought of all the healthiest of my neighboring farmers and knew that they all ate fat pork. He died a few weeks after.

Another friend and relative was in a decline and pronounced consumptive and his physician prescribed cod-liver oil. As this article in the new country where he lived was rather expensive, I advised him to substitute pork gravy in his food and add whiskey and sugar, but he being a temperance man, (so was I) and I not being an M. D. my advise counted little. He went from Northern Michigan to New Jersey and then consulted an eminent physician who told him the pork gravy if as well relished was just as good as the cod-liver oil. He prescribed a rich diet with ale, porter and wine, under which he improved but died a few months after his return.

The time is fast marching on when the farmer will depend on bone and muscle alone for his forces; animal and vegetable chemistry and animal and vegetable physiology, are also forces within his reach. The coming farmer will know what elements he needs in his soil and in his foods and what he needs them for. Fats or oils are indispensible articles in our food. All the grains contain it but not in sufficient proportions to satisfy the demands of our appetites which crave butter or oily gravies and no article is so universally used to supply this deficiency as the flesh of swine and from the census reports of the number of sheep, cattle and hogs in the U. S., adding and deducting for the number imported and exported for the same year, I can come to no other conclusion than that swine's flesh is more eaten than the flesh of any other class of animals. Especially is this the main flesh food of farmers and out-door laborers, a class which statistics show to be the most healthy of any.

To my brother farmers who have been made to believe that fat pork is an unhealthy food and that in eating it they are swallowing disease, I have to say by way of advise look around you as my consumptive friend did and see how others are affected by it. Of course since the discovery of trichina you are cautioned against eating it now. S. B. Peck.

Muskegon, Mich., July 31, 1876.

The Poultry Yard.

KEEPING POULTRY.—No. 5.

I come next to interior arrangements of poultry houses. The windows should be made in such a way that they can be taken out or opened easily, and slats or wire substituted in hot weather.

It does not matter how cool a house may be built, our summers are too hot for it to be shut up. While the fowls are roosting they require all the air they can get—it would be better for their health if they could sleep in trees. I have looked into the coolest of houses on hot nights, and found the birds suffering severely for want of more air.

Another thing requires attention in some localities, that is, protection against thieves. Iron bars can be put on all windows, fastened to the frames, but not to the sashes, so that when the sashes are removed in summer the bars still remain useful—tire iron from old light wagon wheels will do, and can be had cheap in any country blacksmith shop.

Ventilation is one of the most important considerations in a building; that and cleanliness is of more consequence in keeping fowls than any other domestic animal, when a number are kept together, and why, is the great mystery, for it is a well-established fact (in spite of the marvelous accounts of the large numbers of breeds kept together we have in some poultry works) that a great number cannot be kept in health for a continued length of time in the same place without all the care is given, which experience shows to be imperative.

Make openings, with shutters to them, on two opposite sides of the house, quite *up to the ceiling*, that no foul air remains there, and so that a good current may pass through without blowing down upon the stock while roosting, which would be liable to give them cold. Of course the perches must not be up too high. On cold nights and very cold days, close the windward ventilators; but when it freezes hard in the house, the cold purifies the air in a degree, and rather than let the fowls freeze their combs, shut up every opening. From these hints one must judge of the severity of the climate of that part of the State he lives in. Give all the air that common sense dictates, but not enough to do injury.

I once observed, on visiting an amateur, that he had his buildings on the top of a hill, in which he kept various breeds. He had latticed rooms on the north sides of the houses and large doors opening into them. He had all the doors set open every winter's day (with the idea of ventilation). The biting wind howled through the building enough to chill a Polar bear. The birds inside were huddled together close to the glass (on the south side, to be sure), but its effect for warmth was more than neutralized by the doors open on the north, as the wretched appearance of the inmates plainly showed. It is needless to say that party voted pure-bred fowls a fraud. All his expensive arrangements were useless. The birds were blamed instead of the buildings and mismanagement.

Each domicile should have a small opening for the tenants to go in and out, near the ground. It is also useful to set a current of ventilation upward, and it should never be closed but in extreme cold weather. If there is danger of enemies entering by night through it, a grating can be placed before it instead of a close door. Also over the ventilators wire or slats should be placed to prevent fowls flying through them.

All fixtures should be so arranged that you can easily get at them for cleaning, such as nests, feed, hoppers, etc., and should be all moveable. Nest boxes can have one side higher than the other, when standing on a shelf, the high side turned to the next nest, answering a partition between without immovable wood work. Such nests can be dipped into a tub of whitewash and turned over to drain. The liquid, by dipping, enters every part, makes a thorough job of it and is done quickly. There are many such contrivances for economizing space in small places, which will be described in due time.

Perches should be flat and just wide enough for fowls to gripe. Shingle laths, planed and the edges rounded a little, make good ones. Let them lie loose (without nailing) in notches cut for them in bearers, so that they can be lifted out to clean them. Do not let the ends touch the wall. A good way is to have posts set in the floor, on which fasten the notched bearers. On these lay the perches. Be sure to have them sufficiently far apart that the fowls do not touch each other, for this would soon spoil their plumage, making them worthless for exhibition. Anyone can judge from these general hints how to adapt the principles to his means and accomodation. They do not call for any more expense and will, in the end, save much by the success of the first arrangements, avoiding the mistakes and alterations which so many have to go through in their first building.

Feeding vessels, pans, etc., should always be so constructed that stock cannot step into them, especially when soft food is used in the houses during winter. Some persons have all the fowls diseased from allowing them to puddle through the soft food, then into the dirt on the floor, then back into the food until it is perfectly filthy; afterwards they wonder what ails the fowls.

Drinking vessels should be similarly protected. Numbers of contrivances have been described from time to time, and others will appear in illustrations in the Rural in due time.

Much controversy has arisen about the best flooring. All condemn wood; cement is strongly advocated; but I prefer the earth strewn thickly with ashes, removing the entire surface, once every autumn, to the depth of four or five inches, replacing fresh earth and ashes, besides the ordinary cleaning once a week. H. Hales.

Sheep Husbandry.

WOOL ON A LIVE SHEEP.

The Trade Journal tells us that generally the finest and softest wool is on the shoulders of a sheep. But not one person in ten thousand is aware of this fact. Let us watch an expert when he is about to pass judgment on a sheep concerning the value of the animal for producing wool, and it will be seen he always looks at the wool on the shoulders first. A writer of extensive experience in rearing fine wool sheep and in handling wool, communicated the following suggestion for selecting a fine-wooled sheep:

"Always assuming the wool to be inspected is really a fine wool, we first examine the shoulders at the part were the finest and best wool is usually found. This we take as a standard and compare it with the wool from the ribs, the thighs, the rump, and the shoulder parts, and the nearer wool from the various portions of the animal approaches the standard the better. First we scrutinize the fineness, and if the result is satisfactory we pronounce the fleece in respect to fineness very 'even.' Next we inquire into the length of the staples, and if we find that the wool on the ribs, thigh and back approximate reasonably in length to that of our standard, we again declare the sheep, as regards length of sample, true and even. We next desire to satisfy ourselves of the density of the fleece, and we do this by closing the hand upon a portion of the rump and of the loin wool, the fleece at these points being usually the thinnest, faulty, and if it again gives satisfaction, we signify the fact by designating the wool 'even' as respects density. Now to summarize these separate examinations: If you find the fleece of nearly equal firmness from the shoulder to the thigh, of nearly equal length shoulder, rib, thigh, and back, and density on shoulder and across the loins, you may conclude that you have a perfect sheep for producing valuable wool. Selecting sheep for valuable feeders, is quite another thing."

SHEEP IN ARIZONA.

H. C. Banta of Banta's station, writes to the Stockton Independent from Little Colorado River, Arizona, giving some information in regard to the adaptability of that country for sheep raising. He says the grass is not suitable for sheep, having no juice in it for the nourishment of the sheep; the country is a wilderness of rocks and mountains and there is no water in it except at the streams, which are far apart and have but little water. Furthermore, it is a very hard route to go there from California, there being an interval of 200 miles where there is no grass to speak of and but little water. There is a poison which he does not describe, but which is very fatal to sheep and which swept off a large number of his flock. He thinks Californiia is a paradise compared with Arizona; advises Californians who contemplate taking a trip to that country to stay where they are; says he will return soon, and seems altogether to be thoroughly disgusted. He adds that he has not seen a sheepman in that country who is not anxious to sell out and go back home.

Sheep Eating Darling Pea.—In Australia there is a wild plant known as the Darling Pea, (a species of *Swansonia*), which is very injurious to sheep. It is said that some sheep are very fond of this plant others do not touch it, hence it is necessary to cull out those animals having a depraved taste, putting them in pastures by themselves. In examining sheep that have died from eating the poisoned pea the kidneys are found in a very unhealthy state. Salt has proved to be an excellent remedy as well as preventive, the same as with many of the affections which are common to sheep in this country.

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AN EYE TO THE FUTURE.

IF we could read the future, how easy it would be to guard against mistakes. Unfortunately, or fortunately, we can only judge of the future from the past, and this is, perhaps, all-sufficient for our welfare and happiness. But it must be confessed that comparatively few persons will study the past history of individuals or nations and learn how to avoid the mistakes of even their immediate predecessors; hence we see thousands dropping into the pitfalls already half filled with victims of imprudence, if we apply to them no worse or harsher term.

It would be an easy task to write a homily upon the follies of nations and people in general; but it is sufficient for our purpose at this time to speak of what may be termed the immediate future in agricultural and horticultural affairs. What may happen or be the condition of these great industries a hundred years hence, is of far less importance to the present generation than what is taking place now or likely to occur during the next two or three decades, although patriotism might induce some to look further into the distant future.

It may be all very well to "take no heed of the future" when one can be certain that all his wants are to be supplied without a personal effort; but who among us would expect to reap if we fail to sow? The landscape gardener in planting trees and shrubs for ornamental purposes, must look beyond present appearances, keeping in view what they are to become in the future, else his labors will in a great part be thrown away, and the one who fails to do this falls far short of being proficient in his art. It is not only necessary to keep an eye to what such plants may become if they thrive and grow to a natural size, but also to provide conditions in advance to insure this development. They may be planted far enough apart to permit their branches to extend without meeting any obstructions, while the roots are cramped within circumscribed limits by a tenacious, impenetrable or impoverished soil, the result showing very conclusively that a man, in planting a tree, needs to keep in view the future wants of the roots as well as those of the stems and branches. It is not altogether what a plant requires for its health and growth this season or next, but in years to come that should be provided, in order to secure a full measure of success in such operations.

Whatever may be true in horticultural affairs is also true in agriculture, and the farmer who does not look ahead and keep an eye to the future, is sure to run against some obstacle which will prevent further progress. The man who only looks to the present yield of his land, taking no heed of what may follow any particular system of culture, is pursuing a very injudicious course, to say the least. There has been far too much of this stumbling along in the dark regardless of consequences among our farmers, and the thousands of poor, worn-out farms found in almost every State of the Union, are the legitimate results. That a change is needed no one will deny; but how it is to be wrought, is a difficult question to answer, inasmuch, as we have already said, the failure or mistake of one individual is of no value as a protection to another, unless be studied and heeded.

We find one class of farmers who, in some way, manage to constantly increase the fertility of their land, their crops growing better and better with each succeeding year or decade, while with another class the reverse of this is seen, and although it might be difficult to say which were the more industrious, it is easy to see that there is a wide difference in the general management of their farms. No man can increase the fertility of his land without an "eye to the future;" and it is he who plows deep, underdrains, makes composts of all available materials, and never sells any crop in bulk which can be condensed into a more valuable product, leaving the coarser part for further increasing the fertility of his field, that will eventually be the most successful. If he keeps sheep, he does not count the wool and mutton sold as the only valuable product of his flock. He knows that the land upon which sheep are pastured is enriched, and when it is plowed up and grain sown upon it or planted with corn, the increase in yield should be credited to the sheep account.

The same "eye to the future" is required with every kind of stock kept and every kind of crop raised, and by doing so the profits are increased from year to year; for it costs no more to till an acre of land which will yield forty bushels of wheat or a hundred of corn, than one yielding one half the quantity. Among our readers there are doubtless many thousands of successful farmers who know from their own experience how necessary it is to look beyond immediate results in order to insure prosperity in the future; and we have only to regret that the hundreds of thousands of the unsuccessful could not be induced to subscribe for the RURAL NEW-YORKER or some other good journal from the pages of which they might learn how to avoid mistakes and be equally prosperous.

THE AMERICAN TRAMP.

THE Italians have their Brigands, which are nearly identical with the robbers and land pirates of many other countries; the Germans have their Gypsies, many close imitators of which are to be found elsewhere; but the American Tramp is an animal like itself only and not to be found in any other country. How this species originated or in what part of the country it first made its appearance, is a matter about which the authorities would probably disagree, if there were any authorities upon the subject. Suffice it for us to say, however, that it exists and in such proportions as to be a matter for serious consideration. It has no affectation for large cities nor crowded places, but chooses its paths in those districts where inhabitants are few and food plenty.

Where is there a farmer's wife or daughter who has not more than once been startled by the sudden apparition at her door (generally back door, too,) of one of these animals, humbly begging for a morsel of food, while its lynx-eyes were wandering over the place, to discover the absence of male protectors? In case such discovery is made, the humility is at once replaced by an expression of savage ferocity and brutality which generally works upon the fears of the housewife to the extent of a trifle of money or something better than even the proverbial generosity the American people naturally extend to the ordinary beggar. It seldom strikes higher than there is a probability of success in its demands. It seldom does any greater harm at any one place than giving the housewife's nerves a shock which lasts all day, and then stealing whatever little article about the place it can carry off and turn into money. But is this not enough? If not, then look over the daily papers and read the numerous exceptional cases where it commits murder on the highway—where it places obstructions on the railway track, wrecking a whole passenger train for plunder—where it finds school children in unpopulous rural districts and commits outrages worse than murder. These things are not matters of fancy attributed to this monster, but actual recorded facts of much too frequent occurrence for a civilized and law-abiding country like this.

Having pointed out a wrong, we are called upon to supply a remedy—no easy task in this case. One thing however, is certain. The multiplication of this animal known as the American Tramp, is a growing evil which, sooner or later, must be grappled with and overcome if we would have the enjoyment of life, liberty and the rights of property. The sooner it is done the easier it is of accomplishment; and even then only by united effort. It is useless to waste time in sickly, maudlin sentiment about never turning a beggar away from your door empty-handed. This sounds beautifully and has a Christian-like ring to it; but it won't do in cases where its exercise warms into vitality the viper to sting one's own breast. Let us provide public means of caring for those who really need and deserve charity and stop this promiscuous support of thieves, murderers and worse criminals under the guise of that charity under which is really a cover for lack of public spirit to take hold at the right end.

Charity is not the only motive for giving. Upon suggesting the above idea to a farmer once, the reply was that if the Tramp was refused anything, he would burn the barn and outbuildings. By this it will be seen that women and children are not the only ones who are frightened by this animal. Better might that farmer have divided his family into reliefs, armed them with guns and mounted guard over his buildings, than to have admitted the existence of such a motive. No doubt there was every reason to fear such a result in case of refusal; but did not the Tramp, who himself created the fear, well know its existence, and is this not a terrible commentary upon the animal?

The remedy is extermination of the species. Some localities have laws for the arrest and imprisonment of all who wander about without visible means of support. Where such is the case, see that the laws are enforced. Where such laws do not exist, make and enforce them at once. Don't delay, for time is of importance in this matter. Put a price upon the Tramp's head and make war upon him. Do not break the laws of the land in which you live, but make the laws the instrument to break up the business of the Tramp.

RURAL NOTES.

Mr. Waterer's Rhododendrons.—The show of Rhododendrons exhibited at the Centennial Show by Mr. WATERER of England, seems to have awakened an interest in these plants and our own raisers of them are likely to gain some trade thereby. There are doubtless thousands of persons who saw Mr. WATERER'S collection who are not aware of the fact that some of our nurserymen have expended thousands of dollars and years of time in ascertaining what varieties of Rhododendrons were best adapted to our climate, and we have only to say to those who know nothing of such things, leave the selection of varieties to our nurserymen instead of trusting to description in foreign catalogues.

Grain Weevils at the Centennial.—It is reported that the seeds and grain exhibited by the Brazilians at the Centennial are badly infested with moths and weevils. If this be true, it behooves those having this department in charge to see to it that none of these pests escape, for we have already enough of such enemies without adding any more. It may be that those infesting the South American farm products are the same species as those inhabiting both Europe and North America, and some of the Entomologists residing in Philadelphia or visiting the Exhibition, should report on these pests and let us know all about them.

Helping the Fruit Growers.—Col. ELLIOTT, founder of the "Florida Dispatch Line," for the transportation of fruit and vegetables from Florida to the Northern markets, tells the Committee appointed by the Fruit Growers' Association to assist him, that their labors in that direction amounted at most to an "approval by inference and a masterly inactivity." This is about the sum total of the labors of such committees in general, and we never have known one to do much more than try to sell their own fruits at the best prices and let others do the same or the best they could under the circumstances.

Winter Oats.—What are called "winter oats," are just now attracting considerable attention; but farmers in the Northern States should touch them with care, as it is not at all likely that they will survive the winter in cold climates. In Tennessee and southward it may answer to sow oats in the fall at the same time as winter wheat. We shall sow some of the best varieties of these so-called "winter oats," and give the results to our readers.

RURAL BREVITIES.

PHILIP'S SPIRAL CORN HUSKER, that peculiarly active machine that has such a persuasive way of denuding the ear of its husks, will be in full operation at the New York State fair. Look at it.

AN Association has been formed in Delaware for the raising of sugar beets and manufacturing of sugar therefrom. Anything which is likely to make the "sweets" in this life cheap and abundant, deserves support.

THE first number of the Factory and Farm, a bright-looking monthly published at Chicago, has just made its appearance among our exchanges. Its twenty quarto pages are filled with excellent articles and good illustrations, and we extend to it a cordial welcome, hoping that it may have a long and prosperous career.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

EVERY keg "Phœnix Pure White Lead" warranted *perfectly pure*—is white, fine, and has the very best body and covering properties.

THE WELL-DIGGER.

COME, listen all, while I relate
What recently befell
Unto a farmer down in Maine,
While digging of a well.

Full many a yard he dug and delved,
And still he dug in vain;
"Alack!" quoth he, "e'en water seems
Prohibited in Maine!"

And still he dug and delved away,
And still the well was dry;
The only water to be found
Was in the farmer's eye.

For by the breaking of the bank
That tumbled from the station,
All suddenly his hopes were dashed
Of future liquidation.

And now his sands were running fast,
And he had died, no doubt,
But that just when the earth caved in,
He happened to be out!

"Alas!—I have a happy thought!"
Exclaimed this wicked man—
"To dig anew this cursed well
I see a pretty plan:

"I'll hide me straight, and when my wife
And oke the neighbors know
What's happened to my digging here,
They'll think that I'm below!

"And so to save my precious life,
They'll dig the well, no doubt,
E'en deeper than it was at first,
Before they find me out!"

And so he hid him in the barn
Through all the hungry day,
To bide the digging of his well
In this deceitful way.

But list what grief and shame befell
The false, ungrateful man,
The while he slyly watched to see
The working of his plan.

The neighbors all, with one accord,
Unto each other said:
"With such a weight of earth above,
The man is surely dead."

And then the wife, with pious care,
All needless cost to save,
Said—"Since the Lord hath willed it so,
E'en let it be his grave." [*John G. Saxe.*

CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE capital of Islam is undoubtedly among the most prominent points of interest at present, in view of the Eastern difficulties. Constantinople, or Istamboul, as it is known to the "faithful," is delightfully situated on a triangular peninsula at the entrance of the Bosporus. The harbor, known as the Golden Horn, will shelter vessels of the greatest draught and 1200 ships can ride easily on its commodious surface. The population is estimated at one million Mussulmans, Armenians, Jews, Persians and Levantines, who pursue their usual avocations undeterred by the wide social and religious differences that divide them,—a human BARNUM'S Happy Family. A wall containing twenty-seven gates surrounds the town. The old streets are very crooked, and strangers find it most difficult to traverse the labyrinthian recesses Destructive conflagrations are not unusual. In 1865 some 8,000 houses, 20 mosques and numbers of baths, khans, etc., were devoured by the flames. The city is divided into districts, or quarters, which are usually occupied by different nationalities. The city presents a most charming appearance when viewed from the harbor near by. Its main characteristic is filth.

The markets, or bazaars, are large fireproof buildings, lighted from above, in which hundreds of tradesmen retail their wares. Open markets for the sale of horses are kept daily in several streets. The Avret Bazaar, or woman's market, was formerly set apart for the sale of female slaves.

The Sultan's residence of state is called the Seral Humayun. It is a small walled city of itself, nearly two miles in circumference, and includes mosques, baths, gardens, government offices, etc. Formerly it was inhabited by at least 6,000 persons and entirely inaccessible to strangers. Since free access has been gained, much of the romance and mystery surrounding the precincts have been dissolved. The outer gate of the seraglio is known as the Sublime Porte, a designation frequently applied to the Government itself.

The most noteworthy monument in the city is the Agia Sofia, formerly the Church of St. Sophia, originally built by CONSTANTINE and transformed into a mosque by MOHAMMED I. in 1453. It is built of light bricks and lined throughout with colored marbles. The dome measures 107 feet. The ceiling and arches are inlaid with beautiful mosaic work and gilt. The gallery, fifty feet broad, is sustained by columns, some of which are of green jasper, said to have been taken from the temple of DIANA at Ephesus.

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 173.]

INDIANA.

WHEN, in 1800, Ohio had been given a separate Government, the remainder of the country northwest of the Ohio was reorganized under the name of Indiana Territory. This was dismembered in 1805 by the erection of Michigan Territory, and in 1809, when Illinois Territory was created, leaving Indiana Territory circumscribed to the limits of the State of that name. Much trouble with Indians occurred before and during the war with Great Britain in 1812-15; but after peace was declared they were kept in control so far that their molestations were not sufficient to repel immigrants, and population rapidly increased.

In 1815 the Territorial Legislature petitioned Congress for admission to the Union, and there being no objection, after the usual formalities in December, 1816, Indiana was declared to be one of the United States, with boundaries as follows: East, by the meridian line which forms the western boundary of Ohio, being a north line from the mouth of the Miami; south, by the Ohio River from the mouth of the Great Miami to the mouth of the river Wabash; west, by a line drawn along the middle of the Wabash from its mouth to a point where a due-north line from the town of Vincennes would last touch the north-west shore of the said river and from thence by a due-north line until the same shall intersect an east and west line drawn through a point ten miles north of the southern extremity of Lake Michigan; north by said east and west line to the meridian of the west line of Ohio.

MAINE.

At the close of the Revolutionary War, the territory now comprised in the State of Maine belonged to and was under the government of Massachusetts, and so remained for many years. But in 1819 the question of separation, which had previously been agitated without success, was submitted to the people and as it was found a majority were in favor of a separate and State Government, the assent of Congress and of Massachusetts was obtained and in March, 1820, Maine became a State in the Federal Union, Massachusetts retaining ownership in a portion of the domain.

MISSISSIPPI.

In 1787 Mississippi Territory was organized. It embraced the country bounded by a line drawn from the mouth of the Yazoo River due east to the Chattahoochie, thence down that river to the 31° parallel, thence west to the Mississippi River—which was the western boundary. At that time the United States had only jurisdiction of the territory by consent of Georgia, in whom the right of soil vested. But in 1802, in consideration of $1,250,000 and a strip of land on its present northern border twelve miles wide, all reserved rights to all lands south of 35° latitude, were ceded to the United States. These were in 1804 annexed to Mississippi Territory, which then embraced all of the present States of Alabama and Mississippi above 31°. Spain had formerly made claim to all the territory, but had ceded it, with Florida, to Great Britain in 1763. This claim, however, had never been admitted by Great Britain to extend above 31°, and now Florida being divided by the Chatahoochie into East and West Florida, was restricted on the north to that parallel.

In 1779 the Spaniards captured Baton Rouge, and in 1781 took possession of Pensacola, claiming to have conquered the whole of West Florida as originally claimed by them, viz., to 35°. In 1783 Great Britain retroceded East Florida to Spain and the same year gave all above 31° to the United States. With this Spain was not content, and held possession of the "Natchez District" until 1798, when she relinquished all claim to the disputed territory insisting, however, on her right to all below 31° from the Chatahoochie to the Mississippi excepting the Isle of Orleans, and organized the District of Baton Rouge.

In 1810 the inhabitants of this District revolted against Spanish rule, and Gov. CLAIBORN of the then Territory of Orleans, with their consent and co-operation, took possession of the country for the United States, claiming it as a part of the purchase from France, and that the eastern line of that purchase was the Perdito River.

In 1817 that portion of the territory east of the present eastern boundary of Mississippi was erected into a separate territory and named Alabama. The remainder, having the requisite population who had agreed upon a Constitution satisfactory to Congress was, in December of the same year, admitted as a State.

ILLINOIS

Territory was made in 1809 and comprised all the country west of the Wabash River and Lake Michigan to the Mississippi. In 1818 the residents of the southern portion petitioned for admission as a State, but not being satisfied with the northern limit as fixed by the act organizing the territory north-west of the Ohio, (which was the south end of Lake Michigan,) instructed their delegate in Congress to ask for a boundary to be fixed farther north. At that time there was considerable anxiety in the country relative to the future of the great South-west. The scare caused a few years before by the expedition attempted by AARON BURR, was not entirely abated, and fears were still entertained that the Mississippi Valley States might choose to set up a government by themselves. Advantage was taken of this, and it was argued that Illinois, although by position a Northern State, if it had no lake ports, must necessarily seek an outlet for her productions through her rivers and the Gulf of Mexico, and thus naturally join her interests with the South-west; while, otherwise, if her northern boundary was fixed at 42° 50′, she would have sufficient lake shore for all necessary ports, a closer commercial intercourse with the Northern and Eastern States would ensue, and Illinois become at once a great power in support of the Federal Union forever. The propriety of the request was readily seen and an act passed admitting the State with a northern boundary at 42° 30′ as desired, and the wisdom thereof has never been questioned. At the same time that portion of the North-west territory lying north of Indiana and Illinois was added to Michigan Territory.

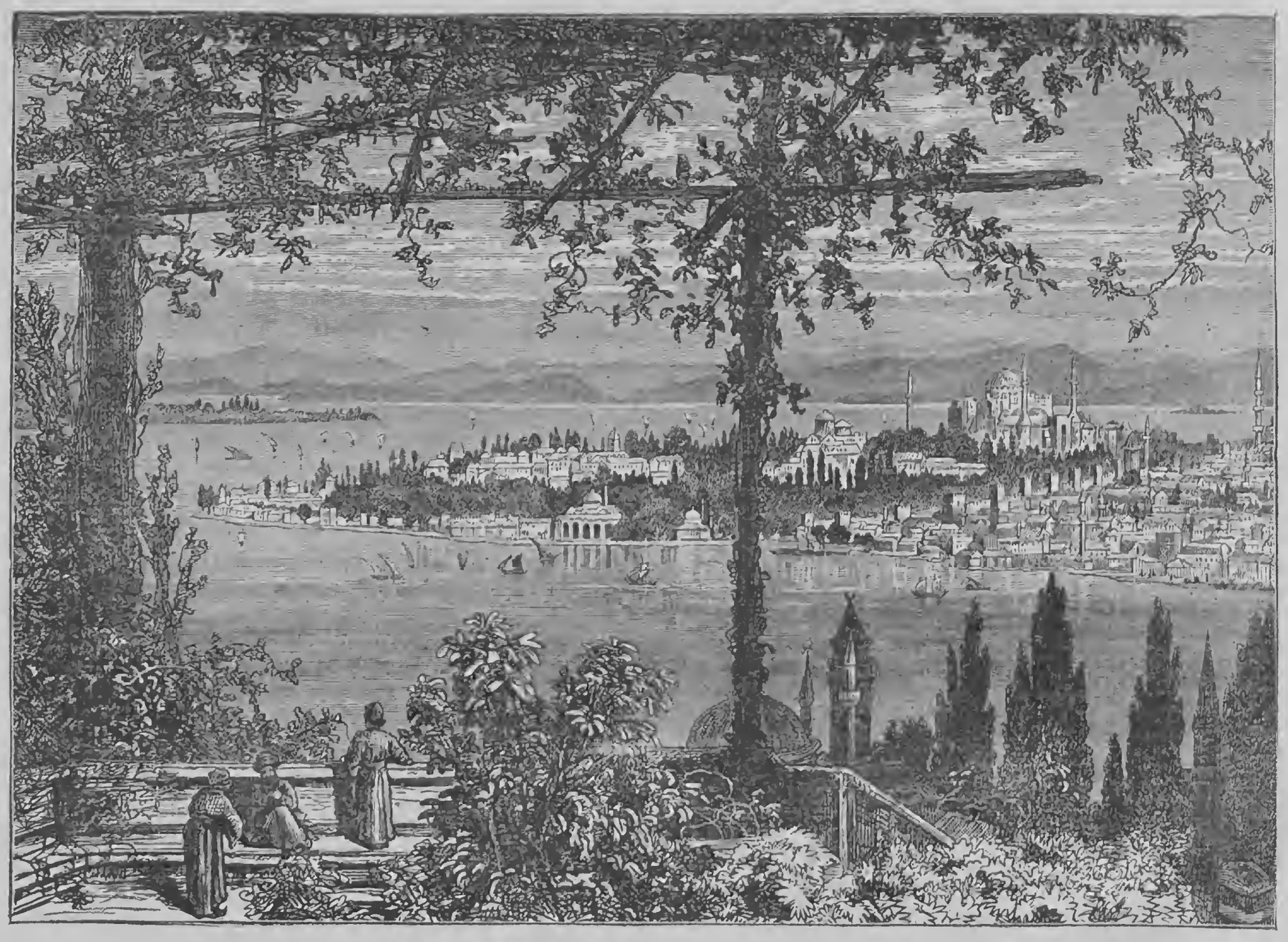
ALABAMA.

The early history of the country now comprized in the State of Alabama, was given in connection with Mississippi. A Territorial Government was made in 1817. Much trouble with Indians had retarded settlement; but a peace having been conquered, emigration from adjoining States became brisk, and in 1819 the State was admitted to the Union.

FLORIDA.

In 1690 Spain relinquished all country north of 33°; but Great Britain still encroached, and the borders were continual scenes of conflict and bloodshed. In 1702 war was declared between Spain and Great Britain, and during the next two years Gov. MOORE of Carolina, with an army of volunteers and Indians, overran Florida as far south as the settlements and extended west to the Appalachicola, but no definite change of bounds was made. Meantime, Carolina renounced Proprietary Government and was annexed to Great Britain as a Royal Province, extending from the Roanoke to the Savannah.

In 1732 this was divided into two Provinces, and about the same time Georgia was organized, extending from the Savannah River to the Altamaha, and was afterward extended to the St. Marys. In 1763 Spain ceded all Florida to Great Britain. In 1779, during the war between these two nations, Spain captured and took possession of Baton Rouge and in 1781 of Pensacola, and thenceforward made claim to the country west of Pensa



A VIEW OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

cola lying between the Gulf and 32° 30′ and, in consequence, objected to the southern boundary line of the United States being fixed by Great Britain in 1783 at 31°. West Florida was claimed by the United States after the cession of Louisiana, as a part of the original French possessions; all of Florida claimed by Great Britain was retroceded to Spain in 1783 and remained a Spanish possession until 1821.

That Florida and other territory lying on the Gulf of Mexico should be held by another power, was always an annoyance to the United States, and many troubles had grown out of it. From this arose the question of the navigation of the Lower Mississippi, which was settled, as we have seen, in 1803. During the war of 1812 with Great Britain, Florida furnished a convenient base of operations from which that power, with the connivance—or at least without the opposition—of Spain, sent parties to harrass the settlers and to incite the Indians to hostilities. British men-of-war appeared off Pensacola at intervals and landed arms and ammunition for the Creeks, many of whom were induced to enlist in the British army. Orders were sent to Gen. JACKSON, who had command of the army in the South, to seize Pensacola, but they were six months on their way. In the meantime, affairs became so serious that he determined to act on his own responsibility, and calling to his assistance such troops as were available, he crossed the Spanish frontier and entering Pensacola demanded that the British should leave the town and that neutrality should be preserved. The Spanish Governor protested his inability to compel the one or to assure the other. JACKSON immediately informed him that such being the case, he should take measures to insure a compliance with his demands. Upon this the British withdrew from the town and after blowing up a fort situated a few miles below, returned to their ships and put to sea.

Again, soon after the declaration of peace with Great Britain, troubles with Indians recommenced in consequence of their crossing from Florida into Georgia on pillaging expeditions. On one of the forays resistance was made and several Indians killed. This was followed by the Indians taking a steamboat on the Appalachicola River and putting to death all on board—men, women and children, about 40 in number.

At this time JACKSON was ordered by the War Department to invade the Indian Territory and "bring the war to a speedy and effectual close." As soon as possible he was on the ground and moving through the country seized the fort at St. Marks, on the ground that the officers of its garrison were aiding the Indians. Two Creek chiefs were decoyed on a United States vessel in the harbor and hung. When his forces appeared before Pensacola the Governor fled and the town surrendered. In one of the incursions into the Indian country two men, AMBISTER and ARBUTHNOT, traders, claiming to be British subjects, were captured, charged with aiding and abetting the Indians, tried by court-martial, convicted, sentenced and shot, an act condemned at the time and since as unwarranted, cruel and unjust.

The Spanish Government entered a protest as to the action of JACKSON in invading their territory; but as negotiations were already pending which were calculated to avoid all further trouble, by transferring Florida to the United States, no action was had on it. The necessity of the possession of Florida was apparent to Congress; but many disapproved of hasty action, averring that the country must, of necessity, soon be offered by Spain on almost any terms, as it was not only of no benefit to that Government but, contrariwise, a constant source of vexation and trouble.

Spain, however, pressed the matter, and at the same time made constant reference to the unlawful acts of the United States; for while Spain was well aware of worthlessness, to her, of Forida, she had a growing desire for the possession of Texas in which, although formerly claimed by France and at that time by the United States, she still felt an ownership by discovery and early settlement. A bargain was finally consummated and in 1821 Florida became the property of the United States, who agreed to pay thereof $5,000,000, the money to be used in satisfying the claims of United States citizens against Spain and to establish the south-west line of the United States from the Sabine to 32°, thence north to Red River and along it to 100° longitude, thence north to Arkansas River and along it to its head and to the 42° latitude, thence west to the Pacific.—To be continued.

The Story-Teller.

A WONDERFUL INVENTION.

BY SEVEN AND NINE.

B. CELLINI STUBBS is an inventor. He is also my friend. He has been "in the nine holes" of late but, thanks to a brilliant idea, is now in a fair way to realize in the immediate future immense wealth.

I feel the more gratified at this prospect from the fact that I hold divers trifling mementos,—echoes, as it were, of poorer days,—that are graced with STUBBS' really beautiful chirography and garnished with vows of numerals, while displaying a set phraseology in which the legend "promise to pay" occurs with painful regularity.

One blooming morning while I was discussing a frugal meal STUBBS burst into my humble apartments with hands outstretched and each separate hair doing a bit of enthusiastic waving on its individual hook.

"JONES, old boy, I have it!" he shouted; and at once fell to devouring what remained of my lonely chop. I thought, as I observed him, that there was no reason to doubt his assertion as touching my chop, and said as much.

"Oh, bless you!" he cried, as coherently as chops and coffee would permit, "it is not that I mean. It's my idea. I have it, I tell you. Fortune, glory, and all that, you know. JONES, (solemnly,) *there's* MILLIONS *in it!*" and without further ado, he carefully unfastened his coat, fumbled in his inner pocket and brought to view a tiny machine in outward appearance somewhat resembling a diminutive hand-organ. Holding it aloft, while a glow of conscious pride illumined his open countenance, he exclaimed in a tragic voice, "Behold!"

"Looks like the model of a clothes'-wringer, or a patent coffee-mill," said I. "What is it, STUBBS?"

"That, sir," responded my friend, solemnly, "I call the Harmonapoetleum, a wonderful piece of mechanism which is destined to win for me an earthly immortality."

"Harmona—what, old boy? Say it again and say it easy, will you?"

"The harmonapoetleum, sir," replied STUBBS, with dignity, "and I will thank you not to make it the subject of your unseemly jests."

"Well! what's the thing for, anyway?" said I; "is it a musical instrument? I suppose your word is good for all you assert, but I would just be pleased to learn how such an insignificant article can contain the equivalent of the sum you have so kindly mentioned. What is it, anyhow, a spice-mill?"

"Spice-mill! Thunder! It is a machine for producing poetry."

"Poetry——!"

"Now just arrest your quadrupeds please, or less elegantly, hold your horses, and I will explain at length. JONES, you are a lover of poetry and, no doubt, you have often done jeremiads over the decline of the noble art as exemplified in our hebdomadals. I have brooded over this subject long and earnestly and this is the result:—Here you have a bit of meerschaum—a mere toy, as it were—that is so ingeniously contrived that by turning this handle you set in motion a sort of divine afflatus—god-like wind, you know—that produces a really first-class article of lyric."

"Well, let's see it work," I exclaimed, now really interested.

"Certainly, of course; that's what I came for. Well now, you see this little screw? so—you turn it twice to the left, which acts on a piston that communicates with the parallax of the centrifugal eccentric motion, which at once sets the torsorial balance of the anti-friction main-spring—but never mind, that is mere detail that you can't be supposed to understand——"

I was just about coming to that conclusion myself, but I said nothing and STUBBS continued:

"You turn the screw, as I before mentioned, and behold, you have elegiac verse."

He suited the action to the word and, after a few revolutions of the crank, he opened a lid, drew forth a sheet of paper and read:

"MARY had a little lamb
Upon the Grampian hills
Come and join the praying band
For it's the pace that kills."

"Oh! come now, STUBBS!" I exclaimed, "that won't do. What do you suppose I am—a graduate of the Inebriate Asylum?"

"Hold on—just wait half a minute. That was a mistake. I turned the screw a half turn too many. Besides, JONES, the mechanism is new, and you can't expect it to be perfect on a half turn. Why, TENNYSON writes and rewrites his poetry a hundred times at least. But just observe—I pull out this delicate little stop and move the pointer on this small dial—remember it, don't you? Your old watch that I borrowed——"

"What! Have you ruined my dear mother's gift to construct this confounded monstrosity?"

"Softly, JONES. Science, my boy; all must give way to science. Now as I said, you——"

"Oh, bother! Start the old music-box——"

"See here, JONES; if you intend to——"

"All right, STUBBY; start her up. I unfurl my auricular appendages and am all attention."

"As I said then, you set this stop as I mentioned—this way—and you have the heroic verse—SCOTT and that sort of thing, you know. Now listen."

The crank was turned, the machine creaked slightly, and STUBBS produced the following:

"When Freedom from her mountain height
None but the brave deserve the fair
In thunder, lightning and in rain
But ah, the traitor was not there"—

"STUBBS, you are an unmitigated fraud. Here, let me have the machine; if there's any poetry in it I'll soon jerk it out."

"Go ahead," said the inventor; "go ahead, by all means, and if the machine don't make better poetry than that infernal drivel you are always writing, why, I'll eat it."

"Don't be personal, STUBBS; it isn't polite, you know. Now then, prepare to be astonished;" and I revolved the crank to slow meter.

STUBBS stood in breathless expectation, and for a few moments not a sound was heard but the faint creaking of the mechanism. Then there was a sharp snap as of breaking springs and the machine suddenly stopped.

We eagerly raised the lid and brought forth the following incomplete but beautiful and striking lyric:

THE JABBERWOK.

'Twas brillick, and the slithy tooes
Did gire and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsey were the borrogooes
And the mome-y raths outgrabe.
Beware the Jabberwok, my son,
The jaws that bite, the claws that eateh;
Beware the Jub-jub bird, and shun
The frumious Baldersnatch.

He took his vorpal blade in hand,
Long time the manxsome foe he sought;
Then rested he by the Tum-tum tree,
And stood awhile in thought.
And as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwok, with eyes of flame!
Came whiffling through the tulgy wood
And burbled as it came!

One, two, one, two! And through and through,
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack—
He left it dead, and with its head
He came galumphing back.
And hast thou slain the Jabberwok?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
Oh, frugious day! caloo! calay!
He chortled in his joy.

I looked upon the miscreant STUBBS for one brief moment, and if his cheek had not been of the brassiest, he must have withered into nothingness before my reproving gaze.

"STUBBS," said I, "you are an idiot. Take away this fiendish invention before I lose my senses, or I will not be answerable for the consequences. I feel as if I ought to smash it over your addled pate."

"Ah! It makes you envious, don't it?" said STUBBS, scornfully. "The sublime poem it has just produced is far beyond your feeble comprehension——"

"Yes," I shouted, "thank Heaven, it is! If I could appreciate that gibberish I would move to Bloomingdale at once."

"Ah, you are only jealous," said STUBBS, "never mind; although *you* may depreciate my invention, the world will recognize its transcendent merits." With this he snatched the machine and hastily departed.

I have not seen him since; but if you find yourself the recipient of innumerable poems (?) that read as if the author had first been struck by lightning and then chopped them out with a meat-ax, I think you may safely conjecture that they are the joint production of my friend STUBBS and his wonderful "Harmonapoetleum."

GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE American nation began its first century of existence with a population of 2,750,000. It has now, by the best estimates, 44,675,000. The area has been extended from 800,000 to 3,603,844 square miles. The development of agriculture under the pressure of immigration and the stimulus of mechanical invention, has been utterly without precedent. The value of manufactures has advanced from $20,000,000 to $4,200,000,000. Foreign and domestic commerce has taken gigantic strides. The development of mineral resources has not been the work of a century, but of fifty years. There were few banks in the Colonies in 1776; there are more than 6,000 now. Internal improvements and the common school system have kept pace with immigration.

While annexation has quadrupled our area since the Revolution, it has contributed very little to the population. The purchase of Louisiana, Florida, California and New Mexico brought in fewer than 150,000 inhabitants, and the acquisition of Texas and Oregon merely restored to citizenship those who had emigrated from the United States.

The aggregate area covered by population in 1790 was 239,935 square miles. The main line of settlements ran 1,000 miles along the coast from the mouth of the Penobscot to the Altahama, with an average extent inland of from 100 to 250 miles. A few pioneers had made their homes in the Ohio Valley; there were two or three patches of settlement in Kentucky; there was a village in Indiana and another in Michigan; and there were bands of adventurous spirits as far west as Illinois. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803, supplemented by the Oregon Treaty of 1846, added 1,171,931 square miles to the national domain; the Spanish cession in 1819 embraced 52,268 square miles; the annexation of Texas in 1845, the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, and the Gadsden purchase in 1853, brought in 967,451 square miles; and finally, Mr. Seward's Alaska investment involved the acquisition of 500,000 square miles. The total area is now 3,603,844 square miles, or 1,042,000,000 acres, one-half of which are public lands. In surface extent three nations surpass the United States—the British, Chinese and Russian Empires. The arable land under cultivation is less than one-tenth of the total area.

"PARADISE LOST."

M. EDMOND SCHERER, a French writer, gives the following criticism of Milton's "Paradise Lost" in a recent work:—"'Paradise Lost' is a false, grotesque, tiresome poem; not one reader in a hundred can go without smiling through the ninth and tenth books, or without yawning through the eleventh and twelfth; it does not hold together; it is a pyramid balancing on its point—the most frightful of problems resolved by the most puerile of means. And yet, 'Paradise Lost' is immortal. It lives in virtue of some episodes which will remain forever famous. In opposition to Dante, whom we must read altogether if we wish really to possess his beauties, we must read Milton only in fragments. But these fragments are part of the poetic patrimony of the English race."

WHAT ARE TAXES?

THE axle on which the wheels of the State coach turn.

Periodical bleeding, prescribed by Government.

Feathers plucked from all birds to line the nests of a few.

The Nation's little account for board and lodging.

Sabbath Reading.

HOW MUCH I OWE.

WHEN this passing world is done,
When has sunk your glaring sun,
When we stand with Christ in glory,
Looking o'er life's finished story,
Then, Lord, shall I fully know—
Not till then—how much I owe.

When I stand before the throne,
Dress'd in beauty not my own,
When I see thee as thou art,
Love thee with unsinning heart,
Then, Lord, shall I fully know—
Not till then—how much I owe.

When the praise of heaven I hear,
Loud as thunders to the ear,
Loud as many waters' noise,
Sweet as harp's melodious voice,
Then, Lord, shall I fully know—
Not till then—how much I owe.

E'en on earth, as through a glass
Darkly, let thy glory pass;
Make forgiveness feel so sweet,
Make thy Spirit's help so meet;
E'en on earth, Lord, make me know
Something of how much I owe.

Chosen not for good in me,
Wakened up from wrath to flee,
Hidden in the Saviour's side,
By the Spirit sanctified;
Teach me, Lord, on earth to show,
By my love, how much I owe.

A SKEPTIC TESTED.

SOME time since a clergyman living in a community where skepticism and infidelity had led many astray, gave a series of discourses on the evidences of Christianity. Of course more or less of his opposers were present, and on the last night of the series a prominent infidel came in. At the close of a very impressive meeting the speaker said, in a spirit of tenderness:

"There may be, and doubtless are, some here to-night who do not believe as I do, and who do not accept the truth of the Bible. If there are any such, or if there is one willing to come forward and test this question of such vital interest to every soul, I invite him to the platform."

On the instant the infidel referred to came forward and said:

"I do not believe your doctrines—I cannot accept them."

"But," said the clergyman, "you have denounced for years that which you have never tested. Are you willing that I, who have tried Christianity and feel its truths, shall be your teacher, and will you submit to my directions? You say that you are honest in your belief and in an honest spirit you will meet me."

"I do thus meet you and I will allow you to be my teacher."

"Then," said the godly man, "kneel by my side and repeat the simple words, "God be merciful to me, a sinner!"

"But," was the reply, "I do not believe in your teachings."

"Well, you say you are honest and are willing to test this question; if so, you will heed my directions."

The audience, in hushed expectation, heard the infidel, as he sullenly kneeled, utter the words desired, with sarcastic defiance.

"Again repeat those words," said his teacher in tones of utmost gentleness; and again, still defiant, yet more subdued, the infidel repeated, "God be merciful to me, a sinner!"

Once more came the request to repeat the sentence and before the audience, held by the power of the Holy Ghost, that petition went up in a tone of almost tenderness, certainly far different from the bravado with which it was first repeated.

A fourth time came the request, "Repeat it again;" and, with his strong frame quivering with emotion, the poor man poured out his soul's need in the prayer of the publican.

At the fifth repetition the man then and there before the large assembly, offered up from his inmost soul the prayer which, when thus offered, meets with a forgiving Father's pardon.

We give the simple facts as told to us, and only ask the question of all unbelievers:—"Why will you denounce a faith which you have never put to the test?"—*Watchman and Reflector.*

DEFINITION OF BIBLE TERMS.

A DAY'S journey was 33 1-5th miles. A Sabbath day's journey was about an English mile. A cubit is 22 inches, nearly. A hand's breadth is equal to 3⅓ inches. A finger's breadth is equal to one inch. A shekel of silver was about fifty cents. A shekel of gold was $8.09. A talent of silver was $538.32. A talent of gold was $13,809. A piece of silver, or a penny, was thirteen cents. A farthing was three cents. A mile was less than a quarter of a cent. A gera was one cent. An epha, or path, contains seven gallons and five pints. A bin was one gallon and two pints. A firkin was seven pints. An omer was six pints. A bath was three pints.

WE are ruined not by what we really want, but by what we think we do; therefore, never go abroad in search of your wants; if they be real wants they will come home in search of you, for he that buys what he does not want, will soon want what he cannot buy.—*Colton.*

THE blush is nature's alarm at the approach of sin and her testimony to the dignity of virtue.—*Fuller.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

YOU AND I.

BY RUNE BLUFF.

'Tis many a year since we parted, dear,
Our hearts were free from care;
And summer skies were in your eyes,
And sunshine in your hair.

We knew not then what Time would bring,
But, like the young, we dreamed
That life must be to you and me
As bright as then it seemed.

I went where Duty pointed me,
With others' work to do;
Your path grew wide, and close beside
Another walked with you.

Love led the way, and though your sky
At times has been o'ercast,
Yet well we know, 'neath Love's warm glow
That clouds can never last.

The frost upon our foreheads show
Our summer-time's gone by,
The winter-chill of life's down-hill
Is left, and then, to die.

We cover all the sweets of life—
The shine and not the shade;
But tears to weep and pains to keep
Upon us all are laid.

And what they call the sweetest part
That one in life can find,
I had to turn with Duty stern,
And leave, far, far behind.

But some must work and weep, that joy
May fall to other's share,
And God knows best, within each breast,
Which heart would break or bear.

MAPLE BUDS.

BY MAY MAPLE.

No. V.—Aunt Julia's Advice.

"And you're goin' to housekeeping next month?" said Aunt JULIA to her niece, Mrs. ANNA HARRISON. "Well, I'm glad to know that you are so sensible; most young married people have an idea that it is too much trouble and r'ally is almost a disgrace, if they're not able to board in a first-class hotel for a year or two.

"I s'pose they want time to air all their weddin' fixin's 'fore they settle down in good 'arnest to the business of housekeepin'. Well, as I said afore, I'm glad you belong to the sensible class. I s'pose you have l'arned how to git a good, substantial meat of victuals; so, if your servants should chance to leave you in the 'hiks,' as the sayin' is, your husband will not be obliged to go away from home to get a 'square meal.'

"Now, what I mean by a *good substantial meal*, is this:—Good light bread; home-made, of course; sweet, well-worked butter, well-cooked potatoes, (which, by the way, only half the folks know how to cook that pretend to), and ideely fried or broiled meat of whatever kind ye like. Them four articles are *r'ally* the staff of life. As for the French dishes, there are plenty of recipes to guide one.

"Now don't be 'fended, ANNA, if I give ye a leetle advice. You know I'm a good many years older than you, and have had 'siderable experience in the course of my life.

"In the first place, try always to keep your person tidy and your house in order. Don't leave everything to the care of servants: don't sweep your carpets unless necessary, for every time you use the broom you must take some'at from its beauty. Before your rooms are swept, cover those articles of furniture that are likely to retain the dust with a paper.

"If you want to keep your beds in good condition, put on the under sheet so it will completely cover the feather tick; if this is done *every* time the bed is made you will seldom, if ever, need to wash your beds. Mine have been in use nigh onto forty years and yet look bright and almost new. A great many folks throw their beds upon the grass and leave 'em there two or three weeks at a time, through storm and sunshine.

"Such work as that is pure shiftlessness. It shows slovenly habits and a lack of economy. The ticking rots; the feathers mold, and git so matted together that they are utterly ruined. I remember trying to sleep on such a bed when I was a gal. And what a night I spent between the bunchy uneven feathers and the terrible musty odor from them; it was utterly impossible to git a single wink of sleep the whole night through. The window consisted of four small panes of glass and was immovable. I tell you, I didn't form the highest 'pinion of that housekeeper.

"Be sure to make your comforts and counterpanes large enough to tuck about the bed nicely, and your guests will enjoy their rest much better on a cold winter's night. Don't be so anxious to get rich that you must neglect the orderly way of arranging your table at meal time. Be sure that each dish is properly seasoned.

"Your uncle says:—'Mrs. T — is a good cook; but the way things are thrown upon the table is perfectly disgustin', and enough to spoil the appetite of an epicure.'

"This is because she is al'ays in such a hurry. She walks, talks, works, eats and sleeps in a hurry. 'There's time for all things,' the wise man says. And we shall find it so, if we take hold of our work systematically.

"Have your spoons and cutlery cleaned immediately after using; for they will soon be blemished with dark stains and, perchance, rust if you don't. And then their beauty is forever marred. In your semi-annual house cleaning, don't tear up every room in the house and make a perfect Babel of your home. Be sure to have at least one room or place in comfortable order. Many a lady has lost the acquaintance of people who would have given her life-long pleasures, by being unable to give a passing stranger a comfortable resting place and a few refreshments, because she was cleaning house.

"One is often interrupted in such work, and how much mortification it saves to have a few things always in order. It's a pity houses cannot be always in order without this extra labor and confusion.

"Let your 'conomy of time be such that you can have at least half an hour for mental cultivation. Read something that will give you pleasant thoughts while your fingers are engaged in useful employments. If you do not read, spend the time in writing to some long-neglected friend; you may do a great deal of good in this way if you choose—possibly save some soul from falling into temptation and committing some fearful crime. Kindly-worded letters are welcomed as angelic visitors.

"If you are watchful over the affairs of your house, your loved ones will respect and love you. And you will continually rise in your sphere of usefulness. Having learned to be faithful over the multitudinous cares of this life, don't forget to keep the heart ever in order, that you may receive the commendation of the Father above."

FASHIONABLE WOMEN.

FASHION kills more women than toil and sorrow. Obedience to fashion is a greater transgression of the laws of woman's nature, a greater injury to her physical and mental constitution, than poverty and neglect. The slave-woman at her tasks will live and grow old, and see two or three generations of her mistresses fade and pass away. The washer-woman, with scarce a ray of hope to cheer her in her toils, will live to see her fashionable sisters die all around her. The kitchen-maid is hearty and strong, when her lady has to be nursed like a sick baby. It is a sad truth that fashion-pampered women are almost worthless for all the ends of human life. They have but little force of character; they have still less power of moral will, and quite as little physical energy. They live for no great purpose in life: they accomplish no worthy ends. They are only doll forms in the hands of milliners and servants, to be dressed and fed to order. They dress nobody, and save nobody. They write no books; they set no rich examples of virtue and womanly life. If they rear children, servants and nurses do all, save to conceive and give them birth—and when reared, what are they? What do they ever amount to but weak scions of the old stock? Who ever heard of a fashionable woman's child exhibiting any virtue or power of mind for which it became eminent? Read the biographies of our great and good men and women. Not one of them had a fashionable mother. They nearly all sprang from strong-minded women, who had about as little to do with fashion as with the changing clouds.

COMMON THINGS.

MANY admirable actions are overlooked by us, because they are so little and common. Take, for instance, the mother, who has had broken slumber, if any at all, with the nursing babe, whose wants must not be disregarded; she would fain sleep awhile when the breakfast hour comes, but patiently and uncomplainingly she takes her timely seat at the table, Though exhausted and weary, she serves all with a refreshing cup of coffee or tea before she sips it herself; and often the cup is handed back before she has time to taste her own. Do you hear her complain—this weary mother—that her breakfast is cold before she had time to eat it? And this not for one, but for every morning, perhaps, through the year. Do you call this a small thing? Try it and see. Oh! how woman does shame us by her forbearance and fortitude in what are called little things! Ah! it is these little things that are tests of character; it is by these "little" self-denials, borne with such self-forgotten gentleness, the humblest home is made beautiful, though we fail to see it, alas! until the chair is vacant, and the hand that kept in motion all this domestic machinery is powerless and cold.—*Valley Farmer.*

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Good the more communicated, more abundant grows.—*Milton.*

MANY people are like eggs—too full of themselves to hold anything else.

SOCIETY we must have; but let it be society, and not exchanging views, or eating from the same dish.—*Emerson.*

THIS is a Gaelic proverb:—"If the best man's faults were written upon his forehead, it would make him pull his hat over his eyes."

IT has been seen too often, both in philosophy and elsewhere, that when people have fancied that the world was becoming Christian, Christianity was, in fact, becoming worldly.—*J. C. Hare.*

IT were better to have no opinion of God at all than such an opinion as is unworthy of him; for the one is unbelief, the other is contumely, and certainly superstition is the reproach of Deity.—*Lord Bacon.*

FAITH builds in the dungeon and the lazar-house its sublimest shrines; and up through the roofs of stone, that shut out the eye of heaven, ascends the ladder where the angels glide to and fro—prayer.—*Bulwer Lytton.*

Reading for the Young.

LITTLE MISCHIEF.

BY MRS. E. P. MILLER.

LITTLE Master Mischief
Lives in NELLIE'S eye,
Sitting in the corner,
Peeping out so sly;
Now he's crossed the snow-ground
And in chamber blue,
Thinking he is hidden,
Peek-a-boos at you.
Now he drops the curtain,
Sure that he is hid,
But you see him dancing
Even on the lid.
Now, the curtain lifting,
You can see he's crept
To the inner chamber,
Where the love-light slept.
Watching now his moment
He pops out, and see
Mamma's spools and thimble
Quickly disagree.
Shall we punish Mischief?
Better teach the child
How to hold and lead him,
Running now so wild.

Would she like her playthings
Scattered here and there,
When she had arranged them?
Would she think it fair?
Would she like her puzzle
Portions of it, lost?
Would she like her dishes
Everywhere up-tossed?
Would she like her apron
With a missing string,
Mama hunting, meanwhile,
Thread and everything?

NELLIE, learn the lesson:
Be to others true,—
Always do as you would
Have them do to you.
This the dear LORD'S precept,—
This the Golden Rule,—
This the hightest lesson
In our NELLIE'S school.

UNCLE TRUE AGAIN.

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:—When I asked you to send me a sketch of the life of Joan of Arc, I rather flattered myself I had given a "real hard one," and the old fellow chuckled to himself. Judge of my surprise and delight when I received nearly fifty responses. To read and discriminate has been a labor of love,—and perplexity. I have selected the best, longest and shortest accounts which are given below *verbatim*. I consider that both are excellent and reflect credit on the writers. Strange to say all the contributions are from my young nieces, not one nephew having had the temerity or talent to compete. Boys, this is all wrong! Now, while the articles are good, they are not perfect by any means and I print them *precisely* as they were written that our whole family may have an opportunity to criticize them, point out errors of every kind and give their candid judgment of the productions. This must be done in a kindly spirit—we cannot afford acrimony in our united family—and to the end that writers and critics may be improved by the interchange of opinion. The successful young ladies will each receive by this mail an engraving of Sir John Gilbert's beautiful water color painting of Joan of Arc, as a slight reward for their efforts.

Now, sharpen your pencils and away with you.

UNCLE TRUE.

JOANNE OF ARC.

BY BESSIE M. MCLEAN.

IN the village of Donnemy La Pucelle, on the frontiers of Lorraine lived a country man whose name was Jacques d'Arc. He had a daughter named Joanne of Arc who was at this time in her twentieth year. Joanne was a very solitary girl and had often tended her sheep for days in the wild hills which surrounded her home, where no human being was seen or heard. And often while the remainder of her young companions were singing and dancing merrily under the trees, Joanne would steal quietly off by herself to the little village chapel of our Lady of Bellemont, where she would stay for hours twining beautiful wreaths to decorate the images of the various saints which stood in the chapel, or gazing dreamily at the altar with the dim, flickering light burning before it, until to her excited fancy she seemed to see shadowy figures floating before her and even speaking to her. The inhabitants of that part of France were at that time very ignorant and superstatious, so they were easily persuaded that Joanne saw and heard visions and voices; and they looked upon her with a sort of reverential awe, as one with whom angels and holy spirits had communion. One day Joanne came home from the chapel and told her father that a vision of the Lady of Bellemont had appeared to her and commanded her to go and raise the siege of Orleans. Her father tried in vain to dissuade her, but Joanne told him that she must go as heaven directed to help the Dauphin and remain with him until he was crowned at Rheims.

In February, 1422, she presented herself to the governor of Vancouleur, Robert de Bandricourt. When his servants told him that a peasant girl named Joanne of Arc wished to see him, because she had been commanded by heaven to help the Dauphin and save France, Bandricourt thought she was insane and ordered his servants to send her away. Joanne however remained in the city and soon Bandricourt heard such accounts of her piety and wonderful visions that he sent for her and questioned her. The result of this interview was that Bandricourt equipped her properly and sent her to Chinon, in Lorraine, where the Dauphin was. When Joanne arrived in Chinon she was, after a short delay, admitted into the Dauphin's presence; pointing him out from among all his court, she told him that she had come commanded by heaven to subdue his enemies and conduct him to his coronation at Rheims, and finally she told him that there was an old sword with five crosses on its handle, buried under the altar of the cathedral of St. Catharine at Fierbois. Nothing had ever been known about this before, but when the altar was examined, the old sword was found as Joanne had said. This was regarded as a sure proof of her inspiration. Accordingly Joanne rode to Orleans on a white war horse and clad as never peasant girl was clad before, in a suit of glittering armour with the old sword in her belt and a white banner carried before her on which was a picture of the Virgin Mary with Christ in her arms and the words, "Jesus Maria;" in this splendid state, escorted by a large body of troops she appeared before the starving inhabitants of Orleans. When the people beheld her they exclaimed with cries of heartfelt joy, "The Maid is come; the Maid of the prophecy is come to deliver us!" These cries and the sight of the Maid fighting at their head inspirited the French and intimidated the English so that their line of forts were soon broken and Orleans was saved. Joanne, henceforth called the "Maid of Orleans," remained within the walls a few days and then caused letters to be sent to Lord Suffolk, ordering him to depart with his troops from before the city walls according to the will of heaven. Finding her commands not obeyed, the "Maid of Orleans" advanced against him. The besiegers held the bridge and here the Maid of Orleans attacked them.

The battle was twelve hours long. During the fight the Maid of Orleans while planting a scaling ladder, was struck by an arrow in the neck and fell in the trench; noticing that her soldiers seeing her fall had become disheartened, Joanne sprang up and pulling the arrow with her own hand from her neck rallied them on to victory. The English lost the bridge and were driven from the place. Lord Suffolk took refuge in the town of Jargeau where the Maid of Orleans besieged and took him prisoner. After this new success of Joanne's several places which had before held out against the Dauphin were now delivered up without a battle, and at Patay Joanne of Arc defeated the rest of the English army and the Lilies of France and the Maid of Orleans banner waved victorious over a field where twelve thousand Englishmen lay dead. Joanne now urged the Dauphin to proceed to Rheims and be crowned so that she might be enabled to perform the last part of her mission. Soon they set forth with an army of ten thousand men and again the Maid of Orleans rode at the head of an army in her shining armour.

After some time they arrived at Rheims and in the great cathedral at Rheims the Dauphin was crowned Charles the Seventh. After the coronation Joanne kneeled before the King and said with tears that all the recompense she desired, was to be allowed to return to the beloved home of her youth. But the King said "No," and made her and her family noble and settled upon her the income of a Count. Ah, titles could little repay the Maid of Orleans for the loss of the quiet home in her own loved village; gladly would she have exchanged her wealth to have been allowed to go back to the wild hills and little chapel and be again the beautiful peasant girl, Joanne of Arc. It was not to be, and she still continued helping the King. Many times however, she besought the King to allow her to go back to her home, but Charles, with base ingratitude, always refused. Soon the King marched on to Paris, which was opposed to him, and attacked the suburb of St. Honore. In this fight Joanne being struck down into a ditch, was abandoned by the whole army. She lay wounded and forsaken in a heap of slain whence she crawled as best she could. Soon after this Joanne broke the old sword and many said that her power was broken and destroyed with it. At last, at the siege of Compiegne, held by the Duke of Burgundy, she was basely left alone in a retreat and fell into the hands of the English. Unhappy Maid of Orleans, deserted by her friends, reviled and persecuted by all! Ungrateful Charles Orleans saved himself, was crowned, and with what a *Kingly* recompense he repays her! Scorn and utter indifference.

After being tried for witchcraft the Bishop de Beauvais bought her for ten thousand francs and shut her up in a narrow prison. Poor Joanne of Arc, no longer now the renowned Maid of Orleans, and yet more talked of and disputed about than even when she was the Maid of Orleans. Sixteen times was the unhappy Joanne brought out and argued with until she was heart sick of her dreary life. The last time she was taken to a burial ground in Rouen horribly decorated with a scaffold, stake and faggots. To save her life she signed a paper with a cross that all of her visions had come from the devil; upon this she was condemned to imprisonment for life, "On the bread of sorrow and the water of affliction." They soon found an opportunity to take her out of prison and try her for sorcery. She was found guilty and condemned to be burnt to death and in the market place of Rouen, the deliverer of the French, Joanne of Arc, was burnt to death. Her last word was "Jesus." A bishop standing near burst into tears and exclaimed "truly she was a Christian." Her ashes were thrown into the river Seine, where the waves weep their sad requiem over her to this day. Wicked deeds seldom prosper and the English cause gained no advantage from the death of the Maid of Orleans. The war wore heavily on; the

Duke of Bedford died and Lord Talbot became a great general. But the fearful followers of war are famine and pestilence. Both these horrors broke out in both France and England, lasting two years. The war went on again, and within twenty years after the Maid of Orleans' death, the town of Calais was the only French possession of the English.

ANOTHER VERSION.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—I write to tell you what I know about JOANNE of Arc. She was a French peasant girl and her real name was JOANNE LA PU CELLE. While tending her flocks, she became inspired with the thought that she was to be the deliverer of France, as there was a tradition that her country could only be saved from the hands of its enemies by a virgin. She deemed herself the chosen one and claimed to have received a message from heaven to that effect. She succeeded in persuading her friends and some others, among them the king himself, that she was the virgin who was to lead the armies of France. At first, King CHARLES doubted her and challenged her to single combat with himself, as a proof that she was what she pretended to be. He yielded her the victory and permitted her to lead the armies of France. The English forces at that time were besieging the City of Orleans. Through her leadership, the French compelled the English to raise the siege and JOANNE was considered a heroine, the savior of France. She next urged the king to march to Rheims, in order to assume the crown of his ancestors. He consented and was crowned in the great cathedral. JOANNE then declared her mission ended, but her services being still needed, she stayed in the army and a short time after fell into the hands of the English, by whom she was burned by order of the Earl of WARWICK, on May 24th, One thousand four hundred thirty-one.

Spring Hill, Kansas. LYDIA MOORE.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

Praise.

DEAR RURAL:—Seeing that the Boys' and Girls' Column in the last paper was so interesting, and as you were so kind to publish my other letter, I am tempted to write again. I have been to the Centennial. I wonder if I saw any of the RURAL Cousins there? I would have been glad to have recognized them. I am spending the summer with my grandparents among the Catskill Mountains. When at home I have a piano to play on, and while here a melodeon, which makes it very pleasant for me, as I am very fond of music. I don't agree with YOUNG ARTIST about piecing quilts, for I am piecing one myself and see the use of it. But I do agree with CRITIC about tobacco, and I think if the young men and boys who smoke cigars or use tobacco in any form knew what some of us girls thought of them, they would stop it forthwith. At least, I hope they would. I think YOUNG EDITOR'S letter is splendid, as he says, "Let us have a lively campaign this summer."—ELLA, *Greene Co., N. Y.*

He Notices an Improvement.

DEAR RURAL GIRLS AND BOYS:—I have been very much interested in reading your letters. I am very fond of flowers, but we do not cultivate them to any great extent. I think that the Editor is very kind to devote so much time and attention to us children. Some grown-up people seem to forget that they were once young. I think that the letters in the RURAL are getting better and better.—NORMAN K., *Livingston Co., N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 42 letters:

My 40, 8, 2, 18, 35, 3, 10 a place where Jesus preached.
My 14, 9, 26, 14, 12, 6, 11, 4 were wise men.
My 20, 13, 16, 41, 7 a king.
My 29, 17, 23, 26, 42, 18, 22, 5 a king's wife.
My 21, 36, 18, 14, 33, 34, 36, 21, 24 a man's name.
My 14, 20, 30, 1, 38 a servant of the church at Cenchrea.
My 39, 27, 8, 32, 28, 15, 37 a chamberlain of a city.
My 4, 31, 3, 19, 39 a proper name.
My whole is a verse in St. Matthew.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

My first is in bugle but not in horn,
My second is in grief but not in scorn;
My third is in bounce but not in throw,
My fourth is in eagle but not in crow;
My fifth is in seek but not in look,
My whole is the name of a good book.

ROMPING MINNIE.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Sept. 2.

HISTORICAL ENIGMA.—"Religion on earth is joy in heaven.

HIDDEN FRUIT.—1, Currant; 2, Grape; 3, Fig; 4, Apple; 5, Cherry; 6, Plum; 7, Tomato; 8, Apricot; 9, Banana; 10, Berry; 11, Pear; 12, Raisin.

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—New York and St. Louis.

TRANSPOSED AVIARY.—1, Goldfinch; 2, Hummingbird; 3, Kingfisher; 4, Nightingale; 5, Starling; 6, Pigeon; 7, Falcon; 8, Swallow; 9, Pheasant; 10, Partridge.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

THE following is a graduated scale of prices for small clubs according to the reduced rates of subscription for the RURAL NEW-YORKER. This is done for the benefit of the small clubs in thinly-populated districts. Let each subscriber add two or three names to his own and remit for all at one time.

No.	Single Price.	Small Clubs.	No.	Single Price.	Small Clubs.
1	$2.50	$2 50	6	$15 00	$13 20
2	5 00	4 90	7	17 50	16 05
3	7 50	7 20	8	20 00	16 80
4	10 00	9 20	9	22 50	18 45
5	12 50	11 25	10	25 00	20 00

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

HARVARD COLLEGE has received an anonymous gift of $12,375.69 for the use of the college.

Texas raises 800,000 bales of cotton this year.

It is stated that the Indians, who a year ago were sentenced to confinement in Florida for murders committed on the Plains, have since been intrusted with guard and sentry duty at the fort where they are kept, and have proved themselves most trustworthy and susceptible of drill and discipline.

The report of the Director of the Central Park Menagerie, in this city, has just been published. The total number of specimens exhibited during 1875, 1,060. During 1874 there were added to the specimens 222 mammals, 191 birds, and 79 reptiles; and during 1875, 254 mammals, 273 birds, and 27 reptiles. The number of animals living in the menagerie has steadily increased during the past three years, there being 455 mammals, birds, and reptiles in 1873, 550 in 1874, and 626 in 1875.

The session of the Forest Convention was opened by electing Hon. Alexander Wildin, Chairman, and George May Powell, Secretary. The subject of the relations of forests to commerce was discussed. At the second session resolutions were adopted relative to promoting forest literature and establishing a school of forestry, recommending action on forests by the Government, Chambers of Commerce and scientific societies, and that agricultural colleges establish forest professorships, and agricultural societies secure forest addresses at their annual meetings.

The various knitting mills in Troy have pretty much arranged their troubles with strikers, and will probably run without intermission during the fall and winter.

Texas has planted the true Egyptian rice, finds that it flourishes on prairie upland and yields ten times as much as any other variety; that the heads are larger and the grains heavier, darker and more easily obtained than the varieties now cultivated. The crop of American rice is steadily growing and will before long equal our own consumption.

The largest lantern ever made will soon be erected at Galley-head, on the coast of Cork. It will consume 1,600 feet of gas per hour, and the flashing light will be visible through the fogs. The power of the light will be equal to 2,000,000 candles.

New Haven on Friday shipped 15,000,000 cartridges to the Turkish government.

The Globe Hotel, one of the failures of the Philadelphia show, is to be removed to Cape May.

There are 300 journals of the German language published in this country.

A third form wire telegraph cable has been laid across the Straight of Canso, New Brunswick.

The latest information in regard to the pursuit of the Northfield, Minn., robbers is that their route was through the woods at Lake Elysium, Ind., and across the bridge toward Waterville. Squads of men were sent in various directions to head them off. A special train left St. Paul the evening of the 16th on the St. Paul and Sioux City road, carrying the Chief of Police and twenty-five or thirty picked men. A hundred men are surrounding the country in which the robbers are, and it does not seem possible for them to escape. Detective Hazen, in the employ of the American Express Company, who was sent here from Cincinnati, identifies the two dead robbers by photographs as Charley Pitts and Bill Chadwell. He says the light-haired man, wounded at Northfield, is undoubtedly Frank James. There is no doubt of this being the famous gang who operated in Missouri, and if any of the living members of it are lucky enough to escape they will doubtless give Minnesota a wide berth.

One span of the railroad bridge, 180 feet long, over the Tennessee River at Loudon, was blown down on 11th inst.

An insane woman tried twice to drown herself in Worthington, Md., and a dog in each instance drew her out of the water.

The Delaware River is lower than it has been for several years, and in some places is nearly fordable.

Boston and its suburbs received from Mystic Lake during the last year a daily average of 32,000,000 gallons of water, which is 5,000,000 gallons more than the daily supply of London, Eng.

Several prisoners in jail at Richmond, Ga., have published a card requesting their friends not to attempt a rescue.

A San Francisco man died of heart disease at the wedding of his daughter.

A crazy man was tied fast in a wagon for transportation to Blountville, Ky. He yelled so loudly that the frightened horses ran away, throwing out the two keepers and breaking an arm of each. Then the lunatic seized the reins, controlled the horses, drove alone to the asylum, and delivered himself up.

President Grant has issued his proclamation declaring that the Convention between the United States and the Hawaiian Islands having been duly ratified and proclaimed by both Governments, and the necessary legislation by Congress having been passed to carry the same into effect, and the ratification of the Convention having been exchanged as provided in Article VI., the Convention will take effect on the date thereof, Jan. 30, 1877.

In the town of Wellington, Conn., two young girls—Rosie Green, aged fourteen years, and her companion, Miss Shurtleff, aged seventeen years—took strychnine with suicidal intent. Miss Green died in four hours' and, just before her death, stated as her motive that no one cared for her; that her dead mother was calling her, and she was tired of life. Miss Shurtleff is alive, but still in danger. Two young men were present when the fatal dose was taken, and were urged to partake of it, but refused, although they thought the whole thing a joke.

The Newark, N. J., dog-pound, which opened on June 9th, at Commercial wharf, was closed on the 9th inst. The highest number received on any one day was 122, the opening day, and the lowest was 7. The total number received during the three months was 2,193, of which only 113 were redeemed. Of the redeemed several were taken out as many as three times. Of the whole number only one showed symptoms of hydrophobia. Over 2,000 were killed.

While the little daughter of Commanding Sergeant Riley, of the Sixth Sub-Precinct Police, Brooklyn, was playing with an ivory-handled fan, Saturday afternoon last, she swallowed a small piece of the handle and died from strangulation at 8 o'clock Saturday evening.

The first man who ascended the great South Dome in the Yosemite Valley, John Anderson by name, lives in a small house near the saddle of the dome. He is hard at work constructing a staircase of a thousand steps up the dome, and hopes in course of time to have an elevator running. He is also working on a model of a steam car to carry passengers up the almost perpendicular walls.

The appropriation for the preservation and repair of vessels of the navy having been reduced last session to $170,000, few ships heretofore laid up can be repaired this year as a consequence. A considerable portion of the amount must be expended in the care of vessels, purchase of stores, preservation of materials, etc. At present it is the intention of the department to repair the Benicia, Iroquois and Tuscarora at the Mare Island Navy Yard for service in the Pacific. The Wyoming will be fitted out at Washington for a schoolship at Annapolis, and, with the Ticonderoga or Wachusett, will be repaired at Boston for service on some of our foreign stations.

The camp meetings throughout New York State are much neglected this year by their regular visitors. Perhaps the Centennial has something to do with it.

In Cumberland Co., Pa., Charles Windowmaker was sentenced to the Eastern Penitentiary for twenty years, and William and Joseph Windowmaker, all brethren, to fifteen years. About two months ago the party entered the residence of William Abrams and wife, an aged couple, reputed to be worth nearly $100,000. The Windowmakers supposed there was a large amount in the house, but being unable to find any money they tortured Abrams and wife by severely burning their feet and other portions of their bodies to compel them to state where the money was secreted. Rather than be killed Abrams told them the location of about $70, all the money in the house, which they secured and soon after left.

Another brother, who served eight years in the South Carolina prison for manslaughter and two terms of four years each in Pennsylvania for highway robbery and horse stealing, is under arrest for stealing three horses.

A Chattanooga farmer's house was robbed. Next morning a stranger called and said that he was one of the robbers and he showed a locket. The farmer said that he valued the locket because it had been worn by a dear child. "Here it is," said the robber, visibly affected. "Let me make restitution. Here are $20 for your little son." He handed the farmer a counterfeit $50 bill and received $30 change.

Wild animals are getting thick in New England. A bear seven feet long was shot near the Twin Mountain House the other day, and a big panther is scaring the people of Springfield, Vt.

A young seal was shot at Middlebury, Vt., the other day, which the people believe escaped from Barnum's show.

The Oldtown Indians, near Bangor, Me., have a law requiring everybody in the town to be at their own home by 9 o'clock in the evening. One Indian was recently caught out at 10 o'clock at night and sent to jail for thirty days.

There is a cavern near Decorah, Iowa, named the Ice Cave. It is 200 feet deep. In summer the water which drips from the rocks freezes as it falls, while, what is most strange, in winter no ice forms in the cave, even that of summer disappearing.

A factory for the manufacture of sugar and sirup from watermelons has been established on Andros Island, California.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The *Standard's* Vienna special says the Grand Vizier will soon acquaint the foreign Ambassadors of the Turkish conditions of peace, the first point of which will be the new investiture of Prince Milan as the vassal of the Porte.

Reuter's dispatches from Belgrade state that the Ministers of War and the Interior are visiting the Army of the Drina, observing operations. If the war continues, immediate and important changes are expected.

A dispatch from Cairo to Reuter's Telegram Company says it is believed that the treaty of peace between Egypt and Abyssinia is signed.

A mass meeting at Dublin, Sept. 10, to protest against Bulgarian atrocities, became a demonstration against the English atrocities in 1798. One of the parading bands carried the American flag.

A report of the capture of Bill Tweed in Spain, is confirmed by London telegrams of the 10th inst. In response to a request for a repetition, Reuter's agent at Madrid reports verbatim the news of the arrest of Tweed, adding that the prisoners are closely guarded at Vigo by the military authorities. The First Secretary of the American Legation has requested the extradition of Tweed, and he is consequently to be handed over to the American authorities.

Reuter's telegram from Madrid states that the Minister of the Interior having recently ordered the removal of the placards, notices, etc., from the exterior of the Protestant schools and places of worship, the Protestant ministers have complained to the British legation, and intend to follow up the matter.

A Rome correspondent of the *Independence Belge* says that Cardinal Antonelli is growing infirm and peevish. He is much bent, and there is little left of his remarkable appearance but the fiery, large, black eyes. His cheeks have grown sallow and lank, and his face wears an expression of gloom and fretfulness which indicates his keen sorrow at the loss of political power.

A frightful tragedy has taken place at Finistere, in France. A man, seized with a sudden fit of madness, set fire to his house, after having barred the doors upon his wife and four children. The whole family perished, and when the remains were discovered they were reduced to cinders.

In a spiritual way the Pope has again called the attention of the Italian authorities to the existence of infamous resorts in the neighborhood of churches in Rome. The Pope's secretary acted in the matter through the Prefect of the Propoganda. That official received prompt notice from the Government authorities that the alleged evil would be immediately investigated. The result was the arrest of a large number of gamblers and harlots who held daily and nightly carousals in two houses situated near the Church of San Carlo Borromeo.

A curious discovery has been made in the convent of Santa Maria in Nuova at Rome, which formerly belonged to the Franciscan monks. It consists of three underground cells, accessible only through a hidden trap door, and where monks guilty of grave offences were, probably, put. In the first there is a little light, through an opening in the wall; the second is narrower and darker; the third is without a ray of light, and is a dismal hole. Sinister and mostly obliterated inscriptions cover the walls, and numerous instruments of torture, as well as human bones, were found.

Mme. Janin has left, in accordance with her husband's wishes, his extensive library to the French Academy. Cousin bequeathed his to the Sorbonne. In Janin's case, the books are, perhaps, not so much rare as splendidly bound; every author presented him with a copy of his work printed on superfine paper, and any old but valuable book Janin picked up on the stalls he at once dressed in a gorgeous cover. Good books were treasures, and merited equality in binding. Leon Say, the Minister of Finance, has not more than 200 volumes in his library; these are so richly bound as to represent 1,000 francs each. The late Ambroise Didot has left the most valuable classical library in any country owned by a private individual, and Sardou, the dramatist, follows next.

The most extraordinary balloon adventure on record has just happened to the aeronauts of the Alexandra Palace Company, London. Having attained a light of 8,000 feet, they three times crossed the Thames, and descended in a large meadow near Eltham, Kent. They were just letting off the gas when a large bull charged them, bellowing furiously. They threw the two last bags of sand out of the car, and barely escaped through the rising of the balloon. The bull scattered the contents of the sand bags over the ground, and his horns, becoming entangled with the grapnel rope, set the grapnel free, throwing one aeronaut out of the car through the jerk. Fortunately he succeeded in clutching the netting, and, with his companion's assistance, was hauled into the car before it had ascended many hundred feet. They then sailed away for a mile, and descended in another meadow.

A Canadian sportsman declares that the speckled trout in Ontario have been killed by warm water. The woods have been cut down and the sun shining upon the water from morning till night heats the streams. He asks the farmers to plant willow limbs along the water's edge to shade the brooks and give the trout a chance—to be caught by anglers.

A Moscow journal thinks Russia is better prepared for war than she was in 1853, giving as a reason that reform in government and society has awakened a feeling of citizenship among all her people, both high and low.

From the champagne country comes the wel-

come intelligence that, owing to uninterrupted hot and fine weather, and notwithstanding parasitical ravages in some vineyards, a first-rate harvest of the grape yielding the favorite sparkling wine is assured.

Work on the tunnel across the British Channel is to begin on the 1st of July, 1877. The tunneling machinery to be used can bore a drift nine feet in diameter across the Channel in two years at a cost of $4,000,000. Four years more and an additional outlay of $20,000,000 will complete the tunnel.

Mme. Dobrovolska, who shot at Prince Gortchakoff at Berne, is said to be a mad woman well known to the Russian embassy of Paris. The following particulars of the attack on the Prince are given in an English paper:—"On the 9th, at 6 in the evening, he was returning to his house, when a lady very elegantly dressed, fired at him with a revolver loaded with small shot. The Prince, who was not struck, turned toward her and himself disarmed her. He asked her what motive she had for such an attempt, and she stated that she was named Dobrovolska, and had causes of complaint against his Government. The Prince handed her over to the police and a judicial investigation has been commenced."

The Turkish Minister at Washington has received from his Government a long report on the Bulgarian outrages. It professes to give a true account of the Bulgarian rebellion and of the conduct of the troops who suppressed it. "It is not," it says, "to be denied, however, and unfortunately we must acknowledge it, that villages such as Otlouk-Keny, which were forcibly occupied, have been sacked by the peasant volunteers from the neighborhood."

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[Owing to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents," so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for Advertisers," or "Answers to Correspondents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers (and we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements) and such other matter as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want and the want is indicative of its need.]

R. H. A., Bergen Co., N. J., wants Rouen Ducks and Game Bantams.

G. B. R., Niagara Co., N. Y., wants full-bred American Merino Sheep.

J. R. Y., Lehigh Co., Pa., wants Seckel and dwarf pear trees. We refer him to the nursery advertisements in this issue.

F. Y. G., Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., wants a portable saw-mill.

M. Y. H., Essex Co., Mass., wants a good farm of about 200 acres in Ohio.

S. Y., Delaware Co., N. Y., wants a good reliable food steamer.

X., Ashtabula Co., Ohio, wants a cheap hand corn-sheller.

F. B., Queens Co., N. Y., wants Conover's asparagus. Try the seedsmen advertising in this paper.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Sept. 9, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	80,300	Molasses	—
Whisky	3,051	Rice, bbls	237
Corn meal, bbls	4,018	Cut meats, pkgs	9,185
Corn meal, bags	610	Lard, pkgs	3,490
Wheat, bush	154,000	Tobacco, hhds	3,193
Corn, bush	1,150,035	do. pkgs	5,501
Oats, bush	96,700	Butter, pkgs	32,000
Rye, bush	45,850	Cheese, bxs	21,200
Malt, bush	50,800	Cotton, bales	5,660
Barley, bush	1,150	Rosin	12,936
Beans, bbls	5,400	Spts. turp., bbls	1,466
Grass seed, bush	7,841	Dried Fruits, pkgs	1,340
Beef, pkgs	1,000	Eggs, bbls	6,390
Wool, bales	2,125	Peanuts, bags	135
Hops, bales	653	Leather, sides	55,497
Pork, bbls	700	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,200	Oil cake	1,762

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEESWAX.—There is a very slow business; Western quoted at 30½@31c., and Southern at 31@31½c. Since Jan. 1st., 55,352; same time last year, 57,651.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 652 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 43,529 do.; same time last year, 20,992 do. Exports of peas past week, 663 bu.; since Jan. 1st, 474,756 do.; same time last year, 235,792. The recent turn of prices for mediums, restricted buying, and with the light jobbing demand now current the market has lost its firmness, but is steady for what trade is doing. Marrows are higher with holders. Late Havana advices will not warrant exportation at present quotations. New mediums have sold to arrive at $1.30; new marrows are not marketable; shippers prefer to wait until they dry off a week or two. This fact gives prime old some additional firmness. Kidneys of all grades are scarce. Other beans quiet.

Canadian peas continue quiet, it is likely important buyers will await new crops. Southern B. E. Peas expected next week, no named price as yet. Green peas quiet, the stock of old has been pretty well sorted over, and new are waited for.

Beans—Prime pea, $1.40@1.45; fair to good, $1.20@$1.30; prime mediums, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, $1@1.10; prime marrows, $1.85@1.90; fair to good, $1.65@1.70; prime white kin., $1.70@1.75; other, 1.25@1.50; prime red kidney, $1.50@1.55; other, $1.25@1.45; Lima (Cal.) $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.75@4.00. Canadian peas, bulk and bond, 95@97c.; free bbls, $1.14. Green peas, $1.15; split do. $6.

BUTTER.—The market has advanced for both State and Western, table grades and under qualities are quoted full, supported by the prolonged export demand. We could use more fine State than is arriving, but it would seem as if dairymen put too much stress upon the high rule of late, and keep stock out of distributors reach. So far as future prices are concerned State folks should take a hint from their Western competitors and give a fair release of stock. The latter are making the most of the export outlet and as the dependence of local buyers is so exclusively upon State, holders turn stock while paying prices rule. The prospectively diminished fall crops of course prevents dairymen from hurry to part with stock; still when famine prices have to be adopted, they produce a dangerous lull which has often worked disastrously in approximating by-gone periods. Choice pails have been quoted at 35c. all the week. Welsh tubs are not giving satisfaction this season. They are always wanted for Eastern use. The Welsh package is also the favorite one for foreign use. Canada having for many previous years given it popularity abroad. Exports of butter past week, 17,025 packages.

We quote:—Choice pails, 32@33c.; prime, 29@28c.; poor to good, 18@25c.; creamery pails, choice, 33@35c.; good, 28@32c.; sweet cream pails, 27@34c. State firkins, choice, 29@30c.; fair to good, 24@27c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 30@31c.; fair to prime, 26@29c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 27@28c.; other, 23@25c.; Western creamery, choice, 31@31c.; other, 28@30c.; do. firkins, best, 20@21c.; other, (5@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 21@25c.; other, 16@19c.; factory choice, 21@23c.; other, 15@17c.

State dairies quotable at 27@30c., though few are in. Most of the long lines are yet made up of farm lots.

CHEESE.—With the interior sales showing a marked advance this week, holders views were immediately strengthened in sympathy, and with the English market going up subsequently, the prices were fully sustained on sales. Towards the close quite an active business was in progress, and a strong market at an advance of about one cent on last week's figures.

Fancy factory, 11½@11¾c.; fine, 11¼c.; good and prime, 10½@11c.; fair, 9@10c.; do. half-skimmed, 7@8c.; do. skimmed, 4½@6½c. State farm dairy, fancy, 10¾@10¾c.; good to prime, 9@10c.; fair and good, 8@9c. Western factory, good and prime, 8½@9½c.; fair lots, 7½@8½c.; do. cheddar, choice, 10@10½c.; do. flat, choice, 10@10½c. Exports past week, 61,326 boxes.

COTTON.—There has been very slight changes in prices. The feeling is a trifle stronger through the reports from the South of injury to the crop by worms.

The latest quotations are:—September, 11 29-32@11⅝; October, 11⅝@11 17-32c.; November, 11 15-32@11⅝c.; December, 11⅞c.; January, 11 29-32@11⅝c.; February, 11 25-32@11 13-16c.; March, 11 31-32@12c.; April, 12⅛@12 3-16c.; May, 12 6-16@12 11-32c.; June, 12 15-32@@12¾c.; July, 12¾@12 21-32c.; August, 12⅝@12 25-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 7-10	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16
Strict ordinary	9 13-16	9 13-16	9 13-16	9 13-16
Good ordinary	10¼	10¼	10¼	10¼
Strict good do	10⅝	10⅝	10 9-16	10 9-16
Low middling	10⅞	11	11¼	11¼
Strict low middling	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 8-16
Middling	11 9-16	11 11-16	11¾	11¾
Good middling	11 13-16	11 15-16	12 1-16	12 1-16
Strict good middling	12 3-16	12 5-16	12 7-16	12 7-16
Middling fair	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 13-16	12 13-16
Fair	13 5-16	13 7-16	13 9-16	13 9-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	9¾	Low middling	10¼
Strict ordinary	9¾	Middling	10 13-16

DRIED FRUITS.—Exporters have taken small lots of Southern quarters at inside prices, with 6@6½c. paid for repicked; very good sliced have been sold at 9¼c. Peeled peaches are hard to sell. Blackberries are selling up to 8c. and cherries at 16c.

Apples—State, sliced, 7@7¾c.; do., quarters, 7@7¾c.; southern sliced, now, 6@7c.; choice do. at 8@8½c.; do., new quarters at 5@6c. Blackberries, 8c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 13@15c., as to quality; unpeeled peaches, new, nominal. Plums at 13@15c. Raspberries, 21@25c. Cherries, 16c.

EGGS have at last struck a movement that has a seasonable appearance. Each day since our last has shown a firm feeling and no seller has been sufficiently supplied.

Near points, 23@25c.; State and Penn., 22@23c.; Western, prime, 22c.; do. other, 21@21½c.; Canadian, 21@22c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—New crop as yet, has not affected our lately revised quotations.

Oil peppermint, glass, $3.75; do. tin, $2.90; spearmint, glass, $3.50; do. tin, $2.75; wintergreen, $2.80; sassafras 35c.

FEATHERS nominal; prime live geese, 50@55c.; mixed, 35@60c.

FLOUR.—The advices from the other side have been more encouraging and a liberal business has been in progress, with prices higher and strong.

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3.80@4.35; $4.70@4.85 for very common to fair extra do.; $4.90@4.95 for good extra do.; $5.00@5.30 for fancy do., and $5.35@5.60 for very choice extra; $3.80@4.35 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.70@4.85 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $4.90@5.30 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.35@6.50; fancy do. $6.55@7.50; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $6.00@7.50, round-hoop Ohio, $4.75@4.90, and trade brands of do. at $4.95@6.75; St. Louis, $4.95@6.25 for common to fair extra, and $6.30@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.50@7.25, and patent at $6.50@8.50; unsound stock at from $2.50@5.50; city mill extra for West Indies at $5.80@5.90; do. English brands, $4.75@4.85; do. trade and family brands, $6.25@8.50; No. 2 at $2.20@3.50. Corn meal—Yellow Western, Jersey and Pennsylvania, $2.60@2.90; Brandywine, $3.25@3.30, and buy at 92½c.@$1 for Western.

FRESH FRUITS.—There is a steadier feeling in pears and apples, peaches now depending upon a special demand. Fancy New Jersey peaches exceed Delaware in price; in fact, Delaware is running out. Plums are a little stiffer. Grapes are in heavy supply and sellers cannot put them low enough to close out from day to day. An invoice of California Muscat arrived in good order, but sold as low as 12½c. ₩ lb. Reports from New Jersey cranberry crops are more encouraging; the east will have only a light yield. Bartlett pears are not showing the quality of former seasons.

Apples, State, prime, ₩ bbl., $1.50@2; river, $1.25@1.50; common, 75c.@$1. Peaches, fancy, ₩ basket, 75; good, $1.25@1.50; small, 50@75c. Pears, Bartletts, ₩ bbl., $4@7.50; Seckel, $2.50@5.50; Louise Bonne and Flemish Beauty, $3@5; cooking, $1.50@2; California, boxes, $3.50@4. Plums, choice, table, ₩ bbl., $10; common to good preserves, $6.50@9; California, crates, $2.50@3. Grapes, Delaware, boxes, ₩ lb., 9@11c.; loose, 7@9c.; Concord, boxes, 5@7c.; loose, 3@5c. Nutmeg melons, best, ₩ bbl., $2.50@3; common, $1@2. Watermelons, ₩ 100, $5@20. Virginia peanuts, prime, $1.50@1.60; other, $1@1.40.

GRAIN.—For wheat there has been a better inquiry within a day or two, from exporters not sufficient life to give any buoyancy; latest sales were of ungraded spring at $1.05; common No. 2 Chicago spring, in store, at $1.05; No. 1 Minnesota spring, in store, at $1.15; new amber Delaware at $1.24@1.25; amber Michigan, part to arrive, at $1.25@1.26; extra white Milwaukee spring at $1.09½; car lot of amber Jersey, very choice, at $1.33. For new No. 2 Chicago spring to arrive $1.10 is bid, and for No. 1 Shoboygan spring $1.13 bid. Rye active at 74½@75c.; for western and 85 for State.

For barley 8d is bid for No. 2 Chicago, 92½@95; bid for six-rowed state, and $1@1.05; asked. Corn has been active on export orders; sales at 54@55c. for graded and ungraded steamer mixed, with 72,000 bushels mixed sold at 55c., in store; 54½@57c. for ungraded mixed, including prime sail at 56c.; 56½@57c. for Kansas mixed; very choice high mixed nearly yellow, at 57c.; steamer white at 58c.; steamer yellow at 57c.; western yellow at 54@57c.; southern yellow from dock at 56c.; New York white, 55c.; New York "no grade," by sample, at 52½@53c.

Oats are in light supply and much larger; latest sales at 38@46c. for mixed western and State, and 41@46c. for white do., No. 2 Chicago, in store, at 40@44c.; very choice, in store, at 45c.; mixed State at 46c.; white western, in store, 44@48c.; mixed western, 40@43c.; new white State at 48@50c.; new mixed western at 37@44c.

HAY AND STRAW.—Receipts some moderate, and demand fairly active at rather steadier prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 80c.; retail qualities 75@95c.; clover, 55@60c.; salt, 55@60c. Straw is quoted at 70@75c. for long rye; 50@55c. for short rye; 50@90c. for oat.

HIGHWINES.—Bring $1.11 per gallon.

HONEY.—California has a large crop, and there is a good supply of State. It is too early for any price to be put upon new comb. There is quite a remnant of old quoted at 15@20c. for white and 8@10c. for dark.

HOPS.—There has been but little done this week, but owing to moderate stocks of desirable lots, the new season opens very favorably to growers. The German crop is short, and there will be the additional requirements from this source. It is the impression that shippers will act cautiously at first, sending forward small lots only. The yield of New York State and Wisconsin has fallen considerably short of last year, but in California and the Territories there has been a large increase, so that it is safe to say the yield this year stands 140,000 bales against 150,000 last year.

N. Y. State, 20@23c.; Yearlings, 10@20c.; Olds, all growths, 4@8c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The live poultry market is only steady, but prices have averaged better for fowls, and turkeys begin to be wanted. We quote:

Spring chickens, near-by, ₩ lb., 15@16c.; do. Western, 14@15c.

Fowls, N. J., ₩ lb 15@17c.; do. Western, 15@16c. Roosters, 8@10c.; Turkeys, N. J. 16@18c.; do. Western, 15@16c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1.12; do. Western, 65@75c.; Geese, N. J., $2.00@2 50; do. Western, $1.37@1.75.

Dressed poultry in good demand for the season; all lots still have to be iced. Turkeys higher. We quote:

Dry-picked chickens, 18@20c.; scalded, 15@17c.; dry-picked fowls, 17@19c.; scalded, 15@18c.; turkeys, 16@20c.

Game is in good demand for the new sorts. Venison will be in some weeks earlier if the weather admits, the law having given it an extra month at the West. We quote:

Partridges, ₩ pair, 75c.@$1; grouse, do., 90c.@$1; woodcock, do., 65@85c. A few wild ducks low.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products have been in good export demand and favor the seller. Mess pork quoted at $17.15 for spot lots, $15.80 for December. Bacon, long, clear, 9¾@9¾c.; short do., 9¾c. Western steam lard at $10.85 for spot; October, $10.75; November, $10.10; December, $9.82. Steamine at 12½c. for prime Western. Barreled lots are quoted: $8@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, and $11@12 for packet, the outside prices for small lots choice. Tierced quoted nominal for prime mess and India mess. City extra India mess at $20. Beef hams at $26 for choice Western.

TOBACCO has been in very good export demand and strong in price.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	6 @ 6½	6 @ 7½
Good lugs	6¾@ 8	8 @ 9
Low leaf	8½@10	9½@11
Medium leaf	13 @11	14½@15½
Good leaf	15 @16	16 @17½
Fine leaf	16 @18	17 @20

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England fine seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania assorted lots	11 @25
Ohio assorted lots	5 @ 6½
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ₩ lb., Southern, $1.15@1.30; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, ordinary to refined, 14@18c. ₩ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. unclipped, 50c.@$1; lamb skins, 60@65c.

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes are doing better, buyers preferring to pay more for nice-looking State than for the dark-colored Western in badly-filled barrels. It is not likely that there will be many further shipments of early Western. Tomatoes doing well. Onions scarce. Market only fairly active. Cheap fruit calls off some of the trade.

Prime potatoes, bbl., $2.75@3; fair, $2@2.50; sweet, $2.75@3. Corn, ₩ 100, $1@1.25. Tomatoes, ₩ bush, 75c.@$1. Marrow squash, ₩ bbl., 75c.@$1. Cabbages, ₩ 100, $5@8. Russia turnips, bbl., $1@1.25. Egg plants, ₩ 100, $7@9. Wax beans, ₩ bag, $1@1.25; Lima, 75c.@$1; shelled do., bush, $3. Cauliflower, bbl., $13@6. Yellow onions, ₩ bbl., $2; red, $1.50@1.62; white, $2.50@3.25.

WOOL.—There is an active and very strong market at a further advance. Manufacturers and speculators seem disposed to take advantage of current prices and stock-up freely. For XX Ohio fleeces 43c. is bid and up to 45c. asked, and for X do. 41c. is bid, with X and above Michigan fleeces sold at 36c.

ROCHESTER, Sept. 9.—Flour market active; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $6.75; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower: Milwaukee club, $1.09@1.18; amber winter, $1.03@1.05; white winter, $1.05@1.15. Oats, nominal at 30@33c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.30. Butter, 22@24c. Cheese, 9@11c. Eggs, 15@16c. Lard, 11½@12½c. Apples, bu., 40@75c. Potatoes, bu., 60@75c. Beans, ₩ bu., 70@90c. Mess pork, $17.15. Wool, 20@25c. Hay, $8@11. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed strong at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₩ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Sept. 9, 1876.

The general tone of the Little Falls market for the week ending Sept. 9th, was somewhat improved. The cool weather which has been prevailing throughout Herkimer Co., for the past few weeks has helped materially to bring about this result. Dairymen feel, now that all their July cheese which had suffered from the effects of the "heated term" are disposed of, that the quality of their goods is not only better, but that there is scarcely any risk in holding at the factory. Consequently factorymen felt easy and were not over anxious to sell, unless at a margin of at least ⅛ of a cent more than was paid a week ago. This they received, about 5,700 boxes having been sold.

The following is a list of transactions: 5 lots on commission; 1 at 10c.; 2 at 10½c.; 1 at 10¾c.; 25 at 10¾c.; 25 at 10¾c.; 27 at 11c. and 1 on private terms; making the range of prices 10@11c., and the average price paid 10⅞c.

There were but few farm cheese offered, only 300 boxes having been delivered. These sold for from 8½@10½c.

We have advice from abroad to the third week in August. Our London correspondent says: Cheese, more especially American, sells well; extra fine scarce; some useful sold as low as 40s., sales large. Quotations are as follows: American, extra fine, 24s.; fine, 70@52s.; good, 46@48s.; secondary, 40@44s. The other descriptions of cheese sell as follows: English Cheddar, 76@82s.; Wiltshire, double, 63@72s.; Cheshire, medium, 50@58s.; fine, 66@70s.; Scotch, 56@61s.

The heat tells seriously on butter, cutting off supplies, and to some extent lessening consumption. Prices steadily advance, and now look as if this article must rule high. Supply of Margarin not equal to demand. Corks, 127@133s.; Limericks, 128s.; Dorsets, 150s.; Jersey, 132@134s.; Friesland, 136@140s.; Normandy, 120@150s.; American and Canadian, 90@$1.00

Oleomargarine or artificial butter from 100 to 112s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 9, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,700	7	1,443	9,248	000
Forty-Eighth St.	50	9	618	1,691	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	10,773
Hunsimus Cove	5,900	00	000	9,357	8,229
Totals this week	9,650	16	2,061	20,579	19,002
" last week	8,815	36	2,418	30,131	18,887

BEEVES.—Trade opened on Monday last on a moderate run and was a fraction ₩ lb. better than the closing rates of the previous week on good and fair quality steers, but slow at former rates for inferior quality cattle. Prices ranged from 7¾@10¾c. ₩ lb., with a few selected load at 10¾@11c., these latter being disposed of at retail; weights, 5¼@9½c. The markets closed firm. Wednesday, trade firm, at 8@10½c.; weights, 5@9¾ cwt., Thursday, as usual, trade small at 9@10¾c.; weights, 5¾@8½ cwt. Friday, the markets closed fair at 8@10¾c.; weights, 6@9¾ cwt. From 56@57 lbs., net, have been allowed; general sales on 56 lbs. net. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, sold at 7¾@8½c. ₩ lb.; grass-fed native steers, 8@9c.; part corn-fed do., 9¾@10c.; grade do., 10¾@11c., including a few selected head sold at retail. Nearly 1,000 head of beeves were slaughtered and forwarded, during this past week, to the London market.

MILCH COWS.—Trade still slow on extremely light arrivals. Dealers declined to furnish quotations.

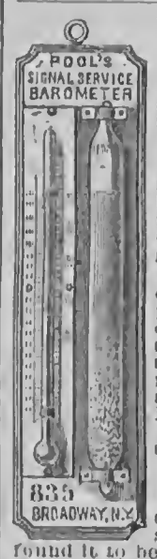
VEALS AND CALVES.—Coarse quality calves, part grass-fed and part buttermilk-fed, sold at 3½@6¼c. ₩ lb., also at $6@11 ₩ head. Smooth quality veals in fair demand at 7@9¾c. ₩ lb. State veals at 8@11c.; Jersey do., 8¾@9¾c.; Pennsylvania do., 7¾@8¾c. State calves sold at 3½@6¾c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—On Monday forenoon trade opened firm in sheep and slightly improved in lambs. The quality of the flocks was from coarse to good. Sheep sold at 4@6¾c. ₩ lb.; lambs, 6@7¾c. ₩ lb. Wednesday, trade fair; sheep, 4@6c.; lambs, 6@7¾c. Thursday, sales few; sheep, 4¾@5¾c.; lambs, 5¾@7¼c. Friday, the markets closed dull; sheep, 4¾@5¾c.; lambs, 5@6¾c. State sheep, bucks included, 4@5¾c.; Canada do., 4@5c.; Kentucky do., 4@5¾c.; Ohio do., 4¾@5¾c.; Pennsylvania do., 4¾@5¾c. Jersey lambs, 6¾@7¾c.; Virginia, 5¾@6¼c.; Canada, 6@6¾c.; Kentucky, 5@6¾c.

HOGS.—Trade very slow; 47 rough State hogs, live weight, 1,516 lbs., sold at 6¾c. ₩ lb.; 13 do., 3,000 lbs., 6¾c.; 123 Ohio hogs, quality smooth, 23,830 lbs., 6¾c. City dressed extremely slow on a light run and rates; prices, 7¾@8¾c., all weight included.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade steady, but slow for inferior quality horses. Light-priced animals hold on sale. Twenty-one head, poor quality, light harness horses sold at $35@70; 32 do., $50@97 ₩ head; 19 ordinary quality do., $110@205 ₩ head; 17 coarse quality heavy draft do., $115@210 ₩ head; 2 pairs family carriage horses, $220@230 ₩ pair; 16 roadsters, with fair trotting action, not warranted sound, sold at $255@325 ₩ head; 3 trotters, not warranted sound, $300@475 ₩ head; 2 pair stylish carriage horses, aged, $500@750 ₩ pair; 2 saddle horses, quality poor, $200@250 ₩ head.

New Advertisements.



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Agents wanted—send stamp for Circular. **H. W. POOL & CO., 835 Broadway, New York.**

The Boston Traveller says:—"We carefully inspected the above-described Signal Service Barometer, and found it to be as stated by Messrs. Pool & Co., who are honorable and reliable."

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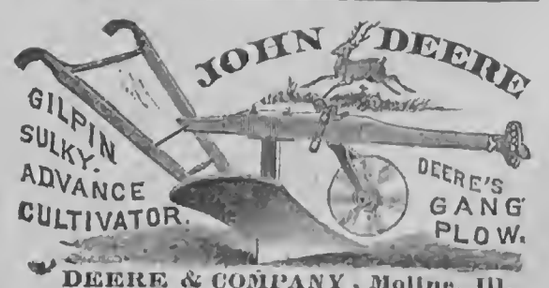

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

MONOGRAMS on dress buttons is a late device in Paris.

A FAVORITE tree with florists—The itching palm.

MISFORTUNE comes on horseback and goes away on foot.

EX-GOVERNOR HENRY A. WISE is critically ill in Richmond, Va.

THERE is a drinking shop in Paris to every eighty inhabitants.

EDWARD W. LANE, the translator of the "Arabian Nights," is dead.

A BEAUTIFUL Parisian girl, worth $5,000,000, has found a man willing to marry her.

THE Philadelphia Bulletin states that all the Pennsylvania frogs are raised on hops.

MR. CUSHING, Minister to Spain, has arrived in London en route for the United States.

M. GAMBETTA is going to London to study the manner in which the income-tax system is carried out.

"ONORABLE JUG," was the style in which a Minnesota juror began a note to his Honor on the bench.

TYCHO BRAHE, the famous Danish astronomer, has just been honored with a statue-monument at Copenhagen.

WHEN Cæsar "thrice refused" "a kingly crown," he is supposed to have done it with his Roman no's.

IT is said that ex-Governor Hoffman intends to resume the practice of his profession in New York City next month.

THE man who says the Government should do something to cripple the Indians is suspected of being the agent of a cork leg establishment.

A STRONG effort is to be made to erect a monument to Daniel Defoe at Tooting, where he lived and founded a nonconformist place of worship.

THE champion whittler lives in Michigan. He has whittled for three months, and now has a chain six feet long made from a single pine stick.

A GIRL of sixteen, name not stated, sought death in the waters of the Hudson at West Point, the other day, because her sister stole her young man.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Cincinnati Gazette represents Edwin Booth as downhearted because the theater bearing his name is used for spectacles.

A MONUMENT has been unveiled in Paris to the artist Henri Regnault and his fellow pupils of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, who fell during the siege of the city.

MISS STAGG was married at Hornellsville, N. Y., recently. The bridegroom had engraved on the wedding ring:

"Name ever dear to me."

MAJOR-GEN. MCDOWELL has been suffering from ill health, caused by the change of climate since his recent transfer from the command of the South to that of the Pacific coast.

TECUMSEH'S grave has been discovered near Ridgetown, Ont., and the remains have been exhumed and taken to Niagara to be deposited in the vault at Brock's monument.

NEW JERSEY turkeys are already beginning to inquire around anxiously for almanacs, with a view to ascertaining the precise date of the last Thursday in November this year.

ON the Isles of Shoals boat somebody will be sure to ask you "Why is this steamer like a bashful girl?" And if you give it up, answer, "Because she keeps clear of the buoys."

AMONG all the races, the English (says Lowell) has ever shown itself more keenly alive to the fear of making itself ridiculous; and among all, none has produced so many humorists.

THE King and Crown Prince of Sweden would have been killed the other day if they had not jumped out of the carriage, which was thrown over a few minutes later by their runaway horses.

CAPT. STILES T. STANTON, whom most of our readers know so well as the popular humorist of the Norwich (Ct.) Bulletin, is spending his vacation at the Centennial in the military service of his State.

A THIEF in a tobacconist shop in Greenock, Scotland, left his false teeth lying on the counter in his night raid for segars, pipes and tobacco. The plate was given to the police, and the thief was arrested.

A RUSSIAN count has won the heart and hand of one of the belles of Quaker City, and November will witness the wedding. The parties met by chance in the usual way, and immediately fixed upon the wedding day.

THE Norwich Bulletin says:—"A good deal of disappointment was felt recently over a report that a spotted adder could be seen on Shetucket Street, as it turned out to be nothing but a bank clerk with the measles."

E. PESHINE SMITH, the legal adviser of the Japanese Foreign Office during the past six years, has returned to this country by the City of Peking. He received distinguished marks of attention on taking his leave.

THE CZAR, recently addressing the officers of the Paulowsky Guards, said he had been able hitherto to spare the blood of his soldiers, but the time might soon come when he should have to call upon their loyalty and valor.

MISS TORU DUTT is a young Hindoo lady who has just published a book of translations of French verse into English, and the critics praise it and call it "an important landmark in the history of the progress of culture."

A PARTY of 300 good cooks and 500 house girls, all English servants, visiting the Centennial, have been induced to settle in Richmond, Va., where steady employment is guaranteed.

THE body of the author of "Life Let Us Cherish," Hans George Nagell, who died about forty years ago, was exhumed on the 13th of August, and placed under the monument erected to his honor on the high promenade in Zurich, Switzerland.

SECRETARY ROBESON is going to Port Royal on the steamer Dispatch about Oct. 1. Distinguished guests will accompany him, and they are all to gaze upon the naval review there, which an awe-struck paragrapher says will be "magnificent."

AN Atlanta man walked around all day recently with a grasshopper in his ear. When his wife discovered it he said he had been hearing peculiar noises all day, but thought a new steam saw-mill had begun operation somewhere in the neighborhood.

THERE is one committee at the Centennial Exposition that has not had a vacancy since the opening. It is the jurors on wines, and they have sampled over 800 different varieties. Whines have been heard from nearly every committee but this one.

JOHN B. GOUGH, the eminent temperance lecturer, has in his possession four large volumes wherein are written the signatures of 140,000 persons to the pledge of total abstinence, obtained by the personal exertions of Mr. Gough. Does he know how many have kept it?

A NEPHEW of Mr. Bagges, in explaining the mysteries of a tea-kettle, describes the benefits of the application of steam to useful purposes. "For all which," remarked Mr. Bagges, "we have principally to thank—what was his name?" "Watt was his name, I believe, uncle," replied the boy.

VICTOR EMANUEL is an early riser, generally getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning, when he takes a cup of black coffee and a stroll in the garden. At 8 on Thursdays and Sundays he presides over the Council of Ministers, then he grants audiences, and then breakfasts lightly, his "serious repast" being supper.

A LIVELY pupil at a seminary asked the preceptress for permission to drive out with a gentleman. "You know the regulations of the institution," was the answer. "Is he your father?" "No." "Is he your brother?" "Are you engaged to him?" "No, but I expect to be before I get back." That answer carried the day.

IN the court room; a lawyer to his client: "I'm sorry, poor fellow, but notwithstanding my eloquence you have been sentenced to prison for three months." "Oh, don't let that worry you," was the answer; "I am not sorry. In the neighborhood where I live they will think I have gone to the country, and that will give me social status."

AN Arkansas coroner, having occasion to investigate the cause of a man's death lately, charged the jury that they were to ascertain whether "the man came to his death by accident, by incidence, or by the incendiary." The jury returned that "he came to his death by lucidence, the bowie-knife having incidentally touched a vital part."

BY request of prominent citizens, Prof. Huxley delivered a lecture at Nashville, Tenn. His remarks were a brief rehearsal of his well-known views on creation, applying them directly to Tennessee. The lecture lasted one hour, and was listened to by all the leading theologians of the city, among whom it created a great stir. He is advertised to lecture in this city.

SWEET is childhood—childhood's over,
Kiss and part.
Sweet is youth; but youth's a rover—
So's my heart.
Sweet is rest; but all my showing
Toil is nigh.
We must go. Alas! the going,
Say, "Good-by." [*Jean Ingelow.*

THE lady who has the smallest feet in America is the wife of a cousin of Sing Lee, proprietor of a San Francisco wash-house. Her foot is 2¾ inches long, 2 inches broad in the middle, and 1 inch at the toes. She wears white satin stockings and blue satin slippers embroidered in silver. A correspondent of the Louisville Courier Journal carries a tape measure and has had her foot in his lap.

THE death of Gen. William H. Richardson, long one of the most prominent citizens of Virginia, was followed but a few hours after that of a beloved daughter, and the two were buried on the same day. He was an officer in the war of 1812, the first Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to his exertions the formation of the State library and the State Agricultural Society were mainly due.

"CONSIDERING that the mosquitoes are making their fall raids, and are particularly lively just now, my dear," said Jones to his wife, "don't you think it would be a good idea to bring the baby's crib into our room? We might divert the attention of the voracious insects a little from ourselves. I hate to be broken of my rest, and baby can sleep all day, you know." Mrs. Jones went in search of the tongs at once.

THIS is how M. Lacratelle received, on a recent occasion, his severe injuries: The member from the Saone-et-Loire was passing along a street where a ruined house was in process of demolition. A workman was stationed on the sidewalk to warn passers of the danger.

"To the Right! To the Right!" he cried.

"Never!" said Mr. Lacratelle, proudly; "I belong to the Left;" and, going resolutely on his way, a piece of the cornice struck him on the head.

Implements and Machinery.

Centennial Year of American Independence,

SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

We will call and see you next July and assist at your CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. By the same opportunity bring you samples of the Celebrated Watches, manufactured by our countrymen, the MESSRS. BOREL & COURVOISIER of Neuchatel. These Watches are favorably known for INSPECTION and EXHIBITION, sold by our local agents in almost throughout the U. S., having been every City, Town and Village the past ten years. Their reputation for accurate performance is universally acknowledged. They are manufactured in Gold and Silver Cases, Stem and Key Winders. These Watches have superior quality of Nickel Movements, Chronometer Balances, Breguet Hair Springs, Tempered, Hardened and Isochronised for R. R. use, fine Ruby Jeweled, set in Chaton, and warranted to perform with the regularity and accuracy of a chronometer. Ask your Watchmaker to see them before purchasing those of other makers, as we have been authorized to sell them at a reduction from former prices.

QUINCHE & KRUGLER,
SALESROOM: 15 MAIDEN LANE, N. Y., Up Stairs.
Only Wholesale Agents for the Manufacturers. Jewelers wanted to act as Agents.

PREMIUM
FARM GRIST-MILL.
Grinds all kinds of grain rapidly. Is simple, durable and cheap. Is suited to all kinds of horse-powers. Every farmer should have it. Send for Descriptive Circular.
WM. L. BOYER & BRO.
Philadelphia, Pa.

$15 Shot Gun

A double barrel gun, bar or front action locks; warranted genuine twist barrels, and a good shooter, OR NO SALE; with Flask, Pouch and Wad-cutter, for $15. Can be sent C. O. D., with privilege to examine before paying bill. Send stamp for Circular to P. POWELL & SON, 238 Main Street, Cincinnati, O.

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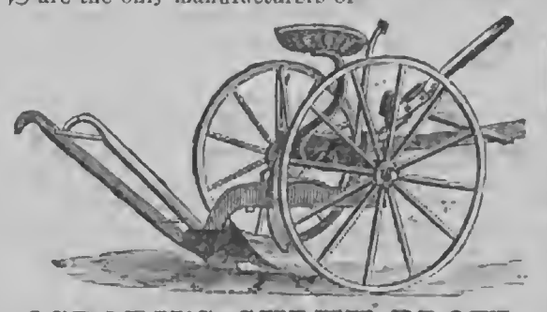
SULKY PLOWS.—THE SUBSCRIBERS are the only manufacturers of



OSBORN'S SULKY PLOW,
the only Plowing Machine that has proved a perfect success in all kinds of soil. Any kind of plow can be attached. The plowman rides and handles the plow with ease, regulating the depth and width of furrow. The draft for the team is materially less, and the ordinary laborious mode of plowing is reduced to one of comfort and ease.

The Meadow King Mower,
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SEE BUCKEYE GRAIN DRILL AT CENTENNIAL.

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IMPERIAL PEKIN DUCKS; Bronze and White H. Turkeys; all the varieties of Cochins and Brahmas; W. C. B. Polish, P. Rocks, B. B. R. Games, Leghorns, Hamburgs, Game and Sebright Bantams, etc. At unusually low prices for thirty days. CLARENCE STARK, Louisiana, Mo.

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TWO CHOICE BREEDS.
Plymouth Rocks
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White Leghorns
A SPECIALTY.
Bred with the greatest care, and from the choicest strains of blood.
Chicks of both of the above for sale next fall.
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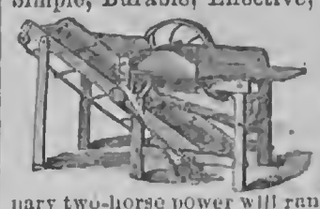
Simple, Durable, Effective, and works rapidly.



This machine, improved and perfected, does its work thoroughly, picking the corn from the stalk and stripping every ear, large or small, soft or hard, completely of its husks and silk. Any ordinary two-horse power will run it.
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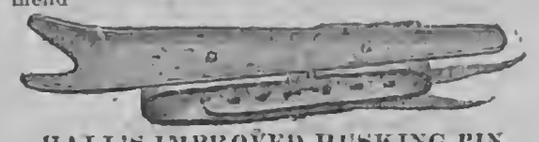

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

L. G.—The scarlet Maple is *Acer rubrum*—it is not the Blood Maple for which five times the price is asked.

E. T. J., Des Moines, Iowa.—Will the botanical editor of the RURAL please give the proper name of the inclosed flower, cut from a vine that grows and looks like a bean? ANS.—*Apios tuberosa.*—Ground Nut, Wild Bean. A perennial herb, bearing upon its roots tubers which are edible, and which would very likely be cultivated were it not for the potato.

Observer, Syracuse.—The mucous membrane lines the stomach as well as the mouth and nostrils, and a very powerful sympathy exists between its remotest parts. It is thus, to answer your question, that the appearance of the tongue affords some knowledge as to the condition of the stomach. This mucous membrane is connected at the several openings of the body with the true external skin. Hence, when chilled, catarrhs are caused or aggravated.

T. E. Howard, Geneseo, N. Y.—I would like to know the best time of the year for transplanting Elm trees desired for shade. ANS.—Either fall or spring, it matters little which for the Elm.

2. The size of the trees I wish are from five to eight inches in diameter at the base, or a foot above the roots. Can such trees be transplanted successfully? ANS.—Yes, with care.

3. Would you consider the upland Elm the best for such purpose? ANS.—We should consider it as good as any.

4. Would it be best to select trees from the woods or those standing out alone? ANS.—If the size were the same, those standing alone.

5. Should they necessarily be trimmed down much? ANS.—This depends entirely upon the degree of injury to the roots.

6. Is there any rule for trimming branches in proportion to the length of roots taken up? ANS.—Yes, as a rule they should be cut back in the proportion of the injury to the roots. But the minimum of this rule may be applied to the Elm.

7. Should they necessarily be set by the point of the compass as they originally stood? ANS.—Not at all.

If you will give the full particulars in respect to the whole process of transplanting such sized trees, you will confer a favor upon me and, perhaps, upon other readers.

Remarks.—The American White or Weeping Elm (*Ulmus Americana*) bears transplanting well—but the size you mention (five to eight inches) is so large that in removal, unless much time and care were taken, the roots would be so mutilated as to render its growth very slow for several years. Probably smaller trees—say three inches in diameter—would form larger and finer specimens at the end of four years. The best way to transplant trees so large is to dig a trench about them one year and remove the next. This may be accomplished more easily with the Elm, since it has no great depth of tap root.

Dig the hole wide and deep, and fill with rich soil.

H. C. B.—We think there is a fortune in the discovery of some means of exterminating ants in closets. Try the following, which is used in England: Two pounds of alum to be dissolved in three or four quarts of water, letting it stand on the fire until the alum is all dissolved; then apply it with a brush, while nearly boiling, to every point and crevice in closets, pantry, shelves and the like. Brush the crevices in the floor of the skirting or mop-boards if there is any suspicion that they harbor ants.

Y.—It would seem that there are well authenticated cases of spontaneous combustion. Drunkards have constituted the greater share, and we wish it were more frequently the punishment of drinking to excess—that curse upon human life. Then perhaps, with so startling a warning before their eyes, young men would think twice before venturing upon this enticing though inevitable road to ruin. It is supposed that intoxicating liquors tend towards an abnormal accumulation of phosphorus in the system.

T. C. D.—In my peach orchard, two years planted, many trees have died the past spring, and others are on the decline. The roots look as though they had been scalded. (1.) What could have been the cause? (2.) Could they have been injured before planting? or did the shovelful of unleached ashes put around the roots injure them? (3.) What is the difference between the bunch worm found around the peach roots and what is called "the borer." (4) Would it be be best to plow the said orchard, which is now in stubble, this fall or next spring, as I intend to cultivate the land next summer? ANSWER. (1.) We cannot say positively. (2.) Yes, trees are frequently injured by permitting the roots to become dry before planting. But we do not think the ashes could have injured them unless they were placed directly on the roots at the time of transplanting. It is more than likely that the peach tree borer is at work in the stems, but you should be able to determine this by the appearance of peach gum exuding from the wounds made by this pest. (3.) We never heard of such a thing as "bunch worm" attacking peach trees. Please explain further in regard to this insect. The true peach borer is the larva of a small moth which lays her eggs at the base of the stem, near the roots. As the grub bores into the bark and wood it pushes its excrement out of the hole thus made, and gum usually exudes more or less from the wound, and either is considered a pretty sure sign of the presence of borers. (4.) You will gain nothing in the way of killing insects or benefiting the trees by plowing this fall instead of next spring, but if the weeds and grass are kept away from around the stems of the trees all summer it will be a benefit in the way of growth, besides, in a measure, prevent the attack of the peach-tree borer.

W. H. Olin.—Accompanying this I send you some branches from apple trees containing the larva of some insect or beetle that is, so far as I know, a new enemy of the apple. You will notice in Nos. 1 and 11 that the larva entered by a hole through a little side branch, and penetrated down the wood a little way, and cut the wood entirely away, leaving it hanging only by the bark, and then proceeds to cut a channel up the wood. In No. 3 it looks as though it had penetrated through a green branch from the under side. In No. 4 it is cut off at both ends by the worm (perhaps there were two, but if so the other had failed, for there was no worm in the part above this). Is it a dangerous enemy?

I do not think it has anything to do with the blight that is so prevalent among apple, pear and quince trees this season, for that does not look or act like it. That seems mainly confined to smaller branches, and I cannot find any worms or holes about it. ANS.—There are several species of beetles, the larvæ of which cut branches from various kinds of trees in exactly the same manner as the specimens sent.

The well-known and common oak pruner, *Elaphidion parallelum, Newm*, a long, slender beetle, with quite conspicuous antennæ. The body of this beetle is about three-quarters of an inch long, and not more than an eighth in diameter. The female deposits her eggs upon the small branches of various kinds of trees, but appears to prefer the oak. The eggs hatch and the grubs penetrate to the very heart of the wood, feeding upon the pith for a few weeks, then they proceed to cut off the branch for the purpose, it would seem, of letting themselves down to the ground. They frequently cut off branches an inch in diameter, and we have always observed that the little grubs remain in the part cut off, and not in the stump or portion attached to the tree. We have bred hundreds of the beetles out of the fallen branches, as they remain concealed therein until their transformation is complete, coming forth the next spring. We do not know of any preventive further than to collect the branches containing the grubs and burning them.

J. W. M. and M. J. M., Oregon, Mo.—Accept our best thanks.

Paradise Station.—Linseed oil has been recommended for pear blight and some alleged remarkable cures have been effected by its use. A Mr. WESCOTT, by cutting through the inner bark and sap-wood, found that they were black and dead from blight. He washed the diseased parts thoroughly with linseed oil and the next spring the tree leafed out, and upon cutting into the diseased parts, he found that a new inner bark had grown.

As a tree grows by yearly depositions from the cambium layer, a part forming new sap-wood (alburnum) and a part forming new inner bark (liber), it is difficult to see how a growth of bark beneath the sap-wood could have taken place. But aside from this statement, others have highly recommended the use of linseed oil for pear blight.

Inquirer.—There is a pump in quite popular use that has one pipe driven down to spring water and another connected with the cistern. Both of these connect with a main pipe in the kitchen, so that by merely turning a crank either spring or well water may be used at pleasure.

2. The sides of the cesspool may be cemented if you choose and the bottom left uncemented. But we have found that the constant accumulation of grease will, after a year or so, prevent the passage of slop-water to an extent that necessitates the cleaning out of the cesspool from time to time. If you can connect it by 4-inch earthen pipe so that it will pass away, you will not have occasion to regret the extra expense.

Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

DUTCH BULBOUS ROOTS
AND
SMALL FRUITS.

Our Autumn Catalogue of the above, beautifully illustrated, will be ready for distribution Sept. 1st. A copy will be mailed to all applicants inclosing *Ten Cents*; regular customers supplied gratis. Address

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Our NEW DESCRIPTIVE PRICED CATALOGUE of the above is ready for mailing.

J. M. THORBURN & CO.,
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Commercial Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y.

PIKE COUNTY NURSERIES, Louisiana, Mo. *Established* 1835. Large and full assortment of well-grown stock. Planters, Dealers and Nurserymen should send for Price List. Local and Canvassing Agents wanted. Address C. STARK.

EVERGREENS FOR HEDGING.

Fine and reasonable. During the month of September is a good time to transplant Evergreens. Also general nursery stock for sale. Address

G. ACHELIS,
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WILLOW DALE NURSERIES.
TO NURSERYMEN, DEALERS & PLANTERS.

We offer a full assortment of thrifty, well-grown stock, largely of Apple, Peach, Plum, Apricot, Cherry (including *Duelling*, the largest cherry known), Brandywine Raspberries and Ornamental Trees. Special rates given for Baldwin and Fallwater Apple Trees. In larger quantity prices low. Address RAKESTRAW & PYLE, Willow Dale, Chester Co., Pa.

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CENTENNIAL SEED WHEAT—CLAWSON and FULTZ Varieties the best. Send stamp for sample and description. B. L. WOOD,
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THE GREAT AMERICAN STRAWBERRY and DELAWARE RASPBERRY, the largest and best. Millions of Trees and Plants at *Pomona Nursery*. Send for Circulars. WM. PARRY, Cinnaminson, N. J.

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The Autumn No. of Vick's Floral Guide, Containing descriptions of Hyacinths, Tulips, Lilies and all Bulbs and Seeds for Fall Planting in the Garden, and for Winter Flowers in the House—just published and sent free to all. Address

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WINTER-BLOOMING PLANTS
A SPECIALTY.

Carnations, Smilax, Neapolitan Violets, Bouvardias, Chinese Azaleas, Lily of the Valley. All the new and most desirable Geraniums and similar plants. Also, a great variety of the common and fancy Hardy Evergreen Trees, as low as they can be purchased of any trustworthy dealer.

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We offer to the trade for fall of 1876, a large stock, especially in the following:

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We are prepared to offer inducements, and solicit correspondence.

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Pays all Losses by Fire and by Lightning.

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Are you going West, North or Northwest?
You want to know the best routes to take?

The shortest, safest, quickest and most comfortable routes are those owned by the Chicago and North-Western Railway Company. It owns over two thousand miles of the best road there is in the country. Ask any ticket agent to show you its maps and time cards. All ticket agents can sell you through tickets by this route. Buy your tickets via the CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY for San Francisco, Sacramento, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Cheyenne, Denver, Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs, Yankton, Sioux City, Dubuque, Winona, St. Paul, Duluth, Marquette, Green Bay, Oskosh, Madison, Milwaukee, and all points west or northwest of Chicago. If you wish the best traveling accommodations, you will buy your tickets by this route, and will take no other.

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This is the ONLY LINE running these cars between Chicago and St. Paul or Chicago and Milwaukee. At Omaha our sleepers connect with the Overland Sleepers on the Union Pacific Railroad for all points west of the Missouri River.

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The only line running Hotel Dining Cars out of New York. A ride of nearly a thousand miles without leaving the car to eat, drink or sleep!

Wit and Humor.

HOW HE WAS GOING TO THE CENTENNIAL.

THOSE colored residents of Raleigh who were talking of an excursion to the Centennial have about given up the subject. The idea originated with a gray-haired "uncle" who didn't expect to live another hundred years, and who, it turned out, had a private ax to grind. He planned the excursion on the co-operative principle. To a crowd of his friends he explained:

"I reckon de expenses at $50. Fifty of us will frow in $1 each, an' I will go down thar. When I git back we will frow in another dollar aroun', and de next man kin go, an' we'll keep the system goin' till de hull caboodle hez been down thar."

The idea took at once and was freely talked over, but was knocked in the head at a second meeting by a brother asking:

"Uncle Ike, how long does you expect to be gone?"

"Only two weeks," he replied; "each one will be gone just two weeks."

"If dar's fifty of us an' each one is gone two weeks, what part of de show will de last man see?" was the blunt query.

Uncle Ike tried to convince them that dates and figures were made for mere convenience sake, but the crowd thinned out so rapidly that he was soon left alone. When he had seen the last man turn the corner, he sighed a sad sigh and muttered:

"I guess I'll have to go widout dat razor for another year. Dese here niggers seem like dey hadn't any genius."—*Raleigh Sentinel.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

THE oyster season opens. 'Raw—'raw—'raw.

A DRAPER'S shop at Paris, one of whose clerks swallowed a table fork two years ago now includes the history of its successful extraction in its large posting advertisements. Purchasers can view the fork and the clerk, and on departing are presented with a bouquet of violets.

ART received rather an awkward criticism from a free-and-easy young man who recently met a sculptor in a social circle, and addressed him thus:—"Er—er—so you are the man—er—that makes—er—mud heads?" And this was the artist's reply:—"Er—er—not all of 'em; I didn't make yours."

A NEW JERSEY street car man wrote to his sweetheart: "I don't care mutch what I do, you seem to feel stuck up above a hoss-car driver; if my hands is large my hart is too. I want yer to understand that it is easy ter cry tears, but at the same time yer hart may be tuffern a bellstrap."

AN old Baptist minister enforced the necessity of differences of opinion by argument: "Now, if everybody had been of my opinion, they would all have wanted my old woman." One of the deacons, who sat just behind him, responded: "Yes; an' if everybody was of my opinion, nobody would have her."

HE was a very young man. A few stray hairs upon his lip attested the fact that he was engaged in a deadly struggle with a mustache. He went into a variety store on Main street, and said to the proprietor:—"Have you Charles Reade's 'Lost Heir?'" "No, I haven't," replied the storekeeper. "But," he continued, looking into the young man's face, "I've got something that will make that mustache of yours start out like boils in spring time."

A PERT YOUTH.

Ella—"Do you like grammar, SAM?" *Sam*—"Don't know, ELLA, never tasted it."

Correspondence Invited. Agents *Wanted.*

ROOFS.

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Arboricultural.

THE OAKS.

BY THOMAS MEEHAN.

I HAVE made the Oak family a special study, and from the experience and knowledge thus acquired, I do not hesitate to say that the lover of trees would have more satisfaction in growing Oaks than he would with any other class. Some have hesitated to grow these trees because of an idea that they are difficult to transplant. This is true of a tree that has never been moved. To take an Oak from the wild wood to the garden is surely labor thrown away. Oaks have each a large tap-root and a few main roots that run rather deep. If these are cut off when the tree is but a year or two old, the tree makes a new set, and these latter keep tolerably near the surface. In the course of a few years, however, they assume a downward tendency, and ought to be again transplanted.

A good nursery Oak tree should be transplanted twice — once when one or two years old, and again when five or six. Such trees never die when transplanted under ordinary circumstances. I have seen hundreds moved, after such previous treatment, that were at least 12 feet high and 9 to 12 inches in circumference, with no more loss than if they had been willows or poplars and but 6 or 8 feet in hight. Two years ago I saw over a thousand planted with a loss of less than five per cent.

In transplanting all trees a little pruning is necessary, and to the Oak especially is the use of the pruning-knife very grateful. But a proper discrimination should be made as to what you cut away. Usually people simply "shorten the branches." I have seen them cut so that they were but stumps, with half a dozen snags—mere posts for clothes-lines.

The common people, who who are supposed to have little horticultural sense, say they may as well get a small tree as pay for a large one and then cut it back to stump. And I guess they are right, as there is no occasion for it. It is bad pruning in science as well as in practice. Good pruning leaves all the solid, vigorous branches and cuts away only the weaker ones. It is these sickly, delicate things that always die first in a pinch, any how, and when we are going to have a fight with Nature, as we do when we transplant, the sooner we clear the field of all sickly soldiers the better it will be for the rest. Let any one try this in transplanting and he will find it literally as well as figuratively true. Some people object to meddling with Oaks because they grow slow. They say they will not live to see trees of them. Now, it is rather the other way.

Most of the Oaks are rather rapid growers. True, they do not grow with the briskness of a willow or a poplar, or the *Herinniera* of Africa, which will increase its diameter four inches a year; but I know of numerous cases, and in different species, where the diameter of the Oak has increased three-quarters of an inch in a year, and not under specially favored circumstances either. I have cut many a branch from an eight or ten-year old tree that has given four and five feet of growth as its season's work.

I once made a dozen first-class hitching-posts out of an Oak tree but twelve years old, and which I had to cut away because of a new street. Surely that was growth enough to satisfy any reasonable creature. That tree was of a foreign species, however, the *Quercus robur*, or Royal Oak, which the English tell us has "borne for a thousand years the battle and the breeze," though I presume not growing at this rate all the time throughout the centuries.

Now, I am not much of a materialist. I love money, perhaps, some, but I prefer to have with it some of the spiritual enjoyments of life. I have some trees on my property no money could buy. They seem friends of mine. There are among them Cedars, Tulips, Chestnuts, Gums, Sassafras and Oaks, and many a time have they entertained both me and mine.

I fancy there are thousands who, like me, look up to some tree as to a part of themselves, and who would indignantly spurn the thirty pieces of silver offered to betray it. But there are other trees and other aspects, and I never feel so much like going West and making money as when I look upon my young Oaks and note how freely they grow. There is no timber to equal that of the Oak for certain purposes. Ask any railroad man, any fence-maker, any bridge-builder, any maker of a "barrack" or other farm building—they all place the Oak above and far in advance of other woods. Ask British shipbuilders as to its value in the construction of ships, and they will tell you of its lasting qualities and point enthusiastically to their old, wooden walls of Oak in proof of what they say. It is indeed the Oak which has made England the great nation she is to-day.

A plantation of Oak in the West would be a fortune to any man, and he could turn the fortune over a dozen times in a lifetime, for Oaks become profitable very soon. I should plant them about as far apart and in the same manner as corn, so that for the first two or three years they could be hoe-harrowed like corn, to keep the weeds down.

The first thinning might then commence, and the product be turned to account for "straps" for hoops and boxes, for which there is always a good demand; and for some years afterward, in ways which are hardly necessary to specify, there is an annual use to which the thinning can be applied. In about ten years the acorns appear, and then the mast is of value in feeding hogs and turkeys, and long before we know it the real timber is there! I am quite sure that if I had 160 acres of land in a prairie country, I would put at least 10 acres of it in Oak timber, feeling perfectly satisfied that long—yes, *long*—before I should grow gray, if I were as young as I once was, I would make more out of the land in that way than I should out of any other part of the farm.

Of varieties for rapid timber growth, I incline to the opinion that the English is the best, notwithstanding my regard for the species of our own land. I believe it will grow into money faster and that the timber is at least as good as any in this country, Live Oak not excepted, and then for the purpose of hog feeding none can come near it. It bears young and abundantly, and every year.

For timber purposes, of the hardy kinds of our own species adapted to cold climates the White Oak is good; so is the Chestnut Oak; next I should place the Black, Scarlet and Red Oaks. The bark of the Black and Chestnut Oaks is valuable for tanners' use, for after all the substitutes for bark in tanning and the 4 per cent. of tannin found in Sumac, *Polypodium amphibium*, and other things, I doubt whether most tanners would not prefer good old Oak bark. At any rate, while we are growing good oak timber, we are making bark also, whereas in most of the substitutes the whole growth is useless, except for the percentage of tannic acid they contain.

Passing now from the Oak as an aid to the physical wants of man, I may say a few words for the benefit of those who take an intellectual enjoyment in knowledge for its own self. There are about 300 different species of Oak known. A few of them are natives of Europe, but are more abundant in the United States. The Oaks of the latter country, however, have not much in common with the European species. The Japanese Oaks, on the other hand, bear a close affinity to those of the Eastern United States. When we get to the Rocky Mountains we find *Quercus undulata*, and here we find the first near approach to

ENGLISH OR ROYAL OAK.

the European kinds, it being between the Turkey Oak (*Q. cerris*) and the English (*Q. robur*). In Mexico the species are numerous, and in the East Indies and the Phillipines they abound. What might be termed the Mexican race of Oaks extends up into California.

Many California trees will stand the rigors of the winters of the Middle States, but the California species of Oak will not, probably because they are but emigrants to the Golden State from the land of the Aztecs and have already gone as far north as prudence would dictate.

For ornamental purposes adapted to our general culture, I would make a list were it not that all capable of standing the climate are worthy of culture. They are all so beautiful, it is hard to make a choice. Where it is practicable and the greatest beauty is desired, I think they look best when branching direct from the ground; but still a bold, heavy trunk, straight, tall and branchless, with its head formed of bold, strong branches, is so beautiful that I should not be sorry if I had to be fined heavily for not making a choice. Of those adapted to culture in the Middle States, there are the Overcup Oak (*Q. lyrata*), the Mossycup Oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), Spanish Oak (*Q. stellata*), White Oak (*Q. alba*), Post Oak (*Q. obtusiloba*), Durand's Post Oak (*Q. Durandi*)—a recent discovery of BUCKLEY in Texas; Swamp White Oak (*Q. bicolor*), Rock Chestnut Oak (*Q. prinus*), Michaux's Chestnut Oak (*Q. Michauxii* or NUTTALL), Rocky Mountain Oak (*Q. undulata*)—one of the best for forming into an Oak thicket; Pin Oak (*Q. palustris*), Red Oak (*Q. rubra*), Scarlet Oak (*Q. coccinea*), Black Oak (*Q. tinctoria*), Jersey Scrub Oak (*Q. ilicifolia*)—a good dwarf for thickets; Black Jack Oak (Q. *nigra*), Southern Black Jack Oak (Q. *Catesbaei*), Water Oak (*Q. aquatica*), Upland Water Oak (Q. *laurifolia*), Shingle Oak (Q. *imbricaria*), Willow Oak (Q. *Phellos*), English Oak (Q. *pedunculata*), and Turkey Oak (Q. *cerris*).

Besides the above there are numerous other varieties, the European especially being abundant, and in their characters for practical purposes they are as good a species; indeed, in many respects they are much more distinct.

Our native trees are often found varying in a remarkable degree—so much so, indeed, that some of our best botanists regard the variations as "hybrids." But gardeners who are familar with the wonderful variations among the English Oaks, in which no hybridization is possible, do not accept this opinion. Those who would know all about the American Oaks adapted to culture should read GRAY'S Works—"The Monograph of Oaks," just issued by that great botanist, ENGELMANN—and the RURAL NEW-YORKER.

ENGLISH OR ROYAL OAK.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, in his excellent article on the Oak, which may be found preceding this, speaks in such high terms of the value of the English or Royal Oak that we were prompted to give an illustration (as will be seen by referring to first page) of a handsome specimen of this tree now growing in the grounds of one of our esteemed correspondents, residing a few miles from this city. The tree is about twenty-five years old, and having been planted where it had room to grow, being unobstructed on all sides, the branches consequently spring from near the base of the stem, assuming a natural and most graceful form.

It is to be regretted that our native as well as foreign species of the oak are so little planted in this country, for they are deserving of especial attention, and it is to be hoped that Mr. MEEHAN'S remarks will awaken a new interest in these trees among all of the many thousands of our readers, even if they do not extend any further.

Field Crops.

RYE FOR PASTURE.

IN localities where the drought has prevailed during the present season, pasture will be light and thin next spring, and it would be well for farmers to provide some substitute to make up for the deficiency. We have already recommended the sowing of rye for this purpose, and are pleased to add to our own experience that of the Journal of Agriculture as to the value of this crop for pasture.

Two years ago our corn crop was a short one on account of an extended drought. All kinds of expedients were resorted to, to bridge over the winter months. Not only corn but all kinds of crops save wheat, were comparative failures. We experimented that year with rye and our success was far beyond our expectations. Our first sowing consisted of a ten-acre field upon which we had grown and fed down the corn to hogs. The corn crop had been well cultivated and the ground was entirely free of weeds and grass. We commenced about the first of September by sowing down on the ground and harrowing in with a two-horse harrow. We completed about half the field in this manner, using about five bushels of seed, or one bushel per acre, when we concluded we were not putting our rye in as we should. The remaining five acres we plowed in with double-shovel plows after which we harrowed thoroughly. Our rye soon came up and made a luxuriant growth upon which we grazed pigs, calves and cows during the winter (when not covered with snow) and until such time in the spring as blue-grass pastures would do to turn on. Contrary to our expectations the portion that was only harrowed afforded much the best grazing and the rye was much less injured by the stock going over it than the other portion. After taking our stock off, the rye made a fine growth and yielded more per acre than did our wheat crop, which was not pastured at all and which was sown on much better soil.

We mention this little experience that others may give our readers the benefit of their experience. We are satisfied this crop will grow and be a profitable one upon soil upon which wheat will not pay expenses. As regards the benefits to stock, lambs, sheep, calves or any other kinds of a change of diet during the long winter months it is not necessary to speak, all acknowledge this as a necessity.

CORN FOR THE POOR OF ENGLAND.

THE London Pall Mall Gazette says:—The enormous import of wheat from the United States into this country, and the probability that it will increase rather than diminish in time to come, lead us to reflect how it happens that Indian corn, which is so largely consumed in various forms by all classes in America, fails to find favor with Englishmen at home. In some way maize is certainly to be preferred to wheat; and those who have once acquired the taste for it on the other side of the Atlantic certainly miss the Indian corn on their return. We suppose, however, that there is little hope that our working classes will ever take to this cheap, wholesome and nutritious food. The mere fact that it is cheap, operates in some measure against its adoption. There is nothing, perhaps, in an Englishman's nature so stupid as his dislike to have it supposed that he is content with cheap food. And Indian corn is very cheap.

SOWING SALT ON WHEAT LAND.

THE Toronto Globe recommends that the best time to sow salt on land for winter wheat is immediately before the seed is sown. Where land is plowed in the fall for spring crops then sow the salt late in the season on the plowed land. It is always sown broadcast when applied alone and it has been applied with good effect at the rate of from three to twelve bushels per acre. But all trouble and labor of that kind may be saved by scattering it on the manure heap, when it will do just as much service as when sown alone. That salt is beneficial on many soils there is no question, but it has not been tried sufficiently on the several kinds of soils to indicate with certainty how much or how little will serve as a fertilizer.

Farm Economy.

FARM CROPS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

ANOTHER year of toil is closing and the farmers are reckoning the results. The heat in the first half of July was intense and destructive in this State. The drought was protracted, except in a few limited localities; but the heat was so great that unusual injury was done to farm crops in a short time. The month of August was generally seasonable—restoring the corn and tobacco to a considerable degree.

A respectable but not full crop of corn is made. Perhaps a little over one-third of a crop of tobacco was planted. That is much improved during the last month. I think that more than usual of the old crop was held back and is seeking the market now. Prices are rather high. It seems in this case that waiting will pay. The year has been quite favorable for hay. The first mowing was good; the second injured by drought; the last (not yet cut) promises a very fine yield. Indeed it is seldom that grasses grow as they have for the last month.

Potatoes average well. Early Irish potatoes were hastened by the heat. My experiments this year proved the Early Vermont estimable for quality and earliness, but unprofitable as to quantity. Brownell's Beauty, though not white or mealy, gave satisfaction at the table and produced well. The Snowflake, with only ordinary care, made thirty to one, and possessed every good quality.

Apples are scarce in the central part of the State—probably the same throughout the entire State. There has been enough of them for a limited supply for immediate demands. Enough peaches to remind us of the delicious feasts of other years and awaken the hopes for another season.

The scarcity of money is sorely felt. The people generally are perforce practicing more economy, and slowly adapting themselves to the stringency. There is a growing impression that we have seen the worst of the "hard times."

Yours truly, N. C.

A CORN HORSE.

H. IVES writes to the New York Times that a corn-horse is an implement of so much utility in harvesting corn that it is a wonder that so many farmers will cut up their corn without the aid of one to stand the shock up to while cutting. It is a tool which any farmer who wants it will make for himself, for there are none in market, and no agent about to tell us of their great usefulness. But they are of no less merit for all that. By using one to form the shock to, instead of placing it against a standing hill, we have something much firmer to stand it to, we have all the corn cut up, and are pretty sure to have the shock better balanced, and for that reason standing better, because every quarter as it is cut will be placed into each quarter section of this implement (or corn horse), thus bracing the whole nicely from each quarter when bound together at the top.

For instance, if I take six rows of corn for a row of stooks, and six hills of a row (as I generally do), giving thirty-six hills to a bunch, I take my horse in between the third and fourth rows and stand it for the shock between the third and fourth hills; standing so it represents nine hills in each quarter. Then I cut the first three hills of the third row and place in one quarter, while the man working against me cuts the first three hills of the fourth row and places them in the second quarter opposite. Then each cuts the next three hills of the same rows, placing into third and fourth quarters. Next cut the second and fifth, then the first and sixth rows just the same, thus only putting three hills into each quarter at once alternately, will balance it up good to stand.

The best way to make a corn horse is to get a dry cedar pole 16 feet long, about 4 inches at the butt, and if a little crooked, bowing about a foot all the better. Put two legs into the butt of the pole 2½ or 3 feet long, with a spread of 2 feet on the ground, and so as to have the pole bowing up if it is crooked, for then it won't require so long legs. At 5 feet back from these legs bore an inch hole horizontally through the pole, through which insert a loose pin 20 inches on each side, that is, 3½ feet long. Then for use stand this in the corn as described above, so that the shock will be stood up into the angles made by this pin and the pole. When this is cut and bound pull out this long pin, then taking the large end of the pole draw it ahead through this shock and place it for another, and so on through the field. It will be found plainer, handier work, and can be done by coarser or less skilled help to put it up in good order as quick and as well as in any other way.

PROTECTION AGAINST GRASSHOPPERS.

DANIEL G. LANE writes to the Council Bluffs Globe, from Bermuda, W. I., telling how crops may be protected against grasshoppers, and potatoes kept clear of beetles. Now while we do not believe either of the protective agents proposed are of any practical use still they may be worth trying. Mr. Lane says:—For the last two weeks I have been in this country from the West Indies, and I find the grasshoppers making great ravages in vegetation. In order to prevent this, burn one pound of sulphur on charcoal, in the center of a field, and save what it has taken so much toil to develop. To prevent potato bugs from destroying the crop, plant two grains of flax seed in each hill. This will prevent them from injuring the potatoes, as they will not go near the flax.

The Horseman.

THE COACH OR CARRIAGE HORSE.

THE Kentucky Live Stock Record takes a very sensible view of the late excitement in breeding fast trotters, to the neglect of the good carriage and general utility horse, and we are pleased to place its remarks before our readers as they are worthy of a careful consideration.

The old style coach or carriage horse is almost extinct in Kentucky. His place is supplied by the trotter. The horse of five and twenty or thirty years ago is rarely seen now-a-days. The big bays, browns and chestnuts of former days, ranging from 15¾ to 16¼ hands high, with deep and well-proportioned bodies, arched crests, strong and clean bone under the knee, open, sound, tough feet, with great knee action, lifting their fore feet high, are as scarce now as they were plentiful at that period. The display of coach and carriage horses at our local fairs some years ago, as well as at other less notable gatherings, was one of the most popular and charming parts of those exhibitions. Most of these horses walked and trotted well, picked up their fore feet smoothly, bent their knees and kept their hind feet well under them. This activity, with their great beauty, short, pointed ears, extra style, hardiness, endurance and docility, eminently distinguished them as splendid specimens of the coach and carriage horse.

Without the speed of the modern trotter, they stood remarkably well over our hard unyielding macadamized roads, and could travel all day. Our farmers would do well to go back and breed this class of horse and give up to a great extent the breeding of trotters, the supply of the latter in the last few years being greatly in excess of the demand.

Suitable sires to cross with the common mares and stock of the country can be obtained at a trifling expense among the many thoroughbreds that either break down yearly, or have not sufficient speed to be classed high as racehorses. Among them are many strong, stout and sound horses that can be bought cheap and whose service fees could be put at from $10 to $25, and pay a handsome per cent. on the investment. Nearly all our farmers seem desirous of breeding a trotter, and every year valuable mares are bred to inferior sires because they stand cheap, many of whom possess serious deficiencies. In this section, one of the best breeding districts in America, there are every year many indifferent sires advertised, whose stud career it would be better for the country at large if it was cut short by the free use of the knife. Many of these candidates for public patronage possess neither beauty, style nor finish, but have many faults which should not be perpetuated, such as weak, narrow loins, light thighs, bad curby hocks, light bones and thin, shelly feet. Many of them have nothing beyond their breeding to recommend them, and this often consists of some remote connection with a once fashionable strain of blood.

When farmers use such sires there is great uncertainty in producing sound, good-looking offspring. We would not be considered as opposed to the breeding of trotters, for we are not; but we are opposed to the indiscriminate breeding of mares either unsound themselves, or to sires that are unsound, with the expectation of getting a sound colt, fast trotter or good coach horse. When a farmer possesses a well-bred mare of known blood or of high form and marked characteristics, it is well to breed to the best sire within reach, but to breed a common mare of little trotting action to the best trotting sires, will oftener fail than succeed in producing a good trotter, and in nine cases out of ten will bring the farmer in debt before the youngster is half developed. Dissatisfaction and disappointment are nearly sure to follow such breeding, and when it does fail, the blame is generally laid on the sire, irrespective of the bad or indifferent qualities of the dam.

With young trotters selling in Kentucky at from $150 to $250 per head, even after they are broken and partly handled, it will not pay to breed anything but the best mares to high-priced stallions. Most of the stallions in Kentucky have been standing too high, and they must come down to suit the times. It is well enough perhaps for a few who have acquired a national reputation through their produce to demand high fees, but they are few and far between. It will not pay to breed common or ordinary mares of the country to $100 and $150 stallions.

We firmly believe that it will pay a majority of our farmers better to breed and rear the old style coach and carriage horse than it will the trotter, especially when you take into consideration the cost of the stallion's services, and the expense necessarily incurred to develop the trotter. There are a number of men who make a speciality of breeding trotters, and it should be left with them. If a farmer possesses good mares he had better breed on the shares or farm them to some reliable breeder, than to breed himself, and have the country dotted all over with tracks, his sons driving young trotters to the neglect of more important work on the farm. The farmers of this State have enormous advantages over other less favored sections of country. We have better material than is to be found elsewhere, from the long and free use of thoroughbred sires, which enables our farmers to enter into breeding under more favorable circumstances. We are in possession of the most delightful climate, the finest soil and most luxuriant grass region in the world and need fear no rivals; and the large number of thoroughbred horses bred annually that are not good enough for races, furnish capital material to produce the coach, carriage and general utility horse.

FEVER IN THE FEET.—There is nothing better for fever in the feet of horses than bandages wet with water. It is better than "stuffing" with filth, so often recommended.

Dairy Husbandry.

AN EXPERIMENTAL DAIRY STATION AND ITS NEEDS.

For some years past, the establishment of an experimental dairy farm has been agitated at our dairy conventions, and we have alluded to the subject from time to time in these columns. It is a question of deep interest to those who are looking to the progress of the dairy. In what manner it should be established, whether in connection with some college or university, or whether separate from such institutions, there seems to be a difference of opinion among dairymen. Those who favor the university connection urge, that as such institutions have regularly-appointed professors, whose salaries are paid by their respective corporations, all analyses or work requiring the skill of trained scientists could be performed at little or no expense chargeable to the experimental dairy station. On the other hand, if trained scientists are to be employed to do the analytical and professional work of such a station, in addition, of course, to the superintendent who is to conduct the necessary experiments, the cost of maintaining such station would be very greatly enhanced and with no particular gain, so far as investigations and results are concerned.

We are told that Cornell University has offered to take charge of the analytical department of any such dairy station that may be inaugurated, and perform all the necessary work requiring the skill of special scientists. All, then, that would be required is the farm, the buildings, the stock, and the necessary tools and appliances for conducting the farm experiments, with an intelligent and capable superintendent to take charge of and record such experiments as are to be made. We presume there are other colleges in the State of New York that would be willing to take upon themselves the chemical and other scientific work connected with such a farm on the same terms as those offered by Cornell. The latter institution, however, may be better fitted for such work, inasmuch as it has an agricultural department with special professors, which does not obtain in many of our colleges.

Now why is not this plan as feasible as any? The main difficulty in organizing an experimental dairy station is the expense. If large appropriations from the State or from private individuals could be had, sufficient to maintain a laboratory, a chemist, a veterinary surgeon, a microscopist, and other professors needed and connected directly and solely with the first, doubtless this, in some respects, would be best; but as we are not likely very soon to get such endowments, the plan proposed seems to be the easier to be accomplished.

Had the $15,000 or $20,000—which has been raised and squandered in the effort to make a dairy display at the Centennial—been devoted to the purchase and equipment of an experimental dairy farm, we should have to-day something to be proud of—a substantial beginning of that progress in dairy husbandry which every true friend of the dairy has for a long time ardently wished. But, under the "Ring" management, it is feared the Centennial dairy display will have accomplished nothing. It will be a warning, however, for dairymen in the contemplated inauguration of an experimental dairy station, to so guard the preliminaries of the work that it shall not fall into a few selfish and partisan hands who will be intent on running such an enterprise for private ends. The men to carry forward any great undertaking of this kind must be above any selfish motive or partisan spirit. They must have the public good at heart, and be willing to make sacrifice of self that the great dairy interest of the country may be permanently benefited. Under the guidance of such men, we may hope to make an experimental dairy station an honor to the State and a means of advancing dairy science and practice, and thus to achieve distinguished success for American dairying.

Pertinent to this question, we find some very sensible remarks from Mr. O. S. Bliss, the well-known Secretary of the Vermont Dairymens' Association. He is urging an experimental farm station for Vermont, and says: "Every farm or garden whose accurate experiments are conducted and recorded in detail is, to all intents and purposes, an experiment station. I much doubt, however, the propriety of designating a chemical laboratory devoted to the analysis of fertilizers an experiment station. An analysis is not, in any sense, an experiment. But we need not quarrel over terms, if we are able to comprehend their intent. It matters but little where an experiment is conducted, provided it is intelligently and honestly conducted. The great difficulty with the great mass of experiments is, that they are not well formulated to begin with, and that important elements are overlooked, either in the experiment itself or in the recording it for others' use. On this account not one in a thousand of the experiments reported in the newspapers and elsewhere, is worth the paper on which it is printed or written. In discussing the need of a Vermont experiment station and the manner of supplying that need, we are prone to overlook the fact that we have, at this time, the benefit of the very large experience of others, and we are not compelled to grope our way wholly in the dark. We should start where they are leaving off. We have in the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College an institution qualified, competent and willing to do all the needful scientific work of an experiment station. Perhaps the same is true of the other colleges: I do not know. We have a Board of Agriculture, which should be competent and willing to formulate and direct any practical experiment. We need then a good, well-stocked farm in the charge of an intelligent, painstaking farmer—nothing more—to work out in the soil, in the stalls or elsewhere the experiments."

Mr. Bliss further makes the offer that if the State or any State society will invest $10,000 in a farm, fixtures and stock, well and properly located, he will undertake to work out every needed experiment for ten years, and, at the end of that time, return the farm, etc., etc., in better condition than he took it, and without a dollar of further expense.

This, it would seem, is a very liberal offer, and it shows how much may be done with a fund of $10,000. We have no doubt that competent persons may be found in New York State also who would be willing to engage in the work on similar terms. Under such an arrangement, it will be seen the experimental farm becomes self-supporting.

Again Mr. Bliss says: "I sincerely believe such an experiment station, located anywhere in Vermont, would pay for itself to the State at large the second year and every year thereafter. We need, more than all else, accurate experiments in the common details of farming, dairying, stock-growing, orcharding, drainage, etc. The commercial fertilizer business is now, and ever will be, of secondary importance in Vermont. We need far more to know how to employ commercial food for our stock, how to convert that into farmyard and stable fertilizers, and how to apply them to advantage. A large part of the experiments needed should pay as they go. Original investigations of merely theoretical topics, which are more expensive and less important, may be relegated to the National Department of Agriculture, or most anywhere else, for the present, at least."

We should be glad to see an experimental dairy station established in New York. It is especially needed, at this time, to settle many questions in dairy produce which now have a divided opinion among dairymen. We hope to see great progress made in dairy husbandry, and especially in the economies of the business. It is the waste in many departments of this industry that presses most heavily on the nett income of dairy farmers, and it is from the avoidance of this waste that some dairy farmers often see their way out of difficulties that so often prove disastrous to others. The mass of farmers need a knowledge of the best way of managing dairy farms, of feeding stock for the production of milk, of the manipulating of milk for the manufacture of the finest goods, of preserving these products perfectly until they reach the consumer, and of many other points connected with the business. These can, perhaps, be best obtained from an experimental dairy station, where the experiments are so carefully and perfectly conducted as to carry the weight of authority in their proofs. Let us, by all means, have an experimental dairy station; but, in endeavoring to inaugurate such a project, let the proper precautions be taken that the measure be not killed by a "Ring."

MILK SUGAR.

We hope the time is not distant when the chemists may find a use for milk sugar that will create a large demand for it, so that it will enter into commerce on an equality with other articles of general consumption. Should this occur, we should have another element of the dairy which would add considerably to the profits. In the making of cheese the milk sugar, as is well known, mostly pours off in the whey. Of the solid constituents of whey, the milk sugar is in the largest proportion, ranging from 4 to 5 per cent. In an average sample of milk we have, in round numbers, water, about 87 parts; butter, 3½ parts; casein, 3½ parts; and milk and sugar 5 parts, the balance of the 100 parts being mineral matter.

It will be seen that the milk sugar contained in milk is larger than the proportion of butter, and is as 5 to 8 when compared with the butter and casein combined. An estimate has been made of the annual yield of sugar from the whey of 30 factories, averaging 400 cows each, and it amounts to the enormous quantity of 2,000,000 lbs. or 10,000 bbls. At the price of only 10c. ₩ lb., a factory of 1,000 cows, on the above estimate, would yield 800 lbs. of milk sugar per day worth $80, or $2,400 per month. Milk sugar, at the present time, brings a high price. It is used by homœopathists as the vehicle for their medicines, and, in other practice, as an article of food for infants in teething, being less apt to produce acidity than cane sugar. It has also been recommended as a non-nitrogenous article of diet in pulmonary diseases. The demand, being limited, regulates its production, we suppose and from its comparative scarcity, the price of course is high, being sold at the shops not unfrequently at a dollar per pound.

The milk sugar of commerce comes from Switzerland. It is made, we have been informed, by allowing the whey from cheese-making to trickle down the sides of the mountains in wooden troughs or gutters. Threads are placed in the gutters, upon which the sugar adheres as the watery portions pass off in evaporation.

On the authority of the American Encyclopedia: "It is prepared from whey obtained from milk coagulated, with a little dilute sulphuric acid, and left several weeks in a cool place to crystalize. The crystals of sugar of milk are collected and decolorised by animal charcoal and repeated crystallization. By the homœopathists, sugar of milk is regarded as the most inert substance upon the system, and for this reason, as well as on account of its great hardness, which causes it to reduce to extreme fineness the substances with which it is ground, they esteem it as the best medium for their medicines, and are, by far, the largest consumers of it."

We have no doubt there are various ways in which milk sugar could be used for food, and if these were shown, it might prove an important source of profit to the dairy. Among the new uses to which substances are being put, from time to time, it is a matter of no little surprise that milk sugar should not be on the list. From the large quantities of whey at the factories, the material would not be wanting for the production of this sugar to meet almost any demand. Will not some of our chemists tell us how this product can be utilized and then the best method of manufacturing it. If as much, or more, can be made from the sugar of milk as can be obtained for the butter, the prospects of dairying will be cheering.

The Poultry Yard.

KEEPING POULTRY.—No. 6.

After building the house, completing interior arrangements, and we are about putting in the fowls, the question is (if not thought of before) how many fowls will the building accommodate without crowding, and give them room enough to keep healthy? This is another rock that many an amateur founders upon. First, he sees one lot of fowls that he likes and procures them; then by chance he happens to find some better ones, and thinks he must have them also; or he sees another kind that he would like to keep; he is likely to begin overcrowding. By far the best way is to begin with too few rather than too many, keeping to one variety and thoroughly understanding it by experience before branching into many kinds.

One can more enjoy what he has, when contented with a reasonable number. A house four or five feet square should not contain more than a cock and three hens; a house 8 by 10 feet, twenty birds; 12 by 16, fifty; or an average of four square feet of ground room for each inmate of ordinary size. Bantams require a third less room. These limits, I believe, must not be encroached upon under any circumstances. If on a farm and the fowls have unlimited range; are of a hardy constitution, and all the sanitary rules laid down are rightly attended to, then they may be increased a quarter to a half more in number. If you keep pure bred fowls with the idea of raising show birds, and wish to improve the stock on hand, give them all the study and attention they require; observe the peculiarities of each *individual bird*, and if you do not keep a written register of your stock, do so mentally, that you may observe the results produced from each hen and her mate. By so doing you will easily find out *how* to improve your stock, or keep up their high standard if already attained. No breeder of fine poultry should breed with so many birds that he cannot take proper cognizance of each individual. He will then derive such pleasure and interest from his pets as only a true fancier can enjoy. Poultry keeping, if commenced in this way, is much more likely to be a permanent pleasure, and some profit is sure to be derived from it. Keeping the economical point in view, as here recommended, does not incur a great outlay and does not bring many regrets at useless expenditures.

Very few indeed ever kept pure bred fowls without going through most, if not all, the experiences here cautioned against, and it has been a great hindrance to the general development of the "fancy," and has brought it into bad repute with many people who would otherwise have been ardent admirers of such beautiful specimens of creation. H. Hales.

QUESTIONS ABOUT POULTRY.

T. S. L., LeSeur Co., Minn., H. W. M., Wasoca Co., Minn., and J. B. D., Story Co., Iowa, ask the following questions, requesting answers in the Rural New-Yorker:

1. How many fowls can be kept in one enclosure without loss in health or egg production? 2. How many fowls would it do for a man to keep, giving his whole attention to them? 3. What is the proper size of a house to accommodate 100 fowls? 4. What is the best floor for a hen house? 5. Why do you prefer the Light Brahmas? 6. Cannot the small breeds, such as Leghorns, be raised much cheaper than Brahmas? 7. What will cure chicken cholera? 8. Can hens be cured of the habit of eating eggs? 9. Can they be cured of feather eating? 10. Are ducks, turkeys and geese as profitable as other fowls?

1. My experience in the last nine years would be in favor of keeping thirty in a pen, having been most successful with that number. I have, however, wintered as many as 100 in a pen with no bad effect. Mr. B. F. Squires of Long Island has kept as high as 350 in a pen with satisfactory results. It is risky to keep more than 50 in a single enclosure.

2. It would be imprudent for a man to keep more than 600 fowls, and very imprudent to keep even that number unless he was very skillful and careful.

3. A house twenty feet square will give 400 square feet of floor, or four square feet to each fowl, which is about the right proportion.

4. Any floor that is hard and dry is good enough, but I think asphalt is the best, if cost is not a consideration.

5. Because I find the most profit in them. To speak a little plainer: because they lay when eggs are scarce and high; they sit early and give us early chickens. Then they begin to lay again just in time for the mid-summer rise, and molt, before cold weather, and are ready to lay again when others cease on account of cold weather. When dressed, they will sell for from 10 to 30 per cent above your "20-ounce," pin-feathery breed; and you can fence them in without rooting the yard.

6. You can raise three Leghorns with the same grain that it takes to raise one Brahma; but the Leghorn, when grown, will eat just as much, in proportion to the number of eggs laid, as Brahmas; and when killed and dressed the latter will bring as much as four Leghorns. It is as foolish to talk about one breed of fowls laying more for the food consumed than another, as to talk of one millstone making more meal than another, in proportion to the corn used;* and it will take just as much corn to make six pounds of chicken on two legs as it will to make it on eight legs; but your six-pound fowl will bring 12½c. ₩ lb. when your 1½ lbs. bring 10c. This is not merely in our own local market, but in Chicago and New York.

7. I don't know. It can be prevented by furnishing the fowls with fresh water each day and keeping the house clean. I do not have diseases enough in my flock to get any practice in doctoring.

8. I have cured them of this habit by putting the fowl in a pen where there was a nest of "spoiled" eggs. They would not want to try it again soon. Prevent their getting this habit by making the nests dark.

9. By cutting off their heads. I know no other way.

10. My experience with ducks is unfavorable. They had a bad habit of dying, apparently without cause. Turkeys are good to destroy our meadow grasshopper, and are profitable to raise if you can give them the necessary care. Geese are strangers to me. A. M. Van Auken.

Fort Howard, Wis.

* We think our correspondent is all wrong in declaring that it is "foolish to talk about one breed not laying more eggs than another for the amount of food consumed." Our own experience leads us to believe that there is a very marked difference in breeds, amounting, in some instances, from 25 to 50 per cent. in the number of eggs produced from a given quantity of food. The same will also hold good, but not to such an extent, in the production of flesh, some laying on far more flesh than others from the same amount of food. If there was no difference in breeds, regarding their egg or meat-producing habits, each requiring a certain amount of food to produce certain results, the choice between them, would be much less than it is now. As well might we claim that it required as much food to produce a pound of butter from one of our best Jersey cows as it does from that of the poorest common stock, or that a Short-Horn steer will lay on no more fat from eating a ton of meal or hay than one from the prairies of Texas.

If our own experience counts for anything, the Brahmas will beat the Leghorns in laying on flesh; but fall far short when it comes to the egg question. What say our correspondents on these mooted points.—Ed. Rural.

Industrial Societies.

N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

36TH ANNUAL CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR,

ALBANY, Sept. 13, 1876.

ACCORDING to the regular rotation every third year, the Centenary finds the meeting of this Association here now, and a more roomy and commodious ground could hardly have been selected. Excellent cattle and horse sheds, with good, substantial buildings for Machinery Hall, Stove Hall and Domestic Hall are supplemented by good Headquarters and numerous neat little offices scattered over the grounds for the use of the heads of departments.

The meetings of this Association have long been recognized as the most successful State meetings in this country, and the Fair this year, while it is of course somewhat dimmed by the great Philadelphia Exhibition, is a much greater success than many supposed it would be.

The display of Live Stock is simply magnificent in proportions and quality, and forms one of the most attractive features of the exhibition.

FLORL HALL is not so full as it might be in some respects, few but amateurs making any exhibits in floriculture. ELLWANGER & BARRY of Rochester, display a fine collection of fruits, consisting of 129 varieties of apples, 102 of pears, 35 of plums and 33 of grapes. Nothing new among them was observed; but the whole exhibit does them great honor. In addition to their fruit, they exhibited 113 different varieties of roses. ARTHUR MCCORMACK of Bath, N. Y., displayed 46 varieties of grapes, among which he had no novelties. D. C. WILDEY of Hudson, N. Y., exhibited 10 varieties of pears and 8 of plums, including a new seedling plum of excellent quality. There were several other small collections, some of which were quite praiseworthy.

DOMESTIC HALL contained the usual show of sewing machines, bed-quilts, pianos, dish-pans and numerous knick-knacks of all sorts and kinds generally found there. Among the noticeable exhibits were the Cortland Wagons, which attracted much attention by their strength and beauty of construction. This company bids fair to make an appearance on wheels before the world some day in such a way as to leave a track behind them.

THE DAIRY display is so near a failure that I am almost led to believe the "Centennial Dairy Ring" must have been around. If I were not fully satisfied of the entire trustworthiness of all the officers and employees of this Society, I should have been induced, by contemplating this display, to look around for the familiar Philadelphia faces which are to be found at Mr. POPE'S CHEESE PALACE at the Centennial.

THE POULTRY exhibits were very full and of excellent quality. There have been N. Y. State Fairs when this feature received comparatively little attention; but this year the poultry breeders seem to have surpassed themselves here, hence a most excellent exhibition of all kinds of poultry, including some of the finest birds ever seen in this State.

The weather is cool and fine to-day and people are flocking through the gates on both sides of the grounds. A large attendance is present and more coming all the time. The awards have not all been made yet; but will probably be completed by to-morrow.

The display of AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS and machinery was not as large as usual, probably on account of the Exhibition at the Centennial. Several new implements were on the grounds and a number of exhibitors from the West showed their goods for the first time at the East. Western manufacturers are beginning to sell in the Eastern and Middle States quite largely, their facilities for cheap manufacture overcoming the price of freight.

I noticed among the improvements the New "Monitor" Portable Steam Engine, Batavia Steam Engine Co., Batavia, N. Y. This was the only steamer on the grounds, and was used to propel the Sweepstakes Power Thresher and Separator, C. Aultman & Co., Canton, Ohio. The latter has been improved this year by lowering it about eighteen inches, making it now all in one frame. They also have an improvement on their end shake, using a drop to prevent the carrying over of grain with the straw.

O. H. P. Cornell, the new owner of the Albany Agricultural Works, claims several improvements in their Thresher and Cleaner. One is that they work both shakes with one Pitman, and, by using a rubber spring on the shaker shoe, the lost motion is taken up, thus saving about 20 per cent. of power.

The Wheeler & Melick Co. have added several good features to their Threshing Machine. The connection rods are now made so that they can be tightened at will by an end screw pressing up on the outer end of the box. They also use a new self-tightening joint that will keep the rod at all times in line with the main shaft.

Philips' Spiral Corn Husker was in full operation. This machine has been improved this year by lengthening the rolls, thus increasing its capacity 15 per cent, with the same power.

There was a very good show of plows, the principal exhibitors being Carter & Sons, Gregg & Co., New York Plow Co., Robinson Chilled Plow Co., Remington Ag'l Co., and Ford Bros., Gregg & Co. showed the Osborn Sulky Plow, which attracted a good deal of attention. The Robinson Chilled Plow Co. showed their New Chilled Plow for the first time at a State fair. The chilling and carbonizing process through which the iron is passed, renders it harder than steel. They will scour easy in any kind of soil, and are specially adapted to hard lands. The Remington Ag'l Co. made a fine showing of Mohawk Valley Clipper Steel and Carbon Plows. Their New Carbon Plow is made of a combination of cast and wrought iron and steel, put through a carbonizing process, which makes it one of the hardest metals known, it scours easily in all varieties of land, and has proved a success during the past season. The Bleeker Rotary Plow was shown here for the first time. This is a novelty which I should like to see in operation. Gifford, Johnson & Co. showed a full line of Wright's Walking Cultivators.

Grain Drills were represented by the "Farmers' Favorite," "Centennial," "Champion," "Buckeye" and "Empire."

P. P. Mast & Co. showed for the first time in this State the new "Buckeye" Broadcast Seeder and Cultivator, which has their new force feed regulated without change of gear, and can be used for any kind of grain or grass seed.

Mowing and Harvesting machines were not as well represented as usual. Among the many labor-saving implements of this class I noticed the Walter A. Wood, with the new Locke binder attachment, which proved such a great success at the Centennial Field Exhibition last August; "Buckeye," "Bradley," "Crawford," "Kirby," "Wheeler No. 6," "Victor," "Wood's Eagle," "Warrior," &c.

Adriance, Platt & Co. showed Brown's new Self-Raking Reaper. In building this implement special consideration has been paid to lightness and strength. It weighs 650 lbs., cuts 5 ft., has a draft of about 180 lbs., and the price will be in the neighborhood of $120. A few were put out last year and, as far as heard from, worked well.

Bradley Mfg. Co. showed their New Self-Rake Reaper, which will be put in the market next season. Wood's Eagle Reaper Co. have improved the rake head of their self-rake reaper by dispensing with the spring and using a cam and trip, making their rake more easily adjusted.

Hay Rakes were in good numbers, among them were the "New Adriance," "Bradley," "Archer," "Field's Self-Discharging," "Yankee," "Albany," "Wisner's Tiger," with Wisner himself to back it, "Centennial," "Ithaca," etc. A New Self-Dumb Rake was shown by Alexander Ricket. It has a new friction grip—very simple in its operation. Four or five of these rakes have been successfully tried the past season; but we can not say as to what its true worth will be until it is more fully tested. The "Centennial," exhibited by the Wheeler, Melick Co., is a neat rake, brought out, for the first time, in "1876." It is a self-dump, with a friction grip. The axle revolves with the wheel, and is divided in the center, allowing each wheel to act independently. It has no ratchet gearing. The clutch is operated by a friction band, which needs very little pressure from the foot to dump the load. A number of these rakes were sold during the past season, and, as far as heard from, have given good satisfaction. A. B. Cohn showed—as new in this State—the Common-Sense Stalk Cutter, and also their "Prize" churn.

Abbott, Brew & Co. exhibited the Centennial Feed Cutter. This machine is simple, compact and easily operated. There is no gearing in the knife-box to clog the feed. The knife-shaft makes 4½ revolutions to each turn of the crank. The upper feed-roller is self-regulating, either end rising independent of the other, making the pressure on the fodder equal at all times. This firm also show the American Cider Mill and Press, which crushes the apples thoroughly, breaking all the cells, and can be adjusted to work either coarse or fine. It will grind grapes without crushing the seed, and makes a good wine mill. The wear on the roll-shaft is taken up by an eccentric, so as to keep the mill true. The press has a center drain, by which the cider is run off in the middle of the tub. The staves of the tub are riveted on, making it stronger.

The Mohawk & Hudson Mf'g. Co. show Dodge's Excelsior Hay Press. This press is set on wheels, so that it is easily transported and is ready for work at all times. The power is mounted and carried on the forward part of the truck. It is a self-feeder, making a circular bale, and presses ten tons to the car. It is meeting with good success in our haying regions.

The show of dairy implements was very small. John Campbell exhibited his new oscillating Monitor Churn. This churn is made of tin and has the oscillating motion of the "Bullard," without its steadiness. Dairymen who have seen it do not think it will be a success, on account of the material used. H. W. Howe showed the new "Howe Churn." This is a barrel churn set on a frame and worked by a handle; it has adjustable dashers inside. It is claimed that this churn has all the good points of the old dash churn.

The Monitor Milk Pan Co. had a fine set of their Milk Pans on exhibition. A. H. Reid made a good show of Butter Workers, which attracted a great deal of attention. G. F. & D. G. Wetherill made an exhibit of Papplein's Silicated Superphosphate of Lime, which they are now introducing throughout the country.

The Wagon show was very light—not a single farm wagon being on exhibition. The Cortland Wagon Co. made a fine show of their Platform Spring Wagons and carried off most of the premiums. These wagons are now coming into general use, and the manufacturers will soon have to enlarge their works again, so as to be able to meet the increasing demand..

J. M. Childs, E. E. Lummis and many other of our large dealers in agricultural machinery were on the grounds looking after new improvements.

SHORTHORN.

[THE further report of this Fair, including the list of principal awards, will have to go over till next week for lack of space.—ED.]

Sheep Husbandry.

BREEDING SHEEP FOR MUTTON.

TIMES may be dull and the price of wool low, still the farmer knows that both wool and mutton will always be in demand hence, instead of being discouraged should pay more attention to breeding for a purpose, and if it be mutton we commend the advice given in the following from the National Live Stock Journal which is quite timely as well as sound advice:

Now is the time for the farmer who expects to breed lambs for the markets, or who keeps a mutton flock, to be looking about for his breeding ram. In breeding for mutton, we must have early lambs; say from February to April. We consider a lamb dropped in March worth two dropped in May or June, for almost any purpose; and, for the spring-lamb market, they should be born a month earlier.

The first question to be considered, is the breed. It is doubtless true, as has been argued of late, that the excellent Merino sheep of American breed can be—indeed, have been, in some flocks—greatly improved in early maturity—a point of great importance where sheep are reared for mutton. And it is also true that they have been improved in grazing and feeding qualities—that, in fact, the form of the carcass, in the best varieties of this wonderful and most ancient race of sheep, has been brought much nearer the type we require for the production of flesh, than was thought possible forty or fifty years ago; but, as growers and feeders, they are still far behind the best long wools, and in quality of flesh, their advocates do not claim that they approach the excellence of the Downs.

The selection of the breeding ram, therefore, where mutton is produced, must be from the long wools, or the Downs. If we make choice from the former, we must be careful that we have an animal of stout and robust constitution. These sheep have been so generally forced with artificial food, that many of them lack the hardiness required for the farmer's purposes. What we must have, is a straight, round barrel, on short legs, with short, stout neck, and vigorous, masculine appearance about the head. The body should be well covered with a long and lustrous staple, of uniform quality. If the selection be of the Southdown breed, we should have the same general form as here described, but we ought to have a more compact and snug carcass, with a good deal more weight for bulk, than in the long-wool breeds.

In some neighborhoods the Shropshire Downs may be had—a variety that originated from a cross of the old long wools with the Downs. They are a very profitable sheep for the market—larger than the Southdowns, and their fleece much heavier. While the flesh is not equal, in fineness of grain, and delicacy of flavor, to the true Southdowns, they are even better growers, and, consequently, more profitable for the markets. Our advice would be, therefore, to those who are breeding mutton sheep to sell, to breed from a stout long wool, or a Shropshire ram, selecting the stoutest ewes that can be had from crosses of the same breeds, if they can be had, if not, the best you can get of the common sort, as near the approved form, as above given, as you can get them.

But if you want for your own use something that surpasses all flesh in healthfulness and in nutritious value, with a delicacy of flavor that rivals the best venison, secure a few pure Southdowns. They are as hardy as any race, and, though less thrifty in growth than the larger varieties, with a lighter, and, therefore, less valuable fleece, they are, on the whole, a profitable sheep for those who properly estimate quality in mutton.

It should be stated in this connection that, while it is most desirable, in all departments of live stock to maintain the purity of the several races, it is nevertheless true, that cross-bred animals, if the sorts are good, are likely to be more thrifty and more prolific than those of the pure breeds that have been closely inbred. For producing mutton for the markets, therefore, we may anticipate very satisfactory results from the use of a good, well-bred ram on grade ewes of the right stamp, or even common ewes, if they are of good form and constitution.

But we urge upon our readers not to breed from inferior animals, whatever the breed or variety, when good ones are everywhere within reach at moderate prices. Indeed, it is much better not to breed at all, than to use stock defective in form, and unthrifty in habit. As in growing crops, the farmer must have, first of all, a good variety of sound and healthy seed, so, in stock growing, the good blood, and especially the sound, well-formed and vigorous sires and dams, must be had, if we are to have satisfactory or profitable results.

We trust our readers will excuse us for pressing this consideration upon all sheep breeders in regard to the selection of rams. The best-bred and best formed Merino rams may now be had for $50 to $100, and the long wools or Downs are quite as cheap; and when we reflect that we may have 50 to 100 lambs from a single sire, what a waste of money it is to use an inferior, flat-sided and light-fleeced ram, because he can be had for $10 to $15! The defects of a bad sire, used for a single season, will be visible in a flock for many generations, so that the injury done cannot be estimated; and the services of such an animal will never be accepted by an intelligent breeder, if tendered as a gratuity.

In conclusion, we suggest that the temporary low prices of sheep should not deter breeders from giving attention to breeding for the best. Indeed now, more than ever, should we all strive to weed out the inferior, and breed up for the most approved types.

Scientific and Useful.

QUICKSILVER—HOW IT IS MADE.

FEW of our readers probably have any idea where quicksilver came from or how it is made, but the following very excellent letter from a correspondent of the American Grocer throws much light upon the subject:

California, in addition to being the largest producer of silver and gold in the world, also has the richest quicksilver mines, and the name "New Almaden" has become synonymous with quicksilver all over the world. Having the good fortune to meet Mr. J. B. Randal, the Superintendent of the company, we were favored with an invitation to visit "New Almaden" and see how this volatile and interesting metal is produced; and taking the cars one afternoon, a ride of fifty miles, by the Southern Pacific Railroad, brought us to San Jose, which is the nearest point on the railroad to the mines. San Jose itself is a thriving little city of ten to twelve thousand inhabitants, situated in the charming Santa Clara valley, which is the garden of the State. Possessed of a delightful climate and a most fertile soil, in which can be raised nearly everything that is produced either in the temperate or torrid zones, and so near to San Francisco that it has a good market for its productions at all times, it is a veritable farmers' paradise; and it is no wonder that its fertile bottom lands command high prices. Passing the night at San Jose, we took a team early next morning and drove out to "New Almaden," which is about fifteen miles from the city.

The mine is situated nearly at the summit of one of the foot-hills of the "Coast Range" of mountains, and was originally discovered by the Indians, resorting to this place to procure the red paint with which they smeared their faces, and which was here found cropping out of the ground. It was discovered that this material was a rich vein of cinnabar or crude quicksilver. In course of time a company was formed to work it, and, for many years, it has been one of the principal producing quicksilver mines of the world. Being furnished with a guide, we stepped into the bucket or cage, and in a moment were lowered 1,400 feet down into the bowels of the earth. Here we got out and were conducted through a long and tortuous tunnel to the point where the miners were working the vein. We found a set of swarthy fellows drilling and blasting, and filling the small cars which are run over the tramway leading out to the shaft. After witnessing their operations for a short time, and securing some rich specimens of ore,

we retraced our steps to the shaft, and were hoisted to what is known as the "1,200 foot level," and here got into a somewhat larger car than those used on the lower level, and, propelled by a mule, were soon again out in the daylight.

The reducing works or furnaces are situated down at the bottom of the hill, and, proceeding there, we were shown the most interesting part of the process. The ore is put into vast-furnaces or retorts, and roasted at a white heat for three to four days. The fumes from the furnaces are conducted through a number of little rooms known as "Condensers," in which they condense into quicksilver, and run down through channels provided for the purpose, into iron kettles or receptacles below. It is very interesting to stand by the side of one of these kettles, and put one's hands down into what seems more like molten silver than anything else. It has all the weight and seeming solidity of the heaviest metal. Indeed, so heavy is it, that if you throw a piece of iron upon it, the iron floats like a chip of wood upon water; but you endeavor to grasp it in your hand, and it slips away from you as if it were a phantom, and, after several attempts, we gave it up in despair, convinced that this was the most intangible of all the heavy substances that we had ever seen. From these kettles it is drawn off into iron kegs or "flasks," as they are called. These are about twelve inches high, and from four to five inches in diameter, yet they contain about seventy-five pounds of quicksilver, from which an idea may be formed of its great density and weight.

Much of the quicksilver produced here is used in amalgamating with, and thus collecting, the gold and silver produced in the mines of the Pacific slope; but large quantities are shipped to all parts of the world for use in the mechanic arts. China takes considerable quantities, most of which is manufactured into vermilion; for it is an interesting fact that the red color which shows in the ore but disappears in the refined product, can again be made to appear by pursuing a certain chemical formula. The Chinese are very expert at this, and Chinese vermillion has been celebrated for years. Of late, however, the universal Yankee nation have begun to manufacture vermilion; and it is now said of this, as of many other articles, that our manufacturers can "beat the world" in producing it. Of course everybody is familiar with the use of quicksilver (or mercury as it is often called) in thermometers; but its sensitiveness to heat has lately been utilized for a new purpose—that of giving fire alarms. In the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, every room has a glass bulb filled with mercury, let into the ceiling, and, in the event of a fire originating here, as soon as the heat reaches 110 degrees, the mercury rises, connects two electric currents, and the news is instantly telegraphed to the office that there is a fire in No.——

It is said that a practical joker once tied a match to the end of his cane, lit it and held it up to the bulb; in a moment the fire brigade of the hotel were thundering at his door; opening it with the blandest possible smile, he informed them that it was all right, they might go back again now, as there wasn't any fire, but he was satisfied the thing would work if there was one. The number of uses for which quicksilver is employed is constantly increasing; but the production has also largely increased, and, in consequence, the price fallen largely. Two years ago it was worth $1.50 per pound; to-day, sales were made at 40 cents, from which it will be seen that it has more than kept pace with the decline in other articles. At present prices, however, it is said that it does not pay to mine it; and, doubtless, production will soon be largely curtailed unless the price advances.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL FRUIT.

CENTENNIAL GROUNDS, Sept. 15.

IT is a little surprising that the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario should in their grape selections show so decided a preference for Roger's Hybrids, while several degrees south of Ontario such various opinions exist as to their hardiness and ripening qualities. Finer specimens, however, than are exhibited of Salem, Wilder, Lindley and Agawam, are seldom seen from whatever source. Rebecca they consider their best white grape.

Of apples, the large, showy Alexander (Russian) and Kentish Fill-basket (English) the latter larger than the former, are first-rate cooking apples. An unnamed large, yellow crab, by Mrs. E. A. Taylor of London, Ont., is one of the best of its kind.

Ellwanger & Barry have 50 different varieties of plums that speak well for the effectiveness of their method of fighting curculios, viz., jarring the trees and collecting them upon sheets spread out underneath. Belle de Septembre, Duane's Purple, Yellow Magnum Bonum or Egg, Pond's Seedling, Huling's Superb, were the finest in appearance though only, for the majority, of medium quality.

Their pears as well as those of all Eastern exhibitors, show in a marked degree the effects of drought in being quite inferior in size to those of other years. All of the following are conspicuous for their beauty—most of them, indeed, for their quality as well:—Pater Noster, resembling the comparatively new and promising Souvenir du Congres, (figured in RURAL NEW-YORKER of June 5, 1875,) though smaller; Beurre d'Anjou, that well-nigh universal favorite; Hebe, a South Carolina pear beautifully blotched with red; Duhamel de Monceau, a new variety, dull-red and green: Beurre Diel, large green; Flemish Beauty; the Ohio Kirtland, resembling its parent the Seckel, though larger and somewhat less the type of what a pear should be in flavor. Their specimens of Beurre Clairgeau are fine—but so are all the Clairgeaus from whatever section, and they are to be seen in almost every collection. That this pear should have established the reputation of being sometimes poor in flavor, is not indicated by any external difference in comparing those of the different States in which they have been grown:—Sheldon; the favorite Beurre Bosc; Mansfield; Adams. Beurre Superfin is an autumn pear that, though decidedly acid, is yet of a most agreeable flavor.

We note the following additional varieties of pears that combine good eating qualities with showiness to the extent of making them desirable wherever soil and climate are favorable: Westcott, Doyenne Downing, Beurre Hardy, Catherine Gardette, Van Buren, Paul Ambre, Beurre Diel and Beurre Gris d'Hiver.

They (E. & B.) exhibit 164 varieties of Apples. Menagere is a large German winter cooking apple. Chenango Strawberry (Sherwood's Favorite) is a tempting looking apple, though ill-adapted to most places; Gravenstein, that thrives both North and South; Black Detroit and Flower of Kent, both handsome and inferior; Mother, high flavored, yellow and red, of medium size; Smith's Cider, deemed by many fruit growers one of the most valuable market varieties; Gloria Mundi (Monstrous Pippin), a coarse but handsome winter apple, good for cooking only; Twenty-Ounce Pippin (Twenty-Ounce properly) which for size and cooking qualities is perhaps as popular as any known. Summer Hagloe is showy, large, yellow and bright-red, ripening about Sept. 1st.

J. G. Ramsdell of Traverse City, Mich., exhibits fine Jefferson and Bradshaw plums, also excellent Sheldon, Superfin, Flemish Beauty and Clairgeau pears. All of the apples, as usual, of Michigan are superior—Brittle Sweet, Alexander, Lowell, Twenty-Ounce, are especially worthy of note.

The fruit growers of Minnesota speak in high terms of the Wealthy apple, which originated there. It is exceedingly showy, hardy of course, of good quality, and it seems singular that it has no record elsewhere. The Fameuse, extra plates of which are shown, does well in Minnesota. A plate exhibited by W. E. Brimhall, among others, and marked "Unknown," is doubtless this apple. The only pear that is perfectly hardy in the northern part of the State, is Flemish Beauty. Many crabs bearing names with which we are not familiar, are unusually large and perfect.

Hovey & Co. of Massachusetts exhibit 175 varieties of pears, of which Doyene Boussock, (Boussock), Sheldon, Hardy, Bosc, Clairgeau, Edmonds, the variable Beurre d'Amalis, Louise Bonne de Jersey (few of these are on exhibition), the excellent Beurre Kennes and Doyenne du Comice are the most striking.

Mr. M. P. Wilder's collection, consisting of 300 varieties, is so nearly a repetition of those of Ellwanger & Barry and Hovey & Co., with which it favorably compares, that we need not particularize. His Clapp's Favorites, however, are among the best specimens of this splendid fruit to be seen.

Among Joseph H. Fenno's pears, Flemish Beauty and Frederick of Wurtemberg are extra fine.

Edward W. Lincoln of Worcester displays extra Beurre Bosc; Newell Wood of Milbury, Doyenne Boussock. Amos Bates of Hingham, Mass., is one of the few exhibitors of the Bartlett, all of which, as of Duchess d'Angouleme, are inferior to those of other seasons.

C. E. Grant has a plate of De Tongres, a pear which, but for the tenderness of the tree, would be more generally cultivated.

F. & L. Clapp show the Clapp's Favorite in perfection. Whether we judge the merits of this fruit, the hardiness of the tree, its rapid growth or symmetrical shape, it has, in our opinion, few equals and not one superior. A seedling of theirs (No. 83) resembles Flemish Beauty, though showier. Another seedling, of which there are five upon the plate, is the shapeliest and prettiest pear we have ever seen, though the flavor does not, it is said, fulfill the promise of its beautiful form and colors. Even so, its beauty will "carry it through" and insure a ready sale.

The apples of Iowa, one of the largest collections in the building, are exceptionally fine and speak an encouraging word for the future of this State as an apple-growing country. Taking the collection as a whole, it is not excelled.

We pass over the display of California, which, if size is a first criterion, would do credit to any country upon the face of the earth. Almonds, figs, nectarines, the largest grapes, peaches and apples, utterly eclipse the fruit productions of other sections. But as soon as one sees they are from California, surprise—almost interest—ceases. Great size in fruits is curious, but the curiosity with familiarity passes away, and their value must finally rest upon those qualities which constitute the type apple, pear, peach or grape the most delicious of man's food. California's fruits do not possess in an eminent degree those qualities.

Nebraska sends numberless varieties of apples and excellent Sheldon, Flemish Beauty and Louise Bonne de Jersey pears.

The apples of Kansas are remarkable in size and in every way suggestive of the adaptation of the soil and climate of that State for their successful cultivation. Alexander, R. I. Greening, Fallawater, Yellow Belleflower, Fulton, Northern Spy, T. Co. King—of which first-rate specimens are shown—all do well in Kansas. Ben Davis, Willow Twig, Winesap and Jonathan are, however, among their most profitable winter sorts, while Early Harvest, Carolina Red June and Cooper's Early White are their stable apples for summer.

Mr. Rickets' celebrated hybrid grapes excite a deal of notice and wondering comment. We can give them at present but this passing notice. To do his collection justice would require a good, long chapter to itself.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

THE great drawback to appreciation is a lack of knowledge of the article under inspection. There are but comparatively few among the visitors at the Centennial who go away with very distinct ideas about the things that may have most attracted their attention. They may convince themselves of this by attempting to describe what they have seen to those who depend on the speaker for lucid accounts of the interesting or marvelous. It is difficult for a novice to ask leading questions if he has but a veneering of information concerning the subject; and it is the most discouraging of tasks to induce exhibitors and attendants to be expansive after they have parroted explanations all day to countless numbers. ELKINGTON & Co., the inventors of electro-plating, exhibited their magnificent works of art, the most prominent being the Helicon Vase, a trophy in repousse silver and steel, illustrative of MUSIC and POETRY. Like sensible men, they have had a number of printed descriptions struck off, which enables the visitor to understand the process of manufacture thoroughly, after which he can admire fully this exquisite work of art, whose value is $30,000, in gold. We quote:

This Center Piece or Vase is wrought out of silver and steel by the "*repousse*" process, that is to say the whole of the exquisite work is hammered out of the flat silver entirely by hand, and is further enriched with damascened tracery in gold and silver. It is beyond all comparison the most important work of high art ever produced by Elkington & Co., and has taken six years in manufacture. It ranks as the masterpiece of the eminent metal sculptor, M. Morel Ladeuil. Many and important as are the works which have issued from the hands of this accomplished artist, from his "silver table" to the Milton Shield he has never before achieved anything approaching in beauty of design, fullness of elaboration, and mastery of technical execution, to this noble allegorical composition, in which are embodied, we understand, the fruits of nearly six years' unbroken application. The general form of the design, which is in the style of the Italian Renaissance, and devoted to the apotheosis of Music and Poetry, may be described as an elongated plateau enriched with sculptured plaques or panels, and supporting in its center, between two seated figures, a tall and stately Vase.

The Vase, which is of ovoid form, with upraised handles gracefully continuing the curve of the sides, is surmounted by a charmingly posed group of two boyish genii, the upper one bearing aloft Apollo's lyre, which forms the apex of the work, while the youth at his feet tests the purity of the strain with a tuning fork. A floral garland on either side connects this group with the handles of the Vase, and adds strength to the composition. On the body of the Vase, on either side, are large medallion reliefs in *repousse*, representing the Nine Muses, four on one side and five on the other; and the bases of the handles are covered by scutcheons bearing the names of illustrious poets and composers—Homer, Shakespeare, Moliere and Byron on the one, and Handel, Beethoven, Haydn and Mozart on the other.

Upon the pedestal on either side, facing the extremities of the plateau, are seated large, semi-draped female figures, symbolizing Music and Poetry, and either nymph is attended by a youthful genii, whose action dramatically supplements the indications afforded by the pose, expression and accessories as to the character and pursuits of the principal figure. Upon the shelving base of the pedestal, on either side, is an oval bas-relief, occupied, the one by a spirited representation of Pegasus bearing a genii typifying Inspirallon, the other by a griffin or hippegraph, carrying the genii of Imagination.

Upon the sloping surface of the outer border of the plateau are a series of twelve bas-reliefs of various shapes, illustrative of the various descriptions of Music and Poetry, six of each kind; and the interstices of the design are filled up with masks, scrolls and trophies of various kinds in beaten and oxydized silver, which is everywhere thrown up in admirable relief by the ebony black ground of the damascened steel, which forms the framework and setting of the composition.

No words can well convey the chaste and harmonious beauty of the work, the charms of which, unlike those of modern metal work in general, are essentially sculpturesque as opposed to chromatic, and derived from elegance of form rather than from surface decoration. The modeling of the detached figures throughout is simply superb, combining the rare proportions and matchless symmetry of classical forms with French *esprit* and grace; and the figure work in the bas-reliefs, in which nymps, cupids and satyrs seem to be invested by the artist with an individuality and expressive power rarely found in such conventional embodiments, is scarcely less meritorious.

REV. E. M. LONG is superintending a movement to furnish visitors with good accommodations at low rates. He assigns them to houses of private families, of which he has a large list. The merit of the plan consists in the fact that respectable people can visit the Centennial without the danger of mixing in a promiscuous crowd. This is a great advantage to ladies, for instance, who cannot command a male escort. Prices range from $5 to $14 per week. Mr. LONG can be reached by letter. Office, S.W. cor. of Twelfth and Berks. The plan appears to meet with favor.

THE proprietors of the London Graphic, an illustrated journal, make a very curious and interesting display of the various processes they use in producing their paper. Some very fine examples of wood engraving are shown, but the most interesting feature is a collection of original sketches portraying scenes that subsequently appeared in the paper. There are sketches that were taken on the field of battle; that were sent by balloon post from Paris during the siege; that came across the Pyrenees whilst the Carlist war raged, etc.

THE automatic envelope machine, in the Main Hall, is a curiosity. It makes out of a sheet of buff paper, that unwinds from an endless reel, 145 envelopes a minute. The paper is cut, shaped, folded, pasted, fastened gummed, and the gum dried, all by machinery—which finally delivers the envelopes all done up in neat packages. One girl attends the machine.

THE French are in a terrible rage about the recent conflagration in a building near the Exhibition, by which a great number of the expensive boxes in which the pictures, statuary and other objects of art were transported hither were burned. Although the money loss by this fire is quite large, this is not what chiefly annoys the French, but they declare that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

A GREAT crowd continually forms in the picture rooms and galleries of marble statues, in Memorial Hall and the art annex; and, while the exhibition, as a whole, falls far short of what it should be (France, especially, doesn't contribute what she should), yet there are many valuable paintings and statues. It would take more than one day to see the whole.

AN interested crowd hangs about the west side of the great water tank, in Machinery Hall, where, almost under the big and little pipes that pour their constant stream from a hight of forty feet down into the tank, there are fan-blowers shown—machines for exhibiting the force of compressed air. One mine ventilator is exhibited.

THE violent storm of the 17th Sept. knocked some glass out of the Main Building, and considerable damage was done to the English and American exhibits.

THE largest specimen that was exhibited in the dog show weighed 167 pounds, and the smallest 2½ pounds.

DON'T fail to see the display made by the famous London silversmiths, ELKINGTON & Co.

AMONG the animals in the live stock show is a ack from Malta.

Floricultural.

BULBOUS PLANTS.

Tulips and Hyacinths, if they bloomed in the richest floral season, early summer, would be deemed as showy as the showiest of the plants then blooming. But when it is considered that they begin blooming in early April, when other things are only beginning to bud and the country shows only the first green tint of verdure, it is as if one's garden, without them, lost two weeks of spring, and that, too, at a time when, from long and patient waiting, we are ready to seize upon the first violet with a freshly-awakened enthusiasm that, as flowers become more numerous and the season wears on apace, is prone rather to pall than to increase.

Spring bulbs, to produce their best effects, should be planted in quantities. A scattered Hyacinth or Crocus here or there looks lonely, cold—looks as if it were an escaped hot-house subject that was in danger of freezing to death, and we are the more inclined to think of "The last Rose of Summer" than of the sturdy flowers of spring that the frosty air will harm not at all. If we have but a few of such bulbs, better grow them in the house, to enliven the window or conservatory through mid-winter. But the effect of many spring bulbs blooming together in the same border is very different. We may then feel that they are quite at home; that they are proud of their brilliant colors and conscious of the pleasure they afford us.

Instead of planting Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocus, Crown Imperial, etc., in beds from which later in the season they must be removed, or else injured by the introduction of bedding-plants to fill their places, would it not be a good plan to plant together in one larger plot all plants of the Lily kind, there to remain undisturbed for several years in succession? Such a plot would give flowers of one species or another from early spring until frost. First, about the 1st of April, we should have the bright, though short-lived, flowers of the Crocus, white, yellow, blue and striped, lasting until the first of May, and at the same time the Snow Flakes, *Leucojum vernum* and *æstivum*, the latter taller than the former; the Winter Aconite, *Eranthus hyemalis*, and the yellow Adder's Tongue, *Erythronium Americanum*; the Roman Hyacinth, far less showy than the later Hyacinths, but blooming ten days earlier. Then the Hyacinths of all colors are added in early May—the early Tulips; then the Double and Parrot, and finally the late Tulips, prettiest, perhaps, of all; the Crown Imperials, blooming the 1st of May; the Narcissus, and, in sheltered spots, the Anemone and Ranunculus.

Among the earliest and most showy of summer Lilies is *L. umbellatum*. It flowers in the middle of June. They are erect in umbels four inches or more across, of a dark orange color, and the bulbs so increase in two or three years as to produce masses of bloom two feet in diameter. We call particular attention to this Lily from the fact that with no care beyond that of weeding, it never has failed us in ten years.

Next, those known as Japan Lilies or *lancifoliums* (*speciosums*, *album*, *roseum* or *rubrum*, *punctatum*) are, for this latitude, to be prized. They begin blooming first of August, continuing until after frost. *Lilium auratum* and several of the distinct varieties that have sprung from it are, no doubt, the finest or all hardy Lilies; but they are more liable to disease and, left to themselves among other bulbs, will, as a general rule, grow beautifully less from year to year and finally disappear. Nevertheless, we should have it even though obliged to buy new bulbs every fall or spring. *L. excelsum* (*testaceum*) likewise, though as hardy as any of the others, does not thrive well under ordinary treatment. One year we raised this Lily with a stem five feet two inches high, not over *one inch* in diameter at the base, and bearing six of its recurved buff flowers a little larger than those of our *L. superbum*. The next season it grew one foot high—and the next was dead. *Chalcedonicum*, the scarlet Turk's Cap, the most wax-like of Lilies, of a crimson color, blooming in July, and *Brownii*, with its long, trumpet flowers, purple without, white within, are choice bulbs, which, however, as far as we are aware, have never been grown with success under the conditions of which we speak. *Longiflorum* and *Candidum*, the double-flowering Tiger, our *superbum* and *Canadense* will, however, seldom fail us, and, together with the others mentioned, may be relied upon for a bed of constant bloom from the latter part of March until hard frosts.

Let us, in arranging a plot of this description, plant also the Iris that is now being offered by our florists in many delicate colorings quite new to our gardens. It would seem almost impossible that so beautiful a flower could ever have become so entirely neglected. But the later varieties are destined to change this, and we anticipate that at an early day both these, as well as the old-fashioned sorts, will again become as freely used as are now Gladioli and Japan Lilies. There are many varieties, the following of which we have selected as being perfectly hardy and presenting a pleasing and diversified range of colors:

I. flava, *Admis*, *florentina*, *Smithi*, *Cleopatra*, *Formosa*, *Orpheus*, *plicata ventricosa*; also, *Xiphium* (Spanish), *Xiphioides* (English) in variety—and *Persica*, *Susiana* and *tuberosa*.

Funckias, *Hemerocallis* and *Tritoma uvaria* are well suited to such a combination. Most persons remove the Tritoma (Red-hot Poka) to the cellar in late fall, knowing that it will not stand severe winters. In the fall of '74 we covered them with mounds of sand, placing manure over these. They thus passed through the terrible winter of '75 uninjured. After so exceptional a test, we have little fear as to to their hardiness when thus protected. It is less trouble than to remove them to the cellar and look after them now and then through the winter.

A bed for the reception of specimens of the Lily-like plants we have recommended would need no labored preparation. If the soil is good, spading a foot deep and adding plenty of sand to make it light are chiefly needed. So arranged this fall, it might so remain for three years, increasing in beauty all the while, when all should be dug up, new soil supplied, the bulbs separated, fresh Hyacinths procured (they are worthless after three seasons) and a general reconstruction effected.

The preparation of this bed need not be begun until after frost and when the garden has lost its summer appearance. The bulbs (and roots) may be procured and planted at any time before the ground is frozen. The whole should be protected, at least for the first winter, with a covering of about three inches of clean manure, *not* to be removed in spring, but to remain and become incorporated with the soil.

Of all spring bulbs the Hyacinth is the most showy and perhaps the most trustworthy for house cultivation. We give the following sententions but explicit rules that, if acted upon, can hardly fail to produce pleasing results:

1. Select the heaviest bulbs; a small, heavy bulb will develop stronger roots and a more compact raceme than those which are larger and lighter.

2. If glasses are used, fill them with pure rain water, so that the bottom or plate of the bulb barely touches it. Fill the bottom of the glass with bits of charcoal; the changing of the water, which sometimes entangles or breaks the long, slender roots, will then be unnecessary.

3. Place the bulb in a cool, dark closet, or in the cellar, until roots have grown two inches or more, and then gradually introduce to the light, always, however, avoiding bright sunshine. According to most instructions, the bulb should remain in the dark until the roots have extended nearly or quite to the bottom of the glass. This, speaking from our own experience, is a mistake. The roots of bulbs, like those of other plants, in a measure, are assisted in growth by the leaves, and if we retard the latter too long, the roots draw too much sustenance from the bulb, which is but a hypertrophied stem, and the inflorescence is impaired accordingly. Some bulbs will emit roots in a few days; others require six weeks.

4. The single kinds are generally preferred for glass and water culture. We prefer them for out-door culture as well, though the double varieties, being later, add a few days to the Hyacinth season.

5. A temperature not over 65° and a moist atmosphere are desirable. Fill the glass with water as it evaporates.

It is better to grow all the spring bulbs in *soil*, which supplies elements of nourishment which water does not. It is only necessary to collect light soil, secure perfect drainage, place in the cellar or other dark, cool place until the leaves begin to grow, and then inure to the light.

Cyclamens, though little known as compared with Hyacinths and Tulips, are among the prettiest of bulbous plants for winter culture. They are of extremely delicate colors, short-tubed, with lobes so twisted as to resemble a shuttlecock. *C. Persicum* is the species most in favor for house or conservatory. The hardy *Gladiolus*, many of the *Iris*, the Snow-Drop, Ixia, Crocus, Oxalis, Narcissus, Jonquil, are all suitable for winter flowering. AN OLD GARDENER.

HYDRANGEA.

EDITOR RURAL NEW-YORKER:—All the species of the Hydrangea mentioned in my communication of last week, I cultivate on my own grounds. They are perfectly hardy, with the exception of the variety *Hortensia*, which requires protection during the winter. Properly protected, the latter stands the cold winters very well with me and some of my neighbors. Of the *Hydrangea paniculata*, I have on my lawn some twenty-five plants, one of which, under special care, has attained the hight of seven feet, and no doubt will be eight feet by next season. This specimen has now some ninety panicles of flowers, one of which, by measurement, is fourteen inches in length, and I believe that they can be forced to measure eighteen inches in favorable seasons.

W. R. BERGHOLZ.

[Our correspondent's first communication upon Hydrangea reads, "If grown out-of-doors it (*H. Hortensia*) requires *some slight* protection during the winter months."

The present one speaks of it as hardy when "properly protected." Our own experience is such that we are constrained to believe that our friend will have occasion to change his mind. Certain it is, however, that we have never been able "properly" to protect ours. *Hydrangeas paniculata alba*, in the RURAL grounds, are no taller this season than last. Perhaps the drought has dwarfed them. We have no opinion as regards how large their thyrses may be grown by forcing it. No reference is made in his first article to special culture.—ED.]

SEEDLING GRAPES.

LAST year we suggested to some of our friends that they save the seeds of fine grapes and plant them for room cultivation during the winter. Use 3-inch pots—2 seeds to a pot, sown a quarter of an inch deep. If both germinate, pinch one out. In the spring, after frosts are past, thump them out into the ground. They will continue to grow during the summer, and will perhaps fruit the third year.

It would seem a more economical method to sow in boxes. But in this case the roots will be disturbed in transplanting; the vines then generally lose their leaves, and are slow to recover. Thumped out from 3-inch pots, the roots are not disturbed and no check is experienced.

Around the Republic.

FROM OLD CONNECTICUT.

DEAR RURAL:—What is more impressive than the stillness of a country village at midday? It is now noon; the strokes on the bell of the clock at a neighbor's, just across the green, come to me with a surprising distinctness. The crowing of a cock in a distant barnyard is as clear as if but a few rods away. The whistle of a locomotive, "over the mountain, far away," might readily be supposed to be no more than a mile off. The laughter of distant playing children seems as if in the lawn under my window. All nature is in repose; the leaves on the trees seem afraid to rustle—silence is the rule; noise, the exception.

"Now comes still evening on" was not written for this latitude. Here, as the shadows lengthen, activity increases. Half past four is train time, and from then till dark, carriages are almost constantly in sight—some to meet passengers at the station, some to the stores and post-office, some returning from market, some with riders for pleasure, and some (but these a little later—after tea,) with young lovers, for the young people do say there is no better place to tell the tale of tender passion than in a narrow-seated buggy on a moonlight night, with a horse that seems to know his business and isn't over-anxious to get home.

As the sun descends, croquet parties are formed, and sounds of the rapping of the mallets, the concussion of balls, and the hilarity of players, come from all directions. And soon the laborers are returning from their work, and "the lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea."

As twilight comes, the insectivorous world awakens, and, before bed time, the crickets chirp, the katy-dids rasping contradiction, and the tree-toad's inharmonious note are making more noise in a minute than all nature contributes to the noontide hour.

One of the strangest things to me, in connection with life here, is, that people give so little attention to small fruit culture. A few currant bushes are occasionally seen; but it is an exception when you find strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, or even grapes. One day's work in a year devoted to each kind of berries would furnish a full supply for family use; and one-half that time devoted to grape culture, would insure more than a sufficiency. Occasionally a vine, transplanted from the neighboring woods, is seen, planted as much for shade as fruit; but it seems to be forgotten that there are now good varieties, which are as easily cultivated as the natives—entirely hardy and more productive, as the Concord, Hartford Prolific, and others which, after setting, require only training and pruning. The berries are not quite so easy of culture; but a strawberry bed, four rods square, can be set and taken care of with but very little trouble, and a row of Kittatinneys or Lawtons, of Philadelphias or Antwerps, sufficient to produce all that are needed for the table, and to prepare in different ways for winter's use, require less labor and, as I said, the neglect to cultivate these luxuries is, to me, unaccountable.

Centennial cushions are the furore among the ladies in this vicinity. A piece of working canvas of suitable size is selected, in the center of which the owner works such designs as is considered appropriate, usually combining in some way the figures of 1876, with a shield, flags, or other national emblems. It is then sent to friends, who, in succession embroider such little design as they may choose—a letter, rose bud, anything of small size and with total disregard of order as to position. When the canvas is nearly covered with these designs, the vacant spaces between them are filled in and the cover for the cushion is ready.

Whatever this village may be wanting in, it is not in postal conveniences, as four incoming and five outgoing mails daily sufficiently attest. This, for a rural population of 1,500—a considerable number of whom get their mail matter from other offices—must be considered ample. When I was a boy we had but three mails each way in a week. Then, I think, there was not a single daily paper taken in town, and but one semi-weekly. Now, I am told, there are about forty dailies and weeklies in number proportionate. This speaks well for the reading habits of the community, and I think there is no doubt the country people, as a class, are better posted, relative to the general news of the day, than are those of the same intellectual caliber who reside in larger towns or cities.

Situated so near the city—only six miles away—considerable attention is given to supplying milk and butter for that market, and the farmers are beginning to learn that there is much difference in cows and that the best ones are the most profitable. Grade Alderneys seem to be favorites, and of these there are many first-rate specimens. I endeavored to investigate, to a small extent, the comparative profit of milk-selling and butter-making, but as I could not with much inquiry find a person who could tell me the average quantity of milk used to make a pound of butter, I gave it up.

For working cattle, of which many are used, I find the old red New England breed are still the favorite. Large, strong, gentle, tractable and good walkers, in the hands of a good trainer they are about as good as can be. And will you believe it? the farmers are beginning to learn that oxen are not deaf. The best trained pair I ever saw, obey readily when the voice is raised no louder than in ordinary conversation.

My play time for the year will close in a few days, and this is the last letter I shall send you. In another week I shall again be amid the hurry and bustle of the great city, when the quiet of the country will seem more like a dream than a reality. But I have had quiet and rest; and let those who will, choose the galeties of Nahant, of Long Branch or of Saratoga, or wander among the wildernesses of the Adirondacs or the Lakes of Maine—for me there is more rest here than elsewhere on earth; and, if ever the time shall come, as come it may when this old homestead, my birthplace, shall pass into the hands of strangers, and none of kith or kin shall be here to welcome me, then will a bright light be stricken from my firmament and a shadow fall across my pathway. L. A. R.

Bloomfield Conn.

Entomological.

THE WESTERN LOCUST.

PROF. CHARLES V. RILEY, writing to the Weekly Tribune, gives a very thorough and exhaustive article on the operations of the Western Locust the present year. As we cannot find room for the entire article, we make a few extracts which are probably of most general interest:

"The continued ravages of this locust pest will, it is hoped, bring our legislators to a realizing sense of their obligations to Western farmers. Feeling the importance of the subject, I made every effort last winter, with the assistance of others, to get Congress to enact a law which would cause a thorough investigation of this locust matter and of some other entomological matters of national importance. The effort was warmly seconded by the people of the Western country, which most suffers; but many good Eastern people, in their narrowness, could see in the effort only another attempt to get somebody an office, while the Department of Agriculture, or rather its head, instead of encouraging, as it should, all efforts of the kind, looked upon the movement as an interference with its own work, and used its influence to impede and prevent action.

"I am glad to see that Gov. Pillsbury of Minnesota has considered the matter of sufficient importance to suggest a conference of Western Governors. He informs me that this conference will probably take place about the middle of October, and let us hope that since there seems little chance of assistance from the National Government, the Western States will do what in

human power lies to overcome this evil. It also gives me pleasure to note that immediately upon the arrival of the insects into Iowa, Prof. C. E. Bessey of the Agricultural College issued a bulletin composed of the more practical passages from my last report. I hope, with him, that by being scattered over the State it may do some good.

"In closing, let me say a few words as to my own position, since it is being very much misconstrued. The fact that my predictions for the past two years have been fully justified by subsequent events has led too many people to attach too much importance, perhaps, to my opinions; and now that the last hope expressed and opinion given—viz., that the locusts might not, and probably would not, overrun the Western States again this fall—have proved unfounded, there is a tendency on the part of some editors to unjustly censure. The following paragraph has passed from paper to paper and formed the basis of unwarranted criticism:

"'Prof. Riley, State Entomologist of Missouri, who has spent considerable time in studying the habits of the grasshoppers, says that not only will there be no locusts in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska this year, but that the ordinary batch of the indigenous grasshopper and other destructive insects will be less than usual, the only exception to this being the borers.'

"The paragraph originated, I think, with the Salina (Kan.) Journal, and the editor had evidently no intention of misconstruing. Yet any one who will carefully read what I really wrote in the Tribune of last January, and in my eighth report, in discussing the prospects of the year, will see that there is much misrepresentation. As an offset to many sensational rumors and forebodings made last winter, here is what I really wrote, some passages being italicized to indicate wherein the above purported opinion is unjust:

"'I give it as my belief that, first, in the three States mentioned (Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska), there will not hatch as many locusts next spring as would naturally hatch in ordinary seasons from the indigenous species; second, that, compared with other parts of the country, those States ravaged by locusts last spring and early summer will enjoy the greater immunity during the same seasons of 1876, not only from local injuries, but from the injuries of most other noxious insects, except the wood borers. In short, the people of the ravaged section have reason to be hopeful rather than gloomy. *They will certainly not suffer in any general way from locust injuries in the early season; and the only way in which they can suffer from the migrating pest is by fresh swarms later in the year from the far Northwest*, the odds being, however, for a number of reasons which it is unnecessary to enumerate here, very great against any such contingency.'

"I thus distinctly gave my opinion that Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska (having considered Colorado and Minnesota separately) would not suffer in the early season or in spring and summer, admitting, however, the possibility of fresh invasions in the fall, though considering such improbable. Every one knows how fully the first opinion has been justified by the events, and that the second has not, shows how imperfect our knowledge yet is of the native breeding-places of the pest. The season in the Northwest has been very dry and favorable to locust development, and I freely confess that an invasion such as we have had during the month (only two years after the general invasion of 1874) was not expected by me, and is indeed without precedent. I am naturally inclined to take an optimistic view of the subject, for the reason that such a proneness to exaggeration prevails; but I desire not to be placed in a false light, and hope that the Colorado Farmer and other journals that have taken purported but inaccurate reports of what I did predict, for text on which to build complaint, will make due *amende*."

Domestic Economy.

TO "YOUNG HOUSEKEEPER."

Picalilli Pickles.—Use cabbages, cauliflowers, cucumbers, green tomatoes, a few green peppers, radish-pods, onions, beans and nasturtiums. Pull the cauliflower apart in small pieces; slice the cabbages, peppers and cucumbers. Put all into strong salt and water for twenty-four hours; then drain thoroughly. Take a few of the vegetables at a time and scald in boiling vinegar; when all are scalded, mix in a bountiful supply of white mustard seed and pack in jars. To each gallon of good cider-vinegar, add a quarter of a pound of green ginger, two ounces of allspice, one ounce of cloves and three pounds of sugar; boil slowly for thirty minutes; then remove from the fire. Mix six ounces of ground mustard (for each gallon of vinegar) smooth in a little cold vinegar and stir into the spiced vinegar; pour the mixture hot over the vegetables. In two or three days examine the jars and see if the vegetables are covered with vinegar, if not, add cold vinegar. Seal up and set in a cool place.

MRS. RUSTIC.

CORRECTION.—In the Original Recipes, Sept. 16, for "Brandy Peaches," sixth line should have read, "Make a sirup of three-quarters of a pound of loaf sugar, and to each pound of fruit add," &c., instead of as it appeared in print.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Sweet Grape Pickles.—To eight pounds of fruit use four pounds of sugar and one quart of vinegar. Place the fruit in jars. Boil and skim the sirup and pour over the grapes boiling hot; repeat this process three or four days. Then seal up and set in a cool, dry place. Boil any kind of spices in the sirup that suits the taste.

Grape Marmalade.—Boil the grapes till very soft, then strain them through the sieve; to every pound of pulp obtained use a pound of sugar. Boil these together slowly for twenty minutes, stirring constantly. When cool, dip out into small glasses and cover with paper dipped in brandy to prevent mold from coming on top of the marmalade. Keep in a dry, dark and cool place.

Sweet Crab-Apple Pickles.—Put the crab-apples in a preserving kettle, with good vinegar enough to cover them, and cook until tender. Then take them out of the vinegar and put them in jars. Measure the vinegar, and to each pint add one pound of sugar, cloves, cinnamon and mace. Tie the spices in a bag and boil in the sirup a few minutes. Pour the sirup hot over the fruit; then seal up and set away for use.

Nasturtium Pickles.—Take green nasturtiums; put them in strong brine for twenty-four hours; then drain thoroughly. Put them in glass jars and cover with cold cider vinegar. Spice may be added, if preferred, but it discolors the pickles.

Mangoes.—Take small green melons, cut them lengthwise, so as to take out the seeds, and put them into a strong brine. Let them remain in it two days; then wash them off in fresh water. Prepare horseradish, stripped in small pieces, cucumbers of the smallest size, nasturtiums, mustard-seed, sliced-cabbage and sprigs of cauliflowers. Fill the melons with these, and tie the halves together with twine; lay them closely in a jar or tub and pour scalding vinegar over them, in which are a few bird peppers. Cover closely.

Pickled Eggs.—Boil the eggs hard; remove the shells, and lay the eggs whole in glass jars; scald the vinegar with any spice to suit the taste; add a little salt; pour over the eggs when cold. If preferred, mix a little ground mustard in the vinegar when cold.

Pickled Artichokes.—Wash the artichokes; put them in strong salt and water for four days; then take them out, wash in fresh water and wipe dry. Put them in jars; add to them a few whole cloves, allspice and mustard-seed. Boil the vinegar and pour over the artichokes hot; cover closely; repeat the pouring hot vinegar over them until they seem a little soft.

Hygienic Information.

ABOUT FOOD.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Scientific Farmer gives the following sensible advice to farmers about exercising a little common sense in feeding themselves.

The stomach is, however, largely the key to health; for it is through this organ that all the nutriment of the system must pass, and all the force taken with the food must be transferred. We must therefore consider the demands of a healthy stomach. This organ becomes habituated to a system. It secretes the fluid which in part disorganizes the food and digests. Now, so long as this organ is in order, man appears to get the better of his surroundings. So long as the facility to digest is present, ill health need scarcely be feared. How important then to guard this important organ against damage! What the farmer requires is regular meals, and that slowness of eating which allows the food to be masticated before being swallowed. He must guard against surfeit, because he works at times hard, and hard work on an overloaded stomach is shown by experience to be injurious; yet he must eat abundantly. In this respect, as in the work on his farm, he should use common sense. Then as to the character of the food. Let him avoid the habit of tea drinking or water drinking in excess at meals. If he must drink largely, let him take other times. Eat plain or rich food, but in moderation. A swallow of meat, and a whole pie is scarcely as healthful or as nourishing as a swallow of pie, and a large chunk of meat. It is not so much what we eat which is injurious, as the manner and proportion; and a little common sense here also will go a great way. It is only necessary for the family to *think*, to increase the comforts of life; it is but necessary to apply *thought* to produce most radical improvement in the family and without. The thinking farmer should be the rule; and when once the rule, we need fear but little but that he will take his proper place in the community; honoring and being honored, healthful and contented.

MOCK INVALIDS.

IF any of our readers have been so fortunate as to miss an acquaintance with persons whose portraits are faithfully drawn in the following from the London Liberal Review they ought to be happy, and consider themselves exceedingly fortunate:

Now, of the mass of people who are persuaded that they are invalids, and demand to be treated as such, it is not too much to say that they would be all the better if they received a thorough shaking-up occasionally. That they should be so treated is not only desirable in their own interest, but in that of other people. It must be remembered that the mock invalid is invariably not only a torment to himself, but a constant source of aggravation and annoyance to others. Though he sees a dreadful significance in his own peculiar ailments, he seems utterly unable to imagine that any one else can be so unhappily situated as he is. When he is assured that exposure to certain influences would undoubtedly bring about his death, and that hard work would utterly prostrate him, he seems to labor under the pleasing impression that his neighbors can stand anything, and that the more they knock about the better it is for them.

Thus, he will not hesitate to impose heavy burdens upon people who are really weaker than he is, and justify his conduct by the pleasing reflection that they whom he thus treats are practically made of cast-iron or something of the sort. This, unfortunately, is not all. He is prone to display unreasonable irritation if those who are around him fail to show that they are deeply touched by the contemplation of the infirmities with which he has been pleased to credit himself, but which they fail to see in the strong light that he does. Enter a room in which he is sitting and omit to close the door; talk above a whisper when he happens to have the headache; innocently mention that he has left something undone, the performance of which would not have involved much hard labor, and you will soon find this out. That you will be delighted at the discovery is not likely, but at the same time you are sure to feel that you would be considered a brute if you returned his unreasonable display of irritation in kind, and so restrain your feelings.

Perhaps, indeed, after due reflection, you bestow additional sympathy on him on account of his ill-humor, which you lay to the score of the maladies that afflict him rather than to that innate perversity of nature which he has done his best to cherish. Thus, he is not encouraged to cease wrapping himself up in himself. On the contrary, he is induced to continue in the belief that he is a poor, suffering martyr, who should be the recipient of sympathy at all hands, albeit that he selfishly has no tender thought for mortals who are much more afflicted than himself. Let him then be taught that he does not stand alone; that he would be all the better if he were coddled a little less; and that because a man fancies that he is a tender flower he has no right to constitute himself an affliction upon society and a burden to his friends. Treated thus, he might in nine cases out of ten discover that, after all, he enjoyed fair health. We are encouraged to believe this because many habitual mock invalids, notwithstanding their sufferings, contrive to live to a good old age.

TRANSPLANTING HAIRS.

HERE is some good news for beardless youths and the bald-headed old men, provided it is all true and good workmen can be secured:—An interesting paper on this subject appears in the *Zeitschrift fur Biologie*, from the pen of Dr. Ernest Schweninger of Munich. He gives the following as the result of his numerous experiments:—First, that the hairs that have been recently extracted, and to the root of which cell-layers of the root-sheath still remain adherent, if brought in contact with freshly granulating surface, are capable of contracting adhesions with this, and from this point a process of skinning over may commence, as after cutaneous transplantation.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

Cure for Hiccough.—One drop of essential oil of cinnamon on a small lump of sugar, which must be kept in the mouth until dissolved and then gently swallowed.

Another.—A teaspoonful of vinegar will generally give immediate relief in the most obstinate hiccough.

Earache.—Take a bit of cotton batting, put upon it a pinch of black pepper, gather it up and tie it, dip in sweet oil and insert into the ear. Put a flannel bandage over the head and keep it warm. It will give immediate relief.

Dysentery.—I have known dysentery in its worst form to be cured, after other medicines had failed, by drinking wheat flour stirred in water, in quantity of about half a tumbler of water, made to the consistency of cream with the flour. It may be advisable to add a pinch of salt, or the flour may be eaten in its dry state. The same effect is produced in cases of chronic diarrhœa.

Quick Prescriptions.—Prof. Wilder of Cornell University, gives these short rules for action in case of accident:—For dust in the eyes avoid rubbing, dash cold water in them; remove cinders, etc., with the round point of a lead pencil. Remove insects from the ear by tepid water; never put a hard instrument into the ear. If any artery be cut, compress it above the wound; if a vein is cut, compress it below. If choked, go upon all fours and cough. For slight burns, dip the part in cold water; if the skin be destroyed, cover with varnish. For apoplexy, raise the head and body; for faintness, lay the person flat.

Insurance Department.

ADVERTISING FOR BUSINESS.

THE life insurance companies reporting to the Insurance Department of this State had in force on the first of January last less insurance by nearly two hundred millions of dollars than they had on the same day three years ago. The loss of policies and insurance which equals in amount the total insurance of all the companies in 1862, does not portend immediate ill consequences. The companies are, in the aggregate, rather stronger, financially, than they were before. The loss of policies except by death, or maturity, does not necessarily imply a loss of money by the company, for if they have been in force some years the company gains something by their lapsing. The trouble to be apprehended comes from the inevitable increase of death losses where the places of the dead are not promptly filled by new and healthy members. Heretofore this infusion of new blood has been readily obtained; the losses have been small and the dividends to living policy holders correspondingly large. The increasing difficulty of enlisting new members promises to reverse this favorable condition of affairs, and the companies that do not desire, or are not content to endure the consequences of continued inactivity, have no alternative but to reach out for new business. Whatever the necessity the prospect is not alluring.

The people who have been heretofore the best patrons of life insurance manifest a reluctance which cannot be attributed to lack of means. They increase their property, and fire insurance prospers despite the universal shrinkage of values, but they decline to insure their lives, though their reasons for doing so increase with the uncertainty of all other investments. There is a potent reason for all this which appears to have been overlooked. Impairment of confidence is, we believe, confessed; but it is less a loss of faith in the stability of the companies and the necessity of the protection they promise, than is generally believed. They have lost confidence in the agents who assume to teach what they have not first learned. They have lost faith in promises which have been perpetually broken. They have lost faith in their own competence to deal intelligently with a problem they have no means of solving. They do not understand life insurance; they have no faith in the agents' tuition and cannot be taught by them. The companies that expect their patronage must supplement the usual methods of advertising, with intelligible descriptions of their plans and practical workings. These must appear in the newspapers that are *read* by the people and that have by devotion to the popular interest in this matter earned and obtained popular confidence. Standing advertisements in such a paper are as indispensable as a sign-board to a business house. They familiarize the name of the company and the idea of insuring until these ideas become associated.

Something more is needed to enable the reader to become a willing applicant for insurance and a faithful policy holder thereafter, and that is to utilize the means at hand and the opportunity to instruct him, to acquaint him with his prospective relations to the company, his duties, obligations, privileges, benefits, and generally all that concerns the partnership he is invited to enter into. This duty cannot well be intrusted to agents and canvassers, but falls within the province of those journals which have gained public confidence and are intent to retain it unimpaired

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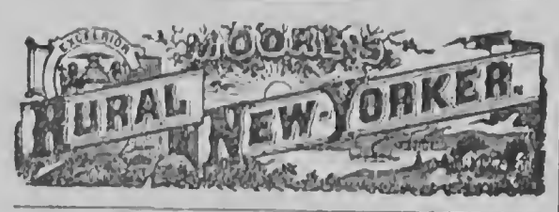

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THE WAR OF INDUSTRIES.

MUCH has been written of late years by naturalists, in regard to the "war of races" among plants and animals. There appears to be a constant and never-ending struggle going on between different races, and the strongest, either in numbers or in individual vitality, generally conquer—or, to use a common phrase, results in a "survival of the fittest."

Admitting that this is the law of nature among both plants and animals, it is questionable if it should be obeyed or permitted to have full sway among the different classes of an intelligent race of human beings. We may rejoice to see a superior race overcome an inferior, or at least gain the ascendancy in the struggle for existence; but there should be a limit to antagonism in order to save both from annihilation. The dependency of one race of beings upon another, is far greater than most persons suppose, else we should hear less seldom the expressed wish that certain ones could be totally destroyed and swept from the earth. In fact, it may be surmised that man in his ignorance would, if he had the power, kill every "goose that laid golden eggs." The old story of the man who wished "everybody but himself and son would die, in order that he might have no competition in keeping tavern," is a fair example of the reasoning powers of many a man who attempts to lead public opinion in matters of trade or business.

It is not long since that a writer in one of our Western exchanges, urged the importance of giving all the trade to certain dealers in order, as he said, to lower prices and break up a monopoly. There was to be one doctor, one grocer, one hardware merchant, and so on, in the said city; all competition in this way was to be broken down, and ninety-nine out of every hundred persons who are now consumers were to be driven into the fields and become producers, and in this way our would-be-wise man hoped to increase the price of farm products.

Now it would seem to us that the proper way to increase the price of any product is to increase the number of consumers or lessen production. Fifty merchants in the city, each with a dozen clerks, will certainly demand of the farmer more of his products than one, with a hundred clerks and assistants, and the same is true in every other branch of trade. Would it not be better for the farmer, if he wishes to increase the price of his products, to discourage others from entering the same field than to encourage competition, but say to those in other industries, stay where you are and not come crowding in among us? Making war upon the residents of cities and villages, either by word or deed, is an attack upon the "goose" which consumes and pays for her food with golden eggs or greenbacks.

The farmer, however, is not the only man who is inclined to think that he alone suffers at the hands of those with whom he is obliged to deal. In every department of trade—in all the various industries—there is a continual strife to see who shall obtain an advantage. The employees in our manufactories combine to extort more wages; and in many instances they succeed for a while at least, or until the old goose dies or is sadly crippled, as we now find her in many an Eastern manufacturing center. Strikes and combinations of various kinds with which all are familiar, may give temporary relief for a time and to few persons, but they tend to unsettle business and make man lose confidence in his race; and so long as these wars between various industries continue, there can be no settled policy in business or healthy progress.

As the giants among the animal and vegetable kingdom fall an easy prey to the myriads of minute parasites which attack them, so must the most wealthy corporation or gigantic enterprise yield to the combined effort of many enemies, no matter how poor and insignificant the individuals of which they are composed. It is conceded that in "union there is strength;" but it should also be borne in mind that it is much easier to tear down than to build up; and it would be well for those who combine to destroy what they may consider a monopoly, to look well to the results, as a wreck often clogs the channels of trade more than a ship under full sail.

FAIRS AS SCHOOLS.

THAT the value of State, County and Town Agricultural Societies, of which there is no end in the United States, is unappreciated by the Rural population, there can be no doubt. When it is considered that one ocular examination of a piece of machinery will give most people a better understanding of it than all the written descriptions which could be made, it is no exaggeration to say that a man may go to one of the periodical Exhibitions or Fairs made by the Societies and learn more in one hour than he could by the hard study of books or newspapers for a week. To this, of course, there may be exceptions; but it is a safe statement in a large majority of cases. In the face of this fact, which will be admitted by nearly every farmer who is asked about it, more people absent themselves from these exhibitions than attend them. It is all wrong. No progressive farmer should allow any of these Fairs to occur within reaching distance without his attendance and that of such of his family as are of sufficient age to observe understandingly the objects surrounding them.

As has before been said, ocular demonstration is worth a hundred written or printed descriptions. Men and women too, are much more susceptible of understanding through these means than any other and will more perfectly retain impressions so made upon their minds. Then too, the scepticism which forms so prominent and valuable a quality of the Nineteenth Century mind, is entirely overcome by this means of teaching. One reads of an article supposed to be an improvement and may or may not believe what is read; but "seeing is believing," as the old adage runs and when the article has been shown to be or to do what is claimed for it, the observer is satisfied.

Again, the sources of information within the ordinary farmer's reach, are limited. There may be many (and doubtless are) things at almost every Fair which will be of value to him in his everyday conduct of the farm, which, though he may not be ready to purchase at once, he can prepare for and eventually obtain with great profit to himself and comfort to his family or his help or both. It might be urged in opposition to the position here taken, that the extra expenses of such attendance are too great, which brings us directly to a point that cannot be too strongly urged. In the Rural districts money is the commodity which is generally scarcer proportionately than anywhere else. This fact induces much short-sightedness and leads people to keep tight hold of every cent which is not absolutely necessary for expenses or which will not show immediate return for the investment. A man who buys land with his money chuckles to himself that it cannot run away; but it is difficult for many to believe that they can spend five dollars in attending a fair and get ideas and knowledge which will be worth fifty dollars to them during the ensuing year. Yet we will venture to say that few farmers have attended their State or County Fair at any time, with ideas other than those of a frolic, that they did not in the course of the following year profit themselves by their observation and information there gained much more than the expense of the attendance.

In conclusion let us say, by all means keep up your Farmers' Clubs and Agricultural Societies. Attend your Fairs and Exhibitions and get the benefit of other experience than your own. You will find many things to complain of in both; but on the whole, you will find the pecuniary balance upon the credit side of your books.

RURAL NOTES.

Twelve Feet Steam Reaper.—The progress of steam machinery upon the farm appears much more rapid in Great Britain than in this country. Among the novelties developed by the Reaper Trial held at Leamington, England, in August, was an implement which may not be immediately of general use in this country, but which must eventually be adopted here, viz.: a reaping machine with steam for motive power. The Mark Lane Express says in its report of the trial:—"The chief novelty of the occasion was Messrs. AVELING & PORTER'S 12-feet reaper, driven from behind by one of their traction engines. This machine was constructed by Messrs. CROSSKILL, of Beverley, on the old Bell principle, with improvements. Working in front or its motive power, it requires no preliminary scythe work, but charges direct into the crop and levels it quickly to the ground, laying it in thick and regular swathes at the rate of from 2½ to three acres per hour. When not at work the reaper is raised six or seven feet from the ground, thus leaving the engine freedom for locomotive purposes and enabling it to be carried over gateways. In a similar manner it is turned at the ends when cutting up and down a field. A water-tank and coal-bunker, each holding a day's supply, form a tender on four wheels, which the engine brings into the field. Only one man besides the engine-driver is required with the machine."

Potato Beetles Wanted.—Prof. C. V. RILEY, State Entomologist of Missouri, paid us a visit recently, and we were not a little surprised to learn that he was desirous of obtaining a peck or a bushel of Colorado Potato beetles. It would seem that in the West, nowadays, the farmer, assisted by the natural enemies of the pests, keep them so effectually in check that it is not an easy matter to get them in such large quantities. Prof. RILEY desires to institute a series of careful experiments as to the properties of the beetle, and for this large quantities are required. They must, however, be killed by dry heat and not by scalding or by poisoning. Will not some of our readers on the sea-shore, where the insects are washed up in large quantities, collect a peck of them and express them to the Professor at St. Louis?

Implements in Europe.—The depression of the manufacturing interests in Germany has had the effect of sending much of that labor into the Rural districts. Thus, in conversation with gentlemen engaged in the Agricultural Implement business abroad, we are informed that the wages of the Rural laborer are now down to less than thirty cents per day, thus bringing hand labor on farms in direct competition with the most economical machine work.

Samples of Cereals.—We are in receipt of a collection of sample packages of cereals from the well-known firm of DAVID LANDRETH & SONS, Philadelphia, Pa. The collection consists of 30 varieties of wheat, 11 of oats, 9 of barley and 2 of rye, one ounce in each, the assortment being offered at the low price of $5, which should be an inducement to farmers who are desirous of obtaining extra fine varieties without paying a high price therefor.

Potato Beetles in Europe.—The Colorado Potato beetle has made its appearance on the other side of the Atlantic, its arrival at Bremen having been announced in several of our foreign exchanges. There need, however, be no fear of the pest spreading in Europe, for they will be stamped out as soon as they appear in any locality, as things are done quite differently abroad than with us, in this country.

RURAL BREVITIES.

ALL who are seeking lands and farms would do well to address the Warren County Land Bureau, at Warrenton, N. C.

SMALL pigs are now cured whole; consequently, a man can purchase smoked ham, shoulders, and sides of bacon all in one package and at the same price.

THE subject of Fertilizers is now attracting much attention. Those who desire to add to their stock of knowledge on this subject can address the Excelsior Fertilizer Works at Salem, Ohio.

CARBOLIC ACID is said to be fully as effectual in destroying the Colorado potato beetle as Paris green; but those who furnish us with the above information omitted to state a very important point in this connection—*i. e.*, which is the cheapest?

THE California papers report the wide-spread prevalence of potato blight or rot in the State. In some localities there will not be half a crop in consequence of this disease. The Colorado Potato beetle as destructive as it has been in the East this season, is preferable to the old-time potato-rot.

IN reading a paper, should your eye rest upon an article credited to "Ex.," or "Exchange," rest assured that the Editor copied it from some paper of which he was too envious or jealous to publish the full name. If editors will steal, why don't they do it "squarely," and not attempt to conceal?

IS not the Gardeners' Monthly in error in stating that Mr. WM. BURGESS was awarded a prize at the late exhibition of the N. Y. Hort. Association for *La Constante* strawberry? An illustration of the prize berry referred to appeared in the RURAL NEW-YORKER, but we can assure the G. M. that it was not the old and long known foreign sort named.

THAT REDTOP COW.

Now farmer Jones he's a thrifty man,
And keeps his fences as well as he can,
And commonly keeps his temper sweet
When his neighbors' cows break into his wheat;
But Redtop's cow, she tried him sore,
Tho' he spoke her softly, she came the more.

Now, she'd vault any fence where she fancied to feed,—
Jones said she was crossed on a kangaroo breed,
At any rate she was a cross to Jones,
And he finally vowed, in no dulcet tones:
"If Redtop don't keep that critter t' hum,
I'll impound her, or pound her, or give her *some!*"

Now Redtop heard of that terrible threat,
But he wasn't worried; says he: "Yow bet
I ain't a-goin' t' hire her kep',
Poor's I am. Boys, don't chase 'or a step;
Jest let her pastur the public feed—
Caow's doin' well—Jones he be deed!"

Now, living under such liberal laws,
That Redtop cow didn't care two straws
For Jones, his fences, or hired men;
She helped herself, ran, and returned again;
But yet, as it chanced, one luckless day,
She was caught, put in stanchions, and foddered with hay.

Now a passing neighbor was hailed with, "Say!
Jest not'fy Redtop, 'f yer going' that way,
As haow his old caow's killed in jumpin' a fence—
(He'll get 'er this time, 'n' I'll bet two cents.")
So the message was sent in a shout from the road,
And it made lively work in the Redtop abode.

"Naow, heavens and airth! killed? I tol' ye, boys, haow
Ye'd orter keep up clusser watch o' that caow!
Jones killed her hisself! Come! fly around! Come!
Hitch the plugs on the stunboat, an' le's snake 'er hum!"
So with hurry and scurry, and cursing, and groans,
They speedily drove to the farm-yard of Jones.

Now there they beheld her,—welt'ring in blood?—
O no! but contentedly chewing her cud.
And Jones, while explaining his message, tries
To smuggle in some good-natured advice,
Which Redtop takes, as he takes her away,
And keeps her at home for a year and a day.

[*Springfield Republican.*

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 189.]

MISSOURI.

In 1818 the residents of that portion of Missouri Territory now included by the State of that name, made application for admission to the Union. This application at once aroused the sectional spirit of North and South—or perhaps more properly, the spirit of the friends of liberty and slavery. It is well known that this antagonism was only quieted by compromise when the Federal Constitution was adopted. The opposition to the extension of slavery was clearly shown in the ordinance of 1787, that arranged for the establishment of the Government of the territory northwest of the Ohio, and there was apparently a fixed determination on the part of the enemies of slavery to say, "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther." When the bill for the admission of Missouri came up before the House of Representatives, it was amended to the effect that the further introduction of slavery into the State should be prohibited and that negro children born in the State after its admission should be free at the age of 21 years. These amendments were rejected by the Senate and the bill for admission failed. Thereupon arose a contest that extended throughout the whole country and threatened, for awhile, to sever the Union if not overturn the whole Government. The press was bitter in its antagonism and the best words of orators, North and South, were used to prove the right of their positions. The antagonists were not only influenced by the great moral principles at issue, but were embittered by sectional jealousy, personal interest, party zeal and all the minor elements that are usually drawn or forced into such contests, and which have the effect to impart a degree of acrimony that the cool, calm and fair discussion of the real questions at issue would never produce.

By the advocates of slavery extension it was held that the French Province of Louisiana had, from its settlement, sustained and encouraged negro slavery, and it was supposed its existence as a province and success as an agricultural country depended upon its continuance; that the deed of cession was made conditioned that all citizens should be protected in their liberty, religion and property. Hence, it was claimed, Congress had no right to interfere with the question of the perpetuation of slavery in the territory purchased, nor to make its abolition a condition of the admission of any particular part thereof to the Federal Union as a State.

The people of the North looked upon the extension and perpetuation of slavery as prejudical to the best interests of the whole country. They claimed the Compromise made when the Constitution was adopted was only for conditions that then existed, and while they admitted the validity of the position taken by the pro-slavery party so far as related to the then existing status of slavery in the Louisiana purchase, they held that no State could be admitted to the Union except with a Constitution of which Congress should approve, and consequently, unless the applicants were willing to agree to the non-perpetuation of slavery, they might legally and properly be denied the privilege of State Government.

In the fall of 1819 application was again made. The Senate favored admission and the House opposed it. The friends of the measure in the Senate attempted to carry their point by incorporating the claims of Maine (then also an applicant for admission) in the same bill. To this the House would not consent. At length, after a long and bitter contest, a compromise was agreed upon to the effect that Missouri might be admitted with slavery as desired, but that slavery should not be established in any States thereafter formed lying north of 36° 30′.

But the end was not yet. In wrath at the treatment she had received, Missouri incorporated in her Constitution a clause preventing free negroes or mulattoes from settling or coming into the State. This was considered an insult to Congress and beside the Constitution had provided that the citizens of one State should have the rights and privileges of the citizens of any other State in which they might be, and as free negroes were obviously citizens, the law, if made, would be unconstitutional and set aside by the Supreme Court. But Congress considered the act offensive and refused to approve that clause, and again the question was debated with all the bitterness of sectional animosity. A resolution was then offered, conditioned that the State be admitted, with an agreement and promise never to pass any law preventing any description of person settling therein who were then or might thereafter become citizens of any other State, and that the Legislature should publicly give assent to such fundament condition. The resolution was lost.

Within a few days thereafter the electoral votes for President were to be counted and the question arose if Missouri was a State and if her offered votes were to be taken, although it was well known it would make no difference in the result. When the joint meeting of the Senate and House took place for the purpose of counting the votes and proclaiming the result, much turbulent disorder occurred. Finally, a member formally objected to receiving the votes, on the ground that Missouri was not a State. Amid the tumult that followed and as the only practical means of restoring order, a Senator moved that the Senate withdraw, which was immediately carried and the House was left in sole possession of the hall. For an hour little could be heard but "Missouri is *not* a State!" "Missouri *is* a State!" and the ineffectual efforts of the Speaker to restore order. At length Mr. CLAY succeeded in being heard with a motion that the Senate be recalled. After a few pacific remarks from him quiet was restored, the Senate appeared, the votes were counted, and it was declared that with or without those of Missouri, JAMES MONROE was elected President. RANDOLPH, of Virginia, then offered a resolution in effect that whereas it had not been declared *how many* votes had been given for President and Vice-President, as required by the Constitution, the proceeding was irregular and illegal.

It was evident to most that there was at least a doubt as to the validity of allowing a State not in full fellowship to vote, even if the vote made no difference in the result. But to pass Mr. RANDOLPH'S resolution would be to reopen the whole question, of which the entire country both in and out of Congress were heartily sick. The resolution was rejected by a majority of 30. Expediency was allowed to overpower doubt—as in the more recent case, when the Supreme Court of the United States reconsidered the Legal Tender Act and decided that debts incurred before the passage of that act might be paid in greenbacks. In both cases the fear of insurmountable difficulties resulting from any other action, was probably the incentive which gave votes enough to make the majority in both cases.

But whether Missouri was or was not a State, still remained an open question. It was well understood that the people would not submit peacefully to United States' jurisdiction as a Territory, and they were too far away to have it easily enforced. The opponents of admission were in a condition to accept any feasible road out of the difficulty, and again Mr. CLAY exerted himself as a pacificator and finally succeeded in securing the appointment of a committee named by himself, who reported a resolution very similar to the one rejected two weeks before, but more specific. Congress was now ready to pass the resolution and the conditions prescribed having been complied with, Missouri, by proclamation of the President, on the 10th day of August, 1821, became one of the States of the Federal Union, with boundaries as follows:—The Mississippi River on the east, commencing at latitude 36° and running north to the mouth of the Des Moines, following the latter river to latitude 40° 50′; thence west to the Missouri River and down that river to the mouth of the Kansas; thence south to latitude 36° 30′; thence east to the St. Francis River; thence down that river to latitude 36°; thence east to place of beginning.

ARKANSAS.

When Missouri made application for admission as a State, that portion of the Louisiana purchase lying between Missouri and Louisiana and still called Missouri Territory, made application for change of name and of government. Consequently, in 1819 it was made a territory of the second grade and named Arkansas.

In 1836 it was found that the population of the eastern part of the territory was sufficient to entitle them to a State Government. The question of slavery had been settled on the admission of Missouri. A Constitution was formed, and as the application met with no opposition Arkansas, in June, 1836, became the twenty-fifth State of the Union. Its territory is included between Louisiana on the South, the Mississippi River on the east, Missouri on the north, and running from the southwest corner of Missouri to the Arkansas River in latitude 35° 23′; thence south to Red River and along the same to longitude 93° 58′; thence south to latitude 33°, the northern line of Louisiana, and contains 52,198 square miles.—[To be continued.

The Story-Teller.

THE OPPOSITE NEIGHBOR.

BY VIOLET FULLER.

"THERE he is again, I declare," said ESTHER CARLYLE, the little hard-worked music teacher, as she pulled up the window blind of her third story back room one morning in December. "He is as regular as clock-work; I wish I could see exactly what he looks like;" and she tried to strain her rather near-sighted gray eyes across the intervening space of back yards which separated her from the object of her curiosity; but in vain—the distance was too great and, besides, the individual in question had retreated from view. It was strange how she and this unknown personage kept the same hours, both in rising and retiring; at least it seemed so to ESTHER, as many a night she had watched the light from that particular window, after her own was extinguished, for she could not afford to keep it lit very long and thought with what a friendly, cheering ray it shone out into the darkness.

ESTHER CARLYLE was an orphan, and entirely alone. In the boarding house in which she lived she was looked upon as a quiet, little soul, who minded her own affairs and who had nothing in common with the gay young ladies and gentlemen who inhabited the same house. She might, had she so willed it, have lived with some rich relatives in a fashionable locality, but merely in the position of a poor relation; and she preferred to work by herself for the modest pittance which enabled her to pay her board in a respectable house and dress plainly, it is true, but sufficiently well to satisfy herself. She also tried that most precarious of methods of earning money—writing stories for the weekly papers, with but indifferent success.

How often had that sickening feeling of disappointment come over her which attacks the unfortunate recipient of "returned manuscript," just when one is beginning to hope it has been accepted. She had music pupils however, who paid punctually, and although the life was hard and lonely for a girl not yet twenty-five, yet she had the "glorious privilege of being independent." Her room was neat and comfortable, although small and, confined as to outlook, her only glimpse of sky being over the roofs of the houses.

ESTHER was feeling unusually lonely and friendless this morning as she put on her neat out-of-door costume and prepared for her day's work. She had six lessons to give before four in the evening and the pupils lived at great distances from each other. "I wonder what my opposite neighbor does," she thought; "writes, most probably, as he sits up so late; well, I hope he is more successful than I am. I have a great mind to try the regular 'blood and thunder' style; that *might* go down with the million. But I must hurry;" and she gave a final look in the glass as she gave her little black hat the proper set over her luxuriant dark-brown hair and taking up her roll of music, left the room, locking the door carefully behind her. ESTHER was not a beauty, but she was a very pleasant object as she went swiftly along the street, the crisp morning air giving a becoming tinge of pink to her delicate cheeks. Her face was a perfect oval, generally devoid of color, save for the rich red of the small, sweet mouth. Her eyes were dark-gray, full of expression, and set under a broad, low forehead from which the brown hair was brushed back in natural waves; all this, with a small, beautifully-rounded figure and quick, light step, made the girl an object of many admiring glances from gentlemen on their way to business, who had leisure and taste to admire her refined and lady-like appearance.

Nor was she quite unconscious of such glances for, like every woman, be she young or middle-aged, she had her little vanity. She got through her day's work with the usual amount of stupidity on the part of some of her pupils and the wear and tear of nerves, which is the portion of music teachers, and felt very jaded and worn out as she took her seat in the car which would carry her almost to her boarding-house. The car was filled with gentlemen returning to dinner after the labors of the day, but ESTHER got a seat from a polite, middle-aged individual, who gave a start as he saw her face and looked at her as often as he dared without attracting attention. She thanked him as she took the seat he offered, but took no more notice of him, as her thoughts were occupied with a story she intended to begin soon, in order to compete for a prize which had been offered by a weekly paper. It was a forlorn hope, but still she *might* be fortunate, for once in her life.

The car stopped and ESTHER, recollecting herself, found she had arrived at the end of her journey and rose to go out, the gentleman who had given her the seat preceding her and waiting to hand her down. He held out his hand to assist her and she unconsciously placed hers in it, without thinking of the unusual nature of the proceeding on the part of a stranger when, to her surprise, her hand was retained in a close clasp and a deep voice said, "I was sure it was you, ESTHER—Miss CARLYLE." It was not quite dark and ESTHER could distinguish the features of the stranger, which were not as familiar as the voice, that never changes, and years ago in her radiant girlhood, when she lived in a happy home with her parents, that voice had asked in pleading accents for more than she could give; for was she not engaged to one of the handsomest of the "golden youths" of the metropolis? who "loved and rode away," on discovering that Mr. CARLYLE was on the eve of failure.

"O, Mr. MAXWELL," said the girl, looking up into the kindly brown eyes, which surveyed her with undisguised pleasure, "is it really you? why, I thought you were living out West."

"I was," answered the gentleman, "but I have come East for good; let me see you home and we can exchange notes on the way."

"I live very near this," she answered. So they walked away together.

"You have not changed much, Miss CARLYLE; or am I right in calling you thus?" began Mr. MAXWELL.

"I am still ESTHER CARLYLE," was the quiet answer. "Indeed," and here the girl laughed rather bitterly, "I have had no temptation to change my name since I have become poor and alone in the world."

"Alone!" exclaimed Mr. MAXWELL, "why, how is that? I knew your father was dead, of course; but I did not hear of your mother's death; that must have taken place after I left the city. But surely, you have relatives?"

"I have, who would give me a home if I chose to be a slave to their whims. But I prefer independence and my three-story back room, small as it is, and I am not afraid of work."

"You are a brave little soul, ESTHER—you will excuse my calling you so, in memory of old times," said Mr. MAXWELL, as they stood on the steps of the boarding house.

"I will excuse anything," replied she, warmly; "I am so glad to see a friend who knew me in those bygone days; but won't you come in? Although I have no place to receive you except the public parlor."

"Not to-night, but I will call very soon. I live quite close to you—did you know . . ? Just around the corner."

"Ah, that is delightful to have a friend so near. Good night;" and [illegible] gave him her hand, which he pressed [illegible].

"Think of [illegible]nd, ESTHER," replied Mr. MAXWELL, "good night!" he released her hand and [illegible] slender, graceful figure as she entered the house, in the light of the hall lamp. "ESTHER CARLYLE," he murmured, as he took his way to his boarding-house in the adjoining street, "time was when that name had power to thrill my heart and when the very sight of her was happiness enough, even if she did not speak to me. She is not much changed either, in spite of her troubles. I know she must have suffered at being cast off by that scoundrel for whom she refused me. What a brave little soul it is! facing the world at her age—for she can't be more than twenty-five—and after the luxurious manner in which her girlhood was passed—by the way, I never asked what she did to earn money. Teaches, I suppose. Poor ESTHER! Well, I will find out all about her, and if—but *that* is hoping too much;" and with a sigh Mr. GEORGE MAXWELL opened the door of the boarding-house with a latch-key and went up to his comfortable bachelor's—or rather widower's—apartments, where a bright fire burned in a low grate in the pretty sitting-room which, with its luxurious arm-chairs and rich carpet, formed a striking contrast to the poorly-furnished little room in which ESTHER was at this moment taking off her hat and jacket and smoothing the rich waves of her pretty dark-brown hair, preparatory to descending to partake of the late dinner, which was served below.

ESTHER was astonished at the radiant face she saw in the glass, so different from the one she had parted from in the morning. The cheeks were rosy and dimpling with smiles, while the soft gray eyes, under their finely-arched brows, shone with a bright and joyous light to which they had long been a stranger. "To think of meeting GEORGE MAXWELL, of all people in the world!" she said, as she arranged her neat, black dress and put on a clean, crisp ruffle round her white, slender throat. "Dear old GEORGE! I am glad he does not think me changed. He seems to have grown stouter and he is certainly graver in manner and expression. He always had a good, kind face, and his eyes are quite handsome. But where is his wife? he did not mention her at all. Perhaps she may like me, and it will be pleasant to have friends of that kind." And thus musing, she went down to dinner, looking so bright and pretty that the young men of the house were struck with her unusual beauty. Altogether, she was so excited about the meeting with Mr. MAXWELL, that she forgot her opposite neighbor until she went at the window to look at the small piece of sky visible above the houselops and saw his light streaming out into the night like a friendly beacon.

GEORGE MAXWELL found himself on the next evening on the door of ESTHER'S home, almost without his own volition. He had been thinking of her so constantly all day, that insensibly his feet carried him in the direction of her presence.

She came down to the parlor to see him, looking very happy and prettier, he thought, than she had been in her girlish days. Of course she had lost the first freshness and bloom of her extreme youth, but her delicate face had gained in beauty and sweetness of expression. Altogether, GEORGE thought she was better worth winning now than in her younger, more prosperous days; and as they had the parlor to themselves this evening, he was able to gain a better knowledge of her intellectual progress, as well as of her sweet, we-

manly nature, than in the days when he asked her to be his wife.

They had much to talk about and GEORGE told to his sympathetic listener the story of his wife's death in their Western home, and how he had come, feeling desolate and lonely, (having never had a child,) to his old home in the city of B——, and had taken rooms in a comfortable house, where he intended to remain. He was rich, he said, having made money in the West.

ESTHER had very little to tell of her uneventful life; she tried to be contented, she told him, but it was rather lonely.

"Well, you will not be lonely now that I am so close at hand," said Mr. MAXWELL, as he rose to go. "And you must promise to let me know when you want assistance in any way——"

ESTHER smiled up at the stalwart figure and kind grave face and promised; so, with an affectionate good night, he left her, determined, in spite of her former rejection, to woo her again to be his wife.

In pursuance of this intention, he saw her almost daily, sometimes going with her to the doors of her pupils' houses. He gave her books, music and so many hot-house flowers, that her little room became a bower of beauty and fragrance. All these attentions she accepted; indeed, she could hardly refuse them. He was only GEORGE MAXWELL, her old friend, and quite middle-aged—nearly forty, in fact.

But at the end of a month she found that these attentions meant something, when GEORGE again asked her to marry him—and again she refused! It was only pity for her forlorn condition, she told herself; he really did not care for her in that way, now that she had grown pale and faded, and she told him the same, very gently and tenderly, and he, without a word, turned away, wounded to the quick at her second rejection.

He wrote her a note afterward, bidding her good-by; he was going away for a time, but wished her to write if she ever required assistance, to an address which he gave her in a Western city.

So he was gone; and ESTHER wept bitterly at the thought that she had sent him out into the world again just as he was beginning to feel happy; and yet, what could she do? She felt as though he was merely making a sacrifice of himself for her sake. She could not marry him with that feeling, and then she doubted whether she loved him enough. Somehow, she expected a different sensation toward the man she married, and certainly the feeling she had experienced for the lover who had deserted her, was of a widely different character.

She was doubly lonely now that GEORGE was gone; she missed all the kind looks and tones, the thousand little attentions she was wont to receive from him—why had he not been satisfied with friendship? But it was all over, and he was gone. So she set herself to work at the story she intended to write for a prize, in order to forget the pleasant hours she had passed with her friend. But in vain! he would not be banished; his kind, brown eyes were ever before her, and she longed for the sound of his deep, musical voice, and the warm clasp of his hand.

To make matters worse, her opposite neighbor had ceased to keep time with her movements; his blind remained down altogether, and at night no friendly ray of light, shone forth through the darkness to cheer her loneliness.

Poor ESTHER! she toiled on at her story, writing until far into the night; every night, no matter how weary she was, until at the end of a month it was finished.

It was about one o'clock in the morning when she penned the last words, and was just gathering up her writing materials when the cry of "Fire!" rang through the house. "Fire!" she heard immediately afterwards in the street, and then the bells began to clang out in the frosty midnight air.

ESTHER was brave, but she was afraid of fire. She rushed to the door and looked out; the staircase and passage were full of smoke, which rushed into her eyes and caused her to retreat to her room. Not a soul was to be seen, and she could hear nothing save the crackling of flames, which crept nearer and nearer, licking the staircase as they came like fiery serpents. She called, but no one answered. Had they forgotten her? Every woman in the house had a friend to rescue her; but she was alone! "God help me!" she cried; "if GEORGE were only here!"

The smoke and flame drove her still further into the room and she felt that her doom was sealed. She must die there, alone! suffocated by that terrible smoke. She hoped her sufferings would not be long; she never thought of saving anything, for where should she take them?

She sat down on the floor in a stupor and covered her face with her hands; then jumping up suddenly, she gave one last, despairing cry: "GEORGE, GEORGE! if you were only here!"

"ESTHER?" called a stifled voice on the stairs. "Where are you?"

She rushed forward, blinded by smoke and flame, and was snatched up in GEORGE MAXWELL'S strong arms and borne down the burning staircase. "Thank GOD! you are safe!" he said, as he stood in the cold street with her form still held tightly in his grasp.

"And thank GOD that you came!" she said, as she clung to his neck amid the shouting, struggling crowd. She trembled with cold and fright although, fortunately, she had all her clothing on, still the night air of March was chill and searching. "You must come to my boarding-house," said Mr. MAXWELL, as he made his way through the excited crowd, and still carrying her he walked as swiftly as he could round the corner and into the next street, where he entered the house, made his way upstairs and deposited his precious burden on the sofa in his warm sitting room, where a fire was burning and the gas lit, late, or rather early, as it was. "There, ESTHER," he said, stroking the brown hair back from the pale little face, "rest yourself and stay your weary feet on a friend's threshold."

He spoke so kindly and the girl was so glad to see him and so thankful for her escape from death, that she burst into tears.

"ESTHER, darling, what is it?" he said. "You are tired and your nerves have received too great a shock. I will give you something to revive you and then you must take possession of my room and try to sleep."

He got her some wine and a biscuit, waiting on her with a grave, fatherly tenderness. She drank the wine and felt better, but refused to take his room.

"I don't intend to occupy it to-night," he said; "I am going round to C—— street, to find out the extent of the damage; you did not save anything, of course?"

"No, I had not time; and there is really nothing—O, my manuscript!" she exclaimed, recollecting it; "my prize story!"

"I'll find it for you if you promise to go to bed, ESTHER. I will leave you now, and hope when I come back, to find you have obeyed me, so good-night, my rescued darling!" and he kissed passionately the little hand, a liberty which ESTHER did not resent. "Good-night," she said, "my preserver!"

He kissed her hand again, his grave face all aglow, and left the room; while ESTHER, taking a traveling rug from a chair, timidly opened the bedroom door and laid herself down on the bed in the dark, where she soon fell into a sound sleep.

When she woke the sun was shining and she jumped up hastily, surprised to find herself in a strange room; but the past night came back to her as she went to the window and looking out, saw straight before her what she knew must be her own room, with the window blackened with smoke, but otherwise unharmed. Yes, that was the house, and the yard seemed to be filled with a mass of rubbish, crockery and furniture, which had no doubt been thrown from the burning windows. Then looking at the position of the house from where she stood, it suddenly occurred to her that this was the window of her opposite neighbor and——GEORGE MAXWELL must be the man himself!

As she thought this, a knock at the door startled her. It was the landlady, wishing to know how she was, informing her, also, that the fire had not been so bad as was thought, and that Mr. MAXWELL was waiting for her in the sitting-room. He had slept upstairs.

ESTHER made a hurried toilet, reflecting that she had neither bonnet or cloak to go out in, and went into the sitting-room, where GEORGE came forward to meet her, his brown eyes full of love and tenderness. She held out both hands, and he took her to his heart without a word. No need to ask a question—he knew she was his at last!

"Little darling!" he murmured; "ESTHER, how could you be so cruel as to send me away? and I came back just in the nick of time to save you. How gladly you rushed into my arms, through smoke and flame."

She laughed softly as he kissed her. "GEORGE, it was your going away that made me love you; and—did you find my manuscript?"

"Alas, no; it is a great misfortune, no doubt, but it is gone!"

"Well, I can do without it, now, as long as I have become acquainted with my Opposite Neighbor."

DEATH OF ORATORY IN THE ENGLISH HOUSE OF LORDS.

THERE is not one orator in the old sense left in the House of Lords—not one man who possesses in full measure the art which Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright usually and one or two more men occasionally—Mr. Sullivan, for example, when he is really excited, or Mr. Lowe, when he loses his intellectual temper—still employ. There is not only no one like Lord Brougham, Lord Lyndhurst or Earl Grey, but there is no one like Lord Derby or Bishop Wilberforce. Lord Salisbury is an orator and probably would seem one if he sat in the Commons, or could be mentally thrashed every night for a session in the presence of a great audience; but his powers require provocation, which they do not often receive, everybody being more or less afraid of him; and there is no one else. Lord Cairns has the forensic readiness of his profession, but no passion; the Duke of Argyll speaks logically, but with the effect only of a clear-minded professor, to whom the "divine gift" has been conceded, but not the "divine afflatus;" Lord Derby is marvellously sensible and sometimes very terse, but never carried away a human being; Lord Coleridge's silver tongue is too seldom heard in the House; Lord Granville only talks well and easily, putting a trace of cayenne in his talk; and Lord Carnarvon is bound by his office to make complicated questions clear, and only glows into orator when the chivalric side of his nature is roused or wounded. Lord Grey retains something of the style of the passed-away orators and can, in a happy mood, be persuasive, but his speaking wants rush and heat; and the Duke of Somerset, telling as his speeches are, is an epigrammatist, not an orator. Most of the young men talk like clever young men and no more, and Lord Rosebery is the only one among them who says anything people care to read for its own sake. The debating, in fact, though sometimes effective, and once or twice in a session exciting from the visible heat of the disputants, grows dull and threatens to be, before long, as dull as the debating in the Commons when the leaders are not present.—*Spectator.*

ABESTOS.

A CURIOUS exhibition has just been organized at the Simonetti Palace, on the Corso, in Rome. It is a display of abestos in all the stages through which it passes from the time that it is taken out of the bowels of the earth until it appears as a manufactured article. The ancients had a means of weaving it and with it made napkins for meals, wicks for lamps and winding sheets for the dead for the purposes of cremation, so that the ashes of the deceased could be collected unmixed with those of the wood which had formed the funeral pyre. The process of working this textile has been again discovered by the Marquis de Batrera.

THE latest thing in advertising can be seen on the banks of the Clyde, in Scotland. The proprietors of the Glasgow News rented some land which lies sloping to the Firth of Clyde, and in the turf they cut the name of the paper.

THERE is a great deal of love in this world which the objects on whom it is wasted would be better without—love that is so kind as to be cruel.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

The Father's Story of Charley Ross. By CHRISTIAN K. ROSS. Philadelphia: John E. Potter & Co.

JUDGING by the title above, one would naturally suppose this book to be one of those sensational stories which are generally the followers of each romantic event exciting public interest. Indeed, such a judgment would not be incorrect as to the word sensational. It is more than that. It is exciting in its pathos. Filled with dates and names of places—two things generally detested by seekers of exciting books—the incidents are set forth in a simple manner, exactly as a man would tell his own story of his great bereavement to his immediate friends who might be interested in his welfare. We opened the book with a sigh for the loss of time required to read it and hardly closed it until we had finished, with a feeling of wonder at the strangeness of the incidents and pleasure at being possessed of all the facts of a case which has engrossed so much attention during the last two years. Even if we did not know that the father of the abducted child was the author, the simplicity of the tale itself would be guaranty of its veracity. Supposing heretofore, that we were familiar with the CHARLEY ROSS case, we now discover that we actually knew little about it before this book was published. The author closes his work with an expression of that hope for the eventual unraveling the mystery which has sustained him throughout his long, unsuccessful search for his lost boy. His object in publishing the book is twofold:—1. To assist, if possible, in unveiling the mystery of his boy's whereabouts; 2. To obtain means to enable him "to continue the search that cannot be abandoned until the child is found or his death is certainly proven." Both objects are equally commendable.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, Phila., Pa.:
Countess of Rudolstadt—A Sequel by Consuelo, by George Sand. (Paper—pp. 183. Price, 75c.)

SCRIBNER, ARMSTRONG & Co., New York:
Every-Day Topics—A Book of Briefs, by J. G. Holland. (Cloth—8vo.; pp. 391. Price, $1.75.)

E. P. DUTTON & Co., New York:
Peter and Polly; or, Home Life in New England a Hundred Years Ago, by Marian Douglas. (Cloth; small 12mo.—pp. 268.) J. R. Osgood & Co., Boston.

A Study of Hawthorne, by G. P. Lathrop. (Cloth; small 12mo.—pp. 350.) James R Osgood & Co., Boston.

RURAL HOME PUB. Co., Rochester, N. Y.:
American Dairying, by L. B. Arnold. (Cloth—pp. 354.)

MAGAZINES FOR OCTOBER:
Harper's, Record of the Year, Wallace's Monthly, Galaxy.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED:
Hovey & Co.'s Catalogue of Bulbs and Floral Guide. Boston, 1876 77.
A. Bryant, Jr.'s, Wholesale Nursery Price-List. Princeton, Ill.
John Saul's (Washington) Descriptive Catalogue of Dutch and other Bulbous Flower Roots.
W. H. Spooner, Boston, Mass., Spooner's Bulb Cultivators' Guide and Descriptive Catalogue of Selected Bulbs, &c., &c.
F. K. Phœnix, Bloomington, Ill., Wholesale Price List of Bloomington Nurseries and Descriptive Catalogue of Tulips, Hyacinths and other bulbs.

NEW MUSIC FROM WM. A. POND & Co., New York,
Society Waltz, by Geo. H. Stout, Jr. Requiem to the Memory of Gen. Geo. A. Custer, by Chas. Glover (in press.) Hayes & Wheeler Grand March, by Carl Strandberg. Tilden & Hendricks Grand March, by Wm. P. Adams. Rose Bell, My Darling—Song and Chorus—by T. H. Hinton. Hip! Hip!! Hurrah!!! Song and Chorus, by S. Schoenbrun. What Are You Thinking Of? Ballad, by Wm. K. Bassford. Burlesque Polka, by Jacques Offenbach.

Sabbath Reading.

ALONE.

BY RUNE BLUFF.

Oh, beats there a heart that never has known
One dear loved spot it could call its own?
Can one look back, one with hair now gray,
Without a sigh for life's vanished May?
One, whose baby lips were by love unpressed?
Whose childhood's hours were by love unblessed?
If so, what a wilderness 'twas, poor heart!
What a grim, drear life for a baby's part!

There may be some, thank God they are few,
Who of youthful sweets so little knew;
Who stood or fell when the tempter came,
No voice to praise, but many to blame;
With none to guard from danger and sin,
Who fought alone, to lose or win;
Whose griefs or joys there were none to share,
Who came or went with none to care:

Who had no debt 'twould be sweet to owe
For the kindly helps Love can bestow;
Who in their prayers, if they learned the way,
Had never a dear, loved name to say:
In whose dreams came never a sweet, home face,
That Time from the heart could not efface;
No grass-grown graves where they went to weep,
No tender mem'ries fore'er to keep:

Who lacked that love our hearts all need,
Till their virtues sowed at length the seed
In other hearts, where it grew and bore
Love's pleasant fruit, all unknown before;
Or if to their aid no kind word came,
Till good and ill were to them the same;
Who died as they lived, unloved—who slept
In graves where Love no vigil kept.

I WILL GIVE NOTHING.

"THERE is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."—*Proverbs* 11: 24.

A MINISTER soliciting aid towards his chapel waited upon an individual distinguished for wealth and benevolence. Approving the case, he presented to this minister a handsome donation, and turning to his three sons, who had witnessed the transaction, he advised them to imitate his example. "My dear boys," said he, "you have heard the case; now what will you give?" One said, "I will give all that my pocket will furnish;" another observed, "I will give half that I have in my purse;" the third sternly remarked, "I will give nothing."

Some years after, the minister had occasion to visit the same place, and recollecting the family he had called upon, he inquired into the actual position of the parties. He was informed that the generous father was dead; the youth who had cheerfully given all his store was living in affluence; the son who had divided his pocket money was in comfortable circumstances; but the third, who had indignantly refused to assist, and haughtily declared he would give "nothing," was so reduced as to be supported by the two brothers.

The incident furnishes a most suggestive comment upon the text which stands at the head of it. And there are plenty of parallel texts and facts.

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Is it a certain state of feeling into which we are to work ourselves before we believe? Surely not. It just means, as is now generally admitted, a turning round towards God. When Christ began to preach, he summed up the whole of his teaching in these two words, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel."—Mark 1: 15. So the Apostle Paul, when he reminds the Ephesian elders of his labors among them, says, "I have taught you publicly * * * repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20. 20, 21. In other words, "Turn round toward God and take the gift of his love. The two things must go together.—*Pastor Theodore Monod.*

LAY PREACHING.

THE feeling in favor of lay preaching is gaining strength; probably Mr. Moody's popularity has given it considerable stimulus. The Presbyterians talk of establishing a lay college and several religious journals strongly favor the movement; among them is Zion's Herald, which makes the excellent point that this movement is but an attempt to restore the primitive form of evangelism. Certainly Christ did not send out an educated ministry; it is equally certain that the "live" members of churches in which Sunday schools are large and prayer meetings are well attended, pray as well and talk as nearly to the point as the average minister does.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

BUNYAN with irresistible zeal preached throughout the country, especially in Bedfordshire and its neighborhood, until on the restoration of Charles II., he was thrown into prison, where he remained twelve years. During his confinement he preached to all to whom he could gain access, and when liberty was offered to him the condition of promising to abstain from preaching, he constantly replied, "If you let me out to-day, I shall preach to-morrow."

ALL our sufferings are ordered by a Father; 'tis the portion our Father gives us to drink, and whatever bitter ingredient there is in it, still it is of a Father's procuring, and why suspect it to be poison and be afraid of it?

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE FAIR HUMBUG.

Of mellow voice and soft address,
She is so meek at first you'd guess
That she could only answer, "Yes,"
The Humbug!

Speak you too plain? she'll only try
To hide her blushes from your eye,
And breathe the while perhaps a sigh,
The Humbug!

And should you make your last demand,
She'll only gently press your hand—
Perhaps she does not understand—
The Humbug!

Urge not your suit, nor love bestow,
Unless you really want to know
How firmly she can answer, "No,"
The Humbug!

[*Home Journal.*

WOMAN.

Particularly to the wives and mothers of the present I would address these words of kindly warning and suggestion. Here, entering upon the second century of our existence as a nation, and claiming all the refinement and intelligence of the most advanced civilization, we still, as a people, overlook the great desideratum—the training of our daughters to the plain, simple, every-day duties of life. This is a thing which forces itself upon the attention of the great mass of our people at this time, from the fact that our merchants and those engaged in trade, commerce and the mechanic arts, after a long and successful career, find themselves beset on every side by the difficulties of a depreciated currency. Business of every class is prostrated, and thousands are suffering for want of employment who have hitherto enjoyed all the comforts of life, and many comparative affluence.

Retrenchment is, then, the order of the day, and among the first is the reduction of the number of domestics in many households where two, three, and even five to one have been supported; and for the first time the wife finds herself thrown on her own resources, and compelled to work her way unassisted into the mysteries of housekeeping.

What tears are shed and heart scalds over heavy bread, sodden meats, vegetables wretchedly cooked and unfit for food. To sweep, dust and arrange the furniture; dress the table suitably; to cook and place upon it the nicely-prepared meal, is of equal importance with neatness and cleanliness in her person—nice arrangement of the attire; and infinitely more so than a smattering of the languages and a sufficient knowledge of music to dash off in an imperfect manner some of the airs of the day.

To you—wives and mothers—we must look for an improvement in this respect; and while we would encourage and assist in all efforts tending toward a higher education of our women, we would *insist* on their training in all those duties so necessary to the well-being, comfort and happiness of every well-ordered household.

We see our young ladies, as soon as they have received a good, common-school education (and it is their own fault if they have not availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them), sent to a fashionable school to finish,—or in other words to learn to practice many of those manners and arts which tend to banish that native modesty and attractiveness which is so beautiful in woman. From this scene she is immediately introduced into society. One continual round of excitement begins, and between a study of the toilet, shopping, paying visits and entertaining in return, her time is fully occupied, to the neglect of the nobler and more intelligent pursuits which should prepare her for the real duties of life. The preparation and cooking of a dinner, the making, washing and ironing of a shirt, are things not to be thought of, and she finally, after a season of flirtation and courtship, marries the man who, as she thinks, is stylish, and can afford an elegant maintenance. He, on the other hand, has commenced his business career, after receiving a common-school education, at the very bottom of the ladder, and after performing all the duties of his station (whatever they may be) acceptably to his employer, gradually rises higher and higher, until he attains to the highest position in the house, where a larger field of operations is opened to him, requiring energy, perseverance, judgment, and a constant and unceasing vigilance.

To him work is his constant companion, and it must necessarily be to provide for the wants of every-day life. His is a life of action. Has her education fitted her to be the helpmeet of this man? Rather has it fitted her to be a constant clog to his exertion, and in place of according him a hearty and cheerful assistance in all his plans—making their home bright and happy in its every comfort, her loving heart, watchful eye, ready hand, smoothing and making pleasant the rugged pathway of life, and contributing, by her care, industry and economy to render his footing surer and safer on the ladder of fortune—his economy and close attention to business is looked upon as a parsimonious devotion, which is wholly unnecessary.

Let us then instruct our young ladies in all that is useful, and in contributing to the comfort and happiness of others they will find the highest attainable reward.

FLOWERS IN THE HOUSE.

Why not have some elegance in even the humblest home? We must, of course, have cleanliness, which is the special elegance of the poor. But why not have pleasant and delightful things to look upon? There is no reason why the humbler classes should not surround themselves with the evidences of beauty and comfort in all their shapes, and thus do homage alike to the gifts of God and the labors of man. The taste for the beautiful is one of the best and most useful endowments. It is one of the handmaids of civilization. Beauty and elegance do not necessarily belong to the homes of the rich. They are, or ought to be, all-pervading. Beauty in all things,—in nature, in art, in science, in literature, in social and domestic life.

How beautiful and yet how cheap are flowers. Not exotics, but what are called common flowers. A rose, for instance, is among the most beautiful of the smiles of nature. The "laughing flowers," exclaims the poet! But there is more than gaiety in blooming flowers, though it takes a wise man to see the beauty, the love, and the adaptation, of which they are full.

What should we think of one who had invented flowers; supposing that, before him, flowers were unknown? Would he not be regarded as the opener-up of a paradise of new delight? should we not hail the inventor as a genius, as a god? And yet these lovely offsprings of the earth have been speaking to man from the first dawn of his existence until now, telling him of the goodness and wisdom of the Creative Power, which bade the earth bring forth, not only that which was useful as food, but also flowers, the bright consummate flowers, to clothe it in beauty and joy!

Bring one of the commonest field flowers into a room, place it on a table or chimney-piece, and you seem to have brought a ray of sunshine into the place. There is a cheerfulness about flowers! What a delight are they to the drooping invalid! They are like a sweet draught of enjoyment, coming as messengers from the country, and seeming to say, "Come and see the place where we grow, and let your heart be glad in our presence."

What can be more innocent than flowers! They are like children undimmed by sin. They are emblems of purity and truth, a source of fresh delight to the pure and innocent. The heart that does not love flowers, or the voice of a playful child, cannot be genial. It was a beautiful conceit that invented a language of flowers, by which lovers were enabled to express the feelings that they dared not openly speak. But flowers have a voice for all—old and young, rich and poor. "To me," says Wordsworth,

"The meanest flower that blows can give
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears."

Have a flower in the room, by all means. It will cost only a penny, if your ambition is moderate; and the gratification it gives will be beyond price. If you can have a flower for your window, so much the better. What can be more delicious than the sun's light streaming through flowers—through the midst of crimson Fuchsias or scarlet Geraniums! To look out into the light through flowers—is not that poetry? And to break the force of the sunbeams by the tender resistance of green leaves! If you can train a Nasturtium round the window, or some sweet peas, then you will have the most beautiful frame you can invent for the picture without, whether it be the busy crowd, or a distant landscape, or trees with their lights and shades, or the changes of the passing clouds. Any one may thus look through flowers for the price of an old song. And what pure taste and refinement does it not indicate on the part of the cultivator!

A flower in the window sweetens the air, makes the room look graceful, gives the sun's light a new charm, rejoices the eye, and links nature with beauty. The flower is a companion that will never say a cross thing to any one, and will always look beautiful and smiling. Do not despise it because it is cheap, and because everybody may have the luxury as well as yourself. Common things are cheap, but common things are invariably the most valuable. Could we only have fresh air or sunshine by purchase, what luxuries they would be considered; but they are free to all, and we think little of their blessings.—"*Thrift*," *by Samuel Smiles.*

About Fans.—The cheap grotesquely figured fans now in use here are made in Japanese homes, all the members of families working on them. The pictures are drawn on thin paper, pasted on a slab of wood, and then engraved, a separate block being used for printing each color. Children do the splitting of the bamboo and the pasting of the paper. In Japan that kind of fan is used by women, and the men carry the handsome folding article. It is customary there to exchange fans, as we do photographs, and to inscribe them with autographs and sentiments.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A young lady, on being asked what business her lover was in, and not liking to say he bottled soda answered: "He's a practicing fizzician."

Young damsels, like house plants, should be kept in doors these moonlight nights. Frost and love do not go well together. The former brings on consumption and the latter matrimony.

Let it be recorded for the comfort of disconsolate virgins wherever they do languish. A maiden lady was married in Haverhill, Mass., last week, after turning her 45th birthday. The bridegroom was her junior by two years.

The ladies are beginning to wear the famous coaching hat which during the season cast all other head-gear in the shade at the fashionable resorts. The brims are very wide and the hat is worn far back on the head and tipped over sideways, imparting to the occupant a decidedly coquettish and jaunty appearance.

Reading for the Young.

THE STUBBORN BOOT.

"Bother!" was all John Clatterby said;
His breath came quick; and his cheeks were red;
He flourished his elbows, and looked absurd,
While, over and over, his "bother!" I heard.

Harder and harder he tugged and worked,
Vainly and savagely still he jerked;
The boot half on, *would* dangle and flap—
"Bother!" and then he burst the strap.

Redder than ever his hot cheek flamed;
Harder than ever he fumed and blamed;
He wriggled his heel and tugged at the leather,
Till knees and chin came bumping together.

"My boy," said I, in a voice like a flute,
"Why not—ahem!—try that troublesome boot
On the other foot?" "I'm a goose," laughed John,
As he stood, in a flash, with his two boots on.

In half the affairs of this busy life
(As that same day I said to my wife),
Our troubles come from trying to put
The left-hand shoe on the right-hand foot.

Or *vice versa* (meaning reverse, sir),
To try to force, as quite of course,
Any wrong foot in the right shoe,
Is the silliest thing a man can do.

THE PENNY.

In the mint where gold and silver and copper coins are made, a Ducat and a Penny had just been finished. They both now lay together, bright and clear, close on the table, and glittering in the sunlight.

The Ducat said to the Penny, "Low fellow, get away from me! You are only made of common copper, and do not deserve the sunshine. You will soon be lying on the ground all tarnished and black, and nobody will care to pick you up. I on the contrary, am made of precious gold. I shall therefore travel through the wide world among lords and princes, do great deeds, and at last even become a pearl of the king's crown."

In the same room, there lay on the bench by the stove a wise old Cat. When he heard the Ducat's speech he turned over on his other side, and, stroking his beard thoughtfully, said, "Turn about is just as likely." And it so happened that the fate of the two coins was just the reverse of what the Ducat had predicted.

The Ducat came into the possession of a rich old miser, who kept it in his money chest, where it lay for a time, idle and useless, among coins of its own rank. But as the miser foresaw that he must soon die, he buried all his money in the ground; and there the proud Ducat lies to this day, and has become tarnished and black, and nobody is ever likely to pick it up.

The Penny, however, was to journey through the wide world and come to great honors, which happened in this wise:

In the first place, a poor boy, employed about the mint, received it as wages. He carried it home, and as his little sister was greatly pleased with the bright new piece, he made her a present of it. The child ran with it into the garden, to show it to her mother. A sick and old beggar limped up to her, and asked for a piece of bread. "I have none," said the girl.

"Then give me a penny to buy some," said he. And she gave him the coin. He then hobbled off to the baker's. As he stood by the shop, there came up the street an old acquaintance, clad as a pilgrim, and carrying a staff and wallet. He gave to the children who stood about pictures of saints and other worthies, for which the children dropped money in the bag, which he held out. The beggar asked him, "Where are you going?"

"Many hundred miles further, to the city of Jerusalem, where the dear little Christ-child was born and died. I shall pray at His grave, and then redeem my brother, who is held for ransom by the Turks. For that purpose I am collecting money in this bag."

"Then take also for that purpose my mite," said the beggar, and he gave the penny to the pilgrim, and was about to go away as hungry as he came. But the baker, who had been looking on, and had seen the whole, gave the poor man the bread which he had meant to buy.

The pilgrim wandered through many countries, and sailed across the sea to the great city of Jerusalem. When he arrived there, he first prayed at the Holy Sepulcher, and then visited the Turkish Sultan, who had shut up his brother in prison. He offered the Turk a large sum of money, to set the captive free; but the Turk wanted more still. The pilgrim answered, "I can offer you nothing more but this penny, which a poor hungry beggar gave me out of pity. Be you as compassionate as he, and the copper coin will make you rich." Then the Sultan took pity, gave the prisoner his freedom, and received the penny from the beggar.

The Sultan put the copper coin in his pocket, and for some time afterward thought nothing of it. Then it happened that an Emperor came to Jerusalem, and made war upon the Sultan. The latter defended himself bravely, and escaped being wounded. Once, however, an arrow was shot directly at his breast, and struck him fair, although it glanced off from his garment without injuring him. He was astonished at this, and when, after the battle, they examined his clothes, they found in his pocket a copper penny, on which the arrow had glanced. Then the Turk held the penny in high honor, and had it fastened by a gold chain to the handle of his sword. But after this the Sultan was taken captive by the Emperor, and was obliged to give up his sword, which, with the penny, thus came into the Emperor's hands.

One day as the Emperor sat at table, and held in his hand a goblet of wine, the Empress remarked that she much wished to see the Turkish saber. It was brought in, and as the Emperor showed it to his wife, the penny dropped into the goblet of wine. He noticed it, and before he put the goblet to his lips, took out the penny. As he looked at it more closely, he saw that it had turned green. At that, every body knew that there was poison in the wine. A wicked servant had mixed it, in order to kill the Emperor. The servant was forthwith sentenced to death: but the Emperor had the penny set in his crown.

Thus the penny had pleased a child, secured bread for a hungry beggar, released a prisoner, saved the Sultan a wound, and the Emperor his life. For this it was set in the Imperial crown.

THE EARLY ADAPTATION OF GAS.

Gas, as most people know, is inflammable air given out by coal. But who first thought of collecting it and storing it, and using it to light up streets, houses and churches? The honor is due to a very busy, hard-working engineer, one William Murdoch, the foreman of Messrs. Boulton & Watt, the great engineers. It was when his real day's work was over that he devoted himself to experiments on the nature and use of coal gas, and at last he brought the discovery into such shape that he lighted his own house and offices with the new combustible air; and even contrived a lantern, with a bladder of gas fixed to it, to light him along the dark lanes of the country at night. This was at the close of the last century, and great was the amazement of the public when the clever foreman decorated his masters' mills, near Birmingham, with a blaze of light in celebration of the peace of Amiens in 1802.

So little was the invention understood and believed in by those who had not seen it in use, that even great and wise men laughed at the idea. "How could there be light without a wick?" said a member of Parliament when the subject was brought before the House.

Even Sir Humphry Davy ridiculed the idea of lighting towns by gas, and asked one of the projectors if they meant to take the dome of St. Paul's for a gas meter. Sir Walter Scott, too, made himself merry over the idea of illuminating London by smoke; though he was glad enough, not so long after, to make his own house at Abbotsford light and cheerful on winter nights by the use of that very smoke.

When the House of Commons was first lighted by gas, even the architect imagined that the gas ran on fire through the pipes, and he therefore insisted on their being placed several inches from the wall, for fear of the building taking fire; and members might be observed carefully touching the pipes with their gloved hands, and wondering they did not feel warm.

The first shop lighted in London by the new method was Mr. Ackermann's, in the Strand, in 1810; and one lady of rank was so delighted with the brilliancy of the gas lamp on the counter that she asked to be allowed to take it home in her carriage.

Mr. Murdoch was, however, too busy with his other pursuits to continue to study the uses of gas, and though he was undoubtedly the first to apply it to practical purposes, many others laid claim to the honor, and other people quickly reaped the benefit of his cleverness and ingenuity.

HE DID IT FIRST.

There were once two sheep who lived in a field. One was black and one was white. In the same field lived a horse and a cow. Now the black sheep was not at all good. But where he chose to go the white sheep would go; and what he did the white sheep would do.

So they did what they ought not. And when the white sheep was asked why he did what he ought not he would say, "The black sheep did it first!" One day a boy went through the field, and did not shut the gate. The black sheep saw it, and ran out of the field with great glee. The white sheep saw it too, and they both went the same way.

But soon they met a large dog, who knew that they ought not to be out in the road. He ran at them and bit them, and tore some wool off their backs. They were glad to run back to the field; and the white sheep was quite ill with fright all the rest of the day.

"But why did you go?" said the old cow. "The black sheep went," said the white one; "he did it first."

Well, the gate was shut; but one day the black sheep found a way out of the field through a hole in the fence. He crept through the gap; and, of course, the white sheep crept through as well. They got out on the moor, and thought it fine fun to be there, with no one in sight.

Soon the black sheep, who was first, came to the edge of a deep pit. He gave a great jump and leaped in.

The white sheep did not stop to think. He gave a great jump and leaped in too. Down, down, down he fell, on a heap of sharp stones. Both he and the black sheep were much hurt. They could not get out, and were forced to lie there in great pain. By-and-by some men came by, and saw the sheep in the pit. The men got them out, and took them back to the field, and sent for some one to see what could be done for them.

The horse and the cow, in great grief, came and stood by the side of the white sheep as he lay on the grass. They were fond of him in spite of all his faults. "Oh, why!" cried the cow, with tears in her eyes (and the bell that was hung round her neck shook and rang as she leaned over him),

"why did you leave the field with the black sheep?"

"He did it first," said the white one in a faint voice.

"Then why did you jump down that steep place? Could you not see that it was a pit?"

"I did not stop to see. He did it first," said the white sheep. Then, with a groan, he went on to ask, "How is the black sheep? Is he here too? And what does the man think who comes to see us?"

"I grieve to tell you," said the cow, "that he thought you were both too much hurt to live. The poor black sheep has just died, and I fear that you must die too."

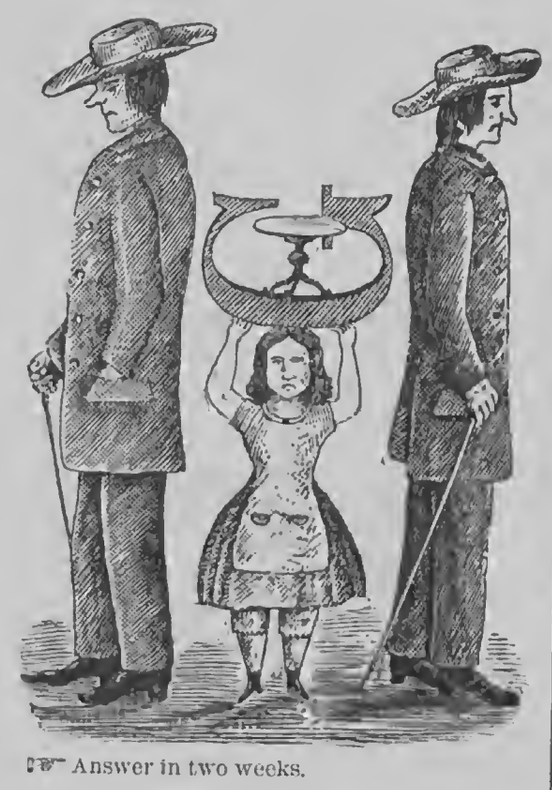
"He did it first," said the white sheep. And with these words he died.

HOW BOYS' MARBLES ARE MADE.

Almost all the "marbles" with which boys everywhere amuse themselves, in season and out of season, on sidewalks and in sandy spots, are made at Oberstein, Germany. There are large agate quarries and mills in that neighborhood and the refuse is turned to good account in providing the small stone balls for experts to "knuckle" with. The stone is broken into small cubes by blows of a light hammer. These small blocks of stone are thrown, by the shovelful, into the hopper of a small mill, formed of a bedstone, having its surface grooved with concentric furrows. Above this is the "runner," which is of some hard wood, having a level face on its lower surface. The upper block is made to revolve rapidly, water being delivered upon the grooves of the bedstone, where the marbles are being rounded. It takes about fifteen minutes to finish a half bushel of good "marbles," all ready for the boy's knuckles. One mill will turn 160,000 "marbles" per week. The hardest "crackers," as the boys call them, are made by a slower process, somewhat analogous, however, to the other.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



☞ Answer in two weeks.

HIDDEN CHAMBER ARTICLES.

1. Let us take this car, Peter.
2. My pupil lowered the sail.
3. Quench air from our lungs and death will follow.
4. Greta blew the supper horn.
5. 'Twas a feat her bed-ridden mother could not survive.
6. Pitch Ernest his cap.
7. In this ward Robert cannot vote.
8. I cannot tie my bow, Lily.
9. While I was in Marseilles Count Erpanex was wed.
10. She etherized the patient.
11. You can wash, standing there.
12. Marking that fancy towel racked my brain.
13. You must make your toilet, Mattie.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Little One.

TRANSPOSITION.

Who dwil dan tnld hist file papreas!
Noe glon peed vayeh ghis,
Newh r'oc uro yese, lafh doselc ni stare,
Het maiseg fo morfer seary
Era lafinty titeringig yb!
Dan tills rottenfog lichw hyet og!
Sa, no eth eas-cheab, vaew no ewva
Lovessids to cone ni sown.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Sept. 9.

Illustrated Rebus.—Fond memory of the departed will cling like the ivy to the fallen willow.

Decapitations.—1, Clover—lover; 2, Sham—ham; 3, Sloop—loop; 4, Sample—ample; 5, Cat—at; 6, Table—able; 7, Sharp—harp; 8, Shovel—hovel; 9, Chair—hair.

Miscellaneous Enigma.—The Star Spangled Banner.

Double Acrostic.—Initials, Nectarine; finals, Pineapple.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

The following is a graduated scale of prices for small clubs according to the reduced rates of subscription for the Rural New-Yorker. This is done for the benefit of the small clubs in thinly-populated districts. Let each subscribor add two or three names to his own and remit for all at one time.

No.	Single Price.	Small Clubs.	No.	Single Price.	Small Clubs.
1	$2.50	$2 50	6	$15 00	$13 20
2	5 00	4 90	7	17 50	16 05
3	7 50	7 20	8	20 00	16 80
4	10 00	9 20	9	22 50	18 45
5	12 50	11 25	10	25 00	20 00

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

The N. Y. State Fair, held at Albany this year, made the finest display of live stock seen for many years. It was specially good in Devons and Jerseys.

The funeral of ex-Gov. Henry A. Wise has taken place at Richmond, Va., from St. James's Episcopal Church. There was an immense concourse of citizens of all classes and nationalities. The procession embraced all the white military companies of the city, veterans of the Wise brigade, Catholic, Irish, and German societies, Masons, members of the legal profession, and a large number of other citizens. Along the line of march the streets were crowded with people, who followed the procession to Hollywood Cemetery, where the remains were interred. The floral tributes were numerous. The State and city officials, including Gov. Kemper and staff, also attended the funeral. The State and city offices were closed during the greater portion of the day, and the Federal and State flags were displayed at half-mast on the Capitol.

The suffering at Savannah in consequence of the presence of yellow fever is terrible, and aid is earnestly asked.

James W. Booth, State Senator, elected to the Senate by the Republicans of the Vth Senatorial District, of this city, died at the residence of his brother-in-law, Quintin McAdam, at Nyack on the Hudson, on the 14th inst.

The yellow-fever panic in Savannah is subsiding. Ladies have resumed their shopping, children are playing in the squares, and the exiles are returning. The Benevolent Association has done noble work in the city.

The second Democratic Convention (N. Y.) has nominated Lucius Robinson for Governor.

The daily attendance at the Exhibition ranges above 60,000 now.

Gen. Terry's column has been broken up for the season.

Fifteen thousand people attended Governor Rice's (Mass.,) reception at the Centennial.

The Unitarian Conference has adjourned to meet at Saratoga again in two years.

Pennsylvania Day (Sept. 28) will be observed as a holiday in Philadelphia. No business will be transacted except that in hand, viz., Going to the Centennial.

Two more explosions occurred at the powder mills in Warren, Me., Sept. 14th, while the workmen were absent at the funeral of those killed the day before.

The International Rifle Match at Creedmoor resulted in a signal victory for the American Team. At the close of the first day they were nine points behind the Scotch and five behind the Irish Team. The second day their final score of 3,126 points left them 22 ahead of the Irish, who were second with a score of 3,104 points, and 64 over the Scotch, who netted 3,062 points in the two days' shooting. The Australians finished with a score of 3,061, and the Canadians were last with a record of 2,023 points. On the evening of Sept. 15 the Teams assembled in Gilmore's Garden, and in the presence of some 8,000 spectators the trophy was presented to the victorious Americans. Speeches were made by Gen. Hawley, Major Fulton, Judge Gildersleeve and others. The greatest enthusiasm was manifested, generously embracing victors and vanquished.

Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan and Col. M. Sheridan passed through Omaha, Sept. 14, en route to Fort Laramie, where they are to meet Gen. Crook in a few days to arrange for a vigorous prosecution of the Indian war through the coming winter, and the establishment of a large cantonment in the Powder River country.

Mr. E. T. Hayes, who lives a short distance below Greene, New York, brought an apple into Oswego that had actually been baked in the sun during the hot weather.

Hallett's Reef, which has long been a source of danger to navigators of Hell Gate, N. Y., will be destroyed, as a reef, by the time this notice is seen by our readers. The debris which will result from its destruction will next have to be removed to insure a safe channel. It has been estimated that one sailing vessel out of every fifty that now attempts the channel meets with some accident. Surveys of the channel and estimates of the cost of removing the various rocks, as well as Hallett's Reef, have been several times made at the expense of the Government. Something was done toward improving the channel by M. Maillefert, who began operations in 1851, having a fund of $13,000, which was raised by subscription among the citizens of this city. His method was surface blasting—letting a charge down against the rock and exploding it—and the results were more or less favorable, according to the shape of the rocks. The work has reached its final stage. Workmen are at present busily engaged loading the holes, 3,678 in number. The columns or supporting pillars, 172 in number, are pierced from floor to roof with holes, and the roof also. The holes are arranged in groups of 20, and each hole is filled with a white pine plug, on the end of which is a piece of tin, with its number—from 1 to 20—stamped upon it. All the plugs in a group are connected with a string, which passes from one to the other, thus preventing any confusion in separating group from group. The cartridges are delivered at the Government works packed in boxes. They are tin cans from 1¾ to 2⅝ inches in diameter and about 22 inches long, filled with explosive material. There are three classes of these cartridges of three different degrees of strength. The late unfortunate accident has caused the men to appreciate the power of the material they are handling, and they move the boxes containing the cartridges with the utmost care. In charging the holes, a plug is withdrawn and a cartridge of the least explosive force inserted. This cartridge is pushed back to its place by means of a long pole; another of higher power follows it, and then another of a still higher grade, after which the plug is returned to its place. The plugs will be taken out when all of the holes have been filled, when small exploding cartridges of dynamite, with fulminating caps, will take their places. The dynamite, being the hardest to explode, is placed next the fulminating mercury contained in the caps, which is the greatest detonator of all. All the exploding cartridges of a group will be connected by a wire running from one to another, the ends of which will be connected with the electric battery by two other wires, called leading wires. The battery will be placed in a bomb-proof structure a short distance from the shaft. The circuit will be connected, at the last minute, by Gen. Newton, who, with his staff, will occupy a position on a high point of land back of the mine, and the circuit will be closed by means of a small battery and connecting wires at that place.

A Times special correspondent with Gen. Terry telegraphs, under date of Fort Buford, mouth of the Yellowstone, Sept. 8:—"The final breaking up of Gen. Terry's command occurred yesterday morning, and all the troops are now en route for home, with the exception of two regiments of infantry, which will winter at the mouth of Tongue River. The Montana troops, numbering 250 infantry and 120 horse, and including 70 infantry and the Second Cavalry, under Gen. Gibbon, left for Fort Ellis, with a wagon train and supplies for eighty days. They will follow the old Stanley trail. The route is teeming with hostiles, and is 420 miles long. They may encounter a large war party in the Big Horn country. They have been in the field since March, and are poorly clad for the cold weather and fierce storms which sweep over the prairies at this season. The 22d Infantry have been left at the mouth of Glendive creek, and have begun the construction of a stockade. They will remain until Nov. 1, or later."

A dispatch just received from Gen. Sherman countermands the order to winter a regiment of cavalry on the Yellowstone, which renders a winter campaign impossible, and indefinitely postpones the subjection of the Sioux.

A tornado cut a swath through the northern part of the city of Bridgeport, Conn., about midnight on Thursday last. It unroofed a number of houses and snapped several large trees off near the ground. The tornado lasted about three minutes, and was apparently about 300 yards wide. It was accompanied by a rumbling noise, and the houses in its path shook as if an earthquake was coming.

The "Widow" Butler has received the Republican nomination for Congress in his district.

The dairymen of Washington County, N. Y., suffer the most severe privations from the drouth. B. F. Baker, maker of the Salem factory in that county writes:—"We have been making thirteen cheeses a day (the present number reported is six), and unless we have rain soon, we shall have to fodder." Similar intelligence comes from Whitehall.

FOREIGN NOTES.

A dispatch from Berlin says the intolerant measures of the Spanish Government against Protestants are said to have given rise to a frequent exchange of notes between the British and German Governments. It is understood they will address remonstrances to Spain on the subject, and call upon her to act in conformity with her engagements.

A dispatch from Constantinople says the Porte has informed the Ambassadors of the Powers in reply to their representations made on Sept. 9th, that it is impossible to grant an armistice, but the Porte is prepared to accept peace based on the following points:

First—The reoccupation of the fortresses which were held by Turkey previous to 1857.

Second—The destruction of the fortresses constructed by the Servians since 1857.

Third—The investiture of Prince Milan at Constantinople.

Fourth—The reduction of the effective Servian army to 10,000 men and three batteries.

Fifth—The construction of a railway across Servia.

A sixth point follows, which is indecipherable in the telegram. The Porte insists upon the necessity of the occupation of the principal Servian fortresses, so as to prevent fresh aggressions, and leaves the negotiation of a treaty on the above basis entirely in the hands of the Powers.

The General Committee of the Turkish bondholders has issued a circular embodying a scheme for permitting the Turkish Government to issue paper money to the amount of $40,000,000, to be legal-tender and bearing no interest. The whole amount is to be redeemed in ten years by half-yearly drawings of $2,000,000 each, and that sum is to be provided for by a deduction of 15 per cent. from the interest paid to existing bondholders. One of the provisions of the proposed scheme is that the Porte shall adopt what is known as the "Hamoud scheme."

A late dispatch from Belgrade says:—"The Turks made an attack Tuesday on Mali-Swornik to prevent the Servians sending reinforcements to Gen. Tchernayeff; but fighting on the Drina cannot influence the issue of the war at Alexinatz. A correspondent with the Turks says that their plan of operations is to cross the Morava, storm the Servian position at Deligrad, occupy it, and then return to take Alexinatz. Both positions are strong, and the task is one of enormous difficulty. The first attempt to carry out the plan by bridging the Morava on Monday, was unsuccessful."

The English Ambassador has remonstrated against Turkish depredations in Servia.

A dispatch from St. John, N. B., says that Hon. Joseph C. Yates, Member of the Privy Council of Bermuda, is dead.

The Servian line extends from near Djunis to Deligrad; there are 55,000 men under arms.

The forces of the Transvaal Republic have been defeated by the natives.

There were strong hurricanes on the evening of Sept. 12, at Antigua, St. Kitt's, St. Croix, and St. Thomas, West Indies. At midnight on the 13th a fearful hurricane passed over Porto Rico. All the telegraph wires were prostrated in Jamaica from the 12th to the 14th.

Intelligent Englishmen who have returned from the Centennial Exhibition are sounding an alarm in the London Times. "A Manufacturer," in a vigorous communication published on the 31st ult., pointed out the dangers to be apprehended from American competition, and three days afterward "A Practical Man" repeated the warning. "The Americans," he says, "have imported the very newest and best machinery of England, Belgium, Germany, and France; they have tempted away, through agents sent over for the purpose, skilled workmen from each of these countries, giving a preference, however, to those of England; and they are rapidly training an army of skilled workmen for themselves. I can say, from my own knowledge as a practical man, and from the statements of friends upon whom I can rely, that in the departments of iron, wool, cotton, and a certain class of silk, they can produce work which, in quality, is fully equal to our own. Out of their present commercial chaos order will surely come, and I fear in a form for which we are quite unprepared."

The Turkish Government has laid down the terms of peace with Servia.

There has been a strong hurricane in Antigua, Jamaica, and the eastern part of Cuba.

Craig Millar won the Doncaster Cup.

The German and British Governments will remonstrate with Spain for prosecuting Protestants.

The Empress of Germany and the Crown Prince have begged the Emperor to pardon Count von Arnim, and he is disposed to do so if the Count will acknowledge his faults and apologize to Bismarck like a naughty boy who has been whipped. It is said that the Count is inexorable.

VALUE OF ADVERTISING.

Noticing several articles of late in the Rural New-Yorker about advertising, I am prompted to send you a word in regard to my experience. First, let me say that many persons expect too quick returns for money invested in advertising. If one or any number of advertisements are placed before the public, they look for an avalanche of orders within a week or two, and if they do not come the money thus spent is considered as almost thrown away. It is probably needless to say to those who have had long experience that this is an error—for thousands of persons clip out an advertisement and carefully preserve it until their circumstances will permit of sending for the article desired. It is now more than a dozen years since I retired from business in your city and moved to my present residence, but letters are forwarded to me almost weekly in answer to advertisements which appeared in the Rural New-Yorker and other papers fifteen and more years ago.

Judicious advertising I have always considered one of the most *permanent* investments a man can make, if he has a good article for sale.

Yonkers, N. Y. Out of Trade.

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[Owing to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents," so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for Advertisors," or "Answers to Correspond-

ents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers (and we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements) and such other matter as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want and the want is indicative of its need.]

M. B., Lawrence Co., Kan., says he has heard good reports of the Andre's King Oats, and wants to know where to get them.

R. B., Franklin Co., N. Y., wants pure Chester White Pigs.

H. Y. G., Dallas Co., Tex., wants a good Barb Wire Fence for herding purposes.

B. R. A., Steuben Co., N. Y., wants to know where Percheron Horses can be obtained.

W. A. B., Niagara Co., N. Y., wants to know where the Soluble Pacific Guano mentioned in the RURAL some time ago can be obtained.

G. R. F., Bucks Co., Pa., wants Holstein or Dutch Cattle.

F. A. M., Los Angeles, Cal., wants a good 10-horse Portable Engine for farm purposes; also, a Portable Saw-Mill.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Sept. 16, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	76,566	Molasses	—
Whisky	4,995	Rice, bbls	728
Corn meal, bbls	4,700	Cut meats, pkgs	10,546
Corn meal, bags	525	Lard, pkgs	4,969
Wheat, bush	217,905	Tobacco, hhds	3,229
Corn, bush	1,135,498	do, pkgs	5,928
Oats, bush	235,162	Butter, pkgs	38,103
Rye, bush	32,968	Cheese, bxs	73,815
Malt, bush	19,591	Cotton, bales	10,639
Barley, bush	31,233	Rosin	10,454
Beans, bbls	6,976	Spts. turp., bbls	2,690
Grass seed, bush	10,491	Dried Fruits, pkgs	1,671
Beef, pkgs	1,681	Eggs, bbls	5,775
Wool, bales	1,229	Peanuts, bags	268
Hops, bales	483	Leather, sides	50,930
Pork, bbls	3,281	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,153	Oil cake	6,806

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer liens here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 1,569 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 45,088 do.; same time last year, 21,487 do. Exports of peas past week, 1,202 bu.; since Jan. 1st, 476,000 do.; same time last year, 237,200. The demand for medium beans is moderate; extra marks of old in a small way have brought $1.30, which is the current rate for prime new; small lots, carload price, $1.25. Marrows active for export, with higher prices, but quoted quiet at $2. There is not yet much collection of other goods. A small, handsome lot of red kidneys brought $1.75. Black (or turtle soup) beans irregular, pending new crop. California Lima neglected while fresh-shelled are offering. Canadian peas remain dull. Green peas in fair demand; stock all sold. Southern Black Eyes are showing only in a sample way; no quotations yet. We quote:

Beans—New pea, $1.35@1 60; medium, $1.30; marrow, $2; old prime pea, $1.50@1.55; fair to good, $1.30@1.40; prime mediums, $1.20@1.25; fair to good, $1@1.15; prime marrows, $1.95@2.00; fair to good, $1.15@1 80; prime white kid., $1.70@1.75; other, 1.25@1 50; prime red kidney, $1.70@1.75; other, $1.40@1.50; Lima (Cal.) $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.25@3.50. Canadian peas, bulk and bond, 96@97c.; free bbls, $1.14. Green peas, $1.15@1.20; split do. $6.

BEESWAX.—There is a very slow business, and prices unsettled.

Western and Southern quoted at 31@32½c. Exports past week, 1,255 lbs.; since Jan. 1st., 86,607; same time last year, 61,414.

BROOM CORN.—Small lots of new have been received from Texas, Kansas and Ohio, but demand is small at present. Kansas green, partly hurl, is offered at 7c., with the range on the various grades nominally 4c. to 8c.

BUTTER.—The wave of strong prices continues unchecked and the market is active under the new prices for some grades. There is a conflict of opinion as to the full yield. In some sections farmers are holding tightly upon their stock of fine with a view to future high prices. Again some of the larger producing sections entertain no fear of a seriously reduced stock. In the Chenango district, pasture has renewed elegantly, and a good seasonable style of butter is already coming forward. Other places, especially in the vicinity of Rome report that farmers are compelled to feed largely thus early. Western butter is active, sells to foreign shippers direct from the wharves. The indications are that we shall have a steady export trade for some time. Dairy products abroad are reported as greatly under the average yield both on the continent and in Great Britain. Shippers are paying an advance of 1c. compared with previous purchases. Exports of butter past week, 17,021 packages, including a few State Welsh tubs.

We quote:—Choice pails, 33@34c.; prime, 28@33c.; poor to good, 20@25c.; creamery pails, choice, 33@35c.; good, 30@32c.; sweet cream pails, 27@34c. State firkins, choice, 32@32c.; fair to good, 25@29c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@—c.; fair to prime, 27@29c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 30@32c.; other, 24@28c.; Western creamery, choice, 31@34c.; other, 30@32c.; do. firkins, best, 21@22c.; other, 17@20c.; dairy tubs, choice, 25@27c.; other, 18@22c.; factory choice, 23@25c.; other, 16@18c.

State dairies quotable at 29@32c., though few are in. Most of the long lines are yet made up of farm lots.

CHEESE.—Exports past week, 61,320 boxes. A sharp rise in the interior markets this week sent prices up here above 1c. ₩ lb. Exports have been forced to operate reservedly, as the English markets have scarcely fully responded. Receivers, however, have shown confidence, and the transactions at the close are at 12¾@12¾c. for fancy factories, chiefly the higher price, with 13c. paid for some exceptional lots. The quotations are:

Fancy factory, 12¾c.; fine, 12¾c.; good and prime, 11¾@12c.; fair, 10@11c.; State farm dairy, fancy, 11¾@11¾c.; good to prime, 10@11c.; fair and good, 9@10c. Western factory, good and prime, 9¾@10¾c.; fair lots, 8¾@9¾c.; do, cheddar, choice, 11@11¾c.; do. flat, choice, 11@11¾c.

CIDER.—The supply of new is large and likely to increase, as a good many early apples will be forced to go to the mill this season. Pure offered at 8c.

COTTON.—The Agricultural Report, issued recently, has indicated a better condition of the crops than has been anticipated and prices have worked easier with, at the decline, spinners buying freely.

The latest quotations are:—September, 11 7-32@11¾; October, 11 7-32@11¾c.; November, 11¾c.; December, 11 9-32c.; January, 11 13-32@11 7-16c.; February, 11 19-32@11¾c.; March, 11 25-32@11 13-16c.; April, 11 31-32@12c.; May, 12 5-32@12 3-16c.; June, 12 11-32@12¾c.; July, 12¾@12 17-32c.; August, 12¾@12 11c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16
Strict ordinary	9 13-16	9 13-16	9 13-16	9 13-16
Good ordinary	10¼	10¼	10¼	10¼
Strict good do	10¾	10¾	10 9-16	10 9-16
Low middling	10¾	11	11¼	11¼
Strict low middling	11¼	11¼	11¾	11¾
Middling	11¾	11¾	11 9-16	11 9-16
Good middling	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Strict good middling	12	12¾	12¾	12¾
Middling fair	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾
Fair	13¼	13¼	13¾	13¾

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 3-16	Low middling	10 5-16
Strict ordinary	9 13-16	Middling	10¾

DRIED FRUITS.—Business is still unsatisfactory. Southern apples come in freely, but of grade not required by exporters, while the home trade is small; Southern quarters have been sold at 4¾@5c., and some repacked lots for shipment at 6c. Peaches are dull and weak; sales small at 14c. for prime picked. Blackberries are scarce and at full prices, as well as raspberries and cherries.

Apples—State, sliced, 6¾@7½c.; do., quarters, 7c.; southern sliced, new, 6@6¾c.; choice do. at 7@8c.; do., new quarters at 5@6c. Blackberries, 8c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 13@14c., as to quality; unpeeled peaches, new, nominal. Plums at 13@15c. Raspberries, 25c. Cherries, 16c.

EGGS.—Prices have been something above present rates, which compare about with last week's. Buyers hold off a little and there is a shade of weakness. Sellers think that prices will recover, as receipts are not oppressive and the city demand is enlarging by the presence of a large number of strangers and the usual fall return of our recent absentees. We quote:

Near points, 23@25c.; State and Penn., 22@23c.; Western, prime, 22@23½c.; do. other, 21@21½c.; Canadian, 21@24½c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Peppermint—The crop of 1876 is one of the largest ever known and oil is now rapidly being put on the market. Farmers are anxious sellers at $2@2.25 ₩ lb.; indications of decreased demand and increased supply ruling at lower prices. Wintergreen—$2.50 ₩ lb.—the lowest for many years. The increased Southern production is now keeping more than a supply the year round. The same can be said of Sassafras oil, which is now 40@42½c. Pennyroyal very abundant, showing a decline from $3 to free sales at $1 ₩ lb.

FEATHERS.—The market is more animated as the stock is more suitable for buyers for manufacture, prices tending in seller's favor for prime. Prime live geese, 50@55c.; mixed, 35@40c.

FLOUR.—This market has been in very good shape the past week. Exporters have bought freely and low. Grades and Minnesota extras have been in active demand. Supplies generally are very much reduced and prices are higher. The quotations are:

For poor to very choice superfine State, $3.00@4.65; $4.85@5.00 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.05@5.10 for good extra do.; $5.15@5.40 for fancy do., and $5.45@5.50 for very choice extra; $4.00@4.55 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.85@5.00 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.05@5.10 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.45@5.50; fancy do. $6.55@7.75; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $5.00@7.50; round-hoop Ohio, $4.85@5.00, and trade brands of do. at $5.05@6.75; St. Louis, $5.00@5.25 for common to fair extra, and $5.30@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.35@7.75, and patent at $6.75@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.85@5.75; city mill extra for West Indies at $5.30@5.10; do. English brands, $4.90@5.00; do. trade and family brands, $5.30@8.50; No. 2 at $3.00@3.75. Corn meal—Yellow Western, Jersey and Pennsylvania, $2.65@2.90; Brandywine, $3.30.

FRESH FRUITS.—Near-by apples are abundant and prices generally low. Some good double-headed new just begin to arrive. Those which have lasting qualities realize the extreme. Grapes have hardly a price, the stores being actually black with them, while retailers are well filled up. New Jersey supplies the peaches. Plums are doing a little better. Pears have advanced, with some sale for the other varieties since. Bartletts went $10 for prime. Melons are low—their welcome is waning. Peanuts are in fair demand; prime are higher. A few cranberries are offering, but it is too early for them, especially the inferior sorts.

Apples, State, prime, ₩ bbl., $1.50@2.12; river, $1.25@1.50; common, 75c.@$1. Peaches, fancy, ₩ basket, 75; good, $2.50@1.00; small, 50@75c. Pears, Bartletts, ₩ bbl., $8@10; common, $5@7; Seckel, $4@9; Louise Bonne, $4.50@5.50; Flemish Beauty, $4@5; cooking, $2@2.50. Plums, choice, table, ₩ bbl., $10@12; common to good preserves, $6.50@9. Grapes, Delaware, boxes, ₩ lb., 7@8c.; loose, 7@9c.; Concord, boxes, 4@5c.; loose, 2@3c. Nutmeg melons, best, ₩ bbl., $2.50@3; common, $1@2. Watermelons, ₩ 100, $5@18. Virginia peanuts, $1.50@1.60; other, $1@1.35. Cranberries, 2@3c. ₩ box.

FURS AND SKINS.—Mail advices from the recent London sales report a decline of 15 ₩ cent. in muskrat, and the best grades of mink; of 30 ₩ cent in skunk; 35 ₩ cent. in opossum; and 10 ₩ cent. in wolf and red fox, as compared with the prices of last March. In other kinds no important changes occurred. The sale results in a considerable loss to shippers and prospects for the future are not bright. Skins will have to be sold low to find a market, either at home or abroad. The advanced prices paid here for mink, following the March sales, prove to have been unwarranted; they were based upon an anticipated advance in London which did not occur.—*Producers' Price Current, N. Y.*

GRAIN.—The wheat market has been very slow. Advices from the other side give a little strength, but the trade is chiefly turned to flour. Latest sales are of ungraded spring at $1@1.03; poor old No. 2 Chicago spring at $1.08; No. 1 spring at $1.15@1.20; winter red western at $1.23; white Michigan, prime to extra, at $1.31@1.32; new white Michigan at $1.25. winter red western to arrive end of this month, at $1.22. For No. 2 Chicago and No. 2 Milwaukee spring of prime quality, $1.17@1.19 quoted. A small lot of buckwheat from the state, the first, $4 ₩ 100. Rye has been wanted by German shippers at full prices; western at 71@75, and state at 85@90. For new barley 95 is bid for four-rowed state, and $1 asked. Corn has been in brisk export demand, and is higher; latest sales at 56¾@58 for western mixed, 58 for western yellow, and 57@62 for white western. Oats have been in liberal trade and speculative demand and rule at better prices; latest sales are 34 to 47¾ for mixed western and state, and 42@49 for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—The receipts run small, while there is a good demand for prime lots of hay, and at full prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 50c.; retail qualities 71@$1c.; clover, 55@60c.; salt, 55@60c. Straw is quoted at 70@80c. for long rye; 55@95c. for short rye; 55@60c. for oat.

HIGHWINES are held at $1.11, with a light amount of trade.

HONEY.—Some is arriving, but there is no demand, nor likely to be until fruit is out of the way.

HOPS.—The exports for the week are only 120 bales; this light movement is chiefly owing to the small receipts. Firm rates are held and made on the few transactions. The new crop is now nearly harvested. The quality, as a rule, will hardly come up to last year's crop. A few purchases have been made in the interior at 30 cents, but growers generally are asking more money. The trade, and in the country, is almost at a standstill; growers demanding more for their hops than buyers at present feel warranted in paying. A few days more will be likely to settle the question. If our hops can be used by German brewers, and if they have got to have them, a few cents ₩ m above the present price will not stand in the way. The quotations are

New Yorks, good to choice, now	30 to 38
New Yorks, low to fair, now	25 to 28
Eastern, new	25 to 30
Yearlings	10 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8

POULTRY AND GAME.—Live poultry is in good demand being more generally used. Prices strong. Demand for Turkeys growing.

Spring chickens, near-by, ₩ lb., 16@—c.; do. Western, 14@15c.

Fowls, N. J., ₩ lb 16@18c.; do. Western, 16@17c. Roosters, 8@10c.; Turkeys, N. J. 16@18c.; do. Western, 15@16c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1.12; do. Western, 65@75c.; Geese, N. J., $2.00@2 50; do. Western, $1.37@1.75.

Some lots of dressed are arriving without ice in good order, but it is too soon to risk it.

Dry-picked chickens, 18@20c.; scalded, 15@17c.; dry-picked fowls, 17@19c.; scalded, 15@18c.; turkeys, 16@20c.

Game—Demand fair with an increased variety favoring buyers in prices. Partridges, ₩ pair, 75@90c.; grouse, do., 70@80c.; woodcock, do., 70@85c. wild ducks, Red Head, 60@70c.; mallard, 50@60c.; common Teal, 25@30c.

PROVISIONS.—There has been a pressure to sell, which has led to lower prices. This has been brought about by the decreased movement on export account of stocks on hand, with the consideration of the incoming new packing, which is believed to be an exceptionally heavy one. Mess pork quoted at $17 for spot lots, September and October deliveries, and $15.70 for December delivery. Bacon, long clear, 9¾c.; long and short together, 9¾c.; short, 9¾c. Western steam lard, $10.75 for spot and September delivery, $10.90 for October, $10.05 for November, $9.80 for December. Stearine at 12¾@12¾c. for mixed lots. Beef hams at $25@25.50 for Western choice; barreled lots are quoted: $8@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess. Tallow at 8¾c. for prime.

SEED.—The trade await with some interest arrivals of new clover, which are probable next week; meanwhile, no important bids. New timothy is selling at $1.80.

SUNDRIES.—Ginseng, ₩ lb., Southern, $1.15@1.30; Seneca root, 75c. Cider, ordinary to refined, 14@18c. ₩ gal.; cider vinegar, 18@25c. Sheep skins clipped, 30@35c.; do. nuclipped, 50c.@$1; lamb skins, 60@65c.

TOBACCO.—Exporters have bought freely, and there is a very firm market.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	6 @ 6¾	6 @ 7½
Good lugs	6¾@ 8	8 @ 9
Low leaf	8½@10	9½@11
Medium leaf	10½@12½	11½@11
Good leaf	13 @14	14½@15½
Fine leaf	15 @16	16 @17½
Selections	16½@18	18 @20

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England fine seconds	12½@11
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 6½
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes steady at the reduced rates. Sweet are in heavy supply and easy. Tomatoes lower, the family demand having somewhat subsided. The general demand on garden truck is not active. We quote:

Prime potatoes, bbl., $2.52@2.75; fair, $2@2.25; sweet, $3@3.37. Corn, ₩ 100, $1@1.50. Tomatoes, ₩ bush, 60@75c. Marrow squash, ₩ bbl., 75c.@$1. Cabbages, ₩ 100, $5@8. Russia turnips, bbl., $1@1.25. Egg plants, ₩ 100, $3@8. Wax beans, ₩ bag, $1@1.25; Lima, 75c.@$1; shelled do., bush, $3. Cauliflower, bbl., $13@16. Yellow onions, ₩ bbl., $2; red, $1.50@1.62; white, $2.50@3.25.

WOOL.—There is a liberal business and a very strong market at an advance. Western fleeces, combing and delaines, Texas and California have most attention and wanted in larger lots by manufacturers. Ohio X and Pennsylvania fleeces at 41c.; XX do., 43c.; No. 2 and No. 1 do., 33@42c.; coarse do., 33@36c.; combing, 42@47c.; Western fleeces, 37@40c. for X and XX; No. 2 and No. 1 do., 33@36; coarse, 31@32c.; combing, 42@47c.

ROCHESTER, Sept. 16.—Flour market active; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $6.75; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat lower; Milwaukee club, $1.10@1.15; amber winter, $1.05@1.12; white winter, $1.12@1.20. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 59@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 23@25c. Cheese, 10@11c. Eggs, 18@20c. Lard, 10¾c. Apples, bu., 40@60c. Potatoes, bu., 60@75c. Beans, ₩ bu., 70@90c. Mess pork, $17.25. Wool, 20@33c. Hay, $20@11. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $1.90@2.25; clover, $6.00@6.50. Mill feed strong at $18 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 40c. ₩ bbl.; to New York, 30c.; to Albany, 25c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Sept. 16, 1876.

AT Little Falls, for the week ending Sept. 16, there was a good market for dairy products. Prices advanced fully 1½c. over quotations of last week. About 497 boxes of farm-dairy cheese were sold at from 9¾c to 12c. Five thousand four hundred and six boxes of factory cheese were disposed of, 23 lots of which brought 12¾c.; 23 do., 12¾c.; 3 do., 12c.; 1 do., 11¾c.; 1 do., 11¾c.; 1 do., 11c.; 1 do., 10¾c. The advance this week was somewhat unexpected by dairymen. It began on dairy cheese, which steadily tended upward until 12c. was reached for fine goods. It was claimed by some buyers that the market could not sustain this figure, and where factorymen asked the usual advance on their cheese, it was only after a good deal of talking that it could be obtained. Quite a number of salesmen "held over," saying that their August cheese would be the best of the season, as they were now skimming the milk at the factory which patrons were drawing but once a day. A few such forwarded their goods to be sold on commission. Butter brought from 25c. to 31c., about 100 packages having been sold.

We have advices from England to the first week in September. Our London correspondent says, English cheese quiet; a good sale for American; Dutch again dearer; some agents hold for 60s. Quotations are as follows:

American, extra fine, 32s.; fine, 48@50s.; good, 44@46s.; secondary, 30@42s. English cheddar, 74@80s.; Wiltshire double, 56@58s.; Cheshire, medium, 60@76s.; fine, 70@78s.; Scotch, 50@56s.

The change to cold weather has had no influence on butter; on the contrary, all descriptions are dearer, and fine is unprecedentedly scarce for this period of the season and the feeling strong in favor of still higher rates. We quote:

Clonmels, 140@144s.; Corks, 132@140s.; Dorsets, 160s.; Jersey, 130@132s.; Normandy extra, 120@150s.; American and Canadian, 90@96.10

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,285	50	1,539	14,494	000
Forty-Eighth St.	100	33	956	5,895	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	17,065
Harsimus Cove	4,926	00	191	15,454	9,749
Totals this week	9,211	83	2,686	35,843	21,813
" last week	9,650	16	2,061	20,579	19,002

BEEVES.—Monday last trade on a heavy run of generally coarse quality horned cattle fell off freely ½c. ₩ lb., still all the herds to hand were sold off when the markets closed at noon. Prices were 8@11c. ₩ lb.; weights, 6@9 cwt., strong. Wednesday, trade very slow, at 8¾@10c.; weights, 6¾@7¾ cwt. Thursday, sales very light, at 8¾@10c.; weights, 6¾@7¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed dull at 8@10¼c.; weights, 5½@8¾ cwt. General sales were effected on 56 lbs. to the cwt.; extreme range, 55@57 lbs., net. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, sold at 7@8c. ₩ lb.; corn-fed do., 9@9¾c. Native steers, 7¾@9¾c.; part corn-fed do., 9@9½c.; grade do., 10¾@11c. Bulls, on live weight, $2.35@3.15c. cwt. Oxen, corn-fed, 9@10c. ₩ lb. Mixed herds, 8@10c.

MILCH COWS.—Trade in fresh cows very slow at $35@50 ₩ head, with 3 head sold at $55@60; 38 springers sold at $35—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Sales extremely slow in both veals and calves. Coarse quality veals sold at 7½@9¾c. ₩ lb.; coarse quality calves part grass-fed and part buttermilk-fed, sold at 3¾@6c. ₩ lb., also at $6@15 ₩ head. State veals at 8@9c.; Pennsylvania do., 7¾@9c.; Jersey do., 8¾@9¾c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—On Monday trade opened slow, with a falling off of ¼c. ₩ lb. on both sheep and lambs. Sheep sold at 4@6¾c. ₩ lb.; lambs, 5¾@6¼c.; mixed flocks, 5¾@6¾c. The markets closed weak. Wednesday, trade dull; sheep, 4¼@6c.; lambs, 5¼@7c. Thursday, sales slow; sheep, 3¾@5½c.; lambs, 4¾@6¾c. Friday, the markets closed dull; sheep, 4@5¾c.; lambs, 5@6¾c. State sheep, bucks included, 4@6¼c.; Canada do., 5@6c., with bucks at 4c.; Ohio do., 4¼@6¾c.; Pennsylvania do., 5¼@5¾c.; Indiana do., 5¾@6c. Delaware lambs sold at 7@7¾c.; State do., 5¾@7c.; Canada do., 6@7¼c.; Kentucky do., 5@6¼c.; Pennsylvania do., 6¼c. The general quality of these flocks were from fair to good.

HOGS.—Trade inactive: 123 Ohio hogs, 183 lbs., live weight, ₩ head, sold at $6.75 ₩ cwt.; 91 Ohio do., 200 lbs., live weight, ₩ head, sold at $6.87½ ₩ cwt. City dressed sold at 7¾@8¾c. ₩ lb., with an extremely slow demand on a moderate run.

HORSE MARKET.—Owing to the broken weather, trade has been small and sales slow: 21 roadsters, not warranted sound, being in general aged, sold at $190@235 ₩ head; 9 do., with fair trotting action, believed sound, sold at $295@330 ₩ head; 5 poor quality saddle horses sold at $100@225 ₩ head; 19 do. light harness horses sold at $50@75 ₩ head; 42 coarse do. do. sold at $110@155 ₩ head; 7 heavy draft horses of a coarse quality sold at $125@135 ₩ head; 1 pair do. of choice quality sold at $600; 3 pairs family carriage horses sold at $300@500 ₩ pair.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	11 @
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¾@ 9¾	9¾@ 9¾
Poorest	8 @ 9	7½@ 9
Gen. selling rates	9 @ 9¾	8¾@ 9½

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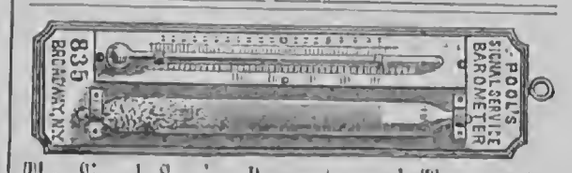

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *ten hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

PERSONAL ITEMS.

It is queer, but farmers seldom have hay fever.

The average hight of the American white man is 67.67 inches.

Chinamen and Indians hate each other upon acquaintance.

A revival of business is noticed in the Virginia City police court.

Lawrence Barrett, the tragedian, sprang from a printing office.

The Turks claim that the Bulgarian atrocities are not Haliz bad as reported.

The Centennial Department of Public Comfort disposes of $30,000 oysters daily.

It will be "Moody and Stebbins" at the Chicago revival meetings this winter.

Bunyan's grave is said to be almost unrecognizible through neglect. Is this Progress?

Gov. Beveridge has been removed from Rockford to Chicago, and is much better.

The Paris Figaro advises its readers to distrust "fair complexioned women with wide mouths."

Sergeant Bates, Dr. Mary Walker and Weston are kindly invited to the Valley of the Big Horn.

Dr. George B. Winship, the athlete, died in Boston a few days ago, at the age of forty-two years.

Why should it be easy to break in an old man's house? Because his gait is broken and his locks are few.

A German friend of ours notes the fact that the pie-stands generally attract a good many py-standers.

The only time when a man, however active, is apt to lie about the house is when he wants to dispose of it.

Mr. George Bancroft is working in the literary way at Newport, and is said to be more like a man of 45 than of 70.

Wagner has erected a tomb in the garden attached to his villa at Bayreuth, in which he wishes to be buried.

In Texas they hang horse thieves, but in alluding to the subject they put it:—"Equine extractors suspended in the forest."

The largest library in Prince Edward Island is owned by a wealthy cattle dealer named Webb who can neither read nor write.

Mrs. Partington knowingly inquires if a man who dips a can in a tank of water should be regarded as a can-tank-erous man.

When you see a man with a very red nose it's all right if his forehead is white. He's been down to the seashore and got sunburned.

A Frenchman got exceedingly angry with a waiter at an English hotel. "You rascal," he exclaimed, "I blow your nose for you!"

A London dray man recently succeeded in driving away with a couple of stolen pianos. He must have traveled at a two-*forte* gait.

The Marquis Mantegazza, charged with forging the name of Victor Emanuel, King of Italy, has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment.

A fashionable young lady, dressed in the most stringent style, accounted for her haste recently by saying that "time and tied wait for no man."

The British war vessel Fantome left Victoria, British Columbia, Sept. 5, to plant cannon about the grave of Capt. Cook on the Sandwich Islands.

Mr. Maurice Strakosch declares that he is going to build an opera house in San Francisco that will cost $1,000,000, and a large concert hall in Chicago.

The fund for James Lambert, Charles Reade's "hero and martyr," has been revived, as its object is in want. Wilkie Collins has subscribed two guineas.

In the show-window of a Chicago pawn shop is exhibited a magnificent diamond set, said to have been the property of the Empress Eugenie. It is held at $25,000.

One-third of the year's applicants for admission to Middlebury College, Vt., have been rejected on account of the elevation of the standard of qualification.

The first bond issued of the new 4½ per cents. was bought by Senator Robertson of South Carolina. It was a $5,000 bond, and for it he paid $5,037.50 in gold.

An exchange says Boston has 30,000 shop-girls. They all belong to the "Society of Minerva," and carry ten-cent tintypes of Ralph Waldo Emerson in their bosoms.

"I am indeed very much afraid of lightning," murmured a pretty girl during a storm. "And well you may be," said her despairing lover, "for your heart is made of steel."

Even the New York cigar-butt gatherers complain of dull times. They say the stumps are fewer in quantity, poorer in quality, and much shorter than in the good old times.

The Troy Press says:—"Two glasses of lager for five cents in Hudson. People are just beginning to find out why all the temperance societies go to Hudson with their excursions."

A little five-year-old of Dorchester somewhat surprised his mother a few days since with the remark:—"God is everywhere; he is all over me; and when you spank me you spank God!"

Names are sometimes oddly suggestive of people's taste and studies. For example, in Johnson's Universal Cyclopædia, the articles on Fish and Fisheries are written by a Mr. Gill, and the article on Cremation by a Mr. Sexton.

The Prince of Wales has accepted the Presidency of the English section, and Prince Frederick Charles that of the German section, of the Universal Exposition to be held at Paris in 1878.

It's gratifying to read in the Elizabeth Journal that one of the recent leaders of the "Bread or Work" movement has since been observed betting dollars liberally on a baseball match in that city.

A three-year-old boy in West Wardsboro, Vt., wandered into a field recently, where he met and played with two wild bears. The beasts did him no harm, though they had been killing sheep in the region.

Somebody gave a fruit luncheon at Newport. They had melons, pears, apples, plums, cherries, peaches, oranges, grapes and berries. That night every physician in the place was aroused from his bed.

The Crown Prince of Holland finds his own country dull, lives in Paris, and won't go home. The Dutch are not pleased with this, their flying Dutchman, and are especially annoyed that he doesn't marry.

Nothing will surprise a married man so much as to go home and see his wife limping around the room with her little toe bandaged, saying that she doesn't see why he should keep such an infernal edge on his razor.

A correspondent asks us what portion of the ear is called the "lobe." It is the portion which your parent used to firmly grasp when he led you gently out to gaze upon the handsome proportions of the neglected wood-pile.

The Woman's Journal asks, "Should women be self-supporting?" We don't know much about the merits of the question, but if they ever should be, man would be deprived of half the pleasure of a long walk home from spelling school.

"So," said a lady recently to an Aberdeen merchant, "your pretty daughter has married a rich husband." "Well," slowly replied the father, "I believe she has married a rich man, but I understand he is a very poor husband."

Mutual friends of Mr. Lathrop and Mr. Hawthorne have examined the former's book with special reference to the papers of the elder Hawthorne which his son objected to have used. They have assured him that these papers were not used.

A lovely female writes to the editor of the Hartford Times that "Down at Long Branch, the other night, it actually felt good to pull about three blankets over the still beautiful form of yours truly." And the ungallant editor actually printed the epistle.

An irreverent exchange attempts to show the antiquity of railroad speculation by reminding us that Jacob watered Laban's stock. In this connection allusions by facetious contemporaries to cow-pons and other rain-fications of the subject will not be tolerated.

An Englishman, regretting the present uselessness of Mount Vesuvius, suggests that the crater be converted into a receptacle for dead bodies, and proposes the formation of a company which will run funeral trains from different parts of Europe to the volcano.

The love of liberty, which is considered an American characteristic, finds full expression in the nomenclature of our towns. Missouri has twenty-one towns named Liberty, Ohio, twenty-four, Indiana, eighteen, Iowa, sixteen and Arkansas seven. This is very patriotic, but it bothers the postmasters.

A London woman with a child in her arms provoked her husband so much that he shied a knife at her. It killed the baby, entering two inches deep into the head. The jury acquitted the father by rendering a verdict of "Accidental death," and severely reprimanded the mother for having aggravated her husband.

Musical Instruments.

REMOVAL-200 PIANOS & ORGANS at half price. The Subscribers will sell their Entire Stock of Pianos & Organs, new and second hand, of six first-class makers; sheet music, and S. S. music books, at 50 PER CT. OFF, for cash previous to removal to their new store, 40 EAST 14th St., UNION SQUARE, Oct. 12th. Illustrated catalogues Mailed. Monthly Instalments received. Agt's Wanted. Special inducements to the trade. HORACE WATERS & SONS, Manufacturers and Dealers, 481 Broadway, N. Y.

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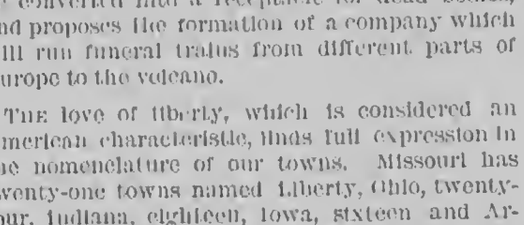
THE BEST ENGLISH DICTIONARY.



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"Every farmer should give his sons two or three square rods of ground, well prepared, with the avails of which they may buy it. Every mechanic should put a receiving box in some conspicuous place in the house, to collect the stray pennies for the like purpose. Lay it upon your table by the side of the Bible—it is a better expounder than many which claim to be expounders. It is a great labor-saver—it has saved us time enough in one year's use to pay for itself; and that must be good property which will clear itself once a year."—*Mass. Life Boat.*

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SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

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Say where you saw this advertisement.

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DON'T LEAVE THE CENTENNIAL Exposition without examining the novel Dexter Spring and Fifth Wheel. A revolution in springs. EXHIBIT S. W. CORNER CARRIAGE ANNEX.

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FARM GRIST-MILL.
Grinds all kinds of grain rapidly. Is simple, durable and cheap. Is suited to all kinds of horse-powers. Every farmer should have it. Send for Descriptive Circular.
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A double barrel gun, bar or front action locks; warranted genuine twist barrels, and a good shooter, OR NO SALE; with Flask, Pouch and Wad-cutter, for $15. Can be sent C. O. D., with privilege to examine before paying bill. Send stamp for Circular to P. POWELL & SON, 238 Main Street, Cincinnati, O.

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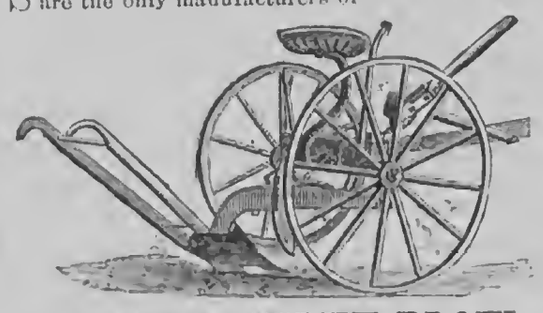

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the only Plowing Machine that has proved a perfect success in all kinds of soil. Any kind of plow can be attached. The plowman rides and handles the plow with ease, regulating the depth and width of furrow. The draft for the team is materially less, and the ordinary laborious mode of plowing is reduced to one of comfort and ease.

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The Standard of America. Turns a furrow on level land equal to the best landside plow. *No dead furrows or ridges.* Send for Circular.

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NEW YORK CITY, 128 Second Avenue.

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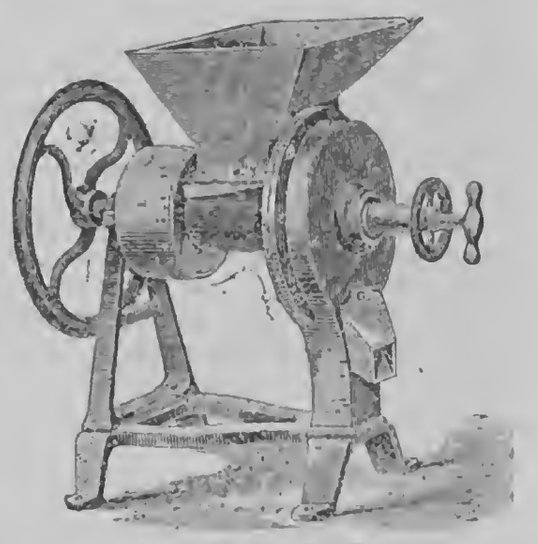

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This mill will grind corn and cob rapidly, coarse and fine; also, all other kinds of grain or seed. Capacity, **10 to 20 bushels per hour.** It is made entirely of iron, except the hopper. It is strong, durable, and not liable to get out of repair. It will grind more feed with less power than any other mill in the market. This is no humbug. We warrant it to do what we claim. Agents wanted everywhere. Price $10, delivered on cars at Springfield. Address
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☞ We also manufacture 1½ horse-power Vertical Portable Engines, suitable for running these mills, or for any other purpose for which power is required. Price $200.

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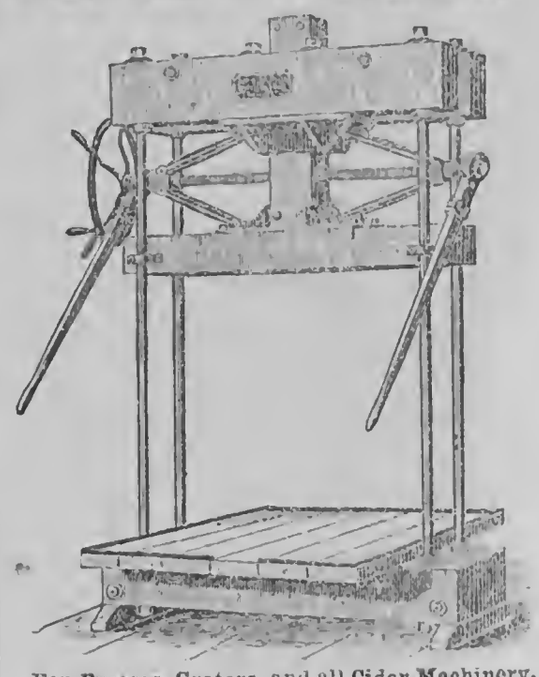

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Of WATERTOWN.
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Pays all Losses by Fire and by Lightning.

This Company is confined by its Charter to Insure FARM PROPERTY and PRIVATE RESIDENCES *only*, and in over 23 years has never *insured* or *lost* a dollar except on this class of Property, and has never lost $5,000 by any *one* fire sweeping, or otherwise. Insure where there is an ABSOLUTE certainty of getting your money in case of loss.
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

D. F., Salem, Oregon.—My trouble is with tomatoes. My plants are all right. I had them in blossom the first of May and they have been in blossom ever since. But it was a long time after first blossoming before any tomatoes formed, and when they did, they grow to be only from ½ inch to 1 inch in diameter, then ripened. On examination, there were no seed in them. Was because they were not fertilized the reason they did not grow? Does the tomato need insects to fertilize it? Does the honey-bee visit the tomato blossom? If so, what for? Pollen or honey? I am a subscriber and constant reader of the RURAL NEW-YORKER.

It is quite probable that the climate of Oregon is not warm enough for the tomato. We cannot account for the failure in any other way, although you should know if the tomato succeeds with your neighbors. The tomato does not need insects for fertilization of its flower, as it may be grown under glass and where no insects visit the flowers. We never saw a honey-bee on tomato flowers, still it may do so.

Bugist.—The large green worms which feed on the tomatoes, are the same species so often found on the potato. They are the larvæ of the large five-spotted sphinx moth (*Sphinx quinquemaculata*).

J. S.—Connecticut seed leaf and Havana tobacco are varieties of the same species, and probably would become identical in a few years if both were cultivated together. There are local varieties of tobacco, the same as any other kind of plants, propagated from seed from year to year. Soil and climate have a great effect upon the growth and quality of tobacco.

Amateur Cheese-Maker.—The cause of the "floating curd" is unclean utensils. For instance, suppose yourself and assistant should not wash their hands clean after handling various articles used, such as the whey vats, etc., and then put them directly into the whey and curd, this might cause the difficulty named. Every utensil used, such as vats, tubs, dippers and the like, should be scalded and scrubbed with salt, after putting the cheese to press, each day, and if this is not done, "floating curd" will be very likely to follow.

Farmer Boy.—Cutworms are the larvæ or caterpillars of small moths, many of which fly into our houses at night and get their wings scorched in the lamp. There are, at least, a dozen different species which infest crops on the farm. These pests do not breed in the way you suppose, but the moths lay eggs and from these hatch the worms, and after these grow to full size, they change to what are called pupæ, and from these come the moths again. From this it will be seen that these insects pass through four different stages, each one quite distinct in itself.

Jack.—The long row of oval, flattish eggs which you found attached to a peach twig, are those of the oblong katy-did (*Platyphyllum concavum*, HARRIS). If you will look closely, many other specimens of the same can be found; but it needs sharp eyes.

Pigeon Fancier.—We do not know anything about the profits which might be obtained from raising "squabs;" but we do know that a flock of pigeons about a place is as great a nuisance as could well be invented. This is especially the case where one has cisterns, from which the water is used for stock or other purposes. A filter may take out the coarser parts of the filth, but the juice is still there, and it is no wonder that diseases are abundant where pigeons are kept and cistern water is used.

Plowboy.—Farmers generally prefer to plow sod ground intended for corn in the spring. If plowed in the fall, the sod does not become sufficiently well rotted to break to pieces in the spring, and the result is a very rough surface to work over, and the finest vegetable matter is not in position to come in contact with the roots, as it would be if plowed over in spring.

M. W., Poquonoc Bridge.—I have a Carnation and a double Fuchsia from spring slips. Owing to drought they have made but little growth. Will it pay to remove the roots to the house? ANS. The Fuchsia will often recover, though in the sun and dryness it lose every leaf. The Carnation we should not bother with.

(2) What shall I do with my bed of Geraniums when frost comes? Does it pay to try to save the whole plant for next season's flowering? ANS. For several reasons we prefer making cuttings of the plants to be saved. They will bloom almost as early—they are more shapely, take up less room and are far more satisfactory, both in foliage and flower, for the next summer's use. Scraggly, long, crooked-stems with scanty foliage are the results of carrying old plants over from year to year.

(3) Will the annual Dianthus continue to blossom through the winter if flowering plants be removed to a warm room? ANS. We can not say. They are really biennials—but the inflorescence is inferior the second summer and we prefer to sow the seeds every spring. Our impression is, that it will not pay you to remove them.

(4) When shall I take in my Gladioli bulbs? I planted out bulblets this spring and they have done well. Shall I take *in all* at the same time? ANS. Frosts will not harm them. You may leave them out until there is danger of the ground being frozen.

Mrs. L. Seaman, Ohio.—We give in the floricultural columns of this week, general directions as to Lilies, Hyacinths, etc., for both out and indoor culture. For minute directions we refer you to the advertisements of florists, any one of whom will forward you a catalogue, upon application, containing all the information you are likely to need.

The Hyacinth and Tulip must be planted this fall. Unless preserved in a freezing temperature, they will begin growth before spring, for which reason they are not in the market at that time. Tulips bloom in the following order, viz., Due Van Thol—Double, Parrot, Late.

Hyacinths that are bloomed in water can not be used in this way again—but if removed from the bottles as soon as the flowers fade and put in the ground, they will sometimes bloom quite well the next season.

Jno. C. Newbury, Texas.—I send you this morning a specimen of what is called here "Cockle Burr," and wish to know the scientific name of same.

ANS. *Xanthium strumarium*—variety, *echinatum*.

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EXCELLENT AGRICULTURAL LANDS,
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Prices $2.50 to $10.00 an Acre.

TERMS:—One-tenth down, balance in seven years at seven per cent. interest.

FREE TRANSPORTATION

to the lands furnished purchasers. For Circulars, guides, maps, etc., address

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Fertilizers.

PREMIUM, Pure, Odorless, Fine Ground Raw Bone, "carries conviction with the sight of it." Producers Wheat and Grass. Address EXCELSIOR FERTILIZER WORKS, Salem, O.

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IMPROVED JERSEY STOCK.

A thorough-bred Jersey Cow for sale, from Imported dam; is registered in the Jersey Herd Book. Also two Heifer Calves. Address H. HALES, Ridgewood, N. J.

IMPERIAL PEKIN DUCKS, Bronze and White H. Turkeys; all the varieties of Cochins and Brahmas; W. C. B. Polish, P. Rocks, B. H. R. Games, Leghorns, Hamburgs, Game and Sebright Bantams, etc. At unusually low prices for thirty days. CLARENCE STARK, Louisiana, Mo.

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White Leghorns

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Chicks of both of the above for sale next fall.

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SEC'Y BERGEN CO. POULTRY ASSOCIATION,
Ridgewood, Bergen Co., N. J.

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A full and fine stock of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Small Fruits, &c., at low rates. Address RICHARDSON & KELSEY, Genova, N. Y.

NEW FRUITS,

Dutch Bulbs, New and Rare Plants, &c.

Souvenir du Congres; Beurre d'Assumption; Pitmaston, Duchesse and other new Pears.

New Peaches, American and European varieties; a large stock of Pear and other Fruit Trees, &c.

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Duchess of Edinburgh, Pearle de Jardin and other new Roses. New and Rare Plants for winter flowering, &c.

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Strong Pot Roses, especially prepared for fall planting and quick bloom, sent safely by mail, post-paid. Five splendid varieties, all labeled, for $1; 12 do., $2; 19 do., $3; 26 do., $4; 35 do., $5. For 100, each additional, one Magnificent Premium Rose to every dollar's worth ordered. Send for our new GUIDE TO ROSE-CULTURE, and choose from over 300 finest sorts. Address THE DINGEE & CONARD CO., ROSE-GROWERS, West Grove, Chester Co., Pa.

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Trees, Plants, Bulbs. Fall Price List and Bulb Catalogue GRATIS. Address F. K. PHŒNIX, Bloomington Nursery, Ill.

THE GREAT AMERICAN STRAWBERRY and DELAWARE RASPBERRY, the largest and best. Millions of Trees and Plants at *Pomona Nursery*. Send for Circulars. *Wm. Parry*, Cinnaminson, N. J.

PRICES UNPRECEDENTED.—Low rates for Nursery Stock. Send for Catalogue. THE ART OF PROPAGATION: a book on rapid multiplication of stock, for Nurserymen, Gardeners, &c. Mailed for 50c. Address T. JENKINS, Winona, Col. Co., O.

Spring Avenue Gardens.

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A SPECIALTY.

Carnations, Smilax, Neapolitan Violets, Bouvardias, Chinese Azaleas, Lily of the Valley. All the new and most desirable Geraniums and similar plants. Also, a great variety of the common and fancy Hardy Evergreen Trees, as low as they can be purchased of any trustworthy dealer.

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SICKELS DEL.

VOL. XXXIV. No. 14.
WHOLE No. 1392.

NEW YORK CITY, SEPT. 30, 1876.

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The Vineyard.

MINER'S SEEDLING GRAPES.

We have received from time to time, during last year and this, several samples of what appeared to be very promising new varieties of Grapes from the grounds of Mr. T. B. Miner of Linden, N. J. Believing it to be a matter of public interest, we at length concluded to examine these Grapes in the vineyard, and accordingly visited Linden on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Mr. Miner has about 40 varieties, which are the best of about 1,500, all raised from the Concord about ten years ago in Clinton, N. Y., where he then resided. Among these Grapes originally were many white varieties, sixteen of which were preserved and are now growing at Linden. The remainder of the forty sorts are black. All of these Grapes fruited at Clinton previous to the vines being removed to New Jersey, and consequently their productiveness may be considered as well-established.

Mr. Miner claims to have the best White Grapes of *native origin* in the United States, and if so, he may well ask to have the fact made known through the press — not that he may be pecuniarily benefited at present, as he has no vines for sale, but as a matter in which the whole country is more or less interested, especially as good White Grapes are very scarce, at least varieties that give promise of being adapted to general culture over a wide range of country. As a proof of this, we may look through our markets in vain for good, eatable White Grapes, although Red and Black sorts are abundant. An occasional lot of the Martha may be found, but these are exceedingly rare and command but little attention. No good White Grape is to be found in the New York City markets — that is, none which give full satisfaction to dealers and their customers, while the demand for such varieties is great and remains unsupplied, consequently we may repeat what we have frequently said before — that the person who produces a White Grape equal to the Concord in productiveness and early ripening, adapted like it to all sections of the country and of as good quality, will be a public benefactor. We do not name the Concord as a standard of great excellence in the quality of the fruit; but it is quite satisfactory to the masses, and besides, it has succeeded in localities and under conditions where hundreds of other sorts failed. Hence its widespread popularity in years past as well as at the present time.

It is certainly well to aim high in seeking anything, but we may sometimes oversight our mark and gather in no game as a result, as thousands have done in seeking extra fine-flavored Grapes borne on weak and naturally feeble vines. Perhaps the time may come when we shall have varieties combining all the good qualities now known to be distributed among the many, but until such are found we must accept of the best to be had, although constantly seeking for better.

Those who have been satisfied with a good, well-ripened Concord for a Black variety will certainly be pleased with the new White sorts raised from it by Mr. Miner, for the vines possess the hardy constitution, vigor and productiveness of their parent. In fact, after a very careful examination of the leaves and canes of these White sorts, we failed to find any characteristic which would distinguish them from the Concord. They have the same large, tough leaf, with the brownish pubescence underneath, and the bark of the canes the same dark-brownish or mahogany color.

WHITE GRAPE VICTORIA.

We shall not attempt to describe all of the new sorts raised by Mr. Miner, but merely a few which we consider most distinct and promising, although it may be added that the entire sixteen White sorts are worthy of cultivation, but in some instances the difference between them is not sufficient to justify their perpetuation as distinct varieties.

The present season has been the severest ever known in New Jersey, an almost uninterrupted drought having prevailed from the first of May until within the past few days, and its effect upon Grapes, as well as other fruits, is quite apparent in their small size and generally undeveloped condition, although not deficient in flavor.

WHITE VARIETIES.

Victoria.—Bunch quite large, moderately compact and somewhat clustered, as shown in the accompanying illustration. Berries large, globular. Skin thin, slightly tinged and specked with amber in the sun, but covered with a dense white bloom. Flesh tender, but with some tough pulp at center; of a sweet, rich and sprightly flavor. Ripens with Concord, or a few days earlier. It is a showy and handsome variety.

Augusta.—Bunch large and cluster-shouldered. Berries medium to large, globular, semi-transparent, with slight amber tinge. Skin moderately tough. Flesh not very tender, with some pulp at center, but with a sprightly, vinous flavor. A few days later than Concord. This variety, although not so good in quality as the first, would probably excel it as a market sort, on account of the large and handsome bunches.

Beatrice. — Bunch is large, shouldered, compact. Berries quite large, globular, of a greenish tinge; in fact, the color may be called a light grass green. Skin thin. Flesh tender and of a sweet but somewhat foxy flavor. Ripens before Concord.

Eugenie.—Bunch large and compact, shouldered. Berries medium, globular, pale, light amber in the sun, greenish white in the shade, covered with a dense white bloom. Skin firm, but not tough. Flesh tender, sweet and juicy, but some tough pulp at center. Ripens two weeks before Concord and may be considered a very early variety.

Ida.—Bunch medium, compact, with shoulder. Berries large, globular, greenish-white, with thin bloom. Flesh tender and of sprightly flavor, some little, tough pulp at center. Ripens with Concord.

Carlotta.—Similar to the last, but exceedingly

sweet and the pulp moderately tender. Ripens two weeks before the Concord.

AMANDA.—Also similar to the Ida; scarcely distinguishable; very sweet.

BLACK VARIETIES.

Of these Mr. MINER has quite a number which are fully equal to the Concord, and a few which we think are superior in quality. Among these we name *Lexington*—a handsome, large Grape, with very sweet and tender flesh. The *Madison* is also a fine sort, very sweet, but of sprightly flavor, ripening early.

But we were more interested in th White sorts than in the Blacks, as these give promise of filling a place which has long remained vacant. There is scarcely room for doubt as to the success of these sorts, as they are now growing in a soil and exposure which we should not consider very favorable to the development or success of anything but the most vigorous and hardy sorts.

"WINE-MAKING."

I ALLUDE to the article under the above head in your issue of the 16th inst., signed "T. B. MINER," not for the purpose of criticising it, for I think he is about right in his manner of making Wine from such grapes as he has mentioned, grown either in his or my latitude. The Delaware and Concord, I have no doubt, will contain more sugar grown further south, where they can safely remain on the vines till later in the season. The Clinton, I think, is about in its proper climate at about 42° North, though even here it is the best in the warmest and longest seasons. While agreeing in the main with Mr. M., I do not see the propriety of adding alcohol or spirits to the must, for the same thing is accomplished by the adding of cane sugar, a pint of which, at least, will be changed to alcohol in the process of fermentation.

The most perfect Wines, suiting the palates of the most perfect drinkers and judges, are doubtless made from perfectly ripened grapes without anything added. It is stated that the Germans, in the manufacture of the most choice Wines, dry the grapes for a while on straw to evaporate a portion of the water of the must.

Connoisseurs in Wine do not generally prefer Sweet Wines, and though discarding the least suspicion of acetic acid, they prefer it strongly tinctured with tartaric. With us, however, who have not generally made Wine a daily beverage, the majority prefer a taste of sugar—that is, do not prefer the smart test of tartaric acid. To make such Wine as the majority of men here prefer out of such grapes as we can get fully colored, I think, requires some water to reduce the excess of acid, and some sugar to sweeten and preserve it. There may be exceptions in favorable localities, like islands surrounded by large tracts of water, or the sides of mountains of considerable elevation, where by these means frost is kept off to a later period.

The best Wine I ever made, allowing my neighbors and myself to be the judges, was made Oct. 1, 1874, from what remained of my Clintons, Concords, Ives, Hartford, Catawba, Diana and Isabella Grapes (the last three never fully ripen here), making 11 gallons of must, to which I added 5½ gallons of water and 41 pounds of N. O. sugar, making in all 19½ gallons. The must was strained through a fine sieve into a 40-gallon cask, the water and sugar added at once; has been drawn from ever since, and never racked till lately, when there was hardly a gallon of refuse. After pressing out the must, I then added to the bagasse 6 gallons of water, and after a day or two pressed out 6¼ gallons and added 13½ pounds of N. O. sugar. This, I presume, would not have kept through the following summer. Don't know—didn't try it, but preferred it greatly to cider made of apple and worm juice.

Now, the only excuse I have for the foregoing is that I have often been benefited by the experience of others as reported in books and newspapers, and have the vanity to think that I may thus possibly benefit some one. My intention on the commencement of this article was to show, by quoting from their writings, the great differences of opinion and practice among the most eminent wine-makers of America, as to the propriety of adding under any circumstances any water or sugar to the must, also to give the analyses of some of our common grapes and to answer in my own way the long unanswered question, "Who shall decide when doctors disagree?" but I have already occupied the space intended, but will, if permitted, resume the subject.

S. B. PECK.

Muskegon, Mich.

NEW VARIETIES OF GRAPES.—Persons having new seedling grapes fruiting this season, for the first time, should carefully compare them with old sorts before offering the same for sale or propagating to any extent. If a new sort is no better than an old one what's the use of it, or adding another name to the list.

Farm Economy.

THE TUBE WELL AND ITS HISTORY.

THE essential difference between the immemorial dug and artesian well, and the modern tube well, is, that in the two former the earth removed from the hole is brought to the surface, while in the last it is forced aside by a pointed drill, driven down to the water-bearing strata. With a few rare exceptions, this drill consists of an appropriate length of wrought iron pipe, perforated at the bottom, and tipped with an adjustable, conical point, having a short stem fitting into the tube and a circular shoulder projecting slightly beyond it. When the perforated part has been submerged in the subterranean water a pump is attached to the upper end, and henceforth the tubular drill serves both as a curb to the well and a suction pipe to the pump.

It is now about a dozen years since this process of well-making was first pressed upon public attention. In this interval its marked superiority over former methods, in cheapness and facility of construction, as well as in the purity and abundance of the water supplied by it, has led to its rapid introduction, wherever the geological formation of the country would admit of its employment. To this success the ubiquitous canvassers for the multitudinous patents connected with it, have contributed, not a little, by indefatigable persistence in forcing on the public the use and merits of their respective devices, and necessarily also of the system that gave these birth and value. Thus it happens that at a moderate computation the United States possesses to-day at least 750,000 of these wells. At a low average these cost $50 apiece—an aggregate cost of $37,500,000. A recent decision in a patent suit recognizes the broad claim of N. W. GREEN as the inventor of this process of well-making; and straightway Mr. GREEN proposes not only to charge a royalty on all tube wells to be sunk during the unexpired term of his patent; but also to exact a penalty of $10 from the guileless owner of each well now in operation; or, in other words, to levy, for his own pocket, an arbitrary tax of 20 per cent. on $37,500,000 already legitimately invested in this species of property. In view of the phenomenal modesty of this demand a brief history of the invention covered by the patent on which it is based will be interesting to thousands likely to be pecuniarly affected by it.

The earliest account published in this country of the tube well-process of well-making occurs in an American reprint of "MAC KENZIE'S 5,000 Receipts," issued in Philadelphia in 1829 by JAS. KAY JR. & BRO. On page 388, a receipt "to raise water in all situations," tells us that the finest springs may be formed by forcing an iron rod into the ground, withdrawing it on reaching water, and inserting in the aperture a pipe for the passage of an abundant stream. Apart from the suggestive heading of this receipt, it is likely enough that flowing wells were chiefly, or maybe, exclusively contemplated by it; but the process of making a well, not the method of getting water out of it, is the question involved in GREEN'S patent; and the process described in his specification and covered by his claim is substantially identical with that set forth in MAC KENZIE'S antediluvian receipt-book. Of this household work three large editions had been scattered through the country, before the process, clearly advocated by it, first occurred to GREEN'S inventive genius in 1861.

During this year the rumored death of some of our soldiers, by drinking from poisoned wells in Virginia, caused much speculation among the troops about to visit the hostile Territory as to the best method of obtaining pure water. At this time GREEN, who had been educated partly at West Point, was the Colonel of a volunteer regiment quartered near his home in the village of Cortland, N. Y. During a discussion among the officers of the regiment on the hydraulic problem, the Colonel suggested that water might be obtained by inserting a tube into a hole made in the ground by an iron bar, and directed one of his Lieutenants named MUDGE, to make the experiment. The spot selected for this was on the margin of a neighboring stream. An iron bar was worked down a short distance by lifting and dropping it alternately. On its withdrawal the water rose to within a few feet of the brink of the hole into which a common tin boat pump was then inserted, and an attempt made to pump it dry. Contrary to general expectation this was found to be utterly impracticable, for the water of the adjacent stream swept through the thin barrier of intervening sand into the vacuum produced by the action of the pump.

This phenomenon illustrated very forcibly the prime cause of the inexhaustible stream obtainable from tube wells. In a dug well the pressure of the contained atmosphere on the riverlets filtering into it counterbalances that at their source, and the subterranean rills, with gravity alone as a motive force, trickle so slowly into the well that a brisk spell at the pump readily empties it. In a tube well, on the other hand, the earth hermetically packed round the suction-pipe excludes the air from the area close to its perforated extremity, where the action of the pump creates a vacuum into which the water is driven impetuously from the environing strata by the joint impulse of gravitation and atmospheric pressure at the fountain head. And this converging rush must continue while the pump is at work, until the vast tributary mass of subterranean water is exhausted.

By GREEN'S order MUDGE continued, for some time, his experiments with this unsatisfactory result. In every case a "drive rod" to make the hole was indispensable. To ascertain when this had reached water, repeated withdrawals were often necessary. The fall of loose earth, sand and pebbles from the sides of the empty hole added annoyance and delay to increased labor. Moreover in loose, friable formations there was always danger of the entire work collapsing whenever the rod was withdrawn. Into this rickety hole a sheet-iron cylinder was gingerly introduced to serve as a wall to the well, and a guard to an inner lead-pipe for the passage of the waters. The entire operation was more complicated, hazardous and uncertain, and hardly less expensive than the old mode, and not a single well sunk by MUDGE under GREEN'S direction turned out a permanent success.

In October 1861, GREEN'S regiment went south, but MUDGE returned home in the following January, and two months later was followed by GREEN who had been dismissed from the army for shooting the Major of his regiment. This deed brought upon him much public opprobrium and imbittered the three or four ensuing years of his life by the legal proceedings to which it gave rise. This worriment, however, was not without subsequent compensation. In it he has hitherto found a valid legal excuse for four years' negligence in asserting any claim to the invention of this process, and also for his marvellous ignorance of the public use others were, meanwhile, making of the discovery, a knowledge of which, without a protest, would have nullified his tardy claim to a patent.

After his return MUDGE drove a few wells on his own account, but speedily tired of the profitless occupation and sought more remunerative employment, whereas GREEN, all whose labors in the matter had hitherto been pleasantly vicarious, took no further interest in it now that a prosecution of it would have involved personal exertion and outlay. His legal embarrassments indeed left him little money and less heart for experimenting in a sordid occupation for which his education had naturally given him a gentlemanly contempt.

Meanwhile JAMES SUGGETT, an old well digger of the village, who had been hired by MUDGE as an assistant in his early experiments, continued to drive an occasional well whenever he could contrive to get an order for it. Such an order gladdened his heart in September 1862, yet it sorely puzzled his head how to fill it. The well-making business had of late been dull and unprofitable, and the old man's funds eked out by his credit could not purchase a sufficiency of tubing. In the previous May he had begun to substitute gas-pipe for sheet-iron as a well-curb, and in his present impecunious dilemma the ingenuity in makeshifts, born of galling poverty, urged an escape from the expense of lead pipe by the use of a single gas pipe to discharge the combined functions of the two tubes hitherto deemed essential to success. At the same time a fortunate difficulty in obtaining the loan of a "drive rod," suggested another tentative innovation. By forging to a point the end of the gas pipe which his limited means had purchased, he transformed it into a stout tubular drill, and thus, all unconscious of the ultimate results of his labor, insured the permanency of the process, and forged the instrument that was presently to open the way to his own rapid enrichment.

The well constructed under these difficulties was the first brilliant success, and SUGGETT'S makeshift expedients soon came to be regarded in the light of provident improvements reflecting no small credit on his inventive ingenuity. Thirteen months later, in September 1863, he filed an application for a patent covering his tubular drill, its point and perforations, and on the 29th of the following March this patent was granted. No sooner had SUGGETT obtained it than he hastened to sell territorial rights under it, before its value could be lessened by rival claims, or infringements.

In those restless days of flush pockets, and feverish speculation, tube well rights soon became as popular as investment, among those interested in domestic hydraulics, as oil well stock among the general public. Hence SUGGETT'S luck differed as much from that of ordinary patentees as his method of invention. From the first he found a ready sale for his rights and presently investors flocked to him with nearly as much eagerness as ordinary inventors have to exercise in searching for them. Ere the close of the year the piecemeal sale of his entire patent had lifted the lucky well-digger from indigence to affluence, and lodged him snugly among the capitalists of the village.

His financial success, quite as much as the obvious shortcomings of his crude but suggestive devices, soon flooded the country with auxiliary patents, covering a few needed and a host of superfluous improvements. Of these some substituted an adjustible point, of various shapes and materials, for SUGGETT'S clumsily forged makeshift. Others excluded sand from the suction pipe by screening its perforated end internally or externally, with wire-gauze or minutely perforated sheets of different metals. SUGGETT, with characteristic simplicity, had imperfectly accomplished this, during the process of driving only by economically packing the perforated end of the drill with rags to be fished out with a hook attached to the end of a long rod when water had been reached. The bulk of these patents, however, differed from each other merely in trifles so absurdly immaterial that imposition not improvement must have been the aim of their owners. Of the tube wells throughout the country fully four-fifths have already contributed in their cost to the price wrung from well-drivers for territorial rights under some one of these patents.

It was not in human nature that MUDGE should witness SUGGETT'S rapid enrichment without attempting to profit in like manner by the scheme which it was now exasperatingly evident he had himself abandoned prematurely. Accordingly in August 1865 he applied for a patent for MAC KENZIE'S process of well-making, and this was readily granted on the 24th of the following October. Six months' trial, however, demonstrated the fatal advantages of the pointed and perforated drill protected by SUGGETT'S patent, all claims to which he had frankly repudiated in his own application. Finding, however, that his patent, in its present form, was useless, and still worse, unsalable, he surrendered it on the 5th of March 1866 and boldly sought an amended reissue covering a perforated pipe and point in addition to the process claimed in his surrendered patent.

By this time SUGGETT'S success and the widespread use of the system that had sprung from it, had roused GREEN to a lively sense of the vast possibilities of fortune still latent in the novel enterprise. MUDGE'S early experiments ordered by him were constructively his; and MUDGE'S late patent gratuitously proved that a process of making a hole in the ground was patentable. SUGGETT'S application had embraced a claim for this which the underlings of the patent office had so unfeelingly ridiculed that his agent—Hon. R. H. DUELL, Congressman from Onondaga Co., in those days and Commissioner of Patents in these—prudently docked the instrument of this pretention. Yet GREEN might well have hesitated about contesting MUDGE'S conceded claims had not the latter voluntarily resigned the vantage-ground of possession. On this missmove his alert rival promptly filed, twelve days later, an application for a patent for the process of sinking wells by forcing down a rod into the water under the ground, then withdrawing it, and inserting in its place a tube, perforated but not closed at the bottom, for the purpose of extracting the water. This process was identically the same covered by MUDGE'S surrendered patent, and substantially the same described in MAC KENZIE'S ancient repertory. In view of the reciprocal infringements of the rival claims of SUGGETT, MUDGE and GREEN, the Patent Office, on the 31st of March 1866, declared an interference between the three. After three diverse decisions, as many successive appeals, and 22 months' litigation, the U. S. Court for the District of Columbia finally decided that SUGGETT'S patent and GREEN'S claim were equally valid, and that the luckless MUDGE had no rights which the Patent Office was bound to recognize.

On the plea that his patent covered every form of the new process, GREEN at once set about exacting a royalty on all tube wells. In this he was grievously embarrassed by the hostility of the well-owners, and presently obdurately checked by the joint action of the chief manufacturers of iron pumps. Imprudently enough he had incurred the vigorous opposition of the majority of these by invidiously insisting, in all his dealings, on the exclusive use of the pumps of a single favored manufacturer. To protect their trade and customers, therefore, the rival houses were forced into a combination to test the validity of the oppressive patent. Although judgment went against them in the recent trial there is little doubt but that in view of the varied interests involved, the case will yet be appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court for final settlement. Whatever the decision there, equity certainly does not require that the public should be heavily taxed to reward the individual talent, outlay or labor, bestowed on the invention of the tube well.

KEME.

AGRICULTURE AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

PROF. ROBERTS communicates the following to the Ithican in regard to prizes offered by the Cornell University, for proficiency in agriculture.

In order to specially foster the study of agriculture in the university which he founded, Mr. Cornell offered several prizes for excellence of attainment in the study, and, among others, some for the management of a small garden which was assigned to each student desiring to compete. A number of students contested for this prize, and those who entered into the work with enthusiasm and graduated in their course of study, are now occupying positions of honor and trust in the direct line of agriculture.

Mr. John McGraw, another trustee of the University, has recently provided in a generous manner for the continuation of these prizes. He offers to give a first prize of $200 to any two or more students in the full course in agriculture, who shall most successfully manage a little farm of two acres, according to a certain prescribed plan; and a second and third prize of $165 and $135 respectively for the second best results in the same line. Each of these miniature farms, of which there will be at present only three, will be subdivided into five smaller plots of equal size, and is to be properly manured, and worked by a rotation of grass, wheat, oats, corn and garden vegetables, so that the land will always be kept in good condition.

The students competing for these prizes will be charged a reasonable rental for the use of the land, and will be furnished by the University with the necessary help from teams and implements at a moderate charge per hour. They will be required to perform all the manual labor themselves, to keep an accurate account of all their expenses and returns, and a careful diary of their work, and at the same time to perform their regular University duties in a satisfactory manner. The first award of these prizes will be made about Dec. 1, 1877.

Dairy Husbandry.

CHEESE DAIRYING IN MAINE.

IT is only a few years ago that so little of dairying was known in Maine that nearly all the cheese required for consumption was brought from other States. Now Maine has quite a number of cheese factories, and dairying is being pushed forward with great rapidity. The soil and climate of Maine are eminently adapted to dairying, and it is a matter of surprise to us that dairy husbandry had not become planted in the State many years ago. In some parts of the State the production of hay and potatoes has been the leading business. These, and other crops, being sent to the markets, left the lands, for the most part, unsupplied with manures, and, as a consequence, farms were becoming less and less productive from year to year. The introduction of dairy husbandry, therefore, will be a great advantage in renovating the land, to say nothing of the increased profit arising from the dairy above that from the old method of farming.

In the Report of the Maine Board of Agriculture, for 1875-6, we find several papers in relation to the dairies of Maine, which are of considerable interest. Mr. GEO. A. BRACKET tabulates the statistics of a number of cheese factories, from which it appears that the whole number of factories in the State, in 1874, was 36. The average cost of factory (both building and apparatus) is $1,911. The longest time any factory operated that year was 166 days, or five and one-half months. The largest number of cows reported as furnishing milk to any one factory was 350, and the average to each factory 144. The whole amount of cheese made in Maine factories, during 1874, was 1,028,107 pounds, and the average number of pounds of milk required to make a pound of cured cheese was a fraction less than ten.

VALUE OF WHEY.

Whey is estimated to be worth two cents per gallon, and Mr. BRACKET'S remarks on this question are as follows: "Experiments made last summer, in feeding it to hogs, place its value at little, if any, less than sour skimmed milk. Hogs fed on it wholly for weeks were as thrifty and grew as well as those fed on milk. Fed with a small amount of corn meal, it is undoubtedly of much more value in making pork than was formerly supposed—in fact, when factories first began to operate, it was allowed to run to waste."

We are not inclined to put much dependence upon experiments that "place the value of whey at little, if any, less than sour skimmed milk" for feeding hogs. Indeed, if this could be so, the whey used in the experiment must have been exceedingly rich, while the sour milk must have been very poor. Some skimmed milk contains all the elements of milk, except the butter; while in whey, we have but a very small percentage of nitrogenous matter, or flesh-forming substance, its chief constituent being milk sugar.

The following tables will show the difference between the composition of whey and skimmed milk:

In a sample of whole or new milk which was taken to make cheese, the following was its composition:

Water	87.00
Butter	3.99
Caseine	3.44
Milk sugar, extractive matter, etc	4.81
Mineral matter (ash)	.76
	100.00

Now the whey, resulting from the above milk after its manufacture into cheese, was as follows:

Water	92.80
Butter	.59
Albuminous compounds	.91
Milk sugar, lactic acid, etc	5.04
Mineral matter (ash)	.66
	100.00

In a sample of new milk which was set aside (the morning's milk standing 24 hours and the evening's milk 36 hours before skimming), and, after the cream was removed, the following was its composition:

Water	89.00
Butter	1.94
Caseine	3.00
Milk sugar and extractive matters	5.24
Mineral matter (ash)	.78
	100.00

It must be evident, to any one comparing these tables, that the skimmed milk is much more valuable for feeding purposes than the whey. Whey contains so little nitrogenous matter that it ought never to be used as a sole feed for hogs, but when wheaten bran, shorts or ground grain is mingled with it, whey can be utilized for feeding to good advantage. It is true, hogs will live on whey alone, but the pork made from it is watery, poor, and, in our opinion, not a fit or healthful article of food. Mr. BRACKET says cheese makers in Maine get about $75 per month and are obtained, for the most part, from other States. He suggests that young men from the State should be taught cheese making at the factories, and thus the money paid for cheese making be kept in the State.

In some parts of Maine, the Jersey cow and Jersey grades are used for cheese dairying and, according to J. R. NELSON of Winthrop, it requires only 8 lbs. 7 oz. of Jersey milk, on the average, to make one pound of cheese. The factory where this average was made is in Winthrop, and was run only 160 days. The cows delivering milk, he says, will average more than half-blood Jerseys. He advocates Jersey cows for cheese dairying, on the ground that it takes less of their milk to make a pound of cheese, while the cheese is richer than that made from the milk of other breeds, and ought to be, on this account, worth more money. In addition to this, the spring and fall butter making from Jersey milk gives better results, as to quantity and price, than other milk. The cheese at present made in Maine, is retained in the State for home consumption.

MEADOWS AGAIN—A WINTER MULCH.

THE winter last past, 1875-6, was very severe upon meadow lands, and much of the drainage, in many instances, could have been avoided by proper attention and treatment of the lands after harvest and during the fall. During a considerable portion of the winter, it will be remembered, the earth was left bare of snow and exposed to intense cold. The ground froze to a great depth, and the alternate freezing and thawing killed the roots of grasses to a greater extent than usual. Whatever inconvenience and discomfort there may be in deep and long-continued snows in our climate, they serve as a protection or winter mulch for our grass lands. Every one must have observed that where the snow lies deep and long, there the grass springs up thick and rank. The old adage that "snow is the poor man's manure," is not without foundation, in fact. It costs nothing, and is very valuable in its prevention of frosts. Nature teaches important lessons, and we may learn from the action of snows that a winter mulch is not without profit.

During spring, and up to the present time, we have made personal examination of many meadows in Herkimer and other counties of New York, lying in the dairy belt, and in not a single instance have we found the grass destroyed on meadows where the lands were not allowed to be pastured after the hay harvest and where a good coat of grass remained at the commencement of winter. The protection which this covering gives to the roots and tender shoots during a season of little snow, and where the ground is laid open to the blasts of winter, will be almost equal, in results, to a coating of manure applied in spring to meadows that have been fed down close in fall, while the latter is far more expensive.

Manures, spread in fall over the lands, operate beneficially in this way. They are a protection against the severity of frosts, while the fertilizing elements, at the same time, give greater vigor to the plants late in the season, thus bracing them for the rigors of winter—acting much the same as a well-filled stomach of nutritious food braces up the human system for endurance.

The next three months is the season for preparing meadows for a bountiful yield in next year's crop. Let them have a winter mulch either of grass or manures, and they will respond to such treatment at the next harvest.

ADDITIONAL POINTS IN DERBY CHEESE MAKING.

IN a recent letter from an English correspondent, we have additional particulars in regard to the manufacture of Derbyshire cheese. They are as follows: "The rennet is put in the milk, the temperature of which is at 80° to 82° Fahr. After the coagulation is perfected, the mass is broken fine at the first and until it is reduced to almost a pulp. Then it is left at rest for half an hour, when the whey is drawn. The curd is now heaped up in the tub and this process is continued at intervals until sufficiently solid. It is then broken to a moderate degree of fineness, by hand, and put in the cheese hoop and pressed and turned, when the cheese is well-rubbed with salt. The next night turn and use another cloth, and continue salting for five days, once a day. It is then taken from the press and ironed on thin paper, when the cheese is ready for the cheese room."

In the description given in the RURAL of Aug. 19th, the statement is made that Derby cheese, as made by Mr. JOSEPH HARRISON of Derbyshire, commands "top prices"—on a par with English cheddar. It does, indeed, bring high prices, but we are informed by Mr. OLIVER, who has given us many of the facts concerning its manufacture, that the prices received are not equal to those obtained for the *best cheddar*.

The object in making the Derby process known to our dairymen is not for the purpose of introducing this system of cheese making on this side—for it is doubtless inferior to the cheddar process—but rather to show by what curious and diverse processes cheese of fine quality could be manufactured. From this point of view, the subject must be of interest to dairymen, and, from some of the parts of the process perhaps useful lessons may be learned in regard to the condition and texture of curds for making good cheese. We refer our readers again to the article in the RURAL of Aug. 19th, believing it will prove of interest to those who are looking for curious methods in cheese making.

CHEDDAR CHEESE.

FROM market reports it appears there is cheese making 8 or 9c. ₱ lb. more than American, and this being a difference of from $5 to $7.50 ₱ cwt., will cause a discouragement to many farmers making cheese on this side of the Atlantic. It is useless to try to explain away the fact that the English is really better, and there is no better proof than for a farmer to go to RICHARDSON'S, or some other house in New York City importing English cheese, and eating some; at the same time, if not a lectotaller, trying some English ale with the bread and cheese.

It is not want of knowledge in making cheese; it is not that the milk is richer; it is the peculiar flavor given the best cheese by the old-established natural grasses in the dairy fields in England. Mr. OLIVER knows very well that neither himself nor any of the most renowned and first-class cheese makers could make cheese of better quality than American if the cows were grazed on any pastures which are plowed and reseeded.

I assure American cheese makers there is great misunderstanding on this subject. Men have very little to do with making the noted and famous cheese called double Gloucester, and, perhaps, most of the other high-priced cheese is made and managed the same by women and, in many and most instances, by young girls, and, in all cases, by unmarried young women, under the general superintendence of the farmer's wife. But it is not intended to set these females up as superior to men, excepting that they make an article without any fuss, going on in the old-fashioned way, without any *cooking*, and doing all so plain that a child could understand every thing belonging to the operation in a short time. It is, of course, necessary to do all in the usual systematic way, and the dairy-maid must take pride in her work; but all effort, pride and art would be useless without the right grass.

HERDS AFFECTED BY IMPURE WATER.

DURING the drought that has been prevailing, we hear of trouble in some herds on account of the condition of water where the cows slake their thirst. Water, at such times, not unfrequently becomes charged with vegetable matter to such an extent as to be unhealthy. The refuse from cheese factories, when turned into streams where cows drink, poisons, to a greater or less degree, the water. When the stream is large and rapid, the ill effects of such water may not be so apparent; but in times of drouth and low water, dysentery and other diseases not unfrequently occur. Dr. BELLEWS mentions a case at the Nottingham Assizes, in July, 1836, at which it was proved that dysentery in an aggravated form was caused in cattle by the use of water with putrescent vegetable matter, produced by the refuse of a starch factory. All the cows, calves and horses which drank of this water became sick, and in eight years the plaintiff lost twenty-four cows and nine calves, all of dysentery. It was also shown that the mortality was in proportion to the quantity of starch made at different times, and that when water containing the putrescent matter was not allowed to pass into the brook the mortality ceased.

We have abundant evidence to show that impure water has seriously affected the health of stock and poisoned the milk of cows partaking of it; and the first duty of dairymen is to provide good water for his animals, for not only the healthfulness of the beasts, but that of their milk will depend upon his action in this regard.

The Horseman.

SELECTING HORSES BY THEIR COLOR.

MOST persons have their choice in regard to the color of horses, but we presume few of our readers ever thought that it had anything to do with speed or strength. A correspondent of the English Farmer, however seems to think that there is no doubt that fashion with regard to color has been greatly influenced by the special qualities usually found in combination with special tints or shades; though it by no means follows that a colt merrily exhibits the same colored hide as its immediate parents. A writer at the close of the last century stated very broadly that not only among the Turkish horses were many of pure white color, but that in Persia there were studs of them, several thousands in number; while it is a well-known fact that until after the death of Prince Albert, the Queen's state carriage was drawn by eight cream-colored horses, of whom a succession is still kept up at Hampton Court. Strange to say, however, while the cream-colored horse is noted for powers of endurance, the gray is held to be deficient therein; and while black horses are rarely first-rate in point of speed, the browns, the chestnuts, and the bays—the last more especially—are noted for their turf victories at Epsom and Doncaster.

An author of good credit, treating of the mixture of breeds in cattle, and especially in horses, advises, with a good deal of reason, to take care of the good qualities of the horse and of the mare. He says that an ill-bred horse may beget a colt that may have a fair color and shape, appearing beautiful; he may be also strong and vigorous, but of a vicious disposition which may render him incapable of ever being brought to rule, without half destroying him. As to the choice of a stallion, a person of great skill says, that the dapple-bay, the white-bay, and the dapple-gray are to be preferred; but does allow of a horse of a pure black, provided he has a white star, and a white foot; but in the judgment of others he should be all of one color. We find, in many cases, that horses of a bright bay color, with a black mane and tail, are good as well as beautiful, and these have commonly the tips of their ears and the extreme parts of their legs black; it is also common for a dapple-gray to have a white mane and tail, with the former mentioned extremities white, such as the tips of the ears and the extreme parts of the legs; but for other colored horses, except the dun, we seldom find their manes and tails of a color different from that of the body, but in a dun horse, the long hair in the mane and tail is commonly black, and for the most part there is a black list down the back, which is not a little remarkable, as it is not observed in any other creature except the ass or mule that I know of.

In a horse, indeed, it is only a plain straight line, but in the ass there is also a cross stroke of black over the shoulders, so that if the skin were to be opened and spread, the black would exactly represent the figure of the cross, as it is represented in painting or carving for a crucifix. Some pretend to tell us as to the cross upon an ass's skin, that asses were not thus marked before the Christian era, and that none are now without the sign; but upon what good authority they assert this, I know not. Some are of opinion that the black list down the back is a token of strength, because the ass that is marked with it is accounted the strongest creature in the world among animals, according to the size. And for this reason asses are used for carrying heavy and drawing heavy loads. If this list, then, be a mark of strength in an ass, we may well suppose it is not less so in a horse; and likewise we may judge it is also a sign of strength in the mule, and is produced by couplings between the horse and the ass; we may well suppose that this list, generally speaking, comes from the ass.

The Centennial.

AVERILL CHEMICAL PAINT.

PHILADELPAIA, Sept. 22d, 1876.

NOTHING, perhaps, impresses an American so agreeably as the numerous and tasteful structures that dot the grounds in all directions; lesser jewels, to be sure, but serving as admirable foils to the principal gems of the crown. It is all the more soothing to one's pride when one reflects that most of the buildings to which I allude owe their existence to liberal private onterprise.

It is a fashionable American slur to intimate that our citizens worship but the one god, Commerce, and that his prophet has but one eye, viz., an eye to the main chance. Like all epigramatic and sweeping generalizations, they contain more unalloyed misrepresentation to the square inch than any other kind of assertion. As near as I can judge from appearances, exhibitors have, in nearly every instance, devoted more money in contributing to the general picturesqueness of the Fair than could, in any event, have justly been required of them. To be sure, an attractive case sets off wares to advantage; but it is not by any means to be expected that a firm will expend thousands for a temporary structure, when that sum, going through the ordinary channels of trade, would yield direct and tangible results out of all proportion to what could be derived from the advantages of a Centennial exhibit; therefore, we must ascribe the outlay to patriotic motives. Granting this, it surely throws a glamor over our alleged greed of gain, than which nothing could more decently cloak our (supposed) mercantile avariciousness.

The immediate cause of this brief homily is a pleasing little pavillion, painted in bright, cheering colors, facing Fountain avenue, just west of Machinery Hall. Description is vapid by contrast with illustration, and I have accordingly secured an electrotype of the Averill Chemical Paint Company's pavillion, for which I am indebted to Mr. TAYLOR, the genial agent in charge of the firm's interests in Philadelphia.

The house is a square cottage, shapely, and graced with a spacious verandah. Tasteful beds of flowers lure visitors up to the portal facing Fountain Avenue. As one enters, there greets the eye pigments of all the colors of the rainbow, tastefully displayed on circular platforms. Here is shown the crude material from which the Averill Chemical Paint is made, and the inquisitive visitor has no difficulty in tracing its various stages up to and including the finished product. The practical application is about him on all hands, the house itself being, of course, decorated in various hues. Although it would seem quite obvious that those who made paint should use it when occasion required, yet it is not unusual for the vacant-minded visitor to ask: "Is this house painted with your paint?" after having heard an eloquent argument in support of its merits. After a question or two of this nature, Mr. TAYLOR retires to his inner office, and invoking a huge lump of the article, asks, *sotto voce*, "And is it for this, O! valuable pigment, that we have expended something like $7,500? Does a careless fate allow such stupidity to stalk abroad in the light of this Centennial day unrebuked,—and a handy railroad-crossing so near, too?"

However, everybody is not an undeveloped protoplasm, and the Averill display is doing a good service in demonstrating its capabilities to thousands who previously had no adequate idea of its many superior qualities.

A novel and peculiar feature exhibited by Messrs. SEELY & STEVENS is their Pellucidite, or Architectural Wood Finish, for finishing hard wood work. The fact that it is the custom to finish the interior of buildings with hard wood, makes it highly important that a material possessing elements of durability and beauty should be provided to apply to the surface of the wood. Great difficulty has been experienced in securing a suitable material for this purpose. In many instances the wood is left without a coating, rather than use the various articles usually employed for this purpose, as, in most cases, they perish when brought in contact with water, and the action of the atmosphere, thus destroying the grain and beauty of the wood.

Linseed oil seems to be entirely unsuitable, as it imparts to the wood a greasy appearance and darkens and hides the grain. It is also common to use shellac. This varnish is very objectionable, as it blackens and destroys the grain and has no elements of durability.

The legitimate object of coating wood is not only to preserve it from decay, but to hold its natural color and bring out the grain in distinct relief.

The Pellucidito is designed expressly as a finish or coating for hard wood, and is now being used with the most satisfactory results by builders and architects. The samples of work seen by your correspondent seem, in all respects, to bear out the claims of the manufacturers. Altogether the display is one that may well attract the admiring attention of the crowds who daily throng the handsome little edifice. YOUNG RURAL.

The Poultry Yard.

KEEPING POULTRY.—No. 8.

AFTER the fowls are domiciled, comes the new and, what ought to be, pleasant work of caring for them. Unless a person takes pleasure in making his stock comfortable, attending to all their wants, he should not keep them. If they are confined to house and run, they must be supplied with every requisite inside the inclosure. A box of broken oyster shells must be always acceptable. I have often noticed fowls, when confined during the fore part of the day and let out towards evening, run first for the broken shells lying on the road, and afterwards for green and other dainties.

A box of fine gravel to each run is required as well as oyster shells. It helps to grind up the shell for lime to make egg-shell, besides helps to digest its food. No fowl remains long in health without it, as its digestion would not be in its natural working order.

Another thing, the dust-box must be always at hand and dry, as parasites will always overrun any house and fowls that are not thoroughly cleansed. Many a fancier calms his conscience on this matter by not making a good use of his eyes, there being a greater number of these pests than most people have any idea of, and a wide field awaits the patient observer to discover and bring them out. The several varieties differ very much in habit and appearance. Some live on the feathers, others on the body, others on chick's heads, while some keep in the perches, nests and woodwork of house. In the RURAL of August 19th, will be found an article on "Vermin among Poultry," treating of the way to destroy them.

When confined, their food must be more varied than that of fowls running at large. Ground beef scraps are very good, they contain many small patches of bone. They will keep through the hottest weather, if they are kept dry. Poultry are very fond of this kind of food, and I prefer it to pork scraps. When this is not furnished, give them some ground bone at times, or, what it better, hang up a small copper on the wall, a little distance from the floor, but they may take what they like.

Always keep on hand sulphur, disinfectant powder or carbolate of lime, and such things as will be likely to be used at any time, so that when occasion requires, or you have a little time to spare, you may not have to wait for them.

The test that calls for the use of disinfectants, more ventilation, or cleansing, is to go into the house any night, after it is closed up, and if you observe an offensive odor, you may depend that something more is requisite to keep them in healthy condition. It is good to fumigate once or twice a month during winter. Now and then dust a little carbolate of lime about the walls and floor of house while birds are penned in.

In wet weather see that your fowls do not get too much drenched. At this season we are subject to sudden rain storms. The young stock are not fully feathered. Most of the old ones moulting, and they are very likely to suffer severely. The water, running through their imperfect feathering to their bodies, often makes short work with them. If a cold rain continues till night, do not let them roost on the trees that night (if they are in the habit of doing so), but drive them into the house, even if it be at the expense of getting a little wet yourself.

Most fowls know enough to go in themselves; but there is, and always will be, of fowls (as of other two-legged creatures), some so simple as not to know how to take care of themselves. H. HALES.

POULTRY AT NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR.

THE great advancement made in the poultry department of the New Jersey State Agricultural Society's Fair, at Waverly, is very encouraging. Year after year scarcely a good pen of fowls ever graced its grounds. The improvement this year is no doubt partly due to the encouraging list of premiums offered for many more varieties than usual, and it has not failed to bring them out.

The Society should now go a step further and let some judge of such stock see what quality of birds is offered at its gates, and to keep out so much of the mongrel stuff that still finds its way in, for the sake of getting an exhibitor's *free ticket*, or to make up a large variety, in order to win the State premiums for greatest number of kinds. Also, have the judges appointed some time before the Fair, so that they may be on hand and do their work before the names of exhibitors are placed on the coops.

Some very good birds are exhibited. Light Brahmas are in full force, and the young ones number some good birds. Some good Partridge Cochin fowls and chicks, while the other Asiatics are slimly represented. But there are on exhibition some very good Hamburgs, Gold and Silver, lots of White and Brown Leghorn chickens, also fair Game Bantams, also a few very fine White-Booted Bantams, Pearl Guineas, Frizzles and Japan Silkies.

Swans, Bronze Turkeys, Egyptian Geese, Aylsbury, Rouen, Muscovy and Pekin ducks, in good numbers. The latter were not on premium catalogue, and were never shown at Waverly before, and the force in which they are presented, must be a surprise to many.

The Pigeons were a long way ahead of the usual show. One lot of fowls, the owner said, was from imported Brown Leghorn's eggs, were finely speckled grayish brown, and their combs form a sort of crown, lying over all around their heads, cocks as well, giving them a singular appearance. H. H.

GET the chicken roosts ready for cold weather as it is near at hand. The rooms should not be air-tight, but ventilated at top, closed at bottom.

Around the Republic.

DASHES AT FLORIDA.

OLIVER TAYLOR, an experienced pomologist, formerly of London Co., Va., has been wandering over Florida for the past seven years, and like NOAH'S dove, finding no resting-place, is now seeking a home a little further north. He has given a very graphic account of his experience and ramblings in a series of letters written to the Prairie Farmer, which, to say the least, must have been very interesting to those who may have contemplated finding a home in the "Land of Flowers," and we will add, they have been especially so to us from our former acquaintance with the writer and our knowing him to be a man well qualified to judge of the adaptation of a soil or climate to fruit culture or the ordinary branches of agriculture. The closing letter of the series gives the pith of the whole and clearly sets forth Mr. TAYLOR'S experience and conclusions about Florida, consequently we copy it for the benefit of those who may desire to know what a Northern pomologist thinks about the State mentioned:

"Everywhere that I have been in Florida I find the roots of the peach trees subject to numbers of knots in them, and the slower the trees grow, generally the more knots on the roots. Other trees are affected the same way, and even vegetables and weeds have knotty roots. I think that Berckmau, in the Farmer and Gardener a few years ago, attributed the knots to a clay soil, but my observations do not confirm that idea, as the soil at Apalachicola is devoid of clay, yet the trees were quite as much subject to knotty roots there as here, where there is clay.

"I am convinced too great heat causes it, as it does not occur in Virginia, even in clay soils. There is a large belt of pine barren land belting the Gulf of Mexico off from the alluvial deposits of large rivers, some sixty to eighty miles wide, where the peach appears to thrive well when first planted; but soon the great need of potash in the soil causes first the rich, high-quality, large varieties to fail, then other poorer varieties, after making two or three good crops cease to do more; and their charitable owners excuse them by saying the worms got at them and killed them. This fact only can explain the reason why good peaches are so few in Pensacola every year.

"This belt of pine barren land widens as it reaches the peninsula, until it covers nearly all of South Florida.

"To find a soil to produce peaches, grapes and figs to perfection, that pay culture for a number of years, one will have to go above the pine barren land, where lime in the soil is abundant and the oak trees, with hickory and walnut, show that potash is not lacking. The numberless efforts and failures to make peach-growing profitable in this poor belt will prove the truth of what I assert.

"If one wishes to get rid of consumption, by all means try the pine woods of a warm Florida coast on the Gulf side, and if he wants to cure dyspepsia, let him go up the St. John's River with a light purse, and the simple fare of that section will most likely bring his digestion to terms; but if you wish to have neuralgia, just stay five years in one place and work moderately all the time, and it will be very apt to show that life has need of variety to keep the current clear and active. I have found very few white women in the State five years, clear of chronic disease, but say they have had neuralgia. Doubtless the universal use of tobacco does much to tire out the nerves, as women use it quite as freely as men.

"To end, I would add, stranger reader, whoever thou art, don't settle on pine barren land in Florida in the hope that it will grow richer, and don't get on the river bottom land in a warm climate and expect to eat meat and not have a fever; but if you wish to find a home where the cold winters of the North may not oppress you, I give you my experience of seven years' anxious search in this State, and advise you to try Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi above the pine barren, and put up with a short winter for the sake of the abundant grain and fruits there produced. Don't go to any part of Florida and suppose you will find fruits abundant half the year, or vegetables cheap, in a healthy location."

Industrial Societies.

NEW JERSEY STATE AG. SOCIETY.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL FAIR.

WAVERLY, N. J. Sept. 19, 1876.

THE same old story—too much Centennial this year for successful Exhibitions in this part of the country. New Jersey is making rapid strides in Agriculture as may be observed by a comparison of the Annual Fairs of this society. The excellent display of fruit and vegetables will attest the deep interest taken in their cultivation by the citizens of this State. Possessing some of the richest (and some of the poorest) land in the country, the farmers are beginning to wake up to the importance of good cultivation, which revival is largely due to the efforts of this society. In attendance, this year's meeting will hardly be a success; but in Exhibits it will compare favorably with those of previous years.

Lying contiguous to Newark which is a large manufacturing town, and not very distant from either New York or Philadelphia, the Waverly Fairs offer their principal attraction in horse racing. That this is to be deprecated the RURAL has always maintained. In defence of it however, one of the officers says that the demand of the neighboring large cities for trotting stock makes its breeding in the locality a profitable necessity and an important feature of the Agricultural interests of this State. This would be a good defence if defence were possible; but it seems to me that the feature is indefensible.

Another bad feature I noticed was the numerous side shows upon the grounds within a few feet of the space allotted to the display of implements. Now it strikes me that when a Society of this character depends for success upon the paltry rents received from the show of the Albino children, the Wonderful Magician, the Three-Legged Cow and kindred shows, it would be a little more straight-forward to go into the Circus business at once and so advertise to the public. Why not give the three card monte men and the thimble-riggers a chance on the grounds? They would doubtless attract quite a crowd.

The display of implements was quite large for Waverly. Among the machines were the Warrior mower and Randall Harrow of the Warrior Mower Co., Little Falls, N. Y. The new Brown Reaper of Adriance Platt & Co. The Screw Mower of Phillipsburg, N. J., and the new Charter Oak Lawn Mower. E. Myer of Newark made a good display of general farm implements including the new Howe Churn. The Dodge Implement and seed warehouse also made an excellent display of assorted implements comprising several new features. W. Foster Dodge himself was on the ground spreading his geniality among the visitors and assisting those in quest of information.

There were two new implements shown, viz: the Eureka Post Hole Digger and the Universal Sprinkler, descriptions of which will have to be deferred till a future time as I have already taken more space than can be spared, I imagine.

In the fruit and flower tent our old time friend P. T. Quinn dispensed luxurious smiles to all comers, especially the ladies; but found time to show me the excellent collection of fruit, including the Rickett's and Miner seedling grapes, with which the RURAL readers are somewhat familiar. In the matter of apples, New Jersey is decidedly strong and stands foremost in the race for quality. One glance at this display establishes that fact. I met your correspondent Mr. Hales in the Poultry Department so that I presume it is only necessary for me to say that it was one of the largest and best displays in that line which I have seen this year and he will say the rest at some future time.

The stock show was good; but as there was no catalogue or other means by which to acquire information on the subject, it must be passed. In the absence of catalogues why is the stock not ticketed for the information of visitors? But I will grumble no more, for, with all its faults, the Fair did honor to the Society and was far better than many State Fairs that I have attended.

SHORTHORN.

N. Y. STATE AG. SOCIETY.

ALBANY, Sept. 14, 1876.

LOWERING weather with considerable wind this morning. Towards noon it turned to drizzling rain and before 2 P. M. had developed into a heavy storm. This served to keep away all the late visitors and to drive off a large majority of those who had braved the threatenings of the morning. Some people however, came to see the Fair and so far as it was under cover accomplished their mission. The various buildings were well patronized, but the grounds almost deserted. This is the day when the crowds were expected and generally arrived, and the storm must be a costly one for the Society.

The judges in the various departments are somewhat tardy this year and have been working nearly all day to complete their awards, a large part of which I append hereto. Much discussion was had on the Live Stock, as many fine animals were exhibited. Mr. T. L. Harrison carried off the cream of the Short-Horn prizes, including the Society's Gold Medal. J. Carter Brown took heavily of the Jersey prizes also including the Gold Medal. Joseph Hilton was almost equally fortunate in Devonshires. Geo. Ayrault, who looks to the pecuniary results, seemed to be quite satisfied with his numerous ribbons, each representing a cash value. Among the horses Edwin Thorne and John H. Starin made fine exhibits.

Of course there was the usual complaints among the disappointed parties whose exhibits had failed to get awards, each one thinking that mistakes had been made by the judges. This is always to be looked for and seldom fails to be found where the exhibits exceed the number of awards. It would be good advice to tell them to try again.

Upon the whole this Fair was much more of a success as to exhibits than as to attendance. But, considering the Centennial, the weather and the hard times, I think the Society is to be congratulated that it was no worse, and to be highly commended for its courage and energy in doing what it did. For many courtesies in the acquisition of information I could not help extending thanks to Messrs. Williston, Maxon, Dickerman, Doncaster and Didima, who did all in their power to assist the representatives of the press in their quest for facts and figures.

Premiums Awarded on Stock, Fruit, &c.

CATTLE—SHORT-HORNS—Herd prize, large gold medal, T. L. Harison, Morley, N. Y.

Bulls over 3 years—1, Clarkson Bros., Potsdam, $40; 2, T. L. Harison, $25; 3, W. F. Blanchard, Manlius, $10.

Bulls, 2 years—1, Chas. F. Wadsworth, Geneseo, $30; 2, Benj. Fellows, Clifton, $20; 3, G. G. Maxon, Schenectady, $10.

Bulls, 1 year—1, T. L. Harison, $25; 2, D. B. Haight, Dover Plains, $15; 3, Chas. F. Wadsworth, $10.

Bull calves—1, T. L. Harison, $15; 2, C. F. Wadsworth, $10; 3, D. B. Haight, $5.

Cows over 3 years—1, T. L. Harison, $15; 2, N. M. Curtis, Ogdensburgh, $25; 3, G. G. Maxon, $10.

Heifers, 2 years—1, T. L. Harison, $30; 2, G. G. Maxon, $20; 3, D. B. Haight, $10.

Heifer, 1 year—1, T. L. Harison, $25; 2, do., $15; 3, C. F. Wadsworth, $10.

Heifer calves—1, W. F. Blanchard, $15; 2, C. F. Wadsworth, $10; 3, do., $5.

AYRSHIRES—Bulls, 3 years—1, S. B. Bradley, Adamsville, $35; 2, E. B. Hawks, Wells Bridge, $15.

Bulls, 1 year—3, S. B. Bradley, $10; No 1st and 2d awarded.

Bull calves—1, E. B. Hawks, $15; 2, S. B. Bradley, $10.

Cow, over 3 years—3, S. B. Bradley, $10.

Heifer, 2 years—3, S. B. Bradley, $10.

HOLSTEINS—Herd—O. B. Hinkley, H. Landworthy and others, West Edmeston, large gold medal.

Bulls, over 3 years—H. C. Hoffman, Horseheads, $25.

Bulls, 2 years—1, Clarkston Bros., $25; 2, O. B. Hinkley and others, $5.

Bull Calves—1, O. B. Hinkley and others, $15; 2, H. C. Hoffman, $10; 3 O. B. Hinkley and others, $5.

Cows, over 3 years—1, O. B. Hinkley and others, $20; 2, H. C. Hoffman, $15; 3, do., $10.

Heifers, 2 years—1, O. B. Hinkley and others, $20; 2, H. C. Hoffman, $15; 3, O. B. Hinkley and others, $10.

Heifers, 1 year—2, O. B. Hinkley and others, $15.

Heifer calves—2, O. B. Hinkley and others, $10; 3, do., $5.

MILCH COWS AND GRADES—Milch cows of any breed—1, O. B. Hinkley and others, $30; 2, do., $20; 3, H. C. Hoffman, Horseheads, $10.

Grade Short-Horn cows and heifers—1, George Ayrault, $20; 2, W. F. Blanchard, $15; 3, do., $10.

Grade Devon cows and heifers—1, Joseph Hilton, New Scotland, $20; 2, David Wait, Wells Bridge, $15; 3, do., $10.

Grade Ayrshire cows and heifers—2, E. B. Hawks, $15.

Grade Jersey cows and heifers—1, E. B. Hawks, $20; 2, Jeremiah Waterman, Albany, $15; 3, Wm. Swan, Scotia, $10.

Working oxen over 5 years—1, Benj. Fellows, Clifton, $20; 2, J. Hilton, $15; 3, E. Crawford, New Scotland, $10.

Pairs of oxen, 4 years—1, G. Ayrault, $20.

Pairs of steers, 3 years—1, G. D. Fletcher, $20; 2, G. Ayrault, $15.

Pairs of steers, 2 years—1, G. Ayrault, $20; 2, David Wait, $15.

Fat oxen over 4 years—1, G. Ayrault, $20; 2, G. Ayrault, Jr., $15; 3, G. Ayrault, $10.

Fat steers, 3 years and under—1, T. L. Harison, $20; 3, G. Ayrault, $10.

Fat cows over 4 years—1, C. F. Wadsworth, $20; 2, Joseph Hilton, $15; 3, G. Ayrault, $10.

Fat heifers, 3 years and under—2, G. Ayrault, $15.

JERSEYS—Herd prize, large gold medal, J. Carter Brown, East Greenwich, R. I.

Bulls over 3 years—1, E. Corning, $25; 2, J. A. & I. T. Burden, Troy, N. Y., $15; 3, B. J. Slade, Waterford, $10.

Bulls, 2 years old—2, Thomas J. Hand, Sing Sing, $15; 3, Edwin Thorne, Millbrook, $10.

Bulls, 1 year—1, T. J. Hand, $20; 2, W. Low, Rutherford, $15; 3, E. Thorne, $10.

Bull calves—1, J. C. Brown, $25; 2, T. J. Hand, $10; 3, E. Thorne, $5.

Cows over 3 years—1, J. C. Brown, $25; 2, T. J. Hand, $15; 3, J. P. Brown, $10.

Heifers, 2 years—1, T. J. Hand, $25; 2, E. Thorne, $15; 3, do., $10.

Heifers, 1 year—1, J. C. Brown, $20; 2, J. T. Hand, $15; 3, E. Corning, 10.

Heifer calves—1, J. A. & I. T. Burden, $15; 2, J. C. Brown, $10; 3, J. A. & I. T. Burden, $5.

DEVONS—Herd prize, large gold medal, Joseph Hilton, New Scotland.

Bulls over 3 years—1, B. F. Peck, East Bethany, $25; 2, J. Hilton, $15; 3, David Wait, Wells Bridge, $10.

Bulls, 2 years—2, Walter Cole, Batavia, $15.

Bulls, 1 year—1, W. Cole, $20; 2, Mrs. W. E. Arnold, Otsego, $15; 3, D. Wait, $10.

Bull calves—1, J. Hilton, $15; 2, B. F. Peck, $10; 3, J. M. Bachelder, $5.

Cows over 3 years—1, J. Hilton, $25; 2, B. F. Peck, $15.

Heifers, 2 years—1, J. Hilton, $25; 3, D. Wait, $10.

Heifers, 1 year—1, J. Hilton, $20; 2, W. Cole, $15; 3, B. F. Peck, $10.

Heifer calves—1, B. F. Peck, $15; 2, W. Cole, $10; 3, J. Hilton, $5.

HEREFORDS—Bulls over 3 years—1, Erastus Corning, $25.

Bulls, 2 years—2, Clarkson Bros., Potsdam, $15.

Bulls, 1 year—1, E. Corning, $20.

Bull calves—1, do., $15.

Cows over 3 years—1, do., $25.

Heifers, 2 years—3, do., $10.

Heifers, 1 year—1, do., $ 0.

SHEEP—SOUTH DOWNS—Ram over 3 years—1, Joan D. Wing, Millbrook, $15; 2, do, $10; 3, D. B. Haight, Dover Plains, $5.

Yearling rams—1, J. D. Wing, $15; 2, do., $10; 3, do., $5.

Ram lambs—1, D. B. Haight, $15; 2, do., $5.

Ewes over 2 years—1, J. D. Wing, $15; 2, do., $10; 3, D. B. Haight, $5.

Yearling ewes—1, J. D. Wing, $15; 2, do., $10; 3, D. B. Haight, $5.

Ewe lambs—1, D. B. Haight, $10.

SHROPSHIRES—Rams over 2 years—1, Bevosus Cook, Otego, $15; 2, William H. Parker, do., $10; 3, B. Cook, $5.

Yearling rams—2, Wm. H. Parker, $10.

Ram lambs—2 B. Cook, $5.

Ewes over 2 years—1, B. Cook, $5; 2, W. H. Parker, $10; 3, G. L. Fletcher, Sidney Centre, $5.

Year ing ewes—1, W. H. Parker, $15; 2, G. L. Fletcher, $10, 3, B. Cook, $5.

Ewe lambs—2, W. H. Parker, $5.

LONG WOOLED—LEICESTERS—Yearling rams—3, W. L. & W. Rutherford, Wadulington, $5.

Ram lambs—2, do., $5.

Yearling ewes—2, do., $10.

Ewe lambs—1, do. $10.

COTSWOLDS—Rams over 2 years—1, Geo. Ingersoll, Charleston, $15; 2, Wm. Potter, Johnstown, $10; 3, Geo. F. Mills, Fonda, $5.

Yearling rams—1, G. Ingersoll, $15; 2, do., $10; 3, W. Potter, $5.

Ram lambs—1, G. Ingersoll, $10; 2, Geo. Arault, Poughkeepsie, $5.

Ewes over 2 years—1, G. Ingersoll, $15; 2, W. Potter, $10; 3, G. Ayrault, $5.

Yearling ewes—1, G. Ingersoll, $15; 2, do., $10; 3, G Ayrault, $5.

Ewe lambs—1, G. Ingersoll, $10; 2, G. Ayrault, $5.

Lincoln yearling rams—2, W. L. & W. Rutherford, $10.

MERINO, BRED FOR FINENESS OF WOOL—Rams over 2 years—1, Wm. Chamberlain, Red Hook, $15; 2, do., $10; 3, Carl Heyne, Red Hook, $5.

Yearling Yams—1, Carl Heyne, $15; 2, Wm. Chamberlain, $10; 3, do., $3.

Ram lambs—1, Wm. Chamberlain, $10; 2, C. Heyne, $5.

Ewes over 3 years—1, Wm. Chamberlain, $15; 2, C. Heyne, $10; 3, E. Townsend, Pavilion Centre, $5.

Ewes 2 years old—1, Wm. Chamberlain, $15; 2, C. Heyne, $10; 3, E. Townsend, $5.

Yearling ewes—1, Wm. Chamberlain, $15; 2, C. Heyne, $10; 3, Wm. Chamberlain, $5.

Yearling lambs—1, Wm. Chamberlain, 10; 2, C. Heyne, $5.

MERINO, BRED FOR WEIGHT OF FLEECE—Rams over 2 years—1, E. Townsend, $15; 2, J. M. Bachelder, $10; 3, S. B. Lusk, $5.

Yearling lambs—1, S. B. Lusk, $15; 2, E. Townsend, $10; 3, Wm. Chamberlain, $5.

Yearling lambs—1, E. Townsend, $10; 2, S. B. Lusk, $5.

Ewes over 3 years—1, S. B. Lusk, $15; 2, E. Townsend, $10; 3, Wm. Chamberlain, $5.

Ewes 2 years—1, S. B. Lusk, $15; 2, E. Townsend, $10; 3, J. M. Bachelder, $5.

Yearling Ewes—1, E. Townsend, $15; 2, S. B. Lusk, $10; 3, Wm. Chamberlain, $5.

Lambs—1, S. B. Lusk, $10; 2, E. Townsend, $5.

MERINO, BRED FOR LENGTH OF STAPLE.—Ram over 2 years—1, S. B. Lusk, $15; 2, R. L. Harrison, Hoosick Falls, $10; 3, C. Heyne, $5.

Yearling lambs—1, S. B. Lusk, $15; 2, E. Townsend, $10; 3, R. L. Harrison, $5.

Ram lambs—1, S. B. Lusk, $10; 2, E. Townsend, $5.

Ewes over 3 years—1, J. O. Joslin, Flushoke, $15; 2, do., $10; 3, R. L. Harrison, $5.

Ewes over 2 years—1, E. Townsend, $15; 2, S. B. Lusk, $10; 3, R. L. Harrison, $5.

Yearling ewes—1, S. B. Lusk, $15; 2, E. Townsend, $10; 3, R. L. Harrison, $5.

Ewe lambs—1, E. Townsend, $10; 2, S. B. Lusk, $5.

HORSES—BREEDING AND DRIVING STOCK—Best stallion for general purposes over 6 years old and not less than 15.2 hands high—1, Commodore, exhibited by John H. Starin, Fultonville, $100; 2d, Col. Johnson, exhibited by W. V. Reynolds & Co., Schaghticoke, $50.

Best stallion for general purposes, accompanied by not less than five of his produce one year old or over—1, Champion, by T. W. & W. Gooding, Canandaigua, $100; 2, James M. Mills, Chosroe, of Bullville, $50.

Stallions over 5 years old and not less than 15.3 hands—1, Dexter Mohawk, Chas. Stanford, Schenectady, $30; 2, Alexis, G. R. Spaulding, Saugerties, $20.

Carriage stallions, 4 years old—1, Hathorn, Geo. C. Genet, Greenbush, $25; Young Coacher, A. W. Pontius, Auburn, $15.

Carriage stallions, 2 years old—1, black, Wm. W. Riegel, Seneca Falls, $20; 2, Fortune, James M. Mills, Bullville, $10.

Carriage stallions, 1 year old—1, black, A. Goldsmith, Washingtonville, $20.

Carriage mares not less than 15.3, with foals at foot—1, Lady Ashton, brown, J. M. Snyder, Melrose, $30.

Carriage fillies, 3 years old—1, brown, J. M. Mills, $20; 2, May Queen, bay, J. Julland, Bainbridge, $10.

Carriage fillies, 2 years old—1, bay, J. M. Mills, $20; 2, Eula Lee, bay, Joseph Julland, $10.

Carriage fillies, 1 year old—1, bay, John Cox, Cohoes, $20.

Roadster stallions over 5 years, less than 15.3 and not less than 15 hands—1, Commodore, bay, John H. Starin, $30; 2, Chosroes, bay, J. M. Mills, $20.

Roadster stallions, 4 years old—1, Marksman, bay, Edwin Thorne, Millbrook, $25; 2, Rob Roy, dark bay, G. W. Van Valkenburgh & Son, Chatham, $15.

Roadster stallions, 3 years old—1, Patriot, bay, Edwin Thorne, $20; 2, Cocheco, bay, H. B. Welling, Tomhannock, $10.

Roadster stallions, 2 years old—1, bay, J. M. Mills, $20; 2, Pioneer, bay, E. Thorne, $10.

Roadster stallions, 1 year old—1, Ensign, chestnut, E. Thorne, $20; 2, Glenville: bay, J. C. Ellis, Schenectady, $10.

Roadster mares, less than 15.3 and not less than 15, with foals at foot—1, Dolly VanDerheyden, O. T. VanDerheyden, Troy, $30.

Roadster fillies, 4 years old—1, Flirt, black, D. B. Haight, Dover Plains, $35; 2, gray, C. Stanford, $10.

Roadster fillies, 3 years—1, Lady Mary, bay, D. B. Haight, Dover Plains, $20; 2, gray, C. Stanford, $15.

Roadster fillies, 3 years—1, Lady Mary, bay, D. B. Haight, $20; 2, Jenny Geddes, gray, John Kirkpatrick, Albany, $10.

Roadster fillies, 2 years old—1, bay, J. M. Mills, $20. 2, no name, G. Bright, West Albany, $10.

Roadster fillies, 1 year old—1, brown, C. Stanford, $20; 2, gray, do., $10.

WORK HORSES—Farm or team horses, weighing less than 2,500, and not less than 2,000—1, S. L. Grove, Albany, $30; 2, I Van Allen, Bethlehem Centre, $15.

Carriage horses, not less than 15-3, nor more than 16-1—1, Jeremiah Waterman, $30; 2, J. H. Rowe, North Chatham, $15.

Carriage horses, less than 15-3, and not less than 15 hands—2, H. Kariger, Perry.

Single-harness horses, 15-3 or over—1, Seneca Dennis, Melrose, $20; 2, A. B. Larkin, Central Bridge, $10.

Single-harness horses, 15 and less than 15-3—2, C. W. Little, Albany, $10.

Saddle horses, 16-2 and over—1, C. B. Woolverton $20; 2, John W. McHarg, Albany, $10.

Ponies, under 14 hands—1, D. G. Bradley, Albany, $20; 2, Joseph Julland, Bainbridge, $10.

SWINE—LARGE BREED—Boars six months—Wm. M. Holmes, Greenbush, $15.

Breeding sows, 2 years—J. J. DeForest, Duanesburgh, $15.

Sow pigs, over 6 months—Wm. M. Holmes, $15.

Pigs, under 6 months—J. J. DeForest, $15.

Small white boars, 2 years—W. H. Cole, Clinton, N. J., $15.

Small white boars, 1 year—W. H. Cole, $10.

Small white boars, 6 months—J. S. Gibbs, Apalachin, $15.

Breeding sows, 2 years—W. H. Cole, $15.

Breeding sows, 1 year—do., $15.

Sow pigs, over 6 months—do., $15.

Pigs, under 6 months—1, do., $15; 2, E. B. Hawks, $10.

SMALL BLACK BREED—Sows, 1 year—J. S. Giles, $15.

Pigs, under 6 months—do., $15.

Berkshire boars, 2 years—1, Edwin Thorne, $15; 2, Isaac Van Allen, $10

Boars, 1 year—1, D. B. Haight, $15; 2, Benj. Fellows, $10.

Boars, 6 months—1, J. R. Stuyvesant $15; 2, N. M. Curtiss, $10.

Sows, 2 years—1, N. M. Curtiss, $15; 2, J. R. Stuyvesant, $10.

Sows, 1 year—1, C. S. Wyckoff, Cuba, $15; 2, D. B. Haight, $10.

Sow pigs, over 6 months—1, B. Fellows, $15; 2, G. L. Fletcher, $10.

Pigs, under 6 months—1, A. B. Larkin, Central Bridge, $15; 2, C. S. Wyckoff, $10.

POULTRY—Collection of pure bred poultry—J. Y. Bicknell, Westmoreland, silver medal.

Trios light Brahmas—1, D. C. Waterhouse, New Haven, $5; 2, J. S. Giles, Apalachin, N. Y., $3.

Buff, lemon or cinnamon Cochins—1, J. S. Giles, $5; 2, do., $2.

Partridge or Grouse Cochins—1, D. C. Waterhouse, $5; 2, J. S. Giles, $3.

Dark Brahmas—1, D. C. Waterhouse, $5; 2, do., $3.

White Cochins—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, Wm. M. Wendell, $3.

Black Cochins—1, W. M. Wendell, $5; 2, J. G. Gooding, Castleton, $3.

Colored Dorkings—1, W. R. Hills, Albany, $5; 2, J. Y. Bicknell, $3.

Silver-Gray Dorkings—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, O. Hawland & Son, Auburn, $3.

White Dorkings—1, W. M. Wendell, $5.

Dominiques—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, S. W. Studley, Catskill, $3.

Golden-Spangled Hamburghs—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, L. D. Ely, Rochester, $3.

Silver-Spangled Hamburghs—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, L. D. Ely, Jr., $3.

Silver-Pencilled Hamburghs—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, do., $3.

Black Hamburghs—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, Wm. M. Wendell, $3.

Black Spanish—1, Wm. M. Wendell, $5; 2, O. Howland & Son, $3.

White Leghorns—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, Wm. M. Wendell, $3.

Brown Leghorns—1, J. Y; Bicknell, $5; 2, Robert Lewis, Charleton, $3.

Plymouth Rocks—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, D. C. Waterhouse, $3.

Crève-Coeurs—1, J. M. Seymour, Clark's Mills, $5.

Houdans—1, S. W. Studley, $5; 2, J. Y. Bicknell, $3.

Le Fleche—1, J. M. Seymour, $5; 2, J. Y. Bicknell, $3.

White Polish—1, E. G. Studley, Claverack, $5; 2, do., $3.

Other Polish—O. Howland & Son, $5.

Black-Breasted Red Game—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, J. R. Stuyvesant, Poughkeepsie, $3.

Brown-Breasted Reds—1, T. C. Abrams, West Troy, $5; 2, S. Schuyler, do, $3.

Duckwing Games—1, J. M. Seymour, $5; 2, J. Y. Bicknell, $3

Irish Grays—1, Wm. M. Wendell, $5; 2, T. C. Abrams, $3.

Pile Games—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, T. C. Abrams, $3.

Other well-bred Game—1, J. M. Bachelder, Pownal, Vt., $5; 2, J. Y. Bicknell, $3.

Red Game Bantams—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, Wm. M. Wendell, $3.

Pile Game Bantams—J. Y. Bicknell, $5.

Duckwing Game Bantams—1, J. M. Seymour, $5; 2, J. Y. Bicknell, $1

Gold Laced Sebrights—1, J. M. Seymour, $5.

Other Bantams—1, G. L. Fletcher, $5.

Bronze Turkeys—1, Geo. Ayrault, Jr., $5.

White Turkeys—1, O. Howland & Son, $5; 2, J. M. Bachelder, $3.

Buff Turkeys—1, O. Howland & Son, $5.

Gray or Narragansett Turkeys—1, Geo. Ayrault, Jr., $5; 2, C. L. G. Blessing, Slingerlands, $3.

Black Turkeys—1, O. Howland & Son, $5.

Pearl Guinea Fowls—1, Joseph Julland, Bainbridge, $5; 2, E. Van Allen, Bethlehem Centre, $2.

White Guinea Fowls—1, P. Van Wie, Bethlehem, $3.

Pea Fowls—1, Peter Van Wie, $3; 2, Jos. Julland, $2.

Bremen Geese—1, O. Howland & Son, $5; 2, do., $3.

White China Geese—1, Peter Van Wie, $5.

Brown China Geese—2, O. Howland & Son, $3.

Brown China Geese—1, do., $5.

Wild Geese—1, do., $5.

Rouen Ducks—1, do., $5; 2, Peter Van Wie, $3.

Aylesbury Ducks—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, do., $3.

Cayuga Ducks—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5; 2, O. Howland & Son, $3.

Muscovy Ducks—1, Geo. Ayrault, Jr., Poughkeepsie, $5.

Carrier Pigeons—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $3

Tumblers—1, Wm. M. Wendell, $3; , Wm. M. Wendell, $3.

Jacobins—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $5.

Blue Rocks—1, J. Y. Bicknell, $3; 2, do., $2.

Dragoons—1, Wm. M. Wendell, $3; 2, do., $2.

Antwerps—1, Wm. M. Wendell, $3; 2, do., $2.

Broken Colored Buck Rabbit—1, Wm. M. Wendell, $3.

Broken Colored Doe—1, do., $3.

Common Buck Rabbit—1, do., $3.

Common Doe—2, do., $2.

FLOWERS—PROFESSIONAL LIST—Best exhibition of roses—Ellwanger & Barry, $5.

Roses, 24 varieties—1, do., $5.

Roses, 12 varieties—2, do., $3.

AMATEUR LIST—Cut Flowers—1, E. Van Allen, $10; 2, Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, Pittstown, $5.

Verbenas—1, E. Van Allen, $5; 2, Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, $3.

Verbenas, 12 varieties—1, Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, $3.

Verbenas, 6 varieties—1, Mrs. L. Clement, Mechanicville, $2; 2, Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, $1.

Seedling Verbenas—1, Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, $1.

Exhibition of Annual Phloxes—1, Mrs. A. Stone, Stanwix, $5; 2, Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, $2.

Six varieties Perennial—1, Mrs. L. Clement, $1.

New Seedling Perennial—1, Mrs. L. Clement, $1.

Exhibition of Asters—1, Mrs. A. Stone, $3; 2, Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, $1.

Exhibition of Pansies—1, Mrs. A. Stone, $3; 2, Mrs J. T. Van Namee, $1.

Exhibition Ten Weeks Stock—1, Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, $3; 2, Mrs. A. Stone, $1.

Exhibition Everlasting Flowers—1, Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, $3; 2, Mrs. A. Bobby, Jonesville, $1.

Collection 20 plants in pots—1, L. Menand, $10; 2, Geo. Tweddle, $5.

Collection 10 plants in pots—1, L. Menand, $5; 2, Geo. Tweddle, $3.

Floral design or ornament—1, James Hendrick, $5; 2, L. Gloecker, Albany, $3.

Hand Bouquets—1, James Hendrick, $5, 2, L. Gloecker, $3.

Basket Bouquet—1, J. Hendrick, $5; 2, do., $3.

FRUITS—PROFESSIONAL LIST—Collection of apples—1, Ellwangar & Barry, $18; 2, James Hendrick, Albany, $10.

Twelve varieties of apples—Ellwanger & Barry, $3.

Best collection of pears—Do., $15.

Ten varieties of pears—Do., $8.

Six do.—Do., $5.

Best collection of plums—Do., $5.

Six varieties of plums—Do., $3.

Quinces—2, Do., $2.

Grapes—Do., $5.

Grapes, one native variety—Do, $2.

Watermelons—2, Lewis Brewer, Schenectady, $2.

AMATEUR LIST—Apples, ten varieties—E. M. Hoffman, Elmira, $3.

Pears, ten varieties—Mrs. J. Sproat, Rochester, $1.

Pears, six varieties—Do., $4.

Peaches, one variety—W. T. Burgess, Albany, $5.

Collection of Plums—1, Peter Van Wie, Bethlehem, $5; 2, J. H. Loncks, New Scotland, $3.

Exhibition of grapes—A. McCormac, Bath-on-the Hudson, $6.

Grapes, one variety—Do., $2.

Exhibition of foreign variety of grapes—1, Chas. W. Little, Albany, $6; 2, Douglass L. White, $3.

Grapes, one foreign variety—Do., $2.

Exhibitions of watermelons—E. Van Allen, Bethlehem Centre, $2.

Watermelon, one specimen—Do., $5.

SHORTHORN.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FAIR.—The annual Fair of the American Institute is now being held at the Rink, Second Ave. and Sixtieth St., in this City. The usual display of the products of our varied industries can be seen in their best at this show, and we would advise visitors from the country to spend a few hours in examining them at the above place, as it will well repay the time spent. Residents of the city will also find much to amuse and instruct them, as doubtless many have learned in their visits to this exhibition in years past.

N. Y. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—This new society held its second exhibition at GILMORE'S Garden the past week, and the display was an excellent one, fully meeting the expectation of members and the public. We congratulate the Society upon its brilliant success during its past year, and hope its future will be as bright as its advent gives promise.

Floricultural.

BEDDING PLANTS IN CENTENNIAL GROUNDS.

CENTENNIAL GROUNDS, Sept. 16.

OUR friends who have yet delayed visiting the Centennial and who count upon the outside floral display as an attractive feature, should delay not one day longer. Now everything is at its best; by which we mean that in most respects the floral display is so close upon perfect that only words of praise arise as we look over the gorgeous scene. A few minutes ago, a young lady, who seemed so delighted over all she saw, that every attempt at expressing her appreciation ended in joyful exclamations at the end of half-finished sentences—concluded thus: "Well I shall be more crazy to visit these grounds now that I have seen them, than I was before I came here"—and a truer compliment we do not believe the floricultural management have received.

A frosty night may now be looked for at any time and then adieu to the floral display which for tasteful arrangement, extent and brilliancy of color we have never seen equaled.

In front of Horticultural Hall and extending westward, is a basin the flat bottom of which is several feet deep, extending in the form of a narrow parallelogram perhaps 1000 feet or more in length by 40 in width. We look down upon this as upon a carpet, the ground-work of which is the green grass, while the huge figures thereof are the flowers and foliaged plants which thickly cover the soil in which they grow. In carpet designs, half the effect is lost unless the whole may be taken in at a glance; and this is secured by the banks which, as has been stated, are elevated several feet above the floor of the basin. The species of plants employed for this style of gardening in this climate are necessarily few. One is not, indeed, tempted to examine individuals any more than he would be the flowers or leaves or scrolls of a veritable carpet. The immense figures set in the greenest of grass and a perfect blaze of strongly contrasting colors are what hold the eye. Disappointment follows a close inspection of the plants used to produce this effect, as close scrutiny of a painting would set us to wondering how so artistic a landscape could be composed of parts so rude in themselves.

The Golden *Pyrethrum* for its light-green and compact, spreading habit, is employed to a great extent. *Alternantheras, versicolor, amœna, spectabile*, and *lalifolia* are invaluable for their variegated foliage, low-growth and easy propagation and cultivation. Of course the *Coleus* in its wide range of varieties is the main plant for those portions nearer the centers of figures where a taller growth is requisite to assist in forming the oval outlines, which give a depth of verdure and a rounded, solid appearance relieving the whole from the insipidity of utter flatness. *Centaurea maritima, gymnocarpa* and *candida*—*Coleï Verschaffelli, Bausei, Hendersoni*—*Achyranthes Lindeni* and *Gilsoni* form the majority of the plants in this basin. The number necessary to form one of these figures will surprise those who have not thought of it. We roughly estimated not less than 1500 in one figure about 25 feet in diameter.

One round plot 20 feet diameter is filled with *Vincas rosea* and *alba*, but it is not effective, the flowers being too scattered and the foliage not very ornamental.

On one side of this basin as we call it for the lack of a better name, are what might be considered two ornamental hedges. They are four or five feet wide and 50 feet long and consist, on the outer edges, of *Pyrethrum*, next dark *Coleï*, and in the middle and highest, of *Salvia*. Every 10 feet is a plant of variegated Japanese Maize.

The plant display of the Pacific Guano Co. comprises a great number and variety, forming one of the most attractive resorts of the decorative grounds. The Cotton plants (*Gossypium*)—many in bloom, some in fruit, are interesting to all who have never traveled in countries where they grow. They are in fact well-worthy of being cultivated in any garden. The flower is 3 or 4 inches in diameter, of a lemon-yellow color and dark eye. The leaf is of a dark green color and smooth texture resembling the Maple or *Hibiscus* in form, to which latter species it is closely placed in the Mallow family. In this collection are *Ricini* 12 feet high, the tallest we have ever seen in the North so early in the fall. Had a few more ornamental species been raised—such as *Gibsoni* and *sanguineus*—under the same culture they would have been striking for their foliage as well as for height. All of these plants have been watered with Guano water, the effect of which is thus designed to be shown.

Whatever may have been the deficiencies of the bedding flowers in the early part of the season and through the scorching summer which was enough to try plants' souls, few there are hypercritical enough to say aught against them now.

Those who love Ivies will be pleased and instructed by a survey of a bed by Messrs. HOOPES, BROS. & THOMAS devoted to them alone. There are 36 varieties, half of them variegated and several, as *H. arborescens Roegneriana* as different in appearance as vines of the same species well can be.

In the Japanese department, trained up lattices, are several vines with pinnate three-foliolate leaves, the leaflets lobed quite like a Sassafras. Its stems are hispid, long-jointed and irregular. But the whole vine is pretty and, if hardy, desirable, since its leaf and habit differ from those of other hardy vines. Its name is *Pueraria Thunbergiana* under the order Leguminosæ. Here also are variegated Morning Glories twining up strings not worth further remark.

In one of the deciduous plots we see one or two specimens of *Sambucus racemosa*, variegated emphatically with yellowish white. It is a decumbent, spreading shrub, prettier, we think, than the common variegated Elder. We note also a dozen of the dwarf *Catalpa*, a round, vigorous, bean-like bush that must sooner or later become more popular than it is—at least for special purposes.

There are about 50 of the now famed *Hydrangea paniculata alba* in full bloom, which, though the thyrses are not over half the size of more favorable seasons, are yet exceedingly showy.

We must not forget to mention that there is here a single specimen of *Ligustrum pendula*, the Weeping Privet, the first we have ever seen outside of the Rural grounds.

MISCELLANEA.

ARUNDO *donax* is now (Sept. 7) ten feet high in spite of the drought. This is a reed that seems not to know which it likes better, moisture or dryness.

Erianthus Ravennæ sends up its fine plumes to about the same hight. They are noble plants, both—and associated with *Bocconia Japonica* form a rare group. *Eulalia Japonica*, the new variegated grass, may well be added though less hardy than the others. It will, however, stand ordinary winters.

NOTES.

IN a note by M. DE SAPORTA communicated to a French society respecting the lowest temperature that can be borne by certain plants, *Eucalyptus globulus* suffered only in some of its smaller branches when the thermometer sank to 25° Fahr. The Lemon was killed nearly to the ground; *Dracæna indivisa, Chamærops excelsa, Cocos Australis* were unharmed. *Chamærops excelsa* withstood 6° Fahr.

Arboricultural.

EVERGREENS.

CENTENNIAL GROUNDS, Sept. 15.

THOSE who have a general impression that Evergreens are hard to transplant and about as likely to die as live, may learn how erroneous it is by glancing over the hundreds—yes, thousands—of trees and shrubs that have been removed to these grounds and are now, with so few exceptions as not to be worth mentioning, after passing through one of the hottest and dryest of summers, as healthy as if they had grown in their present positions from cuttings or seeds. In our own experience we may say that a smaller percentage of Evergreens die from being transplanted than of deciduous trees. If in the nurseries they have been transplanted as often as need be, or the roots cut around, which is the next best thing, and they are packed so as to reach their destination with the roots still moist—unless they are then recklessly exposed—we need not anticipate a single failure. The great number and variety of Evergreen plants exhibited afford a rare opportunity of selecting, by comparison, those which are most unlike; those which are most pleasing of their kinds and those which are best adapted, as regards form, size and color, to the grounds we desire to beautify.

The small size to which nurserymen's catalogues are necessarily confined and the extent of country, with varying soil and climate, over which they are distributed, forbid minuteness of detail—and, indeed, no minuteness of description, however accurate, can place before our eyes a plant as we may see it in the Centennial grounds. A visit to nurseries does not as well answer our purpose, since there are few, if any, which offer so many species and varieties as we have here collected together. Besides in nursery grounds, as a rule, considerable spaces are devoted to one species, the larger, as the plant is well known and universally popular. We have then, to walk from plantation to plantation, forgetting previous impressions as we receive new ones and, finally, half fatigued and impatient, make our selections with little of judgment and with much of haste, generally to repent in the leisure of several years afterwards. In nursery grounds, too, we do not feel at liberty to ask of our attendant the many questions we desire to have answered—questions which, to them, are painfully threadbare—and if we do, they are usually answered with that ready-made praise pardonable, perhaps, in those whose time is money and whose object is to sell all they possibly can. Now the specimens in the Centennial are all plainly and, for the most part, accurately labeled. One has, therefore, only to look them over leisurely; to note those which impress him most favorably; to write down their names and to inform himself, upon returning home, by then visiting nurseries—by the use of catalogues or the several books upon Evergreens, as to their hardiness and general adaptability to his own grounds.

Of Evergreens, HOOPES, BRO. and THOMAS make one of the most creditable and attractive displays, consisting of perhaps 200 different kinds. All are vigorous and healthy, and a circular plot is filled with specimens which, though of medium size, scarcely show a withered branch or leaf.

Biota orientalis Zuccariniana, the dwarf Japan Arbor-vitæ, we note as a neat, feathery, coral-like specimen of a bright green color. *Retinospora obtusa compacta* is one of the prettiest of the curly-leaved (as we may call them) sorts, differing from the species in being more compact and in possessing smaller leaves. This is called the Fu-si-no-ki (tree of the sun) by the Japanese and is, says GORDON, the glory of Eastern forests.

Juniperus Virginiana pendula will, under this name, or by its appearance, scarcely be recognized by those who do not bother with botanical terms, as a variety of our Red Cedar that flourishes along every hedge and worn-out field. *J. V. aurea variegata*, another variety of the Red Cedar is variegated with a bright golden color to the extent of half, and is a real beauty. We see no other specimen in the grounds. The variegated Austrian Pine sets one to putting on his glasses to discover the why of its variety name. We discover it at length in a leaf or so of the lower tufts of a yellow color. But the tree is a deformed, worthless thing, as compared with its noble parent.

We once received a *Pinus sylvestris pendula* from an Edinburgh nursery, as pendulous as the Weeping Norway Spruce. It was very odd, though not beautiful, and it is singular why it is not known in this country or even mentioned in most coniferous books.

We see in this collection the Lawson Cypress. The exceeding beauty of the many varieties of this Californian tree and its rapid growth make us greatly regret that it is not hardy for this latitude. To our friends further South we commend it as one of the choicest Evergreens known. It is readily grown from seeds, from which fact and its proclivity to seminal variation, are due the many distinct and charming varieties in cultivation. The golden and silver forms may here be seen.

Cryptomeria Japonica presents a distinct form of Evergreen characters, but it is not hardy in the Middle States.

Abies excelsa stricta (*conica*) is one of the handsomest of dwarf Evergreens, three or four feet in height, small and numerous branches, slender, short, closely-growing leaves, a perfectly conical form, and as hardy as any other of the Spruces. It is one of the best for those enchanting little plots of small Evergreens which may be formed in the smallest gardens, adding a charm not excelled by any other group of plants.

The plot of deciduous trees by Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN is not noted for beauty—indeed it is not, we presume, intended to be. It consists of 750 species and varieties of mostly hardy deciduous shrubs, vines and trees, and it is rarely that so extensive a collection is grouped together in so small a space. The opportunity of ready comparison and study thus offered, should place those disposed to avail themselves of it under obligations to Mr. MEEHAN, who has collected and arranged this arboretum at an expenditure, doubtless, of considerable time and money.

In the Evergreen plot of Mr. S. B. PARSONS, we may observe *Juniperus oblonga pendula*, which is quite hardy, from the north of China. It is a singular, pendulous Evergreen, that, at a little distance, might be mistaken for a toy Willow, so decided and airy is its droop. *Abies excelsa elata* and *monstrosa* are here alone to be seen. They are the strangest and most lawless of Coniferous subjects, and are really desirable for their homeliness. The branches are coarse and heavy, and little disposed to branch out. The terminal spring growth bends them down by its weight, adding nothing to symmetry, while the difference in the color between this and last year's leaves imparts a disconnected or disjointed appearance. We think *monstrosa* and *elata* must be identical, as there is no mention of the latter in any of the works at hand. If, however, they are distinct varieties, we should purchase *monstrosa* for its expressive name.

Abies Canadensis microphylla is for the dwarf Evergreen plots of which we have spoken another suitable plant. It might be called the Skeleton Hemlock, with some propriety, so fine and narrow are its leaves. It is as hardy as the species. A broad, dark-leaved variety, of dense growth, is marked *A. C. macrophylla*, which is, we think, a mistake.

In many collections the magnificent *Picea*, or, as Mr. HOOPES prefers to classify it, *Abies Nordmanniana*, is present, though one or two of goodly size have suffered, either from being transplanted or from the burning heat of July and August. The smaller ones, however, are as fresh as ever. This is one of the most beautiful and perfect Evergreens. From our own experience, we should say that, when planted in sandy soil, it will, during very severe winters, require shade from the mid-day sun, in the latitude of New York.

The Naturalist.

THE WAY ANTS FIGHT.

A CORRESPONDENT of Land and Water tells how ants fight in South Africa which, although not greatly differing from such contests in other genera, and in other countries still it is quite interesting, as are most tales told of these wise little creatures:

During the months of September and October, 1873, I was living in the dense bush, about six miles from Cape Coast Castle. Having much time at my disposal, I utilized it by noting the habits and natures of the various creatures inhabiting that beautiful, though deadly, country. I was particularly attracted by the vast hordes of ants which were to be seen every day marching over the narrow roads through the bush, and I determined to notice their habits as closely as possible. Perhaps it may interest those of your readers who have a taste for natural history, if I extract from my notes all that refers to these insects, for these particulars I have not yet seen noted in any work yet published. In the first instance I would mention their migratory habits. I was unable to discover the cause of the changes of abode they made, or what it was that induced them to take up their new quarters in any particular spot; but this was certain, they were constantly on the move, traveling along a sort of cutting or groove, made by their own countless footsteps.

I observed that besides the ordinary ants, not much larger than our own English insects, there were others, of about twice the size of their smaller brethren, and armed with a huge horny pair of "pincers" on the head. These insects always stationed themselves on the brow of the cutting, occasionally patrolling up and down, and evidently surveyed the movements of their friends below. I never saw those larger insects carrying a burden, or in any way assisting in the labors of the common ants; they seemed to me to act as a sort of leader, to direct the march of their brethren. I once placed obstructions in the trench to observe the conduct of the insects; I noticed that if the material was soft enough, the ants broke it up and carried it clear of the trench, by morsels, but a stone too heavy to move, and too hard to break up, they left alone, simply tunnelling under it!

While some of the insects were thus occupied, the column left the trench for the time, and as soon as all was clear, returned to the old course. I may as well mention that on these migratory marches the ants do not carry any burdens, either food or pupæ, as we see them do in England. I found by experiment that if the few leading ants were destroyed, the whole column turned back and retired; that if some of the insects in the center were killed so as to break the column, those in front went on; those behind retired. Here, it is evident that some means of communication must exist between them, for these advances and retreats were simultaneous and without confusion. With an anecdote of what remarkable organization these minute creatures are capable, I will conclude this somewhat protracted letter.

One morning a friend and I watched a column of ants starting from their home in the mud walls of a hut in our camp, and determined to follow them to their destination. They marched straight to the parapet, mounted its inner face, descended into the trench, and then mounted the opposite side and proceeded to the open ground there. They directed their course to a small mound of fresh earth, and there the leading insects halted, remaining at the foot of the hillock until the whole force was present. I have calculated the number of this Liliputian army, by the distance their column extended, allowing an average of four abreast, and a length of one-eight of an inch to each section of four, to be about 13,824, exclusive of the larger insects.

When the whole force was assembled, the little army divided; one part remained at the foot of the mound and ran round and round it,

the rest mounted to the top, and some of them entered the loose earth and speedily returned, each bearing a young grasshopper or cricket, dead, which he deposited upon the ground and returned for a fresh load. Those who had remained on the outside of the mound, took up the crickets as they were brought out of the earth, and bore them down to the base of the hill, returning for a fresh load. Soon the contents of the mound seemed to be exhausted, and then the whole force returned home by the same route as before into the trench and over the parapet, each with his burden of cricket food for the community.

I must confess that had I not seen this with my own eyes, I could not have believed it, for here was a regular foray, planned and executed with military precision, the country surveyed, and the depot of provisions known accurately before the march was made, and at the mound the prudential division of labor, and the care taken that none of their victims should escape. In conclusion, I would say, that improbable as these facts may seem, yet they were witnessed by myself and my friend, and we returned to our camp, wondering at the greatness of that Creator who could implant in these puny creatures of His hand, so marvelous an instinct.

WISE PUPPIES.

A VERY good story is told of two young shepherd dogs by the Florida Sunland, from which we make a few extracts showing how peculiar traits in dogs become hereditary. The dogs referred to under the name Buster and Lady Buster were descended from an illustrious race of Scottish shepherd dogs, therefore we can more readily believe the story told of their process:

Their owner kept his sheep at some distance from the house, and proposed deferring the training of his puppies until they had outgrown the levity of extreme youth, it being one of his principles that a naturally active brain should not be stimulated until the body to which it appertained had had leisure to develop—a favorite maxim of many modern educators.

But hereditary tastes developed in Buster and Lady Buster without the need of training, and simultaneously great tribulation fell upon the numerous geese, hens, and ducks of the poultry yard. Soon, at any time of the day, a shrill and confused cackling and squawking and gobbling might call attention to a whole procession of unwilling and terrified fowls—swollen and enraged turkey cocks, high stepping roosters, waddling ducks and agitated hens—all urged determinately and relentlessly forward by two small brown puppies, who, with marvelous sagacity and a most wonderful co-operation, managed to exert complete control over the heterogeneous mass, and at the same time to deftly keep within the ranks all whose temerity suggested a side-flight. The steady advance of the reluctant and protesting crowd, and the unconcern and yet animation of the puppies behind, was a laughable sight to see.

In vain, after this performance had been repeated again and again, did the mistress of the oppressed scold and coax and punish. Buster and Lady Buster bore moral suasion with perfect equanimity, and remonstrated against coercion with all the howls and yells of ordinary abused puppies, but a very few moments sufficed to wipe out the pain and the sense of disgrace, the moral lesson as well, and to set them to work slowly gathering together and manipulating their comrades of the poultry yard.

There came a morning when not a cackle or a quack broke the stillness which reigned round the house. The quiet was ominous, almost supernatural. Not a gobbler strutted, not a hen pecked anywhere in sight. Even the puppies were gone. What could have become of those hungry solicitors who besieged the doors every morning? The children set up a dismal wail. An immediate search was instituted. Some one predicted that where the chickens were there Buster and Lady Buster would be. So it proved. Down in the orchard, huddled closely together in a corner, we found the crowd of scared and bewildered fowls, chickens perched upon the backs of uneasy geese, goslings under the feet of irresponsible ducks, hens forgetting maternal cares, and treading their offspring under their feet in terror of their strange predicament, roosters and gobblers craning their necks in fear and indignation, all apparently spell-bound by the two bright-eyed puppies, who lay with half-closed eyes so near as to confine their victims in the closest quarters, watching so vigilantly that not a chicken could make a desperate dash toward liberty without being promptly arrested and driven back. Nor did they move at our approach. They only wagged their tails as if anticipating approval, and turned one intelligent eye upon us, while the other narrowly observed the flutter of every feather among their charge. But the fun of this sort of thing was wearing out. We forced the reluctant Buster and Lady Buster away, and that very night sent them down to the sheep pasture, that they might exert their talents in a legitimate way.

Domestic Economy.

RENDERING AN ACCOUNT OF EXPENSES.

MR. EDITOR:—"What do you think of this: "The Housekeeper's Memorandum Book is a splendid medium whereby an *accurate account* may be *rendered* unto *liege lords* of the *disposal* of cash *allotted* for housekeeping purposes."

That is what I saw in a newspaper the other day. May be you won't want to give the book an advertisement in this way; but it won't hurt you. The book is well enough, and what it is made for also is well enough; but I pity the wife of the party (I won't say man) that wrote the notice, "Accurate account to be rendered to liege lords for cash *allotted*." Catch me doing it! Perhaps you may suspicion by this time that I ain't married. Well, that's a fact; and what's more, I ain't likely to be, being near forty, and neither fat nor fair, and, what's most, I don't want to be, to any "liege lord" who would *allot* cash for housekeeping expenses and *demand* a rendering up of an accurate account therefor. Do you know how I'd do if I was? Some fine day, when he had a "few friends" to dinner, the dishes should be garnished after this manner:—"This turkey weighed 12 pounds at 25 cents a pound." "This butter cost 40 cents a pound." "Those potatoes cost $1 a bushel"—and so on through the whole bill of fare. I'd prove to the satisfaction of all present that I know how to keep accounts and how to render them accurately.

Now, I do know of some real good men—that is, as men go (I doubt if any of them are *real* good), who consult with their wives about what proportion of their (not his) income should be devoted for household expenses; but I am glad I don't know of any so mean as to demand an "accurate account" of the way it is used. But I suppose there are some who do it. Now, I believe in keeping accounts, and I do it myself. I don't buy a shoe-string or a hair-pin that I don't "set it down," and at the end of every month I can tell to a dollar what I have spent, but, thank fortune, I haven't got any "liege lord" to report to! If I had a husband and he should suggest such a thing, I should be very likely to get excited and say something sharp, although I am naturally a sweet-tempered and mild-spoken woman, and all the neighbors know it. Just as likely's not I should say, very mildly and very affectionately, "I won't do nothing of the sort, unless you will render up to me an 'accurate account of what you do with the rest of the money—' showing exactly how much goes for tobacco, how much for lager, and how much for"——but what do I know of the many things men spend money for that they oughtn't to?

I ain't none of them Woman's Rights "wimmen;" but I would show any man he couldn't snub me or tread on me without my knowing of it and my letting of him know that I knowed it.

I had to stop just here to drive the hens out of the garden—they are the greatest pests of my life—and while I was waiting to cool off before finishing up my letter, I thought I would read it over. I ain't used to writing for the papers, and I kinder think perhaps you will have to fix this up a little; but don't you ease up a bit on the fellows that can't trust their wives with money. Most likely they know how they fool away money their own selves, and so get to thinking everybody else does it too. And put it a little stronger, if you can, how everybody ought to keep accounts for their own information and guidance, but not because they are under any obligation to render them up to any "liege lords"—not by a jugful! ESTER.

Neuletown, N. J.

[We prefer to let the above letter stand as it was written, only adding that we entirely approve of the general idea of the writer, and are glad that she was able to retain her sweetness of temper while writing it. Some women get unduly excited under such circumstances and say things in their haste that they repent at their leisure. But the mildness with which our fair correspondent (we say *fair* notwithstanding her disclaimer) treats the subject, is remarkable.—ED.]

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Broiled Squirrel.—Skin the squirrel, open down the back, wash thoroughly, and wipe dry with a towel. Put it on a gridiron over a slow fire and cook until tender. Season with salt and pepper while cooking. Serve with melted butter poured over it. Very tender and delicious.

Canning Pumpkins.—In answer to Mrs. E. J. W.'s inquiry in RURAL NEW-YORKER of Sept. 9, I send the following well-tested recipe:—Pare the pumpkin, cut it into small pieces, and cook it in as little water as possible until tender; when cool enough, strain through a strong cloth, or put in a colander until perfectly drained free of the juice; then put in jars and place them over the fire in cold water. Let them boil an hour or an hour and a half. Remove them from the fire and seal as you do any other kind of fruit. I have done pumpkin in the fall and had it to make pies of the following Fourth of July; and the pumpkin was then so good as when first cooked.—Mrs. L. M. T., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

SELECTED RECIPES.

Fricasseed Beef.—Take any piece of beef from the fore-quarter, such as is generally used for corning, and cook it tender in just water sufficient to have it all evaporate in cooking. When about half done, put in salt enough to season it well, and half a teaspoonful of pepper. If the water should not be done out soon enough, turn it off and let the beef fry fifteen minutes, turning it often. It is very good, and preferred by some to the best roast beef. Make the gravy of the water turned off, or add water from the teakettle and one or two tablespoonfuls of flour. Serve with vegetables and salad, or apple-sauce.

Stewed Rabbit.—Wash and soak the rabbit thoroughly; then wipe it quite dry, cut it into joints, roll in flour, and brown it slightly in four or five ounces of butter, with some bits of lean ham; then pour on by degrees 1½ pints of gravy and stew the meat very gently an hour and a half or two hours; add salt if needed. When it has stewed a half hour or more, put in half the rind of a lemon, cut thin, and ten minutes before serving stir in a large dessert-spoonful of rice flour, mixed smooth with two tablespoonfuls of mushroom catsup, quarter of a teaspoonful of mace, and less of cayenne.

Another.—Boil the rabbit in a good deal of water and skim it so often as anything rises to the surface. Cook until tender. Make a gravy of sweet cream, butter and flour, a little parsley chopped fine, pepper, salt, and stew a few minutes. Serve in a dish, with the gravy poured over it.

Fried Rabbit.—After the rabbit has been thoroughly cleaned, put it into boiling water and let it boil ten minutes; drain it, and when cold cut it into joints; dip them into beaten eggs and then into fine cracker crumbs, seasoned with pepper and salt. Fry them in butter over a slow fire for fifteen minutes; simmer two or three strips of lemon-rind in a little gravy until it is well-flavored with it; boil the liver and heart of the rabbit until tender: mince them fine; thicken the gravy with an ounce of butter and a tablespoonful of flour; add the minced liver and heart; give the sauce a minute's boil, stir in two tablespoonfuls of cream, and last of all a small quantity of lemon juice. Dish the rabbit, pour the sauce under it, and serve very hot.

Hygienic Information.

DIO LEWIS ON WHOLESOME FOOD.

For Breakfast.—Oatmeal porridge with milk and sugar.

Or, Graham mush, with a little good syrup.

Or, cracked wheat with milk and sugar.

Or, baked potatoes with bread and butter.

Or, beefsteak or mutton chop, with baked potatoes and bread and butter.

If you are thin and need fat use the first three; if you are too fat use the last named two.

Drink cold water or a little weak coffee.

Dinner.—Beef or mutton, roasted or stewed, with any vegetables you may like (though tomatoes should be used sparingly), good bread and butter, and close the meal with a glass of weak lemonade. Eat no desert unless it be a little fruit, and eat nothing more until the next morning.

There is no rule in regard to diet about which I am so fixed in my convictions as that nothing should be eaten after dinner, and I think that the dinner should be taken early in the day, not later, if it can be so managed, than 2 o'clock. In regard to the precise hour of the dinner I am not so clear, though for myself 1 o'clock is the best hour; but in reference to the omission of the third meal, I have, after long observation, no doubt whatever.

Hundreds of persons have come to me with indigestion, in some of its many forms, and have experienced such relief in a single week from omitting the supper that I have, for a number of years, depended upon this point in the diet as the best item in the prescriptions for indigestions. I have never met one person suffering from indigestion, who was not greatly relieved at once by omitting the third meal.

Eat nothing between meals, not even an apple or peach. If you eat fruit let it be with the breakfast or dinner.

Cooked fruit is best for persons with weak digestion. I have met hundreds of people who could digest a large beefsteak without a pang, but could not manage a single uncooked apple.

I think certain dietetic reformers have somewhat overrated the value af fruit.

Avoid cake, pie, all sweetmeats, nuts, raisins and candies.

Manage your stomach as above, and at the end of ten years you will look back upon those table habits as the source of a great advantage and happiness.

For thirty years I have been a constant and careful observer, (I have no hobbies about diet) and in the light of my own experience and these long observations, I assure you the table habits I advise are vital to health and happiness.

DECEPTIVE BEVERAGES.

IN corroboration of what was said in the RURAL NEW-YORKER Sept. 9, regarding home-made wines and similar drinks containing alcohol, we quote the following about ginger-beer from the Chemist and Druggist:

It may perhaps startle many total abstainers to learn that one of their favorite beverages, ginger-beer, is really a fermented liquor, and contains alcohol in proportions varying from two to four or five per cent. Nevertheless, such, according to Dr. Bathurst Woodman, in the Sanitary Record is the case. "I should be very sorry," writes that gentlemen, "to diminish the sale of ginger-beer, which I regard as one of the best of our summer beverages, containing, as it does, in almost all samples, either free citric or tartartic acid, or the almost equally beneficial bitartrate of potash. I have before me the recipes of several large makers, and take the first that comes to hand. It contains besides ginger, tartaric and citric acids, 200 pounds of sugar to 180 gallons of water. These ingredients are duly fermented, &c., and bottled. Now, 200 pounds of sugar (cane sugar) will produce in fermentation nearly 100 pints of alcohol; and making all allowances for loss in yeast, by evaporation in bottling, &c., it is quite plain that this liquor will contain about four per cent. of alcohol, and the result of actual experiment shows the same. The other recipes only differ slightly in the amount of the saccharine substance, as regards the water, or the kind of sugar present, or the acid employed. This percentage of alcohol is of course, about half the strength of most of the malt liquors in common use by the middle classes of this country, but about equal to many of the cheaper ales, and to much of the beer drank in Germany and other parts of the Continent."

NERVOUSNESS AND NERVINES.

NERVOUSNESS, says Cassell's Magazine, is one of the prices we have to pay for civilization; the nervous savage is a being unheard of. For this disorder, which is partly of mental and partly of a bodily nature, relief is sought in various ways, and among these we may place the employment of narcotics. The temporary relief afforded by these drugs is very apt to lead those who suffer from nervous sensations to put too much trust in and resort too frequently to them. In the long run they prove most destructive to health. Their use of late has become so frequent as to threaten society with a serious evil. It has been boldly contended that chloral is to be found in the work-boxes and baskets of nearly every lady in the west end of the metropolis, "to calm her nerves." No doubt this is an exaggeration, but it is a fact that in New York chloral punch had become an institution scarcely a year after the introduction of chloral into medical practice. And now it turns out that Germany—"sober, orderly, paternally-ruled Germany"—has such a thing as morphia disease spreading among its population. The symptoms are not unlike those of opium-eating. Experience suggests that persons suffering from this disease should at once be deprived of the drug. Their willfulness and liability to relapse, however, are so great that it is said that only about twenty-five per cent. have been seen to recover in a large series of cases.

A SIMPLE REMEDY FOR SMALL-POX.

EDWARD HINE, a correspondent of the Liverpool Mercury, in a communication to that paper speaks as follows:

I am willing to risk my reputation as a public man if the worst case of small-pox cannot be effectually cured in three days, simply by cream of tartar. This is the sure and never-failing remedy: One ounce of cream of tartar dissolved in a pint of boiling water, to be drank when cold, at short intervals. It can be taken at any time, and is a preventive as well as a curative. It is known to have cured in a hundred thousand cases without a failure. I have myself restored hundreds by this means. It never leaves a mark, never causes blindness, and always prevents tedious lingering. If the people would only try it and report all the cures to you, you would require to employ many columns if you gave them publicity.

IT'S A PITY.—Yes; its a pity that with all the nostrums in use for curing a sick person, and the thousands of good rules to be observed for keeping onesself in health, people will get sick and die. The why of all this we leave for the doctors to determine.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

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A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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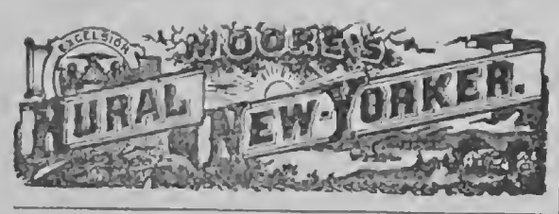

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WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

THIS is a very simple question to ask one's-self, but frequently a difficult one to answer. However much we may dislike to consult past events, it becomes positively necessary in all rural affairs in order to insure substantial progress in the future. The growing season is nearly over, and the farmer and the gardener may now safely ask himself the question, what have I learned which may be of benefit to me next year? What crops have paid me best and upon what kind of soils and under what kind of treatment have they succeeded best? Also, what breeds of stock have shown themselves the most profitable and least adapted to my locality and circumstances? The question, which I should prefer to keep, or what I would prefer to do? must frequently be substituted for, what can I do to the best advantage? for circumstances and local conditions are often hard taskmasters, consequently, it is better to acquiesce in their demands than revolt and fare worse.

The farmer should be able to learn from past experience how to avoid a repetition of errors. If his wheat failed on a certain piece of land through a superabundance of water standing upon the surface or remaining in the soil, it ought to teach him that draining in some form was demanded in order to avoid such losses in future crops, and in such instances the question we have propounded is quite pertinent, although it is to be feared that many proceed on the hypothesis that through good luck another failure may, by chance, be averted. Animals may be lost or nearly ruined through an insufficiency of food or exposure to the cold storms of winter, and while some men learn useful lessons from such disasters and make provision for avoiding them in the future, others soon forget, or hope and "guess" the like will never occur again. It is just here that we find the key which opens the doors of success to one class, or keeps them closed to another. To the first every event in and phase of their business, becomes a matter worthy of thought and study from which something useful is learned.

The visionary man who builds "air castles" or looks forward to some grand event or wonderful turning point in his fortunes is proportionately more liable to disappointments than he who seeks only small things, steadily gathering them in as they come in his way. This principle holds good in the acquisition of useful knowledge, and he who learns a little from each success or failure and makes a good use of such accumulations, can scarcely fail to become one of the wise men of his profession. It is an old saying, that "Experience is one of the best of teachers;" but some learn more and much faster under the same tutelage, hence the difference in the results, one reaching a higher plane than another. The frequent assertions "that farmers should work more with their brains and less with their hands," was doubtless prompted by the far too frequent and apparent neglect to profit by their own individual experience. But it is probably unnecessary to pursue this subject so far as to particularize the various phases which it assumes when applied to the practical details of agriculture or horticulture; still, we earnestly conjure our readers to heed the question asked above, and if no good come of it they may rest assured that either the season has been ill-spent or their perceptive faculties are greatly at fault.

TUBE WELLS.

EXPOSURE OF THE EXTORTIONISTS.

UPON another page will be found a complete history of this system of direct taxation inaugurated by a few adventurers and assisted by the excessive stupidity of the Patent Office at Washington. All those of our readers who have Tube Wells should carefully peruse the article and from it get a definite idea of the enormity of this extortion.

It seems that one Col. GREEN while quartered with his regiment in N. Y. State just before the war of the Rebellion, suggested that water might be obtained by inserting a tube in a hole made in the ground by an iron bar and directed one of his Lieutenants named MUDGE to make the experiment. It was made, and proved a partial success. MUDGE subsequently, with the aid of one SUGGETT, a well digger, drove a number of wells on this principle but finding it unprofitable, abandoned it. SUGGETT afterwards continued the business and made it both successful and profitable. In the meantime, Col. GREEN had been dismissed from the army and, with plenty of leisure on his hands, watched SUGGETT's progress. Success being assured, he applied for and obtained a patent upon Tube Wells. This was about 1867. In the meantime, in 1863 SUGGETT had obtained a patent and in 1865 MUDGE had also obtained one, all of them being upon nearly the same thing. In 1866 the three fought it out at the Patent Office upon a declaration of difference and MUDGE was thrown out in the cold upon all his claims.

SUGGETT had become rich on his patent for tubular drill and its points and perforations, MUDGE had been thrown out of the race, and GREEN had his patent upon the process of sinking the hole in the ground. Unfortunately however, long before either of these noble patentees knew the difference between a well and a cistern—in 1829—a reprint of MAC KENZIE's 5,000 Receipts, publishes to the world "a receipt to raise water in all situations," which is substantially the processes covered by GREEN's and SUGGETT's patents.

GREEN has now set about exacting royalty upon all Tube Wells. Here is the direct taxation and the extortion—compelling innocent people to pay royalty to a patent which should never have been issued and which cannot stand. GREEN has already secured one decision in his favor and will make the most of it till it is reversed. His system is to summon a man by process to court so far away that he would rather pay than contest. In union is strength, and certainly this should be resisted by every one before GREEN is emboldened to do greater damage. It is, to be sure, a difficult thing to ask one man to take up a fight of principle for the community's benefit; but when it is considered that there are, at a low estimate, 750,000 of Tube Wells in the United States, a resistance has only to be known to receive substantial sympathy.

RURAL NOTES.

The Great Explosion.—On our news page this week will be found a condensed account of one of the most wonderful pieces of engineering work ever known. An accurate calculation of the power of 50,000 lbs. of nitro glycerine at a given point upon certain resistance of rock and water, resulted in a complete success without damage to anything except the rock intended to be destroyed. Gen. NEWTON, like his namesake, has taught the world something before unknown, and entirely disappointed the croaking prophets who looked for terrible damage all over the island of Manhattan, when Hallett's Point explosion should take place.

The Fifth Annual Session of the National Agricultural Congress occurred at Philadelphia, Sept. 12–14. Several addresses were made, among which was the address of welcome by Dr. KENNEDY, of the Philadelphia Polytechnic College. This was followed by papers and address by BURNET LANDRETH, W. C. FLAGG, G. E. MORROW, JOS. HARRIS, J. R. DODGE, Dr. E. L. STURTEVANT, (read for him,) L. F. ALLEN, X. A. WILLARD, ALEX. DALMAR, THOMAS CLAIBORNE, THOS. P. JANES, President WELCH, of Iowa College of Agriculture and Prof. TOWNSEND of Ohio. The next Annual Session will take place at Chicago.

Holland Horseradish.—The London Garden reports that large quantities of Horseradish at this time is being imported into Covent Garden Market from Holland. It is closely packed in bundles, each containing about twenty-four sticks, which are arranged tightly in large casks or butts, each holding 200 or 300 bundles. This kind of produce is now selling at from 3s. to 4s. per bundle; indeed, the price is the same all the year round. Horseradish is one of the most reumnerative of all market garden crops; it will grow on any deep, rich soil, and it requires but little labor after planting until the produce is dug for market.

Fighting Wheat Rings.—The Grangers of California are reported to have united to break up what is termed the "Wheat Ring," and they propose to ship their thirty million bushels of wheat direct and on vessels chartered by themselves. Of course, in doing this they form another "Wheat Ring," or break up one monopoly in organizing another; but as competition is said to be the life of trade, we can only wish the Grangers success in this enterprise.

Jerusalem Artichoke.—The Jerusalem Artichoke plantations made in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS last spring, have been a grand success in spite of the severe drought. Small pieces of tubers planted last spring have made a splendid growth; the plants are now in bloom, the stalks being six to eight feet high. There are two varieties, but which will prove to be the most productive cannot be determined until the tubers are dug. We are quite sure that in these plants farmers may defy droughts in producing food for hogs and fodder for cattle.

Carbolic Acid and Silk-Worms. One of our scientific Entomologists has been experimenting on the diseases of silk-worms and reports to us that he has succeeded in preventing disease with some of the most delicate species by keeping the air in the feeding room slightly perfumed with carbolic acid. Of course, not enough should be used to injure the worms, but only sufficient is evaporated to be perceptible to the olfactories of a person on coming in from the open air. Will some of the raisers of the silk-worm give this a trial and report results?

N. J. Cranberry Growers' Association.—This organization held a meeting at Philadelphia, Sept. 5, at which there was a large attendance. Reports were made by the Foreign Trade Committee and also the Stand Measure, and many other useful reports given upon various other interesting matters connected with this industry.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THE monthly consolidated crop reports sent out from the Department of Agriculture of the State of Georgia, is a model of brevity and how to condense a great amount of information into a small space.

THE various State and County Fairs throughout the country have thus far been well attended, although the Great Centennial may have drawn away some exhibitors and visitors through its immense attractiveness.

THE Thwack raspberry is a new variety now claiming attention and highly indorsed by many persons who have seen it, but we are not aware that it has been cultivated in the Eastern States. See advertisement in our column this week.

THERE appears to have been more than the usual number of deaths this season among noted thoroughbred animals. Perhaps this has been the result of over-feeding or care in getting the animals in fine trim for exhibition purposes.

ATTENTION is called to the Horse-power advertisement of the Bellaire Manufacturing Company, in another column. The necessity for a light power such as this has long been felt, and those interested will do well to correspond with the manufacturers.

WE have received from R. S. JOHNSON of Stockley, Del., his wholesale Price List of Nursery Stock. Those who contemplate the purchase of Fruit Trees this fall or next spring, would do well to send at once for this List and get from it an idea of Mr. JOHNSON's prices.

IF it should be clearly shown that the grouse on the prairies and among the mountains feed upon grasshoppers and their eggs almost exclusively, as our best authorities on this subject claim, it may be necessary in the future to protect these birds by stringent laws enacted by our National Government.

WE are in receipt of a catalogue of the Moundale Herd of Bates and Princess Short-Horns, property of H. P. THOMPSON, Esq., of Thompson Station, Clark Co., Ky., to be sold at auction Wednesday, Oct. 11. This catalogue is gotten up in superb style, with portraits of some of the finest animals in this noted herd which, to our mind, shows that breeders of Short-Horns are far from losing any faith in the present or future of this celebrated breed of animals.

IT is quite amusing as well as instructive to get a nurseryman's catalogue like one just received of the Honey Moon Nursery of Jacksonville, Florida. The Proprietor, L. A. HARDEE, does not praise or recommend all the articles he keeps on sale, but gives his opinion of varieties in language which cannot be well misunderstood. For instance, in speaking of the Guava, he says, "Cannot be grown in any part of Florida for profit."

GIFFORD'S CATTLE STANCHIONS, invented and made by W. C. GIFFORD, Jamestown, N. Y., are attracting no small attention among Dairy and Stock men. Their introduction has operated something like an adhesive plaster—they stick whenever and wherever introduced. Our Dairy Editor, Mr. WILLARD, says of them:—"The most perfect cattle fastener in use. I fully recommend their universal adoption"—which is vigorous language for one of Mr. W.'s known conservatism concerning new inventions. Mr. GIFFORD is a pleasant man to deal with, and Ruralists who are interested in the subject will not do wrong in investigating a meritorious novelty. Circulars, &c., free.

WHAT THE BULLET SANG.

O joy of creation,
To be!
O rapture to fly
And be free!
Be the battle lost or won,
Though its smoke shall hide the sun,
I shall find my Love—the one
Born for me!

I shall know him where he stands,
All alone,
With the power in his hands
Not o'erthrown;
I shall know him by his face,
By his godlike front and grace
I shall hold him for a space,
All my own!

It is he—O my Love!
So bold!
It is I—all thy love
Foretold!
It is I. O Love, what bliss!
Dost thou answer to my kiss?
Ah, sweetheart, what is this?
Lieth there
So cold! [*Bret Harte.*

NOMADIC LIFE.

THE accompanying illustration gives a spirited idea of Bedouin life and manners. The Bedouins roam over Arabia, Irak and the eastern and southeastern parts of Syria. They live in tribes of from two hundred to twenty thousand, moving from place to place as the exigencies of their flocks and herds require. From the earliest ages they have led a pastoral life, dwelling in tents and rearing cattle with which they supplied the cities, going out on plundering excursions or spending their leisure time in horse-racing, athletic sports, story telling and, since the introduction of tobacco, smoking. All domestic labor, except milking and spinning, is left to the women and slaves. The women also perform the part of hair-dressers to their husbands in curling their locks. The Bedouin despises all labor and is proud of his liberty and genealogy, which he traces back to MOHAMMED, ISHMAEL, or JOKTAM.

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 205.]

MICHIGAN.

By the treaty of 1783 all forts and military posts within the line named as the boundaries of the United States, were to be surrendered by Great Britain; but in many places in the northwest this was not done at once, and it was not until 1795 that Detroit, the principal post in Michigan, was occupied by Federal troops. From this time Michigan was included in the Territory Northwest of the Ohio.

In 1805 that part of the country now known as the lower peninsula, was organized with a Territorial Government. To this was added in 1818, when Illinois became a State, all that portion of the Northwest Territory lying north of Indiana and Illinois. In 1835 the residents of the lower peninsula formed a Constitution, preliminary to application for admission as a State. This Constitution declared the southern line of Michigan should be the line fixed by the ordinance of 1787, which was the meridian of the southern extremity of Lake Michigan, and which it was supposed would intersect the northern boundary of the United States somewhere in Lake Erie. This supposition was erroneous, Lake Michigan extending further south than was then believed. It will be remembered that on the admission of Ohio it was determined that should this line be, as was suspicioned, further south than it had been supposed to be, then the north line of Ohio should terminate at a point on Maumee Bay about seven miles above the line of 1787.

Now as Michigan was about to have a State Government, some of the people residing between these two lines — that claimed by Michigan known locally as the Fulton line, and that claimed by Ohio known as the Harris line — found it would be more convenient for them to belong to that State, while most adhered to Ohio and petitioned that State to support them in their rights as citizens thereof. There were enough of the minority to make a very respectable opposition and a double set of local officers were appointed. A sheriff acting under Michigan authority arrested some persons who rebelled against the law as he understood it, and conveyed them to Monroe, where was the jail of the county of that name. This was looked upon by some as an outrage.

"Then there was mounting in hot haste; the steed,
The mustering squadron and the clattering car,
Went pouring forward with impetuous speed,
And swiftly forming in the ranks of war."

Ohio troops, led by their Gov. LUCAS in person, marched, early in 1835, to the scene of action and encamped at old Fort Miami, eight miles above Toledo and four miles above the disputed territory. Whether this was in ignorance, by mistake, or with a desire to carry the war into the enemy's country, doth not appear.

In the meantime, the Michigan soldiers were on the war-path. By an adroit flank movement they marched around the Buckeye troops, entered Toledo and took possession of the town. "Here," saith the record, "they overran the watermelon patches, made fowls very scarce, demolished utterly the ice-house of Major STICKNEY, burst open the front door of his residence and carried him off, as a prisoner of war, to Monroe."

But now appeared upon the field of action the white-winged angel of peace—in fact, two of them, in the persons of RICHARD BUSH, of Pennsylvania, and Col. HOWARD, of Maryland, ambassadors from Congress, with power to negotiate. An armistice was declared, the armies dispersed soon after, and the question at issue was referred to Congress, which, at its next session, proposed to Michigan to surrender all supposed rights to the tracts in controversy which contained less than 1200 square miles, and receive therefore that immense territory now called the Northern Peninsula, so well known for its rich mineral deposits. This proposition was at first declined; but on more mature deliberation it was accepted, and Michigan, with its present bounds, became a State in 1837.

THE NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY.

Very soon after the Treaty of 1783, difference of opinion arose as to the boundary between Maine and Canada, and occasional collisions took place between the settlers on the borders. These finally became so frequent and engendered so much ill feeling, that it was felt necessary by the Government of Maine to appropriate means and send troops to the disputed territory to protect the rights of its citizens. Fearing some hasty action would be taken, Mr. TYLER, then President, sent Gen. SCOTT thither to use such conciliatory measures as would preserve peace, pending negotiations. In the meantime, the correspondence between the two countries on this and other questions, had reached a serious point.

Finally, on intimation to the British Government that a commissioner empowered to discuss and settle all questions at issue would be received in a friendly spirit, Lord ASHBURTON was appointed and Mr. WEBSTER, then Secretary of State, represented the United States Government. Beside this Maine boundary, several other matters received their attention, among which was the northern bounds of New York, from Lake Champlain to the St. Lawrence. These had been fixed by the treaty of 1783 on the 45th parallel of longitude, and in 1774 a survey to establish boundaries was made. To this line so fixed, the State of New York extended its jurisdiction, and the Federal Government began the erection of extensive fortifications at Rouse's Point, at the head of Lake Champlain. But in 1817-18 a new survey was made with better instruments and more care, which showed that the old line, instead of being on the 45th parallel, coincided therewith only at a single point, and that the United States' fortifications had been erected on British territory more than half a mile above the line.

Now the country in Maine between the disputed boundary lines, was in itself of but little importance, being sterile and rocky. But Britain coveted it for the reason that though it was the best route for a road from New Brunswick to the Upper St. Lawrence, and in consideration of the cession of that portion lying between the upper portion of the St. Johns River and the line as claimed by the United States, granted the free navigation of said river and established the northern boundary of New York on the line as run in 1774. This left the north and northwestern boundaries of Maine to be the St. Johns and St. Francis Rivers to Pohenagamiok Lake and thence in a southwesterly direction along the highlands to the northeast corner of New Hampshire. To satisfy Maine and Massachusetts for this portion of their territory so ceded and to which they had undoubted right, the Federal Government paid the States $5,000,000.

THE NORTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY.

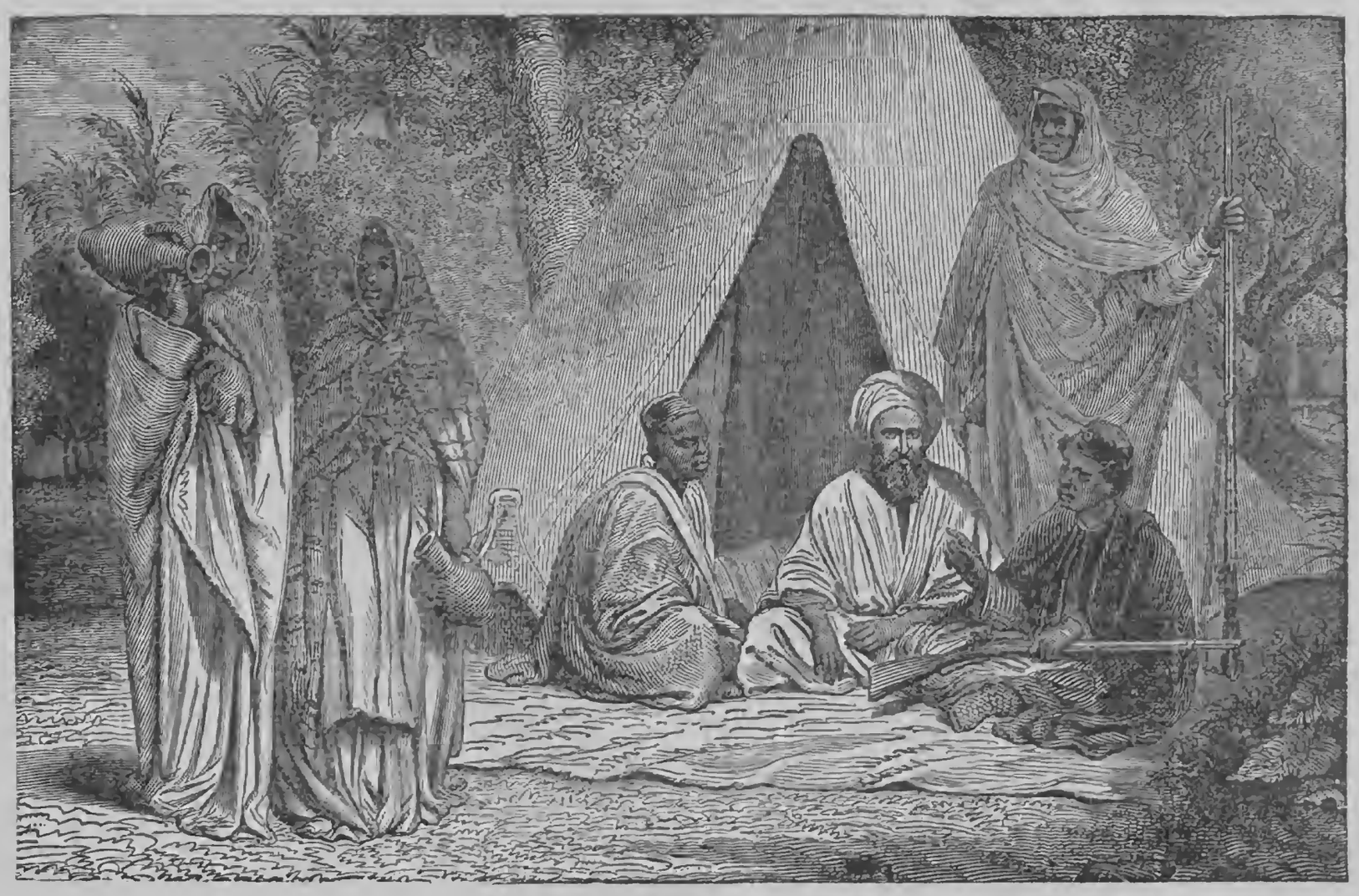
While the question of the annexation of Texas was (particularly in the South) occupying public attention, the unsettled north-western boundary seemed likely to be a source of trouble with Great Britain. By treaty made at London in 1818, the 49th° had been fixed as the boundary line between the two countries from Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, leaving the line further west to be determined at a future time. And now—in 1844—at the instance of Great Britain, the question was taken up. Mr. CALHOUN, then Secretary of State, proposed to continue the line on the 49th° to the ocean. Britain would not consent, claiming that when the line on the 49th° reached the Columbia, it should follow that river to its mouth. The grounds for the British claim south to Columbia River were, settlement by the Northwestern Fur Company on the head waters thereof and also on Frazier River, the explorations of MCKENZIE who, in 1793, found the upper waters of the Columbia and reached the Pacific in latitude 52° 20′, and occupation of Astoria in 1812, which had not been relinquished. No agreement was reached.

The Presidential Campaign was now being fought. The Democracy of the South had raised the flag, "Annexation or Disunion." Democrats of the North who could not cheerfully fight under that flag, but who desired the election of Mr. POLK, inscribed on their banners, "All of Oregon or none; 54° 40′ or fight;" giving as reasons for that claim—(1) The treaty with Spain, the first discoverer, in 1819; (2) Capt. GREY'S discovery of the Columbia River in 1790; (3) the Louisiana purchase in 1803; (4) the exploration of the Columbia from mouth to source by LEWIS and CLARK in 1803; (5) settlement of Astoria in 1811; (6) Contiguity and continuity of settlement.

Mr. POLK was elected President, and in his first message to Congress (1845) declared our title to the whole of Oregon was "clear and indisputable," and intimated that unless it was conceded war would ensue. This official position, after the offer of latitude 49°, was a surprise to Great Britain and no further negotiations were offered. In a few months the President, thinking probably that the political fever had abated, caused the proposition to establish the line on 49° to be renewed. Britain again declined.

Up to this time the territory had been, by agreement, in the joint occupancy of the two Governments, subject to abrogation on twelve months' notice. Congress voted to give the notice. Soon after Britain intimated that if 49° was again offered it would be accepted. Mr. POLK, anxious to get himself out of the difficulty and to avoid the responsibility, consulted the Senate and promised to abide by its advice. The Senate said "settle," and the line was established to run on the 49th parallel "to the middle of the channel which separates the Continent from Vancouver's Island" and thence by the main channel to the ocean. This, it was hoped, settled the question forever. But when, in consequence of emigration and the projection of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Puget's Sound became of importance, it was a question of some moment which nation should hold and occupy the islands of the San Juan archipelago, as they command the entrance to the Sound. Whatever other faults the English Government may have, that of omitting to make claim to whatever it wants, is not one. The assertion was made that it was the intention of the treaty that this line, after leaving the 49th parallel, should follow the channel nearest the main land—although, in places, narrow, shallow and intricate—rather than as claimed by the United States, the one between the Islands Vancouver and San Juan which, beside being wide and deep, was the more direct.

The question was submitted for arbitration to King WILLIAM of Prussia, now Emperor of Germany, who decided that the claim made by the United States was just and valid, and the bounds were so determined.—[To be continued.



BEDOUIN LIFE IN SYRIA.

The Story-Teller.

WAS IT WORTH A LEG?

IT was in the autumn of the year 1782 that a surgeon in Boulogne, of the name of Etienne Lefebvre, received a letter, not bearing any signature, requesting him to repair on the following day to a country-house which was situated on the road leading to Calais, and to bring along such instruments as would be required for performing an operation. Lefebvre was at that period well known as a distinguished and successful operator; so much so, indeed, that he was not unfrequently sent for from great distances. He had served for a considerable time in the navy, and his manners had, therefore, acquired a certain degree of bluntness; but when you once became acquainted with him, you could not help liking him for the natural and unaffected goodness of his heart.

He was naturally somewhat surprised at this anonymous communication; for, although the time and place were, as already stated, mentioned with great minuteness, there was no clew afforded by which the writer could be identified. He, therefore, came to the conclusion that some of his jocular friends were making fun of him, and he did not keep the appointment.

Three days afterwards he again received a similar summons but couched in more pressing terms than the first, and he was informed that at nine o'clock in the morning a carriage would be sent to bring him to the place where he was anxiously expected. Accordingly next morning sure enough, on the last stroke of nine, a carriage drove up to his door. The doctor no longer made any hesitation, but at once took his seat in the carriage. As he was getting in, he inquired of the coachman where he was to be taken to; but the man appeared either not to know or did not choose to tell; but as he spoke in English, Lefebvre said to himself, "So it is an Englishman to whom I am summoned;" and he accordingly prepared himself for any exhibition of eccentricity on the part of one of that nation which even now is so little understood by Continentals. At length the carriage stopped and the doctor hastened into the house.

He was received at the entrance by a fine-looking young man of about twenty-five years of age, who requested him to walk into a large and handsome room on the first floor. His accent showed him to be an Englishman. The following conversation ensued between them:

"You have sent for me," said the doctor.

"I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken in coming here," rejoined the Englishman. "Be so good as to seat yourself at table, where you will find chocolate, coffee or wine, in case you would like to partake of anything before commencing the operation."

"But first show me the patient. I wish to satisfy myself that an operation is absolutely necessary."

"It is necessary, Monsier Lefebvre; pray be seated. I have entire confidence in you; only listen to me. Here is a purse containing 100 guineas, which I offer you as a fee for the operation you are asked to perform, no matter what the result may be. In case of your refusing compliance with my request, you see this pistol, it is loaded, and you are

in my power. As I hope for salvation, I will blow your brains out!"

"Sir, I am not to be deterred from doing what I consider proper by any fear of your pistol. But what do you desire? What am I expected to do?"

"You must cut my right leg off."

"With all my heart," answered the surgeon, thinking that this was a characteristic specimen of those mad English; "and your hand also, if necessary or desirable. However, unless I am greatly mistaken, your leg is perfectly sound. I saw you walk down stairs with the greatest activity. What can be the matter with your leg?"

"Nothing; but it must come off."

"Sir, you are mad."

"That is no concern of yours, Monsieur Lefebvre."

"What harm can that handsome limb have done?"

"None at all; still, you must make up your mind to amputate it."

"Sir, I have no acquaintance with you; give me some proof that you are in sound mind," naturally demanded the doctor.

"Will you consent to my wishes, Monsieur Lefebvre?"

"As soon as you can assign any adequate or reasonable motive for so unnecessary an operation."

"I cannot at present enter into any explanations—in a year, perhaps, I will do so. But I will bet you, sir, that then you will acknowledge that my reasons for my present seemly extravagant conduct are most pure, manly and noble, and even rational."

"It is quite impossible for me," remonstrated the surgeon, "to comply until you tell me your name, place of residence, position and family."

"You shall be made acquainted with all these particulars at some future time, but not at present. I beg you to consider me a man of honor."

"A man of honor does not utter unjustifiable threats against his doctor. I have to perform a duty even towards you, who are a stranger to me. My reasons for refusing to accede to your absurd request are, as you must admit, sound and just. Do you wish to be the murderer of an innocent father of a large family?"

"Well, Monsieur Lefebvre," replied the Englishman, taking up the pistol, "I will not fire upon you, and yet I will compel you to cut off this leg. What you refuse to do to oblige me, through love of gain or fear of a bullet, you shall do through humanity."

"How so, sir?"

"I intend to shatter my leg with this pistol and that, too, before your eyes," answered the Englishman who accordingly seated himself, cocked the pistol and then took deliberate aim at his knee-joint.

Lefebvre rushed forward to prevent him, but the Englishman coolly exclaimed:

"Do not come near; if you do, I fire. Now only answer me this question:—Do you wish to prolong my suffering needlessly?"

"Sir, you are mad!" answered the doctor in despair; "but have your own way—I am ready to do as you wish."

Everything was ready for the operation. As soon as the surgeon took up his instruments the Englishman lighted his cigar and declared that he would smoke until the operation was concluded. He kept his word. The lifeless leg rested upon the floor, but the Englishman still smoked on. The operation had been performed in a most masterly manner and, thanks to Dr. Lefebvre's skill and attention, the patient soon became perfectly recovered although, of course, he had to be supplied with a wooden leg. He rewarded the surgeon, whom he had learned to esteem more and more every day; thanked him with tears in his eyes for the great obligation under which he had laid him, and in a short time started for England.

About two months after his patient's departure the surgeon received the following letter from England:

"Inclosed you will receive a token of my boundless gratitude—a bill of exchange on my banker in Paris for 6,500 francs. You have rendered me the happiest of men by ridding me of a limb which was an obstacle in the way of my happiness. Learn, then, the reason of what you termed my madness. You assured me that there could be no justifiable motive for so singular a mutilation. I offered you a wager and I think you were right in refusing it. After my second return from the East Indies, I became acquainted with Susan Black, the most accomplished and fascinating of women. I sought her hand in marriage. Her fortune and family were such as met with the entire approbation of my parents. As for me, I thought only of her charms. I was soon happy enough to gain her affections—a fact which she did not attempt to deny; but she, at the same time, firmly refused to become my wife. In vain did I beseech her to do so; in vain did her relations all second my desire. She was inflexible. For a long time I could not discover the reason of her opposition to a marriage which she herself confessed would make her happy; until, at last, one of her sisters revealed the fatal secret to me. Susan was a marvel of beauty, but she was so unfortunate as to have lost a leg, and she had consequently condemned herself to eternal celibacy. My resolution was quickly formed, and I determined to become like her. Thanks to you, my dear Lefebvre, my wishes were soon accomplished. I returned with my wooden leg to London. I hastened to gain information of Miss Black. The report had been spread, and I myself had taken care to write to my friends in England to the same effect, that I had had the misfortune to fracture my leg, and that amputation had been found absolutely necessary. Every one expressed the greatest concern at my misfortune. Susan fainted on the first occasion of presenting myself. She was for a long time inconsolable; but at length she consented to become my wife. It was only on the morning after our marriage that I confessed to her the sacrifice by means of which I had at length been enabled to gain her consent to be mine. The avowal increased her love. Oh! my excellent friend, had I ten legs to lose, I would give them all up for the sake of my beloved Susan. So long as I live, rely on my gratitude. If ever you visit England, do not fail to come here so that I may make you acquainted with my wife; and then tell me whether or not I was out of my senses. Yours faithfully,

"ARTHUR OXLEY."

Monsieur Lefebvre answered the letter of his English friend in the following terms:

"SIR:—Accept my best thanks for your very generous present—for so I must term what you have sent me—having been previously magnificently remunerated for my trouble, as you were pleased to term it. I wish you, as well as your charming wife, all imaginable happiness. True it is that to give a leg in exchange for a beautiful, tender, loving and virtuous wife, is not too much, provided the happiness endures. Adam sacrificed one of his ribs to become possessed of our common mother, Eve, and more than one man has laid down his life for the sake of his beloved. Notwithstanding all this, allow me to adhere to my former opinion. For the present you are doubtless right, for you are now in the honeymoon; but at some future time you will acknowledge the truth of what I advanced. I beg your attention to what I am about to say. I fear that in two years you will repent of having had your leg amputated above the knee-joint. You will think that to have it cut off lower down would have been quite sufficient. In three years you will be persuaded that the sacrifice of a foot would have answered all purposes; in four, that of the big toe; in five, the little one; and at last, you will have confessed to have parted with a nail, without necessity, would have been a piece of egregious folly. All this I assert without in the slightest degree impugning the merit of your admirable helpmete. In my own youthful days I would have, at any time, given my life for my mistress; but never my leg, for I should have feared repentance for the rest of my days. Had I really done so, I should have every moment said to myself, 'Lefebvre, you are a madman.' With highest consideration, yours very obediently,

"ETIENNE LEFEBVRE."

In the year 1793, during the Reign of Terror, the surgeon of Boulogne, having been accused of being an aristocrat by one of his younger professional brethren who envied him his practice, was obliged to take refuge in London, in order to save his neck from the guillotine. Being without employment or acquaintance, he inquired for the residence of his former patient, Mr. Oxley. He was directed to it and, on arriving at the house, he sent up his name and was immediately admitted. In a huge arm-chair, seated before the fire with a bottle of wine beside him, sat a portly personage, whose size was so great that it was with difficulty that he could rise to welcome his visitor. "Welcome, Monsieur Lefebvre!" exclaimed the huge Englishman. "Do not be offended at my receiving you in this manner, but my cursed wooden leg won't allow me to do anything. You have come no doubt, my friend, to see if in the long run you were not right."

"I am a fugitive seeking an asylum among you."

"You shall stay with me, for you are really a wise man. You will console me. Do you know, my dear Lefebvre, that, had it not been for this abominable wooden leg rendering me useless, I should by this time have been Admiral of the Blue. I spend my time in reading the newspapers, and in curses that I am tied here when everybody is up and doing. Remain here; you shall comfort me."

"Your charming wife can doubtless do that better than I can."

"Oh, as for that, no. Her wooden leg prevents her from gadding about and dancing; so she has, as a resource, given herself up to cards and scandal. There is no possibility of living alone with her; in other respects, she is a good-enough woman."

"What! was I right, then?" exclaimed the surgeon?"

"Oh, a thousand times, my dear Lefebvre; but say no more on that subject. I was an unutterable fool. If I had my leg back again I would not part with the paring of a single nail. Between ourselves, I must have been crazy; but keep that to yourself."—*English Magazine.*

THE POETRY OF THE THROTTLE.

NOT long ago an engineer brought his train to a stand at a little Massachusetts village where the passengers have five minutes for lunch. A lady came along the platform and said:—"The conductor tells me the train at the junction in P—— leaves fifteen minutes before our arrival. It is Saturday night, and is the last train. I have a very sick child in the car and no money for a hotel, and none for a private conveyance a long, long way into the country. What shall I do?"

"Well," said the engineer, "I wish I could tell you."

"Would it be possible for you to hurry a little?" said the anxious, tearful mother.

"No, madam; I have the time-table, and the rules say I must run by it."

She turned sorrowfully away, leaving the bronzed face of the engineer wet with tears. Presently she returned and said:

"Are you a Christian?"

"I trust I am," was the reply.

"Will you pray with me that the Lord may in some way delay the train at the junction?"

"Why, yes, I will pray with you, but I have not much faith."

Just then the conductor cried, "All aboard!" The poor woman hurried back to the deformed and sick child, and away went the train climbing the grade.

"Somehow," said the engineer, "everything worked like a charm. As I prayed, I couldn't help letting my engine out just a little. We hardly stopped at the first station, people got on and off with wonderful alacrity, the conductor's lantern was in the air a half minute and then away again. Once over the summit, it was dreadful easy to give her a little more, as I prayed, till she seemed to shoot through the air like an arrow. Somehow I couldn't hold her, knowing I had the road; and so we dashed up to the junction six minutes ahead of time."

There stood the other train and the conductor with the lantern on his arm. "Well," said he, "will you tell me what I waited here for? Somehow I felt I must await your coming to-night, but I didn't know why."

"I guess," said the brother conductor, "it is for this poor woman, with her sick and deformed child, dreadful anxious to get home this Saturday night." But the man on the engine and the grateful mother think they can tell why the train waited.

WHAT A CORRESPONDENT FOUND.

THE Hartford Times has one of the best hits on this peculiar class of Bohemians that has appeared in some time, so rich is the joke and so well known are the parties mentioned that it will bear repetition:

It is some time gone by since Adam Badeau, Grant's pupil, married one of two very charming sisters—both petite, pretty and wonderfully alike in form and feature, though there are three years' difference in their ages. Two chaps I wot of laid it out at lunch one day to sell another chap who is that not uncommon man who knows everything and to whom no news whatever can be told. So the confederates approached the omniscient Jenkins.

"Did you know that Badeau had married a very pretty girl, who is scarcely distinguishable from her equally pretty sister?"

"Oh, aw, yaas," says Jenkins, "it's the principal talk in fashionable circles";(Jenkins frequenting the "fashionable circles" about as freely as I visit the Sultan's seraglio.)

"But," continued the confederates, "did you know that the two sisters were nieces of Eugene Sue and that they were the originals of the orphan twins in 'The Wandering Jew,' Rose and Blanche?'

"Oh, yaas, I knew that, though I forgot how they are Sue's nieces—whether his brother married their mother, or their mother—confound it! I'll find out;" and he actually did—that is, came down next morning with a clear account of the precise relationship. He never "thought to think" that Sue's story opens in October, 1831; so, supposing Badeau's bride to have been only fifteen at the date of the story, those lovely twin orphans "who by a sweet maternal caprice had been called Rose and Blanche," would be a round sixty years old now. Worse yet, Jenkins, being the New York correspondent of a Paris journal, put Badeau's wife and her sister into good French as the genuine Rose and Blanche of Sue's romance; and, worser, it has come back and is now going the rounds of the press in good English in this country. I tell you the story that you may "think to think" before you print and help to pass around this particular sell.

MARVELS OF SKILL.

SOME marvels of human ingenuity may be seen at the London Scientific Exhibition. Thus, a machine loaned by Sir Wm. Armstrong, the great gunmaker, measures thickness up to the one thousandth part of an inch; another, on the same principle, to the one-millionth part. The delicate balance of Mr. Oerting carries 3,000 grains and turns distinctly with the one-thousandth part of a single grain. Among the historical implements is the chronometer, sent by the Royal United Service Institution, which was twice carried out by Capt. Cooke and again by Capt. Osligh in 1787. When the crew of the Bounty mutinied, this veteran timekeeper was carried to Pitcairn's Island by the mutineers and sold by Adams in 1808 to an American captain who touched there. He sold it in Chili, and in 1840 it was bought at Valparaiso by Sir Thomas Herbert, taken to China by him and finally brought back to England in the Blenheim.

"THERE must be classes!" Very true; but think how mysterious and often unaccountable it is, the lottery of life which gives this man the purple and fine linen, and sends to the other rags for garments and dogs for comforters.—*Vanity Fair.*

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM E. P. DUTTON & Co., New York:

The Echo Club, by Bayard Taylor. James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. (Cloth; 12mo.—pp. 189.

MAGAZINES FOR OCTOBER:

Scribner's, St. Nicholas, Atlantic Monthly, Wide Awake.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.—What They Have Done and What They Propose to Do—in This Country. This question, which is of National Interest, will be ably treated by E. H. Libby, in an article on the Massachusetts Agricultural College in the October Scribner, issued September.

Sabbath Reading.

A BATTLE CRY.

BROTHERS! up to the breach,
For Christ's freedom and truth,
Let us act as we teach,
With the wisdom of age and the vigor of youth.
Heed not their cannon balls,
Ask not who stands or falls,
Grasp the sword
Of the Lord
And forward!

Brothers! strong in faith
That "the right will come right."
Never trouble at death,
Never think of thyself 'mid the roar of the fight.
Hark to the battle cry!
Sounding from yonder sky!
Grasp the sword
Of the Lord,
And forward!

Brothers! sing a loud psalm,
Our hope's not forlorn!
After storm comes the calm,
After darkness and twilight break forth the new morn.
Let the mad foe get madder,
Never quail! up the ladder?
Grasp the sword
Of the Lord,
And forward!

Brothers! up to the breach,
For Christ's freedom and truth,
If we live we shall teach,
With the strong faith of age and the bright hope of youth.
If we perish, then o'er us
Will ring the loud chorus;
Grasp the sword
Of the Lord,
And follow! [*Dr. Norman McLeod.*

NOTHING TO DO.

BY BELLE WAFFLE.

"How busy you girls always are and I *have* nothing to do; I wish I had something, though," and the beautiful head was leaned upon the small white hand in a way that told plainly of weariness and disgust. Weariness of God's best gifts, of wealth, beauty, talent; of home, friends, the pleasures of social life; and "nothing to do."

Ah! how many there are in the world with means and ability, with hearts ever longing for a something to fill and to satisfy, and—"nothing to do!" Thousands of their sisters

"Work, work, work,
Till the brain begins to swim;
And work, work, work,
Till their eyes are heavy and dim."

For bread to keep their souls within their bodies and clothes for a scanty covering. Yet they, in their luxury and finery, have "nothing to do."

Millions of little child-hands are reaching out to be lifted above want and degradation, vice and wretchedness. Millions of human souls are groping in darkness; are struggling, single-handed, against ignorance, wrong and temptation; are crying out for help and guidance into the light, into the straight paths of truth and wisdom, and —"Nothing to do."

"Nothing to do," when, work long and hard as we may, there is still so much waiting to be done, but to fritter away the Lord's time and bury His talent in the earth; living a libel against His grand law of activity and usefulness; rusting and decaying in nothingness when created to be polished and perfected by work, of hand, heart and soul.

Pitiable is the condition of those who strain every nerve in the race and yet ever see Work far ahead of them; of those upon whom burdens and duties come so thick and fast that the human machinery must give way beneath them; of those whose oodies cannot keep pace with their souls in life's conflict; but, may the Lord have mercy upon those who have "Nothing to do!"

THE LORD'S POCKET-BOOK.

"WHOSE pocket-book is that which you carry?" said a friend to a business man, as he drew a well-filled wallet from his pocket.

"Why, my own, of course. Whose else could it be?" was the prompt reply.

"To whom the pocket-book belongs depends on another question. If you belong to the Lord, I guess the purse is His also."

"Well," said the man, thoughtfully, "I hope I do belong to the Lord; but your remark throws a new light on this subject. It never impressed me before, as it does just now, that I am to carry and use this pocket-book, 'My pocket-book,' as the Lord directs. I must think this matter out, for I confess honestly I never have looked at it in the light in which you place it."—*Christian Giver.*

PEOPLE have generally three epochs in their confidence in man. In the first, they believe him to be everything that is good, and they are lavish with their friendship and confidence. In the next, they have had experience, which has smitten down their confidence, and they then have to be careful not to mistrust every one, and to put the worst construction on everything. Later in life they learn that the greater number of men have much more good in them than bad, and that when even there is cause to blame, there is more reason to pity than condemn; and then a spirit of confidence again awakens within them.—*Frederika Bremer.*

IT is only by labor that thought can be made healthy and only by thought that labor can be made happy, and the two cannot be separated with impunity.—*Ruskin.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

SUPPOSE.

He. Suppose,
Fadette, that I, instead of keeping tryst
With you to-night, had staid away to doze,
Or call upon Miss Brant, or play at whist—
Suppose?

She. Suppose
You had? Think you *I* should have cared? Indeed,
Ain't you a bit conceit—don't take my rose—
A gift to me. From whom? Well—Joseph Mead,
Suppose?

He. Suppose
It is? Then I'm to understand, Fadette—
If I must read your words as plainest prose—
My presence matters not to you—and—yet,
Suppose—

She. Suppose
You are to understand me so? You're free;
Do if you wish! And—oh! the river's froze;
What skating we shall have! To-morrow we—
That's Jose—

He. And Jose
Be hanged! It seems to me, Miss Lowe, that you
Are acting rather lightly; rumor goes
That he—but since I seem to bore, adieu!—

She. Suppose—

He. Suppose
We say good-night.

She. Good-night, sir, and *good-by!*

He. What does this mean, Fadette? Are you—

She. We'll close
This scene at once. My words are plain, sir, I
Suppose?

He. Compose
Yourself, Fadette.

She. My name, sir, is Miss Lowe!

He. Come, come, Fadette, do look beyond your nose,
And—

She. Here's your ring, sir!

He. I receive it, though
Suppose—

She. Suppose
You do, sir?—you—

He. Enough, Miss Lowe. Farewell!
'Tis best. I've been deceived in you, God knows!
Coquette! a heartless flirt! a haughty belle
Who chose—

She. Suppose—
Oh!—oh! let's part as friends! I *hate* you—there!

He. Fadette! why, sweet, in tears! This surely shows
You'll pardon me, a brute!

She. And—Frank—we'll ne'er
Suppose.

[T. H. Robertson, in Scribner's.

THE ART OF TALKING.

MADAME DE STAEL, we believe it was, who said that in France alone was the art of conversation understood. French women specially are brilliant talkers. The English are good listeners often, but heavy talkers. The Germans approach the French in the versatility of their conversation, but not in the magnetism, their faces giving all too little help to their tongues. Americans are free and lively talkers without having much of the real art of conversation. They are voluble rather than thoughtful, persistent rather than sympathetic, bent on having a hearing, rather than, as Bacon would say, "leading the dance" of conversation. The art of which we are writing is something far other than talking: it implies a mutual bond of interest between people, and as mutual willingness to receive as well as impart. So the man who insists on talking at you is voted a bore. The American definition of a bore betrays the great American weakness in this regard:—"A bore is one who insists on talking to you about himself, when you want to be talking to him about yourself." The very word conversation defines its meaning: it is an interchange. Dr. Johnson, who was an immense talker, knew little of the art of conversing. Yet he is the man who remarked, of an evening gathering, that there was much *talk* but no conversation, by which he probably meant that he was defrauded of the privilege of doing the talking by the persistent and general interchanges. Coleridge, likewise, was a brilliant and unparalleled talker in the higher meaning of the word, but good for nothing in a conversation, which implies the double duty of communicating and listening. Indeed, conversation might be defined as the art of intellectual magnetism, with a positive pole of address, and a negative pole of sympathetic attention. Only they possess the art who can keep a balance between them, and be equally good at talking and listening. Our parlors are full of wall-flowers idooming in painful quiet, but with nothing to contribute to the fund of conversation. And we have many vapid and ceaseless social lecturers who imagine their success in the art of conversation is in proportion as, by keeping their own tongues a-going they stop all the others; but people who can "give the occasion" to others and then draw out with their ears what they have started with their words—people too unselfish to be wholly silent and too modest to monopolise—for the lack of these our circles are either stupidly silent, or monotonously bored by the irrepressible sound of one voice.

Conversation suggests discourse about things rather than people. Here is another bane of social interchanges. They are too often on the lower level of that talk which finds its subject matter in persons. That is gossip. People who do not read or think must largely make people and neighborhood events the staple of their talk, but the bad habit obtains even among those who by culture have been fitted to make better use of their tongues. Gossip does not always indicate ignorance. It is to be feared it has become a fashion into which even intelligent people are drawn. But this kind of talk is neither edifying nor wise. If there were no worse results, it narrows the mind to shut up its view to neighborhood details. There is no excuse for it now. The world's gates all stand open. The papers bring all lands, all governments, all rising ideas, to our very doors. Books lead us into the liberty of the world, and the best of its doing and thinking. How much grander in your evening *vis-a-vis* to discuss popular education in Europe, than the toilet of your latest caller, or the *bonmot* of your waggish friend. And to do this will require no learning. Only a little recollection of what you read when lingering over your coffee.

There is one vice of our conversation against which we should be on our guard even more than against our empty and harmless gossip. It is a growing fondness for smartness. Tartness, repartee and satire are very good for an occasional seasoning; but like horse-radish and mustard they make a very poor dinner. They leave a bad taste in the mouth. As Bacon says:—"Certainly, he that hath a satirical vein, as he maketh others afraid of his wit, so he had need be afraid of others' memory." And for this excess of biting condiments the personal character of our talk gives the occasion.—*The Radical.*

FASHION NOTES.

CLOUD-TINTED silks are for evening wear.

CUFFS arranged in deep side pleatings are trimmed stylishly.

BASQUES with diagonal fronts are handsome models for autumn.

BLUES saddened with black is a pretty novelty in dress fabrics.

WIDE ruffles of hand embroidery are *comme il faut* for neck garniture.

GRENADINES and English bareges are fashionable for early fall wear.

EMBOSSED silk galoons are used as headings to flounces and wide ruffles.

LONG vests are popular; they are simulated by ruffles of lace, or embroidered bands.

THE flaring vest is made with lengthwise side pleatings of silk, nicely graduated in width.

BRIMS caught up in a jaunty manner form one of the novel attractions of the coaching hats.

THE incoming modes give promise of a large variety and considerable theatrical roseate tinge.

BANDS embroidered upon netting is the favorite garniture for white serge and mohair costumes.

THE latest fashion in bracelets is a gold bracelet, with the wearer's name in Byzantine letters.

A HANDSOME black silk dress, combined with rich velvet, cannot be rivaled for costly elegance.

THE present ruffle in expensive garments—one-fourth rich, three-fourths on the economical scale.

SIDE plealings of all kinds will be worn. This fashion of trimming is a favorite with young and old.

SEASONABLE fabrics are very acceptable; they include a handsome variety of qualities and patterns.

A HANDSOME striped serge, disposed with silver-gray serge—quite an inexpensive fashionable toilet.

SHOULDER draperies of the painted pereline style will doubtless become favorites with ladies of fashion.

COMBINATION toilets are still fashionable; the colors are very opposite, yet harmonious in expression.

SOME of the new suitings are very smooth, while other styles present the rough surface first introduced in camel's hair cloth.

EMBROIDERED toilets are introduced in the autumn *beau monde*. This fashion is popular for bridal outfit establishments.

THE headings of new fringes come deeper, and beneath can be distinctly seen the silk, which produces a novel and smiling effect.

PLAIN square apron overskirts are indorsed. The drapery is confined at the back, and extends nearly to the drag braid of the skirt.

A HANDSOME stone-colored mohair, combined with a positive navy blue, is very effective and quite *a la mode* for promenade wear.

ALL wool cashmere de beges of a chocolate color is considered the mode for children's toilets; the trimmings are bright tinted ribbon bows.

FRENCH chips, coarse straws, both white and black, tapering crowns, wide brims—in fact, a perfect coaching chapeau, takes the lead.

WHITE materials appear to be great favorites with the belles of Paris, and hence this style of dress will be favored by the *beau monde* of New York.

SILKS in dark shades are designed for street wear; the over-garment is made of white or cream-colored cloth, and garnished with ribbon bows of same shade as the skirt.

THE "Thyra" mantilla is formed with deep square sleeves; the back is cut with a curved seam, and hence slightly fits to the form. The front is disposed in long tabs, cut square, and finished with pretty pockets.

THE "Kellogg tread" is the latest. It broke out among the ladies at Saratoga when the *prima donna* was there, and is raging from Maine to California. When well done—as Miss Kellogg does it—it is graceful, dignified and stylish; but her imitators only make geese of themselves.

Reading for the Young.

PEOPLE WILL TALK.

You may get through the world, but 'twill be very slow,
If you listen to all that is said as you go;
You'll be worried, and fretted, and kept in a stew,
For meddlesome tongues must have something to do,
And people will talk.

If quiet and modest, you'll have it presumed
That your humble position is only assumed—
You're a wolf in sheep's clothing, or else you're a fool;
But don't get excited—keep perfectly cool,
For people will talk.

And then, if you show the least boldness of heart,
Or a slight inclination to take your own part,
They will call you an upstart, conceited and vain,
But keep straight ahead—don't stop to explain—
For people will talk.

If thread-bare your dress, and old-fashioned your hat,
Some one will surely take notice of that,
And hint rather strong that you can't pay your way,
But don't get excited, whatever they say—
For people will talk.

If your dress is in fashion, don't think to escape,
For they criticise then in a different shape;
You're ahead of your means, or your tailor's unpaid,
But mind your own business—there's naught to be made—
For people will talk.

Now, the best way to do is to do as you please;
For your mind if you have one, will then be at ease,
Of course you will meet with all sorts of abuse,
But don't think to stop them—it ain't any use—
For people will talk.

JUVENILE CULTURE.

THE youth of this country have attained a degree of perfection in refinement and culture surpassing perhaps that of any preceding age, unless it may be that in the century and a-half of Grecian liberty and intellectual progress Athenian youth attained a proportionate degree of improvement; but of this little or nothing is now known. This present progress is principally owing to one of the most distinguished privileges which Providence has conferred upon us—the attention of higher training and cultured mentors. And hence, it is not surprising that a generation of sappy sages are arising, equaling their fathers in wealth of conception and political lore, mounting the ladder of fame and essaying to promulgate to hoary age lessons of mutability and the transcendentalism of modern life; which sensibility, however, inveighs against with pious irony as a childish presumption, unknown in the days when they were young.

Among a nation like ours, so free, enlightened and acute, we may naturally expect to find the juvenile taste in no small measure polished and judicious in proportion to the culture of its surroundings; whereas, under arbitrary and execrable governments, it is perverted rather than enlightened. "Liberty," remarked LONGINUS, "is the nurse of true genius." "They," said PETRONIUS ARBITUS, "who are bred and educated amid the institutions of tyranny, can no more acquire a good taste than they can smell sweet who dwell perpetually in a kitchen." A republic like our own is indeed a sufficient school for true eloquence.

A conspicuous phenomenon of this remarkable age is its singular fruitfulness of juvenile genius. Four former periods of similar fruitfulness of genius, but not juvenile, have employed the speculations of curious men. The causes assigned for it have been various, and some of them passing strange. But whatever the reasons be, the fact is certain that nature is prodigious in her present productions of juvenile genius. And these geniuses' writings are as extensive and varied as the colors on the Dame's own garb. Political discussion, sermons, essays, anything, they will handle with as little consideration as a love story or a tale of "blood and thunder." And their genius always burns. Their combustion, by-the-by, is given gratis to their favorite paper, with a studied *nom de plume.*

And this leads me to observe that, as we are early sensible to a relish for light literature, we are often thus led into a passion for novels and "blood and thunder" trash, which results in a pernicious taste and a corrupted sensibility to false beauty. Hence it must be our object, when the glimmerings of taste appear, to apply ourselves to works of genius, to once see nature justly imitated, and the spurious productions of drivelers will not only never please but receive our merited contempt.

Therefore I would recommend to those young readers who have a relish only for dime novels and the "Battle Ax" and "Kill-many" weekly papers of their towns, to possess themselves of any of CHARLES DICKENS' works, say "The Old Curiosity Shop," "Dombey and Son" or "Pickwick," and see not only how much real pleasure but intuition in the human character and correctness of taste can be derived from it. Perhaps you would be thus led to read through the whole of his works, and a great benefit you would receive from them. Thence undoubtedly you would acquire an aversion for drivelers' trash, and pursue a noble course of reading.

Correctness of taste established, reason and good sense, refinement and virtue are the consequences which would immediately follow. Youth would rise in intellect and manliness, and become better qualified to make the powers which GOD has given them subservient to His glory

WILLIE C.

In a succeeding letter perhaps I will try and treat of the subject of juvenile writing and speaking at length, to inculcate, if possible, in my young readers some lessons for entering on writing in an interesting way.

MORE CENTENNIAL.

STARTED from home in a hurry, as usual, leaving my note-book and unfortunately not being blessed with so many pockets as a man, could not resort to their usual contents—old letters, cards, and circulars; so all I write must be fished from the confused remembrance of the brain. Northwest of the Government Building and west of Belmont Avenue is the row of State buildings, unique in design, each differing from the other. Having occasion to visit the Jersey building, we were tempted in the adjacent Colorado and Kansas display, which is in a roomy, well-lighted structure, the outside hung with skins that would tempt some of our civilized savages. Inside the exhibit of minerals, insects, birds and eggs first attracted our attention, and turning from there our eyes met those of a huge buffalo that, with head lowered, seemed ready to cause a stampede. The space devoted to Agriculture is well-filled. Fruit in good preservation, large, luscious and tempting; and while we stand by it, let me point out to you just the "cutest" ottoman you ever saw—made I judge from buffalo horns with the long hair forming a soft cushion, and falling in a fringe over the glossy legs. Think how nice it would be to bury your slippered feet in its depths some cool evening of the coming winter. In the center of the building is placed a pretty fountain, the inscription upon it reading, "Presented by the ladies of Topeka," and over it is suspended a mammoth bell made of wheat, the tongue being represented by a huge gourd, and even the crack in the old bell is depicted by, well, it looked like wheat.

Among the stuffed birds there is one case where the nest with the old and young bird is shown. There are some very handsome specimens of the owl family. We were particularly amused at the intelligent expression of two baby owls. But for their little crooked bills a body might tie a pink ribbon round their necks, and call them maltese kittens. Directly opposite you will find a crowd about the rocky, mountainous display, representing a very small slice of the country, over which evergreen trees are scattered, and through which a tiny cascade finds its way to the pool at the mouth of the cave. Gold and catfish were seeking stray sunbeams, the turtle perched on a rock, was placidly grinning at the audience. Among the rocks and on the trees are scattered the various animals of the country. From the deer and panther to the rat and owl all appear to be represented, and the work so well accomplished, speaks highly for the woman's hand that prepared it. The animals look almost as full of life as the pair of Antwerp pigeons peeping from behind the cage bars. These pigeons, as also a fine rifle, were recently presented to the famous huntress, Mrs. M. A. MAXWELL, and while gazing at that neat, little weapon I actually found it necessary to repeat the tenth commandment, while realizing "how near and yet so far."

In the adjoining parlor one can find abundant accommodation for rest and instruction. Opposite the fine piano stands an ancient bureau that was once in the family of Pres. Lincoln—I think was made for him about the time of his marriage, and is to be sold to the highest bidder. Near it is a large, handsome cabinet worthy a close, careful study—not only for the beautiful workmanship and woods that compose it, but for its contents also.

We went to the ancient New England kitchen, near by. When we reached the log house we found the gateway barred, and while waiting for the crowd to pass on, had ample time to admire the hollyhocks, sunflowers, etc., that adorned the front yard. Once inside, the first we noticed was the lady spinning on the flax wheel, while near it stood a larger one for wool. Claw-footed tables, uncomfortable, high-backed chairs and "settles," over which were flung ancient fabrics of home manufacture, from the fine, snowy linen to the coarse, heavy carpeting, abounded. The fire-place, with crane and cooking utensils complete, occupies a large part of one side, while suspended in front by a stout cord swings a plump chicken that looks as if it had been roasting before a slow fire for the past century. On each side of the fire-place are hung cases for receiving numerous articles like knives, forks, spoons, quills, etc., while interspersed were all the queer dishes one ever saw or heard of in those times. Side by side in the chimney corner rest the foot stove and churn. Back flashed my thoughts to a sunny New England kitchen where a sun-burned little gypsy clutched desperately the tall dasher, occasionally giving a downward stroke that sent the cream in golden patches upon the snowy floor, accompanying the action with the delightful melody, "Come, butter, come!" Just through the open door were the birds and bright-winged butterflies—the mountain, green fields and orchard, with rippling stream that ran on, on to Fairy Land. Did little girls have to churn there, and did it make them ache so—ache to be away out in pure, blossom-scented air, among the birds and squirrels in the nodding cherry tree and swaying high up its limbs back and forth in the long swing?

One of the pair of cards used for carding wool into rolls, passing across my hand, dispelled the day dream, and brought my thoughts back to objects before me. The broad mantel is covered with articles too numerous to give more than a passing mention. Many would puzzle a philosopher to ascertain the use of. Candlesticks of every design; snuffers; box and and tinder; pewter dishes of every style; some dingy and show-

ing the marks of usage, others polished to the brightness of new silver, form quite handsome ornaments for the tall "chist o' drawers." On the opposite side of the fire-place is the cupboard used for dishes, some of which are displayed on the table. Suspended half across the fire-place was what I took to be the real Yankee doughnuts, but closer inspection proved them apples dried whole, with the core removed. Strings of sliced apples and pumpkin, mingled with every "yarb" you could mention in use at that time, ornamented the ceiling. There is more to tell you, but will wait till next time. C. ESTELLE PEIRCE.

Aquadale.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a New Source.

DEAR RURAL:—I have just been reading the letters from the boys and girls, and not seeing any from New Market, I thought I would try and see what I could do. I have attempted several times before, but this is the first time I have succeeded. I am boarding at New Market, and we think of staying here until October. I am very fond of flowers, and wish the Cousins would write more about them. We go to the woods very often to gather ferns or grasses, and often I find many pretty wild flowers which I would like to learn the names of. I am thirteen. During the winter I reside in Brooklyn, L. I., and also attend school there. Hoping you will receive me as a Cousin and print my first letter, I will close.—FLOY, *New Market, N. J.*

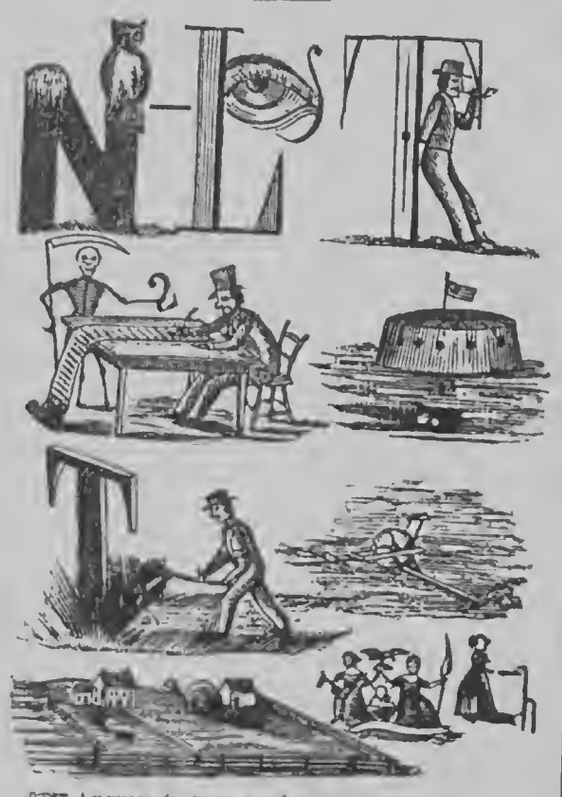
Don't Like It.

DEAR EDITOR:—JOE STEELE wants the Cousins to tell him what they think of the pretty parlor amusement, in RURAL, Sept. 9. I for one don't like it, because I think it comes too near swindling and cheating. My father says it isn't right to take money without giving something or doing something for it,—"*quid pro quo*," he calls it,—unless somebody gives it to you right out as a present. I should think any boy that would take five cents in such a way would feel mean when he came to think about it. It is just like grab bags and lotteries at fairs, only maybe worse—for you wouldn't do it if you didn't think the chances were all on your side. I would as soon pitch pennies for keeps as to do it. And don't you think, Mr. Editor, that a boy who begins in this way is in danger of being a gambler when he grows up?—BEN.

[WE think BEN is right. If a boy tries to be fair and honest, he will get good habits. Money that is gained in dishonest or underhand ways is often a curse to its possessor.—ED.]

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



☞ Answer in two weeks. G. B. H.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 17 letters:
My 10, 11, 7, 5 is used in printing.
My 12, 13, 9, 16, 10, 13, 14 a river of New Jersey.
My 3, 2, 16, 10, 8, 12, 15 an artificial well.
My 6, 2, 1, 4 a young girl's title.
My 10, 5, 9, 12, 13 the Latin for earth.
My 8, 17, 3, 13, 7, 5 is to get away.
My whole is the motto of a Southern State.
☞ Answer in two weeks. ISOLA.

CENTRAL PUZZLE.

1. A NUMBER. 2. Sorrow. 3. Quickness. 4. A sweetmeat. 5. A weight. 6. To forsake. Words of five letters. The centrals form a large city of Europe.

☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Sept. 16.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—Bible.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

THE following is a graduated scale of prices for small clubs according to the roduced rates of subscription for the RURAL NEW-YORKER. This is done for the benefit of the small clubs in thinly-populated districts. Let each subscriber add two or three names to his own and remit for all at one time.

No.	Single Price.	Small Clubs.	No.	Single Price.	Small Clubs.
1	$2.50	$2 50	6	$15 00	$13 20
2	5 00	4 90	7	17 50	16 05
3	7 50	7 20	8	20 00	16 80
4	10 00	9 20	9	22 50	18 45
5	12 50	11 25	10	25 00	20 00

News of the Week.

HELL GATE EXPLOSION.

THE work at Hallet's Point was consummated on Sunday the 24th inst at 2:50 P. M. At the appointed moment the mine was fired. An immense number of persons thronged every available point of observation. The calculations of Gen. Newton proved correct, and the explosion caused no loss of life or property. There was no tidal wave, and only a slight disturbance of the atmosphere. The vibration of the earth, though very generally felt throughout the vicinity, was not sufficient even to excite alarm. The water, rocks and planking thrown into the air by the explosion fell vertically again into the river, and the local disturbance of the surrounding water quickly subsided. The prominence which had been given to the possibilities of danger led to a very general adoption of Gen. Newton's suggestions. The windows of buildings were left open throughout the upper part of Manhattan Island and on Long Island near Hallett's Point, and many persons, even at a considerable distance from the scene, remained in the streets or parks for safety. The explosion is asserted to have been entirely successful in breaking up the reef, and the depth of water near the shore is already much increased.

At 2:20 P. M., half an hour before the blast, a gun was fired from the Government scow, to give notice to all. Vessels had ceased to pass the Point about 1:30, the Pleasant Valley being the last to go by, as she steamed up the river to her position, just a little above the firing point. Ten minutes before the explosion another gun sounded its warning, and at the same time Mrs. Gen. Newton arrived at the firing point, accompanied by a nurse who carried in her arms little Mary Newton, two years and four months old—a pretty little child with blue eyes, fair skin, and light curly hair. The baby-girl looked around upon all with perfect self-possession, while the party passed into the shed—which was constructed without sides, that the view might not be obstructed—and took their places. Two or three minutes later Gen. Newton came from the bomb-proof with Gen. Abbot, Capt. Mercur, Mr. Striedinger and others. The officers and civilians stood outside the shed and close at hand, while Gen. Newton frequently consulted his watch as he talked in a pleasant way with Mrs. Newton and his staff. Not a line in his face betrayed the slightest anxiety. Twice he turned to his little daughter, whom the nurse held in her arms, patted her cheek and taking her hand in his, touched with it the keys which was to give the finishing stroke to the great mine. As he did this the eye involuntarily turned to the mine, but the battery plates were still out of the acids and consequently the touch was harmless.

After looking at his watch again, he said, "Come my little girl," and lifting her from the nurse's arms stood her by the side of the keyboard upon a box placed there for the purpose. Once more he took the child's hand and held it with his right hand immediately over the key, the spectators looking on in breathless suspense, mingled with a feeling of awe, at the thought of what that little hand would soon accomplish. Gen. Newton stood with his open watch in his left hand and his child's hand in his own. Silently he watched the seconds pass. At length he shut his watch and returned it to his pocket, said something to Mrs. Newton, which was inaudible to persons outside of the little shed, and pressed the little hand of his child upon the key.

The result was just what he had confidently asserted weeks ago that it would be. A column of water was seen to shoot up to the right apparently of 75 or 80 feet, carrying a part of that distance a few stones of small size and several portions or sections of the coffer dam. The report followed instantly, and, at the firing station, was not so loud as that caused by the discharge of two or three pieces of ordnance, while the jar was no greater than that felt from such a discharge at the distance, say, of 100 feet. The commotion of the water was great for a few minutes, and the earth of which the coffer dam was partially composed made it very muddy, while pieces of timber and boards were thrown over and over on its surface in such a manner as to show how greatly the element was stirred. More than 50,000 pounds of powerful explosives had been fired. As soon as possible Gen. Newton boarded the launch, leaving Mrs. Newton to follow on the Star, and started for the scene of his triumph. Before he left the firing station with his staff many friends pressed forward to congratulate him and them upon the success of their labors.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE Auburn, Me., shoe factories are running on full time, and to the extent of their capacity. Orders are coming in faster than they can be filled. The shipments the past week have been 1,877 cases.

A dispatch from Los Angeles narrates a terrible case of suffering on the Colorado desert. Henry Smith from St. Louis, with one companion and a pack train left Yuma for Los Angeles and wandered four days in the desert without water. Smith opened a vein in his arm and drank his own blood which clotted in his throat. He then cut his windpipe to remove it, and died in a few hours. His companion reached the station in the last stages of exhaustion.

It is certain that negotiations are pending for a new treaty with Great Britain, which will be chiefly devoted to extradition. It is understood that the initial steps have been taken by Great Britain. It is safe to say that in any new treaty which may be submitted, Great Britain will be bound to place United States officials upon the same footing with her own. This has not been the case under the treaty which is now abandoned.

The wheat export movement at San Francisco since the opening of the season has been quite lively. There were twenty cargoes of wheat and one of flour cleared for Europe in July, and twenty-eight cargoes of wheat for the same destination in August.

The steamship Rebecca Clyde, which is now ashore, sailed from Wilmington, N. C., loaded with naval stores and cotton. She became disabled off Ocracoke Inlet, 20 miles south of Hatteras, on Sunday morning about 7 o'clock, from the rolling of the deck load which broke the steering gear, the lashings of the deck load becoming entangled in the propeller. She became a total wreck and more than half the crew were saved.

Two-thirds of the willow for the manufacture of willow-ware in this country is imported from Europe at a cost of $5,000,000. The cultivation of the willow is contemplated by some Americans, they thinking that by cultivating superior grades of the basket willow they can make a profit per acre of $150. A manufacturer asserts that fully 5,000 articles are constructed from willow shoots—chairs, sofas, and baskets being the most common.

The Tribune says: the managers of the New York State Fair lost money this year, and men who bought the privelege of selling certain articles were not repaid for their ventures. The chief cause of the loss was the placing of the admission fee at 50 cents. Hundreds of farmers who had come with their teams many miles, refused to pay the price demanded and returned home. On the last day the price was reduced to 25 cents, but this action was too late to be of much benefit. We are inclined to think however, that the two real causes were the Centennial and the bad weather, and not the price of admission.

An immense iron pavilion will soon be erected in Boston, in which to hold the revival meetings of Messrs. Moody and Sankey during their approaching visit to the city.

The people of Sufferns, N. Y., witnessed a remarkable golden wedding several days ago. James Suffern, who was married to Maria Winter on Sept. 9, 1826, by the Rev. Jefferson Wynkoop, was remarried by the same clergyman on the fiftieth anniversary, Sept. 9, 1876. The bridesmaid and groomsman of 1826 also were present and served.

A Herkimer County tailor who started out to go fishing in 1813 got back one day last week; but he didn't bring home any fish.

The sidewalks in front of the leading stores in this city are blocked up with merchandise awaiting shipment, which affords evidence that New York is still the great jobbing centre of the country. The near-by trade has also begun to show symptoms of improvement.

A lot of Canadian-bred horses recently sold to great advantage in England. They were shipped from this city in a steamship having a patent apparatus which economizee room on shipboard, and ensures the safety of the animals. The freight was $50 a head. The animals were all warrented to drive or ride. The average price in Canada was $125, and the average selling price $275.

Lucy Manks, the murderess, is working out her line of defence. The Lowell, Mass., Courrier says she "held her head bowed down while in the court room, and seemed much dispirited," and everybody who saw the young woman hold her head down and look blue, concluded she was crazy, and about two years from now she may be shooting another man.

As Goldsmith Maid had already done the swiftest trotting on record, the attempt to force her this year to faster time scarcely deserved success. She has attained an age that would fairly entitle her to rest upon her laurels. Does Mr. Bergh ever go on the trotting track?

The readiness with which bids are made at the large trade sales in this city has been already remarked as indicating a recovery from business depression. This was further illustrated in the last auction sales of carpets and hosiery, at which good prices were easily obtained. Of late there has been hardly wind enough to blow that straw by which the direction is indicated. There seems to be hope that merchants can now raise the wind.

Another periodical proposition has been made for the reorganization of the Erie Railway. This time it is a call upon bond and stockholders for a per cent. contribution. Don't you wish you may get it?

Duncan, Sherman & Co., the bankers, who failed sometime since, have applied for a discharge. Do they want more widows' and orphans' money with which to pay personal expenses of $150,000 per year?

A train on the Utah Road was boarded by masked men and the express safe was robbed of $15,000.

Robert Barnwell Rhett, Sr., died in St. James Parish, La., recently, at the age of seventy-five.

A recent count of Red Cloud Agency shows only 4,900 Indians, where there should be 13,000. Other agencies show similar figures. Gone to meet Sitting Bull.

The Bankers' Convention will meet on Oct. 3 in Philadelphia to complete the organization of the American Bankers' Association. Ex-Secretary Hugh McCulloch will be one of the lions of the occasion.

The old South Church, Boston, has been sold for $400,000. It will be used as a museum.

It is estimated by Treasury officials that the National Banks will replace at least seventy-five of the one hundred millions of six and five per cent. bonds, held as security for their circulation, with four and a-half per cent. bonds. The demand for the new bonds is increasing daily, the desire being to possess them before the premium increases.

It costs two cents to bring a bushel of wheat from the lakes to this city.

On Friday the 1st, 3000 Connecticut troops and their friends went over the Pennsylvania Railroad to the Centennial. On Tuesday the lightning express from Pittsburg to Philadelphia had 101 cars drawn by eleven engines in as many sections. The cars contained 5010 passengers. The entire train run through a distance of 355 miles in ten hours, making only two stops—on schedule time. This feat has not a parrallel in the history of railroading. On Wednesday this road carried 10,540 passengers out of the Jersey City depot between 7:30 and 10:30 A. M., to the Centennial. On Thursday 24,000 passengers, occupying 401 cars, were carried by this line from New York to Philadelphia. On Monday the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroads gave the Pennsylvania Railroad ninety-nine car loads, or 5394 passengers. During the week 22,000 visitors from Connecticut alone went over the Pennsylvania Railroad to Philadelphia and return. To carry these sixty trains were run daily each way, many of them running through without a stop in two and a quarter hours. The same number will be run this week for the accommodation of the visitors from Mass., and the East.

As far as ascertained, the losses by the late fires on Frederick and Baltimore streets, Baltimore, Md., will foot up a little short of three hundred thousand dollars.

A strange and fatal disease has broken out among the cattle in Wayne County, Pa., causing much alarm. The cattle are infested by a singular tick which bores deep into the flesh of the creature. Inflammation sets in, and death follows in a few hours. Some thirty head have died at Hawley.

The rifle teams who participated in the international contest, with the exception of the Canadian team, who have returned home, had an informal reception in the judges' pavilion on the Centennial grounds Sept. 23. President Grant, Secretary Fish, Colonel Sanford, of the British Commission, and George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, were present. The riflemen were introduced to the President by General Hawley.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Princess Constance Bonaparte, daughter of Lucien, Prince of Canino, and a nun of the Sacred Heart, has just died at Rome.

Within three months cholera has carried off nearly twelve thousand people in the city and suburbs of Damascus. Most of the victims have been Mohammedans.

Windsor Castle was struck by a thunderbolt during a thunder-storm unaccompanied by rain, Sept. 7, and a portion of the stone parapet was knocked off. As the thunderbolt burst it threw out a shower of sparks, and resembled a shell exploding. There was great fear shown by the inmates of the castle for some time after the explosion.

A Spanish capitalist advocates the connection of Africa and Europe by a tunnel under the Straits of Gibraltar. He desires to obtain for the enterprise $20,000,000, and says that, with this tunnel and the one between Calais and Dover completed, the railroad companies might soon be advertising that they would take passengers from London to Calcutta "without change of cars."

The Correspondencia states that Dorregaray, the Carlist leader, will shortly come to Madrid to solicit pardon and recognize King Alfonso. Ex-Queen Isabella is expected in Madrid soon.

A fine lot of Canadian-bred horses were recently sold to great advantage in England where they are reckoned better suited to the market than those of Kentucky. They were shipped on the Guion Line of this city, in a patent apparatus which economizes room on shipboard, and ensures the safety of the animals. The cost was $50 a head. The animals were all warranted to drive or ride. The average price in Canada was $125, and the average selling price $275.

The Geographical Congress at Brussels decided to form an international association for exploring Africa and suppressing slavery.

Russia has abolished the separate administration for Poland.

A writer in the International Review says a Frenchman, Jean Gautherin, once an illiterate

shepherd and a poor workman, has become a sculptor of some eminence. The French Government bought his "St. Sebastian" for 14,000 francs. He carved the whole statue in marble himself, with the living model before him. Sculptors generally only work in clay, or at most give finishing touches to the marble which has been prepared for them by the workmen.

At a banquet given in Paris to the French labor delegates upon their return from the Philadelphia Exhibition, one of them said:—"In the great American republic, so lauded by our public men, we found the relative position of employer and workman the same as it is here. There, as in France, capital is the master. The workmen in America have every possible liberty; they have many more schools than we have in France; but, notwithstanding all this, and in spite of the abolition of negro slavery, the slavery of the whites still flourishes. Many as are the privileges which the workman is accorded, and which he does not possess in Europe, he remains a workman still; and these privileges are of little use to him as long as he is not allowed to have a share in the profits with his employer."

Allemany, an employee of the Bank of France, has been condemned in Paris to ten years' imprisonment for circulating old bills that had been withdrawn. Frauds to the extent of 172,000 francs were proved. A part had been appropriated to paying debts, but the greater portion was lost in stocks.

Fifteen million nine hundred thousand hectolitres of barley (420,046,200 gallons) are consumed annually in Germany for beer brewing.

Paris, it seems, has steam street cars that don't frighten the horses, run ten miles an hour, seat forty persons, can be stopped within five feet by a brake, turn sharp corners, and cost but $4 a day for fuel and attendance.

A troupe of Sioux Indians are exhibiting themselves in London.

The French steam-ship arrived at Havana Sept. 23, from Mexico, bringing advices to the 13th inst. The City of Zacatecas was captured on the 24th of August by Garcia de la Cadena, at the head of 1,500 insurrectionists. The same night he turned the city over to the American, German, and Spanish Consuls and evacuated it. The Government troops reoccupied the place on the 28th, having previously defeated Cadenas' bands. The change of ministry causes great satisfaction to the supporters of the Government. All the indications favor the final triumph of Lerdo de Tejada in the Presidential contest.

The new French iron-clad, the Redoubtable, which was launched at l'Orient, on the west coast, on the 18th inst., will be the most powerful war vessel possessed by the Republic.

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[Owing to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents," so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for advertisers," or "Answers to Correspondents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers (and we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements) and such other matter as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want and the want is indicative of its need.]

S. Y., Delaware Co., N. Y., is referred to advertisement of "Prindle Steamer" on page 226.

M. T. H., Essex Co., Mass., is referred to advertisement of "Country Home" on page 227.

Mrs. M. P. Aldrich, Rathbone, N. Y., wants to know where Baker's Excelsior Cream Strainer is to be obtained, and the price.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Sept. 23, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	84,028	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,802	Rice, bbls	1,071
Corn meal, bbls	2,332	Cut meats, pkgs	8,153
Corn meal, bags	910	Lard, pkgs	5,819
Wheat, bush	224,388	Tobacco, hhds	2,081
Corn, bush	910,217	do. pkgs	4,370
Oats, bush	317,539	Butter, pkgs	41,380
Rye, bush	47,375	Cheese, bxs	75,717
Malt, bush	7,380	Cotton, bales	15,373
Barley, bush	51,20	Rosin	10,422
Beans, bbls		Spts. turp., bbls	2,077
Grass seed, bush	8,248	Dried Fruits, pkgs	1,412
Beef, pkgs	871	Eggs, bbls	6,692
Wool, bales	1,859	Peanuts, bags	—
Hops, bales	938	Leather, sides	54,025
Pork, bbls	1,903	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,466	Oil cake	8,178

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 951 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 16,665 do.; same time last year, 1,400 do. Exports of peas past week, 25,178 bu.; since Jan. 1st, 477,330 do.; same time last year, 287,744. The market for mediums is somewhat undecided. Some holders put great stress upon the light crop, and are holding others to supply what demand comes along. The buying feeling, however, is not large. In marrows the demand continues good, and prime hand-cured new or well-kept old are firm at the extreme. Of other sorts the stock does not show much collection. Canadian peas easier for bulk; barrels unchanged; new Southern E. E. peas have sold at $4; but it is not likely the price will be repeated.

Beans—New pea, $1.55@1.60; medium, $1.40; marrow, $2; old prime pea, $1.50@1.55; fair to good, $1.30@1.40; prime mediums, $1.40@1.45; fair to good, $1.30@1.15; prime marrows, $1.95@2.05; fair to good, $1.15@1.80; prime white kid., $1.65@1.70; other, 1.25@1.50; prime red kidney, $1.70@1.75; other, $1.40@1.50; Lima (Cal.) $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.25@3.50. Canadian peas, bulk and bond, 95@96c.; free bbls, $1.14. Green peas, $1.15@1.20; split do. $5.

BEESWAX.—A small trade only in progress on export account; quoted at 31@33c. for Western and Southern.

BROOM CORN.—Small lots of new have been received, which are held as follows:—Texas, Kansas and Ohio range from 4 to 7½c, as to grade, with some light new green Texas offered at 4c.

BUTTER.—Supplies have come forward unusually free, but not for the moment much ahead of the wants of trade. Enlarged receipts of State give buyers better means of selection than they have had for some time and with a good retail trade sales are quite liberal in lots. There is a marked increase of trade with hotels and restaurants this season owing to the influx of strangers to and from the Centennial. Western is active for export and home use. Another cause is advanced for the large European want. It seems that Oleomargarine is becoming unpopular in Great Britain; in fact some points means are being taken to prevent its sale. We quote prices generally higher, but the tone will probably not be so strong after buyers have obtained a supply of stock they have been so long short of.

Export of butter past week 11,334 packages.

We quote:—Choice pails, 31@33c.; prime, 29@30c.; poor to good, 22@26c.; creamery pails, choice, 35@37c.; good, 33@34c.; sweet cream pails, 28@35c. State firkins, choice, 30@32c.; fair to good, 25@29c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 31@33c.; fair to prime, 27@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 29@31c.; other, 24@28c.; Western creamery, choice, 33@35c.; other, 30@32c.; do. firkins, best, 22@24c.; other, 17@20c.; dairy tubs, choice, 26@28c.; other, 18@23c.; factory choice, 23@25c.; other, 17@19c.

State dairies quotable at 29@32c.

CHEESE.—Exports light, 39,035 boxes for the week. The market has been completely upset this week. The full rates at the country sales led to strong views here among receivers of the choicest factories, and they were holding up to 12½@13c., these figures have rarely been met, and 12½c. has more nearly represented the market. Exporters have been indifferent and the principal operators holding off. On grades under fancy the closing market is decidedly weak; there are nearly if not quite fine obtained at 12c, and some very good lots at 11c. We quote:

Fancy factory, 12½@12¾c., fine, 12@12½c.; good and prime, 11@12c.; fair, 10@11c.; State farm dairy, fancy, 11½@11¾c.; good to prime, 10@11c.; fair and good, 9@10c. Western factory, good and prime, 9¾@10¼c., fair lots, 8½@9½c.; do. cheddar, choice, 11¼c.; do. flat, choice, 11@11½c.

CIDER.—Slow at 8c. Quality is always more or less against earliest pressings.

COTTON.—The market has been depressed and dull with liberal arrivals of new at the ports.

The latest quotations are:—September, 11 5-16@11 11-32c.; October, 11¼@11 13-32c.; November, 11¼@11 9-32c.; December, 11 5-16@11 11-32c.; January, 11 7-16@11 25-32c.; February, 11¾@11 21-32c.; March, 11 13-16@11 27-32c.; April, 11 31-32@12c.; May, 12 5-32@12 3-16c.; June, 12 5-16@12 11-32c.; July, 12 15-32@12¾c. August, 12 19-32@12¾c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16
Strict ordinary	9 13-16	9 13-16	9 13-16	9 13-16
Good ordinary	10 5-16	10 5-16	10 5-16	10 5-16
Strict good do	10 9-16	10 9-16	10¾	10¾
Low middling	10 13-16	10 15-16	11 1-16	11 1-16
Strict low middling	11 1-16	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 6-16
Middling	11¼	11⅜	11 7-16	11 7-16
Good middling	11 7-16	11 9-16	11 11-16	11 11-16
Strict good middling	11 11-16	11 13-16	11 15-16	11 15-16
Middling fair	12 1-16	12 3-16	12 5-16	12 5-16
Fair	12 13-16	12 15-16	13 1-16	13 1-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 3-16	Low middling	10 3-16
Strict ordinary	9 13-16	Middling	10 9-16

DRIED FRUITS.—The arrivals of new apples are still chiefly of inferior grades, not wanted by either shippers or the home trade, and they are pressed off at easier prices. Peeled peaches are quiet; small lots of new Georgia have been placed at 11c. Blackberries are scarce and at firmer prices, as well as cherries and raspberries.

Apples—State, sliced, 6¾@7¼c.; do., quarters, 6¾@7c.; Southern sliced, new, 5c.; choice do. at 7c.; do., new quarters at 4¾@6c. Blackberries, 8¾@8¾c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 13@14¼c.; unpeeled peaches, new, nominal. Plums at 13@15c. Raspberries, 25@26c. Cherries, 16¾@17c.

EGGS.—Every day since our last has shown some improvement, but at the close prices are something in buyers' favor. Western are of good quality, which helps sales. Limed would be probably worth 21@22c. for State; 20@21c. for Western.

Near points, 23@26c.; State and Penn., 22@24c.; Western, prime, 22@23c.; do. other, 21@23c.; Canadian, 23@24c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Our recently revised quotations show the low rule that attends the large yield of all varieties. The quantity is intensified by the comparatively light business, without favored exception

Oil peppermint, glass, $3.75; do. tin, $2.90; spearmint, glass, $3.50; do. tin, $2.75; wintergreen, $2.80; sassafras, 3c.

We quote:—Peppermint, $2@2.25 ₩ lb.; Wintergreen, $2.50; Pennyroyal down to, $1; Sassafras, 40@42½c.

FEATHERS.—The supply is reduced, but there does not seem to be any large want unfilled. We quote live Western prime, 56@58c.; mixed, 35@45c.

FERTILIZERS.—The following are the first-hand prices of the leading sorts:

Ground Bone, $27@30 ₩ ton; Superphosphate of Lime, $37.50; Peruvian Guano, $56; Poudrette, $22.50.

FLOUR.—Exporters have bought freely and there has also been a good trade demand, with prices higher and strong.

For poor to very choice superfine State, $4.25@4.80; $5.00@5.10 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.15@5.25 for good extra do.; $5.30@5.50 for fancy do., and $5.55@6.50 for very choice extra; $4.25@4.90 for superfine Michigan Indiana Iowa, &c.; $5.00@5.10 for shipping extra do., the inside price for interior, and $5.15@5.50 for choice to very fancy extra do.; good to choice white wheat extras at $5.55@6.50; fancy do. $6.55@7.75; winter wheat, good to choice family city mill extras, $5.00@7.50; round-hoop Ohio, $5.00@5.10, and trade brands of do. at $5.15@6.75; St. Louis, $5.10@6.30 for common to fair extra, and $6.35@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $5.90@8.00, and patent at $7.00@10.00; unsound stock at from $3.00@3.75; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.00@6.25; do. English brands, $5.00@5.10; do. trade and family brands, $6.50@8.50; No. 2 at $3.10@4.00. Corn meal—Yellow Western, Jersey and Pennsylvania, $2.65@2.90; Brandywine, $3.25@3.30.

FRESH FRUITS.—The market is low for apples. A good deal of common fruit is offering. Only choice, sound State will bring $2. Bartlett pears are becoming scarce. Other fine table goods have a place in consequence. Peaches may be said to be over, so far as anything fine can be spoken of. Fancy plums have about run out. There is an abundance of Damsons or small blue which pass for them. Cranberries are now quotable. Grapes are abundant. Dried do not rally from the late low prices. Peanuts are firm, with a light supply. We quote:

Apples, 20-ounce Pippins, Oct. Red and Blush, ₩ bbl., $1.75@2; mixed, good, $1.50@1.75; best river, $1.25@1.37; common open heads, wind falls, 50c.@$1. Pears, Barletts, choice, ₩ bbl., $8@10; other, $5@8; Seckel, $4.50@7.50; Louise Bonne, $6@6; Flemish Beauty, $4@7; cooking, $2@3. Peaches, ₩ basket, best, $1.25@1.50; common, 50c.@$1. Plums, fancy, ₩ bbl., $10@12; other, $4@7. Cranberries, $2@3 ₩ crate. Grapes, Delaware, ₩ lb., 6@7½c., for home and small boxes; Concord, 2@3c., as to quality. Quinces quotable next week. California pears, $3@4 ₩ box. Virginia peanuts, fancy, $1.75; common to prime, $1.10@$1.65.

GRAIN.—In wheat there has been but little done on export account and millers operating moderately, but better sales have been made on small supplies. Latest sales of old winter red Western at $1.12; new winter red Western at $1.20@1.21; winter red Western for shipment at $1.18; new white Michigan on track at $1.26; old No. 2 Chicago or Northwest for export at $1.14; new No. 2 Chicago spring at $1.18@1.19. Rye easier in price; latest sales at 72@74c. for Western and 85@89½c. for Penn, Jersey and State. Barley is quoted at 95c.@$1 for new four or six-rowed State. Corn has been in active export demand and stronger in price; latest sales are at 57½@58c. for graded and ungraded steamer mixed; 57½@61½c. for ungraded; 60@60½c. for Kansas mixed, including 20,000 bushels at 60c., closing at 60½c.; 58½@58c. for sail mixed; 60c. for New York No. 1. Oats are active at full prices; latest sales at 49½c. for mixed western and State, and 50@50½ for white do. New York unmerchantable at 35c; New York No. 2 at 37@38c.; New York rejected at 34c.; New York No. 2 white at 40@41c.; old mixed Western at 41@50½c.; new white Western at 36@42c.; new Western mixed at 33@42c.; No. 2 Chicago at 48@49c.

HAY AND STRAW.—The receipts are moderate yet and demand running fair, giving a strong market. Baling hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60c.; retail qualities 75@85c.; clover, 55@60c.; salt, 55@60c. Straw is quoted at 70@80c. for long rye; 55@95c. for short rye; 55@60c. for oat.

HIGHWINES bring $1.12 ₩ gallon.

HOPS.—Trade here has been moderate on account of the limited arrivals. Exporters have orders for small lots and pay full prices. About 600 bales have gone West this week. On the better grades some allowance in instances has been paid. We quote:

New Yorks, good to choice, new	32 to 35
New Yorks, low to fair, new	25 to 30
Eastern, new	25 to 30
Yearlings	10 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	35 to 35

OIL CAKE.—Western is quoted at $38, currency.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Prices are doing well considering the liberal supplies.

Spring chickens, near-by, ₩ lb., 15@—c.; do. Western, 15c.

Fowls, N. J., ₩ lb 15@16c.; do. Western, 14@15c. Roosters, 8@10c.; Turkeys, N. J., 16@17c.; do. Western, 14@15c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1.12; do. Western, 65@75c.; Geese, N. J., $2.00@2 50; do. Western, $1.37@1.75.

There is a fair demand for good, dressed stock.

Dry-picked chickens, 16@20c.; scalded, 14@16c.; dry-picked fowls, 16@18c.; scalded, 14@17c.; turkeys, 16@20c.

Grouse are plenty and lower, some lots held in reserve. Ducks doing better. Partridges, ₩ pair, 60@75c.; grouse, do., 50@65c.; woodcock, do., 75c@$1c. wild ducks, red head, 60@70c.; mallard, 55@65c.; common teal, 40@45c.

PROVISIONS.—With export trade small and pretty full arrivals of hogs at the West, prices have been steadily declining. Mess pork quoted at $16.80 for spot lots, September and October deliveries, and $15.60 for December delivery. Bacon, long clear, 9½c.; long and short together, 8¾c.; short, 9¾c. Western steam lard, $10.15 for spot and September delivery, $10.35 for October, $9.80 for November, $9.60 for December. Stearine at 12c. for prime Western. Beef hams at $22@23.00 for Western choice; Tallow at 5¾@6c. for prime. Beef at $8@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominal for prime and India mess. City extra India mess at $22@23.

SEED.—Small lots of old clover have been taken at 12½c.; nothing done in new clover to arrive; no stock here. New timothy is selling at $1.80.

TOBACCO.—Exporters have bought moderately at firm rates.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	6 @ 6¼	6 @ 7½
Good lugs	6¾@ 8	8 @ 9
Low leaf	8¾@10	9¾@11
Medium leaf	10¾@12¾	11¾@14
Good leaf	13 @14	14¾@15¾
Fine leaf	15 @16	16 @17¾
Selections	16¾@18	18 @20

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England fine seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5¾@ 7
Pennsylvania assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	5 @ 6¾
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes are active, but the liberal supplies make prices easy. Sweets are very plenty and the low figures send them into use. Pumpkins are slow of sale; for bakers' use marrow squash largely take their place of late years, owing to natural rich color. Tomatoes are low, the family demand having been pretty well supplied for preserving. We quote:

Prime potatoes, bbl., $2.50@2.60; fair, $2@2.12; sweet, $2.37@2.62. Corn, ₩ 100, $1@1.50. Tomatoes, ₩ bush. 35@75c. Marrow squash, ₩ bbl., 75c.@$1. Cabbages, ₩ 100, $5@6. New Russia turnips, ₩ bbl., $2. Egg plants, ₩ bbl., $2@2.50. Cauliflower, ₩ bbl., $2@4. Yellow onions, ₩ bbl., $2; red, $1.50@1.62; white, $2.50@3.25.

WOOL.—The market is strong and fairly active. Manufacturers, having a pretty good trade, are disposed to stock up freely. Western fleeces, California and Texas are chiefly wanted. For the best lots of fleeces at the close, better rates are named in instances; combing and delaine are in good demand and favor the sellers, as also pulled. Ohio X and Pennsylvania fleeces at 44c.; XX do., 43c.; No. 2 and No. 1 do., 39@42c.; coarse do., 33@36c.; combing, 42@47c.; Western fleeces, 37@40c. for X and XX; No. 2 and No. 1 do., 35@36; coarse, 31@32c.; combing, 42@47c.

ROCHESTER, Sept. 23.—Flour market active; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.10@1.21; amber winter, $1.05@1.15; white winter, $1.15@1.25. Oats, nominal at 38@43c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 30@31c. Cheese, 14@16c. Eggs, 23@25c. Lard, 18@20c. Apples, bu., 40@60c. Potatoes, bu., 60@75c. Beans, ₩ bu., 70@90c. Mess pork, $17.25. Wool, 20@38c. Hay, $9@11. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $1.50@2.25; clover, $6.00@6.50. Mill feed strong at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₩ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1876.

Two hundred and fifty boxes of farm-dairy cheese were delivered at Little Falls for the week ending Sept. 23d. These were sold at prices not materially differing from those of last week, 10½@12c. having been paid, with the exception of one very fine lot, which brought 12¼c. Although the representation of factories was quite large, yet but few sales were effected. This was due to the fact that, while salesmen were firm in the belief that cheese would command a better price than last week, buyers represented the market as being dull, even at those figures. Light purchases, consequently, was the result—not over 1,150 boxes having changed hands. For these, salesmen, for the most part, received their asking price; but dealers bought sparingly, as will be seen by reference to the following list of sales:

Two lots on commission; 4 do. at 12¾c; 8 do. 13c.; 6 do. 12½c.; 28 do. at 12½c.; 1 do. at 11c.; 2 do. at 12c.

The great advance of the past few weeks has had but little effect on the New York markets. Stocks are pretty much all cleared out, but little cheese being stored in the city, and the light sales will have a good influence on trade at the metropolis. The foreign demand continues good, and the cable has advanced 6s. This is a fair outlook, and there is reason to believe that prices will advance.

We have late advices from abroad. Our London correspondent says: There is a brisk demand for the finest sorts of American, and prices are fully 1s. to 2s. dearer. English cheddar more inquired after. Dutch sells at the advance. Wire from New York to-day quotes an advance. Following are quotations:

American, extra fine, 52@53s.; fine, 46@50s.; good, 40@42s.; secondary, 30@38s. English cheddar, 80@86s.; Wiltshire, double, none in market; Edams, 62@64s.; Goudas, 54@56s.; Dachy shape, 56@60s.

Butter is unprecedentedly scarce. Agents can name their own figure for that landed.

Clonmels, 144@146s.; Corks, 137@139s.; Limericks, 134s.; Dorsets, 166s.; Jersey, 130@138s.; Friesland, 154@156s.; Tralee Corks, 140@144s.; Normandy extra, 120@156s.; American and Canadian, 112@120s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 23, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	5,240	19	1,602	15,630	000
Forty-Eighth St	25	57	615	6,718	000
Fortieth St	000	00	000	000	11,000
Harsimus Cove	6,730	00	000	15,676	9,519
Totals this week	11,995	56	2,217	39,024	21,528
" last week	9,211	83	2,686	35,813	21,813

BEEVES.—Trade very slow on a heavy run of generally coarse quality horned cattle on Monday last. Prices fell ½c. ₩ lb. on inferior quality beeves; but were firm on good quality steers, which were scarce. Sales were effected from 8¾@9c. ₩ lb.; weights, 5@9 cwt. Wednesday, trade dull, at 8@10c.; weights, 6@8¾ cwt. Thursday, sales small, at 8@10½c.; weights, 5¾@8 cwt. Friday, the markets closed dull at 7¾@10¼c.; weights, 5@8¾ cwt. From 55@57 lbs., net, has been allowed. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, sold at 8@8¾c. ₩ lb. Native steers, grass-fed, 8¾@9c.; part corn-fed do., 9¾@10c.; grade do., 10¾@11c. Oxen, 8¾@9¾c. Heifers, grass-fed, 8¾c. Bulls, 3@3¾c.

MILCH COWS.—Trade remains slow and small, the quality of the animals to hand being from poor to fair. Prices, $29@45, calves included; general sales at $35@55 ₩ head. Springers in rather better demand than fresh cows, such like being needed to return to the country; prices, $50@60 ₩ head.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Coarse quality calves, part grass-fed and part buttermilk-fed, sold at 3½@6¾c. ₩ lb.; general sales at 4½@6c., also at $6@11.75 ₩ head; general sales at $8 ₩ head. Smooth quality veals sold at 7@9¾c.; State do. at 7@9¾c.; Jersey do., 7½@9¾c.; Pennsylvania do., 6@8¾c. The calves to hand exclusively reported from New York State.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—On Monday trade opened very dull, still there was no further reduction of rates. Sheep sold at 4@6¾c. ₩ lb.; lambs, 5¾@6¾c. mixed flocks, 5c. Wednesday, trade slow; sheep, 5¾@6c.; lambs, 5¾@6½c. Thursday, sales light; sheep, 4@6c.; lambs, 6@6. Friday, the markets closed dull; sheep, 4@5¾c.; lambs, 5¾@6¾c. State sheep, 1¾@6¾c. ₩ lb.; Canada do., 4¾@5¾c.; Ohio do., 5@6¼c.; Pennsylvania do., 6@5¾c.; Kentucky do., 5¾@6¾c.; Canada lambs, 6¾@6¾c.; Jersey do., 6¼@6¾c., with a few at 7c; State do., 5¾@6c., with one car load at 6¼c., and a few at 6¾c.

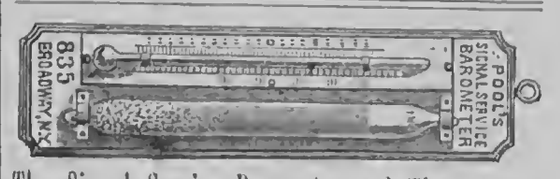
HOGS.—Trade slow and small: 80 State hogs, 304 lbs. ₩ head, live weight, 6¾c. ₩ lb.; 42 State do., 240 lbs. ₩ head, live weight, 6¾c. ₩ lb.; 98 Ohio do., 219¾ lbs. ₩ head, live weight, 6¾c. ₩ lb. City dressed hogs still slow of sale; extreme range of prices, 7¾@2c. ₩ lb., general sales, 7¾@8¾c. ₩ lb., all weights included.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade continues to be influenced by the broken condition of the weather. High-priced, valuable horses are almost entirely held on sale. Fifty poor quality light harness horses sold at $40@62 ₩ head; 45 do. at $55@105 ₩ head; 20 ordinary do. at $122@195 ₩ head; 10 do. at $180@220 ₩ head; 11 pairs family carriage horses at $300@375 ₩ pair; 3 pair stylish carriage horses, aged, at $600@760 ₩ pair; 5 inferior saddle horses at $100@175 ₩ pair; 2 pairs heavy draft horses at $500@600 ₩ pair; 9 do. coarse quality at $195@227 ₩ head; city railroad horses at $80@105 ₩ head; stage line do. at $110@200 ₩ head.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	10¾@11
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¾@ 9¾	9¾@ 9¾
Poorest	8 @ 9	8 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	9 @ 9¾	9 @ 9¾

New Advertisements.



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PERSONAL ITEMS.

BACK-BITERS—fleas.

MR. WALTER of the London Times is in this country.

THE palace in Genoa once occupied by Byron has been burned.

OFFENBACH is writing his American impressions for the "Figaro."

THE man who carries all before him—the wheelbarrow man.

MR. ELIHU BURRITT is writing local history at New Britain, Conn.

LEON Y. ESCOSURA, the Spanish painter, is on his way to this country.

UPON what subject in nature has every author written—upon the earth.

MISS MAY ALCOTT has sailed for England to study art there and in Italy.

MISS BELLA ST. CLAIR walked 1,000 miles in 1,000 hours in Woolwich Gardens, London.

"PARASOL-HOLDERS" is the Saratoga name for young men who part their hair in the middle.

EVEN the records of "high society" show that a wife's occupation is too often—fretwork.

THE market reports speak of the tendency of all provisions as "downward." What more natural?

A GOOD citizen is a peacemaker. But, says a surly friend, so is a bull in a china shop; it make pieces too.

VON MOLTKE—who is 77—is declining in health. He caught a severe cold lately which has turned to influenza.

THE Khedive of Egypt is about to discharge all his American officers. Something wrong in the accounts perhaps.

"WE find that he came to his death by calling Bill Jackson a liar!" was the verdict of a coroner's jury in Missouri.

IT was said of a certain judge that he was so reserved in his manners that one would never suspect that he had any.

IN the Tunisian department of the Centennial they say the "State days" are nothing to the Days they have at home.

PROF. SWING'S church in Chicago will take no part as a church in Mr. Moody's revival services, soon to begin in that city.

EVEN dealers in grave-yard "sundries" feel the pressure of the times. A dealer advertises "Headstones greatly reduced."

COMMODORE VANDERBILT refuses to do it. He is alive and receiving friends. We shall destroy that obituary notice next week.

AFTER all, says an old doctor, there are only two kinds of disease—the one of which you die, and the other of which you don't.

MR. HEPWORTH DIXON'S manuscript relating to the Holy Land was destroyed at the burning of a printing establishment in London a short time ago.

THE letters signed "Canadian" in the London Times, on the difficulties between Canada and British Columbia, is from the pen of Sir John Rose.

THE most infallible way of preventing a kitchen door from creaking is said to be to engage a servant girl whose sweetheart comes to the house to see her.

MR. JAMES WADSWORTH, the owner of one of the largest and most beautiful estates in the State, has just been married at Newport to Miss Travers of New York.

"THAT'S carrying the thing altogether too far, you know," as the man said when he got off the cars at the Centennial, and found his trunk had gone on to Pittsburg.

"WHY do the butterflies wait their wings?"—a 22-verse poem, by "Esmeralda," is respectfully declined, with the information that they have to do it or walk.

POLO hats for gentlemen are the latest. They are the ordinary high hat with the top smashed in to represent where the mallet fell during the excitement of the game.

THE Buffalo bride reported to have received $100,000 in cash as a bridal present, has already on hand nearly 10,000 begging letters from Europe, Asia and the United States.

A MAN in Boston, in his hurry to assist a fainting lady, got a bottle of mucilage instead of camphor, and bathed her face with it. She was a good deal stuck up with his attention.

THE coins lately found near Jerusalem are sheckels and half sheckels of Judea, silver, with a cup of manna on one side and on the other the budding rod. The date is 141 years B. C.

RHODE ISLAND farmers cut hay in the night. When one of them gets nervous and can't sleep, he gets up and mows the State over, after which he goes to bed and gets a good night's rest.

THE corner-stone of the monument to Gen. Williams, one of the captors of Major Andre, was laid last Saturday at the old stone fort near Schoharie Court House in Schoharie Co., N. Y.

THE will of Felicien David, the composer, contained the following injunction:—"My funeral is to be as simple as possible, and to be conducted without the assistance of any minister of religion."

MAJOR JOHN H. GEE, commandant of the Confederate prison at Salisbury, N. C., during the rebellion, met with a distressing death recently at Quincy, Fla. A fire was making rapid progress, and while he was assisting the firemen, the wall of a burning building fell upon him, and he was literally consumed.

MISS SUSAN DICKINSON, a sister of Miss Anna Dickinson, edits a newspaper in Luzerne County, Pa.

TOM HOOD'S house at Waastead has been sold at auction with all its literary and historical associations for £2,500.

A CITY young man who read "Now is the time for husking bees," chased a bee fifteen minutes to ascertain what kind of a husk it had on.

MR. PIERREPONT evidently believes that "a good name is better than precious ointment," and that's why he's changed his so often.

IT strikes us that with such leaders as Horvatov-itch, Prot-itch, and Popon-itch, these Servian troops ought to come bravely up to the scratch.

THE man who played the organ at Notre Dame at the coronation of Napoleon I., has just died. His name was Michel Engalbert, and his age 96.

A SOLDIER on trial for habitual drunkenness was addressed by the President of the court-martial:—"Prisoner, you have heard the prosecution for habitual drunkenness; what have you to say in your defence?" "Nothing, please your honor, but habitual thirst!"

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POSITIVE BARGAINS ARE OFFERED IN THIS DEPARTMENT.

LACE CURTAINS $7.75, usually $10 per pair.
GUIPURE CURTAINS, $3.25 usually $5.25 per pair.
NOTTINGHAM CURTAINS, $1.50 per pair.
COTTAGE DRAPERY, 16c. and 20c. per yard.

ALSO,

WINDOW CORNICES AND MIRRORS, HOLLAND AND GILT BORDER, WINDOW SHADES, FURNITURE COVERINGS, &c.

MARSEILLES QUILTS, from $1.50 up, in all grades, and HONEYCOMB QUILTS, from 75c.

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COMFORTABLES, FROM $1 UPWARD, 20 per cent. less than last year's prices.

BLEACHED AND UNBLEACHED MUSLIN, from 5c. up

PILLOW-CASE COTTONS, 42-inch, 5-4 and 6-4, from 12c. up.

SHEETINGS, 7-4, 8-4, 9-4, 10-4, from 17c., in all qualities and prices.

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THESE GOODS ARE OFFERED AT CASE PRICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE FOUND AS COMPLETE AS ANY IN THE CITY.

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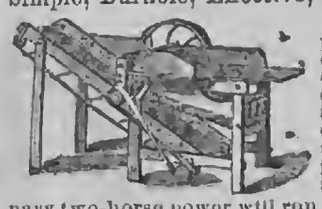

This machine, improved and perfected, does its work thoroughly, picking the corn from the stalk and stripping every ear, large or small, soft or hard, completely of its husks and silk. Any ordinary two-horse power will run it.

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UNION CORN HUSKER. SELLS AT SIGHT. No cold or sore fingers. Can be used with or without mitten. S. L. a lifetime.—Taken 6 Prem. 11 ms. One sample 25 cts.; 4 for 75 cts.
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For grinding CORN and COB CORN-MEAL, OATS, or any kind of *Grain, coarse or fine*; 10 SIZES, for HAND or POWER. *Illustrated Pamphlet Free.*
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DON'T LEAVE THE CENTENNIAL Exposition without examining the novel Dexter Spring and Fifth Wheel. A revolution in springs. EXHIBIT S. W. CORNER CARRIAGE ANNEX.

$15 Shot Gun

A double barrel gun, bar or front action locks; warranted genuine twist barrels, and a good shooter, OR NO SALE; with Flask, Pouch and Wad-cutter, for $15. Can be sent C. O. D., with privilege to examine before paying bill. Send stamp for Circular to P. POWELL & SON, 238 Main Street, Cincinnati, O.

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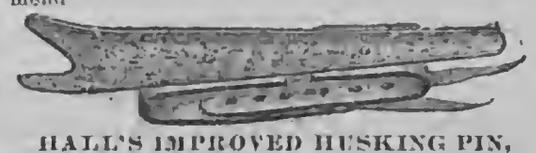

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A thorough-bred Jersey Cow for sale, from imported dam; is registered in the Jersey Herd Book. Also two Heifer Calves. Address
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TWO CHOICE BREEDS.

Plymouth Rocks

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Bred with the greatest care, and from the choicest strains of blood.
Chicks of both of the above for sale next fall.
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Ridgewood, Bergen Co., N. J.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

D. J. Remaly, Westmoreland Co., Pa.—Inclosed I send you two leaves for you to examine and tell me through the RURAL the names of the plants. The larger leaf is of a plant that has been called Bleeding Heart in this section of country, but there is no such name in the catalogues. The flower is pink and something like Begonia. The veins of the leaves on the under side are red, and the plant dies down to the ground late in the fall and sprouts in the spring. Is it a Begonia, or is it *Gesnera zebrina?* The other is a pretty, variegated plant. The stock and leaf stems are red and the leaf is green, variegated with white and an occasional red spot. I would like to know the name of this plant and something about it, whether it is easy to keep over winter and whether it is tuberous-rooted and will die down in the fall, and when it will bloom. I know it can be raised by cuttings, as that is the way I got mine. ANS.—It is a tuberous-rooted Begonia—*i. e.*, the larger leaf. The other is *Achyranthes Gilsoni.*

Lorenzo Rouse, Oneida Co., N. Y.—I send herewith a specimen of an annual which grows abundantly in my cultivated grounds from self-seeding. Please name it. The only name I have ever heard for it is "Matrimony Vine," but I notice in the last RURAL that you give that name to something entirely different. Hence my desire to know the true name of the plant I send. The sample inclosed is a small one, the plant usually attaining a length of two feet or over, with many branches.

[The above specimen was so crushed that we could tell nothing about it. Our correspondent accordingly was requested to forward another in a box, to which he kindly replied as follows.—ED.]

I send herewith a small box, as you kindly suggested, containing a sample of the plants for which I desired the true name. I find it difficult to obtain good specimens so late in the season, but those I send furnish the flower (which you will perceive is quite small), also seed pods, and, I think, some ripe seeds. It is, perhaps, not properly a *vine*, at least is not a *twiner*, but still seeks support from other bodies, and in such cases I have known it to attain a growth of two or three feet. Otherwise it falls to the ground. We have found it very useful as a trimming to bouquets. Indeed, for this use we have considered it almost indispensable. I am unable to say whether it is indigenous or exotic, or where I first obtained it. Where it has once been introduced it retains a permanent footing, but is not difficult to eradicate. ANS.—*Fumaria officinalis.* It is close to Mountain Fringe (*Adlumia cirrhosa*) and, indeed, quite resembles it. Introduced from Europe.

Mrs. J. P. H., Goshen, Ind.—Please give in the RURAL some account of Hibiscus grandiflora. Is it hardy? Will a small one be likely to live if put out this fall? Botany says it is hardy, but some of my friends think it a house plant. Any information will much oblige. ANS.—Yes, the H. grandiflora grows wild in Southern Illinois and Southern Ohio, and is hardy in most if not all the Northern States. But there are many tender exotic species cultivated in greenhouses.

W. H. A.—I send you to-day a box containing three beetles of some sort, packed in sawdust. They are now alive, but may not be when you get them. I found them on my quince trees. What are they? I thought perhaps they might be the quince curculio. ANS.—The small beetles about a half inch long, of a yellowish color, covered with short hairs, are the American *Celonia*, or as now classified in our entomological works, *Euryomia Inda.* It belongs to the same great family of insects as our common May beetle, and it is frequently found eating the silk from corn, boring into ripening peaches and other fruits. It is not allied to the quince or other species of curculio.

Wheat Grower.—To keep weevils from seed-wheat, put it in tight barrels mixing in a half pound of gum-camphor broken up into small lumps, then head up tight; a little benzoin poured into the barrels will also answer the same purpose, but the fumes are more likely to pass off sooner than those of the camphor.

Photographer.—We do not endeavor to keep informed in regard to the progress of the photographic art, but the largest picture from a single negative which we remember of noticing a description of was taken in New South Wales by one HALTERMAN, a gold miner. This picture is five feet by three feet two inches, and is described as being very perfect.

Eucalyptus.—It would be useless for you to attempt cultivating the Australian Fever Tree in Ohio, for it is too tender to grow even in Georgia.

J. E., Shelbyville, Ind.—The *value* or *reserve* is the amount a company is required by law to place to the credit of a policy. The *surrender value* is the price a company will pay to be released from its bargain. Some companies indorse this value on their policies; others have a fixed rule for calculating it. The company you mention appears to act very illiberally in this regard and to have no rule whatever that we have been able to discover. The value of No. 21,903 was, on the last anniversary of its issue, $147.79; on the next it will be $177.03. Value of No. 22,025, anniversary of this year, $41.51, and for additions, $13.94; and the next will be $48.51. Value of No. 22,026, this year, $225.88; next year, $282.40. The amount of outstanding loans or notes being in each case deducted, the remainder will be the cash reserve.

Country Boy.—The Leather-wood or Moosewood (*Dirca palustris*) found in our Northern woods is quite a pretty ornamental shrub, but its bright, orange-colored berries are poisonous, and children should be taught not to put them in their mouths, much less to swallow the juice or seeds. The bark of this shrub is also said to cause redness and vesication when applied to the skin, and sores made by it are difficult to heal.

Subscriber.—The recipe for making an irritating plaster appeared in the RURAL of Jan. 15 the present year. The one ingredient named as "Pike-root" must, we think, have been a misprint and intended to be Poke-root (*Phytolacca decandra*), as we do not know of any plant by the name of "Pike." The plaster, however, would probably be just as efficacious without the Poke-root as with it, because it does not possess vesicatory properties like the Indian Turnip, which was also named in the recipe referred to.

Musical Instruments.

REMOVAL-200 PIANOS & ORGANS at half price. The Subscribers will sell their Entire Stock of Pianos & Organs, new and second hand, of six first-class makers; sheet music, and S. S. music books, *at* 50 PER CT. OFF, for cash previous *to* removal *to* their new store, 40 EAST 14th St., UNION SQUARE. Oct. 12th. Illustrated catalogues Mailed. Monthly Instalments received. Ag'ts Wanted. Special inducements *to* the trade. HORACE WATERS & SONS, Manufacturers *and* Dealers, 481 Broadway, N. Y.

Real Estate.

I WISH TO BUY A FARM of about 50 acres, with fair improvements, near a R. R. town. Address, stating lowest cash price, G. MORGAN, Troy, Ill.

COUNTRY HOME.—M. T. B., Lenox Co., Mass., can buy the old, time-honored Prindle Home: 130 acres land, and house second to none in Western New York. Send for view of *House* or particulars, to D. R. PRINDLE, East Bethany, N. Y.

10 YEARS' CREDIT. $2.50 TO $15 PER ACRE.

Improved farms, good buildings and fences, well watered, original growth timber, Oak and Hickory. Adapted for Grain, Grass, Clover, Fruit, Cotton, Tobacco, &c. (Wheat averages 20 to 25 bushels per ac.) Within 6 miles of Railroad, direct 120 miles to seaport. Address WARREN COUNTY LAND BUREAU, Warrenton, North Carolina.

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FIRST-CLASS STOCK FARMS,
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At Wholesale. *Cheaper than ever.* Also, general Nursery Stock at lowest rates. Send for Fall Price Lists. Special terms to Growers and Clubs. Address CHENOA NURSERIES, Chenoa, Ills.

THAT RASPBERRY.

The THWACK leads all other sorts in prolificness, hardiness, firmness, size, color and flavor. Endorsed as the best by J. C. EVANS, President of the Missouri State Horticultural Society, and hundreds of others who have fruited it.

Endorsement of the Pike County (Mo.) Horticultural Society, at its July Session, 1876:

Resolved, That the Thwack Raspberry, as grown at Foster's Hillside Nursery, possesses more fine qualities for market or table uses than any other raspberry we know of. Its extreme hardiness and prolificness, as well as its superior shipping qualities, large size, brilliant color and good flavor, make it the favorite wherever known. Unanimously adopted. T. E. WHITLOCK, Secretary.

Address, with stamp for Circular,
FOSTER'S HILLSIDE NURSERY CO.,
Louisiana, Mo.

IMPORTED DUTCH BULBS

Our NEW DESCRIPTIVE PRICED CATALOGUE of the above is ready for mailing.

J. M. THORBURN & CO.,
15 John St., New York.

HEIKES NURSERIES.

We offer to the trade for fall of 1876, a large stock, especially in the following:

Apples, including Trioteki and Marengo, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Currants, Wild Goose Plums, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Strawberries, etc.

We are prepared to offer inducements, and solicit a

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KILMARNOCK WEEPING WILLOWS.

A superb lot that will be sold below the market value. Also a splendid lot of

MAGNOLIA ACUMINATA SEEDLINGS,

Nursery grown, from six inches to four feet high, that we offer at a bargain. Price list free.

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APPLE, PEACH, PEAR AND PLUM TREES,

and a general assortment of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Vine Shrubs, Roses, &c., &c., Small Fruits, Apple Seedlings and Osage Hedge Plants. The Tebo Raspberry a specialty. The *Tebo* is a new *early* Black Cap—earlier, fully as large and more productive than Doolittle or Seneca, and of excellent flavor. Address THE TEBO NURSERIES CO., Clinton, Mo.

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Fine and reasonable. During the month of September is a good time to transplant Evergreens. Also general nursery stock for sale. Address

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The *Pioneer* Nursery of Florida. The largest Tropical and Semi-Tropical Nursery in the U. S. 1,000,000 of the Citrus family offered this season. Catalogues sent free. Address L. A. HARDEE, Proprietor, Jacksonville, Fla.

Trees, Plants, Bulbs. Full Price List and Bulb Catalogue GRATIS. Address F. K. PHŒNIX, Bloomington Nursery, Ill.

THE GREAT AMERICAN STRAWBERRY and DELAWARE RASPBERRY, the largest and best. Millions of Trees and Plants at *Pomona Nursery.* Send for Circulars. *Wm. Parry*, Cinnaminson, N. J.

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WINTER-BLOOMING PLANTS
A SPECIALTY.

Carnations, Smilax, Neapolitan Violets, Bouvardias, Chinese Azaleas, Lily of the Valley. All the new and most desirable Geraniums and similar plants. Also, a great variety of the common and fancy Hardy Evergreen Trees, as low as they can be purchased of any trustworthy dealer.

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Are you going West, North or Northwest?
You want to know the best routes to take?

The shortest, safest, quickest and most comfortable routes are those owned by the Chicago and North-Western Railway Company. It owns over two thousand miles of the best road there is in the country. Ask any ticket agent to show you its maps and time cards. All ticket agents can sell you through tickets by this route. Buy your tickets via the CHICAGO & NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY for San Francisco, Sacramento, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Cheyenne, Denver, Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs, Yankton, Sioux City, Dubuque, Winona, St. Paul, Duluth, Marquette, Green Bay, Oshkosh, Madison, Milwaukee, and all points west or northwest of Chicago. If you wish the best traveling accommodations, you will buy your tickets by this route, and will take no other.

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This is the ONLY LINE running these cars between Chicago and St. Paul or Chicago and Milwaukee. At Omaha our sleepers connect with the Overland Sleepers on the Union Pacific Railroad for all points west of the Missouri River.

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9:00 A. M., Daily except Sunday. Drawing-Room Sleeping Coaches through to Chicago; but one change of day cars.

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The only line running Hotel Dining Cars out of New York. A ride of nearly a thousand miles without leaving the car to eat, drink or sleep!

Wit and Humor.

POOR, POOR MAN.

"HAVE you any old clothes, mum, as you could give a poor man who has a sick wife and six small children to support?" inquired a dilapidated person last Saturday, at the door of a High stroet residence.

"I've got a coat with but three buttons gone, and a pair of pants that have had but a small patch behind, which I guess you can have," said the good woman, after she had examined her closet.

"Is the coat double-breasted, with a velvet collar?" inquired the poor man.

"No, sir."

"Are the pants of a plaid pattern and cut with spring bottoms of twenty-two inches?"

"No sir."

"Then I guess you needn't trot 'em out," said the poor man. "They ain't my style, and I don't want 'em."

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

"YOU want nothing, do you?" said Pat. "Bedad, an' if it's nothing ye want, yo'll find it in the jug, where the whisky was."

EVEN history now and then drops into an unintentional pun. Take for instance the fact that Louis Eleventh was driven in XI-le.

SCENE: Young ladies' boarding-school. Professor—"What can you tell of Pluto?" Miss D.—"He was the son of Saturn, and when his father died he gave him hell."

"MAMMA," said a young hopeful, who against his will was made to rock the cradle of his baby brother, "if the Lord has any more babies to give away don't you take 'em."

"YES," said an old Missouri farmer, "I believe in mental cultervation. Next to cultervating corn, I believe it's the profitablist thing a man can do, unless it's growin' pork."

A CHICAGO paper says that a "Mr. Kennedy was shot yesterday in the neighborhood of the canal, where he lives." That must have been in the neighborhood of the alimentary canal, we suppose.

"I GUESS dad wishes we'd all die and go to heaven," said a miser's son to his maternal parent. "Why so?" she asked, upon recovering from her astonishment. "Oh, 'cause Heaven's such a cheap place to live in."

MOST of the Shelbyville (Ky.) dogs sit in the back yards and howl all night, so that people will know they are not away anywhere killing sheep. A man has to own more sheep than we do before he can appreciate the grandeur of such exemplary conduct.

A COOL young gent entered a menagerie with a cigar in his mouth, when the proprietor politely requested the visitor not to teach the other monkeys bad habits. The young man proved himself equal to the occasion by producing a cigar case and saying: "Try one."

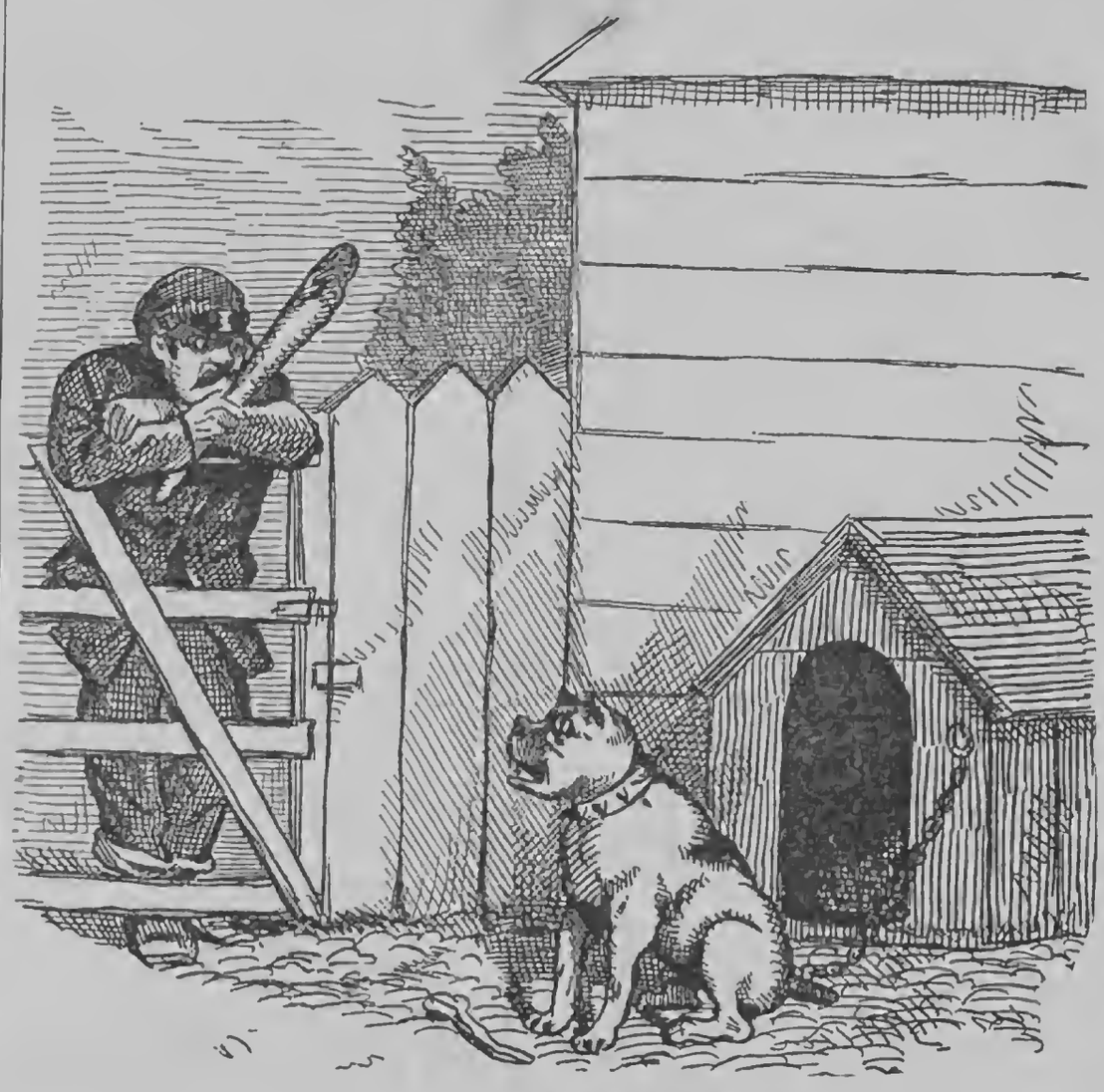
A GILT-EDGED and superfine young man stepped into a barber's shop the other day to get shaved. The knight of the razor eyed him quizzically for a moment, and then remarked: "You must either take down that shirt collar or wait for a shave till I can borrow a step-ladder."

ONE Ohio editor says of a contemporary who had assumed the part of a mummy in a dramatic performance:—"He was obliged to put a little animation into himself to come up with the character, and to wear more recent linen; but that was about all. Nature had admirably qualified him to act the part."

A SNOB once asked the celebrated carver, M. de Pomnat, who recently died in Paris, if he had learned his art at the King's table or kitchen. "At neither," replied the renowned carver; "it was from having so often to slice off the ears of insolent puppies that I acquired it. You now see how I can cut up a goose."

AN Irishman's friend having fallen into a slough, the Irishman called loudly to another for assistance. The latter, who was busily engaged in cutting a log, and wished to procrastinate, inquired, "How deep is the gentleman in?" "Up to his ankles." "Then there is plenty of time," said the other. "No there is not," rejoined the first; "I forgot to tell you he's in head first."

PROF. GORINI of Padua, has arrived in Paris to exhibit to the Academy of Sciences his process of petrifying human remains. Some months ago a young husband went to the professor and asked him what it would cost to petrify his mother-in-law. "What particular member would you desire petrified?" asked the professor. "The right hand, to avenge blows given in the past and prevent those that might be given in the future." Then she is not dead?" "Alas! no." I can do nothing for you; I only operate on dead bodies." "So I was told," replied the husband, "but I had hoped that you would have contracted to prepare her for the process as well."



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Arboricultural.

WALNUTS AND HICKORY-NUTS.

From the time when the Mythological Gods were supposed to reign and hold the destiny of the human race in their hands, the nut-bearing trees and shrubs have been highly valued in the Eastern Hemisphere. Indeed, the Walnut of

Fig. 2.

Europe was considered in earlier times so good and valuable that it was dedicated to Jove, and thus came the botanical name of the genus to which it belongs, viz., *Juglans*, from *Jovis glans*, the nut of Jove, it being considered food fit for this much-worshipped God of the ancients.

However much we might question the taste of a people who extolled the Walnut so highly, we have only to remember that it is not many generations ago that Acorns were considered very good food, for common folks at least, and Acorn Bread was far from being a rarity in Great Britain. But as we have no mythological history to fall back upon in throwing a halo of glory about the products of our own nut-bearing trees, necessity compels us to base all praise of them upon actual worth, which, by the way, is rapidly becoming, with Americans, the criterion for judging of all things terrestrial.

The effects of cultivation upon any species of tree or other plant are always seen in the variations of seedlings raised therefrom, and this has been the result of long domestication in the European Walnut (*Juglans regia*). For thousands of years, as we have said, this nut has been highly prized by the inhabitants of the Old World, and millions of its seedlings have been raised during the period named. With the natural tendency of all plants to vary, it would have been singular if some really choice and distinct varieties of this nut had not been produced during its long domestication, and under the circumstances we might have expected a greater number. There are, however, some excellent sorts which are well worthy the attention of the residents of our Middle and Southern States, and perhaps those in favorable locations at the Northern.

The common English Walnut thrives in the vicinity of New York City, but while some of the trees are very productive, others are almost or totally barren, this difference probably being due to protection from northerly winds and to favorable or unfavorable soils. In the Middle States no such variations, we believe, are observed, and there are no good reasons why large plantations of these nuts could not be made with fair prospects of success and remunerative returns on the investments.

The number of varieties known in Europe is, as we have said, quite large; but for a commencement our farmers and arboriculturists would probably not care to experiment with only a small number. In a late issue of the London Garden we find an exhaustive article on the "European Walnut and its varieties," from which we copy three of the accompanying illustrations.

The largest of all the varieties yet produced is known as the Gibbous' Walnut (*Juglans regia gibbosa*), Fig. 1. In Fig. 2 the same variety is shown with the outer husk removed. The tree is described as having a very straight stem, covered with an ashy-gray bark. The branches are thick, with the bark of a shiny surface and a ruddy brown hue, speckled with elongated strie. The rind of this nut is thinnish and marked toward the base with ashy-gray elevations, which, toward the top of the fruit, become so crowded together as to give it some resemblance to our common Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*). The shell is thick and hard to the touch, and deeply corrugated. The flavor of this variety is excellent and the kernel easily extracted from the shell; but, like all the hard varieties, the shell is thick and there is an inner deposit which considerably reduces the size of the kernel. We do not know whether this rather remarkable variety has been as yet introduced into this country, but presume it will be ere long.

The Variegated Walnut (*J. regia variegata*) is another remarkable variety. The young branches are covered with a dark-green bark, spotted with gray and striped longitudinally with yellow. The rind of the nut is also slightly striped with two shades of green. The nut is said to be excellent in flavor and the shell very thin. In addition to the above there are several other large French sorts of excellent quality. Among the most noted of these we may name the Noix Meyette, Franquette, St. Jean, Chabert, Parisienne, and Octagona.

Thousands of bushels of what are termed English Walnuts or Madeira-nuts are annually imported, and we know of no good reason why, with our wide diversity of climates and soils, this should continue for another century, as it has during the past, for at least some of the many varieties of this nut might be raised in abundance if the trees were planted.

Of our own species of nuts belonging (according to late botanical classification) to the genus *Juglans*, the common Black Walnut (*J. nigra*), and the Butternut (*J. cinerea*), little can be said beyond what is generally known to everybody. The first is a noble tree, valued mainly for its wood, which is used for making furniture and inside finish for dwellings. The nuts have such a strong, rank flavor that few persons find them agreeable. The latter, or Butternut, is not quite so highly valued for its wood, although it is extensively employed for the same purposes as the former, but the nuts have a sweet, rich flavor, and are generally appreciated by the residents in regions where they abound. The shell is so thick and hard, requiring a smart blow to crack it, that the nut does not meet with so ready a sale in our city markets as it would if it were different in this respect.

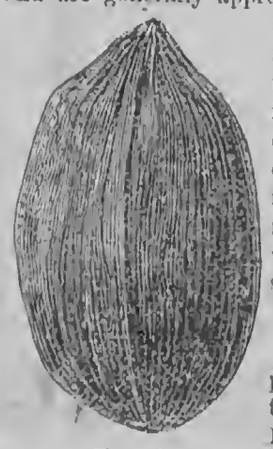


Fig. 3.

HICKORY-NUTS.

The earlier botanists placed the Hickories in the same genus as the European Walnuts, our Black Walnut and Butternut; but later authorities have divided the genus *Juglans*, giving to the former section the name of *Carya*, which comes from the ancient Greek name of the Walnut.

The Hickories not having been cultivated to any considerable extent in this or any other country for their fruit, we have in consequence few very distinct sorts of any of the half-a-dozen or more native species, still an occasional one has been found, and could our gardeners discover some ready means of propagating them, we would soon have Hickory-nut orchards in abundance, for the best of those already known are second to none of the most valuable varieties of the European Walnut. In fact, the nuts of two native species as found growing wild in the forests, the Pecan-nut (*Carya olivæformis*) and the Shell-bark or White Walnut (*C. alba*) are annually gathered and sold by the thousands of bushels, and but few persons would exchange them for any foreign variety of Walnut.

The common Pecan-nut is well known and is usually to be found during winter in every city and village market. The trees grow wild in moist, rich lands all over the Southern States and as far north in the Western as the southern part of Illinois. There are, it appears, many wild varieties, some double the size of others, and the form and the thickness of the shell are also quite variable.

One of the most remarkable varieties which has come under our notice is one found near New Orleans, La., a few years since, and for specimens of which we are indebted to James H. Hummel, Esq., publisher of Our Home Journal, of the above-named city. This variety is nearly double the size of those usually found in market and of an irregular form (as shown in Fig. 3), it being somewhat flattened on one side, with acute, elevated ridges running from the upper point to base. The shell is slightly thicker than the ordinary varieties, but the kernel is large, fine-flavored, and it is altogether a remarkable nut, worthy of preservation and propagation.

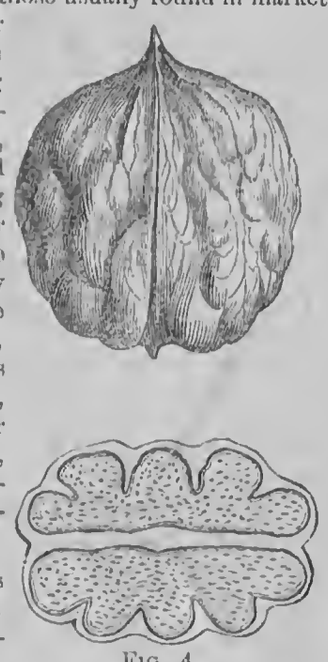
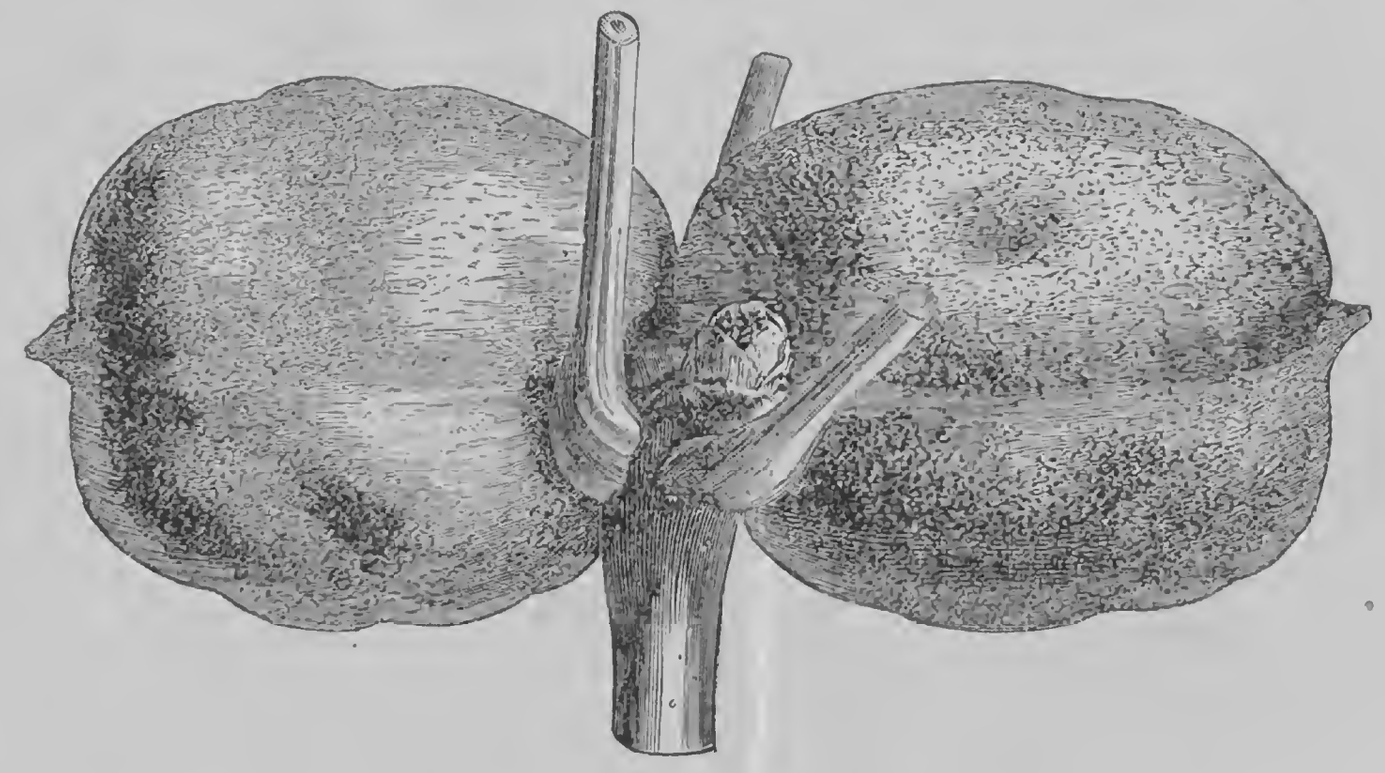


Fig. 4.

The next species of Hickory most valued for its excellent flavored nuts is our common Shell-bark, which also varies greatly in the size and thickness of the shell in different soils and regions of country, still all are readily distinguished from other species by their thinner and lighter-colored shells and sweeter-flavored kernels. In our many years' search for peculiar or choice sorts of these nuts, none have been found possessing more valuable qualities or that were more distinct in appearance than the "Hales Paper-shell," so named by us and described in the Rural New-Yorker of Nov. 19, 1870. The original tree of this remarkable variety is now growing upon the grounds of Mr. Henry Hales, near Ridgewood, N. J., and is probably not less than seventy-five years old. The stem of the tree is sixty or more feet in hight and some four feet in circumference at the base. The nuts differ from the ordinary Shell-barks by not having any regular corrugations running from base to point, nor any sharp angles, as usually found upon the shell of this species, but the surface is broken up into small depressions, giving it an appearance very similar to the European Walnut. In fact, had any one tried to produce a hybrid between the two species and obtained a nut like the Hales, it would have been considered by most persons as positive proof that the experiment had been successful. But as we happen to know that no such influence was brought to bear upon the parent of the Hales, its peculiarities must be attributed to natural variations.

A good idea of the general size and appearance of this variety can be obtained from Fig. 4. The lower or cross section shows the size of the kernel, also the form and thickness of the shell.

Whether this variety will ever be successfully propagated by any of the methods now practiced, is somewhat doubtful at present, for out of several thousand seedlings grafted from the original tree, and by a number of excellent propagators of such plants, less than fifty cions were made to unitewith the stocks or



GIBBOUS' WALNUT.—(Fig. 1)

have lived to the end of the second season. Seedlings of the Hales would probably revert back to the original form.

OTHER SPECIES OF HICKORY.

For size of nut, the Western Shell-bark (*C. sulcata*) exceeds all other native species. They are sometimes found fully two inches long, with

Fig. 5.

a point at both ends. Husk very thick, also the shell, which is coarsely ribbed and of a dull white or brownish color. Fig. 5 represents a specimen of this species received from Kansas, the cross section showing the size of the kernel and the thickness of the shell. The flavor of the kernel is good enough, but there is too little meat for so much shell. Hence these nuts are seldom gathered for use.

The Mocker-nut, or White-heart Hickory (*C. tormentosa*), is a very common species in the Eastern States; but the nuts have too thick a shell to be of value. The timber of this species, however, is very valuable, as is well known to our farmers and mechanics generally.

Fig. 6.

Then we have what is called the Pig-nut (*C. porcina*). The fruit before being divested of the husk is pear-shaped, but the nut itself is oblong-oval and has a rather hard shell, with a somewhat bitterish-flavored kernel.

The Bitternut (*C. amara*), found mainly in low, moist grounds, bears a small nut, with very thin shell, but the kernel is exceedingly bitter, and hence the common name. The tree is rather slender-branched, and the terminal buds on the twigs are quite distinct from the three first-named species, which are large and of a roundish, blunt form, while those of the latter are quite small and pointed, as shown in Fig. 6, and are covered with a yellowish, downy pubescence.

A UNIQUE VARIETY.

We cannot refrain from mentioning one very unique variety of Hickory-nut received from Connecticut a few years since. The species of Hickory to which this variety belongs we have no means of determining, but were informed that it is a genuine Shell-bark (*C. alba*). All the nuts borne by the tree are of the form and size shown in Fig. 7, the lower half of one lobe of the nut being deformed, or, as it would appear, failed to develop. This singular malformation of all the nuts upon a tree is, we own, a mystery for which there is no accounting with our present knowledge of vegetable physiology, and we leave it in the hands of "Darwinites" for explanation.

Fig. 7.

These curious freaks of nature are especially interesting to the scientific arboriculturist, as they often aid him in unraveling many a knotty question in regard to the development or evolution of species. There are doubtless hundreds of such freaks or varieties to be found in the forests of this country, and we hope every reader of the RURAL NEW-YORKER will be on the look-out for them, and, when found, send us specimens for our cabinet. We also would like to get specimens of the different varieties of all native species, in order to ascertain how widely they differ, and the influence of soil and climate upon the nut-bearing trees of our country.

We intended to have said something about nut-bearing trees from the seed, also how to transplant and manage them in after years, but for want of space this will have to be deferred to another time.

Farm Economy.

OUT-LOOK OF FARMING IN BRITAIN.

A CORRESPONDENT writing to the Mark Lane Express, in speaking of the general prospect of the cereal crops of Great Britain says:

The present prospect of the tillage farmer is far from cheering. The whole of the cereal crops of the year are under an average in point of yield per acre; the area under wheat is the least for the last quarter of a century, and the quality to a great extent is still dependent on the season. The wheat crop of 1875, taking quantity and quality, was one of the most unprofitable to the producer on record, and yet the prices throughout the harvest year have ruled extremely low—a clear proof that our increasing population is not dependent for their supply of breadstuffs on the produce of English soil. It is every day becoming more apparent, that if the British farmer is to maintain his position he must of necessity direct his energies to an increased production of milk and meat. There are certain agitators, possessing only a slender stock of agricultural knowledge and experience, who are urging the farmers to lay down the whole of their arable lands to grass: every practical farmer knows that if he is to keep a large head of stock on his farm he must of necessity grow a certain breadth of straw and roots. Although the wages of the agricultural laborer are nominally high, the improvements in agricultural implements and machinery have placed the farmer in a very different position to that of even fifteen years ago. Compare the cost of getting in the harvest, one of the most important and expensive operations of the farm, in the past and present respectively. In the days of the scythe and the sickle, taking the whole of the crops on a large farm the cost of cutting, carrying, and thatching, amounted to from 14s. to 20s. per acre. The harvest then not unfrequently lasted over a period of six weeks. Now, with a good machine, attended by eight active hands, 12 acres per day of a fair standing crop can be cut, tied, and set up. Again, at the stack, a sheaf elevator worked by a pony readily does the work of three ordinary hands. I maintain that on a large farm, well equipped with machinery, the harvest can now be secured for less money per acre than it could in 1861, although the wages of the agricultural laborer have meantime increased 50 per cent.

Your correspondent need have little fear that the interests of agriculture or of the community will materially suffer even though a few estates should fall into the hands of men who have acquired large fortunes in mercantile pursuits. Who are the great pioneers of the improvement of our live stock, the implements and machinery of the farm, and even the soil itself? Is it the hereditary chief who can trace his lineage and the history of his broad acres in unbroken descent from the days of William the Conqueror to those of our own time, or is it he who, through innate perseverance and force of character, has risen from the ranks? The hereditary lords of the soil are beset with many grave difficulties: however anxious many of them are to equip their farms with all modern requirements in the shape of permanent improvements, they have not generally the means to do so at command. Many a landlord with a large rent-roll is only the nominal owner. Not unfrequently he is saddled with the interest on mortgages which have descended to him with the patrimony, besides settlements to relatives, all of which tend to curtail his income.

On the owner devolves all the duties and responsibilities which naturally attach to the ownership of a large estate without the means to discharge them satisfactorily. The present is a trying season for all classes whose incomes are fixed. The indulgence of expensive habits amongst all classes of society is a besetting sin of the age, and by no other class is this more keenly felt than it is by the landowner, who finds his expenditure yearly increasing, whilst his income rather diminishes than increases, and the purchasing power of his gold gradually grows less. When the growing confidence has been fully restored, I hope for happier and more prosperous times both for the owners and occupiers of the soil. Your correspondent advocates leases as the great panacea for all the ills from which agriculturists are now suffering: to my mind a lease without a well-defined Tenant-Right is somewhat like a ship without a rudder—completely at the mercy of every storm.

Many who are only partially acquainted with the system of landholding in Scotland attribute the advanced state of agriculture in that country to the prevalence of leases: there are other causes which have contributed in an equal degree to this result, the most prominent of which have been a higher standard of education, a simpler medium of circulation, and more liberal system of banking than that offered in England. We are no doubt on the eve of great and momentous changes, both as regards the owner and the occupiers of the soil. Though no advocate of small holdings, yet I deeply deplore the loss of the yeoman proprietor, who is gradually disappearing from the land, and, with him is departing that sturdy independence for which the race was so justly celebrated. Both owners and occupiers are now thoroughly cognisant of the necessity of giving security to the tenant for the capital embarked in improving and cultivating the soil. I hope to see arise, Phœnix-like, from the ashes of an effete system, a more generous treatment of old Mother Earth. Then she will literally teem with plenty, and will repay with usury the talent committed to her care.

WHAT I'VE LEARNT LATELY.

THE Agricultured Gazette in speaking of the veteran agriculturist, Mr. MECHI says:

One derives, and has derived, so much information from time to time from the genial utterances of Mr. Mechi, the result as they are of a never-wearying observation, that I venture to follow, at whatever distance, in his track, and give my agricultural friends some hints, drawn from my own personal experience. In the first place our second crop of clover, a very fair one considering the season, being just down, and some heavy showers, so much needed upon the farm elsewhere, having succeeded rather suddenly with the probable effect of our being only enabled to save this valuable fodder by the most anxious exertions, I am prepared with a load of refuse salt, wherewith to strew the loads well as they are brought in, in some degree of necessity, if not damp, at least in a condition approaching it from the field. The observance of this precaution is just one of those things which our obstinate men for some reason detest, and would manage to avoid, were I not present in the flesh. We treated a second crop of clover thus three years since. It was lovely to look at as it grew, it was abundant, and cut in the fairest weather; but of course August is never responsible for its temper, and so before we could carry we got it well soaked, and that, unhappily, at the most destructive period—that is, when it was fully half dried, and lost, consequently, sugar with every wash.

Well, there was nothing for it but to put it together under all chances in a rick. Nice, black, foggy stuff it was, too. The very hinds held their master in contempt. The bailiff was beside himself with disgust. Still, as our rule is, we persevered; we were obstinate. Well, the winter came, and I tried it before a few things. They would not even pick it over. "Might do for young Irish things that don't know any better, brought up on bog juice and rushes," an inspecting friend observes. We are obstinate, we observed, and so we merely gave orders that the food be changed, and the convict rick be left alone. After a while, one bright morning, we found the cowman littering a yard with our experiment, and sneezing vigorously as the dust flew up his nose. Whose order was this? Oh, between them they had thought it was of no good for anything, and so, although there was plenty of legitimate straw about, they must needs go and interfere with my pet stuff. It is just one of those stupidly superfluous performances which rustics, the best of them, are given to. It fired my wrath at once, and I astonished their weak nerves; and had the satisfaction of finding, 12 months after, this black sodden stackling (it was not a large one) intact, with only wanting to be thatched anew.

This season we were short of hay, and out of the purest obstinacy I obliged the shepherd to carry up with me, or it would not probably have been properly done, an armful of this frightful fodder. The sheep were upon swedes. The flock rushed up at once on our arrival, and to my delight no less than their attendant's astonishment, they pitched into the racks at once, and never left them until they had consumed every scrap, picking even the bones. I did nothing more than give the order to bring them more. The result was that the hateful stack was clean eaten up; that it lasted some six weeks, that the sheep throve on it, and the shepherd confessed his sorrow when it came to an end.

Moral of all this:—When you have been obliged to salt an inferior lot of hay, give it time to be thoroughly impregnated with the flavoring. Salt keeps working on in the dark for ages. A wooden floor on which it has been once laid will keep weeping for years. And it so too keeps on extending its influence in the stack. Anyhow the first year nothing would touch it. The mildew was too strong. The second year the flock greedily devoured it. Be it remembered that it had not been allowed to grow coarse and fibrous. It was cut in its succulent bloom, only the weather had washed it at its worst stage.

Another hint, which, after many years' use of the crop, I have only just found. Our useful lucerne crop (Red Sandstone formation), which answers splendidly here, has kept a great stock of pigs, horses, and cows through the straits of an otherwise exceeding hard summer. Our bulls, getting less exercise, got hot and feverish, and broke out (over their thighs especially) with an offensive eruption. We could not make out what it was, and the vet. prescribed wildly, when by the merest accident we found it recorded in White's work that this is a common complaint in France and the Channel Islands, and arises from the lucerne being cut green and wet—that it should be allowed to wither before it is given to cows, and that these should have salt always with it, and some meal. On stopping the lucerne the eruption soon receded. It was our first experience of the disagreeable disorder.

Field Crops.

HARVESTING MANGOLD WURZELS.

As the season for gathering beets and other roots will soon be at hand, we give some English views in regard to gathering and storing mangolds, copied from the London Field:

The harvesting and storing of mangold wurzel is among the most important of farm operations. When a crop shows signs of flagging leaves, either from lack of food or from the attack of fungi, or both, it is as well to put them together as soon as may be convenient; but with regard to those which are still vigorous when frost begins, it will be well to watch the glass and other weather signs, as a few degrees of frost for one or two nights will not greatly injure this crop; and, indeed, we have harvested mangold as late as November, which had been visited by frost so severe as to cause considerable alarm for its safety. If mangolds be harvested in dry days, succeeded by frosty nights, we make a point of never commencing to pull until all frost has been removed from the plants, and then not to take up more than can be conveniently carried before night sets in, as the leaving of roots exposed flat on the ground in a frosty night may cause premature rottenness. If, however, they cannot be carried, it will be well to protect them by spreading the leaves over the roots, either as they lie in rows or in gathered-up heaps.

Our mode of harvesting is to pull them up and place in ranks sufficiently wide apart to allow of the passage of the carts between the ranks, and as they all lie side by side the leaves are cut off with a short hook, or a broken hook does well for the purpose. Here, however, great caution should be used. The workpeople always cut them too close—in fact, they too often cut off the leaves in one bunch, thus taking with them a portion of the crowns. We therefore watch this part of the work with great care, and give directions that nearly all the life-stalk (petiole) shall be left on; and indeed, we are not particular as to leaving whole leaves here and there, as when the roots are caved the leaves soon dry up and act as a convenient packing to the roots.

We find, too, that dirt on the roots soon dries up, so that we are not over-particular to shake all this off before storing; at the same time we confess to a preference for yellow intermediate mangold, on account of its very smooth outline and few rootlets, because it can be pulled with half the labor of the coarser sorts, and will come up so free from dirt that the knocking together to shake off the dirt on pulling is rendered unnecessary. This should be avoided, as it is apt to bruise the skin, and so do mischief; and when these are used they scarcely require cleaning at all, or, if so, it will be of the very slightest kind. In stacking, the first point for consideration will be a convenient site for the ready utilization of the crop. This fixed upon, we choose the least exposed position; if in the field the leeward side—"in the lew"—is chosen; if in a yard, out of the way of cutting winds. Anyhow, too near a public road should be avoided, as they are liable to be stolen at night by some passing carter or other person with a conveyance—"they are so useful for a horse or cow or pig."

We usually place a few roots near the stables expressly for the horses; but, unless you determine to let the horses have them, avoid proximity to the stables, as no carter can resist the temptation of stealing mangolds for his horses if they are placed conveniently for his purpose, and he cannot get them without. "Get mangolds, get them honestly if you can, but get mangolds," is his maxim: nay, he scarcely thinks it dishonest to take the master's mangolds for his horses. Well, when we have decided upon all the conflicting claims for position, a cave is commenced—that is a heap, which we make about four feet at the base, on the bare ground (we do not like pitting, as the bottom of pits may become wet). The roots are neatly stacked in a triangular form at an angle of about 40 degrees, and this is added to for any convenient length.

As the work is carried on the stack is lightly covered with loose straw to keep out frost, and the thatching should be carried out as soon as

convenient; if wet weather seems impending, it will be well to do this work as soon as possible. Our thatch for this crop consists simply of yealmed wheat straw from the threshing machine, or we may use a thatch that has been previously employed on the corn or hay ricks. We never stint in thatch, as when well applied we think it the best protection to the mangold heap. Some of our farming friends prefer to cover over this crop with a plaster of clay; but if this be efficient to keep out the wet, it will scarcely admit of ventilation from the heap. Thatch, on the contrary, keeps out wet, keeps out cold and keeps in warmth, allowing at the same time free ventilation from below. We have always trusted to the thatching alone for protection, and must say that we are never plagued with any extent of rotten roots. We feel convinced that, if stored and protected as we have indicated, this valuable crop may be preserved for many months in the best possible condition.

SUGAR-CANE IN TEXAS.

THINKING a little information on the growing of sugar-cane (Louisiana or Ribin cane) might be of interest to some of the many readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER especially to those looking around for some paying farm product, one that is always in demand and market never overstocked, consumption on the increase and a large money value grown per acre—I give a little of the experience of one but five years from Illinois:

Selecting southwest Texas on account of its good health and mild climate, as the portions of Louisiana, Florida and other States where the sugar-cane is cultivated, is notorious for being unhealthy, I planted in the fall of '72 and winter of '73 sixteen acres. The following fall and winter I made sixteen hundred dollars' worth of sugar sirup, and had seed cane sufficient to plant forty acres more. The value of seed cane sufficient to plant one acre is fifteen dollars; if the same is manufactured into sugar or sirup it will give twenty dollars worth of product.

The season of '74 was quite dry, July and August exceedingly so, and not more than half a crop of cane was produced, yet the product of sugar and molasses exceeded in value over four thousand dollars, and I sold four hundred dollars worth of seed cane and planted 10 acres more of our own grounds. The winter of '74 was the coldest and wettest known in Texas and the stubble (or ratoon) badly killed. 1875 was notoriously dry and a complete failure in cane crops resulted, yet a tolerable good quality of seed cane was obtained from the fields sufficient to plant sixty acres. This seed, valued at fifteen dollars per acre, gave a thousand dollars.

This season ('76) our summer months have been dry and hot, yet we will make half crop of cane. A good crop of sugar-cane will yield when made up to sugar molasses from three to four hundred dollars worth per acre, and good crops can be insured by irrigation.

We have fine streams of water, never failing, and an abundant supply but it requires some kind of power to elevate the water up to a level with the valley lands. A wind-mill power is sufficient, and our gulf winds are constant at the time needed.

Our lands are rich, no cost (as in Florida) for fertilizers. In this enterprise there is an opening for capital, one that must pay. Seed cane is the most difficult, but in this locality can be had a supply to start with. D. D. B.

Gonzales, Texas.

HARVESTING FODDER CORN.

ONE of the best ways of harvesting fodder corn for fall and early winter use is to cut the stalks in dry weather, then let them wilt a day or two and immediately bind and shock up, leaving the shocks in the field until wanted for use.

The shocks are made larger than one man can conveniently handle, and hence two men are employed for this part of the work. From fifteen to twenty bundles are placed in a shock and set so as to make it of a sound shape. Then the men take out sufficient stalks for the band, lapping them together and twisting them (a man at each end of the band.) The tops of the bundles or shocks are now drawn together and tied with the band, and another band is tied, sound—about midway of the shock—and the work is complete. These shocks can be left standing in the field until required for use when they are hauled to the barn as needed from time to time and fed to the cattle. Fodder corn properly bound and shocked as above described will cure out nicely in the field, and is not injured on account of standing out during the time named. Except perhaps on some of the outside leaves of the shock. The fodder opens clean and bright, and is highly relished by stock. When fodder corn is packed on top of mows and put up in stocks it is apt to heat and become damaged. When it is managed on the plan suggested, a good deal of labor is saved while the crop cures out, and is in better condition for feeding and with less liability of damage and loss. When needed for feeding—three or four days' supply may be hauled to the barn at a time, or in such quantities as may be desired or as convenience shall dictate.

FODDER CORN AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR POOR PASTURAGE.

I HAVE been reading your very interesting as well as instructive paper, and among the many valuable articles contained therein the one relating to the use of Fodder Corn as a substitute for poor pasturage, attracted my particular notice. It is indeed a subject needing especial attention, as an article which should be more extensively used for extra feeding to our cows, especially when pastures are as poor and barren as they are in this locality. My own is I think as good as any will average here in this vicinity and I am positive, should I depend on what the cows might get from that alone, the flow of milk would shrink one-third at least, whereas by my having a fair supply of Fodder Corn to feed from, I have kept my cows up to their usual quantity of milk. I think I am safe in saying better quality and consequently richer butter is allowed by its use than could be, should I depend on pasture feed alone. Trusting that this subject may receive the attention it so justly merits, I am

Respectfully Yours, E. H. FENNO.

Merrick, Mass.

Dairy Husbandry.

BUTTER DAIRYING IN DELAWARE CO.

DELAWARE COUNTY is one of the southern tier of counties of New York and takes its name from the Delaware River, which forms its southwestern boundary. There are two branches of the Delaware that flow in a southwesterly direction through the entire length of the county, the main or "Mohawk" branch taking its rise in Utsyanthia Lake and running through the center of the county. The Susquehannah River also bounds the county on the north, and with the numerous streams flowing into these rivers, it will be seen, the county is remarkably well watered, thus furnishing one of the most important elements for a good dairy region. The surface of the county is hilly and mountainous, being divided into three general ridges by the valleys of the two principal branches of the Delaware. In the south part of the county these ridges form a mountainous region, with high, rocky peaks and wide, narrow ravines. In the north the highlands are less wild and precipitous, but the surface is hilly and uneven, and sometimes quite rugged, the hight above tide-water varying from 800 to 3,000 feet. The soil is generally of a dark, reddish color, composed of disintegrated sandstone and shale. The valleys are often narrow, but the soil is very fertile, being largely alluvium.

BUTTER DAIRYING.

Delaware County is almost exclusively devoted to butter dairying, and the butter produced is of fine quality and has a high reputation in the markets. The grasses are sweet and nutritious, and the character of the county being hilly and undulating, there is good drainage, while the abundance of springs and streams of clear, sweet water give all the requisites for producing good milk. It is claimed that the small percentage of lime in the water also helps to give a better character to the butter product, and that in washing butter the buttermilk is more easily expelled by using soft than hard water. Again, lime, they say, is more or less the source of decomposition, and therefore affects the keeping qualities of the butter. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that Delaware County produces a very choice article of butter.

THE STOCK.

The Jerseys and Jersey grades are highly esteemed in Delaware County for butter dairying. With some a cross of the Jerseys with Short-Horns and Ayrshires is preferred on account of the increased quantity of milk yielded, while the animals are more active and find no difficulty in climbing the hills, the latter being an important requisite which renders thoroughbred Short-Horns unfitted for the county. Devons and Devon grades are also held in some esteem, though for the most part a dash of Jersey blood, either the native or common cows, or crossed with the breeds we have named, is now taking preference among the best butter dairymen of the county. The Hon. WM. YOUMAN of Delhi, who has a small herd of Jersey grades, prefers a cross of this breed with the Short-Horn. His farm is in the immediate vicinity of Delhi, and his milk and butter cellars are models in their way. Recently the "large pan" system has been gaining favor among the farm dairymen and several varieties of pans are in use.

THE McMULLEN DAIRY FARM.

DANIEL MCMULLEN whom we met at the Delhi Fair, has a fine farm of 240 acres about one mile east of Delhi. 100 of which are flats and are devoted to meadows and grain raising—about 40 acres are in timber and the balance of the farm is in pasture. The soil on the flats is a clay loam but the uplands are gravel and red slate. The course of cultivation on the flats is to turn over the sod and put to corn, and the second year a crop of oats is raised and the land seeded to grass. The average yield of corn is about 50 bushels to the acre and that of oats from 50 to 60 bushels. All the grain raised on the farm is fed to stock.

THE COWS.

Are grades being a cross of Jersey and Ayrshire. First the native or common stock of the country is crossed with a thoroughbred Ayrshire bull, and then these grades are crossed with a thoroughbred Jersey bull, and the result is an animal that will yield on an average from 175 to 200 pounds of butter per year. Mr. MCMULLEN says that the average of his whole herd for some years past has not been less than 175 pounds of butter per herd. The cows do not get any grain during the season of pasturage, but as grass begins to depreciate, they are fed sowed corn, and for this purpose from 3 to 4 acres are raised every year. The sowed corn usually lasts from 5 to 6 weeks when the cows go upon the after-feed. Mr. McM. says he has experimented by feeding sour-milk and midlings—say about 6 quarts of milk and 2 quarts of midlings to each cow per day—but he finds as much milk and of as good quality—can be made from sowed corn as from the above.

THE SOUR MILK.

Is now fed to hogs and calves 10 of the former and 15 of the latter being kept. About one ton of corn meal is used in connection with the sour milk, the milk being cooked for the hogs but not for the calves. The 15 calves get from 4 to 5 quarts of meal mixed with the milk daily and in this way very fine calves are raised. Some of the calves this year when fattened have been sold for the New York market at 3½c. per pound live weight, and here averaged $8 per head and upwards.

METHOD OF BUTTER MAKING.

The milk in this dairy is set in Jewet pans and the aim is to reduce the temperature to from 62° to 65 degrees, Fahr. The milk remains in the pans from 36 to 48 hours according to the state of the weather—the less time in hot weather—when it is skimmed. The churning is done in the morning in a dash churn, and the butter washed, worked and salted in the usual manner, and packed in pails and firkins. This year he commenced shipping butter in pails at 44c to 45c per pound and the price run down in July to 30c. Since that the butter made has been held.

A GOOD BUTTER COW.

There were some remarkably good butter cows shown at the Delhi fair, among the most notable of which were the thoroughbred Jerseys belonging to EDWARD EDGERTON of pumpkin. One cow out of this herd 5 years of age, dropped a calf on the 9th of February last, and from the 12th of that month to the 1st of July she gave 3,748½ pounds of milk 13⅛ pounds of which on an average made one pound of butter. She produced during the 141 days 281 pounds and 10 ounces of butter, and her calf sold for $50. Since the 1st of July her average of milk has been 20 pounds per day. The feed of this cow during the season has been as follows: up to the 12th of May she got hay, and in addition 3 quarts of corn and oat meal per day—the mixture being in equal parts. After the 12th of May she was fed nothing but grass. A sister of this cow was also shown at the Fair which has produced on an average, a pound of butter from 15 pounds of milk.

When we consider that a fair average, herd will yield only at the rate of 175 to 200 pounds of butter per herd during the season, the difference between a good and an average cow it will be seen, is sufficient to make an important difference on the profit side of the ledger.

DELHI.

Delhi is the capital of Delaware County and is a pleasant village located in the center of the County, and having a population of about 1,500. The west branch of the Delaware flows through the town. The valley is narrow and on either side are lofty hills. The village shows thrift and the system of providing water to the inhabitants by leading it down in pipes from the mountain, is one of the best in the state. Delaware County furnishes some of the finest flagging to be found anywhere in the State. The quarries are easily worked and large quantities of these stones are being shipped and must afford a considerable source of wealth to the County.

REFUSE HAIR FROM TANNERIES.

A CORRESPONDENT inquires concerning the application of refuse hair from tanneries, and whether it is of value for grass lands.

The refuse hair from tanneries is generally mixed with lime. It is a valuable fertiliser. When spread broadcast, its action is slow but an immediate effect is produced from the lime. The better way to apply hair to land is to pour it under or work it in the soil. The late ZADOCK PRATT of Green County well known for his butter dairying experiments, greatly increased the fertility of his dairy farm by the application of hair and other refuse from his tanneries. He experimented with it in various ways and found the best results were obtained when it was poured in or mingled with the soil. We have experimented with hair for turnips and cabbage, by digging a hole with a spade and putting in a double handful of hair, then covering with earth and planting the turnip seed. The turnips make a great growth, far surpassing that from barn yard manure. It also makes a good manure for cabbages. The waste from tanneries can often be utilized with great profit by farmers living in the immediate vicinity of these establishments and this refuse can not unfrequently be had simply for carting it away.

TIN BUTTER CASES.

MR. X. A. WILLARD: I have your "Practical Butter-Book," and must be indulged in saying that it fills a vacuum heretofore unfilled by any work of the kind known to me. You speak of roll butter being sent to market in tin cases, which seems to me to be just the thing I want. Will you refer me to parties who make such cases. I would prefer buying them of some one with experience in making, to having them made here, even though I might have instructions that would seem plain. SAM. MCRAMSAY.

Vervilla, Tenn.

REMARKS.—The tin cases referred to by our correspondent are not patented we believe and are so simple in construction that any intelligent tinsmith can make them from the description given. We do not know of any parties manufacturing these packages and keeping them for sale. Doubtless some of the dairy furnishing establishments advertising in the RURAL would fill orders, but we should advise our correspondent to have some skillful tinsmith in his immediate vicinity make them to order as the expense of freight would thus be saved.

A NEW CLAIM FOR THE JERSEYS.

DOCT. J. W. WORTH, of Augusta, Mo., says the milk of Jerseys is healthier than that from other breeds. The following is his argument: "For the use of children, invalids, dyspeptics, and fever patients, Jersey milk is preferable to any other, as it is more easily digested, since the butter is proportionately in excess of the caseine. It is an established fact that the portion of milk that a weak stomach finds difficulty in mastering is the caseine; while, on the other hand, butter assists digestion."

The Apiarian.

ON WINTERING BEES.

I WANT a little light on Bees. How shall I winter them? Cellar is too damp, and I am afraid they will freeze out-of-doors. How would it work to move the hives close together in the fall (say six or eight inches apart) and pack straw between them and on the back and top, leaving the front open. Or how would an old ice-house do filled in with six inches of sawdust on all sides and top? It might freeze inside sometimes, but would it not be better than out-doors? Also, are the Italians enough better than the common bees to make Italianizing profitable? And if so, in what respects are they superior? NOVICE.

We have not kept bees of late years, but when we did they were left on the stands all winter. The stands were long, narrow sheds, facing the south, open in front, with one loose board at the back, which was taken down in summer to give ventilation, but closed up tight in winter. If extra protection was required during the cold weather, the front was also boarded up or covered with old sacks.

Perhaps in more northern localities a warmer place is needed in winter, and a neighbor who formerly kept a large number of hives in Northern New York says that his plan of keeping bees over winter was to set the hives in a dry cellar, inverting them and placing a fine wire screen over the bottom to keep the bees from getting out. He says that by turning the hives bottom up, then merely covering with a wire screen, having no bottom board in the hive, ventilation will be secured, and there need be no fear from dampness in a moderately dry cellar.

We think any good, warm outhouse or cellar made above ground would be equally as safe a place as a cellar under a building. Will some of our readers who have had experience in wintering bees in a very cold climate give it for the benefit of those who have not?

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL AWARDS.

ATLAS HOTEL, Philadelphia, Oct. 29, 1876.

Last night developed one of the most impressive ceromonies which has occurred during the existence of the Great International Exhibition viz; the giving of the awards to the various National representatives or Commissioners. The Judges' Hall was filled with invited guests and happy speeches were made by General Hawley and Director Gen'l. Gosborn. After this the Chief Commissioner of each Government represented was called up and handed a roll containing the awards specially applicable to his country. During the presentation much enthusiasm was manifested by the audience and the representatives of Great Britain and Germany especially received immence plaudits.

As space is limited I can append hereto but a few of the principal awards which may be interesting to your readers. SHORTHORN.

THE AWARDS OF MERIT.

"THE JOHNSTON HARVESTER CO., Brockport, N. Y.—Mowers, Reapers, etc," is the terse way in which the report of the Judges of award expressed the complete triumph of this well-known firm. The above sentence means, in effect, that the Johnston Harvester Co. have scored a signal victory. They have been awarded a grand medal for *each and every machine in their exhibit*, based on their superlative merits, the Jurors of group XXIII considering that the exhibit of this company was so replete with original inventive construction that the entire number of machines displayed were, on their individual merits, entitled to particular distinction. Thus, again, has this company confirmed the success gained abroad and crowned their long series of triumphs by an American prestige that raises them above further competitive trial, *aquilla non capet muscas*.

These awards and medals are given on the merits of the Johnston New Improved Wrought-Iron Harvester, the Self-Rake Reaper, the Combined Mower and Reaper No. 1 (a two-wheel machine), the Combined Mower and Reaper No. 2 machine (also two-wheel) and, finally, their Mower. When the strength, in numbers, of this exhibit is considered, and the fact is emphasised that *each* machine is honored, the extent and completeness of their triumph at once becomes apparent—in short, it is *the*

GRAND SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

of the Centennial. Thus it is demonstrated that the Johnston Harvester Co. again leads the world.

The points of superiority claimed for these machines are simplicity, durability, solidity, ease of draft, practicability, ease of adjustment, adaptation to work successfully in all kinds and conditions of grain, and especially are they celebrated for the thoroughness of their workmanship, the excellence of the materials used in construction and their uniformity, being always found trustworthy when called upon to do their appointed tasks.

The recent awards of the Centennial Commission fittingly supplement the report of the U. S. Commission at the Vienna Exposition to the U. S. Government, made in 1873, and but recently published, from which are taken a few extracts as follows:

The Johnston Harvester Co., Brockport, N. Y., exhibited Reapers, Combined Machines and Mowers. The type of machine manufactured by this firm has many excellent features, the combination of which, together with their good workmanship, tend to make the implements of this company the leading machines in Europe, where they are sold in large numbers. Their chief features are an excellent variety of the Johnston Rake, the arrangement of the driving gear of which is well elevated, etc.

The combined machine was distinguished above other combined reapers by the large size of the two wheels, which support the whole and communicate its motion to the blade. The wheels are of large diameter, made of wrought-iron, and for these reasons, when the machine is worked on a piece of wet ground, they do not sink down unequally on either side—moreover, for this reason, the bevel gear cannot touch the ground and become choked with earth or mud. The reaping apparatus consists of five arms, one more than in other machines, which makes it easier to pull down the grain, and is especially advantageous when there are heavy winds during harvest. The movement of the levers in depressing and raising the cutters to accord with the irregularities of the ground is easily made. The Johnston Combined Reaper mowed its lot easily, rapidly, and the sheaf was equally well made.

The Reaper worked remarkably well. Its motion was easy, without shock, and almost without noise. It was classed No. 1 for cutting rye.

The construction of those machines leaves nothing to be desired. The parts are carefully finished, the bearings are of metal, and the materials employed are first-class. These different machines won for their exhibitor the Grand Medal of Progress, Diploma, etc.

ECLIPSE PORTABLE ENGINE.

PENNSYLVANIA has reason to be proud of her mechanical industries, as evidenced in the success of Frick & Co., Waynesboro, Franklin Co., Pa., makers of the famous "Eclipse" Portable and Stationary Engines. As their name indicates, they have overshadowed all competitors, taking two first awards, each—a Grand Medal of Merit and Diploma; also first premiums at Cincinnati Industrial Exposition, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware and Pennsylvania State Fairs. One of the Centennial awards is on their Portable Engine, based on its work at the test during the Grand Field Trials at Schenck's Station, Pa., last summer, where the competition was conducted in the most thorough and scientific manner. The other is for their Portable and Stationary Engines, combined.

These awards are the more gratifying, as the excellence of these machines has but recently been demonstrated. Their engine is of the horizontal type, constructed on entirely new and improved patterns. A feature of special excellence is the shape of the bed. The cylinder head, bed-plate, guides and both bearings for crank shaft, are in one solid casting. The cylinder and steam chest is also in one solid casting. The various parts, such as piston, pump, crank and shaft, etc., are finished thoroughly. The boiler is made of best American boiler-plate iron, in the style of a locomotive boiler, which secures the largest fire surface and reduces the consumption of coal to a minimum. The boiler is mounted on axles, made of the best refined wrought iron, and by means of strong cast-iron brackets (securely bolted to the boiler), containing spiral-steel springs, carrying entire weight of engine and boiler, thus enabling it to be moved with less risk or injury of any kind over the roughest roads. The weight of the bed-plate of the engine on the boiler is so evenly distributed and ingeniously contrived, that strains of any kind are quite out of question.

THE TIGER SELF-DUMP RAKE.

THE Tiger Horse Hay Rake patented by J. E. Wisner, Friendship, N. Y., and manufactured by J. W. Stoddard & Co., Dayton, Ohio, has taken the Highest Grand Award at the Centennial, consisting of a Grand Medal of Merit and Diploma of Honor.

This rake is so well known that a description of its merits is almost superfluous. It stands before the country as the sum and perfection of years of thought and experiment by Mr. Wisner, and the name "Tiger," is a synonym of its ferocious and vaulting ambition. Mr. Wisner besides being an inventor, is an indefatigable agent, and it has been mainly through his efforts, that the rake is so well known.

The points of superiority claimed for this implement are that it is a perfect self-discharging Sulky Rake; that for simplicity, strength and durability it is without a rival; that for ease of operating or adjusting to any variety of crop or surface it is unequaled; that it is so easy to operate that any boy, or girl that can drive a horse, can rake with it as well as the strongest man; that it rakes clean any kind of hay or grain; dumps from both wheels; has no side draft; and is equipped with twenty steel teeth tempered in oil, which are warranted to stand the severest usage.

The construction of the rake is as perfect, and thorough as the best materials will allow, the axles being improved by the use of solid wrought iron. The spindles are made of the same material. With these qualities to start with, and energy in enforcing their claims to the consideration of the farming community, in addition to the honors above recorded, it may be supposed that the "Tiger" will be refreshed, and growling more lustily than ever, spring forward in the pursuit of increased sales.

FARMERS' FAVORITE GRAIN DRILL.

Two Grand Medals of Merrit and Deplomas of honor were awarded Messrs. Beckford and Huffman, Macedon, N. Y. on their Farmers' Favorite drill.

1st. The Grand Medal highest and only award made to a grain drill with fertilizer attachment.

2nd. Grand Medal and Diploma highest award upon grain and seed drill combined. The First American drill with fertilizer attachment was built by this house thirty years since, and they to-day reap a deserved reward in the prominent distinction given their "Centennial" Farmers' Favorite.

The claim made and substantiated by the tests of the jury of award was "*Uniformity of distribution*" in all positions, lacking which, no success could be attained.

The Superior drill manufactured by Messrs. Thomas Ludlow & Rodgers of Springfield, Ohio. is built under the same patents and is practically the same drill differing only in name—both Houses using by stipulation the same drill in the tests at the Exposition.

THE BUCKEYE AWARDS.

THE Buckeye Harvesting Machines received Four Grand Medals of Merit and Four Diplomas of Honor. The Medals and Diplomas are the highest awards given in the class to which these machines belong.

One Medal and Diploma were awarded to Aultman, Miller & Co. of Akron, Ohio, for the improved Buckeye Reaper. Two other Medals and Diplomas were awarded to C. Aultman & Co., of Canton, Ohio, one for the Miller's New Table Rake Reaper which was fully described in the RURAL's report of the Field Trials during the month of July last, and the other for the western Buckeye Mower. Still another Medal of Merit and Diploma were awarded to Adriance, Platt & Co. of Poughkeepsie, New York, on their New Model Buckeye Mower. In addition to all these awards and in connection therewith perhaps it would be as well to say that the last mentioned firm have just carried off the highest award of Merit at the New York State fair and the First Premium of the New Jersey State Fair for their new Adriance one-wheel Self Rake Reaper, (Brown's patent). Thus it will be seen that the Buckeye still maintains its position in the foremost rank.

FOUST HAY LOADER.—One of the comparatively new implements for lightening the labor of the farmer is the Foust Hay Loader, manufactured by Stratton & Cullum of Meadville, Pa., and exhibited at Agricultural Hall and the Field Trials of the Centennial Exhibition. It did its work so well and gave such perfect satisfaction to the judges that they awarded to it the Grand Medal of Merit, and additional thereto, gave the manufacturers a Diploma. This was a well-deserved award, and was given only upon the thorough test and complete trial which it underwent in the presence of the judges and a large concourse of spectators on the grounds at Schenck's Station. This award places the Hay Loader among the successes of the age and assures its standing among the agricultural purchasers as a machine fully up to what is claimed for it.

PERRY'S NEW YORK HAY TEDDER.—This machine, patented by Stuart Perry of Newport, N. Y., and made by O. E. C. Gulich, Utica, N. Y., was awarded the only grand medal of merrit and diploma in this class of implements. Some of the principal points of excellence claimed for this Tedder are as follows: It never winds itself up or clogs when properly used; it teds back of the wheels as well as between them; it adapts itself to the ground surface; is light on the horse; is perfectly balanced; has large ground wheels; runs very easy; has strong and perfectly true gear; has but few joints and wearing parts; runs thirty-two tines; is safely set low to reach the bottom grass; lays the grass up light and uniform; is easily and safely managed by boys or hired men; has a great adjustability of range; teds at turns and covers the same as elsewhere; is a very simple and durable machine.

BOOMER & BOSCHERT.—When the Centennial awards were made public, it was found that the Boomer & Boschert Press Co. had received three Grand Medals for their Power Cider Press and Apple Mills. In addition to this, and as a further distinction, they were awarded upon this same Press and Mills three Diplomas of Merit. Where the competition is as active as it has been at this Exposition, such a distinguished award should be an assurance to the public at large that these implements are not only what their manufacturers claim for them, but are, in all improvements, quite up to this progressive age of invention and ingenuity. One has but to examine the Cider Mill, the subjects of these awards, now in full operation in Agricultural Hall, to understand the justice of their distinction by the Centennial Judges.

BALDWIN'S AMERICAN FODDER CUTTER, manufactured by C. Pierpont & Co., New Haven, Conn., was awarded the Grand Medal of Merit and Diploma. These cutters have been long and favorably known as machines which will always do the work claimed for them and this award of the Grand Medal now places them before the farmers as the best in the market, having received the commendation of such eminent judicature as the Judges appointed by the Centennial Commission.

THE OSBORN SULKY PLOW, attachment patented by Mr. O. Osborn, and manufactured by Gregg & Co., Trumansburg, N. Y., has taken the Grand Medal and Diploma of Honor conferred by the Centennial Commission on the recommendation of the Jurors of group XXIII.

This machine was first patented in 1869 but not put upon the market until 1870. It claims to inaugurate a radical change in the manner of plowing. Any ordinary right hand plow can be used with this attachment. The adjustable axle can be raised, lowered, or tipped in either direction at will, throwing the plow on the mold-board as is done by hand. In stony or hard land its advantages are most apparent.

HEEBNER'S PATENT LEVEL TREAD RAILWAY HORSE POWERS, made by Heebner & Sons, Lansdale Pa., have gained a first award and Grand Medal, which is a well-deserved compliment. This machine was exhibited at the Grand Field Trials at Schenck's Station, Pa., last summer and was there subjected to thorough tests, under the supervision of the most experienced Foreign and American experts.

The principle points of superiority claimed for the power, are a patent governor which perfectly controls the Tread. A Level Tread sustained on large wheels that run over reels at both ends of the track; obviating pounding, clatter and loss of power.

THE BRADLEY MANUFACTURING CO. of Syracuse, New York and Chicago Ill., received Four Awards, consisting of Four Grand Medals of Merit and Four Diplomas of Honor, being the highest awards in this class and prove the character of the machines for which they were given. There was one Medal and a Diploma upon their New Self Rake Reaper, another on their New Mower, still another on their Self Dump Hay Rake and yet a fourth upon their Patent Cushioned Hammer. The Medals and Diplomas upon the first three were given after their submission to the Severe Field tests at Schenck's Station last summer in the presence and under the direction of the Judges on Agricultural Implements.

THE ARCHER RAKE—made by Clegg, Wood & Co., of Dayton, Ohio, received the Grand Bronze Medal of Merit and Diploma of the Centennial Exposition. The principal points of superiority claimed for this Rake are its simplicity, durability, and that it is the only self-discharging rake operated without gearing, friction or springs.

U. S. CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 28th, 1876.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—The Autumnal Display of Butter and Cheese is fixed for Oct. 17th to the close of the International Exhibition, Nov. 10.

I beg to call your attention to the more favorable circumstances now existing than at any other period since the establishment of the Butter and Cheese Building. The temperature is now all that could be desired, the structure is in good order, and the attendance of visitors is growing to immense proportions. The Building is no longer deserted, because of its isolation, but hourly crowded with Agriculturists and other interested parties attracted by the inscriptions on its sides. There is yet quite time to make a display unsurpassed by anything ever before presented. The generosity of the subscribers to the construction of the building demands recognition and support, and the public expect an exposition of the products of the Creamery and Cheese Factory as well as of the plow, the loom and the anvil. Yours Respectfully,

BURNET LANDRETH,
Chief Bureau of Agriculture.

CENTENNIAL LIVE STOCK EXHIBITION.

WESTMINSTER HOTEL, Phila., Sept. 28, 1876.

In the recent Horse Show, held under the auspices of the Centennial Commission, was not, in extent and quality, what it should have been—to worthily represent the equine family of the United States of America—such cannot justly be said of the cattle show now in progress on the Live Stock grounds of the Centennial exhibition. Not only does Canada compete—and she does so, highly to her credit—but England has sent across the ocean some of her most choice herds. The quality of the animals now under review is wonderfully good for so numerous a collection, being just 460 head, according to the official catalogue.

The various herds comprise English, American and Canadian Short-Horns, home-bred and imported herds from the Channel Islands, Herefords, Devons, Black-nosed and Sheeted Ayrshires, Holsteins and Gallowys, so called here, but, to my view of the matter, rather should these latter be named Black Angus. There are also some good specimens of draught oxen and a few grade animals; again there are steers and heifers, monsters of fatness and inutility, save as advertisements for human folly, and the flesh and adipose producing powers of cattle fodder.

Before I enter into any individual details of separate herds, a word or two in general of the varied excellences of races and families would save repetition. Thus the Short-Horns or improved Durhams are essentially a beef-producing

family, that, by a perversion of good judgment, some breeders have, by persistence in wrong-doing, caused to improve in their milking qualities; but then these same herds have invariably fallen off in beef-producing power. A bovine family, equally excellent in all valuable qualities, is not to be found, no more than a horse for general purposes which is expected to be endowed with all of the most choice attributes of horse flesh. In the human family one individual is rarely, if ever, blessed with a combination of glorious talents. The greatest among us can stand out pre-eminent in one, mediocre or nothing in most others. Therefore, no breeder of sound judgment ought to seek to pervert nature. His aim should be to aid her by selection of the best; and that the owners of herds now here are alive to this fact is in the aggregate easy to be seen.

The pretty herds of Channel Island cattle number among them some animals of surpassing beauty. These little cattle are great milkers, both in richness and in quantity. As beef-producers they are of small value, the bone being light and the structure altogether too fine to admit of room to put up flesh; then their individual habit is adverse to an accumulation of adipose cushion. The Herefords are a comely race, their snow-white faces full of docility, their clean cut legs, together with the depth of rib, giving them great lung power, bespeak them essentially useful as draught cattle. The same may be said of the Devons, to which I can add that, being a thrifty race, they are safe to get on well in rough, rocky land. They are active, intelligent animals, and very kind as draught oxen. Some of the Devons run greatly to milk, which, though good, is not to be compared with the milk of the Channel Island cows, be they from Guernsey, Jersey or Alderney. Both Herefords and Devons fatten well; but neither of them put up in proportion the same amount of high-priced beef as can on an equal quantity of fodder be accumulated by the Short-Horn family.

Next to the Channel Island cattle the Ayrshires can be reckoned as good milkers. This family comprises two divisions, the most choice, to my taste, being the Black-nosed variety. The second are the red-and-white, or, as some name them, the Sheeted Ayrshires. These are a tidy, compact race; they thrive where larger breeds of cattle would starve. Though heavier in build than those I compare them with, they are not beef cattle. The Ayrshires, under the influence of high keep, are apt to become coarse. Their very goodness causes this, so much so that careful breeders strive to keep the bone fine and the carcass compact. A small-sized Ayrshire bull, neat and closely put together, is, therefore, the best to breed from. A roomy cow need not be objected to; but coarseness in either parent must carefully be avoided, or else deterioration is certain to follow.

The Polled cattle here are scarce. That is grievous to me, or to anyone familiar with the Spanish herds of Texas, these wretched long-horned skeletons, those lean Kine of Cortes and Pizzaro, that when taken into beauteous Illinois, devour ten times the quantity that would fatten a grade steer, could be rapidly improved by the Polled Cross. The horuless cattle are distinctive in their excellent qualities, effacing, in one cross, many of the bad points of the Texan herds. The British Isles possess three distinct branches of the Polled or Horuless tribe of bovines. Those are the Black Angus, the Brown or nearly Black Galloway, both of Scottish blood and the red herds of Norfolk and Suffolk, England. Some enterprising individuals have, from time to time, braved the perils of ocean travel, have penetrated into Holstein, and from thence have brought out certain huge animals, remarkable for length of limb, development of cranium and generally valueless peculiarities. The admiration of these Holstein herds is a hindrance to the improvement of the herds of America; even when clean-bred they are coarse, and, as feeders, over fond of their grub.

Out of so much assembled excellence it is difficult to select the best, still I have ventured to do so, and my choice is as follows: The Short-Horn herd of B. B. Groom & Son of Vinewood, Winchester, Ky., numbers seven head, and is of rare beauty. The bull, Mariner 2nd, is red. He has rarely been beaten, and took the sweepstakes at Paris, Ky. His next-door neighbor is Oxford, of Geneva, a roan bull, 18 months, full of good points. His sire and dam were exported six years ago and brought back in 1875 with this calf, who took this year's prize in his own ring at the State Fair, Columbus, Ohio. The imported cow, Winsome 16th, cost £1,000 sterling, was bred by his grace, the Duke of Devonshire, and shared all over England the prizes of the hour with that Short-Horn beauty, Queen Mary; she is a strawberry roan. Daisy, bred in Kentucky, is red in color; her many beauties of conformation speak well for the sound judgment of her breeders. She stands the winner of the highest prize awarded in her State. Red Rose 8th baffles description. Her head and neck are lovely in the extreme; her horn fine and waxlike; her temper smooth as her glossy coat; her eyes, like those attributed to Juno, full of liquid light. She is a beauty all over. This herd took seven prizes at the recent Ohio Fair. The remaining animals are Victoria's Gem and Gloucestershire Wiley.

From England has arrived the Short-Horn herd of B. St. John Ackers, Esq., of Triuknash Tork, Tainswick, Gloucestershire. At the head of this herd stands Cymbaline, a white bull, good all over, but remarkable for the fineness of his fore-quarters. He has taken numerous prizes. His companion, Lord Cranham, taken up suddenly from light feed, has a straight back, a long side, a deep rib and plenty of bone to put up first quality beef. The gem of this herd is Clovis, a roan bull. He took the third prize this year at the Royal Show held at Birmingham, Eng. This honor is considered equal to any other first award. This last-named animal is as soft as nunpun silk, and I hope that for the advantage of America he may be purchased to remain in the country. Wedding Day, a strawberry roan, two years and eleven months old, believed to be in calf, is a perfect example of a first-class English Short-Horn. She is long and low and close to the ground; what more need be said? Baroness Pawlett, a light roan, two years old, is wonderful for the fineness of her coat, which is only one of her valuable properties. Cassandra, a white heifer, own sister to Cymbaline, is an unusually neat, close-built animal. The herd in Merrie England numbers 60 head, of which six are here. These are chiefly of Booth blood. Wedding Day is pure bred of that strain.

Mr. Ackers has likewise sent over three pure-bred Berkshire pigs (one boar and two sows), one of which has with her an interesting family of five bonnives. They all have taken prizes in England and Scotland.

Among the Channel Island cattle the herd exhibited by Mr. Crozier of Northport, L. I., pleases me the most. They are Jerseys, and are headed by the bull Cossack, Herd Register No. 1,159. Cossack is by Clement, progenitor of the Long Island Jersey herd. He is fawn color, with black joints, and has a beautiful head. Josephine 2d, in Herd Register No. 3,296, is actually perfection for a Jersey cow. She is of a deep orange color, and the inside of her delicate, transparent ears is also orange-tinted. Belle Hinman is the daughter of a cow which made her own weight in butter in one year. Josephine Beacon is now making nine pounds of butter per week. Fanciful, a two-year-old heifer, is nearly as lovely as Josephine 2d.

Mr. Crozier also exhibits six head of Ayrshire cattle—one bull and four cows of the black-nosed variety and one cow of the sheeted or red-and-white family. The bull, Duke of Charleton, bred by D. F. Curtis, is very rich in color, long and even, much like a Short-Horn in his lines. One of the cows, Maggie Stewart, though now milking fourteen months, still gives eight quarts per day and is to calve again in six weeks. She is large of her breed. Ruby, a red cow, bred in Scotland, where she took several prizes, is deer-like in head and legs, with a muzzle fine as that of a race-horse. Nellie Biddle, a Sheeted Ayrshire, imported quite recently, dropped her calf on board ship and has since done well. She is a good specimen of her variety, though to me not so admirable as are her black-nosed cousins. The last of this herd is Maggie Anderson, also bred in Scotland, and imported by her present owner.

In the Devon class, O. B. King of Connecticut exhibits a choice herd of eight head—one bull, five cows and two calves. Mattons Lion, cherry red, excellent in color and form.

Of the Herefords, J. L. Miller of Beecher, Ill., has, to my taste, the best on the ground. His herd numbers thirteen head—two bulls, one bull calf, ten cows and heifers. The two bulls, Success and Royal Briton, both imported, the latter in the dam, are half brothers. Their dam, Dolly Varden, is a most charming animal. She is six years old, has had four calves, and is now again in calf. Of this herd the two three-year-old heifers, Grace and Katie, have been bred in America. They are very handsome and unusually even in quality.

I must now say a word or two about the Canada part of the Show. The arrivals from across the border number from sixty to sixty-five head and comprise among them much that is good and valuable. Taken in herds they are as follows:—Three herds of Ayrshires, one herd of Alderneys, one of Herefords, and one of black-polled Angus cattle, which the man in charge persisted in calling Galloways; but be they Galloways or Angus, there was one bull of the lot a credit to his owner. Mr. George Hood exhibits three bulls respectively aged two years, one year old, and a calf, also one heifer calf. The head of the two-year-old bull is better than the head of Mr. Miller's bull, with which he competes, Mr. Hood's stock being also Herefords. I failed to find any person of a communicative turn of mind interested in the Canada herds; even to discover the names of our excellent neighbors was as difficult as to decide the uses or abuses of the round towers of Ireland. This is deplorable, as Canada has done well. The black-polled bull, Major, is a superb type of his breed, and the cows of his herd are good. They, in their class, defy competition, at least successful competition. Mr. W. Miller exhibits three Short-Horns. His cow, Necklace 7th, is a dangerous rival for Mr. Groom's beauties. Mr. W. M. Telfor has on show six Short-Horns, two bulls, two cows and two calves. The bull, Third Duke of Kent, is nine months old, of a dark mahogany red color, and is just as good as his age could produce. He stands in a box with his dam, the Duchess of Kent, a strawberry roan, two years old. She has a beautiful face, full of intelligence and gentleness.

Regretting that I could not obtain more information relating to the Canada herds, and fearing to trespass over much on your valuable space, I conclude, being well content with the Centennial Cattle Show. M. M.

The Poultry Yard.

CHOOSING FOWLS FOR TABLE.

It is a little singular that taste or fashion as to the color of the flesh of fowls varies at different large markets. In the London market yellow-skinned birds are not sought for, the pink or flesh-colored skin being the favorite there, while in New York the yellow is preferred in a marked degree. The questions naturally arise, What is the reason for this difference in taste, and which are the best for the table as to flavor, delicacy, etc.? There is no doubt that those fowls that are celebrated for their peculiar richness of flavor and delicate flesh mainly belong to the *pink*, or as some people call them, the *white* skinned varieties. This is conceded by all authorities. Such fowls are the Games, Houdans, Dorkings, etc. Perhaps the reason for the preference for yellow in New York is that a proper discrimination is not made between the pink and *dark* or *blue* skinned fowls in choosing fowls for the table, the latter of which are generally poor in quality, such as Spanish Hamburgs, etc. Another reason may be that all the pink skins are very tender to dress, tearing easily, and extra care is required in dressing to make them look attractive, and if they come from a long distance and are at all damaged they do not present as clean and nice an appearance as those with yellow skins. H. H.

KEEPING POULTRY.—No. 9.

Feeding is the next point that claims attention. Many an amateur will be sorely puzzled at the advice given him by most of his poultry books; some such phrases as these constantly occur: "Give your birds a liberal supply of good wholesome food." "Keep your fowls well supplied with plenty of corn, and soft food once a day." "The quantity and quality of eggs, depends greatly on the feeding," etc., etc. After reading many such items of advice the beginner earnestly intends to stuff his fowls with a variety of food, such as he sees recommended, beef scraps, ground bone, corn, wheat, buckwheat, boiled rice, oatmeal, potatoes and *tonics* to give them appetite.

He begins to feel proud of his own intended generosity. But, he sees in another page of the same book, or another work, that he "must not over-feed his stock if he would have them lay plentifully." "Over-feeding will make hens fat and lazy, and stop their laying, sometimes killing them." Now here is a dilemma, and how can one tell when a fowl has eaten enough or too much? Some say, fowls that have corn always before them will *not* eat so much as when it is thrown to them once or twice a day, others say that "when they have all they can eat, with corn left always before them they will get so fat as to be useless for breeding."

I have never yet seen those conflicting statements qualified so as to be useful. The fact is, all such advice on feeding depends very much on the *kind of fowls* one keeps. Whoever heard of a game bird getting so fat as to be useless except for the look. The same may be said of Hamburgs and Leghorns. Such breeds as these are so full of life and activity that they seldom get very fat, while all the Asiatics, fed as much as would keep the active breeds in good condition, would get much too fat. I have had Light Brahmas, kept and fed with small breeds get so fat, that when killed the fat on the intestines and offal of one bird weighed fully two pounds; while the lively varieties were simply in good condition.

Asiatics and other kinds do not do well confined together. The former will get too fat with the same feeding that is required to keep the latter in condition. If running at large and fed on the ground twice a day, so much as they will eat up clean and no more, they do well enough. The more active birds will hunt up dainty morsels, and insects to keep them in health. If oats, rye, or buckwheat is left before them so much the better; fowls will not often fatten too much on these. But never leave more corn than they will eat up clean.

In winter when the stock is confined I always keep oats or buckwheat and sometimes wheat in a hopper (so that they can get at it whenever they like), and feed with soft food at noon and corn or wheat at night. Fowls can be over-fed or rather *pampered*. This is what is meant by the cautions against over-feeding. It can be done by giving them all the corn they can stow away, and leaving some, with (perhaps) two or three other kinds of grain, meat or scraps, bread and other soft food in addition, tempting them to eat too much. Such pampering will make the best fowls in too high condition, they will not continue long in health under such treatment; a reaction will take place sooner or later, causing apoplexy, choking of the heart, stoppage of the egg canal, &c.

The beginner is now supposed to be fairly started, with his beautiful pets in their new quarters, in bright health and spirits, prating, scratching, crowing and doing many other wonderful things, to the delight of their owner, his family, and all welcome visitors. H. Hales.

WHITE LEGHORN FOWLS.

I am an old reader of your valuable paper, and for some time a subscriber, not a correspondent however, but as I take a lively interest on the subjects therein discussed, I will give you my experience of some years with white Leghorns, which was suggested by the answers—5 and 6—of Mr. A. M. Van Auken, in your issue of September 23d to "questions about poultry."

My fowls lay when eight months' old, and under conditions more favorable than I can give them, will lay much sooner; they continue to lay profusely through the entire winter, and until they molt, seldom stopping longer than a few days when in condition. My yard has a fence seven feet high around it and I find that all I desire without roofing.

It is true that about three Leghorns can be raised on the grain consumed by one Brahma, but I cannot agree with your correspondent, that the Leghorn when grown eats as much in proportion to the number of eggs laid, as the Brahma. The latter breed is a large feeder, and an inveterate sitter withal; when in that condition, if not desired to sit, weeks are wasted ere she resumes laying, and thus the Leghorn gains largely over her to the profit account.

The Leghorn, being a non-sitter, is almost a perpetual layer of really handsome good sized eggs, which, moreover, command a readier, if not a better market than those from Brahmas; her meat is most excellent, she does not carry it as abundantly as her supposed rival, it is true, but it would be marvelous, indeed, if she did and outdo the Brahma in all other respects. Yours truly, J. De Soto.

Fordham, N. Y.

Correction.—Will you please make the letter on coming exhibition read: "There are many worthy societies at whose fairs they make a point to make all happy, and their officers know well how to do it," which it was my intention to say, if I did not in my article in the Rural of Sept. 9. —A Subscriber.

Entomological.

ABOUT THE HOUSE FLY.

Will you, through the columns of your paper, tell me if the common house fly performs the same metamorphoses that the green fly which produces the maggot found in spoiled meat? and if it does, do they increase in size after they become a perfect insect?—James E. Munger, *Genesee Co., N. Y.*

The common house fly passes through the same number of metamorphoses as the "meat fly," and is "born" full size, coming from the chrysalis fully developed; and there is no increase in size afterwards, except as the abdomen of the female may become slightly distended with eggs. It is a very common remark among housewives that if they kill off the little flies appearing in early spring, they will prevent their growing into larger ones later in the season. But this is an error, for the little flies are a distinct species and do not develope or grow any larger than when first seen. "Kittens grow to cats, but mice never turn to rats," is an old saying, but mice and rats are as near related and as likely to "turn one into the other" as little flies are to become big ones.

Exterminate Caterpillars.—To exterminate caterpillars on trees, they may be sprinkled with a solution of one part of sulphide of potassium in 500 parts of water. This, it is said, will kill the insects, and do no harm to the trees.

Floricultural.

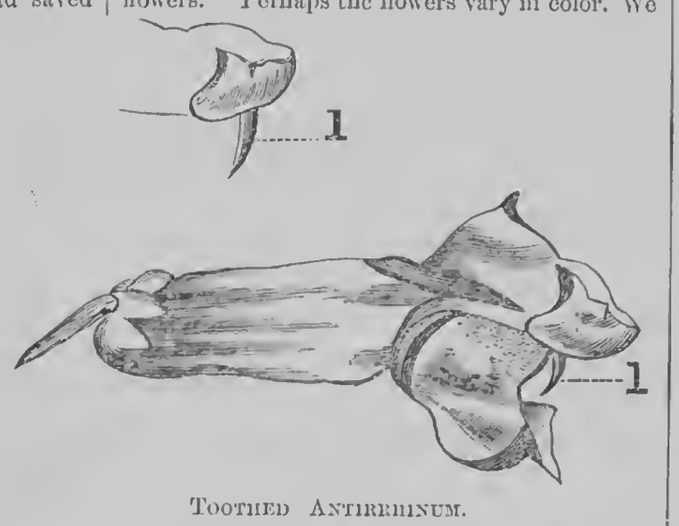
A LITTLE ANNOUNCEMENT.

Last year it was stated in the Rural that seeds of Hardy Phlox, saved from a collection imported from England, would be forwarded to Rural subscribers upon the receipt of a stamped and directed envelope. Though we had saved seeds enough, as we supposed, to supply the largest demand which was likely to follow, the supply was after awhile exhausted, of which fact pains were taken to notify our readers. Afterwards many letters were received requesting seeds for next (this) fall. All of the writers' names were recorded as received and the seeds will be sent accordingly as soon as ripened,

For this fall we offer upon the same terms seeds of the following plants:

1st. Dwarf *Antirrhinum*. Our seeds were imported last year from Mr. B. S. Williams, London, Eng. Though we had cultivated Antirrhinums for ten years or more, with a view, for a part of the time at least, to improving them, some of the flowers from Mr. Williams' seed are the largest and brightest we have ever seen. The following are the colors which will be mixed in each packet: White and lemon distinctly blotched, striped and speckled with crimson. White tubes with crimson, pink and orange lips. Tubes and lips of the same color (or selfs), maroon and crimson.

The accompanying sketch was taken both to show the size of the flowers and also a peculiarity of those of one plant, viz., having upon the upper lip a spur or tooth, as shown at 1—1 in the engraving



Toothed Antirrhinum.

2d. Chater's Strain of Double Hollyhocks. Among several of these was one of a dwarf habit, bearing immense racemes of lemon-colored flowers as perfectly double as it is possible for a hollyhock flower to be. It is from these that our seeds have been saved.

3d. *Zinnia Darwini* has been several times referred to in these columns. From its praises abroad, as well as on account of the absurdly high price charged for a half-dozen seeds, we had anticipated a marked improvement upon the common *Z. elegans*. It is true, however, this season has not been one during which the merits of any new flowers ought to be judged.

4th. Green Gage Tomato. A part of the Rural grounds is devoted to the testing of new vegetables as they are introduced. Among those cultivated the present season, the above Tomato —an English novelty—impresses us favorably. Two tomatoes ripened August 15, the larger measuring seven inches in circumference. They were perfectly smooth, without a furrow and of the shape of an orange. Many of those ripening later were much smaller and of an oblong shape, from which and from the color—a bright yellow—the name, we suppose, was suggested. The smaller are excellent for preserving, the others very good either raw, cooked or for making catsup. All of them are firm, but two-celled and small-seeded. Trained upon a trellis this Tomato is quite ornamental after the fruit begins to ripen.

5th. *Pelargoniums*.—A year or more ago a serial account was given in these columns of crossing Pelargoniums. From the seedlings there referred to we have before and since been selecting the best of the plants, throwing the others away. From the best of those remaining (about 100 plants) we have selected our seeds.

Now we will forward a few seeds of any two of the above mentioned plants to any Rural subscriber whose name we find upon our books and who cares enough for them to forward to the Floricultural Editor (or F. R.) a stamped and addressed envelope.

MISCELLANEA.

Nymphœa odorata.—The Pennsylvania Railroad, along its winding course to the Centennial, passes through or over several ponds, in which this fragrant and lovely nymph of the waters is quite abundant and now (Sept. 20) in bloom. At several of the stations they are offered in bunches for sale.

We have tried repeatedly to start *Nelumbium luteum* in a spring-water lake, averaging four feet in depth, with precipitate banks, both by seeds and roots. We have also tried seeds of *Nymphæa odorata*, without in either case having been successful in a single instance. We conclude that they do not like spring water.

Hydrangea quercifolia.—Mr. W. B. Hemsley gives, in the London Garden, Sep. 9, quite an exhaustive account of Hydrangeas. He says of this species that it is a native of Florida and scarcely hardy in any part of this country (England).

It stood in this latitude, winter before last, over 20° below zero, and it would be unaccountable if not hardy in any part of England.

Its fine, large foliage, resembling, as Mr. H. says, more the leaves of a Plane than of an Oak; its terminal cymes of greenish-white flowers, more the shape of Lilacs than of other Hydrangeas, blooming in mid-June, render it an attractive object, either alone or in shrubbery borders.

Mr. Hemsley says: "Bartram, who first described this species, says that it has *crimson* flowers." Perhaps the flowers vary in color. We have never seen or heard of any with other than the color mentioned above.

NOVELTIES.

A new Lilac.—M. Lemoine has raised a double-flowered Lilac, which he has named *Syringa hyacinthifolia flore-pleno*. He applied pollen of one variety upon 100 flowers of another, obtaining, in the first instance, but seven seeds. *S. oblata* and *azurea plena* were the varieties used. Other efforts were somewhat more successful. He has raised forty plants, of which number but three have bloomed, one of which is the above. The flowers resemble those of very small Hyacinths, hence the name. We have an abiding faith that the Lilac is susceptible of great improvement, and that it will, in the not distant future, be prized as it has been in days long gone by.

Cedrella Sinensis.—The Gardeners' Chronicle of England says that at a recent meeting of the Academie des Sciences (Paris), Prof. Decaisne exhibited a flowering branch of *Cedrella Sinensis*, an exceedingly ornamental hardy tree, resembling *Ailanthus glandulosus* in habit and foliage. Being a native of the North of China, it is perfectly hardy in the climate of London, and from the descriptions of it in French journals, it is a great acquisition to the small number of hardy trees with pinnate leaves. The white flowers are small but numerous, and borne in erect panicles, often more than 18 inches in length. Some parts of this tree are said to possess something like the flavor of Garlic and to be used by the Chinese in cookery.

NOTES.

A writer in the *Jahrbuch des Bremen'schen Gaatenbau-Verin*, on the "Change in the Colors of Flowers," says that the changes in the colors of the flowers of Gladiolus versicolor are among the most remarkable and wonderful of this class of phenomena. Indeed this plant may be dubbed a vegetable chameleon, so varied are the changes the colors of its flowers undergo. In the morning they are brown, and during the day they assume various hues, until in the evening they become blue, and remain so during the night; the following morning they are again brown, and during the day they pass through the same changes as on the preceding day.

Correction.—M. J. Wills of Oregon, Mo., desires us to state that it is *Lilium auranticacum*, not *L. auratum* offered under "Exchange" in Rural of Sept. 2.

The Garden.

EARLY VEGETABLES FROM FALL SOWING.

There are a number of kinds of garden vegetables which may be secured for early spring use by sowing the seeds in the fall. The first requisite is a very rich soil, and one that is deep and naturally dry, or has been well drained artificially.

SPINACH.

This excellent and much-esteemed vegetable is generally started in the fall, the seed being sown early enough to secure plants with leaves an inch or more in diameter before cold weather sets in, or the plants may be grown large enough for use in the fall, then by giving a protection of straw and hay, one may cut a supply during every thaw until spring. But for an early crop, and for home use, it is not best to start the seed too early, but merely get the plants well established before cold weather, then cover lightly with some coarse litter—swamp hay being preferable to straw where field mice are abundant. The round, smooth-leaved spinach is the best for fall sowing, as it is more hardy than the long-leaved sorts.

CABBAGE AND CAULIFLOWERS.

For an early spring supply, the seeds should be sown early enough in the fall to obtain plants two or three inches high before freezing weather. The plants may be protected by being heeled-in out in the open ground and then covered; but the better way is to put them into frames where a little light and air can be given occasionally during the winter. Care should be given to have the plants well hardened, as the gardeners call it, before severe freezing weather comes on. If grown in the open air, there will be little danger of the plants becoming tender through rapid growth, as the cool nights will check over-luxuriance.

BRUSSEL SPROUTS.

This is another excellent early spring greens, the seed being sown in the fall, sometimes as late as October, and the plants protected during winter the same as spinach. "Sprouts," as this plant is generally termed, are extensively cultivated in the vicinity of New York, and immense quantities brought to our markets early in spring.

LETTUCE.

There are few persons who do not enjoy a crisp lettuce salad in early spring, if not at other seasons. Those who have good hot-beds can, of course, bring along their salads long before the cold weather is past; but persons not having such conveniences, may forward the "season" considerably by sowing their lettuce seed in the fall and then protecting the plants with a light covering of bog hay.

The varieties known as the Black Seeded Butter and Brown Dutch are probably the most hardy, and withstand the cold of winter with very slight protection, and come forward very rapidly at the approach of warm weather in spring. Those who want a supply of early vegetables next season should make preparations for the same this fall.

Scientific and Useful.

SERICULTURE IN ENGLAND.

There are probably few of our readers who have any idea of the vast amount of money annually expended for the eggs of the little moth producing silkworms. These eggs are called "grain," for they have the appearance of some of the smaller grains or grass seed, being about the size of common millet. Many of the readers of the Rural New-Yorker doubtless think, (if they think about it at all), that those who raise and feed the worms, should be able to raise moths enough to produce all the eggs required, but the experience of sericulturists shows such a supposition is erroneous to a great extent, and the old saw of not "counting the chickens before they are hatched" is quite as applicable in this silk industry as in many others. Numbers of our poultry men have learned to their loss that there is a disease, known as Chicken Cholera, which sometimes sadly interferes with their plans and estimates of final results and profits, and the raisers of silkworms have a little disease to contend with in raising these useful insects, hence it becomes necessary to procure fresh eggs from healthy stock almost every year, for in many districts in Southern Europe where the silk industries have for generations been the principal occupation of the inhabitants it has of late years been impossible to raise a healthy progeny from the home bred moths.

To give up and abandon the silk industries in these districts would be a fearful blow to the inhabitants thereof for their lands are planted with Mulberry trees, upon which the worms are fed, and buildings erected in which to rear and feed them, besides the various other apparatus and machinery required are all on hand, and what is most the skilled labor is there, ready and waiting to be used. Owing to the presence of the disease referred to immense quantities of grains, (eggs) have for several years past been imported from Japan, coming to San Francisco thence by railroad to New York and here re-shipped to France or other European ports. Very fair success attended this enterprise of importing these eggs, but now it is reported that the same disease which has been so destructive to the worms in Europe has broken out in Japan which, if widespread, will prevent any further supplies coming from that source.

Under these circumstances it is no wonder that silk has lately advanced in price, and our scientists begin to seek remedies for this great evil, or new sources of supply. We shall probably have occasion to refer to this subject again, giving the results of some experiments conducted for the purpose of eradicating the silk-worm disease, but in the mean time we copy a very interesting article on this subject by Alexander Wallace, M. D. in the London Garden, wherein he advocates the raising of the grains in England by the aid of artificial heat when necessary. If it can be done in England with profit we see no reason why it cannot be done here without such assistance. There must be somewhere within our vast range of territory and climate regions of country where the silk worm can be reared in health.

Doctor Wallace says that having experimented in Colchester during the past fifteen years on all the known varieties of silk-worms, with the view of their introduction into England and its colonies, and having ascertained, by actual experiment, that the most profitable race was that of the Bombyx Mori, and that the growth of the white Mulberry tree and the cultivation of its silk-worms were easily accomplished in the greater part of the English Isles, it has given me great pleasure to read a letter from Mrs. Neile, who has done so much for Mulberry silk culture in Australia, advocating the cultivation in England of "grain," or the production of eggs of the best races of Mulberry silk-worms for sale in Southern Europe. As I believe the main features of the case are unknown in England, and as the introduction of a new industry, so easy and simple to carry out, yet so lucrative in its results, will be hailed as a boon by all friends of the British farmer (who now finds himself unable to compete with the world in the growth of cereals, and liable to sudden and heavy losses from disease, &c., if he venture on breeding or rearing stock), I crave the indulgence of a few lines to explain the position in which this country stands with regard to sericulture, and to indicate what may reasonably be expected to be effected if the matter be gone into with prudence and perseverance.

When I found out some ten years ago that about £1,000,000 sterling was annually sent from Europe to Japan by those interested in sericulture to purchase fresh, healthy "grain," their own stock having been either worked out or enfeebled by disease, it occurred to me that some of this money might be diverted to this country to enrich our own people. I found that several scientific Frenchmen of eminence—notably M. Guerin-Menneville, Government Inspector in France—had been very favorably disposed towards "silk," or rather "grain" culture in England. I found that on the borders of Hampshire and Surrey Captain Mason had for years grown the white Mulberry tree, and produced silk which had been exhibited with first-class honors. My first trials at Colchester, being dependent on bought or borrowed Mulberry leaves (an uncertain supply), were not very successful. Having now got a good supply of white Mulberry trees in thriving condition (about 2 acres are planted out), my experiments during the last two years have been very successful. I have had shoots on these trees which in one year grew from 5 to 6 feet long. I have educated and fed the worms, derived from one of the best sources in Europe, in a room, almost without disease and almost without fire in June, July and August, and have produced both years a small lot of fine grain, the parent cocoons of which have been pronounced excellent by good judges.

Moreover, the introduction of several new kinds of stoves, which produce a high temperature in the silk-worm room without giving off any deleterious gases, gives us these great advantages—that the education of the worms is most rapidly hastened, reducing the period of the caterpillar stage from six to three weeks; they render the cultivation of the worm independent of any weather; and no carbonic acid or other noxious gas is given off to injure them. In the words of one of the inventors, Dr. Carret, "Healthy silk-worms can by means of these stoves be educated in any country where the Mulberry tree grows, independently of the weather." Therefore, the education of Mulberry silk-worms in England ought to be an assured fact. I wish, however, to correct a prevailing misconception. The ordinary silk-worm, such as obtained in Covent Garden, being an Indian (Dasee) race, producing the yellow or white-pointed cocoon, is for commercial purposes useless; the cocoons do not produce sufficient silk.

The most paying product in silk-worm culture is that of good grain or eggs, and evidence of the quality of the parent cocoon is always required before eggs can be sold in silk-growing countries. Hence the best races free from disease must be obtained, or those who wish to take up sericulture will be disappointed in the result. The old Brienza race, regenerated by Mons. Roland of Switzerland, exhibited in the International Exhibition of 1873, is the best now extant in Europe, and the one which I have reared in England with success. Lastly, any person going into the subject must be prepared during the months of June, July and August, to devote much time regularly and constantly every day, as the worms require close attention, or the result will be worthless.

Now as to the commercial results, Japan, as a grain-producing country, is now worked out.

All her best grain has been exported to Europe, and last season the purchases of grain did not amount to one-eighth of former sales. The South of Europe can take from us instead of from Japan, a million ounces of eggs, if we can only produce them, at a price of from 15s. to 21s. per oz. of 30 grammes, and will be very glad to get eggs, if only healthy, from us. If properly managed, 1 oz. of eggs will produce in grain 100 oz., or £1 will produce £100, leaving a large margin for profit after all expenses have been paid, but generally half that result will afford a splendid profit. The education may be effected by women and children, if only the leaves be collected by a man. The Southern, Midland, and Eastern districts are admirably adapted to the growth of the white Mulberry tree. I am very glad, therefore, to see that others besides myself are interested in this important question, and I trust that the subject, once fairly ventilated, will not be allowed to rest till practical results have been obtained. I shall be happy to show my cocoons to any one interested in this question.

VARIOUS KINDS OF CAMPHOR.

CAMPHOR is camphor to most persons, few knowing or caring whether it is all the product of one or many different species of trees. The Laboratory tells us that there are various kinds, the ordinary camphor comes from Japan or the island of Formosa, but there are various highly esteemed species of camphor obtained from Borneo and Sumatra. There is also another variety of medium quality produced by the *Blumea balsamifera*, a plant of the composite order, which grows in the east of Asia. The Chinese denote it by the name Ngai, and make use of it in medicine and the manufacture of ink. It produces harder and more brittle nuts than the laurel camphor. Like this latter, it is sublimed at an ordinary temperature, but less easily, while the Borneo camphor does not show any traces of sublimation even after several years. All camphors float in water, but when the air in the interstices is exhausted by an air-pump, Ngai and Borneo camphor sink to the bottom, while the laurel camphor swims. The specific gravity of laurel camphor is .995 that of Ngai 1.02, and that of Borneo 1.011. Laurel camphor melts at 335 deg. Fahr., Ngai at 599 deg., and Borneo at 405 deg. Laurel camphor, washed with hydrochloric acid and still moist, quickly changes to a colorless liquid. In the same circumstances Ngai and Borneo absorb the acid very slowly, and do not turn to a liquid till long after. Nitric acid changes Borneo camphor into an oil, which, on the addition of water, deposits a substance identical with laurel camphor. The same thing occurs with Ngai.

Domestic Economy.

GARLIC BUTTER.

THE Swiss, Germans and French, through habit perhaps, become very fond of the flavor of Garlic, and a large number of the dishes prepared for their tables are flavored with this rank, and to many persons offensive, esculent. There is, however, no doubt of the healthfulness of the Onion family of plants, including the Garlic, and were it not for their strong odor they would be far more extensively used than at present in this country. Butter flavored with Leeks or Wild Onions, which cows sometimes eat in early spring, is not considered improved by the additional odor, but we presume that persons who are fond of Garlic in their soups and other dishes would not object to it; in fact, we find in the Dietetic Reformer a recipe for making "Garlic Butter" out of Sweet Oil, and highly recommending it as nutritious food. But here is what the writer says on the subject:

"I dare say somebody would like to know how to make this delicious relish. Take Garlic, peel it and cut lengthwise into bits, put them in a mortar and rub to a paste, always rubbing 'the same way round.' As you rub keep adding Olive Oil till the 'ajioli' assumes the consistence and appearance of clear yellow honey. Squeeze a Lemon into it, and after a final rub put into a jam-pot. It will keep several days. Spread on bread, or stirred into Bean or Garbanzo porridge, or eaten as a relish with any food, it is delicious and wholesome. In the wine-shops in Spain they put sodium-chloride into it, much as British publicans salt beer. In Spain red pepper is also often added; this makes it nicer to some, but not so palatable to others. Again, Apple is often rubbed up with it to make it bland for some palates. Garlic thus prepared is an especially wholesome dainty for those liable to the common diseases of the respiratory apparatus. If the Garlic be fresh it will take a very great deal of oil. Quite a small handful will be enough for a quart, gradually added. The oil becomes solid in the process, as solid as jelly or honey at a low temperature. How this curious phenomenon results I do not know. This 'ajioli,' or Garlic Butter, is capital spread thinly on bread, and is incomparably wholesomer than cow butter. When quite newly made it will doubtless seem a little full-flavored to some tastes, but becomes milder after it has been kept for twenty-four hours. All whom I have told about it like it very much—children notably. Sound and unadulterated butter costs now close upon 2s. per pound here in Suffolk. Garlic costs 1s. per pound, and Lucca Oil of good quality less than a shilling. Garlic Butter, then, costs about half the price of cow's butter. It is strictly human food, whereas dairy produce is merely a substitute for human food, like meat. Those who have gardens can grow Garlic at no cost at all, as it grows readily and yields abundantly. The oil must be good."

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Ginger Cookies.—For the benefit of the lady readers of the RURAL, I send my recipe for Ginger Cookies:—Two cups of molasses, one cup of butter or lard, half a cup of sugar, two-thirds of a cup of sour milk, three teaspoons of soda, one tablespoon of ginger.—Mrs. M. P. ALDRICH, *Rathboneville, N. Y.*

Ginger Cake.—One cup sour cream, one of molasses of any kind, one of sugar, one teaspoon of salt, one of soda and two of ginger. Mix stiff and bake quickly.

Jelly Cake.—Break two eggs in a teacup, fill it up with sour cream, one teacup of sugar, a little soda, and do not mix hard. Bake this in three round tins.—FARMER'S WIFE.

INQUIRY.—I have seen many recipes for making lemon pies with eggs. Cannot some expert furnish one for making them without?—F. W.

Broiled Mushrooms.—Wash and drain the mushrooms, then peel them, and place them top down on a gridiron over a slow fire. Sprinkle a little salt and pepper over them while cooking. When done, put a little lump of butter into the hollow of each mushroom. Remove from the fire to a hot dish very carefully to prevent spilling the juice. Send to the table hot.—Mrs. RUSTIC.

Packing Eggs for Winter Use.—Strong lime water is the best of anything, but in the absence of lime many pack their eggs small end down in common salt. Some grease the shells with melted lard and pack in bran. A very good way, too, is to fill a colander full of eggs and pour over them a teakettleful of boiling water, then, when cool, pack in salt. The hot water slightly cooks the outside of the egg, making it air-tight. This is a favorite way with many housekeepers.

To Test Eggs.—As it is desirable in packing eggs for winter use to put up none but good ones, I try mine by rolling up a pamphlet or an almanac just large enough to slip an egg in at one end. Look through this toward the light, and if the egg is fresh it will look perfectly clear; if stale, it looks dark. This is an excellent test—almost unfailing.—FARMER'S WIFE.

Citron Preserves.—Pare the citron, take out the seeds, and cut it into small pieces; weigh it and put it into cold water and boil until tender; throw in a few peach leaves to give it a green color; also a small lump of alum to harden it. Make a syrup of three-quarters of a pound of sugar for each pound of citron, and for every seven pounds use four lemons and two ounces of green ginger-root. Slice the lemons and ginger-root thin, scald them in a little clear water, after which add the sugar. Boil the syrup down until thick, then add the citron and let it boil five minutes. Take the whole up in jars and seal up close, and keep in a dark, dry, cool place.

Hygienic Information.

A WORD TO PARENTS.

PARENTS little dream how much of the trouble caused by misconduct of children is attributable to their own neglect of duty, in leaving them so entirely to the influence of hired nurses, most of whom are ignorant, and many even vicious. The influence of the nurse over the mind of the child under her charge often exceeds that of the mother herself, and while the young mother smiles approvingly when her darling leaps eagerly from her own arms into those of the nurse, and flatters herself that she has found, in that nurse, a jewel—she does not stop to question what may be the consequence of this preference for an ignorant untaught servant; what ideas may be instilled in the innocent mind, and what lessons of deceit and immorality may be engraven upon the pure young heart. "My baby scarcely knows that she has a mother; she will cry to leave me for her nurse, at any time," I once overheard a fashionable young mother say to several of her friends, and child as I was, I could but pity the dupe of that nurse's cunning for I had been much with her, and heard her use language and relate stories which were absolutely disgusting to me, who had received my early tuition entirely from a devoted mother. Years after this, the beautiful child grew to womanhood, beautiful still—and accomplished, but an avowed unbeliever, an atheist; and was it strange that the seeds of infidelity, sown by the faithful nurse, so prized by her mother, should germinate, and as the bright mind expanded, take deep and firm root. I have seen the mother, then no longer a giddy votary of pleasure, but a sincere and trusting Christian, weep bitterly over the unbelief of her darling, little dreaming that while she had glided through the brilliant ball-room—or sat at opera and lecture, her child was learning her first lessons in skepticism.

But not only are the thoughtless and pleasure-loving guilty of this great and sinful neglect of the precious charge given them; how often do we hear it remarked that ministers' sons are always wicked, and how often does the remark prove true, though none dare doubt the sincere piety of the father. The truth is, parents take upon themselves too many unnecessary burdens and consider themselves, bound by duty, to perform too many tasks, which are of much less consequence than the teaching and training of their children.

The father has his trade or profession, and his few leisure hours he must spend in social pleasure. The mother has her household cares and the comforts of her family to study, and besides this, there is much time to be devoted to fancy work, to visitors and to amusements of one kind and another. She will perhaps spend days upon some useless piece of embroidery or patchwork, while her children are left to the mercy of kindness. Their dresses may be miracles of pulling, ruffles, and embroidery, but what does that count when their minds are dwarfed through neglect; her house may be a model of neatness, her bread excel that of all her neighbors, her jellies and preserves enough to tempt the most fastidious; but, if in all this, she has kept aloof from her child, has chilled his heart towards her, what does it count? Would it not be a better plan to hire her house cleaned, procure bread of a baker, and buy of a confectioner her preserves and jellies and devote more time and attention to the instruction of the child God has given her and for whose acts hereafter he will hold her more or less accountable? What will avail her model of a house when the heart of her child is full of evil passions, or when his hands are dyed with the blood of a murdered fellow-man? Her own heart may one day feel a hunger, or yearning for that child's love, for his welfare, and she may even die of this hunger while her pantries and her storehouses are full of the good things she has provided.

M. JAYNE.

BARLEY WATER PREFERABLE TO MILK.

A PAPER entitled "Observations on the Digestibility of Milk," read a short time since in London by Dr. Carter, has attracted considerable attention. In this paper, Dr. Carter, as reported, discussed various methods which had been generally used with a view of promoting the digestibility of milk, pointing out that their efficiency was essentially due to the dilution of the caseine, thus causing the precipitation, on its introduction into the stomach, in a granular form, of what would otherwise be firm, bulky, and compact. He further showed, by experiment, that simple dilution with water is insufficient for this purpose, and that the object is far better attained by adding mixture of alkaline or starchy waters with the milk. Dr. Carter summed up by giving a decided practical preference to barley water, and this conclusion he illustrated and supported by various experiments.

ACTION OF COD-LIVER OIL IN DISEASE.

BUCHHEIM finds that cod-liver oil has an acid reaction, and contains, in addition to the fatty glycerides, free fatty acids—oleic, stearic, and palmitic—the quantities of which vary in different kinds of oil, but amount in the clear variety to about five per cent.; and no biliary matters are present in the oil. Its value, according to Buchheim, depends on the presence of the free fatty acids, since the absorption of fats is preceded, to a certain extent at least, by their disintegration into glycerine and fatty acids; and as the latter are introduced in cod-liver oil in their free condition, and thus easily unite with the alkalies of the intestinal juices to form soluble and easily absorbed soaps and combinations, a part of the digestive work is spared, which is of importance for weak persons with deficient power of producing the gastric juices.

HOW TO GROW FAT.

1. TAKE soup and beer every day, also hot milk-coffee or chocolate well sweetened. 2. Let your food be chiefly farinaceous and vegetable; bread with butter or milk; milk-mush, potatoes, cabbage, turnips etc., prepared with butter, sweet puddings. 3. Eat meat only once a day; the fatter kinds are the most suitable. 4. Take neither acids nor alkalies, and avoid everything that disagrees. Milk, butter and sugar are very fattening, but everybody cannot take them with impunity, and to grow fat it is essential that digestion be almost perfect. 5. Sleep all you want, and take exercise in moderation.

HYGIENIC NOTES.

The London Milk Journal says that a pint of milk heated a little, but not boiled, taken every four hours, will check the most violent diarrhœa, stomach ache, incipient cholera and dysentery.

Sure Cure for Inflamed Eyes.—Take half an ounce of Golden Seal (you will find it at the drug stores), pour one-half pint boiling water upon it and let it cool. Bathe the eyes with a linen rag dipped in this, each night on going to bed, and you will soon effect a cure.

Simple Cure for Rheumatism.—Boil a small potful of potatoes and bathe the part affected with the water in which the potatoes were boiled, as hot as can be applied, immediately before going to bed. The pains will be removed, or at least alleviated, by the next morning. Some of the most obstinate rheumatic pains have lately been cured by one application of this novel and simple remedy.

Around the Republic.

A VISIT FROM GRASSHOPPERS.

THE New York Times publishes the following private letter written by a gentleman residing in Kansas to his father in this city. It is quite characteristic, and reminds us of devastated fields we have seen in Kansas, Nebraska and other Western localities some years since:

SALINE COUNTY, KAN., Sept. 8, 1876.

MY DEAR FATHER: No man can successfully fight against nature. The contest is unequal—nature caring no more for a man than for a grasshopper. Ah! the "hopper." To-day I lost sixty acres of wheat, eaten into the ground in less than an hour. I thought I had seen locusts two years ago, but I was mistaken.

At about 10 o'clock this morning I noticed a heavy smoke rising in the west. I said to myself, "that is strange-looking smoke. What causes it?" I sat on my wheat drill and watched it. Rapidly it arose—smoke rising to the south, to the north, to the north-east. In a few minutes the column of smoke extended from the south around by the west to the northeast—to the extreme limit of vision. While I was saying to myself, "Yes, I understand you now," my heart slowly sank. Unhitching my team, I put my full wheat sacks in the wagon, hitched to it, drove to the granary, unloaded, drove to the house, got my gun, and went prairie-chicken shooting. My wife looked at me in mild surprise. Quitting work on a beautiful day to go shooting was a queer thing, she thought. I did not have the heart to tell her that in less than four hours her nice garden would be cleaned out and that all our wheat would be gone. Soon the low hum, as of a distant threshing machine, filled the air—the advance of the locusts. Louder, louder, ever louder the hum, till in a roar the countless billions of devourers were on us, all around us. The air was stiff with them. I could look at the sun without blinking. They settled constantly. The earth was covered with them, yet not one in a thousand stopped. To the east they went in a vast cloud. A west wind, a gale, blew them.

For six hours they flew, a solid cloud; and to-night there is not a wheat plant left in any of the counties about here. I sat on a hill and watched them, and smiled as I saw some hundreds tackle a sun-flower, and laughed as I saw that sun-flower vanish. How thick they were! How harmless they looked; but, great Jove, how they ate! Ah! what appetites they have. It would make a dyspeptic turn green with envy to see the way they fasten to anything and everything edible. The characteristic of a grasshopper's appetite is, that all he eats runs to appetite. Sixty acres of my wheat was up. Now it is down—the gullets of the locusts. I suppose they will take the residue as it comes through the ground.

Well, I shall have to reseed, that is all. But the loss of seed and labor is pretty sore on me this year. I have joy in saying that I have eighty acres of corn that will try their teeth somewhat. It is as hard as corn can be. I walked down this afternoon to see how they were making out with it. They had the stalks all stripped of leaves, and were sawing at the corn. But I could see that it was no go. Their teeth slipped over the bright-yellow surface. I have gone to haying again, and will hay until the locusts leave. I still keep three plows running, and will reseed as soon as possible. Our garden is perfectly cleared; beans, cabbages, tomatoes, melons, everything utterly gone. The vines to the potatoes are gone, and I am expecting a boss hopper up here at any minute to request the loan of a spade to dig up my potatoes with. I shall refuse his request with scorn.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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78 Duane St., New York.

"WE HUMBLY BEG."

IN a petition to State and National Legislatures, it has long been the custom to insert the phrase, "We, your petitioners, *humbly beg*," as though the sovereign people were beggars. This phrase, as well as many others in use, came across the Atlantic, a relic of monarchical governments, where the "divine rights of kings" are acknowledged by the common people; but it has no place in a republic and should be tabooed from our literature. In a copy of a petition now being circulated for signatures in Minnesota, to be forwarded at some future time to Congress, asking that "Honorable" body to appoint a commission whose business it shall be to inquire into the Grasshopper plague in the North-western States, contains this to us detestable phrase, "we humbly beg."

Going down on one's knees before royalty and kissing the hem of some idiot's garment who, through perhaps hereditary descent or wealth, happens to hold a high position in society, should be no more revolting to the free-born American citizen than this "humbly begging" for one's rights. We believe in the most exacting politeness between man and man, master and servant, mistress and maid, and the superior should ever be careful that he is not outdone in this by the inferior, if such there be in his service or company; but this does not call for crawling on one's belly in the dust nor bending the knee to fellow man; for we, as Americans, profess to believe that man was made in the image of GOD and to walk upright before Him and His creatures. We elect men (or those supposed to be) to our State and National Legislatures, to make necessary and useful laws to further our interests and progress as a people; not to abuse their position or our confidence, and they are only our agents and servants, consequently, why should we go begging of them to do the will of their constituents? To do this is neither manly nor becoming of a people who profess self-government. Is it not just the right time in this, our Centenary year, to expunge these hateful words, "humbly beg," or "pray," from all petitions to legislators, and insert in place of these "we ask," or "demand" of you certain acts or things?

If the annual destruction of a hundred millions of dollars' worth of property by grasshoppers in the North-west upon land sold to the settlers of those regions by the Government, or held through its connivance with railroad companies, is not a sufficient excuse for asking Congress to appoint a commission to investigate the subject and see if further destruction cannot be averted, then we say to the settlers there—suffer on "humbly" until your misery makes you strong enough to *demand* investigation and protection.

Doubtless our Honorable Congressmen would much prefer to wage war against the Sioux and gain a little more of the Grasshopper territory, than to protect and take care of what we already have; but those who see their crops destroyed and the bread taken from their children's mouths by these pests, may think differently, and they certainly have good reasons for the opinions held.

We had a grand "blow up" here in New York a few days since, and it cost the people of this country two millions of dollars; and there are to be other "blow-ups" in the same pond, which will cost three or four millions more; and we are all proud of this grand triumph of science and engineering skill, backed by money; but we have existed and prospered a century without those improvements and should have gone on prospering without them, for no one was compelled to run against the rocks of Hell Gate, neither was there the least danger of millions of dollars' worth of property being destroyed if these rocks had been left another century intact; but they were in the way of certain crafts which navigated the East River and Long Island Sound, and there was not lacking *influence* or interest enough in the enterprise to get the necessary appropriations to do what has been done, and is still to be done in the future.

Now our Western farmers and residents in the Grasshopper-infested regions, must send men to the National Legislature pledged to do their will in this matter. Make their political platform of only one "plank," and let that be the doing of their constituents' will; and if they step off or shirk their duty, tip up the plank and shove them overboard, and see to it that the one sin, "neglect of duty," carries the carcass beyond the reach of a political resurrection.

BE IN EARNEST.

THERE is something about a person who does everything as though he was thoroughly in earnest that commands attention and respect. Success never comes from any half earnest attempt, because there is too much competition in this world to permit of much "laggardism," either in business, social intercourse or friendship. Probably one of the most repugnant tasks which a man may sometimes be obliged to perform, is that of borrowing money; but the one who seeks a capitalist in an earnest, confident manner, showing by his actions that he is sanguine of meeting obligations when due, is far more likely to get the accommodation than the one who walks and talks timidly in such business operations.

Earnestness and confidence in one's own abilities and skill to perform certain acts, form a kind of personal capital which goes a long way in this world towards making a man's life a success. It does not matter what a man is doing, if he puts no enthusiasm or earnestness into his work, it will drag and the wheels will move slowly and creak with friction. Now, as we hold that this earnestness of character is but a habit which may be cultivated or suppressed, either in individuals, families or nations; becoming hereditary under certain conditions and extinct under others, it is therefore, in this view, not a matter of theory or speculation but something which should command our earnest attention.

Parents in particular should carefully avoid suppressing a show of earnestness in their children, for there is little danger from an exhibition of too much, though there may be a need of proper direction. The child who has been encouraged to do everything in an earnest manner, will generally retain the habit through life, and the only thing to be considered is the proper direction of this earnestness, for it must be admitted that the same faculties may be turned either to do good or evil, and the more they are cultivated and strengthened the more pronounced the results. Still, we must adhere to our first proposition of being in earnest in the performance of every act, whether it be as children playing ball, going a fishing, or engaging in any other similar amusement. Then in later years, the habit having become fixed, we will find men and women entering upon the sterner duties of life all in earnest, and obstacles which might appear formidable to persons lacking this habit, will be brushed aside without a moment's hesitation or notice.

We like to see men follow a plow as though they enjoyed seeing the fresh soil turned over and their faces lighted up with a peculiar expression which says, "I am thinking of the crops which will be reaped here next fall, or next year." Such men will walk briskly to their labors and home lightly when they are finished, and many an acquaintance will marvel at the elasticity of the step when age is supposed to stiffen joints and enfeeble the frame, not having learned the great lubricating and strengthening powers of earnestness of character and habit.

RURAL NOTES.

Doryphora 10-lineata and Tobacco.—It is often stated that the distinguished Potato Beetle, though preferring the Potato plant, will, in its absence, feed upon any other member of the Night-shade family. The Tobacco plant is forgotten. We believe they have no fondness for "the weed" in any form. It is well for the Potato Beetle that it is so. We have many substitutes for the Potato upon a pinch, but not one that can take the place of "the weed." Were the Potato Beetles to desert *Solanum tuberosum* in favor of *Nicotiana*, an avalanche of popular lightning would fall upon their unfortunate heads that would squelch them out in a year. The taste for tobacco is wholly artificial. If the Potato Beetle has a whit of man's refinement of taste, and that it has is shown from the fact that both are fond of Potatoes, it is susceptible of an appetite for tobacco. Our benevolent entomologists who are anxious to be of service in practice as well as in teaching, have only to create and cultivate this taste in Doryphora and a positive exterminating measure—a little round-about, perhaps—will be the result.

American Beef Abroad.—Our English cousins are becoming quite enthusiastic over the prospects of being supplied with fresh American beef. One writer bursts forth in this wise when speaking of the beef in English markets which was slaughtered fourteen days previously. "This marvelous triumph of art over nature bursts upon the consumer by surprise." Of course, producers on this side of the Atlantic are only too happy in furnishing their cousins on the other side with beef fresh salted, for there is little danger of the supply giving out during the next century at least.

Reduction in Advertising Rates.—In announcing the reduction of our advertising rates this week, we merely wish to call attention to the point that, in common with all others who recognize the fact of Hard Times and Reduced Prices, we are looking for increased business. While our circulation is steadily increasing we are reducing both the price of the paper and the rates of advertising and expect to continue to do so in order that our patrons may have a good share of the benefits of our success. They are entitled to it and we intend that they shall have it. See card of rates.

RURAL BREVITIES.

BOOMER & BOSCHERT Cider Mill receipts for Thursday (Pennsylvania Day) were $685—cider 5c. per glass. Some one must have had early practical experience in passing fluid through a straw.

FROM the report of the late meeting of the Hop Growers' Union of Central New York, we learn that there has been a large increase in acreage during the past year, but a falling off in the yield in nearly all plantations owing to an unfavorable season.

THE Pomological exhibit at the Centennial is entirely satisfactory to our people, it being the largest display ever made at any show in this country—which is saying a good deal; for there have been some grand fruit shows at some of our State Fairs in times past.

THE happy people at this time are those who have been awarded prizes at the great Centennial show. We wonder how many of the grand or great-grandchildren of these men will make an exhibit at our Bi-Centenary exhibition in 1976?—supposing, of course, that one is held.

CATTLE and hog buyers, being good judges of the live weight of animals, are constantly buying without weighing and frequently make large sums by farmers under-estimating the weight of their stock. Weigh all your animals when you sell, and before you sell ascertain the true value at the time of sale.

THE Gold Medal made by special order of the National Butter and Egg Association, will be awarded to the best butter exhibited, as decided by the Centennial Committee, for the "best package of butter of not less than *fifty* pounds, net weight, that may be exhibited on the 17th of October." Who will be the lucky winner of this prize?

THE announcement made by LORD & TAYLOR on another page, should command the careful attention of our lady readers. The system of shopping by mail, until adopted and incorporated as a regular department of our leading house, had its disadvantages. These have been counteracted and converted into benefits. It is now possible, for ladies living in the country to shop in New York without the expense of a personal visit, thus availing themselves of the undoubted bargains that are daily offering in this mart. Purchasers can have samples sent them from which to make a choice, and they will as absolutely receive what they order as regards price, quality and fabric, as if they personally supervised the transaction. A trial will convert a novice into a confirmed supporter of the system.

J. STEVENS & Co., Chicopee Falls, Mass., perfected their breech-loading sporting rifle, until now it must certainly be what they state it has become—the Hunter's Pet. An examination convinces the writer that the arm is handy, nicely poised, and the workmanship performed in a thorough manner. The sights are of the most approved designs, and the range and accuracy are as perfect as can be desired in an arm of this kind. This firm have but recently put upon the market a new breech-loading double gun at a popular price—$40 and $45—that has an entirely novel application of the breech-lock, the barrels being thrown up to receive the cartridge by merely pressing a third trigger that is just forward of the lock triggers. The reputation of the house precludes the necessity of saying anything about finish, etc. Either of these guns may be seen at H. 71, Main Building Centennial Exhibition.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

The Highest Grand Award of the Centennial Commission was given to Wisner's "Tiger" Sulky Horse Hay Rake. WISNER is still ahead, and the Tiger growls victoriously—he will be heard from the coming season from Maine to California.

THE ROSE TREE.

BY VIOLET FULLER.

WITHIN a happy, sheltered home,
A little rose tree bloomed;
Its leaves unfolding one by one,
The air around perfumed.

It to the sunshine raised its head,
And grew from hour to hour;
The parents smiled, it seemed so fair—
Their modest little flower.

But when the blasts of winter came,
The little rose tree sighed,
And shivered, as it heard the storm,
That roared so fierce and wide.

"Earth is too cold for me," it said;
"Its storms will surely come,
And beat on my defenceless head,
E'en in this sheltered home."

The Master looked from Heaven above;
"Sweet rose," he whispered low,
"Earth's storms are cruel, and its stains
Will soil thy leaves of snow."

Then quickly to his garden fair
He took the pretty flower,
Where no dark, earthly stains do come,
Or stormy skies do lower.

"O give us back our snow-white rose,"
The weeping parents cried,
"For home is dark, we cannot live
Since our fair rose tree died."

"Peace peace, beloved," the Master said.
"Your rose is safe with me:
Within my Paradise it lies
And blooms eternally.

"Far, above all earthly storms,
Above all earthly care,
Look up, and with the eye of faith,
Behold your rose tree there!"

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 221.]

TEXAS.

IN 1819, when Florida was purchased from Spain, the South-west boundary of the United States was determined to be the Sabine, the Red River, &c., thus, as it was supposed, ending the controversy as to rights in Texas by conceding it to be a part of Spanish possessions in America. This Texas comprised but a small portion of the country now known by that name, including only that lying between the Sabine and the Nueces, with its northerly limits above Austin and Bexar.

In 1822 Mexico, including Texas, threw off Spanish dominion and became an empire under ITURBIDE, with the title of AUGUSTIN I. as Emperor. After reigning ten months, he was compelled to abdicate by a revolution headed by SANTA ANNA, who succeeded in effecting a confederation of the nineteen States and four Territories of Mexico, with a republican form of government. Almost continual war existed between the political parties from that time until 1835, at which time the Confederated States were made a consolidated Republic and the States reduced to the condition of Provinces.

In 1824 Texas had been consolidated with Coahuilla and given a State Government, conditioned that Texas, which was then but sparsely inhabited, might have an independent Government so soon as it should be "in a condition to figure as a State for itself." Meantime, immigrants had been attracted to Texas from Southern United States and some from Europe, and in 1833 a memorial was sent to the Mexican Congress, asking to be separated from Coahuilla, claiming the right from the fact that as a distinct Province, they shared the privations, toils, expenses and dangers of the war with Spain; that there was no bond of union or community of interests between the two Provinces; that such laws as benefit Coahuilla were mostly injurious to Texas, and that she was virtually without a Government; that the union had been made to be continued only until Texas could figure for herself, &c., &c. The memorial was sent to the Mexican Congress only to be rejected, and the messenger was detained as a prisoner until the summer of 1835.

The United States offered to purchase Texas from Mexico, but the offer was declined. All this time the real reason for the discontent of the Texans had not been given. How often is it the case that the real cause of action in nations as in men, is kept hidden, while others less influential are made known! The Mexican laws did not allow slavery. The soil and climate of Texas were supposed to be, in a superlative degree, favorable to the institution. A large proportion of the then residents of Texas were from slave States and with pro-slavery inclinations. The plan was, from the first, not only of the Texans, but of influential parties in the States, to first free Texas from Mexico and then annex—or reannex, as they preferred to say—the new Republic to the United States. With this end in view SAM HOUSTON became a resident of Texas in 1832.

In 1836 Texas refused to submit to SANTA ANNA, whom they styled a dictator and a tyrant, and proposed annexation to the United States, by whom it was declined on the ground that Mexico, with whom it was at peace, would have just grounds of complaint. A Declaration of Independence was then issued, a Constitution framed and HOUSTON made commander-in-chief of the army. Before this time Mexican troops sent to put down insurrection had been met and many contests ensued, but from this time the war was to the knife.

In April, 1836, at the battle of San Jacinto, SANTA ANNA was taken prisoner. An agreement was soon entered into between him and the Texan Government to the effect that hostilities should cease, that the Mexican army should cross the Rio Grande, that all prisoners should be released, and that he would use his influence with the Mexican Government for the recognition of Texan independence, in consideration of which he was to be released and conveyed to Vera Cruz. After he had been placed on board ship and was ready to sail, at the demand of the army he was again landed and detained as a prisoner against his protest until November, in the same year, when HOUSTON, having been elected President, he was released. He immediately went to Washington to arrange, he said, for the proper understanding between the United States and Mexico. He remained in Washington nine days and was sent home in a United States ship-of-war. He did not keep his promise to Texas, and although for a long time hostilities were suspended, Mexico refused to treat with the new Republic whose independence had been acknowledged in 1837 by the United States and in 1840 by England, France and Belgium. Marauding expeditions entered Texas in 1841–42, but made no attempt to subjugate the country. Texas attempted to repay this conduct in kind and made unsuccessful attempts on Santa Fe and other Mexican towns.

In 1843, by intercession of Great Britain, SANTA ANNA agreed to treat, and commissioners were appointed on both sides. Before their meeting, Texas had received overtures from the United States looking to annexation. This displeased Mexico and caused her to dissolve the commission. It also displeased France and England, whose desire it was that Texas should remain independent under their joint protection without slavery, and under no obligation to and subject to no influence from the United States. The terms of annexation were agreed to by Texas, approved by our House of Representatives, but rejected by the Senate April 12, 1844, receiving only 15 votes. But the end was not yet, and it was far from certain that the friends of slavery in the United States were displeased at the result.

An important Presidential election was pending; and some lever was wanted to defeat the nomination by their party of Mr. VAN BUREN, a Northern man who, although with Southern principles, was not satisfactory. So Mr. POLK was nominated by one party, while the other supported HENRY CLAY, who was well known to be averse to annexation; and the question was one of the most prominent in the election of 1844. Mr. POLK was elected, but the question was not left for his action. In the session of Congress following his election, the question was again discussed and a bill, so written as to give the President power to negotiate with Mexico for the purpose of gaining her consent to annexation and fix boundaries, or to annex without her assent, passed the House of Representatives, February 25, 1845, and the Senate March 1. So soon as the Senate had voted, the bill was sent to President TYLER for his approval, which was given without hesitation, and without any reference to the wishes of Mexico, two days before the expiration of his term of office. By convention held in Texas in July, annexation was accepted and a constitution prepared, which, being acceptable to Congress, Texas became a State of the Union, December 27, 1845. But where were the bounds of Texas? When the Louisiana purchase was made, United States claimed to have acquired title as far west as the Rio Grande del Norte. The Mexicans frequently exercised jurisdiction east of that river, but it was only by sufferance. Mr. JEFFERSON, whose attention was called to it during his administration, said, "Let whoever will occupy our territory west of the Sabine, we neither want it now, nor will it pay to assert our rights at present; but it is ours, and when we want it we will extend our jurisdiction over it, and all people must submit."

When the treaty with Spain was made in 1819, our South-West Line was definitely fixed at the Sabine and Red River. The Province of Texas never extended west of the Nueces and but little north of Austin. The Republic of Texas had established itself no further west than the Nueces and the Pecos, to the line of New Mexico and thence east along said line to the United States boundary. When annexation took place the boundaries were not defined in the resolutions of Congress but left subject to adjustment by this Government and all other Governments in any way interested. But no sooner had annexation been agreed upon upon than Texas laid claim to all territory east of the Rio Grande and south of 42°.

In July 4, Gen. TAYLOR, who was in command of the United States forces in Texas, was ordered to take such positions as would enable him to defend the territory acquired "to the extent that it had been occupied by the people of Texas." He stopped at Corpus Christi on the west bank of the Nueces near its mouth, and here remained until February, 1846; when, receiving orders from President POLK to advance, he pushed across the desert separating the Nueces and the Rio Grande and erected a fort commanding Matamoras. The Mexicans requested him to retire—pending negotiations between the two countries relative to the boundary—which request was accompanied with information that his refusal to do so would be considered by Mexico as a declaration of war. TAYLOR could only obey orders and remain.

Early in May the Mexicans crossed the river, on the 8th attacked the United States army at Palo Alto and were badly defeated. They retreated to Resaca de la Palma, from which position they were driven the next day (the 9th) and compelled to recross the river.

On May 11th, in a special message to Congress, President POLK asserted that the Mexicans had "at last invaded *our* territory and shed the blood of our fellow citizens on *our own* soil." Congress two days after declared that "by act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that Government and the United States," and measures were taken for its prosecution.

This war with Mexico continued until February, 1848, when a treaty prepared by Commissioners appointed by the Mexican Congress on the one side and NICHOLAS P. TRIST—who had been sent to Mexico from Washington the year previous, with extraordinary powers—on the other, was negotiated and signed at Guadeloupe Hidalgo.

By this treaty the boundary between Mexico and the United States was fixed and determined to be the Rio Grande from its mouth to El Paso, and in consideration of the expenses of the war, $15,000,000 in hand paid and the assumption by the United States of debts due by Mexico to American citizens to an amount not exceeding $3,700,000, Mexico ceded to the United States all of New Mexico and California, of which, during the war, the United States had already taken possession, Gen. KEARNEY having established himself at Santa Fe and Gen. FREMONT and Commodore STOCKTON having practically conquered California.

A dispute afterward arose relative to the southern boundary of New Mexico which, on account of inaccuracy of the map used when the treaty was written, did not seem to be well established. Both parties were anxious to possess the Mesilla Valley, which was not only supposed to be a very fertile section, but through which was the most feasible route for a road. SANTA ANNA, then again at the head of the Mexican Government, took possession of the territory in controversy and refused to leave without compensation. The United States finally agreed to pay $10,000,000 for the undisturbed possession of the Valley, the free navigation of the Colorado River and of the Gulf of California. This bargain—known as the GADSDEN Purchase—left the line between Mexico and the United States as it now remains.

IOWA.

THE first settlement within the present limits of the State of Iowa, was made in 1788 by JULIEN DUBUQUE, a French Canadian, at the present city of Dubuque. Having obtained a grant of a large tract of land in that vicinity, some of which was rich in minerals, he built a small fort and commenced mining for lead and trading with the Indians.

The country was at first a part of Missouri Territory, but afterward came under the jurisdiction of Michigan Territory, being a part of what was known as Huron District. In 1836 this District was made into a Territory and named Wisconsin. From this time immigration constantly progressed, settlements extended west, and crossing the Mississippi immigrants established themselves upon the Des Moines, Skunk, Lower Iowa and Waubesapinacon rivers. These settlements soon became of considerable importance and were, for temporary judicial purposes, erected into the District of Iowa, of Wisconsin Territory. But with increase of population this union became unsatisfactory and in 1838 the District was given a Territorial Government and made to comprise all that region of country north of Missouri which lies west of the Mississippi River and of a line drawn due north from the source of the Mississippi to the northern limit of the United States.

In 1844 the people of this Territory made application for admission as a State, and an act of Congress was passed consenting thereto so far as related to the area embraced by the northern boundary of Missouri, the Mississippi River, the parallel 43° 30′ north latitude, and the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers. To this restriction of bounds Iowa was unwilling to agree and determined, rather than submit to such abridgement, to remain a Territory; but in 1846 the matter was further considered, the provisions of the act of Congress complied with and Iowa became invested with State Government.

WISCONSIN.

The country now embraced within the boundaries of Wisconsin has been successively under the jurisdiction of the territory northwest of the Ohio and of the different Territorial Governments of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. The Huron District of Michigan Territory, in which Wisconsin was included, comprehended all the area from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, including all the sources of the Upper Mississippi having for its southern limit the northern lines of Illinois and Missouri, and extending north to the national boundary. This domain, named Michigan, was given a Territorial Government in 1836. In 1838 it was divided by the separation therefrom of Iowa Territory. In 1848 the country between the Rivers St. Croix and the Mississippi, was set apart and named Minnesota, and to the remaining portion of Wisconsin a State Government was given by act of Congress passed May 29, 1848.—[To be continued.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, Phila., Pa.:
The Confessions of a Pretty Woman. By Miss Julia Pardoe. (Paper; 8vo.—pp. 200.) Price 75 cents.

NEW MUSIC FROM F. W. HELMICK, Cincinnati, O:
Angels Hover o'er our Darling. Song. By A. L. Fanshaw.

FROM S. C. GRIGGS & Co., Chicago, Ills.:
What Tommy Did. By Emily Huntington Miller. (Cloth; 12mo.—pp. 175. Price, $1.25.)

The Story-Teller.

TERESA.

AN ITALIAN STORY.

I.

LIGHT, heat, beauty, life-giving South! The artist seeks it for its glorious depths of color; the poet for its classic traditions and dreamy influences; the invalid for its balmy breath and reviving warmth, which stir the pulses that in northern lands would cease to beat. Lionel Merton, half poet, half artist and half invalid, sought it for life both of mind and body; and his delicate frame—shattered by the chill blasts of the north—woke to a new being in the soft Ausonian climate, whilst his artist eye glanced with a pleased delight over luxuriant plains and olive-planted slopes, with here and there a glimpse of the yellow Tiber flowing majestically along.

He was just now standing in the doorway of the inn, gazing not at the landscape or the skies, but at a face that had attracted his attention more than once since his arrival at——. He had seen it first in the beautiful gardens of the villa, not far from the inn, peering through the parted branches of a myrtle, whose dark, glossy leaves seemed to form a fitting framework for the living picture behind them. But the branches had closed hastily as the girl met the blue eyes of Lionel fixed steadfastly upon her.

"We must go home, Tina," said she to the child, who was watching the doves wash themselves in the basin of the fountain, and she swung it up to her shoulder, where it wound its tiny hands in her dark hair, loosening some of the coils that fell heavily down below her waist. A flush came over the pale olive skin.

"Thou art a bad child, Tina!" she said, as she hastily twisted up the long tresses under the folds of her white head-gear.

The large lustrous eyes had but looked at Lionel for a moment, and yet they seem to have told him a long story that he had been in the past trying to decipher.

Next he had seen her in the church, kneeling in fervent prayer, and had silently watched the changes of countenance until she again perceived him, and with a startled look rose and fled away.

To-day Teresa stood leaning against a stone pillar, playing with the pink blossom of a catalpa that stood near her, when suddenly she found herself once more face to face with the English stranger.

He had discovered her name—Teresa; daughter of blind Tomaso Cecchi and his bed-ridden wife. She was a good daughter and worked hard to support her parents. To-day she seemed to be taking life easily—drinking in the splendor of the purple mists and golden sheets of sunlight with true Italian indolence.

"*Dolce far niente!*" thought Lionel, as he looked at the statue-like figure and the head thrown back, partly with weariness, partly with an intense appreciation of the beauty around her.

But Teresa's rest was not to be of long duration. The *Mercanti* of the Campagna had sent for laborers to gather in the harvest, and men and women were forming into bands to join in the work. Teresa was going, so gossip had told Lionel, and to him it seemed a sacrilege that the beautiful maiden should toil and slave with the common multitude. But what could he do? And in the midst of his meditations the girl raised her face and again their eyes met.

"Teresa!" The name burst involuntarily from his lips.

She started and blushed, but this time did not flee away. She looked up at Lionel.

"Si; signore," she answered.

"That is a pretty flower," said Lionel; "will you give it to me?"

She made no reply, but put the blossom into his hand. And so the acquaintance was made and the two chatted away in the sunshine.

II.

Lionel had gone to Tomaso Cecchi's lodging.

"But your daughter is not strong enough for such work!" said he, in conclusion to a long harangue.

The old man shrugged his shoulders. "Poverty," said he, "is a hard master, and Teresa is a good girl."

"Too good to endanger her life in the toils of the Campagna. Think of the risk, the labor, the heat, the foul evening mists!"

But Tomaso looked back beyond the discomforts and remembered a time when the plains resounded with songs and laughter and the wine was broached and hearts were light.

"I found my wife there," said he, "and Teresa may find a husband."

Lionel instinctively drew back. A husband among those laboring peasants! Impossible; for in his eyes Teresa was worthy to be the bride of a king.

Can you not find a substitute for your daughter? I——," and then he hesitated, for Teresa had come into the room.

"How much will it cost to get a substitute, Teresa?"

Teresa laughed. "Giovanetta would pay if she could to go in my place," said she. "There are too many ready and willing to go."

"Let them go, then!" responded Lionel, eagerly.

"The signore forgets we must have money," returned Teresa.

Scarcely thinking of what he was doing, Lionel had poured out the contents of a purse full of English gold upon the table. The quick ear of

Tomaso caught the sound; he stretched out his hand as if to clutch the ringing coin, but Teresa sprang between, turning a flashing face upon Lionel.

"We are not beggars!" she exclaimed; "I work for my bread!"

"Will you not let me help you?" asked Lionel, in a low tone.

"You cannot," she replied, in an equally low voice; and the flash died out of her face, for Lionel's tone was very humble and his eyes had spoken something to her that her heart answered. She gathered the money together and put it into his hands.

"It must not be," said she, as he sorrowfully departed.

"Thou art a fool, child!" said Tomaso Cecchi, when Lionel was out of hearing. "These English know not what to do with their gold, and we should have been all the better for it."

III.

Slowly plodded the large, gray oxen over the plains of the Campagna; lazily sauntered the drivers at their side. Here and there one heard the sounds of merriment; there again were silent toilers; here worn-out laborers who had crept into the shade and fallen asleep, and above stretched the blue heavens, still and cloudless, over the gray and purple sweeps of far-off landscape, with here and there a patch of sun-gilt water.

All this Lionel saw, for he had obtained a lodging in one of the large stone farm houses, since money will obtain anything; and the fair, delicate-looking, generous Englishman was popular among the poor Italian peasants.

Teresa knew that he was there, but she avoided him; and he, seeing this, only watched her from a distance, and gave no token that she was more to him than any other laborer on the vast plains. He had seen Tomaso and his wife before he had followed to the Campagna, and they were amply provided for during their daughter's absence.

Lionel Merton had fallen in love, and he sat down and took the matter into deliberate consideration. His first thought was that Teresa was a queen; fit to be the wife of any man, was his second; why not of himself? was the third; and that she should be, if possible, was the fourth. Yet how to proceed, was the difficulty; he felt, with all the keen sensitiveness of an Englishman to absurd situations, that he was somewhat absurdly placed at the present moment; for Teresa, calmly pursuing her work, gave him no opportunity of addressing her without bringing the eyes of the multitude upon himself and the handsome maiden.

IV.

Teresa was the one to break the silence. She feared the pestilential breath that comes with the chill blasts and heavy dews after the burning heat of the day might take effect on Lionel Merton. She noted a lassitude and feverishness which he imputed to his state of mind, and suddenly she appeared before him.

"Signore, you will flee from hence or you will die!"

"And you will have killed me, Teresa."

"No; it is the poisonous mists of the Campagna."

"What brought me hither to breathe them?" asked Lionel, abruptly.

"The signore forgets that I begged him not to think of so rash a scheme," replied Teresa, evading the question. "For me who am accustomed to the changes, it is safe; for the signore it is death, and he must go."

"Whither?"

"Back to Frascati, if he so wills it; or, better, perhaps, away from Italy."

"I cannot live away from Italy; it is my life, my hope; and here I can study art and make myself a home. Here I can be happy, and yet you send me away!"

"I have told the signore that I am not fitted for his wife. Besides, my duty is to my parents; I must tend them until they die."

"Yet you leave them now?"

"Only for their benefit."

"It would benefit them more if you were my wife."

But Teresa shook her head mournfully. "*Non è possibile*," she said, decidedly.

"Yet you love me, Teresa?"

"Yes," said she with emotion, "but I must do my duty. I have made a vow not to marry so long as my parents live."

"It is a foolish vow," said Lionel.

"It is nevertheless a vow," she replied, firmly. "Signore, you must go. *Addio, addio!*"

But as she spoke a sudden shivering seized her the fever that she had dreaded for Lionel had fallen upon herself.

IV.

Teresa had but few friends among the laborers in the Campagna; but one woman, whom Lionel recognized as belonging to Frascati, was willing enough to undertake the office of nurse in consideration of the lavish payment for it, and to accompany her home when she was out of danger.

Then Lionel turned his steps northward, seeking no interview, for he knew that Teresa was firm in her resolution, and that it would be an insult to her piety and her sense of filial duty to attempt to shake it. So he hastened away, hoping by constant change and excitement to drive her image from his heart.

He passed the frontiers, and then the cold north winds began to blow and he could not face them, and Lionel Merton learned that his only hope of life was indeed in Italy. It seemed almost as though Fate were bidding him return, and so he passively resigned himself and retraced by slow stages the way to Frascati, delaying as he drew nearer and nearer to it, and yet with every intention of seeing Teresa once more.

He took up his residence at the inn again, but saw nothing of Teresa, neither did he hear of her until, upon making inquiries from the innkeeper, he found that immediately upon her return from the Campagna her parents had been taken ill and were now in the last stages of disease, and that they were poorer than ever. But Lionel shrank from intruding, although he and the old Cecchi had been very friendly.

Still Teresa had a consciousness of his presence in the constant supplies of all needed for the sufferers at the hands of the innkeeper, and she did not refuse them, for she was almost worn out with her vigil and perhaps regarded this unexpected assistance as an answer to her prayers, and therefore not to be flung ungratefully aside.

* * * * * * *

And then came the end. The Death Angel closed the old man's eyes and the mourner carried him to his grave—soon to be followed by the wife who had journeyed with him through the world And then Teresa was left an orphan, alone in the world. And then Lionel Merton once more said:

"Teresa, you love me?"

And Teresa replied, as she had done before, "Yes." But this time she added, "The vow that parted us is accomplished, and I am no longer forbidden to be your wife."—*Jean Bonearur.*

THE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

There has been so much said about the improvement in business that Spicer has taken pains to interview the members of leading branches of business in the city with a view of obtaining practical and reliable information. The result of the inquiry into each branch of trade is given below:

In the oyster business the fall openings have been successful.

Dealers in indigo are looking blue.

The hatters say the greatest interest is *felt* in their business.

Crockery trade does not want a smashing business so much as a safe one.

The distillers say the Presidential election will be a spirited contest.

Paradoxical as it may appear, the ready-made clothing trade, although in favor of keeping open stores, are not opposed to a "close up" move.

Tea dealers think something steep will be done in that article.

"Extensions" continue to be made in the milk business.

The bakers need much and continue to look for a rise.

Hackmen report their business to be driving at this season.

On the other hand, dealers in paper, pens, and articles for counting-house use, say their trade is stationary.

Rubber dealers report great elasticity and those who have gutta percha sir claim water proof it is of good business.

Lead is heavy as ever this season. Several dealers who have compromised with their creditors, say they "brought their pigs to a bad market."

The sole report from the shoe trade is that every movement on foot will improve its prospects.

The canvas of the artists shows that they are getting on easie-y.

Whether the butchers will stay here or not we cannot say, but many of them are looking for fresh quarters, and say they cannot sell without fairly slaughtering their merchandise.

Barbers report a close shave during the summer, and that but few of their customers come to the scratch.—*Boston Com. Bulletin.*

HAD NO FUN IN HIM.

One of the members of the Methodist Conference, recently held here, was out for a walk at an early hour one morning, and while on Howard street he encountered a strapping big fellow, who was drawing a wagon to the blacksmith shop.

"Catch hold here and help me down to the shop with this wagon and I'll buy the whiskey!" called the big fellow.

"I never drink," solemnly replied the good man.

"Well, you can take a cigar."

"I never smoke."

The man dropped the wagon tongue, looked hard at the member and asked:

"Don't you chew?"

"No, sir," was the decided reply.

"You must get mighty lonesome," mused the teamster.

"I guess I'm all right—I feel first-rate."

"I'll bet you even that I can lay you on your back," remarked the teamster. "Come now, let's warm up a little."

"I never bet."

"Well, let's take each other down for fun, then. You are as big as I am, and I'll give you the under hold."

"I never have fun," solemnly answered the member.

"Well, I'm going to tackle you anyway. Here we go!"

The teamster slid up and endeavored to get a neck hold, but he had only just commenced to fool about when he was lifted clear off the grass and slammed against a tree-box with such force that he gasped half a dozen times before he could get his breath.

"Now you keep away from me!" exclaimed the minister, picking up his cane.

"Bust me if I don't!" replied the teamster, as he edged off. "What's the use in lying and saying that you didn't have any fun in you when you're chuck full of it! Blame it! you wanted to break my back, didn't you!"—*Detroit Free Press.*

LORD HOUGHTON ON THE UNITED STATES.

Americans are growing more like one another and all more like Europeans. The late terrible events have had a palpable effect in sobering down the vivacity, in checking the familiarity, in dignifying the demeanor of the community. You hardly meet with a man of mature life who has not been under arms on one side or the other, and the general military bearing is conspicuous. There is none of the very natural garrulity of the olden time, which sprang from a good-natured curiosity as to the conditions of existence in what was almost another planet, but which is now familiar to thousands. The general commodiousness also affords no opening for the small comments and discussions incidental to the discomforts and chances of travel in a less civilized country. The railway carriages are supplied with conveniences to which ours are strangers; indeed, iced water is not a luxury but a necessity, which the Americans most sadly miss in a European summer; the unexampled cleanliness of the masses (in Philadelphia alone the towns supply water for forty thousand baths, most of them in what we should call artisans' dwellings) carries with it a physical self-respect that preserves a general decorum, and the offensive habit, of which so much has been said, but which was in the United States just the same and no more than in Germany and in other tobacco-smoking populations, is now kept under due restraint, and there is nothing to remind us of the American traveler of some twenty years ago, who was so indignant at the affectation and prudery of English men and women in this respect, that though, as he stated, his medical adviser had desired him to abstain from it in consequence of his consumptive tendency, he never lost an opportunity of practising it in England to show his contempt for our aristocratic insolence. The traveler has nothing to grumble about except the expense of the hack-carriages, which he will compare with our cabs, whereas they really correspond to the *remises*.—*July London Quarterly.*

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Letters Descriptive of Central Mississippi. Compiled by M. B. Hillyard, and published at McComb City, Miss. (Paper.—pp. 203.)

All who are interested in the portion of the country described will find these letters quite valuable. Statistical and chatty too are their proper name, and any one who contemplates a move into a new district would do well to read this pamphlet before deciding upon the locality.

The Iron Trail. By A. C. Wheeler. New York: F. B. Patterson.

This is a little pamphlet, beautifully illustrated and neatly printed on elegant tinted paper. It is written evidently as a first-class puff of certain Western railroads and their lands, but in Nym Crinkle's happiest vein. In this work he shows an ability to praise railroads almost equal to his talent for abusing actors and plays.

United States Newspaper Directory. Chicago: G. A. Cook & Co.

This is a useful book to publishers and newspaper advertisers. It gives the name, style and circulation of the newspapers of the United States, and appears to have been compiled with much care. Messrs. Cook & Co. deserve great credit for their enterprise.

COMING EVENTS.

Scribner & Co. promise some pleasant surprises. A new novel by Dr. Holland, "Nicholas Minturn." "Twelve Hours with the Microscope" will be a series of papers contributed by Sophia B. Herrick, and handsomely illustrated. "Sketches of Foreign Travel," by Gen. McClellan. Prof. Proctor has commenced a series of papers in "St. Nicholas," "The Stars of the Month," which promise to be a great feature.

A new thing from Boston: The teachers are endeavoring by the free use of pamphlets to popularize the metric system of weights and measures. The propaganda is under the direction of the American Metric Bureau.

Rev. Edward Abbott has in preparation a series of books for young folks. They will be warmly welcomed by all who are familiar with the peculiar gifts of his pen, and especially as a grateful change from the highly sensational literature on which the juvenile mind has been accustomed to feed. The books will combine practical instruction and entertainment, somewhat after the character of the famous "Rollo" and "Franconia" stories of his father.

Albert Welles of the Society Library, N. Y., is about to publish the "Pedigree and History of the Washington Family." This will be authentic.

The Domestic Monthly, published by Blake & Co., 549 Broadway, is an excellent publication, devoted to fashion, etc.

The World Publishing House, 139 Eighth St., N. Y., is issuing some marvelously cheap editions of standard authors. They will shortly begin the publication of a new child's paper, Chatterbox, Junior, which will be handsomely illustrated, and prove a new source of pleasure to the young folks.

Jas. R. Osgood & Co., Boston, are preparing a very tempting programme for the fall and winter. Ticknor's Life is delightful reading. Longfellow's editorial venture, Poems of Places, promises to be charming. The "Little Classic" Series grow even more rich and varied as they advance.

Sabbath Reading.

FOUR DESTINIES.

A widowed mother sat one night,
Wrapped in the glow of the ingle-light,
With four brave sons about her chair,
Gentle and truthful, as they were fair.

A serious thought was in her brain,
She turned it o'er, again and again;
O, that I knew what was in store,
When I'm dead and gone, for these brave boys four!

She looked in the fire—folk say that fate
Often glares out from the ingle-grate—
When something said to her "Put the quest',
What would they each do for the best."

She turned her round, and called the boys
From their household humors, their household joys,
To sit beside her, and give their thought
To the question the fire in her brain had wrought.

"Pray tell me, my children four, my pride!
Sitting here by the ingle-side,
What would you, each of you, like to be
In the coming time—in futurity?"

"I," said Tertius, "would wish to be
A municipal dignitary,
And ride abroad in a gilded coach,
All men bowing when I approach!"

"And I," cried Bayard, "would rather be
A chief in the fields of chivalry;
Would wear the warrior's laurel-wreath,
Won from the foe in the face of death!"

Now spake Horace—"O! let me be
A voice in the halls of minstrelsy,
And sing to the world of nobler things
Than pertain to heroes, or civic kings!"

Bunyan was silent, "'Tis your turn now,"
The mother, with a curious brow;
He wrote on the slate but said not a word—
"Let me, like Samuel, strive for the Lord!"

The gleam of joy in her face that shone,
Was a thing for the saints to look upon;
Her glance went up, high overhead,
And these were the only words she said:

"Ah, well! my children four, my pride!
Seated here by the ingle-side,
Labor and wait;—Good-night! good-night!"
And they went to their beds in the pale moonlight.

Tertius mounted with steps elate
The throne of his hopes, and ruled in state;
Was king for an hour—then sat him down,
A thing forgotten by half the town.

Bayard, brave in his young life's prime,
The sword unsheathed in a foreign clime;—
And, fighting fell, with the swelling cheers
Of victory ringing in his ears.

Horace laid his hand on the lyre,
The strings they thrilled with a hidden fire—
His voice was heard in the halls of fame,
And the world paid tribute to his name.

Bunyan followed where duty led,
At His feet who for sinners His dear blood shed:
Souls were his glory—souls he won,
And the choir of Eternity sang—"Well done!"

HOW TO DISCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR.

1. Hear him "now and then." Drop in a little late. Do not sing; do not find the text in your Bible. If you take a little sleep during the sermon, so much the better.

2. Notice carefully any slip he makes while you are awake; point out the dull portions to your children and friends; it will come around to him.

3. Censure his efforts at usefulness; deplore his want of common sense; let him know that you won't help him because A. B. does, because you were not first consulted, or because you did not start the plan yourself.

4. Let him know the follies and sins of his hearers. Show him how much he overrates them and tell him their adverse criticisms on himself.

5. Tell him when he calls what a stranger he is; how his predecessors used to drop in for an hour's chat and how much you liked them.

6. Occasionally get up a little galety for the young folks. This will be found very effectual about the communion season. "There is a time to dance."

7. Give him no intimation when you are ill; of course he should know; and your offended dignity, when he comes to see you, will render his visit pleasant. On no account intimate your recovery.

8. Require him to swell the pomp of every important occasion unless, indeed, there are prudential reasons for passing him over.

9. If he is always in his pulpit clamor for strangers. If he has public duties and sometimes goes abroad, complain that he is never at home.

Patient continuance in courses like these, modified according to circumstances, has been known not only to discourage but to ruin the usefulness and break the spirit of ministers; to send them off to other charges and often to their graves. Those who desire to avoid such results should avoid the practice of such things as are here referred to. Let us "help one another."

Sin is to be overcome, not so much by maintaining a direct opposition to it as by cultivating opposite principles. Would you kill the weeds in your garden, plant it with good seed; if the ground be well occupied there will be less need of the labor of the hoe. If a man wished to quench fire, he might fight it with his hands till he was burned to death; the only way is to apply an opposite element.—*Andrew Fuller.*

Sinful omissions lead to sinful commissions.

Ladies' Portfolio.

WOOD-VIOLET.

VIOLET delicate, sweet,
Down in the deep of the wood,
Hid in thy still retreat,
Far from the sound of the street,
Man and his merciless mood:

Safe from the storm and heat,
Breathing of beauty and good
Fragrantly, under thy hood,
Violet.

Beautiful maid, discreet,
Where is the mate that is meet,
Meet for thee—strive as he could—
Yet will I kneel at thy feet,
Fearing another one should,
Violet!

EXCEPTION TAKEN.

BY JACQUELINA.

MR. EDITOR:—According to your correspondent in "Ladies' Portfolio" of Sept. 23, the problem of the hour is, "How shall we educate our girls?" the solution—train them to be maids of all work. Retrenchment is in order; therefore, oh! young lady, although your brother is not called upon to curtail his wine and cigar expenditures, it is decreed that *you* shall forswear music, turn your back on the library and dedicate your life henceforth to cookery books and wash-tubs! Glorious destiny! who wouldn't be a woman? The piano is to be replaced by the range, an acquaintance with foreign languages and current literature is to be superseded by a practical knowledge of the arts of dish-washing and floor-scrubbing.

In fact, all the frivolities of intellectuality and aesthetics are to be done away with and the maiden of the future is to occupy her time and talents in the "nobler and more intelligent pursuits" of "making, washing and ironing shirts and cooking dinner." "Two stars" should emigrate to Germany. His ideal woman is to be met with there. How he would revel in the society of the dames of that land! "No smattering of languages or imperfectly rendered airs of the day" would offend his critical (?) ear; and as the nearest way to his heart is evidently through his palate, how he would warm toward his hostess as he devoured pastry, meat and vegetables done in the highest style of gastronomics!

Then too, the quiet unobtrusiveness of the matron of the house, her devotion to household affairs, the entire absence of any "airs or manners" would charm him. To be sure, she is decidedly coarse and unattractive in appearance—hands red as to color, distorted as to shape—complexion bearing close resemblance to underdone beefsteak—figure lacking form and comeliness; but all these are matters of minor importance. She is fulfilling her mission. Of what consequence is it that she sacrifices youth, beauty and grace in the weary round of household cares—is she not engaged in the noble work of making a selfish tyrant of her husband?

"Two stars" promises that such a wife "shall reap the highest attainable reward," which is, to say the least, somewhat vague. Now, in the case of our German sisters; as a recompense for a life devoted to their husbands and in the performance of the "real duties of life," they have the proud satisfaction (?) of being cited as a nation where husbands are more universally unfaithful and more contemptibly tyrannical than in any other civilized country. Cheerful sort of commentary on your doctrine, friend of the *two stars*. The "goody" man whose career you sketch is not entitled to an atom of the sympathy you lavish on him. If he deliberately took a society girl rather than one of the MARTHA stripe to wife, that is a matter which concerns him alone. It is for him, not for us, to inquire whether her education had fitted her to be a "helpmeet or a clog to his exertions," and here lies the root of the whole matter—if we girls didn't find a market for the graces and accomplishments of polite society at which you sneer, we would soon cease to practice them. If the divinity of the kitchen and laundry was preferred to us, we would adopt your suggestions instanter; but so long as men show a decided predilection in favor of elegant manners, white hands, delicate complexions, a knowledge of music, the fine arts and literature, to the exclusion of kitchen lore and practice, it is hardly fair to blame us girls. Homilist *two stars*, if there is any one at fault, the men are to blame. Address your communications on this subject in future to husbands, fathers and lovers.

Finally, dear old fogy *two stars*, did it never occur to you that notwithstanding all the preaching, with woman's sphere for its text, which has been inflicted on a long-suffering community, there are girls so utterly depraved as to despise the delights of housework, and who insist that it is no more incumbent on every woman to learn the ways of a household than for every boy to master carpentry, gas fitting and plumbing, because he will one day inhabit a house of his own, or tailoring because he has to wear clothes? The wretched girls aforesaid prefer to earn from five to eight hundred dollars per annum in stores and offices rather than to drudge in the kitchen [illegible]

Would be reformer, "two stars," you may as well give it up. I assure you we girls of America do not propose to emulate our German sisters, and as to "spheres," we intend to take our choice of them.

ADVICE.

RURAL READERS:—Now that the evenings are growing longer, I would like to speak a few words about the boys improving them. Will their mothers and sisters accept a few suggestions on the same subject? I have seen so many boys idling their time while indoors, that I feel that more care should be taken to make it profitable to them. Most children are attending school, and of course part of their time ought to be given to studying the next day's lessons, part to recreation and fun; but still, if properly economized, there will be a spare portion for useful employment. If the family is large, there will always be one at leisure who can read some interesting book aloud while the rest are sewing, knitting, &c., &c. But that way only one boy would be busy. If there is another or more, I would have him at work making something—a frame or bracket, perhaps. Show them that their work is appreciated and encourage them to do all they can to beautify their home. You will find they soon will take great pride in their work and you will be surprised at the progress they make. Give them card-board, zephyrs, &c., and teach them how to use their materials—mottoes, card-receivers, air-castles, look very pretty in boy's rooms and they will like them all the better if made by their own efforts. There is such a fear among boys of appearing effeminate, that manliness often gives away before it. Impress upon them that nothing that is useful and adds at all to another's happiness, is beneath them.

I know two boys whose mother has a great deal to do with her family cares and often they are called upon to discharge duties that would devolve upon them if they were girls. It is very pleasant to see them cheerfully helping "mother" wash dishes, &c., but it seems so strange that they would dislike to have their boy playmates see them doing it. I do not understand the cause of the fearing of being girlish, but think home influence has something to do with it.

In my next, I will tell you something that the boys can make that will be pleasant employment for them and far more beneficial than being on the streets evenings or in the house teasing the cat or dog, or lazily playing chequers. In the meantime, try to get the boys interested in some of the ways I have mentioned, and you will never regret you took the advice of DITESY.

BEAUTIFUL SNOBS.

BEAUTIFUL women are apt, sooner or later, to come to think that their personal charms should captivate, whatever their manners may be. The consequence is, that wise persons beware of fair faces and sylphlike forms, knowing that peculiarly sharp tongues may lurk behind red and shapely lips. Unfortunately, however, the majority of persons are not wise, and so the possessors of fair faces and sylphlike forms, continue to be extremely handsomely treated upon the score of their negative merits, notwithstanding that their conduct is often objectionable in the extreme. We are not prepared to dispute that their conduct may often be rendered objectionable, in order that the power of their charms may be thoroughly tested; but, after a time, their disagreeable qualities become chronic, and are exercised without any specific object had in view. The beautiful snob is one of those in whom certain disagreeable qualities have become chronic. Knowing that she possesses attraction of person, she appears to imagine that she has done her duty by her neighbors when she has decked herself out to the best advantage. When in a room, she is well pleased if she imagines that she is posed prettily and that her face wears that bewitching, though meaningless smile, which displays her teeth very strikingly, if it does not indicate her intelligence. Appreciating her own importance, she deems it unnecessary to affect an amiability which she is far from possessing. Thus, if your conversation bores her, you have no occasion to remain for long in ignorance of the fact, and it would be your own fault if you did not find out when she thinks herself a cut above you. Even if you are in the enjoyment of her favor, you must expect to be the recipient of a certain amount of polite insolence; you must also expect to be converted into ridicule when your back is turned. That even you, a favored one, should be made light of, is only natural, seeing that it is one of the fundamental articles of her belief that she is so incomparably superior to the majority of her fellows, that but comparatively few are fit to wipe the dust from her shoes. It is a pity that all her admirers cannot see the truth in its grim reality. The addle-pated individuals who will hover round her chair in a gang and pay her meaningless and lying compliments, would be all the better if they could realize the fact that she not only thinks but calls them the fools that they are. The few that resolutely decline to yield to her spell can afford to bear the condemnations which she liberally passes upon them.

It must be said however, to her credit, that she does not appear to have a very high opinion of the majority of those whom she conceives she has subjugated. People in whom she confides learn that her victims are the most absurd boobies, whose presumption is only equalled by their inanity; and her friends generally have the good sense not to dispute the point with her. Towards the members of her own she is equally charitable. According to her ruling, they are measurably inferior to her. At the same time, it is somewhat difficult to gather from her vague deliverances in what respect they are inferior.—*Youth's Sunday Times and Weekly Messenger.*

AN equivocation and a lie own the same mother.

Reading for the Young.

NEVER GIVE UP.

NEVER give up! It is wiser and better
Always to hope than once to despair;
Fling off the load of doubt's cankering fetter,
And break the dark spell of tyrannical care.
Never give up! or the burden may sink you;
Providence has kindly mingled the cup;
And in all trials or troubles bethink you,
The watchword of life must be, "Never give up!"

Never give up! There are chances and changes
Helping the hopeful a hundred to one;
And, through the chaos, high wisdom arranges
Ever success if you'll ever hope on.
Never give up! for the wisest is boldest,
Knowing that Providence mingles the cup;
And of all maxims, the best, as the oldest,
Is the true watchword of "Never give up!"

Never give up! though the grape-shot may rattle,
Or the thunder-cloud o'er you burst;
Stand like a rock, and the storm or the battle
Little shall harm you, though doing their worst.
Never give up! if adversity presses,
Providence wisely has mingled the cup;
And the best counsel in all your distresses
Is the stout watchword of "Never give up!"

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

Hot Shot.

BOYS, did you read what Uncle TRUE said in his last letter to the boys and girls? If so, what do you think of it? I think it is a shame that none of the boys wrote a sketch of JOAN of Arc, when there are lots that could have done better than either one of the girls whose sketches Uncle TRUE published. Now, boys, do not let this happen again, but do your best to redeem yourselves. If the girls did do all of the writing, I am satisfied that the boys could have done it better. Now, boys, look at BESSIE MCLEAN'S sketch. She gives but one date in the whole of her article, and that is unimportant. She begins the sketch as though it was a work of fiction rather than a matter of history. She writes more in the form of eulogy than of an impartial historian. She is also rather too poetic to write the history of a plain, practical woman, as JOAN of Arc was. So, taking it all around, I am far from giving over the palm to the girls. Now, Uncle TRUE, give us another chance, and see what we can do; and boys, if he does give us another chance, improve it.—ONE OF THE BOYS.

[I would mildly remark to the nieces that it's a good rule when you see a head to hit it. ONE OF THE BOYS has taken off the gloves. Let us make it interesting all around.—UNCLE TRUE.]

The Sentiment in Quilting.

I HAVE never written you before, but I have often thought I would like to and ask if I might be a Cousin. I have read the RURAL during the past summer with much interest; and as some of the young men who have written did not know as much as they *might* about piecing bed-quilts, I thought I would just *try* and enlighten them a little. It is very true that just cutting up calico and sewing it together again, is foolishness; but if your friends give you pieces of their dresses that you would like to keep as a token of remembrance, or if you have a dress in which you have had some adventure, and want to keep it in remembrance, why not take a part of it and piece it in your bed-quilt? Please answer that, young gentlemen. Some people talk a great deal about things which they *think* they are posted about, but of which in reality they know nothing. I don't deny but what I am one of them; but I trust the girls will agree with me in this. Now I must tell you something about myself—is it too late? I am a girl (as you might well know), between thirteen and fifteen years of age, with light hair, blue eyes and pug nose, and am rather tall. I have been spending the summer at my grandfather's, within a mile of Lake Ontario. In the summer and fall the sunsets are beautiful on the lake. I have often gone down to the end of the orchard just to see the sunset. It has been very dry here during the summer. Hoping I shall see this in the RURAL, I remain—COUSIN GYPSY BELLE.

Culture for Farmers' Boys—Solid Sense.

THE letter from Cousin R. C. P. has prompted me to take up my pen. I am glad he is cultivating his mind as well as his garden. I am a farmer's boy, and know all about the endless round of drudgery which devolves upon a farmer's boy. I know by experience what a boy thinks when the patient cow which he is milking suddenly transports him to the opposite side of the barn, with more speed than courtesy, and the half-filled milk pail comes flying after him and alights bottom up on his ear. Such petty annoyances are the unavoidable accompaniments of farm life, and are discouraging to any boy; and yet I would not

"Renounce the odors of the open field
For the unscented fictions of the loom,"

or of the store either.

R. C. P. advises the farmers' boys to study "something scientific," and to strive to become "prominent men," as a remedy for discontent, and says that after studying Botany and Landscape Drawing less than a year, he can associate with "ladies and gentlemen" who were once the cause of all his troubles. Surely he will soon be a "prominent man of our time." Now I have been studying several branches of Natural Science for over three years, and have not become a prominent man yet; but I am not going to leave the farm for all that. This desire of farmers for prominence is the ruin of many of them. I know of four farmers in this vicinity who have made assignments this summer. They borrowed money to "put on style," and neglected their business to ride about to show themselves.

Now, boys, "what I wish to remark" is this: Though our services may be required on the farm, so that we cannot acquire a school education, yet we may educate ourselves if we diligently improve all our spare minutes. I have a little library which I have bought, a book at a time, with my own money. In it are books of Science, History, Poetry, Agriculture, and a few classic novels. Here, by improving all my spare moments, I find time to study and write from one to three hours a day, besides working twelve to thirteen hours on the farm. Perhaps you would like to know what I write. Well, I write poetry; not with any thought of ever making a living by it, but for self-improvement. Boys, let us spend our leisure time in the pursuit of knowledge, and though we may not all become famous, we *may* become men of erudition and culture.—YOUNG POET, *Kingsville, O.*

Accidentally Neglected.

DEAR UNCLE TRUE:—Will you print this among the letters from boys and girls? I sent one once before but it was not printed, and if *this* one should go into the waste basket, I think I shall give up. I see piecing quilts is the question in dispute at present. I think it is a good and pretty way to use up the pieces; and there are sure to be a great many left after cutting dresses—pieces too small for any other purpose that I know of. Can YOUNG ARTIST tell us some better way to use them? CORA A. L. speaks of some very pretty Morning Glories. I never saw any like them. We have quite a nice flower garden, and have blue, white, red, pink and spotted Morning Glories—two or three shades of the red and blue ones. We have some house plants, but they hardly ever flower in the winter. I love flowers very much. We have beautiful wild flowers here in Michigan, among which are the Spring Beauty, Anemone and Hepatica. I have often read of the Hepatica, but it is always spoken of as a blue flower, and we have pink and white ones here as well as blue, and the lighter shades are the most common. But all of the spring flowers are gone now, and it is time to collect leaves and ferns for our winter bouquets. I always iron the leaves. I think they keep their color much better than when they are pressed. But——Oh, dear me! I have written such a long letter I must stop, or you will not print it. I hope to see this in print soon, and if the Cousins will receive me I may perhaps write again sometime.—VIRGINIA, *Maple Grove, Mich.*

Our Scholar.

MR. EDITOR:—Please give me an introduction to the Cousins of the RURAL. I shall certainly feel honored if I am allowed to assume the title of Cousin. We have taken your paper for more than ten years, and find it exceedingly valuable. I live on a farm, but do not relish farm work. I have a pleasant home; also a large library filled with choice literature and art, in which I spend my odd moments. I am also learning to pencil, and have mastered the rules in drawing and perspective, and I hope some day to reach the highest standard. Well done, Mdlle. GERALDINE; let us hear from you again. YOUNG TOM, to the front, sir, and defend yourself—though you do deserve it. WALTER P. inquires the meaning of debottement. SURENNE defines it in his French Dictionary as disjointing, dislocation.—MONSIEUR ALBERT.

Another.

COUSINS:—This is the first time I have made my appearance among you, and perhaps you hope it will be the last. I am a Northern New York girl, living on a farm four miles from the St. Lawrence River. I have noticed that most of the Cousins describe themselves, but I shall not, as I do not think any one would be particularly charmed with the description. I, like some others, am in my teens. I am very fond of music, but never have had an opportunity yet of cultivating my taste for it. I think YOUNG ARTIST'S letter was splendid, and hope she will favor us with another. If Mr. Editor will please print this, he will greatly oblige—BLUE JAY.

[YOUNG ARTIST must have a heart of stone to resist these numerous appeals.—UNCLE TRUE.]

From the Pacific Slope.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—I wrote to you some time ago, but did not tell your where I lived. I will tell you this time. I live in Washington Territory, on White River. My papa's farm is about twenty miles from Seattle. I am glad we Cousins are going to have more room. I did not think we had enough before. I think our columns are becoming the most interesting part of the whole paper. I am a real farmer's girl, and love the country very much. I can whistle as well as either of my brothers. I have two large brothers and one who is a little baby, three months old. My kitty's name is "Quimbo," and my canary's is "Jonathan." Hoping Uncles MARK and TRUE will not think this unworthy a place, I will close. —CARRIE A.

From an Ohio Girl.

I HAVE never written to the RURAL before, so I thought I would write. I do not think that WILD CRAB can work in the field any more than I can. My father is a farmer. We live about five miles from Newark. We take the RURAL, and all like it. If I was a boy, I wouldn't let the girls do all the writing. I think piecing quilts will do for those who like to, but for my part I don't like it very well. I go to school, and like flowers.—ANNA MCM., *Newark, O.*

Delights in Quilting.

DEAR EDITOR:—We have been taking your valuable paper some time, and I have been very much interested in the letters from boys and girls; so I thought I would write, too. I live on a very large farm, and we raise a great deal of poultry. I have raised a nice flock of turkeys this year. They are very troublesome, but I like to attend to them. I am glad to see some of the Cousins like to piece quilts; I delight in it. I have two lovely ones on hand now; both are nearly finished. We were visited by a terrible storm last Sunday; it did considerable damage. I start to school soon, and continue until June.—ROSA L., *Kempsville, Va., Sept.* 23.

Again!

DEAR COUSINS:—It is quite a while since I wrote to you, but I have been trying to write ever since I saw YOUNG EDITOR'S letter. He is enough to wake any boy up, and I hope he will succeed in arousing others who are bashful. I think he ought to have an arrow painted on each side of his boat, to let everybody know it is swift. I hope, Y. E., if you go to the Centennial, you will let us know all about it. I wish you would send us a Puzzle, and each Cousin try to guess it. I am sure you could. I hope LENA B. C. will tell us all about her leap-year parties.—WALTER P., *Ills.*

Welcome!

DEAR UNCLE AND COUSINS:—I have been thinking I would write a letter to the RURAL, and have commenced two or three, but have never finished them. I am very fond of music. I have a melodeon now, but I am going to have a piano this fall. I also do a great deal of fancy work. This is the first year we have taken the RURAL, and we like it very much. I am thirteen years old, and weigh ninety pounds. As this is my first letter to the RURAL, I hope to see it in print. I fancy it will not be rejected on account of its *length*. With kind wishes to all the Cousins, I remain—WILD HAWTHORN.

A Suggestion for Y. E.

As I have a few minutes to spare, I thought I would write to the RURAL. I am a boy and live on a farm. We are through with our harvest. I went to a camp meeting last Sunday week, and expect to go to another next Sunday. I think the Golden Eagle would be a good name for YOUNG EDITOR'S boat.—WILD PLUM.

The Puzzler.

MYTHOLOGICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 59 letters:
My 22, 52, 3, 12, 16, 15, 42, 5, 1 sea nymphs.
My 7, 37, 59, 17, 44, 13, 29, 20 a king of Phrygia.
My 21, 2, 9, 11, 24, 29, 20 king of Athens.
My 8, 12, 10, 6, 18, 52, 27, 44, 25, 12, 1 an Egyptian god.
My 11, 35, 33, 28, 59, 34, 44 an Italian deity.
My 31, 41, 55, 12, 43 daughter of Athamas.
My 30, 50, 23, 51, 15 Tutelar deities.
My 26, 58, 57, 47 a beautiful priestess.
My 38, 15, 39, 46, 18, 16, 29, 1 son of Loamedon.
My 36, 13, 22, 4, 9, 51, 20 plants presided over by a goddess.
My 56, 19, 6, 40, 59, 12 a nymph beloved by Apollo.
My 45, 49, 19, 13, 54, 37 one of the muses.
My 53, 37, 10, 6, 15, 12, 20 rapacious monsters.
My 19, 6, 47, 18, 55, 28 a youth beloved by Mars.
My 48, 44, 29, 59, 19 a prophetic goddess of the Latins.
My whole is something about Niobe.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S. C.

RIDDLE.

WITHIN a marble dome confined,
Whose milk-white walls with silk are lined,
There doth a golden ball appear,
Bathed in a stream of crystal clear:
No doors or windows you behold,
Yet thieves break in and steal the gold.

☞ Answer in two weeks. R.

POLYSYLLABIC ANAGRAMS.

1. HOLY Penrod. 2. M is thy pole. 3. Ori, I sport yet. 4. L, I lit no cap. 5. Pay my log. 6. O, I can lip it. 7. Lu, I pot viands. 8. Kan one new milk. 9. Di! shun raven. 10. Willie S. N—n sung. 11. Spurn sighs, T! 12. Rap a hog to c p.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

DIAMOND PUZZLE.

1. A CONSONANT. 2. A small house. 3. Truths. 4. Make higher. 5. A city in New York. 6. To superintend. 7. Pliant. 8. A beverage. 9. A consonant.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S. C.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Sept. 23.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—A little misunderstanding between two friends.

HIDDEN CHAMBER ARTICLES.—1, Carpet; 2, Pillow; 3, Chair; 4, Table; 5, Feather bed; 6, Pitcher; 7, Wardrobe; 8, Bowl; 9, Marseilles counterpane; 10, Sheet; 11, Washstand; 12, Towel rack; 13, Toilet mat.

TRANSPOSITION.—
How wild and dim this life appears!
One long, deep, heavy sigh,
When o'er our eyes, half closed in tears,
The images of former years
Are faintly glittering by!
And still forgotten while they go!
As, on the sea-beach, wave on wave
Dissolves at once in snow.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

THE following is a graduated scale of prices for small clubs according to the reduced rates of subscription for the RURAL NEW-YORKER. This is done for the benefit of the small clubs in thinly-populated districts. Let each subscriber add two or three names to his own and remit for all at one time.

No.	Single Price.	Small Clubs.	No.	Single Price.	Small Clubs.
1	$2. 50	$2 50	6	$15 00	$13 20
2	5 00	4 90	7	17 50	16 05
3	7 50	7 20	8	20 00	16 80
4	10 00	9 20	9	22 50	18 45
5	12 50	11 25	10	25 00	20 00

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE assertion is made that there are 2,000 deserted farms in New Hampshire, or seven per cent. of the whole number. Many have been acquired by moneyed institutions through foreclosure. Several ways for selling them on long credit have been devised, combined with the introduction of new industries that would make payments easy by the purchasers.

John Waldemire of Rochester married after sixty years of single life. He had rigid ideas of economy, as shown in sending his wife with three cents to get meat for dinner, and five cents for wine. All the time his bank account was large. Mrs. Waldemire bore with his penuriousness for three months, and then parted with him; whereupon he hanged himself.

A Boston tea firm have adopted the idea of giving to every one who purchases anything at their establishment a cup of fine coffee with rich cream. Another Boston firm, probably favorably impressed with the liberality of the first-named firm, and desirous of emulating their example, pay their shop girls $3 per week, and then charge them five cents each per week for iced water.

Capt. Bates and his wife, formerly Miss Anna Swan, the giants, whose marriage in London attracted much attention several years ago, have retired from show life, and built a fitting residence near Rochester, N. Y. He is seven and a-half feet high, she is an inch taller, and each weighs over four hundred pounds. The rooms of their house are eighteen feet high and the doors twelve feet. Their bedstead is ten feet long, and all the furniture is proportionately large.

Mr. L. Rossiter, a Chicago refiner, publishes a statement as to the adulteration of sugar. He says that most consumers judge of sugar by its appearance, rather than by its intrinsic value, buying what is known as "coffee crust," in preference to the raw West India, which has more saccharine matter. In whitening sugar sulphur and like reagents are used, and then other chemicals are applied to obliterate the traces of the first. Much of the sugar is injurious.

A colossal group just executed by Mr. M. Ezekiel of Rome, entitled "Religious Liberty," is the gift of the Jewish people of the United States (represented by the great society of the Sons of the Covenant) to the national Government, as a sign of gratitude for the religious freedom enjoyed under the shadow of the American flag. The sculptor, a native of Richmond, Va., will accompany the work to Washington, where it will be set up on some prominent site before the close of the Centennial year.

A wild duck which was flying down a stream at Westport, Conn., a few days ago, struck a telegraph wire, which was stretched across a bridge, with such force that its head was severed from its body. A passer-by found the bird, and had it cooked for supper.

The Boston school committee has voted a salary of $1,000 to James Robinson, aged 95, and an old teacher. The old gentleman is dependent on his money, and is left to believe that he is still liable to be called on to teach arithmetic and book-keeping.

John Stoneskil, the tramp arrested on suspicion of wrecking a train on the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, near Afton, confesses that he threw the train off the track. He says it was his purpose to plunder the train after wrecking it. He is a big, strong fellow, a life-long tramp, and had in his possession a memorandum book with drawings of claw bars, crow bars and other track tools, and a list of stations on several railroads, the Erie included.

The Clifton Mills at Cohoes, which cost twenty years ago $150,000 to construct, have been sold by auction, under a mortgage foreclosure judgment, to William White for $54,500.

According to Adjutant-General Slide there are 3,793 fugitives from justice in Texas.

Dramatic entertainments for the Savannah sufferers are all the rage in the South.

The authorities of Davenport, Iowa, have built a hospital to be conducted by the Sisters of Mercy.

Vinnie Ream's brother Robert has distinguished himself by killing a noted desperado at McAllister, I. T.

The Utah immigrants who settled in Arizona are dissatisfied with the country, and are returning in large parties.

Two members of a Boston jury caroused in a house the proprietors of which were to be tried before them for maintaining it in a disorderly way.

The iron imitation of a Palmetto tree in Charleston has been reconstructed, and wire moss has been added, giving it a surprisingly natural appearance.

Chinamen violating the cubic-air ordinance in their habitations at Portland, Oregon, are heavily fined, and, in default of payment, put to work on the streets.

William Crafts, the once-famous colored man, who for years past has collected money from people of the North ostensibly for the benefit of a farm-school for colored people in Georgia, is declared by respectable white and colored persons in Georgia to be a fraud. They assert that he and his family live on the money, and that not one cent goes to charity.

The statistic fiend has discovered that there are 929,940 horses, nearly 2,000,000 cattle, 1,000,500 hogs, 17,575 pianos, 21,608 melodeons, 155,728 sewing machines, and $50,000 worth of diamonds in the State of Illinois.

Two girls took arsenic in Newport, Ind., last spring, and one died at once, before the romance of the event had lost its interest. Now the other has just prosily died of liver complaint brought on by the poison.

Michael Fisher of Lancaster, Ohio, was driving a wagon loaded with lime recently, when the wagon upset in a ditch with about two inches of water, and the lime slaked, burned up the wagon, and nearly destroyed Fisher's body.

This is what they call farming in Georgia: "Many country people are selling their eggs and butter to buy their bacon, and using the bacon to feed the hands who make the cotton, which is mortgaged to pay for the fertilizers used in making it."

Gen. N. B. Baker of Iowa, who died recently, had been Governor of New Hampshire, member of the Iowa Legislature, and, since the outbreak of the war, Adjutant-General of Iowa. He was tireless in his exertions in behalf of the grasshopper sufferers. His funeral procession was the largest ever seen in Des Moines.

According to the revised statutes of Illinois, any person who wagers money, or valuables of any nature, on the result of an election, shall be liable to pay a fine of $1,000 and undergo imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding one year.

The Rev. A. B. Ffennell was shot dead within a mile of the Cheyenne river agency on the night of the 27th ult. Mr. Ffennell was a Protestant Episcopal missionary, who had been laboring among the Indians at that agency for several years with much success, and, as he was very popular, it is supposed that he was killed by mistake for some other person.

Cornell has decided to challenge the winners in the Cambridge-Oxford race, which occurs in March next. The challenge will be for fours or eights with a coxswain, as the Englishmen may decide, and for a four-mile race over the regular course from Putney to Mortlake.

FOREIGN NOTES.

A DEPUTATION representing the Protestant Missionary and Bible Societies had an interview with the Earl of Derby recently in relation to the intolerant regulations of the Spanish Government. Lord Derby, after pointing out the difficulties in which the Spanish Government is placed by the strength of the clerical party, and the vagueness of the wording of the article of the Constitution relative to religious toleration, said: "Nothing in the article, however, justifies the closing of Protestant schools, and I do not think the Government will so interpret it. Probably many cases of hardship are due to the over-zeal of subordinate officials. I think, with regard to acts of intolerance which are clearly not sanctioned by the toleration clause of the Constitution, that when the Cortes has formally proclaimed freedom of worship, subject to certain limitations, there can be no question that we have a right to interfere if their promise is violated. But a more difficult case is when the question at issue is the proper construction of the law. I personally have no doubt that it is an exceedingly forced and strained construction of the law to prohibit as an external manifestation singing in church, or worshipping with the door open so that passers by may look in. I think we have a right to claim that the law should not be construed unfavorably to the foreigners in Spain, because they undoubtedly have been encouraged to settle there upon the understanding that they should be free from this kind of annoyance. I suggest that where those affected think it worth while to remonstrate they should send in their complaint, and inquiry shall be made."

Cardinal Manning, who by many is regarded as the probable successor of Pope Pius IX., when recently preaching at Preston, England, strongly vindicated the Pope's temporal power, and held that he was virtually a prisoner in his own palace. "Yet they were told that the Pope was free, that the doors were open, and that he might go unmolested through the streets of Rome. Only let some foreign prince come to England, and, taking possession of the Queen's palace, tell her she was free to walk about the streets of London, what would be her reply? Would she not say, 'Yes, but not before you would quit this land and the seas separate you and me!' For thirty years the Pope had been tempted in every possible way to give up his temporal possessions and see; but he could not, for they belonged to the universal Church, was bound to keep them and stand by them."

The Tannus water, which is now largely drunk at court and in aristocratic circles in England, contains about 100 grains of carbonate of lime and 200 grains of common salt per gallon, thus being about five times as hard a water as the typical hard water of Great Britain. Prof. Wanklyn thinks that fashionable physicians should not fail to observe and study the effects of Tannus water. While it is said that the hard water of Kent, containing a large percentage of lime, is very wholesome for young persons, and the straight legs of Kentish children are attributed to its use, it is considered doubtful whether hard water is desirable for those more advanced in years. It has been said that it tends to produce goitre.

The Redoubtable, which was launched at Lorient, in France, Sept. 18, will be the most powerful iron-clad in the French navy. This vessel, the construction of which began in 1873, is 330 feet long by 70 feet broad. The iron plates each weigh twenty-four tons, and the iron ram attached to the bow is thirty tons in weight. The decks are bomb-proof, and are armed with eight guns, which can be pointed in any direction required. The engines, constructed at Le Creuzot, are of 6,000-horse power, and the screw measures twenty-one feet in diameter. There are special engines for working the helm, the windlass, and the pumps, and the total displacement of the Redoubtable in the water will be 9,000 tons, or a fourth more than the Ocean, hitherto the largest iron-clad in the French navy.

It seems to be a well-established fact that the last three or four years have witnessed a return of the Jews to Palestine from every quarter of the globe. The number going from Russia is entirely unprecedented. The Hebrew population of Jerusalem is more than double what it was ten years ago, and the movement is going on rapidly. Most of the city property is now in the hands of Jews, who have gone there from other countries, and in a few years' time they will probably be the owners of the whole city.

The revenue derived in England last year from the taxes on gold and silver plate amounted to £38,272,11s. 6d. This would almost cover the grants to the Dukes of Edinburgh and Connaught and Prince Leopold, viz., £40,000 altogether. Add to this the tax for carrying armorial bearings (a mere seal ring costs $3 a year), and the cost to the country of the Queen's younger sons is completely covered. Luxuries, for which Dr. Johnson always stoutly stood up, thus have their uses.

James Redford, ex-Member of Parliament and an extensive broker and lumber merchant of Canada, has absconded. His liabilities are heavy and mostly to farmers who had deposits with him. Several banks are also interested, but are said to be secured.

Father Beckx, the General of the Jesuits, is to be made a Cardinal.

The monument to Karl Wilhelm, the composer of the "Wacht am Rhein," was unveiled at Schmalkalden, Germany, on Sept. 2, the day of the Sedan-fest. The name of Schneckenburger, the author of the words of the song, is also mentioned on the monument.

The return of King George to Greece has been indefinitely postponed. It is rumored that the King has demanded the cession of Crete to Greece and the rectification of the frontier in Epirus and Thessaly.

The publisher of the Paris Tribune (a radical newspaper) has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for an article which appeared in that paper insulting religion.

King Ko, sovereign over a portion of the Islan of Borneo, is shortly expected in Paris with a numerous suite.

The Viceroy of India contemplates putting the administrative abilities of educated natives to a practical test, by placing two districts entirely under their own government, excluding Europeans entirely, even from the highest offices. Native public opinion is more opposed to this project than that of the English.

The Shah of Persia, who, since his visit to Europe, has tried to govern his country on constitutional principles, has been terribly disgusted by the Sultan's dethronement through his ministers. He has ordered that not more than four Ministers shall meet at each Council, that these shall change monthly, and according to the latest accounts, the Shah has adjourned the meetings of his Council for six months.

Capt. E. Simpson, of the United States steamer Omaha, writes to the Navy Department, under date of Guayaquil, Ecuador, Sept. 10, that he arrived there on the 8th inst. and found the city in the midst of a revolution, the General in command of the troops in the city having issued a *pronunciamiento* to that effect with the support of the troops, and apparently with the consent of the people. On the following day a circular was issued to all foreign consuls in the city, notifying them that the Government of the Republic of Ecuador had been assumed by Gen. Ventimilla, and assuring them of the preservation of perfect order. Capt. Simpson is unable to give the department any account of the cause of this outbreak.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

THE HIGHEST GRAND AWARD of the Centennial Commission was given to Wisner's "Tiger" Sulky Horse Hay Rake. Wisner is still ahead and the Tiger growls victoriously—he will be heard from the coming season from Maine to California.

LET IT BE KNOWN that Wisner has carried of the Grand Medal of Merit and also the Grand Diploma of honor on his Tiger Horse Hay Rake.

J. W. STODDARD & Co.,
Dayton, Ohio.

THE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL, 1876.

WHEELER & WILSON VICTORIOUS!

AGAIN the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machines triumph over the world. The Centennial Commission have officially announced the awards, and decreed for the new Wheeler & Wilson machine *two Medals of Merit and two Diplomas of Honor*. This is a double victory, and the highest award which it was in the power of the Centennial authorities to bestow. No other company received such a recognition in this department. More than thirty of the best producers of machines in this and other countries entered for competition and at Philadelphia in 1876, as at Vienna in 1873 and at Paris in 1867, Wheeler & Wilson lead the list. After a careful, rigorous and exhaustive examination, the judges unanimously decided that the superior excellence of these machines deserved more than one medal or diploma and, consequently, they recommended *two of each*. The Centennial Commission unanimously ratified the action of the judges, and the public will doubtless indorse the decision of these ablest of mechanical experts. A claim of equally distinguished honor by any other sewing machine company is only an attempt to hoodwink the people. Read the following, which stamps the "New Wheeler & Wilson" as the *Standard Sewing Machine of the world*. From the Official Report:

AWARDS TO WHEELER AND WILSON.

1.—A Medal and Diploma for the "NEW WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE," for the following reasons:

"*A Lock-Stitch Sewing Machine, unsurpassed in the fine workmanship of its parts, great originality, great adaptability to different kinds of work, both in Cloth and Leather, beauty of Stitch, ease and rapidity of motion, and completeness of display.*"

2.—A Medal and Diploma for the "NEW WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE" for Leather, for "*Superior quality of work in Leather Stitching.*"

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Sept. 30, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	89,457	Molasses	—
Whisky	2,879	Hides, bbls	1,071
Corn meal, bbls	3,060	Cut meats, pkgs	9,144
Corn meal, bags	759	Lard, pkgs	4,358
Wheat, bush	313,805	Tobacco, hhds	2,824
Corn, bush	716,874	do. pkgs	5,510
Oats, bush	307,500	Butter, pkgs	47,352
Rye, bush	67,173	Cheese, boxes	51,320
Malt, bush	51,010	Cotton, bales	18,262
Barley, bush	36,835	Rosin	4,522
Beans, bbls	4,503	Spts. turp., bbls	814
Grass seed, bush	5,251	Dried Fruits, pkgs	1,119
Beef, pkgs	828	Eggs, bbls	7,202
Wool, bales	1,615	Peanuts, bags	693
Hops, bales	2,613	Leather, sides	39,8 2
Pork, bbls	3,915	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,173	Oil cake	7,203

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, 472 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 40,527 do.; same time last year, 23,318 do. Exports of peas past week, 2,326 bu.; since Jan. 1st, 430,180 do.; same time last year, 259,721. Mediums have advanced for both old and new. Sales, however, are light; but holders are not pressing stock upon market. Marrows are not active, still shippers are picking up good parcels of old and well-cured new; the latter are 5@10c. higher. Pea beans are dull. White kidneys quoted as before. Red are salable at full late rates. Black or turtle soup beans quiet, with small stock. Green peas are more active and a shade higher. Southern B. E. P. have declined to $2.75 ₱ 2-bush. bag. Canadian peas steady. We quote:

Beans—New pea, $1.55@1.60; medium, $1.55; marrow, $2.05@2 10; old prime pea, $1.52; fair to good, $1.30 @1.40; prime mediums, $1.40@1.45; fair to good, $1.15@ 1.25; prime marrows, $1.85@2.00; fair to good, $1.65@ 1 80; prime white kid., $1.65@1.70; other, 1.25@ 1.50; prime red kidney, $1.70@1.75; other, $1.40@ 1.50; Lima (Cal.) $2.75@3. Black beans, $3.25@3.50. Canadian peas, bulk and bobd, 95@97c.; free bbls, $1.14@1.15. Green peas, $1.20@1.25; split do. $6.

BEESWAX.—There is no increase of demand and the moderate arrivals are marketed only at easy prices. Sales at 31@32c. for Western and Southern.

BROOM CORN.—The new crop comes in moderately but trade is slow yet; quoted at 4@7½c., as to grade.

BUTTER.—We are receiving the largest supplies of butter that ever came to this market, with the noticeable anomaly of high range of prices. Latterly there has been a lull in the demand and, in the opinion of a portion of the trade, matters are shaping easier. Still, the city is crowded with transient population, and as the full trade is young, the fine grades of butter may rule firm for a while. The pull folks rather strained the market by demanding 40c.; this sent a good many buyers to the offering of the half tubs, which gave that grade some support. There is a good deal of State offered at 25@28c., which is all it is worth, owing to its summery quality. A decline abroad has checked the export demand for Western, but this favorable outlet is not looked upon as dead. Some easing of prices will be likely to induce exporters back again. Compared with State, Western is somewhat weak.

We quote:—Choice pails, 36@37c.; prime, 30@34c.; poor to good, 25@29c.; creamery pails, choice, 38@40c.; good, 36@37c.; sweet cream pails, 30@35c. State firkins, choice, 32@33c.; fair to good, 25@30c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 33@34c.; fair to prime, 29@31c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 31@32c.; other, 25@29c.; Western creamery, choice, 35@37c.; other, 32@34c.; do. firkins, best, 22@24c.; other, 19@20c.; dairy tubs, choice, 26@27c.; other, 19@22c.; factory choice, 23@25c.; other, 16@18c.

State dairies quotable at 30@32c.

Export of butter past week 1,039 packages.

CHEESE.—This week's business has not been altogether satisfactory. Orders from the other side have been of a more restricted character, and supplies have been larger of most grades. On really fancy factories there has been no urgency to sell, they showing comparatively moderately in the supply; for this grade at the close 12½c., E@13½c. made, and on some exceptional lots still higher, but from this the market drops to 12½c. for fine, and on anything under fine there is considerable irregularity. Very good August made have been bought at 11c. and parcels available at this lower rate have been much sought after. Exports past week, 22,791 boxes.

Fancy factory, 12¾@12¾c.; fine, 12@12¾c.; good and prime, 11c@12c.; fair, 10@11c.; State farm dairy, fancy, 11½@11¾c.; good to prime, 10@11c.; fair and good, 9@10c. Western factory, good and prime, 9½@ 10¾c.; fair lots, 8¾@9¼c.; do. cheddar, choice, 11@ 11¾c.; do. flat, choice, 11@11¾c.

CURED.—Small fresh family or grocery packages bring 10@12c.; large casks offering at 8c.

COTTON.—Prices have fallen steadily on liberal offerings of the new crop; export trade tame, while spindles have been operating only as they could obtain comparatively cheap rates.

The latest quotations are:—September, 10 15-16@ 10 31-32c.; October, 10 31-32c.; November, 11 1-16c.; December, 11 5-32c.; January, 11 9-32c.; February, 11 15-32c.; March, 11¾ @ 11 21-32c.; April, 11 13-16c.; May, 12c.; June, 12 5-32@12 3-16c.; July, 12 11-32c.; August, 12 15-32 @12¾c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.		*Alabama.*		*Orleans.*		*Texas*	
Ordinary	9	3-16	9	3-16	9	3 16	9	3-16
Strict ordinary	9	9-16	9	9-16	9	9-16	9	9-16
Good ordinary	10	1-16	10	1-16	10	1-16	10	1-16
Strict good do	10	5-16	10	5-16	10¼		10¼	
Low middling	10	9-16	10	11-16	10	13-16	10	13-16
Strict low middling	10	13-16	0	15-16	11	1-16	11	1-16
Middling	11		11¼		11	3-16	11	3-16
Good middling	11	3-16	11	5-16	11	7-16	11	7-16
Strict good middling	11	7-16	11	9-16	11	11-16	11	11-16
Middling fair	11	13-16	11	15-16	12	1-16	12	1-16
Fair	12	9-16	12	11-16	12	13-16	12	13-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	8 15-16	Low middling	9 15-16
Strict ordinary	9 9-16	Middling	10 5-16

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Supplies still come in freely from the South, comprising largely low-grade quarters, which are salable at 4¾@5c.; shippers requiring repacked lots pay up to 6c. This trade, however, is very small. It is difficult to move sliced unless at low figures; the trade generally anticipating pretty heavy supplies. Peaches are without important dealing. Blackberries, raspberries and cherries hold to strong figures.

Apples—State, sliced, 6¾@7¼c.; do., quarters, 6¾@7c.; Southern sliced, new, 6@6¼c.; choice do. 7@ 7½c. do., new quarters at 4¾@6c. Blackberries, 8@8½c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 13@14½c.; unpeeled peaches, new, nominal. Plums at 13@15c. Raspberries, 25@26c. Cherries, 16¾@17c.

EGGS.—The market has ruled very steady and prices are something better. Early in the week they were higher, but buyers then held all and sellers decided to meet them with the present satisfactory rates. Limed have no place as yet. When fresh Ohio's compare right with State they bring 26c. We quote:

Near points, 27@28c.; State and Penn., 25@26c.; Western, prime, 25@25½c.; do. other, 21½c.; Canadian, 24¾@25¾c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the recently revised quotations:

We quote:—Peppermint, $2@2.25 ₱ lb.; Wintergreen, $2.50; Pennyroyal down to $1; Sassafras, 40 @42½c.

FERTILIZERS.—Wholesale prices:

Ground Bone, $27@30 ₱ ton; Superphosphate of Lime, $37.50; Peruvian Guano, $60; Poudrette, $22.50.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.—New layer raisins, $2.10; half boxes do., $1.25; quarter do., 67½c.; new Valencia do., 10¾@10¾c. New currants, 6¾@6¾c. Citron, 23½c. Turkey prunes, 5¾@6¾c.

FLOUR.—The position of the market has been very satisfactory to sellers until within a day or two; supplies were rapidly diminishing under brisk export and home trade dealings, but the latest dealings show to a more meagre amount, the export demand especially subsiding, and there is a slight reaction from recent full figures. The trade think however, that a material decline is likely, and confidently expect a resumption of general trade in the near future, the last transactions are on the appended basis; $4.20@4.70 for poor to very choice superfine State; $4.90@5 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.05@5.10 for good extra do.; $5.15@5.30 for fancy do., and $5.35@5.50 for fancy to very choice extra; $4.20@ 4.70 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $4.90@5.05 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.10@5.40 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras $5.45@6.30; fancy do. $6.55@7.75; winter wheat, good to choice family $6.00@7.50; round-hoop Ohio, $4.30 @5.00, and trade brands of do. at $5.05@6.75; St. Louis, $5.00@6.25 for common to fair extra, and $6.30@ 8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.00@8.00, and patent at $7.00@9.50; unsound stock at from $2.75@4.75; city mill extra for West Indies at $5.90@6.25; do. English brands, $5.00@5.05; do. trade and family $6.50@8.50; No. 2 at $2.75@3.90. Corn meal—Brings $2.35@2.90 for yellow western, Jersey and Pennsylvania, $3.25@3.30 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUIT.—Apples are extremely low especially with the improved inter quality. Prime marks ready to ship are quoted $1.50 ₱ bbl. Common open heads down to 40@62c. Bartletts are out, but other varieties are selling well with the usual advance that follows the departure of Bartlett. N. J. Peaches have only a week or so left. There is a good supply of California pears in market; Duchess and B. Clairgeau quoted at $3@4.50 ₱ bbl. Plums are most out. Few Quinces yet. Grapes have sold largely during the week some dealers depositing of 3 or 4 tons per day. There is further endorsement of a light crop of Cranberries.

Our quotation for Jersey berries are for standard packages branded "N. J. C. G. A.," the dimensions being for crates 8¾x12x22 inches, and for barrels diameter of head 16¾, of bilge 18¾, and depth 25¾ inches, inside measurement. Those packages not branded usually contain less berries and sell proportionally lower. We quote:

Apples, 20-ounce Pippins, Dut. Red and Blush, ₱ bbl., $1.50; mixed, good, $1.25; best river, 75@ $1.00; common open heads, wind falls, 40@60c. Pears Duchess ₱ ½, 7@10c. Seckel, $6@12; Louise Bonne, $5@8; Flemish Beauty, $6@9; cooking, $2.50@3. Peaches, extra N. J. $1.25@1.50. Good 75c.@$1.00; small 35@60c. Damson and Blue plums 5@7c. ₱ ½.; Cranberries, Cape Cod, ₱ bbl. $10. N. J. crate, $2@3.50; Grapes—Delaware, ₱ ½., 8@10c.; Catawba, 7@8c.; Concord, 4@6c.; Isabella, 4@5c. Peanuts, fancy Va., ₱ bush. $1.70@1.75; other $1.10@1.65. Chestnuts, ₱ bush. $5@6. Exports of apples, past week, 3,779 bbls.

GRAIN.—Wheat market is more favorable. The export demand is starting up, and the result is, with the moderate stocks, that stronger rates prevail. Latest sales are of ungraded and winter red Western at $1.10; new do. do. at $1.18@1.19; new amber Kansas at $1.23; new winter red Missouri at $1.20; extra white Michigan at $1.20; new amber Michigan at $1.25; new No. 2 Chicago spring at $1.19; new No. 1 do. at $1.22; new No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.19 is offered and $1.23@1.24 asked; $1.17@1.25 for No. 1 spring; $1.08@1.22 for No. 2 spring; $1.05@1.20 for winter red and amber; $1.15@1.30 for white. Rye is coming in freely and yields in price; latest sales at 70@73c. for Western, and 80@86c. for Jersey, State, Pennsylvania and Canada. Barley is held at full prices; No. 1 Canada, $1.20; No. 2 do. $1.11@1.15; six-rowed State at 95c.@1 for prime; boat loads and car lots of inferior as low as 75c. Barley malt selling at $1.05@1.07½ for six-rowed State, and $1.10 for fall Canada. Corn declining, although in fair export demand; sales at 55½@57c. for mixed Western; 58½c. for Kansas mixed, and 58c. for yellow. Oats active at strong prices; sales at 39@42c. for mixed Western and State, and 36@52c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—Receipts run small, while requirements are larger and no trouble is found in sustaining current prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60c.; retail qualities 75c.@$1; clover, 55@60c.; salt, 55@60c. Straw is quoted at 70@80c. for long rye; 55@65c. for short rye; 55@60c. for oat.

HIGHWINES bring $1.13 ₱ gallon.

HONEY.—The nominal quotations are 15@20c. for State White Clover Comb, and 8@12c. for Buckwheat. California invoices will soon be here.

HOPS.—The export this week has been 722 bales. The receipts are increasing fast, but they comprise largely grades under good, and it is apparent that less care has been taken in the picking. Exporters are disposed to buy moderately, but they exclude other than really fine lots thus we have some little accumulation this week. The appearance is more hopeful as respects the export trade and full rates are offered on the choicest lots. Brewers are at present working on the old supplies and doing but little in the new crop.

New York, good to choice, new	33 to 35
New York, low to fair, new	25 to 30
Eastern, new	25 to 30
Yearlings	10 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	33 to 35

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 18@20½c for light, 20@ 23c. for middle, 21@21c. for heavy, 17@20½c. for good damaged.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The quality of much of the arrivals of live is poor and prices are weak. A good many coops of turkeys show mixed sizes and they sell slowly. We quote:

Spring chickens, near-by, ₱ lb., 14@15c.; do. Western, 13@14c.

Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb 14@15c.; do. Western, 13@14c. Roosters, 8@9c.; Turkeys, N. J., 14@15c.; do. Western, 13@14c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 75c.@$1.12; do. Western, 65@75c.; Geese, N. J., $2.00@2 50; do. Western, $1.37 @1.75.

Dressed poultry looks poor and the demand is moderate, with lower prices. Some scalded fowls and chickens quoted at 8@12c. There is a fair demand for good, dressed stock. We quote:

Dry-picked chickens, 16@19c.; scalded, good order, 14@17c.; dry-picked fowls, 14@18c.; scalded, good order, 14@17c.; turkeys, 13@16c.

PROVISIONS.—With the close approach to the new packing, prices are a little disturbed, and export trade is quiet. Mess pork quoted at $16.60@16.75 for spot lots; $16 10 for October; $15.50 for December. Bacon, 9½c. for long clear on spot; 8¾c. for short clear for November delivery, and 8¼c. for long and short clear together, December delivery. Lard, $10.05 on spot, for steam; $10 for November; $9.85 for December, and $9.90 for January delivery. Shoulder at $12 for prime. Tallow at 8¾c. for prime. Beef hams at $21. Beef—barrelled lots at $8@10 for plainness, $10 @11 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominal for prime, and India mess. City extra India mess at $22@23.

SEED.—New timothy has been in good export demand at $1.80@1.85, as to quality. The trade await with some little interest arrivals of new clover; meanwhile the old crop is held at 12½c. Rough flax is being placed in car lots at $1.41.

TOBACCO.—There are very full receipts, but exporters buy to a fair extent and the market is strong.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	6 @ 6¾	6 @ 7½
Good lugs	6¾@ 8	8 @ 9
Low leaf	8½@10	9½@11
Medium leaf	10½@12¾	11¾@14
Good leaf	13 @14	14¾@15¾
Fine leaf	15 @16	16 @17½
Selections	16½@18	18 @20

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England fine seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7¼
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 6¾
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week 2,691 bbls. Potatoes are low but in good demand. Sweet potatoes drag somewhat even at the reduced prices. It has not been a good week for miscellaneous garden produce. Cabbage lower.

Prime potatoes, N. Y. bbl., $2.25@2.75; western, $2.12 @2.50; sweet, $2@2 50. Corn, ₱ 100, $1.75. Tomatoes, ₱ bush. 35@50c. Marrow squash, ₱ bbl., 75c.@$1. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $4@7. New Russia turnips, ₱ bbl., $1.37 @1.62. Egg plants, ₱ bbl., $2@3. Cauliflower, ₱ bbl., $2@3. Yellow onions, ₱ bbl., $2; red, $1.50@1.62; white, $2.25@2.75.

WOOL.—As expected, after the heavy purchases recently, there is a temporary lull. The supplies have become so much reduced that no trouble is found in sustaining very full rates on the desirable descriptions or, more particularly, Western fleeces, combing and delaine. California grades generally and Texas sorts, and in fact, in instances still better figures asked. On the whole, the situation is much more satisfactory than had been anticipated at the opening of the season, and this has been brought about by the much better positions of the goods marked.

DOMESTIC.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
XXX and Picklock	47 @ 49
XX	44 @ 45
X	42 @ 43
No. 1	39 @ 40
No. 2	34 @ 37
Common	32 @ 34
Combing	47 @ 50
New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin—	
XX	35 @ 41
X	37 @ 39
No. 1	37 @ 39
No. 2	33 @ 35
Common	30 @ 33
Combing	50 @ 52
Iowa, Vermont and Illinois—	
XX	35 @ 37
X	35 @ 37
No. 1	31 @ 35
No. 2	30 @ 32
Combing	45 @ 47
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
Washed fleece	31 @ 36
Unwashed	25 @ 29
do. combing	33 @ 37

ROCHESTER, Sept. 30.—Flour market active; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.10@1.21; amber winter, $1.03@1.15; white winter, $1.15@1.25. Oats, nominal at 38@43c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25 @1.50. Butter, 30@31c. Cheese, 14@16c. Eggs, 23@25c. Lard, 18@20c. Apples, bu., 40@60c. Potatoes, bu., 55@80c. Beans, ₱ bu., 70@$1. Mess pork, $17 25. Wool, 20@28c. Hay, $8@11. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $1.90@2.25; clover, $6.00@6.50. Mill feed strong at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Sept. 30, 1876.

THE transactions at the Little Falls market for the week ending Sept. 30 have been brisk and the prices of the previous week are sustained. About 450 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on delivery and sales were made at from 10¾ to 12¾c., the bulk of sales going at from 11 to 11¾c.

There was a large number of factorymen on the market and the offerings aggregated upward of 10,000 boxes, nearly 9,000 of which changed hands. Sales began to be made at 12c., but rapidly rose to 12¾ and 13c. We give a portion of the sales as follows:

Eighty boxes at 12c.; 50 boxes at 12¼c.; 1,610 boxes at 12½c.; 100 boxes at 12⅝c.; 2,050 boxes at 12¾c.; 4,567 boxes at 13c.

The cheese was of fine quality and was mostly of August make.

Butter is now coming forward freely and sales have been made at from 28 to 31c., the latter price being paid for creamery.

The recent rains have helped grass, but cows have not increased in their yield.

We have recent advices from abroad. Our London correspondent says there is a brisk demand for the finest sorts of American cheese and prices are fully one to two shillings dearer. English cheddar is more inquired for, and Dutch sells at an advance. We give prices as follows:

American, extra fine, 52s@53s.; fine, 46@50s.; good, 40 @42s.; secondary, 30@38s. English cheddar, 80@86s.; Wiltshire, double, none in market; Edams, 62@64s.; Gouda, 54@56s.; Derby shape, 68@70s.

Butter is unprecedentedly scarce. Agents can name their own figure for th t landed.

Channels, 114@116s.; extra fine, 118@150s., Corks, 140 @144s.; Dorsets, 136s.; Jersey, 138s.; Friesland, 151@ 156s.; Normandy extra, 156s; American and Canadian, 112@120s. Oleomargarine brings 90@116s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,760	3	1,354	15,493	000
Forty-Eighth St.	66	25	833	5,520	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	13,316
Hursimus Cove	5,351	00	000	10,347	12,887
Totals this week	10,180	28	2,185	32,360	26,203
" last week	11,995	56	2,247	39,021	21,923

BEEVES.—On Monday last trade opened fair; there was a steady demand for good quality beeves, which were scarce, with a slow sale for inferior quality steers, which were in over-supply. Prices ranged at 6¾@8¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5(scant)@9¼ cwt. Wednesday, trade slow at 6¾@8c.; weights, 5@9¼ cwt. Thursday, sales small, at 7¾@10½c.; weights, 5½@7¾cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak, prices having been 6¾@10¾c.; weights, 4¾@8¾ cwt. From 55@58 lbs., net, has been allowed Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, sold at 6¾@8¾c. ₱ lb. Colorado steers, 7¾@ 9c.; Illinois, grass-fed, 7¾@8¾c.; Native, do., 7@9c.; part corn-fed do., 9¾@10¾c.; grade do., 10¾@11¾c. Over 1,200 carcases were shipped for the London market during the past week. Bulls on live weight, 3¾@4¼c.

MILCH COWS.—On unusually light arrivals trade remains dull. Cows sold at $30@65 ₱ head. General sales, $45@55—calves included. Quality from poor to fair.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals are scarce and continue in fair demand at 7@9¼c.; coarse quality calves in abundant supply and slow of sale at 3¼@6¾c.; also at 8¾@15 ₱ head. State calves sold at 3¼@6c.; Western, 4@5¾c.; State veals, 7@9¾c.; Pennsylvania, 8@9c.; Jersey, 8¾@9¼c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—On Monday last trade improved in feeling, but rates did not advance. Sheep sold at 4@6c. ₱ lb.; lambs, 5¾@6¾c.; mixed flocks, 5@ 5¾c. Wednesday, trade fair; sheep, 4@6¼c.; lambs, 5@6¾c. Thursday; sheep, 4@6c.; lambs, 5@6. Friday, the markets closed dull; sheep, 4¾@5½c.; lambs, 5@ 6¾c. The flocks to hand have been from fair to good, with a very few coarse quality bucks and ewes among them. State sheep sold at 4½@5c.; Illinois, 5c.; Michigan 4¾@5¾c.; Pennsylvania, 4¾@5c.; Ohio, 4¾@5c.; State and Canada bucks, 4c.; State lambs, 5¾@6¾c.; Ohio, 6c.; Jersey, 5¾@6¼c.; Canada, 6@6¾c.

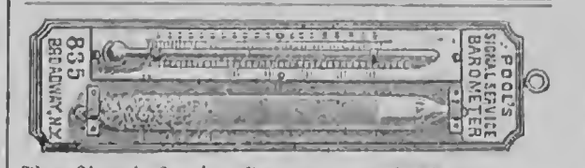
HOGS.—Live, in small lots, 6¾@6¼c., quality coarse. Trade in city dressed inactive at 7¾@8¾c.; general sales, 7¾@8¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—The broken weather has again caused city trade in horses to fall off most heavily. Quotations of last week the same as this. Sales have been so few dealers hesitated to give quotations.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

"Wisner" is again top of the heap, and J. W. Stoddard & Co. will probably have as many orders as they possibly can fill; so that agents wanting territory for Wisner's "Tiger" Rake, should address, at once, either J. E. WISNER, Gen'l Agt., Friendship, N. Y., or J. W. STODDARD & CO., Dayton, Ohio.

New Advertisements.



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PERSONAL ITEMS.

GENERAL BRAXTON BRAGG is dead; heart disease.

SPICY intelligence from Indianapolis—A Miss Peppers has eloped.

ERNEST BANDEL, the German sculptor, died at Donauwerth, Bavaria, Sept. 28.

COL. VALENTINE BAKER is the Constantinople correspondent of a London paper.

A MAN was killed in Georgia for stealing a kicking mule. The mule was the executioner.

MRS. HICKS, the wealthy American widow, is reported as about to marry Lord Henry Gordon Lennox.

MISS MINNIE PALMER is advertised in the West as "the most magnificent star in the dramatic firmament."

ANNA DICKINSON will soon appear in Utica in her new play, and if she isn't successful there will be a real tragedy.

MR. MOODY has supplanted Mr. Sankey with Mr. Stebbins as a singer, hoping to get over Jordan on Stebbins' tones.

BRICKMAKERS die very young, not because the gods love them particularly, but because theirs is such a kiln business.

A MAN who put his knife far into his mouth, while eating in a Boston hotel, was asked if he was a sword swallower.

SERGEANT THOMAS DARRAGH, one of the rescued Fenians, has taken out his first naturalization papers at Bridgeport, Conn.

IDA LEWIS still keeps the Lime Rock Light-house at Newport, R. I. She lives with her mother and her dogs, and is very fond of both.

A DEADWOOD CITY jury "honorably acquitted" a murderer who killed a man whom he mistook for the one that he intended to kill.

COLE YOUNGER, one of the Northfield bandits, old his captors that "if he hadn't been in that business he would have been a preacher."

MILK is slow stuff to steal when it has to be taken from the cow. Adam Greimer of Kentucky got shot in the leg the other night while doing it.

"No man can do anything against his will," said a metaphysician. "Faith," said Pat, "I had a brother who went to prison against his will."

WON'T Mr. Bergh kindly look after these inhuman riflemen, who have been shooting at bull's eyes over on Long Island during the last few days?

THE remains of Bellini, the composer, who died at Puteaux, near Paris, in 1835, have been exhumed and conveyed to Catania, Sicily, Bellini's birthplace.

"I WISH you would pay a little attention to what I am saying, sir," roared a lawyer at an exasperating witness. "I am paying as little as I can," was the calm reply.

MRS. AND MRS. FLEETWOOD of Texas held a national convention, and nominated Mr. Fleetwood for President of the United States and Mrs. Fleetwood for Vice-President.

AN old bachelor having been laughed at by a party of pretty girls, told them, "You are small potatoes!" "We may be small potatoes," said one of them; but we are sweet ones."

WE haven't had time to read our Bible very much lately, and we just want to know if it will be in order to call Butler's campaign in Massachusetts, "the widow's cruise?"—*Hawkeye.*

MRS. SALLY BEERS of Clinton County, Michigan, works a farm of one hundred acres and has nine children. If there were a few thousand such persons in the world as Sally, many more of us might escape work.

A NEVADA man, being commanded by a robber to throw up his hands, obeyed promptly, and concealed his money in them. The robber searched his clothing, but not his hands, and so got no booty.

PROF. CHARLES DAVIES, LL. D., long an instructor at West Point, and author of a number of popular mathematical works, died at Fishkill on the Hudson, on the 18th ult., in the seventy-ninth year of his age.

ONE POUND is announced as a candidate for Congress from the eighth Wisconsin district. He won't be in Congress long before he will find himself without scruples, though he will probably make it up in drams.

GENERAL HAMILTON said in a recent speech that the South did not fight for slavery in the late war, and that General Lee told him that, whether the South was victorious or defeated, the colored people would be free.

MR. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, it is said, is as persistent in work as was ever his father or grandfather. Though he has a carriage, he seldom rides, and always walks five miles or more every day, winter and summer.

TWO women in Kansas had a prize-fight, with seconds, a referee, a ring, and six brutally contested rounds. Finally, one pulled the other's hair, which the referee declared was "a foul," and that ended the fight.

"JOHN," said a doting parent to her gormandizing son, "do you really think you can eat the whole of that pudding with impunity?" "I don't know, ma," replied young hopeful, "but I guess I can with a spoon."

MRS. MARY TILLOTSON, a burning and a shining light in the Free Dress League, has taken her better-half into partnership in her printing establishment at Vincennes, Indiana, and dubs the firm Tillotson & Husband.

MR. POGSON, the Government astronomer of Madras, carries his love of his science to such a pitch that he has his children christened in accordance with the names of the chief celestial bodies which he from time to time discovers.

A CLERGYMAN said the other day that modern young ladies were not daughters of Shem and Ham, but daughters of Hem and Sham—compounds of plain-sewing and make-believe. We would credit this if we knew the clergyman.

AH LEE of St. Louis, is what his name implies—a Chinaman. His wife is Irish. Of their progeny the boys are as unmistakable Pats as were ever baptized, and the girls are as clearly little Celestials as ever had their feet cramped in babyhood.

SAMUEL C. LEWIS of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who helped to make the first bar of iron manufactured in the United States, has been invited by his friends to visit the Centennial Exhibition and be received formally by the representatives of the iron interest.

S. F. GILMORE of Escanaba, Mich., advertises a reward of $200 for his runaway wife, who took with her their little boy. The advertisement concludes:—"The reward above named will be paid for the recovery of the boy—and the woman can go to thunder."

A DOTING mother of a waggish boy, having bottled a quantity of nice preserves, labelled them, "Put up by Mrs. Doo." Johnny having discovered the goodies, soon ate the contents of one bottle, and wrote on the bottom of the label, "Put down by Johnny Doo."

"SOME things," said an excited politician, "can be foreseen and foretold; and I now foresee and I will now foretell, that the day will come when our liberties will be no more. This is as certain, my fellow citizens, and it is as sure, as that Romeo founded Rome."

AN Indiana man, who saw his wife fall off the bridge into a mill pond, never hesitated a moment about his duty, but with that noble impulse so characteristic of the sex darted down the road and prevented anybody from coming up to witness the harrowing spectacle.

IN a recent discourse Brigham Young said: "For forty-three years I have been more or less engaged preaching to the people. My talking organs are now pretty much exhausted, but my general health is even better than when I was a young man. I never felt better."

PRINCE LOUIS LUCIEN BONAPARTE has for many years been engaged in superintending the translation of portions of the English version of the Scriptures into the various dialects spoken in England and Scotland, and travels about Britain collecting information about these dialects.

IN British Columbia Elisha Munsell, a negro, is expected soon to receive the order of knighthood. He is the son of a former West Indian slave, and his wife's freedom was purchased by her father in Georgia while she was a child. He has amassed a large fortune, and is intelligent and cultured.

HE was fond of getting up little shocks for his friends, and this was one. "I would have been left all alone over night at that out-of-the-way station if I had not been lucky enough to catch that train. Fortunate wasn't it?" "Yes; did you have to run very hard to get it?" "Oh, no! I sat there fifteen minutes before it came along."

Musical Instruments.

REMOVAL-150 PIANOS & ORGANS

at half price. The Subscribers will sell their Entire Stock of Pianos & Organs, new and second hand, of six first-class makers; sheet music, and S. S. music books, at 50 PER CT. OFF, for cash previous to removal to their new store, 40 EAST 14th St., UNION SQUARE, Oct. 12th. Illustrated catalogues Mailed, Monthly Instalments received, Agt's Wanted, Special Inducements to the trade. HORACE WATERS & SONS, Manufacturers and Dealers, 481 Broadway, N. Y.

Real Estate.

HO! FOR IOWA!

Farmers, renters and hired men of America:

A choice from 1,200,000 acres of the best lands in Iowa on R. R. terms, at $5 and $6 per acre. Send a postal card for our map and pamphlet, or call on the Iowa R. R. Land Co., 92 Randolph St., Chicago, or Cedar Rapids, Iowa. JOHN B. CALHOUN, Land Commis'r.

10 YEARS' CREDIT. $2.50 TO $15 PER ACRE.

Improved farms, good buildings and fences, well watered, original growth timber, Oak and Hickory. Adapted for Grain, Grass, Clover, Fruit, Cotton, Tobacco, &c. (Wheat averages 20 to 25 bushels per acre.) Within 6 miles of Railroad, direct 120 miles to seaport. Address WARREN COUNTY LAND BUREAU, Warrenton, North Carolina.

LANDS FOR SALE

960,000 Acres in Southwestern Missouri.

FIRST-CLASS STOCK FARMS,
EXCELLENT AGRICULTURAL LANDS,
BEST TOBACCO REGION
IN THE WEST.

SHORT WINTERS, NO GRASSHOPPERS.

Good Markets and a Healthy Country.

Prices $2.50 to $10.00 an Acre.

TERMS:—One-tenth down, balance in seven years at seven per cent. interest.

FREE TRANSPORTATION

to the lands furnished purchasers. For Circulars, guides, maps, etc., address

A. L. DEANE, Land Commissioner, St. Louis.

Implements and Machinery.

Centennial Year of American Independence,

SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

We will call and see you next July and assist at your CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. By the same opportunity bring you samples of the Celebrated Watches, manufactured by our country-men, the MESSRS. BOREL & COURVOISIER of Neuchatel, for INSPECTION and EXHIBITION, These Watches are favorably known throughout the U. S., having been sold by our local agents in almost every City, Town and Village the past ten years. Their reputation for accurate performance is universally acknowledged. They are manufactured in Gold and Silver Cases, Stem and Key Winders. These Watches have superior quality of Nickel Movements, Chronometer Balances, Breguet Hair Springs, Tempered, Hardened and Isochronised for R. R. use, fine Ruby Jeweled, set in Chaton, and warranted to perform with the regularity and accuracy of a chronometer. Ask your Watchmaker to see them before purchasing those of other makers, as we have been authorized to sell them at a reduction from former prices.

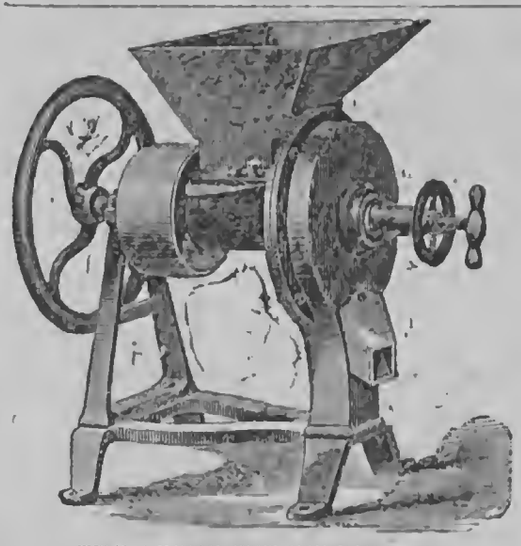
QUINCHE & KRUGLER,
SALESROOM: 15 MAIDEN LANE, N. Y., Up Stairs.
Only Wholesale Agents for the Manufacturers. Jewelers wanted to act as Agents.

THE BEST
IMPROVED APPLE GRATER

in the market, for the least money. Send for descriptive price list to W. F. DAVIS,
North Bloomfield, Ontario Co., N. Y.

STEVENS' PATENT BREECH-LOADING

Sporting Rifles, Double and Single Barrel Shot Guns, Pocket Rifles, Pocket Pistols, and the noted Hunter's Pet Rifles. Send for Catalogue.
J. STEVENS & CO., Chicopee Falls, Mass.



THE ABOVE CUT REPRESENTS
THE VICTORY CORN MILL.

This mill will grind corn and cob rapidly, course and fine; also, all other kinds of grain or seed. Capacity, 10 to 20 bushels per hour. It is made entirely of iron, except the hopper. It is strong, durable, and not liable to get out of repair. It will grind more feed with less power than any other mill in the market. This is no humbug. We warrant it to do what we claim. Agents wanted everywhere. Price $40, delivered on cars at Springfield. Address
T. ROBERTS & CO., Springfield, Ohio.

☞ We also manufacture 4½ horse-power Vertical Portable Engines, suitable for running these mills, or for any other purpose for which power is required. Price $250.

SEE JOHNSTON HARVESTERS AT CENTENNIAL.

UNION **CORN** HUSKER.

SELLS AT SIGHT.

No cold or sore fingers. Can be used with or without mittens. Last a lifetime.—Taken 6 Premiums.—One sample 25 cts.; 4 for 75 cts.
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108 South 8th St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.
Say where you saw this advertisem't.

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Exposition without examining the novel Dexter Spring and Fifth Wheel. A revolution in springs. EXHIBIT S. W. CORNER CARRIAGE ANNEX.

$15 Shot Gun

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—With its full corps of editors, and a new publisher of energy and ability, the management propose to celebrate the quarter-centennial of the pioneer RURAL in such a manner as to augment its popularity and usefulness. For a first-class, lively paper, containing matter of interest for all classes, take the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and do so at once, for the paper never was better, and its prospects never brighter.—*Freeport (Ill.) Journal.*

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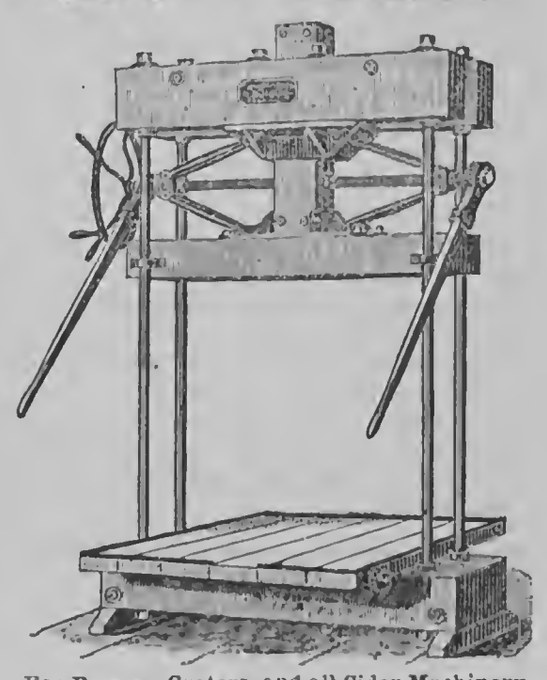

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Only the purest vegetable oils used in its manufacture. No artificial and deceptive colors to cover common and deleterious ingredients. UNRIVALLED FOR THE TOILET AND THE BATH. Used in bathing children, will prevent eruptions, keep the skin soft and smooth, contributes to health, and prevent disease. Does away with all powders, chalk or other emollients. A certain preventive of *chafing, itching, &c.*, in babies, the causes of half the crying and crossness of babyhood. Worth ten times its cost to every mother and family in Christendom; packed in boxes of 12 cakes, of 6 ozs. each, and sent free to any address on receipt of $2.50, Address B. T. Babbitt, NEW YORK CITY.
☞ For Sale by all Druggists. ☜

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MILKING SHORT-HORNS!

Two remarkably fine young bulls—five heifers 6 to 18 mos. old. All deep, rolld. mahogany red. *Largest and deepest milking strain in U. S.* One 4-yr. old cow, weighing 1,860 lbs.; another over 1,600 lbs., and making 13 to 14 lbs. of butter. Also 2 very superior Berkshire boars, 6 and 10 mos. old, from model Crozier sows by the best Cochrane boar that ever crossed the line. Jersey and Ayrshire calves. Our own H'd-Qr'ts Chester White pigs. Prices to suit the times. FRANCIS MORRIS,
Morton, Del. Co., Penn'a.

IMPROVED JERSEY STOCK.

A thorough-bred Jersey Cow for sale, from imported dam; is registered in the Jersey Herd Book. Also two Heifer Calves. Address
H. HALES, Ridgewood, N. J.

IMPERIAL PEKIN DUCKS; Bronze and White H. Turkeys; all the varieties of Cochins and Brahmas; W. C. B. Polish, P. Rocks, B. B. R. Games, Leghorns, Hamburgs, Game and Sebright Bantams, etc. At unusually low prices for thirty days. CLARENCE STARK, Louisiana, Mo.

PURE-BRED POULTRY!

TWO CHOICE BREEDS.

Plymouth Rocks

—AND—

White Leghorns

A SPECIALTY.

☞ Bred with the greatest care, and from the choicest strains of blood.

Chicks of both of the above for sale next fall.

Address THOS. T. WALTON,
SEC'Y BERGEN CO. POULTRY ASSOCIATION,
Ridgewood, Bergen Co., N. J.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

D. S. K.—We would advise you to advertise in the RURAL NEW-YORKER for a farm, stating the number of acres and other particulars, as given in your letter of inquiry. We presume just the kind of farm desired could be found in the way named.

S. B. P.—The grape leaves sent show no signs of depredations by the Phylloxera, but have been badly infested with what are called "Thrip." The phylloxera, when it attacks the leaves, causes small excrescences or warts, which are the temporary habitations of the insect. The root form of this pest causes small warts on the smaller rootlets, preventing the free flow of sap, which of course checks the growth and eventually kills the vine, unless it is of a very vigorous sort and capable of resisting the attacks of the pest.

Gardener.—Melon, cucumber and squash seed will remain good for several years if kept in a dry place. Some gardeners say that melon seed are better for keeping several years, as it is said they produce a less vigorous vine but better flavored fruit.

Iowa.—The round, whitish balls found when plowing, and of which you send specimens, are a species of mushroom, or as generally termed, Puff-balls. The particular species cannot be determined from undeveloped or half-grown specimens, and those dried hard, as in the case of those sent us.

Buckingham.—The handsome grass with arrow-head-shaped spikes is commonly called Meadow Grass, but its botanical name is *Eragrostis poæoides*. It is not considered to possess any agricultural value, but is found in waste places and sometimes in cultivated grounds.

Florida.—The brilliant greenish beetle with bronze colored thorax, and a long slender recurved horn springing from the top of the head, extending backward, nearly or quite a half inch is the male of *Phaneus carnifex* a very common scavenger beetle. It is found more or less common from New Jersey to Florida. There are a number of species of the *Phaneus* inhabiting the United States, but the one named above is the only one of the number found in the more Northern States. A dark brown species *P. triangularis* is very common throughout Texas. They are considered beneficial, as their food consists mainly of the excrement of the larger animals.

J. C. Allen, Vernon, Vermont.—Inclosed I send you flower and leaves of a plant growing in my garden, which is here called Comfrey. Is it the common Comfrey described in the RURAL of Sept. 9. ANS.—It is.

A. C. Pope, Binghampton, N. Y., Sept. 16.—My nephew brought me a plant, to-day, in full bloom which puzzled me to give a name. It belongs to the same class as the weed commonly called "Cheeses" from the seed vessel which resembles a very small Cottage or Dutch Cheese. The flower however, is very large measuring full 1¾ inches; five petaled heart-shaped veined with a darker shade than the body color which is a pale redish purple and is when on the plant a very showy flower. A name would be desirable through the answer to correspondents. ANS.—It is perhaps *Malva sylvestris*—It is certainly a Malva—but we cannot determine the species positively without a flower and leaf. You send a flower but it is pasted upon the paper and the only thing that we can ascertain by it is that it has five petals.

"Subscriber" wishes to know of a remedy for catarrh. Several of our acquaintances have been benefited by the use of water forced up one nostril and through the other in a constant stream for five minutes at a time or as long as it can be borne. A quart bottle is filled with water either fresh or salt as preferred. One end of a rubber tube is connected with it, the other applied to the nostril. The bottle is then held or placed above the head higher or lower as we desire the current more or less strong. This is recommended by many eminent physicians. The apparatus is sold at a small price by most druggists.

Catarrh is an inflammation of the mucous membrane and is called coryza, laryngitis or bronchitis as the nose, larynx or bronchial tubes are affected. Coryza is, we believe, incurable except by a permanent or long-continued change of air; and we also believe that the snuffs and most other catarrh medicines in vogue are positively harmful. "Subscriber" also wishes to know if we can give any information about employment for women, teaching and sewing being injurious to her health. Having no acquaintance with our correspondent, we do not think of any employment which would not in all probability have occurred to her.

Invalid asks our opinion as to the healthfulness of various kinds of food. She disagrees with Mr. PECK in his qualified advocacy of pork as a healthful food and advocates "an exclusively vegetable diet."

Dry Goods, &c.

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Black, Colored and Fancy Silks

IS THE LARGEST AND BEST ASSORTED IN THE CITY, OCCUPYING ONE WHOLE SECTION IN EACH STORE, AND HAVING BEEN PURCHASED AND CONTRACTED FOR PRIOR TO THE RECENT ADVANCE, WE ARE PREPARED TO SELL AT

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EMBRACES ALL THE NOVELTIES IN FALL AND WINTER COSTUME CLOTHS, BLACK AND COLORED CASHMERES AND MERINOS, ALL-WOOL AND MIXED PLAIDS, STRIPES AND DAMASSE STYLES, AS WELL AS

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IN ALL THE NEWEST COLORINGS AND MATERIALS, FROM TEN CENTS A YARD UPWARDS.

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INDIA SHAWLS,

FROM THE LONDON AUCTION SALES IS VERY LARGE AND ATTRACTIVE, AND PRICES ABOUT HALF FORMER YEARS.
REAL INDIA, filled centers, at $65, $75, $85 and upwards.
REAL DECCA SHAWLS, at $13 to $75.
STRIPED INDIA SHAWLS, new designs, only $15.
CHEDDA SHAWLS, choice new colors, $8, upwards.
ALSO,
PARIS AND VIENNA BROCHE PAISLEY FILLED, Plain centres and stripes, and
BRITISH AND AMERICAN WOOLEN SHAWLS, Unrivaled for beauty and substantial value.

OUR LADIES' & CHILDREN'S SUIT AND FURNISHING DEPARTMENT

IS NOW MORE THOROUGHLY STOCKED AND EQUIPPED THAN EVER HERETOFORE, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO FILL ALL ORDERS AT ONCE, AND TO GUARANTEE SATISFACTION.
HANDSOMELY TRIMMED SUITS IN CASHMERE, BASKET CLOTH, CAMEL'S HAIR, ALPACA, COMBINATION SUITS, &c., IN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NEW EFFECTS, AT PRICES TO TEMPT THE MOST ECONOMICAL.
BY FOLLOWING OUR DIRECTIONS FOR SELF-MEASUREMENT, LADIES OUT-OF-TOWN CAN BE FITTED PERFECTLY, ECONOMICALLY AND MORE SATISFACTORILY THAN BY ANY HOME-MADE WORK.
MOURNING COSTUMES AND OUTFITS A SPECIALTY, and orders filled on 12 hours' notice.
MISSES AND CHILDREN'S COSTUMES AND SUITS at very reasonable prices.

Ladies' and Children's Underwear.

AN IMMENSE STOCK OF BEAUTIFUL AND RELIABLE GOODS, AT VERY GREAT REDUCTIONS.
LADIES' COMPLETE OUTFITS, at $50 and upwards.
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☞ FULL CATALOGUES OF THIS DEPARTMENT, WITH DIRECTION FOR SELF-MEASUREMENT, SENT FREE, ON APPLICATION, TO ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

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RICH FURS

ON HAND, AND BEING MANUFACTURED, WILL BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE CITY, AND AT MOST ATTRACTIVE PRICES.

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Carpets at Grand St. Only,

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VELVET CARPETS, from $2 up.
BODY BRUSSELS, from $1.50 up.
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Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

RASPBERRY,

Blackberry, Gooseberry, Strawberry Plants; also,

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Apple Trees, very fine, in large quantities, and of leading varieties. Peach Trees, 1 yr. from bud, by the 100, 1,000 or 10,000. Concord and other vines, 1, 2 and 3 yrs. old, unsurpassed and in large number. La Versailles and Cherry Currants, 1 and 2 yrs. old. Also, Forest and Evergreen Trees, Hedge Plants, Shrubs, Roses, and a general assortment of Nursery Stock. All young, thrifty plants, and in large quantities. Send for Price List. Address
STEPHEN HOYT & SONS, New Canaan, Ct.

PEACH TREES, $3 to $5 per 1,000. Price List Free. R. S. JOHNSTON, Stockley, Del.

TREES! TREES! TREES!

A full and fine stock of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Small Fruits, &c., at low rates. Address
RICHARDSON & KELSEY, Geneva, N. Y.

NEW FRUITS,

Dutch Bulbs, New and Rare Plants, &c.

Souvenir du Congres; Beurre d'Assumption; Pitmaston, Duchesse and other new Pears.
New Peaches, American and European varieties; a large stock of Pear and other Fruit Trees, &c.
Dutch Bulbs—Hyacinths, Tulips, Lilies, direct from Holland.
Duchess of Edinburgh, Pearle de Jardin and other new Roses. New and Rare Plants for winter flowering, &c.
Catalogues mailed on application.—PRICES LOW.
JOHN SAUL, Washington City, D. C.

ROSE-BUDS IN WINTER.

Strong Pot Roses, especially prepared for fall planting and quick bloom, sent safely by mail, post-paid. Five splendid varieties, all labeled, for $1; 12 do., $2; 19 do., $3; 25 do., $4; 35 do., $5. For 10c. each additional, one Magnificent Premium Rose to every dollar's worth ordered. Send for our new GUIDE TO ROSE-CULTURE, and choose from over 300 finest sorts. Address THE DINGEE & CONARD CO., ROSE-GROWERS, West Grove, Chester Co., Pa.

APPLE TREES--HEDGE PLANTS

At Wholesale. *Cheaper than ever.* Also, general Nursery Stock at lowest rates. Send for Fall Price Lists. Special terms to Grangers and Clubs. Address CHENOA NURSERIES, Chenoa, Ills.

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Our NEW DESCRIPTIVE PRICED CATALOGUE of the above is ready for mailing.

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EVERGREENS FOR HEDGING.

Fine and reasonable. During the month of September is a good time to transplant Evergreens. Also general nursery stock for sale. Address
G. ACHELIS,
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HONEY MOON NURSERIES,

Near Jacksonville, Fla.

The *Pioneer* Nursery of Florida. The largest Tropical and Semi-Tropical Nursery in the U. S. 1,000,000 of the Citrus family offered this season. Catalogues sent free. Address L. A. HARDEE,
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Trees, Plants, Bulbs. Fall Price List and Bulb Catalogue GRATIS. Address F. K. PHŒNIX, Bloomington Nursery, Ill.

THE GREAT AMERICAN STRAWBERRY and DELAWARE RASPBERRY, the largest and best. Millions of Trees and Plants at *Pomona Nursery*. Send for Circulars. *Wm. Parry*, Cinnaminson, N. J.

Spring Avenue Gardens.

WINTER-BLOOMING PLANTS

A SPECIALTY.

Carnations, Smilax, Neapolitan Violets, Bouvardias, Chinese Azaleas, Lily of the Valley. All the new and most desirable Geraniums and similar plants. Also, a great variety of the common and fancy Hardy Evergreen Trees, as low as they can be purchased of any trustworthy dealer.
Address B. W. HALES,
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TOM COOKE, THE ACTOR.

At a trial in the Court of King's Bench in 1813, between certain music publishers, as to an alleged piracy of an arrangement of the song of "The Old English Gentleman," Cooke was subpœnaed as a witness by one of the parties.

On his cross-examination by Sir James Scarlett for the opposite side, that learned counsel questioned him thus—

"Now, sir, you say that the two melodies are the same, but different; now, what do you mean by that, sir?"

To this Tom promptly answered—

"I said that the notes in the two copies were alike, but with different accent, the one being in common time, the other six-eighth time; and consequently the position of the accented notes was different."

"Now, pray, sir, don't beat about the bush, but explain to the jury, who are supposed to know nothing about music, the meaning of what you call accent."

Cooke: "Accent in music is a certain stress laid upon a particular note, in the same manner as you would lay a stress upon any given word, for the purpose of being better understood. Thus, if I were to say, 'You are an *ass*,' it rests on ass; but if I were to say, '*You* are an ass,' it rests on *you*, Sir James."

Shouts of laughter by the whole court followed this repartee. Silence at length having been obtained, the judge, with much seeming gravity, accosted the counsel thus—

"Are you satisfied, Sir James?"

Sir James (who had become scarlet in more than name), in a great huff, said—

"The witness may go down."

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Two persons were once disputing so loudly on the subject of religion that they awoke a big dog which had been sleeping on the hearth before them, and he forthwith barked most furiously. An old divine present, who had been quietly sipping his tea while the disputants were talking, gave the dog a kick, and exclaimed, "Hold your tongue, you silly brute! You know no more about it than they do."

"Well, uncle, how is the cause of religion getting on in your neighborhood?" "Mighty poor—mighty poor." "No new converts, eh?" "Not a single one—not de sign of one." "What seems to be the matter?" asked the citizen, after a lengthy pause. "De matter is dat some one hez stolen four big watermelons out o' my cart dis afternoon, an' I feel in my bones dat religion is gwine down hill all froo dis locality!"

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WHOLE No. 1394.

NEW YORK CITY, OCT. 14, 1876.

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The Poultry Yard.

"ABOUT PHEASANTS."

CAN you tell us anything about what are in Europe called Pheasants, especially the breed termed Bohemian Pheasants? Can these breeds be crossed or hybridized with other breeds or species of fowls? By answering the above you will much oblige—W. STOCKMAN, *Huron Co., Mich.*

The term Pheasant is applied to various species of birds, some closely allied and others somewhat distantly related. The term Pheasant belongs to the restricted genus *Phasianus*, and the birds are remarkable for the facility with which they interbreed and the circumstance that the cross-bred progeny are perfectly fertile.

To more clearly show the appearance of some of these birds, we reproduce an illustration (which we had engraved for the RURAL in 1870) of Bohemian and Hybrid Reeves Pheasants varieties which have attracted considerable attention in Europe. Of the two figures represented in our engraving, one, the Bohemian, would on all hands be regarded as a mere variety which, like all variations, may at any time recur without any known or apparent cause. It was undoubtedly derived from the common species, which it resembles in all respects except color. The feathers of the sides and lower part of the neck have a deep margin of a blackish blue; those on the back of the neck a narrow, dark edge, with a central spot of black. The markings on the back and other parts are the same as the common Pheasant. The size of the Bohemian Pheasant varies considerably, but the extreme length from bill to tail of an ordinarily good specimen is about 35 inches, of which the tail is about 20. The length of the female is about 10 inches less than the male.

The upper figure in our illustration represents a hybrid between the Reeves or Barred-tail Pheasant and a Bohemian hen. In size the bird is larger than the common species, but the markings are somewhat different. In coloration the beauty of the Reeves is almost lost; the general tint of the body is a bright, rich chestnut.

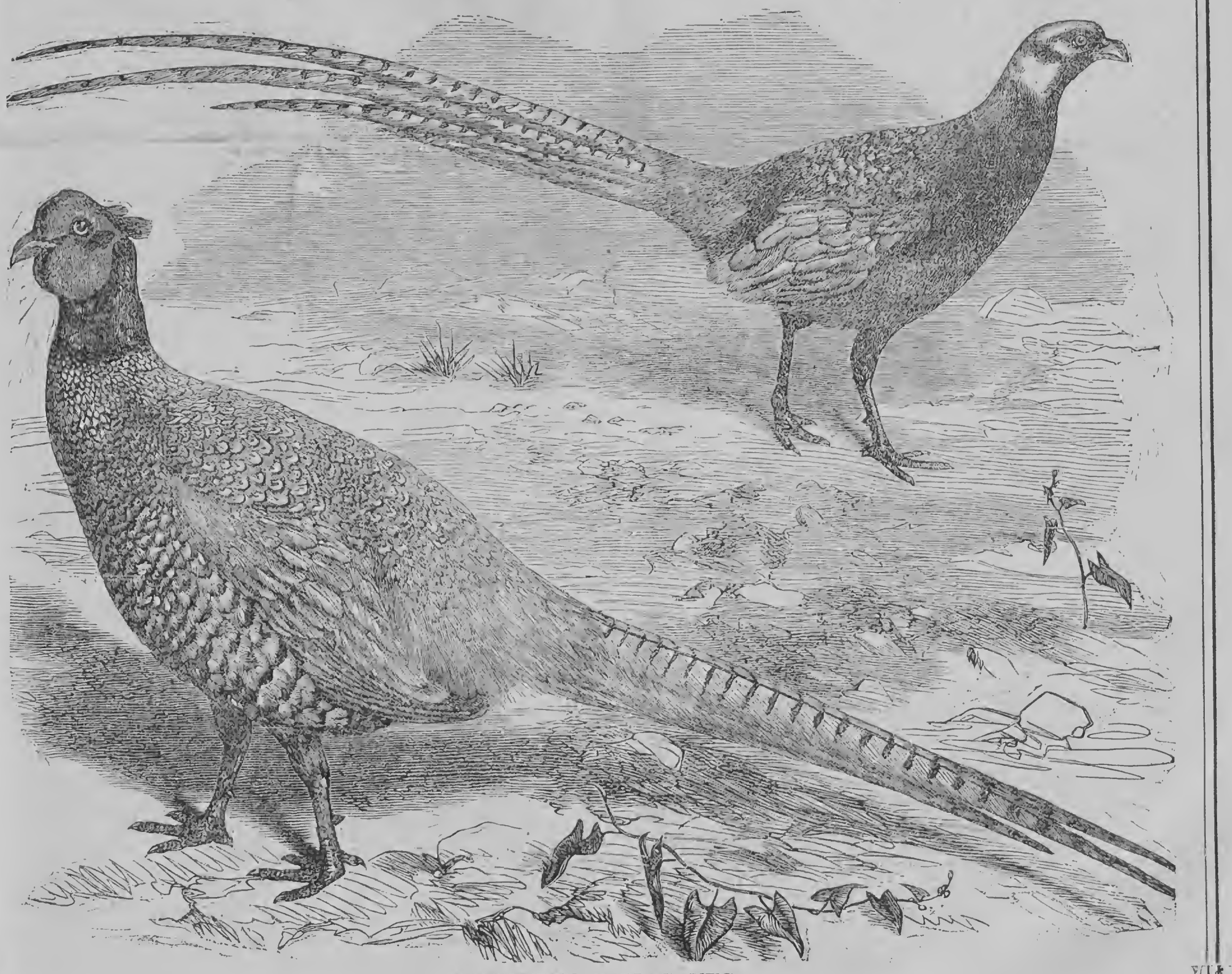
We think it might be a profitable operation for our poultry fanciers to import some of these Pheasants and let them loose upon the high table lands of North Carolina and Virginia, where they would probably multiply rapidly and in a few years become abundant. Such things have been done in Europe and might be done here; and there is certainly room for an enterprising man to experiment in this direction to almost any extent, but we cannot give him much encouragement to expect great profits.

POULTRY IN LARGE FLOCKS.

IN answer to "Questions about Poultry," page 199, I would say:

It has been proved over and over again that poultry do not succeed when kept in large numbers in confined space, and in every instance published to the contrary it has upon investigation turned out to be misstated, and in one or two noted cases the statements were complete fabrications, without the slightest foundation in truth.

I have had experience on an extensive scale for 50 years. From 1825 to 1835 my mother kept fowls at three homesteads in England—the Rectory farm, the old barns and yard in the village of Bourton, and at the Dunstale farm. Her profits from the three flocks were on an average about £30 ($150) each. I was her right-hand man all through my boyhood. During this pe-



BOHEMIAN PHEASANTS.

riod of time I was often at Sezincota, the beautiful seat erected by Sir CHAS. COCKERELL and now in possession of his grandson, Sir C. RUSHOUSE. While I was there the gamekeepers gave me such correct ideas of the feathered tribe that I never fail in any undertaking, every establishment of poultry invariably prospering when I have entire control, and my son has at the present time the same good results, as far as he proceeds according to the experiences of the past.

But to return to the gamekeepers. They raised vast quantities of Pheasants, Partridges and Wild Ducks from the eggs which were found where the nests were disturbed among mowing grass and other places where the old birds could not hatch out. There were a great many hundreds raised every year, but fresh, untainted ground was resorted to, and the coops and the whole area of three or four acres within iron hurdles, was moved as fast as the droppings showed it was advisable, consequently in raising poultry in after years fresh ground was always obtained for young chickens and range had for old ones. A few years since myself and family offered, by advertisement, to raise ten thousand on shares, but not one out of many correspondents could be made to see the necessity of spreading the fowls over so much space, almost all of them expecting to have hundreds together crowded much thicker than women and children in tenement houses in cities. At this time I have enough in family to raise thousands very easily, and this is the only time of the year to begin; but although the cheapest possible roosts only would be required, which we could erect ourselves, not a soul could be found who would find room or see the necessity of placing them all in small families, although by doing so it is evident the poultry would get half their living by ranging and never know disease. One of my boys was last spring urged by a gentleman to raise as many as he could from a few old hens. He has already overrun the place and frightened the gentleman, because as they grow their appetites grow also.

If fowls have unrestrained range and liberty they will not be unhealthy, even though the droppings under the perches in the roost be allowed to remain week after week, but it is a good plan to clean out often and throw ashes or dry earth for the dung to fall on, as the whole can then be swept up together and kept for use on the land, where it will serve instead of phosphates, guano, etc.

Disease will not appear among any poultry where the young have fresh, untainted ground to live on and where the old birds have free range and are not in families of more than 20 or 30. Put 1,000 old hens in families of about 30, having two roosters with each family, and give to each roost a space between it and the next which will average 5 acres to each, and less than 200 acres will be required; then have the roosts so constructed that they can be removed easily and cultivate the land with an eye to the welfare of the fowls and wonderfully profitable results will follow; then as each hen hatches move her to other quarters away from all other old fowl, and no ailment will ever interfere with perfect prosperity. With a suitable tract of land 10,000 can be raised, allowing 2,000 or 3,000 for hawks, weasels, etc., though, excepting in the vicinity of woods, there need be very little loss.

Poultry kept in this way will never eat eggs or touch feathers, except to cleanse themselves; in fact, all miseries and failures with poultry occur through unnatural treatment, for I have proved it for 50 years and can laugh all remedies to scorn. Prevention is easy, then why want cures?

Let demented creatures write about diseases and cures for them, and let them dispute about lice and gapes, exposing folly of the weakest character, but let sensible people who wish to raise any kind of the feathered creation in large numbers, do so by avoiding every approach toward following the directions of those who write and talk as if anything was required for the welfare of fowls besides food and water and suitable roosts.

Admitting that good managers of poultry will meet with misfortunes, they need not be of sufficient weight to seriously affect the profits, because when the poultry establishment is of such magnitude as to have thousands there would always be some one on the watch by night as well as by day.

I have no desire to ridicule others, but it is most extraordinary that there should be such very great ignorance and mistakes about poultry. If any gentleman or lady wishes to raise thousands of poultry or rabbits, either for pleasure or profit, I would willingly join in and pledge myself to carry out the undertaking in a most successful manner. A WORKING FARMER.

GAPES.

THE following account of the symptoms and treatment of this disease, the most fatal, perhaps, of any to which chickens and hens are subject, is well given by the Canada Farmer:

SYMPTOMS.

The disease commonly known as "the gapes" is caused solely by the presence of numbers of worms in the windpipe, which thus becomes so filled up as to render respiration difficult, and if in considerable numbers, by their growth the obstruction is complete, and death results from suffocation. Young chickens thus attacked seldom recover without special treatment for the removal of the worms. Chickens only three or four days old often show symptoms of the disease by opening wide their mouths, gasping for breath and attempting to swallow. They also frequently sneeze. As the disease grows worse these symptoms become more marked; the chickens continually gasp and struggle for breath, grow weak and dispirited, and finally droop and die. In fatal cases, one or two dozen of these worms are often found in the windpipe, completely filling it up.

REMEDIES.

The worms may be removed by a feather from which the web has been stripped, except a small portion near the tip. This may be moistened with oil, salt water, or a weak solution of carbolic acid and introduced into the windpipe, when, if it be twisted round once or twice and removed, it will usually bring away several of the worms. This operation should be repeated at intervals until all the worms are destroyed. All worms removed in this or any other way should be carefully destroyed, preferably by fire, for the embryos are extremely tenacious of life, and if left upon the ground are likely to spread the disease. For the same reason birds that are infected should be separated from healthy ones, and poultry should never be allowed to run in the same yards or grounds or be kept in the same houses where infected ones have previously been kept, unless the premises have first been thoroughly sprinkled with a strong solution of carbolic acid or petroleum water, to destroy the old worms or the eggs and embryos that may have been discharged from the sick ones. The vessels from which they feed should be frequently and thoroughly cleansed, and they should be supplied with pure water, frequently renewed.

In extreme cases the worms may be safely removed by a surgical operation; but this requires skill. This is done by first carefully securing the bird, or still better, by administering a few drops of chloroform, placed upon cotton and held to the nostrils. The skin of the neck is then to be divided with a very sharp knife and the windpipe opened by a longitudinal slit about a quarter of an inch long. The worms may then be removed by a pair of small forceps or other suitable instrument. The incision of the skin may be closed by one or two stitches, and the wound will generally heal in a few days. By this operation an almost instantaneous cure may be effected, even when the disease has progressed nearly to the point of suffocation; but in unskillful hands it is not likely to be so successful as the other remedies already described.

Farm Economy.

THE TUBE WELL AND ITS USES.

IN a late article on the Tube well it was incidentally shown, that, while the reservoir of a dug well is circumscribed by its walls, that of a tube well is coextensive with the tributary water-bearing strata. Wherever a demand, therefore, exists for a constant, uniform and abundant stream, the modern well has a decisive advantage over its venerable congener. As a rule this demand can be illimitably supplied, either by sinking a single tube of sufficiently large calibre, or, preferably, by driving down a number of adjacent tubes and concentrating their discharges in a single exhaust pipe by means of ordinary elbow couplings. The difficulty of driving is thus vastly lessened, as well as the risk of injury to the tube and its couplings, while the slight increase of fluid friction is offset by the freer inrush of water from the broader area drained by the cluster of isolated tubes. Factories, railroads and stock farms are the chief beneficiaries of this adaptation, and not a few Western towns also, still too new or unenterprising for water works employ it for fire-extinguishing purposes.

Nor is the tube well's claim to superiority a whit less bold for the quality than for the quantity of its waters. A dug well is often a receptacle for refuse and vermin, and always for surface drainage with its attendant impregnations of decaying animal and vegetable matter. Fertile, alluvial lands, and newly-settled districts are especially exposed to insidious diseases incident to these noxious impurities. The water from a tube well, on the contrary, purified by filtration from a distant source, and imperviously guarded from local latteral percolations, is as pure, cold and sparkling as that still flowing in the aqueous strata. In view of the paramount importance of health to the farmer and colonist, and of the dominant influence the water he daily uses must constantly have on this, any device for insuring its purity cannot well be over-estimated.

Cheapness in cost, especially in districts where materials for the walls of a well are scarce, is another point no less in favor of these wells than the rapidity and absolute safety of their construction. The ruin that sometimes befalls a dug well, whose walls have been undermined by the washing away of their sandy support, is impossible to its rival, the foundation of which is paradoxically in the pump-stock above the surface. To a mother's heart it will always be a recommendation that the most capacious of these tube-girt holes cannot well prove a pitfall even to the most diminutive of her adventurous brood. The doggerel riddle anent the immovability of wells, which mythologists declare to be of immemorial descent, is hardly applicable to this modern form, one of whose claims to special merit rests on the ease with which it can be taken up and removed, as necessity or convenience may dictate. Stockmen, emigrants and other nomads are likely to find this feature as serviceable as the British army did in the Abyssinian war, and still later in the invasion of Dahomey.

Although it is seldom that any consideration is allowed greater weight than the accessability of water in determining the site equally of a country hovel or farm-house, yet the conditions of a dug well generally necessitate its location at some distance from the drainage and movements immediately around the house. The ungrateful task of drawing and transporting water, even in the most inclement weather, commonly falls to females, warm from household work, many of whose tedious ailments are caused or aggravated by the sudden exposure and strain of this drudgery. A tube well in the kitchen, while inaccessible to frost, and unproductive of unhealthy dampness, will, without the risk of exposure to rain or blast, plodding through mud and snow, splashing passages, floors, or clothing, and, not least, without a temptation to an uncleanly economy of water, yield at all times an abundant stream and prevent many wearisome complaints, domestic as well as physical.

In some districts the only possibility of well-water is from the heart of a quicksand. Here a dug well is wholly impracticable, and despite the vaunts of well-drivers, the success of a tube well is seldom entirely complete or permanent. To prevent the influx of sand from choking up the suction pipe is the difficult problem which many patents claim to have solved, a claim which has here a trifle more truth than patent pretentious generally possess. A fair measure of success has in reality been achieved, and to have rendered the impossible practicable is not entirely without merit.

In searching for water by this process of well-making, a rocky formation presents an impenetrable barrier, and a chance boulder encountered by the descending drill, necessitates its withdrawal and a change of site for the well. No special preparation is needed to penetrate thin layers of clay, but to avoid serious injury to the tube and its couplings the tenacious depth of a thick bed must be pierced either by an earth auger, a pioneer "drive rod" or by forcing down a tube, wholly or partially open at the bottom and withdrawing it at intervals to lessen the resistant friction by the extraction of its adhesive contents.

As the hight to which atmospheric pressure can force a column of water into the vacuum created in the suction-pipe of a pump is limited, under the most favorable circumstances, to about 30 feet, it is absolutely essential that this should be the greatest interval between the cylinder of the pump and the water. In many wells driven to a much greater depth, hydrostatic pressure lifts the water to a hight from which atmospheric pressure can readily force it to the surface. Whenever the water in a well, however, rests more than thirty feet below the brink, the pump cylinder must be lowered to within this distance into a pit sunk for its reception.

In constructing a tube well the services of a skilled well-driver should be obtained wherever convenient, elsewhere a handy novice can, at the cost of a little forethought, care and ingenuity, readily supply his place, while dispensing with his special appliances. Points and filter-sections are purchasable with the necessary tubing, and the skill that could sapiently locate a dug, can also wisely determine the best site for a tube well. KEMP.

SPARE AND PROTECT THE TOADS.

THE Practical Farmer has the following to say about the usefulness of toads, which we commend to the attention of our readers and especially to the Rev. J. W. SHEARER, who, in a late communication to the Bee Keeper's Magazine, urges the destruction of these useful animals:

Many boys seem to have a wonderful itching to knock over every toad with a stone or club, and when they happen to go within a few rods of a bird, they look around, almost instinctively, for a stone to kill the dear little songster. This is exceedingly wrong, as toads and birds are the farmer's best and most useful friends and helpers. It is said that there is actually a considerable commerce in toads between France and England. A toad of good size and in fair condition will fetch a shilling (twenty-five cents) in the London market, and a dozen of the extra quality are worth £1 sterling ($5). A writer in a European paper states that one may see these imported toads in all the market gardens where the soil is moist, and the owners of these gardens even prepare shelter for them. Many grave persons have shaken their heads when they heard of this new whim of the English; but those laugh the best who laugh the last. This time the English are in the right.

The toad is very helpful to the husbandman as a destroyer of injurious insects on which it chiefly feeds. Toads have a curious, net-like lasso, which they throw out so quickly to trap insects, that a fly is not sufficiently agile to escape. Boys, spare the harmless and useful toads, and the dear little birds that subsist on insects which destroy our fruit and grain. The President of the Farmers' Club of the American Institute, N. C. Ely, who owns a farm worth $60,000, in Connecticut, once stated to the Club, that he was accustomed to pay fifty cents each for toads which were put on his farm to destroy insects. We place small pieces of boards over little depressions in the garden and about the yard, as refuges for useful toads.

Field Crops.

A NEW INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA.

A SAN FRANCISCO correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—A new industry unknown to the press is in process of inauguration in California, which may interest the rural districts of Maryland and elsewhere. It is making sugar, table sirup and table oil from watermelons. Mr. Roo of San Francisco, seeing that our beet sugaries have not made profit, turned attention to watermelons. He found that when beet sugar proved unprofitable in Hungary, Herr Hoffman substituted melons, with most gratifying success. His sugary at Zombar, is one of the largest and best paying in Europe. Accordingly Dr. Hiller was sent to Hungary to consult with Herr Hoffman, compare climates, and if satisfied, he was instructed to buy works and import skilled labor. To make double assurance he bought a large sugar factory in full and successful operation, and engaged its best men to come to California and go on just where they left off. In this way, supposing the melons to be all right, there can be no failure. The machinery has arrived at New York, and workmen are now planting the home-made engine and boilers. The locality is on Andros Island, in the long Delta 'twixt the rivers Sacramento and San Joaquin—pronounced Sanwaukin. This belongs to a group of low islands that are submerged at high water, and therefore not fit for culture. But when reclaimed by embankments they are exceptionally productive in all seasons, wet or dry.

But while beets are not always sure, melons are a crop that never fails in this climate, and the factory being on navigable waters, it can get melon juice from a vast area of melon country at small expense for transport. Andros Island itself is famous for melons, and so are Grand and Bramon Islands, near by, and now reclaimed. The distance from San Francisco is about 70 miles by water. Watermelons with white pulp are preferred. Their agriculture is more than 60 per cent. less costly than beets. They are planted twelve feet apart one way, and the other way six feet apart. Before weeds interfere the leaves of the plants cover the ground and kill them. Besides, they make an impenetrable mulching, which keeps the soil moist and prevents baking. Harvesting melons is cheap and cleanly, while uprooting beets is laborious, and the coarse, adhering dirt is removed by hand while the crown is cut away as unprofitable for sugar. Beets also need much weeding.

A melon field needs only one-fourth the plowing. Beets can only be delivered in the root, because the juice turns quickly black and the sugar becomes starch, while melon juice is not affected for several days. Beets are washed and rasped or sliced, while melons, by one cut, deliver their juice over a seed strainer into the vats direct. The melon being free from impurities, which make costly chemistry in beet sugar, is much less expensive.

Beet sirup is only fit for distillation. The sirup from melons is delicious. The seeds make the finest table oil, and the refuse is good for cattle. Taking account of so many advantages, sugar from melons, though rated at 7 per cent. of the weight of the fruit, instead of 8 allowed for beets, costs less to make. The difference may be set down as 5¼ cents for melon sugar to 7 cents a pound for beet sugar. In regard to quality beet sugar is superior. Unless extra

care be used beet sugar is apt to have an unpleasant buggy flavor.

Let it be understood that beets can only succeed in moist bottom lands. Melons strike deep root and they grow everywhere on our uplands. No doubt they would thrive luxuriantly in Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. In the sandy soil States south no crop can be more certain, and Baltimore would make a convenient center for supplies of melon sugar works. San Francisco sympathises with Baltimore and means to trade with her. Cheerfully we offer our experiences in everything we think will help her prosperity, and we mean to keep her advised of our success in melon sugar-making, believing it will serve her interest.

Dairy Husbandry.

TURNING DAIRY STOCK IN FALL.

The recent plan of transporting fresh beef from this country to England in ships fitted up with refrigerators is pronounced a success, and is likely to have an important influence on the meat trade of this country. England for a long time has not produced a sufficient supply of meat for her own consumption, and immense numbers of cattle are annually imported into the kingdom for slaughter. The cattle come from various parts of the Continent of Europe, and a visit to the great cattle market at Islington, London, is interesting, not only for the large number of animals exposed there for sale, but for the great variety of breeds coming from the different countries on the Continent. Meats are very expensive in England, and the plan of exporting the carcass in refrigerators, so that it arrives in England fresh and without change, is said to afford a considerable profit to the shippers. The American Grocer, in alluding to the refrigerators in use on the ocean steamers, says:

"Those now in use are built just opposite the main hatchway in what is called the steerage or orlop deck. The ice-box is an air-tight compartment about 70 feet long, 12 feet wide, and in hight from deck to deck. The floor is covered with zinc, and the iron side of the steamer boarded over so as to form a compartment. The wood-work is covered with thick material to insure the box being air-tight. In the center of the floor is a trough to carry off the waste water from the melting ice. In filling the box with ice, large quantities of rock-salt are packed with it. In one corner is a revolving fan which forces the cold air into the meat-box at the top and draws it back at the bottom. This meat box is about 25 feet by 35 feet, and is lined with hooks, on which the beef carcasses are hung. About 200 carcasses are sent every week, and so successful has the venture proved that the quantity sent is only limited by the want of freight room."

So far ten European steamers have been fitted up with this new refrigerator, and it is said the English market will take all the meat that obtainable freight-room will permit being sent. There can be no doubt that this trade will be largely increased, and with a constant increase in the home demand, beef is likely to bear a price that will well pay our farmers for producing it. In view, then, of the comparative scarcity of and increased demand for fat cattle, the question occurs, whether it will not pay dairymen in putting stock to be turned in good order, instead of selling it at the ruinously low rate that is customary. The plan now followed by dairymen, and which has been in operation for many years, is to sell off in fall all animals that do not prove profitable for milk. No attention is paid to putting these animals in condition for the shambles. The price paid for this kind of stock is usually very low, ranging from $8 to $15 per head for animals in ordinary flesh, and $20 to $25 for large-sized cows fit for the butcher. Good-sized younggerly animals, thin in flesh, are put off at the lowest rates named. Some of the animals are well along in years, and the whole lot for sale is often "lumped off" to the buyers dealing in this kind of stock at buyers' prices. In years past the poorer specimens of this kind of stock have been slaughtered merely for the rounds, and the hides and the remaining part of the carcass thrown away. Many an animal that in spring cost the dairyman from $50 to $60, and which, proving unprofitable for milk, has been sold in the fall at from $8 or $10, or for such rates as could be obtained. Now, the cause of these low prices comes from the poor condition of the stock; it is not fit for marketable beef, the farmer thinks it will not pay to winter it, and therefore disposes of it, making a heavy loss between purchase and sale.

The general practice as above described we believe to be all wrong and that better results would be obtained by putting at least a portion of the animals in flesh and fitting them for the shambles. It seems a great waste to kill an animal poor in flesh. If dairymen would more generally engage in growing roots, turnips and mangolds, the animals could be fattened without any great outlay for meal and a considerable profit would be obtained from this branch of the business instead of the loss which is now made. Much of this stock is yielding little or no milk by October, and if they were at once dried off and fed a little meal, with pumpkins, turnips and other available food from the farm, the animals would be in good order by December and could be sold at satisfactory prices. This would be especially the case with young, thrifty stock which have not proved profitable for milk. There are many accidents that occur in the dairy, such as defective udders, the loss of teats, the failing to come in calf, which render it desirable to turn animals that are young and thrifty and which would take on flesh rapidly with a little extra feeding. It is poor economy to sell such stock in the fall when it is out of condition, because it will not bring anything like its real value. English dairymen always make a point of fattening all stock to be turned, and they thus realize a profit from their animals. We believe the same system can be carried out here, and with the prospect of an increased demand for good beef, dairymen will do well to give the matter attention.

The Pall Mall Gazette, in a recent article referring to the importation of American meats and cattle to Scotland, says:

"Last week 154 cattle were sold in Glasgow and brought on an average £33 ($150) each. Never, it is stated, did a lot reach so much on an average. Dead meat is also imported in large quantities. The first sale was held on the 5th of June, when 100 carcasses of beef and 72 of mutton were disposed of. Since then about 150 carcasses on the average have been sold weekly. Last week 210 carcasses were sold, and on Wednesday evening there might have been seen passing through the streets of Glascow to the cattle market the uncommon procession of 33 lorries, each laden with three tons of butchers' meat. The freight paid for carriage to Glascow, Liverpool and London last week amounted to £1,900 ($9,500). Altogether, since the importation began, 1,250,000 pounds of dead meat have been sold in Glasgow. About 1,000 cattle were last week exposed in Glasgow market, and of these 365, dead and alive, were imported from America. Cattle killed on Thursday in New York are sold that day fortnight in Glasgow. In the course of a month or so the importation of live cattle will cease for the winter, but arrangements are being made for increasing the *dead meat* supply, and it is expected to be not less, all the winter, than 200 carcasses a week."

In view of these facts and the prospects of shipping meats largely in the future, we think dairymen will find it to their advantage to make the most of such animals as are not wanted in the dairy, and instead of turning them off for "a mere song," they should be put in condition and sold for a good price. Dairymen have the means at hand for doing this successfully. It only requires a change of a practice which has always resulted in loss, and which has been deplored because no other course seemed feasible.

FOOT ROT IN THE DAIRY.

A correspondent writes us as to the best manner of treating Foot Rot in cows. The treatment adopted successfully by Herkimer County dairymen is to apply an ointment made of lard and red precipitate (oxyd of mercury) to the affected parts and rubbing it in. The ointment is made much stronger than that usually sold at the shops, which is composed of one part red precipitate to eight parts lard. For the purpose named it should be composed of one part of the precipitate to four of lard. It is cheaper and better to purchase the precipitate and make the ointment at home. Take a quarter of a pound of lard, melt it, and then let it cool off until it begins to thicken or is not in a fluid state; then stir in one ounce of red precipitate. In bad cases, where the disease is in the heel and upon the leg, the ointment should be applied and worked in by holding a hot iron near the affected parts. The foot, of course, should be cleaned previous to the application by washing well with soap and soft water. When the disease is between the claws and the animal is fractious, the ointment may be rubbed in by drawing a rope through the parts. One application, if thorough, will generally effect a cure; but if all the parts are not reached by one application, apply again in 48 hours.

We have successfully treated foot rot, when between the claws, by cleaning the parts of dirt and washing thoroughly, then while the parts are wet applying corrosive sublimate in the center of the foot between the claws. The corrosive sublimate is reduced to a powder and a quantity that can be raised on the point of a pen-knife taken. This will be sufficient for one application. The dampness of the parts causes the powder to adhere, which soon produces suppuration.

Foot rot should be treated in the early stages of the disease, as the animal often is in great pain, and when neglected, not unfrequently becomes useless for milk during the remainder of the season. One cause of foot rot, it has been supposed, is from allowing animals to tramp in wet, muddy places; but this is not always the case, as we have known it to occur in herds where the pastures were dry and the animals never allowed to go into muddy places. It sometimes is very bad, running through the whole herd, and prompt measures should be taken in treating the disease in its earliest stages.

VERMONT DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Vermont State Dairymen's Association will be held at the Capitol, Montpelier, on the 25th of October. X. A. Willard of the Rural New-Yorker has been engaged to give the annual address.

The meetings of the Vermont Dairymen's Association have been very largely attended, and the annual session at Montpelier will be of great interest.

The Naturalist.

A WORD FOR THE SNAKES.

Permit me to say a few words in behalf of these much abused animals. Not that some of them do not merit their abuse, but that there are those which do not and the whole class should not suffer for the bad qualities of a part.

The whole class does, however, suffer from this cause, and it is almost impossible to find a single species of serpent to which some one will not impute venomous qualities. At the same time it is an established fact that in every country, Australia excepted, nonvenomous serpents exceed the venomous in numbers. Moreover, in all tropical countries the venomous snakes constitute a greater proportion of the entire number than they do in temperate regions, and in our favored land, especially in the northern states, such as New York, the proportion of venomous snakes is very small. In the above mentioned state fifteen species of snakes are known: only two of these, the Copper-head and Rattle-snake, are venomous and their bites rarely prove fatal if proper remedies are immediately applied. This, however, is often impossible and, as prevention is better than cure, the best plan to adopt is to learn to distinguish these species from all others. This plan I believe to be far better than the one now in vogue, especially among ladies, I mean the custom of running away with screams of terror at the sight of every snake, lizard, crooked stick or other innocent object which a fiction-trained imagination can convert into the semblance of a serpent.

Another undeserved charge is made against these creatures. It is that of viciousness. Here again a quality characteristic of the minority is ascribed to the whole class. Comparatively few of the non-venomous snakes are vicious and many of the venomous snakes do not possess this quality: thus, our northern Rattle-snake is not at all vicious, rarely biting unless it has received some real or fancied injury, and even then it rarely fails to give warning by sounding its ominous rattle. In Australia there is a snake which, though venomous, may be taken up and handled with impunity, as it is so gentle by nature that the idea of biting never seems to enter its head

It is stated that snakes do a great deal of harm by destroying toads, frogs, birds, and other useful animals. This, I regret to say, cannot be denied; but that is no excuse for overlooking the fact that a few of our snakes really do a great deal of good and little or no evil. Such are the Grass-snake and Ring-snake, that subsist upon worms, slugs, and insects; one or two others also, about whose habits little is known, are probably content with the same humble diet. Another, the Ribbon-snake, chooses a more varied bill of fare now dining on toad or frog, now condescending to put up with a dinner of large bugs or other insects. As to the larger serpents that live on birds, frogs, etc., even they partly atone for the damage done in killing these useful animals, by the destruction of field-mice, moles, chipmunks, and many other kinds of small, noxious rodents that infest our fields and gardens. However, only the first mentioned species; namely those living entirely upon insects, can be reckoned among the farmer's real friends, and consequently among those that deserve encouragement and protection.

Before I close I must say a few words for a family closely related to snake. I refer to lizards. Many are in total ignorance as to whether or not they are poisonous. For the benefit of such, let me say that there is not known to science a single lizard that is venomous, all are as harmless, and many as tractable as kittens.

Another point, concerning which some are equally ignorant, is the food of lizards. Many are unable to decide satisfactorily, when they meet with a lizard, whether it is their duty to kill it or to let it go. Lizards, on account of the structure of their jaws, cannot swallow large prey, but are better adapted to feed upon insects from which they, almost exclusively, derive their sustenance so that any one who kills a lizard, instead of benefiting agriculture, is really injuring it. By all means encourage the lizards.

F. W. C.

THE BIRTH OF THE FLY.

Sir John Lubbock, in a recent paper in Nature, London, describes the birth of a May-fly from a full grown larva, which, having observed it to be in a glistening condition, he caught and put under the microscope in a drop of water. Very few minutes had elapsed when he had the satisfaction of seeing the thorax open along the middle of the back; the two sides turned over; the insect literally walked out of itself, unfolded its wings, and in an instant flew up to the window. Several times since he has witnessed this wonderful metamorphosis, and it is extraordinary how rapidly it takes place. From the moment when the skin first cracks, not ten seconds are over before the insect has flown away. Like the ephemeræ, dragon-flies, at first dull, brown, sluggish and ugly larvæ, with six legs, are developed in water. Not so the ant-lion, which passes its early days in dry sand.

Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP FOR ENRICHING LAND.

The National Live Stock Journal, in speaking of the value of sheep for enriching land, says:

"Some fifty years ago Anderson said, 'One thousand sheep folded on an acre of ground one day would manure it sufficiently to feed one thousand and one sheep; so that by this process land which the first year can feed only one thousand sheep, may the next year, as a result of their own droppings, feed thirteen hundred and sixty-five.'

"Sprengel allowed that the manure of fourteen hundred sheep for one day is equal to manuring highly one acre of land, which is about four sheep per year. Mechi, a still more recent authority, estimates that fifteen hundred sheep folded on an acre of land for twenty-four hours, or one hundred sheep for fifteen days, would manure the land sufficiently to carry it through four years' rotation. In the United States much less attention has been paid to this item of profit to be derived from flocks. Only upon the poorer land, and then only from the exceptionally few close-observing and calculating men do we meet with any notice of it at all. Not so in England and France, where the necessities imposed on the density of population and consequent enhanced value of the land compel recognition of every minutia of profit by the cultivator of the soil. There feeding and grazing of sheep enters into a system of rotation with invariable regularity. Without the sheep of England to-day her agriculture would be a failure. Their value to English agriculture is to be found in their manure. Though not of themselves profitable, they make it possible for other branches of agricultural industry to become so.

"Prof. Coleman of the Agricultural College at Cirencester once said, 'It is not difficult to show that sheep alone, apart from their influence on the corn crops, will not pay a living profit after all the expenses of growing the crops are considered.'

"M. Thiers says, 'The agricultural industry of France cannot dispense with sheep.'

"Science has lately made the gum washing from fleeces at the factories contribute to the fertilization of soils. Mr. Hayes tells us that the French chemists, MM. Maumene and Rogelet, have established very recently at the great seats of the woolen manufacture in France, as at Rheims and Elbeuf, factories for putting the new industry which they have created into practical operation. They induce the woolen manufacturers to preserve and sell to them the solutions of yolk obtained by the washing of the raw fleeces in cold water, and pay such a price as encourages the manufacturers to wash their wool methodically, so as to enrich the same water with the yolk of a number of fleeces. These scourings the chemists carry to their factory and there boil them down to a dry, carbonaceous residuum. The alkaline salts remain in the charred residuum, and are extracted by lixiviation with water. The most important of the alkalies obtained is potash, which is recovered in a state of great purity. It is computed that if the fleeces of all the sheep of France, estimated at 49,000,000, were subjected to the new treatment, France would derive from this source alone all the potash she requires in the arts—enough to make about 12,000 tons of commercial carbonate potash, convertible into 17,500 tons of saltpeter, which would charge 1,870,000 cartridges."

The Centennial.

COLLAPSE OF THE CENTENNIAL DAIRY RING.

CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION,
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 4, 1876.

YOUR contemporaries of the agricultural press seem to have visited considerable censure upon the RURAL for its position in the matter of the Committee having in charge the Dairy interests here, but, after a thorough investigation of the whole affair during the last week, I cannot see anything other than justification for what you have said. It became necessary to resort to some of the means known only to newspaper correspondents to get the desired information, as the heads of the departments and officials generally are, and always have been, quite reticent about this disgraceful branch of the great Exhibition. Therefore, my facts had to be collected piecemeal.

It seems that the Legislature of the State of New York appropriated the sum of $8,000 to help defray the expenses of the Dairy Exhibition here, and that some $1,000 or $5,000 more was raised by private subscription to the Centennial Stock, making an aggregate of between $12,000 and $13,000. While the plans of the building were under advisement by the Committee, the Centennial Commission made an offer of the use of a part of the Pomological Building for this exhibit. It could have been partitioned off and altered to be in every way as large and available for the purpose as that part of the present Dairy Building *not* now occupied by the cheap hash-house or feeding-shop, and all this for about $3,000. Of course, if this were done, no room would be left for the soup and hash departments, nor would there be much profit upon the carpenter and mason work. It was decided by the Committee to reject the offer and build their own house. Plans were then submitted by Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Blanding, and those of the latter were chosen, his estimate of the cost being $10,000. He proceeded with the building quite rapidly under the supervision of the Dairy Committee, of whom the active members were Messrs. Lewis, Scoville, Pope, Shull, Reall, Ward, Blanding, Hawley, and L. B. Arnold, who is also Judge and Jury of the Exhibits and receives a salary of $600 for the season. Mr. Pope was appointed Superintendent and Mr. Blanding Custodian (whatever that may be), while to Brother Hawley was given, I am informed, some minor office by which he was enabled to foot his board bills. What Mr. Pope's pay is for all his trouble is something "which no fellow can find out." Blanding built his house, and when it was about finished I took a builder to view it, in order to get an estimate of its probable cost. He examining it carefully and, after figuring on it, decided that it could be built for about $6,500. Blanding told me it cost him $10,300. He certainly must be a poor contractor or has made some serious mistake.

In the meantime Mr. Reall became dissatisfied with his co-members of the Committee and resigned by a letter in which he accuses the Committee, and especially Chairman Scoville, of all sorts of horrible things. Upon this resignation the Committee had a ridiculous pow-wow and spent a day in discussion, resulting in resolutions that Reall was a bad man, that they were all good men, and that the Blanding house was all right. They accepted Reall's resignation and refused to investigate themselves, all of which was eminently proper under the circumstances. The affairs of the Committee then progressed very smoothly in every way, except that the Exhibition, for which all the money was spent, did not exist. People did not send butter or cheese.

Mr. Blanding, having finished this cheese palace, found himself immensely out of pocket and asked his fellow-laborers (I believe that is the word) to permit him to run an eating-house in the building. Concession was obtained for that purpose from the Commission and a resolution offered in the Dairy Committee to give the *entire control and profits* of the restaurant to Blanding. Here began the little unpleasantness. Pope objected—nay, protested. But the balance of the Committee were better-hearted than Pope. They felt sorry for poor Blanding, who could only get $10,000 for a $6,500 building. They passed the resolution, and Pope recorded himself in the negative.

Meanwhile Harris Lewis, who is nothing if he is not as cunning as a weasel, had been sending communications to the various newspapers, defending the RING, to all of which he forgot to sign his name:

Yesterday, while on the ground, I went through the building. I saw a few cheeses, no butter, and a beggarly array of implements for manufacture. These were contained in about one-half of the first story. In the other half of this floor there were elegant rows of empty display stands, which presented the appearance of circus seats before the audience have been admitted. Upon the upper floor I found a large office devoted to the Superintendent and a minor office which seemed to be occupied by Blanding and Hawley during the little time they could spare from the supervision of the soup and hash department. There was also a large room fitted up with tables and seats for the accommodation of the soup customers; another one for a like purpose, and quite a number of smaller rooms devoted to hash-making, dish-washing and sleeping apartments for the waiter girls. In addition to this, the entire piazza surrounding the inner court of this floor is fitted up with seats and tables for feeders. One of the pleasantest sights which met my eye during my visit occurred at noon when the poor, unfortunate dupes, attracted by the signs of food, crowded forward to refresh the inner man. The unfortunate waiter girls were at their wits' end to supply the unusual demand, when Brother Hawley, whose eloquence upon the Salt question has enchained thousands of dairymen at the different conventions, stepped into the breach and helped the poor girls to wait on the tables. I always knew the old gentleman was kind-hearted, especially where the opposite sex appealed to him, but this spectacle almost brought tears to my eyes.

Mr. Pope, failing to carry his point against the restaurant, made strenuous objections to the use for such purposes of the large room designed for packing and preparing cheese for exhibition. In this he was sustained by the Commission, and the waiter girls have been locked out of this room. It appears to have been very inconvenient to Blanding, Hawley & Co., as they could have filled the room every mid-day with cash customers for their soup and crackers. Accordingly this gallant firm of Centennial caterers at once pronounced Mr. Pope entirely incompetent for his position of Superintendent and made charges against him, accompanied with a demand for his immediate removal and an apology for their mistake in having recommended his appointment. This roused Mr. Pope, who, in turn, made serious charges against both Blanding and Hawley, accusing the one of intemperate habits and the other of improper conduct, and asked for an investigation of the whole affairs of the Dairy Exhibition by the Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture. Accompanying his charges was a request that certain persons of both sexes should be forbidden to occupy quarters during the night in the Dairy Building. The last request was so eminently proper that the prohibition was made at once and the number limited to those who were absolutely necessary in carrying on the institution.

The Dairy Committee were called together by Mr. Hawley for the purpose of declaring Mr. Pope incompetent and requesting his removal; but they did not make their appearance. Judging from the fact that Mr. Arnold advised Pope to resign and then disappeared from Philadelphia, I should say that he, too, is in full sympathy with the "Eating-House Ring," but intends to do his fighting from a safe place.

Mr. Pope says he is not only competent to be Superintendent, but is equally competent to take care of himself and doesn't propose to allow himself to be driven away by any such element as is now seeking his removal. He intends to demand Blanding's accounts, and expects very interesting developments upon their presentation.

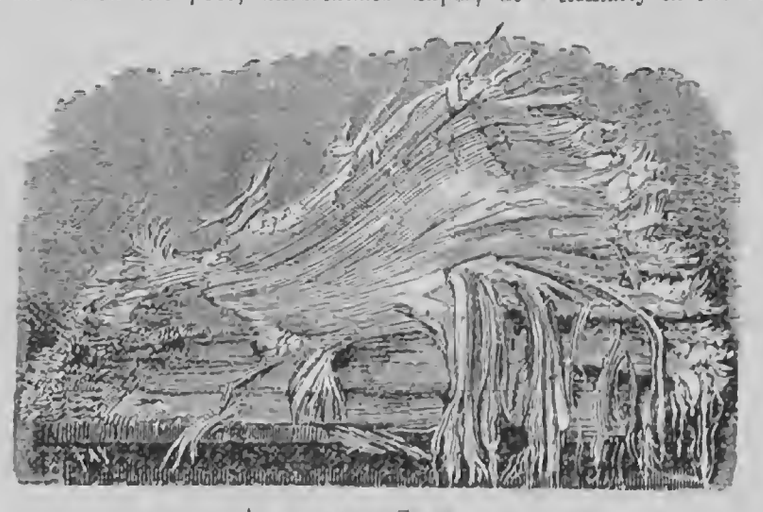
So stands the record to-day of one of the most disgraceful prostitutions of an important interest that this country has ever seen, and any one who attributes the above statement to any other than a simple desire to state facts, has only to make a thorough investigation to discover its truth. That the Dairy Exhibition is a total failure and that the Committee intrusted with its management have resolved themselves into a set of squabblers over spoils are facts which no one can deny who knows anything about the affair. A Committee which should have been above the breath of suspicion have failed to retain the confidence of even the careless Commission, who intrusted them with the entire control and management of this special Exhibition. That there are pure-minded men on this Committee there can be no doubt; but their negligence of their trust must have equaled their purity, or the whole Exhibition could not have sunk to its present depths.

"When rogues fall out honest men get their dues," and it is earnestly to be hoped that this internal dissension will be productive of sufficient cleaning of the Augean stables to permit a good Dairy Exhibition during the now short time the Centennial lasts. SHORTHORN.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS—ASBESTOS.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 6, 1876.

ASBESTOS is the sphinx of minerals—one can never guess at the extent of its possibilities. There is an exhibit at the Centennial, in Machinery Hall and in the Main Building, but particularly in the former, that is a most curious and instructive display. It is a monument to steady, patient endeavor, intelligently directed.



ASBESTOS OF COMMERCE.

What is asbestos? Why, it is a term. It is popularly presumed to be a mineral, but it is merely a term to denote a peculiar form assumed by several minerals. Tremolite, actinolite, and other forms of hornblende—excepting those containing alumina—pass into fibrous varieties, the fibers of which are sometimes very long, fine, flexible and easily separable by the fingers, looking much like flax. These and the corresponding mineral, Pyroxene, are called Asbestos. From the time of its first discovery it has consistently maintained its sphinx-like character. PLINY supposed it to be a vegetable product.

Its use among both Greeks and Romans was quite extensive, being woven into garments, gloves, napkins and funeral robes. It was a famous covering for bodies about to be cremated, as the ashes could be gathered up so nicely after the "firing-up" process was completed. The art of weaving asbestos was, until quite recently, a lost one. An Italian Count has latterly discovered the secrets of the ancients and is about to resurrect the process. The amianthus of the ancients is now applied only to the more silky and finer kinds.

Asbestos varies in color from white to green and wood-brown. The individual crystals are elastic, flexible, and have a fine lustre. The finest varieties come from Italy, but our own country furnishes the mineral in large quantities, notably, New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The illustration above gives a somewhat accurate idea of the abestos of commerce.

Notwithstanding the mineral was so well known in former times, it remained for American industry to evolve the highest possibilities. It is to the credit of Mr. H. W. Johns, of New York, that he has, through untiring industry, been successful in shaping asbestos into various forms that renders it available for a multiplicity of purposes hitherto undreamt of.

Knowing that it was absolutely fire-proof, suggested the idea that it would make the best of roofing material; and as the mineral can be spun, woven, or felted, while yet retaining its fibrous nature, it became a valuable roof-covering, a purity of reasoning caused its application as a steam packing, and finally it was determined to try what could be done with asbestos as a paint.

It receives and contains the most brilliant colors, and experiment soon demonstrated that a superior paint could be produced. Not content with this great advance in the manipulation of asbestos, Mr. Johns has gone still further and made an absolutely fire-proof cement that, combined with other minerals forms an elastic, adhesive compound that is easily applied, and possesses a degree of toughness and durability that leaves nothing to be desired. The applications of these various products of this protean mineral will suggest themselves to the mind of the reader much more rapidly than they can be described.

Mr. Johns commenced manufacturing in 1858, confining himself to roofing materials, and from time to time has introduced the various other products, until up to the present time, when he is enabled to make a display to the nations of the world that command the respectful admiration of thousands, and compel the Grand Medal of Merit, and Diploma of Honor at the hands of the Jurors of Awards appointed by the Centennial Commission. Aside from its interest as a curious, and interesting display, it will well repay our readers who have yet to visit the Centennial to give this exhibit careful study, as it embraces materials that will at once appeal to their practical necessities. Y. R.

ORCHESTRIAN CHIMES.

OUR attention has recently been called to a new organ made by Horace Waters & Son, that combines so many new and excellent features that it is deserving of special comment. This firm has from time to time made and introduced improvements in parlor and cabinet organs, but their last novelty, Waters Orchestrian Chimes is in advance of anything heretofore to offend to the musical public.

The instrument has 12 stops, including a dulciana, concerto, piccolo, vox humana and tremolo, not to mention the Chimes which is its chief distinction. In volume, purity and resonance of tone, it more resembles a full organ than a cabinet instrument, yet it is sweet and soft as a lute when this effect is desired. Its action is easy and sprightly, and rare thing, the Chimes are positively musical! The case is convenience itself, being so arranged that the music racks, on either side the treadles, can be completely inclosed, and the upper portion can be converted into a writing desk as well. It is handsomely finished in walnut and veneers, and when not in use can be compactly closed, leaving none of the working parts subject to the inquisitive attentions of children. Style No. 1 is sold for $375, a reasonable figure when its many excellencies are considered. Messrs. H. Waters & Son are about to move into their new and elegant store in 14th St., facing Union Square, where the instrument above mentioned may be seen and heard by our readers, who pass through New York on their way to or from the Centennial.

THE "DEXTER" SPRING.

THIS is a novel application of spring power that has passed through its experimental existence, and is now a well-tried and assured success. The Dexter Spring Co., Hulton, Pa., during a business experience of three years, have sold over 8,000 springs, an unusual circumstance. They have yet to hear from a purchaser who is not well pleased with his investment, while the autograph letters in commendation of the article are flattering to an extreme degree.

The points claimed for this spring are: Strength, Durability, Beauty, Cheapness, and that it is Graceful, Noiseless, Light and of Easy Motion.

The Dexter consists essentially of two "concord" or side-springs upon each side, one spring above the other and parallel to it. The two springs are rigidly attached to each other at their centres, and are pivoted at their ends to spring links above, or on either side of axle and spring bar. The spring links are rigidly attached to the head-block and rear axle respectively.

The parallel motion of the springs prevents rocking of the axles. One spring being above the other prevents side motion and the settling of the body to one side. The absence of a reach allows either wheel to pass over an obstruction almost independently of the other wheels. The elasticity of the springs takes much strain off the fifth wheel, and cushions the stroke when striking an obstruction.

The slatted frame or body is held at its centre, and is free at each end.

No extra braces are needed to hold the wheels in track, since every strain tending to throw the wheels out of track comes upon the slatted frame or body, in a direction diagonal to its length,—the strongest direction possible. The Dexter has greater capabilities of carrying a light load easily, and again of sustaining a heavy load and carrying it easier. The workmanship is as perfect as skilled labor can produce. The irons used are of the best and the springs are cast steel, oil tempered.

M. Grier the Sec. of the company, exhibits this spring in the S. W. corner of the Carriage Annex Centennial Exhibition, where he also has a buck wagon that is used to practically test the qualities of the spring. We rode in this wagon over a vacant lot, near the grounds. The space was filled with heaps of rocks and rubbish in hillocks, and the horse and wagon were driven over and into this stuff in a way that would have wrecked an ordinary contrivance, yet the motion was not very violent, and the springs were not strained in the least. Such a test is, we think, conclusive.

Pomological.

ABOUT THE NEW PEACHES.

THERE have been so many contradictory statements going the rounds of the press in regard to the earliness of several of the new varieties of peaches, that we have made some efforts to get at the truth. Knowing that the veteran Pomologist, Mr. CHARLES DOWNING, had also paid some attention to these new sorts, we requested him to give us the facts as developed by his investigations and experience, and here they are in a brief note just received, which we think decides the question as to which is the earliest of the three sorts named. Mr. DOWNING writes:

The new peaches—Alexander's Early, Amsden's June and Honeywell—these all ripened this year so nearly at the same time that it is diffi-

cult to say what is the difference, if any. Last season the Honeywell ripened two or three days in advance of Alexander's Early, both growing near together; this season both are ripe at the same time. In another garden near here, Alexander's Early and Amsden's June, worked on the same tree, were in eating the same day, which would make the three varieties ripen at the same time. The fruit of each, in form, color, flesh and quality, are so near alike that I am unable to see any difference. The Honeywell however, has no glands, while the other two have.

If the record as to their origin is correct, there is no doubt that they are all of different origin, but not yet distinguishable, and all are probably seedlings of Hale's Early.

I have not seen High's Early Canada this season, but as shown last year, think it similar to the above kinds.

The Early Beatrice, in the same neighborhood, ripened about the same time, but was less in size, not as high colored, but more melting, higher flavored and quite free from the pit, while the others adhered slightly.

Now I do not say these peaches will all ripen at the same time, neither can any true decision be arrived at until all are planted in the same locality, near each other, the trees well established and have borne three or four successive crops.

[It would not be surprising if it should turn out that Hale's Early, like the old Indian or Blood peach and a few other well known sorts, would reproduce itself from seed, the difference in time of ripening being accounted for in the difference of soil and exposure.—ED.]

PACKING APPLES.

THE Wisconsin Horticultural Society gives through its report the following good advice on packing apples:

Under the term packing we include the whole operation of storing and keeping after picking, until finally disposed of. We recommend, as the best article to pack in, a well made, clean, new barrel, holding 2⅛ bushels, and perfectly seasoned and dry when the fruit is put in it. Take the barrel under the tree or near it, and taking out the head fill it a little more than level full, and then cover with short boards so as to exclude sunshine and rain, and with two or three sticks of stove wood, or some means of keeping the bottom of the barrel off the ground, leave it for a week or two to sweet and dry out, when the head must be pressed down to its place and the hoops driven on tight, and nailed on both ends. If the barrel is not level full when headed up, it must be made so, as this is most essential to prevent after handling of the barrel bruising the apples. Failure in this one thing of pressing the contents of the barrel, so that there shall be no loose apples, and no working in any manner of the whole or any part of them, will involve serious danger of loss of all the labor previously bestowed; and yet we find that right here is the great neglect. Right picking and right packages are all useless if afterward the fruit is bruised in consequence of loose packing.

We greatly prefer to put the fruit immediately into the barrel in the orchard, and head up the barrel before it is moved, to the method so often recommended of picking and carrying to some out-house or chamber to cure before packing; as it saves much labor, involves less risk of bruising, and requires less time. When the barrels are headed up, they may be laid on the side, on sticks, and left in the orchard if the weather is fair, or removed to some out-house, barn, or any place where they will be dry and cool. It is a good way to lay down some poles and rails near the cellar where they are to be kept during the winter, and lay the barrels on them, and cover them temporarily with boards. The point to be aimed at is to keep them as cool and dry as possible, and out of the cellar till winter or very freezing weather, as it is a well-established fact that an apple will bear more cold and freezing without affecting its quality than any other fruit or vegetable, especially if kept in the dark and all air excluded. Another reason for choosing tight packages is that light and air in conjunction with warmth rapidly change the structure or internal condition of the fruit and induce decay. The same agencies which operated in maturing and perfecting it will, after it is matured, ripen and afterward destroy. It is essential to success in keeping fruit in any manner, or by any method, to keep this fact in view and to be governed by it.

The writer has known apples packed as above directed and put in a dark cellar, to be frozen solid, clear through, and remain so for weeks, and on being opened in May, show no signs of injury in looks or taste. There is no question but that it will always pay to pack apples as herein directed, even if they are to be sold immediately, and there were never so many apples on the market but there would be remunerative prices paid for such by parties knowing how they were picked and packed. In commencing to fill the barrel with the apples, some advise placing the layer all with the stem end down, which gives a fine appearance when opened, and helps to sell it; of course there is no harm in doing so, provided you do not select larger and better specimens for that layer, as looks are to be regarded as desirable just as long as they do not deceive. We advise in all cases, instead of putting apples in a cellar to keep for Spring and Summer use, to have one especially devoted to that use, or to partition off a room in it which can be kept cold, even below the freezing point, and at the same time be dry. We repeat that there is more danger from warmth than cold, from light than darkness, from handling than from lying still. Lastly, mark each barrel distinctly with the variety and grade on the end which should be opened.

ANOTHER EARLY PEACH.—C. L. W. of Stanton, Kan., writes that he has a new seedling peach that ripened this season the 28th of June, and the entire crop had ripened and gone by July 4th. It is claimed to be two weeks earlier than Hale's Early.

Floricultural.

OVERLOOKRD WILD PLANTS.

"We look too high
For things close by."

OFTEN at this season of the year while every night we are dreading frosts which cannot at best be long delayed, we have noticed while riding over the country or walking through the fields, the rich purple, the lilac and the white Asters that bloom in countless numbers and almost solid sheets along hedges, upon hills and in vales. We have looked at these many times, admiringly perhaps in a general way, as one would look over a green field admiringly and yet never know or care whether it was a field of clover or of grass.

Last fall a friend in the West sent us several roots which were placed in the conservatory and turned out in the spring. They grow amazingly and we soon detected a suspicious resemblance in them to our familiars of the hedges and fields. "What are they?" we asked of our friend when in the summer he called at the RURAL office—"they look like weeds." "Just wait" he replied with a confident look that they could not fail to surprise us with their beauty—and we waited. Two weeks ago, the buds began to unfold. Some of the plants had grown to a hight of five feet. All are now a sheet of purple and yellow and lilac and yellow, the latter not so tall by a foot as the others. Our suspicions proved to be the truth. The first is *Aster Novae Angliae*. For those who have not observed this plant—and strange as it may seem, they are many—let us briefly say that the stems are rather slender and much branched. The leaves which are close together and necessarily very numerous, are as much as three inches long upon the main stems and less than an inch upon the branchlets — narrow, stem-clasping and auricled. The flowers are nearly two inches across, the rays of a beautiful bluish-purple and the discs yellow. Upon one of these plants which we have said is five feet high, we count 350 flowers.

Had our friend, who though a great lover of plants, cares little in respect of their botanical relationship, not said "just wait" we should probably have pulled these Asters out of the shrubbery plot in which they are growing and thrown them away. But we were willing, perhaps a little curious, to note, under cultivation, what there was about them that should have induced him to express them to us from the West, that, though growing in wild abundance about us at home, had so long escaped our notice. Well, it is simply the fact that we can not divest ourselves of the depreciation with which we view wild plants that bloom about us in almost every quarter. *A. Novae Angliae* otherwise would unquestionably be deemed worthy a place in any part of the garden, as, indeed, it is so deemed in foreign countries to which it is not indigenous. But whether or no, we will say to our friends, who are collecting native plants for the laying out of a wild garden, that these late and profuse-blooming Asters should certainly find a place.

The other (*Aster undulatus*) reminds us in its inflorescence of the several shrubs sometimes called Bridal Wreaths such as *Hypericum* and the flowering Plums, its flowers being in curved racemes and bearing ten where *Novae Angliae* bears one, though but half the size. The color of the rays is a delicate lilac while the discs are lemon at first and reddish as they fade. Although under cultivation they form a solid mass of bloom, they are prettier close by than at a distance when the effect is somewhat hazy and neutral.

HANGING BASKETS.

THE handsomest hanging baskets I have seen this season were filled, one with Kenilworth Ivy, and the other with Maurandya Vine. Both plants were raised from seeds, sowed last spring, with no especial care paid them. Good drainage and copious watering being all that is required for their rapid growth.

The Kenilworth Ivy was in a large basket with numerous plants growing near the edge, which had grown into a perfect tangle all over and around it. The dainty leaves and diminutive flowers, made it a charming ornament. The foliage of the Maurandya Vine has such an Ivy-like appearance that those unacquainted with it are surprised at its superb, brilliant, foxglove like blossoms. It is easily grown from seeds or slips. The plants are difficult to separate after being grown near together, as the leaves and branches intertwine and cling so tightly, that it is almost impossible to part them without injury. These vines are exceedingly graceful, while *some* of the plants, used for hanging baskets, are inclined to be rather stiff in appearance.

No. Fairfield, Ohio, MRS. L. E. K. TURNER.

EXCHANGE.

I WAS much pleased with your plan of giving space for the benefit of those wishing to exchange roots, seeds &c., &c. I shall have a large quantity of Dahlias next spring which I would like to exchange for any of the following:—Chinese Paeonies, Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocus, Anemones, Crown Imperials, Cyclamens, Scillas, Lillies except Tiger, etc.—or for many of the hardy shrubs or any novelties. I have probably as fine a collection of Dahlias as can be found—four hundred different varieties, one-half seedlings of my own growing. The above named bulbs should be sent this fall by those, if any, who wish to exchange for the above collection of Dahlias.—A. G. BISBEE, *Chester Cross Roads, Ohio.*

I have been reading the description of your flowers in the RURAL NEW-YORKER from time to time, and, being a great lover of flowers, feel much interested in them. I have a quantity of tubers of Madeira Vine (*Boussingaultia basseloides*) and bulbs of the Pink Lily (?) and would be much pleased to exchange with any subscriber a tuber and a bulb for either of the following: Chinese Yam (*Dioscorea batatas*), *Triloma uvaria*, *Caladium*, *Amaryllis* or any of the Japan Lilies, Tigridias or Smilax.—MRS. L. P. HUGHES, *Quakertown, Union, Indiana.*

I have a good stock of seeds of *Celosia Japonica* and Snapdragon (mixed colors) which I would like to exchange for Asters, mixed colors, and Pansies of the large flowering kinds. It hardly pays to cultivate the old China Asters and little Johnny-jumpers now-a-days, but I have been obliged to wait for our Centennial Exchange to come along to help me to something better. I have also some Amaranths, different varieties—would exchange for same.—MARY WALEY, *Poquonoc Bridge, Ct.*

NOTES.

FLORIDA.—A gentleman, writing to the Rural Home from Florida, says. "In this famed "Land of Flowers" flowers are so scarce and difficult to raise that we are anxious to get all that can be made to grow here."

LILIUM AURATUM in this climate very seldom, if ever, displays the beauty and luxuriance induced by special culture and a more congenial climate. The Journal of Horticulture speaks of a plant that last year attained a hight of 11 feet; and this year the same bulb threw up a spike 10 feet 6 inches in hight. In the same garden this year one clump, the offspring of three bulbs, produced 170 flowers. The soil in which these Lilies thrive in such a remarkable manner is sandy loam, having an admixture of peat, the subsoil being sand. They grow among Rhododendrons and are watered copiously, though for a long time watering, as also manure, were considered quite injurious if not fatal to them. Partial shade and liberal supplies of water are now regarded in England as the main elements of success.

Entomological.

CONGRESS AND THE GRASSHOPPER.

AT the close of the late meeting of the Agricultural Congress, Prof. CHARLES V. RILEY of Missouri offered the following preambles and resolutions, which we think should be heeded by our National Legislature:

Whereas, The people of some of the Western and Northwestern States have again been afflicted by the Rocky Mountain Locust scourge; and

Whereas, The devastations of this insect form the most serious obstacle to the settlement and welfare of much of the country between the Mississippi and the mountains, and have become a national calamity; and

Whereas, There is yet much to learn of the native breeding-places of the pest, and some hope that, by more thorough knowledge of those native breeding-places and the causes of migration therefrom, we may be able to prevent invasion into the more fertile country to which the species is not indigenous; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the emphatic opinion of this Congress that some action should be taken by the National Government that will have for its object the palliation or extinction of this crying evil.

Resolved, That we consider that Congress owes it to the people of the West to take this matter into consideration, and we call upon the next National Legislature to follow the example of other nations under like circumstances, and appoint a special commission for thorough investigation on the subject.

Resolved, That the passage of some such bill as that introduced during the last Congress by Senator Ingalls of Kansas (S. 438), while contemplating the investigation of a few other insects of national importance, such as the cotton worm of the South, would have been of vast moment to the people of the South and West, and would have brought about the needed investigation into the Locust question.

Industrial Societies.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE FAIR.

MANCHESTER, N. H., Oct. 5, 1876.

THE Twenty-Second Annual Fair of the New Hampshire State Agricultural Association is now in progress here, and promises to be a financial success. The show in many of the Departments was fully up to the average—especially in cattle, which is fine. In this class working cattle takes the lead and there are several fine teams. Frank Jones, Portsmouth, N. H., showed one team of 13 Yoke of oxen that are very fine—one pair weighing over 5,700 lbs. Chester Pike Cornish, N. H., showed a fine team of 10 Yoke. There was not a very large show of Short-Horns, Devons taking the lead. Ward Parker, Amherst, made a fine show of this breed, as did also John B. Sanborn, E. Concord. Warren Daniels, Franklin, exhibited a good herd of Jerseys. Peter Jones showed several fine Jerseys and Ayrshires. Henry Elwell, Langdon, N. H., a herd of Short-Horns. Arthur Cluff, Canterbury, N. H., a lot of Herefords. The State Reform School made a good show of grades. The cattle displayed were more for milk than any other purpose, good grades taking the lead of pure Bloods in this state.

The show of sheep was not large, some good Cotswolds with a few Merinos and about 25 grades being all. Swine were well represented, about equally divided between the white and black breeds. The show of Poultry was large, including a good show of Dorkings, Hamburgs and Game fowls, but very few Asiatics. Pigeons, Turkeys, Geese and Ducks were well represented, with a few very good specimens in each class. The show of fruit was the largest this society has made for some time. Small fruits of all kinds have done well here this year hence this fine display. The Flower and Plant show was monopolized by J. T. Smith & Sons, Brentwood, N. H. H. H. Huntress, Manchester, and Dunlap & Co., Concord, each making a fine exhibit. The Dairy exhibit was a failure, half a dozen cheeses and a few samples of butter being all there was to see in this department. The show of Agricultural Implements was not as large as usual, the Centennial keeping many of the large exhibitors away.

Messrs. Everett & Small, Boston, Mass., made a fine exhibit of their New Improved Holbrook Swivel Plows, Charter Oak-Lawn Mowers, Acher Self Dump Rakes, (which took the highest award at the Centennial) and Bradley's reversible Harrows.

The Ames Plow Co., Boston, made a fine display of Plows, Cider Presses, Mills, &c. They have brought out a new Swivel Plow this year which they have named the Centennial. It has been thoroughly tried and has given good satisfaction.

R. B. Hakes, Worcester, Mass., showed his Patent Swivel Plow. Mowing Machines were represented by the "Haymaker," "Buckeye" and "Wood's Eagle." Horse Powers and Threshers, by A. W. Gray & Sons. Hay Rakes by the "Archer," "Gleaner" &c.

There was the usual show of home-made work and curiosities filling the Domestic Art and other departments. The California Polo Club and a series of Horse Trots were used to draw a crowd, which with these inducements was run up to about fifteen thousand yesterday. To-day it has rained so that the attendance was small. To-morrow will be the Gala day as all the mills will close, and as at the present writing it bids fair to be pleasant, the managers anticipate a large crowd. The thanks of your correspondent are due to Secretary Young and Superintendant Fling for courtesies extended. NIM.

Scientific and Useful.

READY MADE FOOD FOR PLANTS.

Science and Scientists, are supposed to assist agriculturists in obtaining useful information as well as those occupied in other industries. The chemist, mineralogist and geologist are working in fields where discoveries are constantly being made which may be turned to valuable account by the tillers of the soil, and we may add that the farmer is well aware of this fact, hence he looks to these men for light upon subjects in which he is especially interested.

That there are men making these branches of Science a specialty who would not scruple to deceive others for a consideration, cannot be denied, but we are pleased to say that they are the exceptions to the rule. Occasionally however, some real or supposed scientist makes a ludicrous mistake and it is frequently the case that it is difficult to determine whether it was intentional or the result of ignorance, and it is in this rather unsettled state of mind that we find ourselves in examining the claims of Prof. J. B. Wilson of Baltimore Md., in regard to the value of diatoms as the food of plants. It is well known that the immense beds of fossil diatoms found in various parts of the world, have attracted the attention of scientists who have endeavored to utilize them, and in a measure they have been successful, but Prof. Wilson has of late put forth claims as to their value as a fertilizer, or as we may term it, "ready-made food for plants," which are simply astounding to any one who knows the rudimentary principles of chemistry or vegetable physiology; in fact he has so overshot the mark that the merest tyro in either of the above named branches of science will be enabled to detect his blunder, if we call it by no worse name. Strange as it may seem however, the Professor's lucubrations have been published in such respectable Journals, as Silliman's American Journal of Science, (London), and also admitted to the pages of the Monthly Microscopical Journal, (London), without scarcely a comment, either as an indorsement of theories advanced, or a criticism upon them; consequently we are inclined to think that, if such scientific journals can be hoodwinked into publishing such statements other, and less able periodicals, may also do the same, and that many converts may thus be made to a very ridiculous theory, which may be summed up in a few words, to wit:—Professor Wilson claims that the "*silica of Grasses and other plants is carried up as Diatoms, or other siliceous grains, and not in solution or as soluble silicates*," or to put it in less scientific but plainer language, that the stems of plants are built of diatoms as a boy would build a cobhouse, there being no dissolving of elements in the process.

But the farmer may ask where is he to obtain this wonderful diatomaceous or infusorial earth which will supply the ready prepared materials to make wheat, oat, and rye straw, and just here we will let out the secret of the above wonderful discovery of Prof. Wilson. There is a large bed of this precious earth on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay, owned and for sale at a certain price per ton, and right here we can, to use a homely phrase "account for the milk in that cocoa-nut."

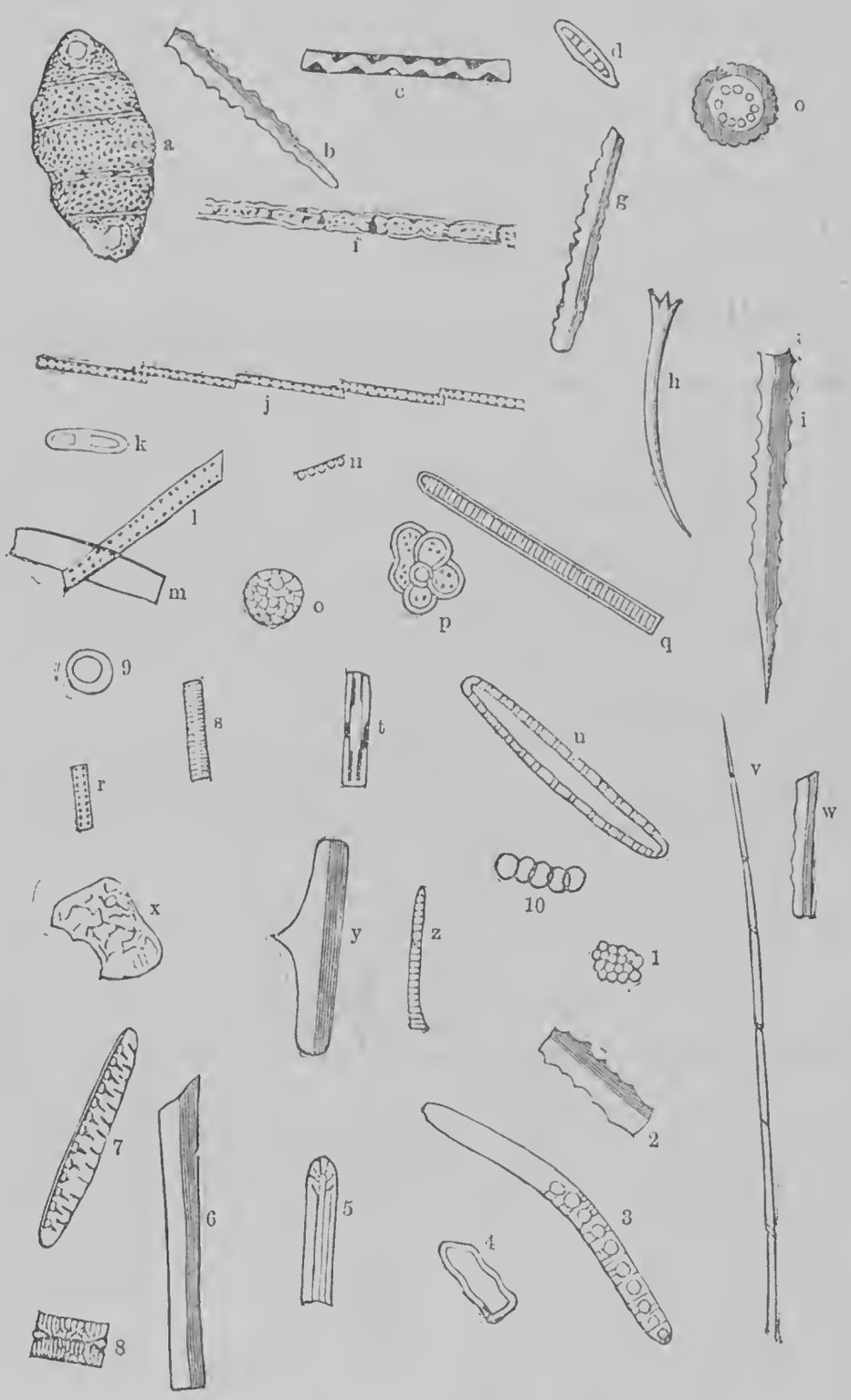
But lest the readers of the Rural New Yorker should fail to appreciate this "great discovery," we have procured a copy of the original illustrations of the wonderful diatoms &c., which Prof. W. found in Col. Kunkel's straw, grown on this now celebrated infusorial earth, found on the shore of Chesapeake Bay. For the accompanying illustration we are indebted to that wide-awake and invaluable monthly, the Journal of Microscopy of this City, edited by the widely known Scientist, Mr. John Phin.

But we will quote a few extracts from Prof. Wilson's own letters in regard to his discovery. In a letter to Messrs. G. A N. Porlein, he says:

"In making these investigations, thorough precautions were observed, to cleanse the straw from all accidental impurities by washing and gentle friction, not sufficient however, to destroy the epidermis. This was to profit by Ehrenberg's experience, and investigation of dust showers, which he has found to contain some infusorial forms. The organic matter was then removed by the prescribed methods, aided by my own experience.

My labors have been amply rewarded by one of the most enchanting views, that has ever fallen to my lot to behold through twenty years of varied scientific investigations. When the epidermal silicious coating was adjusted upon the field of the microscope, some thirty-six forms of the diatomaceæ, which I have carefully sketched, were observed (see wood cut magnified 300 diameters), where perfect disintegration has been produced. When the structure to a great extent is retained, the marvelous interlacing of these forms present themselves, sometimes side by side, at other times overlapping, showing with what vigor and regularity nature performs the dictates of her laws.

This investigation is final. It overthrows all theories that have ever been advanced, that silica enters into plant structure in combination with the alkalies, the alkaline earths, or the earths proper. Chemical investigation led me to this conclusion some months since, now confirmed by that of the microscope. A new era has dawned upon the science of agriculture. By close observation and strict scientific investigation, *new information* will be brought to light to reward the tiller of the soil for his time, labor and capital. * * * * * These microscopic investigations show the absence of other forms of silica, that is, in granular particles in the (Kunkel) straw, they being entirely replaced by diatoms. This leads to the conclusion that the diatom is the more acceptable for assimilation and when sufficient infusorial remains are present, replaces any other divided form of silica."



FORMS OF DIATOMS FOUND IN COL. KUNKEL'S STRAW.
MAGNIFIED 300 DIAMETERS.

And he endeavors to impress his readers with the trust-worthiness of his observations by the following self-gratulatory sentence:

"I look upon this application of vegetable silica to fertilizing purposes as the most important adaptation of matter for the reproduction of vegetation that has ever been discovered. It is the first step in a new direction, rationally conceived and judiciously carried out: a new impetus to the study of plant physiology will be given, and demonstrate that more than a heterogeneous mixture of elementary bodies, and their compounds, is required for the production of the crops beneficial to the requirements of man."

Now all this is certainly grand and beautiful if we could only believe it, but here comes the editor of the Journal of Microscopy and knocks down that cob-house. Hear him:

"A single glance at the engraving to which he so confidently refers is sufficient to convince any microscopist that Professor P. B. Wilson never saw 'upon the field of his microscope,' under the circumstances which he has described, the objects which he has delineated. This is a bold assertion, and a severe accusation, but the proof is simple and unimpeachable.

"Bearing in mind that these organisms, as figured, have been obtained by destroying the organic matter with nitric acid, we find *Bacillaria* (Fig. j) figured as it exists only in the living condition—the frustules being joined together in the peculiar way which has given to this form the specific name *paradoxa!!!* For this diatom to have passed through a bath of nitric acid, and come out in the condition figured, would have been almost as great a miracle as the passing of Shadrach, Meshech and Abed-nego unscathed through the fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar. So, too, we find a *calcareous* foraminifer figured at p under the same circumstances! Verily this is such a view as has not 'fallen to the lot' of ordinary microscopists to behold—either in twenty, or in four times twenty years."

After such instances, the numerous minor features which are utterly irreconcilable with facts, and which are found in this plate, may be safely passed over.

We may look with complacency on the Moon Hoax of Locke, and the extravaganza of Dr. Neulenz and his discoveries, effected by means of an objective of 135 1-10° of angular aperture, for these *jeux d'esprit* were harmless, and tended only to create a little amusement. But such a fabrication as the present is of a much more serious character, since the hard-earned dollars of the farmer are paid out on the strength of these so-called scientific investigations, and so obviously and demonstrably erroneous are they, that it must bring a blush to the cheek of every scientific man in the country, when he reflects that Silliman's *American Journal of Science and Art*—a journal which claims to be the foremost scientific authority in America—should have lent its aid to the propagation of such nonsense.

Since writing the preceding article, we have submitted an impression of the engraving accompanying Prof. Wilson's article to one of our ablest diatomists, and requested him to note for us the names of the "some thirty-six forms of the diatomaceæ which he (Prof. Wilson) has carefully sketched." The following is his reply:

" * * The miserable wood cut shows a mixture of marine and fresh water diatoms, sponge spicules, a little of the silicious cuticle of the straw, and a foraminifer. Only one form belongs to the Virginia deposit, with which Kunkel's field was fertilized (?)—and which is exclusively *marine*. That one form, a, is possibly a side view of *Biddulphia tridentula* of Ehr., though it is much more in front view.* Figures 2, b, g, i, w, and possibly l, m, y, are portions of the silicious cuticle; c is a front view of a *Cymatopleura*, fresh water; d, a *Denticula*, fresh water; e, *Cyclotella*, brackish; f and v are some vegetable remains; h, probably a sponge spicule; k and t are side and front views of a *Dialomella*, or possibly, and perhaps more likely, a *Mastogloia*, marine or fresh; n is a fragment of 7, 3, *Epithemia ocellata*, fresh water; o, uncertain; p, foraminifer, (*Rotalina?*) marine; q and s, side and front views of *Synedra*, fragments, marine or fresh; r, fragment, front view of j, which is side view of *Bacillaria paradoxa*, marvellously carried up in connected series through the cell walls, but not dissolved, being *vegetable* silica!!; (u) is probably a *Surirella*, fresh water; x, y, z, 1, 10, 6, 5, 4, are doubtful; 8, portion of a *Tessela*, or possibly of a *Tabellaria*."

The Garden.

CUCUMBER NOVELTIES.

There is a general impression that all of the commonly-cultivated varieties of Cucumbers are good enough, and that there is little chance, or need, of improving them by selection or by the introduction of foreign sorts. The Early Frame, White Spine, etc., being prolific and easily grown without the use of frames, are raised year in and year out—and any possible difference between them and foreign novelties in favor of the latter, is thought so unlikely to occur that few are willing to purchase new seeds at a high price and devote land and labor to experiments which promise so little.

There is, however, as we have ascertained during the past season, room for improvement and probabilities of improvement which have rendered our own experiments well worth the time and labor bestowed upon them.

The season, as our readers know, has been dry, so that the following results should be deemed rather the least than the most that can be said in favor of the varieties tested.

Green Prolific.—The pleasing tale is told of this Cucumber that it is the offspring of fifty years' selection—whether by one Cucumber-struck individual or by the younger members of the family continuing the selection commenced by their parents, is not stated. Think not that we are ironical. So far from us is the wish to belittle the creditableness of this statement that we publish it as a rare instance of unselfish perseverance and assiduity in such little things, too, from which stunning revelations could scarcely have been dreamed of and which, had they been lavished upon something besides a Cucumber, might have carved an enduring name that, with Huxley, Tyndall and Darwin would bury itself in the gratefulest recesses of the grateful hearts of men.

This Cucumber—this Green Prolific Cucumber—has an origin, too, worthy of the pains bestowed upon it through fifty years of selection, progression and evolution. It has been handed down as a natural cross between the Green Cluster and Long Green, and again crossed (a "Derivation Hybrid," you see) with the White Spine. Perfection in form and quality thus secured, as was supposed, "the growers found that some hills were more prolific than others; and by keeping these for seed hills and saving the first and most perfect Cucumbers only for seed, the bearing qualities were gradually so much improved that, with good care, an acre will produce 200,000 *and more* pickles." It is to be regretted that the exact number an acre will produce is not given, since our own experiments upon a small scale will not allow of an arithmetical computation. Besides—and it is a circumstance to discourage the most sanguine—the labors of creation and fifty years' selection all reverted, in our grounds, so entirely to the rude first principles that, were it not for the stakes and labels marked "Green Prolific," we should never have known this Cucumber of so high an ancestral name, from one of its unassuming parents—the White Spine!

Khiva Netted.—Those who do not care much for Cucumbers, and who do care much for ornamental Gourds, will likely enough be delighted with this novelty. As a Cucumber, except for those who relish seeds and a flesh that if not exactly tender, is exactly tough, the Khiva Netted is a failure. But as an ornamental Gourd it is a surpassing success—the greater in that we find we have cultivated a thing to tickle the optic (which we did not seek), instead of a thing to tickle the gustatory nerve (which we did seek).

They grew to the estate of Cucumbers early and were productive until the drought, to which they are quickly susceptible, killed the vines. The shape of this Cucumber is short and thick, the skin is smooth, first green, next light-brown, then reddish-brown—cracking all over in the middle stage and showing a light color underneath, thus forming the fine netting which makes the name appropriate. Russian Netted is less a novelty, having been grown, to a limited extent, for several seasons. The Cucumbers are not so large as the Khiva Netted (averaging four inches long), though of the same form and color. They were more productive, and continued to bear

after the Khiva vines were dead. We may say for both the Khiva and Russian Netted that they make excellent pickles (when young) being of a pretty and uniform shape and of a firm substance. Only for this purpose we should prefer them to any of the old sorts commonly used.

SWAN NECK.—This is a long, fleshy, nearly smooth variety, the "neck" sometimes growing like that of the squash, though not generally crooked. The flesh is white and good—the vines moderately productive. It is advertised as growing from two to three feet in length. We give the advertisement every benefit. The largest of ours were one foot in length. All things considered, it is a good Cucumber and we recommend its trial at least to our friends.

TAILBY'S HYBRID.—A more taking name would have been *Cucumis sativus hybridus Tailbyi*, and one destined, we should say, to excite more inquiry. This is not, as one might suppose, a cross between a Squash, Pumpkin, Watermelon or Muskmelon and a Cucumber, but merely a cross between two varieties of Cucumbers, viz., the White Spine and "a large English sort." In spite of its name, however, it is the best Cucumber we have ever eaten, and our family and several friends are of the same opinion as to themselves. We shall cultivate it next year in preference to any other and doubtless the year after that, should succeeding years not change our predilection already formed.

Its color is a deep green, and its shape is between that of GEN. GRANT or LUTON HOO, which reminds one of a fat Cucumber drawn out to thrice its natural length, and the plethoric Russian Netted or White Spine.

The flesh is greenish, and so tender as to be almost melting. The seeds are few and small, the vines prolific and hardy.

Domestic Economy.

BILL OF FARE.

THE World gives the following bill of fare for eight persons:

Sorrel soup.
Boiled striped bass; caper sauce; Stewed potatoes.
Calf's-head *a la poulette*; Succotash.
Roast teal ducks; Celery salad.
Apple fritters.

To make sorrel soup:—Take two quarts of sorrel, remove the stems, cut it fine, cook in a sauce-pan, with salt and white pepper; boil five minutes, add to it a quart of water and a quart of veal and chicken broth; boil again; put in a soup tureen the yelks of four eggs, two ounces of butter and half a pint of boiled milk; mix well; then pour in the boiling soup in the tureen slowly and carefully, while stirring the eggs; mix well again, add two French rolls, sliced thin and serve.

Calf's head *a la poulette*:—Take a white calf's head—(this has no political significance!)—take all the skin and flesh from the bone, soak it an hour or so to take the blood off, boil it for five minutes, cool it and scrape the white skin from the tongue and cheeks, cut it in about ten pieces, cook it in a saucepan with salt water (a handful of flour mixed with it), a little vinegar and a garnished bunch of parsley.

Then for the poulette sauce:—Put in a saucepan a knuckle of veal, with salt, pepper, vegetables, spices and three quarts of water; skim well and boil for two hours; put in a separate saucepan two ounces of butter, three tablespoonfuls of flour; cook awhile, but do not let it take a brown color, add some of the veal broth, boil fifteen minutes; skim the grease off and mix carefully with the yelks of four eggs, diluted with a little water; boil a minute, pass forcibly through a napkin, finish with a good lump of butter, the juice of a lemon and two tablespoonfuls of chopped parsley; pour some on the head and the rest in a bowl.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

"M. W."—To Prepare Citron for Cake.—Preserve citron in the usual manner, boiling the sirup until quite thick, but instead of closing the jars leave them open for the air to enter. The preserve will then dry gradually, and you will have a very good substitute for the West India citron.—MRS. RUSTIC.

CAKE RECIPES.

Prison Cake.—White part: 1 cup butter, 5 cups white sugar, 5 cups flour, 2 cups of sweet milk, 1 teaspoonful soda, 2 cream of tartar, whites of eight eggs. Dark park: 1 cup butter, 2 cups of brown sugar, 1 cup of molasses, 1 cup of sour milk, 1 teaspoonful of soda, 4 cups of flour, yelks of eight eggs, fruit to taste. Divide each part into three cakes and bake in long or square tins. When done place one above another alternately, three cakes in a tier. This makes two cakes, one having two light bars and one dark and the other two dark bars and one light. The bars give it the name of prison cake. It is very pretty and excellent in quality.

Raisin Cake.—1 cup sugar, ½ cup butter, ½ cup of milk, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar, ½ of soda, 1½ cups of flour, 2 eggs, 1 cup raisins.

Em's Ginger Cookies.—2½ cups molasses, 1 brown sugar, 2 cups shortening, 3 eggs, ½ cup sour milk 3 spoonfuls soda, 2 tablespoonfuls ginger. Just flour sufficient to roll out. Care must be taken not to mix them much. Just get the ingredients mixed, and enough flour in them to get them rolled out and in the tins.

One-Egg-Cake.—1½ cup sugar, ¾ cup sour milk, ½ cup butter, 1 egg, ½ teaspoonful soda. Don't mix very stiff.

Mrs. Page's Fried Cakes.—1½ cups sugar, ½ cup shortening, 1 tin cup of sour milk, 1 spoonful saleratus.

Soft Ginger Cake.—2 cups molasses, 1 of butter, 1 of sour milk, 1 egg, 1 tablespoonful of ginger, 1 teaspoonful of saleratus, 3 cups of flour.

Variagated Cake.—1 cup of butter, 2 of sugar, whites of eight eggs, 1 cup sweet milk, 1 teaspoonful soda, two of cream of tartar. Flavor with lemon. Spread a layer in a long baking pan, and put two lines of red sugar sand near each side the length of the cake. Spread another layer of cake and put one line of sugar sand through the center, then spread a final layer of cake. When cut it presents a variagated appearance.

White Fruit Cake.—1 cup of butter, 2 of sugar, 1 of sour milk, the whites of three eggs, the whole of one, 1 teaspoon of soda, 2 of cream of tartar, over one cup of raisins, stoned and floured.

Cookies.—2 cups of sugar, 1 of butter, 1 egg, ½ cup sweet milk, 2 teaspoonfuls of cream and tartar, 1 of soda, nutmeg. Flour enough to roll out. Strew sugar over the top and roll in before cutting them out. Place on a paper or cloth to cool before piling them up to store away.

Cream Cake.—1 cup sugar, 2 eggs, 1 tablespoonful butter, 3 tablespoonfuls sweet milk, 1½ cups of flour, 1 teaspoonful soda, 1½ cream of tartar.

Cream.—1 egg, ½ cup sugar, ½ cup sweet milk, ½ cups cornstarch.

NO. Fairfield, Ohio, LORETTA E. K. TURNER.

Hygienic Information.

DECREASE AND INCREASE OF RACES.

A PARAGRAPH has been going the round of the papers this week showing that the population of France does not increase, while the populations of Germany and England do, and thereupon have been based a new series of glorifications of the two branches of the Teutonic stock, which are visibly taking possession of the world and will before long make it a place too tiresome to live in.

The London Spectator characterizes this as boasting and says, that it is not unnatural for every race to think that the future belongs to it. But it is becoming a little wearisome and the boasters in their vain-glory are becoming a little too contemptuous of all but momentary facts. They will have it that the French cannot colonize because Frenchmen, being now contented at home, choose to stay there rather than "fight the wilderness" as people in London, who appeal to the magistrate because cocks crow, think it the bounden duty of Frenchmen to do—and forget that the only colony which Frenchmen, as distinct from the French government, ever seriously attempted to found has been a perfect success, has lasted 100 years, has remained intensely French—though French of the pre-Revolutionary type—and has alone among foreign communities resisted successfully the absorbent influence of the dominant Anglo-Saxon race. The French settlers in Canada formed one of the happiest, best ordered and most peaceful communities in the world: and after a history of a hundred years, and after suffering conquest by the English, that community remained French, still unabsorbed, with a life and a society and a mental atmosphere all its own. Half a dozen French Canadas, would, we admit, be better than one, but still the French has established one which has not died. The boasters assert that the Germans colonize, and forget that, like the Irish, they do nothing of the kind; never conquer, never "settle," never found, but simply "go abroad" to be absorbed into the new English speaking race which is gradually filling up North America, and which may be destined, if the Chinese immigration does not interfere with the process, permanently to occupy the splendid spaciousness of that continent.

The English, it is true, colonize, but the concurrent assumption that they will always go on colonizing, or indeed multiplying, is a mere assumption without evidence in science and strongly against the evidence of history. They may, but also they may not, for if there is any historic subject upon which philosophers, historians or savans are still profoundly ignorant, it is the law under which races increase, become stationary or decrease in numbers. Some economists used to believe they had discovered a law—namely, that races increased under prosperity, that plenty of food meant plenty of population, that with manufactures States obtained more hands to work them; but it was entirely opposed to the facts of history, which show that one of the most miserable of earthly races—the Irish under the penal laws—multiplied like flies, while another race of the same blood and under nearly the same conditions—the French peasantry under Louis XV.—were slowly perishing away. The negro slaves of the South, amid all their toil and with all their poor food, increased faster than their masters. Statistics show that the English people in the Western States of the Union tend always to increase, though the same people in the Eastern States are dying slowly out; while a people as brave, as strong, and once as prosperous as they are, with lands as wide and far more fertile, with a history of conquest behind them, and everything to gain from the increase of their numbers, is stationary everywhere, and in some places slowly receding. If there is a law proportioning population to means of subsistence, why do not the Spaniards and Portuguese, who still own wider and fairer territories than we English, fill them up with population; while Mongolians increase till China cannot contain them, and Bengalees multiply under foreign domination until the problem of feeding them is studied as one of the gravest of the future? The fierce, beef fed islanders of whom Froissart wrote were as well off as ever Englishmen have been, as well off as Ohio citizens are now, yet the population of Britain increased almost imperceptibly, while in Ohio the same advances now by leaps and bounds. To talk of epidemics is useless, for it only pushes back the question one step, the secret of liability to epidemics being but one of the secrets of increase or decrease of population.

Indeed it is very doubtful if prosperity or the provision of means of subsistence is the ultimate cause of increase of population, for the upper classes die out sooner than the lower, and one main difficulty of civilization is to keep culture sufficiently hereditary. After a thousand years of feudalism, the "noble" classes of France were ascertained, says De Tocqueville, when the Revolution broke out, not to reach 200,000 in number, while the patriciate of Rome, the best off class that ever existed, died completely out.

If the explanation is health, why does not the Jewish race, which has had nearly 2,000 years in which to spread abroad, which thrives in all climates and under all conditions, which suffers less than any from epidemics and which, 3,000 years ago, established a sanitary code, number 200,000,000, as, had they been Englishmen, they would have done? They were oppressed? Yes, and so were the Irish, and so are the Chinese and the Bengalees, with at least as grievous an oppression, different as it may be in kind. Why do not the well-to-do, brave and physically powerful Parsees show any tendency to regain the numbers they possessed before the Mussulmans so nearly extirpated them? If the secret is race, why did the Greek people, after swarming over the islands and Asia Minor and Egypt, leave off spreading and become stationary? Nobody is oppressing Greeks in Greece, and yet Greece is not filled up. Why is not an island like Samos eaten up, as Ireland was, by its own children? "Peasant proprietorship," answers the Times, which, with equal division of property, always tends to keep down the numbers of a population afraid to become too poor. Very good; that is definite and intelligible; but will the Times just explain why those other peasant proprietors, the majority of the men in the United States, do not die out, while their rivals, the Spaniards in South America, do; or why Bengalees, every one of whom is a peasant proprietor, living under the most peremptory law of equal division of property, are becoming too numerous for their land? It is all climate? Very good, but which climate breeds large races?

We English grow and grow in the South, and Provencals do not grow in their lovely land, and Italians grow slowly in their equally lovely one, and the Spaniards in Chili, which is Italy over again, are nearly stationary; while the Irish, in their cold, humid country, grew too fast, till nature avenged herself in a frightful famine. Why does not a race like the Dutch, which can colonize, and fight, and sail ships, and blunder about the world just as we and the Germans do, grow out of its dykes, as either of the kindred families would? There is no room? There is endless room in Scandinavia and Holstein, and the Scandinavians and Holsteiners, who once settled here and in America have grown to 70,000,000, yet, in their own territories, they scarcely grow at all. Is it religion? Well, the most rapidly increasing races are the English Protestants, the Irish Catholics, the German Freethinkers, the Bengalee idolaters and the Chinese worshippers of the Manchester ideas. Is it virtue? Chinese swarm, and Puritans decay. Is it energy, the extraordinary force which appears in each race at some moment of its history, and after a longer or shorter period dies out? Well, there is something to be said for that solution, vague and indefinite as it is. The great period of some races, as the Roman, the Spanish, the Arab, has been synchronous with their swarming period; but still that does not explain facts like the population of Ireland, or the increase of the negroes in slavery, or the advance of the Bengalees, or the swarming out of the Chinese everywhere, or above all the increase believed, on strong evidence, to be occurring among the Slavons. The French must have increased once, why not again? The English population fell back once, why not again? The circumstances of, say, Michigan are said to be so fortunate that the filling up of Michigan without immigration would cause no surprise: but why should Michigan fill faster than the South African settlements, which fill so slowly that, after Europe has possessed them for a hundred years, it is doubtful whether tribes, in nothing raised above the red Indians, and in religion decidedly below them, may not eat up the white man after all? The plain truth of the matter is that we have not discovered the law on which the increase and decrease of the races of man depend, and that therefore all these hymns now sung over our colonizing capacity and these rather exulting dirges over the decay of France, may be caused by movements which, in the long life of nations, must be pronounced only momentary. Numbers for numbers, the Portuguese did more to colonize the world than we have done and took up a higher position in it, and, except when she worries us by claiming some South African port or some West African slave trader, who thinks of Portugal now?

THE BENEFIT OF LAUGHING.

THE saying of an old School teacher that "when children were laughing, their minds were expanding" is forcibly called to mind in reading the following excellent comments on laughing by DR. GREENE in his Problem of Health. There is not the remotest corner or little inlet of the minute blood vessels of the human body that does not feel some wavelet from the convulsion occasioned by good, hearty laughter. The life principle, or the central man, is shaken to its innermost depths, sending new tides of life and strength to the surface, thus materially tending to insure good health to the persons who indulge therein. The blood moves more rapidly, and conveys a different impression to all the organs of the body, as it visits them on that particular mystic journey when the man is laughing, from what it does at other times. For this reason every good, hearty laugh in which a person indulges, tends to lengthen his life, conveying, as it does, new and distinct stimulus to the vital forces. Doubtless the time will come when physicians, conceding more importance than they now do to the influence of the mind upon the vital forces of the body, will make their prescriptions more with reference to the mind, and less to drugs for the body; and will, in so doing, find the best and most effective method of producing the required effect upon the patient.

Our advice to all is, indulge in good, hearty, soulful laughter when the opportunity offers, and you will derive material benefit therefrom. A merry heart, a cheerful spirit, from which laughter wells up as naturally as bubbles the springs of Saratoga, are worth all the money-bags, stocks, and mortgages of Wall street. The man who laughs is a doctor, with a diploma endorsed by the school of Nature; his face does more good in a sickroom than a pound of powders or a gallon of bitter draughts. If things go right, he laughs, because he is pleased; if they go wrong, he laughs, because it is cheaper and better than crying. People are always glad to see him, their hands instinctly go half way out to meet his grasp, while they turn involuntarily from the clammy touch of the dyspeptic, who speaks on the groaning key. He laughs you out of your faults, while you never dream of being offended with him; it seems as if sunshine came into the room with him, and you never know what a pleasant world you are living in until he points out the sunny streaks on its pathway.

A good-humored laugh is the key to all hearts. Satire says a keen observer, "Is the most useful of all forms of writing; sentiment is literally wasted on nineteen readers out of twenty!" The truth is, that people like to be laughed at in a genial sort of a way. If you are making yourself ridiculous, you want to be told of it in a pleasant manner, not sneered at. And it is astonishing how frankly the laughing population can talk, without treading on the sensitive toes of their neighbors! Why will people put on long faces, when it is so much easier and more comfortable to laugh? Tears come to us unsought and unbidden. The wisest art in life is to cultivate smiles; to find the flowers where others shrink away for fear of thorns. Surely it is not the best theology that teaches that He who has given such fulness of joy to beasts and birds, delights in the misery of men, or that, having filled our hearts with gladness, we ought to give the lie to His goodness by wearing faces beclouded with woe, and furrowed with unhappiness.

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IS IT BEST, OR EVEN SAFE?

FARMERS, like men in other pursuits, have different ways of doing the same thing. It is doubtless true, however, that they all seek the shortest road to reach the same point, whether it be in fattening cattle or raising a field of grain. The near approach of winter will remind many of our readers of the fact that there are many things to be done preparatory to its advent, both for the household and the animals which may be in their care; and while not assuming to preach a homily on such affairs, or attempting to give directions as to how a man should feed and shelter his family or stock, we will offer a few hints in regard to the importance of proceeding in these matters upon the supposition that the winter may be a severe one for both man and beast. It is a question worthy of consideration whether it is best or safe to proceed upon any different hypothesis; for the wisest weather-prophets often fail in their prognostications and promised mild winters turn out to be very severe ones, and those who depend upon prophesy are frequently greatly disappointed.

Of course we are not disposed to turn alarmist, or urge upon our readers the necessity of making extraordinary preparations for warding off calamities which may never come; still, it is better to be prepared for a long siege than a brief one. The man who provides an abundance of food and a safe and comfortable shelter for his animals, can look more complacently upon the coming storm and fret less upon its long duration than he who has made no such provision for them. The same is true in regard to his family, and there may be smiles within, while the blast howls without, when the larder is full and old Boreas is kept at bay by solid, tight walls and close-fitting doors and windows.

Every recurring spring we hear of severe losses of stock through a scarcity of food or exposure to cold, and severe storms, all the result of carelessness in making preparations beforehand for what is likely to happen even in what are termed mild climates. An old veterinarian once told us that his services were always in most demand in the latter part of winter and early spring, for when warm weather came and a plentiful supply of wholesome food, his services were seldom, if ever, needed.

Now it is not safe to "guess" that next winter is to be a mild one, for it may turn out to be quite the contrary; therefore, we say, prepare for the worst, even if a little food is left over and the stables and sheds are a trifle too warm. Every green thing which can be made available should be saved; the smallest turnips, beets, carrots, and other roots, will be far better than none, and a stack of bog-hay or straw more acceptable to your stock than a snowbank. If you wish to have stock free from foot-rot and frozen feet, let them have a dry, warm place for their feet; and to keep away lice and other vermin, attend to cleanliness of stables and sheds, not forgetting that parasites of this kind seldom attack well-fed and warmly-housed animals. Prevention in such matters is far cheaper and better than a cure; and it is not safe to trifle with what most persons call fate, but which nine times out of ten is nothing more or less than the legitimate results of some infringement of the laws of nature.

Half starved and unsheltered animals are the natural prey of parasites and contagious diseases, just as the old monarchs of the forest become the rendezvous of myriads of insects and cryptogamous plants upon the first indications of declining vigor. This fact is so well known, that horticulturists watch their trees and so soon as they find one which is checked in growth, an examination is made for parasites. So long as a plant or animal can be kept growing, they possess the power of resisting enemies to a greater or less degree; but feebleness from any cause invites enemies. When our farmers and others learn to use stimulants just sufficient to preserve health and no more, they will have found one of the best preventives of disease. Under such a condition of things, it is not best or safe to trust to uncertainties; but prepare for the worst, and then we will come out so much ahead, if our fears of a hard winter or hard times should prove groundless.

DEAD DAIRY RING.

"WHEN rogues fall out, honest men get their dues." This we now quote from the letter of our Centennial correspondent on another page of this issue. Like the TWEED Ring and the Coal Combination, this combination to convert the Dairy Exhibition at Philadelphia into an immense job for the benefit of a few interested individuals, has fallen by its own weight. Internal dissensions and quarrels over the spoils have produced a result which not only justifies the position taken by us in the beginning, but enables our investigator to get at facts which, in the time of peace among the spoliators, were hidden secrets. We could name several of our contemporaries of the Agricultural Press, who have wasted more printers' ink in abusing the RURAL than we have used in exposing the machinations of the Ring. What have they now to say? Has there been a Dairy Exhibition at the Centennial. Is not nearly the whole Dairy Building occupied by and used for a cheap restaurant, the profits of which go to Mr. BLANDING and whomsoever he may see fit to share them with? Has not a resistance been made to the encroachments of the eating house and has not the man who made the resistance been recommended for removal by several of the very men who caused his appointment? Is the Dairy Building not worth much less than $10,000, which is charged for it? Are not the Committee and its executive head at variance with each other and in a constant quarrel?

When these few questions can be answered in the negative, we are willing to admit that we are wrong and to further admit the charge of personal feeling in the matter. In fact, the latter charge we are now willing to admit for the following reasons:—The RURAL, probably more than any other paper, has for a series of years made a specialty of encouragement and assistance to the Dairy interests and information to Dairymen and has been always so deeply interested in the progress of this important industry that to behold such an exhibition of jobbery, trickery and resultant failure in a place where all nations are the spectators, seems like razing to the ground at one fell swoop the very edifice which we have spent years in assisting to erect. Hence our feeling against the men who could, in plain view of all the nations of the globe, so belittle the national character of our Dairymen and so injure the reputation of their manufactures. But as we are satisfied that most of the matter printed by these contemporaries was supplied by apologists for and members of this very combination who have heretofore borne good reputations, we cannot entirely blame them for their abuse. Now however, without a refutation of all the statements published herewith, we cannot see how our friends of the Agricultural Press (and *friends* we certainly regard them) can continue their defence of this party of speculators. If they will make a complete personal examination of the whole subject on and off the Centennial grounds, we believe their verdict will be the same as ours. Be that as it may—we have presented the facts and now the Press and the Dairymen may dream over them.

RURAL NOTES.

A Big Honey Story.—The Editor of Gleanings in Bee Culture complains of the admission into the RURAL NEW-YORKER's columns, of an article from an exchange, wherein the writer says he has "often known a good strong stock to gather fifty pounds in the long days of August, when the white and Alsike clover were in full bloom." We thought this a pretty strong story at the time, but having become accustomed to "big stories" from bee keepers, we let it pass without comment and, while begging the pardon of the Editor of the afore-mentioned journal for publishing the offending article, still he should not censure us too severely, as it might lead some faithless ones to go into the business and become purchasers of his comb foundations or Tea-kettle Bee Feeders. Who knows but that the fifty pound story is a blessing in disguise to our complaining Editor?

Sanctum Personals.—Among the late pleasant intruders in our sanctum were FRANK BRAMER of the Warrior Mower Co., Little Falls, S. N. GALLUP, Genl. Agent of the Bickford & Huffman Grain Drills, Macedon, N. Y. We were also pleased with visits from Mrs. W. A. HART, whose handsome husband has RURALized Allegany Co. for many years, Mr. GEO. A. GREENE our Club agent at Andover and Mr. A. P. WILCOX, who reports "all right" in the region of Hobart, Delaware Co. Mr. KNAPP of Whitney's Point, also called to see what we had to say about his increased list of names last year and Mr. SMITH, all the way from Canada, was mindful of our whereabouts. Verily, these meetings face to face with our patrons and agents, are a delightful thing. Come along, one and all and don't forget to call!

New Papers.—We have been complimented of late by receiving several new exchanges. The Red Bud Courier, Red Bud, Ills., is a bright four-page paper devoted to TILDEN and local interests. The Editors say:—"We have entered into the enterprise of publishing a weekly paper in this city which is intended to be profitable to ourselves," Illusive dream! Nevertheless, we wish our new contemporary every success.

—The Wisconsin Farm Journal is a new venture in Agricultural journalism published at Madison, Wis. It is illustrated, and if Mr. E. B. ROLLINS the proprietor, sustains succeeding numbers in the spirited manner which distinguishes the initial issue, he may be justly complimented.

—East Weymouth, Mass., is to be congratulated on the first number of the Weymouth Courier. The salutatory is somewhat didactic, as it perhaps should be, coming from Massachusetts; but the make-up, printing and paper is much above the average of local papers.

Thunderbolts in Cities.—A late writer has labored hard to show why large cities escape thunderbolts, attributing it to the number of gas and water pipes in the ground and in the buildings extending from roof to basement. Now the theory is all very well as advanced, but it does not hold good when tested by facts, for it is well known that our cities do not escape thunderbolts, and the number descending to the earth in them is fully as great as in the same area in the country, or where there are no buildings.

Lightning Rods.—From the number of notices of swindles perpetrated by venders of lightning rods which have of late appeared in the columns of our cotemporaries, we conclude that fear of the electric fluid is on the increase among our rural population. But if a lightning rod will allay the fears of a man and his family, it is a good thing to have about, whether it is really any protection or not, as most of our troubles are imaginative at best.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THE late decline in the price of coal is a blessing to the poor of all our large cities; they will be able to keep warm if not well supplied with food.

THE newspaper prophets who predicted great destruction of property by the blowing up of Hell Gate, had better try their hand at some other business, as they are evidently not very trustworthy prophets.

WINTER apples are reported to be both abundant and of excellent quality this year. The late varieties, in most localities, appear to be fully mature consequently, will keep with little danger of loss from rotting.

OUR foreign exchanges give the great Centennial show splendid notices; in fact, in some instances we think they praise some departments more than their merits deserve; still, we are used to considerable praise and can stand it.

THE old "Sweet and Sour" apple is again being discussed, and many are the claimants to being its originator. Now gentlemen, if you will only look into the Pomological works, you may find that this old and well known variety is older than the oldest man living.

THE American Pomological Society, as it appears, did not hold a meeting at the Centennial, as was expected. The illness of its President, Hon. MARSHALL P. WILDER, prevented his attendance, and as the Captain of the Pomological ship was absent, the old vessel failed to obtain sailing orders.

RUMOR has it that the "Champion" Manufacturers of Springfield, O., have purchased of the OTIS BROTHERS the "Haymaker" patents and will astonish the harvesting community with some entirely novel combinations of inventive genius next season. Verily, friend WHITELY is a giant among machine men, and a handsome man, too!

VARIOUS misrepresentations have been made by boarding-house runners upon trains going to Philadelphia, that the Atlas Hotel is too full to accommodate any more guests and many people have thereby been induced to go to dearer places for lodgings. The Atlas has accommodations for 5,000 guests and can always take in a few more.

A FAIR WOMAN.

Eyes full and quick; with breath
Sweet as double violets,
And wholesome as dying leaves of strawberries;
Thick silken eyebrows, high upon the forehead,
And cheeks mingled with pale streaks of red,
Such as the blushing morning never wore;
With narrow mouth, small teeth,
And lips swelling as if she pouted;
Hair curling and covered like buds of marjoram,
Part tied in negligence,
Part loosely flowing.

CHINESE LADIES AND THE PUG-NOSED DOGS OF THE COUNTRY.

Our illustration gives a more than usually accurate idea of Chinese women and their very comical pug-nosed dogs. It will be seen that the natives here depicted are quite different in appearance from those who have immigrated to this country; and in forming an estimate of this most conservative people, it will be well to bear in mind that the representatives of the better classes rarely immigrate. It is different with the dogs, which have become the rage in London.

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 237.]

OREGON.

In 1848 the population of that part of the French cession lying west of the Rocky Mountains, had reached such a number that a Territorial Government seemed necessary; consequently, one was organized by act of Congress passed in August of that year, covering the area bounded by the parallels 42° and 49° north latitude, the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. In 1859 the number of population in the southern part of the Territory was found large enough to entitle them to a State Government, and on application that portion lying south of latitude 46° and the Columbia River and west of longitude 17° and the Snake River, was admitted as a State.

MINNESOTA.

Had the provisions of the ordinance of 1787 been fully complied with, that portion of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River would have been comprised in the fifth State made from the territory north-west of the Ohio and have formed part of the State of Wisconsin. But on the admission of Wisconsin to the Union in 1848, the river St. Croix was fixed as its western boundary and the country between the river and the Mississippi, together with the adjoining country as far west as the Missouri and the White Earth Rivers, was set apart and in 1849 established as the Territory of Minnesota. At this time the Sioux Indians held possession of considerable of the country, but in 1851 the United States Government obtained title to all the territory between the Mississippi and the Big Sioux River. At this time the population of the territory was only about 5,000; but from the erection of the Territorial Government immigration rapidly increased and on application the State was admitted to the Union in 1857, with boundaries as at present, viz.,—north by the 49th parallel, Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake River, Rainy Lake and the Water connection between Rainy Lake and Lake Superior—east by Lake Superior and Wisconsin, from which it is separated by a line drawn due south from the first rapids in St. Louis River to the St. Croix River, and by the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers south to Iowa and west by Dacotah, from which it is separated by the Red River of the North, the Bois des Sioux River, Lake Traverse and Big Stone Lake, and a line drawn due south from the outlet of the last-named lake to the north line of Iowa.

CALIFORNIA.

The first discoverer of California is supposed to have been Cabello, a Portuguese in the employ of Spain in 1542. By him Mendoza (now Mendocino) was named, in honor of the then Viceroy of Mexico. Spaniards from Mexico made early explorations in all the territory now in the United States lying south and west of that ceded by France in 1803, and Spain held possession thereof until it came under the Government of Mexico. There appears to have been an early desire on the part of the United States to obtain it, while as strong desire was manifested by England and Spain to prevent such a transfer of title. In 1835 an attempt was made by President Jackson to purchase all the territory "lying east and north of lines drawn from the Gulf of Mexico along the eastern branch of the Rio Bravo del Norte up to the 37th parallel of north latitude and along that parallel to the Pacific Ocean," but it was frustrated by British interference; and again in 1845 our Minister to Mexico was instructed to negotiate the purchase, but English diplomacy again prevented it.

About 1842 immigration from the United States became considerable and soon increased to such extent as to awaken the jealousy of the Mexican settlers, and collisions were frequent. An attempt was made under a feigned purpose to drive the Americans from the country. A rebellion ensued; the Americans sought the protection of Col. Fremont, who was then in the country on a special exploring mission, having with him a party of 62 guides and frontiersmen. A flag was constructed bearing as its emblem a grizzly bear—denotive of force and courage, around which the Americans rallied in opposition to the Mexican Government. With this hastily-formed army Fremont commenced operations and by a few well-planned and hasty movements had nearly conquered the country when, in July, came Commodore Sloat to Monterey with news of the existence of war between the United States and Mexico. Commodore Stockton soon followed with troops and took possession of California, claiming it as a territory of the United States. But little fighting was necessary to obtain complete occupation, and the treaty with Mexico spoken of in connection with Texas soon put an end to all difficulties.

During this time secret negotiations had been going on between England and Mexico and the British Consul had completed arrangements by which California was to be placed in possession of England. Admiral Seymour had been lying at Monterey for some time to aid in the completion of the arrangement, but, suspicious of the movements of Commodore Sloat, followed him out to sea one day. At night Commodore Sloat returned, took possession of the town, and when the English admiral returned from his trip he found the American flag where he had expected to raise the Cross of St. George.

Notwithstanding efforts to establish a Territorial Government for California, the slavery question for many years prevented a consummation thereof and Military Government was continued. Finally the people, tired of this state of affairs, held a Convention and agreed upon a Constitution, naming their boundaries as they now exist, and declaring that slavery should be prohibited. With this they made application in February 1850, for admission as a State. The South objected to any action that would not permit slavery anywhere south of 36° 30', although the territory acquired from Mexico was free soil. Then came the famous compromise of 1850 reported by Mr. Clay, providing that California be admitted as a State with Constitution as adopted; that Territorial Governments be provided for the rest of the area acquired from Mexico without action relative to slavery therein; that the north and west boundaries of Texas be as they now exist and agreeing to pay Texas ten millions of dollars in consideration of the relinquishment of certain territory claimed by that State. This compromise was agreed upon and California became a State September, 1850.

The passage of this Compromise bill had the effect to raise the price of Texas bonds from about 30 per cent. of the nominal value to nearly par. If this payment of money was in any way conducive to the passage of the bill, it was probably the second instance of pecuniary interests controling the vote of Congress—that of the location of the District of Columbia being the first.—[To be continued.

The Story-Teller.

A LITTLL FADED FLOWER.

BY SEVEN AND NINE.

"Oh! please, sir, it is the last one. *Won't* you buy it? My poor child ——"

He had alighted from his coupe and was on the point of passing in at the stage door of a theater when this sad appeal met his ears.

The comedian—for it was a petted performer—looked at me with a gentle, caressing air, which changed into absolute pity as his eyes fell on my owner's pallid face.

"It's of no use to me, my good woman," he began; "but—well, give it to me. There you are, and for Heaven's sake get yourself something to eat."

He placed a piece of money in her open palm, took me up hastily, and passed into the theater.

"Overture played over twice—time I was on, eh? Here, mavourneen, here's a little present for you—no earthly use to me; have oceans of them at home—admiring friends, you know."

And before I could say *presto!* I had changed hands for the second time.

The hands I now found myself in were very little and very pretty ones, and they belonged to a young lady whose splendor of dress and beautiful appearance would have quite frightened my unsophisticated self had not her sweet face, her low, musical voice and gentle manner immediately reassured me. I fell in love with her instantly. Then I looked around and took in the situation.

It was but one more page of the old, old story—one more edition of the old song which has been set to such sweet music any time these thousand years, only this particular little edition had a new and special accompaniment, so to speak, of its own.

She, my new owner, was at the moment waiting to be called on and was, meantime, the object of most ardent attention from a faultlessly-attired young fellow, who seemed to engross her in a most serious conversation. He spoke in a low, pleading voice. It was an interesting topic, as I had good reason to know. I laid close over a beating heart and could look up into downcast, glistening eyes. Her perturbation was so great that I have no doubt she would have felt it a great relief to have been called from the scene of genuine emotion to its stage counterfeit, that was at the moment in full blast before the footlights. Her suitor evinced no disposition to relax his urgent question, however, until his pleading was rewarded with some positive assurance.

The call-boy flashed in and out, leaving a streak of sound behind him that formulated itself into the announcement that she was "called."

"You hear," cried the young fellow, ardently. "Now or never! For the last time, if you do not hate me—if you will only trust me—give me some token; just the least little bit to take away with me to-night, that I may cherish and treasure, feeling that it is a proof of your love for me, or that you do not absolutely bid me have no hope."

The call-boy again!

"Stage waitin', ma'am," he vociferated.

She raised her eyes and the light in them grew tenderly luminous as she murmured:

"I *will* trust you, Fred. See!" She took me from her bosom, kissed me and put me into his hand. "And—I love you with all my heart. I will never forget you. Don't forget *me!*" She fled through the door and the applause told she was in front of the audience.

My new master put me in his buttonhole but somehow he did not seem as joyful as he should have been. His face shone triumphantly the one moment, but the next was very dark. He sighed heavily and I heard him mutter:

"Jove! what a jolly mess I am in, to be sure. Pshaw! I'm a regular brute. How *can* I break with Millicent? What business has a poor devil like myself with *love?* Can't afford it. Well, I must show up at the Stebbinses to-night. Millicent will expect me."

My master passed out of the little back stage-door and was soon rolling along the avenue to keep his appointment. We dashed up to a brilliantly-lighted mansion and it was not long before my owner was treading the mazes of a Strauss waltz with a proud-looking, beautiful girl.

We danced several times with the same lady, went down to supper and then retired to the recess of a window that looked out into the thoroughfare.

"That's a very fine camelia, Fred; where did you get it? Let me look at it—nearer, please."

He flushed nervously and muttered something about "persistent little flower-girl; bought it to get rid of her."

She held me up to the light, looking scornfully the while. Then she muttered an angry little cry.

"You have deceived me shamefully! *Who gave it you?*"

I was held at arm's length in haughty scorn. Too well I knew to what she referred. There was a tiny, vivid red streak in the center of my petals. It was *rouge du theater* from the face of my late sweet little mistress!

My master was silent. Again the question floated out, distinct but low, through the open window. No answer, and in the awkward silence I seemed to be conscious of a kind of choking sob coming from directly under the window.

"Then I know what to think," she continued icily, "and of course *you* will know what to do. Your letters and presents will be at your rooms to-morrow."

"Stay, Millicent;" he gasped. "That flower *was* given me by a lady; but—but she is nothing to me, absolutely nothing! Look, this is how I value her and it!"

And, snatching me from her hand, I was tossed out into the street. I fell under the wheels of a passing vehicle and was crushed out of all consciousness.

When I recovered I felt bruised and sore; every in my body had been torn by those cruel wheels, but was I not in the road! Who could have rescued me? Who, think you, laid me away so carefully in this satin-lined casket?

CHINESE LADIES AND THE PUG-NOSED DOGS OF THE COUNTRY.

Whose, indeed, are those little hands that have taken me up so tenderly on her return from the theater for all these long years? Do I not know their gentle touch—do I not know that sweet, sad face which regards me so tenderly—that low, musical voice, whispering *that one* name—those sweet lips which, pressed to my unworthy self so closely, linger on me in this long, passionate kiss!

Ah! the sad stories that could be told by little faded flowers!—*N. Y. Clipper.*

A STRANGE STORY.

It was getting towards midnight when a party of young noblemen came out from one of the clubs of St. James street. The servant of each, as he stepped upon the pavement, threw up the wooden apron of the cabriolet and sprang to the head of the horse; but as to the destination of the equipages for the evening, there seemed to be some dissension among the noble masters. Betwixt the line of coroneted vehicles stood a hackney coach and a person, in an attitude of expectancy, pressed as near the exhilarated ground as he could without exciting immediate attention.

"Which way?" said he whose vehicle was nearest, standing with his foot on the step.

"All together, of course," said another. "Let's make a night of it."

"Pardon me!" said the clear and sweet voice of the last out from the club, "I secede for one. "Go your ways, gentlemen!"

"Now, what the deuce is on foot?" said the foremost, again stepping back on the sidewalk. "Don't let him off, Fitz. Is your cab here, Byron, or will you let me drive you? By Jove, you shan't leave us!"

"But you shall leave me, and so you are not foresworn, my friend! In plain phrase, I won't go with you! And I don't know where I shall go; so spare your curiosity the trouble of asking. I have a presentiment that I am wanted—by devil or angel—

"'I see a hand you cannot see.'"

"And a very pretty hand it is, I dare swear," said the former speaker, jumping into his cab and starting off with a spring of his blood horse, followed by all the vehicles at the club door save one.

Byron stood and looked after them a moment, raised his hat and pressed his hand on his forehead. The unknown person who had been lurking near, seemed willing to leave him to his thoughts, or was embarrassed at approaching a stranger. As Byron turned with his halting steps, however, he suddenly came to his side.

"My lord," said he and was silent, as if waiting for permission to go on.

"Well!" replied Byron, turning to him without the least surprise and looking closely into his face by the light of the street lamp.

"I come to you with an errand which, perhaps ——"

"A strange one, I am sure; but I am prepared for it—I have been forewarned of it. What do you require of me, for I am ready?"

"This is strange!" exclaimed the man. "Has another message, then——"

"None except a spirit—for my heart alone told me that I should be wanted at this hour. Speak at once."

"My lord, a dying girl has sent for you!"

"Did I know her?"

"She has never seen you. Will you come at once? and on the way I will explain to you what I can of this singular errand; though, indeed, when it is told, you know all that I comprehend."

They were at the door of the hackney coach and Byron entered it without further remark.

"Back again!" said the stranger, as the coachman closed the door, "and drive for dear life, for we shall scarce be in time, I fear."

The heavy tongue of St. Paul's church struck twelve as the rolling vehicle hurried on through the now lonely street; and though far from the place from whence they started, neither of the two occupants had spoken. Byron sat with bare head and folded arms in the corner of the coach, and the stranger, with his hat crowded over his eyes, seemed repressing some violent emotion; and it was only when they stopped before a low door in a street close upon the river, that the latter found utterance.

"Is she still alive?" he hurriedly asked of a woman who came out at the sound of the carriage wheels.

"She was—a moment since. But be quick!"

Byron followed quickly on the heels of his companion and passing through a dimly-lighted entry to the door of a back room, they entered. A lamp, shaded by a curtain of spotless purity, threw a faint light upon a bed, upon which lay a girl, watched by a physician, who had just removed a small mirror from her lips and holding it to the light, he whispered that she still breathed. As Byron pressed the edge of the curtain, however, the dying girl moved the fingers of the hand lying on the coverlet and slowly opened on him her languid eyes—eyes of inexpressible depth and luster. No one had spoken.

"Here he is," she murmured. "Raise me, mother, while I have time to speak to him."

Byron looked round the small chamber, trying in vain to break the spell of awe which the scene threw over him. An aspiration from the other world could not have checked more fearfully and completely the worldly and scornful undercurrent of his nature. He stood with his heart beating most audibly and his knees trembling beneath him, awaiting what he prophetically felt to be a warning from the very gate of Heaven.

Propped with pillows and left by her attendants, the dying girl turned her head towards the proud, noble poet standing by her bedside, and a slight blush overspread her features, while a smile of angelic beauty stole through her lips. In that smile the face reawakened to its former loveliness and seldom had he who now gazed breathlessly upon her, looked on such spiritual and incomparable beauty. The spacious forehead and noble contour, still visible, of the emaciated lips, bespoke genius impressed upon a tablet all feminine in its language, and in the motion of her hand and even in the slightest movement of her neck, there was something that still breathed of surpassing elegance. It was the shadowy wreck of no ordinary mortal passing away—humble as were the surroundings and strange as had been the summons to her bedside.

"And this is Byron?" she said at last, in a voice bewilderingly sweet even through its weakness. "My lord, I could not die without seeing you—without relieving my soul of a mission with which it has long been burthened. Come nearer; for I have no time left for ceremony, and I must say what I have to say and die! Beautiful," she said, "beautiful as the dream of him which has long haunted me! The intellect and the person of a spirit of light! Pardon me, my lord, that, at a moment so important to yourself, the remembrance of an earthly feeling has been betrayed into expression.

She paused a moment and the bright color that had shot through her brow and cheek faded and her countenance resumed its heavenly serenity.

"I am near enough to death," she resumed, "near enough to point you almost to heaven from where I am; and it is on my heart like the one errand of my life—like the bidding of God—to implore you to prepare for judgment. Oh, my lord! with your glorious powers, with your wonderful gifts, be not lost. Do not, for a poor world like this, lose an eternity in which your great mind will outstrip the intelligence of angels. Measure this thought—scan the worth of angelic bliss with the intellect which has ranged so gloriously through the universe; do not, on this one momentous subject of human interest—on this alone be not short-sighted!"

"What shall I do?" suddenly burst from Byron's lips in a tone of agony. But with an effort as if struggling with a death-pang, he again drew up his form and resumed the marble calmness of his countenance.

The dying girl, meantime, seemed to have lost herself in prayer. With her wasted hands clasped on her bosom and her eyes turned upward, the slight motion of her lips betrayed to those around her that she was pleading at the throne of mercy. The physician crept close to her bedside, but with his hand in his breast and his head bowed, he seemed but watching but for the moment when the soul should take its flight.

She suddenly raised herself on the pillow. Her long brown tresses fell over her shoulders and a brightness, unnatural and almost fearful, kindled in her eyes. She seemed endeavoring to speak and gazed steadfastly at Byron.

Slowly then and tranquilly, she sank upon her pillow, and as her hands fell apart and her eyelids dropped, she murmured, "Come to Heaven," and the stillness of death was in the room. The spirit had fled.

CANAL NAVIGATION.

It will be remembered that the Blank Canal Company offered a reward some time ago for the best improvement that could be suggested in locomotion for canal boats, and appointed a committee to decide upon the merits of the various plans submitted. The following extract from the report subsequently made by the committee will be found to possess interest:

In reference to the plan offered by Henry Bushelson—which proposes to run the boats by means of his patent propellor—we may remark that the steam engine with which the propellor is moved would sink the boat; and, even if it would not, the propellor blades, being longer than the depth of the canal, would dig about 500 cubic feet of mud out of the bottom at each revolution. As a mud dredge Bushelson's patent might be a success, but as a motive power it is a failure and his suggestion that the tow-path might be cut into lengths and laid side by side and sold for a farm, therefore is not wholly practicable.

The idea of Michael O'Fluke is that holes might be cut in the bottom of the boat and through these the legs of the mule could be inserted so that it could walk along the bottom, while its body is safe and dry inside. This notion is the offspring of a fruitful and ingenious mind; and if the water could be kept from coming through the holes it might be considered valuable but for one thing—somebody would have to invent a new kind of mule with legs about seven feet long. Mr. O'Fluke's mind has not yet devised any method of procuring such a mule and unless he can induce the ordinary kind to walk upon stilts, we fear that the obstacles to success in this direction may be regarded as insurmountable.

Mr. J. Peterman Bostwick urges that important results might be secured by making the canal an inclined plane, so that when a boat is placed upon it the boat will simply slide down hill by the power of attraction of gravitation. This seems to us a beautiful method of adapting to the wants of men one of the most remarkable of the laws of nature and we should be inclined to give Mr. Bostwick the first prize but for the fact that we have discovered, upon investigation, that the water in the canal also would slide down hill and that it would require about fifteen rivers the size of the Delaware to keep up the supply. Mr. Bostwick does not mention here where we are to get those rivers. He does, however, say that if it shall be deemed inadvisable to slope the canal the boats themselves might be made in the shape of inclined planes, so that they would run down hill upon a level canal. There is something so deep, so amazing, in this proposition, that your committee needs more time to consider and brood over it.

Mr. W. P. Robbins proposes to draw off the water from the canal, lay rails on the bottom and then put the boats on wheels and run them with a locomotive. Your committee has been very much struck with this proposition but has concluded, upon reflection, that it is rather too revolutionary. If canal navigation should be begun in this manner, probably we should soon have the railroad companies running their trains on water by means of sails and stage lines traveling in the air with balloons. Such things would unsettle the foundations of society and induce anarchy and chaos. A canal that has no water is a licentious and incendiary canal; and it is equally improper when, as Mr. Robbins suggests, the boats are floated in tanks and the tanks are run on rails.

Your committee has given much thought and patient examination to the plan of Mr. Thompson McGlue. He suggests that the mules shall be clad in submarine armor and made to walk under water along the bottom of the canal, be fed with air through a pump. As we have never seen a mule in action while decorated with submarine armor, we are unable to say with positiveness what his conduct would be under such circumstances. But the objections to the plan are of a formidable character. The mule would, of course, be wholly excluded from every opportunity to view the scenery upon the route, and we fear that this would have a tendency to discourage him. Being under water, too, he might be tempted to stop frequently for the purpose of nibbling at the catfish encountered by him and this would distract his attention from his work. Somebody would have to dive whenever he got his hind legs over the tow-line and when the water was muddy he might lose his way and either pull the boat in the wrong direction or be continually butting against the bank.

Of the various other plans submitted your committee have to say that A. R. Madkey's proposition to run the boat by sails and to fill the sails with wind by means of a steam blower on the vessel; James Thompson's plan of giving the captain and crew small scows to put on their feet so that they could stand overboard and push behind; William Black's theory that motion could be obtained by employing trained sturgeons to haul the boat; and Martin Stotsbury's plea that propulsion could be given by placing a cannon upon the poop back and firing it over the stern, so that the recoil would shove the boat along; all these are wonderful evidences of what the human mind can do when it exerts itself, but they are not as useful as they are marvelous.—*Max Adeler.*

AN INTELLIGENT MAGPIE.

The Rev. F. O. Morris writes to Land and Water:—"I received the following a few weeks ago from a correspondent. The fact as stated is certainly a very curious one and new to me. I wrote to ask if he had seen the occurrence himself and he replied that he had. It is as follows: 'Finding from periodicals that you are a collector of anecdotes of birds, &c., I have one at your service. Birds are great favorites of mine. I have had several varieties, both foreign and British, for years; among the rest some magpies. One has gone the way all pets, sooner or later, go; the other is still alive and allowed to wander in the garden all day, and goes to her own cage at night when told. She likes running about the sill of the parlor window, two feet six inches from the ground, facing the garden, when there is anybody in the room. Last autumn a dish of peas was left inside near the window. Mag, with her head on one side, viewing them, evidently made up her mind that she ought to taste them, so she began to tap at the window with her beak; but finding the glass was too strong, after flitting backwards and forwards several times and trying each time, she stepped opposite and seemed to think and then hopped on to the path, picked up a gravel stone, came back, and with the stone in her beak struck the glass several times until she had cracked the pane. The noise frightened her and away she went with that peculiar hop and twitch of the tail tame magpies assume when they know that they have been doing mischief. Mag is still alive and goes about the garden as usual.' It is to be remarked that a somewhat similar example of what seems to amount to a reasoning power occurs in the case of the hooded crow—and that a kinder species, too, we must bear in mind—which, as also the crow, is constantly in the habit of soaring up to a considerable hight in the air with a cockle or mussel and then letting it drop on the rocks to break the shell and so get at the fish inside. Sir Charles Anderson once told me that he had frequently seen them do this. Sir Walter Scott used to say that he would believe anything of a dog. We may, I think, believe more in like manner of birds than we have sometimes been in the habit of doing."

LAUGHTER.

This often shows the bright side of a man. It brings out his happier nature, and shows of what sort of stuff he is made. Somehow we feel as if we never thoroughly know a man until we hear him laugh. We do not feel "at home" with him till then. We do not mean a mere snigger, but a good, hearty, round laugh. The solemn, sober visage, like a Sunday dress, tells nothing of the real man. He may be very silly or very profound, very cross or very jolly. Let us hear him laugh, and we can decipher him at once, and tell how his heart beats.

Sabbath Reading.

OUR FIRST GRAY HAIR.

As the first big pattering drops that fall
With a splash on our lattice pane
Make us shiver and start as they warn us all
Of a storm or of coming rain,
So is it with life when we're growing old
And age steals on unaware—
We shiver and start, if the truth were told,
At the sight of our first gray hair.

We mark not the light of the noonday hours,
Like the first streaks the dawn doth bring;
We hail not the birth of the summer flowers
As we do the first snow-drop of spring;
On the bleak winter wind we look not with grief,
Though it howl through the branches bare;
But we sigh when we witness the brown autumn leaf,
And behold Nature's first gray hair.

Gray hairs may come when the beaming eye
Has none of its brightness lost,
When with buoyant heart we would fain deny
Youth's Rubicon had been crossed;
But the ivy-clad tree looks young and green,
Though a sapless trunk be there,
And naught of decay on our cheek may be seen
When we witness our first gray hair.

Oh a noble crown to a noble life
Is a head of silvery gray,
And 'tis well if tired with the struggle and strife
It finds rest at the close of day.
But gray-headed sin is a crownless curse,
And the parent of dark despair,
And it gives us a pang, oh, doubly worse,
Than the sight of the first gray hair.

Come early, come late, like a knock at the gate,
Is that first soft, silvery thread,
And it joins with its silence the years that wait
With the years forever fled;
It silently tells us we're journeying on—
It silently questions us—Where?
Oh a faithful mile-stone, were the truth but known,
Is seen in our first gray hair.

[*Walter C. Howden.*

THE LIFE OF A PASTOR IN LAPLAND.

The life of a pastor in the North is largely occupied with the cares of this life. He has during the summer months to attend to his glebe, and to catch fish, and shoot birds to serve as his winter supplies; and when winter comes he has to drive wood from the forest for fuel, and to travel twice a year to the two spring fairs, which are held at the nearest village. The pastor of Quikkjokk only leaves his post thrice a year, and then his journeys extend no further than Jokkmokk, once to spend Christmas, and on the other two occasions to obtain the necessary supplies, which, if not then obtained, can only be procured afterward at great expense from the coast. Besides his glebe he has a small salary to enable him to eke out his living, and though banished, as it were, from the world, is not uninterested in its concerns, and keeps up, not only that taste for botany which is so common among educated Swedes, but also pays some attention to archæology. His spiritual duties are light, and in summer confined to the preaching of a sermon on Sunday to the few inhabitants of Quikkjokk. On the day after our arrival we we went to the little church, and increased his congregation to twenty-five for that day. The whole service was in Swedish, and did not differ from that in other Swedish churches. He wore the usual dress of a Swedish pastor, viz., a tight-fitting black coat, with a thickly-plaited silk train depending from his shoulders. He also had small bands, and carried in his hand the white pocket handkerchief without which a pastor never appears in the pulpit, and which is twisted round two fingers and allowed to hang over the side of the pulpit. After reading prayers at the altar, over which hung an oil painting representing the infant Christ, the gift of a Swedish traveler, the pastor left the church, and, returning shortly with a Bible and psalm-book wrapped in the white handkerchief, ascended the pulpit and preached an excellent sermon to an inattentive audience.

ALWAYS TRUST.

Worthy and dear brother, know how to carry yourself in trouble. Keep God's covenant in your trials. Hold you by His blessed Word and sin not. Flee anger, wrath, grudging, envying, fretting. Forgive a hundred pence to your fellow-servants, because the Lord has forgiven you ten thousand talents. For I assure you, by the Lord, that your adversaries shall gain no advantage except you sin and offend the Lord in your sufferings. But the way to overcome is by patience, forgiving and praying for your enemies; in doing whereof you "heap coals upon their head," and your Lord will open a door to you in your trouble. Wait upon Him as a night-watch waiteth for the morning. He will not tarry; go up to your watch-tower, and come not down; but by faith, and prayer, and hope, wait on. When the sea is full it will ebb again; and as soon as the wicked are come to the top of their pride, and are waxed high and mighty, then is their change approaching. Now I trust in the Lord that ye shall, by faith, sustain yourself, and comfort yourself in the Lord, and be strong in His power; for you are in the beaten and common way to heaven when you are under the Lord's crosses.—*Rutherford.*

There is no question that it is far preferable to remain under the influence of moderate errors, than to be bandied about for the whole of life from one opinion to another, at the pleasure and support of superior intelligence.—*Sidney Smith.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

WHAT MY LOVER SAID.

By the merest chance in the twilight gloom,
In the orchard path he met me—
In the tall, wet grass, with its faint perfume—
And I tried to pass, but he made no room;
Oh, I tried, but he would not let me;
So I stood and blushed till the grass grew red,
With my face bent down above it,
(How the clover lifted each pink, sweet head,
To listen to all that my lover said;
Oh! the clover in bloom—I love it!)

In the high, wet grass, went the path to hide
And the low, wet leaves hung over;
But I could not pass upon either side,
For I found myself, when I vainly tried,
In the arms of my steadfast lover.
And he held me there, and he raised my head,
While he closed the path before me;
And he looked down into my eyes and said—
(How the leaves bent down from the boughs o'erhead,
To listen to all that my lover said;
Oh! the leaves hanging lowly o'er me!)

Had he moved aside a little way,
I could surely then have passed him;
And would not have heard what he had to say,
Could I only aside have cast him.
It was almost dark, and the moments sped,
And the searching night-wind found us;
But he drew me nearer and softly said—
(How the pure, sweet wind grew still, instead,
To listen to all that my lover said;
Oh, the whispering wind around us!

I am sure he knew when he held me fast,
That I must be all unwilling;
For I tried to go, and would have passed,
As the night was coming with its dew at last,
And the sky with stars was filling;
But he clasped me close when I would have fled,
And he made me hear his story,
And his soul came out from his lips and said—
(How the stars crept out where the white moon led,
To listen to all that my lover said;
Oh, the moon and stars in glory!)

I know that the grass and the leaves will not tell,
And I'm sure that the wind—precious rover—
Will carry his secret so safely and well
That no being shall ever discover
One word of the many that rapidly fell
From the eager lips of my lover,
Shall never reveal what a fairy-like spell,
They wove round about us that night in the dell,
In the path through the dew-laden clover;
Nor echo the whispers that made my heart swell
As they fell from the lips of my lover.

LADIES' SPECIAL OFFER.

On page 256 of this issue will be found an announcement that is of particular interest to the Ladies. This offer of Plants and Seeds should appeal to all lovers of flowers very strongly, and the slight personal effort it will require to secure two rare plants and a package of the seed of the Moluccа Balm will be more than compensated by the enjoyment of these charming, many-hued shrubs, plants and vines. The selections now offered have been grown in the RURAL'S Experimental Grounds for this special purpose, and we may confidently assure the Lady Readers of the RURAL that it will well repay them to carefully read the announcement, and determine to embrace the offer. ED.

ON KEEPING A COMMONPLACE BOOK.

It would be idle at the present day to say anything in favor of books. Ever since books were, the greatest authors of all ages have given eloquent testimony to their inestimable value; they have been praised in prose and celebrated in song, have been collected and arrayed in splendid bindings, and sometimes coffined up by bibliomaniacs as too precious to be put into the hands of mere readers; and they have, alas! been ruthlessly burnt and otherwise destroyed by barbarous conquerors. "Wondrous indeed is the virtue of a true book," says Carlyle; and he only echoes what many a thankful reader and scholar has said before him. Friends may change, and the dreams of youth fade away, but a man who seeks consolation in books will secure companions whose friendship will never fail him, and in whom he himself will find more and more to admire every day. Well might Southey write in the familiar lines—

"My days among the dead are passed;
Around me I behold,
Where'er these casual eyes are cast,
The mighty minds of old:
My never-failing friends are they
With whom I converse night and day."

It is not, however, with books in general that we have to deal now, but rather with one particular kind of book, which should contain within itself the essence of a good many others—that is to say, a Commonplace Book. The dictionary definition of it is a good one:—"A book in which things to be remembered are recorded and arranged under general heads." How many of the readers of this article keep such a book? Those who do will know its value without any explanation, and those who do not may, it is hoped, be tempted to commence such a volume at once. Let us see, then, what a Commonplace Book is. Every one who reads must from time to time be struck with certain special passages—a particular piece of prose, or more than ordinarily beautiful thought in verse, a reference or quotation. It may be—at all events, it is a something which causes the reader to pause for a moment and vaguely wish that the particular passage or thought should not be forgotten. But memory is treacherous, and as other ideas follow which we might like to treasure, the author's words and thoughts very soon slip away from us. Or take another case. We are reading a newspaper, and come upon an article on some special subject of which we have long wished for fresh information. In one part there is a passage which contains an account of an invention which strikes us as well worth remembrance. We read it, and trust to the chapter of accidents to remember it; or we put aside the newspaper for preservation, in which case it is usually lost; or we cut out the passage and pocket it, when a similar fate overtakes the extract. Or again, to come down to more homely matters, you notice in some paper or periodical a good recipe, some hint on household economy or decorative art. You may remember it or you may not; at any rate, some method of insuring yourself against forgetfulness is desirable.

Now in all these cases, and in many more which might be mentioned, what is wanted is a Commonplace Book—that is to say, a good-sized volume wherein any extract which specially takes your fancy can be either copied or pasted, according to circumstances. Captain Cuttle's famous advice, "When found, make a note of," which forms the motto of a periodical Commonplace Book, is admirable advice, and it is astonishing what a valuable collection of extracts, hints, inventions, epigrams and quotations of all kinds a person may gather in a very few years. Of course a certain discretion must be exercised. Many people, on first starting a Commonplace Book, commence to overstock it with all sorts of odds and ends of no particular importance. The volume thus becomes a lumber-room instead of a storehouse of valuables, and is of very little use. Each person, too, will act upon different principles of selection, extracting for various purposes, and with different aims; so that a Commonplace Book would reflect with fair accuracy the bent of a man's or a woman's mind, and the direction of its owner's tastes.

In keeping such a book, two things are essential if it is to be a success. In the first place, copy out your extract or paste it directly you have decided it is worth preserving. If you put it off, the chances are that you will be unable to find the passage when you want it again, or it will be altogether forgotten. In the second place, your Commonplace Book should have a carefully compiled index, and each extract should be indexed under two different headings if possible, for convenience of reference. This, too, should be done when the extract is put in. An index compiled in this way by degrees is easily made, and will probably be an accurate one; whereas if left to be done after the completion of the book, it is troublesome to make, and very likely to contain mistakes. There is no occasion to make it strictly alphabetical at first; a mere classification under each letter will be sufficient for some time, and a rearrangement can easily be made afterwards. It is a good plan to keep the index in a separate volume, for its length can never be accurately gauged, and it is also easier to rearrange. A reference under two heads—the author and the subject for instance, in the case of a quotation—is useful, because in one case you may remember that the author wrote on that subject, and in another you may recall the idea but forget the author. In any case an index is indispensable; in fact, without one you will probably spend more time in searching for your extract than it is worth when found.

It is almost unnecessary to dilate on the value of a Commonplace Book kept with discretion. There is hardly any pursuit in which a man or woman can be engaged that will not at times receive aid from such a volume. There are, no doubt, certain occupations—notably those connected with literature and art—which would benefit most by a Commonplace Book. But apart from its use, such a volume is a source of much pleasure to the possessor as well as to others, and the extracts made in youth will be read with a curious interest in after-life.

FASHION NOTES.

NEW YORK, Oct. 7, 1876.

At this season of the year "Fall Openings" are an epidemic most delightful to us women, who rarely feel any ill effects of the disease—most painful to our husbands, who suffer to an alarming degree. It is clearly the fault of the shopkeepers, however, it being manifestly wrong (!) to arrange dry goods in such tempting array that the money is irresistibly coaxed out of one's purse. I mean to have an illustrated fashion article as soon as I can prevail upon the Publisher of the RURAL to get up the "cuts;" but the poor man is dragooned so unmercifully just now, that I am ashamed to press the matter. However, it will not be long, I am assured, before I shall have the affair in my own hands, if I can only persuade the management that Fashions are an important feature of the Ladies' Portfolio column. Therefore, it rests with you, ladies, to make known your views. If the representation is strong enough, we can, I think, have a Fashion article at least every other week.

This week my notes will be confined to a brief mention of LORD & TAYLOR'S opening. I will omit a description of the unusually fine display of imported model suits until a more convenient season. Their fall importations are now complete, comprising black and colored fancy silks that are excellent in texture and extremely reasonable in price. The house made their purchases before the recent rise in silk and can, therefore, offer undoubted bargains. The Dress Goods department has many novelties in black and colored cashmeres, merinos, all-wool and mixed plaids, including the new Damassee styles, at prices ranging from 10c. per yard upwards. The shawls displayed are very handsome, the patterns of the cheaper broche and British and American woolen shawls being noticeably neat. It is an ever-recurring surprise to me how manufacturers can make up and sell ladies' and children's suits as cheaply as they are now offered.

Handsomely trimmed suits in cashmere, basket cloths, camels' hair, alpaca, and all kinds and degrees of mourning attire, are temptingly displayed. This house furnishes explicit directions for self-measurement that enables the most obtuse in dress-making mysteries to order suits and feel assured of receiving garments that will be satisfactory in every respect. For the convenience of out-of-town customers, they have prepared a catalogue that leaves nothing to be desired, and I cannot do better than recommend my fair readers to send for it, containing, as it does, many hints that are not without their value. I rarely have seen a more complete stock of linens, white goods, upholsteries, furniture, hosiery, gloves, &c., than is exhibited by this firm, and at most insinuating prices. I had time to merely glance at the Carpet department, noticing however, that good ingrains were selling as low as $1 per yard, some qualities being ticketed at 35c.

I wish to say, furthermore, that Messrs. LORD & TAYLOR pack and ship country orders free,—that is, the goods are delivered to the purchaser with all charges paid,—and really, I don't see but that our country cousins, availing themselves of this arrangement, are not even *better* off than Metropolitans, as they can shop as cheaply as ourselves, without any attendant worry. FROLIC.

Reading for the Young.

"MI-CAT INTER OMNES."

MEIN joli cat ist sehr pelit,
Ich liebe ihm und er liebt me,
Und oft er sitzt upon my knee
Und purreth mit the greatest glee.

Enjoying othim in das haus
Vous avez oublie rat kai maus:
Grown oisif, iners, lacking nous,
Depart, ekphonge, geh heraus.

Venez a mol mein liebe cat,
Dulce deems and all of that.
Inflect amo, amas, amat,
Gieb mir das Latin wort fur rat
Und be ein tres-sage, sophos, cat.

His answer ist ein pleasant purr
Quae seems zu sagen, "Oui, Monsieur,"
Mais das ist ownis, his answer
Is nicht in Latin but in purr.

[*The Dartmouth.*

THE CRAB AND THE TORTOISE.

A CRAB of a roving disposition had wandered to the upper margin of the beach, to see what he could see. Very much to his surprise, he descried a creature jogging languidly seaward as if to meet him and concluding, from the general resemblance of the stranger to himself, that they were somehow related, he ventured to accost him by the name of "cousin."

C.—"You must have traveled a great distance, my good cousin," said he.

T.—"Only half an hour's journey, Mr. Crab—no great distance," was the reply of the tortoise, delivered in a low and quiet voice.

C.—"You have the advantage of me; pray, may I ask your name?"

T.—"Men call me 'Tortoise,' but for what reason I do not know."

C.—"You are right welcome, Mr. Tortoise. We are so seldom favored from the land. May I venture to inquire what brings you here?"

T.—"Three things—a slight indisposition, a draught of sea water, and—my own feet."

C.—"Feet? I do not quite understand you. What a hard fighter you must have been in your day!"

T.—"Why think you so?"

C.—"You seem to have lost so many of your legs; and those left you are so out of proportion to your bulk, I conclude that they have each lost a joint at least."

T.—"Not at all, I do assure you; on the other hand, I was just wondering what use you could have with so many."

"Why, you shall see." And the crab immediately began to run backwards and forwards, in a north-easterly and south-westerly manner, to the great amusement of the tortoise. "And look!" continued he, growing quite vain of his fancied superiority, "you may perceive from the print of the crown upon my back, that I am a royal creature."

T.—"Wonderful!"

C.—"Indeed, I begin to pity you more than ever. How, in the name of wonder, do you convey food to your mouth?"

T.—"Why, my good friend, I convey my mouth to my food—that's how I manage. I suppose, Mr. Crab, you are a weaver by occupation?"

C.—"What strange ideas you land people have!"

T.—"Why, we have an animal with us with legs, as you call them, just like yours, which makes its living by weaving."

C.—"A very useful employment too, you must admit, Mr. Tortoise."

T.—"Very useful to itself, Mr. Crab!"

The crab had unconsciously omitted to call the tortoise his cousin for some time, and was beginning to feel that he was in different company from what he had anticipated.

But at this point of the conversation a stone, thrown by a wicked youth, glanced harmlessly from the horny armor of the tortoise and alighting on the crab's back, cracked his crown. All his legs were now in motion and, without bidding good-by to his new acquaintance, he posted with amazing celerity seawards till he reached a cranny of the rocks, in which he hid himself.

The tortoise drawing in his head merely remarked to himself, "How useful a thing it was to be able to run fast!"

THE BOY WHO WAS ASTONISHED.

A FRIGHTFUL runaway took place in the northern portion of St. Louis recently. A large cur came trotting leisurely down the street all in harness and drawing a sled upon which, in a state of supreme bliss, was the enterprising urchin who had conceived the idea of utilizing dog-power. They conducted themselves with a calm dignity, that boy and dog, and when the boy met a couple of other boys of his acquaintance and stopped his conveyance for a chat, there was just a shade of condescension in his manner to those who had to walk. The youth on the sled entered into earnest conversation with one of the boys on the ground and, while the two were thus engaged, the other boy took occasion, unobserved, to pull out a piece of string and attach an oyster can firmly to the dog's tail, leaving interval enough between tail and can to allow the latter a degree of play.

The interview finally terminated and the boy on the sled started up his dog. At the first move the animal discovered that his tail wasn't all right, and at the first rattle of the tin he took in the situation and acted precisely as other dogs have been known to do under similar circumstances. He just raised up his hair all along his back, curled his tail under him, laid his ears over, opened his mouth, struck up something from Wagner, and started! Commodore Vanderbilt, when he takes a special train and travels sixty miles an hour, doesn't make half so good time as that dog did. He straightened himself out and gathered himself up in awful leaps, and when he straightened there wasn't an inch of space between him and the ground, and when he gathered he looked like a horseshoe magnet three feet high. The boy gave one gasp when the dog started and then tightened his grip on the sled; he slid down into the position known among the youth as "belly-buster," and there he stuck. The procession—dog, can, boy and sled—went down the street like a whirlwind, swerving neither to the right nor left. When a wagon crossed the dog's path he flew under it, and on such occasions the boy's hair would flop up like the wig of the end man at a minstrel show. Finally a coal wagon came in sight and it became apparent that it would be a close shave unless the dog turned a little. But the dog never swerved—he was too intent on reaching the end of the world. The wagon didn't cross the street quick enough, there was a crash against one of the hind wheels, and a boy with a bloody nose and one runner of the sled remained in the immediate vicinity, while the dog and the rest of the sled passed into the dimmest kind of perspective.

SPELLING IN OLD TIMES.

IN the reign of Henry V. good spelling and clean shirts were equally rare luxuries. Leicester, says Disraeli, spelled his own name in eight different methods, while the family appellation of Villiers, in deeds and documents relating to the house, is spelled in at least a dozen. Malmwaring passed through 131 orthographical permutations, and is even now, if spelling have aught to do with pronunciation, spelled incorrectly at last. The immortal bard himself, not to speak of what others did for him, changed his own mind some thirty times, according to Halliwell, as to the letters and the sequence of the letters composing his illustrious patronymic. Elizabeth wrote sovereign in as many ways as she knew languages—that is, seven. The young Pretender, following his own sweet will, and entirely free from any servile bondage to the letter, writes of his father as a certain Jems or Gems. In those palmy days, when every man was his own speller, when military examinations were not, little astonishment would have been raised by such arbitrary orthography as lately adorned the paper of a candidate for one of her Majesty's appointments in the line. That candidate spelled elegy *leg*, and ingeniously evolved *pashshinger* out of passenger. Much ingenuity, nay imagination, inspired another, who framed *Indian eras* out of engineers.

But what are such trifling irregularities as these to the caprice of—say her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk? The Duchess was one of the most accomplished ladies of the sixteenth century, the friend of scholars, the patron of literature. She wrote to the Earl of Essex, thus:—"My ffary gode lord,—her I sand you in tokyn hoff the neweyer a glasse hoff Setyl set in Selfer gyld. I prayon tak hit An hy wer hable het showide be batar," &c. The patron of literature has ingeniously contrived to spell *I* and *it* each in two different ways in as many lines. What this friend of scholars intended the Earl to understand by Setyl is very obscure. There is a Scotch word something like it, signifying "a disease affecting sheep in the side," but this the most accomplished lady can scarcely have intended.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From Cousin Peggy.

DEAR COUSINS:—Please move your chairs a little closer together to make room for me—Miss PEGGY TORSY. Stop laughing at my name—it's as pretty as I can afford to have. If you're going to make all manner of fun of me, I shall take French leave. No I won't, either; I'll stop a while, just to plague you. Although for some time I have wanted to write you, I have kept very quiet for me, listening to the interesting and oft-

times amusing chats of the Cousins; but now I venture to open my mouth to say something. My parents used to tell me it was impolite to *listen* open-mouthed and never say anything myself. They don't tell me that now, but sometimes hint that I ought to close my mouth now and then so my tongue won't get so dry and to give others a chance to express their ideas. However, there is no use trying to keep me quiet forever, when you are all gabbing so for dear life.

As for NEW-YORKER, I hope he does not think his kindly efforts to silence YOUNG TOM were not appreciated. Let us assure him that we did appreciate his courteous remarks and gave him our sincere thanks.

Our Phlox, Petunias, Geraniums, Fuchsias, Candytuft, and all the flowers excepting Pansies and Mignonette, have never blossomed better than this season. The Madeira vines are about ten feet high and budded very full. We always bring them in the house just before they blossom and you can imagine what a pretty decoration they make with their beautiful vines and dainty blossoms. Mother says she must have Madeira vines summer and winter, and she does. But that my letter is already long enough, I would tell the girls about some pretty rugs made of burlaps, worked with canvas patterns of bright colored yarn. Perhaps some of the girls who have made them will tell those who do not know, how they are made. It would be selfish of me to take more space for this letter.—COUSIN PEGGY TORSY, *New York State.*

From a Virginia Boy.

DEAR EDITOR:—This is my first letter to the RURAL and I hope you will excuse my bashfulness, as I have been trying to pluck up courage to write this long time. I live in that rosy, sunny country of old Virginia and I take delight in agriculture. I have good success in budding, grafting, propagating, &c. I have varieties of tame grapes grafted on the wild vine; some of the vines had one stem of grapes on the first year from the graft; the second year they hung full of the largest and most perfect bunches you ever saw. Some of our neighbors wished to know how I managed to raise such large strawberries, grapes, onions, &c. I told them that it was all owing to taking MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER. "Yes," they said, "it was a very good paper; but"——but they are subscribers for your golden paper this year, and their garden is as free from weeds as mine.

Uncle TRUE and Uncle MARK, will you please give us some hints on lost arts, and allow me to ask if welding copper is a lost art? Dear RURAL Cousins, if you will allow me, I think that the Editor is doing his best to make this department very interesting; what say you? I have been wishing the Editor would give us the privilege to have sketches sent from RURAL Cousins to be inserted. Dear Editor, I take pleasure in sending you a sketch of a floral cross that is growing in our front yard; it is admired by every one. I thought perhaps some of the RURAL Cousins would like to try their hand training cypress vines next year. Mr. Editor, as this is my first attempt to write for the press, I hope you will please excuse my poor scholarship and admit me into the circle as one of the RURAL Cousins, as I take great delight in reading the RURAL, especially the letters from the Cousins; so I thought I would send my name in to be initiated and if I am not black-balled, will write again.—WILD GUY.

The Puzzler.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 69 letters:

My 54, 7, 27, 45, 10, 8, 4 a book of the Old Testament.

My 11, 2, 31, 9, 15, 17, 36, 3, 66, 14, 42, 54, 26 books of the New Testament.

My 6, 2, 20, 62, 5, 21, 43, 17, 22, 38, 46, 60 king of Elam.

My 39, 28, 49, 25, 47, 12, 37, 64 an Egyptian.

My 12, 61, 56, 32, 67, 1, 69 a book of the New Testament.

My 56, 63, 68, 19, 10, 33, 37, 18, 24 Esau's wife.

My 38, 31, 29, 41, 48, 57, 61, 44, 17, 30 son of Enoch.

My 34, 57, 40, 17, 58, 33, 37, 60 son of Jacob.

My 35, 50, 36, 55, 38, 3, 66 a wise man.

My 52, 53, 49, 51, 15 a book of the New Testament.

My whole is a verse in Proverbs.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S. C.

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

My first is in death but not in life,
My second is in husband but not in wife;
My third is in knave but not in fool,
My fourth is not in horse but in mule;
My fifth is in bleak but not in cold,
My sixth is in silver but not in gold.
My whole forms two rivers of Europe.

☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

1. A SPIDER'S web. 2. A river of Asia. 3. A river of England. 4. An evergreen tree. Primals and finals form beasts of prey.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Sept. 30.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—Now is the time to subscribe for MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—Sic semper tyrannis.

CENTRAL PUZZLE.—Vienna.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.00 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Molucca Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory or garden. Its growth is rapid—small plants attaining the hight of five feet during the summer months. In the fall it may be cut back to any desirable size and potted for the winter, when it will quickly recover its symmetry and resume its ever-blooming habit. Its quick and exceeding popularity is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is as yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class. It is difficult to select a more attractive plant than Marie Lemoine when freely blooming. Every truss is in itself a boquet. The leaves are large, zonoless, vigorous. The plant is compact and, like *Abutilon Boule de Neige*, is invaluable, either for the conservatory, window or garden.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It has stood 20° below zero unharmed. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. The thyrses of flowers, first greenish-white, then white, then rose, often measure a foot in length and twenty inches in circumference. Every stem being thus terminated, the striking appearance of an entire plant may be conceived. There can be no doubt that this is one of the most valuable of all perfectly hardy shrubs.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata.*—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green, much as *Abutilon Thomsoni* is variegated with green and yellow. From its racemes of flowers are formed fruit as large as currants, each one of which is a different color in shades of claret, azure-blue and green. These berries, which are first as soft as a currant, become finally as hard as bullets.

The pretty stems are also variegated, green, whitish and rose. The roots are perfectly hardy, and the vine's growth so rapid that it will cover twenty-five feet square in a season. For conservatory walls or pillars, for trellises or rockeries, it cannot fail to please. It has been growing in the RURAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS for several years without the least protection.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the singular Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

PEOPLE who don't pay their taxes are not allowed to vote in Georgia.

Piute Indians are swarming into Virginia City, Nev., for winter quarters.

Wages of operatives in the Wilkinsonville, Mass., mills have been raised sixteen per cent.

"We are all Colonels now," says the Atlanta Constitution, "there are no plain citizens left in the State."

The Agricultural Bureau of Georgia costs each citizen a cent and a quarter per year, and last year saved the farmers $559,000.

New York has already raised over $15,000 for the Savannah relief fund. The fever at that city continues without abatement and has broken out with terrible force at Brunswick, Ga. Relief will be needed at both of these points for some weeks to come and the work should not be allowed to falter.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, fishing smacks off New London struck a shoal of mackerel a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide, and took $10,000 worth of fish.

The salmon product of the Columbia river, Oregon, will this year reach the enormous total of 40,000,000 pounds, and the amount canned for shipment will yield $3,000,000.

One of the largest droves of cattle ever seen in any place was driven from Texas a few weeks ago from Capt. King's ranch, Nueces County, to Kansas. The herd numbered 30,000 horned cattle, and was attended by 700 drivers. The outfit alone cost $50,000, and the herd brought $320,000.

Laura Joyce, who became publicly known as an actress in "Leo and Lotus," at Niblo's, was young, handsome, and a good singer. She soon was married to James Valentine Taylor, a wealthy Bostonian, and retired from the stage. Now she sues for a divorce, and returns to theatrical life.

Betsy Grigsby of Lexington, Ga., was incited to pugilism by reading about the fight between Goss and Allen. She believed that she was able to distinguish herself in the same way, and in her first attempt she whipped a woman. Next she decided to try a man; but she did not wish to be too ambitious at the outset of her career, and so chose a decrepit negro over eighty years old. She beat him so badly that he died on the same day, and Betsy is in jail awaiting trial.

A circus that travels in Texas has an uncovered canvas inclosure. At Brackett a tree over-hanging the ring was occupied by men and boys, who thus saw the show free of cost. A performer's feat included firing a revolver on horseback, and at the first discharge a spectator fell dead from the tree. Thereupon the circus men were mobbed and escaped only by a practical use of their skill in horsemanship.

George Winthrop made an ascension in a hot air balloon at Paxton, Ill., and at the altitude of 500 feet, the balloon burst with a loud report, and began to descend rapidly. The wreck formed a parachute and checked the rapidity of descent for a short time, but when about 200 feet high a collapse occurred, and the man shot rapidly earthward, driving his legs into the ground up to the knees. His forehead was cut open and nose broken by the basket falling on him. His back is badly hurt, and it is thought he suffered severe internal injuries which will prove fatal. He was alive at last accounts.

The following is the latest from the war in Europe: "The Standard's Belgrade special says a Russian corps of telegraphers, having a complete apparatus for field telegraphy, has been formed."

A dispatch to the Standard, which is confirmed by a semi-official statement in the Post, says the English Cabinet has made a formal proposal to the Powers for a conference. Russia also urges a conference.

In addition to this, both Powers agree to the necessity of a month's armistice. There is, therefore, reason to hope that Russia and England are not diametrically opposed.

FOREIGN NOTES.

DR. MICHAEL GRAHAM, a London physician now in Madeira, has just made public a most disheartening report as to the present condition and future prospects of the Madeira grape. It seems that the growers who had replanted their *vignolles* after the long-continued blight have enjoyed but a brief respite from the ravages of the pitiless, root-sucking *Phylloxera vastatrix*, which is scattering desolation among the vines more ruthlessly than ever, and the peasants are burning their grape-laden trellises in heaps. Around Funchal there is not, according to Dr. Graham, a single vineyard in a thoroughly sound condition. Meanwhile for "Inland consumption," or to maintain an impossible competition with sherry, desperation, combining with dishonesty, has thrown itself into the fabrication of spurious Madeira, from apples and other fruits, which, "branded to the hill," and disguised with a small admixture of genuine wine, is being bottled and labelled as of "selected growth."

In demolishing the lower wall of the Castle of Dieppe, in France, interesting relics have been discovered, consisting of coins and pottery of different periods. The workmen have also come upon the foundations of the ancient Church of St. Remy, known by antiquaries to have stood near the castle.

Count Von Arnim has been arraigned on a charge of high treason. The judgment of the court is not announced.

There has been an influx of mounted Cossacks into Servia.

Lord Derby advises placing the disturbed Bulgarian districts under a Christian Commission.

The eldest son of Prof. Thorold Rogers, of Oxford, England, an eminent political economist, hanged himself lately in his bedroom. He was eighteen, and captain of Westminster school. The previous day he had been just as usual, made no complaints, and seemed quite contented and happy. No explanation whatever of the act was adduced. His father was abroad traveling.

Although the late Earl of Leven and Melville may have been correctly described as the oldest man among the Peers, he was not "Father" of the House of Lords. In both Houses the "Father" is that member who has sat longest, and Viscount Gage succeeded to this position in the Lords on the death of the late Duke of Leinster in 1874, having been then for 60 years a member of that House.

Prince Charles III. of the diminutive Italian and faro-banking republic of Monaco, being afflicted with a chronic nervous malady, has relinquished his indefinite public duties to his son, Prince Albert, a young man who has served in the Spanish and French navies. Since the conclusion of peace between France and Germany he has cruised in his private yacht to various points throughout the world.

A licensed drover at Brentford, Eng., who, while driving a bull along the road several weeks ago, struck a cat with a thick stick, was ordered to be sent to prison, with hard labor, for a month, without option of a fine.

A census of the Republic of Peru just taken shows the population to be 2,720,735, an increase of less than ten per cent. in fourteen years.

Russia recently gave extensive orders for rifles at Liege in Belgium, and for cannon at Krupp's factory in Germany.

Demonstrations have taken place at Patras, Zante and the Piræus in behalf of the Greek population of Turkey, and urging Greece to make military preparations. This movement is becoming general.

An imperial edict has been published expressing regret for Mr. Margary's murder and affirming the right of foreigners to travel through the country and enjoy the protection of the authorities. An envoy with a letter of apology for the Yunnan outrage is to go to England at once.

The Sheffield Knife grinders are asking for a Protective Tariff.

Arthur Orton, the Tichborne claimant, works on a sewing machine in prison. He is in good health, but is reduced seventeen inches in girth

A trip through India is now easily made by rail.

Thilliet, the French champion bicyclist, completed on Saturday evening, Sept. 23, at Wolverhampton in England, the feat of riding 650 miles on a bicycle in six consecutive days of 12 hours each. He started at 7 o'clock on Monday morning, and up to Friday night had covered 540 miles, thus having 104 miles to accomplish on the last day. He started on Saturday morning at a few minutes after seven, and rode till 11:33, when, having gone 44 miles, he rested for dinner. Starting again at 2 o'clock, he went along at a splendid pace, and eventually completed the distance at twenty minutes to eight.

Dr. Strousberg, who still waits his trial at Moscow, has just published his autobiography at Berlin. This remarkable book contains the personal history of the German railway king, and many important disclosures upon commerce and financial operations in Germany.

Madame Adelina Patti is now in Paris. For the first time in the course of her triumphant career she has been reported in delicate health, and a consultation of physicians was, at last accounts, to decide whether she could fulfill her operatic engagement at St. Petersburg this winter.

British Consul Green, reporting on the trade of Brazilian provinces of Para and Amazonas, states that the crop of India rubber, which was little over 2,000 tons in 1861, has been steadily increasing ever since, and reached 6,763 tons in the year 1875. There are vast rubber-yielding districts which have never yet been touched. The increase in 1875 was less than usual, owing to an exceptionally long rainy season and much sickness.

Georgia, Democratic; majority over 50,000. Colorado claimed by both parties, probably Republican. Majority anywhere from 200 to 2,000.

The freight business of the Trunk Lines is looking up. Large amounts of grain are being sent East.

E. A. Woodward, formerly clerk of the Supervisors of New York, one of the "Ring," has been caught in Chicago.

The N. Y. Chamber of Commerce has passed resolutions complimenting Gen. Newton on his success at Hell Gate.

N. Y. ex-State Senator Hubbard died on Oct. 5, at Norwich.

The Yellow Fever is abating in Savannah.

Snow fell in Canada, Province of Ontario, Oct. 7th.

WEEKLY OUTLOOK.

Shohomish City, W. T.—We have had a very wet summer here; had but little good weather for making hay, and it was nearly all more or less damaged, but the crop was more than an average. We have what is called the "Potato Blight," and from my observation the first indications are a kind of mildew on the stalk; it is, I think, a kind of fungi. In two or three weeks it will show on the lower leaves, but in a different form; perhaps one-third or one-half of a leaf will turn black and die, and sometimes in a week, but generally in about two, the whole piece will look as though it had been struck with a frost. I think the tubers stop growing, but they have not rotted with me in the last three years. It takes the Buckeye first, Early Rose next. Some say those planted late will escape, but I have failed to observe it; this I do know, that early planted, say the last of March, are larger and mature better than the later planted; and it appears that seed potatoes from the East escape longer than seed grown here, and a change of seed from the high land to the bottom is an improvement. Now selling at 75@87½c. ℔ bush.—SIGMA.

Starkley, Ky.—We have had much rain of late but it was needed, as it has been a dry season up to the present time. Grapes have come forward earlier than last season and are much better in quality and yield. Potatoes are poor and the crop light. Prices are advancing; at present they fetch 65c. per bushel, with prospects of a still higher price. The late rains may do some damage to clover seed, as it will be difficult to gather and clean it in wet weather. Buckwheat is filling

slowly and the prospects for a good yield poor. The apple crop will be about half the average on account of twig-blight; but there being a full crop in other apple growing regions, the prices will probably not be affected by losses here. The hog market was opened last week with a carload which sold at 6c., live weight. Butter advancing in price for good grades, there being considerable of low grade in market.—H.

Meramichi, N. B.—The past season has been with us an exceptional one. A late spring kept the preparation of the soil all behind; but when fine weather set in the growth was very rapid and in this County of Northumberland the hay crops are very heavy and were housed in splendid condition. Our summer was hot, very hot, the thermometer ranging for days at from 92° to 97°,10, with long continued drought. The dry weather and heat ripened the oats too soon, and consequently they are a very light crop and straw is short. What wheat was grown was good, but owing to the weevil and rust, our farmers did not raise much of this cereal. The drought also seriously affected the growth especially of early potatoes and turnips, and this year our Early Rose are a very poor crop on that account. Late potatoes appear to be good.

The dry weather still continues, and the after grass in the pastures is kept very short—almost bare. The weather, for the past four or five weeks, has been cold and fall like, the glass varying from 40° to 70°, and on Saturday last touched 32°. Consequently, our woodlands are putting on their gorgeous autumn clothing preparatory to the fall of the leaf. Our salmon fisheries were very successful early in the season, and large quantities were shipped in ice to the United States; but during the latter half of the season fish have been very scarce, and the catch far below the average. Business here is very quiet, and not much prospect of improvement before spring. I think this is perhaps quite as lengthy as you would wish and will close, wishing the RURAL every success under its new management.—A.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

WISNER'S "TIGER" HORSE HAY RAKE has taken the Grand Medal at the St. Louis Fair, over all competitors. This, added to its grand victory at the Centennial, has placed the "Tiger" far in the advance line. WISNER can now shout, and J. W. STODDARD & Co. will find it hard work to fill orders for 1877.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[OWING to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents," so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for advertisers," or "Answers to Correspondents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers (and we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements) and such other matter as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want and the want is indicative of its need.]

J. T. DUPRE, Texana, Tex., wants "Egyptian Rice Seed." We have had several inquiries for this seed since our article in issue of Sept. 16th.

M. R. J., Niagara Co., N. Y., wants a good factory churn.

H. Y. N., Fairfield Co., wants a good fan separator and grader.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Oct. 7, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls	81,310	Molasses	—
Whisky	4,300	Rice, bbls	2,223
Corn meal, bbls	2,700	Cut meats, pkgs	10,187
Corn meal, bags	1,215	Lard, pkgs	4,080
Wheat, bush	537,402	Tobacco, hhds	2,532
Corn, bush	843,886	do. pkgs	5,106
Oats, bush	114,037	Butter, pkgs	40,120
Rye, bush	27,823	Cheese, bxs	41,372
Malt, bush	66,371	Cotton, bales	27,503
Barley, bush	155,773	Rosin	11,546
Beans, bbls	7,488	Spts. turp., bbls	1,523
Grass seed, bush	5,697	Dried Fruits, pkgs	3,491
Beef, pkgs	808	Eggs, bbls	6,773
Wool, bales	1,611	Peanuts, bags	1,187
Hops, bales	2,853	Leather, sides	60,000
Pork, bbls	2,742	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	1,158	Oil cake	9,92

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done: but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans past week, since Jan. 1st, 480,180 do.; same time last year, 259,721. 1,169 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 47,636 do.; same time last year, 24,024 do. The demand for mediums is not active, but holders and interior shippers have full confidence in the future of the market and demand our full late rates. Marrows have sold quite briskly and the moderate receipts admit the advance quoted. Red kidneys are also doing better. White kidneys have an inquiry; prime new would bring $2. Old stock of the various sorts now coming forward show some pretty rough gleanings. Canadian peas are lower; stock accumulating. Green peas higher. Southern W. E. peas quiet at quotations. We quote:

Beans—New pea, $1.65@1.70; med., $1.50@1.55; marrow, $2.10@2 20; old prime pea, $1.55; fair to good, $1.50@1.40; old prime mediums, $1.40; fair to good, $1.15@1.25; prime marrows, $2.00@2.10; fair to good, $1.85@1 80; prime white kid., $1.75@1.80; other, 1.45@1 60; prime red kidney, $1.70@1.70; other, $1.40@1.50; Lima (Cal.) $2.75@3. Black beans, $2.25@2.50. Canadian peas, bulk and bond, 62½—c.; free bolt, $1.10@1.12. Green peas, $1.20@1.25; split do. $6. Southern W. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2.25@2.40.

BEESWAX.—There are only small sales at 31@32c5 for Western and Southern. Exports past week 2,30. 6lbs. Since Jan. 1st, 59,305 do.; same time last year, 65,896 do.

BROOM CORN is without important demand; quoted at 6@7c. for short green hurl, 5½@6½c. for green hurl, 4@5c. for medium green, and 3c. for red and red-tipped.

BUTTER.—Export of butter past week 8,000 packages. Supplies continue enormous again exceeding 10,000 packages for the week. The extra grades of butter have held up well, notwithstanding the decline quotations. Prices are out of proportion with the times and there is a diminished trade owing to the limited purchases of buyers who expect more favorable rates, that is a scale of prices that will enable them to invite a larger market or grocery trade. As yet sellers do not fear a sudden decline; they feel that lighter receipts will put stiffness in the market again. We have never advocated swamping the market with stock, but with the possible fine times ahead, we think there should be a steady delivery of butter right along and prices be allowed to settle at a good consumptive movement. The export demand is falling off in its strength, and no longer imparts the solidity that at one time ruled in the lower grades. It may revive if the desired concessions can be obtained, but as a great deal of the surplus. Western here has been bought with a view good exporters prices, holders do not break much as yet, particularly as shippers will not take a very low order of goods.

We quote:—Choice pails, 35@—c.; prime, 29@32c.; poor to good, 25@29c.; creamery pails, choice, 36@37c.; good, 31@35c.; sweet cream pails, 30@33c. State firkins, choice, 33@36c.; fair to good, 29@30c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@33c.; fair to prime, 25@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 30@31c.; other, 24@28c.; Western creamery, choice, 34@35c.; other, 31@33c.; do. firkins, best, 29@31c.; other, 15@19c.; dairy tubs, choice, 24@26c.; other, 15@19c.; factory choice, 28@31c.; other, 17@19c.

State dairies quotable at 28@31c. with fall tubs.

CHEESE.—This market is very much unsettled. Strictly fancy September, being in small stock, bring 13½@13¾c; but all other grades are very irregular. Fine August make being obtained at 12½@13¼c., and very good stock obtained as low as 11c. Exporters are not disposed to operate to any extent, advices from abroad indicating a feeling to allow the accumulations to run down before operating further.

Fancy factory, 13¼@13½c. for fancy September; 12¾@12¾c. for fine August; good and prime, 11@12½c.; fair, 9¾@10¾c.; State farm dairy, fancy, 11¾@11¾c.; good to prime, 10@10¾c.; fair and good, 9@10c. Western factory, good and prime, 10@11c; fair lots, 8¾@9½c.; do. cheddar, choice, 11@11¾c.; do. flat, choice, 11¾@11½c. Exports past week, 27,542 boxes.

Gold closes at 109.

Liverpool cable quotation, 55s.

CIDER.—Quoted as before, with a large offering. Small pkgs.. 10@12c.; large do. 8c.

COTTON.—With large arrivals, slow export demand, and a pressure to sell, prices are lower.

The latest quotations are:—October, 10 15-16c.; November, 10 31-32@11c.; December, 11 3-32@11¼c.; January, 11¼c.; February, 11 7-16@11 15-32c.; March, 11¾c.; April, 11 13-16c.; May, 12c.; June, 12 5-32@12 3-16c.; July, 12 11-32c@12¾c.; August, 12½c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16
Strict ordinary	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16
Good ordinary	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16
Strict good do	10 3-16	10 3-16	10¼	10¼
Low middling	10 7-16	10 7-16	10 11-16	10 11-16
Strict low middling	10 11-16	10 13-16	10 15-16	10 15-16
Middling	10¾	11	11 1-16	21 1-16
Good middling	11 1-16	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 5-16
Strict good middling	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 9-16	11 9-16
Middling fair	11 11-16	11 13-16	11 15-16	11 15-16
Fair	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 11-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	8 13-16	Low middling	9 13-16
Strict ordinary	9 7-16	Middling	10 3-16

DRIED FRUITS.—For apples there has been some little stir to export demand, which gives a more comfortable feeling; the grades required have been taken at about recent figures. Choice apples are a little irregular in price, as they are dealt in moderately. Peaches and small fruits very dull.

Exports past week 280 packages; Since Jan. 1st, 4,750 do; same time last year 10,000.

Apples—State, sliced, 6¼@7½c.; do., quarters, 6½@7c.; Southern sliced, new, 6@7c.; choice do. 7½@8c.; fancy, 8@10c.; do., new quarters, 4¾@6c. Blackberries, 8@8½c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 13@14½c.; unpeeled peaches, new, nominal. Plums at 12@14c. Raspberries, 24@26c. Cherries, 10@16½c.

EGGS.—The week has had but few days of activity. Sellers looked for an advance but late rates have not been even supported. There is a small call for limed at 21c. ₱ western.

Near points, 26@26c.; State and Penn., 24½@25c.; Western, prime, 23½@24c.; do. other, 23c.; Canadian, 23½@24c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Peppermint—What was previously said about a glutted market is now fully confirmed by large arrivals of Western and State oil, which is offered freely at $2.25 ₱ lb. With few and small sales of spearmint the same can be said; asking price, $2 ₱ lb.—no buyers. Sassafras in fair demand at 45c.

FRESH FRUITS.—The demand for apples is good but receipts crowd sellers, and prices are generally low. Pears are higher. The Sheldon, which gives as much satisfaction as Bartlett in many cases, bring $10@12 ₱ bbl. Quinces are quoted at $8@10, no large offering as yet. The surplus supply of grapes seems to have been sent in and prices are better. Cranberries have a fair baking demand. Chestnuts are lower. We quote apples fancy $1 75@2; mixed, $1.25@1.50; common open heads, 50@75c. Pears Duchess ₱ lb. $7@10. Seckel, $10@15; Virgalieu $7@10; B. Bosa and B. d'Anjou $6@10. California pears $3@4.50 including B. Clairgeon and B. Diel. Cooking $2.50@3. Plums are out

Cranberries, Cape Cod, ₱ bbl. $9@10.25. N. J. crate, $2@3.25; Grapes—Delaware, ₱ lb., 8@9c.; Catawba, 7@8c.; Concord, 4@6½c.; Isabella, 4@5½c. Peanuts, fancy Va., ₱ bush. $1.70@1.75; other $1.10@1.65. Chestnuts, ₱ bush, $4@5. Exports of apples, past week, 4,726 bbls. Hickory nuts $2@2.25.

FLOUR.—There has been a liberal business recently on export account, which has brought the stock of low grades down to a very small amount, and with continued inquiry from this direction prices are higher and strong. The better grades have more attention, and are at steady prices.

Sales at $4.75@5.05 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5.25@5.35 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.40@5.50 for good extra do.; $5.55@5.65 for fancy do., and $5.70@6.50 for fancy to very choice extra; $4.00@5.05 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.25@5 40 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.45@5.50 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.85@6.50; fancy do. $6.55@7.75; winter wheat, good to choice family $6.00@7.50; round-hoop Ohio, $5.25@5.35, and trade brands of do. at $5.40@6.75; St. Louis, $5.30@6.50 for common to fair extra, and $6.55@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.35@8.25, and patent at $7.25@9.60; unsound stock at from $4.25@5.25; city mill extra for West Indies at $6 20@6.25; do. English brands, $5.25@5.30; do. trade and family $5.50@8.50; No. 2 at $3.35@4.25. Corn meal—$2.75@3 for yellow Western, Jersey and Pennsylvania, $3.25@3.30 for Brandywine.

GRAIN.—On the foreign English advices wheat advanced 1 to 6c. ₱ bushel and was fairly active, but has ceased at the close 1@2c. Latest sales are of winter red Western at $1.20@1.21½; amber Kansas at $1.21½; new No. Milwaukee spring at $1.27; amber Indiana at $1.20; amber Michigan at $1.30; white Indiana at $1.30; amber Ohio at $1.25; white Michigan, No. 1 and extra, at $1.32@1.32½. Rye at 73@74c, for Western, and 85@90c. for Jersey. State and Pennsylvania. Barley in free supply and lower: six-rowed State, 91@94c.; No. 1 Canada, $1.17@1.20. Corn is in liberal supply and lower; sales at 57@59c. for mixed Western, and 58c. for white do. Oats have been active, selling at 29@32c. for mixed Western, 44@48c. for mixed State, 45@49c. for white State, and 36@48 for white Western.

HAY AND STRAW.—The receipts are very small, and advices from the country indicate probable light shipments forward for the present, farmers being dissatisfied with current prices.

Bale hay is quoted:—Shipping, 60c.; retail qualities 75c.@$1; clover, 55@70c.; salt, 55@60c. Straw is quoted at 75@80c. for long rye; 50@60c. for short rye; 50@60c. for oat.

HIGHWINES bring $1.15 ₱ gallon, with a light stock.

HONEY.—Regardless of the improved quality of new crop, selling prices are still low. White Clover, 15@20c.; buckwheat, 8@12c. for comb in glass.

HOPS.—There is a buoyant and active market for for choice lots, which are 2@3c. better than last week. The parcels sent a fortnight since to the other side, it is reported, have met with much favor, and fresh orders are here more liberal. For the past week, about 2,000 bales have been taken for shipment. The quotations are:

New Yorks, good to choice, new	35 to 38
New Yorks, fair to fair, new	27 to 31
Eastern, new	27 to 33
Yearlings	11 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	35 to 38

POULTRY AND GAME.—Live poultry has ruled low. We can now get along without Western in large quantities, as dressed will soon be a feature. Southern poultry is very poor. We quote:

Spring chickens, near-by, ₱ lb., 14@15c.; do. Western, 13@14c.

Fowls, N. J., ₱ lb 14@15c.; do. Western, 13@14c. Broilers, 8@9c.; Turkeys, N. J., 14@16c.; do. Western, 13@14c.; Ducks, N. J., pair, 15c.@$1.12; do. Western, 65@75c.; Geese, N. J., $2.00@2 50; do. Western, $1.37@1.75.

Dressed begin to appear in quantity, but very few lots are of good quality. We quote:

New Jersey turkeys, ₱ lb., 16@20c.. State, 14@19c.; Western, 13@17c. Chickens, dry-picked, 16@20c. N. J. fowls, 13@17c.. State, 14@16c.; Western, 12@15c. Ducks, 18@19c. for prime, and 10@15c. for other. Common turkeys and fowls, 8@10c.

The market shows a further varied supply and prices are reasonable for all but quail, which are scarce. We quote:

Wild ducks, mallard, ₱ pair, 50@70c.; red-heads, 75@87c.; teal and other common game, 35@38c. Quail, ₱ doz.; $2.75@3. Partridges, ₱ pair, 70@80c. Grouse, ₱ pair, 60@80c. Woodcock, ₱ pair, 75@85c. Hare, ₱ pair, 50@65c. Rabbits, 35@40c. Venison, whole, 11@13c.. saddles, 18@20c.

PROVISIONS.—The general market has been quiet; pending results of the new packing, prices are unsettled. Mess pork quoted at $16.80 for spot and October. Dressed hogs at 7¾@8c. Bacon, 9¾c. for long clear; 10c. for short clear. Lard, Western steam at $10.77½ for spot; $10 for October; $10.05 for November; $9.80 for December, and January. Tallow at 8¾c. for prime in hhds. Stearine at $11¾c. for prime Western. Best hams at $20@21. for choice Western. Beef quoted at $8@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominal for prime and India mess. City extra India mess at $23@24.

SEED.—New timothy is active on export orders, and realize $2@2.10. Clover is scarce, only a few lots of seed offering; quoted at 13c. Rough flax brings $1.41.

TOBACCO.—Kentucky leaf is lower, with very fair supplies and a slow inquiry.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5¼@ 6	6 @ 7½
Good lugs	6½@ 7½	8 @ 9
Low leaf	8 @ 9	9½@10½
Medium leaf	9½@10½	11½@13½
Good leaf	12 @13	14 @15
Fine leaf	14 @15½	16½@16½
Selections	16 @17	17 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do	32 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Prices for potatoes are easy, with a good demand. Sweet potatoes are in large supply and likely to be for a long period. Onions in fair demand. Market not active for other garden stuff. We quote:

Prime potatoes, N. Y. bbl., $2.25@2.75; western, $2.12@2.50; sweet, $1 75@2.12. Corn, ₱ 100, $1@1.35. Tomatoes, ₱ bush., 50@80c. Marrow squash, ₱ bbl., 50@75c. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $4@6. Now Russia turnips, ₱ bbl., $1@1 6gg plants, ₱ bbl., $2@3. Cauliflower, ₱ bbl., $3@4.12. Yellow onions, ₱ bbl., $2; red, $1.50@1.62; white, $2.25@2.75.

WOOL.—There has been a very good demand from manufacturers again this week, and with greatly reduced stocks prices are very strong throughout. The quotations are:

DOMESTIC.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
XXX and Pickbock	47 @ 48
XX	44 @ 45
X	42 @ 43
No. 1	38 @ 40
No. 2	34 @ 37
Common	32 @ 34
Combing	47 @ 50
New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin—	
XX	35 @ 41
X	36 @ 38
No. 1	36 @ 38
No. 2	32 @ 35
Common	30 @ 33
Combing	50 @ 52
Iowa, Vermont and Illinois—	
XX	35 @ 37
X	34 @ 36
No. 1	34 @ 36
No. 2	30 @ 32
Combing	45 @ 47
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
Washed fleece	34 @ 36
Unwashed	25 @ 29
do. combing	33 @ 37
TUB-WASHED.	
Choice	42 @ 44
Fair	40 @ 42
Inferior and burry	32 @ 36

ROCHESTER, Oct. 7.—Flour market active; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet: Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.25; amber winter, $1.15@1.20; white winter, $1.20@1.25. Oats, nominal at 38@43c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 30@34c. Cheese, 14@16c. Eggs, 23@25c. Lard, 11@13c. Apples, bu., 40@60c. Potatoes, bu., 75@80c. Beans, ₱ bu., 70@$1.50. Mess pork, $19.00. Wool, 20@30c. Hay, $9@12. Straw, $5@8. Timothy seed, $1.90@2.25; clover, $6 00@6.50. Mill feed strong at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Oct. 7, 1876.

At Little Falls, for the week ending Oct. 7th, the market showed considerable activity, prices having advanced one-quarter of a cent. Some 450 boxes of farm dairy cheese were delivered and sold at prices ranging at from 10c to 12¾c.; but 11¾@12¾c. was paid for the bulk.

Seven thousand and seventy-one boxes of factory cheese were sold at the following figures: One lot at 14c.; 7 do. at 13¾c.; 1 do. at 13¼c.; 31 do. at 13½c.; 8 do. at 13c.; 3 do at 12¾c.; and 11 do. were shipped on commission. About 100 packages of butter were sold at prices ranging at from 24c. to 30c.; the bulk going at 28c.

We have recent advices from abroad. Our London correspondent says: "The stocks of American cheese in London in agents' hands cleared and the advance freely submitted to. It looks like a further advance of 4s. on that now on passage. Following are quotations:

American, extra fine, 56s.; fine, 52@54s.; English cheddar, 80@86s.; Wiltshire, double, 56@72s.; Cheshire medium, 66@78s.; fine, 78@80s.; Scotch, 60@68s.; Edams, 65@67s.; Derby slices, 60@62s.

Butter is rather easy; quality and condition of that to hand this week good, and sells at quotations, which are as follows:

Cloonmels, 144@150s.; Corks, 138@142s.; Dorsets, 166s.; Jersey, 120@134s.; Friesland, 150s.; Normandy extra, 120@168s.; American and Canadian, 110@120s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Oct. 7, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St	5,740	19	1,715	8,916	000
Forty-Eighth St	23	30	965	6,511	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	13,208
Harsimus Cove	5,419	00	209	10,536	12,919
Totals this week	11,188	49	2,887	25,963	26,127
" last week	10,180	28	2,185	32,300	26,203

BEEVES.—Monday last there was a firm but slow trade in horned cattle; prices ranged from 7@11c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5¼@9 cwt. There were more fair quality steers to hand than we have been able to report for several weeks; quality ranged from poor to fair, with a good top. Wednesday, prices fell off ½c. ₱ lb., with a decreased demand for good-quality beeves; prices were 7@11c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@10½ cwt. Thursday, trade small, at 6@10½c.; weights, 4¾@8¾cwt. Friday, sales were slow at 7¾@10½c.; weights, 5½@9 cwt. From 54@58 lbs., net, has been allowed; general sales on 56 lbs., net, to the cwt. Spanish lords, direct from the Plains, sold at 7@8½c. ₱ lb., do. fed east of the Mississippi, at 8¾@9c; native steers, grass-fed, 8@9½c.; part corn-fed do., 9¾@10½c.; grade do., 10¾@11c. Dry cows sold at 8¼c. Bulls, live weight, 3½@3¾c. Oxen at 8½@9c.

MILCH COWS.—Sales larger and rather easier. Nineteen cows sold at $40@45 ₱ head; 10 cows at $10@50; 10 cows at $55@60; 7 cows at $60@75—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals sold 7@9¾c.; coarse quality calves at 4@6¾c.; also at $5@13 ₱ head, trade-made rate. State calves sold at 4@6@6c.; Western, 5@6¾c.; State veals, 7@9¼c.; Pennsylvania, 8¾@9c.; Jersey, 8@9¾c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade fair in both sheep and lambs. On Monday last sheep sold at 4¾@6c. ₱ lb.; lambs, 5¾@6½c.; mixed flocks, 5@6c. Wednesday, sheep sold at 5@5¾c.; lambs, 6¾@6¾c. Thursday, sheep, 4@6c.; lambs, 5@9. Friday, the markets closed fair; sheep, 5@5¾c.; lambs, 5¾@7c. Jersey ewes sold at 5c. ₱ lb., Pennsylvania sheep at 4¾@5¾c.; Ohio, 4¾@5c.; State, 4¾@5c.; Michigan, 4¾@5c.; Canada, 5¾@6c. State lambs, 5¾@6½c.; Pennsylvania, 6@6¼c.; Kentucky, 5¾@6c.; Canada, 5¾@6¼c.; Jersey, 7c. ₱ lb.

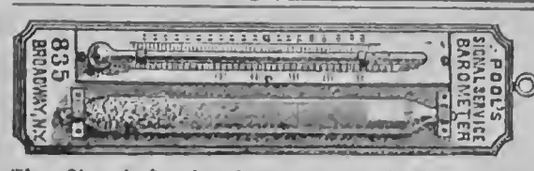
HOGS.—Trade in live hogs as follows: 63 Pennsylvania hogs, weight 141,430 lbs. 6¾c. ₱ lb.; 140 Ohio hogs, weight 33,620 lbs, at 6¾c.; 47 State hogs, weight 13,340 lbs, at $6.65 ₱ cwt; 14 State hogs, weight 3,510 lbs, at 6¾c. City dressed in fair demand, at 8½9¼c. Supply light.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade improved and sales more numerous. Forty-three light harness horses, quality poor, sold at $47@95 ₱ head; 50 ordinary quality do. $125@225; 30 roadsters, with fair trotting action, but not warranted sound, at $285@400; 7 pairs of family carriage horses at $500@525 ₱ pair; 3 pairs English carriage horses, aged, $600@795; 5 saddle horses, poor quality, $100@215; 19 heavy draft horses, coarse quality, $72@190; general sales at $62@85; 7 head do. choice quality, $300@410; 1 pair do. $600.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	10¾@11¾
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¼@ 9¾	9¼@ 9¾
Roorest	6 @ 9	6½@ 9
Gen. selling rates	9 @ 9¾	9 @ 9¾

New Advertisements.



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PERSONAL ITEMS.

THE Centennial A. Ward makes lots of fun.

THE American Press Ass. seems to be Johnson.

DOM PEDRO will stay in England one whole night.

GEORGE ALFRED LAWRENCE, the English author, is dead.

EDWIN ADAMS, the actor, is said to be dying in Australia.

HENRY JEROME BERTINI, the French pianist and composer, is dead.

ELDER EVANS, the Shaker, says that cats are mediums of evil spirits.

FOUR Frenchmen, made prisoners by the King of Dahomey, have escaped.

PROF. HUXLEY is accused of being a railroad deadhead while in this country.

A SLIGHT knowledge of Latin is full permission to trample the English language to death.

PRESIDENT BABBITT of the University of South Carolina has been appointed State Centennial orator.

THREE miners have reached Nevada from the Black Hills, having in their possession $360,000 in gold dust.

DION BOUCICAULT remarks of W. R. Floyd of the Boston Globe Theater:—"He's not a person—he's a poultice."

CLERGYMEN ought to be prepared to die young; but the Rev. Dr. Spear says that they live longer than any other class.

ONE of the men who wrote "Beautiful Snow" has been arrested for stealing. Once he was pure, but he got hungry.

MADAME GIRARD DE GRANDOIGNES, aunt of the celebrated savant and academician Flourens, has just died at the age of 106.

THE street musician of Paris has adopted the piano. We thought that dreadful instrument would come up some day.

THE pretty Miss Waldmann, so successful in "Aida," quits the lyric stage to marry an Italian count, the Marquis di Ferrara.

KING ALFONSO of Spain told the latest soldiers sent to Cuba that "America owes her prosperity to the triumph of Spanish arms."

WE learn from the Burlington Hawkeye that Dr. Mary Walker has been butted by an unscrupulous goat. Now call out the militia.

THE Rev. M. Van Orden, late Presbyterian missionary to Brazil, has been deposed from the ministry on a charge of being a slaveholder.

A LADY named Butler has been nominated for Congress in Massachusetts, says a London paper. The Widow is making a powerful sensation.

A SPANISH proverb says that a paper cigarette, a glass of fresh water, and the kiss of a pretty girl will sustain a man for a day without eating.

MAYOR BRYANT of San Francisco has vetoed a resolution granting permission to the Chinese to play upon musical instruments on their holidays.

THE widow of Jules Janin has bequeathed to the French Academy 20,000 francs for a Triennial prize for the best French translation of a Latin work.

"THERE!" said Jones, as he wrathfully pushed away the pie which his landlady had just served him, "the stuff isn't fit for a pig to eat, and I ain't going to eat it."

THE King of Belgium is endeavoring to establish a penal colony and institution in South Africa, and is in negotiation with the Republic of Transvaal for its capital.

JAMES LICK died wealthy and unhappy. His money made him more trouble than poverty could possibly have caused him. Brethren, let us think of this and be happy.

REV. WM. GOSS, a prominent minister of the New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Presiding Elder of the Poughkeepsie District, died in Poughkeepsie.

THE city of Aix, France, is preparing to celebrate its two thousandth anniversary. A statue of the Roman General, Marius, conqueror of the Cimbro-Teutons, is to be erected.

THE Mayor of Villafranca, Minorca, has fined a Protestant school mistress for accompanying some little girls while out walking. He has also prohibited singing in Protestant schools.

ANSWERING the deputation Lord Derby said that equal treatment of Mohammedans and Christians in the security of life and property was England's policy in the war question of the East.

MR. BAYARD TAYLOR is the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, a position once strikingly filled by Mr. John Swinton. That paper has a faculty of making excellent attachments.

MISS LOUISA STOPFORD has sent a diamond brooch to be sold in aid of the Servians, and writes that the diamonds were taken from a snuff box given to her late father, Admiral Stopford, by Sultan Abdul Medjid.

CARDINAL red, worn by young girls, in the waning leap year, has the significance of an auctioneer's red flag. All a man wants is a catalogue of the sale, announcing the painter's name and the merits.

THE Danbury News says:—A man on Long Island has received an African ram. It has four horns and is a "sacred ram." How it feels to be butted by a sacred ram none of us know, but it is altogether likely we will find out, if we but patiently wait, and no accident happens to the ram.

NOTHING seems to be known of the character and opinions of Abdul Hamid II. He is an enthusiastic Mahometan; he has but two wives, and he is not in debt; as to his political sympathies every one is profoundly ignorant.

ANOTHER defeat of the Turks. Mr. and Mrs. Turk of Jersey City, undertook to pummel Mrs. Quinn, but when the Servian police came in Mr. Turk's pulse had about failed him, and Mrs. Turk was crying for something good for scalds.

A BINGHAMTON man is suing for a divorce from his wife on the plea that she has a glass eye that is eternally open nights, and the "aspect makes him nervous." He coaxed her to close it with red sealing wax, but that only increased the terror he experienced.

FRANK SANBORN says two hands have evidently put their fingers to the making of "Mary Philbrick," and that one of them undoubtedly belongs to H. H. It was made in the same workshop as the Saxe-Holm stories. It is a real comfort to know everything.

"A DOLLAR is a large price for a watermelon," said a purchaser to a vender of this fruit, as he was paying for one the other day. "You wouldn't think so, mister," said the dealer, "if you had sot on the fence with a shotgun in your hand every night for three weeks watching the patch."

"BY JOVE," said a Yankee, dashing into the railroad telegraph station the other day, "the express train has gone off the big bridge!" "Many killed?" screamed the bystanders. "Not one," replied the other. "She just went on at one end and went off at the other—just as usual."

MR. GLADSTONE paid a very handsome tribute to Eugene Schuyler, and Mr. M. D. Conway says Schuyler, Hilary, Skinner, Forbes and Macgahan have done by their pens what the Servian sword could not do; they have scared the Ottoman Empire from its only stay and support in Europe.

JUDGE SETTLE has settled the question in favor of Governor Vance. He says the latter did not utter the atrocious sentiments attributed to him as his own, but read them in a quotation from Ingersoll's speech. After all Governor Hays was right; the proprieties had better be respected even in politics.

ELIHU BURRITT has a class of young ladies in Sanskrit. Their last exercise was the translation into the old language of "The Psalm of Life." Each copied the entire translation into an album, which was then sent to Longfellow, who acknowledged the receipt in a note thanking them for the "unique and beautiful present."

THE officers of the English fleet, at Besika, loyally observed the birthday of the Duchess of Edinburg September 3d. A foreign correspondent observes:—"Considering that the Duke and the fleet are at Besika Bay to frustrate the plans of the Duke's father-in-law, this celebration of the daughter-in-law's birthday has an interest all of its own."

A GENTLEMAN in the provinces sends his son to Paris to study law, and gives him a letter of introduction to an old friend, a theater manager. The manager replies promptly, "My dear friend, I hasten to reply to yours introducing your son. I have done what lay in my power for his good—refused him admission behind the scenes at my theater.

BYCICLE accidents are becoming frequent in England. A few days ago Edward Suggate, aged nineteen, while riding down an incline near Lowestoft, was thrown over the front of his machine. On rising to his feet, he remarked to a companion:—"That's a funny topple, isn't it? I can't draw my breath." He then laid down and died within fifteen minutes.

JOSEPH WARREN, editor of the Buffalo Courier, died suddenly Saturday week. He was one of the most active and prominent Democratic politicians in the country, was a member of both the State and National Executive Committees, and President of the State Associated Press. He was a man of genial manners and much public spirit and was every where highly esteemed.

IT appears, from the number of chairs that "Washington sat in," now on exhibition at the Centennial, that the father of his country sat down 29,876 times during the revolutionary war, and each time in a different chair, many of them being patterns of 1875. This explains the entry in Mrs. Washington's journal which has mystified everybody. "Oh, if I only knew where I could get something to reinforce George's trowsers with that which wouldn't wear out in less than two weeks."—*Hawkeye.*

A YOUNG man fresh from college undertook to address a political meeting, and, pointing to a fellow with no collar on, and a beard of three days' growth, said, "Look at yon son of toil." The person apostrophized replied, with animation that he wasn't going to stand there and hear his mother's fair fame aspersed. "Take that back!" he shouted; and, before the astonished orator had time to take it back, he was assaulted with a beer mug.

Musical Instruments.

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We will call and see you next July and assist at your CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. By the sale of the Celebrated Watches, same opportunity bring you manufactured by our country-men, the MESSRS. BOREL & COURVOISIER of Neuchatel, for INSPECTION and EXHIBITION, These Watches are favorably known throughout the U. S., having been sold by our local agents in almost every City, Town and Village the past ten years. Their reputation for accurate performance is universally acknowledged. They are manufactured in Gold and Silver Cases, Stem and Key Winders. These Watches have superior quality of Nickel Movements, Chronometer Balances, Breguet Hair Springs, Tempered, Hardened and Isochronised for R. R. use, fine Ruby Jeweled, set in Chaton, and warranted to perform with the regularity and accuracy of a chronometer. Ask your Watchmaker to see them before purchasing those of other makers, as we have been authorized to sell them at a reduction from former prices.

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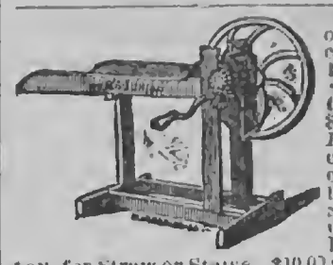

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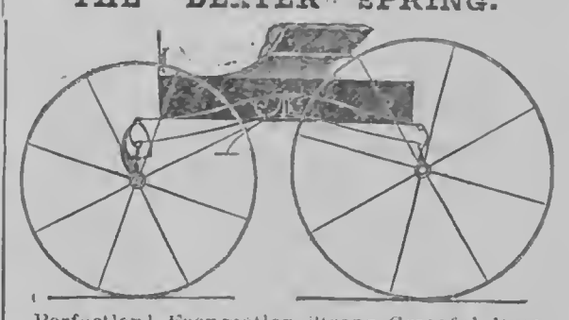

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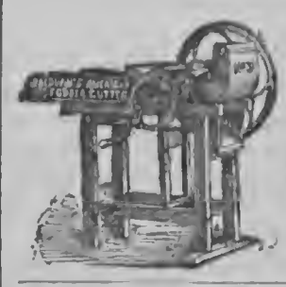

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GRANTED HIGHEST MEDAL OF MERIT AND DIPLOMA AT THE CENTENNIAL!
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HALF GLOVES. FULL GLOVES.

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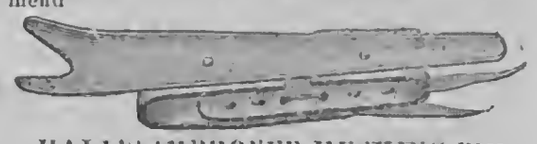

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made of best Cast Steel. In most approved form, and provided with straps ready for use. Unquestionably the VERY BEST Husking Pin in the market. Price, prepaid, 20 cts., three for 50 cts. Ask your merchant for them, or address
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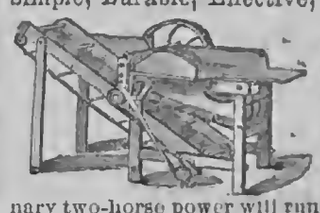
Simple, Durable, Effective, and works rapidly.



This machine, improved and perfected, does its work thoroughly, picking the corn from the stalk and stripping every ear, large or small, soft or hard, completely of its husks and silk. Any ordinary two-horse power will run it.
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Hudson, Columbia Co., N. Y.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

A. C.—Will you answer the following questions in your valuable paper :

(1) Are refuse hops good manure for the vegetable garden or for flowers, either in pots or beds, and if so, how does it compare in strength with stable or cow manure? and should it be thoroughly rotted before using?

(2) I have been experimenting to-day a little with hops in striking cuttings. I took small boxes, say 3½ inches deep and 5 inches wide, and put about an inch deep of hops in the bottom, then filled up the boxes with good sand, and placed the cuttings about an inch or inch and a half deep in the sand and set them in the sun. What do you think of the plan?

(3) Is malt good for manure? and should it be rotted before using? I live near two breweries, and can get all the hops I want and some malt for carting it away. My land is rather a loamy clay, with a stiff clay subsoil, and inclined to dry out towards the latter part of summer. Last fall I put four good two-horse wagon-loads of manure on about one-third of an acre, after the first plowing, and plowed it three times after and planted in corn. The most of the manure did not rot; but had about an average crop—very little if any better than the year before. Would it help it any to put lime on it this fall; if so, how much to the acre?

(4) What makes my chickens eat their feathers? They will pluck the feathers from each other and eat them greedily. I keep them in a pen or lot, 32 x 100 feet, and they have plenty of gravel and mortar, or plaster, broken up, and plenty of good, fresh, pure water to run to all the time. Their feed is corn in the morning and boiled potatoes at noon. They are turned out every other day to run in a field of two acres, and are in good order. They are of the Brown Leghorn, mixed with Polands. There are about forty of them, old and young.

ANS.—Hops are considered valuable as a fertilizer; but when used fresh from the brewery, they ferment quickly, generating almost as much heat as fresh horse manure. The gardeners about New York use hops for their hot-beds, also for banking them up on the outside in cold weather, mulching for small tender plants, and for composting with other less heating kinds of fertilizers. But before hops can be absorbed by plants as a fertilizer, they must become soluble in water, the same as any other kind of manure. Consequently, the more thoroughly decomposed before applying the sooner will they be used by the growing plants. Still, the hops mixed in the soil may have a mechanical or chemical influence highly beneficial, independent of their manurial value.

(2) We think that your experiment with cuttings set over a layer of hops, will do little better, if any, than in pure sand.

(3) Yes; malt will answer for manure, but we would mix it with some other and coarse material; for instance, add the malt to the compost heap to hasten decomposition and fermentation.

(4) Filthy hen yards will sometimes generate lice or disease of the skin, and hens then get into the habit of eating or plucking feathers from each other. To cure, see that the house and yard are clean, and give fresh meat and clean, pure water, with a heap of dry ashes in which the fowls can take a dust-bath daily.

Invalid asks our opinion as to the healthfulness of various kinds of food. She disagrees with Mr. PECK in his qualified advocacy of pork as a healthful food and advocates "an exclusively vegetable diet."

There is probably as much bosh written upon dietetic subjects as upon any other. The trouble is, that this class of hobby-riders are too fond of making a universal application of what is only valuable for special purposes. Most of the foods usually eaten are healthful, if taken in reasonable quantities and adapted in gross quantity to the needs of the individual. Thus pork for a man who labors hard from morning until night, in the open air, is as good as any other food for *him*. For one of sedentary habits, it is perhaps the worst. The greater the expenditure of force, the greater necessarily the exhaustion of the system and the greater, therefore, the need of concentrated foods. It is our opinion that living in strict accordance with the blue rules laid down by ultra dietetists is calculated to work as much injury as if people, unguided by any special rules, eat and drank pretty much whatever they choose. In all the pursuits of life, whether in matters of religion or of intellectual culture, of manual labor, or of the gratification of the appetite, it is excessive devotion, application or indulgence which induces disease. It is a miserable, narrow and timid philosophy that would restrict a man in his diet to a tithe of the good things for which his nature craves and which, if taken in moderation, are more nearly what he really needs to insure his best health than can be dictated by those fanatics who, unless we live upon air and shavings and deprive ourselves of half the pleasure of existence, are positive that epilepsy, apoplexy, paralysis or some other frightful disease is hovering over us as buzzards over carrion.

Dry Goods, &c.

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IN ALL THE NEWEST COLORINGS AND MATERIALS, FROM TEN CENTS A YARD UPWARDS.

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INDIA SHAWLS,
FROM THE LONDON AUCTION SALES IS VERY LARGE AND ATTRACTIVE, AND PRICES ABOUT HALF FORMER YEARS.
REAL INDIA, filled centers, at $65, $75, $85 and upwards.
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Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

Wit and Humor.

THE LORD BISHOP.

THE following "poem" was written by a farmer on the occasion of a visit by the Lord Bishop to a country parish, and was actually sung by the choir:

Why skip ye so, ye little hills,
And wherefore do ye hop?
Is it because ye do expect
To see the Lord Bish-op?

Why hop ye so, ye little hills
And wherefore do ye skip?
Is it because ye do expect
To see the Lord Bish-ip?

Why hop ye so, ye little hills,
And why do ye jump up?
Is it because ye long to see
His Grace the Lord Bish-up?

Why jump ye so, ye little hills,
And wherefore do ye leap?
Is it because ye eager are
To see the Lord Bish-cep?

THE REASON WHY.

ONE gentleman observed to another:

"I have a wife and six children in New York, and I never saw one of them."

"Were you ever blind?"

"Oh, no," replied the other.

A further lapse of time, and then the interrogator resumed the subject:

"Did I understand you to say that you had a wife and six children living in New York, and that you had never saw one of them?"

"Yes, such is the fact."

Here followed a still longer pause in the conversation.

"How can it be that you never seen one of them?"

"Why," was the answer, "one of them was born after I left."

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A THEOLOGICAL student, supposed to be deficient in judgment, was asked by a professor, in the course of a class examination, "Pray, Mr. E—, how would you discover a fool?" "By the questions he would ask," was the rather stunning reply.

"Jones, if there were burglars in my house, and I knew it, by jingo, I'd——" "Well, Smith, what would you do?" "I would do whatever they required of me. I never had my way in that house yet, and it's too late to commence now—yes, too late."

AT the Centennial, the Philadelphia ladies cry out, "Isn't it cunning?" New York ladies. "How superbly lovely!" Boston ladies, "Ah, how exquawsite!" Louisville ladies, "Be-utiful, fo' shuah!" Chicago ladies, "Oh, my—I wish I owned that!" while the genuine Yankee girls from the rural districts exclaim, "Gee-whimminy, but ain't that 'ere a stunner, neow!"

A PROVIDENCE boy went to a birthday party, and describes it as follows: "First, we all had some bread and butter; then we had some lemonade, cold enough to freeze us; then we had a piece of birthday cake; then we all had lots of ice cream; and then we all had the stomach ache; then we all lay down, and the big girls gave us some peppermint; then we all went out to play."

A SAGACIOUS COLLECTOR.—Horace Greely used to tell this story:—He once sent a claim for collection to a Western lawyer, and regarding it as rather a desperate claim, told the attorney if he collected it he might reserve half the amount for his fee. In due time Mr. Greely received the following laconic epistle: "Dear Sir—I have succeeded in collecting my half of that claim. The balance is hopeless."

IT iz a grate deal cheaper to work than it iz to beg; enny man kan earn two dollars while he iz begging one. The most painful reckolecksh un ov mi life waz the time spent when I waz a boy, waiting to be whipt. If a man slips from the top round ov fame's ladder he haz got to fall to the bottom; there iz no haffway house. In most arguments the truth iz lost sight ov; the partys roll up their sleeves and go in simply to win. There iz a grate deal ov bogus humility floating around, the most humble kritter you ever see iz a hornet, who haz lost hiz stinger. —(Billings.

LET every father buy his boy a pistol. It is wonderful what a world of amusement there is in it. The boy may shoot some harmless bird, a pig, a cow, a horse, his little sister, or maybe himself. Here is a horse case right at hand from an Eastern paper: "Three boys, who were practicing with a pistol at Hartford the other day, accidentally shot the trotting mare 'Maybe,' inflicting a wound that will probably prove fatal. The animal has a record of 2:23, and is valued at $10,000." Cases where boys shoot their little sisters or themselves are too common to need the reference of any case at hand.

BAD FOR THE DOGS.

INTELLECTUAL CREATURE—"No it's utterly impossible for a fellah to stand this disgusting weather. I feel as though my bwains were going to the dogs."

LADY—"Dear, dear! Poor, poor dogs!"

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The Horseman.

THE ORLOFF TROTTER.

THE very interesting article from the pen of Mons. JULES GOUJON of Moscow, Russia, on the Orloff Trotter, which was published a few weeks since in the Spirit of the Times, has turned the thought of American horsemen to the dominions of the Czar of all the Russias. Believing that many of our readers might feel interested in these noted horses, we give the accompanying illustration of a Droschka — a vehicle used in the trotting races in Russia. Heavy sulkies are sometimes used, but the clumsy, four-wheeled Droschka shown has the preference. The Editor of the Spirit of the Times remarks:

They are not, however, as heavy as one would imagine from the picture, weighing but a trifle more than seventy pounds each. The progressive horsemen of Russia use the sulkies and appreciate the advantage of the two-wheeled vehicle, but there are many owners with whom prejudice is patent, who content themselves with saying, "We have always used the Droschka, and we always will." The cut below represents a rather old-fashioned vehicle, the Droschka of two years ago. The modern ones have the wheels nearer together. They are made of hickory, imported from this country, and cost about 150 roubles ($187.50). It will be observed that the wheels are very low, those forward being about 20 inches in diameter, and those behind about 30 inches. This brings the driver very close to the ground. He rides with his feet against the forward axle of the Droschka, and in his lowly position must receive quantities of mud and dust from the feet of his trotter. Indeed, these vehicles, on a heavy track, accumulate enough mud to make a sensible addition to their weight; but these points are not considered as important in Russia as in America, for the races there are generally driven at catch-weights. The exception to this rule is races where the Government gives the prizes, when a stipulated weight is required. The most striking feature of the rig depicted below is the hoop over the neck of the horse. This institution is a relic of the dark ages, but has been religiously preserved in Russia. It is of no use, except to hold the thills together, which could be done much better in other ways; or to hang a bell in, desirable for sleighing, but not done, of course, when a horse is trotting a race. The retention of this unsightly hoop appears to be due to the inertness of the Russian mind, which begets a disinclination to move out of the old ruts. The fastest time ever made by an Orloff trotter is five minutes for three versts, or two miles, and when we state that this time was made to one of these ungainly Droschkas, it will be seen that the merit of the performance is much enhanced. In a race of that distance they calculate that a Sulky is six seconds faster than a Droschka; but the owner of the horse which made the record mentioned is one of the high-bound Muscovites who will not change from the Droschka to the lighter vehicle.

Mons. GOUJON, being a native of France, has none of these Russian prejudices. He has purchased a Sulky of the most approved style and a large assortment of gear for trotters of all descriptions. When he returns to Russia, he will not only be prepared to instruct horsemen there as to all our ways of doing things in connection with trotting, but will be provided with a great deal of paraphernalia which will speak for itself. While in that land the Trotter is the national horse even more than he is in America, they are wofully behind the age in many respects. That this is the case, no evidence is needed beyond the fact of their still using such clumsy four-wheeled carts for their races. But we anticipate that the visit of Mons. GOUJON to this country will go far toward reforming their customs. He was particularly struck with the superiority of our conveniences for taking care of horses in the stable, and has informed himself thoroughly in all such matters. The Trotter is his specialty, and when he returns to the land of his adoption it will be as a missionary to those whose eyes have been blinded by inertia and prejudice. When his light Caffray Sulky is once seen on a Russian race-track, we think it will not be long until they come into general use, and that such abominations as the clumsy vehicle below will soon be discarded altogether. When this comes about, and when other advancements in the science of training and driving trotters are understood and adopted in Russia, we can see no reason why the horses of that country should not be equal to ours in speed, as they already are in all other desirable qualities. Indeed, we think there are few American trotters which could pull such a wagon as is depicted on this page two miles in five minutes.

RUSSIAN DROSCHKA AND ORLOFF TROTTER.

Farm Economy.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

The real wealth of any country comes from the cultivation of its soil. The great need of this country is productive agricultural labor. How to obtain it with greatest advantage to all concerned is one of the problems yet to be solved. The United States have an area of more than three millions of square miles and a population of about forty millions. Up to the present time it has been the policy of our Government to encourage emigration, for moral, political and financial reasons. The land of Freedom should be the refuge of the oppressed and the home of all who desire advancement. It has been hoped that from the combined wisdom of all nations a system of governmental policy would be deduced better than the world has ever known. Every worker of the soil produces from it more than is necessary for his support. It has been estimated that the arrival of every immigrant adds, prospectively at least, a thousand dollars to the wealth of the country. Men of all nationalities have consequently been welcomed, and citizenship offered on easy terms.

But now comes from the Pacific Coast a cry of alarm. California clamors concerning Chinese. Laborers were needed, and from China they came. But they have come in such numbers, and with habits of life so different from those of Americans, as to awaken alarm in the minds of some of the Californians, and now Congress is asked to take measures to restrict immigration.

So far as we understand it, the principal objections to the Chinese are:

They underbid laborers of other nationalities in the price demanded for their labor.

They do not come here with the intention of becoming citizens, but leave their families behind and send home their surplus earning—thus draining the country of its wealth.

If they die here their bones are taken back to China.

They herd together in great numbers, and by this and their habits of life invite disease.

They are immoral and licentious in the extreme.

Being heathen, they have no regard for Christian institutions, and as witnesses do not observe the sanctity of an oath.

That they do not desire citizenship, and consequently have no interest in the public welfare.

If immigration is not restricted they will come in such numbers as will exceed the white population, and becoming voters, will imperil "the very existence of our civilization and the permanence of Republican institutions."

Now, who and what are these Chinese that bid fair to make us so much trouble?

The Empire of China comprises an area nearly double that of the United States, extending over twenty degrees of latitude. Its inhabitants number more than four hundred millions. Its history runs back thousands of years. Its religion, or rather its creeds and doctrines, are founded on the writings of CONFUCIUS, who died long before the birth of CHRIST, but who is still regarded in all nations as one of the leaders and teachers of the world. Its Government, nominally a despotism, has passed through various phases necessary for all Governments that continue long, and has finally succeeded in employing the organized intellect of its people for its direction and maintenance. There is no nation in which education is so generally diffused. It is expected that every Chinaman shall know how to read and write. The public offices are filled by successful candidates who have prepared themselves to take part in competitive examinations, and they are not discharged with every turn of a political machine. The positions are open to all. Merit and capacity are the only roads to promotion. It is intended that intellect shall govern.

As a rule the people are industrious, temperate, economical, intelligent and ingenious. Some say that their morality will compare favorably with that of other nations. This we doubt. Where Polygamy is allowed and girl babies are drowned with as little compunction as kittens, morality must be at a low point. They are a nation of gamblers, are given to the use of opium, and are indisputably licentious. Their habits of cleanliness are paradoxical, for while individually they show much desire for a cleanly appearance, congregated they form as filthy a set as the world knows. Before the successful endeavors of Christian nations to force commercial relations upon their Government, they were content to be a world by themselves and desired no intercourse with others. Our Government joined with others to break up this exclusiveness, and invited their commerce and good-fellowship. The request for inter-relation did not come from the Chinese, who would now gladly return to their former state of seclusion if they might.

Of this people are the immigrants to which California objects. They are not from the best classes, probably not from even the middle ranks of society, but occupy the same position at home as do most of the Germans, Irish, Italians, etc., who flock in such numbers to our Eastern Coast. Should their further immigration be invited or discouraged? Let us briefly examine some of the objections made to their coming.

It is said they work for less wages than others would ask and receive were it not for their interference.

Shall Congress determine what is a day's work and how much shall be paid for it? Are not many women doing work for less than men receive for the same? If a white man spends 50 cents a day for his sustenance and a Chinaman is satisfied to live on what he can procure for 20 cents, should the employer be assessed for the difference? "Friend, as I live, I cannot sell thee a hat for your price," said a Quaker to a cheapening customer. "Then live cheaper," was the reply. "Thee is the first who hast discovered my secret," said the Quaker, "and shall have the hat." The introduction of labor-saving machinery has always met with objections from certain classes and with the same argument—that such machines would do the work formerly done by men, who would by their introduction be deprived of opportunity to earn a living.

They expect to return to China and take with them their savings, thus draining the country of its wealth.

But if they give value for the money they earn, most of which is spent for their support, how can they by carrying the rest away render the country poorer? True, it would be better if all the wealth of the country could remain here, instead of being taken abroad, whether by returning Chinese or to pay for articles of foreign manufacture that we could just as well do without.

The bones of their dead are taken back to China.

Very true. But as Government does not intend to go into the Phosphate business, we see little harm resulting from that.

That there is danger of their ever out-voting the whites and getting control of the Government is doubtful. It is held as an objection to them that they do not desire to become citizens. And so far as the political question is concerned it is to be hoped that the intelligence of the American people will soon see the absurdity of universal suffrage and make such changes as seem to be necessary for the protection and welfare of the country.

They are heathen. True, and their condition in another life may be materially influenced thereby, but in practical, business affairs of this one it doesn't seem to make much difference.

The other objections seem to relate to matters more directly under the control of the City Government of San Francisco. That the Chinese do not bring their wives and families is true; "pity 'tis 'tis true," for evil doubtless results from the omission. Immorality and licentiousness exist in the Chinese quarter to an alarming extent. Gambling is universal among them. They congregate in masses and live in such narrow apartments, filled with the fumes of opium and the stinks from all kinds of filth, that it is wonderful disease is not engendered of sufficient potency to sweep them all out of existence. But San Francisco has the power to regulate the lives and actions of all within her limits. If it fails to do this, whose is the fault? But it cannot be done by passing laws not to be enforced or intended to be enforced against Chinese, while whites are excused. Nor are policemen, whose only pay is the contributions of those they are sent to keep in order, very likely to be extremely strict in the performance of their duties.

We have spent considerable time in examining this matter, and while admitting that the case may require heroic treatment at the hands of the legal authorities, must believe that the objections to further immigration arise mainly from three causes:

1st. Race hostility, which seems to be natural. 2d. Individual animosity, usually engendered by some pecuniary cause. 3d. An ignorance of the laws of political economy.

A few years ago Know-nothingism was rife in the East. It had its rise in political ambition and aspiration on the part of some who desired to lead. It could not be maintained because it was in conflict with the first principles of Republican institutions. But the most rabid Know-Nothing never suggested prohibition of immigration, and no legal action for keeping out Chinese can be had that will not apply to people of every foreign nation. This country is for all. What will be the result none can tell. The intermixture of European nations with Americans has so far done no harm. That with the Indian and African is too little and the progeny too wanting in vitality and power of reproduction to demand serious attention. There seems to be no indication of any more with the Mongolian. But whatever the end may be, it will be right. The whole universe—organic, physical and mental—is subject to natural law, against which our strongest efforts avail nothing; and whatever countries may contribute to the population of our own, or however they may cross, merging the peculiar traits of different nationalities, the result will be proof of the truth of the doctrine of the survival of the fittest. L. A. R.

The Apiarian.

LOCATING THE BEEHIVES.

There are almost as many different opinions in regard to the best exposure for an apiary as there are apiarians. The Agricultural Gazette (Eng.) has something to say on this question, which is probably as applicable here as abroad.

"After procuring a colony of bees, the next step to be taken is the selection of a suitable site in the apiary or garden designed for its abode. This must be done previous to the removal of the colony, but a decision on the point need not be come to hastily, as the vendor of a hive is willing, in most instances, that it should remain where it is until the purchaser finds it convenient to have it removed to its future home. Besides, transport, for fear of the combs collapsing, should not be attempted during such hot weather as has recently prevailed. Nor should it be thought of (if the distance to which the hive is to be carried is less than half a mile) until the middle or end of October, or until the temperature has fallen for a few days below 45°; otherwise serious loss of bees may be sustained through their finding their way back to the locality from which they came, and never returning. In ordinary seasons September and October are both good months for the conveyance of bees.

It is necessary, however, for their health that shortly after completing their journey they should have one or two fine days on which they can go out and relieve themselves of their business and of their burdens.

The disturbance created by transport causes every bee to fill itself with honey, and the condition thereby induced is unfavorable to lengthened confinement.

We can always calculate on a fine day occurring after a short interval, in autumn, but one suitable for bee-flight may not happen in winter till after the lapse of several weeks. If bees eat freely, and are constrained by an inclement atmosphere to remain long within doors, evil consequences follow. This is what sometimes causes the death of winter-moved hives. But in September and October enforced confinement is of short uration, and those who are just commencing bee-keeping may have their hives brought home at an earlier or later date as they deem most agreeable.

For a site the best is in a place sheltered on all sides from winds, without excluding the rays of the sun. If this cannot be had, the next best is one screened from the south-west, west, and north. In a garden surrounded by a low wall, we would plant a hive 3 or 4 feet in front of the north wall, and nearer to the west wall than the east one. If the wall were very high, and sent back a strong reflection at mid-day, we would plant the hive at a distance of 3 or 4 yards from it. But for greater ease of flight to bees over a high wall in every direction, a site near the centre of the garden is preferable.

It is difficult to give instructions applicable to all places; the most eligible situation, and least exposed to gusts of wind and eddying currents, must be discovered by observation and experience. Any mistake made at first in finding it can be afterwards rectified.

On a dry soil, 9 inches is sufficient hight for the hive to be raised above it, and if the hive, like those of cottagers, rests on three or four posts driven into the ground, each post should be nearly 2 inches from the outer edge of the floor-board to make the ascent of mice difficult or impossible. The floor-board need not be fixed, but to prevent accident from a gale, cords crossed at right angles, and passing over the hive, may be tied to the posts.

Let the hive incline a little in front, to throw off rain, and on the ground before it let nothing higher than strawberries be grown, as bees in going out to the fields, and returning home not only dislike obstructions in their way, but have their labors thereby impeded.

It is desirable also to have a currant or gooseberry plot near a hive, that swarms issuing may be tempted to go thither and settle on one of its bushes.

With an arrangement of this kind emigrants rarely fail to be arrested, and they will hang for hours when they happen to be well shaded. Rain-drops from overhanging trees falling upon and around a hive are injurious, from the damp which they occasion. Shade may be used to any extent that does not intercept the sunshine from 10 A. M. till 2 P. M. during the winter months.

With regard to aspect different views are entertained, some advocating one point of the compass and some another.

We have tried all kinds, and the conclusion we have come to is this,—that there is none superior to the one that allows the sun's rays to shine directly in the entrance of a hive at 11½ A. M. There is not a difference of consequence between a South-South-east or South-west aspect, and selection may be left to taste. But we disapprove of an east, west, or north aspect. They are very trying to the capability of bee endurance. The inmates of a hive, with a bright sun playing upon its entrance and ground in front for three or four hours, can often in the depth of winter go out and keep themselves comfortable and healthy, whilst those which have the doorway of their domicile facing north are unable to do so. In mild localities, any aspect from east by north to west may answer; but in high latitudes subject to severe and long continued frosts it is not suitable, causing, as we have seen in some seasons, the greatest distress. Besides, a northern aspect offers little or no advantage in the way of food consumption; its demands are heavier than a southern one when the population is small.

Whether a person commencing bee-keeping should set up an apiary with only a single stock, or with two or more, depends a good deal on his aim and object. If his main purpose is to get acquainted with the mysteries of bee-keeping, he would do well, if he has to grope his way unaided, to give his undivided attention to a single stock. Should a frame-hive be his choice, and the inspection of its combs be contemplated, either frequently, or at any hour of the day, he will, by having his hive isolated and far removed from others, escape those dangers which are apt to be created by the presence of stranger bees. These bees, when near, being attracted by the scent of honey, come to combs exposed and lifted out for examination, and, on tasting their sweets, are tempted to make a plundering raid; or they may, through getting introduced into a wrong hive, with the replaced combs, assassinate its sovereign.

To get speedily into possession of numerous hives, and have a larger harvest of honey, it is best to begin bee-keeping with two stocks, sited as far apart as circumstances permit.

One of these might be a common skep, intended for natural swarming—the other a frame-hive devoted to the purpose of making artificial swarms—or receiving a super. In case of accident two stocks are desirable.

We had two this season, which appeared equally populous and flourishing in the beginning of June; but before the end of the month, one shot far ahead, and in July not only gave out swarms, but also filled a super. The other did neither, owing to its queen dying from age or sickness on June 22.

Two weeks were required for the production of another sovereign, and three weeks more for the hatching out of the earliest of her offspring. The hive consequently, whilst daily losing its older bees, had no addition to its numbers from young bees during the whole of that period; and as the honey-gathering season was over before it had fairly recovered itself, it proved of no more value than an early swarm."

INOCULATION OF THE VIRUS OF THE STING OF BEES.

A GENTLEMAN of England, Mr. G. WALKER, performed upon himself the following experiments in order to ascertain the length of time, and the number of stings required so to inoculate his sytem that additional stings would produce neither pain nor swelling:

"I went to one of my hives, caught a bee, placed it on my wrist, and allowed it to sting me, taking care that I received the largest amount of poison by preventing it from going away at once: then I let the poison-bag work, which it does for some time after being separated from the bee. The first day I only stung myself twice. A bee sting has always had a very bad and injurious effect on me, inasmuch as it has always caused a great amount of swelling and pain: in fact, once when stung on my ear, the part became so painful and swollen that I hardly got any sleep the following night, and it was three days before I recovered. The first few stings I got during this experiment had the usual effect: the whole of my fore-arm was affected with a cutaneous erysipelas, and there was disorder of the muscular nerves, accompanied with heat, redness, swelling, and pain. This attack lasted till Tuesday, and on Wednesday (October 7th) I was so far recovered that, following the same plan, I stung myself three times more, also on the wrist. The attack of erysipelas this time was not nearly so severe; but, as before, I felt a stinging sensation as far up as my shoulder, and I noticed that a lymphatic gland behind my ear had increased considerably in size, the poison being taken up by the lymphatic system. On Saturday (October 10th) I again treated myself to three stings, and the pain was considerably less, though the swelling was still extensive. At the end of the next week (October 17th) I had had eighteen stings; then I stung myself seven

times more during the next week, and I reached the number of thirty-two on October 31st; the course of the experiment having lasted nearly four weeks. After the twentieth sting there was very little swelling or pain, only a slight itching sensation, with a small amount of inflammation in the immediate neighborhood of the part stung, which did not spread further: and I stung myself on November 8th, without its having any effect on me."

THE PROFITS OF HONEY BEES.

During the last fifteen years three or four bee magazines have come into existence, and it is to their interest to have a great many bee keepers in the United States, consequently they often speak of correspondents who write the "naked facts" in regard to profits rather roughly, saying that they are "old fogies, opposed to progress in bee keeping," or something akin to these expressions. I have done something toward exposing the humbugs about bees that we read in the papers, and I propose to "fight it out on that line" for a long time. Notwithstanding that the Bee-Keepers' Magazine of New York is quick to publish humbugs in regard to the *imaginary* profits of bee keeping and has denounced writers who state *facts*, yet I see in the October number of that paper the following admissions from correspondents who occupy a semi-editorial position. One says in reply to inquiries from a person who says he knows nothing about bee keeping:

"If you wish to keep bees for pleasure only, all well; but if for a supply of honey for your family, you can buy it cheaper than you can produce it."

Another correspondent says in regard to the great losses in wintering bees:

"Large numbers die in winter, so that in the spring the bee keeper finds that he has almost to begin anew."

The above quotations merely go to show that what I have heretofore said on the over-estimating of the profits of bee keeping is true.

Linden, N. J. T. B. MINER.

Dairy Husbandry.

DAIRY BOARDS OF TRADE AND THE MARKETING OF DAIRY PRODUCTS.

At the recent session of the National Agricultural Congress at the Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia, Mr. X. A. WILLARD referred to markets and marketing in his address on "American Dairying," of which the following is an abstract:

One great feature belonging to the dairy and which gives dairymen an immense advantage over other farmers is an organized system of marketing. The system was commenced at Little Falls, N. Y., in 1860-'61—buyers and sellers meeting on certain days of the week in the open street to make transactions (for the business was then done in the open air by the side of the wagons). An attempt has recently been made by certain parties to falsify the truth of history by representing that the first effort to establish "sales days" or a country cheese market was made at Utica, N. Y., in 1870.

There is scarcely a dairyman in the State of New York but is familiar with the fact that Little Falls had a regular weekly dairy market or "sales days" *ten years* prior to 1871 and one where millions of pounds of cheese were sold annually. What, then, must we think of those who claim that the first regular "sales day" of the country occurred at Utica in 1871.

On some market days at Little Falls previous to 1864 several hundred farmers have been in the streets near the railway depot, each with his wagon loaded with cheese, boxed and marked with his name, while some twenty or more buyers were scattered among them and passing from wagon to wagon—some from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and other cities, with an occasional shipper from England—could be seen examining, boring, tasting, smelling and making bids for the load.

In 1864 the first weekly report of the Little Falls Market, then and now the largest interior dairy market in the world, began to be made, and since 1868 the RURAL NEW-YORKER has made a specialty in reporting that market.

Previous to 1864 farmers relied on city quotations, which were sometimes thought to be in merchants' favor. But it was not until the early part of 1871 that a "Dairy Board of Trade" was organized, though the project was agitated in Little Falls in 1869 and earlier. Here, as in the origin of the dairy movement as a specialty, Herkimer County took the initiative, establishing a "Dairymen's Board of Trade" under the name of the "New York State Dairymen's Association and Board of Trade."

Soon after publishing and sending out circulars giving the plan of organization and the rules and machinery by which it was to be governed, the dairymen of Oneida County took copy and also established a "Dairymen's Board of Trade" at Utica. The plan spread to other sections, and now many dairy centers in New York and other States have their Dairy Boards of Trade, at which merchants and sellers meet on regular days of the week for the transaction of business in dairy goods. The telegraph is here brought into requisition and sellers go upon the market knowing something of the demand and the price on both sides of the Atlantic. At the interior markets competition often runs high and merchants sometimes complain that margins are narrow and money not so easily made as when the goods were bought at the factory on city quotations. Be this as it may, the dairymen now have a sort of commercial education. They study the markets, both home and foreign, and they judge when it is best to realize on their goods.

SHRINKAGE IN VALUES—THE OUTLOOK.

The shrinkage in values on nearly all kinds of property during 1876 has been very considerable. Real estate has depreciated from 25 to 30 per cent., and in some localities even more. The fall in cotton goods and in some other manufactures has been very great. The value of nearly all our agricultural products is below the range of 1874, and it is not surprising, under the pressure of the times, that dairy goods should have been comparatively low. But even under the darkest phase of the situation the outlook of dairying is by no means discouraging. Indeed, there is no class of farmers better off to-day than the dairymen. They have sold their goods from month to month and from week to week for cash, and their goods have found a ready market and gone into consumption, while other products have been slow of sale even at greatly reduced rates.

The European demand has been fully equal to our surplus and exports keep values upon a gold basis. It is true prices have been comparatively low, but not nearly so low as they were years ago, when dairymen found it not difficult to amass fortunes in the business.

The one hopeful sign for our increased production is that English production is decreasing, while the increase of population in our cities and towns calls more and more for additional supplies of fresh milk and an increased quantity of butter and cheese for home consumption.

That we are not overproducing is proved by the free disposal of the entire products of the dairy from year to year. Very likely if the make was less prices would advance, but the values realized on account of scarcity would press heavily upon the masses, who for the most part find it hard "to make the ends meet" from year to year. Is it not better that the people have cheap food with moderate gains to the producer than that they should suffer for want of food or be compelled to buy sparingly at high prices that the producer may grow suddenly rich? Many dairymen of late years have neglected the economics of dairying, and it is the waste and extravagance that pinches harder than the low prices.

He who can cut off waste and be content with moderate gains will see a silver lining to the cloud (if indeed there be a cloud) that dims the future in the far distant dairy horizon.

PROFIT IN CHEAP COWS.

My last venture in cheap cows has convinced me that while there may be larger profit in the better class of cows, the cheap cow, under certain circumstances, is very profitable. If careful housekeepers could appreciate this fact, more cows would be kept among the so-called "medium classes." Last fall I was compelled to buy a cow to supply our table with milk, and not wishing to put more capital in stock than was necessary, I purchased what was called a poor cow, and was heartily laughed at by all hands. She cost me $35. Her milk was too poor for butter, but I expected to fatten her in spring, and wanted her for temporary purposes only. The circumstances which compelled me to buy also forced me to keep her into summer. I have had her just a year. I have kept an accurate account with her, and as she was kept and fed by herself in a yard, I know precisely what return I have had for my outlay. We have on several occasions made creditable butter from her cream. She is a heavy feeder and always had as much as she would eat to keep her in good condition, for I think that by this means much is saved in time, as well as expense, in afterward fattening. Here is the account:

Cost to Keep for One Year.

Corn fodder	$25 00
Meal (corn, oat and bean)	23 00
Pasture	21 00
Total	$72 00

Produced.

Five qts. milk daily one year (1,825 qts.), at 7c. per quart	$127 75
Butter	6 00
Manure	8 00
Total produce	$140 75
Deduct cost	72 00
Net profit	$68 75

This certainly is a good percentage on the investment. But this is not all. I have credited her with but five quarts of milk daily. This is only what I should have to buy to supply the table, and therefore the only credit she should have, unless the extra milk was sold or used. We consumed it all. Her yield (being farrow) has averaged over eight quarts for the entire year. These three extra quarts, made into pies, puddings, custards, cheese, etc., will make 1,095 quarts, which, at 7c. (it is generally 8c. here), amounts to $76 65, which, added to the $68.75 profit above, will give a grand total of $145.40 as the profit realized in one year from my $35 cow. This, of course, is when all the milk is used to advantage, but does it not prove that cheap cows are profitable? The value I have put on the manure is what I have been offered for it. M. O.

DAIRY DISPLAY AT THE CENTENNIAL.

STRENUOUS efforts are being made by the "Centennial Dairy Ring" to have a display of butter and cheese at the model "Butter and Cheese Factory," "Scale Works" and "Restaurant" on the Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia. In Herkimer County cheese from the factories is being purchased by the managers or their agents, as the factories refuse to exhibit cheese on their own account. As the display of cheese and butter at the Centennial has so far been a failure, we hope the efforts now being made for the OCTOBER DISPLAY will prove a success.

We do not know whether the State appropriation can be used to purchase cheese for the display or not. Probably it would be no worse to use it in this way than to use it and the dairymen's subscriptions in turning the "model factory" into a restaurant.

NATIONAL BUTTER AND EGG ASSOCIATION.

THE above-named Association will hold a meeting in the Produce Exchange, Philadelphia, on Oct. 17. A handsome gold medal will be awarded by the Association for the best butter, the package to be not less than 50 pounds and exhibited on the 17th of October; such butter to be made in the United States. The winner of this medal will be required to make a statement to the Association as to the cows from which the butter was made, the care and feed, process of making the butter, and such other information in regard to the matter as may be of interest to butter makers.

As this Association is largely represented by the commercial interest of the country, we have no doubt the meeting will be well attended and be of value to both producer and merchant.

AMERICAN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

THE adjourned meeting of the American Dairymen's Association comes off at the Butter and Cheese Building on the Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia, beginning Oct. 17, at 2 o'clock P. M. Prof. L. WETHERELL is advertised to give an address on "Dairy Stock;" J. P. SHELDON of England on the "History of Dairying in Britain; Dr. E. L. STUNTEVANT on the "Philosophy of Dairying; J. H. REALL on "Commerce in Dairy Products;" Prof. E. W. STEWART on the "Cow as a Food Producer;" Hon. THOS. BALLANTINE of Canada on "Canadian Dairying;" Prof. CALDWELL of Cornell and Prof. HORSFORD of Cambridge also give addresses.

The Poultry Yard.

FALL WORK IN THE POULTRY YARD.

At this season of the year, between sowing rye and corn husking or topping turnips, the farmer is not quite so much driven with work as he has been since early spring. Now is the time to pay some attention to his poultry. This is just the time Minks, Weasels, Skunks and other *fowl fanciers* approach nearer buildings, looking out either for good, warm winter quarters or something nice to eat. See that your half grown chickens leave their old dirty coops or corners, where they huddle together at night to keep warm—sometimes near an old rat's hole or corners, where they fall an easy prey to enemies.

If any of the coops used during summer are lying about, gather them up, clean well and put them in a dry place, as they are harmed more in lying about after use than they are when in use. At this season where hens have plenty of room, they are more likely to steal their nests than in summer. I suppose the reason is this: That, after having had the sitting fever broken up by their owners during summer, they begin to lay another brood of eggs and, remembering being disturbed, seek for a hiding place for their next nest.

A farmer can now see the result of the year's increase—whether he has succeeded in raising as many and as good chickens as he expected; if not, try to find the reason. Have you been breeding in-and-in, year after year, with the same birds without change of blood? If so, you should kill off your old cocks; procure young cockerels of some good breed to cross with your hens. A few dollars so invested will sometimes double the value of all your young poultry the next year—in some cases, increase the value to many times the outlay on the cockerels.

The winter quarters must also now receive attention, and as the fowls leave the trees and exposed roosts, see that they do not go into a dirty house. Clean up thoroughly; let the whitewash brush be assisted by a willing hand and a sharp eye. See that you have no tyrants that get up to roost first and keep up a constant quarrel with all the other birds as they come in; quiet such an one in the pot. Also watch and see that no diseased ones get in the house with the rest or they may infect the others. H. HALES.

AFFECTIONS OF FOWLS.

THE maternal affection of some hens is truly remarkable. While some will get rid of their chickens as soon as they commence laying again, others stick to their chicks and run after them, even after the latter have become so big that they are ashamed to be seen hiding under their mother's feathers.

A singular case of affection has just come under my notice. The hen that had her second brood presided over by her *dutiful son* (of her first brood) has appeared again in the vicinity where she left them and actually taken charge of them again. She has now laid out her third litter of eggs and taken a short recess, passing away her time in trying to make live chicks out of glass eggs; not succeeding, she got disgusted and came and found her last brood of chicks, which were now forsaken by their big step-brother, (see RURAL of August 19,) keeping company with them again. I once had a hen that kept with her chickens all winter. Dorkings possess this quality more than any other breed. H. H.

N. J. STATE AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

THE popularity of this Fair increases every year; the Stock and Poultry Departments are the growing branches. There is no doubt that one reason of its success is the promptness with which all its premiums are paid. The greatly increased display of fowls this year showed a marked improvement in quality as well as quantity of the birds raised in the State; most of them were bred here. The tent which contains this part of the Fair, though only introduced a few years ago, was this year over-crowded. The Society should now construct a suitable building for exhibiting poultry, for if a cold rain storm occurs during the Fair, the birds are very apt to take cold in a tent. A proper building and a liberal Premium List will still further increase the display. H. H.

The Swine-Herd.

AMERICAN BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WE are in receipt of the following circular to which we cordially invite the attention of those interested in the breeding of pure Berkshire Swine:

The object of the American Berkshire Association is to revise, preserve and publish the pedigrees of pure-bred Berkshire Swine; also to collect and disseminate information calculated to advance the interests of Swine breeders generally.

In furtherance of a part of its work, and in view of the favor with which the Premium Essay on the Origin, Breeding and Management of Berkshires was received, the Association has decided to offer another Premium of $100 for the best approved Essay on the Diseases of Swine, their Causes, Preventives and Remedies. Said Essay to be practical and exhaustive. The competing Essays to be forwarded to this office on or before the 1st of January, 1877. The award will be made and the money paid at the annual meeting in February following. All competing Essays will be the property of the Association.

Competition is invited from all practical men who have given attention to the diseases to which Swine are subject. Prof. Law of Cornell University, N. Y.; Prof. Smith of Toronto Veterinary College, Canada; Hon. T. C. Jones of the "National Live Stock Journal," and E. G. Bedford, Esq. of Kentucky, have kindly consented to act as the Awarding Committee.

The Premium Essay will appear in Vol. II. of the American Berkshire Record now in course of preparation, the pedigrees for which, as fast as approved and certified, have Record numbers assigned them, and certificates of registry forwarded to parties entitled to the same, in advance of publication in Vol. II. Address, Secretary American Berkshire Association, Springfield, Illinois.

The Centennial.

WESTMINSTER HOTEL,
PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 12, 1876.

THE Exhibition of Sheep and Hogs now open in connection with the Centennial Show, contains within its numbers some very valuable animals. Among the imported flocks the one sent over by Lord Walsingham, from the Merton Flock, is of superior excellence. One Ram of the lot is named Dew Turf; he is two years off, and took several first prizes all over England during this present season of 1876. This flock is of South Downs, of the pure Webb blood.

H. Overman of Filford, England, exhibits a splendid collection of Cotswold Sheep, and close to them stand several head of very excellent Oxford Downs. These latter are heavier, and so to speak, coarser than the South Downs; both are fine-wooled. The best Cotswold to my judgment are those shown by B. Swonwick of Cirencester, England. The pelt and fleece of one recently slaughtered, weighed 21⅓ lbs., and the wool measured 10 inches long.

The various flocks of Merino Sheep represent nothing of superior quality save one Ram full of quaint, uncouth wrinkles, and black grease, with a ridgy, curling pair of Horns, altogether possessing a most picturesque appearance. These eminently fine-wooled Sheep have always been largely bred in Vermont, but recently the Empire State contends with her sister of the Green Mountains for pre-eminence in the breeding of Merinos.

The great markets for these pure bred flocks are the Southern States, notably the State of Texas, where the climate seems to be peculiarly adapted to the growing of fine wools. There are also some very fine Shropshire Downs, bred in America from imported stock: these Sheep shear to 16 lbs. weight, are heavier than the South Downs also longer and not so fine.

L. C. Fish of Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., has a flock of choice quality imported Oxford Downs. These are very comely and thriving in aspect with fleeces similar to those of the Shropshire Downs. The official catalogue in all numbers 402 head, and comprises long-wooled varieties as well as those fine-wooled of which we have spoken.

At this present moment the sheep owner of America has to look to his growth of wool for remuneration, rather than to the value of his flocks as meat producers. Still the day is not so far distant as some may imagine when America must look for food from her flocks as well as from her herds. Under this view of the matter, it is well for sheep fanciers to keep before them these facts: Are they to simply grow wool, or are they to improve their flocks as mutton sheep? I would recommend both. Thus, for instance, a pure-bred Merino is valueless as mutton, but the very best fine-wooled variety known. The South Downs are choice mutton, and likewise of great value as a medium-wooled sheep. The Cotswolds are the very best wavy-fleeced sheep we possess; they are good in mutton, but not equal to the South Downs. The Lincolns and Leicesters stand side by side as long-wooled sheep. Their fleeces have been grown to 14 inches long; 11 inches is quite a usual growth.

But of these various tribes of the peccarine family breeders can select, but to do so judiciously, flock owners must suit their flocks to the climates into which they take them. Differences of heat and cold, quality of water and variety of pastures, tell seriously on the mutton and wool. Then, again, a judicious cross often gives a most fortunate result for wool growers. This fact is established by the quotations of the English wool markets, where the medium wool of New South Wales, grown on the cross of the Cotswolds and Merinos, bears the highest price. These fleeces measure about four inches long, and shear heavy in proportion to their length. This wool, when woven, has a luster peculiar to itself, and may to-day be regarded as the best on the market. When looking over the cases of wools in the Main Hall, I observed that Messrs. Shannahan & Jennings of Warbreccon, New South Wales, did not please the Judges by their exhibition of wool. This firm received no prize. Their being passed over may safely be regarded as a mark of distinction with which they may well be content. Our excellent contemporary, the New York Times, recently jested on this prize-giving, and said that where everyone got an award those passed over were the most complimented, if for no other reason than by being in the minority.

Of the mutton varieties of the sheep, there are the Black-faced sheep of Scotland, a hardy mountain race, yet little known in America, also the flocks of the Cheviot Hills; and in Ireland the Kingdom of Kerry has a breed of small sheep, unsurpassed for juiciness and delicacy of flavor.

That one or all of the States of the Union could produce equally valuable wools and equally excellent mutton is not to be looked for, and therefore the sheep breeder, for his own financial benefit, must study the requirements for superior quality in mutton as an investment and for wool growing as another. A warm climate and a dry atmosphere will less injure the fine-wooled sheep than the long-wooled families. This can be seen by the climate of India, where the peccarine family assume the goat form. Heat produces hair rather than wool. Cold, dry air, with short, sweet, mountain pasture, gives the best mutton, as I go on the footing that prize South Downs, salable at from $500 to $1,000 per head, would be only fit to serve in chops as an after course to Cleopatra's soup, in which pearls were dissolved.

A sheep run, to be what it ought to be, should possess a southern aspect and be on sloping ground naturally under-drained. It should also be sheltered from cutting winds and of such a depth of soil as to allow a sure hold for hurdles. The free range of flocks must, even in America, come to an end. Running wild is bad for beasts as well as for men and children.

Although the given number of the entries of hogs is 212 still the actual arrivals represent a greater number. In these herds there are several good specimens. Walter Cole of Clinton, N. J., exhibits a boar 13 months old. He is of the small Yorkshire variety, is white, and is altogether a charming pig, having ham and fried bacon in view. Some of the Chester whites are very good, being long in the back, well filled up and short on the leg. T. S. Cooper exhibits a herd of about fifty. They are ruled over by as beautiful a boar and sow as any one could desire to own. The boar has been but recently imported. He took first prize at the Royal last July, when the Exhibition was held at Birmingham, Eng. These black Berkshires are very thrifty and are sprung from the old-fashioned black-and-tan natives of the same county in England.

On the whole the sheep and hogs at the Centennial Exhibition make a most creditable show, both as regards number and quality, and speak well for the enterprise of the breeders and exhibitors.

M. M.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

THE WHEELER & MELLICK CO., Albany, N. Y., make one of the most interesting and progressive displays of agricultural implements at the Centennial. They have had their share of medals and honors, which is as it should be, in view of the fact that this company is a pioneer in the business, having sent, since their establishment in 1830, implements to all parts of the world. In our issue of Aug. 5, we give a detailed account of the work done by the Threshers and Horse Powers of this firm. They made a record that should be, and doubtless is, most gratifying. The house has been further honored, by the fact that the Commissioners of the Japanese Government have bought the entire exhibit in Agricultural Hall, to be shipped to Japan.

THE old-established firm of WM. L. BOYER & BRO, Philadelphia, Pa., have been abundantly rewarded at the Centennial, having taken, as their advertisement fully explains, three Grand Medals. The Premium Farm Grist Mill has long been a favorite, on account of the excellence of its work and its durability, the grinding parts being made of steel instead of cast-iron. The Union Railway Horse Power is too well and favorably known to need more than a mention. It is most appropriate that the award for Broom machinery should come last, thus making a *clean* sweep, and conferring on the house honors enough to last at least another century.

THE floating ball business exhibits in another instance—that of the Westinghouse air brake—an illustration of the law that gave to our earth its form of a spheriod. A fine jet of air keeps up a rubber ball in mid-air and holds it up, even when the jet is turned obliquely, driving off the ball to an angle of 45 degrees. The swift rotation of the hollow ball gradually changes it from a true sphere to a spheriod—the poles, or extremities of the axis of rotation, flattening, as those of the earth flattened, ere yet our whirling planet had attained its solid form.

THE huge boat, from the Alaska Indians, shown in the Government Building, is interesting. Sixty feet long, and very deep, this Leviathan of a rowboat was actually cut or burned out of one single vast log; apparently a tree of the mammoth California redwood kind; at any rate, one of the Coniferæ—though who ever supposed such giant trees grew away up in Alaska. It had to be sawed in two before it could be got into this Exhibition.

As we go to Press we hear the mutterings of discontent mingled with the cries of exultation over the Centennial Award Reports. Some are happy and others are savage.

COOK, of tourist fame, has on view in his pavillion a mummy of an Egyptian Princess some Centuries old. The mummy is somewhat tanned!

Industrial Topics.

PATENTS AND PATENT AGENTS.

OF late years there has been manifested, conspicuously in England and only a trifle less noticeably in several continental countries, a growing agitation for the entire abolition of the oppressive monopolies inseparable from the present patent system.

The prime cause for the existence of this system is to reward inventors for their toils and talents with the profits from a temporary monopoly of their special devices, as a stimulant to further improvements in the arts for the benefit and convenience of the public. Experience, however, has amply demonstrated that in all, but a few exceptional cases, the system, while fostering a host of spurious pretentions, and iniquitous extortions, has fallen lamentably short of the remunerative design, the fulfilment of which could alone justify its existence. Rarely, indeed, does a tithe of the vast profits arising from patents find its precarious way into the pockets of the deserving inventor, while the exorbitant residue is greedily absorbed by capitalists and agents who have given to the public no equivalent for the exactions they pitilessly levy upon it. A moiety of the ingenuity wasted on many an abortive patent could readily devise some effectual scheme for accomplishing the object missed by our present system, while avoiding the frauds which the latter has notoriously promoted. Of these the two most mischievous sources are delusory patents and fraudulent agents.

The issue of a patent is an absolute guarantee neither of the worth nor originality of the device it covers, nor of its immunity from compulsory royalty to prior patents possibly infringed upon in the contrivance in which it is embodied. Frequent decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court have demonstrated the innocent gullibility of the wiseacres of the Patent Office on the first and second of these points, while a flagrant obtrusion of the third is no bar to the issue of a subsidiary patent. When a patent, however, has passed unshaken the crucial test of this judicial arbitriment, its value is vastly enhanced by the certainty of its validity. It is then only that a farmer should think seriously of investing his hard-earned gains in territorial rights under it, and after mature deliberation, firmly decide in the negative.

A farm is paradoxically the jealous master of its owner, and stubbornly insists, under penalty of his certain demoralization and ruin, on his exclusive labor and attention. By distracting his mind and means from his legitimate pursuits the free gift of a patent-right would generally prove as disastrous to him as that of a white elephant to a Siamese political offender.

For mischief, however, the superfluous patent far outstrips its untenable rival. The latter is often sought in innocent ignorance of its invalidity, and not unfrequently drops unoffensively into the crowded limbo of still-born patents. Its noxious congener, on the other hand, is commonly obtained with the determinate purpose, on the part of its speculative owner, of realizing from it a competency or fortune through the simplicity and credulity of its purchasers.

Some bright inventive genius devises, adapts, or blunders upon "tweedle," patents it, and makes a hit; another improves it by adding "dum," while a third ornaments it by affixing "dee," and straitway a multitude of superfluous patents deluge the country, covering every imaginable variation of the adjuncts of the popular "tweedle" to which they all owe a royalty, as it necessarily enters into their construction. Of all these, imposition not improvement is the direct design; and their sole originality is strictly limited to their sublime impudence.

This also is a pre-eminent characteristic of the gentry who handle them. An important patent is frequently controlled by a man of unimpeachable honor, capacity and truth; but when eagles adopt the habits of vultures, then only will such a man peddle patents through the country. These deal chiefly with manufacturers whose keen competition makes each house eager for some exclusive advantage over its rivals. A patent for a valuable invention or improvement, therefore, is sure to find among them a ready, though cautious, purchaser. Experience has taught them that a large proportion of patented devices are either impudent shams, crude abortions, or cunning infringements on prior patents. In dealing with an inventor these personages haggle as penuriously as if every dollar paid for his patent must lessen their own hoarded accumulations; but in fixing the price of the goods covered by it, the measure of the public need of them is the only limit to their grasping cupidity. The mild objections of the storekeeper, or middleman, they blandly silence by the cheerful reminder that the consumer must be the ultimate sufferer, and that his own profits must increase in proportion to the price of his wares.

Ordinary patent agents are largely recruited from the ranks of book, and notion peddlers—men who take to the trade, not from choice but necessity, because their vagrant habits unfit them for steadier pursuits, and also because references as to character are, as a rule, charitably dispensed with in those avocations. The difference of their methods naturally classify these under two heads: glib sputters who retail territorial rights, and prying extortioners who zigzag through the country, exacting under the specious title of royalty, an arbitary tax on goods already honestly paid for. Never surely has Royalty been so abjectly degraded as when subjected to the controll of these tricksters.

Among the former class congenially mingle a liberal sprinkling of arrant swindlers some of whom deal in forged patents, while others confine their operations to genuine patents for which their own character as agents alone is counterfeit. Marvelous is the fluency of this whole tribe on the exceptional merits of their several devices. To every possible objection the most plausible answer has been carefully formulated beforehand, so that a reply to every exception drops from the lips of the agent as spontaneously as an agreement "to liquor." Their volubility, however, runs strictly in the line of laudation, and not a hint is ever accidently dropped on the cognate patents on which their own generally infringe. The plausibility of some of these has filched from the public and possibly from their principals, considerable wealth, so that they could well afford to purchase the patents they huff so vigorously if their conviction of their worth coinceded with their praises. So hazardous a risk, however, is seldom run, and the exceptional speculator, until he has unloaded, is as restless as a timorous merchant overstocked with perishable goods on a falling market. Their own participation in the work of ruin wrought by such rashness is too extensive to allow themselves to sleep peacefully while exposed to its chances.

In pursuit of the common design of enriching themselves by fleecing the public, the method of these is far less surreptitious unmanly and dishonorable than that of their prying brethren. These owe the possibility of their existence directly to an unjust provision of the patent laws. One of these sage embodiments of legislative sagacity prohibits the manufacture, sale, or use of a patented article without the consent of the patentee. Both the manufacture and sale of such an article commonly occur in known violation of this enactment. The user of the device, however, seldom remembers the law, and still more rarely has the remotest knowledge of the patent. Under these circumstances the only honorable course open to agents and their principals would be to restrict their claims to the manufacturers and salesmen who have consciously wronged them.

These they could readily discover, force to a legal account of the articles they had illegitimately disposed of, and collect the combined royalty at a minimum expense. Through fear of a suit, however, either on account of the known invalidity of their pretentions, or the limits the court might prescribe to their exactions, they deliberately refrain from pestering the bold infringers of their rights, who would be likely enough to combine for mutual protection, and dishonorably press their arbitrary extortion on the scattered innocents, who foolishly imagine themselves legally entitled to use what they have honestly paid for.

Farmers are the favorite prey of these sharpers, who base their best hopes of success on rustic ignorance of the merits of their pretentious, and rustic dread of the marvelous expense and uncertainty of the law, and the still more marvelous vagaries of its administrators. Intimidation is their darling recipe for the collection of their impositions—pity they cannot be occasionally nauseated with their own prescription! A vigorous public opinion is the most efficient exterminator of these pests. Their aims and methods forfeit all claim to courtesy or toleration, and a lively outburst of indignation is the fittest mood to receive them in. Bogus agents are plentiful among them, but, apart from verified credentials, it needs an acute perception of differences to discriminate the counterfeit here from the genuine. Many patentees, not only allow, but encourage the free sale of their monopolized devices with the premeditated purpose of afterwards wringing, by arbitrary extortion from unsuspicious users, a far more exorbitant price than could be realized by the legitimate sale of their patents. A combined resistence should be offered in every neighborhood to the exactions of these vagabonds. And before the institution of a suit satisfactory security for costs should be rigorously insisted upon.

It is due mainly to the practices of fellows of this stripe that the ordinary conception of a patent agent fluctuates between that of a charlatan and a swindler. In warning the public against their machinations it has been an unpleasant duty to reflect on the whole of this energetic class as more than a trifle disreputable. It is pleasant therefore, to be able to say candidly that there are among the sputter tribe a few exceptions, just about enough to strongly confirm the rule.

KEME.

The Vineyard.

WINE MAKING.

In my article on this head, I promised some quotations from the writings of some of the most eminent vintners and grape and vine growers in the United States. The antagonistic opinions expressed by them as to the propriety and even morality of adding to the juice of the grape—to supply any natural defect of the variety, or its accidental defect from lack of ripeness—any foreign matter like sugar, water or acid, throws us who would look for information, back upon the resources of our own judgments and compels us to learn by the more slow but more sure process of experience.

C. M. GRANT, the originator of the Iona and Isabella grapes and the publisher of "A Manual of the Vine," says:—"Wine is but the juice of the grape changed by fermentation and does not admit of any other change or any addition without destruction of its character. The evil of the adulteration is not lessened by being made in the form of sugar added to the juice before fermentation." P. B. MEAD, author of a work entitled "American Grape Culture and Wine Making," says "Wine is the fermented juice of the grape, nothing more and nothing less." He condemns the addition of sugar even in bad seasons, when the grapes lack their usual supply, and says, "This need not be so, and even if it were, it is better that a few men should suffer temporary loss than that many should lose their manhood and even their souls;" speaks of the demoralizing effect of adding anything to the must, and claims that the wine to which cane sugar has been added makes men drunk, "while the other does not." Other men of less note claim that no beverage is worthy the name of wine that has been *adulterated* with cane sugar.

On the other hand, Mr. LONGWORTH of grape and vine notoriety, says:—"In all wine countries (unless it be where light, hard wines are made) sugar is added or its equivalent. From experience I am perfectly satisfied that it is immaterial whether the saccharine principle be in the grape or added to the must in the form of sugar." G. HUSSMAN says on this subject:—"If nature furnishes me in the grapes a juice which contains everything to make first-class wine I shall leave it so, on the principle of let well enough alone; but if I think there are deficiencies which can be supplied by adding to that which is already in the must I shall do so, as my reason was given me by an all-wise Creator for the purpose of using it to the best advantage."

I could quote from many more writers, especially on the affirmative side of the question, of using cane sugar or sugar and water to supply any defect, or to reduce any excess either of sugar or acid; but I deem this sufficient to show that doctors disagree in this as well as in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, and that the person to decide in either case is the patient. I do not write for the purpose of instruction or advice to the professional wine maker, who is supposed to know the tastes and the wants of his customers and to have instruments to test the proportions of the desired ingredients, but rather for the benefit of those who are compelled to raise only such grapes as are suited to their climate, and who wish to make wine for their own use and to suit their own palates. As to the morality of wine drinking I have nothing to say, except that I look upon drunkenness as a sin. That which in wine produces it is alcohol, and whether this is produced from cane sugar or from the natural sugar of the grape, I can see no difference. Alcohol is the natural product of fermentation of diluted sugar and according to the best chemical authorities cane sugar changes to grape or fruit sugar, as the first move in fermentation. The chemical difference in the two sugars is that grape sugar contains a trifle more of the elements of water than cane.

As to the statement of MEAD, that wine made exclusively from the pure juice of the grape does not intoxicate, we learn on the authority of the Bible that men in those times got at least tipsy on wine, and as neither sugar or alcohol are mentioned in that book, the natural presumption is they and the art of extracting them were then unknown, and whoever got drunk then must have got drunk on pure wine *unadulterated* with cane sugar. I believe in alcohol—not as King, but as a useful compound designed by our Maker for the use of man. It is only the distiller or the chemist who separates it in a liquid form from the nutritious ingredients in which nature forms it. Sugar is formed as the ripening process of vegetation. Fruits, grains, vegetables and plants, when arrived at perfection, contain either it or its elements. Alcohol contains exclusively the same elements (carbon, hydrogen and oxygen) but in different proportions, and is produced by the fermentative decay of vegetable substances. In the ordinary process of making bread it is formed, but escapes into the air as vaper; the distiller produces it by a similar process, but prevents its escape by condensing the vapor to a liquid, and here lies the great evil of intoxication with its long train of woes.

Men may and do get drunk on wine, cider, ale and other fermented drinks all containing a percentage of alcohol, but seldom till after they have been made drunk by alcohol less diluted. These drinks contain also nutritious matter in combination and do not, except in immoderate quantities, produce that disorganization of the stomach and muddle of the brain that alcohol, even if diluted with water, does. Fats, oils, sugar, starch and other carbonaceous foods, contribute solely to the formation of animal heat, and physiologists tell us that whatever of these substances is not wanted for immediate use is stored up in the body in the form of fat for use in an emergency, so that the fire within shall not go out. Alcohol also furnishes heat, but they tell us it does not form fat and is never stored up, but that it and water pass directly into the circulation without digestion.

Muskegon, Mich. S. B. PECK.

PRICES OF GRAPES IN CALIFORNIA.

VINEYARDISTS in the Eastern States who complain at the low price of grapes when they do not command above five cents a pound, should read the following from the Napa Register and be comforted:

At the meeting of the State Vinicultural Society, Sept. 2d, some statements were made respecting the price of grapes and some reports of sales were made. At St. Helena, a sale of foreign grapes (Thomann's) had been effected at $20 a ton. Some foreign grapes about Oakville had been sold as low as $18 a ton. A sale was reported in Napa, of Mission grapes and others as they run, at $13, but these figures, we are informed, are not to be considered as a criterion, because the grapes were General Miller's, who is not supposed to be so dependent upon his vineyard as most of the grape growers, and is consequently less particular about the price. The purchaser was Migliavicca. It was stated that Groezinger would do little buying; but has already engaged 160 tons at Oakville; no price named. In Sonoma there was very little purchasing—the prevailing price being $15 "all around," Mission and other varieties included.

Field Crops.

MORE ABOUT COMFREY.

THE talk about comfrey as a forage plant is still brisk in England, pamphlets being issued extolling its properties and value as a farm crop. One is noticed in the last number of the Agricultural Gazette, Kinerd B. Edwards, in which the author takes strong grounds in favor of the old plant. We are told that prickly comfrey will yield as much as 20 tons the first year, 50 tons the second, and 80 to 100 tons every year after; the author of this magnificent promise having himself cut, "during the last four years, from 80 to 100 tons to the acre." He adds that all the animals of the farm, including rabbits, are fond of this new forage plant, and that it comes from the Caucasus, and has been some years established in Ireland, and in some parts of England.

Wishing for more definite information as to the merits of prickly comfrey, we called on Mr. K. B. Edwards, in Leicestershire, and found him a grower of several rods of the plant in a dozen patches in his garden, and on waste spots about the premises. No practical farmer need be warned against expecting 80 or 100 tons per acre. If the plant yields half that amount of forage it will still yield twice as much as any other plant with which we are acquainted. In confirmation of what we said lately in the RURAL NEW YORKER, about the common comfrey being the same or closely allied to the Prickly, we find that the editor of the Gardeners' Chronicle, who is well known as an able botanist, says that he finds little difference between them.

The two are, however, so close botanically, that it is probable that as forage plants their value would be equal. For the same reason it is to be feared they are both alike plants with a special habitat. How does the new forage plant behave on dry soils? Let us hope that we shall soon learn more about it; meanwhile, hairy and bristly as the comfrey is, it does not appear to be unpalatable. Some cows and horses in Mr. Edward's paddock ate some of the leaves which we gathered for them, and seemed to approve of them, and the gardener assured us that they very much prefer the comfrey to cabbages, and will race up the pasture for it when regularly fed on it.

The gardener, William Bennett, is as great an enthusiast on the comfrey question as his master. Sixty yards of comfrey, he says, will feed a store pig to 40s. without corn, and as soon as he has finished the patch there will be a fresh cut of leaves, and so on *ad infinitum* almost, or, say, from early spring to latish autumn. A quarter of an acre, says Bennet, would serve a good big cow all the season, cut and come again, the same as in the former case. A horse would do well with a little more than a quarter of an acre, without corn; or, to put the case in another way, every quarter of an acre of comfrey would, in Bennett's opinion, prove equivalent, in the summering of cows, to 1 acre of good Leicestershire pasture, the forage to be brought to the grass every day on the cut-and-come-again plan. The plant ought not be allowed to run up. The leaves shooting at the stool should be gathered with a sickle.

W. Bennet speaks of a plant which he calls comfrey, which has always been grown in small patches in an adjoining hamlet named Aston Flamwell, where every cottager had a small bit in his garden for ornament. According to our informant this is not an easy plant to "get shut of" when once in the ground. The cottagers or their wives wished to introduce something more modern, and a doctor of the district, driving by one day, found them endeavoring to destroy it. He had often begged some leaves of this plant, which are capital for boiling down as an emollient for cuts and bruises, by virtue of the mucilage they contain. "We want to get shut of this plant," said the cottagers. "You had better get shut of the church," said the doctor. The plant was, therefore, spared in some instances; but the cottagers have not yet learned to feed their pigs on it, though Mr. Edwards, on the hill above, is so strongly recommending it. Their plant, it seems, had a "white" flower.

The common comfrey has flowers of various colors—buff and purple; that grown by Mr. Edwards has purple flowers. It is propagated with great ease. The smallest bit of root will grow if cast out in any damp corner, and covered with mould, or even laid on the surface. Mr. Edwards is propagating the plant with might and main. In a byre upon some bricks—on a hard gravel surface—anywhere in the shade and well-watered, we found it vegetating freely in small bits mixed with mould and manure. Its vitality is prodigious. It can hardly be killed. Every morsel mixed with mould and kept damp by watering twice a-day, is sure to grow in warm weather, or in cold weather with a little bottom heat. Lengths of 3 or 4 inches of the root are recommended, but small pieces without a bud on them, and only a little bit of bark, will soon callus at the edges, like the cutting of a geranium, and rootlets are then emitted, and the result is a plant.

It is to be hoped that comfrey will be tried on a small scale, especially in situations where it grows naturally. It seems a promising plant for cottagers, especially those who have cow plots, and the common sort seems to promise quite as well as the so-called Caucasian variety. Seedsmen and gardeners must always have *aliquid novi*, and if from foreign parts so much the better, and Mr. Edwards will quite deserve his 8*s*. per 100 for the root cuttings if the plant turns out well. But there is no reason why cottagers should not dig their own comfrey and try it; they will probably find it as good as any foreign sort under the sun.

Around the Republic.

IN PRAISE OF OREGON.

DURING the last few months I have noticed in your valuable paper communications from Colorado and other parts of the country with regard to the advantages and disadvantages of each respective locality. Perhaps your generosity will permit me to tell your readers something of the goods and ills of Oregon. I dare say some will hesitate and say, "*Oregon!*—where is it?" If so, it is to them I wish particularly to speak.

Oregon is situated in the northwesterly portion of the United States, and is getting to be of no little note among her sister States as regards commerce and agriculture. Salem, her capital, is situated on the Willamette River, about fifty miles from its mouth, and is also on the line of the Oregon and California Railroad. Portland, the metropolis, is also situated on the Willamette River, near its mouth, where it empties its waters into the Columbia, which wends its way to join the mighty deep, and being the terminus of the O. & C. R. R., as soon as said road is completed it will have direct communication with San Francisco both by water and rail, ocean steamers coming direct to Portland wharves to discharge and take on freight.

Oregon proper is divided into three distinct parts or natural divisions, viz., Southern Oregon, or Rogue River; Western Oregon, or the Willamette Valley, and Eastern Oregon, or Upper Country—a strip of country lying between the Cascade and the Blue ranges of mountains. This vast tract of country is drained by the Deschutes, John Day, Umatilla and Grand Ronde rivers, all of which, after making innumerable windings and curves, traversing deep, rocky canyons and broad valleys, eventually discharge their waters into the Columbia and its tributaries.

As this is the place of my abode, I shall proceed to speak at present with reference particularly to this part of our young and growing State. Situated as we are far above the ocean level and immediately behind the lofty condensers of the Cascade Mountains, we are effectively guarded against the long, rainy winters that so harass the settlers of the "beautiful Willamette," and being further inland, are more exposed to extremes of heat and cold than those nearer the coast, thunder storms, water spouts, etc., being of rare occurrence during the summer months. In short, our climate resembles generally that of Eastern and Central New York, except that we have less rain in summer and our winters are of shorter duration, owing to the peculiar influence of the "Chinook winds," of which I may say more at some future time.

Eastern Oregon is about 150 by 180 miles in extent and is bordered on the west by the Cascade range of mountains, on the north by the Columbia River, and on the east and south by the Blue Mountains, whose broken ridges, extending in every direction, bring relief to the extremely monotonous appearance of the bold bunch-grass hills. To render a graphic description of this so-called "Bunch-grass Country," one must have, 'phrenologically speaking, a fuller development of the "bumps" of individuality, locality and language than your humble servant. I will simply say that it is, first, a high, long ridge called a "divide;" then a long, crooked, deep, narrow valley called a "canyon;" another divide, then another canyon, and so on.

In traveling across the country one occasionally meets a long stretch of table land several miles in extent. Nearing the large streams, and when some 15 or 20 miles therefrom, the traveler suddenly discovers himself lost in sand and sage brush in an apparently barren desert country, where nothing could subsist, but which abounds in coyotes (prairie wolves), jack rabbits and sage hens, and extending to the river bank. All the hills, excepting where massive beds of lava rock hold complete sway, are covered with a very nutritious grass, from which they derive their name, and being too dry for agricultural purposes, they are of immense value for pasture, thousands of horses, cattle and sheep being fattened thereon every year. The narrow valleys between the hills, being constantly enriched by the washings from the hillsides, are very fertile. It is here that we settlers have "stopped" to build up homes and lay up for ourselves and our posterity a share of this world's goods.

Our little town of Heppner, which four years ago consisted of but one little log cabin, is situated on a small stream called Willow Creek, and contains at the present time a good school-house, post-office, two dry goods and grocery stores, one drug store, two blacksmith shops, a hotel, a shoe shop and a saloon, and has a population of nine or ten families, all of whom have erected good, comfortable dwellings. We now get the mail each way three times a week, whereas four years ago we had to go to Umatilla Landing—a distance of 50 miles—for it. On the whole, I think we are about as happy as the majority of those more highly-favored ones who live in the more thickly settled and fashionable parts of the world.

Mr. Editor, I will not too much tax your patience this time, but will, if you should think this worth publishing, bother you some more on a future occasion by telling your readers, in my lame way, something about the manner in which we poor people expect to make a living, together with our habits, customs, etc., in order that they may know in advance what to expect should they ever come to Eastern Oregon. M.

Sheep Husbandry.

NOTES.

Sheep Raising.—This branch of business, like almost every other, has had its ups and downs, but it is a question whether any business has paid better for a series of years. The rapid increase of sheep is very favorable to farmers of small means who wish to engage in wool-growing. Sheep raising is too much neglected in the West. The animal that furnishes clothing, food and light, which eats what other animals reject, which crops hillsides too steep for other creatures to ascend, is entitled to vastly more credit than it receives.—*Chicago Times.*

How to Tell the Age of a Sheep.—A sheep's front teeth the first year are eight in number, appearing all of a size; second year, the two middle ones are shed out and are replaced by two much larger than the others; third year, two very small ones appear—one on either side of the eight; at the end of the fourth year there are six large teeth; fifth year, all the front teeth are large; sixth year, all begin to show wear—not till then.

Floricultural.

POTTING,—EXPERIMENT.

The best way to prevent the annoyances of ground worms, is to place pans of soil in the oven and bake it from day to day until a sufficient quantity has been accumulated for potting purposes. This not only kills ground worms but all eggs, larvae and pupae of insects. In years gone by we have taken much pains to procure leaf-mold, decayed sods, well-decomposed manure, peat and the like, thinking that the benefit to plants from such admixtures compensated for the pains of gathering them. There is no doubt but what some plants thrive better in specific soils—but taking the great majority of them as found in conservatories, windows, sitting-rooms—it is all "Love's labor lost." This one thing above all others should be looked to, viz., so constitute the soil as that the water by drainage, evaporation and the absorption of the roots shall pass away before it has time to generate those acids and gases, resulting from stagnation, which are fatal to the new and delicate fibers of the roots. In nine cases out of ten where there is sufficient sun, sickly plants are caused by the use of stiff soil.

In consequence of this, first, the roots are deprived of air—second, if water enough is given to penetrate the entire mass, it cannot escape fast enough to prevent stagnation—third, if water is given in quantities insufficient to penetrate the entire mass, the lower earth becomes as dry as punk and the poor roots that sniff the surface-water that is to them "so near and yet so far," are worse tantalized than was TANTALUS himself. Finally it is impossible to determine when such a soil is used, whether a plant needs water or not; and if this could be determined, it would be just as impossible to supply the needed quantity. A liberal proportion of sand is all that is required to remove these difficulties. Moss, leaves, grass so entirely dried that they will crumple into bits in the hand, answer likewise a similar purpose.

Many of us err in supposing that a high degree of richness for potting soil is desirable. It is often deemed not only desirable but indispensable. Now a very rich soil is for plants what pork is for men. It may be nutricious and healthful for those which are performing hard work—which may be said of a healthy plant when exposed to brightest sunshine, to the ever-changing air and winds, to the dews of morning and evening and to the natural rainfall of its native habitat. Then the vegetable machine may be said to be "under full blast" and the supply must be proportionate to the expenditure and consequent demand. But let us bear in mind that house-plants cannot be supplied with these conditions and that our first care should be to deprive them of any stimulant which is calculated to force their growth. It is seldom considered that of two plants out of their natural elements, the one that makes the slower growth may be the more healthy.

As tending to show, first, the extent to which certain plants draw their food from air and water; second, the uselessness of rich soil third, the importance of thorough drainage and, fourth, the importance of a permeable soil, we give the following experiment:—Last fall hundreds of our seedling Pelargoniums were left out to perish. Nov. 6 the thermometer sank to 18 degrees above zero. The Pelargoniums were frozen to the ground, though as but the surface was as yet frozen the roots were still alive. We removed two of them, a bronze and a "tricolor" to 6-inch pots, which, after securing perfect drainage, were filled with silver sand, cleanly washed, and flooded with rain-water. In due time they pushed buds, formed leaves and grew so nearly as the others that, but for the sand, they could not be determined from them. The experiment ended the first of June when they were again placed in the ground. They had formed less stem and fewer leaves than those planted in soil. They had not bloomed or formed blooming buds, but were in perfect health and after being placed in the open ground, recovered sooner and grew more vigorously than the others which had received the usual treatment. Thus through a period of nearly seven months, these two Pelargoniums had lived and remained in perfect health upon air and water, the sand merely serving as a medium of support and confinement to the roots, and of permitting a constant change of water without their disturbance. Several times they were lifted out of the sand so that the root-growth might be observed. It was spongy and succulent, though not abundant, and so light that the weight of the adhering sand sufficed to break the fibers asunder.

A Cape Pelargonium, the name of which we never knew, growing in a 3 inch pot, was placed on a cellar shelf and forgotten. There it remained eight months without a particle of water. The stem was found, at the end of that time, to be unharmed, even at the tip, and upon receiving water and sunlight, grew most vigorously. This will show—in the case of Pelargoniums at any rate, though it will be found not to end with them by any means—that some plants which we take for granted can scarcely be made to live through a winter without it, may, if placed in partial darkness, rest in perfect health without water for surprising periods. This may be deemed "resting in its truest sense." The roots were excluded from air and moisture. The stems existed in half darkness and in an atmosphere that could be called neither moist nor dry. The stem had no need of the roots' support—the roots had no need of the support of the stem. There was no labor—no outgo, no income; the plant was at rest.

We may make this inference:—Let us regulate the water and nutriment given to a plant by the porousness of the soil and the amount and intensity of sunshine.

MISCELLANEA.

AMONG our most beautiful ornamental trees, the Horsechestnut, Tulip and Yellow-wood are the first to lose their foliage. The Horsechestnut compensates for this in a measure by being almost the first to leaf out in the spring.

FREMONTIA CALIFORNICA.—Last fall we sent seeds of this shrub to a number of our correspondents. Ours did not germinate. We would be glad to hear from those, if any, who were successful.

EXCHANGE.—We are pleased to see that several of our contemporaries have taken up our plan of exchange. We hope that every horticultural journal in the country will follow suit and that it will enable the poorest families to fill a window with suitable plants during the dull winter and a plot with bright, cheery colors during the summer.

NOTICE.—We have occasional letters asking for seeds or plants and offering pay for them. Sometimes money is inclosed, We do not sell either seeds or plants under any circumstances whatever.

THE "LITTLE ANNOUNCEMENT."—We are surprised, in looking over our first installment of letters applying for seeds, to find that *Zinnia Darwini* is so often mentioned. We do not want our friends disappointed, and so were careful not to praise this plant in our "Little Announcement." Is it that we have so praised unworthy things beyond their merits that our friends seek to find out what sort of a plant it can be that we will not praise at all? Those of our subscribers who want *Z. Darwini* and who will send us an addressed stamped envelope shall have them so long as our stock lasts. *Zinnia Darwini* is *Zinnia Darwini*, and "it is nothing more." He who says there's nothing in a name don't know "beans!"

NOTES.

THE Revue Horticole thinks well of the sweet-scented *Aponogeton distachyon* as a pot plant, grown in a frame and kept moist. It is hardy enough to flourish in the open lake of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.

The Gardeners' Chronicle thinks it far too little known, but one which all true plant lovers appreciate.

Scientific and Useful.

WHAT ARE SPECIES?*

BY PROF. T H. HUXLEY.

IN its most general acceptation the word "species" signifies a kind or sort of something, which something is the *genus* to which the species belongs. Thus, a black stone is a species of the genus stone; a gray horse is a species of the genus horse; a scalene triangle is a species of the genus triangle; and, generally, it may be said that every adjective denotes a species of the genus indicated by the substantive to which it is applied.

The individual object alone exists in Nature; but, when individual objects are compared, it is found that many agree in all those characters which, for the particular purpose of the classifier are regarded as important, while they differ only in those which are unimportant; and those which thus agree constitute a species, the definition of which is a statement of the common characters of the individuals which compose the species.

Again, when the species thus established are compared, certain of them are found to agree with one another, and to differ from all the rest in some one or more peculiarities. They thus form a group, which, logically, is merely a species of higher order, while technically it is termed a "genus." And, by a continuation of the same process, genera are grouped into families, families into orders, and so on. Each of the groups thus named is in the logical sense a genus of which the next lower groups constitute the species.

It is conceivable that animals and plants should have been known to us only by their remains preserved in museums or in the fossil state. If this had been the case, biological, like mineralogical species, could have been defined only by morphological characters; that is to say, by the peculiarities of their outward form and inward structure; and, as a matter of fact, this is the state of our knowledge in respect of a large proportion of the existing fauna and flora of the world, and of all extinct animals and plants.

A botanist or a conchologist who sets to work to arrange a newly-received collection sorts his plants or his shells out according to their likenesses and unlikenesses of form and structure, until he has arranged them into groups of individuals which agree in certain constant characters and differ only by insignificant features, or by such peculiarities as vary in different individuals in such a manner that an insensible gradation can be traced between those forms which have the peculiarity strongly marked and those in which it is absent.

The fact that living beings originate by generation from other living beings is one of the circumstances in their history which most completely differentiates them from minerals. This process of generation enters in various ways into the conception of biological species.

It is a generally assumed axiom in biology that whatever proceeds from a living being by way of generation is of the same species as that from which it proceeds, whether the morphological differences between parent and offspring be great or small. The two sexes are often extraordinarily different, and in cases of the so-called alternation of generation the successive zooids may differ very widely; but, inasmuch as the differing forms in these cases proceed from the same parents, no one doubts that they belong to the same species. The breeds of domesticated animals and plants often differ morphologically as widely as admitted species, but, apart from other considerations, historical evidence that they have the same parentage suffices to cause them to be regarded as of one species. It is not quite clear that the converse of the axiom, which has just been referred to, would be admitted, and that living beings which arise from totally distinct parents are of different species, even though morphologically identical. The wellnigh exploded hypothesis of the multiplicity of centres of origin for species of wide distribution implies the belief that groups of individuals which have proceeded from distinctly-created parents may, nevertheless, be of the same species, while the supporters of the no less nearly extinct hypothesis of the independent creation of the fauna and flora of successive formations used to affirm that, although indistinguishable, two forms from separate formations must be of distinct species, because they had been created separately. However, these subtilties have ceased to have any practical importance.

In the next place it is observed that, while individuals of the same morphological species breed freely with one another and give rise to perfectly fertile offspring, the unions of individuals of different morphological species are, as a rule, either unfertile or imperfectly fertile. Thus fertility, like parentage, has become a physiological character of species; and, though in the case of some domesticated animals, as pigeons, the extreme forms are more different from one another than many morphological species, yet they, apart from the historical evidence of their parentage, are held to be members of the same species, because they are all perfectly fertile one with another, and their offspring are also perfectly fertile.

Thirdly, it is a matter of experience that, as a general rule, and taking the whole cycle of forms through which a living being runs into account, offspring and parent are so similar that they belong to one and the same morphological species; and it is further in evidence that many species have endured for extremely long periods without any notable difference being discernible between ancestor and descendant. Moreover, in some cases, varities are found to revert to the character of the species from which they have proceeded. The conclusion has been drawn that the character of species is physiologically fixed; that is to say, that, however long the process of generation may be continued, the individuals either retain the identical morphological character of the oldest ancestor, or, if they vary, the varieties remain fertile with one another.

Assuming that species have the physiological character thus enumerated, certain conclusions respecting the "origin of species" are inevitable. It is clear that no existing species can have arisen by the intercrossing of pre-existing species, or by the variation of pre-existing species, but that every species must have existed from all eternity, or have come into existence suddenly in its present form, which is the objective fact denoted by what is termed creation.

* Extracts from The Popular Science Monthly.

INDIA INK.

IT is often desirable to finish photographs and drawings in India ink, in order to get the best effect, and this can be done by a tasteful person, at home, fully as well and with greater satisfaction, than when sent to some distant professional. The greatest trouble is the difficulty of procuring genuine Chinese ink. The Scientific American recently gave, in answer to a request, the following formula for preparing a perfect India ink, the formula being copied from Riffault's treatise on the manufacture of colors:

Calcined lampblack, 100 parts; boghead shale black, in impalpable powder, 50 parts; indigo carmine, in cakes, 10 parts; carmine lake, 5 parts; gum arabic (first quality), 10 parts; purified oxgall, 20 parts; alcoholic extract of musk, 5 parts.

The gum is dissolved in 50 or 60 parts of pure water, and the solution filtered through a cloth. The indigo carmine, lake, lampblack and shale black are incorporated with this liquor, and the whole ground upon a slab, with a muller, in the same manner as ordinary colors, but in this case the grinding takes much longer. When the paste is thoroughly homogeneous, the oxgall is gradually added, and then the alcoholic extract of musk. The more the black is ground, the finer it is. The black is then allowed to dry in the air, until it has acquired sufficient consistency to be molded into cakes, which in their turn are still further dried in the air, out of the reach of dust. When quite firm, these cakes are compressed in bronze molds, having appropriate designs engraved upon them. The molded ink is then wrapped in tinfoil, with a second envelope of gilt paper. The ink which has been prepared in this manner possesses all the properties of of the real Chinese article. Its grain is smooth; it flows very well, mixes perfectly with many other colors, and becomes so firmly fixed to the paper that other colors may be spread over it without washing it out.

TO PRESERVE MUCILAGE.

SALICYLIC acid has been lately recommended for preventing the decomposition of mucilage, which, as generally prepared, undergoes rapid change, becomes sour and ropy, and unfit for use. The very slight solubility of salicylic acid in water renders the use of it less objectionable than would otherwise be the case. Instead of using pure water, the gum is dissolved in an equal weight of a previously prepared aqueous solution of salicylic acid; such a mucilage, even after standing a month, shows no trace of decomposition.

CHLORIDE OF LIME IN MORTAR.—A German scientific journal says that the cracking of mortar through dryness or heat may be prevented by the addition of chloride of lime. Mortar so prepared will stick fast even to glass, metal, and similar substances. It is thought that the addition of glycerine might answer the same purpose.

Insurance Department.

INNOVATION PLANS OF INSURANCE.

WITH the incoming of better times, of which there appear to be, just now, so many encouraging indications, the Life Insurance interest may be expected to resume something of its wonted activity. Neither the Companies that have, throughout the dark days retained public confidence and a fair, though necessarily diminished share of public patronage, nor those that have deservedly forfeited both, will fail to take advantage of the earliest favorable breeze to set their sails anew. The enforced restraint of the last four years has made them all impatient to begin. All of them desire new business, and it may be said of many of them that a considerable infusion of new blood is indispensable to their existence.

The Companies that have satisfied the expectations of their policy-holders and of the public also, by keeping and fulfilling their promises will, of course, enjoy an immense advantage. They can present again their old and tried plans, and, pointing to the results achieved during years of famine, justly and confidently claim to be able to do still better during the coming years of plenty. With these facts well and clearly presented to the public, and attested everywhere by living and grateful witnesses, the Companies whose garments are unsmirched have little to fear from the competition of those who, having worn out their old plans, must invent new and taking devices. Of these there will be no end.

What may be done in the inventive way has already been shown. During the flush times an infinite variety of new plans were gotten up, but they agreed in one particular, that of a continual increase of the proportion of premium to amount insured. There was so much of each premium to pay for insurance proper, and so much for "investment," that would have been profitable if the accompanying promises of dividends had been, or could have been kept. The needy and enterprising Companies will not be slow to discover that these "investment" plans are unsuited to the era of lean purses, and that the plan that can be made to appear cheapest stands the best chance.

For this reason an avalanche of cheap plans may be looked for, plans only the more dangerous because reliable insurance cannot be cheapened beyond certain ascertained limits. The experience of a century has fixed that limit. It may be seen in the premium rates of the better class of Companies. Below this limit lies ruin, disaster. Three score of Companies have broken down in the last five years. Not one of them received smaller premiums. The Company that attempts to insure for a premium *really* lower than the standard, cannot expect permanent success. Less trouble is to be apprehended from *really* than from *seemingly* low rates, and the facility with which the policy can be made by means of clever wording, to say one thing and mean quite another.

A Company now winding up its business, had a plan by which one could be insured for a few years for a very small premium, the policy being ingeniously contrived to be construed to imply that the insurance would continue for life at the same low rate, when in reality it stopped short at the end of five or ten years. Just such traps are now being devised for unwary and unsuspecting people. The best way to treat a new plan is that adopted by prudent people toward all strangers, to withhold confidence until they are known to deserve it

Domestic Economy.

POT-PIES ONCE MORE.

My Dear Sisters:—I am sure I told Mrs. M. L. S. not to tell anybody about that pot-pie of mine, when I wrote to her through the Rural. But somehow the rest of you good cooks all seem to have got hold of the story, and I am glad you have, for I've got five or six new recipes for making pot-pie by this means, though of course, I feel like putting my hands over my eyes or hiding my head under somebody's protecting wing, to get out of sight of so many first-class pot-picists. Yet, I guess, seeing I am so far away from you to-night, it will not be unnecessary to do either. So I'll just sit here at the table, while I'm eating the paper of peanuts my bigger and more patriotic half, brought to keep me company while he is gone to political meeting. (Probably somebody's nose will turn up now—at the idea of liking peanuts—they're so common, but my nose turns up all the time, and I like peanuts too. So *n'importe!*)

Where was I, oh! I was saying I'd just sit here this evening, and write to you all, and express my gratitude as well as I can on a piece of paper. Many thanks then, to the kind sisters who have endeavored through the columns of the Rural to lighten my unleavened pot-pie crust. I do appreciate them all, all their kind efforts in my behalf, and I am so glad I ever thought of a pot-pie piece or a piece of pot-pie because I have enjoyed reading those replies to my article so much. I have sat in my low rocking-chair by my favorite window, and read these words, written to me from those I have never seen, and though I never even expect to see them in this world of perplexities and pot-pies, yet I feel almost as if I knew them, and I don't believe I shall ever again make either pot-pie or ginger cookies without sending a thought to those who have talked to me through the Rural. My taste for pot-pie has by no means abated, but I have not tried any of the recipes yet, as my repeated failures have somewhat dampened my ardor in this particular direction. I intend to try again sometime, and hope to meet with better success, especially as the chickens are getting larger and plumper, and if I should hit one with a piece of the crust, it wouldn't be so much of a loss. It would only make material for another pot-pie. Mrs. Hattie F. Bell.

A SIMPLE MOSQUITO TRAP.

While visiting at the house of a friend, I was one morning surprised to see one of the ladies of the household going through the bedrooms with a short pole about the length of a broom-handle, to which was attached the cover of a mustard box, with a small quantity of kerosene oil within. This, whenever a mosquito appeared on the ceiling was applied, and it fell a victim immediately, in its efforts to escape into the oil. I have proved its worth and hope you will give the readers of the Rural an opportunity of doing the same. E. J. K.

USEFUL RECIPES.

The lady who conducts the "Housekeeper" in Germantown Telegraph contributes the following recipes to its columns:

STEAMED KNUCKLE OF MUTTON.

Take a knuckle of mutton, cover with cut parsley, a few capers, finely cut onions, and thin slices of turnips; season with pepper and salt; let it steam or simmer gently for an hour and a-half, and then have ready melted butter and pour over, allowing it again to steam or simmer for twenty minutes. A beautiful gravy will have collected, and the meat be as tender as a chicken. Garnish with Paysadu tongue, warmed previously by steam. The price of this tongue is far less than our British article, and the tongue has a sweet taste.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS TOSSED IN BUTTER.

Trim them neatly and wash them in several waters. Put them to boil in plenty of salted water, and when almost done strain and dry them in a cloth. Put them in a saucepan with a large piece of butter, pepper, salt and grated nutmeg to taste. Toss them gently on the fire until they are quite cooked.

BROILING MEATS.

When meats are broiling on a gridiron over hot coals, the sudden heat applied sears the outside, which shuts in the juices, and the rapid application of heat soon cooks the meat through, if in moderately thin pieces. It is then tender, juicy and palatable. Those who never broil their fresh meat, fish, or poultry, do not know the excellence of a properly-cooked dish of animal food.

SQUAB PIE.

Season highly some neck mutton-chops with pepper and salt, place them in a dish in layers, with plenty of sliced apples (sweetened) and chopped onions; cover with a good suet crust, and bake. When done, pour all the gravy out at the side, remove the fat, and flavor with mushroom catsup. Pour it back into the pie through a hole in the center.

CHILDREN'S PUDDING.

Cut up a loaf of stale bread the day before it is required, put to soak in a pan of cold water; when going to mix, squeeze the water through a colander; put the bread in a pan, with two ounces of suet chopped fine, two tablespoonfuls of flour, some grated ginger, a little mixed spice; beat well up with a fork; mix half a pound of treacle (not golden syrup) with a little warm milk, then stir altogether, and boil three hours in cloth, basin or mold. This will make a large pudding, much liked by children; it is cheap and wholesome.

SELECTED RECIPES.

To Clean Preserve Jars.—Sweet-meat jars or bottles may be cleaned without scraping them, by pouring into the jars hot water and a teaspoonful or two of pearlash. The contents which remain sticking to the sides and bottom of the jar will be disengaged by the pearlash and float loose in the water.

Removing Smells.—An unwholesome odor can be removed from a room by burning within it sugar or ground coffee.

If a Loaf or cake has become rather too stale for the table moisten it a little and then heat it through in the oven.

Closing Cracks in Cast Iron Stoves.—Good wood ashes are to be sifted through a fine sieve, to which is to be added the same quantity of clay finely pulverized, together with a little salt. This mixture is to be moistened with water enough to make a paste, and the crack of the stove then filled with it. The cement does not peel off or break away, and assumes an extreme degree of hardness after being heated. The stove must be cool when the application is made. The same substance may be used in setting the plates of a stove, or fitting stove pipes, serving to render all the joints perfectly tight.

Eggs Preserved by Silicate of Soda.—Dr. Durand, pharmacist of Blois, has discovered a very efficient means for the preservation of eggs viz., a solution of silicate of soda. This solution, being very viscous, is kept in a liquid state by the addition of tepid water. The eggs are dipped into the solution and then dried; when they have been thus treated, and are well dried, and completely covered with the silicate solution, they can be placed in any receptacle, and may be kept for a year or more without undergoing decomposition.

Mock Apple Pie.—Two crackers (milk or soda) one egg, one cup of sugar, one of water, the juice of one lemon; add a pinch of salt, and spice with nutmeg or the rind of the lemon.

Hygienic Information.

REMEDY FOR KICKING BABIES.

Presuming from the fact that as the following appeared in the American Rural Home, it is a good and effectual remedy, we transfer it to our columns for the benefit of those "to whom it may concern" especially the babies during the coming cold weather.

Bachelor readers will doubtless look to other columns for entertainment, on seeing this heading. Unfortunate and unhappy old bachelors—men of mature life, who have never known a father's pride or a father's love for his little ones!

This class of mankind have most peculiar ideas or theories regarding babies. When they are led to speak of them at all, you hear the innocents spoken of as disturbing families and neighborhoods at night by unseasonable squalls, as though they should be classed with the cats and dogs that make the night hideous. They do not realize that children have any other qualifications than such as make disturbances and trouble. I wonder they do not remark the fact that fathers and mothers seldom complain of children being troublesome, but instead, speak of them with pride, as being the greatest of earthly blessings.

The writer has the most remarkable baby extant (of course), but her kicking "o' nights" is frightful to behold. Whether asleep or awake, her little legs fly about like the wings of a windmill, and the result is a dismantling as complete as the ship in a storm. Thorough investigations on the subject were made without avail. History was silent on the matter in question, though all historical characters have doubtless kicked like mules in their babyhood; cyclopædias were found useless and were set aside with some abuse. Aunts, cousins, grandmothers were consulted, but all claimed that there was no remedy. Being bent on victory, we set our wits at work, and the result was a flannel sack, two feet long by fifteen inches wide, resembling a small grain bag. The kicker was deposited feet foremost therein, and the sack fastened by a band about the waist.

It works like a charm. No more colds. No patent applied for as yet. C. A. Green.

Clifton, N. Y.

ANOTHER REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM.

Medical Brief reports that Dr. Maclagan has used salicine in rheumatism. He employed it in eight cases, and arrives at the following conclusions:

1. We have in salicine a valuable remedy in the treatment of acute rheumatism.

2. The more acute the case, the more marked the benefit produced.

3. In acute cases, its beneficial action is generally apparent within twenty-four, always within forty-eight hours, of its administration in sufficient doses.

4. Given thus at the commencement of the attack, it seems sometimes to arrest the course of the malady as effectively as quinine cures an ague, or ipecacuanha a dysentery.

5. The relief of pain is always one of the earliest effects produced.

6. In acute cases, relief of pain and a fall of temperature generally occur simultaneously.

7. In subacute cases, the pain is sometimes decidedly relieved before the temperature begins to fall; this is especially the case when, as is frequently observed in those of nervous temperament, the pain is proportionally greater than the abnormal rise of temperature.

8. In chronic rheumatism salicine sometimes does good where other remedies fail; but it also sometimes fails where others do good.

The dose employed was from ten to thirty grains every two, three or four hours, according to the severity of the case. Fifteen grains every three hours Mr. Pemberton conceives to be a medium dose for an acute case.

EXCESSIVE USE OF MEDICINES.

The London Times in speaking of the excessive use of medicines, says that it would be utterly impossible to tell how many constitutions have been impaired, how many digestions ruined, how many complexions spoiled, and how many purses emptied, through medicine. What is that you say—that a stitch in time saves nine, and that the right medicine quickly taken averts danger? Very likely. I quite believe that. But in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred where is the danger? and what is the emergency of the case? Medicine is often the precursor of after misery, and the poor constitution has to pay dearly for its medicinal fillip. The wiser philosophy of the present day is gradually delivering us from these potent perils. Nature has a self-righting power within her; there is a kind of *vis medicatrix* in the physical frame. Treat the body kindly; let as much pure air as possible get to the lungs, and as much fresh water as is needful be applied to the flesh, and as much healthy exercise as duty permits be given to the muscles, and as early rising as circumstances will allow be afforded for the recruitment of the brain, and then medicine will be an avoidable affair.

COMEDONES IN THE FACE.

"Knowing you to be kind and obliging, I take the liberty to ask a great favor of you: Please let there appear among your "Hygienic Notes" next week a cure for "black heads" (or worms) in the face, by so doing you will greatly oblige. I will look eagerly for an answer."—E. J. B.

These black speck "black heads" or worms as they are called arise from impurity of the blood or system, and the only effectual and perfect remedy must come through a restoration of health to all parts of the body. But as a temporary relief, you can use a wash made of thirty-six grains of subcarbonate of soda, in eight ounces of distilled water, perfumed with six drams of essence of roses; Or touch the head of each, with a fine hair-pencil dipped in acetic acid. The acid must only touch the black spot, or it will eat the skin.

Entomological.

GRAIN WEEVILS FROM CONNECTICUT.

In a late number of the Rural New-Yorker I notice that one of your correspondents inquiring about Grain Weevils, which prompts me to ask for information on the same subject. The past summer an insect appeared in my barn and grain-bins, which my neighbors say is a Weevil. If so, they are different from anything of the kind I ever saw before. I send you a few specimens in a goose-quill for determination. Please give me the name of the species and how to exterminate this pest, and oblige—E. E. H., *Woodmont, Conn.*

We regret to inform you that the insects sent are genuine Grain Weevils and a species described by Linnæus a century ago, under the name of *Silvanus Surinamensis*, or Surinams, Grain Weevils; but this pest has become very wide-spread, and is more or less abundant where grain is cultivated extensively or stored in large quantities. It is known in some localities as the Red Weevil, to distinguish it from those belonging to the *Calandra*, which are of a darker color; besides, belonging to quite a distinct family, namely, the *Curculionidæ*, or Snout Beetles, while the *Silvani* belong to the *Cucujidæ*, all of which are very much flattened. The natural breeding place of most of the species is under the bark of trees and old logs. There are ten species of *silvanus* inhabiting or found in the United States; but the most common and destructive is the one you send, and this is truly a great pest.

By placing a specimen under a good lense of moderate magnifying power, the principal specific characters may be seen in six minute-pointed teeth on each side of the thorax, or neck, as it might be termed. This pest is found all over Europe as well as in this country; and the only way of getting rid of it in ordinary open barns and granaries, is to starve it out by keeping all grain out of its reach for two or three years. If they are located in a tight barn, or one that can be shut very close, then fumigating with sulphur, will destroy them. This plan may also be adopted in tight granaries; but, unless the fumes of sulphur can be forced into every crack and corner, enough will escape to soon overrun the place again.

THE ASPARAGUS BEETLE.

C. W. Quin, writing to the London Garden, says of the Asparagus Beetle (*Crioceris asparagi*), "When the beetle first appears it may be controlled, but if allowed to become established, the task is hopeless." Of course we do not know how tenaciously this insect may cling to life in England, but Mr. Quin's remarks would not be applicable to America. With our twenty years experience in fighting this insect, we are far from believing the task of controlling it is hopeless. It is readily kept in check by dusting the plants with freshly-slaked lime, when wet with dew or rain. Whenever the beetles become so numerous as to injure the appearance of the plants, one or two dustings of lime will generally suffice for the season. The application of the lime should always be made when the slugs (larvæ) are most abundant, for the beetles are too nimble to be caught in this manner.

The principal difficulty in the way of fighting such insect pests is that the gardener is ready to retreat before the onslaught upon them is made, being *sure* in advance that it *won't* do any good. There is little use of going into battle without having faith that you will win it.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

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THE DIFFERENCE.

THOSE who own land and till it are very much inclined to think that they fare worse than persons engaged in other avocations. While it is doubtless true that the farmer, gardener and fruit grower is not generally in a position to make large profits or much money by what is termed speculation, still there is a substantial basis to their operations not found at the bottom of a majority of other industries.

The man who sows a field with grain or sets out trees for either use or ornament, has just that amount of property, if no more, which increases while he sleeps, and herein there is a difference between him and the merchant, not in favor of the latter. Goods when once purchased and laid upon the shelves, seldom increase in value, while the sprouting seed and growing plant always does when put into the earth with that purpose in view. We would that all men having the opportunity, should avail themselves of nature's bounty in this direction, planting more trees to grow as time passes, thereby increasing their own individual wealth and that of the community at large at the same time. A man who learns to look upon the bright side of nature while tending his flocks and cultivating his land, is more likely to take pleasure in labor, as well as to do his work better than the one who looks upon the dark side; and we are inclined to think that success or failure often hinges upon this difference in the disposition or peculiarities of different individuals.

An unwilling servant is seldom a good or faithful one, and the same rule holds good in the higher walks of life; hence, every person should endeavor to cultivate a spirit of earnestness which generally adds force in accomplishing our object and leads others to put confidence in whatever we undertake. When we meet a man who, to use a common phrase, is "desperately in earnest" in any scheme or avocation which he may have in hand, our sympathies are enlisted in his behalf in advance of a knowledge of its nature or import and aid is often tendered, although unasked; while a less enthusiastic individual, but equally as worthy, might fail to even attract our attention.

Put more earnestness into your own actions if you would gain the confidence of others, for it is certainly true that the world is always more inclined to help those who are apparently going up hill than down, even though appearances may often be deceptive. Be in earnest and have faith in whatever you undertake and others will catch the spirit of your enthusiasm, whether they will or no.

SCIENTIFIC FARMING.

THERE is no word more misunderstood or, perhaps, distorted among farmers, than the word science as applied to agriculture. It is deemed an empirical, arbitrary, high-flying Something, created by a clique of men filled with vagaries and destitute of common-sense, to be shunned—to be fought off like encroaching flames.

How can the farmer be *made* to know that in just so far as his own operations are conducted skillfully, he is himself a scientific farmer whether he would or no! We once heard a well-to-do farmer say: "If I followed the instructions of your agricultural journals and books I should fail in two years." From his view he was right. He was set in the belief that such journals are written up by men who have gained their ideas of farming from books alone and who are stuffed with all sorts of contradictory, impracticable theories to the exclusion of all that is the outgrowth of labor and observation in the field. Trustworthy agricultural periodicals impart, or aim to impart, only the most efficient methods. They aim to spread over the land *every* new theory that promises to increase the farm yield with the same or less labor and expense. They do not ask or wish the farmer to accept their statements (detractory or laudatory) upon faith, but to excite inquiry and experiment to the end that the good may be accepted, the bad rejected. Is there a shorter or easier road to progress?

Can any farmer suppose that whereas, every other science is progressing with palpable strides from generation to generation—we might almost say from year to year—that the science of farming not only remains but ever must remain *in statu quo?*

It is all wrong to suppose that the editors of and contributors to agricultural journals as well as the authors of agricultural works, are office-men and know little or nothing of farm practice. Many of them have made practical farming the study of their lives. They obtain by work the fabric out of which to shape new material. The hands are made the instruments of furnishing the mind with food which, added to the recorded teachings of those in years past, form the elements out of which original ideas are elaborated and scientific progress insured. The type farmer, as we may designate him, differs from the scientific farmer in but one respect, viz., the former looks to results mainly, the latter to causes as well. For instance, the unscientific farmer applies lime to two fields. Upon the one the crop is unquestionably benefited—upon the other unquestionably injured. He concludes that the one field needs lime, the other does not and this conviction is fixed for life. The scientific farmer finds in these opposite effects important data upon which to establish principles universally applicable. His first inquiry is as to the cause of the difference. Was one field deficient in lime, the other sick of it? Was the soil of one field such that the lime hastened the decomposition of certain slowly-soluble particles which were essential to the vigorous growth of the crop, while upon the other no such slowly-soluble material existed? What manures had previously been used? What is the chemical constitution of the two crops cultivated? These, among many, are a few of the inquiries that at once suggest themselves to the scientific farmer and it is not impossible that their investigation would prove under other methods of cultivation or by the subsequent use of other fertilizers or by extremes of temperature or rainfall, that the very field that produced the scanty crop owing, as was supposed, to the use of lime, would then by its use produce most bountifully; while the other field might in the same degree be rendered unfertile. In this supposable case, though the unscientific farmer's conclusion that lime was harmful in the one instance and beneficial in the other were correct, the conditions remaining unchanged, he gains no inkling of what those conditions are and is necessarily incapable of drawing any inference whatever for his future guidance.

In ridiculing science as applied to farming, farmers know not what they do. Scientific farming may be freely defined as perfect farming—for science is but knowledge—and he who approximates more nearly to this, is to that extent a scientific farmer, though he may be ignorant of every technical word or process known to science, and though the principles which he practises upon his own farm may prove utterly worthless as applied to another. The same may be said of every other science. Is one who reasons accurately and forcibly any the less a logician because he knows not even the signification of the word syllogism? Is a musician any the less a musician because he can not tell one note from another? Is he any the less a mathematician who can compute by a peculiar mental process of his own the number of bricks required to construct a cistern of a given diameter, though he may never have heard of the classic *Pons asinorum?*

The difference then between the good uneducated farmer and the scientific farmer is but one of degree; and in condemning the latter, the former not only condemns himself in so far as he *is* a good farmer, but opposes the acquirement and the dissemination of that knowledge which, directed to causes as well as effects; directed to the recording of all facts appertaining to agriculture from whatever source, provides the sole means by which true knowledge may be gained and disseminated among all people and through all coming ages.

The science of farming is still in its infancy. The profoundest workers are still grpoing in all but darkness—but the dim light in the distance and the flashes that oftener and more brightly lighten up the vista of agriculture, bid us hope that a more constant and brighter light is about to dawn, and he who thrusts himself forward to scorn the noble labors of those who seek to hasten it, whether bylabors in the field, laboratory or study, may live it is to be hoped, to blush over their short-sightedness.

RURAL NOTES.

Rural Premiums Appreciated.—Among the many letters, showing the encouragement given us in our endeavors to send the RURAL forward as a good messenger, the following is from friend GREEN of Allegany Co., who has sent in a RURAL Club ever since he was a boy: "All the Premiums due me from the RURAL have been received in good order and I am much pleased with them, as they are first-class in every respect. As I anticipate sending you more subscriptions for the RURAL for 1877 than *ever before*, I want to fully prepare for the coming campaign for the Old RURAL, which I intend, on my part, to make an *aggressive one*, not merely acting on the *defensive* and taking subscriptions when I can't avoid it, but going out to get them. Yours truly, GEO. A. GREEN, Agent."

Waters' Orchestrian Chimes.—In our last issue our musical critic gave a brief description of this instrument, a new parlor organ just introduced by HORACE WATERS & SONS. He stated a simple fact when he wrote that "it is in advance of anything heretofore offered to the musical public." Our printer has but recently taken up the study of Sanskrit and the best he could do with the "copy" was to make it read, "is in advance of anything heretofore *to offend to* the musical public." This error has cast a gloom over the Sanctum. We regret the mistake and deplore the loss of our esteemed associate. He read the notice and subsequently went to the Asylum a howling maniac.

Rabies Canina in England.—From late English journals we learn that some valuable packs of hounds have had to be killed on account of the presence of rabies and hydrophobia among them. The latest outbreak of this fearful malady caused the destruction of a number of hounds estimated to be worth five hundred pounds, the pack being one of the best in the kingdom. Many theories have been advanced as to the cause of these outbreaks, but none seem to be entirely satisfactory. The malady seems to lurk among the kennels of certain districts.

Patented Plants.—The Editor of the Gardeners' Monthly, in discussing the advisability of giving the originators of new plants "protecting patents," says, "We know of a person who has been some six years working on a new plant and who will probably realize $20,000 for his labor and skill." This we think, is fully as much as a man could think of doing under any horticultural patent law. There are far too many patents now for the welfare of the masses, and to add to the number or facilities for the same might increase instead of decrease their burdens.

Kunfai or Polo.—This East India game is becoming quite popular in America and, like base ball, is likely to bring a crop of broken fingers and shins, if nothing worse happens to those who indulge in the "manly sport." Anything that has any *fun* in it, is always welcome among those who have leisure hours to while away and money to spend in gratifying their tastes, in whatever direction they may happen to run.

The Amsterdam Exhibition.—There is to be a grand International Horticultural Exhibition at Amsterdam, Holland, in 1877, and all the nations of the world are invited to participate therein, as at our Centennial Show. Now let our horticulturists make preparations to show the Dutch what can be done in the way of horticultural products from America.

RURAL BREVITIES.

MR. G. F. NEEDHAM sends us an interesting account of the Potomac Fruit Growers' Association, August meeting, which we cannot publish on account of lack of space.

THE sales of stock, especially Short-Horn, has been brisk this fall and the prices are reported as being quite satisfactory. In fact, the outlook for all kinds of farm stock appears to be good.

THE Early Vermont and Snowflake are reported to have done exceedingly well in England this season and the former is said to promise to become one of the most useful of American varieties.

IT is reported that the authorities of Blue-Earth Co., Minn., have paid for 2,000 bushels of locusts, and that in the entire State where these insects occurred, not less than 50,000 bushels were destroyed the present season.

THERE has been a strong effort by the coal companies during the past few days to put up the price of coal, but without effect. The backbone of the monopolies having been broken, it will be difficult to mend it while labor remains cheap and abundant.

WE are in receipt of two ears of D. A. Compton's early yellow corn, which appears to be an extra fine variety. It is a twelve-rowed sort and we are assured by the originator that it is extra early, the crop this season having been cut up and shocked August 14.

AGAIN we chronicle the visit of a Centennial RURAL Agent—Mr. HENRY HULS, St. Charles, Ills.—who stopped on his way to Philadelphia to have a friendly chat on business prospects, &c. He reports everything flourishing in his State and that the RURAL is gaining friends steadily.

J. Y. BICKNELL, Westmoreland, N. Y., makes an offer of game fowls in his advertisement on another page that should interest poultry fanciers and others. As Mr. BICKNELL carried off about all the honors at the last N. Y. State Fair, it is safe to say his stock is a desirable one to select from.

THERE have been many "corners" in grain, stocks and other articles, but the meanest "corner" we have ever heard of is a "corner" in quinine, sending this useful drug up fifty to seventy-five cents per ounce. This is hard on those who have gotten the "shakes" or malarial fever through their visits to the Centennial.

THE N. Y. Herald, in speaking of the amount of grain on hand ready for shipment, says: "Western warehouses are glutted with grain, which the owners are holding so that the railroads may soon have so much to carry East that they may put on the high tariff rates. Gentlemen farmers, how long will it take you to learn that, so far as export is concerned, the price of American wheat is in Liverpool and nowhere else?"

DR. H. A. GRANT, of Enfield, Conn., writes that he used one of the HALLADAY WIND MILLS, made by the U. S. Wind Mill Co. constantly, day and night, except when his water tank was full, from its erection in 1853 till he replaced it by steam for other purposes in 1872. He further says that its entire cost of repairs during that whole time did not exceed $15 and that with $2 more expenditure it would be good for another five years.

THE advertisement in this issue of Messrs. LORD & TAYLOR should be carefully read, as it gives a succinct list of all the new fall goods with prices. The most stylish stuffs here announced have not been distributed through the country yet and they are, consequently, only attainable in New York. The system adopted by this house as set forth in the advertisement, puts it in any lady's power to avail herself of their facilities without as much expense as would be incurred by trading in her own town and with facilities quite as ample.

"THE PRIDE OF BATTERY B."

South Mountain towered on our right,
Far off the river lay,
And over the wooded hight
We held their lines at bay.

At last the mutt'ring guns were still,
The day died slow and wan.
At last the gunners' pipes did fill,
The Sergeant's yarns began.

When as the wind a moment blew
Aside the fragrant flood,
Our briarwoods raised—within our view
A little maiden stood,

A tiny tot of six or seven,
From fireside fresh she seemed.
(Of such a little one in heaven
One soldier often dreamed.)

And as we stared, one little hand
Went to her curly head
In grave salute. "And who are you?"
At length the Sergeant said.

"And where's your home?" he growled again.
She lisped out, "Who is me?
Why, don't you know? I'm little Jane,
'The Pride of Battery B.'

"My home? Why, that was burned away,
And pa and ma are dead,
And so I ride the guns all day,
Along with Sergeant Ned;

"And I've a drum that's not a toy,
And a cap with feathers, too,
And I march beside the drummer boy
On Sundays at review.

"But now our bacca's all give out,
The men can't have their smoke;
And so they're cross—why even Ned
Won't play with me and joke;

"And the big Colonel said to-day—
I hate to hear him swear—
He'd give a leg for a good pipe
Like the Yanks had over there.

"And so I thought, when beat the drum,
And the big guns were still,
I'd creep beneath the tent and come
Out here across the hill,

"And beg, good Mister Yankee men,
You'd give me some Lone Jack,
Please do—when we get some again
I'll surely bring it back.

"Indeed I will, for Ned—says he—
'If I do what I say,
I'll be a General yet, may be,
And ride a prancing bay.'"

We brimmed her tiny apron o'er.
You should have heard her laugh
As each man from his scanty store
Shook out a gen'rous half.

To kiss the little mouth, stooped down
A score of grimy men,
Until the Sergeant's husky voice
Said "'Tention, Squad!" and then

We gave her escort, till good-night
The pretty waif we bid,
And watched her toddle out of sight,
Or else 'twas tears that hid

Her tiny form, nor turned about
A man, nor spoke a word
Till afterwhile a far hoarse shout
Upon the wind we heard!

We sent it back—then cast sad eye
Upon the scene around,
A baby's hand had touched the tie
That brothers once had bound.

That's all—save when the dawn awoke
Again the work of hell;
And through the clouds of sullen smoke
The screaming missiles fell.

Our Gen'ral often rubbed his glass,
And marveled much to see
Not a single shell that whole day fell
In the camp of Battery "B!"

[*Frank H. Gassaway.*

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 253.]

UTAH.

All that portion of the country acquired from Mexico, lying between parallels 37° and 42°, north latitude, the Rocky Mountains and California, was, previous to its cession to the United States, almost unknown, but few white men having penetrated it. In 1847 the Mormons, driven from Nauvoo, their settlement in Illinois, crossed the Rocky Mountains and penetrating the wilderness so far that they thought themselves forever beyond the reach of the Gentiles—in a land where there would be no governmental authority superior to their own—founded Salt Lake City. But after the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, they unexpectedly found themselves again under the jurisdiction of the United States. In 1850 the population of this area was said to be about 11,000, mostly located in the immediate vicinity of Salt Lake City. A convention to frame a Constitution was held and a Government organized as the State of Deseret. Congress however, refused to agree to these proceedings and established a Territorial Government. In September of the same year Brigham Young was appointed Governor and the other officers selected from among the Mormon residents. So long as this was continued all went smoothly so far as the Mormons, who were largely in the majority, were concerned; but the Gentiles complained that the laws were so administered as to bear hardly on them, no regard being paid to justice or equity. Their complaints seemed well founded. Some changes being made and Gentiles appointed to office, the Mormons became the complainants and in 1858 they rose in direct rebellion against the Government, compelling the courts to adjourn. It is reported that in a sermon Young preached to his people, he said, "I am and will be Governor, and no power can hinder it until the Lord Almighty says, 'Brigham, you need not be Governor any longer.'" Troops were sent to restore order and at first collisions seemed inevitable; but finally the Mormons were induced to submit, at least nominally.

In 1861 the limits of the Territory were contracted to the area embraced by the 37th and 42d parallels and the 32d and 39th meridians, except that portion east of longitude 111° and west of latitude 41°. In 1862 this area was diminished by making the western boundary longitude 114° 03′ west of Greenwich. Several petitions have been made to Congress praying for the admission of Utah as a State, but as all Constitutions proposed have been framed with a view to the legalization of polygamy, they have been denied.

NEW MEXICO.

The Territory of New Mexico was organized in 1850 from a portion of the area directly ceded by Mexico, and that to which Texas made claim which was adjusted by the compromise of 1850 [see Texas]. Its northern boundary was the 37th parallel of latitude between California and the Rocky Mountains and the 38th° between the Rocky Mountains and the 26th meridian. On the east it was bounded by the 26th meridian; on the south, east of the Rio Grande, by the 37th parallel, separating it from Texas and west of that river by the then northern line of Mexico and west by California. In 1854 the Territory acquired from Mexico and known as the Gadsden purchase, was annexed. In 1861 the portion lying north of the 37th parallel was substracted and in 1863 the area was still further diminished, making the meridian 31° 59′ west from Washington, its western boundary.

WASHINGTON.

In 1853 that portion of Oregon Territory lying north of 46° and the Columbia River was erected into a separate Territory and named Washington. When Oregon was made a State the portion of Oregon Territory not included within the State bounds was temporarily annexed to Washington; but this and the eastern portion of Washington Territory were detached when Idaho was formed, leaving the bounds of Washington Territory as now, viz., the 49°th parallel, longitude 117° 04′, and the Snake River, the 46th parallel and the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean.

KANSAS AND NEBRASKA TERRITORIES.

A bill for giving Territorial Government to the country westward of Missouri and Iowa under the name of Nebraska was presented in 1852 and met with determined opposition from and defeat by the friends of slavery, who seemed to have determined that no further governments should be organized in which slavery should be prohibited. This bill in substance was again reported in 1853, when the question as to the constitutionality and consequent validity of the Missouri Compromise was raised, but it was never brought to vote. Subsequently Mr. Douglas reported another bill, providing for the erection of two Territories instead of one—Kansas to include the area lying directly west of Missouri to the Rocky Mountains and Nebraska, including all north of Kansas, leaving it for the people to decide all questions relative to slavery for themselves which, after considerable discussion, was passed in May, 1854.

KANSAS.

Up to the time of the proposition to organize the Territory of Kansas, nearly all the accessible area thereof was in possession of different tribes of Indians. But during the time of the discussion of the question, treaties were quietly made by which most of the country within two hundred miles of Missouri was opened for settlement, and no sooner had the territorial bill become a law, than the contest between the friends of freedom and those of slavery (which had before been one of fierce debate and angry words) became one of physical strife—of blows and bloodshed, which continued, with but little intermission, for several years.

Residents of Western Missouri hastened to take possession of the new territory for slavery, and within a few days after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill hundreds of Missourians crossed the border, professed to be citizens and organized societies which passed resolutions to the effect that they recognized slavery as established, invited slaveholders with their slaves to join them, and declaring that no abolitionist should be given countenance or protection.

In 1854 emigration from the free States began to be considerable. The friends of freedom had moved in the matter. Societies were formed—mostly in New England—known as Emigrant Aid Societies—for the purpose of assisting those who were willing to settle in the new territory. This was met with an expressed determination on the part of the pro-slavery party in Kansas and their allies in Missouri, to remove all persons who should come there under the auspices of any of these societies.

In July, 1854, the first company of Eastern emigrants, about thirty in number, located on the site now occupied by the city of Lawrence, and in two weeks they were joined by sixty or seventy more. They were ordered to remove, but not choosing to obey, they commenced defensatory preparations against their enemies who, although more than twice their number, concluded to leave them, for the time, unmolested.

A Territorial Government was established in the autumn of 1854 and Andrew H. Reeder appointed Governor. At an election for delegate to Congress held soon after, the polls were seized by armed men from Missouri and more than half of the votes were, as was afterward ascertained, polled by residents of Missouri.

A Territorial Legislature was chosen in March, 1855, in much the same way. Gov. Reeder set aside the election in some districts and ordered new ones at which Free State delegates were chosen, who were however, refused their seats in the Legislature, which were given to those illegally elected. This Legislature, known as the Lecompton, met at Pawnee in July and passed several acts bearing heavily on the Free State men and supporting slavery to the fullest extent, some of which were vetoed by Gov. Reeder. This action on his part offended the leaders of the party and he was removed from office by the President, who appointed Wilson Shannon in his place.

The Free State men refused to recognize the authority of this Legislature, held an election, appointed ex-Gov. Reeder delegate to Congress, and called a Constitution and Convention which was held at Topeka in October, 1855, at which a Constitution was framed, and in January, 1856, an election for State officers and members of the Legislature was held; Charles Robinson was chosen Governor. The Legislature met at Topeka in March, organized, inaugurated the Governor, and adjourned till July.

Meantime the numbers in the pro-slavery ranks increased largely by accessions from the Slave States, and under various pretexts assaults were made on the free settlers. From this time the Territory was in the utmost confusion; collisions were frequent and many were killed. Gov. Shannon was recalled by the President and Gov. Geary superseded him. Before the arrival of Gov. Geary the acting Governor had declared the Territory in a state of rebellion. Thousands of armed men—"Border Ruffians"—came from Missouri and other Slave States to aid in putting it down. Gov. Geary commanded all to lay down their arms and met the Missourians with United States troops, compelling their obedience.

The Free State or Topeka Legislature met in January, 1857. The officers and some of the principal members were arrested by the United States Marshal and the rest adjourned till June. About this time Gov. Geary resigned and was succeeded by Robert J. Walker.

The Lecompton Legislature met soon after and provided for a Convention to prepare a State Constitution. The Free State men declined to vote for delegates at the election, which was held June 15; but at a Territorial election held a few months subsequently, the free settlers took part, having the assurance of Gov. Walker that they should be protected in their rights so far as was in his power. The result was the election of a Free State delegate to Congress and a large majority of anti-slavery members to the Legislature.

The Free State men had declined to vote on the question of the acceptance of the Constitution framed by the Lecompton Convention, and the slavery clause was adopted by a large majority. Many of its provisions were obnoxious to Gov. Walker who, failing in his remonstrance against its adoption by Congress, resigned, and J. W. Denver was appointed.

The Lecompton Constitution having been promulgated, an election for State officers under it was called, to be held January, 1858, and the Territorial Legislature directed the slavery clause in the Constitution, which was to be submitted directly to the vote of the people, to be voted on at the same time. The result was a large majority against slavery. Congress decided that the Lecompton Constitution should be again submitted to the people in August, 1858, when it was again rejected. Shortly after Gov. Denver resigned and Samuel Medary was appointed Governor.

Another Constitutional Convention was held by authority of the Territorial Legislature, at Wyandot, in July, 1859, at which a Constitution prohibiting slavery was adopted. This was ratified by the people in October and an election was held under it in December, at which Charles Robinson was chosen Governor.

Application for admission as a State with the Wyandot Constitution, was made to Congress in February, 1860, which was refused. At the next session the application was renewed, which, being granted, made Kansas the thirty-fourth State in the Union, with boundaries embracing all territory between the 37th and 40th degrees of latitude and between Missouri and the 102d degree of longitude, with the very appropriate motto, "*Per aspera ad astra.*"—[To be continued.

THINGS TO RRMEMBER.

You must listen to your wife, and not believe her.

One may do without mankind, but one has need of a friend.

The happiest mother of daughters is she who has only sons.

The pleasure of doing good is the only one that never wears out.

To cultivate virtue is the science of men; to renounce science is the virtue of women.

If one is not deaf and stupid, what a position is that of a father-in-law! If with a wife and a daughter-in-law one has also sisters and sisters-in-law, daughters and nieces, one ought to be a tiger to be able to hold out.

The Story-Teller.

MY LITTLE SCHOOL-GIRL.

The first time that I saw her was one autumn morning as I rode to town in a horse car. It was early, and my only fellow passenger was a crusty old gentleman who sat in a corner reading his paper; so when the car stopped I glanced out to see who came next, hoping it would be a pleasanter person. No one appeared for a minute and the car stood still, while the driver and conductor looked in the same direction without any sign of impatience. I looked also; but all I could see was a little girl running across the park, as girls of twelve or thirteen seldom run nowadays, if any one can see them.

"Are you waiting for her?" I asked of the conductor, who stood with his hand on the bell and a good-natured smile in his eye.

"Yes, ma'am; we always stop for little missy," he answered; and then up she came, all rosy and breathless with her long run.

"Thank you, very much. I'm late to-day and was afraid I should miss my car," she said, as he helped her with a fatherly air that was pleasant to see. Taking a corner seat, she smoothed the curly locks, disturbed by the wind, put on her gloves and settled her books in her lap and then modestly glanced from the old gentleman in the opposite corner to the lady near by. Such a bright little face as I saw under the hat-rim, happy blue eyes, dimples in the ruddy cheeks and the innocent expression which makes a young girl so sweet an object to old eyes!

The crusty gentleman evidently agreed with me, for he peeped over the top of the paper at his pleasant little neighbor, as she sat studying a lesson and cheering herself with occasional sniffs at a posy of mignonette and sweet peas. When the old gentleman caught my eye he dived out of sight with a loud "hem!" but he was peeping again directly, for there was something irresistibly attractive about the unconscious lassie opposite; and one could no more help looking at her than at a lovely flower or a playful kitten.

Presently she shut her book with a decided pat and an air of relief that amused me. She saw the half smile that I could not repress, seemed to understand my sympathy and said, with a laugh, "It was a hard lesson, but I've got it!" So we began to talk about school and lessons and I soon discovered that the girl was a splendid scholar, whose only drawback was, as she confessed to me, "love of fun."

We were just getting to be quite friendly when several young men got in, one of whom stared at the pretty child till even she observed it, and showed that she did by the color that came and went in her cheeks. It annoyed me as much as though she had been my own little daughter—for I like modesty and have often been troubled by the forward manners of school-girls, who seem to enjoy being looked at. So I helped her out of her little trouble by making room for her between the old gentleman and myself and motioning her to come and sit there. She understood at once and thanked me with a look and nestled into the safe place so gratefully that the old gentleman glared over his spectacles at the rude person who had disturbed the serenity of the child.

Then we rumbled along again, the car getting fuller and fuller as we got down town. Presently an Irishwoman with a baby got in, and before I could offer my seat my little school-girl was out of hers with a polite, "Please take it, ma'am; I can stand perfectly well."

It was prettily done and I valued the small courtesy all the more, because it evidently cost the bashful creature an effort to stand up alone in a carfull of strangers, especially as she could not reach the strap to steady herself and found it difficult to stand comfortably.

Then it was that the crusty old gentleman showed how he appreciated my girl's good manners, for he hooked his cane in the strap and gave it to her, saying with a smile that lighted up his rough face like sunshine, "Hold on to that, my dear."

"Ah," thought I, "how little we can judge from appearances! This grim old soul is a gentleman, after all."

Turning her face toward us, the girl held on to the stout cane and swayed easily to and fro as we bumped over the rails. The Irishwoman's baby, a sickly little thing, was attracted by the flowers and put out a small hand to touch them, with a wistful look at the bright face above.

"Will baby have some?" said my girl, and made the little creature happy with a gay sweet-pea and some red leaves.

"Bless your heart, honey, it's fond he is of the likes o' them, and seldom he gets any," said the mother gratefully, as she settled baby's hood and wrapped the old shawl round his feet.

Baby stared hard at the giver of the posies, but his honest blue eyes gave no offence and soon the two were so friendly that baby boldly clutched at the bright buttons on her sack and crowed with delight when he got one, while we all smiled at the pretty play and were all sorry when the little lady, with a bow and a smile to us, got out at the church corner.

"Now, I shall probably never see that child again; yet, what a pleasant picture she leaves in my memory," I thought to myself, as I caught a last glimpse of the brown hat going round the corner.

But I did see her again many times that winter, for not long after, as I passed down a certain street near my winter quarters, I came upon a flock of girls—eating their luncheon as they walk-

ed to and fro on the sunny side—pretty, merry creatures, all laughing and chattering at once, as they tossed apples from hand to hand, munched candy or compared cookies. I went slowly to enjoy the sight, as I do when I meet a party of swallows on the common, and was wondering what would become of so many budding women, when all of a sudden I saw my little school-girl.

Yes, I knew her in a minute, for she wore the same brown hat and the rosy face was sparkling with fun as she told secrets with a chosen friend, while eating a wholesome slice of bread and butter, as only a hungry school-girl could. She did not recognize me, but I took a good look at her as I went by, longing to know what the particular secret was that ended in such a gale of laughter.

After that, I often saw my girl as I took my walks abroad and, one day, could not resist speaking to her when I met her alone, for usually her mates clustered around her like bees about their queen, which pleased me, since it showed how much they loved the sunny child.

I had a paper of grapes in my hand and when I saw her coming, whisked out a handsome bunch all ready to offer, for I had made up my mind to speak this time. She was reading a paper, but looked up to give me the inside of the walk. Before her eyes could fall again, I held out the grapes and said, just as I had heard her say more than once to a schoolmate at lunch time, "Let's go halves." She understood at once, laughed, and took the bunch, saying with twinkling eyes:

"O, thank you! they are beauties!"

Then, as we went on to the corner together, I told her why I did it, and recalled the car ride. "I'd forgotten that, but my conductor is very kind and always waits for me," she said, evidently surprised that a stranger should take such an interest in her small self. I did not have half time enough with her, for a bell rang and away she skipped, looking back to nod and smile at the queer lady who had taken a fancy to her. A few days after and a fine nosegay of flowers was left at the door for me, and when I asked the servant who left them, he answered:

"A little girl asked if a lame lady didn't live here and when I said yes, she told me to give you these and say, "The grapes are very nice."

I knew at once who it was and enjoyed the funny message immensely; for when one leads a quiet life, little things interest and amuse.

Christmas was close by and I planned a return for the flowers of a sort that I fancied my young friend would appreciate. I knew that Christmas week would be a holiday so, the day before it began, I went to the school just before recess and left a frosted, plummy cake directed to "Miss Goldilocks, from she knows who."

At first, I did not know how to address my nice white parcel, for I never had heard the child's name. But thinking over the matter, I remembered that she was the only one there with yellow curls hanging down her back, so I decided to risk the cake with the above direction. The maid took it in (for my girl went to a private school), smiled, and said at once she knew whom I meant. I left my cake and strolled round the corner to the house of a friend, there to wait and watch for the success of my joke, for the girls always went that way at recess.

Presently the little hats began to go bobbing by, the silent street to echo with laughter and the sidewalk to bloom with gay gowns, for the girls were all out in winter colors now. From behind a curtain I peeped at them and saw, with great satisfaction, that nearly all had bits of my cake in their hands and were talking it over with the most flattering interest. My particular little girl, with a friend on each arm, passed so near me that I could see the happy look in her eyes and hear her say, with a toss of the bright hair:

"Mother will plan it for me and I can get it done by New Year's. Won't it be fun to hang it on the door some day and then run!"

I fancied that she meant to make something for me and waited with patience, wondering how this odd frolic with my little school-girl would end.

New Year's day came and passed, but no gift hung on my door; so I made up my mind it was all a mistake and, being pretty busy about that time, thought no more of the matter till some weeks later, as I came into town one day, after a visit in the country. I am fond of observing faces, and seldom forget one if anything particularly attracted my attention to it. So, this morning, as I rode along, I looked at the conductor, as there was no one else to observe, and he had a pleasant face. Somehow, it looked familiar; and after thinking idly about it for a minute, I remembered where I had seen it before.

He was the man who waited for "little missy," and I at once began to hope that she would come again, for I wanted to ask about the holidays, remembering how "fond of fun" she was.

When we came to South End Square, where I met her first, I looked out, expecting to see the little figure running down the wide path again and quite willing to wait for it a long time if necessary. But not one was to be seen but two boys and a dog. The car did not stop and, though the conductor looked that way, his hand was not on the strap and no smile on his face.

"Don't you wait for the little girl now?" I asked, feeling disappointed at not seeing my little friend again.

"I wish I could, ma'am," answered the man, understanding at once, though of course he did not remember me.

"New rules, perhaps?" I added, as he did not explain, as he stood fingering his punch, and never minding an old lady, wildly waving her bag at him from the sidewalk.

"No, ma'am; but it's no use waiting for little missy any more, because"—here he leaned in and said very low—"she is dead;" then turned sharply round, rung the bell, put the old lady in and shut the door.

How grieved I was to have that pleasant friendship end so sadly, for I had planned many small surprises for my girl and now I could do no more, could never know all about her, never see the sunny face again or win another word from lips that seemed made for smiling.

Only a little school-girl. Yet how many friends she seemed to have, making them unconsciously by her gentle manners, generous actions and innocent light-heartedness. I could not bear to think what home must be without her, for I am sure I was right in believing her a good sweet child, because real character shows itself in little things, and the heart that always keeps in tune makes its music heard everywhere.

The busy man of the horse-car found time to miss her; the schoolmates evidently mourned for their queen; for when I met them they walked quietly, talked low, and several wore black bows upon their sleeves; while I, although I never knew her name or learned a single fact about her, felt the sweetness of her happy nature and have not yet forgotten my little school-girl.—*Louisa M. Alcott.*

GRUMBLING ABOUT NEWSPAPERS.

Grumbling about newspapers, says the Boston Traveler, is as ancient as newspapers themselves. And, notwithstanding the multiplication of these modern conveniences and the sleepless efforts of publishers to adapt their paper to every variety of taste and every grade of sentiment, affording, one might think, ample opportunity to readers to suit themselves perfectly—yet there is still, perhaps, as much grumbling about newspapers as there ever was. We suppose it does not often occur to the grumblers that possibly they themselves may be at fault, may be unreasonable, may expect impossibilities, may be out of humor, may have a fit of indigestion or spleen, or may be stupid or unappreciative. It may never occur to them that the men who toil night and day to furnish them with the latest news and the greatest variety of information and entertainment, are mortal, and sometimes tire themselves, and get sleepy and cross and stupid, and forgetful and careless, and need and deserve, too, some consideration and even sympathy from those for whom they unceasingly work.

Fault-finding readers do not consider that everything that is made by human brains and hands must, of necessity, be imperfect, however strong the desire and however earnest the effort may be to have it faultless. And above all, they forget that a newspaper cannot be made for general circulation and yet, in everything, exactly suit any one person. A thoroughly good, enterprising newspaper, is really like a well-spread dinner table. It contains variety as well as quantity; something for every taste and enough of each kind to satisfy any reasonable appetite. It is not expected that any guest of a table should eat of every dish provided. It is not supposed for a moment that every dish will be palatable to every guest or agree with every one's digestion; but it is thought and reasonably, too, that from the abundant bill of fare every guest can select enough that will be digestible and agreeable to make a substantial and satisfactory meal. Just so it is with every well-edited newspaper. No man is expected to read everything in the paper or to like everything if he reads it; but every man is expected to find enough that is good and useful and acceptable and agreeable in the ample columns spread out before him, to be a full equivalent for what the paper costs; and if he happens to find on the *carte* an article which offends his taste, or is in opposition to his views, he has just to let that alone and leave it for another, whom it will just suit and for whose taste it was gotten up. In choosing his paper one should do just as he does in choosing his restaurant; he should select one whose general style suits him, and when his taste changes or the character of the paper deteriorates, he should change and try another; but never fret himself or vex his neighbors by grumbling and scolding about his newspaper which, after all, is just about as necessary to his comfort as his dinner.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

What Tommy Did. By Emily Huntington Miller. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.

If all who take a lively interest in children will read "What Tommy Did" and how perfectly naturally he did it, they will be amply rewarded for their trouble in the pleasure to be obtained. It is evident that the author knows just what such little fellows do and say, for she has drawn a number of pretty pictures in such simple language that a child too young to read it would be interested in it. This book is one of the excellent results of the great progress made of late years in the literature for the young. Even within our own recollection it was next to an impossibility to find a child's book which did not recount the hackneyed story of the good little boy who died young, full of religious fervor, at an age when all religion must have been a sealed book. Now, however, people have come to think that children should be treated to something more nearly similar to actual life. Tommy in this book is sometimes intensely natural. In addition to all this, the book is neatly printed and beautifully illustrated.

Our Behavior. A Manual of Etiquette and Dress of the Best American Society. By Mrs. E. B. Duffey. Philadelphia: J. M. Stoddart & Co. (8vo.—pp. 320.)

The above title would naturally indicate a much less interesting work than the one before us. While laying down certain rules of conduct under the various ordinary and many of the extraordinary situations in life, it reaches further and embraces reasons for the rules which can be applied to other cases and can by the exercise of a little common sense, be made useful on many occasions. Of course the book is largely a transcript of the author's own peculiar ideas upon many subjects; but did we object to some of them, we should find a large majority which accord exactly with our own. Among the miscellaneous rules we cull the following as an example:

"Moderation in Speaking.—Always express your own opinions with modesty, and if called upon defend them, but without that warmth which may lead to hard feelings. Do not enter into argument. Having spoken your mind and thus shown you are not cowardly in your beliefs or opinions, drop the subject and lead to some other topic. There is seldom any profit in idle discussion.

"Boasting.—Never boast of birth, money or friends, or of any superior advantages which may be yours."

Elements of English Grammar. By S. W. Whitney, A. M. New York: J. W. Schermerhorn & Co.

In the short time permitted us for the examination of Prof. Whitney's work, we are deterred from many comments which might be pleasant or otherwise. We can safely say that he has condensed the matter into a very reasonable bulk and has omitted much unnecessary verbiage usually found in text books and especially grammars of the English language. He very properly throws out Orthography and Prosody, the latter of which in early youth we were wont to stumble through and wonder what it was all about. He divides his work into Etymology and Syntax and confines himself to those. This simplifies the study and enables pupils to take it up understandingly at a much earlier age. Another instance of the growing tendency to divide into specialties and again subdivide these, resulting from the rapid progress of the world.

American Dairying. A Manual for Butter and Cheese Makers. By L. B. Arnold, A. M. (Pp. 354—Illustrated.) Rochester, N. Y., 1876: Rural Home Publishing Co.

This appears to be a very carefully prepared work, in which the author gives the results of his investigation, observations and experiences, and we have no doubt it will be well received by the dairymen of the country. There is certainly a need of a dissemination of a greater amount of scientific knowledge among those who make dairying a business wholly or in part, and no farmer who keeps a few or many cows can afford to remain in ignorance of the best methods of treatment, both of the animals and their product, when it can be had so cheaply as in the work before us.

Elements of Latin Grammar. By Gustavus Fischer, LL.D. New York: J. W. Schermerhorn & Co.

The names of its publishers as well as of its author, are a safe guaranty that this Grammar is well worth the examination of all teachers who desire that their instruction shall be imparted in the most economical and attractive manner. The author in his preface says:—"The best elementary instruction in Latin is that which enables the student to read and understand the classical authors in the shortest possible time." He seems to have kept this constantly in view throughout his work.

Countess of Rudolstadt. By George Sand. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers. (Pamphlet; price, 75c.)

The reading public are so familiar with this sequel to "Consuelo" and one of the best novels ever written by this celebrated author, that comment is unnecessary. It is published in this cheap form to put it within the reach of everybody, and is one of the many novels issued by this firm which have retained their popularity for a long period. All who like mysteries should read it and they will be thoroughly gratified.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Phila., Pa.:

Lady Ernestine; or, the Absent Lord of Rocheforte. By Mrs. C. A. Warfield. [Cloth.—pp. 528.]

The Rival Beauties. By Miss Pardoe. [Paper.—pp. 194. Price 75 cents.]

A. S. Barnes & Co., New York:

Manual of Geometry and Conic Sections. By Wm. G. Peck, LL.D. [Cloth.—pp. 309. Price $1.60.]

Seven Historic Ages. By Arthur Gilman, M. A. [Cloth.—pp. 141. Price $1.]

First Steps in English Literature. By A. Gilman, M. A. Tenth edition. [Cloth.—pp. 233. Price $1.]

First Steps in General History. By A. Gilman, M. A. [Cloth.—pp. 575. Price $1.25.]

Catalogues Received:

A. Hance & Co., Red Bank, N. J.: Semi-annual Trade List to Nurserymen and Florists, containing a graduated selection of varieties of flowers, vines, etc., that are seasonable and choice.

V. P. Doww & Co., Albany, N. Y.: Autumn Catalogue for 1876, containing a fine selection of bulbs.

Freeman & Smith, Racine, Wis.: Centennial Catalogue of Florists' Ornamental Goods.

Sabbath Reading.

THE COBLE.

The eye was filled by the heave and the flash,
The ear was filled by the roar,
As the great wind blew from the wild northwest,
And the great waves crashed on the shore;
The sky hung black and angry
Over the raging sea,
And away, where the mighty billows rolled,
And the spray flew fast and free,
The broad brown sail of the coble
Quivered and filled and shook,
And out on the pier the fishermen
Stood stern and pale to look.

The eye was filled by the heave and the flash,
The ear was filled by the roar;
The coble tossed and veered and tacked,
As she strove to make the shore;
Ready with rope and rocket
The stalwart coast guard stood,
And ever and ever fiercer rose
The fierce North Sea at the flood;
And the sail of the home-bound coble
Still fearless flew and brave,
Amid the howl of the rising wind
And the crash of the rising wave.

At last she fetched the harbor,
And rode o'er the foaming bar,
While the cheer of the eager watchers blent
With the thunder on the Scar;
And I thought, just so, 'mid the turmoil,
The fret and the fever of life
A heart fares, striving and straining
'Gainst the currents of earthly strife.
Ah, let us keep sail and compass,
Hope's star and the anchor of faith,
And so glide to the haven where we would be,
O'er the last long wave of Death!

[*All the Year Round.*

WHAT IS CHRIST TO US?

He is our way: we walk in Him.
He is our truth: we embrace Him.
He is our life: we live in Him.
He is our lord: we choose Him to rule over us.
He is our master: we serve Him.
He is our teacher: instructing us in the way of salvation.
He is our prophet: pointing out the future.
He is our priest: having atoned for us.
He is our advocate: ever living to make intercession for us.
He is our Saviour: saving to the uttermost.
He is our root: we grow from Him.
He is our bread: we feed upon Him.
He is our fold: we enter it by Him.
He is our shepherd: leading us into green pastures.
He is the true vine: we abide in Him.
He is the water of life: we slake our thirst in Him.
He is the fairest among ten thousand: we admire Him above everything.
He is the brightest of the Father's glory, and the express image of His person: we strive to reflect His likeness.
He is the upholder of all things: we rest upon Him.
He is our wisdom: we cast all our imperfections upon Him.
He is our sanctification: we draw all the sources of holy life from Him.
He is our redemption: redeeming us from all iniquity.
He is our healer: healing all our diseases.
He is our friend: relieving us from all our necessities.

And when we need Him no longer on earth, He is the Lamb in the midst of the throne above, the light of Heaven, leading us into living fountains of water.—*N. Bishop.*

SENDING PRAYERS IN A CART.

Spurgeon, the celebrated London preacher, tells the following story:—A poor man who had a very large family gave them a comfortable support while he was in health. He broke his leg, and was laid up for some weeks. As he would be for some time destitute of the means of grace it was proposed to hold a prayer meeting at his house. The meeting was held by Deacon Brown. A loud knock at the door interrupted the service. A tall, lank, blue-frocked youngster stood at the door with an ox goad in his hand, and asked to see Deacon Brown. "Father could not attend this meeting," he said, "but he sent his prayers, and they are out in the cart." They were brought in the shape of potatoes, beef, pork and corn. The meeting broke up without the benediction. Nor did the poor fellow suffer during his whole confinement. The substantial prayers of the donors became means of grace.

THE DIVINITY ABOUT US.

It is pleasant to know a great many people in this world, the more the better, for every child from the beginning is a new manifestation of God, made in His image, but His image is infinite, thus producing an infinite variety, and thus, too, comes our innate respect for the normal states of all our brothers and sisters. We feel the divinity of each and are bound to respect it, though widely different may be the "gifts" of our spirits. And though we expect goodness, yet it is surprising, in journeying about, how many good people you will meet with, yes, how universally good they are, and how much you learn of God's heart and mind from them, and how your own heart blesses God for His goodness thus manifested. Ruskin says out of every face can be made an ideal, and I think, to do this, the labor wouldn't differ so much between face and face as we might think.

Ladies' Portfolio.

"FOR THOUGHTS."

A PANSY on his breast she laid,
Splendid and dark with Tyrian dyes!
"Take it, 'tis like your tender eyes,
Deep as the midnight heaven," she said.

The rich rose mantling in her cheek,
Before him like the dawn she stood,
Pausing upon life's hight, subdued,
Yet triumphing, both proud and meek.

And white as winter stars intense
With steadfast fire his brilliant face
Bent toward her with an eager grace,
Pale with a rapture half suspense.

"You give me then a thought, O sweet!"
He cried, and kissed the purple flower,
And bowed by love's resistless power,
Trembling he sank before her feet.

She crowned his beautiful bowed head
With one caress of her white hand;
"Rise up, my flower of all the land,
For all my thoughts are yours," she said.

[*Celia Thaxter.*

THE HOLLERING WOMAN.

THERE IS, says the Burlington Hawkeye, one "hollering woman" in every street. A woman who never goes after anybody, but always calls across the street. Who never looks for her children, but rushes to the front gate and shrieks for them until, in the pauses of her shouting, she hears them answering from the room she has just left. Every street has one "hollering woman." No street has more, for as soon as two "hollering women" are thrown by pitiless fate upon one street, the neighbors vacate and emigrate until rents come down, or, as oftener happens, one of the "hollering women" pulls up stakes and goes elsewhere, for they cannot brook opposition.

The "hollering woman" generally manages to keep her street in a lively state of elocutionary excitement, and if you happen to live within understanding distance your diurnal serenade is something like this: "Tommy! Tom-*mee! Tom*-my! Oh, Tom! *You* Tom! Come right along here and break up some of this dry wood, or I'll break your back! Mary! *You* Mar-ee! You get right down off that tree-box this minit, you great tom-boy, or I'll skin you within an inch of your life! Ma-*ree!* Oh, Miss Packard! Miss Packard! Oh-h-h! Miss Packard! Won't you tell your milkman, when he comes, to stop at my gate? Mine came this morning before we was up. E-ras-*mus!* *E*-rasmus! *E-e-e*-rasmus! *E-e-e-ras*-mus! Come right home and take this pail of molasses back to the grocery, and tell him if he can't send what I ordered, I don't want any! *Eras*mus, I say! Oh, Miss Harrison! How's the baby's measles? Did you try that tea I sent over last night? Who cut your new polonaise? Ma-*ree! Mary!* Where's Emmeline gone to, I'd like to know? Didn't I tell you not to let her get out of your sight a minit! Now, you hunt her up and bring her right home. Good morning, Miss Barnaby! Did you know there was burglars over to Throopses last night? Got in at the kitchen winder, and took a pair of Mr. Throop's pants with a dollar and a half in 'em, and Miss Throop's big jet breastpin! Where you going? *Tom*-my! Tom-*mee!* Oh, *Tom!* Mary, I say! Eras*mus!* Oh, Miss Pinkard!" The serenade continues at random all day long, and is familiar to every one who has lived within gunshot of the "hollering woman."

BEAUX OF FORMER TIMES.

WE much question whether the celebrated Beau Brummel, and even the equally celebrated Romeo Coates, are not absolutely mere Quakers in their dress, compared with some of the distinguished dressers of the former days. Sir Walter Raleigh wore a white satin pinked vest, close sleeved to the wrist; over the body a brown doublet, finely flowered and embroidered with pearl. In the feather of his hat a large ruby, and a pearl-drop at the bottom of the sprig, in place of a button; his trunk of breeches, with his stockings and ribbon garters, fringed at the end, all white; and buff shoes with white ribbon. On great court days his shoes were so gorgeously covered with precious stones as to have exceeded the value of £6,600, and he had a suit of armor of solid silver, with sword and belt blazing with diamonds, rubies and pearls.

King James's favorite, the Duke of Buckingham, could afford to have his diamonds tacked so loosely on that when he chose to shake off a few on the ground he obtained all the fame he desired from the pickers-up, for our duke never condescended to accept what he himself had dropped. His cloaks were trimmed with great diamond buttons, and he wore diamond hat bands, cockades and ear rings, yoked with great ropes and knots of pearls. He had twenty-seven suits of clothes made, the richest that embroidery, lace, silk, velvet, silver, gold and gems could contribute, one of which was a white uncut velvet, set all over, both suit and cloak, with diamonds valued at fourscore thousand pounds, besides a great feather stuck all over with diamonds, as were also his sword, girdle, hat and spurs. When the difference in the value of money is considered, the sums thus ridiculously squandered in dress must have been prodigious.

HOW THE SERPENT GOT OVER EVE.

THIS is a Frenchman's account of the temptation and fall of our mother Eve:—M. Adam—he wake up—he see one belle demoiselle asleep in ze garden. Voila de la chance! Here is something interesting. "Bonjour, Madame Iv!" Madame Iv, she awake! she hol' her fan before her face. Adam put up his eyeglass to admire the tableau; zey made one promenade. Madame Iv she feel hungry; she see appel in ze arbre. Monsieur le Serpent se promene sur l'arbre; make one walk on ze tree. "M. le Serpent," say Iv, "will you not have ze bonte to peek some appel? J'ai faim." "Certainement, Madame," zay ze serpent, "charme de vous voir." "Hola, mon ami, ar'r' retezvous!" cry Adam—slop. "Songez a descendre; what madness is zees? You must not peek ze appel!" Ze snak in ze tree, he smile, he took one pinch snuff, he say, "Ah! Monsieur Adam, do you not know zere is nossing prohcebeet for ze ladies? Madame Iv permeat me to offare you some of zis fruit defendu." Iv she make one courtesy; ze snak he fill her whole parasol wiz appel; he say, "Eef M. Adam will eat ze appel he will become like one Dieu—know ze good and know ze evil; but you, madame, could not become more of one goddess than you are now." And zis feenish Madame Iv.

LOVE FATAL TO FRIENDSHIP.

AT the best, love is fatal to friendship; the most that friendship can do is to listen to love's talk of itself and be the confidant of its rapturous joys, its transports of despair. The lover fancies himself all the fonder of his friend, because of his passion for his mistress, but, in reality, he has no longer any need of his old comrade. They cannot talk sanely and frankly together any more—there is something now that they cannot share, even if the lover desires to maintain the old affectionate relation, the mistress could not suffer it. This specire of friendship is sometimes invited to ruin the home of the lovers after marriage; but when their happiness has been flaunted in its face, when it has been shown the new house, the new china, the new carpets, the new garden, it is tacitly expressed and is not always called back again, except to show the new baby. The young spouses are ever so willing to have the poor ghost remain; the wife learns whether it takes two or three lumps of sugar in its tea; the husband bids it smoke anywhere it likes, and the wife smiles a menacing aquiescence; but, all the same, they turn it out-of-doors. They praise it when it is gone, and they feel so much more comfortable to be alone.—W. D. HOWELL, *in Private Theatricals.*

WOMAN'S WORK IN THE EAST.

THE Witness of Lucknow, India, speaking of the Zenana workers, says:—"There are now in India at least 104 of these earnest and devoted ladies, doing a work which no others can do, and which, with the blessing of God, must surely result in bettering the condition of the too-often unhappy inmates of the zenana; and to this number must be added at least as many who have been raised up in the country, and who in earnestness, devotion and success vie with their sisters from Great Britain and America." It is but a few years since access was gained to the zenana, the homes of the women, and this is now one of the most efficient and important of the agencies employed in promoting the spread of the gospel in that country. The mothers of any land must be educated and converted to Christ, or the people can never be won.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

THE young lady who called at a bookstore for "Drake on Attachments," was disappointed to find it a mere law book.

AN English lady recently said to Mr. Pierrepont, who takes so much pride in his beard, that although he may make a very poor ambassador, he would make a very beautiful goat.

A SCIENTIFIC writer says every infant can say "no" several months before it can say "yes." An old bachelor who has been rejected seventeen times says this habit of saying "no" before she can say "yes" clings to the female infant until she becomes twenty-seven years old.

THE papers are just now telling of a tough and spirited Indiana woman, who is in the publishing business, and who has taken her husband into partnership. Let her be encouraged. These women that give a man a chance ought not to be crowded out.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

GEORGE ELIOT says that a young man's eyes first open to the world when he is in love. This is not always so. Usually it is when he has gone away from home and had his washing sent out for the first time, and finds among it, when it is returned, an odd stocking with two red stripes about the top and long enough to pull up around his neck.—*Norwich Bulletin.*

THE life of a Turkish woman is vapid and meaningless; she is as ignorant as a child—yet even the grand vizierate is often at the disposal of harem intrigue. And if we would discover the kanker which lies at the root of Turkish society, we must seek it in the practice which condemns the children of both sexes to the vicious atmosphere of the harem during the most plastic years of life.—*Fraser's.*

NEAR Carrollton, Ill., the people are much excited over a very remarkable double wedding. The son and daughter of Richard Wiles, both under twenty, visited for the first time the son and daughter of Dr. Travis, living in the edge of Morgan County. The two couples became almost immediately struck with "love at first sight," and a double wedding was proposed. This romantic idea was carried out, and the four straightway became two.

Reading for the Young.

THE SEED.

THE farmer planted a seed—
A little dry, black seed;
And off he went to other work—
For the farmer was never known to shirk,
And cared for what he had need.

The night came with its dew—
The cool and silent dew;
The dawn came, and the day,
And the farmer worked away
At labors not a few.

Home from his work one day—
One glowing summer day—
His children showed him a perfect flower;
Had it burst in bloom that very hour?
I cannot say.

But I know if the smallest seed
In the soil of love be cast,
Both day and night will do their part;
And the sower who works with a trusting heart
Will find the flower at last.

MISCHIEVOUS CHILDREN.

BY MRS. ANNA ST. CLAIR.

COMMEND me to mischievous children! A child that has much life, has generally a good deal of mischief in its composition, and the wise mother will not lament over this propensity, but use it in the development of character. It is not agreeable to have the work basket capsized to make a chariot for the cat, nor one's summer hat immersed in the wash bowl, because water is considered necessary to its roses, but it is better than having a child who is incapable of improvising a new toy, or of originating a new method of refreshing artificial flowers. We often consider the action of a child absurd, which, if we were acquainted with the processes by which his conclusions were arrived at, would appear quite reasonable. The child's mistakes arise generally from ignorance rather than from any want of common sense. If a child knows that natural flowers are kept fresh by being plunged into water, he is not to blame if he does not know that the same rule will not apply to artificial flowers; he does not act as a monkey does, simply from the desire to imitate others, but from a deduction intelligently made, though from false premises. The active mind, with its quick perceptions, finds itself in a world full of wonderful things, presenting new mysteries every hour; is it remarkable that it often attempts their solution by rather singular methods? The cure for what is called a love of mischief is employment for the mind. Toys are far from being what short sighted people are apt to suppose—mere amusement; they are education, and should be so used.

Toys may be divided into two kinds: those made to be looked at, and those made to be used. The first are generally the plague of both parent and child, and inevitably come to grief after a short holiday existence, which has little use or pleasure beyond the impression of novelty. But those of the second class are the means of an education, which no one interested in the child's welfare should neglect. To it belong the house-keeping toys of girls, and all the instructive ones, which are equally acceptable to boys and girls, such as blocks, dissected pictures and maps, architectural toys, etc., etc. Equally useful are the collections of admirably executed animals, in wood carving and in molding, which make the child acquainted with the different forms of animal life, and excite its curiosity with regard to their habits. To children of active imagination and subtle fancy, their toys become sentient things. They live and love and hate; and a doll, a wooden dog, a horse, become objects of affection as true and real as that which they feel for brother or sister. I have seen a little girl sob and cry for a dilapidated rag baby, and refuse to be comforted by a French beauty, just from Paris, whom she regarded as a stranger.

But the toys which are made for their use are not, by any means, of as much benefit to a child as those which they make for themselves, and it is in the indulgence of their love of construction very often that mischievous urchins bring themselves into disgrace with the powers that be. Nothing, therefore, can be better for all concerned than to supply the means of innocently indulging this invaluable faculty. Let the little ones have paper and paste, paints and brushes, all manner of scraps, and that variety of odds and ends which the housemaid condemns under the general name of "trash," but which have to them all the charms of *treasure trove*, and let them have a place where "litter" is not tabooed, and where all manner of incomplete kites and wagons, incipient balloons and impossible men and women shall have undisturbed possession. No doubt, to tidy women "litter" and "trash" are trials, but mothers can avoid much of that sort of annoyance by assigning definite limits to the arena of experiment, and compelling submission to the reign of law, outside of those limits; but to put a stop to philosophic experiment for the sake of a tidy house, is to insure the defeat of the only end of a tidy house, namely, the comfort of its inmates—for mischief, like murder, will out, and the result will be that the experiments will be made, not within the safe bounds of the playroom, but with more costly things in mamma's chamber or the drawing room. Mischief is only perverted activity of brain and limbs. Direct such activity, by giving it wise and safe employment, and child and mother will find the benefit in the unbroken sunshine which comes to those homes where children are a joy and not a cross.

NELL'S LESSON IN VOCALIZATION.

SCENE:—Croquet ground; NELL, with mallet in hand, and small, slipper-encased foot upon FRED'S ball, ready to send it "out of her way;" FRED, a sophomore, clothed in dignity, precision and a silk hat; SAMUEL, a divinity student, and SARAH, his adversary (at croquet), only a farmer's daughter.

"Pig! Pig! Pig!" came in a shrill treble across the adjoining stubble field.

"That woman does not appreciate her privileges," exclaimed NELL. "Those pigs will no heed that call; they think, if they think at all that she is calling one of her children."

"How should she call?" asked FRED.

"Pig! Pig! Pig!" rose NELL'S voice, sweet and clear, though in exact imitation of the farmer's who owned the pigs. The sophomore looked at her in amazement; the divinity student clapped his hands and cried, "Bravo!" while the animals in question came galloping across the field uttering their characteristic "Bush! Bush!"

"Yes," continued NELL, her bright eyes as full of enthusiasm as though she were making a stump speech in the Presidential campaign, "this is one of woman's inalienable rights—always to make her call an effectual one, whether it be to man or brutes; that woman dare not call only in her high soprano, lest she be thought unwomanly; let her always speak in low, sweet tones, calm and even, to her children, but when she calls her pigs or her cows, let her ascend or descend the musical scale, until she finds a chord to whose vibration they shall respond; and if her dog will not come without a whistle, then let her whistle; she can do all this and yet retain her womanly dignity. A woman's words and tones should be full of meaning; but Oh! 'Frivolity thy name is woman!'"

With a sigh NELL concluded her lesson; the mallet did its duty, and sent FRED'S ball where it bid fair to make a "booby" of him.

KENNETH DUNN.

CHAT WITH A MOSQUITO.

BY C. H. C.

UGH! what's that? What woke me up? Some music—something singing! Something *stinging*, too! Oh, it's *you*, wretch! How dare you light on my cheek when I was asleep and suck my blood, vampire! If I could get at you, I'd give you a cuff on the side of the head that would send you to Jericho in short meter. There, take that! Didn't I? well, take *that*, then! Pshaw! I didn't again——a-h-h-h!

Oh, I see you sittin' there on the bed-post! You think yourself as big as an elephant, don't you? You look something like one, too, with your proboscis. Got a trunk, too, have you, traveler! I'd like to see you travel, spindleshanks! Your trunk is like your noddle—empty! How brave you are with *my* blood in your dirty little carcass! Let me tell you, pest! that 'tis good blood—'tis the blood of kings—aye, and of queens, too. If you don't believe me I'll show you my genealogical tree—and lend you my specs to examine it with, goggle-eyes!

Oh, you're talking, now, are you? What's that you say? "I've got too much cheek!" Should think I had, after what you did to me. It's swelled as big as a pound apple. I'm poisoned, you wretch! Camfire! where's the camfire?

POMPEII.

THE annals of the world supply, in the way of antiquarian research, nothing more wonderful and strikingly affecting than the discovery of this long-buried city, above which, year by year and century after century, the yellow corn has waved in the soft southern winds, and the vine put forth the purple grape. And in speaking of Pompeii the neighboring cities of Herculaneum and Stabiæ must not be forgotten, though originally places of far less importance, and, from the discoveries which have been made, presenting few features of interest compared with the first-mentioned. Older places than either of these have been traced out and made tolerably familiar to us by the traveler and artist, but very partially, and chiefly by their architectural remains only; when, however, the superincumbent weight which had so long pressed down the cities of the Italian plain was by slow degrees lifted, there was revealed to the living the life of a world which had existed nearly seventeen hundred years earlier, in its public and domestic aspects—revealed, too, with a vividness sometimes as appalling in its reality as it was interesting for its historic value. A marvelous chapter, in the annals of Roman life in the first century of the Christian era, is that we read in the story of the exhumation of Pompeii, and of which so much is to be seen in the museum of Naples. The subject has filled a conspicuous place in the literature of Europe during the century or longer, as fresh discoveries have been made from time to time.

SEVEN "MINDS."

1. MIND your tongue! Don't let it speak hasty, cruel, unkind, or wicke words. Mind!

2. Mind your eyes! Don't permit them to look on wicked books, pictures, or subjects. Mind!

3. Mind your ears! Don't suffer them to listen to wicked speeches, songs, or words. Mind!

4. Mind your lips! Don't let tobacco foul them. Don't let strong drink pass them. Don't let the food of the glutton enter between them. Mind!

5. Mind your hands! Don't let them steal or fight, or write any evil words. Mind!

6. Mind your feet! Don't let them walk in the steps of the wicked. Mind!

7. Mind your heart! Don't let the love of sin dwell in it. Don't give it to Satan, but ask Jesus to make it His throne. Mind!

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From a Georgia Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—I am one of the RURAL readers, and I am very much interested in it. I see some of the girls have been writing about their flowers. I am very much interested in flowers, but I do not try to raise very many, for, as Cousin CORA said, the hens scratch them up. I have a Madeira vine, and it is growing very nicely. I will be very thankful to some of the Cousins if they will tell me, through the RURAL, how to keep the vine through winter. I will change the subject and tell you about my quilts. I am piecing two: one is call the "dogwood blossom," and the other the "bachelor." I think they are pretty. My mother has pieced one called the "broken stove." It is very pretty. I must tell you, before I close, that I am going to try to get up a club for the RURAL. I am very much interested in Uncle TRUE'S letters to us young folks.—MAMIE A. S., *Spaulding Co., Ga.*

[UNCLE TRUE begs to say that he will publish a "General Order" very shortly, which will create a great excitement in the RURAL Legion, and make the coming campaign a rousing one. Look out for it.]

An Offer.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—I have never written to the RURAL before, and do not know as I will make very good headway; but I thought that if all the rest of the boys and girls were writing I would try. "Try" ought to be every one's motto. I can do any work that is to be done on a farm, from feeding the pigs to getting in the crops and taking care of them. My father lives on a farm of a little over two hundred acres; he keeps five horses, fifteen cows, and a considerable young stock. He has taken the RURAL ever since it was started. I have become very much interested in the boys' and girls' letters. If Cousin JIM will write again and sign his right initials, I shall be very happy, and in return I will send mine. A great many of my schoolmates call me "Captain." I suppose it is because I am captain of a base ball club. Yours truly—CAPTAIN.

A Utility Girl.

DEAR COUSINS:—I would like to become one of your number. I am like Cousin JIM: I never wrote to the paper before. I live in Tennessee, on the mountain. I am fourteen, and am five feet four and a-half inches tall. I can milk, harness a horse, plow and drive oxen. I can spin and weave, and help run the saw mill when I am needed, and run the grist mill; I have done it many a time. I have not learned to shoot a gun, but my brother has promised me that I may go a deer driving with him some time.—WILD NELL, *Black Wolf, Tenn.*

From a Broome County Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—I am ten years old. My father keeps a dairy of ten cows. We live on a farm of 180 acres, and in summer and autumn it is the loveliest place that you ever saw. I have got a pet cat and his name is Billy. Dear Cousins, more of you write, and let us have a whole column of RURAL Cousins. My name is—CLARA D.

The Puzzler.

DECAPITATIONS.

1. DECAPITATE a tree, and leave part of a circle.
2. A kind of stone and leave tardy.
3. A mollusk, and leave a metal pin.
4. A wild animal, and leave a domestic animal.
5. A round body, and leave the whole.
6. A plant, and leave a wooden frame.
7. Meager, and leave a relation.
8. A snob, and leave a fountain.
9. Part of a wagon, and leave part of the human body.
10. A transparent substance, and leave a maid.
11. A blaze, and leave a cripple.
12. A kink of nut, and leave a kind of grain.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 18 letters:

My 7, 5, 15, 3, 6 capital of one of the States of our Union.

My 8, 14, 13, 1, 2 value.

My 16, 17, 11, 18 lazy.

My 12, 9, 4, 10 a dose of medicine.

My whole is a religious song.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Oct. 7.

MYTHOLOGICAL ENIGMA.—She wept herself into a stone through grief at the death of her children.

POLYSYLLABIC ANAGRAMS.—1, Polyhedron; 2, Polytheism; 3, Posteriority; 4, Pontifical; 5, Polygamy; 6, Politician; 7, Postdiluvian; 8, Unworkmanlike; 9, Unvarnished; 10, Unwillingness; 11, Uprightness; 12, Topographical.

DIAMOND PUZZLE.—

R
C O T
F A C T S
H I G H T E N
R O C H E S T E R
P R E S I D E
L I T H E
T E A
R

RIDDLE.—An Egg.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.90 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Moluccella Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory or garden. Its growth is rapid—small plants attaining the hight of five feet during the summer months. In the fall it may be cut back to any desirable size and potted for the winter, when it will quickly recover its symmetry and resume its ever-blooming habit. Its quick and exceeding popularity is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is as yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class. It is difficult to select a more attractive plant than Marie Lemoine when freely blooming. Every truss is in itself a bouquet. The leaves are large, zoneless, vigorous. The plant is compact and, like *Abutilon Boule de Neige*, is invaluable, either for the conservatory, window or garden.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It has stood 26° below zero unharmed. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. The thyrses of flowers, first greenish-white, then white, then rose, often measure a foot in length and twenty inches in circumference. Every stem being thus terminated, the striking appearance of an entire plant may be conceived. There can be no doubt that this is one of the most valuable of all perfectly hardy shrubs.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata*.—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green, much as *Abutilon Thomsoni* is variegated with green and yellow. From its racemes of flowers are formed fruit as large as currants, each one of which is a different color in shades of claret, azure-blue and green. These berries, which are first as soft as a currant, become finally as hard as bullets.

The pretty stems are also variegated, green, whitish and rose. The roots are perfectly hardy, and the vine's growth so rapid that it will cover twenty-five feet square in a season. For conservatory walls or pillars, for trellises or rockeries, it cannot fail to please. It has been growing in the RURAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS for several years without the least protection.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the singular Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

VIRGINIANS are now indulging largely in deer and sora hunting.

Tennessee is now sending about fifty emigrants per day into Texas.

A bevy of lively girls in Grant County, Ky., amuse themselves at night by stealing the hand cars on the railroad and working a furious passage up and down the track.

Popular meetings are being held in Nashville to devise means for the suppression of crime. Mayor Kershival is charged with being the friend and protector of gamblers.

A family of systematic murderers has been discovered at Montagne, Texas. Seven of them, well armed, are besieged by an incensed community, and will be starved out.

A shield bearing the coat-of-arms of the See of Cloyne, Ireland, which was Bishop Berkley's own diocese, is the design chosen for the Berkley window in the new Yale chapel.

The Indian Nation is the Gretna Green for fugitive lovers from Texas. Marriages in the Nation are valid.

The Alsea Reservation in Oregon has been abandoned, and is now thrown open to settlers. Many civilized Indians have located there.

Imitation Limburger cheese has been manufactured so successfully in Wisconsin that families living near the factory were obliged to close their windows.

Six prisoners set fire to and burned the Richmond, Texas, jail a few days ago. They were all nearly suffocated when taken out.

A San Francisco man lost his place as a barkeeper and had to go to work in a tea store; whereupon he became discouraged and killed himself.

A man at Fairview, Ky., with a craving for liquor, after selling everything of value wherewith to buy the stimulant, took his few months' old child and traded it over the bar for a drink of whisky. The child was afterward redeemed by the mother on paying for the liquor.

Judge Henderson of Lebanon County, Pa., at a late session of the Court of Quarter Sessions, issued an order forbidding the admission of boys into the court room during the trial of cases. He based the order upon the demoralizing effects of the narration of crime upon the young.

It has long been accepted as a fact that Capt. Mason was the founder of New Hampshire, but a document has just turned up which proves that David Thompson came over to New England and made a permanent settlement at the mouth of the Piscataqua river at least six years before Mason arrived.

Wednesday, Oct. 11, was the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Valcour on Lake Champlain, one of the first naval engagements of the Revolution, in which Gen. Benedict Arnold's storeship, the Royal Savage, was sunk off the Island. The remains of the vessel are still visible at low water.

Since the passage of the ordinance making opium-smoking, in Virginia City, Nev., a misdemeanor, the smokers emigrate to Gold Hill nightly, and return to the city at all hours of the day.

The Hon. John W. Foster reports to the Department of Agriculture that "in Mexico there exists the agricultural capacity to produce all the coffee that can be consumed in the United States, and of a quality equal to the best grown in any country."

Remains of fourteen victims of the recent Indian raid near Frio City, Texas, have been found. Many think the raiders were white men in disguise.

A late Charleston circular puts the present rice crop of Georgia and South Carolina at 75,500 tierces or about five per cent. more than any crop since the war.

Five colored Methodist preachers raided a gin-house in Austin County, Texas, and attempted to carry off two bales of cotton; but the proprietor put in an appearance and shot three of the men.

During the progress of the Franklin county fair at Farmington, Me., a portion of the upper floor of the exhibition hall gave way, carrying 200 persons to the floor below. Several were seriously and one fatally injured.

On Tuesday morning, the 10th inst., the Peoples' Bank at Manchester, Mich., was entered by burglars, and over $9,000 in currency taken from its vaults.

Col. Merritt of the fifth Cavalry, with ten companies of his regiment and a battalion of three companies of the Second and Third Cavalry, comprising a total of eight hundred men, mounted upon new and most serviceable animals, left Camp Custer, D. T., Oct. 12, on a scout. The command will march in the lightest possible order, accompanied by a pack train carrying ten days' rations. Its movements and destination are kept a secret. It is understood that the forks of the Cheyenne river is the destination. There are several Indian villages in that vicinity. Col. Royall of the Third Cavalry remains in command of the infantry and retained cavalry. This demonstration will probably end the Black Hills and Yellowstone expedition, which will shortly march to Red Cloud.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE new volume of poems upon which Victor Hugo is engaged is thus far purely literary in its character, not dealing with political questions. Several of the poems are satires.

An agricultural school is to be opened at Naito-Shinjuku, Tokio, China, the students of which are to be instructed by an American teacher.

Mlle. Waldmann, one of the finest contraltos of the age, was married at Milan, on September 5, to the Count de Ferrara, and as this leads to her retirement from the lyric stage, the lovers of music are grieving over the loss.

Mr. Ruskin, who is now in Venice hard at work, has been treated by the directors of the Academy with unusual courtesy. Large pictures were taken down from the walls and placed in a room where he could examine or sketch from them at leisure.

Every one carries arms in Sicily, not excepting priests. Gentleman carry a revolver in their pockets when they go to a ball or casino. Youths of fifteen are armed with it at the lectures in the Lyceum; law has no force—every one is a law to himself. The military are powerless against the thefts, assaults, and murders perpetrated in the open country.

The Czar Alexander receives, in round numbers, $25,000 a day income; the Turkish Sultan, $18,000; the Emperor of Austria, $10,000; the Emperor of Germany, $8,200; the King of Italy, $6,440; the Queen of England, $6,270; the King of the Belgians, $1,643; and the President of the French republic, $500.

Emperor William has addressed the following words to the citizens of Wissembourg, in Alsace, where the French first felt the shock of the advancing German host: "I know you come to me with bleeding hearts. It is only natural, my friends; but I myself have known vicissitudes, but bore up against them. Believe me, as an old man, time sets all things right. Time reconciles us to the greatest changes, and time, I am sure, will make you satisfied."

Dr. Abrath of Sunderland having by public placards invited attendance at a lecture on antimony, in which he proposed to perform experiments on living animals to demonstrate a theory respecting the Balham mystery, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had him summoned and fined one shilling in vindication of the new Vivisection law, the sixth section of which renders a person amenable to punishment who advertises his intention to perform needless painful experiments on animals.

Marshal Bazaine is now residing with his wife and children at Llanes, a little village of the Asturias, where the Count de Mendoza Cortina has offered him hospitality. This gentleman is proprietor of the mines of St. Luis de Potosi in Mexico, and it is through him that the mother-in-law of the Marshal receives the revenue from her Mexican estates. Bazaine has no fortune, and that of his wife was completely absorbed by the expenses of his trial, which the French Government rigorously exacted, even to the extent of seizing a clock of the Marshal and a pair of his pantaloons to meet the balance due.

According to the Mandalay correspondent of a Rangoon paper, the King of Burmah has just contrived a wooden machine, which is to be erected in the palace, and by which the nether parts of the British Political Resident will be hidden altogether from the royal gaze. In this way will the Resident, with his shoes on, be allowed to approach and converse with his Majesty.

The Mohammedans of Bombay resolved at a largely attended mosque meeting to petition the Queen not to change her Eastern policy in a way tending to dismember the Turkish empire.

So great is the dissatisfaction with the British Prime Minister that upward of eighty Conservative members of Parliament (his own party) have sent him a round robin, asking that the country's demand for an autumn session of Parliament shall be acceded to by Government.

The Chinese Government thinks of establishing a mint. Full plans for mint operations and coinage laws have been submitted by the United States Minister.

An attempt by Chinese merchants to establish a line of steamers between Shanghai and Japanese ports has failed, and the enterprise has been abandoned.

The Pope has expressed a wish that he should not be addressed on the subject of religious toleration in Spain by the Spanish pilgrims who are about to visit Rome.

At the Brussels Hygienic Congress it was recommended that doctors and volunteer helpers should not be on the battle field, but in the second line, to render help to the wounded.

The amount of meat consumed annually per head in Spain is 25 pounds: in Italy, 33; Sweden, 54; Prussia, 56; Austria, 58; Belgium, 57; France, 73; South Germany, 77; Mecklenburg, 85; England, 205.

Interesting experiments are being made at the central telegraphic bureau in Paris with a new apparatus for producing a fac simile of the writing and signature of an individual sending a dispatch. The apparatus also produces, with great exactness, drawings of the most complicated description. The inventor is M. Lenoir. Some years ago similar trials were made with the invention of M. Caselli, but the results were imperfect.

It is proposed to carry a wire to the Cape of Good Hope across the African continent. Of the 1,500 miles or so of aerial line it is suggested that much might be erected without the expense of poles by taking advantage of the trees over thickly wooded tracts, which are frequent in tropical Africa. The difficulty would be to keep the natives from utilizing the wire in regions where iron is scarce and valuable, but this might be got over. The undertaking, if it could be established and kept in working order, would be exceedingly lucrative, and would in many ways aid in opening up Africa to commerce and civilization.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS ABROAD.—The Japanese Government, intending to introduce music in its European Schools, their foreign experts have selected Geo. Woods & Co.'s Boston made Parlor Organs, over all American and European instruments, as most thoroughly constructed and likely to withstand the climate.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[Owing to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents," so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for advertisers," or "Answers to Correspondents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers, and while we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements all such other matter will be admitted as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want and the want is indicative of its need.]

D. A. H., Natches, Miss., will find B. B. Red Games advertised in this paper by a good responsible party.

R. A. B., Dallas Co., Miss., wants a good steam engine of about 3-horse power for Dairy purposes.

H. M. G., Ashtabula Co., Ohio, wants to know which is the best 10-horse power thresher and separator. We cannot say all of the large machines advertised in the RURAL this season, are good and can be relied on to do what their manufacturers claim for them.

F. R. Y., Essex Co., Mass., wants to know where the "Wealthy" apple seed or trees can be obtained.

R. H. B., Oneida Co., N. Y., wants a Bussey Milk Cooler.

The numerous inquiries for good Portable Steam Engines, from 6-horse power up, is answered by the advertisement of WOOD, TABER & MORSE, on last page of this paper.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Oct. 14, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	90,546	Molasses	293
Whisky	2,593	Rice, bbls.	1,912
Corn meal, bbls.	850	Cut meats, pkgs.	10,002
Corn meal, bags	808	Lard, pkgs.	4,215
Wheat, bush.	675,808	Tobacco, hhds.	889
Corn, bush	657,769	do. pkgs.	4,325
Oats, bush	286,386	Butter, pkgs.	33,060
Rye, bush	108,944	Cheese, bxs.	40,315
Malt, bush.	67,512	Cotton, bales	28,307
Barley, bush.	179,551	Rosin	6,958
Beans, bbls.	8,008	Spts. turn., bbls.	1,136
Grass seed, bush.	13,574	Dried fruits, pkgs.	2,325
Beef, pkgs.	2,132	Eggs, bbls.	7,508
Wool, bales	1,475	Peanuts, bags	1,027
Hops, bales	2,697	Leather, sides	48,104
Pork, bbls	1,379	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	680	Oil cake	7,773

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports beans past week, 691 bush.; since Jan. 1, 48,300 do.; same time last year, 24,446. There is a good jobbing demand for medium beans, which could be worked into a larger business if the supply was adequate and prices not lengthened. Marrows are not very active, shippers wanting a better grade than the old stock now supplied, and new are not plenty enough to fill round orders. New pea beans are in good demand. Old not wanted. White kidney are scarce and firm. Both old and new red kidneys bring good prices. Canadian peas looking up. Green peas have advanced, with some stock of new in market. B. E. peas quiet. Exports of peas past week, 10,280 bush. We quote:

Beans—New medium, $1.50@1.65; do. marrow, $2.15@2.25; do. pea, $1.65@1.70; white kidney, $215@2.225; red do., $1.85@1.90. Old Beans—Medium, prime, $1.40@1.45; other, $1.20@1.35; marrow, prime, $2.10@; other, $1.80@1.95; pea, prime, $1.50@1.55; other, $1.30@1.40; white kidney, prime, $2@3.10; other, $1.65@1.80; red do., prime, $1.70@1.80; other, $1.40@1.60; black, $3.25@3.40. Canadian peas, new, ₱ bbl., free, $1.10@1.12½; do. dn., bulk, 92@93c.; green do., new, $1.45@1.50; do., old, $1.35@1.40; S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2.25@2.35.

BEESWAX.—There is a supply, with the current demand, sufficient to give an unsettled range of prices, favoring the buyer. Quoted at 30½@31c. for Western; 31@32c. for Southern.

BROOM CORN.—Supplies are larger and prices unsettled. Quoted at 7@8c. for short green hurl, 6½@7½c. for green hurl, 5@6c. for medium green, and 3@4c. for red and red-tipped.

BUTTER.—Export of butter past week 3,986 packages. Receipts have fallen off to some degree still 33,000 packages is no small total compared with former seasons. Fancy pails and creamery show their old firmness, but it is difficult to make the outside rates for State half firkin tubs. The market has not been a brisk one. So few buyers remove entire dairies, the stock is given a large look. Early fall Welsh tubs are in good demand. When they are first-class they find much favor as a family package and the single package trade forms quite an item this and next month. English Shippers are doing comparatively nothing, and ordinary Western is very weak. A few lots of fine State Welsh have been taken for export but it is not likely the business will enlarge at the prices 26@27c. In fact the styles they select can be peddled out to better advantage. It is to be hoped that the undergrades of State will be released to those who can handle that style even if the present time of quotations has to be broken in their favor. There is a good deal of stock to come forward, and unsold medium should not be allowed to stagnate the better grades by its presence. The buyer looks upon a crowded cellar as something in his favor regardless of the qualities contained.

We quote:—Choice pails, 35@—c.; prime, 28@32c.; poor to good, 25@28c.; creamery pails, choice, 36@37c.; good, 34@35c.; sweet cream pails, 30@33c. State firkins, choice, 32@33c.; fair to good, 28@30c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@33c.; fair to prime, 25@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 32@33c.; other, 24@28c.; Inferior State, 16@20c.; Western creamery, choice, 31@35c.; other, 31@33c.; do. firkins, best, 21@22c.; other, 15@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 24@26c.; other, 15@18c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 15@18c.

State dairies quotable at 28@31c. with fall tubs. Welsh tubs, dairies, 25@30c.

CIDER.—Prices are unchanged. Casks quoted at 8c. ₱ gal., small pkgs., fresh 10@12c.

COTTON is coming in freely, while export demand is small and prices lower.

The latest quotations are:—October, 10 31-32c.; November, 11 1-16@11 3-32c.; December, 11 11-32@11 9-32c.; January, 11 7-16@11 15-32c.; February, 11 21-32c.; March, 11 27-32c.; April, 12 1-32c.; May, 12 7-32c.; June, 12 13-32c.; July, 12 9-16c.; August, 12 11-16@12¾c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16
Strict ordinary	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16
Good ordinary	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16
Strict good do.	10 3-16	10 3-16	10¼	10¼
Low middling	10 7-16	10 7-16	10 11-16	10 11-16
Strict low middling	10 11-16	10 11-16	10 15-16	10 15-16
Middling	10 15-16	11 1-16	11⅛	11⅛
Good middling	11¼	11⅛	11⅜	11⅜
Strict good middling	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜
Middling fair	11⅝	11⅝	12	12
Fair	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝

Stained.

Good ordinary	8 13-16	Low middling	9 13-16
Strict ordinary	9 7-16	Middling	10¼

EGGS.—The market has been dull and sellers have had to shape sales to prevent a surplus. Latterly the market is stiffer and quotations are a shade in better favor especially for extra fresh near points and choice marks of Ohio and Canadian. Limed eggs move slowly, prices too close to fresh and the offering is early.

Near points, 27@27½c.; State and Penn., 25@25½c.; Western, prime, 24c.; do., other, 22½@23c.; Canadian, 22½@24c.

State limed, 20@21c.; Western, do., 18@20c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Peppermint—Western and State oil, offered freely at $2.25 ₱ lb. Small sales of spearmint the asking price, $2 ₱ lb. Sassafras in fair demand at 45c. The market generally feels the weight of a large supply, and prices continue in buyer's favor.

FLOUR.—Supplies have run larger and a falling off in export and home demand has led to a pressure to sell at lower prices.

Sales at $4.40@4.90 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5.15@5.20 for very common to fair extra do; $5.30@5.35 for good extra do.; $5.40@5.50 for fancy do., and $5.55@5.60 for fancy to very choice extra; $4.40@4.90 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.15@5.25 for shipping extra do., the inside price for interior, and $5.30@5.50 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.55@6.50; fancy do. $6.55@7.75; winter wheat, good to choice family $6.00@7.50; round-hoop Ohio, $5.15@5.25, and trade brands of do. at $5.30@6.75; St. Louis, $5.20@6.20 for common to fair extra, and $6.35@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.25@7.75, and patent at $7.25@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.10@5.00; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.00@6.10; do. English brands, $5.15@5.20; do. trade and family $6.50@8.50; No. 2 at $3.10@3.90. Corn meal—$2.75@3.10 for yellow Western, Jersey and Pennsylvania, $3.25@3.30 for Brandywine. Buckwheat Flour—$3.25@3.75 ₱ 100 lbs.

CHEESE.—Export trade has been very slow again this week. On strictly fancy September factories, which are in small supply, 13¾@13¾c. have been made, and ordered lots to 14c.; but anything under this at relatively low prices, and an accumulation of supplies. The feeling abroad seems to be to allow the stocks to work down before operating further, and the result is but few orders coming.

Fancy factory, 13¾@13¾c. for fancy September; 12@13c. for fine August; good and prime, 11@12c.; fair, 9¾@10¾c.; State farm dairy, fancy, 11¾@12½c.; good to prime, 10¾@11c.; fair and good, 9¾@10c. Western factory, good and prime, 11@12c; fair lots, 9¾@10¾c.; do. cheddar, choice, 12@12½c.; do. flat, choice, 12¼@12¾c. Exports past week, 21,196 boxes.

DRIED FRUITS.—Apples have more attention from shippers, and are steadier in price. Peeled peaches quiet; held as before. Blackberries without change and but little wanted. Pitted cherries are doing better.

Apples—State, sliced, 6¾@7½c.; do., quarters, 6¾@7c.; southern sliced, new, 6@7c.; choice do. 7¾@8c.; fancy, 9@10c.; do., new quarters, 4¾@6c. Blackberries, 8@8½c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 12@15c.; unpeeled peaches, halves, 7@8c.; do. quarters, 6@7c. Plums at 12@13c. Raspberries, 25@27c. Cherries, 16@17c.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples, past week, 5,468 bbls. The export demand helps the apple trade, not much in prices but it decreases the large stock. Some good winter varieties are in market. Common apples are neglected, while prime are cheap. Pears are running poor in quality, the best having been largely selected. Quinces are not plenty. Grapes are in fair demand. Cranberries begin to move. Chestnuts have declined heavily. We quote:

Apples, chplgs, ₱ bbl., $1 75@2; mixed, $1.50@1.62; good open heads, $1@1.37; common, 50@75c. Pears—Duchess, $6@10; Sickel, $8@13; Virgalieu, $6@10; Vicars, 4@6; Eastern boxes, $4@5; California, do., $3.50@4.50 including White Doyenne, B. D'Anjou, Duchess and B. Clairgeau; Cooking, $3@4. Cranberries, reg. crates, $2.75@3.75; reg. bbls., $9@10. Grapes—Delaware, ₱ lb., 8@10c.; Catawba, 7@8c.; Isabella, 5@6c. Quinces, ₱ bbl., $8@10; do. Cal. boxes, $3.50. Chestnuts, ₱ bush. $2.50@2.75. Hickory nuts $1.75@2. Peanuts, Va., choice, $1.50@1.65; other $1.10@1.50.

GRAIN.—In wheat there is a much stronger business on export account and the outlook more favorable; prices are higher. Latest sales are of old ungraded spring at $1.13; new No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.12; winter red Western, $1.19@1.22; amber Western, $1.26@1.28; white Western, $1.23@1.31; No. Milwaukee spring, $1.23@1.24; No. 1 spring, $1.30@1.32. Rye at 71@73c. for Western, and 86@91c. for Jersey. State and Pennsylvania. Barley, six-rowed State, 80@87½c.; 92c. for No. 2 Chicago. Corn has a good export demand at firm prices; sales at 57@58c. for mixed Western and 57½@58c. for yellow. Oats are higher and strong, selling at 29@48c. for mixed Western and State, and 33@40c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—Receipts have increased somewhat but demand is fair and prices well sustained.

Bale hay 60c. for shipping; 75c.@$1 for retail qualities; clover, 55@60c.; salt, do., 55@60c. Straw quoted at 75@80c. for long rye; 50@60c. for short rye, and 50@60c. for oat.

Exports per week 255 bales; since Jan. 1, 36,592 do.; same time last year, 32,798.

HIGHWINES selling at $1.03.

HONEY.—Supplies are increasing and the demand is small. We have seldom seen new white clover comb quoted so low. The remnant of old stock is a great hindrance this season. White Clover, 15@20c.; buckwheat, 10@11c. for comb in glass.

HOPS.—Exports for the week, 2,405 bales. The bulk of this business was done early in the week, the market since then having been but moderately active. Choice lots are very firm, but medium and under-grades are unsettled, being rather dull. A few of the early shipments to Germany brought satisfactory prices, yet exporters are, in most cases, disposed to await further developments abroad. We quote:

New Yorks, good to choice, new	35 to 38
New Yorks, low to fair, new	27 to 33
Eastern, new	27 to 33
Yearlings	10 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	35 to 38

POULTRY AND GAME.—There are regular arrivals of dressed, and we give a full line of quotations. Prime stock is in good demand. The receipts contain a good many rough lots, as is usual at the open of the season.

New Jersey turkeys, ₱ lb., 16@20c.. State, 14@18c.; Western, 13@17c. Chickens, dry-picked, 15@20c. N. J. fowls, 14@18c.. State, 13@15c.; Western, 12@14c. Ducks, N. J., 16@20c.; State, 14@18c.; Western, 14@17c.; common turkeys and fowls, 8@10c.

It does not take much live stock to depress the market. Prices are generally low, with coops coming from all sections. Turkeys, when of even size, sell readily, but at low figures. We quote:

Turkeys, N. J., 13@15c.; do. Western, 13@14c.; N. J. Fowls and chicks, 13@14c.; State and Penn., 12@13c.; Western, 11@12c.; Southern, 10@11c.; Roosters, 8@9c. Geese, N. J., ₱ pair, $1.75@2; Western, $1.50@1.62; Ducks, N. J., ₱ pair, 61@67c.; Western, 50@65c.

Grouse are scarce, but every other item is in good supply, and prices are easier. Quail arrive steadily. Wild ducks have declined. Venison is sufficient for the wants of trade.

Wild ducks, mallard, ₱ pair, 50@60c.; red-heads, 70@75c.; teal and other common game, 25@30c. Quail, ₱ doz., $2.50@2.75. Partridges, ₱ pair, 65@70c. Grouse, ₱ pair, $1.12; Hare, ₱ pair, 50@60c. Rabbits, 25@30c. Venison, whole, 11@@13c.; saddles, 17@19c.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products generally are depressed and dull. Mess pork quoted at $16.30 for spot, $16.40 for November, $15.65 for December. Bacon at 9½c. for long clear and 10c. for short clear. Lard, Western steam at $10.50 for spot; $10.10 for October; 9.87½ for November; $9.87½ for December and January. Stearine at $11½c. for prime Western. Tallow at 8¾c. for prime. Beef hams at $21 for choice Western. Beef quoted at $8@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, $15.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominal for prime and India mess. City extra India mess at 24 bid, and $25@20 asked.

SEED.—Timothy is active on export orders and higher; Sales at $2.10@2.15. Clover is scarce, quoted at 13½c. Rough flax quoted at $1.44.

TOBACCO.—Seedleaf is in active export demand and favors the sellers. Kentucky leaf dull and weak.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5½@6	6 @ 7½
Good lugs	6½@6 7½	8 @ 9
Low leaf	8 @ 9	9½@10¾
Medium leaf	9¾@10¾	11¾@13¾
Good leaf	12 @13	14 @15
Fine leaf	14 @15½	15½@16½
Selections	16 @17	17 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do	32 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7¼
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 5,921 bbls.; do. of onions, 255 do. The supply of potatoes is large and an easy market results. Some fancy Eastern have exceeded $2.50. Sweet are improving. Garden truck is generally dull. We quote:

Potatoes—Early Rose, prime, $2.37@2.50; other, $2@2.12; Peerless, bulk, $2@2.12; sweet, $@2.80. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $5@6. Tomatoes, ₱ bush., 50@90c. Marrow squash, ₱ bbl., 50@75c. Egg plant, ₱ 100, $5@6. New Russian turnips, ₱ bush., $1. Onions—Yellow, ₱ bbl., $2; white, $2.25@2.2.50; red, $1.50@1.62. Cauliflower, ₱ bbl., $1.50@3.

WOOL.—There is continued liberal inquiry from manufacturers for Western fleeces, combing and delaine, Texas, California grades and pulled, and with greatly reduced stocks very strong and in instances higher prices. The quotations are:

DOMESTIC.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
XXX and Picklock	46 @ 48
XX	44 @ 45
X	41 @ 43
No. 1	38 @ 40
No. 2	34 @ 37
Common	32 @ 34
Combing	47 @ 50
New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin—	
XX	34 @ 40
X	36 @ 38
No. 1	36 @ 38
No. 2	32 @ 35
Common	30 @ 33
Combing	50 @ 52
Iowa, Vermont and Illinois—	
XX	34 @ 36
X	34 @ 36
No. 1	34 @ 36
No. 2	30 @ 32
Combing	45 @ 47
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
Washed fleece	34 @ 36
Unwashed	25 @ 29
do. combing	33 @ 37

ROCHESTER, Oct. 14.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.50; amber winter, $7.75; white winter, $7.25; double extra, $7.50. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.10@1.20; amber winter, $1.12@1.20; white winter, $1.15@1.25. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 25@27c. Cheese, 11@12½c. Eggs, 20@22c. Lard, 11@15c. Apples, bu., 35@40c. Potatoes, bu., 65@80c. Beans, ₱ bu., 80@$1.00. Mess pork, $18.00. Wood, 20@30c. Hay, $12@14. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.00@2.50; clover, $7.00@8.00. Milfeed strong at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Oct. 11, 1876.

The tone of the cheese market this week is a little firmer than last week, and prices are a shade better. Between four and five hundred boxes of farm dairy cheese were delivered and sales were made at 11@12¾c., according to quality. Factories were well represented, the offerings amounting to upward of 10,000 boxes, about 6,000 of which changed hands. Sales were made at from 12¾@12¾c., with two or three "fancy lots" reported at 13c. The bulk of sales may be quoted at 13¼c., and amounts 3,500 boxes. Most of the cheese on the market this week is of September make, and is pronounced of very fine quality.

The delivery of butter this week is lighter than usual. Sales were made at from 26@30c., the greater part going at from 28@29c.

The weather is cool with light flurries of snow on the hills of Herkimer Co., but no facts of importance have occurred to injure grass.

We have advices from abroad to the 25th of September. Our London correspondent says: "Buyers look forward to arrivals of Cheese from America of September make, and are prepared for high prices as English cheese is scarce and dear. American extra, sells for 58@60s.; fine, 56@58s.; good 52@55's.; Common and low grades from 30s@50s. English cheddar sells for 50@56s.; Wiltshire, double, 56@72s.; Cheshire, medium, 58@64s.; fine, 78@80s.; Scotch, 60@66s.; Dutch cheese Edams, 51@56s.; Gundas 51s@58s.; Derby shape, 58@64s. ₱ cwt.

Butter of all sorts is easier with the exception of Canadian. The high price of Irish and Continental Butter tells on consumption. Oleomargarine sells well. We give prices as follows.

Clonmels, 146@150s.; Corks, 158; Dorsets, 160s.; Jersey, 126@130s.; Friesland, 136@140s.; Normandy, extra, 120@156s.; American and Canadian, 126@130s.; good 116@120s.; medium, 96@106s.

Oleomargarine or artificial butter sells for 96@112s. per cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Oct. 11, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,516	8	1,200	7,454	000
Forty-Eighth St.	33	15	1,156	8,526	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	11,393
Harsimus Cove	6,281	00	206	7,250	11,605
Totals this week	10,833	23	2,356	23,230	22,988
" last week	11,188	49	2,887	25,993	26,127

BEEVES.—Trade slow but firm on, Monday last, on a heavy run of unusually good quality cattle; prices were 6¾@11c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@10 cwt. Only three car-loads remained unsold. Wednesday, trade firm; prices, 8@10c. ₱ lb. Thursday, sales few, on a light run, at 8@10¾c.; weights, 6¾@9¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed firm at 8@10¾c.; weights, 6@9¾ cwt. From 55@57 lbs., net, has been allowed, with a few top quality steers on 58 lbs. to the cwt. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, sold at 8¾@8¾c. ₱ lb.; do. part fed east of the great rivers, 8¾@8¾c; native steers, grass-fed, 7¾@9c.; do., part corn-fed, 9¾@10¾c. Bulls, rough quality, 8 cwt, live weight, ₱ head, 2¾@2¾c.; do., coarse but fat, weight, 1,300 lbs. ₱ head, 3¾@4c. ₱ lb. Dry cows, 7¾@8¾c. Oxen, rough quality, 8@8¾c.

MILCH COWS.—There has been a rather better trade in fresh cows, during the past week, than we have been able to report for some time past. Fair quality cows have been in fair demand at $55@75 ₱ head; extreme range of prices, $35@75 ₱ head; general sales, $45@65 ₱ head—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals scarce and very slow of sale, at 8@9½c.; coarse quality calves in slow demand, at 3@6½c.; also at $1@16 ₱ head. State calves sold at 4@6c.; Pennsylvania do. 3@3½c., also at 6c.; Jersey do., 6@7½c. State veals, 8@9½c.; Pennsylvania, 8@9c.; Jersey, 8¾@9¾c. Western yearling bulls, 4c. ₱ lb.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade opened fair on Monday but on a moderate run; the quality of the flocks being from coarse to good. Sheep sold at 4¾@6¾c. ₱ lb., being firm. Lambs advanced ¼c. and sold at 6¾@7½c. Wednesday, trade fair, sheep sold at 4@6¼c.; lambs, 5¾@6¾c. Thursday, sales were fair; sheep, 4@6¼c.; lambs, 7@7¾. Friday, the markets closed dull; sheep, 4@6¼c.; lambs, 6¾@7¼c. Ohio sheep sold at 5@6¼c.; Canada, 5¾@6c.; Michigan, 5¾@6c.; Kentucky, 5¾@5¾c.; Indiana, 5@6¾c. ₱ cwt.; Missouri, 4¾@7¾c. ₱ lb.; State, 4¾@4¾c. Jersey ewes, 5@5¼c. Pennsylvania, lambs, 6@6¼c.; State, 6¾@7¼c.; Canada, 5¾@7¾c.

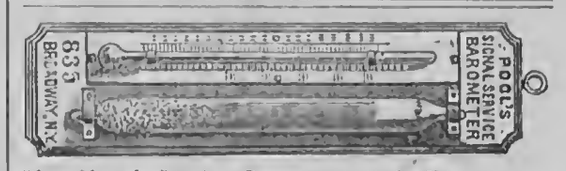
HOGS.—One car load of Ohio hogs, weight 212 lbs. ₱ head, sold at $6.55 ₱ cwt. City dressed inactive at 7¾@9¼c.; general sales at 8@7c.—weights included.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade fair in inferior quality animals; high-price horses slow sale. Thirty-seven head poor quality light harness horses sold at $55@95 ₱ head; 42 do., $60@100; 50 ordinary quality do. $150@195; 19 pairs of family carriage horses, generally aged, sold at $225@500 ₱ pair; 3 course quality brougham horses at $272@325; 15 coarse quality heavy draft horses, $120@205 ₱ head.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	10¾@11
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¾@ 9¾	9 @ 9¾
Poorest	8½@ 9	8 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	9 @ 9¾	9 @ 9¾

New Advertisements.



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PERSONAL ITEMS.

BRET HARTE is in Baltimore.

THE farmer's best vest—harvest.

PARIS has 600 finger-nail doctors.

ANNA DICKINSON is in Cincinnati.

GEN. SCHENCK is about to write a book.

GEN. G. B. MCCLELLAN is in Cincinnati.

RAG gatherers manage to pick up a living.

MR. EUGENE SCHUYLER is a great linguist.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS is worth $1,000,000.

EX-GOVERNOR HOFFMAN is at the Centennial.

THE French debt is held by 4,172,313 persons.

WHAT is the worst kind of an omen? To owe men.

A SON of a Gunn has been married in Massachusetts.

THE Lee monument fund now amounts to $25,000.

GRACE DARLING exhibited great sheroe-ism in saving life.

THE naming of days was a week invention of the almanac maker.

ALWAYS in debt when there is no necessity for it; the letter B.

AN occasion which speaks volumes—The Librarians' Conference.

THE Louisville Courier-Journal calls Sitting Bull "sedentary taurus."

THE first bale of cotton this season has finished arriving.—*N. O. Republican.*

MR. DEVILWATER, appropriately enough, keeps a liquor shop at Evanston, Ill.

A SIGN in Detroit reads:—"Wanted a young man to drive horses up stairs."

THE Sultan of Zanzibar is going to publish the diary of his journey to Europe.

AMERICA is shipping paper to England, and the Times calls it the best in the world.

A GOOD watch, in your wakeful moments, will always be on its guard against you.

A MAN can't travel into a woman's affections by getting on her train.—*Norr. Herald.*

REMEMBER the poor, and while you are about it remember that they need something.

MILWAUKEE is called the Cream City on account of the number of pumps in its streets.

WHY are circus horses such slow goers? Because they are taught 'orses (tortoises).

How is it that some people always do things by halves? Why, in-two-itively of course.

ST. LOUIS has a larger population than any other city with the same number of inhabitants.

INDIANS can't fight all the while. Some time is required for the great work of calling for rations.

A NYACK man got out of plaster and finished the sides of the parlor with thirteen pumpkin pies.

AN Illinois German, Zeher by name, was presented with five children in one year—threes and twos.

No preacher can expect to deliver a live sermon by making a skeleton of his thoughts before hand.

JOSEPH appears to have been the first man on record who had any experience in Egyptian bonds.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY'S three lectures proved a regular bone-anza. He received $1,600 for each of them.

MARTIN FARQUAR TUPPER, the proverbial philosopher, is coming to America this fall to give readings.

A QUACK doctor advertises confidingly, "People never cough after taking one bottle of my cough mixture."

AN Iowa judge says that a man may legally kiss his hired girl if he can swear he thought it was his wife.

AMONG others, General Hood has been invited to attend the unveiling of the McPherson statue at Washington.

"My son has earned a reputation for scholarship," said an old man; "but the worst of it is he cannot earn a living."

THE judge who is clothed with a little brief authority should bring a new suit in court before cold weather comes on.

JOSEPH HADDEM of Erie County, "shot eleven squirrels in four shots." It looks as if Joseph Haddem in close quarters.

KATE FIELD is also mad at Joaquin Miller. She says she can't respect a man who sleeps with his head at the foot of the bed.

MOSQUITOES still prevail, but it is noticed that they hum only revival airs and never buzz back when they are struck at now.

MR. ROBERT BUCHANAN, the poet, got about $750 in money out of his libel suit against the proprietor of the London Examiner.

PATTI JOSEPHS, the actress who fell from a window in Philadelphia and was killed, was a sister of the Rev. Dr. Lorimer of Boston.

TURKEY'S worst foes are her own religious fanatics. The fact is, the "Sick Man of Europe" is dying under Allah-pathic treatment.

THE young man who wrote and asked his girl to accept a "bucket" of flowers, became a little pale when she said she wooden ware it.

VICTOR HUGO mercilessly says:—"Should I never write another word, 12 volumes of my unpublished works could still be issued from the press."

A DEALER advertises "genuine Jersey cider" for sale. That will do for those who like it; but most persons want genuine apple cider.

AN Irishman at the Centennial inquired for the Irish art gallery. He had heard there was a picture there by his countryman, Mike Langelow.

MENDELSSOHN'S home at Leipsic has been completely restored, even to the broken plaster where the rolling pin missed his head and hit the wall.

"MARRIAGE is promotion," says George Eliot. In the eyes of such a reasoner a man with his third wife would doubtless pass for a Brigadier-General.

ENGLISH lawyers, taking example from their American brethren, are giving up the traditional gown and wigs and appearing in court in ordinary costume.

A WISCONSIN editor having written of a deceased gentleman that "sickness had impaired his health," a rival rejoined. "Yes; it often has that effect."

AND still the Postal Department has another idea in postal cards—something combining the beauty of an oil painting and the convenience of a shawl strap.

NORTHERN people who have met Wade Hampton socially have found him hearty, jolly, courteous and willing to fight any man who would invade American soil.

IT is humiliating to a young man who has been singing his sweetest songs in front of a house to be told by a policeman that the family have been absent for a week.

A RAILWAY porter at Hayworth Heath, England, committed suicide during a fit of delirium tremens, by swallowing nearly the whole of an eight-page newspaper. It choked him.

NEARLY every citizen here has told his wife that there is another man in town who closely resembles him, and who is frequently seen coming out of saloons.—*Rockland Courier.*

A NEW ORLEANS man announces in a circular that having returned from a scientific trip through Europe, he is now better prepared than ever for cleaning clothes and carpets.

A THRIFTY young Teuton, living on State street, was asked if he should attend the races. "I vaits dil Tursday," said he, "dil der free for all, den I bays notting."—*Springfield Union.*

THE American artist, Henry Bacon, meditates the establishment of a school of art for his countrywomen in Paris. His picture of Benjamin Franklin, in the Paris Salon, this year, was highly praised.

KING ALFONSO'S favorite diversions are riding and hunting. He is fond of English and French literary and historical works, and is often present at the drill of his soldiers before six o'clock in the morning.

IT is stated that sometime during the present year a party of one hundred Englishmen is coming over to this country on a grand fox hunt. "Ist! Ush!" Ark—the 'orn of the 'unter is 'card on the 'ill.

MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE has an enormous collection of autographs in the 563,848 signatures appended to an anti-slavery appeal, including the names of nearly all the women of eminence in Great Britain.

A GUSHING but ungrammatical editor says: "We have received a basket of fine grapes from our friend——, for which he will please accept our compliments, some of which are nearly an inch in diameter.

PROF. HUXLEY explains that the technical term used in science to designate a horse is also used to designate an ass. It is well enough to remember this in case you should ever be called upon to prepare a classified list of American statesmen.

ISN'T it funny? The author of the hymn, "I would not live alway; I ask not to stay," stays like a good fellow, being eighty years of age, with plenty of appreciation still for the good things of the world. He is Dr. W. A. Muhlenberg of New York.

AN inquisitive young man visited a State prison in New York, and among his questions asked a girl the cause of her being in such a place. Her answer was that she "stole a watermill, and went back after the stream that turned the mill and was arrested." The young man left immediately.

"It is now supposed that Abraham was the original base ball player, as the Scriptures say that he pitched in the wilderness.—[Philadelphia Bulletin. True, and Moses, you remember, took A-run with him in the wilderness.—[Exchange. Beg their pardons, but Noah was the first "pitcher" (Gen. vi., 14).

AN editor is described as a man who is liable to grammatical blunders, typographical errors, and lapse of memory, and has twenty-five thousand people watching him tripping—a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief; poorly paid, poorly estimated, yet envied by some of the great men he has made.—*New Orleans Bulletin.*

Musical Instruments.

REMOVAL-150 PIANOS & ORGANS

at half price. The Subscribers will sell their Entire Stock of Pianos & Organs, new and second hand, of six first-class makers; sheet music, and S. S. music books, at 50 PER CT. OFF, for cash previous to removal to their new store, 40 EAST 14th St., UNION SQUARE. Oct. 12th. Illustrated catalogues Mailed. Monthly Instalments received. Agt's Wanted. Special inducements to the trade. HORACE WATERS & SONS, Manufacturers and Dealers. 481 Broadway, N. Y.

Implements and Machinery.

Centennial Year of American Independence.

SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

We will call and see you next July and assist at your CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. By the same opportunity bring you samples of the Celebrated Watches, manufactured by our country-men, the MESSRS. BOREL & COURVOISIER of Neuchatel, for INSPECTION and EXHIBITION. Those Watches are favorably known throughout the U. S., having been sold by our local agents in almost every City, Town and Village the past ten years. Their reputation for accurate performance is universally acknowledged. They are manufactured in Gold and Silver Cases, Stem and Key Winders. These Watches have superior quality of Nickel Movements, Chronometer Balances, Breguet Hair Springs, Tempered, Hardened and Isochronised for R. R. use, fine Ruby Jeweled, set in Chaton, and warranted to perform with the regularity and accuracy of a chronometer. Ask your Watchmaker to see them before purchasing those of other makers, as we have been authorized to sell them at a reduction from former prices.

QUINCHE & KRUGLER,
SALESROOM: 15 MAIDEN LANE, N. Y., Up Stairs.
Only Wholesale Agents for the Manufacturers. Jewelers wanted to act as Agents.

AWARDS
From International Centennial EXPOSITION,
To WM. L. BOYER & BRO., Philadelphia, Pa.
ON Premium Farm Grist Mill—the grinding parts are now made of STEEL, giving *four times the durability* over cast iron,—grinds rapidly, and is adapted to all kinds of Horse Powers.
ON Union Railway Horse Power, requiring very little elevation, and producing great power.
ON Broom Machinery, for making Corn Brooms.
Send for Descriptive Circulars.

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COLLINS & CO.'S
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Greatly Improved and Reduced in Price.
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Sporting Rifles, Double and Single Barrel Shot Guns, Pocket Rifles, Pocket Pistols, and the noted Hunter's Pet Rifle. Send for Catalogue.
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A POTATO DIGGER—Drawn by one horse—the best extant. 1,100 in use. We will deliver sample to your Railroad Depot in the United States on receipt of $12.
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SEE JOHNSTON HARVESTERS AT CENTENNIAL.

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American Fodder Cutter
GRANTED HIGHEST MEDAL OF MERIT AND DIPLOMA AT THE CENTENNIAL!
Best in the market. Don't purchase any other kind until you have seen and examined this. Send for Circular, containing Description and Price List.
C. PIERPONT & CO., Manufacturers,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

UNION CORN HUSKER.
SELLS AT SIGHT.
No cold or sore fingers. Can be used with or without mittens. Last a lifetime.—Taken 6 Premiums.—One sample 25 cts.; 4 for 75 cts.
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108 South 8th St.,
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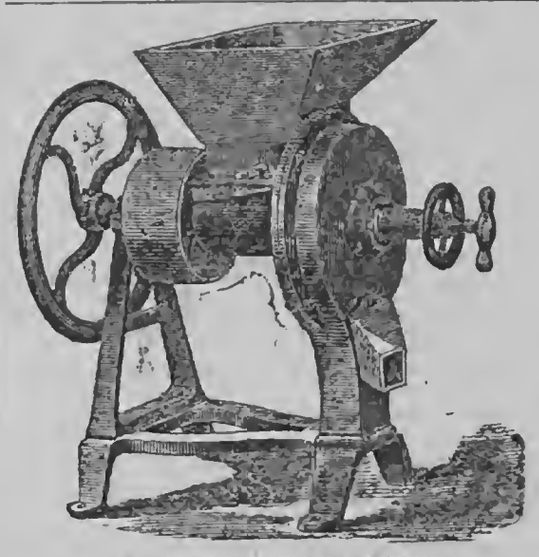
Say where you saw this advertisem't.

FLAX & HEMP BRAKES
MALLORY & SANFORD PATENTS.
The most desirable in any market. For sale by JOHN W. QUINCY, 38 William St., N. Y. City.

$15 Shot Gun
A double barrel gun, bar or front action locks; warranted genuine twist barrels, and a good shooter, OR NO SALE; with Flask, Pouch and Wad-cutter, for $15. Can be sent C. O. D., with privilege to examine before paying bill. Send stamp for Circular to P. POWELL & SON, 238 Main Street, Cincinnati, O.

THE "VIBRATOR" THRESHER IS KING OF ALL.
HIGGANUM M'F'G COMPANY,
Manufacturers of Agricultural Implements,
Higganum, Conn.



THE ABOVE CUT REPRESENTS
THE VICTORY CORN MILL.
This mill will grind corn and cob rapidly, coarse and fine; also, all other kinds of grain or seed. Capacity, **10 to 20 bushels per hour.** It is made entirely of iron, except the hopper. It is strong, durable, and not liable to get out of repair. It will grind more feed with less power than any other mill in the market. This is no humbug. We warrant it to do what we claim. Agents wanted everywhere. Price $40, delivered on cars at Springfield. Address
T. ROBERTS & CO., Springfield, Ohio.
☞ We also manufacture 4½ horse-power Vertical Portable Engines, suitable for running these mills, or for any other purpose for which power is required. Price $200.

NEW FORCE FEED BUCKEYE GRAIN DRILL,
with Fertilizer Attachment.

PREMIUM
FARM GRIST-MILL.
Grinds all kinds of grain rapidly. Is simple, durable and cheap. Is suited to all kinds of horse-powers. Every farmer should have it. Send for Descriptive Circular.
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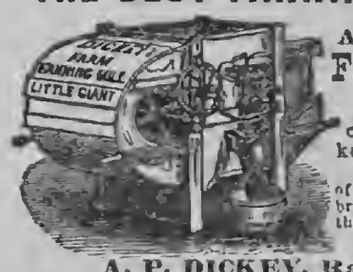

BUY THE
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Fanning Mill.
No good Farmer can afford to market dirty grain.
A moderate quality of grain, well cleaned, brings a better price than the nicest grade in dirty condition.
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Agent for Western New York.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—With its full corps of editors, and a new publisher of energy and ability, the management propose to celebrate the quarter-centennial of the pioneer RURAL in such a manner as to augment its popularity and usefulness. For a first-class, lively paper, containing matter of interest for all classes, take the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and do so at once, for the paper never was better, and its prospects never brighter.—*Report (Ill.) Journal.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

Bryan.—Sometimes invalids are more injured by exercise than benefited. Knowing how much stress is placed by hygienists upon exercise in the recovery or preservation of health, those who are recovering from sickness or who are in declining health are apt to overtax themselves in their eagerness for speedy improvement. One's strength, be it more or less, must ever be the guide of the amount of exercise calculated to strengthen the system or any one of its parts. Whenever exercise has been carried to exhaustion, we may be assured harm has been wrought, for the reason that a loss of nutrient deposition, instead of a gain, has been sustained.

Fatigue is Nature's warning to cease work, just as much as a burning hand is her warning to withdraw it from the burning substance. A convalescent person may walk half a mile with but the first sensation of fatigue and be benefited. Should he continue his walk another half mile, a decided loss of strength would probably be the consequence.

We may disregard the thousand warnings of nature which have been instituted to guide us in a manner the best adapted to secure our highest welfare—once, twice, thrice. But the penalty will just as inevitably follow as that the sun shines brightest in a cloudless sky, and in unerring proportion to the degree and number in which they have been disregarded.

Though we wander from the answer to the question asked, we may add that in one view of the above remarks may be found the cause why so many farmers' boys, instead of growing up ideals of physical vigor and form, become the gaunt, sallow-faced, round-backed, crooked-legged men who constitute so conspicuous a percentage of the farming population. Too often is the work of a man expected of half-grown boys; too often farm tasks entirely beyond their strength and the development of their bones and muscles, are assigned to boys from ten to fifteen years of age, who with but little interest or aim plod on until the dreary task is accomplished. The result is a premature maturity and a consequent weakening and dwarfing of the physical and vital powers which, effected before or during the period of adolescence, is fixed for the rest of their lives.

"He chooses best whose labor entertains
His vacant fancy most; the toil you hate
Fatigues you soon, and scarce improves your limbs."

H. H. B.—The small, bluish caterpillar marked with deep orange bands across the middle of each ring, the head and feet also orange color is the larva of a beautiful moth known as *Eudryas grata* and quite fully described on page 427 of Harris' Insects Injurious to Vegetation. It is sometimes quite abundant upon grape vines, doing considerable damage to the leaves. We do not know of any better way of getting rid of this pest than to pick off the caterpillars by hand and then kill them.

E. C. Sherwood's letter is received. Neither the county nor state is given, and we cannot make out the post-mark. Will be happy to comply with request when the above is made known.

W. G. E.—No; make it a rule of your life never to invest in any business or enterprise of which you know nothing, or, to put it in a gambler's phrase, "Never bet on another man's game."

Alonzo Sackett.—Can you or some of your many subscribers, through the columns of your valuable paper, tell the origin of common house flies, whether they are developed from a grub or maggot or whether they hatch from eggs layed by old flies; if so, where are the eggs deposited? By answering the above you will greatly oblige. ANS.—The eggs of the common house fly (*Musca domestica*) are deposited in old garbage, decayed heaps of vegetables and about barns and stables. From the eggs minute whitish worms emerge and feed upon the filth in which is their home for the time being. The grubs grow rapidly, and when mature, pass into what is termed the pupa stage, remaining in this two or three weeks, then come forth full-grown flies. Large numbers of the common house fly hibernate and remain alive all winter, and, therefore, ready to go on perpetuating and multiplying this species the following spring. If you desire to watch all the transformations of the house fly, it will be necessary to breed them in glass cases from which they cannot escape, as it is quite difficult to find their eggs.

Wild Fern.—Could you please tell me the name of this white flower? Also tell me if the name of this yellow one is Golden Rod. ANS.—Yes, it is Golden Rod (*Solidago*). The white is *Eupatorium aromaticum*'

R. Hells.—If you will read the articles in the RURAL upon Poultry, by Mr. H. H. Hales another correspondents, we think the information sought will be acquired. The profits to be derived from 100 hens depend so much upon circumstances that no man can determine that point except by actual experiments—keeping a strict account of receipts and expenses in every instance.

Dry Goods, &c.

LORD & TAYLOR

CONTINUE TO SELL THEIR IMMENSE STOCK OF

SILKS

AT FORMER PRICES.

BLACK SILKS

OF THE CELEBRATED PONSON, GUINET, JAUBRET, LERHONE, AND OTHER MAKES, THE CHOICEST LYONS GOODS, FROM $1.50 A YARD UP.

A LARGE LINE OF OUR FAMILY SILKS, SO FAVORABLY RECEIVED HERETOFORE, IN ALL THE NUMBERS.

PLAIN COLORED SILKS

IN ALL THE LATEST SHADES FOR FALL WEAR, ALL WIDTHS AND QUALITIES, THE CHEAPEST GOODS OFFERED IN THIS MARKET, AT $1.75, $2, AND $2.25 A YARD.

A HANDSOME ASSORTMENT OF EVENING SHADES.

ALL THE ABOVE GOODS ARE GUARANTEED CHEAPER THAN SIMILAR QUALITIES CAN NOW BE IMPORTED FOR. AND A VISIT OF INSPECTION IS SOLICITED.

☞ PRICES NOT ADVANCED ABOVE LAST YEAR.

RICH DRESS GOODS

FOR FALL AND WINTER WEAR, IN THE NEWEST STYLES AND COLORS.

LADIES IN SEARCH OF FABRICS FOR FALL AND WINTER WILL FIND IT TO THEIR INTEREST TO INSPECT OUR SPLENDID STOCK BEFORE PURCHASING.

POPULAR DRESS GOODS

AT GREAT ATTRACTIONS.

A FULL LINE OF MIXED AND PLAID SUITINGS AT 12 1-2c.

MISSES' WINCEY SUITINGS IN GREAT VARIETY AT 15c.

SHEPHERD CHECKS AT 15c., 20c., 25c., AND 30c.

3-4 MANCHESTER CASHMERES, CLOTH COLORS, 25c.

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A FULL LINE OF EMPRESS CLOTHS, ALL LEADING SHADES, 44c. TO 75c.

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ALL-WOOL CASHMERES IN EVERY SHADE AND WIDTH.

REAL INDIA CASHMERE SHAWLS

PURCHASED AT THE JULY AUCTION SALES IN LONDON, AND NOW QUOTED FIFTY PER CENT. LESS THAN MARKET VALUE, VIZ.:

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ALSO.

Real India Camel's Hair Shawls,

IN THE MOST ARTISTIC DESIGNS FOR THE COMING SEASON.

$50, $55, $60, $65, $75, $85, $95.

FULL LINES OF ALL THE MODERN AND CHEAPER GRADES OF WOOLEN AND OTHER SHAWLS.

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LADIES' SERGE SUITS, $10, $12, to $15.
LADIES' ALPACA SUITS, $9, $10, to $12.
Tarlotane, Swiss, and Organdie EVENING DRESSES.

CLOTH and DAMASSEE POLONAISE, OVERSKIRTS, and BASQUES in all the new shades and styles.

CLOTH ULSTERS in every variety.

WRAPPERS in Flannel, Cashmere, Waterproof, and Reps. In the

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A SPECIALTY.

MOURNING SUITS FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN. A FULL ASSORTMENT CONSTANTLY ON HAND AND MADE TO ORDER AT THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

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SAMPLES OF GOODS, TOGETHER WITH CATALOGUES OF LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR, SENT FREE, ON APPLICATION, TO ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

ORDERS FOR GOODS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY FILLED WITHOUT CHARGE AND GOODS PACKED AND FORWARDED TO ANY DESTINATION.

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Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

PEAR SEEDLINGS.—No. 1, $8 ₱ M.; No. 2 $3. Apple, No. 1, 3 yrs., $4 ₱ M; No. 2, $2. Apple, 1 yr., $4 ₱ M. Mazzard, No. 1, $7 ₱ M.; No. 2, $3. Plum Seedlings, extra, $15 ₱ M.; No. 1, $10 ₱ M.; No. 2, $5 ₱ M. E. P. CLARK, Dansville, N. Y.

CHOICE NURSERY STOCK.

Apple Trees, very fine, in large quantities, and of leading varieties. Peach Trees, 1 yr. from bud, by the 100, 1,000 or 10,000. Concord and other vines, 1, 2 and 3 yrs. old, unsurpassed and in large number. La Versailles and Cherry Currants, 1 and 2 yrs. old. Also, Forest and Evergreen Trees, Hedge Plants, Shrubs, Roses, and a general assortment of Nursery Stock. All young, thrifty plants, and in large quantities. Send for Price List. Address STEPHEN HOYT & SONS, New Canaan, Ct.

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The *Pioneer* Nursery of Florida. The largest Tropical and Semi-Tropical Nursery in the U. S. 1,000,000 of the Citrus family offered this season. Catalogues sent free. Address L. A. HARDEE, Proprietor, Jacksonville, Fla.

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THE GREAT AMERICAN STRAWBERRY and DELAWARE RASPBERRY, the largest and best. Millions of Trees and Plants at *Pomona Nursery*. Send for Circulars. *Wm. Parry*, Cinnaminson, N. J.

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960,000 Acres in Southwestern Missouri.

FIRST-CLASS STOCK FARMS,
EXCELLENT AGRICULTURAL LANDS
BEST TOBACCO REGION
IN THE WEST.

SHORT WINTERS, NO GRASSHOPPERS.

Good Markets and a Healthy Country.

Prices $2.50 to $10.00 an Acre.

TERMS:—One-tenth down, balance in seven years at seven per cent. interest.

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B. B. Red Games and other first-class Fowls, at greatly reduced rates till December 1st, to reduce stock on account of recent business engagements. J. Y. BICKNELL, Westmoreland, Oneida Co., N. Y.

IMPROVED JERSEY STOCK.

A thorough-bred Jersey Cow for sale, from imported dam; is registered in the Jersey Herd Book. Also two Heifer Calves. Address H. HALES, Ridgewood, N. J.

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CALIFORNIA.

Have you any thought of going to California?
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Wit and Humor.

HE BET IN HIS MIND.

A short time ago the fine steamer Lee, in making her trip from New Orleans, had her full complement of passengers. As they walked about listlessly, and were apparently annoyed, they listened willingly to a suggestion from an individual who owned a monte bank, that just to pass away time they should buck at monte. The dealer found a table handy and opened his bank. In a short time the most of the company were engaged in the game. After it had progressed a while, a rough-looking stranger, who was closely observing the game, handed to the dealer a $5 piece. The dealer, surprised, asked him why he had done so; when he was told that he (the stranger) had lost it fairly, as he had bet in his mind on the queen. After several deals the stranger gave the dealer $10, making a statement similar to the first; whereupon the banker pocketed the money, thinking that he had found a lunatic.

After a short time had elapsed, the passengers, startled by a most terrific yell, looked in wonder and alarm at the contortions of the stranger, who, jumping about the group, cried out at every jump:

"I've won! I've won! I've won it!"

"Won what?" asked the banker.

"Why, I've won $250! I bet in my mind on the cavier, and he won! Hand over the money."

As the banker had permitted him to lose when betting in his mind, he had to pay him the money. The stranger received the money, and also a request to be more audible in his bets.—*Vicksburg Herald.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

Guilt frames—Prison windows.

How dancers are chosen—By ballet.

A South Carolina negro is credited with saying that "Reform has bin rumnin' in dis country ever since de wa', and he never been 'lected yet. Time he stop runnin.'"

Some people lay everything to the weather. A Preston man who was kicked by a horse yesterday attributed all his suffering to the equine-knocks.—*Norwich Bulletin.*

"Phat a blessing it is," says a hard-working Chicago Emeralder, "that night niver comes on 'til late in the day, when a man is tired and can't work any more, at all, at all."—*Chicago Journal.*

A section-master on the Erie Railway, filling out a blank describing a railroad accident (which happened to be the killing of a cow), under the head, "What disposition?" wrote, "Mild and gentle."

They call themselves ophthalmologists, and when they get a timid man in a corner they make him read the word in sixteen kinds of type, and then begin to treat him for inflammation of the eyes.—*Boston Traveller.*

It is supposed that President Porter has been bought up by a prominent tobacco house, as in his sermon yesterday he spoke of the goodness of the earth in providing for us "fruits and flowers."—*New Haven Journal.*

A man may love domestic quiet and harmony enough to keep his mouth shut while his wife's relations are in the house, but when he sees one of his fine ruffled shirts on his brother-in-law, what wonder if he feels that he must go down in the cellar and shovel coal or burst.—*Brooklyn Argus.*

They had a private reading in Brockport, on ——street, the other night, and a gentleman read to a party of ladies the paragraph, "They have discovered that Tilden is the father of the Credit Mobilier." One of the ladies innocently exclaimed, "Why, I thought he was a bachelor. —*Rochester Union.*

The following conversation between two children is "smart," and this time it's Arlington. A sister and her brother were occupying the same bed, parents in an adjoining room, a cold Winter's night, and the little fellow, who's name was Jimmy, awakening rather earlier than usual, slipped out of bed and was trotting around, when the sister missing her charge calls to him thus wise: "Oh, Jimmy, come and get into bed this minute. You will caught your def a cold, and you will be sick and die, Jimmy, and go to heaven. And you know, Jimmy, you have no relations there. But I have, for Gran'ma B. is there. Oh, Jimmy, do come!" and he came.—*Boston Traveller.*

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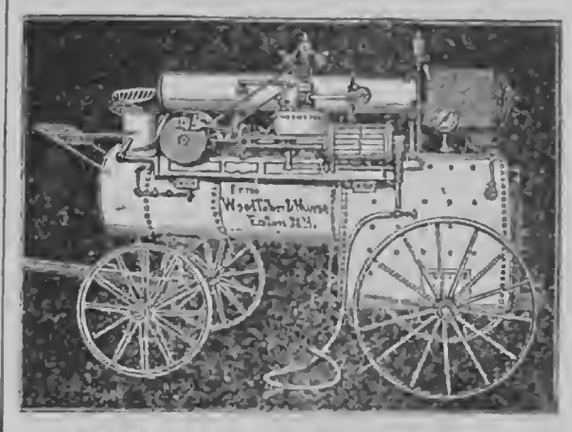

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WHOLE No. 1396.

NEW YORK CITY, OCT. 28, 1376.

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The Poultry Yard.

THE HONDURAS TURKEY.

THIS magnificent species of the Turkey is the *Meleagris ocellata* of naturalists, and is found wild in Honduras and other parts of Central America. It is doubtless closely allied to the Mexican Turkey (*M. Mexicana*) and our wild species (*M. Americana*), formerly so abundant in the Middle and Southern States. From whence came our domesticated breed of Turkeys is somewhat of a puzzle, but Prof. BAIRD supposes there must have been formerly another native species from which the tame Turkey descended. We must, however, leave this matter to be decided by our naturalists, as Thanksgiving dinners will be relished none the less if the origin of the Turkey should remain forever a mystery.

The accompanying portraits of the Honduras Turkey were taken from specimens in the gardens of the Zoological Society of London and engraved for the Illustrated London News.

Whether it will ever be possible to domesticate this species, is a question for future poultry breeders to determine, as we can only say at present that it has not been done. There is here, therefore, an interesting and unoccupied field for some enthusiastic poultry fancier to occupy. The difficulties in the way of domesticating any of the known wild species, is one of the strong arguments used by naturalists in sustaining their theory that our tame Turkey did not come from either of them, but is a distinct species. Doubtless if a hybrid or cross (whichever it might prove to be) between the domesticated Turkey and the wild birds could be obtained, some new and fine breeds would result. This Honduras Turkey is certainly a splendid bird, and we hope that our zoological societies will soon afford some enterprising poultry fancier an opportunity of experimenting in the direction we have named, even if no good should come from it.

TEGETMEIR, in his noted work on "Poultry," speaking of this species, says:—"We hardly need state that this lovely species, could it be but naturalized, would be a great ornament to our poultry yards."

PHEASANTS IN ENGLAND.

IN your paper of to-day I notice "About Pheasants," etc. In the fields of Great Britain I have seen them plenty, and they are used for game, as well as deer, hare, rabbits, and various birds. There the laws are so strict that there is more game than in our own country. Every person owning land has as much right to the game as to his grain, fruit, cattle or sheep, but when a person rents the land, he has no right to the game unless it is so stipulated, and must not interfere with it. In its season game is plentiful in the markets for sale. Deer are, in many places, plenty, and I have seen 1,000 to 2,000 together. In the season, those wanted, are fattened, and with the use of dogs, they soon become wild enough for hunting.

In June, at Chatworth, I saw the pheasants you speak of, a week or two old; they had been hatched under hens. These were then fastened in boxes and the chicks running in the fields, there being several hundred, taken care of by the gamekeeper, who gave his attention to them, he having a small house to stay in. As soon as the hen forsakes them, they are sent to the woods and fields to take care of themselves. Only the game-keeper looks to them as well as to the deer. In most of the hills and mountains of Scotland they have no trees and much heather, and the land is very valuable for sheep and game. The black-nose sheep are small, and almost as good as game for the table—indeed, I think they are very excellent. W. O. HICKOK.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

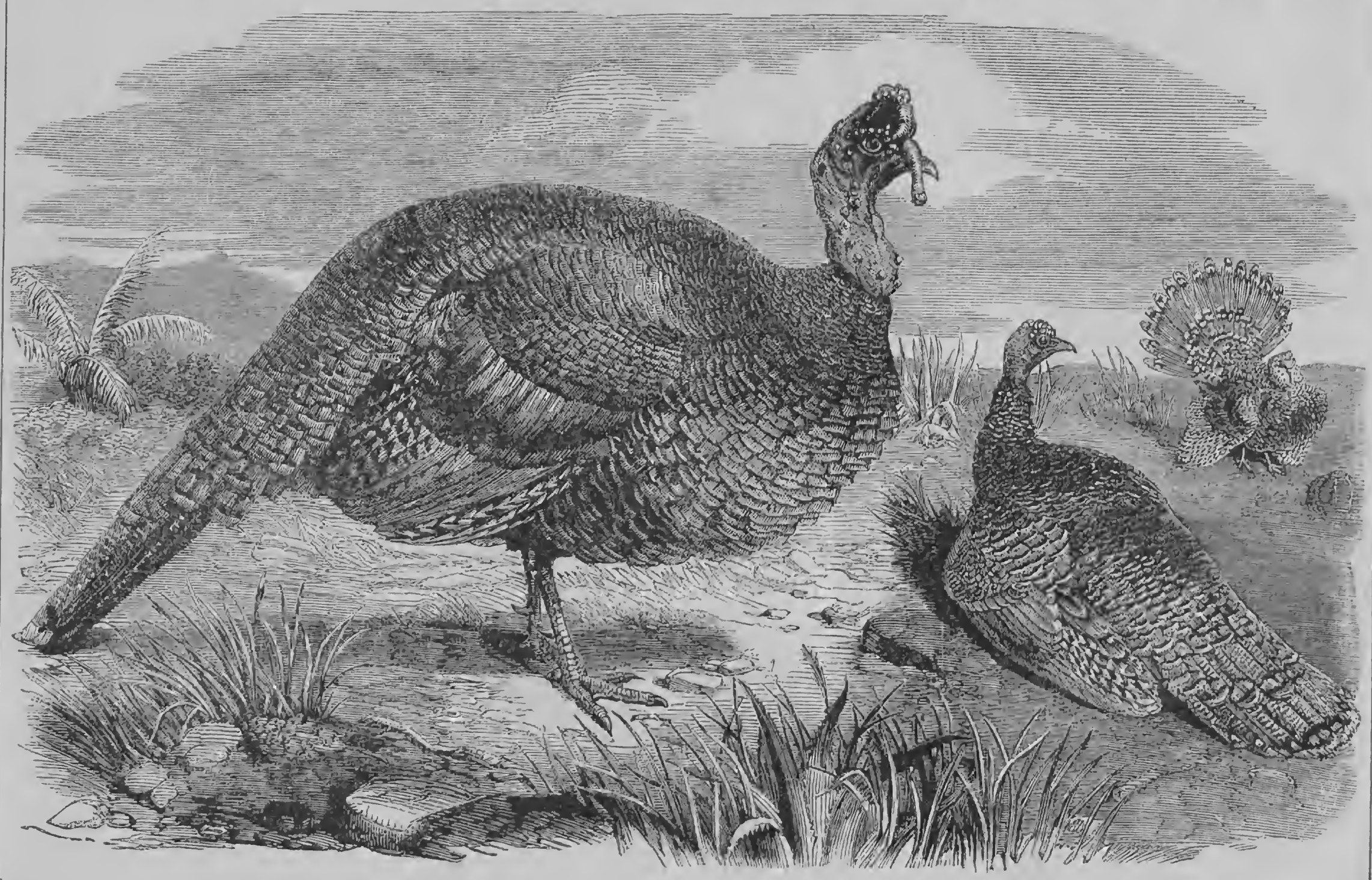
WHAT AILED THE DUCKS?

THE middle of July we had about thirty young ducks, seemingly strong and healthy. Then they began suddenly to sicken and die, one after another. We had been feeding wheat, and having run short, fed them on bread, potatoes and sour milk curd. When the first one died, we thought perhaps the sour milk did not agree with them. So changed the food to corn meal. But every day they grew less; finally we went back to feeding wheat. It was all the same. Death claimed the little quacks. The first apparent symptom was their being taken with "crazy spells." The victim would start to run forward a few steps, whirl round, try to balance itself, tip over backward, roll over and over until caught up, and then it would lose the use of its legs for awhile. At the end of five or ten minutes it would so far recover as to eat and drink, but would go by itself, and, after a while, grow stupid and blind, yet retain its appetite. Sometimes they would die almost immediately after being attacked, but usually lingered several days. The last of August I had nine left. Two recovered. Is there really any cure for sick fowls?

M. E. A.

[Will some of our readers please answer the above query.—ED. RURAL.]

DOMESTICATING QUAILS.—We see it stated in our exchanges that a man in California has succeeded in domesticating the California Quails by setting their eggs under hens. Fifty eggs were placed under a hen, from which 38 Quails were hatched, and all remained with their stepmother, showing no inclination to leave her. Tough!



HONDURAS TURKEYS.

The Herdsman.

IN PRAISE OF HEREFORDS.

I AM in receipt of the RURAL of Oct. 7, in which there is a report on the Live Stock Exhibition at the Centennial, which on the whole is a very fair one.

There is one point however, that does the Herefords injustice as a breed. Your reporter says: "Both Herefords and Devons fatten well; but neither of them put up in proportion the same amount of high-priced beef as can on equal quantity of fodder be accumulated by the Short-Horn family."

Now as regards the Herefords and Short-Horns the reverse of this is true. The Hereford for a given amount of feed will make larger returns than the Short-Horn. And for a given grass weight will give a larger per cent. of high-priced beef, and the high-priced beef of a richer, riper and better quality than the same cuts from a Short-Horn steer.

Mr. W. Probert of Cleveland, Ohio, who has been a butcher and market man for 25 years, was at my place two months since, and said he could afford to pay one to one and one-half cents more per pound live weight for a Hereford than he could for a Short-Horn steer, and make more on the Hereford than on the Short-Horn. This you will find verified by the experience of any butcher and market man that has cut Hereford steers.

The records of the Smithfield club, London, Eng., show the Herefords a long way on the lead of the Short-Horns as a beef steer, and the London market will show the Herefords at the same advantage as Mr. Probert would give them.

I am aware that the opinion prevails in this country that the Short-Horns are *par excellence*, the beef steer, but the record don't sustain them whereon they have come in competition with the Herefords.

I might say much more for the Herefords did I feel at liberty to trespass. In the very flattering notice you give of my herd, you say, of this herd "*Grace* and *Katie were bred in this country*." Of the 13 herd shown, 10 were of my own breeding. J. L. MILLER.

EPIZOOTIC.

This word is in common use and applied generally to a particular disease which has been occasionally prevalent in various parts of the country, but the Scientific Farmer truthfully says that there seems to be amongst the community an odd but wide-spread misapprehension regarding the significance of this word, "epizootic," so that it is now commonly considered to describe and define a certain disease amongst horses, whilst its real significance is entirely lost sight of; hardly a week passes that we are not asked to look at a horse which the owner thinks must have the "epizootic." It really denotes the prevalence of any one disease amongst animals, corresponding to an epidemic amongst people: thus there may be an epizootic of pleuro-pneumonia amongst cows, of cholera amongst hogs, of abortion amongst ewes, or of influenza amongst horses, just as there may be an epidemic of small pox, measles or scarlet fever amongst humans. The disease with which our horses have so generally been affected at two different periods within the past four years is, then, influenza or catarrhal fever and not "epizoot." As we are again approaching the fall of the year at which time this disease has heretofore made its general and remarkable appearances, a little about the histories of similar outbreaks in this and others countries and the general causes of influenza may not be uninteresting or inopportune. It has a very early history. In 1299 it appeared in Seville, where "it killed more than one thousand horses, and seemed to be inenrable." In 1648 it broke out amongst the horses of the French army in Germany. In 1588 it was prevalent over the whole of Europe, affecting both men and horses; in 1699 Europe and America suffered from the disease, and again in 1732; in 1767 it once more appeared in both hemispheres, when it is recorded that both horses and dogs suffered from it. "In 1776, after a very severe winter and warm summer, influenza spread over Europe, attacking horses and dogs first and human beings after. Poultry died in great numbers; it was very severe in New York and caused great mortality amongst the horses of Maryland." During the present century it has raged with varying degrees of virulence; in 1849-50 and 1863-4 and 1871-2 in London, and in 1872 3 in this country, when it broke out in Toronto, Canada, on Oct. 1, 1872. In 9 days it had attacked nearly all the horses in the city. On October 18th it reached Montreal; on the 14th, Buffalo; 17th, Rochester; 22d, Boston, New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City; 27th, Philadelphia; 28th, Washington; and again in October, 1875, there was an outbreak which, however, was much less intense and wide-spread than the one of '72 just referred to. It is singularly prevalent in some seasons, and although it will exhibit general characteristics in common, yet the epizootic of one year will be marked by some particular symptom or symptoms which will be entirely wanting in the outbreak of the following year. Horses of large cities and crowded towns are more obnoxious to it than those of the country: and in the country those are most liable to it that are the most confined. The attack is attended with great and early loss of strength and with early inflamation of the membrane lining the nose and throat, and the digestive organs are irritable.

Farm Economy.

FEEDING, CLEANING AND RESTING LAND.

AMONG the items in another paper, it was stated that English farmers were as careful of their land as any of the great breeders were of fancy stock, or rather more so, for they feed before the soil is hungry, clean before it is foul and rest it before it is tired. Thus the land must be in such high condition as to always grow good crops, which will account for tenants being able to pay the high rents, and numerous and heavy taxes without thinking it worth while to labor on the farm themselves. In the United States it is considered necessary for a man who owns the farm to work as hard, or rather harder than his men, while in England the tenant of any respectable farm would be deemed a mean and covetous fellow to thus take the place of a laborer and deprive a poor man of work, and the farm laborers despise a man of such a weak mind as to be unable to superintend and make ample returns without having to drudge and toil, to save the trifling wages of one man. Pshaw! What is the paying of two or three good men compared to what the mind can accomplish, when it is turned to feeding, cleaning and resting the land, the last of which is done when it is growing grass. Just as much is the soil rested, refreshed and put in a healthy state by lying in grass, as the poor worn-down horse is which may lie upon it.

There are poor farms in every country, but by having them occupied by men who have sense enough to understand the difference between plowing, cultivating and harvesting for 20 bushels an acre and doing the same for 40 bushels, and who can appreciate the advantages of grass which will feed double the stock, they will soon become productive and highly remunerating, and they will support not only the farmer and his family in affluence, but do good by adding to the general wealth of the country. See what this race of drudging and toiling farmers have brought this country to; the New England States are falling away in yield of crops, in numbers of animals and population in the agricultural districts. These driving hard-workers have not time to look after sheep and keep the dogs from them, or keep the fences good enough to prevent rambling; consequently the nation at large has to send gold to buy wool and cloth from other places, and not only is this a constant drain on the specie of the United States, but the whole of many districts are becoming less and less fruitful, whereas, if sheep abounded as they do in England the soil would be enriched so as to grow three or four-fold the produce it does now.

The advent of modern sheep husbandry was the salvation of British agriculture, for the consumption of turnips and swedes, by folding sheep over the land, exactly exemplifies what is stated of feeding the land before it is hungry, as the fields are heavily manured with all the dung in the yards and often with bone-dust or other artificial application as well, which forces an immense bulk of roots and with this the sheep are given hay and often oil-cake, or grain in addition to the hay, thus causing their droppings to be extraordinarily rich, which is feeding the land before it is hungry; then with the barley which usually follows turnips, grass-seed is sown which may be said to be resting the land before it is weary; and to illustrate the weeding before it is foul, it is the general custom to hoe between the drilled wheat succeeding the clover or rye grass, &c., which being done very early in spring, prior to the appearance of any weeds, can justly be said to be weeding the land before it is foul.

A Pennsylvania farmer, two or three years ago, grew an excellent crop of corn so heavy as to excite the unbelief of many, and a society sent a deputation to strictly investigate the facts which proved by measurement to be as stated. Then it will be remembered there were numberless inquiries respecting the previous treatment of this land when, to the disgust of all anti-sheep farmers, the proprietor stated it was all owing to his flock of 300 sheep which had grazed it for some time preceding the crop.

Now, in England, this crop would probably be all eaten by animals on the farm, and every other prodigious crop would have its equivalent returned in manure, thus continuing this wonderfully remunerating system and making all such farmers independent of the self-denials and hard labor deemed imperatively necessary in the United States.

Although close application, and a deal of industry in studying cause and effect, in looking forward so as to have the soil all the time in the richest condition is essential, yet, every manager of a good-sized farm should go around and find out for himself the prices of agricultural productions, whereby he can regulate supplies according to particular, local demands. For instance, when at a distance from markets, the cost of freight must be reckoned on all varieties of produce, for none but the greatest idiots would send corn or grain when, by turning it into meat, butter, or wool 50 per cent. could be saved. Then when close to a good market and where manure is cheap there are crops which would pay to send in rather than eat them at home. Hard working, drudging farmers are often mercilessly cheated by the middle-men who are between the producer and consumer.

A WORKING FARMER.

RENOVATING OLD PASTURES.

WILL you give us your opinion in regard to the practicability of harrowing pastures and sowing grass seed upon the sward, afterwards adding a moderate dressing of barn-yard manure. If this would be good husbandry, at what time should it be done.—A SUBSCRIBER, *Steuben Co., N. Y.*

WHETHER such a system of renovation as you propose would be better or more economical than plowing up and reseeding depends very much upon circumstances. If the land can be readily plowed and the owner can spare the pasture for a year or two, then we should say occupy it with some other kind of a crop, and then seed down in the usual way. But it is frequently the case that a farmer cannot conveniently spare his pasture for even one season, or the land may be of that kind which it is difficult to break up on account of stone, or a side-hill where the owner runs some risk in disturbing the sward for fear of the soil being washed away, and in all such cases the plan you propose is the best one.

We will give you our own experience in reseeding, without plowing, as a practical demonstration of results which may be obtained under like circumstances. Having a side-hill of rather light sandy loam which, when under cultivation, washes badly, we concluded that the only thing to be done with it was to seed down to grass. The first attempt was made a little over a year since, the grass-seed being sown alone, as is our general practice, but a very heavy rain following, large patches of the soil and seed were washed away, in fact but little of the seed was left to grow anywhere upon the hill-side, the greater part being carried down to the lower grounds. But having made up our mind not to plow that field again, it was left to take the chances of reseeding without it.

This fall so soon as the first September rains came on, we put on a sharp steel-toothed harrow which cut through the light sward and broke up the surface of the barren spots; timothy seed at the rate of a peck per acre being sown over the harrow by a hand following for the purpose. A few days later we gave the land a liberal dressing of ashes from burnt peat, brush and other rubbish gathered in clearing a piece of low-land. The result of this experiment is a fine thick-set growth of young grass over the entire side-hill and upon the level land so far as the harrow and seed sowing extended.

Later in the season, or when the ground freezes, we shall top-dress with barn-yard manure, and from present appearances the experiment is likely to prove a perfect success. It is perhaps rather late to sow grass seed with the expectation of its making much growth this fall, but if put in, and the land top-dressed with manure, it will come forward early and vigorously in the spring. Good husbandry is that which gives good results, the manner of performing any operation, being of far less importance.

A FARM FENCE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Detroit Tribune gives the following information in regard to a cheap farm fence. He writes:—"I have to-day completed 100 rods of post and board fence, which I am so well satisfied with that I venture to tell your readers how I proceeded. It is rather an experiment with me but so far I am of the opinion that I shall erect all my fences on the same plan hereafter.

I should not have built this fence now if I had not been obliged to wait for the corn to harden sufficiently to enable me to crib it safely, and while waiting concluded to put up this strip of fence, which was put down for next spring. The late rains favored setting the posts by making the ground moist. I had secured split oak posts at a cost of ten cents, delivered. These were sharpened, and I calculate that the chips and hewings pay for this work. After the posts were sharpened and placed on the line of the proposed fence, stakes were set firmly on the line, fifty feet apart, and two lines drawn, one at the bottom and the other at the top of the posts. With a nine-feet measure we proceeded to lay off the places for the posts, sticking down pegs a foot long. With a sharp spade a hand followed and took off the sod, and also removed the earth one spade deep. I followed with an iron bar, round and sharp at the lower end, but enlarged upward until, fifteen inches from the point, it is four inches in diameter.

With this instrument a man may make the holes very rapidly. After making the holes for five or six rods we set the posts. A strong bench was made about the hight of a common table, having a cleat nailed to the legs on each side for a step. Armed with a beetle one man mounted this bench while the other held the post, and it was sent to its abiding place quicker than I can describe the operation. The driver dropped his beetle on to the bench, stepped to the ground, and in a twinkling he was ready at the next place. The posts are set in this way very rapidly and very firmly in the ground. After driving them the earth is replaced, or the space dug out with a spade and filled in with small stones, which is a better plan, and trampled firm. We then proceed to nail on the boards which are eighteen feet long. The first board is nailed on a foot from the ground, the second six inches above, the third ten inches above that, and the fourth twelve inches above the third. This makes a fence four feet four inches high. After the boards were all on, the posts were sawed off at the top of the last board, and two furrows on each side turned to the fence, which closes up the space below the bottom board. I cannot give you the exact cost of this fence, for it was put up at odd spells and by parts of days—in the way a good deal of the work on a farm is done; but I consider it a cheap fence and a good one. I prefer it to hedges."

WHAT CONSTITUTES A BARREL OF POTATOES.

THE American Grocer, in answer to a correspondent who asks the above question, gives the following reply, which is enough to make every honest man blush to own that it is "too true:"

In this market there is no legal standard, either of weight or measure, for potatoes or other produce. In Baltimore, Boston and Philadelphia, Irish potatoes are sold by the bushel of 60 pounds. This is the only true and honest way, and so great has become the abuse in this market that many of the best produce men here have voluntarily adopted this way of selling, but are obliged to buy from the grower by the barrel. Some years ago a number of produce dealers here, with others in Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, joined together, had a bill drawn up, making the standard flour barrel, which holds 200 pounds of flour, and 112 quarts dry measure the legal barrel. After two years' urging the matter at Albany and the expenditure of over $1,000 the bill was passed, but vetoed by the Governor, it is said, through the interference of the big barrel manufacturers in the upper part of this State. Barrels now are of all sizes and shapes and capacity, and any one can have them made to suit any purpose. The movement is to be started again during the next session of the Legislature, with every prospect of success. In Canada only the standard flour barrel is used. In Baltimore they have a standard barrel for potatoes, by which they are sold. Here, in Washington market, full weight and measure are enforced, and if any one buys a bushel, he gets just what he pays for, and if not, a complaint is likely to lose the stall-keeper his place. On the eastern shore of Virginia sweet potatoes are sold by the barrel of 150 pounds, and on the western shore, 62 pounds to the bushel.

TO KEEP SWEET POTATOES.

I HAVE found the following plan to be successful in Nebraska, says a correspondent of the Prairie Farmer. First dig your potatoes, and let them lie in the sun until they are dry. Second, have ready a pit sufficiently large to hold what potatoes you wish to keep over. Put in the bottom of the pit six inches of straw, and then put in your potatoes the same as you would pit Irish potatoes, and cover them lightly with straw, and let them stay three or four days, until they go through the "sweat;" then put on more straw and a light covering of dirt. As the weather gets colder, put on more cover—enough to keep them warm. I have kept my potatoes in that way for a number of years, and never failed. The potatoes should not be allowed to touch the earth. Keep straw and chaff tucked around the sides of the pit.

Dairy Husbandry.

DAIRY BOARDS OF TRADE — HOW ORGANIZED.

N. A. Willard, A. M.:—Will you give me information on establishing a Board of Trade for the sale of Butter and Cheese—how organized, by-laws, etc., and oblige—Geo. W. Hubbard, *Malone, Franklin Co., N. Y.*

Dairy Boards of Trade and market days for the sale of Butter and Cheese are easily organized. The plan is simply an agreement between buyer and seller to meet at some stated place regularly on an appointed day of each week for the transaction of business. The dairymen bring either their goods or samples of them to the market on the appointed days, and an examination of the same is made by the buyers, when bids are offered and sales made.

The usual plan of inaugurating a Dairy Board of Trade is for a half-dozen or more of well-known persons to unite in issuing a call for a meeting of dairymen, produce merchants and others interested in the movement on a certain day. The call may be printed in the local papers or posted in writing or in print at the post-office and other public places where it will be likely to be seen. Efforts also should be made to see factorymen and leading dairymen and have them attend the meeting and take an active part in the organization. When the meeting occurs pursuant to the call, a temporary Chairman is appointed and some one states the object of the meeting, or makes a motion that a Dairy Board of Trade be organized and that a committee of three or five to draw up a constitution or articles of association for such Board of Trade be appointed by the Chair. When these articles are presented, those present affix their names to the Constitution and then proceed to the election of officers. The articles of association need not be elaborate, and the briefer and simpler they can be drawn the better. We give below the articles of association of the "New York State Dairymen's Association and Board of Trade," which was the first or original Dairy Board of Trade in America, and which led to the formation of the numerous other Dairy Boards of Trade now scattered throughout the various States and in Canada. It is as follows:

I. We, the undersigned, do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of promoting the best interests of dairy farming, of cheese and butter manufacture, and the marketing of dairy products.

II. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, twenty Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and six Directors.

III. The President, Secretaries, Treasurer and Directors shall constitute the Executive Board of the Association, whose duty it shall be to prepare and establish a plan for the government and operations of the Association during each year, and who shall have control of the business.

IV. The officers of the Association shall be elected at the regular annual meeting and shall retain their offices for one year and until their successors are chosen.

V. The regular annual meeting shall occur at Little Falls, N. Y., on the third Monday of February of each year, at such place as the Board shall provide. Due public notice shall be given in such newspapers as the Executive Board shall designate for three weeks prior to the day of election.

VI. During summer and fall of each year regular meetings of the Association shall be held for the discussion and transaction of business at Little Falls at such time and place as the Executive Board shall indicate. One Winter Convention shall be had, commencing on the second Wednesday of December of each year, at such place in the State as shall be designated by the Executive Board.

VII. The Executive Board shall provide a convenient room in the Village of Little Falls, furniture and stationery for the transaction of business, and make suitable arrangements for telegraph reports of gold and produce markets on *market days*.

VIII. The Executive Board may appoint correspondents in other parts of the country and in Europe, who shall have the privilege of membership. It may also *provide for the settlement of differences between members by summary arbitration.*

IX. Any vacancies which may occur shall be filled during the unexpired term by the Executive Board.

X. Any person may become a member of the Association and be entitled to all its benefits by *signing the Articles of Association and by the payment of not less than one dollar a year*, or such greater sum as the Executive Board shall direct for each succeeding year, not exceeding five dollars.

XI. These Articles of Association may be amended at any annual meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present voting.

The above articles can be varied to suit those proposing to organize a Board of Trade, and at any time a set of rules may be drawn up to meet cases as may be required. There should be a register kept, and a bulletin board placed in some conspicuous position in the room for registering factories, sales, telegrams, or such other information as may be of interest. The sales day at the Little Falls Market is on Monday of each week.

Dairy Boards of Trade, wherever established, have been of great advantage to dairymen and a convenience to buyers. It is important that on the days appointed for the sale of goods the market be fully represented by dairymen or factory managers, with their goods or samples of the same, in order that buyers may not be disappointed in meeting with those who are prepared to make transactions.

MUTTON SHEEP IN CONNECTION WITH DAIRYING.

We are not in favor of pasturing sheep and cows together on dairy farms, at least when there is any considerable number of each class of animals to be kept. But when the cows and sheep have separate pastures, it may be advisable and profitable to keep sheep in connection with the dairy.

The first question that naturally occurs to the dairyman about to embark in sheep husbandry is, "What is the most profitable sheep for me to keep?" The answer to this question will depend somewhat upon the surface of the country, the soil, climate, and the markets where the farm is located. The sheep husbandry that may be most profitable at the West or Southwest may not be equally so in New York. Upon dairy farms in the Eastern and Middle States we must look beyond the mere production of wool to make sheep husbandry yield the best returns. There may be local causes affecting single farms that have an influence in determining what kind of sheep to employ, but as a general rule the East cannot compete successfully with the West and Southwest in producing fine wool, because the cheap lands of the prairies and the milder climate give an advantage in the cost of production which the Eastern farmer will find it hard to meet on his high-priced lands and long and rigorous winters. But when we combine meat and wool in our sheep husbandry, with a ready market close at hand and good prices for the meat, it must be evident an important element is added to the resources of the business.

In all the central counties of New York there is, and always will be, a good market for lambs and mutton, and there is nothing in the way of producing this meat to perfection. Of the different breeds of English sheep, the Cotswolds, the Lincolns, the Leicesters, and the Downs, each has its advocates, and each combines those qualities which render them profitable both for wool and mutton. But to grow wool and meat at a profit it is not imperative that entire reliance be placed upon pure-bred animals. If common, coarse-wool sheep of good size and constitution and with a tendency to heavy fleeces be selected, they may be crossed with a pure-bred male of either of the varieties named, and in this way a desirable flock may be obtained. By breeding in this way considerable expense is saved in the purchase of pure-bred animals, while the grades will do good service for meat and wool.

There is need of a much larger number of mutton sheep in the country than at present obtains, and we have no doubt that small flocks of sheep could be kept on dairy farms with advantage. The meat is healthful and nutritious and can be grown more cheaply than beef, while it ought to be used more largely by farmers, who now rely upon pork as the standard meat for the table. Sheep require good fences to keep them within prescribed inclosures. Stone walls sufficient to turn cattle will not do for sheep, as they find a foothold on the stones to scale the walls, and on this account many farms are not in a condition to keep sheep.

Sheep husbandry is not so exhaustive to the soil as grain raising or dairy farming, and on lands much worn will be found one of the means of renovating such lands. There are many arguments that could be used in favor of having English sheep upon our dairy farms, but the most potent is that of profit, and this will be sufficient to arrest the attention of dairymen to the subject. A correspondent of the Practical Farmer, in referring to coarse-wool sheep husbandry, says:

"When I first began farming, twenty years ago, I depended entirely on South Downs. They have always proved with me prolific breeders, capital nurses, hardy and good feeders, and my South Down mutton ranks in the market with 'gilt-edged butter.' I inform my regular customers when I am going to have a fine leg or loin of pure South Down mutton, and they go off fast at three or five cents above market price. In fact, South Down mutton is the best mutton in the world."

Again he says:

"I have made one cross on my flock of one hundred ewes with the Cotswold. The best and finest carcass has resulted where the Southdown buck was used on the Cotswold ewe. I do not want any finer sheep than this makes, and I try to keep them for my purpose one-half South Down and one-half Cotswold. What lambs I have to spare are all sold in advance to your butchers at about $8 per head. I raise roots, which are I consider indispensable in the sheep business, and with good management I have the lambs in market in March and April. Two-thirds of my ewes usually have twins. With lambs at $8 to $9 each and wool at 50 cents a pound, the profits on one hundred ewes, it will be seen, are very considerable."

It has been stated that from eight to ten sheep may be kept on the same feed that it will take to keep one cow; but put the number of sheep down to six as the equivalent of the cow and it will be seen that much larger profits can be realized from the sheep, while the labor in sheep husbandry is certainly not so much or so expensive as that of dairying.

SUGGESTIONS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF FARM DAIRIES.

The late Joseph Harding of Marksbury, Eng., had some ideas concerning cheese-making and cheese curing-rooms which are deserving of attention. Mr. Harding was a practical cheddar dairyman, the most noted of any in England, and he was well acquainted with the needs of the dairy. He made many improvements which have been highly approved in England, and we give briefly an abstract of some of his suggestions. According to his idea the milk-room or cheese-making department should be capacious and lofty (at least 10 feet in hight), so that when furnished it may still appear roomy. The floor, which should be raised (not inconveniently) above the level of the ground, ought to be composed of cement or some kind of concrete, so as to be free from joints or cracks. It should be made to incline from all sides to an open escape-drain, covered by a patent sink-trap. Thus the room could be easily washed, speedily dried, and kept sweet and wholesome. He suggests that all of the windows should be provided with two, if not three, sashes, the outer one of finely-perforated zinc, the second of glass, and the inner of canvas, to soften the rays of the sun. At intervals around the room and near the ceiling should be placed ventilators, which may be opened or shut at discretion, to allow accumulated steam or foul air readily to escape.

The milk should by no means be brought into the dairy by the milkmen. To avoid this a hole should be left in the wall nearest the milking barn or yard, and outside should be placed a tin or zinc receiver of adequate size, and connected therewith an open conduit to convey the milk to the cheese-vat within. A stream of cold water, governed by a stop-cock, should, if possible, be introduced into the dairy. Provision should be made for conveying the whey in pipes from the cheese-vat to a capacious cistern. The pipes may be laid beneath the floor.

In the construction of curing-rooms regard should be had to the use of non-conductors of heat in the roof, such as straw or such-like material, beneath the roofing. The walls should be continued a foot or two above the ceiling of the cheese-room. These precautions, it is believed, will do much toward neutralizing the intensity of the summer heat. The windows should correspond both in position and structure with those of the milk-room below. The room should be about nine feet in hight, with at least two ventilators, either through the roof or in the side walls, precisely the same as in the milk-room; if in the side walls, they should be made air-light, to be opened at discretion.

Experience has taught us that the sun's rays and a share of his heat are the best means we can have for drying and purifying both rooms, and when these become insufficient, as they do in fall or toward the winter months of the year, we must resort to artificial means to supply their place and maintain the desired temperature. Heat is not only the agent by which the whey is effectually separated from the curd in the process of cheese-making in the dairy, but without heat the cheese will not properly ripen in the cheese-room. The temperature should not be allowed to fall below 54°, and a range of temperature from 54° to 64° must be maintained or the cheese will never properly ripen. A cheddar cheese well made, when removed from the press to the cheese-room, says Mr. Harding, contains a certain amount of moisture which will readily evaporate in proper temperature and the cheese will properly ripen. But if the temperature be low or damp, or both, the process of evaporation and ripening will be slow, and the moisture lodging in and about the rind of the cheese will cause it to be thick and white and will damage the flavor. From observation and experimental tests it is found that 2,000 pounds of newly-made cheese will give out nearly two pounds of moisture in 24 hours, and there should be sufficient heat to expel all damp and noxious vapors, thus facilitating the ripening of the cheese and leaving it as clean and rich-looking as though it had arrived at maturity in the summer months. Hot water conveyed in pipes about the room is safer and more cleanly, and diffuses the heat more equably. Hot water is, therefore, the best means of heating the cheese-room. Pipes proceed from the boiler to and around the cheese-room, and descending thence to the milk-room, pass through it and return to the boiler. As the water heats, so it circulates and does its work of heating all the way round. The pipes are laid in the space between the cheese and the skirting, thus throwing up the heat behind the cheese, where it is most needed.

FALL TREATMENT OF CALVES IN THE DAIRY.

Calves require special treatment at this season of the year. Grass begins to depreciate in nutritive value when the first frosts occur, and as cold weather approaches, calves not unfrequently run down thin and weak and are not prepared to meet the rigors of winter. There is no season of the year when extra care and feed are more needed than in the fall, before the animals go into winter quarters. Calves require to be kept in a thrifty, growing condition, and if checked in their growth during fall for want of proper nourishment, they will be apt to fall sick in early winter, and can then only with great difficulty be kept alive. Winter is a very unfavorable time to resuscitate weak and sickly animals, and it is always better to guard against this trouble by care and good feeding during fall, for calves that are not allowed to lose flesh and become weak at this season will, with fair treatment, go through the winter without trouble. It is well, then, to commence feeding calves a little grain or ground feed, pumpkins, the tops of turnips, beets and carrots when grass first begins to fail. Oats, either ground into meal or in the grain, make a good food for calves, and it is of advantage to teach them to eat extra food of the kind named at the time suggested, because later in the season they may be more dainty in their appetite, especially if sick and debilitated.

Calves when brought to the barn in the fall ought not to be allowed to run indiscriminately with larger and older animals, because they often receive harm by being hooked and shoved about by the vicious members of the herd. They are often deprived also of their due share of food, and in consequence fall away rapidly.

If whey or skimmed milk can be had from the dairy, they will make a good feed, and a little oil-meal, say a pound to each animal, cooked and made into a gruel and added to the milk or whey, will greatly add to this kind of ration. In raising stock for the dairy, it is desirable that the animals be taught early to eat all kinds of slop and that they get an abundance of succulent food, as by these means the capacity of the stomach is enlarged and milk secretion is promoted. It is important that calves make a continued growth during the first year, for if they are not stunted during that period they will be likely to "come in milk" when two years old; and our experience in growing stock for the dairy goes to show that the best cows for milk, other things being equal, are those which drop their calves as early as the time named. But in addition to the greater milk habit of animals coming in at two years of age, there is the increased profit to the farmer, since the milk yielded during the following year will be more than sufficient to pay the cost of keep, while the animal "coming in milk" one year later adds in her keeping a very considerable extra expense.

In conclusion it may be proper to remark that calves in the fall should be sheltered from the cold storms of rain and sleet incident to that season of the year. This is an important item in fall management, and one which is quite too often overlooked and neglected. Animals of tender age that are allowed to lie out at night exposed to drenching rains, mingled with sleet and snow, not unfrequently contract colds which lead to ills that impair the constitution, and in this way the stock becomes weakly and possessed of less endurance than they would have if properly cared for when young.

The raising of "deep milkers" and profitable stock for the dairy does not depend altogether upon breeds. The animals must be properly fed and cared for from the start. The raising of dairy stock should not be left to chance, but should receive careful attention, guided in all its branches by thoughtful foresight and intelligence.

Adulteration of Butter.—From The Farmer (Eng.) we learn that prosecutions are common for adulterating butter in England. The small tradesmen are first arrested for selling an injurious article, and in turn they prosecute the wholesale dealers, and in this way the matter gets pretty well "ventilated" in open court.

Pomological.

BEURRE HARDY PEAR.

This is one of our good autumn varieties which succeeds over a tolerably wide range of country, the tree being very hardy, vigorous and productive. It is a large variety and of the form shown in the accompanying outline illustration. The skin is greenish, covered with light russet, considerably shaded with brownish-red and sprinkled with brown dots. Stalk about an inch long, curved to one side, as shown, and inserted in a small, uneven cavity. Flesh buttery, melting, juicy, brisk, vinous, and highly perfumed, but sometimes slightly astringent next the skin.

In the Northern States this variety ripens in September and October, and is well worthy of being placed in choice lists of autumn varieties.

OUTLINE OF THE BEURRE HARDY PEAR.

PERSIMMONS IN VIRGINIA.

In answer to your inquiry about Persimmons, I will state that nearly all the wild fruit ripens after frosts, or about Christmas. Small quantities of Persimmons are found in our markets, as they are used for making pies, puddings and a kind of beer, though, for my part, I greatly prefer the natural fruit. On my father's farm there is a tree called the "Honey Persimmon," and the tree bears a crop every year. This variety begins to ripen the last of August and lasts until about the 15th of October. I do not know of any tree the fruit of which ripens so early as this. The fruit is quite large, twenty-five to thirty-five weighing a pound. Color, light yellow, and each fruit contains from five to eight seeds. There are several varieties in this neighborhood, some light, others dark colored; some very sweet and others quite tart.

Norfolk, Va. JOHN G. D. BAUN.

WHIFFS FROM CANADA—A POMOLOGICAL FURORE.

The Horticultural Society of the City of Montreal has caught the Centennial fever, and with a laudable and unwonted energy, its more active members have collected, within a small circuit of country, nearly three hundred varieties of apples, many of which are new and valuable seedlings. The contribution of one fruit grower was eighty seedlings, chiefly from Fameuse seed, and of every variety of excellence. Some of them showed all the characteristics of the parent fruit; others were to be classed as "Runettes" and some as "Russets," while yet others were Fameuse in outward appearance, but hard and quite acid, totally unlike the rich, white, melting, tender, fine grain of the Fameuse, which is often called "Pomme de Neige," on account of its white flesh, which contrasts strongly with the deep red of the skin. Sixty seedlings from this orchard were sent to Philadelphia, and with others of that ilk and our named varieties will make, let us hope, a respectable show for the cold, ice-bound Province of Quebec.

A part of the fruit selected was on exhibition in Montreal, and the aroma of apples pervaded the room when the long tables were aglow with ruby and russet beauties.

The pears were chiefly from city gardens, and the Flemish Beauty, with its golden russet cheek and fair, smooth surface, was a real queen among them. There were also about sixteen varieties of out-door grapes, of fair proportion, although not so large as usual, the dry weather having affected them as well as the apples. The Hartford appeared to me of unusual excellence—rich, dark, close clusters, and the reddish-brown Delaware could easily rival the boxes of this fruit imported that we see in the markets. There was the Semasqua, small and shiny; the Adirondac and the Crevelling, of ordinary merit; the good old stand by, "Concord," of large berry, ripe and sweet, but not so firm and large in bunch, as usual, and a plate of Isabella, grown by an Indian of Caughnawaga, that excited some interest.

It pleased me to see a show so cosmopolitan in its collection for the product of the French Canadians. A poor man's tree stood side by side and often compared well with the fruit from the garden of a millionaire, for here all men's apples were equal; and I, seeing this, said to myself: "Blessed be the Centennial Exposition that has caused this to come to pass!"

It struck me, however, as a matter for regret, that so few ladies came in to see the exhibit while I was there, although it was printed in large letters in the doorway, "Admission Free;" and I wondered if such would be the case were the display of millinery or new costumes.

The bringing forward of these seedlings will, I trust, be of value to the country, as many of the old, long-valued sorts are dying out, and if among the seedlings are found some combining hardiness, productiveness and first-class quality, we may thank the great incentive to their display—the American Centennial Exposition.

ANNIE L. JACK.

It is a matter for congratulation that our Canada friends have taken such an interest in the Centennial Exhibition, when, to use a common expression, "'tis none of their funeral." Still they have come forward nobly, and in many departments, notably in the way of farm products, have beaten us all out of sight. The Entomological Society of Canada is the only one making any display, our own "Bug-hunters" not even making an attempt to show what they have been doing in this branch of natural science. In the Butter and Cheese departments Canada is also ahead. We can, therefore, return Mrs. JACK's compliment and say, "Blessed are the Canadians, for out of their abundance they freely spare a portion to help along the Centennial Exposition!"—[ED. RURAL.

Scientific and Useful.

THE PRESERVATION OF TIMBER.

Any information relating to the preservation of timber and the most durable kind is, or should be, interesting to those who are engaged in the various industries wherein wood is used. The Journal of the Society of Arts in speaking of the preservation of timber says:

"Buried in the earth or exposed to the air, timber rapidly deteriorates, and undergoes the species of decomposition known as dry-rot. This decomposition may be retarded by the application of a coat of paint to the timber exposed to the air, or by carbonising the surface of that which is intended to be sunk in the ground.

During the last 20 years, several methods have been tried for making timber more durable, the principle of which consists in expelling the sap remaining in the ligneous fibres, in order to replace it by chemical solutions, such as sulphate of copper and creosote; but these processes, comparatively costly, and only partially successful, do not entirely accomplish their object. Starting from the fact that oak, chestnut, and certain American trees resist the action of air and damp better than others, and that they owe this property to the tannin which they contain, a chemist proposes to tan the timber by substituting for the sulphate of copper and creosote a compound of tannic acid and iron. The object of injecting various substances into wood is to poison them, so that germs and microscopic growths may no longer live and propagate either on the surface or in the interior. Now tannin is one of the most active and certain destroyers of germs both vegetable and animal, which fact accounts for its preservative agency. Besides, it is to tannin that is due the almost indefinite preservation of leather. One peculiarity to be noticed in this process is that timber treated with this compound of tannin and iron, that is to say a composition similar to ordinary writing ink, is turned black.

The process of injecting timber with tannate of protoxide of iron is due to M. Hatzfeld; the Eastern Railway Company of France has experimented with it on some sleepers, and the Telegraph Department on some posts.

M. Boucherie has denied in a note to the *Academie*, the efficacy of this process, contending that the attempts already made to preserve timber from dry-rot by injecting it with iron salts have yielded only partially successful results, while sleepers treated by sulphate of copper have lasted 25 years and more. Reply is made to these objections by quoting—not the experiments of the laboratory or the workshop, but those made by time itself. It is not a rare circumstance to encounter in earth of a ferruginous nature the trunks of very old oaks, blackened and perfectly preserved; at Rouen, in 1830, some old oak paling was discovered as black as ebony, and dating back to the Middle Ages. Not very long ago, too, a Norman vessel built of oak was discovered in an almost perfect state of preservation in the neighborhood of an iron mine in Norway. It is more than probable that the preservation of the oak under these circumstances is due to the tannin contained in the wood; it follows, therefore, that by introducing a substance rich in tannin into timber that does not naturally possess it, its resistance to decay is increased.

SOME WONDERFUL STORIES BY DR. DOREMUS.

The celebrated chemist, Dr. Doremus, showed in the following manner, in a recent lecture, how extremes meet: Eggs can be cooked by the extreme of heat. Butter can be made like ivory, so that it can be turned. We may by the agency of this solidify many of the other liquid substances, and, indeed, many of the gaseous, but a more intense degree of cold is used, and we employ laughing gas. This laughing gas, which is heavy, is the carbonic acid we have shown; when squeezed forcibly by the pump it becomes as beautiful and pellucid a liquid as carbonic acid, and if allowed to remain produces a most intense degree of cold. We can, however, show the liquid. Let me ask you to observe, prior to making that experiment, a very curiously interesting one in regard to the spheroidal state of matter. We have here a glass lamp, and we place over this lamp a platina dish. In the platina dish we place some of the mixture of solid carbonic acid, and in the middle of it introduce the mercury, and we shall find that the mercury would freeze, showing that we have a cold at least forty degrees below zero. We used to make an experiment such as melting lead intensely hot and then putting the hand in and ladling it from one vessel to another; for if, in lieu of this, you take a quantity of melted iron you can plunge your hand into it with impunity, and workmen have even been able to walk on a bed of melted iron. Take a poker and put it in a hot coal fire, get it very hot, and you may lift it or wipe it on the tongue with impunity. We may have it so hot that the vapor actually protects us.

Here we shall have a more extraordinary illustration of it, for we cannot only make ice but freeze mercury. We will fill this little thimble with mercury, and as soon as it is intensely hot we will introduce the mixture, and will show this curious illustration and attempt to freeze the mercury. Those who make the experiment of the heated lead please remember to have the lead intensely hot and you will find that it gives out cold.

CHLORIDE OF CALCIUM FOR SPRINKLING STREETS.

According to a statement recently made before the Academy of Sciences of Paris by M. Houseau, great advantage arises from the use of chloride of calcium instead of water in laying the dust of public thoroughfares. The salt is, as well known, highly deliquescent, and is applied in solution, one application sufficing for a period of from five to seven days. Thus a roadway of 1 kilometre in length by 5 metres in width, which would require in hot dry weather four waterings per diem with water, at a cost of sixty francs per week, supposing the water to be supplied free, would require only one application of the chloride, at a cost of 40 francs only, that is to say a difference of 20 francs in favor of the chloride.

We commend the above to the Street Commissioners of N. Y. city. Besides laying the dust it might prove serviceable as a disinfectant in some of our putrid streets where diseases generate, thrive and run riot during the sultry months.

COLORED GLASS FOR ENTOMOLOGICAL CASES.

At a meeting of the Entomological Society of Belgium, some time ago, M. Capronnier was charged to make experiments as to the influence of different colors of glass on insect collections; the object being to preserve collections from the decoloration which green and carmine parts especially undergo in daylight. He operated with four tints of glass—yellow, violet, green and blue—also with uncolored glass. It was found that yellow is the best preservative; after 90 days it was the only color which left carmine nearly quite intact. It is not an absolute preservative, for at the end of this time the tint was slightly altered. It seems that the only way known at present of keeping collections absolutely intact is to keep them in darkness.

This is so well known to entomologists that those of the United States would not risk their collections in making an exhibit at the Centennial. Our Canada neighbors however have made a good show, but on our recent visit to Philadelphia we noticed that the colors of many of the butterflies and moths were disappearing, owing to the strong light to which they had been exposed.

LIME FOR WEEVIL.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman writes as follows:—"Some years ago, hearing complaint of weevil in wheat about the close of harvest when I was ricking my wheat, I got fresh slaked lime and threw it over the rick in building it, laying two courses of sheaves, then lime sufficient to whiten the stack. There was no weevil in my wheat. A neighbor who threshed his wheat from the shock came to me a few days after and said he should lose his wheat, for it was alive with weevil. I told him to throw lime over it, and shovel it through his wheat, which he did. Two days after there was not a weevil to be seen in it."

Our farmers will do well to remember the above and try it. As a precautionary means it should be tried in every stack, and can as well be tried in the cleaned wheat. An intelligent gentleman has informed us that twenty-five years ago, when the brewers in New York had large quantities of barley on hand, they found that the grain put up in large bins was almost safe from the weevil; the little creatures worked a little in the top of the bins, but did not extend down much; besides a dust accumulated where they worked and destroyed them in a few days.

Field Crops.

CLOVER AS A FERTILIZER.

In a recent essay on green crops as fertilizers, read by J. L. Johnson, before the horticultural society of Warsaw, Iowa, referring to clover, he says:

"Of all plants with which I am acquainted, and which are especially adapted to our latitude and climate, the common red clover is perhaps the very best for fertilizing the soil; it being one of the best, if not the very best to collect the accumulated richness of the atmosphere; while its long and searching roots penetrate the soil in all directions, far beyond the depth reached by our most thorough and energetic plowmen, loosening the subsoil in all directions and bringing up mineral substance of the greatest value in promoting the growth of vegetables, grain or fruit.

Red clover as a fertilizer not only enriches, but renders the soil more open to admit the circulation of the atmosphere, thereby retaining the moisture and thus producing the best results. We should endeavor to attain to a proper knowledge of the wants of the soil, for it is only by doing so that we become able to decide as to what fertilizer is most needed, or what rotation of crops to grow for the benefit of the soil. Knowledge and energy are the real foundation of profitable farming.

In all cases where soils contain but little organic matter, a larger proportion of vegetable manure is required, and it is important that we bury beneath such soils all the vegetable matter possible, not only red clover, but also oats, rye, buckwheat or even weeds (if we are so careless or slovenly as to produce weeds,) as we may thus destroy the seeds of weeds, and at the same time increase the fertility of the soil. The amount of green manure in an acre of red clover is almost incredible. On the very poorest land enough can be produced, if utilized and rightly applied, to greatly enrich the soil. I see it stated in the California Farmer that Professor Gedzie, in a chemical test, claims to have found one piece of heavy June grass, (grass and roots together,) containing more than one hundred tons per acre. If this statement is correct, but few farmers have even a proper conception of the actual quantity of vegetable matter they add to the soil by plowing under a heavy grass sward of clover.

Then we must consider how easy it is for us to obtain this great fertilizer. It costs us no freight, as does the commercial manures; it requires no hauling, as does the barnyard manure, and it needs no spreading.

It comes to us freighted on every breeze, nature evenly spreads it over our fields, and we may, if we will, apply it with the greatest accuracy.

Then let me close by saying that we believe that to fill our soils with a mass of grass and clover roots and other vegetable matter, is to

make our lands fat, so that they will pay a good rent to the owner and tiller; it is to increase the fertility of the soil, by feeding and fattening it, as we believe it may be made fat in sod and in manure, as easily as we can make a poor pig to gain in flesh.

THE NEW LIBERIAN COFFEE.

MONROVIAN or Liberian Coffee has long been stated to be a superior kind of Coffee, although for various reasons it has not yet obtained a place among the commercial descriptions of the Coffee market. Partly on account of the alleged jealousy of the natives in Liberia, partly on account of the want of commercial enterprise in that part of Western Tropical Africa, partly on account of the firm hold on the market established in respect of the Arabian Coffee as cultivated in many countries, as well in the New as in the Old World, and partly for want of better knowledge, this finer and more robust species has hitherto been permitted to remain practically unknown to the markets of the world.

At length, however, thanks to the exertions of Mr. W. Bull, says the Gardeners' Chronicle of London, Eng., and the officials of the Royal Gardens, Kew, the attention of commercial men has been drawn to it, and a wonderfully important change, perhaps amounting to a revolution in this trade, is apparently about to be realized. Two destructive diseases infecting the old Coffee plantations in Ceylon, due to attacks of fungi, have compelled the planters to seek fresh plants that may be able to resist disease. The more robust habit, coupled with the lower and hotter character of the situations where it is indigenous, renders it probable that the Liberian Coffee plant, whether or not it be hardy enough to resist the diseases that have destroyed the old crops in Ceylon, will at all events be useful in that island, where previously it has been found impracticable to grow Coffee below an elevation of 2,000 feet above the sea level; and in other Coffee-producing districts like benefits may be anticipated.

The leaves of the new species are much larger and more obovate in figure than in the old; they are also of a firmer and more coriaceous substance. The seeds are larger, and although in the Arabian Coffee the smaller-sized berries, such as the Mocha variety, are preferred in the market and fetch a higher price, yet it is claimed for the Liberian Coffee that the larger berries are of the best quality and of the highest value. Liberian Coffee is now being grown on a large scale from seed imported for the purpose, both by Mr. Bull and at Kew, and a considerable business is being done in exporting young plants to the different countries where Coffee is extensively grown for economic purposes. The corollas of the flowers differ from those of Coffee Arabica, Linn., by their considerably larger size, and in being usually heptamerous (7-parted) or occasionally hexamerous, instead of pentamerous, as in the latter species.

Industrial Topics.

SPECULATION vs. LEGITIMATE BUSINESS.

THERE are probably, says the Am. Grocer, some of our readers who do not understand the terms used so often, "selling long" and "selling short." They both mean the same thing, and that is, selling what you have not got, and in very many instances, never expect to have. They mean that one man has made a bet that by a certain time some stock or some property will be at a higher price than it then is, and another that it will be at a lower price. Now we do not mean to say that property ought not to be sold for future delivery, for that would be foolish; we do not wish to restrict the legitimate handling of goods, for almost all and especially large business transactions require time to complete them and make deliveries, but we do say and mean that these bargains for the purchase and sale of any property, where the property sold is not intended to be delivered, and only the difference in the market value is to be paid, is gambling and of the worst sort, because it has a shade of respectability about it and is not universally condemned. It is done in stores and exchanges where estimable merchants meet to transact their business; it is done by some of our good men, but it has a bad influence on the parties, as it gives longer time to manipulate matters so as to make a bargain a good one. It is as demoralizing in its effect, with the single exception of contact and association with downright blackguards as to go to John Morrissey's pool room and bet his "banker," as they like to term it, that a certain card or color will turn up.

Actual transactions—that is the sale and delivery of property—are limited to the amount of property to be handled and by the laws of trade, but "selling short" and "selling long," to be settled by paying "differences," like the making of accomodation notes, has no limit. Such transactions do no good to the community at large, as one of the two parties must lose what the other gains; such transactions do not set the wheels of trade in motion. There may be, for instance, thousands of tierces of lard sold in this way, and not one solitary dollar pass hands except between two men or firms for the amount one has "won" from the other, while an actual sale for delivery of, say for example, 5,000 tierces of lard sets trade going in hundreds of different channels.

In the first place, actual transactions are governed by the general laws of trade and based on the wants of one community to sell and of another to buy; on the actual production and consumption of different parts of this country or of foreign countries; on the knowledge that one party has of the wants in one section, and that another has of the production of a different section. In a sale made in this way, although the person making the sale may not have the goods he has sold, yet, from his knowledge of what surplus there is in one section that must be marketed, he can ordinarily know about what he can buy for, and the cost of delivery at a certain point. This, although it is attended with some risk from fluctuations in values, (and oftentimes from these very fictitious sales which we now deprecate), yet is legitimate and results in starting trade all over the country. We will give an instance of the effect of fictitious sales on the legitimate trade. Supposing an order comes from Europe for lard. When the order reaches here, thanks to some speculators concerned in transactions in goods of which they never intended to handle a tierce, the market has gone up. On this account the lard cannot be bought at a price that will allow of its shipment to supply the legitimate European consumptive demand, and the foreign market will not respond to these speculative prices put on the article here by washed sales, or, as they are more familiarly known in Wall Street, "Puts and Calls;" so the goods, instead of being sent from the place of production, remain where they were, and we have to wait till one or the other speculator gets beaten, and then the market goes down to a point where this order might have been filled. But by that time it has been filled from some other section, or else the consumption has been restricted by the very high prices, and the property is left on the hands either of the producer or the dealer, and thus so much less gold comes into the country.

Take, in comparison, the effect of an actual transaction in lard. The beginning of improvement in trade is with the farmer; he gets his money for his hogs and pays it out to the storekeeper and the mechanic, whom he owes; or if he does not owe anything but is, as a great many of our farmers are now, a year ahead instead of being a year behindhand, he gives part to his wife. "Wife," says he, "I have sold my hogs; here is some money; go and get what you want for the house and children," and the wife is not slow to go to the store and shop and make things "hum." With the balance the farmer calculates how he can lay it out best, so as to have more to sell next year. Such a transaction benefits the railroads, which employ more labor in consequence of increased business; the cutter or packer, whose trade it starts up, employs more workmen; the cooper comes into play—he has to have more labor and supplies; the lard goes to the seaboard and the shipping is brought into requisition—and so on all through the thousand and one different channels of trade, an actual transaction benefits hundreds and thousands. Contrast this with one of these "washed" or "bet" trades that does no more good than the turning of a card in a gambling house and, in fact, does a deal of injury to the parties concerned, for it unfits them for legitimate transactions.

Now to our good readers, and especially the young, ambitious readers of our paper, we would say: Think these things over and see if you would not prefer that all your dealings should be of that kind, that would benefit in some way your fellow men, rather than to have them of that kind that they are not only of no benefit to any of them, but demoralizing to you, unfitting you for the more legitimate transactions of business. These "puts and calls," "selling short" and "selling long," washed sales, if you have anything to do with them, will make you in effect a gambler, unfit you for regular business, put a fever of speculation into your mind, and, if continued it will, in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of every thousand, bring you to grief and your wives and children to poverty, and will almost always involve your best friends financially in your down-fall.

We want our readers to be as they are, the energetic go-ahead, bright, smart, active business men of the community in which they reside. One such man is worth a thousand drones to a village town or city, and while making money for himself he makes money for others. Let each of us try to be that man and not a speculator.

Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP—THE OUTLOOK.

THE Farmers' Friend, in commenting on the general outlook of sheep husbandry, gives the following very sensible advice:

Farmers who keep large flocks of sheep, should not dispose of them hastily, in view of the low prices they bring, and the cheapness of wool, as we are not always to have such times as exist at present. Probably in two or three years the prices will advance 50 per cent., from the fact that large portions of our wool growers will either go out of the business, or greatly reduce their flocks, no matter how much they are advised to "hold on." In some cases it will be well to get rid of your poorest sheep, and thus reduce your flocks somewhat; but our advice is to reduce your flocks as little as you can, and make them pay the expenses of keeping till prices go up. During the last 30 years, there have been a half dozen ebbs in the prices of sheep and wool, and yet those breeders who "hold on" came out all right. What you need most is good breeding rams; and we annex what an old sheep raiser says: "The best bred and best formed Merino rams may now be had for $50 to $100, and the long wools or Downs are quite as cheap; and when we reflect that we may have 50 to 100 lambs from a single sire, what a waste of money it is to use an inferior, flat-sided ram, because he can be had for $10 to $15! The defects of a bad sire, used for a single season, will be visible in a flock for many generations, so that the injury done cannot be estimated; and the services of such an animal will never be accepted by an intelligent breeder, if tendered as a gratuity,

The selection of the breeding ram, where mutton is produced, must be from the long wools, or the Downs. If we make choice from the former, we must be careful to have an animal of stout and robust constitution. These sheep have been so generally forced with artificial food, that many of them lack the hardiness required for the farmer's purposes. What we must have, is a straight, round barrel, on short legs, with short, stout neck, and vigorous, masculine appearance about the head. The body should be well covered with a long and lustrous staple, of uniform quality. If the selection be of the Southdown breed, we should have the same general form as here described, but we ought to have a more compact and snug carcass, with a good deal more weight for bulk, than in the long-wool breeds.

The Horseman.

VETERINARIAN SCHOOL WANTED.

A BOSTON BOY, says the Scientific Farmer, writes from the Royal Veterinary Institute, Berlin making a strong appeal for means, for establishing a Veterinarian School in connection with Harvard University. If it were possible to have this school established upon a firm basis, and with such a connection as this University would guarantee, simply from its own standing both at home and abroad, the direct benefit to our great stock-owning interest, and through them indirectly to the whole country, would be almost beyond estimate, substantially or humanely. Regarding the means of educating men for this profession we are to-day immeasurably behind every other civilized country. Even the governments of China and Japan are taking the matter in hand, establishing schools, and importing educated Veterinarians from abroad as professors. Why is it that we Americans, a nation as enlightened as we suppose ourselves to be, so persistently ignore the claims of the Veterinary art, and either allow our animals to suffer, and ourselves to sustain unnecessary loss at the hands of a set of ignorant men, self-styled Veterinary surgeons, who do not know the first rudiments of anatomy, pathology, physiology, or the action of drugs? or else, having had experience, follow the advice recently given by a noted divine, "and keep the horse doctor as far away as possible from the sick and suffering animal." Is it right that such a state of things should exist when there is, as the experience of other countries has shown, a profitable, feasable, and honorable remedy? Is there any one who does not believe that animals suffer as acutely as men from physical pain, or that their diseases, if properly understood by the person in attendance on them, are any the less amenable to treatment?

CAUSE OF MEGRIMS IN HORSES.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Veterinarian says that he has been in practice as a veterinary surgeon for thirty years, and has taken pains to ascertain the cause of megrims. On examining the horse's eye immediately after or during attack, he has found it exceedingly convulsed and acted upon by spasmodic affection of the muscles—a symptom that could not be present if the disease arose from distension of the arterial connections of the brain. He has never seen a saddle-horse afflicted with this complaint, and all the cases he has seen occurred when the sun was shining brightly, or by moonlight, when snow was on the ground.

He had a favorite pony which was subject to megrims. He removed the winkers from the bridle and the pony never showed any symptoms of them afterward. It then occurred to him that the reflection of the sun upon the winkers, falling directly on the optic nerve, was the cause of this extraordinary complaint. Since then he has had many patients affected with megrims, and in every case he has ordered the removal of the winkers, or if there were none, to have the eyes of the horse shaded with a piece of leather three or four inches wide, extending in front from winker to winker. In every instance this treatment was successful. He feels satisfied, from the symptoms he has always observed in megrims, that the brain is not the seat of the difficulty.

CEMENT FOR CRACKED HOOFS.

M. DEFAY has discovered a preparation, by means of which sandcracks or fractures in hoof or horn may be durably cemented up. Even pieces of iron can be securely joined together by its means. The only precaution necessary for its successful application is the careful removal of all grease by spirits of sal-ammoniac, sulphide of carbon, or ether. M. Defay makes no secret of its composition, which is as follows: Take one part of coarsely-powdered gum-ammoniacum and two parts of gutta percha, in pieces the size of a hazel-nut. Put them in a tin-lined vessel, over a slow fire, and stir constantly until thoroughly mixed. Before the thick resinous mass gets cold, mold it into sticks like sealing-wax. The cement will keep for years, and, when required for use, it is only necessary to cut off a sufficient quantity and remelt it immediately before application.

The Centennial.

THE JOHNSTON HARVESTER CO.

THE reports are now, at last, given to the public, and it is only necessary to read them to form a correct idea of the judgment of the experts who have given their unbiased opinions on implements entered for competition.

It will be seen by this report of the Jurors of group twenty-three, that the Johnston Harvester Company, of Brockport, New York, have, in all essential respects, won every attainable honor, or, in other words, secured a Sweepstakes Award, that places them in the front rank of Agricultural Implement Manufacturing Companies. On analysis of the report, it shows that *each* implement in the exhibit is singled out for approving judgment, which is a mark of rare honor. This last triumph, with the European honors previously scored, makes the record of this company a proud one indeed.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Awards.

Mower, Wrought Iron Harvester, Single Reaper Combined Machine No. 1, Combined Machine No. 2.

Report.

For large exhibit of machines. For excellence of material, strength, durability finish and attention to details as evidenced by the following facts:—Solid wrought Iron frames, Table attachments very strong, and easily adjustable by lever and outside wheel that runs in a crank shaft. Pitman Rod attached to knife by ball and socket, giving great elasticity. Patent Key nuts easily adjustable to compensate for wear. Motion communicated to rake shaft by square-linked chain gear, with spring tension rollers. Cam gear for traverse of rake, original, automatic, and controlable. Speed of knife can be changed by reversible pinions. Driver's seat balances the pole. The machines work almost noiseless, thus indicating very little friction. Prices reasonable.

J. R. HAWLEY, President,
A. T. GOSHORN, Director-General,
ALEX. R. BOTELER, Secretary, pro tem.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

IT was considered strange that the fine display of furs made and exhibited by Swedish firms should hold out so well, when it was known that they were very successful in making sales. Inquiry disclosed the fact that as fast as sold, the furs were replenished from stocks of New York merchants. This ought to be a soothing piece of news to those ladies who paid handsome prices for wraps, &c., under the impression that they came from the vicinity of Greenland's icy mountains.

Floricultural.

MISCELLANEA.

We have been asked what our object is in giving seeds away. Perhaps the following extracts from one of many letters received will serve in part to answer the question:—"I see in the last Rural that you have flower seeds to give away. You are very kind. If every one would do so that has more than he needs, how happy many others might be made. I take the liberty to send you a few seeds. They are not very choice. If you don't care for them, throw them away. They are the Wild Cucumber and German Pinks. The Pink is a perennial and very hardy. The blossoms which appear in June are small but sweet. I have plants three years old last spring that are thirty-six inches across. Some of the blossoms are double, some single—all are light-colored. I once had a great many flowers. My health is failing and I am afraid I shall have to give them all up soon. I think a home without any flowers is lonely enough. Please accept many thanks for your kindness. Yours with Respect, S. B.

In all persons, at all ages, the real love of flowers is a delightful, an inspiring sight. But it is most charming as observed in little children and in old people:—in little children often so young that it seems as inborn and as fervent as the love of parents itself;—in old people who preserve it through years undimmed, while many other objects have been loved and forgotten. There is that in old people who, though stiffened with age, can yet find pleasure in the care of flowers, that tells of lives not spent in vain.

Whether we want the seeds forwarded by S. B. or not; whether they are choice or "common"—we thank her for them and her kindly letter all the same. It is such little appreciatory acts and expressions that more than repay us for the trouble of gathering seeds for those who know so well how to value them.

White Weigela.—We have not found *Weigela (Diervilla) hortensis nivea* as hardy as the commoner sorts of this favorite shrub. It does not, besides, flower profusely in the spring, though its fall bloom is better. The facts that its flowers are white and that in the fall they appear when few other shrubs are blooming constitute its chief claims to especial notice.

Crape Myrtle.—This plant is now-a-days seldom mentioned. In the tent of the Centennial grounds put up for the Rhododendron exhibit of the Waterers of England, are two Crape Myrtles both rose-colored as we recall them. The larger is about eight feet high with a stem nearly as large as one's wrist. They were in profuse bloom several weeks ago and attracted the notice of all who visited the tent.

We purchased this spring a white Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia Indica alba*) which bloomed in August continuing until frost. The leaves are small, opposite and the branches of young plants spreading and drooping. The petals which are frilled like a cambric ruffle have claws half an inch long and resemble those of the Clarkia, though larger and less perishable. The calyx is broadly campanulate and the center of the flowers filled with long stamens, some of which are abortive and shorter and more slender than the others.

These plants are said to be hardy as far north as Philadelphia with a little protection. Probably in the climate of New York it would be safer to remove them to the cellar or to the greenhouse where, if room is not an item, they may be permitted to continue growth.

Plant Protection.—During the past frosty nights we have covered several half-hardy plants with sheets etc. We have found that wherever the covering has rested upon the leaves of such as *Ficus elastica, Eucalyptus globulus, Malvaviscus arboreus*, those leaves have been frost-bitten, the covering, when in contact, acting as a conductor instead of a radiator. From this an important inference may be drawn. In protecting all plants that we fear may not stand the severities of winter, be careful that between the plant and the protecting materials, a space be left.

Eucalyptus globulus.—This is handier than we had supposed. It has stood three frosts one of which formed ice an eighth of an inch thick along the river banks of this vicinity.

Shell Flower.—It was stated in our account of this plant that it did not need support, the branches being strong enough to support themselves. This was true at the time it was written when we supposed it had attained the greater part of its growth. Not so. Every branch continued to grow as rapidly afterwards as before, forming a whorl of cups and flowers with every pair of leaves, until many were five feet in length. When no longer strong enough to hold their weight, the branches bent over so as to rest upon the ground and from this part shot up as erect as ever like so many Chinese Pagodas—from their striking resemblance to which we have before compared them.

Again, we did not know that the cups or calyces skeletonize so beautifully. The parenchyma entirely disappears leaving only the veins and veinlets which are firm enough to preserve the shape of the cup perfectly.

Notice.—Under the "Little Announcement" we shall not send the seeds selected by our subscribers until all the applications have been received, so that we may distribute them in equal quantities. As, therefore, some limit as to time will be necessary, we name Nov. 10—on which date we shall presume all applications to have been received.

Centennial Evergreens.—In our late Centennial correspondence, we stated that in the plots of Messrs. Hoopes, Bro. & Thomas of West Chester, Pa., there were about two hundred different species and varieties of Evergreens. We ought to have said three hundred and fifty. The truth is we found it something of a task to count them separately and so to avoid time and trouble we made the best guess we could. It was a very poor one as it appears.

NOTES.

The Journal of Horticulture says that one of the most attractive shrubs recently introduced is *Weigela amabilis aurea*. The flowers are crimson and white, but the foliage entitles it to the name of golden, for the leaves are totally yellow. The color is stated to be but slightly altered by exposure to either sunshine or shade.

An additional variety name given this shrub is *Loogmansi*—but surely the above is long enough.

Golden shades are very pleasing among shrubberies and there are few really good shrubs possessed of it.

The Permanence of Varieties.—It would perhaps be difficult to find a better instance of this fact than is afforded by the variegated *Aucuba Japonica*, so common in our shrubberies and urban gardens. The date of its introduction, says the Gardeners' Chronicle of England, is 1783, and, being, as is well known, a female plant, every individual that we now see must be a continuation of the one specimen originally introduced into Europe, retaining its special variation unchanged during two centuries.

Arboricultural.

FALL OR SPRING FOR TRANSPLANTING?

We have never discovered any reason why a plant, let it be an herbaceous plant, a shrub, vine or tree, should be transplanted in the fall rather than in the spring for the climate of New York and north of it. When removed from one place to another in the same grounds and care is observed to preserve a ball of earth or, without the ball of earth, all the roots and fibers intact, it does not matter whether fall or spring be chosen. It is a question merely of convenience. But when they are removed from nursery grounds and subjected to the delays and exposures inseparable from systematic business routine; when the roots are shortened and crowded together in packages made as small as possible so as to avoid unnecessary expenses in their transit—then we have to determine whether plants so circumstanced stand a better chance of life than those transplanted in the spring.

One of the chief reasons assigned as to why fall planting is preferable to spring planting is that in the fall, the soil being warm and the roots having an opportunity to grow, they become in a degree established and to that extent prepared to hold their own against the possible or probable droughts of the succeeding spring or summer;—whereas in spring transplanting, they are plunged into a cold, water-soaked soil; the leaves are precipitated before root growth commences by the air being warmer than the soil and so the plants suffer from the fact that the roots cannot supply the demands of the leaves.

Why not transplant evergreens in the fall? Is not the soil as warm for them as for deciduous trees? Is not the ground as cold for them in the spring? Because, it is answered, evergreens are never at rest. Their leaves are always at work and so consequently are their roots. But this would seem a very good reason, agreeably with the above theory why they should be transplanted in the fall since as they are never at rest, they would the sooner form new roots in the warm soil of fall than in the cold soil of spring. The reverse is known to be the fact.

It is recommended not to transplant in the fall until the leaf has fallen, or is ready to fall, and the plant has prepared itself for its winter's rest. Do the roots of trees, etc., continue to grow after this period? Is the root active after the top ceases action? Up to the time that the ground becomes hard frozen, yes; afterwards no, unless the roots descend to a depth beneath the action of frost. But the roots of nursery trees prepared for shipment never do, and the check which the tree undergoes from the time of being dug up in the nursery to the time it is reset in its final quarters, is sufficient to arrest all root action for the rest of the fall or at least until freezing weather would, in any event, present further development.

Suppose we make a cutting of any hardy plant—strike it in late September, plant it out in late October. Without protection, as a rule, this plant will be found dead in the spring. The roots are too tender to endure the rigors of winter. It is so with transplanted trees. The fibrous root-growth which may be induced by the warmth of late fall or by mild periods during midwinter, being near the surface, cannot stand a zero temperature that may immediately follow—and the result is that the tree is weakened by just the amount of nourishment required to produce those fibrous roots.

In the question as to whether it is better to transplant in fall there is but one thing to be considered. Will the transplanted tree be injured by the probable severity of the ensuing winter? If they are trees that are never injured by twenty or thirty degrees below zero—never injured by freezing to-day and thawing to-morrow, plant in the fall. That a tree with its roots cut back as they are for shipment, is as well able to endure the effects of severe winters as one that has its roots entire, is an absurd supposition. But the spring-transplanted tree has its roots shortened the same? True, but the winter is passed and spring-time, its natural growing season, is at hand. It is essential, certainly, that trees and shrubs should be removed in early spring before a bud has swollen. If otherwise; if the plant is half-leafed out when received from the nursery, be sure it is greatly weakened and that in case of drought, it will be the first to perish. Without a drought this plant will scarcely more than sustain itself—and another year at least will be required to restore its vigor. Cutting back in such cases can do no good. Its strength is spent. Last year's labors have been chiefly thrown away. The leaves are ready for work—the roots are not.

In the fall of '74, we transplanted about 100 trees and shrubs of various kinds received from nurseries. All know of the exceptionally severe winter following. A majority of them—let us say sixty per cent were found to be dead in the spring or so badly injured that they died afterwards. This spring we received and planted as many more. The drought has been as exceptionally severe as was the winter of '74 and '75. Yet our losses have been less than twenty-five per cent. This is not offered the reader as positive proof in favor of spring transplanting, since the varieties and species of the two sets are not given him for comparison. But to us who know of all modifying circumstances, it is convincing that where plants have to be purchased of nurseries at such a distance as to necessitate packing and shipment, the spring is greatly to be preferred for the climate of New York and north of it.

CHESTNUT PLANTING.

We observe in the Country Gentleman, in answer to an inquiry for directions for planting Chestnut orchards or groves, that the editor, in reply, commences by stating that the seed should always be planted where the trees are to remain, but does not give the reason therefor. Now, having had large experience with the Chestnut, we claim that the position taken by the aforesaid paper is at variance with the experience of our best growers, and that the failures which would ensue by planting the nuts directly where the trees are to remain, exposed to the depredations of animals, large and small, domestic and wild, for the first year or two of their existence would be greater than if nursery-grown trees of reasonable size were planted.

We are aware that some varieties of trees transplant with greater difficulty than others. But we do not place the Chestnut, either American or Spanish, in the difficult class. We claim to have grown and transplanted more American Chestnut trees than any one firm in the United States. We have transplanted one-year seedlings, and all intermediate sizes, up to seven feet high, and never made a failure. Although we have, in some instances, planted very late in the spring, even after the trees were partly in leaf, our experience demonstrates that they will transplant as easily as any other nut-bearing tree, and possibly as any fruit tree on our soil, which, we must admit, is peculiarly adapted to the growing of Sweet Chestnut.

In soils not as congenial, it would be far more difficult to rear from the seed than to succeed by transplanting, as all know who have had experience in the rearing of seedlings, not of Chestnut only, but of most forest and fruit trees that the most precarious time is in the germination of the seed and carrying the young seedlings through the babyhood of their existence. As familiar examples we would cite Evergreens, Larch and Mahaleb Cherry seedlings, and, in our humble opinion, it would be just about as sensible for agricultural journals to recommend the planting of the seeds of these where the trees are to remain as to recommend such treatment for the Chestnut. We have many times imported Spanish Chestnut trees from France and planted on our own grounds, and with as uniformly good success as we have experienced with other forest trees, or even Quince and Pear Stocks.

Painesville, Ohio. Storrs, Harrison & Co.

[We fully coincide in the opinions expressed by the above correspondent, for, in our own experience in raising and handling Chestnut trees, we have had uniformly excellent success in transplanting, both the foreign and native varieties. Nut-bearing trees, if subjected to the same preparatory processes in the nursery, may be transplanted with as uniformly good results as our common fruit trees, and it is an injury to arboriculturers to teach the contrary.—Ed. Rural.]

THE DECAY OF TREES IN PARKS.

The trees in Hyde Park, London, are exhibiting signs of blight and decay, greatly to the regret of all who frequent that delightful and fashionable place of resort. It is suggested in Hardwicke's "Science Gossip" that the cause of the trouble is the careful removal of the fallen leaves and fruit which form the natural food of the trees. A portion of the phosphate or oxalate of lime, which the trees have drawn from the soil, is stored in the tissues of the leaves and fruits in the form of crystals. It is this which renders leaf mold so valuable as a manure. Therefore, when the tree sheds its leaves, they should be allowed to remain around its base, in order that they may restore to the soil the important constituents which they have taken from it. When they are habitually removed, the soil becomes impoverished, and incapable of sustaining a vigorous vegetation. "Had the old forests been always cleared of the fallen leaves, there would long since have been a decay of that noble vegetation which still excites the admiration of the traveler. Rich and deep soils may afford for long periods a sufficiency of calcareous salts for the preservation of the plants, but not so shallow and poor soils. The quantity of saline matter annually taken up, even by a single tree, from the soil, and appearing as microscopic crystals in the plant, is prodigious; and, unless this saline material be returned to the earth, exhaustion thereof must sooner or later occur."

Around the Republic.

OUR GOVERNMENT SURVEYS.

The system adopted by the United States Government for surveying its territory, and dividing and subdividing into Townships, Sections and Fractions of Sections, has, by its simplicity and adaptitude for the purpose intended, received merited commendation.

The first work of the surveyor is to establish a principal meridian, which is a line run due north and south, passing, when convenient, through some marked geographical or topographical point. As this is a line from which other measurements are made, great care is taken in its establishment. Across this meridian, and at right angles therewith, runs another line called a base line.

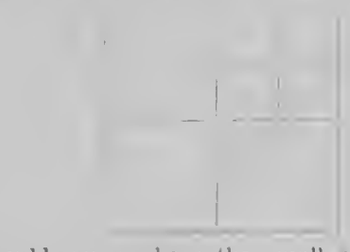
Lines parallel with both the meridian and the base lines are then run at intervals of six miles—thus dividing the area into tracts six miles square, which are called Townships. These townships are subdivided into 36 plots, each one mile square, which are called Sections, and contain 640 acres. These sections are numbered from 1 to 36, commencing at upper right-hand corner and counting across the upper row, and thence back on second row, and so on. The accompanying diagram shows a township divided into sections and the manner in which the sections are numbered:

	5		3		1
7		9		11	
	17		15		13
19		21		23	
	29		27		25
31		33		35	

The lines, bounding townships, which run parallel with the meridian are called Range lines, and those parallel with the base, Town lines. Any number of townships situate in a north and south line are called a *range*, and are numbered east or west from a principal meridian. Each series of townships situate in an east and west line are numbered north or south from a base

line. So if we are told that a section of land in any State is located in Township 10 north, Range 10 east, of any principal meridian, to locate it on a map we first look for the meridian named; then we count on the meridian from the base line north to the tenth township; thence following that series of townships east from the meridian, the tenth will be the one desired. To facilitate search, all good maps have the townships numbered on the meridians and the number of Ranges given on the base lines.

Each section is subdivided into quarter sections, and these again subdivided into quarters.



Should you purchase the small square shown at the upper right-hand corner of the above diagram, which represents a section, it might be described in your deed as the N. E. ¼ of the N. E. ¼ of Section 12, Township 10 N., Range 24 W. of the 6th principal meridian, and would contain 40 acres.

In consequence of the globular form of the earth, lines run by compass due north are not in fact parallel, but approach each other, and when started six miles apart on a base line, they are found to be less than that when measured on any township line north, and consequently the north and south lines of any township are not exactly of the same length. If the north and south lines were continued across a State, the difference in area between the northern and southern townships would be very considerable. To obviate this difficulty and have the townships as nearly of a size as practicable, new measurements from the meridian are made on township lines at intervals of five or ten townships. This occasions an offset or jog in the range line which is quite apparent on the maps. When the township lines are extended a great distance, the accumulation of offset is so great that sometimes a continuous range line is carefully run and new measurements made therefrom. Such lines are called Guide Meridians. L. A. R.

Domestic Economy.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

I SEND you some recipes for the benefit of the ady readers of the RURAL; they are as follows:

Coffee Cake.—1 cup of cold coffee, 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup of molasses, 1 cup of fruit, 1 cup of butter, 1½ teaspoonful of soda, spice to your taste, 4 cups of flour.

Cookies.—1 cup of butter, 2 of sugar, ½ cup of sour cream, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoonful of soda.

Doughnuts.—1 pint of sour cream, 3 eggs, 2 cups of sugar, 1 teaspoon of soda, mix quite stiff.—FARMER'S GIRL.

SELECTED RECIPES.

The Art of Cooking.—The art of cooking Indian-meal has not received that attention which its merits deserve. A baked Indian pudding, with a little suet to soften and lubricate the meal, makes a dessert fit for a Governor, and almost too good for common folks. With milk, butter, eggs, and sugar, and lots of fruit, Indian-meal can be made to keep a family in the most thrifty condition. These are all produced, sugar excepted, on the farm, and on many farms we need not make an exception. When sugar is made from beets in this country—as it ought to be, and soon will be—the farmer will be almost independent of the grocer, and can snap his fingers at tariffs and imports.

Stuffing for Poultry or Fish.—1 cup of bread crumbs, 1 egg, 1 teacup full mashed potatoes, butter size of an egg, savory, sage, pepper and salt. The above with the addition of a chopped onion is excellent for goose, duck or wild meat of any kind.

To wash Dried Currants or other Fruit.—Put the currants into a colander and set the colander into a pan of water. Rub the fruit with the hands and stir it about when the dust, etc., will pass through the perforated bottom of the colander leaving the fruit clean.

Cheese Fritters.—Beat four eggs very light, season with salt, mustard and pepper. Slice thin half a dozen large sour apples, and half as many thin slices of good cheese as you have slices of apples. Put the cheese to soak in the mixture of egg and seasoning; let it stand a few moments; then fry in hot butter, like oysters, and serve hot.

Victoria Soup.—Take a couple of large or three small fat chickens, clean and skin them; take also ten pounds or more of veal, cut into pieces, and a half pound of lean ham; put these together into a very nice stewpan, with a bunch of parsley, and moisten them with clear boiling veal broth. Let this stew softly for an hour, then soak in the broth the soft part of a French roll; cut the flesh off the breasts and wings of the chickens, chop and pound it to a paste in a mortar, with the hard yolk of two eggs, the soaked crumbs, ten sweet almonds and three bitter, all blanched. Rub the compound into the soup, strain the whole, and add gradually a quart of sweet cream brought to boil by itself; boil it up, stirring till served. The seasoning should be mild, and a bit of sugar is an improvement.

To Remove Mortar or Paint from Windows.—Rub the spots of mortar with a stiff brush, dipped in sharp, hot vinegar, and paint spots with burning fluid or camphene, and sand.

Watermelon Vinegar.—Solomon Jewett, now a resident of Vermont, writes to the World as follows: About ten years ago, while on a sheep ranch, 165 miles back from Los Angelos, Cal., from whence we received our supplies, I took a 40-gallon oaken cask, and filled it with ripe, or nearly ripe, watermelons, all being bruised to a pulp or into quite small fragments, with a wooden pounder, as they were thrown in. Then the head was replaced, and every day we changed ends, one resting on the ground. In a little time the rinds of the melons changed to a pulp, and the whole mass was formed into a pleasant but not strong vinegar. But by the addition of a few quarts of molasses, we drew out occasionally from the larger cask into a smaller one, supplied with the plant, or "mother," all of which made very fine vinegar.

Hygienic Information.

SCHOOL-ROOM PERILS!

DR. RICHARD MCSHERRY, of Baltimore, writes the following to the Sanitarian on schoolroom perils. There is no bloodshed in the beginning, but there is towards the end in various forms of hemorrhage.

What else can be expected when young children are imprisoned for long and weary hours, day after day, and year after year, in close and stifling schoolrooms, where the air is habitually so foul as to be exceedingly offensive to any one entering from without, though unnoticed by those within, who are breathing it over and over again? A lady who is fond of plants and flowers, and has but a small space for cultivating them, says that in window-gardening she finds that her favorites require a goodly quantity of sun and air to thrive, which she seeks for them accordingly, while she sends those more tender plants, the children, to a horrid schoolroom, whence the rays of the sun are excluded, while the artificial heat, often itself loaded with coal-gas or carbonic oxide, is made mephitic with carbonic acid from many breaths, and all the exhalations that arise from a miscellaneous crowd of helpless and innocent little prisoners. This is not a matter of comfort or discomfort, but more clearly a matter of life or death with the children. What is the good of all the learning, such as it is, acquired in the schoolroom, and by gas-light at home, to a young girl who has a spinal curvature and a perpetual headache, and a weak chest, and indigestion, and flabby muscles, and, in short, universal delicacy in every part of her organism? How is she prepared for the wear and tear of life duties, and what kind of a help-meet is she going to make? The evil is a crying one; it is fraught with ruin, yet scarcely any but a few medical men seem to appreciate its importance.

What is the remedy? Fewer hours at school, and fewer studies at any one time. Frequent changes of position and air; a brief recess every hour to relieve the mental tension, stretch the cramped limbs, and enable the scholars to take in good inspirations of fresh air.

Let the schoolroom be cleared every hour, and thoroughly ventilated while the children play for a few minutes in the open air in good weather, or under shelter while it rains. The shelter should be provided, no matter what the cost. Life and learning are of little worth without health, but learning and health would both be promoted by these measures.

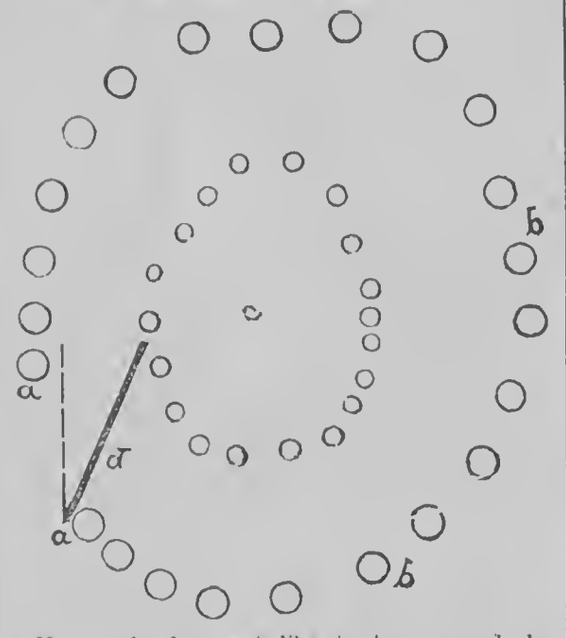
DOGS TAKE MEASLES FROM CHILDREN.

AN interesting case of this nature is described in a recent report of the Epidemiological Society. A dog licked the hand of a child lying in bed, and on whom the measles eruption was at its height. Twelve days later, the dog sickened and suffered for two days with nasal discharge, and four days later died with marked congestion of the throat and air passage. It has been held by some authorities that measles in man is the analogue of distemper in dogs—indeed, it has been urged that they are the same disease; but this case contradicts such a view, for the dog in question had, four years previously, gone through an attack of distemper, and although second attacks of the various eruptive fevers are common enough in children, second attacks of distemper are rare among dogs, while such second cases, when they do occur, are invariably of a slight and temporary nature.

The Naturalist.

A RUSSIAN WOLF-TRAP.

WE find the accompanying illustration and description of a Russian Wolf Trap in the Agricultural Gazette and, although, not new to us, it is worth describing again, as it answers well for nearly all of our larger animals including foxes and bears. Of course the bait may be varied to correspond with the game to be caught. At *a* is a door, by which Mr. Isegrim, the wolf, is apt to enter, enticed to do so by a goat, which is put into an inner inclosure, *c*. The wolf walks along *b*, *b*, *b*, arrives at *d*, which is a gate.



Now, as he does not like to turn round, he pushes against *d*, which will close up *a*, *a*, and be caught. Mr. Isegrim, sly as he is, is also very straightforward; he will not turn, he will run on, and whenever he arrives at *d* (which, perhaps, the wind may have thrown open again) he will push against it and shut it up again. Thus the night passes, and in the morning Isegrim is found and strangled with a sling, for to shoot him would not be advisable, as his "sweat" would keep off his kin. All this while the goat has been eating bean straw in her safe enclosure.

The month when wolves are particularly apt to walk into this Circean castle is the month of August, when they have to find tender food for their puppies; but they are caught all the year round, always in one and the same trap, which thus is the very best way in which to invest a few dozens of poles some 4 feet high, and it will be best not even to peel them.

CURIOUS FACT CONCERNING A FROG.

A SHORT time since a lad wished to eject a frog from an outhouse, and to do so he took up a large steel file that was lying near and touched the frog with its blunt point, but not so as to hurt it. The frog, however, emitted a singular scream, as though in pain, and continued to do so each time that it was touched with the file. The attention of a gentleman present having been drawn to the matter, he took a piece of deal lath and touched the frog with it in the same way, but the frog seemed to take no notice of the application, except to go on leaping in a natural manner. A few more touches of the lath provoking no sound, he took the file and applied it lightly to the frog, when a scream, apparently of pain, was again emitted. Is it not probable that the application of the file produced galvanism? or if not, what other reasonable explanation can be given?

The Apiarian.

BEE-KEEPING IN CITIES.

I OFTEN see the most extravagantly false statements published in regard to bee-keeping in cities; and the articles appear to me to be written in the interests of parties who have beehives to sell to city people. A writer in the American Grocer says: "Glass-hives have repeatedly been exhibited in New York, containing over one hundred pounds of honey, which has been made in the very heart of New York." A grosser falsehood was never written. Then this specimen of ignorance adds: "There is no doubt that the laboring man in cities can supply his family with rich, pure, virgin honey through the year at less than *one cent a pound*."

The writer goes on to talk of the great quantities of flowers in the yards of the people of New York, and the trees from which honey may be gathered, when it is a fact that bees gather no honey from such flowers as families have in their yards; and all the trees in New York, except fruit trees in the outskirts, are utterly non-productive of honey, unless an occasional maple tree may be found to afford a very little honey while in flower in the spring. The Grocer says: "Several mistaken writers agree in remarking that in foraging bees rarely go more than a mile and a half;" and then the writer argues, knowing that no honey can be gathered *in* New York, that bees will go "three and four miles" for it.

Now, the experience of bee-keepers in the whole world is, that the supply of honey must be *within* a mile and a half of the hive. But why don't these false writers give the names of the parties who obtained the "100 lbs. of honey in glass hives?" Why don't they cite the experience of individuals, naming them, and place of residence? Why don't we see some accounts of their success from N. Y. city bee-keepers, if they exist? T. B. MINER.

Linden, N. J.

WINTERING BEES.

THE Rev. M. MAHAN D. D. in writing to Moon's Bee World, from New Castle, Ind., gives his experience in wintering bees, which may doubtless be of value to thousands of the readers of the RURAL NEW YORKER:

Many of the most scientific and successful apiaries in the country have given special attention to winter management, and many plans have been suggested and tried, and many of them have been found unreliable. I have no doubt but that the best plan would be to winter in a cellar or repository if we could secure the right temperature and keep the hives dry. But these conditions are not easily secured, and in their absence the bees are better on their summer stands. I have observed that bees wintered in a cellar, or in a frost-proof repository, are more likely to dwindle away and perish in the spring than those wintered out of doors. I am not able to account for it, but I am satisfied that it is true.

Since I have kept bees I have had some rather costly experience. One winter I saved only four stocks out of thirty-five. That was the heaviest loss I ever sustained. Three winters I have wintered all my stocks losing none. As I have had my eyes open most of the time, and have endeavored to ascertain the bearing of all the facts connected with success and failure, I think I am able to give some advice which will help the novices in the bee-keeping fraternity to avoid very serious losses.

Of course the first thing to be looked after is a sufficient supply of honey to last the swarm until the flowers bloom in the spring. A little too much is better than not enough, though it is easy to feed in the spring, after the weather is warm enough to fly occasionally. Feeding in long continued cold weather is liable to produce disease. In this latitude a colony ought to have from twenty-five to thirty lbs. and should be looked after early in the spring, to see that the supply does not fail.

Another very important thing is winter passages through all the combs. This matter cannot be emphasized too strongly. Passages over the combs will not meet the case in long continued cold weather.

I have known whole swarms to starve to death with plenty of honey in the hive. They had eaten all within their reach, while there was plenty separated from them only by the thin partition between the ends of the cells of the comb. During warm days in winter the cluster of bees spreads out toward the sides of the hive, and when the weather turns cold, the cluster contracts.

Suppose we have a day or two of warm weather—warm enough for the bees to fly, and suppose that the frames of the hive are filled with comb from top to bottom, and from front to rear, without an opening through which a bee can pass. The bees are scattered more or less through the hive. Now let the mercury fall, as it often does in a few hours, to ten or even to twenty degrees below zero, what will become of them?

They must get together in a compact mass, or they must freeze to death. But how can they get together?

Those between the outer combs must go over or under the combs to reach the cluster, and before they can accomplish the journey very many of them will perish. And the same thing will be repeated over and over during the winter. What wonder that by spring they are reduced to a mere handful, or perish altogether?

If there are passages through the hive, many will go out when it is too cold for them to return, though the sun may shine full on the entrance; and the unhealthy may as well die out of the hive as in it, for die they will somewhere.

The margin of profits in bee-keeping is so moderate, under the most favorable circumstances, that to prevent an actual loss no small care is needed. This should be greatest in winter when the risk is heaviest.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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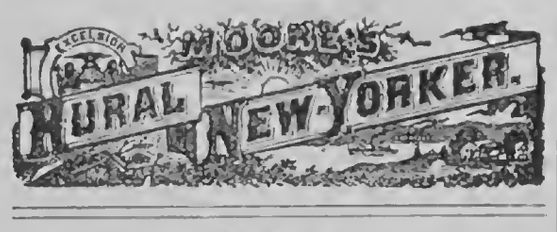

SATURDAY, OCT. 28, 1876.

THE PROMISED LAND.

THE wanderings of the Children of ISRAEL were but child's play in comparison with the restlessness of a large majority of our American people. The men who pass their entire lives in the country or State in which they were born, never going abroad to seek some "promised land," are so few in number that a phrenologist would at once seek for a large bump on their *caput* known to the professionals as "inhabitiveness." In fact, the restiveness of the Yankee is proverbial and neither poverty nor riches can cure him of this inherent roving disposition. His father or grandfather settled somewhere—perhaps cleared up a large farm—and then moved West; consequently, it's a trait of the "breed" to move when things or surroundings do not exactly suit him.

The lamented GREELEY moved from the home of his youth and in after years, when business fixed him to one spot, he gave vent to the inborn spirit of roving in the well-known phrase, "Young man, go West;" and many a one accepted the advice, whether to his benefit or otherwise. But there is no longer a West of unknown riches and promise, as the Yankee has met the Chinaman on our Westernmost borders, and the tide of immigration sets in from either ocean, and he who resides on or travels to the great "divide" of our Continent, can see hundreds of restless persons going in both directions, seeking the Promised Land, which teems with the necessaries and luxuries of life. That many have bettered their circumstances by these changes of location can scarcely be doubted; but at the same time we think the roving spirit has been cultivated and indulged in long enough for our good as a people; and it is time that a higher appreciation should be placed upon what may be the homestead of a family.

It may be well enough for the boys, if there are several in the family, to push out some distance from home; still, in the case of farmers' sons, they can usually find good locations near the old homestead, provided their education has been of the right stamp. The farmers' son of to-day should, with the aid of all the scientific discoveries made in agriculture during the past fifty years, be able to raise better stock, larger crops, and at less cost than his father or grandfather did from the same land; and if he fails in this, it shows that he fails to appreciate and use the means at his command. Prof. MAPES used to say that every farmer in the older-settled States had a "new farm under his old one," and all that he need do to find it was to put the plow down a little deeper. This theory may not hold good in practice everywhere, but as every farmer knows that a deep rich soil is better than a shallow poor one, he should aim to secure the former whenever practicable.

In the old and long-settled parts of Europe, where the farmers are not looking for some Promised Land when their farms are worn out by injudicious culture, they produce better crops than formerly, and there is no good reason why the same thing should not be done in this country. Of course, we have no objection to men seeking a better locality than the one in which they now reside, whether it be in the East, West, North, or South; but the idea that there is a spot somewhere—if it could only be found—where the highest accompaniments of civilization can be had without labor, is erroneous, and the sooner it is given up the better.

The young man of to-day has only to look about him to find eminently successful men in the various industries, not excepting agriculture, and he may meet them in Maine, Texas, Washington Territory, or in any intermediate locality; consequently, we are forced to the conclusion that the Promised Land is not "afar off," but ever present with those who possess the requisite energy to make the earth yield its fruits in abundance.

Not long since a farmer of poor, despised New Jersey, told us that his farm of two hundred acres yielded him, on an average, two tons of the best timothy hay per acre, and being near market he seldom failed to obtain $30 per ton, and sometimes more for his entire crop. Now this friend of ours has indeed found a Promised Land, and well he knows how to keep it; and there are many others in this happy and enviable position, and more might be if they would!

SOCIAL RECREATION.

THAT period of the year is at hand when outdoor recreation with a large proportion of our readers will soon cease, although their duties may compel them to take abundant exercise in the open air; but, more for profit than pleasure. Earning one's "bread by the sweat of the brow," is a command which is obeyed by more people than are the Ten Commandments." Whether through making a virtue of necessity it is not our purpose at this time to inquire; still, the fact is apparent that many persons work more hours than is good for them, and it is upon such that we urge the importance of social recreation.

In the country especially there is, to use a common phrase, "too little going on" in the way of social recreation and this is one reason so many young men and women look longingly to our great cities as places where they could be amused and instructed. In every school district there should be some kind of a social and friendly society, organized for the purpose of furnishing recreation for both old and young. These organizations should be very cosmopolitan in character; every member recognizing the right of every other member to his or her own individual belief, so long as it does not intrude upon the belief of another. All questions which are likely to provoke controversy ending in ill-feeling, should be tabooed at the start; but it is not necessary to draw the lines so tight or adopt rules so strict as to in any way interfere with genuine social pleasure and profit. In cities, villages and thickly-settled districts in the country, there may be enough persons found of one opinion to make a respectable gathering, thereby avoiding any necessity of adopting rules for preventing a clash of ideas in regard to the character of entertainment given; but in thinly-settled regions this will seldom occur, and the only way to insure harmony is for each and every one to respect the honest convictions of his neighbor, provided they are not in open violation of both law and the rules of respectable society.

Now we shall not attempt to name the kind of organization which would be best, or whether any is needed beyond the bare announcement in a neighborhood that the said neighbors' old and young will meet on a certain evening for social recreation and instructive amusement. In answer to this call, let every one go, and all do their best to make the occasion one to be long remembered. It is not best, in a mixed community, to make such social gatherings all prayer meeting or all dancing, or all speech-making by the village lawyer or minister, but vary the entertainment to suit the taste of old and young, gray and sedate. A man who cannot bend his "dignity" to roll a hoop, or play marbles to please a child, had better step out of the way and make room for more sensible men. Young persons want amusement, old ones instruction; but there is no need of separating the two on this account when seeking social recreation, consequently, we would urge the introduction of amusements of sufficiently varied character to please all, including the gay and giddy, thereby holding them within a circle where their follies may be corrected, instead of banishing them from what is termed the better influence of good society. It requires but a few grains of common sense to manage such matters in a way to make society in the country as pleasant and agreeable as it is in the best circles in cities and villages.

RURAL NOTES.

Pure Milk in Cities.—The noted strictness of the laws regulating the sale of milk in the cities of Great Britain are said to be producing good results and both producers and consumers are alike benefited. The certainty of procuring good, pure milk, encourages consumption of this article, and since the passage of the act prohibiting the sale of adulterated milk in England, the demand has increased in an unprecedented manner, thereby encouraging a corresponding increase in production. This is but a natural result of honesty in trade, and it is a pity that we cannot have similar laws enacted and enforced in this country. Pure milk in our larger cities, at the present time, is a rarity and must continue to be until there is a great change in the administration of their internal affairs. It is bad enough to purchase hay in bales, the center of which is composed of weeds, manure, chaff and similar rubbish; but cheating children by adulterating their food, is too mean a business to be tolerated in civilized communities and should be abated without delay.

Grasshoppers in Minnesota.—It appears from late advices, that the destruction of farm crops in Minnesota during the past summer by the Western Locusts or Grasshoppers, is a far more serious matter than was at first supposed. It is now reported that in some counties there is not grain enough to supply the actual wants of the farmers and their families during the coming winter; and outside assistance will be required to prevent much suffering, if not actual starvation. The ground where the grasshoppers were plentiful is said to be full of eggs, which will probably furnish enough of these pests next spring to take all the early-sown grain and garden vegetables. One farmer of Jackson County says that he has raised but one crop in four years, the Locusts having taken the other three. Under such circumstances, there appears to be but two ways out of the difficulty—either the people must abandon the country, or find some way of protecting themselves against the ravages of these pests.

The Earth's Center.—We have been assured by scientists for many years that the heat at the earth's center is so great that it would melt any known mineral substance; consequently, there must be a vast molten mass beneath us. But now comes Sir WILLIAM THOMSON, who tells us that all this is not true, and that we still have a solid rock foundation, with perhaps small areas of molten fluid. Who knows but that it may yet turn out that "Old Sol" is not a hot planet, but the heat given off comes from some luminous property of the atmosphere which surrounds the sun? It is really too bad to rob us of the belief in a central lava ocean, but we can stand it without flinching.

The Hawaiian Treaty.—For many years certain speculators have been endeavoring to obtain a treaty between the Hawaiian Government and our own, in order to obtain sugar from the former free of duty; this having been obtained, a capitalist more wide awake than his competitors, stepped in and bought one half the crop of sugar for $175,000 and, of course, will reap the benefit, leaving others to make the best of the dilemma in which he has placed them. The production of these islands has, no doubt, been overrated, and no one but a few speculators are likely to be benefited by a treaty with them, no matter upon how favorable terms it may be obtained.

Short-Horn Humbugs.—We notice that some of our contemporaries refer to the great sales of Short-Horns under the above caption. It is doubtless the fact that the ordinary "tricks of trade" are frequently used in disposing of cattle, but it is not fair to apply the name humbug to Short-Horn cattle, for they are a breed too long and favorably known to have their merits questioned at this time. It is very likely that influences have been brought to bear upon some fancy strain of blood to put the price far above intrinsic value; still, it often requires something extraordinary in the way of statements of value to attract attention to real merits.

California Mammoth Trees.—Now the scientists are quarreling over the age of the mammoth Sequoias of California, some trying to make out that there are specimens which are at least 4,000 years old, and others claiming that the biggest of them are only 1,200 to 1,500 years. Well, gentlemen, suppose we cut off 2,000 years from the age of the specimens now living, how many thousands of years did it take to make the soil beneath them, or how long ago were the ancestors of the present race of trees created? The present growth of saplings, however old, are but the descendants of a much older ancestry.

Bergen Co. (N. J.) Poultry Society.—This enterprising young Society will hold its first Fair in Hackensack, N. J., Nov. 22–23. It is expected that some of the finest pure-bred poultry ever seen in this country will be on exhibition, and we bespeak for the organization a liberal patronage. Those desiring to enter fowls for exhibition should address the Secretary, THOS. T. WALTON, Ridgewood, N. J.

RURAL BREVITIES.

EACH subscriber should read the special offer to ladies, to be found on page 288 of this issue. All who are at all interested in plants and flowers will there find something worth their attention.

THE Red Rust Proof winter oats, which for years have been popular in the South, are reported to have "rusted" in Texas the past season, which may be taken as an indication of slight degeneration.

MANUFACTURERS of Harvesting Implements should not forget the meeting to be held at the Centennial for the purpose of forming an Association in their interest. This is a movement which none can afford to neglect.

LORD WALSINGHAM, an extensive land owner in England, has created quite a sensation by declaring that when work is slack and laborers are discharged, those belonging to Trades Unions are the first to receive notice to quit.

WE notice that some of our contemporaries are quoting from a book on grass culture a paragraph where the author says Orchard grass is a native of America. This is an error which might be corrected by consulting any good botanical work.

THIS season's crop of Wild Goose plums seems to be as variable as ever, scarcely any two cultivators of the ever *genuine* sort having the same variety, and the question now to be settled is, who has the original, or is there any one sort entitled to the name more than another?

AN enthusiastic correspondent of the London Journal of Horticulture, in speaking of the comparative value of the Larch and Lime tree, says, "The Larch would buy a horse before the Lime would a donkey," which is an adaptation of the old adage, which reads, "Larch will buy a horse before Oak will buy a saddle."

ROSE ELECTIONS are quite popular in England and do much toward bringing the best sorts into notice. An invitation extended to all rose growers to send in a list of the names of what they consider the best twelve, twenty or more varieties and when all the lists are in the result is published, and this is called a "rose election."

CUI BONO.

WHAT is hope? A smiling rainbow
Children follow through the wet;
'Tis not here; still yonder, yonder;
Never urchin found it yet.

What is life? A thawing iceberg
On a sea with cunning shore;
Gay we sail; it melts beneath us;
We are sunk, and seen no more.

What is man? A foolish baby.
Vainly strives, and fights, and frets;
Demanding all, deserving nothing;
One small grave is what he gets.

[*Carlyle.*

FASHION NOTES.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21, 1876.

OWING to the admirable stuffs and cheap prices now offered in our New York stores, notably at Messrs. LORD & TAYLORS', I have given some illustrations that, I trust, will serve as a hint as to the most appropriate and stylish manner in which to make up your fall wear.

The ladies' polonaise, with basque front and tablier, (No. 4604), is a deep cuirass front and a rounding, wrinkled *tablier* combined. The model shows the use of two materials in its composition, the darkly-shaded portions representing black silk, and the lighter sections a pale lava tint of gray camel's hair, a striking contrast that is very stylish this fall. The basque skirt passes around to the side seams, while the body fits closely and gracefully with two bust-darts and a cross-seam in each front, and the *tablier* has a front or center-gore, with two side-gores that are gathered on the back edges and drawn up high to be united under the polonaise. A vest facing of the dark goods, broad at the neck, curving in at the waist and widening a little toward the bottom in order to gain a shapely contour, is laid upon the lining and met by the light material, which is joined to it by concealed stitches to produce the remainder of the fronts. The bottom of the cuirass is finished with a piping of black silk, and the *tablier* is encircled with a wide silk fold and a fine side-plaited ruffle of camel's-hair. The polonaise back consists of five divisions, the joining seams that descend from the shoulder continuing to the bottom of the skirt. This number comprises the extended side-backs, side-back gores, and one center-form, by which a center-seam is avoided. Black silk serves for the construction of the side-back gores, and the remaining parts are of camel's-hair. The under-arm edges are closed in a seam with the basque, below which the lower part of the polonaise back has a simple hem and depends solely upon its novel arrangement of drapery for additional elegance. It is permitted to hang long and loose on the right, while a shawl-shaped outline is given to the margin of the other side by taking the extremity up to a point higher than the termination of the left side seam, where it is fastened and sustains a rich knot of gros-grain.

The cut paper pattern gives directions that cover all details. It can be furnished in 13 sizes for ladies, from 28 to 46 inches bust measure. Price 50 cts.

The material delineated in the ladies' cutaway jacket with fitted adjustable vest (No. 4595) is *drap d'ete*, but the model is none the less appropriate for heavier cloakings that might be found

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suitable for winter wear. The jacket fronts are cut low at the neck, and fall over a high vest-portion, which is fitted by a deep dart in each side and sewed in with the under-arm and shoulder seams. These jacket fronts are straight at the closing edges, but the under-arm seams are curved so as to draw them apart for quite a distance from the closing to the bottom, displaying the vest to good advantage. The back is gracefully adjusted by gores extending to the shoulders and by a curved center-seam. A line of fine silk braid passes about the neck near the edge, and is continued down the jacket front, being crossed and recrossed in basket style to form a square at each corner. It is also carried along the lower edge of the garment, and arranged in a similar square at the center-seam. The sleeve is in coat-shape, quite high at the top, and broad enough at

FIG. 1.

the wrist to pass easily over the dress sleeve, without crushing the trimming of the latter. It is completed with a deep cuff trimmed to harmonize with the remainder of the garment, and the vest is closed to the bottom with button-holes and silk buttons, while the jacket fronts are fastened at their point of meeting, with an ornamental button.

If the jacket is made of smooth-faced cloth, the trimming and vest may be stylishly formed of silk. When suit goods are employed, linings should be used. Silk fringe or *passementerie* gimp is a very fashionable trimming for such garments at the present time, and either of these, or

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bands of fur have a rich effect. The pattern is in 13 sizes for ladies, from 28 to 46 inches, and will be mailed on receipt of 35 cents.

Figures 1 and 2 give an idea of the most stylish hats. Description is scarcely necessary, as I only intend these to serve as hints. In my next article I will give a description of new dress stuffs, and more patterns, that must be excluded from this number for want of space. FROLIC.

The Story-Teller.

THE HAUNTED MAN.

IN a whisper, mind—in the gentlest, the most sighing of whispers—I tell you this. In fear and trembling, too, all the time, for *it* might hear me.

You observe, I say *it*; for I cannot apply actual distinction to the weird little entity that torments me. At the same time, though, I find that I have often called it *him* and, in a misty, wandering way, associated the *thing* with the trieksy-looking sprite who stands with his hands upon his hips in the Landseer picture of "Midsummer Night's Dream."

The fact is, I have been haunted for the past five years—I, the simple-minded, calmly living, seventh-rate literary man who pens these lines—and my innocent bachelor life has been made a torment to me by something, of which, as you see, I only dare speak in a whisper.

You are shaking your head! Don't say you are not, for I can feel it mentally; and my perceptions are now those of the most acute. Let me hasten, then, to reassure you—to enlighten you upon the point you are quietly discussing.

No; there has not been the slightest manifestation of insanity in my family.

Again; my pulse gives with calm regularity the proper number of beats to the minute.

My blood is of the normal temperature.

It is not incipient *delirium tremens*, for I was never inebriated but once in my life, and then I was so dreadfully ill the next day that I made a vow, which I have religiously kept, and am always considered an abstemious man.

So, once more, in a calm whisper, I declare to you that I am haunted—bewitched—ill-wished—evil-eyed—overlooked—or in some way suffering from a spell. In fact, there must be something in the matter not hitherto dreamed of in my philosophy and I tremble lest ill should come of it.

But let me explain—let me give you a sample of the kind of annoyance to which I am subjected and during which it always seems to me that I can hear the silvery tinkle of a very small kind of laughter floating about the room.

It was only yesterday that I required my daily remembrancer—the diary in which I record the trifles of my life and note my engagements. It was gone.

That book lies on my study table and I was put out by its loss. I searched book-case, drawers, in folios, among papers, turned out my desk, got into a violent perspiration, went and bullied the servant, rose into a towering rage; and at last, quite exhausted and fuming with annoyance, I threw myself into my chair—and found that diary!

Where did I find it?

I'll tell you. That little book lay in its usual place upon the study table.

Now, you may argue for a week and you will not convince me that some sprite had not hidden that book away until it was tired of laughing at me, when the book was replaced.

Another specimen.

I have a custom, drilled into me in childhood, of carefully folding my clothes before retiring to rest. I never kick one thing here and another there, after the habitude of the reckless, but place each garment ready to be donned in the morning. Now, I am ready to make affidavit that those things are all right at night; but when I have left rising till the last moment, just leaving myself sufficient time to dress and catch the train by which I am going with a friend, there is invariably something wrong. Now it is a button off my trousers. If I get them on and find them all right, the tongue is gone from my brace buckle. Or it may be a stud dropped from my shirt; the button-hole of my collar split; or, more likely, a button grown overripe and ready to drop, swinging only by one thread from the most prominent portion of my coat.

At another time I hear the servant come up with my boots, as I lie in bed. She bumps them down, as servants will bump boots down and, in that pleasant, semi-unconscious way in which one lies of a morning before rising, I seem to see those boots and I wonder whether they have been carefully dried, for the previous day was wet and I have had a horror of damp boots ever since I read somewhere that they were a prolific cause of catarrh. Then I wonder, too, why it is that servants have such peculiar notions respecting the anatomy of the human foot masculine and credit it with abnormally turned-out toes, from the way in which they always reverse male boots—the right on the left side, the left upon the right. They never do so with boots feminine. I lie, then, seeing those misplaced boots there; and when I have made my plunge out, done my tubbing, and have arrived at the stage when I want those boots, I open the door to get them and they are not there!

Now, I am certain that they were there; I heard the girl bring them; but all the same, after a few minutes' interval I ring sharply and the maid comes and knocks.

"My boots!—I'm waitin' for them," I say.

"Plec, sir, they're out here," says the girl, in an ill-used tone.

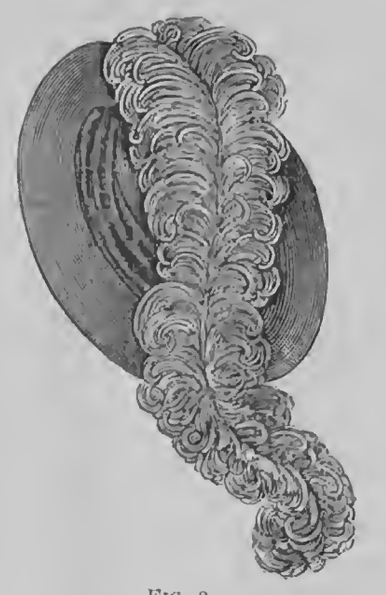

FIG. 2.

Whereupon I go indignantly to the door with a brush in one hand, into which I have savagely driven the fellow brush so that they adhere together, and my hair all down over my forehead.

Yes, there are the boots; and put wrong as to rights and lefts, as a matter of course.

Now, how did those boots get away and how did they come back? For I'm sure the girl did not bring them back this time.

I told you how particular I am about folding my clothes at night. This extends to garments that I do not wear every day—dress coat, for instance, left in the drawer during a tour or shooting expedition.

Now, *it* won't leave those garments alone; and whenever I take them out after absence, they invariably look as if they had been used for the raising of money and suffered from the pawnbroker's roll, so evident too often in the British workman's Sunday coat, which is creased from top to bottom.

There is another way in which I am terribly annoyed. Being a regular 'bus man—of course I don't mean a driver or a conductor, but a traveler by omnibus, from motives of economy, I have noticed the nuisance that the fair sex—especially the fat fair sex, which never travels without a large bundle, which they plant on somebody's knee when entering—is to conductor, driver and fellow passengers, by keeping the vehicle waiting while money is dislodged from a pocket somewhere in the region of folds, or from the corner of a handkerchief, in which it is tightly tied in a knot which won't come undone; while one lady always produces her cash wet—out of her mouth. I have noticed all this, I say, and in consequence I provide myself with a threepenny piece, a fourpenny, or six pence, and place it in my waistcoat pocket ready for alighting and paying without requiring change. Do you think that I can find that coin when I require it? If you do you are mistaken. I grope for it with my glove on; I hunt for it with my glove off; I dodge first in one

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corner, then in the other, and each time along the intermediate channel; but no—there is no coin, and the conductor ironically asks me if I want to keep the 'bus all day.

Of course I don't; and I feel very much provoked as I produce my porte-monnaie, drop my umbrella in the muddy street where we are standing, fumble out a two-shilling piece and wait for change, with all the passengers craning forward to look and the driver shouting to his mate to "Look alive, there!"

I get my change—I have already recovered my umbrella—and I bound to the pavement shore, out of the muddy river, after narrowly escaping a run down from a Hansom when, to my annoyance, I am minus a glove and—yes, there it lies, in the middle of the road, ground into the mud by the Hansom wheel.

Of course I have to go on, buy a new pair and as I pay for them, having grown cool in the shop, I mentally say, "I wonder what became of that fourpenny piece," and my hand involuntarily goes to the pocket of my vest and—yes, there it is—I can feel it plainly enough through the cloth.

I merely say, where was that little coin before I mentioned my loss? and that naturally brings me back to gloves—a covering for the hands in which I have been nearly ruined.

With my customary practice of neatness, I double my gloves together, especially the white and lavender kids—which, between ourselves, I always make last as long as possible—and then send them to be cleaned. Now, the home of my light-kid gloves is in my left-hand tail coat-pocket and I fish them out just as I am going into the theater or "at home;" and this is always the case:—I put on one, get it buttoned and am about to put on its fellow, when I find that if it is a white glove *on* my hand, I hold a lavender glove *in* my hand, or *vice versa*. They are sure to be odd ones, and I am certain that I put them away in pairs.

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"Why don't I look before I start?" you will say. Because I don't think to look, and one does not feel it necessary after regular precautions. And again I say, How is this?

If it be not the workings of some sprite full of mischief, what is it?

Again, I find myself putting chlorodyne on my handkerchief, because the bottles have been changed; and when, in a fit of passion, I dash down the nasty, ethery, pepperminty pain-easer, take a clean pocket handkerchief and scent that, I find I am doing it with the tincture of myrrh, or the gummy stuff the fellow bored me into buying when last my hair was cut.

Only a week ago I had my breakfast spoiled by a letter which came by post. It was as follows and there was an inclosure:

No. 12 JERMYN ST., Friday.

SIR:—I am at a loss to understand the meaning of this note and I should be glad if you would explain, for I am a man who makes it his rule neither to borrow nor *lend* money. If you had any ideas of the latter kind in sending it, believe me that a frank request would have been better. I am your obedient servant,

J. WELLSBY PURNOW.

TO T. WOOLLY, Esq.

I was amazed and sat with the note in my hand, unable to comprehend it. I had asked Purnow to come and dine with me at the Curacoa Club and wouldn't have asked him for money for the world. Besides, I didn't want any—just then.

At last, by way of solving the mystery, I took up the inclosure, to read, in my own hand:

No. 144 BYE ST., Monday.

DEAR OLD BOY:—Let me have that ten pounds, there's a good fellow. You promised it before Christmas and it's now May. Time,

T. WOOLLY.

Yes, I wrote that; but it was to Jack Snorter, who owes me no end of borrowed money, which I get back a little at a time. But how did Purnow get it? Stop—no—yes—no—to be sure I did. I wrote to both at the same time and the notes must have been put—yes, I deliberately say in a whisper, mind—*put* in the wrong envelopes!

I was aghast for a time—it seemed so horrible; but at last I recovered myself sufficiently to take my hat and got to the telegraph office to send a message to Purnow, telling him it was a mistake and that he must come directly, for I had ordered a capital dinner at the club.

I got that message very cleverly within twenty words, got out a shilling and was just going to hand both to the pleasant-looking young telegraph clerkess, when a horrible thought ran through me like a chill and I stood as if transfixed. Jack Snorter had got Purnow's note and *he* would come to the club to dinner! Worse still, to me, as we sat together with coffee and cigars, he would borrow another ten-pound note of me, or perhaps be kind enough to take it in two fives.

What was I to do? I dare not bring those two men together. I did not want Jack. Oh! It was dreadful. But the dinner was ordered and might just as well be eaten; so I went away—making the pleasing-looking young telegraph clerkess look upon me as very strange in my ways—and wrote an explanatory letter to Purnow, appointing another day for the dinner; but he declined to come, and I feel sure he believed my note to be a try-all for money.

But Jack Snorter came and ate my dinner; and as I said, so he did—he borrowed two fives over our coffee, which sum he will never pay.

It's an awful position for a man to be in, and I suffer from it at every turn. I have found my gun unaccountably rusty; my fishing lines horribly tangled and my top joints broken. I have found my choice cigars moldy, my soda water without a fizz left in the bottle, my tea disappear; and the number of umbrellas that have deliberately gone away, I dare not enumerate, for my sake—not yours.

Enough. I am the Haunted Man, and my sprite will not leave me. He puts fuel in my pockets, rubs my hat nap the wrong way, blunts the edges of my razors, breaks the teeth out of my comb, and in one way or another reduces me into the state of a hypochondriacal dyspeptic. As before said, I tell it you in a whisper, lest evil should come upon me seven-fold; for mine is a malignant sprite and to you, good reader, I wish a happier fate.

Ha, ha! By Jove, what fun! I've just turned this out of my desk, where it's lain for six months. I meant to send it to a magazine, and here it goes at last, if any one will have it. But, I say, the spirit's exorcised; gone, vanished—everything's in its place and there's a place for everything. Apple-pie order and sunshine; unity, peace and concord. *E pluribus unum—Hont soit qui mal y pense—Deus et fatamen!* Excuse my high spirits; it's all due to St. Lydia, who took pity upon my forlorn lot and married me, driving all sprites away.

I say, though, only think! Jack Snorter has come in for a plum and no sooner did he hear that I was going to be married than he clapped a check for a cool hundred into my hand, saying that he didn't know how we stood, but we'd cry quits and that would pay the trip.

This comes unknown to St. L.—*Once a Week.*

ARTISTS' MODELS.

IN his own mother Raphael found the model for his unsurpassed maternal creations. The Fornarina was his model for the possessed boy in the "Transfiguration," and her image is recognized in others of his works. Michael Angelo, for a figure which Charon is driving from his back into Hades, finds his model in one of the cardinals—one of his greatest detractors and bitterest enemies. Andrea del Sarto and Correggio are said to have painted their Madonnas and angels from their own wives and children. Leonardo da Vinci chose as his model for Judas an ill-favored man in power who was trying to ruin him. The sister of Napoleon I. was a model to Canova. The distinguished poetess and noble princess, Victoria Colonna, it is said, influenced Michael Angelo in his type of female heads.

Among the old painters, had I space, I could find pages of similar instances, if I chose to consult historical references. Of the modern painters I have room for only two instances, though hundreds could be found if desirable. Trumbull, who went to England during the War of Independence, was thrown into prison as a spy; during his imprisonment he occupied himself in painting a picture representing the sortie of Gibraltar. Among the principal foreground figures was a young English officer, wounded and dying. The artist found it difficult to satisfy himself with the action of this figure. Sir Thomas Lawrence, then commencing his career, came one day to the prison to visit the rising American artist. Trumbull expressed his dissatisfaction in regard to that particular figure, when young Lawrence threw himself into the action of the wounded Briton. The artist, pleased with his pose and form, painted from him the most touching incident in that remarkable picture, thus profiting by Lawrence as his model and perpetuating a portrait of him at the same time.

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Continued from page 269.]

NEBRASKA.

BY action of Congress in 1854, the Territory of Nebraska was formed, covering the area between latitudes 40° and 43°, and from Minnesota and Iowa west to the Rocky Mountains. From this was set off in 1861 to Colorado, the portion west of longitude 104 and south of latitude 41, and to Dakota all above latitude 43 and the Niobrara River, and to it was added a triangular piece bounded by the Rocky Mountains, latitude 41° and longitude 110°. In 1863 there was set off to the Territory of Idaho the parallelogram bounded by the 41st and 43d parallels and the meridians 104 and 110. This left the Territory with boundaries as follows, viz.,—north, the 43d parallel and the Niobrara River; east, the Missouri River; south, the 40th parallel to longitude 102 and the 41st parallel between the 102d and 104th meridians and west by 102d meridian between longitude 40 and 41 the 104th°, between longitudes 41 and 43—which, in 1867 having complied with the requirements of Congress, became a State.

COLORADO.

As early as 1858 the discovery of gold in the vicinity of the present site of Denver induced immigration to this part of the public domain, which increased rapidly and in 1861 the population had become so numerous as to render it advisable to organize a Government, which was done in 1861. A Territory was formed, comprising such portions of the then Territories of New Mexico, Utah, Nebraska and Kansas as were included between the 37th and 41st parallels of latitude and the 25th and 32d meridians of longitude. Subsequently, several attempts to frame a State Constitution were made and petitions for admission to the Union were sent to Congress, but all were without effect until the present year, when Congress passed an act which, being ratified by the people of the Territory, Colorado became a State on the 4th of July, 1876.

NEVADA.

In 1861 a portion of the eastern part of the State of California and that part of the then territory of Utah west of the 38th meridian, were given a Territorial Government and named Nevada, and in 1864 it was made a State, to which was added in 1866 another portion from Utah and also about 12,000 square miles from Arizona. This left the State with its present boundaries, viz.,—north, the 42d parallel; east, the 114th meridian and the Colorado River; and south and west a line drawn from the Colorado River in latitude 35, to Lake Tahoe in latitude 39; thence north on the 120th meridian to the 42d parallel.

It is proper to remark that California has not yet ceded that portion of Nevada that was formerly included within her boundaries.

DAKOTA.

In 1861 all the public domain between the western lines of Minnesota and Iowa and the Rocky Mountains lying north of the present State of Nebraska and of the 43d parallel west of longitude 104, was constituted the Territory of Nebraska. By the formation of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming at different times, the area of Dakota was successively diminished, enlarged and again diminished by changes in boundary lines too complicated to be easily described or readily understood without diagrams. The present boundaries of the Territory are—north, the 49th parallel; east, the western lines of Minnesota and the Big Sioux River, dividing it from Iowa, south by the Niobrara River and the 43d parallel and west by the 104th meridian. There is also belonging to Dakota a tract of about 2,000 square miles lying west of Wyoming in the northwest angle formed by the 44th parallel and the 111th meridian.

ARIZONA.

In 1863 that part of the Territory of New Mexico south of latitude 37 and west of longitude 109, was erected into a separate Territory and named Arizona. Subsequently, in 1866 that portion of the Territory west of longitude 114 and the Colorado River was detached, becoming part of Nevada.

IDAHO.

The Territory of Idaho, as constituted by act of Congress in 1863, included all that portion of the Louisiana cession lying between the eastern boundaries of Washington and Oregon and the 104th meridian, together with the area lying between the 41st and 42d parallels and the 106th and 110th meridians. The boundaries of the original territory have been changed at various times. As now constituted, it is very irregular in form, having for its boundaries on the west longitude 117° 04' and the Snake River, touches the 49th parallel on the north to longitude 116, then on that meridian south to latitude 47 45, thence following the course of the Coeur d'Alene and the Bitter Root and the Rocky Mountains through their various curves and windings, till they reach the 111th meridian in latitude 44 32; thence down that meridian to latitude 42, which parallel forms its southern boundary. This irregular boundary was made from the fact that the mountains on the easterly side are almost impassable.—[To be continued.

The Literary World.

THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINES.

HARPER'S.—The current number fitly closes the LIIId volume, and the prospectus of the succeeding volume is replete with attractions which, we doubt not, will be more than realized by fortunate subscribers. The initial paper in this number is a handsomely illustrated fairy tale—Magnus and Morna—by Mrs. MULOCK-CRAIG. Next following is an article on Mediæval Furniture. A Puritan Gentleman in New England is descriptive of the life and career of JOHN WINTHROP, and in An English Woman among the Himalayas we have a pleasant narrative of travel. The short stories are not as good as usual, but the serials maintain their interest. This is especially true of A Woman Hater; quite the most brilliant novel of the day. Mr. CURTIS in his Easy Chair is as felicitous as ever, and the Drawer is a perpetual warning to sour dyspeptics.

SCRIBNER'S.—We are not as yet sufficiently calm and in our usual editorial mood to speak rationally of this magazine. How any one can resist the exquisite illustrations and the appropriate letter-press that accompanies them is beyond our ken, as is also the conundrum, How can they make such a book for the money? The leading paper is by C. H. CLARK on The Charter Oak City. Well,—well don't listen to our maundering but buy the magazine, and read an instructive paper on The Beginnings of Life, and after admiring Pictures from Rome, just say if you can how it is that Dr. HOLLAND contrives to bag such capital short stories. The poetry is plentiful and above the average, and if any one can read in Bric-a-Brac, the touching story of The Fair Isolinda, whose fame it was

"—— the young Oronoco, in doublet and hose extensive,
Who stood by the grim portcullis with mien extremely pensive.
Yes, stood by the castle moat, as handsome as one could wish, with
A gilded dagger in hand, that he haughtily cleaned a fish with."

without a feeling of "contemporaneous human interest," then he is base indeed! Altogether this number is charming, and if you mean to do without it, we can only reiterate Punch's advice on another occasion,—"Don't!"

ST. NICHOLAS.—The girls and boys have the usual feast of good things spread before them, with a promise of more of the same kind to follow.

ATLANTIC.—Mr. HENRY JAMES, Jr., continues to make his serial, The American, most absorbingly interesting. It is a pure luxury to revel in the language, alone. An Old Woman's Gossip is assuredly very pleasant reading. Would there were more "old women" like FRANCES ANNE KEMBLE, and that Mr. HOWELLS had a reversionary interest in the labor of their brains! The Ascent of Takhoma, Miller Michel, The Battles about Atlanta, In Two Worlds, Pottery at the Centennial and other papers go to make a number that yields profitable as well as pleasurable reading.

GALAXY.—Those who vainly imagine that a magazine cannot be made interesting without the aid of pictures should buy the November Galaxy. Its conductors well maintain the spirit of its name, by keeping in their firmament "stars" of the first magnitude only. Mr. COAN tells all about Fighting by Machinery, and if warriors could only be molded as are bricks, the Peace Congress might appropriately delights in war. Strange to say, this magazine has omitted something seasonable about household art. Queer that they, too, have not seized a copy of Violet-le-Duc and expatiated on hard-seated, stiff, straight-backed chairs! We yearn for more information concerning a fireplace that would serve equally well for a barbacue or blast furnace. J. G. SWISSHELM speaks of American Character, and R. G. WHITE contributes his second paper On Reading Shakespeare. The Silent Wooer becomes audible, and Mr. RHODES asks What Shall We Eat? FANNY R. FEUDGE has something to say of Oriental Legends, and the Editor's Ideas are quite luminous as seen through the Nebuke.

Sabbath Reading.

CHURCH MUSIC.

SOFT, through the rich illumined panes,
All down the aisle the sunlight rains,
And sets in red and purple stains.

And mid this glory from the skies,
We hear the organ-voice arise,
Its wings the waking spirit tries:

It flutters, but it cannot soar.
Oh! heavenly music, let us pour
Our woes, our joys, in thee once more.

All wilt thou take. Thou mak'st no choice,
Hearts that complain, hearts that rejoice,
Find thee their all-revealing voice.

All, all the soul's unuttered things
Thou bearest on thy mighty wings
Up, up until the arched roof rings:

Now soft—as when, for Israel's king,
Young David swept his sweet harpstring:
Now loud—as angels antheming.

Oh! tell what myriad heads are bent.
Oh! tell what myriad hearts repent.
He will look down: He will relent.

It dies. The last low strain departs.
With deep "Amen" the warm tear starts.
The peace of Eden fills our hearts.

[*Katherine Saunders.*

UNSELFISHNESS.

IT is difficult to find in these days of bustle, crowding, money-making and money-spending a thoroughly unselfish person, one who thinks more of his fellow-man than himself; who stands ever ready to assist the poor, raise the fallen, cheer the sick and comfort the sorrowing, and yet it seems to me that there cannot be a more desirable disposition or more lovable character; this would be a very different world if the spirit of unselfishness were thoroughly and extensively cultivated. There would be more charity for the sinner, more prayers for the straying, more Christian love, more filial devotion, more tender mothers, more home-loving husbands, less delight in scandal, more horror of guilt and pity for the tempted.

How the dark places of life would brighten, and paths never known to sunshine and virtue gleam with awakened radiance were the world to grow and blossom with the plant of unselfishness. True, it is here we see the fruit sometimes, and not always in the rich man's palace. There are plain, verdant Irish girls toiling in our kitchens who might well set before us examples of unselfish devotion. Have you ever noticed how the hard-earned wages of some unlettered servant-girl just from Ireland are hoarded up to be sent to the absent parents in the "ould counthry?" how she will deny herself many a needful article in order to send the money to the loved ones?

Not he who gives the most to the Church, or subscribes loudly in causes of charity, whose name is praised for his benevolent gifts, not he always possesses in its serene purity that pearl of great price, unselfishness. See that lonely woman in yonder tenement house, watching over a sick neighbor in the silence of the night, when the world is asleep and unconscious of the waves of sorrow rolling over it—expecting no return, for her neighbor is as poor as herself. She will receive the reward at last, when perhaps, the giver of thousands will be classed among the selfish ones of earth. I suppose a mother's love for her babe approaches the nearest to our ideal of unselfish human affection. What sacrifice will she not make for her child, the little helpless being that can give no return? When pain enwraps its little frame, how strong she is to carry the poor, suffering one, hushing in her never-wearying way the pitiful cry of distress; no thinking of self then; that thought comes when care and watching avail no more, and she sees her darling lying in its coffin, the baby soul gone home to God, to a deeper, sweeter love even than a mother's.

In traveling through Oriental lands one would readily suppose, after a brief sojourn in Egypt, that the natives were wholly and completely engrossed in self, for the incessant cry of the Arabs in the street is "Bakshoosh;" it meets the foreigner on his first arrival in the harbor of Alexandria, follows him to the thronged bazars and narrow streets, assails him on the banks of the Nile, rings after him on the steps of the Mosque and summit of the Pyramids, and mingles with his memories long after the Egyptian shores have faded in the past. But those who have had a longer and more personal acquaintance with the inhabitants of the land of the Pharaohs, know that they never let a fellow-being go hungry; they share their humble meals with those poorer than themselves, and if the parents of a child die, some woman, generally a childless one, comes forward and adopts the little one as her own. They have no need of orphan asylums on the banks of the Nile. While the people are thus unselfish with each other, they will call for a "present" the moment a foreigner shows his face or his purse.

Exalted above all other pictures of unselfishness to which the world can find no parallel, is that of Christ's life and death on this selfish earth, leaving us such an example of perfect unselfishness as no human power can surpass. With such an example before us, how can earth bring forth so many barren souls—murderers, drunkards, liars, forgerers, misers, scandal-lovers?

Would that we might take this divine pattern more into our hearts, and so shape and mold the restless course of our lives that they may grow more and more like the blessed original given us to imitate, even the Redeemer of the sons of men, our guide to a path of pure, cheerful Christian unselfishness.—*Sara Keables Hunt.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

ONLY.

ONLY a blonde head resting
Quietly here on my breast,
Only two blue eyes gazing
Into those they love best.

Only a soft sigh breathing
Out from those rosy lips,
Only a small hand pressing
Mine with its finger tips.

Only a slight form nestled
Close to the one it loves,
Only two mortals cooing
And billing like turtle doves.

Only the moments flying
Swiftly and surely away,
Only the silver moments
That make up the golden day.

Only a small note written,
Then a little sigh;
Only farewell, and darling;
Tear-drops—then good-by.

MAPLE BUDS.

No. VI.—The New Family Bible.

BY MAY MAPLE.

"I WANT to show you our new Family Bible," said Mrs. HARPER to her Aunt RUTH, as she unrolled the elegant volume from a snowy napkin. "Did you ever see such fine engravings; besides, here are notes and references, to make the mysterious passages all plain.

While they were admiring the fine plates, little JOHNNY came in from his play, and asked his mother to allow him to see the pretty pictures.

"No, no, JOHNNY; you cannot have this book. There is an old book that has pictures enough for one little boy. Now you need not go off crying about it—if you do I shall certainly punish you," said the mother, who really had not the least idea of being unkind.

"Why not let the child look at the volume a little while?" said Aunt RUTH. Mrs. HARPER gazed at the speaker with an air of the most profound astonishment.

"Why, Auntie! you don't mean me to infer that you would let a ten-year-old boy have such a book to amuse himself with?"

"Most certainly I do."

"Why, that book cost my husband $12. Rather too expensive a toy for him yet. It would not be a week before he would have it all pinned up on the wall."

"Then I fear you have not used your parental authority. A child of his years certainly ought to know better than to spoil even a primer."

"Well, he does know better and, in fact, has every one of his gift books in as fine order as when he received them, although he reads them frequently. But the idea of letting him have anything so expensive as our new Family Bible, is perfectly preposterous."

What is the use of those Family Bibles? Is a question I often ask myself. Almost every third family is in possession of one of the splendid volumes. Not one in a dozen is ever opened except for exhibition, or to have the family record filled out by some ornamental penman.

Year after year it lays rolled up in a napkin put far away in some private drawer; or else it is placed exactly in the middle of the marble-top center table in the darkened parlor till mildew, dust and rust corrode the gilding and the binding becomes food for moth. One might better take the bread and butter from the children's mouths and let them live on cannaille than to keep those illustrated Bibles from them. Those steel engravings reveal stories of those early days, that are quite as attractive and far more instructive than those fictitious narratives of the "Arabian Nights" and ÆSOP'S fables.

Parents say the children can read the old books; and so they can. But go where you will, neither parents nor children read the old books with such a living interest as they would the new one that contains correct representations of the country KING DAVID inhabited; and the wayside notes and comments of the region round about Jordan, where "HEROD diligently sought the young child's life," and the hills where the shepherds watched their flocks by night and beheld His star in the East.

Many a child will have reason to testify against the parents who have loved him fondly but not wisely, for his utter ignorance of the laws of GOD. The light that would have guided him safely to the haven of eternal peace, has been hidden from his sight, and when he has asked for bread *a stone has been given.*

CARE FOR YOUR MOTHER.

BY BELLE WAFFLE.

YOUNG lady, don't dwaddle in the parlor, spend your time in fooling and flirting with the soft-headed, soft-hearted young FITZFOODLE and weep over the imaginary trials and sufferings of the never-was, never-to-be-heroine of the last novel, while your poor, weary, worn-out mother is drudging her life away in the kitchen, unwept and unthought-of. Don't dress yourself up in fine laces, silks and muslins, while she wears old faded calicoes. Don't take all the holidays and pleasure trips and leave her none. Don't turn up your nose, toss your head, or make unkind remarks at her old-fashioned ways and notions and keep her out of the room when your friends call and you have music, games and jollity. Do you never think who it is that keeps you in your finery and idleness? that sees that your wants and wishes are complied with—that everything is in order and readiness for the pleasure and privileges which you enjoy? Ah, the time is coming when you *will* think! When you have taken upon yourself duties and responsibilities of which you know nothing, and have gone away among strangers to struggle with your ignorance and inability; when you stand beside a still, cold form, with the tired hands folded forever, in rest, your thoughts will be full of the past, and your soul will cry out in agony for your mother.

Young man, don't lounge about and let her do all the chores herself. When she bids or admonishes, don't strut away as though her words and wishes were not worth minding. Don't speak disrespectfully of her to your companions and call her "the old woman." Don't take all the silly, simpering, do-nothing young ladies of your acquaintance out riding, to the lecture, concert or theater, and swell up with indignation at "the idea of taking *her*."

No matter how tall or how wise you have grown, you are her boy, her child still, and she still thinks of you, cares for you as no other can or will. If you were to leave the home-roof and set up in business for yourself, she would watch you rise or fall with an interest or anxiety no other would have. If you were overcome by adversity, trial or temptation, or deep in sin, misery and wretchedness, and all the world had turned against you, *her* heart would still be open to you, ready to take you back and let you begin over again. If you were prostrated by sickness and Death hovered over you, she would watch with and wait upon you, would fight back the grim monster as no other would. Oh, young man, *care for your mother!*

PUBLIC SUICIDE OF A WIDOW IN CHINA.

THE Overland China Mail gives an account of a strange suicide which was lately committed at Fuh-chow Foo. It seems that a young lady, an inhabitant of that city, who had the misfortune to be left a widow while yet in her teens, was urged by some injudicious relatives to enter again the bonds of wedlock. The thought thus suggested of supplying the place of her late husband was so repugnant to her feelings that, in order to escape from the persecution of her advisers, she determined to "ascend in heaven on the back of a stork," or, in other words, publicly to commit suicide.

Having arrived at this determination, a day was set for the ceremony. Early on the fatal morning the lady, dressed as the Queen of Heaven and surrounded by a large following of admiring relatives and friends, started from her late husband's house in an open sedan chair for the scene of her self-inflicted death. By the way she visited her parents, to bid them farewell, and stopped occasionally on the way to taste the viands which were placed at intervals by the side of the road, as at a funeral. On arriving at the open space at the back of the Hai-chaou Temple she mounted on a scaffolding which had been erected for the purpose, and, having bowed to the vast crowd which had assembled to witness the proceedings, she cried with a loud voice, "Heaven and earth, and my friends! I am quite satisfied to die in this manner."

Having said this she stepped onto a chair on the platform and thrust her head through the noose of a red cord, which hung suspended from a cross-beam above her. At the same moment a red cloth was placed over her head and face, and then, without the least hesitation, she jumped off the chair. Death was almost instantaneous, and she expired without the least apparent struggle.

Unfortunately the effects of this young lady's self-devotion did not end with her life, for so deep an impression did her conduct make on some boys who had witnessed the spectacle that they amused themselves on the following day by making believe to follow her example. By a misadventure, while one of them was adjusting the rope round his neck, his playmates ran off, and on their return they found that he likewise had "ascended to heaven on the back of a stork."

"DUAL GARMENTURE."

THE Free Dress Reform Club of Philadelphia has boldly declared that "The garmenture for women's legs should be of dual form." And then there would still be the same old formal duel who should wear the "garmenture." And the Reform Club did not settle the question whether this "dual garmenture" would be fastened around lovely woman's waist with a pin, or held in place by a suspendature. Nor did it resolve that the buttonature of women's dual garmenture should be kept in a more perfect system of repair than is the case with the more manly trowsature. And, if the Reform Club adopts the style of garmentature worn by the sterner sex, they will have to fly a balloon jib art to accommodate the bustleture.

AMONG the really useful women of the age may be mentioned Mrs. Vansittart, of England, a daughter of Lowe, the inventor of the screw-propeller. She exhibits the "Lowe Vansittart Screw-Propeller" at the Centennial Exposition, which she advertises as the "non-vibrating, full-backing," as fitted by herself for the British navy and merchant service.

A PARIS fashion writer describes a ball dress made entirely of flowers. The garment is really an overdress, although it is so long as nearly to cover the other. From beneath the edge falls some drooping flowers, like fuchsias, and covering the upper part, generally made of muslin, are flowers of one species, or mixtures of all kinds.

Reading for the Young.

WHAT THE OWL KNOWS.

Nobody knows the world but me;
When they're all in bed I sit up to see;
I'm a better student than students all,
For I never read till the darkness fall;
And I never read without my glasses,
And that is how my wisdom passes.

I can see the wind. Now who can do that?
I see the dreams that he has in his hat;
I see him sorting them out as he goes—
Out at his stupid old trumpet nose.
Ten thousand things that you couldn't think
I write them down with pen and ink.

You may call it learning—I call it wit.
Who else can watch the lady-moon sit
Hatching the boats and the long-legged fowl,
On her nest the sea, all night, but the owl?
When the oysters gape to sing by rote,
She crams a pearl down each stupid throat.

So you see I know—you may pull off your hat,
Whether round or lofty, or square or flat—
You can never do better than trust to me;
You may shut your eyes as long as I see;
While you lay I will lead you, and then, I'm the owl,
I'll bury you nicely with my spade and shovel.

[George Macdonald.

FAMILIAR SCIENCE.

No. 2.—The Oak Pruner.

MY DEAR NEICES AND NEPHEWS:—Our last talk was about infusoria, those minute aldermen of the sea, the polyps, and I would fain believe that

the brief outline then given has led some of you to investigate the subject. It is a specially interesting theme at this time, when we are all talking of reform. The polyp is the greatest reformer in existence. You may cut him in two and he reforms, or you can continue the subdividing process indefinitely, and the little brute goes about his reformation work without preamble or resolutions.

Now the accompanying picture tells the story of our friend, the Oak Pruner. He is what you might call an optimist among beetles—that is, he takes a serene view of life and believes in the greatest good to the greatest number—but I should add, perhaps, that his idea of the greatest number is No. 1. How closely he does resemble some of our friends!

It is scarcely courteous to proceed further without introducing the young fellow in due form, so I hasten to present to the Young Folks Mr. ELAENIMON VILLOSUS. You would suppose from the name that our friend was not an American, but he is. This name is merely a piece of foreign affectation that it pleases him to assume. It is even hinted that it was Mrs. E. VILLOSUS that put him up to the caper, and that at home, among their friends, they are known as "those PRUNERS," with a sneering inflection on "those." I will go even to greater lengths and state that farmers have been heard to say, when viewing his ravages, "Ah, ha! PRUNER, old boy, I have thee foul." It needs no explanation to show that such a sentence is malicious in tone. Why should it be? I will tell you.

The piece of wood you see in the cut is a part of the branch of an oak. It was sent to the RURAL Office by a subscriber who wanted to know what it was that caused such tremendous destruction to his trees, whereupon Mr. FULLER, your Editor-in-Chief, went to his Entomological cabinet, produced the miscreant, and I have had him reproduced from life for your instruction and pleasure.

It would seem that our friend has substantial tastes, as he chooses oak timber for his domicile. In its adult state the Oak Pruner is a slender, long-horned beetle, just as you see him, and his size corresponds to the scale that runs parallel to the cut. He is a fastidious dresser, affecting quiet colors, dull-brown, sprinkled with gray spots composed of very short close hairs. He is not quite as tall as a steeple, varying in length from four and a half to six-tenths of an inch. But the mischief he can do!

About July, Mrs. E. VILLOSUS gladdens the heart of old PRUNER by intimating that, perhaps, it would be quite as well to look for some suitable dwelling for their son and, presto! one fine day a tiny egg is deposited close to the joint of a twig or a branch. His grubship is thus set up in business for himself and soon he penetrates to the pith and continues his course to the trunk of the tree. The grub is that quiet, slippery-looking fellow up in the right-hand corner, and you can judge of his boring capacity by looking at the hole in the branch. He devours the pith and, ungrateful youth, there are good reasons for believing he does not give even a passing thought to his parents!

Towards the end of summer he concludes to change from a grub to a pupa—that is, he becomes a sort of half-and-half between a grub (as shown in the upper right corner) and a full-fledged beetle, as seen to the left. And now a momentous question presents itself. This timber merchant will want to go down to the ground shortly, but he don't care to leave such comfortable quarters. How does he do it? Why, he quietly eats along until he reaches the stem of the tree and gnaws away until he leaves only the rim of the bark untouched; then leisurely retreating, he makes himself comfortable *inside* the branch and whistles for a wind, which comes along presently and, of course, precipitates the branch to the ground. The leaves break the force of the fall and behold! our friend as snug as a bug in a rug, until he gets good and ready to emerge in the spring. The consequence is, branches of five and six feet in length are thus severed from vigorous trees and incalculable damage done. Now with this brief description of one insect injurious to vegetation, see if you cannot go out in the woods and detect E. VILLOSUS at his tricks, and by gathering up the branches and using them for fuel, cremate his beetleship and prevent a repetition of this two-act comedy in the spring. UNCLE TRUE.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

What!—Suppress Him!

RESPECTED EDITOR AND THE RURAL CAMP FRATERNITY:—After reading the two columns of the Cousin's letters in a late number of your journal, after perusing the letter of YOUNG POET and some various sentiments about quilting, (if another "I" had been substituted for the "t," I would have been more interested,) and after wading through the comments on the letter of YOUNG EDITOR published some time since, I have the audacity—yes, really—to write this epistle. I say audacity, because it rarely happens that you can call out any of us junior eds., because we're afraid some of your sharp-witted critics might undertake to overhaul us about some unsuitable expression in our letters. But I cannot keep still without going into the war and striking out. So I've put my musket on my shoulder, a quill behind my ear, and with a few *Italic* (I want to be *emphatic*) type in my pocket,—I'm here. Now, dear Cousins, don't think I am imposing upon you, for really I am a disciple of *black ink and lye*. No, I'm not a "devil" in a down-town job office, but actually have a sprightly sheet, which shows its beaming countenance every month. But just as I shake your hands I must depart. Will call again.—YOUNG EDITOR No. 2, *Typeville, State of Literati.*

P. S.—Won't UNCLE TRUE give us another exercise to compete for a prize? We latent fellows will do better next time.—Y. E.

[Now here is a young fellow after his Uncle's heart. How lively he would make it for a hornet's nest! Neices, up and at him! Don't tolerate this departure from the beaten path.]

"Storm," and Some Thunder.

HELLO, boys! Wake up! what are you all about? Why don't you write oft'ner? I've been reading the "Letters from Boys and Girls" for some time. Some of them I like very much, but others I don't like at all. This is the first letter I have written to the RURAL, so you see I'm a stranger among you. I don't mean to describe myself. If any of you have any curiosity as to what kind of a boy I am, however, just look at the description of BELLE E. F. in the RURAL of September 9th, and you will have me exactly. I like her letters, as also ONE OF THE BOYS, very much. I also hope the latter will not permit the girls to quiet him if they *should* put on the war-paint. Advise him to fire back every time. They can't do him much harm, any way. I hope BELLE E. F. will give us another of her red-hot letters. A few more like hers would make our little column so much more interesting. At present, the boys and girls, when they write something about somebody else and the party takes it up and fires back, the former thinks he has got the worst of it and draws off, and that is the signal for every new beginner and, in fact, for almost every one that writes, to have a crack at him. Now boys, when the girls find fault with anything you write, don't stop, but write again. No difference if you do get a little snubbed, the boys will take it up and give the girls as good as they send, and increase the interest of our column at the same time. I'm sorry none of the boys wrote about JOAN OF ARC. I agree with ONE OF THE BOYS in saying that the boys could beat any of the histories written by the girls. I hope UNCLE TRUE will give us another chance. I might perhaps have made my letter look better if I had said something about YOUNG TOM OR YOUNG BACH; but as that subject has been worn about out, I guess I can do without it. I don't want to be one of the Cousins—*they agree too well.*—STORM.

[Here is a young gentleman who is a born agitator. Water will never stagnate as long as he has a pole! I don't feel encouraged to give out the subject for another sketch, in view of the fact

that neither girls nor boys have shown any disposition to correct the errors or judge of the merits of those published.—U. T.

Hoop La!

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—Uncles MARK and TRUE, jointly and unconsanguineous-like, have discarded one of their young. They have slighted his MS. in *two* cases, extraneous alike to the present fullness of soul that induced and blended them and to the ties of filiation which bind us together in cousinhood; and therefore I submit this attestation of their alienity towards me to your sympathy and ask whether I should "advertiz 'em," as the Michigan man once threatened the American Agriculturist with for finding in its columns a spurious and fortuitous advertisement. However, in looking over the annals of paternity, more than one kinsman is found who neglected nearer and dearer relations, and therefore if they publish this I will forgive Uncles MARK and TRUE. Unlike the majority of you RURAL readers I am a city pumpkin, playing my part in the theater of life in this busy "Babylon," but have a princely garden where nature not only sheds the usual refulgence of temperate climates, but has also hills and woods and orange groves, like those which formed the unrivaled landscapes of Granada—but it is in my brain.—W. C., *New York*.

Why Not, to be Sure!

DEAR RURAL:—I have been watching the letters from the Boys and Girls for the past five years with great interest, and I am sorry to say I rarely see one from a Canadian. I do not know the reason of this, but probably they have been like myself, always waiting for some one to start first. Now I think we have some young folks in Canada who are as capable of writing a short essay as the Americans, although they are sometimes styled "slow Canadians." Have any of the RURAL Cousins ever visited the Dominion? If so, I would like to have them tell what part. I live in the County of Elgin, twelve miles east of St. Thomas. I was disappointed about going to the Centennial, so if any of the Cousins have been there, we would like to have a description—or probably UNCLE TRUE will favor us. If this merits a place in your valuable paper, I will write again. Hoping you will initiate me as one of your Cousins, I am —D. B., *Aylmer, Canada*.

A Resolution and Question.

DEAR UNCLE:—We just received the RURAL tonight and I made up my mind that I would certainly write now, as I have written two letters and neglected to send them. We do not take the RURAL, but are members of a Reading Club and therefore have the use of it. I think Cousin GYPSY BELLE is just right about piecing quilts. I have pieced five and think of piecing another. I should like to ask ANNA MCM. how she occupies her time after school, and in winter? I would say to the Cousins that the boys thought they could not write about JOAN of Arc *any better*, and so they kept silent. Isn't that so, Uncle TRUE? Will some of the Cousins tell me how to prepare autumn leaves for bouquets, please? I am sitting by the south window, the sun is just setting and the clouds are tinged with gold and look beautiful.—FLORENCE DELANO, *Iowa*.

The Puzzler.

HIDDEN FRUIT.

1. STOP, Lu, mother has prepared a lunch for us.
2. The ugly cur ran too fast to be caught.
3. To prosper, Simmons, is utterly impossible.
4. I love a foreign clime.
5. Rolf, I grant your request.
6. Richard ate something that made him sick.
7. A do not care a snap, please your honor.
8. Give me a glass of water, Melony.
9. While sick I loathe bread; fruit of all kinds I crave.

☞ Answer in two weeks. B.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 23 letters:
My 4, 10, 19, 7, 22, 23 a city in New Jersey.
My 15, 22, 3, 20 a city in New York.
My 22, 21, 11, 23, 8 mountains in the United States.
My 5, 2, 22, 7, 11. 13, 5, 18 a city in New York.
My 1, 16, 9, 14 a seaport in Massachusetts.
My 15, 7, 13, 4, 15, 12, 14 a city in Massachusetts.
My whole is a town, county and State.

☞ Answer in two weeks. C. S.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 17 letters:
My 8, 13, 17, 10, 16 a pointed weapon.
My 12, 9, 6, 16, 11 a voracious fish.
My 7, 14, 15, 4 a repast.
My 1, 5, 3, 4, 2, 12 an American poet.
My whole gives the name of an English poet.

☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

1. A CITY of France. 2. Two duplicate vowels. 3. A lake of Soongaria. 4. An island in the Baltic. 5. A city of Nippon. Primals and finals form two islands of Oceanica.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Oct. 14.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—"Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness."

DOUBLE CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—Danube, Thames.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—Primals, Wolf; finals, Bear.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.90 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Molucca Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory or garden. Its growth is rapid—small plants attaining the hight of five feet during the summer months. In the fall it may be cut back to any desirable size and potted for the winter, when it will quickly recover its symmetry and resume its ever-blooming habit. Its quick and exceeding popularity is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is as yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class. It is difficult to select a more attractive plant than Marie Lemoine when freely blooming. Every truss is in itself a bouquet. The leaves are large, zoneless, vigorous. The plant is compact and, like *Abutilon Boule de Neige*, is invaluable, either for the conservatory, window or garden.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It has stood 26° below zero unharmed. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. The thyrses of flowers, first greenish-white, then white, then rose, often measure a foot in length and twenty inches in circumference. Every stem being thus terminated, the striking appearance of an entire plant may be conceived. There can be no doubt that this is one of the most valuable of all perfectly hardy shrubs.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata*.—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green, much as *Abutilon Thomsoni* is variegated with green and yellow. From its racemes of flowers are formed fruit as large as currants, each one of which is a different color in shades of claret, azure-blue and green. These berries, which are first as soft as a currant, become finally as hard as bullets.

The pretty stems are also variegated, green, whitish and rose. The roots are perfectly hardy, and the vine's growth so rapid that it will cover twenty-five feet square in a season. For conservatory walls or pillars, for trellises or rockeries, it cannot fail to please. It has been growing in the RURAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS for several years without the least protection.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the singular Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE Grand Jury of Salem, N. J., has found a true bill of murder against James Weedon, Samuel Collyer, John Clarke, Richard Goodwin and "Fiddler" Neery, the men concerned in the killing of Walker in the prize ring.

Mary Maguire journeyed from Ireland six years ago and settled in Bayonne, N. J., with her son John. He died and she was sent to the Snake Hill Almshouse. Recently she returned to Bayonne and begged for money to send her to Ireland, where she could die surrounded by her friends. She is over 70 years old. Chief of Police Whitney procured her the passage money, and on the 17th visited the residence of a friend where the old lady was living. She could hardly restrain her joy when told that he was to conduct her to the steamship. After she had bade farewell to her hostess and was on the threshold of the door, she uttered a slight scream and fell to the floor. She died before medical assistance could be procured. Death, the physician said, was from excess of joy.

M. Cazeneuve recently entertained a company of gentlemen in a small room at Chickering Hall, this city, by doing many surprising things of the kind performed by so-called Spiritual mediums. He was so tied that neither head, hands, nor feet could be moved, according to ordinary laws of motion; and his shirt cuffs were sewed to the bandages about his wrists in such a way that the hands could not be slipped from their confinement without severing the threads. So bound he rang bells, blowed on a penny trumpet, and beat a drum, all at the same time; or somebody or something did behind a curtain drawn across the front of a cabinet. He filled the large eye of a needle with short threads from a spool laid upon his lap, cut paper into curious shapes, wrote on a slate the words which members of the assembly had privately written on cards, gave the marks on a domino secretly selected by some one present, took off his own stockings and placed them in his lap, while his boots remained on, and his feet securely tied above the ankle, took off the coat of a gentleman who, blindfolded, sat beside him in the cabinet, with one hand on the performer's breast and another over his forehead, to detect any movement, kissed another gentleman who sat beside him in the same manner, transferred that gentleman's watch and chain from his vest to the prestidigitateur's pocket, and did other marvels.

A large number of cotton-seed oil factories are being erected in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

A man with $8,000 in his pockets was picked up helplessly drunk in the streets of East Cambridge, Mass.

At an auction in Thomaston, Conn., 700 bushels of potatoes were sold for $18, or a little more than 2½ cents per bushel.

A negro woman was arraigned before the Mayor of Raleigh, N. C., accused of bewitching a child. The Mayor, however, being a sensible man, would not entertain the charge.

Mrs. Jane M. Walker, ex-President Polk's sister, who died at Columbia, Tenn., a few days ago, left just 100 grand and great-grand-children.

The value of the natural and manufactured products of Rhode Island for the year 1875 was over $500 for each man, woman and child in the State.

The sandstone slabs containing the fossil tracks of a man and a bird, discovered at North Canton, Conn., are believed to be bogus, as the man who had them disappeared when a committee of scientific gentlemen agreed to examine them critically.

After reading Gov. Chamberlain's proclamation to rifle clubs, demanding the surrender of their arms, the Club at Rock Hill, S. C., procured a box, placed in it an old horse-pistol, a flint-lock rifle and an army musket, and marking the box "C. O. D.," shipped it to the Governor. The expressage was $18.

A Newfoundland dog in Toronto, sixteen years old, wears three medals, each representing a human life saved. He is gray and toothless, and is carefully provided for by the mother-superior of a convent.

A new law has been promulgated in Prussia by which Baptist congregations can obtain rights of incorporation in that country, and be recognized as religious bodies, each congregation to apply for it separately.

Owing to the vandalism of tourists and atmospheric causes, the sculptured monument over the grave of Bunyan, at Bunhill Fields, is rapidly disappearing. It has stood nearly 200 years, and it is hoped it will be restored.

During the year which ended last June seventy-six newspapers and magazines were started in Japan.

An agent representing several companies of English capitalists, has written to the Tennessee Bureau of Agriculture, Statistics and Mines, asking whether or not there are 300,000 acres of coal lands in the State for sale and, if so, to inform him at once, that his principals might purchase.

Dispatches from Charleston, S. C., dated Oct. 22, state that riotous demonstrations of negroes, generally supposed to be the result of the Cainhoy affair, are reported from various points of Charleston County. A serious demonstration of negroes in Mount Pleasant village, opposite Charleston, is alarming the white residents, who will petition Gen. Ruger for troops.

The record of the fall of rain kept by the Signal Service Bureau shows that for the first nine months of this year it has been much larger than the corresponding months of last year, being 39.03 inches, to 34.75 inches.

Mayor Stokley has been informed by the Duke of Richmond—the head of the British Commission to the Centennial Exhibition—that her Majesty's Government intend to present St. George's House, at the Centennial grounds, to the City of Philadelphia after the close of the Exhibition.

Advices from San Francisco, dated Oct. 22, state that the masters of the abandoned Arctic fleet express uncertainty as to the number of the men who remained with the ships or returned to them after beginning the homeward trip; but so far as can be ascertained it seems probable that fifty or sixty were left behind, many of whom were Kanakas.

The loss on New Bedford whalers in the late Arctic catastrophe is said to aggregate nearly $500,000, and is covered by insurance, principally in the Boylston, New England, Washington, and Manufacturers' Companies of Boston, and the Orient of New York.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE German society for the introduction of cremation has paid 15,000 marks to the town of Gotha for the erection of a cremation furnace. Strict police regulations have been published for the examination of bodies offered for burning, and no corpse is to be cremated unless the deceased has expressed a wish to that effect, and his relatives have declared their concurrence.

As an example of the almost incredible prices paid for good building sites in London a transaction just completed is cited. The demolition of Northumberland House and the formation of a new approach to the Thames embankment at Charing Cross have left two plots of eligible land vacant. The plot on the east side of the new avenue has been let on a building lease for ninety years at a rental of £58,000 a year. The land comprises nearly an acre, and is triangular in shape, though only two sides could at best be used for shops.

Two hundred members of the Russian sect of "Old Believers," who had been banished to the Ural because they refused to join the Orthodox Russian Church, have been treated by the Russian authorities with a cruelty which has hitherto been supposed to be only characteristic of Turks Having been ordered for service in the penal regiments at Petro-Alexandrovsk, on the Caspian, they were so ill-used that many perished on the road, and others jumped into the sea to avoid their oppressors, and 100 only arrived at their destination.

Switzerland is joining in the outcry at the slackness of trade, and says its peculiarly national industries are being stolen from it. Geneva has no longer a monopoly of watchmaking, as this trade is being developed at Besancon; milk condensing is being largely carried on in England, and cheeses are made in and exported from America.

The Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs has announced that all that is required in the way of passports from foreigners entering Spain is that they shall be provided with some document to establish their identity. The readiest means of identification, however, all over the European Continent, is the possession of a regularly-authenticated passport.

An Australian has taught a canary bird to sing "Home, Sweet Home," by suspending it before a looking-glass near a music-box which performed that melody. Supposing the bird in the glass was making the music, the bird finally caught the notes and now warbles the whole tune.

The London Field states that in the first fortnight in September the Maharajah Duleep Singh himself shot 2,350 partridges. On one day he shot 780. They were not the wild partridge, but "hand reared."

When any one is run over in St. Petersburgh the carriage causing the accident is confiscated, the horses are taken to the fire brigade for public use and the driver is imprisoned and flogged. Hence, fewer accidents than anywhere else.

It is understood that David Mills, member of Parliament for Bothwell, Canada, has been appointed to the vacant seat in the Dominion Cab-

The heat at Barcelona, in Spain, was fearful on inct caused by the recent appointment of Hon. Mr. Laird to the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Northwest Territory.

The missionary societies connected with Spain sent an address to Lord Derby, representing to him the dangers to which the Protestants in Spain were exposed in consequence of the intolerance of the clergy and authorities, and suggesting that he should invite the co-operation of other powers, especially Germany and the United States, to protest against the continued persecution of Protestants and to afford them protection. In reply, Lord Derby says: "Our Minister at Madrid is taking such steps as he properly can to induce the Spanish Government to put a lenient construction on the eleventh article of the constitution so as to secure full religious liberty to Protestants in Spain."

A special dispatch from Rome to the Daily News says: "Cardinal Antonelli's secretary has apologized to the Spanish Ambassador for the discourtesy shown him by the committee which superintended the reception of the Spanish pilgrims by the Pope, recently, in refusing to admit him and his attaches, but the Ambassador, having telegraphed an account of the affair to Madrid, has received instructions to demand an explanation from the Holy See."

The London Post says it bears from a trustworthy source that the Egyptians altogether lost 2,700 men in the recent Abyssinian campaigns.

The heat at Barcelona, Spain, was very great on the 1st of October. The vintage of black grapes, however, is very promising, and the wine presses are at work.

Harborton, N. J., Oct. 16.—We have had a rather, inauspicious season, owing to heavy storms, in the spring and fall, and a severe drought throughout the summer. On Saturday night, Oct. 14th, we had quite a fall of snow, followed next day by a cold northwest wind. Pasturage has been very scant, most of the season, but we had rain enough in fall to make nearly an average crop of corn and stalks. Wheat is yielding fairly for last years crop and the growing wheat looks well. Oats below average. Potatoes scarce. Hay rather a short crop, of good quality.

Prices of Farm produce are: Wheat, $1.25 ₩ bu.; Corn, 60c.; Oats, 30c.. Potatoes, $1.00 ₩ bu.; Hay, $15 to $18 ₩ ton; Butter, 35c. to 37c. ₩ lb.; Pork, 7c. to 7½c. ₩ lb.; Apples 50c. ₩ bu., for winter apples, (for windfalls of which there are a great many) no sale.—D. J. BLACKWELL.

STEINWAY'S VICTORY AND LAURELS.

THE following official report of the Judges of Awards shows *conclusively* that the HIGHEST HONORS in the gift of the Centennial authorities were *unanimously* awarded to *Steinway & Sons*. The report speaks for itself, and an attentive perusal and a critical comparison with other published reports is respectfully solicited.

THE ALL-IMPORTANT JUDGE'S REPORT.

The undersigned, having examined the Grand, Square and Upright Pianos exhibited by STEINWAY & SONS, respectfully recommend the same to the United States Centennial Commission for award, for the following reasons, viz.:

For greatest concert capacity in Grand Pianos, as also highest degree of excellence in all their styles of pianos, viz.: largest volume, purity and duration of tone, and extraordinary carrying capacity, with precision and durability of mechanism; also, novel disposition of the strings and construction, and bracing of the metal frame.

Improvements applied by Steinway & Sons were the following:

I. A DISPOSITION OF THE STRINGS IN THE FORM OF A FAN, placing the bass string across the steel strings, and materially elongating the sound-board bridges by moving them nearer to the center of the sound-board itself, thus setting greater portions of the latter into vibratory action, and so producing a greatly increased volume of sound.

II. A DUPLEX SCALE, patented in 1872, brings into action those portions of the strings which heretofore lay dormant and inactive, thereby increasing the *richness, pliability* and *singing quality*, as well as the *carrying capacity* of the tone, especially of the upper notes.

III. A CUPOLA METAL FRAME, patented in 1872 and 1875, with its new system of a crossbar and bracings, giving *absolute safety* against the pull of the strings, and increasing the capacity to stand in tune. The space gained by the use of the Capo d'Astro bar permits the use of more heavily felted hammers, whereby a *pure, rich* quality of tone is retained much longer than heretofore.

IV. A CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUND-BOARD, with its system of compression, (as shown in the patents of 1866, 1869 and 1872,) preventing that relaxation of the sound-board which is the natural result of its constant concussion, caused by the strokes of the hammers against the strings, and by atmospheric influences.

V. A METALLIC TUBULAR FRAME ACTION (patented in 1868 and 1875), being entirely impervious to atmospheric influences, in conjunction with the new system of escapement, resulting in *unerring precision, power and delicacy of touch and durability.*

VI. A TONE-SUSTAINING PEDAL (patented 1874) extends the capacity of the piano for the production of new musical effects, by enabling the performer, at pleasure, to prolong the sound of a single note or group of notes, leaving both hands free to strike other notes; is of simple construction, not liable to get out of order, and its use easily acquired.

Steinway & Sons exhibit in "Machinery Hall" samples of METAL PARTS and HARDWARE, and FULL METAL FRAMES of Grand, Square and Upright Pianos; also samples of their PATENT METALLIC TUBULAR FRAME ACTIONS, all produced at their foundry and metal works at Astoria, Long Island.

These articles of composite metal show the *highest perfection of finish and workmanship* and the *greatest* firmness and uniformity of metal structure, a steel-like and sounding quality with a tensile strength exceeding 5,000 pounds per square centimetre, as demonstrated by actual tests. The full metal frames of cupola shape, possess an *unequated degree* of resistance, permitting a vastly increased tension of strings without the slightest danger of break or crack in said metal frames, thereby *considerably increasing the vibratory power, and augmenting the lasting qualities* of their instruments.

Signature of the Judge: H. K. OLIVER.

Approval of Group Judges:

J. SCHIEDMAYER,	P. F. KUPKA.
GEO. F. BRISTOW,	Sir WM. THOMSON,
JOSEPH HENRY,	JAMES C. WATSON,
E. LEVASSEUR,	ED. FAVRE PENET,
J. E. HILGARD,	F. A. P. BARNARD.

—Evening Post.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

JULIUS S. WALSH, *Pres't.* G. O. KALB, *Sec'y.*

OFFICE OF THE
ST. LOUIS AGRICULT'L & MECHANICAL ASS'N,
ST. LOUIS, Oct. 17, 1876.

This is to certify that at the late Fair held by this Association, *the First Premium, a Diploma and Ten Dollars, for best Sulky Hay Rake, was awarded to the* DAYTON MACHINE CO. *of Dayton, Ohio, and the Second Premium, a large Bronze Medal, was awarded to J. W. Stoddard & Co. of Dayton, Ohio.* G. O. KALB, Sec'y.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

BETTER THAN SAVINGS BANK
OR GOVERNMENT BONDS.
Pays Ten Per Cent. Every Day.
Send for Circular of
GRANGE MILL
To H. H. SWIFT,
Millbrook, N. Y.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Oct. 21, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	83,838	Molasses	86
Whisky	2,924	Rice, bbls	2,581
Corn meal, bbls	1,324	Cut meats, pkgs	13,422
Corn meal, bags	1,860	Lard, pkgs	5,310
Wheat, bush	619,914	Tobacco, hhds	1,691
Corn, bush	1,079,648	do. pkgs	4,661
Oats, bush	329,886	Butter, pkgs	26,364
Rye, bush	13,733	Cheese, bxs	41,610
Malt, bush	19,797	Cotton, bales	37,243
Barley, bush	410,401	Rosin	1,409
Beans, bbls	9,340	Suts. turo., bbls	963
Grass seed, bush	19,988	Dried Fruits, pkgs	2,578
Beef, pkgs	805	Eggs, bbls	5,676
Wool, bales	2,348	Peanuts, bags	281
Hops, bales	2,917	Leather, sides	45,214
Pork, bbls	2,029	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	879	Oil cake	11,963

EUROPEAN news during the week has had a sword in it, and when it threatens an uplifted movement, a rise is also apt to occur in all prominent items of produce suitable for exportation. There has been considerable advance in breadstuffs and provisions, more attributable, however, to the excitement created by the rapid and various war-like dispatches received than to an earnest speculative demand. Cautious dealers in foreign interests do not respond hurriedly to the brightened ideas of holders; in fact, property has gone largely abroad and many European buyers feel it to be better policy for them to wait until a more tranquil basis appears than the immediate outlook affords. True, many impetuous operators bought heavily in grain upon the first signification of national embroilment abroad; but later transactions have been of a more sober character. Gold, which is a good barometer of ocean commerce, has shown tamer fluctuations than was expected, though there was considerable flurry on receipt of the early belligerent news, and the fact has had considerable influence in checking feverish business on 'Change.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports beans past week, 600 bush.; since Jan. 1, 474,400 do.; same time last year, 137,611 do. In beans the demand is steady for new crops. Old also sell well when of suitable quality. Receipts are not of a satisfactory high grade. Canadian peas have advanced. Green, firm. B. E. easier. Black or Turtle soup beans lower.

Beans—New medium, $1.55@1.60; do. marrow, $2.25 do. pea, $1.65@1.70; white kidney, $2.15@2.225; red do., $2; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $1.40@1.45; other, $1.20@1.35; marrow, prime, $2.10@—; other, $1.80@2; pea, prime, $1.50@1.55; other, $1.30@1.40; white kidney, prime, $2@2.10; other, $1.65@1.80; red do., prime, $1.70@1.80; other, $1.40@1.60; black, $2.75 Canadian peas, new, ₩ bbl., free, $1.12@1.14.; do. bulk, 93@94c.; green do., new, $1.45@1.50; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2.20@2.25.

BEESWAX.—Trade is very slow at present and prices unsettled; Western quoted 30@31c., and Southern 31@32c.

BROOM CORN is coming in more freely, but is hard to sell. Quoted at 7@8c. for short green brush, 6¾@7¼c. for green hurl, 5@6c. for medium green, and 3@4c. for red and red-tipped.

BUTTER.—Exports past week, 1,910 packages. The scarcity or want of fine State butter is making the range wider in creamery and fine pails. These sell almost upon arrival. The market may be also called active for fine high grades half tubs and firkins with a good demand for entire dairies when they have a good showing of fresh ends. Welsh tubs are more largely inquired for than they have been in several past years. Fresh flavored Western is in demand. The under grade, drag and seem to be at the mercy of low buyers. Exportation has fallen off very seriously.

We quote:—Choice pails, 35@—c.; prime, 33@34c.; poor to good, 25@30c.; creamery pails, choice, 37@38c.; good, 34@37c.; sweet cream pails, 30@36c. State firkins, choice, 32@33c; fair to good, 25@30c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@33c.; fair to prime, 25@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 32@33c.; other, 24@28c.; inferior State, 15@20c.; Western creamery, choice, 35@35c.; other, 32@34c.; do. firkins, best, 21@22c.; other, 14@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 24@26c.; other, 15@18c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 14@18c.

State dairies quotable at 30@32c. with full tubs Welsh tubs, dairies, 26@31c.

CIDER.—Prices are unchanged. Casks quoted at 8c. ₩ gal., small pkgs., fresh 10@12c.

CHEESE.—This has been another very dull week. Strictly fancy late made factories being in small stock are held at 13½c. and to 14c. for some exceptional lots, but it is difficult to get even the lower rate, while the under grades are especially depressed. The foreign markets offer no encouragement at present.

Fancy factory, 13½@13¾c. for fancy September; do. job lots, 11@14½c.; 12@13c. for fine August; good and prime, 11@12c.; fair, 9½@11¾c.; State farm dairy, fancy, 11¾@12½c.; good to prime, 10½@11c.; fair and good, 9@10c. Western factory, good and prime, 11@12c.; fair lots, 9½@10¾c.; do. cheddar, choice, 12@12½c.; do. flat, choice, 12½@13½c.

Exports for the week, 10,973 boxes.

COTTON has been depressed and lower, by the break in the markets on the other side, occasioned by the war rumors.

The latest quotations are:—October, 10 13-16@10 37-32c.; November, 10 15-16@10 31-32c.; December, 11 53-32@11 3-16c.; January, 11¾@11 13-32c.; February, 11 29-32c.; March, 11 25-32@11 13-16c.; April, 12@12 1-32c.; May, 12 3-16@12 7-32c.; June, 12¾@12 13-32c.; July, 12 17-32c.; August, 12¾@12 11-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9	9	9	9
Strict ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Good ordinary	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
Strict good do	10¾	10¾	10 3-16	10 3-16
Low middling	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Strict low middling	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Middling	10¾	11	11 1-16	11 1-16
Good middling	11 1-16	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 5-16
Strict good middling	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 9-16	11 9-16
Middling fair	11 11-16	11 13-16	11 15-16	11 15-16
Fair	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 11-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	8¾	Low middling	9¾
Strict ordinary	9¾	Middling	10 13-16

DRIED FRUITS.—Apples have some little export demand and firm in price. Peeled peaches scarce, higher and strong. Blackberries and cherries doing better, with small supplies.

Apples—State, sliced, 6¾@7¼c.; do., quarters, 6¼@7c.; Southern sliced, new, 6@7c.; choice do. 7¼@8¼c.; fancy, 9@10c.; do., new quarters, 4¾@4c. Blackberries, 8½c. Peeled peaches, new, nominally 14@16c.; unpeeled peaches, halves, 7@8c.; do. quarters, 6@7c. Plums at 12@13c. Raspberries, 26@27c. Cherries, 17c.

Exports of apples quite free—802 bbls. for the week.

EGGS.—Light arrivals have vitalized the market and the higher rates are firm. The grocery demand is not heavy but hotels, &c., are enlarging purchases. There is a little more movement in limed since fresh advanced.

Near points, 26@28c.; State and Penn., 25½@26c.; Western, prime, 25c.; do. other, 24@24½c.; Canadian, 24@25c.

State limed, 20@21c.; Western, do., 17@20c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—There are no new features. Peppermint—Western and State oil offered freely at $2.25 ₩ lb. Spearmint, asking price, $2 ₩ lb. Sassafras in fair demand at 45c.

FLOUR.—The disturbed condition of affairs on the other side, with possibilities of war, gave considerable excitement to the market and, under large dealings, prices run up 30c. to 40c. ₩ bbl. At the close a quiet feeling prevailed, but holders not inclined to concede.

Sales at $4.70@5.00 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5.45@5.60 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.30@5.85 for good extra do.; $5.40@5.50 for fancy do., and $5.65@6.75 for fancy to very choice extra; $4.70@5.00 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.45@5.65 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.70@5.80 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.85@6.75; fancy do. $6.80@8.00; winter wheat, good to choice family $6.50@8.25; round-hoop Ohio, $5.45@5.60, and trade brands of do. at $5.65@7.00; St. Louis, $5.50@6.65 for common to fair extra, and $6.70@8.50 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.75@8.00, and patent at $8.25@9.50; mixed stock at from $5.25@5.25; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.25@6.80; do. English brands, $5.50@—; do. trade and family $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $3.50@4.25. Corn meal—$2.85@3.15 for yellow Western, and $3.35@3.40 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples, past week, 5,442 bbls. Low prices and fine quality induce exporters to ship freely to Liverpool and Glasgow, all suitable steamer room having been largely taken at 4s. per bbl. With so large a crop of apples as we are to handle this season, this is a fortunate outlet, especially as the purchases include lines or mixed lots of varieties that have not been largely introduced in the British markets. Until within a few years the Newtown pippin was about the only American apple that was taken in commercial quantities. Lately prime Baldwins and showy Greenings have an encouraging inquiry. The home demand is good, and prime winter stock may do better when the perishable sorts are out of the way. Still, dealers do not look for a sudden advance. Some good lines of pears remain, and prices are firm for them. California forces out the supply of table. Grapes are selling steadily, with some extra call in market. Cranberries do not sell up to arrival. Chestnuts doing better. Hickory nuts not wanted much until later on. The past two weeks have given us the largest supply of Louisiana oranges ever received. We quote:

Apples, State, ₩ bbl., fall and winter, $1.50@1.75; mixed, $1.37@1.50; good to fair, $1@1.25; common open heads, 50@85c. Pears—Duchess, $6@10; Seckel, 8@12; Virgalieu, $4@10; Vicars, 4@6; cooking, $3@4; California, Duchess and B. D'Anjou, $4 ₩ box; B. Clairgeon, $4.50; W. Nellis and E. Beurre not yet wanted. Quinces, fancy, ₩ bbl., $12@14. Cranberries, crates, $2.00@3.12; reg. bbls., $8@10. Grapes Catawba, ₩ lb., 7@7½c.; Isabellas, 5@6c.; Cal. Tokay, $6 ₩ 30-lb. case; Malaga and Muscat, $3@4 do.; Black Prince, $3@4. Chestnuts, ₩ bush. $1@1.50. Hickory nuts $1.50@1.75; Va., fancy, $1.50@1.75; other $1@1.60.

GRAIN.—In wheat will the gloomy appearance abroad, and anticipated troubles growing out of the Turkish question, there has been a disposition to operate on speculative account as well as by exporters, and under heavy transactions and an excited temper; prices ran up about 7c. ₩ bushel, but with a more peaceful position in the later dispatches, the market at the close is very quiet; new No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.28 bid and $1.30 asked; new No. 2 Milwaukee held at $1.30; old No. 2 Milwaukee spring sold at $1.20; winter red Western at $1.23@1.28; Rye at 72@75c. for Western, 87@92c. for Jersey, State and Pennsylvania. Corn is active at a slight advance; sales at 58½@62½c. for mixed Western. Oats are a trifle higher; sales 32@50c. for mixed Western and State, and 32@50c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—There are large receipts and prices are easier.

Bale hay 60c. for shipping; 70@90c. for retail qualities; clover, 50@60c.; salt, do., 35@60c. Straw quoted at 70@80c. for long rye; 50@60c. for short rye, and 50@60c. for oat.

HIGHWINES selling at $1.16.

HOPS.—Exports for the week, 1,414 bales. Trade has been moderate this week and, on a little pressure to sell on instances, lower prices made. The disposition now is to await results from recent shipments abroad.

New Yorks, good to choice, new	35 to 37
New Yorks, low to fair, new	25 to 32
Eastern, new	25 to 33
Yearlings	10 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	35 to 38

POULTRY AND GAME.—Live is quoted at losing prices; market badly overstocked.

New Jersey turkeys, 13@14c. ₩ lb. N. J. fowls and chicks, 13@14c.; State and Penn., 10@11c.; Western, 10@12c.; Southern, 9@10c.; roosters, 8@9c. Geese, N. J., ₩ pair, $1.75@2; Western, $1.37@1.62. Ducks, N. J., ₩ pair, 81@87c.; Western, 50@65c. Live pigeons for 25c.

The market is generally weak. It is rather early for large receipts, and qualities are not above what city killers can supply. Still, perhaps, it is well to get rid of the coarse stock early. Turkeys will be very plentiful after such a favorably dry summer.

Turkeys, N. J., 15@16c.; State, 13@17c.; Western, 15@16c. Chickens, dry-picked, 14@15c. N. J. chicks, 13@17c.; State, 12@14c.; Western, 11@13c. Ducks, N. J., 15@18c.; State, 13@17c.; Western, 13@20c.; common turkeys and fowls, 8@9c.

Game.—The weather has been comparatively warm, and game does not turn out showy. Prices generally easy. Venison has a fair demand for restaurants. It is early for market trade. Wild ducks are abundant and lower, and irregular in quality.

Wild ducks, mallard, ₩ pair, 50@60c.; canvas-back, $1.25@1.50; red-heads, 35@70c.; teal and other, 25@30c. Quail, ₩ doz., $2@2.50. Partridges, ₩ pair, 50@75c. Grouse, ₩ pair, 90c.@$1; Hare, ₩ pair, 50@60c. Rabbits, 25@30c. Venison, whole, 11@12c., saddles, 18c. Woodcock, 50@60c.

PROVISIONS.—Under a sharp, speculative feeling at the West on the foreign advices of probable war, prices ran up here sharply, but closing quiet at some decline. Mess pork quoted at $16.85 for spot, $16 for November, $15.80 for December. Bacon at 9¾c. for long clear and 10c. for short clear. Western steam lard at $10.20 for spot; $9.95 for November; $9.90 for December and $9.95 for June. Stearine at $11c. for Western; beef hams at $20. Tallow at 8¾c. for prime. Beef barrelled lots quoted at $5@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominal for prime and India mess. City extra India mess at $27.

SEEDS.—Grass are very firm and fairly active; strictly prime clover has sold at 15¾c., and is held at this rate, but most bids are not over 15c. Timothy brings $2@2.15.

TOBACCO.—Exporters are dealing largely in seed-leaf and at strong prices. Western leaf is depressed and dull. We quote:

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5¾@6	6 @7¾
Good lugs	6¾@7¼	8 @9
Low leaf	8 @9	9¼@10¼
Medium leaf	9¼@10¾	11½@13½
Good leaf	12 @13	11 @15
Fine leaf	14 @15¾	15½@16½
Selections	16 @17	17 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do	32 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @7¾
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5¾@7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 2,673 bbls. There is a good steady market for potatoes at $2@2.75; the latter for extra peach blows. Sweet are drooping again, with a large supply of Virginias. Onions are firm, war news can affect them favorably. Other items quiet. We quote:

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₩ bbl. $2.50@2.75. Early Rose, prime, $2.25@2.62; other, $2.12; Peerless, bulk, $2@2.25; sweet, Del. $2@2.12; Va. $1.75@2. Cabbages, ₩ 100, $5@6. Tomatoes, ₩ bush., $1.12. Marrow squash, ₩ bbl., 50@$1. Egg plant, ₩ 100, $3.50. New Russian turnips, ₩ bush., 75c.@$1. Onions—Yellow, ₩ bbl., $2; white, $2.25@3.; red, $1.50@1.62. Cauliflower, ₩ bbl.; $2.50@4.

WOOL.—The market has been quite active again this week, on demand from manufacturers, with some speculative margins. Western fleeces, combing and delaine stock, California, Texas and pulled all sharing in the trade and at strong figures. We quote:

DOMESTIC.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—		
XXX and Picklock	46	@ 48
XX	44	@ 45
X	41	@ 43
No. 1	38	@ 40
No. 2	34	@ 37
Common	32	@ 34
Combing	47	@ 50
New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin—		
XX	34	@ 40
X	35	@ 38
No. 1	36	@ 38
No. 2	32	@ 35
Common	30	@ 33
Combing	50	@ 52
Iowa, Vermont and Illinois—		
XX	34	@ 36
X	34	@ 36
No. 1	34	@ 36
No. 2	30	@ 32
Combing	45	@ 47
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—		
Washed fleece	34	@ 36
Unwashed	25	@ 29
do. combing	33	@ 37

ROCHESTER, Oct. 21.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.30; amber winter, $1.17@1.25; white winter, $1.18@1.25. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Pork quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 25@27c. Cheese, 11@12½c. Eggs, 20@22c. Lard, 12@13c. Apples, bu., 35@90c. Potatoes, bu., 65@80c. Beans, ₩ bu., 80@$1.60. Mess pork, $18.00. Wool, 20@30c. Hay, $9@12. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.00@2.20; clover, $7.00@7.50. Mill feed strong at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₩ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Oct. 21, 1876.

THE cheese market this week has not been very brisk, and prices are lower than last week. Dairymen came into the market expecting 14c. for September cheese, which is of fine quality, but buyers claimed that 13c. ought to be top price and were not eager to buy at much above that figure. Nearly 500 boxes of farm dairy cheese was on delivery and sales were made at from 11¾c. to 12¾c., with one or two lots extra fancy going at 13c. The bulk of sales may be quoted at 12@12½c. Factories were well represented, the aggregate of offerings amounting to 10,000 boxes. Sales ranged from 12¾c. to 13½c., about 4,000 boxes changing hands. One lot brought 14c., the sale having been arranged at that figure the previous week. Owing to the dullness of the market and the dullness in prices, a large number of factorymen refused to sell, preferring to hold over their cheese for the present.

Butter is coming forward in considerable quantities, the sales this week ranging from 26c. to 28c. for farm dairy, and from 29c. to 30c. for extra lots and creamery. The weather is cold, with frosty nights, and flurries of snow on the hills.

We have advices from abroad for the first week in October. Our London correspondent reports that Break Cheddar and Wiltshire double are wanted. Fancy American cheese sells well at 58s. to 63s. ₩ cwt. for August make, which are better this season than for the last twenty years. The stocks to hand have, when fine, sold for 66s.

American, extra fine, 65@66s.; fine, 63@64s.; good, 56@60s.; Common and low grades, 36@52s.; English cheddar sells for 80@92s.; Wiltshire, double, 72@78s.; Cheshire medium, 44@48s.; fine, 70@84s.; Scotch, 61@70s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 66@70s.; Gundas, 54@58s.; Derby slaps, 60@64s.

The change in the weather has given tone to the butter market and Continental and American varieties have sold at quotations. We give prices:

Clonmels, 115@130s.; Corks, 115@128s; Dorsets, 106s.; Jersey, 120@130s.; Friesland, 140@144s.; Normandy, extra, 120@150s.; American and Canadian, 90@130s.; ₩ cwt.

Oleomargonin or artificial butter sells for 96@112s. per cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	5,037	11	703	6,819	000
Forty-Eighth St.	82	15	407	10,850	000
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	17,145
Harsimus Cove	6,086	00	241	11,158	15,195
Totals this week	11,205	11	1,351	28,807	32,340
" last week	10,533	23	2,356	23,630	22,983

BEEVES.—Trade opened slow on Monday last, at reduced rates. There was a heavy run of cattle and the quality was not good enough to force sales. Prices ranged from 7@11c. ₩ lb.; weights, 56@10 cwt. The markets closed weak, with a large number of car-loads unsold. Wednesday, trade extremely slow on a heavy run of cattle, ranging from poor to fair; prices, 6¾@10¾c. ₩ lb.; weights, 1¾@9 cwt., strong. Thursday, trade dull, at 7¾@11¾c.; weights, 1¾@8¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 7@10¾c.; weights, 5¾@8¾ cwt. From 51@57 lbs., net, has been allowed, with a few top steers sold on 58 lbs. net. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, 6¾@8¾c. ₩ lb. Native steers, 7@10¾c.; grade do., 10@11c. Dry cows, 8c. Bulls, live weight, $2.30@3 ₩ cwt. Oxen, rough quality, 7¾@8¾c.

MILCH COWS.—On extremely light arrivals trade is slow, with a fair demand for fair quality cows, which is not met. Seventeen cows, calves included, sold at $45@75 ₩ head; 13 Springers at $17.50@57.

VEALS AND CALVES.—The smooth quality veals to hand are so low in number that they do not influence trade. Such have been sold from 7½@11c. ₩ ₩., and have been quoted from Central New York, save a few head from Pennsylvania. Coarse quality calves are in heavy supply and very slow of sale, at 4@6c. ₩ lb., also at $3.75@11.50 ₩ head. State calves sold at $10@11.50 ₩ head. Coarse quality Western do, 5c. ₩ lb., also at $6@7.50 ₩ head.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Monday last trade in sheep was slow at ½c. ₩ lb. reduction on our last quotations, and ½c. ₩ lb. on lambs, which were in still less demand. Sheep sold at 5@6¾c. ₩ lb.; lambs, 6@7c. Wednesday, no improvement in trade, sheep sold at 5@6¼c. ₩ lb.; lambs, 6¾@6¾c. Thursday, trade dull; sheep, 4@6c. ₩ ₩.; lambs, 5¾@7c. Friday, the markets closed weak; sheep, 4@6¾c. ₩ lb.; lambs, 6¾c. State sheep sold at 5@6¾c. ₩ lb.; Ohio, 5@6¾c.; Indiana, 5@5¾c.; Kentucky, 5¾@6c.; Canada, 5¾@6¾c.; State and Western bucks, 4@5¾c.. Jersey ewes, 5@5¾c. State lambs, 6@7c. ₩ lb.; Pennsylvania, 6¾@6¾c.; Canada, 6¾@7c.

HOGS.—Only one car load of Ohio hogs has been sold since our last report; price, 6¾c. ₩ lb., average live weight, 203 lbs. ₩ head; city dressed, 7¾@8¾c. ₩ lb. Trade uncertain at reduced rates.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade fair in low-priced animals. Ninety-two head poor quality light harness horses sold at $30@100 ₩ head; general sales at $62@75 ₩ head; 10 ordinary quality do. $10@20 ₩ head; 11 pairs of family carriage horses, $300@550 ₩ pair; 3 pairs stylish do., 1,000@1,200 ₩ pair; 7 saddle horses, quality poor, $30@125 ₩ head; 30 coarse quality heavy draft horses, $62@110 ₩ head; 9 pairs do., $300@400 ₩ pair; 2 pairs choice do., $500 ₩ pair; city railroad horses sold at $90@125 ₩ head; city stage line do., $130@130 ₩ head.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	10¾@11
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¼@ 9¾	9¼@ 9¾
Poorest	6½@ 9	7 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9¼	9 @ 9¾

PERSONAL ITEMS.

CANNING spent over $100,000 in one election.

THE Empress of Brazil is going to Egypt for the winter.

GEN. BLUMENTHAL will succeed Moltke should the latter resign.

IN the polite circles of Morocco the word "death" is not used.

TANGIERS people keep tame snakes to drive mice out of their houses.

THEY swear witnesses on a volume of "London Punch" out in Colorado.

THERE is another rumor that Mr. Delane will retire from the London Times.

WHAT piece of carpentry becomes a gem as soon as it is finished? A-gate.

THE President has pardoned Jake Rehm of Chicago whisky frauds notoriety.

AN Australian, named Evans, has a large cannon placed on his breast and fired.

THE head of the St. Lawrence is said to be larger than its mouth—an unusual symmetry in rivers.

THE statement that Mlle. Albani was to marry a Gye was emphatically denied by that lady at Birmingham.

PROF. TAYLOR LEWIS of Union College is in feeble health, and may not be able to lecture during the present term.

GEN. W. F. BARTLETT of Pittsfield, Mass., has had a serious relapse, and but little hopes of his recovery are now entertained.

VIRGINIA proposes a monument to Henry A. Wise. We suggest as an appropriate inscription; "Go thou and do like-Wise."

ONE hundred and fifty pounds of female trapezist fell from the bar to the stage, alighting on a supe. He is sick unto death.

THE Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage has resigned his position as editor of the Christian At Work. Rev. W. M. Taylor will succeed him.

LIEUT.-GOV. Dorsheimer is lying sick at Rochester. A cold contracted in Indiana has resulted in congestion of the lungs.

THE stranger who bought a quince at a Detroit grocery under the idea that it was a "Spanish apple," is red-hot for a war with that country.

GEORGE ELIOT is not so bastidious as some writers. In Middlemarch she speaks of Sir James Chettam as pulling down his waist-coat.

A PERSONAL advertisement in a Cincinnati paper says:—"A young blonde widow would like to correspond with a middle-aged coal merchant."

A NEW JERSEY woman, eighty-seven years old, was determined to get married, but had a stroke of paralysis as the ceremony was being performed.

GRACE GREENWOOD rode on the cow-catcher for forty miles, and when she was helped down it took her half a day to get the wrinkles out of her nose.

WHAT'S the difference between a tardy mark at school, and a high private in the *Corps d'Afrique?* One's a dilatory mark, the other's a military dark.

CARDINAL MANNING'S solicitor has run away with $150,000 which he had as trustee for Catholic charities and associations. The Cardinal himself loses $10,000.

"WHAT," said Bonaparte to Las Casas, "is more overbearing than weakness which feels itself protected by strength? Look at women, for example."

THE official statement of the Secretary of the State of Maine shows that the majority for Governor Connor, Republican, over Talbot, Democrat, is 15,037.

THE rising operatic star in Paris is Mlle. Etelka Gerster, a young Hungarian girl aged nineteen. She is described as not beautiful, but "pure-looking" and classic. Her voice is a soprano.

SAID a fancy farmer to some guests at his country seat on the Hudson:—"Will you have milk or champagne, my friends?" adding, somewhat sadly, "one costs as much as the other."

GERMANY orders 90,000 American revolvers. Although during her last war she forbade the exportation of German horses, she has no objection now, it seems, to the importation of American Colts.

"PROFESSOR" DIXON, who performed the "living burial" feat recently at Belvidere, S. C., died of fever a few days ago, and was buried in the identical coffin which he had used in performing his trick.

GOV. BEVERIDGE, Prof. David Swing, and Gen. John M. Palmer have been elected as judges of the next contest of the Illinois Intercollegiate Association. Ex-Senator Schurz was chosen as alternate.

THE cold winter of 1875, the doctors said, gave nearly everybody seeds of consumption; the hot summer of 1876 has left the air full of malaria and fever, so it is declared. It is a wonder how we exist at all.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR, it is said, entering a ball-room, saw therein a young lady who pleased his eyes. He cried, "The prettiest girl in the room; I'll marry her!" And marry her he did, straightway.

BRET HARTE, in "Gabriel Conroy," vented his spite on California and made several people feel uneasy, and now California pays him back by suggesting that in that State the great genius was a dead beat.

WE have often thought that these mammoth circus posters contained a good deal that was hard to swallow, and now it turns out that a cow actually died from eating one off a wall last week at Boonesboro', Md.

SAYS Max Adeler:—"Professor Huxley proves conclusively that the alligator was once a bird, walking about on two legs, and to this day it lays eggs. We are glad it was never domesticated and made a barn-yard fowl."

A SISTER of the late ex-President Polk died a few days ago at Columbia, Tenn. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family, which consisted of nine brothers and sisters, President Polk being the eldest.

ADELINA PATTI is not in good health. Some say that her throat is affected, others that her lungs are threatened; at all events, her physicians have forbidden her to brave the rigors of the Russian winter the coming season.

BAYARD TAYLOR says the cross-purpose arguments of the evolutionists and their opponents impress him very much as if one should ask, "Do you like peaches or a Mansard roof?" and another should answer, "I prefer railroad stock."

MR. CHARLES P. HUNTINGTON has been examined on the affairs of the Central Pacific Railroad, and has a convenient forgetfulness. Yet there is no doubt that the Construction and Finance Committee of that road made their money by deep fraud.

THAT six months' armistice in Servia is not remarkable. The soldiers on both sides threw down their arms and ran for the nearest telegraph office, swearing they couldn't fight while the returns from Indiana and Ohio were coming in so lively.

MONS. COLOMBIER, a merchant of Paris, recently deceased, has left 30,000 francs to a lady of Rouen, for having, twenty years ago, refused to marry him. "through which," says the will, "I was enabled to live independently and happily as a bachelor."

THE Bishop of Manchester, in a recent public address, said it was not for him to say whether Mr. Irving's reading of "Hamlet" was the true one or not; but he knew Mr. Irving was a great actor, and it was an ennobling thing to see "Hamlet" played by him.

THE town of Gotha has granted a site for the cremation of bodies, the Duchy of Saxe Gotha having allowed the rite to be established. Previous to cremation, however, all bodies are to be examined by competent medical officers, that the cause of death may be properly ascertained.

A MATCH between George Washington Childs and Martin Farquhar Tupper has been arranged to come off in Philadelphia some time during the ensuing month. In any other age than this, both these famous poets would have been driven from Parnassus into the undertaker's business.

THE Duchess of Edinburgh is to spend the winter at Malta, where her affectionate sponse will join her, and if rumor be true perfidious Albion will be blessed with but little more of the light of Marie Alexandrovna's countenance. Eastwell Park is in the market, and even the Duchess' personal effects are undergoing purification in France.

The announcement that Don Carlos is about to start a newspaper should satisfy the rancor of even his most vindictive foes. With a moral certainty of being reduced to beggary in a twelvemonth, and with a wife and several small children on his hands, he may yet regret the non-acceptance of our offer to secure him the pea-nut stand at Fulton Ferry.

RALEIGH (N. C.) News says:—Allowing that each of the 275 visitors to the Centennial from Raleigh, yesterday, leaves at least $25 in Philadelphia, it is easily seen that the alarming sum of $6,875 will be taken from Raleigh, for which she will hardly get one cent in return. Now, the question arises, which does the most good or takes away the most money—centennials or circuses?

THE motto for the week on a little girl's Sunday school card was:—"Get thee behind me, Satan." There were gooseberries in the garden, but she was forbidden to pluck them. Pluck them she did. "Why did you not," said the mother, "when you were tempted to touch them, say, 'Get thee behind me, Satan?'" "I did," she said, earnestly, "and he got behind me and pushed me into the bush."

A BOSTON printer advertises that his boy is lost. Any one seeing a "full face" boy with a "small cap" will please return him to his anxious parent.—[N. Y. Commercial Advertiser. Said parent will then "chase" the boy, "put a head on him" and "lock up his form."—[Binghamton Republican. And unless the truant promise to do so no more it might be well enough to take a "stick" and "plane" him down so that it will leave an "impression" on his "frame." Whose next "take" is it?—[Elmira Advertiser. He has been found "setting up" on an empty "case" with his hand full of "pi."—Boston Com. Bulletin.

GARRETT TOWNSEND and Jim Bruce went out in the country to practice singing bass for the big Tilden and reform jubilee. They made the woods "howl!" for miles around, until a granger with a double-barrelled shot-gun on his shoulder, and blood in his eye, put in his appearance; "I'm lookin' for a bull that has been bellerin' around here all day. Have either of you fellers seed one anywhar?" Jim looked at the granger, then at Garrett, and said, "Mister, the bull you're lookin' for ain't fur off," and the man with the gun went on through the woods, as Jim turned and said, "Let's git, Garrett; that bass voice of yours 'll git us killed." And they walked back to the city in forty minutes.

Implements and Machinery.

Centennial Year of American Independence.

SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

We will call and see you next July and assist at your CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. By the same opportunity bring you samples of the Celebrated Watches, manufactured by our country-men, the MESSRS. BOREL & COURVOISIER of Neuchatel, for INSPECTION and EXHIBITION. These Watches are favorably known throughout the U. S., having been sold by our local agents in almost every City, Town and Village the past ten years. Their reputation for accurate performance is universally acknowledged. They are manufactured in Gold and Silver Cases, Stem and Key Winders. These Watches have superior quality of Nickel Movements, Chronometer Balances, Breguet Hair Springs, Tempered, Hardened and Isochronised for R. R. use, the Ruby Jeweled, set in Chaton, and warranted to perform with the regularity and accuracy of a chronometer. Ask your Watchmaker to see them before purchasing those of other makers, as we have been authorized to sell them at a reduction from former prices.

QUINCHE & KRUGLER,
SALESROOM: 15 MAIDEN LANE, N. Y., Up Stairs.
Only Wholesale Agents for the Manufacturers. Jewelers wanted to act as Agents.

LIVINGSTON & CO.'S CORN Shellers

Guaranteed the best Hand Sheller for family use, in the market. Price, $2 50 and $5.00. Over 10,000 now in use

Shipped by Express on receipt of price. Live Agents wanted. Send for Descriptive Circulars to
LIVINGSTON & CO., IRON FOUNDERS, PITTSBURGH, PA.

The Best are the Cheapest.

COLLINS & CO.'S
CAST CAST-STEEL PLOWS,

Greatly Improved and Reduced in Price.

For particulars, send your address to
COLLINS & CO.,
212 Water St., New York City.

AWARDS

From International Centennial EXPOSITION,
To WM. L. BOYER & BRO., Philadelphia, Pa.

ON Premium Farm Grist Mill—the grinding parts are now made of STEEL, giving *four times the durability* over cast iron,—grinds rapidly, and is adapted to all kinds of Horse Powers.

ON Union Railway Horse Power, requiring very little elevation, and producing great power.

ON Broom Machinery, for making Corn Brooms.
Send for Descriptive Circulars.

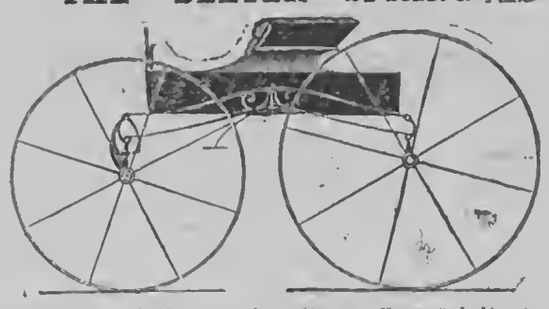
A POTATO DIGGER—Drawn by one horse—the best extant. 1,100 in use. We will deliver sample to your Railroad depot in the United States on receipt of $12.
KENYON BROS., Carbondale, Penn.

Corn Crushers
For Horse or Steam Power.
BELLS,
For Churches, Schools, etc.
STEAM ENGINES,
Portable & Stationary.
Cane Machinery,
Threshers.
Descriptive Circulars and Price-lists sent free
BLYMYER MANUFACTURING CO.,
631 to 634 West Eighth St., CINCINNATI, O.

CIDER PRESSES AND GRATERS.
BOOMER & BOSCHERT PRESS CO., Syracuse, N.Y.

SEE JOHNSTON HARVESTERS AT CENTENNIAL.

THE "DEXTER" SPRING.



Perfection! Easy motion, Strong, Graceful, Durable. Over 1,000 sold in 3 years. Send for Circular to
DEXTER SPRING CO., Hilton, Pa.

UNION CORN HUSKER.

SELLS AT SIGHT.
No cobs or sore fingers. Can be used with or without mittens. Last a lifetime.—Taken 5 Premiums.—One sample 25 cts.; 4 for 75 cts.
CITY NOVELTY CO.,
108 South 8th St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.
Say where you saw this advertisement.

A HIGH SWEEP
HORSE-POWER,

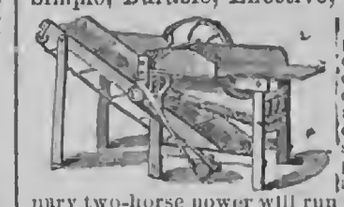
ADAPTED to Cutting-boxes, Wood-saws, Cider-mills, Churns, etc. They have two speeds—36 and 72 to one of horse, and with geared jack 152 to one of horse. Can use tumbling-rod or belt. Size of frame, 5 ft. 4 in. by 2 ft. 8 in. Weight, complete, 520 lbs. Made for either one or two horses. Price, on cars at Bellaire: With 1 lever, 1 tumbling-rod, and ground pulley, $30; additional lever, $3; additional tumbling-rod and two couplings, $3. If geared Jack is used instead of ground pulley, $3 extra. Circulars free. Address BELLAIRE MANUF'G CO.,
Bellaire, O.

$15 Shot Gun

A double barrel gun, bar or front action locks; warranted genuine twist barrels, and a good shooter, OR NO SALE; with Flask, Pouch and Wad-cutter, for $15. Can be sent C. O. D., with privilege to examine before paying bill. Send stamp for Circular to P. POWELL & SON, 238 Main Street, Cincinnati, O.

PHILIP'S SPIRAL
CORN HUSKER.

Simple, Durable, Effective, and works rapidly.



This machine, improved and perfected, does its work thoroughly, picking the corn from the stalk and stripping every ear, large or small, soft or hard, completely of its husks and silk. Any ordinary two-horse power will run it.

R. H. ALLEN & CO., N. Y. City,
Local and Export Agents.
For Circulars, etc., address Manufacturers,
PHILIP'S SPIRAL CORN HUSKER CO.,
Hudson, Columbia Co., N. Y.

THE "VIBRATOR" THRESHER IS KING OF ALL.

HIGGANUM M'F'G COMPANY,
Manufacturers of Agricultural Implements,
Higganum, Conn.

FLAX & HEMP BRAKES
MALLORY & SANFORD PATENTS.
The most desirable in any market. For sale by
JOHN W. QUINCY, 38 William St., N. Y. City.

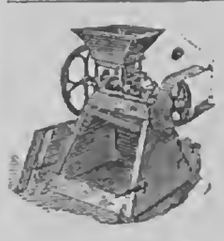
HALL'S PATENT HUSKING GLOVE.

HALF GLOVES. FULL GLOVES.

The BEST and most ECONOMICAL Huskers in use. Over 200,000 sold. Made of BEST CALF LEATHER, shielded with Metal Plates, making them last FIVE TIMES longer, Husk faster and easier than any other Husker. Sizes, Extra Large, Large, Medium and Small for Boys and Girls, for both right and left-handed persons. Prices, PREPAID, Full Gloves, $2.25; Boys, $2; Half Gloves, $1.15 per pair. We also manufacture and recommend

HALL'S IMPROVED HUSKING PIN,
made of best Cast Steel, in most approved form, and provided with straps ready for use. Unquestionably the VERY BEST Husking Pin in the market. Price, prepaid, 20 cts., three for 50 cts. Ask your merchant for them, or address
HALL HUSKING GLOVE CO.,
145 So. Clinton St., Chicago.

PREMIUM
FARM GRIST-MILL.



Grinds all kinds of grain rapidly. Is simple, durable and cheap. Is suited to all kinds of horse-powers. Every farmer should have it. Send for Descriptive Circular.
WM. L. BOYER & BRO.
Philadelphia, Pa.

BALDWIN'S
American Fodder Cutter
GRANTED HIGHEST MEDAL OF MERIT AND DIPLOMA AT THE CENTENNIAL!
Best in the market. Don't purchase any other kind until you have seen and examined this. Send for Circular, containing Description and Price List.
C. PIERPONT & CO.,
Manufacturers,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper* and in Premiums to Agents.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

A. Culbertson.—The long, slender, pinkish-colored caterpillar you send is the larva of some species of moth belonging to the *Geometridæ*, popularly called Geometers or "span worms." There is an immense number of species, and it would scarcely be possible in the present state of entomological science to undertake to name them all or any considerable number from the larva or caterpillar. In fact the larvæ of many of them are unknown, although the moths or perfect insects have been described and named. The one you send was probably feeding on the leaves of the rose-lush when found,

The fowls known as Plymouth Rocks are an American breed of recent origin and not very widely disseminated, it being more popular in the Eastern States than elsewhere. It is supposed to have been produced by crossing the Cochin China and some variety of the Dorking. It is claimed that the Plymouth Rocks are hardy, very prolific layers, and the hens excellent mothers. They come to maturity early and their flesh is excellent.

D. P. Rare.—The heads of Bermuda Grass are received, but we can find no seed within the chaff, the grain being false, as in all the dozens of specimens lately received from correspondents in the South.

J. L. Cockburn.—The grass you send as "Bermuda" is not that species, but the common Southern "Crab Grass," (*Panicum sanguinale*) an annual species, which seeds freely everywhere. It furnishes a very fair amount of food for stock late in summer, often appearing quite abundantly in grain fields and old pastures during the dry weather of July and August.

Wm. McL.—We have waited several weeks for the arrival of that "bird or some other thing," mentioned on your postal card, but it has not arrived. Consequently, we cannot give the desired information.

L. R. M.—Salt may be sown upon grass lands at almost any season, but early spring or at the approach of fall rains is the usual time of applying. Coarse or fine salt may be used, and that which has been used for packing pork and fish is worth as much for fertilizing purposes as that which comes directly from the salt works. In sowing salt upon meadows or grain, care should be given to the distribution of it over the surface, for if dropped in large lumps, it will do injury to the plants. Six to eight bushels is sufficient per acre for each dressing. If the salt is sown just previous to putting in grain it will answer just as well as afterwards, and there need be no fear of "burning" as when sown upon the growing plants; but on meadows it must, of course, be scattered over them.

Florist.—*Spirea Japonica* (*Astilbe-Holeia*) is excellent for forcing. *Dicentra spectabilis* also forces readily without any particular preparation. Among shrubs, *Deutzia gracilis*, *Weigelas*, *Rhododendrons*, *Kalmias* may be mentioned. Pot now.

M.—One of the best (or, rather, least objectionable) preparations for the hair is made as follows: Two-thirds pure castor-oil; one-third alcohol, perfumed with oil of rose, rose-geranium and patchouly—allowing that to predominate which is most pleasing.

Strion., Grand Rapids, Mich.—Pampas Grass is readily grown from seeds and, with good care, will bloom the third year. It is not hardy here without protection and not always with.

B. C., Pa.—There is no better time than the present for transplanting the Swamp Azalea (*A. nudiflora* and *viscosa*) and there are few showier plants during their period of bloom. Observe the conspicuous, reddish, scaly buds in some nursery or garden and you will recognize them readily in the woods.

C. O.—We are asked if the origin of the expression "the most unkindest cut of all" is known.

ANS.—It occurs in Shakspeare, but we cannot say whether he originated the phrase or not.

Planter wishes to know if apple and pear trees will thrive as well in sodded as in cultivated ground and how large the holes should be dug for trees three years old? ANS.—We should prefer cultivated ground. The size of the holes may be determined by the quantity of soil and amount of labor at his disposal, since he need not fear making them too large. Holes four feet in diameter and two and a half feet deep are the minimum limit. Even then before they fruit, the roots will be found to have extended considerably beyond the circumference.

New Yorker.—In another column will be found our views as to the pros and cons of spring and fall transplanting. But there are exceptions to all rules. This is our Centennial year and those who have not planted a tree or trees should do so, even though it be necessary to build a glass house over them and hire a man to look after them during the winter.

Dry Goods, &c.

LORD & TAYLOR

CONTINUE TO SELL THEIR IMMENSE STOCK OF

SILKS

AT FORMER PRICES.

BLACK SILKS

OF THE CELEBRATED PONSON, GUINET, JAUBRET, LERHONE, AND OTHER MAKES, THE CHOICEST LYONS GOODS, FROM $1.50 A YARD UP.

A LARGE LINE OF OUR FAMILY SILKS, SO FAVORABLY RECEIVED HERETOFORE, IN ALL THE NUMBERS.

PLAIN COLORED SILKS

IN ALL THE LATEST SHADES FOR FALL WEAR, ALL WIDTHS AND QUALITIES, THE CHEAPEST GOODS OFFERED IN THIS MARKET, AT $1.75, $2, AND $2.25 A YARD. A HANDSOME ASSORTMENT OF EVENING SHADES.

ALL THE ABOVE GOODS ARE GUARANTEED CHEAPER THAN SIMILAR QUALITIES CAN NOW BE IMPORTED FOR, AND A VISIT OF INSPECTION IS SOLICITED.

☞ PRICES NOT ADVANCED ABOVE LAST YEAR.

RICH DRESS GOODS

FOR FALL AND WINTER WEAR, IN THE NEWEST STYLES AND COLORS.

LADIES IN SEARCH OF FABRICS FOR FALL AND WINTER WILL FIND IT TO THEIR INTEREST TO INSPECT OUR SPLENDID STOCK BEFORE PURCHASING.

POPULAR DRESS GOODS

AT GREAT ATTRACTIONS.

A FULL LINE OF MIXED AND PLAID SUITINGS AT 12 1-2c.

MISSES' WINCEY SUITINGS IN GREAT VARIETY AT 15c.

SHEPHERD CHECKS AT 15c., 20c., 25c., AND 30c.

3-4 MANCHESTER CASHMERES, CLOTH COLORS, 25c.

4-4 BELGIUM POPLINS, FALL AND WINTER SHADES, 30c. AND 40c.

A FULL LINE OF EMPRESS CLOTHS, ALL LEADING SHADES, 44c. TO 75c.

A FULL LINE OF RICH FANCY STRIPED AND PLAID SUITINGS AT 45c., 50c., AND 60c.

ALL-WOOL CASHMERES IN EVERY SHADE AND WIDTH.

REAL INDIA CASHMERE SHAWLS

PURCHASED AT THE JULY AUCTION SALES IN LONDON, AND NOW QUOTED FIFTY PER CENT. LESS THAN MARKET VALUE, VIZ:

$200, $225, $250, $275, $300, $325 $350, $400.

ALSO.

Real India Camel's Hair Shawls,

IN THE MOST ARTISTIC DESIGNS FOR THE COMING SEASON.

$50, $55, $60, $65, $75, $85, $95.

FULL LINES OF ALL THE MODERN AND CHEAPER GRADES OF WOOLEN AND OTHER SHAWLS.

CUSTOMERS AND STRANGERS VISITING THE CITY WILL FIND IT MUCH TO THEIR ADVANTAGE TO MAKE A VISIT OF INSPECTION BEFORE PURCHASING.

FALL AND WINTER STYLES

IN

LADIES' & CHILDREN'S SUITS.

LADIES' SILK SUITS, $50, $65, to $120.
LADIES' SILK AND CASHMERE SUITS, $20, $25, to $40.
LADIES' SILK ALD VELVET SUITS, $80 to $100.
LADIES' BASKET CLOTH SUITS, $20, $25 to $40.
LADIES' CAMEL'S HAIR SUITS, $15, $18, to $30.
LADIES' SERGE SUITS, $10, $12, to $15.
LADIES' ALPACA SUITS, $9, $10, to $12.
Tarletane, Swiss, and Organdie EVENING DRESSES.

CLOTH and DAMASSEE POLONAISE, OVERSKIRTS, and BASQUES in all the new shades and styles.

CLOTH ULSTERS in every variety.

WRAPPERS in Flannel, Cashmere, Waterproof, and Reps. In the

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

will be found PLAID SUITS, from $1. MOHAIR SUITS, from $6. CLOTH SUITS, from $3.50. BASKET CLOTH SUITS, from $10. LAWN SUITS, from $3. MARSEILLES SUITS, from $5. SWISS and TARLETANE SUITS, from $3. CLOTH DRESSES, from $2.

A SPECIALTY.

MOURNING SUITS FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN. A FULL ASSORTMENT CONSTANTLY ON HAND AND MADE TO ORDER AT THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

CLOAKS.

IN THIS DEPARTMENT WILL BE FOUND A FULL ASSORMENT OF LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S CLOAKS AND SACQUES OF EVERY VARIETY AND STYLE, MADE IN THE MOST ARTISTIC MANNER, AND AT PRICES EXCEEDINGLY LOW.

SAMPLES OF GOODS, TOGETHER WITH CATALOGUES OF LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR, SENT FREE, ON APPLICATION, TO ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

ORDERS FOR GOODS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY FILLED WITHOUT CHARGE AND GOODS PACKED AND FORWARDED TO ANY DESTINATION.

BROADWAY & TWENTIETH ST. GRAND & CHRYSTIE STS., N.Y.

Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

HONEY MOON NURSERIES,

Near Jacksonville, Fla.

The *Pioneer* Nursery of Florida. The largest Tropical and Semi-Tropical Nursery in the U. S. 1,000,000 of the Citrus family offered this season. Catalogues sent free. Address I. A. HARDEE, Proprietor, Jacksonville, Fla.

PEACH TREES, $3 to $5 per 100. Price List Free. R. S. JOHNSTON, Stockley, Del.

Spring Avenue Gardens.

WINTER-BLOOMING PLANTS

A SPECIALTY.

Carnations, Smilax, Neapolitan Violets, Bouvardias, Chinese Azaleas, Lily of the Valley. All the new and most desirable Geraniums and similar plants. Also, a great variety of the common and fancy Hardy Evergreen Trees, as low as they can be purchased of any trustworthy dealer.

Address H. W. HALES, Ridgewood, Bergen Co., N. J.

Miscellaneous.

EMPLOYMENT.

ANY PERSON of ordinary intelligence can earn a living by canvassing for The Illustrated Weekly. Experience not necessary—only requisites, as in all successful business, industry and energy. For particulars, address *Chas. Clucas & Co.*, 14 Warren St., N.Y.

B. T. BABBITT'S BABY SOAP.

Only the purest vegetable oils used in its manufacture. No artificial and deceptive odors to cover common and deleterious ingredients. UNRIVALLED FOR THE TOILET AND THE BATH. Used in bathing children, will prevent eruptions, keep the skin soft and smooth, contribute to health, and prevent disease. Does away with all powders, chalk or other emollients. A certain preventive of *chafing, itching, &c.*, in babies, the causes of half the crying and crossness of babyhood. Worth ten times its cost to every mother and family in Christendom; packed in boxes of 12 cakes, of 3 ozs. each, and sent free to any address on receipt of $3.50. Address B. T. Babbitt, NEW YORK CITY.

☞ For Sale by all Druggists. ☜

Stock and Poultry.

B. B. Red Games and other first-class Fowls, at greatly reduced rates till December 1st, to reduce stock on account of recent business engagements. J. Y. BICKNELL, Westmoreland, Oneida Co., N. Y.

IMPROVED JERSEY STOCK.

A thorough-bred Jersey Cow for sale, from imported dam; is registered in the Jersey Herd Book. Also two Heifer Calves. Address H. HALES, Ridgewood, N. J.

WHITE LEGHORNS.

25 White Leghorn Pullets for sale by C. H. WEBSTER, Binghamton, N. Y.

THOROUGHBRED POULTRY

Brahmas--Leghorns--Hamburghs.

MY FOWLS are the most fashionable blood in the country, being exclusively from prize-winning stock.

A THOROUGH-BRED COCK will repay his cost ten times in bringing up the average of the whole yard by the infusion of "new blood."

BRAHMAS for size, and as winter layers are prized highly.

LEGHORNS for early development, and as non-sitters are unsurpassed.

HAMBURGHS as layers, and for beauty are unequaled.

Chicks sent C. O. D. SEND STAMP for Circular.

T. W. WHITE, Ridgewood, Bergen Co., N. J.

Real Estate.

MARYLAND and Garden Lands; cheap; easy terms. FRUIT FARMS Free Descriptive Catalogue. J. C. PLUMMER, E. New Market, Dor. Co., Md.

LANDS FOR SALE

960,000 Acres in Southwestern Missouri.

FIRST-CLASS STOCK FARMS,
EXCELLENT AGRICULTURAL LANDS
BEST TOBACCO REGION
IN THE WEST.

SHORT WINTERS, NO GRASSHOPPERS.

Good Markets and a Healthy Country.

Prices $2.50 to $10.00 an Acre.

TERMS: One-tenth down, balance in seven years at seven per cent. interest.

FREE TRANSPORTATION

to the lands furnished purchasers. For Circulars, guides, maps, etc., address

A. L. DEANE, Land Commissioner, St. Louis.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred names*, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.00, including postage.

Agents Wanted.

NEW BOOK DR. CHASE'S Family Physician and SECOND RECEIPT BOOK is the only New Book by Dr. A. W. Chase, author of Dr. Chase's famous Receipts, etc. Beware of a reprint of the old book in imitation of the genuine new book here announced: Sells at sight. Agents wanted. Sample Copies Two Dollars Address CHASE PUBLISHING COMPANY, TOLEDO, Ohio, Sole Publishers.

$60 A WEEK Male or female. No capital. We give steady work that will bring you $240 a month at home, day or evening Inventors' Union, 173 Greenwich St., New York.

$350 A MONTH.—Agents wanted. 36 best selling articles in the world. One Sample free. Address JAY BRONSON, Detroit, Mich.

$894 made by ONE agent in 57 days. 13 new articles, samples free. Address C. M. LINNGTON, CHICAGO.

$55 to $77 a Week to Agents. Samples FREE. P. O. VICKERY, Augusta, Maine.

$200 a month. Outfit worth $1 free to agents. Excelsior Mf'g Co., 151 Mich. Av., Chicago.

AGENTS If you want the best-selling article in the world and a solid gold patent lever watch, free of cost, write at once to J. BRIDGE & CO., 767 Broadway, N.Y.

AGENTS WANTED FOR THE GREAT CENTENNIAL HISTORY

It sells faster than any other book. One Agent sold 47 copies in one day. Send for our extra terms to Agents. NATIONAL PUB. CO., Philadelphia, Pa.

NO MONEY We will start you in a business you can make $50 a week without capital. Easy and respectable for either sex. *Agents Supply Co.*, 261 Bowery, New York.

AGENTS. $8 a day *sure* to all. Write us SIMPSON & SMITH, N. Y. City.

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$10 AGENTS' PROFITS A WEEK.—New Novelties and Chromos. Catalogues free. GEO. L. FERRIS & Co., N. Y. C.

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Traveler's Guide.

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Have you any thought of going to California?
Are you going West, North or Northwest?
You want to know the best routes to take?

The shortest, safest, quickest and most comfortable routes are those owned by the Chicago and North-Western Railway Company. It owns over two thousand miles of the best road there is in the country. Ask any ticket agent to show you its maps and time cards. All ticket agents can sell you through tickets by this route. Buy your tickets via the CHICAGO & NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY for San Francisco, Sacramento, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Cheyenne, Denver, Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs, Yankton, Sioux City, Dubuque, Winona, St. Paul, Duluth, Marquette, Green Bay, Oshkosh, Madison, Milwaukee, and all points west or northwest of Chicago. If you wish the best traveling accommodations, you will buy your tickets by this route, and will take no other.

This popular route is unsurpassed for Speed, Comfort and Safety. The Smooth Well-Ballasted and Perfect Track of Steel Rails, Westinghouse Air Brakes, Miller's Safety Platform and Couplers, the celebrated Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars, the Perfect Telegraph System of Moving Trains, the regularity with which they run, the admirable arrangement for running Through Cars from Chicago to all points West, North and Northwest, secures to passengers all the COMFORTS IN MODERN RAILWAY TRAVELING. *Pullman Palace Cars* are run on all trains of this road.

This is the ONLY LINE running these cars between Chicago and St. Paul or Chicago and Milwaukee. At Omaha our sleepers connect with the Overland Sleepers on the Union Pacific Railroad for all points west of the Missouri River.

For rates or information not attainable from your home ticket agents, apply to

MARVIN HUGHITT, Gen'l Superintendent. W. H. STENNETT, Gen'l Passen'r Agt.

THE PALACE HOTEL TRAIN

BETWEEN

NEW YORK AND CHICAGO

via Cleveland.

Leaves Erie Railway Depot, foot of Chambers St. New York,

9:00 A. M., Daily except Sunday. Drawing-Room Sleeping Coaches through to Chicago; but one change of day cars.

7:00 P. M., Daily. The Palace Hotel Train to Chicago. Drawing-Room Sleeping Coaches and Pullman's Hotel Dining Car, through without change; but one change of day cars

The only line running Hotel Dining Cars out of New York. A ride of nearly a thousand miles without leaving the car to eat, drink or sleep!

Officers of Agricultural Societies and Clubs, Granges, &c., can, if they will, materially aid in augmenting the circulation of the RURAL. Scores of such are already forming clubs; how many others will kindly do likewise?

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER contains Sixteen Quarto Pages weekly, finely and profusely Illustrated and neatly printed. Only $2.50 per year, $2.00 in clubs of ten or more, postage paid. Great Inducements to Club Agents. Specimens, Premium Lists, &c., sent free.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER is one of the readable, useful, family papers, equally in demand by the lady in her conservatory, the matron with her household, the farmer in his field, the stock raiser among his animals, and the young folks around the evening lamp.—*Lakes of Life.*

At Our Risk.—You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter *at our risk.*

Wit and Humor.

TWO WAYS OF DOING A THING.

A FRENCHMAN, while at Naples, was introduced at an assembly of one of the first ladies by a Neapolitan nobleman. While he was there his gold snuff-box was stolen from him. Soon after, being at another house, he saw a person taking snuff out of his box. He turned to his friend:—

"There," said he, "that man in blue, with gold embroidery, is taking snuff out of my box, stolen yesterday. Do you know him? Is he not a professional sharper."

"Take care," said the other, "that man is of the first quality."

"I do not care for his quality," replied the Frenchman. "I must have my box again. I'll go and ask him for it."

"Pray be quiet," said his friend," and let me get it back for you."

Upon this assurance the Frenchman went away, after inviting his friend to dine with him next day. He came next day, and as he entered, exclaimed:—

"There, I have brought your snuff box."

"Well, how did you obtain it?"

"Why," said the Neapolitan nobleman, "I did not like to make a noise about it, so I picked his pocket."

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A YOUNG man recently inquired in a music store for a scared song-book, which he said was advertised.

DON'T abuse a local editor for not telling the truth. He may begin doing so the very day you are fined by the Recorder.

ONE old fellow says it is no use talking about hard times; most everybody in New Bedford seems to have money enough to go to see the centurion.

GEORGE asked Alphonso: "Why didn't you buy a waffle?" and the answer sparkled in Alphonso's eyes as he promptly replied, "Because I wasn't so waffle hungry."

"I suppose," said a quack, while feeling a patient's pulse, "that you consider me a humbug." "How odd it is," responded the patient, "that you can so accurately tell a man's thoughts by feeling his pulse."

A miss of 10 or 11, on her way to school, was heard saying to herself: "A noun is the name of any person, place, or thing, and if any of the girls have hooked that apple from my desk I'll raise a fuss with the whole school."

As a clambake was recently embarking for Palmer's Island, a gentleman on the wharf observed that the Jennie was not large enough to accommodate all. "No," was replied by another; "probably some will go by another convenience."

THERE are nearly a score of school-slate manufactories along the Delaware river, between Easton and the Water Gap. Five of them, at Slatington, make about sixty thousand cases of slates annually. This particular industry explains why the State was called Pencilvania.

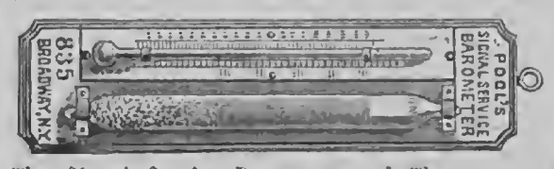
AT the restaurant: Guest, who misses his usual waiter—"What has become of Auguste?" Proprietor—"Do not mention the name of the wretch, my dear sir; he used to polish the plates with his handkerchief. There is another like him. I know—I've been on his trail for a month—just let me catch him at it, that's all."

THE intelligence that a potato-bug was seen crawling up one of the Hamburg docks has been telegraphed all over Europe. The Paris Bourse is much agitated, and the representatives of the great Powers have temporarily suspended their negotiations of a peace between Turkey and Servia, and are taking tonics at short intervals.

THE judge asked an Irish policeman, named O'Connell, "When did you last see your sister?" The policeman replied, "The last time I saw her, my lord, was about eight months ago, when she called at my house, and I was out." The judge: "Then you did not see her on that occasion?" The Irishman answered, "No, my lord, I wasn't there."

"A RANDOM SHOT."

"AH PONTO, old fellow! How's the lumbago and how's all at home?"
"Better, thanks. I'm a bachelor just at present—wife's visiting her mother."
"Ah! then you're a fish out o' water?"
"Precisely—*hot* water."



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Industrial Implements.

THE WEED MACHINE.

Among the various display Pavilions at the Centennial Exhibition, none is more attractive than that of the Weed Sewing Machine Company of Hartford, Connecticut, in Machinery Hall. Many of the other companies have filled their spaces with cabinet machines inclosed in cases of elegant workmanship which are replete with polished wood and gilt. Not so however, with the Weed Company. They display only such machines as are actually used, showing all their excellent points of utility and household excellence without endeavoring to attract attention to any gilded or silvered cases. Their chief display is in the work actually performed by their machine. As will be seen by the illustration given, they exhibit as one of the specimens the picture of the Battle of Bunker Hill—one of the finest pieces of workmanship ever done on a sewing machine. It embraces all the various kinds of work of which a machine is capable, and shows that in the various improvements which have arisen in this line during the last quarter of a century, the Weed Company has kept constant pace with the times.

The Centennial Judges appointed to investigate this branch of industry comprised men who have made this subject the study of their lives and who were conversant with every detail, good or bad, possibly existing in sewing machines. After a thorough examination and a series of severe tests of all the working parts, and a complete investigation of what it could perform, the Committee of Judges awarded to the Weed machine the Highest Honors awarded by the Centennial Commission, viz., the Grand Medal of Honor and a Diploma of Merit. In addition to this, the Judges made a Report in which they set forth the basis of such award, which was, among other things:

An excellent Shuttle Machine, possessing originality and simplicity of constructive detail, fine quality of workmanship and materials, and great adaptability to both cloth and leather stitching. This Report was also officially signed by J. R. Hawley, President; A. T. Goshorn, Director-General; Myer Asch, Assistant Sect'y. Those who are at all familiar with mechanics, will at once see by the construction of this machine that the claims of its manufacturers and the Highest Award of the Centennial Commission are based upon no pretexts, but upon a solid foundation. Some of the points of superiority are: (1) It has a link device, by which the needle and shuttle are brought to their respective extreme points at exactly the same instant of time, thus insuring perfection in each stitch entirely independently of the one preceding it, and this being done without the use of the cam, also insures greater speed with much less friction, both for work on cloth and leather—on light or heavy work: (2) The Weed Cylinder Shuttle carries much more thread than most machines, thereby saving both time and labor: (3) The upper tension is so arranged that the thread passes under a leaf, which oscillates so as to bind it at one end while it relaxes at the other, thereby obviating the incessant halts and stoppages caused by knots and kinks in the thread, which passes through without breakage or hindrance. The upper and lower tensions are so perfectly arranged relatively to each other that the difference in the appearance of the stitch from a full or nearly empty bobbin is entirely imperceptible: (4) It has an exceeding convenient spooler, whose simplicity enables it to be easily worked by a child: (5) By reason of all the principal bearings being capped, lost motion from wear and tear can be readily taken up and the machine kept constantly in perfect running order, thus avoiding the expense of replacing worn parts: (6) The feed is positive in itself without the aid of springs: (7) All the parts are thoroughly tested and passed upon before the machine is set up, so that there is no danger of getting any but a perfect machine. (8) Each individual part of the machine can be easily replaced.

CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT OF THE WEED MACHINE CO.

The above points of excellence in mechanical construction and device are the results of years of study, thought and experiment on the part of the experts in the employ of the Weed Company, and it must be a gratification to it to know that the Judges at the Centennial have indorsed their labors and expenditures by confering upon them the Highest Award which has been issued by the Commission. In addition to this, they have based their award largely upon the crowning glories of the machine, which are its "simplicity of construction," its "fine quality of workmanship and materials," and last, but not least, its "*adaptability to both cloth and leather stitching*," thus combining two machines in one, both being perfect in their results. The Rural has sent out to its agents as premiums for getting up clubs hundreds of these machines without the receipt of a complaint from one, and our files are today filled with letters of praise and thanks for so useful and excellent an adjunct to the home circle. So profuse have been the words of praise extended to it that the Company has named its machine the "Favorite," not as a catchword, but as a just recognition of the commendation accorded to it by the many people who use and admire it. And the past enterprise of the Company in improving the "Favorite" is a safe guaranty that the future will develop equal progress and entitle it to the motto "Excelsior."

Farm Economy.

WILL POTATOES RUN OUT?

BY PROF. W. J. BEAL, MICHIGAN AG. COLLEGE.

AGAIN, as usual we have raised many varieties of potatoes—this year about two hundred and fifty. Two moderate sized tubers of each kind were used as seed for six hills. They were planted on sod ground which had been seeded for several years. The ground was in good condition and had yielded two crops a year of orchard grass, clover and lucern. The soil was a sandy loam, plowed in the fall, cultivated and top-dressed with fine manure in the spring. In ordinary seasons the crop would have been a good one, but this year it was very light. The weather was very favorable till sometime in June when it suddenly changed from cool and cloudy to hot and plenty of sun light. Potatoes almost stopped growing on account of the sudden change.

In former years the potatoes in small quantity, here noticed, were planted on old garden soil. I mean on soil which had been in cultivation for some years in succession. They have been manured in a variety of ways, not very heavily, but generally with a good dressing of fine manure and ashes. The potatoes have never been planted on the same piece of ground in two successive seasons, but they have been shifted about on similar soil, on different parts of about five to eight acres. Two years ago the number of varieties was much increased. Previous to that time, for some six years, there had been fifty to eighty varieties in the garden. For some years the yield has been carefully noted, usually by weighing the tubers of each hill, or each set of hills. Of course we should expect a variation in the yield for different hills in the same year of the same sort, even if we treated them in all respects as nearly alike as possible.

The chief object in planting so many kinds in this manner, is to watch the changes from year to year in yield, health, quality, etc. We all know for family use, that we cannot measure the value of a crop of potatoes by the scales or bushel-basket, still the yield is of great importance. The ideal potato must, at least, be productive of even-sized tubers close together in the hill, with few or no small ones. It must have full eyes and even surface, a light or red color or spotted, must be of good quality for all seasons of the year; and now that the beetles have become so troublesome, the model potato should ripen early in the season.

It would require needless space to give here the weight of each sort. This season, the greatest yield for six hills was nineteen pounds and seven ounces; last year 21 pounds and 1 ounce for three hills. On no two years has the same variety headed the list in productiveness. This year it was Long Pond; last year, Early White; the year before it was Climax. In comparing the yield for the past two seasons, I find all those yielding well this year, yielded well last year; and that those yielding lightest last year, hold somewhere near the same rank this year.

In the report for 1868, before I came to the college, the comparative yield is given of fifty-five varieties of potatoes. With few exceptions the tubers of these have been used on the garden ever since. They have all decreased in yield, notwithstanding the garden is now much more productive of most crops than it was eight years ago. In 1868, Casco was reported as yielding, at the rate of 340 bushels to the acre; last year three hills produced about half an ounce, although it was a remarkably good year for the yield of potatoes in our locality.

This year it ran out entirely. We did not get one tuber, not even a small one. In 1868, Colebrook gave at the rate of 155 bushels to the acre; Davis Seedling, 276 bushels; Prince Albert, 262 bushels; Coppermine, 176 bushels. Last year they yielded respectively, for three hills of each variety; Colebrook, 2 pounds 9 ounces; Davis Seedling, 5 pounds 6 ounces; Prince Albert, 1 pound 11 ounces; Coppermine, 4 pounds 9 ounces. This year, Colebrook yields for six hills, (twice as many hills as reported last year) not one tuber, large or small; Davis Seedling, not one tuber; Prince Albert, one-fourth of an ounce—a few very small tubers; Coppermine, 1½ ounce. Other examples could be added of a similar nature.

The question as to whether varieties wear out has long been discussed. Mr. KNIGHT, the famous English horticulturist, maintained that they did, and gave what he supposed were good illustrations to prove it. Others, since his time, as well as his cotemporaries, believed otherwise. I have seen Indian corn which had been kept for ten or more years on the same farm. Although the farm was a good one and the land well managed, the ears of corn grew shorter, the kernels shorter and rounder at the ends. The corn mentioned was the White Dent, in the latitude of Lansing, Michigan. I should be glad to hear from others who have kept the seed continuously on the same farm for many years. It is a common notion that sheep do better when changed occasionally from one farm to another or from one neighborhood to another, even where they were under the care of a good master before changing.

It would be interesting to know whether any of these varieties of potatoes which have been kept here for some years would revive, if their seed were sent to distant portions of our country and well treated. To test this point, last spring, I sent tubers from our garden to Kansas Agricultural College and another set to Ohio Agricultural College, at Columbus. The Professors of agriculture in each the same as we have treated them of those two institutions agreed to treat them and report the result this fall for comparison. It may be said that the potatoes in the cases noticed above, ran out because they were not fairly treated, that they were not properly fertilized or cultivated, yet I do not think this the only cause. Of the newer sorts of potatoes, as lately of Early Vermont, Compton's Surprise, Brownell's Beauty, etc., planted on similar ground with similar treatment, we have raised excellent crops nearly every year. In this connection, I may mention a fact, though some will doubtless find other explanations than the degenerating of varieties. In many parts of Southern Michigan the wheat crop is lighter than it used to be. The usual explanation given is that wheat has been too often raised on the same ground. But, in many instances which have been noticed by our most observing farmers, a newly-cleared piece of timbered land for its first crop does not produce nearly so well as in early times, say thirty years ago when the country contained much land cleared every year.

INSECTS OR BIRDS, WHICH?

IT is often very difficult to determine which are the most destructive to farm and garden crops, the insect-eating birds or the insects themselves. It sometimes happens that the birds in searching for insects destroy the infested plants at the same time, and then the question arises, Which of them are the more injurious?

A writer in a late number of the Mark Lane Express, in describing the ravages of certain insects upon the turnips in England, gives an illustration of the damage insectivorous birds may do to crops when searching for their natural food. The grubs found in the roots of turnips are much sought for by the rooks and other birds, but singularly enough, however valuable their services may be at other times in devouring the larvæ of noxious insects, they cannot at this particular time be permitted to alight among the plants, as their doing so would prove certain destruction to the portion of the field on which they remained but for a very short time, and if allowed to come and go, without restriction, in extreme cases, they would not leave a single plant.

In searching for food every plant at all injured by the grub or worm is broken off, and those perfectly sound and as yet free from attack are pulled up by the root, every plant being taken in succession, and the inevitable consequence of permitting them to remain is a broad space of red earth utterly destitute of vegetation. Nor are the rooks the only birds, usually the farmer's best friends, that will perpetrate incredible mischief at such a critical time, as the missel-thrush is equally fond of haunting the turnip fields, particularly during the earlier stages of growth, when the plants have attained the rough leaf, and they can be caught hold of firmly; and again when newly thinned and only beginning to recover.

At these periods, a flock of missel-thrushes, numbering not more than from twenty to thirty birds, will in two hours from daybreak, clear a quarter of an acre as effectually as if a turnip had never been sown there, so indefatigably do they work in their destructive operations. On examination it would almost appear as if each bird took a line for itself, and made a point of examining every plant as it went along; this too minute examination of course resulting in the total loss of the crop.

From the above view of this very important matter, it will be seen that by protecting the fields from birds at the very time the grubs are committing the damage, there is some chance of a part of the crop being left on the ground, whereas, if they are permitted to alight and remain undisturbed, the united action of both will be apt to destroy all. If rooks, particularly, get the habit of remaining on a field on which grubs are present, without danger of disturbance, it is in vain to resow the patches which have been cleared, or plant swedes, cabbages, or any other available esculent, as every thing will be pulled up before it has time to get hold of the soil, and the labor and cost must go for nothing.

It is quite as reasonable to expect that there will be a stage in the growth of root crops, when it will be dangerous to permit such strong and active birds to approach them, and necessary to ward them off accordingly, as it is to assume that the most highly-esteemed songsters, whose melodious strains are the delight of every dweller in the country, will for a few weeks during the fruit season become a source of very severe loss to the horticulturist, and must be kept away by protecting the trees with nets, or if very extensive, as in a cherry orchard, by the use of the gun almost continuously.

Notwithstanding that the services of birds are inadmissible in clearing the soil of grubs and worms, while the plants which they are destroying remain young and delicate, the farmer may do a great deal in self-protection by hand-picking—a process which can be much more easily carried out than might appear likely at first sight. The first break in the cuticle of the incipient bulb is instantly followed by a curl on the extreme point of the foliage, caused by the sap being checked in its upward course by the cutting of the vascular tissues, this slight change in the appearance of the plant infallibly betraying the whereabout of the destroyer.

Taking this change as their clue, a couple of smart lads, provided with a short piece of pointed stick, and a tin or other light vessel in which to deposit and carry away the grubs, will save a vast number of plants in one day, the value of the food thus saved from total destruction being far and away out of all proportion to the slight expense incurred by this simple process. The grubs are got without the slightest trouble—the removal of a small portion of earth round the root at once exposing them, a minute being scarcely occupied by each operation. The young plant has a wonderful power of recuperation, as even although it has been pretty deeply cut, the wound becomes at once cicatrized, the leaves again sympathise, become erect, and recover their bloom; and in about a week the entire plant has recovered the hue of health, and grows vigorously.

Various reasons have been assigned for the presence of grubs in such immense numbers, but all more or less local in their character, as for instance, over-rich manure, large applications of bone dust, the decaying turf of very old grass-land recently broken up; but as they have appeared this season under every possible condition and character of soil, manured and unmanured alike, on land several years broken up, as on that from which only one crop has as yet been taken, after lying in grass for twenty years, the whole question as to how they can appear in such myriads, and be so universally diffused over an immense extent of surface, must be referred to the entomologist, who makes such abstruse subjects his life-study.

FARM MATTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

RIDGEWAY, Warren Co., N. C., Oct. 16, '75.

THE number of years that I have been a subscriber and reader of the RURAL is sufficient evidence of the appreciation which myself and family feel for it, and as a partial remuneration for the benefits received, perhaps a few lines from this section may be interesting to some of your readers.

This county was, before the war, famed for its fine crops of wheat and tobacco, those two being the principal market crops. Since the war the lands have been mostly cultivated by the freedmen, the landlord drawing one-fourth the crop as rent. The *rotation* is corn one year, corn the next year, corn the third year and so on to the fifteenth, unless the poor over-worked soil refuses to produce "nubbins," when it is turned over to the blackberry bushes &c. for rest. There are thousands of acres of cheap lands here for sale, plenty under cultivation and in tracts of from twenty-five acres up to thousands. We want men with capital and good, sound, common-sense ideas of farming. Men who understand the breeding and care of cattle, sheep and swine, and the making and preserving and application of manure, can make money here, provided they *have* the capital and judgment to start aright, and the energy and perseverance to carry it through. We buy too much commercial manure, the whole crop of cotton, in some instances, being required to pay for it, throwing away labor entirely.

Wheat this year is a good crop, from 10 to 25 bushels per acre. Cotton light, now selling for 2¾ to 3 cts. per pound in the seed. Tobacco short, from scarcity of plants and drought at planting time. Dairy products bring good prices, and the business might be made profitable by managing it on northern principles. The common cows are very inferior for both milk and beef. For the information of Mr. WILLARD, if he has never been through the South, I find the people here say and believe that a cow yielding from six to eight quarts of milk per day "gives a heap" and of that the calf or "starter," which is often a year old or more, gets one-half. It seems surprising to many that the milker can get any milk at all unless the calf draws its share at the same time.

Our State Fair occurs this week. Perhaps I can send you some notes thereon, if you have no one there more competent. M. B. PRINCE.

The Herdsman.

GOAT BREEDING AND REARING IN NORWAY.

GOATS may not be very profitable animals for America, still there are countries where they furnish a large amount of valuable food for the inhabitants, and considerable for export. Any one who has eaten a good goat's milk cheese, will probably agree with us in saying that there is none better, and little as good. In speaking of Goat-Breeding in Norway, the London Field says:

"Side by side with the sheep and cow, the goat is still extensively raised in many parts of Norway, especially on those farms containing a considerable area of mountain pasturage and wood. With a view to render its fleece more valuable, a cross with the Angora has here and there been tried; but the common unimproved breed of the country, of somewhat angular appearance and hardy constitution, is the one still generally met with. In those instances in which milk is the most important product, the goats are not unfrequently kept along with the sheep, sharing in winter the same shed or stall, and being treated much in the same way. When, however, the flock is sufficiently numerous to render it worth while to separate them from the rest of the live stock and put up accommodation better suited to their wants, the building in which they are housed is both larger and loftier. The goat needs a good deal of air, and, provided it is dry, it can stand cold well. What does not suit it at all is a moist and vitiated atmosphere. Now and then the practice is followed of tying up the animal, and occasionally the stable is divided into a number of stalls.

In selecting the goats for stock purposes, the preference is given to the biggest framed and finest specimens, with large, well-formed horns, and, if possible, the breeding season is so arranged that all the kids are born as near as may be about the same time.

As a rule, the kids are allowed to suck their dams for a month or six weeks; but during that time the herdsman now and then milks the latter—more particularly the young mothers—in order to accustom them to be handled by him, and (by drawing out the last drops in the udder) to promote an increased lacteal secretion. He can generally manage to attract them by offering a small quantity of salt, and after a time, when the weaning is over, they come to the milking place regularly of their own accord. The operation of milking is performed by the goat-herd placing himself astride and backwards way on the animal's back, and bending down so as to reach the udder.

Kids destined for the butcher remain with their mothers somewhat longer than those not intended to be sold early; but where this can be done without detriment to them, the farmer endeavors to wean all his young stock before the period arrives for the flock to be driven to the distant pastures. The herbage of the latter is much sweeter and richer than that of the grass lands in the more immediate neighborhood of the homestead, and it is for this reason that it is desired, if possible, to arrange for the goats to be on them during the time they are milked for the dairy. The kids which have not been weaned when the flock leaves its winter quarters follow their mothers to the lower slopes or "almen," and very soon begin nibbling the herbage and green foliage of the trees. It is an old rule not to have recourse to the "mouth-piece"—a piece of wood fixed in the kid's mouth to prevent sucking—until the trees and bushes have put on their spring mantle of green.

The roaming habits of the goat render the shepherd's (or rather goatherd's) task on the almen no easy one, and he is anything but the idyllic pipe-playing being known to us on canvas. At night he has to drive the flock into an inclosure, and during the day to milk the goats twice, the first time before turning them out in the morning.

The quantity and, of course, also quality of the milk yielded varies with the mode of treatment, character of the pasture, and milking properties of the individual animal; from 1 to 2 kilogrammes (2¼ lb. to 4½ lb.) per diem, the goats remaining in milk five to six months. A goat furnishing less than 2¼ pounds, or its equivalent liquid measure (Mr. Thesen, our Norwegian authority for the facts in this communication, only gives the quantity in kilos.), would not be considered worth keeping.

As to the peculiar smell and flavor of goat's milk, which is doubtless due to the presence of capric acid, this is stronger in the case of some animals than in others, and depends, to a great extent, on their food. It is most marked when the latter consists chiefly of the young shoots and foliage of trees, and much more observable in cream and whole milk than in skimmed ditto. In spite of the comparatively large proportion of cream in goat's milk, and the facility with which

it could be separated and kept fresh, by the application of the "cold-water" system of dairying adopted (in the case of cow's milk) in many parts of Norway, butter is rarely, if ever, manufactured from it, the common plan being to add it to the whey in making "mys" cheese.

Occasionally "mys" cheese is manufactured from the whey of cow's and goat's milk mixed, and the milk is sometimes allowed to turn sour. The addition of cow's milk whey facilitates the process of manufacture, but the article thus produced has a less piquant flavor and fetches a lower market price. To make a good genuine "mys" cheese of sweet goat's milk whey only, or of the latter supplemented by its cream, requires considerable care and judgment, and the difference in value between the best quality and the ordinary product shows that the additional attention bestowed on the former is appreciated by the consumer.

Dairy Husbandry.

THE MILK SUPPLY OF CITIES AND LARGE TOWNS.

The supply of fresh milk to cities and villages is occupying a good deal of attention in this country and in England. The plan of keeping large dairies in the immediate neighborhood of the city, as is now practiced to a considerable extent, is open to serious objections. The lack of space often causes the animals to be overcrowded, and from want of exercise and proper ventilation, together with a defective diet, the herds not unfrequently become diseased, and their milk, of course, is not a healthful article of food.

The fact that cows in such establishments require to be changed frequently on account of failing health, their places being filled by animals fresh from the country, is good evidence that disease or a low tone of the system has been prevailing for some time before it becomes apparent to a casual observer. This plan, then, on sanitary grounds, cannot be commended. The sale of milk to city contractors has been the source of great dissatisfaction to milk farmers, and strenuous efforts have been made, from time to time, to regulate the trade on a fair basis. But somehow the contractors always get the best end of the bargain, and the milk farmer, in the end, yields to the situation.

In England there is an effort being made to organize a new plan for milk supplies. Mr. Livesey, in a recent letter to the Hereford (Eng.) Times, says:

"We all know that farmers are loth to make changes and slow to get out of the old ruts in which they have traveled so long, often enduring manifest loss rather than resort to any change which seems to some extent to revolutionize the long-existing arrangements. This, coupled with other matters, shows that if our large towns and cities are to get an abundant supply of genuine milk, the consumers must make the first move in the matter and induce the sellers to follow."

And he suggests that the best way to do this is the establishment of milk-supply companies, where the shareholders might be very largely the customers and supporters. He gives a brief account of the Aylesbury Dairy, which has become noted for its reliability in furnishing a large amount of *genuine milk* to its customers in London. This Company has a share capital of £50,000 ($250,000). It has one factory at Swindon, another at Bourton, near Shrivenham, and a splendid building in London, which is the headquarters of the selling department. Above 1,000 gallons of milk are distributed daily in London to about 5,000 families, 30 light carts being employed in the delivery of the milk. Besides the retail trade, a vast quantity is sold to the trade at the railway station, the total quantity used by the Company being about 22,000 gallons daily. The milk is furnished from over 50 farms, the contracts with the farmers being models of stringent dealings for the security of cleanliness and purity. No milk from any cow out of health, or just calved, or just deprived of her calf, or just bought, is to be sent. All milk is to be cooled in a Lawrence refrigerator, before dispatch, to 60° Fahr., and none is to be sent which has been bought. The sender is to be liable for all damages arising from neglect of any of these conditions. But this is not all the precaution taken for the security of customers in preventing milk from filthy farm-houses, or where the people or cattle are diseased. To meet these conditions a Sanitary Inspector is employed by the Company, whose duty it is to make inspections of all the farms from which milk is furnished. The Company also have, in addition, a Medical Board that meets quarterly to receive the reports of the Inspector and to make such suggestions on these as may occur to them. The Company have also a well-arranged system for preventing those who deliver milk by retail from diluting it. Thus, it will be seen, every possible precaution is taken by the Company for securing genuine and wholesome milk. Mr. Livesey urges that the Aylesbury plan be adopted on an extensive scale, and that the milk be purchased from farms distant from the place of consumption and lying in the vicinity of the railways, since the milk can be produced more cheaply from such farms than from those near the city, where land is expensive.

The establishment of factories along the line of the railways where the farmers deliver their milk is an important feature in this plan, the advantages of which we have heretofore urged in the Rural, because, as will be seen, all surplus milk, not needed from time to time for consumption, can be utilized at the factory by being converted into butter and cheese. By this plan the milk farmer is protected from the abuses to which he is now subjected by the contractors, who, to avoid loss on surplus milk, either return it to the farmer or dock him in damages, on the ground that the milk is not sweet or is otherwise defective.

Again, some plan is needed whereby consumers can be protected from the dilution and adulteration of milk. It has been estimated that to the total supply of milk in New York City water is added to the extent of one-quarter, thus making consumers pay one-fourth more than they would if the milk were pure and unadulterated. The frauds practiced in this way upon consumers have become so onerous that attempts have been made to check the abuse by applying the lactometer test. But it is believed that only the worst cases are thus reached, and that we must look to some more substantial method for breaking up this unmitigated swindle. We should be glad to see the plan suggested inaugurated in this country, and we think a company furnishing good, honest milk could be managed so as to return good dividends to stockholders.

Another important feature in the plan proposed is the capacity to furnish cream in considerable quantities. At the factories a certain portion of the milk may be set for cream and the skimmed milk converted into skimmed cheese.

We believe the time was never more favorable than now for inaugurating this movement. The great desire in cities to obtain pure milk and the knowledge that milk is grossly diluted, together with the low price of cheese, rendering it easy for milk to be obtained in the country at comparatively low figures, would all seem to favor the success of such a movement. Let all the precautions be taken to put upon the market genuine milk in the best possible condition and it will be a boon to consumers, while all parties interested, from the seller to the milk farmer, can be amply remunerated.

THE GREAT CHEESE SHOW IN CANADA.

The Canadian Cheese Fairs seem to have been a success from the first. They are held under the auspices of the Ontario Dairymen's Association, which receives annually an appropriation from the Government for premiums and for the advancement of dairy husbandry in Canada. The recent Show at Ingersoll, from all accounts, appears to have been one of the most successful of any ever held by the Association. There were 200 entries made for competition in the various classes, and as the cheese generally was of the finest quality, the competition was sharp and the awards not easily made. The first prize of $100 for the six best factory cheeses—two made in the months of July, August and September, respectively—was given to Peter Dunn of Ingersoll; the second prize, $75, to Jas. Elliott of Brownsville; the third prize, $60, to J. A. James of Nilestown; the fourth prize, $50, to H. Parrington of Norwich; the fifth prize, $40, to J. Anderson of Wyoming; the sixth prize, $30, to A. J. Herrick of Acacia; the seventh prize, $20, to C. E. Harris of Newry; the eighth prize, $10, to E. Hunter of Mt. Elgin; the ninth prize, to J. E. Hupkins; the tenth prize to Wm. Augur; the eleventh prize to Adam Bell; the twelfth prize to Wm. Waddell; the thirteenth prize to R. Facey; the fourteenth prize to E. N. Hupkins—each receiving $5.

For the best two cheeses (colored) made on the 17th and 31st of August, the first prize, $25, was awarded to A. J. Herrick; the second prize, $15, to Jas. Elliott, and the third prize, $10, to Peter Dunn.

For the best two cheeses (white) made on the 15th and 20th of August, the first prize of $25 went to John Wilkinson of Verschoyle; the second prize, $15, to Peter Dunn, and the third prize, $10, to E. N. Hupkins.

For the best three cheeses (colored or white) made at any date—first prize, $25, to A. J. Herrick; second prize, $15, to Peter Dunn; third prize, $10, to A. Bell of Innerkiss.

For the best five Stilton cheeses—first prize, $20, to E. Harris; second prize, $10, to John Rowart of Nilestown.

Best five Loaf or Truckle cheeses—first prize, $20, to C. B. Lambert of St. Thomas; second prize, $10, to Philip Andrew of Cromarty.

Best two cheeses, any make or date, artificially colored—first prize, $20, to Margaret Morrison of Newry; second prize, $10, to John Rowart.

Best three dairy cheeses made any time in August—first prize, $20, to Mr. Ballantine of St. Mary; second prize, $10, to R. Facey of Hornettsville; third prize, $5, to Thomas Hawkins.

Best two firkins of butter, first prize, $50, to Wm. Dunn of Ingersoll; second prize, $30, to Jas. Lund of Oxford Center; third prize, $15, to V. Picht.

Best crock of butter—first prize, $20, to Robt. Nicholl; second prize, $10, to Benj. Thompson of Florence; third prize, $5, to Wm. Harris of Mt. Elgin.

Best basket butter, plain roll or print—first prize, $20, to Robt. Nicholl; second prize, $10 to Daniel Hayes, and third prize, $5, to Benj Thompson.

It will be seen the prizes were quite liberal and sufficient to induce a large competition. Cheese Fairs, when properly conducted, are of great advantage in stimulating exhibitors to excel, and such good results have come from them in Canada, in promoting improvement in dairy manufactures, that the Canadian Government has had the good sense to make liberal appropriations for this object.

The cheese Shows of Canada are managed for the benefit of Canadian dairymen, while on this side the Dairy Exhibition at our great Centennial has been prostituted for the benefit of a "Ring" and will be of no advantage to the dairy interest of the country, either in stimulating to improvement or in giving us a reputation with foreign nations.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF MILK FOR CHEESE IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

In England, when cheese is worth 70 shillings sterling per cwt., the dairyman gets about 13¼ cents per gallon for his milk. This is a little over 3¼ cents, gold, per quart for milk when made into a good quality of cheese. In comparing prices abroad with prices in the United States, we find that milk nets the dairyman considerably less money here than in England. If we assume that 10 pounds of milk on an average make one pound of cured cheese, and that 11 cents per pound are realized for it, after deducting the expense of making, boxing, etc., to fit it for market, we can easily calculate the value of our milk when it is made into first-class cheese. A gallon of milk, wine measure, weighs 8 pounds 9 ounces; consequently 10 pounds would make one gallon and one-third pint of milk. The milk, then, would net the dairyman a trifle less than 2½ cents, currency, per quart—a difference of over ¾ cents per quart in favor of English dairymen. But the latter complain that cheese-making at these figures leaves only a narrow margin of profits, and hence that all low-priced cheese will not pay. As the best American cheese has ranged in England during the past year at an average of from 60 to 66 shillings, sterling, per cwt., the effect has been to send down the price of common grades of English cheese to quite a low figure. We notice that Cheshire medium was quoted on the 1st of October at 44 shillings, sterling, the cwt. It is evident that cheese at such rates, on the high-priced lands of England, cannot pay, and hence we are not surprised to learn that an effort is being made to change to some other branch of farming.

The time is not distant, we think, when cheese-making in England will be narrowed down to "fancy" or high-priced qualities. Our efforts should now be directed to the manufacture of an article that will take its place alongside of the fine English cheddar, which sells at from 80 to 92 shillings per cwt. There is no good reason why we should not be able to produce as fine goods as any in the world. We already have the skill in making, and what we now most need is skill in curing and better curing-rooms.

THE CHEESE SHOW AT FROME, ENG.

We have reports of the great Cheese and Butter Show at Frome, Somersetshire, England, in September. The cheese was exhibited in a monster tent 170 feet long by 45 feet broad. Four stages ran the full length of the tent and one across the end of it, and on these were placed from 700 to 800 cheeses. Here were found the very finest cheeses that the County of Somersetshire produces. Some of the cheddars exhibited were 16 and 17 inches deep and of the finest flavor that cheese can possibly attain. There was a great variety of goods on exhibition. Besides the cheddar, there were the Stilton, the Lancashire, the Gloucestershire, the Wilts, the Dorsets, and others.

The inhabitants of Frome take great interest in these Shows, and this year large arches, profusely decorated with evergreens and flowers, bearing a variety of mottoes and surmounted with flags, spanned the principal streets, while pendant from almost numberless windows were flags of various styles, shapes and colors. The fronts of some of the shops were festooned from the lowest to the highest stories with evergreens, intermixed with flowers and flags.

The Judges for cheese at this Show were Messrs. J. D. Corman and S. S. White of London, W. Livesey of Preston, and H. S. Underhill of Oxford.

The Naturalist.

OSTRICH FARMING.

A correspondent of the London Times in speaking of Ostrich farming at the Cape of Good Hope says:

"Permit me in your valuable paper to make a few remarks on one of our most lucrative employments at the Cape, and which is so little known of in England, and that is "ostrich farming." Taming the ostrich and making it a domesticated bird has only been attempted of late years; formerly they used to run about wild on the plains of South Africa. They were shot by the traders and natives for their feathers until they had almost become extinct. I have often heard my native servants talk about the number of birds they have killed and eggs they have eaten, but that is a thing of the past. They are now watched by the farmer most accurately until the young are hatched; these are then taken from their mother; the eggs that are not hatched are taken home and generally put under blankets to complete the incubation. The birds are generally sold when they are a week old for £10 each to those farming them; they are fed on lucern, clover, or any grass stuff from the garden; they are housed at night time, and are put out during the day when the sun is warm. When a month old, they are taken out by a boy to the fields, on a pasture peculiar to the country, and will feed about the homestead with the poultry to the age of two years. After that age they have to be kept in paddocks.

The birds commence laying at the age of three and four years. They are attended to the same as wild birds; but when we find a hen has more eggs than she can cover, they are placed in an incubator, where it is interesting to study the process of incubation.

Birds are kept solely for the feathers. They are plucked every eight months, and will average at each plucking £10 worth of feathers after the first plucking, which are chicken feathers, and are not so valuable.

The Cape never offered a better time than the present for enterprising young men, as farms are being let at a nominal price; but I should advise those who intend going ostrich-farming to rent part of a farm from one who is engaged in that pursuit, because it does not require much ground, and at the same time he will be able to gain information."

THE PLACE OF ANIMALS.

A writer in Our Dumb Animals very pertinently remarks that the doctrine that animals are mere automatons—bundles of "instincts" to be wrought out into actions in a mechanical way—cannot explain all the observed phenomena of their lives. It is sometimes urged that we publish too many anecdotes of animals; that these things may do to amuse children or excite the sympathy of the sentimental, but have no substantial use. The reverse is true. These anecdotes, illustrating the conduct of animals under exceptional circumstances, bear directly upon the problem of their true place in the scale of life. Whenever it is shown that any creature under pressure of new conditions puts forth special powers, however feeble, to meet those conditions, a gain has been made; something we call reason, in talking of ourselves, has been manifested. The action has ceased to be automatic. The animal is not a machine; a mere blind force working through an organism would do nothing of the kind. Our file of anecdotes is an arsenal of facts, showing that within the range of their physical adaptations all animals do think—the mental phenomena, though limited, are in kind the same as in men. To illustrate would be to reproduce these anecdotes. It is better to ask our readers to observe the life that is going on all around them; the closer they observe, the surer will be their conviction that this must be the case.

Showers of Frogs and Worms.—Something similar to the meat showers of Kentucky are the worm showers in Norway. The *Morgenblad* of Christiana states that this singular phenomenon was observed there after a recent violent storm, a number of worms were found crawling on the snow, and it was impossible to find any crevices in the ground from which they might have crept out, as the earth was frozen. Both the frogs or lizards were lifted up by wind-storms, having their centers in distant localities, carried up in the air and dropped again in other places.

The Poultry Yard.

POULTRY KEEPING IN ENGLAND.

DEAR RURAL:—Though far from home, I receive my RURAL regularly, and on breaking its wrapper, as I sit in my cozy breakfast room, I almost imagine that I can scent "a breath from home," from between its fresh pages I am glad to see that you have opened a corner of your paper for the "Poultry" interest, and its excellent articles have been read here with much pleasure, and, I may add, freely but pleasantly commented upon.

In the English agricultural papers—I cannot say "our" papers—for fifteen years in England have not made me less an American—the poultry interest figures largely, and it has often occasioned remark, here, that the matter is not, apparently, one of greater interest to American farmers. Here, one of the first things to strike the attention of the "city" visitor in an English farm, is the fine appearance made by the barnyard poultry, and the farmer's wife, or daughters, will tell you, as they point with pardonable pride to the handsome flock, that "'usband an' I, an' children, we thinks all an' all on our chicks, we do; an' they be 'an'some, ben't they, zur?" They are, indeed, and well may "usband an' children" and wife be proud of their broods.

They will tell you, too, that they are well fed and cared for, and when you ask "does it pay"—the universal American standard—the good wife will answer, "Aye zur, it do, an' pay well! We fill 'e potato pot for chicks, and chicks they fill it twice for us with eggs. Aye, zur, it do pay."

"We fill 'e potato pot for chicks." There lies the secret. The chicks are *well fed*, and it would be well for our American farmers if they would learn this lesson from their English cousins. A few days since I was at Bingley, a quaint old town in Yorkshire, and remained over night at a snug little inn—"The Golden Fleece"—where I was accommodated with a room, looking out on the pleasant, cheery inn yard, with its stables and kennel, its dove-cote and its moss-thatched well. One of the first sounds I heard, as I lazily drew my curtains in the morning, was the gleeful cackling of the chickens in the yard, and the merry call of the children of the household, as the flock was summoned for its early breakfast. I pulled to one side the heavy curtain and looked out on the scene, and a pretty one it was. The chicks had run in from the hedges and mossy lanes close at hand, and were clustered about the children whose little legs were half bared as they held up their short dresses half filled with grain and "bits" with which to feed their pets.

In England the fowls are largely, the care of the children, and admirable little matrons they are in watching their charge. The fowls are not left in the cool autumn mornings to look for their breakfast, in the chance droppings from the manger, or any "odd luck" upon which they may come, after long search, as is too often the case on the American farm, but a hearty meal is given them in the early morning, and then they are sent out, light-hearted and cheery, to begin their rambles for the day, and to search the fresh hedges and lanes for "a good digestive" to their morning meal!

How different is it on many American farms, where the farmer is too likely to leave the chickens to shift for themselves. He seldom throws them more than a handful of grain, and yet complains that "them 'ere chickens is always hungry!" They must forage from dawn till dusk, and "keep on the run" too, in order to earn scanty daily food, and yet he expects them to lose an hour of that precious daylight, laying eggs for him! He searches high and low for stolen nests, "for them 'ere chickens is off to the woods the first thing every morning" he says, not remembering that the poor, hungry things must travel far and near for that which is denied them at the stable door—enough to eat. "Them pesky chickens don't lay worth a cent and I wish all their heads were off—for chickens don't pay nohow! They're off in that bit of timber now, and I can't find one of them, and I believe the hull lot has got nests hidden up there just to spite me!" And while he is cursing his hungry flock they are all hard at work at the bottom of little ravines and cuts looking for a scanty meal in these cool autumn days.

The good wife's plans were the best. "Fill 'e potato pot for chicks, and chicks 'll fill it twice for us with eggs—aye, zur, it *do* pay." And it *does* pay. Try it, and see for yourself. I have tried it, and the answer was in the affirmative, and a decided affirmative too.

London, Eng., Oct. 5. GEORGE DERBY.

BREEDING FOR QUALITIES NO. 1.

EVERY observing breeder will notice some peculiar tendency in each variety of his stock, to breed to certain colors or admixtures of colors, some of which he wants to avoid entirely; others he would regulate to certain proportions or markings, in order to come nearer the points laid down in the standard of excellence; or to the qualities generally accepted as constituting fine fowls of any variety.

Breeders of white fowls have black and yellow to contend with. Breeders of black and white varieties, as Silver Hamburgs, Silver Laced, Houdans, Silver Polands &c., have the proper proportions of each color to maintain. Of black fowls, that strong brilliant metalic shade, is the objective point, also to avoid splashes of white. Those breeds of yellow, red, brown and black, such as Game, Brown Leghorns, Gold Laced, Golden Hamburgs, Partridge Cochins, Brahmas, &c., are all liable to breed more or less "off feathers," as it is termed by fanciers. Black-breasted birds, as cocks of Silver Gray Dorking, Dark Brahmas, Duck-wing, Game, &c., are very liable to white splashes on the breast. The hackle feathers of Reds are liable to run yellow near the tips. Obtaining and maintaining the desired uniformity is the breeder's aim. It is my object to look into the laws of nature as far as we know them, and to follow out as far as possible those which tend to the desired ends.

There is no doubt that our fine breeds of domestic fowls are all descended from one common origin, as time and science have proved of the domestic pigeon. The theory of crossing with other species of birds, to produce a breed, is fast giving way. Some people still cling to the theory, that game fowls are improved by crossing with the Pheasant, common Ducks with the Musk or Brazilian Duck &c.; but after careful watching for many years, I have never been able to find a single instance of such a crop, ever breeding again. I know this is hard for many to believe who have not taken the trouble to investigate, especially in these Darwinian times, when so many are ready to believe in the commingling of species, yet *not one* single specimen bred from animals so crossed is shown as a result of their scientific experiments.

H. HALES.

HOUSE SCRAPS FOR FOWLS.

As the weather gets colder, fowls are cut off from many insects, fruits, seeds, &c. To compensate for this, it is necessary to supply your birds with an equivalent in *nice bits*. This can often be done with scraps from the table, leaves of vegetables, &c. This is especially required if fowls are limited to a small run, for though every one who keeps fowls may not own a five-acre lot for them to run in, yet he can keep them in health and with profit to himself, by giving them proper attention.

When fowls are supplied with the change of food they require, they seldom peck off each others' feathers, but if they once commence it is very hard to break them of such a habit. Pieces from the table are used with more profit to feed poultry than pigs, and they supply that variety which nature requires. H. H.

Farm Machinery.

THE GRANGE MILL.

THE cost of grinding grain is one of the heavy expenses of the farm, and the loss is still greater if it is used or fed unground. A really effective and easily-managed mill is one of the most profitable machines a farmer can use. We illustrate in this issue the GRANGE MILL, made by HENRY H. SWIFT, Millbrook, N. Y., which has been devised to combine efficiency with cheapness and convenience. It is capable of a wide range of work, and can be used with any sort of power and readily regulated to use a greater or less amount.

This mill is recommended, by responsible parties who have used it, to do all that is claimed for it. Any farmer can readily sharpen it when worn or dulled by long use, which is a great advantage, in a pecuniary point of view.

THE GRANGE MILL

We recommend our readers to investigate the points of superiority claimed for this mill, and the most direct way to do so is to write to the manufacturer for any information desired, which, we have no doubt, will be furnished promptly and cheerfully.

The Vineyard.

PACKING GRAPES.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Vinton Co. O. Record gives the following advice, in regard to packing grapes:

"I wish to offer a few suggestions to the grape growers in reference to packing grapes for shipping to market. The manner of packing has much to do with the price obtained.

In the first place grapes should never be gathered when wet with dew or rain. The best method that I have tried for gathering grapes is to take a pair of sharp shears (pruning shears answer very well) or a sharp knife with hooked blade; take hold of the bunch with one hand and cut the stem of the grapes with the knife or shears held in the other hand, and take off all decayed or green berries; lay it carefully in a basket, then proceed to the next; when the basket is full, carry it to the place of packing, which should be under a roof; the next operation is to pack the bunches in boxes, which should be both light and strong; twelve by eighteen inches, and four or five inches deep is a convenient size. Such boxes will hold from sixteen to twenty pounds if properly packed. To do this aright will take some experience.

I would recommend that the boxes be set on a table of convenient height, having the back end of the box elevated three or four inches by placing something under it; then commence at the end next to you and lay the bunches in carefully, pressing them together gently, but not hard enough to break the berries. When the bottom of the box is covered one layer deep, commence at the front again, put in a second layer, placing the larger bunches in the low places, thus keeping them as level as possible. Proceed in this manner until the box is full, being careful to have the box as level as possible when done. Cutting bunches to fill up cavities is not a good practice, as large bunches sell best.

When the box is full set it aside and proceed to fill another, and so on until all are full. The boxes thus filled should be allowed to stand until the stems of the grapes are wilted and become pliable, which will take from six to twenty-four hours; then take a board and cover the box, placing one hand under the box and the other on the cover, then set the box on one end, holding the cover securely in its place with one hand, then shake or jostle the grapes till they settle compactly together, which is easily accomplished after the stems are wilted; this will cause a cavity at the upper end of the box, which should be carefully filled with grapes that have had their stems wilted, in order that they may pack closely.

Great care should be taken to avoid rubbing the bloom off the grapes, as it injures their appearance, and it is thought they will not keep as well. Care should be taken to hide the stems of the last layer and have the stems look level and even on the top. Grapes should not be allowed to stand in the sunshine after they are gathered. Grapes transported according to the above directions can be carried a long distance without injury."

THE COLORING AND FINISHING OF GRAPE VINES.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Farmer (Eng.), in writing of what he terms the coloring and finishing of grapes, throws out some ideas which may be useful to our vineyardists and those who grow grapes under glass:

It is of much importance to know the best means of coloring grapes. These are very simple, and may be epitomized into a rather low temperature and a moist atmosphere. Of course, low temperature must be taken in a limited sense. Grapes, for instance, during their swelling period will enjoy a temperature of from 75° to 85°. After they begin to color, 70° is a sufficient maximum. From 65° to 70° may be accepted as the best coloring temperature. Exciting treatment, the basis of which is a high temperature, generally tends to finish black grapes of a claret hue, and to make white grapes green instead of golden. It may be difficult, perhaps impossible, to explain the cause of this. But of the fact there can be no doubt whatever; experience establishes it beyond controversy. If any doubt it, let him try to finish grapes in a high temperature, and they will reap colorless or imperfect color. Perhaps the great artist, Nature, can neither mix nor apply her colors only in a rather cool medium; assuredly it is so in autumn-tide when the sun is losing power, and the nights become long and dewy, that the majority of fruits are colored; and we can hardly do better than follow the lead of Nature in the matter. Some only copy half her example, and fail. They depress temperature, but forget the dewy nights. Nay, they reverse this lesson, and keep their vineries abnormally dry during the coloring stage. Of course, anything like a saturated atmosphere is to be avoided. The grapes are too near maturity to bear any excessive amount of moisture with impunity. And some grapes are sensitive to any excess of vapor, such, for instance, as the Madresfield Court, Joslin's St. Albans, the Golden Champion, and others. But in avoiding an excessive humidity, we must beware not to run into the opposite extreme of aridity. Anything approaching this will arrest coloring, or render the process thin and imperfect.

Neither must the temperature be so low as to arrest growth, any check at this stage will interfere with the coloring of the grapes. Little growth of wood or leaves may be made; but it is needful to keep the fluids of the plants in motion. During the coloring of the fruit that motion is compound—downwards as well as upwards. Possibly the downward motion is most potential, and that color is the product rather of the descending than the ascending sap. If so, that partially explains the reason why a lower temperature is needful. Withdraw the two stimulants of heat and vitality and the law of gravitation comes into full play, and brings down the highly elaborated sap to complete or perfect the coloring of the fruit. Be that however as it may, a rather low, regular, unexciting temperature, with a moderate amount of moisture in the air, seems that best adapted to the perfect coloring of the fruit. It may be well to explain somewhat definitely what is meant by a moderate amount of moisture in the air. No one of experience would think, for instance, of syringing grapes overhead during the coloring stage. That would ruin the fine bloom of grapes by mechanical abrasion, as well as throw an excessive amount of moisture into the atmosphere. But during dry weather paths, stages and inside borders might all be damped down with advantage, say at 7 A. M. and 5 P. M. In cases, too where the stems of the vines are trained near to hot water-pipes, the stems should be kept moist during the coloring process by frequent syringing.

The greatest strain is probably on the vine throughout the coloring of the grapes. Nothing, perhaps, proves this more than that mysterious disease, shanking. No doubt this is caused at times by other causes. But another explanation is that it is a natural provision inherent in the vine to enable it at the last and most trying moment to rid itself of an excessive crop. Hence while other bunches proceed to color and swell, the shanked ones suddenly color a little and wither up or shank. No one of experience can have failed to note that over-cropping is one great source of failure in coloring. There either seems not sufficient color available for so

many berries, or the vine lacks the ability to lay it on. Thus over-cropping, quite as often as injudicious treatment, leads to red Hamburghs or green Muscats. These are not always deficient in flavor. The vines have made a supreme effort to charge the fruit fully with vinous or saccharine matter, and failed at last to color them.

The Garden.

THE GREEN PROLIFIC CUCUMBER.

In the RURAL of the 14th inst., I noticed an account of some one's experiments with the Green Prolific Cucumber, which differs so much from my own experience that I cannot but believe that the writer made a mistake in labeling his experimental rows; for even the most superficial observer could not possibly mistake a Green Prolific Cucumber for a White Spine, as you will readily perceive by comparing the accompanying specimens. Although they are damaged considerably by frost, they may yet serve the purpose. Both were grown under like conditions and exposed to the same low temperature which nearly destroyed the White Spine, while it left the Green Prolific but little injured.

Your correspondent admits that the dry season has been unfavorable to the growth of cucumbers, but he is mistaken when he supposes that he has seen the "least that can be said," for I know of instances, last summer, where the vines of the White Spine and Cluster were actually parched on the ground without producing a single cucumber. On the other hand I know of fifteen acres of Green Prolific, grown in Virginia, which gave better results to the growers, than were obtained from any other variety. Of this crop I cannot give the exact number of pickles raised, but to appease "the regrets that the exact number an acre will produce is not given," I can give an instance in which 443,529 Green Prolific Pickles were grown on two acres, another in which 125,055 were grown on half an acre, and another of 492,550 on two and one-half acres; not by "arithmetical computation," but by actual count of the cucumbers picked. One might as correctly get at the product of an acre of cabbage by multiplying the weight of one head, grown in the garden patch with the number that might be grown on an acre, as to find the yield of an acre of pickles by arithmetical computation of the product of a few hills. To ascertain the number of pickles a cucumber vine will yield, the pickles must be picked every day. When picked irregularly, or when some are left on the vines to ripen, no estimate can be formed of the probable crop, and the yields of the different varieties vary but little.

Your correspondent, endeavoring to ridicule the idea of dating the origin and improvement of a cucumber back fifty years, appears in a dilemma to know whether this improved cucumber is the result of the "unselfish perseverance and assiduity of one cucumber-struck individual." I can assure him that it is no such thing, but, on the contrary, that it is the result of the persevering selfishness of an entire cucumber-struck community, trying to obtain the most profitable cucumber for pickles. To the theoretical agriculturist a cucumber may be "a little thing" but to the practical farmer, who makes his living by raising pickles, and who derives his principal income from this crop, it is far from being "a little thing."

Growing several acres of pickles, and having several millions of pickles, annually grown by contract, I have sufficient opportunities to learn the importance of the pickle crop. It brings hundreds of thousands of dollars to the farmers of this country alone. To the pickle grower the quality and strain of seed are of paramount importance, and so it was fifty and more years ago. Neither of the kinds grown then, the Long Green and Cluster gave full satisfaction; and when some farmers found in their fields seed which gave them a larger yield and better quality of pickles, and brought more money into their pockets and which the "pickle house" took in preference to the old kinds, they did not trouble themselves to know whether it was a cross or a "derivation hybrid;" but they carefully saved and planted it as "the right kind of pickle seed." For many years it was in the hands of but few families, of whom no amount of money could have purchased it. In later years one of "the younger members of the pickle-growing family" had one-half of a field planted with White Spine and the other with "the right kind of Pickle Seed." (The latter yielding nearly double as many pickles as the White Spine.)

The more elongated form of the pickles from a few hills in the "right kind" field could not escape the grower, who considered them a great improvement on the old "right kind." This "cross" or "fixed strain," whichever it may be called, was planted separately, and continually improved by careful selection, and lately introduced under the name of "Green Prolific." Its excellence has been proved in hundreds of instances, and some of the largest pickle-factories, after using all other kinds, prefer the Green Prolific to any other variety.

Why any one should try to ridicule the introduction of a new cucumber any more than that of the Trophy Tomato or the Snowflake Potato, or that of an improved strain of cattle is not apparent; but it is certainly not the province of a journalist to run down a new thing after one careless and imperfect experiment. He might as justly belittle the speed of a race-horse after driving it before a lumber waggon on a steep mountain road. F. M. HEXAMER.

ONION CULTURE.

THE Onion appears to be one of the few exceptions to the general rule that a rotation of crops upon any given piece of land is preferable to a continous succession of one and the same plant. Experience has proved beyond a doubt that Onions may be cultivated for many successive years upon the same soil without its showing the least sign of deterioration, and so well is this known that it has almost become an adage among the cultivators of this bulb that an "old Onion patch is better than a new one." It is scarcely to be supposed that Onions, or any other plant which draws nourishment from the soil, can be of any benefit to it in the way of imparting fertility, therefore we may attribute the improved condition of land upon which Onions have been cultivated for several years to the disintegration caused by frequent plowing and hoeing in order to keep the plants free of weeds.

But leaving all theories out, we know that Onions succeed best on very rich, fine soils, and very poorly on those of a poor, tough, tenacious nature, consequently to make the crop profitable a man needs to be careful in making a selection for an Onion patch. Low land which has been artificially drained, like the bottoms contiguous to creeks and rivers, are usually well-adapted to Onion culture. We know of some quite extensive tracts within a hundred miles of New York City which are valued at one thousand dollars or more an acre simply on account of their adaptability to Onion culture, the crop being almost certain, although the seasons may be very variable. These low, peaty soils, when well drained and manured, yield enormous crops, and are not affected to any considerable extent by droughts.

Where low, moist soils cannot be obtained for Onions, high, dry soils can be made available by plowing deep and adding fertilizers in large quantities. Wherever a man can find a ready market for Onions at from fifty cents to one dollar per bushel, he can well afford to spend one to two hundred dollars an acre in the preparation of the land. Of course we do not suppose this is to be an annual expense, but as a preparatory step for a permanent plantation. Fertilizers of some kind will need to be applied every year, but the cost need be but trifling if the soil is put in first-rate condition at the start.

The fall is an excellent time—in fact, the only proper time—to prepare land to be occupied with Onions the following spring. Plowing, subsoiling, draining if necessary, and the application of any kind of coarse manure to be used, should all be done now, before cold weather sets in. If the land is now thrown up in *ridges* the frosts of winter will disintegrate the exposed particles and break down all lumps, and if coarse vegetable manures are applied the juices will permeate every portion of the surface soil before spring and be in condition to be taken up by the plants in due time.

Those who expect to raise Onions or other vegetables next season should make preparations for them this fall, at least whatever can be done to save time in spring ought not to be neglected this fall.

Field Crops.

A CORN HORSE.

I HAVE just been reading on page 188 of the RURAL NEW-YORKER H. IVE'S recommendation of the use of a corn horse in harvesting corn. Allow me to differ entirely from his opinion of its merits. I look upon a corn horse in a corn field as simply a nuisance, for these reasons: First, the use of it takes up too much time. A man can cut nearly a quarter of a shock of corn in the time needed to remove the horse from one shock to the site of another and there adjust it for use. Again, where the horse has been used, the corn will not stand up nearly as well as where it has not, for the horse always has a strong tendency to bend the shock in the direction in which it has been drawn out.

My own way of cutting corn is as follows: I take six rows of corn for one of shocks. I cut the two middle rows until I have a good armful, which I then bind firmly with a band just above the ears. Set down firmly, this will stand just as steadily as if set round a hill, and with this as a nucleus, a little care can build a shock which will stand until it rots on its site. When the central bundle has been fixed, I clear a circle round it, and then cut down four good-sized armfuls, one of which is placed on each side of the first bundle, and the whole strongly bound together at the top with a couple of bands.

For a shock Mr. IVES takes only 36 hills, which, in case of common corn, is surely not enough. Fifty-four hills are not too many for a shock, which should always husk out a bushel of corn. Shocks are often much too small, and when the corn dries a little, there is not enough for mutual support and the whole is thrown to the ground. To-day I noticed some of this kind, where the shock was only about the right size for a moderate bundle. This corn has been cut only three days, and already the shocks are rapidly inclining to a fall. Most of the folk hereabouts build their shock round a hill, though many of them readily own that this is a poor fashion, yet so hard is it to move them out of time-honored ruts that I can get only a few to adopt the plan which they acknowledge to be the best.

It is unquestionably an unmitigated humbug to be forced to stop repeatedly while husking corn, in order to cut down the standing remnants of the crop which has been nominally cut already. As for a corn horse, the use of it may amuse boys and greenhorns, but cannot be approved by men of sense. H.

Starkey, N. Y.

The Centennial.

WESTMINSTER HOTEL,
PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 25, 1876.

ALTHOUGH the Centennial Poultry Show does not open until to-morrow morning for the general public, the privileged few have been allowed within its limits on this afternoon. In extent and excellence it is of the first order. The entries number, as far as known, six thousand. The varieties comprise Asiatics—French, English and American. In this last there are some cross-bred fowls now bred up to a distinct family. Then there are Italian and Spanish poultry akin in shape, but unlike in plumage. The water fowls are very beautiful and useful as a home product. So are the pigeons, than which a better collection has rarely been seen.

As the useful is more valuable than the purely ornamental, I shall commence with the Asiatics. These fowls are the Dark and Light Brahmas, the Partridge and Buff Cochin Chinas, the Cinnamon Cochin Chinas and the White and Black varieties. All of these are excellent table fowls, good brood hens and fair layers. Though originally from the tropics, or nearly so, their sojourn under the murky skies of the British Isles, whence the American fanciers have drawn their original stock, has rendered them more robust and fitted them to the frequent changes of climate. To-day the Asiatic Poultry run about like ordinary barn-yard fowls, and grow up to great size on an equal quantity of food. The Partridge and Black Cochin please me most, both in plumage and excellence of character.

As a table bird, the French and English contend for the first place. The best French varieties are the Houdans, the La Fleche and the Crove Cours, placed in this order. The English are the Dorkings, and all of the game family, the Dominiques and their offshoot, the Plymouth Rocks. The Dorkings are considered the very best table fowls for excellence of flavor, though less in size than the Asiatics. They are good layers, but poor sitters. Nothing can surpass as hardy, self-reliant birds both the Dominiques and the Plymouth Rocks. They both are the poor housewife's chickens—thrifty, hardy and good feeders. The White Leghorns are a neat, well-set-up race, so like in form and habits to the Black Spanish, that I would fain believe them to be first cousins. Both varieties are, when young, good layers, but forsake that habit as they advance in years; neither are they careful mothers.

Of the three French varieties the Houdans have most admirers as putting up more flesh on a given quantity of keep than either the La Hoche or Creve-Cours. All three are domestic in their habits, and though allowed to range, never go far from home. Among the exhibitors most certain to please good judges will be George Warner, Esq., of New York Mills, Oneida Co., N. Y. He exhibits several Seabright, or gold-penciled Bantams, as pretty and as tiny as their owner could desire; but to pass from the purely ornamental to the useful, the same exhibitor shows Houdans, and English Dorkings, both good—the last the best.

Among the water fowls, Mr. Todd, of Vermillion, Ohio, shows some superb specimens. One pair of his Toulouse geese, huge beauties, stand on the scale fifty pounds in weight. These dark-brown birds are good mothers, and excellent as meat. The Camden Goose is handsome, and when high-bred and in full plumage, can, on the water, compare with the Swan. Mr. Todd shows both the Aylsbury and the Rouen Duck. The Aylesbury, under his economy, preserve, in despite of emigration, the delicate pink tint of the bill, for which they are noted in England, and which fades out so frequently, even in imported individuals, the first generation rarely possessing this distinctive beauty. As layers, both the snowy English and the dark, glossy, French Ducks are equally good. Their flesh, too, is of equal excellence, the choice between them being a matter of taste in plumage. The Rouens attain a slightly greater weight. Both are moderate feeders and very thrifty.

The Egyptian Goose is just now attracting much attention among fanciers. This bird is, for a goose, of small size. In plumage it resembles the Mandarin Duck more than any other water-fowl well-known to Americans. As an article of food valuable in commerce the Egyptian Goose will not stand high; but as an ornamental creature on ponds and small inland lakes, the family is likely to become a favorite. Probably with a careful study of their habits and needs, they could be bred true to feather, and live out, as Swans do, under thatch, in sedgy borders. The Black Cayuga Duck is a lovely, neat, close-built water-fowl. After much careful selection, they are now purely black. One white feather will cause the loss of a first prize. These black beauties are easily kept and are good on the table.

That America is the home of the Turkey is manifest, her Bronze Turkeys being kings among their fellows. Several pairs are on exhibition—all good and some excellent. The White Turkeys are cold and poor-looking beside those of a bronze color, nor are they in any respect so valuable, being delicate and small. The Pied Turkeys, Brown and White, are very handsome, but still I prefer the Bronze variety to all others.

The collection of Pigeons is immense. The numbers outnumber expectation, and then the specimens are the choicest. The African Owls, with bills so small as barely to be bills, have been procured from the Columbaria of Her Highness the Princess Albrecht of Berlin, Prussia; then there are Swallows Black-and-White, also Red-and-white, puny, odd-looking little fellows, with their toes feathered to the ground; Jacobins with ruffs as formal as those of the days of the Virgin Queen; White Fantails, and those gentle messengers, the Carrier Pigeons, under whose glossy wings many a sad tale has been conveyed when death and havoc reigned supreme and where war's wild sorrows covered the land.

Of purely fancy birds the exhibit is, as yet, small, only a few specimens being shown—a brace of Golden Pheasants from far-off China and a trio of Silver birds close by. As a table delicacy, the flesh of the native English Pheasant is so good as to be numbered among royal dishes. As yet none of these are exhibited, but as soon as the British entries of poultry come to hand, doubtless some will be among them. These poultry are still tossing on the Atlantic, their steamer being over-due. Much anxiety is expressed for their arrival, as, if they are really valuable, few, if any, need return. England ought to be able to send over Game and other native breeds of such excellence as to insure a ready sale.

The arrangements of the Bureau of Agriculture are all that could be needed to secure comfort and safety to the feathered competitors. These occupy the Pomological Hall—a sort of annex to the Agricultural Hall, and possessing the advantage of being within the limits of the Centennial Grounds. Darkness comes on apace and visitors are departing, so I must conclude.

M. M.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

THE United States Centennial Commissioners announce the following Report as the basis of an award to HRESNER & SONS, Lansdale, Pa., for their Patent Level-Tread Railway Horse-Power:—"For level position secured to plank upon which horse steps, dispensing with expense of sharp shoe-calks and continual wear of plank, and for security obtained to man and horse by means of governor placed on shaft inside of belt-wheel, acting independent of brake, and for cheapness and durability." The above Report is officially signed by J. R. HAWLEY, President; A. T. GOSHORN, Director-General; and J. L. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

THE representatives of the European nations are as peaceful and lamb-like as if no war was about to begin across the Atlantic. Even the Turk looks as if he did not apprehend any difficulty in meeting the interest on his debt.

THE majority of distinguished visitors at present wandering over the grounds are newspaper men in search of advertising. Business was never so brisk.

THE price of bronze has fallen since the Centennial Commission are no longer in the market.

Floricultural.

MISCELLANEA.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS LETTERS.

J. M., Houston, Texas.—It is with a certain reluctance that I avail myself of your liberal offer in the Rural to distribute certain seeds among subscribers who send for them. If you had set a price, I would willingly have paid for them.

In a former issue of the Rural, you ask the opinion of your subscribers as to the changing of the color of Hydrangeas. Here is mine: Seven years ago I planted a Hydrangea on the north side of my house. To-day it is a bush seven feet high, six across, and covered every summer with hundreds of blossoms. The first four years the flowers were rose-colored. The fifth year, to my great surprise, the flowers were a clear sky-blue—a color which they still assume. Now, my theory about this change is this: My soil is a moldy sand, ten or 12 inches deep, underlain by a yellow-reddish clay. As long as the roots of the bush drew their sustenance from the surface soil, the blossoms remained pinkish. When the bush grew older and pushed its roots into the red subsoil, the flowers changed to blue. If I raise cuttings from this bush, they bloom pink again. [This change of color has usually been observed when the plants have been removed from one situation to another, in the soil of which iron was supposed to abound. In the above instance, the roots penetrated an iron subsoil, producing the same effect.—Ed.]

If I were a better hand at writing, I would like to communicate something of my experience in raising fruits and flowers here in Texas. I should write you about budding Walnuts (not grafting), which seems to be a lost art, and which I practiced successfully when I was a small boy, about twenty years ago, in my father's nursery in Switzerland. This is effected by a little deviation of the time and method practiced in budding fruit trees. I should also write as to some facts which I have observed, viz., that, in grafting, the stock has a marked influence on the fruit of the cion, notwithstanding the denial of many horticulturists. I would say to Mr. Miner that I have his "supposed" Grape vines, Nos. 1 and 2, *in natura*, not ten yards apart, same variety, and both seven years old—one, never touched with a knife, given the free range of a big Oak; the other kept regularly pruned, summer pruned, pinched and trained on a small trellis four feet square. The comparison of the result has left me a close prunist.

With this I take occasion to send you a few seeds of a very pretty Texas flower, rather rare, called here Prairie-tulip. With my limited botanical knowledge, I trace it to the genus *Gentiana*, but cannot find the species described. It is a perennial, has a rich, dark-blue flower, quite substantial and lasting, about three inches in diameter. It blooms through the summer months, inclining to sport to white when cultivated. It is preferable to many an exotic and in every way worthy a place in the flower garden. I hope you will deem it worth a trial in the Rural grounds. [We certainly shall.—Ed.]

A Contrast.—Look on this and then on that:

——, Conn.

Dear Sir: On returning from a visit, I read your "Little Announcement" in Rural of 7th inst., and hasten to avail myself of the offer it contains.

The name of my husband [—— ——] is no doubt on your books, and that it may find a place there so long as the good paper continues a printed sheet is the wish of yours, etc., ——.

You may send seeds of Snapdragon and Green Gage Tomato.

——, N. Y.

F. E., Rural New-Yorker: I will take seeds of Double Hollyhock and Pelargonium as per your offer Oct. 7. Yours, ——.

True, the second is more business-like and concise than the first. But though in one sense this is a matter of business, in others it is not, and we confess to a leaning toward those kindly letters that prefer the latter view. We may say, however, that where we receive one of "that," we receive fifty of "this."

To The "Rural" Floriculturists.—We wish that all our floricultural friends would write us of the plants that through this summer have pleased them most;—of the single plants, of the bedding plants, of the vines, shrubs, and of the trees, too. Arbitrary distinctions are made between trees and more lowly-growing things which are called plants or shrubs. There is in fact no place to draw a line. All plants have flowers and fruits, and the Apple tree or Horsechestnut is just as much a "flower" as the Pelargonium or Hyacinth. Write us, then, all of you who love flowers well enough to have worked among them the past season and to have observed what seemed to you most worthy of your time and labors. Tell us what you have learnt in the culture of flowers; what mistakes you will avoid, what new ideas you will attempt to carry out another year. Perhaps you do not care to reveal your plans for another year. Then you are not true lovers of flowers. *They* have no secrets. They cannot hasten fast enough to make known whatever they have discovered that would gratify a friend as much, perhaps, as it gratified them. The taste for floral occupations knows no miserable partisanship. It is gregarious and benevolent, seeking kindred spirits, as "birds of a feather flock together," and while a commendable emulation inspires one to eclipse a neighbor or a friend, he will assist him in every way, and be happy rather in rendering his rival formidable than in depriving him of any means of attaining superior results. Such victories are as "Roses without thorns." The victor and the vanquished are both pleased; the latter that he has done so much, the former that he has done yet more. If flowers work a tithe of the good with which they are credited, those who are possessed of original information and make a secret of it are not unlike a minister who, having devised a new method of doing good, confines its operation to the members of his own family.

Communications from our friends are always read with all due attention. We are happy to hear from them on all matters appertaining to floriculture, whether with or without a view to publication.

Spiræa Prunifolia.—We have been trying to think, for a week or so past, to call our readers' attention to the foliage of *Spiræa prunifolia*. It is not too late. The glossiness which characterizes its leaves while they are green still continues now they are red, having changed from green to their present color through several distinct and pleasing shades. As we have noticed the fall tints of many trees and shrubs of the woods, fields and gardens about us, there is not one other, it seems to us, that changes so beautifully, so brightly, and yet holds its foliage so persistently. Now, indeed (Oct. 20), most of the leaves of other plants have fallen, while for the most part those that remain have faded to the color of fallen rather than of Fall leaves. In a garden 500 feet away, we see among the shrubs only this, so striking is its foliage among the half-leafless branches of those about it. The beauties of Autumn Leaves have been well sung, though not, possibly, over-sung. But while the Oak, Maple, Liquidamber, Tulip, Sumach, etc., have constituted the subjects of those songs, *S. prunifolia* we have never seen mentioned, though, unless this season has been one to cause an exceptional deposition of erythrophyllline (whatever that is), it is as an Autumn plant the brightest and most enduring of them all. This shrub possesses several rare claims upon our regards, to which we have referred in other numbers. We should select it as one of the very few that may be seen in every garden without being considered too common to be worthy of a dignified position.

Garden Paths.—The Rural New-Yorker recommends walks about the premises in winter to be made of coal-ashes, sand and clay. Now, what does any one want better than coal-ashes itself? We have used it for at least a quarter of a century, and nothing could answer better. Put the coarse particles at the bottom and then cover with the other to the depth of about two inches, and you will find a walk always dry in five minutes after a rain when there is no frost. There is nothing to stick to the shoes, and very few weeds interfere. Once a year a thinner dressing of the ashes should be applied and well rolled, and this is all the trouble. Keep away all sand, and especially *clay*, with which no good walk can be made in winter.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

However easy it may be for city people or for suburban people to procure coal-ashes, it is not so easy to procure them in the country, in sufficient quantities at least to form paths of any extent. But supposing they are readily obtainable, we yet prefer a mixture of sand and clay, as above stated, the latter to be used in a very small proportion. Coal-ashes alone are objectionable for two reasons: The surface becomes powdery and is blown over the premises in clouds of dust, and their appearance is far from orderly or neat. We have found that coal-ashes mixed with sand and a little clay after awhile become as hard as cement and do not readily pulverize, as is the case with ashes alone. At a first glance, the advocacy of any material for paths into which *clay* enters seems absurd. We have tried both plans, however, and deem the ashes, sand and clay, all things considered, as preferable to the other.

EXCHANGE.

Sept. 29, 1876.

Many thanks to you for being so kind as to allow us flower lovers a space in your paper. Some who put in an Exchange notice tell what they have, but do not say what they would like to receive. [We had not observed this.] I have some Striped Grass, Sweet Peas (also a Climbing Pea), some blue Canterbury Bells and Pewplant seeds, which I will send to any one who will send me a few white Canterbury Bell seeds and Double Wall-flowers. Address Mrs. E. C. Ross, *Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co., Wash. Ter.*

Please publish the following under your Flower Seed Exchange:

Wanted to exchange seeds of *Ageratum Mexicanum* — Pansy, mixed varieties — *Portulaca*, mixed colors, and Vick's Japan Cockscomb, for a few Potato seed balls, two or three varieties preferred.—Clinton Higley, *Windham, Portage Co., Ohio.*

Scientific and Useful.

EDIBLE AND POISONOUS MUSHROOMS.

During the past few weeks several cases of mushroom poisoning have been reported in the vicinity of New York, but it would be difficult to determine with any degree of certainty whether the persons named were really injured by the mushrooms or something else. Still it is well known that there are poisonous species of fungi, but they are not half so common, or so likely to be gathered for eating, as one might suppose from the reports of mushroom poisoning which get into the papers, through the desire of a certain class of writers to start a sensational paragraph, whether there is any truth in it or not.

We have a number of both poisonous and edible fungi which are also found in Europe, and a late writer in the London Garden in speaking of mushroom poisoning gives us some facts which are equally as applicable here as in England, and we publish a portion of them for the benefit of the readers of the Rural New Yorker. With autumn comes the great mass of Mushrooms and Toadstools—good, bad, and indifferent, and of all colors, shapes, and sizes. For some considerable time past, attempts have been made to introduce and popularize Continental Fungus-eating customs; but, up to the present, these attempts have not been crowned with any special degree of success. We learn from Dr. Badham, that in Rome the common mushroom is classed with poisonous Fungi, and not allowed to be sold in the public market. It is highly improbable this would have been the case without some good and substantial reason for it, for Italy is a country where numerous species of Fungi are largely consumed, and no fear of these plants as a class exists. It would seem as if there were something special in the climate of the districts from which the Roman market is supplied that renders the Mushrooms grown in it poisonous. We know how powerful is the influence of surrounding circumstances upon flowering plants. For example, the exclusion of light from Potato tubers or Celery plants considerably modifies their properties. Every now and then we hear of people being poisoned (not necessarily fatally) in this country by eating Mushrooms, and when this happens, it is almost always attributed to the wrong kind having been gathered, and not to the nature of the plant being modified by special circumstances. Upon more than one occasion such cases have come under my notice personally, in which people, who knew what was a Mushroom and what was not, have been made seriously ill by their repast. What the precise difference in the composition of the plant is which causes the unpleasant effects, is at present unknown, and is one of those points which have to be worked out. As a rule, however, the wholesomeness of the Mushroom is well-nigh cosmopolitan. Several years ago the late Mr. Thomas Baines, who had traveled much in Australia and Africa, told me Mushrooms were always eaten when found in his expeditions. Popular credence points to the unwholesomeness of those specimens grown under trees or in woods, but this is in no way substantiated by my experience. The possibility of distinguishing an edible from a poisonous Fungus by bruising with a piece of gold or silver, has been repeated time after time in all kinds of books, and many an excellent mushroom has been rejected by the credulous housewife because, when rubbed with salt and a silver spoon, it has turned yellow! The vast majority of Mushrooms grown in my district, upon the salt marshes and elsewhere, turn most distinctly yellow when cut or bruised; but this is simply because they are specimens of the Horse Mushroom (Agaricus arvensis), and not of *A. campestris*. Berkeley, in "English Flora," says that *A. arvensis* may be known from *A. campestris* by its almost white gills when young, and yellow stains when bruised. Most British fungologists regard this change of color as one of its specific characteristics; and thus it is really a proof of the wholesomeness of the Fungus. I do not remember, indeed, any Fungus which changes color in at all a similar manner; in fact, excepting one or two of the Lactarii, this particular change is a very uncommon one. *Agaricus arvensis*, the so-called Horse Mushroom, is by far the most generally eaten Fungus in this country; it occurs far more commonly, is much more abundant, and attains a considerably larger size than *A. campestris*, the so-called true Mushroom. They are equally good in flavor, and equally wholesome.

In several books certain general rules are given for ascertaining at once whether a Fungus may be eaten or not; they are so absurd, however, that those who know better never think of refuting them. It is not exactly easy to see whether these rules are intended for the discrimination of the Mushroom from other Fungi, or edible from poisonous species generally. Perhaps the most important of these canons is that edible species never change color when cut or bruised. We have seen how *A. arvensis* comports itself under such conditions. But there is a variety of *A. campestris* (*rubescens*, *Berk.*) which becomes brilliantly pink at the seat of injury; and this plant is one of the most savory forms of the Mushroom with which we are acquainted. *A. rubescens* assumes, as its name implies, a reddish tint, especially where it has been injured by insects. *Lactarus deliciosus* turns from bright orange to a dirty green, and this alone is sufficient to distinguish it from all its compeers. The mere fact of a Fungus changing to blue cannot be regarded as an absolute proof of its toxic qualities, for a friend of mine has eaten *Boletus chrysenteron* before he knew accurately *B. edulis*, and during my noviciate I several times partook of *B. bardus* without any ill effects whatever accruing. Another rule very commonly relied on is that if a Fungus be pleasant to the taste, and its odor not offensive, it may be eaten; but this is not only a fallacious, but an exceedingly dangerous guide. It is quite true some Fungi are intensely acrid, and are irritant poisons, but upon the other hand *Lactarus deliciosus*, one of the very best of our British species, as its name implies, when eaten raw causes a very unpleasant amount of tingling of the mouth and tongue. Far more important, however, is it to remember that a Fungus may have a pleasant odor and taste, and yet be most virulently poisonous. Mr. W. G. Smith was poisoned by eating less than ½ oz. of *A. fertilis*, which has anything but a disagreeable taste. Again *A. muscarius* has no acridity, neither has *A. phalloides* or *A. Mappa*: and whatever may be the character of the two latter, the poisonous properties of the former are well-known. It must be remembered that Fungi may be irritant, narcotic, or narcotic-irritant poisons, and while it is possible to recognize an irritant by the taste, a narcotic may be nearly tasteless.

There is one way, and only one, by which, according to Mr. Blowright in "Science Gossip," edible Fungi can be discriminated from poisonous ones with absolute certainty, and that is, by a knowledge of the individual species. As well might a code of rules be laid down for the discrimination of wholesome from poisonous fruits or vegetables as for Fungi. People do occasionally mistake Aconite roots for Horseradish, or Fool's-parsley for Parsley properly so called, but we have no general rules drawn up in this case, neither do people become panic-stricken and eschew the whole race of condiments because of these unfortunate accidents. But if any misadventure occurs from eating Fungi, the whole race are scouted and branded as the harbingers of death. In this country Fungus-eating is reserved for the few, but it by no means follows that these few are experimentalists: far from it, for the species they eat have been known to be edible, and have been eaten by the initiated from time immemorial in other lands if not in this. Like other kinds of food, they vary much in flavor, in the facility with which they can be digested, and in their nutritious qualities. Certain excellent species cannot be too widely known, and every housewife should be able to discern them, especially as they have all well-marked characters.

Occasionally we hear vegetarians say they live upon some fabulously small sum—a few pence per diem; and although very few people indeed would care to debar themselves of wholesome, nutritious food for the sake of a mere theory, yet it cannot be overlooked that the continued and continuing increase of the population will eventually demand a full development of the resources of the country. There cannot be a doubt that the esculent species of Fungi will in the future occupy a most important place in the dietary of the nation, not simply because of their cheapness, but rather by reason of their nutritions qualities and the large proportion of nitrogenous compounds which they contain.

ADULTERATING OILS.

"There is cheating in all trades but ours" is an old saying, yet it would be difficult in these days to find a case where even this exception could be applied with any degree of truthfulness. The greatest amount of cheating is done in those articles where it is likely to be detected, and as an instance of how we are swindled we make a few extracts from an article in the Chemist and Druggist on the adulteration of oils, taken from

a report presented to the American Pharmaceutical Association.

The man who may pride himself on his pure Holland Gin is informed that the oil of Juniper Berries was offered to the writer by a highly respectable firm of wholesale liquor dealers, who, in their desire to have a really pure and superior article, had themselves imported it direct from Holland, having ordered the very best that was obtainable. As a very much greater quantity had been sent than their order called for, they were anxious to dispose of a portion of it. The gentlemen were so very sure about the absolute purity of their oil, for which they had paid a very liberal price, that they were loth to believe their own eyes when, after agitation with an equal quantity of water, only 20 per cent. of their so-called oil was left, the remainder being alcohol.

Oil of Lemon, put up in original cans and genuine imported cases, branded "E. B. & Co.," was found by the writer to contain 25 per cent. alcohol, and 40 per cent. castor oil. Another lot, branded "W. S. & Co.," contained 25 per cent. alcohol. There is every probability that both seals were counterfeit, as the letters composing them were slightly different from those found on the top of genuine cans from Brehmer and Sanderson. The metal on which the seals had been impressed also presented a dull and tarnished appearance, while it is usually perfectly bright and clean.

If the baby wants a few peppermint drops, the chances are that he gets something else instead, for the committee tell us that oil of Peppermint was met with also largely reduced with castor oil and alcohol. Twenty-six pounds of this adulterated oil yielded, when distilled by the writer, 8½ pounds of pure oil, about a gallon of castor oil remaining in the still. The proportion of alcohol, which had been present, is represented in the loss.

Oil of Rose Geranium is now so frequently substituted by the ginger-grass or palma rosa oil, obtained from *Andropogon Schœnanthus*, that it is somewhat difficult to procure the true oil of *Perlargonium odoratissimum* or *Radula* in commerce.

Oil of Wintergreen was offered to the writer by a tall Jerseyman, who professed to have distilled every drop of it himself, and who therefore claimed to be able to guarantee its absolute purity, which proved to contain just two-thirds of its volume of alcohol. It is somewhat remarkable that even this large proportion of alcohol could scarcely be recognized by the senses, and that, as far as could be judged by the taste and smell, this was an unusually fine specimen of oil of wintergreen. Several other lots have been met with containing various proportions of oil of sassafras.

Those who pride themselves on pure salad oils are informed that Olive Oil is largely substituted by some of the cheaper fixed oils found in this market. Very little of that which is sold by grocers is even imported from Europe. A New York merchant, who is extensively engaged in bottling this article in imitation of the imported style, informed us that for the cheapest grade he is in the habit of putting up refined cottonseed oil, and for a somewhat better brand the oil of benne. The expressed oil of mustard, a by-product in the manufacture of table mustard, is also applied to the same purpose. Our French friend, whom we have before alluded to, also kindly informed us that in this country the groundnut oil (*Arachis hypogœa*) is used to an enormous extent for admixture with olive oil, so that but very little of the latter is imported strictly pure.

Californians say that they can furnish us with all the pure olive oil required for consumption in this country, but that Eastern people prefer to use the imported adulterated article to the pure home made, and we presume they are not far wrong in making this statement.

Domestic Economy.

BREAD MAKING.

I HEARD a man say, not long ago, that making good bread runs in families. People may easily think so when they see the heavy, unwholesome stuff, which some housekeepers habitually produce, which it is a slander to call bread. I give my way of making the genuine article:—At night take luke-warm water, according to the quantity of bread required, and stir in flour till it is about right for pancakes, then stir in a teacup of lively yeast, cover it and set in a moderately warm place, to rise. In the morning it will be light. Then mix up hard, kneading it well. Return the bread to the pan and let it rise, when light, mold it down, repeating this three times. Then make into loaves and, when sufficiently light, bake carefully. Good dough may be spoiled in the oven, by too hot or too slack a fire. The molding-down process may seem like too much trouble, but it is not in practice. The addition of some warm milk, when the bread is mixed up hard, makes the bread whiter and more tender, but it also dries up sooner. The season makes some difference about the trouble of making bread, as in winter it is harder to keep the sponge of the right temperature. One of the best bread-makers I know, uses a small tin pail to mix her sponge in and then hangs the pail from a wire over the stove, which keeps it warm and makes the rising speedy. In very cold weather it is best to mix sponge in the morning, unless one has a house that keeps moderately warm through the night.

FARMER'S WIFE.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Piccalilli.—In answer to request of "Young Housekeeper," I send the following recipe: For one gallon of sliced, green tomatoes, (salted and drained) take one quart of cider vinegar, one pound of sugar, one tablespoonful each of mustard, cloves, and sweet fennel seed. Place all in a porcelain kettle over a fire, until the tomatoes are cooked tender; then drain them out, and boil the sirup down till just enough remains to cover them, they do not need sealing. Onions may be added if liked.—Mc.

To "Farmer's Wife."—Lemon Pie Without Eggs.—Roll or bruise two lemons until the juice will squeeze from them. Then strip off the rind and shred the remainder of the lemons, casting out the seeds. Grate one-half the rind of one lemon and mix with one cup of sugar and one of molasses. Beat three tablespoonfuls of flour and one of melted butter into the mixture, and bake as custards. Light bread crumbs may be added instead of flour.—Mc.

Aunt Susannah's Molasses Pie.—Cover a plate with paste as for pumpkin pie: spread over this crust three tablespoonfuls of flour, and a spoonful of butter cut in small pieces and five tablespoonfuls of Orleans or maple sirup. The latter is the best. Bake in a moderately heated oven. When nearly done, stir till the ingredients are well mixed, then let it finish baking.—M. E. A.

English Pudding.—One cup of chopped suet, one cup of chopped raisins, one cup of molasses, one cup of sweet milk, five cups of flour, one teaspoonful of soda. Steam three hours.

Sauce for Dressing.—Two eggs, ½ cup of sugar, butter the size of an egg, 4 tablespoonfuls of boiling water. Flavor with wine or brandy.

Delicate Cake.—Two cups white sugar, ½ of butter, one of sweet milk, three of flour, whites of 4 eggs, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, ½ of soda. This is splendid.

White Sponge.—One cup of white sugar, one of sweet milk, two eggs, butter the size of an egg, one teaspoonful of soda, two of cream tartar. Mix not very stiff.—M. J. S. *So. Jefferson.*

Hygienic Information.

"INVALID."

As you seem not to reply to Mrs. INVALID'S inquiry "as to the healthfulness of various kinds of food," and as she seems to prefer "an exclusively vegetable diet," and disagrees with me about the healthfulness of pork, it seems to me proper that she should have at least a reply as a matter of courtesy.

As to an *answer* to the question "what kinds of food are the most healthy for her," neither you nor I are as capable of giving a correct one, as she is herself. Theory and the experience of others if followed, will less often give satisfaction than disappointment, especially if the lady's disease or invalidity is that very fashionable one, dyspepsia, which I presume is the case, as she seems to look to diet for relief. The remedies for that complaint, or the maladies that are called by that name, may be reckoned by the thousand, and people who get well of them do so as often after they stop doctoring as before.

Mrs. INVALID certainly has high authority for the idea of "an exclusively vegetable diet," but I think the biography of the most noted vegetarians shows they have not generally been long-lived; they certainly have not been, as far as my observation extends, unless they have changed to a more generous diet, as was the case with a particular friend, who would not believe me when I said to him "you will eventually have to give up your exclusively vegetable and milk diet," but he did so, and ate his beef and drank his ale, and died I think at about 80. But the case was different with a family consisting of a father, mother, one son and seven daughters. The family were "well to do" well educated and great readers, but unfortunately for the daughters, they adopted the Graham system of vegetable diet, and all but the youngest died before the system was as fully investigated and tested as it is at this time. The father and son ate like other folks, and the youngest daughter was but an infant when the last of her sisters died. The father lived to a good old age and the son and youngest daughter are alive and aged now about 55 and 35 respectively.

Now I would not say that "an exclusively vegetable diet" was the sole cause of this mortality, or that this system was strictly adhered to through their whole lives, but I know that the two oldest daughters held to and practiced that system and that they had at least a partial supervision over the younger ones. I also know that they could have inherited no taint from their parents or grand parents, and the father expressed to me his belief after their deaths, that they died from erroneous dietetic habits, as taught not only in their books but by their family physician, who also died before the prime of life. If I recollect aright, it has been said of Graham that he eventually died a martyr to his principles.

I am neither a zoologist nor much of a dabbler in natural history, but I understand that by the teeth alone the natural food of any animal can be determined, and that the teeth of man indicate a mixed diet and that he is therefore classed as omnivorous. Now, Mrs. INVALID, I live with another Mrs. INVALID, whose food is beef, bread and butter, with sometimes a little potato, seldom any other vegetable or any fruit; such is her experience as to the healthfulness of food for her, and should you ask her advice she would tell you to judge for yourself, that your own experience would be your best guide.

The tables drawn up by DR. BEAUMONT as the result of his experiments upon Alexis St. Martin are very interesting in a scientific point of view, but I think they have led many into an erroneous opinion that the food most quickly digested is the most healthy for invalids. If this were true soured tripe and pigs' feet would be the most healthy for them.

I think that Graham (who certainly had some well-fortified ideas) held that the teeth and digestive organs were weakened by the lack of proper exercise; by taking food in a too concentrated form; that the stomach being muscular required like the other muscles vigorous use to keep up its full power. I know it is claimed by most writers on the subject that the stomach needs rest, and that food should not be taken oftener than three times per day, but there comes lately from some M. D. "advice to dyspeptics" to eat little and often, and were I a dyspeptic, I should try it, for this is precisely the advice generally given to those whose stomachs have been weakened by famine.

S. B. PECK.

WEARING FLANNEL.

PUT it on at once, the first week of November, a good, substantial, old-fashioned, home-made, loose, red woolen flannel shirt, and do not lay it aside for a thinner article, at least until the first day of May, even in the latitude of New Orleans. We advise the red, because it does not full up, thicken, and become leathery by wearing.

Wear it only in the day-time, unless you are very much of an invalid: then change it for a similar one to sleep in—letting the two hang alternately on a chair to dry in a warm dry room.

If leaving it off at night gives you a cold, never mind that; persevere until you take no more cold by the omission. No one ceases to wear shoes because they caused corns: it is the proper use of things which makes them innocuous. The less you wear at night, the more good will your clothing do you in the day-time. Those who wear a great deal of clothing at night, must wear that much more in the day, or they will feel chilly all the time; and our own observation teaches us, that the people who muffle up most are the readiest to complain of taking cold.

But why wear flannel next the skin, in preference to silk or cotton?

Because it is warmer; it conveys heat away from the body less rapidly; does it so slowly, that it is called a non-conductor; it feels less cold when we touch it to the skin than silk or cotton.

If the three are wetted, the flannel feels less cold at the first touch, and gets warm sooner than silk or cotton, and does not cling to the skin when damp, as much as they do. We know what a shock of coldness is imparted to the skin when, after exercise and perspiration, an Irish-linen shirt worn next the skin is brought in contact, by a change of position, with a part of the skin which it did not touch a moment before—often sending a shivering chill through the whole system.

A good deal has been said and written about silk being best on account of its electrical agencies; but all that is guess-work. We are mere blind leaders of the blind when we talk about that subtle agent; and until we know more of it, it is the greater wisdom to be guided by our sensations.

Another reason why woolen flannel is better is, that while cotton and silk absorb the perspiration, and are equally saturated with it, a woolen garment conveys the moisture to its outside, where the microscope, or a very good eye will see the water standing in innumerable drops. This is shown any hour, by covering a profusely sweating horse with a blanket, and letting him stand. In a short time, the hair and inner surface of the blanket will be dry, while the moisture will be felt on the outside. If we would be wise, we must use our senses, and observe for ourselves.

Some persons prefer white flannel, which may be prevented from fulling up, if first washed in pretty warm soap suds, then rinsed in one water as hot as can well be borne by the hand. After being once made, a white woolen flannel shirt should never be put in cold water, but always washed as above, not by putting soap on it, but by washing it in soapsuds, not very hot.

DR. HALL.

HEADACHE FROM EYE-STRAIN.

DR. WEIR MITCHELL, in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, observes that few but opthalmic surgeons are aware of the need of interrogating the eye for answers to some of the hard questions which are put to us by certain head symptoms; and he wishes to impress upon the profession: (1.) That there are many headaches which are due indirectly to disorders of the refractive or accommodative apparatus of the eyes. (2.) That in these instances the brain symptom is often the most, and sometimes the sole, prominent symptom of the eye trouble, so that while there may be no pain or sense of fatigue in the eye, the strain with which it is used may be interpreted solely by occipital or frontal headache. (3.) That the long continuance of eye trouble may be the unsuspected source of insomnia, vertigo, nausea, and general failure of health. (4.) That in many cases the eye trouble becomes suddenly mischievous, owing to some failure of the general health, or to increased sensitiveness of the brain from moral or mental causes. Several illustrative cases are given, and the moral is: Be careful not to strain your eyes.

Insurance Department.

TONTINE ENDOWMENT PLANS.

SEVERAL years ago some of the leading life companies introduced plans to retain policy holders' shares of surplus for a term of years. The purpose was to equalize, as far as practicable, the burden of payment by giving the dividends to those who had contributed most to create them. The Tontine principle involved in all this is not, when properly understood, a bad one. The objection lies in the abuse of its application. Since that time, and especially within the last five years, many companies have adopted somewhat similar plans in order to conceal their inability to pay any dividends whatever. These devices are called by all sorts of attractive names, but are alike in certain particulars. They call for whole life rates, ten-payment or twenty-payment life rates, or any other rates, the larger the better for the company, and promise to pay "the full value of the policy and all accumulated profits" at the end of so many years, provided the policy is then surrendered. The agent ingeniously represents that "the full value" is the total premiums paid and that "the accumulated profits" will amount to a large endowment—that is, that the premium payer will get back all his money and a great deal more besides. The truth is that the policy is nothing more than mere *term insurance*, for which the victimized party pays two or three times as much as is necessary. At the end of, say, ten years it expires, and the company pays, if it can, the legal reserve and perhaps a few dollars over. For example, a man thirty-two years old pays for such an insurance $24.5 a year for what is represented to be an endowment "estimated to equal the face of the policy," one thousand dollars. At the end of ten years he claims his dues and is paid, if the company can pay anything, the legal value, $99.18. That is all he can compel them to pay and all he has a right to expect. He has paid out in principal and interest quite $336, or $238.82 more than he gets back, and has only ten years of term insurance to show for the outlay. This term insurance is worth only $13.15, or in principal and interest for ten years, $183.70. He is, therefore, out of pocket something more than fifty-five dollars, which are fifty-five reasons why the company invented the plan. The best rule in all cases, when a man proposes to sell a dollar's worth for fifty cents, is to let the man and the plan very severely alone and "thank Heaven you are rid of a knave."

PRESERVATION OF THE TEETH.—From infancy to old age there is nothing better for the teeth than water. If a tooth-brush be used nights and mornings without exception, all powders and teeth preparations will be found needless.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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SATURDAY, NOV. 4, 1876.

PAY AS YOU GO.

IT is reported that JOHN RANDOLPH once astonished Congress by springing from his seat, bending forward his long, lean body, extending his attenuated fingers and speaking in his thin, high tones, "Mr. Speaker—Mr. Speaker, I have found the Philosopher's Stone. It is—*Pay as you go.*"

Now few and small as these words are, they are worthy of the careful attention of all, and any young man by heeding them will find, if they do not turn everything into gold, they will help him materially in his efforts to secure a sufficient amount of that coveted commodity to raise him above want. He who pays as he goes may be sure of one thing—he will never live beyond his income and will, at least, be saved the mortification of duns and, what is worse, the consciousness of using the means of another for his own benefit or pleasure.

There are none who should reflect on these words and put them in practice in their daily lives, more than young people newly-married, who are together commencing a new life and who should, in the beginning, look forward to future years and in the light of reason and judgment and of the experience of others, determine on such a course of action as will most contribute to the happiness, not only of themselves, but of those also with whom they may be connected; and among the first rules to be adopted and religiously adhered to should be one to avoid incurring pecuniary obligations for things not absolutely necessary—"Pay as you go." One who has a stated salary will have no difficulty, if he has the disposition, in so adjusting his expenditures that he will always have the money on hand to pay for all purchases when made; and he whose income is from farming, trading or other uncertain sources, should never discount his expectations. Better go without desired articles, at however great an inconvenience, than buy them to be paid for with money not yet earned or realized. Wear the old coat or the old dress another season, if necessary, rather than run in debt for new ones. The old ones are yours; the new ones unpaid for will really belong to the seller, no matter what legal color the transfer may take.

There is nothing more disappointing than store bills that are allowed to run on from month to month. At the first glance at the sum total you will be certain that there is some mistake. If it be not in the addition, it must certainly be that an error in charging the items has occurred. It cannot be possible that the few articles ordered from time to time amount to such a sum. But a careful scrutiny of the whole, line by line, will doubtless prove that you have not kept in mind the fact that two and two make four. Very probably the amount is more than the same articles would have cost had they been paid for when ordered, for cash always buys cheaper than credit. This would, in a year's time, make considerable difference, and beside, the account undoubtedly shows many purchases that would not have been made had the money been required on delivery.

Much as we abhor the credit system and much as we desire to impress the "Pay as you go" idea on the minds of all our readers, we would not say it is unadvisable to go in debt at any time or under any possible circumstances. On the contrary, there are hundreds of young men who will read this to whom we would say, instead of working all your life as a farm hand, use the utmost economy, and as soon as you are able to make a small payment on a small farm, buy one and be your own master. Unless you are injudicious in your selection, you can, if necessary, get out of debt by again selling your farm, and while you keep it, the fact that you have a partial ownership in it will serve as an incentive to make that ownership complete, and you will save money to pay the debt that you would be likely to spend in unnecessary ways if it were idle in your pocket.

ELECTION.

JUST now the two contending political parties are working like beavers for the success of their respective candidates. We say *two*, because the third party appears to be but a sincere protest. The heart-burnings, the quarrels, the bickerings, the criminations, the lofty scorn, the haughty contempt, the slanders, the libels and the virtuous indignation of each party against the other, is now a matter of solid and actual reality. With some few of the politicians these things are matters of business and not of feeling; but with the larger part of the voting population they are for the time being sincere matters of feeling. Prejudice and a natural desire for the advancement of his own peculiar views, make all these things to the average voter stern realities, and we are not prepared to say that this is all wrong. That the whole matter of a Presidential Election could be carried on in a much less partizan and personal spirit, of course is true; but, after all, who is particularly injured by it? If injury results at all, it is to so small an integral part of the great whole of the country that it is swallowed out of sight by comparison. By all means, voting friends, if you enjoy that sort of thing, do it. But while you are in the whirl of the excitement, pause just a moment and smile at your folly. That, too, will do you good if you can enjoy it. Just think, for a moment, of the good time to come when one or the other of the much-abused candidates will be announced to be the successful man. The excitement all over, each of you who was successful will say, "I told you so," and forget the struggle, while each of you who belongs to the losing side will begin at once to prove to himself that it is not so bad after all—that the opposite successful side will not dare, in the face of the sovereign people, to do all those horrible things which you so much dreaded before election. Both being correct in your after-election judgment, here is where the laugh comes in.

In the meantime, whichever party wins, the sun will continue to shine, the heavens will not cease to endow the earth with refreshing showers, and the sure progress of nature goes right forward as it has always done, and always will do. And more than that, whichever candidate is successful, the good common sense of the American people, which is the ruling power in this happy land, will prevent that successful man from overturning cities by earthquakes or conflagrating any of our main channels of navigation. Relying upon this same good common sense, in which we have the utmost confidence, we think you may safely go to bed early on the evening of the 7th of November, covering up snugly if it be cold and, upon awakening, read the result, whatever it may be, without either fear or trembling. Now voters, smile at yourselves once more!

A SAFE PROPHESY.

BORROWING trouble, or conjuring one's imagination to find an excuse for believing that some dire calamity is likely to befall yourself or friends at no very distant period, is not a mental condition in which a person can take much pleasure. Still, it is better not to be over-sanguine of prosperity and pleasure, even of what may reasonably be expected in the future, for there is very little of what we might term a certainty in human affairs in this world; consequently, if one is to prophesy, let it be on the safe side.

For once, we propose to turn prophet and prophesy that the approaching winter is to be a very long and severe one to both man and beast. It is not necessary that our reasons should be given for making this prophesy, but we can assure the readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER that they are good and sufficient for the prediction made. It is just possible that time will show us to be a false prophet; but as this can only be "proven" some six months hence, it will be safe to believe in us until that time arrives. Predicating ordinary operations in rural affairs upon the presumption that the winter now fast approaching is to be one of unwonted severity, every good farmer will pay particular attention to providing his stock with warm stables, sheds, and an extra quantity of food. The large cracks on the north side of his barn will be closed early and tightly and all the hay, cornstalks, and straw which is frequently permitted to go to waste, will now be gathered up and either put under cover or in a neat stock, conveniently situated for use when wanted. The corn must, of course, be gathered in early, as the first snow storm is to be a severe one, and in some localities the earth will remain covered until spring. The late potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips, and other useful roots that happen to get frozen in the ground, are very likely to remain there and be lost. It will be also safe to gather them very clean, leaving no small ones, for all will be required for your animals before warm weather comes again. In fact, let nothing be wasted which can be made available for food.

When the best provisions possible have been made to render the farm stock comfortable during the coming winter, it will be well to make a careful investigation into the condition of things about the house. The stock of dry wood on hand, or the quantity of coal, should be looked after, and if a cord too much of the former or a ton or two of the latter happens to be left over next spring, it will not be lost. But if we are a "true prophet," there is little danger of an overabundance of these articles being laid in. The winter also will set in quite early, and every one should be in haste in making the necessary preparations indicated above; and as there are to be many very cold, stormy days of too great severity for men to work out of doors, during which the children will be prevented from going to school, it will be both safe and prudent to have a supply of useful and entertaining books on hand and especially a good newspaper—for instance, the RURAL NEW-YORKER—with which to fill up the time profitably, that nothing may be lost; for even a leisure hour may be employed in gathering golden thought, if not gold itself. There is seldom danger in being too careful, although some may trouble themselves needlessly about what is to come; but in all rural affairs, safety on the score of extra preparation for winter—care of animals is a merit of no small consideration and value. If our readers will take heed and believe in our prophesy, we are confident that the RURAL will rank among the safe prophets, if not the great ones.

RURAL NOTES.

Ladies' Hats vs. the Birds.—A correspondent of the London Times, (Mr. ALFRED NEWTON), tells the ladies that they are responsible for the wholesale slaughter of birds for the sake of ornamental feathers. He refers to a single sale of feathers, to show that to supply that sale alone 9,700 herons (or egrets) must have been destroyed. All these feathers are said to have come from India last autumn. Mr. NEWTON observes that no country could supply 10,000 herons in a single breeding season without nearly rooting out the stock. Moreover, 15,000 humming-birds and upward were included in the sales, of which 740 were of a single kind. As far as we know, none of these birds really diminishes the stock of food available for man, so that in destroying them for mere show, we empty the world absolutely of a certain portion of its beauty and happiness, while the beauty is certainly by no means made up in the ornamentation of feminine toilets which is thus procured.

The Medical Director of the Centennial Commission, who bears the pungent name of PEPPER, has issued a labored report, showing statistically that Philadelphia is the healthiest place on the globe. While we have no desire to sneeze at PEPPER's report, we are obliged to notice that he takes no account whatever of the fact that nine out of ten people who go to the Centennial, return ill and remain so for a considerable time afterwards. Of course some of this sickness may be attributable to unusual excitement and fatigue; still, its existence should be well worth considering in his report. Though PEPPER is generally very penetrating, in this case he seems to have circumscribed his researches by the limits of the village of Brotherly Love and Lodgings. Go further, Mr. PEPPER, and *fair* better.

The Peanut Trade.—The cultivation of peanuts appears to be on the increase in those States where this plant succeeds best. The crop in North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee for 1875–76, is reported to have reached nearly 800,000 bushels, and it promises to be still larger for 1876–77. From these statistics we may safely conclude that there is either a large quantity of peanut oil made, or a good many peanuts eaten by somebody.

Tanning Extract.—The extract of Sweet Fern (*Comptonia asplenifolia*), a low-growing shrub, with fine aromatic leaves, found over vast tracts of country, is said to be rapidly coming into favor for tanning purposes. Extract of alder is also another new product used for the same purpose, and it is but reasonable to suppose that many other native plants will yet be brought into requisition for furnishing a supply of tannin.

RURAL BREVITIES.

IT is said that Prof. HUXLEY received about $5,000 for his lectures during his late brief visit to this country.

THE Centennial Exhibition is about to close. Next week's RURAL will contain numerous illustrations descriptive of many of the Exhibits.

IT appears from our foreign exchanges that the "advance guard" of the Colorado Potato beetle has not, as reported, landed in Europe, although its near relative, the *D. juncta*, has. The ten-liner will probably go abroad next season, if it failed to find a free passage this.

BARON VON NOLCKEN has lately returned to Germany from Columbia, with 10,000 butterflies and moths collected in that country. It is such men as NOLCKEN, HUMBOLDT and other well known members of the titled nobility of Germany who aid advancement in the natural sciences in the Empire.

PROF. HUXLEY speaks in the highest terms of the great collection of zoological antiquities made by Prof. MARSH at New Haven. Prof. MARSH is certainly doing a great work for the present as well as future generations, and should receive the cordial support of every true friend of science and progress.

N. W. AYRE & SON, the well-known Philadelphia advertising agents, have been compelled to move to more spacious quarters to accommodate the demands of their growing business. During November they will be ready to receive their friends in the new Times Building (Chestnut and Eighth Sts.), where they will have unusually fine offices

IN the condensed crop reports received from the Commissioner of Agriculture of Georgia, we learn that the cost of living in the State is little more than half as much as it was seven years ago, and yet the farmers are saving but little money; the cause of the latter condition of affairs is attributed to a want of economy or calculation in advance of what a crop is to cost.

THE SAD STORY OF BLOBBS AND HIS PULLET.

In a tiny country villa lived our Blobbs, but all alone;
Never wife or chubby children this staid bachelor had known.
Yet—for hearts *must* cling to something—he had made himself a pet
Of a little snow-white pullet, with her wings just tipped with jet.
Daily feeding and caressing, these had won the pullet's heart;
Following close her master's footsteps, seldom they were far apart;
And his love grew deeper, stronger, with the passing of each day—
"Wiser far than any woman," wicked Blobbs was wont to say.
Near by rose a wondrous structure—architects their brains had racked—
Cross betwcen a Chinese temple and a cruet-stand, in fact.
This the pretty pullet's dwelling; here she hastened every night;
Perched on high, became a *rooster* till the dawning of the light.
One sad day a Yankee peddler, glib, persuading, passing by,
Gazed at Blobbs and that poor pullet with a calculating eye.
From his wagon's deep recesses drew out, smiling wickedly,
"Johnson's Patent Hen-Persuader;" then to guileless Blobbs said he:
"Here's a marvelous invention! In this box you see a nest;
Hens at once will lay an egg here, lured to do their very best.
Then behold! this sliding bottom lets the egg drop out of view,
And the hen, somewhat bewildered, lays at once egg number two!"
'Twould be useless to repeat all that this wily peddler said;
This suffices. Blobbs, unwary, by his specious tongue misled,
Bought the "Patent Hen-Persuader," set his snow-white pullet on,
Locked them both within the hen-house ere he went to town that morn.
Business then engrossed him fully, till, with num'rous cares beset,
Who can wonder that the pullet and her nest he should forget?
Nothing all day to remind him; but returning late at night,
Flashed a sudden recollection, and his cheek grew pale with fright.
Rushing madly from the station, straight he sought the hen-house door,
Called his pet in tones entreating. Ah! she'll never answer more!
Full of gloomiest forebodings, in he dashes; finds the nest
Overflowing with its treasures—yes, she's done her level best.
Forty-seven eggs! and near them head and tail and wings still lay,
For the poor ambitious pullet thus had laid herself away! [*Harper's.*

Historical.

OUR COUNTRY;
ITS ACQUISITION AND DIVISION.

BY LESTER A. ROBERTS.

[Concluded from page 286.]

West Virginia.

THE separation of the northwestern portions of Virginia from the rest of the State had been long suggested, but it was not until 1861 that it was accomplished. In April of that year, a Convention held at Richmond declared Virginia no longer one of the United States, she having cast her fortunes with the Southern Confederacy. In this Convention the delegates west of the mountains were not unanimous, a majority of them voting against secession. Their action was approved and a Convention of delegates representing forty Counties was held at Wheeling in June, at which the act of the Richmond Convention was declared void, secession was repudiated and proceedings were had to reorganize the lawful Government of the State. The Government elected by the people by authority of this Convention—which was named the Reorganized Government of the State of Virginia—issued a call for a new State Constitutional Convention, which was held at Wheeling on November of the same year, 1861.

At this Convention a Constitution for a new State was agreed upon. The Legislature of Reorganized Virginia assented to its formation, and in December following President Lincoln approved the act of Congress admitting the State of West Virginia to the Union. As thus constituted, the State comprised forty-eight Counties, to which were subsequently added those of Berkeley and Jefferson.

Montana.

In 1864 an area that had successively formed parts of the Territories of Oregon, Washington, Nebraska, Dakota and Idaho, and which was bounded north by the International line, east by longitude 104, south by latitude 45, and west by the eastern line of Idaho, was erected into a separate Territory.

Wyoming.

The Territory of Wyoming, as constituted by act of Congress July, 1868, comprises the area between the 104th and 111th meridian and latitudes 41 and 45. It consists of two parcels taken from each of the original Territories of Nebraska, Utah and Oregon, and contains lands which have at different times been comprised in six other Territories, that of Dakota alone having twice included nearly one half of it. In laying it out no regard was had to so-called natural boundaries, and the Rocky Mountains cross it nearly diagonally.

YELLOWSTONE PARK.—A tract of land lying in the northwest corner of the Territory of Wyoming and included in its boundaries as given above, comprising about 3,800 square miles was, by act of Congress in 1872, withdrawn from settlement or occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States, and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, to be and remain forever under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior.

Unorganized Territory.

ALASKA.—In 1867, for the sum of $6,000,000, Russia ceded to the United States her province of Alaska. This cession was bounded on the east by a line beginning at the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island (parallel 54° 40′) and running north along Portland Channel to the junction of the 56th parallel of north latitude with the Continent, and thence along the summit of the mountains parallel to the coast to and along the 141st meridian to the Arctic Ocean; providing that in no place shall this line be more than ten marine leagues from the coast and shall be parallel with its windings. No Government has yet been organized for this, the latest acquisition.

INDIAN COUNTRY.—By act of Congress in 1831, "All that part of the United States west of the Mississippi and not within the States of Missouri and Louisiana and the Territory of Arkansas," was named the Indian country. This area has been from time to time diminished, until at present it includes the territory bounded north by latitude 37, east by the western lines of Missouri and Arkansas, south by the Red River and west by the 100th meridian. Different portions of this country are set apart for different tribes of Indians settled there who have their own Governments, the three principal of which are the Creek, Cherokee and Choctaw. These are republican in form, and over them and the minor ones the United States exercise what might be called a Federal Protectorate. The country, for all necessary judicial purposes, is attached to the Western District of Arkansas.

There still remains without name or Territorial organization, the area comprehended by latitudes 36° 30′ and 37° and longitudes 100° and 103°. In tables of areas this tract, containing about 10,800 square miles, is usually added with the Indian Country.—[Conclusion.

The Story-Teller.

ONLY A COUSIN.

BY F. A. W.

A DINGY opera libretto slipped from Aunt JESSIE'S open desk to the floor near the "Sleepy Hollow" in which Cousin MARCIA was lazily reading. "'Barber of Seville.' PYNE & HARRISON troupe. Niblo's Garden, 1856. What are you keeping this old thing for?" and an arch peach-blossom face, with a fringe of fluffy blonde hair, suddenly thrust itself between Aunt JESSIE and the note she was just finishing.

That stately lady looked with some indignation over her eye-glasses. "Old thing, indeed!" she smoothed caressingly her recovered property, while over her face stole that curious, dreamy expression so tantalizing to the beholder, who feels herself shut out from some pleasant memory in which the other is reveling.

The peach-blossom was a persistent mortal in her way, however, and before Aunt JESSIE well knew what she was about, she was at the full tide of narration.

I think you never heard me speak of my friend, FANNY ELLIOT, who married and moved to Nevada a good many years ago. She would possibly be FANNY ELLIOT still if it had not been for this opera. She was passionately fond of music and her Cousin DAN always managed that she should hear everything worth hearing. FANNY was a teacher in a fashionable up-town school. DAN was a clerk in a large importing house in the city. Both cousins were alone in the world and were fond of each other in a cousinly sort of way.

FANNY was a good-hearted girl, only a little spoiled, like yourself Miss MARCIA, by injudicious reading. She lived altogether too much outside the everyday world, building castles in which the impossible angel of a man figured largely. It was amusing to hear her fancies. First of all, she must admire immensely the one she should marry. He must be one of the world's heroes—though just what this meant she could not have told you—and, by some lightning-like process of intuition, heart would speak to heart when she should meet him, and so on with the rest of that nonsense generally. If a person answering in some small degree to her ideal had suddenly appeared and at first sight had asked her to marry him, she would have unhesitatingly accepted, merely because she had so often mentally rehearsed the situation. Meantime, she did not suffer from lack of attention. DAN was perfection as an escort, and in his humble capacity of "only a cousin," obligingly made a martyr of himself, going to classical concerts which he did not understand and to the opera, which he cordially detested.

It was LOUISA PYNE'S benefit night and Niblo's was packed full from pit to gallery. Our friends had been fortunate in securing seats at the front balcony, thereby having not only a good view of the stage but of the audience as well—the latter consideration of importance to FANNY, whose peeps at the gay world were limited. One party near especially interested her that evening, and she had strange fascination watching them. The youngest of the group was a delicate, flaxen-haired girl. "MARGARET!" one would involuntarily exclaim, and look around for FAUST and the attendant demon. But instead, one saw a bald-headed, portly gentleman, doubtless the fair MARGARET'S papa. With the two was a lady fair, also, but not with the lily-like purity of the young girl. It might have been MARGARET again; but it was MARGARET twenty years older—more intellectual, mature, with that sort of "the-world-was-made-for-me" air, which naturally belongs to wealth and assured position.

FANNY confessed to me afterwards how admiringly and enviously she regarded these two women. What did they know about work and care, stupid pupils, fault-finding parents, fear of failure, longing for home and rest? Who does not sometimes wish to surprise the secret of his neighbor's content—to get at that vague something which we call individuality and which, no matter how hard our lot, we never feel quite up to the point of exchanging with another! "They must be very fortunate and happy," thought FANNY; "and I—my life has nothing!"

It was late in the evening as the curtain fell at the close of the fourth act. "How pretty that was!" suddenly broke out DAN; "like the wind through a forest of violin strings, was it not?" DAN was not musical, but he sometimes ventured an opinion at the risk of being severely put down. "I rather lost track of the words, though. Why have we no libretto?"

"What matters the words when you catch the effect so exactly?" was the answer he received. "It is poor music that does not tell its own story. But if your ears were as keen as mine, you would have heard the whole play discussed just back of us. These miserable amateurs! How I hate to sit near them. 'Good!' one would say; 'but the oboe is a little too prominent in that passage. Miss PYNE does not seem in quite so good voice to-night as usual; high notes are fine, but the medium register is poor,' and so on. Why cannot people listen to music to get away from themselves, for the comfort it brings, for the countless suggestions it inspires——"

"FANNY," calmly interrupted her cousin, "what have I heard you say ought to be the fate of the person who should tell the same story twice?"

"Good-by, DAN. Go and get your libretto."

As FANNY had said, her sense of hearing was exceptionally keen, and the whispered comments of the sociable persons back of her were distinctly audible. This time it was DAN who came under criticism as he passed by their box. FANNY would never tell just what was said—"the natural conceit of man is too great," she would reply, when teased on this point. She had listened, smiling with a proud sense of ownership, though it was only her cousin, when the final remarks made her cheeks tingle. "His wife, whoever she may be, is a lucky woman."

"Do you suppose she knows it?"

"Not likely. Most women never know when they are well off."

DAN'S wife! It seemed to occur to her for the first time that DAN would some time marry. "There is no one good enough for him, or pretty or rich enough, unless it be MARGARET over there," was FANNY'S thought. "And why should this not come about?" So many threads of romance were tangled in this young woman's brain, that it is no wonder she had quite a respectable web woven before the evening was over.

With new interest she watched the fair MARGARET of her fancy. So completely absorbed was she that the last act of the opera went on unnoticed until she was aroused from her dreams by her cousin's voice. "Are you asleep, or faint, or crazy, FANNY? I have been trying to get an answer from you for the last five minutes. You look pale. No wonder; the air is horrible. Let us get out of this," and DAN half carried her into the lobby.

The crowd was terrible. "Take care of the step." But DAN'S warning came too late. FANNY'S foot slipped. The crowd surged on. What followed she never clearly knew till she felt the cool refreshing air of the street. The fair neighbor of the opera stood near, and DAN was just returning to her a tiny silver smelling-bottle. "Why, it's MARGARET!" exclaimed poor dazed FANNY.

"How did you know that young lady's name?" inquired DAN as, after some biscuits and wine at TAYLOR'S, the two were slowly walking homeward in the sweet spring night.

"A mere guess. The name suits her. And how did she happen to be near?" returned FANNY, wondering a little at the quick, sharp, jealous pang that went through her heart.

"She was just getting into her carriage as I brought you out, and both she and her father came forward at once. I know him. A rich old speculator who drops into our store almost every day. That girl has a sweet face."

FANNY assented with another twinge of her heart-strings. "DAN," she commenced, hesitatingly, "I am afraid I have treated you rather shabbily all these years."

"Awfully so, FAN; but I'll forgive you if you will only keep in the body. You gave me a sad fright a while ago."

"Do you remember, DAN, the first time we ever saw each other—that summer so long ago at Uncle NATHAN'S? I was sitting on the plazza——"

"With a blue cloud twisted round your head and I thought you looked like an angel."

"Guy, more correctly; but then, you never did know the difference. And do you recall Uncle NATE'S comical introduction? 'FAN,' (rising inflection, and with a flourish of his big brown hand,) 'this is DAN.'"

"Yes, I remember perfectly. But why this sudden vein of reminiscence?"

"So many things came before me to-night. First, I was fascinated with MARGARET. I envy her. She has so much in the world—everything heart can wish. Then, when you went for the libretto, those persons back of us said something——"

"About you? Well," said the young man coolly, looking down with a curious smile at the form by his side, "I don't much wonder. I rather like your looks myself."

"Not that—I didn't mean—oh, you provoking fellow!"

"What have I done now?"

"DAN, have I then really been so very disagreeable all the time we have known each other?"

"Disagreeable? That's no name for it. Some fine morning, when I cannot stand it any longer, I shall take myself off. By the way; I had an offer to-day from your fair MARGARET'S papa to go out to Nevada. He happened to hear that I had graduated at the School of Mines at old Columbia and offered me very liberal inducements to look after the silver mines in which he is interested."

"Nevada? That is a long way off," said FANNY, helplessly; the world, without DAN, suddenly becoming a prospect too dismal to contemplate. "Perhaps you will take MARGARET with you. It is destiny. I believe you are the hero of her dreams, the one for whom she is waiting——"

"I declare, she is dazed yet from her fall!" was DAN'S muttered exclamation to this.

"You would suit each other completely," continued FANNY. "She is so good and sweet and winning. I envy her and I am afraid I hate her, too."

"What are you talking about?" and DAN'S cheery laugh was strangely reassuring. Then he added, very gravely:—"That poor little girl you envy would doubtless give all her world to be in your place. I did not mean to tell you the report about this family, but the mother has fits of insanity and sweet little MARGARET herself has twice been sent to an insane hospital. It is one of the dark fates."

They walked along in silence for a while; then DAN commenced with affected carelessness of tone, "See here! What do you suppose has been the reason of my keeping near you ever since the shy boy bloomed into six feet of manly assurance, enduring snubbing and neglect and disgraceful coolness"——

"It is false and you know it!" indignantly exclaimed poor inconsistent FANNY.

"What do you suppose has been the reason," pursued her cousin, unheeding the interruption, "that I have been content to stay here when I might have gone West and done work that would have amounted to something? Simply for the sake of seeing every day the one woman who always has been and who always will be the one woman of the world for me! Now you will laugh and call me a ridiculous fool! I dare say I am. Faith! I have half a mind to love the fair MARGARET. Perhaps she would treat me better."

"Love her at your peril! Take her away with you to Nevada, if you dare! I shall follow, for"—this in a very low, intense whisper—"I can't live without you, JESSE"——

"JESSE! Why that is papa!" cried Cousin MARCIA, in half-indignant amazement. "And you have just been telling me your own story all this time!"

OUR FIRST RACE.

WE have pulled our first race! The morning was beautiful as only a June morning can be. We took the shell down to Braman's last evening, and so the time hung heavily on our hands during the forenoon. A bulletin which attracted general attention was posted at the college bookstore in the square, as follows:

"HARVARD REGATTA.—The Annual Harvard Regatta will take place on the Charles River course this afternoon at three o'clock, wind and weather permitting. Four crews will pull—the Junior, Sophomore, Freshman and Scientific!"

We dined together at noon, on the usual leg of roast mutton—rare, juicy and tender—potatoes, spinach, ale; and for dessert, oatmeal mush. I think we were none of us hungry; and it was a silent meal, even Longstreet for once appearing thoughtful and quiet. I ate what I did purely from principle; for there was a queer sensation at the bottom of my stomach which took away all desire for food.

At half-past two the scene at Braman's was a stirring one. The crews were all there, wearing their colors, and had the boats out of water, cleaning and oiling them. As our boat had been put in perfect order, we were the first to launch and put out for a little pull; and it was a comfort to grasp the oar handle. The rafts were crowded with students, backers of their class-boats, and the cheers of our friends rang out as we darted away. Then came the drawing for positions. We had hoped to get the inside; but the Sophomores drew the first choice, the Juniors the second, the Scientific crew the third, and we had to take the outside.

Meantime the course had been cleared, the judges were at their posts near the upper stake, the starter, judges and referee were on board the barge; the rafts, platforms and roofs of the boat houses at Braman's were black with the crowd; the windows bright with ladies' dresses; the river-wall and sheds of the Beacon street houses were densely packed half a mile up stream. It was an exciting scene.

Bang! went a gun from the barge, the signal for us to come into line; and as we pulled up to take our positions we got nine cheers, though the boats were all greeted in the same way. We came into line as well as we could and lay on our oars. This waiting was the hardest part of all. If we could only have pulled away at once! I suppose it was only a few moments, but it seemed an age. I felt something pressing against my chest and I could hardly breathe. "Remember, boys," whispered Smith, "don't look around! See the boats behind you, if you see them at all, and be sure and don't miss on the start; two short strokes all together and then the long."

"Up a little, Freshmen!" "Back, Juniors!" called out Wilkinson, and now the line seemed to suit him. "Are you ready?" rang out in clear tones across the water. There is a hush in the crowd which every one can feel; we stretch forward. "Go!" and twenty-four oars dash the water. At the sound there is a great cheering and clapping of hands from the shore. I look at Lewis' back and pull, and almost immediately Smith says, "D—n! hold her, boys!" We were half a length ahead. The bow oar in the Scientific boat lost his head, steered wild and fouled the Juniors; and we had to go back and try a fresh start.

This time I did not feel the least nervous, but enjoyed the situation and the excitement. Soon we saw the Scientific boat behind us; and then came a glimpse of the Sophomores, hugging the wall for smooth water; and as we draw up to the stake it appears that we have the right to turn before the Juniors. "We've got 'em!" says Smith, "don't hurry, boys; they can't do anything till we get around!" But what with the sun in his eyes, and the glare of the sun on the water, Smith couldn't see the stake; and we shot past, leaving room for the Juniors to come up and turn inside of us, which they did as neatly as could be, and then dashed off down the home-stretch, the stroke kissing his hand by way of good-by. Nobody said a word; but there was a determination to make up the loss if it were a possible thing. I saw the other boats draw up to the stake and turn; and as the distance between us grew wider the sunlight seemed to wrap them in a gold and purple halo, most dazzling. After a time I could hear the swash of oars on the right. The temptation to look was irresistible. "Eyes in the boat," said Smith, coolly. "Steady! don't spurt till I give the word; we are doing well enough." So we pulled on and again I watched the muscles on Lewis' back; and soon the swash of the Juniors' oars grew more distinct, and presently I could see a little bit of the rudder by turning my eyes and then the stroke oar, and it was plain that inch by inch we had come up with them.

But we were getting home. The crowd had caught sight of us and the roar of the clapping of many hands and excited shouting comes over the water to us. "Now, boys, shake them off! hit her up, Tom!" shouted Smith, though Tom had quickened almost before the word; as for me, as soon as I heard the noise from the shore, I felt as fresh as if I had just stepped into the boat; but we had barely pulled half a dozen strokes at this tremendous pace when there was a *crack!* and Lewis' oar snapped at the rowlock. So we lost the race, though twice it was ours; for we were ahead of them at the stake and had passed them at the time of the accident.

We had a rousing reception; for we were only just behind the winning boat; and the boys on the raft didn't know what had happened till Lewis held up the broken oar, when there was the wildest time I ever saw. They wanted us to challenge the Juniors to pull the race over again. But Smith said No, it was all right as it was; he wasn't going to have us pull another race till we got to Worcester. And though it is a disappointment not to beat them if we can, I suppose the decision is a wise one.—[*Student Life at Harvard.*

WHAT IS AN INGRAIN CARPET?

THE two-ply ingrain known to the trade is a fabric comprised of two webs or "plies" of cloth, made with different-colored yarns—say one "ply" green, the other red—of equal consistence of texture, united at the edges or selvages of each by the selvage threads, and ingrained or united at different parts of the cloth, wherever called for by the design or pattern. If the red "ply" represents the ground color of the design, then the green will be the figure color; and whenever the green figuring "ply" appears over the red ground "ply," that is ingraining. The more general this ingraining or mixing up of the two webs or "plies," the better the fabric is ingrained and the longer it will wear. The three-ply ingrain is made and ingrained after the same manner. A two-ply carpet, woven on the same loom and "mounted" in the same manner as a two-ply ingrain, if woven plain, without any design or pattern, would be a seamless bag; a three-ply, under the same condition, a double bag, or two bags joined together by one side of each. The old Scotch two-ply ingrain weighed about twenty-four ounces to the yard; the weft yarns were heavier than those now used, and the warp-threads were three-cord worsted and much stronger and heavier than the two-cord now in general use.

Two things are gained by the substitution of the two-cord warp for the three-cord, though the fabric is rendered less desirable. One is the saving of worsted, the most expensive of the two materials which compose the fabric; the other is that the warp being finer, it permits a wide scope in shading the weft colors. This will be understood even by the unskilled reader if he will place an unequal number of coarse and fine black threads on two pieces of scarlet or white cloth or paper of equal width. The finer the black threads are the brighter the colors underneath will appear. Ingrain carpets are frequently called Scotch carpets, and by others Kidderminster. The difference in the nomenclature of the fabric, we presume, is due to the fact that, until 1821, Kidderminster had nearly a monopoly in making ingrain. In the memorable strike of that year, which commenced in March and continued until August, it lost nearly all its ingrain trade, which fell mostly into the hands of Scotch manufacturers.—*Textile Manufacturer.*

THE GERMAN GENIUS.

A GERMAN'S capacity of boring and being bored is inexhaustible. In the higher grade of the imagination they are encumbered with facts and observations and commonplaces. Their works are tedious beyond measure. In their poetry there is, for the most part, no irradiation—no fire to fuse and transmute it from substance to spirit. "The German genius," says Matthew Arnold, in his admirable paper on the study of Celtic literature, "has steadiness with honesty," while the English "has energy with honesty." But steadiness and honesty are qualities which, admirable as they are in life and in certain forms of literature, have little relation to the imagination, save in a very exalted sense. The poetic imagination takes slight heed of honesty. It has a higher office. It fuses while it uses, and in its glow of all things,

"Suffers a sea change
Into something rich and strange,"

it is often absolutely dishonest to real fact, and only true to ideal feeling. Fuel becomes flame in its enthusiastic embrace. What steadiness or honesty, in their common sense, is there in such lines as these?

"Take, oh! take those lips away
That so sweetly were foresworn;
And those eyes, the break of day,
Lights that do mislead the morn."

Literally this is absurd; ideally it is exquisite. There is no bane to poetry like commonplace, however true, however honest. But such graces as these are never snatched by the German muse, and she wearies us with platitudes and propositions. Even Goethe is so determined to be accurate to the fact, that in writing his Alexis and Dora, he stopped to consider whether Alexis, when he takes leave of Dora, ought to put down or take up his bundle; so at least Eckermann reports from Goethe's own lips. This is purely German in its literalness.—*Blackwood.*

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY.

ONE day, about three weeks ago, a strange customer came to a Gratiot avenue grocer. He wanted some goods, and he paid cash down. The next day he made another purchase and paid cash and as the days went by his face and his cash became familiar. One day he returned with the change given him and said:

"I believe I am an honest man. You paid me twenty cents too much."

The grocer received it and was pleased. Two days after that the stranger returned from the curbstone to say:

"Another mistake on your part; you overpaid me by forty cents."

The grocer was glad to have found an honest man and was puzzled to know how he could have counted so far out of the way. Three days more and the stranger picked up a dollar bill in the store and said:

"This is not my dollar I found it on the floor and you must take charge of it."

The grocer's heart melted, and he wondered if the world was not progressing backward to the old-time honesty. A skip of one day and then the honest man brought down a wheelbarrow, ordered $18 worth of groceries and would have paid cash had he not forgotten his wallet. He would hand it in at noon as he went past, he said, and it was all right with the grocer.

That was the last seen of the honest man. Morning fades to noon and noon fades away in darkness, but he cometh not. There are no more mistakes in change—no more dollar bills on the floor, and the grocer's eyes wear a far-off expression, as if yearning to see some one for about two minutes.

THE first day Artemus Ward entered Toledo, travel-worn and seedy, he said to an editor who was on the street:—"Mister, where could I get a square meal for twenty-five cents?" He was told. "I say, Mister, where could I get the twenty-five cents?"

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Mark Twain's Patent Scrap-Book. Manufactured in different sizes and styles by Sloat, Woodman & Co., New York.

HAD we been more acquainted with these books we should have called attention to them in an article relative to common-place books published in the RURAL of Oct. 14, page 255. Had MARK TWAIN never done any other good thing than the invention and introduction of this kind of scrap-book, he would not have lived in vain. It differs from the ordinary scrap-book only in that each leaf is partly covered with a preparation similar to that used on postage stamps and only needs moistening to make it ready for the reception of the cuttings. This invention will materially increase the number of books used, as it avoids all the trouble of paste or mucilage. It needs only the addition of a sheet of ruled paper in each book at the end in which to make an index, to render it complete.

Helen's Babies. With some account of their ways, innocent, crafty, angelic, impish, witching, and repulsive; also, a partial record of their actions during ten days of their existence. By their latest victim. Boston; Loring, publisher. (Paper; 50c.)

IF you have a journey of a hundred miles by rail before you, buy this book before you start. The large, clear type and open page make it well adapted for reading in the cars, and when once commenced you will forget everything but the story and your journey's end will be reached before you have an idea that you are half way. The name of the author is not given, but we have reason to believe in "One Summer," won an enviable reputation for a lady in Maine.

NEW PAPERS.

THE Laclede County Enterprise, a monthly journal devoted to local interests and edited by Dr. E. M. HARRISON, is a bright, progressive monthly, that will do yeoman's service in advancing the interests of Lebanon, Missouri, and the adjacent country. The subscription price is $1.

The Prescott Dispatch, published at Prescott, Ark., is an unusually well edited and printed local journal and deserves a success that, we have no doubt, it will realize.

The Western Stock Journal and Farmer has been enlarged and with its new title-page, practically makes a new start. Its appearance is such that it must recommend it irresistibly to those interested in the pursuits it so ably advocates.

The second volume of the Progressive Farmer, published at Evansville, Ind., is a credit to editors and publishers alike, and speaks well for the culture and progress of the farmers who, by their discriminating liberality, enable it to make so sprightly an appearance.

The Texas Stock Journal and Farmer, Pleasanton, Texas, is but another evidence of the prosperity and enterprise of the Lone Star State. It gives good, seasonable advice, which is printed on good paper, in clear type.]

COMING EVENTS.

THE December number of the National Review—A. S. BARNES & Co., N. Y., publishers—will contain very interesting papers from the pens of EDWARD A. FREEMAN, Dr. DORNER, Hon. EDWARD D. MANSFIELD, Prof. ANGELO DE GUBERNATIS and Princess DORA D'ISTRIA. In addition to his series of papers, covering, by their range and general interest a considerable portion of Christendom, Rev. SAMUEL OSGOOD presents an exceedingly interesting and instructive paper upon "New England Transcendentalism;" and there are the usual scholarly reviews of recent publications, American and Foreign, followed by the Science paper of Dr. WRIGHT, of Yale College, and the usual letter on European Art Matters, by PHILIP GILBERT HAMERTON.

JAS. R. OSGOOD & Co., Boston, Mass, promise an infinitude of good things for the fall and winter season. The following are the books that are to be published this month:—"Hymns of the Ages." New and cheaper edition; "Pacchiarotto, and how he Worked in Distemper," and other poems—by ROBERT BROWNING; "Doings round the Circle"—by BENJ. R. CURTIS; "LONGFELLOW'S Complete Poems;" "Gallery of Great Composers, with 24 Heliotype Illustrations; "LOWELL'S Poems;" "Poems and Places;" "Seashore and Prairie," by MARY P. THACHER. Uniform with "Little Classics."

HELIOTYPE ART-WORKS, each containing 24 full-page Heliotypes, with descriptive letter-press. Large 4to. Tastefully bound. Price of each, $10: "Gems of the Dresden Gallery;" "Gems of the Gray Collection of Engravings at Harvard College;" "The Titian Gallery;" "Gallery of Famous Artists;" "Gallery of Famous Beauties."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, New York:

Putnam's Elementary Science Series. An Elementary Hand-book of Theoretical Mechanics; 145 Diagrams. By Wm. Rossiter. [16mo.; Cloth—pp. 148. Price 75 cents.]

Applied Mechanics. By Wm. Rossiter. Illustrated. [16mo.; cloth—pp. 147. Price 75 cents.[

JOHN R. NAGLE & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.:

Official Catalogue of International Exhibition. Complete in one volume.

CASSELL, PELTER & GALPIN, New York:

Choke-Bore Guns and How to Load for all Kinds of Game. By W. W. Greener. [Cloth—pp. 215.]

HARPER & BROS., New York:

The Mikado's Empire. By Wm. Elliot Griffis, A. M. [16mo.; cloth.—pp. 625.

S. R. WELLS & Co., New York:

How to Sing; or, The Voice and How to Use It. By W. H. Daniell. [12mo.; paper.—pp. 110. Cloth, 75 cts.; paper, 50 cts.]

J. C. BRYANT, Buffalo, N. Y.:

Bryant's New Elementary Book-Keeping. By J. C. Bryant, M. D. [Boards.—pp. 96. Price 80 cts.]

MAGAZINES FOR NOVEMBER:

Wide Awake, Domestic Monthly, Demorest's Monthly, Journal of Materia Medica, American Bee Journal, The Technologist, American Naturalist, Music Trade Review.

Sabbath Reading.

ALL THINGS PERISH SAVE VIRTUE.

SWEET morn—so cool, so calm, so bright,
The bridal of the earth and sky,
The dew shall weep thy fall to-night,
For thou must die.

Sweet rose—whose fragrance now I crave,
To glad my sense and joy mine eye,
Thy root is ever in its grave,
And thou must die.

Sweet Spring—so full of shine and showers
It makes the weary spirit sigh,
To think, with all thy herbs and flowers,
That thou must die.

Sweet music—e'en the lovely song
Which from thy harp in window nigh
Is floating on the breeze along,
E'en thou must die.

And all the bright and glittering train
Of stars that stud the deep blue sky
Must they all perish—none remain
To glad the eye?

And vales, and fields, and rushing streams,
And mountains that invade the sky,
Are they as baseless as our dreams?
And must they die?

And all that's beautiful and fair
Of Nature's face—love's melody,
That makes sweet music of the air,
All—all must die!

And man, frail form of senseless clay,
Tho' now his glance is proud and high,
Perchance upon this passing day
He too may die!

But the bright soul?—*that*, shrined within
The quenchless light in mortal form—
Tho' dimmed by misery and sin,
Defies the worm.

When all the stars shall fade away,
And suns in their own blaze expire,
And trackless comets cease to stray
With wand'ring fire,

The soul shall ever live, nor know
The lapse of time, but dwell on high,
And share—in endless joy or woe—
Eternity. [*Powell.*

CHURCH NOTES.

DR. BUCKNER says one characteristic of all Indian converts is that they behave well in church.

THE Wesleyans of England have published and sold a half million copies of their new Hymn-Book in a single year.

THE Chinese call Protestantism the "Jesus doctrine," and Roman Catholicism the "doctrine of the Lord of Heaven."

HERR REICHENSPERGER, the leader of the Catholic party in the German Reichstag, is reported to be dangerously ill at Gastein.

IT is announced that the lectures of the late Rev. Frederick W. Robertson on Genesis, will be published during the coming winter.

DR. NICCOLLS, of St. Louis, has been called to the pastorate of Prof. Swing's old congregation in Chicago, the Fourth Presbyterian Church.

THROUGH the active efforts of the "Buffalo Law and Order Association," the drinking saloons of that city have been closed on Sunday.

A SAN FRANCISCO paper reports in one issue the baptism of ten Chinamen—three in Sacramento, four in Los Angelos and three in San Francisco.

AMONG the students of the Congregational Theological Seminary in Chicago are three candidates for the ministry in the Reformed Episcopal Church.

MR. JOHNSON of Brooklyn, who is known in England as the "Gospel Temperance Lecturer," has accepted an invitation to visit Sweden and lecture there also.

THE funds raised by the "Turkish Mission Aid Society" of England for the sick and wounded in Bulgaria, are sent to the American missionaries in Turkey for distribution.

THE Protestant Episcopal congregation of Dorchester, Mass., which has worshipped "in a barber-shop since the beginning of the year," now rejoices in the prospect of a new chapel.

THE new church in London occupied by the Rev. Newman Hall's Congregation is so crowded on Sunday evenings that the adjoining Hawkstone Hall has been opened to receive the overflow.

THE Jewish Messenger states that for the first time there were religious services in the Sing Sing Prison on the opening of the Hebrew New Year. The Jewish prisoners, to the number of 40, were addressed by the Rev. Mr. Rabbinowitz.

AT the recent session of the New Jersey Universalist Convention, the Rev. Phœbe A. Hanaford was elected Secretary of the Convention for the year and was appointed to preach the Occasional Sermon in 1877. The Convention will then meet at Newark.

FIVE years ago the Swedenborgians began an effort to raise $50,000 in yearly installments of $10,000 for the publication of denominational books and periodicals. But little more than half of this amount has been obtained and a call is now made for the deficit—$22,558.

THE committee appointed to revise the Methodist Episcopal Hymn Book have invited communications from ministers and laymen in relation to; (1) Objectionable hymns in the present collection: (2) Worthless hymns; (3) Hymns damaged by injudicious alterations; (4) Good hymns not now in the Hymn-Book.

Ladies' Portfolio.

A STILL DAY IN AUTUMN.

I LOVE to wander through the woodlands hoary,
In the soft gloom of an autumnal day,
When Summer gathers up her robes of glory,
And, like a dream of beauty, glides away.

How through each loved, familiar path she lingers,
Serenely smiling through the golden mist,
Tinting the wild grape with her dewy fingers,
Till the cool emerald turns to amethyst.

Kindling the faint stars of the hazel, shining
To light the gloom of Autumn's moldering halls,
With hoary plumes the clematis entwining,
Where o'er the rock her withered garland falls.

Warm lights are on the sleepy uplands waning,
Beneath, dark clouds along the horizon rolled,
Till the slant sunbeams through their fringes raining,
Bathe all the hills in melancholy gold.

The moist wind breathes of crisped leaves and flowers
In the damp hollows of the woodland sown,
Mingling the freshness of autumnal showers
With spicy airs from cedar alleys blown.

Beside the brook and on the cumbered meadow,
Where yellow fern-tufts flock the faded ground,
With folded lids beneath their palmy shadow,
The gentian nods, in dewy slumbers bound.

Upon those soft-fringed lids the bee sits brooding,
Like the fond lover loth to say farewell,
Or, with slant wings, through silken folds intruding,
Creeps near her heart his drowsy tale to tell.

The little birds upon the hillside lonely
Flit noiselessly along from spray to spray,
Silent as a sweet wandering thought, that only
Shows its bright wings and softly glides away.

The scentless flowers, in the warm sunlight dreaming,
Forget to breathe their fullness of delight;
And through the trunced wood soft airs are streaming
Still as the dew-fall of the summer night.

So, in my heart a sweet, unwonted feeling
Stirs, like the wind in Ocean's hollow shell,
Through all its secret chambers sadly stealing,
Yet finds no words its mystic charm to tell.

FAMILIAR NOTES ON THE STARS AND PLANETS.

BY WILLIAM ROBT. BROOKS.

WE wonder how many Ruralites are star gazers; we hope a large number, for certainly no study more sublime can be engaged in than that of the heavens. Some of the most beautiful constellations are at this season of the year well situated for observation in the early evening.

Standing facing the north, we see in the northwest Ursa Major, or, as it is familiarly known, the "big dipper." The two lower stars in the bowl of the dipper are called "the pointers," because a line drawn through them upwards will intersect the north star or Polaris, which may always be found in this way, no matter in what part of the heavens Ursa Major may happen to be. In its apparent diurnal revolution about the pole star. Polaris is at an elevation, in the latitude of New York, of about 41°, and is the brightest star of the constellation Ursa Minor, meaning the Lesser Bear, and commonly known as the "little dipper." Very close to and just above the middle star in the handle of the "big dipper" is a small, faint star. These two are known as Mizar and Alcor, and through a good telescope Mizar—the larger of the two—is found to be a double star—two suns, in fact, revolving about each other.

On the opposite side of Polaris from Ursa Major, and at a somewhat greater altitude, is Cassiopeia, or "the lady's chair;" beyond which, and in the northeast, are the constellations Andromeda and Perseus; the latter containing the finest and most condensed cluster of stars in the whole heavens. It is easily visible to the naked eye, and through a large telescope with a low power is one of the most magnificent sights imaginable.

Well up in the eastern sky is the "square of Pegassus;" nearly overhead is the charming constellation Cygnus, or The Swan, its more prominent stars forming a beautiful cross, situated directly in the Milky-way. West of Cygnus is Lyra, readily distinguished by its leading brilliant, Vega. Near to Vega are two faint stars, forming therewith a little triangle. The one farthest north, if closely scrutinized, will be seen to be double. It is, however, a good test of eyesight to see it thus with the naked eye, but the smallest telescope or opera glass will show it to be a double star. Through a good telescope each one of these stars is seen to be again double, forming a quadruple system. A little south of Lyra is Aquila, the Eagle, three stars in a row, the central one the brightest, and called Altair. Just east of Aquila is the beautiful though not bright constellation Delphinum, or the Dolphin, a part of it forming a very perfect diamond-shaped figure.

In the western sky is Bootes, with its well-known first-magnitude star, Arcturus. And just above Bootes is Corona Borealis, or the "northern crown," distinguishable by a circle of rather faint stars.

Low down now in the southwest may be seen the planet Jupiter—the bright particular glory of our nights for many months—but which will now soon be lost in the sun's rays. In the southeast, and coming into excellent position for observation, is the planet Saturn. Its rings may be seen with a good telescope of even moderate power.

Venus is now "morning star," and may be seen, an hour before sunrise, glittering like a beautiful gem on the brow of the morning.

In a few months we will have another familiar talk about the winter constellations.

"Red House Observatory," Phelps, N. Y.

A DISAPPOINTED MAID.

MISS STOKES considers work very unladylike and kitchen labor "perfectly shocking." But when an industrious and sensible young man began to drop in occasionally and spend an evening, she very wisely refrained from expressing these convictions after hearing him on several occasions severely denounce the frivolity and indolence so fashionable at present with many of the young ladies of Philadelphia.

Entertaining a high regard for the young man, she determined to surprise him by some great feat of her industry and perseverance and last evening, as they were seated together on the parlor sofa, after the conversation had begun to flag, she artfully allowed a sigh to escape her.

"Are you unwell?" he tenderly inquired.

"No, I am quite well.',

"But you sighed," he persisted.

"Yes; but I suppose it was because I felt so tired."

"Have you been busy?"

"Oh, yes, indeed," was the reply. "Why, would you believe it? I cut out a *towel* and made it all by myself to-day."

There has been a coolness between the parties ever since, the reason of which he has never been fully able to explain; but she angrily remarked the next morning, that some men were foolish enough to imagine that a woman ought to be able to do more work than a fifty horse-power steam-engine.

EFFECT OF TEA ON THE SKIN.

IF you drop a few drops of strong tea upon a piece of iron—a knife blade, for instance—the tannate of iron is formed, which is black. If you mix it with iron filings or pulverized iron, you can make a fair article of ink. If you mix it with fresh human blood, it forms with the iron of the blood the tannate of iron. Take human skin and let it soak for a time in strong tea, and it will become leather. Now, when we remember that the liquids which enter the stomach are rapidly absorbed by the veins and absorbents of the stomach and enter into the circulation, and are thrown out of the system by the skin, respiration and kidneys, it is probable that a drink so common as tea and so abundantly used, will have some effect. Can it be possible that tannin, introduced with so much liquid producing perspiration, will have no effect upon the skin? Look at the tea-drinkers of Russia, the Chinese and the old women of America, who have so long continued the habit of drinking strong tea. Are they not dark-colored and leather-skinned? When young they were fair-complexioned.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION IN GERMANY.

A SCHOOL for ladies has been opened in Berlin on a plan decidedly novel, but very practical. The building contains lodging rooms for forty girls, school rooms, working rooms, an immense kitchen and a permanent bazaar. In the school rooms every branch that will fit the girls for situations in banking, commercial or mercantile establishments is taught. Various trades that ladies can follow are exemplified by skilled operatives. The kitchen is, perhaps, the chief school room, for all the work there is done by the girls under the supervision of one of the best cooks in the city. This feature has become so popular, from the large number of betrothed maidens who flock thither to obtain good domestic educations, that the managers have begun to charge for instruction in cookery, and the receipts generally pay the expenses of the other departments.

IT is a remarkable fact that, while contemporary historians describe Mary, Queen of Scots, as having black hair and gray eyes, an exquisite complexion, with hands delicately modeled and a majestic figure, most of her portraits at different stages of life have auburn hair and some even bright red. It is thought that she dyed her hair and changed its color according to the fashion of the day. At the Kensington Exhibition of National Pictures in 1866, no fewer than thirteen genuine portraits of Queen Elizabeth's unfortunate sister sovereign were exhibited. Lord Ronald Gower has just published an exquisite likeness of her taken in childhood, the original having been at Castle Howard for 200 years.

MRS. HOOPER writes that she has seen a miniature of George Sand when she was in the zenith of her beauty. "A handsome woman, though the lower part of the face is heavy and decidedly coarse. The brow is broad and noble and the eyes dark-blue, with drooping lids; dark, glossy hair, arranged *a la* Rachel. The dress of black velvet, low over the shoulders, with pointed waist, and the whole gives an idea of a beautiful, intellectual, but unrefined woman."

"YOU would make a most beautiful actress in the drama of life," whispered a poetical Chicago youth to his inamorata the other evening; "indeed, 'tis so—you would be a very star." "And you," murmured the fair one; and she leaned her frizzes on his shoulder, "w-wouldn't you like to support me?" So he arranged it right there. How could he help it?

THE truth is that our school-girls and spinsters wander down the lanes with Darwin, Huxley and Spencer under their arms, or, if they carry Tennyson, Longfellow and Morris they read them in the light of spectrum analysis or test them by the economies of Mill or Bain.—*Stedman's Victorian Poets.*

Reading for the Young.

THE HIGH, HIGH SWING.

Now listen while I tell you a very funny thing,
That once befell a little boy who had a splendid swing
A dreadful, dreadful, little boy, who dearly loved a riot,
And hated nothing on the earth so much as sitting quiet.

The swing of which I'm speaking hung between two high old trees.
And this boy, whose name was Harry—a naughty little tease—
Had a very tall, strong brother, who used to swing him high,
Up, up, and up, and higher up, till he seemed to touch the sky.

And yet that dreadful Harry was never quite content,
Although his brother swung him till his very breath was spent;
It was always "Oh, please send me just a little, little higher,
I long so much to see the sky a little, little nigher."

Now guess who looked and listened one wintry afternoon,
And chuckled to himself and grinned? The Old Man of the Moon!
Daylight had almost darkened, the stars were passing through the trees,
And all but very naughty boys had gone home to their teas.

A wild wind swept the garden-walks, the withered leaves whirled by,
The branches of the old trees creaked; and, though they scarce knew why,
The boys both felt a little queer and stared up at the moon,
And wished the blessed daylight had not died away so soon.

"Just one swing more, then we'll run home!" our rascal Harry cried,
"One high, high swing!" With all his might his big, strong brother tried
To send him up, and up, and up, far as the sailing clouds,
While the little twinkling stars came out and stared at him in crowds.

The Old Man in the Moon stooped down and gripped him by the hair,
And caught him up out of his swing and whirled him through the air;
Crying, "Now I hope you're high enough, you plaguey little boy!
And life among the moon-folk queer I hope you may enjoy."

Poor Harry's heart went pit-a-pat, his brain was in a whirl;
He almost cried—indeed he did!—just like a baby girl;
He begged the Moon Man to let go, and promised nevermore
To be caught so high up in the air where he'd no right to soar.

"At last then you are high enough?" the teasing Old Man said.
"Oh quite, quite, quite!" poor Harry cried; "please let me home to bed;
My head is running round and round, I don't feel well at all!"
Ere he could say another word the Moon Man let him fall.

Down, down, and down, and further down, the trembling Harry fell.
But oh, how glad I am to say, no accident befell!
He got to earth quite safe and sound, and scampered home like mad,
Vowing that ne'er again he'd be so wild a little lad.

Then youngsters all, both great and small, this fabled tale who read,
I beg that to its warning you will every one take heed;
"Enough's as good as a feast," be sure, in every kind of fun.
And now good-by—I'll say no more—my funny story's done.

CRAY THORNTON'S CHESTNUTS.

JUST at nightfall a rough-looking man was walking past "Chestnut Woods," when he fancied he saw some one gliding stealthily through the underbrush. He stopped and looked more closely; but now there was not so much as the rustle of a leaf to betray the presence of another. He turned into a narrow footpath, and at that moment a boy sprang up from behind a clump of bushes.

"Is this you, Cray?" the man exclaimed. "What on earth are you here for at this time of day? and what have you got in your bag?"

"I'm going home, and I've got chestnuts in my bag," was the reply.

"But I thought the chestnuts were all gone."

"They were almost all gone when I began to pick. But Mr. Oliver said I might have what was left; and so I've been in the woods every day this week. I've got every one there was."

"All right. But what made you skulk along so?"

"Because—because—I was afraid somebody would see me and tell father. If they did, he'd sell them for rum. Nobody knows, only mother. You won't tell; will you, Mr. Weston."

"Not a word, Cray. You needn't be afraid of my getting you into trouble. What have you done with the rest of your chestnuts?"

"Mother's hid them somewhere, and when Mr. Waters comes along, she's going to buy me some shoes with them. I haven't got any shoes."

"So that's it! Well, you need the shoes, and if you haven't quite enough, tell Waters I'll make it up. He'll trust me if I do get drunk once in a while."

"Oh, Mr. Weston! I wish you didn't. You'd be so good if you didn't; and perhaps father would be good, too, if he didn't drink rum."

"He ought to, with such a boy as you. If my Jimmy and his mother had lived, I should have been different from what I am now." And as he said this, Mr. Weston brushed the tears from his eyes.

"You won't meet your father to-night. He's got some money to spend before he'll come home; so hurry along to your mother, and good luck to you both."

The speaker was one of those men who are usually described as "good-hearted, kind and generous." He had a true Yankee genius for the Yankee trade of tinkering, and wherever he might go was pretty sure of being welcomed as the very person whose presence was most desired. He might have been rich, and yet he was poor, living in a bit of a house on the further edge of the wood.

After parting from Cray Thornton he walked slowly on, sometimes stopping for a moment, as he thought sadly of his wasted life. He was never ill-natured or quarrelsome, but he was his own worst enemy, and this he knew so well that he needed not to be reminded of the fact.

A week had passed when he saw Cray Thornton's father entering a grog-shop. He quickened his steps, and rushed in just in time to see the bag of chestnuts carried by Mr. Thornton poured into a half-bushel measure.

"Hold on there!" he exclaimed. "Those chestnuts are stolen property, and I can prove it. I've done some mean things in the way of drinking, but I never got so bad as to steal chestnuts from a boy. Thornton stole those from Cray. I know he did, and if there's not enough here to see fair play, it's a pity. Cray hasn't got a pair of shoes to his feet, and he picked those chestnuts one by one, after everybody else had given up. Thornton, you're a brute if you sell them for liquor. I never abused my boy, and if he'd lived he should not have gone barefoot such weather as this. If you've got any human feelings you'll stop drinking, and take care of your family."

"You're a fine fellow to preach!" was the sneering answer. "I'll quit drinking when you do."

"You promise that, will you?"

"Yes; I'll quit when you do."

"Then here goes—I've done with grog while I live. I swear it."

With his right hand still uplifted, Mr. Weston gazed at his companion with a fixed look, until the latter, as if moved by a sudden impulse, raised his own hand, and repeated, "I swear it'" reverently and solemnly.

"I will take back Cray's chestnuts," then said the father in a husky voice.

Without hesitation they were returned to him. The spectators were awe-struck by what had occurred, and the silence remained unbroken.

Mr. Thornton left the grog-shop, followed close by his friends. They, too, were silent. It was no time for talking; but from that day there was plenty in two homes where before there had been poverty, and happiness where before there had been fear and wretchedness.

LORD BROUGHAM ON GOOD BREEDING.

THE same observations which were made on the arts are applicable to a certain refinement of manners, which is common to all civilized states, but which, perhaps, arises in despotic countries at an earlier stage of society. This refinement, in itself, is of little merit or value. If, indeed, it is not rather to be accounted a defect. Its chief characteristic is luxurious indulgences of various kinds, and a politeness which consists so much in suppression of the natural feelings that it is nearly akin to falsehood. Never to say anything that may give pain, unless where our duty requires it, is a rule of sound morals as well as good manners. But never to say anything which those present may dislike; nay, from which they may dissent, is the rule of refined and courtly breeding. Absolute command of countenance and figure, calm, placid deportment, unbroken ease, sustained dignity, habitual smiles, indiscriminate respect; nay, the semblance of esteem or even love for everything that approaches, and the taking a ready interest in whatever concerns every one, but showing none at all in whatever regards ourselves merely—these are the constituents of highly refined and courtly manners; and these imply such an unnatural suppression of feelings; such a habitual restraint upon the emotions of every kind; such a false position of the mind at all times, as is most easily learned under the sway and the dread of a despotic prince or his provincial representative. Accordingly the manners of the orientals are known to be polite to an extravagant degree; while there is a want of polish in the subjects of free states which has made the roughness of a republican almost proverbial.

THE DAY YOU WERE BORN.

HERE is an infallible method of discovering the day of the week on which a given day of the month any number of years previous occurred. To the number representing your age at your next birthday, add one-fourth for leap-year; this amount divide by seven, and the remainder count back from the day of the week on which you were born. For instance, on your next birthday you will be 24 years old. This divided by 4, and the quotient, 6, added to 24, gives 30, the amount, which divided by 7, the number of days in a week, gives four weeks, and the remainder of two days. Now, if your birthday in 1876 comes on Monday, count back two days and you have the day on which you were born, Saturday.

CEREMONY is the smoke of friendship.

HE who finds pleasure in vice and pain in virtue is a novice both in the one and the other.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

Comicalities from Our Poet.

I saw two women in the street,
Walking, walking;
I saw two women in the street,
Talking, talking:
One was all ribbons and bows,
And the other was in her old clothes.

Says the one in red to the one in brown,
"Peggy, Peggy!
Why do you wear such a horrid old gown?
Peggy, Peggy!"
"I've another for Sunday," Brownie said,
"But why do *you* dress in your ribbons so red?"

"Do you suppose," answered she, with a toss,
"Spooney, Spooney!
That for fine clothes I'm e'er at a loss,
Spooney, Spooney!
Your penetration must be very small,
If I couldn't dress better, *I'd not dress at all!*"

C. H. C.

Of Course He Will!

MR. EDITOR:—I will endeavor to write to the Cousins. I have never read the RURAL before this year, and I am very much pleased with it. I always read the boys' and girls' letters first, and I think they are splendid. I agree with GYPSY BELLE in regard to piecing quilts. I pieced one when I was quite small, and mamma used to say it was good to keep little girls out of mischief. I am fifteen years old, and have dark hair and eyes, but I will not flatter myself, as did ROB ROY, by saying I am what the girls would call rather good looking. I should think YOUNG POET might favor us with some of his poetry. I like flowers, and it always makes me feel sad to have Jack Frost come, he is so destructive. And now, dear Uncle TRUE, I hope you will receive me as a Cousin and print my first letter, and oblige—MISS LOW.

More About Quilts.

DEAR UNCLE:—With your permission I would like to say a few words in regard to piecing quilts. In the first place, I would ask YOUNG EDITOR if he ever pieced a quilt? and if not, how he comes to know so much about it? He says, in his letter, "Girls, I will give you my opinion, and not charge one cent." I, for one, don't think it is *worth* a cent. Perhaps he will not be quite so confident that the boys *can* "hold their own" with the girls so easily when he sees all the letters that disagree with his. I notice a good many of the "belles" are against him.—MAY BELLE E.

An Economist.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—As my brother is going to write to you I thought I would write too: then we could send them both together and save three cents. Maybe you think I am stingy, but I am not. I believe in taking care of the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves. I am a farmer's girl and like to live on a farm. I go to school winters and study Geography, Grammar, History, Analysis, Arithmetic and Composition. This is the first I have written for the RURAL. I guess I will go to the Centennial.—A FARMER'S GIRL, *Johnstown, N. Y.*

An Acquisition.

MR. EDITOR:—I have never written to the RURAL before, so I thought I would write. I am a boy and live on a farm. Father has taken the RURAL ever since he has been married, and his father has always taken it. I have two sisters and three brothers, so you see we can help father a good deal. We have our corn almost husked. I start for school soon and will continue until March. I am twelve years old. I hope to see this in print.—EUGENE P. J., *Johnstown, N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

HIDDEN DRUGS OR MEDICINES.

1. BRING me a pillow.
2. Did you call my friend Homer cur? Yes, I think you did.
3. I swam the Po, Utica, in its narrow part.
4. Come, Rob! list ere the echo dies away.
5. I saw a penny royally handled.
6. Be a true man, Nathan.
7. Let us visit the shops and see if we find it.
8. Our church, Loro, forms a cross.
9. You asked in regard to qui nine times in succession.
10. I shall not wear that fur hat any more.
11. Just see there, Nellie.
12. On the side of Mt. Opi umber grows.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

SHORT ANAGRAMS.

1. PACE, Miss Jane E. 2. Sad bee. 3. Mar not. 4. Sip, Pat. 5. Mice dine. 6. Red mane. 7. Am tin. 8. Be date. 9. Do not, Sam. 10. Ask Bet. 11. Ere can Turk. 12. T, sun pad. 13. Red pip. 14. Rob mo. 15. Betuck. 16. Blate. 17. Lap it. 18. Mad mink. 19. Mary Hon. 20. A colic. 21. Sande. 22. Slap.

☞ Answer in two weeks. B.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA.

1. A FLOWER. 2. One. 3. A fruit. 4. Organs of the head.

☞ Answer in two weeks. BERBIX.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Oct. 21.

DECAPITATIONS.—1, Larch—arch; 2, Slate—late; 3, Snail—nail; 4, Fox—ox; 5, Ball—all; 6, Teasel—easel; 7, Gaunt—aunt; 8, Swell—well; 9, Wheel—heel; 10, Glass—lass; 11, Flame—lame; 12, Acorn—corn.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—The Lord will provide.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.90 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Moluccа Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory or garden. Its growth is rapid—small plants attaining the hight of five feet during the summer months. In the fall it may be cut back to any desirable size and potted for the winter, when it will quickly recover its symmetry and resume its ever-blooming habit. Its quick and exceeding popularity is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, now and old, this is as yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class. It is difficult to select a more attractive plant than Marie Lemoine when freely blooming. Every truss is in itself a bouquet. The leaves are large, zoneless, vigorous. The plant is compact and, like *Abutilon Boule de Neige*, is invaluable, either for the conservatory, window or garden.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It has stood 26° below zero unharmed. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. The thyrses of flowers, first greenish-white, then white, then rose, often measure a foot in length and twenty inches in circumference. Every stem being thus terminated, the striking appearance of an entire plant may be conceived. There can be no doubt that this is one of the most valuable of all perfectly hardy shrubs.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata.*—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green, much as *Abutilon Thomsoni* is variegated with green and yellow. From its racemes of flowers are formed fruit as large as currants, each one of which is a different color in shades of claret, azure-blue and green. These berries, which are first as soft as a currant, become finally as hard as bullets.

The pretty stems are also variegated, green, whitish and rose. The roots are perfectly hardy, and the vine's growth so rapid that it will cover twenty-five feet square in a season. For conservatory walls or pillars, for trellises or rockeries, it cannot fail to please. It has been growing in the RURAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS for several years without the least protection.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the singular Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE day has come, when manufacturers can take calves feet and work them up into delicious strawberry jelly, and raspberry jam, but that's as far as they can go; when they can tackle a calf's head with success, some folks will be missed from society.

BY way of preparation for Mr. Moody's meetings in Chicago, which began Oct. 1, all the families in the city have been visited and an invitation to attend left with each. In this visitation the Young Men's Christian Association have largely cooperated. A choir of 500 singers has held two rehearsals a week under the direction of Mr. H. C. Stebbins of Boston.

Judge Younger, an uncle of the outlaws of that name, apologizes for his nephews and charges all the blame to the James boys. He says that they were going to the British Dominion, where they hoped to get something to do and settle down in peace. On the way there the James boys got to gambling and lost all their money; they then borrowed whatever money the rest of the party had, which they also lost. The James boys then swore they wouldn't travel without money, and resolved on the bank robbery.

The San Francisco Chronicle has the exclusive information that England's defence of Turkey is only make-believe, and that a great empire is to be established between the Bosphorus and the Adriatic, with the Duke of Edinburgh and his Russian wife (the Czar's only daughter) on the throne. The problem is now solved, thanks to the vigilant enterprise of the Chronicle.

It has several times been reported that the companies connected with the lately-disrupted coal combination were to suspend operations at their collieries, but nothing definite has been done in that direction until within the past few days. The operators have held meetings in the various regions; the sentiment of the majority was to allow each individual to do as he deemed advisable. Some of the independent operators in the Schuylkill, Lehigh, Wyoming and Lackawanna regions have shut down. They complain that the market is glutted with anthracite fuel, and there being no prospect of an elevation of prices to a profitable margin, they consider it unadvisable to continue mining for the present.

Now that the individual operators have stopped production, the great coal and transportation companies have determined to adopt the same policy. The Delaware and Hudson Coal Company has stopped work at all mines, and 15,000 miners and laborers are thrown out of work. The Philadelphia and Reading Company has reduced its operations about one-half. The whole number of unemployed persons in the coal fields is somewhere near 25,000, and accessions are being made to this number daily.

Red Cloud and 81 warriors left their agency, determined to go on the war-path. Gen. Mackenzie, receiving information, surrounded the entire band and disarmed them. The warriors surrendered. Red Cloud wanted to fight.

The Philadelphia Times states that a new clue to Charley Ross has been discovered by the arrest of one Samuel Benners, a friend of Mosher. Benners was examined, and after several interviews, said that Charley Ross was in Pennsylvania and had never been out of it; that he was not many miles from the city, and that he had seen him not longer than three weeks ago. Where the boy is Benners will not say, but the officers who made the arrest, and those who have been on the lookout for the last forty days, think that the boy is probably in Wrightsville, or in the neighborhood of Lancaster or Columbia, as in going to and fro between Harrisburg and Philadelphia Benners always stopped at those places. Wrightsville is a manufacturing village, and the officers are of the opinion that the gang made it their principal headquarters. Other arrests are in prospect, and it is said the police have been more actively at work in the case for the past month than at any time heretofore.

Stove coal at the last great auction sale went up to $4.10 per ton.

The Continental Life Ins. Co. of New York has failed.

New York is promised a new Opera House, to be called the International Opera House: cost $5,000,000.

The murderer of Maggie Bauer, McConochie, has made a voluntary confession.

Work on the Mississippi improvement at Cairo is to be commenced shortly, under $30,000 appropriation from Congress.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE International walking match between O'Leary, the American pedestrian, and Crossland of Sheffield is looked forward to with eager interest. Crossland is the favorite in the betting at £10 to £6, with few takers. O'Leary has been suffering from indisposition for several days, which renders his success doubtful. The match takes place on November 1, and will occupy nearly three days. The distance is 300 miles and the stakes £200 and the championship of the world.

The Turkish Consul at Tiflis, and his wife, were lately murdered by robbers. Russia is making every effort to discover the perpetrators of the crime.

Spain wants an extradition treaty with this country.

Religious agitation has been begun in Morocco with the object of procuring help for Turkey.

The proposal to settle the terms of peace by a conference at which the Porte shall not be represented is opposed by England and Italy.

Col. Valentine Baker of railway carriage notoriety is now regularly engaged in the War Office at Constantinople, and is busy organising a plan for the remodelling of the whole Turkish cavalry. If his scheme is followed out, the Ottoman mounted branch of the service will become one of the finest bodies of mounted troops in the world. Part of the proposed scheme is that, at any rate for some years to come, commands in both cavalry regiments and squadrons are only to be given to English officers, or to officers trained in English cavalry regiments. It is believed that arrangement will not only give employment to a considerable number of half-pay English cavalry officers in Turkey, but will also induce many young Turkish officers to go to England for training in cavalry regiments.

A severe cyclone passed over the Central American States on the 3d and 4th instants. The town of Managua, in Nicaragua, was inundated on the 4th. About 400 houses were blown down by the hurricane. The inhabitants had to climb up on the tops of their houses to prevent being washed away by the flood. Many were drowned by the houses falling. The total damage done is estimated to be about $2,000,000. The town of Blanfield, on the Mosquito coast, in Nicaragua, also experienced the hurricane. Over three hundred houses were blown down. The Governor of Greytown visited the spot subsequently, carrying provisions, &c., for the relief of the sufferers. The same storm passed over the Lake of Nicaragua, causing an immense amount of damage. The loss on the coffee crops has been estimated at $3,000,000. About twenty lives were lost, the whole district around being completely flooded.

The Times has the following special from Berlin: The liberal newspapers here are almost unanimous in vigorous declarations against the establishment of Russian power in the Turkish provinces. The *Volks Zeitung* urges the propriety of placing reform therein under English, instead of Russian control.

A despatch from Berlin to the Pall Mall Gazette says an apparent trustworthy announcement is made that Russia has intimated her willingness to accept the Porte's latest armistice proposals with certain modifications not calculated to imperil the desired result. The proposal to settle the terms of peace by a conference, at which the Porte shall not be represented is opposed by England and Italy.

The building of the "City of Health" on the Courtlands estate, about a mile and a half west of Worthing, in England, will be commenced in the spring of next year. In the "City of health" an attempt will be made to carry out the idea of Dr. Richardson, as expounded in his description of "Hygia, or the Model city of health," at the Social Science Congress at Brighton last year.

Turkey has 140 post-offices in Europe and 170 in Asia. Of these 250 have existed only since 1868. Immediately around Constantinople there is an efficient suburban postal service.

The Prince of Wales is going to stay with Lord Londesborough, at whose house he caught the fever which so nearly cost him his life, but the visit this time is to be at a different place.

When races first came into fashion in France, the many went for fun, the few to bet. Now the betting element has assumed an alarmingly large proportion, and great sums are lost and won.

Some Argus birds, described as the most beautiful species in the world, have reached the Jardin des Plantes, Paris. They hail from the Philippine Isles. It is only within fifteen years that the first flying specimens came to France.

The following telegram give the gist of the European news of the week:—

The Montenegrins have cut Moukhtar Pasha's communication with Trebinje and invested Nipsic. Great distress prevails in Montenegro, notwithstanding the military successes because of the necessity of maintaining a large number of refugees.

The Roumanian chambers are convoked, meeting Nov. 2d.

The bullion in the Bank of England has decreased £163,000.

The Bank of France has increased its deposits 16,563,000 francs.

The British Arctic expedition under Capt. Nares, comprising the naval steamers Alert and Discovery has returned to Valentia. Progress to the North Pole was found impracticable. Capt. Nares reports that no land could be discovered to the northward of the highest latitude reached, namely 83 degrees 20 minutes, but in other respects the expedition was successful.

The Alert and Discovery left Port Foulke on July 29, 1875, and entered the ice off Cape Sabine. After a severe and continuous struggle they reached the north side of Lady Franklin Bay, where the Discovery was left in winter quarters. The Alert pushed on and reached the limit of navigation on the shore of the Polar Sea. The ice varied in thickness, being in some place 150 feet deep. President Land does not exist.

The Alert wintered in latitude 82° 27′. At this point the sun was invisible 142 days, and a temperature the lowest ever recorded was experienced. A detachment with sledges, was dispatched northward. It was absent 70 days, and reached latitude 83° 20′. Another party rounded Cape Columbia, the northernmost point of America, and traced 220 miles westward from Greenland, and also explored far to the eastward. These sledge parties met with no game, and suffered from scurvy. No Esquimaux were seen, nor were any icebergs met with beyond Cape Union.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[OWING to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents,"

so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for Advertisers," or "Answers to Correspondents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers, and while we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements, all such other matter will be admitted as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want, and the want is indicative of its need.]

B. W. Y., Monroe Co., N. Y., wants fine Leghorn poultry—will find an answer in our advertising department.

H. A. B., Dallas Co., Texas, wants full-bred Merino Rams.

W. G. B., Fairfield Co., Conn., wants a farm of from 200 to 350 acres in Southern Michigan.

R. G. M., Wyoming Co., N. Y., wants a good Hay Press. We refer him to advertisement of P. K. Dederick & Co., in this week's paper.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

BETTER THAN SAVINGS BANK OR GOVERNMENT BONDS.
Pays Ten Per Cent. Every Day.
Send for Circular of
GRANGE MILL
To H. H. SWIFT,
Millbrook, N. Y

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Oct. 28, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	76,750	Molasses	600
Whisky	2,855	Rice, bbls	2,636
Corn meal, bbls	200	Cut meats, pkgs	12,077
Corn meal, bags	557	Lard, pkgs	7,109
Wheat, bush	360,550	Tobacco, hhds	1,189
Corn, bush	1,311,491	do. pkgs	4,517
Oats, bush	256,900	Butter, pkgs	22,139
Rye, bush	64,169	Cheese, bxs	35,000
Malt, bush	61,257	Cotton, bales	32,767
Barley, bush	235,913	Rosin	1,432
Beans, bbls	5,208	Spts. turp., bbls	938
Grass seed, bush	12,616	Dried Fruits, pkgs	3,845
Beef, pkgs	1,568	Eggs, bbls	6,309
Wool, bales	2,179	Peanuts, bags	311
Hops, bales	2,029	Leather, sides	35,001
Pork, bbls	8,831	Sugar, hhds	—
Tallow	915	Oil cake	5,156

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival of summer items here on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports beans past week, 1,056 bush.; since Jan. 1, 49,351 do.; same time last year, 26,211 do. A moderate supply of beans, coupled with the increased cold and cooler weather, render the market generally firm, and in most instances prices are higher. The standard, medium and narrow, show a late advance. In the latter the export has improved. Few old stock beans are attractive enough for the current wants of buyers. Canadian peas are less active, but prices remain steady. Green peas scarce and firm; all new crop. Southern Black Eye peas quiet. Exports of field peas for the week, 11,641 bush.; since Jan. 1, 516,219 do.; same time last year, 252,431 do.

Beans—New medium, $1.65@1.70; do. marrow, $2.25@2.30; do. pea, $2.00@2.05; white kidney, $2.25@2.30; red do., $2.21; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $1.60@1.65; other, $1.30@1.40; marrow, prime, $2.16@2.20; other, $1.90@2.15; pea, prime, $1.85@1.95; other, $1.65@1.70; white kidney, prime, $2.10@2.15; other, $1.65@1.80; red do., prime, $1.70@1.80; other, $1.40@1.60; black, $2.70 Canadian peas, new, ₹ bbl., free, $1.12½@1.15; do. bulk, 93@95c.; green do., new, $1.50@1.55; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2.20@2.25.

BEESWAX.—Exporters are doing but little and fair supplies give easy prices. Western and Southern quoted at 30½@32c.

Exports since Jan. 1st, 59,905; same time last year, 69,131 do.

BROOM CORN.—Supplies are increasing, while demand is very light and prices unsettled.

Quoted at 7@8c. for short green brush, 6½@7½c. for green hurl, 5@6c. for medium green, and 3@4c. for red and red-tipped.

BUTTER.—Exports past week 3,219 pkgs. The market is running in the easy pace that usually precedes the event of a Presidential or other important election. Receipts have fallen off but there seems to be quite enough for the present wants of trade, which fact is indicated by the shading of quotations in buyers' favor. Even best pails and creamery are off from last weeks extreme, and for all pkgs. the inside line of rates are the most prevalent in sales. Fine State Welsh is selling better than firkins or half tubs to the outside trade, and the local demand is calling for more of them usual. The lack of fine State is pretty well made up by a liberal receipt of Irish western dairy tubs, and for market use the difference in price makes it more quickly. Other grades of Western are dull especially factory packed. Shipping grades are held above exporters views, even if their wants were heavier than they are. It is due to sellers to say that much of the low grade stock is held by advice of owners. Roll butter is in market to a small extent ranging at 24@27c., with an occasional cloth wrapped lot bringing 28c. When roll butter has any selling merit at all it should always come in muslin. A warm day or two renders that put up bare, sticky and unsightly.

We quote:—Choice pails, 34@35c.; prime, 33@34c.; poor to good, 25@30c.; creamery pails, choice, 35@37c.; good, 33@34c.; sweet cream pails, 30@35c. State firkins, choice, 30@31c.; fair to good, 25@27c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@33c.; fair to prime, 26@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 32@33c.; other, 24@28c.; inferior State, 16@20c.; Western creamery, choice, 35@36c.; other, 32@34c. do. firkins, best, 21@22c.; other, 14@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 26@28c.; other, 15@18c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 14@18c.

State dairies quotable at 30@32c. with full tubs Welsh tubs, dairies, 26@31c.

State prime dairies 25@30c.

CHEESE.—The export movement has been very light again this week, and prices unsettled. For fancy late-made factories, owing to the high cost in the interior, 13½@13¾c. are held for colored and 13c. for white. The lower grades are depressed and sparingly dealt in.

Fancy factory, 13½@13¾c. for fancy white and colored September; do., job lots, 14c.; good and prime, 11½@12½c.; fair, 9½@10c.; State farm dairy, fancy, 11¾@12½c.; good to prime, 10¾@11c.; fair and good, 9@10c. Western factory, good and prime, 11@12c.; fair lots, 9½@10½c.; do. cheddar, choice, 12¼@12¾c.; do. flat, choice, 12½@13c.

Exports for the week, 14,270 boxes.

COTTON.—There is a liberal inquiry from exporters and more doing from spinners, giving a stronger market.

The latest quotations are:—October, 11@11 1-32c.; November, 11 1-32@11 1-16c.; December, 11¼c.; January, 11 15-32c.; February, 11 11-16@11 23-32c.; March, 11 29-32c.; April, 12 3-32@12¼c.; May, 12 9-32@12 5-16c.; June, 12 15-32c.; July, 12 19-32@12¾c.; August, 12 23-32@12¾c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	Ala.	Orleans.	Texas
Ordinary	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16	9 1-16
Strict ordinary	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16	9 7-16
Good ordinary	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16
Strict good do	10 3-16	10 3-16	10¼	10¼
Low middling	10 7-16	10 9-16	10 11-16	10 11-16
Strict low middling	10¼	10⅝	11	11
Middling	11	11¼	11 3-16	11 3-16
Good middling	11 3-16	11 5-16	11 7-16	11 7-16
Strict good middling	11 7-16	11 9-16	11 11-16	11 11-16
Middling fair	11 13-16	11 15-16	12 1-16	12 1-16
Fair	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 13-16	12 13-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	8 13-16	Low middling	9 13-16
Strict ordinary	9 7-16	Middling	10 5-16

DRIED FRUITS.—In apples German shippers are operating more freely in quartered lots. There is also more doing on home trade account, and prices generally firm. Peaches are scarce and higher. Blackberries and small fruits generally favor the seller.

Exports past week 2,745 bbls. dried apples; since Jan. 1, 10,871 do.; same time last year, 10,554. The export trade has suddenly caught up to the amount of business of last year.

Apples—State, sliced, 7¼@8½c.; do., quarters, 7@7½c.; Southern sliced, new, 6@7c.; choice do. 7¾@8½c.; fancy, 9@10c.; do., new quarters, 4¾@6c., the latter for repacked. Blackberries, 8½c. Peeled peaches, new, 15@17c.; unpeeled peaches, halves, 9@10c.; do. quarters, 8½@9c. Plums at 12@13c. Raspberries, 26@27c. Cherries, 17c.

EGGS.—Small receipts have kept the market buoyant and prices are firm at the late advance. Sellers dare not put up prices too rapidly for fresh, as the supply of limed, with comparatively low figures, might call off some of the consumptive trade. We quote:

Near points, 28@30c.; State and Penn., 28@—c.; Western, prime, 27@27½c.; do., other, 26½c.; Canadian, 27@27½c.

State limed, 19@22c.; Western, do., 18@20c.

FLOUR.—The more pacific character of the foreign advices has tended to limited dealings. The home trade is also moderate. Prices have not changed materially; if anything they are a trifle lower.

Sales at $4.00@5.00 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5.25@5.35 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.40@5.50 for good extra do.; $5.55@5.70 for fancy do., and $5.75@7.00 for fancy to very choice extra; $4.60@5.00 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.25@5.50 for shipping extra do., the inside price for interior, and $5.60@5.65 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.70@6.75; fancy do. $6.85@8.00; winter whisk, good to choice family $6.50@8.25; round-hoop Ohio, $5.25@5.40, and trade brands of do. at $5.65@7.00; St. Louis, $5.50@6.50 for common to fair extra, and $6.55@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.75@7.75, and patent at $7.80@9.00; unsound stock at from $3.25@5.25; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.10@6.25; do. English brands, $5.35@—; do. trade and family $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $3.90@4.20. Buckwheat flour is being sold at from $3.50 to $3.90 ₹ 100 lbs. Corn meal has a fair inquiry at $3@3.20 for yellow Jersey, Pennsylvania and Western, and $3.40 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples, past week, 12,592 bbls. This heavy export demand is a good feature in the early part of the season, in fact it is difficult to say where prices would drop without it. The offering is large prices are extremely low for both fall and winter sorts. Most of the former are running out. Pears are more of sour quality; few good enough to reach the extreme. Quinces have a wide range. Grapes have advanced, the bulk having been sent forward. We are over-stocked with cranberries. There is only a moderate local demand and outside trade has not yet developed. Chestnuts have sold fairly this season, though prices have not been high. Over 3000 bbls. of La. oranges have arrived from N. O. during the month, 1500 on the steamer of this week. The export price is about $6 ₹ bbl. for stock. The new peanut crop will be abundant. We quote

Apples, State, ₹ bbl., fall $1.50@1.75; winter, $1.25@1.50; mixed, $1.12@1.25; good to fair, 87c@$1.00; common open heads, 50@75c. Pears—Duchess, $6@12; Seckel, Vicars, 5@7; Lawrence, $1@6; W. Nelis, $5@7; cooking, $3@4; California, Duchess and B. D'Anjou, $4 ₹ box; B. Clairgeau, $4.50; W. Nelis and E. Beurre not yet wanted. Quinces, ₹ bbl., $8@14. Cal. Quinces, $3@4 ₹ box; Cranberries, crates, $4.62@3.00; reg. bbls., $9@10.50 for eastern prime, $8@9 for N. J. good to prime; Grapes—Catawba, ₹ lb., 8@9c.; Isabella, 6@6½c.; Cal. Tokay, $6@ 80-lb. case; Malaga and Muscat, $3@4 do.; Black Prince, $3@4. Chestnuts, ₹ bush. $3@3.50. Hickory nuts $1.50@$2.; Va., fancy, $1.50; other $1@1.40.

GRAIN.—With the same dispatches from the other side, leading to an indifferent feeling among exporters, and the moderate trade in flour, causing millers to operate sparingly, prices are a trifle lower. Sales are at $1.19 for old No. 2 Milwaukee spring; $1.17 for new No. 3 Chicago spring; new No. 3 Milwaukee spring, $1.22½@1.23; amber Kansas, $1.30; $1.18@1.27 for winter red Western. Rye has a fair inquiry at 72@73c. for Western, 86@87c. for Jersey, State and Pennsylvania. Corn has a fair export demand and is steady in price; sales at 58¾@60½c. for mixed Western, 59¾@60½c. for high mixed, nearly yellow. Oats are in pretty full supply and prices are easy; sales at 32½@33c. for mixed Western, 41@47c. for mixed State, and 48@51c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—There is an increased number of orders being closed out from the South, and the home trade is stronger, so that the increased supplies usual at this period of the year have not affected prices.

Bale hay 60c. for shipping; 70@90c. for retail qualities; clover, 50@65c.; salt, do., 55@60c. Straw quoted at 70@75c. for long rye; 55@60c. for short rye, and 45@55c. for oat.

Exports past week, 910 bales; since Jan. 1, 37,527 do. Same time last year, 33,731 do.

HIGHWINES selling at $1.12½ cash.

HONEY.—Prices are low, including new comb. We quote W. clover, 15@20c.; buckwheat, 10@14c. The California product is chiefly transhipped to London.

HOPS.—Exports for the week, 1,400 bales. The market is ruling steady on choice lots, which have a fair demand from exporters and increased call on home account. The lower grades are slow of sale and irregular in price.

New Yorks, good to choice, new	33 to 37
New Yorks, low to fair, new	25 to 32
Eastern, new	25 to 32
Yearlings	10 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	35 to 38

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 19@21c for light, 21@24c. for middle, 24@25c. for heavy, 19@21c. for good damaged.

POULTRY AND GAME.—The demand for live poultry is better, but no steadiness can be counted upon at this season. Early in the week prices ruled very low. About the only life in the trade is given by the very low grade of dressed arriving, city killers thereby having a brief prolongation of their work. We quote:

New Jersey turkeys, 13@14c. ₹ lb.; Western, 12@13c. N. J. fowls and chicks, 12@13c.; State and Penn., 10@11c.; Western, 10@11c., roosters, 8@9c. Geese, N. J., ₹ pair, $1.75@2; Western, $1.50@1.62. Ducks, N. J., ₹ pair, 11@87c.; Western, 50@65c. Live pigeons, ₹ pair, 25c.

The weather has been unfavorable for dressed stock most of the week, while the quality has run very poor. Latterly the demand has improved and prices are quite firm for good stock. A good deal of the early receipts sold at 8@9c. for turkeys, and 6@10c. for chickens. We quote:

Turkeys, N. J., 15@16c.; State, 13@17c.; Western, 13@16c. Chickens, dry-picked, 15@18c. N. J. chicks, 13@17c.; State, 12@15c.; Western, 11@16c. Ducks, N. J., 15@18c.; State, 13@17c.; Western, 13@16c.;

The game market has fluctuated considerably, owing to the varied weather, but is now rather more settled. Trade dogs not revive quickly after a showing of weather-softened birds, but easy prices will be apt to clear the market, with a few cool days. We quote:

Wild ducks, mallard, ₹ pair, 45@55c.; canvas-back, $1.00@1.25; red-heads, 60@65c.; teal and other, 25@30c. Quail, ₹ doz.; $1.75@2.50. Partridges, ₹ pair, 60@70c. Grouse, ₹ pair, 90@95c.; Hare, ₹ pair, 50@60c. Rabbits, 25@30c. Venison, whole, 10@—12c., saddles, 10@18c.; short, 13@15c. Woodcock, 10@55c.

PROVISIONS.—Mess pork is scarce for prompt delivery and some little inquiry for parcels to put upon contracts causes a sharp advance in prices. Bacon and lard have a stronger export demand. The quotations are for mess pork, $17.75 for spot, $16.25 for November, $15.75 for December, January and February. Bacon at 9@9¼c. for long clear and 9¾c. for short clear. Western steam lard at 9.95c. for spot and October, 9.82½c. for November, 9.75c. for December, and 9.82½c. for January. Tallow at 9c. for prime. Prime Western steam'ne, 10¼c. Beef hams at $19.75. Beef, barreled lots quoted at $8@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominally at $19@21 for new prime mess and $21@23 for new India mess. City extra India mess at $27.

SEED.—Clover is quiet at 15½c. Timothy is lower, with larger supplies and dull; quoted at $1.90@2.05, as to quality. Rough flax, $1.60, which is higher.

SUNDRIES.—Feathers quiet at 55@58c. for live Western; 40@50c. for mixed. Ginseng, $1.10@1.20. Cider unchanged—8c. for large packages, 10c. for kegs. Essential oils are not quotably changed.

TOBACCO.—Exporters are operating quite freely in seedleaf, but doing little in Western leaf; prices for the latter are weak.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5½@ 6	6 @ 7½
Good lugs	6½@ 7½	8 @ 9
Low leaf	8 @ 9	9½@10¾
Medium leaf	9¾@10¾	11½@13½
Good leaf	12 @13	14 @15
Fine leaf	11 @15½	15½@16½
Selections	16 @17	17 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do	32 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	5 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 5,787 bbls.; of onions, 405 do. The demand for potatoes is good, still with a large supply, a good many are selling at inside prices. Sweets continue very cheap. Onions are firm. Cabbages are firmer. Marrow squash low. Cauliflower plentiful and cheap.

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₹ bbl. $2.50@2.75. Early Rose, prime, $2.25@2.62; other, $2.12; Peerless, bulk, $2@2.25; sweet, Del. $—@2.12; Va. $1.75@2.25. Cabbages, ₹ 100, $4@7. Marrow squash, ₹ bbl., 50@75c. New Russian turnips, ₹ bush., 75c.@$1. Onions—Yellow, ₹ bbl., $1.75@2.25; white, $2.25@3.; red, $1.50@1.62. Cauliflower, ₹ bbl.; $1@2.

WOOL.—There is a very firm market; speculators have been operating, encouraged by the moderate stock and the prospective requirements of manufacturers on the temper of the goods market. Fine fleeces are hard to obtain. XX Ohio fleeces have sold at 48c., which is a further advance.

DOMESTIC.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
XXX and Picklock	47 @ 49
XX	45 @ 46
X	42 @ 44
No. 1	38 @ 40
No. 2	34 @ 37
Common	32 @ 34
Combing	47 @ 50
New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin—	
XX	34 @ 40
X	36 @ 38
No. 1	36 @ 38
No. 2	32 @ 35
Common	30 @ 33
Combing	50 @ 52
Iowa, Vermont and Illinois—	
XX	34 @ 36
X	34 @ 36
No. 1	34 @ 36
No. 2	30 @ 32
Combing	45 @ 47
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
Washed fleece	34 @ 36
Unwashed	25 @ 29
do. combing	33 @ 37

ROCHESTER, Oct. 28.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.25; white winter, $1.18@1.25. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 25@27c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 20@22c. Lard, 12@13c. Apples, bu., 35@50c. Potatoes, bu., 70@80c. Beans, ₹ bu., 80@$1.00. Mess pork, $18.00. Wool, 25@35c. Hay, $10@13. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.00@2.20; clover, $7.00@7.50. Mill feed strong at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₹ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Oct. 29, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	5,720	37	1,270	12,617	000
Forty-Eighth St.	50	20	517	12,394	41
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	18,861
Harsimus Cove	6,382	00	139	10,631	11,020
Totals this week	12,161	57	1,926	35,672	32,882
" last week	11,205	14	1,351	28,807	32,340

BEEVES.—Monday last, on a moderate run of horned cattle fresh to hand, trade was slow and the markets closed weak. Prices ranged from 6¾@10¾c. ₹ lb.; weights, 5@9½ cwt.; quality from poor to good—in general, coarse. Wednesday, trade small, the herds due not having arrived on time. Prices, 7@10c. ₹ lb.; weights, 6@8 cwt. Thursday, sales were effected at 8@11¾c.; weights, 5¾@9¼ cwt. Friday, the markets closed firm, prices having been 8@10¾c.; weights, 5@8½ cwt. From 36@38 lbs., net, has been allowed: general sales on 56@57 lbs. net. The quality of these herds was from poor to fair, with a good top. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, 6¾@8¾c. ₹ lb.; do. fed east of the Mississippi, 8¾@9c. Native steers, grass-fed, 7@9¾c.; do. part corn-fed, 9¼@10c.; grain do., 10¼@10¾c. Dry cows, 7½@8½c. Oxen, 7@9c. Bulls, live weight, 2½@4c.

MILCH COWS.—Trade improved in fair quality cows, a better supply of which has been on hand. Poor quality cows generally held on sale. Fifteen cows sold at $55@65 ₹ head: 12 at $60@75; 5 at $70@81; 3 at $30@40; 4 at $45@50—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade fair in smooth quality veals at 7½@10¼c. ₹ lb. General sales at 8@9¼c. Quotations almost exclusively from Central New York, with 50 head of Canada veals sold at 8½c. Coarse quality calves sold at 4@5½c. ₹ lb., also at $1@9.50 ₹ head. Canada calves, 4@5½c.; Western do., 5c.; State, 4¾@5½c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—On a heavy run of sheep and lambs trade has been slow at reduced rates. Sheep off ¼c. ₹ lb.; lambs, ½c. Monday, sheep sold at 4@6¼c.; lambs, 5@6¾c. Wednesday, sheep, 4@5¼c.; lambs, 5@6¾c. Thursday, sheep, 3½@5c.; lambs, 5@6c. Friday, the markets closed dull; sheep, 4@5½c.; lambs, 6@6½c. The quality of these flocks as above quoted, was from coarse to good. State sheep sold at 4@5c.; Ohio, 4½@5½c.; Canada do., 5@5c.; Illinois, 4½@4¾c.; Indiana, 5@5½c.; Texan, 4½@4¾c.; Kentucky, 5½c. State lambs, 5@6¾c.; Canada, 5½@5½c.; Bucks, State, Canadian and Western, 4@4½c.

HOGS.—Nearly 9 carloads of hogs have been sold on live weight during the past week. Rough State hogs, 5¾c.; ordinary State, 6@6½c.; Ohio, 6¾@6¾c. City dressed weak at 6¾@7½c., with selected market pigs at 8c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade shady in inferior quality animals. Nineteen head poor quality light harness horses sold at $52@92 ₹ head; 22 do., $90@99 ₹ head; 11 do., $65@85; 32 ordinary quality, $110@125; 20 do., $119@135; 2 pairs family carriage horses, $275@400 ₹ pair; 3 pairs do., $300@500; 4 pairs stylish do., aged, $450@800 ₹ pair; 1 pair do., warranted sound, 6 years old, $1,300; 8 head brougham horses, quality coarse, $270@295 ₹ head; 11 head of roadsters, with fair trotting action, $200@300 ₹ head—not warranted sound; 3 ponies broke to saddle and harness, $90@115 ₹ head; 1 pair choice quality heavy draft horses, $600.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	10¾@11
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¼@ 9¾	9¼@ 9¾
Poorest	8¾@ 9	7 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9¼	9 @ 9¾

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Oct. 23, 1876.

THE market has been dull and sales slow this week. About 4,000 boxes of farm dairy were on delivery and sales were made at 10¾@12¾c., the bulk going at 11@12c.

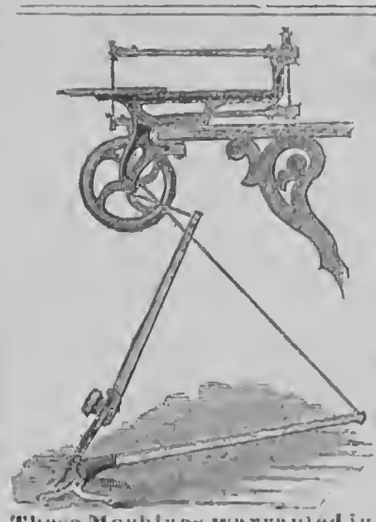
Factory cheese has been very slow of sale, the reduction in price from last week causing many to hold over for another week. White cheese is about ½c. lower than colored cheese, and sales have been difficult to be made, as the supply is now greater than the demand. The offerings from the factories aggregated fully 9,000 boxes, no more than a quarter of which changed hands. We quote sales at 12¾c., 13@13¼c. The bulk of the sales this week may be quoted at 13c.

Butter comes forward freely, but prices are lower. Firm dairy in Welsh tubs brought 27@28c, and "fancy lots," together with creamery, sold for 28@29c.

The weather is much warmer than last week, but grass is scanty both in pastures and meadows, and the herds are yielding a much less quantity of milk than for the same time last year.

Dairymen were very much disappointed at the tone of the market this week, both for butter and cheese, expecting an advance rather than a decline in prices. Buyers claim that the price for cheese must range at about 13c., while dairymen look for at least one cent more money. We shall look forward to next week's market with interest.

New Advertisements.



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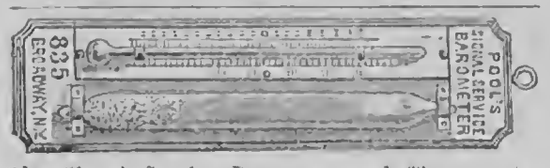

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Will detect and indicate correctly any change in the weather 12 to 24 hours in advance. Saves FARMERS 50 times its cost every season. Sent, express paid, to any address, on receipt of $2. Send Money Order or Registered Letter. AGENTS WANTED. Send stamp for Circular. H. W. POOL & CO., 835 Broadway, New York, manufacturers of Novelties, Notions, Jewelry, and General Purchasing Agents. *Pool & Co. are honorable and reliable.—Boston Daily Post.*

BY THE CORTLAND PLATFORM SPRING WAGON.

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HALLADAY'S STANDARD.
Perfectly Self-Regulating. The Best, Cheapest, most Durable and Popular Mill made. Manufactured under the immediate supervision of Inventor
22 YEARS.
$3,000,000
worth now in use.
Send for Illustrated Catalogue and Price List.
U. S. WIND ENGINE & PUMP CO.,
BATAVIA, ILL.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

OHIO'S total vote was 631,065.

THE favorite dish in Egypt—Che-ops.

BOYS who run for Congress—Two pages.

THE latest novelty in Paris is perfumed hats.

WYOMING antelope are being slaughtered solely for their hides.

PERHAPS Commodore Vanderbilt means to lecture this winter.

WILLIAM EVERETT has resigned his professorship in Harvard.

EX-GOVERNOR GASTON of Massachusetts, has gone to Wisconsin.

THE Big Bonanza mill consumes 30,000 pounds of quicksilver a day.

A DARRAGH young man wrote a letter to his girl and took it himself.

DR. FULLER-WALKER has a position on the editorial staff of the Graphic.

"A. D. F."—You are wrong. An apiary is not a place for keeping monkeys.

DOM PEDRO'S book on the United States will be published about January 1.

SLADE, the spiritualist, is thin, while his business partner, Simmons, is fat.

IN Paris natural hair and short curls will come into fashion with cold weather.

GEN. McDOWELL, who is located at San Francisco, is coming East for his family.

A CALIFORNIA man has cleared $6,000 this year from eight acres of blackberries.

GOUGH has scored his 7,500th lecture, and has never yet struck a pin in his coat tails.

THE next best thing to being the lawyer of a relative of James Lick is to be the relative.

THE Shah's son, who is twenty-two, is to have a teacher of French, a lady, sent from Paris.

"MISS PARKE P. PERKINS of Virginia," was chosen Queen of the Centennial tournament.

COLUMBUS was the first man to establish an iron foundry in America. He cast an anchor.

THERE is a Western rumor that Hugh McCulloch will be Tilden's Secretary of the Treasury.

ADMIRAL PORTER is said to have received more than $100,000 in prize money during the past year.

WHEN a man becomes a millionaire in California he buys a hotel or a theater for a plaything.

MR. GEORGE W. CHILDS will give a reception in Philadelphia soon to Mr. Walter of the London Times.

MR. BOWLES translates Disraeli's motto "*Forti nihil difficile*," as "Nothing stumps a man of spunk."

SPILKINS aptly suggests that the fish that furnishes the best quality of midnight oil is the lamp-ray.

A FRIEND of M. de Girardin describes him as "a man who rises every day at 4 o'clock to make enemies."

THE St. Louis Times wants Walt Whitman to write a play for Matt Morgan's company o "living art" statues.

BOSTON POST:—"The Canada thistle is becoming acclimated on the Pacific slope. Thistles make the farmers swear."

P. S. GILMORE has concluded a new engagement for five years as leader of the Twenty-second New York Regiment Band.

MARSHAL BAZAINE is poor, but has a rich mother-in-law. His wife's fortune was sunk in meeting the expenses of his trial.

THE big prairie farmer, Alexander, has given up direct tillage and gone to swine-raising. He says the pen is mightier than the sward.

PATTI JOSEPHS, the actress who fell from a window in Philadelphia and was killed, was a sister of the Rev. Dr. Lorimer of Boston.

THE claim of Mary Ann Foster upon the Singer estate has been compromised for $75,000. The whole value of the property is $14,000,000.

MISS ALCOTT calls the Transcendentalists inspired lunatics. She ought to know, for her father was the biggest frog in that pond.

IT was feared lately that the vision of Senator Conkling's right eye would be permanently injured by the trouble he has had with it.

AN Albany woman sues her father to recover $5,000 for causing the death of her husband by striking him a fatal blow during a quarrel.

THEY kept up the Centennial Tournament Ball until long after mid-night. In fact, it's just as well to admit that it was an all-Knight affair.

WHEN Mr. Mulligan was wanted to go to Washington he was found in the barber's chair. Possibly Mr. Blaine may escape by a close shave.

HENRY WARD BEECHER says:—"An impudent clerk can do almost as much injury to his store as the neglect of the proprietor to advertise his stock."

A LOWER CANADIAN court has decided that reporters are not bound to give up the names of informants on whose statements they base their articles.

A TWO-MILLIONAIRE bishop in the Mormon Church, Hunter by name, is visiting in the East. There are vacancies in his household for a few more seals.

DAVID KNITTSL, a Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, miser, died last week of starvation, leaving property to the amount of $50,000, of which $20,000 was in cash.

WHAT Ireland says on the Eastern War question—"Yes, by the Powers."

MR. RAY MOSS of Kentucky, has just been acquitted of shooting with intent to kill. Under these circumstances no feelings of Ray-Moss need worry him at all.

THE swiftest vessel in the British Navy is the Shah. She carries 26 guns, and to be consistent with her name, should load them only with "Persian Powder."

OLE BULL is beaming in Boston; John Bull doesn't want any Turkey at his thanksgiving feast this year; Sitting Bull still refuses to repent and wear gum shoes.

THE editorial "we" is a sadly abused pronoun. For instance a country editor remarks: "We have 43,000 clergymen, 6,209 journalists and 875,000 domestic servants.

"DANIEL DERONDA" has an extraordinary sale among the educated Jews in this country as well as England. Its picture of a Jewish home is said to be marvelously photographic.

FROM PUNCH:—"Philanthropist—'There's a penny for you, my lad. What will you do with it?' Sweeper—What, all this at once! I'll toss yer for it, double or quits!'"

JEREMIAH HARRINGTON, who was said to be one hundred and five years old, was buried at Springfield Massachusetts, last Sunday. Four generations of his posterity attended the funeral.

MR. TUPPER is a short, chubby gentleman of sixty-five or thereabouts, dressed rather like a clergyman, with a plump, ruddy face, mild eyes, a head of fine silver curls and abundant full beard.

WHEN Prof. Huxley is ill he takes a large dose of molecular physics, but when he is under the weather Dr. McCosh at once sends for a metaphysician, who prescribes a nice soft syllogistic cataplasm.

MR. HENRY B. BLACKWELL of the Woman's Journal, says if Harvard should, next year, invite women to enter her classes, one hundred New England girls would avail themselves of the opportunity.

HENRY MOREHOUSE, the distinguished evangelist and Bible reader, is now in Philadelphia, reading to very small audiences. The Bible is the only old thing at the Centennial that fails to attract attention.

AFTER all his years of hard work, night and day as a journalist, John F. Cleveland left no property. It is reflecting upon such things as this that sustains the rising young editors of the hour in their arduous labors.

THE Caribou silver mine, in Colorado, which was once sold to a Dutch company for $3,000,000 has been purchased by Congressman Chaffee for $60,000, including mills and reduction works that cost double that amount.

THE Chicago Tribune thinks Mark Twain can never be a humorist again till he loses all his money. Mark will hardly go into training if he can help it. He would rather be a dramatist, and take for his share 101 per cent.

SOME one remarked the other day to General Toombs that they had seen an item in a newspaper stating that he had joined the Methodist Church, when the General replied, "Yes I knew it was a lie as soon as I saw it."

M. DE MOLINERI beheld at the tenth mile underground in the Mammoth Cave the dreadful advertisement "Gargling Oil." "Immediately," he says, "I looked on all sides for 'Sozodont.' 'Sozodont' was not there! Thank God!"

A YOUNG man in Chicago sang "Come and Kiss Me, Little Sweetheart," under the window of his girl's house, supposing that she was leaning out; but it was her father, as the young man well understood when a pail of water was emptied on him.

DARWIN will be seventy-nine years old on the 12th of February next, and on that day an album will be presented to him which will contain the portraits of all the principal monkeys—that is to say, of the principal Darwinian scientists of Europe.

CHICAGO sells five million dollars worth of jewelry and San Francisco gets away with ten million dollars worth of drinks, of all grades, every year. The aggregate annual sale of testaments and hymn-books in the two cities reaches $175.27.

THE old Court House in Rappahannock, Va., in which John Waller, Robert Ware, John Shackleford and James Greenwood were in 1774 arraigned for preaching the Gospel contrary to the law of the colony, is to be converted into a Baptist Church.

IT is remarkable that at a time when the depreciation of silver is causing universal anxiety, China is simply devoid of coin. Interest has run up to 36 per cent., and money is hardly obtainable at that rate in the Shanghai market. The hoarding of coin is carried on extensively throughout the Celestial Empire.

A NEW YORK paper offers, as premiums for its subscribers, an annual cutting of the hair or quarterly vaccination free, and to those who pay three years' subscription in advance, a coffin at death, or, when it is preferred, half a dozen silver plates. There can be no doubt as to the truth of this, for it is printed in a Paris newspaper.

THE editor of a country paper wrote one evening:—"To-day is the anniversary of the death of Louis Philippe." When the printer's proof came up, the name read "Sam Phillips." The editor wrote on the margin, "Who the deuce is Sam Phillips?" Next morning the article read:—"To-day is the anniversary of the death of Sam Phillips. Who the deuce is Sam Phillips?"

Implements and Machinery.

Centennial Year of American Independence,

SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

We will call and see you next July and assist at your CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. By the same opportunity bring you samples of the Celebrated Watches, manufactured by our country-men, the MESSRS. BOREL & COURVOISIER of Neuchatel, for INSPECTION and EXHIBITION. These Watches are favorably known throughout the U. S., having been sold by our local agents in almost every City, Town and Village the past ten years. Their reputation for accurate performance is universally acknowledged. They are manufactured in Gold and Silver Cases, Stem and Key Winders. These Watches have superior quality of Nickel Movements, Chronometer Balances, Breguet Hair Springs, Tempered, Hardened and Isochronised for R. R. use, fine Ruby Jeweled, set in Clinton, and warranted to perform with the regularity and accuracy of a chronometer. Ask your Watchmaker to see them before purchasing those of other makers, as we have been authorized to sell them at a reduction from former prices.

QUINCHE & KRUGLER,
SALESROOM: 15 MAIDEN LANE, N. Y., Up Stairs.
Only Wholesale Agents for the Manufacturers. Jeweler wanted to act as Agents.

Sold for One-half THE PRICE of ordinary Sleighs of equal style and finish; while they are stronger than any wood knee Cutter CAN BE MADE and no heavier in weight. Knees are all malleable iron, material best that can be found anywhere; finish first-class, style most fashionable. Have some responsible Hardware or Implement Dealers order one for you, who are authorized to WARRANT THEM to their customers IN EVERY RESPECT.
A. A. ABBOTT & CO., cor. Beach & Sedgwick sts., CHICAGO.

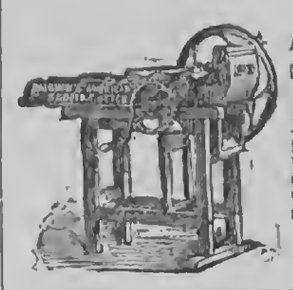
The Best are the Cheapest.
COLLINS & CO.'S
CAST CAST-STEEL PLOWS,
Greatly Improved and Reduced in Price.
For particulars, send your address to
COLLINS & CO.,
212 Water St., New York City.

CIDER PRESSES AND GRATERS.
BOOMER & BOSCHERT PRESS CO., Syracuse, N.Y.

SEE JOHNSTON HARVESTERS AT CENTENNIAL.

UNION CORN HUSKER.
SELLS AT SIGHT.
No cold or sore fingers. Can be used with or without mittens. Last a lifetime.—Taken 6 Premiums.—One sample 25 cts.; 4 for 75 cts.
CITY NOVELTY CO.,
108 South 8th St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.
Say where you saw this advertisem't.

$15 Shot Gun
A double barrel gun, bar or front action locks; warranted genuine twist barrels, and a good shooter, OR NO SALE; with Flask, Pouch and Wad-cutter, for $15. Can be sent C. O. D., with privilege to examine before paying bill. Send stamp for Circular to P. POWELL & SON, 238 Main Street, Cincinnati, O.



BALDWIN'S
American Fodder Cutter
GRANTED HIGHEST MEDAL OF MERIT AND DIPLOMA AT THE CENTENNIAL!
Best in the market. Don't purchase any other kind until you have seen and examined this. Send for Circular, containing Description and Price List
C. PIERPONT & CO.,
Manufacturers,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

THE "VIBRATOR" THRESHER IS KING OF ALL.
HIGGANUM M'F'G COMPANY,
Manufacturers of Agricultural Implements,
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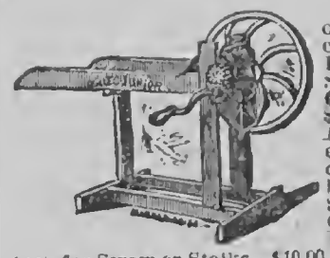

Do you want for your own use, or the Agency for the best Self-Feeding Hay Straw and Stalk Cutter, in America? $16.00 Size by *HAND-POWER*, cuts 30 bushels per hour; $19 size cuts by *POWER*, 180 bush. per hour; larger sizes, 2 tons per hour. Or the best Iron Handle Lever Cutter, for Straw or Stalks. $10.00 size cuts 20 to 30 bushels per hour. Machines delivered at Cincinnati, Ohio, or Chicopee Falls, Mass., as desired. Need not be paid for till tried on the farm and found satisfactory. Allowance made for freight. Circular free. WARREN GALE, Chicopee Falls, Mass.

Miscellaneous.

EMPLOYMENT.
ANY PERSON of ordinary intelligence can earn a living by canvassing for The Illustrated Weekly. Experience not necessary—only requisites, as in all successful business, industry and energy. For particulars, address *Chas. Clucas & Co.*, 14 Warren St., N.Y.

20 FANCY CARDS, no two alike, with name, 10c; 20 Acquaintance Cards, 4 styles, no name, 10c.; 25 Snowflake Cards, 5 tints, with name, 20c.; 30 Patent Embossed Cards, with name, 20c.; post-paid.
J. B. HUSTED, Nassau, N. Y.

B. T. BABBITT'S BABY SOAP.

Only the purest vegetable oils used in its manufacture. No artificial and deceptive odors to cover common and deleterious ingredients. UNRIVALLED FOR THE TOILET AND THE BATH. Used in bathing children, will prevent eruptions, keep the skin soft and smooth, contribute to health, and prevent disease. Does away with all powders, chalk or other emollients. A certain preventive of *chafing, itching, &c.*, in babies, the causes of half the crying and crossness of babyhood. Worth ten times its cost to every mother and family in Christendom; packed in boxes of 12 cakes, of 6 ozs. each, and sent free to any address on receipt of $2.50. Address B. T. Babbitt, NEW YORK CITY.
For Sale by all Druggists.

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

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The periodicals in this list are offered at a large reduction from their rates, with a view to accomodating our friends who wish to subscribe for

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER

in conjunction with any other paper herein named,

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in this list, and the RURAL, it is only necessary to send your address in full, and the money with the order, when they will be sent. POSTAGE PREPAID. Subscriptions may begin at any time.

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of the RURAL only will be sent on application. For copies of other publications address the publisher of the paper wanted.

You can remit by Draft, P. O. Money Order, or Registered Letter, at *our risk*; otherwise at your own. If there is no Agent for the RURAL in your locality, please become one by FORMING A CLUB. It will pay

Now please note that we will furnish the RURAL NEW-YORKER one year and either of the periodicals named below, postage prepaid, on receipt of the price specified:

Monthly Magazines.	Price of the Two.	We will furnish the two for
Arthur's Home Magazine	$5 15	$4 30
*Demorest's Fashion Magazine	5 65	4 75
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Peterson's Ladies' Magazine	4 65	4 00
Scribner's Monthly	6 65	5 70
Science of Health	4 65	4 00
St. Nicholas	5 65	4 90
Weeklies [LITERARY]		
Appleton's Journal	6 65	5 65
Danbury News	4 75	4 00
Fireside Companion	5 65	4 85
Frank Leslie's Boys and Girls	5 15	4 25
" " Lady's Journal	6 65	5 65
Harper's Weekly	6 65	5 65
" Bazar	6 65	5 65
*Hearth and Home	5 15	4 35
Waverly Magazine	7 65	6 50
[RELIGIOUS.]		
Independent	5 85	5 20
Illustrated Christian Weekly	5 15	4 50
Methodist	5 65	4 50
Presbyterian	5 30	4 65
Presbyterian (John Knox Engraving)	5 90	5 40
The Advance	5 65	4 90
Watchman and Reflector	5 85	4 85
[MISCELLANEOUS.]		
New York Witness	4 15	3 40
" " Sun	3 85	3 35
" " Evening Post	4 15	3 40
" " Tribune	4 65	4 00
" " Nation	7 85	6 85
Chicago Times	4 65	3 90
" Inter-Ocean	4 50	3 60
Cincinnati Commercial	4 80	3 80
" Enquirer	4 65	3 90
" Gazette	4 65	3 90
" Times and Hand-Book	4 75	3 90
Detroit Free Press	4 65	3 90
" Tribune	4 65	3 90
*Louisville Courier-Journal	4 65	3 90
Springfield Republican	4 65	3 95
St. Louis Times	4 15	3 50
Scientific American	5 85	5 20
Toledo Blade	4 65	3 95
Toronto Globe	4 65	4 00

The papers marked with a * give to each subscriber as follows:—DEMOREST'S, a choice of two Chromos; "The Captive Child" or "The Old Oaken Bucket;" HEARTH AND HOME offers 12 Etchings; the COURIER-JOURNAL gives a coupon for their Distribution of presents

Address
RURAL PUBLISHING CO.,
78 Duane Street, New York City.

The Rural is a very good present to send to a friend, and it pleasantly reminds the recipient of the donor fifty-two times a year—this year fifty-three times. Any *subscriber* can send it to a relative or friend as a present, at our lowest club rate—only $2.00, including postage.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

Mrs. T. J. Louck, Lowville, Lewis Co., N. Y.—I inclose a leaf and blossom taken from a plant that came up beside a tea plant that a lady brought from the Smithsonian Institute this summer. Will you please tell the name in the RURAL NEW-YORKER and oblige a reader?

It is *Chenopodium ambrosioides*, var. *anthelminticum*. It grows in almost all parts of the United States, but is more abundant in the southern parts. It is commonly known as Jerusalem Oak or Wormseed. The seeds are very small, and are possessed of an oil upon which their properties as an anthelmintic depend.

Frazer.—You may sow the seeds of Gladioli now in pots. Rest them for a month in spring and plant in the open ground. The corms will then average, in size, small peas. Again pot them in the fall after resting. In this way many will bloom the second year. You must have a sunny exposure. The temperature, if above freezing, matters little at night. Merely cover the winged seeds with light soil and drain the pots well. Seeds of *Hibiscus Syriacus* may be planted in the same way. They will bloom next Fall. The seeds germinate readily. They will not generally reproduce the parent flower.

J. B. T., Queens.—We have tried both Rosendale and Portland cement and find less difference in quality than in price.

H. J. Fuller, Castele, N. Y.—Can you name the inclosed wild vine? *Chiogenes hispidula.* Creeping Snowberry.

W. B. T., Indianopolis, Ind.—I have a raspberry patch, on which a large number of "sets" which I wish to preserve to the latest possible period next spring, for the purpose of planting on plot where are now strawberry plants, which are to be used in the spring for the formation of a new plantation. How can I best keep them over? I am desirous of heavily mulching my raspberries this fall, hence the necessity of removing the young plants. An answer in the inquirers corner will very much oblige.

Take up the young canes which you desire to use next spring so soon as the frosts have killed the leaves. Shorten the canes to about one foot long, then heel in the plants for winter. If you desire to retard growth in spring, select some shady spot for heeling in—for instance, on the north side of some building or board fence. Toward spring, when the ground is hard frozen, the plants may be covered with coarse hay, straw or leaves, and this will, in a measure, prevent thawing out very early; but if buried in a shady spot, the buds will not be likely to push until after your ground has been cleared of strawberry plants next spring, provided the transplanting is done early.

Albert Hatch.—We cannot account for the change in the color of your colt, but such freaks of nature do sometimes occur without offering us any clue to causes.

C. B. A.—I have just transplanted a dozen fruit trees averaging six feet high and three feet in diameter. Will it be necessary to stake them? If so, what is the simplest and most effectual method? ANS.—Yes, it will. The simplest and, indeed, one of the best methods we know of is as follows:—Drive a stake diagonally into the side of the hole at such an angle that it will rest against the stem a little below the lowermost branch. This stake will then form with the stem and ground a right-angled triangle—the stem being the perpendicular, the ground the base, and the stake the hypothenuse. Use a thick line or straw bandage to secure the stake to the tree, passing it between them so as to avoid chafing, and tie securely and closely. In this way one stake may be made to answer the purpose of two, three or four, as are sometimes employed.

Mrs. James Wilson, Bawlings Station.—I inclose you leaf and bloom of a plant which ought to have been forwarded some time ago, but I risk them yet, as I am anxious to ascertain their name. The root is similar to an Irish Potato, and is stored away dry every winter until the third year, when it blooms. It grows to the hight of 15 or 18 inches and throws out a single flower stem, tall and slender. The flowers are a delicate yellow and come out, one after the other, like a Tube-rose. It is in the 2d order, 5th class, in Botany, and comes nearer to Amaryllis or Atamasco Lily than anything I can find, though it differs. The root was brought from a greenhouse in Nashville, Tenn. The lady who brought it forgot its name, and it seems to be a stranger to all here who have seen it. Will a Tube-rose bloom the second time from the same root? Please answer through your paper. ANS. The flower is *Gesneria.* The Tube-rose bulb will not bloom twice.

M. W., Poquonoc Bridge.—Inclosed find seed for name. It was sent to me for Climbing Pea. Is it a perennial? I thought I knew all the peas, but have seen nothing of this sort before. Are Portulacas anywhere known by the name of Rose Moss. ANS.—It is a perennial. Portulaca is sometimes known by the name of Rose Moss. Envelope received.

N. P. Nelson, Princeton, Minn.—I want to know the best way of raising poultry. Please let me know if you have any good, responsible book on the subject, and oblige.

ANS.—We suggest to our correspondent that he watch the columns of the RURAL NEW-YORKER. We are giving especial attention to this important and, as we think, much neglected branch of farm economy. Wright's Practical Poultry Keeper is as trustworthy and instructive as any authority we know of.

E. A. Crawford.—The reason that salted meats cause scurvy is that the salt abstracts the potash, and if potash is sprinkled on the food as one sprinkles salt, the difficulty is averted.

Dry Goods, &c.

LORD & TAYLOR

ARE OFFERING

CAMEL'S HAIR OVERSKIRTS AND BASQUES, ALL IN THE LATEST STYLES, $4.75; TRIMMED WITH BRAID, $9.50; TRIMMED WITH SILK AND BRAID, $12.50; TRIMMED AND EMBROIDERED, $13.50.

BASKET CLOTH OVERSKIRTS AND BASQUES, FROM $19 TO $25.

CAMEL'S HAIR POLONAISE, FROM $13.50 TO $23.

BLACK CAMEL'S HAIR POLONAISE, TRIMMED WITH FRINGE, $30 TO $38.

COLORED CASHMERE SUITS, $15, $17, $20, AND $22.

COLORED CASHMERE SUITS, SILK SLEEVES, $25.

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COLORED SERGE SUITS, from $22 to $30; SILK-TRIMMED, $28 to $39.

COLORED SATEEN SUITS, SILK-TRIMMED, $32 to $42.

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BLACK CASHMERE SUITS, FROM $17; SILK-TRIMMED, $25; WITH SILK UNDERSKIRT, $50.

BLACK ALPACA SUITS, FROM $9.50.

ALSO.

A LARGE AND ELEGANT ASSORTMENT OF SWISS SUITS FOR EVENING WEAR.

ALSO,

BLACK SILK SUITS FROM $45.
COLORED SILK SUITS FROM $48.
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CATALOGUES OF LADIES', MISSES', AND CHILDREN'S FURNISHING GOODS SENT FREE ON APPLICATION TO ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

SILKS.

$500,000 Worth of Colored and Black Silks at Last Year's Prices.

THE LARGEST, CHEAPEST AND BEST SELECTED STOCK IN THE CITY.

The latest colors and shadings in COLORED SILKS for EVENING, DINNER and STREET WEAR, from $1.25 and $2 per yard and upward.

BLACK SILKS of the leading makes—Gainet, Bellon, Bonnet, Cachemire Royale, the Lord & Taylor family brand (so favorably received heretofore), and the Cachmire de Grande—60 inches wide—for cloaks.

Guivernand's INDESTRUCTIBLE CACHEMIRE-FINISHED BLACK SILK, for street wear, at

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$1 60, worth $2 00.
$1 85, worth $2 25.
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THESE GOODS WILL BE SOLD AT FULLY 20 PER CENT. LESS THAN THE SAME QUALITIES CAN NOW BE IMPORTED.

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BROADWAY AND TWENTIETH STREET. GRAND, CHRYSTIE & FORSYTH STS., N. Y.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper* and in Premiums to Agents.

Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

HONEY LOCUST SEED.—Under 10 pounds, 50 cents per pound; 100 pounds, $25.
ROBERT CRISWELL, Brooklyn, L. I.

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Wit and Humor.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN.

SOME years ago, being in Philadelphia, John Cockerill of Ohio, now of the Cincinnati Enquirer, received an introduction to a prominent divine of that city. The reverend gentleman invited him to attend his church on a certain Sunday, which invitation was accepted. They entered the sacred edifice together. It was one of the first churches in the city, and its members were fashionable and aristocratic in the extreme. The minister put John in an elaborately furnished pew, well to the front. John nestled comfortably down into one corner of the same, and looked about as interested and contented as a toad under a cabbage leaf.

After a while the owner of the pew arrived, and at once gave signs of intense disgust and indignation at the presence of the interloper. He looked at John, looked at the pew; and scowled magnificently, and finally, after fumbling through his pockets some time, drew forth a card and wrote on it with a pencil: "This is my seat, sir?" and with an air of loftiest contempt, tossed it over to John. The latter took it up and read it, with that lamblike meekness peculiar to himself, and then, with the most delightful coolness, wrote in reply: "It's a devilish good seat. What rent do you pay?" and tossed the card back to its owner.

The latter took it, looked at it with the most profound astonishment a minute or two, and then a broad grin overspread his countenance. He evidently enjoyed the coolness and brass of his new acquaintance, and when service was over he approached John, apologized for his rudeness, invited him to his house, gave him the best he had, and treated him with the greatest respect and consideration during his sojourn in the city.—*New Haven Register.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

ON the channel, where the voyage produces its usual effect, an economical lady cries:

"What a pity! A breakfast that they charged so much for, too!"

MR. BOWLES has got the patent for his new tin hen. He fills the thing with oyster shells, boiled starch and extract of carrot, winds her up, puts her on a nest, and she will lay an egg every day for a week. He has a way of keeping her from work on Sundays.

A CLOSE-FISTED man invited a friend to dinner, and provided only two mutton-chops. Upon removing the cover he said, "My friend, we have a Lenten entertainment; you see your dinner before you." Taking the two chops upon his own plate, his friend replied, "Yes, but where is your dinner?"

A WITNESS for the prosecution in a murder case was thus questioned by his Honor: "You say you saw the man shot at and killed?" "Yes, sir." "You said, I think, that the charge struck the deceased on his body, between the diaphraghm and the duodenum?" "No, sir; I didn't say no such thing. I said he was shot between the hog-pen and the wood-house."

Two joyous citizens meet a third.

"Hullo, Marius! We are just off for a picnic. You'll come?"

"I can't my dear fellow; the fact is, I am ruined, and have no more money to spend on pleasures."

"That makes no difference. Come along, anyway. If you have no money, why you can watch us."

WHEN Louis XV., the Well-Beloved, was passing through a town in the north of France, his reception being of the most enthusiastic, an old woman was suddenly seen to dart through the ranks of the military escort, crying: "Let me see him! Let me see him!"

The king stopped his carriage, addressed a few kind words to her, then continued his progress.

Then the old woman flung her hands into the air and, with all the rapture of pious Simeon, cried:

"Thank Heaven! I have seen him! And now I don't care how soon——He dies!!"

"WATER! WATER! WATER!"—Gen. Des Pallieris, just dead, during the campaign in Cochin-China had a native servant, very intelligent, very faithful and very lazy. After a long day's march the General was awakened at midnight by the moaning of his servant, who, stretched on a mat at the entrance of the tent, was sighing to himself: "Water! Water! Water!"

The General calls out: "Hallo there! Quick! Stir yourself!"

The servant approaches painfully.

"Get me a glass of water, and be quick about it."

The servant departs, grumbling, but returns speedily with it.

"Here is the water, General."

"Then drink it yourself and let me sleep."

GALLANT.

URCHIN.—"Hey Sally pop on yer hat, and rap yer self up warm, an I'll take yer fer a drive in *my dog-cart.*"

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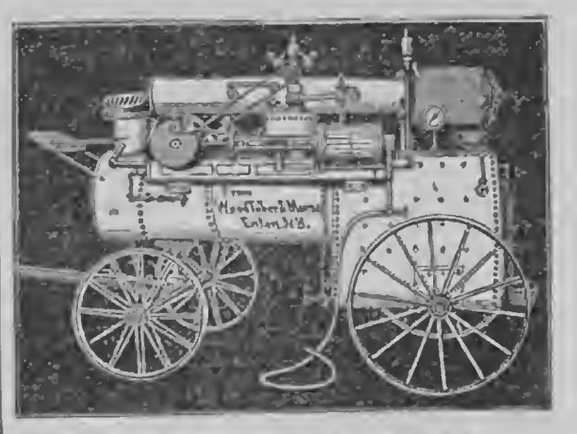

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VOL. XXXIV. No. 20.
WHOLE No. 1398.

NEW YORK CITY, NOV. 11, 1876.

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The Centennial.

REVIEW OF THE RESULTS ATTAINED IN A CENTURY OF NATIONAL LIFE.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 9, 1876.

ONE day intervenes before the close of the Centennial Exhibition, and a review of the results attained in a century of national life is appropriate.

We see ourselves as others see us when we note what our foreign visitors have to say concerning the national display at Philadelphia. The English, Belgians and Russians express themselves as astounded at our progress in the Mechanic Arts. Our Corliss Engine and other mechanical works were a revelation to them. A German engineer exclaimed in broken English, "Ef you do dis t'ing in one hundert year, what you do in two hundert? You *fly!*" emphasizing his words with a very comical use of his arms. The French see nothing to admire in either our works or institutions, and one of the Commissioners of this volatile nation, gathering his ideas at second-hand, has even gone so far as to publish a letter in which he slurringly generalizes on our progress and descends to the impertinence of reflecting on the virtue of our women. We are great enough as a nation, however, to smile with pity on such petty malice. It may be safely surmised that the foreign exhibitors, as a rule, have made money and will leave our shores with very comfortably-filled purses.

English observers have become justly alarmed at our progress and freely prognosticate that Americans will meet Britain on terms of equality in the markets of the world, and that nothing but the utmost vigilance will prevent us from gaining the ascendancy. This is praise indeed. The influence of the Exhibition on foreign peoples can hardly be over-estimated. Their representatives came here with the idea that the traces of the bison would be found in the environs of the City of Brotherly Love; that our fashionable dance was the War Dance, and that æsthetically, we were about as crude as we were in the days of Irving's Knickerbockers. Acting on this supposition, they did not send to our shores their finest wares, but discriminated in favor of gew-gaws that would be likely, they thought, to please our savage tastes. The English, Russians, Spanish and Japanese are worthy exceptions, however. The Germans, with one or two exceptions, send an invoice of meretricious stuff. In their purchases Americans have discriminated with taste, rejecting, in most instances, such articles as the exhibitors supposed would appeal most strongly to their barbaric instincts. On the other hand, our Art exhibits have been freely patronized, one firm of silversmiths aggregating $8,000 worth of European orders. It is conceded that some of our Art work is fully equal to that of older nations, and as far as our Farm Implements and Mechanics are concerned, we are second to none and surpass most.

In an enterprise of such magnitude there must be more or less dissatisfaction, but the management has been generally most efficient and satisfactory. The Exhibition opened on the day advertised, something quite the reverse of the Vienna Fair, and since then has pursued the even tenor of its way, with but few drawbacks. Some of our exhibits have been scandalously mismanaged, as the Butter and Cheese Building, for instance, which has been fully shown up in the columns of this journal. The *fiasco* of the field trials, which were shorn of any permanent value by the combined action of certain agricultural implement manufacturing firms, has also been exploited in the RURAL'S columns; but the Commission was only partly blamable in this affair, having been weak enough to yield to a powerful influence that was antagonistic to the scheme.

The awards have also been a source of discontent. They were certainly distributed with a liberal hand, but I must confess that in my opinion but little discrimination was practiced. Much of the blame is chargable to the Jurors. Many instances can be cited where the Judges displayed little judgment and less perspicuity. As a rule, however, the worthy exhibits were duly honored, and the Committee of Appeals will impartially consider the cases of those who have grievances to redress.

The attendance has averaged nearly one hundred thousand visitors daily, Sundays excepted, and it is a matter of pride to reflect that the success of the Exhibition has mainly depended on Americans, the proportion of foreign visitors being in no wise as numerous as is chronicled at other International Fairs. I am glad to be able to state this fact, as nothing could be stronger evidence of the universal intelligence of our people. They came to see, and, especially the women, saw intelligently. They will have gained data that will enable them hereafter to take a much clearer and more just view of the relative merits of peoples and things. The Exhibition is nothing, in fact, if not educational. Speaking of Education, queer facts are elicited by a careful examination of this subject. The United States compares favorably with most nations and surpasses many, while Russia, which was presumed to be semi-barbaric, makes quite the most systematic and excellent exposition of any of her foreign rivals. The South American governments show creditable work, and almost every country sends specimens of the Art work of their pupils that is highly gratifying.

As a general thing, England and her colonies make the largest and best-regulated display, the colonies excelling in natural productions, while the mother country exhibits furniture, artistic pottery, and works in silver that have no peer. Italy, considering what that country can do and has done at other Exhibitions, makes a meager and disappointing exhibit. Most of the articles in the Main Building are mediocre, and some do not rise to the level of notice. Norway and Sweden have done admirably in all departments, their silver-work and pottery being particularly noteworthy. Russia's exhibit is made under the auspices of the Russian Government, and for variety, excellence of arrangement and beauty, it cannot be too highly praised. I will say nothing concerning Germany. France is represented by a congress of small manufacturers, who came here apparently for the sole purpose of driving bargains. In the entire exhibit there is hardly the name of a representative firm or manufacturer. The Government is not represented at all in the proper sense. The Empire of Brazil does admirably. The exhibit is consistent, and explanatory of the country and its resources. The same cannot be said of China. In the whole display of the Celestials there is absolutely nothing that gives the faintest clue to the manners, customs, scheme of government, public works, education, etc., of this highly conservative nation. Curiously-carved contrivances, and fantastic images and vases, that are marvels of inlaid work, about comprise the exhibit. Their conservatism is further illustrated, perhaps, in the fact that their Minister to this country has purchased, to carry home, presumably, the cream of their offerings.

The U. S. Government has done credit to the country, while the Pavilion of our sisters, mothers and sweethearts, just opposite, would have been admirable if it had figured in a ladies' church fair instead of

CHINESE EXHIBIT, MAIN BUILDING.

an international fair. Our mineral and agricultural resources, and the means of working them, have been splendidly exemplified, while our machinery is justly a matter of pride. It would transcend the limits of a letter and be a repetition of what is already familiar to our readers to give a list of the novel inventions brought together in Machinery Hall. No World's Fair has been so characteristic or deeply impressed with local coloring as has this. It is distinctly and essentially American, and we are proud of it.

Reverting to minor details, it is unfortunately true that the bearing of our petty officials has not been marked with the courtesy that the public had a right to expect. I mean, of course, the foreign public. We are accustomed to impertinence and thieving habits in public functionaries, but the subjects of effete monarchies command politeness from their servants and visit crime with condign punishment. It is alleged, with proofs to substantiate the assertions, that our officers have acted outrageously and purloined from the very places they were detailed to protect. Even the Commissioners have compromised their positions by determining that absolutely no visitors should avail themselves of the Exhibition on Sunday, and allowing favored parties, titled persons, etc., to roam at will through the buildings on these days, by special invitation.

The fun of the Fair has been plentiful and continuous, frequently at the expense of the management, as when a man bought a $2.50 dog, which he entered at the Bench Show merely to gain an exhibitor's pass, entitling him to dead-head privileges, and upon which animal the sapient Judges conferred the honor of *two* medals! But perhaps the funniest incident to some will be the fact that an enterprise which was considered, commercially, a failure will not only pay expenses, but a dividend to stockholders?

Altogether the great American nation has, with its usual liberality, produced the greatest Show upon earth (so far), and the American Eagle can complacently scream for another century, while we go on converting Territories into States and swelling our population until *E Pluribus Unum* itself will have to be stretched into a larger phrase to adequately express our magnitude.

YOUNG RURAL.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE engraving on our first page represents the Chinese section in the Main Building. This nation exhibits, mainly, rare stuffs, curious carvings and grotesque pottery. The principal curiosity is a bedstead that is intricately carved and elaborately embellished.

The tribulations of the Centennial visitor are humorously depicted on page 312. There are those whose experience of Philadelphia lodgings would lead them to assert that the sketch is not overdrawn.

The center page engravings (page 317) are, first, the exhibit of the Argentine Confederation, and second, the Centennial Depot of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Confederation makes a ghastly display of well-preserved mummies, as well as hides, matting, stone-ware and utensils. The Railroad Depot is noteworthy mainly for the fact that, perhaps, no single depot in the country has accommodated as many passengers, and yet such is the admirable system by which the road is conducted that it is rare for a passenger to board the wrong train.

WESTMINSTER HOTEL,
PHILADELPHIA, NOV. 2, 1876.

THE poultry from England have arrived, and are, in point of numbers, insignificant, but the collection holds within its ranks some birds of rare excellence. The Pigeon Show, in its entirety, is good, as I have already said; but J. H. Cryer of Southport, Eng., has on exhibition some Owls, Barbs, Antwerps and Carriers of wonderful excellence, and which have already been awarded two hundred prizes. The English black-breasted games, though sea-worn and frayed in plumage after their long voyage, are yet most noble in appearance. J. C. Cooper of Limerick, Ireland, makes a fine exhibit.

From Canada the water-fowls please me most. One pair of Camden Geese are actual, snowy beauties, and near them stand a superb pair of Toulouse birds. The Ronen and Aylesbury Ducks are likewise excellent. While on the subject of Ducks, I will say one word regarding the Pekin variety: As an ornamental water-fowl for those who like white ducks on their ponds and rivers, the Pekin Duck is charming. Even when he leaves the water he is pretty, being well-feathered and squarely-built, to the eye; but strip him for the spit and he cannot compare, even for a moment, with his lovely rival from Old England. Canada also exhibits several pairs of Muscovy Ducks. I never could admire them. They are coarse and show the Tartar blood. The White Leghorns from Canada are unusually strong, well-developed birds. All of those shown have double-rose combs, and are, in my opinion, of much value. Among the Asiatics, the Cinnamon, Partridge and black varieties of the Cochin China family are really superb.

I have no more to add by way of commendation, as the remainder of the British and Canadian exhibit is of but ordinary quality and of small proportion. The meagerness of this part of the Exhibition is to be regretted, and numbers of American fanciers who had come from long distances to see and exchange ideas and varieties have been much disappointed. The applications through the British Commission in reference to the Centennial Poultry Show were voluminous, but, unfortunately for the expectants, they have failed to arrive.

M. M.

Dairy Husbandry.

COOKING THE FODDER FOR DAIRY STOCK.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us that he has been advised to adopt the practice of cooking food for his dairy stock the coming winter. He desires to know "if there are any objections that have been urged against the practice, and if so, what they are."

While the cooking of food for stock has been warmly urged by various writers in this country for a number of years past, the practice does not seem to be received with especial favor by farmers, or at least it has not spread to the extent that we should naturally suppose it would if all the advantages claimed for such feeding can be relied upon. What seems most remarkable in connection with this practice is that it has never found general favor in England, where cattle foods are comparatively dear, and where the economy of feeding is made a study by scientific and practical minds. The English feeder prefers to cut his straw and coarse fodder into chaff, mingling with it pulped turnips and allowing the mass to slightly ferment before feeding. It is stated by English authorities that cooked food is liable to induce various diseases in young stock, heifers being attacked with black-leg, black-quarter, speed, etc., while older cattle suffer from splenetic apoplexy, sheep from broxy, and horses from albuminous nephrites, particularly when cooked food has been given. These states of fatal disease arise from the amount absorbed, which constitutes blood poison. It is said "that in no place do we find these conditions so common as where cooked food is given and collateral states of neglect and mismanagement occur." The chief argument against the employment of cooked food as an exclusive diet may be presented as follows:

Thorough mastication of food is recommended and generally admitted as all-important to the well-being of stock. But cooked food rarely calls forth the necessary process, and no amount of cooking will add more nutrition to the food. Mastication is essential for two purposes—to break down the food and saturate it with an important fluid, the saliva, that fluid effecting important changes in the nutritive elements to fit them to undergo subsequent actions by other juices of the digestive organs. It is not possible to supplant these secretions by any process of preparation by cooking or the addition of fluids. Nature has supplied vegetable food for every season, and only requires of man that he should observe the peculiarities of each and give the benefits to animals as far as possible. Again, says one English authority, it is a decided mistake to cook the food of animals when it is sound and sweet. The mistake, so-called, of supplying the dry food in winter is more apparent than real. The exercise of common sense is called for in order to regulate the practice with suitable roots and proper shelter and warmth, more than is usually done.

"Among working horses the effects of cooked food are something marvelous. Colic and indigestion generally, with disease of the liver and kidneys, is of common and fatal occurrence. It may be more easily understood to say that such preparations are quite unnatural, as the digestive organs are constituted to act upon the most nutritive grains. It is also commonly believed that animals, especially horses, pass much away by the bowels that ought to be digested and appropriated to the system. This question requires more philosophical research before it can be definitely and accurately settled; but we can go so far as to say that when the masticatory organs are in good order and digestion perfect, a proper allowance of food is thoroughly assimilated. *Apparently whole grains* may be found in the excrement, but upon close examination they will turn out to be the *shells only*, which, by the action of the digestive juices, have been divested of their internal nutrient parts. Some persons look upon digestion as a process in which everything must be utilized for the building up of tissue. They forget that it is quite as essential that other substances should be present—these non-nutritious in themselves, but by their constitution and presence giving bulk to the rest and assisting in their general reduction in the stomach of the higher animals, exactly as sand and pebbles act in the crops of birds.

"The success of feeding our domestic animals does not lie in the way of cooking food and in the administration of condiments, but in a judicious management generally, in which the peculiar features of organization, physiology, geology, meteorology and hygrometrics play their respective parts; and agricultural success will never be certain until these branches of science are more definitely acknowledged."

These are the arguments urged against the general employment of cooked food for cows, sheep and horses. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that a considerable saving in the expense of fodder can be effected at times in making up a ration of straw and ground grain, and cooking the same to render it soft and palatable. In cooking food for stock, the cost of apparatus, fuel and labor must be taken into account, and when hay and grain are cheap, the saving from cooking does not meet the extra expense of preparing the food. The question is one which has been before the public for a long time, and much has been written upon it—more, perhaps, in its favor than against. The fact, however, that many persons who have tried cooking food for dairy stock have soon abandoned the practice and returned to the old method is significant. Hence we should advise a limited trial at first, always keeping a record of the exact cost and comparing it with the expense of uncooked food.

It may be proper to state in conclusion, that in our observation of herds wintered on cooked food the animals appeared to be healthy and there was entire freedom from the diseases to which allusion has been made. The cooked food, however, was used for comparatively short periods. What the effect might be from a long-continued use of such food, we are not able to say.

MILK AS AN ABSORBENT.

ACCORDING to the extensive investigations of Dr. BATLARD, contagious germs resist an undetermined amount of heat. The hot water of the laundry has not prevented the propagation of scarlet-fever poison from infected clothes to those from healthy sources: these, on being returned to their owners, have propagated the malady. It will be seen, then, how important it is that dairy utensils be cleansed with water known to be pure and free from any corrupting influence of sewage or filthy surroundings. As cold weather approaches, a practice, quite too common in the country, occurs of setting milk for cream in the kitchen pantry; indeed, not unfrequently, we have seen it placed on temporary racks directly in the kitchen, where all the steam from cooking, as well as the breath and emanations of those living in the room, are absorbed by the milk. This state of things we have observed more especially in cheese-making districts, where, from the habit of sending milk to the factory, there is no proper place provided for setting it in the fall for butter making. And many are not aware that any harm comes from such practice, and it is to such that these remarks are addressed.

In regard to the absorptive properties of milk a very interesting statement ir given by Mr. LAWSON TAIT, F. R. S., of Birmingham, Eng., the leading points of which we present. Being engaged with others in examining the conditions attending the spread of the foot and mouth disease at the farm attached to the West-Riding Lunatic Asylum, under the superintendence of the distinguished Dr. CRICHTON BROWNE, a test was made, among other experiments, of diseased milk. It was found to have a particularly disagreeable, smoky taste, which was at first attributed to the disease of the cows. It was found, however, that the smoky taste was not confined to the milk yielded by the affected animals, and Dr. BROWNE, on being questioned, affirmed that he had sometimes had occasion to send away milk and cream from his table which was unfit for use on account of its smoky taste. A little further examination showed that this flavoring was due to the recent asphalting which had been done near the milk-house. It occurred then to Mr. TAIT that if milk acquired this tarry flavor from the absorption of the exhalations of asphalting, it was just possible it might also acquire other things which were not so innocuous, and experiments were made which led to the belief that milk, when brought into contact with diseased persons, may become an extremely dangerous agent for the spread of disease.

Again, by inclosing fresh milk under bell-jars with tar, turpentine, assafœtida, fæces, urine, etc., it was found that in most instances the milk became impregnated with the smell, and sometimes with that intensely disagreeable sensation which we know as the "taste like the smell" of the substance employed. The degree to which this was acquired seemed to be not so much in proportion to the amount either of milk or of infectant substances employed, as to the amount and quality of the cream which rose to the surface of the milk, the oleagenous molecules seeming to act as the menstruum of contagion. This is not unlikely, when we remember that the best solvent for nearly all odoriferous principles is oil.

This statement of Mr. TAIT is corroborated by facts coming under our own experience and observation; and we deem it important at this time to call the attention of dairymen to the subject, because we know there are many who are in the habit, during cool weather, of setting milk in the living room or in apartments contiguous thereto, which receive the odors and emanations of the kitchen. And this practice becomes much more reprehensible in cases where sickness occurs in the family. Sickness among children is by no means uncommon, and we are quite sure that if the absorptive qualities of milk were better understood and appreciated, the practice to which we have referred would not be so prevalent. That contagious diseases are thus spread we have no doubt, and it is incumbent upon dairymen to take every precaution possible to keep milk out of the reach of disagreeable odors, or of anything by which it may be contaminated.

A DAIRYMAN'S VIEW OE THE BUTTER MARKET.

THE American Grocer evidently is not an "Inflationist," nor a believer in persistently holding on to an article for the purpose of forcing up the market price, judging from the following criticism of a dairyman's letter to his "home paper:"

"A misguided Granger writes to the Utica Herald from New York, where he was stopping temporarily on his way to Philadelphia, that 'the past season has been a very trying one to dairymen, owing to the low prices realized for their products; and as the weather has been unfavorable, giving an excuse to buyers to depress prices and reclaim for unmerchantable goods, we have worked almost for nothing, as in most instances deductions have been unwarrantably claimed. But the heat is now over, and as the season has been unusually dry and the make not much more than half the usual quantity, as also all farmers are aware, I would like to know why we should not have full value for our product. For the purpose of examining the prospects, on my way to Philadelphia, I am stopping in New York, and find the advance we all have reason to expect checked by artificial means. The same power that works to reduce prices in midsummer is now used to keep farmers from realizing a fair compensation.

"'While butter retains its natural advance, cheese, controlled and managed by a few men, not only is reported dull, but is quoted lower here, and this, as I have reason to believe, through artificial means. It is also reported lower in Europe. We should have fair compensation for services, and in order to have it we must be controlled by the natural laws of supply and demand, without submitting to the dictates of combinations of men. We now have in the country a quality superior to any that has gone forward, therefore we should have an advance in proportion, and the stock on hand should be far more valuable than what has been taken from us by buyers, which they told us, when buying, was mere trash.

"'I understand that parties have come here from Europe and, on account of the drought there, invested largely in dairy products, and are now realizing large profits therefrom. I would ask in conclusion that when, as now, artificial means are used to depress the market for the purpose of gathering in our stock on hand, would it not be well for all dairymen to stand firm and not dispose of stock? They are able to hold until a fair compensation offers. There is no risk with one-half of the usual stock and prices comparatively low.'

"To our city readers," says the Grocer, "who are familiar with the course of this market for dairy products, the above will read like a joke. The dairymen will find that the New York market is governed by the laws of supply and demand, and all the merchants in the city, combined, are not strong enough to either keep goods down or put them up when the relations of supply and demand influence the market otherwise. If the writer of the above letter had possessed sufficient discernment to detect a hole in a ladder, he would have discovered that the New York market was far from being strong on its merits, and if he has not already seen it, he will be pretty certain to learn before next spring that the worst mistake the dairymen can make this season will be to 'stand firm and not dispose of stock.' He may think there is no risk at the present 'low prices,' and the results of his reasoning may prove satisfactory to the interests he represents. But the dealers in butter will find it more profitable to pursue a conservative policy and allow the dairyman to hold his stock until he is perfectly satisfied to let it go."

SWISS METHOD OF MAKING WHEY BUTTER.

SOME of the Swiss cheese-makers in this country who are employed at our factories manufacture Whey Butter as follows:

The whey is drawn directly from the curds into a zinc vat, or into a vat having a metal bottom. This vat is 15 inches high, 3 feet wide, and of convenient length. It is set in a wooden vat, with space between the two for cold water. When the whey is drawn in the upper vat, a handful of salt is added to every 10 gallons of whey. During the first two hours the mass is thoroughly stirred from the bottom every 15 minutes; it is then left to stand quiet for about 24 hours, when it is skimmed. The cream is

churned at a temperature of about 58°, and care is taken to have the temperature at as near this point as possible. It is churned until the butter forms in granules about the size of buckwheat kernels, when it is left at rest for about 5 minutes; then the buttermilk is turned off and cold water poured into the churn. The butter should become hard before stirring much; then rinse with cold water until it runs off clear.

The butter is now gathered together, the water poured out, and salt added at the rate of one pound of salt for every 18 pounds of butter. It is now set aside in a cool place until next day, when it is worked and packed in the same way as other butter.

We have seen very nice Whey Butter made in this manner, and when fresh it is quite palatable and fully equal to the best grades of Cream Butter. Whey Butter, of course, can never be expected to have the fine aroma and smooth taste of the finest grades of Cream Butter, but when well made, it passes current for ordinary Cream Butter. It should be consumed while fresh, as it does not keep so well as butter from cream.

FALL-MAKE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The fall-make of Butter and Cheese throughout the central counties of New York is likely to be very much less than the average of former years. The severe drought and its long continuance not only cut off feed in pastures, but it seriously affected the growth of the after-feed of meadows, which is largely relied upon by dairymen for keeping up the flow of milk during the fall season.

We have reports from dairymen in several counties, and they all speak of the unusually low yield of milk through September and October. The recent heavy frosts have, of course, injured what little grass remains, and we cannot hope for either a large quantity or the best quality of dairy grass from this time out. As was remarked by a leading dairyman of Herkimer Co., yesterday, Oct, 23:—"The dairy season is about over and we are now getting only the driblets, which should commence fully a month later." It is a question now with dairymen as to how much the short crop will affect prices. The September and October cheese is admitted to be of very fine quality, and the impression prevails among the factories generally that it will fully command 14 cents and upward before navigation closes.

The Poultry Yard.

CAN A POULTRY FARM PAY?

A correspondent of the London Journal of Horticulture gives us his opinion in regard to the above subject which may interest some of the many poultry raisers who read the Rural New Yorker:

"This question has been fully answered in the affirmative by our neighbors the French. Hitherto with us the attempts have ended more or less in failure; but is that a reason, if a proper method is adopted and due care and supervision exercised, that we should not succeed in the future? From the accounts I have before me of the French poultry farms I gather that if we follow their example and breed for sale, just as ordinary farmers do their sheep and oxen, there is no apparent reason why a fairly remunerative profit should not be realized by poultry farmers in this country. My belief is that all attempts hitherto in Great Britain have been undertaken and carried out on a fallacious basis. The mania for prize-winning and fancy exhibiting has helped to bar success. Again, too expensive and elaborate buildings, &c., have been another cause of failure. Look to some of our most successful breeders: ordinary wooden houses have been enough for them, and their birds have everywhere gained commendation. Let, therefore, economy and real, not elaborate, efficiency be our aim.

1st, Let there be plenty of space in the open runs. The poultry will find for themselves much good and wholesome natural food, and so save extra feeding. 2nd, Let the home feeding be regular and liberal, but not excessive: your birds then will always be in good health and condition. 3rd, Whether you purpose producing eggs or meat for the table, choose suitable breeds for each object. Do not, however, use too many different breeds, as that involves complications in your houses, yards, and accommodation generally. 4th, Let your personal supervision be constant, and employ only the best and most trustworthy assistants.

I have lately read with pleasure, in Mr. L. Wright's book on poultry, of the Bellair (French) farm, that if intending poultry farmers here took this as their model, and only improved upon it so far as their own experience and that of celebrated poultry breeders suggested, they would soon have a sound system to work on and success be assured.

To take another line of argument. A farm, say, of fifteen or twenty acres, will only support a certain number of sheep or oxen according to its fertility of soil; all other feeding stuff, oil cake, &c., will have to be paid for extra, and that in high proportion. Calculate out the product of this in beef and mutton for the market. So many oxen or sheep of such and such weight can be raised, but what can we say of poultry? In this case so much does not depend on the quality and richness of soil; and a greater weight of poultry at less cost, as I purpose showing in my next article, will be raised than could be of beef or mutton.

Poultry, it is true, are liable to disease, so are sheep and oxen. With twenty acres, too, if properly managed nearly every requisite might be raised for the stock kept. Could this be done in ordinary farming? Byres, cattle-steading, granaries, would in the case of an ordinary farm be on a much larger and more expensive scale than need be for a poultry farm.

There is only one question that seems to me of vital importance now left for consideration—Is there a good and conveniently situated market for your poultry, easy of access, and where fair wholesale prices can be obtained? If so, I can see no reason to doubt success.

I have for the last eight or ten years raised poultry in a large way for my own consumption (selling only at times the surplus), frequently having three or four hundred birds young and old in my yards, and averaging over five thousand eggs per annum, with always a fair supply during winter from young pullets. The direct gain in money was comparatively small, inasmuch as my runs were contracted, so entailing extra feeding, and little produce went to market, and that not of the best description; but indirectly my butcher's book was greatly relieved, and I always had a pleasant variety of food for the table. I bred Houdans, Brahmas, Chinese and common Geese, Peruvian and common Ducks.

As to the question of breeding for actual profit, I have not hitherto tried it; but so convinced am I from my past experience as an amateur that it will or should pay that I intend shortly, in conjunction with a friend of mine, to undertake poultry farming on a fairly large scale, beginning moderately at first, and eventually, if successful, extending our sphere of action.

So far I have given you and your readers my ideas and experience, hoping that others will take up this question and give us the benefit of their advice: in any case they must look upon the question in the proper light—viz., profit and loss.

AMOUNT OF FOOD A FOWL WILL CONSUME.

V. S. Hoboken says: "I have seen in the Rural a statement to the effect that the several varieties of fowls consume the same amount of food. As I am a beginner in keeping fowls this is a matter of importance to me. Please answer the following questions: 1st. Will it cost me only as much grain to feed one of the smaller breeds, as it will to keep a Brahma? 2d. Which variety of non-sitters do you consider best? 3d. Which variety would you advise me to keep in my "city" yard?"

Answer. The statement in the Rural to which V. S. refers was that of a correspondent, and he will see by reference to the article that we did not agree with the gentleman's views. It is a question that can be accurately answered, and we have now on our desk a letter giving at length some practical views on the subject. Pressure of matter keeps it out of our columns for the present. Meanwhile, we answer his questions in a general way. 1st. Hamburgs, Leghorns, and other "smaller" varieties eat *much less* than Brahmas. 3d. The Asiatics, Brahmas or Cochins bear confinement well, and for V. S. we suggest that he keep a half dozen Brahma hens and a cock, together with a trio of Game Bantams. The latter will always thrive with larger fowls, being active and keeping out of their way, picking up the "leavings," and not cross-breeding with their big neighbors.

If V. S. is "setting up an egg basket" in a small way, he can try a dozen Leghorns or Hamburgs instead of Brahmas, but he must bear in mind that they must be kept scrupulously clean in so small a place. But if he merely wishes the pleasure of feeding a few good looking fowls in his back yard, and trying the temper of his laundress by having a few birds walk over "the week's wash" every Monday, we think Brahmas will answer his purpose as well as any other.

In fact the great cry raised against Brahmas is, that they are enormous eaters—even making allowance for the return of eggs and meat. 2d. Both Hamburgs and Leghorns are famous layers and non-sitters. The Leghorns mature earlier than the Hamburgs, but the Hamburgs outlay the Leghorns, both in the number of eggs and in the total weight of the year's laying.

T. W. W.

Sheep Husbandry.

MORE SHEEP WANTED.

From almost every quarter of the country we hear complaints of sheep being unprofitable at the present prices of wool and mutton. In several instances we have noticed articles going the rounds of the press headed. "What shall we do with our sheep" and other similar titles which are likely to cause those engaged in sheep husbandry to be alarmed at the future prospects of their very important industry.

Now, it is an old saying that "straws show which way the wind blows," and we think there are some straws connected with the wool interest which may be watched in order that the farmer may see whether it is advisable for him to kill off, or keep his flocks. Wool is a staple article always in demand, and for which a certain amount of money can be obtained, and the only question for our farmers to decide is whether they can produce it with profit, not by basing their calculations upon the lowest price, but upon the average for a series of years. As the prices of all staple articles are liable to fluctuations the only safe guide in their production is to base all calculations of profit upon averages, and in doing this with wool we think there are very good and substantial reasons to be hopeful for the future. One straw which points to a hopeful future is the fact that we have not as yet been able to produce all the wool required for our own use in this country.

Last year we paid foreign countries some $50,000,000 for woolen goods, and about $11,000,000 for wool, and to make up this deficiency we need some twenty million more sheep. If our farmers complain of the low price of wool, what can they say of it in countries whence the deficiency in our own markets is made up. Cannot we produce wool as cheap as the foreign producer can land it in our markets, with all the extra expense to which he is compelled to submit before placing it in competition with the home raised article? If not, why not? We have as cheap lands as any nation, and as good a climate for sheep husbandry as can be found on the globe, consequently, there must be something wrong either in the breeds, or management of flocks, which makes wool-growing unprofitable, if it is really so, as frequently asserted.

But we are inclined to believe that sheep husbandry is as profitable as any other branch of agriculture, and although there may be some "bad years" still upon the whole, raising wool and mutton will yield as large returns for the capital and labor invested as the production of beef, pork, or any of the ordinary farm crops.

Raising wool is not so exhaustive to land as the raising of grain, and the difference should always be placed to the credit of the wool crop, which, it is to be feared, many of our farmers fail to do in making up their accounts. The balance sheet, if it shows only the cash part of a farmer's operation with sheep, and especially if it does not extend over a period of more than one or two years, will not give a fair exhibit of either profit or loss, for fields may have been enriched to such an extent that they will give a large increase in the yield of grain, grass, or other crops for several years after the sheep have been removed.

Taking this favorable view of the subject we would not advise farmers to sell or otherwise dispose of their flocks, but endeavor to improve and increase the number. It may be necessary in some instances to find a more economical method of keeping and feeding, but this can readily be done by studying the systems practiced by the most successful breeders in this and other countries.

THE BEST SHEEP FOR THE FARMERS.

The Kentucky Live Stock Record in speaking of the best breed of sheep for farmers says:

The best sheep for a farmer to keep are those that yield the heaviest fleeces and the greatest number of pounds of meat. The scrub sheep will yield from three to six pounds of wool per head, while Merinos will range between ten and twenty pounds, and thoroughbred Cotswolds more. Why is it that farmers do not raise the sheep which will give these heavy fleeces? Then as to meat, the fine sheep produce an enormous amount of flesh, and do not eat any more than a scrub. But besides these facts, the fine sheep do not only yield larger fleeces per head, but the wool is of superior quality. The same is true of the flesh of fine sheep in comparison with scrubs.

Southdowns, for instance, are the finest mutton in the world, always commanding an extra price—a flesh which princes desire—while the fleece is medium. The Shropshires stand next in meat quality, and are next to Cotswolds in fleeces. The profits of these breeds are very great in times of ordinary prosperity, and under all circumstances it is best for the farmer to breed them, because they pay better—the grand result which is the supreme object of the farmer—the highest possible remuneration for his capital and labor.

And all this concerning sheep is true of fine breeds of cattle, horses, hogs and poultry. In the face of these indisputable facts the mass of the people should not handle scrub stock, and entertain an ignorant opposition to fine breeds. There is one supreme reason for this. The mass of people do not read papers devoted to live-stock interests, and are wholly ignorant of the vast progress that is being made by the more intelligent ranks of farmers. There are sections of Kentucky where the improved breeds of stock are almost unknown. It is only a small number of men who are alive to it, and keep themselves, thoroughly posted in regard to the progress of agricultural science and the breeding of the best animals, while the masses remain in the old ruts, following after the customs of a hundred years ago. If farmers would elevate their calling and render it more remunerative, they must put themselves in living connection with the intellectual spirit of the age.

The Herdsman.

ANIMALS KILLED BY EATING WHEAT EARS.

The recent damp, rainy weather has in various ways interfered with the health and thriving of the live stock of the farm. The soft, rapidly-grown, succulent grass and other green fodder has not now so much nutriment as could be desired, says the North British Agriculturist, and unless supplemented with nutritive dry food cannot generally produce either growth or fat. As the nights get long and cold, and the lodgings bad, the deficient nourishment of the grass becomes more noticeable, and young cattle or sheep kept upon the pastures, by-and-by suffer from anæmia or bloodlessness, get pot-bellied, and die from diarrhœa or from some form of dropsical disease, which in many parts of the country is aptly enough called "the water." But the wet, rank grasses, unless cautiously used, induce more direct and immediate gastric derangement, especially hoven, colic, and diarrhœa. Cattle and sheep turned on luxuriant clovers when wet contribute large numbers of hoven cases, while such damp, fomentescible food increases the list of those attacks of inflamed bowels and weed now prevailing among indifferently managed farm houses. Last week we noticed the frequency of abortion in cattle—the result of the grasses becoming ergoted by the continued moisture of the past six weeks, while similar conditions probably account for cases of red water which are reported to occur in various parts of the country.

The stock on many arable lands have also suffered from the dripping autumn. Considerable sickness and some mortality—all perfectly preventible—have in many quarters resulted from animals being thoughtlessly turned on to the wet stubbles, and greedily eating the damp swollen ears, especially of wheat. Some horses and many colts treated to a run on the stubbles, which the rains have often prevented being raked as carefully as usual, have been attacked with colic, and where wheat has been partaken of, large numbers have suffered from laminitis. Cattle and sheep turned on to stubbles, and gorging themselves with the sodden wheat ears have become tympanitic, colicked, and have sometimes died within twenty-four hours.

Here is a typical case of the mischief effected among a choice flock of 120 ewes indulged in a few hours' run over an unraked and ungleaned wheat stubble. On a damp morning, about eight, the ewes were allowed to roam the stubble; about three in the afternoon they were returned to the old pasture from which they had been removed in the morning. Nothing amiss was observable that evening; but next morning about half the ewes were restless, pained, pawing and scratching with their forefeet, rumination suspended, the belly overful, the bowels confined, some straining considerably. Tympanitus and dullness increased, and five sheep died shortly after noon, and about twenty hours after being placed in the fatal stubble. For another day fresh cases, although of a milder character, continued to occur, and half a dozen of the first patients died. In the sheep opened, the rumen was distended with the swollen heads of wheat, which were only slightly softened or changed. Very little either of the grain, chaff, or straw had got beyond the first stomach. In two cases the cuticular coat of the stomach was readily peeled off and disclosed underneath patches of congestion; but excepting these patches, which were not noticed in all cases, no congestion or inflammation was discovered in the digestive canal, and all the other organs were healthy.

The treatment adopted consisted in placing the affected animals in a yard where they had no solid food, allowing them as much boiled linseed gruel as they would take, giving 5 or 6 ounces of linseed oil, mixed with gruel, and administered in gruel or beer every two hours, about a dram each of ammonia, carbonate and spirit. This stimulant treatment appears to have given relief, and had it been adopted earlier might have saved some of the eleven sheep lost. In all such cases it is unwise to give large or reiterated doses of purgative medicine; one or about two doses of mixed linseed and castor oil are much safer and equally effectual; solid food should be interdicted until rumination is established and the bowels regularly opened. Soft, sloppy messes assist the action of the oils, while frequent small doses of stimulants brace up the digestive organs to their work of getting rid of the indigestible matters.

These cases should warn agriculturists against turning their stock on the stubbles, particularly if there is much grain left, or it has got wet and growing. Especial caution is requisite when first the animals are turned out, as they are ap more greedily to devour the unaccustomed food

The Garden.

THE GREEN PROLIFIC CUCUMBER.

We did and do ridicule the assumption that the Green Prolific Cucumber, fifty years ago, was produced from a cross between the Green Cluster and Long Green, the progeny of which was again crossed with the White Spine. Who knows this? If Dr. Hexamer knows it, we will accept his statement to that effect and hasten to withdraw, any slight we may have cast upon its origin. Mere surmises, however, as to an origin so definite and complicated are in our humble opinion deserving only of ridicule.

"Why anyone should try to ridicule the introduction of a new Cucumber any more than that of the Trophy Tomato or Snowflake Potato is not apparent."

We did not "try to ridicule" anything of the kind. There is no part of the article referred to that justifies this remark. We do not purchase seeds of novelties, furnish the land and labor necessary to plant and cultivate them with any other object than that of ascertaining their merits or demerits. That high prices should be asked for meritorious novelties is right. It is a partial reward to him who has, at infinite pains and years of toil, it may be, produced them. But that high prices should be paid by many for all the worthless novelties that are advertised in superlative terms, is wrong, and if a single individual or corporation will take it upon himself or itself to test their real worth and to render impartial reports, the community is benefited; and it is this benefit that it is our aim to work wherever and in so far as the Rural's influence extends.

"But it is certainly not the province of a journalist to run down a new thing after one careless and imperfect experiment." There was but "one" experiment with the Green Prolific;—we said *that* in our article. But we did not say that it was "careless and imperfect." How did Dr. Hexamer find that out? All are not possessed of his well known skill in the cultivation of Cucumbers and other garden vegetables; few are interested to the same extent. But if not possessed of all his skill, are one's experiments necessarily "careless and imperfect?" Suppose that he cultivated a given plant in his own grounds with all the care that an easily cultivated plant might require. Would he feel justified in drawing *any* conclusions therefrom? If so, would he hesitate to state those conclusions suitably qualified? This is our case. We cultivated the Green Prolific with more care, we think it may be said, than is usually bestowed upon Cucumbers and we recorded the results of the trial as they appeared to us, without knowing or caring who were specially interested in the Green Prolific any more than in the Khiva or Russian Netted, Tailby's Hybrid or Swan's Neck, all of which were alluded to in the same article.

"It is certainly not the province of a journalist to run down a new thing after one careless and imperfect experiment. We grant it. Nor is it the province of any fair-minded person to assume that, because the results of others' experiments accord not with his views, the experiments were "careless and imperfect."

Finally, let us say that we find, since writing the article upon Cucumbers, above referred to, that the Green Prolific therein spoken of is, in the estimation of many who have tried it, all that Dr. Hexamer claims for it. As the grounds of the R. N. Y. are not so extensive as to include every variety of soil and climate, the failure or success of any particular plant should not be considered as evidence for or against it, except for localities similarly conditioned. The specimens of Cucumbers sent by Dr. Hexamer were so badly smashed that we could tell nothing about them.

DIOSCOREA BATATA.

I read in the Rural New Yorker, Aug. 5, 1876 an article on the *Dioscorea Batatas* or Chinese Yam. It is true that at first the difficulty of gathering the roots (growing so deep in the earth), gave to this plant very little interest as an agricultural plant, or as we say in France "*Le grande Culture.*"

But allow me to add to the article of your honorable correspondent that "at The Jardin d'acclimation near Alger (Algerie), after several years of culture, the Chinese Yam produced many varieties with roots or tubers perfectly round.

So the first objection may not exist now, and I believe this plant worthy of the attention of farmers in America for new experiments.

If you judge these lines interesting to your readers you can publish them, not as a rectification to the article of the 5th of August, but as throwing additional light in regard to the *Dioscorea Batatas.* Emanuel Harcy,
(Late Student at the Jardin des Plantes of Paris).

We have heard of these globose tubered Dioscorea for the past ten years but up to the present time have not been able to procure one. If our correspondent can put us in the way of obtaining even a single tuber, he will do ourselves and readers a great favor.—Ed. Rural.

A note in the London Garden says that a gentleman in Bolbec, in France, has raised a black Spanish Radish, which measures three feet long without the leaves.

CENTENNIAL ACCOMMODATIONS.

The Vineyard.

CALIFORNIA GRAPES AND RAISINS.

A reporter for the San Francisco Call has been making visits to some of the best vineyards of the State, and from his account we condense the following, as it gives some interesting information in regard to the value of the foreign varieties of grapes in California.

UVA LARGA.

All the authorities agree that the best raisin grapes belong to the Muscatel family, which includes a considerable number of varieties, all resembling more or less the Muscat of Alexandria. A variety of this group, utilized quite extensively for raisin-making in Spain, is the Uva Larga, which was brought to this State, we believe, by Mr. W. A. Sanders, who considers it the best raisin grape. It is a long, white variety, of which Busby writes as follows: "This variety is also employed at Malaga and its environs in making raisins. It is called Larga from its long shape, the berries being 10 lines in length and only 6½ in thickness It is a free bearer, and is said to make a good mixture with the Pedro Ximenes for wine." In another place the same author, writing of the vineyards in the vicinity of Malaga, says: "There are three distinct sorts of raisins. First, the Muscatel, which are the finest, and are always packed in boxes of 25 pounds, and half and quarter boxes, containing respectively the half and quarter of that quantity. Second, the Bloom raisins. These are prepared in a manner in every respect similar to the Muscatel, but from a different grape—a very long grape, called in the country Uva Larga. These are also generally packed in boxes, but sometimes in casks. Those in boxes are also called 'bunch raisins;' the others are generally of an inferior quality, and separate from the stalks. Third, the Lexia raisins, which are packed in casks or grass mats called 'frails.' These raisins are of an inferior kind, and require to be dipped in lye (lexia) of wood ashes before drying." In order to illustrate the difference in the quality of the three kinds, he gives the prices at which they are sold: "When Muscatels are 40 reals or $2 a box of 25 pounds, Blooms are about 30 reals, and Lexias only from 24 to 28 reals per quintal of 100 pounds." He adds, in regard to the Muscatel Gordo Blanco, that it does not succeed in the interior, and, therefore, that all the Muscatel raisins are made within from two to four leagues of the coast. The Lexia raisins, which are used for puddings, etc., are made in the interior.

MALAGA RAISIN.

Mr. West, in an article published in the Fresno Expositor, says: "This variety has proved to be an excellent bearer, very sure to produce a crop. It is a sweet, pulpy grape, of not very decided flavor. The raisins will not equal the Muscatels in flavor, but are very good. They can be produced at my place at a much less price than the former."

MUSCAT OF ALEXANDRIA.

This is undoubtedly the most extensively cultivated raisin grape in the State, at the present time, and in an enumeration of varieties, therefore, it deserves more than a passing notice. The grape is too well known to require description. It is of good size, pulpy, and makes a good-flavored raisin. The objections urged against it are its large seeds and thick skin, making it long in curing, and also its liability to blight in setting. Mr. West says it is a poor bearer with him, giving but four tons to the acre, while in locations better suited to it, the yield is double that quantity. Mr. Busby says of it in France, where it is known in some localities as Panse Musquee: "It is seldom preserved for raisins in Provence, as they find it difficult to dry, owing to the thickness of its skin. Negrel Ferand says, that though less cultivated than the common Panse, it is more worthy of attention, only that it frequently blights in flowering. The remedy which he suggests for this is to prune it long. He adds, that if cultivated with care, its raisins would rival the best of Malaga; but it is questionable whether the degree of heat at Roquevaire is sufficient to dry it perfectly. The acreage in the State devoted to the Muscat of Alexandria is quite extensive, and this will, for some years to come, be the principal raisin grape. It succeeds well in many localities, and with careful culture and pruning on rich soil, grows sufficiently large to make a good raisin. It shrinks less than most varieties in cultivation here, requiring, according to different localities, from two to three pounds of grapes to one of raisins, the latter being the more common estimate.

CANNON HALL MUSCAT.

This is another grape, closely allied to the above, that has been used to some extent in this State for the production of raisins. It is a more vigorous grower, has larger berries, and is preferred by several growers to the Muscat of Alexandria. M. R. Miller, of Pleasant Valley, Solano County, last season shipped several tons of good raisins to this market made from this grape.

WHITE MALAGA.

This is a grape that is, in some respects, well fitted for raisin making. It is of good size, and the seeds are small and few in number. Mr. West writes of it as follows: "The White Malaga is a large, loose-growing grape, wonderfully productive, and makes a fair raisin. I am informed by a reliable person that he has grown ten tons of this grape per acre." G. W. Swezy, of Marysville, cultivates it quite extensively, and, the last season, shipped to this market several tons of very good raisins made from it.

SULTANA OR SEEDLESS.

This raisin is imported into the country in considerable quantities from Turkey. It is the product of a small, white, seedless and very sweet grape that has for several years been cultivated to a limited extent in this State. It is grown to perfection on the grounds of Mr. West, at Stockton, and of Dr. Strentzel, near Martinez. The article in the Fresno Expositor says: "The Sultana or seedless is a good bearer, although not so abundant as the White Malaga. It is small and dries very quickly." It ripens early, and it dries so readily that it is well adapted for cultivation in the cooler counties, like Sonoma and Napa, where most grapes are rather late in ripening. Raisins have been made from it in this State fully equal to the best imported.

ZANTE CURRANT OR CORINTH.

The Zante currant is an important commodity in the grocery trade of the country, and should be produced in California in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of the whole Union. The principal supply comes from Zante, Cephalonia and other Ionian islands, and the Morea, though a small quantity is produced in Spain. There are two varieties of grapes from which the currants are made, namely, the White and Black Corinth, both of which thrive in most parts of the State. A sample prepared from the former by Mr. West was submitted to one of the leading grocers of this city, who was so struck with the superiority of the fruit that he unhesitatingly offered 12½ cents per pound for a large quantity, though imported currants were selling at the same time for eight and nine cents per pound. Mr. West writes as follows of this variety: "It is always cheap, but it can be grown at quite low rates. If some one would produce them in large quantities, and use anything like care in curing them, a much better price could be obtained. No housekeeper or baker would use the dirty, gritty, sour, partially rotten products sold as currants after seeing a clean, well-cured article. There would be but few currants used if the housekeeper could see, as I have, the

dirty place upon which they are dried, and the beings who handle them."

SHIPMENTS OF INFERIOR FRUIT.

It is a matter of regret that a large portion of the California raisins sent to the Eastern markets last year were of inferior quality, chiefly from being made of unsuitable grapes, thereby, it is feared, injuring the sale of future shipments. It is of the utmost importance that in the infancy of the industry none but the best should be sent out of the State, unless it is distinctly understood that the fruit in question is of the second quality, or cooking raisins, and is sold as such; and that the boxes should be plainly marked, so as to unerringly indicate the quality of the contents. There are doubtless many grapes growing in the State from which good raisins can be made, and it may be that some of the best Spanish varieties were brought here by Col. Haraszthy in 1861, and are now extensively cultivated under other names. Certain it is that some of our raisin producers, notably, R. R Blowers of Yolo and G. G. Briggs of Solano County, have superior varieties. Shipments of this year's crop, just received from these two producers, are of so excellent a quality as to leave little more to be desired. Those from Mr. Blowers, on account of the care and taste displayed in packing, have elicited general commendation, while many have expressed surprise that California is capable of producing such fruit.

THE PHYLLOXERA IN MADEIRA.

According to a letter from Dr. Grabham, an English physician residing in Funchal, which appeared in the "Times" of the 25th ult., the Phylloxera is committing sad havoc among the Madeira vines. Dr. Grabham states that the growers who re-planted their vineyards after their former destruction by blight, have enjoyed but a brief time of prosperity, for the Phylloxera is spreading general and utter destruction. In the best situations peasants are already burning in heaps the trellis-work of their lately beautiful cultivation, and in less valuable districts the devastating process is only one stage less advanced. Around Funchal there is not one vineyard in vigorous condition, and it is clear that no considerable crop of good wine may be looked for. In the "Times" of the 26th ult., Messrs. Cossart, Gordon & Co., Madeira wine importers of long standing, gave a much more hopeful view of the affair. They state that although the Phylloxera has done some mischief to the vines this year, they are informed by their house in Funchal, writing on Sept. 15th, that the quality of this year's vintage is excellent, so far as can be judged by the saccharometer, and that the quantity will be very large in proportion to the shipments, although less than last year's produce. This year's vintage is estimated at 10,000 pipes, being within a fraction of the exact average of the last seven years. The Phylloxera seems not only to destroy the vines, but like the Laurel branch on board the good ship Argo, it seems also to give rise to interminable disputes among those who speak or write about it.

MADRESFIELD COURT MUSCAT GRAPE.

This grape appears, says a correspondent to the London Garden, to be a very uncertain variety; it was said to be a late grape, but as such it has failed in many places to give satisfaction. I am, however, of opinion that soil has a great deal to do with its success or failure, other things being equal. The best sample of it which I have yet seen is in a late vinery at Bolton Hall, near Bedale, where one rod is carrying sixteen bunches of fine fruit, in which there are no signs of cracking, which is its usual fault. Mr. Roberts, the gardener at Bolton, tells me that it invariably succeeds well with him, better even than other vines in the same house, consisting of Lady Downes, Alicante, and Barbarossa. The border in which it is growing is all inside, and is made up of loam off the carboniferous limestone, bones, brick rubbish, and a good sprinkling of charred garden refuse.

Pomological.

RIPENING PEARS.

Many a bushel of late fall and winter pears are spoiled for want of care in ripening. It is well known that pears generally are of much better quality if properly ripened in the house or cellar than when left to fully mature on the tree. But there is more danger of late sorts being injured by placing them under unfavorable conditions than the early sorts, consequently we offer a few hints which may be of service to those who have had no experience in this matter.

Late fall or winter sorts which do not mature until frosts occur, should be gathered before being in the least frozen although there need be no haste upon the first appearance of cool nights. In gathering, pick every specimen by hand or in some manner to avoid bruising, for the pear will not withstand such rough handling as the apple. Pack in small boxes, barrels or half barrels, leaving the cover or head off for a few days or until all surface moisture has passed away, then close up tight. The vessels containing the fruit should either be left out in the open air until there is danger of freezing, or stored in a cool dry room, for haste in ripening is not conducive to fine flavor.

Where one has only a few pears raised for family use, common wooden cheese boxes will be found very handy for packing as they are more easily handled, than larger vessels, which is quite important when they have to be moved and the fruit examined several times during the period of ripening. If each specimen is wrapped in soft paper it will in a measure prevent bruising and rotting, but we do not think it of sufficient benefit to pay for the trouble when keeping pears for home use.

The fruit will need to be examined every week or two and any decaying specimens removed, but so soon as the pears show the usual signs of approaching maturity, or are becoming soft and in condition for use, the boxes or box, as the case may be, containing the ripening sort should be brought out of the cool room or cellar and placed in a warmer atmosphere, say where the temperature is from 75° to 80° Fah. Pears taken from a cool room and placed in a very warm one for a few days during the finishing stages of the ripening process are wonderfully improved especially in the increase of their saccharine properties. The effect is probably more marked on the very late sorts like *Vicar of Winkfield, Easter Beurre* and *Winter Nelis* than on the autumn sorts.

The novice in pear culture should also bear in mind that pears part with their moisture much more readily than apples on account of their porous skin, consequently it becomes necessary to keep them in a somewhat confined atmosphere else they soon shrivel up and either decay or become tasteless.

There are quite a number of what are termed second or third-rate winter pears, which, when properly ripened rank fully equal to better sorts carelessly ripened. There is something in knowing how to raise good winter pears, but more in bringing them to full maturity in the best possible condition.

PLANTING ORCHARDS.

We endorse with emphasis the following very sensible advise on planting orchards from the London Garden.

In preparing the holes preparatory to planting the trees, one can only reiterate that which has often before been quoted, viz., make but one hole—in other words, mellow the soil so deeply that the size of the hole itself will be a matter of small moment. The depth of the hole is, however, of some importance; in my opinion it should not be too deep, but merely sufficient to allow the tree to stand at the proper depth. Tap roots will work their way down almost in spite of all obstructions, but the delicate fibers and small roots that provide the nourishment should have light mellow earth in which to ramble. This is a common sense view of the subject, and it is borne out in practice. Deep holes not unfrequently serve as receptacles for holding water, especially in clayey soils; and when planters fill in the bottom with stones, no benefit of course is derived therefrom, as the accumulated water has no vent.

In soils retentive of moisture, trees should be planted even more shallow than they usually are; but in all cases it is a good rule to bear in mind that trees should always be set shallow. Concerning the selection of trees, planters differ. Most prefer small trees, but success is often attained with trees of large size. There is this difference: a person to succeed with large specimens must first thoroughly understand the nature and requirements of his trees, and be versed in his work, otherwise he will fail; but the merest novice, with small trees, under ordinary circumstances, will not have many to replace. In respect to the selection of nursery trees, I prefer apples three, or, at the furthest, four years of age; Pears, two or three years; Plums and Cherries, two years; and Peaches, one year. These should all be strong and healthy, which is shown not only by the size of the previous year's growth, but by the peculiar glossy appearance of the bark.

A tree that has been unduly stimulated and forced into making a remarkably strong growth, is not so valuable as one of small size with healthy, ripened wood; and the latter, in the majority of instances, will come into fruiting in advance of its more successful competitor. The Grass question, in its application to orchard culture, is one over which there has been much disagreement among practical men; but I doubt if the most strenuous advocate of seeding down to Grass would recommend the practice as soon as the trees are planted. The proper plan is to cultivate carefully for a few years until the trees have become well established, and then allow a turf to form, depending afterwards upon top-dressings.

The Centennial.

CENTURY BLOSSOMS.

THE BOOMER & BOSCHERT CIDER PRESS.

The Boomer & Boschert Press Co., of Syracuse, N. Y., have, under the supervision of its owners at the Centennial, put their press to a remarkable test and accomplished an unprecedented feat in the history of cider making. The problem was:—To make one hundred barrels of cider in ten hours, from eight hundred bushels of apples. This was a bold push in a direction that must test the fullest capacity of the press, and on its successful accomplishment depended the ability of the makers to justify their assertions as to the superiority of their manufactures in the qualities that are most prized in a cider press. Most extensive and careful preparations were made to have the test accurate and thorough in all respects. The entire arrangements were under the supervision of the Centennial Commission, and the apples were weighed and the barrels gauged with great care, so as to insure the completest accuracy.

The trial began on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7.30 A. M. and the press was worked precisely nine hours and forty-five minutes. In that time there were ground 870½ bushels of apples, which manufactured 116 barrels and 22 gallons (by weight) of cider! *Consequently, it required just 8 hours and 21 minutes to make the hundred barrels of cider, using only 746 bushels of apples, or 7 46-100 bushels to the barrel.* This result is as gratifying as it is remarkable and marks the triumphant accomplishment of the severest test ever applied to a cider press. During the entire trial, excluding the half hour allowed for dinner, the press worked easily evincing no symptoms of strain of any kind and doing work which, to all appearance, differed in no degree from its daily performances during the time it has been in operation in Agricultural Hall. This test places the presses of this Company in an enviable position.

HALLIDAY'S STANDARD WIND MILL.

The Halliday Wind Mill, made by the U. S. Wind Engine & Pump Co., Batavia, Ills., has received two grand medals of merit and two diplomas of honor on its exhibits, thus placing them in advance of all competitors, and endorsing the opinion of those popular Mills already substained by the Agricultural Community. They were subjected to thorough investigation by the judges, and also successfully withstood the severe gale of Sept. 17th ult., that destroyed so much property, including three Competing Mills. Below we give the two reports:

The U. S. Centennial Commission announce the following Report as the basis of an official award to United States Wind-Engine and Pump Co., Batavia, Illinois:

Official Report:—For powerful and efficient Wind-Engines, with Sectional Sails turning in a transverse axis and capable of being set with their edges to the wind, in which position the mill stops. These sails are held to the wind by an adjustable, weighted lever, ingeniously connected, with radiating arms attached, by jointed levers to the transversed axis of each section. Each arm is provided at its extremity with a weight. When the centrifugal tendency of these weights is sufficient to overcome the weighted lever already described, their action causes the sections to turn their edges to the wind more or less completely, according to their velocity and the force of the wind, so that in a stiff breeze the position of the sections is almost parallel to the direction of the wind, and the least amount of surface is exposed that will keep the mill to its work. * * * *

The above Report is officially signed by A. T. Goshorn, Director-General; J. R. Hawley, President; J. L. Campbell, Secretary.

Official Award to U. S. Wind Engine & Pump Company for Model of a complete Wind Mill with three runs of stone.

Official Report:—Fulfills its purpose of illustration and is admirably constructed. A. T. Goshorn, Director-General; J. R. Hawley, President; J. L. Campbell, Secretary.

This Company's career has been one continued success, and, notwithstanding the cry of hard times, it is running full time, employing its usual large force and the already large business is steadily increasing.

HONEST FERTILIZERS.

The display of fertilizers in Agricultural Hall is worthy of this large and rapidly increasing interest, but the exhibit of the Buffalo Fertilizer Works transcends competition in the uniformity and excellence of arrangement of the exhibit, and the superior excellence of the far-famed "Honest Fertilizers," made by L. L. Crocker.

Farmers have justly placed great reliance in the products of this firm and its superphosphates have come to be considered as standard, The employees are men who have devoted years of patient labor to securing the best results from the various combinations of ammonia, potassium, flesh, blood, &c., with the most pronounced results, so that the products offered by Mr. Crocker can be relied upon as being compounded according to strict scientific formulas, modified by the results of experience on the farm.

The ground bone prepared at the Buffalo works merits special mention. The material is selected carefully, and the treatment of the bone with acids, after its careful and thorough grinding, secures a product that is always trustworthy. This fact can be fully appreciated by those who have used adulterated articles, and it is of great moment to the agriculturist to know where good fertilizers can be obtained. The report here given accompanies the award received by L. L. Crocker, Buffalo, N. Y., and is an indorsement that will carry great weight with it.

The U. S. Centennial Commission announce the following Report as the basis of an official award to L. L. Crocker of Buffalo for his Superphosphates and Fertilizers:

Official Report:—For the good quality of his Superphosphates.

For the Fertilizers made from them, by mixing with salts of ammonia, potassium, ammoniacal liquor, dried flesh and blood.

For the intelligent determination of the manure intended for the plants cultivated.

The above Report is officially signed by J. R. Hawley, President; A. T. Goshorn, Director-General; J. L. Campbell, Secretary.

The Naturalist.

THE COMMON HOUSE-FLY.

Prof. Packard, in briefly summing up the life history of the house-fly, says:

"If in its winged condition it is one of the most disagreeable features of the Dog-days, and people wonder why flies were ever made at all, it should be remembered that flies have an infancy as maggots, and the loathsome life they then lead as scavengers cleanses and purifies the August air and lowers the death-rate of our cities and towns. Thus, while stables and piggeries and filth are tolerated by city and town authorities, the young of the house-fly and the flesh and blow flies, with their thousand allies, are doing something toward purifying the pestilential air and averting the summer brood of cholera, dysentery, diphtheria, typhus and typhoid fevers, which descend like harpies upon the devoted towns and cities. It may be regarded as an axiom that where flies most abound, there filth, death-dealing and baneful, is most abundant, and filth diseases such as we have named most do congregate.

"The life of the house-fly may be summed up as follows:—It lives one day in the egg state, from five days to a week as a maggot, from five to seven days in the pupa state—in all from ten to fourteen days in the month of August—before the winged adult period. It is often asked how long-lived a fly is. Most of the flies which are born in August live for a month or six weeks, and die at the coming of frost, either of cold or from the attacks of fungoid plants. A few, probably, winter over and survive until midsummer, and thus maintain the existence of this useful species, to which civilized man owes more than he can readily estimate, and with which he can dispense only when the health of cities and towns is looked after with far greater vigilance and intelligence than is likely, perhaps, to be the case for several centuries to come.

FLOWERS AND INSECTS.

In his lecture at Belfast on "Common Flowers in Relation to Insects," Sir John Lubbock inquired into the causes of flowers closing their petals during rain, and of some flowers remaining open for a longer or shorter period than others. The habit of closing the petals during rain is obviously an advantage, since it prevents the honey being spoiled or washed away. Everybody, however, must have observed that even in fine weather certain flowers close at particular hours. This habit of going to sleep is surely very curious. Why should flowers do so, and why should some flowers close at the approach of night and others not? Moreover, flowers keep different hours. The Daisy opens at sunrise and closes at sunset, whence its name, *Days'-eyes;* the Dandelion opens at 7 and closes at 5 o'clock; Ear Hawkweed is said to awake at 8 and go to sleep at 2 o'clock; the Scarlet Pimpernel awakes at 7 and closes soon after 2 o'clock, while *Tropæon pratensis* opens at 4 in the morning and closes at just before 12 o'clock, whence its English name, John-go-to-bed-at-noon. Other flowers, on the contrary, open in the evening. Now, it is obvious that flowers which are fertilized by night-flying insects would derive no advantage from being open by day; nay, it would be a disadvantage, as rendering them liable to be robbed of their honey and pollen by insects not capable of fertilizing them. Hence the lecturer believed that the wind-fertilized flowers never sleep, and that some of those flowers which attract insects by smell emit their scent at particular hours.

Floricultural.

CROSS-FERTILIZATION OF PLANTS.

It seems that in many instances where Lilies have been crossed or hybridized (as between *auratum* and *speciosum*), the seedlings have shown no resemblance whatever to the pollen parent. Perhaps if self-fertilized seeds of those hybrids were sown, the influence of the pollen grandparent would then manifest itself.

The agency of the insects and of the wind in cross-fertilizing plants which we had previously supposed were necessarily self-fertilized, shows something of the extent to which we may have erroneously ascribed variations in seedlings to "sporting"—*i. e.*, to an inherent power of the seedling to assume characters strikingly dissimilar to those of the supposed parent. Had we known in such instances that the seedling was not of hermaphrodite parentage but the result of the union of dioecious plants—quite dissimilar in appearance, perhaps, however closely related—the word "sport" might never have found its way to popular usage. Doubtless those plants which fertilize themselves, promote the best welfare of their progeny by so doing. We may trust nature thus far. The artificial fertilization of those which do not fertilize themselves, is chiefly useful to man in enabling him to select parents with a view to results more or less in accordance with his wishes.

NOVELTIES.

Poinsettia Pulcherrima Plenissima, figured p. 341, May 27, the stock of which was sold by Mr. Buchanan to the Messrs. Veitch of London, is now offered by English florists at from five to ten shillings per plant, according to size. It is time that American florists were offering it.

Cornus mascula aurea elegantissima, "A broad margin of pure gold"—so reads the English advertisement—"surrounding a bright green center, is of itself a sufficient attraction; but when in July the tips of the leaves become suffused with the brightest carmine, it is impossible to give an idea of the beauty and elegance of the plant, which will bear a favorable comparison with the best variegated stove or greenhouse exotics. The habit is semi-pendulous and very graceful." Price, 15a21s. each.

Divested of the glow that generally suffuses floral advertisements, we do not see that this need differ strikingly from *Cornus sanguinea variegata*, which our nurserymen sell at 50 cts.

Triomphe des doubles blancs is advertised as the best double white *Azalea* in cultivation. The flowers are larger, more double and of a purer white than in *Reine du Portugal*. The petals are large, round to perfection and crisped. Received first prize at the exhibition of the R. H. S. of Ghent in March, 1875, as the best seedling Azalea.

Dactylis cæspitosa—Tussock Grass. Each plant forms a dense tuft of stems, 6 to 8 feet high, 4 to 5 feet in diameter. The leaves are 5 to 6 inches in length and give to the tufts the appearance of thickets of Palms. According to Hooker, the leaves furnish an excellent fodder for horses and cattle, whilst the agreeable and sweet-tasting stems are good for man as well.

Ornus.—Two new varieties of flowering Ash are described in *Revue Horticole*, viz., *Ornus serotina violascens* and *O. s. alba*. They came from one lot of seedlings and bloom a month later than the ordinary form. Both are dwarf and floriferous, *alba* in no other way differing from the type, while the other has violet-gray flowers.

Begonias.—Many new varieties of striking beauty of the tuberous-rooted section are announced or offered for sale.

MISCELLANEA.

Ageratum.—Countess of Stair seems to be acknowledged on all sides as the very best variety known.

The Gardeners' Chronicle of England talks of *Vernonia noveboracensis* as one of the best of tall Composites. This is our Iron Weed that grows in all low grounds. Prof. Gray calls it a "tall, coarse weed." If Prof. Gray had seen it only in the gardens of Kew, would he still have called it a "tall, coarse weed?" This is one of the most trying disagreements among "Doctors" that we have ever known. We respect Dr. Gray as one of our first botanists. We respect the Gardeners' Chronicle as one of the first horticultural journals in the land. We suggest that Mr. Charles Darwin, Dr. Thurber and the Rural New-Yorker hold a convention to decide the question, Is *Vernonia noveboracensis* a "tall, coarse weed," or is it "one of the best of tall Composites?"

The Editors and Publisher of this paper "kindly volunteer" their editorial rooms for the use of the convention. Will Mr. Darwin or Dr. Thurber fix the date? Let's have this settled. If *Vernonia noveboracensis* is a "tall, coarse weed"—then we do not want it in the Rural Grounds. If it is "one of the best of tall Composites," then we must have it, of course. And there are millions of floriculturists, we doubt not, who feel just in the same way.

Mr. Repton, in his book of "Landscape Gardening," published in 1795, considers that true taste in every art consists more in adapting tried expedients to peculiar circumstances than in an inordinate thirst after novelty, and that this inordinate thirst after novelty is a characteristic of *uncultivated minds!*

This speaks not well for the present generation of people interested in horticultural topics, for a thirst for novelties, ever increasing since Mr. Repton's time, has reached a climacteric now that it would not be easy to eclipse.

California Horticulture.—Attached to the California Horticulturist is a catalogue of Messrs. Miller, Siever & Co., nurserymen and seedsmen of San Francisco. The plants offered therein are of the most ornamental and useful, and many of the prices are quite as low as those of our Eastern establishments. *Liliums Washingtonianum—L. W. purpureum (?)—Humboldti—pardalinum*—all California Lilies—are 40 cts. each; *Auratums*, 30 cts. Young Palms, such as *Latania Borbonica, Chamaerops humilis, Seaforthia elegans, Phœnix dactylifera* are offered at from 50 cts. to $1 each; Koenig Albert, the new double Ivy *Pelargonium*, $1.

In the seed department, the catalogue says: "We are in the habit of collecting throughout the Pacific coast every season, seeds of the most desirable wild flowers. This year we can furnish about twenty varieties, put up in packages for 25 cts. each. These seeds are in great demand abroad, and can be sent to friends by mail." But the names of the aforesaid wild flowers are not given. When we see such plants as the *Passifloras, Plumbagos, Araucarias, Agaves, Dracænas, Ericas, Eucalypti, Grevilleas*, Oleanders and many other handsome things advertised as perfectly hardy in California, we are tempted to wish we were there, in spite of the varied and peculiar charms of the State of New Jersey.

NOTES.

Poisonous Loniceræ.—The Lancet gives an instance of a little boy being poisoned by the fruit (berries) of one of the *Loniceræ*, suffering much as if from the effects of Belladonna. The species of Honeysuckle is not mentioned.

Brazilian Flowers.—Travelers in Brazil speak of Fuchsias 50 and 60 feet in hight, blooming from top to bottom; of large bushes of *Abutilon venosum*, bearing a profusion of orange bells streaked with crimson; of huge *Daturas*, with hundreds of white trumpet-shaped and sweet-scented blossoms, some 16 in. in length; of *Orchids* and Ferns; *Aroids* with shield-like leaves, large enough to cover a man; brilliant red and yellow *Bromelias* and *Tillandsias*; epiphytes and parasites of all descriptions; Camellias large enough to climb into to pluck the topmost blossoms; and *Poinsettias*, grown into very large bushes, on which the crimson star-like bracts are two feet in diameter. So says the Louden Garden.

Arboricultural.

RARE TREES.

Maples.—*Acer platanoides dissectum* has dark-green leaves, the lobes three-parted, somewhat wedge-shaped and each three-cleft and laciniated. The tree is compact and is one of the best for the ornamentation of lawns.

Acer dasycarpum Wieril laciniatum was introduced by Ellwanger & Barry in 1873. The leaves are more deeply cut and the segments more incised than in the Silver Leaf. It is of equally rapid growth and is said to be desirable as a lawn tree if cut back from year to year.

Acer pseudo platanus tricolor.—This is advertised as distinctly variegated with white, red and green which is not true. The variegation consists of occasional splashes of yellowish-green, and at no period, as we have observed, presents red or white. Even this is too dull to form a contrast with the green. The tree, however, is pleasing in its habit and as the price is not higher than that of the ordinary Sycamore Maple, a single specimen may be desirable.

Aesculus.—There are many varieties of the Horsechestnut that outside of pretentious collections or nursery grounds are little known. So different are they in foliage, flower and size that they present as varied an appearance as if they belonged to different orders. A white double-flowering variety is praised by Mr. F. Scorr in his "Suburban Home Grounds." A double-flowering red is likewise advertised. The single-flowering red (*A rubicunda*) with which we are familiar is, as we deem it, one of the most attractive trees in cultivation for home grounds. The cut-leaved variety (*incisum*) is peculiar in its leaves which look as if entire leaves had been torn into shreds. Then there are the gold and silver variegated sorts—in which the leaves are rather blotched than margined with dull yellow and dull white—and *crispum* with crumply leaves as if worms had doubled them up.

Of Alders, we may mention *Alnus glutinosa laciniata* and *A. g. l. imperialis*. The first has oblong and acutely pinnatifid leaves, the second has leaves as finely cut as those of a fern. The first grows wild in France, and though said to prefer a moist soil, thrives in our grounds, so far as we may judge from two years' observation, in dry situations. Both assume a pyramidal form, the latter more pendulously so, attaining a hight of fifty feet or over in congenial soil and climate and are of quite rapid growth. Generally, however, they may be ranked as trees of the third size. Our friends who are adding to their collections or who are planting new grounds will do well to visit nurseries in which specimens of these trees, but especially of *imperialis*, may be observed.

Purple Birch.—Many of our readers are familiar with the Purple Beech, which has heretofore stood unapproached by any other purple-foliaged tree. The Purple Birch bids fair to divide honors with it when better known. The habit of this tree is similar to that of the cut-leaved Birch, the pendulous form of which is so popular throughout the country—but the leaves are entire and larger and of a color even deeper than that of the Beech, as ordinarily seen. What makes it more pleasing is the silvery-white bark which seems to throw out in stronger relief the beauty of its dark, rich leaves. Small specimens are now offered by our nurserymen at five dollars each.

The unfortunate prejudice that Oaks are the giant snails of the vegetable creation has operated against that use of them as lawn trees which their sterling worth and rugged beauty deserve. Some of the finest Oaks, however, grow as fast as many popular trees whose rate of growth is never considered, or at least objected to—and among their numberless species and varieties those may be selected that will thrive in almost any situation.

The Fastigiate Oak (*Q. fastigiata*) is of rapid, upright growth, not unlike the Lombardy Poplar in form.

Q. robur purpurea is, as Louden says, among Oaks what the Purple Beech is among Beeches. He mentions a specimen, thirty feet high, at Arno's Grove, Southgate. We have heard that it is with difficulty transplanted, and believe it, having twice failed ourselves. Of this species there are several with distinctly variegated foliage, some mottled, some margined with silver—and one (*concordia*) with leaves of a golden color.

Acer polymorphum is one of the Japan Maples and, if we may judge from small specimens, forms a decidedly beautiful tree. The leaves are small, five-parted, the segments ovate-lanceolate and incised. A rose color is often blended with a delicate green of the younger leaves while after maturity the others change to the prettiest of fall tints. Many of the varieties of this Maple possess elegantly cut leaves and the most remarkable variegation of any hardy plants known to us. They are yet rare in this country, eight dollars being asked for small specimens.

Betula alba pendula elegans.—This Birch droops directly downwards so that the branches are nearly parallel with the stem. It is a thin, slight, lonely-looking tree which we should rather prefer for a cemetery plot than for a lawn. *B. a. p. Youngii* forms a wider head and is less pendulous.

Magnolias.—Few of these are seen upon Northern lawns as frequently as their large leaves, tulip-like flowers and noble appearance entitle them to be. This is in part owing to their high price; to their aversion to removal unless properly attended to in the nurseries and to the previous selection of species not hardy in the locality to which they have been removed.

Halleana is a Japan Magnolia. The flower, two inches in diameter, has about fifteen petals, pure white with a faint purple tint upon the outside petals or rather sepals. The leaves are comparatively small and the habit compact.

Lennei is one of the finest of the Japan Magnolias and perfectly hardy we believe in the climate of New York, though thought to be a natural hybrid between *conspicua* and *gracilis*. The flowers are as much as five inches in diameter, of a bright rosy-crimson externally, white internally. The leaves are strong, wavy on the edges, acute at both ends and more closely arranged than upon many others.

Soulangeana.—Flowers are five inches across, inside white, outside purple, merging into white along the edges. There are nine petals alternating in threes, each one three to four inches long of a spathulate shape. This is thought to be a hybrid between *conspicua* and *purpurea* and is also hardy in this climate.

Thomsoniana (a seedling of *glauca*)—Fraseri (the Ear-leaved Magnolia) and *cordata* are among the rarest and best of native species. Indeed *cordata*, rejecting that most glorious of all evergreens, *M. grandiflora* of the Southern States as too tender, is, for Northern grounds, one of the best of the family. Its flowers are yellow and appear in June, sometimes again blooming in the fall. It forms a round head and, though of rapid growth, never attains to a size disproportionate to lawns of small extent.

M. macrophylla with leaves sometimes three feet long, is a grand tree for its tropical effect—but although it will stand the ordinary winter, it will not the exceptional one as far north as New York.

Norbertiana is a Chinese variety seldom seen, but it is so close to *Soulangeana* that the one will suffice for both.

Magnolias must not be transplanted in the fall. To insure their thriving, as near as may be, after transplantation, they should first be established in pots.

SUCCESSION OF FOREST TREES.

Newton Reed of Duchess Co., N. Y., contributes a paper to the Country Gentleman upon succession of forest trees which calls to mind the fact that many changes in the kind of trees, seen in old settled regions of country, are similar to those which he mentions as occurring in the Eastern portions of the State of New York. Climatic influences probably cause the destruction of many kinds, which formerly occupied the land, and the replanting of the entire region, would restore previous conditions, followed by the reappearance of species now almost extinct.

Mr. Reed, in speaking of the country about him, says:—A change in the natural production of certain forest trees is observed here, which suggests the idea that there may be in the soil something that demands a succession similar to that which requires a rotation of crops on the farm.

This "oblong valley," which is on the eastern boarder of the State of New York, has been occupied by the whites 150 years. They found some kinds of forest trees here, evidently of mature age, and once of great vigor, which have now greatly waned or nearly disappeared. Other kinds have increased and show a superior vitality. It is an interesting question whether this fact has been observed in other districts sufficiently to give plausibility to the theory.

There are now no pines or hemlocks in the valley, except some on the sides of the rocky and steep acclivities, which rise several hundred feet on each side of the valley. But when the country was first occupied by the whites, there were scattered over the plains large numbers of pines, and there is evidence of a former growth of hemlocks of great size, in the remains of their trunks, which lie embedded under ground, along the creek, in great numbers. These were the production of a period long before the coming of civilization.

When the first settlers came here, they found the white-wood, or American tulip tree, in large numbers, and all their first houses were built of this timber, which was beautifully adapted to the purpose, either for hewing or sawing. The trees were tall and straight, and many of them large. One fair-sized two-story house was covered with siding which was all sawed from one tree. Some of the large trunks were dug out and used in the place of casks. Now the white-wood is a rare tree in all this valley.

Another tree was common then—the wild cherry. Within the memory of the old inhabitants, large numbers of the original trees were standing. Their fine and lofty trunks were striking landmarks in all directions. Many of them were cut for purposes of cabinet work, and all are gone, and there are none of any size to take their places. This tree is naturally and easily propagated by the birds, who scatter along the fences the cherry stones which sprout readily; but yet the wild cherry is coming to nothing.

The button-wood (*Platanus occidentalis*) is another forest tree which perhaps may be destined to disappear from this district. It was once the most majestic of the forest tribes. They had passed their prime when the country was settled. The largest trees were decaying; many of them were hollow and open on one side. One celebrated specimen had room inside for fifteen men standing up, and many trunks were six to eight feet in diameter, and very lofty. In 1835 or 1836 the buttonwood was blighted, and the tender leaves turned black. This was supposed at the time to be the effect of a severe frost, which occurred about the first of June, while the leaf was tender. The next year they had the same appearance, about the same time, and also for several years after.

The tree has never recovered. The knurly appearance of the limbs marked the beginning of the disease forty years ago. There is not a single large and thrifty specimen of the button-wood left in this valley.

The oak and hickory continue to flourish. The former is a long-lived tree. The white ash is not so healthy as once. The hard maple has its favorable locations. It has lost its place, which it had fifty years ago, as an ornamental tree, in the lawn. When dead limbs appear it loses its handsome shape, which is never recovered, while with some other trees a broken limb is replaced with a new growth.

The most vigorous trees which now grow in this part of the country are the elm and the chestnut—the first in the valley, and the other on the mountains. And these are more recent occupants of the soil. When the country was settled, the chestnuts were so few and so valuable for fencing that they were preserved with great care by the first inhabitants. They did not furnish material sufficient for their few fences; oak was used. When my ancestors took possession of this farm, more than a hundred years ago, some of the fences were built of oak rails. Some of these rails were left three or four years ago, and I think I could find a few now. It demonstrates that an oak rail may last a hundred years.

The chestnuts have left the valley almost entirely, and have increased on the mountains, where they were formerly scarce. They now exceed in the production of timber all other kinds of trees, and not only furnish abundant fencing material, but immense quantities of charcoal for the iron furnaces.

The white elm excels in vitality all other trees in the valley. They have not been so long here as those have been in the Housatonic and Connecticut valleys. There are very few, if any, here a hundred years old. But they possess all the viger of youth. They propagate themselves in all favorable places; they ask no planting. Keep the scythe and the ax from the corners of the fences, and you will soon have plenty of these most beautiful forest trees to set in your lawn. It may be that wider observation of this succession of trees would not confirm the suggested theory. I ought to add that the soil of this valley is made of what the geologists call drift.

A WORD FOR FORESTRY.

In his address before the American Forestry Association, Mr. Burnet Landreth gives some hints which should set every American Farmer to thinking, especially since this gentleman is a student of the subject and knows whereof he speaks:

"What I desire now in an especial manner to direct attention to is a branch of agriculture which until recently has been almost entirely overlooked by us. I of course refer to Forestry. Heretofore the way to get rid of timber at the least outlay of labor possible, seems in many cases to have been the object aimed at; and we have gone on in that insane effort until now, while we are still in our infancy as a nation, our country is made naked, and the sources of supply of valuable timber, either for ship building, the mechanic arts or fencing, are so remote that had it not been for the premature extension of railroads penetrating the inmost recesses of the forests, prices would have advanced beyond any reasonable measure of values, and have seriously impeded the constructive arts. * * *

Among other things I wish to start the inquiry whether in our classification of agricultural instruction the time has not come to teach forestry as a science—I say science because it is susceptible of exact results:—Whether in the subdivision of rural interests, the practice of tree-planting should not be clearly recognized among the present and prospective industries of our people. * * * * * *

Now, in recommending farmers with the necessary means to send their sons as students to nurserymen, it is not with any expectation that they should adopt the nursery business as the pursuit of life, but simply to qualify them for the more profitable enjoyment of their paternal acres, and to expand their views beyond the boundaries of the homestead in order to occupy the high position which is an American farmer's birthright.

FORESTS OF OREGON.

There are probably no more valuable forests in the world than those of Oregon, Washington Ter. and British Columbia. The Yellow Fir, which grows there to a great hight and luxuriance, scarcely has an equal for ship building. The supply at present is very abundant and accessible; but there is danger that waste will change the present abundance into scarcity before many years. The rule is: "Let those who live latest have their timber furthest," and in seeking the best now, much that is really good and valuable is ruthlessly destroyed.

Domestic Economy.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

To Cook Celery.—The outside leaf stalks of celery may be utilized, and a very savory dish made by cutting them in small pieces, and boiling in salted water until tender. Then turn off the water, and add milk, butter, and flour enough to form a thick gravy. Serve hot.—Mrs. Rustic.

Lemon Pie Without Eggs.—In answer to inquiry of "Farmer's Wife" for lemon pie without eggs, I will send ours:—Take one lemon, one teacup of sugar, squeeze the juice of the lemon on the sugar; chop the pulp fine, add one tablespoonful of flour, and one teacup of water; mix altogether and bake with two crusts.—H. E. Alvord.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Wine Sauce for Breaded Chops or Game.—One pint of claret wine, one-quarter of a pound of butter, one large teacup of currant jelly, one teacup of brown sugar, one teaspoon of whole allspice. Melt the butter; add the jelly, sugar, and allspice. Stew until the allspice is preceptible. Strain into a sauce-boat, and serve hot.

Horse-Radish Sauce for Roast Beef.—Mix four tablespoonfuls of grated horse-radish with one teaspoonful of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, one-half teaspoonful of pepper, two teaspoonfuls of made mustard. Mix thoroughly. Then moisten with sufficient vinegar to give it the consistency of cream. Add four tablespoonfuls of thick cream. Heat (not boil) it, for hot roast beef, and for cold meat serve the sauce without heating.

Smooth White Sauce for Boiled Mutton or Beef.—Two tablespoonfuls of butter, one teaspoonful of flour, one pint of milk, a little salt, one heaping teaspoonful of chopped parsley, two hard-boiled eggs, chopped fine. Mix the flour smooth with a little cold milk. When the pint of milk comes to a boil, add the flour and salt, when this is thickened, add the parsley and butter. Have the chopped eggs in a sauce-boat, and pour the hot mixture on them. Serve hot.

Celery Slaw.—One-half head of cabbage, the tender part of one bunch of celery, two hard-boiled eggs, all chopped fine, mix with it two teaspoonfuls of sugar, two of mustard, one-half a teaspoonful of salt and pepper. Moisten with vinegar.

Mustard Cabbage.—Beat one egg with a tablespoonful of sugar, mix one teaspoonful of mustard in one-half teacup of vinegar; add this to the egg and sugar, and boil until thick, stirring all the time; pour while hot over finely-cut cabbage, previously salted.

COOKING POTATOES.

The following recipes for cooking potatoes are from a late number of the New York Times:

Cooking Potatoes.—Potatoes and all vegetables, in place of boiling, should be cooked by steam, else they must be more or less water-soaked. The simplest and cheapest steamer is easily had by having a steamer made to fit the large iron kettle that every kitchen has. The steamer of tin, made to fit the kettle, the sides fitting down, say one inch, a snug, perfect fit; one inch from the rim is a bottom with holes cut in it, half an inch in diameter and one inch apart. The steamer, like a basin with straight or perpendicular sides, nine inches deep, a tin cover to fit perfectly tight, the cover made to run up higher in the middle two or three inches. This steamer can be made for $1.50, probably. When stewing fruit, put it in an earthen dish; set dish and all in the steamer. The fruit then does not waste its flavor as when stewed with water. Steam puddings, instead of boiling, if you would retain the flavor.—*Experienced Housekeeper.*

Boiled Potatoes.—But few cooks put upon a table a plain boiled potato that is fit to be taken into the stomach. This rule, if followed, makes a potato not only palatable, but digestible: Peel and put into cold water say one dozen peachblow potatoes, and let them stand an hour (longer will not hurt them;) wash them out of the water and put them into boiling water enough to cover them in a sauce-pan with a close-fitting cover; throw in a tablespoonful of salt, and let them boil half an hour; turn off the water, and stand the sauce-pan on the back of the range or stove for five or ten minutes, keeping the cover tightly closed, as herein lies the secret of having a potato look like a snow-ball. Serve in a covered dish, and keep them covered until wanted for the plate. Most cooks lift the cover off the sauce-pan to let the steam escape. This makes the potato heavy and indigestible.—Mrs. M.

Stewed Potatoes.—Take steamed or boiled potatoes which are thoroughly cooked and not hard in the middle; cut them as thin as possible without breaking; put them in a shallow pan; cover with milk; when thoroughly hot, through and through, stir them so that they will not stick or burn, as milk burns very easily; for potatoes enough for six persons, have ready one teaspoonful of wheat flour, mixed smoothly with a little cold water, as if for starch; add this when the milk is hot; mix all thoroughly; let it cook five or ten minutes slowly after the flour is added. At the last minute before serving, salt properly and add one tablespoonful of sweet butter. If kept on the fire very long after the salt is added, the milk will curdle. This should be remembered in making clam or oyster soup when milk is used.—Saratoga.

Potatoes "a la Maitre d' Hotel."—Boil ten middle-sized ones; cut in slices of a quarter of an inch thick; put in the stew-pan half a pint of milk or the same of broth, a little salt, pepper, grated nutmeg, and a tablespoonful of fresh chopped parsley; then simmer on the fire; when boiling add a quarter of a pound of fresh butter and the juice of half a lemon; stir well for a few minutes; when each piece is well covered with the sauce, dish up high in the center, as they must appear light.—A. T. W.

Sweet Potatoes, I.—Cut them in thin slices, and fry like Irish potatoes; be careful not to cook them too much, as they will be too hard.

Sweet Potatoes, II.—Peel and cut in quarters, and fry until the edges are brown. If the roots are very large, cut into eighths.

Sweet Potatoes, III.—Peel and cut into halves, quarters or eighths, and bake with beef or veal, putting them in the bake-pan at the base of the meat.

Sweet Potato Pudding.—Beat to a cream a pound of sugar and one pound of butter; boil and mash fine two pounds of potatoes; beat the potatoes by degrees into the butter and sugar; add five well-beaten eggs, a wine glass full each of wine and brandy, and one of rose water, two teaspoonfuls of mixed spices, and half a pint of cream, and bake in a crust.

Sweet Potato Pie.—To one pound of potatoes, baked and sieved, and one-half a pound of butter, three-quarters of a pound of sugar, one pint of milk and six eggs; flavor with nutmeg and a wine glass full of brandy; line the dish with a crust and bake carefully.

Hygienic Information.

EATING CELERY.

It is scarcely necessary to advise those who like good vegetables to eat Celery. Still there are probably many persons who would not think of using it to promote good health, especially among those who are affected with nervousness. The Builder in commenting on the increase in the consumption of this excellent vegetable says:

We notice with satisfaction that celery is becoming more common and cheaper in our markets; its cultivation cannot be too strongly recommended to farmers, as by its production they not only grow a profitable plant, but confer a benefit on the community, as the habitual daily use of this vegetable is much more beneficial to man than most people are aware of.

A writer who is familiar with its virtues, says: "I have known many men, and women too, who from various causes had become so much affected by nervousness that when they stretched out their hands they shook like aspen leaves on a windy day, and by a moderate daily use of the blanched foot-stalks of celery as a salad, they became strong and steady as other people. I have known others so nervous that the least annoyance put them in a state of agitation, and they were in constant perplexity and fear, who were also effectually cured by a moderate daily use of blanched celery as a salad at meal time. I have known others to be cured of palpitation of the heart. Everybody engaged in labor weakening to the nerves should use celery daily in the season, and onions in its stead when not in season."

To this we may add that a prominent New York druggist draws in winter from his soda fountain a hot extract of celery mixed with Liebig's meat extract, under the name of Ox-celery. It is a nourishing drink at lunch time, far better than coffee or tea, and is doing a great deal in this neighborhood to promote temperance. Distilled drinks are no better for a man than a whip is for a horse to make him work; oats are better than a whip, nobody will deny that, and to keep up the strength of a human being, ox-celery or beef-tea is better than whisky, but this fact many do not appear to know or realize.

But to return to celery; we give it almost daily to our canary birds, and it cures them of fits; they are little animals, with very delicate nerves, easily frightened, and therefore they need such a remedy very much, and the relish with which they take it is a proof that their instinct guides them to eat what is good for them.

A manufacturer of perfumery of our acquaintance some years ago commenced to prepare an extract of celery-seed, put up in medicine bottles, and intended to give strength to old or exhausted persons, who by over-indulgences, have reached such a state as to require restoratives.

Scientific and Useful.

THE JALAP PLANT.

Doubtless many of our readers have had cause to remember a medicine known by the rather homely name of "Jalap and Marcarny" (mercury). Both of these are still known in *Materia medica*, and the former as remarks a correspondent of the London Farmer has an especially interesting history to all lovers of plant lore.

Jalap is a medicine of a resinous kind that is classed by pharmacologists along with the drastic purgatives, and it has the great merit of being certain in its action, whilst it rarely influences the nerves of the abdomen, but rather the vascular and lymphatic system of the minor regions. It is used generally with Calomel, to counteract and assist the system at the commencement of common fevers, in obstructions of the liver, for dropsy, jaundice, and many other ailments "the human frame is heir to." We need scarcely say, then, that as a medicine, when used in the hands of a practical physician and along with other substances, it forms an important ingredient in matters appertaining to pharmacy, &c. It may be interesting to add that Jalap—the Jalap of commerce, that is—has derived its name from the town of Xalapa, or as it is sometimes called Jalapa, situated in the interior of Mexico, and shipped from thence, *via* Vera Cruz. The resin is obtained from the roots, which, considering the kind of plant from which they are derived, are very large, often weighing as much as 40 lb. and 50 lb. These large, somewhat soft, roots are exhumed and divided into moderate-sized pieces; these are then hung over a fire and dried in a week or two by this means. And when produced in commerce these pieces are lumpy or pear-shaped, of a brown shining color, dry and hard, and of a tough, resinous nature.

Like all other valuable drugs or articles of commerce, of a nature not too well known by the mass of consumers, there are adulterations practised, or, indeed, a false article manufactured and offered for sale. The adulterations consist chiefly of dried pears (!) selected portions of the roots of White Bryony, &c.

It may be well to add that a material named Scammony is possessed of similar properties, being more resinous than the Jalap; being the crude juice forced by cutting the living roots, and hence far more powerful. The material differs, however, in its degrees of quality, being exported from Antioch, Aleppo, and Smyrna; to say nothing of a kindred substance which has some currency in France, and is extracted from what is known as the Dog-kill Weed, of Montpelier, and named *Cynanchum monspeliacum*, which it may be scarcely necessary to add is, to say the least, a somewhat dangerous drug. The drug possesses besides the peculiar resin which is its merit, salts of lime, starch, potass, &c.

The Jalap Plant used of yore to be named Convolvulus jalappa and *Convolvulus scammonia*, its technical name now being *Exogonium Purga*, the former or generic name having reference to its jointed stems, and the specific explains itself.

So much of interest is attached to this plant from a commercial point of view; the real merits of this particular genus does not end here, however, as we possess in the Jalap Plant a beautiful, very beautiful in fact, crimson-colored creeper. And we do not know an autumn-blooming subject that is likely to please more than this.

When the plant was first introduced, under the name of Convolvulus as I have previously intimated, it was accorded a place along with stove plants. This, I have no hesitation in saying, however, was done under an erroneous impression, and a want of better experience and information in reward to its habits and capacity generally. Now, however, there need be no hesitation in saying that it is perfectly hardy, and that it will succeed out of doors most perpectly. Its real habit is evergreen, and, as previously intimated, it is a twiner. The blooms, though called crimson-colored, are really more of a most beautifully rich purple, and they are salver shaped.

It is regrettable that the plants, or seeds, its equivalent, are not more commonly met with at our plant marts; as it is, we are afraid they are both scarce and expensive; indeed, in the bulb gardens of Holland they charge as much as half a guinea a plant for it.

The reader should not confound the above with the "Jalap Plant," so-called, and which is better known as the Marvel of Peru (*Mirabilis Jalapa*), as they are not identical, though we do not possess any data to account for the same name being applied to both, excepting indeed it be owing to what similarity exists between their root bases.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER,

A NATIONAL ILLUSTRATED

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SATURDAY, NOV. 11, 1876.

EXIT CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

BEFORE this number of the RURAL NEW-YORKER reaches many of its readers, the great Centennial Exhibition — and, perhaps, we may truthfully say, the greatest industrial show the world has ever produced—will have become one of the things of the past. It will probably require months to remove all the articles on exhibition, but in this the general public have little or no interest, for the battle of the trades is over and the interested spectators departed. As Americans, we may well be proud of "Our Centennial," which all the world were invited to, and nearly all came or sent representatives, who became our guests; and it is to be hoped that we have given them such a welcome, and performed our part so fully and agreeably, that each and every one will go home with the kindest feelings and wishes for the future prosperity of the United States of America.

It is certainly no time for regrets over any failure to show our greatest strength in certain departments, which it must, in all fairness, be acknowledged were meager if not disgraceful, where there might have been, under proper management, a grand display and one worthy of the industry represented. But we may console ourselves for the short-comings of exhibitors in some branches of our national industries, with the fact—which is well known to all nations having any commercial dealings with us—that in those branches where we were weakest at the Centennial Exhibition, we are the strongest in the field or manufactory.

Upon the whole, the Exhibition has been a grand success. Financially, it may not prove to be a very profitable investment to the States and National Government, who have furnished the greater part of the funds for erecting the necessary buildings and preparing the grounds; but this was scarcely expected, and we think no one will regret a deficit of a few hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of celebrating the hundredth birthday of the nation in so befitting a manner.

The Centennial Exhibition has been a grand school for comparison, and the hundreds of thousands of our people who visited it have, without doubt, been greatly benefited by the opportunity of seeing the products of other nations placed in competition with those of our own. Reading descriptions of the products of a country generally fails to convey as distinct an idea of their nature and character as is obtained in seeing them; for, with a majority, the perceptive faculties are far more active and powerful than the imaginative, and to see is to know, or at least the conception of things not seen is very unsatisfactory. Such an exhibition also tends to make us less conceited, for we can learn from it that we are not the only people who are making progress in the arts and sciences; and some of those far-distant nations upon whom we are wont to look as heathen, or low in the scale of intelligence, have challenged our admiration in many of their works of art, science and literature.

A few days since we were shown a large volume on the Arboriculture of Japan. Each page contained a thin section of the wood of the tree referred to, and at the top the Japanese name was given, followed by the Latin or scientific name, as given in our botanies—all of which convinced us that the Japs know more of us than we do of them, and are no laggards in obtaining and putting to use good scientific knowledge. This is but one of the straws which indicate what must result from such great international exhibitions in the way of learning what the nations of the earth are doing; but a still greater result must come from the interchange of ideas and friendly intercourse. These are instructive schools for the masses and peace-makers between nations, and while we bid adieu to our first Centennial with the hope that our bi-Centenary may find the nation prosperous and the people happy, we would bespeak a good word for all such exhibitions whenever and wherever held, as one of the most available means of insuring the peace, progress and happiness of the nations of the earth.

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.

WE noticed in Brooklyn, a few days ago, on a corner where two street railroads cross, a settee that some thoughtful individual had placed there for the convenience and comfort of persons waiting for the cars. It stood in a position entirely out of the way of people passing on the sidewalk and was completely shaded from the sun by a house on one side and a large spreading tree on the other. Our organ of calculation was aroused and we tried to imagine how many unspoken "thank you's" would be given to him who so thoughtfully provided for the public. And then it occurred to us in how many ways everybody could do little things that would be of real service to their neighbors, with but little cost of trouble, labor or money to themselves. Occasionally may be seen, by a country wayside, a trough into which the water of a neighboring spring is conveyed, furnishing a convenient place where both man and beast may quench their thirst, but there is not one where there should be many.

A country doctor of our acquaintance spent a portion of his leisure time one summer, some years ago, in planting trees on the village green and laying stones in places where every spring and fall the deep mud in the roads made crossing very inconvenient and unpleasant; and now the whole community rise up and call him "blessed." A heavy shower washes a gully in the road, to cross which, even if it be small, worries a team, vexes the driver, annoys the riders, and endangers the vehicle. Ten minutes' labor would have prevented this. Will you give it?

Constant travel has worn the dirt away from a rock on the path and leaves it, first an inch, then two, then more, above the surface. Will you put a load of gravel about it or, still better, remove the rock or the projecting portion thereof, and for your pains be satisfied with the consciousness of having done a public good? At a crossing or forking of roads travelers often stop perplexed, not knowing whether this or the other is the proper one to take in order to reach their destination. A guide-board, no matter if roughly executed, would be of much service to them and of but little cost to you.

But why stop to enumerate? There are many ways that will readily occur to all in which we may be of service to those about us, if we only have the will to be so, and we hope that by writing these lines we may be instrumental in awakening thought that will result in profitable action. There are none who cannot contribute to the good work; a child can throw from the road a rolling stone that might lame and ruin a valuable horse. Who will be first to do something for the public good?

THE FARMER.

WHEN a farmer can so manage his farm as to make "both ends of the year meet," even if it be with the most rigid economy, he should be contented with his lot. If we take a survey of the business men of our villages and cities, we find that only three or four in a hundred realize a competence for old age. Then imagine the unhappiness of those who, sooner or later, fail to support themselves and families respectably—the cares and anxieties that constantly produce pangs and tortures that no farmer ever felt. These men may apparently lead pleasant lives, as the outside world cannot witness the emotions of a man who daily strains every financial nerve to meet his notes falling due at the bank. The time between one and three o'clock every day, in the city of New York, brings more anxiety to business men than all the farmers of the United States realize in a lifetime.

No, farmers, your lot is not a hard one. Your food may be plain and the cuts of your coats may not be as fashionable as those of the merchants of the day; but when you lie upon your pillows your repose is sound and sweet. The horrors of protested notes seldom keep you awake at night; and in the morning, as you go around to feed your flocks and view your crops that have visibly grown while you were in the arms of Morpheus, you may take more real enjoyment of life in one hour than many city merchants and manufacturers do in a year. Our advice therefore, is, be not discouraged. The times may now be hard; but you are promised "seed-time and harvest" to the end and, with hard labor and judicious management, you come out in the end victorious.

AGRICULTURE—POLITICS.

"IT is a startling fact that there are more than three million farmers who neither take nor read a paper representing their interests, and it shows that although agriculture has recently made more than its usual progress, there is yet a vast benighted domain waiting for the advent of these journals, and sadly needing the kind of instruction which they alone can supply."

Assuming that the above statement made by the Christian Union is correct, the fact is not only "startling" but one greatly to be deplored, viz., that there are three millions of farmers who neither take nor read agricultural journals. Can the same be said as to political journals? We opine not. Perhaps it is with farmers as with editors who are said rarely to read their own papers after publication—they tire of their daily occupation and seek a change. Still, we are impressed that if farmers were to read agricultural literature more and political less, a more satisfactory state of things would be found to exist at the end of every year whether morally, physically, intellectually, socially or pecuniarily considered.

RURAL NOTES.

Sanctum Personals.—Among the pleasant visitations of this Centennial, none are more so than the meetings, face to face, with our various agents from different parts of the country, many of whom we have corresponded with, but never seen. And let us say right here that to them we are always at home, and never too busy to be seen. During the last week our Sanctum has been illuminated by the bright countenance of Mr. W. A. HART, of Friendship, Alleganey Co., N. Y., our common sense occupied with the solid appearance of Mr. O. F. BOARD, of Rushford, in the same County, our labors lightened by the recreative conversation of Mr. JOHN D. WEEKS, of Mt. Morris, Livingston County, N. Y., and our attention chained by the quick, energetic manner of Mr. A. B. CLOSE, of Mayfield, Fulton Co., N. Y. All of these are old-time friends of the RURAL and nothing has given us more pleasure this year than their congratulations upon our success and their wishes for the future prosperity of their fireside companion, the RURAL. What is better than all, is the expression of their intentions to increase the size of their clubs this year, and extend the usefulness of our efforts to their friends and neighbors. Go ahead, gentlemen! We can stand it if you can!! But we must not omit the ladies—yes, the girls added—for we were agreeably surprised by a visit from Mrs. ANNIE L. JACK and her two rosy-cheeked daughters, who had been doing the Centennial. Mrs. JACK's "Whiffs from Canada" are familiar to our readers.

A Heavy Load of Pride.—"An Old Farmer," writing to the Eastern Daily Press (Eng.), tells a complaining correspondent that what weighs down the farmer of England is pride, and that the names of those who train their sons to plow and to sow and their daughters to milk and make butter and cheese, are not found in the list of bankrupts. Nowadays, he says, "shooting, yachting and racing are the glory of farmers' sons, and the drawing-room and ball-room the pride of their daughters." We would not be surprised if some of these accusations were applicable to farmers in this country. The annual influx of country boys and girls—we beg pardon, young gentlemen and ladies—into our cities, is an indication that farm life is distasteful to many who, through some defect of education, are burdened with a heavy load of pride.

The Time to Pay Taxes.—We notice that one of our Western contemporaries is discussing the subject of a time to pay taxes. In our own private opinion the right time is when they are due, and the man who finds it difficult to pay them in December would not be any better off in February or March. Every man with the least eye to business, knowing a year in advance that a certain sum of money will be required at a certain date, can make the necessary preparations for meeting the obligation by laying it aside whenever it comes into his hands, whether it be in June or January. What troubles most persons is the keeping of money—not the making or earning of it.

RURAL BREVITIES.

OUR agents are all predicting a large increase of RURAL subscribers this year and the numerous early clubs now daily received are verifying their prophecies.

THERE is one more bee-keeper who has become convinced that the King-bird sometimes eats honey bees. The suspected birds were killed in the act, and working bees found in their crops.

AGAIN we call the attention of all our LADY SUBSCRIBERS to the SPECIAL OFFER of plants and seeds on another page. Look at it before you renew your subscriptions and you will probably act upon it.

IF there are any game laws it is now time to put them in force, for the crop of loafers who own or can borrow a gun, is very large this year. They swarm over the country, killing the useful birds in great numbers.

THOSE who are looking for a small, profitable farm under high cultivation, would do well to communicate with T. R. PROCTOR, at Utica, N. Y. He has 42 acres of excellent land, with new buildings, which he advertises for sale *cheap*.

THE war-cloud that a few weeks since threatened to overspread all Europe, seems to be disappearing, an event over which humanity should rejoice. We might gain something for a brief period from such a war, but it would be a loss in the end.

THE Centennial malaria still continues, and hundreds find themselves suffering from disease contracted at the great show, in spite of Dr. PEPPER's protest against attributing it to the unhealthfulness of Philadelphia or its suburban surroundings.

ANY ONE having a full set of the RURAL NEW-YORKER from the first number to 1868—either bound or unbound—which they desire to sell, will please communicate with this office, naming price. We have some customers whom we cannot supply.

E. N. FRESHMAN & BROS., the enterprising firm of Advertising Agents of Cincinnati, O., have opened a branch office at Room No. 1, First National Bank Building at Pittsburgh, Pa. It is to be hoped that the FRESHMAN BROS., when they have covered the whole area of the United States, will give the other agents a chance.

INDIAN SUMMER.

Oh! these days,
Autumn days!
When the languid earth lies dreaming
In a sort of golden haze;
When amidst the verdant woodlands
Stand the maples all ablaze:
Gold and crimson, brown and orange,
How they rise,
Glowing pyramids of color,
To the skies.

When the summer tasks are done,
And the song-birds southwards gone,
And no sound
Stirs the voiceless, breathless forest;
Save when, far away and seldom,
The ripe acorn strikes the ground;

Or when leaves,
With a melancholy rustle,
And unstirred by any breeze,
Circling downward from the trees,
Spread around
A rich carpet brighter tinted
Than the cunning Persian weaves.

Oh! these days,
Autumn days!
Who can paint the glow and glory
Of these halcyon Autumn days? *P. C. L.*

The Story-Teller.

A COCOON ENTERPRISE.

BY THEODORA R. JENNESS.

"CAPITAL chances to make money here in Kansas. A girl of ordinary industry can scarcely fail to be worth a comfortable sum by the time she is of age."

With this remark Ruby Gilbert clasped a leather belt about her blue-checked garden blouse, and settled a broad panama upon her head in an independent manner.

Bell Howard, Ruby's cousin from St. Louis, tossed aside her traveling-hat and looked at Ruby interestedly.

"That's good news to me," she said, "for I need to make money if ever a girl did."

Bell was an orphan, but she had been well taken care of thus far in life by an uncle who was a merchant in St. Louis.

"One don't like to depend on a relative all one's life," continued she. "Besides, Uncle Jasper gave me my choice, to remain in the convent with Cousin Blanche, or strike out for myself. I chose the latter—so here I am."

"I respect your sentiment, and you're welcome as the springtime here," returned Ruby, with warm hospitality. "I need a partner in my business so, if you've no objection, we'll shake hands upon a contract."

"Thank you," Bell replied; "but what speculation can *girls* go into on these far-off prairies?"

THE EXHIBIT OF A YOUNG REPUBLIC.

Bell viewed the prospect for a moment and then burst into a laugh brimful of girlish ridicule.

"Mulberries! Thirteen miles from market and not a standard berry, either! You must expect to sell them to the birds and Indian pappooses."

Ruby smiled indulgently at Bell's sally.

"It's not the berries I want—though they are delicious, mixed with raspberries and eaten with sugar and cool cream on a hot summer evening—but the leaves. Throwing aside all mystery, I'm going into the cocoon business."

Bell was somewhat enlightened.

"Ah, I see. Cocoons are made by silk-worms, and they live on mulberry leaves. But what can be done with cocoons in Kansas?"

"Wait a minute and I'll show you."

Ruby ran into the house, and soon returned with a light Indian basket, overflowing with velvet ribbons of every shade and color. She had unwound them all, mixing them in beautiful confusion, that the effect might be more striking.

"How perfectly lovely!" exclaimed Bell; "yards and yards of it. How did you come by it, Ruby?"

"The Marquis de Bossiere gave it me. It was woven in his silk factory, not two miles from here."

"A silk factory in Kansas? Owned by a marquis, too! Is the title genuine?"

"He's a real French nobleman. Rich, and the most splendid gentleman I ever met."

"He must be, if that's the way he lavishes silk velvet on the girls. I shall visit him within a week," said Bell, enthusiastically.

Ruby informed Bell that M. de Bossiere had agreed to purchase all the cocoons she could raise, at French market prices. Some time, she said, she hoped to build a factory of her own and have a wardrobe of home-made dresses, all of silk and velvet.

Bell became greatly interested in Ruby's cocoon enterprise. They sat on the veranda talking, until the spring twilight faded from the sky and the soft dark night grew rosy with the flush of kindling prairie fires.

The terms of the partnership were generous upon Ruby's part. She furnished the entire stock, in lieu of which Bell was to give her labor, receiving one half of the profits.

Ruby had studied the method of raising silk-worms pretty thoroughly, having spent the previous spring helping Antoinette Crozier—a little French girl—tend her cocoon crop at M. de Bossiere's silk colony.

The morning after Bell's arrrival she went with Ruby to examine the buds upon the mulberry trees.

They had begun to swell, and Ruby pronounced it time to "set" the eggs. She and Bell then went into the cellar—a dry, well-ventilated place, with sufficient light to enable them to work without a candle.

The eggs were preserved on cards of pasteboard, suspended from the ceiling by a string. Ruby had kept the eggs in that way through the winter.

When the last card had been taken down and laid upon a hanging shelf, Ruby said to Bell:

"I'm afraid you'll object to having silk-worms for room-mates, but I'd arranged to establish the cocoonery in the spare bedroom, that being the sunniest room of the house."

"They'll not intrude upon me while they're in the egg. I can move into your chamber when they begin to crawl about the room," said Bell.

Ruby laughed at Bell's ignorance of silk-worm habits and they carried the eggs to the spare chamber, or cocoonery, as it must now be called.

Before the south window was built a tier of tables with raised edges, the topmost one reaching nearly to the ceiling of the room. On these tables stood shallow boxes, ready to receive the pasteboard bearing the eggs. Step-ladders stood on either side the tier, that the upper tables might be reached without difficulty. The windows of the room were fitted outside with frames covered with light cloth, that the air might infiltrate slowly, without blowing directly on the worms.

When the "setting" was accomplished, Ruby consulted the thermometer for the regulation of the temperature.

"It must not go below 75 nor above 80," she said. "It stands 77 this morning. If the heat increases much, by afternoon we'll have to raise the windows for a little while."

The girls had little to do for the next ten days. At the end of that time the eggs began to turn from a deep-violet to light-blue, or ashy color, indicating that they would soon hatch, and would need watching.

On the eleventh morning a large number of the eggs had turned quite white, and out of each had emerged a tiny black silk-worm, showing signs of active life.

"Now comes the taking up," said Ruby, animatedly. She and Bell gathered a number of small mulberry twigs, each bearing two or three leaves, and laid them softly on the worms, spacing them to suit the quantity hatched.

The leaves were soon covered with worms, and the girls took the twigs up gently and laid them on newspapers spread beside the boxes on the tables. Care was taken to leave a broad margin,

CENTENNIAL DEPOT OF PENNSYLVANIA R. R.

Ruby pointed down the broad green slope that stretched below the veranda where she stood. "Do you see that grove of flourishing young mulberry trees? I planted them when I was twelve, three years ago."

as silk-worms grow very fast, and after each meal need more space.

"'Twill probably take four days for all of them to hatch," said Ruby, "and we'll have to feed them on scientific principles, that they may come

out even. Do you know the age of silk-worms is reckoned by the number of meals they eat?"

"Some small boys would be aged men if the human calendar were reckoned in that way," said Bell, laughing.

A new army of worms arrived each morning, until, on the fourth day, the last of them were hatched. The worms were separated as they came out, the first hatched being fed but three times a day, while the next in order were fed six times, until they had overtaken the first in age, when they were treated, like them, to a limited quantity of food. The third and fourth were served in like manner, until they were ready to join the others and receive a regular allowance of six meals a day.

"Now they're ready for the first molting," Ruby said, when the worms had all become of the same age. "Silk-worms have five ages. They go through four moltings—or change their skins four times—before they are ready to spin their cocoons."

"Dear me! we can never bring them out of all that tribulation alive!" said Bell, dismayed.

The period from hatching to the first molting is a very delicate one with silk-worms. Ruby and Bell felt almost as if they had the care of a multitude of babies on their hands. They fed them six times a day, with the youngest, tenderest leaves, for three days in succession. At the end of this time the most of the worms were buried beneath the leaves. As many as could be seen had short, thick-set bodies, large heads, and seemed entirely inanimate. This indicated that they had passed into the sleep which precedes the first molting. When the next meal was served, a large number of greedy strangers emerged from under the leaves, with lengthened, slender bodies of lighter color, and with snouts changed also in color and twice their former size. The worms had passed through their first molting.

With the second molting the silk-worms became of an almost ashy hue. The third rendered them still lighter, larger, and more ravenous, with feet the color of white and yellow silk.

At this stage an unlooked-for incident occurred. One afternoon, as Bell and Ruby were in the mulberry grove filling their leaf-bags for the silk-worms' supper, Antoinette Crozier rode up on horse-back, attended by a boy with a handsome and foreign air.

"Henri de Bossiere, a nephew of the marquis, over from France upon a visit," said Ruby in an undertone.

"Dear me! has he a title, too?" said Bell, a little flustered by her work-a-day appearance.

"Yes, he inherits his uncle's title; but never mind, he's a first-rate boy and not a bit stuck up," Ruby answered, still more softly, as she bestowed a friend's nod on the new comers.

The young marquis saluted Ruby with a gallant bow and then gave Bell a quick, admiring glance. Bell was a pretty, fair-faced girl, with light golden hair—"a cloister lily," Ruby poetically called her.

Henri's manner indicated extreme solicitude upon some subject.

"Hasten, my vera young dear mademoiselle," he hurriedly exclaimed. "*Votre beau* bugs moost die for zey has no *bon* air to lif on!"

The girls looked at Henri with astonishment, not unmingled with alarm.

"He means your silk-woems *will* die *if* they have no good air to live on," Antoinette explained.

Henri continued with his broken English and rapid French articulation:

"Ah, *mon Dieu! it est* thunder!"

The last word served to enlighten Bell and Ruby. They glanced hastily at the sky. Great black clouds had heaped themselves above the prairie. It lightened rapidly. A heavy roll of thunder sounded westward. Ruby suddenly remembered the danger that threatens silk-worms in a thunder-storm.

"Oh, our precious silk-worms! What can we do to save them?" she exclaimed, with great anxiety.

"Burn zem! burn zem!" responded Henri, with an emphatic gesture.

"He means *smoke* them," Antoinette explained again.

By the time the party reached the house, rain was pattering on their heads, and the lightning seemed to play beneath their very feet.

Bell's first movement, on reaching the cocoonery, was to close an open window.

"Not so, not so, *petite mademoiselle*. You would suffoocate a buffoolo-horse in zat way," said Henri, laying a detaining hand upon Bell's arm. He then opened the door which led into the hall and raised the windows to the hight of a few inches. This done, he looked at the thermometer and exclaimed, with increased energy:

"Up, up, up! he moost go down!"

Henri attempted to raise a window higher, but a blinding flash of lightning arrested the movement, while a gust of wind sent a deluge of rain through the open space beneath the window.

"Zat moost not be. Too mooch more wind make it so bad as none *le trifle*," he said, closing the window hastily. The silk-worms had begun to exhibit signs of suffering from the effects of the stifling atmosphere. A great number of them seemed almost dead.

Fortunately there was a large basket of leaves in the cocoonery, collected by the girls that morning in removing the litter from the tables where the silk-worms lay. Henri threw a part of the leaves into the stove and touched a lighted match to them. A purifying smoke spread through the apartment and the air began to lighten almost instantly. Henri kept up the smoke until the shower had ceased and the silk-worms passed through the ordeal in safety.

"How can we ever thank you, monsieur? If you had not been here to help us, our valuable *bugs* might all have died," Ruby said to Henri, with a spice of mischief in her tone.

"Ah, I see I should hafe say zem wormes. Ze eyes of mademoiselle tell me zat so," returned Henri, looking mortified. "I haf bad English zo I study him so great befoore I leaf my native France."

Ruby at once regretted her mischievous allusion and Bell began to mend the matter with ready tact and kindly sympathy.

"You speak English well for such a stranger," she said. "Much better than I could speak your language, although I've studied French ever since I was a little girl."

"Ah, fair beautiful, you haf lifted a heavy weight from my sad heart. *Je vous remercie* for speaking so vera kind," replied Henri, gratefully. "I shall come once more and see ze worms and listen to *la belle mademoiselle's* sweet tongue. *Au revoir.*"

The fifth transformation was the most laborious and most dangerous with the silk-worms. They whitened visibly and became feeble and emaciated.

"They look as if they were all in the last stage of consumption," Bell said, as she and Ruby gave them the first meal after the greater part of them had passed through the transformation.

"They'll begin to fatten now and eat enormously. We'll have a siege for about eight days, picking leaves for them," Ruby said.

The worms were fed plentifully three times a day. When the leaves were thrown to them they fell upon them with a noise like pattering rain, gnawing the leaf close to the wood. The season of hard work soon passed, and the girls began to realize their reward almost before they had hoped for it.

In six days after the fourth molting, the worms became transparent, as if containing a clear liquid, gold-colored, white, or green, according to the different breeds. Raising their heads uneasily and moving to and fro, they began to *spin their cocoons* among the leaves.

"Now comes the poetical translation. It's time to set the heath," said Ruby, joyfully.

Instead of the traditional heath used in Southern France, boughs of oak were used to form the cells in which the cocoons were to be lodged. These were set perpendicularly, in straight rows across the table, the tops of the boughs being formed into archways, by resting them against the floor of the table in the next tier.

Ruby and Bell were charmed with the fairy-like developments that followed the setting of the heath. The silk-worms started into motion, climbing up the branches, leaving a fine thread attached to every sprig, surrounding themselves by degrees with a transparent gauze. An elegant form was shaped. The silk-worm was yet seen, but the tissue thickened rapidly, taking in color green, white or yellow, until the insect finally disappeared from view.

In twenty-four hours the cocoon was perfected.

"It seems wonderful how mere insects can work such magical results within so short a time," said Bell.

"Yes; and the Marquis de Bossiere says each one of these balls contains thirteen hundred yards of thread, which is so easily wound off that the reel may be made to turn as fast as the wheels of a carriage driven at full speed and not break the thread."

Owing to the tardy worms that were slow to begin their work, the girls did not gather their cocoons until the fifth day after the first of them were formed. The bushy cabins of the silk-worms were taken apart and the boughs laid carefully upon the floor.

The spotted or stained cocoons were removed at once, that they might not soil the others. The sound ones could easily be told by their solidity. When the cocoons had all been gathered, they were weighed in baskets and spread on the well-cleaned tables where the worms had spent their lives. This being done, the finest cocoons were picked out for seed the coming year. Ruby and Bell selected the strongest, most elegantly-shaped and those whose tissue or thread was finest.

"We shall be spared the tragical closing scene which falls to the lot of so many silk-worms," Ruby said. "If M. de Bossiere had not agreed to receive our cocoons immediately, we should have to stifle the chrysalides or bake our worms in a hot oven."

"That would be shocking work!" Bell said, with a shudder. "I feel as if the little silk-worms were almost like little brothers and sisters to us, we've exercised so much care over them."

The cocoons saved for seed were strung in chaplets and hung in the smoke-house, that being a well-ventilated room and free from mice. In about twelve days butterflies emerged from them, who soon paired themselves and began to lay their eggs.

Ruby and Bell delivered into the hands of M. de Bossiere four hundred and twenty-one pounds of cocoons, for which they received seventy-five cents per pound in gold, making three hundred and fifteen dollars, seventy-five cents. This, divided equally, gave to each a clear profit of one hundred and fifty-seven dollars eighty-seven cents, the wages for scarcely one month's labor.

"You have done very beautiful work, my dear young ladies," the marquis said, approvingly. "If more of the youths of Kansas and other parts of the United States could gain so clear an insight to my favorite plan, what a rich and lovely land might America become!"

"And how sweetly glaring might ze ladies all be made to shine in silk, like bootifies among ze flowers in ze sun's blazes. Ah, *charmante!*" added the young marquis, gazing rapturously at Bell who, in honor of the occasion, had dressed herself, St. Louis style, in a pretty blue silk costume, with hat to match.

This was only the beginning of cocoon-raising with Ruby and Bell, you know. The enterprise bids fair to become of noticeable magnitude, as the years give it time to grow. Bell will remain in Kansas. Ruby's father has given the two girls a very cunning farm of forty acres, cut off from a cattle-range adjoining the Gilbert farm. Here they can plant extensive mulberry groves—cultivating the land with paying crops while the trees are small—build a cocoonery and, years hence, a silk factory, if Ruby's air-castles float serenely.

The marquis' nephew, Henri, has decided to relinquish his title in France and devote his energies to silk culture on the prairie, in company with his uncle.

I wonder if fair Bell has anything to do with the young nobleman's voluntary resignation?

Time will show.—*Wide Awake.*

BATTLES OF THE REVOLUTION.

BELOW we give a list of all the important battles of the Revolution. They began April 19, 1775. They closed October 19, 1781—six years and six months. The British sent 134,000 soldiers and sailors to this war. The colonists met them with 230,000 Continentals and 50,000 militia. The British let loose Indians and equally savage Hessians. The colonists had for allies the brave and courteous Frenchmen. The leading battles of the war—those particularly worthy of celebration—are Concord and Lexington, Bunker's Hill, Long Island, White Plains, Trenton, Princeton, Bennington, Saratoga, Monmouth, King's Mountain, Cowpen, Eutaw Springs, Yorktown. These are of national interest. Many of the others are more especially local. The disposition is to celebrate them all—victories or defeats—to recall the deeds of our ancestors and to have a good time generally. Our readers will do well to preserve the following list of the revolutionary battles:

Lexington (first skirmish)	April 19, 1775
Ticonderoga	May 10, 1775
Bunker's Hill	June 17, 1775
Montreal (Ethan Allen taken)	Sept. 25, 1775
St. John's besieged and captured	Nov. 3, 1775
Great Bridge, Va.	Dec. 9, 1775
Quebec (Montgomery killed)	Dec. 31, 1775
Moore's Creek Bridge	Feb. 27, 1776
Boston (British fled)	M'ch 17, 1776
Fort Sullivan, Charleston	June 28, 1776
Long Island	Aug. 27, 1776
Harlem Plains	Sept. 16, 1776
White Plains	Oct. 28, 1776
Fort Washington	Nov. 16, 1776
Trenton	Dec. 26, 1776
Princeton	Jan. 3, 1777
Hubbardton	July 7, 1777
Bennington	Aug. 16, 1777
Brandywine	Sept. 11, 1777
First battle at Bemis' Heights, Saratoga	Sept. 19, 1777
Paoli	Sept. 20, 1777
Germantown	Oct. 4, 1777
Forts Clinton and Montgomery taken	Oct. 6, 1777
Second battle at Bemis' Heights, Saratoga	Oct. 7, 1777
Surrender of Burgoyne	Oct. 13, 1777
Fort Mercer	Oct. 22, 1777
Fort Mifflin	Nov. 16, 1777
Monmouth	June 28, 1778
Wyoming	July 4, 1778
Quaker Hill, R. I.	Aug. 29, 1778
Savannah	Dec. 9, 1778
Kettle Creek, Georgia	Feb. 14, 1779
Brier Creek	March 3, 1779
Stone Ferry	June 20, 1779
Stony Point	July 16, 1779
Paulus Hook	Aug. 19, 1779
Chemung (Indians)	Aug. 29, 1779
Savannah	Oct. 9, 1779
Charleston (surrendered to British)	May 12, 1780
Springfield	June 23, 1780
Rocky Mount	July 30, 1780
Hanging Rock	Aug. 6, 1780
Sander's Creek, near Camden	Aug. 16, 1780
King's Mountain	Oct. 7, 1780
Fish Dam Ford, Broad River	Nov. 18, 1780
Blackstocks	Nov. 20, 1780
Cowpens	Jan. 17, 1781
Guilford	M'ch 15, 1781
Hookirk's Hill	April 25, 1781
Ninety-Six (besieged)	May and June, 1781
Augusta (besieged)	May and June, 1781
Jamestown,	July 6, 1781
Eutaw Springs	Sept. 8, 1781
Yorktown (Cornwallis surrendered)	Oct. 19, 1781

THE LOCOMOTIVE vs. SUPERSTITION.

WHEN the Nicholai Railway was constructed, in 1848, from St. Petersburg to Moscow, the work was done under contracts with American engineers and the cars and engines were supplied from Baltimore by the famous establishment of the Winans Brothers. The Russian priests oppose every modern innovation and, of course, they were "down" on the railway. When the road was opened they determined to stop it, and so they went in force to a point on the road and set up a holy picture to stop the new work of the devil. The train came slowly along and the engineer, seeing the picture standing on the track, thought there must be a man behind it, and so came to a halt. The assembled multitude raised a shout and the priests called out that the saint was all-powerful and would prevail against wickedness. The officer in charge of the train came out and took a survey of the situation. Then he told the engineer to run back a quarter of a mile and bring the train to a halt. The shouting was redoubled and the priests were in the most rapturous delight. But their exultation was soon changed to grief as the master of ceremonies told the engineer, "Put on all steam and go ahead without regard to consequences." The engine went ahead and down fell the holy picture, torn and crushed by the wheels of an American locomotive. Modern civilization was triumphant and the priests and their followers no longer shouted in triumph.

HOW TO WOO A WOMAN.

Woo a woman bravely. If there is anything humiliating to a woman, it is to have a lover whom she wishes to honor, weak and vapid, ever yielding and half afraid of her. She longs to tell him "to act like a man!" The man who conceals or denies his love for fear of being laughed at, is a coward. A love that has no element of divinity in it is not love, but passion, which, of itself, has nothing ennobling. That was a beautiful inscription on an engagement ring, "Each for the other, and both for God."

Sabbath Reading.

KEEPING LENT.

Is this a fast to keepe
The larder leane
And cleane
From fat of veales and sheape?

It is to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an houre,
Or ragged goe,
Or show
A downcast look and sowre?

No! 'tis a fast to dole
Thy sheafe of wheate,
And meate,
Unto the hungry sowle!

It is a fast from strife,
From old debate,
And hate
To circumcise "thy life."

To show a heart grief-rent,
To starve thy sin,
Not bin,
And that's to keepe thy Lent!

—*Robert Herrick*, 1591.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS.

IN Dr. Mell's little book on "The Utility of Prayer," the author says of the scriptural command to pray for others:—"God requires us to present to him intercessions for others, not because he needs information from us of their wants, or because he waits for an impulse to act in their behalf, but because he would cultivate our Christian graces. The waters of benevolence are refluent; and he is watered most in his own soul who is most active in watering the souls of others. God requires us to pray for others that we might thus be stimulated to work for them. No one can, in good faith and with strong desire, pray for a good thing in behalf of another, without standing pledged to do all in his power to help him to that good thing. No one can truly pray for the salvation of another without feeling impelled and pledged to do all in his power to bring him to Christ. His personal efforts, in all judicious ways, will inevitably accompany his prayers and grow out of them. No one can pray for the salvation of the heathen without virtually pledging his property and, if necessary, himself also, to carry to them the glad tidings of salvation. Desire prompts the prayer and the prayer increases the desire, and both exert an influence upon the petitioner—the one by direct power impelling, the other by reflex influence pledging him to active efforts to the evangelizing of the heathen.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

GOD chooses that men should be tried; but let a man beware of tempting his neighbor. God knows how and how much, and where and when. Man is his brother's keeper and must keep him according to his knowledge.—*G. Macdonald.*

HEAVEN will be a world of peace and rest—for the "weary and heavy laden" will be there. "He giveth his beloved sleep." They shall rest at last in the beautiful and tranquil world they thirsted for so long, where the spirit shall be willing and the flesh never weak.—*Greg.*

FAITH relies upon the truth of what God hath promised and Hope waits for the enjoyment of the good in the promise, but more especially for the glory which is to be revealed. This hope of glory is full of rejoicing, because everything which Hope looks at and draws its joy from, depends on the truth and faithfulness of a covenant of God. There can be no failing on His part, and therefore on the believer's there can be no disappointment. —*Romaine.*

MOST PEOPLE need all the strength which a high-toned public opinion can give them to keep them true to their conscience and their God; and that opinion is partly formed by what we do and what we are. Strive earnestly, then, to order your life with a wise simplicity. Be frugal in the shows and generous in the substances of life. Set the example so greatly needed, of wholesome moderation. Show that you care for character above all else.—*Rev. H. W. Foote*

THE strongest argument for the truth of Christianity is the true Christian; the man filled with the spirit of Christ. The best proof of Christ's resurrection is a living church, which itself is walking in a new life and drawing life from Him who hath overcome death. Before such arguments ancient Rome herself, the mightiest empire of the world, and the most hostile to Christianity, could not stand. Let us live in like manner and then, though hell should have a short-lived triumph, eventually must be fulfilled what St. Augustine says, "Love is the fulfilling of the truth." —*Christlieb.*

A MAN diseased in body can have little joy of his wealth, be it ever so great. A golden crown cannot cure the headache nor a velvet slipper give ease to the gout, nor a purple robe fray away a burning fever. A sick man is alike sick, wheresoever you lay him—on a bed of gold or on a pad of straw; with a silk quilt or a sorry rag on him. So no more can riches, gold and silver, land and living, had a man much more than ever any man had, minister unto him much joy; yea, or any true or sound joy at all, where the mind is distract and discontent. Without contentment there is no joy of aught; there is no profit, no pleasure in anything.—*Galaker.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

UNDER THE ROSE.

I am cold and I am light
As the fleecy, floating snows?
If a thorn ran through my heart
You would only see the rose.

Fickle, shallow, thoughtless, gay?
And you truly think me so?
You may view the ocean's foam
But its deeps lie far below.

Come and stand by me awhile
Where no other friend has been;
I will open wide my heart,
I will show you all within.

What!—you start and turn away,
And the tears begin to fall!—
Ah! my heart!—you thought it gay?
It is broken—that is all.

[*J. H., in Scribner's.*

HOW SHALL WE EDUCATE OUR GIRLS?"

An article in the Rural of Sept. 23d, and a reply in the issue of Oct. 7, relative to the education of girls, treat the topic, which is usually a very important one, neither as broadly on the one hand nor as seriously on the other, as it deserves to be. So much is talked and written of the education of girls, as to lead one to suppose that it is an affair so entirely different from that of boys, that parents and educators are put to their wits' end to know just what it should be. If the object of educating anybody be to bring about a degree of mental development and discipline, and to fit the individual for self-dependence, wherein, pray, should the education of the girl differ materially from that of the boy? True, the duties of the one will differ from those of the other, but for capability in *general* usefulness both require very much the same educational training. During the time of my own school life, which covered a period of fifteen to eighteen years, I studied a variety of subjects which not a few good friends declared would never be "of the slightest use" to me. But after a trial of active life, I have found that not the slightest thing I ever learned, whether in art or science or "practical drudgery," if you please, has failed to be of some service to me. I make this personal observation, because I believe it to be the experience of every woman whose life is full of duty and activity. I think many people mistake the meaning of *use*, in applying it only to financial result or its equivalent. What cheers, brightens and beautifies life, is of use equally as well as what cooks the dinner or coins dollars. When I say—and I *do* say it—that every farmer and farmerine ought to be well versed in geology and botany, I opine that the majority of agricultural workers will smile ironically and ask for what *use?* For the best and brightest use, I answer,—the ability to appreciate and enjoy the wonderful nature in whose midst they live out their lives, and of whom they too rarely know just nothing at all of her charms and her mysteries. I know a woman of unusual culture and intelligence, who has lived all her life in the "backwoods," whose labors have been the homeliest of domestic and farm-house duties, but whose life is made bright and even radiant by her profound knowledge of botany. To sit an hour at her feet and hear her talk of what she sees in the natural productions about her, the leaves, flowers, grasses, etc., is a luxury of entertainment no woman of purely fashionable accomplishments could hope to dispense.

No woman in the whole woman's kingdom is so much to be pitied as she whose life is drudgery from morning until night, and into whose education has been planted no means of intellectual entertainment or recreation. Few women, comparatively, possess the genius of the western country woman whose butter-bust of the "Dreaming Iolanthe" in the Woman's Pavilion in the Centennial Exhibition has been the object of probably more curiosity than any other single exhibit. She amused herself—for amusement is in reality a *necessity* of life—in molding her butter as she worked it into various forms, little dreaming that with her simple implements—a couple of brushes and a few broom splints—she was modeling in a fashion that would be the fortune of a sculptor. So in the education of a girl, there should be two things accomplished: she should be trained in some one thing so thoroughly—something for which she has a taste—that it will always be to her, whatever her fate in life, a source of recreation; this may be any one of the numerous natural sciences, natural history, a fine art,—something to occupy and invigorate her mind, and that will *not* tax her emotional nature, as does novel reading and brooding over the sorrows and ills of life. The other essential is a sufficiently intelligent knowledge of something, by which she can earn her own living in case of need. If the two essentials are happily combined in one thing, so much the better.

Hardly a half year passes, but that I meet with one or more women whom misfortune compels to work, or who, seized by a noble ambition to accomplish some achievement in life, find themselves helpless from not knowing how to do anything thoroughly well. They have had their smattering of education in a boarding school, but are masters of nothing. For this reason, and for the reasons of health, respect and happiness, I would, if I had one or a dozen daughters to educate, have them so thoroughly drilled in some handiwork, that each one would be able to support herself easily and respectably by it, if necessary. Until a girl is in some such way prepared for self-support, her education is scarcely more than begun, and her parents' duty toward her only partially fulfilled. I have somewhere read that Queen Anne understood *thirty* different occupations so well, that she could have commanded good wages in working at any one of them. There is scarcely a woman of rank in all Europe who is not fairly accomplished in some art or science, and everybody knows that the education of princes and noblemen is of a most thorough and practical character. Nothing more surely points out the *parvenu* or plebeian than a contempt for useful knowledge, lowly as it may be in character.

There are several trades or professions, the skillful acquirement of which will always render a girl independent. Among these may be mentioned engraving, designing, rapid sketching, dress-making, telegraphy, pastry making, cooking, book-keeping, making button-holes, painting porcelain and pottery, silk-worm culture, short-hand writing, pharmacy, type setting and nursing the sick. These, it will be observed, include none of the commoner accomplishments, as music and the languages, or the several professions, as medicine and chemistry.

Any one of the above-mentioned occupations, when executed in a superior manner, lifts the individual out of drudgery into a comfortable and respectable position. No mistress is so respected by servants as she whose knowledge and skill render her independent of them. First-class cooks command a salary ranging from $50 to $500 a month! I have been told that a cook to one of the New York club-houses receives a salary verging on to eight thousand dollars a year, and Madame C——, probably the finest dress maker in New York, and an Irish lady at that, has an income from her profession ranging from twenty to thirty thousand dollars a year. Skill, taste and tact of a high order in *any kind* of honest work, must and do command respect. As a girl cannot and ought not to learn everything, see to it that she learns some *one* thing *well*. Every girl, whose circumstances permit it, should insist upon it that she be rendered self-supporting in her own person. That she is to marry or not, has no more to do with the character of her education than it has with that of a boy, whether *he* is to marry or not. Marriage is not an infallible insurance against anything. Its demands are usually such that no woman ever yet found herself too well qualified in any respect for its duties, and in its comprehensive sphere she not only generally finds room to exercise, but a demand for, her specific talent. If a "rainy day" comes to her, it is her fortune in reserve, and if prosperity always attend, she is respected by husband, children and neighbors proportionately more for her skill in some useful art.

Mary Wager-Fisher.

Bryn Mawr, near Philadelphia.

TREAT YOUR BOYS WELL.

Some mothers try to reach the soft side of their boy's nature with a kind word; some with a harsh word; and some with an old slipper. Some mothers try it in this manner:—"Now you great, big lubber, get right out of here and stop that outlandish noise, will you! Don't you know better than to whistle in the house? You are always in the road. Go way, and don't let me see you again to-day." Now Jim, John or Peto—whatever his name may be—will withdraw, and boy-like will say nothing; but boy-like again, will keep up a big thinking. If we could reach his thoughts it is more than likely they would run in this channel: "Now why can't mother give a fellow a kind word once in a while! I know I ain't the worst boy in the world, but she appears to think so. If I am always in her way why does she always call for me when she wants a pail of water or an armful of wood? Why ain't I in her road then? It must be a disgrace to be a boy, for she and sisters are always snubbing me because I am a boy. I wish I was away from home, then I could have a few minutes' peace." If he goes down town with a view of finding a place where he is not in the road, it is very likely that he will not find the purest and best company in the world. The boys with whom he will have to associate have been through the same mill that he has, and being deprived of the home influence which they should have, they are not exactly model boys. They will swear, smoke, chew and play cards; and if J., the subject of our sketch, falls into the same ways, who is to blame? Mothers and sisters, for heaven's sake, make your home attractive for your boys. Don't find fault with them every time they stir, because boys are by nature a noisy set. Who would have them otherwise? Treat your boys well and give them good advice—in small pieces; don't feed them too much at once, or it will act in the wrong direction. Give them kind words, and you will never pass any sleepless nights on their account. A boy who has the right kind of a home will *never turn out bad.*

CROWNING A ROSIERE.

The Rosiere of Puteaux, in France, who was elected one Sunday, recently, and duly crowned in the presence of the civil and religious authorities, is a Protestant, her name Mlle. Hummel. She will receive on her marriage day the sum of $150, being the interest on $3,000 left by a citizen of Puteaux for the purpose of encouraging virtue by temporal rewards. Ten candidates presented themselves this year for the honor and profit of being named rosiere; and it is painful to add that the claims of four were dismissed after an examination which was of the briefest. The merits of the six remaining ladies, being above discussion, were subjected to the infallible test of the ballot, as exercised by the wisdom of a rural municipal council; and Mlle. Hummel was found the most worthy.

Reading for the Young.

DO YOUR BEST.

The heart and mind of man and man
Must differ, it is true,
And so the deed our neighbor does
Perchance we ne'er could do;
And thus, in climbing fortune's hight
To reach the fame in store,
If people only do their best,
The world will ask no more.

Does then the little humming bird
Its tender song forsake,
Because the nightingale's sweet voice
May softer music make?
Or does the tiny, twinkling star,
Which lends to earth its light,
Repine because some kindred orb
May chance to burn more bright?

And so thro' life we find that some
Are clad in praise and fame,
While others meekly plod along,
With naught to gild their name;
But when each life is reckon'd up,
Its doings counted o'er,
If we can say, "I did my best,"
Our God will ask no more.

[*N. O. Picayune.*

TO ALL OF YOU!

So many Girls and Boys have expressed their admiration for and interest in the Rural, that we have concluded to give them an opportunity to show the same in a substantial manner. We thank them all for their expressions of good feeling; we desire to pay them well for their work and have, therefore, prepared the following Premium List for that purpose. Look it over carefully and when you have found something which you want, begin your work and send us names enough to secure it. Now let us see who will do the best!

	Cash Price.	At $2.50.	At $2.00
1—Boy's Sporting Rifle	$20 00	15	30
2—Double Barrel Shot Gun	15 00	10	20
3—New Alert Revolver, 7 Shot	5 00	5	10
4—New Harrington & Richardson Revolver, 7 Shot, 100 Cartridges.	10 00	8	15
5—Silver Hunting Case Watch	30 00	20	35
6—Franz & Pope's Knitting Machine	40 00	20	40
7—Ladies' Gold Hunting Case Watch	85 00	60	95
8—Household Microscope	5 00	5	10
9—Youth's Microscope	3 00	4	10
10—Botanical Pocket Microscope	2 25	3	10
11—Cabinet Magic Lantern	12 00	10	20
12—Gold Pen and Ebony Holder, No. 5	5 00	5	10
13—Gold Pen, Silver Extension Case and Pencil	5 00	5	10
14—Gold Pen and Ebony Holder, No. 3	3 00	3	10
15—Gold Pen and Gold and Ebony Extension Holder	3 50	4	10
16—Gold Paragon Pencil Case, Chased	3 00	3	10
17—Gold Paragon Pencil Case, Ivory Slide	4 00	4	10
18—Gold Charm Pencil Case	3 50	4	10
19—Set of Ladies' Garden Tools	1 00	2	—
20—Silver Plated Butter Dish	8 00	7	12
21—Silver Plated Ice Pitcher, Unique Chasing	25 00	18	25
22—Silver Plated Ice Pitcher; Wheat, with Satin Finish	15 00	12	15
23—Doz. Double Plated Tea Spoons	6 00	6	10
24—Doz. Double Plated Des'rt Spoons	12 00	8	14
25—Doz. Double Plated Table Spoons	14 00	9	17
26—Doz. Double Plated Des'rt Forks.	12 00	8	14
27—Doz. Double Plated Med'm Forks.	11 00	9	15
28—Silver Plated Castor, Six Cruets	9 00	7	12
29—Silver Plated Castor, Five Cruets.	7 00	6	10
30—Silver Plated Cake Basket	10 00	8	14
31—Silver Plated Fruit Stand	15 00	10	18
32—Half-Dozen Silver Plated Napkin Rings	5 00	5	10
33—Child's Set, Silver Plated Knife, Fork, Spoon and Napkin Ring, in Morocco Case	6 00	5	10
34—Silver Plated Pie Knife	4 00	4	10
35—Silver Plated Goblet	5 00	5	10
36—Silver Plated Child's Cup	3 00	3	10
37—Silver Plated Table Bell	3 00	3	10
38—Doz. Hard Rubber Handle Table Knives	9 00	8	17
39—Doz. Hard Rubber Handle Dessert Knives	8 00	7	15
40—One Carver, Fork and Steel, Hard Rubber Handles	5 00	5	12
41—Doz. Pat. Ivory (Celluloid) Handle Table Knives	10 00	9	18
42—Doz. Pat. Ivory (Celluloid) Handle Dessert Knives	9 00	8	17
43—One Carver, Fork and Steel, Patent Ivory (Celluloid) Handles	5 00	5	12
44—Ladies' Lap Board, Yard Measure and Checker Board, combined	1 50	2	—
45—Album	5 00	4	10
46—Pocket Knife, Four Blades	3 00	3	10
47—A 30-Hour "St. Nicholas" Clock	2 00	3	—

HOW TO MAKE A KITE.

Prof. Peabody of the Massachusetts Agricultural College tells the boys in the Bright Side how to make a kite that will fly:

Among the various kinds, the "three-stick kite" is probably the surest for the beginner. Get three light, thin, straight sticks of cedar, pine or similar wood; smooth them, and let them be about half an inch wide by an eighth thick; perhaps a little more. Make two of them thirty inches long, and the third twenty inches. Mark a point ten inches from the end of each of the long sticks, and in the middle of the short one; cross the three sticks at these points, and tie them firmly with twine. Cut notches lengthwise across the ends of the sticks, and tie a strong twine from end to end, making the outline of an irregular six-sided figure, of which the bottom may be sixteen inches long; the sides about eighteen and one-half; the shoulders eleven, and the top eight inches. These numbers may vary; it is necessary only that the corresponding sides should be exactly alike or the kite will not be well balanced. This finishes the frame.

Now lay down a sheet of strong, light paper, place the frame upon it, and cut the paper about two inches larger than the frame, all around. Fold the outside over the strings, and paste down with good boiled flour paste, cutting out the corners where they over-lap.

The next thing is to hang the kite. Measure from each lower corner five inches along the sticks; make a small hole on each side of the stick through the paper, and tie in the ends of a string, which shall measure, when tied, about fourteen inches from stick to stick. This is the lower loop. In like manner tie an upper loop, about eight inches long, to points about three inches from the upper end of the same stick. Remember to have the loops on the face side of the kite, that is, the side on which the sticks are not seen. Join the middles of the two loops by a string about twenty inches long; this is the belly-band. Hang the kite by the belly-band over your finger, and hold it so that when one end of the kite touches the floor, the other may be about a foot above it; there is the place to tie the line, making it so fast that it will not slip. When the kite floats in the air, it should lie at an angle of about forty-five degrees; if it stands too straight, the string is fastened too low on the belly-band; if too flat the string is not low enough.

The kite must have a tail to balance it. If the tail is too heavy, the kite will not raise it; if too light, as is usually the case, the kite will not "stand" steadily, but will dive from side to side. Whenever it does that it should be taken in, and more weight added to the tail. Cut pieces of writing paper, four inches wide and six or eight long; fold back and forth, fan like, tie them three inches apart on a string, until you have made three or four yards. Then cut a quantity of strips half an inch wide, and twelve or fourteen inches long; tie the bunch of them by the middle, fold the ends together and tie again, making a tassel, which you may tie to the end of the tail. If the strips are of colored tissue paper, all the gayer. Tie a string about twenty inches long to the two lower corners of the kite, and fasten the tail to the middle of it. Choose a smooth, close, well-spun string, linen is best—and costs most—not too large, or its weight will make it "sag," or too small, or the kite will fly away with it. Finally, don't try to fly a kite when the wind don't blow.

Now, just as each of your good mothers thinks she has a recipe for making cookies, which she thinks is a little better than any other, so every boy who has experience in kite-making, thinks his way is rather the best, and quite likely he may find fault with some of our proportions. If so, he has perfect liberty to change them to his liking. The important items are: the kite must be truly made so that one side may just balance the other; it must hang at the proper angle to the wind; and the tail must be rightly proportioned in weight to the size of the kite.

If the kite don't behave well at first, think which of these items has not been carefully attended to, and correct. Don't give up at the first trial.

JOHN MILTON.

The author of one of the grandest poems in the English Language—Paradise Lost—was born in London, December 6, 1608. His father was a scrivener, or law-writer, in large practice; and his mother a lady from Wales. His father had a good knowledge of books, loved music, and was one of the best composers of the age.

John Milton's education began at home; afterwards he went to St. Paul's School, and in due course to the University at Cambridge. He got on so rapidly with his studies that it is said he was a "ripe scholar and a good one" before he was twenty-one years of age. His talent for poetry showed itself very early—"at the age of ten," says one writer; and his fond father was so proud of him that he employed Jansen to paint his portrait—a half-length in laced ruffles. From the time of his leaving Cambridge, John Milton resided with his father on an estate which the latter had purchased at Horton, in the county of Bucks. In 1637, on the death of his mother, he got permission to visit Italy, on a musical as well as poetical tour, to collect for his father the works of the great masters of one art, while he gained personal experience in the other by intercourse with learned persons there. "I had determined," says he, "to lay up, as the best treasure and solace of good old age, if God vouchsafe it to me, the honest liberty of free speech."

The next long stage in Milton's life was his being secretary to Oliver Cromwell, for which he had a very moderate salary.

In 1843 he married Mary, daughter of Richard Powell, Esq. of Forest Hill, in Oxfordshire. On her death he became blind, and married for the second time Catherine, the daughter of Captain Woodcock of Hackney.

After the death of Cromwell and the Restoration of Charles II., Milton was a marked man. But he was now poor and blind, and no one could pursue with violence an enemy cast down by fortune and disarmed by nature.

Milton now turned the whole force of his early poetic genius to the working out of the dream of his boyhood—the writing of a grand poem.

Thus, till his sixtieth year, so little impatient was he of securing fame by that very gift on which he most valued himself, that the whole of his published poems scarcely made a hundred pages of print.

Now he felt—poor blind man!—that it was

within him, so his daughter wrote while he composed.

Paradise Lost was published in 1667; Paradise Regained and Samson Agonistes, a Tragedy, three years afterwards. These, with L'Allegro, Il Penserosa, Lycidas, Comus, the Sonnets, with a few juvenile poems in Latin, Italian and English, completed his poetical works.

He died peacefully, in 1674, at his house in Bunhill Fields; and was buried next to his father, in the chancel of St. Giles', at Cripplegate.

One moral which young readers may draw for themselves from John Milton's life is—that youth is the time for book-learning and industry; and then whatever may be the troubles or reverses of after-life or old age, a mind well-stored in early days can give consolation and cheerfulness, as the poet found, even when he was aged, poor and blind.

MISSPENT EVENINGS.

The boy who spends an hour of each evening lounging idly on the street corners, wastes in the course of a year three hundred and sixty-five precious hours, which, if applied to study, would familiarize him with the rudiments of almost any of the familiar sciences. If in addition to wasting an hour each evening he spends ten cents for a cigar, which is usually the case, the amount thus worse than wasted would pay for ten of the leading periodicals of the country. Boys, think of these things. Think of how much time and money you are wasting, and for what? The gratification afforded by the lounge on the corner or the cigar is not only temporary but positively hurtful. You cannot indulge in them without seriously injuring yourselves. You acquire idle and wasteful habits, which will cling to you with each succeeding year. You may in after life shake them off, but the probabilities are that the habits thus formed in early life will remain with you to your dying day. Be warned, then, in time, and resolve that as the hour spent in idleness is gone forever, you will improve each passing one and thereby fit yourself for usefulness and happiness.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

A Pleasant, Wee Visitor.

Uncle True:—Mamma reads me the letters from young Cousins in your paper every week. I am a little girl six years old; have never been to school; can read and spell and write a little. I have no brother or sister, but lots of pets. Four rabbits; a guinea pig, which I took to the county fair, and for which I received a first premium. Her name is Lady. I have a blue cat which weighs eleven pounds, a pet lamb and a shepherd dog. I wish you could all see my pets. Good-by.—Cora E., *Seneca Falls, N. Y.*

From Lena Crafte.

Dear Cousins:—I hope Uncle True won't scold when he sees another letter from me. I will not trouble him again. Walter P. wanted to know about the leap-year party. I will try and tell him. Of course, we went after the boys, waited on them, danced with them, and took them home. There were thirty-five couples, and *the girls paid the bills.* I should like to correspond with Gypsy Belle.

A Martial Cousin.

Mr. Editor:—We have taken your paper in our family ever since it has been published, therefore I think I have a right to be one of the Cousins, and hope this will not be thrown into the waste basket. I live on a farm, but am not much of a farmer. I attend school. I would like to attend a military school, at West Point or some other place.—C. H. W., *Corfu, N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 60 letters:

My 14, 12, 8, 23, 16, 26, 29 a king of Egypt.
My 21, 56, 9, 20, 33 was a priest without God's order.
My 1, 8, 27, 55, 34, 37, 40, 4 a companion of Paul.
My 24, 11, 3, 14, 46, 6, 55 was put to death for Christ's sake.
My 58, 8, 19, 34, 2, 50, 10, 35 St. Paul's teacher.
My 13, 36, 31, 19, 40, 5 a man who was struck blind for speaking against the gospel.
My 7, 59, 53, 17, 8, 32 a woman who was raised from the dead.
My 15, 39, 48, 41, 18, 4, 50, 8, 24, 28, 22, 5 a book of the Old Testament.
My 44, 20, 55, 50, 30, 42 a book of the Old Testament.
My 14, 38, 45, 47, 53 a book of the New Testament.
My 25, 50, 57, 28, 31 a number.
My 49, 43, 53, 26, 60 a king.
My 52, 50, 24, 48, 50, 14, 51, 15, 4 chief ministers.
My whole is a verse in the Bible.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S. C.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I am composed of 15 letters:

My 8, 2, 11, 11, 3, 5 is a wicked person.
My 4, 6, 10, 1, 7 is to produce.
My 2, 13, 5, 9 is a musical instrument.
My 14, 15, 10, 11 is money.

My whole is a range of mountains in America.

☞ Answer in two weeks. Virginia.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Oct. 28.

Hidden Fruit.—1, Plum; 2, Currant; 3, Persimmon, 4, Lime, 5, Fig; 6, Date; 7, Apple; 8, Watermelon; 9, Bread-fruit.

Geographical Enigma.—Lyons, Wayne County, New York.

Miscellaneous Enigma.—William Shakspeare.

Double Acrostic.—Primals, Luzon; finals, Sunda.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

Having a few choice plants now growing in the Rural's Experimental Grounds, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the Rural New-Yorker, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.00 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Molucca Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory or garden. Its growth is rapid—small plants attaining the hight of five feet during the summer months. In the fall it may be cut back to any desirable size and potted for the winter, when it will quickly recover its symmetry and resume its ever-blooming habit. Its quick and exceeding popularity is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is as yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class. It is difficult to select a more attractive plant than Marie Lemoine when freely blooming. Every truss is in itself a bouquet. The leaves are large, zonoloss, vigorous. The plant is compact and, like *Abutilon Boule de Neige*, is invaluable, either for the conservatory, window or garden.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It has stood 26° below zero unharmed. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. The thyrses of flowers, first greenish-white, then white, then rose, often measure a foot in length and twenty inches in circumference. Every stem being thus terminated, the striking appearance of an entire plant may be conceived. There can be no doubt that this is one of the most valuable of all perfectly hardy shrubs.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata.*—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green, much as *Abutilon Thomsoni* is variegated with green and yellow. From its racemes of flowers are formed fruit as large as currants, each one of which is a different color in shades of claret, azure-blue and green. These berries, which are first as soft as a currant, become finally as hard as bullets.

The pretty stems are also variegated, green, whitish and rose. The roots are perfectly hardy, and the vine's growth so rapid that it will cover twenty-five feet square in a season. For conservatory walls or pillars, for trellises or rockeries, it cannot fail to please. It has been growing in the Rural Experimental Grounds for several years without the least protection.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the singular Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the Rural of Aug. 17, p. 117.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

The Baptists of Michigan have added 2,500 to their number this year.

A Washington girl, Estella Hutton, carried arsenic in her pocket for a month, with the avowed intention of swallowing it when she got ready. A few days ago she put her determination into effect, and the dose quickly killed her.

The Sioux practice a mode or healing which is almost similar to the Turkish bath. As early as 1680 Father Hennepin was cured of a fever by the Minnesota Indians by sweating in an an air-tight earth-oven, covered with buffalo skins and heated with red-hot stones.

The name Hell Gate is older than the Dutch settlement of 1613. In a very ancient map of this locality, found in the library at Munich, Manhattan Island is represented as covered by Mohicans, but Hell Gate is indicated in the East River.

The studies prescribed by law for the Illinois public schools are orthography, English reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography and United States history. A pupil refused to study bookkeeping and was expelled. The father sued, recovered damages, and the Supreme Court sustains the verdict on the ground that a study of the prescribed branches cannot be enforced.

Du Sommerard denies that he wrote the objectionable letter, but it is alleged by many French exhibitors at Philadelphia that he did, from the first, all he could to break down the Exhibition, and that he succeeded in dissuading the proprietors of the Creuzot foundry, one of the largest in the world, from sending their superb products to Machinery Hall.

In the Vermont Legislature, now in session, it has been voted to reduce the Treasurer's salary 25 per cent.—to $1,500 a year, without clerk hire. Other salaries are to be scaled correspondingly.

The farmers of Wyandotte Co., Kan., having been for several months past annoyed by horse thieves, appointed an extermination day, hanged two of the culprits, and drove the rest out of the region.

Mrs. Hardy's paraffine mold trick has again been exposed in Boston. An investigator slyly put coloring matter into the pailful of paraffine from which the spirits were supposed to make the mold, yet the mold came out as white as usual.

It is proposed to introduce round playing cards, as being more easy to manipulate than the time-honored square-shaped, originally invented for the amusement of a sick French king. Instead of having the suits merely colored black and red, they are to be red hearts, green diamonds, black spades, and yellow clubs.

St. Louis has a new Asylum for the Reformation of Drunkards. It is said that the first patient in a similar institution in Chicago is now a Supreme Court Judge in Wisconsin.

The Boston Journal says that the Rev. Doctor Storrs was offered by a New York millionaire a handsome furnished residence as a gift if he would become pastor of the Brick Church.

Savannah physicians are accusing each other of unwise treatment of patients during the yellow fever epidemic.

A special to the Pioneer Press says that Gen. Miles, commanding the troops on the Yellowstone, after fighting, defeating and pursuing Sitting Bull and the confederated tribes under him, Oct. 27 accepted the surrender of 400 lodges of Indians belonging at the Cheyenne agency. The tribes surrendered five of their principal chiefs as hostages as guarantee of their faithful compliance with the terms of the capitulation. These bands are to go at once to the agency, where upon their arrival they will submit to the requirements of the Government. The Indians held as hostages left the same evening for St. Paul under the charge of strong guards.

Maj. Gen. Giles A. Smith died at Bloomington, Ill., Nov. 5.

The total number of interments at Savannah, Ga., Nov. 4, was nine, of which six were from yellow fever.

New York City is threatened with a water famine.

Boston has a Coaching Club. One coach so far.

Gov. Hartranft has appointed the 30th inst. as Thanksgiving.

A delegation of 100 Sioux Indians has gone to the Indian Territory to look for a reservation.

The Centennial Judges have decided to return to the original system of awards.

Johanna Turbin, a colored woman, was sentenced in the Washington Criminal Court to be hanged on the 29th of December for murder.

The number of postal cards issued during the month of October was 23,116,000, an increase of 2,977,500, or nearly 15 per cent. over the issues of October of last year.

On board the vessels of the whaling fleet recently abandoned in the Arctic Ocean, were 12,034 barrels of whale oil, 199 barrels of sperm oil, 61,100 pounds of whalebone, and 43,000 pounds of ivory

Tweed has not arrived yet.

Railway accidets are becoming epidemic. A collision occurred on the Louisville, Lexington and Cincinnati Short Line Railroad, near Peewee Valley, between a wild engine and an express train bound south, killing the engineer of the wild engine and his fireman. James Loman, express messenger, suffered a fracture of the left leg. A passenger train going west on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad collided with a freight train near Shoals, Ind., killing the engineer and fireman. Some of the passengers sustained slight injuries, but none were seriously hurt. Nine cars and a locomotive were precipitated through a bridge a distance of thirty feet on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad two miles east of Moundsville. The engineer was killed, and an unknown man on the engine was seriously injured.

FOREIGN NOTES.

At the recent convention of the Oriental Congress at Marseilles, Mons. De Lesseps, alluding to the submarine tunnel between France and England, and the creation of a sea in the desert of Sahara by an influx of Mediterranean waters, spoke of the projected grand Central Asia line of railway to unite Europe and Asia, by running to Peichauer in Anglo-India. He said that the scheme had received the approval of the Russian Emperor, and that the preparatory surveys would soon be completed. The railway outpost from Europe is now Orembourg, upon the river Oural, in Asiatic Russia, and the line in question will reach Peichauer by way of Samarcand. Between this latter point and Orembourg there are numerous large towns, notably, Tashkend, with a population of 150,000, but between Samarcand and Peichauer the country is very sparsely settled until Indoukouch, the ancient Indian Caucasus, is reached. The work is stupendous, but offers far fewer engineering difficulties than were required for cutting the Isthmus of Suez. This work required the invention of new instruments.

A boa constrictor, eight feet long, was captured a fortnight ago in the hold of a ship that arrived at Greenock, Scotland, from the West Indies.

The nickel coins struck in Germany under its new law represent a total value of between ten and eleven million dollars. This is the maximum figure allowed, and minting has been suspended.

There is said to be an old gentleman in England who has found the true elixir of life to be the food of infancy. He always has five wet nurses "on tap," and grows "fat and well liking" as he verges on centenarianism.

The Russian iron-clad squadron will winter in Italian waters in order to be ready to proceed to the East in case of need.

The election of Deputies has taken place in Italy; as far as heard from the Progressists carried 141; the Moderates, 28.

The Spanish Premier declares Spain will hold Cuba at any cost.

In France, the Government has compromised on the Amnesty bill.

In Turkey, French and Italian commissioners are settling the limits of the belligerent armies.

A pamphlet on "Bulgarian Horrors, the Question of the West," dedicated to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M. P., &c., has just been issued in London.

The Mincing Lane markets have been only slightly affected by Eastern affairs.

The Consular Commission at Mostar has been dissolved.

The Turks are charged with burning the house of the Austrian Consul at Serajevo, Bosnia.

Gen. Martinez Campos has arrived in Cuba.

Turkey has agreed to an armistice for two months from the first inst.; the Servian and Turkish armies are to retain the positions they now hold.

Great damage has been done by inundations in Cuba.

The King of Siam recently opened a new mint at Bangkok with a singular ceremony. At 5 P. M. he repaired to the upper hall and lighted sacred tapers and then the priests worshiped for two hours. The next morning he relighted the tapers and a high priest recited the five commands. These are:—Do not kill, do not steal, do not commit adultery, do not speak falsehood, do not drink strong drink. The King sprinkled with sacred water the new mint machinery, and with his finger rubbed flour from a consecrated cake on parts of the machinery.

Cadet Philippot, of the French military school of Saint Cyr, has been condemned to two years' imprisonment for stealing money and other valuables from his fellow cadets. He is a natural son, and his half brother, legitimately born, and at the same institution, was abundantly supplied with pocket money by his father, while he received nothing. He bore the neglect and the privation for a year, and then became desperate.

The novel which George Sand wrote some years ago will probably be published in a short time. The work is said to turn on the life and adventures of the student Staaps, who attempted to assassinate Napoleon after the battle of Essling, and who belonged to the Tugend-Bund, or Association of Virtue. That it should have been impossible to publish a book on such a subject under the Second Empire is easily conceived, nor would it have been popular, except among the Radicals, directly after the late war.

The celebrated old Paris prison of St. Pelagie is to be demolished. It was built in 1635 as a convent for penitent women and turned into a prison in 1790. Madame Beauharnais, afterward the Empress Josephine, and Madame Roland, were both incarcerated there during the reign of terror. The latter wrote her *Memoirs* there before going to execution. Under the restoration, the poet Berenger was one of its inmates, on account of his audacious attacks on monarchy. Under the government of Louis Philippe, Barbes was a prisoner there, and, during the Commune, Chandey, who fell by the bullets of the Federalists, crying, "Vive la Republique!"

The Pall Mall Gazette, in comparing the most formidable of the Russian ironclads, the Peter the Great, with the British Dreadnaught, says that if the former can average twelve knots, her designers may think themselves lucky. The Devastation steamed from Malta to Smyrna in 48 hours, at the rate of 14½ knots an hour; in point of armament and thickness of armor plate, the vessels are nearly alike, each carrying four 35-ton guns. The Thunderer is more powerfully armed with two 38 and two 35-ton guns, and would be still more formidable. The Dreadnaught is larger than the Peter the Great, carries four 38-ton guns, is faster than either of the others, and probably the most dangerous ironclad afloat at the present time.

Gen. Michael Grigorievitch Tchernayeff Commander-in-Chief of the Servian forces, is a thorough Panslavist, an able author, and experienced soldier. He was born in 1828, and graduated from the Military Academy of St. Nicholas in 1851, and was identified with all the important movements of the Russian army on the Danube during the Turkish complications that broke out in 1852. In 1862 he was appointed chief of staff of the army operating against the Circassians; in 1864 became Major-General, and in the following

year was appointed Governor-General of the province of Turkestan, which he had conquered. He was recalled from command through diplomatic representations by England, but was pensioned with full rank and pay, and after a rest of six months was restored. In June, 1875, he asked to be retired, and upon receiving the permission he offered his services to Servia in the interest of the Panslavic party. Prince Milan hesitates to dismiss him, as the Minister of war demands, because he represents so closely the Sovereign of Russia himself.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[OWING to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents," so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for Advertisers," or "Answers to Correspondents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers, and while we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements, all such other matter will be admitted as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want, and the want is indicative of its need.]

H. R. M., Allegany Co., N. Y., wants a small Steam Engine for a cheese factory.

R. K. B., Niagara Co., N. Y., wants some one to advertise Percheron or Clyde Draft Stallions.

H. Y. M., Fulton Co., N. Y., wants a good Gold Watch. We refer him to the advertisement of QUNICHE & KRUGLER, in this issue, who sell an excellent article.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Nov. 4, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	100,300	Molasses	1,231
Whisky	2,437	Rice, bbls	1,510
Corn meal, bbls	4,425	Cut meats, pkgs	16,040
Corn meal, bags	770	Lard, pkgs	8,009
Wheat, bush	618,370	Tobacco, hhds	963
Corn, bush	652,800	do. pkgs.	4,335
Oats, bush	292,370	Butter, pkgs	29,785
Rye, bush	77,510	Cheese, bxs	40,075
Malt, bush	5,375	Cotton, bales	52,934
Barley, bush	357,198	Rosin	11,414
Beans, bbls	6,890	Spts. turp., bbls	1,747
Grass seed, bush	23,310	Dried Fruits, pkgs	5,365
Beef, pkgs	3,750	Eggs, bbls	9,547
Wool, bales	2,773	Peanuts, bags	1,433
Hops, bales	2,350	Leather, sides	33,765
Pork, bbls	910	Sugar, hhds	9,010
Tallow		Oil cake	—

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the insides of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival here of summer items on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports beans past week, 366 bbls.; since Jan. 1, 50,317 do.; same time last year, 23,011 do. The receipts of beans are fair, but they strike a lightly-supplied market, and all grades feel the improved tone of prices with the advancing season. The demand is not large at the prices, but holders do not wish to fill heavy orders, even at the advance we quote. Poor quality, to some extent, reduces the offering, as buyers will not take any but prime, handsome stock, either for export or home use. Green peas are firm—have been a shade above $1.55. Canadian peas quiet and unchanged. Exports of peas past week, 26,300 bush.

Beans—New medium, $1.75@1.80; do. marrow, $2.30@2.35; do. pea, $2.15@2.20; white kidney, $2.35@2.40; red do., $2.20@2.25; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $1.55@1.60; other, $1.30@1.40; other, $1.90@2; pea, prime, $1.80@2; white kidney, prime, $1.75@2; red do., prime, $2.10@2; other, $1.50@1.90; black, $2.70; Canadian peas, new, ₩ bbl., tree, $1.12@1.14; do., bulk, 93@96c.; green do., new, $1.50@1.55; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2@2.25.

BEESWAX.—Export trade is very bright, and supplies are fair, giving easy prices. Western and Southern quoted at 31½@32c.

Exports past week, 1,780 lbs., since Jan. 1st, 61,685 do.; same time last year, 73,182 do.

BROOM CORN is in very fair supply and favoring the buyer.

Quoted at 7@8c. for short green brush, 6½@7½c. for green hurl, 5@6c. for medium green, and 3@4c. for red and red-tipped.

BUTTER.—Receipts are larger and the quality of bulk butter shows a marked improvement. With a good supply of useful and desirable tubs choice pails and creamery have less precedence. Medium or summer grades of State have no strength, in fact the inside line of rates is all they will bear for wholesale style of business. Western butter too begins to show better average grade, and the call for State possessing that often sought for combination of low price and good quality now supplies itself largely from Western dairy tubs. Roll butter does not arrive in uniform good quality. The export demand for Europe, though not really revived, shows a tendency to become stronger. Some parcels of Western have been taken at 18@21c., though the buyer has insisted upon having quality in his favor. A few lots of State Welsh at 20c. have been included in the export purchases. The following table of receipts and exports from Jan. 1st to date make an encouraging showing for our export business:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, dtk.
June 1, '76, to Nov. 1, '76	631,061	78,131
June 1, '75, to Nov. 1, '75	495,886	18,828
June 1, '74, to Nov. 1, '74	459,227	38,787
June 1, '73, to Nov. 1, '73	498,815	18,093
June 1, '72 to Nov. 1, '72	330,557	28,258
June 1, '71, to Nov. 1, '71	322,412	43,200

Exports past week 3,459 pkgs.

We quote:—Choice pails, 34@34c.; prime, 32@33c.; poor to good, 24@30c.; creamery pails, choice, 35@37c.; good, 33@34c.; sweet cream pails, 30@35c. State firkins, choice, 29@30c.; fair to good, 25@27c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@33c.; fair to prime, 20@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 31@33c.; other, 24@28c.; inferior State, 15@19c.; Western creamery, choice, 31@33c.; other, 31@33c.; do. firkins, best, 21@22c.; other, 14@15c.; dairy tubs, choice, 25@27c.; other, 15@18c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 14@18c.

State dairies quotable at 30@32c. with full tubs Welsh tubs, dairies, 26@31c.

State firkins dairies 25@30c. Welsh tubs dairies, 26@30c. Roll butter, fair to prime, 23@26c.; do., poor, 20@21c.

The Dundee creamery in Illinois, took the first prize at the Centennial.

CHEESE.—This market is still depressed and dull, more so than has been known for a number of seasons. There is nothing encouraging in the English advices, and this trade is confined to small lots to replenish assortments, aside from a few parcels which are being shipped on owners' account. The average run of fancy factories will not exceed 13c., but there are special lots which run up to 13½c. Anything under fancy is merely nominal in price. We quote:—Fancy factory at 13@13½c. for fancy white and colored; do., job lots, 14c.; good and prime, 11½@12½c.; fair, 9½@11c. State farm dairy, fancy, 11½@12½c.; good to prime, 10½@11c.; fair and good, 9@10c. Western factory, good and prime, 11@12c.; fair lots, 9½@10½c.; do. skeddar, choice, 12½@12¾c.; do. flat, choice, 13½@13c.

Exports for the week, 10,574 boxes.

Comparative receipts and exports from June 1:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, lbs.
June 1, '76, to Nov. 1, '76	1,457,771	64,121,812
June 1, '75, to Nov. 1, '75	1,788,151	72,800,996
June 1, '74, to Nov. 1, '74	1,534,833	75,304,003
June 1, '73, to Nov. 1, '73	1,498,969	70,526,069
June 1, '72, to Nov. 1, '72	1,203,389	58,721,058
June 1, '70, to Nov. 1, '71	1,113,375	51,767,059

COTTON.—The very active market in Liverpool and the larger requirements in consequence causes a buoyant feeling here and prices much higher.

The latest quotations are:—October, 11 23-32c.; December, 11 25-32@13 1-16c.; January, 12c.; February, 12 3-16@13 7-32c.; March, 12 13-32c.; April, 12 19-32@12¾c.; May, 13 25-32c.; June, 12 15-16@13 31-32c.; July, 13 1-16@13 3-32c.; August, 13 5-32@13 3-16c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	9 9-16	9 9-16	9 9-16	9 9-16
Strict ordinary	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16	9 15-16
Good ordinary	10 7-16	10 7-16	10 7-16	10 7-16
Strict good do	10 11-16	10 11-16	10¾	10¾
Low middling	10 15-16	11 1-16	11 3-16	11 3-16
Strict low middling	10¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Middling	11	11¾	11 11-16	11 11-16
Good middling	11 11-16	11 13-16	11 15-16	11 15-16
Strict good middling	11 15-16	12 1-16	12 3-16	12 3-16
Middling fair	12 5-16	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 9-16
Fair	13	13 3-16	13 5-16	13 5-16
	Stained.			
Good ordinary	9 5-16	Low middling	10	5-16
Strict ordinary	9 15-16	Middling	10	13-16

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The market for peppermint feels the influence of better demand and prices abroad, and prices are higher. Other items weak and nominal—all in overstock.

Oil peppermint, full glass, $3.50@2.50; spearmint, $1.50; wintergreen, $2.50; wormwood, $1.50; sassafras, 45c.; tansy, $1.75.

EGGS.—Fresh eggs are a trifle higher. The demand has been good enough to warrant stiffer prices, but a large arrival of limed, added to the regular receipts, deprives buyers of much of their independence. No large trade in limed, as yet.

Near points, 29@30c.; State and Penn., 28@29c.; Western, prime, 27½@28c.; do. other, 27c.; Canadian, 27@28c.

State limed, 20@21c.; Western, do., 18@21c.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples, past week, 12,119 bbls. Receipts of apples continue heavy, but with a steady local trade and a heavy export demand, prices are stronger for choice table or retailing stock. The commercial offering of pears is small, and this week will wind up all but California. The latter have steady and large additions. A few good Boston pears are quoted $3.50@4 per box. There is a good trade in California pears, some buyers purchasing to hold. Louisiana oranges are in good supply; quoted at $5@6.50. Florida oranges are in market at $4@5 per box of about 250; boxes sell better than barrels. Grapes are higher. Cranberries are rather more active. Peanuts have declined. Hickory nuts and Chestnuts in fair demand.

Apples, State, ₩ bbl., fall and prime red, $1.75@2.00; winter, $1.37½@1.50; mixed, $1.12½@1.25; good to fair, 60@75c.; common open heads, 50@75c. Pears—Duchess, $6@12; Seckel, Vicars, 5@7; W. Nelis, $5@7; cooking, $3@4; Lawrence, $6@8; California, Duchess and B. D'Anjou, $4 ₩ box; B. Clairgeau, $1.50; W. Nelis and E. Beurre, $4. Quinces, ₩ bbl., $8@12. Cal. Quinces, $3@4 ₩ box; Cranberries, crates, $4.62½@5.00; eastern prime, $9.50@10; N. J. $7.75@8.75, for good to prime. Grapes—Catawba, ₩ lb., 9@10c.; Isabella, 6@7c.; Cal. Tokay, $6 ₩ 30-lb. case; Malaga and Muscat, $5@4 do.; Black Prince, $3@4. Chestnuts, ₩ bush., $2.50@3.00. Hickory nuts, $1.50@2.; Va., fancy, $1.40; other, $1.30.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.—Layer raisins, $2.15 ₩ bbl., do. half boxes $1.25, do. quarter boxes, 60@70c. New Sultana raisins 12c. New loose Muscatel $2.15@2.25. New Valencia raisins, $9¾@10. New currants 6½@6¾. Turkish prunes, 5½@6c. for old and 9½ for new.

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS—The arrivals of apples have been large; a good many lots are being steadily taken for shipment, but this trade is prompted by easy prices; Peaches are scarce and favor the sellers. Blackberries are very firm.

Apples—State, sliced, 7¾@8½c.; do., quarters, 7@7½c.; Southern sliced, new, 6@6½c.; choice do. 7@7½c.; fancy, 9c. do., new quarters, 4¾@6c., the latter for repacked; Western quarters 6½@6¾c. Blackberries at 8½c. Peeled peaches, new, 15@18c.; unpeeled peaches, halves, 9@11c.; do. quarters, 8½@9c. Raspberries, 26@28c. Cherries, 17½c.

Exports past week 2,000 bbls. dried apples; since Jan. 1, 12,875 do.; same time last year, 10,550.

FLOUR.—Export trade is very light, the position of affairs abroad giving no encouragement to buy ahead of actual requirements for prompt use, and prices are unsettled, favoring the buyer. We quote sales at $4.60@4.85 for poor to very choice superfine state; $5.20@5.30 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.35@5.45 for good extra do.; $5.50@5.65 for fancy do., and $5.70@7.00 for fancy to very choice extra: $4.60@4.85 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.20@5.40 for shipping extra do., the inside price for interior, and $5.45@5.55 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.60@6.75; fancy do. $7.50@8.00; winter wheat, good to choice family $6.50@6.25; round-hoop Ohio, $5.20@5.35, and trade brands of do. at $5.40@7.00; St. Louis, $5.30@6.50 for common to fair extra, and $6.55@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.50@7.40, and patent at $7.50@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.25@5.00; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.15@6.35; do. English brands, $5.30@—; do. trade and family $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $3.40@4.40. Buckwheat flour is in fair demand at from $3.35 to $3.75 ₩ 100 lbs. Corn meal has fair inquiry at $2.90 to 3.15 for yellow Western. Pennsylvania and Jersey, and $3.40 for Brandywine.

GRAIN.—The wheat market was probably never so dull as at present. It is almost impossible to get shippers to operate unless at a decided decline, thus on account of the quiet market on the other side and the relatively lower rates there. New No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.25@1.26; new No. 3 Milwaukee, $1.23. Rye dull, at 72@75c. for Western and 86@88c. for Jersey, State and Pennsylvania. Barley is weak, with a large supply; No. 1 Canada quoted at $1.15@1.18; No. 2 do. at $1.08@1.10. Of malt, good Canada West sold at $1.20; Canada East at 95c. Corn is in liberal supply, in close export demand and lower; mixed Western at 58@60c.; Western yellow, 60c.; white Western, 59½c. Oats are active at 32@48c. for mixed Western and State, and 35@49c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—There is a very good business in shipping hay and this grade holds to steady prices. Prime hay is rather dull. Good long rye straw is wanted at prime rates.

Bale hay 60c. for shipping; 70@90c. for retail qualities; clover, 55@65c.; salt, do., 50@60c. Straw quoted at 75@80c. for long rye; 50@60c. for short rye, and 45@60c. for oat.

HIGHWINES are quoted at $1.12@1.12½

HONEY.—Market quiet at 15@20c. for for White Clover comb in glass, Dark and Buckwheat, 10@14c.

HOPS.—Exports for the week, 1,507 bales; those include parcels that have been brought in the interior on direct consignment. The market has been quiet. Medium and common grades are pressed for sale and at easier prices, but choice lots are held firmly. The advices from Germany show that a preference is given there for American hops, and the trade here anticipates that the requirement will be sufficient to support their position.

New Yorks, good to choice, new	31 to 36
New Yorks, low to fair, new	25 to 32
Eastern, new	25 to 32
Yearlings	10 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	35 to 38

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole is active; manufacturers especially buy freely; prices are higher; for light, 20@22c. for middle, 23@25c. for heavy, 24@27c.; 20@22c. for good damaged.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Indian summer helps not the Poultry trade. Losses have been heavy on very many demand lots; a good many Western parcels have not even paid freight, with such treacherous matter it is difficult to give quotations of any stability. Chickens spoiled in appearance have sold at 4@8c. and turkeys 5@10c. The following are the closing rates for stock in good condition.

Turkeys, N. J., 13@17c.; State, 12@16c.; Western, 11@15c. Chickens, dry-picked, 12@15c. N. J. chicks, 12@18c.; State, 11@14c.; Western, 11@11c. Ducks, N. J., 14@17c.; State, 12@16c.; Western, 12@15c.;

Geese begin to come in quantity quoted 12@14c. for fair to good; poor order, 5@9c. Live poultry has a fair demand as city killers have to supply urgent wants of prime.

New Jersey turkeys, 13@14c. ₩ lb.; Western, 12@14c. N. J. fowls and chicks, 12@13c.; State and Penn., 10@11c.; Western, 10@11c., roosters, 8@9c. Geese, N. J., ₩ pair, $1.75@2; Western, $1.37@1.62. Ducks, N. J., ₩ pair, 81@87c.; Western, 50@65c. Live pigeons, ₩ pair, 25c.

We quote only prime sound stock. The weather has been severe upon birds coming from remote points; There is considerable hunting in neighboring haunts and the market obtains some supplies of fresh in that way. Venison is running poor. Rabbits quite abundant.

Wild ducks, mallard, ₩ pair, 40@45c.; canvas-back, $1.50@1.75; red-heads, 30@35c.; teal and other, 25@30c. Quail, ₩ doz., $1.50@2.00. Partridges, ₩ pair, 65@75 for State, 50@60 for eastern, 25@50 for western. Grouse, ₩ pair, 80@90c.; Hare, ₩ pair, 50@60c. Rabbits, 30@40c. Venison, whole, 9@11c., saddles, 13@15c.; short, 13@15c. Woodcock, 40@55c.

PROVISIONS.—Pork is rather scarce, as well as bacon, and firm rates held; but lard has been rather pressed for sale and weak in price. Mess pork quoted at $17.12½; Eastern prime, $13.50@14.50; mess pork for December and January deliveries quoted at $16. Bacon at 8½c. for long clear and 9½c. for short clear. Western steam lard at $10 for spot and $9.90 for November, $9.87½ for December, $9.95 for January. Stearine at 10½c. for prime. Beef hams at $20 for choice Westerh. Beef, barreled lots quoted at $8@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominally at $19@21 for new prime mess and $21@23 for new India mess. City extra India mess at $27.

SEEDS.—Grass are hard to sell and decidedly lower; prime clover is offered at 14½c., and timothy $1.90@2. Rough flax very firm at $1.90.

SUGAR (Refined) quoted at 9¾@12½c. for soft yellow; 10¾@10¾c. for white, and 11¾@11¾c. for crushed, powdered and granulated.

SUNDRIES.—Feathers quiet at 55@58c. for live Western; 40@50c. for mixed. Ginseng, $1.10@1.20. Cider unchanged—8@. for large packages, 10c. for kegs. Essential oils are not quotably changed.

TOBACCO.—Export demand has been active, but current prices are steadily held. We quote:

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5 @ 6	6 @ 7
Good lugs	6 @ 7½	7½@ 8
Low leaf	8 @ 8½	8½@ 9½
Medium leaf	9 @10	10 @11
Good leaf	10½@12	11½@13
Fine leaf	13 @14	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	17 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do	32 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 7,555 bbls.; of onions, 446 do. Supplies of potatoes begin to be less oppressive and prices are in sellers' favor. Cabbages are advancing.

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₩ bbl. $2.50@2.75. Early Rose, prime, $2.62½@2.75; other, $2.25; Peerless, bulk, $2½@2.50; sweet, Del, $2.50@3; Va. $2@2.25. Cabbages, ₩ 100, $4@7. Marrow squash, ₩ bbl., 50@75c. New Russian turnips, ₩ bush., 75c.@$1. Onions—Yellow, ₩ bbl., $1.75@2.25; white, $2.75@3.; red, $1.50@1.62. Cauliflower, ₩ bbl.; $1.50@2.25.

WOOL.—The market at present is very quiet. The stocks, however, are so moderate that on certain grades, more especially fine fleeces stronger rates are made and confidence expressed generally. XX Ohio fleeces have been sold at 40@45c., XXX and picklock at 50c., X Ohio, 44@45c., No. 1 at 42@44c., No. 2 at 40@42c., XX State, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin at 40@42c., X do. at 40@42c., combing, 50@56c.

ROCHESTER, Nov. 4.—Flour steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.25; white winter, $1.20@1.27. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 25@27c. Cheese, 11@13c. Eggs, 20@23c. Lard, 12@13c. Apples, bu., 35@50c. Potatoes, bu., 70@80c. Beans, ₩ bu., 80@$1.60. Mess pork, $18.00. Wool, 25@30c. Hay, $10@12. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.05@2.20; clover, $7.00@7.50. Mill feed strong at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 25c. ₩ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Nov. 4, 1876.

THE cheese trade this week has been dull, and buyers hold back and insist that prices are too high. The bulk of sales range about ½c. less than for the previous week. Upward of 400 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on delivery, and sales were made at from 10 to 12½c., the bulk going at about 12c. Factories were well represented, the aggregate of offerings being nearly 9,000 boxes, mostly of the September make, which was generally considered of very fine quality. We quote sales as follows:—163 boxes at 12c.; 1,120 at 12½c.; 1,098 at 12¾c.; 350 at 13c.; 607 at 13¼c.; 93 at 53½c., and 735 on private terms, but which was reported at 13¼c. About 1,356 boxes were sent forward on commission. Quite a number of factorymen, after learning the state of the market, refused to sell, preferring to hold for the present. A large share of the September cheese is now shipped, and owing to the drought and the light crop of aftefeed, the October make of cheese will be much below the average.

Butter is coming forward in considerable quantities, the sales this week ranging from 25 to 27c. for ordinary farm dairies in Welsh tubs, and 28 to 29c. for fancy lots of creamery.

The weather is warm and pleasant, but cattle require to be fed rations from the barn, in order to supplement the feed obtained from pastures.

We have advices from abroad for the second week in October. Our London correspondent says that American cheese sells as landed, especially the finest brands, and prices tend upward. Fine English cheese is in good demand, but secondary is neglected. There is no change in Dutch cheese. We give prices as follows:

American, extra fine, 65@66s.; fine, 63@64s.; good, 56@60s.; secondary and low grades, 30@50s. English cheddar brings from 78@80s.; Wiltshire double, 60@76s.; Cheshire medium, 51@68s.; fine, 74@84s.; Scotch, 64@70s. Dutch cheese—Edams, 66@68s.; Gondas, 54@58c.; Derby shape, 60@65s.

Fine butter is scarce and sells at an advance of 6s. sterling the cwt. Secondary sorts are slow of sale. Fine American is asked for. We give quotations as follows:

Clonmels, 146@150s.; Corks, 143@155s.; Dorsets, 161s.; Jersey, 130s.; Friesland, 151s.; Normandy extra, 120@158s.; American and Canadian, 90@138s., ₩ cwt. Oleomargarine sells at 90@104s ₩ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 4, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,341	10	836	10,257	00
Forty-Eighth St.	100	4	406	6,388	44
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	001	13,504
Harsimus Cove	4,079	00	000	9,895	15,160
Totals this week	7,520	14	1,242	25,540	28,684
" last week	12,161	57	1,926	35,672	32,882

BEEVES.—Trade on Monday last was steady on an unusually light run of fresh cattle. The quality of the herds was from rough grass-fed steers to smooth corn-fed steers. Prices were 6¾@10¾c. ₩ lb.; weights, 4¾@9 cwt., strong. Wednesday, trade very slow on an increased run of beeves, all of which were not sold off at noon. Prices were 7@10¾c. ₩ lb.; weights, 5¾@9 cwt. Thursday, sales slow at 6¾@10¾c.; weights, 4@8¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 7@10½c.; weights, 5@8¾ cwt. From 51@57 lbs., net, has been allowed. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, 6¾@8¾c. Native steers, grass-fed, 7@9c.; do. part corn-fed, 9¾@10c.; grade do., 10¾@10½c., with a few head at 11c. Dry cows, 8c. Oxen, 7@9c. Bulls, live weight, 3¾@4c.

MILCH COWS.—The arrivals have been so light that dealers have declined to give quotations.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade slow. Smooth quality veals at 7@10c. ₩ lb. Coarse grass-fed calves 4@4¼c. ₩ lb., also at $1.50@11 ₩ head. State veals, 7@10c. Pennsylvania do., 8@9½c.; Jersey do., 8¾@8¾c. State calves sold by the head. Western and Canadian, ₩ lb., as quoted,

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade unusually dull. Monday, sheep, 4¾@5c.; lambs, 5¾@6¾c. Wednesday, sheep, $4@5.30 ₩ cwt.; lambs, 5¾@6½c. ₩ lb. Thursday, sheep, 4@5¾c.; lambs, 5@6¾c. Friday, sheep, 4¾@5¾c.; lambs, 5¾@6¾c. The markets closed weak. State sheep, 4@5¾c.; Ohio, 4¾@5c.; Kentucky, 4¾@5¼c.; Canada, 5@5¾c. Kentucky ewes, 5¾c.; Canada do., 5½c.; Jersey do., 4½@5c. State lambs, 5¾@6½c.; Ohio do., 6c.; Canada, 5¾@6¾c.

HOGS.—On live weight, sold at $5.57½@5.90 ₩ cwt., with one car load a trifle over 6c. ₩ lb., all quoted from Ohio. City dressed dull at 6¾@7¾c. Light pigs, 8c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade steady in low-priced horses. Ninety head, poor quality, light harness horses sold at $10@105 ₩ head; general sales $62@95; 40 head, ordinary quality, light harness horses sold at $125@195; 6 ponies, $40@150; 10 roadsters, with fair trotting action, not warranted sound, chiefly aged, $200@250 ₩ head; 3 trotters, fair quality, $450@500 ₩ head; 7 pairs family carriage horses, $325@600 ₩ pair; 10 head brougham horses, coarse quality, $275@375 ₩ head; 2 pairs stylish carriage horses, $950@1,100 ₩ pair; 3 pairs choice quality heavy draft horses, $500@$600.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	10¾@11
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¼@ 9¾	9 @ 9¾
Poorest	7 @ 9	8¾@ 9
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9¼	9¾@ 9¾

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

AUSTRIAN officers speak many languages.

MRS. VAN COTT is evangelizing in Texas.

BEACONSFIELD, Disraeli's new title, is pronounced Beckonsfield.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH and wife are to spend the winter in England and Italy.

G. WALTON JAMES will assume the editorship of the revived Enquirer at Richmond, Va.

KING KO of Borneo, is shortly due in London. His boar-leader is M. Prosper, a Frenchman.

THE Chicago Journal says Prof. Swing is the connecting link between religion and science.

THE walruses in the Acclimation Garden of Paris have been taught to say "papa" and "mamma."

M. DE GEOFROY, the French Minister to Japan, sailed with his family for Havre, Oct. 24, in the steamship St. Laurent.

MRS. H. J. BYRON, the wife of the well-known dramatic writer, died at Brighton, England, recently, in her 45th year.

VICTOR HUGO, says a correspondent of The Boston Gazette, is the stingiest of morials although he is worth more than $500,000.

Now that the plague is at an end in Savannah, it is proposed to furnish the overworked nurses and physicians free passes to the Centennial.

THE authors of "Ready-Money Mortiboy," "This Son of Vulcan," etc., are discovered to be Mr. Walter Besant and a Mr. Rice, both of whom are in this country.

MARY CLEMMER thinks that the amount of human life sacrificed to the Philadelphia Exhibition is enormous. She attributes this result to fatigue, bad water, improper food, and excitement.

A NEGRO witness in a trial the other day was asked what he was doing in a certain saloon at a certain time. He explained that he had gone there to "change his breff." The explanation was accepted.

AN Indiana man has expended $2,000 in a lawsuit over a yoke of oxen, and the suit is still in the courts. Strangely enough this man's name is Wiseman, but it is not what his lawyers confidentially call him.

THE life and adventures of the student Staaps, who tried to assassinate Napoleon after the battle of Essling, are the subject of a novel which Georges Sand wrote some time ago, and which will shortly be published.

THE great angler is to have a memorial bust of himself placed in St. Mary's Church, Stafford, wherein he was baptized. All the nobility and gentry of the town have conspired to do honor at this late day to the ancient Walton.

DR. WM. W. HALL, editor of the Journal of Health, recently fell dead in the street, a victim to the violation of the laws of health, of which he was such an active advocate. His disease was degeneration of the heart, caused by an overtasked brain.

"You haven't got such a thing as a pair of old trowsers, have you?" "No, my man," said the merchant, "I don't keep my wardrobe in my counting-house." "Where do you live?" rejoined Pat, "and I'll call in the morning for the old pair you've got on."

IT takes more grace and Christian charity than can be crowded into one human heart, to enable a woman to forgive a man who calls at ten o'clock in the morning, and comes stumbling around to the side door and finds it open, and looks right in and sees the house upside down.

QUEEN VICTORIA has done a just and kindly thing in giving a pension of $750 yearly to the widow of George Smith, the Assyrian scholar. There is one of the advantages of a monarchy; the widow of an American scholar, however distinguished and laborious, would starve if she had only official aid to invoke.

WHEN Thomas Nelsonas was asked on the revision of the Preston Parliamentary list of borough voters in England whether that was his right name, he said:—"No, my proper name is Thomas Hill Joseph Napoleon Horatio Bonaparte Swindlehurst Nelson." The vote was allowed, and the full name inserted in the register.

IT seems probable that the elephant will soon become extinct. According to a statement made at a recent meeting of the Paris Geographical Society, England imports annually 1,200,000 pounds of ivory, to obtain which it is necessary to kill 30,000 elephants. The total annual destruction of these animals is estimated at 100,000.

WHEN a Bishop at a public meeting in England asked Professor Huxley, sneeringly:—"Does the learned scientist really wish us to believe that he is descended from an ape?" the sharp rebuke was administered by Huxley, "I had rather be related to an ape than to a Bishop of the Church of England who can so misrepresent the votaries of science."

IN a communication to the French Academy of Sciences, M. A. Moret states that during a recent balloon ascent off Cherbourg with M. Durouf, they were surprised, at the height of 1,700 metres, to see the bottom of the sea in its minutest details, though the channel at that point must be sixty or eighty metres deep. The rocks and under currents were clearly visible.

WHEN the late James Lick was having his portrait painted for the California Pioneers, he noticed with chagrin that the artist was reproducing the wrinkles in his face with laborious fidelity. "I don't want them in," said Mr. Lick "But, Mr. Lick," replied the artist, "they are true to life—the wrinkles are in your face." "I don't care whether they are or not," returned the millionaire; "paint them out," and they were painted out.

MR. EUGENE SCHUYLER, Secretary of Legation and Consul-General of the United States at Constantinople, whose reports on the Bulgarian massacres have been so highly commended, is a son of Hon. George W. Schuyler, Canal Auditor of this State. Eugene Schuyler is a graduate of Yale, in the class of '59, and was several years Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg.

THE Duc Decazes, whose resignation as French Minister of Foreign Affairs was announced and contradicted a few days ago, has a cold, aristocratic air, with clear blue eyes, thick eyebrows, and a good mouth, and greatly resembles an Englishman in manners and dress. He is a prompt, cool-headed business man, and has been engaged almost all his life in the diplomatic service.

A CARPENTER who was always prognosticating evil to himself was one day upon the roof of a five-story building upon which rain had fallen. The roof being slippery, he lost his footing, and exclaimed, "Just as I told you!" Catching, however, an iron spout, he kicked off his shoes and regained a place of safety, when he thus delivered himself: "I know'd it; there's a pair of shoes gone!"

THE New Orleans Picayune, in trying its hand at description, says:—"The modern city school girl goes along with a big tilter, a bustle, striped hose, hump-backed, carrying thirty-one different books, three slates, four copy-books, bottle of ink, pocket full of pencils and pens, seven dollars worth of pinchback jewelry, a mouthful of chewing-gum and thirteen red streamers dangling after her."

A.—"They say there's to be a war between Russia and South Carolina." B.—"Well, that'll draw us in, won't it?" A.—"No; Governor Chamberlain will see to that." B.—"Who's Chamberlain? this fellow that's going round making political speeches?" A.—"No; he's Governor of Cincinnati." This was an actual conversation on the car, and not a fancy sketch.—*Newburyport Herald.*

THE book of the Emperor of Brazil is to be called "Recollections of my Journey," and will be printed in Portugese, French, English and German. Wherever he traveled he took many notes on manners, customs, and countries, and what he has to say will probably have less of the amateur stamp than has most royal literature. He was especially kind in Portugal to various native writers of note, and indeed shows in every country that he is thoroughly familiar with its best literature.

OF the Princess Agnes Salm-Salm, now married to an English gentleman, Mr. Heneage, the St. John's (Quebec) News says:—She is a native of Phillipsburg, and daughter of Mr. William Joy, a mechanic of American descent. Her brother is a captain on one of the barges plying on the Richelieu. The Princess is now about forty years of age. She has a younger sister married to Colonel Johnson, United States Consul at Tampico. All this may be true, but if so it is odd that her maiden name should have been Leclerq.

THE custom in some post-offices of forwarding unpaid letters, and appealing to the receiver for repayment in a little poster pasted on the backs of the letters, was initiated in Newark, N. J. A benevolent gentleman saw a bundle of unpaid letters to foreign addresses, took pity on their far-away owners, and not only paid their postage, but for years afterward the postage of all such letters. He paid for the letters 20 years, including at the last domestic letters in his charity, and kept his name secret.

TWO hundred young men were collected for training as ushers at the coming Moody revivals in Chicago. They were selected for this duty by Rev. A. G. Truesdale, and when placed in file were a fine looking row. Handsome, fully up in the golden-stair business, religiously plump and contralto in voice. The same regulations that governed the squad in Philadelphia were to be adopted. So a detective looked in and along the line to find nine professional pickpockets and a noted "bugglar." He weeded these out and the others drilled.

AN American woman, Mrs. Susan Ellis Laura Smith, believing "that it is the duty of every member of the human family to devote their bodies after death to scientific examination until the principles of physiological science are thoroughly established," has willed her body to the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to be dissected immediately after death. She winds up her testament with the following clumsy but cheerful permission:—"I should also wish that if any of my friends should desire to have a remnant of my said body, they should be at liberty to do so."

IT is said that the late Mr. Peabody, with all his prodigality on works of benevolence, looked closely after his pence. He hated nothing more than the notion of being taken in, and it was rare indeed that any trickster could make that boast. On one occasion, when traveling in Ireland he was greatly annoyed at what seemed a very extortionate demand on the part of a car-driver, and he accordingly resented the attempt at imposition by giving the man his bare legal fare. After looking at the coin for a few seconds, Pat began to laugh. "Bedad," says he, "they may call you Mr. Paybody, but I call you Mr. Paynobody."

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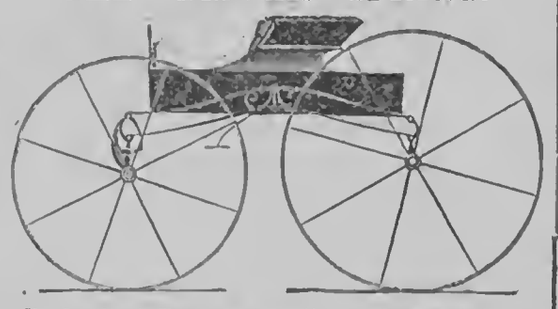

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

A. M.—We do not think bulbs of Hyacinths or Tulips can be purchased in the spring. If kept out of the ground through the winter, they would be greatly injured from sprouting and many would decay. They begin growth as soon as severe weather has passed, so that florists and seedsmen would have but little time to collect and offer them for sale.

B., Newark, N. J.—The verses are:

"Come and trip it as you go
On the light, fantastic toe."

The author was MILTON.

E. C. Sherwood.—I should like to ask you if you could explain to me the cause of my Oleander's not blooming? It was cut back this summer for the first time. It formed three branches and budded, but the buds blasted. Was it because I did not keep it moist enough? ANS.—Very likely. Why does not our correspondent plunge it in the open ground for the summer? Oleanders do not suffer from being transplanted, and they form among shrubs or flowers, by their distinct foliage, a very pleasing relief.

B. H. C., Orleans.—Wrap the roots in damp moss and cover with oiled manilla paper.

Mat Smith, Cherry Valley.—Please tell in your paper the best way to raise hardy Phlox. ANS.—Sow the seeds now in boxes or pots of light soil. Some will germinate now—others not until midwinter, or even spring. They may also be sown in the open ground. They will then germinate in early spring, but few will bloom the same season.

M. W.—The perennial Phlox is variable in its time of germination. The seed should be sown at once. Some will germinate in ten days—some will require two months, or even more. Do not, therefore, throw aside the pots or boxes in which they are planted. All those that germinate before May can be relied upon to bloom before frost.

S. B. W.—The "splint" on the mare's leg is doubtless the cause of lameness. These splints are sometimes very painful, and the animal will go lame when traveling on hard ground. Apply some cooling lotion to reduce inflammation and soreness, giving the animal rest during treatment. When the heat and soreness have subsided, apply a blister to the splint; then bathe with the lotion until healed. In some cases the cure will be speedy; in others repeated blistering is necessary.

An Old Subscriber.—Please answer the two following questions:—1. How shall I plant Horsechestnuts and when? I bought one quart and planted them in the spring, but did not get one to grow. The nuts were good. 2. How shall I make lager beer and how long will it keep? ANS.—1. The reason why the Horsechestnuts failed to grow was because they had become too dry through keeping them over winter. All such large, coarse nuts will not withstand much drying. They should either be planted in the fall, soon after gathering, or be mixed with earth or clean sand, and then buried out-of-doors, where they will be kept moist and cool until spring, when they should be sown. If you will try this method of keeping, success is pretty certain. 2. We are not brewers and know nothing practically about making lager beer.

E. S.—Will "Frolic" or some one else give a picture of a comfortable, neat-looking hood for an old lady who does not find a "cloud" sufficient to keep the head warm?

Several Correspondents.—Many of our friends who request seeds under the "Little Announcement" ask how to treat Phlox and Pelargonium seeds. We have already answered such questions more than once. Those who have sunny windows or conservatories may sow at once. Sow Phlox one-eighth of an inch deep in light soil placed in boxes or pots well drained. A small proportion will germinate in ten days or so; the rest varying from three weeks to three months Have patience, therefore, and all will bloom next summer or fall. Much the same may be said of Pelargonium seeds, though a larger proportion will germinate at once. Box them lightly and water rather sparingly while the seeds are in leaf. Those which germinate within a month will bloom in early summer.

Young Farmer—We will try to tell you all about the Jerusalem Artichoke in our next number, with several illustrations.

Arboriculturist.—Young seedlings from the forests may now be taken up and the tops pruned off, if need be, and then the roots heeled in for protection during winter. This is, perhaps, the best method to be adopted both with small plants and large ones. There will be no danger of such trees as the Beech and Maple bleeding next spring, if dug up and the pruning done this fall; besides, most farmers have more time to spare for such work at this season than in the hurrying days of spring.

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Wit and Humor.

HOW HE ROUNDED THE LAKE.

He was a tramp, bound Chicagoward, and as he boarded the couplers at the rear of an incoming engine, just across the line in Indiana, one recent dark and chilly night, he had faith to believe that he had a "soft thing" of it for a cheap ride. But the conductor, with his eagle eye and railway lantern, soon espied the moneyless passenger on his uncushioned and comfortless seat. Did he order him off. No. He had a deeper plot. He let him remain, while on and on went the train, from station to station, until it reached a great tank, where the engines stop to "water up."

"Now for him," grinned the heartless conductor, as he passed to the front.

"Now for him," he maliciously continued, as he grasped the water-trough from the fireman's hand's and directed it over the back end of the engine.

"Now for him," he fiendishly grunted, as he heard a Noah's deluge pouring over the head and down the back of the luckless tramp.

All grew still and the conductor ordered his train on its way, convinced that he had drowned the tramp, or at least flooded him so far away that he could never get back again.

But when that conductor drove into the depot in the early morning, there was a surprise in store for him.

"Be you the conductor?" inquired a shivering voice at his elbow, as he stepped on the platform.

"Yes," said he, looking around and gazing upon a bedraggled and cinder-covered man. "Then I want ter ask yer why yer don't run around the end of the lake in comin' inter town?"

"I do," said the conductor.

"Yer do?" exclaimed the man.

"Certainly," was the reply.

"Wal, I gosh!" muttered the stranger in a bewildered tone, "blest if I didn't think yer swum through the lake!"

Then the conductor knew that his tramp still lived and was water-proof.—*Chicago Journal.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

"Can there be anything brought into this house," asked a disgusted member during the last session of the Legislature, "that will not be repealed sooner or later?" One of the Opposition suggested "a skinned orange."

"Mamma, if we cross the bridge at night must we pay toll?" "Of course, my dear; why do you ask?" "Why, because the river has gone to home to sleep." "Oh, the river never sleeps." "Then why has it a bed, mamma?"

Some one was praising the British public schools to Charles Landseer, and said: "All our best men were public school men. Look at our poets. There's Byron, he was a Harrow boy—" "Yes," interrupted Charles, "and there's Burns—he was a plowboy.

A Proper Example Thrown Away.—Industrious (?) Seafaring Party—"What! Ain't got nothin' to do? Why, here I've been a-mendin' this blessed net ever since last November, and you're a-idlin' about as if there warn't such a thing as work in the world!"

Labor et Ingenium."—Lady—"Are those the hardest boot brushes you have?"

Shopkeeper—"Oh yes, m'; fact is, m', they're generally considered too hard for boots, m', and are used by laundresses to scrub gents' shirts and collars in'. They're the hardest brushes made, m'?"

A definition.—"What would be your notion of absent-mindedness?" asked Rufus Choate of a witness whom he was cross-examining. "Well," said the witness, with a strong Yankee accent, "I should say that a man who thought he'd left his watch to hum, and took it out'n 'is pocket to see if he'd time to go hum and get it was a leetle absent minded."

Deceived.—It was at the second battle of Bull Run that a cannon ball carried off a poor soldier's leg.

"Carry me to the rear!" he cried to a tall companion, who had been fighting by his side—"My leg is shot off."

The comrade caught the wounded soldier up, and as he was about to put him across his shoulders, another cannon ball carried away the poor fellow's head. His friend, however, in the confusion did not notice this, but proceeded with his burden toward the rear.

"What are you carrying that thing for?" cried an officer.

"Thing?" returned he. "Its a man with his leg shot off."

"Why, he hasn't any head!" cried the officer.

The soldier looked at his load, and for the first time saw that what the officer said was true. Throwing down the body he thundered out: "Confound him! he told me it was his leg!"

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The Naturalist.

AMERICAN ELK OR MOOSE.
(Alce Americanus.)

This magnificent animal, which was formerly very abundant in the more northern of the Eastern States, is rapidly disappearing before the constant onslaughts of our hunters. In some parts of the West, especially in the more mountainous regions of the Northwestern Territories, the Elk is found in considerable numbers; but such noble game is not likely to long remain unmolested in any locality where the intrepid hunter can possibly penetrate with any degree of safety. Hence we frequently hear of a terrific slaughter of these animals by men who have no other object in killing them than to acquire the name of being good sportsmen.

Elks live in the woods in the northern parts of both continents, but the American Elk is considered by many naturalists as a distinct species from the European. The true American Elk, or Moose, as it is called in some localities, is the largest and strongest of all other members of the Deer family, possessing great speed and remarkable endurance. A full-grown male stands about five feet high at the shoulder, measures seven feet from the nose to the tail, and weighs from 800 to 1,200 pounds.

The Elk is rather awkward and clumsy in appearance, but when seen in his native haunts he displays a certain majesty which commands admiration.

The horns are found upon the males only and require five years for their full development. They begin to grow or sprout in early spring, and complete their annual increase about midsummer. The first year they are about one inch in length; the second year, four to five; then they commence to divide, forming round forks or prongs; the fourth and fifth years they become palmated in form, as shown in our illustration. Sometimes these palmated antlers are a foot wide, terminating with several blunt points. The horns are said to diminish in size after the animal has passed the period of its greatest vigor. In mature and vigorous animals the horns are shed in December, but the young males often retain them until March.

The Moose, as they are usually called in the more Northern States, are still to be found in Maine, Canada, Nova Scotia and Labrador.

The color of the hair of these animals is somewhat different in different individuals, so much so, indeed, that some of the darker colored have received the name of the "American Black Elk;" but the color in this animal is probably no more variable than that of other species of the Deer family. The general color above is blackish or ashy gray, and yellowish white below.

The principal food of the Elk in winter is the twigs of trees, and they are especially fond of those of the maple and birch; but in summer they feed upon the grasses, in addition to what they may obtain from trees and shrubs.

The flesh of the Elk is not as fine-grained or rich as that of the common Deer, still the stalks are juicy and often tender, but seldom fat like those of a bullock.

Elk have been frequently domesticated, but they possess no merits which would make them more desirable than the farm animals generally in use.

THE TARANTULA.

The Tarantula is a species of Spider, and is said to have received its name from the City of Tarentum, in Italy, near which it is found in great abundance. But there are many species of these large Spiders, some of which inhabit our Southern States, California and Mexico. We have frequently received specimens from our correspondent in Texas, some of great size, their legs spreading fully five inches, which gives them a very formidable appearance. The American and European species of the Tarantula are not only quite similar in appearance, but their habits also are nearly the same. Valetta, an Italian monk, who had many opportunities of observing these Spiders, published a very accurate history of them in 1706. The bite of these Spiders is reputed to be exceedingly poisonous, but the accounts of death from this cause are probably greatly exaggerated through fear and frequent repetitions of the same story. The peasants of Italy have a method of getting the Tarantula out of his hole in order to destroy him. Their plan is to make a soft, hissing noise through a straw. The creature is attracted by the sound, and probably thinking some luckless insect is within his reach, hastens to seize it, when he meets his human foe.

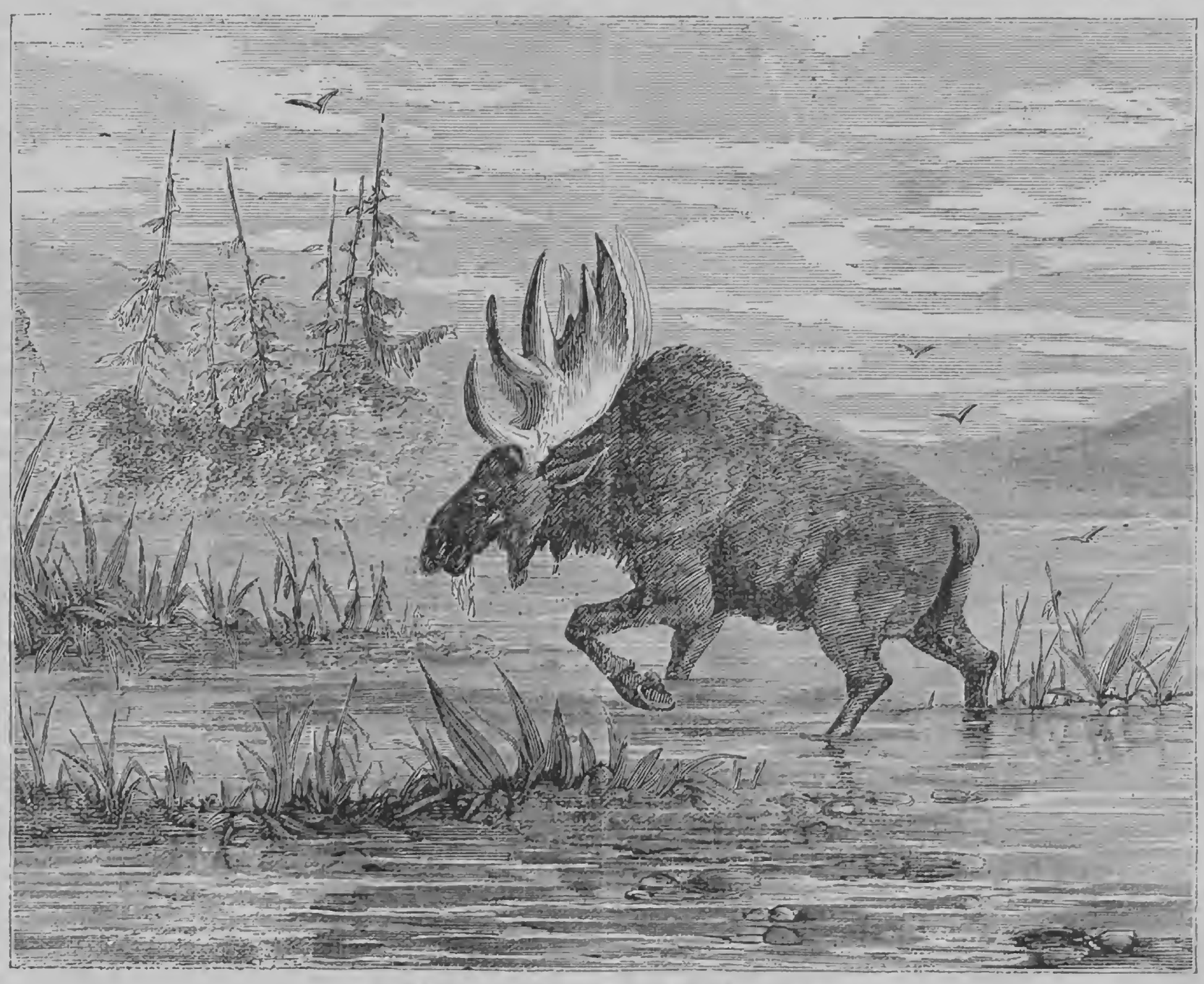
Wonderful stories are often related of the ferociousness of the Tarantulas of Texas, the *Mygale Hentzi* of naturalists, but so far as these stories assert that the Tarantula is disposed to attack human beings, we set them down as mere fancy or the effect of an excited imagination, although we have no doubt but that they would bite if roughly handled. But the Tarantulas have a very formidable and deadly foe in a large and powerful Wasp known as the *Pepsis formosa* of Say. This Tarantula-killer is one of the many species of Digger-wasps which bury their victims in holes in the earth as food for their own young or larvæ. The Spiders are stored up by these Wasps in a paralyzed state, but not actually killed, and so soon as the Wasp eggs hatch, the grubs commence feeding upon the imprisoned Tarantulas. Some of our Northern species of Mud-wasps use the smaller species of Spider for the same purpose, and the increase of Spiders is kept in check by the much-hated Wasps. Many a boy who reads the Rural has probably been puzzled to know how the Spider came in the Wasp nests which he has found attached to the rafters of the barn or other outbuilding, and what they are put there for, but by carefully looking among the Spiders, a Wasp egg or the grub hatched therefrom can usually be found, and this will explain the mystery.

HOUSE SPIDERS.

I have often observed, says a writer in the Gardener's Chronicle, the power in Gossamer Spiders of ejecting forcibly from the spinners a web which they use as a means of moving from one place to another. I was not aware until lately, however, that the same power was possessed by the common house Spider.

I caught one of these the other day for the purpose of finding out if it was capable of ejecting its web by muscular effort, and I propose giving the result at length. Having placed my Spider upon a pencil held between my finger and thumb, I watched him carefully, noting all his movements. The sage insect proceeded deliberately to take a tour round his somewhat limited quarters, and, finding at length that he could not escape by either end, he carefully attached a web to the pencil and descended rapidly.

I wound the web up on the pencil, so as to prevent him reaching the ground, and after trying the same plan a good many times, he stopped in the middle of the pencil, and apparently "took a big think," the result of his meditation being another descent of about a foot from his support. He then gathered himself up into a little ball, elevating his abdomen, and, much to my astonishment, ejected the web unconnected as it proceeds from the spinner to the distance of about a foot, when the whole converged into a focus, as it were, forming a complete web, which continued sailing outward until it attached itself to my coat; the Spider, after giving the web a few tugs, then passed over, and so escaped. Thinking I might be deceived as to the web coming out in so many parts, I caught several more, and repeated the experiment about a dozen times, so that there can be no doubt as to the fact. I shall be glad to hear that some one else has tried this, so as to confirm it.



AMERICAN ELK OR MOOSE.

PANGOLIN.

This curious animal, commonly known as the Scaly Ant-eater, is a native of the old world. It has a long, pointed snout, but has no teeth, but has a prehensile tongue, with which it catches its victims. The Ant-eaters are found in various parts of Asia and Africa, living in holes which they dig in the ground. The largest species is the Short-tailed Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*, Linn), and is 3 to 4 feet in length, with five toes. Hence the specific name. The scales are deep brown in the adult animal and hard enough to turn a musket-ball. Another species, the Long-tailed Pangolin, *M. tetradactyla*, found in Guinea, has but four toes and a much flatter tail, which is nearly twice as long as its body. From their external covering and shape, they resemble the Scaly Lizzards more than they do the true mammals.

The Poultry Yard.

PREPARE FOR WINTER.

The cold season is close at hand in the Northern States, and those who wish to have their fowls pass the long winter in health and comfort should look to the hen houses without delay. Examine the roof and make sure that it is sound and strong. *Now* is the time to make repairs, not later in the season, when a night's exposure may bring serious sickness into the flock. If the hen house is a shed annexed to an outbuilding, examine it at the peak where it joins the main building, and make sure that it is well in place. You will find it pay to lay good felting on the roof and to give the whole roof a coating of cheap paint. Last year I felted the roof of my fowl house, but was bothered during the winter by the heavy winds, which succeeded in getting under the felting and tearing or peeling it off. I tried lathing it down, but this was unsatisfactory for two reasons: If I nailed the laths continuously, the water would not run off quickly enough, and to cut the laths into short pieces was troublesome to do and consumed much time.

This season, in re-felting my houses, I have adopted an eminently satisfactory method: I have had the tinsmith cut strips of tin about an inch wide and as long as I could get them, and after laying down the felting lapped one inch over, *I nailed this strip of tin along the edge*. The tin is so thin that water runs off the roof without any obstruction, and it is impossible for the wind to get under the paper. The tin, fastened down with galvanized nails, gives a neat finish to the roof, and is both economical and effective.

Examine the interior of the houses and see that they are tight. If you expect a goodly stock of eggs from your fowls, you must keep their house warm, and there is no better way of doing this than by lining the house with strong paper. It is the cheapest lining, and if saturated with a moderately strong solution of carbolic acid, will keep vermin at bay. Don't say that this is "too much trouble." So it is a trouble to bed the cattle and feed the stock, but you must *expect* to take some trouble if you demand a profit from them. Don't begrudge trouble in the fowl house. The result will be seen in the filling of the egg basket, and there is no portion of the farm that will pay a higher percentage of profit on the outlay of labor than the hen yards.

Clean out the nests, wash them with either kerosene or carbolic acid, and put a fresh turf in the bottoms. *A dirty box will make a willing layer steal her nest.* Bear that in mind as a golden rule and you won't have to spend so many hours in the woods searching after runaway hens.

The nights are becoming longer and colder. See that the fowls have, before dusk, a few handfuls of whole-corn and a comfortable roost. If your fowls are to be kept in health, they must not be left all night with empty crops, nor allowed to roost in exposed places. The plan of allowing a fowl the exquisite privilege of roosting on "a rickety beam and an empty crop" is anything but economical. Don't have the roosts one above the other, or the birds will be continually fighting for highest place.

Before you go to bed, take a look at the chickens. There is no better time to inspect them than when they are quiet on the perch. I make it a rule to go through my fowl house *every night*. I have been singularly fortunate in the health of my flock, and I ascribe it to this practice. Passing along the roost, which is low, you glance at each bird, and being accustomed to their faces, it is wonderful how soon you will learn to detect the *first* symptoms of illness. The altered appearance of the bird from the evening before strikes you almost instantly, and the trouble being taken *at the start*, you can at once remove the bird and stop the disease from spreading through the flock.

If you have an old window-sash about the place, for which you have no special use, put an extra light in the southern or eastern end of the fowl house. It will be grateful to the fowls in winter, on cold days, when they will huddle together in the house to escape the biting winds. The sash will enable them to bask in the sunlight without going out of the house, and the increased good health of the chickens will repay your trouble.

Those who intend to house birds for the winter should let them run as much as possible now, while the grass is green. Don't shut them up until the last moment, and they will so much the better bear the winter's confinement.

When preparing birds for exhibition in winter, I generally pen them two weeks before the date on which they will be needed; but so far this season I have let them run until an hour or two before being sent away, as I cannot bear to deprive them of the yet green grass.

It is not yet too late to lay in a stock of dry dust from the road. Collect it with a road scraper and store it away in one corner of the barn, where it will remain dry, for winter use. It will be invaluable for the fowls to dust in while the ground is frozen, and will tend to keep them free from vermin.

If in winter you pen your fowls in flocks, let me suggest a plan that will prevent the spreading of disease from pen to pen: *Mark all the tins in one coop* with the same number, and always use "No. 1" tins in "No. 1" pen. Then you will not carry any contagious disease from one to the other. I have adopted this plan, and have found it an admirable one.

Lastly, *feed* your fowls liberally, and they will *return it* to you with interest. Keep them *cleanly* and *disease* will be a rarity. *House them* comfortably and they will *lay* regularly.

"Regular meals" is the secret of the successful fancier. Remember the old darkey who, when his master scolded him for having so poor a dinner for the guests, pointed to the empty larder, saying, "Well, Massa John, ole Pomp do do best he can; but in dese yere times miracles dey am scarce, an' ole Pomp he can't make som'thin' out ob nothin'!"

Don't expect the hens to make "som'thin' out ob nothin'," for they won't—and they *can't!*

THOMAS W. WHITE.

WHAT AILED THE DUCKS.

On reading the article headed "What Ailed the Ducks?" in the RURAL of Oct. 28, we inferred, from the description given by the writer, that it was the disease known as Vertigo that attacked his young ducks and silenced forever their gentle quacks.

Probably the most common symptom of the disease is a loss of power over the muscular system, to such a degree that the bird is wholly or partially unable to "navigate." All this is doubtless caused by a rush of blood to the head, producing extreme dizziness.

The following is from "The People's Practical Poultry Book," and the remedies given for this disease are probably as good as any:

"The affection is one caused by undue determination of blood to the head and is dependent on a full-blooded state of the system. Holding the head of the fowl under a stream of cold water for a short time immediately arrests the disease, and a dose of any aperient, such as calomel, jalap, or castor-oil, removes the tendency to the complaint."

We may not be right in saying that it was Vertigo that "ailed the ducks," but certainly the symptoms mentioned by the writer, such as whirling round, tipping over backward, rolling over and over, and all such performances, point to this disease. H. A. B.

Fond du Lac, Wis.

MATING EXTRAORDINARY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Poultry Review tells the following rather strange story of the mating of birds:

Seeing in many numbers of your invaluable paper, invitations to fanciers to send you accounts of extraordinary matching or mating among birds, I take the liberty of sending the following as likely to interest brother fanciers. I have now in my loft an African owl cock that I mated with a hen of the same kind; they lived harmoniously together, and raised last season five pairs of young. During the winter I had the misfortune to lose the hen, when the cock, being a lively little fellow, set about finding another wife for himself. After a few days he succeeding in finding a wife in an unmated agate hen, who in due course of time laid the usual couple of eggs, he (the owl) assisting her regularly in incubating them; but when flying about the loft I noticed he was paying marked attention to a blue Antwerp hen, who, in a fortnight after the agate laid, also laid him a couple of eggs, the owl, in the most exemplary manner, assisting both his wives; the result being that the agate's eggs are hatched, and the young ones are progressing favorably, the owl regularly feeding them, and also assisting the Antwerp in incubating her eggs, which are due in about four days.

TO KEEP FOXES FROM FOWLS.

THE London Globe is responsible for the following, and we can only say that it is worth trying where foxes abound:

"A good plan to keep foxes away from tame pheasants, if you have them in coops, is to have the shrubs and trees well tarred, for foxes dislike the smell of tar and won't come near it. A barrel of tar will save you much trouble. Get a large brush and dab the tar all about the place, and they won't come near your tame birds. Another good plan is to have a string tied from tree to tree and bush to bush, a foot or so from the ground, and another piece a foot or two higher. Foxes hate anything like that to impede their way, and will generally turn from it, thinking it is some sort of trap or snare for them. But nothing beats the tar. It is very inexpensive, too, and will often save your birds."

A REMARKABLE HEN.—Col. S. I. BERDAN of Paramas, N. J., owns a hen that this summer hatched a brood of thirteen turkeys. How the hen managed to cover so many large eggs and hatch them all is a mystery that Col. BERDAN had better reveal at the next meeting of the Bergen County Poultry Association.

Dairy Husbandry.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VERMONT DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the Vermont State Dairymen's Association was held at the State House, in Montpelier, Oct. 25th, Hon. E. D. MASON, President, in the chair. The meeting was well attended in the afternoon, and Mr. O. S. BLISS, the Secretary, submitted his annual report, after which there was discussion upon various topics pertaining to the business operations of the Association.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

The following board of officers was elected for the ensuing year: President, Hon. E. D. MASON of Richmond; Vice-Presidents, N. T. SPRAGUE of Brandon, E. S. WOOD of Pomfret and C. S. MCALLISTER of Enosburgh; Secretary and Treasurer, O. S. BLISS of Georgia. A Board of Trustees from each county in the State was subsequently elected.

The President stated that the annual address by Mr. X. A. WILLARD of New York, would be given in the Assembly Chamber, commencing at 7½ o'clock, P. M., the Legislature not holding an evening session, and a general invitation to be present was extended to members of the Legislature, and all others interested in Vermont dairying.

CENTENNIAL DAIRY MATTERS.

Mr. STODARD called upon the Secretary for a report in regard to the dairy display at the Centennial. It was understood that the project had been a complete failure. Funds had been subscribed from Vermont. The members of the Association would be glad to have more light on the subject, etc., etc.

Mr. BLISS said he was ready to make a full report of his connection with the Centennial Dairy Committee of the American Dairymen's Association. The great dairy interest of the country had been prostituted by a scheming "Dairy Ring." Mr. BLISS was proceeding to give a history of the "Dairy Ring" and its operations, when members present suggested that the report had better be delayed until after the lecture in the evening, as it was now near the time for adjournment of the afternoon session. On motion, Mr. BLISS was requested to make his report in the Assembly Chamber immediately after the lecture. The meeting then adjourned until 7½ o'clock in the evening.

EVENING SESSION.

There was a large audience gathered at the Assembly Chamber of the State House, nearly filling all available space. Promptly at 7½ o'clock the President introduced Mr. X. A. WILLARD of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, who proceeded to give the annual address, his subject being "American Dairying." The following abstract of the address is given by the Montpelier Daily Journal. It says:

"The address of the Hon. X. A. Willard, of Little Falls, New York, followed. It elicited strict attention throughout, and we regret to condense the address into so brief an abstract as we are compelled to do in the following:

MR. WILLARD'S REMARKS.

"The manufacture of cheese and butter was known and practiced more than three thousand years ago. In the earliest history of the human race mention is made of cheese and butter, and there is reason to believe that these products were known and used as food many ages before the earliest record of them by the writers of antiquity. He then alluded to the first notice of the manufacture of cheese in the Book of Job; the message of David to Elah, concerning the 'ten cheeses;' to the reference to the dairy made by Homer; the testimony of Julius Cæsar, concerning the milk and cheese of ancient Gaul—and drew the conclusion from these and other allusions in the Bible that the products of the dairy have a history at least forty centuries old. It is remarkable that during all these ages dairy products have been regarded as luxuries. Abraham set before his angel visitors 'milk and butter, and they did eat.' The latter was not, possibly, 'gilt-edged,' but if good enough to be set before angels, must have been superior to much butter made at this day.

"Mr. Willard said he had been invited to address the Association upon 'American Dairying,' which, as a specialty, was less than a century old. In Europe, dairying has a history dating back to the sixteenth century, but previous to 1800, very little more than crude methods of butter and cheese-making were practiced in the United States. Most farmers, in those days, kept a stock of horned cattle—animals raised for beef, for working oxen, with cows for breeding, and for producing milk, butter and cheese to supply home wants.

THE FIRST BIG CHEESE OF WHICH WE HAVE ANY RECORD.

"Under the head of "The oldest dairy districts in America," Mr. Willard gave a short history of Elder John Leland's "great cheese," for the inception of which we are indebted to the exciting political times of 1800, Mr. Adams and Mr. Jefferson being the candidates. Elder Leland was a great power in the little town of Cheshire, situated among the middle hills of Massachusetts, and he preached such stirring Jeffersonian democracy to the people of Cheshire, that for generations they never voted anything but a "straight democratic ticket." Under these circumstances, it was no wonder that the "big cheese" was a success, when the conditions are considered. 'Every man and woman who owned a cow was to bring to a certain cider-mill, on a given day, every quart of milk produced, or all the curd it would make." No federal cow was allowed to contribute. The speaker's account of the gathering of the people and the manufacture of the cheese, also of Parson Leland's journey with it to Washington and its presentation to President Jefferson, was very interesting. The cheese weighed one thousand six hundred pounds.

COMMENCEMENT OF DAIRYING AS A SPECIALITY IN AMERICA.

"Mr. Willard stated that a few years previous to this memorable event, a New England farmer, a young man with eight silver shillings in his pocket, an ax on his shoulder, and two stout arms to swing it, as his stock in trade, crossed the Hudson and settled in the Mohawk Valley, the "Gateway of the Continent." He was the first that began dairying in Herkimer. He then gave an account of the rise and progress of the dairy interest, the mighty giant that is now stalking over the continent, dotting the land with countless herds. In 1812 the dairies of William Ferris, Samuel Carpenter, Nathan Salisbury and Isaac Smith numbered about forty cows each, and were regarded as extraordinarily large. In 1826 the business began to spread into counties adjoining Herkimer. The implements at this time were crude, consisting simply of tubs, wooden curd-knives, and log-presses. In the fall the cheese was packed and sent to market in rough casks. The principal buyers previous to 1826 were—William Ferris and Robert Nesbitt of Massachusetts. Their style of doing business was that of impressing inferiority and buying cheap. In 1826 Henry Burrill of Herkimer, engaged in the business of cheese-buying and became the chief dealer in Central New York. This gentleman was the first to open the cheese trade with England and made the first venture about 1830 or 1832, at the suggestion of the late Erastus Corning of Albany. His first shipment to Philadelphia was in 1828. Mr. Burrill is still in the trade, although nearly eighty years of age, and has shipped cheese abroad every year during the past fifty years—his shipments this year (1876) being about one thousand boxes per week. He has amassed a colossal fortune. Formerly Canada was a large purchaser of United States dairy products, but now it produces from thirty million to forty million pounds annually.

PROGRESS OF THE EXPORT TRADE.

"Under head of "Progress of the export trade," Mr. Willard says: In 1848 the export trade in cheese was fifteen million pounds; and the whole production in the United States that year was one hundred million pounds. The price was six to six and three-fourths cents per pound.

In 1862 the butter product of the country was about five hundred million pounds, of which we exported thirty million pounds. To-day our annual product is about one billion pounds and we export scarcely anything.

The cheese exports from the United States are now about 100,000,000 pounds per annum, and the yearly product upward of 250,000,000 pounds.

DAIRY ASSOCIATIONS AND DAIRY SCIENCE.

"The speaker alluded to the cheese factories and creameries of the country, and gave an interesting account of their establishment and progress. The Dairymen's Associations of the several States received recognition; also allusion was made to those of other countries, the speaker claiming that the idea and movement were purely American, yet he admitted that we have no scientists who can compare with Dr. Voelecker of London in regard to dairy investigations. To Professor Caldwell of Cornell University, is due the credit of having first expounded the "germ theory" to American farmers.

Our best cheese is now made in all its essential principles the same as that originated in Somer-

setshire, and which has been in vogue for more than a century at the foot of the Mendip Hills. He referred to the various theories and said:—The lesson which we, as dairymen, are learning, is a difference between speculative theories and sound practice. We have originated improved appliances for making, and methods of curing and pressing cheese—the cooling and aeration of milk, for its better flavor and condition, is also ours. Mr. Foster of Oneida, N. Y., was the first to discover that the odor of decaying vegetable or animal matter, when breathed by the cow in the pasture, would convey a taint to the milk in the bag. The speaker paid a high compliment to Jesse Williams as the originator of the factory system.

The late Gail Borden of White Plains, N. Y., was the first to successfully condense milk. Mr. Slaughter of Orange County, N. Y., was the first to adopt the associated system in butter-making, the Swedes and Danes the first nations abroad to adopt the American idea of butter factories. In closing the claims of American investigators, the speaker would mention Dr. Sturtevant of Massachusetts, and Dr. H. A. Mott of New York City who have recently made some interesting investigations in regard to milk.

In conclusion, Mr. Willard said:—Commissioner Wells, in 1869, estimated the value of the dairy products of the United States at four hundred million dollars per annum. The annual product to-day is not far from six hundred million dollars. He thought the New York butter and cheese exchange's estimate of the butter crop at one billion four hundred million pounds, at thirty cents per pound—four hundred and twenty million dollars—too high, but that it could not be far from one billion pounds per annum. The address closed with a sketch of the markets and market system of the country, of which we regret our space does not permit the publication in full."

"After the address Mr. Bliss explained his connection with the Centennial Dairy Exhibition at Philadelphia, which he denounced, in no measured terms, as an infamous swindle, in place of, what it should be, a creditable exhibition. He laid the blame at the doors of incompetent and corrupt officials of the exhibit, and endeavored to make plain the causes of the failure it has proved."

We shall refer to the report of Mr. Bliss on the Centennial "Dairy Ring" in another article.

There was much interest manifested at the meeting, and among those present at the evening session were Governor Fairbanks, with members of both houses of the Legislature, and other leading men of the State.

THE CENTENNIAL DAIRY EXHIBIT
BEFORE THE VERMONT STATE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

The report of Mr. O. S. Bliss, Secretary of the Vermont Dairymen's Association, in regard to the Centennial Dairy display being now in order, Mr. Bliss gave a brief history of the matter showing how the proposed dairy show at the Centennial had failed. A half dozen members of the Centennial Committee, appointed by the American Dairymen's Association (immediately after the Rome meeting of the Association in January last) took complete control of the movement, prostituting it to their own interest, and ignoring the other members of the committee of which the whole number appointed was upward of 50.

As early as 1873 a resolution was offered by J. V. H. Scoville before the American Dairymen's Association in regard to making a dairy display at the coming Centennial. A committee was appointed at that time of which he (Bliss) was a member, Scoville being named as Chairman. He (Bliss) had been a member of the committee from the first. At subsequent meetings of the American Association the committee was enlarged and, finally at the annual meeting in Rome, in January 1876, upward of 50 persons from New York and other States were enrolled as members of this committee. It was then and there resolved to make a vigorous effort to have a grand dairy display at the Centennial, and the sum of $10,000 was called for from Dairymen to pay the necessary expenses of such a display. Instead of accepting space, offered by the United States Centennial Commission, it was thought best to erect a "model Butter and Cheese factory" on the grounds, because the latter could be properly refrigerated, or the temperature so controlled as to keep exhibits of butter and cheese in good order during hot weather; and the $10,000 was believed to be amply sufficient for the erection of such a factory and *the employment of persons to take charge of exhibits* so that there should be no further expense to exhibitors. A considerable sum was subscribed by persons present at the Rome Convention, and a committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. Stewart, Reall, and Willard to draft a circular to be sent out to the Dairymen of the United States, advising them of the project and asking contributions. This circular was drawn up during the Convention and ordered to be printed by the committee of the whole.

Mr. Scoville was retained as chairman of the general committee, now numbering about 50 and Mr. O. S. Bliss appointed Secretary. In order that Dairymen and other subscribers to the fund might have *entire confidence that the money should be properly appropriated*, Gov. Horatio Seymour was appointed Treasurer of the fund. Up to this date all seemed to be harmonious and the different members of the committee, as well as dairymen generally, were enthusiastic in regard to the project and "a grand display," such as had never occurred in any country or age was anticipated.

But soon after the Rome Convention—said Mr. Bliss—the Chairman Scoville conceived the idea of running the committee and working up the whole matter in the interest of a clique. Meetings began to be held clandestinely by Scoville, Harris Lewis, L. B. Arnold, S. T. Hawley, T. D. Curtis and Josiah Shull, while the other members of the committee together with its Secretary, Mr. Bliss, were ignored or not notified in regard to such meetings. The circular which had been prepared and ordered to be printed by the "committee of the whole," was remodeled and changed by this clique to suit themselves and was then sent out. When this became known both, Mr. Bliss and Mr. Reall protested against this unwarranted procedure.

The winter meeting of the Vermont Dairymen's Association occurred several days after the Rome Convention. It was held at Rutland, January 19-22, 1876. To this meeting Messrs. Harris Lewis, L. B. Arnold, L. T. Hawley and T. D. Curtis had been invited and were in attendance, their expenses being paid by the Vermont Association. These members of the committee met Scoville at Utica by appointment on their way to the Vermont Convention, and they agreed upon a meeting with him on their return. While at the Vermont Convention the plan was arranged by these plotting members of the committee to absorb all the honors and emoluments growing out of the display. Bliss was not informed of any proposed meeting of the clique with Scoville until after the Convention had closed, and the New York delegation had taken its departure. Then, in conversation with a gentleman from St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., who had overheard the plans of the clique at the hotel, the intelligence came out concerning the game to capture the committee of the whole by an illicit meeting at Utica. Mr. Bliss was not only astounded but *grieved* that his guests should play him such a trick and at first discredited it. But the facts afterwards verified the information received. The clique on their way back stopped at Utica and met Scoville, and they then and there nominated L. B. Arnold and T. D. Curtis as Jurors, while Harris, Lewis, L. T. Hawley and Josiah Shull were appointed Auditors, thus virtually getting complete control of the funds, Gov. Seymour's name being put forward to induce subscriptions. Afterwards, when Mr. Bliss, as Secretary of the "committee of the whole," was ordered to enter upon his books a record of the doings of these six men at their illicit meetings he refused to do so, and hence the stormy session of the committee of the whole, at Philadelphia in February, an account of which has been given in the Rural.

Mr. Bliss referred to a long letter from L. B. Arnold—which he subsequently produced—dated February 1, 1876 in which Mr. Arnold attempts to explain why the circular was changed, and what he and the other members of the clique did with it on their return from Vermont, but no mention is made of the appointment of Auditors, or the nomination of Jurors at these illicit meetings, thus adding to the deceit. Mr. Bliss said he had been very desirous that the dairy exhibit should be a success. The committee had instructed him to visit the West in order to get subscriptions to the fund and induce an exhibit from that quarter. He referred to a letter from the Secretary of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association which he produced, in which it is stated that the Wisconsin exhibit was due to the urgent solicitations of Mr. Bliss.

Referring to the Vermont contributions to the fund he said upward of $400, including the value of the scales donated by Col. Sprague were in the hands of Scoville and his ring-committee. He (Bliss) had presented a bill for traveling expenses for work done, which the auditing committee refused to audit. The Scoville committee had attempted to capture the balance of the Vermont subscriptions leaving him unpaid. The Ring of six had "kicked him" out of the Secretaryship and Shull had been writing letters as Secretary *pro. tem.* Since the first of June he had been silent and at no time had he thrown any obstacle in the way of the display. Early in the season his friends had urged his name as Superintendent, but Scoville and the Ring opposed such appointment. He had acted from the first honestly, earnestly and in good faith, hoping that the dairy display would be an honor to the country. The whole affair had been a miserable failure, a "laughing stock" to foreign nations and a disgrace to American dairymen. The responsibility must rest on the "Ring," and its management which had destroyed the confidence of dairymen and alienated the best friends of the dairy. He referred to his protests from time to time and his urgent request for *fair management*, his letters to Gov. Seymour, and in conclusion he called upon the President, Hon. E. D. Mason, who had recently returned from the Centennial to give his views of the matter, &c. Mr. Mason said he was at the Centennial during the recent meeting of the American Dairymen's Association. He attended a meeting of the "Ring Committee" at the Butter and Cheese building and said they were wrangling and quarreling. He considered the whole thing a failure and a disgrace.

In summing up this matter it appears that the money employed for the dairy display is not far from $13,000. The State appropriation from New York, $8,000; Canada, $2,000; New York City, $600. Subscribed by Dairymen of New York between one and two thousand. Vermont, $400; Pennsylvania, Ohio, and other States say $1,000, and the result has been a building labeled "Scale Works," and "Butter and Cheese Factory," where a cheap restaurant has been run all the season for the benefit of *Somebody*. The Dairymen of the United States have not responded to the call for an exhibit of dairy goods, and in order to get a display from New York, for the October exhibit, the Ring management had to employ an agent to purchase the cheese and send it forward to the "model factory."

We refrain from alluding to matters connected with the affair which must cause dairymen to blush. The Vermont dairymen evidently ought to congratulate themselves on being so fortunate as to have kept Vermont goods away from the Exhibit, and the "Centennial Dairy Ring" gets no sympathy in Vermont.

The Horseman.

SUCCESS IN BREEDING HORSES.

Mark Comstock contributes a paper to Wallace's Monthly, on the above subject from which we condense the following:

Many breeders have plans to start with, but either forget them at the critical moment, or change them so often that their selections point to no clearly defined method. This is nearly always the experience of the novice. He is educated only by experience, and gains his knowledge by the mistakes he finds he has made at the start.

Hence we find many places with a few choice animals, and a large number of ordinary ones, that it would be desirable to dispose of could a purchaser be found, but which are generally held because the owner dislikes to face the necessary sacrifice. The first loss is generally the best in such cases, and that fact is coming to be generally understood with the present depression in the selling value of even choice animals. Where lack of means dictates selections, it would not appear so strange that animals wanting in some of the essential qualities for breeding, should be chanced in the hope that the deficiency may be counterbalanced by other superior features, and overcome in a proper cross; but with ample means at command, many young breeders make their purchases at random, and completely squander their advantages. Sooner or later most of them better their condition by either selling out entirely, or weeding out their stock and repurchasing. The writer has noticed in an extended observation of some years past, that frequently the poorest beginners have afterwards become breeders of excellent judgment. Experience is an expensive but very effectual teacher, provided the recipient of the lesson is capable of learning. But there is now and then a clear business mind that takes up this subject of breeding and makes a study of it before venturing to put its deductions into practice. Such men determine what they want before they buy at all, and then keep their aims clearly in mind while selecting. They go straight by their chart from the first, and usually accomplish something to show for it. They do not all follow the same path, or do they all aim to accomplish precisely the same object; but, having thought far enough to create an ideal which they hope to imitate, it generally possesses sufficient merit to be of value when approximated, and hence they succeed as breeders.

It is frequently asserted that there is no definable way of breeding that will bring success and that the whole system is one of chance, great results coming when least expected and disappointment following the most logically-conceived plans. There is a greater measure of truth in this claim than even the most ardent enthusiast on the subject can set aside, if the object sought be profit in the investment, and no other aim in view in the breeding problem than the bare question of trotting speed, and bottom. The most successful breeders in this country produce too many blanks to their number of prizes to keep the balance sheet right, unless the blanks possess a value independently of the question of speed; and with the blanks in the ratio in which they appear on many stud farms, it is a question whether their disposal is not a matter of far greater moment in a financial sense than that of the prizes. It is the common experience of breeding on any considerable scale, that after a few years' trial it is found desirable to reduce the mares in numbers to the few for which a direct nick has been found, and dispose of the others, no matter with what care and judgment they were originally selected. This has been the experience at Thorndale, Stony Ford and other noted establishments, and must continue to be so. Therefore, every point which tends to produce a foal salable for other purposes than speed, that can be compassed without sacrificing the chances of that most valuable element, should receive due business consideration in selecting breeding animals, in order that the produce that fails to come up to the standard may yet bring the breeder out without loss.

THE HORSE PLAGUE IN EGYPT.

The English Veterinarian for October gives some accounts of the horse plague in Egypt from which we glean that a virulent form of anthracoid disease is reported to exist among horses in that country. The term "equine typhus" is applied to the affection, but there does not seem to be any reason for the suggestion that the disease is of the nature of typhus. The malady, it is presumed, was contracted during the Abyssinian expedition. Some of the Egyptian horses which accompanied the expedition were first attacked at Massowah, and many of them died, others recovered, and these or others which had been exposed to the affection introduced it into Egypt. About the month of July the epizootic was observed at Ismalia. In August it reached Cairo, and spread rapidly to the towns of the Delta. In Zagazig the losses among horses and mules have been considerable, and in the country around still more serious results of the progress of the malady are reported. The symptoms are indicative of cerebral disturbance in the first instance: the animals are dull and drowsy, the head is allowed to fall until the nose touches the ground, the respiration becomes quick and labored, and in the latter stages symptoms of abdominal pain are exhibited. Post-mortem examination reveals serious exudation under the cerebral membranes, an apoplectic state of the lungs, and engorgement of the whole of the mucous tissue. Effusion into the pleural and peritoneal sacs is also found. The liver and kidneys are soft, and the mesenteric vessels are charged with blood; there is also, in most cases, evidence of extensive parasitic invasion of the vascular and digestive system. It is asserted that, in order to prevent the introduction of the disease into Europe, no horses are allowed to be exported without a special license.

A NEW FOOD FOR HORSES.

A new kind of mash for horses is now coming into use. It is thus described by the California Farmer:

It is composed of two quarts of oats, one of bran and half a pint of flax seed. The oats are first placed in the stable bucket, over which is placed the linseed; add boiling water, then the bran, covering the mixture with an old rug and allowing it thus to rest for five hours; then stir the mass well up. The bran absorbs while retaining the vapor, and the linseed binds the oats and bran together; a greater quantity of flaxseed would make the preparation too oily and less relished. One feed per day is sufficient; it is easily digested, and is especially adapted to young animals, adding to their volume rather than to their light, giving substance to the frame. Prof. Sanson reminds us not to overlook food, in connection with the amelioration of stock. He considers oats, so generally given to sheep, as objectionable, and approaching the unprofitable; rams generally receive one pound of oats daily; ewes half the quantity. Oats forming an exciting food are especially suited to rams during the season they are to serve, but for hastening the development of young sheep, they only build up the bones, not the flesh.

Horses in Great Britain.—The number of horses in Great Britain fell from 1,461,061 in 1869 to 1,276,444 in 1873; but the number has since increased, though not yet equal to that of 1869; in 1875 the number was 1,340,129. In Ireland, horses rose from 527,248 in 1869 to 540,745 in 1872, but fell to 526,160 in 1875. The total of the United Kingdom for 1865 was 1,866,289.

Pomological.

THE CULTIVATION OF PLUMS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Agricultural Gazette (Eng.) in writing of the cultivation of plums, gives his experience as regards the culture and value of certain varieties which we think is similar to that of many of the most extensive cultivators of this fruit in the United States:

The plum, like many others of our hardy fruits, is a tree that will make a great amount of growth, and become, in a measure, barren for the want of restriction. But it can also be made abundantly fruitful, even in a small and young state. Young trees bought from a nursery and planted against walls with an east or west aspect, and in a soil of a somewhat strong nature, will make a great amount of wood in the form of shoots, sometimes a yard long, as we have experienced; and even when grown as pyramids, and in the bush form, we have had them make shoots as long, and they have gone on for several years making an abundance of growth, but affording us no fruit.

In the autumn of 1874 we had several trees growing against the walls in our garden which had been planted five or six years previously, and they had been carefully trained and pruned, but never carried a single fruit. We made an attempt to root-prune them by simply digging a deep trench 2 feet six inches from the stem, which formed a half circle around the trees. We severed many large gross growing roots, and where we cut them off we were careful to make a clean cut with a sharp knife. After we had so treated them we filled in the trench, well treading the same, but we left one tree to ascertain if there would be any difference between them in the coming year of 1875. When that year came we had no fruit on them, but they did not make so much wood as heretofore, but formed a number of spurs all over the trees, which were covered with buds, and when the past spring arrived these proved to be flower-buds. Still, we considered that we had scarcely done enough to them in our root-pruning, so we resolved to lift them entirely, and plant again in the exact places they occupied. The one tree we left unpruned we lifted also: it was an Ickworth Imperatrice, but we left one of those that had been root-pruned unlifted; this was the Goliath. And now we come to the results.

We have had during the present year a splendid lot of plums, both for the dessert and also for tarts, but the Goliath, which had been root-pruned only, carried double the crop those trees did, which had been lifted the year after root-pruning, but our Ickworth Imperatrice never carried one fruit for us to prove its identity; but no doubt it will another season, as it, too, is now forming spurs, and has made less growth this year. The trees that were lifted last autumn have made but little wood, but carried nice crops; they consisted of Greengage, one of the very best; Washington, a very large oval, yellow fruit; Jefferson, also a large yellow, and very rich plum; and the Goliath before mentioned, which is also a large fruit of a deep red color, with a splendid bloom upon it, that adds to its beauty.

Young trees of Pond's Seedling, planted two years ago, have carried nice medium crops. The inference gained is to root-prune all gross-growing unfruitful trees. We proved the good of it years ago in the treatment of apples, pears, and even figs, besides plums, and there is no better time of the year for performing the same than the month of October. The great art of fruit-growing is to so manage our trees that they shall possess sufficient vigor to produce fruit of good quality, but not to overgrow that limit, by making good growth at the expense of a crop of fruit.

FRUIT IN TEXAS.

WE must look abroad to find out what is going on at home. A writer in Texas communicates the following interesting items to the Gardeners Chronicle of London:

Pears.—Southern Texas cannot be boasted of as a Pear country, still first-rate Pears, and heavy crops of them, too, are produced all over the State. In the northern half of the State I have seen these trees as heavily laden with fruit as I ever saw Victoria Plum trees in Mr. Dancer's market garden at Chiswick—yes, in Philip Unger's garden at Palestine it was hardly possible to get near his trees of Flemish Beauty on account of the fence-rail props that supported the groaning branches. Pear trees being expensive and slow-growing at first, as well as taking some years after planting to fruit freely, the farmers become discouraged, and the trees are often neglected in consequence, but I am confident there is a great future for Pears in Texas. Duchesse d'Angouleme is the best of all Pears for Texas, but the following have also been thoroughly tested and found most satisfactory:—Doyenne d'Ete and Madeleine, ripening from mid-May to mid-June, and succeeded by Brandy Wine, Clapp's Favorite, Bastlett, Bourre Goubalt, Howell, Flemish Beauty, Belle Lucrative, Des Nonnos, Beurre Giffard, Steven's Gennessee, Beurre d'Anjou, St. Michael Archangel, Lawrence, and Beurre Clairgean.

About as many standards as dwarfs are grown, but the raising of young Pear trees is rather uncertain; besides, we don't get that luxuriant growth rightaway as is the case in the Northern States. French Pear-stocks we use for standards, and Angers Quinces for dwarfs. We bud in September and graft in winter. In both cases the stocks are at least one year undisturbed prior to working. We never lift Pear stocks as we do Apples to graft them. Grafting or budding by contract is worth 5 dols. per 1000, Apple roots are sometimes used for Pears, but although they are productive of gross growth they so persistently bear suckers that they are a great nuisance, and on them the Pear is shortlived.

MY CENTENNIAL ORCHARD—HOW I PLANTED IT.

I HAVE just finished, November 8th, planting an orchard, ten acres in extent, of Baldwin apple trees. And this is the way I have done it.

In the first place I laid out the ground carefully, setting a short stake exactly where each tree was to stand. Stakes two rods apart each way. Two men, provided with spades, a basket of small pegs six or eight inches long, and a board about two inches wide and four feet long, having notches on one side, a half inch hole near one end, one at the center, and one near the other end, dug the holes. The holes were dug about fifteen inches deep, the top soil, which is clay-loam, being thrown together on one side and the subsoil on the other. Fine top-soil was then thrown into the bottom of the holes to the depth of six inches, and thoroughly mixed with a shovel full of fertilizer, composed of superphosphate, ashes and muck, equal parts.

When the holes were ready, the trees, thrifty four-year-olds, six to eight feet high, were carefully dug from the nursery rows with the least possible injury to the roots, broken roots were cut off smooth as well as all the side branches, leaving the body a single straight stem. The trees were immediately heeled in, and the roots thus kept moist. A boy took two or three trees only at a time directly from the pit to the men as they planted them. By the aid of the above-mentioned board and pegs the trees were set exactly where the stakes stood before the holes were dug. The holes were filled with fine soil which was trodden firmly upon the roots, and the work was finished by throwing up a mound ten inches high around each tree as a protection against mice and the force of the wind. It is my intention to put a liberal quantity of half-rotted manure around each tree, after the ground freezes. C. H. D.

Warsaw, N. Y.

SINGULAR FACT FOR MR. DARWIN.

"IN a garden at Billancourt, the property of M. Carlin, locksmith, may be seen at the present moment an Apple tree loaded with fruit. There is nothing extraordinary in this, but the stock of the tree is Cherry, on which has been grafted the Apple, a species of Golden Pippin. The fruit precisely resembles Cherries, the same stem, the same size, the same form, and nearly the same color; but its taste is that of an Apple, and it contains pips instead of stones. Specimens of this botanic phenomenon were yesterday submitted to our inspection. It must be a real curiosity, for it is generally thought impossible to graft a pip-bearing fruit on the stock of a tree-bearing stone fruit."—*Independance Belge.*

WE hope Mr. DARWIN will go and see that tree and let us know what he thinks of it.

Industrial Societies.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIRS.

THE North Carolina State Fair at Raleigh, commencing on Oct. 17, was favored during the entire four days of its existence with the most delightful weather. This, with the free transit afforded by the railroads of the State to articles for exhibition, as well as the fact that less than one-third the usual rates were charged for passengers, combined with the unceasing efforts of the officers of the Society to make the Fair pleasant, ought to have called out a larger exhibit of the varied products of the "Old North State" than that displayed. Being a Northern man seeking a home in this State, I visited the Fair for the purpose of learning where and by whom the best crops and specimens of grain, vegetables, fruits, etc., were produced; also, where the best stock breeders were located—all these considerations having an influence on my selection of a home. My object, however, was but imperfectly realized, as, under the mistaken idea that it might influence the committees in making their awards, not a single card had the exhibitor's name on it.

In the Machinery Department there were three small steam engines and a general assortment of agricultural machinery, but with the exception of plows there was not much competition, there being, in most cases, but one or two machines or implements adapted to the same work. One wing of the main hall was well filled with buggies and carriages of home manufacture, and small tools, stoves and furniture. Fruit was exhibited by only three persons, and except apples, of which there were many fine specimens, there were but three quinces and a small package of wild grapes. The Dairy was represented by three samples of butter and three of cheese. A light display of very fine vegetables filled, or nearly so, one side of the eastern wing. Of corn, wheat, rye, oats and peas, good as to quality, but eleven samples were to be seen. Sewing-machines, bed-quilts, needle-work, fancy-work, photographic and other pictures, works of art, curiosities, etc., were in full force. Of poultry there were about 125 coops. One-half of the birds were quite inferior, one-quarter fair, while the remainder were really fine birds and a credit to their owners, whoever they are, and wherever they live. One Long-nose, or Piney, as they are called, one Essex boar and a few pens of Berkshires comprised the show of pigs, all of which were good, the best being a pair presented to the Society, as a special premium, by the Oneida Community—so read a card on the pen. Next in the row were the sheep, comprising one pair of fair Leicesters, another of better Southdowns, three or four more of no particular breed or special merit; then four Cashmere goats. After these some twenty cattle, mostly natives and grades, a few good Jerseys, a few good Short-Horns and two good Devons.

On the whole, the show was a creditable one as to quality, but meager as to quantity, compared with what it should have been. Let me say a word to the farmers of North Carolina: Don't let another Fair pass by without lending a helping hand, and see to it that every exhibitor's name is attached to the animal or article exhibited. Half the pleasure of seeing a fine animal or a big beet is taken away when we are unable to learn whether it was grown on the shore of Pamlico Sound, or on the top of Mount Mitchell. By the way, when I left on the evening of the second day, the Treasurer assured me of the financial success of the Fair, although the attendance so far seemed light. M. B. PRINCE.

Ridgeway, N. C., Oct. 21, 1876.

Scientific and Useful.

PHRENOLOGY.*

THE publication of a new Centennial edition of the writings of GEORGE COMBE, by S. R. WELLS & Co., the well-known publishers of works on mental science, seems to have awakened a new interest in Phrenology, of which Mr. COMBE was, at an early day, an able defender, expounder and promulgator.

The founder of Phrenology was Dr. FRANCIS JOSEPH GALL, a German, born in Wurtemburg in 1758. When only nine years old his attention was called to the fact that all his school companions who had prominent eyes had correspondingly good memory for words, and by degrees he came to learn that the certain forms of heads were always found with peculiar characteristics, either mental or moral. Being afterwards educated as a physician, he gave great attention to anatomy, particularly of the brain. He disputed the theory of those who had variously located the seat of the soul, or mind, in the heart, stomach or other parts of the body, and after many years of study and careful observation, declared as a fact, susceptible of proof, that the mind manifested itself through the brain. "This," said he, "is truth, though at enmity with the philosophy of ages."

Continued study and experiment with the brains of both man and animals satisfied him that not only was the brain the organ of the mind, but that different portions of the brain were acted upon by different mental faculties, and that the exterior surface of the skull was generally an index to the form of the brain beneath. After he had located, not without some errors, about twenty of the principal faculties, he began, in 1796, to lecture in Vienna on the subject, and was met, as most advocates of any new ideas are likely to be, with opposition, scorn and derision, and in 1802 he was directed by the Austrian Government to refrain from teachings so much at variance with preconceived ideas, and, as the Church believed, so dangerous to religion.

In 1800, came to him as a student, JOHN GASPER SPURZHEIM, who soon became strongly convinced of the soundness of GALL'S conclusions, and in 1804 they became associated in their labors. SPURZHEIM was well calculated to carry forward what GALL had so well begun. His skill as an anatomist was superior, and his investigations of the brain unveiled much that have before been hidden. He discovered and corrected some of the errors GALL had made, and located several new organs. Indeed his services in the work were such as to give him rank, second only to GALL, while many have been willing to accord him greater honor. The truth is, each complimented the other, and alone neither could have accomplished what their joint labor enabled them to do.

In 1816, SPURZHEIM visited England. The estimation in which Phrenology was held there may be inferred from the fact that such publications as the Edinburgh Review and Blackwood's Magazine spoke of it as "thorough quackery from beginning to end:" "a collection of mere absurdities without truth, connection or consistency:" "these infernal idiots, the Phrenologists." Dr. GORDON, of Edinburgh, wrote an article against it, in which he seemed to exhaust the language to find abusive epithets. SPURZHEIM immediately went to Edinburgh, and, in the presence of several hundred of Dr. GORDON'S students, proved the falsity of his assertions, so far as the construction of the brain was concerned, by dissecting one in their presence.

Among the attendants at his lectures there was GEORGE COMBE, a lawyer, who had studied carefully the various systems of mental philosophy, only to be convinced that they were founded in error. The position taken by SPURZHEIM seemed to him to be reasonable, and he concluded to give the matter a thorough investigation, believing that the general reception of phrenological ideas would create a revolution in mental science, and prove of untold advantage to the human race by giving, as it would, a sure foundation on which to base all laws, particularly those relating to crimes and punishments.

Mr. COMBE soon became strongly convinced of the truths of Phrenology, and gave, thereafter, the whole power of his intellect in its support. In 1818 he contributed a series of papers on the subject to Literary and Statistical Magazine for Scotland, which were afterward published in a separate volume, entitled, "Essays on Phrenology." A second edition being called for, it was revised and published under the name: "System of Phrenology." This passed through many editions and now ranks as one of the standard works on the science, although containing many statements which, in the light of later investigators, appeared erroneous, or at least not complete.

In 1838 Mr. COMBE visited America, giving lectures in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. The American public were in a measure prepared for his teachings, as the works of GALL and SPURZHEIM, as well as his own System of Phrenology and Constitution of man, had been introduced and carefully read by many thinking people. Besides, as early as 1834, the brothers O. S. and L. N. Fowler had commenced lectures on the subject, and had to a considerable extent awaked discussion as to the truth of their teachings, exciting the bitter hostility of the religious world, by whom they were designated as materialistic, atheistic, and infidel.

But those days are long past, and now, although there is not a universal consent to all that is claimed for Phrenology, its leading ideas are not disputed by the press, pulpit, or people. There are but few who do not admit its general principles and acknowledge its superiority to any other system of mental philosophy ever taught. Some who do not dispute that the brain is the organ of the mind, doubt if it can be so mapped out as to show the location of faculty, while others, admitting all that is claimed for it in theory, believe that there are serious obstacles in the way of its practical utility. But as a rule it may be said the science is now most strongly opposed to those who know least about it. The Phrenologists of the present day claim that while the system is not entirely complete or perfect, it demands and deserves the acceptance of the public in so far as its claims are supported by proof, and they advance certain principles as being firmly established, among which are these:

The brain is the organ of the mind; each faculty of the mind has its separate or special organ in the brain; organs related to each other in functions are grouped together in the brain; size, other things being equal, is the measure of power; the physiological conditions of the body affect mental manifestation; any faculty may be improved by cultivation, and may deteriorate by neglect; every faculty is normally good, but liable to perversion.

* A System of Phrenology, by GEO. COMBE. [Cloth: 12mo.—pp. 816. $1.50.] New York: S. R. Wells & Co.

Lectures on Phrenology, including its application to the present and prospective condition of the United States. By GEO. COMBE, Esq., with notes, an introductory essay and historical sketch by ANDREW BOARDMAN, M. D. [Cloth; 12mo.—pp. 332. $1.50.] New York: S. R. Wells & Co.

ANCIENT HINDOO MEDICINE.

THOMAS A. WISE, M. D., late of the Medical Staff of the Bombay Army, has furnished to the

London Medical Press and Circular some remarks on the Antiquity of Medicine, from which it would seem that the ancient Hindoos, long before the Christian era, had cultivated medicine to such an extent and with so much scientific exactness as to entitle them to be accounted the founders of the modern art of healing. The following observations will be read with interest and excite some surprise in the minds of those who for the first time learn that medicine, long before the times of the Greek and Arabian writers, had been studied and discussed in written language by wise men of the East.

Dr. Wise says:—In considering the Greek system of medicine, we find their physicians and philosophers were indebted to the East for a portion of their knowledge. Pythagoras and Plato obtained many of their philosophical ideas from the Hindoos, and the internal evidence of the Greek works proves that the schools of Hippocrates derived a considerable share of their knowledge from the East. Galen mentions that Hippocrates was often at Smyrna in Asia Minor, and Mercurialis believed that he traveled in Lybia in Africa, and Scythia in Asia. Hippocrates may have visited this northern country to examine the enlightened and skilful Indo-Scythian people, whom Alexander the Great found so expert in the cure of diseases; and in these northern parts of Asia he may have consulted the Hindoo sages, and studied their drugs and medical records. The learning he was in search of was there, and the following statements prove his acquaintance with their writings:

1. The systematic works of the Hindoos were most probably prepared from the third to the sixth century B. C.; and long before the age of Hippocrates the original Ayur Veda existed, from which the other classical works were derived.

2. As medicinal plants have their properties developed in particular soils and climates, they indicate the nations among which they were first used for medicinal purposes, and explain the antiquity of the cultivation of medicine by certain races. The names and medicines recommended in the medical works of Hippocrates often indicate the schools of medicine from which they were borrowed. We find that Hippocrates used in his practice a number of Indian plants, imported from that country into Greece, for their well-known properties, such as *Sesamum Indicum*, Linn., *Hyperanthera*, *Moringa*, *Cardamomum*, *Amomum*, *Laurus*, *Cinnamomum*, *Valeriana Jatamunsi*, *Bosvellia thurifera*, *Galbanum ammoniacum*, *Sagapenum*, *Asafœtida*, etc. He also used black and long pepper, gingor, cassia, spikenard, *Calamus aromaticus*, etc., which are all the products of India or neighboring countries.

3. The internal evidence of the works of the school of Hippocrates proves them to have been compilations, derived in part from nations further advanced than the Greeks in the knowledge of particular departments of the healing art. The ancient Hindoo physicians considered dissection as a necessary part of the education of the medical practitioner. Their method was rude and imperfect, but many of their conclusions were correct, as we have proved by the result of their osteological enumeration, and the accuracy of their description of the internal organs, and of the large vessels of the body.

The ancient Hindoo surgeons performed the most difficult operations, such as the Cæsarean section, embryotomy, lithotomy, etc. The first description of the last-named operation was given by Susruta, and was afterwards made known by Celsus, who derived his information from Egyptian surgeons, and they again acquired their knowledge from the East. Hippocrates, the judicious surgeon and benevolent practitioner, allowed, it is incorrectly stated, the performance of this operation only by uneducated quacks.

From these facts it would appear that at an early age the Hindoos had made very considerable progress in the healing art, which enabled them to prepare systematic works on medicine, based on their own practical knowledge of anatomy, to which, at that time, the prejudice of mankind in general was so much opposed. Susruta informs us that an accomplished physician must possess an acquaintance with books, or theoretical knowledge, with the dissection of the human body, or anatomy, and a familiarity with the appearance of disease, or practice of medicine. This knowledge explains how the ancient system of Hindoo medicine was so complete in all its parts, and warrants the inference that several centuries were required to complete them. While the nations of the West have been slowly advancing, and mutually aiding one another, during the last two thousand years, the Hindoos, by the depressing influence of Brahminical intolerance and internal warfare, are now in a lower social condition than they were three or four centuries before the Christian era.

USING A RAZOR.

It has long been disputed whether the line of the blade of a razor should be straight or have a convex edge of considerable curvature, that is, hollowed inwards.

The matter may be settled by reference to the mode of using a razor, which is by scraping rather than cutting. Did men cut off their beards, the straight blade would be most effectual; but, as almost everyone who uses a razor, scrapes it off, the convex edge has the advantage; passing over the face obliquely from point to heel, or drawn straight downwards, it must of necessity, cut even when a straight-edged razor would do nothing but fret or tear the skin, without removing the beard. After all, it must be admitted, that the advantage—which a circular or full-edged razor has over the straight one in point of cutting, arises chiefly from a very defective manner of shaving; so long, however, as this defect exists, so long will the full-edged razor have a decided superiority. It often happens that men, groaning under the operation of shaving, attribute their bleedings and wincings to the badness of the razor when the principal fault is in themselves.*

RAZOR AND HOT WATER.

It was long supposed that the effect of dipping a razor in hot water, was to remove from its edge a kind of resinous substance, which was thought to injure its sharpness.

Such, however, is not the real effect. The fine edge is given to all blades of steel by heating them, and plumping them into cold water.

Now, it has been proved by experiment that the heat of 212° is the exact point at which razor edges are admirably tempered; and, as the heat of boiling water is 212°, by dipping a razor into it, you, as it were again temper, or give a new edge to it. E. J. R.

*Rhodes, on the manufacture of a razor. The uncertain results of tempering steel appear to be the only explanation of a low-priced razor often proving more serviceable than an expensive one.

The Vineyard.

PROTECTING GRAPE-VINES IN WINTER.

In several of the Northern States, and in the Canadas, grape-vines of all kinds require protection in winter. In some localities where there is little danger of the vines being killed down, it has been found that protection from severe cold insures increased productiveness, and we are inclined to believe that protection to the grape in winter might be practiced with benefit in many regions of country where it is now considered quite unnecessary.

A few years since, our strawberry growers would have thought it a waste of money to cover their strawberry plantations with any kind of mulch as a protection to the plants in winter, but it is now done quite extensively and as a very profitable investment. It is not done, however, because there is any great danger of the plants of the more hardy kinds being killed out by frosts, but they may be very much weakened, and the fruit-buds inclosed in the crowns during winter greatly injured by exposure, if not entirely destroyed.

Now, the fruit-buds which are to produce grapes next year are already formed on the vines, and it is quite important that they should not be injured by cold, or in any other way, if a full crop of fruit is to be obtained another season. Of course, in the warmer parts of the country, the more hardy sorts generally pass the winter unharmed, but the tender kinds require protection almost everywhere in the Middle States and the most hardy in many of the Northern States. This is well understood by most of the cultivaters of grapes; but we think few of them practice protection to so great an extent as would be found profitable through an increase of vigor in the growth of the vine and in quantity and quality of the fruit.

HOW TO PROTECT VINES.

There is a safer method of protecting vines in winter than bending down the canes and covering them with earth. Before doing this they should be pruned, leaving say one or two buds more upon each bearing cane than will be required for fruiting, as the terminal bud is more liable to injury in handling, either in layering or taking up in spring, than the others, and if they go safely through, it is a very easy matter to rub off the surplus shoots when they appear. Three or four inches in depth of earth is sufficient protection even in the coldest localities.

But it often happens that vines are trained upon some system which prevents or would make bending down to the earth in order to give protection, extremely difficult, consequently some other plan must be adopted. Where there is but a small number of vines, old sacks may be spread over both sides of the trellis, or boughs from evergreens set up against them, or almost any material which affords shade and protects the vines from cold winds, may be used, except where more protection is required. Where vines are trained against walls it will, of course, only be necessary to cover one side requiring only half the material used in protecting both.

In training vines with protection in view the stems may be set at a slight inclination in the direction they are to be bent down in the fall. A slight crook in the main stem will, after a while, be produced, but if the vines are bent down every fall there need be no fear of injury or breaking, even when the canes become large and old. A slight protection often prevents a total failure of the crop and frequently proves to be a very profitable operation.

GRAFTING THE GRAPE.

Persons who have not had very good success in grafting grapes in the spring should try performing this operation in the fall. Cut off the stocks below the surface of the ground, insert the cion in the usual way, either by a splice or cleft; tie in with bass, and draw in the earth up to a level with the top bud. Then insert a flower-pot, or box, over the cion, and then cover with soil and old hay or straw enough to prevent freezing.

In spring uncover carefully, and if the protection has been sufficient to keep out frost, the union between cion and stock will be complete. We have practiced this fall grafting many years and with uniform excellent success, in some instances making nine out of ten of the grafts grow.

Insurance Department.

INSURE YOUR PROPERTY.

Farmers as a class are inclined to undervalue the importance of insurance and to place it in the category of dispensable luxuries. Yet there is scarcely another class so much at the mercy of the careless or malignant incendiary, or for which there are so few and ineffective preventive remedies. Few people in large cities remain uninsured a single day, though they have the protection of a vigilant and effective fire department to check the conflagrations before they obtain much headway, and it seems singular that intelligent farmers neglect or omit to keep all their property covered by insurance, when they have so much to lose by a careless spark. It will not do for them to measure their faith by the chances of fire from within and of their own causing. They are too honest to burn their property for the sake of the insurance, and are as careful as other people in the use of inflammables. The insurance companies fully understand that the "moral hazard" of farm risks is less than that of any other, and that if they had only this to provide against the premiums need be small indeed. The external hazard is the heavy one—the chance that some one will thrust a lighted match into the abundance of litter that is always lying around barns, sheds and outhouses. Against this hazard there is practically no protection. The farmer cannot be continually patroling his broad acres or standing guard over his granaries. And this sort of risk has increased enormously since the era of tramps and wayfarers, who prey upon the country like an army of locusts, and who can be driven away only at the risk of all the mischief they dare perpetrate. The farmer who neglects to insure because he does not see or hear of fires in his own vicinity puts himself in the category of the party who would not insure his life because he "had never died or felt like dying." The records of a single week of the fires among farm property in this State would be too long to print, but it is a formidable list of losses of a kind which are every year increasing.

ANOTHER LIFE INSURANCE FAILURE.

The readers of the Rural will remember how constantly they have been warned to avoid all business or other complication with the Continental Life Insurance Company of New York, and how its pretensions to soundness have been discredited, notwithstanding the favorable showing it has been making. Within the last month it has been adjudged insolvent, and a receiver has, it is reported, taken possession of its effects. Yet less than a year ago it claimed more than six millions of assets and a clear surplus of nearly three-quarters of a million over all liabilities. The daily papers that chronicle this affair are full of insinuations not at all creditable to the management, which, considering the manner in which the policy holders have been dealt with for several years, is not so incredible after all. The Continental has reinsured six other companies: the Empire, the American Tontine, the Farmers' and Mechanics' and three British companies: the Commercial, the Prudential, and the International of London. It is claimed that the policy holders will be fully protected, which, whether true or not, should encourage them to continue paying their premiums to the receiver.

Field Crops.

NATURAL GRASSES.

For the past five years or more much has been said and published concerning the great value of the Natural Grasses for stock and dairy purposes; and nearly or quite all writers agree in the opinion that old sod-lands, or lands which have never had a plow in them, covered with a perfect sod and yielding good crops of natural grass and hay from year to year, are by far the most suitable for raising and fattening cattle and making butter and cheese. And as the dairy and stock-raising business is an agreeable as well as a profitable occupation, I often wonder that so few have engaged in it here in Northern Indiana. We have three persons in St. Joseph County who are fattening cattle on but a small scale, yet they are becoming wealthy, live easy, and seem to enjoy life. But there is not a butter or cheese factory in the county or in its vicinity, while Ohio on our east, Illinois on our west, and Michigan and Wisconsin on our north have each many factories making large quantities of a fine quality of butter and cheese annually, and yet their hay and pasture are no better than in Nortwestern Indiana, being much the same and, like ours, consisting mostly of natural grasses.

It seems strange to me, with the abundance of natural hay and pasture in our county, sufficient to feed milch cows for twenty or more large factories, besides raising and fattening many large herds of cattle, that the business should be so neglected here. But I suppose the reason why our farmers do not go more into stock-raising and the dairy business is because they lack the knowledge and means to conduct it properly; and yet it would not require a large capital, as farm lands suitable for the business can be had for ten dollars per acre on easy terms, or some of them might be rented at a low price for a term of years, with the privilege of purchasing at any time during the lease. These lands belong to some twenty or thirty different owners, who vary somewhat in their prices; but I know of several fine tracts of land in St. Joseph County, of from 220 to 2,000 acres each, which can be bought, and some of them could be leased, on the above terms, so that the land, with a little labor, would pay for itself in a few years.

Our farmers, being loth to engage in a business with which they are not well acquainted, and being short of means, leave to other persons, who understand the business and who have some capital, a fine opportunity to come here and select choice locations, which can yet be had, where the hay and pasture are as good for the stock and dairy business as any that can be found in the United States. These locations are well supplied with pure, living streams and springs of good water, also sufficient timber for all needed purposes, good roads, with school-houses, railroad stations, churches, etc., convenient. Many of these lands will yield annually from two to three tons of good hay per acre, such as Blue-joint, Red-top, Blue-grass, Wild Timothy, Spin-grass, Blue-stem, Sweet-scented-grass, Orchard-grass, and several other kinds of natural grasses. In some places the White Clover is fast coming in, with occasionally a little Red Clover. What I mean by the natural grasses are those which are as yet not generally cultivated, but come forth spontaneously from year to year, not costing anything for seed or cultivation, thereby saving a large amount of labor and expense. The cultivated grasses are Timothy, Clover, Alfalfa, Hungarian, Lucern, Alsike, Millet, and sometimes Orchard, Red-top, Blue-grass and some others.

I have been informed by some persons that the Kentucky Blue-grass seed was originally procured near Terre-Haute, along the Wabash River, taken to Kentucky, and in time became extensively distributed over the State. [Kentucky Blue-grass is a native of Europe, and, therefore, could not have been found "originally" in Indiana.—Ed. Rural.] It has also extended up the Wabash and Kankakee Rivers, to the northwestern part of Indiana. Certain it is that many years ago, when Terre-Coupee Prairie was first being settled, the farmers found there a grass of great nutrition and excellence, which they called Terre-Coupee-grass, but which has proved to be none other than Kentucky Blue-grass.

At all events, to my certain knowledge our natural grasses in St. Joseph County, Ind., are nutritious and excellent. Cattle pastured on them in early spring become fat and ready for the butcher much sooner than they would if pastured on the cultivated grasses, and the pastures hold out much longer, even until they are covered with snow. Especially is this the case on the bottom lands and along the streams.

Isaac Esmay.

South Bend, November, 1876.

Floricultural.

MICHIGAN FLORICULTURE.

Prof. Beal sends us an account of the flower beds of the Michigan Agricultural College as they have existed during the past summer. It should interest all of our readers, but more especially those who live in a climate similar to that of Lansing. Prof. Beal says:

On account of our frosty location and the short summers here, no attempt is made to use some of the bedding plants which are considered of most value further south, or in places with longer summers. Among these are Scarlet Sages, Dahlias, *Vinca alba* and *Vinca rosea*.

MOST PROMINENT PLANTS

Verbenas, with us, are very satisfactory for bedding. They are easily managed, and flower profusely for a long season. We bend them down and keep them next to the ground by small stakes. In this way the stems throw out roots. Those raised from home-grown seeds do best, as they are more thrifty and free from mildew. The difficulty in raising them from seeds is this: we do not know what colors we shall get. Some of the best varieties are Velvet Mantel, Sambo (black), Cerulea (blue), Bride (best white and sweet scented), Depane, a good old scarlet variety, which is in great demand. The Mrs. Woodruff is crimson. For bedding and ribbon beds we are especially well pleased with variegated sage (*Salvia officinalis var.*), *Alyssum*, *Centaurea gymnocarpa*, *Cineraria acanthifolia*. Some of our

RIBBON BEDS

this summer have been made up as follows: *Pelargoniums* known as General Grant for a center or the main part of the bed, with a border of *Senecio lanata* (*Gnaphalium lanatum*). The border needs a little clipping occasionally. A nice bed can be made with dark *Verbenas* (Sambo) bordered with Golden Feverfew. Remember to keep the center buds of the Feverfew picked off to prevent it running to flower.

Another bed had a Coral tree for a center (any small dense shrub would answer as well), then a ring of *Centaurea Gymnocarpa*, then a ring of *Achyranthes Lindeni*. The last is of a beautiful red color, but is inclined to grow too tall. It needs frequent pinching. Outside of the last is a row of variegated Sage (*Salvia officinalis var.*), then a row of *Alternanthera magnifica*. The above bed was too small, being only about eight feet in diameter, yet it was much admired.

Another small bed had a tree for a center, then *Artemisia acanthifolia*. This is too ragged. Then came a ring of *Centaurea candidissima*.

Another circular bed, 14 feet across, had a center of 20 small plants of *Colocasia esculenta* (*Caladium*). This burned in hot weather and did not do very well. Next came a ring of *Coleus* called Sambo or Rubra. It is a good sort, and did well. Then came a ring of *Cineraria acanthifolia*. This was rather too small to match with the rest. Next came *Achyranthes Verschaffelti*, and the next was variegated Sweet Alyssum; then Golden Feverfew; next, *Alternanthera versicolor*. In the center, instead of *Colocasia*, place *Coleus Verschaffelti*, and the bed would be made up of a good selection.

Our flat beds did better than those much elevated. The soil is rather light, and some days of our summer very hot.

We find it a great advantage to mulch with manure, about two inches thick. The plants do much better than with frequent hoeing without mulch.

FLOWERING ANNUALS.

For flowering annuals, nothing gives us greater satisfaction than good strains of *Petunia*. The best way is to save seeds, and keep saving every year after getting started with good colors. They thrive in our hot weather, and give plenty of flowers constantly after they begin until frost comes. Of great value, also, are the several sorts of *Phlox Drummondi*. No garden can afford to be without them. Pansies do well for fall and spring—in cool weather. Do not allow them to flower in hot weather, when the flowers will be small and worthless, but pinch out the head and then the plants become strong for fall use. Pansies thrive in cool, damp weather. In our short summers, *Zinnias* are very satisfactory if good sorts are used; Snap-dragon, also, and Larkspurs. *Balsams* do poorly on light soil in our summers. *Asters* of many sorts do well, but are an uncertain flower, on account of blister beetles, which sometimes appear very suddenly in immense numbers, destroying a bed in a few hours, often before the insects are noticed. Marigolds are showy and easy to manage. Place them towards the back of a garden. Mignonette is good for bouquets, and easily raised.

WALL FLOWERS.

are not very satisfactory with us. This season our stocks have done remarkably well. Sow once for an early crop and then a later sowing for a succession.

A FRAUD.

By oversight we received, in a lot of imported seed, some *Leucanthemum vulgare*. This is spoken of as rare and new, and excellent for cutting. It is nothing but Ox-eye Daisy, a most pernicious and troublesome weed. It is a rare plant on the college grounds, and on most farms of Michigan, and we hope it always may be.

WILD TRACTS NEAR NEW YORK.

But fifteen miles from the great city of New York are tracts of country as uncultivated, as wild, we might almost say as uninhabited as any hundreds of miles away. In one of these wild tracts we found ourselves one afternoon last week. It was in a deep and rather narrow valley. A long range of high hills, thickly wooded to their base on either side, shut out an extended view in all directions. Not a human habitation, a barn or hovel of any description could be seen. No human sound could be heard. The distant rattle of an occasional railroad train was the only sound that broke in upon a stillness as perfect as that of the heart of the Adirondacks or of the valley of the Yosemite. A clear, lively stream wound its irregular course through this valley, deep enough to drown one in many places, where abrupt bends had obstructed the current and spring floods had scooped out the bottom to deposit it further on in flats or hillocks that so narrowed the channel as to enable one to jump across with little effort. Trees of all sizes had fallen across this stream—here and there singly, occasionally in such numbers as to form high and shapeless entanglements wild enough to please the wildest fancy. Years and years of decayed and decaying vegetation had formed, for a hundred yards on either side, an almost bottomless accumulation of peaty mold. What would we not give for a *quantum sufficit* of this "perfect fertilizer," delivered upon our own grounds! A verdure dense to suffocation and, in places still impenetrably thick, was adding another year's growth of twigs and leaves. Evergreen Ferns, bogs of rugged Grasses, Reeds, Water Lilies, Asters, wild Vines, Swamp Azaleas, Blackberries and Raspberries, Dogwoods, Alders, Beeches, Birches, Maples, Oaks were crowded together as if the struggle for existence, where food was so bountifully supplied, were one for space alone.

Passing through this jungle and ascending the Eastern hill, we find hundreds of seedling Hemlocks, from six inches to six feet high—to us a beautiful, a rare discovery. Were there no variations among so many—no Weeping Hemlocks, no Variegated Hemlocks? Were there none with leaves distinct from those in cultivation, either broader or narrower—shorter or longer; none with habits so dense or so feathery as to be strikingly unlike all others known to nurserymen? We examined every one, hastily but carefully—hopefully at first, hopelessly at last. There was not one. Young White Pines, as shapely, some of them, as those to be found in nursery rows, were to be seen here and there, while the venerable parents, with high naked stems, towered up further down the hill-side.

A little way off we had noticed, while examining the seedling Hemlocks, a patch of bright green. This proved to be a cluster of the Mountain Laurel, all bristling with flower-buds for another season. Three or four feet in hight and thickly covering an oblong space, twenty feet in diameter, it seemed by its formal outline to have been arranged there by the hand of man.

Such wild, luxuriant tracts are not to be met with every day within fifteen miles of great New York. Less often does one meet with Hemlock, White Pine and Kalmia seedlings existing in such numbers as we have described. But, as if they were oases in a desert, they are the more highly prized when we do hit upon them and one enjoys the knowledge that an hour's ride and an hour's walk may even yet afford a glimpse of nature before she has been patched up and tortured by the march of civilization.

NOTES.

A Request.—If any of our floricultural readers will forward us a list of the names of their floricultural friends, together with their address, we will be happy to forward to each a copy of the Rural New-Yorker. A postal-card will suffice for such lists. Please write name, town, county and state plainly.

New Annual.—Among Annuals, those at best uncertain plants, a *Godetia* named Lady Albemarle seems worthy of trial. The Gardeners' Magazine says that it is an extremely beautiful variety, bearing flowers quite four inches in diameter and of a glowing, crimson color. It is bushy and the flowers are produced in the most compact manner possible.

The Journal of Horticulture says:—The flowers are not unlike those of *Dipladenia crassinoda*, with the rich crimson shade of the newer varieties, but far exceeding those in the rich, silky appearance, at a time, too, when many of the best annuals were burnt up with drought. Not one other annual or bedding plant can compare with it in producing such a mass of dwarf, dense plants, the foliage being entirely covered with flowers.

The London Garden says that it is a very effective dwarf, free-flowering plant, raised by Messrs. Daniels Bros., Norwich, Eng. It is a hardy annual which grows from 9 to 15 inches in hight and bears glowing, carmine flowers; as a pot plant it is most effective.

Land and Water says this splendid new annual has just been exhibited at one of the meetings of the Royal H. S. and awarded a first-class certificate of merit. It was obtained by crossing the old *Godetia Lindleyana* with *G. Whitneyi*, and is a fine and striking addition to our showy annuals.

With such strong commendations, we think our seedsmen may venture to offer this as a novelty for 1877.

The Apiarian.

WINTERING BEES.

There are three ways of wintering bees—on their summer stands, in cellars, and in winter bee-houses. In the Middle and Southern States, it is best to winter them on their summer stands, with protection around the hives where the winters are cold, as in New Jersey, Delaware, and other States in the same latitude, or further South.

When hives are set about a foot apart upon low stands they may be protected by driving stakes on both sides of them, (front and rear), and at the ends; and then fill in compactly all around them with hay or straw, two or three inches thick, with a temporary roof of boards to keep the straw dry. This protection is sufficient for any latitude, however cold it may be, and enables the bees to winter with as little loss generally as occurs under any other system. The passage-ways to the hives must not be obstructed by the straw, as the bees will require an occasional flight in mild weather.

Another way is to have cheap, outside boxes made, open at both ends, which are to be placed over the hives, and the open space (two or three inches) on each side filled with straw packed in firmly. A hole in each box, cut out in front of the openings in the hives, having something placed in it to keep the passage-way from being shut up with straw, will afford the bees egress and ingress, when it is safe to allow them to take a flight.

In very cold climates, as the New England States, and running west through Central and Northern New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, the prevailing opinion of bee-keepers is, that bees winter best in bee-houses made so that the thermometer never falls below the freezing point—a difficult thing to effect in very cold winters. Such houses are made above ground generally, being boarded up on the inside, and the space between the studs packed with sawdust, and a floor laid across at the plates, and the open space above filled with straw. Ventilation is effected by a conductor about six inches square inside, running from the floor across the plates through the ridge of the building, and always kept open. There should also be a conductor running under the sill on the North, or West side, with an elbow about two feet long on the outside to come above ordinary snows. This ventilator should have a sliding guage to let in air according to the temperature outside.

If bees could be put into such a home as Winter approaches, and their owner have no further care in regard to them till spring, and then bring them out all in good condition, bee-keeping, in all cases where the honey harvest is abundant, would be a grand success. But no bee-keeper, with his bees thus homed, knows what a few days may bring forth. If the weather is intensely cold for several weeks, and the frost gets into the building, many of his families of bees may perish. Then if a warm "spell" takes place—a few days like May weather—there is trouble from the bees becoming aroused, and trying to escape from their confinement.

The requirements to winter bees in cellars are dryness and darkness with the thermometer ranging from 35 to 45 degrees; but it sometimes runs up to 50 or 60 deg., and then as in bee-houses, the bees make great efforts to leave their hives, being shut in with wirecloth over the passage-ways. To guard against the bees being smothered, in consequence of rushing in large numbers to the passage-ways, it is advisable to raise the hives from their stands an eighth of an inch, placing wedges under the corners. During the last ten years I think the entire increase of bees in the United States has disappeared by disasters to them in wintering—that is, that we have no more bees in the aggregate now than we had 10 years ago. Frequently a writer will say, "I have followed this or that plan in wintering my bees, and for seasons I have lost none," thus conveying the idea that his plan is a success every year. But not one of such statements that have appeared during the last 25 years has proved, or can prove, to be a success in all cases. For instance, take the statement of a writer in the Rural of Oct. 28th. He thinks that he has found a remedy for all the ills to which honey-bees are subject in winter, by making holes through the combs, so that the bees may pass easily from one comb to another in cold weather to obtain honey. If he lost no bees during two or three winters, it was not owing to the holes in the combs, but to the mild winters, or the condition of his bees in the fall. Holes have been made in combs many years; yet there is no proof that they are of much benefit, if of any at all, because the bees leave side openings, when they build their combs; and when the weather is mild enough to allow them to pass through a center opening they can pass through the openings at the sides of the combs.

If we take the trouble to ascertain what experience most writers on bees in the bee-magazines have had, we find that they are mere novices, frequently commencing a communication that they imagine will enlighten the world on bee-keeping, with "this is the second year I have kept bees."

When they have kept them 10 or 15 years they begin to find out that they know but little, comparatively speaking, on this subject, which is worthy of being considered one of the most obstruse studies of insect life. T. B. Miner.

London, N. J.

Farm Economy.

LITTER OR BEDDING FOR CATTLE.

The Scientific Farmer, in a late issue gives quite a lengthy article, on the subject of litter in which the analyses of various materials used for this purpose are given in detail, in order that the farmer may know their relative values when reduced to what is generally termed manure.

But we presume few of our farmers are as much interested in the chemical constituents of the material employed for bedding their stock, as they are in its cheapness and the facility with which it can be obtained, consequently in making some extracts from the article referred to, we omit the analyses, merely mentioning the relative values in which the materials named are held by chemists.

In suburban localities where straw is but little grown, and even meadow hay commands a price, the farmer is often puzzled how to procure litter for his animals at a cheap rate. Usually the cattle are not bedded at all, but a small quantity of dry earth is scattered under them to act as an absorbent, and to facilitate the keeping of the floor clean. Horses, however, require bedding, and are usually bedded on straw, the poorer qualities of hay, or on sawdust or leaves.

Stock can be kept comfortably in all these ways, and which method it is best to adopt is to be determined by the circumstances of the farm and the personal taste of the owner. Yet when the question of the manure comes up, we find a divergence of opinion, especially on the value of the saw-dust and leaves in the compost. That saw-dust may be detrimental to land we are willing to admit, and also that it may be beneficial. On light soils, in moderate quantity, we have found no evil effect resulting from its use when used under the horses, and then passed to the manure heap. Indeed, when we consider how easily the sawdust is handled, how cheaply it is to be procured, and how well it is adapted to bedding the farm horse, we are disposed to advocate its more extended use. In our own practice, but a small portion, that which has become soiled, is taken from the stall each day, while the balance is swept forward, under the fore-feet, during the day time, to be spread backward towards night.

We do not prefer saw-dust, however, to straw or hay. But straw is too costly, and hay, even if of a poor quality, can ordinarily be fed out to the cattle with advantage, provided we feed judiciously and in combination with other foods. However used, hay finds its way ultimately to the manure heap, as should everything of this nature consumed or used on the farm.

In our own practice dry earth may be considered under the head of litter. The cattle stand on a slightly sloping floor, with a trench behind them. Each day a few quarts of dry earth are evenly spread under them, and at times during the day a hoe is used to remove droppings which have fallen outside the trench. Thus our cattle are readily kept clean, and the barn air is not overladen with ammoniacal odors. When earth is not readily obtainable, we think saw-dust would take its place. But it should not be used in large bulks, or heaped about the floor. A light sprinkling, on the same principle that applies when it is dampened and used as an aid in the sweeping of a floor in a hotel, is sufficient.

The manurial value of litter used in the way

we have indicated is but slight. Of course there is some addition to the food value of the manure heap by the use of soil, but it is of too slight a value to be dwelt upon. The physical action of the mixing is of more consequence.

A ton of saw-dust would contain but 1.2 lbs. of potash and less than half a pound of phosphoric acid. Indeed beech saw-dust is composed per ton of 1,989 lbs. of organic matter, principally carbon, and white pine saw-dust of 1,995 lbs.

Autumn leaves are far richer in percentage of ash element than saw-dust. Yet on account of their lightness, they possess but a small amount of plant food according to their bulk. To mix with manure, however, leaves are of considerable value, from their mechanical effect, as they tend to lighten up the manure heap, and by their decomposition, aid in the fermentative changes.

Straw, on the contrary, has considerable value of ash element which it contributes to the manure, and so has hay, even of the inferior qualities.

We can not find an ash analysis of meadow or bog hay which will answer our purpose, but judging from the proximate analysis given, we may assume, with a good deal of certainty, that a bog hay will yield half the quantity of fertile ash element as will the good hay.

To sum up the main points made in a few words, it may be said that the richer the materials used for bedding, the more valuable the manure made therefrom.

GATHER PURE ICE.

No one should know more about ice, whether pure or otherwise, than those who live in Canada, consequently we are inclined to think the Canada Farmer is about right in saying that some books on Arctic travel, are answerable for the widespread notion that ice is pure and fresh when formed on water, no matter how impure or salt. It may be the fact that the ice itself is chemically pure, but if that ice holds in suspension filth or salt which will combine again with the water on the melting of the ice, then the notion that such ice is pure, is for all practical purposes, a delusion and a sham. Rather than propagate such stories, it were better, even if on that account alone, such books had not been written.

An epidemic of fever and diarrhœa at one of the hotels at Rye Beach this summer has been clearly traced to the ice. This had been procured from a pond of which the outlet had in recent years been closed by sand and stones washed up from the sea, the pond thus becoming a standing receptacle of mud and sawdust, there being two saw-mills on the stream above. The ice was subjected to chemical analysis, and was found to contain putrescent vegetable matter. The hotel stopped using this contaminated ice, and there was an end to the sickness among its boarders.

In these days when so many farmers (that there may be more of them is our wish), put up ice for home or dairy use, it will be well for them to bear this fact in mind. If the water of a pond is unfit to drink, the ice made from that water is unfit to use for cooling purposes, except when the ice is outside the vessel containing the articles that are desired to be cooled. City people will also do well to ascertain something about the source from which their ice-man draws his supplies. We believe it to be scandalously filthy in some instances.

Domestic Economy.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Silver Cake.—Whites of 6 eggs, ½ cup butter, 2 cups sugar, ¾ cup sweet milk, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar, ½ teaspoon soda, nearly 3 cups sifted flour. Dissolve the soda in the milk, and mix the cream of tartar in the flour. Flavor.

Gold Cake.—Use the yelks instead of the whites of the eggs, then make the same as Silver cake.

Fried Cakes.—2 eggs, 2 cups sugar, 2 cups thin sour cream, (or one of cream and one of buttermilk), 1½ teaspoon saleratus, ¾ teaspoon salt. Mix soft.

Cream Cookies.—1 cup sugar, 1 cup rich sour cream, ¾ teaspoon saleratus, a little salt, nutmeg. Mix as little as possible, and just stiff enough to roll out.

Wedding Fruit Cake.—16 eggs, the yelks and whites separated; 2 lbs. brown sugar with the yelks, 2 lbs. butter, 4 lbs. raisins, 2 lbs. currants, 1 lb. citron, 2½ teaspoons saleratus, dissolved in ½ glass brandy, 4 nutmegs, 3 tablespoons cloves, 3 tablespoons cinnamon, 2 lbs. flour. Mix one half of the flour with the fruit, then stir into the cake. Beat the whites of the eggs to a froth, then put in a little of the froth, and the remaining lb. of flour, each alternately till it is all in.

Feeling confident that some farmer's daughter will try the last recipe during the coming winter, I take this opportunity to wish her success with the cake, and in her new relation all the happiness mortals are allowed. MRS. S. C.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Cooking Jerusalem Artichokes.—Wash the Artichokes, pare them, boil for twenty minutes until they are quite tender; drain them, and pour good melted butter or white sauce over them. Boil them for about twelve minutes; lift them out, drain them carefully, and let them cool; dip them into beaten egg, and cover them with fine bread crumbs; fry them a light brown, and serve them directly.

Jerusalem Artichoke Soup.—Boil 3 lbs. of Artichokes in water for ten minutes, lift them out, and slice them into three pints of boiling stock, which has been well flavored with Onions, Carrots, Herbs, &c. Let them stew for twenty minutes, press them with the soup through a fine sieve, and put the whole into a clean saucepan, with a pint-and-a-half more stock; season this with salt, cayenne, a little mace, and a lump of sugar. Let it simmer two or three minutes, and stir into it a pint of rich cream. Milk may be used instead of this last, but 2 or 3 ozs. of butter must then be added.

The above are from the last number of the London Garden, one of the best papers of its class published in Europe.

Carrots instead of Eggs.—An exchange says: It is not generally known that boiled carrots, when properly prepared, form an excellent substitute for eggs in pudding. They must, for this purpose, be boiled and mashed, and passed through a coarse cloth or hair sieve strainer. The pulp is then introduced among the other ingredients of the pudding, to the total omission of eggs. A pudding made up in this way is much lighter than where eggs are used, and is much more palatable. On the principle of economy, this fact is worthy of the prudent housewife's attention.

Baking Apples.—Buy a small tin applecorer; core with it as many apples as you want, without peeling them; set them on a tin dish; place this in a hot oven, having first filled up the vacancies left by your surgery with the best of sugar. Let them bake till they are well done. Take them out, and if you do not know what to do next, call in your nearest and best friend for further advice.

Dried Green Peas.—Wash the peas, pour boiling soft water over them, sufficient to cover. Let them stand over night. Stew them for several hours, or until they are soft and pulpy. Add boiling water occasionally, and keep them covered closely while cooking. Add half a cup of cream and a little salt, and boil ten minutes; then dish up.

How to Make the Tea Go Further.—A method has been discovered for making more than the usual quantity of tea from any given quantity of the leaf. The whole secret consists in steaming the leaf before steeping. By this process, it is said, 14 pints of good quality may be brewed from one ounce of tea.

Dessert of Apples.—Make of a pound of sugar a rich syrup; into this put a pound of apples pared and cored, and stew till they are soft; mix them smoothly with the syrup and form into a mold. Into a pint of cream or new milk stir the yelks of two eggs, a half cup of sugar, a spoonful of rose water, and let the whole boil in a farina kettle. When cool pour it around the apples, and serve.

Vienna Coffee.—Mrs. A. L. H. of Boston, Mass., since her return from a visit to Philadelphia, where she tasted the celebrated Vienna coffee, has been making some for herself, and sends the following for the readers of the Tribune: "I leach the coffee, allowing to each person a tablespoonful of ground coffee, and one extra for the pot; then to one quart of cream, put into a pitcher and set in boiling water, I allow the white of one egg beaten to a froth; then I add three tablespoonfuls of cold milk to the egg, and mix it well; then remove the cream when hot from the fire, and add the egg, stirring it briskly for a few seconds; then serve. This gives a cup of coffee equal to that at the Vienna Bakery."

BRINE TO PRESERVE BUTTER A YEAR.

Among the many devices for keeping butter in a manner that will preserve the fresh, rosy flavor of the new, with all its sweetness, is the following, from Duchess Farmer, which is said to be entirely successful:

To three gallons of brine, strong enough to bear an egg, add a quarter of a pound of nice white sugar and one tablespoonful of saltpeter. Boil the brine, and when it is cold, strain carefully. Make your butter into rolls, and wrap each separately in a clean, white muslin cloth, tying it up with a string. Pack a large jar full, weight the butter down, and pour over it the brine until all is submerged. This will keep really good butter perfectly sweet and fresh for a whole year. Be careful not to put upon ice butter that you wish to keep for any length of time. In Summer, when the heat will not admit of small jars, take large ones, and, using the same brine, allow it to cover the butter to the depth of at least four inches. This excludes the air, and answers as well as the first method suggested.

Hygienic Information.

POSTURE.

An erect bodily attitude, says Dr. GREENE, is of vastly more importance to health than is generally imagined. Crooked bodily positions, maintained for any length of time, are always injurious, whether sitting, standing, or lying—whether sleeping or waking.

To sit with the body leaning forward on the stomach, on to one side, with the heels elevated to a level with the head, is not only in bad taste, but exceedingly detrimental to health. It cramps the stomach, presses the vital organs, interrupts the free motions of the chest, and enfeebles the functions of the abdominal and thoric organs, and, in fact, unbalances the whole muscular system.

Many children become slightly humpbacked, or severely round-shouldered, by sleeping with the head raised on a high pillow. When any person finds it easier to sit, stand, or sleep in a crooked position than a straight one, he may be sure his muscular system is badly deranged, and the more careful he is to preserve a straight or an upright position, and get back to Nature again, the better.

Those persons engaged in occupations requiring the hands alone to move, while the lower limbs remain motionless, should bear in mind that without frequent raising the frame to an erect position, and giving exercise to all parts of the body, such a practice will tend to destroy their health. They should also sit in as erect a position as possible. With seamstresses, there is always more or less stooping of the head and shoulders, tending to retard circulation, respiration and digestion, and produce curvature of the spine. The head should be thrown back to give the lungs full play. Health cannot be without free respiration. Strength and general health must come from exercise. Confined attitudes are in violation of correct theories of healthy physical developments and the instincts of nature. Those accustomed to sit writing for hours, day after day, can form some idea of the exhausting nature of the toilsome and poorly-paid labor of the seamstress.

Parents and guardians should see to it, that those under their care maintain an erect posture, and keep the system in harmony with the laws of life, especially during the period of growth. And persons who, from necessity, are obliged to remain for a time in unnatural or cramped positions, should overcome the evil, as far as possible, by proper exercise in the open air and other means of maintaining the strength, vigor, harmony and beauty of their physical constitutions.

ON THE PRESERVATION OF ICE AT THE BEDSIDE.

Mr. SAMPSON GAMGEE, Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, in a short article (Lancet, June 10, 1876) calls attention to this subject. His practice for some years has been to cut a piece of flannel about nine inches square, and secure it by ligature round the mouth of an ordinary tumbler, so as to leave a cup-shaped depression of flannel within the tumbler to about half its depth. In the flannel cup so constructed pieces of ice may be preserved many hours, all the longer if a piece of flannel from four to five inches square be used as a loose cover to the ice-cup. Cheap flannel, with comparatively open meshes, is preferable, as the water easily drains through it and the ice is thus kept quite dry. When good flannel with close texture is employed, a small hole must be made in the bottom of the flannel cup, otherwise it holds the water, and facilitates the melting of the ice, which is, nevertheless, preserved much longer than in the naked cup or tumbler.

In a room 60° F., Dr. G. made the following experiment with four tumblers, placing in each two ounces of ice, broken into pieces of the average size of sucking. In tumbler No. 1 the ice was loose. It had all melted in two hours and fifty-five minutes. In tumbler No. 2 the ice was suspended in the tumbler in a cup made, as above described, of good Welsh flannel. In five hours and a quarter the flannel cup was more than half filled with water, with some pieces of ice floating in it; in another hour and a quarter (six hours and a half from the commencement) the flannel cup was nearly filled with water, and no ice remained. In tumbler No. 3 the ice was suspended in a flannel cup made in the same manner and of the same material as in No. 2; but in No. 3 a hole, capable of admitting a quill pen, had been made in the bottom of the flannel cup, with the effect of protracting the total liquefaction of the two ounces of ice to a period of eight hours and three quarters. In tumbler No. 4 two ounces of ice were placed in a flannel cup, made, as above described, of cheap, open flannel (10*d.* per yard), which allowed the water to drain through very readily. Ten hours and ten minutes elapsed before all this ice had melted.

A reserve supply outside the bedroom door can be secured by making a flannel cup, on the plan above described, in a jug, and filling it with little lumps of ice—care being taken that there is space enough below the bag to allow the water to collect and leave the ice dry. This provision will allow ice to be used during the hottest night, without the supply failing, or the patient being disturbed—two very important considerations. The real therapeutic benefit of ice is only produced in some cases by its free use, and its soothing and stilling effect must be aided by the most perfect surrounding quiet.

BISULPHIDE OF CARBON AS AN ANTISEPTIC.

In the course of some recent investigations, says the Boston Journal of Chemistry, M. Zoller, of the Gottingen Academy, was led to study the properties of bisulphide of carbon as a preserving and disinfecting substance. Beef and veal, in quantities of 250 to 1,000 grams, were put under glass bell-jars, at a temperature between 15° and 40° C., a little of the bisulphide being also present, and were kept there thirty-two days. The meat showed no sign of corruption; it retained its elasticity, and was only altered in color, becoming slightly pale. The same experiment was made with poultry, and with equally favorable results. Rye and wheaten bread was exposed fourteen days in moist air containing the bisulphide, and it had not the slightest appearance of mold. Over-ripe plums kept for 182 days just as well; there was neither mold nor putrefaction. Two portions of sugar solution, with a little yeast added, soon went into strong fermentation. One of the fermenting liquids was put under the bell-jar, and after twelve hours the fermentation was hardly perceptible. M. Zoller thinks he is warranted in considering bisulphide of carbon a powerful means of preservation and disinfection—the more powerful, because, even at ordinary temperature, it volatilizes; and, in an air space, containing comparatively little of the vapor, all formation of mold or putrefaction is prevented.

THE BREAD PROBLEM.

The Nation has its say on this question of good bread, and we are constrained to think is very nearly if not quite correct.

The bread problem is undoubtedly, so far as the American people are concerned, the most important which we have to solve. Dyspepsia is our national curse. It is the source of the greatest sufferings and the greatest weaknesses of the American people, and it is pretty generally conceded that among the factors of our national disease none is so important and none so universal as the bad quality of our national bread. The excessive using of tobacco, of coffee, of tea, and of whisky certainly has much to do with our enfeebled digestions, but all these together must sink into insignificance when compared with the vile character of what is known as bread in ninety-nine-hundredths of the households of our country—sour, heavy, sawdusty, innutritious, unpalatable stuffing, which performs, of course, a certain useful office in nutrition, but which at the same time makes such serious demands upon the converting powers of the stomach as to leave the digestive apparatus of most of our people, even before attaining middle age, in such a wrecked and ruined condition as destroys much of the comfort, happiness and usefulness of their later years.

EXERCISE OF THE STOMACH.

Your correspondent Mr. PECK, in his hygienic articles, speaks as if those articles of food which are the most easily digested are necessarily the most healthful. This is well known not to be the fact, or as a rule it has many exceptions. The stomach needs exercise the same as the muscles. Bulk is, therefore, essential, as well as nutritious, easily-digested food in small quantities. Distension of the stomach is its exercise, in the absence of which its powers are weakened. M. D.

[This is all true enough; but we were not aware that Dr. PECK had so stated.—ED.]

FOOD FOR INFANTS.—When an infant evinces disgust at food, give it cold water, a ripe tomato, beef tea, toast water and arrow root, yelk of egg beaten with sugar, and a little good claret added, or a piece of salt pork well boiled. The above to be given sparingly and with appropriate discretion.

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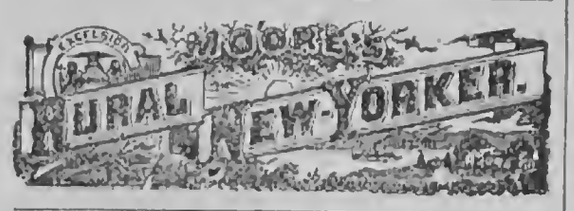


SATURDAY, NOV. 18, 1876.

WASTE OF MONEY.

"ECONOMY in public expenditures," says the candidate for office, "is the motto upon which I desire to come before the people," and straightway he sits down and calculates the cost of his successful candidacy. His assessment must be paid to his General Committee and the usual contributions must be made toward the holding of meetings in his interest, while certain other sums must be appropriated to defray the usual necessary (?) expenses of the campaign. What campaign, forsooth? What is a campaign? WEBSTER defines it as "the time that an army keeps the field, either in action, marches or in camp," and no more appropriate word could be used to describe the scenes of activity through which the anxious candidate passes from the time just preceding his nomination for office, till his election or defeat at the polls. He makes constant war upon the political, religious and personal prejudices of his opponents, and just as persistently coaches the weak-kneed of his own way of thinking. In doing all this he pours out oceans of money. For what good? Is the community benefited by this expenditure—nay, waste—of money? No. It is all wrong. We are a producing people and generally a sensible people; but in this one little matter—of the exercise of the sovereign right of citizenship—we are somewhat "slack." This lavish waste is not confined to any one party or set of individuals; but has grown to be general throughout the country.

The ordeal of the Presidential election through which we have just passed is proof to the thinking mind, of the truth of these assertions and, now it is all over, would it not be well to look the matter calmly in the face, with a view to its abatement? The one party will say that if we fail to do all these things the other party will certainly do them, and thereby get votes which rightfully belong to us. Let them have such votes. What is lost by buncombe this year will be more than regained by sober thought the next year. Then think too, of the actual millions of dollars which have been positively thrown away in the "campaign" just passed! The money is put into circulation, to be sure; but what kind of circulation? Take, for example, the individual generally called the "worker at the polls," who receives all the way from one to twenty dollars for his day's work. Where does a large part of his pay go? Generally chosen from among the lowest and most vicious class, he naturally spends the larger part of his wages in keeping up the party enthusiasm at the nearest grog shop. All money so spent is certainly wasted, though it is put into circulation. The TWEED Ring made great claims to the people's gratitude for putting their stolen treasure into circulation, and the citizens of their locality are even now paying the penalty. These pictures are not overdrawn. They are matters of such constant occurrence in most localities that the exceptions only prove the rule.

It is all wrong. Suffrage enjoyed at such an expense is a luxury which we cannot afford. Money so circulated appeals to and nourishes the worst passions of humanity, and in addition to its wastefulness is productive of an undercurrent of demoralization which all the churches, missionary societies, and charitable institutions in the country are powerless to counteract. Let us discountenance what are called "election expenses." To be sure, there are laws against thus using money; but these laws, like those against gambling, are only enforced where public opinion demands it. Each one of us forms an integral part of this public opinion, and it is only by the individual effort of each of these integral parts that such things can be discountenanced, and such practices be made obsolete. In watching the effects of these expenditures, as we have for many years, we have become satisfied that public opinion must, ere long, seize the monster and grapple with it, or our liberties are endangered. It is confined to no particular party, but has become the rule on both sides. Hence its danger. These reforms must emanate from the Rural population, for the cities will never start them. We therefore call upon our agricultural, producing class who, above all people, are made to feel any lack of economy, to join hands, without distinction of party or politics, and put an end to this fearful extravagance—this wicked waste of money every year about election time. It can be done if the people will unite, and done right easily, too. Try it!

A CHEERFUL TONE.

DURING the past few weeks business men have talked in a more cheerful tone than for some time previously, and this seems to inspire confidence in all the various industries, which is but another instance where mere words or the manner of uttering them, may change the aspect of affairs in a community or country. It is certainly a good sign of an improvement in financial circles when men begin to talk encouragingly of future prosperity, for a returning faith in the present and what may come, is second only in value to a positive realization of the thing sought. The facts will probably bear us out in asserting that the country has at no time in the past half century, been richer than during these very times of stagnation in business; but there has been a lack of confidence, or faith, in the substantiality of our wealth, and this has caused inactivity in trade. The "flush times" during the war, brought a legitimate result—a corresponding reverse of circumstances. Those who were injured most cried the loudest about hard times and general depression in business, and this cry was taken up and re-echoed through the land. Thousands who had no other reason than the one "everybody said so," piped upon the same note and immediately commenced to practice economy, and restrict their expenses and investments. "Tidal waves" in business circles may originate from very slight causes, but gain strength as they progress, and their speed is accelerated more through removal of obstacles than additions of force.

The late hotly-contested political canvass has doubtless furnished our readers with numerous instances of the effect cheerful tones and wild huzzas have upon men of various temperaments. Upon some, the effect of a cheer may not be so apparent as upon others; still, all are likely to feel the magnetic influence of the combined effort of a large assembly when responding with one accord to some sentiment expressed. Loss of confidence in men or things is, at best, a disaster generally to be avoided if possible, and we have had enough of this among us for several years past. It is time that we all joined in proclaiming that the hard times are over and that good ones have come and, by putting faith in our words, accompanying them with actions, we will bring what each and every one desires—namely, sound, substantial progress and improvement in business from this time henceforth, until some dire calamity again befalls the nation.

HAPPINESS AT HOME.

IT has been said by a philosopher that every cross word uttered or angry feeling experienced, leaves its unerring mark on the face. This can be verified by a close observation of the countenances of those around us whose tempers and habits are familiar to us, and its truth thus established. And if the lineaments of the face show traces of such things, how much more must the general, moral and mental system be affected by them? Nothing is more susceptible of proof than the statement that one angry word brings on another, except the good old biblical saying, that "a soft word turneth away wrath." Many people, really possessed of a sincere desire to do right in all things, allow themselves to fall into the habit of using ungentle and even unkind words to those around them when, if their attention were called to the fact in the right way, they would be astonished at themselves. They mean no harm, but they *do* harm, both to themselves and to their associates. More especially is this harm perceptible in the family circle, where the developing child is the proud imitator of all the acts of its elders, and particularly those which are pronounced and noticeable. Here is where the carelessly sown seeds of ungentleness are eventually ripened into a harvest of harshness and too often gathered in a crop of vice and crime. Too frequently are these sins of the parents visited upon the children, even of the third and fourth generation.

This all results from a lack of full appreciation of the meaning of HAPPINESS AT HOME. Happiness is made, not born. It may with reason be argued that it is an impossibility to be happy at home when one is crushed by the cares of life—by difficulties crowding on every side. But that brings us to the very point we are seeking and leads us to repeat, that happiness is made, not born. If a man firmly resolves to throw aside the vexing cares of business, or a woman the aggravations of domestic life, when the family is united, as most families are once in twenty-four hours, the thing is done. After the excitements of the day the nerves are naturally pretty "high strung," and an effort is required to prevent their disturbance upon the slightest provocation; but each effort renders its successor easier of accomplishment. Thus, a habit of gentleness, cheerfulness and kindliness can be acquired, which nobody sees but to appreciate, admire and desire. The children acquire it in youth and are saved the subsequent efforts at self-control, while the neighbors are softened by contact with it, and the result is what we all should seek—HAPPINESS AT HOME.

RURAL NOTES.

Subscribers and Agents!—Again we are called upon by the many flattering letters from subscribers and agents to thank the former for their kindly feelings towards the "Old RURAL" and to express our obligations to the latter for the earnest efforts now evidently being made by them on our behalf. We do not take this personally to ourself, but to the paper, which includes the whole corps of Editors and contributors who so generously combine in the illumination of our pages each week. Let us say also, in our reply to the many questions as to the welfare of the RURAL, that, while we are not in expectation of dazzling the world in a day, we are making steady progress and counting a steady increase of our list each month. For this we have to thank our subscribers and agents, the effects of whose efforts in our behalf we are constantly feeling, and whose congratulations are our best reward.

Editors' Good Nature.—Mr. THOS. MEEHAN, Editor of the Gardeners' Monthly, like many other men of his profession, is not only good-natured, but enjoys a sharp criticism, especially when his critic tumbles into a pit of his own digging. In the last number of the Monthly we notice a correspondent scolds the editor for speaking of the common garden Hydrangea as *H. hortensis*, claiming that it should have been spelled "Hortensia," adding that it was named after Queen HORTENSE—all of which Mr. MEEHAN publishes with thanks to the critic, never as much as hinting that "Hortensis" is from *Hortus*, a garden; hence the common name of the species, notwithstanding the very "Frenchy" story about Queen HORTENSE who, by the way, was a little miss of five years at the time the above Hydrangea was introduced into English gardens from China.

The Boston Cultivator.—Among the multifarious changes in Newspaperdom we note with feelings of regret the retirement of Mr. ORIS BREWER who, for nearly forty years, has published the Cultivator. It is to be consolidated with the New England Rural Home and issued, increased in size and reduced in price, as the American Cultivator. The staff will be GEO. B. JAMES, Editor and Publisher; M. M. BALLOU, Associate Editor; LEANDER WETHERELL, Agricultural Editor, and C. M. HOVEY, Horticultural Editor. With such men at the head of its respective Departments, the AMERICAN CULTIVATOR can hardly fail of the splendid success which we wish for it.

American Vines in France.—The demand for some of our most vigorous growing varieties is still active in France for stocks upon which to graft the foreign sorts, as a preventive against the ravages of the much-dreaded *Phylloxera*. This minute insect appears to attack all the species and varieties, but some are of such a vigorous habit that they make a good growth even when the parasite is abundant on their roots. The French vineyardists speak of these varieties as those capable of resisting the *Phylloxera*.

RURAL BREVITIES.

THE Turk is a harem-scarem fellow.

SOCIALISM is organized leisure, and a socialist a democrat who desires privileges.

CALIFORNIANS report great success in killing squirrels by using squashes poisoned with strychnine.

"A NEW YORK awning fell upon a citizen and he received $1,800 damages."—*Ex.* What a duck of a man—a canvas-back!

FARMER to Capatalist:—"Have you had the grasshoppers?" C. to F. "No: have had the measles, though!" (*Sensation.*)

LADIES' literary societies seem to spring up all over the West. These springs are what make the "well of English undefiled," we suppose.

DECORATIVE art has made great strides since election. We have seen several voters with sculptured fagades, mostly in the eyeonic style.

TENNYSON is now sixty-six years old. What is to be thought of a man who at this age goes about singing: "Come into the garden, Maud."

WELLS, RICHARDSON & Co., Burlington, Vt., have introduced a new "Perfected Butter Color" which, they say, is meeting with great success among dairymen.

THEY now grind mummies into paint. This is important to ladies. No tell-tale blush would mantle the alabaster cheek, if this silent cosmetique is used.

RUTABAGA, while returning to his reservation, somewhat late in the evening, was asked by a friend what his wife would say. "I'm (hic) like misser Hilden and Hays—still (hic) in doubt.'"

THE sewage question still attracts considerable attention in England, and while one party asserts that grass grown on land fertilized by the sewage of cities is unwholesome and affects injuriously the milk of cows fed upon it, another party denies it and calls for proof.

THE new catalogue of Pomona Nursery, WM. PARRY, Cinnamon, N. J., has just reached us. Mr. PARRY'S specialty is small fruits, and all who are interested in this branch of Horticulture should send to him for a catalogue before purchasing. He has had thirty-eight years' experience in this branch of the industry.

☞ THE Hon. MARSHALL P. WILDER, President of the Am. Pom. Society, was unable to visit the Centennial at the time of the principal fruit show, on account of illness; but he sent 300 varieties of pears, which the members of the Society may well have considered as a fair indication of the "spirit" of their Pomological chief,

ANDENKEN.

I THINK of thee when the forest trees
Bend to the whisp'ring evening breeze;
When the song of the nightingale
Wakes music in the wood and vale.
When thinkest thou of me?

I think of thee by the woodland spring,
Where the oaks their shadows fling;
When the day and gloomy night
Mingle in the dark twilight.
Where thinkest thou of me?

I think of thee with smiles and tears;
With trembling hopes and anxious fears;
With longings for thy presence near—
Thy voice to bless, thy smile to cheer.
How thinkest thou of me?

O think of me until we meet,
Beyond the bier and winding-sheet;
Until our hearts in the world above,
Are *one* forever in joy and love!
Thus only think I of thee!

[*From the German.*

The Story-Teller.

A MAN WHO LOST HIS NAME.

I.

ON the second day of June, 186—, a young Norseman, Halfdan Bjerk by name, landed on the pier at Castle Garden. He passed through the straight and narrow gate where he was asked his name, birthplace, and how much money he had—at which he grew very much frightened.

"And your destination?" demanded the gruff-looking functionary at the desk.

"America," said the youth, and touched his hat politely.

"Do you think I have time for joking?" roared the official, with an oath.

The Norseman ran his hand through his hair, smiled his timidly conciliatory smile and tried his best to look brave; but his hand trembled and his heart thumped away at an alarmingly quickened *tempo*.

"Put him down for Nebraska!" cried a stout, red-cheeked individual (inwrapped in the mingled fumes of tobacco and whisky) whose function it was to open and shut the gate.

"There ain't many as go to Nebraska."

"All right, Nebraska."

The gate swung open and the pressure from behind urged the timid traveler on, while an extra push from the gate-keeper sent him flying in the direction of a board fence, where he sat down and tried to realize that now he was in the land of liberty.

Halfdan Bjerk was a tall, slender-limbed youth of very delicate frame; he had a pair of wonderfully candid, unreflecting blue eyes, a smooth, clear, beardless face, and soft, wavy light hair, which was pushed back from his forehead without parting. His mouth and chin were well cut, but their lines were, perhaps, rather weak for a man. When in repose, the *ensemble* of his features was exceedingly pleasing, and somehow reminded one of Correggio's St John. He had left his native land because he was an ardent republican and was abstractly convinced that man, generically and individually, lives more happily in a republic than in a monarchy. He had anticipated with keen pleasure the large, freely-breathing life he was to lead in a land where every man was his neighbor's brother, where no senseless traditions kept a jealous watch over obsolete systems and shrines, and no chilling prejudice blighted the spontaneous blossoming of the soul.

Halfdan was an only child. His father, a poor government official, had died during his infancy, and his mother had given music lessons and kept boarders, in order to gain the means to give her son what is called a learned education. In the Latin school Halfdan had enjoyed the reputation of being a bright youth, and at the age of eighteen he had entered the university under the most promising auspices. He could make very fair verses and play all imaginable instruments with equal ease, which made him a favorite in society. Moreover, he possessed that very old-fashioned accomplishment of cutting silhouettes; and what was more, he could draw the most charmingly fantastic arabesques for embroidery patterns, and he even dabbled in portrait and landscape painting. Whatever he turned his hand to, he did well—in fact, astonishingly well for a *dilettante*, and yet not well enough to claim the title of an artist. Nor did it ever occur to him to make such a claim. As one of his fellow students remarked in a fit of jealousy, "Once when Nature had made three geniuses—a poet, a musician and a painter—she took all the remaining odds and ends and shook them together at random and the result was Halfdan Bjerk." This agreeable *melange* of accomplishments, however, proved very attractive to the ladies, who invited the possessor to innumerable afternoon tea-parties, where they drew heavy drafts on his unflagging patience and kept him steadily engaged with patterns and designs for embroidery, leather flowers, and other dainty knick-knacks. And in return for all his exertions they called him "sweet" and "beautiful," and applied to him many other enthusiastic adjectives seldom heard in connection with masculine names. In the university, talents of this order gained but slight recognition; and when Halfdan had for three years been preparing himself in vain for the *examen philosophicum*, he found himself slowly and imperceptibly drifting into the ranks of the so-called *studiosi perpetui*, who preserve a solemn silence at the examination tables, fraternize with every new generation of freshmen, and at last become part of the fixed furniture of their *Alma Mater*. In the largest American colleges, such men are mercilessly dropped or sent to a Divinity School; but the European universities, whose temper the centuries have mellowed, harbor in their spacious Gothic bosoms a tenderer heart for their unfortunate sons. There the professors greet them at the green tables with a good-humored smile of recognition; they are treated with gentle forbearance and are allowed to linger on, until they die or become tutors in the families of remote clergymen, where they invariably fall in love with the handsomest daughter and thus lounge into a modest prosperity.

If this had been the fate of our friend Bjerk, we should have dismissed him here with a confident "*vale*" on his life's pilgrimage. But, unfortunately, Bjerk was inclined to hold the government in some way responsible for his own poor success as a student; and this, in connection with an æsthetic enthusiasm for ancient Greece, gradually convinced him that the republic was the only form of government under which men of his tastes and temperament were apt to flourish. It was, like everything that pertained to him, a cheerful, genial conviction, without the slightest tinge of bitterness. The old institutions were obsolete—rotten to the core, he said, and needed a radical renovation. He could sit for hours of an evening in the Students' Union and discourse over a glass of mild toddy on the benefits of universal suffrage and trial by jury, while the picturesqueness of his language, his genial sarcasms, or occasional witty allusions, would call forth uproarious applause from throngs of admiring freshmen. These were the sunny days in Halfdan's career, days long to be remembered. They came to an abrupt end when old Mrs. Bjerk died, leaving nothing behind her but her furniture and some trifling debts. The son, who was not an eminently practical man, underwent long hours of misery in trying to settle up her affairs and finally, in a moment of extreme dejection, sold his entire inheritance in a lump to a pawnbroker (reserving for himself a few rings and trinkets) for the modest sum of 250 dollars specie. He then took formal leave of the Students' Union in a brilliant speech, in which he traced the parallelisms between the lives of Pericles and Washington—in his opinion, the two greatest men the world had ever seen—expounded his theory of democratic government and explained the causes of the rapid rise of the American Republic. The next morning he exchanged half of his worldly possessions for a ticket to New York and within a few days set sail for the land of promise, in the far West.

II.

From Castle Garden, Halfdan made his way up through Greenwich street, pursued by a clamorous troop of confidence men and hotel runners.

"*Kommen Sie mit mir. Ich bin auch Deutsch*," cried one. "*Voila, voila. Je parle Français*," shouted another, seizing hold of his valise. "*Jeg er Dansk. Tale Dansk*"—("I am a Dane. I speak Danish")—roared a third with an accent which seriously impeached his truthfulness. In order to escape from these importunate rascals, who were every moment getting bolder, he threw himself into the first street-car which happened to pass; he sat down, gazed out of the windows and soon became so thoroughly absorbed in the animated scenes which moved as in a panorama before his eyes, that he quite forgot where he was going. The conductor called for fares and received an English shilling which, after some ineffectual expostulation, he pocketed but gave no change.

At last, after about an hour's journey, the car stopped, the conductor called out "Central Park," and Halfdan woke up with a start. He dismounted with a timid, deliberate step, stared in dim bewilderment at the long rows of palatial residences and a chill sense of loneliness crept over him. The hopeless strangeness of everything he saw, instead of filling him with rapture, as he had once anticipated, sent a cold shiver to his heart. It is a very large affair, this world of ours—a good deal larger than it appeared to him gazing out upon it from his snug little corner up under the Pole; and it was as unsympathetic as it was large. He suddenly felt what he had never been aware of before—that he was a very small part of it and of very little account after all. He staggered over to a bench at the entrance to the park and sat long watching the fine carriages as they dashed past him; he saw the handsome women in brilliant costumes laughing and chatting gaily; the apathetic policeman promenading in stoic dignity up and down upon the smooth pavements; the jauntily-attired nurses whom, in his Norse innocence, he took for mothers or aunts of the children, wheeling baby-carriages which, to Norse eyes, seemed miracles of dainty ingenuity, under the shady crowns of the elm trees. He did not know how long he had been sitting there when a little bright-eyed girl with light kid gloves, a small blue parasol and a idue polonaise, quite a lady of fashion *en miniature*, stopped in front of him and stared at him in shy wonder. He had always been fond of children, and often rejoiced in their affectionate ways and confidential prattle, and now it suddenly touched him with a warm sense of human fellowship to have this little daintily-berrilled and crisply-starched beauty single him out for notice among the hundreds who reclined in the arbors or sauntered to and fro under the great trees.

"What is your name, my little girl?" he asked, in a tone of friendly interest.

"Clara," answered the child, hesitatingly; then having by another look assured herself of his harmlessness, she added, "How very funny you speak!"

"Yes," he said, stooping down to take her tiny begloved hand. "I do not speak as well as you do, yet; but I shall soon learn."

Clara looked puzzled.

"How old are you?" she asked, raising her parasol and throwing back her head with an air of superiority.

"I am twenty-four years old."

She began to count half aloud on her fingers. "One, two, three, four," but before she reached twenty, she lost her patience.

"Twenty-four!" she exclaimed, "that is a great deal. I am only seven and papa gave me a pony on my birthday. Have you got a pony?"

"No; I have nothing but what is in the valise and you know I could not very well get a pony into it."

Clara glanced curiously at the valise and laughed; then suddenly she grew serious again, put her hand into her pocket and seemed to be searching eagerly for something. Presently she hauled out a small porcelain doll's head, then a red-painted block with letters on it, and at last a penny.

"Do you want them?" she said, reaching him her treasures in both hands. "You may have them all."

Before he had time to answer a shrill, penetrating voice cried out:

"Why, gracious! child, what are you doing?"

And the nurse, who had been deeply absorbed in the New York Ledger, came rushing up, snatched the child away and retreated as hastily as she had come.

Halfdan rose and wandered for hours aimlessly along the intertwining roads and foot-paths. He visited the menageries, admired the statues, took a very light dinner, consisting of coffee, sandwiches and ice, at the Chinese Pavilion and, toward evening, discovered an inviting leafy arbor, where he could withdraw into the privacy of his own thoughts and ponder upon the still unsolved problem of his destiny. The little incident with the child had taken the edge off his unhappiness and turned him into a more conciliatory mood toward himself and the great pitiless world, which seemed to take so little notice of him. And he, who had come here with so warm a heart and so ardent a will to join in the great work of human advancement—to find himself thus harshly ignored and buffeted about, as if he were a hostile intruder! Before him lay the huge unknown city where human life pulsated with large, full heart-throbs, where a breathless, weird intensity, a cold, fierce passion, seemed to be hurrying everything onward in a maddening whirl—where a gentle, warm-blooded enthusiast like himself had no place and could expect naught but a speedy destruction. A strange, unconquerable dread took possession of him, as if he had been caught in a swift, strong whirlpool, from which he vainly struggled to escape. He crouched down among the foliage and shuddered. He could not return to the city. No, no; he never would return. He would remain here hidden and unseen until morning and then he would seek a vessel bound for his dear native land, where the great mountains loomed up in serene majesty toward the blue sky, where the pine forests whispered their dreamily sympathetic legends, in the long summer twilights, where human existence flowed on in calm beauty with the modest aims, small virtues and small vices which were the happiness of modest, idyllic souls. He even saw himself in spirit recounting to his astonished countrymen the wonderful things he had seen and heard during his foreign pilgrimage, and smiled to himself as he imagined their wonder when he should tell them about the beautiful little girl who had been the first and the only one to offer him a friendly greeting in the strange land. During these reflections he fell asleep and slept soundly for two or three hours. Once, he seemed to hear footsteps and whispers among the trees and made an effort to rouse himself, but weariness again overmastered him and he slept on. At last, he felt himself seized violently by the shoulders, and a gruff voice shouted in his ear:

"Get up, you sleepy dog!"

He rubbed his eyes and, by the dim light of the moon, saw a Herculean policeman lifting a stout stick over his head. His former terror came upon him with increased violence and his heart stood for a moment still, then again, hammered away as if it would burst his sides.

"Come along!" roared the policeman, shaking him vehemently by the collar of his coat.

In his bewilderment he quite forgot where he was and, in hurried Norse sentences, assured his persecutor that he was a harmless, honest traveler, and implored him to release him. But the official Hercules was inexorable.

"My valise, my valise!" cried Halfdan. "Pray let me get my valise."

They returned to the place where he had slept, but the valise was nowhere to be found. Then, with dumb despair, he resigned himself to his fate and, after a brief ride on a street-car, found himself standing in a large, low-ceiled room; he covered his face with his hands and burst into tears.

"The grand—the happy republic," he murmured, "spontaneous blossoming of the soul. Alas! I have rooted up my life. I fear it will never blossom."

All the high-flown adjectives he had employed in his parting speech in the Student's Union, when he paid his enthusiastic tribute to the Grand Republic, now kept recurring to him and in this moment the paradox seemed cruel. The Grand Republic—what did it care for such as he? A pair of brawny arms fit to wield the pick-axe and to steer the plow, it received with an eager welcome; for a child-like, loving heart and a generously fantastic brain, it had but the stern greeting of the law.

III.

The next morning, Halfdan was released from the police station, having first been fined five dollars for vagrancy. All his money, with the exception of a few pounds which he had exchanged in Liverpool, he had lost with his valise, and he had to his knowledge not a single acquaintance in the city or on the whole continent. In order to increase his capital he bought some fifty Tribunes; but, as it was already late in the day, he hardly succeeded in selling a single copy. The next morning, he once more stationed himself on the corner of Murray street and Broadway, hoping in his innocence to dispose of the papers he had still on hand from the previous day, and actually did find a few customers among the people who were jumping in and out of the omnibuses that passed up and down the great thoroughfare. To his surprise, however, one of these gentlemen returned to him with a very wrathful countenance, shook his fist at him and vociferated with excited gestures something which to Halfdan's ears had a very unintelligible sound. He made a vain effort to defend himself; the situation appeared so utterly incomprehensible to him and, in his dumb helplessness, he looked pitiful enough to move the heart of a stone. No English phrase suggested itself to him, only a few Norse interjections rose to his lips. The man's anger suddenly abated; he picked up the paper which he had thrown on the sidewalk and stood for a while regarding Halfdan curiously.

"Are you a Norwegian?" he asked.

"Yes, I came from Norway yesterday."

"What's your name?"

"Halfdan Bjerk."

"Halfdan Bjerk! My stars! Who would have thought of meeting you here! You do not recognize me, I suppose?"

Halfdan declared with a timid tremor in his voice that he could not at the moment recall his features.

"No; I imagine I must have changed a good deal since you saw me," said the man, suddenly dropping into Norwegian. "I am Gustav Olson. I used to live in the same house with you once, but that is long ago now."

Gustav Olson—to be sure, he was the porter's son in the house, where his mother had once during his childhood, taken a flat. He well remembered having clandestinely traded jack-knives and buttons with him, in spite of the frequent warnings he had received to have nothing to do with him; for Gustav, with his broad freckled face and red hair, was looked upon by the genteel inhabitants of the upper flats as rather a disreputable character. He had once whipped the son of a colonel who had been impudent to him, and thrown a snowball at the head of a new-fledged lieutenant, which offenses he had only expiated at a house of correction. Since that time he had vanished from Halfdan's horizon. He had still the same broad freckled face, now covered with a lusty growth of coarse red beard, the same rebellious head of hair, which refused to yield to the subduing influences of the comb, the same plebeian hands and feet and uncouth clumsiness of form. But his linen was irreproachable, and a certain dash in his manner and the loud fashionableness of his attire gave unmistakable evidences of prosperity.

"Come, Bjerk," said he, in a tone of good-fellowship which was not without its sting to the idealistic republican, "you must take up a better business than selling yesterday's Tribune. That won't pay here, you know. Come along to our office and I will see if something can't be done for you."

"But I should be sorry to give you trouble," stammered Halfdan, whose native pride, even in his present wretchedness, protested against accepting a favor from one whom he had been wont to regard as his inferior.

"Nonsense, my boy. Hurry up; I haven't much time to spare. The office is only two blocks from here. You don't look as if you could afford to throw away a friendly offer."

The last words suddenly roused Halfdan from his apathy, for he felt that they were true. A drowning man cannot afford to make nice distinctions—cannot afford to ask whether the helping hand that is extended to him be that of an equal or inferior. So he swallowed his humiliation and threaded his way through the bewildering turmoil of Broadway, by the side of his officious friend.

They entered a large, elegantly-furnished office, where clerks with sleek and severely apathetic countenances stood scribbling at their desks.

"You will have to amuse yourself as best you can," said Olson. "Mr. Van Kirk will be here in twenty minutes. I haven't time to entertain you."

A dreary half hour passed. Then the door opened and a tall, handsome man, with a full grayish beard and a commanding presence, entered and took his seat at a desk in a smaller adjoining office. He opened, with great dispatch, a pile of letters which lay on the desk before him, called out in a sharp, ringing tone for a clerk, who promptly appeared, handed him half a dozen letters, accompanying each with a brief direction, took some clean paper from a drawer and fell to writing. There was something brisk, determined and business-like in his manner, which made it seem very hopeless to Halfdan to appear before him as a petitioner. Presently Olson entered the private office, closing the door behind him, and a few minutes later reappeared and summoned Halfdan into the chief's presence.

"You are a Norwegian, I hear," said the merchant, looking around over his shoulder at the

supplicant, with a preoccupied air. "You want work. What can you do?"

What can you do? A fatal question. But here was clearly no opportunity for mental debate. So, summoning all his courage, but feeling nevertheless very faint, he answered:

"I have passed both *examen artium* and *philosophicum*," and got my *laud* clear in the former, but in the latter *haud* on the first point."

Mr. Van Kirk wheeled round on his chair and faced the speaker. "That is all Greek to me," he said, in a severe tone. "Can you keep accounts?"

"No. I am afraid not."

Keeping accounts was not deemed a classical accomplishment in Norway. It was only "tradesmen" who troubled themselves about such gross things and if our Norseman had not been too absorbed with the problem of his destiny, he would have been justly indignant at having such a question put to him.

"Then you don't know book-keeping?"

"I think not, I never tried it."

"Then you may be sure you don't know it. But you must certainly have tried your hand at something. Is there nothing you can think of which might help you to get a living?"

"I can play the piano—and—and the violin."

"Very well, then. You may come this afternoon to my house. Mr. Olson will tell you the address. I will give you a note to Mrs. Van Kirk. Perhaps she will engage you as a music teacher for the children. Good morning."—[To be continued.

"Examen artium is the entrance examination to the Norwegian University, and *philosophicum* the first degree. The ranks given at these are *Laudabilis præ ceteris* (in student's parlance, *præ*), *laudabilis* or *laud*, *haud illaudabilis*, or *haud*, etc.

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH TIME-SERVERS.

The great difficulty in this country is that we have no time for anything. The very walk of an American shows that he is in a hurry. An Englishman buttons his coat and gloves and goes to business as deliberately as he goes to church. An American business man flies after the car, struggling with his coat sleeves as he runs, plunges in head foremost and plunges out at the end without regard to his neck. Chief among our accidents stand those which occur because people will jump upon flying trains or after departing boats. To wait ten minutes is something not to be thought of. Dinner is not eaten—it is swallowed whole; and when one comes to the dessert he finds that the fruit was picked before it was ripe.

Everything is hurried through, from the building of a house to the curing of hams. The women who work on sewing-machines stop before they come to the end of the seam. The dressmaker sends home your dress with basting threads in it and no loops to hang it up by.

There is none of the slow, sure completeness of the old world about anything, and fortunes are made in a hurry and lost in the same way. If any man we know is getting rich by the slow and patient process of saving, be sure that he was not born upon this continent. Yet people live as long here as they do anywhere else, and the days are the same length. Why is it we have no time for anything?

DICKENS' MANNERS.

When Charles Dickens was in this country some years ago, he went to Albany to lecture and put up at Congress Hall. General Woodford was then Lieutenant-Governor and had an elegant suite of rooms there and, as he was absent with his family, he kindly gave permission to place his rooms at the disposal of the great novelist. He accepted the courtesy as a mere matter of course and had not the grace to express any thanks. He lectured, pocketed the money, and went away like any other showman. A few months afterwards he returned to lecture again and was shown to other apartments, with which he was not pleased. He sent for the landlord and demanded his former rooms. Mr. Blake said that they belonged to the Lieutenant-Governor of the State. That did not matter, said Dickens, "go and ask him if he will give up his room to me." Blake demurred to this, but Dickens insisted. With a very long face, at last Blake went to General Woodford's room and put the question. Woodford looked quietly for a moment at Blake and then said:—"Two months ago, in my absence, I gave up my rooms to Mr. Dickens as a personal accommodation to yourself and him. Mr. Dickens had not the grace to express any thanks. Perhaps these are English manners. They are not good manners, anyhow. Say to Mr. Dickens that the Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New York is not in the habit of turning himself out of his home for the accommodation of traveling showmen."

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

First Steps in English Literature. By Arthur Gilman, A. M. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.

It is pleasant to see how nicely the ways of knowledge are being smoothed for the youth of this century. Finally, the day has passed when matured talent can look back, with self-complacent glance and murmur to himself, "Ah! how cleverly my biographer, if he should be a man of function, can work up that rush-light episode of my struggling existence," etc. Our boys can no longer say that their advantages are not ample. Indeed, the text-books now issuing are written so cleverly—combine, skeletonize and arrange facts, incidents and principles so entertainingly and lucidly, that the marvel would be that our young people should not find pleasure in study.

The idea of "outlines" of subjects is not new, an English society for the promotion of knowledge having printed many little volumes of this character. The scheme may not be said to have been fairly launched, however, until the appearance of Messrs. Ince & Gilbert's "Outlines," which had and have, we believe, an amazing popularity in England. As an elementary step, nothing could be better than the system under discussion, which is so brilliantly sustained by the author of the book under notice.

The world moves, history is being made at a tremendous rate and important facts and principles grow apace. It is necessary that the student should have a general knowledge of the salient features of the past, in order to intelligently digest the facts of the present. If this need was not met by a skillful outline of subjects, the mass of literature that would have to be attacked might well snuff out the curiosity of the most ardent student. A person that pretends to the least culture must have a more or less accurate idea of the history of the world, in its various branches. The class of text-books under discussion enable him to attain his end with the least waste of time, and additionally aid him to pursue in detail the special subject his curiosity inclines him to. It is by following the bent of one's curiosity that real and lasting progress is made.

Mr. Gilman's "English Literature" is a book that can be read with profit by children of a larger growth. The author has adopted an admirable plan. His divisions of his subjects are clear and easily retained. The matter is suggestive and should stimulate the least active mind to continue the subject where the author leaves off. Our literature is, to a great extent, colored by our history, and the author uses this knowledge most happily by giving a brief sketch of the political and social state of the country during the era whose literature is under discussion. He avoids biographical details, and shuns the "elegant extracts" part of the work with commendable judgment. The book contains charts that are a great help to the student, and finally, lends material aid to the student by furnishing at the end of the book a carefully selected list of the best authors, and where their works can be obtained. His style is limpid, terse and excellently adapted to the work he sets himself to do. We have space to spare for a few extracts only. Speaking of the Italian influence in his introductory to Mature English, he says:

"The period before us is often called the Age of Elizabeth and the Golden Age, either of which terms is appropriate. It includes, however, not only the reign of England's greatest queen, but also those of her successors, James I. (who died in 1625) and Charles I. (who was beheaded in 1649). The first half of Elizabeth's reign is not marked by the production of works that should give the period the high distinction it has received.

"At the beginning of the era just concluded there has been a notable increase of literary life, but the activity did not continue throughout the period. The fifty years before the accession of Elizabeth were crowded with exciting changes.

"Henry VIII. began to reign in 1509, at the age of eighteen. He was a monarch of caprices, which were exhibited in other relations as well as in his dealings with his wives. At the time of his accession, Thomas Wolsey was Dean of Lincoln, having previously been one of the chaplains of Henry VII., and to him, for various reasons, the young king looked for advice. Wolsey cultivated his esteem and obtained many preferments, but differing with him on the subject of Queen Catherine's divorce, Henry charged his favorite with high treason. Wolsey was disgraced and would have been executed, had he not died at Leicester Abbey, to which place he had fled for refuge. Sir Thomas More took Wolsey's place, but was subsequently beheaded, a martyr to the royal caprice. Thomas Cranmer, the third favorite, outlived his royal master, but it was only to perish at the hands of his daughter Mary.

"Among the other events were Henry's defiance of the Pope of Rome, his wars with France, the demolition of the monasteries and convents, terrible persecutions of papists, hangings, burnings and beheadings, and such violations of the liberties guaranteed by the Magna Charta as no English sovereign was ever before guilty of. The people were in terror.

"The short reign of Edward VI. was a season of comparative quiet; but when his sister Mary came to the throne there was a great change. Inaugurating her accession by the execution of Lady Jane Grey, she made herself increasingly odious by endeavoring to force Roman Catholicism upon the nation. During the five years of her reign near three hundred so-called heretics perished at the stake.

"Notwithstanding the delirium of joy with which Elizabeth's accession—or rather the death of Mary—was received, the early years of her reign were by no means undisturbed. The painful circumstances connected with the imprisonment of Mary Stuart, ending with her execution in 1587, the executions caused by the enforcement of the act of Supremacy, and the loss of their livings suffered by many clergymen of the Church of England who could not in conscience submit to the Act of Uniformity,—these exciting affairs so engrossed public attention that small interest was manifested in letters.

"By degrees, however, quiet was restored and men began to breathe more freely. There was universal progress, new knowledge was eagerly received, and literary topics assumed greater importance.

"Nor was this activity apparent only in England. In his Polish observatory Copernicus had already concluded the observations which led to the publication in 1543 of his great work, "On the Revolution of the Heavenly Bodies." Cortez had just before conquered the rich kingdom of Mexico for his sovereign, Charles V., and it was the era of the formation of the Dutch Republic, as well as of the revolt of the Moors in Spain. It was the period of the Spanish Armada, of the voyages of Sir Francis Drake, of the increase of England's naval power, of the introduction of tobacco and of potatoes, of the great reformation of Luther in Germany, of the Council of Trent, and of the revival of arts, sciences and literature throughout Europe.

"New worlds, new people, new wealth, everything appeared new or in a new phase, and there arose that galaxy of lights in the literary firmament which pale the rays, as well of those who went before, as of all who have since risen.

"Another influence contributed also to mark the line between immaturity and maturity, than which no other was more potent. This was the printer's press, which had been introduced in the fifteenth century and was now showing its fruits in a more fixed language. Before this time every writer wrote and spelled too much as he pleased, without rule, and not even observing uniformity in different parts of the same work. Now, when one man published many books, the need of uniformity was more apparent, and since he circulated many copies, his example became a guide to others, and the form as well as the style of our language grew more fixed."

This extract gives a fair idea of the manner in which the historical groundwork of the scheme is worked out. At the conclusion of each epoch he sums up tersely its fruits, as in this example of the close of the era of Immature English.

"We saw Cranmer perish at the stake, but it was not until he had given England her Prayer Book and her Church Polity. And now Nicholas Udall crowds himself upon our view, and with mock gravity lays before us "Ralph Royster Doyster," and we recognize the first English comedy. The patriarch advancing now is Roger Ascham, holding in his still shewy grasp the first treatise on education, and his argument for manly sports.

"Before the curtain drops we find ourselves walking down the High Street of Edinburgh. Just as we pass the Heart of Midlothian we encounter a crowd and, looking upward, see a venerable form at a little pulpit-like window that juts over the pavement. The appearance of the crowd and the words we now and then catch, tell us the old man is preaching. Listening again we hear the Monstrous Regiment of Women denounced, and then we remember that it was John Knox who first gave Presbyterianism to Scotland!"

The fact that this little book is in its tenth edition, is significant of its influence, and we can freely add that we should like to know it was in the hands of many who would be benefited by it quite as much as the schoolboy.

The Mask of Comus. By John Milton. New York: J. W. Schermerhorn & Co. (Pamphlet.)

To those who are at all familiar with English classics, it is of course unnecessary to say anything of this, one of the most beautiful productions of the genius which gave to the world "Paradise Lost." It would be well in this case, however, to note the excellent arrangement of Prof. Sprague in his annotations and exercises in synonyms for the use of classes in reading, analysis and parsing. And we cannot lay the little book aside without remarking also the excellent manner in which its publishers have issued the work—its heavy, strong paper, neat typography and special adaptability to the uses for which it is intended.

Water Lilies. (Small quarto—208 pages.) New York: National Temperance Society; J. N. Stearns, Publishing Agent.

This is the prettiest book for children we have seen for a long time, and it is good as well as pretty. It contains about one hundred full-page engravings and smaller ones in abundance, all of which are well executed. The reading matter is excellent, and the lessons it conveys cannot fail to be of service to any child that reads it, throughout its whole life. The binding is worthy of special notice, being in itself a work of art. In selecting holiday presents for the little ones, ask for this book at your bookstore or order it direct from the publisher, as above.

NEW MUSIC.

From F. W. Helmick, Cincinnati, O.:

Prodigal Son, by C. Wallace Dawson. It is to be hoped that Mr. Dawson knew what he intended by this composition, as it is doubtful if anyone else ever will.

From W. A. Pond & Co., New York:

Hip! Hip! Hurrah! ! or, On the Road to Pelham; by Schoenbrun. A very lively, rattling song, with chorus for four voices. It illustrates Col. Kane's Pelham coach rides. Society Waltz, by Geo. H. Stout, Jr. A very pretty little waltz and not at all difficult. Just the thing for dancing in the home circle. Hayes & Wheeler March, by Carl Straudberg. An easy, showy piece, with plenty of noise and some harmony. Tilden & Hendricks March, by Wm. P. Adams. Quite pleasant in harmony and easy to execute. Hayes the true and Wheeler too—an adaptation of the popular old campaign song of Tippecanoe & Tyler Too. Rose Bell, My Darling, by T. H. Hinton. Simple little song with chorus, which is sure to be popular.

George Eliot's last, "Daniel Deronda," seems to be suffering at the hands of the critics.

Sabbath Reading.

SUBMISSION.

What use to struggle, Friend?
Your sigh but serves to swell the tempest's roar,
And does not haste the end.
Lie still and wait, for you can do no more.

Man's will subdueth much:
God's will subdueth *all* through time and space,
Your power is not a touch
When used to turn His rod—or force His grace.

Would it avail the seed,
If it should weary of its darksome bed,
And cry aloud its need
Of sunshine, and of liberty instead?

And where would be the flower
If God should heed the seed's impatient cry,
And in that bitter hour,
Open its prison-hole to light and sky?

I tell you, Friend, that we
(I say it, though the chain drags hard to-night)
Are better bound than free—
Who wait in shade, that we may live in light.

[*R. W. Easterbrooks.*

GEORGE SMITH AND HIS GENIUS.

Mr. George Smith, the young and surprising Assyrian scholar, whose brilliant genius first flashed out upon the world at large in the publication of his Assyrian account of the Deluge, has fallen in the field of his labors and triumphs. The mysterious letter on a Babylon brick seemed the natural channel of thought to his mind. The abstruse and unsolved secrets of that curious alphabet became plain before him. Other men labored for years to evoke a few rays of dim intelligence from an inscription which he seemed to penetrate without effort. The hoary mysteries buried in the ruins of Assyrian palaces, which troubled the mind of Herodotus and of all curious explorers since, became luminous under his glance. He brought out revelation which the world supposed did not exist—dumb but unshakable witnesses to the truth of things which, it had been presumed, must forever rest upon simple faith for their credence—stories of the creation, of the Apostacy in Eden, of the building of the Tower of Babel, of the Deluge; written long centuries before Moses was born, and perhaps when Abraham was still a child at Ur of the Chaldees. These things had been read for ages in the Bible, but the world had long ago given up all expectation of ever finding anything more direct in confirmation of them than the vague allusions and incidental hints of precarious tradition. Believing minds felt that they bore the impress of truth, and the corroborative facts were multitudinous and convincing, from their mass; but there was painfully little in the way of succinct and circumstantial statement. But Mr. Smith saw the tens of thousands of fragments of clay—tablets, cylinders, sealed sculpture—all written over with the wedge-shaped characters, many so minutely engraved as to require the use of a magnifying glass; he looked into them and, by an instinct peculiarly his own, began to draw out their buried secrets.

He was a poor and slenderly educated boy, whom the strain of narrow circumstances had taken from school at fifteen, to be apprenticed to an engraver. Not far from the place was the great Museum in which England takes such honorable pride. He went there at noon, pinching off half hours after hastily eating his dinner, as the institution was closed at sundown. Rummaging among Assyrian tablets and Babylon bricks, he seemed to have discovered his natural home, the true field of his genius. His quick sight and earnest inquisitiveness drew the attention of Sir Henry Rawlinson and, with a little help, he soon knew more of the language than those who had studied it longest. His marvelous insight pierced through the complications of the involved alphabet; he would penetrate the meaning of an obscure passage or complete the lost part of a mutilated inscription with a readiness that was like inspiration and with the certainty of a native dealing with his own language, perfectly convincing in its correctness, even where he could not clearly explain his interpretation according to grammatical rule.

Next in mysteriousness to the endowment of this remarkable man, is the decree of Providence which ordered his death. At the age of thirty-seven, although he has done so much, his work is scarcely more than begun. A vast literature still remains locked up in these crumbling earthen tablets, secrets that have been hid from ages and generations. His accurate eye never made a mistake in discerning a letter or copying it out; his wonderful memory could identify and match together unerringly any of those myriad broken shreds. When will a man arise who can take up his work and complete it?—*H. U. Swinnerton, in N. Y. Observer.*

In the use of the tongue God hath distinguished us from beasts, and by the well or ill using of it we are distinguished from one another; and therefore, though silence be innocent as death, harmless as a rose's breath to a distant passenger, yet it is rather the state of death than life.—*Jeremy Taylor.*

Better it is, toward the right conduct of life, to consider what will be the end of a thing than what is the beginning of it—for what promises fair at first may prove ill, and what seems at first a disadvantage may prove very advantageous.—*Wells.*

If anger is not restrained, it is frequently more hurtful to us than the injury that provoked it.—*Seneca.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE MINER'S STORY.

I MARRIED Barb'ry out'n the city, you see,
She was far too nice a lass for the like o' me,
I did my courtin' in brave, fine clothes, my best;
I didn't tell her 'at I was a miner-lad, like the rest.

Not that]she thought me a gentleman's son, of course,
I'd never go there, riding, with gig or horse,
But I somehow kept under my workin' ways and talk,
And I'd never notice the common lads in my walk.

P'r'aps I let on that I had a farm at the least,
For I could talk knowin' 'bout any barn-yard beast,
And bees, an' the like, an' crops of barley an' rye,
And of seeds an' roots, 's if I had come there to buy.

She was a delicate, purty, lady-like little thing,
With a cheek like the blush on a rose; there's a shinin' ring
Of her yellow hair, in my Bible; I keep it so,
'Cause it kinder draws me to read the good Book, you know.

So I married Barbary—she went home wi' me the same day;
I took her to my old mother, an' what'd the good soul say?
"She's not fit for you, son, a rough miner wants strength in a wife;"
I thought I sh'd sink in the ground—'twas the sin o' my life.

I didn't dare to look in the poor little quiverin' face;
"It's the deceiving I mind, dear, 'tisn't the work, or the place;"
Them's just her words, and I wanted to die in my shame;
"You got me with lying;" her look meant exactly that same.

So I did; and it made me ugly as time went along;
For I fancied that Barbara always remembered the wrong,
So't if sho was pale, I'd tease her 'most out of her life,
And tell her sho ought to be stronger, being a miner's wife.

And once when my temper was up, I cursed her to her face;
She fell at my feet, so white and scared! 'twas a burnin' disgrace;
And then came the awfullest hour a man can ever see,
And a little morsel of new-born life, laid on my knee.

Well, p'r'aps one like me'll never see the angels or such,
If the Lord kept *her* from me *I* shouldn't blame Him, much.
I wasn't fit settin' for a di'mond, precious as that,—
You're lookin', I see, at the piece o' crape on my hat.

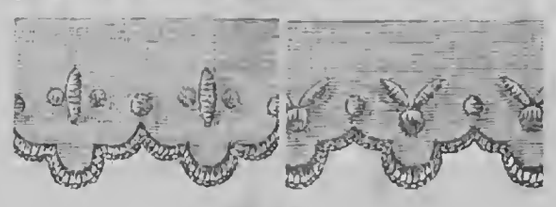
Lost both, sir; it's all right, I'm not the man to complain.
They're where the glory and beauty is; I'm left alone with the pain;
But I'm fightin' my cursed temper, fightin' both day and night,
And I'll conquer it, if I die—it's all right, sir; all right.

[*Mary A. Denison.*

MARY'S ELDERBERRY PIE.

I HAD just returned home, having been absent several months teaching "young ideas how to shoot," or at least trying to train young minds to follow after wisdom and knowledge that should benefit them in all future time. As a matter of course, some of my friends had come with me to have a sort of family visit at the old homestead. Mother had parlor and sitting-room and all the other rooms arranged in "apple-pie" order,—I believe that is an Eastern phrase for pleasant, cheerful good taste in the general arrangement of furniture and ornaments,—though why it should be apple pie more than any other is quite beyond my dull comprehension. We all visited as fast as possible, frequently all talking together in our anxiety to give and gain information.

The morning after my arrival, finding myself quite rested and refreshed from my long journey over a new country, I began to render assistance about the morning work. As the dinner hour approached, it was a subject or thought and discussion between mother and myself what we should have for dessert, that would be a little treat to our guests. At last we decided on having an elderberry pie, as that was, as yet, something quite out of the common fashion.



LACE DESIGNS.

Now *teachers* are proverbially called "lazy," and are not supposed to know much about work outside of the school-room. I would let my friends know there was at least one who could cook as well as teach.

The fall previous I had gathered a few fine, pulpy berries; and thinking to save hollow teeth from the annoyance of the seeds, I had squeezed out the juice and canned it the same as other fruit. A teacupful of this juice, a coffee-cup of sugar, two spoonfuls of flour, a bit of butter and a few pieces of fresh lemon, were the ingredients used for the inside of the pie; a rich paste made upper and under crust. It came out of the oven flaky and odorous. And I said to myself, "There's a pie fit for the President."

Mother's pleasant invitation to our guests and the family was given, and we all gathered about the well-filled table. Now, my "big brother" has a way of eating exceedingly fast, and ere I had done more than to sip my tea and eat a few mouthfuls, he had taken up his pie plate. He is our *pie barometer*, and I always take note of his face when he tastes a new variety. If he takes kindly to it without remark—he seldom praises—I conclude at once it is *good*.

On this occasion I saw his big blue eyes dilate, then a portentous scowl overspread his face, and a very perceptible shudder passed through his stalwart frame. His plate and fork were pushed away with the exclamation, "MATE, what in the world have you put in that pie?"

"Why, what ails it?" said I, and immediately took a bit of it into my mouth. Bitter, *bitterer*, BITTEREST.

RUSTIC CROSS.

Quickly as possible I gathered up the pie dishes from before our guests. But Mr. E. managed to have a taste, in spite of my efforts to the contrary. Thanks to mother's well-filled pantry, there was no necessity of going without our dessert.

But my pie!—the dog refused to taste it; the hens eyed it with disdain; the pigs were disgusted with the unsavory morsel, and it was tossed about the farm till Mother Nature became tired of the sight and resolved it into its elements.

But if at any time I declare my ability to cook well, they have only to mention elderberry pie, and I submit at once. Can any of the RURAL readers tell me *why* the pie was bitter?

Pleasanton, Mich. M. E. A.

WIDOWS.

WINTER-KEPT apples, seasoned wine, a clouded meerschaum, a vase around which the scent of the roses still hangs, all these have a rare, ripe, evanescent flavor that suggest, but cannot express, the charm of the widow. A young widow is, perhaps, the most interesting object in nature—or in art. She represents experience without its wrinkles or its gray hairs. She has matronly beauty and maidenly freedom combined. She is grief with a laughing eye—sorrow in a house of festival—a silver moon in a sable cloud. She is too sweet for anything! Like all good things, she can only be created at a great sacrifice. Mrs. Browning says that a man must be pretty thoroughly spoiled before he can leave a widow. This black swan—this mournful Phœnix—rises only out of the funeral urn that holds the ashes of a husband's heart.

Let us wipe away the briny tear and proceed. *Perdite Pierides.* Poets, statesmen, heroes and philosophers have each felt the indelinable influence of widowhood. Its quality is not sustained. It falls alike upon the just and unjust. Edward Plantagenet married the widow Elizabeth Gray, though he knew she brought civil war for her dowry. Ned Walker, Joe Addison, Sam Johnson, George Washington, Napoleon Bonaparte, John Wesley, Tony Weller, Ben. Disraeli and all the boys married widows. Henry VIII. was so fond of them that he took two, and King David was so pleased with Abigail, the widow of Nabal, whom he took to wife, that he turned Bathsheba into a widow on purpose to marry her. When Judith ceased her cogitations over the virtues of the late lamented Manasses of Bethulia, puts off her mourning and adorns herself in brave attire to set out for the camp of Holofernes, we feel instinctively that she will come back with his heart, his crown or head, whichever she goes for. When the old widow Naomi counsels the young widow Ruth how to lay her snares in the harvest fields of her kinsman, and spring her net on the threshing floor, we know at once that the wealthy Bachelor Boaz might as well order the wedding garments. Allan Ramsay wrote a song telling how to woo a widow. He might as well have left directions how to get struck with lightning.

A ROMANTIC STORY.

IN the middle of the winter of 1838 a fire broke out in the female seminary at Limoges, France, and spread with such rapidity that it was feared all the inmates would perish. Suddenly there came a cry that one little girl had been left in her room. As the excited spectators were beginning to pray for the unfortunate child, a tall girl, with dishevelled blonde hair and flowing night-gown, ran through the crowd, and, with a shriek, "I'll save her!" that rose above the sound of cracking timbers and falling masonry, dashed into the doorway. A loud hurrah, that was prolonged to the echo only to be repeated again, attracted the attention of the dovolees, and the pale-faced girl was seen hurrying through the flames with the terrified child. A few days thereafter King Louis Phillippe sent the heroine a gold medal for her bravery, and a captain in the French army, who had witnessed the girl's pluck, begged an introduction. The captain is now President of France and the brave girl Madame Mac Mahon.

IT was George Herbert who said a handful of good life is worth a bushel of learning.

Reading for the Young.

THE OLD HOSTLER'S EXPERIENCE.

I GITS up heah—like good ol' Paul,
Obed'ent to de Mahs'r's call—
To tell my 'sperunce, tell it all!
Ol' SHAME's put up;
An' I's led GLORY out de stall,
To win de cup.

Den, all you sinnahs, c'ar de track!
I's mounted on ol' GLORY's back;
Her hufs is gwine ta-click-ta-clack,
Dat's how dey's gwine!
An' Satan's rattlin', shacklin' back
Is lef' behin'.

Ah, Christuns; in my foolish days,
I rid de debbil's blooded bays;
PERSUMPTUOUS PRIDE, an' WORL'LY WAYS,
An' made 'em lope;
But now I's turned 'em out to graze
Widout a rope.

Yah! Yah! *Oh!* how I used to——. Well,
De 'ticlars 'taint no use to tell,
But oncet I rid de road to hell
Wid nar a bit,
An' went two-forty on the shell
Toward de pit.

Like Balaam, when he rid de ass,
I 'sisted on a-trablin' fas'—
But 'twas a pace 'at c'u'dn't las',
An' I got th'owed.
I cotch RELIGION, trottin' pas',
An' back I goed.

An' now I simply 'vises you—
You deblish boys I's talkin' to—
Don't nebber hab a thing to do
Wid Satan's hosses;
Dey'll buck 'un fling you in de sloo,
Fus' one you crosses.

But git RELIGION well in han',
An' ride her like a little man—
Dere ain't no hoss in all de lan'
Kin run agin her—
An' you'll come by de jedges' stan'
A easy winner. [*Irwin Russell.*

FROM THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

PHILADELPHIA, NOV. 2, 1876.

WHAT a rush! Everybody seems determined to improve these last days. Main Building, Art Gallery and the places of greatest interest are so crowded that one can scarcely move about. Steam and street cars are loaded until there isn't even a hanging-on place, and men are crowded off the platforms and get their necks broken. What a place for elegant attire; and how nice to have your pin-back so tight and your ruffles and furbelows so profuse, that when you make a leap for a street car you miss and are in danger of being crushed beneath the wheels! Horses drop down in the streets and die of overwork. Only one span attached to cars carrying more than a hundred people. BERGH is needed here if he ever was needed anywhere. Still Philadelphians say they are doing the best they can, but if the influence of the almighty dollar had not such a hold upon humanity they *might* do better. Money, money seems to be the great object of the Exhibition, as it is of every Yankee invention.

How it detracts from the æsthetical influence of a beautiful picture or statue to have placarded upon it, "For sale; price $150,000." If you have a thousand dollars to spend, you might buy a small keepsake to take home with you; and if a hundred thousand, you might possibly buy a picture or piece of furniture. It does seem as though, in this great anniversary, patriotism, at least in the hearts of Americans, *might* keep the money-mania a little in the background.

With all the crowding, pushing and jostling, everybody looks smiling and good-natured until about four or five o'clock in the afternoon,—and then what weary, woe-begone faces one meets! Some of them belong to women who are carrying crying babies in their arms. What a place for babies! No wonder they lament in a loud voice. Said a woman who was standing in a street car last night, pushed and jammed about with a tired-out child in her arms; "I don't think I shall take him again; the poor little dear gets *so* tired, and it's such hard work to carry him about, and he doesn't seem to appreciate the show one bit." What a good resolve; may all her sister-mothers do likewise! In the crowd and bustle, woman's right to seats is done away with. They *stand* on an equality with the men.

Philadelphians and exhibitors say they are worn out with being questioned and talked to, and will be glad when the thing is ended; yet they say the Exhibition—at least the greater part of it—will be kept open until next month.

GERALDINE GERMANE.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

Another Protest.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—As the Editor was kind enough to print the letter I wrote about a year ago, I may as well try again. We girls are very loath to believe the boys can write better essays than we, without first seeing proof of it. As far back as my memory serves me, I have heard boys, and men also, assert that they could have done better if they had tried. I think it would be better to *try*, and not say so much about it. Now I don't know but this sounds as if I were a little strong-minded—as the world uses the phrase—and disliked boys in general. That is not so; I dislike the conceited ones only. I don't want my gentlemen Cousins to think that I believe conceit or vanity to be confined to them alone, for I know it grows rank among us, and I dislike to see it there fully as much. Anything but a vain, conceited boy or girl! Uncle TRUE was very kind to give us such a nice subject and an opportunity to air our knowledge of History, and I hope he will give us another chance soon, and then we will see if the boys can write abler essays than we,—you see I don't hardly believe it, girls. Will not YOUNG NATURALIST please be so kind as to write again, or does he dislike being so notorious among us? I love flowers, and have quite a number which I intend to keep through the winter. I think Fish Geraniums are very showy and nice for window gardens, and I have six nice, thrifty ones, also a splendid Calla, which has bloomed twice this summer, and quite a number of other kinds of plants. I find I have more blossoms if I keep my plants in small pots; but no doubt you are all wanting me to say, Good-by.—YOUNG TEACHER.

P. S.—Thanks to STORM and YOUNG EDITOR, No 2, for making our column so lively.

From a Country Belle.

DEAR YOUNG RURALISTS:—I don't suppose you care very much about hearing from me again, but I am not going to wait to hear whether you do or not. I don't know what to think of YOUNG EDITOR, No. 2, but if that young gentleman will come back, sit down, take time and say what he has to, and not go over it in such a helter-skelter way and then spring up and leave us so abruptly, I will try and tell him what I think of him. I am not very fond of storms as a general thing, but there are some STORMS which I admire; but, my fine young gentleman, don't spoil all of your noble qualities by being conceited. You boys boast that you could beat the girls in writing the history of JOAN of Arc, but you couldn't have had much confidence in yourselves or you certainly would have attempted it. But I wouldn't say anything against STORM for the world! The same description suits us both; of course we must be friends. Besides, you have just my opinion about the Cousins agreeing so well. If all the city Cousins soar to the hights of W. C. of New York, give me the country forever, and aye! Now boys, don't be backward; you can and must hold your own with the girls. Stand up, and let them know what you are made of. (O noble manhood, where are thy charms!) I like YOUNG PRINTER pretty well, but I think JOE STEELE is quite a cheeky little fellow. I would like to get acquainted with Cousin GYPSY BELLE, as I like her very much. Of course I have favorites, but I like nearly all of the Cousins. Well, don't you think I have scribbled about enough? I do; so hoping to hear from you all soon, and with friendly adieu, I will make my exit.—BELLE E. F.

Another for the Boys.

DEAR COUSINS:—I will again try my luck in writing to my RURAL Cousins. I think STORM expresses his likes and dislikes rather freely, seeing he doesn't wish to be one of us. If you boys have such good opinions of yourselves in regard to writing histories, and if, as you say, you can write better ones than the girls, then why don't you? You have just as good a chance as we have. You say, sir, that it makes no difference if one of the boys does get snubbed, for the rest of you will take it up and give the girls as good as they send. I think if you would put *try* in it you would come nearer the truth, for you know you *cannot* return as good as is sent. Another Editor! What shall we do with him? I suppose he will want a front seat, for I see by his letter that he has a very good opinion of himself. "Well, if he didn't have perhaps no one else would." Y. E., you say that you have a "sprightly sheet, which shows its beaming countenance every month. *You* may think it "sprightly;" what is the opinion of those who read it? I would advise you not to say anything that sounds so much like praise of your own work. As the old adage has it, "Self praise goes but a little ways." FLORENCE D. wishes to know how to prepare autumn leaves. I have some that are very pretty. This is my method: After gathering, press them in books until nearly dry; then oil them with sweet oil and press again until dry; then varnish them. In this way they will last all winter. Has H. S. received my letter yet?—ADELE W.

A Friendly Visit.

DEAR FRIENDS:—I do not dare to address you as cousins without your permission, for this is the first time I have written. I quite agree with BELLE E. F. in regard to piecing quilts, for in making dresses there are a great many pieces that would have to be thrown away, if it were not for some such way of using them. I have pieced six and think of commencing another. I would like to tell FLORENCE DELANO that I have two ways of preparing autumn leaves for bouquets. One is to press the leaves in a book until thoroughly dry, and then varnish them; and the other is to dip them in hot wax when yet fresh from the trees, and after they are dry tie them on a wire or small stick. If you press them, you want a heavy weight on the book; if you don't have it, they will curl so that you cannot do anything with them. I guess I will not make a longer stay this time for fear I may find my way into that great big basket over there in the corner, but if I escape it this time I will write again and tell you about my little sisters.—MINNIE HAZELWITCH, *Whitestown.*

From Georgia.

GOOD morning cousins, one and all, if you will receive me as one of your number. I have been reading you letters for some time and with much interest. We have been taking the RURAL for the

past five or six years, and like it very much. Last night I was reading STORM'S letter. I like him; think another letter from BELLE E. F. would be interesting. I see MAMIE A. S. speaks of piecing quilts. As some others have said (or as good as said), I think it a waste of time and goods. I guess something else will be a little more interesting. I went to the Middle Georgia Fair, held at Griffin, last week. There were some fine-looking horses on exhibition. Farmers in this neighborhood are about done gathering corn.—LEWIS H. T., *Sunny Side, Ga.*

Quilting and Autumn Leaves.

DEAR RURAL:—Some time has passed since I have had a chat with you; and as you published my last, it has encouraged me to try again. I like the letter from MAMIE A. S., in RURAL, Oct. 21st, very much, and would like her to send me some of the quilt patterns she mentions. I have some very pretty ones, and probably she would exchange with me. Do you think she would? If she will I will send her my address. I will send a recipe for preserving autumn leaves to FLORENCE DELANO. It is as follows: Press your leaves in large books for three days; then varnish them, and they will be dry enough in a few days to arrange in bouquets. They look lovely, especially the dark red ones. When you have tried it, let me know how you like my recipe. Grass looks well crystallized. I suppose all the feminine Cousins know how.—ROSA LEE, *Va.*

From Canada.

DEAR SIR:—I thought I would write a letter, to ask if you would take me in as a Cousin, as so many are claiming *relation* to the RURAL. Well, how many of you have been to the Centennial this year and have carried off prizes? I have read the boys' and girls' letters with interest, and find some spicy things in some of them. I would like to know why the girls pepper YOUNG TOM so? If they have a reason, all right; if not, girls will get up one, I am sure. Well, if it was not for the girls what would the boys do? I think they would thin out pretty fast; I know they would in this part of the country. What is the matter with YOUNG SPORTSMAN? I would like to hear from him.—A., *Holbrook, Canada.*

Bessie's Regards.

DEAR COUSINS:—I noticed the criticism on my "History," and am glad to say that I agree with ONE OF THE BOYS in all but his last remark. Was JOAN of Arc a "plain, practical woman?" Let us submit the question to YOUNG EDITOR, No. 2. Before STORM expends all of his eloquence, let me suggest to him that to wait until there was an occasion for "war-paint" would be a good thing. It must be owing entirely to modesty that none of the boys wrote about JOAN, because, according to their own assertions, ability is not wanting among them. Girls, it is delightful to hear of modest boys now-a-days, is it not?—BESSIE MCLEAN.

Twelve Dolls.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—I am a little country girl, seven years old. I have two brothers older than I. They go to school, but I have never been; would like to go, though. Mamma teaches me at home. I have several pets: A little dog, three cats and a beautiful canary. I have twelve dolls. As this is my first letter, I will not write too long. Your little friend—LOTTIE KING.

The Puzzler.

MYTHOLOGICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 45 letters:
My 7, 34, 40, 25, 27, 10, 9 one of the Pleiades.
My 18, 44, 4, 16, 2, 6, 40 daughter of Laomedon.
My 1, 9, 36, 8, 5, 11, 42 a woman made at the command of Jupiter.
My 20, 34, 30, 4, 14, 40, 4 king of Ithaca.
My 17, 28, 12, 24, 34, 33, 14 son of Priam.
My 39, 10, 19, 45, 21, 44, 4 one of the Cyclops.
My 38, 11, 3, 41, 29, 45 ton of Neptune.
My 37, 31, 44, 9, 45, 33, 14 an ancient sea god.
My 35, 3, 8, 32 queen of Carthage.
My 13, 23, 7, 40, 34 what Ixion was fastened to for punishment.
My 34, 5, 15, 7, 10, 22, 32, 11, 34, 35 where Triptolemus became a judge.
My 43, 3, 6, 14, 26, 24, 1 relationship.
My whole is what Hercules at his death gave Philoctetes.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S. C.

GEOMETRICAL PUZZLE.

I AM constrained to plant a grove
To entertain the nymph I love.
This simple grove I must compose
Of nineteen trees in nine straight rows,
And in each row I five must place,
Or ne'er expect to see her face.
Ye men of art, pray lend your aid
To satisfy this curious maid.

☞ Answer in two weeks. J. P.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Nov. 4.

HIDDEN DRUGS OR MEDICINES.—1, Pill; 2, Mercury; 3, Poultice; 4, Blister; 5, Pennyroyal; 6, Manna; 7, Hops; 8, Chloroform; 9, Quinine; 10, Rhatany; 11, Ether; 12, Opium.

SHORT ANAGRAMS.—Cape Jessamine; 2, Debase; 3, Matron; 4, Papist; 5, Medicine; 6, Meander; 7, Matin; 8, Debate; 9, Mastodon; 10, Basket; 11, Cake turner; 12, Dust pan; 13, Dipper; 14, Broom; 15, Bucket; 16, Table; 17, Plate; 18, Mankind; 19, Harmony; 20, Calico; 21, Andes; 22, Alps.

WORD-SQUARE ENIGMA.—
ROSE
ONLY
SLOE
EYES

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.90 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Moluccа Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory or garden. Its growth is rapid—small plants attaining the hight of five feet during the summer months. In the fall it may be cut back to any desirable size and potted for the winter, when it will quickly recover its symmetry and resume its ever-blooming habit. Its quick and exceeding popularity is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is as yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class. It is difficult to select a more attractive plant than Marie Lemoine when freely blooming. Every truss is in itself a bouquet. The leaves are large, zoneless, vigorous. The plant is compact and, like *Abutilon Boule de Neige*, is invaluable, either for the conservatory, window or garden.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It has stood 26° below zero unharmed. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. The thyrses of flowers, first greenish-white, then white, then rose, often measure a foot in length and twenty inches in circumference. Every stem being thus terminated, the striking appearance of an entire plant may be conceived. There can be no doubt that this is one of the most valuable of all perfectly hardy shrubs.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata*.—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green, much as *Abutilon Thomsoni* is variegated with green and yellow. From its racemes of flowers are formed fruit as large as currants, each one of which is a different color in shades of claret, azure-blue and green. These berries, which are first as soft as a currant, become finally as hard as bullets.

The pretty stems are also variegated, green, whitish and rose. The roots are perfectly hardy, and the vine's growth so rapid that it will cover twenty-five feet square in a season. For conservatory walls or pillars, for trellises or rockeries, it cannot fail to please. It has been growing in the RURAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS for several years without the least protection.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the singular Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

News of the Week.

ELECTION.

SUCH intense excitement over an election has almost never been witnessed in New York City, as during the last week. The scenes at the Republican Headquarters at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, Democratic Headquarters at the Everett House and around the Newspaper Bulletins in Printing House Square, were more like the impromptu meetings in 1861 than anything which has been seen since. The closeness of the electoral vote and the bitter spirit in which the campaign has been conducted, seem to have culminated in an intensity of feeling which was increased, rather than diminished, by the suspense naturally caused by the waiting for the returns from those doubtful States which should turn the scale only a hair's breadth to elect either candidate. It is to be hoped that the verdict of the people will be accepted with that same good common sense for which our foreign visitors this year have given the American People credit.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

ACCORDING to the reports of the city fumigators, the Chinese laundries in San Francisco are a fruitful cause of the spread of small-pox, as large quantities of clothing, taken from the bodies of people who have died of the disease, have been washed in them, and then exposed for sale.

Edward Hazleton, solicitor, representing the Foreign Bondholders' Association of London, is in Atlanta, Ga., on business connected with some of the bogus bonds issued under Gov. Bullock's administration and now held in England.

Of the 258,239 inhabitants of Rhode Island, 135,003 were born in the State, and 51,606 are natives of other States in this country.

A rumor of a proposed Fenian raid and massing of war material is not sustained by facts.

The German Empire has presented the German Pavilion in the Exhibition Grounds to the City of Philadelphia.

William Vandyke sailed from Grand Haven, Mich., on Sunday, 5th, with his family and an Englishman named Felker, in a small sloop bound for Florida, via Illinois Canal and the Mississippi. On Monday a tempest carried away the mast and capsized the vessel keel upward, a few miles from Saugatuck. The hatches had been nailed fast, and all were knocked about inside the hull till Tuesday morning, when they came ashore six miles north of Saugatuck. They cut their way out and found Felker dead. All were terribly bruised and exhausted. Robert Doesking, a farmer, took them to his house.

As we go to press the question, Who is President? is still undecided. Gov. Tilden has secured 184 electoral votes, and a majority on the popular vote of 542,800. Gov. Hayes has gained 166 electoral votes, with a majority of 238,800. The doubtful States are South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana. Gov. Tilden would have to secure but one of them to gain the day; Gov. Hays all. Both parties claim all of the States mentioned, and charges of fraud, etc., are equally balanced. The official vote will decide, and to attempt to secure a fair count delegations of prominent men of both parties have gone to the various State capitals, to be present at the official canvass.

Late advices state that the U. S. frigate Franklin arrived at St. Thomas on the 5th, with Wm. M. Tweed on board.

Race troubles in Virginia.

There is a dead-lock in the Vermont Legislature on the question of time for electing State officers.

Speaking of the new cotton crop, the Augusta Cotton Exchange reports:—The staple of all is superior. The crop has matured, and is being gathered and marketed with a rapidity seldom if ever equaled. It is the opinion of the Committee on Crops that this section is harvesting more cotton than last year by from 10 to 15 per cent.

Gold is being shipped to this country in large quantities from England.

Butler is elected in Massachusetts.

The house of the dead San Francisco banker, Ralston, is to be turned into a hotel.

The University of California has now over 300 students.

The following is the President's order:

PHILADELPHIA, NOV. 10.

General W. T. Sherman, Washington, D. C.:

Instruct General Augur, in Louisiana, and General Ruger, in Florida, to be vigilant with the force at their command to preserve peace and good order, and to see that the proper and legal boards of canvassers are unmolested in the performance of their duties. Should there be any grounds of suspicion of a fraudulent count on either side it should be reported and denounced at once. No man worthy of the office of President should be willing to hold it if counted in or placed there by fraud. Either party can afford to be disappointed in the result. The country cannot afford to have the result tainted by the suspicion of illegal or false returns. U. S. GRANT.

It is to be hoped that the subsidence of the election excitement will have a beneficial effect, for merchants are again complaining of the hard times. In the last week of October, shipments of grain fell off 500,000 bushels from the not very favorable figures that had previously been quoted. Although the business of the year has been very bad, each of the grain centers outside of New York has increased its proportion. The following shows the present ratio for the twenty-eight weeks ending October 28:

	1876.	*Per ct.*	1873.	*Per ct.*
New York	59,211,323	46.9	65,102,541	57.9
Philadelphia	22,075,340	17.6	11,025,005	9.8
Baltimore	15,877,935	12.6	8,175,572	7.3
Montreal	14,304,729	11.2	15,968,118	14.2
Boston	13,142,125	10.4	10,517,256	9.4
Portland	1,762,708	1.4	1,595,088	1.4
Total	126,247,170	100.0	112,383,580	100.0

An attempt was made at Springfield, Ill., to steal the remains of President Lincoln from the cemetery vault. The plot was suspected some time since, and Elmer Washburne, United States Detective Tyrrell, and his assistants watched the vault. The scoundrels broke in the outer and inner doors of the vault, opened the several cases of the sarcophagus, and were about to make off with the remains when the detectives accidentally discharged a pistol, which alarmed the robbers, and they fled precipitately, escaping in the darkness. A slight clew to their identity remains, and their capture is probable.

An agent of a hundred Chicago families is prospecting Florida for a settlement.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE biggest gun in the world, Victor Emanuel's 100-ton infant, has fired its first shot at Spezzia with 330 pounds of powder and a ball weighing 2,000 pounds only. The hydraulic machinery by which only the monster can be moved worked perfectly.

The British Admiralty Board recently instituted an inquiry in regard to the number of transport ships the Government had at command in case of war. It was found that, with the addition of sundry steamers belonging to fifteen private companies, it had means of transporting to the Mediterranean, within three weeks, 90,000 men, with horses, cannons, and other war material.

There is said to be a paper church actually existing near Berlin, which can contain nearly one thousand persons. It is circular within, octagonal without. The reliefs outside and statues within, the roof, ceiling, the Corinthian capitals, are all *papier mache*, rendered waterproof by saturating in vitriol, lime water, whey, and white of eggs.

The Austrian Government has declined to take any part in the Paris Exposition of 1878.

A Latin military book, published in Paris in 1535, contains illustrations of a revolving gun, revolving turrets for monitors, a diagram of a diving bell, and other inventions of the nineteenth century.

The new Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese army, Li-Hung Chang, has already made himself the actual sovereign of the empire. He is regarded as the implacable enemy of foreigners and the leading opponent of progress. He was the second of five brothers, sons of a poor literary man. During the Taiping rebellion he offered his services to the Government, and besides rising rapidly in military rank, he gained much imperial favor. Although accused of the foulest treachery in beheading the rebel kings, whose lives he had guaranteed, after the fall of Soochow, he was created a noble, and invested with the yellow jacket, the highest honor in China for military achievements. In 1864 he founded the imperial arsenal at Nanking, and supplied it both with skilled workmen and all the apparatus necessary for making guns, torpedoes, rockets, shells, and other war implements. In 1865, after the fall of Nanking, he was made Governor-General; in 1866 he went north, and put an end to the Nieufi insurrection; in 1870 was ordered to fight the Mohammedan rebels in Shanshi and Kansey, but, while en route, he was recalled and made Governor-General of Pelehihli, and in 1872 was raised to the rank of a second-class noble. He is about fifty-five years of age, and holds his power by the system of nepotism.

Cardinal Simeoni, recently the Papal Nuncio at Madrid, has been appointed to succeed the late Cardinal Antonelli as Secretary of State to the Pope.

The choir of Salisbury Cathedral, in England, has just been reopened, after having been under restoration for years. As long ago as the summer of 1863, the work began with the expenditure of £10,000 upon the fabric, under the guidance of Sir Gilbert Scott. The first step was naturally to secure the stability of the famous spire. This has always been vaunted as the highest spire in England, and as one of the highest in Europe. The sudden collapse of the Chichester spire, some years ago, caused some anxiety as to the condition of its far handsomer sister at Salisbury. It was found by experiment that no movement of the apex had taken place for at least three hundred years; but assurance was made doubly sure by girding the tower with steel bands, and joining its angles by diagonal steel crossbars.

According to the German philosopher, Adelnay, the number of languages spoken in Europe is 587, in Asia, 937, in Africa, 276, and in America 1,264 making a total of 3,064.

Viscount Nogueiras, the newly-appointed Portuguese Minister to the United States, will proceed to Washington shortly.

Not long since the Minister of Justice at the Hague ordered an inquiry to be made into the number of convents and their inmates now in Holland, with a view of ascertaining how many monks and nuns have migrated thither from Prussia since the enactment of the Falck Church laws.

The Pope lately proposed to divide the Archbishopric of Lyons into two dioceses, without the assent of the French Government, and has met with decided opposition. The Government accepts the portion of the Papal bull consecrating a new archbishop, but rejects the provisions contained in it dividing the diocese.

A curious custom still maintained at Bavarian executions is that of the Clerk of the Court breaking a wand and throwing the fragments at the feet of the criminal. This is symbolical that his life is to be violently and suddenly terminated. It was done a few weeks since at Munich. The executions are not public.

Kullmann, who attempted to kill Prince Bismarck at Kissingen, not long since asked his father to present a petition for his pardon to the Prince, but his father refused to do so. This refusal enraged Kullman, and a few days afterward he assaulted his attendant, with whom he was walking, and struck him senseless to the earth.

The villa Bertramka, near Prague, where Mozart completed his "Don Giovanni," now belongs to M. Lambert Popelka. He has recently erected on an elevation in the garden a memorial to Mozart surmounted by the great composer's bust, and bearing the inscription:—"Here Mozart completed the opera of 'Don Juan,' October 28, 1787."

Six hundred and fifty troops have arrived at Havana, from Spain, Nov. 9.

The Temps publishes a telegram from Vienna which states that Montenegro, finding herself incapable of maintaining the troops in their present position during the armistice, has opened direct negotiations with the Porte for a prompt conclusion of peace.

The district of Backergunge, India, was ravaged by a cyclone. A thousand native houses were destroyed. The town of Dowlutkhan was submerged by a wave and 5,000 persons are believed to have perished. The Government has sent relief to the desolated section.

Cronstadt is ice-bound.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

INQUIRIES FOR ADVERTISERS.

[OWING to the many inquiries from subscribers concerning things that have a commercial value, and are offered for sale through the medium of newspaper advertising, we have deemed it for the best interest of all concerned, to classify our "Answers to Correspondents," so that each inquiry will appear under its appropriate head, either in "Inquiries for Advertisers," or "Answers to Correspondents." This, we believe, will enable advertisers to more effectually comprehend the wants of our subscribers, and will enable us to make our advertising columns what they should be—a true reflection of our readers' wants. This department will be edited carefully, it being our aim to use it in the interest of both advertisers and readers, and while we shall not hesitate to give our reasons for excluding bad or doubtful advertisements, all such other matter will be admitted as will be of legitimate interest. At the same time it must be understood that such inquiries as may appear must appeal to the advertiser himself for answer. The advertisement should answer the want, and the want is indicative of its need.]

R. Y. G., Nashville, Tenn., wants a good dairy farm in Southern Michigan.

H. B. M., Hamilton Co., Ohio., wants a good Food Steamer.

R. G. G., Walla, Walla, Oregon, wants a power Meat Cutter.

A. R. D., Clinton Co., N. Y., wants a Separator and Fan Mill combined.

B. M. G., Essex Co., Mass., wants Bronze Turkeys.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Nov. 11, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	101,812	Molasses	2,275
Whisky	3,113	Rice, bbls.	1,294
Corn meal, bbls.	5,516	Cut meats, pkgs.	21,770
Corn meal, bags	574	Lard, pkgs.	4,194
Wheat, bush.	575,452	Tobacco, hhds.	753
Corn, bush	477,040	do. pkgs.	2,424
Oats, bush.	186,252	Butter, pkgs.	27,972
Rye, bush.	23,268	Cheese, bxs.	38,003
Malt, bush.	6,225	Cotton, bales.	42,128
Barley, bush.	246,440	Rosin	11,224
Beans, bbls.	11,264	Spts. turp., bbls.	4,114
Grass seed, bush.	22,514	Dried Fruits, pkgs.	5,932
Beef, pkgs.	5,033	Eggs, bbls.	9,160
Wool, bales	1,847	Peanuts, bags	1,470
Hops, bales	1,281	Leather, sides	32,451
Pork, bbls	6,040	Sugar, hhds.	—
Tallow	1,645	Oil cake	9,514

BUSINESS during the week has been seriously interrupted by the fluctuating decisions attending the national ballot, and it is not probable that much solid wholesale movement will occur until the fever in political circles is broken. In most cases prices have remained strong, and nothing has declined to the extent that might be expected in a market so generally neglected.

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival here of summer items on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports beans past week, 410 bbls.; since Jan. 1, 30,737 do.; same time last year, 29,692 do.

New mediums are firm, and there are indications of early good demand. New marrows are quoted 5c. off, as exporters are not purchasing freely. Few good old crop beans remain the best, if it is marrow stock. Kidney and pea are quiet. Peas are shaded in price in the prevailing inactivity of peas past week, 14,394 bush.

Beans—New medium, $1.25@1.90; do. marrow, $2.25@2.30; do. pea, $2.15@2.20; white kidney, $2.30@2.35; red do., $2.20@2.30; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $1.65@1.70; other, $1.40@1.55; marrow, $1.90@2; pea, prime, $1.80@2; white kidney, prime, $1.75@2; red do., prime, $2.15@2.25; other, $1.60@1.90; black, $2.70; Canadian peas, new, ₹ bbl., free, $1.12@1.14.; do., bulk, 92@93c.; green do., new, $1.45@1.50; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2@2.25.

BEESWAX.—There is a little more stir to trade, with sales at 30¼@32c. for Western and Southern.

Exports past week, 2,489 lbs., since Jan. 1st, 61,173 do.; same time last year, 80,408 do.

BROOM CORN.—Supplies are fair, while the demand is light.

Quoted at 7@8c. for short green brush, 6½@7½c. for green hurl, 5@5c. for medium green, and 3@4c. for red and red-tipped.

BUTTER.—The lull created by the election particularly affects the butter trade, and we are likely to loose one or two weeks of what should be an active season. Prices, however, do not shrink badly on the fine grades. The supply of pretty good fall make is larger than credited. The early frost has put a good many old fancy reputation marks in the under rank of quality. In the eagerness of some holders to sell there has been considerable trade at the inside range. Taking the average grades of butter we think the tendency is for easier prices, especially as light trade and free receipts have caused considerable accumulation; latterly firkins particularly begin to make the stock feel burdensome. There is great complaint against the oversalting of Welsh tubs. Prime lots shown were actually gritty right through. About the only butter that has shown any real activity is fresh Western dairy; while factory packed is more easily placed on account of improved quality. A fair export demand for medium Western which materially helps the tone of the market for Western. Rolls are still running poor in quality. Exports past week 5,071 pkgs.

We quote:—Choice pails, 33@34c.; prime, 32@33c.; poor to good, 24@29c.; creamery pails, choice, 35@36c.; good, 33@34c.; sweet cream pails, 30@35c. State firkins, choice, 29@30c.; fair to good, 25@27c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@34c.; fair to prime, 26@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 30@31c.; other, 24@28c.; Inferior State, 15@19c.; Western creamery, choice, 34@35c.; other, 31@33c.; do. firkins, best, 21@23c.; other, 15@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 24@26c.; other, 15@18c.; factory choice, 23@24c.; other, 14@18c.

State dairies quotable at 30@32c. with full tubs Welsh tubs, dairies, 26@29c.

State firkins dairies 25@30c. Welsh tubs dairies, 26@30c. Roll butter, fair to prime, 21@25c.; do., poor, 18@20c.

CHEESE.—This has been another dull week. The Liverpool market has been very quiet, but few orders have come forward. The chief demand has been for fancy-colored factories. These are taken, to a moderate extent, at 13½c., and some exceptional lots higher. Ordinary lots of fine factories range from 12½@13c.

Fancy factory at 13@13½c. for fancy white and colored; do., Job lots, 14c.; good and prime, 11½@12½c.; fair, 9½@11c. State farm dairy, fancy, 11½@12½c.; good to prime, 10½@11c.; fair and good, 9@10c. Western factory, fancy, 12½@13c.; good and prime, 11@12c.; fair lots, 9½@10½c.; do. half skimmed, 7@8c.; skimmed, 5@6c.

Exports for the week, 32,230 boxes.

CORN MEAL.—Sales at $2.20@3.15 for yellow Western, Jersey and Pennsylvania, and $3.35 for Brandywine.

COTTON.—With an excited Liverpool market, at marked advanced prices, there has been a sharp speculative margin, and a rise here.

The latest quotations are:—November, 12 11-32c.; December, 13 11-32@12½c.; January, 12½c.; February, 12 11-16@12 23-32c.; March, 12½@12 29-32c.; April, 13 1-16@13 3-32c.; May, 13¼c.; June, 13 7-16c.; July, 13 9-16c.; August, 13 21-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Strict ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Good ordinary	11¼	11¼	11¼	11¼
Strict good do.	11⅜	11⅜	11 7-16	11 7-16
Low middling	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Strict low middling	11 15-16	12 1-16	12 3-16	12 3-16
Middling	12 3-16	12 5-16	12⅜	12⅜
Good middling	12⅜	12⅜	12⅜	12⅜
Strict good middling	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
Middling fair	13	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛
Fair	13 11-16	13¼	14	14

Stained.

Good ordinary	10	Low middling	11
Strict ordinary	10¾	Middling	11⅛

DOMESTIC DRIED FRUITS.—Apples come in freely, and with a moderate export trade, prices are unsettled, favoring the buyer. Peaches are scarce and at very strong prices. Blackberries, raspberries and cherries favor the seller.

Apples—State, sliced, 6¼@7¼c.; do., quarters, 6¾@7c.; Southern sliced, new, 5¾@6c.; choice do. 7@7½c.; fancy, 9c.; do., new quarters, in bags, 4½c.; do., repacked, 5¾c.; Western quarters 5½c. Blackberries at 8½c. Peeled peaches, new, 18@19c.; unpeeled peaches, halves, 9@10c.; do. quarters, 8½@9c. Raspberries, 27@29c. Cherries, 17@17½c.

Exports past week 2,393 bbls. dried apples; or 5,379 bbls. more than for this date last year.

EGGS.—Last weeks prices have been well supported. Demand for limed stock is small. Canadian limed quoted as State. Extra fresh nears are scarce and higher. We quote:

Near points, 33@34c.; State and Penn., 28@29c.; Western, prime, 27½@28c.; do. other, 27c.; Canadian, 27@28c.

State limed, 21@22c.; Western, do., 18@21c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—We repeat the late revision of prices. Market strong for peppermint, under good foreign advices. We quote:

Peppermint, $2.50 ₹ lb. in tin, $1.25@3.50 in glass—tone firm. Sassafras scarce and firm at 50c. ₹ lb. Wintergreen, large supply, weak at $2.50. Spearmint, nominally $2.50 ₹ lb.; no demand.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, 15,644 bbls. The demand for apples brisk for city and export use, with low prices still current. Dealers seem wisely determined to get rid of the big end of the crop in the first part of the season, if possible. California and Boston furnish all the retailing pears—quoted at $3@4 ₹ box. The winter sorts of the former are selling well about. Quinces have sold slowly this season. Grapes steady. Domestic oranges are in good supply—quality of Louisiana not attractive; Florida sells best. Cranberries are quiet; they have a formidable antagonist this season in very cheap apples. Peanuts have largely declined.

Apples, State, ₹ bbl., prime red, $1.50@1.75; winter, $1.37@1.50; mixed, $1.12@1.25; good to fair, 60c@$1. Quinces, ₹ bbl., $8@12. California Quinces, $3@4 ₹ box; Cranberries, crates, $2.50@3.00; Eastern, good to prime, $7@9.50; N. J. $7.50@8.50, for good to prime. Grapes—Catawba, ₹ lb., 9@10c.; Isabella, 6@7c. Chestnuts, ₹ bush. $2.50@3.00. Hickory nuts, $1.50@2.; Va., fancy, $1.15@1.20; other, 70c.@$1.30. Oranges—Louisiana, ₹ bbl., $6; Florida, box, $5.

FLOUR.—This has been a very dull week. The advices from the other side have been unfavorable, showing dull and weak markets, and but few orders have been received. Meanwhile supplies are increasing and easier prices are accepted. We give sales at $4.35@4.75 for poor to very choice superfine State; $4.40@5.20 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.25@5.35 for good extra do.; $5.40@5.55 for fancy do., and $5.60@7.00 for fancy to very choice extra; $4.25@4.75 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.10@5.30 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.35@5.45 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.50@6.75; fancy do. $6.80@8.00; winter wheat, good to choice family $6.25@6.25; round-hoop Ohio, $5.10@5.25, and trade brands of do. at $5.30@7.00; St. Louis, $5.20@6.25 for common to fair extra, and $6.30@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.25@7.50, and patent at $7.25@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.25@5.00; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.10@6.25; do. English brands, $5.25@—; do. trade and family, $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $5.30@4.00. Buckwheat dull and favoring the buyer; sales at 80c. Buckwheat flour ranges from $3 to $3.40, the latter for fancy.

FOREIGN DRIED FRUITS.—Layer raisins, $2.05 ₹ bbl., do. half boxes $1.20, do. quarter boxes, 60c. New Sultana raisins 11¾c. New Valencia raisins, $9¾@9¾. Currants 6½@6¾. Turkish prunes, 5¾@6c. for old and 9c. for new.

GRAIN.—The English markets have been very dull and prices relatively lower than here. This has caused a wholly nominal market for wheat. A decline is admitted, but there is no business beyond small lots. Prime new No. 3 Milwaukee spring has sold at $1.18¾; No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.23@1.24; No. 2 Milwaukee, $1.25; white Western at $1.33@1.31; winter red Western at $1.27@1.28. Rye quiet at 74@78c. for Western; 80@80c. for State and 88@90c. for Canada. Barley is in liberal supply and lower; No. 1 Canada sold at $1.15; six-rowed State ranges from 80 to 95c. Corn is lower and hard to sell; quoted at 55c. for new Western mixed; 55@60c. for old do. Oats are in small receipt and higher. Sales at 30@38c. for mixed Western and State, and 37@51c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—Supplies are not large, and the rather quiet trade fails to influence prices.

Bale hay 60c. for shipping; 70@90c. for retail qualities; clover, 55@65c.; salt, do., 50@60c. Straw quoted at 75@80c. for long rye; 50@60c. for short rye, and 45@60c. for oat.

HIGHWINES.—Lower and dull; $1.09¼ is bid and $1.11 asked.

HONEY.—Low prices have at last stimulated trade and there is a prospect of a better market that is so far as working off the supplies is concerned. We quote White clover in glass 15@20c. Dark and buckwheat, 10@11c.

HOPS.—This has been a quiet market, this week and prices are lower. The arrivals have fallen off, but export demand is light comparatively; 35c. is a full rate now for choice lots in lines as required by exporters. The quotations are for

New Yorks, good to choice, new	32 to 35
New Yorks, low to fair, new	21 to 30
Eastern, new	30 to 34
Wisconsin, new	24 to 31
Yearlings	10 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	32 to 36

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 20@22c. for light, 24@25c. for middle, 21@27c. for heavy, 22c. for good damaged.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Live poultry is in light supply, but abundant enough, with the regular receipts of dressed. We quote live:

New Jersey turkeys, 13@14c. ₹ lb.; Western, 12@14c. N. J. fowls and chicks, 12@13c.; State and Penn., 10@11c.; Western, 10@11c., roosters, 8@9c. Geese, N. J., ₹ pair, $1.27@2; Western, $1.37@1.62. Ducks, N. J., ₹ pair, 62@87c.; Western, 50@65c. Live pigeons, ₹ pair, 22c.

The offering of dressed poultry is poor. Rough lots are shipped in the first place, and then softening weather still further hurts their appearance. Prime lots of turkeys or chickens sell readily. Don't mix fowls and chickens in the same package when lots are of commercial size.

Turkeys, N. J., 15@17c.; State, 13@16c.; Western, 12@15c. Chickens, dry-picked, 16@17c. N. J. chicks, 13@17c.; State, 12@15c.; Western, 12@15c. Ducks, N. J., 14@16c.; State, 12@16c.; Western, 12@16c.; Geese 14@15c. Inferior poultry has sold at 8@10c. Game is in large supply and prices favor buyers in most all items.

We quote.—Canvas-back ducks $1@1.25 for Havre de Grace and $1 for western. Red Head 50@60c.; Mallard 50c.; Teal 55c.; Widgion 30@35c.; common 25@30c.

Wild Ducks ₹ 50c.; Teal, Snipe ₹ doz. $1. Quail ₹ doz. $1.37@1.62. Partridge, State, 65@70; eastern 60@90c.; western 30@40c.; Prairie Hens 70@$1.; Hares 40@50c.; Rabbits 20@30c. Venison, whole, 9@10@10c.; long saddle 12@13c.; short do., short do., 11@15c.

PROVISIONS.—Export demand has been very light and a feverish, unsettled feeling prevails as to prices. Mess pork quoted at $17.25 for spot; mess pork for December and January, at $16, $16.10 for February and $16.15 for March deliveries. Bacon at 8¾c. for long clear and 9½c. for short clear. Western steam lard at $10.35 for spot; $10.15 for November, $9.92½ for December, and $9.95 for January. Stearine at 10½c. for prime. Beef hams at $19.50@20 for choice Western. Beef, barreled lots quoted at $8@10 for plain mess, $10@11 for extra mess, $13.50@11 for packet. Tierced quoted nominally at $16@21 for new prime mess and $21@23 for new India mess. City extra India mess at $27.

SEEDS.—Clover has a little more demand from shippers, selling at 11½c. Timothy quiet, quoted at $1.90@2.

SUGAR (Refined) quoted at 9¾@10¾c. for soft yellow; 10¾@11¾c. for soft white, and 12¾c. for crushed, 11¾@12c. for powdered; 12c. for granulated, and 13@13¼c. for cut loaf.

SUNDRIES.—Cider in fair demand at 8c. ₹ bbl; 12c. ₹ keg. Feathers, live geese, white Western, 55@58c; mixed, 40@50c. Ginseng, $1.10@1.20.

TOBACCO.—Export trade is moderate, but no change made in prices.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5 @ 6	6 @ 7
Good lugs	6 @ 7½	7½@ 8
Low leaf	8 @ 8¾	8¾@ 9¾
Medium leaf	9 @10	10 @11
Good leaf	10½@12	11¾@13
Fine leaf	13 @14	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	16 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do.	32 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 2,702 bbls.; of onions, 578 do. Potatoes have advanced. Prime Rose and P. B. are very firm. Sweet potatoes are also higher, with stock considerably reduced. Garden truck is quiet. Onions a shade higher. We quote;

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₹ bbl. $2.87@3.00. Early Rose, prime, $2.57@3; other $2.37@2.50; Peerless, bulk, $2.00@2.25; sweet, Del. $3.50@4; Va. $2.75@3. Cabbages, ₹ 100, $4@7. Marrow squash, ₹ bbl., 50@75c. New Russian turnips, ₹ bush., 75c.@—. Onions—Yellow, ₹ bbl., $1.75@2.00; white, $2.75@3.; red, $1.50@1.75. Cauliflower, ₹ bbl., $2@1.50

WOOL.—The excitement growing out of the political contest has led to a very small trade. There is a confident feeling respecting prices, and as the small transactions the quotations of last week are fully sustained.

ROCHESTER, Nov. 11.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.30; amber winter, $1.25@1.25; white winter, $1.20@1.27. Oats, nominal at 34@40c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 25@26c. Cheese, 12@13c. Eggs, 23@24c. Lard, 10@10½c. Apples, bu., 25@50c. Potatoes, bu., 70@75c. Beans, ₹ bu., 80@$1.60. Mess pork, $17.00. Wool, 25@30c. Hay, $13@13. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed strong at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₹ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Nov. 11, 1876.

THERE has been but little doing in the market this week, owing to the occurrence of the election and general dullness in trade. There have been a few farm dairies on the market, and sales have ranged from 11 to 12c., according to quality. About 5,000 boxes of factory cheese were offered, of which more than half changed hands. The sales ranged from 12 to 13c., the latter figure being considered the top price for the finest of the September make. A good many factorymen thought the prices offered too low and are holding over for another week.

Butter comes forward quite freely, but prices are lower. The sales this week have been from 26 to 28c. for farm dairies in Welsh tubs, and 29c. for creamery and extra lots from farm dairies.

The weather is mild and pleasant, but there is very little feed in pastures, and cows are yielding poor returns.

We have advices from abroad for the third week in October. Our London correspondent says that English and American cheese sells well at previous rates. Secondary sorts are neglected. We give the prices as follows:

American, extra fine, 61@66s.; fine, 60@62s.; good, 54@58s.; secondary and low grades, 30@48s. English cheddar brings from 80@104s.; Wiltshire double, 60@76s.; Cheshire medium, 51@68s.; fine, 74@80s.; Scotch, 64@70s.

The imports of American butter are excessive, and that to hand is more or less injured with the heat. We quote:

Dorsets, 104s., Jersey, 130s.; Friesland, 151s@160.; Normandy, 120@130s.; American and Canadian, 85@125s., ₹ cwt. Oleomargarine sells at 90@104s ₹ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 4, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,307	9	1,046	9,517	00
Forty-Eighth St.	38	62	330	8,613	37
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	16,915
Hunsinus Cove	6,812	00	153	9,102	14,043
Totals this week	11,157	71	1,529	27,262	30,995
" last week	7,520	11	1,232	25,600	28,684

BEEVES.—Trade opened slow on Monday last on a rather heavy run of generally inferior quality cattle: Prices were 6@10¼c. ₹ lb., with a few top steers at 10¾c. ₹ lb.; weights, 4¼@10 cwt. The markets closed weak, with several herds unsold at noon. On Wednesday, trade very slow and quality not good enough to meet the demand. Prices were 6¼@10c. ₹ lb.; weights, 4¾@8¾ cwt. Thursday, trade small, at 7@10¼c.; weights, 5@8¼ cwt. Friday, the markets closed firm at 8@10¼c.; weights, 5@8¼ cwt. From 51@57 lbs., net, has been allowed. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, 6@8¼c. Native steers, grass-fed, 7@9¼c.; do. part corn-fed, 9½@10c.; grain do., 10¾@10¾c. Mixed herds, cows, steers and oxen, 7@9c. Mixed herds, cows, heifers and steers, 8@8¾c. ₹ lb. Oxen, 8@10c. Bulls, live weight, 2½@3c.

MILCH COWS.—Trade rather easier. Nineteen cows sold at $40@60 ₹ head; 17 do. at $50@65; 10 do. at $55@70; 3 do. at $65@55; 16 do., poor quality, $30@38.50 calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—This branch of live stock trade has been very dull. Smooth quality scarce and in light demand at 7@10c. ₹ lb. Coarse quality calves in over supply and slow of sale at 4@6½c., also at $6@$15 ₹ per head. State veals, 7@10c.; Pennsylvania do., 8@9½c.; Jersey do., 8¾@10c. State calves, 4@5c.; Western, 4¾@5¾c.; Canada, $6@10 ₹ head; State, $8@16 ₹ head.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—There has been no activity in this branch of trade. The quality of the flocks has been from rough and lean to good; in general, rather inferior. Monday last sheep sold at 3@6c. ₹ lb.; lambs at 5@6¾c. Wednesday, trade small, sheep sold at 3½@6c.; lambs, 5¾@6¾c. Thursday, sheep, 4@5¾c.; lambs, 5¼@6½c. Friday, the market closed fair. Sheep, 4@5½c.; lambs, 5@6½c.; Kentucky, 4¼@4¾c.; State, 3@5c.; Ohio, 3½@6c.; Pennsylvania, 4¾@5½c. Jersey ewes, 4½@4¾c. State lambs, 5@6¾c.; Ohio do., 6c.; Canada, 5¾@6¼c.

HOGS.—Two car-loads of corn-fed Ohio hogs sold on live weight at $5.87½@5.90 per cwt.; car-load of rough State hogs at 5¾c. ₹ lb. City dressed slightly improved in feeling. Rates, 6¾@9¼c. ₹ lb.; general sales, 7¼@8c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade much interfered with, owing to the general elections. Sales few. Rates firm. Twelve head, coarse quality, heavy draft horses, sold at $62@95 ₹ head; 22 head poor quality, light harness horses sold at $50@80; 30 do., $80@100; 25 ordinary quality, $115@130; 7 pairs family carriage horses, aged, $500@950 ₹ pair; 1 pair do., warranted sound, $1,300; broughams horses, course quality, $175@300 ₹ head; 2 pairs choice quality heavy draft horses, $525@575 ₹ pair; 30 mustangs sold at auction at $14@76 ₹ head; general sales, $20@41 ₹ head.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	10¾@11
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¾@ 9¾	9¾@ 9¾
Poorest	6 @ 9	7 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9¾	8¾@ 9¾

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

THE Duchess of Aosta, ex-Queen of Spain, is dead.

THE man who bet his pay felt bad when he had to pay his bet.

A SUGGESTION to Arctic explorers—"Honesty is the best Polar-Sea."

MRS. SPILKINS'S midnight lectures on Masonry are always of a Lodge-ical tone.

MR. TENNYSON, report says, has written a new poem, which will be published shortly.

THE men who have made wheelbarrow bets on the election expect to carry all before them.

A CRAFTY fox was found lying dead drunk in a Massachusetts cider mill the other morning.

THE Burlington Hawkeye applauds the Centennial Commissioners for not naming a Smith day.

SENATOR SHARON'S big hotel in San Francisco pays $1,000 per day—on the wrong side of the books.

A GRAND Masonic Congress, the Paris papers say, will be held in that city or London next May or June.

PROF. THACHER of Yale College, has gone to California for his health, and will not return until next term.

SPURGEON says men with squeaky boots ought not to come to church. That's the reason so many don't.

TWO sons of Hon. John Bright have been spending the summer in this vicinity, quietly "doing" the Centennial.

A MAN-MILLINER drives one of the finest teams in London. He certainly should know how to handle the ribbons.

A MOTHER and her daughter married brothers in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and the mother got the younger husband.

TWO negro women met in Louisville by appointment, and fought with knives until both were painfully wounded.

IT is worthy of remark that when Dom Pedro went to call on the Sultan, his wife insisted on being along with him.

JOHN HABBERTON, the author of "Helen's Babies," will soon delight his admirers with "The Barton Experiment."

A ROYAL crown is being manufactured at St. Petersburg for Prince Milan, and a sword of honor for Tchernayeff.

THE Sultan has taken another epaulet-ptic fit, and ordered that his officers shall wear simple shoulder straps no longer.

THE latest production of Paul Heyse, the German novelist, is a drama the publication of which is awaited with great interest.

DAN RICE is making his usual farewell tour this year, and has just been sold out by a Kentucky Sheriff—which is also as usual.

A DOG was saturated with coal oil and set fire to the other day at St. Louis. A reward of ten dollars is offered for the purp-etrator.

FREILIGRATH'S German translation of Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner" is to be published in Leipsic this month with forty illustrations by Dore.

KALAKAUA is a thrifty potentate. He was deadheaded all over this country, and then charged the Sandwich Islands $50,000 for making the trip.

CAPTAIN NARES'S return from his unsuccessful expedition leaves it still an open question which nation will first run up its colors on the North Pole.

MR. S. T. BACON, a Boston gentleman, says that he was the first to suggest that this country should celebrate the Centennial year by an Exposition.

IT will be a matter of disappointment to many to learn that Sergeant Bates has decided not to carry the Russian flag through Turkey just at present.

"PREPARATIONS for closing the Centennial," eh? How odd that sounds now that we've all become accustomed to consider it a regular permanent show!

IT is not considered a subject of laughter in New Haven to see a young woman prowling around with a cowhide, looking after a theological student.

IT is now definitely settled that all the Centennial buildings are to be knocked down—at auction, that is. But why did they name Thanksgiving Day for the sale?

MR. NORWOOD, the new United States Senator from Georgia, is the son of a tanner, and forty-six years old. He is one of the most inveterate jokers in the State.

THE old adage, "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth," has been improved on. Burbank of the New Orleans Republican, says, "Never look a gift mule in the hind foot."

THERE are 540 monasteries and convents in Russia, the revenues of which amount altogether to $6,500,000. The cost of maintaining each monk or nun during one year amounts, on the average, to about $110.

DON CARLOS was present the other day at the annual service in Paris in commemoration of the foul execution of Marie Antoinette. The members of the Orleans family were satisfied with sending their apologies.

CHICAGO gas rates have been reduced to $1.50. Courtships, however, are still conducted with a very exaggerated idea of economy, as the young people put out the lights and sit in the dark every chance they get.

TUPPER continues to read his own poetry.

SOME of the young ladies in Beacon Street, Boston, are giving dinner parties, which they prepare themselves, fairly outdoing the late Professor Blot in some lines. This certainly is a healthy sign of practical progress.

ONE of the British scientists has been at work on dog's brains. He finds that the brain of man's faithful friend is smaller than that of the wolf, and that the brain of a Newfoundland dog is very little larger than a terrier's.

SCENE in a New York Police Court—Judge—"Prisoner, I find you guilty of intoxication in the public streets. The punishment is ten dollars or ten days. Which will you take?" Prisoner—"I will take the ten dollars, your honor."

THE Duc d'Aumale, son of King Louis Philippe, and now commander of the Eighteenth Corps of the French army, had his shoulder bone dislocated recently by a fall from his horse. The animal shied at a cow, and the Duke was jerked into the road.

TWO Waltham, Mass., men have a novel bet on the election. The loser is to go to Boston, hire a hand-organ, bring it back with him, and play it on the streets a certain number of times, while the winner passes round a hat and pockets the pennies.

SOMEBODY in a distant part of the State wrote to the White County (Ark.) Record inquiring where the Rev. Edward Thompson was, and got the following reply:—"This is Brudder Thompson, now in jail for stealing a poor colored woman's money."

THAT explosive machine has acted like magic in reforming the baggage smasher. The tenderness and care with which he now picks up each Saratoga and deposits it on the platform makes one feel that even villains have their mission to fulfill in this world.

A REMARKABLE porcelain tureen was recently sold in Paris for 492 francs. It bears a painting representing the execution of Louis XVI, at the moment when Sanson, the famous executioner, who is admirably portrayed, holds up the dead monarch's head to the populace.

TWO enterprising Jerseymen have just patented "an apparatus for preserving food." To our thinking, the best of all ways to keep provisions from spoiling is to turn a pair of good healthy children loose in the pantry three times a day. None of your apparatuses are needed where they are.

THE following is the answer of a newly-married Dayton man to the invitation of a Philadelphia friend, who wished him to visit the Centennial: "You are very kind, but since I married and became familiar with the mysteries of a woman's wardrobe, variety shows have lost their charm for me."

CALCULATIONS have been published showing that over twenty-three millions of animals and birds were wounded without being captured, by the licensed sportsmen and poachers of the British Islands, during the year ending March 31, 1876. The vivisectionists are completely eclipsed by this cruelty.

WHEN he was a pugilist they called him Ned Wright. Now he is the Rev. Edward Wright, and is putting up a $5,000 church in Chamberwell, London. The converted Ned is said to be a thoroughly changed man, and very successful in his work. He is a fearless preacher, and quite eloquent in his way.

THE statement that Charles Sing of North Adams, is the first Chinaman who has taken out naturalization papers in this country is incorrect. Mr. Charles Ar Showe, a well-known tea merchant of Boston and a native of China, was naturalized in 1860, and has voted at every Presidential and State election since that time.

COLONEL CHESTER, who has been writing about the peculiarities of Westminster Abbey, has discovered that Major Andre's remains were brought from America and interred in the Abbey in 1821, by direction of the Duke of York. He has investigated the history of Andre's family, and finds that it originated at Nismes.

THE Spectator pours balm upon the ruffled soul of the British farmer by informing him that it is not the doryphora decemlineata, but the doryphora juncta that has arrived in England from America. Not to put too fine a point upon it, 'tis not the potato bug, but an allied species—a sort of high-toned first cousin, who is above a potato diet.

"THE Right Honorable Dr. John Bright, M. P.;" such is the full designation of the famous British tribune of the people. Williams College, in New England, where of old the Quakers were persecuted unto death, has conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon the greatest living member of the Society of Friends, and the degree has been accepted by him.

AN Omaha girl recently married a man whose features were nearly obscured by a heavy growth of whiskers. "Now," said she, at the conclusion of the marriage ceremony, "my first anxiety is to get that hair off of your face, so that I can see what you look like. I've married a pig in a poke, so far as your features are concerned." The barber had a call that day.

OSCANYAN, the well-known Oriental lecturer and late Consul-General of Turkey in New York, is to have a seat in the new Senate about to be formed by the Turkish Government as one of the representatives of the Armenians, who are to have ten members in that body. Mr. Oscanyan was not long ago elected a member of the National Assembly of the Armenians.

Implements and Machinery.

Centennial Year of American Independence.

SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

We will call and see you next July and assist at your CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. By the same opportunity bring you samples of the Celebrated Watches, manufactured by our countrymen, the MESSRS. BOREL & COURVOISIER of Neuchatel, for INSPECTION and EXHIBITION. These Watches are favorably known throughout the U. S., having been sold by our local agents in almost every City, Town and Village the past ten years. Their reputation for accurate performance is universally acknowledged. They are manufactured in Gold and Silver Cases, Stem and Key Winders. These Watches have superior quality of Nickel Movements, Chronometer Balances, Breguet Hair Springs, Tempered, Hardened and Isochronised for R. R. use, the Ruby Jeweled, set in Chaton, and warranted to perform with the regularity and accuracy of a chronometer. Ask your Watchmaker to see them before purchasing those of other makers, as we have been authorized to sell them at a reduction from former prices.

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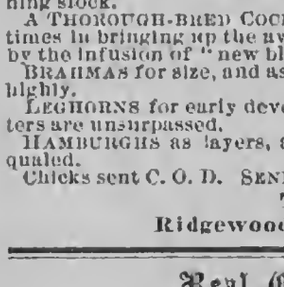

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

H. B. P., Argyle.—(1.) We do not know what will remove walnut stains from the hand without injury to the skin. The stains will wear off in a short time. (2) There is no one work on Entomology which gives the names, descriptions and habits of all the common insects to be found on the farm. "Harris' Insects Injurious to Vegetation" is a very good work for the novice, but it contains the names of but a very small proportion of the most common kinds. It costs $4. "Packard's Guide to the Study of Insects" is another work at the same price. It embraces a much wider range than that of Harris, but is not so entertaining nor so simple. The two volumes of the "American Entomologist" edited by Prof. Riley are very valuable to one who desires to learn something of native insects. We think the volumes can be had of the Editor, Prof. Chas. V. Riley, St. Louis, Mo. (3.) We have no doubt that the statement to which you refer is correct, as it is very well known that the honey-bee makes out of pure honey the wax of which the cells or combs are formed. The pollen gathered from flowers is supposed to be used as food for the young grubs or larvæ, which eventually become the winged insects. You can find all these points fully explained in any good work on bee-keeping.

E. C. R.—Wash the lumps in the cat's ears with strong camphor, and if caused by parasites, this will destroy them. A weak solution of carbolic acid will also answer. Never having seen such warts or lumps as you describe in a cat's or other animal's ears, we cannot account for their appearance.

Geo. H. R.—"Charlton's Grape Grower's Guide," which costs only 75c., will furnish you with the desired information in regard to forcing grapes under glass. As you ask our opinion in respect to the culture of grapes under glass as an "investment," we will say that a great many more persons have found the business unprofitable than profitable.

B. C. P.—(1.) It may be that you give your plum trees too much manure, which would, perhaps, account for their not bearing more fruit. But as high culture would not cause unproductiveness when the trees attained some age, we are inclined to think that plum curculios are about. These insects sting the plums while they are small, causing them to fall off, and this is why the crop is short. There is not the least difficulty in raising large and healthy plum trees anywhere about this city or over in New Jersey, but the curculio makes short and clean work with the fruit, consequently few persons try to raise plums in the region of country named. (2.) We cannot tell how to prevent pears becoming knotty or cracking open before they are ripe, as is so frequently seen in such varieties as the *Virgalieu* and *Beurre Diel*. Ashes put around the trees and over the ground as far as the roots extend will do good, if anything; but a never-failing preventive for cracking of the fruit or for blight upon the branches remains to be discovered.

Thomas H.—Many a time have we answered your question in the negative, and we now repeat, "Cows cannot, and never do, lose what is termed the *cud*." What a sad predicament all "ruminant" animals would have been left in by their Creator if they were liable to lose their cud every time somebody gave them a kick, chased them down hill, or when they happened to cough suddenly from getting a little haysced or dust down their throats! No, no! Nature puts a better finish to her works than all that, and ordinary accidents are provided for. The very name of the order of animals to which the cow belongs, *Ruminantia*, or Ruminants, explains the philosophy of what is called "chewing of the cud." Ruminate means to remasticate or chew over. The ox, cow, sheep, goat, deer and other animals belonging to the order of Ruminants "bolt" their food somewhat hastily and almost whole, depositing it in the first stomach, and then, at their leisure, bring up a little at a time to remasticate, when they again swallow it, this time sending it to the second stomach or receptacle. This remasticating is termed "chewing the cud," and it is nothing more or less. Cows do not lose their cud while there is anything remaining in their stomachs to be remasticated.

Mrs. D. L. B., Salem.—Will you tell us how to care for mocking birds—the food they require to keep them healthy, and how to distinguish the male from the female? ANS.—Procure mocking-bird food from trustworthy bird dealers. It is put up in pint and quart cans. Provide them with cages large enough for them to exercise in. It is difficult to state in writing what are the differences between the male and female that enable bird fanciers to determine almost at a glance the one from the other. We may say that the white of the three upper feathers of the male wing extends up higher (*i. e.*, toward the head), and it is a more solid white than in the same feathers of the female, in which it is often speckled or mottled with black or brown.

Subscriber.—If lime, magnesia and sulphuric acid be placed together, the sulphuric acid unites with the lime only, forming sulphate of lime, and the magnesia is left out in the cold, having nothing upon which to bestow its affections.

A. C. Bacon.—The term "Landscape Gardener" was, according to Loudon, first adopted by Hamphrey Repton.

W. H. Prentice.—Will you please send to Floricultural Editor your address?

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HIS MULE.

"SPEAKING about mules," remarked a six-footer from Harnett County, as he cracked his whip at the market yesterday morning, "I've got a mule at home which knows as much as I do, and I want to hear somebody say that I'm half fool."

No one said so and he went on.

"I've stood around here and heard men blow about kicking mules until I've got disgusted. When you come down to kicking, I want to bet on my mule. A preacher came along and took dinner with me the other day, and as he seemed a little disheartened I took him out to see Thomas Jefferson, my champion mule. I was telling the good man how that mule would flop his hind feet around, and he said he'd like to see a little fun. He'd passed his whole life in the South, but had never seen a mule lay his soul into a big time at kicking.

"Well," he continued, after borrowing some tobacco, "I took Thomas out of the stable, backed him up agin a hill, gin him a cuff on the ear, and we stood back to see the amusement. It was a good place to kick his darndest, and what d'ye spose he did? In ten minutes he was out of sight. In five more we couldn't feel him with a twelve-foot pole, and—and—"

The crowd began to yell and sneer, and the old man looked around and added:

"Does anybody think I'm lying? Would I lie for one mule?"—*Raleigh Sentinel.*

SHE WOULDN'T SPEAK TO HIM.

WHEN a young Chicago man came down stairs the other morning he remembered that his wife, who was preparing breakfast, had not spoken to him when she got up, and so he cheerfully said: "Good morning, little lady."

Not a word came in reply.

"Good morning," said he again, in a higher key, thinking that she might not have heard him before.

"Um—'m—'m," was all that escaped from her sealed lips, as she kept on with the work.

"Why under the sun don't you answer me?" exclaimed he in surprise: "what's the matter? what have I done to offend you?"

"Um—'m—'m," was still the only sound elicited.

"Look here!" then exclaimed the husband, as he jumped up and knocked over a cup of coffee: "I don't swallow a mouthful of this breakfast until you tell me what's the matter."

"What's the matter?" echoed she, suddenly turning upon him with flashing eyes. And then, she continued: "John Adell Smithson, the next time that I dream I see you kissing another woman, I—I—I will leave this house!—boo-hoo!"

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

ARTILLERY horses are hitched up with the tugs of war.

WHAT variety of plum does Cain represent?—A Damson.

INSTRUMENTS of torch-er—Capes and transparencies.

THE boy who is early to bed doesn't generally take early to rye-s.

WHY is Christmas like a general mistake? Because it is a comin' nearer (common error).

SOME one ruminates sadly in the Chicago Journal:—"The white gloved beau of last night, leaning over the ballustrades and twirling his silky mustache, may next month be a fond husband leaning over an icy stove, and preparing a cup of morning coffee for a thin-lipped woman with a hawk bill nose put on bias."

NOT long since a dark, mahogany-colored female obtained a position in a San Antonio family as a cook. A few days after she met an acquaintance, who inquired how she liked her new place.

"Ise gwine to leab em," was the answer.

"Dey 'buses you, does dey?"

"Dreffful. Wuss den foah de 'bellion. Dey locks up all de pervisions and asks foah de change from de market money."

"Why, dat's no better den stealin'!" was the indignant reply.

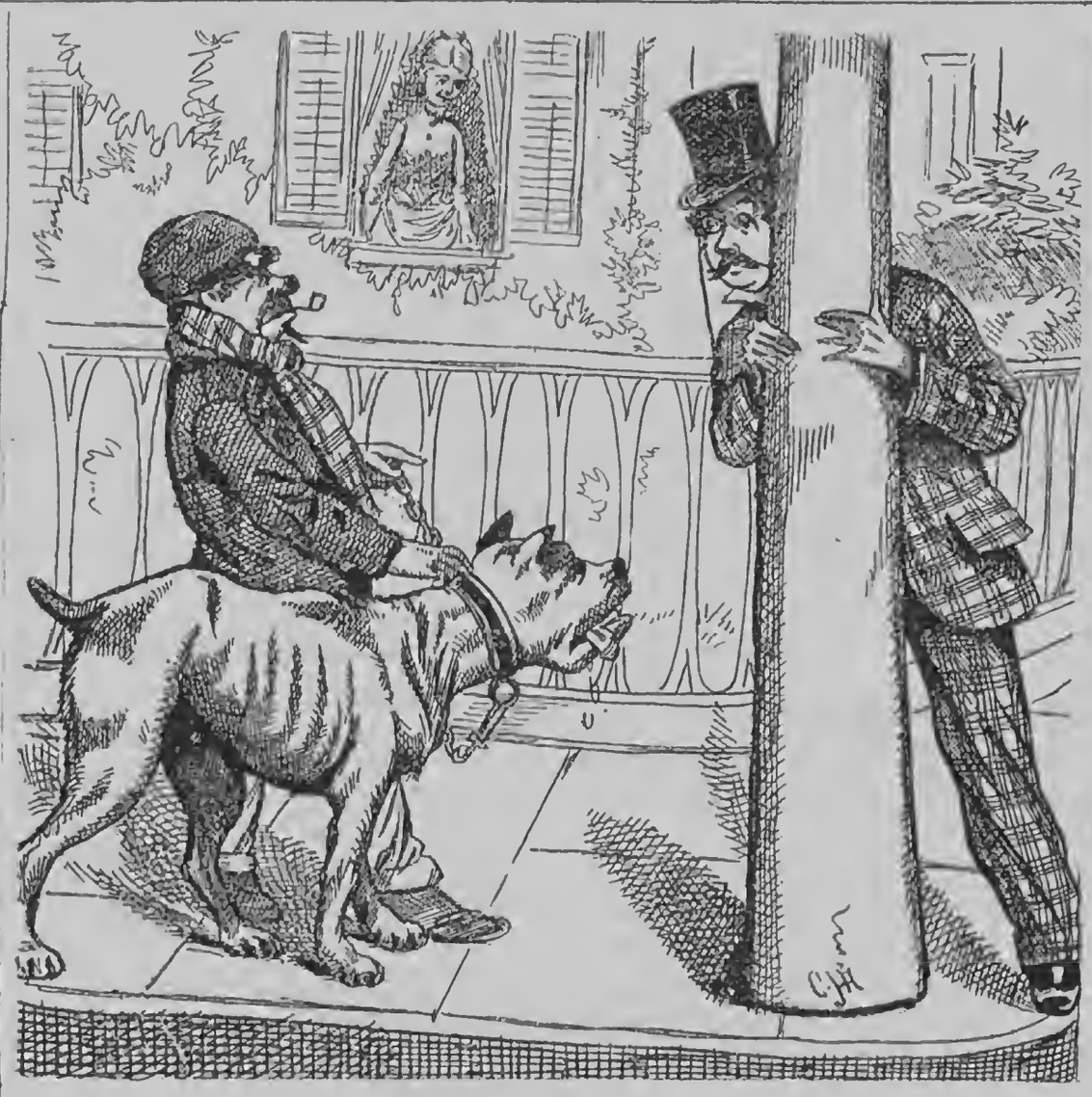
DIALOGUE IN A CEMETERY.—Wife—"Ah, husband, do you see this beautiful carving? How delicately cut in the pure white stone!"

Husband—"Yes. Very pretty."

Wife—"But, William, you have no taste for art, and you don't enjoy these things as I do. Just notice this slender column of immaculate marble, with the touching question, so beautifully carved: 'Do they miss me at home?'"

Husband—"Yes; I see. And here is her name on the footstone: 'G. A. B.' Yes; I guess they miss her if that was her name!"

And there came silence.—*Juniata Sentinel.*



VERY LIKELY.

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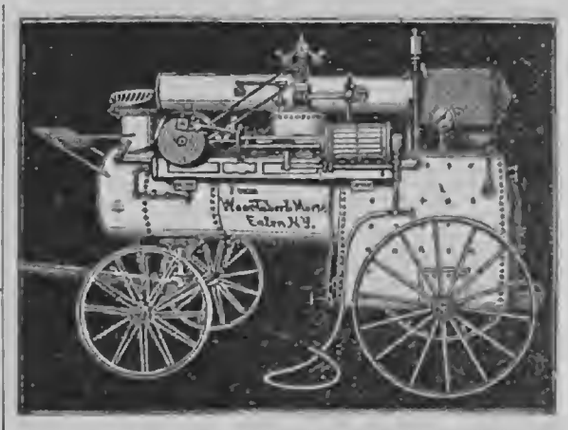

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VOL. XXXIV. No. 22.
WHOLE No. 1400.

NEW YORK CITY, NOV. 25, 1876.

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The Naturalist.

THE JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.

THERE are many persons who show, if they do not express in words, a disposition to undervalue everything that does not come within the limits of their personal wants or needs. The Jerusalem Artichoke is one of those plants which may not possess any particular value in localities where the Potato, Beet, Turnip and similar roots can be produced cheaply and in great abundance; but these favored localities are somewhat circumscribed; besides, droughts of extreme severity sometimes occur in regions where such plants succeed best, and insects, like the Colorado Potato Beetle, occasionally destroy the potato crop, leaving the farmer very short, if not entirely destitute, of roots for his stock.

Taking these accidents to crops (if we choose to call them such) into consideration, it must be admitted that a plant which will supply a large amount of nutritious food for stock, under adverse circumstances and at a small cost, ought to be looked upon with favor. This we claim for the Jerusalem Artichoke, and no more. It will thrive and yield an abundant crop of tubers under conditions that are destructive to the common Potato and other ordinary root crops, and hence may be considered one of the few plants upon which the farmer may depend in times of the greatest scarcity caused by long and severe droughts. As an instance of the growth and productiveness of this plant under unfavorable conditions, we may mention our own experience with it the past season.

Last spring we cut up a quantity of the tubers into small pieces with but a single eye or bud on each. These were scattered in a trench made with a plow and then covered two or three inches deep. The soil in which they were planted was dry, light, sandy loam, only moderately rich. We did not have rain enough from May to the 1st of September to wet the earth to the depth of three inches, and corn, sown for fodder alongside of the Artichokes, made a growth of bout two feet in hight and then dried up, when t was mown to save it. But the Artichokes kept steadily on during all this drought and reached a hight of about nine feet, blossoming freely, and some of the stems were fully an inch in diameter, with numerous lateral branches. During the past few days we have been digging some of the tubers, which literally filled the soil for a foot or two on both sides of the rows, and at a rough estimate the yield would not fall far short of 300 or 400 bushels per acre. We counted the tubers upon one average-sized stalk and found 96 of fair size and a few very small ones; and we have only to regret that our stock of this edible tuber is not a few hundred or a thousand bushels instead of a few dozen, as the root crop in our neighborhood is a very poor one, and Artichokes could be used or disposed of to advantage this season.

Now, the point we urge in favor of this old and long-known plant is this: It will thrive in dry seasons and in localities where other root crops fail, consequently may be used to take the place in part or to supplement more valuable kinds, in thousands of instances where a scarcity of nutritious roots causes immense losses to the farmer and severe suffering to animals.

The tubers are quit hardy in nearly all the Northern States, and especially in dry, loose soils, and if they are not needed one year, they may be left in the ground and a full crop will be produced the next. An acre or two of these roots on a farm would be a magazine of food to be drawn upon when other sources fail. Hogs will fatten upon them and will dig them for themselves, and even sheep will unearth the tubers lying near the surface.

When dug and stored for winter use, they may be fed to all kinds of farm stock, and horses and cows eat them with evident relish. Out on the Plains of the West, where there is always more or less danger of droughts and visits from grasshoppers, the Jerusalem Artichoke could scarcely fail to be of great value to the farmer, for if the leaves should be eaten off once or twice during the summer, the entire crop of tubers would not be destroyed, as would be the case with Sweet or Irish Potatoes, for the Artichoke possesses great vitality and is difficult to kill, except by digging it up or mowing off the stem several times during the growing season.

The leaves are also greedily devoured by stock and sheep, and cows are fond of them. In France and throughout Southern Europe the Artichoke is cultivated as a forage plant, and we learn that it is also grown to some extent in our Southern States for the same purpose.

ITS HISTORY.

The Jerusalem Artichoke is the *Helianthus tuberosus*, or Tuberous-rooted Helianthus. It is a perennial, tuberous-rooted, herbaceous plant, found growing wild in Brazil, and was introduced into Great Britain in 1617. It was formerly highly esteemed, but the common Potato proved to be much superior for ordinary culinary uses that

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.

the Artichoke was neglected in nearly all the northern parts of Europe and America. It is still used, however, for pickles and cooking (see Domestic Department of the RURAL of last week).

THE ILLUSTRATION

on our first page shows this flower of natural size and a large leaf taken from the main stem, while smaller ones of similar form are abundant upon the many lateral branches. The small bracts or miniature leaves are numerous upon the flowering branches, as shown. The flowers are yellow and similar to, although of smaller size than those of the common Sun-flower (*Helianthus giganteus*).

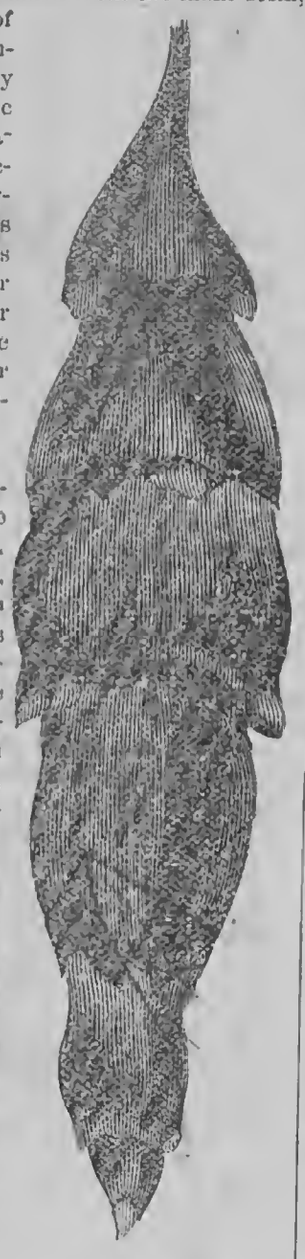


FIG. 1.

VARIETIES.

We have two distinct varieties of the Jerusalem Artichoke. The first is a long, slender tuber, often much branched, as is sometimes seen in certain varieties of the Potato, but the general form is shown in Figure 1. The skin, when the tubers are taken from the ground, is a deep, purplish red, the flesh white, tender and sweet. The stalks are very large and of dark-brown color near the ground, but green above. The side branches are very abundant and large, the foliage affording a great amount of succulent fodder for cattle. For want of a better name, we will call this the "Long Purple Artichoke." The second we will name the "Round White," for the tubers, until half-grown, are as round as a Baldwin Apple, but upon reaching maturity they become elongated, slightly tapering to the end nearest the stem, as shown in Fig. 2. The skin is white, with a very delicate shade of red; flesh white, brittle and sweet. The tubers average considerably larger than the first, but are not quite as numerous. The stalks produce but few branches, and the color of the bark is pale green, with scarcely a shade of purple or red. On our own grounds this is the better of the two sorts, at least it appears to produce larger tubers, which is an advantage as regards gathering and feeding.

FIG. 2.

The illustrations given of the two sorts are from medium-sized tubers, not the largest or smallest, as grown this season from single buds.

We think that a plant possessing so many merits as the Jerusalem Artichoke should not be neglected, and that every farmer can well afford to devote a small space at least to its culture. Those of our readers who may reside in regions of country where long and severe droughts are likely to occur very frequently, should try this plant as a sort of insurance against scarcity of food for their stock, even if they do not value the tubers for table use. Of course neither of the varieties named will take the place of the common Potato for culinary purposes, still, in times of great scarcity of the latter, they may be used for making many a wholesome and delicious dish, as they are both wholesome and nutritious.

If any of our readers should desire to procure a small quantity of the tubers of either of the sorts named, we would refer them to the special offer among "Publisher's Notices," on another page of this issue.

Industrial Topics.

GRASSHOPPERS' CONVENTION.

THE grasshoppers, of course, held their various conventions earlier in the season, and have long since adjourned for the winter, but the Governors of several of the Western States have, of late, met in council to consider this subject of grasshopper depredations, and to devise means and ways of preventing them in the future. A full report of the proceedings of the convention has not, as yet, come to hand; but, from the associated press dispatches, we learn that a committee of three was appointed to collect and issue in pamphlet form all the more practical means based on experience for the destruction of grasshoppers. The following resolutions were adopted: That it will be wise and politic for the Legislatures of the States and Territories most deeply interested to enact a law offering a bounty per bushel for the collection and destruction of eggs and unfledged insects; that the several Legislatures authorize local taxation for the proposed systemized efforts in the way of ditching, burning, etc., also to suggest the repeal of the game laws or a modification of them so as to prevent the destruction of the birds which feed on insects; the prevention of prairie fires until a suitable time for the destruction of young grasshoppers by firing the grass, encouragement of tree culture for the harboring of birds; recommending that as far as possible a survey be made of each State during the coming winter to ascertain those portions in each county in which eggs are most thickly laid; further, that they deem it the duty of the national government to make some effort to destroy or counteract the great pest and thus prevent its injuries; recommend the attachment of a special commissioner to one of the government surveys sent annually to the West, and that $25,000 be appropriated for the purpose of paying the expenses of the commission. The president of the convention was requested to draw up and present to the President of the United States a letter setting forth the urgent necessity of the action of the general government in behalf of the sections ravaged.

The Governors of Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming, Dakota and Idaho were requested to transmit to the respective delegations a record of the proceedings of the convention and request them to urge on Congress speedy action in this matter. It is ascertained that the grasshoppers have not done the amount of damage imagined, and that they can be encountered and exterminated with much less labor and difficulty than heretofore supposed. By united and concentrated efforts at the proper time, no fears need be entertained as to serious results the coming spring.

THAT CORN HORSE.

IN the RURAL of the 4th inst., on page 297, I notice that one of your correspondents stigmatizes the corn horse as a nuisance, and reflects on its employers in the remark that "the use of it may amuse boys and greenhorns, but cannot be approved by men of sense." Now, Mr. Editor, with your permission, one of these greenhorns purposes to give his experience in the use of this convenient implement. For fifteen years I have used one of them and would not think of having my corn cut without it. My shocks always stand up steadier than if set round a hill, and experience has proved that in cutting fifty shocks I can remove the corn horse from one to another in as short a time as your correspondent would take to tie and set up his initial armfuls for the same number of shocks. I also take six rows; but only thirty-six hills for a shock—nine in each corner of the horse. Of my corn this number will generally average a bushel per shock. If it takes fifty-four hills of your correspondent's corn to yield a bushel, his crop is as poor as his objections to the corn horse.

Tyre, Sussex Co., N. Y. U. M. C.

Dairy Husbandry.

SCIENCE IN THE DAIRY.

IN the recent address of X. A. WILLARD before the National Agricultural Congress at Philadelphia, after referring to the wonderful progress in dairy manufacture flowing from JESSE WILLIAMS' invention of the associated system, he made the following remarks:

In what I have said I do not wish to attribute all the honor of our present position to American investigation or to American originality. We have no scientist who can claim any range of investigation concerning milk and its products that will at all compare with those made by Dr. VOELCKER of London. The "Germ theory" may be said to belong to HALLIER & PASTEUR. It is true, we are indebted to Prof. CALDWELL of Cornell University for first expounding this theory to American dairymen. The weight of his authority as a believer in it, has had considerable influence with dairymen toward the acceptance of PASTEUR'S investigations, and in applying the theory in explanation of some of the problems concerning milk.

Microscopical investigations to bring out results worthy of credit require the eye and mind of the trained scientist, great patience, long experience and a peculiar aptitude for the work. It is one thing to look through a microscope, but quite another thing to be able to designate correctly what one sees. Hence, the observation of the mere tyro must be taken with due caution.

Our best cheese as now made is, in all its essential principles, the same as that originated in Somersetshire, and which has been in practice for more than 100 years at the foot of the Mendip Hills. All theories in vogue from time to time diverging from these principles have ultimately proved failures in practice. You will say that we have been improving the character of American cheese for the last ten years or more, and that it never suited the English market so well as now. I grant it, but it is because we have come nearer and nearer the true Cheddar method which was first made known to our Dairymen at their Annual Convention in 1865. I do not refer to appliances for abridging labor; there are, of course, original American inventions, but I have yet to be shown a single original scientific principle that has been discovered and adopted, by which our cheese manufacture has been improved above the old cheddar method.

The lesson which our dairymen are learning to-day is that there is a difference between speculative theories and sound practice. We have learned the reasons for many dairy operations, and these have been so well expounded, from time to time, that our cheese makers have become better grounded in the science of the dairy and are more intelligent than the great mass of practical dairymen in Europe. But there are some things concerning the care and preservation of milk that may be placed to our credit. The cooling and aeration of milk for its better flavor and condition are ours. Mr. FOSTER of Oneida, N. Y., was the first to discover that the odor of putrifying animal matter, like that of a dead horse, may taint the milk in the bag by being breathed by the cow while at pasture. The microscopical investigations of Prof. LAW of Cornell, were the first to show how vegetable organisms may be transmitted to the milk from water which cows drink to slake thirst. Mr. FREEMAN of Chenango Co., was the first to discover that other fat than that obtained from the milk may be substituted for it in cheese.

The late GAIL BORDEN of White Plains, N. Y., was the first to show how milk may be successfully eliminated of its water, or condensed. He was an original thinker and investigator whose name, next to JESSE WILLIAMS', will go down to posterity as the inventor of the grandest improvement in connection with the dairy known in any age of the world. The preservation of milk, in all its integrity for long periods, before Mr. BORDEN'S time, had been attempted but without success, and eminent chemists and scientists had pronounced the condensing of milk with its cream unseparated an impossibility. Mr. BORDEN persevered—inventing complicated machinery entirely original for the purpose, and at last his efforts were crowned with success.

Thousands of our soldiers during the rebellion, thousands upon shipboard, in cities and upon the plains, have called down blessings upon this man, for the benefaction of securing to them the luxury of pure milk, milk which could not otherwise be had. If the lives of children saved in our cities, by the use of BORDEN'S milk, be taken into account, we shall scarcely be able to estimate the value of his labors. His inventions and processes have been carried into Europe and he is recognized in history to-day as one who has done an important service for humanity.

Mr. SLAUGHTER of Orange Co., N. Y., was the first to adapt the associated system to butter-making, and to apply the deep setting of milk in cold water for getting the cream. This was an important step toward progress in butter-making. The Swedes and Danes were the first among European Nations to copy the American idea of butter factories, and the setting of milk in cold water, but Sweden, with her scientists under Royal patronage, was not content simply to copy, and to Sweden belongs the credit of first demonstrating that cream will rise rapidly and perfectly when the milk is reduced to near the freezing point of water. This principle has been a surprise to the butter dairymen of America, and is another step in the progress of butter dairying.

Mr. HARDIN of Kentucky, is entitled to credit for a modification of this system in which the air is cooled in refrigerator boxes, which are used for setting the milk, and he claims as an improvement the covering of the milk and the exclusion of air while the cream is rising. There can be no doubt, but the cold theory is the true one for making butter. It arrests decomposition from the start, and the fine quality of butter made under this plan is proof of its merits. The heating of milk and then cooling it to obtain the cream, together with the manufacture of the skimmed milk into cheese is of ancient origin. It has been practiced in Devonshire, England, for more than a century, and hence no claim can be made of its being an American idea. The English experimentors, years ago, pronounced it inferior to other methods then in common use, both as to quantity and quality of product.

In closing the claims of American investigators I must add two more names to the list—that of Dr. STURTEVANT of Massachusetts who has made some original investigations in regard to the milk globules of cows of different breeds; while Dr. H. A. MOTT of New York City, has recently made some very interesting discoveries in comparing the milk of different races. His analyses show that the milk of the black race contains more milk solids than that of the Caucasian, particularly in milk-sugar, fat and inorganic salts. The same rule also applies to Brunettes, and it becomes an interesting question whether the color of animals is any indication as to the quality of milk yielded.

FEEDING DAIRY STOCK IN WINTER.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I have a dairy of 35 cows, and would be greatly interested to learn, through your columns, whether it pays in the State of Illinois, where the price of corn is from 25 to 30c. per bushel and bran $12 per ton, to cultivate roots for milch cows. If so, which are the best? Also, will it pay to steam or scald their meal and bran in winter season, under the same circumstances, paying $20 per month for help? —DAVID RISSER, *Orange, Ill.*

REMARKS.—In comparing roots with other kinds of cattle food, like corn, bran, etc., we get better results, practically, from the roots than their analyses would seem to show. That is to say, a bushel of roots—though containing a lower percentage of nutritive elements than a bushel of corn, may be so fed in connection with the corn as to give as good results as when the same quantity of corn is fed in place of the roots. This may seem an extraordinary statement to one who consults the tables of analyses of grains and roots; for the latter, it will be seen, contain a large proportion of water in their composition, but from numerous experiments at the manger, the roots always show a better result than their analyses would seem to indicate. Livery men tell us that horses will do more work, have a sleeker coat and be healthier when carrots are fed in connection with oats; and that 3 bushels of oats and one of carrots are better in their results than 4 bushels of oats.

Roots assist digestion and promote a more thorough assimilation of other foods. They improve the health of stock in winter when dry foods are the chief dependence, and as the improved health of stock is an important element in dairy management, the dairyman will find it of advantage to grow roots for his stock. In New York the expense of growing turnips and mangolds is from 6 to 8c. per bushel. They ought to be grown much cheaper in Illinois, because the soil is easier worked and is generally better adapted to root culture than most of the land in New York. Our most successful dairymen are of the opinion that it pays well to raise roots for dairy stock, and we are quite certain it will pay to grow them in Illinois, even at the comparatively low price named for corn and bran. Roots promote a flow of milk, and as a spring ration for "cows in milk," if fed in connection with corn meal and bran, they will be found of very great advantage.

Corn meal, when fed alone, is not the best kind of food for cows in milk. It is of a too heating nature, and when fed in considerable quantities, is apt to derange health, inducing gorget and other disorders. Dairy stock is often very much injured by injudicious feeding with this kind of food. If a liberal supply of roots is used in connection with corn meal, the

diet will be improved, resulting in a more generous supply of milk and better health of stock.

Of the different kinds of roots usually raised for cattle, we find, on the whole, the best results are obtained from the yellow globe mangold. The mangold is an excellent keeper, and is, therefore, available late in spring. It gives no bad taste to the milk—an objection which is often urged against turnips; it grows well in a variety of soils; is not liable to attacks from insects; it is easily harvested; and from all these good qualities, we should give it the preference. The parsnip makes excellent milk, but it is not so easily grown as the turnip or mangold.

When hay and grain are scarce and at high price, it may pay to steam or cook the food of stock; but at the rates named and cost of labor, we should say decidedly that it would not pay. Where considerable quantities of straw are to be utilized—if it be cut and mingled with meal and bran and the whole then steamed—it furnishes a good ration for stock, and when fodder of all kinds is expensive, quite a saving is not unfrequently made. But, at the low price named for corn and bran, the cost of preparing the steamed ration would more than counterbalance the amount saved in feed. In a recent number of the RURAL we referred to some of the advantages and disadvantages of cooking food for stock. Our correspondent would do well to consult that article.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF DAIRYING.

DR. E. LEWIS STURTEVANT of Waushakum Farm, South Framingham, Mass., gave an address at the adjourned meeting of the American Dairymen's Association held on the Centennial grounds, Philadelphia, Oct. 17–18, his subject being "The Philosophy of Dairying." The New York Times quotes from this address as follows:

MILK.

"Milk is a complex fluid: it has structural and chemical affinities, and partakes in its reactions, after withdrawal from the udder, of those qualities which its constitution and history have impressed upon it. Its structural element is a morphological one; that is, it has a form. This form-element is mechanically mixed with the milk, and is subject, in its relations to the rest of the milk, to the physical laws attending a mechanical mixture. Its chemical elements are compounds formed from elements in a high combining number, and which are readily changed from slight causes which tend to disturb their equilibrium. One, the sugar of milk, is a crystalloid, while the nitrogenous materials are colloids; this is to say, that these two classes of bodies are acted on differently by animal membranes. The bulk of milk is composed of water, a substance rather inert in its chemical relations, transudative in its relation to membranes, and influential as a media for the proper distribution and dilution of the more sought for elements."

To the above Philosophical views of Dr. STURTEVANT, the N. Y. Times, which does not seem to think much of the Doctor's philosophy, gives the following comments:

The above scientific and eminently lucid description of milk was recently given to a meeting of dairymen. Now that we know precisely what milk is, we do not wonder that we have wrestled with it so frequently or so unavailingly in the churn, nor that the average dairyman should be so pestered with its tricks; nor that the milkman should be astonished beyond measure at its "disturbed equilibrium" in his cans; nor, seeing that "its bulk is water," that the housekeeper should be able so easily to discover in daily practice the absolute truth of the scientific discovery, and should look so vainly for "the more sought for elements" in their "high combining number," which change so readily as to evade detection. Seriously, we notice this to protest upon the part of dairymen against such incomprehensible jargon as this being offered to them as science. Such efforts as this to popularize science are worse than useless.

PERFECTED BUTTER COLOR.

THE New England Farmer, speaking of Butter Color says:

Occasionally, during the past two years, we have received for trial samples of butter coloring preparations from Messrs. Wells, Richardson & Co., of Burlington, Vt., with the request that they should be thoroughly tested and criticised as to their merits and demerits. Knowing the firm were striving to make the best preparation possible, and that they intended to stop at nothing short of perfection, we have been free to find all the fault that could possibly be detected.

The first sample received, however, was quite superior to any other preparation of annatto that we had ever used. It was perfectly clear of sediment, free from odor, and gave a bright, clean color to the butter, while it was sold cheaper, according to its strength, than anything we had previously bought. But it was not warranted to keep through the whole year, without being injured by freezing in winter, or molding in summer. A later sample proved equal to these tests, and showed greatly increased strength of the coloring principle. Having tested it for several weeks, we informed the proprietors that we could find no fault with it whatever. As now made, it is a strong, clean, pure, and very cheap butter and cheese coloring substance. It will bear heat or cold, and does not fade when exposed to the light. It should entirely supersede carrots for coloring butter, and also all crude preparations of annatto, as formerly put up by druggists.

Since Wells, Richardson & Co. announced the manufacture of their "Golden Extract," the prejudice against the use of artificial coloring in butter has been swept away at a rapid rate, not only among butter makers, but also, among the dealers and their consumers. Being perfectly harmless, simple, cheap, and easily used, it has become one of the staple articles of the dairy room, as much as salt or rennet. For ten cents the proprietors will send any one a sample. Let all butter makers try it.

The Poultry Yard.

"COITSTOCK," MR. HENRY BELDON'S RESIDENCE.

DEAR RURAL: I have long promised myself the pleasure of a visit to the poultry yards of Mr. Henry Beldon, the famous English breeder, and last week, on leaving London for a week's stay in Yorkshire, I mentally resolved that before my return to the city I would see some of the thoroughbred fowls that have made their owner's name so famous at the great fairs of the kingdom.

At the great fairs or "shows," as they call them here in England, Mr. BELDON'S birds are the center of attraction and when some trio strikes your eye as being particularly fine, you may be quite sure that you will be told "these are HENRY BELDON'S birds," for the gentleman's exhibits are always first-class, and are seldom beaten anywhere, North or South. He exhibits a great variety of fowls, and yet when he sends one of his trios into some district where that variety is extensively bred, he is almost invariably a winner. For instance: the North is the home of the Hamburgh; there it is bred extensively, and breeders have an immense number to choose from in making up breeding pens or exhibition trios, yet Mr. BELDON, with his Hamburgh's, will carry off first prize from the heart of the "Hamburgh country." It has been said by some disappointed exhibitors that Mr BELDON "is a favorite with the judges," and that "much of his success is due to his personal popularity or influence." I have taken occasion to inquire into this matter repeatedly, and I have met with but one answer: that, although Mr. BELDON is undoubtedly a favorite, because his exhibits are always first-class and his dealings straightforward, yet his success as a prize-winner is the result of a thorough knowledge of the science of breeding, of years of careful selection, of patient waiting for results, and of good judgment in the care of his stock. What more is necessary to win success, and yet what one quality from among these could be spared if a like success were to be desired?

I thought over all this, as I have written it down, while I was comfortably curled up in one corner of the railway carriage on my way to Bingley, having nothing to do but to lazily smoke and look out on the lovely Yorshire fields and hedges, now in all the glory of their summer verdure.

Arrived at Bingley I stopped at the "Golden Fleece," and asking how far was Mr. BELDON'S place from the station, was informed that Mr. BELDON lived at "Coitstock," about three miles from the Inn. "Could I have a cab?" "Certainly;" and I was ushered into an old-fashioned Inn parlor, whose heavy draperies, quaint windows, high, antique chimney piece, and great hearthstone, were made ruddy and cheerful by the glow of the logs crackling on the great andirons. While waiting for the "cab," which, in this instance, turned out to be a very nice dog cart, drawn by a smart handsome horse, driven by an obliging man, (New York hackmen please take notice). I discussed the merits of a chop and some ale, and then we were off for "Coitstock."

A drive of three miles, according to my informant, but about five miles, according to distance as measured by a conscientious New York hackman, brought us to Mr. BELDON'S place, and as I looked down upon it from the brow of the hill, I saw at once how admirably its situation was adapted to the uses to which Mr. BELDON puts it.

Imagine yourself on a beautifully-wooded hill; below you, in a miniature valley, a level plateau of the richest coloring, the grass as green as the richest emerald; the woods which encircle it not too thick, but of beautiful foliage; the whole shut in by lofty hills, thickly wooded, and completely shielding this little valley from any rough winds; through the valleys center a lovely stream; at one end of the vast lawn, upon which we are looking down, an English cottage, bright and pretty and picturesque in its appearance; among the trees, at one side of the lawn and not far from the cottage, an old stone mill, some five stories high, weather beaten and gray in its old age, but still solid and massive, and contrasting prettily with the fresh grasses and flowers growing close about its base. This is "Coitstock"—HENRY BELDON'S pretty seat, and here, in the luxury and comfort of the old mill, live his pets, the winners of the great shows of the kingdom.

A few moment's drive down a road shaded by trees of a century's growth, and down a lane bordered with the tall hedges, so common and so pretty an acquisition to all English landscapes, brought us to the cottage door, and as we drove up we were met by a tall, portly gentleman of about fifty-five, of pleasant face and easy carriage, who came forward smiling cheerily as I asked for Mr. BELDON, and added that I was from America.

"I am Mr. BELDON," he said pleasantly, "and I am very glad to see you. Pray come in with me; I will have my man take your horse. I have many friends in America, and am always glad to see any gentlemen from your country."

So saying, he shook me warmly by the hand as I stepped from the dog-cart, and we went indoors together.

The house is a pretty one, and as you enter by the main hall the drawing room is on your left. It is a cheerful, sunny room, prettily hung in light colors, its French windows opening out on to the lawn. Here Mr. BELDON keeps many of his elegant gold and silver cups won by the "pets in the mill," and as we looked over the trophies, I saw the dates of the greatest shows in England, and records of competitions that were so hardly contested by exhibitors that the possession of the cup was indeed a trophy of which its owner might be proud.

On the right of the main hall is the dining room, a pleasant, cozy room, hung in crimson, if my memory serves me right, and to this room we adjourned, after a look at the cups, to enjoy a glass of some rare old port and to talk over American and English theories in breeding, and the advance made during the past ten years in the newer country in developing and originating varieties.

As we sat there I had an opportunity of studying my host, and this is such a pen portrait as I can give you of him.

He is tall, stout, and well made; about fifty-five years of age, I should say; his hair and side-whiskers gray; his countenance an open, pleasant one, and his eye gray, soft, and laughing. Add to this a hearty, merry laugh, a noticeable "Yorkshire accent," a genial manner, and you have Mr. HENRY BELDON, the first among English breeders.

"And where do you keep your birds, Mr. BELDON?" I said.

"In the old mill," he replied. "Let us finish our wine, and then we will go to the mill and see them."

And just here it occurs to me, dear RURAL, that I am running to such length in my chat with you that I am encroaching upon your good nature and your paper's space.

I will finish my letter just here, and say, as do the weeklies, "To be continued in our next," leaving until then an account of the Old Mill and Mr. BELDON'S prize winners.

THOS. W. WHITE.

Alden House, Kensington, London, '76.

Sheep Husbandry.

DO FINE SHEEP PAY?

IN conformation with the advice we have frequently given our readers, in regard to the value of choice breeds of stock and the advisability of keeping none but the best, we quote from a letter of Mr. JEWETT of Independence, Mo., published in the Journal of Agriculture, in which he gives some interesting facts, from his own experience in raising choice sheep, which it may be well for some of our discouraged sheep breeders to ponder over before disposing of their flocks. He says:

"I will begin with leaving Vermont. I emigrated to Missouri in 1869, bringing with me 77 choice American Merino ewes and one ram, Green Mountain. My first clip was 10 lbs. I have made great improvement in my sheep and wool, which will be evident when the average of first clip is compared with my last clip. I will say on the start that Missouri is one of the best, if not the very best wool-growing sections in the world. My sheep are larger than formerly and I think have increased the length of staple and a better circulation of oil, which has added much to weight of fleece. My flock of 102 head averaged 17.47 lbs. each of choice wool; sixty-one of these were breeding ewes of various ages; thirty-six were ram and ewe lambs. Five rams sheared as follows:—Gold Fleece, 31¾ lbs.; Seager, 31½ lbs.; Modoc, 28 lbs.; Michigan, 26¾ lbs.; Wooly, 26½ lbs. These rams were all shorn at a public shearing. Two ram lambs sheared respectively 20 and 21¾ lbs., first fleece. Twenty-two ewes averaged 19 lbs. each. An important item in improving a flock is to get good pure-bred rams, that have good form, heavy necks, well-covered, good legs and head. These slim-neck, small-leg, narrow-chested rams with a pedigree as long as your arm won't do. Sheep need attention and good care while young, if you wish to grow them to good size. In starting of course it is best to begin with full-blooded stock, but if from financial inability this plan cannot be pursued, the next best plan is to get native ewes and grade up by using good Merino rams. By this means all can soon have a flock of good grade sheep. The half and three-quarter bloods make fine mutton, are very hardy and are good shearers. My experience is that they will shear from 6 to 10 lbs."

Our colemporary adds:—Mr. Jewett has just made a sale of 35 rams to W. F. Bowne & Dodd, River Bend, Colorado, at the following prices: ram, Gold Fleece, for $200; Seager, $100; Modoc, $85; 8 at $45 each, and the remaining 24 at good prices. In view of these prices, who will say that sheep-raising does not pay? Mr. Jewett finds that it pays him and we are satisfied that Bowne & Dodd will find that their recent purchase will add to and give character to their entire flock and be a paying investment to them. They have shown their good sense in that they did not make a pilgrimage to the Atlantic coast and pay larger prices and get no better, if indeed as good sheep as they have bought nearer home, and at much less expense in traveling.

The Herdsman.

TREATMENT OF SHORT-HORNS.

MR. G. W. DANIELS, in an exhaustive article in the Farmer, (Eng.) on the Short-Horns, as compared with other breeds of cattle, gives some facts in regard to feeding, which are, of interest to those who may contemplate raising thoroughbreds of this celebrated breed. It is certainly well known to all breeders of stock that niggardly keeping for several consecutive generations will undoubtedly curb the generous tendencies which selection and liberal nurture have induced, and at length destroy them. Over-forcing ruins milk productiveness, weakens the constitution, causes disease, and impairs, often totally destroying, fertility. Under either extreme of management the most sagacious judgment in the choice and mating of animals would be exercised in vain.

To begin with the calves—there is no doubt that they thrive in the most satisfactory manner if they are allowed access to their mothers when they choose. I believe with animals of very high pedigree the mothers give so little milk that it is usually necessary to provide wet nurses for their offspring. On the other hand, the calves can be weaned when a fortnight or three weeks old, and taught to drink skim milk from a bucket; in this way they thrive wonderfully well, and it is surprising how soon they learn to eat cake, if they are supplied with the best linseed kind broken up into small pieces about the size of a hazel nut. I am in the habit of rearing calves in either way. I believe that it is impossible to feed young animals too well, and that they will repay any trouble or expense one is disposed to bestow upon them.

During the first winter I always allow my young stock hay, roots, and cake, and the second winter cake and straw, and a little hay if my hay ricks will afford it. I am aware we are advised to feed our stock on cotton-cake in preference to linseed, in order that the value of the manure may be enhanced. With this idea I totally disagree. I must say I prefer that my animals should be well cared for in the first instance; if I am assured that they are thriving and putting on flesh, I am quite satisfied the manure which they leave behind them cannot be very bad. Further than this, I consider linseed cake much more digestible than cotton.

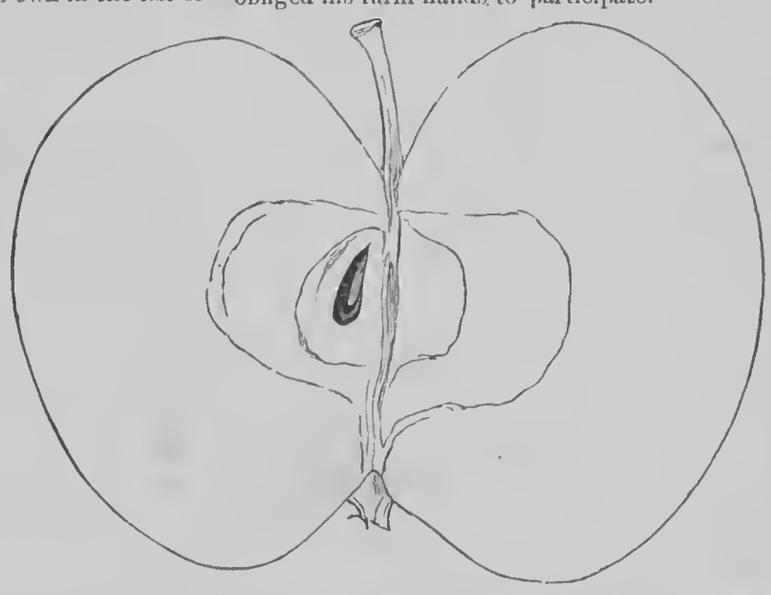
I must here express my surprise that any farmer can allow his dry cows and heifers to exist on straw alone during the winter months. It appears to me almost a symptom of insanity to place animals, coming off grass in the autumn in fair condition, to starve on straw in the winter, when the outlay of a little money in the purchase of a small quantity of cake and a few pounds given every day would enable the animals to come out of the straw yards in as good condition as they were when they went in. I have heard of animals dying as the result of this treatment, and of their falling or rolling into the ditch and being unable to get out again. With 3 lb. of the best linseed cake and an unlimited supply of fresh sweet straw and plenty of water I have had animals in blooming condition all the winter.

In many other counties tenant-farmers are large breeders of pedigree Short-Horns, and, as far as I have seen, their animals are much to be preferred to animals kept for fancy and show purposes, for I believe that pure bred cattle will do more for the profit of the farm than cross-bred animals.

Pomological.

THE JEFFERIS APPLE.

Among the many good old Pennsylvania apples, the Jefferis still holds its own in the list of choice sorts. It originated in Chester County, Pa., where it has long been quite popular, and it also has some reputation in other States. The accompanying outline shows its general size and form. The growth of the trees is moderate, but they are wonderfully productive.



Fruit medium oblate, inclining to conic, yellow shaded and splashed with crimson and thickly covered with whitish dots. Stalk very short, inserted in a rather large cavity; calyx closed, set in a round, open basin. Flesh white, tender, juicy, with a rich, mild sub-acid flavor. Ripens in September, and is generally conceded to be a first-rate sort.

CIONS FROM NURSERY TREES.

Years ago, the question as to whether the cions taken from trees growing in the nursery were as good, or would come into bearing as early as those from old orchard trees, was pretty thoroughly discussed in our horticultural journals. We believe it was then conceded, by men having had most experience in propagating trees, that no perceptible difference could be observed in the fruiting of cions taken from old or young trees. But these long-a-go discussions have, in a measure, passed out of the reach of the young orchardists of the present day, and it is but natural they should ask questions on this point, for the world travels in a circle, as it were, and each generation is likely to want the same kind of information as the one immediately preceeding it. Our young nurserymen and orchardists need have no fear of using cions from healthy young trees, whether they are standing in nursery rows or planted out and of bearing age.

MANURING THE STEMS OF APPLE TREES.

It is doubtless a safe rule to act upon, that the roots of a fruit tree extend out laterally as far as the branches. In a neighboring orchard are fifty apple trees, so old, many of them, that large branches are dead or dying. The proprietor with a view probably of invigorating or resuscitating these old specimens that might better be cut up into kindling wood and their room filled with young and vigorous trees, has dumped around each perhaps a quarter of a load of fine old horse manure, forming a cone with a base not more than four feet in diameter. Last fall these old trees were treated in the same way. Whether it was because the effect was highly satisfactory or because there was no effect at all and he was determined to test what he believed to be a tip-top plan by a second year's application, that induced its repetition, we can not say. Certain it is that the same amount of manure might just as well have been piled about the posts of the fence surrounding this orchard for all the good it would work upon the apple trees. Not less than twelve loads of manure were thus squandered, worth at least in the aggregate twenty-five dollars. Right here, good reader, pardon us if we tell you an incident from which, in connection with the above, a valuable lesson may be drawn.

Four years ago, we were laboring to carry a great number of lawn and bedding plants through a severe local drought—and to this end we were watering, or mulching them, we forget which, upon a Sabbath morning. We were almost a total stranger in the neighborhood which we had selected for our home. Along drove the proprietor of the above orchard—a German farmer, sixty years of age and, stopping his horse in the road directly opposite to where we were hard at work, angrily asked:—"Do you know vat day it is?" The question was so odd that we doubted our ears, and we replied—"What did you remark, sir?" "Do you know," he repeated more angrily than before, "vat day it is?"

Willing to await the sequel of so strange a proceeding, we replied amiably—"Yes, sir." "Then you had better stop your work!"

Now granting that it was wrong to work on a Sabbath morning even to save one's drooping plants—this farmer's method of rebuking us seemed so rude and public that we indignantly exclaimed—"Had you not better mind your own business!" "Yes," he bellowed, "I'll mind my own business and yours too"—and drove on before we could reply had we felt so disposed!

Upon inquiry, we found that this Christian German farmer deemed it no sin to load his farm wagon with market truck on Sunday night so as to be ready for an early start for market the following morning—and in this work he obliged his farm hands to participate.

Now we have waited four years for this Christian German farmer to fulfill that promise, viz., attend to our business as well as his own and we are driven to the conclusion that if piling manure about the stems of old apple trees is a fair specimen of the way in which he "minds his own business" we should never voluntarily engage him to attend to ours.

The moral is this:—If our German friend would spend a trifle for an agricultural paper and read a little more and think less of others' affairs, he would put less manure about the stems of his old apple trees and more money into his pockets.

Arboricultural.

THE CHESTNUT.

In a late number of the Rural New-Yorker I noticed an article in reference to transplanting the Chestnut, and with your permission will note some facts in regard to it:

The Chestnut tree has some of the peculiarities of the Hickory, in this, that it has but few side or lateral roots, and it is a well-known fact to all tree planters that there is a great difficulty in making trees do well, after transplanting, that have but few lateral roots. Such trees may indeed live, but they are very likely to make but a very slow growth.

The Hickory, Black Walnut, Chestnut, Wild Plum and many other trees have a long tap-root and will grow quite indifferently after transplanting. Hence the great cause of the little favor with which the Chestnut is looked upon by tree-planters generally.

Nine-tenths of all tree-planters obtain their supplies of trees and shrubs at the nurseries, regardless of the fact that some varieties of trees bear transplanting badly, on account of a very deficient supply of roots, and for this reason the Chestnut is one of the most difficult to transplant successfully.

I have upon my grounds two Chestnut trees that were transplanted in the spring of 1866 that are now only about eight feet high and seven inches in circumference a foot from the ground. They are apparently healthy, but have made such poor growth that if I had not had other experience I should discard the Chestnut tree as entirely worthless for any purpose. The same spring (1866) I planted a quantity of Chestnut seeds just where I wanted a grove. These came up finely and grew 10 to 30 inches the first season. They were slightly covered the first winter, and afterwards left exposed to test their hardiness. I have since found them as capable of withstanding the climate as any of our native trees, and they are now, at eleven years, from 20 to 30 feet high, and from 12 to 20 inches in circumference. Nearly all of them have borne fruit for five years, and in size and rapidity of growth they are not much inferior to most other deciduous trees for lawn or grove, and are much more valuable.

As transplanted trees they are, for the foregoing reasons, almost worthless, and most persons who have tried them by transplanting have had such indifferent success that nearly all are ready to pronounce them worthless. So well fixed is this fact in the minds of the people generally that at the meeting of the Iowa State Horticultural Society at Des Moines, Jan. 16, 1872, the then newly-elected President would not permit even a moment's discussion on the Chestnut, but immediately rapped the speaker down, saying that the Chestnut was so entirely worthless as a tree for any purpose that he would not allow any time to be wasted in its discussion.

Storrs & Harrison deserve the thanks of this nation for saying so much in favor of this valuable tree; but within the experience of nearly all those who have tried it in the entire West, it has proved a great failure to endeavor to make it a success by transplanting.

Now, this President probably had the same experience that nearly all others have had in transplanting the Chestnut, and jumped at the conclusion that the tree was too worthless to waste the time of the Society in its discussion. My own experience and observation, however, have taught me that it is one of the most rapidly growing of trees when the seeds are planted just where the trees are expected to remain, and these will need no more care after the first year than either an Oak or a Hickory. They will grow rapidly and make a delightful grove, and in five or six years will begin to bear fruit. My grove of 110 trees has been the admiration of all who have seen it.

Storrs & Harrison are experts in the preparation of Chestnut seeds, which they grow as readily as so many grains of corn. I would rather pay ten prices for seed in the spring, prepared and sent out by this firm, than take two-year-old trees for transplanting as a gratuity.

Not less than one hundred thousand farmers in the West should plant Chestnut seeds next spring, and with the same protection that should be given an orchard for the first five years, all will be astonished at the rapid growth of their trees. When in full foliage the Chestnut is one of the handsomest of our deciduous trees, and it is valuable for its fruit and timber.

D. W. Kauffman.

Des Moines, Iowa.

[With all due deference to the opinion and experience of our correspondent and despite the foolish assertion of the President of the Horticultural Society named, we still hold that Chestnut trees may be, and have been, transplanted with as great success as the Apple, Pear, Plum, Peach and Cherry. Give them the same preparatory manipulations in the nursery, and there will be an abundance of lateral and fibrous roots either upon the young or old trees.

Chestnut trees sent out from nurseries may be injured during transit, and when planted out barely live, remaining sickly and feeble until finally they die, just as Apple, Pear and other fruit trees have done in thousands of instances; but this is no good reason for placing the Chestnut among trees difficult to transplant and make live.

We happen to reside in a region where Chestnut trees abound, and we have also had considerable experience in transplanting seedlings from the nurseries and trees from the woods, consequently our conclusion in regard to the facility with which the Chestnut may be removed is not founded upon theory, but upon practical experience.—Ed. Rural.]

A HEDGE PLANT.

Many and divers are the claims put forth for certain hedge plants, in our leading journals—claims that seem ever doomed to but partial fulfillment. We do not say that there has been conscious misrepresenting—far from it; only that people will overlook the well-balanced, useful characters and take up violently with striking qualities and weak points. It is hence that we find the nurseryman disappointing customers by commending varieties intrinsically very beautiful and useful, but always, owing to one or more fatal traits, liable to failure. Just about this time begins to dawn on his mind the fact that a less beautiful, long-known variety suits better the public need. If he can unseat old prejudices, he will probably find that such popularity rests on a better-adjusted balance of qualities in the plant in question, with less falling off into positive and fatal weaknesses.

We do not propose, however, to discuss the various hedge plants viewed under this light, but merely to call, for a few moments, the attention to an old, long-used shrub that has hardly received due credit, the California Privet.

Most of the Privets, although much valued and employed in Europe, are liable to blight and disease in this country, especially when frequently and severely pruned. The California Privet is happily free from such tendencies. It is extremely vigorous, readily propagated, and quite hardy, and, with its shining, lively green, presents throughout the season a most refreshing appearance. The leaves are small, erect on the stem, with a decided, waxy luster, and the firm, woody stem resists all accidents and stress of weather. To its American origin may be attributed, probably, its freedom from blight, for certainly a cleaner, healthier growth can hardly be conceived. Planted two to three feet apart, it soon makes a strong, compact barrier, only less impervious than a Thorn hedge, and, in its own way, as ornamental as any. Its vigor and closeness of habit render it when pruned, specially fitted to cover fences and other unsightly objects.

Just here it may be well to say a word on this important item of pruning. The California Privet is accused of lapsing into nakedness near the base, and losing thereby both symmetry and usefulness. This is a serious difficulty, but an intelligent use of the pruning-knife removes all such objection. Coincident with setting out, the plant should be cut back to about one foot or more, according to strength, and then allowed to grow for two years untouched, attaining, perhaps, a hight of four feet. At the expiration of that time, one-half the growth just made should be removed, when a strong, thick mass will accumulate below, succeeded (if left untouched, as it should be) by a corresponding growth of the top in the following year. This process may be repeated during another two years, if still greater hight be desired, with always the result of a perfectly-furnished, well-developed hedge. To retain this perfection, however, for a greater length of time after the desired hight is attained, all wood made during the previous two years should be removed just below the commencement of these two seasons' growth.

This system, with modifications, will be found to accomplish the object desired with all hedges, whether evergreen or deciduous. It is only by cutting back into the old wood every two years that a well-balanced growth of both top and base can be obtained, for base and top will not grow equally both years. It must be first the base and then the top.

Nothing can be more beautiful than the California Privet treated in this way, and it is only a wonder that, known as it has been through so many years, some one has not undertaken to trumpet its merits as the hedge plant *par excellence*. Perfect it is not, for, like all vigorous deciduous shrubs, it is liable occasionally to winter-kill, on low ground, in its tops of imperfectly-ripened wood, but in making up a list of practical, ornamental hedge plants, it must always take rank among the best.

Samuel Parsons, Jr.

TREE NOVELTIES.

Evergreens are mainly prized for their green foliage during winter. How, in the rage for variegated plants our tastes may be changed or perverted, is shown in the following, copied from the London Field:

The Golden Scotch Fir.—A Scotch Fir, the leaves of which turn yellow in winter and become of the normal green in summer. This kind of variegation is also not likely to dwarf the tree or destroy any of its parts—unlike the total and constant blanching of parts of Conifers, which generally results in the death of the said parts. Another variety of the same trees has the tip of each leaf of a silvery hue; it is called *argentea variegata*. This variegation also comes on in winter, and then every leaf has its silvery tip.

Taxus Baccata Washingtoniana.—The Washington Yew, is of a golden color and thought to be the best of the "Golden Yews," because of its strong growth and as it does not suffer from very bright sunshine in summer. It is different in hue from the old Golden Yew, being of a fine, bronzy gold. Newer than this is *Taxus adpressa variegata*, which is a constantly variegated form of *T. adpressa*, having a golden suffusion of color.

Alnus Glutinosa Aurea.—This is one of the most constant of the golden-leaved deciduous trees. When planted in a moist position and fully exposed to the sun, the color is very fine.

THE NURSERYMAN'S OCCUPATION GONE.

In the *Wiener Landwirthschafflichen Zeitung* a certain Mr. William Ossenkop offers for the sum of 6s. a treatise on a New Mode of Propagation of trees and shrubs, discovered by him and practiced for some twenty-four years. The instructions are accompanied by thirty-two illustrations. According to the author, who says he is supported by the testimony of Dr. Fenzl and other well-known men, trees, shrubs, and other plants may be increased by his method at an extraordinary rate and in an incredibly short space of time. Apples, Pears, Cherries Peaches, Apricots, Currants, Gooseberries, Vines, and all kinds of ornamental and forest trees, are easily propagated on their own roots, and the nurseryman and gardener no longer need trouble to raise stocks, for in one year it is possible to obtain good trees on their own roots. To plant a vineyard it is only necessary to have a few canes of the sorts needed, and the rest is speedily accomplished. To the flower-gardener this wonderful system is of inestimable value; in short, no gardener ought to remain ignorant of it. Mr. Ossenkop concludes with the assertion that "his method is no swindle, but based upon natural laws; it is the simplest thing in the world—the egg of Columbus!"

The Gardener's Chronicle of England thinks it very honorable of Mr. Ossenkop to give it twenty-four years trial, before offering it to the public. (!)

The Vineyard.

GRAPE SIRUPS.

This is another product likely to become of some importance if grapes continue to be produced in such vast quantities as they are at the present time. California Vineyardists are especially interested in finding a ready market for the products of their vineyards, and as the entire crop cannot be disposed of in its natural state, and all the varieties cultivated do not make first-rate raisins, the production of Grape Sirups, opens a new source for the disposal of any surplus stock. The Pacific Rural Press in speaking of this new industry says:

So far as we know the manufacture of grape sirup has reached the most systematic development at St. Helena, Napa county, at the establishment of J. C. Weinberger. We have, in former issues, noted the fitting up of his manufactory. A full answer to the query of our correspondent above may be found in the following interesting description, which we take from the last week's St. Helena Star: Mission grapes, let us premise, are the kind to be used; not only because they are worth less than other kinds for wine making, but are worth more for sirup—containing a greater quantity of saccharine matter.

The process is as follows: Juice from Mission grapes is expressed in the ordinary way, a ton yielding about 120 gallons fit for sirup-making. After the grapes have been through the crusher, the juice is drained off, all that will run freely, when the pumice is thrown in a press-tub, and all the juice that will run white pressed out—about a couple of hours pressing will accomplish this. When the juice begins to be colored it should no longer be used, and all the rest of the pumice may be thrown back into tanks and fermented for common wine, or sent to the still, or fed to hogs, for which latter purpose it is very good. The juice when ready should, before it undergoes any fermenting process—that is within a day—be placed in what is called a clarifying tank, holding not less than 150 to 200 gallons, and made of planished (tinned) copper. The copper is to enable it to be heated, and the tinning to keep the acid of the juice when cooled from forming verdigris. This clarifying tank is over a fire, and the juice is heated up just enough to bring it to a boil. Just before this point a process is gone through to neutralize the acid and separate the albumen contained in the juice. This consists of the use of lime. For a quantity of, say 120 gallons of juice, take three pounds of unslacked lime, slacken with enough water (say a gallon) to make it into a thick paste. Then take part of the hot juice and stir it up with this lime, when, being reduced to a very thin state, pour it into the clarifying pan, (keeping back the sediment naturally resulting from the lime slacking) and stir it all up well. The effect of this will be instantly seen by a separation of the albumen from the juice, the former floating round in little particles like the curding of milk, and becoming of a muddy color.

The acid in the juice is by the same process also neutralized, and becomes sweet. The juice being brought to a boil, the fire should now be reduced, and the juice may be either left in the clarifying pan to cool off and settle, or transferred to other tanks for the same purpose. Within about six hours it will have settled, and the evaporation or sirup boiling may be commenced. For sirup boiling various contrivances may be used. The best Mr. W. considers Cook's patent evaporator, which is the one used by him. The pan is a shallow affair, some four inches deep and about nine feet long by four wide; across this run partitions, dividing it into 18 compartments, or troughs, and these partitions being alternately closed at one end and open at the other, make a continuous trough-like affair, through which the juice gradually flows from one side to the other, working slowly down in this way from the upper to the lower end of the pan, the evaporating process meanwhile, by the aid of a moderate fire underneath, gradually going on, so that by the time the juice, which has entered at the upper end, gets to the lower end, it is reduced to sirup and is drained off into vessels below. For the purpose of keeping up the flow, the pan is made on rockers, so that the fall may be regulated to suit the sirup maker, (large pans are made on brick arches, with the incline already adjusted). The juice is fed into the evaporator from a tank at the head, whence it runs through a faucet in a continuous stream. As to the time consumed in evaporating, 250 gallons of juice can be readily put through in 12 hours. Three gallons of juice make one of sirup, providing the juice contains 25 per cent of sugar, which is the minimum degree at which it ought to be made; the higher the better. This is about all, except the cooling off of the sirup, which ought to be done before putting in barrels. For this purpose a large iron pan, holding about 60 gallons, is used,

PROTECTING GRAPE VINES.

There is scarcely a single variety of Grape of good quality in cultivation, where the thermometer falls beyond 12° below zero, that can withstand our winters without protection. An easy method of protecting them is (after the vines are pruned) to tie them in a compact manner with twine, then lay them down upon the ground, and by means of stakes secure them in position, and then cover them about two inches deep with earth. Refuse hay or straw will do very well for this purpose, but sometimes mice get into such covering and gnaw the bark off the vines. In clayey soils, and where but little snow falls, straw or hay would be the best covering, because the rains of winter, upon a soil tenacious of moisture, often kill the buds, by keeping them too wet.

The question may arise, "In what latitude would it be safe to leave the vines upon the trellises during winter?" They may generally be left with safety in the latitude of New Jersey and further south; but even in parts of that State the Concords were all killed in the winter of 1872.

We advise such of our grape-growing readers as have omitted to prune their vines to do so without delay, as November is the most suitable time to do it. If you desire to propagate vines from cuttings, cut them in lengths of from two to four buds, according to the length of the joints of the cane. They ought to be sunk to the depth of from six to ten inches into the soil when set out. Select good, well-matured wood of this year's growth, cut off close to the lower bud and an inch or two above the upper one; and they may be preserved during the winter by placing them in the ground, closely packed, with the upper buds just above the surface, then lightly cover them with straw and set them out in the spring.

The Apiarian.

DO BEES GATHER HONEY OR MAKE IT?

Prof. Chas. V. Riley, State Entomologist of Missouri, appears to have awakened quite an excitement among bee-keepers by propounding the above question.

The discussion of it has not been limited to America, for no "pent-up Utica" can keep within its confines so momentuous a theme as the origin of honey, consequently it has crossed the Atlantic and our English cousins appear to be greatly excited over what they consider a question propounded by a Yankee. But as it happens, Prof. Riley is by birth an Englishman, although we now claim him as a loyal American citizen, and believe that he is abundantly able to "strike back" when he receives a blow from friends at home or abroad.

The Professor, it appears favors the opinion that bees "make" honey out of the saccharine material gathered, and Mr. Pettigrew, a well-known apiarian of England favors this view, and has so expressed himself in the Journal of Horticulture. This has brought out some very sarcastic replies one of which we copy to show our readers how the "honey war" rages abroad.

My simple answer to this question, which has been again brought to the front in this Journal, is that the latter is an impossibility. Unless bees bring sugar into their hives apart from the substance which Mr. Pettigrew calls crude honey, or excrete it from their own bodies, they gather it abroad from fruit or flowers, or in rare instances in the form of honeydew. Mr. Pettigrew's notion is that bees excrete it from their own bodies, and in support of his opinion he quotes the statement of a certain Professor Riley, an American, by whom the truth is so well told that Mr. Pettigrew ventures to repeat it in two successive issues of this Journal. "Honey," he says, "is a secretion of bees to some extent as well as wax." But presently he says that the "crude honey found in flowers and gathered by the bees is afterwards changed and converted into honey proper. After having been gathered and disgorged it is reswallowed, and then passes through a process of preservation, in which it is thickened and sweetened, resulting in honey, as the Professor puts it." With all respect to Mr. Pettigrew I must say, as I have said before, that these random and curious assertions are not proven, and therefore the truth of this presumed fact is still lying in dreamland.

It is singular to observe how ready Mr. Pettigrew is to endorse the notions and statements of this American gentleman, happening as they do to coincide with his opinions, whereas a while ago, in respect to the value of Italian bees, the testimony of a number of Americans was ridiculed and contemned by him, in common with everything from America, in the most unmeasured terms. I repeat, with all respect both for Mr. Pettigrew and his American friend Prof. Riley, that we have as yet nothing but bare assertion for all these curious statements. True, there is an allusion to a certain other American, a "chemist and botanist of Louisiana, who described the changes undergone by nectar in the elaboration into honey in the bee's stomach." Now this is just what we want to know. Will Mr. Pettigrew favor us with the data upon which this chemist founded his argument? Doubtless the same authority which notified the fact to the "Housekeepers' Convention in St. Louis," also contains the details of this remarkable discovery, which certainly was new to the Journal of Horticulture till it was mooted by Mr. Pettigrew. I can imagine no more interesting subject to bee-keepers, on which the patient and exhaustive mind of the scientific President of the British Bee-keepers' Association, Sir John Lubbock, might be brought to bear, than this question of the presumed manufacture of honey in the stomach of the bee, if indeed he should think it worth a second thought. At present I say we have nothing but statements and assertions in support of the theory, which without the most satisfactory proofs will remain assertions and nothing more, however frequently and persistently reiterated.

The secretion of wax from honey is an entirely different thing, for honey is known to be little more than the quintessence of sugar, which contains the fatty elements which are the ingredients of wax. But where does the sugar come from? Mr. Pettigrew says it is not found in the crude honey gathered in the flowers, it is elaborated in the stomach of the bee. Is it so? Prove it, I say. It must, however, be elaborated out of something in the stomach of the bee. For "out of nothing comes nothing." Now, Mr. Pettigrew, please to tell us what is that something out of which bees make honey; but in the name of everything that is scientific, do not repeat the same tale in the same form. Till the proof positive is furnished, or at least till reasonable grounds for believing such a very extraordinary thing are supplied us, nobody will be convinced whose opinion is worth a groat.

Of course, we all know very well from our first practical experience of honey, that at first, especially at certain seasons, particularly towards the close of the honey season, it is thin and watery. You may call this crude honey if you like. I do not object to the term. Also, of course, we all know that bees transport the honey from cell to cell. At first they put it into any vacant cell which happens to be ready for it. At night, or on wet or gloomy days, it is carried away if there be a good quantity of it in the cells usually appropriated to the queen's use for breeding purposes, and removed to the permanent honey stores wherever these may be. In process of transfer the bees reswallow it and disgorge it. All this we know well. I for one believe (and it is at least a reasonable belief), that owing to the heat of the hive a great evaporation takes place in the honey, both when deposited temporarily and when transferred, and that it thickens, and, of course, becomes sweeter and richer in the process of thickening. But do not tell me that the bees have a conjuring power hidden somewhere in their diminutive honey sacs, which are scarcely larger than a big pin's head—a power to convert the watery sugarless juice (according to Mr. Pettigrew), extracted from flowers into real honey by means of the sugar latent in the said tiny sacs.

Now for a bit of real "fact." A friend of mine, who is such an enthusiastic bee-keeper that he can never let bees alone wherever he finds them, tells me that about seven weeks ago, happening to be visiting a lady in Staffordshire who keeps bees, he offered to take her honey for her. This was done, and on carefully examining the combs, which were rich in honey in open cells among the brood as well as in the upper stores of the hive, he could see no difference in the honey. What was in the open cells was just as rich and as perfect honey as that which was sealed-up. He pointed out the circumstance to his hostess in special reference to Mr. Pettigrew's theory, with which he was well acquainted. Now, I do not mean to say that this uniform richness is to be found under all circumstances and in every season alike the same. I know it to be otherwise. But in this instance the bees were still hard at work bringing honey into the hive; and it is a proof of the remarkable productiveness of the season, that quite to the last the honey was as rich or nearly so as it had been at the beginning.

There was no crude honey in the hive at all. Can Mr. Pettigrew account for this on his theory? Usually the case is very different. In this country, at least, our honey is uniformly thick and very rich in May. It is gathered from the April and May fruit blossoms, especially from the apple blossoms. In June that gathered from the early white clover is still rich, though paler than that gathered earlier. In the latter part of July and early August it is often very thin and poor with an acrid flavor; and at this time, when the honey harvest usually takes place, there will be found all the difference which Mr. Pettigrew describes between his crude syrup in the open cells and the richer honey stored in the upper part of the hive.

Scientific and Useful.

THE GERM THEORY OF DISEASE.

Scientists are continually pushing their investigations deeper and deeper into the secreted recesses of nature in search of the cause of various diseases the origin of which has so long remained a mystery to man. The more thorough their investigations the more apparent it becomes that nearly all diseases of animals, and plants, arise from some kind of a parasite. These may belong to the animal or vegetable kingdom, but in a majority of instances they are so minute that it is difficult to learn much of their nature or the conditions under which they develope and multiply.

It has long been held by some of our scientists that fevers of various kinds are caused by the presence of some minute parasitic fungus, which has been absorbed by the system either from the air or food. Fever and ague is probably caused by one species, typhoid fever by another, and yellow fever by still another, and so on through the entire list of diseases to which human flesh is subject.

We notice that this fungoid theory of the origin of diseases is gaining ground rapidly among our best thinkers, and most scientific investigators, and although it is not what might be termed a new theory, still the means for determining its accuracy were so limited in former times that it is only of late years scientists have been enabled to make any positive progress in producing cogent facts and data bearing upon the affirmative side of this question.

We notice that Prof. Tyndall, in opening the winter course of popular scientific lectures in Glasgow selected this germ theory of epidemic disease for his opening discourse. He stated that two hundred years ago, Robert Boyle wrote in his essay on the Pathological Part of Physic, "that he that thoroughly understands the nature of ferments and fermentations shall probably be much better able than he that ignores them to give a fair account of divers phenomena of several diseases (as well fevers as others) which will, perhaps, be never properly understood without an insight into the doctrine of fermentations." But it was only in this our day that men were beginning to realize the truth of these pregnant words.

In the domain of surgery, Professor Lister of Edinburgh, had demonstrated in his antiseptic treatment that the putrefaction of wounds was to be averted by the destruction of bactria. Passing from surgery to the domain of medicine, he said the conviction was spreading and growing daily in strength, that reproductive parasitic life was at the root of epidemic disease—that living ferments finding lodgment in the body increased there and multiplied, directly ruining the tissue on which they subsisted, or destroying life indirectly by the generation of poisonous compounds within the body. This conclusion, which came to us with a presumption almost amounting to demonstration, had been clinched by the fact that virulently infective diseases had been discovered with which living organisms were as closely and as indissolubly connected as the growth of torula was with the fermentation of beer. And here he wished to utter a warning to well-meaning people.

We had now reached a phase of this question when it was of the very last importance that light should once for all be thrown upon the manner in which contagious and infectious diseases take root and spread. To this end the action of various ferments upon the organs and tissues of the living body must be studied, the habit of each special organism concerned in the production of each specific disease must be determined, and the mode by which its germs are spread abroad as sources of further infection. It was only by such rigidly accurate inquiries that we could obtain final and complete mastery over these destroyers. Hence, while abhorring cruelty of all kinds, while shrinking sympathetically from all animal suffering—suffering which his own pursuits never called upon him to inflict, an unbiased survey of the field of research now opening out before the physiologist caused him to conclude that no greater calamity could befall the human race than the stoppage of experimental inquiry in this direction.

A lady whose philanthropy had rendered her illustrious, said to him some time ago that science was becoming immoral; that the researches of the past, unlike those of the present were carried on without cruelty. He replied to her that the science of Kepler and Newton, to which she referred, dealt with the laws and phenomena of inorganic matter, but that one great advance made by modern science was in the direction of biology or the science of life, and that in this new direction scientific inquiry, though at the outset pursued at the cost of some temporary suffering, would in the end prove a thousand times more beneficent than it had hitherto been. It was exceedingly important that such assemblies as that which he was addressing should see clearly the issues at stake in such questions as this, and that the properly informed common sense of the community should temper, if not restrain, the rashness of those who, meaning to be tender, would virtually enact the most hideous cruelty by the imposition of short-sighted restrictions upon physiological investigation. It was a modern instance of zeal for God, but not according to knowledge, the excesses of which zeal an instructed public opinion must correct.

Floricultural.

PLANT FERTILIZATION.—LOBELIA SYPHILITICA.

The way in which plants are fertilized is at present, more than ever before, a subject of general interest, and it is one from which every admirer of flowers, whether a botanist or not, may derive instruction. Many flowers may or do fertilize themselves. Many depend upon the wind to carry the pollen from the male to the female. Others are wholly dependent, it would seem, upon insects for their fertilization, and among this last class we propose to speak of *Lobelias*, selecting *L. syphilitica* for illustration. This is the blue or purple Cardinal Flower that appears to prefer moist, half-shady places, and may be found in the fresh water marshes bordering rivers and streamlets. The petal-like filaments of the stamens, though separate below, are coherent above, and with their anthers form a slender tube, the anthers looking inward. The pistil in the bud is quite short, lengthening as the bud unfolds, until finally the stigma has made its way through this tube for the distance, it may be, of an eighth of an inch or more, much the same as if one should push his finger through the finger of a glove with the end cut off, the end of the finger representing the stigma, the rest of the finger the style, and the shortened glove-finger the tube of the united filaments and anthers. Now, the anthers mature and burst at the same time, or a little before the stigma of the elongating style reaches them, filling the little, round cavity (the sides of which are the united anthers, and the bottom of which is the closely-fitting stigma) with pollen. The elevation of the stigma by the continued growth of the style presses upon this pollen, causing it to ooze out at the top of the tube, the same as water would issue from the top of a syringe if the piston-rod were very gently pressed. If flour could be substituted in the syringe for water, the analogy would be closer. It would appear, therefore, that inasmuch as the pollen of every flower rests upon the stigma for a considerable time (from twelve to forty-eight hours), the ovules are necessarily impregnated by the pollen of the anthers of the same flower. Indeed, if our observations were to cease at this stage, we could arrive at no other conclusion.

After watching the flowers of *Lobelia syphilitica* as long as our patience could be coaxed to hold out every day for a week or so, and not seeing a single insect upon any one of the one hundred flowers before us, we should ourselves have concluded that they must be self-fertilizing, were it not for the fact that the stigmas, so far as we could judge, were never ripened or fit for the reception of the pollen until they had passed through and beyond the coherent anthers. In a neighboring field and along the banks of a lively stream, we happened one day upon a plantation of this *Lobelia*, consisting of scores of plants in every stage of bloom, and here we were not obliged to wait long for a full understanding of what we had wasted many hours over in our own garden.

Let us now note that the corolla consists of two lips, the posterior (upper) having two erect lobes, the lower recurved and more spreading. As soon as the pollen bursts the cells of the anthers, the pistil begins to recurve toward the lower lip, somewhat as a fish-hook is curved, though less, so that the top of the stamen tube almost rests upon the lower lobes of the corolla. It is just here that a bee or other insect would naturally light in order to procure the honey secretions within.

A big bumble-bee was the first visitor, and indeed the only one whose behavior we need record. Forcing his head and thorax beneath the crooked end of the staminate tube or pistil, if the latter had yet sufficiently protruded, and between it and the lower lip of the corolla, the tip of the tube or stigma, as may be, pressing upon the middle of the thorax would part the hairs to the right and left the same as the hair of one's head is parted with a comb.

When the bee selected flowers in that stage in which the pollen was being forced out of the tube, there was always a quantity on the outside adhering to that within. This, of course, would necessarily be deposited upon the thorax of the bee as he entered the flower, and, from its different color, marked the "part" so distinctly that it could be seen half-a-dozen feet away. When the bee, withdrawing from this flower, visited another, it was as likely as not to happen that all of the pollen had been forced through and out, and that the pistil, maturing afterward and having made its way through the tube, was ready to receive the pollen which was to creep down the style and to perform its part in the creation of embryos in the ovules of the ovary. This pollen was abundantly supplied to the ripened stigma by the "part" of the thorax of the bumble-bee.

The stigma, before maturity and while—from the growth of the style—it is slowly making its way through the tube of stamens, is surrounded with a fringe of short hairs. After the stigma has made its way through, it begins to swell and ripen. Two convex lobes are developed, and the fringe of hairs is now covered by these lobes and may be seen underneath. Had the stigma matured while still within the tube, its increasing size would have split the anther tube, and thus no cross-fertilization could occur, since the stigmas, ripened within the tube, could alone come in contact with pollen of the same flower. The fringe of short hairs, it may be supposed, acts to rid the anthers of every grain of pollen, for, though we divided lengthwise in two perhaps twenty tubes after the stigmas had passed through them, not a grain of pollen was visible.

In several instances, the stigma was caught or held in the anther tube. The style, continuing to grow, thrust itself between and outside of the filaments, where the latter were not united, in the shape of a bow. One of these which we marked did not perfect seeds, which, so far as it goes, is evidence either that the stigma did not mature when thus confined, or that the pollen is not potent upon the stigma of the same flower.

TUBEROSE CULTURE IN GEORGIA.

I see an invitation, in the last number of the Rural, to "Rural Floriculturists" to write about some favorite plant with which they have had pleasant experience and success during the season just past. Now, I think this a grand idea, and I hope that all the old and young male and female Ruralists will avail themselves of this broad invitation. For myself, I have so many pets in the Floral family, I am at a loss about which one to begin my gossip. Perhaps my Tuberoses will interest as many of the lovers of flowers as any other plant that comes under the care of any of the Rural family.

Early in the year, in a January number of the Rural, our much-admired friend, "Daily Rural Life," called attention to the fact that in the Southern States was the best climate for the successful cultivation of Tuberose bulbs and asked Southern Ruralists to try the experiment, as the continued length of our summer seasons would give longer time for the full growth and development of their flowering qualities. Having followed a great many of the suggestions thrown out by that able and sometimes caustic writer, and finding them always practical and successful, I concluded to try this one, and accordingly laid off one-quarter of an acre in one corner of my grounds, where the soil was a stiff clay, made light and friable by the addition of well-rotted manure, and where there was a bright, sunny exposure facing the east. I had the soil spaded up about twelve inches deep, well pulverized, and laid off in rows about eighteen inches apart and about four inches deep. It was then ready for planting. I had taken up my Tuberoses last winter and stored them under the bench of my greenhouse, where they kept very well. I took them out and pulled off all the little offsets and bulblets, until I had entirely stripped the main bulb of all its incumbrances. I then had three classes of bulbs ready for planting—the main or center bulbs being large enough to bloom this season; the second size being such as would make fine, large bulbs for flowering the next season, and the third size being very small, some not much larger than large grains of corn, and which would take two years to bring them into flowering bulbs.

I planted the large size first, about four inches deep, and covered them firmly in the soil; the second size about three inches deep, and the third size about one and a-half inches deep. The planting was done on the 10th of April, which is about the time we commence to plant cotton in this climate. I cultivated them as I would onions, with hoe and rake. About the 10th of August the large-sized bulbs were in full bloom, and had the largest and most thrifty-looking flower-stalks I ever saw. The second size grew well, but have not bloomed. A few, however, have started flower-stalks, and I have had them taken up and potted for winter-flowering in the greenhouse. The smallest size have grown vigorously, and now look as if they would make good flowering bulbs for another year. We have not yet had sufficient frost to kill the tops down to the ground; I have not yet, therefore, taken them up to see, but think I will have enough Tuberoses to plant all my ground next year and also have a few to spare for those who have not succeeded so well.

I think that your idea of the South being the most suitable place for the cultivation of Tuberose bulbs is fully verified in my experience this year. I would be glad to hear from any others who may have caught the same idea last spring and tried to carry it out. J. G. R.

Griffin, Ga.

MISCELLANEA.

Let me give the Rural readers, who chance not to be possessed of it already, a little information that I obtained some years ago; and if plants happen to be scarce, as was the case with me, it may prove convenient to put it in practice. When at the end of summer you are cutting down your Snap-dragons, save the trimmings and pot them singly in small pots: keep them away from the frost and do not allow the soil to get dry. When warm weather again comes you will find them all rooted and growing nicely. They will not make large plants, but they will blossom beautifully all summer, and, when set pretty closely together in a bed, are quite satisfactory-looking, I think. M. W.

Paquonoc Bridge.

Entomological.

ENEMIES OF THE HICKORY.

Few persons who have never had occasion to study that branch of Entomology known as "Coleopterology" would imagine that our common Hickories are infested by at least a score of insect enemies, the most destructive of which belong to the order of Coleoptera, or what are more generally termed Beetles.

Hickories, as seen in the forests, are quite healthy and apparently free from insect depredators, still the entomologist can usually find evidence of the presence of enemies, even where the trees appear to the inexperienced eye to be most vigorous and healthy. Many a branch or twig will be found completely girdled and dead, and this marks the presence of what is known as the Twig-girdler (*Oncideres cingulatus*—Say), a very pretty "long-horn" beetle, nearly an inch in length and of a grayish color, with a broad, brownish band across the anterior portion of the wing-covers, technically termed the "elytra."

The female beetles only girdle the twigs of the trees, and they do not confine their depredations to the Hickories, but frequently invade Apple-orchards, doing considerable damage by causing the death of many a branch which the orchardist can ill afford to spare. In girdling a branch this beetle cuts a narrow groove entirely around it, through the bark and into the softer outer layers of wood, thus preventing any further circulation of the sap, and all above the incision soon dies.

For a long time after this insect was known to entomologists the object of the girdling remained a mystery, but at last it was discovered that before the female makes the incision, or during the time she may rest from her labors while performing the operation, she deposits several eggs upon the bark above. These eggs hatch, and the young grubs immediately penetrate into the center of the twig. It appears from this that instinct teaches the female beetle that the young grubs require soft, green bark and wood during the early stages of their existence and hard and dry wood when they become older, consequently the eggs are laid upon the green branches during the month of August, and she then proceeds to girdle the twig in order to furnish her progeny with dead wood in September and the months following. Many of these girdled twigs are broken off by the winds of autumn, especially where the trees are much exposed; but this seldom occurs with trees in the woods. Hence we must conclude that the breaking and falling of twigs are more in the nature of an accident than by design on the part of this insect, as has been claimed by some writers.

The depredations of this beetle amount to but little, however, while it confines itself to the large Hickory or other trees in the forests, for the loss of a few terminal twigs of the side branches is of small account, but when these insects are abundant in the Apple-orchards and when they attack the terminal shoots of young Hickories in the nurseries or on plantations where they are cultivated for hoop-poles, it becomes a matter of considerable importance. The best method we know of for checking the multiplication of this insect is to gather, during the fall and winter, all the girdled and dead twigs containing the larvæ and burn them, with their contents.

Another pest of the Hickory, and belonging to the same order and family as the Twig-girdler, is the Pointed Clytus (*Cyllene pictus*—Drury). This beautiful beetle very closely resembles the common Locust-tree borer (*C. robiniæ*), but it appears in early spring, while the latter is found only late in summer or in early autumn. This Hickory borer prefers half-dead trees to those which are growing vigorously, and a Hickory wood-pile is its delight, especially one made from live trees the previous winter.

We have seen cords of Hickory completely honey-combed by the larvæ of this beetle in a few months, thereby greatly lessening the value of the wood. If asked how best to check the increase of this insect, we should be at a loss to suggest a preventive beyond that of encouraging the presence of insectivorous birds of large size, especially the Woodpecker and the Crow.

Destructive as are the two species of beetle we have mentioned, there is another which bids fair to become the chief among the foes of the Hickories in general, for it attacks all the species alike, not sparing either old or young. We refer to the Four-spined Scolytus (*S. 4-spinosus* of Say). This is a very small beetle, less than a quarter of an inch long and about one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter. The males have four minute spines on the posterior joints of the abdomen. Hence the name, *4-spinosus*. These beetles bore through the bark of the trees, making a very small hole, scarcely observable to a person not accustomed to looking for such enemies; but when once inside the bark, the work of destruction performed by this insect goes on quite rapidly. The female makes a shallow, perpendicular cavity, half its depth in the soft wood and the other half in the inner bark, and altogether about one inch in length. Along each side of this burrow she deposits her eggs, about as near together as they can be conveniently placed. So soon as the eggs hatch, the young grubs move outward at right angles from the central burrow, feeding upon the soft, alburnous matter between the bark and wood, thereby cutting off the downward flow of sap and, when numerous enough, as effectually girdling the tree as our Twig-girdler does the smallest branch.

Not long since we cut down a Hickory which was infested by this pest, and we can say without exaggeration that there were millions of these grubs under the bark. Of course it would be next to an impossibility to apply any preventive to the bark of large trees, and perhaps not at all practicable to do so to small ones, consequently we must look to the birds for relief from this pest, which is becoming so fearfully abundandant all through the Northern States that Hickory groves, situated at some distance from large forests, and where birds are not plentiful are in great danger of being destroyed by this minute pest.

THE PINE SAW-FLY.

Evergreen trees are usually quite free from insect depredators, especially when the trees are young and growing in nurseries or ornamental grounds. Occasionally, however, insect pests appear, and if they are not vigorously assailed they will do an immense amount of injury in a very brief period of time.

The Pines are especially liable to the attacks of several species of the Saw-fly, and so rapidly do they work that a few days will suffice to denude a large tree of its foliage. One of the most common of these Saw-flies is the *Lophyrus Abbotii*—Leach, and it seems to prefer the large and coarse-leaved kinds, such as the Austrian and Pitch Pines, to the White and other more delicate species.

The flies are about half an inch long, the male a jet black and the female a honey yellow, with pale yellow legs. They appear in June and deposit their eggs upon the leaves of the trees which are to furnish the larvæ with food. The grubs, when fully grown, are nearly an inch long and of a dirty yellow color, ornamented with numerous black marks along the sides. They are quite social in their habits, crowding together upon the branches and fairly covering the leaves while feeding. When once they attack a branch, they do not leave it until every leaf is devoured, and then they pass on to the next.

Our entomological authorities state that there is but a single brood of this insect in a season. If this is true, then it is one of the longest-lived of our leaf-eating pests, for we have had them with us from June until late in November. It is one of the few larvæ which seem to be indifferent to either heat or cold.

We have already had some pretty hard frosts up to this date, Nov. 14, and yet a neighbor has just brought us some of these grubs taken from his Pine trees. For several years past we have noticed that these Saw-fly larvæ remained upon the trees till very late in the fall, and that it required a hard freeze to make them leave off feeding and descend to the earth, where they spin their cocoons among the old leaves and other vegetable matter.

The cocoons are about three-eighths of an inch long and one-eighth of an inch in diameter, and when first completed are of a pure, silky, white color, but soon become bronze, or brownish, by exposure. We have some cocoons before us now that were spun by worms which were kept for a few days in a box. They are of a snow-white color and do not show any indication of changing to the color of those which we have frequently gathered from under Evergreen trees.

These grubs, when found upon the trees, can be readily destroyed by applications of whale-oil, soap, tobacco water, or by dusting with caustic lime when the trees are wet with dew or rain. If their destruction is neglected one season, they are pretty certain to become very numerous and troublesome the next.

Domestic Economy.

LACE CURTAINS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Inter-Ocean has a mode of doing up lace curtains which is very simple and easy :

First, shake the dust well out of the lace, then put in tepid water, in which a little soda has been dissolved, and wash at once with the hands in several waters, if necessary to make them free from dust and color. Then blue the rinsing water, and blue the boiled starch quite deeply, as the lace looks less blue when hung against the light. Then, having pinned down the sheets in a vacant, airy room, pin on the curtains very closely, stretched to exactly the size they were before being wet. In a few hours they will be dry and ready to put up again at the windows. The whole process of washing and pinning down should occupy as little time as possible, as lace will shrink more than any other cotton goods when long wet. Above all, it should not be allowed to "soak" from the mistaken idea that it washes more easily. Nor should it ever be ironed, as it looks quite fresh and new if properly dried.

After having the supervision of the washing and drying of seventy-five pairs of lace curtains for several years, we conceived a way by which the tedious labor of pinning the lace to the floor could be avoided. We ordered from the carpenter a set of frames very like the old-fashioned "quilting frames," thickly studded along the inside with the smallest size of galvanized tenter hooks in which to fasten the lace, with holes and wooden pins to vary the size to suit the different sizes of curtains. When lace curtains are to be washed they should be measured before being wet, and stretched in the frames to that size to prevent shrinking. It takes but a few moments to fasten the curtains, and five or six can be put in, one above another, and all dried at once. The frames can rest on four chairs. The cost of them was $4—the price of having one good pair done away from home—and made very tender, and even useless after a year or two. They have proved a great saving of labor and time, a thorough success, and we find them a most satisfactory aid in our system of domestic economy.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

To Make a Rabbit Taste Like Hare.—Choose one that is of good size. Skin it, and lay it in a seasoning of black pepper and allspice, ground, a glass of Port Wine, the same quantity of vinegar, turn it over occasionally. Let it remain in the seasoning forty hours then take it out. Do not wash it, but stuff it and roast it as a hare.

To Fry Rabbits.—Cut them in joints, and fry them to a nice brown in butter; send them to the table with fried parsley or liver gravy.

Rabbits Stewed.—Take a couple of rabbits; divide them in quarters, flour them, and fry them in butter, then put them in a stew pan, with some good gravy, and a glass of white wine; season with pepper, salt, and a sprig of sweet herbs, cover them down close, and let them stew until tender; then take them up, strain off the sauce, thicken with flour and butter and pour it over them.

Celery Stewed Brown.—Cut the celery in small pieces, half boil and drain it. Then stew it in some good gravy, with a little red wine, pepper, salt, nutmeg and a little catsup. When tender, mix a little flour smooth in the gravy and boil it all up. Serve hot.

Cabbage and Sausages.—Cut the cabbage very thin, put it into the stew-pan with a small piece of ham, an ounce of butter at the bottom, half a pint of broth, and a little vinegar. Let it stew three hours. When it is tender add a little more broth, salt, pepper, and a tablespoonful of pounded sugar. Boil till the liquor is sufficiently wasted. Then put it into the dish and lay fried sausages on the top.

To Fry Sausage With Apples.—Take one pound of sausage, and a dozen apples, slice eight of the apples an eighth of an inch thick. Cut the other two in quarters. Fry them with the sausage a fine light-brown. Lay the sausage in the middle of the dish, and the apples round the outside. Garnish with the quartered apples. Serve with mashed potatoes.—MRS. E. J. K.

SELECTED RECIPES.

A Compote of Oranges.—Put a handful of loaf sugar to boil with a gill of water in a sauce-pan; when it boils add the rinds of three oranges minced finely or cut into very narrow strips. Let the whole boil five minutes, add a wine glass of brandy, and pour the sirup (hot) over half a dozen whole oranges, peeled and cored—or cut up in any form you like. The oranges should be left in a basin with the sirup till quite cold; and then piled up on a dish and served. They look and eat extremely nice.

Quick Doughnuts.—1 cup butter, 2 of sugar, 4 eggs, 1 cup sour milk, 1 teaspoonful or less of soda dissolved in hot water, 1 teaspoonful cinnamon, little nutmeg, flour to roll in pretty soft dough. Fry in hot lard.

Pickled Apples.—Three pounds of sugar, seven pounds of apples quartered and cored, one pint of vinegar. Steam the apples until a fork will go through them readily. Then make a sirup of the sugar and vinegar and pour over them while hot. Stick a clove or two in each quarter. Very nice.

Baked Cauliflower with Parmesan Cheese.—Take the green leaves from two large heads of cauliflower; cook the heads in salted water, with a small lump of butter; drain them; have ready a buttered baking-dish, spread in it a handful of grated cheese and fine crackers, season the cauliflower inside and outside pretty highly with salt, pepper and nutmeg; set the heads in the dish, and give them the form of a dome; in another sauce-pan have a pint of bechamel sauce; when boiling, mix with it the yolks of four eggs and two ounces of grated Parmesan cheese, work it to a firm consistency, boil a moment, spread that sauce over the cauliflower, and smooth with the blade of a knife; sprinkle over the top some mixed grated cheese and fine crackers, and small bits of butter; bake twenty minutes in a warm oven, and serve in the baking dish.

Oatmeal For Breakfast.—Take a pint of oatmeal mush, stir in two eggs well beaten, and a small piece of butter; put into a well-buttered shallow pan, and bake a nice brown. We sometimes have the mush left from tea, and this is a nice way to use it.

Hygienic Information.

CONCERNING SIMPLES.—No. 1.

A KNOWLEDGE of simples is not always simple knowledge, and it is well to have some idea of the possibilities of medicinal plants, as it is not an unusual experience to be at times, beyond the clutch of a friendly doctor. Besides, doctors do sometimes disagree, while as between one's self and one's mind there should exist the serenest and most perfect accord. Moreover, if one should effect a cure in one's own case, such ironical apostrophies as "physician heal thyself!" would, it can be plainly seen, have no sting.

In the Middle Ages doctors placed their sole reliance on simples, which may account for the fact that later, those who swallowed anything that was seizable came to be known a simple people!

The herb doctor, in those halcyon days was burdened with no very strong prejudices against the fair sex, hence old ladies took to "yarbs" very kindly, and in a short time quite monopolized the business.

The medicinal qualities of plants were mainly determined by their color, odor, and peculiarities of structure, which it seems idle to add, are not exactly infallible. By rigidly adhering to such rules, and not allowing for exceptions, the system in time came to grief, and it was not until men trained in botanical pursuits again agitated the value of herbs as remedies, that simples regained their hold on the confidence of the ailing.

For example, charlatans insisted, notwithstanding the evidence of their eyes, that mandrake roots closely resembled the human form divine, hence, nothing was more natural than to claim for them great potency in all the ills that barbaric flesh was heir to. For the same reason saxifrage (break-stone) was thought to be a specific for gravel complaints; wallwort, because it grew among rocks, must certainly be anticalculus; the lung-wort with its velvety leaves and white spots was a "dead shot" in pulmonary troubles; the spear-wort, on account of the likeness between its roots, and tubercles, was thought to be excellent for hemorrhoids.

The bite of mad dogs was sure to be neutralized by a certain kind of plantain, and jaundice found a specific in a plant as yellow as the appearance of the disease.

Blood-wort was certainly created as a specific for blood-spitting, or why, they argued, should it be red! Superstition played her part by attributing to the agency of the devil the peculiar severed appearance of certain roots, which were deemed of great curative importance, because forsooth, his majesty wished to destroy a plant that prolonged life!

Euphrasia (eye-bright) was, and I believe is, considered good for sore eyes; is even of service in cases of cataract. Our ancestors thought so because they saw a resemblance between its flowers and the eye.

Examples such as these could be strung out indefinitely, but I have cited enough to show that medicinal plants were adopted and used for very funny reasons, and yet some of the plants mentioned are good for just the maladies indicated. It remained for others to determine precisely why. C. H. E. R.

HEALTH AT THE "CENTENNIAL."

IN your issue of Nov. 4th, you referred—and very properly—to the report of Medical Director PEPPER of the Centennial Commission. I have been an exhibitor at the Centennial Exhibition, and have been there during the entire exhibition when my health would permit. My business and business interests are principally in Philadelphia, and I reside near the city, therefore have no possible motive to misrepresent so important a matter as health. The scattered character of the city is conducive to good health. Agricultural visitors noted the "scattered" character of the exhibition. Although the exhibition buildings seemed well devised and stood upon comparatively high ground, they, in some way, contained prolific germs of disease, and a fearful proportion of the exhibitors and visitors suffered severe sickness in consequence, and numerous cases known to the writer terminated fatally. The writer was most of the time in Machinery Hall, the exhibitors of which were perhaps rather more closely confined than those of the other buildings. The floor of this building was laid directly upon the ground, and was very damp during the entire exhibition. I saw portions of the floor, in different parts of the building, taken up during different stages of the exhibition, and, in every instance, the ground was very damp—in some cases actually muddy.

Since the close of the Exhibition, the floors have been removed from over the railroad tracks, which traverse the building lengthwise, and I noticed long puddles of filthy water standing between the tracks now exposed. These puddles have a greenish-yellow scum upon their surface. It is, perhaps, unnecessary for the thousands of Centennial sufferers to look further for the cause of their sickness. A large majority of exhibitors or attendants in Machinery Hall *were* sufferers, and among them

WACAUTAH.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF QUINIA.

DR. E. L. DRAKE, of Fayetteville, Tenn., has published in the Med. and Surg. Reporter, some of his experience and conclusions respecting the physiological action of quinia.

He says, at least three different physiological effects can be obtained from this drug. In doses up to two grains it is a tonic; from this to five grains it is a stimulant, and from that to ten grains or more it is a diaphoretic relaxant and calmative—a febrifuge. The amount of twenty-four grains distributed over twenty-four hours may have some anti-periodic effect in a mild type of ague, but will prove very disagreable to the patient, on account of cinchonism. If he has any headache, it will aggravate this symptom. If this amount be divided into three doses and taken within four hours, at any time after a pyrexia has reached its height, say after 4 P. M., the toxic effect will be apparent in the relaxation and diaphoresis; the patient will be drunk. A half pint of whiskey can be taken in small doses during a day without inducing intoxication; yet, if it is all taken in the course of two or three hours the individual will be apt to exhibit strong evidence of being in this state. So with chloroform and ether.

I make it a rule never to give quinine in the forenoon, always giving it at night, to the amount of not less than twenty-five grains, conjoined with an opiate, and am nearly certain of getting a good diaphoretic effect, which will be apt to extend through the succeeding day. In all the pyrexia of this region I prescribe it the first visit, and frequently have the satisfaction of aborting a case of pneumonia, or making its subsequent course manageable. In the pneumonias of the middle-aged, who are so liable to overwhelming congestions of the lungs, it is the sheet-anchor, given in large doses at the outset.

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SATURDAY, NOV. 25, 1876.

HORTICULTURAL PROGRESS.

TWENTY-FIVE years in the history of the world is but a very brief period of time, still, like an additional inch in the length of a man's nose, it amounts to considerable when taken from, or added to, the life of a human being. The same truth holds good in taking a retrospective view of the developments and progress made in the various industries of our country during the past quarter of a century, and perhaps in none is it more manifestly apparent than in Horticulture. It is true, however, that we cannot claim to have made any wonderful discoveries, by the aid of which plants may be multiplied with the same celerity as signals are sent by telegraph; but the general dissemination of horticultural information among the masses has kept pace with the progress made in other departments of science and art.

The various operations which were formerly supposed to be the peculiar secrets of the horticultural fraternity—such as grafting, budding, propagating by cuttings of roots, ripe and green wood, crossing and hybridizing—are now the common property of one and all who will take the trouble to read the works published on these subjects.

Twenty-five years ago the great nurseries of Central New York, located at Syracuse, Rochester, Geneva and throughout the entire region of country extending from Albany to Buffalo, were but mere embryos of what they have since become. The man who at that time had his ten acres of apple or pear trees, was fearful that he could not find a market for so large a number of trees; in fact, "overstocking the market," was a topic frequently discussed among the Nurserymen of that day. But the very men who then were fearful of the consequences of planting fifty acres in nursery, have since increased the number to five or six hundred in some instances, and still find sale for all the stock produced. It is not only in Central New York where such progress has been made in the extending of nurseries, but like great establishments have sprung up all over the Western, Middle and Southern States.

The demand at first, in all newly-settled regions, is mainly for apple, pear and other fruit trees and useful plants; but time and the improvement in the financial condition of the inhabitants, bring with them a desire for the ornamental, and the Nurseryman finds himself compelled to be ever on the alert to meet the wants of his patrons. He is now no longer the sole possessor of the knowledge that a new fruit or ornamental plant has been produced in Europe or elsewhere, or one found in far-off China or Japan, for his neighbors and customers have also heard and read all about it and perhaps booked it for their next order, with thanks to such periodicals as the RURAL NEW-YORKER and its numerous able contemporaries, who note weekly what is going on in the horticultural world.

We might fill columns in mentioning the new fruits and plants introduced during the period named, also give scores of amusing and interesting instances of personal history of our leading Horticulturists; but it is, perhaps, enough to say that all have labored to bring about the grand results which are to be seen on every side in the magnificent orchards, splendid gardens and conservatories, filled with the choicest fruits and flowers that patient industry, time, skill and money can produce.

CHARITY AND ALMS-GIVING.

"THE melancholy days are come;" the sharp frosts have played havoc with the foliage, and that which a few days ago was bright and joy-giving, is now black and desolate and drear. The trees are now putting off their gorgeous drapery of crimson and gold and brown, stripping as if for a wrestling match with the winds of winter. The clouds look cold; ice forms over the still water; and all nature warns us that summer is past. The bees have provided their stores of honey; the squirrels are gathering nuts for future use and provident men have saved from their summer surplus, that which will serve them during the long, cold months that intervene between now and another spring-time.

But some men are not provident. Too many readily obey, literally, the injunction, "Take no thought for the morrow, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink or wherewithal ye shall be clothed." When the morrow comes they find themselves wanting the wherewithal to meet its demands and, in their necessity, turn to others for assistance. The professional tramp who has, during the summer, subsisted on the country by begging or stealing, as was most convenient or least laborious, has already turned cityward, scenting from afar, in imagination, the odors of the prospective charity soup-kettles; while the city beggar, who is always with us, turning ever a deaf ear to country allurements connected, as they are, with so much muscular energy as is necessary to walk from place to place—elongates still more the facial angle, drills the lachrymose glands into due subjection, cultivates an additional whine, and is ready for a fresh campaign.

It is these classes that dry up the milk of human kindness in the benevolent bosom. Many who would willingly relieve suffering, dread imposition. In the country, where each man knows not only his neighbor but all the residents for miles around, it is easy to determine who are worthy of assistance; but in town, where applications for aid are continually made by entire strangers, it is impossible to detect impostors. Some say, "Give whenever you can—your reward will be for your good intentions." But indiscriminate alms-giving is as injurious as it is unwise. It is offering an incentive to beggary and paying a premium for dishonesty. The charitably-intended soup-houses of our larger cities and towns are without doubt, as a rule, curses to the communities in which they exist. Such of our associations for the relief of the poor as conduct their affairs with as careful scrutiny as is possible, are constantly deceived, cheated and swindled. Many of those who apply for assistance might earn their living if they did not prefer beggary to labor. But how is one to decide where and in what manner to dispense such amount as can be readily spared, so that it shall be of the greatest service to others?

It is difficult to give general rules to meet all cases, but we would suggest that it is usually wise to help those who are willing and trying to help themselves. There are many who, from extravagance, foolish pride or want of economy, waste more every year than is necessary to support a small family respectably. It is this class that are constant borrowers when and where they can, and who are offended if asked to return the loan. Who does not know them? With fair incomes they never save, but are always behind-hand with their payments. We have no sympathy for such, and are inclined to think it not only unwise but wrong to help them. If they suffer, so be it—serves them right. When they had the opportunity they would not take the trouble to insure themselves against future want, and when their day of need comes others are not bound by any law of justice or morality to help them. If they have wasted their substance in riotous living, let them for a while subsist upon husks. DIVES, in his time, feasted while LAZARUS lay famishing at his gate; but afterward his prayers for even a drop of water went unanswered.

There are few who are so fortunate as not to have among their relatives, friends or acquaintances, deserving people who are in need of assistance. Even among the provident are often found those who know the bitterness of unavoidable poverty—those who, from no act or omission of their own, are in circumstances that make them dread the approach of winter. Many of them in former years may have lived in affluence, which makes their present condition seem more unbearable. This class should not be allowed to ask aid, but should be solicited to share your abundance.

It is always well, when possible, to bestow your money where you can see that good use is made of it; and, as a rule, it is better to pay than to give. He who furnishes lucrative employment, does better service than he who gives alms. Contributing to benevolent institutions is one way to satisfy conscience with but little trouble: and many of these institutions are worthy of support. Satisfy yourself that they are honestly and well managed, and then give until you are satisfied.

If you are at a loss what to do with ten or a hundred dollars, you can probably find no better almoner than your family physician. A judicious doctor—man or woman—will be able to make the same amount of money do the most real service; probably ten times as much as you can. Penetrating as they do into the secret life of many families, they see real want and suffering where others would never imagine it existed, and such men can often do great good with little money.

But in your distribution, remember the difference between alms-giving and charity. PAUL says:—"Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and have not charity" (*i. e.*, brotherly love) "it profiteth me nothing." And again, "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity, for GOD loveth a cheerful giver."

RURAL NOTES.

State Dairymen's Association. The Sixth Annual Convention of the New York State Dairymen's Association, and Board of Trade, will be held at the Academy of Music, Elmira, on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 13-14. In selecting Elmira as the place of meeting the Executive Committee were guided by a desire to accommodate the dairymen of the southern tier of counties. The programme is as follows:—Opening address by the President, X. A. WILLARD. The following gentlemen will read papers, or speak on the topics specified:—"Breeds of Cows for Dairy." Holsteins—Col. H. C. HOFFMAN, of Elmira, N. Y. Short-Horns—Hon. HARRIS LEWIS, of Frankfort, N. Y. Ayrshires—Dr. E. L. STURTEVANT, of Farmingham, Mass. Jerseys—W. L. RUTHERFORD, of Waddington, N. Y. H. A. MOTT, Jr., E. M. Ph. D., of New York—"Milk." J. M. PETERS, of New York Grocer—"Commerce of the Dairy." Prof. L. B. ARNOLD, of Rochester—"Dairy Products at the Centennial." All interested are invited to be present. Dairymen are invited to make an exhibition of butter and cheese and dairy utensils, for which committees of award will be appointed.

Many Good Subscribers.—Among the numerous kind words of encouragement received by us constantly, come a few from an appreciative subscriber in the far regions of Chetopa, Kansas. Should each one of our readers have the same intentions, the benefit would accrue to themselves, for we intend to increase the value and interest of the RURAL with the increased circulation. See what is said:

"EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I have always thought that I would make an effort to get up a club for the "dear old RURAL." I am going to try if you will send me the necessary papers. We have taken it for nine years, ever since we came to Kansas, notwithstanding the g. hoppers and drouth, let what would come, the money for our dear paper must be had, if we lived on two meals per day.—M. J. LENHART."

Overworked Editors.—Our excellent contemporary, The Prairie Farmer, announces that the essays, twelve in number, read before the National Agricultural Congress, will be published in its columns. We once heard of an editor of a country paper who was always late with his copy and, upon the last day, would make a pencil mark around a whole page of the Albany Argus and hand it to the foreman of his composition room with the order to "set it up." We wonder if this chap has moved to Chicago?

Poultry Show—Change of Date. The Bergen Co. (N. J.) Poultry Society will hold their First Annual Exhibition at Hackensack, N. J., Nov. 29 30, instead of the 22-23d, as announced in the RURAL October 28. This change in the time of holding the Fair has been made in order to recruit the birds shown at the Centennial and owned by members of this enterprising young Society. Competition open to the whole world, and breeders outside of the State are invited to send along their best birds.

RURAL BREVITIES.

A. D. F.—What did Io die of? Iodide of potassium, to be sure!

WANTED.—A gardener sufficiently muscular to "lay out" our grounds.

WHY is a retired pugilist like a preacher? Because he is an expounder.

AMERICAN apples—especially Newton pippins and the Lady apple—are reported to have made their appearance in Covent Garden Market, London.

THE British dairymen's organ, the London Milk, is not a milk-and-water sheet. A good serial for this paper would be the "Cow with the iron tail."

LI PO's idea of the result.—"One piecee man, all samee TILDEN ely. Hi, my catchee 'lection!' 'Publican men talkee joss-words, 'Damn, no can be—'lithmetic man makee 0 x 0—0?! *My no can tell!*"

A WORD TO EDITORS.—We are happy to see our numerous friends of the fraternity giving full appreciation to the original matter in the RURAL, by reprinting; but would it not be better to give credit occasionally?

A NEW FEATURE of the RURAL will be an Index of New Advertisements on another page and upon this page another Index to the reading matter. These will enable the reader to turn easily to that part of the paper in which he is most interested. We hope this will be a permanent improvement.

A SPECIAL OFFER of the Artichokes described and illustrated in this issue, will be found in the "PUBLISHER'S NOTICES." As our male subscribers have made complaints of being slighted in the matter of special offers, they would do well to examine this one. It is at the bottom of the column headed as above.

MR. WM. H. CARSON is trying to prove the efficacy of rotation. Having been for a long time of the firm of PETER HENDERSON & Co., the celebrated seedsmen, he has now started the same business for himself at 125 Chambers St., N. Y., and announces his intention of sending free his Illustrated Catalogue and Amateur's Guide to the Vegetable and Flower Garden to all applicants. It will be ready Jan. 1, 1877. Send in your applications.

TOM.

Yes, Tom's the best fellow that ever you knew.
Just listen to this:
When the old mill took fire and the flooring fell through,
And I with it helpless, there full in my view,
What do you think my eyes saw through the fire,
That crept along, crept along, nigher and nigher,
But Robin, my baby-boy, laughing to see
The shining? He must have come there after me,
Toddled along from the cottage without
Any one's missing him. Then, what a shout—
Oh! how I shouted, "For Heaven's sake, men,
Save little Robin?" Again and again
They tried, but the fire kept them back like a wall.
I could hear them go at it, and at it, and call,
"Never mind, baby, sit still like a man,
We're coming to get you as fast as we can."
They could not see him, but I could; he sat
Still on a beam, his little straw hat
Carefully placed by his side, and his eyes
Stared at the flame with a baby's surprise,
Calm and unconscious, as nearer it crept.
The roar of the fire up above must have kept
The sound of his mother's voice shrieking his name
From reaching the child. But *I* heard it. It came
Again and again. O God, what a cry!
The axes went faster, I saw the sparks fly
Where the men worked like tigers, nor minding the heat
That scorched them—when, suddenly, there at their feet,
The great beams leaped in—they saw him—then crash,
Down came the wall! The men made a dash—
Jumped out of the way—and I thought
"All's up with poor Robin," and brought
Slowly the arm that was least hurt to hide
The sight of the child there, when swift, at my side,
Some one rushed by, and went right through the flame
Straight as a dart, caught the child—and then came
Back with him—choking and crying, but saved!
Saved safe and sound!

Oh, how the men raved,
Shouted, and cried, and hurrahed! Then they all
Rushed at the work again, lest the back wall
Where I was lying, away from the fire,
Should fall in and bury me.

Oh! you'd admire
To see Robin now, he's as bright as a dime,
Deep in some mischief, too, most of the time;
Tom, it was, saved him! Now isn't it true
Tom's the best fellow that ever you knew?
There's Robin now—see he's strong as a log—
And there comes Tom, too—

Yes, Tom was our dog.

[*Constance Fenimore Woolson*

FASHION NOTES.

New York, Nov. 17, 1876.

Nowadays in selecting material for a costume a lady seldom limits herself to one particular kind of fabric; on the contrary, if she wishes to conform to the prevailing mode—and what lady does not?—she will combine her plain material with striped, plaided or brocaded goods, the quality and texture of which are determined by her individual preference for quiet or decided contrasts.

Nearly all the new goods are presented with a view to contrasts and combinations, and the same colors are observable in silks and woolens, though a similarity of tints is not considered necessary in constructing a fashionable costume. Dark invisible shades of green, blue and gray, together with deep claret and plum tints, are the leading hues for house, street and visiting costumes, while for evening-wear we have cardinal-red, *tilleul*, and cascade green, pale blue and delicate pink. Black is, as ever, a standard color, appropriate for any time or occasion, but the adoption of the dark shades mentioned has caused it to become less general. Another prominent feature of this season's display is the high rank of comparatively inexpensive materials. Silks, satins and velvets are shown in all their regal magnificence, but to such an extent has the manufacturers' art progressed that cashmere, *vigogne*, *de bege* and basket-cloth are now blended in costumes composed in part of these elegant materials.

Dress Goods.

In dress goods we find the silk and wool *damasse*, with palm leaf pattern, forty-eight inches wide, for $3 to $5 a yard, comprising all the new shades. Basket cloths are still popular, and are sold at prices ranging from $2 to $3. Plain camel's hair in all grades and shades, from $1.50 to $8 a yard. Camel's hair suitable for dolmans, in assorted colors, from $2 to $4 a yard. Panama cloths, in variegated stripes, can be had at from $1.50 to $2 a yard. Cashmeres are always fashionable. There are 100 different shades in cashmere and the prices vary from seventy-five cents to $1.50 a yard; the latter is forty-eight inches wide. All-wool brocatelles come in seventeen different shades, and prices that vary from sixty-five cents to $1. Diagonals, Knickerbockers, cheviot suitings, camel's hair cloths, serges, empress and mohairs are still in demand, and saline is again represented. There is no difference in the prices since last season.

Fur cloth, a new goods, looking like corduroy and made of silk and camels hair, is very stylish for travelling and costs from $1 to $1.50 a yard. There is an increased demand for plaids this year and the designs are more pronounced than heretofore. The beautiful Scotch plaids that once were the rage are again on the counters at prices ranging from fifty cents to $2 in double widths. A new thing in cashmere is a small check, in all colors and black, sold at $1.50 a yard. It is very neat. Cheap dress goods are shown in all styles and colors. There is the diagonal serge for twenty-five cents a yard and the imperial serge at the same price. A very good camels hair is offered for thirty cents a yard, and an imperfect serge for thirty-five and forty cents; plaids, in mixed goods, at twenty-five and forty cents the yard; a new goods, called centennial stripe, and French balmoral skirtings, for thirty-seven and a half cents. By this it will be seen that one need not have a fortune to dress well, and if cheap goods have not the quality of the more expensive, they make up with quite as much style.

Cloaks.

The favorite style in cloaks is very long; some almost touch the bottom of the dress. For winter wear the Olga, designed by Emile Pingar, is the most stylish and comfortable thing we saw. It is made of soft beaver cloth, very long, and trimmed around the collar, cuffs and pockets with braid of mammoth width and studded with enormous buttons. Price, $65. A very elegant cloak of black Sicilienne and black velvet, ornamented with passementerie and buttons, mandarin sleeves. This cloak reaches almost to the feet and is of Pingar design. Price, $285. Circulars are going to be very much worn this season, in light and dark cloths, costing from $50 to $75.

Our illustration is of a Ladies Street Costume. The engraving fully illustrates the graceful outline of a recent cloak design, which has a loose front, while the back is made half-fitting by the introduction of a center-seam which is discontinued a short distance from the bottom of the garment. It is long, and while ample enough to lie smoothly over the drapery of the costume, discloses a row of wide Titan braid. A deep, round collar, covered with the braid, encircles the neck; while from each shoulder descends a strip of braid, the two forming a deep point which extends nearly to the bottom of the cloak. The full sleeves are trimmed to correspond with the lower edges, and a single width of the trimming is used to simulate a large square pocket-lap. The front closes with *passementerie* frogs from the neck to the bottom, and the pattern to the cloak is No. 4578, price 35 cents.

The dress worn beneath is in 'Princess' style, and is fitted at each side of the front by a single dart, and at the back, which is short, by a seam at the center. The front and back are connected by an under-arm gore, through which another dart extends from the arm's-eye to the top of a long, pointed pocket with a pointed lap. A puff, to which a full skirt-portion is attached, overlies the lower portion of the back, both the puff and skirt being gathered at their upper edges to form ruffles. The sleeve is quite wide at the wrist, the outside seam flaring outward from below the elbow and being left open. A military collar completes the neck, and the front closes with buttonholes and buttons. No decoration, except pipings of the material, is used. Frolic.

The Story-Teller.

A MAN WHO LOST HIS NAME.

[Continued from page 334.]

IV.

At half-past four o'clock in the afternoon, Halfdan found himself standing in a large, dimly-lighted drawing-room, whose brilliant upholstery, luxurious carpets and fantastically-twisted furniture, dazzled and bewildered his senses. All was so strange, so strange; nowhere a familiar object to give rest to the wearied eye. Wherever he looked he saw his shabbily-attired figure repeated in the long crystal mirrors, and he became uncomfortably conscious of his thread-bare coat, his uncouth boots, and the general incongruity of his appearance. With every moment his uneasiness grew; and he was vaguely considering the propriety of a precipitate flight, when the rustle of a dress at the farther end of the room startled him and a small, plump lady, of a daintily-exquisite form, swept up toward him, gave a slight inclination of her head and sank down into an easy chair.

"You are Mr. ——, the Norwegian, who wishes to give music lessons?" she said, holding a pair of gold-framed eye-glasses up to her eyes, and running over the note which she held in her hand. It read as follows:

Dear Martha:—The bearer of this note is a young Norwegian—I forgot to ascertain his name—a friend of Olson's. He wishes to teach music. If you can help the poor devil and give him something to do, you will oblige, yours, H. V. K.

Mrs. Van Kirk was evidently, by at least twenty years, her husband's junior, and apparently not very far advanced in the forties. Her blonde hair, which was freshly crimped, fell lightly over her smooth, narrow forehead; her nose, mouth and chin had a neat distinctness of outline, her complexion was either naturally or artificially perfect, and her eyes, which were of the purest blue, had, owing to their near-sightedness, a certain pinched and scrutinizing look. This look, which was without the slightest touch of severity, indicating merely a lively degree of interest, was further emphasized by three small perpendicular wrinkles, which deepened and again relaxed according to the varying intensity of observation she bestowed upon the object which for the time engaged her attention.

"Your name, if you please?" said Mrs. Van Kirk, having for a while measured her visitor with a glance of mild scrutiny.

"Halfdan Bjerk."

"Half-dan B——, how do you spell that?"

"B-j-e-r-k."

"B-jerk. Well, but I mean, what is your name in English?"

Halfdan looked blank, and blushed to his ears.

"I wish to know," continued the lady, energetically, evidently anxious to help him out, "what your name would mean in plain English. B-jerk—it certainly must mean something."

"Bjerk is a tree—a birch tree."

"Very well, Birch—that is a very respectable name. And your first name? What did you say that was?"

"H-a-l-f-d-a-n."

"Half Dan! Why not a whole Dan, and be done with it? Dan Birch, or rather, Daniel Birch? Indeed, that sounds quite Christian."

"As you please, madam," faltered the victim, looking very unhappy.

"You will pardon my straightforwardness, won't you? B-jerk. I could never pronounce that, you know."

"Whatever may be agreeable to you, madam, will be sure to please me."

"That is very well said. And you will find that it always pays to try to please me. And you wish to teach music? If you have no objection, I will call my oldest daughter. She is an excellent judge of music, and if your playing meets with her approval, I will engage you, as my husband suggests, not to teach Edith, you understand, but my youngest child, Clara."

Halfdan bowed assent, and Mrs. Van Kirk rustled out into the hall, where she rang a bell, and re-entered. A servant in dress-coat appeared and again vanished as noiselessly as he had come. To our Norseman there was something weird and uncanny about these silent entrances and exits; he could hardly repress a shudder. He had been accustomed to hear the clatter of people's heels upon the bare floors, as they approached, and the audible *crescendo* of their footsteps gave one warning, and prevented any one from being taken by surprise. While absorbed in these reflections, his senses must have been partly dormant; for just then Miss Edith Van Kirk entered, unheralded by anything but a hovering perfume, the effect of which was to lull him still deeper into his wondering abstraction.

"Mr. Birch," said Mrs. Van Kirk, "this is my daughter Miss Edith," and as Halfdan sprang to his feet and bowed with visible embarrassment, she continued:

"Edith, this is Mr. Daniel Birch, whom your father has sent here to know if he would be serviceable as a music teacher for Clara. And now, dear, you will have to decide about the merits of Mr. Birch. I don't know enough about music to be anything of a judge."

"If Mr. Birch will be kind enough to play," said Miss Edith, with a languid musical intonation, "I shall be happy to listen to him."

Halfdan silently signified his willingness and followed the ladies to a smaller apartment which was separated from the drawing-room by folding doors. The apparition of the beautiful young girl who was walking at his side had suddenly filled him with a strange burning and shuddering happiness; he could not tear his eyes away from her; she held him as by a powerful spell. And still, all the while he had a painful sub-consciousness of his own unfortunate appearance, which was thrown into cruel relief by her splendor. The tall, lithe magnificence of her form, the airy elegance of her toilet, which seemed the perfection of self-concealing art, the elastic deliberateness of her step—all wrought like a gentle, deliciously soothing opiate upon the Norseman's fancy and lifted him into hitherto unknown regions of mingled misery and bliss. She seemed a combination of the most divine contradictions, one moment supremely conscious and in the next adorably child-like and simple; now full of arts and coquettish innuendoes, then again *naïve*, unthinking and almost boyishly blunt and direct—in a word, one of those miraculous New York girls whom abstractly one may disapprove of, but in the concrete must abjectly adore. This easy predominance of the masculine heart over the masculine reason in the presence of an impressive woman, has been the *motif* of a thousand tragedies in times past, and will inspire a thousand more in times to come.

Halfdan sat down at the grand piano and played Chopin's *Nocturne* in *G major*, flinging out that elaborate filigree of sound with an impetuosity and superb *abandon* which caused the ladies to exchange astonished glances behind his back. The transitions from the light and ethereal texture of melody to the simple, more concrete theme, which he rendered with delicate shadings of articulation, were sufficiently startling to impress even a less cultivated ear than that of Edith Van Kirk, who had, indeed, exhausted whatever musical resources New York has to offer. And she *was* most profoundly impressed. As he glided over the last *pianissimo* notes toward the two concluding chords (an ending so characteristic of Chopin) she rose and hurried to his side with a heedless eagerness, which was more eloquent than emphatic words of praise.

"Won't you please repeat this passage?" she said, humming the air with soft modulations; "I have always regarded the monotonous repetition of this strain"—and she indicated it lightly by a few touches of the keys—"as rather a blemish of an otherwise perfect composition. But as you play it, it is anything but monotonous. You put into this single phrase a more intense meaning and a greater variety of thought than I ever suspected it was capable of expressing."

"It is my favorite composition," answered he

LADIES' STREET COSTUME.

modestly. "I have bestowed more thought upon it than upon anything I have ever played, unless perhaps, it be the one in *G minor*, which, with all its differences of mood and phraseology, expresses an essentially kindred thought."

"My dear Mr. Birch," exclaimed Mrs. Van Kirk, whom his skillful employment of technical terms (in spite of his indifferent accent) had impressed even more than his rendering of the overture—"you are a consummate artist, and we shall deem it a great privilege if you will undertake to instruct our child. I have listened to you with profound satisfaction."

Halfdan acknowledged the compliment by a bow and a blush, and repeated the latter part of the *nocturne* according to Edith's request.

"And now," resumed Edith, "may I trouble you to play the *G minor*, which has even more puzzled me than the one you have just played."

"It ought really to have been played first," replied Halfdan. "It is far intenser in its coloring and has a more passionate ring, but its conclusion does not seem to be final. There is no rest in it, and it seems oddly enough to be a mere transition into the *major*, which is its proper supplement and completes the fragmentary thought."

Mother and daughter once more telegraphed wondering looks at each other, while Halfdan plunged into the impetuous movements of the *minor nocturne*, which he played to the end with ever-increasing fervor and animation.

"Mr. Birch," said Edith, as he arose from the piano with a flushed face and the agitation of the music still tingling through his nerves. "You are a far greater musician than you seem to be aware of. I have not been taking lessons for some time; but you have aroused all my musical ambition, and if you will accept me too, as a pupil, I shall deem it a favor."

"I hardly know if I can teach you anything," answered he, while his eyes dwelt with keen delight on her beautiful form. "But in my present position, I can hardly afford to decline so flattering an offer."

"You mean to say that you would decline it if you were in a position to do so," said she, smiling.

"No, only that I should question my conscience more closely."

"Ah, never mind. I shall take all the responsibility. I shall cheerfully consent to being imposed upon by you."

Mrs. Van Kirk in the meanwhile, had been examining the contents of a fragrant Russia-leather pocket-book, and she now drew out two crisp ten-dollar notes and held them out toward him.

"I prefer to make sure of you by paying you in advance," said she, with a cheerfully familiar nod and a critical glance at his attire, the meaning of which he did not fail to detect. "Somebody else might make the same discovery that we have made to-day and outbid us. And we do not want to be cheated out of our good fortune in having been the first to secure so valuable a prize."

"You need have no fear on that score, madam," retorted Halfdan with a vivid blush, and purposely misinterpreting the polite subterfuge. "You may rely upon my promise. I shall be here again, as soon as you wish me to return."

"Then, if you please, we shall look for you to-morrow morning at ten o'clock."

And Mrs. Van Kirk hesitatingly folded up her notes and replaced them in her pocket-book.

To our idealist there was something extremely odious in this sudden offer of money. It was the first time any one had offered to pay him, and it seemed to put him on a level with a common day-laborer. His first impulse was to resent it as a gratuitous humiliation; but a glance at Mrs. Van Kirk's countenance, which was all aglow with officious benevolence, reassured him, and his indignation died away.

That same afternoon Olson, having been informed of his friend's good fortune, volunteered a loan of a hundred dollars, and accompanied him to a fashionable tailor, where he underwent a pleasing metamorphosis.—[To be continued.

AN EXPENSIVE TRAIN.

A Russian Story.

At the time when the first open court of law was established in Russia a lady, dressed with the utmost elegance, was walking on the Moscow promenade, leaning upon her husband's arm, and letting the long train of her rich dress sweep the dust and dirt of the street.

A young officer, coming hastily from a side street, was so careless as to catch one of his spurs in the lady's train, and in an instant a great piece was torn out of the costly but frail material of the dress.

"I beg a thousand pardons, madam," said the officer, with a polite bow; and then was about passing on, when he was detained by the lady's husband.

"You have insulted my wife."

"Nothing was further from my intention, sir. Your wife's long dress is to blame for the accident, which I sincerely regret, and I beg you once more to receive my apologies for any carelessness on my part." Thereupon he attempted to hasten on.

"You shall not escape so," said the lady, with her head thrown back in a spirited way. "To-day is the first time I have worn this dress, and it cost me two hundred rubles, which you must make good."

"My dear madam, I beg you not to detain me. I am obliged to go on duty at once. As to the two hundred rubles—I really cannot help the length of your dress, yet I beg your pardon for not having been more cautious."

"You shall not stir, sir. That you are obliged to go on duty is nothing to us. My wife is right; the dress must be made good."

The officer's face grew pale.

"You force me to break through the rules of the service, and I shall receive punishment."

"Pay the two hundred rubles and you are free."

The quickly changing color in the young man's face betrayed how inwardly disturbed he was; but stepping close to them both, he said, with apparent self-command:—"You will renounce your claim when I tell you that I am a—a—poor man, who has nothing to live on but his officer's pay, and the amount of that pay hardly reaches the sum of two hundred rubles in a whole year. I can, therefore, make no amends for the misfortune, except by again begging your pardon."

"Oh! anybody could say all that; but we'll see if it's true; we'll find out if you have nothing but your pay. I declare myself not satisfied with your excuses and I demand my money," persisted the lady, in the hard voice of a thoroughly unfeeling woman.

"That is true—you are right," the husband added, dutifully supporting her. "By good luck we have the open court now just in session. Go with us before the judge and he will decide the matter."

All further protestation on the officer's part that he was poor, that he was expected on duty, etc., did not help matters. Out of respect for his uniform and to avoid an open scene, he had to go with them to the court-room, where the gallery was densely packed with a crowd of people.

After waiting some time, the lady had leave to bring her complaint.

"What have you to answer to this complaint?" said the judge, turning to the officer, who seemed embarrassed and half in despair.

"On the whole, very little. As the lateness of the hour and being on duty, compelled me to hurry, I did not notice this lady's train, which was dragging on the ground. I caught one of my spurs in it, and had the misfortune to tear the dress. Madam would not receive my excuses, but perhaps now she might find herself more disposed to forgiveness when I again declare, so help me God, that I committed this awkward blunder without any mischievous intention, and I earnestly beg she will pardon me."

A murmur ran through the gallery, evidently from the people taking sides with the defendant, and against long trains in general and the lady in particular.

The judge called to order and asked, "Are you satisfied with the defendant's explanation?"

"Not at all satisfied. I demand two hundred rubles in payment for my torn dress."

"Defendant, will you pay this sum?"

"I would have paid it long before this had I been in a position to do so. Unfortunately, I am poor. My pay as an officer is all I have to live on."

"You hear, complainant, that the defendant is not able to pay the sum you demand of him. Do you still wish the complaint to stand?"

An unbroken stillness reigned throughout the hall, and the young officer's breath could be heard coming hard.

"I wish it to stand. The law shall give me my rights."

There ran through the rows of people a murmur of indignation that sounded like a rushing of water.

"Consider, complainant, the consequences of your demand. The defendant can be punished only through being deprived of his personal liberty, and by that you could obtain no satisfaction; while to the defendant it might prove the greatest injury in his rank and position as an officer, and especially as he is an officer who is poor and dependent upon his pay. Do you still insist upon your complaint?"

"I still insist upon it."

The course the affair was taking seemed to have become painful to the lady's husband. He spoke with his wife urgently but, as could be seen by the way she held up her head and the energy with which she shook it, quite uselessly. The judge was just going on to a further consideration of the case, when a loud voice was heard from the audience:

"I will place two hundred rubles at the service of the defendant."

There followed a silence, during which a gentleman forced his way through the crowd and placed himself by the young officer's side.

"Sir, I am the Prince W——, and beg you will oblige me by accepting the loan of the two hundred rubles in question."

"Prince, I am not worthy of your kindness, for I don't know if I shall ever be able to pay the loan," answered the young man in a voice tremulous with emotion.

"Take the money at all events. I can wait until you are able to return it." Thereupon the prince held out two notes of a hundred rubles each and coming close up to him, whispered a few words very softly. There was a sudden lighting up of the officer's face. He immediately took the two notes and turning toward the lady, handed them to her with a polite bow.

"I hope, madam, you are satisfied?"

With a malicious smile she reached out her hand for the money.

"Yes; now I am satisfied."

With a scornful glance over the crowd of spectators, she prepared to leave the court-room on her husband's arm.

"Stop, madam," said the officer, who suddenly became like another man, with a firm and confident manner.

"What do you want?"

The look that the young woman cast upon him was as insulting as possible.

"I want my dress," he answered, with a slight but still perfectly polite bow.

"Give me your address, and I will send it to you."

"Oh, no, my dear madam. I am in the habit of taking my purchases with me at once. Favor me with the dress immediately."

A shout of approbation came from the gallery.

"Order!" cried the judge.

"What an insane demand!" said the lady's husband. "My wife cannot undress herself here."

"I have nothing to do with you, sir, in this matter, but only with the complainant. Be so good, madam, as to give me the dress immediately. I am in a great hurry, my affairs are urgent, and I cannot wait a moment longer."

The pleasure of the audience at the expense of the lady increased with every word, until it was hard to enforce any approach to quiet, so that either party could be heard.

"Do not jest any more about it. I will hurry, and send you the dress as soon as possible."

"I am not jesting. I demand from the representative of the law my own property—that dress," said the officer, raising his voice.

The judge, thus appealed to, decided promptly.

"The officer is right, madam. You are obliged to hand him over the dress on the spot."

"I can't undress myself here before all these people and go home without any dress on," said the young woman, with anger and tears.

"You should have thought of that sooner. Now you have no time to lose. Either give up the dress of your own accord, or"——a nod that could not be misinterpreted brought to the lady's side two officers of justice, who seemed about to take upon themselves the office of my lady's maid.

"Take your money back and leave me my dress."

"Oh, no, madam; that dress is now worth more than two hundred rubles to me."

"How much do you ask for it?"

"Two thousand rubles," said the officer, firmly.

"I will pay the sum," the weeping lady's husband responded, promptly. "I have here five hundred rubles. Give me pen and paper and I will write an order upon my banker for the remaining fifteen hundred."

After he had written the draft the worthy pair withdrew, amidst hisses from the audience.—*Hartford Times.*

SAYINGS OF THE ANCIENTS.

It is a great evil not to be able to bear an evil.—*Bion.*

Be more prompt to go to a friend in adversity than in prosperity.—*Chilo.*

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.—*Confucius.*

Let him who neglects to raise the fallen, fear lest, when he falls, no one will stretch out his hand to lift him up.—*Eldin Sadi.*

We do not choose our own parts in life, and have nothing to do with those parts. Our simple duty is confined to playing them well.—*Epictetus.*

A wise man will always be contented with his condition, and will live rather according to the precepts of virtue than according to the customs of his country.—*Antisthenes.*

You cannot be buried in obscurity; you are exposed upon a grand theater to the view of the world. If your actions are upright and benevolent, be assured they will augment your power and happiness.—*Cyrus.*

Honest name is goodly; but he that hunteth only for that, is like him that had rather seem warm than be warm, and edgeth a single coat with fur.—*Sir Thomas Wyatt.*

Xenophon relates that, when an Armenian prince had been taken captive with his princess by Cyrus, and was asked what he would give to be restored to his kingdom, he replied:—"As for my kingdom and liberty, I value them not; but if my blood would redeem my princess, I would cheerfully give it for her." When Cyrus had liberated them both, the princess was asked what she thought of Cyrus. "I did not see him," she said; "I noticed only him who offered to die for me."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From Lee & Shepard, Boston, Mass.:
Flaxie Frizzle, by Sophie May. (Cloth—pp, 182. Price 75 cts.) Whitwood Cliff, by Rev. Daniel Wise. (Cloth—pp. 314. Price $1.75.) The Maidenhood Series—Daisy Travers, or The Girls of Hire Hall, by Adelaide F. Samuels. (Cloth—pp. 284. Price $1.50.) New York: C. T. Dillingham. Living Too Fast, or The Confessions of a Bank Officer, by W. T. Adams [Oliver Optic]. (Illustrated. Cloth—pp. 351. Price $1.75.) New York: C. T. Dillingham. Nelly Kinnard's Kingdom, by Amanda M. Douglas. (Cloth—pp. 352. Price $1.50.) Oh, Why Should the Spirit of Mortal be Proud? by William Knox. (Illustrated designs by Miss L. B. Humphrey; engraved by J. Andrew & Son. Price $2.)

T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Phila., Pa.:
Edna, by Mrs. Henry Wood. (Paper—pp. 256. Price 75 cts.)

Scribner, Armstrong & Co., New York:
Sans-Souci Series—Anecdote Biography of Percy Bysshe Shelley. Edited by R. H. Stoddard. (Cloth; 12mo.—pp. 290. Price, $1.50.)

S. R. Wells & Co., New York:
David and Anna Watson, by Abigail S. Dunning. Cloth, pp, 194.

Magazines for December:
Harpers', Scribner's, Demorest's, Atlantic.

Sabbath Reading.

IN A CHURCHYARD.

The lonesome wind of autumn grieves;
The northern lights are seen;
October sheds her changing leaves
Upon a churchyard green,
Where, sitting pensive in the sun,
While fading grasses wave,
I watch the crickets leap and run,
Upon a stranger's grave.

There is no sigh of fluttering leaf,
No sob of rustling grass;
The breezes o'er this place of grief
In breathless whisper pass:
Yet, like a murmur in a dream,
Purls on that insect voice—
The vacant voice which does not seem
To mourn or to rejoice.

A tone that hath no soothing grace,
A tone that nothing saith,
A tone that's like this solemn place
Of memory, tears and death—
It darkens hope, it deepens gloom,
Black fear and doubt profound,
Turning the silence of the tomb
To more mysterious sound.

There's a night upon the face of fame;
There's a night on beauty's eyes;
Nor pure renown nor glorious shame
From out their ashes rise;
In vain the shrines of prayer are trod—
Nor sound or silence breathe
The thought that flowers upon this sod
The secret hid beneath.

Ah, piteous, desolate and drear
This nameless stranger's sleep,
O'er which the slowly dying year
Is all that seems to weep.
God help him in that bitter day
[His heart, his reason save],
Who hears the crickets chirp at play
Upon his darling's grave.

RELIGION AND MANNERS.

Good religion and good manners always go together. They are things that God has joined, and no man can put them asunder. This follows from the nature of religion, which is the love of God and the love of our fellow men. It is a compliance, in some good degree, with the two great commandments of the divine law. It is the exercise of proper feelings toward God and a corresponding treatment of Him, and the like toward our neighbor. He who has true religion is a renewed man. Holy love has been shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Spirit. And that love makes him kindly disposed toward all. This the precepts of the Gospel require of him. He is to love not only those who love him and to treat them kindly, but he is to love even his enemies, if he has them, and to treat them with kindness. So did the Saviour, who is to be the example of all his disciples.

Religion, having its seat in the heart, is developed in the outward life. It modifies and shapes the conduct. It has upon its possessor a refining influence. It improves his manners. Under its power he becomes more kind and gentle and courteous. Such was its effect upon the great apostle. Before his conversion, he was impetuous and headstrong. He was overbearing, caring little for the interests of others. But religion tamed him. It subdued his natural ferocity and made him lamb-like. To the Thessalonian Christians he thus wrote:—"We were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children." We find him, in all circumstances, an example of courtesy.

But it may be said that some Christians are unmannerly and boorish. They are greatly lacking in kindliness and friendliness. We are constrained to admit that it is so. We are not ourselves strangers to such. But it is nevertheless true, as we said at the outset, that good religion and good manners always go together. There are no exceptions. It is no more true that good religion and dishonesty go together, than it is that good religion and ill manners go together. Those boorish and unmannerly Christians are lacking in good religion. They are greatly deficient here; and that is the reason why they behave no better. Let them increase their religion; let them get more of the genuine article, and they will be improved outwardly in an equal degree as inwardly. There is not a defect or deficiency at which some precept of the Gospel does not aim a blow, and which is not rebuked by the example of Him who was "holy, harmless and undefiled." To learn good manners, one does not need to go to school to Lord Chesterfield. He can better learn them in the school of Christ, where he has ever before him perfect rules and a perfect example.—*H. S., in Observer.*

CHURCH NOTES.

The article in the Baptist Quarterly for October, by Prof. Alvah Hovey, on Baptist statistics for a century, gives the following results:—The Baptists in the Colonies in 1876 numbered 25,000; the number in the United States in 1876 is 1,800,000. In 1776 they had no academy or college; in 1876 they sustain 9 theological seminaries, 37 colleges, and 44 academies.

Following the example of the Mohammedans of Bombay, a number of the Mohammedans of Madras held a public meeting upon October 7 to express sympathy with Turkey. The correspondent of the London Times, however, expresses the opinion that the bulk of the Mohammedans of India know little and care less about Turkey.

Ladies' Portfolio.

ONLY A LOCK OF HAIR.

BY H. F. B.

ONLY a lock of hair,
And a bright red lock, at that,
I saw gently slide to the ground
From under the jaunty hat,
But the wearer was lost in the crowd,
And I picked up the curl with a start,
And into my pocket it went—
The pocket that's next to my heart.

I wore it there nearly a week,
And looked at it every night,
Till I fancied I'd give all the world
To see the blue eyes bright.
Of course her eyes were blue,
With hair the color of this;
How bewitchingly sweet they seemed,
As I gave the curl a kiss.

I thought of her every day,
I dreamed of her every night,
But I never had met her in any way
Since she vanished from my sight.
I looked, and hunted, and searched,
With the most persevering art,
But I never could match the curl that lay
In the pocket next my heart.

But down at my boarding house,
We had hash for breakfast, one morning,
I remember it perfectly well,
For there, without previous warning,
Creeping up from the cold, gray hash,
Lay a single golden hair,
With the same indescribable tinge
Of the curl in my pocket there.

I always paid for my board,
And I always paid the cash,
And oh! I was hungry that morning,
But I couldn't eat any hash.
For now my sweet hopes were blasted,
And my brain was all in a whirl,
For I knew that at last I had found it—
A match for my golden curl.

Only a single hair,
And a bright red hair at that,
But the heart underneath that curl
Gave a sickening pitapat.

I felt so despondingly faint,
I asked for a glass of water,
It was brought very soon, by the hands
Of my landlady's buxom daughter.
The sun shone across her hair,
A frowzy mat of red,
I felt very much, I confess,
Like throwing the glass at her head.

I went straight up to my room,
Where nobody else would know it,
And flung the curl out of the window
As far as I ever could throw it.
And I made up my mind to this verdict,
As I slammed down the blinds and the sash:
Golden hair may look pretty in ringlets,
But it don't look so pretty in hash!

Only a woman's hair,
And bright red hair, at that,
I'm ashamed that ever my poor heart throbbed
For a thing so silly as that.

A REPLY TO JACQUELINA.

EDS. RURAL:—I find by reference to your issue of Oct. 7th, that, under the heading of "Exception Taken," your correspondent JACQUELINA attempts a review and criticism of an article entitled "Woman," appearing in issue of Sept. 23d. The original proposition was that our girls should be prepared for the common, every-day duties of life, by initiation into the practical and detailed operations of keeping a house, and not the house keeping them. We hope that it is not "decreed that you (our American girls) shall forswear music, turn your backs on the library, and dedicate your lives henceforth to cookery books and wash-tubs." Do you, on the contrary, if possessing a talent for music or any of the kindred arts, cultivate it with all your hearts, and despise nothing which tends to elevate the sex to a higher plane of intellectuality. At the same time remember that it is the "comforts of home" which render the hearthstone delightful, and not a sparkling intellectuality alone; although an intimate acquaintance with dish-washing and floor-scrubbing, according to JACQUELINA, tends to degrade woman into a mere drudge.

My experience and observation have been far from this, and I carry in my mind's eye, at this moment, one who, with an acquaintance with current literature and an intimate knowledge of science—spending several hours a day in assisting her husband in his researches—entertaining also her friends handsomely; yet attends personally to all her domestic duties, keeping no domestic, still everything in this home is the perfection of neatness, order and good taste.

As regards our German friends, I look upon the charge of laxity of morals and acerbity of temper as a mere figment of the imagination. Unfortunately, influences foreign to virtue are too rife in our midst, and we would do well to first purge our own atmosphere from the immorality that pervades it before criticising too severely our foreign relations. Does educated New York set forth such brilliant examples of moral worth and domestic virtue, that we must heap upon our German cousins the charge of inconstancy, etc., to make our virtues still more virtuous? We may well hide our diminished heads in very shame for the palpable and open violations of marriage vows that are daily presented to us, and through what?—want of occupation! It is not she who earns her five to eight hundred dollars a year who falls from grace, but the daughters of idleness, whose morning hours are spent in bed, and who rise only to wish that night would come, that they may offer themselves at the shrine of fashion.

She who earns her five hundred to eight hundred dollars per year, as cited, does so not only from choice, but because of the superior quality of her attainments over those of her humbler sister. It does not follow that she is degraded by devotion to any honorable employment, and if her taste and inclination lead her to adopt merchandise, music or the languages as a means of support, all should respect and honor her the more for that independence, and she is more worthy to bear the name of wife and mother than she who only awaits the first acceptable offer of marriage, with the anticipation of presiding over an establishment, of the duties of which she knows nothing and cares less. The "goody man," instead of finding a comfortable home, finds such as his servants make for him, for the reason that he has married a woman "whose hands are white, complexion delicate, and who possesses a knowledge of literature, music, fine arts," etc., consequently cannot condescend to the practical affairs of the household. Even her children are brought up by the servant, rather than by her who bore them, because of the claims of society upon her.

NAPOLEON said the great want of France was *mothers*. So with this country. Our great want is good, practical wives and mothers. When such shall be met with, as in times past, we shall have better men, better government, less peculation, robbery and general dishonesty in high as well as low places. It is to woman, our guide and teacher in infancy as in later life, we look for those principles of goodness, rectitude and honor which shall carry us, as it were, armor-plated through the wiles and temptations of life.

COUNTRY LIVING.

COMING home from a trip to Philadelphia, last week, my thoughts naturally reverted to the different manner in which city people are obliged to live in contrast with our free-and-easy life of peace and plenty in happy rural homes. Articles of diet we esteem so lightly—rich cream and golden butter, plenty of vegetables from the garden, and a rich supply of ruddy apples and luscious grapes—are items of great importance in a city household, indeed its most valued luxuries. *Fresh* eggs are procurable, but require money and an honest dealer, so different from the searchings the children have in the fragrant hay where the cunning hens deposit their treasures. As I sit here in sight of the garden, now bare and wintry, I can see JAMIE not far off, filling his pockets with apples that are only now discovered, because the leaves have fallen from the Pippin trees, where they always linger late. STANTON and WILLIE are taking up the Gladioli from their tiny gardens, and their voices are loud and glad, as they imitate now the birds of the wood and then the self-important "cock-a-doodle-doo" of the barnyard. Baby HOPE, with waving hair, wind tossed, and shining eyes full of glee, has been gathering leaves, the red and yellow treasures that her sex delight in at this time of the year, and then with the same characteristic carelessness tossing them away, to pursue fresher, brighter leaves.

I cannot help thinking, as I see this freedom and joyous way of living, of the care-worn mothers in the cities, whose daily fear is lest some fast-hurrying car or runaway horse should hurt their darling, if by chance he left the stony bareness of the doorstep. And I say to those who, like myself, may sometimes feel the lack of city conveniences, or the society they would choose—be content; no place on earth is so adapted for the proper growth of children—physically, morally or mentally—as the pure and innocent pleasures and healthful atmosphere of a happy country home. ANNIE L. JACK.

CHOOSE the course which you adopt, with deliberation; but, when you have adopted it, then persevere in it with firmness.—*Bias.*

THE vicissitudes of life suffer us not to be elated by any present good fortune or to admire that fellcity which is liable to change. Futurity carries for every man many various and uncertain events in its bosom.—*Solon.*

Reading for the Young.

THE SLEEPY HOUR.

BY ELEANOR BURR.

"I AWFUL sleepy now, mama!
Too sleepy to undress;
Fo me into my trundle-bed
Just as I am, I guess.

"I fink, mama, you tuck me up
Wid 8 oes and ap'on on;
I fink, mama, I won't be tucked
When I'm a big, big man,

"Wid 'penders on my back, mama,
Wid cane, boots, and much fings now;—
I fink I can't no more lie in,
And,—say, mama! you fink so too?

"I too sleepy to 'pway le Lord,'
He know I lay me down,
'Cause why, mama? you much times said
He know me all le time."

The baby's eyes were drooping quite:
And through his parted lips
The pulsing breath, with tiny might,
Rolled rythmic, gentle, sweet.

Angels guard him—I doubt it not—
Through the long hours of night;
My birt will wake as soon as any,
When the world swings into light.

WINTER EVENING AMUSEMENTS.—No. 1.

ANOTHER CHANCE.

MY DEAR NEICES AND NEPHEWS:—I see by letters from my young relations that there is more than one side to some questions, and that my nephews have an idea that the literary talent is not altogether owned by my sprightly neices. Now I have not the least doubt—I think on mature consideration, I will reserve my doubts for Christmas presents, only adding that if the boys are as good at writing essays as they are at criticising the efforts of others, I have a mine of literary talent in my family that is bound to make my declining years happy ones. I am pleased to see that criticism is sharp, without being malicious, a sign that your hearts govern your heads; and it is a further proof that, although large, our family is a happy and united one.

I am free to confess that when I set your last task, JOAN OF ARC, I had some misgivings about your ability to meet all the requirements. I confided these doubts to the cat, who only looked sleepily wise, as if to say that he knew a thing or two, if he cared to divulge what was passing in his mind; but wife said I was an old fogy and that she would be very much mistaken if the girls did not surprise me. They did. The answers sent were a credit to them. If, however, my nephews are such bright young fellows, why did they not point out the errors in Miss BESSIE MCLEAN'S version of the story of JOAN OF ARC? I caused it to be published *precisely* as written for that purpose.

But we will say no more about this. I am going to put your professions to the test this week, and expect *all* to give their old uncle an evidence of their ability to make good their assertions. In the following little preachment I have told you about all I know of certain historical events. I am afraid that I am considerably mixed about dates, names, and even events; but you can't expect an old fellow to remember everything he ever read. You, however, are fresh from studies that give you this very knowledge, and I expect you to send to Uncle TRUE, care RURAL NEW-YORKER, 78 Duane St., N. Y., a *corrected* copy of the article, pointing out all errors that you can find. Mind, this must be done without the aid, or advice of your instructors or elders. Answers may be sent until Dec. 2d, which will give those living at a distance every opportunity to compete for the

PRIZE

I intend to offer. I have, in anticipation of this scheme, secured a number or beautiful smilax plants, quite the prettiest creeping vine we have. It makes a charming house ornament and can be used in various ways for decoration. To each successful competitor I shall mail one of these plants, besides publishing in *our* column a complete list of the fortunate ones. UNCLE TRUE.

A Misstatement of Facts.

The history of the United States presents a succession of phenomena unparalleled in the experience of any other nation of the world. We know that COLUMBUS landed in Florida about 1492, and that JOHN CABOT, during the reign of HENRY VIII., arrived off the coast of Newfoundland, claiming the country in the name of England. Other countries followed in quick succession, until the globe was circumnavigated for the first time in 1521 by Sir FRANCIS DRAKE, who also introduced tobacco into Europe. In 1530 FRANCISCO PIZARRO landed at Panama and at once set out to conquer Brazil, after having subjugated Montezuma, and penetrated as far north as Oregon. In 1565 PEDRO MELENDEZ was appointed Governor of Florida by Philip V. He founded the oldest city in the U. S., St. Augustine. The natives were called Indians because they were red! The country was settled by degrees, colonies being founded by Sir W. RALEIGH, Gen. JAMES OGLETHORPE, The Dutch East India Co, and others. Jamestown was named in honor of JAMES II. The Hudson River was named after Sir JOHN HUDSON, who took possession of the contiguous country in the name of the Dutch East India Co. The first settlement of Puritans, who were driven from England by the persecutions of "Bloody" MARY, was made by JOHN CARVER, 1621. They started in two vessels the May Flower and the ——, but the latter vessel was lost with all on board!

The first Indian war occurred in Massachusetts in 1641 on which occasion 350 whites were massacred in one hour.

The first American Congress met in Massachusetts at the suggestion of New York, May 1695.

The immediate cause of the Revolutionary War was what is known as Writs of Assistance, which gave customs officers the right to enter private dwellings. This was in 1771. The Stamp Act in 1765 was the straw that broke the camel's back.

The famous sentiment, "no taxation without representation," was uttered by Thos. JEFFERSON.

The battle of Bunker Hill began the revolution, and the battle of New Orleans ended the struggle.

The gloomiest period of the war was in '77 when the American army was quartered at Valley Forge, on the Delaware.

The two first political parties were the Federalists and Democrats, among the former were HANCOCK and JAY, while JEFFERSON, MADISON and MONROE were shining lights of the Democracy. Up to the present time we have had 16 presidents, and it is a question, from present appearances, whether this generation will live long enough to learn the name of the seventeenth.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From Big Cousin.

NOW, Mr. RURAL, just let me be your Cousin for this once. I've got something to say, and have been waiting for somebody to say it. But they don't say it, so I can't stand it any longer. I am going to talk about tobacco chewers and smokers. I know it is a hazardous undertaking; but the only way to do them any good is to hit 'em hard, if they do get mad. Let them try the experiment—throw their pipes and tobacco in the fire—do without it—and my word for it, they will become healthier, wealthier, and wiser too.

How many of the fair sex are there who have not suffered from tobacco smoke, caused by some brother, father, lord or master, as he feels himself to be, or he would not dare to make himself so disgustingly offensive? Just think of it! After supper he gets out his pipe, fills it with tobacco and there he sits and puffs the room full of tobacco smoke. What does he care if it is offensive to others, or how much suffering or coughing it causes his weak-lunged or consumptive sister, wife or mother? Nor is this all. Next morning, when cleaning-up time comes, the unfortunate fair one finds tobacco spit on the walls, stove and floor, which she must wash up. Then there is the spittoon. Ugh! If they would just make that filthy creature clean it himself, he could not but wonder how a man can make such a beast of himself.

Now boys, come here! Do you see your old grandpa sitting over in that chair? Look at the tobacco juice running out of the corners of his mouth and down his chin, and when he spits he can't spit straight, so he hits the spittoon, floor, and anything else that is within reach. Pa smokes and chews too, does he? You have a right to do as pa does, have you? "Pa thinks he looks nice with a cigar in his mouth"—that's the reason, eh? Wait till he gets as old as grandpa and he will look just the same. You are not going to look like that, eh? Your grandpa commenced at your age, and if you don't quit you will surely look just as he does. Now boys, never touch it! Little girls, use all your influence to keep the boys from using tobacco until they are twenty-one; then they will see the folly of it and will likely never touch it. Now how many will do this?

And now thanking you, Mr. RURAL, for your valuable space, I close. And if these tobacco consumers pitch into you too hard, just run down your back-stairs and tell them that it was all done by your—BIG COUSIN.

Prepare to be Entertained.

DEAR GIRLS:—Fly around and put things in order. Put your piece-work away and prepare to be entertained. *The boys have come.* After all, it *does* take the boys to make things lively. We felt the effect of that Storm clear up here. It's getting pretty late in the season for thunder. Better let us have some snow next. I wonder if

BELLE'S not claiming to be a Cousin had any influence with him. I see he, too, thinks we agree too well. YOUNG EDITOR, No. 2, is splendid. I liked his letter very much better than I did No. 1's. But how do you like the "city pumpkin's" letter? I think he must have studied the Dictionary considerable to find so many long words,—and he says he has written *two* letters before that one. My! I wonder if they were all in the same style. FLORENCE, when you are arranging your autumn leaves, take a strip of cloth like your window curtains, and about an inch wide. Sew leaves on it so as to form a wreath; then loop it around the curtain, and see if it is not pretty. Don't sew the leaves too close together. VIRGINIA, *Maple Grove, Mich.*

We Apologize.

DEAR RURAL:—I long looked to see my letter in print, but have given up the hope of seeing it now. You see, I have courage to write again after looking so long in vain, and then being disappointed. It may be that it was not properly directed and you never received it. But if this falls to the waste-basket, I will give up all hope and think I am not a welcome Cousin. This is the third year I have taken your paper and I like it very much and think I will take it another year. Father thinks no paper equal to it. I must now talk about something else or I will make my letter too long. We have a very pretty yard in spring and summer, but now the flowers are almost gone; we have a good many winter ones coming on. Father keeps store and we don't see much of him much night, when he comes home to our bright fireside. We have a happy home—a kind father and mother—and are surrounded with flowers. We have a nice orchard, but we did not have much fruit this year. I will close.—COUSIN REDBIRD.

Will You Exchange?

DEAR COUSINS:—I agree with Cousin GYPSY BELLE about piecing quilts. I have pieced seven quilts, and have commenced another. I think it would be very nice for the girls to exchange quilt patterns. STORM must not be too sure about saying that the boys could beat any of the histories written by the girls. Pride will have a fall; for if the boys could beat the girls writing history, why did they not write? No! Mr. STORM, I think you are mistaken. I would like to correspond with MAY LANG. Perhaps some of the girls would like to know how I keep my Madeira Vines. After I take them up in the fall, I shake all the dirt off them, and then I take a paper sack (a flour sack will do), put them in it, and hang up in the cellar where they will not freeze. In the spring they will look wilted, but plant them and they will grow. I would like to correspond with some of the girls about flowers.—WILD FERN.

P. S.—Will YOUNG PRINTER please tell us the name of his paper?—W. F.

A Surprise Party.

DEAR COUSINS:—We are three sisters. Our father has a vineyard. We take nine weekly papers, but we like the RURAL the best of all. We suppose that some of the little girls like dolls, but they never say so. We like flowers very well, but we like to play with our dolls better. Father went to the Centennial, and among the presents he brought home were two boxes of splendid paper dolls. Father does not know of this letter. We want to surprise him.—CORA, LIZZIE AND ANNIE.

A New York Girl.

DEAR EDITOR:—My father has been taking the RURAL for about three years, and I like the paper very much, and read the Letters from Boys and Girls. I am a Western New York girl. Last summer I studied Geography and the Primary Arithmetic and read in the Third Reader. My father keeps a lot of poultry. I have four brothers and one sister, and I am ten years old.—MARY A. S.

The Puzzler.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 28 letters:
My 18, 12, 5, 15, 9, 27 is the goddess of morning.
My 3, 13, 21, 1, 2 is a lady's name.
My 10, 24, 17, 8, 6, 19, 18 is a man of Bible times.
My 16, 22, 24, 16, 3 is a sharp instrument.
My 4, 12, 26, 7 is a sort of shee.
My 25, 11, 18, 28, 23 is to remain still.
My 14 is a letter of the alphabet.
My whole is a quotation from Pope.

☞ Answer in two weeks. LITTLE ONE.

HIDDEN OUTBUILDINGS ON A FARM.

1. REPEAT that second bar, Nellie.
2. I once visited Dunstable, Mass.
3. The groom's name was Patrick.
4. Do you like the game of cribbage?
5. I live in Front St., ye know.
6. Coo, pretty pigeon, to thy mate.
7. I dinna ken; Nellie, do you?
8. We sailed on the river Ver and a squall arose.
9. Clear out, rough man.

☞ Answer in two weeks. MIC.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Nov. 11.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.—"Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called the children of God.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—Sierra Espinhaco.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.90 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Moluccа Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory or garden. Its growth is rapid—small plants attaining the hight of five feet during the summer months. In the fall it may be cut back to any desirable size and potted for the winter, when it will quickly recover its symmetry and resume its ever-blooming habit. Its quick and exceeding popularity is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is as yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class. It is difficult to select a more attractive plant than Marie Lemoine when freely blooming. Every truss is in itself a bouquet. The leaves are large, zoneless, vigorous. The plant is compact and, like *Abutilon Boule de Neige*, is invaluable, either for the conservatory, window or garden.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—So much has been said of this Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It has stood 26° below zero unharmed. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. The thyrses of flowers, first greenish-white, then white, then rose, often measure a foot in length and twenty inches in circumference. Every stem being thus terminated, the striking appearance of an entire plant may be conceived. There can be no doubt that this is one of the most valuable of all perfectly hardy shrubs.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata*.—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green, much as *Abutilon Thomsoni* is variegated with green and yellow. From its racemes of flowers are formed fruit as large as currants, each one of which is a different color in shades of claret, azure-blue and green. These berries, which are first as soft as a currant, become finally as hard as bullets.

The pretty stems are also variegated, green, whitish and rose. The roots are perfectly hardy, and the vine's growth so rapid that it will cover twenty-five feet square in a season. For conservatory walls or pillars, for trellises or rockeries, it cannot fail to please. It has been growing in the RURAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS for several years without the least protection.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the singular Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

Jerusalem Artichoke.—Believing that the Jerusalem artichokes are exceedingly valuable as food for nearly all kinds of farm stock, we place them among our valuable premium plants. They will yield more bushels of tubers per acre than the common potato and we believe them more valuable for feeding purposes, besides the artichoke will grow vigorously where the potato would fail entirely. We will send one-half pound of each of the Long Purple, and Round White, for each new subscriber as above, or one pound of the tubers of either variety. We shall store a quantity of the tubers in the cellar for sending out this winter; but those of our subscribers who reside north of the latitude of New York City, had better leave their plant premiums in our hands after the first of January until early spring. We will, however, "book" all orders received during the winter, to be sent at the earliest possible moment.

TERMS FOR 1877, IN ADVANCE,

INCLUDING POSTAGE, WHICH PUBLISHERS PREPAY.

Single Copy, $2.50 per Year. To Clubs:—Five Copies, and one copy free to Agent or getter up of Club, for $11.25; Seven Copies, and one free, for $16.05; Ten Copies, and one free, $20—only $2 per copy. The above rates *include postage* (under the new law) to any part of the United States, and the American postage on all copies mailed to Canada. On papers mailed to Europe, by steamer, the postage will be 25 cents extra for each subscription. Drafts, Post-Office Money Orders and Registered Letters may be mailed at our risk. ☞ Liberal Premiums to all Club Agents who do not take free copies. Specimen Numbers, Show-Bills, &c., sent free.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

DR. S. J. JANES has grown black tea at his place five miles from Thomasville, Ga., which compares favorably with the best imported from China.

AT a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Permanent Exhibition Company, held in Philadelphia, a partial organization was effected by the appointment of Clement M. Biddle as President and E. A. Rollins as Treasurer. The general features of the proposed rearrangement of space in the Main Building were discussed, and plans showing the portions to be occupied by the principal sections were presented and partly perfected.

The Vermont Legislature has passed the bill for filling the vacancy in the Electoral College by 129 to 19. The act is especially designed to meet the case of H. N. Sollace, said to be ineligible.

Gov. Stearns of Florida claims that he has the sole authority to count the electoral vote of that State.

President Grant pardons another of the St. Louis whiskey prisoners. Mr. McKee returns to his home and his office. The fine remitted.

United States Detective Officers Tyrell and Washburn, with the aid of two local detective officers, captured the two men who attempted to steal the remains of President Lincoln from the vault in Springfield, Ill., on the night of Nov. 7. Their names are Terrence Mullen, alias "T. Durnan," the proprietor of the "Hub Saloon," No. 294 West Madison street, where the arrests were made, and Jack Hughes, alias J. Smith, an old counterfeiter, connected with the notorious Ben Boyd. These men have been shadowed since the attempt was made to despoil the tomb, and the proof of their guilt is said to be abundant. The officers have taken the accused to Springfield to await the action of the Grand Jury.

South Carolina is counted for Hayes. Florida and Louisiana still in doubt.

The first incineration in this country will take place Dec. 6 in a crematory erected by Dr. Le Moyne, at Washington, Pa. It is estimated the body will be consumed in about five hours. Delegations from the Boards of Health of several leading cities will be present.

It is stated that a number of members of Congress have already signified their intention to offer amendments to the Constitution of the United States, for the purpose of avoiding in future the difficulties and dangers now attending the election of a President.

Civil Service Reform (!) Owing to the absence of so many superior officers and clerks during the Presidential election, the preparation of the annual reports of the heads of departments has been delayed; none of them have yet been placed in the hands of the Public Printer.

The ways of the buffalo as described by travelers in the far West are as strange as those of the Heathen Chinee. If a herd of these animals gets on the north side of a track, it will stand stupidly gazing, though the locomotive passes within a hundred yards of it. But if two miles from the track on the south side, the whole herd is thrown into the wildest commotion. Regardless of consequences it will make for the track, and if the train is in its way, each individual buffalo will go at it with the desperation of despair, plunging against or between the locomotive and the car.

There is a prospect of a direct trade springing up between the councils of Sovereigns of Industry in Massachusetts, composed of mechanics and operatives, and those in Maine, composed largely of farmers.

Can it be that all the officeholding Smiths have been colonized in Georgia? This record would almost make it appear so. J. M. Smith, No. 1, is Governor of the State; J. M. Smith, No. 2, is representative elect from Oglethorpe county: J. M. Smith, No. 3, was a candidate for Ordinary in Heard county; J. M. Smith, No. 4, was a candidate for Tax Collector in Talbot county; J. M. Smith, No. 5, is one of the most popular Justices of the Peace in Harris county; J. M. Smith, Nos. 6 and 7, have just vacated offices, and J. M. Smith, No. 8, was commander-in-chief of all the deputy marshals in the State on election day.

The Sophomore class of the University of Vermont have been suspended and fined two dollars each for raising a flag on the college park staff; and the members of the Freshman class were fined two dollars each for cutting the pole down.

The continued election excitement crazed Major Loring, a leading citizen of Holyoke, Mass., and he marshalled sixteen tramps who had spent the night in the police station, drilled them in the public square, and offered their services to Gen. Sherman by telegraph to quell an imaginary insurrection.

The fish commissioners of Vermont are stocking the Winooski river with Potomac bass, and expect to raise enough young in five years to stock Lake Champlain.

Although no clergyman is allowed in ordinary times to enter Girard College, Philadelphia, that rigid rule of Girard's will was relaxed during the six months of the exhibition.

A Virginian has erected a marble shaft near the city of Richmond, Va., bearing his name, with blank spaces for his age and the day of his death, and he chose the Poorhouse Cemetery for the site.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE Baroness Ida von Duringsfeld, a well-known German writer, died at a hotel in Stuttgart the other day. Her tales and narratives of travel have enjoyed uninterrupted favor in Germany for the last thirty years. Her husband, Col. von Renssberg Duringsfeld, who was devoted to the study of ethnography and philology, brought out various works with his wife. He died of heart disease a few hours after her death. He had written to a friend to come on and attend to the Baroness's funeral and be with him during the sad ceremonies, but when his friend entered the room he found the Colonel dead in his chair.

Below is a condensation of the latest European dispatches, up to the time of going to press:

Turkey is said to agree unconditionally to a conference.

A Reuter telegram from St. Petersburg says that, in pursuance of the partial mobilization of the Russian army, preparations are now being made for the mobilization of a sanitary corps. Movable hospitals are also being got ready. Committees of ladies have been formed for the nursing of the wounded. The Empress of Russia and the Grand Duchess, it is stated, have assumed the patronage of these associations.

It is improbable that Gen. Tchernayeff will retain command of the Servian army in the event of Russia being driven to action, as his whole conduct in Servia has not given satisfaction in official quarters.

The Times' Calcutta dispatch says that the India Government is preparing to send a large contingent of troops to Egypt if war is declared in Europe.

The Parthia, which sailed from Liverpool on Nov. 18 for New York, took $750,000 in specie.

The Cologne Gazette's Paris correspondent says: "A principal obstacle to war seems to have been removed. The Rothschilds are said to have promised to advance Russia money. The loan will not be made publicly. Russia's conditions are said on 'Change to be so favorable that the Rothschilds can easily dispose of the loan privately.

The Standard's dispatch from Berlin says, "The Russian police profess that they have discovered a plot in Poland. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Zytomierz, in the province of Volhynia, has been arrested and imprisoned at Moscow. Several Polish curates have been thrown into prison at Warsaw. All dealers in arms are subjected to stringent regulations."

The Standard's Berlin dispatch reports that Turkey has sent a note to Bucharist asserting her right to send troops to Wallachia in the event of Russian invasion.

The Berlin Post asserts that several Americans have applied to the Russian Government for letters of marque to be used against English shipping in the event of war.

The Duchess d'Aosta, ex-Queen of Spain, died from disappointment over an unfulfilled ambition. She was a daughter of the Piedmontese Prince Cisterna, was born in 1848, married Prince Amadeus, second son of the King of Italy, in 1867, and with her husband was called to the Spanish throne in 1871. From early childhood her reading and study embraced mathematics and the kindred sciences, ancient and modern languages and history, and the more important elements of Roman and Italian law. The final acceptance of the Crown of Spain by her husband was due to her ambitious promptings. She was a woman of great benevolence and clear understanding. The abdication of Amadeus put an end to her hopes.

Latest accounts from Calcutta say that 120,000 persons perished during the cyclone which passed through Eastern Bengal on the 31st of October. The Government is taking active steps for the relief of the distressed population of the district.

The market, Mercado de Colon, Havana, was destroyed by fire Nov. 18.

A new sect called "The Purillers" has arisen in Russia. Their leading doctrines are said to be that all must marry on becoming of age, but that the husband must be subordinate to the wife, and recognize her as the head of the family. Also, that once a week he must confess his sins to his wife. They adhere to the Greek Church.

NOTWITHSTANDING large meat importations from the United States, the London butchers keep up their prices so high that the Globe advises co-operation, and that families should jointly market through a delegate, who would receive a small commission.

NEW INDUSTRY.

A COMPARATIVEY new industry has within a few years sprung up in our midst, by which many important materials for structural and other purposes have been greatly enchanced in value. We refer to the utilization of the indestructible, fibrous mineral asbestos in the manufacture of steam-pipe and boiler coverings, fire-proof coatings and cements, paints of all colors, roofing, sheathings, linings, etc., and as we find these articles are really worthy the attention of the public, we are pleased to note that the Centennial Medal and Diploma of Merit have been awarded to the patentee and manufacturer, Mr. H. W. Johns, No. 67 Maiden lane, N. Y., from whom the genuine asbestos materials can only be procured.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

A Cough, Cold, or Sore Throat requires immediate attention and should be checked. If allowed to continue, irritation of the Lungs, a permanent Throat affection, or an incurable Lung disease is often the result. "BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES," having a direct influence on the parts, give immediate relief. For Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh, Consumptive and Throat Diseases, TROCHES *are used always with good success.*

$5.00 Given Away!—We will send *Free*, by mail, post-paid, the beautiful *Steel Engraving*, 2 feet wide and 2½ feet long, entitled "Christ in the Temple," that retails at $5.00 per copy, to any person sending us the names and post-office address of ten good farmers or persons in their neighborhood, and inclosing 25 cents to pay for wrapping, postage, roller and mounting the engraving. Address AGRICULTURAL MANUF'G CO., 179 West Fourth Street, Cincinnati, O.

Desperation!—JONES of Binghamton, N. Y., has evidently got desperate, for he offers Four-Ton Hay Scales at $30, freight prepaid. Send for description and say RURAL.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Nov. 18, 1876.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports beans past week, 560 bbls.; since Jan. 1, 51,287 do.; same time last year, 30,322 do.

The offering of new mediums continues small, and as the stock of old is too poor for good grocery use, prices for prime are very firm, with some advance. There is a good supply of marrows, and with a moderate export trade, prices are weak. Good old-crop marrows are firm at our prices. Pea beans and W. kidneys are scarce and firm. Red kidneys arrive more liberally, and quotations are in buyer's favor. Canadian peas are steady and unchanged. Exports past week, 18,211 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 510,820 do.; same time last year, 315,803 do. Green peas are abundant. Considering the light wholesale trade doing so, B. E. peas lower.

Beans—New medium, $1.90@1.95; do. marrow, $2.20@2.25; do. pea, $2.20@2.5; white kidney, $2.30@2.35; red do., $2.2@2.30; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $1.70@1.80; other, $1.50@1.65; marrow, $1.80@2.20; pea, prime, $1.80@2.10; white kidney, prime, $1.75@2; red do., prime, $1.80@2; black, $2.50@2.65; Canadian peas, new, ₰ bbl., free, $1.12@1.11; do. bulk, 92@93c.; green do., new, $1.40@1.50; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2@2.10.

BEESWAX.—Transactions are limited to small lots within the range of 30½@32c. for Western and Southern.

Exports past week, 1,072 lbs., since Jan. 1st, 65,245 do.; same time last year, 80,408 do.

BROOM CORN.—Demand is very light, while supplies are increasing.

Quoted at 7@8c. for short green brush, 6½@7½c. for green hurl, 5@6c. for medium green, and 3@4c. for red and red-tipped.

BUTTER.—There has been an improved business in both State and Western butter, and prices have been thereby prevented from running down, as was threatened during the stagnant period of election week. Fine State butter is very firm and brings the extreme. There is an abundance of good useful table stock held above the views of those who want such quality, and, for the moment, wholesale trade in many marks of half tubs and Welsh is limited. Ferkins are very dull. The stock containing lots from which the fall has been broken off and many small lines that have grown into an accumulation. We shall not have an excess of fine-flavored butter this season if the late liberal receipts form an indication. Foreign shippers are doing a fair business: their purchases include some Welsh. Western butter runs irregular in quality. There is no difficulty in placing the fresh-flavored dairy packed. Roll butter moves slowly this season. We want cold weather for a steady trade in rolls.

Exports past week 4,100 pkgs.

We quote:—Choice pails, 33@34c.; prime, 32@33c.; poor to good, 24@29c.; creamery pails, choice, 35@36c.; good, 33@34c.; sweet cream pails, 30@35c. State firkins, choice, 29@30c.; fair to good, 25@27c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@33c.; fair to prime, 26@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 30@31c.; other, 21@28c.; inferior State, 15@20c.; Western creamery, choice, 31@35c.; other, 31@33c.; do. firkins, best, 21@22c.; other, 15@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 21@26c.; other, 15@18c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 14@18c.

State dairies quotable at 30@32c. with fall tubs Welsh tubs, dairies, 26@28c.

State firkins dairies 25@30c. Welsh tubs dairies, 26@30c. Roll butter, fair to prime, 24@25c.; do., poor, 18@20c.

CHEESE.—An advance in the Liverpool market has prompted export demand to a very fair extent. Orders have been largely for fancy colored factories of which the shipments show a marked increase for the week; a slight advance has been made on the more desirable lots; early in the week 13½c. was the more general rate, now 13¾c. is freely paid, and special lots to 14c. Fancy white factories do not run within one-half of these figures. The lower grades which are in chief supply, are rather steadier, but not higher as a rule.

Exports for the week, 31,013 boxes.

Fancy factory at 13¾@13⅞c. for fancy white and colored; do., job lots, 11¾c.; good and prime, 12@13c.; fair, 10@11½c. State farm dairy, fancy, 12@12½c.; good to prime, 10@12c.; fair and good, 10@11c. Western factory, fancy, 12½@13c.; good and prime, 11@12c.; fair lots, 9½@10½c.

COTTON.—The excited Liverpool market has caused rapid changes in prices here, and a large speculative trading.

The latest quotations are:—November, 11 15-16c.; December, 11 31-32@12c.; January, 12 3-32c.; February, 12¼@12 9-32c.; March, 12 15-32@12 7-16c.; April, 12 19-32@12⅝c.; May, 12⅞@12 25-32c.; June, 12 23-32@12 15-16c.; July, 13 1-16c.; August, 13⅛@13 5-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	10 1-16	10 1-16	10 1-16	10 1-16
Strict ordinary	10 7-16	10 7-16	10 7-16	10 7-16
Good ordinary	10 15-16	10 15-16	10 15-16	10 15-16
Strict good do.	11 3-16	11 3-16	11¼	11¼
Low middling	11 7-16	11 9-16	11 11-16	11 11-16
Strict low middling	11¾	11⅞	12	12
Middling	12	12⅛	12 3-16	12 3-16
Good middling	12 3-16	12 5-16	12 7-16	12 7-16
Strict good middling	12 7-16	12 9-16	12 11-16	12 11-16
Middling fair	12 13-16	12 15-16	13 1-16	13 1-16
Fair	13¼	13 11-16	13 13-16	13 13-16

Stained.

Good ordinary	9 13-16	Low middling	10 13-16
Strict ordinary	10 7-16	Middling	11 5-16

DRIED FRUITS.—Apples come in freely yet and stocks here are large. Very low prices are necessary on the moderate trade. Peaches are scarce and prices higher. Blackberries, raspberries and cherries favor sellers. We quote:

Apples—State, sliced, 6@6½c.; do., quarters, 6½@6¾c.; Southern sliced, new, fair, 5@5½c.; choice do. 6½@7c.; fancy, 8½c.; do., new quarters, in bags, 4@4½c.; do. repacked, 5@5½c.; Western quarters 5c. Blackberries at 8½@8½c. Peeled peaches, new, at 18@19c.; unpeeled quarters, halves, 9@10c.; do. quarters, 8½@9c. Raspberries, 28@29c. Cherries, 17½c.

Exports past week 5,367 bbls. apples; since Jan. 1st, 21,132 do., same time last year, 10,620 do.

EGGS.—The market has ruled about as before but trade is not active. Dealers, however, do not want to drop prices suddenly, as strong rates for fresh have sometimes started a demand for limed. If that is now the point it is not a success so far, as limed are hardly moving; offered lower. Among the incidents we note shipments of several hundred bbls. of fresh eggs to Havana and Glasgow. We quote:

Near points, 33@34c.; State and Penn., 28@29c.; Western, prime, 28@28½c.; do. other, 27½c.; Canadian, 27½@28c.

State limed, 21c.; Western, do., 18@20c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the current quotations.

Peppermint, $2.50 ₰ lb. in tin, $3.25@3.50 in glass—tone firm. Sassafras scarce and firm at 50c. ₰ lb. Wintergreen, large supply, weak at $2.50. Spearmint, nominally $2.50 ₰ lb.; no demand.

FLOUR.—Exporters have bought more freely, and the whole market shows increased trade with prices strong; the quotations are $4.50@5 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5.30@5.40 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.45@5.55 for good extra do.; $5.60@5.65 for fancy do., and $5.70@7 for fancy to very choice extra; $4.50@5 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.30@5.45 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.50@5.90 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.85@6.80; fancy do. $6.85@8; winter wheat, good to choice family $6.25@8.25; round-hoop Ohio, $5.30@5.40, and trade brands of do. at $5.45@7; St. Louis $5.55@6.15 for common to fair extra, and $6.50@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.35@7.50, and patent at $7.30@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.50@5.30; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.15@6.40; do. English brands, $5.30@—; do. trade and family, $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $3.00@4.25. Buckwheat flour brings $3 to $3.40, and buckwheat grain 76c. ₰ bushel.

Corn meal selling at $2.75@3.15 for yellow western, Pennsylvania and Jersey, and $3.40 for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, 13,125 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 82,861 do. There is a spirited demand for apples. The supply is large, and buyers have good selection at the low prices. Export demand brisk. Fancy apples for export quoted at $1.75 for Spitzenbergs and $1.75@2.50 for Newtown Pippins. Florida oranges in fair demand. It is suggested that Florida growers settle upon a uniform size of box. Such a decision would prove a benefit to all parties. Catawba grapes are firm; Isabella dull. Cranberries quiet. The weather has been somewhat trying for them. Thanksgiving week will perhaps give them a start. California pears $3@3.50 per box for the winter varieties. The sorts in store are Easter Beurre, Winter Nelis, Glout Morceau and Vicars, the latter useful now. Peanuts a little firmer.

Apples, State, ₰ bbl., prime red, $1.50@1.75; winter, $1.37@1.50; mixed, $1.12@1.25; good to fair, 60c@$1. Quinces, ₰ bbl., $8@12. California Quinces, $3@4 ₰ box; Cranberries, crates, $2.50@3.00; Eastern, good to prime, $7@9.50; N. J., $7.50@8.50, for good to prime. Grapes—Catawba, ₰ lb., 9@10c.; Isabella, 4@5c. Chestnuts, ₰ bush. $2.50@3.00. Hickory nuts, $1.50@$2. Peanuts—Va., fancy, $1.20@1.30; other, 75c.@$1.15. Oranges—Louisiana, ₰ bbl., $6; Florida, box, $5.

GRAIN.—For wheat the market has been subject to frequent fluctuations, the whole position being affected as dispatches are received from the other side respecting the Eastern troubles. With the more belligerent character of recent developments, however, much more activity has resulted and prices have advanced. Latest sales at $1.30 for No. 3 Chicago spring, $1.30 for No. 2 Chicago spring, $1.32 for No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.23@1.30 for winter red Western, and $1.35@1.40 for white Western. Rye stronger, sales at 80@82c. for Western, 90@95c. for State, Jersey, Pennsylvania and Canada. Corn is in fair export demand and higher; sales at 58½@60½c. for Western mixed. Oats are higher and fairly active; sales at 35@51c. for mixed Western and State, and 38@50½c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—There are increased receipts while demand is without marked improvement; prices show no material change.

Bale hay 60c. for shipping; 70@90c. for retail qualities; clover, 55@65c.; salt, do., 50@60c. Straw quoted at 75@75c. for long rye; 55@60c. for short rye, and 45@55c. for oat.

HONEY.—In fair demand. White clover in glass 15@20c.; Buckwheat, 10@11c.; Strained B. W., 9@11c.; Strained White, 13@14c.

HOPS.—Exports for this week, 1,200 bales; beyond this but little has been done, while receipts have been about 1,300 bales. The chief supplies are of grades under good, and for this class of stock weak prices prevail. Brewers buy from hand to mouth awaiting developments.

New Yorks, good to choice, new	32 to 35
New Yorks, low to fair, new	20 to 30
Eastern, new	30 to 31
Wisconsin, new	21 to 30
Yearlings	10 to 20
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	32 to 36

POULTRY AND GAME.—Live poultry not wanted. Dressed is now and will be the specialty from this forward. The low nominal quotations are:

New Jersey turkeys, 11@13c. ₰ lb.; Western, 10@12c. N. J. fowls and chicks, 12@13c.; State and Penn., 10@11c.; Western, 10@11c., roosters, 8@9c. Geese, N. J., ₰ pair, $1.75@2; Western, $1.37@1.62. Ducks, N. J., ₰ pair, 62@87c.; Western, 50@65c. Live pigeons, ₰ pair, 25c.

Dressed poultry has gone through another discouraging week—low prices, dull trade and bad-looking stock being the causes. Thanksgiving poultry should be here by the 28th at the latest. Turkeys are the most salable for that festival and large size is no objection.

Turkeys, N. J., 14@16c.; State, 11@15c.; Western, 11@11c. Chickens, dry-picked, 12@16c. N. J. chicks, 11@15c.; State, 10@11c.; Western, 10@13c. Ducks, N. J., 11@15c.; State, 12@15c.; Western, 9@11c. Geese, 6@10c. for common; 11@13c. for good to best. Inferior poultry, 5@9c.

Game is in fair demand without improved prices. Market well supplied. The demand for venison is improving. A good many quail arrive in poor order. Wild ducks are slow; quality not attractive. Canvas seldom quoted so low.

We quote,—Canvas-back ducks $1.00 for Havre de Grace and 75c. for Western. Red Head 50@60c.; Mallard 50c.; Teal 50c.; Widgeon 30@35c.; common 25@30c.

English Snipe, ₰ doz. $1@1.25. Quail, ₰ doz., prime, $1.37@1.62; soft, $1@1.25. Partridge, State, 65@70; Eastern, 60@65c.; Western, 40@60c.; Prairie Hens, 80c.@$1; Hares, 40@50c.; Rabbits, 30@35c. Venison, whole, 10@11c.; long saddle, 12@13c.; short do., 14@15c.

PROVISIONS.—The disturbances on the other side and a possibility of war, have been seized upon by speculators to advance the markets here. There is some influence felt from the light arrivals of hogs at the West, but this is accounted for by the very mild weather for the period of delivering shipments forward. Mess pork quoted at $17@17.25 for spot lots; $16.25 for December and January. Bacon at 8⅝c. for long clear and 9¼c. for short clear; with long and short clear together, half each, for January 8⅝c. Western steam lard at $11 on spot; $10.25 for December and January. Stearine at 11c. for prime Western. Tallow at 8¾c. for prime. Beef hams at $20 for choice Western. Beef, barreled lots, new, quoted at $10.50@11.50 for plain mess, $12@12.50 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominally at $19@21 for new prime mess and $21@23 for new India mess. City extra India mess at $27.

SEEDS.—Grass have been in active demand, and clover is much higher; sales of clover at 16c. ₰ lb., and timothy at $1.35 ₰ bushel.

SUNDRIES.—Western live geese feathers prime 55@58c; mixed, 40@50c. Cider unchanged. Ginseng, $1.10@1.20.

TOBACCO.—Exporters have bought sparingly, and there is rather an easy range of prices.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5 @ 6	6 @ 7
Good lugs	6 @ 7½	7½@ 8
Low leaf	8 @ 8½	8½@ 9½
Medium leaf	9 @10	10 @11
Good leaf	10½@12	11½@13
Fine leaf	13 @14	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	16 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do	32 @40
selections	12 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 4,122 bbls.; of onions, 803 do. Potatoes are a shade firmer for all good grades. A good many poorly-sorted parcels arrive, which sell under our inside range. Sweet potatoes steady. Marrow squash improving, as pumpkins are out of the way. We quote:

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₰ bbl. $3.00@3.12. Early Rose, prime, $3@3.12; other $2.50@2.87; Peerless, bulk, $2.25@2.50; sweet, Del. $5.50@4; Va. $2.75@3. Cabbages, ₰ 100, $4@7. Marrow squash, ₰ bbl., 75c.@$1. New Russian turnips, ₰ bush., 75c.@—. Onions—Yellow, ₰ bbl., $1.75@2.00; white, $2.50@2.75; red, $1.50@1.75. Cauliflower, ₰ bbl., $4@4.50.

WOOL.—Speculators have been buying more freely of Western fleeces, California and Texas grades, for which very strong prices are made. The demand on manufacturing account is a little better. The supplies of fine fleeces are greatly reduced and the whole position of stocks favorable to full rates.

ROCHESTER, Nov. 18.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.30; amber winter, $1.15@1.25; white winter, $1.20@1.27. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 25@26c. Cheese, 12@13c. Eggs, 22@24c. Lard, 10@10½c. Apples, bu., 25@50c. Potatoes, bu., 50@75c. Beans, ₰ bu., 90@$1.70. Mess pork, $17.00. Wood, 25@30c. Hay, $12@13. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed strong at $11 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₰ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Nov. 18, 1876.

THERE has been an improved tone to the market this week, with a brisker trade and better prices. About 400 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on delivery and sales were made at 11@12⅜c., with only two or three lots reaching the latter figure. About 8,000 boxes of factory cheese were offered and nearly 6,000 boxes changed hands. A fine quality of October cheese commanded 13c., and September cheese went at 13⅛@13⅜c. So far as we could learn from salesmen present, there is only a light quantity of cheese held back at the factories.

There was a free delivery of butter and the market is firm. We note sales of farm dairy in Welsh tubs at 26@27c., and fancy lots, with creamery, at 28@29c., a few choice and extra lots reaching 30c. The weather is remarkably mild for the season, with no frosts or snow of any account.

We have advices from abroad to the 30th of October. Our London correspondent says that the demand is good for the best sorts of cheese. American is higher and the quality not so good as early September. We give quotations:

American, extra fine, 66@68s.; fine, 62@64s.; good, 50@56s.; secondary and low grades, 40@48s. English cheddar brings from 82@90s.; Wiltshire double, 66@78s.; Cheshire medium, 65@58s.; fine, 72@84s.; Scotch, 66@71s. Dutch Cheese—Edams, 66@68s.; Goudas, 60@62s.; Derby shape, 64@66s.

Friesland butter is easier, but all other descriptions are firm. Fine American sold at 150s. ₰ cwt. Oleomargarines are taken in preference to secondary and inferior sorts. The prices are as follows:

Cl'monels, 116@160s; Corks, 153s.; Dorsets, 174s., Jerseys, 130@136s.; Friesland, 176@190s.; Swedish, 164s.; Normandy extra, 120@164s.; American and Canadian, 136@150s for best and 90@110s. for lower grades. Oleomargarine sells at 93@101s. ₰ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 18, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	5,102	21	1,019	3,266	00
Forty-Eighth St.	138	31	297	9,018	37
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	13,417
Harsimus Cove	4,629	03	3	5,633	9,502
Totals this week	10,259	55	1,319	17,917	22,919
" last week	11,157	71	1,529	27,262	30,295

BEEVES.—Trade on last Monday was firm at the closing rates of our last weekly report. The quality of the herds on sale influenced rates, which were higher than those last quoted. Prices were 8@11c. ₰ lb.; weights, 5½@10 cwt. From 55@57 lbs., net, has been allowed. The herds to hand were all sold off, the top steers being of choice quality. Wednesday, trade firm at above quotations; quality poor to good. Prices were 8@10c. ₰ lb.; weights, 5½@9 cwt. Thursday, trade small, at 6⅝@10½c.; weights, 1½@8¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed fair at 7½@10½c.; weights, 5½@8 cwt. Spanish herds sold at 8@8½c. Colorado steers, 8@9c.; Native do., grass fed, 8@9½c.; do. part corn fed, 9½@10½c.; grade do., 10½@11c. Mixed herds, steers and oxen, 8@9c. Mixed herds, cows and heifers, with a few steers, 9@9½c. ₰ lb. Bulls, live weight, $2.90@3.80 ₰ cwt.

MILCH COWS.—Trade fair in fair quality fresh cows, poor do., held no sale. Ten cows sold at $45@55 ₰ head; 16 cows at $50@55; 17 do., 62@70; 5 do., $68@75—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade fair in smooth quality veals, which have been scarce. Coarse quality calves in heavy supply and slow of sale at 5@6¾c. ₰ lb., also at $6.50@16.75 ₰ per head, these latter all quoted from New York State. State veals, 8@11c.; Pennsylvania do., 8½@10½c.; Jersey do., 9@10½c.; Canada do., 8@8½c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade has been fair, on a moderate run, since our last weekly report. The quality of the flocks has been from coarse to good. Monday last sheep sold at 4@5c. ₰ lb.; lambs at 5½@6¾c. Wednesday, sheep, $4@5.10 ₰ cwt.; lambs, $5.12½@6.80 ₰ cwt. Thursday, sheep, 4⅝@5⅜c.; lambs, 5½@6¼c. Friday, the market closed dull. Sheep, 4½@5⅜c., lambs, 5½@6¼c. State and Canada bucks sold at 4@4½c. Jersey ewes, 5@5½c.; Canada do., 5@6c.; State do., 4⅝@5¼c. State sheep, 4⅞@6c.; Ohio, 4@6c.; Pennsylvania, 5¾@6c.; Indiana, 4⅝@4⅞c.; Kentucky, 5@5½c. State lambs, 5⅝@6⅜c.; Ohio do., 5½c.; Canada, 6@6¾c.

HOGS.—Trade small in live hogs at 5⅝@5¾c. ₰ lb. City dressed fair of sale at reduced rates. Heavy hogs, 6¾@7⅛c.; light pigs, 7@7½c.

HORSE MARKET.—Trade moderate, and interrupted by broken weather. Twenty head, poor quality, light harness horses sold at $40@85; 30 do., $50@100; 10 do. ordinary quality, $115@190; 6 do., coarse quality, heavy draft horses, $125@120 ₰ head; 7 pairs do., $200@325; 3 pairs choice quality do., $525@600; 4 pairs stylish carriage horses, aged, $500@800 ₰ pair; 1 pair do., warranted sound, $1,000; 5 trotters, $200@550 ₰ head; 19 roadsters, not warranted sound, $225@330 ₰ head; 4 pairs family carriage horses, $300@420 ₰ pair; 5 saddle horses, poor quality, $60@150 ₰ head; 1 do., choice quality, $500.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10⅝@11	10⅝@—
Fair	10 @10⅝	10 @10⅜
Poor	9½@ 9⅞	9¼@ 9⅞
Poorest	6⅞@ 9	7 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	8⅝@ 9⅞	8⅜@ 9⅞

INDEX TO NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Allen & Co., R. H.—The Baldwin Cutter—Ingersoll's Presses—New Root Cutter.
Andre Leroy's Nurseries at Angers, France.
Bailey's Wringing Machine Co.—Excelsior Wringer.
Benson & Burpee—Catalogue of Imported Cattle.
Bliss & Sons B. K.—Select Garden Seeds.
Boomer & Boschert—Cider Mills.
Buell, James—U. S. Life Insurance Co.
Carson, W. H.—Illustrated Catalogue and Amateur's Guide.
Cornish & Curtis—Rectangular Churn.
Dunn, C. H.—Trees, Shrubs and Vines.
Empire Novelty Co.—$25 Outfit Free.
Great Western Gun Works—Cheap Guns.
Hance & Son, A.—To the Trade and to Planters.
Husted, J. B.—25 Fancy Cards.
Johns, H. W.—Asbestos Materials.
Merriams—The Best English Dictionary.
Metropolitan Wringing Machine Co.—XX Universal Clothes Wringer.
Parry, Wm.—Pomona Nursery.
Pray's Greenhouses—Winter Flowering Plants, &c.
Raoux, C.—Nurserymen's Agency.
Sadler, H. J.—$50 Reward.
Smith, Mrs. B.—Butter and Cheese Coloring.
Snow, Dexter—Pressed Ferns.
Tillinghast Bros.—Cabbage Growers—Market Gardeners.
Vick, Jas.—Illustrated Priced Catalogue.
Vienna Yeast Co.—$1,200 a Year, Clear.
Wells, Richardson & Co.—To Color Butter.
Williams, S. P.—Cherry and Plum Stocks.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

Ag'l Manufacturing Co.—$500 Given Away.
Brown's Bronchial Troches—Coughs, Colds, &c.
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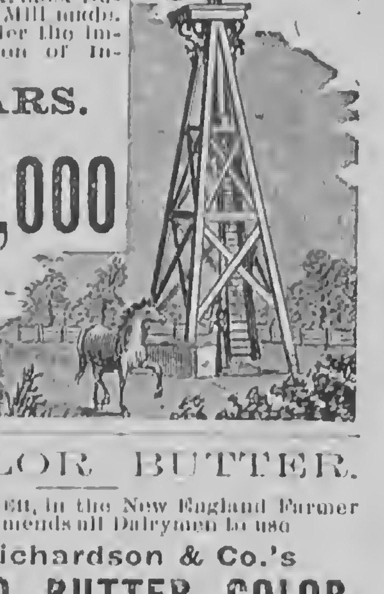

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TO COLOR BUTTER.

Mr. A. W. CHEEVER, in the New England Farmer of Nov. 11th, recommends all Dairymen to use

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PERFECTED BUTTER COLOR.

He says: "It is the strongest, purest and cheapest butter coloring we have ever used, and for all we can see it is absolutely perfect. It should entirely supercede carrots and all crude preparations of annatto in coloring butter."

It gives the exact shade of the best Jersey butter. It is pure, intense, economical, and has no taste or smell. It is an improvement on our "Golden Extract," being a combination of the bright yellow coloring principle of the Dandelion blossom, and is greatly superior to carrots, etc., giving a better color and no work.

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BUTTER AND CHEESE Coloring, Extract of Cheese Rennet, used by the largest Dairies in Europe and America. Price and Circular free. Sole Agent for U. S., Mrs. B. SMITH, 327 Arch St., Phila., Pa. Awarded Highest Centennial Prize Medal.

$50 REWARD!

For a Cow that cannot be broke of stepping about and kicking while being milked, with the celebrated

COW FETTER.

Retail price, $2. Agent wanted in every town. Send for Descriptive Circular and Price List to H. J. SADLER, Mecca, Ohio.

NEW CATALOGUE

of Imported and Thoroughbred Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry, Pigeons, Dogs, Ferrets, etc. Elegantly illustrated with cuts from life. Every farmer and breeder should have it. Price only 20 cents, post-paid.

BENSON & BURPEE, Seed Warehouse, 223 Church St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Greenbrook & Paterson City Nurseries

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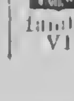

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

A SISTER of Spurgeon, the London preacher, has entered the pulpit.

ALL men are not homeless, but some men are home less than others.

IN a French family who work at a mill in Slatersville, R. I., there are four pairs of twins.

SETH GREENE'S Lake Ontario shad have come to weigh four pounds each, and the old man is happy.

AN epigram by John Brougham:—"Man is a monopolist of an immortality he is not sure he possesses."

THE California Chinese wear coats of mail under their shirts, and when one of them is shot at he grins and turns the corner.

THE Independent has a flattering notice of a theater, and the Church Union notices a circus in a complimentary editorial article.

VERGENNES, Vermont, the oldest city in New England, is called the smallest city in the world, its area being less than two square miles.

THE standard of public intelligence in the State of Iowa is so high now, that they have to send to Kansas for jurymen in all Iowa law cases.

A CYNICAL man insists that the fewer relatives or friends the happier we are. "In your poverty they never help you, in your prosperity they always help themselves."

A WISCONSIN paper gravely informs its readers that the equestrian statue of McPherson represents the general as sitting on a stump before a camp fire, writing a dispatch.

AN Encyclopedia of British Journalism is in preparation by Cornelius Walford, the insurance writer. It is to be hoped that it will prove less open to adverse criticism than its predecessor, Mr. James Grant's.

PARIS has a grave difficulty to solve, what to do with her dead? For ten years has this subject been under consideration, and Baron Haussmann complained that the dead gave him far more trouble than the living.

A YOUNG girl in Stamford Conn., was whipped by her father for allowing an objectionable fellow to court her. She retaliated by putting arsenic in the parent's coffee twice, but each time made the dose so large that he was not killed.

DR. MARY WALKER is a little more conservative in the style of her dress since the dog bit her. She now wears a row of knife pleating all around the tails of her coat, and the waistband and the ends of the legs of her trousers are trimmed with ball fringe.

WHILE Lord Dufferin was traveling in Egypt a servant came to the door of his tent, and said in a dolorous voice, "If you please, my lord, the corpse has come aboard." By this depressing title he was pleased to designate a mummy discovered in a rock temple.

A LITTLE girl in Lewiston, Me., was ordered by her stepmother to wear gloves to school as a means of curing her of biting her nails. The child returned home barehanded, and the stepmother not only replaced the gloves but sewed them fast to the flesh at the wrists.

MR. MATHEW ARNOLD and Mr. Froude somewhat resemble each other, both having curiously long and harsh faces and the ugliest and largest mouths in all the universe of mouths. But they have strong and powerful heads and gray eyes, indicating judgment and reflection.

A SUNDAY-SCHOOL teacher was giving a lesson in Ruth. She wanted to bring out the kindness of Boaz in commanding the reapers to drop large handfuls of wheat. "Now, children," she said, "Boaz did another nice thing for Ruth; can you tell me what it was?" "Married her!" said one of the boys.

IN his "Confessions of a Drunkard," Charles Lamb says:—"Is there no middle way betwixt total abstinence and the excess which kills you? For your sake, gentle reader, and that you may never attain to my experience, with pain I must utter the dreadful truth that there is none—none that I can find."

BEHOLD another talker in the field. It is Miss Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, who is going to lecture several times upon "Representative Modern Fiction," before the College of Liberal Arts of Boston University. George Eliot will be dissected in four lectures. Representative modern fiction is a large subject.

DR. W. B. CARPENTER, the English psychologist is about to investigate spiritualism, with Mrs. Kane as the medium. Mrs. Kane is better known as Maggie Fox, who, with her sister Kate, produced the celebrated "Rochester rappings" in 1847, out of which modern spiritualism may be said to have grown.

AN Atlanta lover, who was made a lunatic by rejection, determined to kill everybody who might be his successful rival. He met two young men in the street soon after coming to that murderous determination, asked them if they were acquainted with the young woman, and shot them upon their answering in the affirmative.

THE Queen's Messengers, poor gentlemen of good family who carry despatches that can neither be intrusted to wire nor mail from the British Government to its representatives abroad, have been worked off their legs lately. One of them went from London to Constantinople, had twelve hours' rest, arrived in London on Saturday and had to start next day for Vienna. He was there one day, returned to London, and twenty-four hours later was on his way to St. Petersburg again.

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SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

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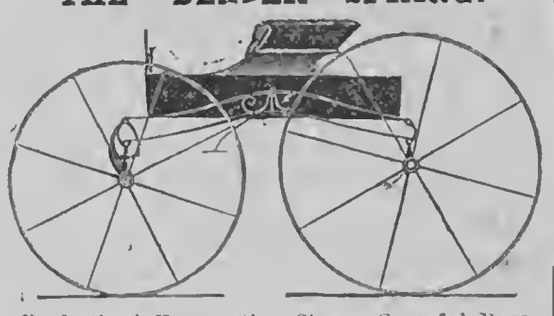
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The only line running Hote Dining Cars out of New York. A ride of nearly a thousand miles without leaving the car to eat, drink or sleep!

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

S. A. F., Wyoming, N. Y.—I have for a long time read your paper with great interest, especially the Floricultural Department, for I am very fond of flowers. Many thanks to you for the valuable hints given—they have helped me to make my garden, the past summer, more beautiful than it otherwise would have been. Will you please tell me the name of the shrub that bears the inclosed pod and leaf? It grows beside a fence near my home, and has been allowed to remain there for a curiosity. It does not seem to grow over 15 feet high, but sprouts up from the roots. Some years the pods are very thick on the branches, but this year they are scarce. ANS.—The shrub is *Staphylea trifolia* (Bladder Nut).

Miss Caroline McDowell.—I have some Smilax seed. Will you please tell me through the RURAL how to grow them? ANS.—Precisely the same as you would the seeds of a Balsam or a Radish. There is no trouble about raising them whatever.

M. W.—What ails my Verbenas? All the cuttings that I started in sand are growing nicely, except the Verbenas; they all died. They look bright for a day or two, then curl up and turn black, as if scalded. All that I can do for them, I cannot succeed in getting one to grow. ANS.—Black Rust is the matter with them. Either the plants or the wood from which you took cuttings was too old. It may be that you keep them in too warm a place. Black Rust is caused by a minute insect not visible to the naked eye. The best remedy is to throw the plants away and try again.

W. E. Smith.—The London Journal of Horticulture, in a late number, answers your question, viz., "Why is Rosewood so-called?" When the tree is first cut the fresh wood possesses a very strong, Rose-like fragrance;—hence the name. The name was not, it is supposed, given for its color or markings.

L. W. Pratt.—The two large, soft beetles, with very short wing-covers of bluish tint and black body, are both females of the common Oil beetle (*Meloe angusticollis* of SAY). The males are somewhat smaller than the females, and are readily distinguished from them by a kind of knot or twist in the middle of the antennæ. There have been some fourteen or fifteen species of our native Meloes named and described, but there are still quite a number of new ones in the cabinets of our entomologists awaiting like honors. These Oil beetles are placed in the same family as the common Blister beetles, which also includes the well-known Spanish Fly of Southern Europe, so extensively employed as a vesicant. The species you send also possess vesicatory properties, but not in so powerful a degree as the members of the true cantharidæ. All of the several hundred species belonging to the *Meloe* family are leaf-eating beetles, some of them being very injurious to the potato. The Striped Blister beetle, *Epicouta vittata*, is sometimes very abundant in the Western States, and we have known them to strip every leaf from a field of potatoes in a few hours. We have also received complaints of the depredations of this very Oil beetle upon the potato, but they are seldom numerous enough to do much damage to cultivated plants.

A., London, Ont.—Different proportions of the same substances, when united, possess remarkably different properties and produce, in some cases, the most opposite effects. For instance, mercury and chlorine, united in a certain proportion, form the well-known medicine, calomel; united in another proportion, the terrible poison, corrosive sublimate, is formed. Nitrogen and oxygen unite in half-a-dozen different proportions, forming as many distinct compounds. Nitrous oxide, composed of one equivalent of nitrogen and one of oxygen, is the gas known as Laughing Gas. Nitric acid, composed of one equivalent of nitrogen and five of oxygen, is one of the most corrosive of acids. Now, the application of a certain quantity of a given chemical fertilizer to a certain soil might prove highly injurious, while if double the quantity were used it might prove highly beneficial. We must know the constituents of the soil ere we apply chemical manures. Guess-work, in a majority of instances, will prove a losing operation. It is, measurably, like prescribing medicine to a sick person before we have acquainted ourselves with the disease. Unless you can afford to experiment, use for the present such manure as you can make upon your farm, or buy horse manure.

W. R. Brooks.—Your plan for "Poultry-house and Park" is received and will appear next week, or as soon as the engravings can be made.

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Wit and Humor.

HE'D BEEN TO THE CENTENNIAL.

A BASHFUL-APPEARING man stepped into the Enquirer editorial room the other evening, and edging up to the table of the managing editor, hat in hand, said, in a hesitating way:

"You like little items for your paper, I suppose?"

"Certainly," replied Mr. Cockerill, "a newspaper, like life, is made up of little items. What have you to offer?"

"Well," said the bashful man, playing with his hat-band, "my name is Smith, John Smith, and I've just got home."

"Glad to see you back again, Mr. Smith," said Cockerill, "been gone long?"

"I have been," said Mr. Smith, with a tremor of pride in his voice, "to the Centennial, and if you want to make a little notice ——"

"What!" cried Cockerill, springing to his feet; "you've been to the Centennial? And you've got back? Give us your hand; I am delighted to see you. Spear, let me introduce you to John Smith. John has been to the Centennial!"

Spear shook hands very warmly with Mr. Smith, and then ran to the aperture communicating with the reporter's room, and shouted, "O'Shaunnessey, come in here, quick: here's a man that's been to the Centennial."

Then O'Shaunnessey bounded in, followed by his assistants, all of whom embraced the bewildered Smith warmly, and expressed the gratification it afforded them to meet a man who had been to the great National Exhibition. Word got down stairs somehow, and Joe McDowell, Bill Small, and Uncle Joe Shadenger came up stairs at a tearing rate to gaze upon the individual who had been to the Exposition. It was too much for the modest man to bear, and murmuring something about making an item of his return if they wanted to, he hurried out just in time to meet on the stairs the foreman and thirty-two compositors—all eager to get a glimpse of the man who had "been to the Centennial."—*Cincinnati Saturday Night.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A PROMINENT dentist is announced as ready to take the stump.

WHITE illusion bonnets are calculated to deceive the pocket book.

"JAKE," said the blushing damsel to a lover that her father had forbidden the house, "I don't care if you're feet are big; I love you just as much." "Well, Sally, I don't mind so much about the size of my own feet, but I wish you're dad's were a little smaller; I should feel more confident, you know, about staying."

WHAT HE WAS YELLING AT.—"What is that man yelling at?" asked an Illinois farmer of his boy, as he pointed to a person in the field one day this week.

"What is he yelling at?" repeated the lad.

"Yes," replied the father inquiringly.

"I know," said the boy.

"Then what is it, you young rascal?" demanded the paternal.

"Why," chuckled the urchin, "he's—he's yelling at—at the top of his voice!"

Then that cold-booded husbandman placed violent hands on his irreverent offspring, and laid him over a gang-plow while he flailed him with a fork-stale.

KNEE-PLUS ULSTER.

Boy—"You'd better put on more bustle an' take a reef in your train, stranger!"

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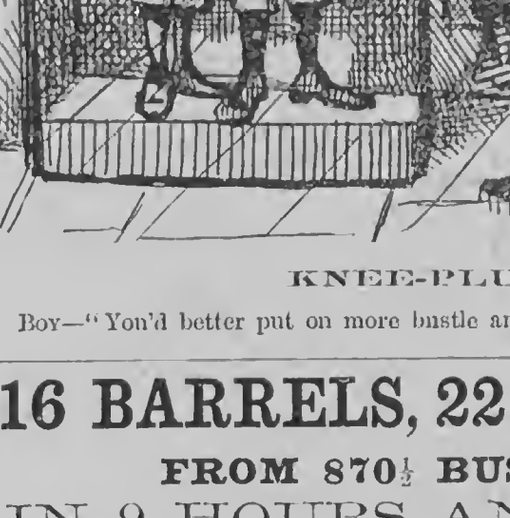

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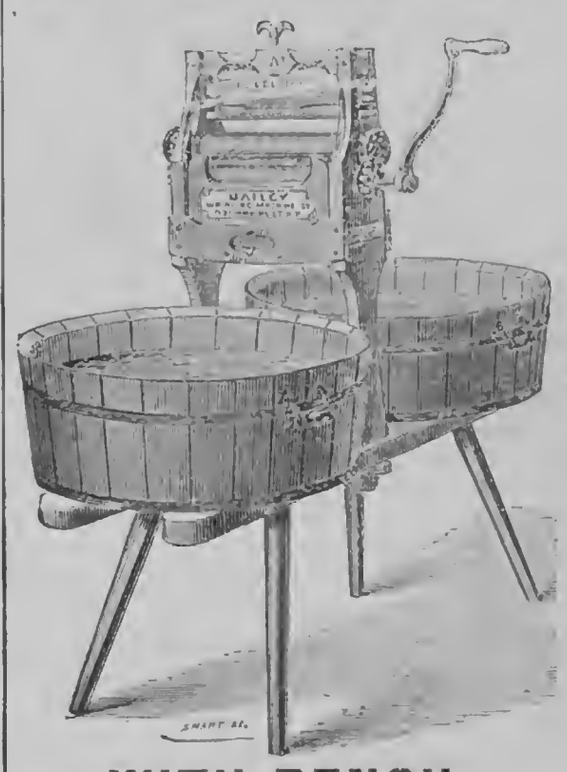

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RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

VOL. XXXIV. No. 23.
WHOLE No. 1401.

NEW YORK CITY, DEC. 2, 1876.

PRICE SIX CENTS
$2.50 PER YEAR.

[Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1876, by the Rural Publishing Company, in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.]

The Poultry Yard.

CHOICE BREEDS OF FOWLS.

THE interest in choice breeds of fowls does not seem to abate one whit in public estimation, with an increased familiarity and long acquaintance. There may be, it is true, an occasional lull in the demand for certain breeds; but none which possesses real merit remains unsought, for the natural variety of taste calls for a like variety of birds. The accompanying portraits show very clearly the character of three of the noted breeds, which have commanded more or less attention in this country, and are doing so at the present time.

Figure 1 is an excellent portrait of a Dark Brahma hen—in fact, may be considered a standard bird of this variety. The two varieties or breeds of the Brahma fowl are known as the Light and Dark, the principal difference consisting on their color, some breeders prefering the first and others the latter. TEGETMEIER, the celebrated English authority on domestic poultry, in speaking of the Brahmas, says that they "are doubtless the largest of all the varieties of domestic fowls. It is within our knowledge that cocks have been shown weighing the almost incredible weight of seventeen pounds."

The male birds of the Dark or Penciled Brahmas, as they are known by both of the above names, should have the upper part of the body—including the neck, hackle, back and saddle—silver white, striped with black; the breast, under part of body and thighs, black, slightly mottled with white. The feathers covering the base of the quill feathers of the wings are of a metallic green-black, and form a broad, well-marked bar across the wings. The quill feathers of the wings, or what are termed flight feathers, are white on the outer and black on the inner webs. The tail is black, the coverts on either side being of a beautiful lustrous greenish-black; the lesser feathers edged with white.

The color of the hen is: head gray, the neck hackle silvery white, striped with black. The remainder of the plumage should be dull-white, minutely and distinctly penciled throughout with dark penciling. The large size of the Brahmas makes them a very popular breed, although it must be admitted that the weight is not obtained without a corresponding expenditure in food.

DERBY GAMES.

The Game fowls are truly an English breed, having been brought to their high state of perfection under the care of men who have encouraged cock fighting in England.

What are termed the Derby Games, a pair of which are shown in Fig. 2, take their name from Lord DERBY, and are really an old breed, but through careful selection and breeding have not only been kept pure, but in a great measure improved of late years. Some of these fowls found in this country are said to be equal, if not superior, to anything found on the other side of the Atlantic; in fact, this may also be said of several other noted breeds of fowls.

The Game fowl is principally prized for the cockpit, and although of light weight, their flesh is as fine as that of any other breed, and were it not for the pugnacious disposition of the males, they would doubtless be far more extensively raised for the table than they are at present. The brilliant plumage and elegant carriage of the males make them rank among the most beautiful of our domestic fowls.

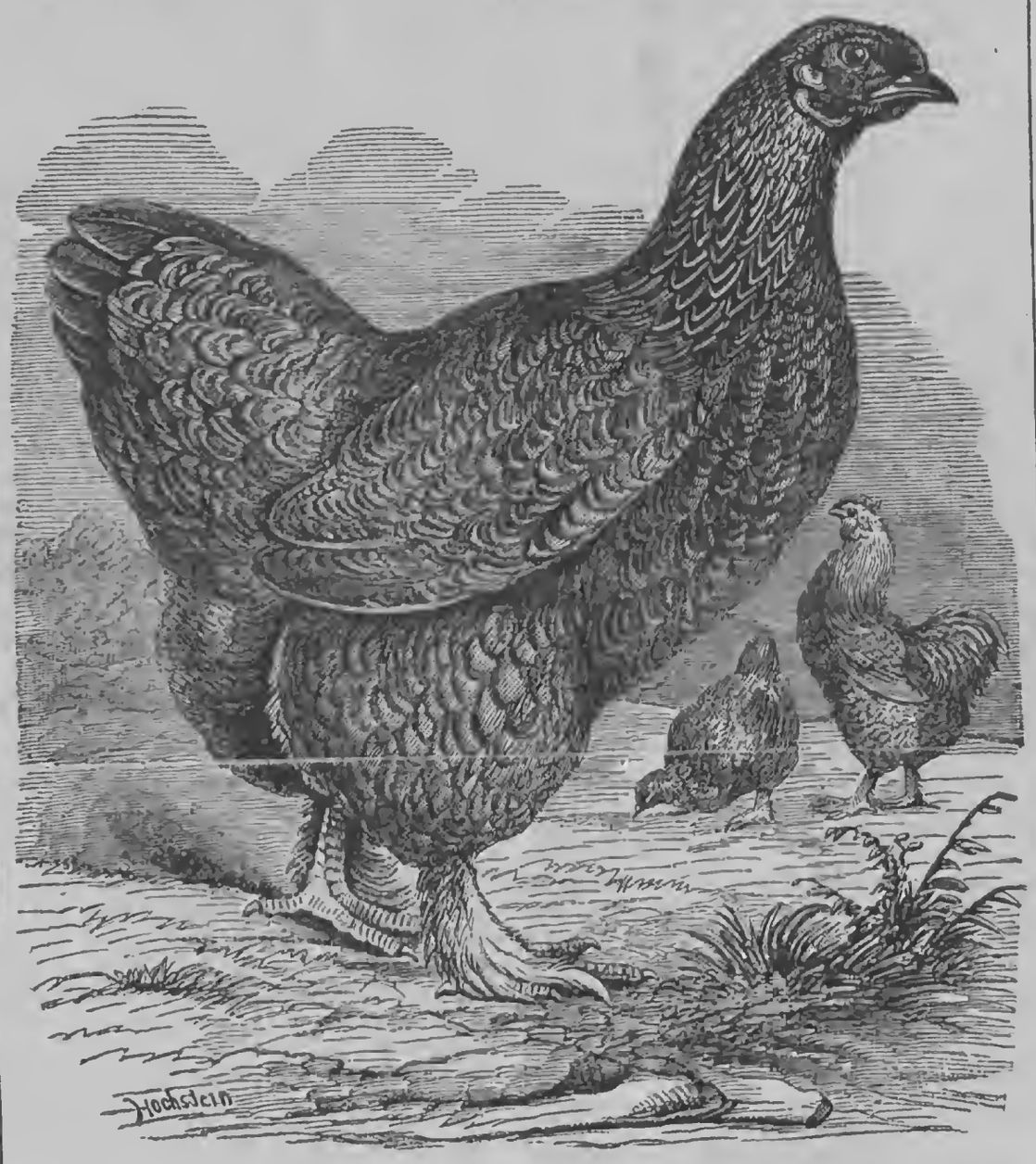


Fig. 1.—DARK BRAHMA HEN.

DOMINIQUES.

In Fig. 3 we give the portrait of a Dominique cock, an elegant bird, the representative of a most excellent breed of fowls. Very little is known of this breed abroad, it being of American origin.

The prevailing color is a light ground, undulated and softly shaded with slaty blue all over the body, forming bands of various widths. The comb is variable in the males, in some single, in others double; the greater part, however, are single. Feet, legs and bill are of a yellow or buff color. The hens are good layers and excellent mothers, and taking the breed upon its numerous merits, we have few, if any, better for the farm generally.

CENTENNIAL POULTRY SHOW.

CAN you tell me anything in regard to the "Centennial Poultry Show" prizes. I have watched the papers to see who won first prize, but can learn nothing in regard to it. A reply will confer a favor on—MILTON, *Seneca Falls.*

ANS.—Our correspondent proposes a conundrum which we will have to "give up." It is, as DUNDREARY says, "One of those things which no fellow can find out." All sorts of rumors are afloat in regard to the matter. One says that every chick, fowl, pigeon, duck, turkey, etc., is to receive a bronze medal, and that several immense establishments are now running night and day, busily engaged in preparing them. Another rumor indignantly denies this, and says that only those birds not disqualified are to receive bronze medals, and those disqualified are to be "highly commended." Still another rumor declares that the poultry awards are to be similar to the now famous piano awards—that each exhibitor will receive a medal, accompanied by a report from

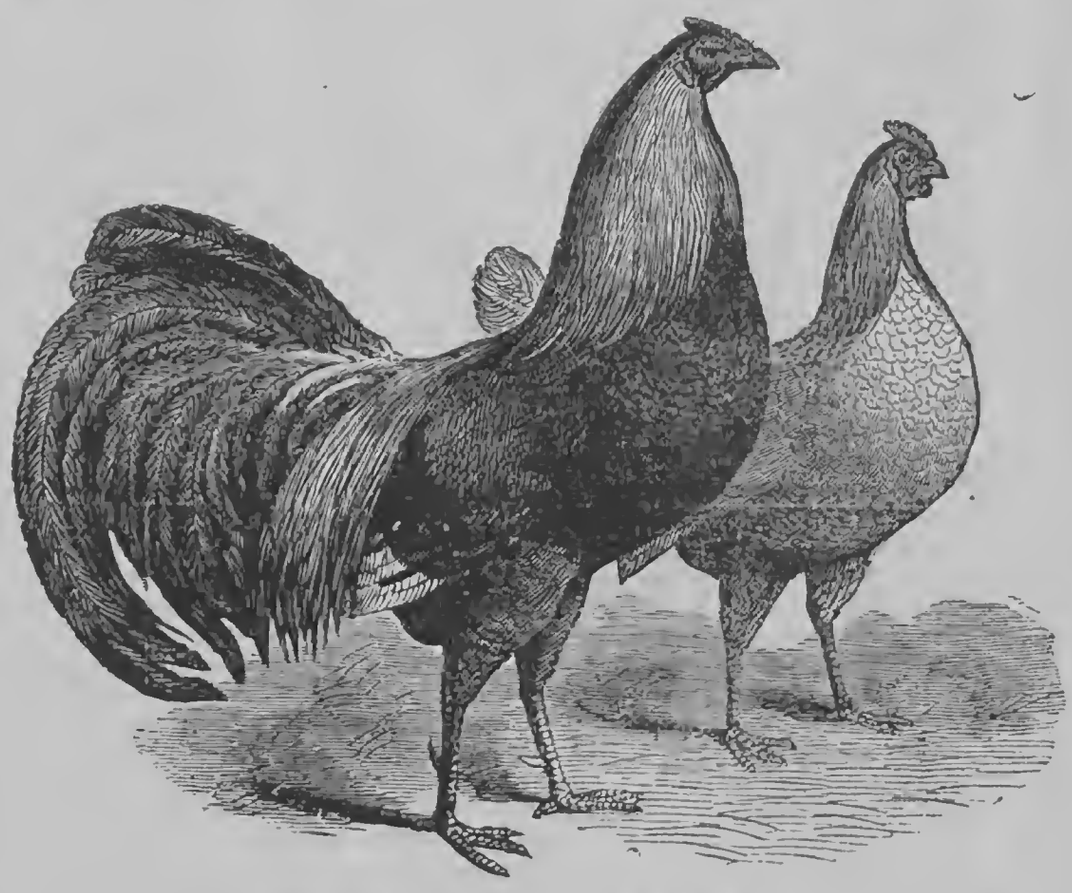


Fig. 2.—DERBY GAMES.

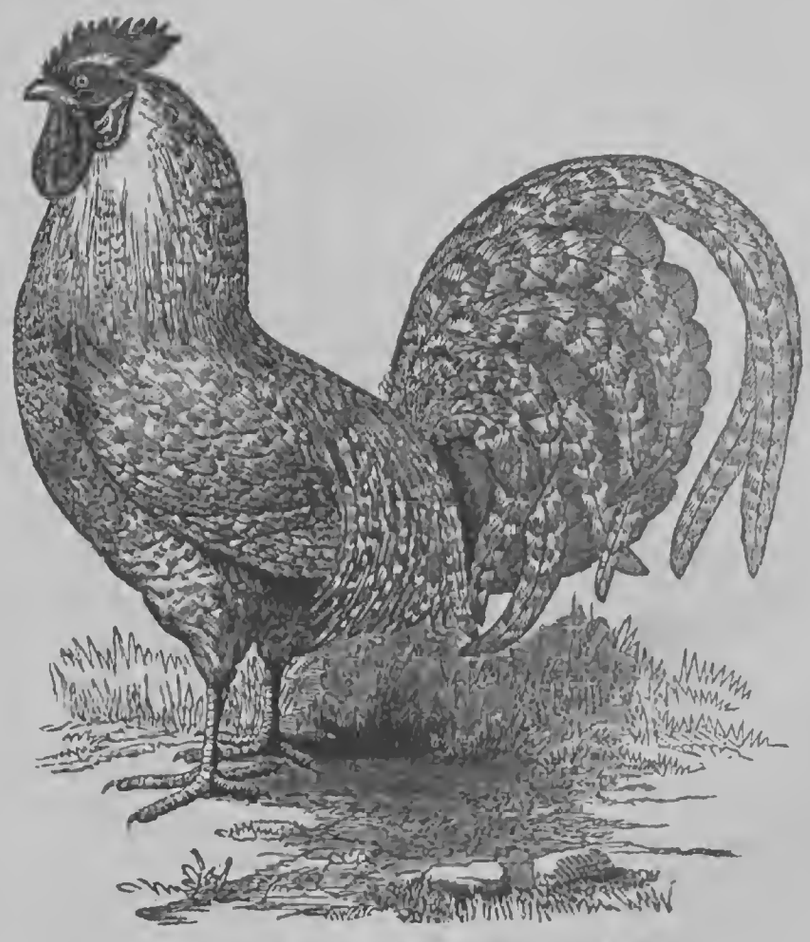


Fig. 3.—DOMINIQUE COCK.

the Judges, intended to show which is considered to be best in its variety.

But on the "please everybody" plan of the piano awards, these reports are to be worded so nicely that no one can find out who has the "first medal." Thus: John Smith's poultry receive a medal," for purity of tone and delicacy of touch," while John Jones' poultry will receive a medal for "excellence as a Concert Grand, peculiar singing quallly, and finish in workmanship." This may seem to John Jones and Peter Smith very much like a report on a piano-forte, but we believe that it is about as applicable to the subject as the Judges' report will be, from all that we learn.

QUERIES ABOUT POULTRY.

I WANT to ask a few questions that may seem unimportant to "fanciers," but an answer will much oblige one who is not posted on chicken breeding, but is, nevertheless, interested in the matter, and has purchased some stock with which to begin poultry raising:

1st. What should be the diameter of the roost for full-grown chickens; should it be smooth and round, or rough and square?

2d. Are scraps from the table good for chickens, or is it best to keep them on corn?

3d. How large should a nest be and how made? —JOHN A. NORRIS, *Middletown, N. Y.*

ANS.—Our correspondent is indeed "beginning at the beginning," in asking advice as to the roost, the nest and diet; but, simple as seem these questions, they are the essence of success in his proposed project.

1st. About four inches in diameter is the best size for a roost for ordinary fowls. If the variety you keep is small, of course the roost should be small in proportion. It is not best either "smooth and round," or "rough and square." Let us compromise it by making it "rough and round." A rough pole with the bark on makes a capital roost, as the fowls cling to it better, and seem to prefer the bark to planed wood. Do not have your roosts too high, as large fowls will injure themselves, at times, in flying down. Do not have one roost above another, or there will be a mighty fight for highest place.

2d. Scraps from the table are excellent for your poultry, and if you have but a few fowls, these scraps should almost entirely support them. A corn diet will make your hens so fat that they will cease laying.

3d. About eighteen inches square is a good size for a nest. If made of wood, have no bottom to the box, and placing it on the ground, let the hen make her nest on the turf. A wire basket, made flat on one side, and hung by a nail to the wall, is an excellent nest, and one that will be always free from vermin.

DOUGLAS MIXTURE.

WILL the RURAL oblige me by telling me what "Douglas Mixture" is, and for what purpose it is used. I see it advertised in a prominent poultry journal. Is it a "patent medicine?" —J. A. WILSON, *New York.*

ANS.—"Douglas Mixture" is not a "patent medicine," and we give, below, its ingredients. It is a bracing tonic, composed of sulphate of iron and sulphuric acid, and will be found an admirable assistant to the poultry keeper in guarding against "roup," in strengthening chickens in their molt, and in preparing them for "shows." It gives a bright red color in the ears and comb, and adds much to the appearance of birds in the "show pen." About a tablespoonful should be added to every quart of drinking water provided for the fowls.

"Douglas Mixture" is composed of half a pound of sulphate of iron, and one ounce of sulphuric acid dissolved in two gallons of water.

CONGESTION.

YOUR correspondent who, in a late number of the RURAL, complains of the loss of so many of his ducklings without knowing the reason for their peculiar troubles, may attribute them very probably to *over feeding* and consequent *congestion.*

The writer, some months ago, had a similar experience with a Leghorn hen, and gave the result of his treatment in an article which was published in the Country Gentleman at the time. A stream of cold water, frequently applied to the head, a liberal dose of blue mass, followed next day by castor oil and a very light diet for several days will, I believe, remedy the evil, while reduced rations of wheat will prevent any from being attacked. L. J. W.

Arkadelphia, Ark.

DURHAM POWDERS FOR FOWLS.—Please allow me to recommend to Mr. E. A. the Durham Powders as a cure for sick ducks or fowls of any kind. Mix in corn-meal dough or wheat bran until it becomes red with the powder. Feed to fowls once or twice a day for several days, and they will soon recover. As a preventive, feed the above mixture every two or three weeks to your fowls and they will keep in perfect health.—M. E. B., *Mosen, Tenn.*

Dairy Husbandry.

THE ENGLISH CHEESE SHOWS, AND HOW THEY PROMOTE DAIRY PROGRESS.

THE English plan of "after-dinner" speeches at the great cheese Fairs, it seems to us, is a valuable feature of the Exhibition, and one which could be profitably introduced on this side of the Atlantic. The course pursued is something after the following fashion:

When the awards have been made, the judges, the exhibitors and others interested in dairy matters sit down together to dinner, and after this is disposed of, speeches are called for in reply to toasts which are given in reference to the occasion. The judges are expected to give a full account of their reasons for making the awards, to point out the merits and defects of the cheese and butter on exhibition, and to make suggestions in regard to the style and quality of such goods, as may be demanded in the various markets. The merchants are expected to discourse concerning the trade, reviewing the markets in the past and giving their views in regard to the probable state of trade in the future. Dairymen and those interested in the making of dairy products discourse upon facts connected with the business in different sections, the health of stock, the condition of pasturage, the yield of milk, etc., etc. Thus, it will be seen, a large amount of valuable information is brought out and mutually interchanged.

Some such plan, we think, should be introduced here—not that a formal dinner is indispensable, for this is an English custom, and "after-dinner speeches" are supposed to be free from rancor, as every one wishes his neighbor well and tries to promote his best interests. We are not sure, therefore, but that there is wisdom in the plan of discussing all these matters after the appetite has been fully satisfied; but the important point we wish to urge is, that a meeting of those interested should be held in connection with the Show and immediately after the awards, so that exhibitors, judges and merchants might meet together and exchange opinions. It is worth something to an exhibitor to get the opinion of a judge, if the latter be an expert. We cannot always see defects until they are pointed out, and especially is this the case with dairymen in regard to dairy products, the impression generally prevailing that each makes the best goods.

We have before us a late copy of the Somerset and Wilts Journal which gives a very full account of the great Cheese and Butter Show at Frome, Eng., from which we obtain some useful information in the speeches of the judges after the annual dinner. We give below a brief abstract of some of the facts brought out:

ENGLISH CHEESE IMPROVING.

Mr. COPEMAN, one of the judges, in referring to the difficulties in making the awards, said they had done their best on this occasion, but their difficulties had been increased by the improved quality of the dairies they had to inspect. That was a satisfaction to the gentlemen who exhibited, and he referred to it with pleasure. Having been one of the judges two years ago, he could see great improvement in the cheese this year, as compared with that time. Some time ago he began to feel a little nervous about the standing of the English dairy farmers. He was afraid they were going back and not maintaining their position as the makers of the *finest cheese in the world.* He thought the finest cheese in the world was made near that very spot (Frome).

AMERICAN CHEESE FROM AN ENGLISH POINT OF VIEW.

They had all heard a great deal about America, and it was necessary that they should keep their eyes upon that country. The importations of cheese last year from America were 50,000 tons, varying from a good medium to a good fine cheese; but there was no cheese from America equal to the cheese made in the neighborhood of Frome. America would have difficulty in competing with the finest qualities of English cheese, and this was a cause of encouragement. But he would warn those farmers who could not make good cheese to give up making it; if they continued to spoil good things, it would ultimately spoil them. The demand for the best cheese was three or four times more than they could supply. Many persons went without cheese altogether because they could not get the finest quality.

These remarks of Mr. COPEMAN concerning the demand for fine cheese are undoubtedly true, so that American dairymen need not have any fear of over-production in this character of goods for a long time to come, at all events.

Mr. C. remarked, in conclusion, that he did not propose to tell them how to rectify errors in manufacturing. His business was to point out the cheese that would command the highest price, and he advised those who could not make good cheese to get their neighbors to communicate the secret to them.

Mr. LIVESEY, another of the judges, said that though he had written a great deal upon cheese-making in the last twenty years, yet, when he attempted to speak, he was unable to do justice to the subject. No doubt many exhibitors of cheese thought themselves better judges than those who had adjudicated the prizes. Some farmers, having selected the choicest cheese of their dairies, were no doubt disappointed at not receiving a prize. He had known a case where the handsomest cheese made in a dairy turned out to be the worst, and actually fetched from 10 shillings to 15 shillings, sterling, less per cwt. than the bulk of the dairy. There were many things necessary, in the eye and judgment of a person of forty or fifty years' practice, to constitute a really fine cheese. A cheese might be very handsome outside and very deficient inside. It might lack flavor, be too hard, too dry, or too sloppy; it might be a cheese that would not keep, and it might have other defects.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A FINE CHEESE.

To constitute a really fine cheese, the cheese must be solid in texture, but "very sinking" and soft; the flavor should be as fine as possible. It should have mildness without insipidness, but a mildness that was full in the mouth.

ORDINARY AND FINE CHEESE COMPARED.

In remarking upon the markets, Mr. LIVESEY said that for the last six months cheese had been selling at low prices and trade was bad. But while the low samples had gone down from 20 shillings to 30 shillings, sterling, per cwt., the *best cheese had not gone down one shilling.* While cheese warehouses had been full of low-priced produce, there had been an *excessive demand for fine cheese.* If they taught their neighbors to make fine cheese, they need never fear for the demand.

TRAINING-SCHOOLS SUGGESTED.

It had been suggested that training-schools be inaugurated, where persons could serve an apprenticeship to cheese-making. A meeting with that object was to be held in London. If that plan could not be adopted, he would suggest the plan of the late Mr. JOSEPH HARDING of Marksbury, which was that the most noted cheese-makers take pupils. By this means the cheese-making of Scotland had been revolutionized. Twenty years ago the dairymen of Scotland made the worst cheese in the world, and now they challenge the Somerset dairymen to come up and compete with them.

Thus it will be seen how useful these occasions are made, when the most noted experts—men having forty or fifty years practice in handling cheese—give their opinions in reviewing their work in the presence of exhibitors, and the exhibits still near-by, to which an appeal can at any time be made.

The cheese Shows of the United States are faulty in this, that men are chosen as judges who are not experts, and who have but a limited knowledge of cheese in all its different grades and qualities. They make their awards without responsibility. They are not brought face to face with exhibitors and with merchants dealing in cheese, where they may be questioned as to their awards. Again, if all parties exhibiting are to be largely benefited, the merits and demerits of the samples shown must be pointed out. In this way real progress is made and a Cheese Show becomes something more than a mere scramble for awards, where favoritism and outside influence have as much, and often more, to do in distributing prizes than true merit. For this reason we think something can be learned from the mother country in the management of Cheese and Butter Shows, and the example is worth following.

GOING INTO WINTER QUARTERS.

THERE is scarcely any time during the season when dairy stock require more special care and attention than now, as the herds go into winter quarters. It is the habit of a large majority of dairy farmers in New York, as well as in some other States, to keep up the milking through December. Of course some of the animals will cease to yield milk during November, and very poor cows, perhaps, earlier. But the best cows, for the most part, will not go completely dry until the first of January.

As cold weather approaches, cows in milk ought not to be left exposed to storms. They are very sensitive to cold at this season of the year, and if left exposed to rains and to storms of sleet and snow, they not unfrequently contract disease, which, with the drain of milk, reduces flesh and seriously impairs their usefulness another season. We have seen animals in good health utterly ruined by a day's exposure to cold and drenching rains. On the approach of storms, the cattle should be immediately housed, and care should be taken that the animals on the outer edge of the stable should be kept from cold drafts of winds.

Another point of very great importance at this season is *generous feeding.* It is the custom with some to use up all the coarse and inferior fodder at the commencement of cold weather. This is a great mistake, as the best food should be given when the animals first go into winter quarters. After they have been dried of their milk and later in the season, the poorer food should be used, and as animals, like persons, enjoy variety in their diet, the coarse and less nutritious fodder can, by judicious feeding from time to time, be used up to the best advantage. But if the mows have been topped off with late ends of meadows and with the poorest fodder grown on the farm, then it may be necessary to feed this first. In such cases the animals should have an additional ration of ground grain-bran or ship-stuffs to make up the deficiency in nutriment in the poor fodder. It is very bad policy to allow milch cows to lose flesh at the commencement of winter. As a matter of economy in feeding, it is better to keep the animals in a good, thrifty condition at this season, because a thin cow requires more food than when she is in flesh, and if she is stinted and kept thin during winter, she will be of but little account for milk the following season. If fodder is scarce and it is necessary to economise with short rations, let the time be put off until late in winter or in spring.

Cows are often milked too long in the season. Some dairymen milk all winter and nearly up to the time of calving. This is a very heavy draft on the constitution, and unless the animal has an extraordinary amount of vigor, she breaks down early in life, or fails to yield a full supply of milk. It has been claimed by some, and perhaps with reason, that by a continued practice of long milking abortion is induced. When this bad habit becomes fastened on a herd it proves a terrible scourge, and the damage not unfrequently eats up the entire product from the herd.

It seems more in accordance with nature that animals should be allowed a reasonable time from yielding milk in order to recuperate and make up the wastes of the system, so as to produce healthy offspring and be in condition to yield a full supply of milk the following season. From ten to twelve weeks are none too long, it seems to us, for a cow to go dry, and we think, where cows are allowed this time, they will yield better returns than where they are milked up to near the time of calving. There are cows which do not readily dry of their milk, and of course such will require to be milked later; but these are exceptional cases. In conclusion, we say to dairymen: Look well to your stock at this season, provide warm quarters, shelter from storms, and, above all, give generous feed.

BRITISH DAIRY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

OUR London (Eng.) correspondent, under date of Oct. 28, sends us a list of the officers elected at the recent inauguration of the "British Dairy Farmers' Association," as follows:—President, J. G. Crompton of Derby; Treasurer, James Adams of Bishop's Stortford; Secretaries, H. F. Moore and Morgan Evans. The following are the names of the Committee:—G. L. Allender of London, Joseph Aston of Cheshire, John Coleman of Derby, James Dumbrill of Sussex, W. Livesey of Lancashire, R. Porteous of Somerset, John Rafferty of London, J. P. Sheldon of Derby, E. T. Tisdale of Kensington, John Whittaker of Highgate. The temporary officers of the Association are at No. 13 Salisbury Square, Fleet St., London.

The subscription fee has been fixed at 10s. 6d. per annum, in order that small farmers may be induced to become members. It is stated that the Association has now many members who have subscribed large sums.

We are glad to learn that a British Dairymen's Association is now established on a substantial basis. That it will prove a success and be of great benefit in promoting improved dairy husbandry in Great Britain, there can be no doubt. The names of the officers, several of whom have a wide reputation from their connection with dairy matters, are a guarantee that no effort will be spared to make the Association do an important work for English dairy farmers.

It has been suggested that the inauguration of dairy associations abroad and an improvement in dairy manufactures will have a tendency to injure the dairy interests of America, and that, therefore, we ought not to favor any such movement. This is certainly a very narrow view of the question, and we believe it to be entirely erroneous. There is great need of improved dairy husbandry in America, and improvement abroad will be likely to stimulate our dairymen to renewed efforts for excellence in their calling. It should be borne in mind that a common and low grade of dairy goods does not pay the cost of production, and the sooner we stop making such goods the better, not only for the producer, but for the merchant and the consumer.

The idea that consumption is increased by a low grade of cheese and butter at low prices is a mistake. Consumption is increased by making

the article more palatable. It is hard to induce people to eat a poor thing revolting to the taste, even though it be cheap, while, on the other hand, the more delicious an article is, the more it becomes a necessity in larger quantities and at comparatively higher rates. We have an illustration of this fact in the enormous quantities of butter consumed since the establishment of creameries, which have placed a better grade of butter before consumers than that formerly made at farm dairies. If any one doubts the assertion, let him note the difference in time which it takes his family to consume a 50-pound package of poor stuff (rightly named grease), and the same number of pounds of a fancy article, nice in texture and full of delicious aroma.

It is with this hope of improving the dairy products of the world that we hail the inauguration of a British Dairymen's Association, and we firmly believe that its influence for good will be felt in America. We shall look forward to the first Convention of British dairymen with interest, and shall be very much disappointed if we do not find something in the addresses and discussions which will be of value to the dairymen of America.

The Herdsman.

PARASITIC LUNG DISEASE IN CALVES.

It has long been known that there are parasites which infest the air passages and also the lungs of various animals. The one best known which infests the lungs of calves is the *Strongylus Micrurus*, a small worm one-half to one inch long. The presence of this parasite is not readily determined as the symptoms at first are very similar to those of an ordinary cold, and the stock raiser may not be able to detect the difference until too late to be of service to the animal. These parasites appear to be confined to no county or climate but exist among domestic animals everywhere.

In a late number of the Agricultural Gazette a veterinarian in speaking of the parasites says that the symptoms of the affection are not well marked in the early stage; auscultation furnishes absolutely no evidence of the disease, because the mucus rale which is heard, is common to all affections of the lungs in which the secretion from the lining membrane of the bronchial tubes is increased. The most characteristic symptom is a peculiar, dry, husky cough, which is so constantly present that the term "husk" is used to distinguish the disease. Sometimes the mucus discharged from the nostrils contains the eggs and embryos of the worm (*Strongylus micrurus*), and now and then full-grown worms are coughed up: but the fact of their close resemblance to a piece of white thread accounts for the little notice which is generally taken of them. After a few weeks the calves begin to fall off in condition, the cough becomes more troublesome, and some of the weakest animals die. The nature of the disease may be determined by post-mortem examination: on slitting up the tubes of the lungs they are found to be filled with strongles, often twisted together like a quantity of tangled thread; possibly the full-grown worms may have been expelled before the death of the animal, in which case the examination of the mucus of the bronchial tubes will always settle the question, as numerous eggs and young worms are certain to be discovered. In proportion to the strength of the calf will be the duration of the disease. The parasites only remain for a certain time, probably two or three months, on the bronchial tubes, and if the young animal has sufficient stamina to resist the debilitating effects of the constant irritation which the worms cause, there will be a satisfactory termination, but in many instances death occurs from exhaustion; and if from want of appetite or from bad quality of food, nutriment is not supplied in sufficient quantity, the deadly influence of the parasite is more marked. Treatment of the parasitic lung disease includes first, good nursing, the cattle should be removed from the pastures where they contracted the disease, and where they are liable to a constant introduction of parasitic germs, and be placed in a sheltered position. As to food, any nutritive material which will tempt the appetite is good for the animal.

Various medicinal agents have been used, with doubtful success—oil of turpentine is certainly the most effective medicine which has been tried. An average dose is a table-spoonful mixed with the yolks of eggs well beaten. The quantity may be given daily in the worst cases, but the majority of the animals will not require more than three doses a week.

Indications of the beneficial action of the medicine will be seen in the improvement of the appetite and condition, and the diminished frequency of the cough. The advance, however, even in cases which are treated successfully, is very slow, and the animal remains in an emaciated state for a considerable time. Inhalation of chlorine gas, the vapor of carbolic acid, or the fumes of tar, are advocated by some, but these modes of treatment are rather hazardous; no objection can be offered against the plan of driving the diseased animals about a shed, the floor of which is covered with powdered quicklime; the dust causes coughing, and thus leads to the expulsion of many worms, while others are destroyed in their habitat by mixture of the lime dust with the mucus secretion of the air-passage. There is no objection to the use of iodide of iron in doses of 10 grains every second day, as a tonic; but we have not found tonic treatment to be necessary when the means used to destroy the worms have been successful.

CATTLE DISEASES IN THE EAST.

An outbreak of Oriental Cattle Plague occurred on April 29th, 1876, at Szorney, and was extinguished on May 9th: the disease attacked twenty-one animals, of which ten died, six were slaughtered, and five recovered; the prompt stamping out of the disease is attributed to the rapid application of the laws of 1874. Cattle plague after breaking out in several villages of the Jaffa plain is now subsiding. The disease is said to have been imported into the district by a tribe of Bedouins, among whose cattle it was prevalent. An outbreak of cattle plague has taken place at the quarantine station Novosiollza. In consequence, all cattle now there and all which shall be admitted will have to submit to a quarantine of twenty-one days.

Pleuro-Pneumonia.—No fresh cases of this disease have appeared at Berne, where the outbreak took place last month, but as a precaution the animals in the shed at the time of the outbreak have been destroyed; but it has appeared in a new district in Lucerne.

The Horseman.

DO HORSES REASON?

Here is a good story about a horse, which is told in the Boston Journal, and we presume many of our readers could tell as good a one if they would only take the time to write it out for publication. Such notes on animal instinct or reasoning powers are always interesting to old and young:

It would be difficult to convince some people that horses and dogs are possessed of reasoning powers, and as difficult to convince others, who fondly love these animals, that they are unable to reason from cause to effect. A story comes to us, well vouched for, which will at least interest the reader, if not convince him that horses are possessed of more of the human attributes than many people are wont to credit them with.

Among the many horses owned by the Highland street railroad company, is one which used to give the hostlers a deal of trouble by slipping his halter and roaming at will about the stable. The halter was, on each occasion, buckled on as tightly as possible, but to no purpose, for the horse would invariably be found half an hour afterwards making a dignified tour of the stable. This became monotonous to the hostler, and he determined to ascertain the modus operandi by which his equine friend secured his liberty. Again the halter was tightly buckled on, and, taking a seat where he could watch his troublesome charge, he awaited developments. Pretty soon a horse which stood beside the troublesome one was observed to poke his nose into his neighbor's stall, and catching the end of the halter strap between his teeth, he pulled at it. His first, second and third attempts to unloose the buckle were unavailing, but with a perseverance remarkable even in a man, the horse returned to his work repeatedly, and finally out dropped the buckle-tongue, the throat-strap fell, and the horse of inquisitive mind was soon stalking about the stable again. A change of location was of course a necessity.

A large, homely, piebald gelding, owned by this company, used to manifest a strange regard for a white mare he formerly worked beside. In the stable he was hitched with a rope halter, and until a chain was substituted, he used to gnaw off his halter, march deliberately to the stall occupied by his mate, and squeeze himself into the stall, which was only large enough to accommodate one horse comfortably, and a great deal of effort was required to separate the equines after they had become wedged in so closely.

The interest in speedy horses among the Russians has been in the ascendency for several years past. As in many other branches of industry, in the breeding of stock, they bid fair to become formidable rivals to many of the nations who have, in times past, gazed upon them with considerable contempt. The great English Jockeys should begin to look to their laurels.

Scientific and Useful.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE SUCTION PIPE.

About three centuries and a half before the advent of Christ the versatile mind of Aristotle was led to investigate the marvels presented by the action of the syringe, water-bellows, siphon and other primitive hydro-pneumatic contrivances. "Nature abhors a vacuum," was the epigrammatic dictum of the prince of philosophers in explanation of the phenomena. The saying had all the essentials for ready and lasting acceptance. 'Twas poetically figurative, had an attractively scientific ring, yet was easily explainable, pleasantly shelved one mystery by substituting another, but above all it was conveniently short and axiomatic. Accordingly for about two thousand years, it was received, even by the learned, as clearly solving the problem it only confused, and even to-day it often drops glibly from the lips of many a pretentious dunderhead equally ready to sham knowledge by quoting the formulas of exploded errors, or by prating about the laws of modern sciences with whose formulas alone the charlatan has even a chance acquaintance.

About a hundred years after Aristotle's death, Ctesius of Alexandria, invented the valve pump; and straightway the Stagirite's maxim offered an explanation of the action of this novel contrivance. This consisted of two single-acting solid pistons moving up and down in two vertical cylinders having bottom valves only. The discharge pipe, furnished with an outgoing valve, was placed between the piston and the valve-seat, so that this original device differed but little from some of our modern force pumps. The next two thousand years were nearly wasted, so far as concerned either improvements in pumps or the attainment of a more correct conception of the philosophy of their working. The insertion of a valve in the piston-head and the location of this below the discharge pipe were the chief improvements, and adapted the pump for lifting as well as suction, but meanwhile Aristotle's dictum had acquired the sacredness of a dogma.

The mighty revolution of the 16th century, however, was an upheaval of philosophical as well as theological superincumbent creeds, and the venerable theory of pumping was soon subjected to irreverent scrutiny like other doctrines. In 1641 there was set up in the Grand-Ducal water-works, at Florence, a pump whose suction-pipe extended nearly sixty feet above the surface of the reservoir. Despite its honorable location, repeated trials failed to raise water in the tube to a greater hight than about 32 feet. The superintendent of the water-works appealed to his fellow-citizen Galileo to account for this liquid obstinacy. Totally blind and nearly deaf, persecuted, eighty and morbund, the venerable philosopher could only say, impromptu, that Nature's abhorrence of a vacuum must be inoperative above the hight of 32 feet. A few months later he died and his disciple and amanuensis Torricelli continued to investigate the problem whose unstudied solution by his friend must have been unsatisfactory even to that friend himself.

Hitherto the belief in vogue, even among scientists, had ascribed the ascent of water in an exhausted tube to a mysterious property in nature, somewhat analogous to that of the loadstone or gravity. This resisted all attempts to make a vacuum with the same force it employed to destroy it when made by urging the next substance, if a fluid, into the void it abhorred. Analogously suction was regarded as an occult faculty of the mouth that attracted liquids to it independently of any extraneous influence.

It was not until 1643—two years after Galileo's death—that Torricelli exploded these venerable errors by demonstrating that atmospheric pressure was the motive force in both cases, and that pulsion, not traction was the method of its action. Having, by dint of his own reasoning or at Galileo's suggestion, reached the conclusion that the hight to which water rose in an exhausted tube depended on the relative weight of the aqueous column inside the pipe, and that of the aerial pressure on the water outside of it, it occurred to him that the truth of this theory would be demonstrated if a column of another liquid, the specific gravity of which was known, were sustained in a tube at a hight proportioned to its gravity. Mercury is a trifle over 13½ times heavier than water; the length of a column of this metal therefore, sustained by atmospheric pressure in an exhausted tube, would be somewhat less than 13½ times that of a column of water under similar conditions. At the sea level, in fair weather, atmospheric pressure amounts to about 15 pounds to the square inch. This is equal to counterbalancing a column of water of the same diameter about 33 feet high, and Torricelli, by a very ingenious experiment, proved that it could also sustain a column of mercury about 29 inches in hight; and thus demonstrated the truth of his proposition.

This discovery, which opened the way to scientific researches extending far beyond the special question that had originated it, met with the acrimonious opposition which always confronts all exposures of the cherished errors of mankind. The most ingenious objection urged that Nature's abhorrence of a vacuum extended to mercury as well as to other fluids, and that Torricelli had merely discovered that the force of this abhorrence varied with the specific gravity of different liquids. Four years later, just one year after Torricelli's death, this objection was clearly refuted by Pascal—the celebrated French mathematician and divine—who had verified and varied Torricelli's experiments.

As the lower strata of air support the weight of all those above them, Pascal argued that atmospheric pressure must be greater at the foot of an elevation than at any point in its ascent, and consequently that the length of a fluid column, if really counterbalanced by this pressure, must be less at the top than at the bottom of a mountain. This crucial test was made with mercury in 1648, on the Puy de Dome, the highest mountain in France, and was decisive of the correctness of Pascal's inference and Torricelli's discovery. The school-boy of today smiles at the scientific ignorance of the philosophers of earlier ages, of the accumulated results of whose genius and labors he is the thoughtless inheritor, and even the omniscient school-girl seldom dreams of the vast amount of talent, research and experiment needed to explain correctly the working of so simple a thing as the suction pump.

A CHAPTER ON GAS.

"New York," says a writer, "burns about 1,200,000,000 cubic feet of gas per annum; Chicago, 400 000,000; St. Louis, 250,000,000; Cincinnati, 400,000,000; Pittsburg, 200,000,000; San Francisco, 250,000,000, and Baltimore, 400,000,000."

"How do they make gas?"

"First they put about two bushels of bituminous coal in a long air-tight iron retort. This retort is heated red hot, and, of course, the coal is heated red hot, when the gas bursts out of it, as you see it burst out of lumps of soft coal when on the parlor fire. The gas passes off through pipes. A ton of coal will make 10,000 cubic feet of gas. The gas as it leaves the coal is very impure."

"How do they purify it?"

"First, while hot, it is run off into another building; then it is forced through long perpendicular pipes, surrounded with cold water. This cools the gas, when a good deal of tar condenses from it and runs down to the bottom of the perpendicular pipes. This tar is the ordinary tar which you see boiling in the streets for walks and roofs.

They now wash the gas. They call it scrubbing it.

This is done by filling a large vessel, which looks like a perpendicular steam boiler, half full of wood, laid crossways. Then ten thousand streams of cold croton water are spurted through this boiler. Through the mist and rain, and between the wet sticks of wood, the gas passes—coming out washed and cleansed. The ammonia condenses, joins the water, and falls to the bottom."

"What next?"

"Well, next the gas is purified. It is passed through vats of lime and oxide of iron, which takes out the carbonic acid, sulphureted hydrogen and ammonia."

"What next?"

"The gas is now pure. It is passed through the big station meter, then through the mains and pipes, till it reaches the gas jet in your room. Then it burns, while you all scold because it don't burn better."

EXCELLENT INTEREST RULES.

For finding the interest on any principal for any number of days. The answer in each case being in cents, separate the two right hand figures of the answer to express it in dollars and cents:

Four per cent.—Multiply by the number of days, and divide by 72.

Six per cent.—Multiply by the number of days; separate the right hand figure, and divide by 6.

Eight per cent.—Multiply by the number of days, and divide by 45.

Nine per cent.—Multiply by the number of days; separate the right hand figure, and divide by 4.

Ten per cent.—Multiply by the number of days, and divide by 35.

Twelve per cent.—Multiply by the number of days, separate the right hand figure, and divide by 3.

Fifteen per cent.—Multiply by the number of days, and divide by 24.

Eighteen per cent.—Multiply by number of days; separate right hand figure, and divide by 2.

Twenty per cent.—Multiply by the number of days, and divide by 18.

Industrial Implements.

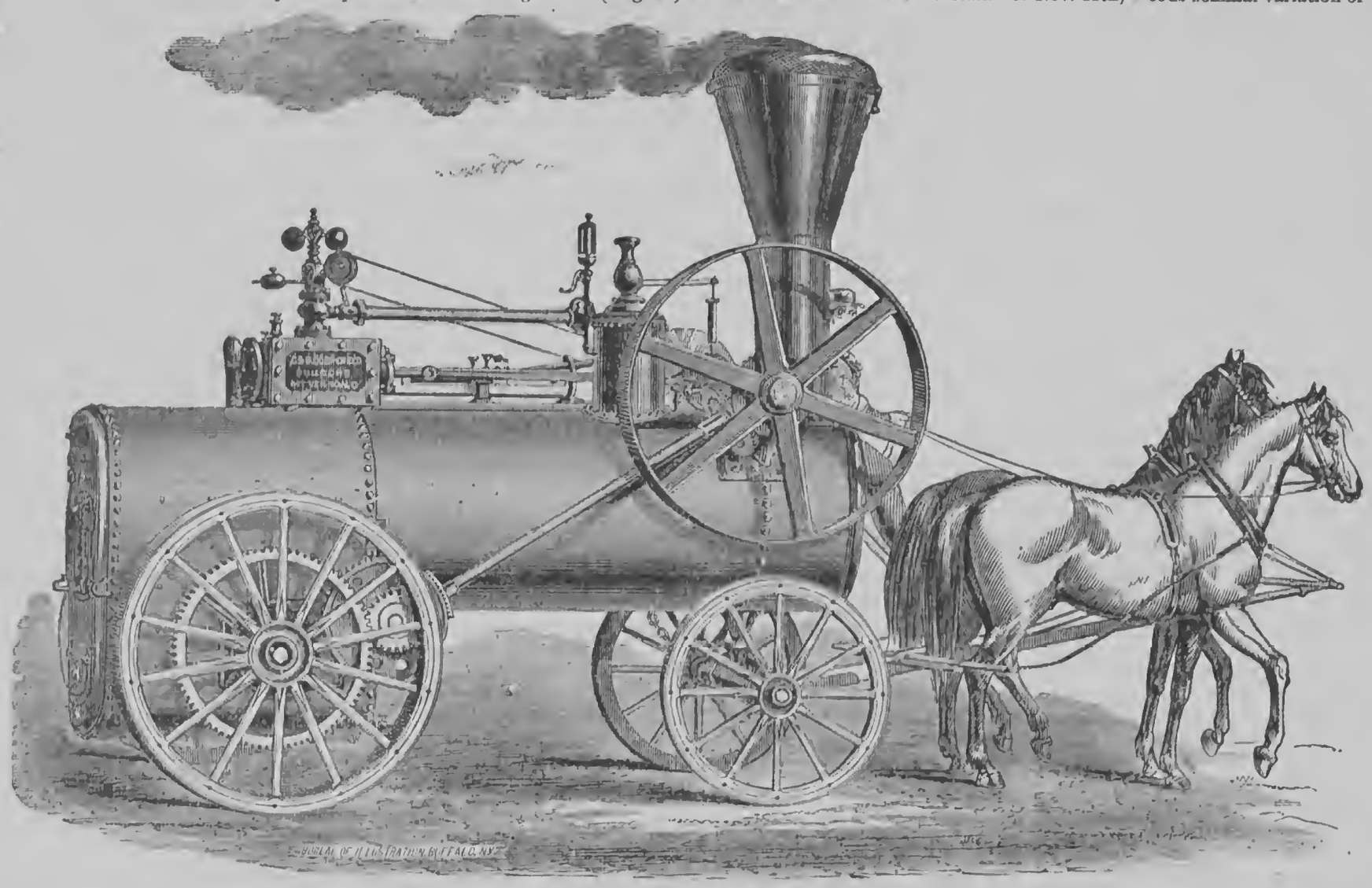
A NEW TRACTION MOTOR.

THE illustration given herewith shows the application of a new invention of Mr. GEO. ROGERS to the portable engines made by the well-known Mt. Vernon Iron Works.

The attention of the agriculturist has been conspicuously directed to traction or road engines by the admirable work performed by the English machines at the Centennial. It becomes more and more apparent that they are the most economic farm engine that can be used, as they serve various purposes, at very little, if any, additional expense.

The cost of the attachment applied at present to the engines made by G. & C. COOPER & Co., Mt. Vernon, Ohio, is about $100.

Thresher men, farmers, and those who find it profitable to use portable engines would do well to examine the merits of this novelty. Full and complete information will be furnished by writing to the address given above. The Traction Engine can be used for such a variety of purposes that a strong point in its favor is the fact, that a man who owns a portable engine with this attachment can find work for it constantly.



A NEW TRACTION MOTOR.

WATCHES.

AMONG the many articles which have kept pace with the rapid march of improvement during the nineteenth century are watches. And with the advance in quality a proportionate reduction in price has been witnessed, so that this very useful companion is now much better and cheaper than in times gone by. Switzerland has always been celebrated as the watch-making nation of the world and does not fail even now to take advantage of all machinery and devices which may have a tendency to improve in this direction. The importation into this country of Swiss watches is something enormous as can very easily be learned by communicating with Messrs. QUINCHE & KRUGLER of 15 Maiden Lane in this city, where can be seen watches of every description from the cheap, but perfect time-keeper, to the best chronometer. About this season of the year, when people are casting about for a suitable Christmas present, no one could do better than to investigate the large and elegant assortment always to be found at the office of the above firm. One thing they can depend upon; they will get exactly what they buy and pay for, as the reputation of the firm sustains an assurance of that fact.

HOME HAND CORN-SHELLER.

THE "Home" Hand Corn-Sheller is a neat little contrivance that is admirably adapted for the purpose it is intended to serve. The need of a good hand corn-sheller has been apparent. No further proof of this is needed than the fact that Messrs. LIVINGSTON & Co. of Pittsburgh, Pa., have sold upward of 10,000 of their Sheller in the comparatively brief time it has been before the public.

This Sheller is compact, made of good materials, and when adjusted it works easily and is not liable to get out of order. Its makers unhesitatingly assert that it removes the corn clean from the cob without breaking the kernel. It adapts itself to large or small ears, and its capacity is from five to ten bushels per hour.

A Sheller which we saw in this city seems to corroborate the claims of the makers, and we would add that the "Home" has been distinguished by receiving a First Premium at the Tradesmen's Industrial Institute, Pittsburgh, 1875.

Those of our readers who are interested in poultry, or any agricultural pursuit, would do well to examine into the merits of the Sheller. The "Home" is sold either direct or through the medium of agents. The manufacturers will furnish information free.

IMPLEMENT TRIALS IN ENGLAND.

THE course of machine trials does not always run smooth even among our British cousins. By the report of a late meeting of the (English) Royal Agricultural Society, published in the Mark Lane Express, we learn that Mr. Jabez Turner reported the recommendation of the Committee that the gold medal of the Society be again offered at the Liverpool meeting for an efficient sheaf-binder, and that the ten silver medals be offered as heretofore. The Committee had made such alterations in the existing regulations as the adoption of this recommendation by the Council would render necessary. The Committee, in addition, recommended the adoption of the following new regulation: "Every protest against an implement, on the ground of an infringement of patent-right, shall be accompanied by a deposit of £25, which shall be returned in the event of the protest or action at law being decided in favor of the person lodging the protest; but otherwise the said sum of £25 shall be forfeited to the Society." This report was adopted after a conversation, in which a smaller amount of fine was suggested by Colonel Kingscote and other members of Council, while Mr. Amos urged that such a course would render the intention of the Committee inoperative, and if any fine at all was considered necessary, it must be one of a substantial sum.

He also reported that the Stewards had had under consideration the protest of Mr. Spencer, on behalf of the "Johnstone Harvester Company," against the self-delivery reaping machine of Messrs. Hornsby & Sons, worked in Class 1. at Heathcote Farm, for an infringement of patent rights. This protest having been received by the Secretary on the 19th August, and no satisfactory reasons having been assigned for the delay, the stewards were of opinion that it cannot be entertained, as the rules expressly provide that all protests must be delivered on the evening of the first show-day. The stewards had further to report that Mr. William Anson Wood removed from the show-yard two reaping machines, Nos. 551 and 552, which were entered for trial, and had undergone the preliminary examination of the engineers and judges. This was in direct contravention to Section 20 in the "general regulations." This report having been received and adopted, on the motion of Mr. Turner, the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. W. Anson Wood for an explanation of the circumstances attending the removal of his reaping machines from the Birmingham show-yard.

THE Centennial Exposition Medal and Diploma of Merit have been awarded to H. W. JOHNS for Asbestos materials, among which are his improved Steam Pipe and Boiler Coverings, consisting of Asbestos-lined Hair Felts and Cement Felting; also, Fire-proof Paints for structural purposes, a Roof Paint of Superior quality, Asbestos Roofing, Cement, Steam-packing, etc., etc.

The Garden.

THE GREEN PROLIFIC CUCUMBER.

DR. HEXAMER'S REPLY—NO. 2.

THE statement in the "RURAL" of Nov. 11th, "that in the estimation of many who have tried the Green Prolific Cucumber, it is all that Dr. HEXAMER claims for it," is sufficient to require no further argument in its favor. But there are a few other points in the same article, which are of more general importance than the question as to which is the best Cucumber.

Is the Green Prolific Cucumber a "cross?" I say it is, and the RURAL is kind enough to consider this opinion a ridiculous assumption. Now I do assume that when one variety, grown near another variety of the same species, produces an offspring, which partakes of the characteristics of each variety, it may be asserted that the new seedling was produced by cross-fertilization and is therefore a "natural cross." This is exactly the case of the Green Prolific, and the fact, that it has retained its special qualities for fifty years gives additional proof of the correctness of the assumption. If a seedling so originated is not a "cross," what is it? It might possibly be a sport, but not more likely than that a Mulatto is a sport instead of a cross.

The care and attention given to an experiment can often be found out from its results, and so "did I find out" that the experiment in question was "careless and imperfect." When an experimenter expects to establish the yield of pickles from different varieties of Cucumbers, without picking and counting the pickles; and when he can not find any difference between a compact growing variety with dark orange skin, and one of rampart growth and a light straw-colored skin, I must consider the experiment "careless and imperfect," and no amount of argument can convince me to the contrary.

I am so well aware of the difficulties of experimenting, and how numerous are the causes which may lead to false conclusions, that I do *not* "feel justified in drawing any conclusions, from experiments, made under such unfavorable conditions, that their results can not teach anything. Of the experiments I made last season, with a large number of new varieties, I do most decidedly, hesitate to state conclusions." The season was so unfavorable to the development of vegetables that such a statement could benefit no one, while it would causelessly prejudice some and unjustly injure others.

No one can be more impressed with the importance and influence of the agricultural press than I, as well as of the difficulties, which, in the absence of public experimental stations, the editor must encounter at every step. It is for this reason that I consider it the duty of "every fair-minded person" to correct errors and mistakes wherever he finds them; not because the results of others' experiments do not accord with his own views, but for the sake of fairness and truth.

F. M. HEXAMER.

REPLY.—Dr. HEXAMER's assertion that the Green Prolific Cucumber was the result of certain crosses is not maintained by any demonstration. He admits that it might *possibly* have been a "sport." Then it is not *unquestionably* a cross between the Green Cluster and Long Green.

That a seedling plant should resemble both its pistil parent and another plant growing near, cannot be accepted as proof that the latter was the pollen parent. The possibility of spontaneous seminal variation or of bud variation would forbid. But were there no other Cucumber plants in the neighborhood? Is the Green Cluster or Long Green possessed of such marked qualities or characteristics that a seedling resembling either the one or the other must needs be the offspring of the one it resembles? Is it not possible that the finality of a careful selection through fifty years from *any* variety of Cucumber would differ as much from its original parentage as does the Green Prolific differ from its original parentage, whatever it may have been?

We have alluded only to the first supposed cross. The seedlings or seedling produced from this were again crossed with the White Spine. So, in the same manner, the Cucumber which, many years later was to receive the name of Green Prolific, was planted, we are to suppose, near the White Spine; and from the fact that subsequent seedlings displayed a resemblance to this also, the above conclusion was arrived at.

We do not know how many parents and grandparents a certain variety of Cucumber may be seen definitely to resemble by eyes schooled to the detection of Cucumber characteristics; but if they may be judged as are other monoecious fruits of *Cucurbitaceæ* or of other orders, even the most marked resemblances or distinctive qualities, of which the Cucumber is comparatively destitute, would not, as we have said, be accepted as positive proof of a first cross-bred or hybrid origin—much less of a second—supported by the solitary fact that the several varieties or species grew near to one another or even side by side. To weaken such a claim would be, first, the fact that the alleged cross-breeding occurred fifty years ago when cross-breeding and hybridizing were little known or practiced among the mass of horticulturists and, second, that whatever account of the origin of the Green Prolific we may now have, has been preserved during so long a period by word of mouth alone. At least Dr. HEXAMER makes no reference to any written or printed account of its origin.

We can not see how the fact that the Green Prolific "has retained its special qualities for fifty years, gives additional proof of the correctness" of Dr. HEXAMER'S assumption, if we are to credit another statement of his, viz., that it is "the result of *careful selection* continued for over fifty years." Had it retained so firmly its "special characters" there would have been little need of such careful selection. So much for its origin.

How many years would Dr. HEXAMER have us take to experiment upon the scores of "novelties" offered every season whether favorable or not before we should render our reports? Suppose last season had been as favorable for Cucumbers as it was unfavorable, and the Green Prolific had astonished us and Dr. HEXAMER too—would he censure us the same had we published results as observed in our grounds? Would our experiment then have proven "careless and imperfect" in his estimation? But such an account would none the less "unjustly injure" the purchaser of the seeds even though it benefited those who offered them for sale.

We shall endeavor, life spared, as far as possible to test all new plants or seeds offered every season let it be wet, dry, cold or hot, and, with every fair qualification to publish the results. Those whose products we can not view through the producer's eyes will, perhaps, pronounce them "careless and imperfect"—but unless they are as perfunctory as Dr. H's. dictum as to the origin of the Green Prolific Cucumber, we shall have little fear that we are not working "for the sake of fairness and truth."

Dr. HEXAMER may prove that we are incapable of distinguishing a dark orange from a light

straw-colored skin, or that, in a word, we do not know "beans" about Cucumbers, but his persistency in reiterating that our experiment was "careless and imperfect" strikes us as showing how great Cucumber men, like other specialists, may be too exacting in all that pertains to their specialty. Dr. HEXAMER says "no amount of argument can convince me to the contrary." Thus made aware of the impregnability of that fortress, we shall not attack it. But, conversely, "no amount of argument" can make *us* believe that our experiments were not tolerably careful—and nothing short of *evidence* shall convince us that the origin of the Green Prolific Cucumber was unquestionably what it is claimed to have been!

Thus it would seem that both Dr. HEXAMER and ourselves have arrived at very decided conclusions in which, we are afraid, our readers will experience a more stirring delight than they have felt in the controversy that has led to them. Finally Dr. HEXAMER need not think that we "consider his opinion a ridiculous assumption." We have no reason not to respect his opinion except in so far as he mistakes it as having the power to create and establish a fact.

It is the practice of proclaiming as positive knowledge that which should at most be assumed as probable, that we condemn—a practice that is not likely to insure for our accounts of the origin of contemporaneous varieties any great amount of respect from the horticulturists of the future.

CARTER'S GREEN GAGE TOMATO.

I HAVE found this an excellent variety, being rather earlier than Hathaway's Excelsior, and in other respects, except in color, very much like that excellent sort. My employers are very fond of it, considering the flavor, to be superior to other sorts. Two Canadian gentlemen who were here lately, told me it is grown extensively in America, under the name of the Plum Tomato. From my experience of it, it is to be recommended as an acquisition of no mean order.

We find the above in the Gardener's Chronicle of London. We do not know by what name it is known in Canada, but it is with us a novelty of last season, offered by one of our leading seedsmen, and known only as the Green Gage Tomato. We planted half a dozen hills of it and made the following notes:

Two tomatoes ripened August 15, the larger measuring seven inches in circumference. They were perfectly smooth, without a furrow and of the shape of an orange. Many of those ripening later were much smaller and of an oblong shape, from which and from the color—a bright yellow—the name, we suppose, was suggested. The smaller are excellent for preserving, the others very good either raw, cooked or for making catsup. All of them are firm, but two-celled and small-seeded. Trained upon a trellis this Tomato is quite ornamental after the fruit begins to ripen.

We may now add in favor of the Green Gage that it was less acid in flavor than were the other Tomatoes this season grown in the same grounds.

We would be glad to hear from any of our friends who have tried the Goden Trophy during the past summer. Mr. B. K. BLISS speaks of this latter as follows:

It is a sport from the well-known "Trophy," but is a stronger and more rapid grower, more productive, and ripens a week earlier, continuing until frost. The fruit is almost an exact counterpart of the Trophy in form and size, of a beautiful light yellow or straw color, occasionally faintly streaked with red: the flesh is very firm and solid, containing but few seeds. Its flavor is entirely different from any variety with which we are acquainted, being free from the strong "tomato" taste and fragrance which belong to most other varieties, having very little acidity, and when eaten raw without seasoning, resembling in flavor some varieties of apples.

THE THWACK RASPBERRY.—This is said to be a cross between the Herstine and Brandywine and superiority is claimed for it as to hardiness, size, shipping qualities, color and flavor. These claims, if we may judge from the testimonials of many well-known gentlemen who have tried it, are not unsupported by practical tests.

This Raspberry is said to be a stout, upright grower, the canes attaining a hight of but three feet without thorns and requiring no support. A. HANCE & SON, Red Bank, N. J., are agents.

The Vineyard.

GRAPE VINES IN WINTER.

MANY grape-growers in this vicinity, consider the laying down, and covering of grapes as useless labor. In fact, I notice the practice of leaving them upon the trellises is steadily growing in favor. The argument is that they do just as well after they once get "toughened."

I have not yet become converted to this practice, but protect my vines in the manner recommended in the RURAL of Nov. 18. Watching carefully the results in a number of cases where vines have had no protection; I am very confident that it is a losing practice, even if the others do not discover the fact.

Near me is a vineyard of four or five acres that has been left to this "toughening" process until the yield has decreased more than one-half. The owner gives other reasons for this decline in the yield, but want of protection in winter is (in my judgment), what ails his grapes.

One of my neighbors has his vines all trimmed and tied upon the trellises ready for an early start in spring, and he remarked, "Now I shall have less to do next spring than if my vines were buried." "Yes," I answered and you will probably have less picking and marketing to do, and there will be another saving of labor.

Grapes are often uncovered too early in spring and are seriously injured in consequence. It is evidently better not to cover at all than to uncover too early. In this, as in many other matters, it is wiser to "make haste slowly." Remember spring has not opened the first "sunny day." NELSON RITTER.

Syracuse, N. Y.

This theory of toughening plants and animals by exposure is one of the most absurd of all the fallacious ideas which ever entered the human mind. It is probably an off-shoot of what we may term "theoretical acclimitization" of plants and animals, the advocates of which have in times past, and even do at the present time, claim great things, but without one solitary instance of a change having been wrought upon any individual plant or animal in making it more hardy by change of climate upon which to base their claims. A tender plant will remain tender through all ages, no matter how handled, treated, or where grown, but by raising seedlings therefrom and judicious selections from among the same a variety or varieties may be obtained more hardy than the original stock or parent, and this is all there is of acclimation, of either plants or animals.

Taking this view of the subject, which we believe accords with all the experiments made for the purpose of determining the effect of acclimatizing, we can readily see how absurd it is to try to harden or toughen an animal or plant by exposure to cold. The Concord or any other variety of grape is just as hardy when first produced as it will be a hundred years hence, the only effect of culture being observable in the vigorous or feeble growth of the plant.—ED. RURAL.

Farm Economy.

EFFECTS OF IRRIGATION.

FARMERS in our Eastern States who suffered severe losses the past summer from the effects of drought, may take a hint from the following letter to a California paper (The Bulletin), and practice irrigating their fields whenever practicable. The writer says:

The irrigation has, during this season, made a wonderful effect both on soil and climate. The surface water has risen all over my land from 15 to 17 feet, and I now reach it at four to seven feet on any place on my land. By a thorough cultivation the moisture will rise to the surface the year round. This it did all the past summer and produced a heavy dew every night—not merely on the slough, where we have had water all summer, but a mile or two away, where there had been no water since last winter. Although there has been a good deal of disappointment regarding winter irrigation in this settlement, I am satisfied that has arisen from our ignorance of this, a new system of farming; and I am positive that it can and will be made perfectly successful as regards small grain, and will in the future have to be practiced, as during the winter we have always plenty of water, while in the spring it may possibly fail in some seasons, though we have no reason to expect it from our past experience. I irrigated a great portion of my land during the heaviest and coldest rain of last season, when my grain was very young; and I found that whenever I drained it immediately after the water had covered the surface, it was a success; but whenever I let it remain on the land 10 or 12 hours it injured the plant, or at least injured its growth and turned it more or less yellow. By having a system of drainage connected with the irrigation, winter irrigation must prove a success for small grain, and it should be practiced by every one so as to fill the earth up beneath with water when there is plenty. Nature has given us a hand in tree planting. Millions of willow and cottonwood plants have come up along the sloughs and ditches. Besides the future value in wood, this will undoubtedly aid in retaining moisture both in the land and the atmosphere. I have the second crop of wheat nearly ripe; it is from four to five feet high, and with full good heads. I have the second crop of potatoes ready to use, grown on the same land as the first potato crop, since the middle of last February. Mangel wurtzel beets, planted last June, weigh over 20 pounds each.

SWINGING STANCHEONS.

I HAVE just returned with a feeling of pride from my stable, where I have been watching my cattle, and observing their condition, and have come to the conclusion after a busy, practical, and observing life of over seventy years, that certainly we are progressing. For when I was a boy the south side of a straw stack was the best shelter that was afforded cattle, but after a while the more considerate, gave them the shelter then of a stable, and the question soon arose how to fasten them to the best advantage.

Some tied with ropes, others with chains, and a great many other devices were used, but the best thing I ever saw is one I am using now, W. C. GIFFORD'S swinging cattle stanchions, manufactured at Jamestown, N. Y. When I first placed them in my stable, two years ago, I had to close about one-half of them, but never since, as they always fasten themselves, and the rapidity with which a herd of cattle can be put up is astonishing, as all a man (or child) has to do is to keep them back. After they are fastened they have much freedom of action in moving either to the right or left, or forward, and this *last* movement is *indispensable* for the ease of the animal in getting up.

I can cheerfully recommend these stanchions to my brother farmers and stocksmen, as they are just what they are recommended to be, not a patent swindle but a *practical benefit*. And I verily believe, did the stockmen of our country know of their value, there would not be a well regulated stable without them.

Tomhannock, N. Y. THOMAS HOAG.

Arboricultural.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS FOR HEDGES.

THERE are three natural and proper offices of the Hedge, viz.: the barrier, screen and ornament. In the last two only is to be classed the subject of our remarks, for with the most skillful pruning their growth is neither compact nor impervious enough to constitute a practical barrier.

Most dwellings, however, have fences, and, usually on three sides, unsightly ones of tight boards. Now, Nature abhors a stiff, straight wall, a dead blank. Hence the eye is not pleased unless said blank fences are screened with hedges of green, or green mingled with flowers. For such purposes the deciduous shrubs have decided advantages. They grow vigorously and produce rapid effects. They give grace and variety of outline, and, above all, yield a beautiful and continuous series of flowers. The value of these qualities is inestimable, especially where many evergreens are employed and a lighter and more cheerful aspect is required to complete the balance and contrasts of the picture. To fill out the catalogue of good qualities, we should mention a readily-transplantable nature, hardiness, and low first cost. Full enjoyment of more charming traits, however, depends very much on the system pursued in planting, pruning, and selecting varieties. By planting, we mean the method of disposing the members of the Hedge. Nature, our type of good workmanship, hardly ever uses the straight line. It is in accordance with good taste, therefore, to constitute the Hedge of a double row of shrubs, no one fronting its neighbor in the next row, but rather filling up gaps, and offering, in the more open spaces, fuller development of character. In furtherance of the same idea, these rows should be somewhat wavy in their course in relation to the fence, and varied, here and there, by single shrubs, prominent for beauty or size, that may stand as outposts to the main body.

The pruning employed is that of the *Weigela* type of shrubs, and consists simply in cutting out radically every winter the wood that has borne flowers during the previous season and clipping lightly, for symmetry, the remainder on which are formed the buds of coming bloom. All indiscriminate shearing is to be avoided as utterly destructive to these buds.

We subjoin below a list of the shrubs that should make up the body of a well-designed Hedge, and of these a large majority will be found under the *Diervilla* or *Weigela* type in relation to their pruning. This does not prevent, of course, the employment of any variety for outlying positions, provided no plants of too rampant or straggling natures be selected. Every member of a family is not always mentioned where it might be, and only the most prominent *varieties* are designated. Endeavor is also made to secure a continuous succession of flowers throughout the season. Affixed to each variety will be found the figure 1, indicating the larger ones next the fence, and figure 2, the smaller ones in front:

2. Berberis Purple; 1. Colutea, in variety; 1. Cornus sanguinea; 1. Cornus sericea; 2. Coronilla emerus; 2. Cydonia (Japan Quince), in variety; 1. Deutzia crenata; 1. Deutzia crenata fl. pl.; 2. Deutzia fortunii; 1. Eleagnus hortensis; 2. Hibiscus (Althea), in variety; 1. Upright Honeysuckle, red and white; 1. Philadelphus grandiflorus; 2. Philadelphus laxus; 1. Salix (Willow) capræa tricolor; 1. Salix (Willow) pentandra; 1. Salix (Willow) rosmarinifolia; 1. Spiræa Billardii; 2. Spiræa collosa alba; 2. Spiræa canadensis; 1. Spiræa nepalensis; 2. Spiræa prunifolia; 2. Spiræa Reevesii; 2. Spiræa Thunbergii; 2. Spiræa tomentosa; 2. Spiræa ulmifolia; 2. Weigela, (dwarf), with variegated leaves; 1. Weigela rosea.

SAMUEL PARSONS, JR.

TESTING FOREST TREE SEEDS.

FOREST tree seeds some years fail to mature, owing to various causes, which may or may not be known. Sometimes long-continued rain at the time the trees are in bloom will prevent the distribution of pollen, and although the envelope will continue to grow, the germ or kernel is defective. Then again, there are some species, like the Negundo or Ash-leaved Maple and Ailanthus, in which the two sexes are separated, one tree bearing the pistillate and another the staminate, and unless the two are in close proximity the seeds, which are always borne on the former, will contain no kernel. We have upon our grounds a large tree of the Negundo Maple which is loaded with seed-pods every year, but there being no staminate tree in the neighborhood, they are always false, although appearing to be as large and plump as the most perfect of their kind.

Climate also frequently has a singular effect upon some trees, in making them produce abortive seed. The trees may grow vigorously and be apparently healthy, the flowers perfect to all outward appearance, but the seeds never come to maturity. This is notably the case with the European Larch when grown in this country. We have also known the same thing to occur with foreign species of Ash, Elm, and other foreign kinds cultivated here.

It would be well for those who have failed to make certain kinds of forest tree seeds grow to bear the above facts in mind and take the precaution to test them before planting very extensively of any or all kinds. Many a dollar might be saved in this way, besides much time and vexation.

Insurance Department.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

SOON after the late war began the life insurance companies ceased to receive the premiums due from Southern policies, and as default was made marked them off as terminated. The holders of these policies were not content with this disposal of the matter and claimed that the policies should be restored upon payment of back premiums, and that the death-claims that had matured meanwhile should be paid. Though many of the companies compounded these claims, none of them conceded their legality and after a deal of tedious litigation the matter has been decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, which holds that: All contracts with the enemy were suspended during hostilities, but cannot necessarily be revived by a restoration of peace. In this case such restoration would be unjust, because the companies could not compel the restoration of all the policies by the payment of the back premiums with accumulated interest, and to grant this privilege would rehabilitate the worst risks only, since the better ones could take new insurances for one-fourth the expense—but that as the holders of these policies had over-paid the actual cost of their insurance and created by such over-payment a fund called the value or reserve, and since the default of payment was involuntary, they had a right to recover the equitable value of their policies at the time such default occurred—and that since the companies had not received the premiums or considerations for insurance, they could not be held liable for the payment of losses occurring after payment of premiums ceased. It should be a matter for congratulation that this final adjustment of conflicting claims has been brought about at last.

THE CONTINENTAL LIFE AND THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

IT is said that the Superintendent of Insurance made an examination, either in person or by proxy, of the Continental Life Insurance Co. a few weeks before its condition was made public. If he had the power to prevent a catastrophe of which he had ample warning, his conduct is open to severe censure. If he had no such power, then it is high time to abolish an expensive, cumbrous, fallacious and demonstrably useless department and enact in its stead a code of laws that will reach just such cases as that of the Continental.

Floricultural.

SUGGESTIONS.

If Lily beds, or those of herbaceous perennials, are so low that they will hold water when the ground becomes frozen, they should be filled up above the surrounding level. For Lily beds nothing is better for this purpose than fresh-water muck and sand, or leaf-mold and sand, well mixed together. We are convinced from experience that a soil thus constituted is one of the best for most of our hardy Lilies, but especially for such as *auratum*, *Chalcedonicum*, *Washingtonianum*, *Humboldti*, and others that seem less vigorous in this climate than such as the *speciosums*, *longiflorums*, *umbellatums*, etc. For *Tritomas*, those showiest of fall Lilies, we again call attention to our simple but effectual method of carrying them through the winter out-of-doors, viz., forming a little hill of long horse manure about each plant, and covering this with coarse sand. The long leaves may be cut off near the ground or twisted together in a central column.

It is well to detach all Vines from their supports, the branches of which are liable to be winter-killed—and few are not—and either coil or collect them in as small a compass as may be and cover with boards, barrels, boxes, or, in the absence of those, hay, straw, or litter. Shelter from the sun and winds is the main object we need have in view. Many hardy plants need shelter only from the sun, and for this purpose boards or boxes may be preferred to a closer covering. We have known the Chinese Honeysuckle and the Ivy to be killed to the ground in a direct Southern exposure, while they were unharmed in a Northern one, protected in neither case. The rationale of protection, in fact, seems to us to be but imperfectly understood. We have for a long time believed that the Rose bushes and other shrubs which are incased every fall in cones of straw, tightly bound, might better be left entirely exposed. If so, a great deal of trouble and time might have been, and might be, saved.

In detaching *Wistarias*, *Clematis* and the like, it is difficult to avoid breaking main stems if the Vines have been permitted to intertwine among themselves or about the trellis or support. A little attention to training them as they grow during the summer will remedy this in a measure.

For collections of *Rhododendrons*, *Kalmias*, *Madonias* and other broad-leaved evergreens, shelter from strong winds and a thick matting of leaves upon the ground up about the stems to the lower branches are serviceable in protecting both roots and buds.

If new shrubs and trees have been determined upon for spring planting, it is well to conclude where they shall be planted and to dig the holes now. Reject the poor soil from the bottom and add such as may be obtained of a suitable nature, always bearing in mind that manure must not be used near the roots of newly-transplanted subjects.

As the earth will freeze whether it is covered or not, the object in covering is not to prevent its freezing so much as to keep it frozen and to avoid the effects of short and sudden changes in the temperature. It is not, therefore, advisable to use protecting material until after or during the first cold snap.

It is a good plan to procure a quantity of good soil and, scalding or baking it if preferred, place it in the cellar for winter use. It is also a good plan to express the juice of horse manure which has been soaked in water for a few days and collect it in old bottles. A tablespoonful of this added to a quart of water and used every week or so will furnish all the stimulant that plants require.

The long boxes used by nurserymen for packing trees, a foot or more square, or similar boxes, are excellent for wintering such plants as *Pelargoniums*, *Agaves*, *Agapanthus*, *Amaryllis Vallota purpurea*, *Erythrinas*, *Eucalypti*, *Hydrangeas*, etc. Raise the boxes from contact with the cellar floor, make a two-inch layer of sand, then place the plants and fill up with sand that is neither dry nor wet. Thus they may be left until spring if the cellar is of medium dryness.

We hope that our friends will give more time and thought to flowers during the long period from now till spring than ever before. Those who are unable to obtain books may easily obtain catalogues, many of which are little less than floricultural or arboricultural works of practical and trustworthy utility.

DOCTORING PLANTS.

The impatience of many ardent floriculturists in their first efforts, reminds one of little children who must needs pull up their plants every day or two to find out why they don't grow.

Floricultural books are collected in numbers and by a "cramming" process their contents are piled up in heaps with all the haste with which valuable articles are thrown together when rescued from the flames of a burning building. This miscellaneous pile of information is heaped upon the first plant that winks and if, in the course of a few minutes, it doesn't begin to bloom or its growth can't be measured with a tape-line, it is subjected to a regular and heroic course of treatment. A little liquid manure or "special fertilizer" in powders or perhaps a dose of tobacco, hellebore, whale-oil soap or carbolic acid, one or all, are administered. Perhaps the soil is soaked with lime-water and if in an hour or so no visible improvement be apparent, fresh soil and a shift to a larger pot are deemed necessary. Then the leaves are sponged and alcohol or *eau de cologne* is blown at them through atomizers and, in short, the poor plant is doctored to death.

Impatience in the too zealous beginner is one of the most prolific sources of failure. Floriculture is not such a purely mechanic art that one should deem himself master of it after having studied a few rules gleaned from this, that and the other catalogue and book. Such rules may be excellent—but a degree of practice is required to determine when and how far they are fitted to the case in hand. A theoretical knowledge alone of plant cultivation is good; a practical knowledge is better. But both should go hand in hand at the least until by their mutual assistance, a sound rudimentary knowledge is obtained that shall easily discriminate between the true and false, as in the future one's studies may be pushed far beyond his opportunities of practical tests.

We advise our zealous beginners resolutely to refrain from "doctoring" their plants if they would avoid discouraging failures. A little common sense will constitute them tolerable nurses, and it is the simple care thus implied—call it gift, tact, skill or what you may—that enables many who professedly know nothing about plants to obtain better results than others who parade their botanical information, and are ever pleased at the opportunity of glibly rattling off an ostensibly unlimited string of hard Latin names.

"Tell me" asks Mrs. Floribundibus of Mrs. Brown "how it is that your *Pelargoniums*, *Bouvardias*, *Camellias*, *Aspidistras*, *Cyclamens*, &c. thrive so charmingly? And you have but this octagon window—while I have a conservatory heated by steam, fumigated periodically and cared for according to the latest instructions of professional men. And get in comparison with yours, how wretchedly my plants look! Pray tell me your secret." Alack! Mrs. Brown is conscious of doing so little to her plants that she can make no answer that in any way enlightens her friend Floribundibus. The fact is—A good nurse is better than a bad doctor.

An Old Gardener.

MISCELLANEA.

Tritoma Uvaria.—We saw this plant a few days ago blooming under glass where the sun never touches it. The flowers, instead of being flame-colored above and yellow beneath, were all of a bright lemon.

EXCHANGE.

I will send Aster and Euphorbia seeds in exchange for almost any kind of seeds your readers may see fit to send me. Will take Dahlia roots in exchange next spring.—Brownie, *Catskill, N. Y., P. O. box* 258.

Pomological.

HALF SWEET AND HALF SOUR APPLES.

The "half sweet and half sour apple" is again heard from. This time it does not come in quite so "questionable a shape" as heretofore. I almost saw this "great wonder." It had only just been eaten when I called to see it. The following from the Syracuse Standard gives a full description "how the thing was done:"

Several years ago, Mr. George Wilkinson, of Lee, Oneida County, tried a novel experiment on one of his young apple trees. Taking the graft, he quartered it and abstracted two quarters, supplying the vacant places with grafts from another tree of a different species. For instance, taking a greening graft he cut away half of it, supplying the deficiency with grafts from a Tallman sweet, and awaited the result in the ripe fruit. Ordinarily, one or the other graft comes out ahead in the process of development: but, in this instance, the result has been the production of an apple showing the distinct qualities of both species and in distinct parts of the ripe fruit. We were shown, recently, by Mr. Perry, of the firm of Perry & Robinson, a couple of these apples. The exterior appearance was peculiar, in that two quarters presented a "rosy-cheeked" appearance, indicating the Tallman sweet graft, while the other two quarters were green, the result of the "greening" half of the graft. The interior appearance did not indicate the different characteristics in such a marked degree. But the taste of both kinds of apples was preserved. The experiment was a novel one and the result ditto.

In case the Rural doubts the above statement, I am promised that a sample of the apple described shall be sent you for examination, as the tree produced nine bushels.

I understand that the same man has produced a *seedless* apple, by setting a clon, top down. I suppose that the clon became so "bewildered" by being set in that uncommon manner that it did not know how to produce seeds. The greatest wonder is that the apple was not reversed and grow from the blossom end.

Syracuse, N. Y. Nelson Rutter.

[We never doubted the existence of the "sweet and sour" apple, for it has been as familiar to us as the Rhode Island Greening, from our boyhood up to the present time. Forty years ago there were old trees of this variety in the orchards of Western New York, where we first became personally acquainted with it; but the apples were seldom "half sweet and half sour," but kind o' hit and miss style, some streaks being of a sweet tart and others a little more acid. (See Downing's Fruits of America, Warder on Apples, Thomas' American Fruit Culturists, or any other standard pomological work.) The man who claims to have produced this variety of apple, in the manner described above, is simply asserting what he will find it difficult to prove. Besides, it was well known before the oldest present inhabitant of this mundane sphere was born. —Ed. Rural.]

THE PINNEO PEAR AGAIN.

This is one of the American pears which has a history of more than ordinary interest, consequently, it is well to repeat it occasionally in order to keep our young orchardists informed as to what has been done in the way of "coining" new sorts out of old ones. We well remember the time when small trees of the Boston, *alias* Pinneo, sold quite readily at from two to five dollars each and everybody who purchased one thought he was getting something new. But we will let a correspondent of the American Agriculturist tell the story of this now famous pear in his own way:

As one of the duties of the Centennial year, we recently paid a visit to the Pinneo pear tree, it being among the oldest inhabitants of the Nutmeg State. It still lives in a green old age, upon the farm of Edward M. Clark, in the town of Columbia, and is reputed to be about 140 years old. The stem of the tree is two feet or more in diameter, and still bears fruit. It is quite widely distributed through Columbia and the adjacent towns and has had a good local reputation for a century or more. Notwithstanding the introduction of new varieties through the influence of our horticultural societies and publications, it still maintains its place as a first rate summer fruit. The history of this excellent pear shows the great progress we have made in horticultural matters. It lay buried in Connecticut for a whole century, before it was made known to the public. It was grown in such abundance, that the farmers sent their surplus fruit to Hartford, and from that city it was sent to Boston, where the people know what fine fruit is. C. M. Hovey got hold of it in 1843, exhibited it, grafted it, and introduced it to nurserymen and fruit-growers as the "Boston" pear.

Fifty years before, Edmund Yeomans, a discriminating nurseryman of Columbia, and familiarly known as Uncle Ned Yeomans, had propagated and sold the same variety named after the elder Deacon Pinneo, who found the seedling in the woods and transplanted it to his garden. It is unquestionably a seedling, for the suckers from the roots, when transplanted, as many of them have been, bear the same fruit as the tree. At the present day, with our horticultural and agricultural journals, our fruit exhibitions, in almost every county in the older States, and the American Pomological Society, to gather up results, and winnow the chaff from the wheat, such a history as this would be quite impossible. The world does move.

PROTECTION AGAINST RABBITS.

As the winter approaches, the orchardist, in regions where rabbits abound, will, if he is a careful man, take some precautionary measures to protect his trees from these pests.

There are many things which may be applied to the stems of the trees which will prevent their attacks, among which we will name a few:

Sulphur, soot and lime, made into a thin paste and spread over the bark, is an excellent preventive, as the rabbits have no liking for such a mixture. Cow manure and lime will answer the same purpose, but must be applied pretty thick and well spread on the bark. When tar can be had, it may be spread upon common brown paper, the latter wrapped around the stem—the tar side out. Coarse strips of bark from some forest trees form an excellent guard, if placed around the stem and held in place with strong cord or wire.

Some such precautionary measures should be practiced in regions where mice and rabbits are plentiful, and if it were done, we would hear less of girdled apple trees, which, by the way, is a very common complaint every spring. A word to the wise should be sufficient on this subject.

Entomological.

CONFERENCE OF GOVERNORS ON THE GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE.

The conference recently held at Omaha to consider the grasshopper problem, was attended by Gov. J. S. Pillsbury, and his private Secretary Pennock Pusey, and Prof. A. Whitman, of Minnesota; Gov. Kirkwood, of Iowa; Gov. John L. Pennington, of Dakota; Gov. C. A. Harden, and Prof. C. V. Riley, of Missouri; Prof. G. Thomas, of Illinois, who represented Gov. John L. Beveridge; Gov. Osborn, of Kansas; Gov. Silas A. Garber, ex-Gov. R. W. Furnas, Profs. Wilber and Williams, of Nebraska.

From the reports of the proceedings appearing in the Western Rural, we give a few abstracts. The opening address was made by Gov. Pillsbury of Minnesota, who recommended that the Governors of the States represented should join in appealing to the General Government for aid in making war against this great scourge of the west.

Prof. Thomas of Illinois followed in stating it as his belief that the aid of Government should be obtained to secure a thorough investigation into the history of the insect in order to know how best to combat it successfully; He said that the locust is a national insect and a national plague.

Gov. Pennington thought that the cultivation of crops that mature early was advisable. The locusts come from as far north as the British possessions. The evil was widespread, and so serious as to warrant an appeal to Congress. Even if no relief be obtained, much knowledge would result from a scientific commission.

Gov. Hardin thought that it was the duty of Congress to take some part in an effort to mitigate so great an evil; It is a common evil extending over large portions of a number of States. The Department of Agriculture should gather information in regard to it. He thought that he should make some suggestions in Missouri, and perhaps appoint commissioners to destroy the insects. It was a great evil, and it was almost a military duty to destroy them.

Prof. C. V. Riley (who has done more than all others in the investigation of this locust plague), said that the home of the locusts was in Dakota, in the far Northwest and in the mountain regions. He thought Congress should urge organization, and furnish means to combine and destroy the young insects in the Spring. Through the Governors of the States a bounty might be offered per bushel for eggs; this would be money well spent. Organized effort should certainly be made, and the Governors might appoint men of knowledge this Winter to locate their breeding places and take means to destroy them in the Spring. With a microscopic examination almost any one could determine their condition. If the Winter was severe their eggs probably would become addled and not much trouble would ensue. Ditching was the most valuable means, and it should be carried out on a systematic scale. People should be organized in every district in the West, and while he was not afraid of future evils, yet it was necessary to act in concert. The unfledged insect could not travel more than four or five miles during its brief period of five or six weeks. He urged the steps suggested above to be taken this Winter, also to examine the ground in their native heath. The nation owes it to the West to secure this information. Congress does not comprehend the magnitude of this question. The devastations of this plague are the most important and extensive in the country. He insisted first of all that the settlers should not leave the West by any means. The insect will cease to trouble; it is not an annual plague.

Gov. Pillsbury's recommendations were read to the conference by Pennock Pusey, his Secretary. They are—1st, Crushing by rollers, etc., and catching them by bags and traps during mating, when by reason of their inactive condition they may be destroyed. They are in this condition from the middle of August until cold weather. 2d, Plowing under deeply of eggs and thorough harrowing of bare, dry knolls and other small, warm spots where they are deposited, which destroys their germinating power. New breaking being a favorite resort for egg deposits, this is available in the ordinary course of farm work, which should be delayed to as late in the Fall as practicable. 3d, Preserving prairie grass till Spring, by means of fire guards along township boundaries by plowed strips or wide parallel furrows, and the careful burning of the intervening spaces. The burning of the grass with the young grasshoppers in the Spring, is a very effectual means of wholesale destruction. 4th

Placing loose straw on, or near, the hatching places, into which the young gather from the cold in early Spring, where they may be destroyed by firing the straw. To this end straw should be carefully saved. 5th, The construction of deep, narrow ditches with deeper pits at intervals, as a defense against the approaching young insects. In these they accumulate in great numbers and perish. 6th, Sowing of grain in "lands" or strips 50 to 100 feet wide, leaving narrow, vacant spaces through which to run deep furrows, and construct ditches into which the young are driven and destroyed. 7th, Catching the insects, especially when young and inactive, by such means as experience suggests. 8th, Finally, the driving of the winged enemy from the ripening grain by passing over it stretched ropes, aided by smoke from straw and other smudges, and by discordant noises, shrieking and yelling inducing their flight.

The whole subject was discussed at length, and a committee appointed to collect and issue in pamphlet form information in regard to all practical methods based upon observation and experience, for destroying these locusts or grasshoppers.

The following is the substance of the resolutions adopted at this conference:

1. That it will be wise and politic for the Legislatures of the States and Territories most deeply interested to enact a law offering a bounty per bushel for the collection and destruction of eggs and unfledged insects.

2. That the several Legislatures authorize local taxation for the proposed systemized efforts in the way of ditching, burning, &c., also to suggest the repeal of the game laws, or a modification of them, so as to prevent the destruction of the birds which feed on insects.

3. The prairie fires should be prevented until a suitable time for the destruction of the young grasshoppers by firing the grass.

4. That tree culture be recommended for harboring birds.

5. That as far as possible a survey be made of each state during the coming Winter to ascertain those portions in each county in which eggs are most thickly laid.

6. That it is deemed to be the duty of the national government to make some effort to destroy or counteract the great pest, and thus prevent its injuries, and the attachment of a special commissioner to one of the Government surveys sent annually to the West is recommended, and that $25,000 be appropriated for the purpose of paying the expenses of the Commission.

Domestic Economy.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Recipe for Graham Bread Wanted.—Will some of the lady readers of the RURAL, please give, through its columns, a recipe for making Graham bread, and greatly oblige NINA.

In the RURAL of Aug. 5th, I gave a recipe for Graham bread, which I will repeat for NINA'S benefit. Just before retiring at night, dissolve a yeast cake in a teacup of tepid water; add fine flour, to make a batter; cover, and set in a warm place. The first thing in the morning, add a pint of tepid water; one teaspoonful of salt; a half teaspoonful of soda; two tablespoonfuls of sugar; one tea cup of fine flour, and Graham flour enough to make a stiff batter; put the mixture in a bread-pan; set it in a warm place until sufficiently light. Bake in a moderate oven. If any of the lady readers of the RURAL have a better recipe, will they please send it along?—MRS. RUSTIC.

Query About Screens.—Will some reader of the RURAL NEW-YORKER inform me how to make a pretty screen that will not be very expensive, or require too much time in making, but will intercept the light and heat of the stove and at the same time be an ornament to the room?—A READER.

[Will some of our fair correspondents give the desired information and oblige ED. RURAL.]

An Excellent Recipe for Curing Hams.—The following quantities are for twelve hams. Take three pounds of fine salt, one-half pound of saltpeter, pounded fine, and one pint of molasses. Mix the above well together, and rub each ham with the mixture. Then put them in a cask and allow them to stand five or six days, after which they should be reversed, the top hams being put in the bottom, sprinkling fine salt between each layer; again let them stand five days, when a pickle should be prepared and put on them, composed of salt and water, strong enough to bear an egg.

Always pack hams with skin side down, and so continue till cask is full or pork gives out. After remaining in the pickle six weeks, the hams should be taken out, strings put through them and hung up to drain for four or five days, when they should be marked and branded and sent to the smoke house. For keeping them during the summer months, when they are liable to be infested with worms, etc., wrap them well in brown paper and pack in a case or barrel, with a liberal supply of good dry wood ashes between and around them. In taking one out for use, be particular to cover the rest with the ashes. I have used this recipe for years and have always had fine meat.—E. J. K.

Test of Brine.—A common test of the quantity of salt necessary to add to water in making brine for pickling meat, is to continue to add salt till an egg will swim in it. This, however, is an imperfect test of the strength of the brine, since an egg will float in a saturated solution of salt and water, and will also float, if to the same saturated solution a bulk of pure water equal to twice its own bulk be added. According to Gay-Lussac, seven ounces and a half of salt are necessary to saturate an imperial pint of water. This is important, since the efficacy of brine in preserving meat depends very much upon getting a solution of salt at the exact point of saturation.—E. J. K.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Squash Pie.—Having pared the squash and removed the seeds, stew it in as little water as possible till soft, then squeeze through a colander. Stir into the squash enough sweet milk to make it as thick as batter; spice with ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg; sweeten with sugar, and add two well-beaten eggs for each quart of milk used. Fill pie-plates, lined with crust, and bake for about an hour in a moderate oven.

Mince Meat.—Four pounds of the round of beef, after it is boiled and chopped; eight pounds of chopped apples; two pounds of chopped suet; three pounds of raisins; two pounds of sugar; one tablespoonful each of clove, cinnamon, allspice, and two large nutmegs, one pint of molasses, one quart of cider, one and a half pints of good brandy. Salt to taste.

Another.—A shin of beef boiled down till very tender, one pound of nice clear beef suet, chopped very fine, a tablespoonful of salt, six pounds of greening apples peeled, cored and chopped, three pounds of raisins stoned, three of currants carefully cleaned, one pound of brown sugar, a cup of maple sirup, half a pound of citron, shreded, half a pound of candied lemon peel, a quart of the best cider. Instead of the cider, some persons prefer a quart of Madeira wine, and a little brandy.

Rye Bread.—We set in the evening, with good hop yeast, and mold it in the morning just the same as wheat bread, only a little stiffer. Let it rise and mold it down again. This makes it spongy. After this it will come up very quick. Shape it into loaves, and when light enough, bake it in a moderate oven, a little longer than ordinary wheat bread.

Leg of Mutton Stuffed.—Wash and wipe the mutton, grate a pint of bread crumbs, season with salt and pepper, a teaspoonful of sweet marjoram, two teaspoonfuls of sage, and half a one of sweet basil (all dried and rubbed fine), chop a medium-sized onion, and put it over the fire in a small saucepan, with butter the size of a large egg, stew for five minutes, pour over the bread crumbs and stir in thoroughly; with a sharp knife make a deep incision on the long side of the leg parallel with the bone, push the dressing in, making it go all through the length of the leg, skewer it at the opening where you stuffed it, season the leg with pepper and salt, dust it with flour, and roast two hours in a hot oven, keeping a little water in the pan to baste it with, which should be done every fifteen or twenty minutes; thicken the gravy with browned flour, put a few spoonfuls over the meat when you place it on the dish, and serve the remainder in a gravy-boat. To be eaten with currant jelly.

Boston Brown Bread.—Take two pints of sifted corn-meal. If this is old or dry, pour on a sufficiency of boiling water to wet it thoroughly. If the meal be fresh and moist, the water need only be warm. In the first case mix in gradually, when the mass is cooled, one pint of rye-meal; in the latter the two may be mingled and the water poured on both at once. Now add one even teaspoonful of salt, and one large tablespoonful of molasses; at the same time mix in thoroughly half a teacupful of fresh, sweet yeast. Let it stand over night in a moderately warm place. It should be light in the morning, but still sweet. Nevertheless, I would add a small teaspoonful of soda to neutralize any latent acidity. After this is perfectly incorporated, the mass should be placed in well-buttered earthen baking-pans, or, still better, iron ones, and smoothly rounded off. The pan should be only three-fourths full. It should be set in a warm place, and when the loaf has risen so that the pan is quite full, it is ready for baking, the oven being previously well heated.

Chicken Cheese.—Boil two chickens till tender. Take out all the bones, and chop the meat fine, season with salt, pepper and butter. Boil down the liquor the chickens were boiled in, until there remains only enough to make the chopped meat quite moist. Put the meat into a mold of any shape that is desirable or convenient. When cold turn out and cut in slices. It is excellent for picnics or for a lunch when traveling.

Cream Muffins.—An excellent and well-tried recipe. One quart sweet milk—half cream if you can get it—one heaping quart of Graham flour, six eggs, and salt to taste. Bake immediately in hot muffin rings. Your oven should be hot, and the muffins sent to the table as soon as they are taken up.

Oatmeal Griddle Cakes.—One pint of oatmeal mush, one pint of flour, two eggs, piece of butter size of an egg, one and a-half pints of sour milk or buttermilk, one teaspoonful of soda. Beat well and add the soda dissolved in a little boiling water just before frying.

Hygienic Information.

CONCERNING SIMPLES.—No. 2.

PLANTS, after all, seem to have had impressed upon them a certain character, that serves as a passport. As a rule *white* indicates plants that are slightly aromatic, and are useful as emollients, while highly colored fruits have more fragrance and strength. *Yellow* on the other hand warns us of bitter and acrid qualities; *green*, astringent. Bluish, brown, and red seem to proclaim venomous varieties; they usually have a sinister aspect, too, when they are harmful. What is true of color is applicable to odor also. It may have been observed that a suave odor accompanies emollient and soothing virtues; that an aromatic perfume discloses stimulating principles; that alliaceous exhalations are the index to anti-scorbutic qualities.

Plants that are venomous give off a strong, fetid, penetrating odor. It seems as if Nature had designed that those flowers and leaves whose grace and beauty attract us, as well as those fruits that seem to invite the hand, should not become traps or nets spread out for our ignorance, or avidity, although at times necessary for our needs; hence they are made to warn us by their odors. Pernicious plants not infrequently grow in places not easily accessible to man, doubtless for good reasons. It becomes plain then why insipid plants have little or no color; why acrid and astringent virtues are indicated by yellow and green; why red points to the presence of vegetable acids, and why brown and black warn us of venomous qualities.

Many are familiar with the marsh-mallow (*Althæa officinalis*). City people are made acquainted with its merits through the medium of a delicious confection. It grows luxuriously in humid spots, bordering streams, etc. Its smooth stem offers no resistance to the hand, and no thorn lurks near leaf or flower to inflict punishment on the trespasser. The flowers are white or rose-tinted. Five petals form the corolla, the stamens are united. From the middle of purple anthers appear stigmas that surmount a short pistil. The fruit resembles a small melon divided into a great many slices. The root is thick and fleshy.

The mallow is a fine emollient as before mentioned. When boiled it gives off a mucilaginous liquor that is very serviceable. The infusion is excellent for coughs and colds. Is expectoration difficult? then a decoction of the roots. Are our digestive channels inflamed?—marsh-mallow; marsh-mallow for *baths*, in cases of inflammations and convulsive affections, marsh-mallow root is also an excellent substitute for the ring used by children when teething. Finally, if you have no use for it as a medicament, plant it in your gardens, it is a pretty plant. In any event it is the invalid's flower.

The mallows are a numerous family, and a beneficent. The boiled leaves constitute an excellent cataplasm, and an infusion of its flowers is soothing and a good pectoral. The mucilage in which they abound is also excellent for gastric complaints. This plant was not unknown to the ancients. The Egyptians and Greeks used it, while the Romans were loud in its praise. It has only one objection: it is plentiful and cheap, its preparation costing about one-sixth what is asked for patented mixtures that do their work no better, and are less palatable.

C. H. E. R.

WOOL NEXT THE SKIN.

IN your issue of the 4th inst., you quote from Dr. HALL of the Journal of Health in favor of wearing woolen clothing next the skin. The Dr. but spoke the opinion of perhaps the majority of medical and hygienic men, but in this case as in most others, there is a minority report, entitled at least to respect, if nothing more.

Let us consider the manner in which clothing becomes a protection against cold, for it of itself imparts no warmth, it merely prevents or hinders the escape of the air surrounding the body, and which has been heated by it. In this respect wool has the advantage of cotton, it being a poorer conductor of heat, therefore as an outer garment exposed directly to the winds and storms it, and the fur of animals have no superior. But the case is different when worn as an undergarment. Cotton in this case may feel cooler on the first touch, but from its readiness to receive heat it is soon raised to the temperature of the body, while the outer woolen garment hinders the heat from escaping. Place cotton and woolen cloth before a hot fire, and when the former is heated so as to be painful to the touch, the wool will barely feel warm. Now this sensible heat in contact with our bodies is what we are after, and it alone is what protects us. There is as much latent heat in linen, or even iron, as in cotton or wool, but the two former alone would afford little or no protection.

The Dr's. advice is good for sailors and furnace men who work mainly "in their shirt sleeves," but I cannot either in theory or practice consider it good for those who constantly wear a woolen garment outside. I have long been of the opinion, amounting in my own mind, to a certainty, that the constant friction of wool by enfeebling the skin induces rheumatism and liability to colds or chronic catarrh. The excessive friction of wool must of course be a greater drain upon the vital forces than the slighter friction of cotton. I believe wool to be an excellent remedy as a counter-irritant in some diseases, but I see no good reason on that account for its habitual use especially in health, any more than in the habitual use of quinine, because it is a good remedy in intermittent fever. Isolated cases of course prove no theory, but still they are good evidence as far as they go.

A friend now (if alive) a physician of some 75 gave me this account of himself about twenty years ago. He was born and reared to manhood in Vermont, and was considered by his parents of too delicate a constitution for the occupation of farmer, so his mother kept him encased in home-spun flannel and sent him to a medical school. After acquiring his profession, he began to suspect that this irritating woolen flannel was not good for him, but resolving to do nothing rashly, he experimented by cutting off the left sleeve of his wrapper. He soon found that his left arm had a greater circumference than his right (he was not left-handed); that it had a more healthful and ruddy appearance, its flesh was more firm and vigorous. He took the hint from this and gradually dispensed with all woolen undergarments, and found his general health and constitution greatly improved.

Another intimate friend, leading mainly an indoor life, was afflicted with obstinate laryngitis and lumbago, took cold on the least exposure, was *obliged* to wear even in the hottest weather the thickest home-spun woolen flannel drawers and woolen pants, and always overshoes in winter even in his office, but could not wear woolen undershirts on account of the excessive irritation of the skin. Suspecting something wrong in his clothing he made several unsuccessful experiments to substitute cotton drawers, the lumbago always returning with a vengeance. Resolving at last on the change at any cost he made it on a clear cold day in January, and has never worn woolen undergarments since; the lumbago gradually disappeared and the laryngitis slowly followed suit, and though more than thirty years have intervened since the change, he has in the interim enjoyed better health than the majority of mankind. Now these two men did not know each other at the times of these changes, but both acted simply from their own judgment.

S. B. PECK.

Muskegon, Mich.

FOOD FOR LEAN WOMEN.

THE Druggists' Circular tells how lean women may grow fleshy, as follows:—A pint of milk taken before retiring at night will cover the scrawniest bones. There are many lean and lank females who sigh for the fashionable measure of plumpness, and who would be vastly improved in health could their figures be rounded with good solid, flesh. Nothing is more coveted by thin women than a full figure, and nothing provokes the scandal of one of the "clipper builds" as the consciousness of plumpness in a rival. In cases of fever and summer complaints, milk is now given with excellent results. The idea that milk is feverish has exploded. It is a great mistake to scrimp the milk pitcher.

Cure for Corns.—A certain cure for corns or sore toes of any kind is: Wrap the toe in soft cotton batting, draw on the stocking and shoe, and you will have no more trouble from that source. The writer cured a very painful corn between the toes in this way in less than a week. —BROWNIE, *Catskill, N. Y.*

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POULTRY ON THE FARM.

Much room as there may be for doubt in regard to the profits derived from poultry raising when conducted on an extended scale, we think few will question the profitableness of a few fowls when kept on the farm. Their food, in great part, is made up of gleanings of the fields, noxious insects and waste materials from the kitchen. It is true, that when too large a number of fowls are kept on the farm, they may draw too heavily upon the grain in the field or vegetables in the garden; but, the thousands of noxious insects scratched up and picked off from the plants must be placed to their credit, which, in many instances, would more than balance what could rightfully be charged to the damage account. But a farm without fowls would leave the farmer's table barren of fresh eggs, broiled chickens, and many other articles which are almost an indispensable adjunct to farm life and good living everywhere; consequently, we look upon the birds bringing such luxuries as worthy of the highest consideration in our domestic economy. In addition to the usefulness of domestic fowls, they should also rank high among the ornamental surroundings of a country home; for we can imagine nothing more beautiful than a flock of some of the pure breeds roaming over lawn or field, or floating upon the surface of some sheet of water during the day, then flying or trudging home at nightfall for their supper. It may be that there are men to whom this ornamental view of the subject will appear more sentimental than practical, but it is just as legitimate and important as the admiration of beautiful fruit, flowers or pictures, and the one who can take such a view of the raising of fine poultry, has the advantage of the one who cannot, for he adds to his pleasures thereby.

We notice that there is a tendency of late to breed for beauty among our poultry fanciers, and it should be rather encouraged than otherwise, for it is a notable fact that the mind must be attracted through the eye before it will commence to investigate. Believing that poultry keeping in all its branches is an important industry, it has received special attention in the columns of the Rural New-Yorker for several years, and we propose not only to continue it in the future, but to engage the best talent obtainable in conducting this department. We have at the present time among our regular contributors, several of the most scientific and successful breeders of choice poultry known in this country; and the readers of the Rural may rest assured that whatever may transpire of interest to them in regard to this constantly-increasing industry will appear in its columns; for it is our aim to make this paper an authority on all subjects relating to rural life.

WORKING AGAINST THE FARMER.

It has become quite the fashion of late among a certain class of periodicals which depend largely upon a country circulation for support, to tell the farmer that men engaged in other professions or industries are his most implacable enemies. This, of course, is in unison with the oft-repeated saying, that "the farmer pays for all," which, by the way, is as far from the truth as the former assertion in regard to his enemies among men in other lines of business. Now there is no better ground for assuming that the capitalist is an enemy of the agriculturist, than that every farmer is the enemy of his doctor or minister.

Every man, no matter what his calling, aims to better his condition financially, and in doing this he is very prone to take advantage of the necessities of others in his dealings; and until we learn that it is the general practice of farmers to sell hay for five dollars per ton, when the market price is ten, we shall believe they are like other men and take all they can get for whatever they have for sale. "But," says the farmer who resides hundreds of miles from our seaboard cities, "do not the railroads combine and charge exhorbitant rates for carrying our produce to market?" True to the letter; but what was, or what would, your farm produce be worth without the railroads? Then, would it not be well to ascertain just how much the capitalists, who furnished the money to construct and equip these very roads which you now denounce in no unmeasured terms, made on their investments? Just look up some of the original investors in your nearest road and let them answer; for if railroad building is half as safe or paying a business as farming, then our eyes have been grossly deceiving us all through life.

The capitalists who put a road through a region of country, expect to make money on their investment; a right which every reasonable man will concede is their just due, and the changing of rates to secure this or even more, cannot be construed into enmity to the farmer or others who may desire to use the facilities offered for transportation of various articles over the line. There is no compulsion in this matter of transportation, and if the farmer in Allegany Co., N. Y., or elsewhere, does not care to pay the exorbitant rates charged for taking his produce to market, the country roads are open to him and he can haul it with his own team, just as he or his father did thirty years ago.

We have lived long enough to experience some of the changes made in these matters during the last quarter of a century or more, and although there is doubtless some extortion on the part of transportation companies, we would not like to go back to the days of twelve cents a pound for butter, (and take it in trade at that,) six cents a dozen for eggs, and other farm products at similar prices—all because there was no cheap and ready means for transporting them to a distant and better market.

The so-called enemies of the farmer have helped very materially to make these beneficial changes and, for our part, we do not think it becomes us to treat or speak of them as outlaws, deserving nothing better than universal condemnation. Suppose we dam up the Mississippi, close the canals and house the locomotives for a few months or a year, and see how we can get along without these outlets, and what is known among farmers as the "giant monopolies!"

RURAL NOTES.

At Last.—After waiting patiently, we notice that some of our contemporaries have at last actually discovered that there was such a thing in existence as the "Centennial Dairy Ring." The Elmira Husbandman publishes a letter showing the incapacity, or worse qualifications of the Judges, while an Ohio paper which has kept an editor at the Centennial the whole season, announces with a flourish of trumpets that it intends to *expose the Dairy Ring*. Well, gentlemen! Propel! None can be more pleased than we are to see you lock the barn doors, *even though the horse has been stolen*. If you need materials for your terrible exposures, run over your old exchanges and examine the columns of the Rural for several months back. But are you not a "leetle" behind, this time? Never mind. "While the lamp holds out to burn," &c.

Corn and the Phylloxera.—Another Frenchman has discovered a "sure" method of heading off the much-dreaded *Phylloxera*, or Grape louse. This time, however, it is not by killing the pest but by diverting its attention and pampering its appetite for a sweeter morsel than grape roots. One M. Gachez informs the Academy of Sciences that for the last two years he has protected his vines by planting red Indian corn among them, the *Phylloxera* preferring the latter plant to the former, crowding upon it, leaving the vines unmolested. This is proceeding upon the same plan adopted by some of our vineyardists in protecting their vines from the Rose beetle by planting Spiræas and other plants blooming at the same time among them, which these pests prefer to the flowers of the grape.

Americans not Inventors.—A writer in the Engineer (Eng.) declares that Americans are not inventors, but mere imitators of others, especially of the English artizans. He claims everything in the way of inventions for Englishmen, asserting that "not one of the great inventions of the age has originated in the United States." The steam-engine, telegraphy, and like wonders, are all the outcroppings of English genius, leaving Americans with nothing to brag about above a Connecticut wooden nutmeg or an Ohio basswood ham. Poor fellow! we hope he may live to come to our bicentennary show, and write up the history of this puny nation.

We are Pained to learn by the following letter, of the death of one of our old-time agent-friends:

NUNDA, Livingston Co., N. Y.

Mr. Editor:—Thomas C. Bennett, who has been agent for the Rural New-Yorker for the last ten years in this place, died Oct. 18, aged 61 years. He has taken the Rural since its first publication, being twenty-seven years next January. We have felt that it was like a friend, surely coming every week and as gladly greeted by us all. Mr. Bennett was always interested in reading it; he, being a farmer, could always find something worthy of note and practice from its pages and *I* have found much excellent and profitable reading from the lady contributors of the Rural and would earnestly commend it to all pursuing a like employment. Respectfully yours, Mrs. T. C. Bennett.

What a Pity!—We are informed that Durand's "Great American Strawberry" is not only going to supersede all other sorts now known, but it grows so large that the good housewife will never think of asking her guests to take a dish of strawberries, but the question must needs be changed to, "Will you take *a piece* of strawberry?" Strawberries of this sort will have to be cut up like watermelons, and the slices passed around. It is a pity that Seth Boyden could not have lived to see the results obtained by his now illustrious neighbor, Durand.

Profits of Trout Culture.—Recent experiments show that it takes about thirteen pounds of kidney, liver and similar kinds of meat, to produce one pound of fish. This point having been determined, the owner of trout-ponds or streams can very readily ascertain whether the raising of trout for market by feeding artificially can be made a profitable business—not forgetting, however, that trout fed upon livers and kidneys are more beautiful to look upon than savory when cooked.

Ayer & Son, in their "Manual for Advertisers," in speaking of agricultural papers say, "No class of papers, with the exception of religious journals, are so carefully read or so long preserved for reference. Their circulation is principally among the most intelligent class of country population—*hence, they are of peculiar value to advertisers.*" Of the truth of this we are constantly reminded by receiving replies to advertisements inserted in the Rural but discontinued years ago.

Selling Pork Early.—Our Western contemporaries advise farmers to sell off their hogs so soon as they are ready for the butchers, instead of holding on for higher prices, during which time they may lose more or less by disease. Hogs, when exposed to rain and cold storms, do not gain rapidly in flesh, although they consume as much food as during warmer weather when laying on fat rapidly—and this is another reason for selling early and before cold weather.

RURAL BREVITIES.

A compound for preventing parasitic diseases in plants is offered in England under the name of "Salus."

Emory Cobb's Short-Horn bull, "Nineteenth Duke of Airdrie," valued at $20,000, died at Kankakee, Ill., Nov. 21.

It is reported that the beets raised for converting into sugar in Illinois this season, are so poor in saccharine properties as not to pay for working up.

The grasshoppers in parts of the Western States not fully annihilating the vegetation, the mice are reported to have come in great numbers to finish what was left.

Mr. Mechi, the noted English Agriculturist, has been elected to the Presidency of the London Farmers' Club. The honor of bestowing and receiving are about equal in this instance.

The consumers of Tobacco may consider themselves profitable citizens, as they have paid the Government nearly forty million in taxes on the weed during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876.

About the only farm product which commands a high price in our market this season, is potatoes, now selling at $3 to $3.50 a barrel, with indications of a further advance. The Early Rose takes the lead in price.

The members of the Michigan Pomological Society are discussing the subject of a change of name, by substituting the word "Horticultural" in place of "Pomological" which, we think, would be a very sensible thing to do.

Correspondents of the Press who wrote continuously during the Centennial of what they saw, are now telling us of the "Recollections," in order to prove that their memory of recent events is still good and in working condition.

A Southern paper tells us that a sleek mule is a sure sign of prosperity in a community, and kind-hearted owners. We think this same sign may also be applied to other animals, for poor farmers generally have poor stock of all kinds.

There is said to be a cotton tree in Florida twenty feet high, with a stem twenty-six inches in circumference. To gather the cotton from such trees men climb up among the branches or use very high step ladders. Where is California now?

One of the patriarchs of English gardening, Mr. E. G. Henderson, founder and proprietor of the Wellington Nurseries, died on the 4th of November last, at the ripe old age of 94. Who can say, after this, that the occupation of a gardener is an unhealthy one?

The Poultrymen are anxious to know what has become of their awards at the Centennial Poultry Show. It is seriously proposed to club together, when the medals arrive, and have them cast into a Bronze Donkey for presentation to the Centennial Commission.

The apple crop throughout the Northern States, this year, is an enormous one, and some of our orchardists talk seriously of cutting down the trees. A friend writes us from Wisconsin that the "whole West is full of apples this fall, and such a crop was never known before."

A Western contemporary echoes our sentiments in proclaiming that the only "serene man" during these tempestuous political times is the "Agricultural editor" who quietly studies the Potato beetle or Ichneumon fly and watches the steady increase of his subscription list.

Mr. Cramer, the Lecturer of the Kansas State Grange, has prepared a Pocket Companion for patrons of Husbandry, comprising the rules, laws and regulations by which Granges are governed. It is advertised on another page and should be in the hands of every Patron who is interested in the Order.

The Farmer's Journal of Raleigh, N. C., after having passed through various metamorphoses and innumerable proprietorship, has finally fallen into good hands. It will in future, be conducted by Mr. R. T. Fulghum, whose experience as an Agricultural editor assures a valuable and readable paper. Long may she wave!

TH' OWD WOODEN PLOW.

Up by th' Blake mere'o'Morridge, not a long time ago,
There lived an old chap wi' an old wig o' tow,
His name wor Tom Morris, and I'll tell ye how
He made a discourse on an old wooden plow.
Gee ho Dobbin, gee ho Dobbin,
Gee ho Dobbin, gee up and gee wo.

Twor the tenth of October, and the oats wor just ripe,
On the settle he sot, and he smoked his long pipe;
And he thought a long time about this thing and that,
And said, "Tommy, sit down, and I'll tell you what's what."
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"These are terrible times, lad: I prithee draw nigh,
And I'll give thee a wrinkle or two ere I die;
I can't stand it much longer, it shortens my breath,
These new-fangled notions will soon be my death.
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"They're going too fast, lad, I tell thee, a deal:
There's Lord Talbot, o' Ingestre, and Ralph Sneyd, o' Keele,
And Sandon, and Buller, and Mainwaring, and Bill—
Lord! the stuff they've been talking—it makes me quite ill.
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"Wi' their bones and their acids, their drills and guhanner,
Thy grandfather, Tom, never farmed i' that manner;
He'd ha' stared hard enough if he'd heard what they say
About boiling o' oil cakes and chopping o' hay.
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"Then soughings a thing as, in course, they must alter,
So they go a mon's depth for to get at th' top water,
And they scoop out the dirt wi' a thing like a spoon,
And for lules—they'd be using o' bacey-pipes soon.
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"Then they prate o' their carrots, and mangels, and sich—
(As if growin' o' carrots would mak' a mon rich)—
Of hoeing o' turmits and cleaning o' yallows—
Stuff and nonsense!—and growing of wheat without fallows.
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"Why, it makes me to laugh; without fallows, indeed!
I think they mun ha' a soft place in their yed.
And what can ye think they've been doing just now?
Why, they've got up a laugh at an old wooden plow!
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"Ay an old wooden plow; and they say, to be sure,
As the 'vide-awake farmers mun see 'em no more;
They mun all be of iron, and wood there's no trade for;
Why what do fools thinken an ash tree were made for?
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"Talk o' plows made o' iron! why th' next thing they 'll do
As sure as you live, they'll be painting them blue.
Then they've two tits abreast, as they call a gee ho,
They may call long enough, but it never can go.
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"No! gi'e me a good wooden plow as is strong,
And a good pair o' big wheels to help it along,
And four long-tailed tits, a mon, and a lad,
And a good steady pace, and it shanner, be dad.
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

"Then Tommy, my lad, never heed what they say,
But get on still, I' thy feyther's owd way,
They bring all their hogs to fine markets, I know,
But stick, while thee lives, to th' owd wooden plow."
Gee ho Dobbin, &c.

The Story-Teller.

A MAN WHO LOST HIS NAME.

[Continued from page 350.]

V.

In Norway the ladies dress with the innocent purpose of protecting themselves against the weather. If this purpose is still remotely present in the toilets of American women of to-day, it is, at all events, sufficiently disguised to challenge detection, very much like a primitive Sanscrit root in its French and English derivatives. This was the reflection which was uppermost in Halfdan's mind as Edith, ravishing to behold in the airy grace of her fragrant morning toilet, at the appointed time took her seat at his side before the piano. Her presence seemed so intense, so all-absorbing, that it left no thought for the music. A woman, with all the spiritual mysteries which that name implies, had always appeared to him rather a composite phenomenon, even apart from those varied accessories of dress in which, as by an inevitable analogy, she sees fit to express the inner multiformity of her being. Nevertheless, this former conception of his, when compared to that wonderful complexity of ethereal lines, colors, tints and half-tints which go to make up the modern New York girl, seemed inexpressibly simple, almost what plain arithmetic must appear to a man who has mastered calculus.

Edith had opened one of those small red-covered volumes of Chopin where the rich, wondrous melodies lie peacefully folded up like strange flowers in a herbarium. She began to play the *fantasia impromptu*, which ought to be dashed off at a single "heat," whose passionate impulse hurries it on breathlessly toward its abrupt *finale*. But Edith toiled considerably with her fingering, and blurred the keen edges of each swift phrase by her indistinct articulation. And still there was a sufficiently ardent intention in her play to save it from being a failure. She made a gesture of disgust when she had finished, shut the book, and let her hands drop crosswise in her lap.

"I only wanted to give you a proof of my incapacity," she said, turning her large luminous gaze upon her instructor, "in order to make you duly appreciate what you have undertaken. Now, tell me truly and honestly, *are* you not discouraged?"

"Not by any means," replied he, while the rapture of her presence rippled through his nerves; "you have fire enough in you to make an admirable musician. But your fingers, as yet, refuse to carry out your fine intentions. They only need discipline."

"And do you suppose you can discipline them? They are a fearfully obstinate set and cause me infinite mortification."

"Would you allow me to look at your hand?"

She raised her right hand and, with a sort of impulsive heedlessness, let it drop into his. An exclamation of surprise escaped him.

"If you will pardon me," he said, "it is a superb hand—a hand capable of performing miracles—musical miracles, I mean. Only look here"—(and he drew the fore and second fingers apart)—"so firmly set in the joint and still so flexible. I doubt if Liszt himself can boast a finer row of fingers. Your hands surely will not prevent you from becoming a second Von Bulow which, to my mind, means a good deal more than a second Liszt."

"Thank you; that is quite enough!" she exclaimed, with an incredulous laugh; "you have done bravely. That, at all events, throws the whole burden of responsibility upon myself, if I do not become a second somebody. I shall be perfectly satisfied, however, if you can only make me as good a musician as you are yourself, so that I can render a not too difficult piece without feeling all the while that I am committing sacrilege in mutilating the fine thoughts of some great composer."

"You are too modest; you do not——"

"No, no, I am not modest," she interrupted him with an impetuosity which startled him. "I beg of you not to persist in paying me compliments. I get too much of that cheap article elsewhere. I hate to be told that I am better than I know I am. If you are to do me any good by your instruction, you must be perfectly sincere toward me, and tell me plainly of my shortcomings. I promise you beforehand that I shall never be offended. There is my hand. Now, is it a bargain?"

His fingers closed involuntarily over the soft beautiful hand, and once more the luxury of her touch sent a thrill of delight through him.

"I have not been insincere," he murmured; "but I shall be on my guard in future, even against the appearance of insincerity."

"And when I play detestably, you will say so, and not smooth it over with unmeaning flatteries?"

"I will try."

"Very well, then; we shall get on well enough together. Do not imagine that this is a mere feminine whim of mine. I never was more in earnest. Men—and I believe foreigners to a greater degree than Americans—have the idea that women must be treated with gentle forbearance; that their follies, if they are foolish, must be glossed over with some polite name. They exert themselves to the utmost to make us mere playthings and, as such, contemptible both in our own eyes and in theirs. No sincere respect can exist where the truth has to be avoided. But the majority of American women are made of too stern a stuff to be dealt with in that way. They feel the lurking insincerity even where politeness forbids them to show it, and it makes them disgusted both with themselves and with the flatterer. And now you must pardon me for having spoken so plainly to you on so short an acquaintance; but you are a foreigner, and it may be an act of friendship to initiate you as soon as possible into our ways and customs."

He hardly knew what to answer. Her vehemence was so sudden and the sentiments she had uttered so different from those which he had habitually ascribed to women, that he could only sit and gaze at her in mute astonishment. He could not but admit that in the main she had judged him rightly, and that his own attitude and that of other men toward her sex, were based upon an implied assumption of superiority.

"I am afraid I have shocked you," she resumed, noticing the startled expression of his countenance. "But really it was quite inevitable, if we were at all to understand each other. You will forgive me, won't you?"

"Forgive!" stammered he; "I have nothing to forgive. It was only your merciless truthfulness which startled me. I rather owe you thanks, if you will allow me to be grateful to you. It seems an enviable privilege."

"Now," interrupted Edith, raising her forefinger in playful threat, "remember your promise."

The lesson was now continued without further interruption. When it was finished, a little girl, with her hair done up in curl-papers and a very stiffly starched dress, which stood out on all sides almost horizontally, entered, accompanied by Mrs. Van Kirk. Halfdan immediately recognized his acquaintance from the park, and it appeared to him a good omen that this child, whose friendly interest in him had warmed his heart in a moment when his fortunes seemed so desperate, should continue to be associated with his life on this new continent. Clara was evidently greatly impressed by the change in his appearance and could, with difficulty, be restrained from commenting upon it.

She proved a very apt scholar in music and enjoyed the lessons the more for her cordial liking of her teacher.

It will be necessary henceforth to omit the less significant details in the career of our friend "Mr. Birch." Before a month was past, he had firmly established himself in the favor of the different members of the Van Kirk family. Mrs. Van Kirk spoke of him to her lady visitors as "a perfect jewel," frequently leaving them in doubt as to whether he was a cook or a coachman. Edith apostrophised him to her fashionable friends as "a real genius," leaving a dim impression upon their minds of flowing locks, a shiny velvet jacket, slouched hat, defiant necktie and a general air of disreputable pretentiousness. Geniuses of the foreign type were never, in the estimation of fashionable New York society, what you would call "exactly nice," and against prejudices of this order no amount of argument will ever prevail. Clara, who had by this time discovered that her teacher possessed an inexhaustible fund of fairy stories, assured her playmates across the street that he was "just splendid," and frequently invited them over to listen to his wonderful tales. Mr. Van Kirk himself, of course, was non-committal, but paid the bills unmurmuringly.

Halfdan in the meanwhile was vainly struggling against his growing passion for Edith; but the more he rebelled the more hopelessly he found himself entangled in its inextricable net. The fly, as long as it keeps quiet in the spider's web, may for a moment forget its situation; but the least effort to escape is apt to frustrate itself and again reveal the imminent peril. Thus he too "kicked against the pricks," hoped, feared, rebelled against his destiny, and again, from sheer weariness, relapsed into a dull, benumbed apathy. In spite of her friendly sympathy, he never felt so keenly his alienism as in her presence. She accepted the spontaneous homage he paid her, sometimes with impatience, as something that was really beneath her notice; at other times she frankly recognized it, bantered him with his "Old World chivalry," which would soon evaporate in the practical American atmosphere, and called him her Viking, her knight and her faithful squire. But it never occurred to her to regard his devotion in a serious light, and to look upon him as a possible lover had evidently never entered her head.

As their intercourse grew more intimate, he had volunteered to read his favorite poets with her, and had gradually succeeded in imparting to her something of his own passionate liking for Heine and Bjornson. She had in return called his attention to the works of American authors who had hitherto been little more than names to him, and they had thus managed to be of mutual benefit to each other and to spend many a pleasant hour during the long winter afternoons in each other's company. But Edith had a very keen sense of humor and could hardly restrain her secret amusement when she heard him reading Longfellow's "Psalm of Life" and Poe's "Raven" (which had been familiar to her from babyhood), often with false accent, but always with intense enthusiasm. The reflection that he had had no part of his life in common with her—that he did not love the things which she loved—could not share her prejudices (and women have a feeling akin to contempt for a man who does not respond to their prejudices)—removed him at times almost beyond the reach of her sympathy.

It was interesting enough as long as the experience was novel, to be thus unconsciously exploring another person's mind and finding so many strange objects there; but after a while the thing began to assume an uncomfortably serious aspect, and then there seemed to be something almost terrible about it. At such times a call from a gentleman of her own nation—even though he were one of the placidly stupid type—would be a positive relief; she could abandon herself to the secure sense of being at home; she need fear no surprises, and in the smooth shallows of their talk there were no unsuspected depths to excite and baffle her ingenuity. And again, reverting in her thought to Halfdan, his conversational brilliancy would almost repel her, as something odious and un-American, the cheap result of outlandish birth and unrepublican education. Not that she had ever valued republicanism very highly; she was one of those who associated politics with noisy vulgarity in speech and dress, and therefore thanked fortune that women were permitted to keep aloof from it. But in the presence of this alien she found herself growing patriotic; that much-discussed abstraction, which we call our country (and which is nothing but the aggregate of all the slow and invisible influences which go toward making up our own being), became by degrees a very palpable and intelligible fact to her.

Frequently while her American self was thus loudly asserting itself, Edith inflicted many a cruel wound upon her foreign adorer. Once—it was the fourth of July, more than a year after Halfdan's arrival—a number of young ladies and gentlemen, after having listened to a patriotic oration, were invited in to an informal luncheon. While waiting, they naturally enough spent their time in singing national songs, and Halfdan's clear tenor did good service in keeping the straggling voices together. When they had finished, Edith went up to him and was quite effusive in her expressions of gratitude.

"I am sure we ought all to be very grateful to you, Mr. Birch," she said, "and I, for my part, can assure you that I am."

"Grateful! Why?" demanded Halfdan, looking quite unhappy.

"For singing *our* national songs, of course. Now, won't you sing one of your own, please? We should all be so delighted to hear how a Swedish—or Norwegian, is it?—national song sounds!"

"Yes, Mr. Birch, *do* sing a Swedish song," echoed several voices.

They, of course, did not even remotely suspect their own cruelty. He had, in his enthusiasm for the day, allowed himself to forget that he was not made of the same clay as they were, that he was an exile and a stranger, and must ever remain so; that he had no right to share their joy in the blessing of liberty. Edith had taken pains to dispel the happy illusion and had sent him once more whirling toward his cold native Pole. His passion came near choking him and, to conceal his impetuous emotion, he flung himself down on the piano-stool and struck some introductory chords with perhaps a little superfluous emphasis. Suddenly his voice burst out into the Swedish national anthem, "Our Land, our Land, our Fatherland," and the air shook and palpitated with strong martial melody. His indignation, his love and his misery, imparted strength to his voice, and its occasional tremble in the *piano* passages was something more than an artistic intention. He was loudly applauded as he arose, and the young ladies thronged about him to ask if he "wouldn't please write out the music for them."

Thus month after month passed by and every day brought its own misery. Mrs. Van Kirk's patronizing manners and ostentatious kindness, often tested his patience to the utmost. If he was guilty of an innocent witticism or a little quaintness of expression, she always assumed it to be a mistake of terms and corrected him with an air of benign superiority. At times, of course, her corrections were legitimate—as, for instance, when he spoke of *wearing* a cane instead of *carrying* one; but in nine cases out of ten the fault lay in her own lack of imagination and not in his ignorance of English.

On such occasions Edith often took pity on him, defended him against her mother's criticism and insisted that if this or that expression was not in common vogue, that was no reason why it should not be used, as it was perfectly grammatical and, moreover, in keeping with the spirit of the language. And he, listening passively in admiring silence to her argument, thanked her even for the momentary pain because it was followed by so great a happiness. For it was so sweet to be defended by Edith, to feel that he and she were standing together side by side against the outer world. Could he only show her in the old heroic manner how much he loved her! Would only some one that was dear to her die, so that he, in that breaking down of social barriers which follows a great calamity, might comfort her in her sorrow. Would she then, perhaps weeping, lean her wonderful head upon his breast, feeling but that he was a fellow mortal, who had a heart that was loyal and true, and forgetting, for one brief instant, that he was a foreigner? Then, to touch that delicate Elizabethan frill which wound itself so daintily about Edith's neck—what inconceivable rapture! But it was quite impossible. It could never be. These were selfish thoughts, no doubt; but they were a lover's selfishness and, as such, bore a close kinship to all that is purest and best in human nature.

It is one of the tragic facts of this life, that a relation so unequal as that which existed between Halfdan and Edith, is at all possible. As for Edith, I must admit that she was well aware that her teacher was in love with her. Women have wonderfully keen senses for phenomena of that kind, and it is no illusion if any one imagines, as our Norseman did, that he had locked his secret securely in the hidden chamber of his heart. In fleeting intonations, unconscious glances and attitudes, and through a hundred other channels, it will make its way out and the bereaved jailor may still clasp his key in fierce triumph, never knowing that he has been robbed.

It was of course no fault of Edith's that she had become possessed of Halfdan's heart-secret. She regarded it as on the whole rather an absurd affair and prized it very lightly. That a love so strong and yet so humble, so destitute of hope and still so unchanging, reverent and faithful, had something grand and touching in it, had never occurred to her. It is a truism to say that in our social code the value of a man's character is determined by his position; and fine traits in a foreigner (unless he should happen to be something very great) strike us rather as part of a supposed mental alienism and, as such, naturally suspicious. It is rather disgraceful than otherwise to have your music teacher in love with you, and critical friends will never quite banish the suspicion that you have encouraged him.

Edith had, in her first delight at the discovery of Halfdan's talent, frankly admitted him to a relation of apparent equality. He was a man of culture, had the manners and bearing of a gentleman, and had none of those theatrical airs which so often raise a sort of invisible wall between foreigners and Americans. Her mother, who loved to play the patron, especially to young men, had invited him to dinner parties and introduced him to their friends, until almost every one looked upon him as a *protege* of the family. He appeared so well in a parlor and had really such a distinguished presence, that it was a pleasure to look at him. He was remarkably free from those obnoxious traits which generalizing American travelers have led us to believe were inseparable from foreign birth; his finger-nails were in no way conspicuous; he did not—as a French count, a former adorer of Edith had done—indulge an unmasculine taste for diamond rings (possibly because he had none); his politeness was unobtrusive and subdued, and of his accent there was just enough left to give an agreeable color of individuality to his speech. But for all that, Edith could never quite rid herself of the impression that he was intensely un-American. There was a certain idyllic quiescence about him, a child-like directness and simplicity, and a total absence of "push," which were startlingly at variance with the spirit of American life.

An American could never have been content to remain in an inferior position without trying, in some way, to better his fortunes. But Halfdan could stand still and see, without the faintest stirring of envy, his plebeian friend Olson, whose education and talents could bear no comparison with his own, rise rapidly above him and apparently have no desire to emulate him. He could

sit on a cricket in a corner, with Clara on his lap, and two or three other little girls nestling about him, and tell them fairy stories by the hour, while his kindly face beamed with innocent happiness. And if Clara, to coax him into continuing the entertainment, offered to kiss him, his measure of joy was full. This fair child, with her affectionate ways and her confiding prattle, wound herself ever more closely about his homeless heart and he clung to her with a touching devotion. For she was the only one who seemed to be unconscious of the difference of blood, who had not yet learned that she was an American and he —a foreigner.—[To be continued.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF TIME.

The foundation of all economy is a wise disposition of time. Let that be acquired and true economy in everything else will infallibly and speedily follow; and the most difficult step toward acquiring it is real and wise economy of time. Economy has, in fact, got a very bad character with the great majority of people because it is confounded with stinginess; though, in fact, they are so far from being connected that stinginess is a very deadly enemy to real economy, while liberality and generosity must be confined to words and wishes where economy is not served.

Still some persons imagine that if they play the niggard with every cent and every article of which they can once obtain possession they are good economists. A more wretched and complete mistake cannot be made. Economy is the right employment of money and means, not the hoarding or burying of them. To save is very laudable and desirable, but it is no saving to lay up certain pieces of coin while we shiver for want of fuel or faint for want of the food which those pieces of coin would purchase; to do so is to save the coin, indeed, but it is to save it at the expense of that health and that duration of life which no amount of money can purchase or compensate for.

LOVE IN CALIFORNIA.

The evidence in the Edwards-Keating breach of promise suit, which has been stimulating the prurient curiosity of San Francisco, included a great many love-letters. On one occasion the defendant was so unreasonably amiable as to write:—"My Darling Emily: I would give all I have on earth and all of my future to be with you one-half hour." Although he seemed to be in a mood to mortgage time and eternity in consideration of a half-hour, she read the letter, seized a pen, and scolded him for being an "inconstant lunar"—whatever that may be. When the defendant received this missive he was watching the stock-market with anxious interest, and he had no time for romance. In other words, he was long of stock and short of sentiment. So he instructed his cashier to answer the letter. It was done in this wise:—"Mr. Keating directs me to say that they sin who tell us love can die; love is indestructible, but with life all other passions fly. Love's holy flame forever burneth; from heaven it came, to heaven it returneth. K. hopes to see you after the Spring rise." The Spring rise in stocks was what the buoyant proxy meant.

A GOOD HIT.

Prof. Ellicott Evans of Hamilton College, tells this story concerning his grand-uncle, Joseph Ellicott and the Chief Red Jacket:—The two having met at Tonawanda Swamp, they sat down on a log which happened to be convenient, both being near the middle. Presently Red Jacket said, in his almost unintelligible English, "Move along, Jo." Elliott did so, and the sachem moved up to him. In a few minutes came another request, "Move along, Jo," and again the agent complied and the chief followed. Scarcely had this been done when Red Jacket again said, "Move along, Jo." Much annoyed, but willing to humor him, and not seeing what he meant, Elliott complied, this time reaching the end of the log. But that was not sufficient, and presently the request was repeated for the fourth time, "Move along, Jo." "Why, man," angrily replied the agent, "I can't move any further without getting off from the log into the mud." "Ugh! Just so, white man. Want Indian move along—move along. Can't go no farther, but he say, 'move along.'"

SLUMBERING PLANTS.

It is well known that plants sleep at night; but their hours of sleeping are a matter of habit and may be disturbed artificially, just as a cock may be waked up to crow at untimely hours by the light of a lantern. A French chemist subjected a sensitive plant to an exceedingly trying course of discipline by completely changing its hours—exposing it to a bright light at night, so as to prevent sleep and put it into a dark room during the day. The plant appeared to be much puzzled and disturbed at first. It opened and closed its leaves irregularly, sometimes nodding, in spite of the artificial sun that shed its beams at midnight and sometimes waking up, from the force of habit, to find the chamber dark in spite of the time of day. Such are the trammels of use and wont. But after an obvious struggle the plant submitted to the change, and turned day into night without any apparent ill effects.

The Bible itself is like an old cremona; it has been played upon by the devotion of thousands of years, until every word and particle is public and tunable.—*Emerson.*

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Books for Holliday Presents.

How to Sing; Or, The Voice and How to Use It. By W. H. Daniell. New York: S. R. Wells & Co. (Paper—12mo. Price 50 cts.)

It may be necessary to convey information to the average reader upon scientific and practical subjects through the medium of a dialogue such as is here published. To waste the time necessary to acquire the knowledge upon the subject of the voice by swallowing whole this sugar-coated pill of science, seems like an acknowledgement of the bitterness of the medicine in this fast generation. The habit of dressing up subjects uninteresting to children in a childish way, is too prevalent. Those who are sufficiently advanced in years and desirous of information to seek the teachings contained in this work, should blush at the estimate put upon their common sense by its author and in most cases would vastly prefer a simple treatise upon the subject without the necessity of wading through one hundred and ten pages of dialogue to acquire a few pages of knowledge. This tendency to sugar-coating should be relegated to the Kinder-gartens and manufacturers of patent medicines and not have its application to scientific and practical subjects designed for the mature mind. That the book contains much valuable information upon the subject of the voice cannot be doubted; but it also contains much that is valueless and tiresome to the average mature reader.

Daisy Travers. By Adelaide F. Samuels. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

Among the many stories of young folks and their queer doings, few are more pleasing than Daisy Travers. Daisy is an orphan girl, whose good fortune caused her to be adopted by a wealthy gentleman who allowed her to do very much as she pleased and supplied her with the necessary funds for that end. Mindful of her own youthful poverty, she Quixotically established a boarding school called Hive Hall, into which she brought, for scholars, twenty-five children of both sexes, taken from miserably-conducted country poor-houses. The process of amelioration and the gradual development of their hitherto latent talents is brightly pictured, while the interest of the story centers around the civilization by kindly means of the veriest savage of them all, Dora Wentworth. The work is neatly printed, handsomely bound and illustrated with wood cuts. It will be a beautiful Christmas present for either the school-girl or boy, and one from which a good moral can be drawn with delight by the most mischievous of his or her race.

Elementary Hand-Book of Theoretical Mechanics. By William Rossiter. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. (16mo.—pp. 148. Price, 75 cts.

The word "elementary," refixed to the title of this work, is eminently a proper one, so simply and perspicuously are the rudiments or elementary principles of mechanics set forth. Accompanied by (143) illustrative diagrams, the book could hardly be other than useful to anyone who seeks knowledge on the subject of which it treats. Thousands of mechanics throughout the country to-day would be greatly benefited by a reference to its pages for a complete understanding of the reasons of results which they know to be produced but do not know why.

Flaxie Frizzle. By Sophie May. Boston: Lee & Shepard. New York: Charles T. Dillingham.

Another of those sweet, natural child-stories in which the heroine does and says just such things as actual, live, flesh children do, is the one before us. And what is still better, each incident points a moral. The illustrations are a great addition to the delight of the youthful reader. It is just such beautiful books as this which bring to our minds, in severe contrast, the youth's literature of our early days—the good little boy who died young and the bad little boy who went fishing on Sunday and died in prison, etc., etc., to the end of the threadbare, improbable chapter.

Choke-Bore Guns. By W. W. Greener. London, Paris and New York: Cassell, Petter & Galpin.

Mr. Greener is a manufacturer of guns at Birmingham, England, and has written a book entitled as above. If anyone thinks this British Cousin is Greener than most Yankees at advertising, let him peruse the 215 closely-printed pages, of which perhaps five or six are devoted to Chokebores in general and the balance to Greener's own gun. Anyone who desires to know all about this shooting-iron can here get over 200 pages of puffs, both original and copied from the London sporting papers.

Catalogue of Centennial Exposition. Philadelphia: J. R. Nagle & Co. for Centennial Catalogue Co.

A large, closely-printed work of over 1250 pages is in this instance made to comprise more extended and varied information than any which has come under our notice for a long time. Every exhibitor should possess himself of one and every one who has visited the Exhibition should, by this book, keep a constant reminder, as a prompter in case of conversation on so vast a subject. Two dollars will buy it, and it is certainly worth the money.

The Echo Club. By Bayard Taylor. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.

The general character of this little work is described in the introduction:—"Three or four young authors found not only amusement but an agreeable relaxation from their graver tasks, in drawing names and also subjects as from a lottery-wheel, and improvising imitations of older and more renowned poets." Some of these parodies are comical, while others are exceeding dull. It is, nevertheless, a bright little pocket companion with which to while away odd leisure moments.

Elementary Hand-Book of Applied Mechanics. By William Rossiter. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. (16mo.—pp. 149. Price 75 cts.)

Divided into nine chapters, of which the first six treat of materials, the seventh of mechanical powers, the eighth of the application of force and the ninth of machinery, the work covers much ground in a condensed form. Supplemented to all this is a series of Problems and Solutions which must be valuable, especially to the inventor. Like all of the author's writings, simplicity and perspicuity are the prominent attributes of this work.

Liver Complaint, Nervous Dyspepsia and Headache. By M. L. Holbrook, M. D. New York: Wood & Holbrook.

Behold, here is a pathological work upon the reading of which the ordinary mortal can throw up his hat, for it is not filled with those horrid technical terms with which doctors delight to mystify outside barbarians. It contains an abundance of good sense and some good advice, that everybody can profit by. The doctor is the editor of the Herald of Health, and knows how to write as well as to prescribe.

Winwood Cliff. By Daniel Wise, D. D. Boston: Lee & Shepard. New York: Chas. T. Dillingham.

Among the various lists of holiday books none are more attractive for the youth of this country than that of the above publishers. Dr. Wise ("Francis Forrester") has in this work reduced a number of incidents of real life to a complete and pleasant story, the moral tone of which is maintained equally with its interest throughout. It is intended for the young and will please the adult also.

Elementary Book-Keeping. By J. C. Bryant, M. D. Published by the author at Buffalo, N. Y. (Pp. 96. Price 80 cts.)

The position of President of the Bryant & Stratton Business College, so long occupied by the author, is a sufficient guaranty of the value of this text-book. Appended to the system of book-keeping is a set of business forms applicable to those contingencies generally experienced by merchants. Every business man should keep this book in his store for reference.

Every-Day Topics. By J. G. Holland. New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co

To the constant reader of Scribner's Monthly many of these "Briefs," as their author calls them, would be familiar. To those to whom they are new however, their freshness would amply repay perusal. Dr. Holland always writes well and his productions are carefully prepared and invariably contain ideas of value well expressed. Even these little "Briefs" are, many of them, prose-poems in themselves.

Lady Ernestine; Or, The Absent Lord of Rochefort. By Mrs. Catherine A. Warfield. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

For a book filled with unnatural situations, incomprehensible human conduct and execrable French, commend this one. But withal, it is interesting, and what plot there is in it is well worked out. To those who are pleased with sensational novels of the French Revolution, this would be good reading.

Manual of Geometry. By William G. Peck, LL.D. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.

This is the last volume of Peck's "Mathematical Series" (condensed course). Beginning with "First Lessons in Numbers," he conducts the student through natural gradations to this work, in which the propositions are both complete and solved in a simple, clear way. An excellent text-book for advanced scholars.

Peter and Polly. By Marian Douglas. Boston: Jas. R. Osgood & Co.

The author has produced one of those pleasant tales of New England life during the Revolutionary War, which cannot fail to reach the true American heart. Though the central characters are children, the story is quite readable for older folks.

Popping the Question. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Bro.

This is one of the usual novels of the day. Those whose tastes incline to love, intrigue and eventual happiness, will find this book extremely interesting.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From Scribner, Armstrong & Co., New York:

Philip Nolan's Friends, by Edward E. Hall. (Cloth—pp. 395. Price $1.75.) Sans-Souci Series. Anecdote Biography of Shelley. Edited by R. H. Stoddard. (Cloth; 12mo—pp. 290. Price $1.50.)

A. S. Barnes & Co., New York:

Battles of the American Revolution—1775-1781, &c., by H. B. Carrington, M. A., LL.D., Col. U. S. Army. (Boards; pp. 712. Price $6.)

T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Phila., Pa.:

Popping the Question, by the author of The Jilt. (Paper—pp. 176. Price 75 cts.)

Magazines for December:

Wide Awake, St. Nicholas, Galaxy, Phrenological Journal, Journal of Materia Medica.

Sabbath Reading.

FROM MY WINDOW.

BY ALIQUA.

I look from my window with dreaming eyes
At the landscape fair and o'er-arching skies,
At the busy streets of the pleasant town,
And the noisy trains that go up and down,
At the birds that circle and wheel and fly
And vanish into the blue of the sky,
And I win from the days of storm and shine
Some fair fancies and thoughts to weave with mine.

I look from my window at early day
When mists of morning curl up and away
From the river course, where the hills in line
Like a row of happiest faces shine;
When out-going trains rumble loud and long,
And the traveler's heart beats high and strong,
For the farewells said in the morning air
Hold a hopeful promise, with hint of prayer.

I glance at the silent city between
My quiet street and the busier scene,
And in light of the morning strong and clear
Dark Death seems a shadow that comes not near.
I turn from the graves to the joy that lies
In the laughing depth of the baby's eyes,
And to lightsome tasks that the day begin
With a joyful heart to work and win.

I look from my window at eventide
When slow, dusky forms from the meadows glide
And circle the town with their pinions dun,
While the hills still catch the gleam of the sun,
And whistle of trains echoes long and far,
And there hangs in blue heaven the evening star,
While I fancy angels in blessing keep
A watch by the baby's peaceful sleep.

I look from my window at still night hour
When sweet sleep has vanished with magic power,
And only the gleaming marble I see
Of the silent city that waits for me,
And its solemn rest seems calm and sweet,
While the old petition my thoughts repeat:
"Bless us, and guide us, O Father afar!
By the light of thy Bright and Morning Star."

MAHOMMEDANISM vs. CHRISTIANITY.

The following, from the London Spectator, aptly describes a species with which we are all familiar:—"A kindred cause of English Mahommedanism comes from deep-seated, subtle, vehement, half-confessed and often only half-conscious hatred of Christianity. We all know the kind of educated man who, without openly attacking Christianity, never lets slip a chance of sneering at it; who goes out of his way to recount the atrocities that have been committed in its name; who lumps priests and parsons of all sects under the heading of some contemptuous epithet, and who habitually attacks Christianity by praising all other religions. Such men pay tributes of respect to Mahommed not because they like him, but because they hate the dominion of the Christian Church. They praise Mahommedanism and admire the morality of the Koran, for the most transparent of controversial purposes. In the present case, it is enough for them that much has been said about the Christianity of the Bulgarians; their dislike to the religions classes at home makes them instantly find in that Christianity a ground of contempt, and they go out of their way to show that the religious beliefs of the Bulgarians are pitiably corrupt. They forget to ask whether history has not shown that even the most corrupt Christianity, when connected with the stream of European progress, has proved to be a better civilizing agent than the most refined Mahommedanism."

FORCE.

God works through men. The gospel was first wrought into chosen men, and thus became a power to save other men. Christ was the life, the gospel, in his own person, and incarnated that gospel in apostles and repeats the incarnation in succession. No one can preach the gospel unless he has made it a personal life in his own soul. Doctrine is the mere anatomy of the gospel; life is the real power that renders all mental power, knowledge and truth, effective. Lack of life is the great weakness of pulpits and pews. There is an immense amount of knowledge, sincerity, generous intent and patient drudgery, but the fire is low, inspiration feeble. There is a desire to do "mighty works," but few get hold of the power. The way seems obscure; prayer and longings bring no enlightenment, and faintness stifles many souls. What can they do? When the "power of Christ" is dearer to them than everything else and they seek it with a great desire and strong faith, it will come.

THE ROMAN PONTIFFS.

The whole number of Popes from St. Peter to Pius IX. is 257. Of those 82 are venerated as saints, 33 having been martyred; 104 have been Romans and 103 natives of other parts of Italy; 15 Frenchmen, 9 Greeks, 7 Germans, 5 Asiatics, 3 Africans, 3 Spaniards, 2 Dalmatians, 1 Hebrew, 1 Thracian, 1 Dutchman, 1 Portugese, 1 Candiot and 1 Englishman. The name most commonly borne has been John; the 23d and last was a Neapolitan, raised to the chair in 1410. Nine Pontiffs have reigned less than one month, 30 less than one year, and 11 more than 20 years. Only 5 have occupied the Pontifical chair over 23 years. These are St. Peter, who was Supreme Pastor 25 years, 2 months, 7 days; Sylvester I., 23 years, 10 months, 27 days; Adrian I., 23 years, 10 months, 14 days; Pius IX., who celebrated his 30th year in the Pontifical chair June 16th, 1876.

Ladies' Portfolio.

MY SHIP COMES IN.

My ship comes sailing in from sea,
And I am glad as glad can be.
Oh! I have kissed my love to-night,
And all life seems one calm delight.
My ship comes in, my ship comes in,
My ship comes sailing up the sea,
And life is like a dream to me.

The stars look larger than before,
The moon is silver now. The door
Of Paradise seems opened wide
As you church door for my fair bride.
My ship comes in, my ship comes in,
My ship comes climbing up the sea,
And land and sea are fair to me.

I know full well in my ship's hold
Lie neither gorgeous silks nor gold;
But oh! I know my love loves me,
And ask no more of land or sea.
My ship comes in, my ship comes in,
My ship has crossed the lonesome sea,
And I am glad as glad can be.

[*Joaquin Miller.*

HARD TIMES.

This is the complaint we hear from nearly every one, and a great many are trying to economize. But how many men will think of giving up their cigars, their accustomed daily drinks, their dinners at clubs, and treating of friends and other useless and expensive habits? And how many women will dispense with dresses, so loaded with trimmings that the foundation of the dress is scarcely visible, and wear something plainer, more sensible and becoming?

Much sooner will many think of discontinuing the weekly papers, not buying the magazine they usually have, neglecting to bring home a new book to the family, and occasionally taking the boys from school, just as they are beginning the higher branches, to have them work for a pittance, perhaps, at this day too when education is thought so necessary, and skillful workers are wanted in every field of labor. The girls, too, must do without their music lessons. All these things must be given up, that are so really needed, instead of those that we would be better off without.

Economy might also be practiced in regard to our food, with great benefit to ourselves. Soup is as cheap, healthy, and nourishing as any thing; oatmeal, Graham flour, rice, and all coarse grains, are some of the best materials for bone and muscle; and with plenty of good, light bread, rolls and muffins, vegetables in abundance, eggs, beef, fowls and fish, what more can any one ask, except that which is so bountifully provided—fresh, ripe fruit. And if you have more than you can eat or preserve for winter's use of those cells of honied sweetness—grapes—or those garden rubies—called currants—or any fruit used for making wine—give them away—throw them away, do anything rather than make wine of them, thinking, because it is home-made, it can do no harm.

And do anything under the sun but make "brandy peaches." If you possess any of that delicious, velvety fruit. *Then*, if your sons learn to like ardent spirits, when they go out into the world—as they surely must one day, if they live—you can feel that you have been wholly blameless. Oh! mothers in this nation! you cannot keep your darling boys with you always, but now, while they are young, you can do almost everything in teaching them to hate evil and love the right. You can do it if you *will*; you can carefully educate them to a high moral standard, and then, if in after years they do learn to drink—although it will be dreadful—you will not have the fearful thought *forever haunting* you, that it was at home that they first learned to like the taste of intoxicating drink, and that it was a mother's hand that gave it to them.

The more plainly and sensibly we dress, the better it will be for us, both in mind and body. The less time we spend upon it, the more we shall have for something better; the less we think about it, the more our minds can be occupied with better thoughts, nobler feelings, and higher aspirations.

The books we read, the lessons we learn, the education we receive, all these we make our own. But the luxuries we have, the fine furniture, the expensive clothing, these last only for a time, are the least satisfying of all earthly blessings. But the self-sacrifice we make, the education we obtain *here*, make us better and happier in the life which now is and in that which is to come.

So do not let us give up our reading, music, pictures and lectures, our schools, and all the elevating influences of life. These are worth far more than mere outside show; the things that perish with the using.

Books and papers we cannot do without; music is one of our greatest blessings. Pictures of the right kind are refining and ennobling. It is not the promiscuous giving to street-beggars and tramps, but the true charity which helps the needy, worthy ones who try to help themselves, that is admirable.

What we want and actually need to-day is to educate the "coming army of voters" to *form* temperance PRINCIPLES. It is not enough to say: "I am in favor of temperance—I don't believe in men getting drunk: but such gentlemen as *we* are, certainly know when we have enough, we can be 'moderate drinkers.'" Ah! you don't know the influence you may possess over the younger boys of your community. Nearly every boy has some friend whom he thinks about right. If he sees his friend smoking, the first chance he gets he will try to learn to smoke, *to be manly*. A little boy joins a temperance society, signs the pledge, or becomes a member of a Cold Water Temple, and some young man—who may be a hero in his eyes—meets him and says: "I hear you've joined a *Cold Water Temple*. What kind of a concern is it? please tell me. And can't you drink anything but water this cold weather? Really, I thought better of you than *that*; I did not think a smart chap like *you* would sign away your liberty. Such simple societies are well enough for *girls*, but 'Young America' wants and must have '*independence!*'" You will have a remarkable kind of independence, one of these days, if you keep on at this rate, when your appetite controls you, instead of you controlling it, as you once boasted you could.

But I'm not writing a temperance article, and yet I am writing just that very thing, after all—temperance in all things producing a wise economy in those things we can best do without. There's one thing when you are trying to reduce expenses—to meet your income—that I beg you not to forget. While you are thinking of providing less reading matter for yourself and family, there's one class of papers, that, if you've been in the habit of taking, you had better have stopped at once, and *never* again send your subscription. It is those sensational, trashy Ledgers and Weeklies that are so largely circulated in the land today. They do more harm than good—in fact they do no one any good whatever. All the influence they do possess—and I hope it is not much, but fear it is—is for evil. I used to read them when I did not know any better, but soon became disgusted with them, and before finishing a thrilling (?) story I had commenced, carried them back to the neighbor that had offered them to me. I resolved I never would read that class of paper again, and I never have. If I could, at this moment, with one dash of my pen, blot them entirely at once and forever from our country, it should be done instantaneously.

Let us be economical in every right and proper way—stopping to think of the consequences, instead of practicing the glittering display that is worth so little, and will never benefit us in any respect. This is true economy, and the best cure for these "Hard Times." EUDOM.

Royalton, Niagara Co., N. Y.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

"How dairy!" exclaimed the milkmaid when the hired man kissed her.

QUEEN VICTORIA has received from the Empress of Brazil that dress woven from the webs of spiders.

YOUNG ladies, the new shade is "antique purple." It is about the tint of an election eye two days old.

THE Italian universities have never excluded women. Centuries ago they even elected them professors.

Two negro women met in Louisville by appointment, and fought with knives until both were painfully wounded.

THERE lives near Oakland, Cal., a real old-fashioned witch, who lives in a little hut, cooks and eats her meals in the public highway, and has three dogs for her only companions.

THE woman-women claim that at the recent election in Massachusetts 15,000 votes were recorded for woman suffrage and prohibition—an increase of 50 per cent. over last year.

THE local editor of the Burlington Hawkeye reports that "the false alarm of fire on Columbia street yesterday afternoon was caused by a young lady with cardinal-red stockings falling out of the back seat of an open wagon."

A LONDON woman gave her child a bottle of carbolic acid to play with so as to pacify it. The child got the cork out of the bottle, and as the little angels in heaven are supposed to enjoy the highest state of pacification, that mother's experiment was eminently successful.

THE characteristic of a coquette is affectation governed by whim; for as beauty, wit, good nature, politeness and health are sometimes affected by this creature, so are ugliness, folly, nonsense, ill nature, ill breeding and sickness put on by it in their turn. Its life is one constant lie, and the only rule by which you can form any judgment of them is that they are never what they seem to be.—*Fielding.*

CORRESPONDENTS are loud in praise of the Italian women just now. They have been prominent in the agitation throughout the country with reference to the Bulgarian outrages. The Countess Chiocci presented an address at a public meeting in Rome, on the 3d inst., and Miss Matilda Caselli addressed an enormous meeting at Naples a week afterward. The spirit and eloquence of the latter moved the vast audience to uncontrollable enthusiasm.

THE New York correspondent of the St. Louis Republican writes: "A pretty, wealthy girl, of good family, of this city, while recently in Philadelphia, struck the fancy of a Chinese merchant who was in charge of the Chinese exhibit at the Centennial. He openly expressed his admiration, said, 'I like you muchee, come see me muchee,' &c., and presented her with many novelties of Chinese manufacture, among them some beautiful scarfs of Canton crape. One of them is of dark crimson, peculiarly becoming to this pretty brunette. So she wears it in coquettish fashion about her throat, and tied in a long loop, which reaches below her waist. Suddenly all her female friends are in quest of these long Canton crape scarfs of crimson hue."

Reading for the Young.

LITTLE MAYSIE.

BY ANNIE L. JACK.

SHE is waiting—little MAYSIE;
I can see each shining curl,
And with joy her eyes are beaming—
Mother's sweet, old-fashioned girl.
For she kissed me when we parted,
With a tremor at her throat;
But her words were bright and happy—
"I will meet you at the boat."
Little MAYSIE, busy MAYSIE,
She has met me at the boat.

I have been in halls of learning
And the mansions of the proud,
But I wearied of their wisdom
And was lonely in a crowd.
Still in fancy I have listened
To our wildwood robin's note,
And to MAYSIE'S hopeful promise—
I will meet you at the boat.
Little MAYSIE, busy MAYSIE,
She has met me at the boat.

Now I see the low-browed cottage
Nestling 'mong the maple trees,
And the perfume of the roses
Mingles with the evening breeze.
Ne'er again my feet shall wander
To those stranger lands remote,
Nor will MAYSIE need to promise,
"I will meet you at the boat."
Little MAYSIE, busy MAYSIE,
She has met me at the boat.

A TRUE STORY;

Or, A BRAVE YOUNG LAD.

BY "GRETCHEN."

My grandfather was born among the hills of New Hampshire, where he spent the first eighteen years of his life. And many interesting and amusing incidents were crowded into these years, one of which, my dear young readers, I shall relate for your diversion.

From his cradle he had learned to believe that prowling wolves and prowling bears lived somewhere among those hills, and yet up to the age of fourteen he had seen nothing but the picture of a wild animal. He lived in hopes, however, of some day exercising that boldness and bravery which were among his characteristics. For with this shadow ever hanging over him, he had educated himself to the highest standard of courage and intrepidity, also studying the habits and natures of various animals.

There was none he dreaded so much as the catamount. When I say dreaded, I do not wish it to be inferred that he would try to avoid them; on the contrary, he was ever on the alert to find them. It was their cat-like, stealthy, treacherous nature that he despised. He would much rather have a paw-to-paw tussle (as he termed it) with a bear. "But beggars must not be choosers." Although giving little credence to the exaggerated stories of the neighborhood, there was a shadow of a reason for believing that catamounts or panthers inhabited those regions. Once or twice, while engaged in doing his evening chores at the barn, he had heard a yell or squall in the distance, which he well knew was foreign to the barn-yards of that locality, and which at once suggested these animals. The nearest settlement to his father's home was some six miles distant, reached only by two roads,—the main road winding along the base of the mountain; the other a narrow one which cut through it, making the distance shorter. It was seldom patronized, however, on account of its wildness, the steep ascents on either side looking very suspicious and forbidding.

Returning from mill late one afternoon, with his two bags of grist in front of him on his horse, he ventured to turn into this short cut, cherishing the hope at the same time that his suspicions might be verified, and that he might go home with a true story. He had gone about a mile when suddenly Dolly's ears flew back, and then as quickly straightened themselves out like flags of distress. He remembered hearing his father say that the pricking of Dolly's ears was enough warning when danger was at hand. He had watched and waited so long for that sign, and now that it had come it sent a thrill of terrible joy through him; and then for the first time he bethought himself of his recklessness, for he had not a thing with which to defend himself. Still he did not, coward like, put heels to his horse; he just straightened himself in his saddle, letting Dolly take her own gait, while he scanned either side of him. At first his ear caught sound of a cautious rustling; his eyes instantly turned in the direction from which it came. As I have said before, he was acquainted with the habits of wild animals only theoretically. The quietness and silence which prevailed convinced him at once that a catamount or panther (I believe they are one and the same—grandfather always called them catamounts) was near, and might at any moment pounce upon him. Keeping his eyes upon the spot whence the rustling issued, he saw a sleek gray creature steal slyly from a thick clump of wood and underbrush. It turned as if to spring.

Quick as thought he off with his cap, whirled it, then tossed it high in the air, feeling sure that the movement would distract its plans. You will say that you see no bravery in this. Yes, but was there not cunning and forethought? Does it not show that in any emergency he would be cool, and not cowardly? He admitted, however, that in this instance he was foolhardy, for he had rushed right into danger unguarded, and had it not been for his cap, he would have had nothing to aid him in his strategy. After riding a safe distance, he ventured to look back, and sure enough, there in the dim light and distance, he saw something in the middle of the road, being pretty roughly handled (by a lively-looking beast), which he had no reason to doubt was his cap.

This was enough. He put heels to Dolly, who seemed to take in her young master's feelings, for there was no let up to her, until she brought him safely around to the back door.

"Take the bags quick!" said he to his father, who came out to assist him. "I've a story *now* to tell, that you'll all believe, I guess."

"But where's your cap?" queried his father.

"Ah, 'there by hangs a tale.' Come in, while I call mother and the boys, and we will have it out." And so he recounted his adventure in a very few words, and the absence of his cap proved that something had happened.

This little incident stimulated him to action. The next morning, as soon as possible, he, together with his father and neighbors, went to the scene of action. And there was found proof enough, in the shape of shreds of a once very nice cap, to convince the most incredulous. Having provided themselves with more formidable weapons this time, they all took a holiday, saw signs and many tracks of wild beasts; and from that day grandfather says his fame began.

Being "doubly sure" now, that there must be lively times up in those mountains, off and on, he did not rest until he had had an encounter, not with a catamount, but a great she bear, of which I should like to tell you another time.

We always liked this story, though, because we thought it so cute in grandpa to think of throwing his cap up.

DISCOVERIES MADE BY ACCIDENT.

NOT a few discoveries in the arts and sciences have been made or suggested by accident. The use of the pendulum, suggested by the vibrating of a chandelier in a cathedral; the power of steam, intimated by the oscillating of the lid of a tea-kettle; the utility of coal-gas for light, experimented upon by an ordinary tobacco-pipe of white clay; the magnifying property of the lens, stumbled upon by an optician's apprentice while holding spectacle-glasses between his thumb and finger—are well-known instances in proof of the fact.

Galvanism was discovered by accident. Prof. Galvani of Bologna, in Italy, gave his name to the operation, but his wife is considered as actually entitled to the credit of the discovery. She being in bad health, some frogs were ordered for her. As they lay upon the table, skinned, she noticed that their limbs became strongly convulsed when near an electrical conductor. She called her husband's attention to the fact; he instituted a series of experiments, and in 1789 the galvanic battery was invented.

Eleven years later, with that discovery for his basis, Prof. Alessandro Volta, also an Italian, announced his discovery of the "voltaic pile."

The discovery of glass-making was effected by seeing the sand vitrified upon which a fire had been kindled.

Blancourt says that the making of plate-glass was suggested by the fact of a workman happening to break a crucible filled with melted glass. The fluid ran under one of the large flag-stones with which the floor was paved. On raising the stone to recover the glass, it was found in the form of a plate, such as could not be produced by the ordinary process of blowing.

Glass pearls, though among the most beautiful, inexpensive and common ornaments worn by the ladies, are produced by a very singular process. In 1656 a Venetian named Jaquin discovered that the scales of a fish called bleak-fish possessed the property of communicating a pearly hue to the water. He found by experimenting that beads dipped into this water assumed, when dried, the appearance of pearls. It proved, however, that the pearly coat, when placed outside, was easily rubbed off; and the next improvement was to make the beads hollow. The making of these beads is carried on to this day in Venice. The beads are all blown separately. By means of a small tube, the insides are delicately coated with the pearly liquid, and a waxed coating is placed over that. It requires the scales of four thousand fish to produce half a pint of the liquid, to which a small quantity of sal-ammoniac and isinglass are afterward added.

Lundy Foot, the celebrated snuff manufacturer, originally kept a small tobacconist shop at Limerick. One night his house, which was uninsured, was burned to the ground. As he contemplated the smoking ruins on the following morning in a state bordering on despair, some of the poorer neighbors, groping among the embers for what they could find, stumbled upon several canisters of unconsumed but half-baked snuff, which they tried, and found so pleasant to their noses that they soon loaded their waistcoat pockets with it. Lundy Foot, aroused from his stupor, imitated their example and took a pinch of his own properly, when he was struck by the superior pungency and flavor it had acquired from the great heat to which it had been exposed. Acting upon the hint, he took another house in a place called Black Yard, erected ovens and set about the manufacture of that high-dried commodity which soon became widely known as Black-Yard Snuff. Eventually he took a larger house in Dublin, and making his customers pay literally through the nose, amassed a great fortune by having been ruined.—*Oliver Optic.*

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

My Pet Cat.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—I am too old to be admitted into your ranks and play marbles, jump a rope or roll a hoop, but I can enjoy your frolics as a spectator, if not joining in them personally. But I took up my pencil to tell you about my great pet cat, which is now lying fast asleep on the table before me. He is a noble fellow, six years old, and weighs sixteen pounds. He measures thirty-eight inches from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail, and around the body twenty-one inches. His color is Maltese and white, and very handsomely marked. I call him Schneider, after RIP VAN WINKLE'S dog, for we obtained him, when a little kitten, at Sleepy Hollow, on the Hudson. Now if any of the RURAL Cousins can show a bigger or better cat than my Schneider, I will tell them some true stories of his smart tricks. —ZACATUS.

Terrible!

MR. EDITOR:—For the first time I write. It is hard for me to start, but I will make an effort. I have had a very rough time this week. I fell off of the fence, hurt my arm and got a general bumping. About pets. Some one of the Cousins said he, she or it had a pet cat. I think a lamb would suit me. There was one of the RURAL Cousins who said something about the Centennial. Tell him to go on.—F. F. F.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

ROMAN LETTER PUZZLES.

ROMAN letter puzzles consist of the Roman characters O, I, V, X, L, C, D, M. No other letters can be used. Please study the following puzzle, and it will seem quite easy:

What musical instrument is represented by 56? Answer, Viol.

V= 5
I= 1
O= 0
L=50
—
56

1.—What large bird (now extinct), an inhabitant of the island of Mauritius, is represented by 1,000?

2.—What state of the weather is represented by 650?

3.—What girl's plaything is represented by 600?

☞ Answer in two weeks. ALEX. BROWN, JR.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

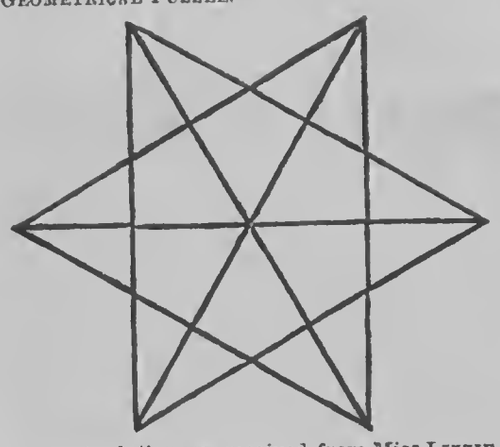
I AM composed of 21 letters:
My 3, 10, 7, 4, 9 a department of Government.
My 16, 14, 17 a Spanish title.
My 20, 6, 8 a verb denoting motion.
My 12, 15, 21 a character in one of Dickens' novels.
My 2, 10, 9, 8 the name of a college.
My 9, 2, 5, 21, 15, 11 the name of a noted author.
My 12, 14, 13, 1, 10 the platform of every sect.
My 19, 14, 12 is that in which we live and without which we can do nothing.
My whole are the last words of a song.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Nov. 18.

MYTHOLOGICAL ENIGMA.—Poisoned arrows, without which Troy could not be taken.

GEOMETRICAL PUZZLE.—



A correct solution was received from Miss LIZZIE S. HUME, N. Y. City.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.90 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Molucca Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory or garden. Its growth is rapid—small plants attaining the hight of five feet during the summer months. In the fall it may be cut back to any desirable size and potted for the winter, when it will quickly recover its symmetry and resume its ever-blooming habit. Its quick and exceeding popularity is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is as yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class. It is difficult to select a more attractive plant than Marie Lemoine when freely blooming. Every truss is in itself a bouquet. The leaves are large, zoneless, vigorous. The plant is compact and, like *Abutilon Boule de Neige*, is invaluable, either for the conservatory, window or garden.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It has stood 26° below zero unharmed. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. The thyrses of flowers, first greenish-white, then white, then rose, often measure a foot in length and twenty inches in circumference. Every stem being thus terminated, the striking appearance of an entire plant may be conceived. There can be no doubt that this is one of the most valuable of all perfectly hardy shrubs.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata*.—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green, much as *Abutilon Thomsoni* is variegated with green and yellow. From its racemes of flowers are formed fruit as large as currants, each one of which is a different color in shades of claret, azure-blue and green. These berries, which are first as soft as a currant, become finally as hard as bullets.

The pretty stems are also variegated, green, whitish and rose. The roots are perfectly hardy, and the vine's growth so rapid that it will cover twenty-five feet square in a season. For conservatory walls or pillars, for trellises or rockeries, it cannot fail to please. It has been growing in the RURAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS for several years without the least protection.

Jerusalem Artichoke.—Believing that the Jerusalem artichokes are exceedingly valuable as food for nearly all kinds of farm stock, we place them among our valuable premium plants. They will yield more bushels of tubers per acre than the common potato and we believe them more valuable for feeding purposes, besides the artichoke will grow vigorously where the potato would fail entirely. We will send one-half pound of each of the Long Purple, and Round White, for each new subscriber as above, or one pound of the tubers of either variety. We shall store a quantity of the tubers in the cellar for sending out this winter; but those of our subscribers who reside north of the latitude of New York City, had better leave their plant premiums in our hands after the first of January until early spring. We will, however, "book" all orders received during the winter, to be sent at the earliest possible moment.

Achania malvaviscus or Malvaviscus arboreus.—The flowers are bright red of a turban shape two inches long. It blooms incessantly whether indoors or out. In the conservatory it may be trained so as to cover wood-work as readily as a vine. Its growth is so rapid that small plants set out in the spring will cover a space four feet in diameter by fall. As a plant for the sitting-room, the little care it needs, its perpetual scarlet flowers, contrasting elegantly with its golden-green, plush-like leaves—its endurance of dry heat and dust render it most pleasing and satisfactory. We commend this plant with confidence.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the singular Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

TERMS FOR 1877, IN ADVANCE,

INCLUDING POSTAGE, WHICH PUBLISHERS PREPAY.

Single Copy, $2.50 per Year. To Clubs:—Five Copies, and one copy free to Agent or getter up of Club, for $11.25; Seven Copies, and one free, for $16.66; Ten Copies, and one free, $20—only $2 per copy. The above rates *include postage* (under the new law) to any part of the United States, and the American postage on all copies mailed to Canada. On papers mailed to Europe, by steamer, the postage will be 25 cents extra for each subscription. Drafts, Post-Office Money Orders and Registered Letters may be mailed at our risk. ☞ Liberal Premiums to all Club Agents who do not take free copies. Specimen Numbers, Show-Bills, &c., sent free.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE Trunk Lines are still at war.

Troops are being concentrated at Washington.

Tilden's official majority in Connecticut is 1,748.

A naturalized Chinaman voted in the Fourth Ward, San Francisco, on election day. When challenged by the inspector he took off his hat and swore in his vote like a Christian. The spectators were very anxious to know how he had voted, but he evidently regarded it as an important State secret and answered no questions.

American oysters, beef, apples, and cheese are luxuries at the leading hotels and restaurants in London.

The Presidential situation is already the monumental muddle of the century. Every day increases its ramifications.

A seminary for the religious education of natives of Norway has been opened at Madison, Wis.

A Mississippi woman left the cow that she was milking, and went right into the house, just because a bear rubbed against her.

Williams College will not be represented at the next meeting of the Inter-Collegiate Literary Association, owing to a lack of funds.

Union, Ky., has a child with a perfectly formed foot where a hand ought to be.

Mr. and Mrs. Yarborough were married in Hickman, Tenn., eight years ago. They were very young, and their engagement and wedding, managed by their parents, was devoid of sentiment. They were divorced a year afterward. This fall they met in Nashville. Mrs. Yarborough was yet only twenty-four years old, and had grown handsome. Mr. Yarborough had also improved in appearance. They fell in love; but this time her parents forbade the intimacy, and locked her in her room. He got her out through a window, they eloped, were chased by her angry father, were remarried, and now seem much better satisfied than when they were united without any row.

They are legally fighting for an elector in Oregon.

The official returns for Minnesota show the majority for Hayes to be 24,008. The three Republican Congressmen are elected by the following majorities: Dunnell, 8,945; Strait, 4,730; Stewart, 2,040.

The official returns for Oregon give Hayes 41,522 votes; Tilden, 38,449, and scattering, 74 Hayes's majority over Tilden, 3,073.

Gen. Crook's command reached Fort Reno on the 18th inst. in good condition and was paid off by Major Stanton. The weather is severe, but the troops are well prepared for a Winter campaign. One hundred Snake and Shoshone Indians joined the command at Fort Reno, making nearly 400 Indian allies in all, and the total strength of the command 2,000.

The Louisiana Returning Board is working slowly.

Cheese for export is lively.

Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars in specie were withdrawn from the Bank of England, Nov. 24, for shipment to the United States.

A revolution has broken out in Lower California. Jose Moreno has collected a force and issued pronunciamentos declaring himself Governor. He has imprisoned Gov. Villagrana and his Secretary. Rodriques, seized the Custom House at Rio Juana, deposed Villagrana's Collector, and restored Caballar, who was removed some months ago. Many Mexicans have entered Lower California from California and joined Moreno.

The Canadians evidently fear that the Fenians meditate an invasion. The Canadian Government has sent Peter Smith of St. Armand, P. Q., Quartermaster of the Sixtieth Battalion of Canadian Volunteers, 10,000 rounds of musket cartridges so that he may be in readiness to distribute them to the battalion should it become necessary.

There are 90,000 tons of ice yet unsold on the Kennebec.

Now that Tweed and Woodward are among us, tremendous disclosures are impending.

Additional particulars of the attack on the James' boys, participants with the Younger brothers in the Northfield Bank robbery, have been received. The attack was made on Wednesday night by Sheriff Groom, of Clay county, and four men. It was very dark and rainy. The posse went to the home of the boys, four miles from Kearney, knowing they were there. Frank was seen, and as he saw the posse about the same time, he fired a shot in the air as a signal for Jesse. The Sheriff and one man fired at Frank without effect, when he returned the fire hitting the tree behind which the Sheriff was concealed. The boys then mounted their horses and got away shouting, "Come on, you sons of——." The Sheriff pursued, and on Thursday saw them at Cummings place, fourteen miles from Liberty, but could not overtake them. Nothing has been seen of them since, though men are scouring the country. Ed. Miller, a brother of Clel, who was killed at Northfield, and a man named Hoffman are supposed to have acted as spies for the James' boys, who are known to be working their way north.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THERE is more trouble in Mexico. Nothing whatever is known about the plans of General-in-Chief Martinez-Campos regarding the campaign. It appears that the Government purposes to keep his movements and plans as secret as possible, and some people even assert that the General has warned the newspapers not to publish anything without his special permission. He has thus far established no headquarters, but is paying flying visits in the towns called Cinco Villas, where it is reported that he is dealing summarily with suspected and convicted insurgents. Report says he has ordered a large number to be shot in Cienfuegos. He expects to clear the Cinco Villas of rebels in two months and will then pursue them beyond La Trocha. Recently, while Gen Martinez-Campos was on a railway train running between Sagua and Las Cruces the car containing his whole equipage was totally destroyed by fire. The cause of the fire is not given. The car also contained ammunition, which exploded, but it is said no damage was done. The arrest and imprisonment of suspected Cubans continue. Some of the arrested persons are lawyers; the greater part, however, are workmen.

The English in India are complaining bitterly that at a time when the public works are stopped for want of money, and the Government fears the loss of a tenth of its revenue from the decline in silver, two and a-half million dollars are to be spent in the ceremonial at Delhi in honor of Queen Victoria's assuming the title of Empress.

China has its big trees as well as California. About thirty miles from Nikko begins the longest avenue of shade trees in the world. These trees are sugi, or cedar, and are from five to seven feet in diameter at the base, and tower without a branch for fifty or eighty feet, and then lift their heads forty or fifty feet higher. They number thirty thousand, and were planted after the foundation of a shrine two hundred and fifty years ago.

Some French geographers are agitating the establishment of an observatory on the top of Mont Pio IX. in the Apennines to serve as the center of European meteorology. They propose to build a metallic chapel on the summit to which visitors will be conveyed from the foot of the rock in a captive balloon.

An idea of the prodigious zeal with which the fine arts are followed in France may be gained from the fact that the roll of students in the Paris Ecole des Beaux Arts for the present season comprises over 1,300 names—550 painters, 300 sculptors, and 480 architects.

It is stated that Russia has contracted with a German firm for the construction of 3,500 torpedoes.

The Czar has renewed his peaceful assurances to the Austrian Embassador.

A Cossack army of 30,000 men is expected to enter Servia.

The Sultan has abolished slave trade through out the Ottoman Empire.

The Duke di Galliera, the benefactor of Genoa, is dead.

The correspondent of The Daily News at Pesth says a telegram from Lemberg reports that even ordinary passenger traffic on the railway between Kiew and Odessa has been stopped. Russian troops are being removed from the Austrian frontier.

The departure of the Grand Duke Nicholas to assume command of the army in Southern Russia has been postponed.

The Times says:—A private telegram states that war fears are increasing all over the frontier of Cape Colony. Native affairs on both sides of the British borders are very unsatisfactory and are becoming critical.

The Erie is about to sue the Lake Shore for discriminating in rates against it in favor of the Central.

The Empire State has justified its name. It polled for President more than one million votes

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. Co., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Nov. 25, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	108,892	Molasses	8,828
Whisky	3,761	Rice, bbls	419
Corn meal, bbls	3,092	Cut meats, pkgs	30,441
Corn meal, bags	483	Lard, pkgs	13,758
Wheat, bush	1,159,285	Tobacco, hhds	358
Corn, bush	585,342	do. pkgs	3,452
Oats, bush	357,871	Butter, pkgs	31,059
Rye, bush	68,944	Cheese, bxs	95,263
Malt, bush	24,317	Cotton, bales	44,446
Barley, bush	737,576	Rosin	5,780
Beans, bush	11,792	Spts. turp., bbls	921
Grass seed, bush	19,528	Dried Fruits, pkgs	3,827
Beef, pkgs	3,329	Eggs, bbls	7,741
Wool, bales	2,203	Peanuts, bags	377
Hops, bales	1,458	Leather, sides	71,188
Pork, bbls	6,503	Sugar, hhds	200
Tallow	2,860	Oil cake	8,032

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent properly from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival here of summer items on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports beans past week, 1,273 bbls.; since Jan. 1, 52,560 do.; same time last year, 31,822 do.

Mediums remain strong and the fancy markets of new are higher. Strong prices have turned some attention to old stock, some pretty good of which are included in the receipts. Marrows have a better export demand and prices are somewhat favoring sellers. Other varieties of beans, including pea, are steady at full prices. California beans are on the way here. Canadian peas unchanged. Green peas easy. The better grades of B. E. peas are firm.

Beans—New medium, $2@2.05; do. marrow, $2.25@2.30; do. pea, $2.35@2.40; white kidney, $2.30@2.35; red do., $2.30@2.35; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $1.80@1.90; other, $1.60@1.75; marrow, $1.80@2.20; pea, prime, $1.90@2.20; white kidney, prime, $1.80@2.10; red do., prime, $1.90@2.10; black, $2.50@2.65; Canadian peas, new, ₱ bbl., tree, $1.12@1.14; do. bulk, 92@93c.; green do., new, $1.40@1.45; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2.10@2.15.

BEESWAX.—Small sales are making at 30@31c. for Western and 30½@32c. for Southern.

Exports past week, 6,344 lbs., since Jan. 1st, 71,590 do.; same time last year, 88,860 do.

BROOM CORN—Is still hard to sell and prices unsettled.

Quoted at 7@8c. for short green brush, 6½@7½c. for green hurl, 5@6c. for medium green, and 3@4c. for red and red-tipped.

BUTTER.—State butter has not moved as readily as the second fall month should show, and without a real decline prices have a weak tone. Business for all grades of State is mainly at the inside range. For the fine grades of State, dealers think that a short period of steady business will allow the market to regain former extremes. The under are not spoken of so confidently. The accumulation in store and abundance yet to come, point to easy quotations when wholesale buyers can be induced to operate. Large quantities of butter in dairy lots are here in the hands of owners. The delay which occurs to sale when butter is so offered, also tends to temporarily depress the market. Best Western has as before met with a ready sale, common half tubs and rolls are dull. Exporters have added something to late business. Low grades of butter drag. Packers seem to want a better style than formerly.

Exports past week 3,500 pkgs.

We quote:—Choice pails, 33@34c.; prime, 32@33c.; poor to good, 24@29c.; creamery pails, choice, 35@36c.; good, 33@34c.; sweet cream pails, 30@35c. State firkins, choice, 29@30c.; fair to good, 25@28c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@33c.; fair to prime, 26@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 30@31c.; other, 24@28c.; inferior State, 15@19c.; Western creamery, choice, 34@35c.; other, 31@33c.; do. firkins, best, 29@32c.; other, 15@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 24@26c.; other, 15@18c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 14@18c.

State dairies quotable at 30@31c. with fall tubs Welsh tubs, dairies, 26@29c.

State firkins dairies 25@30c. Roll butter, fair to prime, 21@23c.; do., poor, 18@20c.

CHEESE.—This has been the most satisfactory week's business in some little time. The Liverpool market has been creeping up day by day, and supplies have been encouraging to full dealings. They have wanted chiefly the choicest colored factories, but have been forced by the received offerings of this grade to fill out their orders on other parcels of fancy. Sales are quite general at 13½@14½c. for the choicest colored, and on some special lots to 15c., with the best fancy white going at 14½@14⅝c. These figures showing a marked advance on the rates current last week, other grades have worked up in sympathy, but are not active. Towards the close the whole market is affected by the trouble in getting ocean freight accommodation, as relating to the extent of business.

Exports past week, 37,897 boxes, Cable quotation, 65s.

Fancy factory at 14¼@14¾c. for fancy white and colored; do., job lots, 15¼c.; good and prime, 13¾@14c.; fair, 11@12¾c. State farm dairy, fancy, 13¼@13¾c.; good to prime, 12@13c.; fair and good, 11@12c. Western factory, fancy, 13¾@14c.; good and prime, 12@13c.; fair lots, 10@11c.

COTTON. Prices have fluctuated sharply and closed weak on the heavy past arrivals and limited export demand.

The latest quotations are:—November, 12c.; December, 12 1-32c.; January, 12 3-16@12 7-32c.; February, 12⅝c.; March, 12 17-32@12 9-16c.; April, 12 23-32@12¾c.; May, 12¾@12 29-32c.; June, 13 1-32@13 1-16c.; July, 13 3-16c.; August, 13¼@13 9-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Strict ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Good ordinary	11	11	11	11
Strict good do	11¼	11¼	11 5-16	11 5-16
Low middling	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
Strict low middling	11¾	11¾	12	12
Middling	12	12¼	12 3-16	12 3-16
Good middling	12¾	12⅜	12¼	12¾
Strict good middling	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾
Middling fair	12¾	13⅛	13¼	13¼
Fair	13¾	13¾	13⅜	13¾

Stained.

Good ordinary	9¾	Low middling	10¾
Strict ordinary	10¼	Middling	11⅜

DRIED FRUITS.—For apples trade was never in worse shape than now; supplies continue to pour in, adding to our already large stock, while requirements are light, the exceptionally low prices failing to induce very material life to the export trade—Peaches are still very scarce and favor the seller, as also small fruits generally.

Apples—State, sliced, 5¾ @ 6¼c.; do., quarters, 6 @6¼c.; Southern sliced, new, fair, 5@5½c.; choice do. 6¾c.; fancy, nominal; do., new quarters, in bags, 4@ 4½c.; do. repacked, 5@5½c.; Western quarters 5½c. Blackberries at 8¾@8½c. Peeled peaches, new, at 18@19c.; unpeeled peaches, halves, 9@10c.; do. quarters, 8½@9c. Raspberries, 28@29c. Cherries, 17½c.

Exports past week 5,165 bbls. apples; since Jan. 1st, 26,297 do., same time last year, 10,622 do.

EGGS.—Trade has been moderate, but a good start is expected for Thanksgiving and sellers adhere to former prices. Western are quite as good as State. Limed are dull but cooler weather will help to put them in use. We quote:

Near points, 33 @ 34c.; State and Penn., 28 @ 29c.; Western, prime, 28@28½c.; do. other, 27½c.; Canadian, 27½@28c.

State limed, 21@22c.; Western, do., 18@21c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—We learn of no change.

Peppermint, $2.50 ₱ lb. in tin, $3.25@3.50 in glass—tone firm. Sassafras scarce and firm at 50c. ₱ lb. Wintergreen, large supply, weak at $2.50. Spearmint, nominally $2.30 ₱ lb.; no demand.

FLOUR.—There has been a liberal demand for the low grades suited to wants of shippers, and a good business in winter wheat product, Minnesota extras, Superfine and No. 2, with the whole market higher and very strong.

The latest sales are $4.60@5.25 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5.40@5.50 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.55@5.85 for good extra do $5.70@5.75 for fancy do., and $5.80@7 for fancy to very choice extra; $4.60@5.25 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.40@5.65 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.80@5.70 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.75@6.90; fancy do. $6.95@8; winter wheat, good to choice family, $6.25@8.25; round-hoop Ohio, $5.60@5.50, and trade brands of do. at $5.55@7; St. Louis, $5.40@6.30 for common to fair extra, and $6.55@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.35@7.35, and patent at $7.50@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.75@5.50; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.25@6.50; do. English brands, $5.35@—; do. trade and family, $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $3.65@4.40.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, 17,700 bbls. There is less local activity in apples, but exporters have moved a good many. For the fancy red table sorts there is an upward tone, but there is an abundance of good cheap stock. A few Boston pears are quotable at $2¼4.50 ₱ box; California range at $3@3.50 for the winter sorts. Cranberries begin to sell, and after the 30th we may look for a steady demand. Catawba grapes sell well; Isabella not wanted. Florida oranges turn out well this season. Chestnuts are mostly spoiled. Peanuts firm. Coarse hickory nuts, 75c.@$1; prime shellbark, $2@2.25.

Apples, State, ₱ bbl., prime red, $1.40@1.75; winter, $1.37@1.50; mixed, $1.12@1.25; good to fair, 50c@$1. Quinces, ₱ bbl., $8@12. California Quinces, $4@6 ₱ box; Cranberries, crates, $2.50@3.00; Eastern, good to prime, $7.50@10; N. J. $7.50@8.50, for good to prime. Grapes—Catawba, ₱ lb., 9@10c.; Isabella, 16@c. Peanuts—Va., fancy, $1.30@1.35; other, 90c.@$1.20. Oranges—Louisiana, $4 bbl., $6; Florida, box, $5.

FURS AND SKINS.—Several lists of quotations have appeared, but there are no definite rates to give thus early. We will publish our valuable table when the time serves.

GRAIN.—For wheat there has been a liberal demand from shippers, and prices are higher and very strong. Latest sales are of ungraded spring at $1.32; rejected spring at $1.05; No. 3 Milwaukee spring at $1.23; No. 2 Milwaukee spring at $1.32; No. 2 Minnesota spring at $1.33; Canada spring at $1.32; New York No. 1 spring at $1.30; No. 1 Chicago spring at $1.35; No. 2 Sheboygan spring at $1.32; No. 3 Chicago spring at $1.21@1.22; winter and red Western at $1.29@130, and white Michigan at $1.40. Rye is wanted by shippers at the higher prices quoted. Sales at 82@86c. for State and 92@96c. for Western, Canada and Jersey. Barley is weak and dull; choice ungraded Canada at $1.17. Corn is little lower and dull. Sales at 54@54¾c. for new New York "no grade" do.; 56@56½c. for new steamer mixed; 58@58½c. for old do.; 58¾@59c. for old New York mixed; 58¼59c. for New York low mixed; 60c. for New York No. 2; 50@60¼c. for New York No. 1. Oats are fairly active at 33@48c. for mixed, Western and State, and 38@50c. for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—The receipts have been larger while demand has not increased materially; still prices are not disturbed.

Bale hay 80c. for shipping; 70@90c. for retail qualities; clover, 55@65c.; salt, do., 35@60c. Straw quoted at 70@75c. for long rye; 55@60c. for short rye, and 45@55c. for oat. Exports past week 515 bales; since Jan. 1st, 38,750 do.; same time last year, 37,825 do.

HIGHWINES.—Bring $1.09¼ ₱ gallon.

HOPS.—Receipts for the week have exceeded exports materially, the latter reaching only 1,000 bales. With a dull condition of trade as respects both shipping and brewers' requirements, prices have been very much unsettled and lower—for most descriptions 2 to 5c. off the rates of last week, the most serious decline being on the low grades of Western. We quote:

New Yorks, good to choice, new	31 to 73
New Yorks, low to fair, new	20 to 25
Eastern, new	27 to 30
Wisconsin, new	20 to 25
Yearlings	10 to 15
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	30 to 36

HONEY.—Prices keep low. The experience of the previous dull season checks holders from advancing prices even when activity warrants it. We quote: W. clover, comb, 15@20c.; B. W., do., 10@14c.; dark strained, 9@11c.; light do., 13@15c.

OIL CAKE.—Small lots of Western have been sold at $38.50.

POULTRY AND GAME.—Live poultry dull, and not wanted, even at the low figures.

New Jersey turkeys, 10@11c. ₱ lb.; Western, 9@10c. N. J. fowls and chicks, 10@—c.; State and Penn., 10@11c.; Western, 9@—c., roosters, 6@7c. Geese, N. J., ₱ pair, $1.75@2; Western, $1.37@1.62. Ducks, N. J., ₱ pair, 62@87c.; Western, 50@65c. Live pigeons, ₱ pair, 25c.

Dressed poultry has arrived moderately, but former receipts have kept the market overstocked with low qualities. The market can hardly settle until the rough, stale lots are disposed of.

Turkeys, N. J., 11@15c.; State, 10@14c.; Western, 10@13c. Chickens, dry-picked, 12@15c. N. J. chicks, 11@14c.; State, 10@13c.; Western, 10@13c. Ducks, N. J., 11@14c.; State, 10@11c.; Western, 9@12c. Geese, 5@10c. for common; 11@13c. for good to best. Inferior poultry, 4@7c.

Game has generally suffered from a warm journey, and prices for all items are easy. Wild ducks slightly improved. Drawn grouse, 50@60c.

We quote.—Canvas-back ducks $1@1.25; Red Head 60@65c.; Mallard 55@60c.; Teal 50c.; Widgeon, 30@35c.; common 30@40c.

English Snipe, ₱ doz. $1@—. Quail, ₱ doz., prime, $1.12½1.37. Partridge, State, 70@80; Eastern, 90@50c.; Western, 65@75c.; Prairie Hens, 80@85c.; Hares, 40@50c.; Rabbits, 20@30c. Venison, whole, 10@11c.; long saddle, 13@14c.; short do., 15@16c.

PROVISIONS.—Export demand has been moderate and the larger arrivals of hogs at the west have weakened prices. Mess pork quoted at $17 for spot and $16.30 for December and January deliveries. Bacon at 9c. for long clear and 9¼c. for short clear; with long and short clear together for December delivery quoted at 8¾c. Western steam lard at $10.50 on spot; $10@17¼c. for December and January. Stearine at 10½c. for prime. Tallow at 8½c. for prime. Beef hams at $20 for choice Western.

Beef, barreled lots, new, quoted at $10.50@11.50 for plain mess, $12@12.50 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominally at $19@21 for new prime mess and $21@25 for new India mess. City extra India mess at $27.

SEEDS.—Grass have been in large supply and have yielded a little as to price with, at the concessions, a fair export demand. Clover quoted at 15¾@15¾c. ₱ lb., and timothy at $1.30@1.35 ₱ bushel.

SUNDRIES.—Western live geese feathers prime white Western, 55@58c; mixed, 40@50c.; hen and turkey feather not wanted. Cider unchanged; 8@12c.; quality better. Ginseng, $1@1.20.

TOBACCO.—There have been very light export requirements, but supplies are not urgently offered, and prices are as before.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5 @ 6	6 @ 7
Good lugs	6 @ 7¾	7¾@ 8
Low leaf	8 @ 8¾	8¾@ 9½
Medium leaf	9 @10	10 @11
Good leaf	10¾@12	11¾@13
Fine leaf	13 @14	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	16 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do	32 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania due to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 3,400 bbls.; of onions, 509 do. Potatoes show a moderate advance; market firm at the new figures. A load of Nova Scotia sold at $2.62. Squash are in demand with Hubbard added to the best. Prime white and red onions are steady; yellow without demand.

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₱ bbl. $3.12@3.87. Early Rose, prime, $3.12@3.27; Peerless and Jackson white, 2.50@2.75 sweet, Del. $3.00@4; Va. $2.75@3. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $4@7. Marrow squash, ₱ bbl., $1@1.25. Hubbard Squash $1.50@1.75. New Russian turnips, ₱ bush., 75c.@—. Onions—Yellow, ₱ bbl., $1.75@2.00; white, $2.50@2.75; red, $1.50@1.75. Cauliflower, ₱ bbl.; $1@1.50.

WOOL.—The fall clips of California and Texas have been in very fair receipt, and those offering the most liberal assortments have had most attention. Western fleeces, however, have a very fairly inquiry. The whole market is very strong and is fairly active, well distributed on manufacturing account and, to a light extent, a demand on speculative account. The quotations are for—

DOMESTIC. ₱

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
XXX and Picklock	48 @ —
XX	45 @ 46
X	42 @ 44
No. 1	38 @ 40
No. 2	34 @ 37
Common	32 @ 34
Combing	47 @ 50
New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin—	
XX	34 @ 40
X	36 @ 38
No. 1	36 @ 38
No. 2	33 @ 35
Common	30 @ 33
Combing	50 @ 52
Iowa, Vermont and Illinois—	
XX	34 @ 36
X	34 @ 36
No. 1	34 @ 36
No. 2	30 @ 32
Combing	45 @ 47
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
Washed fleece	34 @ 36
Unwashed	25 @ 29
do. combing	33 @ 37

ROCHESTER, Nov. 25.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.27; white winter, $1.25@1.32. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.30. Butter, 25@26c. Cheese, 12@12c. Eggs, 24@25c. Lard, 10@10½c. Apples, bu., 25@40c. Potatoes, bu., 60@75c. Beans, ₱ bu., 90@$1.70. Mess pork, $17.00. Wool, 25@35c. Hay, $11@12. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed strong at $14 for shorts, $16 for middlings, and $20 for mixed. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Nov. 25, 1876.

THERE has been an active market this week and prices are better. Between 400 and 500 boxes of farm dairy cheese were on delivery and sales were made at 11@13c., according to quality. Factories were well represented, the offerings aggregating about 8,000 boxes, of which from 4,000 to 5,000 changed hands. Sales went up from 13 to 13¼@13½c., and one lot of 400 touched 14c. Nearly all the cheese on delivery was of October make and most of it very fine.

Butter is coming forward freely and sales have been made at 21@28c. for fair to good lots, while fancy went at 29@30c.

The weather is extremely mild;—no snow and but little frost. We have had some heavy showers of rain during the week, but the springs and streams are still low, and we are needing much more rain before winter sets in.

We have advices from abroad to the 6th of November. Our London correspondent says that there is a good demand for English, Dutch and faultless American cheese. Secondary sorts are slow of sale and extra fine is ver scarce. We give quotations as follows:

American, extra fine, 63@79s.; fine, 65@67s.; good, 50@56s.; secondary and low grades, 30@48s. English cheddar brings from 76@90s.; Wiltshire double, 66@74s.; Cheshire medium, 56@66s.; fine, 76@86s.; Scotch, 66@76s.

The demand for butter is limited to the finest Continental, Canadian and Carlows, the latter now taken by town houses. The sale of oleomargarine increases and is taken at 104s. in preference to secondary and inferior sorts. The prices are as follows: Clonmels, 146@160s.; Corks, 144@158s.; Doraets, 174s.; Jersey, 136s.; Swedish, 164s.; Normandy, 120@164s.; American and Canadian, 100@130s. Oleomargarine sells at 90@104s. ₱ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 25, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,405	11	949	11,472	00
Forty-Eighth St.	122	19	240	8,931	00
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	23,829
Harsimus Cove	6,131	00	137	8,960	15,782
Totals this week	19,658	30	1,316	29,313	39,611
" last week	10,239	55	1,319	17,947	22,949

BEEVES.—Trade on last Monday opened moderately easy at one-half cent ₱ lb. reduction on steers, ranging from fair to good, and three-quarter cent. strong, on inferior quality beeves. Prices were 7¾@10¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5¾@9¾ cwt. The quality of the herds to hand was rather rough. Wednesday, trade was slightly improved in feeling, owing to there being a light run; prices did not advance; sales ranged from 8@10¾c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@10 cwt. Thursday, trade fair, at 7½@10¾c.; weights, 5@9¾ cwt. Friday, the markets closed fair at 8@10¾c.; weights, 6@8¾ cwt. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, sold at 7¾@8¾c. Native steers, 7½@9¾c., with a few corn-fed at 9¾@10c.; grade do., 10@10¾c., with two car loads at 11c. ₱ lb. Mixed herds, 7¾@9¾c. ₱ lb. Oxen at 7¾@9¾c. Bulls, live weight, $4.50@4.80 ₱ cwt. Yearling bulls, 3¾@5c. ₱ lb. Dry cows, 8@9¾c.

MILCH COWS.—Trade fair in fresh cows of fair quality, which continue scarce. Poor quality cows held on sale. Nine cows sold at $42@55 ₱ head; 7 cows at $60@60; 10 cows at $57.50@75; 3 cows at $65; 1 cow for $30—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals scarce and in moderate demand. Coarse quality veals in over supply and slow of sale. State veals, 8@10¾c.; Jersey do., 8¾@10c.; Pennsylvania do., 9@10c.; Canada do., 7@9¾c.; Western do., 7@8¾c. State calves, grass-fed, 3¾@5c., also at $6.50@11.25 ₱ head. One calf from Canada, $17.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade moderate; quality, from coarse to choice. Monday, sheep sold at 4¾@6¾c. ₱ lb.; lambs at 5¾@6¾c. Wednesday, sheep, 4@6¾c.; lambs, 5@@7c. Thursday, sheep, 4@6c.; lambs, 5@6¾c. Friday, sheep, 3¾@5¾c.; lambs, 5¾@6¾c. The markets closed dull. Michigan sheep sold at 5@6¾c.; Illinois do., 4¾@5c.; Ohio do., 4@6¾c.; Canada do., 5¾@6¾c.; State do., 4¾@6¾c. Jersey ewes, 4@4¾c. Michigan lambs, 5¾c.; State do., 5@6¾c.; Canada do., 6@6¾c. Mixed flocks, 5@6¾c.

HOGS.—One single deck of State hogs, live weight, 185 lbs., ₱ head, sold at 6¾c. ₱ lb. Five car loads of Ohio hogs, live weight, 230@212@197 lbs. ₱ head sold at 6c. ₱ lb. One car load and one single deck of Ohio hogs, live weights, 283@219 lbs. ₱ head, $.90 ₱ cwt. City dressed in moderate demand. Extreme range, 6¾@7¾c. ₱ lb., with selected light weight pigs at 8c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade has increased in volume, but not improved in rates. Sixty head, poor quality, light harness horses sold at $38@92 ₱ head; 50 do., $55@100; 45 do. ordinary quality, $110@175; 14 roadsters, with fair trotting action, not warranted sound, sold at $250@400 ₱ head; 9 broughams horses, course quality, $285@301 ₱ head; 9 pairs family carriage horses, $325@515 ₱ pair; 3 pairs stylish carriage horses, $500@750 ₱ pair, all aged; 3 pairs do., warranted sound, 6 years old, $1,200 ₱ pair; 5 saddle horses, poor quality, 90@200 ₱ head; 1 do., choice quality, $700; Staten Island horses sold at $125@210 ₱ head; street railway horses at $80@150 ₱ head; 16 horses arrived ₱ Erie Railway via Oak Cliff Station.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	10¾@11
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¼@ 9¾	9¼@ 9¾
Poorest	7¾@ 9	6¾@ 9
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9¾	8¾@ 9¾

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

Mason & Co., Perry—The Youth's Companion.

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25 FANCY CARDS, all styles, with name, 10c.; 30 Egyptian Marble, 5 tints, with name, 20c.; 15 Scroll Cards, 15 styles, no name, 10c.; 20 Comic Cards, 20 styles, with name, 20c., post-paid. J. B. HUSTED, Nassau, Rens. Co., N. Y.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Two thousand United States soldiers in New Orleans.

BEN BUTLER is now said to be the boss of Massachusetts.

THE whole country demands an honest count of the vote.

CARLYLE calls Darwin an atheist with very little intellect.

THE Danbury News calls Bob Ingersoll the Victor Hugo of American politics.

AND now they say that President Chadbourne of Williams will not resign his post.

STEVE KIRKSEY of Mayfield, Ky., put a package of gunpowder on a hot anvil. He is bald-headed now.

MR. PIERREPONT, Minister, etc., has been made an honorary member of the Reform Club in London.

A BAPTIST minister has sued a church committee at Oakland, Cal., for libel. Damages, $100,000.

PETER COOPER has about 16,000 votes in Illinois. Thus it would appear Illinois is the banner greenback State.

DR. LE MOYNE of the Pennsylvania cremation furnace was once a candidate for the Vice-Presidency on the Abolition ticket.

COUNT ARNIM, on the eve of his recent condemnation, sold to his son his last remaining great estate in Prussia for $600,000.

IN Newburyport, Mass., a sovereign voted for the first time in fifty-five years. He was a sailor, and his business had kept him from the polls.

THE only way to distinguish a mushroom from a toadstool is by eating the specimen. If you live it is a mushroom; if you die it is a toadstool.

THERE are no Smiths in the British peerage now. Lord Carrington's family have become Carringtons, and the Smiths, Viscounts Strangford, are extinct.

WASH WARREN of Griffin, Ga., is 70 years old. He has a young third wife and a new baby—a girl, whom he has named Lucinda Nancy Matilda, after the three wives.

MRS. F. WORCESTER of Grafton, Mass., has been awarded the first premium for the best committee report at the fair of the Worcester South-East Agricultural Society.

MR. CALEB CUSHING, say the admiring people of Newburyport, can hardly return to Spain, because his professional services are so frantically demanded by the litigious.

MR. WILLIAM BLACK came over here in quest of local color for a new novel, the stately Athenæum says:—A visit of a few weeks for the acquisition of local color!

THE good people who borrowed trouble because the campaign opened so late and languidly are now in distress because it refuses quietly and suddenly to come to an end.

MR. STEPHENS has been journeying to Washington by easy stages. He has rheumatism in his feet and legs, but his mind is as bright as ever, and he is cheerful and hopeful.

MRS. ROSE HAWTHORNE LATHROP, Hawthorne's small, fair-haired daughter, has taken to the unprofitable work of verse-writing. She has some musical ones in The Independent.

SOUND the loud timbrel
O'er Egypt's dark sea,
If ——'s elected—
There's an office for me.

PROF. SWING, who, if he were an Indian, would probably be called The-man-with-a-mind-of-his-own, is going to have a church edifice. Members of his congregation are busying themselves in the matter.

IF ninety per cent. of the inmates of our prisons are drinkers of ardent spirits, as estimated by those in positions that give weight to their judgment, the way in which taxation may be reduced is apparent.

PERSONS who write to Walt Whitman for his autograph receive in return a printed circular saying that his photograph, bearing his signature may be obtained by sending one dollar to the Orphans' Home at Camden.

THE climate of California holds the lingering Morton enchained. To speak prosaically, he says he won't return to the East, notwithstanding telegrams, until the Congressional Chinese Commission has finished its work.

COLOR is used as a remedy in an insane asylum in Alexandria, Italy. Dr. Ponza, the physician in charge, says that he puts melancholy lunatics into red rooms, and violent maniacs into blue rooms, the results being astonishingly satisfactory.

IN the industrial department of the Kansas State Agricultural College instruction is given in carpentry, cabinet and wagon-making, blacksmithing, turning, dress-making, printing, telegraphy, scroll-sawing, carving, engraving, and photography.

A DELICATE boy, fifteen years of age, attracted a great deal of attention from the passengers on the morning train from Boston to New York recently. He got on at Palmer, Mass., and was on his way to join some exhibition. He only weighed 475 pounds.

HER Majesty Queen Ranovalomanjaka of Madagascar has issued a proclamation to her subjects solemnly warning them not to have anything to do with the cup that inebriates; and she concludes with a caution addressed to those who sell the pestilent beverage.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer. It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.*

E. D. Spaulding, Jamestown, N. Y.—Will the Botanical Editor of the RURAL give the proper name of the vine a slip of which I inclose? This vine grew from an earth bed in a greenhouse, without having been planted, to my knowledge. ANS. It is *Momordica*. The specific name is either *balsamina* or *Charantia*. Without the fruit, we cannot determine which. Had we no knowledge of the plant, it would have been impossible to have traced it from the pressed specimen forwarded. The first is the Balsam Apple from the East Indies; the second, also from the East Indies, is the Balsam Pear. It is a half-hardy annual. [The above was mislaid or it would have appeared some time since.

Querist.—The book of which you inquire, viz., "Garden Flowers, by E. Sprague Rand, Jr.," is merely a reprint of the "Cottage Gardeners' Dictionary," an old English work published about a quarter of a century since. Some American authors have a queer way of appropriating the labors of others without credit and for their own individual benefit, and the author of "Garden Flowers" is one of them.

Vinegarist.—You will find a note on "Grafting Grapes in the Fall" in last week's RURAL. See Vineyard. Any time before the ground freezes will do, but soon after the frosts have killed the leaves is the best time.

J. A. B.—It is claimed that lime sprinkled in among grain at the time of putting it in the bins will keep out the Black and other kinds of weevils. It would probably be a good plan to put lime in the stacks or mow among the grain before it is threshed, as well; but never having had occasion to fight these pests, we can only repeat information gained from other sources in regard to these insects. You and other farmers who have the opportunity should experiment with various preparations for destroying such vermin, and when a good one is discovered, publish it for the benefit of your co-laborers in the same field. We believe that salt would also destroy these weevils if freely scattered about the barn or among the infested grain.

P. R. D.—We have not as yet been able to find any one having Comfrey roots either for sale or exchange. The old beds and clumps which were known to us when a boy have disappeared, but there must be plenty of this old plant about the country somewhere, and we hope some of our readers will look them up and propagate a stock of Comfroy for the benefit of those who would be pleased to purchase a few roots, more or less.

W.—Here is a correspondent who says that he has a few barrels of old cider which he would like to turn into vinegar. Who among our readers will give the desired information? The Vinegar question is quite an important one in many localities and practical information in regard to its manufacture out of various materials is needed very much, although "recipes for making vinegar" are abundant.

E. S.—The caterpillars known as "Woolly Bears in our entomological works belong to the family of ARCTIADÆ, or Arctians, the name coming from the Greek word for bear. The more common name of the imagos or perfect insects is Tiger moths. They fly at night, and the caterpillars, some of the species, are very destructive to vegetables. The common red, hairy caterpillars which are so plentiful in our gardens and fields in the fall, and to which you doubtless refer under the name of "Woolly Bear," produces the Isabella Tiger-moth (*Arctia Isabella*), a very pretty insect, of a grayish tawny-yellow, with a few black dots on the wings, the hinder pair frequently tinged with orange-red.

Emma.—The Abutilon plants which we are now sending out to subscribers are strong blooming plants, growing in four and six-inch pots. They are full of buds as well as flowers, and if kept in a moderately warm room will bloom all winter. The *Abutilon de Neige*, or Snowball Abutilon, is really a grand plant for window culture, and we are quite certain that those of our subscribers who avail themselves of our offer of it will think that in obtaining this novelty they are well paid for their trouble.

Harvey Vandyke.—Thomas Moore was the author of "The Last Rose of Summer." See "Irish Melodies," or "Moore's Complete Poetical Works."

Californian.—The India-rubber Tree (*Ficus elastica*) is as readily grown from cuttings as Willows. Every bud on the stem can be made to produce a plant the same as frequently practiced in propagating grape-vines. Branches of two or three years old may be used for cuttings, or any part upon which buds can be found. We have used pulverized brick in which to strike the cuttings of the India-rubber tree, with excellent success. Take soft, half-burnt bricks and break them up into pieces as small as the grains of buckwheat, and then fill boxes or pots with this material and set the cuttings the same as they usually are in sand. They are less likely to damp off in the brick than in any other material we have ever used for the purpose of striking large and soft-wooded plants.

M. B. Cisco.—Why is the Clematis called Virgin's Bower? ANS.—It was called Ladies' Bower for the reason that the vine is suitable for covering bowers or low trellises. The first Clematis was introduced into England in 1569. It was *C. Viticella*. This was during Queen Elizabeth's reign, who delighted in the name of Virgin Queen. Probably the name of Virgin's Bower was given to this Clematis as a compliment to her and was afterward generally adopted as the familiar name of the genus.

Hazard.—The numberless varieties and diverse forms of the Dahlia are said to have been derived since 1802 from the one yellow *Dahlia variabilis*.

C. L. C.—Yes. The Turf, Field and Farm records that forty thousand six hundred dollars were paid for a cow—the 8th Duchess of Geneva—at sale of New York Mills herd, Sept. 10, 1873.

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1850 Twenty-Eighth Year 1877

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THAT IS MY PLASTER.

He called Sunday night, as had been his custom for several weeks. After they got together alone in the parlor he plucked up courage to the proper point and proposed to her, telling her of the days when every thought was of her, and only her. Then he said:

"Dearest, will you be mine?"

And she said:

"I will."

Then he caught her in his arms, and pressed her drooping face close to his yearning breast.

Tighter still he drew his arm around her.

"My darling," he started to whisper, bending his face close to hers, when her head flew up so suddenly as to catch him under the chin with sufficient force to almost amputate his tongue.

"Oh!" he gasped.

"Phew!" she ejaculated, "why, how you smell!"

"Smell!" he repeated, while his smarting tongue forced the tears to his eyes.

"Yes," she replied, bending her face again to his breast and sniffing expectantly. "Oh, my! it is awful!" she added, as she drew back her head.

He dropped his own nose into the infected neighborhood, took a sniff, and then as his face lighted up, he cheerfully explained:

"Oh, that is my plaster. I put it on for a cold."

"Oh!" said she, in a tone of relief. And again she dropped her head on his yearning breast, only a little higher up, and a little more to one side, while he ran out his tongue and tenderly caressed the wound with his handkerchief. —*Danbury News.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

Fast living—Hasty-pudding.

Capital wanted: Constantinople for the Russians.

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Four men in England were indicted for stealing beans. "What have they been doing?" asked the judge. "Been stealing," said the clerk.

It was Senator Maxey, of Texas, who, engaged in a brown study in a street car, walked up to the conductor's box and asked for a quarter's worth of chips.

An Illinois minister announced on last Sunday night's bulletin: "The funeral of Judas Iscariot." To which an obliging fellow added: "Friends of the deceased are cordially invited."

"Mamma," said little Nell, "ought Governess to flog me for what I've not done?" "No, my dear; why do you ask?" "'Cause she flogged me to-day when I did'nt do my sums."

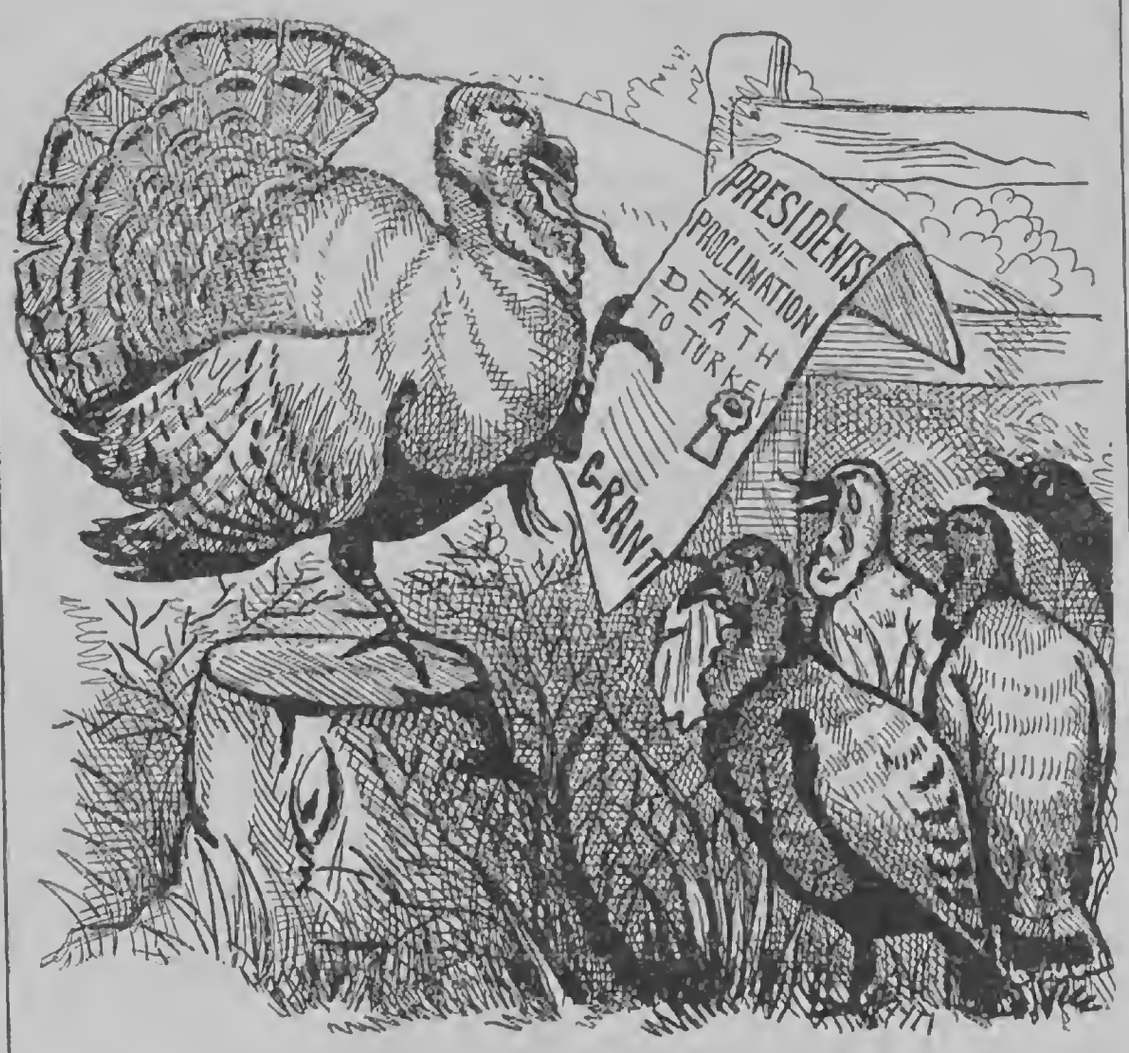
The North Carolina Journal reports that, in consequence of the scarcity of money, cows have become almost the medium of exchange in that State, a thin cow passing for $8, one in good Winter order for $10, and a fat one for $13.

When a blear-eyed, bald-headed weather prophet is asked whether it is going to be a hard Winter, he shuts one eye, looks at the sun with the other, digs up a clump of grass, examines the roots, and says, "I don't know." He is generally correct.

A cigar contains acetic, formic, butyric, valeric, and propriouic acidin, prussic acid, creosote, carbolic acid, ammonia, sulphureted hydrogen, pyridine, viridine, picoline, and rubidene, to say nothing about cabbagine and burdockic acid. That's why you can't get a good one for less than five cents.

The Chinese do not seem to have an intuitive idea of the sanctity of an oath. A consular office-boy, who had been in the service nine years, was looking for something which he evidently could not find, and was asked what it was. "The consul is going to try a case this morning," he replied, "and I am looking for the little book he makes the witnesses smell."

How they Timed Him.—A Massachusetts young man went to visit his true-love the other evening, and his friends at the house where he boarded resolved to ascertain what "time o' night" he got home. So they put a tin pan on each of the stairs in the hallway and tied them all together by a string leading from top to bottom, and fixed them so that when he softly opened the front door and sneaked in the pans would descend and meet him. And a little while before daylight those in that house who were not in the trick covered up their heads and softly prayed under the mistaken impression that an earthquake had arrived and it was time to get ready. But it wasn't. 'Twas nothing but "them pans" heralding the young man's approach.



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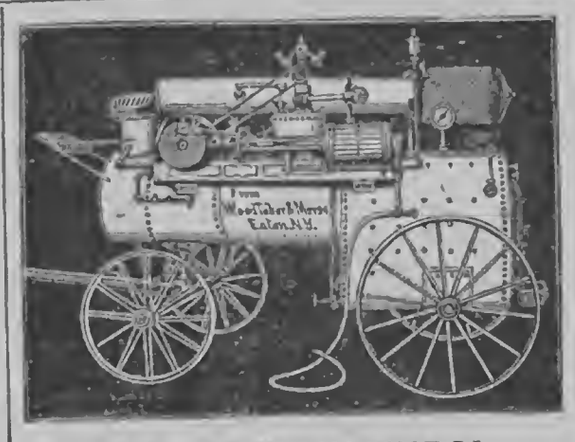

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RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

VOL. XXXIV. No. 24. WHOLE No. 1402.

NEW YORK CITY, DEC. 9, 1876.

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Floricultural.

ABOUT HOUSE PLANTS.

As the flowers in the garden fade we begin to appreciate more highly the tender exotics cultivated in the house. Persons having greenhouses and conservatories are among the favored few who have the facilities for keeping a greater number of plants than those who have not. Still it is doubtful if they obtain more pleasure therefrom than those who keep but a few cheap plants in the windows of their dwellings.

Almost every woman loves flowers (as also do a great many men), and while there are thousands who do succeed in keeping a few plants in pots through winter, many are deprived of the pleasure, owing to the severity of the climate and badly-constructed houses. Still, we have among our readers a great number of persons who would almost as soon think of going without tables or chairs as they would without a few handsome-foliaged or winter-blooming plants. In these persons we are always sure of an attentive audience when talking of flowers, at any and all seasons, and perhaps we take as much pleasure as they do in our chats about the treasures of Flora's kingdom.

While working among our own house plants this morning, we were reminded that there are some kinds better suited to window culture than others, and while everybody is well aware of this fact, some may be at a loss to make a good selection out of the great number in cultivation. Of course, as we look upon the pure white *Camellia* flowers expanding before us, we are inclined to start a very select list with this Queen of winter-blooming, evergreen shrubs; but the thought comes that they are expensive and require considerable care in order to secure a good show of blooms. Hence those who do not possess a good conservatory in which to keep Camellias had better not invest in them to any great extent.

Fig. 1—BOUVARDIA DAVISONII.

But there are plenty of other plants with which to start or fill up a good list for window culture. Among the very best blooming at this season and continuing nearly or quite all winter, the *Bouvardias* are scarcely to be excelled. There are many varieties in cultivation, some brilliant scarlet, others crimson, with every gradation of color to pure white. The flowers are small, but produced in large clusters at the end of each branch or twig, as shown in Fig. 1, which represents a cluster of the flowers of *B. Davisonii*—a pure white sort, introduced a few years ago, and still one of the very best of the light-colored varieties. There are about a dozen distinct varieties cultivated by our florists, and all are first-rate. The Bouvardias are of easy culture, succeeding well as window plants, and may be planted out in the garden during summer and potted again in the autumn.

ABUTILONS.

The *Abutilons*, or Flowering Maples, must not be omitted from the list of choice window plants, and especially the elegant *Boule de Neige*, which we are now offering to subscribers (see Publisher's column).

GERANIUMS.

The Geranium is never to be omitted, and it is doubtful if it ever is from even the smallest collection of house plants. The single-flowered generally bloom a little more freely than the double sorts, but the flowers of the latter do not fade and fall off quite so soon as the former. Hence any slight loss in numbers is made up in stability of character. A good truss of a double Geranium, similar to the one shown in Fig. 2, is like a bouquet of miniature, full-blown roses, but far more lasting, although lacking something in fragrance. Such varieties as Marie Lemoine, Triomphe, Charles Lyell, Le Negre, Asa Gray, and the Hero of Strasburg, when well-grown, leave very little to be desired in the way of Geraniums. Of course a few of the Ivy-leaved and some of the scented kinds may be grown for their pretty foliage and fragrance, but otherwise they do not equal the best double varieties.

Fig. 2—DOUBLE GERANIUM, MARIE LEMOINE.

COLEUS.

The *Coleus* is among the most popular of all the foliage plants for bedding out in summer, but unfortunately they are not easily kept over winter, except in a greenhouse. The heat and dry atmosphere of an ordinary room do not seem to be congenial to the different varieties of the Coleus, still many persons do manage to winter them safely among their other window plants. Instead of trying to winter the old plants growing in the border, it is much better to strike a few cuttings early in the fall, say the last of August or first of September, and when these are well rooted, put them in small pots and take them indoors in time to save them from frosts. These small plants are not only very pretty, but a large number can be kept in the same space required for one large one taken from the garden, which, by the way, are very likely to lose all their lower leaves from the effect of a change of temperature, even if the potting is done carefully. One of these small Coleus plants, soon after becoming well rooted, is shown in Fig. 3 (page 377), the variety being one of the golden-leaved, known as Her Majesty.

Where plants are kept in a window, the Coleus may be set upon a shelf near the top, as they require a pretty high temperature in order to keep them growing and preserve the bright color of their leaves during the winter.

WATERING.

Many make a mistake in watering plants too frequently and a little at a time, just keeping the surface of the soil moist, while the bottom remains dry. The better way is to give the soil a good, thorough soaking, and then give no more water until the soil shows considerable dryness and some of the larger leaves exhibit signs of wilting. Of course there are plants—for instance, the common Calla Lily—which thrive best in soil that is constantly soaked with water; but there are comparatively few window plants that require such an amount of moisture to keep them growing or healthy.

INSECTS.

An occasional sprinkling with water into which is put a small quantity of ammonia or alcohol will remove the various kinds of lice or scale insects which infest house plants. We have found nothing to equal alcohol in removing the Mealy bug, which is frequently very destructive to most kinds of tender plants.

MISCELLANEA.

THE "LITTLE ANNOUNCEMENT"—REQUIESCAT.—We have received more orders under the above heading than we had anticipated. The consequence has been, we were unable to send to any as many seeds as we would like to have done. But every order was filled up to the time of the limit, Nov. 10

Since that date we have received others which we must return, for the excellent reason that our supply is exhausted.

This matter of forwarding seeds to all subscriber-applicants has been a deal of trouble and has consumed a deal of time. But we are glad to say that the friendly, encouraging, appreciative letters that have, as a general thing, accompanied them, have well rewarded us for both, in consequence of which we hope to be able to make the same offer to our floricultural friends, another year, with an additionally attractive list to select from.

IMPOTENCY OF POLLEN IN YOUNG PLANTS.—It is generally the case that young fruit trees blossom several years before they bear fruit. Either the pistil or stamens, or both, are, therefore, immature. It is not improbable that the pistils mature a year or so before the pollen becomes potent.

Two years ago, a young Cherry tree bore its first blossoms, though no fruit formed. Last year it blossomed again. We applied pollen from another Cherry tree to the stigmas of two flowers and marked them. They alone of all the blossoms upon the tree formed and ripened fruit.

If this fruit were due to the artificial application of potent pollen, such crossing may prove serviceable when we wish to ascertain whether a young tree is true to name, and also when we wish to hasten the formation of fruit, so as to ascertain its merit, upon seedling cions grafted upon other stocks.

"AS THE EARLY TULIPS are now so much used for the decoration of the flower-beds in spring, it may be remarked that the later-flowering varieties can be had in bloom at the same time as the earlier sorts by planting the latter deep in the soil, say to the depth of five inches, instead of the ordinary depth of three inches. We have known this method to be attended with considerable success, but some knowledge of the varieties is necessary on the part of the planter. Experience is an excellent and reliable teacher in this case."

The above suggestion of the Gardeners' Chronicle is well enough as an experiment. But as a main object in planting early, intermediate and late Tulips is to have a succession of bloom and to prolong the Tulip season as far as possible, there can be little inducement to gain the knowledge and experience necessary to determine which of the late Tulips are best adapted for the purpose.

CATALOGUES.

MR. JAMES VICK'S "Floral Guide" for 1877 is received. He says that he has endeavored to make it "beautiful, interesting and instructive," and in all candor it is our opinion that he has succeeded. We make several extracts:

Many, well versed in horticultural literature, no doubt think that we might take higher ground, teach the mysteries of vegetable physiology, and speak of those rare plants that are the wonder and admiration of the world, but which few will ever see, and not one in a million can ever own. We prefer to write for the people and of the people's flowers, and we see as much to admire in a Pansy Plant or a Ten Weeks' Stock as in the Giant Trees of California, the Palms of the Tropics, or the Tree Ferns of the Pacific Islands. Our desire is to create a taste for the beautiful in gardening and a true love of flowers among the people.

Speaking of new double flowers, he says: "We have many flowers giving occasionally a plant with double flowers that we shall keep on probation until they do better, and foremost among these is a *Phlox Drummondi*, of which we have lively anticipations. That this characteristic may become permanent before long we greatly desire."

That Mr. VICK *is* modest, and that the present number of the Floral Guide is not without a dash of spice here and there, let the following extract speak for itself:

SOMETHING VERY BEAUTIFUL.—Now, a good lady in Cambria, Mich., in some way obtained our photograph, and not believing that "beauty unadorned is adorned the most," with great taste and patience surrounded it with a wreath of colored flowers cut from our colored plates in the style that ladies call *Medley Pictures*, and it now adorns our office, and we can say, we hope with proper modesty, is really a "thing of beauty," —so everybody says—but whether they mean the portrait or the surroundings, or both, we cannot say.

FAILURE AND SUCCESS.

As you have requested your readers to give their experience whether success or failure—here is mine—failure first:—I started out in the spring with high hopes of success, purchased *Salpiglossis*, mixed colors. *Eutocas*, also mixed, and a collection of German and French Asters; all were sowed in a seed-bed and came up finely. When of suitable size, I transplanted them to beds prepared for their reception which in an hour or so were favored with a delightful shower. Of the *Eutocas*, some were transplanted to a shady, the rest to a sunny situation. They *all died*. I cannot ascertain from searching catalogues that *Eutocas* will not bear transplanting. Can you tell me how to cultivate them successfully as I think their little star-like flowers are so pretty.

The *Salpiglossis*, transplanted to a sunny situation lived and grew well enough, but there were few blossoms and their tall, ragged stems looked ungainly to say the least. So here was disappointment if not failure. But the Asters, oh! what beauties they were. I can yet see one bed in particular, though the frosts have long since destroyed them. In the center were planted the tallest varieties nicely tied to small stakes; then the smaller varieties, and on the outer edge the little dwarfs closely set, (what beauties the dwarfs are!) all bordered with a row of smooth, whitewashed stones which were encircled by a gravel walk. The stones raised the bed somewhat higher than the walk forming an oval surface which, planted as described and filled with the flowers of all shades of Asters yet produced, was the admiration of all who saw it. This was my success and I feel abundantly rewarded for all my labor.

They tell me that Aster seeds of my own raising, will produce inferior flowers during following seasons upon our own grounds. This seems to have been the result with others of this neighborhood. I would like to hear from you upon this subject. BROWNIE.

[*Eutoca* (*Phacelia*) is easily cultivated. Give it a warm situation and cover with pots for a few days after transplanting. You should select the seeds *only* from the finest flowers of Asters and change the soil every season. ED.]

Farm Economy.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

WHAT has agricultural chemistry done during the last 50 years to benefit the farmers of the United States? For 40 years I have searched the agricultural publications in vain to find something emanating from the researches of Professors of scientific agriculture that every farmer can profitably apply to his farm management, and thus enable him to lessen his expenses, and increase his profits. Prof. ATWATER, in the Agriculturist, says:

I sometimes wonder what some of my good conservative farmer friends, who are satisfied with the old ways of tilling, breeding, and feeding that our great grandfathers tried and proved, and take no stock in new-fangled notions and scientific theories, would think if they were to see how the experiments are made in the German and other European Stations, the labor, patience, and money they cost, and the ways their results are applied. The accounts of the experimental investigations on the subject of Animal Nutrition that have been published during the last fifteen years in the German language alone, would make what most people would call a good-sized library. The experiments thus described are numbered by hundreds and even thousands, each one of which has cost the labor of days, weeks, and even months. They have called in requisition the services of the ablest scientific men and the most successful farmers. They have involved an incalculable amount of thought, care, and toil, in the laboratory, the stable, and the study.

Well, what has this "good-sized library" done for the general benefit of the tillers of the soil? Can we to-day lay our hands on a single volume in the English language from *any* source, treating on such experiments as are alluded to in the above extract, that is worth the blank paper it is printed on, in a *practical* point of view? In Germany there are many wealthy gentlemen, who spend vast sums of money in experiments for their amusements, and to pass away pleasantly their leisure hours; but I cannot see that they have done much for the benefit of the agricultural world. Prof. ATWATER, seeing the inutility himself of publishing this "good-sized library," says:

"Many will say: 'Well, what real practical good do plain farmers get from all this scientific experimenting and book-writing!'" Then he goes on to say:

"These investigations have done a vast deal to settle the questions about stock-feeding, that occupy so much space in the papers, and are perplexing as they are important to millions of farmers on both sides of the Atlantic. Combined with the results of daily farm experience, they have shown for what purposes different kinds of fodder materials are best fitted, and how much each is worth: they have taught the farmers how to make valuable fodder out of poor hay and straw."

But how is it that the farmers of the United States have not been supplied with the translated book that tells how to do these things? Why, the Professor could make a fortune in a single year by publishing such a work! Then how cruel it is, in such hard times as we now have, to withhold it from our poor farmers, who are scarcely able to keep soul and body together.

The Professor, however, gives a reason why this book is not published, having been many times asked: "Why not translate into English that German Farmer's Diary?" He replies: "That is a remarkable little book, and a number of others that, like it, are brimming full of just the plain, concise, practical information that every farmer most urgently needs, and nothing but the most costly research, combined with the longest and best experience can supply. But these books are prepared, not for American, but for European farmers."

Is not that too bad! "Prepared for European farmers! Well, I suppose that we must continue to grope on in darkness, without ever being able "to make valuable fodder out of poor hay and straw." But we will pay off those selfish, "European farmers" some day, when we publish "remarkable books, brimming full" of something that they'll want to know.

But the Professor, at least, gives us a clue to the real cause, why these books are not translated into English; he says: "They would not be quite adapted for use here." That is the reason, no doubt—not of any value to us.

Now, if we turn to American scientific experimenters in agricultural matters, and to writers on such subjects, including what has been done by our Agricultural Colleges, what do we find has been accomplished during the last half century to advance the interests of farmers? Has there been a single publication issued by any of them, or essays published by these experimenters and writers, in the agricultural press, that have been of any especial value to our farmers practically? If there have been any developments from these sources, beyond a few experiments in growing crops with special fertilizers, that have proved nothing of general value, and some other unimportant investigations, I have failed to hear of them. We see a good deal written on applying commercial fertilizers to crops; but the man is yet to appear, who shall give us a formula for the application of these fertilizers, including the general list, that any two farmers may follow with a certainty of a profitable result. Farmers feed their live stock, as they did 50 years ago—cows on hay, cornstalks, roots and meal; hogs on corn, meal, cooked or uncooked, boiled mashes of potatoes, or roots with meal—just as they did when we old men were boys; and the time, I fear, is away off in the impenetrable future of centuries after centuries, when farmers shall learn "how to make valuable fodder out of poor hay and straw." No, farmers, that day will never come. We may make poor hay and straw eatable, by steaming and adding meal to give a flavor; but we can add nothing to the value of such fodder. Suppose we get a mangerful of "poor straw" into the stomach of a cow, of what value would it be? It would produce no milk, put on no fat, satisfy no appetite and produce no manure of much value.

I am not inclined to be "hard" on our scientific experimenters and writers; but the fact does exist, I claim, that it is not possible, through agricultural chemistry, or otherwise, to change the general management of farms, except in the use of improved farm implements; and there is where science is acknowledged as having done what, in some things, was never thought to be possible to effect, till they came into existence.

Linden, N. J. T. B. MINER.

FARMER'S NEED.

THAT there is a need of more and better education among farmers none can more fully deplore than the farmer himself. But is it a fact that there is greater need of more education among farmers than among other classes of working people, proportionally, or even among the professions? Will they not compare favorably, as well informed and good citizens, with any other class? That they are otherwise, and that any such insinuation or reflection, should be cast at their door, as a class, the writer as one of them would most indignantly resent. Taken as a whole what other class are better informed, generally, or better understand practically, their business? Perhaps they may be less learned in laboratory science than some exceptional cases among scientists; but when we come to the real practical, there is very much less wanting. Put the theorist in the same place as the practical farmer, with only the same pecuniary means, and the same demands upon him, with only his resources to fall back on, and which of the two will add the most to the dollars-and-cents wealth of the neighborhood and country, in a given time, say five or ten years? And what other trade, profession or pursuit is so generally successful, in self-support, as the farmer's?

Comparatively there are very few American farmers that are not compelled to be the architects of their own fortunes; and very few attain such wealth as to raise a large family and classically educate them, and further endow them with sufficient means to send them off at the same speed the elder ends with.

The American system is more of a democracy than an aristocracy of wealth: the accumulated wealth of the parent being equally divided among all his children instead of entailment to the eldest son; so that practically, in a large family, the youngest is better started than those older.

Farming under such circumstances becomes a matter of "bread and butter," or rather how to obtain it, in a majority of instances; little time can be spent in obtaining anything more than the rudiments of an education, sufficient for every day life and use in practice, the practice perfects theory or knowledge primarily obtained from books or otherwhere. As a general rule practical farmers understand what is necessary in order to retain or increase the fertility of their soil; the fault does not lie in that direction generally, but rather in their necessities and limited resources.

Men and women brought up and educated with everything ready made at hand, little comprehend what trials, &c., the great majority are obliged to undergo in order to live respectably within their means.

Let us recall what many now on the stage have experienced, or know from observation &c., in attaining to their present positions, and we must recollect that the advantages of obtaining education and property to-day are far superior to those enjoyed by our fathers and those before them in this country, and also that we are constantly improving thereon—it may be not as fully as we might, but improving still.

The average farmer, as we remember him, raised a large family of sons and daughters, with more or less sickness, generally more, in the family; his means were all invested in a farm and home for self and family; whatever income he might have was derived from the products and sales from the farm, with perhaps, a little from days' work out, at from forty-two cents, to four shillings per day, more frequently at the less price than any greater; if he grew corn or other grain he obtained the equivalent of a day's work for one bushel of rye, somewhat less for corn, and for oats somewhere from twenty to twenty-five cents; for potatoes he was fortunate if he sold them as high as twelve and a half cents per bushel; good English hay, $6 to $8 ₱ ton; a good new milch cow $12 to $15; a pair of four year old steers, broken, $30 to $40; other stock and produce in like proportion; wood cut and drawn to market $1.50 to $2 ₱ cord. A sheep or lamb was well sold if either brought one dollar; wool ten to twelve cents ₱ lb.; and very frequently all these prices were for barter trade; all other salable products in like proportions, while groceries, dry goods, &c., were at our recent war high prices.

Economy was the order of the day, and if in its closest and strictest sense they were able to live very few extras could be had. Flax was grown, dressed and made into bed linen, and for wear, &c., by hand, in the family; wool was also worked up similarly for all purposes where woolen goods were needed, for wear and other domestic purposes, sometimes for sale. All things else were made in the family, so far as possible, wherein a saving of paying out money might be accomplished. With such necessary pinching to get along what wonder that education was neglected, and the young obliged, instead, to lend a helping hand to keep the wheels moving.

Kind Reader, this is no fancy sketch, but is what many of our parents and grand parents, in rural districts, now living can substantiate, only that the half is not told. We ought to be thankful that they were able to provide for us so goodly an inheritance; and the rising generation that they are provided with so many privileges, which we think they are making good use of, so far as is compatible with strict economy.

Reading for gaining extended information and improvement is pursued to a considerable extent in farmers' families, and from that reading much is deduced and put in every day practice, still there is room for improvement; but it is well to bear in mind that there are many difficulties and obstacles for the farm population to overcome which the professions, &c. know, or think not of. Instead, therefore, of chiding the farmer for not devoting more time, money and attention to the obtaining of education, &c., we should encourage him in all his efforts, and consider that there may be extenuating circumstances which may exonerate him from any apparent neglect.

Westborough, Mass. W. H. WHITE.

INDIA RUBBER BANDS FOR TREES.—A New Haven company is making a new thing to protect trees from worms. The invention is a rubber band with a single bristling row of brass pins set very close to each other, like the teeth of a comb, in the middle of the strip, and worms cannot crawl above it. While this device might answer for crawling worms, it would be of no use as a protection against flying insects.

Dairy Husbandry.

FAULTY CHESEE—HOW AVOIDED

A CORRESPONDENT who has a dairy of 27 cows and who is making cheese on the farm writes us that he is having some trouble this fall in getting his cheese down firm and solid. "It is disposed to be loose and spougy, and what is the remedy?" etc.

If a detailed account of the method pursued in manufacture were given, we should be better able to point out faults and make suggestions for their correction; but in the absence of anything more definite than the above, we should say that "the milk is made up too sweet." During fall and spring, when the weather is cool, milk is slow to take on an acid condition, and where the manufacture of cheese is carried on from day to day the curds will require to lie a longer time in the vat than during summer. Not unfrequently the required acidity is not obtained for several hours under the usual manipulation, and if the curds be removed to the hoop before the acid is sufficiently developed, the cheese will be loose and spongy and the whey will not readily separate and pass off in pressing. These spongy curds are of frequent occurrence during the change from hay to grass, or from grass to hay, and the cheese, of course, does not sell well in market. The remedy is to hasten acidity by the use of sour whey. It may be added to the milk at the time of putting in the rennet, or later, while the curds are scalding. Old cheese-makers, who can judge very correctly as to the condition of the milk when ready to start heat in the morning, prefer to add sour whey at the same time with the rennet; but in case the cheese-maker is rather inexperienced, perhaps it may be as well to use the sour whey while the curds are scalding. No particular rule can be given as to the quantity to be used, as this depends upon the condition of the milk. If the milk is quite sweet, from one to two gallons is not unfrequently used for thirty gallons of milk. If used in the whey while the curds are scalding, it can be added in small quantities, from time to time, until the required acidity is produced. This condition of the curds is best known by applying the hot-iron test. Take a handful of curd from the vat, press out the whey and bring it in contact with a piece of iron heated so that it will "sizz." Then, on withdrawing the curd from the iron, if small threads are formed, or in other words, if the curd "spins" out into threads, the acid is properly developed. The threads should spin out from one-half to three-quarters of an inch in length.

The sour whey to be employed should have been previously prepared as follows:—Take any quantity of sweet whey and raise it to near the boiling heat. The oil and albuminous matter will then rise to the top and may be skimmed off. The whey thus freed from impurities is set aside in a cask or other convenient vessel until it becomes distinctly acid, when it is ready to be used.

In factories there is generally not so much necessity for using sour whey in cheese-making as there is at farm dairies, because the milk, coming from different herds and carted to the factory in cans, which are not always perfectly sweet, will have a tendency to start well on toward acidity. When the acidity is once begun, the subsequent heating and manipulation of the milk and curds hasten its development, and hence in many factories sour whey is not employed. In small factories, however, when the milk is kept very sweet, it is used with advantage.

Acidity in cheese-making is one of the leading features of the cheddar process. It assists the curds to readily part with the whey; it imparts a solid texture to the cheese, prevents porosity, and helps the cheese to develop that sweet, nutty flavor so much sought after by our English customers. A soft, spongy cheese does not readily part with its moisture. The surplus whey which remains in the cheese soon decomposes during the curing process which the cheese undergoes, and gives the cheese a bad flavor. So well is this understood abroad that a porous, spongy cheese is avoided, even though it may be of good flavor at the time, because it is known that such a cheese cannot retain a sweet flavor long, but must soon turn bad and rot down.

The art of making good cheese depends largely upon management in the development of acidity. If not carried far enough, the cheese will be porous and fall into decay; if carried too far, it will be hard and crumbly; but when tempered to the golden mean, we have perfection of flavor and long-keeping qualities. The process can only be learned by experience.

Enough perhaps has been said to guide our correspondent in his operations, so as to correct the fault complained of in his cheese, and we trust our suggestions may help others who may be laboring under difficulties similar to those named.

IMPROVED BUTTER HOUSES IN THE NORTHWEST.

DEAR SIR:—When I resigned my position as Superintendent of the Agricultural Department of the International Exposition, I came directly to Byron, Ogle Co., Ill., to design and erect a butter factory for ISRAEL. BOIES, Esq., late of Marengo, Ill. My instructions were to construct the most perfect dairy house of which I was capable and to embrace in the plan my patent system of subterranean ventilating and cabling, and to give the building capacity for handling the milk of about 800 cows. The building is now about completed, and it is acknowledged by the most intelligent and experienced dairymen who have inspected it to be the most perfect butter factory in the country.

The sub-earth ventilating and cooling duct has been in operation some six weeks, and its efficiency has been witnessed by dairymen from far and near. All express surprise and delight, and a dairy firm at Marengo, Ill., handling the milk of 600 cows, has ordered plans for the alteration of their butter factory on my system. Dairymen here have recently organized clubs, and several new and very large factories are to be built on my plan in the spring.

As many of your readers are aware, I have hitherto laid my ventilating ducts but five to six feet below the surface of the ground, and with that depth I secured 60 to 62°. The duct at Rose Hill Dairy, which I erected for Mr. BOIES, is 9 feet 6 inches in depth and 150 feet in length. The temperature of the air flowing automatically into the dairy has been uniformly, at all times since it has been in operation for the past six weeks, 48° by one thermometer and 49° by another. There has been no hot weather during that period, but the external temperature has varied from 50 to 74°. I erected a spacious ice-house adjoining the dairy, but Mr. BOIES has decided not to fill it with ice, but to use it as a commercial butter storehouse, as the temperature attained by the duct without ice is lower than he desires. A branch of the sub-earth duct discharges into the building originally designed for storing ice, giving it the temperature above stated.

The duct has a fall of about 10 to 100 feet linear, and there is a very perceptible current in the duct and through the dairy when the external temperature is only 3° or 4° higher than that of the air from the duct.

The convenience of the detail of the factory is such that his butter-maker says that he can handle the milk from 800 cows, run the engine for churning, and make and pack the butter without an assistant. Those who have experience in butter-making and have examined Rose Hill Dairy express no doubt but that he will be able to do so.

I should add that he purposes to milk 15 cows night and morning, in addition to the care of the factory, and I should not omit to add that the said butter-maker is a partner in the factory. Mr. BOIES is the peerless butter-maker of the Northwest who was awarded the $300 prize for the best butter by the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association in 1874. As my system is well understood by all who have read "Willard's Butter-Book," I shall not attempt to describe it in detail. Suffice it to say that it is *cheap* and the *best* in use. J. WILKINSON.

Baltimore, Md.

We give place to the above letter because any suggestions for the improvement of Butter-dairy buildings will be of interest to dairymen. We may remark in this connection that the "Centennial Dairy Ring" of the American Dairymen's Association tested Prof. WILKINSON'S Sub-earth Duct at the "Model Cheese and Butter Factory" on the Centennial grounds and pronounced the thing a failure.

The Ring, as is well known, had a "model factory" erected which proved *worthless* for keeping Butter and Cheese during hot weather. Finding that the building was improperly constructed, a short Sub-earth Duct on WILKINSON'S plan was put in: but as the building was not altered to meet the requirements of this system of cooling and ventilation, it of course failed. WILKINSON writes us that he was sick at the time the "Ring" put in the duct, and when he got out and saw what was done, he at once told the Committee that it would not cool and ventilate "that open, illy-adapted building, imperfectly as it was constructed."

Mr. ISRAEL. BOIES is a gentleman well known to the dairymen of the East, as well as of the West, and the fact that so distinguished a Butter dairyman should adopt the Wilkinson system must go to show that it has merits. We shall be glad to hear from Mr. BOIES on the working of his Butter dairy, because a practical test under Mr. BOIES' superintendence will be substantial proof of its utility or otherwise.

CENTENNIAL DAIRY SHOW.

IT is sometimes well to "see ourselves as others see us," and many of our contemporaries, who asserted at the opening of the Centennial show and long afterwards, that the RURAL NEW YORKER, was wrong in declaring that a "Dairy Ring" existed, which if left to control the exhibit of Dairy products would render the labors of honest men utterly useless, have at last come to the conclusion that we were not far wrong in our assertion. But the existence of a "Dairy Ring," at the Centennial, it seems has also been discovered by visitors to the show from abroad, as the following extracts from the letters of a correspondent of the English Agricultural Gazette, plainly indicate. After some preliminary remarks the writer says:

But my object in this communication is to publish some facts collected at Philadelphia, and while travelling through the dairy section of New York State. During my visit to the Centennial Exhibition in July I inquired for, and with some difficulty discovered, the locality of the dairy building. On approaching it, I was favorably impressed by its imposing appearance; and looking at the verandahs which sheltered the windows from the sun's rays on that intensely hot July day, I came to the conclusion that the interior would be magnificently cool—the best place in the world for an exhibition of cheese and butter. I also expected to find the factory a building which should possess all the excellent arrangements of the best of its class without any of their faults, and which should prove to the admiring visitor that there were members of the American Dairymen's Association who knew as well how, when occasion required, to build factories as to manage them. But an examination of the interior dispelled all these pleasant illusions. Far from being the model I had pictured to myself, I found the exhibition rooms utterly unfit for the storage of cheese; and in lieu of well-arranged making-rooms, there were four apartments opening on a corridor, like bedrooms in a hotel, in which were carrying cans, self-heater vats (these, as a class, have been almost entirely discarded for several years past by the best makers as inferior to those fitted for, and supplied with steam from a boiler), milk pans, &c.

I was up to that time under the impression that during the Exhibition cheese would be manufactured in this building. How this could be done in such rooms as were here provided for the purpose I could not then imagine, and at once became satisfied that my impression was a false one. I was surprised afterwards to learn that the conclusion I had naturally arrived at when I visited the factory was not correct, but that the Centennial Commissioners were really intending to exhibit their system of manufacture by buying and making up milk during the autumn months. I am not aware that this intention has been carried into effect. Perhaps its impracticability disclosed itself on a closer examination of the circumstances, inducing the Commission to abandon it.

In the cheese-rooms I found the temperature very high, reported as sometimes over 100° Fah., which statement I have, from my own observation, every reason to believe correct; and this, in spite of the fact that air ducts, after a modification of the plans of Professor Wilkinson, of Baltimore, had been constructed for the purpose of cooling the interior of the building.

I am satisfied that, had the original plans been carried out, the effect would have been all that could be desired; but the attempt to improve on the arrangement recommended by the inventor was a complete failure. The cheese suffered, of course, from the extreme heat, and it was literally impossible for any person unacquainted with that article, under any other circumstances than those of purchase and consumption, to come to any just conclusion concerning the ability of American dairymen, or the value of their goods as compared with those of other countries.

I found that the Canadian exhibit was much larger, and withstood the heat better, than that of the United States. This I could not understand, as I was well aware that factories were far more numerous in the latter country than in Canada, and the average quality of the cheese of the Republic was fully equal to that of the neighboring Dominion. I felt inclined at first to jump hastily to the conclusion that Canada had so improved her system of manufacture as to leave the older dairy country behind in the production of goods possessing the ability to withstand a very high temperature. Failing, however, to clear up this mystery to my satisfaction during my stay in Philadelphia, I subsequently, learned the whole history of the "Dairy Ring" and its operations, which eventually proved to be the cause of the state of affairs which had seemed to me so unaccountable.

In answer to queries, it was explained that certain members of the American Dairymen's Association—including Professor L. B. Arnold, Messrs. O. S. Bliss, J. H. Reall, of Philadelphia; and W. Blanding, the architect of the dairy building at the Exhibition—had formed themselves into "a ring," which, as I suppose you are well aware, is a peculiarly American institution. In all their transactions the wishes and opinions of other leading dairymen—who, as men of experience, should have, in the interests of justice, been consulted—were totally disregarded. Professor Arnold and other friends of the ring were appointed jurors, and for a moment it seemed as if selfishness would gain its end, and the "cute" Commissioners win for themselves by underhand dealing the credit they did not deserve. (Let us add that our correspondent's assertions here are given on his own responsibility. We shall be glad to publish whatever explanations or criticisms they may admit of.—ED. *A. G.*)

But the course of a ring, as of true love, never did run smooth. Mr. Reall, on discovering the awkward position in which he was placed, withdrew, and publicly exposed and denounced the policy of the clique, while Mr. Bliss by his integrity also drew on himself the resentment of the leaders. Much indignation was expressed by the American dairymen who were not of, or attached to the ring, and with those who so fortunately withdrew from it they joined in denouncing the transactions of the men who had combined for purposes of pecuniary gain and self-aggrandisement.

Had this explanation been offered by only a few of those who naturally felt annoyed at the injustice done them by the formation of the ring and its policy, I might have fairly suspected that, smarting under their wrongs, they had magnified the cause of their annoyances; but after having visited many of the leading dairymen, and on inquiry received the same statements, I came to the conclusion that they were true, and the "Centennial Dairy Ring" a veritable reality. I was also repeatedly assured that the best makers had not exhibited, and but a few of the second class.

In conclusion, I wish to impress on the minds of your readers the following facts: First, the factory at Philadelphia was not as a building fit for either the manufacture or exhibition of cheese, nor was it such as would have been erected had the ring never operated, and the leading factory men been allowed a voice in the management. Secondly, although the Canadians won the greater bulk of the earlier awards they derive no great amount of credit from the fact, for had the dairymen of the United States entered earnestly into the competition it was highly probable that they would have come out at least on a level with their neighbors, and many of the prizes now carried off by Canada would have been in that case appropriated by the Republic. In case my conjecture were not correct great honor would doubtless be due to Canada, but under existing circumstances we must fairly give the United States dairymen the benefit of the doubt.

The cheese exhibited by the latter was not a fair sample of their best productions, and I feel justified in saying that when considered in all its aspects, the display was to all intents and purposes a failure.

I think that coming from an Englishman who has no personal interest in the matter beyond a desire to see justice done to all, my opinions and statements will be understood, and the motives which led me to make this communication be appreciated by all who have seen or read anything of the display of dairy produce at the Centennial Exposition.

BITTER CREAM.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Country Gentlemen thus explains the cause of bitter cream:

Cream becomes bitter by long keeping; at three days it will begin to toll; after the fourth day it is unfit to be used in coffee or made into butter, spoiling both.

In Summer there is little bitter milk or cream, because the cream is churned sooner than in Winter, seldom reaching the third day. Sometimes, where there is a single cow kept, I have known the bitter to show on account of the small quantity of cream accumulating. The Summer practice is reversed in the Winter. There being too little milk to require frequent churning then—say one, and sometimes two churnings a week—we account readily for the evils complained of. The forepart of the season, when milk is in greater quantity necessitating more frequent churning, I hear of but little complaint. It matters not how good the feed is,—if the tenderest hay and roots are added, making an approach to Summer feed; nor how clean the milk is kept, the most perfect milk if set beyond three days will be hurt. The writer of this has filled the vessel, leaving barely space enough for a cloth to be stretched over without touching the milk, and a snug lid put on, keeping the air out, but all to no purpose. So, in the purest air, in all the temperatures, it is the same.

It is age that spoils the cream; not only does it make it bitter, but it destroys the flavor, giving it a rank disagreeable taste. The sooner the cream is churned or used after the milk has stood forty-eight hours, the better. If there is too little cream to churn, add the milk and churn that with it to give sufficient body to work it. If the milk has been kept in pure air, and cleanliness observed throughout, with the proper temperature, about 60°, there will not only be an absence of the bitter, rank taste, but a good quality of butter will be produced.

The Poultry Yard.

"COITSTOCK," MR. HENRY BELDON'S RESIDENCE.

I WROTE to you last week of my visit to Mr. BELDON'S pretty country seat, near Bingley, Yorkshire, and my letter left Mr. BELDON and myself enjoying a glass of port, in his dining room, preparatory to visiting his "pets in the mill."

Pray do not think I have been ever since over that glass of port, but I feared at the time that the length of my letter was boring you, and so I had mercy and left a description of the fowl house until another time. Now, if your time and patience permit, I will button-hole you again and give such description as I can of

"THE OLD MILL."

Here are kept Mr. BELDON'S show birds that are so successful at the prize exhibitions, and I was anxious to know how they were housed and cared for.

"Where you exhibit so largely, Mr. BELDON," I said, as we finished that glass of port, "you must be at great expense and trouble in providing 'runs' for your many birds. I presume you must have extensive yards connected with the mill."

"Not at all," he replied. "Many persons suppose that the *modus operandi* of tending my birds is elaborate; but, if you will come with me, we will go through the mill, and you can see for yourself my way of keeping fowls."

We left the house, and stepping out upon the lawn and going through the gate at the end of the "drive," entered the old stone building before us. It is a solid structure of five stories, about sixty feet front, and thirty deep, each story being well lighted by numerous windows on three sides of the building. The entrance is on the extreme right of the building as you approach it. The stairway leading above is on the extreme left. As we entered on the ground floor, we found ourselves in a broad hallway, at the end of which is the "packing room" and "hospital."

"These rooms have not been laid out under my directions," said Mr. BELDON. "You see already that I have no 'fancy' arrangements for the birds; no extensive wired yards; no special buildings of any kind. I have merely taken this old mill and, only placing a few partitions to keep the birds separate, have left things pretty much as I found them."

"An amateur would have thought it necessary to have all the 'latest improvements,'" I said.

"To be sure, Mr. WHITE, and there is where the first grand mistake is made. When the birds are comfortably housed, you have done all that is best for them, and 'latest improvements' are as often the cause of failure as success. Cleanliness, light, air, are what birds need, together with good food, and an occasional run. No 'fancy houses' are required."

"In other words, you mean, if I understand you, that with a plain, good shed and care, birds will thrive as well as though they were reared in a nickel-plated house, and warmed by a fire that burned gilt-edged coal and mahogany kindling-wood."

"Well—yes—that's one way of putting it. I mean that clean housing and proper food are what the birds want, and that your idea that you would see here all the latest improvements will, I fear, be disappointed. Here is where we do the packing of birds that are going away, where we keep the sick or injured ones, and where we keep the eggs for hatching." So saying, he led the way into a large room at the end of the hallway and opposite the entrance, and I saw that he was quite right in saying there were no "fancy arrangements." One end of the room was lathed off to accommodate birds that needed special care, and the partitions were merely such as any farmer might construct for his birds. It was strongly and well put together, but no attempt at anything beyond what was useful.

"Everything is very plain, you see, Mr. WHITE," he said. "No silver plate lying about, as you say, but it answers our purpose well as it is."

"And I notice, Mr. BELDON, that everything is fresh, sweet and clean—no bad odors or foul air in the rooms."

"That I always guard against," he replied. "Everything is kept clean here. When a bird is ill, or has injured himself in fighting, he is put on the retired list here and carefully doctored. To this room we bring the show birds the day before they go to the fair, and here they are washed. Then we turn them into these large boxes, which are filled with clean straw, and in scratching about in the straw, they dry themselves nicely. In this box, at the end of the room we keep the eggs."

He turned back the lid of a long narrow box, which was divided into a number of squares each division bearing the name of the fowl from whose nest the eggs came.

"As we receive orders for eggs we fill them from this box, which gives us the name and age.

Now if you please we will go up stairs. You will see that I have no small chicks here. I have all my birds hatched at various farms, Hamburgs at one place, Brahmas at another, and so on, and when they are old enough to show they are sent in here and I make selection for my own showing or to fill orders."

As we went up stairs we passed a pile of wicker baskets which Mr. BELDON explained were "shipping baskets." They were about four feet long, and two feet wide, by three feet high, made lightly but strongly, lined with muslin, and covered with stout bagging. "In these baskets he said" I send birds all over the world, and seldom if ever have any fault found with their packing, they are light but very serviceable.

On reaching the first floor above the "hospital and packing room," we were among the "show trios" and it was almost a fair in itself. At each side of the room were large "pens" about ten by eight feet, divided by a broad passage-way which ran the length of the room, each pen containing a trio of fowls, or a single cock. They were the pick of Mr. BELDON'S birds and they were indeed beautiful specimens of their kind.

"Whenever I win with my birds I fasten upon the rafters overhead the card placed on the coop by the Judges," said Mr. BELDON. I looked up and received some idea of the extent of his "winnings." I may give you some idea of it when I say that every rafter and beam in the interior of that mill throughout the five stories is almost *covered* with "winning cards!" It was a succession of 1st and 2nd prize cards from all the shows of the kingdom.

"In these pens we keep the birds and they thrive well—are strong, healthy and vigorous. You see they stand upon board floors, which are swept out every morning, and each pen is boarded up at the side about three feet to prevent the cocks from fighting through the lathings. All the hens on each floor are let out in turn; on Monday the first floor takes a run, on Tuesday the second floor, and so on through the week. The cocks are taken out in turn and put under those boxes you see upon the lawn, and are left out for two or three days at a time."

He pointed out the boxes from the window. They were about three by two feet, and had a closely lathed run of about the same size attached to each. The "boxes" looked to be small quarters, but Mr. BELDON said they were quite large enough for the purpose.

"This is the way my birds are housed Mr. WHITE," said my host pleasantly smiling. "Everything is plain and simple. A common lathed pen holds each trio; a rough stick in the corner is their roost; an old basket is their nest; an occasional run in the woods keeps them in health; and cleanliness, regular and judicious feeding, and good ventilation of their quarters are always accorded them. And if you are asked by your friends you may say this is the way HENRY BELDON keeps his birds at "Coitstock." THOS. W. WHITE.

Alden House, Kensington, London, 1876.

BERGEN CO. POULTRY SHOW.

THE Bergen Co., N. J., Poultry Association held their first exhibition at Hackensack, N. J., Nov. 29-30. The exhibition was, on every respect, a great success, the number and quality of birds exhibited being a surprise, even to the most sanguine poultry fancier in the country. The exhibition was also well attended, and the receipts in cash were sufficient to leave a balance in the treasury after paying very liberal prizes.

We congratulate our Jersey neighbors in their great success, and hope they will yet have a chance of meeting birds from other localities, at no distant day, which shall test the merits of the winners of prizes at the late show.

PREMIUMS AWARDED AT THE FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE BERGEN CO. POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

LIGHT BRAHMAS.—Fowls—First and second prizes, John J. Berry, Hackensack, N. J. Chicks—First and second prizes, John Banta, Hackensack, N. J.

DARK BRAHMAS.—Fowls—First prize, Isaac R. Denman, Newark, N. J.; Second prize, John Voorhis, Maywood, N. J. Chicks—First prize, John Voorhis; Second prize, Isaac R. Denman.

PARTRIDGE COCHINS.—Chicks—First prize, W. F. Muchmore, Basking Ridge; Second prize, Ed. Vreeland, Rutherford, N. J.

WHITE COCHINS.—Fowls and chicks—John J. Berry.

SILVER GRAY DORKINGS.—Fowls—First prize, Henry Hales, Ridgewood. Chicks—First and second prizes, Henry Hales.

COLORED DORKINGS.—First prize, Henry Hales.

WHITE DORKINGS.—First prize, Henry Stewart, Hackensack.

PLYMOUTH ROCKS.—Fowls—First and second prizes, John J. Berry. Chicks—First prize, John Salisbury, Jr., Nyack, N. Y.; Second prize, John J. Berry.

SILVER-SPANGLED HAMBURGS.—Chicks—Second prize, D Benedict, Rossville.

SILVER-PENCILED HAMBURGS.—Fowls—First prize, Thos. W. White, Ridgewood, N. J. Chicks—First and second prizes, do.

BLACK HAMBURGS.—Fowls—First prize, Thos. W. White. Chicks—First and second prizes, J. C. & D. Pennington, Paterson.

WHITE LEGHORNS.—Fowls—First prize, John J. Berry; Second prize, John Salisbury, Jr. Chicks—First prize, do.; Second prize, Farr and Cobb, Rutherford, N. J.

BROWN LEGHORNS.—Fowls—First prize, Peter Van Buskirk, New Milford, N. J. Chicks—First prize, Chas. R. Braine, Westwood, N. J.; second prize, A. H. Walton, Jr., Ridgewood, N. J.

HOUDANS.—Fowls and Chicks—First and second prizes, H. A. Grant, Jr., Tarrytown, N. Y.

SILVER POLISH.—Fowls—First prize, Edward Vreeland, Rutherford, N. J.

WHITE POLISH.—Fowls—First and second prizes, Farr & Cobb. Chicks—Second prize, Farr & Cobb.

WHITE-CRESTED BLACK POLISH.—Fowls—First prize, John J. Berry.

BRACE-BREASTED RED GAMES.—Fowls—First prize, Walter V. Clark, Hackensack, N. J.; second prize, Edward Vreeland. Chicks—First and second prizes, Walter V. Clark.

YELLOW DUCK-WING GAMES.—Chicks—First prize, Richard Kirby, 12 Cortlandt St., N. Y.

BANTAMS.—Black-breasted Red Game.—Fowls—First prize, Henry Hales; second prize, A. H. Walton, Jr. Chicks—First prize, John W. Ryerson, Ridgewood, N. J.; second prize, Henry Hales. Silver Duck-wing Game.—Fowls—First prize, J. E. Kipp, Paterson, N. J. Rooted White.—Chicks—First and second prizes, Isaac R. Denman.

TURKEYS.—Male and female—First prize, Peter Van Burkirk; second prize, John E. Kipp.

DUCKS.—Aylesbury—First prize, Henry Hales; second prize, N. R. Bence. Rouen—First prize, G. M. Campbell. Pekin—First prize, H. Hales. Colored Muscovy—First and second prizes, F. Kidder.

PIGEONS.—Four varieties, Pouters, Short-faced Tumblers, Antwerps, and White Fantails—First prize, H. Hales.

SPECIAL PREMIUMS.—No. 1, John Banta, for best pair of Light Brahma chicks; No. 2, John J. Berry, for best pair of White Cochins, plate of fruit; No. 3, Thomas W. White, for best pair of Silver-pencilled Hamburgs, basket of flowers; No. 4, Chas. R. Braine, for best pair Brown Leghorns, one year's subscription Rural New-Yorker; John J. Berry, best pair of White Leghorns, same prize; H. A. Grant, Jr., best pair of Houdans, same prize; J. J. Berry, heaviest pair of Light Brahmas, same prize; Peter Van Buskirk, heaviest pair of turkeys, same prize; No. 5, J. J. Berry, for best collection of fowls and chicks, six bottles of Keeley wine; Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9, J. J. Berry, best collection of Light Brahmas, P. Cochins, White Cochins and Plymouth Rocks, $5 in each case; No. 10, H. Hales, best collection of Dorkings, $5; No. 11, Peter Van Buskirk, best collection of B. Leghorns, $5; Nos. 12 and 13, J. J. Berry, best pair of W. Leghorns and best pair of W. C. B. Polands, $5 in each case; No. 14, H. A. Grant, best pair of Houdans, $5; No. 15, W. V. Clark, best pair of Games, $5; No. 16, John Banta, best pair of Light Brahmas, $5; No. 17, B. F. Robinson, farmer, best L. Brahma Cockerel, 1 trio L. Brahma Pullets; No. 18, P. Van Buskirk, farmer, best pair of W. Leghorns, two W. Leghorn Cockerels.

PROFIT OF HENS IN LARGE NUMBERS.

WE often read articles, like the one in the RURAL of Nov. 11th, proving that poultry can be profitably kept in large numbers, if the proper course is pursued. Writers very carefully give us the "*Modus operandi*," so that the whole subject looks perfectly clear.

Now while my purpose is not to deny these statements, yet how strange it is that we never meet with any one who is, or has been, successful; at least in this country. A few years ago we were referred to Mr. LELAND, for positive proof that hens in large numbers could be made profitable.

I remember that the "Farmers' Club" in N. Y., sent a committee to interview Mr. LELAND and get at his secret. Their report was quite interesting, as I remember it. In the first part of that report, Mr. LELAND thought his hens cost him about 50 cents each per year for keeping, and farther on, when asked as to the value of the manure made answer that "he considered they turned out manure to the value of one dollar each." On reading this I immediately wrote him wishing to buy hens that could turn out one dollar's worth of manure from fifty cents' worth of feed, but received no answer, so I presume he had none to sell. Some one noticing this statement explained it by supposing that he fed his hens largely from the waste from his hotel, which was of no great value. But this waste was certainly as valuable for manure before being fed to the hens as after; so this explanation was just no explanation at all.

This was worse than to expect our hens to turn out eggs in just proportion to their feed? Who hears of "LELAND" or his hens now?

Occasionally one reads of some person, somewhere, who is having great success but he soon sinks out of sight. Will some one who can prove on paper that a large flock, (or flocks), can be made to pay, prove it by practice?

Syracuse, N. Y. NELSON RITTER.

SAGACITY OF A FOWL.

A GENTLEMAN of Colyton, Devon, tells the following story, as showing the amount of sagacity in the common fowl.

For some time past he has had a tribe of fowls, which, instead of roosting in the house intended for them, have persisted in taking for their abode at night a fine Portugal laurel situated in his grounds. During the last few months a neighbor's hen has been in the habit of joining his fowls, and roosting with them. The neighbor, after various vain attempts to keep the hen on his own premises, at length bethought himself of tying the hen's legs with a short string, in a similar manner to that in which a horse is 'hobbled.' But the bird soon overcame this impediment, and resumed her old haunt.

Shortly after her return in this 'hobbled' condition, the whole household was startled just before dusk one evening by a strange noise outside the house, and on looking to see the cause, they found the cock belonging to the above-mentioned brood of fowls walking up and down in a very excited manner, and giving utterance to a shrill noise, which more resembled a rapid succession of crows than anything else. At length they went out to him, and he fled, still screaming, towards the Portugal laurel, where, on following him, they found the poor 'hobbled' hen suspended by her string from one of the branches, and they cut her down in time to save her life. Did not this show sense in the male bird worthy of a higher name than instinct?

Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY IN ILLINOIS.

MR. GEO. LAWRENCE, JR., of Wisconsin, in his late address before the Illinois Wool-growers' Association, gave a very excellent epitome of the present condition of Sheep Husbandry in the West, from which we condense the following:

Competition is the life of business. We have searched and looked Vermont, New York and Illinois over, examining and comparing sheep, and breeders have purchased the very best they could find, both rams and ewes, paying hundreds of dollars for individual animals and bringing them to Wisconsin. Thus you see the base of our breeding from three States. While much credit is justly due to Vermont, yet we assert, from experience, that the second or third generation from Vermont, grown in Wisconsin, are a superior sheep for general purposes. They have a larger carcass, are heavier boned, quantity and quality of fleece are equal, if not superior. They also withstand more hardship and exposure than Vermont stock. I know whereof I assert, for I have tried Vermont sheep. They were in fine shape. I put them in the same identical care as Wisconsin sheep in the fall, and when spring came the Vermont stock were thin and weak, and in many instances I have lost some; but after we got through one year and raised lambs in fair shape, we could finally make a starting point for a flock; but the second and third generation are, in my mind, a more durable and satisfactory sheep. We claim this especially in our rams, both for our own use and the flockmasters of the West and Southwest.

Another object we have accomplished to a certain degree is advertising our stock and calling in foreign trade. Our annual shearings are growing in magnitude and are attracting considerable attention. We do not claim that the heaviest fleece or heaviest shearing sheep are the best. What we aim for is size, robustness and quality of wool, with a fair length of staple. This we have accomplished quite satisfactorily, but still perfection has not been attained; neither do we expect to reach the goal for some time to come. Still, our rams are bred to continue this type of sheep.

Wisconsin rams are, as a rule, grown by breeders from the thoroughbred stock. Wool growers have not entered into ram raising as in some other States. This is the source of cheap rams, bought and sold in the West for full-blooded by regular traders. Some States have acquired such a reputation that anything coming from their borders is considered all right, and flockmasters continue to patronize them. I would here ask, How long will they continue to pass Illinois and Missouri by and go to Vermont for stock, when they can sell them rams cheaper and better, fully as well-bred, and all the desirable points are gained that Vermont has? The saving in transportation is an item, also, to look to. All these points are in our favor. Now what we must do is to let the flockmasters of the West know that we have these desirable qualifications in our sheep, and are ready to fill any orders of almost any magnitude, and sheep purchased of regular established breeders are really of more value to the wool-grower than buying sheep promiscuously of traders. These men work for all they can make. As a matter of course, they purchase the cheapest rams they can find and sell for the highest price they can get, regardless of breeding or giving satisfaction to purchasers. The object of the breeder is to grow a No. 1 animal, and in all cases try to give satisfaction, for in this his reputation and success are at stake. If the Western flockmasters would come directly to breeders and purchase their stock, methinks they would be well repaid.

Stock is to be the main branch of husbandry, especially in our State. If the millions of people populating the entire land must be clothed by robbing the sheep of its wool, it behooves the wool-grower to see to his laurels. The rearing

and breeding of sheep is one of the most profitable and pleasant branches of husbandry. Sheep are docile, easily handled, requiring but low fences, will live on shorter feed than other stock, will procure a living on pasture early in Spring and late in Fall. If we wish to consider whether we shall raise mutton or wool, we must adapt the kind to the demand and location. For mutton, the improved English varieties are without a superior. If for wool, the Merino and their crosses have no competitor: they are staple and standard stock.

Wool has a vast and more universal consumption than mutton, because it is a prime necessity of life to every man, woman and child outside of the tropical zone.

The Merino endures the vicissitudes and extremes of weather better than other sheep that approximate to it in value; its range extends throughout the temperate zone; on the mountain and in the valley it thrives alike. Now, as we sheep breeders are considered among this vast number of human beings populating this vast country, and by occupation classed as agriculturists, and as this is the Centennial year, it behooves us to use our utmost endeavors to place on record in history a worthy example and name for future generations. Our occupation is as important and useful as any branch of business in our land. We can consider ourselves producers (as well as consumers.)

This Merino Sheep Breeders' register is an important end to be obtained, and we must not half way do the affair, but so frame it that it will be worthy the pages of history, that it will be perused by future generations with interest and instruction. There is no reason why Illinois and Wisconsin should not go hand in hand in this matter. Let those two States be to the West and Southwest what Vermont has been to our States. We have not only breeders qualified and as interested as old Vermont had, but we have got the sheep, and business is stamped on every breeder's brow.

As to the best mode of reaching the flockmasters of those vast plains of the great West, it is in my mind through our organizations, such as you are honored with in Illinois, and I am glad to say that we have made a slight move in that direction in Wisconsin. They will hear of our doings and see our records, and it behooves the breeder to keep the ball running. It matters not how prices may run, high or low, our breeding must receive the most careful attention, that we may keep up with the improvements of the age. So when one hundred years more roll around our record will equal, if not surpass, any record of other occupations.

Improvement in breeding sheep has reached a high standard since 1812. But if this business keeps pace with the times, what can we look for or expect one hundred years from now? What little time we have to use let brain power work to produce the greatest amount of good, clean wool from an individual sheep.

Arboricultural.

THREE WILLOWS.

The name Willow is very apt to call up, at first thought, the weeping, or so-called Babylonian variety. Visions of green banks and islands, fringed with pendant branches reflected in the water, come up naturally with the term; but the members of the family are really quite numerous and diverse in character, utterly unfitted, in many cases, for either street or lawn trees.

In the habit and office of shrubs, however, experience will always prove them valuable, and it is of three well-known, ill-appreciated kinds, thus used, that we wish to speak. The Laurel-leaved Willow (*Salix pentandra*) is a vigorous plant, of erect, spirited nature, healthy, clean and straight. The leaves are broad and large for a willow, as suggested by the familiar name. All soils seem to suit it, and, like its companions, it is readily propagated and grown, and capable, when pruned, of retaining its beauty many years. A very suitable position for its employment is in hedges, difficulties found in a rampant nature being easily overcome by intelligent pruning. Unlike the other two, the system adopted should be that applied to the Privet, *i. e.*, to cut in hard on planting, and, after two years, free from half the young wood made by the past growth. The desired hight attained, every other year the wood of these two seasons must be removed back into the older growth, to renew a symmetrical habit.

The Rosemary Willow (*Salix rosmarinfolia*) is remarkable, both as shrub and tree, for its small, delicate leaves, elegant growth, and perfect curves. In vigor, it does not equal the Laurel-leaved, but is strong enough to require judicious pruning. The method used, contrary to the treatment of the Laurel-leaved, is preferably that of the *Weigela* type, being simply the removal in winter of wood now two years old, accompanied by a light clipping for the sake of symmetry. Thus managed, it is a valuable, interesting variety, notwithstanding the fact that many esteem it worthless, except when grafted high, forgetful that pruning is alike necessary for permanent beauty, to the tall standard and the lower bush.

The Variegated-Leaved Willow (*Salix caprea-tricolor*) is a variety of the well-known Goat Willow, used as a stock for the Weeping Kilmarnock. It is a good grower, healthy and graceful, and its finely-variegated leaves waving in the breeze, lend a pleasing diversity to the hedge or group. All three mentioned varieties should occupy a rear rank, next the fence, fronted by lower-growing families.

Viewed as shrubs or low trees, they have most estimable qualities, and it is only because people do not know, or forget, what the office of the pruning-knife may be in competent hands, that we hear complaints of their coarse and unmanageable nature. SAMUEL PARSONS, JR.

FIG. 3—COLEUS, HER MAJESTY.—(See first page.)

WHIFFS FROM CANADA.—APPLES AND HICKORIES.

THE season in this Province of Quebec has been unusually pleasant and open. Pansies in the garden at the close of November and no severe frost up to that date. A large surface of ground has been plowed, and the ditches that have lain so long overgrown with rank weeds and choked with rubbish have been reopened and cleaned. Farmers say they have done more ditching this season than for a dozen years, and its utility will be seen, let us hope, when the spring comes and the melting snow and warm early rains overflow the land. What a difference one finds in neighbors in this co-operative employment! One man, with pleasant, genial manner, will shoulder his pick and shovel and begin to work with zeal and a knowledge of the business, while another loiters along about the middle of the day or sends his poorest hand in his place.

As I write, a whiff from the north gives a warning of snow near at hand, while the heavy clouds, tinged yet with light, are sure indications of a storm. But we are satisfied to see a change now, since our autumn has been so fair, and in the well-built houses that in Canada are constructed to protect us against the weather we can pile on the logs and defy the wintry winds. Then is our mood the truest to criticise and admire the different varieties of apples that are brought from the cellar and to decide by their keeping qualities what varieties to plant in the spring. In Canada we are greatly in need of a good winter apple of fine flavor, as well as keeping qualities, combined with hardiness. The varieties grown here and in the Western Province, although firm and keeping sound till May, lack the fine, sub-acid juiciness of our autumn fruit.

We have had some trouble in our attempts to raise Hickory trees, and this year we have adopted a primitive method of planting, which, if successful, will have the merit of being easy. One pleasant Saturday morning in November the boys, with papa, started for the woods, carrying a bag of sweet hickory nuts, and while papa made holes with a crowbar in the green sward in front of the woods (keeping the line straight across lots), two of the lads dropped in the nuts, and a third followed with a hammer and beat the earth hard over them to cheat the squirrels. I cannot tell you until spring if they will grow; but as these trees are in demand to send to Europe, it is worth while endeavoring to supply them, especially as they are seldom found on nursery catalogues.

We packed and forwarded to Germany this fall a lot of nearly 200 Hickory trees, but being procured from the Indian woods, their roots were large and required a great deal of room, making the shipping expensive and their success doubtful. If the RURAL knows any safer, surer plan, we shall be happy to learn.

ANNIE L. JACK.

The Vineyard.

THE SOUL OF WINE.

PERHAPS it is rather straining a point to talk of the soul of the juice of a fruit, but the Galaxy talks of the "Soul of wine" in this wise:

It is difficult to describe the soul of the human body, and it is almost as difficult to describe the "boquet," for it is the soul of wine. It is an aromatic flavor which constitutes one of its chief excellencies, and gives the liquid its especial character. There is a certain degree of mystery concerning the soul of wine which so far has not been satisfactorily determined. Most wine makers believe, however, that this aroma with which the wine is impregnated, is born of the skin of the grape, and this belief has given rise to a practice existing since many a day of hanging a bunch of ripe and well conditioned grapes in the cask until fermentation ceases. This rich perfume and flavor differs according to the different kinds of wines, appearing in some like the taste of violets, in others like that of raspberries or strawberries, or combining together something analogous to the three. Of the most perfect in this way of the rich perfect wines of the Gironde, are Lafitte, Chateau Margaux, and Haut Bryon; and of the Cote d'Or, are such as Richebourg, Romanee Conti, Clos Vougeot, and Chambertin. But to describe the "boquet" as resembling the perfume of any flower, and the taste of any fruit, gives only a suggestive idea of what it really is. According to a discovery of Liebig, it comes from the presence of a small portion of the etherial substance which he calls œnanthic ether. It appears to affect the strength of the boquet, although it is of infinitesimal quantity, but the characteristic of the boquet still further depends on a little volatile oil which the wine also contains. This approximate explanation is the best which has yet been given of this peculiar vinous flavor over which epicurian poets have so long rhapsodized. The cunning mixer of adulterated wines may produce something which will deceive the ordinary palate in every other quality belonging to it save that of the "boquet."

The "bee's wing," the "thick crust on the bottle," and "the loss of strength from great age," and all other signs of quality may be imitated more or less successfully, but the mystery which surrounds the chief virtue of wine, will probably forever remain veiled, happily for those who drink it.

VINE STOCKS AND PHYLLOXERA.

A COMMUNICATION made by M. BOUTIN to the Academy of Sciences, Paris, relates to the analyses of several varieties of American Vine stocks, resistant and non-resistant to the Phylloxera. He has found in all American stocks a resinoid principle. It exists also in French stocks, but in quantity a half less than in the resistant American stocks, and a third less than in the non-resistant. He accounts for the resistance by the presence of this principle in a proportion not under 8 per cent. in the entire root, and 14 to 15 per cent. in the bark alone. The puncture made by the insect, while causing nodosities on the root, is cicatrized by exudation of the resinous produce, and this prevents loss of the nutritious juices of the plant. No such cicatrization occurs in the non-resistant stocks, the resinous matter not being abundant enough. Perhaps the malic acid in the roots of American Vines also contributes to their resistance. The extract is from a communication made to th Academy of Sciences, Paris.

The Apiarian.

FACTS AND FANCIES FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

J. E. JOHNSON writes to the Bee-Keepers' Magazine, from Utah, giving some hints in regard to bee-keeping which may be of value to our readers residing in those regions and probably elsewhere.

Much has been said, and so long as our race exists, and bees make honey, much will be said in regard to the management and habits of bees, for "knowledge will increase," and man be learning something constantly and seeking out and inventing new modes and ways, and often the new experiences show new modes better than those before practiced. Some years ago when bees were worth $100 per colony here, I obtained one hive and began my schooling as an apiarian, and to look back now, my course seems to have been very foolish and I often wonder how I could have been so silly. Although from that one colony I have, in eight years, made over four hundred, had I acted wisely I might just as well have made one thousand. My great anxiety to increase my apiary led me to multiply by division so much that my colonies were nearly all weak; consequently they fell victims to moth, robbers, and starvation, and on an average I would annually lose half of the whole number every winter. Time and experience have brought their wisdom, and now I would not think of taking either honey or brood from any but full hives, the result being little or no less.

I am often asked the best preventive to moths, and the answer is simple and short; keep your colonies strong, and plenty of stores. If the colony is numerous and strong, it will effectually resist the encroachments of the moth as well as that of the bee robbers, and if the colony has large supplies there is no danger of starving, freezing or being weak in spring when the flowers come and the apiarian desires a strong force of workers.

The key of success in bee-keeping is in keeping your colonies strong and giving them plenty of forage flowers to work on. In an experience of eight years I have found nothing superior to Mignonette, for bees to work on, either for quantity or quality of honey. I believe that one acre of this plant will employ more than one hundred colonies of bees most amply. The Melilot clover and great American bee plant come next as honey plants, and for late forage the *Lynosyrus Graveleus* is superior to anything here, and grows in abundance in most waste places. A beautiful amber honey and comb is made from this plant, for nearly two months. The *Algeroba glandulosa* or Mezquit is a great bloomer and is heavily worked by the bees for both pollen and honey, but this lasts only about a month, though it frequently blooms twice in the season.

To inexperienced bee-keepers I will here drop a hint that may be of some value, and save the lack of many a queen if the suggestions are heeded. In making a new colony, or to supply a queenless hive, *always* be sure to take with the frame of eggs *plenty of young bees*, never less than a pint, a quart is much safer, unless there is plenty of young bees you will never find a queen made—the old bees never perfect queen cells—the young give them fresh eggs every week in the season. Remember that the young bees are the wax workers, while the old bring supplies.

As winter now approaches look through your hives and see that there are no empty frames near the brood nest, but if there is to be a vacuum let it be on the side or sides.

HONEY PLANT.—Prof. A. J. COOK of Michigan Agricultural College says that the following plants have been tested the present season and found to furnish excellent forage:—Mignonette, borage and black mustard. Sunflowers are unworthy cultivation, while the Rocky Mountain bee plant blooms too late to be valuable where there is plenty of fall bloom native to the region.

Scientific and Useful.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MORALS.

It is generally conceded that there is more of good than evil in the world; that each individual, however vile and wicked he may be, does in a lifetime more commendable than reprehensible deeds.

The causes that impel us to act have been subjects of discussion from the days of PLATO and ARISTOTLE to the present time. Different theories have been promulgated, each having strong supporters, many of whom desired to add thereto ideas of their own, until, instead of the original two, there are perhaps two score, all of which may, as to their general teachings, still be classed as two—the Utilitarians and the Intuitives.

The first hold that all actions are good or moral as they conduce to the happiness of mankind, and that observation and experience are the only guides we have to aid us in deciding what is right or wrong for us to do, and emphatically deny the existence of any moral faculty or sense which enables us to judge between good and evil, or assures us of any rule of duty, or points out any course of conduct. This party is also known as the Selfish, the Epicurean, and the Inductive, and numbers among its later supporters HOBBS, BENTHAM, MILL, and many others.

The other party, known as the Intuitive Moralists, or otherwise the Stoical, the Sentimental, and the Independent, hold that some innate, natural power, implanted in us by the Creator, enables us to know that such qualities as benevolence, honesty and truthfulness are virtues, without reasoning or argument, and without examination of their effects on individuals or on society. These views are supported by such writers as HUTCHESON, CUDWORTH, STEWART, REID, BUTLER, and others.

Mr. LECKY, in his History of European Morals, says, "The business of a moral philosophy is to account for and to justify our moral sentiments, or in other words, to show how we come to have our notions of duty and to supply us with a reason for acting upon them." And again, "A theory of morals must explain, not only what constitutes duty, but also how we obtain the notion of there being such a thing as duty. It must tell us not merely what is the course of conduct we *ought* to pursue, but also what is the meaning of this word 'ought' and from what source we derive the idea it expresses.' Clearly none of the writings of the ablest men on either side of this great question were able to account for our moral sentiment o to explain the meaning of 'ought.' Assertions were plenty, but arguments in the highest degree logical, based on these assertions, failed to convince, because the soundness of the premises was doubted.

HOBBS says, "Obligation is the necessity of doing or omitting any action in order to be happy." Says BENTHAM, "Nature has placed man under the government of two great masters—Pain and Pleasure. It is for them to point out what we ought to do, as well as what we shall do." In MILL'S Utilitarianism we read, "Happiness is the sole end of human action, and the promotion of it is the test by which to judge of all human conduct." LOCKE asserts that "good and evil are nothing but pleasure and pain, or that which occasions and produces pleasure and pain to us."

The Intuitive philosophers, on the other hand, are no less positive in their assertions. They deny that there can be any merit or goodness in a selfish action, no matter what may be the result. CUDWORTH taught that there was some particular faculty of the mind that enabled us to distinguish truth from falsehood, and the different writers of that school, varying as they do as to details, mainly agree with the teachings of PLATO, that there is an innate power, whether derived from the experiences and conclusions of a pre-existing state, or specially bestowed upon man by his Creator, which is competent to distinguish between good and evil.

The believers in Phrenology think they have the true solution of this vexed question. They hold that all things, whether they be physical, organic or spiritual, are governed by laws, and that these laws, which are innate, universal and unbending, are in harmony with the whole constitution of man, in which the moral and intellectual powers hold the supremacy. But they do not decide if innate ideas are conferred directly by the Creator, or if they are only the effects of accumulated experiences, inherited from ancestors.

They teach that the brain is the organ of the mind, and that the different faculties have each a definite location; that concordant faculties are located contiguously and all may be divided into three classes—the Animal, the Intellectual, and the Spiritual, and these last subdivided into the dealistic and the Moral. In the latter group and located in the crown of the head are Benevolence, Veneration, and Conscientiousness; that the office of Conscientiousness is to incite man to the performance of that which he believes to be right, leaving it for the Intellectual faculties, guided by Reason and Experience, to decide what is right.

They hold that all the faculties are inherent, implanted by the Creator, and that the happiness of man consists in their satisfaction, and that the result of the violation of any of the Natural laws is evil.

Thus, it will be seen, this new Philosophy of Morals, while it includes the ideas of both the Utilitarians and the Intuitive schools, agrees entirely with neither, but furnishes a platform on which all may stand in harmony. It tells us the "course of conduct we *ought* to pursue" is that which is approved of by the whole moral and intellectual faculties, fully enlightened and acting in harmonious combination; that the meaning of the word ought is duty, and that we derive the idea it expresses from the natural laws of our constitution. And it teaches us that the highest duty of man is to do that which will in the greatest degree insure his own happiness, and that this can be done only by using all the faculties of his mind and all the powers of his body in promoting the physical and spiritual welfare of those about him. These principles are more fully set forth in the books noticed in connection herewith, which are commended to the attention of all interested in the subject.

THE NATURAL LAWS OF MAN. A Philosophical Catechism. By J. G. SPURZHEIM, M. D. 16mo, pp. 171. Paper, 50c. New York: S. R. Wells & Co.

THE CONSTITUTION OF MAN, considered in relation to External Objects. By GEORGE COMBE. 12mo, pp. 436. Cloth, $1.50. New York: S. R. Wells & Co.

MORAL PHILOSOPHY, or the Duties of Man considered in his Individual, Domestic and Social Capacities. By GEORGE COMBE. 12mo, pp. 334. Cloth, $1.50. New York: S. R. Wells & Co.

The Naturalist.

PROTECTION AGAINST SPORTSMEN.

A CORRESPONDENT of Our Dumb Animals in comparing the laws of California with those of Massachusetts in regard to the protection of game, says:

While there are general laws in California, protecting the birds and other game during certain seasons of the year, at San Francisco the local legislature extends its protection, through all the year, over the birds within its own jurisdiction, in which Oakland, across the Bay, joins; and during a recent visit it was a constant pleasure to me, while passing between the two places, to observe the water-fowl, as we rode over the wharf, more than a mile long, from Oakland to the ferry, which swam directly beneath the car windows, in great multitudes with perfect freedom from fear. They literally swarmed in the shallow water, and as the cars thundered along, the little creatures would cast o r eyes up in roguish defiance, as if they understood all about the law, and were tempting the passer to its violation. There were enough ducks there to drive a Boston sportsman crazy, but never a gun disturbed their peaceful enjoyment. Beautiful gulls, too, enjoyed this immunity, and they would settle upon the posts of the ferry slip, almost within the reach of hand, never doubting that man was their best friend.

Such confidence to me was delightful, and I could not help contrasting this state with our own destructive custom of shooting such little creatures wherever we meet with them. As I write, there is a boy in the street with a bit of rock in his hand, his eye intent on a beautiful pigeon whose harm he intends. It illustrates exactly this cruel disposition to destroy. The possessors of private grounds in California, also take pains to protect the birds against sportsmen and I frequently saw, over the gates to such grounds, "No Shooting Allowed!" And the birds seemed to appreciate it, crowding the precinct with their numbers and making the air merry with their songs. On a visit to one of these places one little California lark preceded us, step by step, for a mile, perching himself upon a fence, a little ahead, and singing the most joyful song, of welcome, as it seemed, that I had ever heard. It was a gush of most ecstatic melody that he poured, without a note of fear in it, and he appeared as if eager to speak for his race, out of his own happy heart, and ask our attention to their blissful privilege.

There is another class of dumb animals over which the laws of California extend protection: the sea-lions which tenant the rocks in the vicinity of the Golden Gate. These huge monsters live in perfect freedom within easy rifle range of the shore, and no one dare molest them. There are hundreds of them upon the rocks all the time, and they play or sleep, in perfect security without a fear of molestation, in full view of the multitudes who flock to see them. There was an attempt made last winter to repeal the law protecting them—on the good ground, too, that they were great consumers of fish which was needed for the people—but the attempt was futile, and, being ante-pioneers, they are sustained a while longer in their original possession.

Visiting the Seal Rocks with me, for the first time, was a Bostonian, who, on seeing the monsters, as they lay there at easy distance, cried, with the true instinct of the sportsman: "If I only had a gun!"

SCENT IN DOGS.

A WRITER in Chambers Journal tells a very interesting story of how a dog in India found his way home through the aid of keen scent:

Many years ago, when in India, I had a hound of a kind of cross-breed, which in India is known as the Polygad. These dogs are unsuited for coursing, but make splendid companions for long and rapid journeys on horseback, being able to go great distances without fatigue, and caring little for heat. Phakree, (beautiful), for such was her name, had been my companion for years, and during the time was seldom out of my sight. When she had become old and unable to keep pace with me in my gallops, I parted with her to a friend whom she seemed to take a great fancy to, and who then resided on the Mahableshwur Hills. My own station, Poonah, lay about eighty miles east of Mahableshwur, and is separated from the hills by three ranges of lofty mountains, which in those days were covered with dense jungle. On the day of my departure I cautioned my friend to keep Phakree securely chained for some days, so that she might not follow me. On this occasion—for I had been the journey once or twice before—I left the main road and selected an unfrequented bridle-path for my route, in order that I might enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery through which it led.

I had reached Poonah, and had been there for several days, living in my tent, when one night I was roused by the howling of a dog under my bedstead. I struck a light, when, to my astonishment, there was poor Phakree, with a collar round her neck, and a few links of chain hanging to it. A letter I received next morning from my friend gave me to know that she had broken loose and run away, and that, although he had made every search for her, she was nowhere to be found. He regretted that we should never see her again. She had been four days on her journey; and her famished condition, and the numerous wounds she had on her, showed the privation she had undergone, and the treatment she had received from the dogs of the different villages through which she had passed. The poor creature had no doubt scented me the whole way, for had she followed or accompanied any one, she would have been cared for and protected. We never parted again.

The Garden.

FALL PLANTING OF HARDY VEGETABLES.

SPRING is the season in which most persons make their vegetable gardens, planting both tender and hardy kinds at the same time. While, as a general rule this season is the preferable one for sowing seeds, still there are many kinds of hardy perennial vegetable roots which may be set out in the fall, thereby saving valuable time in the usually more hurried period named. There is also another good reason for fall planting of the hardy vegetable roots, and it is that owing to their usual early growth in spring they are more liable to injury from transplanting at this season than when in a perfectly dormant condition as they always are in the fall. Among the many kinds of plants which may safely be set out at this season, we name the following with some hints as to the method of propagation and culture:

ASPARAGUS.

The roots of this plant are generally set very deep in order to allow of cutting the stalks several inches below the surface, to accommodate a very foolish notion that the white uncolored stems are better than the green, when in fact they are unhealthy and scarcely edible. For home use, or a market where common sense prevails over ignorance and prejudice, the roots need not be set deeper than four to six inches and at this depth the annual top-dressings of manure applied to the surface, will reach them sooner and the sprout appear earlier in the spring. Besides this, it is not necessary to enrich the soil to so great a depth if the roots are set shallow, as when placed a foot below the surface.

Another mistake frequently made in planting out asparagus roots is in placing them too near together. Two by three is near enough even for garden beds, and in the field the rows should be four feet apart and the plants two in the rows. Roots one or two years old are generally considered better than older, although those who are in haste to have asparagus to eat, get the largest and oldest roots to be obtained.

RHUBARB.

Fall is the best time to divide large stools or clumps of roots as the leaves start very early in spring. In dividing the stools for planting only a single crown should be set in a hill. The crowns of the roots should be covered some three or four inches in heavy soils and a little deeper in light. Like asparagus there is little danger of making the soil for rhubarb too rich, because the more rapidly the plants grow the more succulent and tender the stems. There are many varieties in cultivation, but the Linnæus is now the most popular among our market gardeners, but the Colossal and Victoria are probably equally as good, and the difference is mainly in the color of the stalks and leaves. Cahoon's Mammoth is the largest variety known, but it is rather coarse and not quite equal to the former in flavor.

PIGEON BERRY.

The Pigeon Berry, (*Phytolacca decandra*), also called Poke and Garget root, is not often planted in the vegetable gardens of this country, still it is a valuable esculent, and deserves to be more extensively cultivated. It will thrive in almost any soil and situation and may be readily propagated by dividing the old roots or from seed. The young shoots are used as a substitute for, or in the same manner as asparagus which they resemble in taste. The sprouts may also be cooked in the same manner as sea-kale, or as spinach for greens. There is also an annual variety, the *Phytolacca*, known as *P. esculenta*, but the former is the preferable species on account of being a perennial.

HORSE RADISH.

This is another well-known vegetable used as a condiment with meats the roots of which are perfectly hardy and may be planted in the fall. It is a valuable plant but quite generally neglected in farmers' gardens being usually found in some corner over-run with weeds. If planted in good soil and carefully cultivated the roots grow quickly and large and are much less likely to be stringy and tough than when grown slowly and in poor land.

Horticultural.

WILSON'S EARLY BLACKBERRY.

THE impression is very general that the Lawton Blackberry exceeds all others in size. But this mistake is readily accounted for by the fact that the Lawton was the first of these large berries introduced, and its appearance created so much notice that the name was firmly fixed in the minds of the public. It has gained such a firm hold that in many places all large blackberries are called or classed as Lawtons, and yet in the New York markets probably not one-third of the mammoth blackberries exposed for sale are of the Lawton variety.

The berry mentioned at the head of this article cannot be called a new berry, and yet to many the name is probably almost unknown. It deserves, however, far greater notoriety than it has yet attained, as it has merits that may well entitle it to be placed in almost every garden. It is called *early*, not so much on account of its being a *very early* variety, as from the fact that it ripens its entire crop very early in the season, within a space of two or three weeks, while the Kittatinny and Lawton extend over nearly twice that time. This ripening of the entire crop early in the season makes it of especial value to those who are growing fruit for market and who wish to obtain the highest prices. They are very largely planted out for this purpose in some sections of the country, and prove one of the most profitable crops.

In habit of growth the Wilson's Early is very similar to the other kinds mentioned, though frequently the canes are more slender, allowing them to be bent down to the ground and kept in place by pegs or stones, if severe winters are feared. The berries are fully ripe as soon as they become black, are sweet, juicy, and in every respect first-class for eating. Some berries have been grown of enormous size—one, the past summer, measuring very nearly, if not fully, two inches in length. It only requires about a dozen of these superb berries to make a tempting dish that but few will be found to resist.

Plantations are made in the fall or early in the spring, placing the plants three feet apart and in rows seven or eight feet distant from each other, or in hills five or six feet apart each way.

Malden-on-the-Hudson, N. Y. R. H. HAINES.

[The Wilson Blackberry is all that is claimed for it by our correspondent, but the plants are not hardy north of the latitude of this city, and frequently they are winter-killed even considerably further south.—ED. R. N. Y.]

Domestic Economy.

THE KITCHEN.

The following excellent advice about Kitchen and how to keep them clean, appeared not long since in Scribner's Monthly:

The first consideration in a cooking room is cleanliness. Tried by this test papered walls are an abomination in such a place. You can not darken this room through parts of the day in summer, as you do others, and consequently fly specks will be numerous. These walls absorb the kitchen odors and steam, and the smoke rests lovingly upon them. If creeping things get into the house, they are sure to insinuate themselves into the paper on the walls. Hard-finished walls are more cleanly, for they can be washed: but unless they are finished better than in the kitchens we have seen, they soon look dirty, and this is the next worst thing to being so; for such finishing soon becomes discolored and "splotchy." There is nothing that will compare with the old-fashioned whitewash, pure and simple. The color wash may give the walls a prettier tint, but it must be put on by a practiced hand, whereas whitewash may be applied by any one, whenever a dirty spot makes its appearance.

It is true unpracticed hands do not apply the brush as evenly as could be wished, but a few streaks more or less don't matter; we can all see streaks are white and clean. Don't have the wood-work painted: don't have anything painted. Things in a kitchen will get soiled. It follows they must be cleaned. Soap is a foe before which paint invariably quits the field. Very soon the color will be off in spots, and nothing less than repainting the whole room will ever make it look clean again. It is still more objectionable to leave the wood in its native state. It requires frequent scrubbing to keep this clean, and even this process will not suffice to keep all sorts of wood in good condition. Some woods actually blacken under the scrubbing brush. But if the native wood, even common kind, is well oiled and varnished lightly, the room will be prettier for it, and with very little washing the wood-work can be kept sweet and clean.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Roast Goose, German Mode.—Rub the goose over night with salt, pepper, sage, thyme and sweet marjoram, inside and out; in the morning prepare the dressing as follows:—A large handful of stoned raisins and Zante currants to bread-crumbs, a couple of sour apples chopped fine, and one mealy potato, with butter mixed in, and all well rolled together; but put no spice in the dressing. For the gravy, boil the giblets in a little water and mash the liver in a spoonful of flour, chop the gizzard, stir these in the liquid they were boiled in, add it to the gravy in the dripping-pan, sprinkle in a little thyme, sage, and sweet marjoram, and it is done. Serve the gravy separately. When the goose is cooked and served, garnish it with sliced lemons, and a few sprigs of green parsley.

Roast Goose.—Make a dressing of two ounces of onions, an ounce of green sage chopped fine, a coffee cup of bread crumbs, a little pepper, salt, and the yelks of two eggs; do not quite fill the goose, but leave room to swell. Roast two hours and serve with gravy, and apple sauce.

Boiled Goose.—Dress and singe it, put it into a deep dish, cover it with boiling milk and leave it over night. In the morning wash off the milk, and put the goose into cold water on the fire; when boiling hot take it off, wash it in warm water, and dry with a cloth. This process takes out the oil. Fill the body with a dressing of bread crumbs seasoned with pepper, salt, butter, and two chopped onions if relished, and a little sage. Put the goose into cold water and boil gently until tender. Serve with giblet sauce, and with pickles, or acid jellies.

Roast Pig.—With a small sharp knife, take out the eyes and tongue, cut off the feet, trim the ears, and clean it both inside and outside thoroughly. Then wash well through several waters, and dry it with a clean towel. Rub it inside and out with salt and pepper. Make a stuffing, with six powdered soda crackers, one tablespoonful of sage two of summer savory, one chopped onion, half a pint of rich milk, (cream is better) two eggs, with pepper and salt. Mix these together and stew about fifteen minutes. Fill the pig with the stuffing and skewer closely. Put the pig to roast, with a pint of water, and a little salt. Let it roast gradually; and in order to make it brown nicely, rub butter over the pig. Baste frequently with the drippings while roasting. Boil the liver and heart, chop fine, and add them to the water in the dripping-pan to form the gravy.

Roast Pork.—For roast pork make a stuffing as for roast pig. Take the leg of pork, of seven or eight pounds in weight, and raise the skin off the knuckle, and put in the stuffing, then make deep cuts in the thick part of the leg, and fill them. It must be floured over, and a pint of water put in the pan. While roasting, baste it often with the drippings. Cook about three hours and a-half. Skim some of the fat from the gravy, add a little flour, and let it boil up. Serve in a sauce-tureen.

Spare Rib of Pork.—Wash and dry your spare rib, and season it with salt, pepper and powdered sage. Put it in a pan and set it in a moderate oven. Baste it well while roasting. Serve it with egg sauce, or white sauce.

TWO SCOTCH RECIPES.

The following are from a correspondent of the London Agricultural Gazette:

Sago Cream Soup.—An old fowl that is only fit for the stock-pot makes delightful stock for this soup, and it may either be boiled till every particle of goodness is extracted, or if a less strong stock is wanted, it may only be boiled till tender, and the meat afterwards used up in some of the made dishes where a white meat is required. Add to the stock while boiling, some whole white pepper and a blade of mace. Strain and skim the stock: this last operation is best done with what is called kitchen paper, a most useful article, and of which a supply should be at the command of every cook. Lay the paper on the top of the stock and draw it off; the fat on the top will adhere to it, and the process should be repeated till the paper comes off free from grease. For every 2 quarts of stock take 3 ounces of sago or of tapioca, wash it in hot water, and boil it in the stock for one hour. Break the yelks of two eggs in a basin, and add to them half a pint of cream or milk; pour into it gradually a little of the hot soup, then turn it all into the remainder of the soup and heat it up, taking care it does not boil. The stock for this soup may be made of rabbit, or of veal, or of a mixture of all three.

Beef Steak Pudding.—Cut up 1½ pounds of beef into neat steaks. Dip the chopper in cold water and beat them a little to flatten them and make the meat more tender; roll them up with a little pepper and salt inside. Line a pudding basin with a suet crust made in the proportion of 6 ounces of suet to ¾ pound of flour. Take care to put the crust quite down to the bottom of the basin, or the pudding will break. Cut the crust off even with the top of the basin, lay in the meat; if liked, add some chopped onion, half fill the pudding with cold water, cover over the top with a lid of paste reserved for the purpose, having previously wetted, or better still egged the edges of each. Tie up in a pudding cloth wrung out of boiling water and sprinkle with flour. Boil for at least three hours. A couple of sheep kidneys sliced and added to the pudding, very much improves the flavor of the gravy, and, if liked, three-quarters of a teaspoonful of baking powder may be added to the crust; but it should be borne in mind that whenever baking powder is used, the utmost expedition in finishing up is necessary, as fermentation commences from the moment the water is added.

Hygienic Information.

DIETETIC BUNCOMBE.

That people love to be humbugged is an established fact, and that nine persons out of ten place implicit confidence in nearly everything they see in print, we have every reason to believe. Now, in an age characterized by so much shepticism, it is certainly refreshing to note this whole-souled fact; but, on the other hand, it is to be regretted that such a commendable trait, which the average American clings to so tenaciously, should be born of sheer ignorance.

Probably in no other way are these virtues so detrimental to the general welfare of a confiding community as in the simple matter of diet. Take, for instance, the enthusiastic hygienic reformer. He leads an army of countless thousands,—all dyspeptics—who look to him for aid and succor, a deliverance from the slough of horrors into which they have descended. His views are necessarily very radical, and his theories erudite and profound. From his massive brain scintillate ideas which are only conceived in the minds of great men, and the mighty engines of the press are kept busy deluging the world with a mass of hygienic advice in a form easily swallowed.

By way of illustration, let us take the latest effort: The breakfast must be very light—a small quantity of oat-meal, with occasionally a cup of weak coffee. For dinner, potatoes, *a la* Lewis, and a slice or two of toast. If the patient is weak, and a stimulant is desired, the savory odors of a dish of beefsteak and onions may be wafted to his olfactories, provided it is placed at regulation distance. We have taken a little liberty with the phraseology, not, however, in hopes of rendering the text more nonsensical or absurd.

Now this is all mere bosh, and yet there are countless numbers of people who cheerfully and resignedly take this slow but efficacious method of shuffling off this mortal coil, simply because Mr. So-and-So recommends it. Likely as not while those worthies are tormenting both flesh and spirit with this health-insuring regimen, the author is laughing in his sleeve over a sumptuous repast in which solids and various other indigestibles form not an inconsiderable element. It is very strange to me that persons, who actually ought to know better, will persist in experimenting with every new-fangled notion. Common sense everywhere but in the right place!

Now, without being understood as undervaluing the benefit derived from a habitual use of oatmeal (which, in its way, is a most excellent article) for a systematic course of diet, we do most decidedly object to see well-meaning people gulled by a parcel of specialty hobbyists, who gain a rather precarious reputation at their expense.

Dyspepsia, unlike a simple attack of indigestion, *will not be patched up*, and as to those who have about as much idea of the stomach, its uses and abuses, as a countryman has of the arrangement and appointment of an ocean steamer, the sooner they begin to appreciate this fact the better. The process of bolting and gormandizing will decrease in proportion as they become possessed of sound, practical knowledge regarding the subject.

To a certain class who hold that ignorance is bliss, it will still remain a mystery why they should suffer and be tormented. Ignorance, in this case, simply means bliss to the extent of being happy over the fact that there are yet a myriad unwritten experiments to be tried, and advice, as yet unprinted, by the bushel. But ignorance of the law excuses no one. It is our duty to acquaint ourselves with such matters as concern the preservation of health. Especially so is this the case with the young, who should be thoroughly instructed in all that pertains to the ordinary matters of hygiene. They should, at least, be made aware of the fact that the stomach does not occupy the entire human anatomy, and, in after years, they will be spared the often mortifying and ludicrous sight of an attempt to locate a distress in that organ. Observe for yourself.

Bear in mind that just so long as you delegate such simple matters to the learned "M. D.," you must be content to remain in almost criminal ignorance of the fundamental laws regulating human economy, and just so long will you be at the mercy of charlatans and quacks and become a receptacle for all sorts of fancies and notions.

We repeat, people suffer as much through ignorance as from any other cause. You may eat much or little, but there are extremes as well, as you will readily find out by bitter experience. Make the subject a study, and learn for yourself the why and wherefore of your ailments. There is, at least, a degree of satisfaction in the knowledge that the horrors of dyspepsia are not half severe enough punishment for a willful and knowing disregard of one's better judgment. If, on the other hand, you are content to remain as you are, tossed about, like a shuttle-cock, on the troubled sea of doubt and uncertainty, why, that is your business, not ours. You may be as quick to accept the advice you see in print as a drowning man to grasp at a straw; and yet, if coming from any other source, it would be liable to scare you. Child-like faith is a very good thing in its way, but it should be beautified with sound common sense to avoid being misplaced. There is no harm in argument of belief and trust, but let it never be said of us that we were found without a consistent and intelligent reason for the faith that is in us.

F. J. W.

REPLY TO M. D.

No, friend M. D., I never hinted nor ever believed that, as a rule, the food that is the most easily digested, or that digested in the least time, was the most healthful. If you will refer to my article in the Rural of the 4th inst., you will see that I not only do *not* advocate the idea which you seem to impute to me, but that I emphatically disclaim it. It has long been taught, and I think generally believed, that all the muscles are strengthened and enlarged by use. Those who have paid little or no attention to physiology, are perhaps not aware that the stomach, or a part of it, is a bundle of muscles. Jarvis, the publisher of a work on Physiology, says of it: "It is composed of three coats, or layers, the middle is the muscular coat. It has two layers of fleshy fibers, or strings, which run crosswise of each other at right angles." There is, of course, an amount of muscular exercise which weakens and another amount which strengthens, and though we often see it recommended to avoid fatigue, I have always believed that any amount of fatigue from which the muscles recover their full tone and power on a good night's rest is not hurtful but healthful.

Most medical men, as well as many laymen of families, are aware of the great prevalence of abdominal weakness, more especially in females, often causing displacement of internal organs. This complaint occurring mainly with the wealthy and refined, has led me to believe that its main cause is too much sitting and lying, when the abdominal muscles are almost entirely relaxed.

By taking notice, one will see that, on rising from a seat, these muscles are brought at once into play, and so kept in full play while standing, and more especially while walking. Injuries to the muscles are often caused by over-exertion, especially when accidental; but I verily believe that, in the main, more injury is done to them by the lack of use. S. B. Peck.

Muskegon, Mich.

Industrial Topics.

NORTH CAROLINA NOTES.

We read a great deal in the newspapers of the day, and hear much said by Northern people about the shiftless manner in which the Southern people conduct their agricultural operations, which is more or less true, although poverty is a partial excuse for some of said thriftless ways. Still, I find there is something of advantage to be perhaps learned from a description of a few "make shifts" that may be a benefit to some other poor people.

The manner of making cider is to place the apples in a trough and mash them with wooden pestles of size proportioned to the strength of the operator. The platform and rack are made in the usual way, at the root of a tree which has a mortice through the body, in which one end of a stick of timber is inserted, which bears across the press, the other being loaded with stone. Tobacco is also pressed in hogsheads in the same manner. This, of course, is a very rude affair, yet where more efficient machinery is beyond one's means, this answers a good purpose. Two good hands will work out one hundred, or even more, gallons per day.

A cheap and good farm gate is made as follows: For the uprights, take poles four inches in diameter, cut one four feet long and one as long as the hight of your post is above ground; then, with a one-half inch auger, bore holes at such distance apart as seems necessary, making the holes in one to correspond with those in the other; then cut smaller poles of such length as will reach from one post to the other, sharpen to fit the holes in uprights; put in the poles, drive together snug, wedge the poles solid and the gate is complete. If the top pole is made longer and the back end inserted near the top of the upright, sagging will be partially prevented. Plant a large block at the foot of the post to which the gate is to be hung, with a hole bored one or two inches deep, in which set the foot of the upright, which should be sharpened for that purpose before the gate is put together. For an upper hinge, take a short piece of plank, or, if that is not convenient, hew down a small pole to two inches in thickness, bore a hole near one end, in which insert the sharpened upper end of upright. The hinge may be secured to the post by boring a hole and securing the hinge by a key on the back side, or if the top of the post is square, it may be fastened by a couple of wooden pins, driven through into holes bored in the top of the post.

Corn is shelled quite rapidly by means of a pine stick about three feet long, four inches wide and two inches thick, six or eight inches of one side, about the center, being studded with stubs of nails, driven at distances of about one-half inch and protruding one-quarter inch. Place one end in a basket or box, the other against the breast, grasp the ear with both hands, rasping it up and down, at the same time giving it a rolling motion.

A good substitute for a basket can be made by any one in twenty minutes, as follows: Two pieces of board, one inch thick, nine inches wide and twelve inches long; cut a few laths, or other thin narrow stuff, twenty inches long, nail the ends to one side and the two end edges of the boards at such distance apart as will prevent the leakage of such produce as you wish to handle. For handles by which to carry, nail two strips, one-half inch thick, up and down each end, two inches from the center, across those, four inches from the top; nail another piece with one clinch-nail in each, long enough to clinch on the inside; this last piece may be chamfered out on the inside to make room for the fingers. For many purposes this is preferable to the common bushel basket. If desired, it may be of such dimensions as to be an accurate measure.

M. B. Prince.

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THE
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HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

As the year draws near its close a goodly proportion of the forty millions of inhabitants of the United States are cudgeling their brains about Holiday Presents. They who have plenty of money and are consequently able to give whatever and to whomsoever they please, find it difficult to decide not only who shall be the recipients of their gifts, but what the gifts shall be; and on the other hand, many—and, we are sorry to say, most—are trying to solve the difficult problem, how, with their stinted means, to procure even trifling tokens for such kindred and friends as they would be glad to remember.

The custom of holiday gift-making has become much more common of late than it used to be. The old New Englander, true to the teachings of his Puritan ancestors, took no note of Christmas except to denounce its observance, and the descendants of these New Englanders who were among the earliest settlers of all the new States, following the old custom, took with them more or less of this feeling and engrafted it on their new homes. But an increase of liberality in religious ideas and a more enlightened view of Christianity have, to a great extent, overcome this, and there are now but few who do not welcome with gladness the annual return of the day we celebrate in recognition of the birth of the founder of the Christian religion and the head of the Christian church, and aid, so far as they can, in making a merry Christmas for all around them.

For the growing custom of gift-making at Christmas time, we are largely indebted to our German friends; for while our English ancestors were not wanting in their recognition of the day, never failing to decorate their homes with the holly and the mistletoe, their festivities consisted more generally in family gatherings, in eating and drinking, and the more boisterous sports for the men during the day and dancing for all at night. With the Germans it is different. The observances took a more quiet form, and the Christmas tree, with its gift-laden branches, was found in every house, and the exchanging of presents between friends almost universal.

What to give. It depends much on the circumstances of the recipients and their relations to the owner. A well-filled purse would by one be received with thanks and pleasure, while by another it would, and properly, be considered an insult. To some we would give articles of practical value, while for others we should select gifts more for their beauty and elegance than their cost or usefulness. For one class we would select what we think they need but cannot afford to purchase; for another that we know is as well able purchase as we are, something of less intrinsic value would doubtless be received with quite as much pleasure.

In selecting presents for children, it is well to consider their peculiar tastes and dispositions and, moreover, to remember that they *are* children. A dime properly expended will make a child happy as a king, when a dollar used to purchase something in which it has no interest, is wasted; and the same consideration may very properly be had in choosing for children of a larger growth. One young lady would prize a book or picture, while the next would prefer feathers and ribbons; and a young gentleman would choose—what? Now, miss, don't you wish we would tell you? Haven't you said an hundred times, it is so difficult to think of anything to present to a gentleman? It is so long since we were a young gentleman, we have almost forgotten. But we would not give him slippers, for if you do they probably will not fit; nor a pipe nor a cigar-case, as they might encourage him in forming a habit you may be sorry for one of these days. We are confident he would prefer something you have made with your own fingers and into which you have wrought your own thoughts. But it will make little difference what it is, so that he sees in your eyes that it pleases you to give it, and can be happy in believing that after a while you will give him—yourself.

Above all things, keep from your holiday givings everything that would make them appear like donations or alms-giving. Better not to give at all, than that the gifts should carry with them a feeling of obligation. Give because you want to, not because you must; give with kindness and love. Give because you feel in your soul of souls that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Then you will have what you deserve—a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

WHO DARES SAY SHE WAS WRONG?

It seems to be nature's law indelibly stamped upon humanity, that it should worship something. In some instances it is the sun, in others it is the wooden idol, and in still others it is a spiritual existence. The motive of all kinds of worship is the same and neither the degrees nor the object of the devotion can alter that motive or its purity. A man may make a mistake in the object, but if the motive is there, who dares say he is wrong?

The truth of the above would have been brought more forcibly to the mind of the reader by witnessing a scene which occurred in this city during the past week. In order to advertise the changes of programme and to keep their attractions before the public, the theatrical managers of this city have established large bulletin boards in many prominent places, upon which they are accustomed to paste their play-bills. To render these still more attractive, they have acquired the habit of using for them large pictures, including portraits of star actors and actresses. Among others, at the time spoken of, was the portrait of a celebrated actress which, though unsuggested, would hardly be susceptible of being mistaken for the Virgin MARY yet, at the suggestion of the idea, such an error was just possible. Before this portrait knelt in abject devotion, making the sign of the cross, an old, decrepit woman, whose weary life had almost spent itself. Ignorance and superstition were depicted on every lineament of her face and her attitude was that of abject worship. Mistaking the theatrical portrait for that of the Virgin MARY, she had bowed herself before it and was performing the manual exercises which she had been taught in her youth were the means of grace and the salvation of her immortal soul. Unmindful of the curious and scrutinizing gaze of the passers-by, she was worshipping in the only manner known to her. While the spectators were all struck with the ludicrousness of the mistake she had made, none scoffed nor did any interfere; but the greater number were touched at the spectacle and passed her in respectful silence. They all looked behind the funny mistake and saw the sincerity of the worship and the purity of the motive which prompted it. Who dares say she was wrong?

QUESTIONABLE ECONOMY.

THERE are many heads of families who, in their anxiety to practice economy the coming year, will commence or extend it to the cutting off the family newspaper. This is what we would call poor economy, especially if the paper or papers subscribed for are really good ones, containing information of which the family stands in need. Of course we are not pleading for the RURAL NEW-YORKER any more than for the hundreds of other good and instructive periodicals of its class, but for one and all the aim of which is to make the homes of our people better and brighter by their presence. It is certainly among the reasonable probabilities that a family may get along just as well and be as happy if they should not know all about every murder or case of theft and like incidents constantly occurring in all parts of the world, but periodicals which give instructions in matters pertaining to the duties of every-day life and welfare of the laboring classes, cannot be dispensed with without serious loss.

If we throw out of the account the pleasure derived from the perusal of such papers, also their value as instructors in general, there still remains an almost universally admitted certainty that during the year some one article or paragraph will convey information to the reader worth far more than the subscription price for a twelvemonth or more. It is to be hoped that every one of our readers will think of this subject thoughtfully before deciding not to renew their subscription for those papers which instruct both the old and young members of the family. Let nothing short of a deprivation of the actual necessaries of life prevent you from subscribing for at least one good newspaper, and in making a selection chose the one which will give the most and best information upon the business pursued or the wants of your family.

RURAL NOTES.

Willow Culture.—Again we notice that there is an attempt made to get up a "basket willow fever," and the old story of five millions' or more worth of willow and willow-ware being annually imported, is going the rounds of the press. Now as a word of caution, we suggest that before farmers or others invest heavily in willow culture, they look into the subject very carefully and mark the difference in the price of labor in this country and abroad, whence we obtain the imported article. The cost of freight across the Atlantic and other unavoidable expenses of bringing over willow-ware, scarcely make up for the difference in the price of labor on the opposite sides of the big pond. We can raise basket willow enough in any one of our States to supply the whole world; there is, however, an "if" and a "but" in the way, which have been very troublesome to those who went into the culture of this plant in years past.

The Right Name.—There is a movement on foot to compel the manufacturers of oleomargarine butter to stamp the article by its right name, in order that the purchaser may know just what he is buying. We second this movement, and would not stop with butter and cheese, but have it extend to all articles placed on sale, from a pound of cheese up to silks and broadcloth. If people will not be honest through principle, let us have laws to compel them to be, and see how the thing will work for a few years, if not perpetually.

Another Discovery.—One DANIEL M. COOK, of Ohio, claims to have discovered a new and inexhaustible source of electricity, and he proposes to light cities and furnish almost unlimited power for driving anything from a needle up to a bar of pig iron, through space out into regions beyond the influence of gravitation. It is to be hoped he will not go into partnership with the "KEELY Motor" man and keep us waiting another hundred years for an exhibition of his wonderful discovery.

A Book About Cats.—It is announced in "Our Dumb Animals," that a woman in an adjoining State is about to publish a work on Cats; but whether in favor of or against, we are not informed. We will venture to say, however, that it is in favor of the feline race, as that is the only truly womanly view to take of the subject, and she may count us in as a subscriber in advance.

The New Crop.—The Department of Agriculture reports that the cotton crop will fall somewhat short of that of last year, but will rank among the largest crops ever known in the country. The season has been favorable for gathering cotton, except in North Carolina. The fiber is of superior quality in the Southern belt and the estimated number of bales is 4,202,100.

RURAL BREVITIES.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.—The mouth of the "Tweed" is closed.

THE Czar is doing a Russian business in the new Government loan.

IT was not an editor who bought that beautiful six million dollar TWEED suit.

OUR Market reporter quotes potatoes a "shade slimmer," and justifies himself by saying that those he saw had their "jackets" off.

THE "cold spell" which has come upon us within the past few days, may prove to be a genuine "lock-up" to many fields of roots which indolence had left to the mercy of the elements.

THE Apiarians are still discussing the value of certain plants for bee pasturage and we think it time well spent, as there is yet much to be learned in regard to the honey producing properties of thousands of species as yet scarcely known to bee keepers.

ANOTHER shower of flesh is reported, but this time it fell in South Carolina. The flesh is said to resemble beef, and we would not be surprised if the hard times continue, that we should soon have showers of beef and mutton ready cooked for the table.

IT is now currently reported that the famous KEELY Motor is to be ready for exhibition at the great Paris show in 1878; and should anything occur to prevent it, one will certainly be ready for our Bi-Centennary exhibit in 1976. Encouraging, verily.

THE College which at present commands most attention is known as the "Electoral," and there are many anxious persons awaiting its decision. Both the "ins" and "outs" of office are just now on the "anxious seat," but we can scarcely decide which deserves most pity, for a man who seeks office is a pitiable object at best.

WE have just learned that our old Editorial friend, E. H. TRAFTON, is at Dansville, N. Y. He is preparing a lecture on "Newspapers and Newspaper-men." His extended knowledge of journalists and journalism will be an assurance of an interesting discourse. Therefore, if any "Lecture Committees are out *gunning* after talent," they can address him as above.

FORTY-THREE acres of farm land under the highest state of cultivation, with new buildings and outhouses, are offered for sale by Mr. T. R. PROCTOR of Bagg's Hotel, Utica, N. Y. Unusual advantages are offered to the purchaser of this farm, who can contract to supply Bagg's Hotel with necessaries. All who are looking for a cheap farm would do well to address Mr. PROCTOR.

THE crop of Bronze Medals this year has been the largest ever known in this country; besides, they are of good size and color. Just how many bushels have been produced is beyond our knowledge, but it is safe to say that there will be enough on hand to supply every child born in the next hundred years with at least one, as a souvenir of the great Centennial show.

WE are in receipt of N. W. AYRE & SONS' new Advertiser's Guide. It is in the shape of a monthly, and the subscription price is 50c. per year, postpaid. We have seen no journal designed to be of service to the advertiser that embraces as many excellent and novel qualities as the one under notice. We congratulate this enterprising firm, and feel sure that once seen the Guide will be a constant and trustworthy companion among those whom it is designed to benefit. AYER & SON, by the way, have recently removed to spacious and elegant quarters in the new Times building, Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

DEATH OF CHARLES D. BRAGDON.

MR. CHARLES D. BRAGDON, for many years editorially connected with the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and long known and esteemed as one of the ablest Agricultural Journalists in the country, departed this life on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 30, 1876,) at Port Ontario, Oswego County, N. Y., in the forty-seventh year of his age. Though not perhaps unexpected to many—for the deceased had been an invalid for years—this announcement will be read with painful regret by thousands of our readers, as Mr. B. was widely known and highly regarded for his rare ability and excellent qualities of head and heart. Indeed, he was one who justly had a myriad of friends, and few, if any, enemies—for he possessed those noble and attractive characteristics which ever win and retain admiration and esteem, as all who knew him personally can attest.

Mr. BRAGDON was a native of the town in which he died, though he resided there but a short time after reaching his majority. His father was, and still is, one of the leading farmers of the region, and his son, in addition to receiving the best education afforded by the common schools and academies of the locality, was thoroughly trained in the various branches of the noblest and most useful of all avocations—Agriculture. This enabled the deceased to "act well his part," subsequently, as an Agricultural Editor, both in this State and the West, for he always knew (from either experience or observation, and frequently from both) whereof he affirmed on any subject pertaining to rural life which he discussed. His peculiar fitness for the work—the result of a rare combination of practical knowledge, mental ability, application and industry—was the great secret of his success, although manly independence, unselfishness, and unswerving integrity of character and purpose, were important adjuncts. These traits admirably qualified Mr. BRAGDON for the important and responsible position of an Agricultural Journalist, for he knew the Right, and neither friendship, influence nor money could induce him to commit or sanction Wrong; consequently he fearlessly exposed many deceptions and humbugs designed to fleece unwary ruralists and the public generally, thereby saving those interested from great losses. For this alone he is entitled to the grateful remembrance of the Agricultural and general public, whose welfare he ever sought to promote. In truth, he helped make the fortunes of the Industrial and Producing Classes, and hence was a public benefactor—really entitling him to a monument and his family to substantial recognition.

This is strong language, but true. The writer knew the deceased well and intimately for years, and can therefore attest to his fidelity to the cause of Rural Progress and Improvement, in the advocacy of which his ability was coupled with rare modesty and unselfishness. Had he been forward and ambitious he could have achieved fame and fortune in almost any field or profession chosen. But he was neither ambitious nor selfish. This is manifested in one of the last letters he wrote us—only a few weeks before his death—from which we quote these noteworthy and noble sentences, the italics being his own:—"One thing—*I never did envy any man in the profession*, no matter whether more or less successful in my line of business; hence I really rejoice with those who do rejoice over success, and sincerely mourn with those who have cause to mourn because of failure. I have no disappointments to mourn over or think of, for I never have had any ambitious objects, *in my own individual interest alone*, to promote."

Mr. BRAGDON'S life work, which he performed well, was Agricultural Journalism. His first article was written for the RURAL NEW-YORKER while a young man on his father's farm. It attracted our special attention, was published promptly, and the writer properly recognized. This, as Mr. B. assured us afterward, was the turning point in his life, and the cause of his becoming a journalist. After contributing to the RURAL for some time Mr. B. removed to Chicago and connected himself with the Prairie Farmer, the oldest and leading journal of its class in the West, of which he was subsequently the chief editor. In Jan., 1864, he become Associate Editor of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, which position he filled most creditably until the spring of 1865. A year or two later (after managing his father's farm one season) Mr. B. again went West and held a responsible editorial position on the Chicago Republican (now Inter-Ocean), and was for some two years the Western Corresponding Editor of this Journal. Meantime Mr. B.'s ability and versatility of talent became well known and appreciated. On the removal of the RURAL NEW-YORKER to this city, in Jan., 1869, Mr. BRAGDON again became our trusted and efficient Associate, and donned the harness of "Working Editor," as he was wont to style himself. And most assiduously, faithfully and effectively did he serve the RURAL, and the Ruralists of the Country, until failing health constrained him to retire in April, 1875, from a sphere of labor and usefulness in which he delighted.

On retiring from the RURAL Mr. BRAGDON sought relief and recovery by rest and a change of climate; but his insiduous disease—consumption—was too deeply seated to be conquered. He spent last winter in Florida, but with so little benefit that, on returning, he resolved to spend the remainder of his days at home, surrounded by family and friends. On this subject he wrote us most feelingly only last month, speaking eloquently of the blessings he possessed in wife and daughter—his only child, now just budding into womanhood—and adding that the chief reason why he desired to get well was that he might demonstrate his gratitude for and appreciation of their unselfish devotion. And yet he was cheerful and resigned, calmly awaiting the inevitable result. This was often manifested in his letters, in one of the latest of which he wrote us: "About self. Four weeks now since I left my bed for a longer time than long enough to have it made up or changed. Flesh, strength and breath going—going. But I am very comfortable in my dying, and am really enjoying life with all the present pull-backs. I lie here, read the N. Y. dailies and other papers and books, and watch the world with much the same interest that I did when I was of it and in it. I am *in no wise discontent*, and continue to do as I have done—take

CHARLES D. BRAGDON.

things as they come and be thankful for whatever of good I get out of them."

Of our friend's last few days we have no particulars at this time of writing—only a telegram announcing his depature from earth on Thanksgiving Day—but we trust and have reason to believe that his end was peaceful. His was a noble and generous nature, and he acted well his part in all the relations of life. He was an ardent, true friend, and benevolent to a fault, his kindness of heart and nobleness of soul leading him to forget self and make sacrifices for those who were needy or in distress. And yet he was a strong hater of wrong and wrong-doing, which he always exposed and condemned without mercy. Such a man will be missed and mourned sincerely, even amid the busy scenes of this telegraphic age, for he possessed the love, regard and confidence of relatives, friends and acquaintances everywhere.

The accompanying portrait of Mr. BRAGDON, engraved from a photograph taken only a few months ago, is an excellent likeness. It indicates the intellectual endowment and heart-kindliness of a noble and worthy character, to whose memory this hastily-written and necessarily crude tribute fails to do justice.—D. D. T. M.

The Story-Teller.

A MAN WHO LOST HIS NAME.

[Continued from page 366.]

VI.

THREE years had passed by, and still the situation was unchanged. Halfdan still taught music and told fairy stories to the children. He had a good many more pupils now than three years ago, although he had made no effort to solicit patronage, and had never tried to advertise his talent by what he regarded as vulgar and inartistic display. But Mrs. Van Kirk, who had by this time discovered his disinclination to assert himself, had been only the more active; had "talked him up" among her aristocratic friends; had given musical soirees, at which she had coaxed him to play the principal *role*, and had in various other ways exerted herself in his behalf. It was getting to be quite fashionable to admire his quiet, unostentatious style of playing, which was so far removed from the noisy bravado and clap-trap then commonly in vogue. Even professional musicians began to indorse him and some, who had discovered that "there was money in him," made him tempting offers for a public engagement. But with characteristic modesty, he distrusted their verdict; his sensitive nature shrank from anything which had the appearance of self-assertion or display.

But Edith—ah, if it had not been for Edith, he might have found courage to enter at the door of fortune, which was now opened ajar. That fame, if he should gain it, would bring him any nearer to her, was a thought that was alien to so unworldly a temperament as his. And any action that had no bearing upon his relation to her, left him cold—seemed unworthy of the effort. If she had asked him to play in public; if she had required of him to go to the North Pole, or to cut his own throat, I verily believe he would have done it. And at last Edith did ask him to play. She and Olson had plotted together and from the very friendliest motives agreed to play into each other's hands.

"If you only *would* consent to play," said she, in her own persuasive way, one day as they had finished their lesson, "we should all be so happy. Only think how proud we should be of your success, for you know there is nothing you can't do in the way of music if you really want to."

"Do you really think so?" exclaimed he, while his eyes suddenly grew large and luminous.

"Indeed I do," said Edith, emphatically.

"And if—if I played well," faltered he, "would it really please you?"

"Of course it would," cried Edith, laughing; "how can you ask such a foolish question?"

"Because I hardly dared to believe it."

"Now listen to me," continued the girl, leaning forward in her chair and beaming all over with kindly officiousness; "now for once you must be rational and do just what I tell you. I shall never like you again if you oppose me in this, for I have set my heart upon it; you must promise beforehand that you will be good and not make any objection. Do you hear?"

When Edith assumed this tone toward him, she might well have made him promise to perform miracles. She was too intent upon her benevolent scheme to heed the possible inferences which he might draw from her sudden display of interest.

"Then you promise?" repeated she eagerly, as he hesitated to answer.

"Yes, I promise."

"Now, you must not be surprised; but mamma and I have made arrangements with Mr. S—— that you are to appear under his auspices at a concert which is to be given a week from to-night. All our friends are going, and we shall take up all the front seats, and I have already told my gentlemen friends to scatter through the audience, and if they care anything for my favor, they will have to applaud vigorously."

Halfdan reddened up to his temples and began to twist his watch-chain nervously.

"You must have small confidence in my ability," he murmured, "since you resort to precautions like these."

"But, my dear Mr. Birch," cried Edith, who was quick to discover that she made a mistake, "it is not kind in you to mistrust me in that way. If a New York audience were as highly cultivated in music as you are, I admit that my precautions would be superfluous. But the papers, you know, will take their tone from the audience, and therefore we must make use of a little innocent artifice to make sure of it. Everything depends upon the success of your first public appearance, and if your friends can in this way help you to establish the reputation which is nothing but your right, I am sure you ought not to bind their hands by your foolish sensitiveness. You don't know the American way of doing things as well as I do, and therefore you must stand by your promise, and leave everything to me."

It was impossible not to believe that anything Edith chose to do was above reproach. She looked so bewitching in her excited eagerness for his welfare that it would have been inhuman to oppose her. So he meekly succumbed, and began to discuss with her the programme for the concert.

The evening of the concert came at last and, as the papers stated the next morning, "the large hall was crowded to its utmost capacity with a select and highly appreciative audience." Edith must have played her part of the performance skillfully for, as he walked out upon the stage, he was welcomed with an enthusiastic burst of applause, as if he had been a world-renowned artist. At Edith's suggestion, her two favorite *nocturnes* had been placed first upon the programme; then followed one of those ballads of Chopin, whose rhythmic din and rush sweep onward, beleaguering the ear like eager, melodious hosts, charging in thickening ranks and columns, beating impetuous retreats, and again uniting with one grand emotion the wide-spreading army of sound for the final victory. Besides these, there was one of Liszt's "Rhapsodies Hongroises," an impromptu by Schubert and several orchestral pieces; but the greater part of the programme was devoted to Chopin, because Halfdan, with his great, hopeless passion laboring in his breast, felt that he could interpret Chopin better than he could any other composer. He carried his audience by storm. As he retired to the dressing-room, after having finished the last piece, his friends, among whom Edith and Mrs. Van Kirk were the most conspicuous, thronged about him, showering their praises and congratulations upon him. They insisted with much friendly urging upon taking him home in their carriage; Clara kissed him, Mrs. Van Kirk introduced him to her lady acquaintances as "our friend, Mr. Birch," and Edith held his hand so long in hers that he came near losing his presence of mind and telling her then and there that he loved her. As his eyes rested on her, they became suddenly suffused with tears and a vast, bewildering happiness vibrated through his frame. At last he tore himself away and wandered aimlessly through the long, lonely streets. Why could he not tell Edith that he loved her? Was there any disgrace in loving? This heavenly passion which so suddenly had transfixed his being, and year by year deadened the substance of his old self, creating in its stead something new and wild and strange which he never could know, but still held indefinitely dear—had it been sent to him merely as a scourge to test his capacity for suffering?

The night was clear and still. A clock struck eleven in some church tower near by. The Van Kirk mansion rose tall and stately in the moonlight, flinging a dense mass of shadow across the street. Up in the third story he saw two windows lighted; the curtains were drawn, but the blinds were not closed. All the rest of the house was dark. He raised his voice and sang a Swedish serenade which seemed in perfect concord with his own mood. His clear tenor rose through the silence of the night and a feeble echo flung it back from the mansion opposite:

> "Star, sweet star, that brightly beamest,
> Glittering on the skies nocturnal,
> Hide thine eye no more from me,
> Hide thine eye no more from me!"

The curtain was drawn aside, the window cautiously raised, and the outline of Edith's beautiful head appeared dark and distinct against the light within. She instantly recognized him.

"You must go away, Mr. Birch," came her voice in an anxious whisper out of the shadow. "Pray go away. You will wake up the people."

Her words were audible enough, but they failed to convey any meaning to his excited mind. Once more his voice floated upward to her opened window:

> "And I yearn to reach thy dwelling,
> Yearn to rise from earth's fierce turmoil;
> Sweetest star upward to thee,
> Yearn to rise, bright star to thee."

"Dear Mr. Birch," she whispered once more in tones of distress, "pray *do* go away. Or perhaps," she interrupted herself, "——wait one moment and I will come down."

Presently the front door was noiselessly opened and Edith's tall, lithe form, dressed in a white flowing dress and with her blonde hair rolling loosely over her shoulders, appeared for an instant and then again vanished. With one leap Halfdan sprang up the stairs and pushed through the half-opened door. Edith closed the door behind him; then, with rapid steps led the way to the back parlor where the moon broke feebly through the bars of the closed shutters.

"Now, Mr. Birch," she said, seating herself upon a lounge, "you may explain to me what this unaccountable behavior of yours means. I should hardly think I have deserved to be treated in this way by you."

Halfdan was utterly bewildered; a nervous fit of trembling ran through him and he endeavored in vain to speak. He had been prepared for passionate reproaches, but this calm severity chilled him through and he could only gasp and tremble, but could utter no word in his defense.

"I suppose you are aware," continued Edith in the same imperturbable manner, "that if I had not interrupted you, the policeman would have heard you and you would have been arrested for street disturbance. Then to-morrow we should have seen it in all the newspapers, and I should have been the laughing-stock of the whole town."

No; surely he had never thought of it in that light. The idea struck him as entirely new. There was a long pause. A cock crowed with a drowsy remoteness in some neighboring yard, and the little clock on the mantel-piece ticked on patiently in the moonlit dusk.

"If you have nothing to say," resumed Edith, while the stern indifference in her voice perceptibly relaxed, "then I will bid you good-night."

She arose and, with a grand sweep of her drapery, moved toward the door.

"Miss Edith," cried he, stretching his hands despairingly after her, "you must not leave me."

She paused, tossed her hair back with her hands and gazed at him over her shoulder. He threw himself on his knees, seized the hem of her dress and pressed it to his lips. It was a gesture of such inexpressible humility that even a stone would have relented.

"Do not be foolish, Mr. Birch," she said, trying to pull her dress away from him. "Get up, and if you have anything rational to say to me, I will stay and listen,"

"Yes, yes," he whispered hoarsely, "I shall be rational. Only do not leave me."

She again sank down wearily upon the lounge and looked at him in expectant silence.

"Miss Edith," pleaded he in the same hoarse, passionate undertone, "have pity on me and do not despise me. I love you. Oh—if you would but allow me to die for you, I should be the happiest of men."

Again he shuddered and stood long gazing at her with a mute, pitiful appeal. A tear stole into Edith's eye and trickled down over her cheek.

"Ah, Mr. Birch," she murmured, while a sigh shook her bosom, "I am sorry—very sorry that this misfortune has happened to you. You have deserved a better fate than to love me—to love a woman who can never give you anything in return for what you give her."

"Never?" he repeated, mournfully, "never?"

"No, never! You have been a good friend to me, and as such I value you highly, and I had hoped that you would always remain so. But I see that it cannot be. It will perhaps be best for you henceforth not to see me, at least not until—pardon the expression—you have outlived this generous folly. And now, you know, you will need me no more. You have made a splendid reputation, and if you choose to avail yourself of it, your fortune is already made. I shall always rejoice to hear of your success, and—and if you should ever need a *friend*, you must come to no one but me. I know that these are feeble words, Mr. Birch, and if they seem cold to you, you must pardon me. I can say nothing more."

They were indeed feeble words, although most cordially spoken. He tried to weigh them, to measure their meaning, but his mind was as if benumbed and utterly incapable of thought. He walked across the floor, perhaps only to do something, not feeling where he trod, but still with an absurd sensation that he was taking immoderately long steps. Then he stopped abruptly, wrung his hands, and gazed at Edith. And suddenly, like a flash in a vacuum, the thought shot through his brain that he had seen this very scene somewhere—in a dream, in a remote childhood, in a previous existence, he did not know when or where. It seemed strangely familiar, and in the next instant strangely meaningless and unreal. The walls, the floor—everything—began to move, to whirl about him; he struck his hands against his forehead and sank down into a damask-covered easy-chair. With a faint cry of alarm, Edith sprang up, seized a bottle of cologne which happened to be within reach and knelt down at his side. She put her arm around his neck and raised his head.

"Mr. Birch, dear Mr. Birch," she cried, in a frightened whisper, "for God's sake, come to yourself! O God, what have I done?"

She blew the eau-de-cologne into his face and, as he languidly opened his eyes, he felt the touch of her warm hand upon his cheek and his forehead.

"Thank heaven! he is better," she murmured, still continuing to bathe his temples. "How do you feel now, Mr. Birch?" she added, in a tone of anxious inquiry.

"Thank you; it was an unpardonable weakness," he muttered, without changing his attitude. "Do not trouble yourself about me. I shall soon be well."

It was so sweet to be conscious of her gentle ministry, that it required a great effort, an effort of conscience, to rouse him once more, as his strength returned.

"Had you not better stay?" she asked, as he rose to put on his overcoat. "I will call one of the servants and have him show you a room. We will say to-morrow morning that you were taken ill and nobody will wonder."

"No, no," he responded, energetically. "I am perfectly strong now." But he still had to lean on a chair and his face was deathly pale.

"Farewell, Miss Edith," he said; and a tender sadness trembled in his voice. "Farewell. We shall——probably——never meet again."

"Do not speak so," she answered, seizing his hand. "You will try to forget this and you will still be great and happy. And when fortune shall again smile upon you, and—and—you will be content to be my friend, then we shall see each other as before."

"No, no," he broke forth with a sudden hoarseness. "It will never be."

He walked toward the door with the motions of one who feels death in his limbs; then stopped once more and his eyes lingered with inexpressible sadness on the wonderful, beloved form which stood dimly outlined before him in the twilight. Then Edith's measure of misery, too, seemed full. With the divine heedlessness which belongs to her sex, she rushed up toward him and remembering only that he was weak and unhappy and that he suffered for her sake, she took his face between her hands and kissed him. He was too generous a man to misinterpret the act; so he whispered but once more, "Farewell," and hastened away.—(To be continued.

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT FARMING.

November.—The beautiful, frolicsome grasshoppers have now crawled into their holes for winter. No more will we hear them singing on the fences or in the verdant trees. Not much any more. The bullfrog's melodious voice is hushed and the mud turtle dove has hid herself in the depths of the green waters.

Work on the farm now will not be so heavy as some other months. Still, you can put in time shelling your hay and buckwheat cakes and properly storing 'em away in the loft.

Now fatten your vegetables and store your poultry away in a warm, dry cellar, free from frost.

Early Rose potatoes, crossed with Hartford Prolific, fatten best and make the most savory pie.

December.—This is the month of fun and biled cider, and Christmas and mince pies and corn shuckings and sich. A McCormick reaper is a nice thing to shuck corn with. I have frequently started for home with my reaper on my back, went out to the crib and shucked several hundred bushels before breakfast.

Look out for some snow this month. Potato bugs won't trouble your vines after the snow falls on 'em. The bugs don't like snow. This is snow joke.

Now kill your smoked hams and side meat and butcher your dried beef.

Christmas was discovered a great many years ago by a chap named Judas.

The hop market will be lively this month.

Now set out your winter wheat; mulch well, but do not prune too clipsely.

Poets have called this month "gloomy, cold December;" but, then, that depends altogether on the weather, you know.

January.—Now look for a "corner" in ice, especially if your boots haven't got nails in 'em.

At the front end of this month a new year comes in. So the almanac says.

Just where it comes in nobody seems to know.

Darn'd if I haven't set up whole nights trying to see where the old year left off.

It's very easy to see where I left off my old boots, as I gaze with fond emotion on my new French calf box-toed ones; but this New Year business gits me rather badly.

About this time newspaper offices look out for "Odes to the dying year." They are generally owed for, too.

Fix up your fishing lines and air your woollens and furs.

Dig your winter apples and mow your cabbage.

The Golden Sebright Bantam is, perhaps, the best cabbage grown, though some prefer the Chester White, as they don't eat near so much as other kinds and keep fatter on less feed.

Hoe your squashes and examine your strawberry beds for grub worms. A grub hoe is the best thing to do it with.

Gather your radishes and drain the water off your swamp land. If you haven't any swamp land to drain, drain the cider barrel or something else. A farm isn't worth a sou markee unless there is a drain on it.

And the rosy (nosy) month of January is just the time to do this work in.

The above is copyrighted.—*Solon Shingle.*

MAXIMS OF ROCHEFOUCAULD.

Very few people know how to grow old.

He who lives without folly is not so wise as he thinks.

Nobody is ever so happy or so unhappy as he imagines.

It requires greater virtue to sustain good fortune than bad.

There is no man clever enough to know all the evil which he does.

Our passions are the only orators who are certain to persuade us.

The more one loves one's mistress, the nearer one is to hating her.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Books for Holliday Presents.

Living Too Fast. By William T. Adams ("Oliver Optic"). Boston: Lee & Shepard. New York: Charles T. Dillingham.

The miseries of living beyond one's means are depicted in this story in such a way as to make them shunned by every honest man or woman. The history of a young man who obtains a position as paying teller in a large city bank, marries a frivolous, extravagant wife, runs in debt, helps himself out with the bank-funds intrusted to him, speculates to retrieve his fortunes, loses more money, and finally flees to Europe an exile, a defaulter and a criminal, is worked into a story of continued interest. Like a majority of criminals, he was not all bad, but had many good qualities. Unfortunately for the probability of the affair, however, a rich old aunt dies on the very day he absconds and, without his knowledge, he becomes a wealthy man. His defalcation is made good from his own funds, he is saved from public disgrace, his wife subsequently turns out to have been an undeveloped angel, and everything comes right in the end. The author apologizes for this, by saying that the hero's "career ought to have ended in the State Prison; but his (the author's) work is a story."

Nelly Kennard's Kingdom. By Amanda M. Douglas. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

It is true that step-mothers are, in many instances, largely responsible for neglect of children of their husbands. It is also true that the natural appeal made by an orphaned child directly to the heart of a good woman is never unheeded. In this case the heroine marries into the family where she encounters not only two strange children but a mother-in-law and a sister of the dead wife as integral parts of her new family. Her trials and tribulations from all sources are both numerous and hard; but her angelic nature overcomes all obstacles to the eventual enjoyment of the love and respect of her new unfriendly relatives in all instances except one. This is in the case of Aunt Adelaide, the deceased wife's sister, who finally, is well punished by an ill-assorted marriage with an adventurer. Though simple in its details and devoid of any pretence to plot, the story is withal so sweetly told that the interest of the reader is maintained to the end. It is one of those books which leaves nothing but good impressions upon the mind.

Oh! Why Should the Spirit of Mortal be Proud? By William Knox. Boston: Lee & Shepard. New York: Charles T. Dillingham.

The somber poem of William Knox was never before so beautifully dressed. Between the tasteful covers are leaves of satin tinted paper, upon one side only of each of which is a stanza of the poem and an exquisite wood cut, engraved by John Andrew & Son after designs by Miss L. B. Humphrey. The elegant workmanship and artistic skill displayed at every stage of its preparation, does credit to all whose taste and labor were employed in its production. It will be an acceptable holiday present to any person of refinement and a source of much future enjoyment.

COMING EVENTS.

The publishers of The Atlantic Monthly have issued their annual prospectus. The magazine is now entering on its twentieth year, and while some of the writers who gave luster to its earlier pages have passed away or ceased to write, it still counts among its contributors four of the greatest names in American literature, which have been identified with it from the first volume. Longfellow, Whittier, Holmes and Lowell will all contribute during the next year, Mr. Longfellow promising an unusual number of poems. E. C. Stedman, T. B. Aldrich and other well-known Atlantic poets will also continue to write. Mr. Aldrich is to contribute a story in three parts, the name of which is not announced. Mr. Howells, whose farce, "The Parlor Car," made quite a hit, and is soon to appear on the boards of the Fifth Avenue Theater, will publish two stories in dramatic form, of three numbers each; and several dramatic fantasies and extravaganzas may be expected from the author of the "Queen of Hearts." Mr. Howells will also furnish some essays on New England Country Life. Mark Twain will be a frequent contributor during the year, and may now be considered one of the regular Atlantic staff. Charles Francis Adams, Jr., is to write a series of papers on Colonial History, and G. P. Lathrop, whose "Study of Hawthorne" has been so warmly commended, some essays on American authors. All readers of the magazine will be glad to learn that Mrs. Kemble's chapters of autobiographical "Gossip" are to run through the greater portion of the year, while they will await with interest the *denouement* of Henry James, Jr.'s serial, which will be concluded in an early number. Charles Hale, lately our Consul-General to Egypt, will contribute a few brief papers on Egyptian Life.

Following the plan of Mr. John Fiske's article on "A Librarian's Work," in a recent number, the Atlantic will now have a valuable series of papers on various professions and employments by competent writers, and these will afford glimpses of the Work of a School Superintendent, a New England Farmer, a Western Farmer, a Managing Editor, a Congressman, a Manufacturer, etc., etc.

The publishers announce two new and unique features for the coming year, that are likely to prove extremely popular. One of these will be contributions to each number of original music by such able composers as John K. Paine, George L. Osgood, Julius Eichberg, Dudley Buck and Francis Boott, with words by some of the most distinguished Atlantic poets. The other is a new department to be called "The Contributor's Club," which will be devoted to desultory criticism of art, letters, politics and society. Some of the best-known contributors of the magazine will appear constantly, though anonymously, in its columns, and the publishers say it will be unlike any feature in other magazines.

The publishers have prepared a life-size portrait of the poet Bryant, which can be obtained by subscribers to the Atlantic only, for the nominal sum of one dollar. The subscription price, without portrait, is $4; with it, $5.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From A. S. Barnes & Co., New York:

The History of Liberty. A paper read before the New York Historical Society by John F. Aiken. (Cloth—pp. 163. Price $1.)

Sheldon & Co., New York:

A Point of Honor, by Mrs. Annie Edwards. (Cloth; 12mo.—pp. 325. Price $1.50.)

E. Steiger, New York:

Schedler's Map of Turkey and Greece.

T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Phila., Pa.:

Corinne, by De Stael. (Paper—pp. 170. Price 75 cts.)

Lee & Shepard, Boston:

The Reading Club—No. 4—by Geo. M. Baker. (Price 50 cts.) Snip and Whip, and some other Books, by Elizabeth A. Davis. (Illustrated. Cloth—pp. 174. Price $1.25.) Young America—Second Series; Vine and Olive, or Young America in Spain and Portugal, by W. T. Adams ("Oliver Optic"). (Cloth; 16 mo.—pp. 412. Price, $1.50.) The Young Trail Hunters, or The Wild Riders of the Plains, by S. W. Cozzens. (Illustrated. Cloth; 12 mo.—pp. 235. Price $1.50.)

Magazines for December:

American Naturalist, Lippincott's.

Sabbath Reading.

FORGIVENESS.

Like buds of spring,
Sweet words are borne from darkness and despair,
And waft new fragrance through the sunny air;
Glad spirits sing.

Ah! ye who fought,
And nobly fought as warriors fit to die,
Shall ye the power of brotherhood defy,
By death untaught?

The right and wrong
Are buried with the dust of those who sleep
In the warm stillness of earth's bosom deep,
And life is strong.

Forgive! Forgive!
Thus sings the sunlight as it gently glides
Into each burdened heart that doubt divides
Forgive and live!

Forgive! Forgive!
Oh! ye to whom the plying Heaven had deigned
Man's sovereign rights by tyrant power disdained,
Forgive and live!

O love divine!
Arise, arise, that souls may worship thee;
That souls may glorify thy name, and see
Their strength in thine!

Men, ye are kings!
But strife will make ye brutes, unfit to sway
The kingdom of the future, formed to-day
The least of things!

Eternal God!
Fill these great hearts with Thine eternity,
Let union strew with flowers of liberty
The aching sod!

UNBELIEF.

The following, from the pages of the Spectator, summarizes a strong address of Bishop Elliot, concerning unbelief in the old Bible:—The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol has been delivering, this week, a series of thoughtful addresses on the prevalent unbelief of the day, in which he describes that unbelief as rather a vague and drifting tendency than a fixed state of mind; nay, the unbelievers, he says, have so completely succeeded in suspending their judgment that they hardly believe even in their own unbelief. He traces this condition of things chiefly to three causes—to the impression produced by the historical criticism of modern times, of the vast uncertainty attending all ancient history, and especially all history involving stories of miracles; to the advance of scientific notions which seem to dispense with the creative energy of God; and to the new intensity with which the enigmas of life, the moral and metaphysical difficulties involved in the origin of evil, are urged upon the imagination of all of us. * * * * For our own parts, while we accept what Bishop Elliott says of the unique character of the Old Testament history; while we cordially believe that its continuous and indelible realism in painting man, and his constant and deep belief in the providence of God afford a testimony at once to the honesty of the narratives and the deep foundation of Hebrew history in a genuine revelation, we cannot recognize any feature in it which should assure us against those great mistakes of detail which occur in all other history—especially as we do find here and there those remarkable inconsistencies between one part of the history and another which are characteristic of all human authorship, and especially of the authorship of an unpracticed and easily-believing age. It seems to us that historical criticism makes an unanswerable case against the habit of assigning anything like very high authority as to detail to such histories as the earlier narratives of the Old Testament, and that no one can reasonably believe in any very high authority for them except on some such ground as infallibility of the Church, whose canonical Scriptures they form. But as we cannot see any proof of such infallibility and, indeed, find in the Old Testament histories much which is quite inconsistent with it, we should say that, on the whole, the kind of hesitation which historical criticism has taught us in accepting the details of Old Testament history—especially the early history—is well justified.

Not the less we should maintain that the coherent belief of the prophets and historians in the divine purpose which formed Israel into a distinct people and molded it for a special function in the life of the world—a belief which shines through all the early traditions, the early records, and the early poems of the people as clearly as through its latest prophecies—is good and striking evidence that they were a people chosen by God to understand His character, and declare it to the rest of the earth; and that their national character had been formed—if not exactly by the experience described, yet by experience more or less closely resembling it in the confidence it had given them in the mighty hand and outstretched arm of Jehovah—for the very purpose for which it was ultimately used by the Divine power. It is quite one thing to say that all these curious old books, full of the evidence of human imperfection, not only in the subjects treated but in the persons who treated them, are to be implicitly trusted as accurate records, though they neither claim inspiration for themselves nor show any trace of completeness and exceptional accuracy, and quite another, and a very different thing indeed, to accept them heartily as the reflection of a true faith, extending through many ages, in the guiding hand of a God who was not only teaching the people whose history they embody the lesson of righteousness, but filling them with the expectation of a destiny which would, through their race, bring life and light and hope in a broad stream of regenerating power into the world.

Ladies' Portfolio.

RARITY.

In dreams I found a wondrous land,
Radiant with roses on each hand.

No grasses, trees, nor shrubs were there,
But roses blossoming everywhere.

Great velvet-petaled blooms were these;
Red millions trembled in each breeze.

They swept toward the horizon's verge
In many a splendid ample serge:

They spread on all sides one intense
Monotony of magnificence.

Then suddenly, where my pathway ran,
Loomed the vague presence of a man.

And in his clasp, with strange delight,
I saw one daisy, shimmering white.

Such daisies bloom in slender sprays
By throngs among dune's meadowed ways.

Yet all my soul, at this weird hour,
Leaned out to that one simple flower.

For chastity, delicately fair,
And better still, supremely rare,

It wore a pastoral charm so sweet,
This lovely lissom Marguerite,

That seeing it was like dear repose
To me, whose whole heart loathed a rose.

(Harper's Magazine.

THE HOUSE-PLANT MANIA.

One pleasant spring day, when our hearts were filled with the gladness of reviving Nature, with gratitude to the great Creator and a good deal elevated above the common and prosaic in general, Mrs. Smith and I called upon our new neighbor, Mrs. Jarvis.

"What a beautiful day!" remarked Mrs. Smith, who was favored with a previous acquaintance; "it is really cheering after the severe weather we have had."

"Have you seen my Fuchias?" replied Mrs. Jarvis, Yankee-like. "Every branch is loaded with buds, and I'm watching with the greatest anxiety for the first blossom."

"Did you attend the lecture last evening?" I asked.

"No, I did not; I hardly dare leave the house in the evening for fear the fire might get down, and there might be a change in the weather and my plants would get chilled; it turns cold so dreadful sudden this time o' year. Do look at that Geranium, Miss Germane! isn't it lovely?"

"Have you read Bryant's last poem?" asked Mrs. Smith.

"Dear me, no; my time's so taken up with my housework and the care of my plants that I don't get a chance to look at a book or paper from one week's end to another. Just see that Ivy, Mrs. Smith; isn't it growing splendidly?"

"You have so many plants, they must be a great care to you, with your poor health."

"O, dear! I guess they are. Why, I've got more'n a hundred different kinds, and I've lugged them about this winter until my back and sides ached so it *did* seem as though I couldn't stand it. They must have air an' sunshine, you know, an' I've just carried them from one window to another, an' every pleasant day, when it wasn't too cold, I've taken them out on the porch. You see we're living in the dining-room; it lay more to the south and was better for my plants than the sitting-room, an' we couldn't afford to keep up a fire, night an' day, in both, so we just moved in here. There isn't any bedroom off this room, an' Mr. Jarvis an' the children didn't like it much going to bed an' sleeping in the cold, but I told em' I guessed they could stand it if I could, an' I didn't mind it so long as I knew my plants were warm an' wouldn't freeze. I do believe my Calla Lily is going to bloom. It looks to me as though there's a bud starting. You just come, Mrs. Smith, an' see if you don't think that's a bud."

"You have children," I remarked.

"O yes, two; a boy and a girl. Let me see: Willie will be seven next October, an' Bessie's most five; they go to school every day, when there is school, an' I'm always sorry when it's out. They're *so* mischievous I have to watch them every minute they're in the house, or I do believe they'd destroy every plant I've got. They're not bad children, you know, but they're so full of play they turn everything upside down; an' then they ask so many questions, it's enough to bother the life out o' me. Isn't that Heliotrope doing finely? It's growing the best this spring it ever has. I *do* love it; it is *so* fragrant."

"Aren't your children rather young to attend school, and couldn't you find some way of amusing and instructing them at home?" I ventured to suggest.

O yes, I might if I only had the time; but I'm so busy. Why, I haven't scarcely been out of the house since we came here, not even to go to church. An' there was poor Mrs. Johnson, who died last week, an' who's been sick all winter; she used to be a schoolmate and dear friend of mine, an' Mr. Jarvis said I really ought to go an' see her, an' I did mean to. She used to send word to me that it would do her so much good to see me; but, poor woman, she died before I could find time to go. O, I'm *so* proud of my Hyacinths! aren't they beauties? I counted fifty blossoms on one stalk, this morning. They ought to do well, for I *do* believe I've spent as much as an hour every day, watching an' tending them."

So she rattled on about her Fuchsias, and Geraniums, and Vines, and Lilies, and Heliotrope, and Hyacinths, and this, and that, until, heartily wearied and disgusted, we took our leave as soon as there was a pause in her chatter; and the last words that sounded in our ears, as we went meditatively down the walk, with all the gladness and elevation taken out of us, were:

"Mrs. Smith, I'm goin' to send for some Tuberoses, next week; don't you want to send 'long an' get some, too?"

WINTER EVENING AMUSEMENTS.—No. 2.

"I think not," said Mrs. Smith, decisively. "I'm sick o' house plants," to herself.

So am I, in Mrs. Jarvis' house, and in every other house where they supersede husband, children, home comfort, and everything else in the heavens above or the earth beneath, even to the God who created them. Geraldine Germane.

THE STORY OF A RUSSIAN PRINCESS.

That truth is decidedly stranger than fiction, the subjoined narrative from a correspondent of the Courier-Journal fully attests:

What do you think of a Russian princess, a genuine article, with her name, coat of arms, etc., stamped even on her stockings, serving in the capacity of chambermaid at a gentleman's house, bringing up a fellow's—this fellow's—early cup of coffee and gracefully shuffling down stairs with his boots? How would that fit into your pipe for a quiet smoke? I will tell you a tale stranger than fiction. In the first place I must give incredulity a gentle tap on the head as a hint to be quiet by premising that Russian princesses in their native land are as thick as leaves in Vulambrosa. This particular princess, who had cut some caper or other, resulting in a policeman's order for her to move on, came to this country. She here fell in love with a thoroughbred scallawag and married him. He was an expeditious young man, and he went through her money and diamonds like beans through a tin horn. As the diamonds melted away they came down in life by going up to the neighborhood of the attic. At last, one morning after breakfast out of the melting of the last earring, the young man arose, embraced his wife, shed one tear on her throbbing bosom, and bolted. He went off with another name and took to keeping school at a salary of forty dollars a month. The princess took an engagement as chambermaid in a private family at $4 a week and no half benefit. Eighteen months rolled around, at the end of which time she treed her man—the vagrant husband. She went into court and demanded a share of the pedagogue's salary. The scallawag pulled out a decree of divorce obtained somewhere in the West. But the employer of the princess was a prominent lawyer, and badgered by his servant, took up her cause.

The decree was right, but had one fatal defect. Such a document is taken in evidence in the New York courts, provided it has the signature of the clerk of the court, seal, etc.; also that of the judge, with the additional requirement that the judge must certify that it is the clerk in question, and the clerk must swear to the judge, which is funny, and with all due respect to courts, I should say, highly preposterous. In this document the clerk had failed to certify to the identity of the court, and the justice here threw out the evidence and assigned to Mme. Princess $12 a week out of her husband's earnings. Now see the effect of sudden prosperity. From that moment the princess has refused to make a bed or flourish a duster, and as long as school keeps will not touch his books with a pair of tongs.

The dreams of love, to continue true, must not take too visible a form, nor enter into a too consecutive history; they must float in a misty distance; the soul in which they hover can no longer think of the laws of existence; it inhabits another world; it forgets itself in the ravishing emotion which troubles it, and sees its well-loved visions rise, mingle, come and go, as in summer we see the bees on a hillslope flutter in a haze of light, and circle round and round the flowers.—*Taine.*

A gentleman is a rarer thing than some of us think. Which of us can point out many such in his circle—men whose aims are generous; whose truth is constant and elevated; who can look the world honestly in the face, with an equal, manly sympathy for the great and the small? We all know a hundred whose coats are well made, and a score who have excellent manners, but of gentlemen, how many?

Reading for the Young.

SOMEBODY'S DARLING.

Warmly tuck'd in little bed,
Somebody's darling lay;
Golden curls around her head,
So tired after play!

Little cheeks like roses red,
Sweet laughing eyes of blue,
Smiling mouth—you might have said,
Bright angels round her flew.

Tiny hands are crumpled tight
Under her rosy cheeks,
Mother softly shades the light,
That through the window streaks.

Slowly treading up the aisle,
Somebody's darling moves,
With downcast eyes and happy smile,
And near her all she loves.

Sun-rays stream through painted glass,
A happy bride is she;
Around her stand her village class,
Somebody's darling to see.

Hush! O hush! tread softly now,
Angels are in the way,
White and still as untrodden snow,
Somebody's darling lay.

Weep not, weep not so for her,
To her can come no ill;
Surrounded by God's loving care,
And—Somebody's darling still.

READ, MARK, LEARN AND INWARDLY DIGEST.

Dear Editor:—I am moved by the spirit to have a little talk with the young letter writers of the Rural, if you are willing. I have read nearly all of their epistles, and am led to ask if they appreciate what an opportunity is given them, through the columns of your paper, of making themselves known and respected outside of their home-circle. Not so much in saying pert things, as by saying well what they do say; and talking more about *things*, instead of flinging at one another. These little by-plays upon words and names are well enough when not carried to the extreme. Let me call them *spice*; you will readily understand that "cake is not cake" when it is all spice, neither is it so palatable when there is too much spice in it, as when there is just enough; in other words, you want exactly enough to give flavor to your letters, and no more.

One great charm in writing is, to select such words and so use them as to make an agreeable impression. Let your letters be like "continued stories," in the sense that as soon as one is read another will be wished for. This does not necessarily incur your agreeing with every one, or with any one. But whether we agree or disagree, especially the latter, if we unhappily express ourselves we weaken our influence and thereby lose our power. In other words, nothing is gained by being disagreeable, while through agreeability a kindly spirit subtly pervades all hearts and makes us many friends. It is the little leaven that leaveneth the whole lump.

Endeavor, in every letter, to tell us of something new. A new piece of work, or a new way of doing an old one. These things attract us, and little by little we accumulate considerable knowledge in different channels, and so easily too, as well as skill and aptitude in performing various useful and ornamental work. Of course the girls will naturally take to needle, knitting and crochet work, while the boys will tend to telling us of what they have done, or are doing, with knife, hammer and saw.

It is wonderful how much and how well some boys will do with a common pocket knife. I have a pair of pincers that will open and close, rivet and all cut from one piece of wood, about four inches long and an inch or so thick. Many have admired them, because they are not only cut from one piece of wood, but are so well finished. The making of a pair of wooden pincers is not so much in itself, as the skill acquired in using the knife, the applying one's self to doing something, and the consciousness of your recreation being not alone harmless, but beneficial to you in years to come. My impression is that boys will find pattern makers of tools wonderfully skillful in the use of the knife.

I was very much pleased with samples of work shown me that had been done at the Kindergarten schools. They were pieces of thick white paper, through which were holes made with a pin, in the shape of dogs, horses, birds and flowers. Some, after being thus pricked, were worked in and out with worsted, making a complete outline of the figure. Several of these were beautifully wrought, the color being so nicely selected that they were really quite appropriate and pretty. One, however, a well-formed horse, was embroidered with scarlet, which did not harmonize quite as well with nature as the scarlet cherries and green leaves. It occurred to me that this work would look nicely on wall pockets, in frames, on cloth for cushions, tidies and covers. To put on cloth, pin-prick the form into common paper, cut out and use as a pattern for cutting the different colored cloths, then sew on a solid background. I saw a stand cover made of black cloth, upon which flowers and figures cut from prints were sewed, that was really artistic. The sewing was over and over, with thread the color of the figure, so as to show the stitches as little as possible.

In speaking of your pets, please do not merely name what they are and how many, but write the best description you possibly can of their size, color, age, disposition and pet name. It will enable us to see them, while the practice of thus writing is an admirable one for you. You have all probably heard of the Chinese carving. Let me tell you of an oval, light, yellow whitish wooden plate, called a "picture plate," that I have seen. The figures were raised, and seemed at first sight glued on, but examining them carefully I found the plate to be of one solid piece of wood. This plate was divided into sky, land and water; at the top of the plate in the sky, birds were flying, on the land were trees, houses and cattle, while in the water was a boat with a man in it. Such miniature specimens, and so well proportioned were they, that it was really a pleasing and unique ornament. Many would hardly suppose Master Chinaman so skillful, but it shows what can be done by them in that line. We may be equally skillful in certain things. What those things are I leave for the Cousins to tell.

Ithaca, N. Y. Vee.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

What He Did.

I send you ten names and twenty-five dollars, and select the Cabinet Magic Lantern for my premium. I tried hard for the Boys' Sporting Rifle, but everybody is hard up in these parts. Some of the boys' fathers, when I went to them, said that they guessed I would have to wait until next year before they could subscribe. But I stuck to it. I called upon them every day for a week with a new argument. I told one man that said he couldn't afford it, that he couldn't afford to do without it. One has not paid me yet, so I had to borrow $2.50 from my father to make up the amount to send the Rural. Another gave us a barrel of potatoes as the price of subscription.

Cousin Ben says he does not like my little game, published in Rural, Sept. 9. It comes too near swindling and cheating. "I should think," he says, "any boy would feel mean if he took five cents in this way." Well, now, Cousin Ben, you try the trick upon some of your rich relatives and if you succeed, just enjoy a good laugh and then—not to feel mean afterwards—hand the five cents back. You are not obliged to keep it, are you? Ben's father says it isn't right to take money without "giving a *quid pro quo*." The laugh is worth five cents, and if it isn't, make it *one* cent, or a button. Then how about Ben's father's *quid pro quo?* And you, Mr. Editor, say that Ben is right, and that money gained in dishonest or underhand ways is often a curse to its possessor. Well, following the learned example of Ben's father, let me tell you my father says, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*, which—to save my Cousins the trouble of looking into the dictionary—means, Evil to him who evil thinks.

I do not pride myself upon my learning, but upon my experience, and I believe that young boys who will be led to evil by such innocent jokes are bad anyhow, and that being over-strict with boys (and girls too) does more harm than good. This is the reason why ministers' children are usually such highflyers. The fact of it is, some people make a great splutter and talk about the wickedness of swallowing gnats, while on the sly they can take in a camel without a wink!

Belle says, Joe Steele is a cheeky little fellow. "Cheek" in a boy, if it's the right kind of "cheek," is what the right kind of modesty is in a girl, Cousin Belle. Boys and girls have different roads to travel in earning their living, and a boy without "cheek" and a girl without modesty ought to change places.

Sometimes I get snubbed pretty hard, but, like the fabled Phœnix, I rise again and am as "cheeky" as ever. Send my lantern at once.—Joe Steele.

[I'll do it. Why don't more of my nieces and nephews do the same.—Uncle True.]

His Weak Side.

Well, boys and girls, here I come again to make you another short visit. Perhaps you may think a Storm visit not always agreeable, but I hope mine will be, for I am not the kind of a storm you imagine. My signature is taken from a man-of-war of that name in the War of 1812, so don't think I have come among you to make a noise, for that is not my intention. I have no particular reason for calling myself after this venerable vessel; I have *tried* to show my colors, and if none of you like them, compel me to strike them. I am very much obliged to Belle E. F., for that last

letter of hers, not that I think she wrote because I asked her to, but because it gives me satisfaction to read such letters as she always writes. Of course I would be foolish to take offense from her telling of my conceit, for, in reading my letter in the RURAL, I could not help seeing that in my effort to make it lively, and kick up a spree, I had shown more of my weak side than I intended, but I don't mean to take anything back. B. E. F. says she and I will be friends, she hopes. Of course we will; so give me your hand. BELLE E. F., and you and I will be independent partners. Speaking of ADELE W., I think her pretty good at criticising others, without giving them very much chance at her. I think her weak side leans in the same direction mine does. YOUNG EDITOR No. 2 is not very popular, so far, but I hope he will do better next time. B. E. F., strike out again soon. I guess this letter flavors pretty strongly of my weak side, but it is written, so it will have to go. —STORM.

Here He is Again.

HURRAH! Just as I expected; scoldings and good words from both sides. I had better, in the first place, try to "lay out" those who seek to find fault. Oh! ah, BELLE E. F., and so you did not like the few words I said in favor of YOUNG ARTIST? I expect those black eyes of yours flashed fire, and your tall form shook with rage when you first read my letter. Excuse me, but your letter was not in print at the time I wrote, or I would undoubtedly have had to confer those few words upon you of which you seem to be envious. I also think you can hold *your* own quite nicely with CERIC, for he "is a perfect gentleman, and ought to win the admiration of all the ladies;" of course he has won your admiration long ago, YOUNG PRINTER comes out in a very lame argument in comparing calico with type. Let me ask you if you ever make a quilt out of the same material more than *once*? I think not; but the same lot of type may be used or changed hundreds of times, presenting something new every time, and still be good to use. About the girls preaching decorum: of course they are best to give advice or reproof, not in the *grave* sense of the word, but I mean in the *jolly* sense; what is the harm in occasionally hiding their ball of thread? or slipping their comb? and if they remonstrate against such proceedings to playfully make a noise? I for one cannot see the harm in that; I do not think we should always go around with grave faces; I think there is a time to be jolly as well as grave. WALTER P. wants me to send a puzzle; perhaps I will some future time. MAY BELLE E. says that all the girls disagree with me; very well, if the girls do not like my letters it is all right—that is what makes it lively. STORM and YOUNG EDITOR No. 2 seem to be wide-awake boys. I hope to see more of your spicy letters. Good-by for this time (for I intend to come again).—YOUNG EDITOR.

A Young Hunter.

DEAR RURAL:—I am a little boy only six years old, and cannot write, but mamma said she would write a letter to the RURAL for me if I would tell her just what to write. I went to school last summer and got most through my Primmer. I have got a little sister, three years old; her name is MAMIE. Also a hound dog named Prince. These are all the pets I have, except chickens. My papa took a pair to the Poultry Show and got the premium. Papa has killed thirty-five squirrels this fall. I have been hunting with him two or three times, and helped him tree them so he could shoot. HERBIE H. C., *Caroline Center, N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

My first is in bridge but not in ferry,
My second is in Madge but not in Terry;
My third is in wind but not in blow,
My fourth is in rain but not in snow;
My fifth is in mouse but not in rat,
My sixth is in lean but not in fat;
My seventh is in Tilden but not in Hayes,
My eighth is in fairies but not in fays;
My ninth is in quarrel but not in fight,
My tenth is in growl but not in bite;
My eleventh is in wing but not in broom;
My twelfth is in bride but not in groom;
My thirteenth is in cabin but not in hovel,
My whole is the name of the latest novel.

☞ Answer in two weeks. PORT CRANE.

TRANSPOSITION.

Psesoru, ym tellit ylda,
Royu lold toshdu kebar rhe deah,
Ludoc oyu kema tl hewio yh geyinr
Itll ryuo seey nad enso ear dre?
Nad nodulw't tl eh retelpansa
Ot rtate tl sa a ekoj,
Nad ysa ouy'er agld 'tasw Lolloy's
Ndu tno rouy ahde atht krebe?

Espospu oyu sesdr ofr gilwkna,
Dna eth lrau oseem gilporn wodn,
Lowdu tl aleer tof yan ooresn
Suacebe euy lsdeo adn wourf?
Dan dulnow't ti eh elner
Fro ouy ot llmse ahtn topu,
Nad os ekam eisuhnsn nl eth cuhos
Ewnh ether si enon twlohtu?

☞ Answer in two weeks. S.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Nov. 25.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—"The proper study of mankind is man."

HIDDEN OUT-BUILDINGS ON A FARM.—1, Barn; 2, Stable; 3, Rick; 5, Sty; 6, Coop; 7, Kennel; 8, Veranda; 9, Trough.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.90 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Molucca Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory or garden. Its growth is rapid—small plants attaining the hight of five feet during the summer months. In the fall it may be cut back to any desirable size and potted for the winter, when it will quickly recover its symmetry and resume its ever-blooming habit. Its quick and exceeding popularity is a sufficient guarantee of its merits.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is as yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class. It is difficult to select a more attractive plant than Marie Lemoine when freely blooming. Every truss is in itself a bouquet. The leaves are large, zoneless, vigorous. The plant is compact and, like *Abutilon Boule de Neige*, is invaluable, either for the conservatory, window or garden.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It has stood 26° below zero unharmed. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. The thyrses of flowers, first greenish-white, then white, then rose, often measure a foot in length and twenty inches in circumference. Every stem being thus terminated, the striking appearance of an entire plant may be conceived. There can be no doubt that this is one of the most valuable of all perfectly hardy shrubs.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata*.—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green, much as *Abutilon Thomsoni* is variegated with green and yellow. From its racemes of flowers are formed fruit as large as currants, each one of which is a different color in shades of claret, azure-blue and green. These berries, which are first as soft as a currant, become finally as hard as bullets.

The pretty stems are also variegated, green, whitish and rose. The roots are perfectly hardy, and the vine's growth so rapid that it will cover twenty-five feet square in a season. For conservatory walls or pillars, for trellises or rockeries, it cannot fail to please. It has been growing in the RURAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS for several years without the least protection.

Jerusalem Artichoke.—Believing that the Jerusalem artichokes are exceedingly valuable as food for nearly all kinds of farm stock, we place them among our valuable premium plants. They will yield more bushels of tubers per acre than the common potato and we believe them more valuable for feeding purposes, besides the artichoke will grow vigorously where the potato would fail entirely. We will send one-half pound of each of the Long Purple, and Round White, for each new subscriber as above, or one pound of the tubers of either variety. We shall store a quantity of the tubers in the cellar for sending out this winter; but those of our subscribers who reside north of the latitude of New York City, had better leave their plant premiums in our hands after the first of January until early spring. We will, however, "book" all orders received during the winter, to be sent at the earliest possible moment.

Achania malvaviscus or Malvaviscus arboreus.—The flowers are bright red of a turban shape two inches long. It blooms incessantly whether indoors or out. In the conservatory it may be trained so as to cover wood-work as readily as a vine. Its growth is so rapid that small plants set out in the spring will cover a space four feet in diameter by fall. As a plant for the sitting-room, the little care it needs, its perpetual scarlet flowers, contrasting elegantly with its golden-green, plush-like leaves—its endurance of dry heat and dust render it most pleasing and satisfactory. We commend this plant with confidence.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the singular Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

TERMS FOR 1877, IN ADVANCE,

INCLUDING POSTAGE, WHICH PUBLISHERS PREPAY.

Single Copy, $2.50 per Year. To Clubs:—Five Copies, and one copy free to Agent or getter up of Club, for $11.25. Seven Copies, and one free, for $16.05; Ten Copies, and one free, $20—only $2 per copy. The above rates *include postage* (under the new law) to any part of the United States, and the American postage on all copies mailed to Canada. On papers mailed to Europe, by steamer, the postage will be 25 cents extra for each subscription. Drafts, Post-Office Money Orders and Registered Letters may be mailed at our risk. ☞ Liberal Premiums to all Club Agents who do not take free copies. Specimen Numbers, Show-Bills, &c., sent free.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE agricultural works at Council Bluffs, Iowa, were burned Dec. 1. Loss, $35,000; insurance, $13,000.

Probably the largest sale of property ever held in a single day took place Dec. 1 on the Centennial Grounds, when the 24 buildings belonging to the Board of Finance and a dozen structures of varying dimensions belonging to individuals or firms were exposed at public auction. The total cost value of the property offered for sale was estimated in round figures at $2,500,000, and the actual figures realized from the sale were $296,160. Machinery Hall, Horticultural Hall, and Memorial Hall, not being in the list of properties owned by the Finance Board, were not included in the list. The auction took place in Judges' Hall, about 400 people were present. The sale began with the Main Building, in which the gas pipes, elevator, and other personal property were reserved from the sale, while the chandeliers were included. The building cost about $1,600,000. The only bids for it were one of $200,000 by R. J. Dobbins and one of $250,000 by John S. Morton, Esq., who made the bid on behalf of the Permanent Exhibition Company. It was knocked down to Mr. Morton.

The two mineral annexes, costing $19,000, went for $1,000. The carriage annex, costing $55,000, sold at $4,100. The Photographic Hall was bought for $1,000; original cost, $23,000. The Art Gallery annex was knocked down for $3,050; cost, $110,000. The Judges' Hall was sold for $1,500; cost, $30,000. The Medical Department Building for $300. The Department of Public Comfort Building, which cost $22,000, for $1,000. The Shoe and Leather Building, costing $39,750, was disposed of for $3,000. The British boiler house, costing $20,976, sold for $1,150. The Corliss boiler house, costing $20,976, and containing 8,125 cubic feet of masonry, 243,450 bricks, and 25,000 pounds of iron, was sold for $1,400, for either Fairmount Park or the Franklin Institute. The Wagon Annex was sold for $850 to Samuel A. Simes, Treasurer Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company. The annex to Horticultural Hall was sold for $600.

Agricultural Hall, covering 10 acres and costing $275,000, was bid for at one time at a lively rate by Messrs. Allison and Dobbins, the effect of the brief rivalry being to increase the price some $4,000. It was finally knocked down to R. J. Dobbins for $13,100. The Pomological Building, which cost $19,000, was sold for $1,250. The Butter and Cheese Building, which cost about $15,000, brought $1,100. The owner proposes to take it to Asbury Park, N. J. The Averill Chemical Paint Company's Pavilion sold for $550. The Pennsylvania Educational Hall, costing $12,000, went for $900. The British police barracks went for $650. The British workmen's headquarters for $425. The Turkish Cafe, costing $4,000, for $250.

At the close of the sale it was announced that another sale would soon be held of all gates, fences, and movable property to be removed from the grounds.

The women's Centennial Committee propose to form a Centennial League.

A despatch from Winnepeg says there is a serious outbreak of smallpox at the Gimli settlement of Icelanders on Lake Winnepeg, and that twenty deaths have occurred in the last ten days. Dr. Hynck, a physician, sent out by Lieutenant Governor Morris, has eighty cases on his hands.

Judge Jas. K. Knight, of the Mo. Circuit Court, accidentally shot himself in St. Louis, Nov. 25.

New York is soon to have a system of cheap cabs.

A statue of Daniel Webster, donated to the city of New York by G. W. Burnham, has been placed in Central Park.

The Governor of Nebraska has called a special meeting of the State legislature to count the electoral vote.

Progress is making tremendous strides in the Black Hills. Men wear collars in Custer City, and there is a canary bird at Deadwood.

Gold, 103¾@105¾.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Spades are trumps again in Paris, just as much as in the days of Hausmann under the empire. The shovel and the pickaxe are seen everywhere clearing away rubbish, to charm the eyes of visitors to the great Exhibition of 1878, which the French hope will eclipse all its predecessors.

The London Lancet says the medical profession will hear with gratification that Dr. Brown Sequard, after the long absence of thirteen years, intends to resume practice in London at an early date.

Minister Washburne is greatly annoyed by the demands of traveling Americans for recommendations for invitations to President MacMahon's State receptions.

The Khan of Khiva, in consequence of the complaints of his subjects, has offered to cede the remainder of his territory to the Russian Government.

The cost of sending a soldier to Cuba is officially stated in a Spanish journal to be 156 pesetas or francs. Each soldier receives a cash bounty of $50; a substitute receives $100 extra.

The French National School of Agriculture has a professorship of comparative agriculture or the systematic comparison of French and foreign agriculture.

The Czar of Russia has informed Lord Loftus the English Minister, that he desires peace, and does not want Constantinople.

The London correspondent of the Post telegraphs that journal as follows: "I have the authority of the Foreign Office for the assertion that the circumstantial account of the British plans which said that in case Russia should invade Turkey a British army corps would immediately occupy Constantinople and defend it against all attacks, is purely conjectural."

Letters report that the Russian Army of the Pruth has been furnished with clothing suitable for a winter campaign. The Commander-in-Chief's Staff, the commissariat, the engineering, artillery, and other staffs of the army have been formed.

The Marquis of Salisbury declared in Vienna recently, that England would not appear at the Conference as the opponent in principle of Russia. It would depend whether Russia drew up her demands in a form to guarantee the rights of the Christian subjects in Turkey without destroying the sovereignty of the Porte. He would not regard it as a violation of that sovereignty if the Porte were to enter into certain engagements with Europe regarding the Porte's subjects, and the powers were to co-operate in the introduction of guaranteed reforms.

For some time past there has been flourishing in the most lawless part of Paris a woman whose only profession was bartering food for finery. She pounced upon children whose ears, necks, or arms were adorned with jewelry, and opened the conversation by admiring the beauty of the coveted trinkets. The next step was to offer a fine assortment of cakes, bonbons, and sweetmeats in exchange, by which devise she, in an incredibly large number of cases, succeeded in swindling her victims out of their valuables. The police have at last secured her.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highst and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Dec. 2, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	94,377	Molasses	2,643
Whisky	3,270	Rice, bbls	836
Corn meal, bbls	3,758	Cut meats, pkgs	22,862
Corn meal, bags	1,018	Lard, pkgs	17,229
Wheat, bush	963,907	Tobacco, hhds	343
Corn, bush	752,365	do. pkgs	5,091
Oats, bush	469,416	Butter, lbs	25,495
Rye, bush	98,278	Cheese, lbs	17,795
Malt, bush	58,899	Cotton, bales	38,051
Barley, bush	665,245	Rosin	3,575
Beans, bush	6,372	Sulf. turp., bbls	608
Grass seed, bush	11,316	Dried Fruits, pkgs	3,259
Beef, pkgs	4,055	Eggs, bbls	14,516
Wool, bales	936	Peanuts, bags	2,581
Hops, bales	741	Leather, sides	57,001
Pork, bbls	7,020	Sugar, hhds	319
Tallow	1,348	Oil cake	18,441

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a clean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival here of summer items on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports beans past week, 1,343 bbls.; since Jan. 1, 53,903 do.; same time last year, 33,577 do.

Medium beans have again advanced and holders do not seem anxious to sell even at the new prices

The supply is small and at this season a good many local buyers appear at once. Marrows are firm, having had a couple of weeks of liberal export business. Pea beans are in demand for Eastern use, but prices are high and stock is scant. White and red kidneys are quotable at full figures. Black beans have advanced. It is not often that marrows and mediums are quoted so closely together. Prices will be apt to continue firm unless we have very open weather to favor receipts. Canadian peas are steady. Green peas dull and lower. Southern Black-Eye steady. We quote:

Beans—New medium, $2.10@2.15; do. marrow, $2.25@2.30; do. pea, $2.45@2.50; white kidney, $2.35@2.45; red do., $2.35@2.40; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $1.70@2.00; marrow, $1.80@2.30; pea, prime, $2.00@2.25; white kidney, prime, $2.00@2.30; red do., prime, $2.10@2.20; black, $2.75@2.90; Canadian peas, new, ¾ bbl., free, $1.12@1.14; do. bulk, 92@95c.; green do., new, $1.35@1.40; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2.10@2.15.

BEESWAX.—The receipts now are very small, and the light trading is at stronger prices. Sales at 31@32c. for Western and Southern.

BROOM CORN.—Is very dull, and unsettled in price. Quoted at 7@8c. for short green brush, 6½@7½c. for green hurl, 5@6c. for medium green, and 3@4c. for red and red-tipped.

BUTTER.—Trade in butter has not yet resumed an encouraging volume and December opens with a good deal of stock in store that should have found an outlet in November. Thanksgiving specialties have kept grocers busy during the past week and that fact has tended to narrow the outlet for that period. But a dragging feature in the market is the disproportion of fine and upper grades of stock, and the lateness of the business in dairies. The weather indicates that it may settle cold; that will help to start wholesale business and the local demand must soon reappear for replenishment. Solid weather improves the showing of stock; a good many lots that are turned aside when a mild term holds on late will then sell closer to their real merit. Western butter though comparatively low, partakes of the general dullness. All fancy creameries are higher and fine state tubs show an advance W. rolls lower.

Exports past week 2,742 pkgs.

We quote:—Choice pails, 33@34c.; prime, 32@33c.; poor to good, 26@29c.; creamery pails, choice, 36@38c.; good, 33@35c.; sweet cream pails, 32@35c. State firkins, choice, 29@30c.; fair to good, 25@27c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 32@33c.; fair to prime, 29@30c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 30@32c.; other, 24@28c.; inferior State, 15@19c.; Western creamery, choice, 35@37c.; other, 32@34c.; do. firkins, best, 21@22c.; other, 15@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 25@27c.; other, 18@23c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 13@16c.

State dairies quotable at 30@31c. with full tubs Welsh tubs, dairies, 26@29c.

State firkins dairies 25@30c. Roll butter, fair to prime, 20@22c.; do., poor, 15@17c.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, firk.
June 1, '76, to Dec. 1, '76	746,136	87,801
June 1, '75, to Dec. 1, '75	668,931	22,833
June 1, '74, to Dec. 1, '74	553,634	34,107
June 1, '73, to Dec. 1, '73	563,361	22,075
June 1, '72 to Dec. 1, '72	410,686	31,755
June 1, '71, to Dec. 1, '71	421,269	49,261

CHEESE.—Trade this week has been of a more restricted character; this has been partly due to the difficulty in getting ocean freight room. The feeling as to prices has been quite firm. The receipts are falling off, and the stock of the better grades of factories is not large. The liberal requirements recently of fancy colored factories has brought this grade down materially in the supply, and there is no trouble experienced in getting 14¾@14¾c. for the best lines. Fancy white factories range at 14@14¾c., and something exceptional to 15c. The lower grades are rather neglected.

Exports past week, 21,138 boxes.

Fancy factory at 14¾@14¾c. for fancy white and colored; do., job lots, 15¼c.; good and prime, 13¾@14c.; fair, 12@12¾c. State farm dairy, fancy, 13¾@13¾c.; good to prime, 12@13c.; fair and good, 11@12c. Western factory, fancy, 13¾@14c.; good and prime, 12@13c.; fair lots, 10@11c.

Comparative receipts and exports from June 1:

	Receipts, pkgs.	Exports, lbs.
June 1, '76, to Dec. 1, '76	1,755,808	69,223,501
June 1, '75, to Dec. 1, '75	1,982,415	75,672,787
June 1, '74, to Dec. 1, '74	1,691,871	75,324,583
June 1, '73, to Dec. 1, '73	1,645,199	71,333,580
June 1, '72, to Dec. 1, '72	1,599,750	61,697,148
June 1, '71, to Dec. 1, '71	1,266,352	68,800,218

COTTON.—Export demand has been more active. The latest quotations are:—December, 12 3-32@12 21¾c.; January, 12 3-16c.; February, 12 11-32@12¾c.; March, 12¾@12 17-32c.; April, 12 11-16c.; May, 12 27-32@12¾c.; June, 13c.; July, 13¾@13 5-32c.; August, 13 7-32@13¾c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Strict ordinary	10⅞	10⅞	10⅞	10⅞
Good ordinary	11⅛	11⅛	11¼	11¼
Strict good do.	11⅜	11⅜	11 7-16	11 7-16
Low middling	11⅝	11⅝	11⅝	11⅝
Strict low middling	11⅞	12	12⅛	12⅛
Middling	12⅜	12⅜	12 5-16	12 5-16
Good middling	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
Strict good middling	12⅞	12⅞	12⅞	12⅞
Middling fair	13¼	13¼	13¼	13¼
Fair	13¾	13⅞	14	14

Stained

Good ordinary	10
Strict ordinary	10⅜
Low middling	11
Middling	11½

DRIED FRUITS.—For apples, with continued arrivals, adding to an already large stock, prices are very low. It is hard to sell even small lots, with exporters indifferent. Peaches and small fruits are scarce and at strong prices.

Apples—State, sliced, 5¾@6¼c.; do., quarters, 6@6¼c.; southern sliced, new, fair, 5¾@5¾c.; choice do. 6¾c.; fancy, nominal; do., new quarters, in bags, 4@4½c.; do. repacked, 5@5½c.; Western quarters 5½c. Blackberries at 8½@8¾c. Peeled peaches, new, at 18@19c.; unpeeled peaches, halves, 9@10c.; do. quarters, 8½@9c. Raspberries, 28@29c. Cherries, 17@c.

Exports past week 780 bbls. apples; since Jan. 1st, 27,077 do., same time last year, 10,706 do.

EGGS. The demand is generally light. Very few grocers take wholesale lots this season, thus far. Cold weather may help prices, but with the present style of demand they cannot advance suddenly. Lime quiet. We quote:

Near points, 33@34c.; State and Penn., 28@29c.; Western, prime, 28@28½c.; no. Canadian, 28@28½c. State limed, 21@22c.; Western, do., 18@21c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the current rates:

Peppermint, $2.50 ₹ lb. in tin, $3.25@3.50 in glass—tone firm. Sassafras scarce and firm at 50c. ₹ lb. Wintergreen, large supply, weak at $2.50. Spearmint, nominally $2.50 ₹ lb., no demand.

FLOUR.—There has been a very satisfactory business this week. English shippers are favored by the improved temper of the markets abroad, and have been in for considerable quantities of the low grades and have met advanced prices. The better grades, more especially Minnesotas, have been freely dealt in and higher prices paid.

The latest sales are $5.00@5.30 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5.40@5.50 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.55@5.65 for good extra do; $5.70@5.75 for fancy do., and $5.80@7 for fancy to very choice extra; $5.00@5.70 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.40@5.55 for shipping extra do., the inside price for interior, and $5.60@5.70 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.75@6.30; fancy do. $6.35@8; winter wheat, good to choice family, $6.25@8.25; round-hoop Ohio, $5.40@5.50, and trade brands of do. at $5.55@7; St. Louis, $5.40@6.50 for common to fair extra, and $6.55@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.35@7.85, and patent at $7.50@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.75@5.00; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.25@6.50; do. English brands, $5.50@—; do. trade and family, $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $3.75@4.50.

FRESH FRUITS.—Cold weather strengthens the price of apples, but sales are not large, as exposure is risky. Fancy reds are quoted at $2 in a small way. Greenings unchanged, though a little firmer. Exports of apples past week, 12,830 bbls. Grapes and oranges had a fair sale for the holiday, and prices close quite strong. Cranberries have begun to move. We quote:

Apples, State, ₹ bbl., prime red, $1.75@2.00; winter, $1.37@1.50; mixed, $1.12@1.25; good to fair, 87c@$1; Cranberries, crates, $2.50@3.00; Eastern, good to prime, $7.50@10; N. J. $7.50@8.50, for good to prime. Grapes—Catawba, ₹ lb., 10@12c. Peanuts—Va., fancy, $1.30@1.35; other, 70c.@$1.15. Hickory nuts, coarse, 75c.; shellbarks, $2@2.25. Oranges—Florida, ₹ box, $4.50@6.50.

GRAIN.—For wheat there has been a very brisk demand; the advices from the other side respecting the Eastern question have been of a nature to stimulate trade, while there appears also increased demand to replenish assortments abroad. Prices have advanced. Corn is also active and at better prices. Oats have a slow trade. Barley is in large supply and depressed in price, and latest sales of wheat are of No. 3 Chicago spring at $1.22; No. 3 Milwaukee at $1.26; No. 2 Milwaukee spring at $1.31½@1.33; No. 2 Sheboygan spring at $1.31; No. 2 New York spring at $2.28; small lots of No. 1 Spring at $1.33@1.35; amber Michigan at $1.31; winter red Western at $1.30@1.31; white Canada, in bond, at $1.35; extra white Michigan at $1.43. No. 2 Chicago spring quoted at $1.30 bid and 1.31 asked. Rye at 80@84c. for western, and 92@95 for Jersey, State, Pennsylvania and Canada. Corn at 29½@30c. for mixed western. Oats at 30@43 for mixed Western and State, and 38@49 for white do.

HAY AND STRAW.—The receipts have been large, as is usual just before the close of navigation, but prices have not been affected. The low grades of shipping lots have a very fair sale. We quote:

Rale hay 60c. for shipping, 70@80c. for retail qualities; clover, 55@65c.; salt, do., 50@60c. Straw quoted at 70@75c. for long rye; 55@60c. for short rye, and 45@55c. for oat.

HONEY.—Unchanged. W. clover in grass, 15@20c.; B. W., do., 11@14c.

HOPS.—Trade continues to drag and the market is easing off a little. Exporters are indifferent, the markets on the other side not offering strengthening influences, while the demand on home account is small. Receipts are quite moderate, but there is a pretty liberal accumulation of stock. We quote:

New Yorks, good to choice, new	30 to 33
New Yorks, low to fair, new	20 to 25
Eastern, new	27 to 30
Wisconsin, new	30 to 35
Yearlings	10 to 15
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	30 to 33
Oregon	30 to 36

POULTRY AND GAME.—Tuesday and Wednesday of last week found the market pretty well clear of stale and unsightly stock and the fresh supplies of turkey found a ready market. Prices for turkeys did not run up very high—the times would not stand it—but the weather was good and crisp and steady quotations ruled for stuff that arrived time enough for retailers' use for the 30th. The display of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and State was good. Western did not crowd the market as usual at this festival, but we heard of few dealers who lamented its absence. The extreme paid for turkeys for the holidays was 16@17c. for good sized State and New Jersey and 18@19c. for very fancy do. Western sold up to 16@15c. A good deal of belated stock is in market but, fortunately, the weather is good for holding. By accounts from the interior we shall have low-priced poultry most of the season.

Turkeys, N. J., 13@15c.; State, 12@15c.; Western, 10@14c. Chickens, dry-picked, 12@15c. N. J. chicks, 11@13c.; State, 10@12c.; Western, 9@12c. Ducks, N. J., 11@14c.; State, 10@12c.; Western, 9@10c. Geese, 6@10c. for common; 11@13c. for good to best. Inferior poultry, 6@8c.

Live poultry not wanted. The low prices are nominal.

New Jersey turkeys, 10@12c. ₹ lb.; Western, 10@11c. N. J. fowls and chicks, 10@11c.; State and Penn., 10@11c.; Western, 9@10c.. roosters, 6@7c. Geese, N. J., ₹ pair, $1.75@2; Western, $1.37@1.62. Ducks, N. J., ₹ pair, 75@$1; Western, 50@63c. Live pigeons, ₹ pair, 25c.

Considerable extra trade in prime attended Thanksgiving, but the stock was pretty large and prices did not improve much. Hares and rabbits are not plenty. Drawn grouse, 50@55c. ₹ pair.

We quote.—Canvas-back ducks $1.25@1.37; Red Head 60@70c.; Mallard 60@70c.; Teal 50@55c.; Widgeon, 30@35c.; ruddies 25@30c.

English Snipe, ₹ doz. $1@—. Quail, ₹ doz., prime, $1.25@1.62, Partridge, State, 70@80; Eastern, 50@70c.; Western, 70@80c.; Prairie Hens, 75@85c.. Hares, 50@60c.; Rabbits, 30@40c. Venison, whole, 10@11c.; long saddle, 13@15c.; short do., 11@12c.

PROVISIONS.—Prices have worked up on the war news from the other side, and there is a more active export demand. Mess pork quoted at $15.87½ for spot and $16.50 for December; $16.15 for February. Bacon at 9c. for long clear and 9½c. for short clear; Western steam lard at $10.37½ on spot; $10.25 for December $10.32½ for January, and $10.10 for Feb. Stearine at 10½c. for prime. Tallow at 5½c. for prime. Beef hams at $20 for choice Western.

Beef, barreled lots, new, quoted at $10.50@11.50 for plain mess, $12@12.50 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominally at $20@21 for new prime mess and $22@21 for new India mess. City extra India mess at $26.

SEED.—Grass are in larger supply while export demand is small giving easier prices; clover quoted at 15¾c.; timothy, $1.90; rough flax at $1.00@1.02.

SUNDRIES.—Western live geese feathers prime white Western, 65@70c.; mixed, 40@50c.; live and turkey feather not wanted. Cider unchanged; 8@12c.; quality better. Ginseng, $1@1.20.

TOBACCO.—Export demand has been very light this week, while supplies are liberal and slightly easier prices in instances made.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5 @ 6	6 @ 7
Good lugs	6 @ 7½	7½@ 8
Low leaf	8 @ 8½	8½@ 9½
Medium leaf	9 @10	10 @11
Good leaf	10½@12	11½@13
Fine leaf	13 @14	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	16 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1876.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do	32 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 3,493 bbls.; of onions, 268 do. Winter weather puts a backbone in the market, potatoes especially showing firmness, and garden stuff has a steadier sale.

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₹ bbl. $3.25@3.50. Early Rose, prime, $3.25@3.50. Peerless and Jackson white, 2.62@2.75; sweet, Del. $3.00@4; Va. $2.75@3. Cabbages, ₹ 100, $4@7. Marrow squash, ₹ bbl., $1@1.25. Hubbard Squash $1.50@1.75. New Russian turnips, ₹ bush., 75c.@—. Onions—Yellow, ₹ bbl., $1.75@2.00; white, $2.50@2.75; red, $1.50@1.75. Cauliflower, ₹ bbl.; $1@1.50.

WOOL.—There has been a moderately active trade only this week. Manufacturers have bought sparingly, on account of less satisfactory goods market, while the parcels changing hands among dealers have been to a limited extent, and speculation is unimportant. Western fleeces are in small stock and firm as to price, and generally on other descriptions no important concessions made.

DOMESTIC.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
XXX and Picklock	48 @ —
XX	45 @ 46
X	43 @ 44
No. 1	38 @ 40
No. 2	34 @ 37
Common	32 @ 34
Combing	47 @ 50
New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin—	
XX	34 @ 40
X	36 @ 38
No. 1	36 @ 38
No. 2	32 @ 35
Common	30 @ 33
Combing	50 @ 52
Iowa, Vermont and Illinois—	
XX	34 @ 36
X	34 @ 36
No. 1	34 @ 36
No. 2	30 @ 32
Combing	45 @ 47
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
Washed fleece	31 @ 35
Unwashed	25 @ 29
do. combing	33 @ 37

ROCHESTER, Dec. 2.—Flour market steady; spring, $6.75; amber winter, $7.00; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $7.75. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat quiet; Milwaukee club, $1.20@1.30; amber winter, $1.20@1.27; white winter, $1.25@1.32. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 25@26c. Cheese, 13@14c. Eggs, 25@26c. Lard, 10c@10½c. Apples, bu., 25@40c. Potatoes, bu., 50@75c. Beans, ₹ bu., 90c@$1.70. Mess pork, $17.00. Wool, 25@35c. Hay, $11@12. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $3.25@10. Mill feed strong at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₹ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Dec. 3, 1876.

THE market this week has been active and prices firm, with an improved tendency. Farm dairies brought from 11 to 14c., according to quality, the delivery being quite light. Factories were well represented and about 2,500 boxes of cheese changed hands. We note sales at 12¾, 12¾, 13, 13¼ 13½ and 13c. The bulk of sales may be quoted at 13¼@13½c.

Butter is coming forward quite freely. Farm dairy butter in Welsh tubs brought 27@28c. for fair to good qualities. Fancy lots and creamery went at 29@30c., and a few extra lots of extra brought 32c. for home consumption.

The weather has been very mild, with light flurries of snow. Dairymen are congratulating themselves on the fine fall weather and the saving of hay in consequence.

We have advices from abroad to the 18th of November. Our London correspondent says that really fine English and American cheese clears at extreme quotations, but secondary and inferior sorts are hard to place, though offered at a low figure. We give quotations as follows:

American, extra fine, 68@70s.; fine, 60@65s.; good, 50@56s.; secondary and low grades, 30@40s. English cheddar brings from 70@80s.; Wiltshire double, 65@67s.; Cheshire medium, 56@60s.; fine, 76@80s.; Scotch, 66@70s. Dutch Cheese—Edams, 65@68s.; Gondas, 58@62s.; Derby shape, 60@65s.

The butter market is quiet, notwithstanding a reduction of 4s. in Normandy. Really fine butter is scarce and prices come higher from the Continent. We quote:

Channels, 116@120s.; Corks, 150s.; Dorsets, 171s.; Jersey, 120@132s.; Danish and Swedish, 120@136s.; Normandy extra, 108s.; American and Canadian, 80@130s. ₹ cwt. The sales of oleomargarine steadily increase and it is taken in preference to inferior butter at 90@104s. ₹ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,111	17	897	5,261	00
Forty-Eighth St.	77	25	555	5,785	00
Fortieth St.	000	00	1001	1000	18,563
Hursimus Cove	5,150	00	170	9,248	14,522
Totals this week	9,636	42	1,622	21,294	33,515
" last week	10,259	155	1,319	17,947	22,919

BEEVES.—Trade on last Monday opened fair on a rather heavy run of horned cattle fresh to hand, the quality of which ranged from coarse to choice. Prices were 7½@11c. ₹ lb.; weights, 5½@9 cwt. All of the hards on sale were disposed of at noon. Wednesday trade opened on a heavy run of generally rough quality cattle at ½c. ₹ lb. on Monday's rates; prices were 5@10¾c. ₹ lb.; weights, 5½@8¾ cwt. Thursday, being Thanksgiving Day, trade was small. Friday, the markets closed dull at 7@10½c.; weights, 5¾@8½ cwt. From 45@57 lbs. net., has been allowed. Colorado steers sold at 7@7¾c. ₹ lb.; Cherokee do., 8½@8¾c.; native, 8@10c.; grade, 10¾@11c. Dry cows, 8½c. Oxen at 8@9¾c. Bulls, live weight, 3½@4¼c. Mixed herds, 8@9¾c. ₹ lb.

MILCH COWS.—Trade dull and small. Sixteen cows sold at $100@65 ₹ head; 14 do., $45@91 ₹ head; 10 do., $60@72 ₹ head—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals scarce and slow of sale at 8@10½c. ₹ lb. Coarse quality calves in heavy supply and very slow of sale at 5@6c. ₹ lb., also at $1@5 ₹ head. State veals, 8@10½c.; Pennsylvania do., 9@10c. State calves, $6@14.50 ₹ head; Western do., $7@18 ₹ head. Country dressed veals in fair supply; sales effected at 11@12c. ₹ lb. Country dressed calves, 5½@7c. ₹ lb., trade moderate. Yearlings, $12@13 ₹ head.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade moderate in both sheep and lambs. Monday, sheep sold at 4½@6½c. ₹ lb.; lambs at 6½@7c. Wednesday, sheep, 4@6½c.; lambs, —@—c. Thursday, trade so small as not to affect the markets. Friday, the markets closed —; sheep sold at —@—c.; lambs, —@—c. Jersey ewes, 4@5½c. ₹ lb.; Canada do., 5½@6c. Jersey sheep, 6½c.; Canada, 5¾@6c.; Ohio, 4½@5¾c.; State, 4¾@6¾c.; Pennsylvania, 6¼c.; Indiana, 4¾@5¾c.; Kentucky, 4¾@5¾c.; Michigan, 5@5½c.; Illinois, 4¾@5¼c. State lambs, 6¾@7c.; Canada, 5¾@6¾c. Mixed flocks, 5½@6¼c.

HOGS. Trade in live hogs very slow, those to hand being held over from one day to the next, and even for two days. During this past week, 1,356 Ohio hogs, average weight 230 lbs. ₹ head, sold at 5¾@6c. ₹ lb. Six car loads held on sale. Trade in city-dressed fair at low rates, being 7@7½c. for hogs. Jersey pigs, country dressed, 8@9c.

HORSE MARKET.—Trade fair in inferior quality animals. High-priced horses held on sale. Contracts for city railroad horses filled at $85@125 ₹ head; do. for stage-line horses, $120@190; 22 head poor quality, light harness horses sold at $55@105 ₹ head; 18 do., $60@90; 50 do. ordinary quality, $100@180; 13 roadsters, with fair trotting action, not warranted sound, $200@400 ₹ head; 11 pairs family carriage horses, $275@525 ₹ pair; 3 pairs stylish do., not warranted sound, $700@925.; 1 pair do., sound, $1,200; 3 trotters, $375@500 ₹ head.; 1 do., choice quality, $800.; 1 pony, $80; 1 pair choice quality heavy draft horses, $350; 60 head coarse quality do., $62@150 ₹ head.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11	10¾@11
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¼@ 9¾	9¼@ 9¾
Poorest	7 @ 9	8 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9½	8¾@ 9¾

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

DISRAELI has $25,000 a year, and he lives like a hermit.

THE book an author is going to write is always his best work.

THE Duchess of Edinburgh has been confined of a daughter at Malta.

WHY is a chicken like a farmer? Because both delight in a full crop.

SENATOR-ELECT Teller of Colorado, is a great railroad lawyer, and a warm Methodist.

AN English writer compliments Elihu Burritt by saying that "he looks as though he had just dropped out of the Old Testament."

"WHAT does England think of Mr. Tupper?" an American asked Tennyson. "England does not think of him," replied Tennyson.

RUSSIA has 170,000 wolves within its boundaries, and they destroyed last year not only an enormous quantity of cattle and poultry, but also two hundred people.

SIR CAREL FITZGERALD, a young Baronet who had been arrested in London for driving a cab without a license, has taken out a regular cabman's license.

BY the terms of an election bet, one man in Worcester will eat a sumptuous dinner while another, who pays the bill, will sit at the same table and eat six cold potatoes.

MISS MARY P. THACHER, who has recently published a book of rustic sketches, is related to Mr. Longfellow, and has had the benefit, Col. Higginson says, of his counsel and guidance.

COMMODORE VANDERBILT persists. Disease finds him a tough customer, and in the wrestle gets thrown every time. It is evident that the Commodore comes of a stock that hadn't been watered.

A BLIND voter in Goshen, N. H., was taken to the polls late on election day, and, in the haste, he was tumbled out of the wagon and his leg broken. He was carried to the polls, screeching with pain.

A TROY quack doctor promised to cure a consumptive woman with cucumbers, in which he said he had discovered an infallible remedy. Three cucumbers killed her; yet he has sued her husband for $50 pay.

THE "American Humorists" are busy Mr. Bret Harte and Mr. Mark Twain are said to be writing a play together. The rumor that Mr. Josh Billings and Mr. Eli Perkins are also to be called in as collaborateurs is not yet authenticated.

SCENE in a debating society: President—We will take the ayes and noes on the previous question. Member—A word or two, Mr. President: Friends, Romans, Countrymen! lend me your ears—. President—Order, sir! We will take the eyes and nose first.

AN inquisitive Frenchman announces triumphantly that Paris consumes on Good Friday 280 pounds of salmon, 110,000 pounds of cod, 5,000 pounds of skate, 40,000 pounds of red herring, 8,000 pounds of shad, 3,000,000 pounds of eggs, and 6,738 pounds of butter.

THE happiest moment in the life of a girl is when she is in possession of a lover, a chair that holds twice at once, and a pa who trusts to her experience. It will be sad for her when that lover becomes a belated husband, standing on the door step, crying, "Throw down some key holes—assorted sizes."

MISS FLORENCE SPARKS, daughter of the late Jared Sparks, editor of Washington's and Franklin's epistolary remains, has just been married in Cambridge to Mr. Benjamin P. Moore. The venerable Dr. Peabody knit the knot there's no untying, and Mr. Longfellow was one of the many notable people present.

ALBRECHT DURER'S "Hercules Killing the Stymphalian Birds," which had long been thought hopelessly ruined by being so overlaid with oil color and varnish, has just been successfully restored. The painting now looks fresh and beautiful. It bears Durer's monogram and the date, 1500, and belongs to the artist's early time.

DR. STROUSBERG, the bankrupt and railway contractor, who has just been banished forever from Russia, strangely enough, doesn't think highly of the business capacity of Germans. He says:—"The German is highly scientific, he deals largely in principles, and considers himself much more intelligent than the people of other countries.

"I WANT you to play something brilliant and dashing," said young Mr. Romeo to the organist arranging for the music at his wedding; "none of those old, die-away, worn out things usually played." "How would Beethoven's symphony, in E minor, arranged as a fantasia in four flats and one slop to the high C, suit you?" inquired the musician. "Well," said the bridegroom-elect, evidently puzzled, "if it's got the ring and go of the 'Skidmore Guards,' or 'Tommy, Make Room for your Auntie,' in it, I think it'll do.

CARDINAL ANTONELLI'S colossal fortune will, it is said, be devided equally among his brother, Count Angelo Antonelli, and three other members of his family, and he has left his valuable and unique collection of precious stones and rare marbles to the Vatican Museum. He inherited much wealth from two uncles. His salary as Cardinal Secretary of State was, it is reported, only $2,500 a year. It is mentioned as one of his admirable traits that, even when most overwhelmed with business and the cares of State, he never omitted for one single day to visit his mother, for whom he entertained the most filial affection.

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SWITZERLAND to AMERICA, Greeting:

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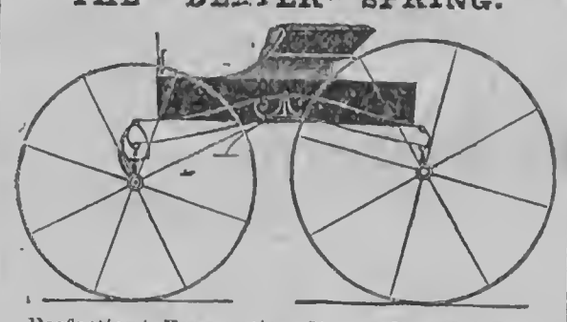

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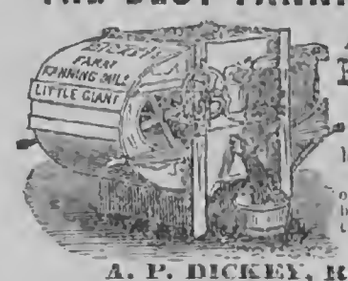

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

G. Marti, Houston, Texas.—I inclose a flower and leaf of a wild plant, much resembling an Ageratum, except that it is more floriferous and the flowers are of a pure white. It is a perennial, growing in its wild state in a poor upland soil, attaining the hight of one foot. But, planted in the garden, it makes a stately bush of three feet in hight and diameter, completely covered with its thousands of snowy white corymbs. It blooms late, sometimes with Chinese Chrysanthemums, with which it contrasts finely. It is just the thing to mix in bouquets. Friends that see this plant in my garden ask to whom I sent for it—while they have trodden upon it many times, perhaps, in its wild state. It is *Eupatorium ageratoides*.

J. R. W.—The Jerusalem Artichoke has long been used for feeding stock, as we have already stated in the RURAL. We published, some time since, a note from a correspondent residing in South Carolina, if we remember aright, who said that he had found this plant one of the most profitable of any he had ever tried for fodder and that his cows were exceedingly fond of the leaves and young stems. Had you read the "Domestic" column of the RURAL NEW-YORKER carefully, you might have found two recipes for cooking artichokes in the issue of Nov. 18, which see. But the Jerusalem Artichoke of which we have been saying more or less of late, is quite a different plant from the *Cynara scolymus* or Globe Artichoke. The latter is not a tuberous-rooted plant, and the only portion used is the undeveloped flower-head, or the scales of the involucre.

A. B.—We are inclined to think that your failure to make Catalpa seed grow was owing to one of two causes. The seeds borne on trees in our northern climate sometimes fail to fully mature, and although they may appear to be well filled, the seed itself is immature, and does not possess vitality enough to produce a plant.

Again, it frequently happens that when such delicate seeds as those of the Catalpa are sown in the open ground that the young plants are burned off by the hot sun almost so soon as they appear above the surface. We have known instances of this kind where a very good show of young seedlings could be seen in the morning, and scarcely a vestige of them remained the following evening. The safest plan is to sow such seeds in frames or in a narrow bed along the north side of a board fence, where the young plants will be partially shaded while young or during the entire first season of growth. Get good seed, and keep them in the pods or a cool room until spring and then sow in half shady beds, and we think you will find no difficulty in making them grow.

J. J.—The *Erianthus Ravennæ* is a very large, coarse-growing grass, with long, handsome plumes or flower spikes, but the leaves are too coarse to be valuable as a forage plant. It is quite hardy in ordinary winters in the vicinity of New York City and probably much further north, but will probably never be cultivated, except for ornamental purposes.

E. H. N.—Read the Poultry department of the RURAL during the past two months and you will find all your questions fully answered, with perhaps the one exception of keeping hens in a plastered room. There can be no objection to this, for the neater and cleaner their quarters are kept the better.

Farmer's Son, Lake George.—I wish to ask upon what animals subsist that live in a half-torpid condition during the winter?

ANS.—When there is no food in the stomach, the veins and what are called lymphatic vessels absorb the fleshy parts reintroducing them into the circulation. The action of the vessels of nutrition and the lymphatic vessels when unequal causes either emaciation, as in sickness, or excessive flesh—according as the latter or former are more active. In prolonged sickness, as in consumption, not only the fat but the muscles are absorbed.

Those animals which live in a half-torpid condition for long periods may be said to live upon themselves, appropriating that which may for the time be spared, for the support of the vital functions which cannot continue without nutriment.

J. C. Cartwright.—As soon as the buds of my Camellias are well formed, the scales begin to turn brown upon the edges and after awhile the buds drop off. What is the cause?

ANS.—When Camellias are forming and maturing flower buds, earth about the roots should never be permitted to dry out. It may be that your room is kept too warm. Either this or that is doubtless the cause of the buds dropping off.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.—With its full corps of editors, and a new publisher of energy and ability, the management propose to celebrate the quarter-centennial of the pioneer RURAL in such a manner as to augment its popularity and usefulness. For a first-class, lively paper, containing matter of interest for all classes, take the RURAL NEW-YORKER, and do so at once, for the paper never was better, and its prospects never brighter.—*Freeport (Ill.) Journal.*

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Wit and Humor.

AMOS'S BOOK-KEEPER.

We asked Amos how his boy was getting on at school.

"Pleg take dat boy; I done tuck him 'way from that school."

"Why; what for?"

"Uh, oh! he wus gittin' 'mos' too smart down dar wid dat book-larnin'. 'Twon't do fer some niggers ter be too agikatid."

"Why not, Amos?"

"Well, sah, just take dat boy, frinstance. I put dat boy ter keep books fer me 'bout de sellin' ob de garden truck, dis summer. Well, sah, he jess rit down charges dar in de book fer all de truck dat I tuck out de garden' an' charges fer all dat we eat in de house, an' den credit hisself wid de little 'mounts dat I let him hab 'long at odd 'casions, an' den he go an' add dem all up, an' struck er balunce, he say!"

"And how did you come out?"

"Come out? 'Fore de good Marster, I didn't come out at all! Dat boy done stuck me for 'bout thutty-fibe dollars, 'sides his wages as de book-keepah. Now dat's what de figgers sed."

"Well, what did you do?"

"I jess burn up dat book right dar an' den, 'scharges de book-keepah, an' hire him ober agin to saw wood fer his board an' close."

"You did?"

"Yes sir, I did dat. Why, boss, ef dat boy had kept dat book on me tell now he'd own dat house an' gyardin' patch an' chargin' me an' his old mammy fer bed an' board! I tell yer dis hyar book-larnin' is ruinin' dis young breed ob niggers—'tis, shore!"

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

A Counter Irritation.—Short change from a shopman.

Motto for an orphan asylum—"Thus far and no farther."

A sweet thing in literature—The Confectioner's Journal.

Every old maid can boast of two beaux, but they are elbows.

"What is the width of a broad grin?" Something less than a smile.

Punch once told a droll story of a man, who, being suddenly raised to riches, exclaimed, in the fullness of his satisfaction, "Oh, that I could stand in the road and see myself ride by in my carriage."

The Greatest Joiner.—The lawyer; he can place a tenant, empannel a jury, box a witness, bore the court, chisel a client, augur the gains, floor a witness, cut his board, nail the case, hammer the desk, file his bill, and shave a whole community.

"W——, do you know why you are like a donkey?" "Like a donkey?" echoed W——, opening his eyes wide. "No, I don't." "Do you give it up?" "I do." "Because your better half is stubbornness herself." "That's not bad. Ha! ha! I'll give that to my wife when I get home." "Mrs. W——," he asked, as he sat down to supper, "do you know why I am like a donkey?" He waited a moment expecting his wife to give it up. But she didn't. She looked at him somewhat commiseratingly as she answered: "I suppose because you were born so."

A Business Girl of Chicago. When a Chicago girl received a despatch from Wisconsin, announcing that her lover was going off with consumption she telegraphed to his friends: "Has poor Jeffrey kept up his life insurance?" The friend telegraphed back: "Policy for $10-000 in your favor is paid up till May 9, 1877. Poor Jeffrey cannot last after the first cold snap." The young lady then wondered philosophically how she would look in black, and telegraphed to Jeffrey:

"Darling, I will be with you on Tuesday, never to quit you during life. Lurline."

"It will be a sad loss to you, my love," said her mother. "Yes ma," sobbed the girl, "but the loss is fully covered by insurance."

A Suggestion.—A well-to-do citizen of Detroit almost had the breath knocked out of him by the request of a ragged sidewalk tramp, who stopped him and asked: "Say, can't you lend me $10-000?"

"What! Who are you, sir? No, sir. I can't, sir!" exclaimed the citizen.

"Couldn't possibly do it, eh?"

"No, sir."

"Tell you what you might do," suggested the tramp. "You might hand me fifteen cents now and lend me the balance when times get a little easier."

"I can't lend you a shilling, sir, or a cent, sir, and I won't give you a penny, sir."

"Sorry both of us happen to be so hard up at once," sighed the tramp, and he continued his lk.

PERTINENT.

Pat.—"Faith and Jack Roony's after takin' a trip to the States Prison, for beatin' and kickin about some strange woman."

Tim.—"Beatin' and kickin' about some *strange* woman! And phat made the fool do that? Ain't he got a wife of his own, sure?

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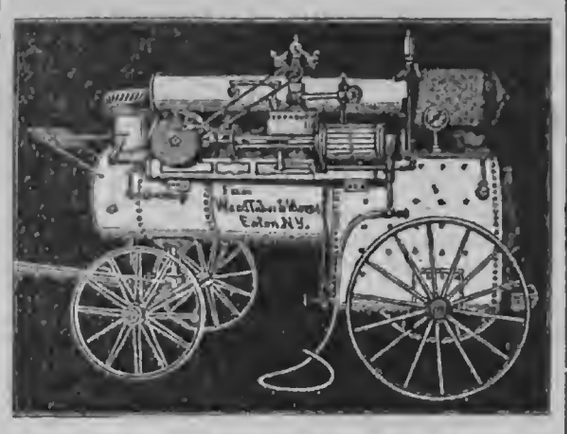

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VOL. XXXIV. No. 25.
WHOLE No. 1403.

NEW YORK CITY, DEC. 16, 1876.

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The Herdsman.

AYRSHIRE CATTLE.

THE Ayrshire is one of the four most popular breeds of cattle at present raised in this country or Europe. They are quite distinct from all others of what are termed the middle-horn breed, although evidently closely allied to them. Their origin is enveloped in obscurity, but it is known that the Ayrshire, as a distinct breed, cannot be traced back a century.

For many years the Ayrshires were considered the best lactiferous breed in Great Britain, and were exceedingly popular in Scotland, not only in Ayrshire but in Renfrewshire, Sterlingshire and the surrounding country. The dairymen of the regions where this breed first made its appearance are said to have guarded them with jealous care and sedulously appropriated them to dairy purposes. Like all the more valuable butter breeds the Ayrshires are not so profitable for the shambles as the Short-Horns, although the beef is of good quality, possessing a fine admixture of fat and lean, still there are other breeds which rank higher for the value of their flesh.

The merits of the Ayrshires may be briefly summed up as follows:— They are well adapted to hilly regions, being of moderate size and sure-footed, therefore they can obtain forage where a more bulky breed would fail to procure food in sufficient quantities to keep in flesh. They are also very industrious in seeking their food, taking that which some other breeds would reject and feeding while others would be sleeping. They are excellent for milk and some of the largest milk and butter yields on record in this country were from Ayrshire cows. We note a few as examples of what the Ayrshire cow will do under favorable circumstances.

Lady Kilburnie, an Ayrshire cow owned by the STURTEVANT BROTHERS, Farmington, Mass., is reported to have given in one year 7,429 pounds of milk, equal to 3,455 quarts. Her weight was 850 pounds. Georgia, a cow owned by the same parties, and weighing 890 pounds, has given 7,127 lbs of milk in a year. A. A. MOORE of East Berkshire, Vt., a few years since, reported that he had a cow three-fourths Durham and one-fourth Ayrshire, which gave 60 lbs. of milk per day, and from which he made 16 lbs. of butter in a week. The Ayrshire cow, Sybil, according to FLINT'S abstract report, 1874, gave in one year 13,065 lbs. of milk. Jean Amour, another noted Ayrshire cow, weighing 967 lbs., is reported to have averaged fifty-two pounds of milk during ten days in June, yielding 14½ lbs. of butter per week.

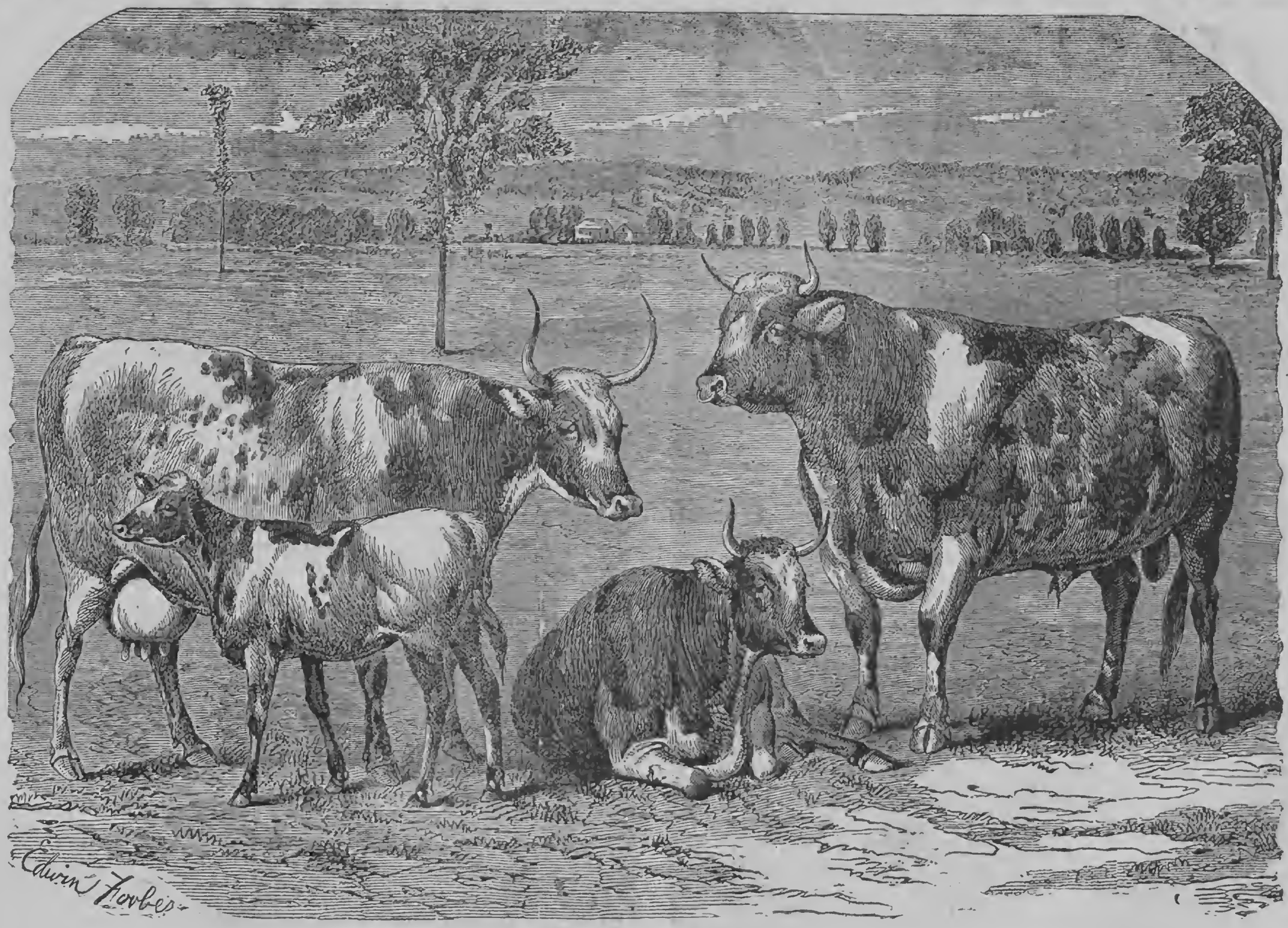
Large as the above yields may appear they have been exceeded in this country and in Great Britain, but those named are fully sufficient to show the capabilities or value of the Ayrshires for dairy purposes.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AYRSHIRE.

The accompanying illustration of a group of pure Ayrshires, drawn from life for the RURAL NEW-YORKER, will give our readers a very good idea of the appearance of this noted breed, but we add a brief general description. The back of pure Ayrshire cattle is straight and nearly level, yet has a slight depression at the top of the shoulder, and a slight tendency to another over the loins; the ribs are pretty round; the sides deep and sometimes showing a slight deficiency in the filling up of the buttock. The breast in front is comparatively narrow; the upper surface of the carcass shows less breadth at the shoulder than at the back, showing a kind of wedge-shaped outline. The length of the body is proportionately greater than the hight; the legs comparatively short; the muzzle is fine; the face broad but rather short; the eye is complacent; the expression of the face is gentle but dull; the horns short and turned up; the skin smooth and thin; the touch is good, but lacks the mellowness which accompanies a thick and soft skin; colors are red and white, like those of the Short-Horn, but usually lack the rich hue. They are sometimes mixed with black, and are always arranged in patches which are generally irregular in form.

Just as we finished the above sentence, a farmer who formerly kept fifty cows on his farm in Jefferson Co., N. Y., walked into our sanctum and after the usual salutation we asked—"How about Ayrshire cattle for the dairy?" He replied—"There is nothing to be found better. They will thrive under conditions where some other breeds would half starve. Just give an Ayrshire cow a chance at a straw stack and she will go through the winter and come out fat, giving a show of milk all the time. I tell you, the Ayrshires never fool around after fine pickings, but are always ready to work for their living, and do not mind staying up late nights to get their fill." To all of which we readily assented, for the best cow we ever saw a pail set under was a grade Ayrshire. But we presume there are more of the same sort to be found among the breeders of these famous cattle.

Other breeds may be more popular, and in fact more valuable to the farmer under certain circumstances and conditions than the Ayrshires, still the latter possess merits not to be found in any other breed; and to learn just where they will fit in and give the greatest profit on cost and care bestowed, is the test of a breeder's skill in stock raising of any kind.



AYRSHIRE CATTLE.

Dairy Husbandry.

A VITAL QUESTION IN DAIRYING.

THERE are many sections in the dairy districts where the growing of stock for dairy purposes has, for many years, been abandoned. The time will soon be at hand when the dairyman must determine whether he is to continue the old practice of slaughtering all his calves in spring, or whether he will commence raising stock by selecting from his best cows. The practice of buying anything and everything that is offered for filling up the herds cannot be sufficiently deprecated. Many of the animals bought from droves at high prices do not pay the cost of keep, and the opinion has come to be pretty general that the best way to secure good cows is to raise them on the farm. The difficulty in obtaining superior milch cows to supply the many and large herds in the dairy districts becomes greater from year to year, and this difficulty renders stock raising desirable, at least with those who are trying to excel in quantity of dairy products. Why, then, should not the raising of dairy stock on dairy farms be the rule rather than the exception? The main reason is because it is supposed to cost more to raise a cow than it does to purchase one in the market; but granting this to be true, when we come to strike the difference between the good cows raised by judicious breeding and the poor ones bought from droves, it will be found far more profitable for dairymen to raise and educate the animals on the farm, under their own immediate supervision, than to depend on purchasing.

Grade cattle from good milking families of Short-Horns are, on account of size, regarded with favor by many. When failing in milk, they take on flesh rapidly and can be turned to good account for beef. A cross of Short-Horn grades with Ayrshires is also held in high esteem by some as productive of all the milking qualities of the Ayrshire, with an improvement in size from the Short-Horn. The principle of like producing like will generally hold good in breeding for the dairy. Hence great attention should be had to breed from good milking families, and the parents on both sides should be from stock noted in this respect.

As the production of milk in large quantities is more or less exhausting, sound constitution and health are points to be considered. An old and feeble cow will not be as likely to breed as vigorous stock as younger animals in high health. Mr. FINLEY DUNN, in a prize essay on the Hereditary Diseases of Cattle, published in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, enumerates diarrhea, rheumatism, scrofula, consumption, dysentery, malignant tumors and affections depending on a plethoric state of the body, as the most important hereditary diseases of cattle. Among others, he gives the following characteristics which cattle should possess, in order to perpetuate in their offspring a healthy and vigorous constitution, viz.:

"The head small; muzzle fine and tapering; nostrils large and open; the eyes full and lustrous; the ears small and not too thick; the head well set on the neck; the distance between the ears and the angle of the jaw short, but the width behind the ears considerable (no dairy cow should have a short, thick neck); the chest wide and deep; the girth, taken immediately behind the shoulder, should correspond with the length from behind the ears to the rise of the tail; the carcass of a barrel shape, for a thin, flat-ribbed animal eats largely, thrives badly, and is usually liable to diarrhea; there should be but little space between the prominence of the hip and the last rib; the quarter large; the measurement from the prominence of the haunch backward to the rise of the tail and downward to the hock as great as possible; the lower part of the haunch thick and broad; the hide thick and pliant; smallness of bone is a sure indication of early maturity and aptitude for fattening."

These, among other characteristics and qualities enumerated by Mr DUNN, indicate the possession of a vigorous and healthy constitution and freedom from all inherent disease. In raising stock for the dairy, it must be remembered that the calf should have generous feed and good care and treatment in every respect, for a scrubby, dwarfed and pinched calf cannot be expected to mature into the best cow. Care must be taken also that it be not overfed, so as to become dainty, but kept in a healthy, growing condition.

Extra feed should be given when grass is scant and of poor quality. Roots, oatmeal and the best of early-cut hay, fed regularly during winter, with well-lighted and well-ventilated stables—all will amply repay the breeder, in the better size, condition and prospective value of the animal for the dairy.

The education of the animal for the dairy is also of prime importance. Docility, good temper, quietness, all of which are necessary in a good milch cow, are the result, in a great measure, of kind treatment and early education. Many a fine animal has been irreparably ruined by coarse and brutal treatment, for no cow that trembles from fright or exhibits great nervousness during milking will yield her greatest capacity of milk.

Calves, from the first, should be fondled and made familiar with persons; never frightened or worried by dogs, beaten or cruelly treated; they should have no fear of their attendants, but rather express pleasure in their presence and a willingness to be petted and handled; and when the heifer "comes in milk" the utmost kindness and tenderness should be shown in her management until the animal is thoroughly broken and shows no more nervousness at being milked than in the suckling of her own calf. Heifers that have been well kept will begin to come in milk at two years of age, and are regarded as making better cows than when coming in milk at a later age, since the capacity for giving milk is varied by habit, and an early development in this regard stimulates secretion of milk and, as found by experience, is productive of better results.

We have enumerated some of the leading points to be observed in raising stock for the dairy, and we urge the question upon the attention of dairymen at this time because they have now leisure to think the matter over and lay out plans for the future. Superior cows are not unfrequently raised by selecting calves from deep-milking natives which cannot boast of "royal blood" in their veins, and we should not hesitate to raise stock from such animals in case no provision has been made to cross with thoroughbreds. We should be glad to see more interest taken by dairymen in breeding stock for the dairy. We ought to get better returns, both of cheese and butter, than we do, and this object can never be successfully accomplished unless dairymen go back to the beginning and breed their own stock. We need cows that will turn off 600 pounds of cheese annually, or from 250 to 300 pounds of butter. This product cannot be obtained from the culls picked out of droves. If we are to reap a good profit from dairying and make it a grand success, it must come from having deep milkers, and the surest way to secure these is by judicious breeding upon the farm where they are to be used.

DRYING OFF THE COWS.

THE season has now come when the herds are to be dried of their milk, and it is one of the most important operations connected with the successful management of the dairy. Immense losses are sustained annually from an improper manner of drying off cows. If milk is allowed to remain in the udder even in very small quantities, it becomes thick and coagulated and acts as a foreign substance, producing irritation, and is liable to affect injuriously or destroy some of the parts of the bag and teats. The whole structure of the udder is a complicated and delicate affair. The arteries going to the udder are both large and numerous, and the branches of each vessel freely anastomose together, so that no interruption to the regularity of the supply of blood to every part of the gland may take place. The several vessels which come off from these arteries penetrate into the substance of the mamma, within which they freely ramify by numerous divisions and sub-divisions. Ultimately, by further splitting up and consequent diminution of their caliber, they form vessels so minute as to be unobservable to the naked eye, and which have been designated capillaries. They are distributed to the follicles or cœcal extremities of the lactiferous ducts, upon which they form a minute *rete* of vessels, and furnish blood, both in a sufficient quantity and also in a condition fitted for the secretion of milk. From the cœcal extremities the milk, as it is formed, finds its way along the minute excretory ducts to which they are attached into large tubes, and thence into various-sized cavities, which are termed reservoirs. The arrangement of this portion of the gland may be compared to bunches of currants as connected with or growing upon their foot stalks. The fruit would here represent the milk-secreting follicles, and the stalks the tubes by which it is conveyed away.

It will be seen from the above that a structure so complicated and delicate is liable to become deranged in some of its parts by improper usage, and that it cannot well maintain its integrity when milk is allowed to accumulate and remain to decompose and become rotten, as it often does when there has been neglect in properly "drying off" the animal. When cows begin to fail in their milk, the supply of blood to the glands becomes less, and when milk is left in the udder a portion of it will be absorbed in the system, Nature taking this way to rid the glands of a substance which requires to be removed. But when the milk coagulates, the caseinous portions become hard and remain. Thus, when the cow again comes in milk, we find this foreign substance acting as an irritant, inducing, not unfrequently, violent inflammation, and we have "swelled bag," garget, or some disease of the udder which causes trouble. Often particles of coagulated milk fill up the milk duct at the base of the teat or lower down, causing a stoppage of milk through the duct, and hence spoiling the teat for further use. Of late years a large number of cows throughout the dairy districts are found which have lost the use of one or more teats, and they are generally among the best cows of the herd. The cause is largely owing to neglect in properly "drying off."

Cows cannot be dried of their milk at once, and some cows continue to secrete milk in small quantities for a long time. But in all cases where the animal has ceased to give milk, or is what is termed "dry," she should have her udder examined from time to time and the teats tried to see if any milk can be drawn. At first the trial should be made at intervals of two or three days, and if there is a particle of milk in the bag it should be all thoroughly drawn. Then the trial may be made at longer intervals. When cows are supposed to be completely dry, the rule should be to go through the herd every week, making trial of the teats to see if any milk can be drawn. And this work cannot safely be intrusted to "hired help," but must be performed under the "eye of master." Many persons are not aware of the importance of drying cows, and hired help often think it a piece of folly to try to draw milk from a dry cow. We have had such men, and they were good, honest men, too, and they would insist that certain cows were perfectly dry, but yet, when put to the test under our rule of trying the teats once a week during winter, we have found, in numerous instances, that small quantities of thick milk or a watery fluid could be drawn from the udder.

We have lost the use of valuable cows by intrusting this work to persons in our employ, and there is scarcely a dairyman in New York who cannot trace trouble in his herd to either his own neglect or that of others. Indeed, so large is the loss every year from improperly drying cows that there is scarcely a subject connected with dairy management of more vital importance than this. We urge it, therefore, upon the attention of dairymen, and we say to them: Be sure that the work is done properly—trust no eye but your own, and when your herd comes in milk next spring you will realize the value of our advice.

ILLINOIS STATE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

THE Illinois Dairymen hold their Annual Convention at Elgin, Ill., commencing Dec. 12, at 10 A. M. The Executive Committee of the State Association have marked out quite an elaborate programme for the occasion. It is as follows:

Address of welcome by the President: the supply and demand of dairy products and their future markets—Hon. S. Wilcox, Elgin; C. H. Wilder, Wisconsin; H. W. Mead, Hebron. The best plan to avoid the low prices which usually prevail for butter and cheese during the summer months—R. R. Stone, Elgin; R. W. Stewart, Hebron. Manure, how to care for and apply—Jno. Keating, Elgin; C. H. Larkin, Elgin. The best method of improving and supplying the dairy; different breeds and their adaptation to our climate—D. Levery, Leland; Hon. William Patten, Sandwich; Geo. E. Brown, Elgin. The manufacture of skimmed milk; is it injurious or beneficial to the dairy interest?—Hon. S. Wilcox, Elgin; D. E. Wood, Huntley; A. H. Barber, Chicago. Marketing dairy products—J. R. McLean, Elgin; Wm. H. Stewart, Woodstock. The best and cheapest feed to keep up the supply of milk during the summer drought—S. W. Kingsley, Barrington; Thomas Bishop, Elgin. Grasses, the best varieties for hay and pasture, as adapted to our climate and soils—W. J. Burdick, Whitewater, Wis.; C. C. Buell, Rock Falls; S. Wilcox, Elgin. How shall we improve the dairy interest of Illinois?—I. Boies, Byron; C. C. Buell, Rock Falls; G. P. Lord, Elgin; R. R. Stone, Elgin. What are the essential requirements of a good dairy farm?—R. W. Stewart, Hebron; C. C. Buell, Rock Falls; M. H. Thompson, Elgin. What is the best and most economical mode of handling milk to make butter from small dairies of 5 to 25 cows?—C. Gilbert, Marengo; S. K. Bartholomew, Marengo; Hon. S. Wilcox, Elgin. To what extent may soiling be profitably substituted for pasturage?—D. C. Scofield, Elgin; W. D. Henning, Plano. Can summer butter be so handled and packed that it will retain its sweetness for winter use:—N. Eldred, Gelman; C. C. Buell, Rock Falls; L. Boies, Marengo. Can the dairyman of Illinois profitably raise calves to supply the dairy?—I. H. Wanzer, Elgin; Wm. Boies, Byron; E. W. Stewart, Marengo.

A discussion will be had upon the question, "Has the display of dairy products at the American Centennial been of benefit to the dairy interest at large?"

Illinois, we believe, made no display of dairy products at the Centennial. The Illinois dairymen, it will be remembered, protested against the appointment of Prof. ARNOLD as Juror of Dairy Products, which protest Mr. SCOVILLE retained in his pocket and did not forward to the Commission. As the Ring management of the dairy display at the Centennial has resulted in a complete failure and laughing-stock, we presume the discussion will bring out the whole matter for the edification of Western men. The Illinois State Dairymen's Association is a live Society, and the meeting will be one of great interest.

THE DAIRY RING IN A NEW ROLE.

AN esteemed correspondent sends us the following:

"It is well known that soon after the great *fiasco* of the half-dozen members of the Centennial Dairy Committee at Utica, when Mr. BLISS began to protest against their illicit action, Mr. D. L. POPE of Ohio was appointed a member of the Committee by Mr. SCOVILLE, and not by the Committee, who alone had authority to make such appointment, with the evident purpose of making him useful in their efforts to get rid of Mr. BLISS and install themselves in all the offices. At the next meeting of the Committee, the 'Executive Committee' was instituted and constituted, with Mr. POPE as Chairman. He (Mr. POPE) proved an exceedingly useful accession to the Ring for a time; but when his day of usefulness was past, with characteristic disregard of all else but their selfish and nefarious purposes to run the whole thing in their own individual interests, regardless of the rights of everybody else, they, in turn, went to work to get rid of him. He had become thoroughly disgusted with them and would gladly have stepped down and out were it not that he had been so unwise as to put some of his own funds into the payment of bills for the transportation of the apparatus and fixtures for the Dairy Building, and, as in the case of Mr. BLISS, the Committee peremptorily and positively refused to audit or pay his bills.

"Fortunately for Mr. POPE, Col. SPRAGUE of Vermont, who had donated to the Committee a full set of the famous Howe Scales, had exhibited them in his own name, and it so appeared on the books of the Commission. The Ring were greatly excited when they learned that the order of Col. SPRAGUE was necessary before they could get possession of the scales, and that he considered himself in honor bound to withhold the order until they had paid Mr. POPE the amount which he had advanced on account of their transportation.

Col. SPRAGUE is a member of the Vermont Legislature, now in session at Montpelier, and it became necessary for the Ring, in their haste to get hold of the spoils, to open a running correspondence by mail and telegraph with him. Mr. BLISS and two or three others of the Vermont victims of the Ring management are also in attendance upon the Legislature, and for several days their interest was about evenly divided between the dispatches in relation to the Presidential election and those that Col. SPRAGUE was receiving from the Ring managers. At last accounts Mr. POPE had got possession of all the scales but one."

What with quarreling among themselves and the failure of the Dairy Exhibition, the Ring are having a gay time.

EFFECTS OF POTATOES ON MILK.

THERE will probably be very few potatoes fed to cows this winter, but farmers having those which are too small for other purposes and desiring to feed them to stock will be interested in the following from the National Live Stock Journal:

We do not think the partial experiments upon this matter are properly interpreted, even by those who have made them. It has been found that a large feed of potatoes lessens the percentage of hay digested; but we think the large amount of starch contained in the potato causes a looseness of the bowels, and thus impairs the digestive function. We have often fed potatoes to cows in milk with great benefit. Our plan has been to run potatoes through a root-slicer, and feed four quarts at a time, mixed with cut hay and a pint of oil-meal or pea-meal, or a quart of oats. And since the experiments mentioned, we have again tried this mode of feeding and found it to work admirably well. The potato is a very imperfect food alone, being principally starch, having too little nitrogen and phosphate of lime to make milk; but it is the richest root raised on the farm, and when fed in small quantity, raw, will regulate the bowels and have a very similar effect to green grass. It is a very laxative food in the raw state, and that is, probably, the cause of its peculiar effect upon the digestion of hay.

When the potato is cooked the effect is quite different and its value is greatly increased. A

small quantity of potatoes, say four quarts as a feed, will increase the yield of milk nearly as much as so much grain, provided they are fed with other food rich in the constituents of milk. The American dairyman is prone to feed one thing at a time, almost wholly, instead of giving variety in food which will furnish all the elements required in the proper proportion. We found an objection to the use of oil-meal when fed above two pounds per day to a cow, as it is too laxative. We found one quart per day the most profitable, and have also found one peck of potatoes per day, in two feeds, the most profitable.

SWINDLERS OF DAIRYMEN.

We find the following going the rounds of the press without credit to the author, but as it may be the means of saving some of our readers from being swindled we publish the story as it is told:

A new dodge for swindling farmers has just been put into operation. Several strange men drive into an agricultural district; they stop at all the farm houses and make a contract to take all the butter the farmers can furnish at 50 cents a pound. Further, it will be gathered up by a fast, special team, and the cash paid for it at the door. The pretence is that during the fall and winter the large cities will be crowded and that butter will be scarce. In this way all the farmers in a district are contracted with, and arrangements are made to come for the butter on certain days and at certain points, the contract to go into effect in two weeks.

A few days after the departure of the men a drove of cows comes along; they are fine-looking milch cows. The farmers, having a good thing in view, think they might use a few more cows. They try to buy them, but the drover doesn't seem anxious to sell. Finally, however, he is induced to sell two or three to each farmer, at prices considerably higher than the real market value. He then departs, meets his partners who put up the butter job, and they divide their rascally-earned profits. Forewarned is forearmed, and farmers will do well to be on their guard against this new style of sharpers.

Sheep Husbandry.

MORE SHEEP WANTED.

A few weeks since a very convincing article was written to this effect and one would think farmers would see that when a country like the United States imports $50,000,000 worth of woolen goods and $11,000,000 worth of wool there must be something altogether wrong in sheep husbandry, here especially, when England, overrun with cattle and dairying, breeding immense numbers of pleasure horses for the chase and the turf, and with mankind swarming to that degree as to require millions upon millions' worth of vegetables, can yet breed more sheep on her area, garden-like in comparison with the States, than the whole of this country. Yet not only does she do so in numbers but each average animal sells for more than treble the price obtained here, and the washed wool brings fourfold the price of the fleeces here even with protection added. Now there is no protection there and nothing can show the folly of any interference with free commerce better than this, for here are farmers whining about 40 cents for wool when 25 cents will always pay for growing it with proper management.

Here in New York City and other cities are men looking for safe investments, yet these cannot see the immense fortunes which await the men who will form companies and go into sheep raising with the same spirit and business tact that are displayed in mercantile pursuits, and the few young men who go forth with their little alls, do not realize that in following the advice of the Western men, who talk as if nobody knew aught but themselves, they are permitting the blind to lead the blind, for why have not these men met the exigencies of the country by growing enough for home manufacture and exportation instead of sending away the heart's blood of the soil in exporting wheat and corn.

Men cannot use their faculties aright when they grow cotton at a loss buying artificial manure, when with their mild winters they could keep sheep at half the cost entailed in the North, and with the example of Australia before them too, the inhabitants of which country, though on the opposite side of the world and so far from market that they can make little of mutton, yet export more wool than the Americans grow, and thus bring gold in abundance, adding riches every year to their pockets, while the sheep give rich fertility to their soil instead of the owners despoiling it by plowing continually till they have sucked out every atom of the original maiden purity of newness.

There never was anything to equal the present state of agriculture in the United States and in Canada, for the experience of seeing the run-down, poverty-stricken fields in the East, does'nt stop the pitiable despoliation out West.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY AT THE SOUTH.

How far does the climate of the cotton States resemble that of Australia? Sheep do well there. Again why cannot wool be grown instead of cotton. I was in the South and in the S. W. some years since and saw that sheep did well, consequently as the land is very cheap and runs to grass readily, and everybody knows that grazing with sheep rapidly improves the pastures, why does'nt sheep-raising become a great source of wealth?

I expect the cause for such unaccountable neglect must be the failure of some few young men who have gone out and lost money, but this only proves that the system as at present in vogue is altogether wrong.

Some years ago I was about to engage in this enterprise with one of the Lelands but would not do so because of being obliged if I did to follow in the steps of those who were only crawling along in the old track; then I corresponded with a banker of Cazinovia who had a dairy and sheep establishment in Iowa, but he refused to comply with my first proposition to raise calves, using pure bred bulls, and then he consulted with some friends about my next proposal to kill off or sell all the old wether sheep, (over a thousand) putting ewes in their places and using Cotswold rams, then he intimated I knew so little about the West that I had no chance with him. I respectfully replied he would find these miserable men would lead him on to great losses, and two years after, I heard his flock could not be kept up in numbers without purchases, although he made no sales of aught but wool, and that it took all the profits of the dairy to buy fresh cows, and the next news was seeing the whole concern offered for sale in an advertisement.

It is useless to mince words about sheep-raising, wool-growing, or management of flocks in the United States, for facts speak for themselves and as long as farmers sell ewe lambs and use scrub rams, and keep wethers till past their prime, there will be no fortunes made by sheep husbandry.

Sheep are easily kept healthy, and if managed systematically will return more profit than can be made from any other animals, and where they are well taken care of, in the way of keeping the young and old separate, and never allowed to pine or suffer in any way, they are certain to bring in a handsome income and the land will improve in proportion to the prosperous state of the sheep, and the higher condition of the sheep will produce a similar increase in the fatness of the soil.

Thus in England the farmer who occupies much arable land and feeds his sheep on the English modern system, by keeping all the lambs in high condition and the wether ones very fat from their birth, will have a great income from mutton, from wool and also from the increased quantity of grain, straw, grass, &c. Sheep thus give three sources of income annually.

Working Farmer.

The Horseman.

CLIPPING HORSES.

I believe that it is a well established fact, that editors know everything, and therefore I confidently appeal to you for information. It is said by some (who have no ax to grind) that clipped horses will keep on one half the food that those not clipped require. Now, sir, will you be kind enough to inform me if such is the case? Don't forget that you, by virtue of your profession, know everything. Another thing I should like to be informed on:—How is it known that only half rations are required for such a horse? Perhaps I am unreasonable, but a mere *ipse dixit* is scarcely sufficient for me. If one has measured the feed before clipping and since, and he really finds that his horse eats only two quarts while he ate four quarts in his normal condition, and is as fat and strong now as then, I say he knows whereof he speaks. Now there is a very considerable difference between two and four when you come down to realities; but when one guesses, as is frequently the case, there is but a *slight* difference.

I have, in some things, quite an economical turn of mind, especially so in the matter of horse feed. I believe that a horse in his natural condition is very nearly, if not quite right; but am willing to learn if he can be improved on—I mean in the matter of clothing. I notice that although the advocates of clipping claim that a horse does not sweat so easily and, of course, cannot get hot so quickly, still they are very careful when they stop to put on two blankets and a buffalo robe over their steeds.

Even if it is conceded that there is a propriety in clipping, will it do in all cases? Where a horse is sometimes called upon to do farm work and at other times is driven on the road before a light vehicle, is it advisable to clip? When a horse is used for nothing but work, would you clip him? How soon after a hard drive can a clipped one be fed? It is claimed that he will cool off enough in ten minutes to be fed. If that is so, it is an important consideration—or rather argument—in favor of clipping. I have found that it takes a long time sometimes for an unclipped horse to cool off. I have been told that it is always safe to feed one hour after being driven. Is that so? H. Z.

Our correspondent has certainly presumed too much upon the knowledge of editors, for there are some things which are past finding out. Had you asked us to decide the question whether this earth was hollow or filled with sawdust, it would have been much easier to have answered it correctly than the one you have propounded about clipping horses.

If the "clipperites" would only discover some way of driving in the hairs on a horse instead of cutting them off, then we could understand how there might be a saving of food equal to the amount required to produce the extra length of hair; but how to save by cutting off and wasting, is a problem not solved in our philosophy.

If cutting off the hair short is such a saving, why not shave it off close, and then who knows but taking off the skin would be still better? Of course there are horsemen who will find plenty of very plausible theories to employ in support of clipping, just as their cruel predecessors did for pricking and docking the tails of horses years ago; but the saving of feed by lessening the length of the hair on an animal, is something in the way of a discovery worthy of the bright minds of the nineteenth century. Never having thought it worthy of our time to test the clipping theory, we must plead ignorance and, further, fear we shall be no better off years hence than now, owing to our faith in Divine wisdom in giving the noble horse a good coat of hair to protect him from the elements.

The Apiarian.

DO BEES MAKE HONEY?

I do not know why there should be any mystery about this question of bees making or gathering honey, for, to me, it is as clear as sunshine.

Suppose we take the best sugar and make a gallon of molasses and sirup and put it where the bees can get it, and they take it into the hives, and in time cap it over in the cell, but, in the meantime, let us keep a little sirup for comparison. After awhile, take an extractor and remove the sirup from the comb, and it will be found to be honey and quite different from the reserved material—in fact, one is honey and the other is not. The bees, of course, did not make the honey, but changed the flavor only.

It will not be clover honey, linden or buckwheat honey, but sirup honey. Their Creator has given the bees the power of changing the flavor of the sweets gathered, and it is then called by us honey. We may say that bees made it, and so we may say that cloth made of wool is woolen; and of flax, linen; of cotton, cotton cloth, and so with honey. If from buckwheat, it is buckwheat honey, for the bees cannot change it into clover honey any more than we can make cotton cloth out of wool.

Onondaga Co., N. Y. A. Wilson.

BEES IN WINTER.

The Essay on Bee-Keeping receiving the prize offered by the Centennial committee of the North Eastern Bee Keepers' Association was written by Prof. A. J. Cook, of Michigan. Not having room for the entire essay we copy that portion relating to wintering Bees.

What are the requisites to safe wintering? 1. The colonies must be kept in a uniform temperature, which should never vary beyond the minimum temperature of 35 or the maximum of 45 deg. This may be safely secured by placing them in a dry, dark, well-ventilated cellar, which shall maintain the required temperature; or in a house with double walls, enclosing a space wide enough when filled in with sawdust to be frost proof, even during the severest winter, and so arranged as to be ventilated without admitting the light. The same results may be gained with the colonies on their summer stands, if we but place boxes or boards around and above the hives, leaving a space of a foot or more to be filled in with sawdust, chaff, straw, or shavings, all of which I have used with perfect success. In this case it may be well to use a tube or portico to the hive so that the bees may fly out should the weather be warm for so long a time that the bees would become overheated and uneasy. The same object may be gained by leaving the front of the hive, which should face to the east, unprotected. Could we be sure of sufficient snow so that our bees could be covered deeply the winter through, we could ask for nothing better. I never had my bees do better than when thus protected, during the disastrous winter of '72—3 when my bees, and those of a neighbor which I arranged, were all that survived in the whole neighborhood.

2. The bees should not go into winter quarters without at least 30 lbs. of good capped honey. If the combs contain uncapped honey it should be extracted. If the apiarist has not the requisite amount of suitable honey it will do equally well to supplement his supply by feeding good, thick honey which has been extracted early in the season, or if that be not at his command a sirup made of coffee. A sugar of the consistency of honey, or just so that it will not crystalize upon cooling, will answer equally well. Perhaps the most convenient method to feed this is to put it in a bag made of drilling which is tacked to a strip of wood just like the top bar of a frame, except that it is two inches wide and has a hole cut in the center 1 inch wide and 2 inches long. Hang this between the frames and the end of the hive, then pour in the honey or syrup. The bees will sip it up and store it away as it oozes through the feeder. Of course the bag should not reach quite to the bottom or sides of the hive. The feeding should be done as early as the last of September, so that the bees may have time to cap the cells before the weather is too cold.

3. Any impotent queens or any not first-class, should be superseded early in the season. If the bees stop gathering in August, feed sparingly, as described above. One-half pound daily will suffice. Again if storing be very rapid in August and September, as it is likely to be where fall bloom is plenty, the honey must be extracted, so that the queen may have a chance to deposit eggs. Brood rearing would have entirely ceased in all my colonies the present season as early as August had I omitted to extract. As it is there is brood in nearly all of them to-day—October 18th. Those apiarists about here who have not extracted may look for spring dwindling the coming spring.

4. Immediately above the bees there should be placed a quilt made of good factory, and still above this if the hives permit as in most cases they will, there should be placed a factory bag filled loosely with chaff. This may be from 6 to 12 inches in thickness.

So sure am I that the above methods will succeed without fail, that I sell my bees in autumn, warranting them to winter if I can oversee the preparation.

MELIPONES.

Few of our readers probably ever heard of an insect by the above name, but the London Gardeners' Chronicle tells us that the hymenopterous insects known as Melipones, and found in various parts of the world, resemble bees very closely, but are without any sting. Their honey-producing qualities are very decided. Resembling bees in their general character, they are smaller, with a more densely clothed body and the hind feet proportionally longer. As in the ordinary bees, there are three varieties of individuals—the males, females, and neuters. Some of them make their nests in hollow trees, while others suspend them from the branches. The honey of these insects is said to be of a very superior quality.

It is a common practice among the people in this locality when stung by a bee to extract the sting at once and immedialy after this is done cover the punctured part with the pipe of a watch key, pressing it firmly on for some time, and when removed a little honey is rubbed over the wound.

ITALIAN BEES.

Prof. H. J. Cook, in speaking of the races of bees in his "Manual of the Apiary," says of these bees: They take their name from the fact that they were first discovered in the mountain basin of northern Italy and Switzerland, shut in, as it were, by the Alps. Without much doubt they are a climatic variety, with characters of coloration and habits so inbred that they are a fixed race. It may be, as has been asserted, that the original stock was a cross between the black and the Egyptian races. The queen varies much in color. She may be almost entirely yellow, is rarely almost as black as the German queen, but is generally irregularly marked with black and yellow. The drones are also black, annulated, or spotted with yellow, while the neuters will, without exception, if the stock is pure, possess three yellow bands about the base of the abdomen. I repeat, every bee in the colony must be thus marked. The first ring is close to the thorax, and very narrow. The second is quite broad. These two rings are usually quite distinct in hybrids. The third ring is narrower, and may be obscured in old bees, especially if not distended with honey. When this ring is absent in any of the bees, there is "something rotten in Denmark."

Scientific and Useful.

SOMETHING ABOUT STEAM-POWER.—No. 1.

While the historical critics of the day are industriously robbing antiquity of the interest attached to legends of heroism, prodigy and sentiment, dear to the credulous hearts of our forefathers; writers of another class are equally zealous in gifting those remote ages, with a barren knowledge of most of the inventions and discoveries commonly eulogized as exclusively modern. Even if we credit the researches of these praisers of the past, however, surprise that the ancients should have possessed an inkling of so many recent arts and revelations is lost in astonishment at their lack of ingenuity to turn their meagre information to any practical use or benefit.

Among the latter-day discoveries with which they are credited is an acquaintance with steam as a motive power, and in support of this assertion reference is made to a few insignificant contrivances, imperfectly described by a brace of obscure authors, as intended for amusement or deception. It was only in our great grandfathers' days however, that this power was rediscovered and utilized, and a large share of the mechanical and scientific skill of the last three or four generations has been busily engaged in perfecting machinery for its employment and in studying its properties and capacity.

According to the latest scientific revelations steam is the vapor of water, or water converted by heat into a non-permanent gas. This gas is perfectly colorless and transparent, and therefore invisible, and it is only when a part of it has become condensed into a mist or cloud that it is seen.

The gasification of water takes place even at low temperatures, as the surface continually gives off vapor which mingles readily with the air. The tension or expansive force of this, however, is low, but it increases with increased temperature until the boiling point is reached, when it is equal to the pressure of the atmosphere, which is forced aside and the steam escapes in a body. At this temperature steam is formed rapidly within the mass as well as at the surface, and ebullition is caused by the efforts of this internal vapor to escape.

The temperature of the boiling point varies with the purity of the water and the pressure upon it. With water perfectly pure, at the sea level, and under atmospheric pressure only, ebullition takes place at a temperature of 212°. With sea water, at the bottom of a deep mine, or under artificial pressure a higher temperature is needed, while at an accessible mountain elevation, or when placed in a receiver from which the air has been partly exhausted, and atmospheric pressure thus reduced, water boils at a temperature so low that neither eggs nor meat can be cooked by it. The temperature of boiling water is constant under a constant pressure and can only be increased by increasing the pressure upon it, as any additional heat applied to it is employed in converting the liquid into vapor with greater rapidity.

To effect this vaporization from water at a temperature of 212°, into steam at the same temperature about 5½ times as much heat is required as to raise the same weight of water from the freezing to the boiling point. This heat received constantly from the fire, after the water has attained the temperature of 212°, was supposed to combine with the water and steam without raising the temperature of either, and has therefore been called latent heat, in contradistinction to the heat used in heating water to the boiling point which has been styled sensible heat. The bulk of this latent heat, however, is expended in overcoming the cohesion of the liquid, and a part in forcing aside the incumbent atmosphere so as to make room for the steam, and only a small fraction of it performs any of the work of steam.

By confining the vapor, its pressure upon the water is increased, so that the boiling point is raised, and with it the temperature and tension of the pent-up steam are both augmented. The density, temperature, and pressure of steam always bear a uniform relation to each other, and any change in one of these particulars necessarily entails a corresponding change in the other two. At 212° steam is a trifle over one-half the weight of air, and is about 1700 times the bulk of the water from which it was formed, so that a cubic inch of water is transmuted into nearly a cubic foot of steam. It then has a pressure of one atmosphere, or 15 lbs. to the square inch. This pressure or tension is doubled at a temperature of 250° and by increasing the temperature, which can be done only by checking the outrush of steam and so augmenting its pressure on the water at the same time that a sufficiency of heat is applied to it, the expansive force of the confined steam is only limited by the tenacity of the vessel that contains it. This enormous expansibility of steam coupled with its capacity of extremely rapid condensation is the source of all steam power.

TEA CULTURE IN CHINA.

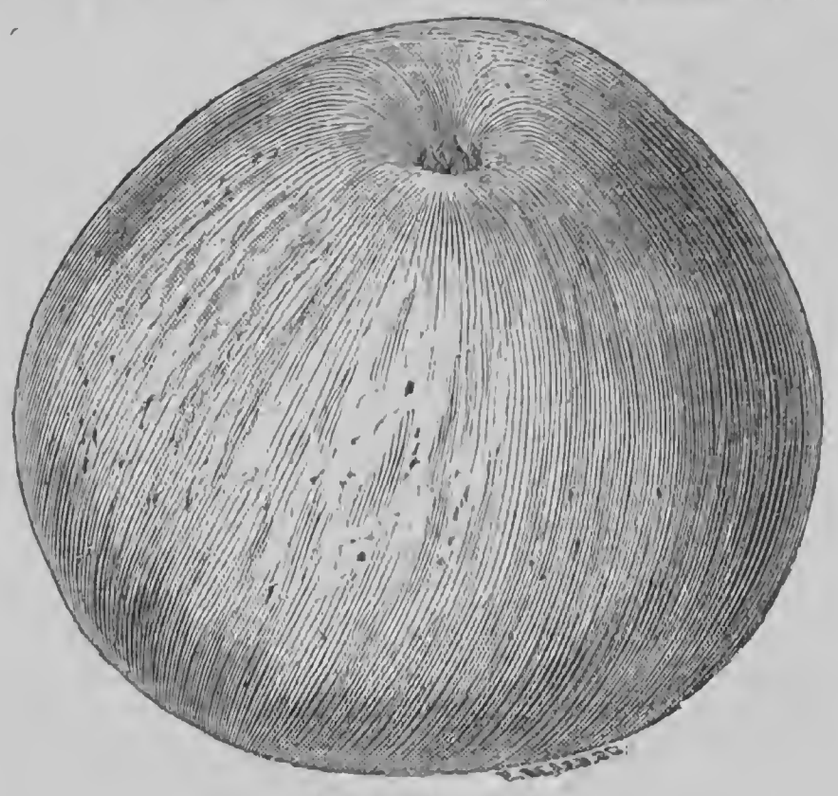
Any information about an article so extensively used as tea is always more or less interesting. Hundreds of different stories have been told about the method of gathering and preparing tea for market, the greater part of which were long since proved to be erroneous, but since the introduction of steamboats and railroads, hundreds of persons have visited the home of the tea-plant, where one did before the introduction of such facilities for rapid transit, consequently the great mysteries about tea culture have passed away. Mr. F. B. Thurber of this city now in China writes to the American Grocer a long and interesting letter on gathering and preparing teas for market from which we copy the following:

The methods followed in cultivating tea in China are almost precisely similar to those pursued in Japan, a detailed account of which I sent you a short time since. There is some difference, however, in the mode of preparation, and indeed, this varies considerably in China in different districts, which produce different kinds of tea. The leaf, however, is essentially the same all over China, and all the different varieties of black and green are produced by a difference in the curing and manipulation. In certain districts, however, they are more in the habit of producing certain varieties, unless the market should so shape that some other variety commands a better price; in which case, it will change from green to black or black to green. The great tea producing sections are in the middle of China, and more largely in the sections tributary to the Yang-tse-Kiang River than any other. It is mostly grown by small proprietors or farmers, who cure it sufficiently to transport it to the native dealers, who collect and ship it to the treaty ports, where it is again sold to the large dealers, who refire it, assort it into grades, and, in turn, sell it to the foreign merchants, who export it to the different parts of the world.

When it is first picked, if destined for green teas, it is thinly spread upon bamboo trays and exposed to the sun for an hour or two, then thrown into firing-pans and rapidly moved about for, perhaps, five minutes. The heat develops the moisture and thoroughly wilts the leaves, which are then drawn quickly out and placed upon the rolling-tables They are then rolled with the hands (and sometimes with the feet) in such a way as to produce the style of tea most desired—a more circular motion being necessary for "Gunpowders" and "Imperials" than for "Young Hysons" and "Hysons." It is then replaced in the firing pans and kept moving by the rapid motion of the hands of the workmen for a length of time, varying somewhat with the degree of heat, but usually for an hour and a half or two hours. The leaves are then quite well dried and their color fixed, and it may now be said to be a natural-colored green tea.

After it gets into the hands of the large native merchants at the shipping ports, however, it is refired, and during this process a little coloring matter is added—principally gypsum and indigo—in order to give it the handsome, glossy "face," such as is popular in the American market. With black teas the treatment is entirely different, the leaves being simply dried by the producer, during which process it is slightly rolled, and it remains in this condition until it reaches the hands of the wholesale merchant, who refires it and manipulates it in such a way as to materially change the flavor. Indeed, it may be said this manipulation at the tea-firing "go-downs" is the most important part of the process, as different flavors can be produced at will, and upon the assorting and sifting depends the fineness of each grade.

In some sections, during this manipulation by the large dealers, artificially-flavored teas are produced. In Canton we saw a large quantity of tea of ordinary quality being scented by flowers gathered from a variety of jasmine, which produces a white, deliciously fragrant blossom. A layer of tea is placed in the bottom of a large basket and a few flowers scattered upon it, then another layer of tea and another layer of flowers, and so on, until the basket is full. The flowers are generally placed in the tea in the afternoon, and allowed to remain there over night, when it is found that the tea has absorbed most of the fragrance from the flowers, and is certainly very much improved. The flowers are then removed by sifting, and the tea refired to drive off the moisture that it may have gathered from the blossoms, and is then ready for packing. This is done both with black and green teas, but probably to a greater extent with the varieties known as "Scented Caper" and "Flowery Pekoe," which go mostly to England, where they are used for mixing purposes.



THE WEALTHY APPLE.

CHARCOAL FOR REMOVING HAIR.

The Panama Star reports what it calls a very important discovery that charcoal, animal or vegetable, is a better agent than lime for the removal of the hair from hides, preparatory to tanning. An exchange assures us that the depilation of hides with charcoal appears likely to supersede altogether the usual lime process. As is well known, charcoal has the property to take up large quantities of oxygen from the atmospheric air, and the oxygen in this form seems to exert a chemical influence on the fatty substance present in the neighborhood of the glands of the hair roots. An oxidation takes place in the pores of the skin, which destroys the glands and loosens the hair. Finely powdered charcoal is mixed with sufficient water to make a thin paste, and the hides immersed for four or five days and well turned.

Hides treated with charcoal require no other operation, as in the case of the lime process, and after being washed with water, they are ready for tanning. Animal or vegetable charcoal can be used in any quantity, having no deleterious property whatsoever. For each hide, six or ten pounds with necessary quantity of water are sufficient, and the temperature to be maintained is 61 or 70 degrees Fahr. This information may be of great value to the people in the interior of the State, who occupy themselves in the tanning of that common leather, known in America as *sucla*. There is always a great demand for this leather in the manufacture of saddles and accoutrements for the cattle-men and travelers, also for trunks, shoes, chair bottoms, and other articles of utility.

The demand is so great that the suelas have, most of them, to be brought from Guayaquil, Payta, and other foreign places, where it seems they can be prepared more cheaply than by our native workmen. By the use of charcoal, which is much cheaper and more readily obtained than lime, the tanners will be placed on a more advantageous footing for producing the suelas at a considerably less cost than hitherto. They will then be able to sell the article at a cheaper price and yet secure quite as much profit as before. It is a matter for surprise, that so remunerative a trade as the tanning of hides into leather has not yet become a leading industry in this State. Hides can be had in great abundance for this purpose, and the bark for the conversion of hides into leather, can be obtained all along the sea-shore, and of the best quality. The mangrove or mangle plant, the bark of which is thus used, is present everywhere on the coast.

Pomological.

THE WEALTHY APPLE.

This comparatively new apple, has become exceedingly popular in the Northwestern States during the past few years. It was first noticed in the Rural New-Yorker in 1869, an outline of a specimen of the fruit accompanying a brief description. Since that time this variety seems to have continually gained friends, and is now being extensively planted in the West. It originated near St. Paul, Minnesota, from seed brought from Maine, somewhere about the year 1860. The tree has proved to be very hardy and vigorous. The fruit is medium to large, the accompanying illustration may be considered to fairly represent an average of well-grown specimens. The form is a roundish oblate, the color, whitish-yellow ground, shaded with deep rich crimson in the sun, with obscure, broken stripes and mottling in the shade. Flesh, white fine grained, stained with red, tender, juicy, vinous subacid; season, December to February. A most excellent variety for cold Northern localities.

A NEW APPLE—COX'S RED-LEAF RUSSET.

Dr. Hogg who, as our readers well know, is a high English authority in Pomology, says of the above apple:—"Fruit round, inclining to oblate in appearance, very like Golden Knob, skin entirely covered with bright cinnamon-colored russet which is thinner on the shaded side where it exposes a little of the yellow ground. Eye set in a pretty wide and deep saucer-like basin, stalk, pretty stout, set in a round cavity. Flesh yellowish, tender, crisp, very juicy and sweet, with a rich flavor and pleasant aroma. An excellent dessert apple in use from December till February."

Mr. Cox, the raiser thus writes of it:—"It is ostensibly, according to my own manipulation, a cross between the Golden Knob and Golden Harvey; but there is a possibility that I was anticipated by the bees, as a tree of the Old Nonpareil grew near by; and I am the more convinced of this, because the fruit possesses three of the characteristics of the Old Nonpareil viz., shape, long stalk and tenderness. When in perfection, the flavor is most delicious and peculiar to itself; and it may be considered in perfection from February until the end of May after which, although keeping sound until the end of July, the flavor gradually deteriorates." It has received a first-class certificate from the Royal Hort. Society.

Wm. Paul & Son of London have the entire stock of this new apple, and we have given the above description in order that our nurserymen may determine whether it is worth their while or not to import it with a view of testing its merits in this country.

ORANGES IN CALIFORNIA.

Orange culture in some parts of California appears to have been so successful that hereafter this fruit may be considered one of the fixed and certain products of the State. The Pacific Rural Press says on this subject:

Dr. Strentzel, who is a pioneer in orange culture, has eighty acres in the choicest of fruits—oranges, lemons, pomegranates, cherries, prunes, plums, almonds, pears, peaches, quinces, apples and grapes. We saw oranges, lemons and pomegranates in all stages—from the blossom to ripe fruit on the same trees. The doctor has the osage orange growing thick and tall around his ranch, as a wind-break. His Centennial orange grove, of eight acres, set out this year, has blue gum planted around it as a wind-break. The proprietor gave us much valuable information on orange culture. We have space for some suggestions. They will need a protection of brush, old sacks, etc., for several years; should be made to branch at the ground to protect the stand from the sun; have abundance of water; plant close to shade the ground—say from fifteen to eighteen feet apart. Plants raised in the house never do any good in the open ground. Better plant the seed in open ground, water well, and protect with brush, etc. He says the cold of our winter nights does not hurt oranges; it is the morning's sun. He also says they have to protect oranges from the winter's sun in Italy. His fruit was delicious, oranges never better, his wife a charming lady, and his daughter a fine colloquist and floriculturist.

TAR ON FRUIT TREES.

According to the experience of Mr. Henry Reynolds of North Carolina as given in the Semi-Tropical, tar is a perfect remedy for scarred and sun-cracked apple trees. He says, that by coating with new tar the trunk of a favorite fruit-bearer that was cracked and so de-

cayed that the bark was dead and would peel off, he has restored it fully. He applies it to all branches that show signs of decay. Since practicing this cheap remedy, he has not been troubled with insects. By applying tar to the trunk, and clearing away the surface at the roots, so as to let it run down on them, peach trees badly damaged by borers are fully restored. Replace the dirt, and you will have no more trouble with the tree for two years or more. If the tar is applied to young trees, the borers will not trouble them at all. He states that the coating should be applied in the winter, or early in the spring, with new tar.

The Poultry Yard.

DESIGN FOR A POULTRY HOUSE AND PARK.

A short time ago there appeared a request in the Rural for a design for a small poultry house. I submit the following plan as being novel and pleasing in appearance, and, what is still better, containing, as I believe, good and practical features.

The drawing is simply a ground plan; the embellishments of the elevation being left to the taste or liberality of the builder. A, the house proper, is L-shaped in plan, the longer or outer sides being 12 feet in length and 8 feet high, the inner side being 6 feet high, the whole formed of boards, placed perpendicularly, and which should be well and neatly battened. The roof may be shingled. The width of the building is 4 feet. A partition, with door, divides the building at B when desired. Entrance doors are at C, C. The nests are placed at D, D, and should be near the ground.

The yard or park is semi-circular in form, and may be divided through the center, north and south, if two varieties of fowls are desired to be kept separate. At E is shown a small inclosure for sick fowls or for breeding purposes. Two windows are placed in each of the inner sides of the house, affording plenty of light and warmth from the sun. Communication by the fowls between the house and park is attained by openings between the windows and near the ground. These should be provided with doors. F, F, are the roosts, three or four feet from the ground.

An important element of this design is in the combined *shape* and *position* of the building. It should be placed, as indicated by the points of the compass, with the apex C, C, towards the north. Then the inner angles of the building will afford shelter from east, north and west winds, and give the fowls a constantly sunny aspect during the whole of the short winter days.

Phelps, N. Y. Wm. R. Brooks.

THE AFFECTIONS OF FOWLS.

Noticing an article in one of your late numbers on fowl affection; I venture to send you an instance that came under my observation.

I once set some geese eggs under a hen, which in time resulted in four goslings. As usual in such cases, Biddy didn't seem quite pleased or satisfied with their strange ways, but showed no real annoyance, until her earlier bed-time came, and they refused to follow her to the coop, running about to pick grass or sitting down in cunning obstinacy. After enduring such conduct for just four weeks, her forbearance gave way and one night she left them and went back to her old companions on the hen roost. Next morning I found her by the coop, where I had put them, waiting for them to be let out to resume her care through the day. This was kept up until she weaned them late in the summer.

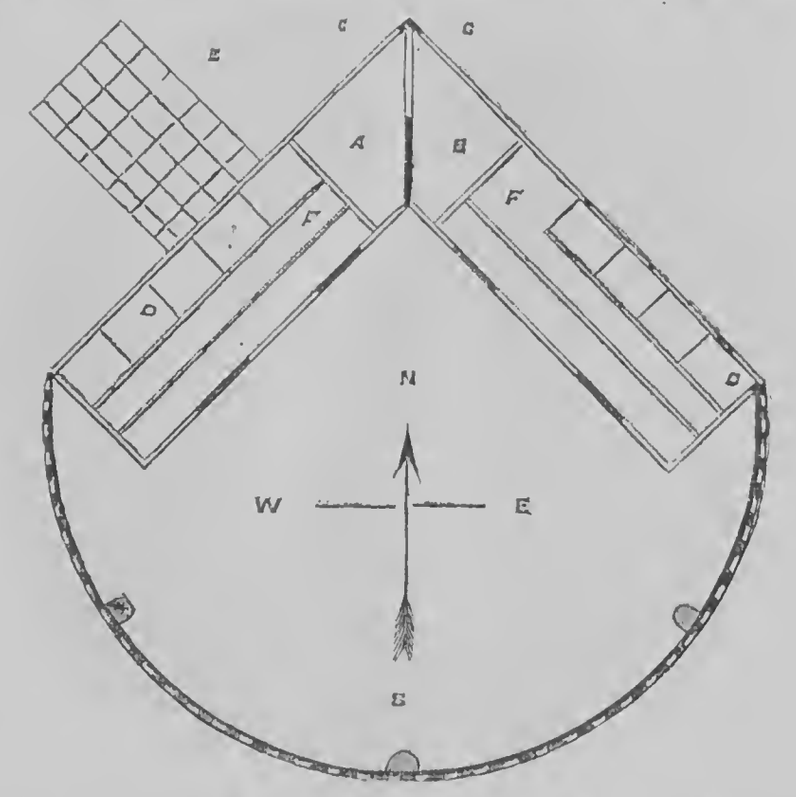
But they did not forsake her and whenever they met her, she was greeted with every manifestation of delight, and was always welcome to eat with them while all the other hens who dared to intrude were driven away with malicious bites, and then they would surround her and with triumphant cackle give her to understand that she only was the honored guest.

This continued for months when one day she was found dead under the roost, and to get her out of the way was thrown into an adjoining lot. Several days after, hearing an unusual commotion among the goslings, we went to them to learn the cause. They had just found her and were evidently trying to get her to recognize them. She was then put out of their sight or reach, as we pitied their disappointed devotion, and so ends this fact of fowl memory and affection.

Mrs. Granger.

FOWLS IN LARGE NUMBERS.

I take the liberty of writing to you for some information as to the possibility of going into poultry, or rather more especially the egg business. I have control of about one hundred acres of land near here, and it has seemed to me that no better use could be made of it than the raising of eggs for Philadelphia and New York markets. Could there not be eight or ten thousand chickens kept on this amount of land by having, say eighty or one hundred coops distributed in different localities containing about one hundred chickens each, and would not the profit on the eggs be better than could be got by using the same land for farming purposes. I have known of some persons going into such business and failing at it, from having, as I supposed, one expensive house and having a couple of thousand chickens, and not having enough range of ground for them. I would propose to give an acre of ground to each hundred chickens and have my coops warm and substantial but not expensive, as I intend going into it as a matter of business to make money. Hoping to have any information you can give me, I am, Yours truly. Subscriber.



PLAN FOR POULTRY HOUSE AND PARK.

I think that Poultry keeping for eggs will pay under careful and thorough management. I further believe it will not pay, with too *many fowls* kept together; it has been tried over and over again, and always failed after a time. Your idea of detached houses, and not more than 100 fowls to each house is the secret of success; 50 or 75 are better. Such arranged houses over any number of acres, 50 to each acre, or two acres to each 100 fowls with house, as far detached as possible, I believe would be more profitable than any ordinary farming. Some of the land might be still utilized by orchards, hay &c., and at the same time given all to the fowls, their dung manuring it, and the turning up of the soil helping to keep the fowls healthy.

But one thing must be borne in mind, in building your houses, that eggs pay best in winter, so to induce them to lay in winter you must build warm winter quarters for them without artificial heat. This is expensive at the start, but the most needful for success. The houses must be lathed and roughly plastered with plenty of glass on the east and south sides, and no openings on the north and west.

I have built such a house banked up on the north and west sides, and find it answers the purpose well. Perches should be horizontal and not on an incline, one higher than the other, as fowls will continually quarrel for the highest perch. Any further questions I shall be happy to answer through the Rural. Henry Hales.

POULTRY AT FAIRS.

It has long been the rule of Poultry Associations not to permit the exhibitors' names to appear on the coops until after the awards have been made; but it is now proposed, in some quarters, to do away with this rule and permit the owners of birds to put their names on the coops, when sent in, without regard to the Judges. We should be pleased to hear from poultry breeders on this subject; but, in the mean time, we give the following from the Poultry Bulletin, which appears to be a fair treatment of the case:

We believe we were about the first to advocate the adoption of this rule by our poultry associations: and now, after six years or more of trial, we can see no good reason for continuing it.

It is a stereotyped rule in nearly all the published premium lists of our many societies, and in very many it is more honored in the breach than in the observance. It had its uses, but the day of its necessity (if such ever existed) has gone by. Very few judges among those who now do the most of that work, but know the type of the strain of most of our principal breeders, as well without any name or card on the pen as if it was there. And of those who are qualified judges, is there one who would so demean himself as to award the prizes to the exhibitor rather than the birds? We hope not.

Looking at it in another light, is it not rather a gratuitous insult to the judge to invite him to award the prizes offered, and then virtually say to him: "We can't trust you, so we won't allow any of the owner's names on the coops, until you get through your work, for fear you might show favoritism in your awards."

The rule is a bad one for exhibitors, as is illustrated so frequently in cases where the judging is not completed until near the close of the show. Visitors come and go, and see fowls which they admire and would like to purchase, but have no clue to the ownership, and know of no one to inquire of. One of the principal incentives to, and benefits from exhibiting fowls, is the advertising of the stock by its appearance in the exhibition pen, with the owner's card attached, so that all may see the ownership and quality of the stock: and this is frequently prevented until the show is about closing, by the enforcement of the rule above quoted. We have again and again heard exhibitors complain of this as entirely neutralizing any good they had expected to derive from exhibiting their fowls.

Let the matter receive attention at the hands of the proper committees, and may this useless and hurtful rule be no more seen on our premium lists.

Imperial Egg Food.—In answer to the inquiry in reference to the Imperial Egg Food, we hear from Mr. S. J. Beston, for many years President of the Connecticut State Poultry Society that he has used this Egg Food for a long time, and he says that it has an invigorating and healthfull effect upon his fowls, that he has it constantly in use, and can recommend it to any of his friends or keepers of gallinaceous or aquatic fowls generally.

The Garden.

THE NEWER TOMATOES.

We notice in the Rural of Dec. 2 some notes on Carter's Green Gage and the Golden Trophy Tomato.

Having experimented largely with all the prominent new varieties which have been introduced of late, we venture a few notes regarding our experience.

Carter's Green Gage was sent to this country by James Carter & Co., seedsmen, of London, Eng., and has, so far as we can judge, proved an acquisition. It grows to a medium size, is round, fair, smooth, early, productive, and ripens perfectly around the stem. Color, yellow. It is much sought after by housekeepers for canning and preserving. It is not, as the article above alluded to intimates, allied to the old Plum Tomato, but is in every way much more desirable.

The Paragon is an excellent variety, to which our attention was first called by Gregory two years since. It possesses all the desirable attributes of a first-class tomato, and we highly recommend it to market growers.

The Conqueror, with us, has proved early, smooth, and very productive, but in size and solidity is inferior to the Canada Victor, which latter, all things considered, is as yet our *best early tomato* for market or home use. It is only excelled by the Trophy in size and solidity, but excels it in earliness and productiveness.

The above-named five varieties we believe to be the most desirable of any yet introduced, and whoever has them all may rest content for a while at least.

Blount's Champion Cluster we have given two trials, both of which show it to be a large late variety, with no particular merit that we could discover.

Hathaway's Excelsior is spherical. It is externally beautiful, but generally lacks that solidity which is essential to a *good* tomato.

The Golden Trophy has an excellent flavor, but we have found it quite a shy bearer, and it is nowhere, in smoothness, to be compared with the Trophy. So much does it lack in this respect that we doubt its being a "sport" of that variety, as claimed.

Turner's Perfection is productive, and that is all we can say in its favor. With us it grew very rough and ripened very late.

Foote's 100-Days' Tomato, which was sent out by the Indiana seedsman whose name it bears, completely disappointed the great expectations which were formed for it by reason of the high praises of its disseminator. In our soil and climate it has no merits whatever, so far as we could judge. In justice to its progenitor, we presume it does better elsewhere.

Ninety-Days' Tomato is the name of still another failure which was sent us last spring. There was nothing so very bad about this variety, and, on the other hand, nothing particularly desirable, so far as we could judge.

La Plume, Pa. Tillinghast Bros.

Insurance Department.

CONDITION OF INSURANCE MATTERS.

There are few people who have not, during the last four or five years, learned from their observations or experiences, the necessity of close scrutiny into the financial condition and conduct of the companies proposing to insure their lives and property. Nor has there been any improvement in the situation to warrant laxity in this respect. Many failures have occurred and the indications are unmistakable that others will follow. A score or more of companies are pursuing almost precisely the courses which have heretofore preceded such an ending, if indeed they have not made disastor inevitable. Despite the long-cherished promises of protection and preventive interference by the Insurance Departments, life companies that have ceased to be profitable to their stockholders manage to precipitate their own dissolution, and cannot be compelled to continue business for the benefit of their policy holders, but so contrive that the alternative lies between a total loss and the almost inevitable swindle of re-insurance. The causes of disasters that are not brought about by collusion are reckless expenditure and a lack of new business. No life company has yet come to grief because of excessive mortality, and none will unless its best risks have been filched from it in the process of re-insuring.

The rock on which the weak fire insurance company splits is excessive losses combined with unremunerative rates of premium. At no time since the great fires at Chicago and Boston have premiums been so small as now. Competition between rival companies has led to alternate under-bidding, or "under-cutting" as it is called, until some companies are abandoning the business, and a host of them, especially of the weaker sort, are inviting calamity. The consequence will be that a comparatively small loss will cripple them, and being unable to pay they will not pay any losses whatever. Farmers have fewer facilities for knowing all this than other people and are therefore more liable to be imposed upon. Their best course in the premises is to insure only with the most stable and reputable companies, whatever the rate of premium required and to avoid those which propose cheapness as an inducement.

As regards the life companies there are half a dozen or more that are beyond the possibility of trouble, and the remainder will disclose their condition with more or less accuracy in their annual reports for the coming year. Until these are forthcoming it is perhaps just as well to hasten very slowly indeed.

CHEAPENING FIRE INSURANCE.

There is an association of fire insurance companies known as the National Board of Underwriters, whose business it is to maintain, if possible, such rates of premium as will be safe and remunerative, and subordinate to this organization are numerous local boards having the same purpose. Neither of them succeeds very well, because their authority is little more than advisory, and in spite of their efforts to the contrary the rates are subject to frequent vacillation in the wrong direction. Just now the rates of fire insurance are very low, and will probably be kept low by competition until some disaster occurs and somebody is hurt. So far as known, this foolish competition has not seriously affected the agricultural insurance companies.

A GREAT SHAME.

Several weeks have elapsed since the Continental Life Insurance Company passed into the hands of a receiver, but the public know as little as before of the condition of its affairs. That official has made no report, and the business remains undone. Though premiums are taken and some sort of credit entered, the receiver discredits, it is said, his authority to issue paid-up policies. At best it is a bad business and a discredit to the name of life insurance.

Floricultural.

BROMELIADS.

All who have traveled through the Dismal Swamp of Virginia or other more southern States could not fail to have observed the Black Moss that drapes the trees in the most somber of dresses.

We recall a stage-coach ride in Southern Georgia the route of which led through a dreary swamp several miles in length that, but for the precarious and tortuous road which had been cut through for the stage, would have been wholly impenetrable. It was in winter. The water of the swamp concealed the road for considerable distances and in many parts was deep enough to cover the hubs of the stage, while the horses stumbled and floundered along as if a passage through without accident were next to an impossibility. The trees were densely thick and the Cypress Knees stuck up their shapeless heads like so many weird, gloomy forms of life that were created but for this "gloomy shade" and were there "weeping their sad bosoms empty." The leafless trees were draped in masses of this Black Moss—the *Tillandsia usneoides* of botany—and its gray, cold, creeping, matted, lifeless appearance completed a dismal *tout ensemble* that, travel this wide world over, would be seldom observed in higher perfection, if we may suppose degrees in that which is itself superlative.

Few that have seen this sad Tillandsia thus, or, in fact, at all, could surmise that it has several sisters possessed of sufficient beauty to be recognized among the choicest of conservatory plants. *Bromeliacea* is the order to which it belongs — the Pineapple family as it may be called. *Ananassa* is the Pineapple, the striped-leaved variety of which, *A. sativus variegatus*, is prized for its coriaceous, finely-toothed leaves, an inch wide, green in the middle, margined distinctly with white. It associates well with such plants as *Dracænas*, and requiring only small pots for its roots, is suitable for brackets or for the decoration of rooms or the table. It may also be plunged during the summer in any part of the garden where desired, without much regard to sun, shade, or soil.

Billbergias and *Aechmeas* also may be confidently recommended to our friends, both as regards their peculiar foliage and the great beauty of their inflorescence. The inflexible leaves recurve in an artificial, vase-like manner to a degree that renders imitations of them in wax only evident upon a close examination. Of the Billbergias, *B. Morreliana* is one of the best. Its flowers are less crowded upon the spike, which droops in a pleasing way from the center and is over a foot in length. *B. thysoidea* forms a dense head of flowers but little raised above the brilliant crimson bracts.

These plants require a loose, fibrous soil, plenty of drainage, and sand sufficient to retain it always porous. Owing to the almost horny texture of the leaves, they are but little liable to the attacks of other insects than scale and mealy bug, both of which, with ordinary care, are kept aloof.

As soon as Billbergias bloom, they throw up suckers from the base. These should be cut off at their junction with the mother plant after they have attained some size and firmly placed in small pots of light soil, where, if not too freely watered, they will soon form roots, and, if then given plenty of light and heat and shifted to larger pots as their growth renders it necessary, they will bloom the second season afterward.

In general terms the same may be said of the Aechmeas. They are easily cultivated; they produce varied and beautiful flowers; the plants never become too large for small collections and the several species bloom at different periods, thus securing a succession of flowers. *A. fulgens* bears bright-red flowers which are attractive for a long time after they have ceased blooming, owing to an appearance they assume which resembles buds yet to open. *A. Mariæ Reginæ* bears spiny leaves, arranged in the same manner as the others, a foot or more long, curving toward the ends. Of this Mr. B. S. Williams of London remarks:

"The flower spike is erect, the lower portion being dotted with large, oblong, boat-shaped bracts of a rich magenta, shaded with rose. These remain for two months in full perfection. The upper portion of the scape is thickly studded with flowers which are tipped with dark blue, changing with age to rose."

But even the Tillandsias themselves must not be judged by the gloomy species with which we began this article. *T. Lindeni major* quite resembles a *Yucca*, with its distichous shape, that in form reminds one of the *Tritoma uvaria*, though its flowers are large, brightly blue, with white eyes. *T. exoniensis* is a climber of a free-blooming habit, with drooping, rose-colored flowers. *T. sanguinolenta* is a native of New Grenada, with foliage of a lively green, spotted all over with red. *T. musaica* is an air plant, as are *T. usneoides* and others of this order. It has strap-shaped, curving leaves a foot long, of a yellowish color, irregularly marked with veins of a dark green, and is thus desirable for its singular foliage. *T. Zahnii* is a novelty introduced from Costa Rica through Mr. Zahn, one of the collectors of James Veitch & Sons of London, after whom they named it. "In habit," Mr. Veitch has described it, "as similar to other Tillandsias, but its beauty lies in the wonderful coloring of the foliage and flower. When in a young state the leaves are of a deep amber color, with distinct veins of red. As the plant advances in age the leaves turn into a rich scarlet, which increases until the time of flowering. The flower spike, thrown some eight to ten inches above the foliage, is surrounded with scarlet bracts; the flowers, which are produced in clusters, are of a rich golden-yellow color."

Other genera of this order, such as *Guzmania*, *Pitcairnia*, *Pourretia*, *Quesnelia*, are offered by florists, some of them in variety and many worthy of a favor, which, except here and there, they do not receive, for the only reason, pure and simple, that they are not known.

CALIFORNIA FLORICULTURE.

I have just been reading your invitation to Rural floriculturists to write and give their experience the past season. Now, I am quite an indifferent hand at both composition and penmanship, but will try to give you my experience for the past season as best I can.

Two years ago I thought I would try my hand a little at flowers, so I sent to Vick and obtained a few annuals, such as Zinnias, Dianthus and Asters. Last season I had the finest Asters in the valley, some of the plants having 130 fine, large, well-developed flowers, and my Zinnias and Dianthus were also very fine. But this season was far ahead of last. My flower-bed is small, say 8x30 feet. In this were one row of Zinnias and one row of Asters of five colors, three rows of Dianthus, and a few Phlox and choice Sweet Williams and Pinks.

From the 20th of June up to the 1st of November my little flower garden has been a perfect blaze of beauty, with every shade of color from the deepest crimson to the most delicate pink, and has been the admiration of the whole neighborhood. I have also about 30 varieties of fine Roses, some of which have been in bloom all the summer, so I have not been out of flowers since May. But now comes the most interesting part of all. Last fall a lady friend gave me some slips of Fuchsias; I divided them into 21 cuttings and set them in a box of rich sediment and soil, and in the spring potted them off in small tin cans, such as oyster and fruit cans, and out of the 21 cuttings I only lost two. They began to bloom in June and have been in bloom ever since. I sold one for $5, one for $3, and one for $2—all to one lady, but the one I sold for $5 was the most beautiful plant I ever saw. It commenced to bloom in May and is in bloom now. It bears a large flower, with very bright, glossy sepals, with a very double, large, purple corolla—at first a bright purple, turning to a beautiful bronze as it grows older, and is from 1½ to 2 inches in diameter. The buds before opening were from ⅞ to 1⅛ inch in diameter, of a bright scarlet color, and almost round in shape. For six weeks it bore from 75 to 110 buds and flowers at a time, and had I been in San Francisco, or some city where there were people of taste, with the means to gratify their taste, I could have easily sold it for $10.

And now as to what I have learned this season. I may say I have learned all that I know this season and last, for I did not know a Phlox from a Zinnia before last season. As to what is my choice, I think that, so far as my experience has gone, Fuchsias, Pinks, Roses and Phlox are about as good as any, take them altogether, as they are easy and quick to raise and very gay and showy.

Lastly, what have I gained by my experience? Well, I have gained a love for flowers, or rather, I have had my love for them awakened, and I have had the greatest amount of satisfaction in tending my plants and flowers at such times as I have had to spare from my daily labors, and if I owned the place on which I live, or any other place where I might put such improvements on as I desired, without being liable to be turned out at any time, I would, in a few years, have grounds worth looking at. A. Culbertson.

Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Cal.

[We have no reason to discredit our correspondent's statement as to the prices which he obtained for his Fuchsias—but as the newest and finest varieties are offered by San Francisco florists at 50 cents each, we think that, in the direction of that city, he would have gone further and fared worse.—Ed.]

NOTES.

Sarcodes Sanguinea (California Snow Plant).—This singular and wonderfully high-colored and tender habitant of the Sierras has attracted much attention from botanists and professional gardeners, as well as commanded the admiration of all who have seen it in its purplish-scarlet splendor, growing like an icicle of blood from the cold soil, under the shadow of dark evergreens which cluster upon the brows of towering mountains.

After all that has been said about the impossibility of propagating this plant, and all the speculations and assertions as to its being a parasite from the roots of the Pine, etc., this plant is actually growing upon the seed in the conservatory of Dr. A. W. Saxe, at Santa Clara. Last year he received several Snow plants, which were taken up near Donner Lake, and, with the earth still adhering to them, transplanted into a common candle-box. Dr. Saxe placed them (still in the box) in a sheltered room under the tank of the windmill, where it was cool and moist. After the plants dried up, he pulled them out of the earth and crumbled the seeds and crowns of the plants in his hands, dropping them into the holes where they had grown. He left the box where it had been placed in the tank room and took no further care of it. And now there are two fine plants, as highly colored and as fine as any that can be found in their native haunts. The soil in the box is the same that was taken up with the plants, and is of a shaly, basaltic, non-siliceous nature.

So says the California Horticulturist. Mr. Jas. Vick says that he has one which was transplanted to a ball of earth and brought across the country. It endured its six days' travel without injury, being liberally supplied with ice-water on the route. It is now forming seeds. He does not expect, should they ripen, that this singular plant will flourish so far away from its mountain home. We think he may derive hope from Dr. Saxe's success.

Lobelia Syphilitica.—Your account of Lobelia is good. I have been over the same ground and observed also the behavior of insects on many kinds of flowers. The scarcity of insects on a species in any certain locality is not a guide for all places. I have seen honey bees and several other kinds very frequent visitors to the Lobelia you speak of in half-a-dozen different counties in several States.—W. J. Beal, *Ag'l College, Mich.*

Arboricultural.

VARIEGATED DECIDUOUS SHRUBS.

The direction given to our interest in plants depends on several considerations. As students of botany, we may be inclined to dwell on the rare and curious features which pertain especially to that science, and lend a thrilling charm to even humble, ignoble weeds. To the severely practical character, the simple idea of shelter from wind and sun will alone present itself; and to the man of taste, little else than the capacities for artistic effects to be educed thereby. Unquestionably, the happiest combination is that of being able to enjoy at once as botanist, practical man and artist.

At present, however, we propose to consider only the artistic point of view. There has been, and is, quite a mania for variegated-leaved plants, and, in England, it has already reached a really enthusiastic stage. But, over and above the mere admiration inspired by a beautiful individual plant, there is a fine opportunity for effect to be derived from the judicious combination of masses of many-colored leaves.

The principles that govern the formation of groups and hedges are very much the same, and consist chiefly in designing harmonious contrasts of color and flowing outlines that, with much graceful irregularity, adhere more or less to the plan of large sizes to the rear or center, and small to the front. The planting of deciduous shrubs is simple, and nearly all, including the variegated-leaved, endure well the hardships of both summer and winter. Given the artistic eye, however, a true sense of color and proportion, a sound, general knowledge of the plant's habits, color and form, when mature, become also necessary. One result of this knowledge will be the establishment of a correct system of pruning to be applied almost universally. This consists in simply cutting out entirely the old wood every three years and trimming the new moderately for symmetry and bushiness, as perfection of leaf and a natural beauty of plant outline are all that is required of such shrubs.

A concise description of certain prominent varieties, constant and reliable in their coloring, may be properly given here as a guide to the accomplishment of desired effects. In this relation, all shrubs divide themselves into two classes of more or less vigorous growth according to the nature of the variety.

The Purple Berberry (*Berberis atropurpurea*) is thorny and strong-growing, of purple-bronze hue, with pretty orange flowers, and, altogether, a sturdy, characteristic plant. It forms in the group a very good foil to the next named kind. *Elæagnus hortensis* is coarse-growing, with whitis-hgray, silvery leaf and wood, quite striking and worthy of employment.

The Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophæ rhamnoides*) is of vigorous, large habit, with small, silvery gray leaves, of much the same general tone as the last. It is particularly adapted for planting by the seaside, resisting bravely the most trying weather and a strong sea air.

Hippophæ salicifolia has a longer, grayer leaf, with a generally duller shade, but otherwise much resembles *rhamnoides*. *Weigela amabilis variegata* is a fine, strong shrub, with marked yellow variegation.

Salix caprea tricolor, is a pleasantly variegated Willow of vigorous, clean habit—very useful for massing.

Spiræa opulifolia aurea is a shrub worthy of high praise for producing contrasts. It is large and grand, with golden-tinted variegation suffused throughout the entire leaf.

Gold and Silver-leaved Elder (*Sambucus nigra aurea* and *argentea*) are large and rapid growing, the leaves blotched broadly with yellow and silver, and peculiarly valuable for much the same effect as the last.

The Purple Hazel (*Corylus avellana atropurpurea*) is perhaps the darkest colored shrub we have. It makes a bush of richest purple, and is invaluable for strong contrasts. The weaker, more dwarfish-growing varieties may be exemplified by the following: *Elegans longipes* is a Japanese shrub, very rare and curious, and of dwarf, bushy habit. The leaf, gray, shining and silvery to a remarkable degree, makes a good foil to the Purple Hazel.

Weigela rosea variegata is marked strongly with yellow, and, though bushy, grows with much vigor. It is very effective in groups.

Buist's Variegated-leaved Althea (*Hibiscus Syriacus variegat. fl. pl.*) is of erect, compact habit, and very distinctly marked with green and white. When grown from cuttings, weakly results are obtained, grafted plants being more satisfactory. The dull-red imperfect flowers are rather a detriment to the beauty than otherwise.

Hibiscus Syriacus variegata, another variegated-leaved Althea, differs much from the last in that the color is more yellow, and the flower of a fine pink and single.

A grafted plant is superior for same reasons as stated in the case of Buist's variety.

Deutzia gracilis variegata is a dwarf, neat and pretty, with yellow variegation and much grace.

Another form of the variegated Deutzia has been sent out recently from Japan to S. B. Parsons & Sons, of Flushing, by Mr. Thos. Hogg. The leaves have a curious, gray, ashy tint, otherwise it is a neat shrub, much resembling Deutzia gracilis.

Hydrangea hortensis aurea and *argentea* belong to a portion of the family that generally dies to the surface of the ground in the winter, coming up freshly in the spring. The variegation is broadly marked, and produces quite a striking effect in groups.

Kerria Japonica variegata is a delicate little shrub, with fine green branches and silvery leaves.

Daphne mezereum purpureum has a richly-tinted leaf, green at first and maturing later into a fine purple.

Daphne cneorum variegata has the usual pretty qualities of the well-known Cneorum, with added beauty in its yellow variegation. The flowers of variegated-leaved plants we have not dwelt on from their general inferiority in themselves, or in comparison with hues about them, but the blossoms of this little plant are so sweet-scented and beautiful that we cannot refrain from offering it a passing tribute. The pruning of the Daphne cneorum and its forms may be profitably varied by cutting out the old wood every year, instead of every third year, as its tendency is to redden and lose its lower leaves on the old wood, especially when exposed to hot sun near buildings or elsewhere. This process renews and strengthens the fresh growth. It will be seen by our description of the more striking variegated shrubs, that a proper regard to their colors and sizes, when mature, may afford scope for the accomplishment of an endless variety of pleasing and graceful effects, all based on the soundest principles of art.

Samuel Parsons.

TREE PLANTING IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

The law of New York State, making provision for planting shade-trees along the highway, is as follows: Any person liable to highway tax that shall transplant by the side of the public highway any forest shade-trees or fruit-trees of suitable size, shall be allowed by the overseers of highways, in abatement of his highway tax, one

dollar for every four trees set ent; but no row of elms shall be placed nearer than 70 ft., no row of maples or other forest trees nearer than 50 ft., except locust, which may be set 30 ft. apart, and no allowance as before mentioned shall be made unless such trees shall have been set out the year previous to the demand for said abatement of tax, and are living and well protected from animals at the time of such demand. Such legislation should be copied in other parts of the country.

Domestic Economy.

A WORD ABOUT BUCKWHEAT CAKES.

As the season for pancakes has arrived I send my method for preparing them. At night take sufficient warm water for a little more than the amount of batter required. Thicken this with buckwheat flour, a little graham meal is an addition, stir in a teacup of fresh yeast and let it stand till morning to rise, when it will be fit for use. Leave enough batter to mix in again at night without yeast. After a day or two the batter will require a-half teaspoon or so of soda to sweeten it, put in just before baking. It is nicer to mix your batter in a stone jar and pour off every morning what is required for use and not put the soda into the whole. The addition of a little milk will make the cakes brown if desired.

The batter should be occasionally renewed. Now as to baking cakes it is one of the fine arts. Some heedless cooks use so much grease to keep the cakes from sticking to the griddle that they fill the room full of smoke to the discomfort of all concerned. A cloth sewed fast to a fork is the most convenient greaser and just as little grease should be used as possible. The fire should be neither too hot nor too slack. Nothing is better relished on a cold winter morning than well prepared cakes of this kind.

FARMER'S WIFE.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Suet Pudding.—To two coffee cups of flour with a heaping teaspoonful of baking powder stirred thoroughly through it, add one coffee cup of finely chopped suet; one teaspoonful of salt; one well beaten egg; one pint of sweet milk. Grease a tin pail, pour the mixture into it, cover, set it in a kettle of boiling water, and let it boil constantly two hours. Renew the water as it evaporates with boiling water from the teakettle. Send to the table hot. Serve with wine sauce, or lemon sauce.

Wine Sauce.—One coffee cup of sugar, one coffee cup of water, butter the size of an egg, one heaping teaspoonful of flour. Put the sugar, water and butter in a sauce-pan over the fire; when it boils, add the flour made smooth in a little cold water, let it boil two minutes stirring all the time, then add one wine glass of sherry wine. Lemon sauce can be made in the same manner, omitting the wine and using the juice of one lemon.

Children's Pudding.—Fill an earthen baking-dish with finely chopped apples. Season with sugar and nutmeg; add a little water. Set it on the back of the range until the apples are tender. Then make a crust of one teacup of sweet milk; one tablespoonful of butter; a little salt; one teaspoonful of baking powder; flour enough to roll out. Lay the crust on top of the apples and bake. To be eaten hot with sweet sauce, flavored with lemon or vanilla. Other kinds of fruit may be used in the same manner.

Carrot Salad.—Boil a large carrot in salted water until tender, chop it fine, with two hard-boiled eggs. Pour over them a mixture of one tablespoonful of sweet oil three of vinegar a little salt, pepper, sugar, and made mustard if liked.

Rye Cakes.—Beat well together four tablespoonfuls of rye meal, four tablespoonfuls of wheat flour, two eggs, a-half pint of sweet milk, a-half teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of baking powder. Mix the baking powder through the flour. Bake in gem pans in a quick oven.

MRS. RUSTIC.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Welsh Rarebit.—One pound of new cheese, butter the size of an egg, two eggs, one dessert-spoonful of mixed mustard, a little pepper. Beat the eggs thoroughly: cut the cheese in small slices; put the butter in the frying-pan, add cheese, eggs, mustard, and pepper. Cook five minutes stirring all the time. Pour the mixture over buttered dry toast and send to the table very hot.

Another.—One pound of new cheese, one teaspoonful of olive oil, one teaspoonful of mixed mustard, a little cayenne pepper, one-half pint of water. Cut the cheese in small pieces; add water, stir over a hot fire until the cheese is melted; then add mustard, oil and cayenne. Pour this mixture on hot, crisp, dry toast. Put into a covered dish and serve at once.

Fish and Macaroni.—Boil the macaroni in water until tender, drain it and cut it into short pieces. Remove the bones and skin from any kind of white boiled fish, tear it into small pieces, and mix it with the macaroni. Then make a sauce of two ounces of butter, the yolks of two eggs, salt, pepper, and a little lemon juice. Heat this in a sauce-pan, pouring in half a pint of melted butter, stir it, and put in the fish and macaroni. When hot pour it out in a dish, heaping it in the center; sprinkle powdered crackers over it and bake the top a light brown color in the oven.

Oysters and Macaroni.—Slowly stew some macaroni in good gravy till tender; then lay it in a pie-dish, put in a good layer of fresh oysters; add pepper, salt, a little grated lemon peel, and a tablespoonful of cream, or olive oil if preferred. Strew bread crumbs over the top and brown in a quick oven, serve with plenty of lemon juice.

Scalloped Oysters.—Have ready an earthen baking-dish well buttered, sprinkle in a layer of rolled crackers, then a layer of good fat oysters, a little pepper, salt, and bits of butter; another layer of crackers, another of oysters, then seasoning as before, and so on until the dish is filled; have the top covered with crackers; turn over it a cup of the oyster liquor. Set it in the oven for thirty or forty minutes.

Baked Omelet.—Boil half a pint of cream, or rich milk; beat six eggs thoroughly—they will be nicer if the whites and yolks are beaten separately; have a deep dish hot and buttered; stir the beaten eggs, with a little salt, into the cream; put all quickly into the dish, and bake from five to ten minutes, depending upon the condition of the oven. It should be lightly browned, and taken directly to the table in the dish.

Hygienic Information.

FEATHER BEDS.

During the first half of the century just past, a bed made of the feathers plucked from the live geese of the farmer's own raising, enclosed in a striped tick of homespun linen, with a quill from the same birds sewed in each corner to give ingress to pure, and egress to foul air, was no inconsiderable portion of the daughter's "setting out" as a young wife. And the young husband, knowing that this was the product of the handiwork and industry of his young bride, was thus satisfied that she was a help-meet for him and would do her part in the battle of life. In those times, lungs were strengthened and kept in tone by the pure open air of the country, and muscles were fully developed and made strong by their vigorous exercise in providing for the wants and keeping up the thrift of the family. No country folks then dreamed that feathers were unhealthy. But alas! the degeneracy of the race born and bred in more luxurious times and pampered by the machinery which now takes the place of the old hatchel, the spinning wheel, the loom and the needle, has developed the nervous at the expense of the muscular part of the system, and the feather bed has become to many extremely offensive. This is not merely the effect of fashion that has substituted the more expensive hair mattress, but is a stern reality as I shall, by citing a few cases, show.

I asked my lawyer whom I know to be asthmatic, how he liked feather beds? Can't sleep on them; I should'nt get over in two weeks one night's attempt to sleep on one. This friend, born in the highlands of Vermont, had revisited his native mountains, had traveled to Oregon and Puget's Sound, seeking rest and finding no permanent relief except in avoiding feather beds. A lady of refinement and intelligence came in, just as I sat down to write this, who in answer to the inquiry about feather beds replied "can't bear them"—Why? "they make my back ache so." An aged lady replies "don't like them; why, D. C., my niece's husband, can't sleep in the room where there is even a feather pillow lying on a chair, it brings on his asthma so."

A friend with a bad chronic cough of years' standing, brought up on a feather bed to 25 or 30 years of age, and expecting to eventually die with consumption like his mother and some of her children, had come to this conclusion, "Why not?" But by a concatenation of circumstances, he was forced to sleep on a hard mattress which nearly wore the skin from his thinly-clad bones. While thus lamenting his *hard* fate, he found he could not get up a respectable cough. He eschewed feathers, his bones are now cushioned with flesh, and his weight up in the hundreds, and the evil spirit consumption is exorcised.

As to myself (please permit a little egotism) I sleep on a hard mattress made of shreds of wood covered by a thin mattress of cotton, and rest well when my conscience is easy. Could sleep just as well on a mattress of good clean dry wheat straw, which I should empty and stitch over each wheat harvest.

I occasionally go up in the pine woods where I have a temporary home, and where I am given the best bed, a thin feather one, over one filled with bog hay. Could there sleep on anything, even if made of soft pine plank, could I have the whole of it to myself.

A few years since I was taken with a remittent fever which lasted seven weeks. During this time I went into the country a few miles and remained six days with a farmer friend in a log house, and was given the best bed and a room in the chamber to myself. Mine host and his lady were educated and refined and my room and everything pertaining to it were as clean as a brown-stone-front parlor. The pure country air came through the chinks between the logs to my heated brow, but I could not sleep well, and I lay lamenting that I had not strength enough to lift off the feather bed. The next night I had it taken off and my rest after that was much improved.

My own opinion of a good hygienic bed is that it should be made of some yielding or elastic material, other than feathers, the material tied so as to remain when unoccupied flat and level, and laid upon a level foundation though boards with a little spring are not objectionable.

An objection to steel spring bedsteads is, that they give too much pressure to that part of the body between the rib and hip bones, which was never intended to receive pressure from without. I cannot give the rationale of this peculiar effect from feathers, especially new ones, any more than I can of a similar but more decided effect from an open package of ipecac. I have seen a man with irritable lungs, though not claiming to be asthmatic, standing in the same room but some 30 feet from where a package of this drug was opened, with no currents of air intervening, almost strangled with a cough which he could only abate by going into the open air. Neither he nor his physician would believe in the cause till other similar cases were cited. "Why!" says the M. D., "we give ipecac for a cough." Any one doubting these idiosyncracies as to this drug are referred to "Flint's Practice of Medicine."

In the "Transactions of the American Institute" for 1848, page 170, is an interesting essay headed, "Wool mattresses, the best material and the only one that ought to be used for bedding for all ages and all ranks." S. B. PECK.

Muskegon, Mich.

TO PREVENT CHOLERA INFANTUM IN AN INFANT.—The infant must never be permitted to overload its stomach, and, if nursing, or on a diet of a cow's milk, it must not be fed oftener than every three hours, and as near as possible on the same hours every day. It should never eat between 8 P. M. and 4 A. M. When weaned so as to eat adult food, the intervals should be at least five hours—no lunches between meals.

Farm Economy.

FATTENING OF STOCK.

WHILE nearly every farmer knows how to keep his animals fat or at least in good condition, there are doubtless many who knew little or nothing of the principles of the assimilation of food, or why one kind should be so much better than another. The English Agricultural Gazette has published of late several articles on this subject, from one of which we condense the following:

After an animal is born it derives its entire nourishment from vegetable matter. Even the carnivora, or flesh-eaters, feeding as they do upon herbivorous creatures, derive their food, originally, from the vegetable kingdom.

Oxen and sheep may be looked upon as concentrators of the grass and turnips upon which they are fed, in order to present the nutritive matters they contain in a convenient form to man. It is therefore evident that plants contain in their leaves, roots, stems, and seeds, the requisite elements for building up the animal body. The digestive system possesses the power of converting the materials which have previously existed in the plant, into tissues useful for the animal's increase and preservation. Nor is the transformation from vegetable to animal matter a process involving so radical or complete a change of properties in the materials employed, as might be supposed. Viewing the animal apart from its wonderful powers of volition, locomotion, intelligence—apart from its mental properties—we may consider it as a growth only. Looking thus at a fattening animal, we find that the constituents of the food it consumes reappear fixed in its organization with wonderfully little change of chemical composition.

After artificially driving off the water, there remains a dried mass, nearly all of which is combustible. It is the dried portion which we have now to especially notice; which is known to chemists as organic matter, or matter collected and formed by an organism. This consists entirely of two important groups, the non-nitrogenous and nitrogenous, or, in accordance with certain properties, especially possessed by each, the non-nitrogenous substances are spoken of as fat-producers, heat-producers, and respiratory compounds, while the nitrogenous substances are styled flesh-formers.

The non-nitrogenous section is composed largely, and often chiefly of crude fibre, or material which is either indigestible or slowly digestible. It exists in the largest proportion in mature stems, leaves, and straws. Wheat and barley straw contain 48 per cent., meadow hay 30 per cent., and some of the clover hays only 25 per cent. The older the fodder the more abundant is the indigestible fibre, and hence the general esteem in which young fodder is held. As an example, it has been found that red clover in full blossom (the best period at which to cut it) contains 35 per cent. of crude fibre, but ripe clover contains as much as 48 per cent. The larger the proportion of crude or indigestible fibre the less valuable will be the fodder. But it will be found that cattle, owing to the great size of their food receptacle, or paunch, require bulky material, and this nature provides in the crude fibre. Oxen can live upon straw and comparatively innutritious food, while sheep should be fed upon nutritious hay; and pigs, owing to the small size of their stomachs, must be allowed food of still higher concentration.

Fat must be regarded as a surplus product, which only accumulates when an animal is fed beyond its requirements. The natural temperature of the body, on the other hand must be kept up: heat production is thus the first use of the carbo-hydrates, and when that want is satisfied the surplus assimilable material is stored in all parts of the body as fat. The bear retires to his hybernating den full of fat, but emerges in the spring as lean as a scarecrow. He has been "living upon his fat" during the winter, and comes out in the summer to lay in the supply. The fat may be looked upon as a magazine of heat or of animal fuel, and, if need be, the system at once avails itself of the store and uses it. Hence the importance of keeping animals warm, or at least in comfort, for by such treatment less of the carbo-hydrates are converted into warmth, and a larger proportion is stored up in the form of fat.

As the fattening of animals for the butcher is correctly supposed to mean the accumulation of fat more than of anything else, the importance of fat-formers in the food is very great. Hence the cereal grains, malt, maize, hay, potatoes, and all vegetable products rich in starch, sugar, or pectin, are valuable foods.

Still more remarkable is the fact that vegetable foods contain oils and fats. These vegetable fats are simply transformed by the animal into animal fats without any change of composition; and the transference of vegetable fat to the animal body is effected with so much ease, that it is considered to be worth, for feeding purposes, two-and-a-half times its weight of starch or sugar. Linseed cake contains about 10 per cent. of fat or oil, and about 40 per cent. of other carbo-hydrates. The value of the oil is equal to 30 per cent. of starch or sugar, and hence the total carbo-hydrates in this highly esteemed food is equivalent to 70 per cent. of starch. When to this high percentage as fat-formers is added the 28 per cent. of albuminoids which usually exist in a good linseed cake, we have no difficulty in understanding why it is so highly valued by farmers.

A CHEAP SMOKE-HOUSE.

SUCH of the readers of the RURAL NEW YORKER as have no such convenience as a regularly constructed smoke-house may supply the deficiency in the following manner. Dig a narrow pit twelve to eighteen inches deep throwing the earth all out on one side. From near the bottom of this pit dig a trench of the length of one or two joints of stove-pipe at such an angle as will bring the end away from the pit to the surface of the ground. Over the end of this pipe set a common flour barrel or large cask, as may be needed, and having removed both heads, bank up around it with the loose earth, so that no smoke can escape at the bottom.

Hang in the hams, shoulders &c., using something like a broom handle to run through the strings. Putting a cover on top of the sticks will leave space enough for draught, to let the smoke pass freely. Build a smoke fire of corn cobs, damp hard wood sawdust or fine chips, and you will have a cheap, safe and efficient smoke-house with very little trouble. W.

Alden, N. Y., Dec., 1876.

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THE

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THE RURAL AS A FAMILY EDUCATOR.

OUR readers will bear witness that we do not, as a general thing, devote our editorial columns to advertising ourselves or to praising our works, and we think they will hold us excusable if now, at the time when the year draws to a close, we express an opinion as to the benefit that may be derived by every family in the land from the reading, by all its members, of such a paper as we desire and intend to place before them.

Many farmers and other rural people, do not realize the value of a good family paper as an educator of their children. Indeed, it is not possible for a young man or a young woman to grow up and enter well-bred society with credit to themselves and honor to their parents, who have not had some of the best publications of the day laid before them for a number of years. Farmers, therefore, make a serious mistake when they neglect to renew their subscriptions to any good paper that comes to them. The question is not so much, "am *I* benefited by taking the ——?" as it is, "are my *family* benefited by reading it?" A farmer may give his children a good, common education at the district school; but that alone will not suffice in this age of progress. They must be more generally informed; and where is the paper better adapted for this purpose than the RURAL NEW-YORKER? We claim that it is not possible for any young person to read it carefully for a few years and then not to be qualified to go out into the world with credit to himself or herself and honor to their parents.

The question will come up, perhaps, with some of our subscribers, "Can I afford to renew my subscription?" feeling the effects of the stagnation of business. But this dullness in trade does not affect farmers to any considerable degree, as the prices of farm products are quite as high as can be expected in the unsettled condition of our political and monetary affairs; and there is no probability of prices ruling lower than they now are. We prefer that our present subscribers should join clubs of *ten*, or more, and then get the paper for only *two dollars*, postpaid! This is less than four cents per week! Is there a farmer in the United States who cannot afford to pay that little sum for such a paper as the RURAL NEW-YORKER? We think not. In fact, we know there is one not worthy of the name of farmer so poor as not to be able to subscribe for 1877.

TO CLUB AGENTS.

There are many men—especially young men—who have abundant leisure to get up a club for the RURAL, but hesitate to send to us for sample copies and Premium List, because they have never got up a club for any paper; and we presume that they think that if they fail to get up a club they *would owe us an apology*. But we expect nothing of the kind. All we ask is, that every reader of our paper who is inclined to *try* to get up a club, shall send to us for sample copies and a Premium List—which are *free*—and proceed immediately to make an effort to get up a club. Nor should any time be lost, as December is the best month of the year to get up clubs. The most successful canvassers are those who call on their friends in the evening; but any time will do. Many beginners, in getting up clubs, are apt to be discouraged if they do not meet with immediate success; but they should persevere.

Another point is, that when you have obtained a few subscribers, if you have not time to finish your club, send in your list with the money and *include your own name*, and when you have completed your club, the $2 sent for your own copy may go to pay for the paper to some other member of the club, you being entitled to a free copy as club agent. The advantage of so doing is, that your subscribers receive their papers without delay and you get a copy weekly which may be used in canvassing. But in such cases we require agents to say, when they remit parts of clubs, "I am getting up a club."

SAVINGS BANK DIVIDENDS.

CONSIDERABLE discussion has arisen of late relating to the proper portion of the earnings of a savings bank to be divided among the depositors. Formerly, each bank divided what the trustees saw fit to declare; sometimes it was from the earnings of the period for which the dividend was made, and at others surplus earnings of former years were used, and even the deposits themselves were encroached on to make a large dividend, which should serve as an advertisement and draw other deposits. Then, old banks with large deposits and heavy surplus could pay eight or ten per cent., while younger ones could not pay more than five or six.

The recent law provides that no bank shall pay more than six per cent., but gains above that amount shall be set aside and after accumulating a surplus of ten per cent. of the deposits, further surplus shall be divided every three years among depositors, as they may be entitled to it. A depositor in a savings bank has this claim on the trustees and this only, viz., —that they shall receive his money, invest it to the best advantage and return it to him on demand, together with its earnings, less its proportion of the expenses attendant upon its management. He does not become a stockholder (in this State there are none in savings banks) nor is he entitled to any portion of the gains or profits that the bank may have made before he became a depositor, and the question, what shall be done with the gains or the surplus of the bank, if any, does not, in equity, affect him in the least. Whether a bank be allowed to accumulate a large surplus at the expense of previous depositors, is a question not in order. Having it, it is proper that it should pay its proportion of the expenses of the bank and in this way the present depositor is slightly benefited. If money can be safely invested at only six per cent. and it costs one per cent. of this to pay the expenses, clearly the depositor is entitled to but five per cent. interest.

It seems to us that the original end and aim of savings banks are lost sight of. Were they not instituted mainly for the purpose of furnishing places where the savings of the laboring classes could be safely kept instead of, as seems now to be generally understood, places where large interest could be obtained? We know of instances during the past year where men of wealth, unable to find paying investments with good security, have deposited their money in savings banks having large surplus, with the expectation that a portion of the six per cent. they would receive would come from the interest on that surplus. This certainly is not right. A savings bank should have a surplus sufficient to enable it to guarantee its depositors and no more. Nor should the pressure of the depositors on the trustees for large interest be so great as to encourage them to adopt such means to make money as are at all hazardous. True, the law points out how the money shall be invested; but trustees sometimes find ways to evade the law, or to give more than legal interest, even if it requires false affidavits to secure it, rather than have depositors dissatisfied.

That the expense of managing banks with small deposits must be proportionately larger than with large ones, is plain. The deduction is, to have less in number. Evidently, there are more now than are profitable—more than are needed.

RURAL NOTES.

Agricultural Implement Manufacturers.—The National Association of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery holds its next meeting at Auburn, N. Y., Dec. 20, 1876. To this meeting a general invitation is extended to all manufacturers of such machinery other than hand power, and a large attendance and participation is looked for. The entrance fee is $5 and the annual dues $5. It is hoped that the intercommunication resulting from these meetings will obviate many of the now unpleasant and unprofitable features of this line of business. It is expected that some few, feeling themselves strong enough to do without the Association, will hold back for a time; but there can be but little doubt that the Society, on the other hand, can be made quite strong enough to produce its beneficial results without such members. And when its advantages accrue, this conservative (another name for selfish) element will be glad to claim membership. The officers are: President—D. M. OSBORNE. Vice-President—J. J. CASE. Treasurer—P. P. MAST. Corresponding Secretary—BURNET LANDRETH of Philadelphia.

Concussion-Theory Abroad.—Col. HARDEE of Florida, was much laughed at, a few years since, for claiming that insects could be driven out of orchards by what he termed "concussion"—that is, sudden jarring of the trees, or by firing off a gun near them. We notice, of late, that this concussion theory has been rapidly spreading, and at least one orange grower at the South asserts that the orange-scale disappears from the effects of firing a gun among the branches or under them a few times. Now an Austrian has been blowing up the soil among his vines with dynamite and reports that it is a perfect success in the way of destroying the *Phylloxera* or grape louse. We can only hope, if concussion proves to be a perfect remedy for this pest, that Col. HARDEE will get the 100,000 francs offered by the French Government for an effective method of destroying it.

Wasting Money.—A lady correspondent of a Western paper complains bitterly of the money "wasted" in the bronze statues erected in honor of illustrious men, but she fails to tell us where the "waste" comes in. Were she the wife of any one of the hundred men who must necessarily be employed in getting the material together to make even one of the smallest and cheapest of these statues, she might be enabled to look upon such things in a different light. Money cannot be wasted in making statuary, fine pictures or costly silks; for the poor laborers—even down to those who dig the metal from the earth, grind the pigments, and the women and children who feed the silk-worms with mulberry leaves—all get a share, and the person whose mental philosophy fails to see this in its proper light, must have a gloomy walk to tread. There may be an unequal distribution of blessings in this world, but money can scarcely be wasted when used to employ and feed industrious persons.

Good Old Times.—W. C. KERR, in writing to The South about silk culture, talks of the "good old colony times" just as though the people of this country were better off and more happy when subjects of Great Britain than now. It is a pity that farmers who prate about "good old times" could not be sent back a century or two and be compelled to taste a little of the article which they hold in such high estimation; for if history teaches any one thing more than another, it is that at no period since the human race appeared on this earth are those belonging to civilized nations so prosperous as at this very time.

The Old and New Saw.—There are probably some carpenters among the readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER who can remember the time when the name of JOHN SPEAR, Sheffield, Eng., or his successors, SPEAR & JACKSON, on the handle and blade of a saw, was almost a positive necessity to insure a sale, for those of American manufacture were as untrustworthy as the signs of the moon in foretelling the weather. But there has been a great change made in the quality of American saws in the past few years and, strange as it may appear, Sheffield, Eng., is becoming a good market for them.

RURAL BREVITIES.

OYSTERS are great admirers of SHELL-Y.

THE Egyptian horse plague is becoming Syrias.

CALIFORNIANS are showing their sound good sense by importing Norman horses, instead of breeds only fitted for the race-course.

THE occasional failure of the Belgium flax crop is attributed to a kind of rust which attacks the plants growing in soils deficient in potash.

THE Poultry Associations are now busy preparing or holding their annual exhibitions and, from present prospects, there will be a larger and better display of fine birds than ever before.

M. LAFERIERE, a French Veterinarian, is reported to check contagious disease among cattle by burning sulphur in their stalls. Thirty grains of sulphur is burnt for every cubic yard of air in the stable.

AGAIN the farmers of the West have neglected to raise beans enough to supply the demand of their home market, and dealers in provisions are sending East for large quantities of this staple article of food.

THE Canadians are talking of a large exodus of farmers to Manitoba next spring, showing that there are more people who prefer to endure the rigors of a still colder climate than run the risk of dying from yellow fever in the South.

IT is extremely difficult, even if possible, to starve out the most arrant swindler if he spends money freely in advertising, and we have often wondered why more honest men did not take the hint and use the same means to make money.

OUR old-time friend, P. T. QUINN, is engaged in the compilation of the transactions of the New Jersey Centennial Commission. It is to be hoped that he will include a full description of the Tournament and the part taken therein by her representatives.

THE THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association will be held at Cambridge, Crawford Co., Pa., Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 27th and 28th. Many of our leading dairymen are expected to be present and take part in the proceedings.

BLACKWOOD'S Magazine has long been considered a pretty good authority in literary matters, but we suspect that some of our farmers will take exceptions to its assertion that the "moon has no more effect on the weather than red herrings have on the government of Switzerland."

THE largest yield of corn reported this season comes from Alabama, one W. T. TURNLEY claiming that he has produced 221 bushels per acre, but whether in ears or shelled corn we are not informed; but either is a large enough yield to make one slightly inquisitive to know how it was done.

WE should like to have those who are believers in the theory that all varieties of potatoes are predisposed to run out or degenerate, account for the presence this season of as fine Mercers as were ever seen here thirty or forty years ago. In fact, we think there is a slight improvement in this variety, both in size and quality of the tubers.

IF there should come a Black Walnut fever in this country, Prof. BEAL of the Michigan Agricultural College would be the man to blame for it, for he has been reporting the sales of trees of this kind at one thousand dollars each and upwards. The age of these trees, however, was not given which, if it had been, might have discouraged planting of Black Walnut for timber.

ON THE DOWNS.

A faint sea without wind or sun;
A lifelike flameless vapor dun;
  A valley like an unsealed grave
That no man cares to weep upon,
  Bare, without boon to crave
    Or flower to save.

And on the lip's edge of the down,
Here where the bent grass burns to brown
  In the dry sea wind, and the heath
Crawls to the cliff's side and looks down,
  I watch, and hear beneath
    The low tide breathe.

Along the long lines of the cliff,
Down the flat sea-line, without skiff
  Or sail or black-blown fume for marks,
Through wind-worn heads of heath, and stiff
  Stems, blossomless and stark,
    With dry sprays dark.

I send my eyes out as for news
Of comfort that all these refuse.
  Tidings of light or living air
From windward, where the low clouds muse
  And the sea, blind and bare,
    Seems full of care.

[*Charles Swinburne.*

FASHION NOTES.

New York, Dec. 9, 1876.

The very sudden and severe change in the weather brings the question of winter wraps forcibly to mind, and as heretofore I have given undivided attention to the ladies, it seems only just

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that the boys and girls should be considered. To this end I have selected and give patterns of cloaks, coats, &c., that I think will be found appropriate, serviceable and stylish.

The girl's Dolman paletot bears a resemblance to many of the ladies' wraps. The model is of cloth with braid trimmings and buttons, and is fitted in the manner peculiar to the Dolman. The fronts are quite long and narrow, and for about half their length from the shoulders connect with curving sleeve-portions, which are held a trifle full at the shoulders and are sewed to the back for its entire length. The back is considerably shorter than the front and sleeves, and has a center-seam that permits a graceful spring below its termination, which occurs at the waist-line. Extra widths are allowed at the end of the seam, that on the right half being extended over the left in a diagonal lap. The sleeve has no seam, except the one joining it to the body of the garment, and consequently droops loosely over the arm. A belt, fastened at the front, draws the paletot gracefully to the figure, without hindrance to an easy movement of the arm or the fall of the sleeve. A bias band, rounded off at the ends, completes the neck; and the braid trimming is arranged on the front in diagonal lines, which meet in V-outline at the closing, while their ends are fastened in short loops. The braid is continued in pointed-collar form below the neck at the back, and a single row followed by a line of buttons defines the position of the shorter rows. Any cloth adapted to the season may be used. The pattern (No. 4599) is in 7 sizes for girls from 3 to 9 years of age. Price 25 cents.

No. 4587 is a gored basque for girls from 8 to 15 years, in 8 sizes—(25 cents.) The central portions of the back and front are each laid in six plaits turning inward and clustering closely about the neck at their upper terminations. Those in the front aid materially in adjusting the garment gracefully to the figure, as they overlap each other considerably at the waist-line, below which their seams are left open, allowing them to flare out prettily in fan outline toward the bottom. A

4587 4587

similar result is brought about in the back, where side-front, under-arm and side-back gores complete the adjustment. The skirt shows only variation enough in length to produce a symmetrical outline, and the seams of the gores in the back and front are finished with a piping of a darker shade. The coat-shaped sleeve is cut high enough at the top to conform to the length of the shoulder, and the wrist is completed with a narrow cuff flaring downward and having only an outside seam. The lower edge of the cuff, as well as the seam joining it to the sleeve, is piped with the silk; and the neck has a similar finish, inside of which is sewed a lace ruche. A wide silk belt, formed of narrow upward-turning plaits laid

4579 4579

crosswise on a lining of crinoline, confines the garment snugly to the figure, and is itself fastened with a handsome buckle.

The child's sack (No. 4566) is made of heavy cloth, trimmed with facings and bands of silk of a dark shade. The adjustment is performed by shoulder and under-arm seams and the garment, though very long, is loose enough to allow a free movement of the little wearer's limbs. Each side of the front has a deep pocket, turned down at the top to form a lap, from which an inverted V-shaped opening is cut, so that it falls in two points which are faced with silk. The sleeve is in coat-shape, and has a cuff whose corners are reversed at the outside seam and faced with silk to harmonize with the pocket-lap. The cape-like collar is slashed for about half its depth through the center, and the corners of the slash, as well as the ends in front, are reversed with silk. A sack of this style may be made of velvet, plaid flannel, waterproof cloth, heavy cloth, or any seasonable fabric. Lines of machine-stitching, bands of silk or velvet, or rows of braid, are appropriate trimmings. The pattern is in 6 sizes, for children from 1 to 6 years. (Price 20 cents.)

A very nice sack for elderly ladies is illustrated in No. 4,584. The front is in double-breasted sack shape, and the back is in the popular French mode, being quite narrow and having a curved seam through the center. The skirt is of medium depth, and presents a uniform outline slightly deepening at the back. The upper parts of the front are faced and piped with silk, and the left side is turned back in a *revers*, while the right underlaps it or is also turned back, at the pleasure of the wearer. The front is closed its entire length below the *revers* with buttonholes and natural-wood buttons, a second line of buttons being arranged on the overlapping side,

4584

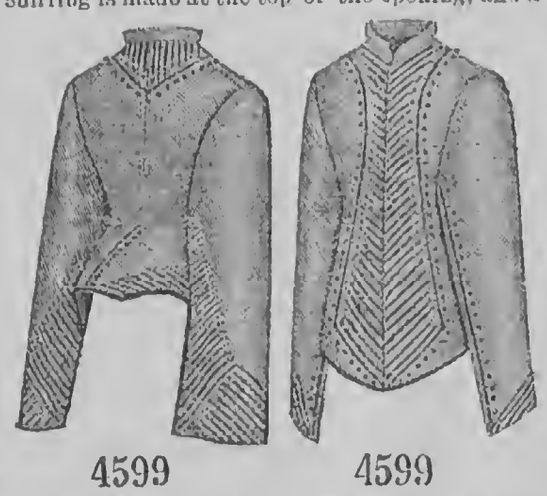
while a hook and loop are caught together under the collar. The sleeve is quite wide at the wrist, where it is elegantly completed by a handsome flaring cuff having a silk lap finished with piping sewed to the top and then reversed. A deep Byron, or turn-over collar, faced and piped with silk, rolls about the neck, forming a stylish and comfortable completion to this part of the sack.

The shape is suitable for any material in vogue for such garments, and, owing to its elegant outline, but little trimming is necessary. Beaver, or rough-faced cloths are very often made up in this way, as but few seams are introduced, a point which should always be observed in making up heavy cloths. The pattern is in 13 sizes. Bust measure from 28 to 46 inches.

The girls' coat with a deep adjustable vest (No. 4,579) is very pretty made up of a combination of light-colored cashmere and a silk of contrasting shade. The front portions of the garment proper fall over a deep silk vest, which runs into the shoulder-seams and depends in two little diagonal tabs below the closing. Side-backs and a center-seam adjust the back nicely, and at the waist-line of each side-back is a forward-turning plait formed of narrow extra widths, allowed for the purpose. A pretty pointed silk lap, holding three buttons covered with cashmere, is sewed in with the seam below the waist-line; and the center-seam has a narrow extra width on the skirt, which is extended from the left half over the right in a straight lap. Large pockets, turned down in pointed laps that are faced with silk and ornamented with buttons, are finished on the remaining edges with silk pipings and then placed over the hips, adding a jaunty look to the garment. The skirt, and the overlapping edges of the front, are finished with piping; and the coat-sleeve is completed with a cuff whose upper edge is faced and tacked down under buttons, to match the pockets.

Two shades of blue, brown or gray, combine prettily in garments of this style, and the materials may contrast or harmonize in texture. The introduction of the vest, and the diversity observed in the arrangement of the back render it particularly charming and picturesque. Elaborate trimmings are not required, and are indeed out of place, though there are a number of simpler kinds from which a selection may be made, braid, velvet, cordings or fringes being among the most suitable. In seven sizes for girls from 3 to 9 years old.

The misses' overskirt, No. 4603, is one among the many pretty ways of treating skirts. Draping has, however, become a matter of individual fancy, the stereotype of fashion being remarkable by its absence. The material illustrated is soft serge, and the garment consists of a wide gore and a full back-breadth. The gore forms the front and sides of the skirt, and displays two styles of drapery. The fullness is removed from the top by means of darts, and three deep plaits, overlapping and turning upward, are clustered in the right side-seam near the bottom. The left side is particularly effective in appearance, being slashed from the bottom for about ten or twelve inches, and then reversed as illustrated. A short shirring is made at the top of the opening, and a



4599 4599

corresponding one is inserted at the left side-seam. As represented, the plaits raise the right side quite high in graceful folds and wrinkles, while the left falls comparatively low, revealing the ornamentation of the dress skirt through the opening. The back is longer than either side, and where it joins the belt is arranged in six side-plaits turning toward the center. A tape, fastened at the center of the belt and tacked twice to the breadth at intervals far enough apart to produce a stylish fullness, drapes the back prettily, two other tapes being tacked at the side-seams and tied together to hold the fullness in position.

Mourning Goods.

The mourning goods look gloomily down upon us from rows of well filled shelves. In the "heavy affliction" department is an extensive assortment of such leading fabrics as Henrietta cloth, bombazine, Imperial serge, Cashmere, mohair, *drap d'ete*, crepe cloths and barathea, in prices ranging from sixty-five cents to $2.25 a yard. Henrietta cloths with silk warp are from $1.37½ to $2.75 per yard, and with cotton warp from forty-five cents to $1. Camel's hair, fancy and plain, light and heavy, from $1 to $7.50 a yard. The latter is seventy-two inches wide. Fancy *matelesse* from sixty five cents to $3 a yard. Diagonals and serges, forty-eight inches wide, from $1.25 to $2. Then there is a heavy satin faced *matelesse* for cloaks and sacques at $3.50 a yard. Courtauld's English crepes are still the most famous for trimming and veils, and are sold at $1.25 to $10 per yard. Frolic.

The Story-Teller.

A MAN WHO LOST HIS NAME.

[Concluded from page 382.]

VII.

After that eventful December night, America was no more what it had been to Halfdan Bjerk. A strange torpidity had come over him; every rising day gazed into his eyes with a fierce un-

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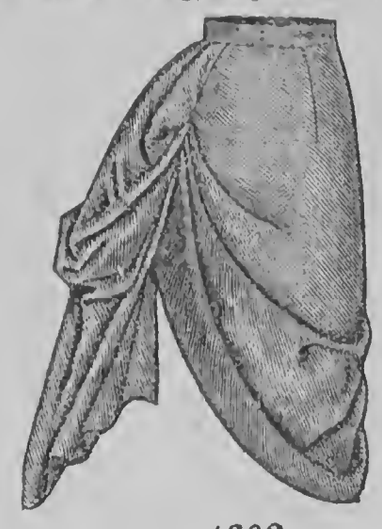
meaning glare. The noises of the street annoyed him and made him childishly fretful, and the solitude of his own room seemed still more dreary and depressing. He went mechanically through the daily routine of his duties as if the soul had been taken out of his work and left his life all barrenness and desolation. He moved restlessly from place to place, roamed at all times of the day and night through the city and its suburbs, trying vainly to exhaust his physical strength; gradually, as his lethargy deepened into a numb,



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helpless despair—it seemed, somehow, to impart a certain toughness to his otherwise delicate frame. Olson, who was now a junior partner in the firm of Remsen, Van Kirk & Co., stood by him faithfully in these days of sorrow. He was never effusive in his sympathy, but was patiently forbearing with his friend's whims and moods, and humored him as if he had been a sick child intrusted to his custody. That Edith might be the moving cause of Olson's kindness was a thought which, strangely enough, had never occurred to Halfdan.

At last, when spring came, the vacancy of his mind was suddenly invaded with a strong desire to revisit his native land. He disclosed his plan to Olson who, after due deliberation and several visits to the Van Kirk mansion, decided that the pleasure of seeing old friends and the scenes of his childhood, might push the painful memories out of sight and renew his interest in life. So, one morning, while the May sun shone with a soft radiance upon the beautiful harbor, our Norseman found himself standing on the deck of a huge black-hulled Cunarder, shivering in spite of the warmth and feeling a chill loneliness creeping over him at the sight of the kissing and affectionate leave-takings which were going on all around him. Olson was running back and forth, attending to his baggage; but he himself took no thought and felt no more responsibility than if he had been a helpless child. He half regretted that

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his own wish had prevailed and was inclined to hold his friend responsible for it; and still he had not energy enough to protest now when the journey seemed inevitable. His heart still clung to the place which held the corpse of his ruined life, as a man may cling to the spot which hides his beloved dead.

Two weeks later, Halfdan landed in Norway. He was half reluctant to leave the steamer, and the land of his birth excited no emotion in his breast. He was but conscious of a dim regret that he was so far away from Edith. At last, however, he betook himself to a hotel, where he spent the afternoon sitting with half-closed eyes at a window, watching listlessly the drowsy slow-pulsed life which dribbled languidly through the narrow thoroughfare. The noisy uproar of Broadway chimed remotely in his ears, like the distant roar of a tempest-tossed sea, and what had once been a perpetual annoyance was now a sweet memory. How often with Edith at his side had he threaded his way through the surging crowds that pour, on a fine afternoon, in an unceasing current up and down the street between Union and Madison Squares. How friendly, and sweet, and gracious, Edith had been at such times; how fresh her voice, how witty and animated her chance remarks when they stopped to greet a passing acquaintance; and, above all, how inspiring the sight of her heavenly beauty. Now that was all past. Perhaps he should never see Edith again.

The next day he sauntered through the city, meeting some old friends, who all seemed changed

and singularly uninteresting. They were all engaged or married, and could talk of nothing but matrimony, and their prospects of advancement in the Government service. One had an influential uncle who had been a chum of the present Minister of Finance; another based his hopes of future prosperity upon the family connections of his betrothed, and a third was waiting with a patient perseverance, worthy of a better cause, for the death or resignation of an antiquated *chef-de-bureau* which, according to the promise of some mighty man, would open a position for him in the Department of Justice. All had the most absurd theories about American democracy, and indulged freely in prophecies of coming disasters; but about their own Government they had no opinion whatever. If Halfdan attempted to set them right, they at once grew excited and declamatory; their opinions were based upon conviction and a charming ignorance of facts, and they were not to be moved. They knew all about Tweed and the members of the Tammany Ring, and believed them to be representative citizens of New York, if not of the United States; but of Charles Sumner and Carl Schurz they had never heard. Halfdan—who, in spite of his misfortunes in the land of his adoption, cherished a very tender feeling for it—was often so thoroughly aroused at the foolish prejudices which everywhere met him, that his torpidity gradually thawed away and he began to look more like his former self.

Toward autumn he received an invitation to visit a country clergyman in the North, a distant relative of his father, and there whiled away his time, fishing and shooting, until winter came. But as Christmas drew near and the day wrestled feebly with the all-conquering night, the old sorrow revived. In the darkness which now brooded over land and sea, the thoughts needed no longer be on guard against themselves; they could roam far and wide as they listed. Where was Edith now—the sweet, the wonderful Edith? Was there yet the same dancing light in her beautiful eyes, the same golden sheen in her hair, the same merry ring in her voice? And had she not said that when he was content to be only her friend, he might return to her and she would receive him in the old joyous and confiding way? Surely there was no life to him apart from her—why should he not be her friend? Only a glimpse of her lovely face—ah, it was worth a life-time; it would consecrate an age of misery, a glimpse of Edith's face. Thus ran his fancies day by day, and the night only lent a deeper intensity to the yearnings of the day. He walked about as in a dream, seeing nothing, heeding nothing, while this one strong desire—to see Edith once more—throbbed and throbbed with a slow, feverish perseverance within him. Edith—Edith; the very name had a strange, potent fascination. Every thought whispered "Edith"—his pulse beat "Edith"—and his heart repeated the beloved name. It was his pulse-beat,—his heart-beat—his life-beat.

And one morning as he stood absently looking at his fingers against the light—and they seemed strangely wan and transparent—the thought at last took shape. It rushed upon him with such vehemence, that he could no more resist it. So he bade the clergyman good-by, gathered his few worldly goods together and set out for Bergen. There he found an English steamer which carried him to Hull, and a few weeks later he was once more in New York.

It was late one evening in January that a tug-boat arrived and took the cabin passengers ashore. The moon sailed tranquilly over the deep-blue dome of the sky, the stars traced their glittering paths of light from the zenith downward, and it was sharp, bitter cold. Northward over the river lay a great bank of cloud, dense, gray and massive, the specter of the coming snow-storm. There it lay, so huge and fantastically human, ruffling itself up, as fowls do, in defense against the cold. Halfdan walked on at a brisk rate—strange to say, all the street-cars he met went the wrong way—startling every now and then some precious memory, some words or look or gesture of Edith which had hovered long over these scenes, waiting for his recognition. There was the great jewel-store where Edith had taken him so often to consult his taste whenever a friend of hers was to be married. It was there that they had had an amicable quarrel over that bronze statue of Faust which she had found beautiful, while he, with a rudeness which seemed now quite incomprehensible, had insisted that it was not. And when he had failed to convince her, she had given him her hand in token of reconciliation—and Edith had a wonderful way of giving her hand, which made any one feel that it was a peculiar privilege to press it—and they had walked out arm in arm into the animated, gas-lighted streets, with a delicious sense of snugness and security, being all the more closely united for their quarrel. Here, farther up the avenue, they had once been to a party, and he had danced for the first time in his life with Edith. Here was Delmonico's, where they had had such fascinating luncheons together; where she had got a stain on her dress and he had been forced to observe that her dress was then not really a part of herself, since it was a thing that could be stained. Her dress had always seemed to him something absolute and final, exalted above criticism, incapable of improvement.

As I have said, Halfdan walked briskly up the avenue, and it was something after eleven when he reached the house which he sought. The great cloud-bank in the north had then begun to expand and stretched its long misty arms eastward and westward over the heavens. The windows on the ground floor were dark, but the sleeping apartments in the upper stories were lighted. In Edith's room the inside shutters were closed, but one of the windows was a little down at the top. And as he stood gazing with tremulous happiness up to that window, a stanza from Heine which he and Edith had often read together, came into his head. It was the story of the youth who goes to the Madonna at Kevlar and brings her as a votive offering a heart of wax, that she may heal him of his love and his sorrow.

"I bring this waxen image,
The image of my heart,
Heal thou my bitter sorrow,
And cure my deadly smart!" [*Exotics.*

Then came the thought that for him, too, as for the poor youth of Cologne, there was healing only in death. And still in this moment he was so near Edith, should see her perhaps, and the joy at this was stronger than all else, stronger even than death. So he sat down beside the steps of the mansion opposite, where there was some shelter from the wind, and waited patiently till Edith should close her window. He was cold, perhaps; but, if so, he hardly knew it, for the near joy of seeing her throbbed warmly in his veins. Ah, there—the blinds were thrown open. Edith, in all the lithe magnificence of her wonderful form, stood out clear and beautiful against the light within; she pushed up the lower window in order to reach the upper one, and for a moment leaned out over the sill. Once more her wondrous profile traced itself in strong relief against outer gloom. There came a cry from the street below—a feeble, involuntary one, but still distinctly audible. Edith peered anxiously out into the darkness, but the darkness had grown denser and she could see nothing. The window was fastened, the shutters closed, and the broad pathway of light which she had flung out upon the night had vanished.

Halfdan closed his eyes, trying to retain the happy vision. Yes, there she stood still, and there was a heavenly smile upon her lips—ugh, he shivered—the snow swept in wild whirl up the street. He wrapped his plaid more closely about him and strained his eyes to catch one more glimpse of the beloved Edith. Ah, yes; there she was again, she came nearer and nearer, and she touched his cheek, gently, wartily, smiling all the while with a strange, wistful smile, which was surely not Edith's. There—she bent over him; touched him again—how cold her hands were! The touch chilled him to the heart. The snow had now begun to fall in large scattered flakes, whirling fitfully through the air, following every chance gust of wind, but still falling, falling, and covering the earth with its white, death-like shroud.

But surely—there was Edith again—how wonderful!—in a long, snow-white robe, grave and gracious, still with the wistful smile on her lips. See, she beckons to him with her hand and he rises to follow, but something heavy clings to his feet and he cannot stir from the spot. He tries to cry for help, but he cannot—can only stretch out his hands to her and feel very unhappy because he cannot follow her. But now she pauses in her flight, turns about, and he sees that she wears a myrtle garland in her hair like a bride. She comes toward him, her countenance all radiant with love and happiness, and she stoops down over him and speaks:

"Come—they are waiting for us. I will follow thee in life and in death, wherever thou goest. Come," repeats Edith, "they have long been waiting. They are all here."

And he imagines he knows who they all are, although he has never heard of them, nor can he recall their names.

"But—but," he stammers, "I—I—am a foreigner."

It appeared then that for some reason this was an insurmountable objection. And Edith's happiness dies out of her beautiful face and she turns away weeping.

"Edith, beloved!"

Then she is once more at his side.

"Thou art no more a foreigner to me, beloved. Whatever thou art, I am."

And she presses her lips to his—it was the sweetest kiss of his life—the kiss of death.

The next morning, as Edith, after having put the last touch to her toilet, threw the shutters open, a great glare of sun-smitten snow burst upon her, and for the moment blinded her eyes. On the sidewalk opposite half a dozen men with snow-shovels in their hands and a couple of policemen had congregated and, judging by their manner, were discussing some object of interest. Presently they were joined by her father, who had just finished his breakfast and was on his way to the office. Now he stooped down and gazed at something half concealed in the snow; then suddenly started back and as she caught a glimpse of his face, she saw that it was ghastly white. A terrible foreboding seized her. She threw a shawl about her shoulders and rushed down-stairs. In the hall she was met by her father, who was just entering, followed by four men carrying something between them. She well knew what it was. She would fain have turned away, but she could not; grasping her father's arm and pressing it hard, she gazed with blank, frightened eyes at the white face, the lines of which Death had so strangely emphasized. The snow-flakes which hung in his hair had touched him with their sudden age, as if to bridge the gulf between youth and death. And still he was beautiful—the clear brow, the peaceful, happy indolence, the frozen smile which death had perpetuated. Smiling, he had departed from the earth which had no place for him and smiling entered the realm where, among the many mansions, there is, perhaps, also one for a gentle, simple-hearted enthusiast.—*Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen, in Scribner's Monthly.*

THE JEWS.

A PAMPHLET just issued contains some interesting statistics—estimates perhaps would be a better word—concerning the Jews. The author (the Rev. J. Miller) places their total number at 7,074,858, namely:—In Europe, 5,226,858; In Asia, 591,000; In Africa, 792,000; In America, 450,000; In the British colonies, 15,000. Russia contains a Jewish population of 2,647,036; Austria, 1,300,000; Germany, 512,171; Roumania, 255,000; Turkey, 200,000; France, 95,000; England, 70,000—of whom 30,000 are residents of London; Holland, 68,892; Italy, 53,000. In Norway, Spain and Portugal, the total Hebrew population is set down at less than five hundred. The Jewish race still preserves its remarkable vitality. In Austrian Galicia, where there are now 500,000 Israelites, the increase during the semi-century from 1821 to 1870, according to the tables of Joseph Hain, has been 150 per cent., while the ordinary population only increased during the same period 25 per cent. Mr. Miller places the Hebrew population of New York at 80,000 and that of Chicago at 30,000. He might (says the New York World) profitably have commented on the fact that many Americans of Jewish descent are classified as Americans, and that there is a tendency among the young Hebrews to make less prominent the badges of difference between themselves and their Christian brethren—a tendency notably exhibited in the abandonment or modification of the most characteristic Jewish names.

THE LITTLE THINGS.

HEARTS, like doors, can ope with ease
To very, very little keys;
And don't forget that they are these,
"I thank you sir," and, "If you please."

Then let us watch those little things,
And so respect each other,
That not a word, or look, or tone,
May wound a friend or brother.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Books for Holliday Presents.

Snip and Whip. By ELIZABETH A. DAVIS. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

THE adventures and mishaps of the two young gentleman, nick-named as above, form the staple of a pleasant story. The author has evidently been among children and knows their ways, as her pictures are so true to life. Such books as this one are the sort to put into the hands of our youth at this holiday season and few are better for that purpose than "Snip and Whip."

The Young Trail Hunters. By SAMUEL WOODWORTH COZZENS. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

FOR exciting life on the Plains and thrilling adventures, commend this work. The parts borne respectively by the two boys, HAL and NED, who formed part of a trading party, are none the less interesting by reason of their boyish blunders. The free-and-easy style of life, with its strong lights and shades, is just the sort of matter with which to make a boy's book, and the author has used it liberally.

Edina. By Mrs. HENRY WOOD. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Bros.

MRS. WOOD has written a number of novels, both of the sensational and of the quiet order, but few of them can compare with this one in interest. It contains, too, some bits of true nature. Those who are amused by the average modern fiction, would do well to spend an hour or so with Mrs. WOOD in "Edina."

COMING EVENTS.

OUR neighbor, the Spirit of the Times, is preparing a superb Christmas number. The editor, Mr. E. A. Buck, has been making extensive and expensive preparations for the issue of a Christmas number which is expected to eclipse anything of a like nature that has appeared in this country. It will be nearly three times the size of an ordinary number of the well-known Spirit, and will be artistically ten times stronger, although issued at the usual price. Wilkie Collins contributes a specially written story; E. L. Blanchard of Drury Lane Theater, writes the history of pantomime; Rev. Adirondack Murray contributes characteristically; John W. Forney tells anecdotes and reminiscences; "Devoted Yachtsman" will tell us about "Christmas at Home," and at the same time drop his *incognito*. The editor of The Spirit having caught "Devoted Yachtsman" with his visor up, will publish his portrait. Ostrom of Cornell, tells about boating—indeed, every branch of sport will be illuminated. The illustrations will comprise 100 portraits of men and women who are famous either in sport or at the play, riflemen, oarsmen, and the lights of the English, French and American boards.

THE INQUIRER appears under date of December 7, in place of The Liberal Christian. The form taken is nearly that of The Churchman, and the appearance of the paper is much more attractive than that of its predecessor. The publishers state that very valuable additions have been made to the contributing force, and the columns bear witness to the fact in the merit of the matter presented in the first number.

PAYNE'S SUNDAY PRESS of Jersey City, is the latest enterprise of that irrepressible young journalist, Mr. SETH WILBUR PAYNE. It is bright, well made up, and altogether an acquisition to the Sunday reading of the Jerseyman.

Sabbath Reading.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

OUR Father—
By right of creation,
By bountiful provision,
By gracious adoption;
Who art in heaven—
The throne of thy glory,
The portion of thy children,
The temple of thy angels,
Hallowed by thy name—
By the thoughts of our hearts,
By the words of our lips,
By the works of our hands.
Thy kingdom come—
Of Providence to defend us,
Of grace to refine us,
Of glory to crown us,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven—
Towards us without resistance,
By us without compulsion,
Universally without exception,
Eternally without declension.
Give us this day our daily bread—
Of necessity for our bodies,
Of eternal life for our souls.
And forgive us our trespasses—
Against the commands of thy law,
Against the grace of thy gospel;
As we forgive those that trespass against us—
By defaming our characters,
By embezzling our property,
By abusing our person;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil—
Of overwhelming afflictions,
Of worldly enticements,
Of Satan's devices,
Of error's seduction,
Of sinful affections;
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever—
Thy kingdom governs all,
Thy power subdues all,
Thy glory is above all.
Amen.
As it is in thy purpose,
So it is in thy promises,
So be it in our prayers,
So it shall be to thy praise.

[This paraphrase is credited to M. PIERRE BERNARD.]

DESTRUCTIVENESS OF SIN.

MEN think little of sin; but does God? What turned Adam and Eve out of Paradise? Sin. What drowned the old world in the flood? Sin. What destroyed God's own city and scattered her chosen people as vagrants over the face of the earth? Sin. What brought disease, accidents, toil, care, war, pestilence and famine into the world? Sin. What has converted the world into one great burying place of its inhabitants? Sin. What lighted the flames of hell? Sin. What crucified the Lord of life and glory? Sin. What, then, must sin be? Who but God, and what but his infinite mind, can conceive of its evil nature? Did you ever consider that it was only one sin that brought death and all our woes into the world? Do you not tremble at the thought that this evil is in you? Some will attempt to persuade you that sin is a trifle; that God does not take much account of it; that you need not give yourself much concern about it.

But what says God himself in his word, in his providence, in the torments of the damned, in the crucifixion of his Son? You have not only sin enough in yourself to deserve the bottomless pit and to sink you to it, unless it be pardoned; but sin enough, if it could be divided and distributed to others, to doom multitudes to perdition.—*J. A. James.*

LEGEND.

THIS word is a curious instance of the testimony such a word may bear against a whole system, of teaching or of practice. Of course every Latinist knows that in its most literal signification, "legend" means "something to be read." It was applied in the first instance to the things which were to be read in monasteries and nunneries, in the early days of Romanism. These readings were for the instruction especially of priests, and with a view to fit them for preaching to the people. They were *not* in the Bible, but in the lives of saints—those marvelous, often absurd stories, by which the Papacy has sought in all ages to justify its claim to miraculous gifts, and so to a special divine mission. These readings were called "legends" at first, because they were "readings;" but they in due time came to be called "legends" because they were such manifest and enormous lies. And the word so changed in its meaning continues to have that signification still.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

As we look to Christ in prayer and converse with him through his gospel, we shall find new and better dispositions growing up within us; holier habits of thought collecting and increasing—a power over sin that is an earnest of future triumphs—a pleasure in studying the divine dispensations and discovering fresh traces of wisdom and goodness—and an activity in every duty to God and man.—*Charles Wolf.*

A SHIP on the broad, boisterous and open ocean needeth no pilot. But it dare not venture alone on the placid bosom of a little river, lest it be wrecked by some hidden rock. Thus it is with life. 'Tis not in our open, exposed deeds that we need the still voice of the silent monitor, but in the small, secret, everyday acts of life, that conscience warns us to beware of the hidden shoals of what we deem too common to be dangerous.

Ladies' Portfolio.

A MODEL MAIDEN.

'Tis not alone that she is fair
And hath a wealth of golden hair;
'Tis not that she can play and sing,
To charm a critic or a king;
'Tis not that she is gentle, kind,
And wears no chignon huge, behind,
Nor high-heeled boot, nor corset laced
To show her slenderness of waist;
'Tis not that she can talk with ease
On well-nigh any theme you please;
'Tis not that she can row, and ride,
And do a dozen things beside;
The reasons why I love Miss Brown
Are that she never wears a frown,
Ne'er sulks, or pouts, or mopes, or frets,
Or fusses about "styles" or "sets;"
Ne'er nurses lapdogs by the fire,
Nor bids her friends her charms admire;
Ne'er bets upon the Derby Day,
And when she's lost omits to pay;
By bonnets does not bound her talk,
And is not indisposed to walk;
Ne'er bullies her small brothers, nor
Esteems their childish games a bore;
With pigments ne'er her cheek deniles
Nor practices coquettish wiles;
Needs not a maid to pack her things,
Nor plagues papa for diamond rings.
On biscuits is content to lunch;
Loves Shakspeare, Milton, Pope and Punch,
Never descends to vulgar slang,
And ne'er was known the door to bang?

[*Punch.*

FOR THE THOUGHTLESS.

We have probably all of us met with instances in which a word heedlessly spoken against the reputation of a woman has been magnified by malicious minds, until the cloud has become dark enough to overshadow her whole existence. To those who are accustomed—not necessarily from bad motives, but from thoughtlessness—to speak lightly of woman, we recommend these hints as worthy of consideration.

Never use a lady's name in an improper place, at an improper time or in mixed company. Never make assertions about her you think are untrue, or allusions that you feel she herself would blush to hear. When you meet with men who do not scruple to make use of a woman's name in a reckless and unprincipled manner, shun them, for they are the worst members of the community—men lost to every sense of honor, every feeling of humanity. Many a good and worthy woman's character has been forever ruined, and her heart broken, by a lie. A slander is soon propagated, and the smallest thing derogatory to a woman's character will fly on the wings of the wind, and magnify as it circulates, until its monstrous weight crushes the poor unconscious victim.

Respect the name of woman, for your mother and sisters are women, and as you would have their fair name untarnished and their lives unembittered by the slanderer's biting tongue, heed the ill that your own words may bring upon the mother, the sister or the wife of some fellow creature. E. D.

ANOTHER RICHMOND IN THE FIELD.

So, MAY MAPLE, your ideal of a housekeeper is one who used a mattress for forty years without washing it. And you call that mattress clean! Well, it is, after the manner of the Pharisees. A microscopic examination of the interior of it wouldn't reveal "ravening wolves," but the revelations would be of such a character as to make you regret your adherence to the forty-year rule. Did you ever calculate just about the amount of impurities thrown off from the human body during the night? If you haven't, I would recommend you to do so; and bearing in mind the fact that cottons and woolens are porous, and communicate a part of what they receive, you can form an idea of just how *clean* that aged mattress was. I certainly agree that to put a mattress out "to grass," exposed to rain, snow and dust, is a filthy proceeding, but must it be cleansed in so eccentric a fashion? Why not take out the filling (which should never be either hair or feathers), throw it away, treat the ticking to an orthodox wash, boil and dry, then refill it with fresh material? What would MAY MAPLE say to being advised to wear cotton garments next her skin, so as to keep her flannels *clean for forty years?* And yet that's just the sort of cleanliness she advocates in the matter of bedding.

And now, Mr. Editor, permit me to ask what medical authority is responsible for the following enlightened opinion, which appeared in RURAL of Oct. 21st, in reply to a question about "flesh worms?" "They arise from impurity of the blood or system." I've a suspicion the *devil* set that up while you were napping. Am I right?

FREE LANCE.

QUIET GIRLS.

It would be affectation to pretend that admiration, when it is openly expressed, is not very sweet to girls. Extremely few people are above the influence of vanity, and maidens, as a class, are certainly not among those who are. There is no valid reason why they should be condemned upon this account. To wish to be thought well of is a perfectly laudable ambition; indeed, it is to be feared that if most persons did not desire to be held in favorable estimation the world would be a very much worse place than it is.

The misfortune is that many well-meaning individuals mistake notoriety for admiration, and in so doing are naturally led to indulge in excesses and follies of various kinds. It is to be regretted that this is particularly true so far as regards a number of girls who, lacking knowledge of the world, and an insight into human nature, are contaminated when they are thrown into association with young men and women of a certain order. You will see them, in their desire to attract notice, unsteadily balancing themselves upon the line which separates the polite from the impolite, and coquetting with what public opinion has decided to be naughty. No doubt their intentions are in most cases perfectly innocent, and if they were not applauded by unprincipled flatterers, who, being tinged with badness themselves, like to make others the same, they would not continue to indulge in their little indiscretions. Unhappily, they are encouraged to believe that they are favorably distinguishing themselves when they are outraging good taste.

There are men who like a girl who talks at a great rate, and indulges in those descriptions of sneering and backbiting which are often mistaken for wit. There are conceited snobs who love a young woman ten times as much as they would otherwise do if they see that she treats those whom she does not deem it politic to conciliate with something very much resembling insolence. There are beaux who appreciate the creature who is everlastingly giggling, smirking, posing herself in what she deems picturesque attitudes, and shouting utter nonsense at the top of her voice. Quiet girls see this. They perceive, further, that because they seem to lack what seem to be supposed to be accomplishments, but which are really social vices, they are ignored. Over and over again are the sweetest natured as well as the cleverest women stigmatized as dull, stupid and prim, because they are disinclined to shriek and to show all the teeth in their head to the first man who philanthropically condescends to indicate that he is disposed to look with favor upon them.

CONCERNING MUSIC.

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast." That may be so, but if I were a savage I should have some choice in the music. Suppose some talented young miss, who has run up and down the scale a few times, and considers herself equal to the occasion, bangs upon the piano for an hour in your hearing, don't you think you will need soothing? Or if it comes to you on the Sabbath, in the form of congregational singing, where some are screaming in one key, and some in another, and only two or three know how to sing,—what about the soothing then? Perhaps you have sometime sat down to read and enjoy a little leisure, and had a hand organ begin to grind under your window until it has ground your nerves to a pomace. Is that soothing? I tell you "circumstances alter cases." Everybody cannot sing, any more than everybody can write or preach. Music hath charms, but it must be the right kind. Good, soul-inspiring music may sooth a savage, but from poor, squeaking music deliver us.

Cayuga. AMELIA.

ABOUT DRESS.

THE choice of colors is one that requires some thought and experience. The brilliant shades that were fashionable at one time, faded very rapidly. The darker ones now worn, even in summer, are much more durable. Black, brown and dark green are, perhaps, the most economical colors for dresses; lavender, and some shades of gray, the least so. Navy-blue wears well in good materials; in cheap fabrics it soon begins to look grayish. The bluer shades of prune are durable, but the redder tints soon become hard and disagreeable. Cream-color is rather more economical than white, though in large towns the sweets observe a strict impartiality towards both. In buying materials for making or trimming bonnets or hats, the very best must always be chosen. A good felt hat may be worn for two winters, whereas a cheap one betrays itself in two months. It is not necessary to buy silk velvet at five dollars a yard, but it should not cost less than three dollars. If lace be used it should be good, though it need not be real.

A CENTENNIAL INCIDENT.

AN esteemed contributor, visiting the Centennial, saw and sends us the following incident:

An old lady from Brooklyn was my companion. She was tall, stout, self-complacent. The talk before leaving home had been largely of STOKES, who was to be liberated from Auburn soon. We had seen a good many *models* on our way, and coming to the elevator in the center of the building, over which were the letters, "STOKES & PARVISH," she looked at the man sealed in the elevator and then at the words, and being a little near-sighted, said, with a satisfied air, "Ah, STOKES' *prison*—a model, I suppose!"

I suffered, but did not laugh.

GOOD ADVICE TO A YOUNG LADY.—Live always in the best company when you read. No one in youth thinks on the value of time. Do you ever reflect how you pass your life? If you live to 72—which I hope you may—your life is spent in the following manner: An hour a day is three years; this makes twenty-seven years' sleeping—nine years' dressing—nine years at table—six years playing with children—nine years' walking, drawling and visiting—six years' shopping, and three years' quarreling.—*Sydney Smith.*

THE less indulgence one has for one's self, the more one may have for others.

Reading for the Young.

JINGLES.

"DAUGHTER, daughter,
Mind the water!"
She said she never should,
So she went in,
Right up to her chin,
And did not find it good;

For the water was bitter,
And made her twitter,
As nobody thought she could!
She cried in haste,
"What a nasty taste!
I wish I had understood!"

Oh, send and save her!
A beautiful flavor
Is not to be found in the flood;
And coffee or tea
Is the drink for me
At a picnic in the wood!

EXPOSITION NOTES.

IT IS of no use! I have drawn my forehead into scowls, and plunged my hands into the depths of my wig till each separate hair, in a state of rebellion, bids fair to rival the cranium of THADDEUS. I have been studying the little book devoted to Centennial memoranda, and have decided if I ever wrote those lines some evil genius controlled the pencil. It is a very convenient little book to refer to, because it can be read bottom side up almost as easily as the other way, and it makes no particular difference where you begin. Uncle FRITZ picked it up the other day, and I overheard him saying to himself (after turning it round and round, in a vain attempt to find the top), "It is kinder dim, but PET is gettin' along first-rate. She used to make her lines so crooked; these air tollable straight. Wonder what she was tryin' to make, anyhow—pictures or words." The idea! I suppose it was indignation that prevented my enlightening him, yet I must confess it does bear a striking resemblance to PET'S "tomishun book." Who cares for note-books and Egyptian characters, we will make our way between the vehicles toward Machinery Hall. Inside all is dust, confusion and noise. It is like the first of May in New York. Trucks, cars, carts are busy loading and moving—hurrying as if they expected the building to be torn down within an hour. We have said good-by to the huge engine. The last cheer in honor of the maker has died out, and even the clanging of bells, rattling of steel, iron, tin pans, cups, &c., has subsided. The great Exhibition is closed, and everybody sighs and goes home to rest. No, not every one, for here and there, dodging workmen and vehicles, may be seen a venturesome visitor who, prevented from seeing the Exposition in its glory, is determined to get a peep at what remains.

Gloucester, Mass., made a complete display of shipping, seamen's suits, &c. In front was "The identical suit worn by BOYTON when he swam the English Channel." What a crowd at all hours around the Type Writers! Some watching the piano-like movement, others superintending the printing of a note to their "heart's best affection," whether the mother-in-law or grandfather's cousin. The air was fragrant with popping corn, and wondering how so many could be supplied, we stepped down a short distance, and, peeping between the heads and shoulders of the crowd, watched the five rapid operatives popping, gathering, balling and wrapping in papers. Another place we visited several times, vainly hoping to learn more about the manufacture of wall paper, but the machine attracted such a crowd that it was almost impossible to see the most important parts. How many saw the Westinghouse Air Brake, and the balls supported in mid-air at all sorts of angles, and listened to the queries of the bystanders? "What keeps them there? What are they made of? Why don't they fall?"

We are so near the annex of wood-sawing and turning machinery let's go there. No, we will give it up; there is too much noise and dust, and we shall be in the way of packers. Even the "Mohawk Dutchman" has folded his robes about him and silently taken his departure. We are too late to see his crown and eye-glasses—the remarkable jewelry, chatelaine and huge fan of wood. We would like to hear him repeat those stale jokes again as he helped himself to tobacco with a pair of sugar-tongs of his "own manufacture," and see him saw from one block furniture enough to set up a young couple in house-keeping. We felt grateful, too, for the names of each piece, as without the description we would have been unable to say what most of them resembled.

Passing the Willimantic space we noticed quite a good imitation of our bald eagle, made of 8,464 spools of thread—the colors delicately arranged. The Domestic had a life-like group, "Red Ridinghood," and the Weed a vast piece of machine embroidery, representing the Battle of Bunker Hill; 8,640,000 stitches said to have been used. Who counted them? We must not forget the old Franklin press, that has been worked all through the Exposition, and is to be sent back to its place in the Patent Office. Of equal interest is the Ephrata press, 130 years old, on which was printed the Declaration of Independence, and Continental money. We rush by neat models of yachts, schooners, tugs, &c., among them the "City of Berlin," said to be the largest English merchant steamer afloat. How the looms attracted, especially those weaving silk handkerchiefs, ties, bookmarks, etc. There were two in Machinery Hall—one from New Jersey, the other from Coventry, Eng. On our way out we pass the monster sugar-cane mill from Glasgow. What a grand hash machine it would make! It wouldn't do to use it in the Indies, however, for the natives have a careless way of hanging over the vats that, if tried with this machine, might cause a decrease in population.

On our way to the Women's Pavilion we stopped to gaze at a fragment of the "Statue of Liberty," intended to be erected in New York harbor. We have only the forearm and hand holding the flambeau, and get but a faint idea of its colossal size. Subscribers were allowed inside, and could get a fair view from the top. The light of the statue, from soil to top of flambeau, will be 220 feet. We were so near Cook's Ticket Office that we went in again to see the mummy. The crowd had pressed against the side of the glass case, in their eagerness to view the remains, till it was crushed in. It would be far more useful to have our bones cleaned and nicely wired up in some medical institute, no doubt. But most of us have a fondness for Mother Earth and the gradual regression to dust. For fear they will be preparing us in that horribly idiotic manner, four or five centuries from now, bringing us up for the rising generation to stare at, let's all be cremated. The mummy was an Egyptian princess in the age of the PHARAOHS, thus making her 3,000 years old. Some one said she was a maiden lady, and had made her appearance after long years of seclusion, to aid the women's suffrage cause. Another said she belonged to the class of patient wives who had worn herself to skin and bone sitting up for the ever-late husband, and was exhibited as a model of patience and devotion. Hurrah for the Princess! May her shadow never grow less.

The children, at least, will not forget the Norwegian department in the Women's Pavilion. So much of the needle-work represented childish scenes; and there were whole sets of dainty furniture, and accompanying ornaments for doll houses. Spain and her colonies made a large and handsome display. The needle-work was exquisite, its effect lightened by the rich materials. I noticed particularly a portrait of King ALFONSO in silk; and a priest's vestment of yellow silk, embroidered with gold thread, and thickly studded with jewels—the work of three girls, two of them twelve, one thirteen years of age, belonging to the charity school. More needle-work portraits were those of the Prince and Princess of Wales; WASHINGTON, in worsted and beads; death of DOUGLASS at the Battle of Langside, in defense of MARY, Queen of Scotts. Somewhere I noticed an article in which the writer spoke of the women's exhibit being "all needle-work and fancy articles, for which they have always been noted." To whom did he give credit for the numerous labor-saving inventions scattered about the building? To be sure, some of them were so small as to escape notice if a person was in a hurry, but their size made them none the less useful.

If my article was not already so long I would mention a few, but I want to just call your attention to the carvings, which were numerous and of handsome design. A bedstead, piano and organ were especially admired. The lady who prepared the case of skeleton leaves and ferns must have taken Patience and Perseverance for her motto. They are delicately, beautifully perfect!

I think it is too bad, when I have said so little, that the Editor must look at me meaning, "You had better sit down and let somebody else speak." We will come again, before everything is packed up, will we not? C. ESTELLE PEIRCE.

"Aquadale."

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

A Suggestion and Question.

DEAR RURAL COUSINS:—As the Editor was kind enough to print the letter I wrote some weeks ago, I flatter myself that I am now one of "the Cousins." I would ask YOUNG TEACHER of Nov. 18th (being one of the same profession), if she don't think it would be a good plan to ask one another questions in some subject, say Geography or History, if every one would take part in it, both in answering and asking questions? For my part, I think the subject of piecing quilts quite exhausted; and as for the boys writing better essays than the girls, they think they can do everything better, and we will have to treat them as if they were little children, giving them much praise or they will not write at all; but, girls, we can work on patiently, and will be able to "reap the fruits hereafter." Now for a question: Where and what is the hottest town in America? I hope to see lots of answers and more questions in the next issue.—D. B., *Aylmer, Canada.*

From a Granddaughter.

DEAR COUSINS:—I have a chance to read your letters every week, for my grandfather takes the RURAL, and I hope he will continue to take it. If he did not I should miss it very much. It is a long while since I have written to you, but I have been busy at school. As it is rainy to-day and I cannot go, I thought I would write. As you have not all been to the Centennial, I will tell you about some of the things that interested me most. In the Women's Pavilion there was a head made of butter. It had curls and looked like a human head, only it was not the right color. In the Main Building I saw the smallest watch ever made. I saw some wax figures from Sweden; they were in groups. In the Kansas Building were a number of stuffed animals which really looked life-like. Hoping Uncle TRUE will write soon, I close.—MINNIE, *Leonardville, N. J.*

A Request.

DEAR FRIENDS:—May not I call you Cousins? I have been waiting a long time outside of the

magic circle, longing to join you, and yet hardly daring to ask to be admitted. I listened to all the talk about YOUNG TOM and the rest of the boys, till my tongue fairly *ached* to join in. YOUNG EDITOR seemed in haste, when he called the other day. He should have told us the name of his "sprightly" little sheet, and some of us might have sent a subscription, if it is so *very* nice. You should not be conceited, Y. E. How many of the Cousins have been to the Centennial, or is that too old a subject? I very unexpectedly had a chance to go, and concluded that I should never have another such opportunity; so one pleasant day in September I found myself looking at the beautiful things to be seen there. But I shall not *try* to tell anything about what I saw. If Uncle TRUE has a mind, he can tell you much better about it than I. Will Miss LOW, when she writes again, please tell me the date of the paper in which she saw ROB ROY'S letter? Having been away all summer I have not seen all the RURALS, and having a fancy for reading R. R.'s letter, I make the above request. I bid you "Good night," and take my departure, hoping to secure an invitation to call again.—ALICE.

[Uncle TRUE will be charmed to hear from ALICE again. ROB ROY'S letter can be found in RURAL of Aug. 26.]

Come Again.

DEAR COUSINS:—I see by the RURAL of Nov. 18 that LEWIS H. T. speaks against quilt piecing, as several others have done, but I do not agree with them at all. Well, Cousin ROSA I will send you the quilt patterns with pleasure; just send your address. Uncle TRUE, I thank you very much for printing my other letter, and if you will publish this I will not trouble you again soon.—MAMIE A. S., *Griffin, Ga.*

[Always glad to hear from my nieces.—UNCLE TRUE.]

Another Pleasant Visitor.

DEAR COUSINS:—I take much delight in reading the RURAL, and I thought as sister MAMIE was writing I would write some too, and see how Uncle TRUE and the Cousins would like me. I am a little girl, eleven years old, and live in the country. My papa is a miller. I have one brother and two sisters. I must say something on the quilt question, as I see it is common among the Cousins. I have pieced three—one when I was very small.—EDIE A. S., *Griffin, Ga.*

"If——."

DEAR COUSINS:—I have been thinking about writing a long while, and if this is put in the waste basket I am afraid I shall not try again. I am a New York farmer's girl, just thirteen years old. I read the RURAL every week. I have a good many pets, but I never heard of a blue cat! I like to piece quilts. I expect to commence school next week, if I don't have the whooping cough.—CLARA E. McP., *Fort Hill, N. Y.*

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 42 letters:
My 14, 20, 11, 1, 23, 2, 24, 40, 39, 21 a city in one of the Southern States.
My 4, 13, 17, 35 a farm building.
My 16, 9, 22, 6, 2, 10, 7, 30, 5 a lady's name.
My 12, 26, 35, 33, 18, 15 a day of the week.
My 19, 3, 16, 9, 22, 32, 2 a man's name.
My 27, 15, 21, 21, 29, 1, 39, 22, 6, 38 pertaining to missions.
My 28, 34, 31, 42 a minute spider.
My 25, 37, 13, 41, 4, 20, 23 part of a house.
My 36, 9, 8, 28, 42 an aromatic plant.
My whole was said by Madame Roland.
☞ Answer in two weeks. S. C.

GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 17 letters:
My 8, 15, 11, 10 a city in Guatemala.
My 7, 8, 12, 3, 10, 16 a city in Denmark.
My 16, 1, 6, 15, 10, 13 a city renowned of old.
My 5, 7, 10, 16 a city in Arabia.
My 2, 4, 15 a city in Further India.
My 16, 10, 14, 7, 17, 3 a city in Egypt.
My 5, 12, 7, 4, 10, 9, 3, 10 a city in the United States.
My whole is a Bible command.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Dec. 2.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—Dependent people are usually wanting in independent spirit.

ROMAN LETTER PUZZLES.—1, Dodo; 2, Cold; 3, Doll.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.—"My Native Land, Good Night."

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.00 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Molucca Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory and garden.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class.

Hydrangea paniculata Grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata.*—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green.

Jerusalem Artichoke.—Believing that the Jerusalem Artichokes are exceedingly valuable as food for all kinds of farm stock, we place them among our valuable premium plants. They will yield more bushels of tubers per acre than the common potato and we believe them more valuable for feeding purposes, besides the Artichoke will grow vigorously where the potato would fail entirely. We will send one-half pound each of the Long Purple and Round White, for each new subscriber as above, or one pound of the tubers of either variety. We shall store a quantity of the tubers in the cellar for sending out this winter; but those of our subscribers who reside north of the latitude of New York City had better leave their plant premiums in our hands after the first of January until early spring. We will, however, "book" all orders received during the winter, to be sent at the earliest possible moment.

Achania malvaviscus or Malvaviscus arboreus.—The flowers are bright red, of a turban shape, two inches long. It blooms incessantly whether indoors or out. In the conservatory it may be trained so as to cover wood-work as readily as a vine. Its growth is so rapid that small plants set out in the spring will cover a space four feet in diameter by fall. As a plant for the sitting-room, the little care it needs, its perpetual scarlet flowers, contrasting elegantly with its golden-green, plush-like leaves—its endurance of dry heat and dust render it most pleasing and satisfactory. We commend this plant with confidence.

Molucca laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the beautiful Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

TERMS FOR 1877, IN ADVANCE,

INCLUDING POSTAGE, WHICH PUBLISHERS PREPAY.

Single Copy, $2.50 per Year. To Clubs:—Five Copies, and one copy free to Agent or getter up of Club, for $11.25; Seven Copies, and one free, for $16.05; Ten Copies, and one free, $20—only $2 per copy. The above rates *include postage* (under the new law) to any part of the United States, and the American postage on all copies mailed to Canada. On papers mailed to Europe, by steamer, the postage will be 85 cents extra for each subscription. Drafts, Post-Office Money Orders and Registered Letters may be mailed at our risk. ☞ Liberal Premiums to all Club Agents who do not take free copies. Specimen Numbers, Show-Bills, &c., sent free.

News of the Week.

THE BROOKLYN THEATER HOLOCAUST.

THE destruction of the Brooklyn Theater on Tuesday night, Dec. 5, proves to be the most terrible calamity of its kind that has occurred in this country. What was first deemed to be an ordinary fire, naturally involving serious financial loss to the owners, the lessees and the actors, was really a catastrophe of the most heart-rending character, causing, as it did, the loss of 305 lives. No theater fire on this continent had so much horror lent to it. Even the Richmond Theater disaster was nothing in comparison to this latest evidence of the wicked carelessness and ignorance displayed in building places of public amusement.

At a moment when every eye was fixed on the painted scene and every ear strained on the utterances of the several characters, the dreadful cry of "Fire!" was raised, and in a few moments after the entire building was filled with flame and smoke, and hundreds of men, women and children were suffocated and burned to death, and their charred and disfigured remains buried beneath the ruins.

The play was the "Two Orphans" and had progressed to the last scene of the last act, when a voice whispered from the wings, "The theater is on fire; look behind, for God's sake." Notwithstanding this warning the play proceeded for a few moments longer, when the alarm was communicated to the audience. Behind there was a noise of shifting scenery. A panic was imminent. A cry of "Fire" was heard and the flames began to shoot out from the flies. The actors behaved with great presence of mind, and advancing to the front of the stage besought the audience to be calm.

For a moment the people sank back into their seats. "We are between you and the fire, sit still," said one of the actors, "for God's sake, sit still." It is wonderful that such an entreaty was listened to much less obeyed, but momentarily there was complete silence all over the house. The flames were rapidly extending and the scenery at the rear of the stage was all on fire. Still there was no rush, but, while one gentleman was calmly advising the audience to remain quietly in their places until their time came to pass out, another cried, "It is time to be out of this," and then the stampede began. The people in the dress circle and the multitude in the gallery began to rush down the stairways; escape for those above was rendered impossible, and a scene of horror was enacted which baffles the power of pen to picture.

An usher opened a door leading into an alley. Through this streamed that part of the audience which had been seated in the parquet and orchestra, and most of them escaped without much injury. Had they been compelled to make their exit at the ordinary entrance most would have shared the fate of the multitude which rushed panic-stricken down the stairway. Had it not been for an unused subterranean passage, probably the entire company would have lost their lives, as it was, two of the prominent actors perished.

The scene in the galleries was horrible. The crowd surged madly to the stairs, and were crowding down when a woman caught her foot and fell headlong, before she could make a motion to recover herself, those from above precipitated themselves on her, and in the briefest space the affrightened multitude were piled over her ten deep. This enormous weight shattered the stairs, and the entire mass of crushed humanity was thrown on the floor below, which in its turn giving way precipitated them into the cellar, where they were presently covered and overwhelmed with the burning fragments of the interior of the theater. Thus was entrapped an entire audience who were suffocated, wounded, and burned to death in sight of a multitude of helpless on-lookers, who at first seemed to be entirely unaware of the extent of the catastrophy, so sudden and terrific was the whole scene.

In exactly twenty-five minutes from the time the forked flame of fire shot out from the broken light in the flies the walls fell in, and all was over. Notwithstanding the excitement and alarm and anxiety, the full scope of the disaster was not even imagined. It was only in the morning, when the dead began to be unearthed, that the calamity was revealed in all its awful immensity.

Through the ashes and wreck protruded arms and limbs, half burned heads and pieces of clothing in every direction. When every obstacle was removed from the surface of the dead and around them, they were found tier upon tier, fifteen feet deep, packed one above the other. Heavy clouds of steam arose from the terrible holocaust. The spot wherein these unfortunate beings were killed was about fifty feet long, twenty feet wide and a full story deep. They had fallen on the ground floor from the upper story, and the fire had burned through them to the basement, into which the smoldering mass of flesh and bone had settled when the flooring was eaten from under it. And so they were found, burned to cinders, out of all their former semblance, blackened and nude for the most part, and disfigured in the most frightful manner.

There was a strange similarity between all the corpses. Their nether limbs, arms and heads were almost invariably burned off, and their trunks looked like shriveled sole leather. Some of these upper tier bodies were without a shred of clothing; others had lost only the backs of their garments; the fronts were sound, but stuck to their persons.

The bodies, as fast as found, were sent to the morgue and placed in rows awaiting identification. In most instances, this will be an impossible task, owing to the utter disfigurement of what were once men and women. The scenes about the morgue were heart-rending, as may well be imagined.

The disaster has plunged the community into the most profound gloom. Investigation has shown that the theatre was totally unprovided with means to extinguish a fire, there being but one hydrant on the premises. The number of lives lost is estimated, the probability being that our figures are short of the actual number. Relief and subscriptions are pouring into the hands of the committees appointed to recive them, and steps are being taken to bury the unrecognized in one large grave in Greenwood Cemetery, in a manner that will fitly close the last scene of the saddest and most terrible tragedy that has convulsed this community in years.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

THE Secretary of War, in his annual report, says the short space of time that has elapsed since he entered upon his present duties has barely sufficed to familiarize him with the affairs of the department. He therefore confines himself to a summary of the reports of the general of the army and chiefs of the various bureaus.

The Postmaster-General thinks that the Post-Office will be self-sustaining when the country becomes more populous.

Baron von Palm was successfully cremated at Washington, Pa., but the ceremonies were not such as to make that mode of disposing of the dead popular with the masses.

The President's Message proved a dry bundle of sticks, and disappointed everybody. In the Senate the reading was listened to with a show of attention; but in the House, after the first few paragraphs, the New York papers, which had just arrived, seemed to be considered by most members as the more important public documents. In the message the President again refers to Santo Domingo.

The House has sent Investigating Committees to South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows that there are now belonging to the navy 146 vessels of 150,157 tons measurement. Exclusive of howitzers and Gatling guns they carry 1,142 guns; of these, 123 carrying 913 guns, with a measurement of 120,893 tons, have steam power, and 24, carrying nominally 229 guns, are sailing vessels. In 1869 there were 203 vessels. Of these there have been sold, 46; broken up, 13; lost at sea, 5, making 69 vessels, thus reducing the number to 134 vessels; to which add new vessels, 10; purchased vessels, 2, thus making the whole number on the register at the present time 146 vessels. Of our present force of every class, 40 are built of iron, namely: 5 double-turreted iron-clads, 15 single-turreted monitors, 2 torpedo boats, and 18 steamers of various classes. Of the remainder, 65 are of live oak, namely: one iron-clad, five steamers of the first rate, 20 steamers of the second rate, 19 steamers of the third rate, and 20 sailing vessels. The remaining 41 are white oak ships, of almost every class. Of the whole number 75 are in actual service and four are preparing for sea. Seventeen of our steamers have been furnished with compound engines and boilers of the best class and with the latest improvements, and nearly all our other steamers have, during the last eight years, been supplied with new boilers and their machinery extensively repaired.

There were 940 deaths in Savannah from yellow fever during the four months ending Nov. 26. The total number of deaths during that period was 1,574—a ghastly record.

The fire in New Orleans, Dec. 1, destroyed 112 houses. The loss is estimated at between $300,000 and $400,000; insurance, $200,000. About 50 of the houses were occupied by 100 families, who lost nearly all their effects and are left destitute, many of them losing their wearing apparel.

Extensive preparations are being made for the celebration of the Battle of Trenton, at Trenton, N. J., Dec. 26th. There is to be a sham battle.

The gold yield of California this year will be about $20,000,000.

There is a stampede of gold hunters from Deadwood and Custer City in the Black Hills to Wolf Mauntain, where rich deposits are said to have been struck.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE London Daily News of the 9th inst. editorially draws attention to the fact that Cardinal Simeoni, the successor of Cardinal Antonelli, who was elevated to the dignity of a Prince of the Church on the occasion of his appointment as Papal Nuncio to the King of Spain, signalized his arrival in that country by issuing a protest against the law of religious liberty, which the revolution had established in Spain, and demanded the restoration of the Concordat of 1851, whose fundamental principle required "the exclusion of every other creed." He was especially apprehensive of the results of a system of education which was not absolutely under priestly control. Simeoni's circular was so violent that the liberal journals at the time advised that his passport should be given him at once, and a mob burned the obnoxious Concordat of 1851 before his residence in Madrid.

No more Sunday trains in Canada. The Dominion Government has issued orders that no trains shall be run on the Sabbath day except in case of great emergency, and then only on direct order of the Government.

A despatch from Belgrade says the Sclavonian committees in Russia have notified their representatives in Servia to cease getting passports and furnishing money to enable Russian officers to leave Servia, as all those absent on furlough will return to Servia immediately.

A battle was fought at Huamantla between the Mexican government forces, and those of Gen. Diaz, resulting in a victory for the latter. Diaz entered the City of Mexico, and demanded a loan of $500,000. President Lerdo has been captured. Meantime Iglesias has fallen out with Diaz on account of an unequal division of offices, and there are at present two governments in Mexico. The first installment of the claim due the U. S. ($300,000) awarded by the Mixed Commission will not be paid for lack of funds.

Bismarck says Germany and Russia will remain on the most friendly footing.

The English government by arresting Brent, tacitly acknowledges a false position, and the former extradition treaty, it is said, will be put in operation.

Russia continues to prepare for war.

A natural result of diminishing the emoluments

of the Church of England has been that the clever young men seek more lucrative careers. In the Church of Rome celibacy makes priests comparatively indifferent to pecuniary considerations, but in the Church of England a man, even though inclined to the ministry, hesitates at entering a profession in which he might barely be able to maintain his wife and children. Thus livings in the gift of the colleges, to which fellows of colleges have the presumptive claim, in order of seniority, have often of late gone a begging. The fellows don't take orders nowadays.

The Rev. W. M. Statham says in the London Quiver that, though not a teetotaler, he is an earnest temperance man, and it staggers him to think that the British public has in eight years drunk liquor to the value of £800,000,000, which is more than the national debt. So unpopular, he says, is the subject, that "the leading writers of England touch very tenderly on this dark spot in the history of the most drunken nation under the sun. To take the very lowest ground, this expenditure is," he says, "extravagance, and leads to that mortgage of the morrow which robs men of their peace of heart. Extravagance means begging, borrowing, stealing, and it is seen on all sides."

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Dec. 9, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	107,160	Molasses	807
Whisky	2,234	Rice, bbls	21,346
Corn meal, bbls	4,036	Cut meats, pkgs	20,204
Corn meal, bags	1,288	Lard, pkgs	646
Wheat, bush	772,898	Tobacco, hhds	3,487
Corn, bush	220,233	do. pkgs	29,337
Oats, bush	273,041	Butter, pkgs	65,251
Rye, bush	93 173	Cheese, bxs	36,957
Malt, bush	19,340	Cotton, bales	5,281
Barley, bush	254,115	Rosin	685
Beans, bush	1,544	Spts. turp., bbls	2,159
Grass seed, bush	16,316	Dried Fruits, pkgs	5,823
Beef, pkgs	1,900	Eggs, bbls	3,319
Wool, bales	3,792	Peanuts, bags	70,185
Hops, bales	1,511	Leather, sides	1,187
Pork, bbls	10,200	Sugar, hhds	14,742
Tallow	1,561	Oil cake	

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival here of summer items on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports beans past week, 1,036 bbls.; since Jan. 1, 54,930 do.: same time last year, 34,052 do.

The market is strong for beans of all kinds and although the stiffened quotations have had a tendency to check business, the stock is at present of such a concentrated or light character that holders feel confident that their views must be met. They have a reasonable basis for their firmness, as the weather is wintrish and local buyers will soon be forced to replenish. These remarks apply to all grades. Canadian Peas have a wide range which covers qualities.

Exports past week 25,986 bush.; since Jan. 1, 671,400 do.: same term last year, 409,900. Green peas have declined. B. E. peas firmer.

Beans—New medium, $2.20@2.25; do. marrow, $2.30@2.35; do. pea, $2.45@2.50; white kidney, $2.40@2.50; red do., $2.45@2.50; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $1.75@2.10; marrow, $1.80@2.20; pea, prime, $2.00@2 25; white kidney, prime, $2.00@2.20; red do., prime, $2.00@2.20; black, $3.00@3.25; Canadian peas, ₱ bbl., free, $1.12@1.15; do. bulk, 80@83c.; green do., new, $1.15@1.20; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2.15@2.20.

BEESWAX.—There is a little freer supply and demand small; western quoted at 30-31, and Southern at 31-32.

BROOM CORN.—Demand continues unimportant while supplies are fair, and prices are irregular. Brush short green quoted at 7@8c. ₱ lb.; hurl green at 6½@7½c.; green medium at 5@6c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—We cannot yet record the presence of a good stork-using wholesale demand. Grocers report a light retail trade and for the moment their wants are moderate. For any speculative feeling prices are too high for State; especially as the shading of quality is very abrupt. Jobbers want the few fancy marks and lines for special trade while the bulky lots are too summery as a whole to be attractive. There is, however, a decided improvement in the weather and trade may take a start before the month is out. As is usual in a peddling season dealers are left with a good many bad ends of dairies and firkin remnants of this style are now an oppressive feature in the supply. A good many holders are willing to accept low figures for these unmarketable lots but buyers who want cheap stock for baking or common purposes have a good pile of Western to draw from at easier figures than are placed on State. The export trade is quiet again, and in the opinion of some it will not revive until after the holidays are over. Western butter has had a steady call for consumption when quality helped sales, but off-flavored lots are in buyers' favor. Fine rolls are scarce, our quotations are full for the average qualities. We make a few higher changes for the fancy lots of State.

Exports past week 930 pkgs.

We quote:—Choice pails, 34@36c.; prime, 32@33c.; poor to good, 24@29c.; creamery pails, choice, 36@38c.; good, 33@35c.; sweet cream pails, 30@35c. State firkins, choice, 29@30c.; fair to good, 25@27c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 33@35c.; fair to prime, 28@32c.; do. Welsh tubs, choice, 30@32c.; other, 24@28c.; Inferior State, 15@19c.; Western creamery, choice, 36@38c.; other, 32@34c.; do. firkins, best, 21@22c.; other, 16@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 25@27c.; other, 18@21c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 13@15c.

State dairies quotable at 30@32c. with fall tubs Welsh tubs, dairies, 26@29c.

State firkins dairies 25@30c. Roll butter, fair to prime, 18@22c.; do., poor, 14@17c.

CHEESE.—There has been only a moderately active market this week, yet prices have been well maintained. The arrivals are now falling off, and it is the impression that they will run moderate from this out. The shipments this week are made up to a very fair extent of parcels that have been bought in the interior, and coming through here on direct consignments abroad, some 10,000 in this way. The market may be regarded as strong throughout. Fancy-colored factories range from 14¼@15c.; while fancy white rarely exceed 14¼c., these for the September make; the later made are relatively low. A number of the purchases are of prime, late-made stock at 13¾@14c. The English market has been strong; but there appears no especial urgency to buy, the comparatively free purchases, made a week or two since, having evidently replenished assortments sufficiently on the other side for the Christmas trade.

Fancy factory at 14½@15c. for fancy colored, 13½c. for fancy white, job lots, 15½c.; good and prime, 13¾@14c.; fair, 11@12½c. State farm dairy, fancy, 13¾@13¾c.; good to prime, 12@13c.; fair and good, 11@12c. Western factory, fancy, 13¾@14c; good and prime, 12@13c.; fair lots, 10@11c.

Exports past week, 28,887. Cable quotation, 70s.

COTTON.—Exporters have been buying more freely and the demand from the mills is fair; prices are a little higher.

The latest quotations are:—December, 12 7-32@12¼c.; January, 12 13-32@12 7-16c.; February, 12 19 32@12¾c.; March, 12 25-32@12 13-16c.; April, 12 31-32c.; May, 13¼c.; June, 13 9-32c.; July, 13 15-32@13 7-16.; August, 13¾@13 17-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	10¾	t0¾	10¾	10¾
Strict ordinary	10⅞	10⅞	t0⅞	10⅞
Good ordinary	t1⅛	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛
Strict good do	t1⅜	t1⅜	11 7-16	11 7-16
Low middling	11⅝	11⅝	11¾	11¾
Strict low middling	11¾	t2	12⅛	12⅛
Middling	12⅛	12¼	t2 5-16	12 5-16
Good middling	12⅜	12⅜	12⅝	12⅝
Strict good middling	12⅝	12⅝	t2¾	t2¾
Middling fair	13	13⅛	t3⅛	13⅛
Fair	13¾	13¾	14	14

Stained

Good ordinary	10	Low middling	11
Strict ordinary	10¼	Middling	11½

DRIED FRUITS. For apples there is no improvement in demand, and the market was probably never in worse condition than at present, but even at the remarkably low prices it is almost impossible to sell even small lots. Peaches are yet scarce and at firm prices. Blackberries are hard to sell. We quote:

Apples—State, sliced, 5¼ @ 6c.; do., quarters, 5¼@6¾c.; Southern sliced, new, fair, 4½@5c.; choice do. 5¾@6c.; fancy, nominal; do., new qrs., in bags, 3½@4c.; do. repacked, 4½@5c.; Western quarters 4¾@5c. Blackberries at 8¼@8¾c. Peeled peaches, new, at 18@19c.; unpeeled peaches, halves, 9@10c.; do. quarters, 8¼@9c. Raspberries, 28@29c. Cherries, 17½c.

Exports past week 3,260 pkgs. apples; since Jun. 1st, 20,316 do., same time last year, 10,729 do.

EGGS.—The market shows some winter firmness, but not much real cold weather activity. Receipts are moderate, but there is considerable stored stock, the latter not bringing full quotations. A good many of recent arrivals show long holding, and only strictly fresh Western, loss off, will bring 29c. State and N. J. eggs nominal. Limed eggs quiet; quality not attractive. We quote:

Near points, 33@ 34c.; State and Penn., 28@30c.; Western, prime, 28½@29c.; do. Canadian, 28@28½c. State limed, 21@22c.; Western, do., 18@21c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the current rates:

Peppermint, $2.50 ₱ lb. in tin, $3.25@3 50 in glass—tone firm. Sassafras scarce and firm at 50c. ₱ lb. Wintergreen, large supply, weak at $2.50. Spearmint, nominally $2.50 ₱ lb.; no demand.

FLOUR.—There has been a brisk business throughout the week. Exporters have been buying liberally and low grades are higher. Superfine, Minnesota extras, shipping extras and winter wheat grades have been taken in large lots at advanced prices.

The latest sales are $3.10@3.15 for poor to very choice superfine State; $3.35@3.65 for very common to fair extra do.; $3.70@3.75 for good extra do $3.80@3.90 for fancy do., and $3.95@4 for fancy to very choice extra; $3.10@3.45 for superfine Michigan Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $3.05@3.65 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $3.70@3.75 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $3.80@4.00; fancy do. $4.05@4.08; winter wheat, good to choice family, $6.25@6.25; round-hoop Ohio, $5.55@5.85, and trade brands of do. at $5.70@7; St. Louis, $5.60@5.75 for common to fair extra, and $6.80@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.65@7.50, and patent at $7.50@9.00; unsound stock at from $4.00@5.75; city mill extra for West Indies at $5.50@6.00; do. English brands, $5.60@—; do. trade and family, $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $4.10@4.75.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports past week, 22,072 bbls. there has been a lively trade in apples for export, also a good movement for local use. The weather has turned very cold and business will be apt to fall off. The market is a shade easier, best red fruit quoted at $1.75. Lady apples are abundant and unusually low. Cranberries have a steady sale and prices are favoring sellers, especially for prime N. J. bbls. Quotations for Florida oranges by the pkge are indefinite owing to the irregular size of boxes. They are dull at 2.25@2.50 ₱ 100. Catawba grapes are firm at 10@12c. when in good order. California Pears in good holding condition 3@3.50 ₱ box. A few California quinces still quoted at $3 ₱ box. Chestnuts not wanted. Hickory nuts in fair demand. Virginia peanuts are in large supply for the time when the trade in nuts has to be shared up. Prime only are selling.

Apples, State, ₱ bbl., prime red, $1.65@1.75; winter, $1.12@1.37; mixed, $1.12@1.35; good to fair, 90c@$1. Lady apples $5@7. Cranberries, crates, $2.50@3.00; Eastern, good to prime, $8@10; N. J. $8@9, for good to prime. Grapes—Catawba, ₱ lb., 10@12c. Peanuts—Va., fancy, $1.20@1.25; other, 70c.@$1. Hickory nuts, coarse, 50@75c.; shellbarks, $2@2.25.

FURS AND SKINS.—There is hardly a market here for raw furs and it is unlikely that wholesale prices will be adjusted until after the London sales. Lower prices are looked for abroad as the stock is heavy including numerous lots carried over.

GRAIN.—There has been a satisfactory market for wheat, with exporters buying more freely and prices higher; but at the close a dull feeling prevails on easier advices from Liverpool. Corn has been in moderate demand, but held firmly. Oats are favoring the seller. Latest sales of wheat include amber Missouri, in store, at $1.40; extra choice amber Michigan at $1.50; white Western at $1.45; ungraded spring, $1@1.32½. For No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.34@1.35 quoted, and No. 2 Chicago spring nominally $1.31@1.32. Buckwheat at 85@85c., and rye at 81@85c. for Western. No. 2 Canada barley, $1.06. Corn at 54@54½c. for new New York "no grade;" 56@56½c. for new steamer mixed; 58½c. for old New York "no grade;" 59c. for old New York No. 1; 58½@59c. for old Western mixed; 60c. for Kansas mixed, and 59@59½c. for New York mixed. Oats at 34c. to 49c. for mixed Western and State, and 38c. to 50c. for white do., including New York No. 2 at 38@38½c.; New York No. 2 white at 42@43c.; New York No. 1 at 47½@48½c.; New York No. 1 white at 48½@49c.; extra white, 48½@50c.; mixed Western, 34c. to 40c.; white Western, 38c. to 47½c.; mixed State, 40c. to 49c.; white State, 43c. to 50c.

HAY AND STRAW.—With the close approach to the close of river navigation receivers are more confident respecting prices; demand is fair.

Exports past week, 300 bales., since Jan. 1st, 39,531 do.: same time last year, 40,266 do.

Bale hay 80c. for shipping; 70@90c. for retail qualities; clover, 55@65c.; salt, do., 50@60c. Straw quoted at 70@80c. for long rye; 50@60c. for short rye, and 45@55c. for oat.

HONEY.—Quiet since the sales for Thanksgiving. The coming holidays may give it another start. We quote:—W. clover in grass, 15@20c.; B. W., do. 10@14c.

HOPS.—There continues a dragging market. The advices from Germany are against shipments of consequence to that quarter at present, there seems to be a good deal of dissatisfaction there with the class of stock sent over; it is the impression among the trade here that in a good many cases not sufficient carefulness was exercised in buying, or picking out grades that would show well after the length of time in a sea voyage. English shippers are buying very sparingly at present. The demand on home trade account is moderate. With this limited trade prices are depressed.

New Yorks, good to choice, new	27 to 30
New Yorks, low to fair, new	20 to 25
Eastern, new	25 to 28
Wisconsin, new	18 to 25
Yearlings	10 to 15
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	30 to 33
Oregon	28 to 30

POULTRY AND GAME.—Dressed Poultry has had a poor week and the fact is somewhat alarming when it is known that stock is in good order and prices are unusually low. Easy rates are expected this winter but the annexed rates are not encouraging for producers. Even the present low rates are 1c. higher that good stock sold for at one time this past week. Game is in fair demand and cold weather will be apt to keep the market brisk if rates are kept popular.

We quote.—Canvas-back ducks $1.75; Red Head 65@75c.; Mallard 60@70c.; Teal 50@60c.; common 30@35c.

Quail, ₱ doz., prime, $1.50@1.75, Partridge, State, 75@85; Prairie Hens, 90c.@$1; Hares, 50@60c.; Rabbits, 30@40c. Venison, whole, 9@10c.; longsaddle, 12@14c.; short do., 15@16c. Drawn games, 50@80c.; Partridges, 40@45c.

Live poultry not wanted; nominal at:

New Jersey turkeys, 8@ 10c. ₱ lb.; Western, 8@9c. N. J. fowls and chicks, 9@10c.; Western, 8@9c.; roosters, 5@6c. Geese, N.J., ₱ pair, $1.50@2; Western, $1.25@1.50. Ducks, N. J., ₱ pair, 75@$1; Western, 50@65c. Live pigeons, ₱ pair, 25c.

Christmas stock, chiefly geese, should be in market two or three days before the holidays. We quote:

Turkeys, N. J., 12@14c.; State, 10@13c.; Western, 8@12c. Chickens, dry-picked, 12@14c. N. J. chicks, 10@13c.; State, 8@11c.; Western, 8@10c. Ducks, N. J., 10@11c.; State, 9@12c.; Western, 9@10c. Geese, 15@10c. for common; 10@13c. for good to best. Inferior poultry, 6@7c.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products generally have ruled higher and fairly active; mess pork quoted at $17 on spot, $16.75 for December, $16.80 for January, and $16.10 for February. Dressed hogs at 7¾@7¾c. Bacon at 8¾c. for long clear, 9¼c. for short clear, and 9¾c. for long and short clear. Lard at $10.40 for spot lots, $10.45 for December, $10.42½ for January, and $10.55 for February. Tallow at 8¼@8¾c. for prime. Stearine at 10¾c. for prime Western. Beef hams at $20. Beef, barreled, is quoted at $10.50@11.50 for plain mess, $12@12.50 for extra mess, $13.50@14 for packet. Tierced quoted nominally at $20@21 for new prime mess and $22@21 for new India mess. City extra India mess at $27.

SEED.—Grass are very quiet and prices unsettled; clover quoted 15¾c.; timothy, $1.90@1.95; rough flax at $1.05.

TOBACCO.—Export purchases have been large, and prices not varied.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5 @ 6	6 @ 7
Good lugs	6 @ 7½	7½@ 8
Low leaf	8 @ 8½	8½@ 9½
Medium leaf	9 @10	10 @11
Good leaf	10½@12	11½@13
Fine leaf	13 @14	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	16 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do	32 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	5 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 2,660 bbls.; of onions, 164 do. Potatoes are in good demand but the consumption demand does not warrant the frequent advances that have been latterly made in prices. Times are rather too blue for wholesalers to undertake to manipulate the market. Onions are steady and a shade better. Cabbages higher. Squash firm.

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₱ bbl. $3.50@3.75. Early Rose, prime, $3.50@3.75; Peerless and Jackson white, $2.62@3 sweet, Del. $4.00@4; Va. $2.75@3. Cabbages, ₱ 100, $5@8. Murrow squash, ₱ bbl., $1@1.25. Hubbard Squash $1.50@1.75. New Russian turnips, ₱ bush., 75c.@—. Onions—Yellow, ₱ bbl., $1.75@2.00; white, $2.50@3; red, $1.50@1.75.

WOOL.—This has been a very dull week, but as not much trade is expected at this period when manufacturers are changing their cards for spring work, and adjusting their accounts for the year, prices have not been affected. The fall clip of Texas is coming in freely, but other descriptions are in moderate stock.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 9.—Flour market strong; spring, $7.00; amber winter, $7.25; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $8.00. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat steady; Milwaukee club, $1.30@1.40; amber winter, $1.25@1.35; white winter, $1.35@1.38. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 50@52c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.30. Butter, 25@26c. Cheese, 13@14c. Eggs, 25@26c. Lard, 10@10½c. Apples, bu., 25@40c. Potatoes, bu., 75c.@$1. Beans, ₱ bu., 1.20@1.70. Mess pork, $16.50. Wool, 25@36c. Hay, $10@12. Straw, $6@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed firm at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₱ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Dec. 9, 1876.

THE cheese sold this week has been mostly of the November make, though a few factories having late Octobers made sale of these and their Novembers in one lot. The delivery of farm dairies was very light and was composed for the most part of late made. We quote sales at 11½@12½c., with only a few lots reaching the latter figure.

The offerings from factories this week have been comparatively light with sales of about 2,000 boxes. The range of prices has been from 12½ to 13½c. for Novembers and a few late Octobers mixed in. For good early Octobers 14c. was offered, but we have few or no sales to report. September cheese is now very scarce at this market, and we have heard of no offerings during the week.

Butter is coming forward quite freely, and prices this week have been a shade lower. Good to fair lots from farm dairies, late made, brought from 25 to 28c., and a few extra fine and creamery are reported at 29@30c. Grass butter is beginning to be scarce, and the butter offered this week has been made since the herds have been feeding on hay.

The weather is cold, but up to this date there has been only a slight fall of snow, and not of sufficient depth for sleighing.

The factories have commenced closing their operations for the season, though the larger establishments will continue to run a few weeks longer.

Our weekly dairy correspondence from abroad has failed to reach us this week, but we hear indirectly that fine cheese is advancing in price in the London market.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	4,713	95	490	10,948	00
Forty-Eighth St.	64	20	349	9,388	00
Fortieth St.	000	00	300	000	18,338
Harsimus Cove	6,673	00	2	6,904	14,740
Totals this week	11,450	116	1,141	26,260	33,078
" last week	9,636	42	1,622	20,294	35,515

BEEVES.—Monday last, on a heavy run of coarse quality cattle, with a choice quality top, trade was very slow and the markets closed weak, with several carloads unsold; prices were 7@11¼c. ₱ lb.; weights, 5@11 cwt. Wednesday, trade dull at 7@11c. ₱ lb.; weights, 4¾@8¾ cwt. Thursday, on a moderate run, trade slow at 7@10¼c. weights, 4¾@8 cwt. Friday, the markets closed weak at 7@11c.; weights, 4@10 cwt. Spanish herds, direct from the Plains, 7@8c.; Colorado do., 7½@8¼c. ₱ lb.; native, 7½@10c.; grade, 10¼@11¼c. Dry cows, 3c. Oxen at 7@9c. Mixed herds, 8@9c. ₱ lb. Bulls, live weight, $2.75@3.25 ₱ cwt. The quality of these herds was, in the aggregate, very coarse and lean. Fifteen head only obtained 11¼c. ₱ lb. to dress 62 lbs. net, all other sales on 55@57 lbs. net.

MILCH COWS.—Trade still dull on a heavy run, the chief part of which has been held on sale. Sixteen cows sold at $38@65 ₱ head; 21 do., $50@72.50 ₱ head—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—On an over supply of coarse quality calves, grass-fed, sales have been slow at 5@6¼c. ₱ lb.; also at $6.25@13.75 ₱ head. Smooth quality veals scarce; sales 9@10¼c. Country dressed calves sold at 6@7½c. Country dressed veals, 11@13c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—The quality of the flocks to hand has been from coarse to choice, still on a moderate run, sales have been slow and the markets weak. Monday, sheep sold at 4¾@6¾c. ₱ lb.; lambs, 6¾@7¼c. Wednesday, sheep, 4¾@6¾c.; lambs, 6@7c. Thursday, sheep, 5¼@6¾c.; lambs, 6@7c. Friday, the markets closed dull; sheep, 4½@6c.; lambs, 6@7½c. Jersey sheep, 5½@6¾c.; State, 4¾@7c.; Canada, 5@7c.; Illinois, 5¼@6¾c.; Ohio, 4½@6¾c.; Kentucky, 5¼@5¾c.; Pennsylvania, 5¾c. Jersey lambs, 8c.; State, 6½@7¼c.; Canada, 6¾@7c. Mixed flocks, 5¾@7c.

HOGS.—Trade fallen off in live hogs. Two carloads of Ohio hogs, average live weight 185 lbs ₱ head, 6¼c. ₱ lb. Trade in city dressed slow on advanced rates, being 9¾@9¾c. ₱ lb. for hogs; choice quality light market pigs, generally quoted from Jersey, 8@9c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade firm but not active. 10 head poor quality, light harness horses sold at $40@85 ₱ head; 18 do., $57.50@92.50; 13 do. $90@115; 81 ordinary quality, $125@200 ₱ head; 17 coarse quality heavy draft horses, $85@107; 18 roadsters, with fair trotting action, not warranted sound, $225@335 ₱ head; 4 trotters, $300@750 ₱ head; 2 saddle horses, poor quality, $150@175 ₱ head; 1 pair fair quality carriage horses, $200; 3 pairs stylish do., $1,225@1,350 ₱ pair; 7 pairs family do., $300@500 ₱ pair; 2 pairs choice quality heavy draft horses, $650 ₱ pair. Sixteen horses arrived ₱ Erie Railway via, Oak Cliff Station.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11¾	10¾@11
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¼@ 9¾	9¼@ 9¾
Poorest	7 @ 9	8 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	8¼@ 9¾	8¾@ 9¼

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INDEX TO NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Allen, C. R.—Imperial Egg Food.
American Pub. Co.—Mark Twain's New Book.
Babbitt, B. T.—Babbitt's Toilet Soap.
Barnes, W. F. & J.—Patent Foot Power Machinery.
Bristor, J. H.—Nurseryman Wanted.
Chatfin, Staples & Co.—Virginia Farms.
Dato, Henry S.—Pictures and Chromos.
Dowd & Co.—40 Mixed Cards.
Gunther's Sons, C. G.—Furs and Fur Goods.
Husted, J. B.—25 Fancy Cards.
Kelsey & Co.—The Excelsior Presses.
Lippincott & Co., J. B.—Lippincott's Magazine.
Lupton & Co., F. M.—Cricket on the Hearth.
National Pub. Co.—Official History of the Centennial Exhibition.
Parry, Wm.—Pomona Nursery.
Peck, J. R.—The Acme Mop.
Sheldon, John—Genesee Valley Farms.
The New Jersey Agriculturist.
Vienna Yeast Co.—$1,200 a Year.

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Mason & Co., Perry—The Youth's Companion.

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THE FARMERS VETERINARY ADVISER
BY
Prof. J. Law
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, N.Y.
PRICE $3 BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. A. W.—There is no difference between a plum and a prune, and German and Italian prunes are only varieties of plums cultivated in those countries. But there are certain sorts more extensively cultivated for drying than others, hence they become known in market under different names—besides, some sorts are much better for this purpose than others. The name of "Beatrice," when anglicised, is pronounced Be'a-tris; the accent is on the first syllable, the "a" having rather a short sound, like "a" in "fat"—the third syllable pronounced as though terminating with an "s," as written.

E. Pierce, Jackson, Mich.—The following answer explains the question:—The ground about that which you have selected for the site of your house, cannot be thoroughly drained without going to the expense of a regular system of drainage. We would ourselves prefer to elevate the site of the house several feet and then, by filling in to slope the ground gradually to the road in front and to the natural drainage in the rear. Thus ditching and pipes will be unnecessary and the liability of the latter to become clogged will be avoided.

Much as has been written as to the unhealthfulness of pools of water standing about or near the dwelling, yet we find in the country that little or no attention is paid thereto. Stagnant and "vicious puddles" may be seen in every other cow-yard within a stone-throw, while slops from the kitchen often conducted through wooden troughs, are led scarcely ten feet from the house where a seething pool may generally be found to generate poisonous gases that frequently induce malignant fevers. The gas which is formed in such pools may be collected by the following simple experiment and its poisonous character ascertained:

Fill a jar with water and invert it in the pool. Stir the earth beneath the jar with a stick; bubbles will be seen to ascend through to the top of the jar, displacing the water and filling the space with the gas contained in the bubbles. This gas will be found to be light carburetted hydrogen, which is at once destructive to animal life. It is the same that accumulates in coal mines known as fire-damp, the frightful accidents from which, that shock the world from time to time, are too well known to all.

Cambridge.—Belladonna is used in allopathic as well as in homœopathic practice. 2. The plant is *Atropa belladonna*, Deadly Nightshade, and belongs to the same family as the Potato, Tomato, Pepper, Ground-Cherry, etc. It bears a bell-shaped flower of a palish, sickly purple color, and the fruit is as large as a cherry—at first green, becoming glossy black and filled with purple juice. 3. The leaves are used in medicine, either in substance, infusion or extract. Taken in allopathic doses, its action is that of a powerful narcotic; in infinitesimal doses it is used in fevers which are attended with inflammatory action of the brain. 4. It is not related to *Amaryllis belladonna*. Its English signification is "beautiful lady."

C. A. B., Brunswick, asks many questions regarding Mr. CHARLES DARWIN'S work, "Origin of Species, etc.," which to answer explicitly, would fill a column. Many of his questions, however, resolve themselves into the following: "What is the work intended to show?" This we may answer. Mr. DARWIN holds that all organic life varies and that this variation gives rise to varieties; that these varieties by natural selection become species and genera; that natural selection is the result of a "struggle for existence," and that a universal struggle for existence is the natural consequence of the rapid increase of all organic life.

A. A. Brown, Warren, Ohio.—Young trees, if washed once or twice every year with almost any of the mixtures recommended for this purpose, will not need to be scraped. The rough bark of neglected old trees affords shelter to insects, many of whom live upon the sap of the green bark (*mesophloeum* as it is termed in botany), while others penetrate the inner bark (*endophloeum* or liber) impairing the vigor of the tree to a greater or less extent. But it would require a great deal of time and trouble to scrape the bark from the old trees of your orchard, and whether they would be benefited in a degree to compensate you for so much pains can best be determined by those who have seen the trees and know something of their value.

C. E., Westfield, N. J.—We have used carbolic acid sufficiently diluted with alcohol upon the part of the tail which the horse rubs. It is well first to wash the tail thoroughly with castile soap. In nine cases out of ten, the inclination in the horse to rub the tail proceeds from the fact that the sheath needs attention.

Note.—We have seeds (as requested) for W. H. Prentice. We are awaiting address.

M. B. Prince.—I mailed to Floral Editor a flower a few days ago for name.

ANS.—*Euonymus Americanus var. obovatus.* Spindle Tree—Strawberry bush.

Implements and Machinery.

Centennial Year of American Independence.

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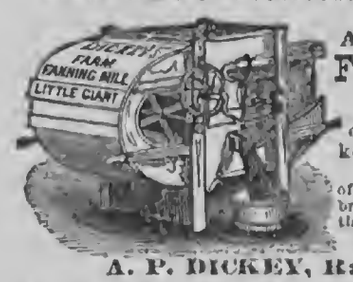

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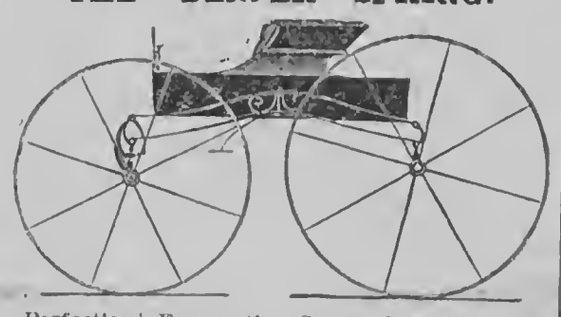

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Are you going West, North or Northwest?
You want to know the best routes to take?

The shortest, safest, quickest and most comfortable routes are those owned by the Chicago and North-Western Railway Company. It owns over two thousand miles of the best road there is in the country. Ask any ticket agent to show you its maps and time cards. All ticket agents can sell you through tickets by this route. Buy your tickets via the CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY for San Francisco, Sacramento, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Cheyenne, Denver, Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs, Yankton, Sioux City, Dubuque, Winona, St. Paul, Duluth, Marquette, Green Bay, Oshkosh, Madison, Milwaukee, and all points west or northwest of Chicago. If you wish the best traveling accommodations, you will buy your tickets by this route, and will take no other.

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This is the ONLY LINE running these cars between Chicago and St. Paul or Chicago and Milwaukee. At Omaha our sleepers connect with the Overland Sleepers on the Union Pacific Railroad for all points west of the Missouri River.

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Let no one fail to send for particulars. CHAS. CLUCAS & CO., 14 Warren St., New York.

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$40 AGENTS' PROFITS A WEEK.—New Novelties and Chromos. Catalogues free. GEO. L. FALTUS & Co., N. Y. C.

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Unrivalled for the toilet and the bath. Non-artificial and deceptive odors to cover common and deleterious ingredients. After years of scientific experiment the manufacturer of *B. T. Babbitt's Best Soap* has perfected and now offers to the public The FINEST TOILET SOAP in the World. *Only the purest vegetable oils used in its manufacture.*

For Use in the Nursery it has No Equal. Worth ten times its cost to every mother and family in Christendom. Sample box containing 3 cakes of 3 ozs. each, sent free to any address on receipt of 75 cents.
Address B. T. Babbitt, New York City.
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25 FANCY CARDS, all styless, with name, 10 cts., post-paid. J. B. HUSTED, Nassau, N. Y.

OPIUM and Morphine habit absolutely and speedily cured. Painless; no publicity. Send stamp for particulars. Dr. Carlton, 187 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER is one of the readable, useful, family papers, equally in demand by the lady in her conservatory, the matron with her household, the farmer in his field, the stock raiser among his animals, and the young folks around the evening lamp.—*Lakes of Life.*

PERSONAL ITEMS.

SANKEY's getting up a new hymn book.

THE late E. J. Peck of Indianapolis has left by will $118,000 to Wabash College.

A WOMAN was the founder of the first savings bank, and her name was Priscilla Wakefield.

PROF. SWING says that a hat won on a bet "comes down over the eyes of the winner's soul."

JEFFERSON DAVIS has arrived at his home in New Orleans much improved by his trip to Europe.

LIEUT. JOHN P. JEFFERSON of Company A, Fifth Artillery, U. S. A., is a son of Joe Jefferson, the comedian.

THE former wife of a bank cashier in San Francisco has married a negro, thus horrifying her fashionable friends of other days.

BISHOP GILBERT HAVEN has taken a ship-load of colored people to Africa, where they are to find perennial happiness and education.

MR. HALLAM TENNYSON, a son of the Laureate, is a writer of some promise. He has an article in the current number of The Contemporary Review.

ROORBACKS are of ancient mythological origin. It is related that after Charon had rowed Eurydice across the Styx, she at once ordered him to ro'er-back.

BY her own efforts Miss Susan B. Anthony has paid off the debt of $10,000 incurred by the failure of the "Revolution," a paper advocating "woman's rights."

KING JOHN of Abyssinia has appointed Major Barlow, an English officer, to be Commander-in-Chief of all his forces. He has started for the seat of war in Africa.

SALVINI is wealthy, and now that he is married he plays for money no more. It is only charity, or good comradeship, that now brings him occasionally to the stage.

THE old Countess of Montijo has gained her case against the Paris journal, which asserted that her daughter, the ex-Empress Eugenie, was an illegitimate offspring.

THOUGH the King of Denmark has been on the throne thirteen years he has never been crowned, the troubles between Denmark and Germany in 1863 rendering the costly ceremony inauspicious.

THE Lancet announces the recurrence of Prince Leopold's malady—a swelling of the knee. He is the youngest son of Queen Victoria, and his health has long been precarious. The symptoms are said to be grave.

MR. CARLYLE said to Prof. Huxley not long ago: "You Darwinians are spending your lives in trying to prove that men are descended from apes;—and it needs more than our civilization to prevent them from being ogres."

MRS. WILCOX, the daughter of Andrew Jackson Donelson, the nephew and adopted son of Gen. Jackson, is a translator in the Dead-Letter Office. She has been translating the postal treaty between this country and Italy.

SAID a woman speaker in a New Haven suffrage meeting:—"Woman is in every respect the equal of man. Her reputation for heroic bravery"—at that point a mouse ran into sight, and the orator jumped on the table and screamed.

THE son of an Earl recently applied for his discharge at the Woolwich (England) Police Court. He had enlisted in the Royal Artillery because he had only five hundred pounds pocket-money annually, but after twenty-four hours in a barrack repented. He was discharged.

GENERAL BECKER, who has a large farm on the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, proposes to devote a considerable tract to the cultivation of walnut timber. Experiment has demonstrated that the soil and climate are adapted to the growth of this valuable wood.

MR. BRET HARTE'S "Two Men of Sandy Bar," a pretty little gray volume, lies under lock and key with 999 companions in Mr. Osgood's storeroom. The trouble is about the copyright; Mr. Osgood and Mr. Harte want to publish the thousand little volumes, and Mr. Stuart Robson doesn't.

THE North American Review has been sold to a young New Yorker named Rice, who has gone to Boston to live. He will be assisted in its editorship by Rev. J. H. Ward of Marblehead, Massachusetts, and it is understood that the political articles will be prepared by Prof. Seelye of Amherst.

MR. FROUDE is out in favor of more practical methods of education. "Human life," he says, "is action and not speculation; culture would be best arrived at if it was of a more special kind, and young men came to the university to be taught those branches which hereafter would be of use to them."

SOME Ellenville gentlemen during the past season have made purchases of large tracts of land on the Shawangunk Mountain, most available for the erection of boarding-houses, and they have during the past season been opening roads and doing other preliminary work preparatory to very important improvements.

THE match-makers are busy this winter. A new wrinkle just out, is the wristlet parties. The ladies furnish the wristlets, and each pair is numbered. One of each pair is put into a box and sold to a gentleman, the corresponding number being worn by a lady. After the purchase the gentleman seeks his mate by number, and to the lady he is engaged—at least for that evening. There is fun in it.

ATHENÆUM:—"It is only too common to divide the inhabitants of European Turkey broadly into Turks and Christians. We seem, however, to recognize three distinct classes of Turks—the agricultural Turk, who possesses all sorts of primitive virtues in perfection; the official Turk, who plunders, and the bashi-bazouk, who murders."

THE attachments or "sister hooks" by which the heavy "foot bridge cable" was fastened to the "carrier," during the transit across from the Brooklyn anchorage to the New York anchorage of the East River Bridge, have been removed, and the heavy mass of metal now swings free between the towers, the ends being perfectly secured at each of the anchorages.

COL. HIGGINSON gives it as his opinion that the women's exhibition at Philadelphia was exceedingly interesting, and in its proper place, and adds:—"If it could be proved—which it certainly cannot—that each separate piece of work there shown was surpassed by some similar piece of work done by men elsewhere on the grounds, the value of the Woman's Pavilion would remain the same."

MR. HAWKINS, the distinguished English lawyer and Queen's counsel, who, it will be remembered, conducted the prosecution against the Tichborne claimant, has just been made a Judge of the Common Pleas branch of the High Court of Justice. His services, however, will be transferred to the Exchequer division by the Lord Chancellor, acting under the power given him by the recent Judicature act.

A PRETTY school marm of Wisconsin County, to prevent scholars from being tardy, promised to kiss the first scholar who made his appearance at the school-house. All went well for a few days, and the nineteen-year-old boys, anxious to participate in this fun, actually got to roosting on the fence all night, in order to be at school the first in the morning. This became monotonous, and the teacher gave the idea up.

"THE great caricaturists of the latter days of the Georges all came to gloomy ends. They, who knew so well how to make all the rest of the world laugh, were themselves the victims of distress and trouble. Rowlandson died in poverty; Hogarth died of a broken heart, caused by attacks upon him by Wilkes and Churchill; and Gillray, the most genial of humorists, committed suicide in a fit of melancholy."

GOV. KELLOGG of Louisiana is about 50 years old. He is of medium hight, is slender and erect, and wears a closely-buttoned coat. His head is small, the forehead evenly rounded and sloping backward with too great rapidity. His hair is gray, and worn as if much time had been employed on it with a brush in front of a mirror. His mustache is gray, heavy, and with pointed waxed ends. The face is small and apparently good natured; the eyes a light brown, and, while pleasant, are full of insincerity. In fact, the expression of insincerity seems to prevail everywhere—in eye, smile, and the studied gestures of his white but not shapely hands. His voice is a pleasant one. So writes an unfriendly correspondent.

"ANXIOUS" sends to the New York Tribune the following matrimonial problem, which, she says, is based upon "actual facts":—"In 1854 Mr. A married Miss B. He went abroad, and was compelled to marry Miss C in order to save his life. On his return to America he ascertained that his first wife (B) was dead. He then married Miss D. He went abroad and did not return until 1866. He called on his third wife (D), and was shown to the door. She (D) had heard about B and C, and threatened him (A) with arrest. Being nominally a widow and having frightened A into silence, she married Mr. E. Mr. A then married F, who had the rare discretion to die promptly. Now if D was not A's wife from the fact that C was alive when A married D, is E to be regarded as D's husband? Is D A's wife or E's?" Try Luke xx., 34, and consult editor of The Deseret News, Salt Lake.

MR. J. W. FORNEY, Jr., says of Miss Dickinson as an actress:—"She flirts with King Henry like a timid country lass schooled to smirk and courtesy, but without the refinement and the former associations to mind her lesson. She talks, too, of love, as she might of the weather, and if she attempts to typify the passion, it is as if she were attempting to burlesque it. And yet as the play goes on one sees why Anna Dickinson thought she might be an actress. Her scenes with the Cardinal, with Percy, with Cromwell, often give hope of real dramatic power; the audience is hushed in interest, but a moment afterward she drops again, and drops so far that the chill of disappointment goes over all. When Miss Dickinson is required to act, as in the last scene with the block in her palace prison, the regret that she has dared what she has deepens. Every movement is forced; there is nothing natural, nothing which does not say, 'I am trying so hard to do this.' Her play is remarkably well constructed, but only fairly and very unevenly written. There are gems among the speeches fit for any work, but there is very much that is commonplace. In the hands of a true dramatic artist, 'The Crown of Thorns' will live. But Anna Dickinson is a woman of determination and pluck. She has not only the will to decide, but the courage to carry through, if it be in any way possible, what she tries. She will fight her fight for pre-eminence on the stage honestly and fiercely, and will not give up until her own mind is satisfied it cannot be. Her whole record proves that, and it may be she will prove us all false prophets."

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POTTER'S AMERICAN MONTHLY.

50,000 Subscribers for 1877.

ILLUSTRATED; Best Family Magazine in the Country, at $3 for 1877. 5 copies one year for $13; 10 copies for $25; 20 copies for $50, and a copy of **Potter's Bible Encyclopedia**, quarto, 3,000 Illustrations, price $25, given to the person sending this club. For sale at all News stands, at 25 cents a number. Special Terms to Agents.
J. E. POTTER & CO., Phila., Pa.

PATRON'S POCKET COMPANION.
INDISPENSABLE IN THE GRANGE

Complete Manual of the Order, including Parliamentary Laws for the Grange. Price, post-paid, $1.00 in Morocco, or 60 cts. in Cloth. Circulars free. R. W. Carroll & Co., Publishers, Cincinnati.

THE WONDER of Nature is the elegant and recherche "PETRIFIED PERFUMED SHELLS," the most delightful and lasting perfume known. The shells are imported from Ceylon, are a sure preventative of moths, and the most *recherche* perfume ever discovered; used by all the *elite* of Paris and London, as well as by the aristocracy of America. These shells are *perfect beauties*, last *forever*, and impart a charming perfume to drawers, clothing, and all they come in contact with. Each shell is in a beautiful case, and can be mailed anywhere. Agents—ladies and gents—wanted, to *clear* $7 a day selling these wonderful shells. Sample Shell sent free, with terms, etc., for only 25 cents. Send all orders only to HUNTER & CO., Hinsdale, N. H.

PROSPECTUS FOR 1877.

LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE,

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY OF

Popular Literature, Science & Art.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 1877.

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To those of our readers who are familiar with "Malcolm," this new story from the pen of this distinguished writer will need no recommendation, and his reputation is a guarantee to others of a deeply interesting and powerful story. It began in the November number, which issue, with the December part, will be furnished gratis to all new subscribers for 1877.

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1850 Twenty-Eighth Year 1877

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER became a household word and power in the land long before we quit "going to school," and, perhaps, needs no comment from us; still "its memory is ever fresh and green," and is renewed by its appearance every week, brimful of *good things* as ever. We are glad to announce that our predictions in the January number are being more than fulfilled. We have sent it more than *five hundred* names, and we learn that subscriptions have been pouring in in like proportions from all parts of the country, despite the hard times. Long may it continue to be what it is—a power for good in the land.—*Agent's Friend.*

Wit and Humor.

MUSICAL ITEM FROM TEXAS.

THERE is quite a number of very respectable men in this town, who have no ear whatever for music. In illustration whereof, we submit the following:

Yesterday afternoon one of the most influential citizens of Ward No. 5 approached a policeman on the Piazza, and began conversing with him after this style:

"Aint you the policeman who is on night duty in my ward?"

The policeman replied that he was.

"Well," continued the irate taxpayer, "what I want to know is why you let that drunken wretch howl and shriek and fling tin pans about half the night, so I can't get a wink of sleep?"

"Right opposite where you live, Colonel?"

"Yes. He begins at eight o'clock, and he goes on loud enough to wake even a policeman up."

The policeman smiled grimly and replied: "I did hear that row, Colonel, and I got a pair of handcuffs and some ropes and a dray, but when I got inside of the house I found it was only a young lady singing at a piano."

And then the two steered for a saloon, the policeman promising he would not say a word about the matter. This is a great climate for lungs.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

GREAT gifts make beggars bold.

A GENUINE roar-back—An echo.

SAD spectacle—Broken eye-glass.

BOYS who run for Congress—the pages.

THE third river in Scotland is the Forth.

THE place for tar getting excursions—North Carolina.

WHY is a note of hand like a rosebud? Because it is matured by falling due.

A DOG fight is not a noble spectacle, although it is undoubtedly a display of cur-rage.

GENIUS is the capacity for making an ass of yourself at the unexpectedly right time.

IT is a curious fact that when the barometer of the minister's sermon says "Very dry," that of the people points to "Sudden change."

"WHAT did the Puritans come to this country for?" asked a Massachusetts teacher of his class. "To worship in their own way, and make other people do the same," was the reply.

Two rural constituents were talking of the new member of the Legislature from their district. One of them asked:

"Is he talented?"

"Well," said the other, "I should say he might set a house a fire by rubbing his nose against the door-post."

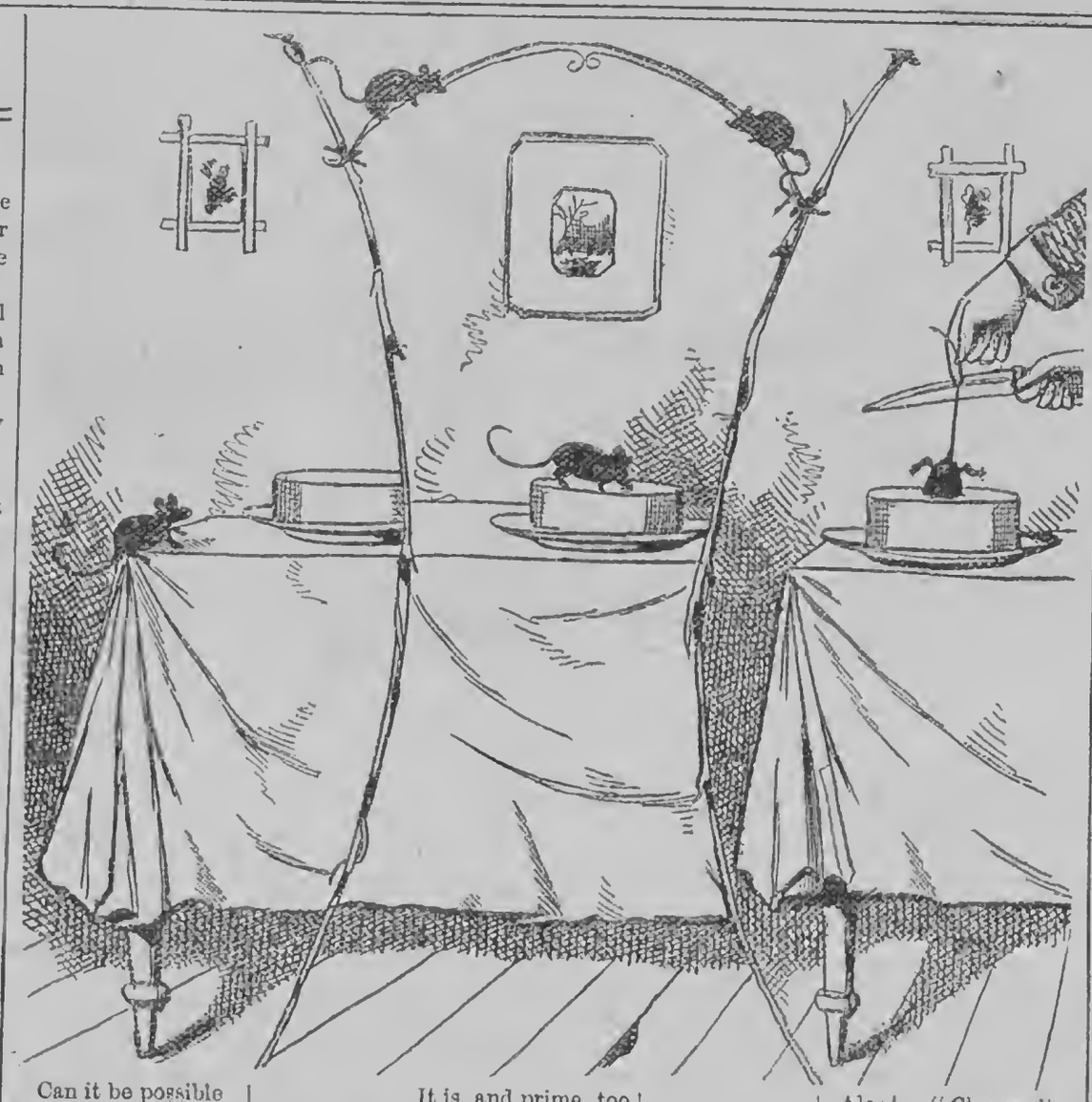
SOCIETY journals mention that bridal trips are becoming unfashionable. The wedding generally takes place about four o'clock P. M., and the bridegroom spends the balance of the afternoon figuring for a position at the dinner table as far removed as possible from the seat occupied by his mother-in-law.

NOBLESSE OBLIGE.—Host, to Eligible Youth: Trust we shall have the pleasure of seeing you at our ball on Thursday. You will meet a Colonel, two J. Ps., two poets, and a Member of Parliament. Guest—Thanks, so much; but it's impossible. I am invited to the Tudervilles', where I shall meet a General, six J. Ps., no Poets and a Lord!—[Funny Folks.

A MAN rushed into a Main street restaurant the other day in an awful hurry, and, flopping into a chair, called for "calf's head soup." "Calf said what, sir?" inquired the waiter. "Calf's head soup!" roared the impatient guest. Admonished by the wrathful tone, the waiter moved away, but paused to inquire, as a kind of appendix, "You didn't hear him say what kind of soup, sir?"

A WESLEYAN brother was engaged in preaching a collection sermon, and pleaded earnestly that the congregation would give him a good collection. At the conclusion the plates were produced, and the good man perceiving that copper, and not silver, was the prominent coin, said, with great solemnity, "I perceive, my brethren, that now, as in the days of Paul, *Alexander the coppersmith has done us much evil.*"

WAGGISH.—"My friends," said a returned missionary at one of the late anniversary meetings, "let us avoid sectarian bitterness. The inhabitants of Hindoostan, where I have been laboring for many years, have a proverb that 'though you bathe a dog's tail in oil and bind it in splints, yet you cannot get the crook out of it.' Now a man's sectarian bias is simply the crook in the dog's tail, which cannot be eradicated; and I hold that every one should be allowed to wag his own peculiarity in peace."



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VOL. XXXIV. No. 26.
WHOLE No. 1404.

NEW YORK CITY, DEC. 23, 1876.

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

CHRISTMAS morning dawned bright and beautiful. It snowed during the night, but now the sun is shining brightly, making the icicles and snow-flakes glisten like diamonds. Jack Frost has been at work, too, tracing delicate pictures upon the window-panes. How many thousand children have been looking forward with eager and joyful anticipation to this morning which, of all the days in the year, is pre-eminently Children's Day!

Among this number are our little friends in the picture—hazel-eyed EDITH, golden-haired ALICE, and roguish little HARRY, who is "free year old to-day." They have talked of nothing but Christmas and SANTA CLAUS for weeks, and now the long-wished-for day has arrived.

These children live in an elegant house, the sight of which would seem almost like fairy-land to many a poor little beggar-child whom SANTA CLAUS, in all his wanderings, sometimes seems to forget.

EDITH was up and dressed bright and early, and then ran to see if her little brother and sister had their "peepers" open. When she opened the door they sprang out of their warm little beds, shouting, "Merry Christmas!" which was returned by the elder sister. Without waiting to be dressed, they ran, barefooted, into the nursery, where they had hung their stockings the night before, right beside the fireplace, "Where SANTA CLAUS will be sure to find them."

Now let us peep in before them and see what they will find in the plump little stockings. As EDITH is oldest, let us look into hers first. Here we find story-books and paper dolls, a set of furs to keep her dolly warm, and a pretty little fan. Underneath, on the floor, is a perfect little trunk, containing a complete wardrobe made in the latest style for dolls and also a nice carriage for "Lady Clara" to ride in.

What will ALICE find in hers? The first thing we see is a little woolly dog with a blue ribbon tied about his neck, who sticks out his head and looks "bow-wow" at the children, as they stand there at the door. There is a set of blocks with which she can build houses; a tiny little baby-doll and a picture-book, which EDITH will read to her; and on the floor is a little table, tablecloth on, set completely, and even napkins at each plate. ALICE will probably have some of her little friends to take tea with her to-night, if mamma is willing.

And now we come to little HARRY'S stocking. SANTA CLAUS has dealt bountifully with these children, for here we find a large jumping-jack and a tin horn, on which he will try to make music for the family. A large Noah's Ark, a whole regiment of tin soldiers, and a farm-yard full of chickens, ducks and turkeys, complete the contents of the stocking, which, by the way, was one of mamma's, as he thought his was too small. But on the floor is a present which will please him best of all—a beautiful sled, painted red, with the name "Comet" in gold letters. How delighted he will be to think that he can try it this morning! and he will probably not stop to eat much breakfast, so anxious will he be to go out before the snow melts. Besides all these presents, there are three large boxes of candies, nuts and raisins, as well as oranges and figs in abundance. After examining their gifts the children went back to be dressed and then to mamma's room, waking her by calling "Merry Christmas" in her ears.

You can imagine what a pleasant day these children passed with their many new playthings nor was their pleasure marred by petty quarrels or disputes, as is too often the case among children; but they went to bed that night tired and happy as they well could be.

But this is only one kind of a Christmas celebration. There are many different sorts of people in the world, and almost every one has a particular way of spending holidays; but giving and receiving gifts is a custom almost universally observed among those who are able. Some, of course, can afford to give only little tokens, while others spend hundreds of dollars in making costly gifts which, oftentimes, are not appreciated by the recipients so well as something more simple, but still useful or beautiful.

And yet there are many, many poor children who scarcely know what Christmas means; it being to them no different from any other day.

In England Christmas is, if possible, more generally observed than in this country, and one of the chief features of the celebration is the Christmas Pantomime, in which the children participate.

On Christmas Day poor children go about the streets, hoping to earn a few pennies by singing Christmas carols, composed expressly for the occasion.

Then, too, it is customary to give a party or ball on that evening, when the mistletoe bough figures conspicuously in the decorations.

From Germany we borrow our idea of the Christmas tree, which is a never-failing source of amusement to the children, and it is a beautiful sight to see a party of them viewing a heavily-laden tree, bright with myriads of little wax candles of various colors, whose lights are reflected in the glass balls with which the tree is ornamented. A little "Christ-child" in the topmost branches is a great addition.

Would it not be well for our little readers of the RURAL to look up some of their toys or books, of which they are tired, and send them to any poor children of whom they may hear? and by so doing they would aid others as well as themselves to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year?

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Farm Economy.

FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

If in the cultivation of their lands, farmers hope to be successful, careful thought must necessarily guide their efforts according to well laid plans. Not a few among them are old enough to remember the time when muscle and brawn were man's chief glories, whereas now mind and thought take precedence, and in the great advance of the mechanical and other arts, these have been enlarged and enriched. Brass and iron in its multifarious forms, are the thews and sinews of the 19th century, but well trained thought must not only fashion these but direct their use.

In writing to the RURAL NEW-YORKER, it is my desire to stimulate farmers to a better cultivation, not of their lands alone, but also of their minds, as well as to strengthen in them a love of their occupation; for no man can find happiness in a labor he does not love, neither can he expect to prosper unless he has an affection for the pursuit in which he seeks prosperity.

In this age of rapid progress a serious question which should hold a prominent place in the minds of all farmers is, "How are we to keep pace with the swift advance in other arts and avocations?" In all ages and countries farmers have been the most conservative class; stick most tenaciously to old habits, ideas and usages, and are least disposed to welcome novel notions, practices, or inventions. In other occupations most of the improvements in the processes and implements have been made by those engaged in them, whereas in agriculture nearly all the mechanical and even practical improvements are the donations of other professions.

The mechanic, the manufacturer, the professor, the chemist and the scientist are all deeply impressed with the certainty that the processes of to-morrow will be ahead of those of to-day and yesterday, and make use of their present acquirements as foundations for further improvements, and acquisitions. Farmers alone seem disposed to believe that the world has seen its best days, and that the ruts their fathers and grandfathers have traveled in are good enough for them too. Yet until they get out of these worn ruts, become keenly alive to the progressive spirit of the age, and as eager as all around them, to improve their condition by improvements in the appliances and methods of their labor, they must necessarily lag behind their more earnest contemporaries, and fail to obtain the consideration and influence due, of right, to their multitude and to the importance of their station in the scheme of society. For to gain influence and success in any age it is essential to be imbued with its spirit, and this is emphatically a progressive and scientific epoch.

While the researches and improvements of each individual farmer are, as a rule, necessarily limited, and inconsiderable, yet the accumulated results of these slight advances are often highly interesting, beneficial and suggestive. Besides premeditated experiments, others are constantly being made in every section of this and other countries, without design, by chance or accident, and their results, whenever important or interesting, are generally noted and reported.

Moreover many of the best minds of the day have made a specialty of studies in every branch of agriculture, while throughout the civilized world, national and local governments have established special departments for systematic researches and experiments as to the best methods and appliances in all kinds of agricultural pursuits. By these means a vast fund of information on this topic is constantly being gathered from every part of the world; and conveyed cheaply to those who can be most benefited by it, through means of the Press. In the division of labor which the multiplicity of modern pursuits has rendered inevitable each avocation has special literary vehicles for the collection and interchange of thought and information of interest or benefit to it.

In this respect what the Scientific American is to the manufacturer and mechanic the RURAL NEW-YORKER is to the farmer; and no farmer fully alive to his own interest, and the spirit of the age, will be without this paper, or some other treating of his own occupation. It may not be policy to practice all any of them recommends, but each reader will not fail to find much of practical utility and importance. While every manufacturer and almost every mechanic takes some paper devoted to his own business, and each member of every profession does likewise, it is surprising how few farmers take agricultural papers. Yet no class stands so much in need of special information as the farmer. His life is, in a great measure, isolated, and his opportunities for acquiring knowledge orally, few and far between, while those in other pursuits are brought frequently together by the necessary conditions of their business and homes.

When excuses are given for this negligence the two most ready are hard times, and the necessity of curtailing expenses. Hard times in sooth! Why taking the paper and using its information diligently would be one of the most efficacious means of getting rid of these. What would be thought of an invalid who should refuse to incur the expense of a doctor on the plea that he was really too sick? The mere collection and statement of this information costs thousands every year, while many of the experiments which yielded it, have been protracted and costly, yet in the RURAL NEW-YORKER the most accurate accounts of every recent development in agricultural science is offered to the farmer, who imperatively needs just such information, for the pittance of $2.50 per year. Tobacco and many other useless or injurious indulgences cost much more than this unbegrudged.

These are selfish indulgences too, whereas the possession of a paper is not only a benefit and pleasure to one's self but also, a joy and education to one's children and an attraction to the household. And if we wish our children to follow in our footsteps we must add new beauties to farm life, we must furnish our homes with food for thought and knowledge, otherwise they will soon abandon the unattractive homestead and seek a precarious living far from us, in other pursuits, or be wrecked on rocks of which neither their experience nor reading has given them any warning. FRANK M. TERRY.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

UNDER this head in the last RURAL, Mr. MINER writes that the Professors of scientific agriculture, thus far have done little or nothing for the practical benefit of the farmer. This assertion, with slight qualifications, is probably correct; and no one can more deeply regret to acknowledge it than myself; for when scientific men began so earnestly within the past half century, to turn their attention to the investigation of the secrets of nature, I had sanguine hopes that as great and certain improvements might be made in the production of grass, grain, vegetable and fruit crops, as there has been in the manufacture of agricultural implements. But there is an apology for this difference of results. With implements we have something positive and reliable to work with. Here are wood, iron, and steel; and any one who knows how to shape and properly put them together is sure of what he wishes to accomplish. Not so with the products of the earth; for to begin with, science thus far has not been able to give us the exact elements in a soil, and what of these are available at the time of planting for the desired crops, so that precisely what is wanted for their perfect growth and ripening can be added if necessary to ensure these. Furthermore, we are greatly dependant upon the weather; for a little less or more of sunshine and rain makes a large difference in the quality and yield of crops. Of these we have no command; and can only supply the want of rain by irrigation in favorable localities. Plowing, planting, and the application of any sort of fertilizers are in vain, unless sufficient moisture and heat follow to render them available. Here are the uncertainties of producing such crops as we hope for at the time of planting, and I do not see how they can be avoided.

But to turn to Prof. ATWATER, to whose writings Mr. MINER refers. There may possibly be some errors in them, yet I desire to say, that I have derived one considerable advantage from a perusal of the German experiments he has taken so much pains to translate and elucidate for the agricultural public. I have a ten-acre water meadow, which produces only a species of sedge — *Scirpus pungens* — which is considered quite inferior to salt meadow grass: and any kind of live stock will almost starve rather than graze it. I cut and store this at a cost of $3 per ton. When I am farming upland hay, timothy, red-top, or clover is worth, on the average of years, $30 per ton. To make this sedge available and equal for fodder to prime upland hay, Prof. ATWATER recommends that a certain quantity of its weight of linseed or cotton seed meal should be added to it, aside from what other meal or bran we have been accustomed to give with the best quality of upland hay, to keep our horses and cows in good condition.

In accordance with the above recommendation, for 16 months past, I have fed my horses and, except when in pasture, my cows also, with every ton of sedge costing $3 at the barn, 400 pounds of linseed meal at $12, making the cost of the two $15, thus saving me $15 on every ton of sedge fed to my stock. I have also tried wheat and rye straw, with the same economical and beneficial results. My horses are in as good condition now and do the same work, and the cows give as much milk, and it makes as much butter of the same quality as when they were fed on the best of upland hay. Other information which Prof. ATWATER has given us from the German experiments have been of advantage to me, which I may speak of hereafter; and for one I heartily thank him for his excellent writings. AMERICO GERMO.

Field Crops.

WILL POTATOES RUN OUT?—FURTHER FACTS.

BY PROF. W. J. BEAL.

SOON after writing the first article on this subject, I received a card from Dr. ASA GRAY, inquiring, "What report do you get from Kansas and Columbus? Do you interpret your results as showing that potato varieties *tend* of themselves to run out?" I reply through the RURAL NEW-YORKER.

AS I am not much of a theorizer, I will give what additional facts I have received and let each one draw his own conclusions. I shall not venture to draw conclusions till I have repeated and tried more experiments. Since writing my report of experiments on potatoes, I have received a report from Kansas Agricultural College, where I had sent samples of our potatoes to test for comparison.

Prof. E. M. SHELTON writes:—"I inclose a partial list of the results by weight of the yield of the potatoes which you sent me last spring. These potatoes, one of each variety, were each cut into three pieces and planted in three separate hills on May 12. This was very late planting for this country—three or four weeks late on account of wet weather. The yield is very light. A part of the potatoes gave absolutely no yield, and a few others returned only three or four potatoes, no larger than marbles. These (he says) I have not reported. The potatoes were harvested Sept. 13."

COMPARISON OF RESULTS.

The reader must bear in mind that we planted and report the result of six hills of each variety—just twice the amount planted in the experiments in Kansas. On looking over that list and comparing it with ours, I find that among the twenty-five lowest on our list there are only four which are included in the Kansas list, viz.: Prince Albert, yielding 2 ounces for three hills; Sebec, 1 ounce; No. 2 Bush, 1 ounce; Early Shaw, 3 ounces.

In the list which he *sends* I find eleven out of twenty-five of those yielding least are raised from seed which we have raised for seven or eight years at our College.

On looking at the Kansas list to see which yielded best, I find the highest twenty-seven are all raised from seed which had been used only one year at our place, excepting two varieties, "Climax" and "Breese's King of the Earlies," the seed of which had been used here seven or eight years in succession.

In Kansas fifteen varieties yielded higher than Climax, and seventeen yielded higher than Breese's King of the Earlies. Both yield high with us.

Twelve out of twenty-seven yielding most in Kansas are among the list of twenty-seven yielding most at this place.

We expect a continuation of these experiments next year.

A GOOD WORD FOR THE ARTICHOKE.

ONE of the contributors to the London Garden, in speaking of the Jerusalem Artichoke, reiterates what we have already claimed for this plant. He says:

One cannot help wondering that a plant so prolific, and that can always, under all conditions and circumstances, in any kind of soil and with but little attention, be relied on to produce a crop, should have received so little attention as this Artichoke. However, such is the fact, and, except in the gardens of the wealthy, it is almost unknown. They might, however, have a trial, for although probably their peculiar flavor would not suit every taste, yet they might be made into soup or cooked in various ways, and in the winter they would furnish a desirable change of vegetables. Doubtless many have condemned them or refused to grow them without really knowing what they are.

Plant the sets like those of potatoes, in March, either with or without manure, according as the land is good or otherwise, or whether large or small tubers are required. Plant in rows 3 feet apart, 12 inches asunder and 6 inches deep. All that is necessary afterward is to keep down weeds till the tops get fairly into growth. About July the ends of the shoots may be shortened a little to keep them from flowering and within bounds, and to strengthen the crop. Some leave them in the ground altogether, and just dig a few when required. This, however, is a bad practice; they should always be lifted before growth begins. The best-shaped tubers should be selected for use and stored like potatoes; the others should be reserved for seed.

The Poultry Yard.

HOW TO MAKE DOMESTIC POULTRY THOROUGHLY MISERABLE.

THERE is no time like the present for making domestic poultry thoroughly miserable. The thermometer has taken a sad tumble in the last fortnight and those poultry-keepers who desire to make their fowls as miserable as possible, should not lose sight of the present excellent opportunity. It is a very easy task, and requires little skill or experience. Any farmer's boy of ordinary capacity can easily accomplish it after a little practice, and almost any farmer in the country can perform it to-day without any instruction. We will give a few standard rules for ill-treating fowls at the farm and will guarantee results. Many old farmers may complain that "these rules are nothing new—just what they've been doing for twenty years;" and to such as may make this complaint, we apologize for the staleness of our

RULES.

Misery No. 1.—Never feed your fowls until the sun is high and warm. By this means you insure utter misery in the fowl yard for at least three hours, for the chickens having risen (or rather descended) early, have the pleasure of walking about on an empty crop in the piercing cold of the early day, vainly searching for something to eat on the hard ground, to which everything edible is frozen solid. This will sharpen their appetites wonderfully, and the only means of adding to their misery is by allowing them to see you, through the window, eating a smoking hot breakfast near a warm fire.

Misery No. 2.—Come out of the house with a pail in your hand, call playfully to them, "Chick, chick, chick," and as they fly to you in their hunger, and expectantly cluster about you, quietly pass into the barn, fodder the horse and cow and pass back to the house without feeding them, leaving that hungry, disappointed, shivering flock waiting for your return.

Misery No. 3.—Let them wait, and don't return.

Misery No. 4.—Finally, when the sun is up, the meadows warmer, and the chickens have wandered away in sheer despair of receiving anything at home, take a plate of "scraps" to the side door, call "chick, chick," throw down the "scraps" within convenient distance of the house-dog and retire indoors. The chickens, though at a distance, are quick of ear, and will rush homewards in a hurry; but, though they are speedy of foot, they will only arrive in time to see the dog lazily licking his chops after dispatching the last morsel of the breakfast intended for them.

Misery No. 5.—If there is no running water on the place, put out for the chickens some water in a shallow dish on the shady side of the house. As chickens generally congregate on the sunny side of a building, they will not see the water at once and, by the time they discover it, it will be frozen solid.

Misery No. 6.—The only improvement on the former is, not to put out any water at all, making the excuse that "it would freeze if you put it out any way." This is on the excellent plan of the gentleman who declined to provide breakfast for his servant, for the reason that if he did, "the fellow would be just as hungry at dinner."

Misery No. 7.—Leave an old tub or pan under the eaves of the house. The melting snow on the roof will drip into this pan or tub and the chickens will drink of it. Melted snow will give fowls a painful affection of the throat, which will materially add to the pleasure of their existence.

Misery No. 8.—Cut no holes in the barn doors for the chickens. If these holes were cut they might enter and pick up in the stalls the grain scattered from the manger by the cattle. Be very careful to keep them out of the barn, or they will gather every wasted grain.

Misery No. 9.—During the long winter months, while nature deprives them of all green food, be careful to leave no cabbage heads or lettuce or celery tops in their way. They would relish these as would a ship's crew cursed with scurvy relish any green food; therefore, keep all such luxuries—nay, necessities—from them.

Misery No. 10.—Close up all the outbuildings early, that they may seek no warm corner for shelter when, as the sun goes down on their unhappy day, they fly to roost. Force them to roost in a leafless tree (being careful to have no warm evergreens on the place), or else in an open shed on the exposed side of the barn, where the winds can whistle about them until they are almost frozen dead upon the miserable perch, waiting drearily for the morning to come, which will bring them, not care and kindness from their owners, but the blessed sun of heaven, to warm and put some little throb of life into their chilled and trembling bodies.

If these ten standard rules are strictly carried out, we will guarantee results. What these results will be, we need not add. Unfortunately, these rules are more or less in vogue at seven out of ten farms in the country to-day, and the result is hinted at by the farmers when they tell you that "chickens don't pay."

Fortunately, there is a compensatory justice which avenges, in a weak way, the ill-treated fowls. Eventually, some of these wretched chickens find their way into the flesh-pot. Tired and hungry from his day's ride to market, the farmer sits down to a "chicken dinner." Mrs. Farmer ladles out a little warm well-water and a few polished bones, to which she gives the lying title of "chicken soup." Mr. Farmer adds a little pepper and salt, and after spooning it down his throat, has a sensation much the same as though he had been indulging internally in a pepper bath. This stimulating compound having been disposed of, something resembling a canvas-covered, cast-iron chicken frame, is placed before Mr. F. to appease his appetite. Let us hope that justice is meted out now: that as his knife slides over the sharp outline in vain endeavor to carve a dainty morsel from the shriveled form, some recollection comes to him of the neglected fowls at his door, from whom he can expect nothing now, as he vouchsafed nothing to them in their hunger. Let us hope that Mrs. Farmer insists on being helped to all that is available from the skeleton before them, and that Mr. Farmer goes to "roost," as have his chickens on the farm—tired, hungry and cross.

THOMAS W. WHITE.

Ridgewood, N. J., Dec. 11, '76.

HOW TO KEEP THE COMBS OF FOWLS FROM FREEZING.

DURING the piercing cold of winter the combs and wattles of many poor birds suffer disastrously from the sharp attacks of Jack Frost. The combless state of many a beautiful bird, ruined for the show pen, if not for the poultry yard, bears cruel evidence to the wanton carelessness of their owners.

A warm, though not necessarily an expensive fowl-house is indispensable to every farmer and fancier who wants his fowls to lay and pay during the winter. Those who keep single-combed varieties, and have not a warm house for them, can easily prevent their cocks' combs from freezing by simply having a roosting place, built like a smaller house inside their poultry house. By this means, during weather exceptionally severe, the birds can be shut up, temporarily, in a snugly confined area, and a couple of panes of glass will allow them to see easily while eating, so long as the danger lasts.

This inside house need not take up any of the room ordinarily used by the fowls, but can be constructed on posts so as to occupy no floor room. A neighbor has tried this and it works admirably. His has two chambers. The upper for roosting purposes, with low perches and a sliding bottom to facilitate the escape of droppings, is furnished with doors that open all along the front. The lower chamber has an alley along the back, and nests at the front with sliding doors to each so that the eggs can be readily collected. A hole in each end of the top and bottom compartments allows the birds to pass freely in and out. The partitions between the nests are loose, so that any required nests may be shut off from the others. Properly white-washed, this can be kept quite sweet, and would save many a fine bird at a very trifling cost of time, trouble or money. H. H.

REARING POULTRY.

I HAVE been much interested in the description of Mr. BELDON'S method of rearing poultry, by your English correspondent, Mr. WHITE. It seems that cleanliness, pure air, exercise, and judicious feeding are the great secrets of his success; and with these, any accommodations however humble, if dry and well sheltered, answer the purpose. I scarcely ever saw a poultry house, however expensively built, that had sufficiently high rooms to ensure a pure atmosphere, especially in cold or stormy weather, when it was necessary to close some of the windows or ventilators.

My farmer's wife wintered 31 hens this year, and from these she has raised the present season nearly 400 chickens. All the accommodation she has for these is a roomy shed, open entirely to the south, for laying and hatching, and a small airy building at the west end of this for roosting. Her coops for the hens with chickens are old barrels, turned down on the side, with slats in front to keep in the hen, while the little chicks can run in and out between these at pleasure. The soil is a light gravelly loam, and pasture grounds surround the poultry shed.

Here is an abundance of pure fresh air at all times and a dry footing and shelter. Strict attention is paid to feeding the chickens regularly as often as required, and the feed is plain and wholesome. The percentage of loss by disease among these chickens has been so small this season, as not to be worth mentioning—in fact, they may be said to have had no diseases at all—a few only having been lost by accident.

Dec. 12, 1876. A POULTRY FANCIER.

The Herdsman.

ON FATTENING STOCK.

AT this season the fattening of many an old and young animal for the butcher is in progress, and anything which will throw light upon the subject is of general interest to the farmer. The English Agricultural Gazette, in speaking of the various substances which are converted into fat or flesh in fattening animals says:

The fattening properties of starch, sugar, and fat or oil are thoroughly known and appreciated. All these substances are so familiar to us that, wonderful as are their properties with reference to animal nutrition, they do not come before us, like many chemical compounds, not only as strangers, but as strangers disguised in Greek and Latin syllables. Let any one place side by side a lump of sugar, a piece of gum arabic, a fragment of starch, and a small piece of beef suet, and he has before him four of the most important carbonate hydrates employed in the fattening of animals. Let him add a small piece of linen, or of cotton, and he has a pure specimen of cellulose, which although in too mature a form to be considered digestible, is yet capable of being converted into sugar by simple chemical processes.

Such a collection will, no doubt, assist him to understand the composition of such a familiar food as barley meal, which contains 60.4 per cent. of starch, 1.2 per cent, of gum and sugar, 2 per cent. of fat, 9.7 per cent. of crude fibre (cellulose) and bran. To these must be added 9.3 per cent. of albuminoids; and the remainder of the 100 parts is made up of 2.4 per cent. of ash, and 15 per cent. of water.

In order to understand the nature and uses of the albuminoids, we should add to the simple substances above enumerated a small cup of white of egg, or albumen; a piece of fresh curd (caseine); and a substance less easy to obtain, but which may be readily collected by washing clotted blood until the coloring-matter has disappeared, leaving the fibrine.

The albuminoids are, then, fairly represented by albumen, caseine, and fibrine. It is a most remarkable fact that these substances, all of which we have represented as of animal origin, have their counterparts in vegetables. Thus vegetable albumen exists in the juices of all plants, with properties almost identical with those of animal albumen. It coagulates when heated, and exhibits the reactions peculiar to animal albumen when brought in contact with chemical re-agents.

Vegetable caseine, or the pecular material of cheese, is also found in the food the cow is fed upon. It occurs abundantly in beans and peas, under the name of legumine, and in oats as avenine: and it is related that the Chinese actually make a vegetable cheese, which, when salted, pressed, and kept, develops the peculiar flavor and smell of cheese.

Vegetable fibrine can be separated from the gluten of wheat, potatoes, &c., and is almost identical with animal fibrine.

These bodies constitute what are spoken of by agricultural chemists as the nitrogenous constituents of food, and as flesh-formers, in contradistinction to fat-formers. They are of almost identical composition, all consisting of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and a little sulphur associated together in the same proportion.

Albumen occurs in the serum of the blood, in blood-corpuscles and all the fluids of the healthy body, except the urine. Caseine is abundantly developed in the secretion of milk, and has been detected in the brain of animals. Fibrine occurs abundantly in the blood as blood-fibrine, and in the muscles or lean flesh under the name of flesh-fibrine.

No one, then, can doubt the importance of the albuminoids as constituents of the food of stock. They are always present, but when they occur in considerable proportions, as in beans, lentils, and cakes, the food is known as highly nitrogenous. On the other hand, when the non-nitrogenous constituents prevail, the food is spoken of as non-nitrogenous.

The relative importance of these two classes of food ingredients is a matter upon which leading scientific men are not agreed. Both are certainly essential, and for the fattening of adult animals the so-called non-nitrogenous foods seem to be best fitted. As already pointed out, the subject is not closed by this admission, for the manure produced from higly nitrogenous foods is much superior to that produced from farinaceous foods. Mr. Lawes is inclined to think that the best proportion in which the nitrogenous substances can be introduced into stock foods is the proportion in which they exist to carbo-hydrates in the cereal grains, which is about 1 to 6.

Young animals require a larger proportion of nitrogenous compounds than mature animals, as has been proved by direct experiment in Germany. This conclusion is in accordance with reason, for the juices of the body are more constantly called upon to supply material for the formation of muscle in a young and growing animal than in a mature one. Mr. Lawes found that when pigs were put up to feed with a choice between highly nitrogenous and comparatively non-nitrogenous food, they gradually inclined more and more to the non-nitrogenous food in the later stages of the fattening process.

Dairy Husbandry.

THE TRUE WEIGHT OF MILK.

X. A. WILLARD:—What is the weight of a gallon of milk. In the RURAL for Nov. 4th, under the head of "Comparative Value of Milk for Cheese in England and America," you reckon it at 8 pounds 9 ounces. In the creameries of Northern Illinois I found they reckoned it from 8⅝ pounds to 10 pounds to the gallon. Col. WARING puts it at 1 15-100 pounds to the pint or 9 pounds 3 1-5 ounces to the gallon. Is the trouble owing to the indiscriminate use of wine and beer measures? It seems to me there is great need of a standard and I had always considered the 1 15-100 pounds to the pint a standard, though I know not why. Give us some light on this subject.—L. S. HARDIN, *Louisville, Ky.*

REMARKS:—There are several reasons why milk weighs differently when weighed by different persons. In the first place the same temperature of the milk is not observed at the time of weighing; then again the measures used are not all accurate, and when accurate some persons are not careful enough in filling the measure, or in having perfect scales so adjusted as to weigh to the fraction of a grain. The milk of different cows does not all weigh alike at the same temperature. What we seek therefore is to get the weight of milk of average quality and such milk perhaps is best obtained by mingling that from several cows or of a herd together, and then taking a given quantity and accurately measuring and weighing it.

A few years ago, while on a visit to the late GAIL BORDEN, the distinguished inventor of the process for condensing milk *in vacuo*, the question as to the weight of a quart of milk came up. Mr. BORDEN said he had taken great pains to get at the truth of this matter and to settle it beyond cavil, and for this purpose he had conducted a number of experiments. In the first place he tested from time to time different herds, seeing the cows milked under his own eye to make sure that the milk was absolutely pure and unadulterated. Then, when the milk of the different cows had been well mingled together, he took a given quantity and had it measured and weighed at the office of the United States where the accuracy of weights and measures are determined. The milk was reduced to 60 degrees Fahr., and then carefully measured in standard measures of the United States, and then weighed in delicate scales under glass. After repeated experiments of this kind—the milk of different herds being taken at different times—he found that three pints (wine measure) of average milk would weigh three pounds three and three-eighth ounces (3 pounds 3⅜ ounces). A quart therefore weighs two pounds two and two-eighth ounces (2 pounds 2 2-8 ounces) and a gallon eight pounds nine ounces (8 pounds 9 ounces.

Any one who was acquainted with GAIL BORDEN, and was familiar with his manner of making experiments, would never for a moment question their accuracy. He worked with all the caution and skill of the trained scientist. He did not rest satisfied with one trial but verified the accuracy of his work by repeated experiments. We regard Mr. BORDEN as the highest authority on the weight of milk, and have therefore taken his figures as the true standard in our remarks concerning the weight of this article in the RURAL. We are glad our esteemed correspondent has brought this question to our notice, because it is important that some standard as to the weight of milk be recognized.

In some sections we notice milk is measured by the beer gallon; these are exceptional, the more general use being *wine measure.* We think wine measure should be the standard measure for milk, though we do not remember to have seen any statutory law in regard to the matter in any of the States. The use of wine and beer measures indiscriminately is certainly confusing and leads to much misunderstanding. This was the case at the early inauguration of the factory system in New York, and as trouble grew out of it the factories adopted the plan of weighing the milk, which leaves no chance for dispute.

We should be glad if many other articles besides milk were bought and sold by weight instead of by measure. A heaped bushel is an indefinite quantity depending on the liberality of the seller in rounding up his measure.

THE ENGLISH DAIRY FARMER.

VERY different from his Cisatlantic cousin is the English dairy farmer. Not for him the long day's work in summer following the plow and cultivator and elevating the hoe! Not for him the winter's morning with almost frozen feet and fingers attending to the comforts of his cattle and providing for their necessities! All his ideas of work are comprised in milking six or eight cows twice per diem, helping to cure and draw the hay during the harvest season, riding or walking around on his farm overlooking his cattle and superintending his "workmen" during the forenoon, and in the afternoon inhaling the fumes of the best tobacco out of a long "churchwarden" pipe.

If he is a young man he will probably belong to the village cricket-club, which will give him employment two or three evenings a week, and prevent him from totally stagnating. So much for the summer programme! In the winter he will presumably be stowed away beneath the blankets until about 7 A. M., delegating the milking—of which there is at this season of the year not much to be done—to the "workmen." After breakfast—should he have sporting proclivities—he will, taking his dogs and gun, ramble down among the lowlands and watercourses in search of water-fowl.

If in pretty affluent circumstances a ride to hounds once or twice a week will be indulged in, and it may be, he will invest a couple or three thousand dollars in blooded horseflesh and carry off the plate at the provincial meeting. Anything of a menial character, such as carting manure, currying and harnessing his horse, or even blacking his own shoes, he has a special aversion to and prefers paying a servant to waiting on himself.

In addition to this, he is—according to his own ideas of what in that term is comprised—eminently respectable, pays his debts as they become due and perambulates his demesne in a good-looking suit of clothes. "Overalls" and "butcher frocks" he greatly abominates and as to slaughtering any of his own animals that is totally out of the question. When such work has to be done the services of a butcher are brought into requisition, but that seldom occurs, the superfluous stock being sold with the breath of life still in their nostrils and rebought as meat at a considerably increased price.

Attending cattle markets and fairs has special charms for him, with which, and visiting his acquaintances, he manages to keep the muscles of one, two or it may be three roadsters in good traveling order. His equipage is usually a "dog cart"—a two-wheeled vehicle of light construction and flashy appearance—which, owing to the hight of its wheels, runs smoothly over the macadamized roads when drawn by a tolerable roadster, at the rate of ten or twelve miles an hour. Altogether,—and looking at the case in every way,—the English dairy farmer has a very pleasurable existence, and whether out of the same amount of capital and exertion any other class of persons go through life as easily and enjoy it so much, is doubtful.

SON OF AN ENGLISH FARMER.

REQUISITES IN DAIRY FARMS.

A CORRESPONDENT who proposes to go West and engage in dairying desires to know "What are the essential requirements of a good dairy farm."

In the first place the land should be well adapted to grass, and sufficiently undulating or rolling so that surface water will be readily carried off. Land that is naturally wet and full of swales or low swampy places may possibly produce grass plentifully, but such grass will be inferior for pasturage. The best milk will be made on upland or well-drained pastures, but the soil should have enough clay in its composition to be retentive of moisture without being wet; for if it be too sandy and dry, grass will fail as warm weather approaches, and the feed in summer will be parched and brown and liable to be too scanty for the full sustenance of the stock.

A clay loam is perhaps as good soil for dairy purposes as can be had, though any soil where grass is enduring and is not subject to the objections we have named will be well adapted to dairying, providing it is supplied with springs or streams of never failing water. In our remarks we have had especial reference to pastures, but it will not be necessary that the whole farm be of the character we have described, for the meadow lands, or those to be used for growing hay, may be more moist or wet than the pasturage. Not unfrequently large crops of hay are produced

from low and rather wet lands; hence, if a portion of the farm is of this description and can be used for meadows, it need not be considered so very objectionable in case the pastures are of a different character.

Good water in abundance is another essential requirement of a dairy farm. It should be unfailing and well distributed over the pastures so as to be of easy access to cattle. Springs and streams of sweet, clear water are, of course, the best, though we have seen good dairy farms where the water supply was obtained from wells. In this case wind-mills were erected to pump the water from wells that were unfailing, and by arranging the vats or reservoirs so that the overflow could be conducted back again to the well, a constant supply of good, fresh water was kept within reach of stock.

Wind-mills are now built so as to be very efficient in their operation, requiring but little attention. Still, it will be seen that all such artificial means of procuring water are much inferior to a living spring or stream, to say nothing of the extra expense entailed to keep up the needed supply. The necessity for a good supply of clean, sweet water is imperative for the successful management of dairy stock, and no matter how good the farm may be for grass, or however eligibly located, if it fails in a sufficient water supply it will lack one of the most essential requirements of a good dairy farm, and one that will be sure to be fatal to a successful prosecution of dairying.

Water is sometimes so located on farms that a good supply is furnished in pastures remote from the stables while little or none can be had at the latter place for stock. This will be a serious inconvenience even in summer, but in winter it will prove an insuperable objection, because cows that are obliged to travel long distances in the fierce blasts of winter, wading through deep snows, exposed to the intense cold of our Northern climate cannot be expected to be carried through the season without heavy loss. In choosing a dairy farm then, look well to the winter as well as the summer supply of water. Another essential requisite in a good dairy farm is that the farm be not so situated that the cattle are obliged to travel long distances from the pasture to the milking-stables. All excessive travel is a waste on the tissues which will be made up at the expense of milk secretion, and hence such dairy farms are objectionable.

We should suggest also that our correspondent take note of the amount of fencing that the farm will require. We are acquainted with some excellent grass farms that are so located as to require an extraordinary outlay in the building and maintaining of fences. In such cases a heavy draft is made on the annual receipts in keeping up fences. We have named some of the leading requirements of a dairy farm without going into detail. It is desirable, of course, that farms be so shaped with respect to buildings that the labor required in their management be comparatively light. Accessility to market or to villages is another convenience which should not be overlooked, and above all select your farm in a healthy locality.

DAIRY CONVENTION.

NEW YORK STATE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

ELMIRA, N. Y., Dec. 13, 1876.

A MORE delicious day for the assembling of a Convention than we have had to-day could hardly have been made to order. The air was balmy and soft, yet sufficiently bracing for comfort. The effect of the weather was plainly perceptible on the face of my genial friend Harris Lewis, whose smile was as sweet as if he were not responsible for any of the "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" for which the Dairy Ring of last summer has made itself so famous. Under the cheering influence of Old Sol's bright rays, the solemn countenance of our august friend and so-called Professor Arnold assumed a smile at once so bland and bewitching that one would never dream of his having taken part in the wayward and phantasmal doings at Philadelphia some few months since. Blanding, the great Dairy Architect, who erected the $10,000 building which sold for $1,100, seemed to be above the influence of Elmira's brightest day, and poor Scoville appeared to be quite used up by his past summer's labor. Shull smiled and, as usual, looked wise. How some people *do* succeed in building up a reputation for wisdom by keeping still!

The citizens of Elmira secured for the accommodation of the Convention the Academy of Music, a beautiful little structure, admirably adapted to the purpose.

MORNING SESSION.

At 11 o'clock President Willard called the meeting to order. The brief morning session was devoted to preliminary business, including the appointment of committees. The following committees were appointed by the Chair:

Order of Business.—Col. C. P. Root, Gilbertsville, Otsego Co.; Dr. E. G. Crafts, Binghamton, Broome Co.; Col. H. C. Hoffman, Horseheads, Chemung Co. *Finance.*—George W. Hoffman, J. S. Van Duzer, W. A. Ward, all of Elmira. *Miscellaneous.*—Jesse Owen, Elmira; Joseph W. Long, Oxford, Chenango Co.; J. V. H. Scoville, Paris, Oneida Co. *Resolutions.*—H. M. Kennedy of the Utica Herald, G. A. C. Barnett of the Rural New-Yorker, J. M. Peters of the Grocer, New York. *Dairy Apparatus.*—Wm. Blanding, Hawleytown, Broome Co.; Col. H. C. Hoffman, Horseheads, Chemung Co.; W. L. Rutherford, Waddington, St. Lawrence Co. *Dairy Products.*—T. D. Curtis, Syracuse; Jesse Owen, Elmira; Hon. Harris Lewis, Frankfort, Herkimer Co.

An adjournment was had till 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On the assembling of the Convention in the afternoon there was a slight increase in the attendance, although it was still a thin house—dairy-men from the outlying towns having apparently failed to appreciate the importance of the meeting. A few ladies appeared; but, altogether, there was but a poor showing for a district famous for its dairy products.

President Willard entered the Hall, accompanied by Secretary Shull, President Hoffman, of the Farmers' Club, and his honor, the Mayor. Mr. Hoffman introduced Mayor Turner, who tendered to the Convention and its visitors a cordial welcome. He also made a comparison between the dairy interests and those of all other industries, very favorable to the former. Touching upon the present prices and future prospects, he predicted brightly for the dairymen of this State.

To this address President Willard made a neat reply on behalf of the Association and then delivered his annual address, which was listened to with marked attention and deep interest. As you will probably publish it at a future time, I will omit any further remarks upon it.

This was followed by a rather heavy but exceedingly interesting paper by Dr. Crafts of Binghampton, on Mammarial Glands. The Dr. seemed to forget that few of his audience were acquainted with the scientific and technical terms used by physiologists; but the audience bore up well under it, knowing the Doctor's earnestness and zeal for the promotion of good dairying.

The discussion which followed this paper was principally upon the use of the metal milking tubes, the use of which almost all the participants deprecated and few defended. The general opinion and experience seemed to be that their use resulted in garget and should be discountenanced. The discussion lasted no inconsiderable time, and was sustained in an animated manner by Messrs. Arnold, Stiles, Crocker, Curtis, Owen, Hoffman, Stowell, Miller, Johnson and Dr. Crafts himself.

Dr. E. L. Sturtevant sent his paper on Ayrshires, which was read, in his absence, by Mr. T. D. Curtis.

The discussion which followed showed the interest it excited, and must have made Col. Hungerford's ears burn if he is at all sensitive to electric influences. The celebrated cow, "Creamer," was claimed to be all breeds and no breed, admitted to be the best cow ever seen, and finally consigned, by Harris Lewis, to his usual receptacle for all good cows, the Short-Horns. Had Col. Hungerford been present, there might have been a different tone maintained; but, in his absence, his exhibition of Creamer as an Ayrshire, did not appear to meet with general approval. The discussion was participated in by Messrs. Rutherford, Hoffman, Lewis, Ward, Stowell, Scoville, Crafts and Miller. This closed the afternoon session.

EVENING SESSION.

The proceedings were opened, Dr. Crafts presiding, by a paper upon "The Holstein Cow," prepared by Garrett S. Miller of Peterboro, N. Y. and read by Mr. Armstrong of Elmira. His three imported cows gave an average of 8,738.28 pounds per year for the six years he has owned them.

Dowager gave milk 1884 days during the six years and produced 53,805½ pounds. Crown Princess was in milk 1821 days and produced 61,-112 pounds, a daily average of 33.56 pounds. The highest daily yield was 76 pounds, her largest annual yield was 14,027 pounds.

Following this, Mr. Hoxie, of Utica, N. Y., presented a statement, showing the yield for the season of 1876, of the thoroughbred Holstein cows owned by the Unadilla Valley Breeders' Association:

Name	Yield for 192 days.	Record from time of calving to Dec. 8.	No. days.
Maid of Twisk	9,653¼	10,349⅝	211
Jocoba	6,473⅜	7,885⅜	236
Sijtje	6,284⅜	7,243⅛	220
Nelitza	5,337½	6,748½	241
Jenka	4,335⅜	5,265½	228

Here followed a discussion, which contained the relation of many valuable experiences, but which had to terminate to admit of the reading of Mr. Harris Lewis' paper on "Short-Horns for the Dairy."

Mr. Lewis opened gracefully, as he always does, in the following language:

In presenting this subject for your consideration, I cannot do better than to give you a brief history of some of the early efforts to improve the Short-Horns, by quoting from a paper read before the Blanford Farmers' Club, in October last, by Mr. Daniell, and published in the Mark Lane Express of October 30th, 1876, a copy of which was kindly sent me by one of the publishers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER.

The subject was handled in a convincing manner, and I must send you the following extracts:

"Very many predict that the fashionable breeding of Short-Horns, as it is called, will have its day, considering it as a matter of speculation merely. This may be so; but I predict that so long as the yearly offspring of the fashionable cow will sell in the market for from ten to ten hundred times as much as her annual yield of milk is worth, the present course of breeding will be continued, if every drop of milk should go to grass. * * * * *

"To sum their milking qualities up in a nutshell, I will declare them capable of giving from one pound of milk per day to one hundred, if the records here be true, and that the quantity of milk they produce is in exact proportion, as a rule, to their breeding, food and care. And this very quality, possessed by them in a greater degree than by any other breed of cows, adds vastly to their value as dairy stock. * * *

"I prefer the Short-Horn cow for the dairy because she will produce the most milk, the most butter, the most cheese, and the most beef, for the food consumed, of any breed of cows we have."

After a discussion upon the subject of this paper, which was quite spirited so far as Mr. Arnold and Mr. Lewis were concerned, the Convention adjourned for the day.

I shall send you the proceedings of to-morrow as soon after the adjournment as the Erie Railway will permit. SHORTHORN.

[The remainder of the proceedings have arrived, but too late for this issue, and must lie over till next week.—ED.]

Scientific and Useful.

PARAGUAYAN TEA OR YERBA MATE.

IN many an old book of travels mention is made of the above named substitute for the genuine tea of the East Indies and China, but we do not remember to have met so full a description of it as lately appeared in the Planter's Journal, from which we make a few extracts. We may add however that *Ilex* here referred to is the botanical name of our common evergreen Holly found growing abundantly from the latitude of New York city southward, and it may be that our native species would make just as good tea as the Paragnayan.

At present the *Ilex Paraguayensis* is to be found solely in Southern Brazil, where it grows wild. There are two or three allied species of *Ilex*, natives also of South America, that possess similar properties to the *Ilex Par.*, also used for tea. One of these is the *Ilex Martiniana*, indigenous to British Guiana; another is the *Ilex Gongona* of Brazil. Specimens of the *Ilex Par.* and of Chinese and Indian Teas can be seen side by side at Kew Gardens; the leaf of the two plants is almost identical, the former being larger. In their wild state the trees are about the size of orange trees. The trunk is about two or three feet in circumference, and has smooth whitish bark; and the boughs, which resemble those of the laurel, are leafy and tufted. The leaves are evergreen, and at their full are about four inches long, thick, glossy, and crenate at the edges, of a dark green color above, and paler underneath. The flowers are small and white, growing in small clusters. The berries are red, very smooth, and similar to the Christmas holly. The leaves of this *Ilex* yield the same bitter principle, *Theine*, which is found in the Chinese tea plant. Although the former may not afford so much of the agreeable aromatic oil as the latter, in consequences of the careless and primitive manner in which they are collected and prepared for use, yet they produce a most agreeable and refreshing beverage, which forms the staple drink of the South American Republics, and it has been much relished by Europeans visiting those countries.

Tea-drinkers in China are weak and thin; but with mate this does not occur, and the people of the Southern Republics, where the use of mate is carried to an abuse, are robust and healthy. In cold climates mate is very good as a beverage—its promotion of diaphoresis, alleviating bronchitis and pulmonary irritations. In hot climates it is still more proper as its diuretic action favors the reduction of the abdominal viscera, especially the liver, to enlargement of which people in hot climates are very liable. As far back as the seventeenth century the *Yerba Mate* was commonly drunk throughout the State of Paraguay. There can be little doubt but that the aboriginal Indians taught the use of this tea to their Spanish conquerors, and the early Jesuit missionaries planted great numbers of these trees before their expulsion, since which time its cultivation has been neglected. The most abundant groves of the *Yerba* are situated in districts exposed to the raids of hostile Indians. Expeditions start from Asuncion to the *Yerba* groves, a distance of 200 miles, and are generally composed of forty to fifty persons, mounted on mules, having with them other mules and bullocks. On reaching a locality where the trees are abundant, wigwams are erected and the *tatacua* constructed. This consists of clearing a small space of ground, the soil of which is then beaten down with heavy mallets until it becomes quite hard and level; at the four corners of this space sticks are driven into the ground, from which a sort of net, made from strips of hide, is stretched; a fire is kindled beneath, and the leaves on the boughs, as they are brought in from the surrounding forests, are scorched by being placed on the net, care being taken that no ignition takes place.

The scorched leaves and small twigs are then ground into a coarse powder by means of a rude wooden mill—frequently stamped with blocks into dust—after which process they are ready to be weighed and put up into packages for export. Half a bullock's hide in a green state is used to form a kind of sack to hold the tea, being first sewn up at the sides. The tea is then pressed down until it is quite full, the mouth is sewn up, and the package, which usually weighs from 200 lbs. to 250lbs., is left to dry and tighten in the sun for a few days, until it becomes as hard and impervious as a stone. Such a mode of collection and preparation is indeed primitive, and the twigs impart a woody flavor to the tea, otherwise very agreeable.

The tea is made by simply pouring boiling water over the tea-dust, and allowing it to stand for a few minutes. Besides the Paraguay consumption, about 1,250,000 lbs. are taken by the Argentine Republic, and the second kind is exported round Cape Horn to the other South American Republics. We have no correct data for determining the quantity annually exported from Paraguay; but it is stated that about 8,000,000 lbs. are sent to Santa Fe and Buenos Ayres, whilst Chili consumes 40,000 arrobas (32 lbs. each) yearly, and Peru 100,000.

PRESERVATION OF TIMBER.

THE Building News gives the following valuable information: Presuming the timber has been felled at the proper time and stacked with care, and is delivered in a good state ready for the builder, the means employed to preserve it are various, and must depend in a great measure upon the nature of the work for which it is to be employed. For instance, if it is for external work of a common character, the best preservative is to well paint it, and, while still wet, strew it with sand, and, as soon as the paint has perished, repaint it. For posts and piles exposed to the action of moisture in a great degree, the best means is to char the wood, as it then in a measure becomes incorruptible.

Simple advises scorching the wood all over, and, while still hot, rubbing it with linseed oil and tar; the scorching can be effected by passing over the timber a powerful flame produced by coal gas and a blow pipe. As a preservative against worms nothing can be done better than to saturate the wood with any of the oils. As to the patent methods for the preservation of timber, there is one by Kyan, patented in 1832, which consists in impregnating the timber with corrosive sublimate, and another of a similar kind patented by Payne in 1841. The best preservative for timber I can recommend is (after having obtained the best seasoned, and when worked for the various purposes required), for it to be well rubbed with oil, and, when framing it in its place in the carcase of the building, taking care to keep it as much as possible from the masonry, and allowing the circulation of plenty of air without being liable to action of the weather, and when the carcase is complete, allowing it to stand as long as possible before the timbers are covered in, so that they may have as it were, a second seasoning.

Wet and dry rots are two forms of decay which attack timbers exposed to the action of the weather, and the cause of both may be said to be heat with moisture. Confined air and evaporation wet-rot. As a preventive against these rots the timber should be well seasoned, and if used where liable to be under the influence of sun and rain, should be well painted. If not painted they must be impregnated with linseed or oil of tar; but the best preventive is to allow a free circulation of air around the timbers, and the walls to be allowed to dry thoroughly before the introduction of the timbers. Should the timbers have taken either of these rots very little can be done to preserve them. If the rot is perceived to be at the end of beams only—and here it generally commences—the best way to preserve the rest of the timbers would be to cut away the

decayed portion and scarf with sound. Should this not be practicable, the wood should be scraped and cleaned of all fungus or extraneous matter, and then impregnated with any of the oils, or some of the patent methods referred to above.

COMMERCE IN DATES.

Mr. Witherby, in his "Report on Dried Fruits" shown in the food collection at the London Exhibition, 1873, observes—"The date is sent to us by thousands of tons, supplying material for food, for distilling, and for confectionery purposes. It is the delight of the schoolboy, the competitor of nuts at country fairs, and the *piece de resistance* of the London street stall in the winter and spring, when no fresh fruits are attainable. Dates prove what can be done with a fruit free from all Custom's restrictions, for they are free, untaxed produce of the earth, delivered to our consumers with no charges on them beyond freight and a moderate profit to merchants."

The date is the special tree of the Saharan regions. Its constitution temperament, and habits particularly suit it to the African climate, which is especially characterized by the deficiency of rain and the digressions of temperature. Its fruit is the source of sustenance for the nomad or sedentary people, white or black, scattered over its immense countries. The dates, after having been gathered, are dried in the sun, and when quite hard, buried in the sand. They may thus be preserved about two years; but generally after eighteen months they are attacked by worms, and in the beginning of the third year nothing remains of them save the stones. As an every-day food, dates are considered very heating, in consequence of which they are not much used on journeys, as causing great thirst. The most relishing and wholesome way to eat them is when made into a paste mixed with barley.

The date palm, cultivated and attended to from time immemorial, has produced in the hands of the natives as many varieties as our most carefully cultivated fruit-trees. There are reckoned not less than ninety varieties of dates in the Zibans. The different dates are of almost every color except pure white and black. There are not, as is the case with our apples and pears, early and late sorts, but all arrive at maturity about the same period (restricted to within a fortnight), which falls in Fezzan about the latter part of August. The fruit is the common food of both man and beast; camels, horses, dogs—all eat dates. Besides the dates destined for home consumption in the country, dates of a superior quality are gathered, and, being prepared with great care, fetch a higher price in the markets of Europe.

ARTIFICIAL DIAMONDS.

Many pastes have been devised for the preparation of these beautiful stones. None have been able in their products to equal the natural diamond in hardness and brilliancy; but nevertheless, to an unpracticed eye, the imitation is so perfect that the difference cannot be distinguished. The following formula for making a diamond paste is said to be one that gives the most satisfactory result. It is called Loysel's paste:

Take pure silica	100	parts.
Red oxide of lead	150	"
Potash, calcined	30	"
Borax, calcined	10	"
Arsenious acid	1	"

This produces a paste which has great brilliancy and refractive and dispersive powers, and also a specific gravity similar to that of the oriental diamond. It fuses at a moderate heat, and acquires the greatest brilliancy when remelted and kept for two or three days in a fused state, in order to expel the superabundant alkali and perfect the refining. This paste is used not only to produce factitious diamonds, but other factitious gems besides, of which it forms the basis.

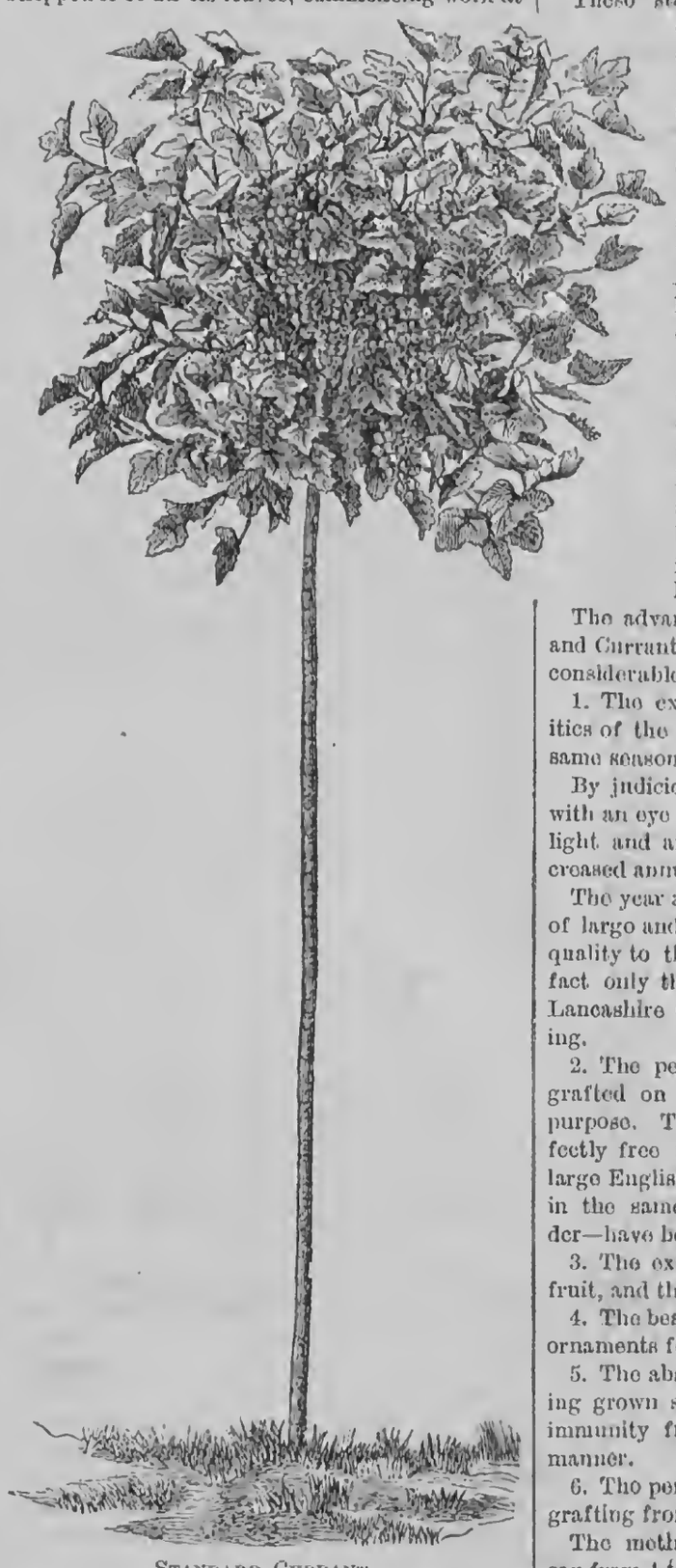
Entomological.

LEAF-EATING ANTS OF TEXAS.

Having received some time since specimens of a peculiar-looking ant from one of our esteemed correspondents in Comal Co., Texas, we wrote him, asking for notes on their habits, and the following is his reply, which we think will interest our readers as it has ourselves:

As it is your wish that I should relate what I know of the Leaf-eating Ants, I shall do so. These ants differ from all others that I have seen, in that there is such a difference in their size. I have seen them from an eighth of an inch to nearly three-quarters of an inch in length. The latter have a horny substance on their heads, which, if one tries to kill them with the fingers, is sure to prick the skin and give a sharp pain.

All the ants, even the least, are engaged in foraging or in opening passages, except the largest, which appear to be overseers or taskmasters, for when the smaller ants are foraging, they (the larger ones) are continually hurrying up the bearers of burdens. I have on several occasions seen the larger ants carry large grains of corn, but this was only because the burden was too heavy for the smaller ones to carry. Sometimes they work only in the day-time, and then again only in the night. I have a large China tree in my yard, and two years ago they stripped it of all its leaves, commencing work at



Standard Currant.

dusk and quitting at break of day. They are particularly fond of peach leaves. I have seen them on oak, pecan, hackberry, etc. They are also very fond of pinks, and will shear a plant in a very short time. Wheat is also a desirable article of food with them. I had some in a box in the upper part of my house. They found it out and soon had a large force at work, but I stopped it by devoting an hour's time to them, killing all goers and comers.

These ants are numerous along the river, in places where the subsoil consists of yellow clay. Their nests can be seen at a considerable distance. The little hillocks of yellow clay attract the attention of even a careless passer-by.

There are two nests in my field—one an old one, the other new. They are, together, thirty feet in diameter. The heap of clay that the ants have brought to the surface is a foot and over in hight. When it is not raining, there is constant work going on at the numerous holes in the mounds, thousands of ants being on the run carrying out little lumps of clay and depositing them a few inches from the holes. Those who go foraging neither go out nor come in at the holes over the mound, but at holes some distance from it. These are openings about the size of a dime and have no clay about them. I have seen such holes more than a hundred yards from the mound. What the depth and extent of these nests may be, I have no idea, but, judging by the mass of clay that lies on the surface, they must be of considerable extent. The crust on the surface is about two feet thick, as is shown by old nests that have caved in. Such a nest caved in in my pasture, and fearing that some animal might in the night fall in and break its leg or neck, I had it filled up with stones. It took a load and a half to fill the cavity.

Another ant that we have here does not injure trees, but everything in the plant line is carefully removed for some distance around its hole. No grass, grain, cotton, or corn is suffered to grow. These spots vary in size, being from three feet to eight feet in diameter. The ants, old and young, are nearly all of one size. I have tried various means to rid myself of these pests, but thus far boiling water is the best. For want of the right name, I shall call these "The Shavers." John A. Frichele.

The Garden.

THE STANDARD GOOSEBERRIES AND CURRANTS.

It is now about twelve years since the method of grafting Gooseberries and Currants as standards has come into general use in Europe, since which time these have been steadily increasing in public favor.

These standards have been tested in this country for the last seven years, in different parts of Hudson County, N. J., with the most satisfactory results, not a single case of mildew having occurred during the time stated.

The first plants of these standards, as the Rural has already stated, were imported to this country by Dr. Chas. Siedhof of North Hoboken, N. J., who has gradually increased the original six to fifty.

In '69 I went to Germany to attend the Pomological Institute of Dr. Lucas, at Reutlingen, and there saw these standards for the first time. Knowing the interest Dr. S. took in such matters, I immediately wrote him about them, the result being an immediate order from Dr. S. for half-a-dozen of them.

The advantages of growing the Gooseberry and Currant as a standard are numerous and of considerable importance.

1. The extraordinary and early-bearing qualities of the plants, they very often bearing the same season they are set out.

By judicious treatment, pruning especially, with an eye to keeping the heads well open to light and air, the crops may be materially increased annually.

The year after planting they yield a good crop of large and showy fruit, fully equal in size and quality to the famed berries of England, for in fact only the best and finest varieties of the Lancashire Gooseberries are selected for grafting.

2. The perfect immunity from mildew when grafted on the stock employed by us for this purpose. These "Standards" have been perfectly free from mildew, while plants of the large English Gooseberries grown low as bushes in the same garden—in fact, on the same border—have been badly affected by it.

3. The extraordinary size and beauty of the fruit, and the excellent quality of the same.

4. The beauty and usefulness of the plants as ornaments for garden or lawn.

5. The absolute cleanliness of the fruit, it being grown so high above the ground and its immunity from sunscald when grown in this manner.

6. The perfect immunity of the stock used for grafting from the attacks of the borer.

The method of grafting high as a standard, say from 4 to 6 feet, does away with and entirely supersedes the old method of training up a shoot to the desired hight to form a small standard, and then, when you think you have succeeded at last, have all your labor and care lost through the ravages of the borer, as the latter attacks the current stem especially, and thus, of course, ruins the tree.

The stock employed for grafting is *Ribes aureum*, the Missouri Currant. The stocks are grown by stooling, and at two years' of age they are fit for grafting. They are removed from the stools, potted, or wrapped in balls of moss, fastened with wire, and kept in a cold-frame till about the holidays, when they are removed to a cool house, and then forced very gradually, being kept rather dark.

As soon as they start readily they are ready for grafting, and then are given full light and a little more heat.

At this time, and especially as the grafts start, a sprinkling with tepid water proves beneficial—in fact, it is necessary—but at no time should the plants be kept too moist.

The method of grafting employed is the American whip-graft, and for heavy stocks, the ordinary cleft-graft.

By pinching the stocks in season when they have acquired the necessary hight, we obtain branched heads, and so are enabled to set several grafts on one plant; for instance, both Currants and Gooseberries, or several varieties of either.

As soon as they have made a good growth, they are again removed to a cool house and gradually hardened off. By spring they are either plunged or planted in nursery rooms, being salable by the ensuing fall.

The ease with which the fruit can be picked and handled from these standards is a very great advantage, the disagreeable labor of picking the fruit from the low bushes having until now been a great drawback in the culture of the Gooseberry.

We have a border planted with these standards which at the same time does duty as a strawberry border with excellent results. So there is a chance of two crops at the same time.

They require good land, liberal manuring (top-dressing), and a cool or not too hot situation. Mulching would prove of great benefit.

We have grown and exhibited Gooseberries on these standards 3½ to 3¾ inches in circumference, weighing 1½ to 1¾ ounces each, not "strawberries," as grown in England, for the plants were liberally loaded with fruit.

The standard should, of course, be well staked and tied, the stakes reaching well up to the head, the ties to be strong and secure to prevent chafing.

The plants (standards, thirty in all) that we exhibited at the Centennial in the rear of Horticultural Hall, were planted on the 10th of April, grew well in every instance, and ripened fine crops of large and showy fruit, without receiving any special care whatever, as regards watering or mulching.

N. B.—The grafts are wrapped with waxed paper, which we prefer to any other material in this instance. Albert Kuhn.

Hoboken, N. J.

[An engraving of [the] Standard Gooseberry has already been published. The accompanying sketch of the Standard Currant appears for the first time.—Ed.]

The Wild and Cultivated Carrot.—Mr. H. Hoffman, a German experimenter, among trials to show the constancy of certain characteristics of plants found that the cultivated carrot and the wild form fully established their identity, which, however, few people, we imagine, would have disputed.

Sheep Husbandry.

NORTH CAROLINA NOTES.

In a country where more dogs than sheep are kept it seems presumptuous to attempt the breeding of the latter for profit, still I have a plan which I offer for the consideration of Southern farmers:

First. There can, as I believe, be no stock better adapted to the improvement of these lands; besides enriching the soil they prove themselves efficient aids in the subjugation of blackberry bushes and the many other troublesome plants which so soon take possession of the old fields when thrown out of cultivation, whether seeded to grass and clover or not, while at the same time they are paying their way in wool and lambs. The climate is such that very little feeding is required except when fattening for market in the winter. Also lambs dropped two months earlier than they usually are five hundred miles farther north, would be in condition for market correspondingly early when prices usually are better.

Within the circle of my limited acquaintance can be counted scores of farms on which from one to a dozen worthless cur-dogs are supported but not one sheep. Those few farmers who do keep sheep tell me the dogs seldom trouble them, and that the percentage of loss from that cause is very light. No doubt if there were more sheep, the less would be heavier. As a remedy for this difficulty the sheep should be enclosed at night inside a dog-proof fence, which may be made of posts and boards 4½ or 5 feet high letting the posts project 4 inches above the boarding. Spike to top of each post, at an angle of 45 degrees, a piece of 2 by 4 scantling about 2½ feet long, extending outward. Board these up the same as the posts, then with a lock on the gate it would be thief-proof too. Could such a fence be made portable the additional advantage of enriching several plots of ground in one season would be gained. Will you or some of your readers suggest something better?

Nearly all the sheep that I have seen here are such as were found in all parts of the country thirty years ago, coarse, light wool, none on the face or legs and very little on the belly, long-legged and good jumpers. Now I would like the opinions of some of your old and experienced breeders as to the policy of breeding ewes of the progeny of this description to pure breed Merino rams until the flock is bred up to a grade of say three-fourths Merino, thereby getting a good carcass, strong constitution and more and better wool; then, providing the demand for mutton and long wool continues as it has been for a few years past, discard the Merino rams and use Cotswolds or Shropshires.

Snow fell here all Thanksgiving day but melted so fast that it only accumulated about two inches. Since then until to-day, (Dec. 7), we have had what is considered very cold weather here, the thermometer indicating 19° above Zero on the morning of the second, which is said by old residents, not to have occurred so early in the season before in fifteen years. M. B. Prince.

Ridgeway, N. C.

Floricultural.

MINUTE HOT-HOUSE DIRECTIONS.

GATHERED FROM CURRENT BUNSBY FLORICULTURAL LITERATURE AND INTERPRETED

BY AN OLD GARDENER.

Plants love sunshine. The reason why they love sunshine is because it sharpens up their appetites and at the same time provides them with their dinners. This is a selfish sort of love on the part of plants—but sunshine is benevolent and knows full well that plants could not get on without its aid; that the carbonic acid which they imbibe would destroy them if its oxygen were not released; that their leaves would be white; that they could produce no progeny and would soon become extinct. And so sunshine, knowing the helplessness of plants, smiles upon them without inquiring whether they appreciate it or not. Plants ought to be grateful, certainly. But very little is known as to their sense of moral obligations.

Plants should have plenty of sunshine, and they need it most when the days are dark and gloomy.

Give your cats plenty of milk, that they may not enter the conservatory in pursuit of water or food and upset the plants. The same may be said of other animals—varying the food to suit their tastes—such as mice, rats, insects.

Flowering is a highly exhaustive process. At this most trying period of their existence plants need *stimulants*—the only period, indeed, when they fall into the jolly habits of many men, some women, and a few boys, and cannot control their appetites. *Pelargoniums, Epiphyllums, Aphelandras, Cinerarias, Echeverias*, etc., etc., will be coming into bloom sooner or later. Less patience is, therefore, required in the former than in the latter case.

When you have visitors, always take for granted that they are as much interested in the subject as you are and talk about nothing else but flowers. Show all you have—not in a hurried manner, but deliberately—and tell their histories and give their Latin names. In this way you may acquire a flow of floral language and your visitors may be taught the virtue of patience.

As a tea-kettle will not boil, so flowers will not bloom so soon if watched. While this singular phenomenon has never (I believe) been explained in the instance of the tea-kettle, in the instance of flowers it has been shown that—but I am at this moment reminded that I must not anticipate an exhaustive work upon this subject by Mr. Charles Darwin or Mr. Thomas Meehan (I have the names so mixed up in my mind that I cannot for the life of me tell which) that in point of infinitesimal research will quite eclipse anything previously recorded by those or other microscopical observers.

The quantity of water needed by different plants and the times of watering depend upon many intricate phenomena which cannot be here noticed. It is easier to determine this in plants with normal appetites and in vigorous health than in those which have led a pampered, intemperate, abnormal existence. An exact knowledge of the laws of introsusception, immiscibility, phytotomy and morphology is indispensable in either case. Floricultural books and periodicals tell us that when very dry they need more water than when very wet, and that when very wet they do not need to be watered. This may be true enough in general practice, but no fixed rules can be written suited to individuals, and people *must* be guided by the most observant experience and inveterate study.

When leaves fall off—*something* is wrong. The first thing to be done is to find out what it is that is wrong and then remedy it.

When the pot is too small for the plant, or, what is nearly the same thing, when the plant is too big for the pot—it may be placed in a size larger. Then it will not feel so much cramped as before. It is thought that plants—like men of business—do not like to be cramped. The great difference is that men cannot always find somebody to supply a pot "one size larger."

Look out for red spider. A way to keep them within bounds is to go over the plants every day with a microscope and kill, with the thumb and finger, every one you see. This, of course, will require time. It will require more or less time as the collection is small or great. If the collection consist of but one plant, it will take one hundred times less time than if the collection consist of one hundred plants.

Various remedies for aphides, mealy-bug, etc., are proposed by experts. I have noticed alcohol, turpentine, carbolic acid, sulphur, hellebore, nitric acid, sulphuric acid, tobacco, salt, and two hundred others. I have not tried them all, and cannot speak from experience. I should think, however, that if all of them were "judiciously" mixed together in a reservoir and the plants submerged therein that an effect would be produced upon them which would guide the operator advantageously in his future experiments.

It may puzzle the reader who has a considerable collection of plants to minutely attend to the above and to many other essential operations which the floricultural journals weekly record, requiring, as such attention would, more time in every day than there is in the day. This has always puzzled me.

MISCELLANEA.

Zebra striped Eulalia.—The American Agriculturist gives a fine cut of *Eulalia Japonica Zebrina*, a beautiful, transversely-striped Grass sent to this country by Mr. Thomas Hogg from Japan.

That variegation should be deemed a disease at all is, we believe, one of those vagaries that sometimes creep into the heads of scientific men. As "the circulation of the juices of the leaf must take place in a lengthwise direction," the A. A. reasons that this plant, whose variegation is transverse, must present a puzzling problem to those who believe in the disease theory, "since the nutriment for each green portion of the leaf must pass through one of the colored sections."

The Pelargonium Happy Thought should prove no less puzzling. This plant is as vigorous as any other Pelargonium. Cuttings from it strike as easily as those of any other—and yet the disc is a creamy-white, and the veins which carry nutriment to the green margin must, of course, traverse it afterward.

When nothing whatever is known respecting the cause of certain phenomena, why not say so? But it seems that one theory, however absurd, is good until another is advanced, and that the rule is—a silly theory is better than none. If we look back upon the egregious blunders that have been made from building superstructures upon imaginary foundations, it would seem that *no* theory is far better than a senseless one, and that scientific men cannot afford to be scientifically ingenious at the expense of common sense.

If it is true, alas! that variegation in plants is a disease, what should disturb us most is that the present rage for variegated plants and consequent propagation of them, to the neglect of the healthy, unvariegated sorts, can be considered in no other light than a cruelty to vegetables; and that the lovers of flowers, whose sensibilities are supposed to have been softened and refined by this fondness, have encouraged the increase and spread of this "malady," and that societies for its prevention have not sprung up everywhere, are sad evidences of the general depravity of man and womankind.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS' LETTERS.

The Rural's Exchange.—I wish to express my thanks to the Rural for its liberal offer of Oct. 7. I received nine letters containing a *great* many seeds, and they were all *nice* varieties.

Many in their letters expressed their gratitude to the Rural for opening a way for us flower-lovers to become acquainted. I wish I had something rare to send you.

I intend to plant Rose and Dahlia seeds in the spring.

I have watched everything in the Rural pertaining to plants or trees; seen the different letters telling about raising new varieties from seeds, and I will be glad to tell you if I succeed well.

I have raised several beautiful Pansies and Daisies from seed, and have found they grow much larger if the ground be kept loose and mellow and then watered often.—M. A. R., *Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co., W. T.*

Liquidambar for Rustic Work.—I have been wondering for some time why I have never seen any rustic work made of the branches of the Liquidambar, which grows so plentifully here. I now have some branches hanging on my walls that are quite ornamental as well as curious to those unaccustomed to seeing such every day.—M. B. P., *Ridgeway, N. C.*

Tritoma Uvaria.—I have one of these plants which was set out last spring and began to bloom in September. It is now (Dec. 5) in bloom, although we have had in this section quite cold and freezing weather for more than a week. The ice over the Potomac River was about three inches thick yesterday.—J. W. H., *Cumberland, Md.*

NOTES.

Color.—As illustrative of the widely different views held by individuals as to the shades of color, the Gardeners' Chronicle mentions an instance of a few common Dahlias having been shown to thirty-four different persons. Thirteen different names of supposed shades of color were given. One of the flowers, moreover, had been placed before a family and friends comprised of eleven people, and these, though related by blood, education, etc., were by no means unanimous, for in the written answers seven various names of the color were used. Some attribute such facts as due to color blindness; but the truth possibly lies in the fact that with most persons there is no very clear appreciation or standard of names and shades of color.

Anthuriums.—Few plants are more showy for conservatory decoration than these. *A. Scherzerianum* is one of the best. The spathe lasts for months. *A. S. Williamsi*, a novelty, forms with it a fine contrast. Its habit is the same, but the spathe is pure white and the spadix a pale lemon color.

Buttonhole Bouquets.—At a recent banquet of the Lord Mayor of London, one thousand of these were provided—one for each guest. Are we to suppose that the Lord Mayor of London "buttonholed" every one of his guests?

Golden Pyrethrum—Is it Poisonous?—A correspondent of the Gardeners' Chronicle of London mentions the fact that two bucks were found dead in a certain park and that a post-mortem examination gave proofs that they were killed by having eaten the Golden Feather Pyrethrum. Thus warned, we should beware of this favorite bedding plant.

Rose Elections.—Our readers may or may not be aware that Rose Elections are held in England for the purpose of ascertaining by the votes of experienced Rose growers those Roses which are held in highest esteem. We give the first twenty of the last election, the comparative merits of which are indicated by the numbers:

1 to 4, Marechal Niel, Alfred Colomb, Marie Baumann, Baronne de Rothschild; 5, Charles Lefebvre; 6, Etienne Levet; 7, La France; 8, Louis Van Houtte; 9, Marquis de Castellane; 10, Duke of Edinburgh; 11, Madame Victor Verdier; 12, Comtesse d'Oxford; 13, John Hopper; 14, Devoniensis; 15, Catherine Mermet; 16, Senateur Vaisse; 17, Xavier Olibo; 18, Francois Michelon; 19, Horace Vernet; 20, Mdlle. Eugenie Verdier.

Arboricultural.

THE CALIIFORNIA CHESTNUT.

We had often heard of the California chestnut, says the Sonoma Democrat, but did not believe in its existence. Traveling recently in northern Mendocino county, just after leaving Willetsville, our attention was attracted by a magnificent tree near the roadside, which we at once recognized as the chestnut, of which we had often heard but had never before seen on this coast. Fortunately, though we were not then aware of it, Dr. A. Kellogg, a botanist of San Francisco, was a fellow passenger. He had often visited that part of the State before, and was perfectly familiar with the tree and its habits. He kindly consented to give us a written description for publication, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers the letter of the accomplished gentleman, on one of the most beautiful productions of our California forests:

Meeting as traveling companions on the stage route from Little Lake to Cahto, the writer was highly gratified to find a stranger so justly appreciative of the elegant beauty, symmetry and grandeur of our golden-leaf evergreen chestnut (formerly *Castanea chrysophylla*, now *Castanopsis chrysophylla*).

The title of golden-leafed chestnut—as the suggestive name implies—is derived from the observation that when stirred by the breeze, the otherwise dark, glossy-green, laurel-like leaves turn their under surface to the sun, reflecting a softened sheen of gold, lighting up its face with a cheerful smile against the somewhat somber background of green; also the young and tender twigs, with their vernal foliage clad in yellow velvet, hold the attention effectually and steadily to its true ideal characteristic feature. This latter quality, seen from a distance in the spring season of a year, awakens a charming illusion as if the beholder were viewing a magnificent evergreen tree clad in golden bloom. Another California forest tree—and we have many such—occurs to me as I write, showing this illusive feature, to the eye more ornamental than the never-changing foliage, shrubs and trees, the sickly work of men's hands; we allude to the dense-flowered chestnut-oak, tanbark oak of the forest vandals (*Quercus densiflorus*). In this oak, the young twiggy tufts are an almost pure velvety white against a lighter green background. This, like the other trees, is a very choice landscape ornament, simulating it in flower, foliage, and often in general symmetrical outline, though of somewhat more open and spreading habit. It is an evergreen, and claims close botanical alliance with the chestnut. The one bears a prickly chestnut burr with hard-shelled and sub-triangular sweet nuts; the other, or oak, has the mossy cup and large well-known acorn. But to return from this digression, which was deemed advisable by way of contrast, as so many are apt to confound the two trees, which leads to confusion, and may lead to controversy.

The huge dimensions of this tree struck you with some surprise. Trees, five to six feet in diameter, 40 to 80 clean trim bark, 100 to 150 feet high, and such a magnificent ornamental shade and shelter for certain fog-line localities of this State, and for foreign climate generally! Besides, for valuable timber, the wood splits traight and as readily as its Eastern cousin, is soft and is easy to work; but becomes very hard when dry from age. As seasoned stuff, it plains and polishes remarkably smooth, and is valuable when stained for the finest cabinet work; is very tough, and valuable to the wheelwright. Your expressed desire to aid in the diffusion of useful intelligence, even in the midst of an exciting political canvass, is itself prophetic of the "good time coming." If the attention of the public is often invited to these objects, we may reasonably hope during the next century that some progress in due appreciation may result. The popular press is the best of all educators, and the duty of the local representatives is best fulfilled by aiding and directing us in every way that develops our home resources, adds to the delight which all, more or less, experience in viewing forests and fields and all the more beautiful objects of the landscape.

It seemed needless to add, the nuts are among the articles used as food by the Indians of this coast. This tree, in some localities, dwindles down to a paltry bush, bearing fruit on its top when barely a foot high to as high as your head. It goes under the half-borrowed Southern Atlantic name, with the local prefix of California, chinquapin chestnut, which is said to be of the same species as the large tree you beheld.

THAT METHOD.

Our readers will remember our allusion to a remarkable method of propagating trees and shrubs which was by its simplicity to upset all other known processes. The gentleman Mr. Bachratz an Austrian nurseryman first offered his secret for a small sum and finally, we believe, communicated it gratis in an article to the Wiener Gartenfreund. The Gardener's Chronicle epitomizes it thus:

Cuttings of shrubs and trees are taken off at the beginning of July, from 6 or 7 to 12 inches long, according to the kind. The leaves are removed from the lower portion which is to enter the ground, but those which will come above-ground are attached. Beds are prepared for them in the open air by thorough digging and leveling, and afterwards applying a superficial layer, about 2 inches thick, of rotten dung from a spent hotbed. The cuttings are then stuck in about 2 inches apart and in a somewhat oblique direction. Each bed when filled is surrounded with a lath fence, so that shade may be given when the sun is very hot, and the cuttings are well watered in with a rose-spouted can. This completes the operation. The only further care necessary is a sprinkling overhead three or four times a day during the first week, if the weather be very hot, and once a day afterwards. In the course of five or six weeks, treated in the manner indicated, the cuttings of most things will have formed a callus, and further shading will be unnecessary.

Late in the autumn a layer of rough dung, 2 or 3 inches thick, is spread over for winter protection. It also serves as manure when the cuttings start growing in the spring; and cuttings treated thus make extraordinary growth—in fact, plants equal to two-year-old plants from winter or spring cuttings. Very few, it is asserted, fail. This plan would doubtless succeed very well in this country, and indeed it is practiced in the case of the common Laurel and some few other things. The new method of grafting Roses is the insertion of growing eyes early in spring, instead of dormant eyes in the summer. They are inserted in the main stem one on each side, to form symmetrical heads. These make, it is said, as much growth the first season as the dormant eyes the second season.

Around the Republic.

RIVERS AND DEEP CANYONS.

The wearing away of the earth by the action of streams is familiar to all, says the Pacific Rural Press; but the vastness of this influence in modifying the surface of the earth is rarely appreciated, except by the professed geologist. In passing across the continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the regularly increased evidence of this action is noticeable at almost every stage of progress. It is not, however, until the traveler has passed the crest of the Rocky Mountains, that he beholds the most extraordinary phenomena of this description. Very deep canyons are comparatively rare east of those mountains, while they become the almost invariable rule to the west of them. Two

of the most remarkable instances of this character are, perhaps, the Black Rock canyon, on the route from the Great Bend of the Humboldt to Goose lake and Oregon, and the still more famous canyon of the Colorado. This latter is rightly considered the most remarkable depression, or rather excavation, of the kind in the world. It has never been properly understood or appreciated, until the appearance of Powell's report on the subject, published lately by the Government. The land of this region is an elevated plateau, and for many miles the Colorado flows through it, in a narrow channel, 6,000 feet below the plateau!

Throughout the entire western flank of the Sierra Nevada, the principal rivers, in the upper portion of their course, have generally cut their way down from 2,000 to 4,000 feet in depth, with banks upon either side rising at an angle of from 35 deg. to 45 deg. with the plane of the river. It has been supposed by many that these channels were formed before the rocks had become so much indurated as to prevent any very serious obstacle to their being worn away. But such could not have been the case, as we find that before the present river courses had an existence, there was another system of rivers, running at almost right angles with the present water courses. In excavating into the beds of these ancient rivers, as the miners are now doing in thousands of places, we find most unmistakable evidences that even they flowed over the country after the country had become fully as much indurated as it now is. The upper branches of the American River have, in some places, worn their way 3,000 feet below the beds of these ancient streams. In almost every part of our mountains this characteristic is manifest, even to the most casual observer, although it is difficult to imagine the forces and time required to have accomplished such results.

SOUTH FLORIDA.

Those of our readers who may contemplate visiting Florida the present winter will be interested in the following from the Tampa Guardian:

The prospect of South Florida's improvement is now more flattering than ever before, its rich resources being better understood by Northern people seeking homes in a congenial climate. They now begin to understand that the lower Gulf counties possess advantages vastly superior to their sister counties, by being in winter directly under the influence of the warm breezes from the Gulf Stream and protected from the cold winds from the North by the forests. Here in those counties are found the richest lands of the State, particularly adapted to the growth of tropical and semi-tropical fruits, corn, rice, sugar-cane, potatoes, ground peas, tapioca, vegetables of all kinds, and the finest staples of Sea Island cotton and silk. Large bodies of very rich lands may be had in any of the above counties, in lots of 160 acres, under the Homestead act. Thousands of persons will probably settle in the Gulf counties of South Florida this fall and winter.

Domestic Economy.

ALL ABOUT TAPIOCA.

What the Wheat plant is to the inhabitants of cold climates, the Cassava plant is to those of the Tropics. From the Cassava root is manufactured the Tapioca of commerce, and how it is done, and the great value of the plant is pleasantly told by H. F. A. Pinckney in a late number of the American Grocer, from which we condense the following:

The plant from which Tapioca is obtained is a native of South America, and is cultivated extensively in Brazil, as also in many parts of the East Indies and the Indian Archipelago. It is a woody plant, with slender stalks, and grows to the hight of about eight feet, and is known as the Cassava or Mandioc plant. It has smooth, palm-shaped leaves, and bears small, green flowers, which grow in clusters, with an immense sized, fleshy root, sometimes weighing as much as 40 or 50 pounds. The plant belongs to a highly poisonous tribe, and is itself one of the most virulent of the species. This poison is found more particularly in the juice of the plant, a small quantity killing birds, quadrupeds, and even man himself, causing cold perspirations, great swelling and convulsions, generally ending in death; but this deleterious substance is so highly volatile if exposed to heat, or even the open air for about two days, that its property is entirely dissipated.

The root from which Tapioca is procured is of rapid growth and comes to perfection in six months, and somewhat resembles a huge parsnip. It is then taken up and washed, and the rind, which is of a dark color, peeled off; then grated or ground into a pulp, and the pulp submitted to pressure, by which the juice is expressed and preserved. The meat or pulp that remains in the press, being dried, is called conaque, and is made into bread or cake, which is called cassava bread. The expressed juice, being allowed to stand, deposits a white powder, which, after being well washed and dried, constitutes what is called Tapioca flour or Brazilian arrowroot, and by the French, moussache. All the products of the root are nutritious and easy of digestion. The natives frequently ferment the expressed juice with molasses and form an intoxicating beverage called onycan, that supplies the place of wine and beer of the the temperate climate.

There are nine different species enumerated by botanists, but two only of which are cultivated for human food; they are known as the bitter cassava and the sweet cassava. The two roots are very similar, the first by far the most poisonous, the only perceptible difference between the roots being a tough ligneous cord running through the center of the sweet cassava root, which the bitter variety is wholly without.

Bread is made of both kinds, which is palatable and wholesome. In Guiana the mode of preparation is as follows:—The root is rasped in large tins or wooden graters fixed on benches, behind which the women employed in making it stand in rows. A sufficient quantity being rasped for one time (for the surplus would ferment and spoil), it is put in long, circular baskets of plaited rushes, about ten feet long and ten inches in diameter, called manigueras. These are hung up with weights attached, which draw the plaited work together, thus squeezing out the juice. When all the fluid is extracted, the manigueras are emptied of their contents on raw hides laid out in the sun, where the coarse flour soon dries. It is then baked on smooth plates, made of dry clay, with a slow fire beneath. This is the most difficult part of the process. The coarse flour is laid perfectly dry on the hot plates, when the women, with a dexterity only to be acquired by practice, spread it out in a round and very thin layer, nearly the size of the plate it is laid on. This they do merely with a piece of calabash, which they keep in constant motion, pressing gently every part of the surface until the heat has united the meal into a cake, without in the least altering the color or scorching it. Their method of turning a cassava cake of that size is like sleight-of-hand, for they effect it with two pieces of split cane without breaking it, though scarcely as thick as a dollar, and as yet only half cemented together and of a substance always brittle, especially when warmed.

This cake is very nourishing and will melt to a jelly in a liquid. After becoming cold it is broken up and is the Tapioca of commerce, but it is dangerous if eaten in any large quantity when dry, as it swells, on being moistened, to many times its original bulk. It will keep good for any length of time if kept in a dry place. The Eastern Tapioca is generally packed in bags of 100 pounds each, but that of South America, and commercially known as Rio Tapioca, is generally packed in barrels of about 200 pounds weight, and is considered far superior in quality; consequently it commands a much higher price.

YELLOW-COVERED CINCINNATI HAMS.

Prof. Bouchardat, one of the members of the Parisian Council of Hygiene, has recently called public attention to some of the foreign preserved meats imported into France as being unfit for human food, and in many cases positively dangerous. He refers especially to a kind of ham imported from Cincinnati, which is usually enveloped in a cloth saturated with a yellow substance, which, on examination, proved to be chromate of lead—a ready poison. The Professor suggests that if the American purveyors prefer to have a yellow envelope around the alimentary substances they export, the chromate of lead may be replaced by any other yellow substance — turmeric, for instance, which is known to be entirely harmless.

A Recipe for Marble Cake Wanted.—Will some reader of your most valuable paper please give through its columns the best recipe for marble cake and greatly oblige a constant reader? —Estelle.

SELECTED RECIPES.

Plain Plum Pudding.—One pound of chopped raisins; one cup of suet, or butter; one cup of milk; one cup of molasses; four cups of flour; one-half teaspoon of soda. Mix well and boil four or five hours.

A Christmas Plum Pudding. — Take one pound and a half of raisins, the same quantity of currants, the same of grated bread rubbed fine through a colander; one pound of chopped suet, half a pound of citron, one lemon chopped fine, one grated nutmeg, one teaspoonful of ground cinnamon, half a pound of brown sugar, one teacupful of flour, six eggs well beaten, a glass or two of brandy, a little salt, and as much milk as will make it the proper consistency. Put the mixture into a buttered mold and tie over with a cloth. Boil four or five hours. Send to the table with brandy sauce. The water must boil before the pudding is put in, and should be kept boiling all the time, or the pudding will not be light.

Cottage Christmas Pudding.—A pound and a quarter of flour, fourteen ounces of suet, a pound and a quarter of stoned raisins, four ounces of currants, five ounces of sugar, a quarter of a pound of potatoes smoothly mashed, half a nutmeg, a quarter teaspoonful of ginger, the same of salt and of ground cloves. Mix those ingredients thoroughly, add four well-beaten eggs, with a quarter pint of milk; tie the mixture in a well-floured cloth and boil it four hours. Serve with brandy sauce.

Orange Snow-Balls.—Wash well half a pound of rice; put it into plenty of water; boil it quickly for ten minutes; drain and let it cool. Pare four large oranges and clear from them entirely the thick white inner skin; spread the rice, in as many equal portions as there are oranges, upon some pudding cloths; inclose an orange in each, tie up, and boil the snow-balls for an hour; turn them carefully on to a dish, and strew plenty of sifted sugar over them.

Apple Snow-Balls.—Pare and core some nice, tart apples, without dividing them. Prepare the rice as in the foregoing recipe, inclose the apples in the rice, and boil them for an hour. Serve with butter and sugar stirred to a cream, with any flavoring agreeable.

To Boil Pigs' Feet to Fry.—Scrape, singe and wash the feet through several waters. Put them on to boil, with two or three tablespoonfuls of salt, according to the number of feet. When very tender, take them out of the water, place them on a dish, draw out all of the large bones, and then let them cool. Season them with salt and pepper, roll them in corn meal, and fry a nice brown. When about half fried, add a little vinegar; when done, place them on a dish, pour the gravy over, and send them to the table very hot.

Soused Pigs' Feet.—Clean thoroughly, put them into hot, salted water, sufficient to cover them, and let them boil slowly until perfectly tender. When done and cool, cut the feet apart, remove the large bones, put them into stone or glass jars, and cover with good cider vinegar, to which add a few cloves, two or three dozen grains of allspice, and two small red peppers, cut fine.

Roast Partridge.—Dress and singe them; fill the bodies with a stuffing of bread crumbs, seasoned only with pepper, salt and butter; put some cold stock or gravy into the pan and baste frequently; three-quarters of an hour will cook them. Serve with gravy, enriched with some good, game sauce, with mashed potatoes and jelly.

Partridge Salad.—Place the remains of roast partridge in a deep dish, with oil, vinegar, shallot minced, salt and pepper. At the time of serving, place the partridge in a dish, surround it with the hearts of lettuce cut in quarters (if these are not obtainable, use celery); garnish the partridge with hard-boiled eggs, cut in quarters, minced cucumber pickles, pickled onions, and pickled olives, and stir them in thoroughly with the mixture remaining in the deep dish.

Hygienic Information.

THE BEARD—TO SHAVE OR NOT TO SHAVE.

Men may laugh and sneer at the follies of female fashions in dress, their chignons and bustles, their rats and panniers, and deplore the injury they receive from their corsets and high-heeled shoes, but the sneers come with an ill grace from those men who try with the razor to make a female face of their own. The time has been when both sexes looked upon a full flowing beard as ridiculous and ugly if not sinful, and a minister has been censured for his foppishness in leaving his whiskers to grow for an inch below the hair of his head, and a man has reproved, in all honesty, his brother church member, for letting his beard got over a week old, without even admitting his excuse that his razor was dull and he had no hone to sharpen it with. I have even heard the questions debated by old codgers whether or no the beard was one of the curses bestowed upon man for his sin in eating the forbidden fruit. But the times have changed, people think more, and reason from a more rational basis, and a full beard has become as respectable as ornamental; a glory to man as much as long hair to a woman, as is said by Paul to the Corinthians. The tables are now turned, and the fops are those that shave. Not so much those who make a clean business of it, as those who shave a part; the most sedate of whom shave only the upper lip, the next in the order of propriety shaving only the chin, leaving the extreme of foppishness to those who shave *all but the upper lip.*

The changes which time works in popular opinion are wonderful and often ludicrous. A gray-headed smooth-faced deacon, some twenty years since, while whiling away an hour with his grocer who wore the beard on his throat as "a covering," expressed his respect of the grocer's general morality, but reproved him severely for the "fo-o-o-olish fashion" of letting the hair grow on his face. Grocer replied, "man was made with a beard on his face." "How do you know?" says deacon (thinking evidently of the profanity in denying it to be one of the "cusses.") "I know," replied Grocer, "because I find it on him, and I believe it to be given to him by his Maker for a wise purpose, and the foolish fashion you speak of is in shaving it off, and thus trying to thwart the designs of your Maker." This theology was too deep for the deacon.

A man expressed to his wife a profound respect for her married sister; the wife replied "she thinks much of you but she cannot tolerate your whiskers." "Oh," says he, "she will get over that, they are becoming fashionable." "Not she" was the reply, "she cares little for fashion but a great deal for propriety." Twenty years afterwards this lady saw this sister trimming, brushing, and admiring her husband's long white flowing beard.

The word barber comes from barb, which is synonymous with beard, and a historian says that the word barbarous, was originally applied to those savage nations who cut off the beards, to prevent it from being a handle for their enemies in a hand-to-hand fight; just like soaping a fighting dog to give him an advantage over his adversary.

Who that has worn his beard for a few years like *a man*, and given his razor to his wife to pare her corns with, used up his soap on his hands, and put his brush to a new use, could be induced to resume the legitimate use of the razor, and thus endanger his health, waste hours per week wickedly, pay a weekly salary to his barber, wear patches on his face to staunch the blood, and appear before the world with a mutilated countenance? S. B. Peck.

HOW TO TREAT INSECT STINGS.

A writer in the London Garden gives the following hints on this subject:

The pain caused by the sting of a plant or insect is the result of a certain amount of acid poison injected into the blood. The first thing to be done is to press the tube of a small key firmly on the wound, moving the key from side to side to facilitate the expulsion of the sting and its accompanying poison. The sting, if left in the wound, should be carefully extracted, otherwise it will greatly increase the local irritation. The poison of stings being acid, common sense points to the alkalies as the proper means of cure. Among the most easily procured remedies may be mentioned soft soap, liquor of ammonia (spirits of hartshorn), smelling salts, washing soda, quicklime made into a paste with water, lime-water, the juice of an onion, tobacco-juice, chewed tobacco, bruised dock leaves, tomato juice, wood-ashes, tobacco ash, and carbonate of soda.

If the sting be severe, rest and coolness should be added to the other remedies, more especially in the case of nervous subjects. Nothing is so apt to make the poison active as heat, and nothing favors its activity less than cold. Let the body be kept cool and at rest, and the activity of the poison will be reduced to a minimum. Any active exertion whereby the circulation is quickened will increase both pain and swelling. If the swelling be severe, the part may be rubbed with sweet oil, or a drop or two of laudanum. Stings in the eye, ear, mouth, or throat sometimes lead to serious consequences; in such cases medical advice should always be sought as soon as possible.

Inventiveness of Homicides. — The truth that private enterprise is more productive than any government ingenuity can be, is happily illustrated by the information, for which we are indebted to a French writer, M. Camille Debans, that while individuals have discovered one hundred and seventy-four different ways of committing murder (exclusive of the regular medical practice), the governments of the world, civilized and uncivilized, have hit upon no more than fifty-four different ways of inflicting the death penalty.

Ventilation.—Some people object to breathing the air of their bed-rooms over and over from fall till spring, and very often the moisture will run down the windows and freeze them fast so that they cannot be raised for fresh air. A small handful of salt put along the casing on which the window rests will keep it always thawed ready to be raised when required.—Farmer's Wife.

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THE
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CHRISTMAS.

THE domestic character of our Christmas festivities seem most appropriate. It is the one day set apart by Christians in all lands as a homage to the paternal rule of the Creator, but it is among Protestants, we believe, that the day retains most of the sacred traditions that endears it to the heart of childhood. Happily, its influence embraces not only believers, but the strangers within our gates, who may consistently celebrate the birth of ONE whose life, apart from its religious teachings, is an example of purity and faultlessness without a peer. To such an example do we owe the idea of the Christian home, with its delightful traditions and virtuous influences; and it seems most natural that the family should cluster about the hearthstone, making of the day a quasi-domestic festival; observing its time-honored rites with a joyous gratitude for the love or blessings that have been vouchsafed from Heaven.

However much the conscientious and reflecting may soberly dwell on the importance of the day, and the marvelous effect wrought on the world by the life or example of Christ, it will be conceded that the prevailing idea concerning Christmas is a halcyon day for the children. What pleasure has gone to the filling of the stockings; what secrecy, whisperings, sly calculation, hidden purchases; what early rising and shivering in the cold to do the secretive work; what smiles from the young at the thought of the pleasure to be conferred by their loving hands! How graciously age looks back to its time of joy, reminiscence receiving a halo of sanctified remembrance when joining in the gambols of youth! The grandfather capers nimbly with his young friends, while his worthy companion furtively chases a tear at thought of the faded lang syne, when they too, looked expectantly to the Christmas tree for its pleasant surprises, and into each other's eyes for the confirmation of a mutual gift, that love which has since blessed and gilded their declining years!

It is no drawback to reflect that we are not positively certain about the true date of CHRIST'S birth, and we owe it to St. CYRIL that there lived in the fourth century a man with sufficient force of character to set the matter at rest by giving an authoritative date, based on the tablets of the Censors found in the Roman archives. It is a curious and pertinent coincidence, that our festival holds a close analogy to the pagan rites in honor of Saturn. Some say our customs are copied from that source. The Saturnalia are attributed to SEMPRONIUS, and originally consumed one day, but were extended to seven when CALIGULA flourished. Presents were exchanged, a "lord of misrule" under another name reversed the usual order of things, and altogether, the resemblance is most curious, extending even to the date, December nineteenth.

We learn from Mythology that the Delphic oracle became dumb; and when AUGUSTUS inquired the reason, was told that the oracle had announced the birth of a Child in Judea who was the Supreme God, who had commanded him to depart and return no more. Since that day the noisome vapor of superstition has been silently dissipated by the genial, and penetrating rays of the Sun of Christianity; and although at times our faith seems befogged by returning skepticism, it is but a momentary doubt, through which eventually appears, more clearly than ever, the rays of that true belief so tenderly reflected from the star of promise that, in the East, led the Magi to witness an event which was to be the salvation of mankind. The remembrance of which adds fervor to the wish that the RURAL'S readers may have a *very* Merry Christmas!

IT IS BETTER ALL AROUND.

IT is an axiomatic saying that "Honesty is the best policy;" and while there may be an occasional exception, as to all other good rules, we are inclined to think that, upon the whole, it would be better in the end if all men conducted their business on strictly fair and honest principles. We have been reminded of this thousands of times, but never had it more forcibly brought to mind than in our walks through the streets and markets of New York this fall and winter. It is strange that men who put up hay in bales to send to market, will so demean themselves as to stuff the center with poor, worthless weeds and damaged hay, while the outside looks bright and green; and yet it is done constantly and in thousands of instances which come to light every day, and the fraud is frequently detected in time to make the perpetrators suffer. One of the most flagrant but senseless attempts at cheating in baling hay we ever saw, came under our notice a few days since in a large lot sent to a commission house in this city. The hay was packed in layers, as usual with a certain well known press now extensively used, but in making up the bales two qualities of hay were put in, one layer being very superior and the next very inferior—in fact, almost worthless except, perhaps, for litter. When the bales were placed out in the light, the difference in the color of the hay in the layers was so conspicuous that it reminded one of a rag carpet composed of green and brown stripes. It is quite likely that the author of this fraud disposed of some of the hay at a good price; but the greater part had to be sold at the value of the poorest quality in the bale.

It is attempted cheats like those already named which depress prices of even a first-rate article in market. Topped-out apples with windfalls in the center and barrels of potatoes rigged out in a similar manner, are not just the thing to give purchasers sufficient confidence to order so freely as they would if there was a certainty of not being swindled. The same truth holds good with all kinds of country produce. The mother who has to depend upon the milkman for milk to give her children and supply both kitchen and table, will use this article far more freely if she can be assured that it is pure and wholesome, than she would where there is even a bare possibility of adulteration, thereby helping to increase the demand which generally ends in an enhanced price.

Of course we do not suppose that there is any more cheating among those who supply our markets with the products of their farms than in the manufacture of articles which the farmer obtains from the cities; but "two wrongs do not make a right," hence neither party can offer any justifiable excuse for cheating, and it would be much better all round if every man were compelled by law (if he will not do it otherwise) to make no concealment which shall work to the injury of those with whom he deals. What are termed the secrets of trade (if legitimate) and skill in manufacture or production, may all be employed to their utmost extent and still work no injury to any one.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

THERE is a movement on foot to establish a Bureau of Agriculture as a Government Department, represented by an officer with the title of Secretary of Agriculture, who shall be admitted into the Cabinet on an equality with the Secretary of State, War, Interior, &c., thereby having a voice in the management of national affairs in general. This is certainly a move in the right direction, and it should receive the cordial support of every one having the least regard for the future of American agriculture. Now let the farmers "move on" Congress for such a recognition in the affairs of the Government, and see how much the politicians they have been honoring with an office and a good salary care for them, after once the election is over.

Several hundred thousands of the residents in the Western States begged of Congress last year, through their Representatives, a few thousand dollars to pay a competent committee for investigating the grasshopper question and to endeavor to discover some way of preventing the loss of millions of dollars' worth of property through the ravages of these insects; but what did they get in answer to their prayers for relief? Why, simply nothing but insults for their temerity in asking for what rightfully belongs to them. Go on, gentlemen of the leading Agricultural Societies, let your strength be felt; for if, by any known fair means, those holding the reins of this Government can be made to know that there is an agricultural class and feel their power, you will have accomplished something for which toiling millions will be thankful. Politicians and the political papers will oppose any such movement; but if our six millions of farmers and their representative, the Agricultural Press, make the proposed Department or Bureau of Agriculture a common cause, success is certain.

RURAL NOTES.

The Government Seed Store.—The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture shows that there have been distributed during the past year, 1,520,000 packages of seeds from the Department and, we may add, at a cost to the Government of a good many thousands of dollars more than they are worth to those receiving them. Of course, this seed business of the Department has furnished employment to many persons; but how much better for the country it would be if the rates of postage on seeds were put back to the old one of a half cent per ounce, the Government seed store abolished, and the money appropriated to its support handed over to the Post-Office Department, to make up any deficiency which might follow in giving us cheap postage on seeds. Men who have sense enough to cultivate plants, seldom have occasion to ask the Department of Agriculture to make selections for them. The free distribution of seeds by the Government has done and is doing more harm than good, besides costing the country hundreds of thousands of dollars.

N. Y. Dairymen.—Again we are called upon to record the proceedings of one of the best Associations of Dairymen in this country. At Elmira, N. Y., the Dairymen of this State assembled on the 13th and 14th inst. and listened to numerous scientific and practical addresses and thereby received much instruction upon a subject which so nearly concerns their welfare. These gatherings cannot be too highly commended. The discussions upon Dairy subjects containing, as they do, so much that is practical and useful, are themselves well worth a long journey and a few days' time, to say nothing of the valuable papers which are always to be heard on such an occasion.

Christmas Trees.—It would be interesting to know just how many families to which the RURAL NEW-YORKER makes its weekly visits have taken the advice given in its columns years ago to plant evergreen trees about the house, and are now able to cut out spare specimens for Christmas trees. We know that a goodly number of our readers can do this without loss to the good appearance of their surroundings, and many more might be doing the same, had they not neglected to plant evergreens in years past.

Frosts in Florida.—The Florida papers report a hard frost during the first three days of December; ice formed on water, oranges on the trees were frozen, and also the leaves and young twigs. Such checks will very much injure the reputation of some parts of the State for the cultivation of tropical plants and especially oranges and lemons.

RURAL BREVITIES.

PLANTING Black Walnut forests is an excellent way to lay up wealth for one's children.

THE Western New York Horticultural Society hold their next annual meeting in Rochester Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1877.

ICE containing impurities is just as unhealthy as the water from which it was formed, as mere freezing is not, in any sense, a purifying process.

ARTIFICIAL pearls are manufactured in Paris from the white scales of fish. Twenty thousand pounds of fish will yield one pound of the pearl substance.

BANKRUPTS in Scotland who conceal property from their creditors, are sentenced to penal servitude. If such laws were enforced in this country, there are some towns we could name that would soon be depopulated.

VERY cold weather reported by one of our correspondents at Griffin, Ga., Dec. 5. Mercury only 16° above zero, which is an unusual degree of cold for the time of year.

OUT of the 1,112 bankrupts reported last year in Massachusetts, only fourteen were farmers, and in New York State only forty-six in a total of 2,550 were farmers, which is a pretty good showing for a business which many persons declare is "played out."

WHAT nine out of every ten of the poor men out of employ this winter in all of our larger cities need, is the kind of religion which will always make them get up and build a fire for their wives on cold mornings and stay at home evenings to amuse the children.

W. J. ABERNETHY has retired from the editorial chair of the Farmer's Union, and HENDRYX & NEWTON become proprietors and assume general management. The Union has always been a good paper and we wish it continued success and a large patronage.

THE MESQUIT, a small tree found abundantly in some parts of Texas and westward to California, is said to yield a gum resembling Gum Arabic and quite as valuable; and it is also reported that considerable quantities have been gathered and exported during the past season.

POLLED CATTLE are becoming quite the rage in Scotland and are rapidly taking the place of the Short-Horns. But we are not informed whether this movement is the result of keeping Short-Horns or because Scotchmen have concluded not to take any kind of "a horn" in the future.

PROF. G. E. MORROW, who has for some time past occupied the chair of Agriculture in the college of Ames, Iowa, has accepted a like position in the Faculty of the Illinois Industrial University at Champaign. What Iowa loses in this change Illinois gains, and if the entire faculty were of such stuff as Prof. MORROW is made of, the said University would be much improved.

THE purchasers of butter in our markets have had good cause for complaint in the frauds perpetrated in adulterating the article with tallow and fat of various kinds; but our English cousins are said to have found a new source for supplying themselves with an oleaginous compound from which a kind of butter is made in the mud of the Thames River. Soap fat discharged by the sewers is collected and used in adulterating butter.

THE Rev. JOSEPH COOK, in one of his late lectures in Tremont Temple, Boston, remarked while illustrating a point in his discourse, that "Your beautiful tropical butterfly was once a repulsive chrysalis; it had only the power of crawling." Prof. PACKARD, or some other New England Entomologist, should inform the reverend gentleman that chrysalids of butterflies do not *crawl*, but the larvæ or caterpillars do. If Mr. COOK will study the "lilies of the fields" or even a milkweed in summer, he may learn something more than he now seems to know about "chrysalis."

CHRISTMAS.

HERE comes old Father Christmas,
With sound of fife and drums;
With mistletoe about his brows,
So merrily he comes!

His arms are full of all good cheer,
His face with laughter glows,
He shines like any household fire
Amid the cruel snows.
He is the old folks' Christmas;
He warms their hearts like wine,
He thaws their winter into spring,
And makes their faces shine.
Hurrah for Father Christmas!
Ring all the merry bells!
And bring the grandsires all around
To hear the tale he tells.

Here comes the Christmas Angel,
So gentle and so calm;
As softly as the falling flakes,
He comes with flute and psalm.
All in a cloud of glory,
As once upon the plain
To shepherd boys in Jewry,
He brings goods news again.
He is the young folks' Christmas;
He makes their eyes grow bright
With words of hope and tender thought,
And visions of delight.
Hail to the Christmas Angel!
All peace on earth he brings;
He gathers all the youths and maids
Beneath his shining wings.

Here comes the little Christ-child,
All innocence and joy,
And bearing gifts in either hand
For every girl and boy.
He tells the tender story
About the Holy Maid,
And Jesus in the manger
Before the oxen laid.
Like any little winter bird
He sings his sweetest song,
Till all the cherubs in the sky
To hear his carol throng.
He is the children's Christmas;
They come, without a call,
To gather round the gracious Child,
Who bringeth joy to all.

But who shall bring their Christmas,
Who wrestle still with life?
Not grandsires, youths, nor little folks,
But they who wage the strife:
The fathers and the mothers
Who fight for home and bread,
Who watch and ward the living,
And bury all the dead.
Ah! by their side at Christmas-tide
The Lord of Christmas stands;
He smooths the furrows from their brows
With strong and tender hands.
"I take my Christmas gift," he saith,
"From thee, tired soul, and he
Who giveth to my little ones
Gives also unto me!"

[Rose Terry Cooke.

FASHION NOTES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16, 1876.

FURS.

A FEW words concerning furs may not be amiss. Seal-skin retains its favor, though the sacques worn this season are deeper than those of last. Bordering-furs are unplucked and plucked otter, beaver, black marten, genet, fisher-tail and chinchilla. Muffs are round and about the same size as those worn last season.

Shetland seal sacques range in price, according to quality, at from $75 to $300, untrimmed; when trimmed with sea-otter they command from $400 to $450; when trimmed with unplucked otter the price ranges generally from $150 up to $375; when bordered with plucked otter, $150 to $275; with chinchilla bordering, $150 to $300; with beaver bordering, $125 to $250, according to quality; and with bordering of black marten, $100 to $175—it being understood that upon the finer qualities of the seal skin the finer borderings are generally placed. Alaska seal sacques sell at $50 to $200, according to quality, and at an additional price if bordered with any other fur. Shetland seal-muffs and boas sell at $40 to $75 the set, and Alaska muffs and boas at $12 to $40 the set.

It is not generally known that Alaska seal-skin is preferable to medium quality Shetland. Seal-skin gloves will be in great favor for sleighing with both ladies and gentlemen. They range in price from about $4 to $12 per pair; gauntlets ranging at from $8 to about $16, according to the quality of the fur.

As usual among the staple furs, the Russian sable is of most importance. Its value, elegance and usefulness must render it always fashionable, though it may be comparatively little worn, because of the few skins permitted to be exported from Russia and their expensiveness. A set consists of the muff and boa. For sets of the best qualities of the fine Russian "crown sable," the range of price continues to be from about $1,000 to $1,600. Russian sables of a less costly grade range in price from $800 to about $1,000 per set.

American, or Hudson's Bay sable, ranges in price from $60 to $300 for sets of muff and boa. This fur is almost as handsome as the Russian to casual observation.

A new favorite fur, fisher-tail, fetches $75 to $150 per set, while *fisher-skin* ranges from $30 upward. This fur is durable and useful.

Mink, though not especially fashionable, is commendable for its utility; sets of round muff and flat boa can be bought for $16 to $80.

Alaska sable sets of muff and round boa range in price from about $20 upward. This is also a favorite trimming fur.

Among fancy furs may be classed chinchilla; sets are quoted at $40 to $95, and it is very stylish for trimming also.

The silver fox is still the favorite of the fancy furs with many ladies of fine taste and remains very fashionable, both in sets of muff and boa, and for trimming. Sets of muff and boa, according to quality, range in price at about $80 to $200.

Among the specialties of the season, fur-lined wraps are perhaps the most conspicuous. Beside the circulars, which have reappeared in Antwerp silk, plain and brocaded silk Sicilienne, *drap d'ete*, etc., there are paletots; of deep, plain, half-fitting coats, Dolman mantles, with both the shawl-shaped and the square Hungarian sleeves; round sacques and a modified wrap, with the paletot back and the deep pelerine front. The usual fur-lining is the squirrel-lock; but for this purpose the back of the squirrel as well as the entire skin of the little animal are used; also the fur of the black genet and brown-wool seal.

A silk circular, lined with black genet and a genet bordering five inches wide, was marked $200. Circulars, lined with the full skin of the Siberian squirrel, range in price at from $150 to $300, according to the quality and cost of the materials; and trimmed or bordered with black marten, fisher-tail, genet, brown-wool seal, or silver-fox, the price is advanced in proportion to the cost of the trimming—from $175 to $350, generally covering the cost of the garment. A silk Dolman mantle, lined with squirrel-lock and bordered with silvery-beaver, was held at $125; and a Dolman mantle, lined with black genet, commanded the same price. A very deep silk Dolman, lined with squirrel lock and trimmed with brown-wool seal, was marked $155; while a deep sacque-cloak of silk Sicilienne, cut with wide, square Hungarian sleeves, trimmed with brown-wool seal, was held at $125. Jackets, lined with squirrel-lock, range in price, for those of the most simple make and inexpensive materials, at from $30 to $45; and lined with squirrel-lock and edged with the fur of the squirrel's back, according to the quality of the materials employed, they range in price from about $40 to $125—at the last-named figure an elegant article being shown, with cuffs, collar and pocket-flaps of silvery-beaver.

There never has been a season in which furs for trimming are so extensively used as the present. For costumes, chinchilla will, perhaps, be the most prominent fur. Arica chinchilla bordering, 2¼ inches wide, sells at $1 per yard; four inches wide, it sells in the best quality at $14 per yard; while the Bolivian chinchilla, four inches wide, sells at $6, and wider at $8 per yard.

Fisher-tail bordering, according to width, sells at $10, $14, $16 and $20 per yard.

Silver-fox bordering, according to width, sells at $8, $10, $12, and $15 per yard.

Black genet commands about $4 per yard.

Colored lynx sells at $1, $2, and $3 per yard.

Natural coon sells at $1.50, $2, and $3 per yard; and colored coon at $2, $3, and $4 per yard.

Brown silvery-beaver commands from $2 to $4 per yard; borderings of the black silvery-beaver sell at from $4 to $5; and of the plain black beaver, at $1.50, $2, $3, and $4 per yard.

There are, also, borderings of the blue fox, silver cony, muskrat, and various other furs, more or less costly, according to quality.

Russia hare, a new fur and yet to be tested in popularity, sells, in borderings, at from $1 to $5 per yard.

Black marten commands, according to quality and width of bordering, $1.25, $1.75, $2.25, and $3 per yard; while silvery black marten, in bordering three inches wide, sells at from $4.50 to $8.50 per yard.

Bordering of sea-otter sells at $10 per yard; brown-wool seal, $3; gray Siberian squirrel, fine quality, $3; natural gray fox, $1.50, $2.25 and $3.50 per yard.

For information received, Messrs. C. G. GUNTHER'S SONS, 184 Fifth Avenue, New York, will please accept our thanks.

HER DIARY.—"And swinging his baton above his head."

The Story-Teller.

WINTER AND THE FIR-TREE.

"You wish to hear about Winter?" said the Fir-tree to the other trees of the forest. "Very well, then! Lay aside your prejudice against him, for I know you dislike him. Do not imagine that I am partial because he is my friend. I am only true, because I know him. But to the point. When God Almighty had created the world, when flowers flourished in the fields and trees in the forest, He called the Seasons and spake:—'Look how beautiful the earth is! I give it to you, share flowers and trees among you, but love them and take care of them too.' The Seasons were very happy and reveled with the children of Nature.

"This lasted a while, but soon discord began to creep in among them. Bold, restless Spring could not get on with slow, circumspect Winter; glowing Summer thought Autumn phlegmatic; Autumn upbraided Spring for spoiling the flowers; in short, the strife became more and more vehement, and trees and flowers came off the worst. Then said Autumn, 'This will not do any longer. We cannot tolerate each other; let us divide.'

"And so it came to pass. The Seasons divided the earth. Winter built his house at either pole; Summer wound itself round the center of the earth, and Spring and Autumn created their dominion between them. You will see later on that this division did not continue, but is very nearly the same, and Winter still dwells in his old house."

"How do you know?" asked the Lime.

"My cousin told me; he visited him there once.'

"Take care—he is telling us a fib," whispered the Poplar to her neighbor.

"How could your cousin visit him?" asked the Lime; "is he not obliged to stand fast as we do?"

"It happened thus," answered the Fir:—"One day some bold, enterprising men came to seek wood to build a ship. My cousin—a straight, tall fir—stood proudly among the other trees of the forest. No sooner did they espy him than they felled him and turned him into a mast. Then they went to sea. The sailors put a large cloth round my cousin and said, 'Hold it fast!' On his head they planted a gay, fluttering pennant. My cousin was very merry during the voyage and did his duty thoroughly; and when the wind came and tried to take away his cloth, he held it fast and did not bend; therefore the sailors esteemed him above all the other timbers in the ship. They sailed constantly northwards and suddenly they reached Winter's house. It looked plain but strong and when the ship knocked, Winter stepped out, quite amazed at such a rare visit. But it occurred to him that when he comes he is seldom kindly received; therefore he did not feel stirred to hospitality, and shook his head so that the white flakes flew about. Then he perceived my cousin, and as he is very favorably inclined to us fir-trees, he at once became friendly, and entered into conversation. He wished to know all about each one of us and, when the mast had given him all the information, he also began to relate most wonderful stories, and what I am telling you is one of them. The stories never came to an end; and the old man was so happy with his recollections, which he now freely talked over, that he would not let the ship go, and wound himself round it with strong arms. My cousin is never tired of describing the beauty of this scene; but the better he felt, the worse did the ship's crew fare. He heard them consulting one morning. 'Our wood is burnt, our provisions are coming to an end,' said the steersman, "and if the ice does not thaw soon, we shall perish miserably; let us hew down the mast and burn it; it will help us for some time.' When my cousin heard this, he entreated Winter to let the ship go; and, to save his favorite, Winter granted that which he would never have done for the love of men. He melted the ice and the ship and crew returned home safely."

"That was fortunate!" cried all the trees in one voice.

"But now let me return to my story," again said the Fir.

"The earth was divided, and the Seasons had each their own kingdom. Thus it would have remained had not Spring, in his inconstant way, called for another change. He did not like staying always in one spot; so he called the Seasons together and made the following proposal—'Let us divide differently,' said he, 'and as the earth belongs to us in common, not remain fixed to one spot. Each of us shall have a certain time to possess the earth and rule supreme.' 'I am content,' said Summer, 'if only I may keep earth's girdle for myself.' 'And I the poles,' said Winter. Frivolous Spring agreed to everything as long as he obtained his desire, and Autumn hoped to indemnify himself in some other way.

"Thus the treaty was made and Spring was about to begin his reign, when cautious Winter said, 'But, that *one* may not have everything beautiful in the earth, let us divide that also.' 'Well,' said Spring, 'I claim the buds!' 'To me belong the blossoms!' said Summer. 'The fruits are mine!' cried greedy Autumn; 'and Winter can keep the leaves of the trees.' Winter was not averse to this.

"The treaty was concluded and Spring began his reign. He kissed forth buds on trees and flowers; everything smiled on him. When the buds opened—when flowers and leaves gloried in a thousand colors, Summer took the throne of the earth. But order began to be disturbed at once; for Autumn, always intent on his own advantage, made a special contract with Summer. He was to give him flowers in exchange for fruit; but it is said Autumn did not fare badly, and kept the best for himself. Now came his reign; he gathered in busily the fruits, which he had a right to do. But something else had happened by which poor Winter was much cheated. You remember that according to the division the leaves of the trees belonged to Winter. But in the glowing season of love, when up above hung leaf upon leaf, and down in the grass the flowers shone, unfolding coquettishly their many colors, love sprang up between flowers and leaves.

"This love began, as it often does, with various teasing little ways. When the sun tried to shine, warm and glowing, on the flowers, the leaves of the trees interposed; but ere the flowers were aware of it they bent down, so that the sunshine suddenly fell on them, quite dazing the little ones. The flowers closed their eyes and the leaves tittered among the branches. Or when a refreshing shower came, the leaves saved some drops, and when the flowers thought all was over they poured them down, frightening the flowers, who shook their heads. What was at first only teasing soon became a service of love; for the sun became hotter and hotter, and the poor delicate flowers would all have withered up had not the leaves caught the fiery arrows of the rays like a shield.

"After this deeper earnestness of inclination, raillery was not sufficient; they sought another bond of union. But up high hung the leaves and the flowers sparkled in the grass. Love can always find a way.

Leaves and flowers soon chose a messenger to carry their sighs up and down—the Ivy. It sprang up among the flowers and wound itself, a green leaf, up to the leaves of the trees, leaf pressed to leaf, the ladder of sweet vows, a silent love-chain. Who does not recognize this beautiful vocation at once! Who is not greeted by the evergreen tendrils as with silent sighs of enthusiastic young love! And flowers and leaves were satisfied with this messenger.

"The reign of Autumn drew to a close, and he began to pluck the remaining flowers on the plain. The leaves faded with longing, and passionately entreated Autumn to let them descend, only once, to their dying beloved ones. And Autumn allowed them to do so, although he had no right in the matter and usurped Winter's power over the leaves. Autumn shook the trees and down fluttered the loose leaves to the earth. Now began a wild life of love indeed. Autumn, who took pleasure therein, played a wild air; the leaves flew in whirling dances round the flowers, until they drooped their heads, weary and fatigued, and the leaves lay down at the last tune that Autumn played, to their everlasting sleep. Then came Winter. Plain and forest received him bare and dreary. Nothing was green for him but we poor Fir-trees; for no flower had chosen to have any love communication with our needles, and the Ivy wound from tree to tree, as though it would erect a triumphal arch for Winter, and from bough to bough, as though it would hide the infidelity of the leaves and give the tree a substitute for their lost, withered foliage. Winter saw this and was touched; and whilst he lashed down the few leaves that remained against their will, solitary and forlorn, here and there on the trees, and chased them angrily over ice and snow, he spoke solemnly to the Ivy-leaves:

"'I will protect you. I will preserve you to the friendly business you have chosen; be, and continue, love's messengers; carry silent greetings from flower to leaf, from Autumn to Spring—build an eternal bridge from season to season! Your vocation is to twine and unite; your evergreen remembrance of plains and forests shall mitigate even Winter's severity.'

"So spake Winter to the Ivy, but he gave us Fir-trees his heartiest attachment and prepared honors for us which you other trees do not share."

"And what are these?" asked the other trees, in an injured tone.

"Winter is the season of feeling," continued the Fir-tree; "therefore he at once recognized and honored this in the Ivy. Men know this, for at no season do they unite so much as in winter. Thus he brings with him the joyful, holy, mysterious festival of Christmas; thus you see in his suite that friendly spirit of the Christmas genius. Men call it the love of friends and parents; but that is not true. When it exercises its magic power, it is all over with human beings. Day and night, during the first half of winter, the mother meditates, because the Christmas spirit is constantly whispering in her ear. And the man who goes out to make purchases at Christmas-time, always brings home more than he intended. He is not attracted by the pretty things; no, it is the Christmas spirit beckoning and whispering and touching the heart, so that the hand opens and constantly, until it has prepared the richest Christmas joy.

"We Fir-trees know this, for we stand in the midst of it all; we are the Christmas-trees, and the good Christmas spirit puts us in the midst of the most beautiful Christmas joy. We are missing neither in the palace nor the cottage. Be the parents ever so poor, still they place a few candles on our branches for the rejoicing children. Gold and silver hang from us, we bear glittering fruits, and children clap their hands at sight of us; for, however beautiful everything else may be, the Christmas-tree is the most beautiful of all—the Christmas spirit envelopes it in its most wonderful and peculiar magic. Perhaps children love the Christmas-tree so much because it is so like a rich childlike spirit. Various sparkling pictures twine round Hope's green boughs; rich and golden it stands, mysterious and inexplicable. But one glowing picture after another vanishes; the gold was tinsel—hopes fade—the secret is solved—the whole mystery vanishes with the last ornament one takes off, and nothing remains but a dried Fir-tree. In the child's spirit one golden dream fades after another; one secret after another, in which it was enveloped, unfolds; and how different is life to what the child's spirit fancied it!"

"When the tinsel is off, your glory is past?" asked the Ash.

"Then the tree is thrown into the fire," said the Fir, "and there he often hears many a beautiful fairy tale, which human beings relate when they sit gazing into the glowing fire. He listens attentively; but if anything is said of which he disapproves, he cracks so that the sparks fly and people round the hearth jump. And when the golden apples are eaten, the children look sadly out of their corner at the burning Christmas-tree."

This is the story of Winter and the Fir-tree.

HER DIARY.

Nov. 30.—It was painful to the last degree. I do not distinctly remember the various operations that finally led to my being laid out upon the table, but when I gained my consciousness I felt some one was grasping me around the waist with no gentle pressure. My breath shot forth in a ridiculously spasmodic fashion that made me squeak laughably—had it not been for the acute pain I suffered.

Who these ruthless people were and why they should thus abuse me, I did not clearly understand. They appeared to be disputing about my possession, and the woman—who acted as if she controlled my destiny—was very persistent about terms. As for myself, I rather fancied my would-be owner, so to speak, as it was clear I was looked upon as a mere chattel, and insensibly I found myself taking a great interest in the negotiations.

I have read somewhere how they buy slaves in the East—examining their teeth, discussing their physical perfections, etc.—and I had time to reflect that my condition was in nowise better than the lot of those poor creatures.

Arrangements were finally made satisfactorily to the interests of both parties, and I was lifted carefully into my new protector's arms and carried to my new home.

Dec. 2.—Fancy the feelings of a poor orphan, a waif, stray, what you will, dear reader, on being ushered into a family that was positively teeming with "olive branches."

What my new owner could want with a larger family than she already had, was a marvel to me. I say "owner," because it seems to fitly express the sardonic cast of my thoughts. It is a dreadfully bitter thing to be cast upon society at my age, forced to fight the battle of life alone, harassed by an ever-present doubt as to the existence of one's parents even. But enough of this moralizing.

The BENSONS were as kind as could be expected and the children made much of me; too much, in fact, as I was a bone of contention. MARY wanted me exclusively, while ANNA insisted that I belonged to her. MILLICENT, more mild and judicial, thought a compromise by which each could possess me a part of the day would save trouble. It was very amusing——to them.

Dec. 5.—What queer children, to be sure! I am coddled to the point of satiety. It would be preposterous to tell the number of times I am dressed and undressed each day, simply to please these young tyrants. I couldn't have less will of my own if I was a creature of the Grand Llama's. My only relief is at night, when I retire to a really cosy room and rest my weary head on a pillow that would do credit to a bridal chamber, so gorgeous is it with laces and fine linen.

Dec. 6.—This has been an eventful day. Early in the forenoon almost the entire family went to the *Matinee*. I should have been pleased to make one of the party, but my pleasure is not always consulted—except by myself, and it was this open-handed generosity to the writer that proved to be my misfortune.

No sooner did I find myself alone than I determined to go about on a voyage of inspection. I should add, perhaps, in this connection, that disease had paralyzed my legs to such an extent that walking was out of the question. This unfortunate circumstance was no bar to my inquisitiveness as, by the assistance of a maid, I visited parts of the house quite new to me. I especially amused myself in the pantry, and I was so deeply engrossed in attempting to extract pickles from a large jar, that I was oblivious to all that passed around me. I must have disturbed some heavy weight as, before I could fall to one side, I was momentarily crushed against the lid of the jar, which made me utter a horrid squeak, similar in sound to those store "cry babies," and which, to my shame, I always give voice to when frightened.

In a twinkling the weight—a large platter—careened. I lost my balance and in we both went, scattering pickles and vinegar in all directions. I gasped, splashed and wriggled, but to no purpose. My head was submerged. I had about concluded that it was my fate to be pickled, when I was caught by the leg and drawn, dripping, from the jar. Nothing could be more ridiculous than such an adventure, or more overwhelming than the shame I felt at being caught in my own trap. The children, who had returned, were hilarious at my expense. A foster-sister is never the recipient of more sympathy and love than she can be grateful for!

I was undressed and put to bed in disgrace.

Dec. 28.—Ecclesiastes says:—"And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under Heaven." But my seeking was of a character that would not be sanctioned by the Preacher. I wanted to know who the young man was that paid such devoted attention to MILLICENT'S elder sister, and why the couple sought bay-windows and other secluded spots, when apparently they had nothing more interesting to discuss than pictures in a photograph album.

I found out; but it was at the expense of an eye, alas!

We had been playing at house-keeping in one of those windows, and when called to dinner the children scampered away, leaving me sitting in one of the chairs. Of course I could not walk away, so patiently waited to be taken to bed when I would have been missed. Time advanced apace, and when I awoke from a quiet nap, I was aware of another presence in my neighborhood. It was too dark to distinguish anything more than the outlines of figures that certainly were very near each other. Presently I heard:

"Oh, GEORGE! please, don't! Why, you impudent fellow!" said in a tone of quasi-annoyance.

It was MILLICENT'S sister and her young man.

He said nothing; but presently I heard a peculiar, sharp report, something like the sound of a cork drawn suddenly from a bottle, and more exclamations on the part of the lady.

Then ensued a very funny scene. As plainly as I could see one shadow lunged in the direction of the other; an incipient scuffle ensued, and in the midst of the fracas the young lady was plumped down on the chair in which I was placed. I saw her coming, and felt much the same helplessness that a Swiss might feel when placed in the direct course of an avalanche. In a twinkling the breath was squeezed out of my body, and along with it issued the sound of one of my musical "squeaks." The girl jumped to her feet, both laughed immoderately, and after a poor sort of apology they carried me to the light.

"Poor MILLICENT, how angry she will be," exclaimed this precious young woman, not seeming to care that I had suffered an internal injury that had the effect of paralyzing my eyelid so that I cannot close it.

Jan. 30.—I am hardly strong enough yet to write, but I feel as if I must relieve my pent-up indignation and sense of injury, or I shall relapse into delirium. It seems more than a month since the cruel accident that nearly caused my destruction.

Christmas is a season brimming with mirth in the home of the BENSONS, and for many days previous to the festival anticipation and preparation are rife. Each member of the family seems to make it a point to prepare some pleasant surprise for all the others, and while these schemes are usually clouded in the most impenetrable secrecy, there are occasions, however, where two or three gather together and decide on a combined surprise to the unsuspecting minority. Of one such scheme I was and am the victim.

The children thought it would be a fine thing to do, if they could manage a Christmas carol among themselves, without the aid of maturer talent, and to this end Master GEORGE marshaled his three sisters, and in secret conclave the programme was fixed up satisfactorily. The rehearsals were great fun, to me at least. The melody was,——well, the less I say about that the better the singers will be pleased.

Christmas Eve was set apart for a private rehearsal, and although the affair was to be very quiet, it leaked out gradually, and a few friends—neighbors—came in. Myself and the neighbors formed the audience. I had the seat of honor, being perched on a bench, with one companion by my side, in what might be termed the dress circle.

The performance opened without delay or confusion. Master GEORGE stepped upon a bench and, holding his baton aloft, essayed the duties of conductor. It was very interesting. One passage in the score demanded extraordinary vigor of voice, and the conductor, rising to the occasion, stretched upward and backward, poising himself on his toes and, swinging his baton above his head, shouted, "*Now*, all together, one, two, three——."

I heard no more, as, losing his balance, he fell backward, carrying destruction in his wake. I only had time to grasp my companion's hand, when down he came upon us with the force and precision of a pile-driver. Giving one terrific squeal, I fell, flattened beyond all hope of recognition. My side was rent in twain, and scattered about the floor were great pools of my life-sawdust.

Instead of rushing to my rescue, the heartless children were convulsed with demoniac laughter, and gave tongue to the most cruel jests.

But what did they care—*I was only a doll!*

C. H. E. R.

MEDICAL SCIENCE IN SERBIA.

THE London Standard gives a unique picture of Serbian medical resources:—Serbia has hitherto done without doctors. In a few of the large towns, no doubt, there were medical men, mostly brought up in Vienna, but in the villages there was absolutely none. Their place was—I should perhaps say is—supplied by "wise women" called "babas." These "babas" profess to have an intuitive knowledge of medicinal plants; but that intelligent being, the Serbian peasant, placed much less trust in their medical than in their magical skill. Their performance in this line was remarkable, and their rustic patients had every faith in it. The most commonly fatal diseases in Serbia are consumption and congestion of the lungs. The staple remedy for the latter ailment is to administer to the patient three apples grown on the same bough. If after eating these apples, which are supposed to have some mysterious connection with the Trinity, the patient feels no better, then, but not till then, the wise woman adopts more vigorous measures. The unfortunate *malade* is laid on the ground on his stomach, the wise woman scatters salt over him, and marches around him mumbling cabalistic words. This seems to be a kind of exorcism, and would indicate a belief that the illness is caused by witchcraft or demoniacal possession.

No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself and another to the multitude without finally getting bewildered as to which may be true.

WERE all men to bring together their burdens of sorrow to be equally divided, each on reflection would choose his own.—*Socrates.*

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FROM T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, Phila., Pa.:

The Jealous Wife—A Love Story, by Miss Pardoe. (Paper—pp. 134. Price 75 cts.)

LOCKWOOD, BROOKS & Co., Boston:

The Farm Yard Club of Jonathan, by Geo. B. Loring. (8vo.—toned paper. Cloth. Illustrated—pp. 600. Price, $3.50.)

MAGAZINES FOR JANUARY:

Harper's, Scribner's, St. Nicholas, Atlantic, Demorest's, Galaxy.

NEW MUSIC FROM HENRY S. MACKIE, Rochester, N. Y.—Silver and Jet are thy Tresses, song by M. J. Munger.

Sabbath Reading.

A CHRISTMAS HYMN.

'Twas in the calm and silent night.
The Senator of haughty Rome
Impatient urged his chariot's flight,
From lordly revel rolling home.
Triumphal arches, gleaming, swell
His breast with thoughts of boundless sway:
What recked the Roman what befell
A paltry province far away
In the solemn midnight
Centuries ago?

Within that province far away
Went plodding home a weary boor;
A streak of light before him lay,
Fallen through a half-shut stable door
Across his path. He passed—for naught
Told what was going on within,
How keen the stars, his only thought,
The air how calm and cold and thin
In the solemn midnight
Centuries ago.

* * * * * *

It is the calm and solemn night.
A thousand bells ring out and throw
Their joyous peals abroad, and smite
The darkness, charmed and holy now.
The night that erst no name had worn,
To it a happy name is given.
For in that stable lay new born
The peaceful Prince of earth and heaven,
In the solemn midnight
Centuries ago.

TOLD AND FORETOLD.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found of child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

And knew her not till she had brought forth her first-born son: and he called his name JESUS.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, art not the least among the princes of Judea; for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently for the time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

JOHN 14, 27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.

PS. 119, 165: Great peace have they which love the law; and nothing shall offend them.

ISA. 32, 17: And the work of righteousness shall be peace.

JER. 14, 13: I will give you assured peace.

Ladies' Portfolio.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

I.

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

II.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty—
Jesus Christ.

III.

Enough for Him whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

IV.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshiped the Beloved
With a kiss.

V.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?—
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,—
Yet what can I give Him,—
Give my heart. [*Christina Rossetti.*

LEAF PHOTOGRAPHS, AND HOW TO MAKE THEM.

BY PROF. WILLIAM ROB'T BROOKS.

ALTHOUGH one of the first applications which was made of the photographic property of light, was the obtaining of impressions of lace, leaves

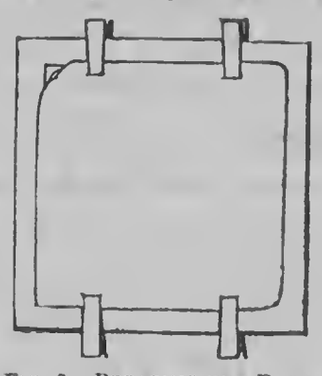

FIG. 2.—PEPARING THE PAPER.

and ferns upon sensitive paper, of late years it has never been practiced to that extent, or received that attention which the beauty of the results in our opinion seems to demand.

The practice of the art of making leaf photographs is so simple and easily acquired by any one of taste, whether having any previous knowledge of chemistry or not, that the following directions will enable any of the readers of the RURAL to produce them with ease and certainty.

PREPARATION OF THE PAPER.

The first thing to do is to prepare the solution for sensitizing the paper; that is, to prepare the paper in such a way that when exposed to the light it will turn black. There are several ways of doing this, but the simplest, and at the same time that giving the most brilliant results, is the following: Dissolve one ounce of nitrate of silver in twelve ounces of pure water (melting ice ist he most convenient way to obtain it), add two drops of liquid ammonia and two grains of alum. Filter through paper or a tuft of cotton placed in the neck of a glass funnel. Keep this solution in a glass stoppered bottle until required for use.

Procure of the photographer in your neighborhood a few sheets of albumenized paper. This is a paper made expressly for the purpose and coated with the whites of eggs in which has been dissolved some chloride salt, usually ammonium. The silvering or sensitizing of the paper should be done in a moderately dark room by the light of a lamp, or in a room in which the windows are covered with yellow paper, for *yellow* light will not affect the sensitive paper.

Pour the silver solution into some flat dish of earthenware or glass,—a flat pie dish answers well for experiment,—then having cut the paper into sheets a little smaller than the dish, take one of them and very gently lay the same down upon the surface of the silver solution, albumen side downwards, and be careful not to let any of the solution flow on to the back of the paper. Should it curl up, *breathing* upon the back of the paper will make it lie flat. Let it float from one and a-half to two minutes, then gently lift it off by one edge, and pin it up against a board to dry. When dry it must be *fumed* by hanging or pinning it to the top of a box (a clean soap or candle box will answer) and pouring into a saucer in the bottom of the box a few drops of strong liquid ammonia. Let it remain there about ten minutes. Our paper is now ready for the "printing," or to receive the impressions by the action of light. It

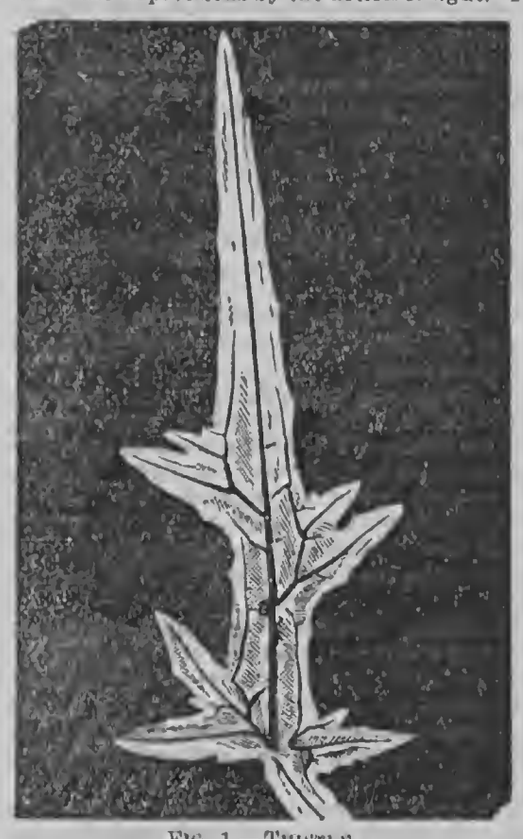

FIG. 1.—THISTLE.

must be carefully kept in a dark box until wanted for use, as it would turn black if exposed to the light. It should also be prepared the same day it is to be used, as it deteriorates by keeping. We are now ready for

THE PRINTING.

Procure a number of pieces of clear glass—say four inches wide by five inches long, and others 2½ wide and four long, some pieces of thick cloth the same size as the larger pieces of glass, also a few spring clothes pins. Then having selected the leaf—which we will suppose to be a rose-leaf—lay it face down upon the middle of one of the larger pieces of glass, then upon the leaf a piece of the sensitized paper (albumen side next to the leaf), upon that a piece of cloth, two of the smaller pieces of glass, and clamp the whole together at the edges by four of the clothes clips—as shown in Fig. 2; then place the whole in strong sunshine, leaf side uppermost. The paper around the leaf will be seen to rapidly darken, and after four or five minutes it should be taken in from the light and examined by removing one of the narrow pieces of glass at the back, turning down the paper to see if the impression is sufficiently deep. When such is the case, not only will the outlines of the leaf be accurately shown, but every vein, fiber and delicate marking of the internal construction—a result beautiful in the extreme. If it is not printed deep enough to show all these markings plainly, restore the parts to their places and expose again to the light.

WASHING, TONING AND FIXING.

After a sufficient number of copies are made of this or other leaves, the photographs must be washed, toned and made permanent for, as they come out of the printing frame, they would soon spoil. The prints are first washed by soaking in several changes of clean water in an earthen dish, after which they are immersed in the "toning bath" made as follows:—Procure of the dealer or some photographer, a few grains of chloride of gold, and dissolve in water at the rate of one grain to the ounce. Keep this for a stock solution. When ready to tone, pour into an earthen dish enough water to cover the prints, add say half an ounce of the gold solution and a pinch of bicarbonate of soda. Immerse the prints in this. They will at first turn slightly reddish, but in a few minutes will change to a beautiful rich black. They should now be removed, immersed in water, and placed in the "fixing bath," composed of hyposulphite of soda one ounce, water six ounces.

FIG. 3.—FERN.

Allow them to remain about ten minutes, when they should be taken out and washed in several changes of water for a number of hours, dried and mounted upon cards with good flour or starch paste.

Nothing can exceed the beauty of these leaf prints when properly made. All kinds of leaves can be used, but those in which the veins are strongly marked should be chosen. Ferns, dried or green, make beautiful subjects, and at this season of the year the leaves of a large number of our house plants will afford the amateur delightful occupation, giving him a good experience and practice for the larger range he will find in outdoor vegetation the coming season.

I give in connection with this article, two views of different kinds of leaves from actual specimens. By following the above directions with care and cleanliness, avoiding contamination of the different solutions, all may succeed in this fascinating art. I will, in some future article, give directions for making fern and leaf mottos on this principle.

Phelps, N. Y., Dec.

Reading for the Young.

THE HOLIDAYS.

Ah! don't you remember! 'Tis almost December,
And soon will the Holidays come;
O, 'twill be so funny! I've plenty of money.
I'll buy me a sword, and a drum.

Thus said little Harry, unwilling to tarry,
Impatient to hurry from school;
But we shall discover, this holiday lover,
Spoke both like a child, and a fool.

For when he alighted, so highly delighted,
Away from his sums and his books,
Though playthings surrounded, and good things abounded,
Chagrin still appeared in his looks.

WINTER EVENING AMUSEMENTS—No. 3.

Though first they delighted, his toys were now slighted,
And thrown away out of his sight:
He spent every morning in stretching and yawning,
Yet went to bed weary at night.

He had not that treasure which really makes pleasure,
(A secret discovered by few;)
You'll take it for granted, more playthings he wanted:
O no, it was something to do.

He found that employment created enjoyment,
And passed the time cheerful away;
That study and reading, by far were exceeding
His cakes, and his toys, and his play.

To school now returning, to study and learning
With pleasure did Harry apply;
He felt no aversion to books; 'twas diversion,
And caus'd him to smile, not to sigh.

CHRISTMAS.

MY DEAR CHILDREN:—Although it has been your delightful privilege to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, doubtless it has not occurred to many of you to inquire into the origin of this festival, or how it is observed in other lands than ours.

How expectantly we look for the coming of SANTA CLAUS, feeling sure the genial old fellow will not have forgotten us, notwithstanding we may have more or less deserved a somewhat smaller recognition than we provided for, judging by the length and capacity of our stockings. But what would you think, my charming little neice and robust young nephew, if your old fogy Uncle should fetch you a nice, sleek, insinuating switch, and you could not tell the antecedents of the donor? You would say, I think, that its application was deserved in a way and place quite foreign to the intentions of him who gave it.

SANTA CLAUS, who, since taking out his naturalization papers, has become ST. NICHOLAS, came to these shores with our Dutch forefathers, landing in New York. A fellow naturally so secretive and mysterious in character would have many aliases, as a matter of course, so when we discreetly inquire into his Old World history and belongings, we are met by still another name. Before leaving Germany for Holland he was known to a large and enthusiastic clientage as Knecht RUPERT. Habited in a white robe, high buskins and a huge flaxen wig, he swung a basketful of presents over his shoulder and trudged through the snow to the houses of his friends. His coming was not an unmixed blessing, because of a queer habit he had. He would sternly question the parents as to the conduct of his little friends during the year, and on this impartial report would largely depend the rewards bestowed on the deserving. Hence, Knecht RUPERT was a name not always mentioned with jovial frankness among children.

The salubrity of our climate or our fast way of living has told even on so conservative a fellow as SANTA CLAUS, as we find that he now disdains to trudge on foot, when reindeers are procurable, and instead of asking annoying questions, takes it for granted American children are the best in the world, even going so far as to wink at trifling subterfuges, such as feigning to own stockings that in most cases would adequately serve as an entire garment for the wearer!

In some districts in Germany RUPERT is not on visiting terms, in which case recourse is had to Christmas trees. The presents are hung tastefully from branches that are cheerfully lighted up. The name of the person for whom the gift is intended is inscribed on it, but in no case the name of the giver. Immediately succeeding the distribution of the presents a very wholesome, but not particularly delightful, scene ensues. The mother takes this occasion for saying to the girls, privately, and the father to the sons, what has been observed most faulty in their conduct, with wise counsel for future guidance.

In merrie England Christmas is a great holiday, and in former times the ceremonies extended until Candlemas (Feb. 2), every day being a holiday until Twelfth-night (Jan. 6). The nobles did things on a grand and generous scale. A "lord of misrule" was installed, whose duty it was to invent or suggest the games, pastimes, etc. What visions of good things picture themselves to our imagination, when we read of larders fairly bursting with everything that would tempt the most austere anchorite. Indeed, so proverbial was this season for feasting and plenty, and so great were the preparations to supply healthy British appetites, that the Italians have a proverb indicating commercial activity, which says, "He has more business than English ovens at Christmas." Glowing fires burned in most capacious fire-places, the main reliance being the yule log, which custom prescribed should be burned until Candlemas Eve.

You have all heard of soused boar's head, which was the main dish, and borne to the principal table with great pomp and solemnity, "upon a silver platter, with minstralsye."

It may never have occurred to you that the pretty custom of decking our churches and houses with greens is not derived from Christian tradition, but is, on the contrary, very heathenish; which should admonish us to view with great liberality the career of those whom we think are inferior, as the spirit of Charity—the most blessed of spirits—could only have animated the hearts of those who believed that by so using evergreens sylvan spirits would find shelter, and remain secure from King Frost until a milder season. We owe this practice to the Druids.

In Roman Catholic countries Christmas is not to so large an extent a domestic festival as among Protestants. The church services are much grander, the pomp and ceremony going to uncommon lengths in Italy and France. Christmas is ushered in by three masses, one at midnight, at which hour it is supposed the Saviour was born. This custom dates, however, from the Sixth Century only. It is a period of great honor to the Virgin MARY, her counterfeit presentment being carried around in procession, decked out in raiment that fairly dazzles.

The custom of singing carols, which were intended to emulate the songs of the Shepherds, dates from the time when the common people ceased to understand Latin.

Traditions referring to Christmas are numerous; many singularly lovely. In Devonshire the oxen were supposed to fall upon their knees at midnight and moan like humans. A hawthorn, supposed to be a part of the staff of JOSEPH of Arimathea, legend says, was planted on the eve of the Crucifixion, and immediately budded and was on the following day covered with flowers. This remarkable shrub was supposed to bloom regularly on Christmas day, and persons traveled great distances to behold the miracle. Twelfth-day is thought to be in honor of the magi, who brought presents to the Bethlehem manger.

Some very pretty Christmas games are played in England, especially noteworthy being a Twelfth-Night party. I think I can commend it to some of my enterprising little relations, who may happily enliven the evening by its means.

First we must make and bake a fine cake—visions of a huge frosted plum cake haunt me—and inside of which is placed a dried pea and bean. The extent of ornamentation on such a cake can be limited only by the resources of the pantry or

our purses. Then we want some slips on which are written a few rhymes, or bearing a picture. These are the "characters." The slips are numbered and those meant for the girls are put in one box, while the unknown fortune of the boy is placed in another. The young folks being assembled, the cake is cut, and the boy who draws the bean is proclaimed king, while the girl who gets the pea is, for the nonce, a beautiful queen. Their majesties are duly enthroned and the "characters" are distributed among the rest of the company, each one being expected to read the verse aloud, which should be a comical one, and to personate the character drawn from the box. The sequel of fun depends entirely on the genius for un possessed by the party.

Now, my young friends, I think I have expatiated at sufficient length on the customs of one of our most cherished holidays, and I can close no more fittingly than by wishing all of you a very, very merry Christmas. A lonely sellishness leads me to add, that in the midst of your mirth you will kindly pause a moment to think of one old fellow, whose heart yearns most tenderly towards his many unseen relatives, and who frankly confesses that his pleasantest memory will be that, perhaps he is receiving, as *his* Christmas present, a part of the affection of those to whom, at first duty and finally inclination, has most tenderly attached him. Again, "A Merry Christmas" to all, and countless returns of the holiday to those who are not as old as UNCLE TRUE.

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

A Beginner.

WELL, to be sure! Did you ever! Just pass around Webster's Unabridged Dictionary and Comstock's Philosophy. Here is a letter from a city editor. I would know he was a city chap, because he calls himself a "pumpkin." What do you say, farmer boys, isn't he a big gourd, just a little green? Girls, step in lively, and scatter the Italics; it will do him good. I am just waiting for the fun. We are all expected to have some pets. I had some flowers, but the grasshoppers gobbled them before the seed was ripe. I hope something will eat the hoppers next spring, then I will be ready to commence again on nothing. I would like to tell you about my Sabbath school. I like it very much. Kind regards to all, if you let me in.—W. T., *Kansas.*

P. S.—Shall I write again, and will I be welcome?

[Of course.—UNCLE TRUE.]

From an Allegany Co. (N. Y.) Boy.

DEAR OLD RURAL:—I see there are a great many boys and girls writing, so I thought I would write a few lines and see if they would be printed. My father is a farmer. We keep twenty-three cows and make butter. I have four sheep and a pair of doves. I have a cat that I have trained to drive in a little wagon. I am seven years old. My father has taken the RURAL more than twenty years. We think it the best paper in the world.—E. C.

The Puzzler.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 39 letters:

My 33, 27, 13 23 a Territory of the United States.
My 11, 7, 30, 26 a city of great repute.
My 16, 37, 12, 27, 29, 11 a favorite article of food.
My 9, 19, 34, 7, 11 what we all should have.
My 22, 6, 21, 21, 13, 11 a coin.
My 35, 11, 2, 15 a town in Iowa.
My 34, 10, 18, 24, 30, 12, 8, 29, 11, 31, 13, 30 the ancient name of a popular city of the United States.
My 25, 13, 14, 28, 4, 24 an idol god of the Hindoos.
My 14, 24, 39, 21 a king of Israel.
My 12, 35, 31, 32, 30 a city of ancient times.
My 30, 20, 21, 10 a beast of burden.
My 5, 17, 11, 27, 21 10 an aqueous animal.
My 3, 8, 36, 15 a post town in Georgia.
My whole is a valuable maxim.

☞ Answer in two weeks. 6.

ANAGRAMS OF NEWSPAPERS.

1. CAUSE Rovor bit. 2. No, don't smile. 3. Paro is giraf. 4. H— end work early. 5. B—n's under way. 6. Ha, ha, Mother Ned. 7. Eaton N. Rice. 8. That Sunday rig. 9. Does Sir Peter fret?

☞ Answer in two weeks. PORT CRANE.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—Answers to Transposition in RURAL of Dec. 9 have been received from Mrs. K. I. SMITH, Mt. Kisco, and C. L. E., Middle Falls, N. Y. A solution to Geometrical Puzzle published Nov. 18 was received from CORNELIA L. BEATTIE, Wildwood, Kas., but escaped notice until now.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Dec. 9.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—Daniel Deronda.

TRANSPOSITION.—

Suppose, my little lady,
Your doll should break her head,
Could you make it whole by crying
Till your eyes and nose are red?
And wouldn't it be pleasanter
To treat it as a joke,
And say you're glad 'twas Dolly's
And not your head that broke.

Suppose you dress for walking,
And the rain comes pouring down,
Would it clear off sooner
Because you scold and frown?
And wouldn't it be nicer
For you to smile than pout,
And so make sunshine in the house
When there is none without?

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.00 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Molucca Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory and garden.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class.

Hydrangea paniculata Grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata.*—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green.

Jerusalem Artichoke.—Believing that the Jerusalem Artichokes are exceedingly valuable as food for all kinds of farm stock, we place them among our valuable premium plants. They will yield more bushels of tubers per acre than the common potato and we believe them more valuable for feeding purposes; besides the Artichoke will grow vigorously where the potato would fail entirely. We will send one-half pound each of the Long Purple and Round White, for each new subscriber as above, or one pound of the tubers of either variety. We shall store a quantity of the tubers in the cellar for sending out this winter; but those of our subscribers who reside north of the latitude of New York City had better leave their plant premiums in our hands after the first of January until early spring. We will, however, "book" all orders received during the winter, to be sent at the earliest possible moment.

Achania malvaviscus or Malvaviscus arborens.—The flowers are bright red, of a turban shape, two inches long. It blooms incessantly whether indoors or out. In the conservatory it may be trained so as to cover wood-work as readily as a vine. Its growth is so rapid that small plants set out in the spring will cover a space four feet in diameter by fall. As a plant for the sitting-room, the little care it needs, its perpetual scarlet flowers, contrasting elegantly with its golden-green, plush-like leaves—its endurance of dry heat and dust render it most pleasing and satisfactory. We commend this plant with confidence.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the beautiful Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

TERMS FOR 1877, IN ADVANCE,

INCLUDING POSTAGE, WHICH PUBLISHERS PREPAY.

Single Copy, $2.50 per Year. To Clubs:—Five Copies, and one copy free to Agent or getter up of Club, for $11.25; Seven Copies, and one free, for $16.05; Ten Copies, and one free, $20—only $2 per copy. The above rates *include postage* (under the new law) to any part of the United States, and the American postage on all copies mailed to Canada. On papers mailed to Europe, by steamer, the postage will be 85 cents extra for each subscription. Drafts, Post-Office Money Orders and Registered Letters may be mailed at our risk. ☞ Liberal Premiums to all Club Agents who do not take free copies. Specimen Numbers, Show-Bills, &c., sent free.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

A new industry has been started in Hancock Co., Maine—extracting tannin from sweet fern. From a ton of sweet fern a barrel of extract tannin is made, worth $22, and also a barrel of second quality, worth $7.52 per barrel.

Hunters report that the black squirrel, once so numerous in Southern Michigan, is rapidly disappearing.

A job lot of Maine islands, sixty-two in number, were auctioned off at Rockland, the other day. The whole of them only brought $1,500.

John Bright spoke in England against that government's Eastern policy.

The American plan for sending fresh meat to Great Britain is succeeding admirably. A system has been organized by which 3,000 quarters of fresh beef can be sent over in each steamer, not frozen, but cooled to a safe temperature by air which has passed through ice-chambers. In spite of opposition from the butchers, a cargo was sold in Liverpool a fortnight ago at from 6d. to 8d. a pound. The meat has fetched 8d. per pound in Glasgow for some time.

The Director of the Mint says the country has half enough gold to resume specie payments.

The Press Association reports that the Cambridge University Boat Club has declined the challenge of Yale and Cornell Universities to a four-oared race on the Thames from Putney to Mortlake in August, 1877.

The National Banks have made bad debts to the amount of $19,712,000 during the last fiscal year.

California wheat is selling for $1.65 per bushel

The gold yield of California this year is estimated at $20,000,000.

A Washington correspondent says that the separation by divorce of Mary Clemmer Ames and her husband was not the result of any quarrel, but because it was necessary for her to live in Washington while his business kept him in Harper's Ferry, and that enforced separation, added to the great difference in their ages, convinced them that they would both be happier free.

Dr. Forbes Winslow records the startling fact that over 10,000 persons of unsound mind are confined in the lunatic asylums of the United States, driven mad from over-excitement on the subject of spiritualism, and that insanity from the same cause is prevalent in England, and increasing every day.

A Colorado woman has collected fifty bushels of grasshoppers, and scalded and dried them for winter chicken feed.

Hing Lee, the richest Chinaman in Montana, was recently murdered at German Gulch. His murderers got about $50,000.

A milder feeling is said to prevail in political consels.

The President says he does not anticipate any disturbances.

Senator Morton made a hasty trip to his home, and rumors of all sorts are rife.

The Democrats are not in accord in counsel.

The 22d joint rule is not yet laid at rest.

A very large number of bills are before Congress which were left over from the last session, but it is not probable that one-fourth of them will be acted upon. The calendar of the Senate shows that 212 bills are pending before that body, besides a number of resolutions. Seventy-four of the bills now before the Senate have been passed by the House and 138 are Senate bills, many being of minor importance. The calendar of the House of Representatives shows that there are 42 bills of a public nature and 231 of a private character pending before that body.

The Senate bills to restore the franking privilege, for the protection of agriculture against injurious insects and to provide for the construction of a new library building, in Washington, will be called up this session.

In the mandamus case before the Supreme Court, on the 16th inst., the defendant made an answer which, after argument, the court characterized as insufficient, and ordered that it be amended and brought into court by Monday morning, the 18th inst., at 10 o'clock. There is a general impression that the court will issue the mandamus and that a new canvass will be made. This new canvass will operate directly on the State and Congressional tickets alone, though it will of course have an indirect influence on national politics. The face of the returns, on which the new canvass, if ordered, will be made, will give Drew a large majority and elect both Democratic Congressmen. The decision of the court will hardly be reached before Tuesday or Wednesday.

The Investigating Committees are at work.

The recent gale has damaged the shipping extensively.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE international commission to survey the proposed interoceanic canal route through the Isthmus of Darien arrived about the 1st inst. at Aspinwall by a French steamer. Lucien N. Bonaparte Wyse commands the expedition, and has under his direction V. Cellier, a French engineer; W. Brooks, an English engineer; Gerster and G. Musso, engineers, respectively from Austria and Italy, and also engineers Millet, Baudoin, Barbiez, Merendol, Giganti and Lenoff, with Dr. Vizier, naturalist, and A. Reclus, marine officer. The commission were to leave immediately for Panama, where they were to incorporate among their number four engineers from the United States. Operations will begin with the opening of the dry season.

The commanders of the Southern army have received orders to be ready to cross the Pruth into Roumania, where trains have been engaged to transport the troops to the Danube. Northern Bosnia is entirely denuded of Turkish troops. Renewed outbreak and lawlessness are feared.

Niesic is to be revictualled by the Montenegrins.

The French Government has ordered that hereafter the second and third class cars on railroads must in some way be heated in winter.

Several merchants from the interior of Mexico arrived at New Orleans, the 16th inst., and confirm the news of the capture of President Lerdo and the death of Gen. Escobedo, and the capture of the City of Mexico by Gen. Diaz. Iglesias from Leon, ordered Dias to hold the City of Mexico, and proclaim the Presidency of Iglesias, which Diaz declined to do unless he could name four members of the Cabinet. This was refused by Iglesias, when Diaz proclaimed himself provisional President, and the revolution now continues between these rival pretenders, who are now preparing for a new struggle.

It snowed lately in Constantinople, and the superstitious Turks were filled with dismal forebodings at a phenomenon of such rare occurrence in their climate.

The Duchesse of Edinburgh's daughter has been named Victoria.

The Marquis of San Carlos will, it is said, bring into the Spanish Congress a bill to abolish bull-fights.

The political situation is somewhat clouded again in France in consequence of the development of hostility on the part of the Clericalists and the Gambetta Radicals to the new Cabinet. A conflict between the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies also excites apprehension. The *Republique Francaise* declares the Chamber will know, if occasion requires, how to remind M. Simon of his promises.

In consequence of the refusal of the Basque Provinces to pay the sum of 18,500,000 reals demanded from them for the maintenance of the army of occupation, the treasury of the Provincial Deputation was seized by Gen. Quesada's orders, when it was found to be empty. The resignation of the deputation and municipal council is probable. Troops have been dispatched. Great excitement prevails.

The famine in India is worse than was anticipated.

There is a revolution in progress in Columbia.

Gen. Diaz, the Mexican revolutionist is in complete control of the government.

The latest war news; including advices to Dec. 18, state that Servia has signified her willingness to make proper reparation for the recent insult to the Austrian flag in the forcible detention and searching of an Austrian mail steamer by the Servian police.

A special dispatch from Berlin to the Standard says: Despite all peaceful statements elsewhere the news received from the conference in high political quarters here, maintain that a Russo-Turkish war is inevitable. Russia has not yet completed her preparations, and will endeavor to protract the conference until her southern army is concentrated. Private intelligence from St. Petersburg also states that Russia is unalterably determined to meet immediately the grievances which have been already indulged too long for European peace, but she will not enter the field until she feels able to make an irresistible assault.

The Vienna correspondent of the Times says the Russian General, Nikitine, has started for Servia to take command of the Russian troops there and act as Russian plenipotentiary. The soldiers belonging to the active army of Servia, who are estimated to number 66,000, have been ordered to rejoin their colors by the 22d of December. The Times' dispatch from Berlin states that Gen. Nikitine goes to inspect the Servian army. Russian journals say only 8,000 Russian volunteers remain in Servia. Nearly all the South Russian telegraphs are so damaged by frost as to be useless.

The Standard's telegram from Pesth says it is asserted positively that the Porte will absolutely refuse to cede any territory to Montenegro or Servia.

Achmet Eyoub Pasha has been appointed commander of the Army of the Danube.

Very earnest efforts are being made in England to abate the drunkenness so dreadfully prevalent by the establishment of comfortable eating houses, where intoxicating drink is served only at meals. Dr. Haweis, an eminent clergyman, points out that the discomfort and bad food of the dining rooms drive people to the gin shops. While the former are dingy and dreary, the latter are just the reverse, so the young workmen gulp down their unpalatable food, and then go for the glass which inebriates. Mr. Rathbone, the philanthropic member for Liverpool, stated recently at a meeting in that city that during the previous week the British Workman Public House Company had sold 7,388 gallons of tea, cocoa, and coffee in 75,000 portions, and the takings were £469 5s. 9d. The object of the company is to give all the comforts of the public house without its temptations. In proof of the gains of public houses, he mentioned that $50,000 was offered for the lease and good will of one opposite the Liverpool Sailors' Home.

Dr. Schliemann has made some more discoveries at Mycenæ. In the tomb previously explored he has found a great quantity of women's jewelry in gold, and handsomely worked. Immediately after commencing excavations at an adjoining tomb a large head of a cow in silver, with immense horns of pure gold, was found. A large girdle of gold, five gold vases, and immense golden buttons were also found. All these objects are said to be marvelously worked. Among other discoveries are nine silver vases and numerous swords of bronze, but no trace of ironwork.

An International Retrospective Exhibition of Curiosities of all kinds, from instruments of prehistoric times to objects of art up to the year 1800 will be specially held at the Paris Exposition of 1878. An Archæological Committee has been instituted for that purpose, under the direction of M. de Longperier, of the Institute. The collectors of the world are invited to participate in the interesting enterprise.

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Dec. 16, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	75,801	Molasses	7,913
Whisky	2,123	Rice, bbls.	970
Corn meal, bbls.	2,300	Cut meats, pkgs.	23,716
Corn meal, bags	1,142	Lard, pkgs.	21,881
Wheat, bush.	512,450	Tobacco, hhds.	316
Corn, bush	102,977	do. pkgs	2,694
Oats, bush	101,822	Butter, pkgs	24,114
Rye, bush	48,405	Cheese, bxs	28,197
Malt, bush	9,855	Cotton, bales	35,555
Barley, bush	102,140	Rosin	11,107
Beans, bush	7,000	Sats. turp., bbls.	1,817
Grass seed, bush.	12,130	Dried Fruits, pkgs.	1,417
Beef, pkgs	1,005	Eggs, bbls	3,158
Wool, bales	3,317	Peanuts, bags	1,939
Hops, bales	1,341	Leather, sides	51,998
Pork, bbls	8,111	Sugar, hhds.	1,771
Tallow	1,430	Oil cake	7,916

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible; mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival here of summer items on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—For both mediums and marrows country prices are strong, and, with moderate receipts, quotations here are again pressed upward. There is a pretty steady trade, but sales are restricted, owing to the firmness that all holders exhibit. Other sorts of beans are firm in sympathy with the standards, Pea showing an important advance. Imported and Cal. Limas quoted $3@3.50. The demand for Canadian peas is slack and prices are lower and weak, especially for any under prime.

Exports past week 24,165 bush.; since Jan. 1st, 655,864 do.; same time last year, 159,380. Green peas are steadier since the decline. B. E. peas quiet, but firm. We quote:

Beans—New medium, $2.25@2.30; do. marrow, $2.35@2.40; do. pea, $2.65@2.75; white kidney, $2.50@2.60; red do., $2.30@2.50; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $2.00@2.15; marrow, $1.90@2.25; pea, prime, $2.25@2.45; white kidney, prime, $2.10@2.35; red do., prime, $2.20@2.30; black, $3.00@3.25; Canadian peas, ₩ bbl., free, $1.05@1.01½; do. bulk, 82@91c.; green do., new, $1.15@1.25; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2.15@2.20.

BROOM CORN.—Demand is unimportant, and prices unsettled.

Brush short green quoted at 7@8c. ₩ lb.; hurl green at 6½@7½c.; green medium at 5@5c.; red and red-tipped, 3@4c.

BUTTER.—We look for a moderate trade just before the holidays, but there has been such a lack of general business this season up to date, that we perhaps feel the present inactivity more sensibly than we otherwise would. The chief inquiry is for fancy stock both Western and State. Under grades of State are neglected. The holding price of it sends close buyers, who now supply the mass of consumers, to the more economically rated Western. The West has been rather luckier in the average quality of butter this year than New York. Speaking of the trouble of moving the good to lower grades of State the Producers' Price Current says:

"This latter class of butter is extremely unsalable; much of it is well made even-colored stock, with the fresh flavor lost and perhaps an old flavor acquired. The offers for it of 23@25c. are generally below holders' views but more than it is really worth in comparison with the Western tubs offering at the same figures. Another grade very hard to sell is late made, wintry butter; it is plenty and is generally sold in lots with better butter, greatly reducing the invoice price. Separately this class of stock could not be made to exceed the rates for Western factory stock, which is, indeed, when well handled, superior to it in nearly all respects."

Pails have become unseasonable, now hardly quotable as a specialty. There is some improvement in fresh rolls and more of the finer qualities could be used. There is a fair packing trade in common Western but not much export demand to be depended upon. Late purchases include some State Welsh tubs. State dairies are unchanged; they have hung on first hands a good while this season.

Exports past week 1,614 pkgs.

We quote:—Creamery, choice, 36@38c.; good, 33@35c.; sweet cream pails, 33@35c. State firkins, choice, 28@30c.; fair to good, 24@27c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 33@35c.; fair to prime, 28@32c.; do.; pour and off-flavored, 22@25c.; Welsh tubs, choice, 30@32c.; other, 24@28c.; inferior State, 15@19c.; Western creamery, choice, 32@35c.; other, 32@34c.; do. firkins, best, 21@22c.; other, 15@18c.; dairy tubs, choice, 25@27c.; other, 18@23c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 13@15c.

State dairies quotable at 30@32c. with full tubs Welsh tubs dairies, 2.@29c.

State firkins dairies, 25@30c. Roll butter, fair to prime, 19@23c.; do., poor to fair, 14@19c.

CHEESE.—The arrivals have now become very moderate, and a good portion are for shipment abroad direct. It is thought that the supplies in this market are more largely forward than usual at this season. Exporters have bought fancy colored factories at 13 and white at 13½c., September made. Firm prices prevail generally. We quote:

Fancy factory at 15c. for fancy colored, 14½c. for fancy white; job lots, 15½c.; good and prime, 13½@14½c.; fair, 11@12½c. State farm dairy, fancy, 13½@14c.; good to prime, 12½@13½c.; fair and good, 11@12½c.; common, 5@8c. Western factory, fancy, 14@14½c.; good and prime, 12½@13½c.; fair lots, 10@11c.; factory, State and skims, 3@4c.; do. late, 8@10c.

Exports past week, 16,433 boxes. Liverpool cable quotation, 68s., which is lower. Gold closed at 107¼.

COTTON.—There has been a depressed and dull market. The latest quotations are:

December, 12 3-16c.; January, 12 9-32@12 5-16c.; February, 12 17-32c.; March, 12 23-32@12¾c.; April, 12 29-32@12 15-16c.; May, 13 1-16@13 3-32c.; June, 13 7-32c.; July, 13 5/8@13 13-32c.; August, 13 15-32c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	*Ala.*	*Orleans.*	*Texas*
Ordinary	10¼	10¼	10¼	10¼
Strict ordinary	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Good ordinary	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛
Strict good do.	11⅜	11⅜	11 7-16	11 7-16
Low middling	11⅝	12⅛	12⅜	12⅜
Strict low middling	12⅛	12	12⅜	12⅜
Middling	12⅜	12¼	12 5-16	12 5-16
Good middling	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
Strict good middling	12⅞	12⅞	12⅞	12⅞
Middling fair	13	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛
Fair	13⅜	13⅜	14	14

Stained

Good ordinary	10	Low middling	11
Strict ordinary	10⅝	Middling	11⅝

DRIED FRUITS.—For apples there has been a more active inquiry for strictly prime lots of State and Western quarters, and steadier prices are made; Sliced apples are very dull. Peaches are yet very scarce and favor the seller. Blackberries and raspberries are hard to sell.

Apples—State, sliced, 5¼@5½c.; do., quarters, 5¼@5½c.; southern sliced, new, fair, 4½@5c.; choice do. 5¼@6c.; fancy, nominal; do., new qrs., in bags, 3½@4c.; do. repacked, 4½@5c.; Western quarters 4½@5c. Blackberries at 8½@8¾c. Peeled peaches, at 20@21c.; for fancy North Carolina; 18@20c. for prime: 18@19c. for prime Georgia; 15@17c. for good; unpeeled peaches, halves, 9@10c.; do. quarters, 8½@9c. Raspberries, 28@29c. Cherries, 17½c.

EGGS.—Dealers ought to look for better prices, with cold weather and light receipts. Trade, however, is irregular, and buyers who will pay extreme rates are few, and they insist on strictly prime condition. Much of the Western stock here and arriving has been held, and when the lower price is named, buyers at once become suspicious. Very few near points are arriving. The South is sending some good, small lots of fresh laid. Limed eggs are dull, quality is against them this season. Last year they turned out finely and the disparity now works against them. We quote:

Jersey, single barrels, strictly fresh, 33@35; State and Penn., 28@30½c.; Western, fresh laid, 26c.; Western & Canadian, fair marks, 28@28½; Southern, fresh laid, 28½@29; State limed, 20@22c.; Western, do., 18@19c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the current rates:

Peppermint, $2.50 ₩ lb. in tin, $3.25@3.50 in glass—tone firm. Sassafras scarce and firm at 50c. ₩ lb. Wintergreen, large supply, weak at $2.50. Spearmint, nominally $2.50 ₩ lb.; no demand.

FLOUR.—There has been a very dull market. The advices from the other side have been very unsatisfactory. Export trade has been checked, and the home demand is of a very meagre description. Prices are a trifle easier only.

The latest sales are $5.10@5.35 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5.45@5.60 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.65@5.70 for good extra do $5.75@5.90 for fancy do., and $5.95@7 for fancy to very choice extra; $5.00@5.25 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.45@5.65 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.70@5.75 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.80@7.00; fancy do. $7.05@8; winter wheat, good to choice family, $5.25@5.25; round-hoop Ohio, $5.45@5.10, and trade brands of do. at $5.60@7; St. Louis, $5.50@6.70 for common to fair extra, and $6.75@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.65@7.35, and patent at $7.50@9.00; unsound stock at from $3.75@5.50; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.20@6.30; do. English brands, $5.50@5.60; do. trade and family, $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $4.00@4.40; sour, $3.75@5.50.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports of apples past week, 7,511 bbls.; since Jan. 1st 143,000 bs. have been sent abroad. The apple market begins to feel the large outlet that has favored the crop this season. Still there is an abundance, and a good many lots will have to be put at low prices for some time. Fancy fruit in a small way bring $2. Lady apples are plenty and have an unusual low range. There is a fair demand for cranberries.

Our quotations for Jersey berries are for standard packages branded "N. J. C. G. A.," the dimensions being for crates 8¾x12x22 inches and for barrels, diameter of head 16¼, of bilge 13¾, and depth 25¾ inches, inside measurement. California Winter pears are selling slowly at $3@3.50 ₩ box. A few extra W. Nells $4. Cal. Quinces dull at $3 ₩ box.

Grapes firm. Hickory nuts have declined, demand fair. Peanuts dull.

Apples, State, ₩ bbl., prime red, $1.65@1.75; mixed, $1.25@1.50; good to fair, $1@1.25. Lady apples $5@7. Cranberries, crates, $2.50@3.00; Eastern, bbls., good to prime, $8@10; N. J. $8@9, for good to prime. Grapes—Catawba, ₩ lb., 10@12c. Peanuts—Va., fancy, $1.5@1.20; other, 70c.@$1. Hickory nuts, coarse, 50@60c.; shellbarks, $1.50@1.75.

GRAIN.—For wheat the past week has been the dullest known here for a long time. Exporters have been practically out of the market, while the home trade is small, on account of the dragging market for flours. Prices have been very much unsettled; latest sales are of No. 1 Minnesota spring at $1.37. No. 2 Chicago spring at $1.30; No. 2 Milwaukee spring at $1.32. Buckwheat quoted at 80@85c. Rye is lower: Western quoted at 90@93c.; Jersey, State and Pennsylvania, 91@93c. Barley is depressed; No. 1 Canada quoted at $1.10@1.12½. Canada West malt sold at $1.20@1.25, time. Corn is fairly active and strong; mixed Western at 56@56c. Oats are in very good demand and favor the seller: mixed Western and State at 34@49c., and white do. at 38@51c.

HAY AND STRAW.—Supplies have fallen off, and the demand is sufficient to strengthen prices.

Bale hay 150c. for shipping; 70@90c. for retail qualities; clover, 55@65c.; salt do., 50@60c. Straw quoted at 70@80c. for long rye; 50@60c. for short rye, and 45@55c. for oat.

Dealers do not look for any rapid advance as the back countries are reported with a good surplus to make up any deficiency of river crops.

Exports past week, 1,038 bales., since Jan. 1st, 40,569 do.; same time last year, 40,902 do.

HOPS.—There is no marked change. A trifle steadier feeling prevails on the better grades, with a little better trade; The exports for the week are 1,020 bales, and since Sept. 1st, 15,558 bales, against 17,451 bales same time last year; 50c. is made on strictly prime lots Low and medium grades are but little wanted.

New Yorks, good to choice, new	25 to 30
New Yorks, low to fair, new	15 to 25
Eastern, new	20 to 25
Wisconsin, new	12 to 22
Yearlings	10 to 15
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	28 to 30
Oregon	28 to 30

POULTRY AND GAME.—If anything could keep back live poultry, the following low quotations should have an effect. Quotations include Canadian ducks and geese.

New Jersey turkeys, 8@10c. ₩ lb.; Western, 8@9c.; N. J. fowls and chicks, 8@9c.; Western, 8c.; roosters, 5@6c. Geese, N. J., ₩ pair, $1.50@2; Western, $1.25@1.50. Ducks, N. J., ₩ pair, 75@$1; Western, 50@65c. Live pigeons, ₩ pair, 25c.

The dressed poultry trade has been in a sad condition all the week. Even with the best weather, trade has been very dull and prices have not paid for shipping. In fact, near points have stopped sending, but there is enough Western arriving and on hand to overstock the market.

Turkeys, N. J., 10@13c.; State, 9@12c.; Western, 8@12c. Chickens, dry-picked, 10@13c. N. J. chicks, 9@12c.; State, 8@10c.; Western, 7@10c. Ducks, N. J., 10@13c.; State, 9@12c.; Western, 8@11c. Geese, 5@8c. for common; 10@12c. for good to best.

Game is in good supply and shows more winter activity. Prices regarded good for the times, especially as the stock is large enough to require general trade.

We quote.—Canvas-back ducks $1.00@1.75; Red Head, 35@75c.; Mallard 60@70c.; Teal, 50@60c.; common, 25@30c.

Quail, ₩ doz., prime, $1.25@1.50; soft shell, 60c.@$1, Partridge, 65@75c.; drawn, 40@50c. Prairie Hens, 90c.@$1; drawn, 40@80c. Hares, 30@40c.; Rabbits, 20@30c. Venison, whole, 10@12c.; long saddle, 12@14c.; short do., 15@16c.

PROVISIONS.—Hog products generally are higher and fairly active; mess pork quoted at $16.75 on spot, $16.85 for February, and $17.30 for March. Dressed hogs, Western, at 7@7¾c. Bacon at 9c. for long clear and 9¾c. for short clear. Lard, Western steam, at $10.50 for spot and December, $10.55 for January, and $10.70 for February. Stearine at 10¾c. for prime Western. Tallow at 8¾@8¾c. for prime, in hhds. Beef hams at $20 for choice Western. Beef at $10.50@11 for plain mess, $12@12.50 for extra mess, $20@21 for prime mess, and $22@24 for India mess.

TOBACCO.—Export demand is very light at present, but prices steady.

KENTUCKY LEAF—NEW CROP.

	Light.	Heavy.
Common lugs	5 @ 5	6 @ 7
Good lugs	6 @ 7¼	7¼@ 8
Low leaf	8 @ 8½	8½@ 9½
Medium leaf	9 @10	10 @11
Good leaf	10½@12	11½@13
Fine leaf	13 @14	14 @16
Selections	16 @17	16 @18

SEEDLEAF—CROP OF 1875.

New England wrappers	15 @30
fine, do.	33 @40
selections	42 @50
seconds	12½@14
Fine fillers	6 @ 7½
Seconds and fillers, shipping	5½@ 7
Pennsylvania fine to selected wrappers	35 @45
assorted lots	14 @25
Ohio assorted lots	6 @ 7
Wisconsin assorted lots	3 @ 5

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes last week, 6,227 bbls.; of onions, 433 do. Potatoes have ruled firm; but, at the close, with a better offering of good Nova Scotia, Peach Blows and Rose, are a shade in buyers' favor. Sweet are higher—not many wanted. Onions higher. Other items steady at prices. We quote:

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₩ bbl. $3.50@3.75. Early Rose, prime, $3.50@3.75; Peerless and Jackson white, $2.62@3 sweet, Del. $3.00@4; Va. $2.75@3. Cabbages, ₩ 100, $5@8. Marrow squash, ₩ bbl., $1@1.25. Hubbard Squash $1.50@1.75. New Russian turnips, ₩ bush., 75c.@—. Onions—Yellow, ₩ bbl., $1.87@2.12; white, $2.75@3.25; red, $1.87@2.12.

WOOL.—There has been a more active market, demand partly on speculative account, and the prices throughout were very strong. XX Ohio fleeces sold at 48c. We quote:

Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—	
XXX and Picklock	48 @ 50
XX	46 @ 48
X	44 @ 46
No. 1	40 @ 42
No. 2	36 @ 38
Common	34 @ 36
Combing	47 @ 50
New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin—	
XX	35 @ 42
X	38 @ 40
No. 1	38 @ 40
No. 2	33 @ 35
Common	30 @ 33
Combing	50 @ 52
Iowa, Vermont and Illinois—	
XX	36 @ 38
X	36 @ 38
No. 1	36 @ 38
No. 2	33 @ 34
Combing	45 @ 47
Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee—	
Washed fleece	34 @ 36
Unwashed	25 @ 29
do. combing	23 @ 27

ROCHESTER, Dec. 16.—Flour market strong spring, $7.00; amber winter, $7.25; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $8.00. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat steady: Milwaukee club, $1.30@1.40; amber winter, $1.25@1.28; white winter, $1.25@1.33. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 24@26c. Cheese, 12½@14c. Eggs, 23@25c. Lard, 10½@11c. Apples, bu., 30@40c. Potatoes, bu., $1@1.20. Beans, ₩ bu., 1.40@$1.85. Mess pork, $17.00. Wool, 25@30c. Hay, $10@12. Straw, $5@8. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed firm at $14 for shorts, $16 for shipstuffs, and $20 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₩ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Dec. 16, 1876.

THE market has been very thinly attended this week and the delivery of cheese light. The weather is extremely cold and unfavorable for the shipment of cheese. We quote sales of farm dairies at 11¾@12½c. for late ends, mostly Novembers. Only a few lots of factory cheese were sold. The highest rates paid for Novembers, with a light sprinkling of Octobers, were for a lot of Arnold Bros.', which brought 13½c. We quote lowest price at 12¾c.; highest, 13½c.; average, 13¼c.

The delivery of butter has declined in quality and prices are lower. The butter now coming forward is mostly hay-made, and good to fair lots brought from 25 to 27c., while extra went at 28c. Grass butter is scarce, and none has been offered this week.

Cows are reported to be wintering well, and we hear of no cases of abortion—a disease which has been more or less prevalent in Central New York at this season for a number of years past.

We have advices from abroad to the 28th of November. Our London correspondent says the finest English cheese is scarce and medium barely salable. The stocks of American cheese are very small. Septembers are scarce, and the tendency of the market is strongly upward. Prices are as follows:

American, extra fine, 70@72s.; fine, 68@70s.; good, 56@64s.; secondary and low grades, 30@50s. English cheddar brings from 82@98s.; Wiltshire double, 68@70s.; Cheshire medium, 48@54s.; fine, 70@72s.; Scotch, 68@70s. Dutch Cheese—Edams, 56@58s.; Gondas, 58@62s.; Derby shape, 60@64s.

Butter is slow of sale. Normandy and all secondary sorts of European and American are down. The best descriptions of Carlows are firm, and are now taken by biscuit-makers and retailers in preference to Normandy, most of which come loaded with water. We quote:

Choicest, 165@168s.; Corks, 149@159s.; Dorsets, 174s.; Jersey, 130s.; Danish and Swedish, 128@166s.; Normandy, 120@152s. Oleomargarine, 90@104s.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,581	22	991	13,725	00
Forty-Eighth St.	39	128	95	9,407	00
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	18,732
Harsimus Cove	7,113	00	51	11,409	11,562
Totals this week	10,736	150	1,137	34,531	31,294
" last week	11,450	116	1,141	26,260	33,078

BEEVES.—Trade on Monday last was fair, owing to there having been a moderate run of horned cattle only on hand. A large proportion of the herds shipped did not arrive, being held back by a severe snow storm; prices were 7@11¾c. ₩ lb.; weights, 1¼@11 cwt.; the markets closed firm. Wednesday, trade very slow on a light run; prices 7@10c. ₩ lb.; weights, 1¼@9 cwt. Thursday, trade dull at 7@10½c. weights, 1¾@8 cwt. Friday, trade fair at 7@11½c.; weights, 5@10½ cwt. The markets closed firm. No Spanish cattle to hand, save a very few head mixed in with other herds. Native steers, 7¾@10c.; grade, 10¾@11¼c. Dry cows, 7@8½c. Heifers, 7¾@8¾c. One choice quality State heifer, fatted in Duchess Co., live weight, 1,700 lbs., sold at 11c., to dress 50 lbs. net. Oxen at 7@10c. Mixed herds, 8@9c. ₩ lb. Bulls, live weight, 3¾@3¾c. From 51@60 lbs. net, has been allowed. The quality of these herds, as above quoted, was from poor to fair, with a choice top.

MILCH COWS.—Although the supply of fresh cows has been heavy again this week, trade has been slow; at low rates. Twenty-two cows sold at $30@35 ₩ head 20 cows at $40@45; 16 cows at $45@55; 16 cows at 50@70 3 cows for $120—calves always included.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Smooth quality veals in moderate demand on a light run; prices 8½@10¾c. ₩ lb.; general sales, 9@9¾c. Coarse quality calves very slow of sale at 5@6c., also at $6.25@15.50 ₩ head. Yearling bulls, $12 ₩ head; do. heifers, $13 ₩ head.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade has been slow in ordinary quality flocks; but the demand for good quality sheep has been steady. Monday, sheep sold at $5.75@6.80 ₩ cwt.; lambs, 6@7c. ₩ lb. Wednesday, sheep, 4@8¼c.; lambs, 5½@6¾c. Thursday, sheep, 4¾@7½c.; lambs, 6¾@7¾c. Friday, sheep, 3¾@7¾c.; lambs, 6@7½c. The markets closed dull. Jersey sheep, 4½@5c.; State, bucks included, 3¾@7½c.; Ohio, 4¾@6¾c.; Missouri, 4¾c.; Kentucky, 7¾@8¾. Jersey ewes, 4½@4½c. Illinois sheep, 1¾@4½c.; Canada, 6¾@7c. State lambs, 6@6½c.; Canada, 6¾@7c.

HOGS.—Monday last, 180 Ohio hogs, average live weight, 190@195 lbs. ₩ head, sold at 6¾c. ₩ lb. Thursday and Friday, nine carloads held on sale. Trade in city dressed dull at 7½@7¾c. ₩ lb., with general sales at 7¾c. Light pigs, selected quality, 8@8¾c.

HORSE MARKET.—The end of this year is now so close at hand that trade in city horses has fallen off until quotations have become so few that they are valueless. Dealers have their stables well supplied and are hopeful of an improved condition of trade early in the coming year. Thirty horses arrived at Erie Railway.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11¾	10¾@11¾
Fair	10 @10¾	10 @10¾
Poor	9¾@ 9¾	9¾@ 9¾
Poorest	7 @ 9	8 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9¾	8¾@ 9¾

SPECIAL NOTICES.

J. M. Childs & Co., Utica, N. Y., have purchased 1,000 WISNER'S TIGER RAKES for their trade and expect to duplicate the order before the close of the season of 1877. This firm sold 1,300 Wisner Rakes during the summer of 1876.

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INDEX TO NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Baldwin, N. H.—Celebrated Foot Lathes.
Bostwick & Co., W. J.—$5 Holiday Gift.
Dingee & Conard Co.—Rose Buds in Winter.
Finch, F.—$1 Worth Choice Garden or Flower Seeds
Florence Sewing Machine Co.—Florence Heater.
Gregory, James J. H.—Send Catalogue.
Harbach, Theo. J.—Centennial Slides.
Hunter & Co.—Good Books.
Lee & Shepard—Holiday Gift.
Livingston & Co.—Corn Sheller.
Lockwood, Brooks & Co.—The Farm-yard Club of Jotham.
N. Y. Slate Roofing Co.—Mantels.
Osgood & Co., James R.—Holiday Book.
Sheldon & Co.—The Galaxy.
Smith, Mrs. B.—Butter and Cheese Coloring.
Ziegler & Co., P. W.—New Book for Agents.
SPECIAL NOTICES.
Childs & Co., J. M.—Wisner Tiger Rake.

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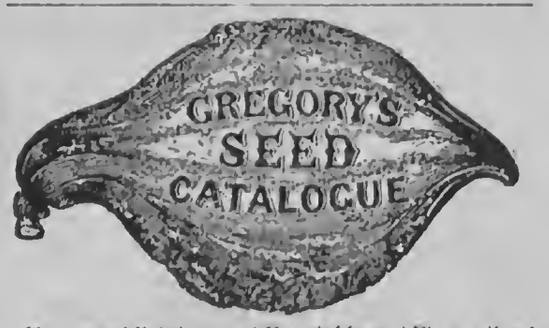

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It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

PUBLISHERS are not responsible for the safe delivery of their papers to subscribers, still they usually hold themselves in readiness to supply any number of their papor which may miscarry in the malls.

M. B. P.—We will endeavor soon to comply with your request, and again tell our readers how to catch, mount, preserve and pack insects to be sent by mail or otherwise.

T. C. D.—In the Northern States cellars are mainly used by farmers for keeping their apples through winter; but we should think that a light, airy room would answer the purpose in the South. As for the cost of erecting a fruit-canning establishment, much would depend upon the size and capacity; besides, the cost of materials in different localities would vary greatly. An establishment of this kind should be located in a region where other fruits besides peaches could be canned in this season, also various kinds of vegetables, for the same apparatus may be used for all without additional cost.

T. M. B., Rushford, N. Y.—We presume the plant to which you refer is Comfroy, but a root of it would enable us to decide positively.

Reader.—At present we do not know the address of any party engaged in raising minks, or of any one having them for sale.

Mrs. G. J. G.—We have before known instances of excellent singers among canaries losing their notes after molting. If any of our readers can prescribe treatment in such cases, we will be most happy to publish it for the benefit of yourself and others.

J. G.—There are several species of "Grain Weevil," therefore we cannot attempt to name the one infesting your barn without seeing a specimen.

A Subscriber.—Farms in Virginia are said to be selling at a very low figure, but we cannot say whether those advertised are cheap or not. The best course for you to pursue would be to visit the State and make your own selections and bargains on the spot. With cash in hand, good bargains can be made almost anywhere in these times.

S. B.—The Century Plant (*Agave Americana*) will stand a few degrees of frost. It may be placed in sand for the winter, or the roots may be crowded into any pot or box large enough to hold them. It will not need water, or indeed the least care of any kind, so that it be kept from freezing.

S.—Eggs contain a small quantity of sulphur, which, upon being boiled, is converted into sulphurated hydrogen. This gas tarnishes both silver and gold. Hence the teaspoons are tarnished from contact with boiled eggs.

Reader.—The Mimulus is pretty for the greenhouse, but, except for moist, shady situations, it is worthless out-of-doors. We are aware that it is praised as a bedding plant.

C. C.—It is now too late to plant bulbs of Gladioli for winter blooming. They would not bloom before the first of April.

Z., Baltimore.—The lungs of animals are called Lights because they are light. The trachea, or windpipe, and bronchiæ are aptly compared to an inverted shrub, the trachea forming the stem, the bronchiæ (bronchial tubes), the branches, the subdivisions to the tings and the air vessels to buds. These air vessels penetrate to every part of the lungs, and the air they contain makes them lighter than water. Hence the common name of Lights.

R. H.—I send you Pelargonium flowers and tricolor leaves raised from the seeds received from you last year. Is not the flower superior to others and worth placing in the hands of florists? ANS.—We should say not. The flowers are not of an unusual shade, so far as can be judged, and as to size, we have a number, raised from the same lot of seeds, as large, or larger, that we have thrown away. We think florists would act wisely to follow our example as regards two-thirds of the Pelargoniums with which their catalogues are crowded. The tricolor leaves are pretty, but resemble the Mine. Pollock section so closely that, unless the plant is peculiar in habit or vigor or endurance of sun, it would not be considered as worthy of being preserved under a new name.

Real Estate.

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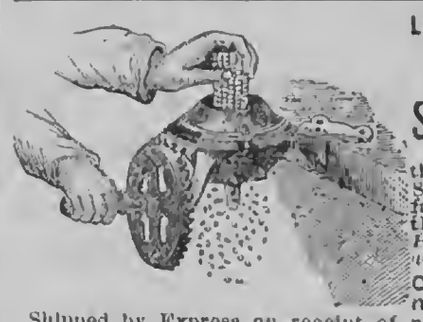

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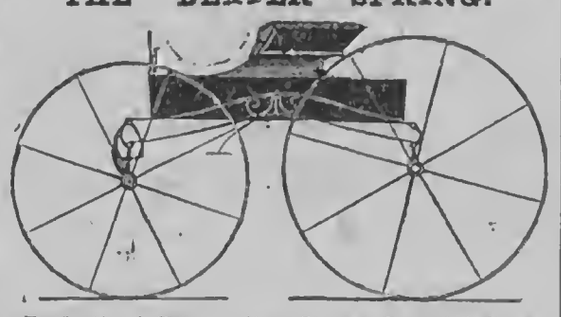

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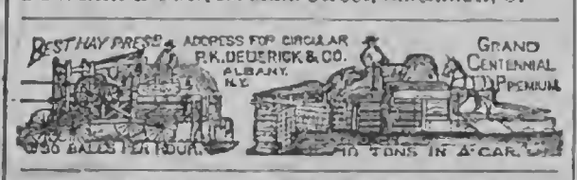

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The Best Paper, and the Best Premiums to Agents, is our motto. We ignore Chromos and all other cheap colored pictures, preferring to put our money *in the paper* and in Premiums to Agents.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

WADE HAMPTON is fifty-five.

ROSE EYTINGE is in sooty Cincinnati.

AN Italian invented spectacles in 1248.

YOUNG ladies still wear pie pans on their belts.

MAKAY of the big Bonanza, has a chateau near Paris.

GOVERNOR FAIRBANKS is said to be out of danger.

EMPRESS ELIZABETH of Austria had an early love for emeralds.

THE sixth boy born to a Wisconsin couple is named "Enough."

LYDIA MARIA CHILD, the authoress, is seventy-five, and still healthy.

FARM laborers in California receive from $25 to $50 a month, with board.

IT has been ascertained that there are 250,000 species of living animals.

NINE hundred million pounds of copper is the amount of last year's crop.

THE principal cities of the Union are fighting for gas at $1.50 per thousand.

THERE are 12,000 parish priests in France whose salary is only $180 each a year.

THE boys who help make nice falling places on the sidewalks are busy just now.

THE son of the late President Tyler is a professor at William and Mary College.

SENATORS Conklin and Blaine have not spoken to each other for over three years.

DEADWOOD, in the Black Hills, has been hitched to civilization by the telegraph wire.

GEORGE ELIOT gets homelier as she grows older, while Lewes improves in appearance.

THE giant Ferragus, slain by Orlando, nephew of Charlemagne, was eighteen feet high.

A MISSOURI man has bull-dozed an opera. He has 200 acres devoted to a bull-frog farm.

RICHARD GRANT WHITE is back from Europe. He seems to be enjoying his usual accuracy.

UP in Norway men arrested for being drunk are made to sweep the streets until they are sober.

THE San Francisco Post, in the course of a long descriptive article, says that oysters have no feet.

A YOUNG lady whose senses become intoxicated with the odor of flowers, gets drunk on a 5-cent. Cheap!

CARDINAL SIMEONI has taken the oath of allegiance to the Pope and becomes the successor of Antonelli.

EDWIN BOOTH is fast lining his pockets again. He has just paid $142,500 for a block of buildings in Chicago.

THERE is so much medicine "free of charge" now-a-days, that some people consider it a luxury to be sick.

THE total production of beet root sugar in Europe is now estimated to considerably exceed 1,000,000 tons.

BARRY SULLIVAN'S oldest son, Amory, has just been getting married to the English actress, Miss Adeline Stanhope.

THE obstacles to the marriage of the King of Spain with Duke de Montpensier's daughter have been removed.

FORTY-FIVE thousand old Austrian Wentzel muskets have been bought by the Russian Government and shipped to Russia.

MEIN HERR, do you know for what we calls our boy Hans?" "Vell, I'll tell you; der reason we call our boy Hans—dot ish his name."

TROY has a young lady so conscientious that she refuses to play on any but an upright piano. She has the legs enveloped in leather.

SOME man afraid of monarchism wants to know what shall be the name of the Emperor of New Jersey. How would Apple Jack I. do?

EDWARD FOX of Titusville, Pa., has recovered $93,000 damages from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad by a twenty-three years' suit.

ROSS R. WINANS of Newport, has purchased the sloop yacht Arrow, said to be the fastest sloop in the world. The price paid was $9,000.

THEY are eating strawberries in Southern Carolina. This news makes a man "bless" Arctic rubbers and molasses taffy parties.

THE Empress of Germany often appears in public robed in a simple calico dress. She discourages extravagance in dress among the ladies.

JOHN BROUGHAM, speaking the other day of the great Macready, said:—"His voice was like broken china clinking in the bottom of a dry well."

ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT:—"Lucy Hamilton Hooper says the average American husband is a niggard. Would you have your daughter marry a niggard?"

ANOTHER departure of justice. During the tempest of last Saturday a basswood image of justice was blown from the court house in Adrian, Michigan.

M. HENRI CERNUSCHI, once a wealthy opponent of Napoleon, has sailed for America, where he will argue in favor of making the silver dollar equal to the gold.

FROM PUNCH:—"Elder Sister (wishing to show off her small brother's accomplishments)—'Now, Jack, who was the first man?' Jack—'Adam!' Elder Sister—'Quite right! And where did he live?' Jack (who has notions of his own about earthly paradise)—'In the Z'logical Gardens!'"

RUSSIANS hate Germany, and fear her; hate Austria, and despise her; and neither despise nor hate England, but feel called on by destiny to go to war with her.

AT the recent marriage of Mlle. Weisweiller, the Baroness Therese de Rothschild wore a white pardessus, embroidered in gold, cut in the style of a manteau de visite.

THE old Richmond Enquirer, after a suspension of ten weeks, has made its appearance again. J. L. Schoolcraft is proprietor, O. Watson James, editor, and W. B. Allegre, business manager.

THE dogs of the Dartmouth students have become so regular in their attendance at chapel prayers that the President has announced that either they or their owners must leave college.

IN the many matrimonial reunions in Paris among *la mode elegante* recently, toilets have not been a little remarked which combine with dark silks a mixture of cashmere or plain China crepe.

HENRY MEIGGS, formerly a great San Francisco speculator, and now a railway capitalist in Chili, is sixty-five years old. He was born at Catskill, on the Hudson. He is said to be worth $200,000,000.

THE London Spectator, republishes Mr. Ross' story of his lost boy, and after a comment, concludes that there is every reason to justify the belief that the boy is dead—"that he was dead from the first."

THE solemnity of a funeral at Macksville, (Ark.) was disturbed by a fight between the grave-diggers. Pistols were used, and when the misunderstanding was settled, two more graves were necessary.

THE clay model of the statue of Juarez, which has been ordered from Mr. Gagliardi of San Francisco by the Mexican Government, has just been completed. The statue is to be cast in bronze and placed in Mazatlan.

ELIZUR WRIGHT of Medford, Massachusetts, the insurance man, lost his barn, with its contents, by fire the other night, and it was not insured. Loss, $6,000. So much for giving his own most excellent precepts the go-by.

HELMHOLD, the insane druggist, leaks out of the asylum like so much quicksilver. He has escaped again. His wife obtained a divorce a few days since and the doctor (?) prepared for a jollification at Delmonico's in New York.

DR. LEGGE, the professor of Chinese at Oxford, has given two lectures, the second lecture being distinguished by the presence of the two Chinese Commissioners sent by the Peking Government to the Exhibition at Philadelphia.

MR. GLADSTONE uses postal cards. No matter what the subject upon which a correspondent writes to him the ex-Premier sends a few lines upon a half-penny card, which, a few days afterward, duly appear in the newspapers.

BARON UXKULL, the Russian ambassador at Rome, has surprised society by appearing with a chasseur in full fig, with pointed hat and white cockade, reviving an old privilege accorded only to Roman princes and ambassadors near the Pope.

VISCOUNT STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, the great diplomate of England, who, before the Crimean war, so long kept the Czar Nicholas at bay, has finished his ninetieth year; but, though he has the gout, he takes great interest in European politics.

Trees, Seeds, Plants, &c.

VICK'S FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN

is the most beautiful work of the kind in the world. It contains nearly 150 pages, hundreds of fine illustrations, and *six Chromo Plates of Flowers*, beautifully drawn and colored from nature. Price 50 cents in paper covers; $1 in elegant cloth. Printed in German and English.

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Strong Pot Roses, specially prepared for fall planting and quick bloom, sent safely by mail, post-paid. Five splendid varieties, all labeled, for $1; 12 do., $2; 19 do., $3; 26 do., $4; 35 do., $5. For 10c. each additional, one **Magnificent Premium Rose** to every dollar's worth ordered. Send for our new **GUIDE TO ROSE-CULTURE**, and choose from over **300** finest sorts. Address THE DINGEE & CONARD CO., ROSE-GROWERS, West Grove, Chester Co., Pa.

WANTED. A Nurseryman, with a small capital. Address J. H. BRISTOR, Martinsburg, W. Va.

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Spring Avenue Gardens.

WINTER-BLOOMING PLANTS

A SPECIALTY.

Carnations, Smilax, Neapolitan Violets, Bouvardias, Chinese Azaleas, Lily of the Valley. All the new and most desirable Geraniums and similar plants. Also, a great variety of the common and fancy Hardy Evergreen Trees, as low as they can be purchased of any trustworthy dealer.

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Act as Agent!—Reader, if there is no agent for the RURAL in your locality please become one by forming a club. *It will pay.*

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"It is more in accordance with the spirit and feelings of the reading public of America than any other magazine that is published."—*Daily Graphic, N. Y.*

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Wit and Humor.

HIS GOOD REASONS.

A MAN who does business on Griswold street was yesterday button-holed at the Post Office by an acquaintance, who observed:—

"They say that you have left the——church and joined the one over on——street."

"Yes, that's so, was the answer.

"Didn't like the preaching, eh?"

"Oh, the preaching was good enough, and the pew rent wasn't too high, but they are a queer set up there. Most any of them will lend a man $10 if he's pinched, but it isn't three days before they come spooking around and want it back. I want to get somewhere where the brethren are more absent-minded, or where they won't walk a mile in a heavy rain without an umbrella to remind me that time's up."

"And you like it?"

"I think I shall. I borrowed $15 of a member nearly three weeks ago, and he hasn't said anything about it yet."—*Free Press.*

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

THE young lady who took the gentleman's fancy has returned it with thanks.

THE way for a desolate old bachelor to secure better quarters, is to take a "better half."

Young women should set good examples, for the young men are always following them.

THE kind of a gaiter that we don't hanker after is the alligator; there's too much snap to it.

"Bearup and Carraher" is the name of a firm doing business on Grand-street, near the ferry.

IT took Sir Isaac Newton less than three years to thoroughly digest the principles of gravitation, while a Rhode Island farmer has spent eleven years trying to find out why a cow never kicks till the pail is nearly two-thirds full.

AN old woman who is crossing the street has a narrow escape from being run over by a hearse: "I am not at all superstitious" she says to her rescuer, "but it has always seemed to me that it would be unlucky to be killed by a hearse."

AN old banker casts himself at the feet of a pretty woman, who bursts into laughter.

"Do not mock me," he says: "I will do this whenever fortune secures me an interview."

"But what return do you expect to receive?"

"Six per cent.!"

MARY: "There's such a rude gentleman dining up stairs to-day." Cook: "Why, what d'ye mean? He ain't a bin saying nothing to you?" Mary: "No, bless yer; but missus was a-talking about the akkademy, and if he didn't tell her as he could see she painted, and so she do every night; but he needn't have said so afore people."

A CHARMING and coquettish woman deserts her husband's roof.

"That which most grieves me," he says to a friend, "is that I cannot understand why she should have fled, whether for this reason, or that, or the other."

"Oh," says his friend, "make your mind easy. She has left you for the other."

A BANKER has some doubts as to the genuineness of the signature of a promissionary note that has come into his possession, and sends his clerk to the maker.

"We have a note for 10,000 francs on which is what purports to be your signature. Is it yours?"

"Is the note protested?"

"No, sir."

"Then it is not mine."

"This," said the private secretary to the railroad manager, "is a letter five pages long from the editor of the Bungtown Banner, asking for some statistics and miscellaneous information concerning the road, which he desires to incorporate into an article soon to be published, that cannot fail to be of great interest to his readers, and will possibly be of value to the railroad. The circulation of the Banner is——." "Skip that," said the manager; turn over to the postscript and see how far he wants the pass for."

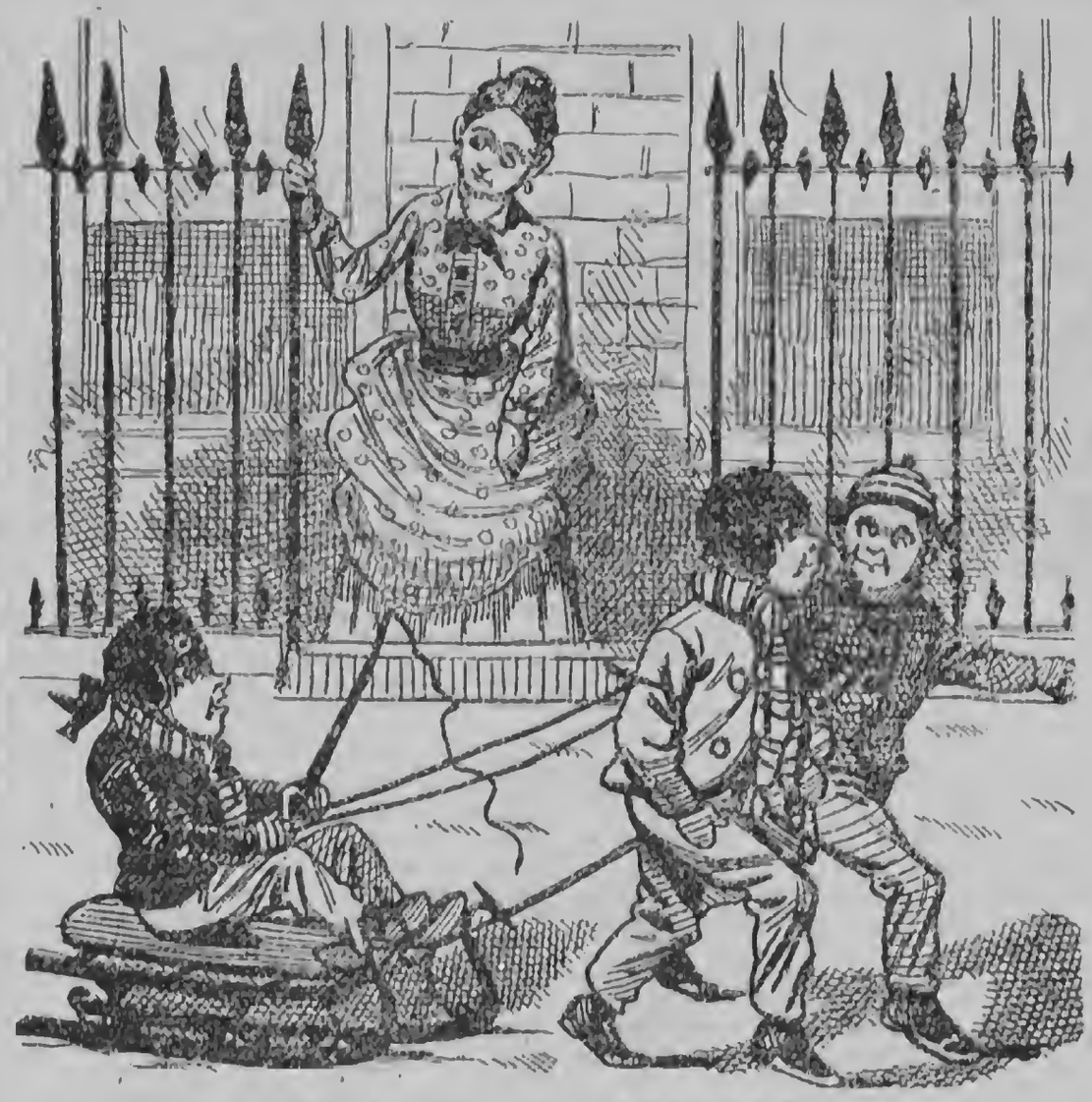
DURING the subscription for the municipal loan in Paris, which was taken so many times over, a long queue of people gathered at the *mairie*, Rue Drouot, anxious to subscribe. Some of them were on the ground all night to obtain good places. Finally, a woman fainted from exhaustion.

"She must be taken home," said an officer, after examining her. "Does any one know where she lives?"

"You bet!" cried a *gamin;* "there's her husband," and he pointed to a man standing in the ranks and regarding the scene without taking any apparent interest in it.

"What?" said the officer, indignantly; "you see your wife in such a state and stir no more than a stone?"

"Stir? Not much! I'd lose my place!"



CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

MOTHER.—"Come JOHNNY to your dinner, and let the other boys go to theirs. It's so cold, you will freeze."

JOHNNY.—"Yes, Ma; but I must turn my *horses* around and hitch them to the fence until I get through my dinner. I shan't be more than half an hour. (Imagine the feelings of GEORGE and TOMMY, who are also hungry.)

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EXCELSIOR

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

RURAL AND HOME AFFAIRS. ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, NEWS, MARKETS, ETC.

VOL. XXXIV. No. 27. WHOLE No. 1465. NEW YORK CITY, DEC. 30, 1876. PRICE SIX CENTS $2.50 PER YEAR.

[Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1876, by the Rural Publishing Company, in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.]

Industrial Topics.

EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS.

There are doubtless many persons among the readers of the Rural New-Yorker who honestly think that the editors and publishers of metropolitan newspapers know little or nothing about matters perlaining to rural affairs. In fact, the term "sidewalk farmers" has become a common term which is applied to those city gentlemen who happen to take sufficient interest in farming to own a place in the country, or even write or talk on agricultural topics. It is doubtless true, however, that the epithet, "sidewalk farmer," is frequently appropriately bestowed upon men who, in their practical experience of cultivating the soil, never came within hoe or plow-handle distance of actual farming, consequently their knowledge of the subject is mainly of a second-hand order.

Having of late received numerous letters of inquiry relating to the personal experience of the editors of the Rural New-Yorker in horticultural and agricultural affairs, we have concluded to answer them by giving a few sketches of the Rural's Experimental Grounds, detailing very briefly what has been and is now being done from which our readers derive a benefit directly or indirectly. Of course, we admit the right of subscribers to be as inquisitive in regard to the practical experience, capabilities and trustworthiness of those who make their "family paper," as they are in selecting a physician to attend them in sickness or health, and we only wish that there was a larger number of persons who took this view of the subject, and scrutinized more closely than they do at present the character of the mental food distributed among their associates.

VIEW IN EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS.

The accompanying illustration (Figure 1) is a view across one side of lawn looking westward. The group of evergreens in the foreground are mainly Arbor-Vitæs of various varieties and species and all of about the same age—say fifteen years old—but planted only eight years ago. A glance at this group tells a story which could not be so well told in words, were we to fill columns in the describing of the different varieties and species. The small, dense, globular-shaped plants in the front are only three and a half feet high and about the same in diameter, although of the same age as the tall specimen in the center, which is fully fifteen feet high, but the first is a dwarf variety known as the Globose Arbor-Vitæ (*Thuja globosa*) and the latter our common American (*Thuja occidentalis*). There are also in the group Golden Variegated Arbor-Vitæs, Japanese, Chinese, Siberian and several other varieties and species, besides trailing Junipers, Yews, and a unique dwarf variety of the common Hemlock Spruce.

The border at the left is filled with choice kinds of hardy shrubs, among which are *Magnolias*, *Spiræas*, *Euonymus*, *Weigelas*, and what we claim to be one of the largest specimens of that rare and beautiful Chinese shrub, *Exochordia grandiflora* to be found in this country. It is one of the first half dozen imported into this country. But we need not particularize further than to call attention to the handsome specimen of that much-neglected Liquidambar tree planted ten years ago and now thirty or more feet high, and as handsome a tree as one would wish to see. We will remark, in passing, that both this Liquidambar and the beautiful specimen of Hemlock, standing alone in the center of the lawn, were dug up out of the woods, where some persons think really handsome trees cannot be obtained or made to grow and thrive after transplanting.

Various beds of roses and banks of shrubs extend around three sides of the lawn and upon it (not shown in this view) there are many handsome ornamental trees of various sizes, from the small Weeping Birch up to an American Elm which we raised from seed in 1859, and it is now between thirty and forty feet.

Space will not permit us to name a tenth of the number of species, to say nothing of the varieties which are growing in an area of about two acres devoted to lawn and pleasure-ground, but we must stop at a large group of dwarf evergreens long enough to note a hedge-hog Juniper twenty years old, that is less than a foot high and only ten inches in diameter, and yet it is healthy and vigorous for one of its kind. This is one of the little beauties, the chief value of which consists in its littleness. There are also Dwarf and Weeping Spruces, Pines and Hemlocks, all of which are interesting to the student of nature, showing him the possibilities of variations among plants.

THE HEMLOCK HEDGE.

In view No. 2, a Hemlock hedge is shown which is scarcely to be excelled in perfection of form, health or vigor. It is three hundred feet long, five feet broad at the base and six feet high. It was planted eight years since, the soil trenched two feet deep and four feet wide, well enriched, and small plants less than a foot high, set in the center of the prepared space. Not a

Fig. 1.—VIEW IN RURAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS.

plant died the first season or since. Its beauty and vigor we attribute to two things—thorough preparation of the soil before planting (especially the trenching) and the annual pruning in spring. There is certainly no secret in this, and there is no good reason why just such hedges should not be seen upon every farm, the owner of which has an eye for ornaments of this kind. There is certainly no hardy evergreen the equal of Hemlock for ornamental hedges.

NATURE'S ROCK WORK.

View No. 3 gives a glimpse of some rocks and large Chestnut and Oak trees, the latter the remnants of the original forest which was growing upon these grounds a century ago. Luckily for us, about an acre of our ground is too rocky for cultivation, and to this circumstance we are indebted for the preservation of some fifty or more of the noble old specimens which were part of the primeval forest. The few left have their roots deeply imbedded in the crevices of the rocks, where they find sufficient nutriment to keep them alive and but little more, the rocks being a coarse kind of red sandstone which does not, as everybody knows, furnish much plant food in its composition.

The steps leading up to our library and museum are cut out of the solid rock, and by the side of these we have several times attempted to make a fernery; but for the want of an abundance of water to apply artificially, our success has not been at all satisfactory. We have, however, learned by experience that coarse red sandstone is not as good for making rock-work as granite or limestone, for it will absorb moisture very rapidly, requiring almost as much to keep the rocks wet as the soil among them. Honeysuckles and Ivies have grown very well among these rocks, and the Golden Japan spreads over a large rock near the steps (shown in the illustration) where its handsome leaves and fragrant flowers are worthy of the admiration this plant receives by every passer-by in summer.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT FRUITS.

Hastening past the hundreds of species of hardy herbaceous plants, ornamental shrubs scattered here and there about the place, only glancing into a large greenhouse filled with Geraniums, Smilax, and several hundred of the *Abutilon Boule de Neige* loaded with the snow-white flower, we hurry along to the fruit garden, passing a square containing several thousand young evergreens and another filled with seedling Chinese herbaceous Paeonias, among which we hope to get some few sorts worthy of presentation to the subscribers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER a year or two hence.

ABOUT GRAPES.

Between two and three hundred varieties of grapes have been tested here during the past dozen years, and hundreds of dollars paid for specimen vines which, after testing, were dug up and cremated and their ashes returned to the soil for the benefit of their successors. New sorts are procured annually for the same purpose, and it makes no difference to us whether a sort proves good or bad, as our object is to ascertain the fact and publish it for the benefit of the readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER.

RASPBERRIES.

Fully one hundred varieties of the raspberry have been tested on these grounds and about twenty are now retained for further experiments. The money paid out for new raspberries, at from three to ten dollars per dozen, during the past fifteen years, if now at hand would be sufficient to make ourselves or somebody else a very handsome New Year's present. But the information gained by these experiments is worth all it cost, and enables us to speak positively of things learned by dear-bought experience.

CURRANTS.

Every variety and species of currant at all likely to withstand the rigors of our climate, has been obtained and planted in these GROUNDS and the greater part still remain. We might, and in fact may, tell at some future time the difficulties which beset us in endeavoring to make up our collection of currants. Of course every nurseryman in this country and Europe was positively certain that his stock was genuine and pure; but a practical test of the matter by obtaining plants from various sources, at the same time planting each lot separate and then waiting for them to fruit, gave results which were instructive, and we may add amusing, to the man who could forget the drain upon his purse when making the purchase. In one instance, we received seven distinct sorts, all labeled as one variety. But by ordering the same variety from a dozen different sources, we were frequently enabled to settle a dispute in regard to identity, and this is how we discovered that the *Cherry* and *Versailles* currant is one and the same sort as grown here and all over Europe: but it took us fifteen years to find it out.

BLACKBERRIES.

The Blackberry in all its varieties as found in this country, with those found in Germany and the Blue-berried bramble growing on the dykes of Holland, and one from the Himalayan Mountains, have been fully tested. The last-named sort, however, never seemed to get ready to bloom until time for frosts in autumn, consequently we were less able to decide about its fruit.

Once, and only once, were we really captivated by a blackberry and that was by Wilson's Early, and the story is too good to keep, even if it does not redound to our credit for sagacity. The first time we saw this variety in fruit, it was growing in the grounds of a well-known fruit grower near Philadelphia, and we were so struck with its fine appearance that we engaged a thousand plants on the spot for $600. The next fall the plants arrived and, in the meantime, an acre of land had been prepared in the most thorough manner, not less than two hundred dollars having been expended in the operation and manure purchased. Believing that we were going to show our neighbors what thorough culture would do for the greatest blackberry known, no expense or pains were spared to make the undertaking a success. The plants made a good growth the first season, but not sufficient to give much fruit, so all the canes were cut down and a strong chestnut stake driven to each plant. The second season the growth was very satisfactory and the canes passed the winter uninjured and the prospect of a large crop was very flattering. Canes were all tied up carefully, pruned, and the ground cultivated between the plants so thoroughly, that not a weed was to be seen when the fruit began to ripen. So far, everything was perfectly satisfactory, and even a little later, for in all of our experience, we never saw such large berries or in greater quantities than were produced on these plants; but, alas! everybody else had a great crop and the fruit would not pay the cost of gathering and sending a few miles to market. We feasted and invited our neighbors to do the same, and the next winter the plants were killed to the ground. The spring following the roots were plowed up, put into heaps and burned, except a few reserved for future experiments. Those reserved kill down to the ground almost every winter, hence our frequent advice to correspondents residing in the latitude of this city or northward to let the Wilson blackberry alone.

Want of space forbids the extending of these remarks, or we might tell something of apples, pears, cherries, plums, and various other fruits tested, but enough has already been said to show our readers that we endeavor to obtain and give them trustworthy information, even at the cost of years of labor and the free use of money. We have other views in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS which will follow those in this issue and be accompanied with an account of experiments made in floriculture.

Dairy Husbandry.

DAIRY CONVENTION.

NEW YORK STATE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

ELMIRA, N. Y., Dec. 14, 1876.

"OLD PROBABILITIES" has once more favored us with a fine day; but even the beauty of the weather did not induce the inhabitants of one of the best dairy sections of the State to turn out and attend the Convention. It may be that the farmers of Chemung County know all they desire to learn about this industry, or it may be that the unfortunate gentlemen who were invited to read carefully-prepared papers on this occasion were mere novices in dairying. Whatever was the cause, there was certainly a conspicuous absence of Chemung people in attendance. Should the Association in future give this region the go-by in arranging their annual assemblages, the inhabitants may attribute it to their own disgraceful apathy upon a subject which so nearly concerns the business of their lives. The few gentlemen of Elmira and vicinity who *did* interest themselves in the matter displayed a commendable zeal, but they evidently could not "carry their own district," as the politicians say. The Hall was commodious, the notice of the Convention was ample, and the weather was more than propitious, and yet the people did not come. I can only say that it was their own loss, for they missed much that was instructive and interesting.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

Dr. Crafts presided at the opening and began with a paper on "Jerseys" by Mr. Rutherford of Waddington, a gentleman who knows well whereof he speaks, having been a breeder of such stock for years. He is the same gentleman who made such a creditable exhibit of those cattle at the last State Fair in Albany.

This was followed by a paper from James Miller of Penn Yan upon "The Best Cow."

Mr. John M. Peters of the Grocer then read a clear and concise paper on "The Commercial Aspects of Dairying." Having been connected with the New York markets for a number of years, he was enabled to give some very sound advice to producers as to packing, shipping and marketing the products. After finishing his paper, he was subjected to some pretty severe cross-examination by various gentlemen present, during the course of which he happened to remark that it was a matter of frequent complaint that actual tares generally far exceeded the tare-marks on packages of butter. At this, Mr. Van Duzer of Elmira, who is at once an Editor, a Farmer, a Granger, a Dairyman, and lots of other things besides, informed Mr. Peters that he should not make charges against the farmer unless he had the facts and figures to sustain them. Mr. Peters quietly replied that if it would be any consolation to him (Van Duzer) he would state that he did not mean the Van Duzer Creamery when he spoke, but that he had simply repeated to the Convention a complaint made by consignees of dairy products; that he supposed the Convention wished to be told the truth, be the same palatable or otherwise; that if they wished flattery instead, he could in future serve up the dish to suit the taste.

Mr. Van Duzer, finding that he had waked up the wrong passenger, stopped where he was.

The discussion was interrupted by an inquiry from Mr. Stiles as to where the farmers of Chemung were, adding that he was ashamed of the small crowd present. He was corrected by Dr. Crafts, who said he was ashamed of the large crowd absent. This closed the session and an adjournment was had till 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The first paper was from the pen of Dr. Mott of New York, on "Milk," read by T. D. Curtis. It was scientific and technical, and failed to produce either discussion or enthusiasm.

L. B. Arnold followed with a paper on "Dairy Products at the Centennial," giving a glowing account of the magnificent success of that most stupendous failure of the season. It consisted of very little about the Exhibition and an exhaustive history of what Arnold did on that momentous occasion. It was upon the reading of this paper that the "Centennial Dairy Ring" looked for the general attack. They were on hand in force and prepared for a vigorous defence, but were so severely let alone that they must have felt sadly disappointed and not a little ashamed. The only notice taken of their doings was by Mr. J. S. Holbert of Chemung, who took exception to Mr. Arnold's manner of making awards at the Exhibition, and proved quite conclusively that Arnold had given the award to the poorest butter of the three samples in close competition. Arnold made the old standing and feeble defence that Holbert was a disappointed candidate for honors; but the general opinion seemed to be that there had been "something rotten in Denmark." Arnold was then asked if the N. Y. State cheese exhibited there had been sent by the makers or had been purchased by the Centennial Committee. He did not know; he believed they were *solicited*. Did *solicited* mean *purchased?* He did not know. This singular ignorance on the part of Arnold becomes almost significant when consideration is given to the fact that he slept and lived right in the Exhibition Building with Blanding, the Great Architect; Pope, the Superintendent; Hawley, the—well, really, I don't exactly know what Hawley was at that time, except that he seemed to be one of the bosses of the soup-house. I suppose, however, that Arnold meant to say that he did not purchase any himself, and, therefore, had no personal knowledge of the fact. As Mr. Shull had stated that the cheeses were *purchased*, the question was asked to see how well the Ring had learned their lesson. They can go to the head of their class, I think. They may not, however, get off so easily at the meeting of the American Dairymen's Association.

Mr. Scoville then read the report of the Committee on "Experimental Station," after which a motion was made to relieve this Committee from further arduous labors and appoint a new one. Scoville, however, displayed such anxiety to continue at the head of this Committee that the motion was withdrawn. Judging from the action of this gentleman upon the occasion of the "capture" of the Centennial Committee by the Ring and his subsequent management of that little job, there must be something in this Experimental Station needing attention. Does it portend another "capture?" Will a restaurant be established at the Station? If so, Bro. Hawley's services will be indispensable. I suppose Mr. Blanding will erect the buildings and Mr. Arnold will be Inspector-General, while the genial Harris Lewis will look after the advertising and general newspaper work.

A committee of five was then appointed to revise the Articles of Association.

A committee of three was appointed to collect Dairy Statistics.

A resolution of thanks to the authorities and citizens of Elmira and to the Elmira Farmers' Club was then passed.

The Association was then invited to participate in the Festival of the Farmers' Club this evening, and accepted.

After a resolution of thanks to Mr. Reynolds for the use of the Hall, the Convention adjourned.

The display of dairy products and implements was meager in the extreme. Mr. Hyde exhibited a full set of Hyde Milk-Pans suitable for a 20-cow dairy. These pans were patented last August and are manufactured by the Jewett Milk Pan Co. of Cortland, N. Y. They are substantially the well-known Jewett Pan, with a channel under the center for incoming water, which flows out on either side. It is deserving of a careful trial, and will undoubtedly be a popular pan. Whitman & Burrel of Little Falls, N. Y., displayed the Gardner Gang Cheese Press. This is one of the implements for which we predict very general use where it is made known. It is a matter of regret that all manufacturers of Dairy Implements do not take these occasions to show their wares to those who are directly interested in them.

SHORTHORN.

SUNDAY CHEESE MAKING AT FACTORIES.

A NEEDED REFORMATION.

WE have been urged repeatedly of late to bring the matter of Sunday cheese-making to the attention of dairymen with a view that the practice may be abandoned. Perhaps no better time than now could be chosen for a dispassionate discussion of the subject, since the cheese-making season is about closed and dairymen have now more leisure than in summer to consider all the advantages and disadvantages of the practice and make up their minds in relation to the course they will adopt in the future.

Again a large number of Dairy Conventions will be held during the winter in various parts of the country, and it would seem eminently proper that the question be freely discussed before these bodies and some action taken in regard to it. Sunday cheese-making appears to be more generally practiced in New York than in any other section, and it is strenuously advocated by the patrons of a large number of factories. The practice has never been in favor in Canada, most of the early factories objecting to it on the ground of its being a desecration of the Sabbath, and a breach of public morals. In some of the States it is less practiced now than formerly, or is slowly dying out, thus showing that outside of New York there is a growing sentiment among dairymen against it.

It is to be regretted that in the inauguration of the cheese factory system Sunday cheese-making was introduced. Had it been excluded from the original factories we are convinced we should not now have to contend against an evil which compels five thousand persons, engaged in the factories of New York, to labor every day in the week during a large share of the season with no chance for rest or church privileges. It is in behalf of these operatives that we now write, and we shall attempt to show, that the practice of Sunday cheese-making may be abandoned not only without serious loss to dairymen but on the other hand with the result of a pecuniary gain.

The first argument employed by dairymen, in support of the practice, is that milk worked into cheese at a factory on Sunday, will produce more money than by any other use to which it can be put by the farmer. Any one familiar with the dairy statistics of the country, for a number of years past, must have observed that the profits from butter-making are quite as large, and generally larger than from cheese dairying. Many cheese dairymen are sorely discommoded in summer on account of the difficulty in procuring good butter. Not being allowed to skim any milk that goes to the factory, they depend on purchasing butter made at farm dairies or from the creameries, and often pay from one to two cents per pound above market prices, besides the trouble of going after the butter.

We know some farm dairy butter makers who have been crowded to supply cheese dairymen with butter during the past season. Their regular customers were engaged in the spring, and no others could be supplied. These customers sent their crocks to be filled from time to time during summer, and often they could not be filled to meet the wants of all. In some neighborhoods cheese dairymen have been unable to get good butter for weeks, and they have therefore lived in discomfort on account of the scarcity, and difficulty of procuring the needed supply during hot weather, and they have been obliged to pay a good round price for what butter was used and much more than the cost would have been if butter had been made on the farm.

Now, all this could have been avoided if the Sunday's milk had been retained at the farm and set for butter making. Most families will consume as much butter as this milk will yield, but if there is more it will meet with a ready sale in market. We think that where the saving of such milk for butter has been tried, the facts will show that more money is saved to the dairyman than when his milk all goes to the factory. The skimmed milk can be utilized in various

ways, in cooking, in skimmed cheese, in making cottage, or sour-milk cheese, which by many is esteemed a great luxury in hot weather, besides being a healthful and nutritious article of food.

Another argument used is that cheese dairymen have no conveniences for the care of milk and no utensils in which to set it for butter making. We do not think this objection of much force, because at very little trouble and expense some place on the premises could be fitted up for the keep of one day's milk once a week. Those who have good cellars under the farm dwelling could very easily arrange a portion for this purpose, while the utensils used for setting the milk in spring and fall, when butter-making is in general practice among cheese dairymen, will be sufficient, we should say, for holding one day's milk once a week. But the plan may be modified so as to keep back on the farm but one milking, and this has been put into successful operation at some factories, thus instead of making two deliveries of milk on Sunday the Saturday afternoon's milking is carried early enough to be made into cheese the same night. The Sunday morning's milk is kept at home. The Sunday evening's milk is taken to the factory and there poured into vats and kept until Monday morning.

It is frequently stated that if cheese factories are worked on Sunday only a few laborers are occupied, while the rest of the dairy community are relieved. Four or five in a neighborhood do the nursery work and all others are at rest. The thought is plausible, and when first suggested will generally secure approbation. But is it right to concentrate the work of a community on a class, and to exclude a class wholly from rest and religious ordinances? If the principle is legitimate in its application to the disposal of milk, why may it not extend to all farm and family services? Why not leave the care of stock, and chamber and dining-room, and kitchen work to a select few and permit whole families to rest without lifting a finger on the Sabbath? Is it not better to distribute Sunday's labor so that there shall be no onerous burthen imposed on any, or at least that a part of the day may be set apart to every class without work?

By holding the Sunday's milk at the farm the labor of delivery is saved, and this is an item of some account since this labor must be performed by the farmer himself, or by some one in his employ. Comparing this labor with the care of the milk on the farm for the day, we shall find that the former is more objectionable than the latter, for when milk is delivered, the milk cans are to be cleansed in addition to the time and labor employed in carting. Again public considerations and regard to the general sanctity of the day are opposed to this practice, for the rattling of milk carts on the highway, particularly in the morning, is a serious disturbance of the quiet Sabbath, while the spectacle of business openly and noisily carried on during holy time shocks religious sensibilities.

But without discussing the religious points of the question we find the practice injurious to the community, offensive to sensitive consciences, destructive of the Sabbath, and an infraction of civil law, but more than all these Sunday work in cheese factories is cruelty to the operatives there. Their physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual interests suffer sorely. Their bodily vigor is reduced and ultimately exhausted, for they are subject to the law which binds the race, and that makes one day's rest in seven indispensable to the maintenance of health and strength. Their minds are enfeebled and impoverished for they are excluded from reading, from church and other privileges for which the day is usually set apart.

It has been truly remarked that the practice greatly impairs the sacredness of the Sabbath in the public mind. At first revulsion is produced and surprise created, but gradually these subside. The community becomes hardened to a secularization of the day and the worldliness of the rest of the week is poured through it. A peoples view of the Sabbath cannot fail to be debauched by the sight of its open desecration and their observance of it must be relaxed. The Sunday work at a cheese factory, and the running of its wagons, are a death-blow to the Sabbath in its neighborhood. No observer but has noted the fact. It is altogether a different day from what it was formerly in the general estimate. The practice there is an offense to public morals since restraints from vice and incitements to virtue are at least weakened if not denied.

We have enumerated some of the considerations which influence us in opposition to Sunday cheese-making. We look upon it as entirely wrong, and hope to see the practice speedily abandoned. And we suggest that the subject be earnestly discussed at the coming Dairy Conventions of the country. We know that the cheese operatives of the country are universally opposed to the practice, and would gladly seek relief if the dairymen would allow. The matter rests wholly with the latter, and not unfrequently the opinions and action of two or three persons in a neighborhood control the whole number of patrons of a factory.

In conclusion it may be well to add the following testimony which we doubt not will be endorsed by hundreds of cheese makers: The late Gen. John J. Knox of Knoxboro said, as early as 1865, in relation to doing away with Sunday cheese-making:—"I have had experience in the making of cheese at factories for the past three years. The cost of pans is sometimes raised as an objection, but I have found that the number necessary for spring and fall, is sufficient for Sunday use. If want of room for setting milk is alleged, yet only the same room is necessary for the milk of Sunday that is needed for every day, when the factory is closed. The difficulty of making good butter in warm weather we have obviated by using ice, an article which every farmer can obtain by a little expense and forethought.

The luxury of good fresh butter of the housekeeper's own manufacture is of prime account. Why should farmers be content with an inferior article from hay-fed cows, when their tables may be graced with yellow, tempting rolls obtained from cows fresh from the pastures? Many families also find "Dutch Cheese" no trifling luxury during the warm season. At a time also when the price of pork has risen so high, the milk of one day in the week is an important item to those who prefer to keep their own pigs for fattening." "And we ought to take no narrow view of the subject. Whatever relaxes the sanctity of the Sabbath, is sure to lower the standard of public morals and to depreciate every material interest. *The value of real estate in a community is affected by the fact whether or not that community is a Sabbath-keeping and church-going community;* and cheese factories in operation, set the example of a conspicuous violation of the Fourth commandment and encourage and embolden the public to practice it."

Mr. John Newkth of Litchfield, N. Y., says: "I have kept a cheese dairy for sixteen years, and live within two miles of three factories and am the salesman for one of them, and have the opportunity for freely visiting them all. I have never seen the time when I believed Sunday cheese-making to be a work of necessity, and I think all our factories would make nearly as much cheese from six day's labor as they now do from seven. I presume that a large majority of those running factories are not only willing but desirous to rest on the Sabbath, as but few can endure their incessant labor." The subject is one of great interest and importance, and we hope to see it agitated among dairymen during the winter, and that the cheese factories of the State may begin the next year's operations by dropping Sunday work.

HOW GOOD COWS ARE PRODUCED.

The remark has often been made by dairymen that village cows, or cows bought from persons who keep but one or two animals at a time, fail to yield so much milk when placed in the herd on the farm as when in the hands of the villager, or owner of one or two animals. We have known dairymen to purchase the single cow from the villager, because of her notoriety as a deep milker and at a very large price, but in almost every case the animal, when placed upon the farm with the other cows, turned out to be no more than an ordinary milker, though well known to have been superior in this respect when kept as a single cow. Again, on the other hand culled animals from a large herd when sold to persons keeping one cow, have turned out to be remarkably good milkers. Instances of this kind have come under our notice many times, and during the past summer a notable example was shown us where two cows had been sold by a dairyman owning a large herd on account of their small yield of milk. Yet when placed away from the herd and pastured by themselves, apart from other cows, they rose to first-class milkers equaling in their yield the best cows in the herd of their former owner.

Those who have watched the record of remarkable cows, noticed in agricultural and other journals, will perhaps have observed that these extra large yields have been made almost invariably by the one or two cow dairy. Now the explanation of this fact is, that when the cows are kept singly or in small numbers, they generally receive more care and attention, are petted more, while they get better and greater variety of feed, all of which tend to a larger secretion of milk. We do not mean to imply that there are no extraordinary good milkers in large herds, because this would not be true, but what we are to learn from the facts named is, that kind treatment and care with attention to study the wants and disposition of milch stock will make a vast difference in the yield of milk.

As an additional verification of what we have said, we find in a late number of the Country Gentleman, a communication from Philip Snyder of Vineland, N. J. In 1875 he bought a common cow which had been picked up in Philadelphia by one of the butchers of Vineland, and after she had changed hands several times, Mr. Snyder purchased her for $56. He describes her her as large, handsome in shape, docile and young—about six years old—and at the time she come into his hands was giving about 8 quarts of milk per day. Mr. Snyder has been careful to keep an exact record of the milk of this cow during the past year, and we find that she gave from the 15th of January to Oct. 30th a total of 9,084 pounds of milk. The amount of butter made from her milk during the same time was 320 pounds, which, adding the amount which could have been made from 568 pounds of milk sold and the total yield of butter during the 290 days, is 341 pounds 7 ounces or 18 83-100 ounces per day. Now as this cow was yielding in November up to the 16th, at the rate of 16 pounds 15½ ounces of milk per day, Mr. Snyder concludes that it is not extravagant to suppose that in the 59 days yet wanting to complete her full year, she would give enough more to make her total annual butter capacity amount to 400 pounds. This certainly may be considered a remarkable yield from a cow of "no particular breed."

Now as to her treatment; Mr. Snyder says his farm being a fruit farm the cow had no pasture whatever, and very little green fodder. Her diet and manner of keep are detailed as follows: "Her regular diet has been dry, mixed hay, averaging 18 to 20 pounds per day, with 4 quarts of mill feed, ⅓ meal, 2-3 bran, each morning, noon and evening, also about one pint of oil meal per day. This and the mill feed is given in a pail of warm water. Whenever we can get a bite of grass for her she gets it, but she has not had 200 pounds of it in the two summers I have owned her. That enterprising weed, purslane, is furnished in its season as often as we can find time to pull it up, and sometimes green fodder corn, but the latter does not seem to increase the flow of milk. She is stabled winter and summer; in cool weather on the barn floor, tied in a stall about 5 feet wide; in mid-summer in the barn cellar, in a sort of box stall, about 10 feet square, where she can fight flies at her leisure. At present prices of hay and mill feed her cost of keep is about 30 cents per day."

Mr. Snyder says that this cow has never given any extraordinary masses her best being 40 pounds 12 ounces on April 23d, and in conclusion he remarks that "it may be set down as a fact that judicious care and feeding will always pay and *vice versa*." To this we heartily subscribe and our experience teaches us that there would be many more good cows in the country if this principle were better understood and appreciated.

In the production of good cows we do not under-estimate blood and good breeding, but what we wish to impress upon dairymen is that there must be something more than this, and that is that kind care and judicious treatment are often capable of making a superior milker from an animal with no "royal blood in her veins" while the reverse makes a poor milker out of the best bred cow in the land.

Farm Economy.

PREVIOUS TEACHINGS.

Beware of the teachings of our ancestors and of every kind till there is positive proof of their truth, for the most startling exposures of the follies implicitly believed as being sound sense, are every year coming to light.

When I was a boy bleeding was so general that it was done periodically with man and beast, every barber was as well prepared to take blood as to cut the hair, and healthy men would be bled every spring and autumn, and every blacksmith would bleed and give a ball of physic whenever a horse seemed a "little out of sorts." Doctors who used to follow the fat hounds always had lancets in their pockets, and farmers generally carried fleams so that if a sportsman had a severe fall from his horse blood would be let with the lancet, or if a horse was injured by accident or over-ridden the fleam was used to take blood from him. Now, in less than half a century or not more, any one would be judged insane to do it.

It is not very much longer since mankind believed in witches, wizards and witchcraft, generally, also in the appearance of ghosts, and in fairies as well as in the visits of the old fellow from below in all manner of shapes and forms. The moon too had influence on the blood, on wounds, on meat and every kind of pickle or preserve, and likewise the brain of every excitable being was said to be affected much more strongly at certain stages, and the term lunatic came from this teaching. However, there are at large a most extraordinary number of moon-struck people in the agricultural districts at the present day, who charge all manner of misfortunes to the poor innocent moon. It is wonderful what effect previous teachings have, for the minds of the young are so impressible that they readily believe what is told them by their parents and associates, but it is deplorable that there should be so many foolish errors and stupid falsehoods believed, making those who credit such absurd stories, appear so very ridiculous.

Setting milk in deep or shallow vessels was said to make a great difference in favor of the latter and a warm dairy was necessary in winter; now recent experiments prove these teachings erroneous, for so that there is no actual frost the cream will rise as well as if 20 or 30 degrees warmer, then when I was in England the farmers' wives always held the opinion if butter was churned very quickly there was not so much of it, now the churns that will turn cream into butter and buttermilk soonest are prized as the best. It is difficult to imagine what most outrageously extraordinary folly men might be brought to believe if the previous teachings began with the education and were continued unrefuted.

Working Farmer.

DESTROYING RATS AND MICE.

There is many a farmer's barn at this season which might be appropriately termed a huge "ratary," from the number of these destructive little animals which infest it. The amount of grain destroyed by a few dozen rats would keep a hog or cow through winter, and it is a pity to let such vermin consume food which is so much needed by more useful animals, when, by a little care and attention it might be saved. The destructiveness of rats and mice however does not stop with the grain they consume, but they gnaw holes through bins, barrels and other vessels, frequently letting their contents run to waste, besides, harness, carriage robes, blankets, grain bags and various other articles are in constant danger of being destroyed by the pests.

But, say some of our correspondents "we have tried almost every thing, to rid our premises of this pest, all to no purpose, and here they are this winter as abundant as ever." The dog, cat, and trap have all made war upon the rats without an *apparent* diminution of their numbers, all of which may be true, but it is a question if the few destroyed by these means have not been a benefit. Rats are migratory in their habits, and they very soon discover where the best food can be obtained at the least risk of their lives, hence they will go from one barn to another, or even travel miles in a night to find a peaceful, quiet place where at the same time food is abundant.

We have known them to vacate a farm barn in a night, in consequence of one of their number being severely wounded with shot. Then, again no amount of shooting, harrassing with dogs, and traps, would make them leave, still there is a way in which one's premises, especially farm-buildings can be freed from this vermin, and that is by poisoning. But before a man attempts to make a raid on rats and mice with such weapons, he should prepare a private appartment for their especial reception where larger animals cannot intrude. A room in the cellar or attic may be set apart for this purpose, or even a large box will answer, the entrance to it being just large enough to admit the victims. Then a royal feast may be prepared for them of dainty bits of cheese, bread and oatmeal cake, but not at first poisoned, for when there is plenty of grain about, rats are not readily enticed into new quarters in search of better food. But after baiting them for a few days the work of destruction may be begun. Of course, there are a variety of poisons which can be used, but some of them are quite too dangerous to have about where there are dogs, cats and other larger animals who may pick and eat a poisoned rat or mouse, consequently we recommend some kind not quite as dangerous as phosphorous paste and strychnine, although these can under many circumstances be used with safety. But whatever poison is employed, water should always be placed conveniently at hand, and inside of the room or box where the poisoned food is set, in order that the rats may quench their thirst and die on the spot.

As rats are very intelligent and capable of warning their fellows of danger, it is frequently necessary to change the location of both traps and poisons if these animals are very abundant about one's premises.

Poison No. 1.—A pint of plaster Paris thoroughly mixed with a quart of oatmeal will prove fatal to either rats or mice.

Poison No. 2.—Carbonate of Barytes two pounds, common lard, one pound, mixed together and left where the rats can find it. It is tasteless, odorless, and impalpable, but produces extreme thirst, causing death immediately after drinking.

The frozen earth covered with early, compact snow bespeaks good crops next year.

Field Crops.

TOBACCO CULTURE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

JOHN A. WITMER in writing to the American Journal of Pharmacy about tobacco culture gives some hints which may be of service to our readers, as it will soon be time to commence making preparations for sowing seed, if strong and vigorous plants are to be obtained for early spring planting in the Middle and Southern States.

The seeds which have been collected the previous autumn are sown in early spring in cold frames. These frames consist of large oblong boxes, without bottoms, two or two and a half feet deep by three feet wide, and covered with glass. They are prepared in autumn by being filled with rich earth and fertilizers. In selecting a site for these frames, a sheltered spot having a southern exposure is preferred. They are additionally protected from the weather by being covered with straw, &c. Persons making "plant raising" a specialty sow as early as the 15th of February. After sowing, the frames are covered with glass alone during the day, and sheltered at night. The earth being kept moist, the seeds soon sprout, and the little plants appear. Additional care must now be taken to admit the sun during the day and to protect them from the frosts at night. Persons not desirous of having plants early or for sale, do not take the precautions above enumerated, nor do they sow as early. A warm, sunny spot, having a rich soil, or one enriched by fertilizers, is sufficient for their purposes.

When quite young, the plants are frequently infested by the "plant louse," an insect belonging to the genus *aphis*.

When the plants have attained the hight of several inches they are transplanted to the fields. This is rarely done before the 15th of May to the 1st of June. The fields are ploughed the previous autumn, as by so doing it is thought that some of the insect enemies are destroyed. In the spring the soil is loosened and then ploughed in such a manner as to form ridges one-half to a foot high, at a distance of two to three feet. A wet day is chosen, as the plants require much moisture to continue their growth without interruption; for at best a large percentage die, owing to want of sufficient care in planting or the ravages of the "cutworm" (different species of the genera *Agrotis, Gortyna,* &c.), which is the principal enemy at this period of their growth. They are concealed in the earth during the day, and go on their errands of destruction at night, cutting off the plant while it is young and succulent. The only means of preventing the ravages of this enemy is to seek for him in his hiding-place, and when found kill him. These belong to the order *Lepidoptera*, or scale winged insects.

After the plants have been thoroughly rooted one of the principal objects is to keep down the weeds, which grow luxuriantly in the rich soil. This is accomplished by hoe harrowing, and the hand hoe until the plant grows too large to admit the passage of a horse and harrow without injury to the leaves, after which the plant is strong enough to suppress the weeds, when it grows very rapidly, soon attains the hight of three or four feet, and puts forth the flowering head. This is broken off when leaves are the object of the cultivator, but when seeds are desired the inflorescense is left to develop. Cultivators differ as to the proper time to "top" or break off the flower head. Some prefer to top when the stem has six or eight leaves, while others think ten not too many. After being topped axillary branches are put forth, which are popularly known as "suckers." These are broken off as soon and as often as they appear. The whole plant is now covered by a viscid resinous substance, commonly called "gum," which renders it very unpleasant to handle.

After this time, tobacco's greatest enemy makes its appearance, namely, the "tobacco worm" (*Sphinx Carolina*, Linn.) This, the larva of the grey American hawk-moth, is a green worm, sometimes as large as a man's finger. Allied to this is the *Sphinx quinquemaculata* of Stevens, the larva of which sometimes infests tobacco, but more frequently the tomato and potato. These moths hide themselves and sleep during the day, and at night they go forth to deposit their eggs in patches on the leaves. During the early hours of summer evenings they may be seen hovering over the flowers of the "Jamestown weed" (*Datura Stramonium*), from which they extract the exuding juice. By the introduction of some virulent poison into these flowers numbers of them might be destroyed. These also belong to the order *Lepidoptera*. The larvæ are very destructive to the leaves, and I have known instances in which one worm has eaten an entire plant in a single night. They are watched very closely, picked off by hand, and destroyed.

Of late years, a very destructive enemy, in different species of *Arma* (*Arma modesta, Macula*, &c.), has been noticed. These belong to the order *Hemiptera*, or half-winged insects, and deposit their eggs in patches of thirty to fifty. When the young are hatched, they puncture the leaves, and suck the juice of the plant. When a leaf has been punctured by these insects, it rapidly withers, and presents the appearance of having been scalded. As yet no practical method has been adopted for the destruction of this enemy.

Fig. 2.—HEMLOCK HEDGE.—See first page.

Scientific and Useful.

PATENT FENCES.

THERE are probably very few of our readers residing on a farm who have not had a visit from the dealers in "Patent fences," and to this class the following, from the National Live Stock Journal, will doubtless be interesting, and perhaps instructive:

The large and annually increasing cost of enclosures will account for the readiness with which farmers are imposed upon by every new invention that is inaugurated under the plea of economy. Most of the recent inventions are for working up the old rails in our worm fences into panels, and fastening these together and so bracing that they will stand in a straight line without sinking posts into the ground. By some of these methods fences are constructed which appear quite substantial and firm when first put up, but in a short time some of the nails or wires used in attaching the braces begin to give way and the fence which promised to be substantial and permanent, is found to be of but very temporary utility. The fact is, that no contrivance has ever been invented, or ever can be invented that will dispense with the necessity of anchoring the fence to the ground; and all the new inventions of cross-pieces on the surface with braces attached, while they are about as expensive as a good board or post-and-rail fence, are found to last but a very short time. Farmers may therefore make up their minds that the old method of hedges, with board-and-rail fences, are better; and, in the long run, are cheaper, than any of the new inventions.

Where there is plenty of timber, the old-fashioned Virginia worm fence, though a little unsightly, is as good and as cheap as any. Next to this in economy and durability is the board or the post-and-rail fence. These fences need not, where stock is properly managed, be more than three feet and a half to four feet high, and usually four rails or boards to a panel will be sufficient; and three will answer to turn any kind of well-behaved stock except swine. The less lumber we have in the fence, the better it will stand.

In making these fences, the great and important consideration is, to cut the timber at the proper season—say August or September, or in mid-winter; and it is believed that if the posts are seasoned when put in the ground, it will add one-half to their durability.

These fences, with posts of moderate size, set 18 to 20 inches in the ground, with three to four boards or rails in the panel, may be found in the neighborhoods of all our large cities, and in the most highly cultivated agricultural districts, proving conclusively that experience has demonstrated that no better or cheaper methods have been discovered.

Besides these considerations, we have added the very important one of appearance, which, in all our improvements upon the country homestead, should always be attended to. A neat, light, post-and-rail or board fence—the boards should not be more than five inches wide—always looks well, and is, we think, except for outside fences, to be preferred to hedges.

Fig. 3.—VIEW IN RURAL GROUNDS.—See page 422.

THE CONCUSSION THEORY AGAIN.

SINCE writing editorial note in RURAL of 16th inst., on Col. HARDEE'S concussion theory, we notice that our veteran "Concussionist" himself comes forward to claim what we awarded him without a doubt as to his title as discoverer. Of course we stand by the Colonel in his fight for the glory of being the discoverer of this method of destroying insect life, for our motto is let them laugh who win. The following characteristic note to the Florida Agriculturist tells the whole story:

Some years ago I accidentally discovered that concussion of the atmosphere, brought about by the combustion of gun-powder, would destroy scale-insect and all parasitic life, and gave my theory to the public. It was then discussed by all the agricultural journals of the country, and the National Pomological Society, at Richmond, Va.; Marshal Pickney Wilder, then its President, November 23d, 1868, acted in the premises. A committee investigated the theory, and it was received as Hardee's theory of concussion. The theory was widely discussed in this country and Europe, and several parties have claimed since then that it was their theory, and now there is "another Richmond in the field." A Mr. S. F. Gard, of Louisiana, calls it his theory, and says it was accidentally discovered in shooting at night at a hornet's nest, a few months ago. I could throw over Mr. Gard's statement a veil of charity, but he copies my exact language, when he says "the concussion must be at night, when the dew is on the orange trees, to make it effectual," &c., &c. Since my first discovery, eight years ago, the scale insect has been successfully managed at Honeymoon with this remedy, and I bid them defiance. But, to return to Mr. S. F. Gard, after he claimed it as his theory, he says it was used in Louisiana fifty years ago.

Now, Mr. Editor, there was no scale insect in the United States fifty years ago, they having made their first appearance in the United States at Fort George Island, at the mouth of the St. Johns River, imported on some foreign orange trees, brought over by Mr. Kinsley Gibbs, I think, in the winter of 1848. Some twenty-three years ago, at my orange farm, then known as "Rural Home," I tried everything I could think or hear of against the scale insect, but failed, and when I discovered this new theory I was in such ecstacies that the Hon. James M. Baker, to whom I first told it, thought I was crazy.

The theory is a correct one, and I have lately purchased a twenty-pound cannon for the purpose, and if I could be permitted to fire it over the head of this S. F. Gard of Louisiana, I think I could destroy some other insect, that is worrying him more than the ambition to be the author of the concussion theory, and I now throw down the gauntlet to Mr. Gard, and, to more effectually rouse his energies to come forward with the proof, I simply say to him, he cannot steal the honor of being the author of the concussion theory, and the said honor is claimed by Yours respectfully,

L. A. HARDEE.

Insurance Department.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION.

FOR obvious reasons more farm property is destroyed by fire in winter than during any other season, and since the appliances for controlling fires after they break out are few and nearly always inadequate, extreme and constant vigilance should be exercised. The most frequent causes are defective flues, especially where the stove pipes are inserted, or where ceilings are pierced for pipes; and carelessness in the use of matches and kerosene. Where pipes enter brickwork a large sheet of tin or iron closely fitting the pipe should be nailed firmly to the brickwork and the lower part turned up to form a gutter in which casual sparks may fall. Kerosene is always a treacherous article, nearly as dangerous and destructive as gunpowder, and should be used only in stationary lamps set into brackets. Its use in portable lamps of the usual pattern is a perpetual menace to life and property. This is especially true of the ordinary lantern with thin glass sides and chimneys used in barns and stables. The old-fashioned tin cylinder pierced with small holes and lit with a bit of tallow candle does not give as much light, but has the merit of perfect safety. Mrs. O'LEARY'S famous cow might have kicked one of them to atoms without endangering the city of Chicago. The common match is only less dangerous. They should be kept in tin boxes, nailed to the wall so high that neither children nor mice can obtain access to them. The former like them just a trifle more than any other dangerous and forbidden article, while the latter have a strange avidity for the phosphorus with which they are usually tipped.

Arboricultural.

A NEW EVERGREEN.

Sequoia gigantea is the proper name of the "Mammoth Tree" of California—a fact which our English cousins recognize, while they still persist in calling it *Wellingtonia gigantea*, for the reason that this name, having been "adopted in garden literature, had much better be allowed to stand, as its alteration would cause great inconvenience and much confusion in practical botany."

Wellingtonia is a smoother name than *Sequoia* and honors a noble English name. *Sequoia* commemorates nothing, unless it be a Cherokee Brave, *See-qua-yah*, who, as Mr. HOOPES remarks, spent his life in endeavoring to enlighten his race by inventing an original alphabet and by the introduction of mechanical contrivances and useful implements for their benefit.

Washingtonia gigantea, a name given by KELLOGG, is as smooth and pretty as *Wellingtonia*, and, were the tree entitled to it by priority, we should much prefer it to either of the others or to any of its dozen synonyms. But it is not. ENDLICHER established the name of *Sequoia*. This is American and the tree is American, and, whether it mixes up English garden literature or not, we hope that, outside of England, it will never be generally known by any other name.

We need not refer to the world-renowned size to which this tree attains in California. Our object in referring to it at all is to introduce to our readers one of its children—a degenerate child that, inheriting but little of the grandeur of its stately parent, is introduced to the world as *Wellingtonia gigantea pendula nova*, represented in the accompanying sketch. *Nova*, we presume, will be left off, as there is no *old* weeping *Sequoia*.

The original plant was raised from seed six years ago at Carlisle, Eng., by LITTLE & BALLANTYNE, nurserymen of that place, and it will be for sale not until next autumn.

There is also a variegated *Sequoia*, but the variegation, of a straw color, is spasmodic, and, though advertised by many nurserymen, it does not "command," so far as we can learn, "a place in every collection of any pretension."

GOLDEN VARIEGATED DECIDUOUS TREES.

ON first looking about, preparatory to commencing his work, the painter naturally examines closely the pigments with which it is to be wrought, and judges are wont to say now-a-days that marked loss in enduring qualities may be detected in the fading, adulterated tints of many modern pictures. In like manner, the designer of artificial landscapes, amateur or professional, needs to study well the nature of his material, for the simple reason that living plants exceed dead mineral paints in delicacy and complexity. He must secure health, hardiness, and the native symmetry that comes by intelligent pruning. He must know habits and capacities, that he may be able to arrange for future effects on maturity, and accomplish certain more immediate results. But, above all, he must have variety and abundance of color to give the indefinable finish of contrast, shading, and harmony, that is essential to the perfection of a noble picture.

To assist in accomplishing this in a greater or less degree, we propose to remark on a few of the most prominent and effective varieties with curious-colored leaves, commencing with those of a distinctly golden type. In general terms, we may say, by the way, that all forms of variegated shrubs and trees should be brought forward, conspicuously, near walks, and individual plants of each group disposed on the principle of large to the rear and small to the front. The composition of colors will, of course, be controlled by personal taste. It may be well to notice, also, that all variegated trees tend to dwarfer forms than those of the parent species.

The Golden Alder (*Alnus glutinosa aurea*) is a striking tree of pure gold color and much beauty.

The Golden Ash, as represented by two very similar varieties, *Fraxinus Americana aucubæfolia* and *punctata*, spotted more or less with gold, is hardy, distinct, and enduring, resembling, as usual, the parent in general form.

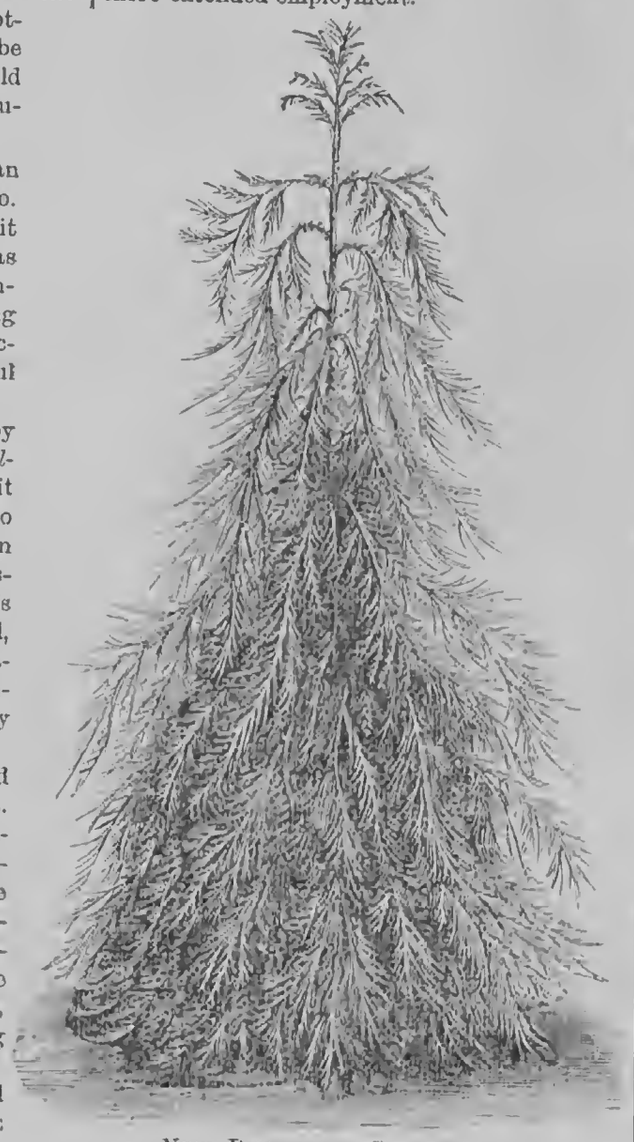
The Golden Catalpa (*Catalpa syringifolia aurea*) is broadly blotched with gold, and has the large, massive character of leaf and round, spreading head of the parent.

Roessell's Golden Elm (*Ulmus campestris aurea*) is a dwarf form of the English Elm, with leaves richly suffused with gold. It is an enduring variety and a decided acquisition.

The Golden Hornbeam (*Carpinus Betulus aurea*) is distinctly marked with yellow over half the surface of the leaves, and has the parent's sturdy habit and persistent retention of foliage in autumn.

The Golden Horsechestnut (*Æsculus rubicunda aurea*) has curious leaves, marginated with gold in wavy masses, and is a remarkable and valuable form, of much larger habit than the last.

The Golden Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata aurea*) is finely marked and well deserving of more extended employment.



NEW PENDULOUS SEQUOIA.

The Golden Japanese Maple (*Acer Japonicum aureum*) has probably the most exquisite coloring of all golden-leaved trees. Its type is dwarf and allied only to Japanese forms, but the round, scalloped leaf is shaded and tinted with soft gold on convex surfaces in a manner most marvelous. The variety is very rare and difficult to propagate, although, in common with all Japanese Maples, well suited to American summers and winters.

The Golden Sycamore Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus aureum*) has a decided golden color tinging its broad leaf, but, more than most others of the class, it loses this valued tint as the season advances.

The Concordia Oak (*Quercus pedunculata concordia*) has, and deserves, the very highest rank for purely golden leaves and sturdy, enduring habit. Its size at maturity about equals that of the ordinary Oak.

Another variety of Golden Oak (*Quercus pedunculata aurea viridis*) is still rarer and, if possible, more beautiful than the last, with a more refined type of beauty. It is broadly blotched, or maculated, with yellow.

The Golden Plane Tree (*Platanus occidentalis aurea*) has all the virtues and defects of the parent, and is finely tinged with yellow.

The Golden Tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera aurea*) is as noble an acquisition as the parent would be considered if recently introduced. The leaves are very broadly marginated with permanent gold.

All, or most all, of these golden-leaved trees are, and must long remain, somewhat expensive, partly from rarity, and partly from the necessity of grafting to retain their colors in perfection. Seedlings prove so variable, in their tendency to revert back to the original green type, that little worth should be attached to them, and layers, with their ill-formed system of roots, afford so crude a method of propagation, that we can but take the apparently more expensive grafted plant.

To prevent disappointment, it should be remembered that all colored leaves fade somewhat under the severe test of summer; but, although the golden varieties named differ much in this respect, the general character is that of great constancy under trial. SAMUEL PARSONS.

LARCH BLIGHT.—The blight which attacks the larch in Europe is said to be caused by a small insect known to entomologists as *Coccus laricio*. It is said to increase with wonderful rapidity in warm weather, and in a similar manner as the common Aphis or Green fly—females only appearing in spring, and this sex is reproduced for thirty or forty generations without the appearance of any males. The Blight, as it is called, attacks only sickly trees, or those growing on poor ground, where they are quite feeble.

The Vineyard.

ABOUT SOME GRAPE VINES AND GRAPES.

EVERYBODY else has had his say on this subject and why should not I have mine? I have cultivated, on a small scale, twelve of the common varieties for several years. I have a few others, once fruited, and some twenty others not yet in bearing. I shall not attempt to criticise the tastes or fancies of others in varieties. I have never been remarkably successful, and am aware that there is a great difference in localities in their adaptation to this fruit. I am inclined to think, however, that climate, either local or general, has much more to do in the matter of success with this fruit than soil. By local climate, I mean that which is affected by the immediate surroundings, such as aspect, altitude and deep water. Even in the most favorable localities our most popular varieties require for their fullest development of sugar a longer or warmer summer than we usually have north of 41° of latitude.

The time of ripening then is one of the most important matters to be taken into account in the selection of varieties for any locality in the Northern States; and my reading and observation warrant me in saying that our most experienced growers are now selecting both for the table and the wine press, those varieties that they can safely calculate on ripening, rather than those of acknowledged superior flavor.

On the subject of winter protection, I would say: that the most critical times are the first fall frosts and the sudden freezing in spring after a few days of spring weather; and it is always a measure of safety to lay the vines on the ground, after the fall pruning, and to lay blocks or poles on them to keep the upper branches below the snow line, and a few brushes, a little straw or some such refuse (I use the asparagus tops), laid over or even under them, are more of a protection than most would believe without trial. Should the snow go off early, extra protection can then be added. In keeping qualities, there is a very great difference in kinds as well as in the methods adopted by different persons to keep them. As to myself, after trying several plans and losing many grapes, I have adopted the following:

I make frames about 14 inches by 4 feet, of slats of half the width of a lath, placed half an inch apart for drying fruit generally. For grapes, I raise these an inch or two from the floor, select open bunches and spread them on the frames, which, to save room, can be laid in tiers by strips between them. On these I have now Delawares, Clintons, Ionas, Dianas and Salems. Of these the three first have the raisin form of shriveled skins, but have still some liquid juice. The Salem being a larger grape (though on small clusters), is not so much shriveled. The Delawares are good, but not much improved by the process; the Clintons are very much improved in flavor, and persons who "never could like Clintons," like these. The Ionas are splendid, everybody likes them, and the skins are tender and edible, like the imported raisins. The Dianas are good inside; but the skins would make good leather aprons, and that is about all there is of them. The Salem I have saved for the first time, and can only say that I think that in time it will make, in texture, flavor and sugar, a most perfect raisin. The keeping qualities of the Concord I have never tried. I have no faith in it for keeping. When in its greatest perfection I like to eat it, but that condition remains but a very short time. Very few are marketed, except when unripe or overripe; but still, for market, I think there is more money in it now than in any other. My preference is for the Clinton for my own use. Taking all things together and subtracting its bad from its good qualities, it leaves for me a better balance than any other I have tried. For market it is worthless, unless kept till fresh grapes grow. I could write a eulogy on its merits for home use. The idea of keeping grapes fresh and plump I consider more a matter of fancy than utility. In drying, nothing evaporates but water, and it is a question with me whether the amount of sugar is not increased and the acid diminished by the process. At any rate, I never tasted grapes so much to my liking as those now before me.

S. B. PECK.

CLOSE-PRUNING VINES.

WE have in our grounds a Clinton Grape-vine sixteen years old, with a stem about four feet high. For the last twelve years it has been "Buck"-pruned—that is, all the young canes are cut back to within one or two buds of their base, about a dozen in all being left on the head of the stem.

Although the Clinton is one of the most vigorous of our native varieties of the Grape, and one which many of our vineyardists claim will not withstand close pruning and produce fruit, still the vine in question has not failed once during the time named to bear a dozen or more handsome bunches, the berry ripening finely.

The past season the fruit on this vine was as good, if not really better, than ever before, and we begin to get discouraged in our attempts to kill, or even weaken, this vine by close pruning, which some persons claim will destroy any and all of our native sorts.

The Horseman.

CLIPPING HORSES.

THIS was done a great deal in England, forty years ago, and shaving, too. About forty-five years ago I was just beginning to ride after the fox-hounds. I was a farmer's son and kept a nag or two of my own, and met the Warwickshire hounds (a subscription pack), the Duke of Beauford's pack, and then Col. Berkley's (afterwards Lord Leagrave, then Earl Fitzharding). A good many horses were shaved in the latter end of September and beginning of October, carefully covered with linen under the rug for the first week after, and these would have an even, short coat of hair; but quite a number were clipped in October and November, and, when nicely done, grays looked well, but it spoiled the gloss of the black ones and changed the shade of the bays and chestnuts. However, for all quick-working horses, there was never any question about the comfort to the animal and, more especially, the relief of the groom, for, of course, if the horse had to stand anywhere on the journey, a cloth and breast cloth, also, were put on just the same as on all short-coated horses, which have their hair remaining short, from being confined in the stable early (August) and kept so as to prevent the growth of the hair.

About thirty years ago singeing became general, instead of clipping, and this was done with a kind of comb, with teeth like the currycomb, and a wick and oil running so that the flame would catch the hair as it rose from the combing. Some used spirits of wine, but mostly naptha, and this being done once a week, and commenced as soon as the hair began to grow, took off but little each time. It was very quickly done, and did not change the color, and the first sweat after took off with the grooming, the peculiar smell, etc., of burnt hair.

In England this is doubtless still done, and when a horse is had up late in the autumn, or from any other cause has a very long coat, clipping is probably still resorted to, because singeing can't be done evenly with long hair. Cart, or what are here called heavy draft horses, have nothing of this kind done to them, their hair is longer, naturally, and they are never driven so fast as to sweat much. Besides, they lie in cooler stables, and have to stand about often while cart or wagon is loaded, so that more hair is necessary to keep them warm, and farmers in England, of the first class even, never think of clothing their teams, for they all have their "nag stables" totally distinct from the "cart stables," and their saddle horses never have a collar on, and their driving nags seldom do aught on the farm, beyond, perhaps, harrowing a little in a busy seeding time.

In the Northern States of America, for a doctor, whose groom drives him in his rounds, a clipped horse is best, because he can be driven very fast, thus saving time, and the groom can carefully keep the clothes on, breast cloth and hood, too, in cold spells or a long stop, and he can stir him around also, and so in all cases similar to a doctor's work, or on regular stages, to a coach or other vehicles, the clipped horses are better for their own comfort and the groom's attendance, for they are comfortable in a few minutes after being put in the stable, whereas, with long hair, they will not dry and break out sweating again, so that a fellow may "work his heart out" and they will still look miserable.

WORKING FARMER.

HEAVES IN HORSES.

I SAW an article in the RURAL NEW-YORKER, sometime last summer, in regard to heaves in horses, which prompts me to give my experience with this disease. I came to the conclusion, many years ago, that heaves were brought on by using dusty hay and other kinds of food. Consequently, I commenced to dampen all the hay fed to my horses, and since that time, I have seen no signs of heaves among them. Before I commenced this sprinkling of the hay, I had two or three which had it, and although I do not think there is anything that will cure horses when the disease is once well seated, still, in my opinion, dampening of the hay and feed is a sure preventive.

JOHN MEHAN.

To keep horses free from "grease," or scratches, their legs and feet must be kept clean while standing in the stable and rubbed so soon as they come out of the wet and snow.

Floricultural.

MISCELLANEA.

Bee Flowers.—We are reminded by Prof. Beal's article upon plants most visited by bees, published in another column, that the *Aster Novae-Angliae* attracted more bees than any other flowers in our grounds. This Aster, under cultivation, grows to the hight of about six feet and bears thousands of flowers. From morning until night these were visited by bees in such numbers that there seemed several bees to each flower. The hum from so many busy workers and their excessive industry, as if no time was to be lost in gathering so rich a feast, so impressed the writer that, should he ever establish an apiary, this Aster would be among the first flowers cultivated for its use.

Vine Ornaments.—We heard a lady of much floral taste, and a botanist, too, remark that for vases, either in-door or out, she preferred *Lysimachia nummularia* (the Golden Moneywort) to all other trailing vines and Smilax for the ornamentation of the conservatory or sitting room.

We remember a rustic box elevated two feet above the earth upon the stump of a small tree. The vine had concealed both box and stump, flowed upon the earth, taken root and formed a carpet. Over this, and reaching midway to the ground, were *Tradescantias*, purple, variegated, green and white lined. In the center, trained to strings to a circular wire two feet above, was Smilax, which, having twined about the ring, had fallen over so as to meet and intertwine with the *Tradescantias*. Simple as are such garden ornaments, easily as they are formed, they are often more captivating than more pretentious vases that have been contrived and arranged with all possible care and no little expense.

A Vase of Pansies.—We saw last summer a low, iron vase, two feet in diameter, filled with Pansies—black Pansies, and those only. The vase had been filled with leaf-mold from the woods and thoroughly decomposed manure. It was so placed as to receive only the morning sun. The only care necessary was to prevent the earth from drying out, on the one hand, which would at once have made the flowers smaller, and on the other, not to give too much water, which, without increasing the size of the flowers, would have induced a leggy, straggling growth.

This vase was a beautiful success, and as odd as beautiful. Pansies need rich earth, shade and moisture during our scorching summers. If we cannot supply those requisites, we cannot have fine Pansies.

Roses for Damp Places.—In the grounds now devoted to the Rural New-Yorker—which, as we cannot have all our friends visit, as we would wish to do, we shall present them with several scenes from sketches made last fall, though not until after frosts—is a lake that has afforded us the opportunity of experimenting with many plants as to the degree of moisture which suits them.

A "Madam Trotter" Rose-bush was planted so that its upper roots are enveloped in perpetual moisture, while its lower ones extend beneath the water level. The first summer it grew so rapidly that we feared its wood would not ripen, and that, in consequence, it would be killed by the winter. Not so. It has since thriven as we have never known a Rose-bush to thrive before.

NOTES.

To the Editor of the Germantown Telegraph.

Another Pretty Handy Vine.—I have seen a notice in the Rural New-Yorker of the vine Variegated Ampelopsis, or *Vitis heterophylla variegata*. I did not suppose it, however, to be a new or rare production, as I have one eight or nine years old. Permit me to call the attention of your readers, who are lovers of the beautiful, to this charming hardy vine. It is woody in its nature and jointed like the grape, of which I think it must be a variety; is perfectly hardy here, having stood the severe winter three years ago, growing on the east side of the house. The leaves are deeply lobed and beautifully variegated with white and two shades of green, and often in young plants a shade of pink; is easily kept in shape as regards size or training, and would be attractive for greenhouse or conservatory, as it likes a partial shade to give it its finest markings or variegations. The fruit is about the size of currants and of various colors as they mature, being from an azure hue to a very pale blue and green. It is very nice for trimming the hair all seasons, either in blossom or fruit. The one I have is greatly admired, and I have grown it for friends by layering, from cuttings, and even from seed as well, the seedlings coming true in every case; I raised some twenty-five or thirty the past season. It is the most beautiful hardy vine I know, and is deserving of extensive culture. Mrs. Mary Olin.

Yates County, N. Y.

The Rural New-Yorker has never spoken of this Vine as *new*. Though the roots are perfectly hardy, we have had the stems freeze to the ground during severe winters. We have also raised it from seed, but never had a seedling show variegation. While in the above particulars we differ from Mrs. Olin, we are glad to see that in other respects she more than corroborates what we have said in its favor.

The Poultry Yard.

LEGHORNS AND HAMBURGS.

About a year ago I started a yard of Brahmas. Tho' fine birds, I found them too heavy feeders, and their eggs large but not numerous. Wishing to start again with smaller eaters and "non-sitters," I write to inquire of you about Leghorns and Hamburgs. The American papers have a great deal to say of the Leghorn but the foreign books seem to speak of the Hamburgs as "every-day layers." Please enlighten me if possible from practical experience as to these breeds, also if not against your rules, where or of whom they can be had and how much I should pay.

C. E. Sprague.

An answer to your question has, through press of business, been unavoidably delayed. Your experience with Light Brahmas is the same as that of many other persons. Although they possess some very excellent qualities, they are not the most profitable, to keep in large numbers for eggs. Where a person has room to keep more active varieties, that thrive better on a large range, some other breeds are more profitable. In answering your enquiries as to which you should keep of the smaller breeds, you can best judge of your own taste and facilities.

I will describe the peculiarities of the two breeds you mention. American papers speak more of the Leghorns because they are peculiarly an American breed. They originated from fowls brought from the shore of the Mediterranean, but the improvements made on the original stock have been such as to make them appear entirely different birds, so they are called an American breed, and recognized as such in England. They are hardy, and lay a good-sized egg, and are deservedly popular.

There are three varieties, White, Brown and Black Leghorns. The first two are most widely known, the last differs but little from the Spanish. The White variety has been the longest established, and has proved a valuable addition to the farm, being good layers and their eggs large. The Brown are thought by most fanciers to be hardier than the White, certainly their plumage is richer, especially some strains that have very close-fitting, glossy plumage. They come to maturity much earlier than any variety of fowl, laying at a very early age, they are also prolific layers of eggs, rather smaller than those of the former.

Of Hamburgs there are five varieties, Silver-Penciled, Silver-Spangled, Golden-Penciled, Golden-Spangled and Black.

The great beauty of this breed, makes them favorites; their delicate markings and fine clean colors, of the gold and silver, show to fine effect on a lawn; a good flock, making a grand appearance with their sprightly movements, jaunty carriage and exquisite forms. They are always admired even by those who take but little interest in poultry, but their popularity for market purposes is somewhat injured by the smallness of their eggs. Where one wants to use the eggs, the Hamburgs combine not only the most beautiful of birds but best of layers.

The Black is an exception to others of this breed in size of eggs, theirs being large, they are also great layers; it is a little surprising that they are not more popular, as records of number and weight of eggs, for a given quantity of food, place them high in the list, as layers. It must be borne in mind, that none of the Hamburgs or Leghorns hatch their own eggs, therefore it is necessary to keep some other kind to hatch and rear the chicks. They also require plenty of room, or good care in confinement, or it stands to reason they cannot be every-day layers.

H. Hales.

BREEDING FOR QUALITIES.

In my last article in the Rural, Nov. 4th, on breeding for qualities, I made the assertion that not one single animal has been shown as the result of the crossing of two species of animals. I should have said not a single animal as the result of such crossing from a permanently maintained breed. Some closely allied species of fowls, such as *Gallus Sonneratii* and *Gallus Stanleyii*, have crossed with the domestic fowl, and a small number of their progeny have been fertile when again crossed with either of the *parent species* in the Zoological Gardens, London, and in India; but after a time they either became so sterile, or were so sickly that they all died out. *Gallus Bankiva*, however, readily breeds with the domestic fowl, and the offsprings are perfectly healthy and fertile birds. In plumage the *Gallus Bankiva* very closely resembles the black-breasted red game fowl; and the probability of this species having been the progenitor of all our domestic breeds rests on very strong presumptive grounds. Yet it matters not how long a time, even many centuries, may elapse, so true is nature to her laws, that she steps in and asserts her own prerogative so soon as human agency is removed, or man neglects to maintain the variety his care has brought forth.

This is very easily demonstrated in the case of Pigeons. No two fowls can be more unlike each other than the two varieties of pigeons, White Fantails, and Almond short-faced Tumblers. The fantail has been bred in India for centuries and was probably, thence, introduced into Europe: the almond tumbler has been bred in England many years; both of them are far removed from any resemblance to their blue rock progenitors. A few years ago I had an almond tumbler mate with a white fantail. They bred one pair of young ones that were white, with black and red patches. I gave them to a neighbor, and he bred them together. I called on him one day and he showed me the young ones he had bred from my pair, and to my astonishment they closely resembled, in color and shape, the blue rock pigeon. Finding he had always kept them confined, I was sorely puzzled to imagine what had brought about such a change, but having since read Teichmeier's work on pigeons the mystery is solved; as it seems proved beyond any doubt that all our domestic pigeons come from the common wild rock species, *Columba Livia*.

With all the variations of domestic fowls they do not seem to vary more than pigeons, if they do so much. A similar tendency is found in fowls to show certain feathers, and every breeder knows how difficult it is to keep out such intrusion. The nearer the varieties of fowls approach in color to the black-breasted red game, the more easily are they bred to feather. To begin with, take the Bantam: the B. B. red game is more easily bred to color than its next akin, the duck-wing game. I presume this is also the case with full-sized game. How many duckwings have inclination to brown on the wing! and olive duckwings are hard to breed with pure silvery hackles; yellow will keep cropping out to bother the breeder. The same thing occurs with Silver Gray and Dorking; cocks often have brown on the wing bar, and the hens are troubled with red on the wings. Dominiques, Plymouth Rocks, &c. when getting old are often inclined to yellow on hackle and back, much to the disgust of their owners. Brown Leghorns breed truer to feather than most varieties, and are hardier than the White. This seems to point to their origin, as most of the natural inclinations to color seem to be such as the game fowls show.

I have little doubt but that the art of breeding peculiar points is yet in its infancy. It is not many years ago that breeding for special forms and colors was hardly made a study of. Up to that time Hamburgs were all either Mooneys or Creoles; Polands had simply small top knots; Spanish were bred with small, white faces; Brahmas and Cochins were unknown; so were White and Brown Leghorns, Plymouth Rocks and many others. What a change has been wrought in a few years! What were then considered good fowls would not gain even a moments attention now. Every breeder knows that he cannot often breed good show birds until he has kept his stock, and selected and bred from them several times to ensure a strain that he can depend upon to breed true. The limits to which certain peculiarities can be carried to be useful, are better understood now than formerly. Very large combs on Spanish and Leghorns were considered as quite a wonder in breeding, and large combs were again and again selected until at last they became such monstrosities, that judges at fairs pass them by for birds with combs of more limited size. Where a monstrous comb is found the poor bearer feels it to be quite a load for his small neck, and he looks heavy and disconsolate under the weight of his ponderous burden. H. Hales.

INQUIRY ABOUT PHEASANTS.

I am contemplating the stocking of my country place with some Pheasants, not for the purpose of providing myself with shooting in the fall months, but to beautify my lawns by placing upon them some of these handsome birds. Can you tell me the best method of having them shipped to me? Can you tell me anything of the *Argus Pheasant?* I have been making some inquiries at the stores of some leading fanciers, and little seems to be known about the bird. You will oblige a reader of ten years standing, by giving me such information in the matter as you can. John A. Stimson.

Yonkers, Dec. 7, 1876.

Answer.—We are always glad to oblige our readers, and it is a double pleasure to be able to to do anything in our power for so old a friend. The Argus pheasant is a rare bird and we believe our correspondent will not succeed in stocking his place with this variety, for reasons which we will set forth in a future number. As we presume our reader of "ten years standing" is not contemplating the *immediate* stocking of his country seat, we will ask him to excuse our not answering his question at length, in this number that we may procure for him, and for the readers of the Rural, an illustration of this rare Pheasant. Meanwhile we beg him to accept our thanks for his ten years friendship, and assure him and all our subscribers that we will always be glad to hear from old or new readers, and feel happy to answer such questions as they may desire to ask in reference to home matters.

Pomological.

KEEPING PEARS IN WINTER.

Probably at no season of the year is this delicious fruit so fully appreciated and highly prized as during the winter and spring months. And yet how many unwittingly deny themselves nearly half the pleasure that the pear can bestow.

With a large number of those possessing orchards the season for this fruit ends with the entrance of winter, while, with *very little* trouble it might be prolonged many months. Two of the greatest enemies to the keeping of fruits in winter are the usually welcome elements—heat and air. Keep these away and the battle is won. The method to be followed is so simple that every one can practice it, and even at this date it may assist in keeping until spring, fruit that otherwise would very soon ripen.

Select clean wooden or pasteboard boxes, with or without covers, and line them with brown paper, though newspaper will answer. Then place two or three layers of pears carefully in the box—discarding all imperfect or bruised specimens, and cover with one or two thicknesses of paper. The pieces of paper should be somewhat larger than the box, so as to reach from side to side and keep out the air from above. One or two more layers of pears may be placed in the box in the same manner, being particular to have the top layer of paper quite large enough. Boxes one or two feet square will be found to be a very convenient size.

The boxes should then be placed in an unoccupied room or in an apartment of the cellar where the temperature of the air can be regulated at will. The thermometer should usually range from 34 to 40° above zero. If too warm then let in a little cool air from outside as required. Heat should be guarded against as it quickly causes the fruit to ripen. By this method many of the late varieties can be kept in excellent condition until the winter is past. I have had fine specimens upon the table in March and even during the latter part of April. By selecting several varieties, and bringing a few into a warm room to ripen it is easy to have ripe pears all winter long. Commencing with Beurre d'Anjou and Lawrence, the old-fashioned but delicious Beurre d'Aremberg will be welcomed as will also Josephine de Malines, Easter, Beurre and even the much abused Vicar of Wakefield.

The late keeping varieties of grapes, such as the Dianas, Catawbas may also be kept until the spring months in this way. The same plan will be serviceable in the case of apples using barrels or larger boxes. If a trial of this method is made, exclamations of surprise and pleasure that will greet you from admiring friends, as they see your tables decked with fruit in spring, will well repay you for the slight extra care that you may have taken.

Walden-on-the-Hudson, N. Y. R. H. Haines.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF APPLES.

Not having a winter supply of sweet apples this year, the last week in November I purchased a barrel of Pound Sweetings. I found on testing them, whether raw or baked, that they had less saccharine matter in them than any I had ever before eaten; and in fact were so watery as to be quite insipid. I have a small empty chamber in my barn, and as the apples seemed to be rotting rapidly, I took all the sound ones out of the barrel and put each one on the floor of this chamber, so far apart that they did not touch each other. A few days after this the weather became so cold as to freeze the apples from a quarter to a half of the depth of their surface. I let them remain thus about one week, and then began again to use them, and found their sweetness so much increased, as to seem another sort of fruit, indeed now and then one almost equal to the Golden Sweeting Can any person give me the philosophy of this treatment in flavor and sweetness?

Had the apples shriveled at all, or shrunk in size, I should say at once that they had parted with some of their moisture, leaving all the saccharine matter within them; but such is not the fact; the apples are as large, and full, and smooth as when first taken out of the barrel. Can it be that the frost has more fully ripened and perfected them, thus acting like additional sunshine to our climate and longer hanging on the tree before being picked? I have kept the Golden Sweeting—an autumnal rather than a winter apple—spread out on the floor of a cold room, as above, till April, perfectly sound. They did not freeze during the winter, but they shriveled considerably, and were no sweeter in April than in the preceding November and December. A.

The Garden.

LIME FOR ASPARAGUS BEETLES.

SOME time ago I saw an article in the RURAL NEW-YORKER in regard to applying gas lime to asparagus for the purpose of killing the Asparagus Beetle. Will you inform me when it should be applied and the quantity?—J. MAHAN.

Either gas lime or freshly-slaked stone lime would probably not have much effect upon the Asparagus Beetle while it is in the imago or beetle state, but its larvæ are readily destroyed by such applications. The Asparagus Beetle hybernates during the winter, hidden in the ground or under any old rubbish about the place. In spring they come out, and so soon as the asparagus stems have appeared, the female beetles commence to deposit their eggs thereon. These eggs soon hatch, and the small, soft, blackish grubs therefrom may be found attached to the stems, branches and leaves of the plants. Now, this is the time to commence applying dry lime, dusting it over the plants. Any particle of the powder touching one of these grubs kills it. Gas lime, if it is thoroughly dried before applying, will probably answer the purpose. We have always used freshly-slaked stone lime for this purpose, and with the best results. If a second or third brood of the grubs appear on the plants later in the season, the dusting must be repeated.

Neighbors should all join in making war upon asparagus beetles and other noxious insects, else the efforts of a few persons may be rendered entirely ineffectual through the neglect of the many. If every person would destroy the insect pests which infest his own grounds, the expense of keeping any and all kinds in check would fall very lightly upon each individual. The lack of this "concert of action" is shown very clearly in the spreading of the Colorado Potato Beetle, which might have been kept within very circumscribed limits, near its native habitats, had the farmers of the West heeded the advice so frequently and freely given them by our entomologists.

A few thousands of dollars expended at the proper time in preventing the introduction or advance of insect hordes would frequently be the means of saving millions of dollars to the country; but the masses are either too ignorant to comprehend the importance of such precautionary measures, or stolcally indifferent to what may happen to their property some years hence.

DREER'S IMPROVED LIMA BEAN.

IN the RURAL of April 22, page 265, will be found, with an engraving, our first mention of this bean. A trial of it this season has not only confirmed our then favorable impressions, but convinced us that it is an "Improved" Lima Bean that, should it thrive in other sections as with us, will be planted to the exclusion of other Lima Beans, after one trial.

The pod is larger, rougher, wider and heavier. The beans are larger, more buttery in flavor, and there are more in the pod. In fact, the pod is as "full as a tick"—the beans crowding each other so as to flatten the ends and leave no intervening spaces. The vines themselves are extremely vigorous and prolific, and we believe the seed may be sown advantageously a little earlier than the time (middle of May) deemed advisable for other varieties. If facilities are at hand, we should advise starting them in small pots a month or more earlier and turning them out just so soon as settled weather seems probable.

This bean is the result of careful selection through many years, and, as was remarked in the notice above referred to, we know of no stronger evidence as to the importance of selecting seeds whatever the crop may be—than the superiority of this over other Lima Beans affords.

GEORGE B. LORING, in his Farmers' Club of Jotham, recommends small farms near large cities as the most profitable. Would it not be well also to recommend market gardening on remote farms?

Domestic Economy.

TO "ESTELLE."

Marble Cake.—For the white part, use one and a half cups of white sugar, half a cup of butter, half a cup of sweet milk, one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder, two and a half cups of flour, whites of four eggs. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth. Mix the baking powder in the flour. Rub the butter and sugar to a cream; add the eggs, milk and flour. Flavor with lemon extract.

For the dark part, one cup of brown sugar, half a cup of molasses, half a cup of butter, half a cup of sweet milk, one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder, two and a half cups of flour, the yolks of four eggs. Beat the yolks of the eggs very light. Mix the baking powder in the flour. Rub the sugar and butter together; add the eggs, molasses, milk, a little ground cloves and nutmeg, and the flour. Place alternate layers of the light and dark mixture in a baking-pan, well buttered. Bake in a moderate oven.

Chocolate Marble Cake.—One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, three cups of flour, whites of five eggs, one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder. Work the butter and sugar to a cream, add the milk, the whites of the eggs, beaten to a stiff froth; then the flour, with the baking powder mixed thoroughly through it. Take one teacupful of the batter and stir into it one large spoonful of grated chocolate, wet with a little milk. Fill the baking-pan about one inch deep with the white mixture; then drop in two or three places a spoonful of the chocolate batter, then a layer of the white; continue this until the mixture is all used. Bake in a moderate oven.

These recipes are very good. If any of the lady readers of the RURAL have better ones, will they please send them along for the benefit of "Estelle" and others. MRS. RUSTIC.

ORIGINAL RECIPES.

Graham Bread.—In answer to "Nina's" request, I send my recipe for Graham Bread. Not having tried Mrs. Rustic's recipe for bread, I cannot say that mine is any better, but I know that it is good Graham bread:—One cup of sour cream, one cup of buttermilk, one-half cup of molasses, one teaspoonful of saleratus, one teaspoonful of salt, and Graham flour enough to make a stiff batter. Put the mixture in a two-quart basin and set in a steamer and steam four hours.

I have some other recipes which I send for the benefit of the lady readers of the RURAL in return for their many good recipes:

Johnnie Cake.—One pint corn meal, two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, one teaspoonful of soda, one tablespoonful of sugar, a little salt. Mix altogether through a sieve; then add two eggs and one pint of sweet milk. Stir well and bake twenty minutes.

Fried Cakes.—One cup of sugar, one cup of milk, one quart of flour, three tablespoonfuls of butter, two eggs, three teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one half teaspoonful of soda.

Carbonate of Ammonia Cookies—One ounce of carbonate of ammonia, two teacups of sugar, one pint of sweet cream, flour enough to roll out thin.

Cream Sponge Cake.—Break two eggs into a teacup, beat well, then fill up the cup with thick, sweet cream; add one cup of flour, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, half a teaspoonful of soda.

Jelly Rolls.—Three eggs, half a cup of sugar, one cup of flour, one and a half teaspoonfuls of baking powder, the whites of four eggs, two-thirds of a cup of pulverized sugar, half a cup of flour, half a teaspoonful of baking powder, a little salt.

Cocoanut Cake.—Two eggs, one cup of white sugar, half a cup of sweet milk, a quarter of a cup of butter, one and a half cups of flour, one and a half teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Bake in a moderate oven in pans one inch deep.

To prepare the dessicated cocoanut, beat the whites of two eggs to a stiff froth, add one cup of pulverized sugar and the cocoanut, after soaking it in boiling milk. Spread the mixture between the layers of cake and over the top.

A FARMER'S WIFE.

Mrs. Bidwell's Sponge Cake.—Three eggs, one cup of sugar, even off one tablespoonful of cold water, one heaping cup of flour, one teaspoonful of baking powder. Bake fifteen or twenty minutes—not longer.

Spanish Cream.—Three pints of milk, one ounce Cox gelatine, six tablespoonfuls of sugar, beaten with the yelks of six eggs: this stirred into the boiling milk. Beat the whites and stir them in last. Flavor to the taste. Soak the gelatine in a little milk first; put into molds. Make the day before it is wanted for use.

Jumbles.—Two cups of sugar, one of butter, one of milk, four eggs, one teaspoonful of baking powder, flour to make it stiff enough to roll out, cut into shape and bake in a quick oven.

E. J. K.

COLORING RECIPES WANTED.

WILL some of the readers of the RURAL give me a good recipe for coloring cotton red, blue, brown and green? The cotton I wish to color is carpet filling. Also, how to make star candles? Please give the required recipes, as I need them.—MRS. M. F. JAMES.

Coloring Cotton Red.—Two pounds of redwood; boil this one hour, turn it off into a tub, put in four ounces solution of tin, put in the cotton and let it remain five minutes.

Coloring Cotton Blue.—Take two pounds of copperas, one-half pound of prussiate of potash, one-half pound oil of vitriol. Dissolve the copperas in enough hot water to cover the goods. Scald two hours. Take out the goods and rinse in cold water; then empty the kettle and put in fresh, soft water, sufficient to cover the goods well; add the prussiate of potash, put in the goods and boil twenty minutes; then take out the goods and to the liquor add oil of vitriol and stir well. Put in the goods again and let them remain until the color is as dark as desired. Rinse in cold water.

Coloring Cotton Brown.—To eight pounds of yarn take one pound of copperas and as much water as will cover the yarn; bring the water to a boil, put the copperas in and let it dissolve: then pour it out in a tub, put in the yarn and let it remain half an hour; take weak lye, as much as will cover the yarn, and bring it to a boil; take the yarn out of the copperas-water and let it air one-half hour; then put it into the lye one-half hour; repeat the process until the color is sufficient; wash well in hard water; then in hard soap-suds, soak one-half hour; afterwards wash in hard water.

Coloring Cotton Green.—For ten pounds of cotton carpet-yarn, boil in a loose sack four pounds of fustic for two hours. Take out the sack and add two ounces of alum. When dissolved, put in the yarn; keep it boiling gently one-half hour, stirring all the time. Then lift out the yarn, add to the water four ounces of indigo paste; stir well. Put in the yarn and stir gently for fifteen minutes. Leave it until cold, take out, rinse in cold water and dry in the shade.

If any of the readers of the RURAL can give a recipe for "star candles," will they send it along for the benefit of Mrs. M. F. J. and others?

MRS. RUSTIC

Hygienic Information.

POULTICES AND HOW TO MAKE THEM.

THERE are doubtless some skill and science necessary in making Poultices, consequently anything leading towards perfection even in these useful appliances is certainly worth disseminating. As there is some mechanical skill also required in their manufacture we were not at all surprised to find the following on the subject in the Mechanics' Magazine.

A poultice usually is only a desirable vehicle for imparting heat and moisture. By softening the tissues, poultices facilitate the passage of inflammatory products outward. The heat and moisture relax the tissues, and to that degree relieve the tension due to the inflammation, and to that extent relieve pain. The pain can further be eased by adding laudanum and such substances to the surface of contact of the poultice.

The materials best calculated to take up and give out the heat and moisture spoken of, are in common use. There must be enough of the mass to secure and retain enough heat to be of use, and therefore a poultice should be at least an inch thick. To prevent cooling in spreading, the cloth upon which the mass is to be spread should be laid out on a heated plate or dish, and the poultice, with not enough free liquid in it to "drip," rapidly and evenly spread over the muslin. A thin piece of quite old muslin should then be spread over the surface of the poultice, so the mass will not come into immediate contact with the skin. The spread area of the poultice should be just the size required; and the fabric upon which it is spread should extend beyond the edges of the poultice material, so that the unspread selvage can be turned over the edges of the mass. This will keep the poultice from leaking away.

After having been applied as warm as can be borne, a piece of oiled silk—or even oiled paper might answer—should be spread outside to retain the moisture, and something outside of that again to keep in the other useful feature of the poultice—the heat.

Such applications must necessarily be removed and renewed every little while. If poulticing is to be done at all, it must be done well, and that is, properly. A few hours of poulticing applied every half hour, will do more good than many hours of poulticing done in the usual way.

Bread and Milk Poultice.—Remove the crust from a piece of stale bread, and crumble the bread into a bowl. Pour on this enough sweet milk to cover it, and simmer over a fire, stirring it all the while until the bread becomes completely broken up. The poultice is now to be applied to the patient as warm as can be borne.

Flaxseed Poultice.—Take of flaxseed meal a sufficient quantity, and pour on it, little by little, enough cold water to make of suitable thickness. Then heat the entire mass. A small piece of lard is sometimes added to keep it from adhering to the part.

Yeast Poultice.—Mix a pound of linseed meal or oatmeal into half a pint of yeast. Then heat the mixture over a gentle fire, stirring carefully to keep from burning. When it becomes warmed through, it can be spread on linen like any other poultice. Yeast poultices are often ordered by physicians when there is a fœtid discharge from ulceration, which it is supposed to correct.

Bread-and-Water Poultice.—Take a slice of stale bread, carefully pare away the hard brown crust which lies around the edge, and then dip it into a vessel of hot water; lift it out at once, and if not too hot, apply to the part where it should go.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING.

THE London Examiner reads the women a lecture on clothing which we doubt if they will heed, still the truths told are, nevertheless, pertinent.

Of late there have been many signs that women, at last, are becoming alive to the strong control of clothes upon their fate. From time to time we hear of revolutionary associations instituted to free them from the weight of ruchings, and burst for them the fetters of Valenciennes and ribbons. Now it is a band of sedate English women who have pledged themselves to a convenient, if doleful, livery of perpetual black; now it is the patriotic and contrite ladies of Prussia who, under Imperial patronage, swear resistance to their too fondly obeyed tyrants and natural foes, the milliners of Paris; now it is a fiery squadron of American Amazons who are enrolling themselves to do battle with the hostile world for health, happiness and trousers.

We all find food for mirth in such associations, for we are agreed that dress is a trifle, and the idea of an association at all about such an indifferent matter, reminds us of the famous tempest in a teacup—and when trousers get into the discussions we laugh still more, because it is understood that the mere name of trousers is a capital joke. Yet, after all, there is something to be said for the women who "agitate" about their clothes. There is no doubt that the dress of Western women is cumbrous and, by its weight and the impediment it puts in the way of active exercise, a bondage; there is no doubt that it is unduly expensive, and there is no doubt that it sins nearly as often and as much against artistic, as against hygienic fitness. Raiment better adapted to the need, lighter to bear, more complete as a protection against vicissitudes of weather, allowing the whole body more play and, if one may dare to say it, less display, more lasting, and more graceful, is an improvement no sane observer can pronounce unneeded.

But a woman of the smallest self-respect, whatever might be her courage, would decline to adopt singly, no matter how rational and modest, a costume which could be a surprise to beholders; and no scattered missionaries, though looking never so comfortable and never so picturesque, could entice the female multitude to imitate their venture. If ever a material alteration is effected it must be by the union of many. Here is a difficulty at the threshold, for such union could ill be achieved except by the efforts of an association, and in such a cause the very name of association is a hindrance, suggesting suicidal parade and publicity over a reform in which of all others, an unobtrusive modesty would be essential.

Supposing that difficulty disposed of, the fatal difficulty is reached: What should the dress be? There is an old round which runs, "Let us be merry in our old clothes for we shall never get new." For want of the perfect dress to which a fairly representative woman's parliament could be got to agree, the sufferers under too much skirt will have a good many years yet in which to sing that chorus.

MANY people who have headache wrap up their craniums in wet cloths without thinking that, in ninety-nine cases in every hundred, the cause will be found in, and the remedy should be applied to, a lower portion the human anatomy, generally known as the stomach. This is the rebel against which constant guard must be kept.

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PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

THE closing of the year seems to be an appropriate period to glance at the past, study the present, and make preparations for the future. Regrets over that which has passed beyond our reach seldom add anything to our welfare or happiness, consequently it is time wasted to talk of what might have happened or been done if we could only have known, in advance, what has occurred within our past experience and present knowledge. The principal benefit to be derived from retrospective musings, is the detection of errors, which might again be committed with the same results were it not for the teachings of experience, which a wise person will consider as so much capital invested for present and future use. However much we may have lost during the year just drawing to a close, through negligence or a lack of wisdom, there is certainly nothing to be gained by carrying forward to the new account items likely to embarrass our movements, detract from our happiness, and fill a page in life's history with records of profit and loss which may increase instead of lightening our cares and labors.

Next week a new leaf is to be turned over in the record of years among Christian nations, and it is well to consider at this time what entries shall be made upon the new page. Shall forgiveness to all our enemies and those who may have done us wrong, purposely or otherwise, be one of them? Or will you carry forward the remembrance of wrongs, as though they were debts which must be paid in kind and, by so doing, put a blot upon a page which might otherwise have been so fair that none would blush to peruse it? Of course, we would not carry our charity in such things to that extent as to lead us into temptation, or association with those who are not to be trusted with our friendship or goods, for it must be admitted that mankind has not, as a whole, reached a moral standard which permits of one's placing confidence in every person with whom he comes in contact; consequently, in making up a list of friends and business acquaintances, it is well to drop the names of the untrustworthy from our books, and even memory, if possible.

Under the present condition of financial affairs, few persons can expect that their prosperity in the coming year will warrant the increase of personal or other expenditures, although there is no good reason for believing that "times" are to be any worse than now, while there is a fair prospect of a decided improvement. The country was never so rich as in this last week of 1876, no matter what the "croakers" may have to say to the contrary; and the present stagnation in business is not the result of poverty among the people, but of other causes which it is not necessary for us to explain, inasmuch as they are known to every intelligent reader of the RURAL NEW-YORKER.

Once more we say to our readers, close your accounts for 1876 by dropping from memory and record everything which in any way debars you from the fullest enjoyment of 1877; be industrious, practice economy, and this world will be found not half so bad a dwelling place as many a disordered brain would fain make us believe.

THE RURAL 1876—1877.

WITH this number closes the Twenty-Seventh Year of the RURAL NEW-YORKER. It is not for us to say, but for our readers to judge how well it closes, and how far our duties to subscribers have been fulfilled. Probably at no time since the starting of this Journal has more time, labor, money and care been expended in making the paper useful, interesting and correct.

To those who have failed to renew their subscriptions for the coming year, and to those whose names we have already received, we will say that we intend, not only to continue the good work, but to better it as much as possible. Correspondents who are new to the paper but old in their specialties, are constantly being added to our staff of contributors, while the old ones are continually finding something new to write about.

For the general and special farmer the RURAL each week contains hints and information suggestive of improved methods of conducting their business, any one of which will be worth to them more than the price of a year's subscription, while the Literary and Household Departments are to many people absolutely indispensable. As a newspaper the RURAL of course, cannot claim to compete with the mammoth dailies which few farmers can find time to read. Still, all the important events of the day are recorded in its columns, so that a subscriber who reads no other paper, cannot be behind the times.

To exactly suit all subscribers, we learned many years ago, is an utter impossibility, so that we have adopted the plan of doing as nearly right in the conduct of the paper as we can, and taking our chances upon the result. So far we have not been disappointed, and the numerous letters of praise and commendation of our efforts constantly received, which modesty forbids us to publish, almost compel us to believe that we are better than we actually are. We can only hope that such pleasing words of cheer are partially deserved, and then endeavor to deserve more.

COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

WINTER is the time in which country schools are generally more fully attended than at other seasons. The boys who have worked all summer, can now have an opportunity of attending school, doing the chores night and morning. City-bred boys know nothing of this, and while their advantages are far superior to the country boy for obtaining what is usually termed a good education, they make no better men, and frequently what they do learn, is not so valuable in giving advantages in the great struggle of life. But although our country schools are, upon the whole, excellent, still they might be made far better if their patrons or the parents of the children would take more interest in them—visiting the schools often and not only encouraging the teacher, but showing by their presence that the education of children is of sufficient importance to call for personal investigation.

Teachers often feel discouraged at the neglect shown them by the parents of the children under their care, and would do more, and take more interest in the advancement of their pupils if encouraged even by a word of thanks, or the slightest recognition. There must be some enthusiasm displayed in the support of the country school in order to have it an efficient and good one, and this must come from both parent and child; not from one side alone, because what the farmer calls a "spike team," (one horse constantly half a length ahead,) is not an easy one to drive, or the best to haul a big load. In addition to what is taught in books, it may often be well to introduce, in the way of diversion, some practical subjects which come up for discussion on the farm or in the household. This, of course, must depend somewhat upon the capacity of the teacher; for if he has no knowledge of botany, he would not be able to tell his pupils anything of the wood burned to keep them warm—or of coal, if the latter was used instead. Neither could he tell the farmer boy wherein rye differs from wheat or timothy from Hungarian grass, although this would be an interesting topic for a half-hour talk before farmers' boys. The same is true of all the other natural sciences; still, there are few school teachers at the present time who could not, if they tried very hard, obtain the required information if it has not been previously acquired.

If teachers generally had a better acquaintance with the natural sciences, they would be far more efficient in teaching children; for there is something in the history of any natural object—whether it be a stone, insect or flower—which, when pleasantly told, seldom fails to attract the attention of old or young. Those parents who may think they have cause to complain of their children not learning rapidly enough, or of their not taking sufficient interest in their studies the present winter, should look into the subject themselves, and see whether it be the fault of the teacher, the children, or themselves. There must be something to complain of all round; but if you never seek to learn the cause, you certainly have no one to blame but yourself.

RURAL NOTES.

Views in Rural Grounds.—We call the attention of our readers to the first series of sketches in the RURAL EXPERIMENTAL AND ORNAMENTAL GROUNDS, published on the first and fourth pages of this issue. They will, at least, serve to show that the trees, shrubs and flowers so often referred to in these columns as growing therein, have an actual existence. There is a great difference between writing from memory, and writing from specimens before one's eyes. We think we may say without exaggeration, that in these grounds are specimens at least of most of the desirable hardy plants in cultivation, adapted to this climate—and novelties from all parts of the world are being added from season to season. In Fig. 2, however, the engraver has represented the Hemlock Hedge as if it consisted of individual plants arranged closely together—when, in fact, it is so connected that one plant cannot possibly be distinguished from another.

Take Care of the Fire.—The daily and weekly papers teem with notices of fires in all parts of the country, which show that there are a great many careless persons in this world. To be turned out of house and home during one of these cold nights, is a thing not even to be thought of without a shudder; consequently, it concerns heads of households to see that everything about the heating apparatus of their homes is made safe and secure against such an occurrence.

Milk in New York.—During the past week thirty dealers in milk have been on trial for watering the milk furnished to their customers. One pleaded guilty and was fined $50, while the others combined and stood trial, in order to test the case, and see if adulterating milk with water is a misdemeanor before the law. Out of the one hundred and twenty millions of quarts of milk sold in this city and Brooklyn, at least forty millions are water, and consumers thus pay four millions of dollars annually for water. Men who have become so depraved as to desire to make money by robbing babes and children, should be declared outlaws, and have meted out to them the punishment their crime so richly deserves.

More Corn.—The Patrons of Husbandry have accomplished at least one good thing. At the National Encampment in 1874 (we think) a suggestion was made and discussed relating to the dependence of the Southern States upon the North-west for their cereals. The Southern planters were advised that it was much cheaper to raise their own corn. This discussion was published and copied in the agricultural and country papers generally, and we now see by the report of the Department of Agriculture that the corn yield of the Southern States in 1876 exceeded that of the preceding year 10,000,000 bushels. It would hardly be possible or advisable that corn should supplant King Cotton in that section, yet this evident approach to self-sustenance will be found of great benefit.

Planting Potatoes in Autumn.—A Belgian writer says that the potato being a perennial plant, the tubers should be put into the earth in the fall instead of spring. But we fail to see the advantage of fall planting over that of spring, inasmuch as no growth could take place during the cold weather. We know that fall planting of potatoes has been practiced to some extent in the United States, but with not very satisfactory results, especially in the Northern States, although there may be some satisfaction in knowing that such things can be done.

The Starving Poor.—If our Southern contemporaries who sympathize with the starving poor of our Northern cities, would only try the experiment of getting a few hundreds to go South and work on the plantations, we think they might get their eyes opened to at least one of the causes of so much poverty and distress among a certain class. There is a fascination in city life which the greatest poverty and want cannot dispel.

RURAL BREVITIES.

OVER 1200 persons died of yellow fever the past summer in Savannah, Georgia.

CASTOR BEANS, although extensively cultivated in Missouri, are quoted at $1.90 per bushel at the factories against $1@1.25 last season.

UNDER "Floriculture," we refer to Professor BEAL'S article, "Bee Flowers," as being published in another column. It was crowded out, but will appear next week.

THE new flouring process, of which so much has been said of late, is merely the putting of the very old process of pounding corn in a mortar into use on a larger scale.

A MAINE farmer says that he can raise and market potatoes at a cost of less than sixteen cents a bushel. According to this calculation, those who have had a good crop this year will make money.

THE Faucier's Journal, which has heretofore been published WEEKLY will, after the first of January, 1877, be issued MONTHLY. Want of support is the reason given for the change, which is a pity for so excellent a journal.

AMONG the novelties in the housekeeping line we notice the Climax Wringer advertised by N. B. PHELPS of Chambers St., New York. They claim that it works with only half the labor of ordinary wringers, by means of purchase gears.

"TOO many fences," is the cry now-a-days with quite a numerous class of agricultural writers; but we opine that if they had some men for neighbors, they might wish there were more fences and all of them higher and stronger than now.

MEN in England who own land do not want to sell it, because of the position which ownership of real estate enables them to hold; and those who do not own land, prefer to invest their capital where it will bring them a better return, say in cattle and fertilizers, consequently both classes are satisfied, with the present disposition of landed property and tenants.

THE old farming lands of Maine are said to be nearly or quite worn out; besides, the summers are short and the winters severe, still we hear reports of more than one hundred bushels of corn having been raised per acre in the State the past summer, which show that the northeast corner of Uncle SAM'S farm is worth something yet.

IT has been claimed that the Western Locusts would not eat the Castor bean plant, consequently farmers in the infested regions could grow this crop with impunity, if no other; but it now turns out that while the locusts do not trouble the leaves, they eat the flowers off, thereby preventing the production of the beans, which is just as bad as though they ate up the entire plant, especially if the "hoppers" came during blooming time.

GOOD-BY, OLD YEAR, GOOD-BY.

BY GERALDINE GERMANE.

THE bells ring slow, in muffled tone,
The chilling wind makes sadder moan;
The flowers are dead and all must die.
Good-by, Old Year, good-by.

The laughing streams run coldly now,
Stern Winter reigns, with ice-crowned brow,
Fair Summer is dead and you must die.
Good-by, Old Year, good-by.

Once you were young but now you're old,
Our youth can ne'er be bought with gold:
Your youth is long dead, all youth must die.
Good-by, Old Year, good-by.

Your glory came, your glory's gone,
All glory fades, Time breathes upon,
All grandeur and pride shall surely die.
Good-by, Old Year, good-by.

You brought as many glil'ring joys
That cloyed and broke like children's toys,
Our joys you have killed, now you must die.
Good-by, Old Year, good-by.

You brought us much of galling grief,
But, like our joys, its smart was brief,
If Joy must aye die, then Grief must die.
Good-by, Old Year, good-by.

Thou wast a year of hundred years,
Of glorious triumph that endears,
But, ah! as the others, thou must die.
Good-by, Old Year, good-by.

Though husk must die the kernel lives,
So doth the truth each year e'er gives;
Thou brought'st us much that will not die.
Good-by, Old Year, good-by.

The Story-Teller.

THE MAIL-GUARD'S STORY.

READER, have you ever been obliged to wait at a small country railway station for an early train? If you have not, you have not experienced the *ne plus ultra* of human misery. But when, as was my case last year, you have left a jolly party, driven five miles to catch the mail at 2 A. M., and found, on your arrival at the station, not that the train had gone, for that would be a relief, but that you had mistaken the time, and had got three-quarters of an hour to wait, your lot is not an enviable one. So I thought as I stamped up and down the ill-lit platform, and gazed into the darkness beyond, which was only broken by the dim and misty light of the "distance" signal, some hundred yards down the line. The occasional barking of a house-dog alone broke the stillness, except when now and then the autumn breeze played in a wailing tone on the telegraphic wires over my head. As I paced up and down to warm my feet, I felt regularly "savage" that the well-meant solicitations of the company assembled at the Beeches had induced me to forego that last waltz with Minnie Cameron, and hurry to the station.

I had been staying for the past fortnight at the house of a relative, and what with shooting, fishing, and (must I confess it?) occasionally flirting with the blue-eyed Minnie, the days had passed rapidly; and when recalled to London by my father's business-like letter, which hinted at some impending calamity connected with our firm, I could not believe that my leave had so nearly expired. There was no help for it, and go I must. My relatives appeared as sorry as I was when I announced my intended departure, and I fancy I could discern traces of tears in Minnie's sunny eyes as I bade her farewell in the hall that evening, bearing with me a shining tress of her flaxen hair, and a hasty kiss, as *souvenirs* of my visit. Oh, Minnie, Minnie! what would that excellent man, the incumbent, think, could he have seen the shining token of what I fancied was your affection for me, lying on my table prior to its being committed to the flames, with a bundle of old letters, when last month I heard you were "engaged?"

Under such circumstances as I have described the reader will easily imagine I was not in a particularly cheerful frame of mind on the night, or rather morning, in question. I sauntered into the dreary waiting-room, and, lighting a cigar, seated myself in front of the expiring fire, which I was even denied the amusement of stirring, the authorities having carried away the fire-irons. Placing my feet upon the fender, I lay back in my chair, and, as most men would have done, I began to ruminate upon the events of the past fortnight, and—Minnie! After a time I roused myself, and attempted the perusal of my father's letter, and then—I fell fast asleep. How long I slept I cannot say, probably about five-minutes, but it seemed an age, when I was aroused by the creaking of the "breaks" of a train. I started up, and rushed blindly to the door, fancying that the mail had come up, when I came in violent contact with a guard, who was entering at the same moment as I was making a hurried exit.

"Beg your pardon, sir," said the polite official; "what is the matter?"

"My train is going, I think," said I. "Let me see."

"It's only a down goods and cattle, sir," replied my companion, "which shunts here. The up-mail ain't due for nearly twenty minutes yet."

"Confound it!" I muttered; "why did it wake me, then?" and I returned to the fireplace.

"Cold night, sir," remarked the guard as he came towards me.

"Yes," said I, "and a wretched fire, too."

"I think we can mend that, at any rate," he replied; and, leaving the room, he returned in a few minutes, accompanied by an individual whom I rightly conjectured to be the stoker of the "goods" train, carrying a large shovelful of live coals, which, placed upon the cinders, soon improved our fire, and gave quite a cheerful aspect to the dingy apartment.

"Thank ye, Jim," said the guard as the stoker departed. "Now, sir, that's an improvement, ain't it?" he added, cheerfully.

"It is, indeed," I replied; "and I am much obliged to you for procuring the coals."

"Don't name it, sir," was the reply. "One must do something when one has to wait, you know."

"How long do you remain here, then?" I asked.

"Till 3:40, sir, I take up the mail," was the reply.

"Oh, indeed," said I.

"Yes, sir. I'm on this job all this month." And as he spoke the guard drew a pipe from his pocket, and having filled and lit it, he began to smoke in silence.

"Have you been long on this line?" I asked, after a pause.

"Well, sir, about three years, and on the mail duty, on and off, about one. I'm a reg'lar man of letters," he added, with a grin.

I laughed, and he continued.

"I was nearly choked with a capital letter when I was a baby. I had letters on my collar when I was in the police. I was made a guard all along of a bit of a letter. And now I am a guard, I looks after the letters." Having made these remarks in a jocular tone, my companion gave me a knowing nod, and puffed away at his pipe with greater vigor than before. I was much amused at his rejoinder, and asked him what he meant by having been made a guard "all along of a bit of a letter."

"I wasn't always a guard, sir," he said. "I was once in the police, and it was through being a detective as I got to be employed on this line."

"I suppose you didn't like the police, then?" said I.

"Well, sir, not much, though at times it was pretty good, and we had some jolly business. Ay," he continued, "with a good scent it's almost as excitin' as fox-huntin', is thief-catchin'; for some of those fellows is as cunnin' as foxes, every bit.

"It was through a robbery and a bit of paper that I was made a guard, as I said just now."

"How was that?" said I, catching at the idea of a story to beguile the time. "I should like to hear a bit of your experience as a detective."

"It ain't much of a story, sir, but I'll tell it to you with pleasure," and taking a few rapid puffs at his pipe, the guard commenced.

"It was about two years ago, and there had been a great plate robbery in the city, and the thieves had got clear away, so we was all obliged to keep our eyes open and our wits about us, for, though we had some suspicions, there was no real clues to go upon; it was mostly guess-work. Two or three men was arrested, but nothing was ever proved against them, so they was let go, in course. Nothing ever transpired respecting the robbery, and it was almost forgotten, except by some of us detectives, for a reward of $500 had been offered, and we was, in course, anxious to catch the men, as well for the credit of the force as for the money, which, sir, was not by no means to be despised. Well, sir, I wasn't half satisfied about one of the men who had been arrested, and whose name was Dover. He and and another was always together, and we in the force nicknamed them 'Chatham and Dover,' in consequence. We had 'Chatham' (whose real name was Byles) up too, but nothing turned up. However, one night after the business had blown over a bit, I thought I'd have a look after Dover; so I goes to where I was sure to find him or his 'pal,' in an out-of-the-way place near Field Lane. When the door was opened, I saw as the woman was a new hand, and didn't know me. So I asked if Dover was in. 'No,' says she, 'he's gone out of town.' 'In which direction?' says I. She pointed upwards, which meant north. 'Indeed,' says I. "Well, tell him as Mr. Moss wants to see him as soon as he returns'—makin' a shot, sir. I was at a man as I suspected was a 'fence,' and who I had my eye on. 'All right,' says she, and shuts the door.

"Thinks I, I've not done a bad stroke of business this evening. Mr. Moss and I will settle our little account now; so I went quietly home. Next afternoon, just after dinner, a message comes from the —— Bank for Mr. T——, our inspector. Telling me to be ready in case of bein' wanted, off he goes, and in about an hour he came back and said, 'We've got a job to-night,' he says, 'for a party has wrote another gentleman's name by mistake, and bolted with a large sum of money and his young woman, as is supposed, to America.' We had to start that evening by the nine o'clock train for Liverpool, which we did, and arrived there about four the next morning. We immediately put ourselves in communication with the local authorities, and searched several outgoing ships, but without any success. Just as we were leaving one of the vessels, the captain said to me, 'It's a pity you didn't know a little sooner, for an American barque sailed yesterday's tide for New York.'

"'The deuce it did,' says Mr. T——.

"'Yes,' says the captain; 'and you may depend upon it your man was off in that vessel.'

"'We're done, then,' says Mr. T——, 'and will have to go back with our labor for our pains.'

"'Well,' says I, 'I don't see that, by no means. When does the mail go?' I asked the captain.

"'It's gone,' says he; 'went last night.'

"'That's no good, then,' says Mr. T——. And he was very angry at bein' done.

"'I think, Mr. T——,' I says, as we walked away, 'I think we can catch him yet.'

"'How?' says Mr. T——.

"'Why,' said I, 'let us take the mail steamer to Dublin this afternoon, and go by the mail train to Queenstown! we can catch the steamer there, and pin your man in New York.'

"'I declare, we will,' says Mr. T——; 'that's a good idea; only I'm afraid I shall have to go alone, for you will be wanted in London, you know, next week.'

"I had forgotten that, and was very much disappointed at not being able to accompany Mr. T—— to New York.

"'However,' says he, 'I'll not forget you when I come back.'

"And in order to arrange our plans and have some breakfast we returned to the railway station. Well, I saw Mr. T—— off for Holyhead and felt very much annoyed at not being able to go with him, though, had I known it was the best thing that ever happened to me, I shouldn't have felt so sulky, you may depend. As the boat left the landing-stage, I turned into —— Street and walked about a bit until I saw a great crowd opposite a jeweler's shop. 'What's up?' thinks I; 'anything in my way?' So I asks a bystander, and he told me that an immense amount of jewelry had been stolen the previous night and there was no trace of the robber. 'Ho, ho!' I thought. And I asked to see the owner of the shop, and telling him who I was, I requested to see some traces of the thief's work—for, sir, some men work in exactly the same way at all their 'cracks' and you can tell their 'handwriting' after a bit of practice. I therefore examined the place and, as I suspected, found that this robbery had been done in a similar way to the one in London. For it had occurred to me that Mr. Dover had not left London for nothing, and now I was pretty sure that he and his 'pals' had done this job as well. After making my inspection and asking the proprietor to say nothing about my visit, I returned to Lime Street station. I then found that I could return to London by a slow train at 1 o'clock, which, as I had nothing to do in Liverpool, I preferred to take rather than to wait for the 3.45 express. I was in much better spirits now than I had been, and as I entered the train I made up my mind to look after Dover in London, whither I never doubted he had returned, for of all hiding-places, sir, London is the best. So I made myself as comfortable as possible. Nothing happened till, as we were nearing Stafford, a bit of paper was blown into my face; and as I, out of mere curiosity, stooped to pick it up from the seat where it had fallen, two other and larger pieces came in and fell on the floor.

"There was no one else in the compartment, so I put the scraps together, just to see what I could make out of them, and to my astonishment I read:

"'I will be at 2 o'clock, you do it.
"'I. DOVER—
—Good time.'

"That was all. The last words, on the smallest bit of paper, I didn't care for; but the other parts made my heart jump when I read them, for I made sure that I should now catch Mr. Dover for the robbery at Liverpool. The instant the train stopped out I jumped, and began looking into the carriages as I passed, pretending I had lost something.

"At last I came to a carriage near the engine (a second-class), on the flooring of which I could see several bits of paper, and upon going on I found (for the carriage was empty) an envelope, addressed to some place in Camden Town, in the same handwriting as was on the bits I had.

"While I was examining the envelope, I saw three men coming from the refreshment-room in the direction of the carriage, so I seated myself in a corner next the door and shut my eyes. I was more than ever convinced that I had now got a clue to the Liverpool job, and I determined to keep my eye on the former occupants of the carriage, who now returned to their seats.

"The smell of rum which pervaded the compartment, convinced me that they had been indulging pretty freely, and while they were in earnest conversation I opened my eyes, and sitting nearly opposite to me was Dover himself; the other men I did not know. Before the train got to Rugby they were all fast asleep; and as soon as we stopped out I jumped, and left them still snoring."

"You went for assistance, I suppose," said I.

"No, sir," replied the guard, with a knowing wink, "I wanted them in London, not Rugby; for, ye see, by keeping the train I might have excited suspicion, and my birds might have flown. No, sir; London was their destination and I could catch them on their arrival."

"Well," said I, "but you left the train, you say."

"I did, sir; for it occurred to me that the 3.45 up express from Liverpool was due, and I knew that it left Rugby a few minutes before the train in which Dover and his friends were. Just as I got out and had shut the door, I had the satisfaction of seeing the train shunted, to make room for the express, which came up a few minutes after. I was soon on my road to London, where I arrived about 9 o'clock.

"I had just an hour and a half to make my arrangements, and while my men were quietly 'jogging along' near Tring in the slow train, I was soon in possession of the necessary authority and taking two of our men with me, I returned to Euston Square.

We had to wait some little time, but the train at last arrived, and I led the way to the carriage in which I had left Dover and his associates. They were just getting out as we reached them, and a gentle grasp on the collar, and a word in the ear soon reduced them to a terrified silence. Their baggage was also seized, and in a portmanteau was found a quantity of the jewelry which had been stolen in Liverpool.

"We had them up next day and they were fully committed. At the trial, one of them turned evidence, and by those means the city burglary was proved against them. The rewards were paid over to me after the trial, and I was very much complimented by the judges on the manner in which I had managed the capture."

"I think you quite deserved the rewards," said I; "but what became of the inspector?"

"Oh, Mr. T——, sir. He went across, as I had told him, by the mail from Queenstown, and got to America the day before the ship in which the forger was.

"He boarded every ship, and from the description he had received he caught him afore he went on shore. There was no doubt about him, for some of the identical notes which had been issued in London were found upon him.

"Mr. T—— didn't bring him back, sir; he only took possession of the money; for he thought it would cost more to bring him home and prosecute than to leave him where he was. The bank gentleman said he was quite right, and gave him $250 for his trouble. When he returned to England, one of the directors of the bank, who is our chairman, sir, was complimenting Mr. T—— upon going to Ireland; and then Mr. T—— spoke up for me; and knowin' as I didn't care about the force, he told the gentleman so, and he, after a time, offered me the place I have now, with a prospect of "a rise" if I behave myself. So you see, sir, it was, as I said, all through a bit of a letter as I got to be a mail guard."

"I am very much obliged to you," said I, "for your narrative; it has amused me very much indeed."

"I am very glad to hear it, sir," replied the ex-detective. "and (you'll excuse me, sir)—but I think as I've seen you afore."

"Very likely," said I, laughing; "your experience has doubtless led you across my path."

"Ay, I thought as much, sir," said the guard; "I see you when Mr. —— offered me the post I have. I remember you was a comin' in as I left the bank."

"I dare say I did, for my father sees a great many people at the bank," said I.

"Is your father Mr. George Somerville, as lives near H—— when he's at home, sir?"

"Yes," said I; "I have just been at my uncle's house now, and am on my way to London, where my father is at present."

"Well, that is curious, sir," said the guard, touching his cap, "as I should see you here this evening, and I'm proud to have met you, sir."

I replied, and the guard running to the door, exclaimed, "Here's the mail, sir; if you'll show me your things I'll see that they are all right." And once more touching his cap, he withdrew. The mail soon drew up and having been comfortably bestowed by the guard, as we "spun" over the distance that lay between S—— and the metropolis, I pondered on the singular story I had heard until I fell into a doze, from which I was not thoroughly awakened until the train stopped "to take tickets."

We were soon afterwards run into the station; and as I stepped out of the carriage, I found the guard ready to assist me. He soon extricated my portmanteau from the heap at the end of the platform, and insisted upon carrying it to the entrance of the station for, strange as it may appear, there were no cabs in attendance that morning. As we emerged into the street a Hansom drew up close to the departure entrance, and the guard hailing John, we waited until the fare had alighted. What was my astonishment to find that the gentleman who was about to take his departure thus early from London was no other than my father's confidential clerk, respecting whom my father had already communicated his suspicions in the letter I had received the morning before. I started involuntarily at the sudden appearance of the very person whose affairs I had come to London to investigate, and followed his retreating figure with so earnest a gaze that the guard, who had been observing me closely, said:

"Beg pardon, sir; do you know that gentleman?"

"Certainly I do," I replied; "I've come up on his account; Mr. Barton is my father's confidential clerk; but I'm afraid all is not quite right," I added, thoughtfully, and in an undertone.

"I suspect there's a little game," said the guard; "the man as is gone in there was called Byles three year ago."

I was struck with astonishment at this remark, and asked my companion if he were certain that the *soi-disant* Barton was in reality Byles, *alias* Chatham.

"As certain as I stand here," replied the guard "and take my word for it, sir, he's after no good. If you don't think me presumin', I should like to hear what's up."

"Well," said I, "the matter is a confidential one; but I may tell you that we have reason to suspect that Mr. Byles' accounts are in a most unsatisfactory state. Can we not intercept him, for I think he intends to bolt?"

"We shall soon see that, sir," replied the guard, his detective nature showing for a moment; "he will be easily caught, I reckon;" and as he spoke the ex-policeman led the way to the departure platform.

Here, amid the crowd of people who had taken their tickets and were struggling to enter the different carriages, it was no easy matter to recognize Mr. Barton, who had, doubtless, his own reasons for eluding observation; and it was not until five minutes prior to the departure of the train that I observed him ensconced in a corner of a third-class carriage.

"Good morning, Mr. Barton," I said; "you are off early to-day."

The person addressed changed color as he recognized me; but immediately recovering his self-possession, replied:

"Yes, sir. Mr. Somerville wished me to see C—— & Co. respecting those bills we hold, as soon as possible, and I am on my way down."

"But they are all right," I said, "for my father told me so last week."

"Yes, sir," said the clerk; "but my mother's very ill—dying, I fear, and as Mr. Somerville kindly told me to go down to F——, I said I'd do the bills too." And having given vent to this contradictory speech, the clerk blew his nose violently.

The cool way in which this was said and the curious looks of the other occupants of the compartment at any other time would have quieted my suspicions; but a gentle touch on the arm reminded me of the presence of the guard, and I therefore said loudly, "Oh, you are going to F——."

As I spoke, the guard said suddenly, and touching his cap respectfully, "Beg your pardon, sir; did you say you was going to F—— ?"

"No," I replied; "but this gentleman is," indicating Mr. Barton as I spoke.

"Very sorry," continued the guard, "but he can't go by this train; he must wait for the Parliamentary at 8.05. Tickets, please," he added, suddenly opening the door. All the tickets with the exception of the clerk's, were immediately produced. "Now, sir, your ticket, please," said the guard. Thus brought to bay, Byles *alias* Barton, had no alternative; so he handed the guard his ticket, and suddenly rising attempted to leave the carriage, but the detective was too quick for him. Before the clerk's foot had touched the platform, a grasp was laid upon his collar and the carriage door closed. "I thought as much," said the guard, as he looked at the ticket, holding unhappy Barton the while; "I thought so. Going abroad was you, sir; but *I* want you for a moment."

He then, asking me to open the door, again descended from the carriage, forcing Barton to follow him; when, having gained the platform, he whispered a few words in his ear. The man grew as pale as death, exclaiming, "I never did! I swear I never did!"

At that moment the whistle sounded, and with a hiss and a scream the train moved away. Life, liberty, hope—all seemed to fade from the unhappy wretch as the carriages passed him, and with an almost superhuman effort he wrenched himself free from the guard's grasp and attempted to open one of the doors of the departing train. Cries of "Stop him!" were raised by the spectators, while the guard hurried in pursuit, but his efforts were of no avail.

Before any one could seize the fugitive his foot had slipped, and still clinging to the handle, he was carried along for a few yards and then dashed between the platform and the now rapidly moving train. A despairing cry and a deep groan were heard even above the rattle of the wheels, and the train passed on, leaving the mangled yet still breathing form of the unfortunate clerk stretched across the rails.

Assistance was immediately procured. But it was of no use; death soon put an end to his sufferings; but before he died the unhappy man confessed his guilt to me and asked my pardon. It appeared he had been induced to embezzle sums of money to repay losses at play with his old associates, and he had thus been led to return to a path of life which he had intended to have quitted for ever when he entered my father's business. He had contrived to possess himself in all of about $30,000 in bills and notes; some of which, to the value of $10,000, were found upon him. The remainder had been made away with and was never recovered.

Having made such arrangements as were necessary I left the station, and proceeded home to communicate to my father the tragical termination of my journey, when I found he had already taken steps for arresting Barton on his appearance in the city, circumstances having arisen which placed his guilt beyond question.

My father was much moved and interested by the details of the death of his unhappy clerk and by my recital of the circumstances of my meeting with the guard, who had fully repaid the interest my parent had formerly taken in him.

The fortunes of our house soon recovered the blow which the misguided Barton had managed to inflict upon our credit, and I consider the prosperity of the firm of Somerville & Co. is due to my accidental meeting with, and the story told me by the mail-guard.

KEEPING ON.

Two boys sat together one Tuesday evening in a large meeting of children. Their names were Thomas and Philip. They both listened attentively to a gentleman who was speaking to them. This gentleman explained that all who liked to do so were invited to make toys or models, or any other articles, for an exhibition which would soon be held.

"Of course," said the gentleman, "the best articles will receive the best prizes; but all that are well made will be exhibited. And even if you are unsuccessful in your endeavors to gain prizes your labor will not be in vain. All who please may have their articles sold; and it is a pleasant thing for boys and girls to receive money which they have themselves honestly earned. And though you should receive neither money nor prizes, you will yourselves be the better for the efforts which you have made. So I advise you all to do your best for the forthcoming exhibition. Even the youngest may do something, and it only needs patience and perseverance on your part to make the whole thing good and delightful."

"Shall you do anything, Philip?" inquired Thomas.

"I don't know," said Philip. "I think I shall try."

"You think you will try!" said Thomas. "Well, that is cool after what has been said. I shall do lots of things and carry off some of the best prizes."

"How do you know that?" inquired Philip.

"Oh, I am sure I shall. I have thought of a dozen things which I can do. I shall make a model of our school-room in cardboard. I shall make a velocipede with a boy on it, and a wooden apple painted like nature. And I shall draw some maps and send some specimens of handwriting. I shall also make a collection of postage stamps; and I shall make some chairs and tables which can be sold for toys, and they will fetch a good price, for I shall polish them up beautifully."

"If you do all that, Tom, you will indeed do well."

"I shall do it all. There is no fear but that I shall do my part for the exhibition. Now what will you do?"

"I really do not know. I must think about it first and decide what I can do best."

"How many things do you think you will do?"

"Perhaps only one. Certainly not more than two."

"You are not like me."

"No; I am sure I should not have time to do half the things you have mentioned."

"I shall begin at once."

So he did. That very night, after he got home, he sat up in his bedroom in the cold; and by the light of a candle cut several sticks with his penknife.

The next day he was up quite early in the morning working away at chess-men, and he begged his mother to let him stay away from school that he might begin his card-board model.

He had spoiled one sheet of card-board and commenced upon another; he had also littered a number of chair-legs and table-tops on the floor and collected three postage-stamps, when he decided to see how "slow-going Philip," as he delighted to call him, was getting on.

"Well, Phil, what are you going to make?"

"I am going to make a model coach."

"Oh! then you have made up your mind at last."

"Yes, I have decided to do that, though I know it will take some time to do it. Indeed, I shall have to stick to it well to get it done in time."

"Have you begun it yet?"

"No. I am not going to begin it until next week. I want to get forward with my lessons first, for of course it will not do to neglect the old work for the new."

"I have begun nearly all my things."

"Have you? Now, I should not begin a second thing until the first was quite finished."

"Wouldn't you? But then you are so different. I enjoy variety."

"Well, my way is to do one thing first."

"And the other is mine. We shall see which answers best. I think I have begun well."

And so he had. But it is not so much the beginning as the keeping on which succeeds in the end.

Thomas worked as diligently as Philip all the first part of the time. Indeed, I think that of the two boys he did the more; for he got up early and sat up late and thought of very little else.

And then he grew tired.

One day he did nothing to any of his articles.

The next day he looked at them.

"It is very discouraging," he said to himself. "Those wheels will not turn round properly, and I shall have to take them all to pieces and try again. But I will not trouble about it to-day. To-morrow I will set to work at the velocipede."

On the next day he found it was still very difficult.

"Never mind," said he to himself. "I will lay it on one side and do something else."

The same thing occurred with several of the articles, until at last he grew disgusted with them all and shut up the unfinished things in a cupboard, out of sight.

"When I have had a rest," he said, "I shall take them out again and set to work with a fresh interest."

Meanwhile Philip kept steadily on. He found that there were many very uninteresting things to do. But though he was sometimes tempted to leave the work and go out to play instead, he always made himself do a little of it every day. The consequence was that it gradually drew more and more beautiful until, at last, nearly a fortnight before the exhibition was opened, it was quite finished, and all who saw it declared it to be perfect.

"I have not seen anything of Tom. I wonder if he has finished his articles," he said to himself on the next day. "I will go and see, and remind him that he has not much time."

Thomas was out when he went, so he called again.

"Tom, the exhibition will soon be opened. Are you ready?"

"Ready? Well, no, not exactly, though some of my things are pretty forward and will not take very long to finish."

"I would finish them at once then. It is never well to leave things to the last minute."

"Have you completed your coach?"

"Yes; will you come and have a look at it?"

Thomas was a little astonished at what he saw.

"I should not wonder if you got a prize after all, Phil," said he. "What pains you must have taken with it."

"Yes; I did every part as well as I possibly could."

"I shall go back and set to work again directly."

"Do so. I am sure it is not safe to lose any more time."

Thomas did several things that day. He fastened two sets of legs to the chairs and cut the chimney in the card-board school.

On the next day, however, something else occurred which drew off his attention, and so the work was neglected.

About a week afterwards Philip called on him again.

"Tom, I have sent my coach in. I thought I would remind you that to-morrow is the last day on which the committee will receive articles for exhibition."

"Thank you, Phil."

"Are yours finished?"

"No; I shall finish them directly."

He tried then when it was too late. So much remained to do that he possibly could not do it in the time. He had finished nothing until the day after all the things had been sent in.

Then he took what he had done to the secretary.

"It is too late," said he. "Did you not know that yesterday was the last day?"

"Yes, sir; but I could not get it finished in time."

"You should have begun earlier, my boy."

"I began on the first day sir."

"Ah! then you have not kept on."

That was true; and it lost Thomas the chance of getting a prize. A first prize was awarded to Philip, and he received much praise for his work. And yet I do not think that he was at all more clever than Thomas; only the one persevered and the other did not.

If Thomas does not change, this dislike to keeping on will spoil his whole life.

The Literary World.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Books for Holliday Presents.

The Farm Yard Club of Jotham. By GEORGE B. LORING. Boston: Lockwood, Brooks & Co. (Oct. Cloth—pp. 603. Price $3.50.)

THE author's estimate of farming can be readily obtained by the following extract from his Preface:—"It is not the mere possession of land which has, in all ages of the world, made an agricultural people strong and enduring; but it is the sturdy characteristics and ardent attachments growing out of such possession which constitute that vital force of a nation so much admired by the careful observer and student of history. And it has been left for us to prove that an independent and responsible community of small landholders, living in a land of social and civil equality, and tilling their own soil, stands foremost among those who are distinguished for intelligence and self-assertion, for devotion to human rights and progress, and for a lordly determination to preserve their own prerogatives. With this estimate of American agriculture I have written this book."

Keeping the ideas above conveyed steadily in view he has given us in this work the most delightful commingling of romance, science, practice and theory to be met in much reading. It is the fashion of late to make scientific and practical books like sugar-coated medicine, very palatable to those who must take them, and this effort of LORING'S is one of the most delicious of its kind. The practical is hard and to the point, but so skillfully surrounded by the imagination that one has swallowed the dose and likes it, too, before fully realizing its force and effect. Frequent occasion has been made in these columns to deprecate the sugar-coating process as applied to scientific and practical books, which are, or should be, prepared for those who are sufficiently interested in the subjects treated of to be above the need of any such appetizer. In this instance, however, the author has so far overstepped the usual limits of attractiveness by his pleasing style, his easy transition from one subject to another and his profuse illustrations, that even those who are but slightly interested in practical or scientific matters are irresistibly led to a perusal of the whole work. Before closing, it seems almost imperative upon us to make a quotation from the speech of President HOPKINS at the opening of the Club:

"The first question is not, 'Does farming pay?' for every man knows that it does pay everywhere. It pays in Massachusetts and in New York and in Ohio and in Texas, in Germany, in Egypt, in Japan, in California. It pays throughout the world. And so I think the question should be put thus:—'Does farming pay whether you attend to it or not, and whether you understand it or not?'—a question so easily answered that it is unnecessary to waste time on it here. But behind all this lies the fundamental inquiry for us: 'Where shall I select my farm, and how shall I manage it?' And to this, it seems to me, there is but one answer. It is perfectly evident that the agriculture which is profitable in this section and is becoming more and more profitable throughout our country, is the cultivation of small farms for specific purposes, and with great care and skill, in the immediate neighborhood of a local market."

THE latter part of a man's life is taken up in curing the follies, prejudices and false opinions he had contracted in the former.

A RUSH of thoughts is the only conceivable prosperity than can come to us.—*Emerson.*

Sabbath Reading.

A VOICE IN THE NIGHT.

Oh! sweet and beautiful is Night, when the silver moon is high,
And countless stars, like clustering gems, hang sparkling in the sky,
While the balmy breath of the Summer breeze comes whispering down the glen,
And one fond voice alone is heard, Oh, Night is lovely then!

But when that voice, in feeble moans of sickness and of pain,
But mocks the anxious ear that strives to catch its sounds in vain;
When silently we watch the bed, by taper's flickering light,
When all we love is fading fast, how terrible is Night!

[*Rev. R. H. Barham.*

INQUIRING AFTER SALVATION.

As I read my Bible and attended the prayer meetings, I heard Mr. Gale preach, and conversed with him, with the elders of the church, and with others from time to time, and became restless. A little consideration convinced me that I was by no means in a state of mind to go to heaven if I should die. It seemed to me that there was something in religion that was of infinite importance; and it was soon settled with me that if the soul was immortal I needed a great change in my inward state to be prepared for happiness in heaven. * * * * After struggling for some two or three years, my mind became quite settled that the Bible was the true word of God.

This being settled, I was brought face to face with the question whether I would accept Christ as presented in the Gospel, or pursue a worldly course of life. At this period my mind, as I have since known, was so impressed by the Holy Spirit that I could not long leave this question unsettled, nor could I long hesitate between the two courses of life presented to me.—*Memoirs of C. G. Finney.*

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

To think kindly of each other is good—but to act kindly toward one another is best of all.

DEFERENCE is the most complicate, the most indirect; and the most elegant and effective of compliments.

IF we are obliged to pay to enter into life, how many of us would demand the return of our money on departing?

To sneer and denounce is a very easy way of assuming a great deal of wisdom, and concealing a great deal of ignorance.

DON'T look too hard, except for something agreeable. We can find all the disagreeable things in the world between our own hats and boots.—*Hood.*

THERE are souls who do not need to live out, coarsely, in detail. Their inward conception transcends the visible form. Count it an assurance of more vital good when God denies you.—*Mrs. Whitney.*

EVERYTHING connected with our personality fails. Nature never spares the individual. We are always balked of complete success. No prosperity is promised to that. We have indemnity only in the success of that to which we belong.—*Emerson.*

MANY a life that might have been most efficient if rightly directed, has been lost to the world and doomed to mortifying failure, because men have not been sufficiently developed to know their own peculiar endowments or to make intelligent choice of a vocation.

BE frugal, not mean; prudent, not subtle; complaisant, not servile; active in business, but not its slave. There are also four other habits which are essentially necessary to the happy management of temporal concerns; these are punctuality, accuracy, steadiness and dispatch.

WHERE IS HEAVEN? Plato points to the snowy summits of cold Olympus and says it is there. Swedenborg beholds spiritual presence in all space and says it is everywhere. Wordsworth lives again through his youth and replies, "Heaven lies about us in our infancy." Sage, Theologian and Poet, I turn from you all and ask the little blind girl. She replies, "Heaven is where God is."

WHEN feelings of wonder at the magnitude of the universe and the harmony perceptible in all its parts fill the mind at such a moment, let us remember that He who made all these glorious objects and still keep them in their courses, nevertheless came down from heaven, took upon Him the form of a servant, and ended a life of sorrow by a death of pain, that he might reconcile a fallen world to an offended God.

THE United States' branch of the Evangelical Alliance has issued a declaration in respect to the restraints placed upon Protestant worship by the Government of Spain, which has been placed in the hands of the Hon. Caleb Cushing, U. S. Minister to that kingdom. The declaration sets forth "that in Protestant countries, like Great Britain and Germany, where the Protestant religion is established by law, and in the United States, where the population is Protestant by a vast majority, the people who adhere to the Roman Catholic Church are protected, equally with all others, in perfect freedom of worship; and it is an obvious principle that the same right should be conceded to Protestants in Roman Catholic countries."

Ladies' Portfolio.

THE REASON.

BY KATE MERIDEN.

Girls used to learn baking and brewing,
To read and to write and to count,
Now though they are always a-doing,
Their ways are of little amount.
Some chatter French verbs like a magpie,
While others embroider in floss.
And in this wise age which we live in,
Things useful we now translate gross.

Our grandmas, poor souls! were old-fashioned,
Their knowledge of matters was small,
And it showed their want of refinement
To darn stockings over a ball.
Now we are so much more enlightened,
Have made such a wondrous advance,
That though some cannot boil a potato,
They know how to flirt and to dance.

It is true that poor pa takes it sadly,
And talks of the poor-house for all,
While ma would give each one most gladly
To some verdant sir, if he'd call.
But men they have grown strangely cautious,
They do not prefer such a wife,
And this, my dear friend, is *the reason*
Some choose to live single their life.

THE COMING HOLIDAYS.

BY ROSE GERANIUM.

The question of suitable gifts is one which puzzles small heads as provokingly as older ones—at least it did a few years ago, and an eight-year-old maiden who brought me her bundle of confidential cares this morning, assures me that times are not changed.

Can *I* help you to a decision, my dear? Let me try. We will commence with an air-castle. Material—plain white writing paper, silver paper, hoop-wire, mucilage, fine white thread. Divide the paper into pieces two inches square, fold one over evenly, once, which will give you a tiny sheet two inches long and half as wide; press the fold firmly; then, commencing at the back, cut it into narrow strips, leaving them connected by one quarter of an inch on each margin. Open it with a broad knife-blade and wind first one end and then the other about a smooth, round stick, and glue them with a band of silver paper one quarter of an inch wide. The wooden mold should be small enough to let the white paper slightly overlap. Forty-four of these "castles" will be required. When finished, by means of a delicate needle secure a fine thread straight across the center of one end, looping it to the little cross-thread of the next, so as to keep them about one third of an inch apart. Make a circle of the hoop six inches in diameter and wind it with silver paper; then tie the rows on at even distances, leaving each alternate row so that its widest parts will be even with the narrowest parts of the others. Suspend the hoop by three threads. I think you will agree with me that this is one of the prettiest air-castles you have ever seen.

For a card-case, cut out two pieces of perforated card three inches long by two wide (larger if you like), counting the rows to have them exactly even. If you can cut them out in fret-work, to imitate a lace pattern, cross or heart, so much the better; but if not, work a neat border and center-piece with worsted, silk or hair. Line them with bright silk or ribbon and fasten them with little cross-pieces the same shade. Four pieces of ribbon half an inch wide will be required and as long as across the card-case, allowing for seams. Secure the ends under the lining, fastening the opposite ends of the straps sewed to one cover to corresponding places on the other. Lovely book-marks can be made by lining perforated card, cut in fret-work, with bright bits of ribbon or silver paper, and a beautiful photograph-case and book-marker combined, by having two pieces of card and cutting an oval from one for the picture. Ribbon should be placed between them and one end left open to admit the photograph.

For a pen-wiper, procure bits of dark cloth, scarlet flannel and a few round, black beads. Cut the darkest cloth in a circle three inches across and pink it. Make a flannel one one-half inch smaller. Fold into a half circle and then fold three times over, securing the edges with a stitch. Make the flannel one in the same way and draw it into the center of the dark one, fastening it with a bead. When you have done six, arrange five in a circle and catch the points securely with a thread. The sixth one will drop in and fill up the top, making a neat little pyramid and a really useful article.

A lovely picture-frame can be made in a jiffy, thus:—From a thin board, suitably cut with a ledge at the back, cut an oval frame two inches wide, with an opening to suit your picture. Wrap the frame with white candle-wick or strips of twisted cotton and crystalize, using the proportion of one pound of alum to a quart of water. The color may be varied by adding a little dye to the solution.

Some boy may delight his mother or sister with a slipper-box. It should be lined with stiff paper, made with a lid and strong leather hinges and covered with carpet or cloth. It might be a joint affair, and sister might embroider the cover. When done, it will look just like the most innocent footstool imaginable.

Please do not forget that four-year-old's dollie would be delighted with a pair of stockings—real, ones—white, with a red ring around top and toe. If you can knit, it will take but a little time to do them. And four-year-old herself might be made to dance at sight of so cunning a little "Malaga Turtle," as a pair of sweet hands fashioned for a wee girl, once upon a time. The materials required were a bit of card, six cloves and a big raisin! The raisin was flattened out properly, the round heads were nipped out of four cloves and they were arranged to just peep out for feet. One plump clove head looked forth where a head ought to be, and the stem of the sixth improvised a short but excellent tail. A few wise stitches secured it to the card. If possible, this excruciatingly perfect turtle outdid nature herself. I almost looked to see it wriggle!

There! Not another word, or the sage editor will reduce this article to ashes. But in all your gifts and happiness, do not fail to remember the poor and, if possible, add *something* toward cheering their cruel lot.

May the dear, loving Saviour, bestow upon you each, to brighten the New Year, the gifts of his peace, "which passeth understanding," and may your year be full of happy surprises!

WHIFFS FROM CANADA.

Holiday Employment.

Three boys come in with rosy cheeks and bright eyes, blowing their fingers as they take off mittens and caps. "I *tell* you it's cold," says Jamie, "and I don't think you'll get any more green, mother, for it's snowing now." They have been to the woods to gather the varied Lycopodiums used for Christmas decorations, and every spare hour the girls and I are busy making wreaths, sprays, crosses and other devices for the city market. For years the dealers in Montreal sent to Boston for their supply of these evergreens, until we offered some of native growth, which prove equal to the imported article, and although keeping our fingers busy in a busy season, supply the girls with pocket money with which to purchase Christmas gifts, and subscribe for the Rural and several magazines. The half-days they could spare from home lessons and Saturdays, for several weeks past, have been spent in the woods where Lycopodiums grow in abundance, bringing home a total of several cart-loads, besides bags of choice sorts, pigeon-berry and other low evergreens, with some of the ferns that give variety to the wreaths.

Another source of income to the children is the culture of everlasting flowers and ornamental grasses, which we grow annually from seed, picking every second or third day, and hanging in small bunches, *stalk* upward, in a dark closet to dry. But the superior and highly-colored flowers from Germany keep ours low in the market, and we find these low-growing evergreens, that need no cultivation, pay us better for the labor of arranging.

It is true that our fingers sometimes ache if we sit steadily at the work, but when we get tired there are plenty of other duties requiring our attention, and we return to our pretty trimmings with renewed energy. No one but the children seeks any of the profits of this Christmas weaving, and it is particularly the pin money for the little girls, who have not so many opportunities as their brothers for earning extra dollars.

If the time ever comes when we can send our products to New York and other cities in the States, without the duties that now prevent, I expect the rich woods around us will yield a wealth of ferns and autumn leaves, as well as Christmas evergreens, that will find readier sale than can be made with only our local market to supply. For richness of coloring and variety there is nothing that can surpass the beauty of our Canadian woods in late autumn, and I often wonder that travelers in search of varied scenery do not more frequently visit us in the pleasant, glowing October days.

If my hints are useful in any home where farmers' boys and girls long for a little spare cash to purchase what the hard-working father cannot afford, I shall be amply repaid, and I say to them, "Go to the woods, for *there* is rich material, not only for the articles I have mentioned, but for choice rustic work—from gnarled sticks and many other industries suitable for your hands, that a little thought will suggest—so that you, as well as our happy selves, may enjoy, in preparation and pleasant toil, a foretaste of Christmas."

Annie L. Jack.

EVERGREEN DECORATIONS—HOW THE CITY IS SUPPLIED.

With the near approach of Christmas, the sidewalks and stalls around Washington Market are filled with Christmas trees and decorations. A visit was made to several of these stalls, and in conversation with one of the owners our reporter was told that the season has not yet fairly set in, it being a short one, not lasting more than two weeks. Christmas week is their busiest time. The greater part of these trees are now brought from Maine, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Many women in country towns find employment in the making of wreaths, crosses, stars, triangles and roping, which is used in decorating. The prices are much the same as last year, though the dealers complain that the demand is not so large as in previous years, which they attribute to the hard times. A five-foot tree can be bought for 25 cents; 15 and 16-foot trees, $6 to $8; a fine 23-foot tree, $15 or $20. The crosses, wreaths, stars and triangles are selling at $1 a dozen, and roping at 2½ and 3 cents a yard. The standing pine, laurel and cedar wreaths, which are very pretty, are also selling at $1 a dozen. The steamer which arrives every morning from Matawan, Keyport and other places, carries large quantities of these greens.

Reading for the Young.

STOCKING SONG.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

Welcome, Christmas, heel and toe!
Here we wait thee in a row,
Come, good Santa Claus, we beg—
Fill us tightly, foot and leg.

Fill us quickly ere you go,
Fill us till we overflow.
That's the way; and leave us more
Heaped in piles upon the floor.

Little feet that ran all day
Twitch in dreams of merry play;
Little feet that jumped at will
Lie all pink, and warm and still.

See us! how we lightly swing;
Hear us! how we try to sing.
Welcome, Christmas, heel and toe!
Come and fill us ere you go!

Here we hang till some one nimbly
Jumps with treasure down the chimney.
Bless us! how he'll tickle us,
Funny old St. Nicholas!

LETTERS FROM BOYS AND GIRLS.

From our Colonial Friend.

Dear Cousins:—Well, boys, I see the girls have aroused you at last. I was beginning to be afraid you were going to let them have the whip hand over you, but I was well pleased to see you were not going to endure their conceit any longer. Come, boys, I am going to enlist against them. I think they ought to learn how to speak to their betters. I like Young Editor's letters very much, and if we had a few more storms like the last one, we would soon have the girls overpowered. I agree with Y. E. about piecing quilts. What is the use of tearing up good cloth for the purpose of sewing it together again? I suppose they think it will keep them out of mischief. If it does, I think Belle E. F. ought to piece half a dozen quilts to keep her temper down. Do write, write again, Belle, and let us have another of your precious epistles. Well, Cousins, I shall fatigue you in going on in this way, so I will give you a brief description of the crops in this vicinity—indeed they might not be called crops at all. Wheat never yielded so poorly as it did this year, and all other grains are the same way. A large part of the grain being grass seed, I think the fowls will fare well this winter. We have cold weather here now, and have not had sleighing until two or three days ago.—R. H. C., *Ont., Can.*

A Duet.

Dear Rural Friends:—We have been reading the letters from the girls and boys, and thought we would write one, too. Young Editor thinks there is no use in cutting up calico just for the fun of sewing it together again. If he ever marries and his wife thinks as he does about it, we pity them both! We think Cousin Gypsy Belle is about right in regard to piecing quilts. We like Young Artist's letter and would like to correspond with her, if agreeable. We have our ideas about Young Bach, Storm, and Young Tom, but we will not express them, as there has been enough said on the subject, yet we would like to hear from them once more.

Now, we will tell you something about ourselves, provided you would like to hear. We are farmers' daughters, and are not ashamed to own it. We go to the same school and pursue the same studies. We are not sisters. One of us has an organ and the other a piano, and we can play on either. We can milk a cow or drive a horse, just as occasion may require. We are of the same age and hight, and weigh 185 lbs. each. We will now close. Hoping to see this in print, we remain,

Farmers' Daughters.

Monroe Still Alive.

Dear Cousins:—I have read the letters of the Cousins for some time, and I enjoy them very much, but I have never written until now. As all are welcome, I make no apology for intruding into the "magic circle." I think D. B. talks pretty "big" for a Cousin, but I like her plan of asking and answering questions, and would suggest that all questions should be designed to be of use to us, else they will be but a mere pastime. I would like to propose the following: What was the name and date of the printing of the first work ever printed? I should suppose the hottest town in America to be Macapa, being on the equator, at the mouth of the Amazon. Quito (Equador) is also on the equator, but high on the mountain, and hence cooler than Macapa. Isn't Alice too hard on Young Editor, for calling his paper a "sprightly sheet?" Not having a copy to judge from, I am sure I should like to see one. I have done considerable in the line of printing, but never started a newspaper.—W. B. J.

From a Western New York Girl.

Dear Rural:—I thought it would not be intruding, if I wrote a few lines for your valuable paper, as I am one of your many readers. I am a farmer's daughter, and live on a farm. I can do housework, cut and make almost any garment, sew with the sewing machine and piece bed quilts. I have made one called the "beggar's quilt," which contains 650 pieces, no two alike. I collected, pieced and completed it in six weeks. I can mow with the mowing machine, drive a wheel rake, drag, and harness a horse. Now I wish to ask Uncle True if he considers it improper for girls to know how farm work should be done? I have one sister and no brothers. I am fifteen years of age, and five feet eight inches in hight. My sister is four years younger.—May, *Albion, N. Y.*

[Regarding farm work, Uncle True thinks it highly proper that the girls should know how to do, and do as much of it as is consistent with health and modesty.]

A Wish that Should be Gratified.

Dear Rural:—I am not going to tell you about my complexion, except that I have got one. I live on a farm, as most of the girls that write to you do. I like to draw, and expect to take lessons next summer if nothing happens to prevent, and I hope some time to become an artist. I have a piano, and I have taken a few lessons, but I don't like to practice, and it is evident that I shan't be a very great musician. I got a great many autumn leaves last fall. I press them in books, and when they get perfectly dry I take them out of the books and varnish them with common varnish. I wish that some of the girls would tell me of something to make for holiday presents.—Nellie E. W., *Fairhaven, Vt.*

Canada is Heard From.

I long have thought I would like to be among the Cousins, so I have made a start. I am eleven years old. I go to school, and like it very much. I read in the Third Reader and learn Geography, Arithmetic and Grammar. I have five brothers and two sisters. My father takes the Rural. Mother is trying to get another person to subscribe with her; she would so like to get the plants the Editor so kindly offered. We have a very pretty garden. We took the first prize at the County Show this year on garden vegetables. This is my first attempt.—Amanda M. B., *Watkerton, Ont.*

An Editor's Chick.

Dear Sir:—I thought I would write you a few lines. I am a girl fourteen years old. I go to day school and Sunday school. I have a very nice teacher. My papa is the editor and publisher of the Times. My mamma has a greenhouse; it is looking very well. If you do not think our three letters too bad, we should like to see them in print. We want to surprise our parents and friends. We have not seen any from this place, and thought we would try. Please print this. I remain, your friend—Mamie C. Merritt.

From Lottie King.

Dear Mr. Editor:—I was so pleased to see my letter printed that I thought I would write again. I am very much interested in the letters to the Rural; I read them the first thing. Though I am very small, I am piecing a bed quilt too, like May Belle E. I study every day, and like it very much. I am glad to see the letter from Mary A. S. Your little friend—Lottie King.

From C. L.

Dear Mr. Editor:—I thought that I would write you a few lines. I am a little girl eleven years old. I go to Sunday school and church. I think a good deal of my Sunday school. Good-by.—C. L.

The Puzzler.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I am composed of 32 letters:
My 15, 5, 23, 27 a part of the human frame.
My 16, 8, 2, 5, 3 a range of mountains in Europe.
My 25, 19, 31, 24, 13 essential to vitality.
My 17, 15, 28 a pronoun.
My 21, 7, 12, 32 often causes great destruction.
My 1, 6, 27, 11, 29, 20 an article of common use in every household.
My 9, 5, 22, 4, 30 used by hunters in South America.
My 18, 26, 10 used by some musicians.
My 14, 10, 20 a number.
My whole is an ancient proverb.

☞ Answer in two weeks. S.

DECAPITATIONS.

1. Behead a part of the human system, and leave a conjunction.
2. An animal, and leave a pleasant beverage.
3. A flying animal, and leave a preposition.
4. What we often see by the roadside, and leave a loathsome disease.
5. Part of an apple, and leave a mineral substance.

☞ Answer in two weeks. P.

PUZZLER ANSWERS.—Dec. 16.

Illustrated Rebus.—Preaching in a silent discourse is a portion of our daily experience.

Miscellaneous Enigma.—"O Liberty, how many crimes are committed in thy name?"

Geographical Enigma.—Thou shalt not steal.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

TO THE LADY READERS OF THE RURAL.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RARE PLANTS AND SEEDS

HAVING a few choice plants now growing in the RURAL'S EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, which we think would be desirable to some of the lady readers of the RURAL NEW-YORKER, we make the following offer:

Those who, in renewing their own subscription, send us an additional name (not already on our list) with the sum of $4.90 for the two, may select any two of the following-named plants and a paper of the seed of the Molucca Balm. Those who receive these premiums can divide with their friends, or keep them all, as they may agree among themselves, as our object in making the offer is to induce old subscribers to send us new ones, thereby increasing our list. The plants and seeds offered are very choice, as will be seen in description given below. The plants will be sent by mail free, and carefully packed and forwarded immediately on receipt of subscriptions.

Abutilon Boule de Neige.—The best of the *Abutilons*. Its flowers are large and white. It blooms throughout the whole year and therefore is alike desirable for the conservatory and garden.

Marie Lemoine.—Among a hundred or more varieties of double-flowered *Pelargoniums*, new and old, this is yet unrivaled. The individual flower, of a delicate rose color, as well as the truss, are the largest of their class.

Hydrangea paniculata Grandiflora.—So much has been said of this new Japanese shrub during the past year that little need be added now. It begins blooming in early August, continuing until after hard frosts. Hardy.

Variegated Ampelopsis or *Vitis heterophylla variegata.*—We do not hesitate to pronounce this one of the most attractive vines in cultivation. The leaves are deeply-lobed and variegated with white and green. Hardy.

Jerusalem Artichoke.—Believing that the Jerusalem Artichokes are exceedingly valuable as food for all kinds of farm stock, we place them among our valuable premium plants. They will yield more bushels of tubers per acre than the common potato and we believe them more valuable for feeding purposes; besides the Artichoke will grow vigorously where the potato would fail entirely. We will send one-half pound each of the Long Purple and Round White, for each new subscriber as above, or one pound of the tubers of either variety. We shall store a quantity of the tubers in the cellar for sending out this winter; but those of our subscribers who reside north of the latitude of New York City had better leave their plant premiums in our hands after the first of January until early spring. We will, however, "book" all orders received during the winter, to be sent at the earliest possible moment.

Achania malvaviscus or Malvaviscus arboreus.—The flowers are bright red, of a turban shape, two inches long. It blooms incessantly whether indoors or out. In the conservatory it may be trained so as to cover wood-work as readily as a vine. Its growth is so rapid that small plants set out in the spring will cover a space four feet in diameter by fall. As a plant for the sitting-room, the little care it needs, its perpetual scarlet flowers, contrasting elegantly with its golden-green, plush-like leaves—its endurance of dry heat and dust render it most pleasing and satisfactory. We commend this plant with confidence.

Moluccella laevis.—We will send, also, to ALL who are entitled to a choice of any two of the above plants, a package of the seeds of the beautiful Shell Flower, an account of which and an engraving were given in the RURAL of Aug. 17, p. 117.

TERMS FOR 1877, IN ADVANCE,

INCLUDING POSTAGE, WHICH PUBLISHERS PREPAY.

Single Copy, $2.50 per Year. To Clubs:—Five Copies, and one copy free to Agent or getter up of Club, for $11.25; Seven Copies, and one free, for $16.05, Ten Copies, and one free, $20—only $2 per copy. The above rates *include postage* (under the new law) to any part of the United States, and the American postage on all copies mailed to Canada. On papers mailed to Europe, by steamer, the postage will be 85 cents extra for each subscription. Drafts, Post-Office Money Orders and Registered Letters may be mailed at our risk. ☞ Liberal Premiums to all Club Agents who do not take free copies. Specimen Numbers, Show-Bills, &c., sent free.

News of the Week.

HOME NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

RAILWAY returns at the West, for part of November, show a general decrease in earnings compared with last year. On the St. Paul, Michigan Central, and Ohio and Mississippi, the loss is quite large. The Central Pacific gained handsomely in October, and the Louisville and Nashville also. Twenty-six roads report for October aggregate earnings of $10,765,891, against $10,886,540 last year. Of these roads, eighteen earned in October, $7,216,807, against $6,934,996 in 1875, and $6,968,117 in 1874. Four roads, the Union Pacific and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy included, report for September $2,732,662, against $2,523,544 last year. Forty-six roads earned in September $13,310,600, against $12,798,986 last year. Of these, twenty-three roads report for three years' earnings in September $9,842,351, against $9,245,768 in 1875, and $9,096,708 in 1874.

A dramatic scene recently occurred in the Supreme Court room in Salem, Mass., when Mr. Foster asked for the custody of his child, his wife having petitioned for a divorce. On cross-examination of the wife, she was brought to the point of confessing that she had no objection to living with her husband, when she fainted and fell down. There was great excitement in the court room, and when she recovered Judge Ames solemnly advised the parties to go home, to take no outside advice, to use a little common sense, and try to live together in peace. He then ordered them to appear again at court on a certain day for a further consideration of the case.

Chestnuts are as low as one dollar per bushel in Pennsylvania.

The British market is satisfied with American beef, and is now calling for American mutton.

Mr. Charles Cruer, of East Coventry, Pa., has two cows, from which he has made, during the past eight months, 515 pounds of butter.

The Gentile ladies at Salt Lake did their best to cast Delagate Cannon adrift on Salt River on election day. They went to the polls and argued with the wives of the saints. "Why, Mrs. Black, I'm astonished! How can you vote for Cannon? Has he not four wives, and can he love them all as he ought to? Take this ticket and vote for Baskin, who does not believe in the wholesale degradation of woman. Do not vote for a brute—a brute, a brutal brute." But Cannon was elected in spite of this splutter of opposition.

The health of Gov. Beveridge of Illinois is almost completely restored.

The first Winter meeting of the New York Association for the Protection of Game was held last week at the residence of Royal Phelps, who is President of the Association.

Both the Oxford and Cambridge University Rowing Clubs having declined the challenges sent them by Yale and Cornell, our boatmen will have no inducement to go abroad next year. It is creditable to their pluck that they were willing to meet the British crews on their chosen river.

Jack Frost was on a bender in Agricultural Hall. In the Portuguese wine department hundreds of bottles were broken, and in the American section, corks were popping in every direction.

A woman in Allegany County, N. Y., hasn't used soap in her kitchen for five years. She heats the water and then pours in a little milk. This softens the water, gives the dishes a fine glow, and doesn't spoil the hands.

Lumbering has been begun in the immense forests of Northern California. Some of the timber is of great size. It is believed the business will add immensely to the wealth of the State.

At a late meeting of the grain merchants a modification of the present tariff regulating the handling of grain was discussed. A committee was appointed to confer with the Committee on Grain of the Produce Exchange.

The Mikado of Japan has addressed a letter to the President of the U. S. congratulating this Government upon the success of the Centennial Exhibition.

The St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railroad Company has made a contract for the transportation of three million feet of lumber for the South American market. It will be shipped via Ogdensburg and Portland.

A collection of less than one hundred paintings belonging to John Taylor Johnston was recently sold at an aggregate price of $138,000. This is the most profitable sale of paintings which has taken place for a long time.

There seems to be a mania for inspecting theaters in large cities since the burning of the Brooklyn Theater. It will all die out however, until the next terrible accident revives it.

Four hundred employes of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington were discharged recently, nearly one-half the force. About two-thirds were women.

William J. Ree, the celebrated New York forger, was pardoned on the recommendation of State Prison Inspector Clark, Gen. A. C. Nevin of the Investigating Commission, and the agent and warden of Clinton Prison. They united in a statement to Governor Tilden that the evidence upon which he was convicted did not show guilt conclusively, and that it was almost certain that he was unaware of the nature of the forged note when he uttered it.

There can be little doubt that the taxation, State and National, on bank deposits and capital is too heavy a burden. Its effect within the past year or two has been to drive capital out of organized banks into private banking concerns. The result of such a change will be that, when business revives, the facilities for discount will be narrowed, and borrowers will have to pay higher rates of interest than heretofore. If our banks can succeed in bringing these facts fairly before Congress and the Legislature, there should be little difficulty in obtaining a partial relief from the present burden.

Counting by States, the Speakership of the House of Representatives has been held by Pennsylvania three times, by Connecticut once, by New Jersey three times, by Maryland once, by Massachusetts six times, by North Carolina three times—for three successive Congresses and by one man, Nathaniel Macon; by Kentucky eight times, Henry Clay being speaker; by New York twice, by Virginia seven times, by New Hampshire once, by Tennessee three times, James K. Polk being twice Speaker; by Indiana five times, Schuyler Colfax being Speaker three of those times; by South Carolina once and by Maine three times.

Greenwood Lake is being drawn down to remove stumps which interfere with navigation, and fish are left in holes and shallows, where they would die when the water recedes. These are gathered by the Society for the Protection of Game, in barrels, and removed to the deep water of the lake. In some days as many as twenty barrels have been removed, and among them some fish, weighing several pounds.

Young Mr. Lick has returned to Pennsylvania to procure the proper papers for a final settlement of the estate which is now pending, and he is visiting the relatives of the late James Lick with that view.

The heavy fall of snow has made good sleighing in the City of New York for the first time in several years.

Mr. George C. Gorham, Secretary of the Senate, was surprised on his wedding day by a joint gift from the Senators of the United States. This was a large silver bowl, lined with gold, raised on a high silver standard, and a waiter, both evidently intended for fruit and flowers, as a central ornament for a dinner or supper table.

M. C. Butler, who has just been elected Carolina Senator by the Hampton Legislature, is a nephew of Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of Lake Erie, his mother, still living at an advanced age, being a sister of that officer. Of the Perrys seven have belonged to the navy of the United States, as follows:—Capt. Chris. R. Perry (1798); Capt. O. H. and M. C. Perry (of Lake Erie and Japan), their brothers, Raymond and Alexander Perry, midshipmen—the latter was lost off Callao by the swamping of a boat in 1821; Lieut. O. H. Perry who resigned his commission to take charge of cotton mills at Cabotville, Mass., and the late Lieut.-Com. M. C. Perry, jr.

The New Haven agent of the Montreal photographer, whose consignments of college photographs were recently seized by customs officers, says there was no intention to violate the revenue laws. The delivery of photographs and albums to the present Senior Class at Yale will not be delayed, for the consignments which were seized were not this year's work.

There is a tardy afterclap in Florida. The Supreme Court has issued a peremptory order for a new canvass from the face of the returns. The telegraph does not say whether this order affects anything but the State ticket.

The campaign, whose plan may be formulated in the words of Capt. Egan, Second Cavalry, "to wait until the thermometer drops to 30 degrees below zero and then hoop 'em up to the Little Missouri," may be said to have fairly commenced, as the command is now 18 miles from Fort Reno, the last evidence of civilization. At Fort Reno people will live in houses this winter and have some of the comforts of a home. This expedition consists of 11 troops of cavalry commanded by Col. Mackenzie, Fourth Cavalry, and 14 companies of foot troops commanded by Lieut.-Col. Dodge, and the Twenty-third Infantry. In addition to these there are some hundreds of Indian scouts, Pawnees, Sioux, Arrapahoes and Shoshones, who, with the teamsters and civilian employes, bring up the force to over 2,000 men.

Chickens are hatched by steam at the Vennelys' poultry farm, Pentwater, Mich. The hatching house has been built in the form of a cross, giving five rooms, each 12 feet square, in each story. The first floor is devoted to hatching, and the incubator stands in the room looking toward the east. It is not a very pretentious looking piece of mechanism, but it will hatch 300 or 400 chickens at a time. Spring chickens all the year round—'tis not a bad idea.

Dr. Lindermann, in the course of an interview which is fully reported in The San Francisco Chronicle of Dec. 13, attributed the rise of silver to the heavy purchases of coin which the United States Government has been making in London and on the Pacific slope, and to the enormous demand for silver in China.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE change in the method of placing young men in the English army since the abolishment of the purchase system a few years ago is said to work excellently. The old titles of Ensign and Cornet have been abolished, and that of Sub-Lieutenant was substituted; but that, too, has been done away with, and the lowest commissioned grade in the English army is now that of Second Lieutenant. There is no longer competition for commissions, but the British youth, since the first of the present month, are called upon to compete for admission to the military university of Sandhurst, where they will remain one year, and then be commissioned according to their qualifications.

A Paris evening paper announces that one of the servants of Don Carlos has run off, carrying with him all his master's jewels.

Forty thousand men are now employed at shipbuilding on the Clyde, and one of the builders recently declared that the Clyde shipbuilders could reconstruct the entire British navy in two years.

Work at the Champ de Mars for the next International Exhibition is going forward very rapidly. More than a thousand laborers are at work on the foundations of the east and west pavilions and the terraces. Germany manifests even greater indifference than she did while preparations were making in Philadelphia. The Chambers of Commerce assume that manufacturers and exhibitors will not send enough goods to warrant the large expenditure that will be necessarily incurred, and the Government has decided not to take part officially in the Exhibition of 1878.

Emperor William closed the session of the German Parliament Dec. 22, with a speech from the throne. His Majesty said, in reference to foreign affairs, "The negotiations of the Powers upon the Eastern question, as far as proceeded with, justify the hope that my efforts and the mutually conciliatory and peaceful intentions of the Powers immediately concerned will be successful in solving the pending questions without prejudice to the good relations now existing. Germany will continue by friendly disinterested mediation to lend her co-operation for the attainment of this end."

The London Times' Berlin telegram says the plan for the temporary transfer of a certain number of foreign soldiers into the Turkish service is a failure. No second rate state will meddle with the Eastern question. Belgium had been confidentially sounded and had declined to take any part in Eastern affairs. Thereupon it appears the plan of introducing a foreign police into the Turkish service was mooted by England but it was rejected by Russia. If any plan involving the presence of a foreign force be submitted to Turkey, it can only be a revival of the first of the above mentioned schemes framed in general terms, and recommended without very strong hopes of its success.

The London Post announces in official form that Belgium has refused to supply soldiers for the occupation of Turkey. It is said that it is now proposed that each Commissioner be accompanied by a thousand of his own countrymen as a police force.

A Times' Pera telegram says the Sultan is ill, and his indisposition is of a nature to cause some uneasiness. He is preparing to go to the neighborhood of Adrianople and remain there a month.

The Daily Telegraph's special from Pera says Midhat has communicated to the Sultan the informal conclusions of the European Plenipotentiaries. At this interview it was resolved that Turkey could yield in nothing which would impeach her independence. Other special correspondents, however, think Turkey will accept the proposals of the Powers. The Standard's and Times' representatives at Pera express this opinion strongly.

A dispatch to the Russian Telegraphic Agency says the preliminary conference has terminated happily. The accord of the Powers is complete. The disposition of the Porte, however, does not look very favorable. Military preparations continue in Russia.

It is positively asserted that Belgium has been officially requested to send troops into Bulgaria. The Brussels press generally disapprove of such action.

Pungu, a young gorilla, lately received at the Berlin Aquarium, is the pet of the Prussian capital, and dwells in a large glass palace erected for his express occupation. His interesting manners have been the subject of a paper read before the German Association of Naturalists and Physicians.

Ismail Sadick Pascha, the late Egyptian Minister of Finance, who has been condemned to banishment for alleged disloyalty to the Khedive, was the son of a poor laborer. His mother was the nurse to Prince Hassan Pascha, and upon the accession of the latter, he was appointed Inspector-General. This and other official positions gave him great opportunities, and he soon acquired a thorough knowledge of the resources of the country and also of the private fortunes. When the Khedive's financial embarrassments began, Sadick Pasha presented his information. It was considered most precious, and he was naturally placed at the head of the Department of Finance for the purpose of working the mine of wealth he had discovered.

Burnett's Flavoring Extracts are used and endorsed by the best Hotels, Confectioners, Grocers and the first families in the country.—*Ex.*

SEMI-BUSINESS PARAGRAPHS.

For Bronchial, Asthmatic and Pulmonary Complaints, "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" manifest remarkable curative properties.

FRANK MILLER'S LEATHER PRESERVATIVE and Water Proof Blacking received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibition.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER wants good local agents. Address RURAL PUB. CO., 78 Duane St.

FRANK MILLER'S HARNESS OIL received the highest and only award at the Centennial Exhibiton.

THE MARKETS.

PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Dec. 23, 1876.

RECEIPTS.—The receipts of Produce for the week were as follows:

Flour, bbls.	72,888	Molasses	4,188
Whisky	2,501	Rice, bbls	800
Corn meal, bbls.	1,157	Cut meats, pkgs	36,682
Corn meal, bags	770	Lard, pkgs	22,802
Wheat, bush	406,120	Tobacco, hhds	295
Corn, bush	159,321	do, pkgs	2,884
Oats, bush	118,110	Butter, kgs	22,498
Rye, bush	37,509	Cheese, bxs	15,110
Malt, bush	15,030	Cotton, bales	32,668
Barley, bush	37,800	Rosin	8,782
Beans, bush	5,528	Spts, turn., bbls	1,508
Grass seed, bush	8,415	Dried Fruits, pkgs	362
Beef, pkgs	836	Eggs, bbls	2,736
Wool, bales	1,051	Peanuts, bags	2,514
Hops, bales	2,217	Leather, sides	107,911
Pork, bbls	1,708	Sugar, hhds	633
Tallow	1,574	Oil cake	7,064

HINTS TO SHIPPERS.—Pack produce as firmly as its nature allows; otherwise many items suffer in appearance, if not in quality, through the jostling incident to transportation. Do not mark packages with any material that will smudge. A good paint for marking purposes can be made of bichromate of potash and extract of logwood. Nailed cards are very insecure. For long lines of goods a marking plate or brand is preferable to ordinary lettering. At the time of shipment put a complete list of the lot into one of the packages if it can be done; but be

sure to mail to consignee a full list, naming date, style of packages and contents. Aim to have each parcel of uniform quality as far as possible: mixing always injures sale. Roll butter should be wrapped in clean white muslin. Dressed poultry should be packed in well shaken dry straw. When poultry sweats in boxes straw-dust gives a mean look. Break off-nail points from the inside of old barrels when they are used in order to prevent property from tearing. Short cut dry straw is better for packing eggs than anything else. Try and avoid the arrival here of summer items on Saturday.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Exports of beans, past week, 718 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 56,502; same time last year, 36,135. Exports of peas past week, 8,350 bush.; since Jan. 704,203 do.; same time last year, 488,150.

Exports of peas, 8,350 bush.; since Jan., 704,203 do.; same time last year, 488,150.

The supplies of beans continue moderate, and the limited but steady demand keeps prices running upward. We speak of the standard grades, mediums and marrows; fancy pea and kidneys are neglected at the prices. Canadian field peas are quiet and weak. Western do. are 5c. lower than Canadian. Green peas unchanged. B. E. peas strong. We quote:

Beans—New medium, $2.00@2.25; do. marrow, $2.45@2.50; do. pea, $2.65@2.75; white kidney, $2.60@2.65; red do., $2.80@2.85; Old Beans—Medium, prime, $2.10@2.25; marrow, $2.00@2.35; pea, prime, $2.30@2.50; white kidney, prime, $2.25@2.45; red do., prime, $2.15@2.60; black, $3.00@3.25; Lima, $3@4, the latter for State. Canadian peas, ₰ bbl., free, $1.10; do. bulk, 89@90c.; green do., new, $1.20@1.25; do., S. B. E. peas (2-bush. bag), $2.25.

BEESWAX.—There is very little doing, with prices without change; Western quoted at 31c., and Southern at 32c.

Exports past week, 681 lbs.; since Jan. 1st, 76,645 do.; same time last year, 102,151 do.

BUTTER.—There is little to remark about butter. Sellers do not seek business at this season and if they did they would not find many wholesale buyers. Fancy state half tubs and the moderate supply of do. creamery have an active sale for daily wants at full late prices. Full dairies are still quite largely represented in the stock which is not an encouraging feature at this late date. There is a large quantity of quality butter in market, chiefly temporarily condemned State firkins, that looks as though it would drag for a long time, unless a positive scarcity of fine grades promotes the quality further on. The export trade seems to have subsided, all good grades of Western are selling freely. The absence of shippers tames the tone of fair grade firkins and other under lots. Some of the Western creameries have taken a settled position for first class use. Fresh rolls are in demand; made-over rolls are not saleable. We quote.

Exports past week 111 pkgs.

We quote:—Creamery choice, 36@38c.; good, 33@35c.; State firkins, choice, 28@29c.; fair to good, 24@26c.; do. half firkin tubs, choice, 33@35c.; fair to prime, 28@32c.; do.; poor and off-flavored, 22@23c.; Welsh tubs, choice, 30@32c.; other, 24@28c.; Inferior State 15@19c. Western creamery, choice, 38c.; other, 32@34c.; do. firkins, best, 18@20c.; other, 15@17c.; dairy tubs, choice, 25@27c.; other, 18@23c.; factory choice, 22@24c.; other, 13@15c.

State dairies quotable at 30@32c. with fall tubs Welsh tubs dairies, 25@29c.

State firkins dairies, 25@30c. Roll butter, fancy 33@24c., fair to good, 20@23c.; do., poor to fair, 15@19c.

CHEESE.—There has been a quiet market this week, but as this is expected about the holiday period, prices have not been disturbed, and in fact there is fully as much confidence. Receipts run small, and there is sufficient moving in connection with home trade purchases to at least prevent further accumulations. The low and medium grades have been in most request. Strictly fancy factories have sold at 14½@15c. for white and colored lots. We quote:

Fancy factory at 15c. for fancy colored, 11¾c. for fancy white; job lots, 15¼c.; good and prime, 13¾@14¼c.; fair, 11@12¼c. State farm dairy, fancy, 13¾@14c.; good to prime, 12½@13¾c.; fair and good, 11@12½c.; common, 5@8c. Western factory, fancy, 14@14¼c.; good and prime, 12½@13¾c.; fair lots, 10@11c.; factory, State and skims, 3@4c.; do. late, 8@10c.

Exports past week, 11,388 boxes. Liverpool quotation, 68s.; London, 69s. Gold closed at 107⅜.

COTTON.—There has been very sharp changes, closing weak; export demand is small. The latest prices are:

December, 12 11-32@12¾c.; January, 12 7-16; February, 12 23-32@12¾c.; March, 12 15-16@12 31-32c.; April, 13 5-32c., May, 13 5-16@13 11-32c.; June, 13 15-32@13½c.; July, 13⅝@13 21-32c.; August, 13 23-32@13¾c.

Quotations for spot cotton, based on American standard of classification:

	Uplands.	Ala.	Orleans.	Texas
Ordinary	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Strict ordinary	10⅞	10⅞	10⅞	10⅞
Good ordinary	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜
Strict good do.	11⅝	11⅝	11 9-16	11 9-16
Low middling	11⅞	12⅛	12	12
Strict low middling	12	12¼	12¼	12¼
Middling	12¼	12½	12 7-16	12 7-16
Good middling	12⅝	12¾	12¾	12¾
Strict good middling	12⅞	12⅞	13	13
Middling fair	13⅛	13⅛	13⅜	13⅜
Fair	13⅞	11	14⅛	14⅛

Stained.

Good ordinary	10⅝	Low middling	11⅞
Strict ordinary	10¼	Middling	11⅝

DRIED FRUITS.—In apples quarters have been slightly advanced on a fair export demand; sliced are very dull, and about nominal. Peaches are scarce and sell at extreme figures. Blackberries are hard to sell.

Exports past week 2,660 bbl. dried apples.; since Jan. 1st., 33,871 do.; same time last year, 11,011.

Apples—State, sliced, 5½@6c.; do., quarters, 5¾@6c.; Southern sliced, new, fair, 4½@5c.; choice do, 5½@6c.; fancy, nominal; do., new qrs., in bags, 3¾@4c.; do. repacked, 4½@5c.; Western quarters 5@5¼c. Blackberries at 8¼@8½c. Peeled peaches, at 22@24c.; for fancy North Carolina; 13@20c. for prime; 18@19c. for prime Georgia; 15@17c. for good; unpeeled peaches, halves, 9@10c., do. quarters, 8¼@9c. Raspberries, 28@29c. Cherries, 17½c.

EGGS—Light receipts alone sustain the market. Western are, as the times are, rather high for general use, and pastry people are not purchasing heavily either in limed or fresh. The stored stock has been worked down some, and a continuance of cold weather may hold prices where they are, but strong advances will injure what moderate trade there is. We quote:

Jersey, single barrels, strictly fresh, 33@35; State and Penn., 30@31c.; Western, fresh laid, 29½c.; Western and Canadian, fair marks, 28@29; Southern, fresh laid, 28½@29½; state limed, 20@22c.; Western, do., 18@20c.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—The following are the current rates:

Peppermint, $2.50 ₰ lb. in tin, $3.25@3.50 in glass—tone firm. Sassafras scarce and firm at 50c. ₰ lb. Wintergreen, large supply, weak at $2.50. Spearmint, nominally $2.50 ₰ lb.; no demand.

FEATHERS.—Light. Live geese, white, prime western 55@58c., mixed western, 40@50c.

FLOUR.—This market has been steadily working upward. The chief stimulus to this was the advance in railroad rates from the West, but millers, also, have become more confident on the cost of wheat, and have sent orders to hold, in instances much above the advanced figures quoted. While the market was strengthening, the home trade has been more desirous to stock up, and considerable business is resulting from this direction. Exporters are buying more freely also.

The latest sales are $5.20@5.40 for poor to very choice superfine State; $5.00@5.70 for very common to fair extra do.; $5.75@5.80 for good extra do. $5.85@6.00 for fancy do., and $6.00@7.25 for fancy to very choice extra; $5.20@5.40 for superfine Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, &c.; $5.60@5.70 for shipping extra do., the inside price for inferior, and $5.75@5.85 for choice to very fancy extra do.; common to choice white wheat extras, $5.90@7.25; fancy do. $7.30@8.25; winter wheat, good to choice family, $6.30@8.50; round-hoop Ohio, $5.60@5.70, and trade brands of do. at $5.75@7.25; St. Louis, $5.85@6.75 for common to fair extra, and $6.80@8.25 for good to very choice; Minnesota "straight" at $6.75@7.50, and patent at $7.60@9.50; unsound stock at from $3.90@5.75; city mill extra for West Indies at $6.40@6.60; do. English brands, $5.55@ —; do. trade and family, $7.00@8.50; No. 2 at $4.00@4.65; sour, $3.90@5.75.

Buckwheat is scarce and higher; sales at 90@95c., and buckwheat flour at from $3.75@4.10. Corn meal brings $2.80@3.10 for yellow Western, Penn. & Jersey, and 33c. for Brandywine.

FRESH FRUITS.—Exports past week, 2,225 bbls.; since Jan. 1st, 115,102 do.; same time last year, 43,312 do. The holiday wants give some activity to the general market; still, foreign fruits call for a share of the local demand, and prices for domestic apples, grapes, oranges and nuts do not improve. Fancy red apples occasionally exceed our top rate. Lady apples are in large supply; must be smooth and showy to bring $8. Prime cranberries active; no sale for poor lots. California pears are in large supply and moving as fast as holders would wish them to. Nuts of all kinds quoted easy.

Apples, State, ₰ bbl., prime red, $1.75@1.87; mixed, $1.25@1.62; good to fair, $1@1.25. Lady apples $5@8. Cranberries, crates, $2.50@3.00; Eastern, bbls., good to prime, $9.00@10.50; N. J., $8@9, for good to prime. Grapes—Catawba, ₰ lb., 10@12c. Peanuts—Va., fancy, $1.05@1.15; other, 10@90c. Hickory nuts, coarse, 50@60c.; shellbarks, $1@1.50; black walnuts, 50c.

FURS AND SKINS.—The receipts are moderate and the demand fair. Mink are very dull and rule in buyers' favor. Southern skins are rated about 20 per cent under western.

	No. 1 quality. Nor. & East.	West & N. W.
Otter, ₰ piece	$6 50@ 8 00	$4 00@ 6 00
Gray Fox	1 70@ 2 00	1 40@ 1 60
Red Fox	1 50@ 1 70	1 25@ 1 40
Black Bear	10 00@15 00	7 00@10 00
Brown cubs and ylgs.	4 00@ 5 00	2 00@ 3 00
Fisher	8 00@10 00	7 00@ 8 00
Mink, dark	2 00@ 2 50	1 25@ 1 75
pale	1 00@ 1 50	70@ 85
Muskrat, winter	20@ 22	18@ 20
fall	16@ 18	15@ 17
Kitts	5@ 6	4@ 5
Beaver, ₰ lb	1 50@ 2 00	1 00@ 1 25
Raccoon	80@ 90	70@ 85
Opossum	8@ 15	8@ 15
Skunk, black		75@
striped		10@ 50
Wolf, mountain		2 00@ 3 00
prairie		75@ 1 00

GRAIN.—There has been a good deal of excitement in the wheat market, and prices stand fully eight cents per bushel higher than noted last week. This has been brought about largely by resumption of export demand, with liberal purchases generally; also stimulated by the higher rates of freight from the West. Latest sales are at $1.32 for No. 3 Chicago spring; $1.38@1.39 for No. 2 do.; $1.40@1.42½ for No. 2 Milwaukee spring; $1.33 for No. 3 do.; $1.37@1.45 for winter red Western. Rye is strong at 80@83c. for Western; 91@93c. for Jersey, State and Pennsylvania. Barley is lower; No. 1 Canada quoted at $1.10; No. 3 do., 87½@90c. Corn is also better, and fairly active; sales at 56@63c. for mixed Western. Oats have been active; mixed Western and State at 33½@50c.; white do. at 45@52c.

HAY AND STRAW.—With small receipts and a liberal inquiry, prices are slightly better.

Bale hay 65c. for shipping; 70c.@$1 for retail qualities; clover, 65@65c.; salt, do., 50@60c. Straw quoted at 75@80c. for long rye; 65@75c. for short rye, and 55@60c. for oat.

Exports past week, 700 bales., since Jan. 1st, 41,250 do.; same time last year, 41,118 do.

HIGHWINES, quiet at $1.13.

HOPS.—There has been more done here and in the interior, shippers having rather freer orders, and more confidence exists as to prices.

New Yorks, good to choice, new	25 to 30
New Yorks, low to fair, new	15 to 25
Eastern, new	20 to 25
Wisconsin, new	12 to 22
Yearlings	10 to 15
Olds, all growths	4 to 8
California, new	28 to 30
Oregon	28 to 30

HONEY.—The quality of the remnant is against quick sales and prices are extreme. We quote white clover comb at 15@18c.; other, 10@14c.

LEATHER.—Hemlock sole at 24@27c. for light, 26@30c. for middle, 27@30c. for heavy, and 24@26c. for good damaged.

OIL CAKE.—Sales of Western at $37.

PROVISIONS.—There has been a sharp upward movement on a brisk speculative trading, but closing weak. Mess pork quoted at $17.15@17.25 on spot, $17.20 for February, and $17.35 for March. Dressed hogs, Western, at 7@7½c. Bacon at 8¼c. for long clear and 9¼c. for short clear. Lard, Western steam, at $10.80 for spot and December, $10.77 for January, and $10.92½ for February. Stearine at 10¾c. for prime Western. Tallow at 8¼c. for prime, in hhds. Beef hams at $20 for choice Western. Beef at $10.50@11 for plain mess, $12@12.50 for extra mess, $20@21 for prime mess, and $22@24 for India mess. City extra India mess at $25.

POULTRY AND GAME.—In live poultry there has been a fair demand for turkeys; but fowls and chickens are quiet. Western geese have declined. Ducks steady. We quote:

New Jersey turkeys, 11@12c. ₰ lb.; Western, 9@11c.; N. J. fowls and chicks, 9@10c.; Western, 8c.; roosters, 5@6c. Geese, N.J., ₰ pair, $1@1.50; Western, $1.25@1.50. Ducks, N. J., ₰ pair, 75@$1; Western, 50@65c. Live pigeons, ₰ pair, 25c.

The dressed poultry trade has recovered from its late unfortunate condition. Stock has sold well nearly all the week. Prices are not high, still they are not losing for the producer. Geese do not seem to sell as freely as formerly for Christmas use. Sellers used to count upon a lively trade in them, especially to the foreign element of our population. Unfortunately, a large portion of that class, this year, cannot afford to keep up traditions. Perhaps we might say the abundance of game of late years, with popular prices, more widely distributes the family demand. When the holidays close, the call for heavy turkeys falls off. Del. & Md. geese sold as well as New Jersey. We quote:

Turkeys, N. J., 13@16c.; State, 11@15c.; Western, 9@12c. Chickens, dry-picked, 10@13c. N. J. chicks, 10@13c.; State, 8@11c.; Western, 8@11c. Ducks, N. J., 11@14c.; State, 10@14c.; Western, 8@12c. Geese, 6@9c. for common; 10@12½c. for good to best.

In game, grouse seem about the only item at all scarce. The demand is good. There is usually a spurt for holiday purposes. Rabbits are very abundant. Extra saddle of Minnesota venison are firm. Western wild ducks do not sell above inside prices.

We quote.—Canvas-back ducks $1.00@1.75; Red Head, 65@75c.; Mallard 50@70c.; Teal, 50@60c.; common, 25@30c.

Quail, ₰ doz., prime, $1.25@1.50; soft small, 60c.@$1. Partridge, 65@75c.; drawn, 40@50c. Prairie Hens, $1@$1.12; drawn, 40@80c. Hares, 30@40c.; Rabbits, 20@25c. Venison, whole, 9@10c.; long saddle, 11@13c.; short do., 14@15c.

SALT.—Ashton's quoted at $2.50; Deakin's, $1.30@135; Liverpool, ground, $1.05@1.10.

SEED.—Grass is very quiet; clover quoted at 15½ for western, and 16½ for State. Timothy at $1.90@1.92½.

SUGAR.—(Refined). Quoted at 9¾@11c. for soft yellow, 11¼@11¾ for soft white, 12⅛ for crushed, 11⅞@12 for powdered and granulated.

TOBACCO.—There has been a dull market through the week, and scarcely any improvement to be expected until after the holidays; prices are held as before.

VEGETABLES.—Exports of potatoes past week, 3,965 bbls.; of onions, 591 do. A large quantity of the exported potatoes have gone to Bermuda for seed. There is a lull in the potato trade, and high prices restrict business. Holders of fancy lots, however, demand the extreme of the week, $3.75. Cabbages have advanced. Onions show an important advance. During the week 100 boxes of fresh tomatoes arrived from Bermuda. Squash are higher.

Potatoes—Peach Blows ₰ bbl. $3.50@3.75. Early Rose, prime, $3.50@3.75; Peerless and Jackson white, $2.62@3 sweet, Del, $3.00@4; Va. $2.75@3. Cabbages, ₰ 100, $5@8. Marrow squash, ₰ bbl., $1.50. Hubbard Squash $1.75@2.00. New Russian turnips, ₰ bush., 75c.@—. Onions—Yellow, ₰ bbl., $2.75@3.00. white, $2.50@3.75; red, $2.75@3.00; Spanish, $2.

WOOL.—Transactions have been made dull, with few manufacturers in market, yet a stronger trade is anticipated with the turn of the year, and meanwhile there is a firm range of prices held on the various grades; XX Ohio fleeces have sold at 48c.; delaine at 48c.; X pulled at 38@40. Eastern Texas at 22@27c., and western do. 21@24.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 23.—Flour market strong: spring, $7.00; amber winter, $7.25; white winter, $7.50; double extra, $8.00. Rye flour quiet at $5.00. Wheat steady: Milwaukee club, $1.30@1.40; amber winter, $1.25@1.35; white winter, $1.25@1.38. Oats, nominal at 38@40c. Corn quiet at 58@62c. Corn meal, $1.25@1.50. Butter, 24@29c. Cheese, 12½@14c. Eggs, 23@25c. Lard, 12½@15c. Apples, bu., 30@40c. Potatoes, bu., $1@1.20. Beans, ₰ bu., 1.40@$2.00. Mess pork, $17.00. Wool, 25@30c. Hay, $10@12. Straw, $6@9. Timothy seed, $2.75@3.50; clover, $9.25@10. Mill feed firm at $16 for shorts, $18 for shipstuffs, and $22 for middlings. Railroad Freights—Flour to Boston, 35c. ₰ bbl.; to New York, 25c.; to Albany, 20c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET.

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., Dec. 23, 1876.

THERE has been very little doing in the market this week. A few lots from farm dairies have been offered and sold at a range of from 10⅛c. to 12½c., according to quality. The farm dairy cheese coming forward is mostly "late ends," and much of it is inferior. There were several lots of factory cheese offered. One lot of 110 boxes brought 13¼c. The Arnold Brothers sold at that price, and other factories, having a sprinkling of October cheese, obtained 13⅛c. Extra fine quality commands 14c. and upward.

The delivery of butter has been light. About 30 tubs winter-make went at from 24c. to 27c. Good grass butter is scarce, and 30c. is offered for it for home consumption.

We have advices from abroad to the last of November. Our London correspondent says cheese is very firm at the previous week's quotations.

American, extra fine, 72@73s.; fine, 68@70s.; good, 56@64s.; secondary and low grades, 36@50s. English cheddar brings from 82@91s.; Wiltshire double, 68@70s.; Cheshire medium, 48@51s.; fine, 70@82s.; Scotch, 68@76s. Dutch Cheese—Edams, 63@70s.; Goudas, 60@64s.; Derby shape, 62@64s.

Owing to the mild weather, butter, beyond going wants, is difficult to sell. The Friesland to hand is bad, and Normandy, owing to short weights, is not so popular, while all combined makes trade very unsatisfactory. We give quotations:

Clonmels, 141@151s.; Corks, 140@149s.; Dorsets, 174s.; Jersey, 120@126s.; Danish and Swedish, 120@170s.; Normandy extra, 120@166s. There is no American or Canadian in market. Oleomargarine, 90@104s. ₰ cwt.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23, 1876.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Hogs.
Sixtieth St.	3,788	41	581	10,036	00
Forty-Eighth St.	11	13	118	6,182	00
Fortieth St.	000	00	000	000	19,471
Harsimus Cove	6,023	00	36	6,012	16,832
Totals this week	9,775	57	735	23,160	36,353
" last week	10,736	150	1,137	34,531	33,294

BEEVES.—Trade was fair on Monday last in good quality cattle, while poor quality herds had to be held on sale, except a very few sold at low rates; prices were 7½@12¼c. ₰ lb.; weights, 5¼@11½ cwt. Wednesday, trade slow, the herds to hand not being good enough in the aggregate to meet the demand; prices 7½@11¼c. ₰ lb.; weights, 5¼@8¾ cwt. Thursday, sales fair at 6¼@12¼c.; weights, 5@9 cwt. Friday, trade firm at 9@11¼c.; weights, 6@10¼ cwt. From 51@58 lbs. net., has been allowed. Spanish herds sold at 6¼@7¼c. Native steers, 7½@10c.; grade, 10¼@11¼c. Oxen, 7@10½c., with one choice quality pair of Kentucky oxen at 12¾c., live weight, 3,570 lbs. Dry cows, 7¼@8c. Heifers, 8@9c. Bulls, live weight, 2½@4c. Mixed herds, 8@9¼c.

MILCH COWS.—Sales very slow and quality only fair, with a poor tail end. Seventeen cows sold at $38@59 ₰ head; 15 do. at $40@45; 22 do. $50@75. Several lots held on sale—calves included in all sales.

VEALS AND CALVES.—Trade very dull on a light run. Quality from poor to fair. Smooth quality veals sold at 8@9½c. ₰ lb.; coarse quality calves at 4@6c.; also at $6@9.50 ₰ head. Country dressed veals and calves sold at 7@10c. ₰ lb.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Trade has improved and quality also. The flocks to hand have been from coarse to choice. Monday, sheep sold at 4@7½c. ₰ lb.; lambs, 5¾@7¼c. ₰ lb. Wednesday, sheep, 4@6¾c.; lambs, 4½@6¾c. Thursday, sheep, 4@6¾c.; lambs, 5@7c. Friday, the markets closed fair, sheep, 5@5¾c.; lambs, 6@7½c. Canada sheep, 5¾@7¼c.; State, 6@7¼c.; Ohio, 4½@7½c.; Michigan, 6@7¼c., including one choice quality high grade Cotswold, sold at 10c. ₰ lb.; live weight, 351 lbs. State lambs, 5¾@7c.; Canada, 6@7¼c. Mixed flocks, 5@6½c.

HOGS.—Trade in live hogs dull. Four car loads Ohio hogs, average weight 210@212 lbs. ₰ head, sold at 6¾c. ₰ lb.; one car load do., 221 lbs. do., $6.20 ₰ cwt.; one single deck do., 270 lbs. do., $6.18¾; two car load do., 200 lbs. do., 6¼c. ₰ lb. City dressed slow of sale at 7@7⅜c. ₰ lb.; general sales at 7@7⅜c.

HORSE MARKET.—City trade so small as to cause dealers to withhold quotations. An improved condition of business is looked for early in the new year. Twenty-seven horses arrived ₰ Erie Railway via. Oak Cliff Station.

Comparative Rates.

Quality.	This week. Cents.	Last week. Cents.
Good	10¾@11½	10¾@11¼
Fair	10 @10½	10 @10½
Poor	9¼@ 9¾	9¼@ 9¾
Poorest	6¾@ 9	7 @ 9
Gen. selling rates	8¾@ 9½	8¾@ 9¾

SUMMARY OF LIVE STOCK TRADE FOR 1876.

On an increase in numbers, trade in horned cattle cannot be said to have improved in values received or in the quality of the herds to hand. On the contrary, farmers have placed their herds on the open markets for sale as beeves when they were utterly out of condition, being not even good as store cattle. Prices have fallen on all grades, and notably so on medium quality herds. One pleasing feature of the live stock trade has been the steady increase of the exportation of good quality dressed beef for the London and Glasgow markets. This foreign trade promises well for the future. In the year 1876, 476,772 head of horned cattle were sold at the Sixteenth St. and Harsimus Cove yards. This gives a weekly average of 9,130 head and 12 head over.

Trade in milch cows has been uniformly slow, with occasionally a fair demand for fair quality animals when such came to hand, which, however, was of rare occurrence. 8175 cows have been received. Weekly average, 61 head and 3 head over. The run of veals and calves has been heavy the past year, and the quality has, in the aggregate, been coarse. The lots have been supplied from New York State dairy districts, and have been forced on the markets rather than offered for sale. 89,932 head have been received. Weekly average, 1,720 head.

Sheep and lambs have in general been fairly in demand, and even when trade has been slow fair rates could be obtained. The quality of the flocks also shows an improved order of sheep farming. During the year, 1,254,316 head have been sold at the Sixteenth St., the Forty-eighth St., and Harsimus Cove yards. The weekly average has been 24,121 head and 14 head over.

Trade in hogs has been inactive. The demand in this city is only local, the foreign trade having almost left here. 1,226,032 head came to hand for the year 1876. Weekly average, 23,577 head and 28 head over.

The gross arrivals of all kinds of live stock as above described, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1876, has been 3,050,217 head. Weekly average of same, 58,613 head, against a total of 2,861,933 head of all kinds in 1875. Weekly average of same, 55,035 head.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTE.—*All letters of inquiry* MUST BE *accompanied with the name and address of the writer.*

It is seldom we can name plants from leaves or twigs alone. The flower is generally indispensable.

Amos Keug, Mallaman.—Earth worms are easily killed. If you will procure one and pour water upon it as hot as can be borne by the hand, the worm will be killed at once. It is only necessary, therefore, to place the pots up to the rim in water hot enough to kill them, though not hot enough to injure the roots to rid the earth of all the worms which it contains. Lime water is used also. Place a handful of lime in a gallon of water—stir it up and leave it to settle.

M. P. Prince, Ridgeway, N. C.—If not contrary to your rules, will you please tell who is the contributor to your columns signing himself "Working Farmer?" My reason for wishing to know is this: When I have read the writings of one person for any length of time, I find greater relish for them when I know who the writer is, and again, can make the proper allowance for our difference of locality when I know where he writes from. [Will "Working Farmer" please send his address as above?—EDS.]

Young Inquisitive, Albion, N. Y.—Will Frolic be so kind as to answer the following questions: When a couple are being married in traveling dress, should the groom carry his hat in his hand to the altar? Would it not be proper to keep on his overcoat? By answering the above you will confer a great favor and oblige a little, green, country lassie who is about to be married. ANS.—As the ceremony at a certain stage requires the use of both hands, the groom would find it both inconvenient and embarrassing to carry a hat. Either leave the head-gear in the carriage or relegate it to the care of the "best man." The overcoat should certainly be dispensed with, if for no other reason than because its use would infer a quasi-disrespect for one of the most solemn rites of the Church. The lady should also dispense with wraps.

C.—That carbonic acid is exhaled from the lungs may be proven by breathing in lime water which soon thereafter turns of a milky-white color. This is a test of the presence of this gas.

2. It is stated that air containing four per cent. of carbonic acid is injurious, or rather "unfit for respiration." Air once breathed is said to contain eight per cent. As persons are supposed to breathe seven cubic feet of air in a minute, the necessity of ventilating rooms according to the number of persons in them will be apparent. We read that "in the Black Hole of Calcutta, one hundred and forty-six Englishmen were shut up in a room eighteen feet square, with only two small windows on the same side to admit air. On opening the dungeon, ten hours after their imprisonment, only twenty-three were alive."

A close room 20x20x10 contains 4000 cubic feet of air. If a person breathes, say 10 cubic feet per minute, the air would all have been breathed in less than seven hours.

Forsythe.—Hydrogen, being the lightest of gases and, in fact, the lightest of known ponderable bodies, is that used for inflating balloons. It may be obtained as follows: Place zinc in sulphuric acid and water. The oxygen of the water forms oxide of zinc and the hydrogen is set free.

J. L. Z.—We have two Silver Maples, one of which has been cut back every year, the other has not been touched. The former is by far the prettier of the two trees. It is, in fact, so much more compact and shapely that at a distance the two would be counted different species. Silver Maples may be pruned now. Earlier would be better than later

Inquirer.—When the first leaves, or cotyledons, owing to a short caulile, remain in the ground, they are said to be *hypogeal* or *hypogeous*, as the acorn, bean, horsechestnut, &c. They exist not the less, and the first leaves *seen*, though the first true leaves, are not the cotyledons. It is these which support the plumule above and the radicle in the ground until the true leaves render their assistance unnecessary.

G. Marti, Houston, Texas.—Many thanks.

Mrs. J. P. Hawks, Goshen, N. Y.—Seeds, as requested, were sent to this address and returned.

J. T. R. wants to know if apples are having a good sale in New York City. Let him consult our market reports, and, in the future, read the RURAL a little more attentively, thereby saving his stationry and postage stamps.

P. K. S.—Yes; a law was passed by Congress, at the last session, making a very slim provision for investigating pestiferous insects; but the bill was so badly cut up that it will probably amount to nothing. Senator Ingalls introduced the original measure, and numberless other politicians assisted in the cutting process till the original bill was hardly recognizable.

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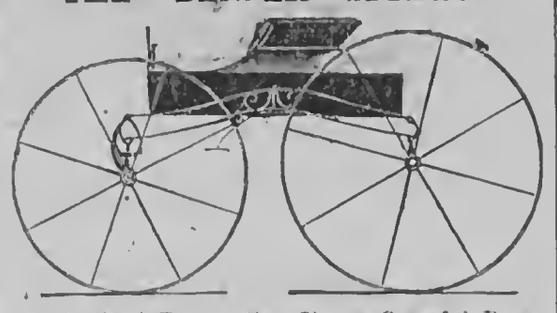

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PERSONAL ITEMS.

MR. JEFFERSON DAVIS left his wife and daughter in Europe.

SAN JOSE, Cal., put up 100,000 cans of tomatoes last season.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SHERIDAN, is suffering from pneumonia.

BISHOP McLAREN has confirmed 1,000 persons during the past year.

MRS. ADMIRAL DAHLGREN entertains every fortnight one of the literary societies of Washington.

JANE GOLDSMITH, grand-niece of the clever Oliver, has just died at the Home for the Aged in Halifax, N. S.

BOTH Bret Harte and Mark Twain are prosecuting Canadian parties who have infringed the copyright of their books.

THE Hon. L. Letellier de St. Just, Minister of Agriculture, has been appointed Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec.

A MASSACHUSETTS cow, when given the choice, prefers tobacco stems to hay as a steady diet. Her massa-chews-it, and she chews it, too.

SAYS Mr. Aldrich:—"A man of ordinary agility might walk over the greater part of Europe on the outstretched palms of the lower classes."

SIR EDWARD THORNTON, British Minister, always goes to receptions at a very early hour. He follows, and makes his family follow the laws of health.

THE clergymen of Chicago have invited Messrs. Whittle and Bliss, the evangelists, to carry on the religious meetings after Mr. Moody's departure for Boston.

THE Hon. A. H. Stephens has moved himself and his baggage into his committee room in the Capitol, where he is to live. He will not go home during the year.

DORE never goes to a cafe; lives with his mother; is industrious; plays the violin; was a friend of Rossini, and he rests from his painting to play on the piano.

A LONDON paper reports that Mr. Spurgeon "is far from well." He had so far recovered, however, during the latter part of November as to be able to preach on Sunday.

A WALNUT tree in the Crimea is at least 1,000 years old, and yields from 80,000 to 100,000 nuts a year. It belongs to five Tartar families, who share its produce equally.

EDWIN FORREST'S "Home" at Springbrook, is about to receive two elderly actors—veterans lagging on the stage—in the persons of Messrs. William Lomas and George G. Spear.

M. SHISHKIN, the Russian Minister at Washington, is of the medium height, has a close, well-knit figure, gray hair and ample mustache, pleasant, not handsome features, wears glasses and is the beau ideal of a German professor.

MRS. JULIA WARD HOWE preached at Newport on Thanksgiving Day. Mrs. Howe has a pretty, cozy country place a mile or two out of Newport, wherein, before her husband's death, she was wont often to entertain artists, good talkers, and literary people generally.

MRS. ROXANA NOTT, widow of the Rev. Samuel Nott, died in Hartford, Ct., recently, aged nearly ninety-two years. Mrs. Nott was the only survivor of the missionary band which was sent to India by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1812.

MADAME RUDERSDORF, the singer, has a beautiful model farm at Lakeside, Mass. It is cultivated under her own eyes to a charm, and she owns quantities of the most valuable live stock. She makes remarkable butter, so good that it is sold in Boston for 90 cents a pound.

WALT WHITMAN does not believe in cremation. He said the other day that "it makes a fellow tremble to think of the iron-hearted progress of the age. When the life has gone out of the body I rather respect the old shell for all it has been as well as for all it has contained."

HUGH BANCROFT, the historian of the Pacific Slope, has a valuable library on his subject, having devoted his large income to it for a dozen years. Many of the official documents of the Mexican Government have been secured by him exclusively in periods of revolution.

THE Rev. James Henry Thornton of Baltimore, a negro, was arrested for stealing a coat. In his pocket, between the pages of a hymn book and a Bible, were pawn tickets representing a large amount of plunder. His pastoral calls had been the most profitable part of his parish work.

SOMEBODY said to Robert Hall:—"How many discourses do you think, Mr. Hall, may a minister get up each week?" Answered Hall:—"If he is a deep thinker and great condenser, he may get up one; if he is an ordinary man, two; but if he is an ass, Sir, he will produce half a dozen."

PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON once sent to his cousin, Mrs. Washington of Fairfield, a letter introducing a physician famed for the cure of cancer; and this letter has just been sent to Cincinnati to be sold by the descendants of the lady, who are living in Kentucky in straitened circumstances.

MISS SMILEY has been holding a series of services in the Congregational Church of Rutland, Vermont. She is about beginning another series in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Burlington. The Rutland Herald says:—"Miss Smiley has made a very favorable impression here as a preacher and as an accomplished and agreeable lady."

IT was Viscount Maidstone, son and heir of the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who lately enlisted as a common soldier because he was too poor to live otherwise, his annual income being a pittance of $2,500. He bought himself out of this engagement in a few days, but has now enlisted for the second time and for twelve years in the Royal Artillery.

QUEEN VICTORIA goes walking in a short dark serge petticoat: the heels of her boots are not half an inch high, the soles are broad and thick, and they are never blacked. She always welcomes news of the people, improvements in their manners, their health, and their appearance. She declares that visiting her humble subjects is better than going to the play.

MR. CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER says when he went buying ancient coins of the Greeks in Greece he "looked in the face of a handsome graybeard, who asked me 2,000 francs for a silver coin, which he said was a Solon. I looked at him to see if there was any guile in his eye; but there was not. I cannot but hope that this race, which has learned to look honest, will some time become so."

THE Hon. Lewis H. Redfield says that Mr. Weed is mistaken in thinking that only three of the veteran journalists of the State survive. Besides Mr. Weed, Mr. Follett, and Mr. Redfield, there is Mr. Chauncey Morse, who was editor and proprietor of The Ontario Repository at Canandaigua for 20 years. Mr. Morse, now 83 years old, lives in Detroit, and is bright and well. Mr. Redfield also is 83, and comparatively strong.

CAPTAIN BURNABY, the hero of the ride to Khiva, sometimes known by the soubriquet "The Strongest Man in the World," was recently appointed Commissioner to determine the boundaries between the Turkish and Selave armies during the truce, but it being represented in certain quarters that the appointment of Captain Burnaby for this purpose would give offence to the Czar, another officer is to be named.

THE Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, whom the Czar has just appointed to the command of the Army of the Danube, is one of the Czar's three brothers. He is not regarded as a genius, military or otherwise. He has risen to his present military rank by seniority, and during the war, should one ensue, he will probably act entirely on the advice of his Chief-of-Staff, General Nepokoytzisky, who is one of the best soldiers of the Russian army.

MRS. ex-SENATOR HENDRICKS, in her very clever book on cookery, says that Senator Riddle of Delaware took much pleasure in his superior knowledge on the important subject of omelets. Once, when breakfasting with Mrs. Crittenden of Kentucky, an omelet of doubtful appearance was presented to him. "Before we proceed with our breakfast," said he, "let me teach you a valuable accomplishment." They repaired at once to the kitchen range, where the Senator immediately demonstrated his qualifications as a very fine cook.

GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON was precise in dress and probably had many a pleasant little vanity of his own. In the Camp at Cumberland (1775) there was but one mirror, and that set in the end of a powder-horn used by his friend and comrade Col. Zachary Lewis. By this mirror Gen. George shaved his chin every morning and completed his toilet. The powder-horn is now in possession of one of Col. Lewis's descendants, resident in Richmond. The horn is still suspended upon the plaited leathern string by which it hung at the soldier's side.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

BOWDOIN has 241 students—three of them post-graduates.

THE Baltimore libraries have a total number of 250,655 volumes.

MISS "GAIL HAMILTON" was once a teacher in the Hartford High School; so was the Rev. T. K. Beecher.

LADIES have been elected to the School Committee of New Bedford from two of the wards of that city.

THE catalogue of Brown University for 1876-7 shows the number of the students to be 251, of whom 70 are Freshmen. There have been important changes made in the course of study, elevating the standard, and showing that the college is under the guidance of liberal and progressive educators.

PROF. SANBORN TENNEY of Williams has decided to lead a natural history expedition to the Rocky Mountains during the next summer vacation. His party is to be composed of 15 members, principally from the Lyceum of Natural History, and all will be required to prepare themselves for the expedition by careful preliminary work. Prof. Tenney hopes to work up some important scientific points, while the other objects of the trip will be to enrich the museum of the college and instruct those who accompany him. It will be known as "The Williams College Expedition."

MOST men know, in a sort of general way, that there is a Science and Geometry of Dress. Mrs. M. L. Jackson has done the world, and especially the feminine portion of it, a service by publishing a manual upon the subject, by the study of which ladies' and children's wearing apparel may be designed, drafted, and cut. She claims a new and original method of teaching, and diagramic delineations of garments in miniature accompany the volume. Finally, there is a Vocabulary of Fashion; and altogether, if the work is what it professes to be, which there is no reason to doubt, it will prove an acquisition to "the schools, dressmakers, and ladies generally."

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GOOD BOOKS. Send for some of these *good, cheap* and *valuable* books: Monitor of Freemasonry, 200 pp., 75c.; Morgan's Masonry Exposed, 25c.; Odd Fellowship Exposed, 25c.; Modern Pocket Hoyle, 400 pp., 50c.; Everlasting Fortune Teller, 150 pp., 30c.; Art and Etiquette of Making Love, 175 pp., 30c.; Granger's Text Book, 150 pp., 50c.; Every Man His Own Doctor, 135 pp., 50c.; American Horse Doctor, 100 pp., 25c.; Ladies' Guide to Beauty, 30c.; Guide to Ventriloquism, 20c.; Hunter's Guide and Trapper's Companion, 25c.; Art of Letter Writing, 15c.; Courtship Made Easy, 15c.; Book of Nature, $1. All sent prepaid anywhere for price named. Forty thousand books of *all* kinds, on *all* subjects, at *all* prices. Sent to any address. Catalogues sent *free*. Don't send money to swindlers, but order all your books from the old established (1860) and reliable house of HUNTER & Co., Hinsdale, N. H.

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Carnations, Smilax, Neapolitan Violets, Bouvardias, Chinese Azaleas, Lily of the Valley. All the new and most desirable Geraniums and similar plants. Also, a great variety of the common and fancy Hardy Evergreen Trees, as low as they can be purchased of any trustworthy dealer.

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Are you going West, North or Northwest?
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BOY WITH A LEGAL TURN OF MIND.

"Well, you are a nice boy to send on a message," said a woman to a boy who had lost a bundle with which she had intrusted him. The boy struck the attitude of an orator, and replied; "Not being a common carrier, and not having entered into a contract with you to carry your parcel for and in consideration of any sum, I have incurred no liability, and am liable to no penalty. If I had undertaken to carry the parcel for my own particular profit, my father even would not have been responsible for the loss (see Butler against Bassing, 2 C. & P. 614), unless indeed he paid me smaller wages because of the opportunity thus afforded me to take small sums. On this point I will only quote Dwight against Brewster, 1 Pickering (Miss.), 50. But, rising from the law to the equity of the case, I have only to say—" but before he could say it his father had yanked him from the room.

SPARKS AND SPLINTERS.

The most popular 'general—General Holiday.

Spilkens always insists on spelling needle, niedle. He says every needle should have an eye in it. Sew!

A man out West, who offered bail for a friend, was asked by the judge if he had any incumbrance on his farm. "Oh, yes," said he, "my wife."

Spriggins says that he once prevented a severe case of hydrophobia by simply getting on a high fence and waiting there till the dog had gone away.

"Mary!" said an uptown woman to a new servant, "when you hang out the clothes, be careful to always put the nicest pieces nearest the street."

A sermon in Barbadoes recently was closed thus: "My obstinaceous bredren, I find it no more use to preach to you dan it is for a grasshopper to wear knee-breeches."

A clergyman in Northern Indiana ascended the pulpit the other Sunday and said: "No man can serve the Lord while he has the jumping toothache. I therefore dismiss the congregation."

"My business is to talk,' said a stump-speaker. "I deal in words and sentences." "Yes," said a voice in the crowd, "and as long as I have known you your place of business has never been closed."

Miss Sally Northrop, a Connecticut lady, has sallied forth upon the "unknown sea" at the age of 100 years. She would have liked to have known who was going to be President, but it was getting to be a tedious affair.

When a boy was asked, "Where was the text this morning?" He replied, "It was somewhere in hatchets." "In hatchets? No, it was in Acts." "Well, I knew it was something that would cut," said the boy, triumphantly.

A stout German in the beer industry to an unprofitable customer: "Here, now, you took dose doors und walk owet mid your ears, eh? (He doesn't). "Heim, you don'd got out? Vell, you waits a minute und I gets a man dot vill!"

A negro held a cow while a cross-eyed man was to knock her on the head with an ax. The darkey, observing the man's eyes, in some alarm inquired, "You gwine to hit whar you look?" "Yes." "Den," said Cuffee, "hold dis cow yourself."

"What a strain that is!" said Mrs. Partington, as she heard an air from Lucia sung in the highest style by a young lady where she was visiting. "Yes," was the response; "it is operatic." "Upper attic, is it?" questioned she. "I should think it was high enough to be on top of the house."

Mistress: "Come, Bridget, how much longer are you going to be about filling that pepper-box?" Bridget (a fresh importation from where they don't use peper-castors): "Shure, ma'am, and it's meeself can't say how long it'll be takin' me to git all this stuff in the thing through the little holes in the top."

"What do you know about the prisoner?" asked the judge of a colored witness. "I don't know nothin' 'bout him, Judge, only he's bigoted!" "Bigoted?" asked the Judge; "what do you mean by bigoted?" "Why, Judge," explained the witness, "he knows too much for one niggah, and not nuff for two!"

A Round Story.—A man went through the Bankruptcy Court. He had owned a fine horse and gig, and they both disappeared for a time, but by-and-by the horse and gig were doing service for the same owner again. On being asked what this meant, the man's reply was, "I went through the Bankruptcy Court, but the horse and gig went round."

THE REASON.

Carrie.—"Mary, what have I done to offend you? You have avoided me the whole evening."

Mary.—"I'm not offinded. But your dress perfectly kills mine. And I really can't be seen with you!"

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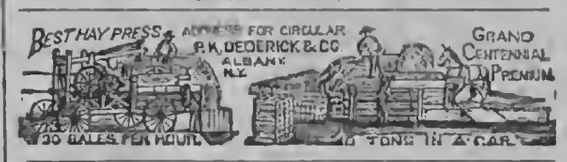

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